

Storm Season begins in October and ends in March. However it is still possible to have heavy storms after the storm season.

Channels were built to protect your neighborhood from rainstorms that have historically flooded your community.

Channels are an infrastructure similar to a freeway and are not to be used for recreation.

For more information please visit our website at

www.ocflood.com or www.ocfa.org Or call the OC Flood Program Office at (714) 647-3996.











Hidden Dangers of Orange County's Flood Control System



Fact: Children ages 5 to 15 comprise the highest percentage of victims that the swift water rescue teams respond to.

Beware!

- Channels and rivers can fill up fast from empty to full when it rains or when water is released from a dam or reservoir.
- Channels are very dangerous. Slow trickling water can quickly turn into strong rapid flowing water.
- When water rises above your shoes, it can sweep you away into the ocean.
- Once you fall, you are in survival mode.
- You can become severely injured from debris, slamming into a barrier, or from swallowing pollutants.
- Channels can change shape and go underground where you can't be found.
- You can get trapped in a "pit" and spin endlessly in whirlpool motion and drown.

Nobody, not even strong experienced swimmers, can swim out alive of an operating flood control channel



Warning!

What if you see someone fall into the water?

IMMEDIATELY CALL 911!!!

Tell the 911 operator that someone who fell into the channel is being swept downstream and that Swift Water Rescue Teams need to respond.

Give detailed information about where you saw the victim go in, what the victim was wearing, and nearest stree name, etc.

If possible, throw something that floats to the victim, such as a boogie board, styrofoam ice chest, basketball, or other unattached objects.

DO NOT GO INTO THE WATER AFTER THE VICTIM (YOUR FRIEND OR PET)!

Do not try to pull the victim out with your hands, rope, or similar device.

Do not attach anything to yourself and toss it to a victim in the water. The force of the current will pull you in.

What if you fall in?

Never get into this situation!

Remain calm. Don't waste energy yelling for help after you have been spotted by someone.

Get ready to be rescued.

Try to float on your back with your legs straight and your feet pointed downstream.

Use your legs to shove yourself away from obstructions.

Keep your head up so that you can see where you are going.

Watch for obstacles and debris! If a tree or other stationary object is blocking the channel, forcing water over it, try to flip over on your stomach and approach the obstacle head-on, crawling over the top of it. Most victims in swift water die when they get pinned against obstacles, or get trapped in submerged debris and vegetation.





