



Did You Know?

It is against the law to be inside a flood control channel.

- Potential for mudslides is high in Canyon areas.
- Floodplain areas are located throughout Orange County.
- Storm season begins in October and ends in April. 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 should not be used for fishing or swimming.



For more information please visit our website at www.ocflood.com or www.ocfa.org

Or call the OC Flood Program Office at (714) 647-3910.

updated August, 2016



CHANNEL RIVER & CREEK SAFETY AWARENESS

Stay Out!



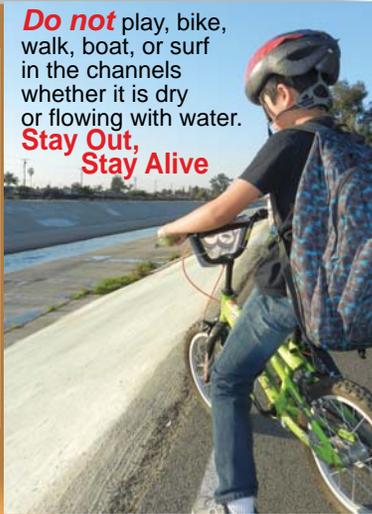
Stay Alive!



Hidden Dangers of Orange County's Flood Control System



Do not play, bike, walk, boat, or surf in the channels whether it is dry or flowing with water.
Stay Out, Stay Alive



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

Beware!

- Channels are very dangerous. Slow trickling water can quickly turn into strong rapid flowing water. Look out for **flash floods**.
- Channels and rivers can fill up fast from empty to full when it rains or when water is released from a dam or reservoir.
- When water rises above your shoes, it can sweep you away into the ocean.
- **Mudslides** can occur after ground becomes saturated.
- Floating debris, slamming into a barrier, or swallowing of pollutants can cause serious injuries.
- Channels can change shape and go underground where you can't be found.
- You can get trapped in a "pit" spin endlessly and drown.
- Pay attention to barriers and warning signs.
- Do not enter flood waters.



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

Don't be a victim!

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 street 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 to a victim. The force of the current will pull you in.

What if you fall in?

Never get into this situation!

Remain calm.

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, try to flip over on your stomach and approach the obstacle head-on, crawling over the top of it.



Warning!