Flooding in Orange County? Yes, be aware!

- After heavy rains, the potential for mudslides is high in canyon areas (Santiago, Silverado).
- Floodplain areas are located throughout Orange County.
- Storm season begins in October and ends in March each year. 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

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

Violators may be subject to prosecution and fines.

Stay Out! Stay Alive!

Flood Channel, River, and Creek Safety Awareness

Orange County, California

Safety, Integrity, Quality, Teamwork, Adaptability

ocpublicworks.com
ocflood.com/safety
ocfa.org

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, CALL 911.

For more information, please visit:

NEVER JUMP IN AFTER ANYONE!

IF YOU ARE CAUGHT IN MOVING WATER, TRY TO FLOAT ON YOUR BACK WITH YOUR HEAD UP.

SEE INSIDE THIS BROCHURE FOR MORE SAFETY GUIDANCE!

When flooded...

Turn around! Don’t drown!
What if you see someone fall into the water?

IMMEDIATELY CALL 911!!!

• Tell the 911 operator that someone who fell into the flood control 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 objects that are unattached to you.

• DO NOT GO INTO THE WATER AFTER THE VICTIM (INCLUDING 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 in the water.

• 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.

The message is clear, “DO NOT ENTER!”

Follow directions on the signs posted along flood control channels.

• 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 quickly sweep you away downstream 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 fences and warning signs.

• Do not enter flood waters.

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

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