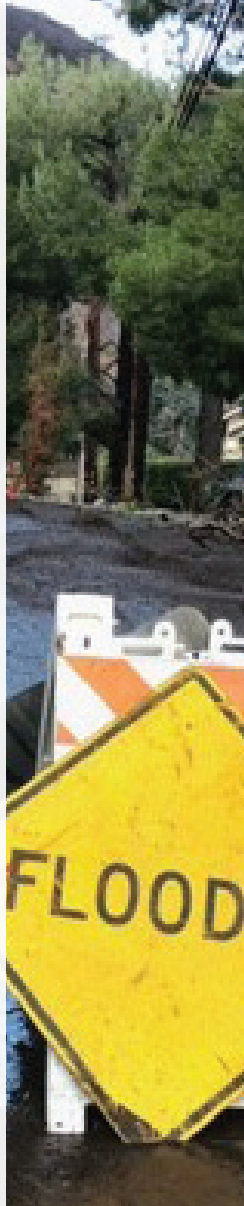


# Flooding in Orange County? Yes, be aware!

- 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.



**WHEN FLOODED...**  
**TURN AROUND! DON'T DROWN!**

## DID YOU KNOW?



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

VIOLATORS MAY BE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION AND FINES  
COUNTY CODE SEC.3-9-35, ART. 5, DIV. 9, TITLE 3 | ENTRY BY PERMIT ONLY



**IN CASE OF  
EMERGENCY,  
CALL 911.**



**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!**

**For more information, please visit:**

ORANGE COUNTY  
**OC Public Works**

[ocpublicworks.com](http://ocpublicworks.com)

[ocflood.com/safety](http://ocflood.com/safety)



[ocfa.org](http://ocfa.org)



**OC Public Works**

# STAY OUT! STAY ALIVE!

## Flood Channel, River, and Creek Safety Awareness

ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



[ocpublicworks.com](http://ocpublicworks.com)  
[ocflood.com/safety](http://ocflood.com/safety)

   [ocpublicworks](https://twitter.com/ocpublicworks)

# DO NOT ENTER

## FLOOD CONTROL CHANNEL

### STAY OUT, STAY ALIVE



**VIOLATORS MAY BE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION AND FINES**  
COUNTY CODE SEC.3-9-35, ART. 5, DIV. 9, TITLE 3  
ENTRY BY PERMIT ONLY

## The message is clear, “DO NOT ENTER!”

### Follow directions on the signs posted along flood control channels.

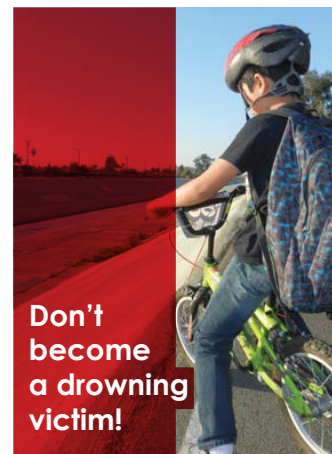
- Channels are very dangerous. Slow trickling water can quickly turn into strong rapid flowing water. Look out for flash floods.
- Channels and rivers can fill up fast from empty to full when it rains or when water is released from a dam or reservoir.
- When water rises above your shoes, it can quickly 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.

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



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

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



## 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.