



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRING 2017 – PREPAREDNESS Memorial Weekend Waterway Safety!

Historic snowpack in the Sierra has contributed to heavy spring runoff throughout the Owens Valley. Waterways are running full and fast. Water may look calm on the surface but heavy currents as well as debris are a significant safety risk. Local officials are recommending the following safety tips for residents and visitors:

- Calmer waterways are recommended for spring and summer recreation such as Diaz Lake, Klondike Lake, and Millpond. Officials are strongly urging residents and visitors against Owens River floating.
- ALWAYS wear properly fitting personal flotation for all water activities.
- River and stream banks can be compromised by extreme erosion - keep a safe distance from these areas.
- Please keep children close by, and dogs on leashes near moving water.
- Stay on established trails or developed areas when you are near waterways.

Camping safety reminder: After a full day of intense heat and high temperatures, peak flow will occur pre-dawn. When determining where to pitch your tent, be sure you choose higher ground away from any source of running water.

Waterway safety is your responsibility, but with some practical preparedness you can enjoy a great season of safe outdoor recreation near local waterways.

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