



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRING 2017 – PREPAREDNESS The Runoff Has Officially Begun

The anticipated heavy spring runoff has officially begun in the Owens Valley. Creeks and streams have already been flowing at high capacities and the Owens River is running full and extremely fast. Due to debris and fast moving water, officials warn that river floating should be avoided, and instead residents and visitors seeking to cool off should enjoy calmer waterways such as Diaz Lake, Klondike Lake, and Millpond.

As the weather continues to inch toward triple digits, the runoff will remain consistently heavy with peak runoff occurring pre-dawn. Inyo County residents are reminded that proactive emergency preparedness includes monitoring weather through the [National Weather Service](#); expect and prepare for localized flooding as temperatures rise.

“If you have not already taken preparedness measures, now is the time,” stated Inyo County Emergency Services Director Kevin Carunchio. “If you live in an area prone to flooding, connect with your local Fire Department and take advantage of our free sandbag campaign. Prepare your property now, before flooding occurs. “

Flooding can affect roadways as well as property. Currently the only Inyo County road that has been closed due to flooding is Brockman Lane in the Bishop area. Officials remind motorists as well as bicyclists not to cross the berm that road workers have put in place; doing so compromises structural integrity and ultimately increases flooding issues. Do not attempt to drive through posted road closures – these are there for your safety. It only takes one foot of moving water to sweep your vehicle away.

Other preparedness tips include making a plan and building a kit that includes food and water for three days, a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies. Your pets need kits as well. [Ready.gov](#) is a great preparedness resource and has suggestions for emergency plans as well as recommendations for items to include in an emergency supply kit.

Stay safe and stay informed Inyo County!