



Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security News Release

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March 16-20 Is Flood Awareness Week in Idaho

(Boise) Flooding has produced some of the worst disasters in Idaho history. It is one of the most common hazards our citizens face, often annually. That's why knowing the dangers and how to protect your family and property is so important.

Idaho Governor C. L. "Butch" Otter has proclaimed March 16-20, 2015 to be Flood Awareness Week in the Gem State and the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security encourages Idahoans to stay informed about flooding hazards and be prepared when floods occur.

"While our snowpack levels are relatively low this year it is important to remain vigilant in a state like Idaho where flooding has created some of our state's worst disasters," said Brad Richy, chief of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. "Maintaining adequate flood insurance and knowing the risks to your home and property are critically important."

Safety tips include:

- Sign up to receive alerts and warnings in your area with ISAWS – the Idaho State Alerts and Warning System. www.isaws.org
- Listen to area radio and television stations for possible flood warnings and reports of flooding in progress.
- Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice
- When a flood or flash flood warning is issued for your area, head for higher ground and stay there.
- Stay away from flood waters. If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, stop, turn around and go the other way.

- If you come upon a flooded road while driving, turn around and go the other way. Most cars can be swept away by less than two feet of moving water.

For a full list of safety tips and information on Idaho flooding preparedness:

<http://www.bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/Preparedness/Hazards/NaturalHazards/Flood.aspx>

Note to reporters: The Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security is the State of Idaho's emergency management agency. Please note that IBHS is an Idaho-specific agency, and it is not the same thing as the federal Department of Homeland Security. Within the State of Idaho organizational chart, IBHS is aligned under the State of Idaho Military Division.

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