



Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security News Release

For immediate release, March 25, 2016

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Turn Around Don't Drown *March 27-April 2nd Flooding Awareness Week in Idaho*

BOISE – Flood related deaths account for more fatalities in the United States than any other natural disaster. In Idaho, flooding is one of our most frequent and costly hazards. While spring flooding exacts the most damage, flooding can happen any time of the year. Because of the need for an awareness of flooding dangers in Idaho, Governor C. L. “Butch” Otter has proclaimed March 27 – April 2 Flooding Awareness Week.

Did you know: More than half of flood related deaths occur in motor vehicles when people attempt to drive through flooded roadways. This happens because people underestimate the force and power of water, especially when it is moving. Just six inches of fast-moving water can knock over and carry off an adult. Twelve inches of water can float a small car. If that water is moving, it can carry your car away. Any time you come to a flooded road, walkway, or path, follow this simple rule: **Turn Around Don't Drown.**

Know the Difference between a Flood Watch and a Flood Warning:

Watch - get ready! A watch is issued when a specific weather hazard is possible. This gives you and your family time to get prepared. If you live in a low lying area, you can prepare for the possibility of flood waters impacting your home. You can also plan alternate routes for getting to home, work or school if you know certain roads you usually take could be covered by water. The watch also gives you a chance to test your communications plan and alert family and friends to the threat of dangerous weather.

Warning - take action! A warning is issued when a specific weather hazard is currently happening or will be occurring very soon. If a flood or flash flood warning is issued and you are in a flood prone area move immediately to high ground. Follow evacuation orders if they are issued. If you encounter a roadway that is covered in water, do not enter the water! **Turn Around Don't drown!** It is never safe to drive or walk through flood waters.

Stay informed: Being informed is a crucial part of being prepared for any significant event, including flooding. Members of the public are encouraged to sign up to receive weather and other emergency alerts and notifications by visiting www.isaws.org.

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