



OFFICE OF THE SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 10, 2015

Contact: Taneil Ilano
(970) 423-8903

TaneilI@co.summit.co.us

SWIFT WATER SAFETY

SUMMIT COUNTY, COLORADO – The rivers in and around Summit County are deceptively dangerous this time of year. The Summit County Sheriff's office would like to remind residents and visitors to be mindful of the rising water levels throughout the county especially in and around Summit County waterways.

When participating in outdoor activities on or near the water this spring we urge people to be cautious of elevated flows in rivers causing fast currents. It is especially dangerous for children and pets playing along the shore of fast moving water as they can easily slip on wet, muddy banks, and be swept away by fast flowing water.

The Sheriff's office recommends following these safety rules around high water:

- If flooding occurs, get to higher ground immediately. Stay away from flood-prone areas. This includes dips, low spots, valleys, ditches, washes, etc.
- Avoid flooded areas or those with rapid water flow. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream. Six inches of fast flowing water is all it takes to sweep you off your feet.
- Don't allow children or pets to play near high water, storm drains, culverts or ditches.
- Flooded roads could have significant damage hidden by floodwaters. NEVER drive through floodwaters or on flooded roads. If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. It only takes water that's two feet deep to float away most automobiles.
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly when threatening conditions exist.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio or your local media for vital weather related information.

To learn more about the impacts of high water and what you can do to prepare for the spring runoff, download the High Water Preparedness brochure from the county website at: www.co.summit.co.us.

###