

Bonneville County Sheriff's Office

Media release

May 26, 2011

Memorial Day weekend is a great opportunity to get out with the family and enjoy the beauty Idaho has to offer.

We would like to extend a word of caution. The water levels along the Snake River and other backcountry streams are running fast, cold, and higher than normal.

Area Rivers, streams, and reservoirs are being fed directly from the melting snow pack, meaning they are running very fast and are nearing their peak flows. The icy cold water contains unforeseen swift moving currents that hold hidden dangers. If caught in cold, swift moving water unprepared, people can experience hypothermia*, which is a sudden loss of body temperature that can be fatal. The swift currents can cause even strong swimmers to drown.

- Swift moving water is an attraction. It can fascinate people, who may move too close and be unaware of impending danger.
- When recreating close to cold fast moving water, set boundaries for children and pets to keep them from accidentally falling into the water. Closely supervise children near any recreational water areas.
- If entering the water for any reason, wear a life jacket
- Never dive or jump into cold water. The sudden shock of cold water can make a person gasp, filling the lungs with water.
- River banks are less secure and could have eroded undercut areas that could giveaway.

It is not a safe time to put boats and your families on the river. Swift high water creates hazards for the boaters and limits rescue abilities.

Bonneville County Sheriff's Office has limited resources for rescue attempts in these situations.

Please use extra caution around the water.

Thank you

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