



PIONEER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
FIRE • RESCUE • EMS

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“From the Desk of the Fire Chief”

To: All Local Media Outlets!

Date: Wednesday, June 16th 2010

RE: PSA, A Message from the Chief, “Water Safety Tips”!

Pioneer Fire Protection District personnel along with El Dorado County Sheriffs and U.S. Forest fire personnel have responded to two fresh water drownings this week do to the fast moving cold water, of the Middle Fork Region of the Consumnes River. Once on Caldor Road, near Grizzly Flats; and the second one yesterday afternoon, near the community of Outingdale.

The public must be made aware of the power of our local rivers and streams on the western slope and take the proper steps to protect themselves and family members around the rapid moving water at all times.

These two recent tragedies' in the fire district again remind us the pure power of Mother Nature, but with proper awareness, training and equipment our local residents and visitors can still enjoy the great outdoors. So here's a few of my river and stream safety tips.

Tips for River & Stream Safety:

1. Children around river or streams should **always** be closely monitored, and should always wear an **approved** personal flotation device (or PFD)-
2. Keep children always within grasp-
3. If kayaking, canoeing or rafting in our local rivers, **always wear** an approved personal flotation device (PFD) and helmet. This shall give some protection, and may assist you if thrown from the kayak, canoe or raft in the fast moving water.
4. Rocks or boulders in the river or streams, or adjacent to the river or streams can be unstable and can be slippery.
5. Stay away from the rivers edge, bluffs can crumble.
6. Alcohol and swimming in fast moving water just **don't** mix.
7. Local rivers and streams are currently running fast and cold. The risk of hypothermia is high, even for short term exposure.
8. For a river or stream rescue, throw something, don't go in!
9. Call 9-1-1 as soon as possible for assistance in an emergency.

Remember; be swept away by the beauty, not by the river!

Thank You & Be Safe Out There!

Robert L. Gill, Fire Chief/CEO

Since 1980, proudly serving the El Dorado County communities of Mt. Aukum; Fair Play; Grizzly Flats; Outingdale; Omo Ranch & Somerset!