

REGIONAL FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT



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NEWS ADVISORY

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Flash Flood Season Starts With Deadly Reminder

The Regional Flood Control District is saddened to learn of the death of a woman found Friday morning in a flood control channel near Tropicana Wash.

“This death is a tragic reminder of why floods are nature’s number one killer,” said Steve Parrish, general manager and chief engineer of the Clark County Regional Flood Control District. “We work every day to protect the community from floodwaters. This is a tragedy that did not have to happen.”

The Nevada Homeless Alliance recently completed its 2016 Census and counted 64 people living in the flood control system. Advocates for the homeless and law enforcement conduct regular outreach to these individuals attempting to provide services or get them to move their encampment outside of the channels.

Thursday’s storms were a reminder of how rapidly water can rise in channels and washes.

On Thursday, District water gauges indicate Pittman Wash rose from 2.5 feet to 5 feet in 15 minutes. Duck Creek at Broadbent is 80 feet wide. It went from having no water to being 1.5 feet deep in less than one minute. It rose from zero to 3 feet deep in less than 10 minutes.

“These washes are deadly during flood events,” Parrish said. “Keep your children and pets away.”

The District has 604 miles of channel and washes throughout Clark County. The system is strictly for the movement of stormwater and urban water runoff.

Multiple swiftwater rescues by highly-trained firefighters saved at least six people from flood channels on Thursday, including two girls trapped in Las Vegas Wash.

“We commend the rescuers for their heroic actions, and for putting their own lives at risk to save others,” Parrish said. “Flash flood season is here. And the public can do its part by staying out of washes and channels and by never driving through flooded roadways.”

A total of 32 people have now died in flood-related incidents in Clark County since 1960. Today’s death is the first in four years. In 2012, a teenager was killed after falling into Pittman Wash and a landscaper was killed after being swept away in floodwaters from the former Desert Rose Golf Course.

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