



City of Ridgecrest Police Department

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Ronald Strand, Chief of Police

Press Release

DATE and TIME OF INCIDENT: July 20, 2008.

TYPE OF INCIDENT: Flash Flooding

VICTIM: State of California

LOCATION OCCURRED: City of Ridgecrest

On 07-20-08, between 2:30 pm and 4:30 pm, the City of Ridgecrest was hit by two separate thunderstorms that resulted in approximately 1.50 inches of rain in a two hour period. The City suffered moderate to major flooding to several businesses and residential areas. Many low lying areas were inundated with water with the storm. Damage reported includes flooded stores, homes, accumulated debris, washouts and a few flooded vehicles.

The Police responded to numerous calls from citizens reporting flood waters as high as 1-2 feet in many areas, with strong currents. Officers warned numerous children and adults that they observed playing in the flood waters about the health hazards and danger of being swept off their feet and trapped under parked vehicles.

Off-duty officers were called into work to assist in handling the high rate of calls for service.

If you come upon flood waters STOP! Turn around and take another route. Never drive into flooded areas. Six (6) inches of fast moving flood waters can knock a person off their feet. **DO NOT GO NEAR OR PLAY IN FLOOD WATERS.** Two (2) feet of water can float a vehicle. If you're caught in flooded areas go to higher ground. Be very cautious driving at night: visibility is greatly reduced and water on the roads is difficult to gauge.

The City Streets Department has **Sand Bags** and sand available at the City Corporation Yard (636 W. Ridgecrest Blvd) Please be sure to bring your own shovel. At this time you are permitted to take 35 sand bags per person.

Current weather conditions predict a Flash Flood Watch in effect from 10am PDT this morning through this evening for the Kern County Mountains and Deserts.

RONALD STRAND, Chief of Police
PREPARED BY: Sergeant Mike Myers
Monday, August 04, 2008