



PRESS RELEASE

*City of Pueblo Police Department
Pueblo County Sheriff's Office*



For Immediate Release

Date: June 11, 2019

Activities Restricted on Arkansas River Due to Dangerous Conditions

Pueblo, CO: The Pueblo Police Department and the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office announced today restricted use of the Arkansas River from Pueblo Boulevard to the Pueblo County/Otero County line due to the dangerously fast-flowing and high water on the river. The restrictions are effective immediately.

Activities prohibited on the river at this time include recreational swimming (including with a life vest) and use of any single-chambered air-inflated devices to include inner tubes, inflatable mattresses and inflatable rafts. Whitewater canoes and kayaks are still permitted on the river from Pueblo Boulevard to Colorado Highway 227. Violators of the restrictions will be cited.

The decision to impose restrictions on the river by the Police Department and Sheriff's Office follows the decision made by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Office, which also placed similar restrictions on the river from the Pueblo Dam to Pueblo Boulevard. Whitewater canoes and kayaks still will be permitted on that portion of the river.

“Right now, the river is flowing high and fast creating a very hazardous situation,” said Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor. “Due to the dangerous condition of the river, we feel that for the safety of the public, we request people to stay out of the water until conditions improve.”

Earlier today, the National Weather Service issued a flood warning for the Arkansas River near the town of Avondale after the water exceeded the flood stage. The flood stage in that area is 7-feet and at 1:30 p.m., the water was flowing at 7.2 feet in that area, resulting minor flooding.

The public is asked to stay away from the banks of the river and streams as saturated banks can break away. In addition to the flow of the river, the temperature of the water, much of which is coming from the snow melt in the mountains, poses a risk to individuals.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Pueblo Police and Pueblo County Sheriff's officials will continue to monitor the river flows and coordinate the reopening of the river when the water flows return to a safe level.

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