

County River & Stream Awareness Levels

- Big Horn River or affected Stream(s) will be named in each announcement along with reason. Program will ONLY apply to Hot Springs County

AWARENESS LEVEL GREEN

Level GREEN will be in effect:

- When weather conditions are considered seasonal, stream flows are at or near normal, and no immediate threats exist.

AWARENESS LEVEL BLUE

Level BLUE will be announced:

- At such time as 1) snowpack data or 2) weather forecasts indicate eventual problems.
- Awareness level BLUE can be expected at the start of summer Thunderstorm season for flash flooding.
- This level may be announced if extreme cold temperatures are forecast long-term

AWARENESS LEVEL YELLOW

Level YELLOW will be announced:

- When release from Boysen reaches 3000 cubic feet/second (cfs)
-or-
- When short or long-term forecasts indicate conditions which are very likely to require vigilance.

Examples:

- 1) Heavy snowpack conditions exist
- 2) Heavy rain forecast on snowpack or saturated soils
- 3) High temperatures on snowpack melting and runoff
- 4) Extreme cold and ice observed on the river.

The concern and affected waterway(s) will be fully identified.

River Signage at 3000cfs When Boysen releases reach 3000cfs, signs will be posted around town and at boat launch areas stating that the river flow is high, use caution, be sure to wear PFD's.

AWARENESS LEVEL ORANGE

Level ORANGE will be announced:

- When any stream drainage in the county has reached full capacity
-and/or-
- Release flow from Boysen Dam is at 5000 cubic feet/sec
- Cold temperatures are creating heavy ice flow.
- Upon level orange ranchers are urged to move livestock to higher ground, away from frozen river, streams, or ponds.
- Residents along affected waterways will be urged to be alert for rapidly rising water and be prepared to leave.

River Signage will change when flow reaches 5000cfs to indicate increased risks

River Signage will change when flow reaches 7000cfs to indicate increased risks

AWARENESS LEVEL RED

Level RED will be announced when:

- Release from Boysen Dam is announced to increase to 8500 cfs, or
- When Anchor Dam has reached capacity and Owl Creek flows are uncontrolled, or
- When any stream in the county is at flood stage,
- When ice jams are forming in Hot Springs County
 - ✓ Those living along stretches of river that are jammed should be prepared to move to higher ground immediately.
 - ✓ Livestock that have not already been moved should be moved to higher ground immediately.

NOTE! UPON ANNOUNCEMENT OF LEVEL RED: People and Agencies in Hot Springs County should be fully engaged & alert for updates on conditions.

- ✓ Vehicles should be fueled, supplies packed including medications, evacuation destinations determined, families in close communication, elderly and at-risk population accounted for, facilities prepared and standing-by if evacuation is announced.

Paper signs will be distributed to businesses, government buildings, restaurants, convenience stores, and lodging around town.

Color, manufactured signs will be placed at or near 4 G&F boat launch areas in HSC and in Hot Springs State Park.

