Spring Runoff to Come

High elevation snowmelt looms with possible flooding in low lying areas. The above average snowpack and water content across the mountains in Conejos County may be cause for flooding this spring. In 2019 the County experienced flooding in low lying areas with several roads being closed due to high water. Water resources reported that the water content was 32 inches in 2019. This year it is well above that number and storms are still adding to the total. As temperatures warm the imminent threat of flooding is expected to increase. The Road and Bridge crews have been working diligently cleaning culverts and bridges. The Sheriff’s Office and Emergency Manager’s Office have been preparing equipment and sandbags. We are all hoping the weather will warm slowly and there will be no flooding. If there is very high water and flooding, please keep the following in mind:

During flood watch or warning

1. Gather emergency supplies, including non-perishable food and water. Store at least 1 gallon of drinking water per day for each person and pet.
2. Listen to your local radio and please make sure you are signed up with Everbridge.
3. If it looks like you need to evacuate, turn off all utilities at the main switch and close the main gas valve.
4. Leave the areas subject to flooding such as low spots, canyons, washes etc.

After Flooding Occurs

1. Don’t drive through flooded areas or standing water, cars or other vehicles won’t protect you from floodwaters. They can be swept away or may stall in moving water
2. Do not drink flood water, or use it to wash dishes, brush teeth, or wash or prepare food. (Drink clean safe water).
3. If you evacuated, return home only after local authorities have given the ok to do so.
4. Listen for boil water advisories. Local authorities will let you know if your water is safe for drinking.
5. When in doubt, throw it out. Throw away any food or bottled water that comes or may have come into contact with floodwater.
6. Prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Use generators at least 20 feet from any door, window, or vents.

We hope it warms slowly and we don’t have to deal any flooding. Please be safe and do not take risks.

Sheriff Crowther