



# **FLATHEAD COUNTY**

## ***SHERIFF'S OFFICE***

**BRIAN HEINO SHERIFF / CORONER**

*June 17, 2022*

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Recent weather patterns have contributed to high water levels and potential flooding conditions in low-lying areas across Flathead Valley. High river levels cause fast-flowing currents, unpredictable conditions, and very cold water with large amounts of debris. As such, the Flathead County Sheriff's Office and Office of Emergency Services urge individuals to practice safety while recreating this Father's Day weekend.

"The warm weather draws people outside, but it's important to remember that the rivers are moving fast and carrying a lot of debris," said Brian Heino, Flathead County Sheriff. "We encourage residents to make the safe choice and avoid recreating on the rivers until conditions improve."

The following information regarding the flooding incident is current as of June 17, 2022 at 11:00AM.

Official evacuation notices are in effect for the following areas:

- Leisure Road, Kalispell
- North Hill Top Road, Columbia Falls

Additional road closures remain in effect:

- West Side Hungry Horse Reservoir Road between Mazie Creek and Graves Creek Road
- All main open roads that access the main block of Stillwater State Forest. This includes the Lower Whitefish Road accessed via East Lakeshore Dr. from Whitefish, Upper Whitefish Road accessed from Olney and the 900/Mount Marston Road accessed from Stryker, MT. This includes the Upper Whitefish Lake Campground.

Evacuations have been lifted in the following areas and roads are open to resident traffic only:

- Rabe Road, Columbia Falls
- Lake Drive and Bailey Lake Area in Columbia Falls
- Blankenship Road

Sand bag fill stations are available to the community in the following locations:

- Columbia Falls City Shop, 700 9<sup>th</sup> Ave W
- Applied Materials Parking Lot (Old Shopko)
- Echo Lake Fire Hall, 735 Echo Lake Road
- Whitefish – The Snow Lot. Corner of Railway Street and Columbia Ave

The Sheriff's Office has established an information line at 406-758-2111. Due to the rapidly changing situation, the most current source of information will continue to be the Flathead County Sheriff's Office Facebook Page.

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