



NEWS RELEASE
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Big Chico Creek Running Fast and Cold Cold Temperatures Continue to Big Chico Creek

Chico, CA, June 17, 2010 - Visitors looking to escape Chico's hot weather by cooling off in Big Chico Creek should be prepared for icy temperatures. Due to the unseasonable cool weather and late precipitation this spring, Big Chico Creek is still running fast and cold.

The water in the local creeks can be deceiving. Parts of Big Chico Creek have swift moving and frigid waters. If unaware, visitors can be caught by the water current and pinned against rocks, or trees. Getting caught in the creek can lead to hypothermia, a life threatening situation in which the core body temperature is lowered.

Warning signs of hypothermia include shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, and exhaustion. Children should be monitored closely as hypothermia can occur faster in children than adults. It is important that if someone is suffering from hypothermia that they are warmed up as quickly as possible.

People recreating along Big Chico Creek should exercise caution when trying to cross the creek as surfaces near the creek are often slippery and uneven. Swimmers in Upper Park are advised to not jump into the creek from the canyon walls and cliff edges as injuries and even death have occurred due to shallow water. Visitors are reminded that there are emergency call boxes located in Upper Park at Bear Hole and Salmon Hole.

The Parks, Open Spaces, Greenways, and Preserves Division is within the General Services Department, and is responsible for maintaining and operating City parks, open space, and recreation areas including Bidwell Park, Children's Playground, Depot Park, City Plaza, Lindo Channel, Little Chico Creek Greenway, Teichert Ponds, and other preserves. Park Division programs include: Maintenance, Ranger, Lifeguard, and Volunteer Programs.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact the Park Rangers at 530-896-7800.