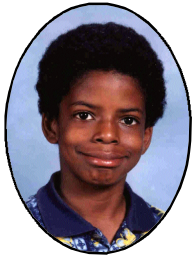
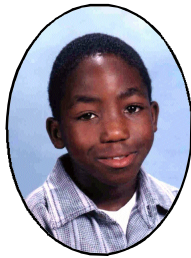


In memory of . . .



Ray Wells
1991-2000



Derrick Ashe
1992-2000

Ray Wells and Derrick Ashe died in the Los Angeles River late Wednesday afternoon, October 25, 2000. Both young men, ages eight and nine, were students in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Both of their deaths could have been prevented.

Every year at least six innocent people die in flood control channel incidents in Los Angeles County. The average age of the victims is usually between 5 and 15.

Far too often, the men and women of the Long Beach Fire Department are called upon to rescue or retrieve dead bodies from the nearly 20 miles of open flood control channels that crisscross our city. ***For this reason, we urge parents and guardians of our city's children to make some time to talk with their kids about the dangers of being anywhere near these areas.***

INTENDED USE

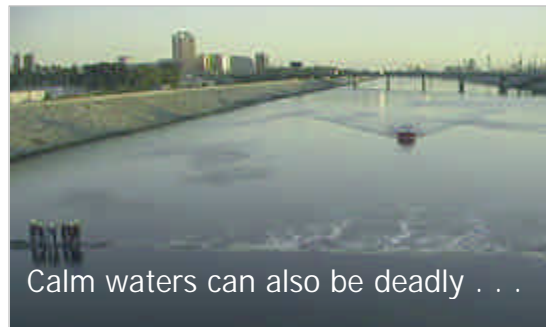
Our flood control system was designed to prevent flooding of our cities. They move water rapidly from our mountains and cities to the ocean. The speed of the water may reach 45 miles per hour.



DANGERS

The danger of this rapidly moving water can strike at any time of year in Long Beach. Flash floods in our mountains can send large amounts of water flowing through our city that could be deadly -- even on a sunny day.

- *Moss and algae make the channel walls and bottom slimy and slippery*
- *Water only six inches deep can sweep you off your feet*
- *The water can be cold and very turbulent, holding a person under*
- *Debris, vegetation, and obstructions like bridges and pilings can injure or kill*
- *The water may be highly contaminated with*
 - Pesticide runoff from gardens
 - Animal and human waste
 - Oils from our streets
 - Illegally dumped toxic substances
 - Industrial chemicals
 - Fertilizers



Calm waters can also be deadly . . .

IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO BE IN ANY CHANNEL

Unfortunately, many of our channels have bicycle paths on their edges, or holes in protective fences. *This is no excuse.* **If you are in a channel, you are violating the law.**



IF YOU SEE SOMEONE IN THE WATER . . .

***Never get into the water
to rescue a victim.***

More than half of all drownings in
swift water are would-be rescuers.

If possible, throw the victim any kind
of flotation device.

Immediately call 9-1-1 and
give the following information:

- **Location** of where the victim
went into the water
- **When** (or how long since)
it happened
- **Description** of what the victim
was wearing

ALL FLOOD CONTROL INCIDENTS HAVE TWO THINGS IN COMMON

1. Death (for most victims)
2. Preventable by staying away



WE CARE ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Long Beach Firefighters and
Lifeguards have extra special
training to rescue victims in all kinds
of areas. Flood controls are very
dangerous for us, too.

***From our family to yours, we
want you to be healthy and safe.***

***Please remember to stay away
from flood control channels.***

Since 1897



Long Beach Fire Department

. . . more than fighting fires

FLOOD CONTROL Channel DANGERS



***In memory of
Ray Wells and Derrick Ashe***