



# PRESS RELEASE

*City of Pueblo Fire Department  
Pueblo County Sheriff's Office*

For Immediate Release

Date: June 14, 2024

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## Arkansas River Restrictions Lifted

**Pueblo, CO:** The Pueblo Fire Department and the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office announced today that the restrictions on the use of the Arkansas River from the spillway of the Pueblo Dam to the Pueblo County/Otero County line have been lifted. The activities restrictions were implemented on June 11, 2024, due to dangerously fast-flowing and high water along the river. Colorado Parks and Wildlife lifted restrictions Thursday afternoon.

The decision to lift restrictions on the Arkansas River by the Fire Department and the Sheriff's Office is partly a result of the water flow rate along the affected area dropping to about 4,000 cubic feet per second (CFS). Flows in excess of these have been determined to be dangerous and pose an increased risk to people in the water, as well as emergency responders.

The public is reminded that should conditions change on the river, restrictions may be reinstated. The public should continue to monitor social media channels and official websites of the City of Pueblo, Pueblo County Sheriff's Office and Colorado Parks and Wildlife for any change in direction, restrictions or updates related to river activity restrictions or cautions.

The public may now resume normal recreational activities, to include tubing, in and around the river. Whitewater canoes and kayaks may now be used, as they were also included in the restrictions. A Type III personal flotation device, approved by the United States Coast Guard, is required to be worn when entering the Arkansas River (PMC 11-1-700; CRS § 33-13-110 (2)(a) and (2)(c)).

The public is reminded to remain vigilant of the inherent dangers of entering the waters of the Arkansas River. Please keep the following items in mind:

- Always wear a properly fitted life jacket when on or in the water.
- The strength of the currents can be deceptive. What may appear to be a slow-moving current can actually challenge even experienced swimmers.
- The water temperature is much colder than the air temperature

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Haley Sue Robinson  
City of Pueblo  
(719) 553-2613

Gayle Perez  
Pueblo County Sheriff's Office  
(719) 924-5471