

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION HR1036

By: Walker

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution proclaiming May 2002 as Flood Awareness Month; and providing for distribution.

WHEREAS, though flooding can occur suddenly at any time of day, during any month of the year, the greatest number of flood disasters in Oklahoma historically, have occurred during the month of May; and

WHEREAS, flooding causes more damage and claims more lives than any other natural disaster. It is estimated that at least 140 people die every year as a result of flooding. In addition, it is estimated that flooding causes several billion dollars in damage each year. Over 75 percent of presidential disaster declarations are as a result of flooding; and

WHEREAS, losses due to flooding are not covered under most homeowner's or business insurance policies; and

WHEREAS, it is a necessity that people in flood-prone areas prepare their families by making sure they know emergency phone numbers and the safest evacuation route, buying such emergency items as sand and sandbags to protect property, and having a flashlight, batteries and a first aid kit on hand; and

WHEREAS, all Oklahomans should be aware of flood safety procedures and be prepared when traveling or vacationing to look for the warning signs of flooding, such as rising water levels in nearby creeks or streams. Even a foot of fast-flowing flood waters can overpower a moving vehicle. Flood waters only 18 inches deep will

cause most vehicles under 3,000 pounds to float. Nearly half of all flash flood deaths are automobile-related; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is the state agency designated to coordinate the National Flood Insurance Program in Oklahoma in partnership with the Oklahoma Insurance Department, Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Oklahoma Municipal League, Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State Legislature, and Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association, and promote the benefits of wise floodplain management and development; and

WHEREAS, the National Flood Insurance Program seeks to implement wise floodplain management guidelines within the nation's communities in exchange for affordable flood insurance; and

WHEREAS, Oklahomans should be made more aware of the existence of the National Flood Insurance Program and the various personal benefits afforded through participation in the Program; and

WHEREAS, preparedness is everybody's business: businesses, citizens and local, state and federal government agencies; and

WHEREAS, it has never been enough to help communities recover after disaster strikes. Oklahoma must be serious about heightening awareness of flooding hazards and start building more flood-resistant communities before floods strike.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the month of May 2002 is proclaimed Flood Awareness Month.

THAT copies of this resolution shall be distributed to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association, the Oklahoma Insurance Department, the Oklahoma

Department of Civil Emergency Management, the Federal Emergency  
Management Agency, the Oklahoma Municipal League and the Association  
of County Commissioners of Oklahoma.

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