

## The emergency doesn't end when the smoke clears.....

The burned areas within the Southern California fires have suffered major vegetation loss and some of the burned soils will repel water more than normal. These factors, combined with the steep slopes and intense rainfall, increase the risk of flash flooding in the burned area. Lands downstream of the burned area, particularly along streams, are also subject to increased flooding.

Until the burned area begins to recover, little will stop the waters from coming down the canyons. While multi-agency efforts are being taken to reduce the risks to life and property downstream of the fire, residents in the area should develop individual plans to protect themselves and their property.

## Now is the time to prepare for post-fire flooding!

This publication was prepared by these partners:



**For additional information:**

<http://www.fws.gov/fire/ifcc/esr/home.htm>

<http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/watershed/burnareas/>

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp/>

<http://www.fema.gov/>

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/>

<http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/HomeOwners/index.cfm>

<http://dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/flood/>

<http://www.lacity.org/emd/>

<http://lacoa.org/>

# Your Guide to Flash Flood Preparation

## Preparing for flood waters after the Southern California Wildfires 2009





### **Know What to Expect in your area:**

- ✓ Know your community flood risk.
- ✓ Be alert to the possibility of flooding if it rains upstream.
- ✓ Listen to local radio stations for public safety bulletins.
- ✓ Monitor a weather radio for real time weather conditions.
- ✓ Know if your community has a flood warning system and how the alert is given.
- ✓ Register your house and cell phone for reverse 9-1-1 call.



### **Reduce Potential Flood Damage:**

- ✓ Raise your furnace, water heater and electric panel if they are in areas of your home that may be flooded.
- ✓ Remove floatable debris from streambeds above culverts on your property.
- ✓ Clear dirt and debris from culverts and storm drains.
- ✓ Dispose of refuse only in designated sites.



### **Prepare a Family Disaster Plan:**

- ✓ Keep insurance policies, documents and other valuables in a safe place.
- ✓ Check to see if you have insurance that covers flooding. Update your coverage if needed.
- ✓ Know where you could go if you need to evacuate. Also, get an extra map and mark two alternate ways to reach that destination.



### **Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit Containing:**

- ✓ First aid kit and essential medicine.
- ✓ Canned food and a can opener.
- ✓ At least three gallons of water per person.
- ✓ Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- ✓ Battery-powered radio and flashlight, with extra batteries.
- ✓ Written instructions for how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so.



### **Be prepared for a flash flood:**

- ✓ Evacuations may be necessary. You may only have seconds to escape. Act quickly.
- ✓ Move to higher ground away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains.
- ✓ Do not drive or walk through flooded waters.
- ✓ Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires.
- ✓ Watch out for lost pets and displaced wild animals.



### **After a Flood Event:**

- ✓ Do not return to your property until it has been declared safe for re-entry.
- ✓ Clean your property's culverts and storm drains of flood debris.
- ✓ Know that major flood events can alter stream channels, which may change the severity of future flood events and cause flooding in different areas.
- ✓ Notify the highway department of road damage and plugged culverts on public roads.