

HORSESHOE 2 BAER UPDATE

USDA Forest Service
Coronado National Forest

www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado



For Immediate Release

Contact: Cathleen Thompson (707) 853-4243

BAER TEAM PREPARES FOR POTENTIAL FLOOD EVENTS

Willcox, AZ (July 9, 2011) – The Coronado National Forest's Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) team and its interagency cooperators recently met to coordinate the placement of portable self-sufficient real-time weather stations within the burned area of the Horseshoe 2 wildfire. These portable battery/solar-powered units can be set up in remote locations to observe current weather conditions, especially precipitation amounts. These units have been used successfully in situations such as post-fire burn areas for heavy rain monitoring and flash flood risk assessment.

The weather data from these units is communicated in real-time via amateur radio automatic packet reporting system (APRS). The weather data APRS packets are typically transmitted every 10 minutes. These weather stations will be monitored by the National Weather Service and used to issue weather watch and warnings to nearby communities and recreational areas.

Residents are encouraged to use extreme caution when traveling in the vicinity of the Horseshoe 2 fire area. Monsoon rains on burned slopes will result in large flood events, debris flows, rolling rocks, and falling trees - all of which could block vehicular travel. Travelers need to use caution when driving on roads downstream from the fire area and to avoid crossing swift flowing water.

Landowners living downstream from the burned areas need to be prepared to have their egress routes blocked and should have supplies of food, water, and clothing to be self-sufficient for several days until roads can be re-opened. Remember, it does not need to be raining where you are for a flash flood to occur.

Special Notice: The public is invited to attend public meetings hosted by the Natural Resources Conservation District on Wednesday, July 13, at 6:00 p.m. (Arizona time), at the Rodeo Community Center, in Rodeo, New Mexico, and Thursday, July 14, at 6:00 p.m. at the Sunizona Ash Creek Community Center which is located on Sunizona Drive behind the Mustang Mall in Sunizona. The Horseshoe 2 BAER assessment findings will be presented at these two public meetings.

For Horseshoe 2 BAER information, contact Cathleen Thompson at (707) 853-4243 or Ron Kaczor at (520) 558-2221.

