

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

HORSESHOE 2 BURN AREA RECEIVES MONSOON STORM

Willcox, AZ (July 12, 2011) – The Coronado National Forest's Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) implementation team working within the burn area of the Horseshoe 2 wildfire yesterday afternoon experienced first-hand how fast road conditions can change during a monsoon storm event.

"After all the crews returned to the Incident Command Post in Willcox this evening, we were able to assess the condition of Forest Service Road 42 within the Horseshoe 2 burn area," BAER implementation leader Barbara Drake said yesterday. "There are debris flows towards the top of the 42 road both to the east and west of Onion saddle. Beginning tomorrow and Wednesday, road engineers will work on the 42 road and its spurs on both the east and west sides of the saddle. Currently, we have no reports that any communities are affected by the blockages on the 42 road."

Today, the BAER team will assess whether the Paradise or Whitetail communities have any access issues and, if necessary, will mobilize another road contractor to address public access road blockages. Crews will begin BAER treatment work early each morning to complete as much as possible should they need to leave the fire area due to afternoon thunderstorms.

Residents are encouraged to use extreme caution when traveling in the vicinity of the Horseshoe 2 fire and when driving on roads downstream from the burn area to avoid crossing swift flowing water; avoid arroyos and areas prone to monsoonal flooding; not enter any water flows since water as shallow as two inches can sweep a person downstream into perilous conditions; and report any mudslides or flashfloods to local authorities.

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 both public meetings.

For Horseshoe 2 BAER information, contact Cathleen Thompson at (707) 853-4243, or Ron Kaczor at (520) 558-2221, and on the internet at <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2225/>.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Cochise County Post Fire Flooding Information: <http://cochise.az.gov/>

National Weather Service – Tucson Area: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/twc/>

Willcox Area: <http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?site=twc&textField1=32.25070&textField2=-109.83520&smap=1>

Portal Area:

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?CityName=San+Simon&state=AZ&site=TCW&lat=32.003&lon=-109.219>