



## NEWS RELEASE

### SOBERANES FIRE

### BAER ASSESSMENT- PHASE 1

**SOBERANES FIRE**, August 24, 2015...Efforts are under way for Phase 1 of the damage assessment on the land burned by the Soberanes Fire. A Burn Area Emergency Response Team (BAER) has been ordered to begin its burned area survey on federal and private lands. There will be two phases to the assessment. Phase 1 will cover all the burned lands north and west of Ventana Creek and the Upper Carmel River. Phase 2 will cover the remainder of the fire south and east of the two streams. The team is expected to begin the BAER analysis next week.

This is the first step in analyzing potential watershed impacts from the fire to any downstream values that may be at-risk from potential increased flooding, sedimentation, and debris flows. The BAER team will produce a report that includes findings of the burned area's conditions and recommended emergency stabilization measures and actions. The completed report of the team's analysis will be handed off to our partners to utilize at the local level and will be available to the public.

While the results of this analysis cannot prevent a flood, the study should serve to focus private and public resources to areas where treatments can be most effective in protecting property. On many steeper slopes where little can be done to stabilize large landscapes, early warning evacuation measures will also be important to protect human life.

This assessment process is a cooperative effort between federal agencies, U.S. Forest Service and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Monterey County, and CalFire's State Post Fire Watershed Emergency Response Team (SPFWERT). Private landowners who are interested in having NRCS provide a consultation should contact Rich Casale at (831) 475-1967 ext. 101. As the assessment period continues over the next few weeks, other local agencies, private landowners and stakeholders will join in the process.

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