

The burned area within the Las Conchas has suffered major vegetation loss and some of the burned soils may repel water more than normal. These factors combine to create a risk of flash flooding in the burned area. Until the area recovers, little will stop the waters from coming down the canyon. While numerous efforts are being taken to reduce the risks to life and property downstream of the fire, residents in the area should take their own steps to protect themselves and their property.

This publication was prepared by: The Department of Interior  
**Burn Area Emergency Response Team (BAER)**



For additional information visit:

- [www.fs.fed.us/baer](http://www.fs.fed.us/baer)
- [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

# Your Guide TO Flash Flood Preparation

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**Preparing for flood  
waters after the  
Las Conchas Fire  
2011**



## Know What to Expect

- ✿ Know your area's flood risk.
- ✿ If it has been raining hard in the drainages uphill from your community, be alert to the possibility of a flood.
- ✿ Listen to the local radio station for bulletins.

## Reduce Potential Flood Damage by:

- ✿ Raising your furnace, water heater and electric panel if they are in areas of your home that may be flooded.
- ✿ Removing all floatable debris from streambeds above culverts.
- ✿ Clearing dirt and debris from culverts.
- ✿ Dumping refuse 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.
- ✿ 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 for each

- ✿ Written instructions for how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so.

## When a Flash Flood Begins

- ✿ Evacuate immediately. 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 areas.
- ✿ Stay away from downed power lines and electrical wires. Electric current passes easily through water.
- ✿ Watch out for animals – especially snakes.