



Post-Wildfire Flash Flood and Debris Flow Preparedness

Wildfires create what is called a burn scar - charred land that lacks vegetation which makes it difficult for the land to absorb rainfall. When rain falls over a burn scar it can cause debris flows of ash, rock, timber, etc., and creates a higher risk for flash flooding in the area.

KNOW THE HAZARDS



DEBRIS FLOWS

- Ash
- Rock/boulders
- Timber/vegetation



FLOOD WATERS

- Fast moving, rising waters
- Flooding in low lying areas
- Fast flowing debris

FLOOD SAFETY



Pay attention to alerts and warnings.

If you receive a flash flood warning move to higher ground immediately. This could be getting up a hillside, or to a higher floor of a building.

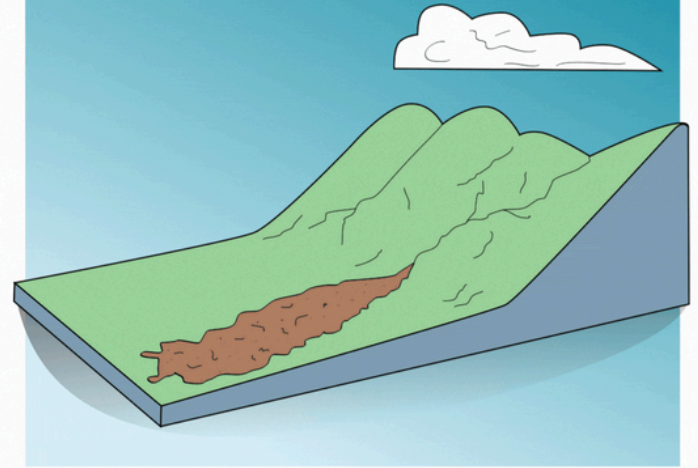


Avoid flood waters.

As little as 6" of water can knock you off of your feet, and 18" can float a car. Climb to higher ground as quickly as possible, and if you find yourself stuck in a vehicle abandon it and get to higher ground.

DEBRIS FLOW

Rapidly moving mix of water, mud, trees, and other materials that flows downvalley and can travel great distances.



TYPES OF LANDSLIDES



FLASH FLOOD ALERTING

The National Weather Service is the alerting organization for flash flood watches and warnings.



Alerts from the National Weather Service are sent out through All-Hazards Weather Radios. You may also receive alerts through the Emergency Alert System (through television or AM/FM radio station broadcasts).

National Weather Service hydrologists use their expertise to set thresholds for rainfall amounts that trigger flash flood watches and warnings. Alerts will not go out every time it rains - rather, heavier rain that hits their set thresholds will cause the alert to go out.

If needed, climb to higher ground orders will be sent through BOCO Alert and ReachWell.

- Sign-up at www.bocoalert.org, or by downloading and using the ReachWell app and searching for and adding "BOCO Alert".

REMEMBER - YOU ARE ALWAYS YOUR FIRST FORM OF ALERT. TRUST YOUR GUT. If you see, hear, smell, or sense something is wrong, make decisions to keep yourself safe - even if you haven't received an alert!

FLOOD SAFETY CONTINUED



Be prepared.

If you need to climb to higher ground be sure to take emergency supplies with you - things like a phone and charger, essential medications and medical devices, water, etc.



Avoid standing water.

After a debris flow or flood standing water is likely to be contaminated and contain large amounts of hazardous debris. Stay out of standing water.



Know your surroundings.

Be familiar with the risks in your area. If you live downhill from a burn scar, or near a stream, creek, river, ditch, or other low lying area you are at risk for debris flow damage and flash flooding.



Identify your routes to get to higher ground.

Familiarize yourself with ways you could get to higher ground - either outdoors, or by moving to a higher floor in a building. It's important to be familiar with these locations ahead of time so when the stress of a potential flood hits you know where to go.



Have a plan.

Make sure to create a plan for how you can get all people and animals in your household to safety, and work with your support system of neighbors and friends to plan together. Be sure to consider what essential supplies you will need and have those accessible (things like safe drinking water, food, critical medications, medical devices, etc).

FOR MORE PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION



www.boulderodm.gov/preparedness



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