

# NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino  
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## County issues flood information for recently burned areas

The County of San Bernardino is warning residents in and below areas recently burned by wildfires to be on alert and prepare for the possibility of flash floods as the first winter storm of the season approaches the region.

The threat is particularly acute for Fawnskin and other areas near the ongoing Butler II wildfire still burning near the Big Bear Valley. Areas affected by last year's Sawtooth fire and even the 2003 Old and Grand Prix fires may also still be vulnerable to post-fire flooding and debris flows.

County agencies have launched a coordinated effort to prepare residents for the possibility of post-fire floods:

- Crews from Public Works, County Fire, and the Sheriff's Department today will go door-to-door in Fawnskin to warn residents of the flood danger and deliver literature containing safety information.
- 25 tons of sand donated by Burton's Ready Mix of Big Bear Lake and sandbags are available for residents at County Fire Station 49 in Fawnskin.
- Crews from Public Works and County Fire have conducted a joint walking tour of the recently burned areas to identify the places most susceptible to flooding.
- Public Works is preparing to place signs and electronic message boards in communities where the risk is greatest.

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- The county is preparing to activate the Telephone Emergency Notification Systems (TENS) to alert residents to the impending danger and relay evacuation information if such steps become necessary.
- County Fire bulldozers and hand crews removed several debris dams from Grout Creek that could have caused water to build up and eventually break through in debris flows.
- Disaster preparedness information related to flooding and debris flow is being developed for the County and County Fire web sites. Information will also be provided to the news media, including local radio stations, and websites that are popular in the mountain communities.

Residents are urged to be aware of their surroundings and approaching weather systems. They are also urged to review and update their emergency and evacuation plans, and if roads leading away from their property are in danger of being washed out, to identify the nearest high ground. Heavy thunderstorms can develop quickly and county crews may not have time to organize a formal door-to-door evacuation.

Residents are advised to stay clear of flood control debris basins and channels. Persons can be swept away by a surge of water run off, mudflow, or debris flow. These areas are also dangerous after the rain has stopped as persons may become trapped in mud and debris by venturing onto what may appear to be stable soil. Do not drive where water is over the road as floodwaters can rise rapidly and sweep a car and its occupants away.

The San Diego National Weather Service is predicting a chance of measurable precipitation for later this week in San Bernardino County. County Public Works staff will monitor conditions during the rain event and take action as appropriate.

Additional information can be obtained by calling (909) 355-8800 for a recorded message or by accessing the San Diego National Weather Service website at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sgx> or disaster preparedness information available through the San Bernardino County web site at [www.sbcounty.gov](http://www.sbcounty.gov).