

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino

www.sbcounty.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information contact:
Denise Benson, Division Manager
Office of Emergency Services
(909) 356-3998
sbcoa@sbcfire.org

BURN AREA RESIDENTS PREPARE FOR POTENTIAL FLOOD DANGER

Residents in Morongo Basin will receive a flyer (see Attachment) warning of potential flood danger downstream of burn areas. The County is distributing the flyers door-to-door today through local Fire Stations, the Public Works Department, the Sheriff's Department, and Yucca Valley personnel. Flyers will also be delivered to convenient community locations. The National Weather Service has predicted the possibility of thunderstorms in the area within the next 24 hours. People are being advised to stay aware of the chance of flash floods, and mud and debris flows. With no vegetation left to hold water, streams will fill rapidly and increase the possibility of flooding in regions below the land burned by the Sawtooth Complex and Millard Complex Fires.

County agencies are also warning the public about this potential flood emergency by sending Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS) messages to residents in the affected areas, and activating electronic message boards on State Highways 62 and 247.

Residents in low-lying areas have been urged to take precautions to protect their properties through the use of sandbags or other measures. Sandbags will be available at most fire stations in the Morongo Basin. Information on the location and use of sandbags can also be found on the County's web site at <http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/flood/>.

Families should review their emergency plans and warn children to avoid flooded areas and washes. It is important to use extreme caution when crossing washes and arroyos, since these natural drainages can experience flash flooding. Motorists should never drive through running water. During an emergency, residents should tune to their local Emergency Alert System radio broadcast station for instructions.

95.1 FM	KFRG	Valley and High Desert
93.3 FM	KBHR	Big Bear Valley
98.9 FM	KHWY	High Desert
102.3 FM	KZXY	Victor Valley

The National Weather Service provides current weather information on their web site at <http://wrh.noaa.gov/vef/>.

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-- WARNING --

POTENTIAL FLOOD DANGER DOWNSTREAM OF BURN AREAS IN MORONGO BASIN

The recent fires have increased the chance of flash floods, and mud and debris flows from thunderstorms. The National Weather Service announced there could be thunderstorms in San Bernardino County starting within the next 24 hours. With these thunderstorms, areas downstream of the lands burned by the Sawtooth Complex and Millard Complex Fires may have large storm flows carrying mud and fire debris, clogging streambeds, bridges and culverts. Flooding can occur far from the burned areas. With no vegetation left to hold water, streams will fill quickly and increase the risk of flooding in regions below the burned areas.

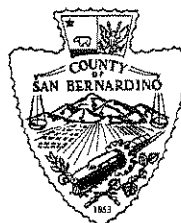
If you live in a low-lying region, protect your property by using sandbags or other measures. You can get a limited number of sandbags free-of-charge at most local fire stations. You can also find out where to get sandbags, and how to use them, on the County's web site at <http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/flood/>. Review your family emergency plans and prepare for possible power outages and disruption to roads and services. You should tell your children to avoid flooded areas and washes. Use extreme caution when crossing washes and arroyos, since flash flooding can occur in these natural drain areas. Motorists should never drive through running water.

County agencies are preparing to meet this potential flood emergency.

During an emergency, you should tune to your local Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio broadcast station for current emergency information.

95.1	FM	KFRG	Valley and High Desert
93.3	FM	KBHR	Big Bear Valley
98.9	FM	KHWY	High Desert
102.3	FM	KZXY	Victor Valley

For current weather information, check the National Weather Service site at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/vef/>, or listen to your local radio station.



If You Are Ordered to Evacuate:

Never ignore an evacuation order. If a flood warning is issued for your area or you are directed to evacuate the area:

- Move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- Take your family disaster supply kit.
- Wear protective clothing and sturdy shoes.
- Turn off the gas, electricity, and water if told to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- Open curtains and window coverings. Lock your home.
- Follow the planned evacuation routes and expect heavy traffic.
- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.

Driving Flood Facts:

Remember these important points when driving in flood conditions:

- Do not try to drive across creeks or flooded roads.
- Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control and possible stalling.
- A foot of water will float many vehicles.
- Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-ups.