



NEWS



News Headlines 1/5/2017

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County Fire urges residents to be prepared for higher flood risks

Daily Press

Posted: January 4, 2017, 12:10 PM



The San Bernardino County Fire Department is urging residents to be prepared for higher flood risks as storms continue to dump rain on areas burned by the Bluecut and Pilot fires. Daily Press file photo

The **San Bernardino County Fire Department** is urging residents to be prepared for higher flood risks as storms continue to dump rain on areas burned by the Bluecut and Pilot fires.

While flooding is possible anywhere in San Bernardino County, residents living in burn scar areas need to be especially prepared for potential flooding, according to a Wednesday news release.

Normally, vegetation absorbs rain, but after a wildfire, the charred ground where that vegetation has been burned away cannot easily absorb rainwater, increasing the risk of flooding and mudflows for several years. Properties directly affected by fires and/or located downstream of burn areas are most at risk.

Post-fire landslide hazards include fast-moving, highly destructive debris flows. Post-fire debris flows are particularly hazardous because they can occur with little warning, can exert great impulsive loads on objects in their paths, can strip vegetation, block drainage ways, damage structures and endanger human life.

The best preparation for possible flooding is to plan ahead and County Fire encourages residents to use its Ready! Set! Go! flood preparation website at www.sbcfire.org/ReadySetGoFlood.aspx in order to help protect their home, property and family. It includes tips for how to prepare for wet weather, where to sign up for emergency alerts, locations that have sand and sandbags available and what should be included in an emergency kit.

Sandbags can best be used to help protect doorways if a waterproof layer like heavy plastic or waterproof canvas is placed behind them. If possible, tape it to the door frame. Stack the sandbags in a pyramid formation and wrap the plastic up and over the top. Keep in mind, sandbags do not guarantee a water-tight seal, but properly placed sandbags can help redirect water, mud and debris away from the home.

County officials are strongly encouraging residents to get flood insurance. Flood insurance is available on almost any enclosed building and farm. The contents of insurable buildings, including rental units, are also insurable. Flood insurance can be purchased through the National Flood Insurance Program at www.floodsmart.gov. It must be purchased at least 30 days before a flooding event.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20170104/county-fire-urges-residents-to-be-prepared-for-higher-flood-risks>

COUNTY FIRE: Burn Area Residents Should Prepare For Potential Flooding

Michael P. Neufeld, Rim of the World

Posted: January 5, 2017, 12:07 AM



Mountain Communities – Residents living in recent burn scar areas are advised by **San Bernardino County Fire** to prepare for potential flooding should the upcoming storm system deliver significant rainfall amounts.

The charred ground — normally covered with vegetation to absorb the rainfall — cannot easily absorb rainwater, increasing the risk of flooding and mudflows for several years.

A media advisory issued by County Fire suggests that properties directly affected by fires and/or located downstream of burn areas are most at risk.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Post-fire landslide hazards include fast-moving, highly destructive debris flows. Post-fire debris flows are particularly hazardous because they can occur with little warning, can exert great impulsive loads on objects in their paths, can strip vegetation, block drainage ways, damage structures, and endanger human life.

BE PREPARED

The best preparation for possible flooding is to plan ahead. San Bernardino County Fire's **READY! SET! GO!** flood preparation web page displays a variety of things residents can do to protect their home, property and family.

Site visitors will learn how to prepare for wet weather, where they can sign up for emergency alerts, locations that have sand and sandbags available, and what they should have in an emergency kit.

SANDBAGS AND WATERPROOFING

Sandbags can best be used to help protect doorways if a waterproof layer like heavy plastic or waterproof canvas is placed behind them. If possible, tape it to the door frame.

Stack the sandbags in a pyramid formation and wrap the plastic up and over the top.

Keep in mind, sandbags DO NOT guarantee a water-tight seal, but properly placed sandbags can help redirect water, mud and debris away from homes and businesses.

FLOOD INSURANCE

County officials are strongly encouraging residents to get flood insurance.

Flood insurance is available on almost any enclosed building and farm. The contents of insurable buildings, including rental units, are also insurable. Flood insurance can be purchased through NATIONAL FOOD INSURANCE online.

It must be purchased at least 30 days before a flooding event, so don't wait until the first rain! Prepare your home now!

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Here are some additional helpful resources:

- Download the Ready SB County app from the Google Play or Apple Store for flood safety information.
- Check the NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE online to view current and upcoming weather events.

<http://rotwnews.com/2017/01/05/county-fire-burn-area-residents-should-prepare-for-potential-flooding/>

UPDATE: Man struck by train in Victorville, airlifted to trauma center; Sixth Street shut down

Jose Quintero, Daily Press

Posted: January 4, 2017, 8:42 AM



A man was airlifted to a trauma center Wednesday after he was struck by a train along the BNSF railroad tracks on Sixth Street. James Quigg, Daily Press

VICTORVILLE - A man who was working on the Caltrans project that will reconstruct three Interstate 15 interchanges and widen the Mojave River Bridge was airlifted to Antelope Valley Hospital after the lift machine he was working on was hit by a train near D and Sixth streets on Wednesday morning.

Authorities responded at approximately 6:34 a.m. and found the man who, according to scanner traffic, was reported to be conscious and breathing.

BNSF spokeswoman Lena Kent said the man was on a lift machine working on the nearby Caltrans project and attempted to cross the train tracks when he was struck by the train.

The vehicle experienced "mechanical issues" that caused it to stop on the train tracks, according to Victorville Sheriff's station Mara Rodriguez. The conductor of the train, which was headed west at 35 mph, attempted to stop the train when he spotted the stuck lift machine but was unable to do so in time. The man was ejected from the lift machine upon impact, Rodriguez said.

According to a witness at the scene, a horn was blown right before the man on the lift was struck by the westbound train at 6:31 a.m.

"It was a loud boom. There was stuff flying around and it looked like the man was under the lift," said the witness, who declined to provide a name.

Rodriguez said the man sustained serious head injuries and was flown to Antelope Valley Hospital for treatment. His condition was unknown as of 5 p.m. Wednesday. The conductor of the train was uninjured and no other injuries were reported.

City of Victorville spokeswoman Sue Jones said Sixth Street, between E and D streets, would likely be closed "all day."

"We encourage motorists to utilize alternate routes and to exercise caution when driving in the vicinity," Jones said.

The incident remains under investigation by BNSF Police and the Victorville Sheriff's station.

<http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20170104/update-man-struck-by-train-in-victorville-airlifted-to-trauma-center-sixth-street-shut-down>