



## AFTER THE FIRE

# What You Need to Know... *Weather & Flooding*

**Paying attention to the weather is critical** in areas adjacent to, and downstream from, the burned area. For several years after the fire, you may be at an increased risk for debris flows and flash floods.

**DO NOT WAIT** for flash flood warnings before taking steps to protect life and property. Dangerous flash flooding can begin before warnings are issued. Move to higher ground as soon as conditions warrant it.

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) broadcasts warnings, watches forecasts and other information **24 hours a day, 7 days a week**. Your NWR will automatically come on if the Emergency Alert System is activated (as happens when a Flash Flood Warning is issued).

**You need a special receiver to hear NWR broadcasts.** Many choices are available, starting at around \$20. The National Weather Service recommends consumers look for receivers with either of the following logos:



Many of the receivers on the market are designed to operate without electric service. If your receiver uses batteries, it is important to make sure your receiver is operational. A good habit is to change the batteries on your receiver when you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time.

More information can be found at [www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrrcvr.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrrcvr.htm)

**You can read weather alerts without a receiver** by visiting [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov). Free, third-part services such as [iAlert.com](http://iAlert.com) and [AccuWeather.com](http://AccuWeather.com) will send text messages or emails to alert you to weather warnings. Listen to your local radio station as well.

**Have an evacuation plan** and make certain that everyone in your household knows what to do in the event of a flood.

**The bottom line: Pay attention to the weather and be ready to get to higher ground if conditions warrant it.**

### *If you must evacuate:*

**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.

**Do not drive into flooded areas.** If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground, when water is not moving or not more than a few inches deep. You and the vehicle can be swept away quickly. If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, stay in the vehicle. If the water is rising inside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof.

**Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams, rivers or creeks, particularly during threatening conditions.**