

Weather and Evacuation Notifications

Residents in or downstream of recently burned areas are advised of the following types of weather and evacuation notices.

Definitions:

Critical Rainfall Event – Rainfall event producing intensities that create a high probability of unsafe and hazardous conditions within recent burn areas; criteria is established by scientists at the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and other agencies.

Flash Flood Watch – National Weather Service issues a Flash Flood Watch when the risk of a hazardous weather or hydrologic event (heavy rain leading to flash flooding is possible) has increased significantly, but its timing is still uncertain. It is intended to provide enough lead time so those who need to set their plans in motion can do so. May be issued 6 – 12 hours in advance of significant rain; specifically lists threat locations, including mud and debris flow; may last up to 48 hours.

Flash Flood Warning – Notification by National Weather Service issued when flash flooding is occurring or will develop quickly; flooding/debris flow is imminent or occurring; specifically lists threat locations and debris flow areas.

Voluntary Evacuation of Large Animals – Advisory to canyon residents who may keep horses, live stock, etc., on their property to consider evacuating their animals from high risk areas in preparation of a critical rainfall event. Trailers and other vehicles are still allowed in and out of the area.

Voluntary Evacuation of Special Needs Residents – Advisory to canyon residents who may need special assistance or special accommodations to begin the process of evacuating or initiate preparations to evacuate from high risk areas in preparation of a critical rainfall event.

Mandatory Evacuation of Large Animals – Last call for canyon residents to evacuate large animals in preparation of a critical rainfall event. Horse trailers and other vehicles used to transport large animals will not be allowed to enter high risk areas when mandatory evacuation of residents is requested.

Mandatory Evacuation of Canyon Residents – Canyon residents living in high risk areas will be requested to evacuate in preparation of a critical rainfall event. Canyon residents may leave, but no vehicles other than emergency / official vehicles will be allowed to enter evacuated areas.