

# FLOOD AFTER FIRE

Did you know that wildfires dramatically alter the terrain and increase the risk of floods?

**Reduce your risk.  
The time to buy flood insurance is now.**

Contact your local insurance agent for more information or visit the National Flood Insurance Program at [www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program](http://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program)

During normal conditions, vegetation helps absorb rainwater.



But after an intense wildfire, burned vegetation and charred soil form a water repellent layer, blocking water absorption.



During the next rainfall, water bounces off of the soil.



And as a result, properties located below or downstream of the burn areas are at an increased risk for flooding.



**Heavy Rains**  
Excessive amounts of rainfall can happen throughout the year. Properties directly affected by fires and those located below or downstream of burn areas are most at risk for flooding.

## Degree of Land Slope

Higher degrees of land slope speed up water flow and increase flood risk.



## Flash Floods

Intense rainfall can flood low lying areas in less than six hours. Flash floods roll boulders, tear out trees and destroy buildings and bridges.



## Mudflows

Rivers of liquid and flowing mud are caused by a combination of brush loss and subsequent heavy rains. Rapid snowmelt can also trigger mudflows.

