

POST-FIRE FLOODING



WHAT IS IT
ANYHOW?

Flooding after a wildfire is often severe because there is no vegetation to absorb rainfall and reduce runoff. Mud and debris flows occur when it rains over a burn area, flushing ash and loose materials left behind by the wildfire into the watershed.

Have you heard?

80
3-5
7

On July 20, 2010, 80 homes were damaged or destroyed when a monsoon thunderstorm stalled over the Schultz Fire burn area, sending a river of mud and debris into neighboring communities.

It takes about 3 to 5 years for a watershed damaged by wildfire to recover.

In 2011, a mudflow that started in the Monument Fire burn area buried an apple orchard and deposited 7 feet of sediment.

How to prepare

- 1 Sign up with your local emergency management office to receive emergency notifications.
- 2 Know the difference between a *flood watch* and a *flood warning*, and how to respond to each.
- 3 *Turn Around, Don't Drown®*. Never try to cross a flooded roadway. It takes just 6 inches of water to float a vehicle.
- 4 Buy flood insurance. Most homeowners' policies do not cover flood damage.
- 5 Be aware of current forecasts and changing weather conditions. Identify areas near your home or business that are flood prone, and be prepared to evacuate to higher ground if asked to by local officials.