

The Aspen Fire has greatly affected not only the environment in the Catalina Mountains but has also impacted the watersheds within the range. Now that the fire is under control, the Pima County Flood Control District has begun work in two major areas. The first of these – assessing and evaluating what changes the fire has caused is already underway. Secondly, what Flood Control is doing to lessen the after-effects of the fire have been identified and is also underway. Assessment/Evaluation and Post Fire Assistance efforts include:

WHAT HAS CHANGED AS A RESULT OF THE ASPEN FIRE?

- Overhead tree canopies have been reduced or eliminated in some areas
- Ground cover has been destroyed
- Soil erosion is more likely to occur because of these changes
- Losses or changes to these items may lead to:
 - Greater soil erosion
 - Increases in stream flows, both in direction and in volume
 - Debris in stream flows out of the mountains

WHAT IS THE PIMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT DOING IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE ASPEN FIRE?

- ▶ Working with the Forest Service to assist with the evaluation of severe burn areas in the Catalinas to include:
 - Amount of overhead vegetation burned
 - Degree of burn to ground cover vegetation
 - Degree the burned soil will accept, or repel rainfall
- ▶ Using the information from the Forest Service, the County will be evaluating the changes to the watershed runoff volumes and potential changes to the downstream floodplains in: Sabino Creek, Ventana Canyon and Canada del Oro Wash to include:
 - Effect of physical changes to increase flow values
 - Reviews of remaining structures including bridges, homes, bank protection
 - Recommending steps that both residents and homeowners on the mountain and in the downstream areas can take to reduce environmental hazard
 - Actively protecting remaining public infrastructure to reduce repair expenses to taxpayers

**MEASURES YOU AS A HOMEOWNER OR RESIDENT IMPACTED BY THE ASPEN FIRE
CAN TAKE TO REDUCE HAZARDS TO
YOUR PROPERTY, YOUR NEIGHBOR'S PROPERTY AND DOWNSTREAM PROPERTY**

We are sharing information with property owners in the downstream floodplains of the watersheds impacted by the Aspen Fire.

Remove Obstructions

Wherever possible, remove potential obstruction in the floodplain such as fences and stored items. Even three strand wire fences can catch debris and increase the potential for flooding.

Clear obstructions, vegetation and debris upstream of any driveway culverts or crossings.

Sandbags

Sandbags can be used to effectively limit rainfall run off toward remaining structures on your property. In addition you can assist your neighbors by being careful in the placement of your sandbags in order not to divert flows onto your neighbor. If you have questions about where to place sandbags, please feel free to contact the Flood Control District at 740-6350 or stop in our office at 201 N. Stone Ave., 4th Floor, and we can view a map of your area and advise you on the best placement of sandbags.

Sandbags are available from the following sources:

Ajax Barricades
Ajo/Country Club area
3249 E. President
741-8340
Hours: 8:00 AM/5:00 PM

Trafficade Service
Grant/Oracle area
315 W. Flores
624-0465
Hours: 6:00 AM/5:00 PM

These companies can supply empty or full sandbags ranging in price from \$1.00 each (unfilled) to \$3.00 each (filled). These are not the only barricade companies in the area selling sandbags. You may want to consult the Yellow Pages under Barricades for additional resources.