



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Cleveland National
Forest

Trabuco Ranger District
1147 East 6th Street
Corona, CA 92879-1616
(951) 736-1811
(951) 736-3002 FAX
CRS 1-800-735-2922

File Code: 2520

Date: November 14, 2014

Dear Homeowner:

The Silverado Fire recently burned 968 acres on the northern side of Silverado Canyon. The burned area has highly erosive soils on very steep slopes. The fire consumed much of the vegetation and soil cover, and increased the risk of erosion, flash flooding, and debris flows within and downslope of the fire area. The Forest Service completed post-fire assessments of risks to life, property, and resources as part of a Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) assessment. These are posted on the Cleveland National Forest web page: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/cleveland/home/?cid=stelprd3819091&width=full>

Flooding, increased erosion, and debris flows are a high to very high risk for all residents in Silverado Canyon who are downslope or downstream of the burned area. When rainfall events are predicted, please comply with evacuation orders and leave the canyon area to avoid risks to life. There is a very high risk of flooding and debris flows for the houses on Mountain View Trail, and those on Silverado Canyon Road, at the lower end of Subwatershed C (see attached map). In this subwatershed, if there is a 10-year storm event (approximately 3 inches of rain within a 24 hour period), there is a 60-80% probability of a debris flow with a potential volume of 10,000 – 100,000 cubic yards. Smaller storm events also have the potential to cause damaging debris flows.

Further details on the debris flow modeling, prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey, are posted at the following website: http://landslides.usgs.gov/hazards/postfire_debrisflow/2014/20140920silverado/

For more information about debris flows go to:

http://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/information/publications/cgs_notes/note_33/Pages/index.aspx

Due to the increased risk of floods associated with the recent fire, Silverado Canyon residents also have the option to purchase flood insurance with no waiting period. Information about flood insurance is available at: <https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/>

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides assistance to private landowners with regard to flooding and erosion issues. I encourage you to work with the NRCS to identify specific measures to help protect your property during storm events. The NRCS contact for this area is Bob Hewitt; he can be reached at (951) 654-7139 or Robert.Hewitt@ca.usda.gov. If you have questions about post-fire hazards, please contact the NRCS as listed above, or Kirsten Winter, Silverado BAER team leader at kwinter@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

(for) DARRELL W. VANCE
District Ranger

Attachments

