

NEWS RELEASE



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Ashley National Forest Monitors Farm Creek Drainage for Flash Floods Following the 2007 Neola North Fire

After the Neola North Fire in 2007 which burned more than 62 square miles, the Ashley National Forest, in conjunction with the National Weather Service, has installed a temporary weather station in the Farm Creek Drainage (June 2008).

The Farm Creek drainage experienced significant flooding just downstream of the Forest boundary in the vicinity of Bacon Park and the private residences along the river corridor. In the next 1-3 years, while the burned areas recover, additional flooding is possible after intense summer thundershowers.

In order to alert the downstream communities of potential flooding hazards this station will remain in place for 1-3 years, depending on vegetative recovery and flooding events. Post fire flooding is of greatest concern during short, intense summer thunderstorms.

The weather station will record precipitation events, and when 15/100 of an inch occurs within 15 minutes, a warning will be broadcast to the Uintah Basin Interagency Fire Center dispatch (8 am – 6 pm). Interagency dispatch will notify Uintah County dispatch every time this warning is received. When two or three warnings occur consecutively (30-45 minutes of rainfall), the chance for extreme flooding increases.

Not all 15 minute warnings will create flooding, and the relationship between 15 minute warnings and actual flooding events will need to be refined over time. Until this relationship is established there may be some 'false alarms', but this may be necessary to provide early warnings of when flooding is possible. Uintah County Office of Emergency Services will alert the residents in Farm Creek by whatever means are most appropriate.