



# Important Information --- PLEASE READ



## Flooding after a Fire - Wildfires increase the risk....

You may be at even **greater risk** of flooding due to the recent wildfires that have burned across the region. Large-scale wildfires dramatically alter the terrain and ground conditions. Normally, vegetation absorbs rainfall, reducing runoff. However, wildfires leave the ground charred, barren, and unable to absorb water, **creating conditions ripe for flash flooding and mudflow**. Flood risk remains significantly higher until vegetation is restored---**up to 5 years after a wildfire**. Flooding after fire is often more severe, as debris and ash left from the fire can form mudflows. As rainwater moves across charred and denuded ground it can also pick up soil and sediment and carry it in a stream of floodwaters. These mudflows can cause significant damage.

### IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

- ◇ Monitor local weather at [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) or on the Chelan County Emergency Management Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Chelan-County-Emergency-Management-188543097925415/> Be on the lookout for the flood watches and warnings.
- ◇ For rising water/flooding concerns, contact **RiverCom Dispatch 509-663-9911**.
- ◇ For bridge and roadway concerns due to flooding, contact **Chelan County Public Works 509-667-6415**. You can also contact Public Works for sandbags. **Sandbags will be staged at Steliko, and should be available during business hours.**
- ◇ For preparation concerns, contact **Chelan County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management 509-667-6863**.

Please, be on the lookout for flooding/slide situations, and report them.

◇◇◇ **IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 9-1-1**, if it is a non-emergency, 509-663-9911. ◇◇◇

You, as a resident, know what is "normal" and what may be of concern.

Please, if you see a threat, report it!

### <<<DURING a Flood>>>

- **Do not walk through moving water.** Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- **Do not drive into flooded areas.** It can take only a foot or two of water to float or sweep away your vehicle. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. Do not drive across bridges that have flowing water or debris on them.
- NOAA Weather Radio: **Listen to NOAA Weather Radio** for information on flooding and other weather alerts. (Be sure to get one that is battery operated or can be wound up, not electric)
- **Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other low-lying areas that can flood suddenly.** Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.
- **If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.**
- If water rises in your home before you evacuate, go to the top floor, attic, or roof.
- **Turn off all utilities at the main power switch and close the main gas valve if advised to do so.** Disconnect electrical appliances. **Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.**
- **If you've come in contact with floodwaters, wash your hands with soap and disinfected water.**
- **If it is safe to evacuate, leave your home.**
- Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture.



Continued on Other Side

## <<<Be FLOODSMART – Reduce your risk>>>



- **The time to prepare is now.** Gather supplies in case of a storm, strengthen your home against damage, and review your insurance coverages. No flood insurance? Remember: it typically takes 30 days for a new flood insurance policy to go into effect, so get your policy now.
- Only Flood Insurance covers flood damage.
- **Plan ahead. Plan evacuation routes.** Keep important papers in a safe, waterproof place. Conduct a home inventory; itemize and take pictures of possessions. Be prepared to Shelter-In-Place if the Entiat River Rd. becomes impassable.

## <<<Actions That You Can Take BEFORE a Flood Occurs>>>

After getting flood insurance, there are several things you can do to minimize losses in your home or business and ensure the safety of family and employees.

1. **Safeguard your possessions** – create a file containing information about all your property and its contents, and keep it in a secure place, such as a safe deposit box or waterproof container. This file should have a copy of your insurance policies, an inventory, copies of other critical documents, and businesses should have a plan for resuming operations after a flood.
2. **Prepare your property**
  - Clear debris from gutters and downspouts
  - Anchor any fuel tanks
  - Move furniture, valuables, important documents to a safe place
  - If your property is located in an area in danger of post-fire flooding, remove hazardous materials such as chemicals from your home and outbuildings.
  - Protect areas susceptible to floodwaters by placing sandbags.
3. **Develop an Emergency Plan**
  - Create a safety kit with drinking water, canned food, first aid, blankets, a radio, and a flashlight.
  - Post emergency telephone numbers by the phone and teach your children how to dial 911.
  - Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family or employees. Know safe routes from home, work, and school that are on higher ground.
  - Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to be your emergency contact.
  - Have a plan to protect your pets.
  - Itemize and take pictures of possessions and assets.
  - Keep valuable items on the upper floors of your home or building.



### How Soils Change

- Burned soils develop a waxy characteristic near the surface which repels water
- Severely burned soils that obtain this characteristic are called *hydrophobic*
- Rain that falls onto hydrophobic soil runs off more quickly because it cannot soak in
- The volume of runoff from rainfall is much greater from hydrophobic soils
- The combination of these two properties of burned soil (more runoff and faster runoff) leads to increased risk of flash flooding
- This trait of hydrophobic (burned and waxy) soils can remain for many years leading to flooding issues well into the future