

FLASH-FLOODING BURN SCAR THREAT

WHAT

Rainfall on new burn scars could quickly lead to flash-flooding and debris flows.

WHERE

Pine Gulch and Grizzly Creek Burn Scars.

WHEN

Rainfall chances will be increasing through this week. However, burn scars can remain a threat for flash flooding and debris flow well into the future.

ACTION

Have an evacuation route planned that is least likely to be impacted by flooding or debris flows.

Stay informed before and during any potential event. <https://weather.gov/gjt> is the National Weather Service Grand Junction website.

Seek higher ground. Do not attempt to drive through flooded roads.

During normal conditions, vegetation helps absorb rainwater.



But after an intense wildfire, burned vegetation and charred soil form a water repellent layer, blocking water absorption.



During the next rainfall, water bounces off of the soil.



And as a result, properties located below or downstream of the burn areas are at an increased risk for flooding.



Degree of Land Slope

Higher degrees of land slope speed up water flow and increase flood risk.



Flash Floods

Intense rainfall can flood low lying areas in less than six hours. Flash floods roll boulders, tear out trees and destroy buildings and bridges.



Mudflows

Rivers of liquid and flowing mud are caused by a combination of brush loss and subsequent heavy rains. Rapid snowmelt can also trigger mudflows.

