



Date: November 6, 2009

Re: Recent Fires in the Yucaipa Area

To whom it may concern:

Due to the recent fires the City is in the process of assessing the potential impacts to the drainage tributaries downstream of the burn areas. As we have seen elsewhere in the last few years there is an increased potential for mud and debris flows that inevitably accompany the winter rains when hillsides are denuded of vegetation from the impacts of wildfires.

Flash floods and mud flows can occur anywhere, but are more likely to occur in existing watercourses, canyons, foothills, and low lying areas. All citizens should be prepared prior to any storm season and especially after a fire. Residents should make sure all drainage culverts and wash areas within your property that convey storm run off are properly maintained and functional.

Even areas that remain unaffected directly from the fires may be cutoff from access and communications due to road flooding and utility outages. It is far better to be prepared by personally protecting your property with sandbags and other protective measures, stocking emergency food and medical supplies, preparing for power and communication alternatives, monitoring and heeding storm and flash flood warnings, refraining from entering hazardous areas when possible, and follow a family evacuation plan.

Residents may pick up 25 sandbags from the three local fire stations which also have sand available to fill the bags. If additional sandbags and sand are required, residents may purchase it from the local vendors.

Please contact the City of Yucaipa Public Works Department if you have any questions or require information on flood proofing your property during the storm season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Hemsley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "y" at the end.

Bill Hemsley, PE
Director of Public Works/City Engineer