

How Can I Protect My Property?

All of the communities in the areas affected by the wildfires participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Flood insurance can be purchased for any building and/or its contents in these communities. The cost of flood insurance will be based on the “pre-burn” flood zone designations on the current Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The cost of flood insurance will not be changed in these areas because of the short-term increase (3-5 years) in the flood hazards.

For questions regarding the purchase of flood insurance, please contact your insurance agent or the NFIP at 1-800-427-4661.

FEMA Region IX, in cooperation with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, tasked MAPIX-Mainland to analyze the post-fire flood hazards for streams in the five counties affected by the fires. Map-IX-Mainland is a joint venture of:



For more information on the MAPIX-Mainland projects underway, please visit

<http://www.map9-m.com/>.



California Post-Fire Flood Hazard Mapping Information



Prepared for:
Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region IX

Prepared by:
MAPIX-Mainland
Contractor for Region IX

Assessing Flood Risk in the Aftermath of the October 2003 Wildfires

In late October 2003, wildfires ravaged 700,000 acres in 5 counties in Southern California. Wildfires impact vegetation and soils, causing substantial increases in rainfall runoff, which significantly increases flood hazards in fire-affected watersheds. Post-Fire Advisory Flood Hazard Maps developed by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are now available to assist homeowners, and local, state, and federal agencies in dealing with the substantially increased flood risk.

How Do Wildfires Create a Greater Flood Risk?

- Loss of vegetation and soils reduces absorption and increases movement of rock and sediment
- Hardening of the soils "paves" the watershed and increases runoff
- Increase in flooding, erosion, mudslides, and debris flows

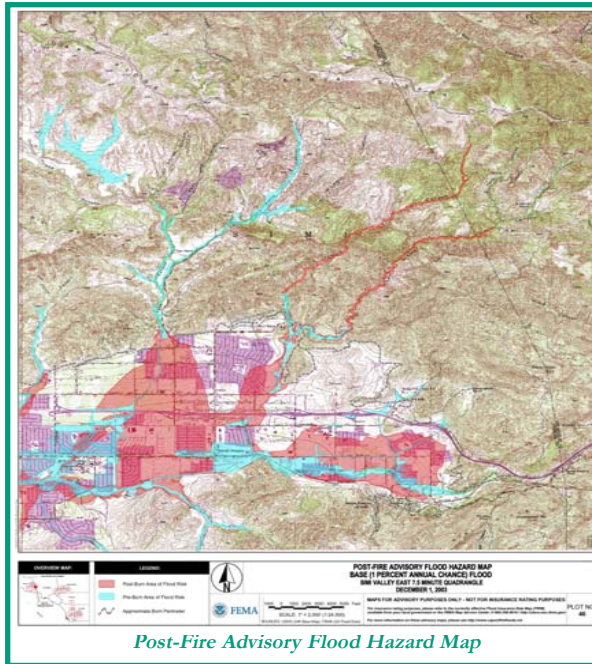
*Photo Courtesy of www.rimoftheworld.net
Photo By Greg Pirolo*

Why Were the Post-Fire Advisory Flood Hazard Maps Created?

- Existing flood risk maps don't reflect post-fire changes to floodplain areas
- Hundreds of thousands of people live in or downstream of burned watersheds
- Over 3,000 homes must be re-built, many located in or near flood hazards
- Updated information was needed for local emergency planning, response, and risk management and communication

For Which Counties are Post-Fire Advisory Flood Hazard Maps Available?

- San Diego
- Los Angeles
- San Bernardino
- Ventura
- Riverside



Post-Fire Advisory Flood Hazard Map

What do the Post-Fire Advisory Flood Hazard Maps Show?

- Approximate pre-burn and post-burn flood hazard areas
- Provide a general understanding of flood risks and identify areas where the flood risk has increased significantly
- Are not based on detailed engineering analyses

They do not replace the currently effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps for the affected communities, which continue to be the officially adopted maps for flood insurance purposes.

How Were the Post-Fire Advisory Flood Hazard Maps Created?

To provide these maps in the quickest timeframe possible (less than two weeks), readily available data and approximate analysis methods were used. This includes information collected from:

- Burned Area Emergency Response Teams
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S Army Corps of Engineers
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Local Governments

Where Can I View the Maps, and Get More Information on This Project?

Visit <http://www.capostfirefloods.net> to see the maps, and other information about the post-fire mapping effort. This site is available to the public, and includes more detailed information about how the maps were created, the study methods and data sources used, and includes resources such as brochures, presentations, and local contacts who can provide additional information.

