

# Get Ready

Gather emergency supplies for sheltering-in-place at your home. If your home is located on high ground and it is NOT in danger from debris flows, you may choose to shelter-in-place. Plan to be on your own without water, gas, and electricity for at least three days.

- Battery-powered radio and/or NOAA weather radio (with S.A.M.E. and back-up battery. Local frequency: 162.550 MHz Denver)
- Two (2) flashlights and extra batteries
- Extra blanket(s)
- Non-perishable foods
- Essential medications
- Personal hygiene items
- Important papers
- Manual can opener
- Water (1 gallon per person per day)
- Water purification tablets
- Paper towels
- Plastic utensils
- Pre-moistened towelettes
- Pet needs (food, medications, litter)
- Telephone that does not require a separate electricity source (i.e., one that plugs directly into a phone jack)

Gather emergency supplies to take with you if you need to leave quickly (also make this a "car" kit for items you may need if you are away from home when a flash flood or debris event occurs). Put these items in a backpack so they'll be ready to go.

- Radio and/or portable NOAA Weather Radio (S.A.M.E.)
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Necessary medications
- Change of clothes
- Walking shoes
- Rain gear
- Gloves
- Important papers
- Important phone numbers
- Blanket(s) or sleeping bag(s)
- Whistle
- Food and water
- Water purification tablets
- Waterproof/windproof matches



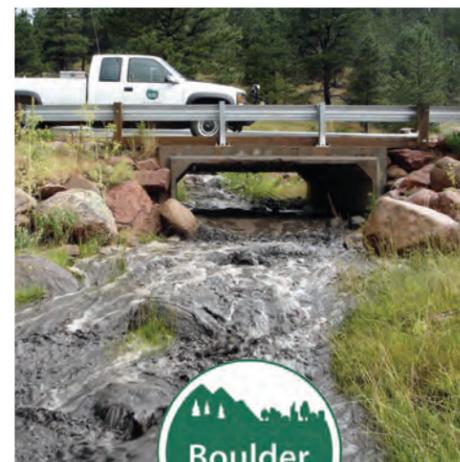
## Before the Flood

- Promptly notify Boulder County Road Maintenance at (303) 441-3962, or in an emergency 9-1-1, if you see potential for roadway flooding or debris issues.
- Remove debris and sediment from drainage channels near your property. You may need to do this several times during a rainy season.
- Talk with your neighbors and family about how you will communicate during a disaster.
- Contact the Fourmile Fire Recovery Center for information on using sand bags and other erosion control techniques to protect your property. Visit: [www.bouldercounty.org/fourmilefire](http://www.bouldercounty.org/fourmilefire) or call (720) 564-2642.



# MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

## FLASH FLOOD AND DEBRIS FLOW



Boulder County wants you to be prepared for any flooding or debris flow situations. We hope the information provided will help you to make the best decisions possible, increasing your ability to survive a disaster.

If you would like further assistance in emergency planning or if you have any questions, call the Boulder Office of Emergency Management at (303) 441-3390 or visit [www.BoulderOEM.com](http://www.BoulderOEM.com).

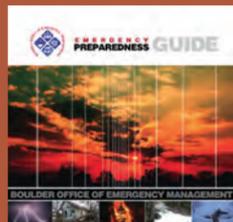
## Know the Risks

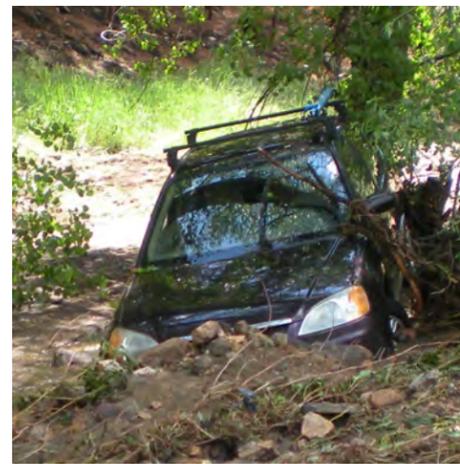
There is increased potential for flooding and debris flows in the Fourmile Canyon Fire area due to loss of vegetation and bare slopes. Anyone living in or visiting the area should be aware of these increased risks:

- Spring and summer thunderstorms produce the highest risk for flooding.
- Flooding and debris flows can block roads and leave you stranded even if you are not in the direct path of flooding.
- Power outages and loss of phone service are possible, resulting in isolation.
- Flash flooding can occur very quickly, even when it is not raining at your location. The heaviest rainfall may be upstream from you.
- Flash flooding can occur at any time, including at night.
- Unusual stream behavior, falling rocks, unfamiliar sounds or a difference in appearance of the landscape could indicate debris flow or flood approaching. Trust your instincts! Be prepared to take action if something doesn't seem right.

**Boulder Office of Emergency Management**  
Address: 3280 Airport Road | Boulder, Colorado 80301  
Phone: 303.441.3390 | [www.boulderoem.com](http://www.boulderoem.com)  
Visit us online and download our Emergency Preparedness Guide

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### Sign up for Emergency Messages

Go to: [www.boco911alert.com](http://www.boco911alert.com) and sign up to receive emails, calls to your home, business or cell phone, and text messages.



### Consider Flood Insurance

You can buy flood insurance no matter where you live or what your flood risk, but you should not wait until the rainy/flood season (April-Sept) to make a decision.

There is a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect. By law, flood insurance is issued as a separate insurance policy through the Federal government, and can be purchased through your existing insurance company and agent.

Go to [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov) or contact our local FEMA reps: Norm Ashford at 303.235.4912 or Erin May at 303.299.7873 for more information.

## Preparing Makes Sense

Take the time to plan for how you will take care of yourself and your family during a flood or debris flow emergency. Debris flows and flooding can happen very quickly, and you may need to take action before an "official" warning is issued!

By planning ahead, you can:

- Understand how a disaster may affect you, and take steps to minimize those effects now.
- Be self-sufficient for three to five days if first responders can't reach you immediately after a disaster.
- Reduce fear and anxiety by knowing what to do.
- Be ready to help others, and allow first responders to help those in the most immediate life-threatening situations.

## Safety Routes and Locations

- Plan to go to a safe location. Identify two locations located at higher ground.
- Have a plan for your pets so you won't be delayed in reaching high ground.
- Know more than one way to get to your safe locations on foot (see: Vehicle Safety).
- NOTE: The City of Boulder should NOT be one of your safe locations. City residents may also be affected by rainfall in the burn area.
- Practice moving along your safety routes.
- Talk with family members and neighbors and plan where you will meet and how you will check in with each other at your safety locations.

## During a Flash Flood

- Move to high ground immediately.
- If you are in an area where the slopes have been severely burned, the ground may be unstable. Use an alternate route if possible.
- Stay out of floodwaters. Swift-moving water and debris can be deadly.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.
- Leaving the area can pose significant dangers, as road washouts and landslides can occur along escape routes. If you plan to try to leave the area, give yourself as much time as possible, and know that it still may not be enough (see: Vehicle Safety).

## Stay Informed

- Contact your Fire Protection District and attend meetings in your community.
- Stay informed through local radio (KOA - AM 850), television alerts, and your own observations.
- Sign up to receive free emergency alerts on home, work and cell phones, text messages and email. Go to: [www.boco911alert.com](http://www.boco911alert.com) to register your phone number(s) and/or email address(es).
- Monitor a NOAA Weather Radio (with S.A.M.E. and back-up battery).
- Listen for the latest Flood Watches, Warnings and Advisories:
  - A **WATCH** indicates that life-threatening flooding is possible within the designated watch area.
  - An **ADVISORY** indicates that non-life-threatening flooding of small streams, streets and low-lying areas is occurring or is imminent.
  - A **WARNING** indicates that flash flooding or flooding has been reported or is imminent, and necessary precautions should be taken at once.

## Vehicle Safety

- Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are vehicle-related. As little as 18 inches of water will float most automobiles.
- All access routes out of the Fourmile Canyon Fire area are along major drainage ways prone to flooding and washouts.
- Never drive your vehicle through flood waters.
- While driving your vehicle be aware of dips, culverts, bridges and low-lying areas.
- Be aware that the roadbed may not be intact under floodwaters.
- If your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. You won't mind being wet and cold if you are safe!

HELPFUL WEBSITES:

[www.crh.noaa.gov/den  
\(weather\)](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/den(weather))  
[www.BoulderOEM.com](http://www.BoulderOEM.com)  
[www.readycolorado.com](http://www.readycolorado.com)  
[www.boulderfloodinfo.net](http://www.boulderfloodinfo.net)