



Yavapai County Flood Control District



Newsletter
May 2012

Volume 1, Issue 11

WWW.YCFLOOD.COM

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Websites for other related organizations:

AZ Dept of Water Resources
www.azwater.gov

AZ Dept of Environmental Quality
www.azdeq.gov

AZ Division of Emergency Management
www.dem.azdema.gov

CORPS of Engineers
www.usace.army.mil

Federal Emergency Management Agency
www.fema.gov
www.floodsmart.gov

National Weather Service
www.weather.gov

National Resource Conservation Service
www.nrcs.usda.gov

US Environmental Protection Agency Region IX
www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region9

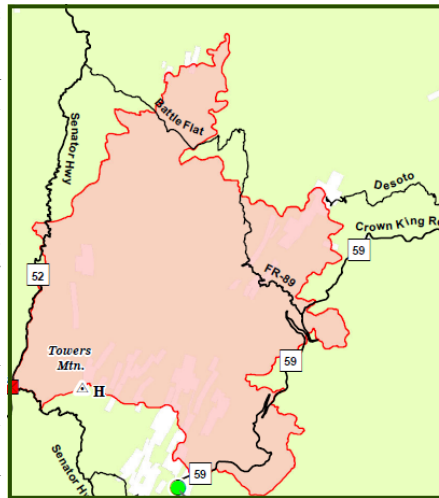
The District Assesses Damage After Gladiator Fire

As we in Arizona have learned repeatedly, the monsoon season can be devastating to areas downstream of a recent wildfire. For that reason, the Flood Control District paid very close attention to the activity in the recent Gladiator Fire and is now working with the BAER Team to assess damage and identify those areas with increased chance for flooding, debris flows and mudflows.

Large-scale fires, such as the Gladiator, can drastically alter the landscape and ground conditions, which increases the risk of flooding within the burn and downstream areas. Fire debris, mud and silt washed into stream beds reduce conveyance, thereby increasing the potential for flood damage. When rain falls on unprotected earth, as in burn areas, soils on moderate to steep slopes can become unstable. The

heavily saturated earth can liquefy and flow down a hillside into populated areas.

The roads surrounding the fire area are particularly susceptible



to increased flows and can be hazardous during and after a rain storm. Extreme caution should be used when driving in the area.

The District maintains a supply of rain gauges in order to be able to quickly cover an area damaged by wildfire and monitor rains in the area. The District, along with the BAER team, will determine the best locations for the gauges and the areas to monitor.

It is important to know that flood insurance is available on all properties in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, once purchased, the insurance does not become effective for 30 days.

The District and BAER team are working to identify the areas most at risk. If you have questions about your property call the District at 771-3197. For information on purchasing flood insurance, call your agent or go to www.floodsmart.gov.

Local Special Flood Hazard Areas

When we think of Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), we usually think of FEMA floodplains. However, any area prone to flooding during a standard storm can be considered a SFHA.

In Yavapai County, we have several District-designated SFHAs that we have identified through engineering studies. Usually when an area has had repeated flooding due to development in the area, and not necessarily the size of the natural watercourse, we identify the hazard and keep the information in house, rather than submit it to FEMA. This

gives us good information to use when determining if an engineered solution is possible, and also to use when regulating new construction in the area to make sure the new development doesn't worsen the problem.

Two areas that have recently been identified as having local SFHAs are KC's Korner in Cornville and Castle Canyon Mesa outside of Prescott Valley. In KC's Korner, several drainage paths carry water from the east through a developed area, including a large watershed which drains approximately 2,500 CFS

and has been known to flood properties along Page Springs Road. The District studied the watershed to determine the path and volume of the water to prioritize problem areas and possible construction solutions.

Castle Canyon Mesa is a dense subdivision with undersized roadside ditches and culverts. The District studied this area to better inform applicants of the hazard on their property and give the best possible guidance for building improvements that are safe from flooding.

See map on Page 3...

Backyard Composting

Research has shown that compost and composted products can help reduce water pollution. Compost products can be used directly and indirectly to prevent pollution or remediate polluted water and by replacing polluting activities with less polluting alternatives.

Organic wastes, such as leaves, branches, grass clippings and other yard waste products, are a major source of nonpoint source (or stormwater) pollution. The process of composting takes these raw materials and stabilizes them under controlled conditions. Stabilizing the material takes the nutrients, such as nitrogen, and ties them up in the compost's organic matter. The nutrients are slowly released over time, increasing the opportunity for up-take by plants and reducing downstream water pollution problems.

What is Backyard Composting?

Backyard composting refers to a variety of practices individuals can use to manage organic materials at home. All backyard composting techniques use the natural activity of bacteria, fungi, and other soil organisms to decompose organic materials and return them to the soil. Decomposed organic material – compost – is essential to healthy gardens and landscapes.



Benefits of Backyard Composting

Using compost has several positive benefits as related to Stormwater Pollution Prevention. Backyard composting can be the most economical and environmental way to manage organic materials produced at home. The benefits include:

- Reduces the need for chemical pesticides because it contains beneficial microorganisms that protect your plants from diseases and pests.
- Reduces or eliminates your use of synthetic fertilizers used in gardens and other yard areas.
- Reduces herbicide use from using composted mulches for weed suppression.
- Reduces soil loss from erosion because of improved soil structure.
- Use of compost improves any soil. Compost makes soil better able to absorb and retain moisture reducing runoff, erosion, and irrigation needs.
- Diverts organic material from landfills – Keeping these materials at home prolongs the life of landfills and reduces the expenses and environmental impacts associated with them.

Monsoon Season

While monsoons are hard to predict by nature, this year is particularly tough due to the current stage of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). We know that we have exited the La Niña phase, or dryer phase, of the cycle, and it is predicted that ENSO-neutral conditions will continue through the summer of 2012.

With that in mind, keep the following safety tips in mind:

Never drive into a flooded roadway. The water depth is easy to misjudge and does not need to be very deep to carry people and vehicles

downstream.

Never allow children to play in or near washes. Even if it is not raining where you are, storms upstream can produce sudden, swift flooding in your area. Even mild storms over large areas can develop large volumes of water that move rapidly.

Never drive around barricades. They were put in place by professionals trained to identify impending danger.

Know your area and pay attention to local forecasts to keep yourself and your family safe.

Gauge of the Month



BIG BUG CREEK @ S.R. 69

Gauge ID: 3705

Gauge Type: Precipitation/Stage

Watershed: Agua Fria River

Location: Big Bug Creek

Installed 4/19/2006

Local SFHA, continued from Page 1...



Castle Canyon Mesa outside of Prescott Valley has a local Special Flood Hazard Area. The area assists District employees understand the nature of the storm water runoff when setting permitting requirements.

Property Protection Measures

The Flood Control District is relatively new in Yavapai County and many structures were built in the floodplain before we even existed. While the ideal solution is always to remove the hazard altogether, there are ways to floodproof a structure to help protect your property during a flood:

- If you have a basement or split level house that has potential to flood, electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters, and washers and dryers should be elevated or relocated to a location less likely to flood.
- Basement floor drains and interior and exterior backwater valves can be installed, and interior floodwalls can be placed around utilities.
- If your house is on a slab foundation, install a low floodwall, berm, or “dry flood-proofing: (i.e., making the walls watertight and closing all openings when a flood comes.)
- No matter what kind of building you have, some last minute emergency measures can always help. For example, you could move

valuable items that are most damaged by floodwaters to a higher level.

- Place sandbags or plastic sheeting in front of doorways and other low entry points.

Whatever emergency protection measures you use, it is always best to have a plan written in advance to make sure you don’t forget anything after you hear the flood warning. Always heed authorities when being evacuated. Don’t ignore immediate threats to save property.

Should your belongings get wet during a flood, remember these safety tips:

- Remove all water and wet debris. If finished walls were impacted, all sheet rock and insulation should be removed to a height of at least three feet above the flooded area. Proper protective equipment should be worn to avoid breathing in potentially dangerous materials.
- The wall cavities and framing should be washed with soapy water. If the wood is

dried within a few days, this will prevent any significant fungal growth. If the wood and other components are still wet after a few days, then mold, fungi and insects are likely to take hold. Treat the wood for protection.

Clean everything that got wet. Floodwaters have picked up sewerage and chemicals from roads, farms, factories, and storage buildings. Spoiled food, flooded cosmetics, and medicine can be health hazards. When in doubt, throw it out.

Carbon monoxide exhaust kills. Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machine outdoors. The same goes for camping stoves. Charcoal fumes are especially deadly—cook with charcoal outdoors.

Take good care of yourself. Recovering from a flood is a big job. It is tough on both the body and the spirit and the effects a disaster may have on you and your family can last a long time. Keep your eyes open for signs of anxiety, stress, and fatigue in you and your family.

Yavapai County Flood Control District

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Prescott, AZ 86303

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Fax: 928.771.3427

10 S. Sixth St.
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Phone: 928.639.8151
Fax: 928.639.8118

The Yavapai County Board of Supervisors also serve as The Board of Directors for the District.

The initial floodplain ordinance was adopted December 1981, and has been revised over the years.

The Drainage Criteria Manual, was first adopted November 1998, and revised August 2005. The current Ordinance and Drainage Criteria Manual are available on line at the County website or may be purchased at the Prescott and Cottonwood District offices.

Services Performed

The District is available for assistance or technical advice on the following topics:

- National Flood Insurance Program
- District ALERT System
- Flood Insurance Rate Maps
- Flood Status Information on a Parcel of Land
- Flood Protection & Safety
- Local Flood Hazard
- Development & Permitting within the 100 year floodplain
- Construction in or adjacent to a significant watercourse
- Storm Water Quality and Pollution Control

Flood protection information and links to other agencies are available on the County website. Go to www.ycflood.com for archived issues of this newsletter.

Please visit the County website for more information:

- Applications, Forms and Instructions
- Building Codes
- Community Plans
- Drainage Criteria Manual
- Fees/Impact Fees
- Flood Hazard Status Reports
- Flood Protection Information
- General Plan
- Ordinances
- Regulations
- Storm Water Management Program
- Related Links & More

<http://www.yavapai.us>

COUNTY TOLL FREE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ash Fork, Bagdad, Seligman, Yarnell 800.771.2797
Black Canyon City and Phoenix Area 602.495.8800

COUNTY SWITCHBOARD NUMBERS

Prescott 928.771.3100 - Verde Valley 928.639.8100