

Dear Oracle Residents,

As most of you are aware, the burnout operations south of Oracle were successful. There are still a few hot spots, and consequently, still a few fire crews patrolling the area and enjoying the outpouring of gratitude showered upon them by this very giving community.

Many of you were here in 2003 to witness the floods that followed the Aspen fire. From what we have been told, there is the potential for much worse flooding due to the increased acres burned in the Bighorn fire. The BAER Team (Burned Area Emergency Response) <https://inciweb.nwccg.gov/incident/6796/> is starting their assessments of damage caused by the fire and will eventually determine the needs for long-term recovery and restoration. This will not happen immediately, and in the meantime, the monsoons will start soon, possibly today and it is impossible to determine exactly when or where the flooding will occur. The goal of the Oracle Fire District is to inform you of this danger, provide you with some websites you can go to for up-to-date information, and encourage you to get READY NOW.

Pinal County Public Works provides sandbags and sand to help shore up areas. You will need to bring your own shovel to load the bags. There is a limit of 25 sandbags per household. The Public Works yard in Oracle is located at 1410 N. Justice Dr., just south of the Oracle Courthouse. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 5:30am – 4pm. The sandbags can be found inside the fence behind /North of the courthouse. They are in a trash can beside a bright yellow “Sandbagger”, which is not filled. Take these bags to the West side of the Helicopter Landing Zone, where there are several big piles of sand.

There is a lot of very useful flooding information <https://www.weather.gov/twc/bighorn-burn-scar>, and <https://www.pinalcountyz.gov/PublicWorks/FloodControl/Pages/PublicInformation.aspx>. Also, <https://webcms.pima.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=582896>

Flood insurance is available through FEMA and highly encouraged: <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program>. You are not eligible for flood insurance post flood!

To recap, the potential for severe flooding in the Oracle area is very high, especially in the Campo Bonito/Highjinks/Peppersauce area and anywhere near the Coronado National Forest boundary. The BAER team states that “...increased soil erosion, accelerated surface water run-off, and debris flows have the potential to impact human life/safety, property, and critical natural and cultural resources from storm events.”

Prepare now. Stay safe.

PS – Pinal County has banned all fireworks.