

THE INCREASED RISK

It is up to each of us to take steps toward ensuring that flood after fire is not the second disaster we face.

The Grand County Office of Emergency Management, with the help of local, state and federal partners, has prepared this Flood Ready Brochure. The purpose of this guide is to educate both residents and visitors about the increased flood risk as well as provide instructions on what to do before, during, and after a flood event.

Post wildfire flash flooding and debris flows are a realistic threat in Grand County for homes, businesses and communities located within or along a burn scar. Additionally, areas that normally experience high water, are located along a river, stream, or tributary and properties located below or downstream from burn areas are at an increased risk of flooding.

In the aftermath of wildfires, burn scars are left without the vegetation that helps absorb rainfall. In addition, the soil itself can be left with a hardened crust that acts like concrete when redirecting water. These conditions can turn what would normally be a simple thunderstorm into a flash flood event with very little warning.

Grand County could expect an increase up to 14 times normal water flow from snowmelt (spring run-off) or weather events. Additionally, any rain event that produces 1/4" of rain per hour or more could be of significant concern.

Grand County is committed to keeping our residents and visitors safe. We ask for your help by reading this guide, sharing the information, encouraging others to stay informed and promoting a community that is Flood Ready.

You may also visit www.GCEmergency.com to learn more about emergency preparedness and signing up for emergency alerts.

STAY INFORMED

Additional Information

www.GCEmergency.com
www.bewildfireready.org
www.fema.gov
www.ready.gov
www.redcross.org
www.weather.gov/bou
www.floodsmart.gov

Monitor River Gauges

water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=BOU

Follow us on Social Media

Facebook: [@GrandCountyOEM](https://www.facebook.com/GrandCountyOEM)

Twitter: [@GrandCountyOEM](https://twitter.com/GrandCountyOEM)

Instagram: [@GrandCountyGov](https://www.instagram.com/GrandCountyGov)

Email

oem@co.grand.co.us

Information Line (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, M-F)

(970) 725-3803

Emergency (24hr)

911

Non-Emergency (24hr)

(970) 725-3311



Advisory: Hazard is likely to occur, stay aware.

Watch: Floods are likely and possible.

Warning: Floods will occur soon, evacuate now.

Flash Flood Warning: Flash Flooding is occurring; seek higher ground immediately.



GRAND COUNTY, COLORADO

Office of Emergency Management

Flood

GRAND COUNTY, COLORADO

READY

An Emergency Preparedness Guide
provided by the
Office of Emergency Management

PREPARE NOW

Prepare before a disaster occurs: create a plan, put together an emergency kit, and get your home ready.



Know how you will be warned. Register with CodeRED to receive alerts. To learn more about emergency alerts and how to sign up, visit www.GCEmergency.com



Prepare an emergency kit. Gather supplies in case you have to leave immediately or if services get cut off. Include medication, charging devices, and your pets' needs.



Make a plan, know evacuation routes. Consider arrangements for your pets and livestock. Check on elderly or disabled neighbors to ensure they are aware.



Leave before flooding starts. It is always best to be prepared when a flood watch is issued. But if you do not feel safe, do not wait for an evacuation order.



Protect your property. Consider building a barrier with sand bags to help divert and stop water from getting inside. Move valued items to higher levels.

SURVIVE DURING

Take an active role in your safety by knowing key protective actions and what to avoid.



If you have time, turn off the gas, electricity, and water. Disconnect appliances to prevent electrical shock when power is restored and adjust temp on refrigerators.



Do not walk or drive in flood water. Just six inches of fast moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.



Get to higher ground or a rooftop. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising floodwater. Go on the roof only if necessary. Signal for help.



Follow evacuation orders. Authorities will direct you to leave if you are in a low-lying area or within the greatest potential path of rising waters.



Do not forget about your animals. Free all livestock and lead or transport them to safety. Also make sure to grab your household pets before evacuating.

BE SAFE AFTER

Know how to protect yourself and your loved ones from the hazards brought on by floods.



Do not swim or wade in the water. It can be contaminated and contain dangerous debris. Damaged sewage systems are also serious health hazards.



Stay away from damaged areas. Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.



Do not go home until the area is deemed safe. Additional flooding or flash floods can occur. Listen for local warnings and any additional information.



Be wary of scams, check references. Some people who drive through neighborhoods offering help in cleaning up or repairing a home may not be legitimate.



Clean and disinfect all items, ventilate your home. Open all doors and windows to allow air to circulate. Dehumidify as soon as possible after a flood.