

From: [OSBORN, VICTORIA A](#)
To: [Joanne Hubble](#)
Cc: "Djmail@aol.com"; [Mary Schreiber](#)
Subject: Canyon Debris Flow Planning for 09-10 Rainy Season - MUST READ!!!
Date: Friday, November 06, 2009 11:10:28 AM

Dear Canyon Residents,

It has been some time since I have spoken with many of you or sent an e-mail out to the residents. I first want to say thank you for all the information sharing we did as community partners during last year's rainy season. The resident's assistance as an extra set of eyes in the canyon was extremely beneficial. The rain fall amount data and information provided were key tools which assisted us. Even though I am nearby on the hill, our environment was often quite different from the canyons.

I was at the InterCanyon League Meeting this week and presented what the County plan is for this rainy season. I wanted to follow up with an email with that information for everyone to have.

The County had a meeting with the National Weather Service and they stated we will have a weak to moderate El Nino this year. That does not mean it is going to rain all the time, but there is a 40% possibility of an increase up to 3 inches of rain in some areas. Our main concern is if we have back to back storms as we did during the 2004/2005 rainy seasons. This is a possibility for this year and something we will all have to watch.

Since we are in the 3rd year post fire, the debris flow/evacuation triggers points used last year will remain the same. Majority of the input received from canyon residents agreed with the methodology and liked the approach in place.

So here are the trigger points:

Phase 1 –

When the National Weather Service issues a Special Weather Forecast stating the rainfall amounts for the canyon areas will be 2.5 inches per 6

hours, a broadcast will be sent to canyon residents to consider Voluntary Evacuation of Large Animals and Special Needs residents *(this was 1.7 inches the first rain season after the Santiago Fire)

Phase 2-

The National Weather Service issuance of a **Flash Flood Watch** (usually 6-12 hours in advance of rain) in combination with critical rainfall predictions of .60 inches in 30 minutes; .80 inches in 1 hour; 1.6 inches in 3 hours; 2.5 inches per 6 hours. Mandatory evacuation of large animals and voluntary evacuation of canyon residents including a Door-to-Door Notification of mod-high risk & special needs residents.

Phase 3 –

The National Weather Service issuance of a **Flash Flood Warning** and/or critical rainfall intensities along with observed/reported field conditions within the watershed that warrant an immediate evacuation based on the same critical rainfall intensities as a flash flood watch, but imminent flooding is to occur or is occurring. (I will note that a couple of the flash flood warnings triggered last year was because of your involvement and reporting of situations in the canyon – thank you)

With a voluntary evacuation order it may be recommended for areas at risk, which are identified as: **the upper reaches of Silverado Canyon (Pine Canyon) areas, Williams Canyon, Modjeska Canyon, Harding Canyon, Santiago Canyon, and Trabuco Canyon.**

When a flash flood warning is given by the National Weather Service and/or there is critical Precipitation Forecast of rainfall, a mandatory evacuation will be ordered for: **Modjeska Canyon, Harding Canyon** and **Williams Canyon**. Mandatory evacuation orders may be issued for the other areas identified as at risk if field observations warrant it.

The order may be promulgated via AlertOC, canyon emails, and route alerting. **Due to the immediacy of the danger, OCSD personnel will not make door to door notifications of a mandatory evacuation.**

Deputies will utilize sirens and/or Public Address systems as a notification to signal residents that all public safety personnel are evacuating from the canyons. Evacuation of large animals will be restricted in favor of keeping the roads clear for human evacuation.

The Roads **will be** closed at a Mandatory Evacuation, if this occurs during work hours or when you are away from your home deputies/CHP officers have the discretion to not let anyone in pending the condition of the roads and situation. If you have family still at your residence the deputy/CHP officer will make the decision to let you in or they will get your family out.

It was requested by the InterCanyon League to continue to utilize the InterCanyon League email notification in addition to the AlertOC system which is the mass notification system. We will do so this year, but please help us by getting all canyon residents registers in AlertOC

Please register if you have not yet at www.alertoc.com and help us spread the word not just in the canyon but all your friends who live or work in Orange County.

*** On a side note we have scheduled the annual test of the AlertOC system on November 17th at 4 p.m.

I will keep you informed of weather updates and information you need via the InterCanyon League email system additionally we have a website at www.ocgov.com/eoc where we will post information during an emergency event.

Once I receive an update on the potential rain forecast from the National Weather Service I will send out some information.

Thank you for planning with us. Our relationship is so vital and important because you are our partners with us to keep the community safe.

Assistant Emergency Manager
Orange County Sheriff Department
Emergency Management Bureau
714-628-7019 - office
714-628-7154 - fax
vosborn@ocsd.org