



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Best preparation for flooding is to plan ahead

CAMARILLO, Calif. – The threat of serious wildfires will remain high in Ventura County until the area receives some significant rainfall. But when the rain arrives, a new threat will come with it: flooding.

The potential for flooding is serious this year in the areas affected by the Springs Fire that occurred in May, and around the several smaller brush fires that have burned in the county. But even residents who do not live near the fires need to be concerned because factors such as topography, new construction or erosion can cause flooding in areas where it wasn't previously present.

To help residents of Ventura County prepare their family and property for flooding, the Ventura County Fire Department has published a new brochure: "*Ready, Set, Go! – Flood Preparation.*" The brochure outlines three simple steps to protect homes and families from flooding and mud and debris flows.

Ready – teaches how to prepare before flooding occurs. Set – shows what to do if flooding is imminent. And, Go! – provides the information necessary to safely evacuate. The brochure also has special sections covering the use of sandbags and what to do in the aftermath of a flood.

Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States, causing more than \$2 billion in property damage every year. During periods of intense rain – or extended periods of heavy rain – streams, creek beds or drains can overflow and cause flooding. Even if flooding isn't typical in a certain area, anywhere it rains, it can flood. The best preparation for possible flooding is to plan ahead.

The brochure, "*Ready, Set, Go! – Flood Preparation*" is available at any Ventura County Fire Department fire station and can be found on the department's website under the Records and Documents tab, Fire Prevention Brochures, at <http://fire.countyofventura.org>. Residents can also request a digital or printed copy by sending an email request to PIOFire@ventura.org.

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