

June 7, 2016

IMPORTANT INFORMATION RE: SLIDE FIRE FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

Dear Oak Creek Canyon Business Owner,

This letter is sent on behalf of Coconino County to provide information that is critical to the safety of you, your family, guests and those who may rent your property throughout the year. As you may be aware, the 2014 Slide Fire created risks from significant flash flooding, debris flows and rock slides along the west side of Oak Creek Canyon near the burned areas north of Slide Rock State Park. **We had a 50% improvement in overall hydrologic conditions on the burn area as of last summer and that has surely improved even more.** The Forest Service plans to do additional monitoring of the area this summer. Although we are hopeful the natural recovery will continue to progress in Oak Creek Canyon, it is prudent to be cautious as we are still at an elevated risk for enhanced flows in and around Oak Creek. The County remains concerned about the safety of residents, businesses and visitors within Oak Creek Canyon during the upcoming monsoon season when weather can change very quickly and without advance notice. It is imperative that residents, businesses and visitors understand that it is their responsibility to stay aware and informed about the threats posed by flash flooding, debris flows and rock slides during monsoon season.

The last two years our annual letter provided detailed information to help you prepare for the monsoon season and potential flooding. This year we anticipate to have a more normal response; however, we still strongly encourage you to go to our website www.coconino.az.gov/SlideFloodInformation and prepare for the season. At this site you will find information on topics including: Flood Insurance, National Weather Service warnings and emergency notifications- what they mean and what to do when you hear one, creating an emergency plan, preparing your property for flash flooding, preparing septic systems for flooding, private property risk assessments and mitigation, responsibility of private roads and low-water crossings and how to use sandbags properly.

Business owners are responsible for communication with employees and guests about the elevated risk for flooding. You are also responsible for sharing all of the hazard and emergency warning information with your guests, employees and those staying or visiting your property as you will be responsible for their safety. To help facilitate this communication, a Slide Area Emergency Preparedness Brochure is electronically available at the County's Slide Flood Information webpage and can be copied and provided to your guests.

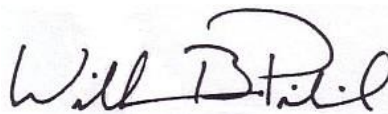
The Coconino County Department of Emergency Management and Sedona Fire District will test the sirens in Oak Creek Canyon at the end of June. It is important to note that an emergency notification system is not fail proof.

For the upcoming monsoon season, the County will supply sandbags to the Sedona Fire District as needed. We will not be supplying additional sites unless we begin to see flood activity. Your patience with reviewing this information is appreciated. Hopefully you understand the intention of this information is to support you with making sound decisions to best assure the safety of your family, guests and renters. The threat from flash flooding, debris flows and landslides is still at an elevated risk and we do not want to create a false sense of security. **Your actions to protect your families, guests and renters is critical.** If you have any additional questions or concerns, then please review the information on the Slide Flood webpage at www.coconino.az.gov/SlideFloodInformation or call the Oak Creek Canyon Information Flood Mitigation Hotline established by Coconino County at 928-203-7505 or email us at slidefire@coconino.az.gov.

Sincerely,



Matt Ryan
Coconino County Board of Supervisors



Bill Pribil
Coconino County Sheriff