

FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

July 11, 2022

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Dear Schultz/Pipeline Flood Area Resident,

First of all, we hope that you're doing well during this stressful time and are safe. As monsoon season moves into full swing, the Flood Control District (District) would like to share the following important information to help keep you and your family aware, informed, and safe over the next few months.

Please Follow Recommended Flood Mitigation Exhibits!

Breaks in the monsoon season or small rain events can cultivate a false sense of security. Recently, we've seen that many high-risk property owners are not placing sandbags as recommended by the District's Engineering Consultants, thus these homes remain vulnerable to severe and repetitive post-wildfire flooding. This is particularly the case in the Doney Park area and specifically the area southeast of Cromer School. I cannot reiterate often enough that the flood risk is very significant and meets or exceeds the monsoon flood risk of the post-wildfire Schultz flooding. A meeting for the Doney Park area that is at high risk for flooding is scheduled for this Thursday, July 14 at Cromer School gymnasium at 6:30pm. This meeting is solely for the Doney Park area. There will be other flood corridor meetings in the future.

Please heed this warning and prepare your homes now for what is forecast to be a lengthy and active monsoon season. Current predictions are that thunderstorms will be prevalent throughout the remainder of July. The District's Engineering Consultants have created Recommended Mitigation Exhibits that are maps for this area and throughout the flood area showing the homes needing mitigation, the type of mitigation, location of the mitigation, and some details of the mitigation so you can proceed with your mitigation efforts (the vast majority of which are sandbags).

Recommended Flood Mitigation Exhibits are available for viewing & download at: <https://www.coconino.az.gov/2929/Recommended-Flood-Mitigation-Exhibits>. Instructions on how to view the exhibits also are provided. You also can access this page via a link from the main page at www.coconino.az.gov/SchultzPipelineFloodArea.

Important: If your home is not shown with proposed mitigation on an exhibit, then it has not been determined as being at higher risk for post-wildfire flooding. Our initial mitigation efforts are for higher risk properties. This does not mean that there is no flood risk to your home. Based on the current modeling, the property is not at higher risk for flooding based on a 2" rainfall event in 45 minutes with on-forest saturated conditions. Again, larger rainfall events can occur and have greater impacts than shown on the Flood Modeling Map, which can be found at www.coconino.az.gov/SchultzPipelineFloodArea.

Property owners with homes that have not been identified as high-risk should make their own decisions about sandbagging. Please keep in mind, however, that there are a very limited number of sandbags that must serve many high-risk properties over an

enormous area. Further, sandbag mitigation that is improperly installed can cause adverse impacts on adjacent or neighboring properties. If you choose to sandbag, then please remember: Sandbags are intended solely for mitigating flood risk to residences, and should not be used for outbuildings, corrals, etc. Again, this is especially important as sandbags are in very high demand and the supply needs to serve as many people as possible.

About the Flood Mitigation Exhibits

The Recommended Flood Mitigation Exhibits provided have been prepared based on modeling of a 2-year, 45-minute rainfall event over the Schultz, Tunnel, and Pipeline burn areas. As the name implies, this is a monsoon storm event that would drop 2 inches of rain on the burn scar during a 45-minute period. It also is known as a “25-Year” Event; however, this does not mean that such a storm only occurs every 25 years. Instead, a 25-Year Event is one that statistically has a 4% chance of occurring during any given storm.

These Exhibits have been prepared utilizing the best available data; however, unpredictable changes may occur in the flood channels as watershed conditions constantly change due to levels of saturation, changes in flow paths, debris, sediment impacts, and other factors. As such, it is very important to note that these changes could impact the modeling used to prepare these Exhibits and, in turn, the effectiveness of the recommended emergency flood mitigation measures that have been prepared.

Flood Insurance

Once again, the Flood Control District strongly recommends all property owners purchase and maintain flood insurance and take other suitable precautions to protect their properties and themselves from injury due to flooding. Please also note that the only way to protect your investment either as a tenant or as a property owner is to purchase a separate flood insurance policy. If you are renting a home, then consider purchasing renter’s insurance to insure your belongings. For information about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), please call 1-877-427-4661 or visit www.floodsmart.gov.

Sandbag Update

Sandbag production has stepped up significantly over the past two weeks due in large part to the efforts of inmates at the Arizona Department of Corrections (DOC) facility in Winslow. Within the limits of our current resources, we have been delivering pallets of sandbags to high-risk neighborhoods for use by property owners. Pallets of pre-filled sandbags also are being delivered as they become available to the sandbag stations at Campbell Avenue and Copeland Lane, and to the Cromer School, Silver Saddle, and Stardust Trail sites in Doney Park. For important sandbag information, including station maps, please visit www.coconino.az.gov/2936/Sandbag-Information.

Important Sandbag Guidelines

- ❖ Sandbags are intended solely for mitigating flood risk to residences, and should not be used for outbuildings, corrals, etc. This is especially important as sandbags are in very high demand and the supply needs to serve as many people as possible.
- ❖ Sandbags should NOT be placed at the edge of the property. Again, sandbags are to be used to mitigate flooding impacts to homes, not property. Placing sandbags on property lines places homes and properties both upstream and downstream at risk for greater flooding. The property owner doing so holds the entire liability for this type of action. Please see the "Important Water Diversion Information" section below for more information.
- ❖ The District's team is now delivering pallets of sandbags to the Timberline, Wupatki Trails, Fernwood, and Doney Park neighborhoods where more properties are at high risk for flooding. These pallets are being placed along County-maintained roadways. Anyone in that immediate area can use those sandbags for mitigating impacts to their homes.
- ❖ Residents are asked to bring their own shovels and/or buckets to self-fill stations to help them make sandbags at all self-serve sandbag stations.
- ❖ The District is unable to load sandbags into private vehicles with forklifts, etc. for liability and insurance reasons.
- ❖ For more information, including a video of how to create a sandbag wall, please visit www.coconino.az.gov/2936/Sandbag-Information.
- ❖ Residents whose homes are identified for flood mitigation and who are elderly or disabled and cannot secure assistance through family or friends should contact the Call Center at 928-679-8525 and request assistance.

Sandbag Volunteers Needed Now

Anyone interested in volunteering to assist with sandbag production and placement, including organizations – sports teams, scouting, church groups, and other volunteer organizations – please sign up to volunteer via United Way of Northern Arizona's Volunteer Hub at <https://uwna.volunteerhub.com>.

Mitigation Effort Update

To date, over 200,000 sandbags have been produced and over 6,400 linear feet of concrete barrier have been installed. Only a few high-risk homes identified for barrier remain to be accommodated. The District also is evaluating Tiger Dam water tubes, which are essentially plastic water tubes that could eventually augment or replace sandbags in some areas.

With regards to long-term mitigation, the District team has completed repairs to the Upper Brandis rundown structures and the Campbell terminal trench. In addition, sediment has been removed from the Wupatki Trails terminal trench, which has been cleaned out three times to date. Crews also are installing rip rap to replace the turf reinforcement matting in part of the Wupatki channel that was displaced by recent flooding. In addition, the Girls Ranch Road Berm is being cleaned out and also raised in a couple of areas as has been the lower section of the Campbell Ditch. Crews also are continuing to expand the length of the Twin Berms located between Campbell Avenue and Landfill Road, and concrete barrier placement south of Landfill Road has been completed.

Post-Flood Private Road Maintenance

We've had a few questions about what the County can and cannot do on private roads following a flood event during the current emergency situation. Please note that, after a flood event, the County will respond to assist with clearing private roads to make them open and passable but cannot conduct repairs to private roads. If flooding does occur, then please be aware of these cleanup operations in your neighborhood. Note that if the flood event covers a large area, it may take County Public Works crews and our contractors several hours to several days to clear all the roads. Much like snow removal, they begin with high-traffic roads and then work through to very low traffic roads.

Important Water Diversion Information

The Recommended Flood Mitigation Exhibits have been designed to help mitigate flooding to high-risk homes without creating adverse impacts to neighboring properties. As such, it is critical to follow the sandbag configurations recommended in the exhibits. For these and all other sandbag structures, it also is very important to note that efforts by property owners or tenants to keep water off their property could have consequences for their neighbors and result in liability for the person diverting the water.

We are noting that there are many "wildcat" ditches and berms being constructed, which in many cases will divert water and could cause adverse impacts. Under Arizona law, a property owner cannot change where water enters or leaves their property nor the character of the water. I encourage communication between property owners. **Please note that if you are moving or adding more than 50 cubic yards of material, then you are required to secure a grading permit through County Community Development.** If impacts occur from berms or ditches that are constructed, then property owners should document and then consider seeking private engineering and legal advice. For more information, please see an article with a summary of Arizona water diversion law, which is available on the main web page at www.coconino.az.gov/SchultzPipelineFloodArea. More information also is available in the Frequently Asked Questions document at www.coconino.az.gov/SchultzPipelineFloodArea/FAQ.

Weather Tools

- **NWS Flood Risk Viewer:** The National Weather Service (NWS) have expanded their Flood Risk web page to include the combined flood risk for the Museum, Tunnel, and Pipeline burn scars. This site, which provides a three-day, risk-level outlook from NWS for these areas, can be found at www.weather.gov/fgz/FlagstaffBurnScarFloodRisk & also is featured at www.coconino.az.gov/2926/SchultzPipelineFloodArea. Conditions can change very quickly, so please check this site regularly!
- **Flood Area Rain Gauge & Radar Data:** If you're looking for monsoon season rainfall gauge & radar data, then please visit www.coconino.az.gov/2926/SchultzPipeline-Flood-Area.
- **24/7 Flood Area Monitoring:** The District has continuously monitored the Schultz Flood Area for over 12 years and is now continuing this effort with the Schultz/Pipeline Flood Area. The District's on-duty Flood Director regularly checks weather, radar, and rain gauges, and receives text alerts when gauges exceed designated thresholds. The Flood Director also mobilizes flood area observers when certain rainfall thresholds are reached and continuously communicates with the National Weather Service to assess the flood threat. If necessary, then the Flood Director also coordinates with the County's Emergency Management Department to issue Emergency Notifications to the public.

Sign Up for Emergency Notifications

If you have not done so already, then please sign up for Emergency Alerts with Coconino County as soon as possible. The free Emergency Notification service provides alerts for emergencies such as wildfires, thunderstorms, tornadoes, and flash flooding in the area. Sign up a cell phone number, email and/or home phone: <http://www.coconino.az.gov/ready> or call 928-679-8311.

Emergency Notification Alert Thresholds

It's extremely important to know Rainfall Thresholds & Alert Notifications for the Schultz/Pipeline Flood Area, which are as follows:

Rainfall Gauge Threshold #3

When this threshold is reached, an Emergency Notification Alert will be issued to the entire Schultz/Pipeline Flood Area, including the Timberline, Wupatki Trails, Fernwood, and Doney Park areas. A text message with the alert (similar to an Amber Alert) will be sent to cell phones registered to addresses in these areas through the Emergency Notification database. The alert will be posted to Flood Control District and County social media channels and websites.

Rainfall Gauge Threshold #2

When this threshold is reached, the following occurs: An Emergency Notification Alert will be issued **ONLY** to the Timberline, Wupatki Trails, and Fernwood areas. A text message with the alert will be sent to cell phones registered to addresses in this area through the Emergency Notification database. The alert will be posted to Flood Control District and County social media channels and websites.

Rainfall Gauge Threshold #1

When this threshold is reached, the Flood Director will alert the Emergency Operations Center, County officials, and activate personnel to monitor drainages and water flows. No emergency notification alerts will be sent.

For a graphic of these Rain Gauge Thresholds, please visit [**www.coconino.az.gov/SchultzPipelineFloodArea**](http://www.coconino.az.gov/SchultzPipelineFloodArea).

Sign Up for Email Updates!

The best way to receive regular flood area updates is through email. If you have friends or neighbors in the Pipeline Fire Flood Area who have not yet signed up, then please forward this email to them or ask them to email this address ([**pipelinefirefloodarea@coconino.az.gov**](mailto:pipelinefirefloodarea@coconino.az.gov)) with "Add me to the Pipeline Fire Flood Area Email List" in the subject line so that we may add them to the list. Cell phone number and physical address information also is always appreciated.

Important Monsoon Season Reminders

- **Know Where Your Family Is:** During inclement weather, know where your family members— especially young children, disabled persons, and the elderly or infirmed -- and your pets are at all times.
- **Stay Inside and Shelter in Place:** When a Flood Alert is received, persons indoors or close to an indoor location should shelter in place immediately. **Do not evacuate.** People who are outdoors should relocate to the nearest high ground immediately.
- **Always keep children away from floodwater:** Keep your family and pets away from floodwater. Standing water hides many dangers including toxins, chemicals, and sharp debris. Moving floodwater is especially dangerous as it can quickly sweep people and animals downstream. This happened during post-Schultz Fire flooding in 2010 where a 12-year-old girl was swept to her death by fast-moving floodwaters.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) List

A new Schultz/Pipeline Flood Area “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) list is now available. You can find it on the main page at www.coconino.az.gov/SchultzPipelineFloodArea. Please note that this is a “living document” that will be continuously updated. If you have a question for us, then please email it to pipelinefirefloodarea@coconino.az.gov.

Schultz/Pipeline Flood Area Preparedness Guide

The Flood Control District team has prepared a guide to help assist residents in the Schultz/Pipeline Flood Area during monsoon season. The Schultz/Pipeline Flood Update Preparedness Guide offers flood preparation guidelines and resources to help keep you and your family aware, informed, and safe before, during, and after flash flooding events. In addition, the Guide has information regarding emergency notification, sandbag installation, flood mitigation exhibits, and more to help you throughout monsoon season.

Those of you who were here during the post-wildfire flooding after the 2010 Schultz Fire will remember that similar guides were created annually from 2011 through 2015. These guides were produced each spring and mailed out to the Schultz Flood Area before monsoon season. However, given how quickly everything has transpired since the Pipeline Fire (and the early onset of the 2022 monsoon season), we are posting this Guide online first and plan to mail it out to the Schultz/Pipeline Flood Area as soon as possible.

This Guide, which is live linked so that you can access referenced information just by clicking on it, is currently available on the main page at www.coconino.az.gov/SchultzPipelineFloodArea.

Your safety during the monsoon season is of paramount concern to us. Please know that Coconino County Flood Control District and the County continue to stand with you and are working hard on your behalf.

Sincerely,



Lucinda Andreani
Administrator, Coconino County Flood Control District
Deputy County Manager