

Pima County Sheriff's Department

# MEDIA RELEASE

Mark D. Napier, Sheriff

## Floods Follow Fires

July 3, 2020

Every year, during monsoon season, the Pima County Sheriff's Department responds to calls related to flooding in our county. Deputies clear roadways, conduct traffic control, and have even been involved in evacuations and extremely dangerous swift water rescues.

This year, in the aftermath of the Bighorn Fire, monsoon related flooding and mudflows are even more likely. Wildfires raise your flood risk by leaving the ground charred, barren, and unable to absorb water. That means even light rain can potentially turn into a devastating flash flood or mudflow and can occur with very little warning. This increased runoff may continue for several years after an area has burned and until vegetation is reestablished. Flash floods and mudflows can be extremely dangerous and cause financial losses.

The Office of Emergency Management provides flood alerts to residents within burned watersheds, where possible. To receive these alerts, you must sign up with MyAlerts.

Sign up to receive emergency alerts at: [myalerts.pima.gov](https://myalerts.pima.gov).

More information about preparing for floods can be found on the Pima County Flood Control page at: [https://webcms.pima.gov/government/flood\\_control/](https://webcms.pima.gov/government/flood_control/)

For further information contact the Public Information Office at (520) 237-3740 or [pcsdpio@sheriff.pima.gov](mailto:pcsdpio@sheriff.pima.gov).

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