



MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2010

Spring is arriving (albeit slowly) and it's time to consider the possibility of flooding.

Spring rains and higher daytime temperatures can trigger runoff quickly, which can lead to flooding in low-lying areas as well as streams and rivers...you get the picture. So, what can you do?

Know your neighborhood flood history. Does that stream at the edge of your property turn into a raging river during runoff? Are there low areas close to your property which fill up and spill over?

Watch for changing weather patterns. Snow mixed with rain is still in the forecast. In most places, the ground is saturated with moisture; all that water has to have someplace to go. Stay away from low areas like arroyos, streambeds and dry washes; if you are driving, stop and evaluate whether or not you and your vehicle can safely navigate flooded areas. Avoid rushing water if at all possible. If you *do* get caught and your vehicle stalls, move to higher ground; but avoid wading through fast-moving water; in that case, climb on top and call for help.

That's it for now.

Be Prepared!

Doug