WAIT...WILDFIRES CAN CAUSE FLOODING?

Wildfires affect the terrain by charring the ground and leaving it unable to absorb water. This creates conditions ripe for flash flooding and mudflow. According to FEMA, the flood risk remains high until the vegetation is restored for up to five years after a wildfire.

During normal conditions, vegetation helps absorb rainwater.	After an intense wildfire, burned vegetation and charred soil form a water repellent layer, blocking water absorption.	During the next rainfall, water bounces off the soil.	As a result, properties located below or downstream of the burn areas are at an increased risk for flooding.

HEAVY RAINS — Excessive amounts of rainfall can happen throughout the year. Properties directly affected by fires and those located below or downstream of burn areas are most at risk for flooding.

DEGREE OF LAND SLOPE — Higher degrees of land slope speed up water flow and increase flood risk.

FLASH FLOODS — Intense rainfall can flood low-lying areas in less than six hours. Flash Floods roll boulders, tear out trees and destroy buildings and bridges.

MUDFLOWS — Rivers of liquid and flowing mud are caused by a combination of brush loss and subsequent heavy rains. Rapid snowmelt can also trigger mudflows.

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