

# NOTICE TO RETURNING SUMMERHAVEN RESIDENTS

## MONSOON SEASON ALERT

The Aspen Fire severely burned vegetation on the steep, rocky slopes that drain into Summerhaven, reducing much of the pine forest to burnt trunks and stumps, and scorching topsoil with extreme fire temperatures. Trees are no longer able to catch and hold rain in their canopy, the forest floor has no vegetation or absorbing leaf litter, and soils have been made water-repellent. **This means a HIGH chance of flash flooding and downing of damaged trees from ANY thunderstorm.**

- Streams can fill very quickly and become dangerously swift.
- Burnt debris and ash can choke streams causing over-bank flooding.
- Roadways can flood when culverts clog with burnt debris and ash.
- Storm winds can cause fire damaged trees and branches to fall.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STAY SAFE:

- Plan Your Trips. Plan your trips to Summerhaven by the weather forecasts. Go early in the day and leave before afternoon monsoons arrive. Listen to the news and reschedule your trip if dangerous weather conditions on Mt. Lemmon are forecasted.
- Be Aware of Weather Conditions. Have a working NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather radio, and listen to it. Radios can be purchased at electronic stores. Make sure you have extra batteries.
- Watch the Sky! Thunderstorms form VERY quickly. Stay away from streams, ditches and drainageways. NEVER cross a flooded roadway.
- Park Safely. Avoid parking near streams or steep slopes. Avoid parking in areas with fire-damaged trees.

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE CAUGHT IN DANGEROUS WEATHER:

- DO NOT attempt to outrun the storm by driving down the mountain. Remember, the fire burned a huge mountain area, and flooding could be worse downstream. Wait until the storm has cleared. LISTEN TO THE NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR UPDATES.
- NEVER cross a flooded roadway.
- SEEK SHELTER in a cabin or other structure, or your vehicle, if it is parked safely. Stay away from tall, burned tree trunks, which might attract lightning or could topple in strong winds. Keep out of streams, ditches and drainageways.

The Pima County Flood Control District is working in coordination with the Sheriff's Department and the Mount Lemmon Fire Department for your safety. **If you have any questions or concerns, please call Mount Lemmon Fire District at 576-1201, or the Pima County Flood Control District at 740-635.**