

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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## **Increased Risk of Flooding for North Hills Burn Area**

**HELENA, Mont.** – Residents surrounding the North Hills burn scar area in the Helena valley should be monitoring changing weather conditions starting Friday, September 27, 2019, with potential for flooding through the weekend.

This summer's wildfire resulted in a loss of vegetation and left the ground charred and unable to absorb water, creating conditions for flooding and debris flows. The National Weather Service (NWS) Great Falls Office is predicting rainy conditions Friday are likely to change to snow on Saturday, September 28 through Sunday, September 29. This change from rain to snow has led the NWS Great Falls to issue a Winter Storm Watch.

**Worby McNamee, a DNRC Floodplain Specialist,** said it's important that residents living near the North Hills burn scar to have a flood evacuation plan and consider the following steps:

- Purchase flood insurance. In most cases flood insurance must be purchased 30 days before a flooding event.
- Keep extra drinking water on hand. Flooding can compromise local water systems.

- Always obey road closure signs and barricades. Never drive around barricades and remember, Turn Around, Don't Drown.
- Report any flooding to local authorities immediately.

Stay up-to-date on the NWS Great Falls alerts:

<https://www.weather.gov/tfx/>

For more information about flood insurance in Montana, visit the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance website at [www.csimt.gov/your-insurance/flood](http://www.csimt.gov/your-insurance/flood) or call (406) 444-2040.

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