

# Wildfires

- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Listen to your radio for reports and evacuation information.
- Wear protective clothing—sturdy shoes, cotton or woolen clothing, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves, and a handkerchief to protect your face.
- Choose a route away from fire hazards. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of fire and smoke.
- If you have time, take steps to protect your home.
  - Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights and propane tanks.
  - Open fireplace damper and close fireplace screens.
  - Move flammable furniture into the center of the home.
  - Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
  - Wet the roof and shrubs around the house.



## For More Information

Please contact the following agencies for more information about protecting your family from natural hazards:

Doña Ana County Local Emergency Planning Committee - [www.donaanalepc.org](http://www.donaanalepc.org)  
Office of Emergency Management  
1170 North Solano, Suite O  
Las Cruces, NM 88001  
(505) 647-7900

National Weather Service El Paso/Santa Teresa - [www.srh.noaa.gov/epz](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/epz)

Doña Ana County Flood Commission - [www.donaanacounty.org/flood/](http://www.donaanacounty.org/flood/)  
845 North Motel Boulevard  
Las Cruces, NM 88007  
(505) 647-7256

New Mexico Emergency Management Association - [www.nmema.org](http://www.nmema.org)

American Red Cross - [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)  
Southwest New Mexico Chapter  
1301 East Griggs Avenue  
Las Cruces, NM 88001  
(505) 526-2631

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

Unless otherwise noted, the information in this brochure has been adapted from NOAA's National Weather Service, the American Red Cross, and the Doña Ana County Flood Commission.

# Natural Hazards

## Of Southern New Mexico

# Dust Storms

- Avoid the dust storm area, if possible.
- Never stop on the traveled portion of the roadway.
  - Pull your vehicle off the pavement as far as possible.
  - Stop, turn off lights, set the emergency brake.
  - Take your foot off of the brake pedal to be sure the tail lights are not illuminated.
- If you can't pull off the roadway, proceed at a speed suitable for visibility.
  - Turn on lights and sound horn occasionally.
  - Use the painted center line to help guide you.
  - Look for a safe place to pull off the roadway.



Dust storm across Las Cruces  
Photo by Tobe Turpen, May 2004



# Lightning

## Reduce Risk Outdoors

- If possible, get inside an enclosed building or a hard-topped vehicle.
- If your area is prone to afternoon thunderstorms, plan outdoor activities in the morning.
- Stay clear of tall, isolated objects like trees. If you are in a field, you may be the tallest object.
- Avoid metal objects, carpools, tents, and picnic shelters.

## Safety Indoors

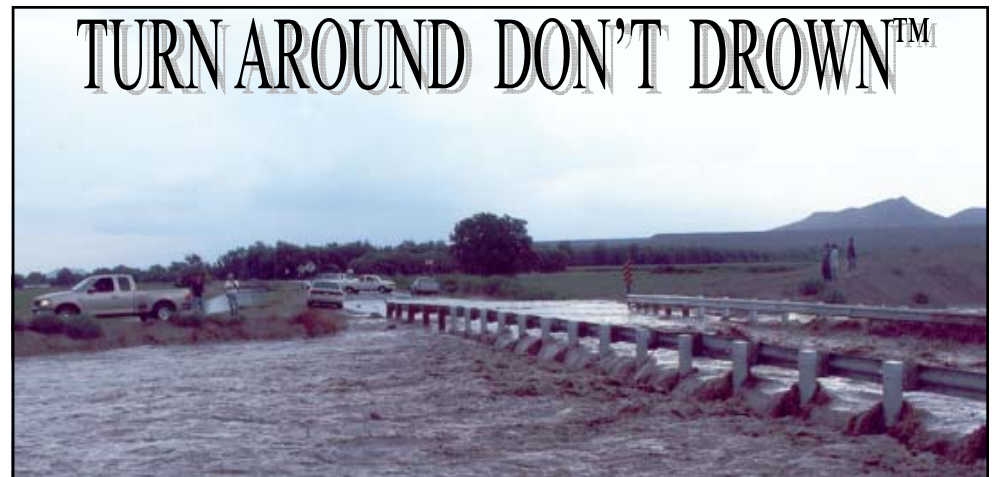
- Avoid contact with corded phones, electrical equipment or cords, and plumbing.
- Do not take a shower, wash dishes, or do laundry.
- Stay away from windows and doors and stay off porches.

# Floods



- A flash flood warning means that flooding is imminent. Listen to radio or television reports for updates.
- If flooding occurs, move to higher ground.
- Do not attempt to cross flowing arroyos or water courses.
- Turn Around Don't Drown™
  - Road beds may be washed out or undercut by flood waters.
  - Flooded roadways may conceal debris or sinkholes.

## TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN™



Placitas Arroyo overtops Channel Road, Hatch, NM, 2002; Photo by Hatch resident