

Fire and Floods - A New Disaster

The combination of catastrophic fire and monsoonal flooding is forcing communities to cope with a violent transition to a new climate reality.



Resilience in Human-Natural Systems



ADAPTATION



EXTERNAL
FACTORS



The scale is overwhelming

- Capacity is not enough
- Authorities are narrow and won't cover all lands
- Programs are constrained
- "Critical infrastructure" definition is limited
- States and local government left to fill the gaps













Agency Help

- FEMA and state DHSEM activated ESFs/RSFs
- USGS installed early warning gauges; developed debris flow probability and hazard maps
- USFS created burn severity maps
- USACE installed advance measures to protect critical infrastructure from flooding
- USDA led seeding and mulching
- NMDOT and county crews cleaned out drainages and culverts







Gaps and Needs

- Authorities to work across all jurisdictions – ridge line to valley bottom
- Post-fire risk modeling and accessible data for all
- Dedicated post-fire funding
- Additional capacity and coordination for post-fire response and recovery

