

POSTFIRE DEBRIS-FLOW HAZARDS

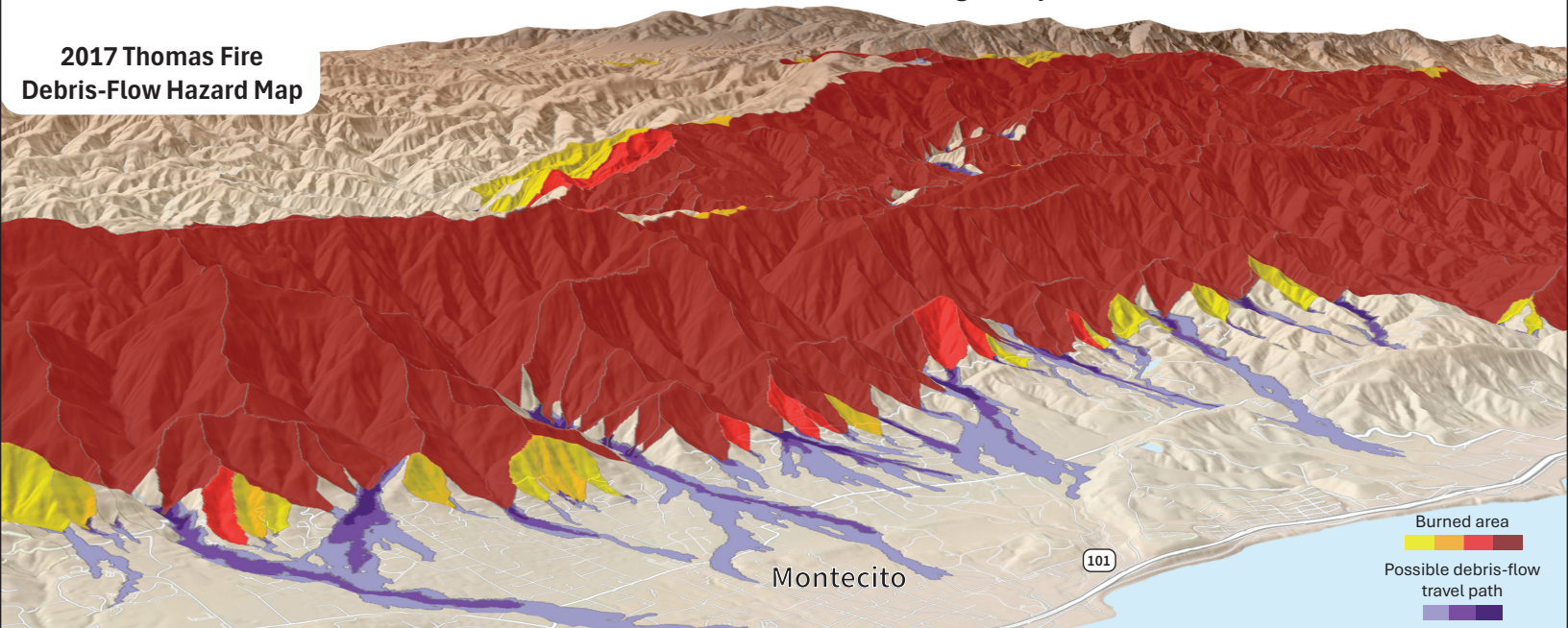
Debris flows are fast-moving mixtures of mud, rocks, boulders, burned trees, and water. They can be extremely powerful and can damage or destroy homes, roads, and anything in their path.

After wildfire, heavy rain can trigger debris flows almost instantly in and near burned areas. These flows can cause serious injury or death, move faster than a person can run, and sometimes travel more than a mile beyond the burned area.

USGS hazard maps show where debris flows are likely to start and where they could travel. These maps help individuals, communities, emergency responders, and local officials understand the danger, prepare, and identify areas that may be impacted or isolated by debris flows.

Purple areas show possible debris-flow paths, but dangerous flooding or debris flows can occur outside of these areas. The harder it rains, the farther debris flows can travel and the larger they can become.

2017 Thomas Fire
Debris-Flow Hazard Map



More potential debris-flow damage



Light purple areas may have debris flows with mud and rocks.



These areas may have debris flows with mud, larger rocks, and burned trees.



Dark purple areas may have debris flows with mud, large or very large rocks, boulders, and burned trees.

What if I'm in a purple area?

Have an evacuation plan. Talk with local emergency managers to build a plan. Because rain causes debris flows, stay out of the area when rain is in the forecast. Do not wait to evacuate. If evacuation isn't possible, learn the warning signs of an approaching debris flow and what to do.

What if I'm near a purple area?

You may still be affected. Stay aware of forecasts, have a plan, and know the warning signs. Debris flows are dangerous, unpredictable, and may block evacuation routes.