PREPARE FOR SUMMER
FLASH FLOODS:
KEEP YOUR CULVERT
CLEAN

Nearly all neighborhoods are susceptible to flooding during heavy thunderstorms. Keeping roadside ditches and culverts clear of debris can reduce flood damage.

What’s a culvert?
A culvert is a pipe that conveys drainage water under roads or driveways. Where the ditch is not too deep, a concrete dip or shallow channel across the drive is easier to keep clean.

When is it important to have a clean culvert?
Inspect and clean your culvert in spring before the summer thunderstorm season arrives.

How do you keep it clean?
Make sure that nothing blocks either end of the culvert. Sometimes all it takes is a shovel to clear debris. The bottom of the ditch should be at the same level as the bottom of the culvert. If sediment has built up inside the culvert, call the county road department 782-9035 or the local volunteer fire department for assistance.

Plugged culverts can:
- Cause property damage
- Restrict vehicle access
- COST YOU MONEY

Will the county clean your culvert?
If funding, labor, and equipment are available, the county road department will clean culverts within the county road right-of-way.

Brought to you by the Buckbrush Flood Safety Coalition
and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
(775) 782-9960
How can you tell a good culvert from a poor one?

A clean, properly functioning culvert is big enough to handle storm flows; its bottom is at the same level as the bottom of the ditch; its inlet and outflow are not blocked, and the banks of the ditch are protected from erosion.

A poorly maintained culvert may result in a “wash out” of your driveway. This culvert has been physically damaged by vehicles; its inlet is blocked by debris; its bottom is not at the same level as the bottom of the ditch, and it is partially filled with sediment.