Storms Can Kill

Winter storms in California can be deadly, causing flooding, flash floods, high coastal surf, mudslides, snowstorms and avalanches. Your city, county, and state Emergency Management Agency have prepared these brief safety tips to help you prepare for a safe winter.

Wherever you live or travel, you should be aware of the dangers of winter storms and be prepared to cope with one. For more information on the history of flooding in your area, and how you and your family can prepare for winter, call your city or county Office of Emergency Services (in the Government section of the telephone book), or the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

Flood Insurance

Most homeowner's insurance policies do NOT offer protection against flood losses. For information about flood insurance, call your local insurance agent, or call the National Flood Insurance Program at (888) Call-Flood.

Out-Of-Area Emergency Contact Name and Phone

• It's advisable to call your contact after a storm so others can learn of your condition and location.

Watches & Warnings: What to do

When a flood WATCH is issued

✓ Move valuable household possessions to the upper floors of your home.
✓ Fill your car's gas tank in the event an evacuation order is issued.

When a flood WARNING is issued

✓ Tune in for information and advice to local radio and TV stations.
✓ When told to evacuate, do so as quickly as possible.

When a flash flood WATCH is issued

✓ Watch for signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.

When a flash flood WARNING is issued

✓ If you believe flash flooding has begun, evacuate immediately as you may have only seconds to escape.
✓ Move to higher ground and away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades. These are placed to keep you out of harm's way.
✓ If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.

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California Emergency Management Agency
www.caloes.ca.gov

Be Winter Wise!

Winter Weather and Flood Preparedness

Before, During, and After the Storm

Cal EMA
CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Before The Storm

✓ Keep insurance policies, documents and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.

✓ Check your homeowner's or renter's insurance for flood insurance coverage - if none exists, purchase.

✓ Store supplies at work, home and car in handy locations:

• First-aid kit and essential medicines.

• Food (packaged, dried, canned, or food for special diets.)

• Non-electric can opener.

• Keep some cash on hand. ATM machines may not be working.

• Portable radio, flashlights and extra batteries (stored in water-tight plastic bag.)

• Store drinking water in closed, clean containers in case water service is interrupted. Allow one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days.

✓ Keep your car fueled. If electric power is cut off, filling stations may not be able to operate.

✓ Know safe routes from your home or office to high, safe ground.

✓ Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber and other emergency building materials handy for waterproofing.

During The Storm

✓ Avoid areas that are subject to sudden flooding.

✓ Do not try to cross a flowing stream where water is above your knees. Even water as low as 6 inches deep may cause you to be swept away by strong currents.

✓ Do not try to drive over a flooded road. This may cause you to be both stranded and trapped.

✓ If your car stalls, abandon it IMMEDIATELY and seek higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.

✓ Do not "sightsee" in flooded areas. Do not try to enter areas blocked off by local authorities.

✓ Avoid unnecessary trips. If you must travel during the storm, dress in warm, loose layers of clothing. Advise others of your destination.

✓ Use the telephone ONLY for emergency needs or to report dangerous conditions.

✓ Tune to local radio or television stations for emergency information and instructions from local authorities.

✓ If flooding is likely, and time permits, move valuable household possessions to the upper floors of your home.

✓ If advised by local authorities to leave your home, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water. Establish an out-of-state "family contact" so that friends and relatives will know who to call to get information about where you are.

✓ Before leaving, disconnect all electrical appliances, and if advised by your local utility, shut off electric circuits at the fuse panel and gas service at the meter.

After The Storm

✓ DO NOT TURN GAS BACK ON YOURSELF. Rely on utility crews.

✓ Do not use fresh foods or canned goods that have come in contact with flood waters.

✓ Follow local instructions regarding the safety of drinking water. If in doubt, boil or purify water before drinking. Have wells pumped out and the water tested before drinking.

✓ Avoid disaster areas; your presence could hamper rescue and other emergency operations, and you may be in danger.

✓ Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas. If electrical equipment or appliances have been in contact with water, have them checked before use.

✓ Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines. Report them immediately to the electric or gas company, police or fire department.

✓ Use flashlights—NOT lanterns, matches or candles—to examine buildings; flammables may be inside.

✓ Stay tuned to radio or television for information and instructions from local authorities.