



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Several Inches of Rain, High Winds, Possible Flooding Expected with Wednesday's Storm

Take Steps Now to Be Prepared and Keep Yourself and Your Home Safe

November 26, 2012, San Rafael, CA – As local media coverage keeps us current on the approaching storms with expected rains and winds, please take the time to make sure you are prepared and your home is ready for the storm.

Emergency Information

1. **STAY AWAY FROM FLOOD WATERS.** Flood waters can be extremely dangerous. The force of 6 inches of swiftly moving water can knock people off their feet.
2. Roads may be closed because they have been damaged or are covered with water. Barricades are placed for your protection. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, go another way.
3. Flash flood waters move at very fast speeds and can roll boulders, tear out trees, destroy buildings, and obliterate bridges. Cars can easily be swept away in just 2 feet of moving water. **DO NOT ENTER INTO AREAS THAT LOOK FLOODED.** If you are uncertain of the depth of water, turn around and go another way.
4. Stay informed. Keep listening to the radio for news about what to do, where to go, or places to avoid. Keep a battery-operated radio at home. The all-news stations in the San Francisco Bay Area are KCBS, 740-AM and 106.9 FM and KGO 810 AM.
5. If water might engulf the gas or electric outlets, turn the utilities off at the meter.

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If you live in a frequently flooded area (or even if you don't):

- If your home is in the path of runoff, keep plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber on hand to divert.
- If your property can be protected by sandbags, consider getting sand and bags BEFORE the rainy season and stockpile as many filled bags as you think you may need.
- Clean all drains around your home, including roof gutters and downspouts, drain inlets and pipes, drainage ditches and driveway culverts BEFORE the rainy season and re-check between large storms.

Sandbags

The City of San Rafael provides sandbags to residents at the City's fire stations: (directions to the stations can be found online at www.sanrafaelfire.org)

- Fire Station #1—1039 C Street - *bags only*
- Fire Station #2—210 Third Street - *sand & sandbags*
- Fire Station #4—46 Castro Avenue - *bags only*
- Fire Station #5—955 Point San Pedro Rd. - *sand & sandbags*
- Fire Station #6—650 Del Ganado Road - *bags only*
- Fire Station #7—3530 Civic Center Drive - *bags only*

Bags will be available to the community in the event of potential flooding. Residents are responsible for filling their own sandbags.

Limitations

1. Sandbags will not seal out water.
2. Sand and soil filled burlap sandbags deteriorate when exposed for several months to continued wetting and drying. If bags are placed too early, they may not be effective when needed. Do not use straw or bales of hay in lieu of sandbags. They do not perform as well as sandbags and may be washed away.
3. Sandbags are basically for low-flow protection (up to two feet). Protection from higher flows requires a more permanent type of structure.

Have personal comfort disaster supplies on hand at home and at work

- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- Emergency food (consider special diets) and water
- Warm clothing or blankets
- Cash and credit cards (if electric power fails, so do the ATM's)
- First aid kit and manual
- Nonelectric can opener
- Essential medicines
- Sturdy shoes

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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

EMERGENCY

9-1-1

EMERGENCY PUBLIC INFORMATION HOTLINE

415-485-5070

Pacific Gas & Electric

800-743-5000

Marin Humane Society

415-883-4621

CalTrans Highway Conditions

800-427-7623

Police Department

415-485-3000

Fire Department

415-485-3304

Marin County Flood Control District: <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/pw/main/floodcontrol.cfm>

Marin County Real-Time Precipitation & Stream Gauges: <http://marin.onerain.com/home.php>

National Weather Service - San Francisco Bay Office: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/>

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Information:
<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/types.shtm>

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