

With the possibility of increased rainy periods in the upcoming year, San Bernardino County Fire remind residents to be safe, and to have their properties prepared for flood conditions and heavy rain fall!

PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR EL NIÑO

STORM DRAINS

If storm drains in the street are obstructed, please notify your local public works department.

ROOFS

Inspect your roof, or hire a roofing contractor to check for loose tiles, holes, or other signs of trouble.

RETAINING WALLS

Inspect retaining wall drains, surface drains, culverts, ditches, etc. for obstructions or signs of malfunction, before the season, and after every storm.

SANDBAGS

Consider stockpiling sandbags & plastic sheeting. Sandbags can be stacked to keep water from flooding low areas. Plastic sheeting secured with sandbags can be placed on slopes to prevent water from eroding dirt away. Need sandbags? Turn page over!

YARD CLEAN-UP

Inspect for debris, dead trees or limbs, outdoor furniture or other objects that could be washed away in rains. They can clog storm drains and cause flooding.

DRAINS & GUTTERS

Clear debris & ensure proper functioning. Direct storm water from roofs, driveways and patios into a collection system to avoid soil saturation. For homes without, consider installing.

SLOPES

Inspect sloped areas for signs of gullying, surface cracks, slumping, etc. Inspect patios & walls for signs of cracking or movement. If problems are suspected, have a geotechnical engineer inspect the site.

For more information:

San Bernardino County Fire www.sbcfire.org 909.387.5950
National Weather Service www.weather.gov
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin. www.elnino.noaa.gov





SAFEGUARD YOUR POSSESSIONS

Create a personal disaster preparedness file containing information about all your possessions and keep it in a secure place, such as a safe deposit box or waterproof container. This file should contain:

- A copy of your insurance policies (Homeowner/Renter) with your agent's contact information. (Do not assume that you have flood insurance.)
- A household inventory: For insurance purposes, it's best to keep a written and visual (i.e., videotaped or photographed) record of all major household items and valuables, even those stored in attics or garages.
- Copies of all other critical documents, including finance records or receipts of major purchases.
- Store important pictures or other irreplaceable items in safe areas or in waterproof containers.

SAFEGUARD YOUR FAMILY AND POSSESSIONS FROM EL NIÑO

FREE SANDBAGS/SAND

During the El Nino 2015-2016 storm season, sand and sandbags are available to San Bernardino County residents* for flood control purposes to provide a barrier from flooding to the front door and slider door areas only. Disposal of sandbags is the resident's responsibility.

To find your nearest fire station and a list of sandbag locations, check the SBCoFire website at www.sbcfire.org.

Properly placed sandbags can help redirect water, mud and debris. View a video produced by the Army Corps of Engineers on how to properly fill and place sandbags at www.sbcfire.org.



*Available while supplies last. Up to 10 sandbags per household. Not furnished for home or business construction projects. Not available for contractors. If more than 10 sandbags are required, please purchase at a local hardware store.



AFTER A FLOOD

- Before you re-enter, let qualified specialists inspect & make repairs to structural damage & utility breaks.
- When inspecting your home for the first time, use a flashlight, not a torch or lantern. Sniff for gas leaks.
- Wear rubber-soled shoes and rubber gloves in case of severed electrical lines.
- Don't turn on electrical switches.
- Check electrical circuits only when electricity has been shut off.
- Don't use flooded electrical appliances until they have been repaired.

DEVELOP A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN

- Create a safety kit with drinking water, canned food, first-aid, blankets, a radio, and a flashlight.
- Post emergency telephone numbers by the phone and teach your children how to dial 9-1-1.
- Plan and practice a flood evacuation route with your family. Know safe routes from home, work, and school that are on higher ground.
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to be your emergency family contact.