

# Winter Storm Season

## Get Prepared. Take Action. Keep Safe.

After several years of drought, Californians may be facing heavy rainfall this winter as one of the strongest “El Niños” on record is developing in the Pacific Ocean. Unfortunately, these heavy downpours won’t end our current drought. In fact, they put Californians at high risk of flooding.

**Following are important steps to prepare for the wet season ahead and keep safe:**



### Get Prepared

- 1. Roofs:** Inspect for leaks and repair your roof before the rainy season.
- 2. Rain Gutters & Downspouts:** Clear your roof rain gutters and downspouts of leaves and other debris.
- 3. Yards:** Loosen compacted soil that may have dried out due to drought conditions and cover it with a layer of mulch so the soil can better absorb the rain and prevent excessive run-off.
- 4. Trees:** Hire a professional arborist to inspect any trees that appear weakened by the drought to avoid trees and branches from falling in high winds, which can knock out power or cause serious damage to your property.
- 5. Outdoor Debris & Furniture:** Reinforce deteriorated fencing and store outdoor furniture and other items that could cause damage in windy conditions or be damaged by wet weather. Remove any items and debris from your yard that may end up washing into the street and block storm drains to help prevent flooding.
- 6. Outdoor Electrical:** Check that exterior electrical panels and outlets have weather-resistant covers and are GFCI protected. Remove any unsafe or exposed wiring.

### Free Sandbags

The City of Santa Ana is doing its part to prepare for the winter storms ahead, including offering free sandbags to residents and businesses to help prevent damage from flooding.

#### Ten free sandbags per Santa Ana residence and business location.



**Self-Service Sandbag Station**  
City of Santa Ana Corporate Yard  
215 South Center

**Hours:** Mon-Thu, 6am to 8pm  
Fri, 6am through Sun, 8pm

More information? Contact the  
Public Works Agency Dispatch  
at (714) 647-3380.

### Safety First

- Avoid fallen power lines.
- Avoid using extension cords outdoors.
- Do not walk or drive through flood areas. Just six inches of flowing water can sweep you away and 12 inches can carry off a small car.
- Store emergency repair materials and supplies (sandbags, heavy plastic sheeting, food and water) in a safe, dry place.
- Discuss emergency preparedness with family members and neighboring property owners. Talk about potential concerns of heavy rain and runoff in the nearby area.

### Conserve Water

- Turn off your automatic irrigation system.
- Install rain barrels at downspouts to capture water for later use.

every  
**drop**  
LET'S NOT WASTE IT counts



**For more information about flood safety, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).**