



# Winter Storm

## Preparedness Tips

The County of San Mateo Public Works Department & the Office of Emergency Services Recommends the Following:

### Before the STORM

1. Keep insurance policies, document & other valuables in a safe-deposit box.
2. Consider flood insurance if you are in a high-risk flood area. If you live on a hillside, check if your insurance policy covers earth movement or mud slides.
3. Know safe routes from your home and office to high, safe ground.
4. Discuss emergency plans with your family.
5. Pre-arrange a contact person or volunteer to assist you later during a flood.
6. Post emergency numbers near the telephone.
7. Store the following supplies at work, home and in your car in handy locations:
  - First aid kit and essential medicines
  - Food (packages, dried, canned, and for special diets)
  - Non-electric can opener
  - Cash (ATMs may not be working)
  - Portable radio, flashlights, extra batteries (stored in water tight plastic bag)
  - Drinking water stored in closed, clean containers (allow one gallon per person per day for at least three days)
8. Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber and other emergency building materials handy for waterproofing.
9. Keep your car fueled in the event filling stations are inoperable.
10. Help prevent storm drain blockages by keeping leaves and other debris out of streets, gutters and catch basins.
11. Keep an old phone in your house that doesn't work on batteries, in case the power goes out and you are unable to charge your phones.

### During the STORM

1. Tune to local radio or television stations for emergency information and instructions from local authorities. Use the radio tuned to KCBS 740 AM or KZSU 90.1 FM as your primary source of information or instruction.
2. Make sure your family and pets are safe.
3. Be ready to evacuate if directed by emergency personnel.
4. Share emergency information you receive with your neighbors.
5. Use the telephone ONLY for emergency needs or to report dangerous conditions.
6. If flooding is likely, and time permits, move valuable household possessions from the floor.
7. If advised by local authorities to leave your home, move to a safe area before access is cut off by floodwaters.
8. Do not try to enter areas blocked off by local authorities.
9. Do not try to drive across a flooded road – you could become stranded.
10. If your car stalls, abandon it IMMEDIATELY and seek higher ground.
11. If water from a creek reaches level with your door, back your way out and evacuate.
12. Web based weather information can be obtained at the National Weather Service - <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/>

### After the STORM

1. Stay tuned to designated radio or television stations for information and instructions from local authorities.
2. Avoid disaster areas – your presence could hamper rescue and other emergency operations.
3. Use flashlights – NOT lanterns, matches or candles – to examine buildings; flammables may be present.
4. Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines. Report them immediately. (see reverse for emergency phone numbers)
5. 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.
6. DO NOT TURN GAS BACK ON YOURSELF. Call PG&E and then wait for a PG&E crew.
7. Do not use fresh foods or canned food that have come in contact with floodwaters. (The water may be contaminated)
8. Follow local instructions regarding the safety of drinking water. If in doubt, boil or purify water before drinking.

Wherever you live, work, and travel, you should be aware of the danger of winter storms and be prepared to cope with one.

The San Mateo County Area Office of Emergency Services provides these tips for your safety.

For more information on how you and your family can be prepared visit the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Website and click on Citizen Preparedness.

<http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us>

# Quick Storm Preparation Tips

- Flooding in San Mateo County most often coincides with high rain and high tides.
- Never try to drive through standing water. If you drive through hilly roads during a storm, watch for road hazards (ie: washed out pavement, trees, power lines, mud, etc)
- Check roof drains and down spouts to make sure they are clear of debris.
- Keep children away from creeks and large drains which can be deadly during storms.
- Don't forget your pets.
- Turn off automatic sprinklers.
- Don't store hazardous materials in areas that may be subject to flooding.
- Keep your car fueled. If electric power is cut off, filling stations may not be able to operate.

## Sandbags:

County residents in unincorporated areas may pick up sandbags free of charge at the following locations. There is a limit of 15 bags; requests for additional bags will be considered on a case-by-case basis. When you are done with them, feel free to bring them back to the yard for disposal.

### Locations:

Grant Corporation Yard, 752 Chestnut, Redwood City – (650) 363-4103

Princeton Corporation Yard, 203 Cornell Avenue – (650) 728-7993

Pescadero High School, 350 Butano Cutoff Road

La Honda Corporation Yard, 59 Entrada Way – (650) 747-0341



For more information about winter storm preparedness, call the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services at (650) 363-4790 or go to the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/hazards/winterstorms/>



## Resource List

### San Mateo County Department of Public Works

Emergency Line (24 hours)  
(650) 363-4100  
(Monday - Friday 7am - 5pm)  
(650) 363-4103

### San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services

(OES) (650) 363-4790

### California Office of Emergency Services

(916) 464-1013

To report downed wires or power lines, a power outage in your neighborhood, a gas leak or other related emergency, call PG&E (800) 743-5000, OR call 911

Red Cross Disaster Services  
(650) 259-1750

### USGS WaterWatch --

*Current water resources conditions*  
Map of real-time stream flow compared to historical stream flow for the day of the year  
[http://water.usgs.gov/cgi-bin/waterwatch?map\\_type=real&state=ca](http://water.usgs.gov/cgi-bin/waterwatch?map_type=real&state=ca)