

Before the Storm



Winter storms in California can be deadly, causing flooding, flash floods, high coastal surf, mudslides, snowstorms and avalanches. Your city, county, and state Offices of Emergency Services 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 and 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.

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Be Winter Wise!

Winter Weather and Flood Preparedness



Before, During, and After the Storm

Q E S
CALIFORNIA



Governor's Office of
Emergency Services

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.

Be prepared to take your personal things with you.



✓ 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.



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.

When it's Foggy, slow down.



HOW TO:

FIGHT FLOODING at Home

EASY

ways to keep water out of your house

During the times of **heavy rains**, most damage to homes and property comes from flooded streets, particularly those with blocked drains. Be sure your gutters are clear of leaves and debris. Low curbs and sloping driveways also pose a problem.

HOME can be protected by redirecting the water flow. Sandbag walls can be used to divert water or mud. Place the sandbag walls so they channel the water to a clear drain or gutter.

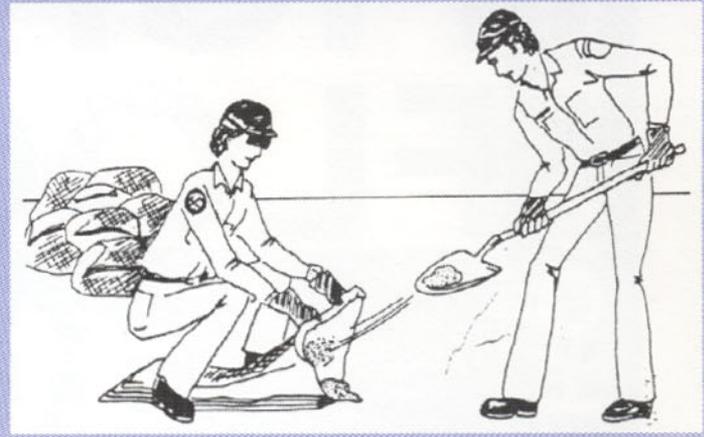
Follow the directions on the back of this flyer for sandbag **filling** and **laying**.

Information provided by California Department of Water Resources and California Conservation Corps.



HOW TO: Fill a sandbag build a sandbag barrier

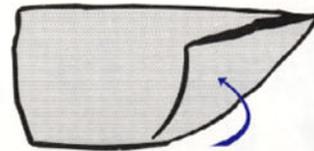
a. Work with another person, with one of you holding the bag while the other shovels sand or other material. The first shovelful is placed on the edge of the bag to keep the bag open. The bag holder should bend at the waist, with elbows resting on knees. The shoveler gets rounded scoops of sand and fills the bag **to just one-third full**. Avoid injury by not twisting while shoveling.



b. Fold over the open end of the bag in a triangle to prevent sand from leaking out. Close-knit burlap bags are recommended.



c. Your finished bags will look like this:

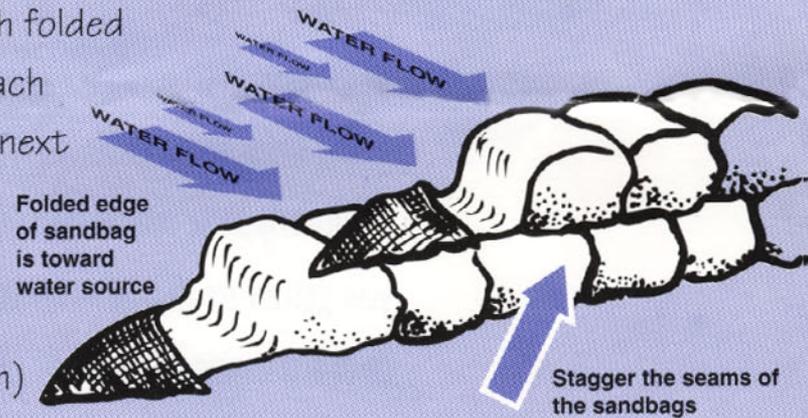


sandbag, 1/3 full, open end folded over - top view



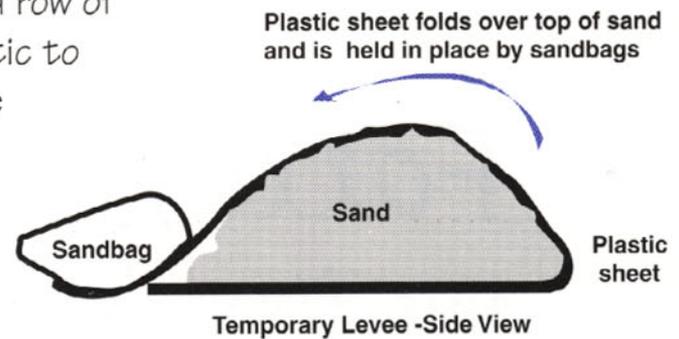
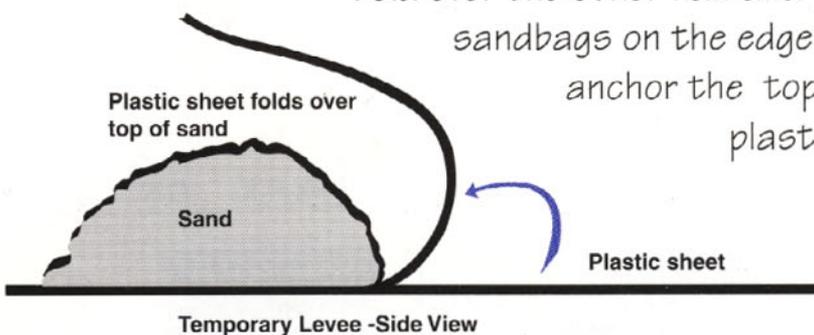
sandbag, open end folded over - side view

d. Place a line of bags with the folded side up, with folded edges facing the direction of water flow. Stomp each bag into place. Like you would with bricks, stagger the next layer of bags over the folded tops of the bags underneath. Stomp each layer of bags. To give the structure stability, the base should be 1.5 times wider than the height. (Example, 6 ft. wide by 4 ft. high)



e. When you don't have time to build a sandbag barrier, use a temporary levee to raise low areas. Prepare ahead by buying 20-foot-wide sheets of plastic (6-10 mil thickness). Lay out the length you need and place sand, dirt, or gravel on the half facing your property.

Fold over the other half and place a solid row of sandbags on the edge of the plastic to anchor the top edge of the plastic sheet.



f. In locations where water could rise with no current, such as at lake shores, lay visquine plastic on the ground and up to walls, and form a half pyramid of sandbags. Cover doors and vents with plywood.

