

Prepare for El Niño now

Don't Wait 'til it's Too Late



El Niño conditions do not “cause” individual storms but rather influence their frequency and characteristics.”
Repeated El Niño influenced storms can cause flooding, mud slides and a host of other problems.

Steps you can take to prevent flood damage

- Clean gutters and cut down weakened trees that could damage your home.
- Take care of grading or drainage needs on your property.
- Check for loose roof tiles or shingles, fix roof leaks.
- Store outdoor furniture and other objects that could be damaged by storms or thrown by winds.
- Inspect retaining wall drain holes, surface and subsurface drains and yard drains for signs of obstruction or malfunction.
- Establish native plants or place other ground cover on bare slopes or freshly graded areas.

Sandbagging

Properly used sandbags will help prevent storm and debris flows from damaging your home and improvements. Don't wait until the storm arrives to get started.

- Sandbags can be purchased from many home supply stores and online retailers.
- Sandbags should be filled half-way with sand, though soil can also be used (a mixture of one part cement to 10 parts sand or soil will make sandbags more durable).
- Fold the top of the bag tightly over the filled portion and place the folded top upstream or uphill to prevent the bag from opening.
- Sandbags should be placed tightly against each other.
- Finish one row before starting the next and stagger each row. More than two rows high will require support.



Be Informed

Make a Kit

Have a Plan

Get Involved

- **Be informed** about your risk. If you live in an area prone to flooding, start preparing now for the coming rains.
- **Make a kit** to include food and water for seven days (three days should be an absolute minimum supply). Don't forget necessary medications, flashlight, battery-operated radio and spare batteries.
- **Have a plan** for disasters, including out of state contacts and family meeting places. Don't forget a plan for your pets!
- **Get involved** by taking a Community Emergency Response Team class, learning CPR and first aid or any of many preparedness classes that are available.



www.RivCoReady.org www.storms.ca.gov

