

# Preparing for El Niño

## TIPS TO PREPARE YOUR HOME



With forecasters predicting an El Niño that could rival, if not surpass, that of 1997, it is incumbent upon all of us to start preparing now rather than later for the rainy season. While there is a chance that rainfall could be moderate, if predictions hold true, El Niño is not only expected to bring much needed drought relief to the region, it is also expected to bring powerful, drenching storms to the area that can quickly cause trouble. Below are some suggested measures to help residents prepare ahead of the bad weather.

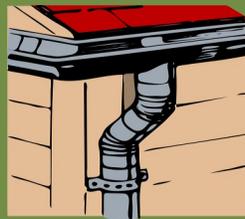
### ROOFS AND CHIMNEYS

- Determine if it's time to replace roofing materials.
- Remove leaves and debris.
- Inspect for chimney damage.



### DRAINS & GUTTERS

- Clear leaves and debris.
- Check drains & gutters to make sure they function properly.
- If you don't have drains and gutters, consider installing some now.



### SLOPES

- Inspect for signs of gullying, surface cracks, slumping.
- Inspect patios & retaining walls for cracking or rotation indicating possible slope movement.
- Pick up FREE Empty sandbags at Laguna Niguel Fire Stations. (Station 49 on Golden Lantern also has sand)



### TREES & LIMBS

- Inspect entire yard for dead trees, limbs and other debris.
- Secure outdoor furniture and other objects that could be blown by storm winds.



### LANDSCAPING

- Check your yard for bare areas that could be a source for mudflows.
- Mulch and establish native plants where appropriate.



### IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND RESOURCES

- ◆ EMERGENCY- 911
- ◆ OC Sheriff's Dept. Non-Emergency Line 949-770-6011
- ◆ City Hall 949-362-4300
- ◆ Fire Station #5 23600 Pacific Island Drive 949-249-3085
- ◆ Fire Station #39 24241 Avila Road 949-831-3232
- ◆ Fire Station #49 31461 Golden Lantern 949-249-9681
- ◆ [fema.gov](http://fema.gov)
- ◆ [noaa.gov](http://noaa.gov)
- ◆ [ocfa.org](http://ocfa.org)
- ◆ [ocflood.com](http://ocflood.com)
- ◆ [ocstormcenter.com](http://ocstormcenter.com)
- ◆ [ocstormcenter.com/rdclosure](http://ocstormcenter.com/rdclosure)
- ◆ [readyoc.org](http://readyoc.org)
- ◆ [ready.gov](http://ready.gov)
- ◆ [redcross.org](http://redcross.org)
- ◆ [water.ca.gov](http://water.ca.gov)
- ◆ [weather.gov](http://weather.gov)