

Preparing for El Niño

TIPS TO PREPARE YOUR FAMILY



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 tips from the Orange County Fire Authority to help residents prepare ahead of the bad weather.

MAKE A KIT, MAKE A PLAN, AND STAY INFORMED

- Make an Emergency Preparedness Kit to include food and water to last three days to a week. Don't forget about your pets. Include: First aid kit - Flashlights and radio (and extra batteries) - Medications/prescriptions - Cash and important documents - Clothing and sturdy shoes - Tools (wrench, duct tape, fire extinguisher, sturdy gloves, whistle) - Sanitation and hygiene supplies.
- Make a disaster kit that is portable in case you need to evacuate.
- Have an evacuation plan.
- Have a car ready to go with at least a half tank of gas.
- Have a family communication and re-unification plan. Practice it regularly.
- Sign up for [AlertOC](#).
- Download the FEMA Mobile App.



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](#)
- ◆ [noaa.gov](#)
- ◆ [ocfa.org](#)
- ◆ [ocflood.com](#)
- ◆ [ocstormcenter.com](#)
- ◆ [ocstormcenter.com/rdclosure](#)
- ◆ [readyoc.org](#)
- ◆ [ready.gov](#)
- ◆ [redcross.org](#)
- ◆ [water.ca.gov](#)
- ◆ [weather.gov](#)

DURING A FLOOD

- If on foot, do not attempt to walk through floodwaters. Go directly to higher ground. Six inches of swiftly moving water can sweep you off your feet.
- Keep children and pets away from floodwaters, storm drains, and sewers.
- Never drive into a flooded area. Most cars can be swept away by less than two feet of water.
- If your car stalls and water is rapidly rising around you, immediately get out and move to higher ground.
- Stay informed of weather predictions and road closures.
- Listen to area radio and television stations



EVACUATION

- Grab your disaster kit and follow your evacuation plan.
- If time permits, disconnect utilities and appliances and close the main gas valve.
- Lock windows and doors in your home before leaving.
- If you evacuate by car, do not drive past barricades or where water is over the road.
- Stay on recommended evacuation routes, as shortcuts may be blocked.

