

STORM SEASON SAFETY



STAY SAFE IN A FLOOD

Hey Californians! As cooler months bring new challenges to our state, like floods, Listos California is taking action to protect our communities.

While the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and first responders across our state prepare for this climate-driven extreme weather, there are a few simple steps YOU can take today to keep yourself, your loved ones and neighbors safe during flooding.

Most flooding can happen after extremely intense rainfall from severe storms. A flood can develop quickly, happen anywhere and sweep away most things in its path.



KNOW WHERE FLOODS HAPPEN

- In **coastal areas**: Water from storm surge can rise quickly from the ocean and flood normally dry coastal land. Extreme flooding occurs when storm surge happens at the same time as high tide.
- In areas near **rivers and streams**: Excessive rain can quickly overflow banks, especially where nearby ground is already saturated from previous rains.



PREPARE FOR A FLOOD

- Sign up for local emergency alerts at ListosCalifornia.org/Alerts to get alerts sent to your phone.
- Pay attention to authorities and local news. Be ready to evacuate all people and animals to higher ground if ordered.
- Have a Go Bag ready with important documents and personal items you want to have if you must leave home fast.
- Have flood control materials ready, such as plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber nails, a hammer and saw, a pry bar, shovels, and sandbags. Use plastic tarps and sandbags to block floodwater from entering vulnerable areas, such as exterior and garage doors.





STAY SAFE IN A FLOOD



PREPARE FOR A FLOOD

- Local authorities may tell you it is safer to shelter in place if flooding is not impacting your neighborhood. Pack a Stay Box with gallon jugs of water, food you could eat if there is no power and items you use every day. Plan to have enough of what you need for your entire family.
- Check on neighbors. Older adults, people with disabilities and families with young children may need extra help.
- Storms that bring flooding can also bring downed power lines and power outages. Have enough water and food that does not need refrigeration for every member of your household. Fully charge backup batteries, prepare to keep medicines cold and medical devices charged, and have access to a battery-powered radio for news.



STAY SAFE DURING A FLOOD

- Do not walk through moving water. As little as 6 inches of water can make you fall. Often, you can't tell how deep it is or what the water is hiding.
- As little as 6 inches of water can cause a vehicle to lose control. Just 12 inches of water can sweep most cars away and 2 feet of rushing water can carry away any vehicle – cars, SUVs and trucks. Do not drive through floodwater. Nearly half of all flood deaths occur in vehicles. It's safer to turn around and find another route.
- Never drive around barricades. Local responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas and away from roads blocked or closed due to collapsed pavement or debris.
- Do not touch floodwater, as it can make you sick. Floodwater may contain toilet waste, hazardous chemicals, dead animals, and heavy or sharp objects.



RECOVER FROM A FLOOD

- If you had to evacuate, wait until officials say it is safe to go home.
- Once you go home, document any damage with pictures.
- Do not let children play in floodwater or play with toys or anything that got wet until they have been disinfected.
- Do not drive or walk through areas with flooding or downed trees. There may be power lines or debris hiding below the surface.
- Floods can make your water unsafe to use or drink. Listen for official announcements on the safety of public water. Water authorities will tell you if your tap water is not safe or how to make it safe by boiling or disinfecting.

