

STORM SAFETY PRPEAREDNESS

Sudden downpours during the rainy season can cause many water related problems for residents such as Flash flooding, mudslide, and other various problems that may result in damage to your property. Follow these instructional guidelines to help you deal with these problems during the rainy season.

- ❑ Stay away from flood channels and flowing rivers. You can be knocked off your feet in as little as 6 inches of water
- ❑ Do not attempt to cross flooded areas and never enter moving water
- ❑ If you become trapped in your vehicle, stay with your vehicle, relocate to the hood of the vehicle if the water level continues to rise.
- ❑ When in canyon or mountainous areas, be aware of possible flash flooding or sudden down flow's

For Residents living in Flood prone areas

- ❑ **Obtain sand bags ahead of time!** Sandbags and instructional materials are available at most County of Los Angeles Fire Department Stations
- ❑ Fill sandbags one-half full with sand or soil, fold top of sandbag down and rest bag on its folded top. Stack sandbags 3 levels high but, no more than 25 sand bags. If your home is on a hillside plastic is recommended to prevent from over saturation of the soil, but first consult with local Building and Safety official and / or Public Works Department for water diversion or protection plans.
- ❑ Monitor your radio or television news closely for information concerning weather conditions and flooding in your area
- ❑ Have an emergency plan that all family members understand. Know how to contact loved one if you are unable to get to your home because of flood-related incidents
- ❑ Clear rain gutters and drains ahead of time to help avoid possible roof collapse and other property damage
- ❑ Be aware that debris basins can overflow. Be familiar with the area in which you live and have an alternate escape route if you should have to evacuate.
- ❑ Have enough food, water and batteries included in emergency kit to last for at least 72 hours.

For further information contact Public Affairs Section at (323) 881-2411 or visit our web site www.fire.lacounty.gov.



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