

Be Storm Ready!

This year California has received record rainfall, which means that you should be storm ready! Here are some helpful "Storm Ready" tips to help you prepare and know what to do if you experience flooding or water, mud, and/or debris flows.

Flood Terminology

Drenching rainstorms can often result in a large amount of rainfall in a short period of time, causing flooding or flash floods. Knowing flood terminology is useful and important: **Flood Watch** - Flooding is possible in your area; **Flood Warning** - Flooding in your area is imminent or already occurring; **Flash Flood** - A sudden, violent flood which often comes as a wave and with little to no warning, which means you should seek higher ground immediately.

When Flooding is Possible

In the event that you are under a flood watch, here is what you should do:

- Gather your emergency supplies, evacuation items, and review evacuation routes in case you're asked to leave.
- Be aware that flash flooding can occur during periods of heavy or extended rainfall. If there is a possibility of a flash flood in your area, immediately move to higher ground. Do not wait for an evacuation order.
- Fill the gas tanks in your vehicles.
- Bring in outside furniture that could be carried away by floodwaters.
- Move furniture and other valuables to higher places inside your home.
- Fill and place sandbags, if necessary.
- Monitor gutters, drains, and v-ditches and clear debris immediately to prevent clogging or damming.

Your City is Prepared!

In anticipation of the above normal rainfall that is expected, the City of Chino Hills Public Works Department work crews and contractors have been hard at work cleaning v-ditches along slopes and roadways, and clearing debris from storm drains, catch basins, and flood control channels. If you see any of these areas clogged with debris, you can report them by calling Public Works at (909) 364-2800 or the after-hours hotline at (909) 364-2860.

Sandbags

Properly placed sandbags will redirect water, mud, and debris but they will not completely seal out water. Sandbags should be used for protection in low-flow situations.

Where Can I Get Sandbags?

The City of Chino Hills has provided a limited supply of sand, and the Chino Valley Fire District has provided sandbags for residents only at the following Fire Stations:

- **Fire Station 62**, 5551 Butterfield Ranch Road, Chino Hills
- **Fire Station 64**, 16231 Canon Lane, Chino Hills

Citizens with proof of residency will be issued **25 sandbags per household**. Bring your own shovel to fill the sandbags. For properties that require significant sandbagging, sandbags are available for purchase at local hardware stores. Sandbags are available for as long as supplies last. For more information, please call (909) 364-2800.

How Many Sandbags Could I Need?

For 100 lineal feet of a sandbag wall, you will need:

One-foot High: 600 - 800 bags, 10 - 13 cubic yards of sand

Two-foot High: 1,400 - 2,000 bags, 23 - 33 cubic yards of sand

Three-foot High: 2,200 - 3,400 bags, 37 - 57 cubic yards of sand



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During A Flood

- When asked to leave, evacuate to higher ground or an established shelter.
- Remember to take your emergency supplies, cash and credit cards, photos, important papers, proof of insurance, prescriptions, and pet supplies.
- Stay out of floodwaters and avoid moving water. Do not try to walk, swim, or drive through moving water. As little as six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Two feet of water is enough to carry away a passenger vehicle.
- Stay away from downed power lines and piles of debris.
- Constantly monitor news media and other information sources for weather and emergency updates.
- When evacuating, be aware of stream channels, drain channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods in these areas can occur without warning.
- Avoid parking or camping near streams, rivers, or creeks. The water may rise very quickly.
- Use a secondary evacuation route if your primary route is blocked by water, mud, or debris flows.
- Do not drive around barriers. Roadways may have been washed out, undermined, or otherwise damaged by floodwaters.
- Stay on firm ground. If forced to walk through mud-covered areas, use a stick to gauge the depth of the mud in front of you.
- Avoid standing water. It may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, or sewage; or electrically charged by underground or downed power lines.
- Flooding may have caused familiar places to change. Floodwaters can erode roads and walkways. Be cautious as the area may be very slippery which could make walking difficult. Flood debris may hide animals, broken glass, or other dangerous items.

We're Still In An Extreme Drought!

Although Southern California has had above normal rainfall so far this year, did you know that it will still take several years of rainfall to pull us out of this drought? ***No matter how much rainfall we get during this period of heavy rain, we still need to conserve water! Even though many California reservoirs are recovering, our underground water storage levels remain low.***



Every drop counts towards the State mandate to conserve water, so please continue to follow the Stage II Moderate Conservation Alert restrictions.

- When it's raining, remember to turn off your sprinklers because the application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after rainfall of 1/10" or more is prohibited.

Water is our most precious natural resource, so when mother nature is showering us with this extremely vital commodity, we should continue to do our part and conserve.

For More Resources on Flooding and Flood Preparation:

City of Chino Hills - www.chinohills.org/stormready

Chino Valley Fire District - www.chofire.org

San Bernardino County - www.sbcounty.gov/main/pages/elnino.aspx

National Weather Service - www.wrh.noaa.gov/sgx/

Federal Emergency Management Agency - www.ready.gov/floods

National Flood Insurance Program - www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart/