



# County of San Luis Obispo

COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, RM. D430 • SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5011

**DAN BUCKSHI**  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FROM THE COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

CONTACT: Ron Alsop, Emergency Services Manager, (805) 781-5011

**EMERGENCY SERVICES URGES STORM PREPARATIONS**

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA, February 26, 2014** – The San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services is urging residents, businesses, and others to prepare ahead of time for the predicted storms soon to arrive in our county. The National Weather Service, a local PG&E weather forecaster and various private weather information providers are consistent in reporting the second storm of the week will be significant. With the potential for significant rainfall and strong winds, we should be prepared for power outages, check roof drains to make sure they are clear, stockpile needed emergency supplies, double check to make sure radios and phones are fully charged, have back up batteries for portable radios, phones, and flashlights and otherwise get as well prepared as possible.

Anyone who thinks their home or business could be flooded should take precautions before a storm arrives. These precautions include obtaining sandbags ahead of time; many local equipment and feed and supply stores carry sandbags and an informal check this week indicates that most are well stocked.

Do not count on emergency response agencies such as fire departments or public works agencies to be available to assist during times of significant weather events, as they may not have the resources available for non-immediate emergency needs and may in fact have to prioritize responding to emergencies.

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All county residents and visitors should be aware that no area is immune to flash flooding, including urban areas. Heavy rains can result in flash flooding that can inundate cars and cause considerable damage. Water levels in small streams and empty river beds may rise quickly in heavy rainstorms and flash floods can begin before the rain stops falling. Flash flood waves can move at very fast speeds, and with incredible force.

Listen to radio and TV stations and check online Internet sources for updated weather information, including flash flood watches and warnings. Also consider purchasing a weather alert radio, available at various electronic and related stores, which can be used to receive urgent weather messages, including warnings.

Some actions to take during storms and after a flash flood warning include getting out of areas subject to flooding, including low lying areas; avoid flooded areas and high velocity flow areas; if driving, know the depth of water before crossing it; and quite simply, don't take any chances.

Links to some local retailers who sell sandbags and general preparedness information can be found on the County OES web site at <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/oes> County OES can be followed on Twitter: @slocountyoes .

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