

## **Storm Preparedness Information for San Luis Obispo County Residents**

The San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services is urging residents, businesses, and others to prepare ahead of time for the predicted series of storms soon to arrive in our county. 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. It is very important that if a person believes a building or area may have a potential problem with flooding, that supplies, including sandbags, are purchased ahead of time.

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 internet sites such as the National Weather Service, PG&E power outage information, Caltrans road information, and CHP traffic incident information can be found on this County OES Web site at [http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/OES/Links\\_to\\_Related\\_Sites.htm](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/OES/Links_to_Related_Sites.htm)