You're Surviving the Drought... Here's How to Survive El Niño

Water conservation is working! But this fall and winter, El Niño, a weather condition created by warmer than normal ocean temperatures and weather, may create sudden severe storms, high winds, fire danger, power outages, mudslides and flooding. Here are some tips on how to prepare.

☑ Develop a Family and Business Emergency Plan

Every family or business needs to communicate in the event of emergencies. Talk about how you can work together, what responsibilities each family member or employee should have, how to reach one another, pets, escape routes, meeting places and storing and securing valuables.

☑ Maintain Emergency Contact Information and Supplies

It's a good idea to have emergency contact information (police, fire, paramedics, doctor, hospital, insurance policies, etc.) in safe, accessible locations, and on your cell phone. Keep emergency supplies (food, water, tools, batteries, flash lights, clothing, extra keys, etc.) in your garage and car trunk.

☑ Seek Advice from Licensed Contractors and Insurance Firms

Once the storms arrive, local utilities and roofers, electricians, plumbers and landscapers, will be working under emergency conditions. Now is the time to meet with them to make sure your home, business, apartment or condo is inspected and repaired. Make sure your contractors are licensed and check references.

Call your insurance agent about coverage from wind, fire and flooding. Discuss the scope and limitations of your present policies.

☑ Trim Trees

Every year, it is wise to trim tree branches to reduce the risk of fire and falling branches. Top heavy trees can fall over during wet, windy weather. Remove branches that hang over roofs, gutters and chimneys, and remove trees that stand too close to structures.

☑ Install Sand Bags and Mulch for Erosion Control

Fire stations and home improvement stores are good sources of sand bags. Place sand bags and mulch near slopes, driveways, curbs, doors, garage doors... wherever stormwater run-off and mudslides are likely.

☑ Have Roofing Professionally Inspected and Repaired

Your roof protects your family and your possessions. Preventative roof maintenance is much less expensive in the long run.

☑ Clean Rain Gutters

Leaves, twigs, bird droppings, nests, feathers and other residue can clog rain gutters resulting in both heavy, broken gutters and leaks onto other parts of your structure. Clean them out with a ladder, brush, rake or leaf blower.

☑ Clean Storm Drains

Regularly remove debris that could clog the drain, itself, or route water from streets into private property. All you need is a broom, rake, gloves and a garbage can. If the job is too large, call your local sanitation or street services department for help.

☑ Install Rain Barrels

Rain barrels are available from some municipalities for free or with a rebate. You may purchase them both online and at home improvement stores. They may be connected to a gutter or near a runoff location. Use the saved water to irrigate your vegetation or to fill your pool or spa.

☑ Inspect Neighboring Properties for Risks from Trees, Brush and Stormwater Runoff/Mudslides

If neighbors' trees or hillsides place your home at risk of damage from overhanging trees, branches, brush, boulders, rocks, water or mudslides now is the time to talk with them and obtain professional advice. Similarly, make sure your property is not causing problems for neighbors.

☑ See a Fire, Flood or Rushing Water? Stay Away, Stay Informed and Call for Help!

Government agencies are professionally trained to deal with emergency circumstances. Evacuate if instructed to do so. Do not walk or drive into dangerous fires or floods and stay away from stormwater channels and basins. Program your cell phone and email to provide you with emergency updates. Enroll in special training, such as CERT, if you'd like to know more about helping yourself and your community.

City of Alhambra
(www.cityofalhambra.org)
Power Outage - SCE 800-611-1911
Public Works/Water - 626-570-5067 or 626-570-5151
Fire - 911 or 626-570-5190
Police - 911 or 626-570-5151

City of Azusa
(www.ci.azusa.ca.us)
Power Outage - 626-812-5225
Water - 626-812-5225
Public Works - 626-812-5254
Fire - 911 or 626-444-2581
Police - 911 or 626-812-3200

City of Monterey Park
(www.montereypark.ca.gov)
Power Outage - SCE 800-611-1911
Water - 626-307-1295
Public Works - 626-307-1320
Emergency - 626-307-1270
Fire - 911 or 626-307-1262
Police - 911 or 626-307-1211

LA County (www.lacounty.gov)
Emergencies, including downed power lines - 911
Fire - 911 or 323-881-2411
Sheriff - 911 or 213-229-1700
Public Works - 626-458-5100

City of Sierra Madre
(www.cityofsierramadre.com)
Power Outage - SCE 800-611-1911
Public Works/Water - 626-355-7135 or 626-355-1414 (24/7)
Fire/Police - 911 or 626-355-1414 (24/7)

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
AZUSA | SIERRA MADRE | MONTEREY PARK | ALHAMBRA
www.sgvmwd.org
626-969-7911