



Winter Storm

Preparedness Tips

The County of San Mateo Public Works Department & the Department of Emergency Management Recommend the Following:

Before the STORM

1. Keep insurance policies, document & other valuables in a safe deposit box.
2. Consider flood insurance if you are in a high-risk flood area. If you live on a hillside, check if your insurance policy covers earth movement or mud slides.
3. Know safe routes from your home and office to high, safe ground. Sign up for emergency alerts at SMCAAlert.info
4. Know your evacuation zone by downloading the Genasys Protect app.
5. Discuss emergency plans with your family.
6. Pre-arrange a contact person or volunteer to assist you during a flood.
7. Load emergency numbers into your cell phone contact list.
8. Store the following supplies at work, home and in your car in handy locations:
 - First aid kit and essential medicines
 - Food (packages, dried, canned, and for special diets)
 - Non-electric can opener
 - Cash (ATMs may not be working)
 - Portable radio, flashlights, extra batteries (stored in watertight plastic bag)
 - Drinking water stored in closed, clean containers (allow one gallon per person per day for at least three days)
9. Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber and other emergency building materials handy for waterproofing.
10. Keep your car fueled or charged in the event filling stations are unavailable.
11. Help prevent storm drain blockages by keeping leaves and other debris out of streets, gutters and catch basins.
12. Clean and clear creek/channel/storm drainage systems on your property.
13. Make sure your family and pets are safe.

During the STORM

1. Tune to local radio or television stations for emergency information and instructions from local authorities. Use the radio tuned to KCBS 740 AM, KQED
2. If your area is threatened by flooding or landslides, leave early. Don't wait to be told to leave.
3. Share emergency information that you receive with your neighbors.
4. Use the telephone ONLY for emergency needs or to report dangerous conditions.
5. If flooding is likely, and time permits, move valuable household possessions from the floor.
6. Don't wait to be advised by local authorities to leave your home, move to a safe area before access is cut off by floodwaters.
7. Do not try to enter areas blocked off by local authorities.
8. Do not try to drive across a flooded road – you could become stranded. If your car stalls, abandon it IMMEDIATELY and seek higher ground.
9. Web based weather information is available at the National Weather Service - <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/>

After the STORM

1. Stay tuned to designated radio or television stations for information and instructions from local authorities.
2. Avoid disaster areas – your presence could hamper rescue and other emergency operations.
3. Use flashlights – NOT lanterns, matches or candles – to examine buildings; flammables may be present.
4. Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines. Report them immediately. (see reverse for emergency phone numbers)
5. Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas. If electrical equipment or appliances have been in contact with water, have them checked before use.
6. DO NOT TURN GAS BACK ON YOURSELF. Call PG&E and then wait for a PG&E crew. (800) 743-5000
7. Do not use fresh foods or canned food that have come in contact with floodwaters as the water may be contaminated.
8. Follow local instructions regarding the safety of drinking water. If in doubt, boil or purify water before drinking.

Wherever you live, work, and travel, you should be aware of the danger of winter storms and be prepared to cope with one.

The San Mateo County Area Office of Emergency Services provides these tips for your safety.

For more information on how you and your family can be prepared visit the San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management Website and click on Prepare.

<https://www.smcgov.org/dem>

Sandbags:

Resident of incorporated cities in San Mateo County may contact their local public works departments for local sandbag availability. County residents in unincorporated areas may pick up pre-made sandbags (limit 15) free of charge at the locations below. PRE-MADE SANDBAGS ARE NOT FOR INDUSTRIAL OR COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES. Loose sand and sandbags are also available at each location when pre-made sandbags are no longer available. Dispose of empty sandbags in residential trash containers at the end of the season. Sand may be used in common lawn and garden applications.

Sand Bag Locations:

Grant Corporation Yard, 752 Chestnut, Redwood City – (650) 363-4103

Princeton Corporation Yard, 203 Cornell Avenue – (650) 728-7993

Pescadero High School, 350 Butano Cutoff Road

La Honda Corporation Yard, 59 Entrada Way – (650) 747-0341



For more information about winter storm preparedness, call the San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management at (650) 363-4790 or go to the FEMA website at <https://www.ready.gov/>



Resource List:

San Mateo County Department of Public Works

Emergency Line (24 hours)
(650) 363-4100
(Monday - Friday 7am-5pm,
excluding holidays)
(650) 363-4103

San Mateo County Department of Emergency Management (DEM)

(650) 363-4790

To report downed wires or power lines, a power outage in your neighborhood, a gas leak or other related emergency, call PG&E (800) 743-5000, OR call 911

America Red Cross
(650) 259-1750

USGS WaterWatch --

Current water resources conditions
Map of real-time stream flow compared to historical stream flow for the day of the year
https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?r=ca&id=ww_current