El Niño is the cyclical warming of surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean at the equator. This type of ocean temperature change, (like its opposite La Niña), occurs in irregular periods, usually every few years, to create extreme global weather patterns. Since we are in an El Niño year, forecasters are predicting heavy rains in our area for the winter and spring months. In particular, Orange County residents should be prepared for flooding, and also for flash flooding that can occur suddenly due to heavy rainfall in a short period of time.

Make a Kit, Make a Plan, and Stay Informed

- Make a disaster kit that is portable in case you have to evacuate.
- Have an evacuation plan.
- Keep valuables, documents, and medicines in one place for quick access.
- Have a car ready to go with at least half a tank of gas.
- Have a family communication and re-unification plan.
- Sign up for AlertOC at www.alertoc.com
- Sign up for OCFA Community Education texts at ocfa.bbcportal.com

During a Flood

- If on foot, do not attempt to walk through floodwaters. Go directly to higher ground. Six inches of swiftly moving water can sweep you off your feet.
- Keep children and pets away from floodwaters, storm drains, and sewers.
- Never drive into a flooded area. Most cars can be swept away by less than two feet of water.
- If your car stalls and water is rapidly rising around you, immediately get out and move to higher ground.
- Stay informed of weather predictions and road closures.
- Listen to area radio or television stations
  - www.weather.gov
  - www.ocstormcenter.com
- Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice.

Evacuation

- Grab your disaster kit and follow your evacuation plan.
- If time permits, disconnect appliances and turn off all lights.
- Lock windows and doors in your home before leaving.
- If you evacuate by car, do not drive past barricades, or where water is covering the road.
- Stay on recommended evacuation routes, as shortcuts may be blocked.

OC Public Works

For more information, visit: www.ocfa.org (714) 573-6200

Heavy Rains Can Cause Significant Damage to Your Home

- Inspect your roof for leaks and have them repaired immediately.
- Clean out rain gutters, downspouts, and roof drains.
- Inspect the storm drains in the street. If they are clogged, report them to public works.
- If you have a pool, keep an eye on its water level. Overflows may cause damage to your home.
- Apply netting and straw mulch on steep slopes.
- Inspect all yard drains frequently for debris.
- Have sandbags, plywood, or plastic sheeting available to direct the storm flow away from your home.

Sand and sandbags are ONLY available for RESIDENTS of OCFA cities.

Empty sandbags are available at most Orange County Fire Authority stations. Many city yards also have sand and sandbags available for the public. Please contact your local city yard for more information. The following OCFA fire stations have both sand and sandbags:

City	Fire Station	Address
Buena Park	61	8081 Western Avenue
Cypress	17	4991 Cerritos Avenue
Irvine	36	301 E. Yale Loop
Laguna Niguel	49	31461 Street of the Golden Lantern
Laguna Woods/ Laguna Hills	22	24001 Paseo de Valencia
Lake Forest	42	19150 Ridgeline Road
Modjeska Canyon	16	28891 Modjeska Canyon Road
Placentia	34	1530 N. Valencia Avenue
Santa Ana	79	1230 East Warner Avenue
Seal Beach	48	3131 North Gate Road
Silverado	14	29402 Silverado Canyon Road
Silverado	15	27172 Silverado Canyon Road
Stanton	46	7871 Pacific Street
Trabuco	18	30942 Trabuco Canyon Road
Tustin	21	1241 Irvine Boulevard
Tustin	43	11490 Pioneer Way
Villa Park	23	5020 Santiago Canyon Road
Yorba Linda	53	25415 East La Palma Avenue

Residents are encouraged to bring their own shovel. Crews may or may not be present to assist in filling sandbags. Supplies are limited and based upon demand and availability.