

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County advises residents to prepare for storm

The National Weather Service and other forecasting agencies are predicting extended periods of significant rain and snow starting on Monday, January 18th and running through the week. The county is advising residents in and below areas recently burned by wildfires to be aware of, and prepare for, the possibility of flooding. Other low-lying areas near and adjacent to watercourses may also experience localized flooding.

Residents are advised to stay clear of flood control debris basins and channels. Persons can be swept away by a surge of water runoff, mudflow, or debris flow. Debris basins and channels are also dangerous when it is not raining as persons may become trapped in mud and debris by venturing onto what may appear to be stable soil. Do not drive where water is over the road as floodwaters can rise rapidly and sweep a car and its occupants away. "Turn around don't drown".

County public safety officials and crews will be monitoring weather conditions around the clock for the duration of the storms and will be poised with equipment to respond to heavily affected areas. The Department of Public Works has prepositioned electronic message boards in the areas of Highway 330, Highway 18, Green Valley Lake, Mt. Baldy, Oak Glen, Lone Pine Canyon Road and the area of Lytle Creek to notify residents of the possibility of flooding and debris flows. In the Sheep fire area residents could experience road closures.

If you are traveling in the mountain areas over the holiday weekend please be sure to have snow chains, extra food and water with you in case you encounter snow conditions.

The public can obtain information on storm conditions by accessing the San Diego National Weather Service (NWS) website at <http://www.weather.gov/sandiego>. Information on sandbags and other disaster preparedness measures are accessible through the county web page at www.sbcounty.gov/floodinfo by clicking on "Sandbag Information" and "Flood Control Home". Sandbag and sand locations are also available on County Fire's website at <http://www.sbcfire.org>. Recorded information is also available by calling (909) 355-8800.