

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
www.sbcounty.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Residents urged to prepare for another round of storms

Another potentially strong rain storm is expected to strike San Bernardino County early Friday morning and last approximately six hours, with total rainfall amounts expected to reach three to four inches.

An additional storm of undetermined strength is possible Sunday night into Monday.

The County of San Bernardino urges county residents, particularly those below the areas burned by last year's wildfires, to exercise caution and prepare for the possibility of flash floods, mudslides and debris flows.

County emergency officials will closely monitor the weather around the clock and stay in touch with the National Weather Service. The San Bernardino County Public Works Department will place electronic message boards at the entrances to high-risk communities advising residents and visitors of the potential threat.

The department will also dispatch Storm Patrol units to monitor conditions at county flood control facilities. The county will also advise residents of imminent danger via the county's Telephone Emergency Notification System and door-to-door notifications, if necessary.

Authorities will make every effort to warn the public when a disaster is expected; however, storms can develop quickly. Residents in vulnerable areas are advised to use good judgment and find a safe location during rainy weather.

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Officials advise citizens to take precautions to protect their family and property from the dangers this and future rainstorms may bring:

- Protect homes with sandbags and/or other flood control devices.
- Develop a family disaster plan, including evacuation routes and a meeting place.
- Stock homes with emergency food and medical supplies.
- Keep emergency kits in cars.
- Monitor and heed storm and flash flood warnings.

Residents are also advised to stay clear of flood control debris basins and channels. Persons can be swept away by a surge of water run off, mudflow, or debris flow. These areas 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.

County officials will update the public as more information becomes available. Citizens should stay tuned to local media outlets or:

- Listen to NOAA Weather Radio.
- Contact the county's emergency information line at (909) 355-8800.
- Monitor the National Weather Service Web Site at www.wrh.noaa.gov/sandiego.
- Call the National Weather Service at (858) 675-8700.

The County of San Bernardino has taken a number of steps, starting while the wildfires were still burning, to protect county residents from the increased risk of flooding that occurs after fires:

- The county has established a Telephone Emergency Notification System that can instantaneously place warning telephone calls to county residents in selected areas.
- The county mailed warning letters to every household and business in areas susceptible to debris flows and flash flooding.

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- The county has made hundreds of thousands of sandbags and sand available free of charge to county residents, including instructions on how to use them.
- The county has placed extensive flood preparation information on its website at www.sbcounty.gov.
- The county has worked closely with the news media to warn residents of impending storms and advise residents of precautions to be taken.
- The county has participated in door-to-door warning campaigns in high-risk areas.
- The county has participated in community meetings to discuss flood risk, precautions, and assistance.