

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
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Strong storm set to hit county; Foothill flooding possible

Steady rain today and tonight should be followed by heavy rain beginning midnight tonight throughout Wednesday morning, according to the National Weather Service. The County of San Bernardino is warning residents of flood-prone regions – particularly those below the areas burned by last year's wildfires – to take appropriate precautions.

- Emergency crews are going door-to-door in the areas of highest risk – Lytle Creek, Devore, and Forest Falls – to warn residents of the danger.
- The County Department of Public Works has placed electronic message boards at the entrances to those three communities to advise residents and motorists of conditions.
- Some roads may be closed as needed.
- The county will dispatch storm patrol units to monitor the county's flood control basins and channels.
- Public safety officials will remain in contact with the National Weather Service and monitor weather information around the clock and, if necessary, order and carry out emergency notifications to the public.
- The Department of Public Works has also made additional sandbags and sand available free to residents at county fire stations in Devore and Lytle Creek, two other locations in Lytle Creek (Scotland Store and Tally's Corner), and a San Bernardino City fire station at Sterling and Foothill.

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Because of last year's wildfires, foothill and canyon areas from the Los Angeles County line to Highland are susceptible to flash floods, mudflows, and debris flows.

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.

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.
- 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:

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- 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.
- 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.