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PREPAREDNESS FACT OF THE WEEK

This Week:

THREATS & HAZARDS IN CALIFORNIA

Part 2 of 12

STORMS



FOREWARD

By Elizabeth Hall

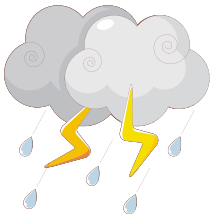
In my efforts to bring to you preparedness information that is both informative, helpful to the area in which we live and yet interesting without being repeated and overdone to death can be difficult at times. In my search to bring you something different, I came across preparedness information just for Californians. It comes from the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) website. In the next 12 weeks, I'd like to touch on 12 topics we as Californians face. The information is basic and will have added informational links and downloadable materials for your convenience. With so much information packed in each subject, you may want to save or add to your "Favorites".



Winter Storm Preparedness Tips:

CalEMA is encouraging all Californians to act on the following tips in preparation for the coming storms:

1. Collect important documents (i.e., insurance policies, vital records) that you should take with you if you need to evacuate.
2. Have an easy to carry emergency supply kit on hand with at least – food, water, medications, flashlight, battery-powered radio, rain gear, and a first aid kit.
3. Keep your car fueled in case power is cutoff to local gas stations.
4. Identify the safe routes from your home or office to high ground.
5. Establish an out-of-state “family contact” so that friends and relatives will know who to call to get information about where you are.
6. Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber and other materials handy for waterproofing.
7. If ordered to evacuate, do so immediately. If you’re stranded, move to your roof so rescuers can see you.
8. Avoid flooded roadways and waterways. Just six inches of water can sweep you away.
9. If your car stalls in water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.



Answers to many of your questions are available at the following links.

Weather watch or warning, what is the difference and what should I know? [Answer here](#)

What we should know if we live near a recently burned area? [Answer here](#)

What steps are important in preparing my vehicle for winter? [Answer here](#)

Are there any preparedness tips for my mobile devices like cell phones? [Answer here](#)

Is there emergency preparedness information for my animals during the winter? [Info from HSUS](#)

Storm information is available at:

[National Weather Service Western Regional Forecast Center](#)



for information on weather, rivers, reservoirs, and snow.

[FEMA Thunderstorm and Lightning Information](#)

[Centers for Disease Control Winter Weather](#)

[FEMA Winter Storms and Extreme Cold Information](#)

Statement from the California Emergency Management Agency

Emergency preparedness means being prepared for all kinds of emergencies, able to respond in time of crisis to save lives and property, to help a community or even the nation return to normal life after a disaster, and ensuring that the environment is protected. The potential for a catastrophic event impacting California, the most populous state in the nation with an estimated population of 38 million in 2008, is something that requires this all hazards approach.

The information available within the "Threats and Hazards" portion of the Planning and Preparedness Division web site is intended to provide preliminary information on potential hazards that may impact the citizenry. The information provided will include preparedness tips and or guidance on how to be ready for these hazards and vulnerabilities should they impact the State.

Have a wonderful week and remember....***Be Responsible - Be Ready - Be Prepared!***

Resources:

California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA)

<http://cms.calema.ca.gov/preparednesshome.aspx>