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Huntington Beach Prepares for El Nino

With early storms already affecting Southern California, City officials have been working diligently to prepare for upcoming wet weather. The City is also encouraging residents to prepare their homes and property and to arm themselves with safety tips.

What is the City Doing?

- In October, the City convened an El Nino working group, to coordinate the City's El Nino preparations and reported to the City's Disaster Council.
- In an effort to keep Huntington Beach residents informed during an emergency, the City launched the HB Emergency Information site. This site is a place where residents can go to view up to date information and see emergency related twitter feeds. www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/HBEmergency.
- Sandbags are available at the City Corporate Yard, 17371 Gothard Street, 7:30am – 4pm, Monday – Friday. Residents are limited to 20 sandbags and must provide proof of residency and bring their own shovel. Additionally, sandbags will be available at Magnolia Fire Station/Edison Community Center and Warner Fire Station beginning later this month. For more information contact the Public Works Department at 714-960-8861.
 - Sandbags can be purchased and delivered from Resource Building Materials, 7502 Warner Ave, for a fee. For more information and prices contact them directly at 714-842-1500.
- Beginning December 1, 2015, the HB Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will deliver and place sandbags for seniors and disabled residents. Residents will have to sign a release of liability and there is no guarantee actions taken will prevent damage to property. This is a volunteer based program and is subject to the availability of volunteers. For more information call CERT at 714-536-5974 and leave a message. A volunteer will get back to you within 48 hours.
- Our Public Works crews remove debris, trash, silt buildup and make any repairs necessary to flood pump stations, catch basins, inlets, channels and roadways, to ensure storm water flows freely.
- The Emergency Management and Homeland Security Office is preparing and reviewing emergency plans to ensure the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is ready to be activated at a moment's notice.

What Can You Do to Prepare?

Before the Flood

- Know your flood risk and consider flood insurance. www.floodsmart.gov or call the Planning Department at 714-536-5271.
- Register your cell phone and e-mail with AlertOC, at www.AlertOC.com. AlertOC is a mass notification system designed to keep Orange County residents and businesses informed of emergencies and certain community events. By registering with AlertOC, time-sensitive voice messages from the County or City in which you live or work may be sent to your home, cell or business phone. Text messages may also be sent to cell phones, e-mail accounts and hearing impaired receiving devices.
- Have a disaster kit and a family emergency plan. In a dangerous situation, your first thoughts will be the safety of your family and friends. In case you are not together when authorities issue

a flood watch or flood warning, practice how you will communicate with each other. For more information visit www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/PrepareHB and/or www.ReadyOC.org

During the Flood

- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Use travel routes recommended by local authorities.
- Don't try to cross water flowing above your knees. ["Turn Around Don't Drown"](#)
- Evacuation is much simpler and safer before floodwaters become too deep for ordinary vehicles to drive through.
- Listen 107.9 KWVE or follow official City social media, for news, updates and evacuation instructions.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes-shortcuts may be blocked.

After the Flood

- Return home when authorities say it is safe.
- Let qualified specialists inspect your home and make repairs to structural damage and utility breaks before you re-enter.
- When inspecting your home for the first time, use a flashlight, not a torch or lantern. Sniff for gas leaks.
- Wear rubber-soled shoes and rubber gloves in case of severed electrical lines.
- Don't turn on electrical switches
- Check electrical circuits only when electricity has been shut off.
- Don't use flooded electrical appliances until they have been repaired.
- Don't drink municipal water until the City has declared it safe.

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