Severe Weather Preparedness

County of Riverside Emergency Management Dept.

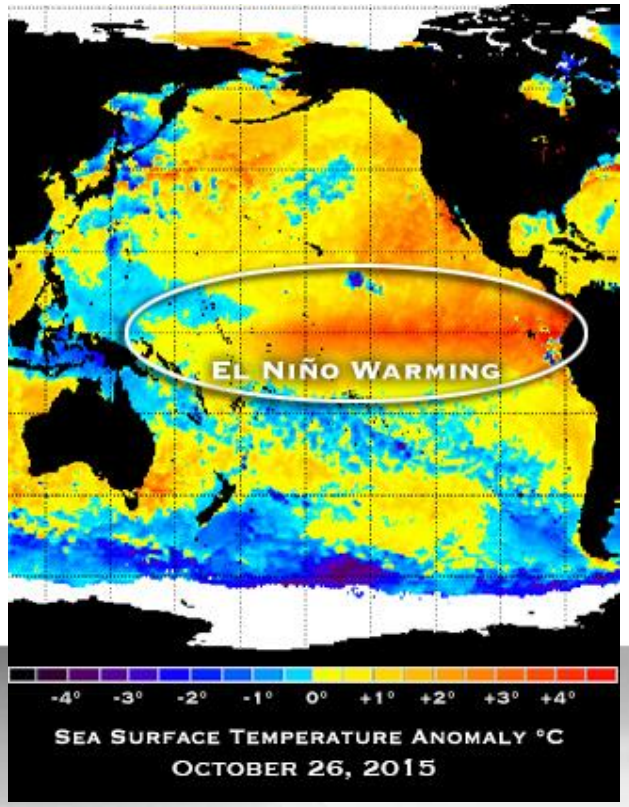
Office of Emergency Services

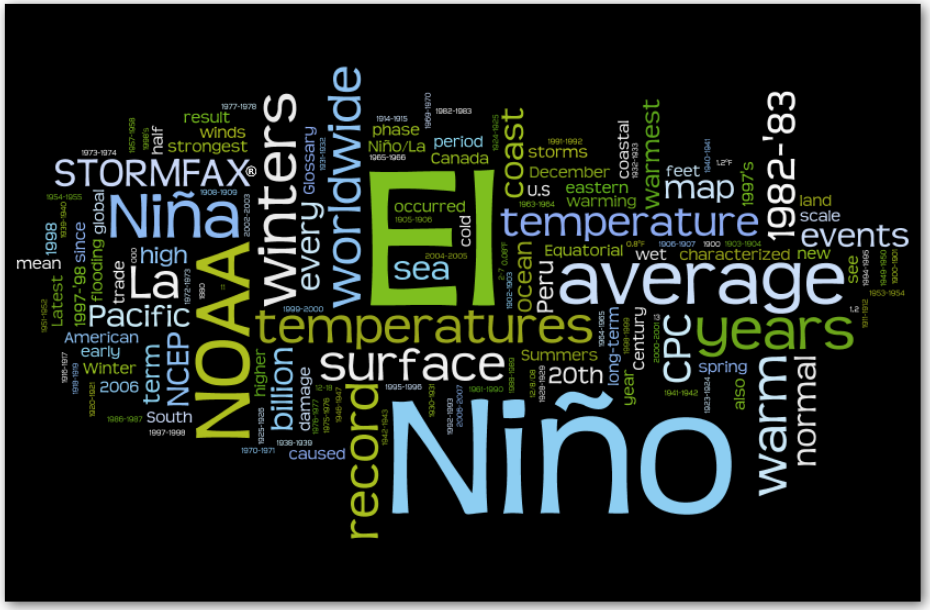
Severe Weather events – “EL NINO”

- The following are thing you need to know so you can better prepare for weather events.

What is El Nino?

El Niño is a weather phenomenon that involves a warming of the Pacific Ocean west of Peru. The temperature increase can cause dramatic changes in weather patterns worldwide, bringing wet rains to California but drought to Indonesia and Australia.





RIVERSIDE COUNTY CERT COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Severe Thunderstorms

CERT Basic Training

Hazards

A Severe Thunderstorm …

- Produces hail at least ¾ inch in diameter
- Has winds of 58 miles per hour or higher
- Produces a tornado

Thunderstorm Risks

- Lightning
- Hail
- Downbursts and straight-line winds
- Flash floods
- Tornadoes

Thunderstorm Preparedness

- Understand the risk
- Learn to make a small target
- Pay attention to warnings
- Check for hazards in your yard
- Bring outdoor furniture inside
- Remove dead or overhanging limbs

During a Thunderstorm

- Things to avoid
  - Water sources
  - Telephone
  - Being outdoors

If You Are Outdoors

- Get away from water sources
- Seek shelter in substantial building
- If necessary:
  - Take shelter in car or
  - Go to low-lying area and make small target
- Avoid natural lightning rods

Floods

CERT Basic Training

Hazards

When Floods Occur

- Any time a body of water rises to cover what is usually dry land
- One of most common hazards
  - 75% of Federally declared disasters
- May be local or widespread
- May develop slowly or fast

Causes of Floods and Flood Damage

- Heavy rain
- Spring snowmelt
- Dam and levee failure
- Low absorption or no soil percolation
- Business and residential growth in flood areas

Factors Contributing to Flooding

- Rainfall intensity
- Rainfall duration
- Topography
- Soil conditions
- Ground cover

Flood Hazards

- Heavy rainfall exacerbates problems with:
  - Runoff
  - Absorption
  - Flood-control measures
- Ravine flooding can inundate downstream areas
- In rocky and heavily paved areas, lack of absorption can cause flash flooding

Flood Risks

- Most communities have some risk of flooding
- Damage increases with development in:
  - Coastal areas
  - Floodplains

Flood Preparedness

- Know flood risk in area
- Prepare flood evacuation plan
- Obtain flood insurance if living in floodplain
- Keep important documents in water-proof box
- Check portable radio for current information and emergency messages

Protecting Property

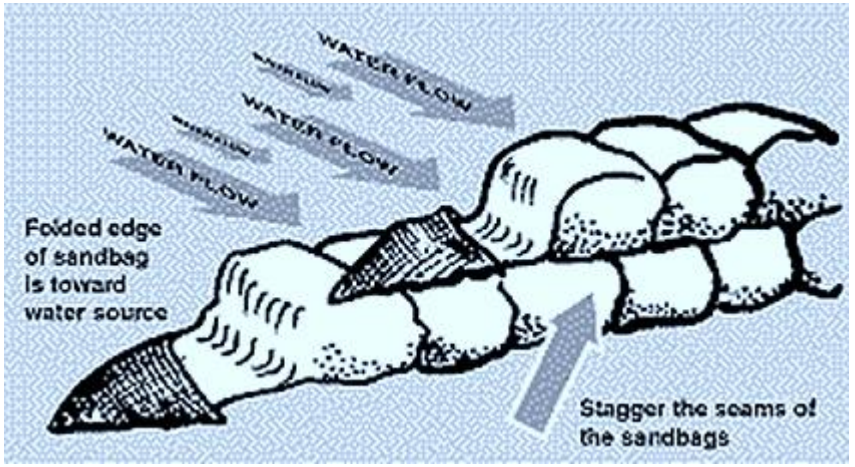
- Elevate furnace, water heater, and electric panel
- Move furniture and other items to higher level
- Install check valves
- Waterproof basement floor and walls

Sand Bagging Techniques

- https://youtu.be/QejdO18l13s

How to fill a sandbag

- You can usually get buy sandbags at your hardware store or during EMERGENCIES at your local fire station.



- Here's what you do:
  - Fill the sandbag 1/3 -1/2 full.
  - Fold the top of the sandbag down and rest the bag on its folded top.
    - If sand isn't easily available, use local soil.
  - Even a half-filled sandbag can be quite heavy, so don't overload your trunk if you are transporting the filled bags in a vehicle.
  - If you are purchasing your own bags, strong burlap or heavy plastic is recommended.

Stacking a filled sandbag

- Stack the bags carefully, making sure they are properly aligned with the seams between bags staggered.
  - Limit your bags to three layers high, unless you are stacking them against a building or placing them in a pyramid shape.
  - Pack each sandbag into place and complete each layer before starting the next level.
  - You can add a plastic sheet between the bags and the home or building structure for added protection to prevent water from seeping through doors.

Sandbag Limitations

- Remember, Sandbags should be used as a preventive method, not as a waterproof fortress. Here are some of their limitations.
  - Sandbags will not completely seal out water
  - The bags gradually deteriorate when exposed to continuous wetting and drying over the course of several months.
  - Sandbags should be used for protection against water flow of up to two feet. A larger flow requires a more permanent flood control system.
- The normal lifespan of a sandbag is approximately one year

If You Must Evacuate

- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water
- Keep away from waterways
- Pay attention to barricades
- Avoid storm drains and irrigation ditches
- Keep family together

After a Flood

- Stay out of flooded areas
- Reserve telephone for emergencies
- Avoid driving, except in emergencies
- Wait for authorities to issue message that it is safe to return
- Be aware that snakes and other animals could make there way in to your house

Stay Informed

Knowing where to get information before, during and after a disaster can have a direct effect on your ability to respond and recover!

Knowing your local radio and news stations can help you stay informed!

Here are some other information resources you should become familiar with:

Before the disaster:
www.rivcoready.org
www.rcflood.org
www.rvcfire.org
www.redcross.org
www.caloes.ca.gov
www.stoms.ca.gov
www.fema.gov
www.noaa.gov (weather)

During the disaster:
www.rvcfire.org
www.riversidesheriff.org
www.dot.ca.gov
www.noaa.gov
www.rctlma.org/trans

After the disaster:
www.rivcoready.org
www.rcflood.org
www.connectriverside.org
www.redcross.org
www.caloes.ca.gov
www.fema.gov

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