

EL NIÑO



El Nino is the cyclical warming of surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean at the equator. This type of ocean temperature change, (like its opposite La Nina), occurs in irregular periods, usually every few years to create extreme global weather patterns. Since we are in an El Nino year, forecasters are predicting heavy rains in our area for the winter and spring months. In particular, Orange County residents should be prepared for flooding, and also for flash flooding that can occur suddenly due to heavy rainfall in a short period of time.



San Juan Capistrano
City Hall
32400 Paseo Adelanto
San Juan Capistrano

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Friday
7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

For more information visit:
www.sanjuancapistrano.org

Make a kit, make a plan, and stay informed

- Make a disaster kit that is portable in case you have to evacuate.
- Have an evacuation plan.
- Keep valuables, documents and medicines in one place for quick access.
- Have a car ready to go with at least a half a tank of gas.
- Have a family communication and re-unification plan.
- Sign up for AlertOC at www.alertoc.com
- Sign up for OCFA Community Education texts at ocfa.bbcportal.com

During a flood

- If on foot, do not attempt to walk through floodwaters. Go directly to higher ground. Six inches of swiftly moving water can sweep you off your feet.
- Keep children and pets away from floodwaters, storm drains, and sewers.
- Never drive into a flooded area. Most cars can be swept away by less than two feet of water.
- If your car stalls and water is rapidly rising around you, immediately get out and move to higher ground.
- Stay informed of weather predictions and road closures.
- Listen to area radio or television stations.
- Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice.

Evacuation

- Grab your disaster kit and follow your evacuation plan.
- If time permits, disconnect appliances and turn off all lights.
- Lock windows and doors in your home before leaving.
- If you evacuate by car, do not drive past barricades, or where water is covering the road.
- Stay on recommended evacuation routes, as shortcuts may be blocked.

Heavy rains can cause significant damage to your home

- Inspect your roof for leaks and have them repaired immediately.
- Clean out rain gutters, downspouts, and roof drains.
- Inspect the storm drains in the public street. If they are clogged, report them to the Public Works Department at (949) 443-6337.
- If you have a pool, keep an eye on its water level. Overflows may cause damage to your home.
- Apply netting and straw mulch on steep slopes.
- Inspect all yard drains frequently for debris.
- Have sandbags, plywood, or plastic sheeting available to direct the storm flow away from your home.