

Storm Safety

Orange County experienced one of the driest years in history in 2002, but Southern California's weather can change quickly and dramatically. The winter and spring often bring storms that can be dangerous, especially when people are not prepared. The Orange County Fire Authority would like to remind residents of precautions they should take in the event of heavy rains and possible flooding.

- Maintain an emergency supply of food and water, a first-aid kit, candles, a flashlight, a radio and extra batteries.
- Know safe routes from your home or office to high, safe ground.
- Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing. Fill your sandbags shortly before the expected storm. Filled sandbags stored for long periods of time are ineffective.
- Stay away from flood control channels, and do not try to cross a flowing stream where water is above your knees. You could be swept away by strong currents.
- Do not drive over a flooded road.
- If your car stalls in water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Avoid unnecessary trips. If you must travel during the storm, advise others of your destination.
- Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas. If electrical equipment or appliances have been in contact with water, have them checked before use.
- Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines. Report them immediately to the police or fire department.

The Orange County Fire Authority is equipped to respond to many different types of emergencies, including crisis situations that arise from heavy rains. The Fire Authority has five Swift Water Rescue Teams that can respond to emergencies within a matter of minutes. For more information about storm or flooding safety, call the Orange County Fire Authority at (714) 532-7266 or visit www.ocfa.org.

The Orange County Fire Authority serves as the fire department for 22 Orange County cities and the county unincorporated areas. The OCFA is governed by a board composed of two county supervisors and a city council representative from each of its 22 member cities.