

Preparing for Floods and Debris Flow from Winter Storms

Winter Storm Season is here, ensure you are ready! Floods are the most common natural hazard in the United States, and recent fires make this storm season of particular risk for landslides and debris flows. Storms, floods and slides can cause property damage, loss of utilities, and loss of life, so plan now to be prepared to act. Review your emergency supplies, make a plan for the whole family, help your neighbors get ready, and make sure you can stay informed and be alerted to hazards in your area. Visit [SoCoEmergency.org](https://socoemergency.org) for how to be ready this winter.

Key tips to stay safe:

IF YOU ARE UNDER A FLOOD WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. *Turn Around, Don't Drown!*
 - Just six inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Stay off of bridges over fast-moving water.
- Determine how best to protect yourself based on the type of flooding.
 - Evacuate if told to do so.
 - Move to higher ground or a higher floor.
 - Stay where you are.

Learn more at <https://socoemergency.org/get-ready/local-hazards/flood/>

Preparing before heavy rains

- Know types of flood risk in your area. Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center for information here: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>.
- Sign up for SoCo Alert. Go here: <https://socoemergency.org/get-ready/stay-informed/#signup>.
- If flooding is a risk in your location monitor potential signs, such as heavy rain.
- Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter in place plans, and flash flood response.
- Make sure your Go Bag is ready in case you have to leave immediately, or if services are cut off. Include warm clothes for dressing in layers.
- Purchase or renew a flood insurance policy. It typically takes up to 30 days for a policy to go into effect and can protect the life you've built. Homeowner's policies do not cover flooding. Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.
- Check in with neighbors who may need assistance getting ready and evacuating.

Learn More: <https://socoemergency.org/get-ready/local-hazards/>