



News from: **City of Oakland**

## **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 6, 2017

### **Oakland Residents and Businesses Urged to Prepare for Winter Weather, Weekend Storm**

**Oakland, CA** – Forecasters are predicting stormy weather this weekend, and the City of Oakland is taking steps to prepare and urging residents and business owners to prepare as well.

On Thursday morning the regional National Weather Service office announced a “[Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)” expected to affect Northern California. The NWS forecasted that weather would be mostly clear and dry Friday, with light rain developing Saturday and becoming heavy Saturday night through Sunday before ending Monday morning, with the possibility of another storm Tuesday or Wednesday.

#### **Media Contact:**

Sean Maher  
Oakland Public Works  
(510) 238-6358  
[smaher@oaklandnet.com](mailto:smaher@oaklandnet.com)

#### *What to Expect*

Every year, Oakland prepares for winter storms. Oakland Public Works crews have been making advance preparations to help mitigate weather impacts and enable City crews to respond as effectively as possible to any requests for services. Work crews are in the process of cleaning storm drains, inlets, culverts and drainage structures, and coordinating planning efforts with other agencies in the region.

#### *Preparedness Tips for Residents and Businesses*

Simple preparation steps taken now can go a long way toward lessening the impact of weather-related and other emergencies. Members of the public should review their emergency plans and prepare their families, homes, and vehicles. Here are some suggested simple steps:

- Clear your gutters and downspouts; ensure downspouts are working and pointing away from your house
- Keep your curbs and sidewalk gutters clear of leaves and debris (and please dispose of in your green bins – not sweep them into the gutter)
- Check the storm drain near your house and use a rake to keep it clear of debris (see Adopt-a-Drain information on the next page of this release)
- Trim trees to help them handle wind and rain; call a certified arborist to inspect your trees if you have concerns about unusual leaning or dead branches
- Take a look at your property and make any needed repairs.
- Check out your local hardware store for flood prevention tools and techniques for using sandbags to divert water away from your property or prevent it from coming in through doors and basement windows
- Review your property insurance; if you don't have flood insurance, consider getting it now – it takes 30 days to take effect
- Review emergency procedures and evacuation plans at your children's schools
- Make sure you have emergency supplies to last for at least three days, including enough water, food, medicine and other supplies for family members and pets
- **In the event of flood conditions, please be careful and safe by avoiding walking, riding or driving across standing water**

--more--

*Volunteer with Adopt-a-Drain to Help Minimize Flooding*

Residents and businesses can help minimize flooding in their neighborhood by volunteering with the City's Adopt-A-Drain program to keep a storm drain near their home or business free of debris. The City provides supplies and debris bags for all volunteers. Remember: "Clear the drain before the rain." To sign up, visit [adoptadrainoakland.com](http://adoptadrainoakland.com) or call (510) 238-7630.

*Free Sandbags*

Oakland Public Works is providing residents and businesses with emergency sandbags (up to 10) and plastic sheeting (up to 20 feet) **while supplies last**, to help divert runoff away from buildings and to help prevent flooding and mudslides:

Municipal Service Center, 7101 Edgewater Drive

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Drainage Services Facility, 5921 Shepherd Canyon Road

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

*How to Report Flood-Related or Storm-Related Problems*

Please keep these numbers handy for emergencies, and share them with neighbors:

**For storm-related emergency issues on public property and in the public right-of-way (such as flooding, mudslides and landslides onto streets and sidewalks), contact the Oakland Call Center by phone at 510-615-5566.**

For *non-emergencies*, the Oakland Call Center can also be contacted in other ways:

- Email: [callcenter@oaklandnet.com](mailto:callcenter@oaklandnet.com)
- Online: [oaklandpw.com](http://oaklandpw.com)
- Mobile app: SeeClickFix

**For downed power lines** or if you smell natural gas, leave the area immediately and then call 9-1-1 or PG&E at 1-800-743-5000.

**For power outage alerts** go online to [pge.com/outagealerts](http://pge.com/outagealerts).

**For water service emergencies** (e.g., no water service, broken hydrants, broken water main pipes), contact EBMUD at 1-866-403-2683.

**For life-threatening emergencies**, call 9-1-1 from a land line or (510) 777-3211 from a cell phone.

# # #