

# Emergency Preparedness Tips

---

## *Winter Weather*

### Before the Storm

- Clear debris from rain gutters and downspouts.
- Trim damaged branch limbs.
- Keep insurance policies, documents and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.
- Check your homeowners or renters insurance policy for flood insurance coverage. If you don't have coverage, purchase it. (Most home-owners insurance policies do NOT offer protection against flood losses. For information about flood insurance, call your local insurance agent or the National Flood Insurance Program at (888) CALL-FLOOD.
- Re-stock your emergency supply kits at home, work and in the car.
- Keep your car fueled. If electric power is cut off, filling stations may not be able to operate. Know safe routes from your home or work to high, safe ground.
- Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber and other emergency building materials on hands to keep water out and protect against the affects of wind.

### During the Storm

- Avoid areas that are subject to sudden flooding.
- Do not try to cross a flowing stream where water is above your knees. Even six inches of water can sweep a car away.
- Do not try to drive over a flooded road. You could be stranded or trapped.
- If your car stalls, abandon it IMMEDIATELY and seek higher ground.
- Do not sightsee in flooded areas. Do not try to enter areas blocked off by local authorities.
- Avoid unnecessary trips. If you must travel during a storm, dress in warm, loose layers of clothing. Advise others of your destination, departure time and estimated time of arrival.
- Use the telephone only for emergencies or to report dangerous conditions.
- Tune to local radio (740, 680 or 810 AM) or television stations for emergency information and instructions.
- If flooding is likely, and time permits, move valuable household possessions to the upper floors of your home.
- If advised by local authorities to leave your home, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water. Establish an out-of-state family contact so that friends and relatives will know who to call to get information about where you are.
- Before leaving, disconnect all electrical appliances, and if advised by your local utility, shut off electric circuits at the fuse panel and gas service at the meter.

*(continued on next page)*

# Emergency Preparedness Tips

---

*(continued from previous page)*

## After the Storm

- Do not turn gas back on yourself. Call PG&E or a licensed plumber.
- Do not use fresh foods or canned goods that have come in contact with flood waters.
- Follow local instructions regarding the safety of drinking water. If in doubt, boil or purify water before drinking.
- Avoid disaster areas; your presence could hamper rescue and other emergency operations and you may be in danger.
- 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 PG&E or the fire department.
- Avoid fires or explosions: use flashlights, not lanterns, matches or candles to examine buildings.
- Stay tuned to radio or television for information and instructions from local authorities.

For additional information about preparing for winter storms and other types of emergencies, please visit:

- [www.calema.ca.gov](http://www.calema.ca.gov)
- [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)