



News from: **Oakland Public Works**

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Urging Oakland Residents and Businesses to Prepare for Winter Weather

Oakland, CA – With forecasters predicting winter rains, the City of Oakland is taking steps to prepare for rain and wind that we can all expect as the season changes. Residents and business owners are urged to prepare in advance.

What to Expect

While the rain is welcome given current drought conditions, we also need to prepare for winter storms that can result in isolated flooding, landslides, fallen branches, power outages or traffic delays throughout the city.

The City of Oakland is Preparing for Storms

Oakland Public Works crews are making advance preparations to help mitigate winter weather impacts and to allow City crews to respond as effectively as possible to any requests for services. Public Works is in the process of:

- Cleaning storm drains, inlets, culverts and drainage structures
- Coordinating planning efforts with other agencies in the region

During storm events, crews and emergency personnel will be working around the clock, but they, along with crews around the region, may be overwhelmed, so please plan ahead to have the supplies you need in any emergency event.

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. Review your emergency plans and prepare your family, home, and vehicle. Follow these 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
- 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

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- Know the 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

You can help minimize flooding in your neighborhood by participating in the City's **Adopt A Drain** program. Join our volunteer program to keep a storm drain near your home or business free of debris. The City's storm drain system includes more than 10,000 storm drains, 370 miles of drain pipe, seven pump stations and 40 miles of open creeks on public land. By keeping storm drains clean, you can help prevent flooding of streets and sidewalks, allowing City crews to focus on critical storm-response activities. The City will provide supplies and debris bags. Remember: "Clear the drain before the rain." Sign up now: visit adoptadrainoakland.com or call (510) 238-7630.

Free Sandbags

Public Works is providing Oakland residents and businesses with emergency sandbags and plastic sheeting, to help keep runoff away from buildings and to help prevent flooding and mudslides. Prior to forecasts of inclement weather, filled sandbags (up to 10) can be picked up and 20 feet of plastic sheeting (on a first-come, first-serve basis for as long as supplies last):

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 Problems

Keep these numbers handy for emergencies. Share them with family, neighbors and friends.

For weather-related emergency issues on public property and in the public right-of-way (e.g., flooding, mudslides and landslides onto streets and sidewalks), contact the Public Works Call Center directly through one of the following channels:

- Phone: (510) 615-5566
- Email: opwcallcenter@oaklandnet.com
- Online: 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 (800) 743-5000.

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

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

Please join us in being ready for the coming winter season. Please slow down in the "cone zone" when you see our crews working in the roadways keeping the City prepared.