

## City of Moreno Valley Emergency Management Articles:

# Preparing for Storms

### Before the Storm:

- Contact your local insurance agent for flood insurance.
- Keep first aid and critical medical supplies on hand.
- Keep a stock of food that requires little cooking and no refrigeration (you might not have any electric power).
- Keep a portable radio and flashlights in working order. Have extra batteries on hand.
- Keep your automobile fueled; if electric power is cut off, filling stations may not be able to operate.
- Keep materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing.



### When You Receive a Storm Warning:

- Store drinking water in closed, clean containers. Water service may be interrupted.
- If flooding is likely, and time permits, move essential items and furniture to upper floors of your home.
- If advised to leave your home, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water. Leave a note telling friends or relatives where you are going.
- Before leaving, cut off all electric circuits at the fuse panel by pulling the main switch, or disconnect all electrical appliances. Shut off the gas service at the valve next to the meter, and turn off the water service at the main valve.

### During the Storm:

- Avoid areas subject to flooding.
- Do NOT try to cross a flowing stream where water is above your knees.
- Do NOT try to drive over a flooded road. You could be stranded and trapped.
- If your vehicle stalls, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground. Many people drown while trying to rescue their cars.

**During the Storm:**

- Do NOT “sightsee” in areas where flooding or snowfall is occurring; do not try to enter areas closed by local law enforcement agencies.
- Avoid unnecessary trips; if you must travel during the storm, dress warmly.
- Advise others of your destination.
- Use the telephone *only* for family emergency needs or to report dangerous conditions.
- Beware of downed power lines or broken gas lines. Report them immediately to the proper agencies, police or fire department.
- Keep tuned to one of your local radio or television stations for emergency information.

**After the Storm:**

- Do NOT TURN GAS BACK ON YOURSELF. Rely on gas company crews.
- Do NOT use fresh food that has come into contact with flood waters.
- Make sure drinking water is not contaminated; wells should be pumped out and the water tested before drinking.
- Do NOT visit disaster areas; your presence will probably hamper rescue and other emergency operations, and you might be in danger.
- Do NOT handle live electrical equipment in wet areas. If electrical equipment or appliances have been in contact with water do not use them until local authorities tell you they are safe.
- Use flashlights, not lanterns or matches to examine buildings; flammables may be inside.
- Report broken utility lines to police, fire or public utilities authorities.
- Continue to beware of downed power lines or broken gas lines.
- Stay tuned to LOCAL radio or television for vital information. Inland Empire stations are: KFRG 95.1 KGGI 99.1 KOLA 99.9

**What to Do During Storm Watches and Warnings:**

- Move valuable household possessions to the upper floors of your home.
- Fill your car’s gas tank in the event an evacuation order is issued.

**What to Do When a Flood Watch is Issued:**

- Tune in for information and advice to local radio and TV stations.
- When told to evacuate, do so as quickly as possible.

**What to Do When a Flash Flood Watch is Issued:**

- Watch for signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment’s notice.

## **What to Do When a Flash Flood Warning is Issued:**

- If you believe flash flooding has begun, evacuate immediately as you may have only seconds to escape.
- Move to higher ground and away from rivers, streams, creeks, and storm drains.
- Do NOT drive around barricades. These are placed to keep you out of harm's way.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.



**Dare to Prepare!**

**For more Information, please call Office of Emergency Management at 951.413.3800**