



**WINTER 2015**

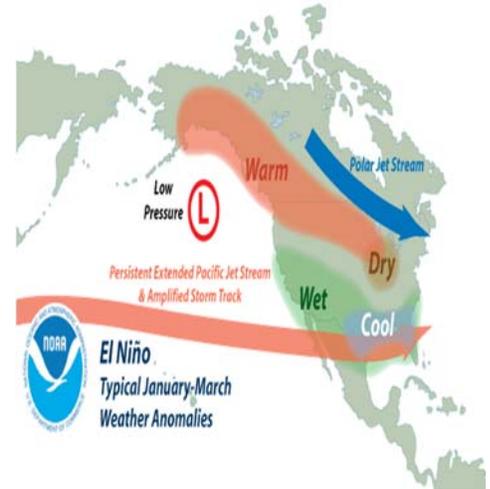
**Preparing makes good sense!**

- Know your Risk
- Be Prepared
- Be Aware
- Take Action
- Useful Information/  
Websites



### Before, During, and After a Storm

El Nino is upon us and during an El Nino year, streets, roads, small creeks and streams can all overflow and cause flooding, when combined with blocked storm drainage systems. Did you know in the last 20 years, every county in California (58 counties) has experienced a federally-declared flood disaster that caused loss of lives, homes, businesses, and irreplaceable possessions costing billions of dollars? Over 7 million California residents live in a potential area for catastrophic flooding.



### Be Prepared For Big Storms!

Clean out your gutters so you keep water off your roof. Rake, pick up and dispose of leaves, branches from your yard that may end up clogging the storm drains in your area. Consider composting leaves and yard debris, it not only protects storms drains, its good for the environment! Remember street sweeping equipment is not designed to pick up large quantities of leaves and branches especially if they are wet. Did you know that most street flooding is caused by blockage of street storm drains?



### Be Aware of Dangers During Big Storms

Stay away from rising creeks, streams and rivers. Six inches of fast moving water is all it takes to actually knock an adult off his or her feet! Any doubts? Don't cross!

Never drive through flood water in your car! If you can't see the street or road you also may not see hidden debris that can damage your vehicle and high floodwater may cause your vehicle to stall. If it does stall, abandon your vehicle immediately and get to higher ground for safety!



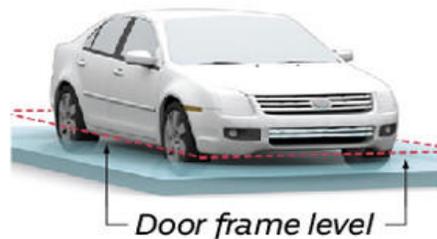
*Do not drive through water on flooded roadways; 18 inches of water will float most cars and two feet of water can float an SUV or truck.*

## Driving Safety During Floods

### WATER LEVEL BELOW BOTTOM OF DOOR

**Should you drive through it?** Generally safe

**Should you start your car?** Generally safe

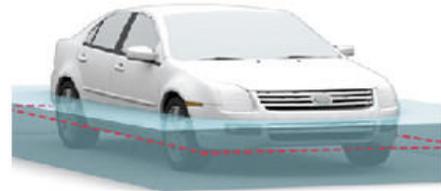


SOURCE:AAA

### WATER LEVEL ABOVE BOTTOM OF DOOR

**Should you drive through it?** Do not attempt

**Should you start your car?** Do not attempt, especially if the interior is wet. Water could be drawn into the combustion chambers and damage the engine.



TRIBUNE

## Take Action

Prepare an emergency kit of food, water and other supplies you will need to survive on your own for up to three days.

Learn how to shut off your gas, water and electricity in case the lines are damaged. Contact your local utility to learn more information.

Learn First Aid and CPR.

Conduct drills so your family knows what to do if flooding occurs and designate how you will reunite if separated. Choose an out of town relative or friend to call into to report your whereabouts.

Find a safe location for your pets ahead of time.

Construct flood defenses using sandbags if needed.

In the event of flooding, self-serve sandbags are available at the City of Benicia Corporation Yard 2400 East 2nd Street from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or call 707-746-4296 for more information.



## Be Proactive.....Protect Your Home and Valuables

### Purchase Flood Insurance

Most homeowners insurance policies do not cover flood damage. You need a separate policy. Ask your insurance agent about obtaining flood insurance from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). There's typically a 30-day wait period before flood insurance takes effect, so don't wait for the next threat of rain to act. Call today.

### During A Storm

Tune to local radio 89.5 FM or television station Comcast Channel 27 for emergency information for your area.

Avoid areas that are subject to sudden flooding.

If you are in a car, do not drive through flooded areas.

Do not cross a flowing stream where water is above your knees. Water as low as 6 inches may cause you to be swept away by strong currents.

Do not go sightseeing to see where flooding has occurred or try to enter blocked areas.

If flooding is imminent, and time permits, move your valuable possessions (paperwork, photos, records) to upper floors in your home or business.

### After A Storm

Do not turn gas back on by yourself. Please rely on your utility crews for this.

Do not use fresh foods or canned goods that have come into contact with flood water.

Follow your local municipality regarding safety of drinking water. If in doubt, boil or purify your water before drinking it.

Avoid disaster areas; your presence can hamper rescues and emergency operations, and may put you in danger.

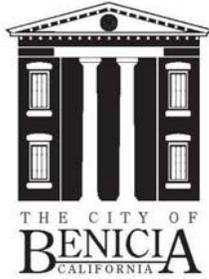
Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines. Report these immediately to PG&E @ 1-800-743-5000.

Use flashlights, not candles or matches whenever possible.



*“Over 20 percent of NCIP claims and one-third of disaster claims come from flood damage to homes in moderate to low risk areas”.*





CITY OF BENICIA  
DEPT. PUBLIC WORKS

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**Information from local and regional media**

Benicia Herald Newspaper – Online Edition

Vallejo Times Herald – Online Edition

Comcast Channel 27 – Government Access Channel

KCBS 740 AM – San Francisco

KGO 810 AM – San Francisco

KZCT 89.5 FM – Benicia



**Links and Other Useful Information**

**City of Benicia Facebook**

[facebook.com/City-of-Benicia-111786558883403/](https://facebook.com/City-of-Benicia-111786558883403/)

**City of Benicia Twitter**

[twitter.com/CityofBenicia](https://twitter.com/CityofBenicia), and [Nextdoor.com](https://www.Nextdoor.com)

**Solano County Office of Emergency Services (707) 784-1600**

[co.solano.ca.us/Depts/oes/default.asp](https://co.solano.ca.us/Depts/oes/default.asp)

**American Red Cross Solano County (707) 438-7060**

[redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org)

**Road closures in the Bay Area**

[511.org](https://www.511.org)

**Ready.gov preparedness information**

[ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)