

## STORM PREPARATION TIPS

- Clear drains, rain gutters, and downspouts to make sure they are clear of debris.
- Trim trees and landscaping as needed to ensure branches and limbs are away from your structure and powerlines.
- Keep leaves and yard trimmings out of storm drains and gutters.
- Turn off automatic sprinklers.
- Don't store hazardous materials in areas that may be subject to flooding.
- Store emergency supplies (first aid kit, essential medicines, cash, food, non-electric can opener, portable radio, flashlights, and spare batteries) in air-tight bags and in handy locations.
- Keep your car fueled: if electric power is cut off, gas stations may not be operable.



## EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

For Flood Emergencies, Dial 911

To Report Flooding of Major Creeks:  
(510) 670-5500

**PG&E Emergencies**  
(downed wires, power lines, gas leaks)  
1-800-743-5000

## SANDBAG LOCATIONS

During storm events, empty sandbags and sand are available to **residents of unincorporated Alameda County** at the following locations:

### PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY MAINTENANCE & CORPORATION YARDS

951 Turner Court, Hayward

4825 Gleason Drive, Dublin

(Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Bring ID/proof of residency and shovel.

Sandbags are most effective when used to prevent flooding from one foot or less of water from entering a home or business through doorways and garage door openings.

Home improvement stores may also have sandbags for sale. Call stores ahead to ensure availability.



Public Works Agency  
— Alameda County —

399 Elmhurst Street, Hayward, CA 94544  
Phone (510) 670-5500  
EMAIL: [info@acpwa.org](mailto:info@acpwa.org)  
[www.acgov.org/pwa](http://www.acgov.org/pwa)

## FLOOD PREPAREDNESS AND STORM READINESS



Storm season begins in October and ends in March; however it is still possible to have heavy storms both before and after the storm season. The Alameda County Public Works Agency operates under the premise that a catastrophic weather front could impact Alameda County at any time and, therefore, consistently maintains elevated standards of preparation.

The Public Works Agency's Maintenance and Operations Department routinely provides the following preventive measures:

- Monitor and clear silt basins, storm drains, and flood channels
- Operate and maintain 24 pump stations throughout Alameda County
- Construct capital improvements to preserve or improve flood protection;
- Inspect County dams located at Cull Canyon, Don Castro, and Ward Creek, for debris and proper functioning.

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## FLOOD FACTS

- Floods and flash floods happen in all 50 states.
- Communities in Alameda County may experience some kind of flooding after heavy rainstorms and heavy thunderstorms. Floods can be slow or fast rising but generally develop over a period of days.
- Flood waters can be extremely dangerous. The force of six inches of swiftly moving water can knock people off their feet. The best protection during a flood is to leave the area and go to shelter on higher ground.
- A car can easily be carried away by just two feet of floodwater. If flood waters rise around a car, it should be abandoned. Passengers should climb to higher ground.
- Just an inch of water can cause costly damage to your property.

For Flood insurance information, visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)



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## BE PREPARED! KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE IN A FLOOD

Although flooding is rare in Alameda County, here are some ideas to help you and your family develop an emergency plan:

- **Share contact information** (home, business, school, day care) with your family and neighbor(s). Be sure your kids know who to call and how to dial 911 for emergency help. Also keep a designated contact out of state who can be reached by members of your family.
- **Plan ahead:** Where will you meet if you're separated? Do you have someone to stay with if you need to leave your home? What will you do with your pet?
- **Pack an emergency kit and make sure every family member knows where it is located.** Keep supplies in air-tight or water-proof bags. Keep a portable radio(s) or a hand-crank radio; an emergency supply of essential medicine, eye glasses or other vital support aids; cash, food, and batteries. If you need to leave, will you take important documents or valuables? If you have to evacuate, follow the instructions you are given. Tune your radio to KCBS 740 AM or KGO 810 for emergency instructions. If you cannot leave your home in a flood, move to the highest floor/level possible. Take dry warm clothes, flashlights, your radio, cell phone, a whistle – and your emergency kit.

Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for assistance with personal family emergency plans.

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## DURING A FLOOD – PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR HOME

Here's what you can do to stay safe during a flood:

- Listen to the radio for emergency instructions.
- **Do not walk, drive or swim through flooded areas.** They may be deeper than they appear and hold dangerous debris that you cannot see. Swift currents may develop quickly.
- **NEVER** try to drive through standing water.
- If you drive through hilly roads during a storm, **watch for road hazards** (i.e. washed out pavement, trees, power lines, mud, etc.)
- If flooding occurs, **go to higher ground** and avoid areas subject to flooding.
  - *Don't forget your pets.*
- If **water rises** in your home before you evacuate, go to the top floor, attic, or roof.
- **Do not attempt to walk across flowing streams.**
- **Keep children away from creeks and large drains** which can be deadly during storms.
- **Listen to a battery-operated radio** for the latest storm information.
- **Turn off all utilities** at the main power switch and **close the main gas valve** if advised to do so.
- If you've come in contact with flood waters, **wash your hands** with soap and disinfected water.
- **Wait for rescuers to come to you.**