

Forecasters say there is more than a **90%** chance of a very strong **El Niño** this fall and winter in Oceanside. The City of Oceanside is already working across Fire, Police, Public Works, and Engineering to prepare for storms before the rainy season starts.

What is an El Niño? The term El Niño (Spanish for "the Child") refers to a warming of the ocean surface, or above-average sea surface temperatures, in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. The low-level surface winds, which normally blow from east to west along the equator ("easterly winds"), instead weaken or, in some cases, start blowing the other direction (from west to east or "westerly winds").

What San Diego can Expect from an El Niño

- Heavier than usual rainfall – stronger winds, flooding
- Coastal impacts – Larger and stronger surf, beach erosion, coastal flooding
- Extreme heat
- Mudslides
- Power outages
- Infrastructure impacts
- Downed trees
- Travel challenges – Hazardous driving conditions, flooded roadways

City Preparations - The City of Oceanside, in coordination with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), closely monitors the San Luis Rey River before and during storm season. The City's Public Works team has been clearing storm drains and channels, as well as mowing the SRL River from College Blvd to Benet Road, in preparation for heavy rains. The City will be out checking for flooding during storm periods and have equipment and barricades ready in case any road closures are temporarily needed. Another team is standing by and ready to handle any downed trees or limbs in public streets. Should evacuations be issued, Oceanside PD Officers will drive through the affected area using the **HI-LO SIREN** so residents recognize it as a signal to evacuate, separate from a standard patrol siren.

Let's Get Prepared - Review your **EMERGENCY RED BINDER**

- Make sure valuables, documents and medications are "Ready-To-Go" with you.
- Have an evacuation plan. Know where you will go if you need to evacuate. The City will provide evacuation sites to go to as well.
- Sign up for emergency alerts. Sign up for Ready Oceanside by texting the word Oceanside to 67283, download Genasys Protect, Alert San Diego, Watch Duty
- Make sure your car is in good condition, check windshield wipers and tires.
- Monitor weather conditions through alerts and weather forecasts from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, The Weather Channel, National Weather Service

Drains and Gutters - Clean out your gutters of debris! Make sure your downspouts are positioned away from your house to prevent flooding of your patio areas and/or under your house. There are several companies that provide this service.

Roofs - Have your roof checked for loss of material, holes or other areas of potential leaks.

Sandbags - If your area is prone to flooding, use sandbags. Get them before a big storm, not during. Oceanside residents can pick up free sand and 10 free sandbags (bring a shovel) at Moody's El Corazon Recycling, 3210 Oceanside Boulevard, just east of El Camino Real. Bring a photo ID showing your Oceanside address. Pre-filled bags are often available for a nominal price. Moody's is open Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and often closes early in bad weather. Call ahead at (760) 433-3316.

The City's Engineering Division offers site visits and technical guidance to residents concerned about flooding or drainage on their property. Reach the division at engineeringstaff@oceansideca.org or (760) 435-4373, or review the City's [Flood Preparedness Information](#) online.

Insurance - **Our FLOOD ZONE is 06073C0752H Zone A99.** Most homeowners' insurance does not cover flood damage. Flood insurance is a separate policy. Check with your insurance company on coverage costs.

Prepare for Power Outages - These can disrupt communications and close businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, and ATMs. Download the SDG&E mobile app to check the outage map for power restoration estimates in your area. [SDG&E Mobile App Info](#). Go to a designated shelter if conditions become too cold or too hot. Turn off or disconnect appliances in case of a power surge when service is restored.

During a Storm - Avoid Unnecessary Travel. Wait until conditions improve. If you must travel, go slow, maintain a safe following distance and keep your headlights on. Brake gently and early to avoid skidding. If visibility is poor, pull over somewhere safe and wait it out. Roads can wash out or flood quickly. Turn around instead of driving through standing water. Even shallow floodwater can sweep a vehicle off the road. Stay Away from the Beach During Storm Surge and High Tide. If you encounter a downed power line, **Call SDG&E immediately at 800-411-7343** and report it.

For more information on flood/storm preparedness, go to:

<https://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/Home/Components/News/News/1042/>

For real-time monitoring of the San Luis Rey River, go to:

<https://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/government/development-services/engineering/flood-plain-management/property-flood-danger>