

NBSIA Member Services Safety Bulletin

November 2015

PREPARING FOR EL NIÑO STORMS



The National Weather Service is projecting the impending El Niño storm to be record-setting. Here's how you can prepare and protect yourself and your family this winter.

HOME

Find and Fix Leaks

Dry heat and drought may have caused leaks in wood structures. Have your roof inspected—and repaired.

Clean Gutters and Downspouts

Clean out debris; inspect for breaks and ensure gutters are tight against the roofline.

Invest in a Generator

A generator will help if power outages occur.

Paint Exterior Wood Trim

Cracked paint carries water directly into wood and promotes dry rot and termite invasion.

Examine Window Seals

Dry weather causes the glazing compound on windows to shrink and pull away from the glass, causing rain to get through. Check and re-caulk as needed.

Prepare for Pests

Winter entices creepy-crawlies indoors. Seal entry points for pests. If needed, have your home sprayed.

Store Emergency Materials

Store sandbags and heavy plastic sheeting in a dry place.

AUTO

Check Your Tires

Is it time for new tires? Tires should have 50% tread left. Properly inflate to help prevent hydroplaning.



Replace Windshield Wipers

Check Your Car Lights

Check your headlights, taillights, turn signals and interior lights. Replace as needed.

Check Your Brakes

This should be done regularly but it is especially important to inspect breaks before the rains come.

YARD AND OUTDOOR SPACES

Make Sure Your Yard Drains Properly

Dry, hard ground might cause drainage issues. Consider placing mulch in areas where water might puddle.

Turn Off Watering Systems When Appropriate

Trim Trees

Severe storms might knock down branches—or entire trees. Trim trees now to prevent property damage.

Secure Your Yard

Reinforce your fence, if needed. Tie down anything that might blow away. Put outdoor furniture into storage. Cover glass-top table with plywood secured with rope. Place potted plants in a sheltered area.

OTHER

Double-check Your Insurance Coverage

Consider flood insurance if you're in a high-risk area. Call your home-owners or renters insurance to see what is covered in the event of storm damage.

Secure Important Documents

Put birth certificates, passports, etc. in a safe, dry spot. Save them online or on a thumb drive for added security.

Create Disaster Kits

Make and store disaster kits for both your home and car. Go to www.ready.gov/build-a-kit for more information.



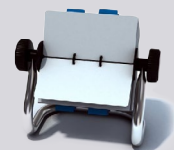
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Keep a copy of this bulletin in your Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) binder and be sure employees receive a copy.