



EL NIÑO PREPAREDNESS FACT SHEET

Be ready at home, at work, and in the communities we serve.

WHAT IS EL NIÑO?

A natural weather pattern in which the tropical Pacific Ocean warms above average. It brings wetter, stormy winters to parts of California, especially the southern and central regions. Impacts vary by location and storm.

CURRENT STATUS

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Organization (NOAA) has an El Niño Advisory in effect: **El Niño conditions are present.**
- Greater than 90% chance of a strong weather event this fall and winter (2026-27).
- Weather conditions may continue into Spring 2027.



Possible Impacts: Heavy rain and flooding • Landslides and debris flows, including in burn scar areas • Coastal erosion and high surf • Road closures and transportation disruptions • Power outages • Disruptions to services, supports, and care.

PREPARE YOURSELF AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD



- Build a kit: water, food, medications, flashlights, batteries, chargers, and copies of important documents.
- Make a plan: meeting places, out-of-area contact information, and evacuation routes.
- Stay informed: sign up for your county emergency alerts and know your flood and landslide risk.
- Protect your home: clear gutters and drains, and review flood insurance (standard policies often exclude flood).
- Know your role: talk with your supervisor about how to manage your work duties during an emergency.

PREPARE THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE

- Person-centered plans: encourage individuals and families to build emergency plans that support routines, and reflect communication, mobility, and sensory needs.
- Medical and daily living needs: plan for backup power for medical or assistive equipment, extra medications and supplies, dietary needs, and a list of providers and contacts.
- Evacuation and transportation: identify accessible transportation, shelter options, and who will help if roads close or power is out.
- Partners: coordinate with regional centers, service providers, and local emergency managers. Share plans and contact lists ahead of storms.
- Clear communication: share alerts and instructions in plain language, accessible formats, and multiple languages.



RESOURCES

- NOAA Climate Prediction Center ENSO updates: cpc.ncep.noaa.gov
- Ready.gov and Listos California: ready.gov • listoscalifornia.org
- Dial 211 for local help and shelter information; call 911 in an emergency.
- DDS: dds.ca.gov - Quick Links: [Emergency Preparedness](#)

