



SEVERE WEATHER AND STORM PREPAREDNESS

Extreme Cold And Winter Storms

Extreme temperatures often accompany a winter storm. You may have to cope with power failures, icy roads and inadequate heating in your home. Warming centers in Tulare County will be opened on extremely cold days, when the temperature is forecasted by the National Weather Services.

- Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel. Store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood if there is a fireplace or woodburning stove in your home.
- Insulate pipes and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- If the pipes freeze, remove any insulation or layers of newspapers and wrap pipes in rags. Completely open all faucets and pour hot water over the pipes, starting where they were most exposed to the cold (or where the cold was most likely to penetrate).
- Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).
- Know ahead of time what to do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.
- Prepare your car by checking or having a mechanic perform a winter season check. Make sure your car has a winter storm emergency kit, including blankets, snacks and medications in case you are temporarily stranded.
- Listen to your radio, television, NOAA Weather Radio, or an AlertTC notification for emergency information.



Tulare County Orange Grove Flood

Flooding

- Floods and flash floods can occur in all 50 states.
- Floods are one of the most common hazards in Tulare County. You should be aware of flood hazards in your community.
- Hurricanes, winter storms and snowmelt are common, but often overlooked, causes of flooding.
- New land development can increase flood risk, especially if the construction changes natural runoff paths.

What To Do In A Flood

- If a flash flood is possible, move immediately to higher ground.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control and possible stalling. A car can easily be carried away by just a foot of floodwater.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by chemicals or sewage or may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- If water is reported to be unsafe, fill the bathtub with water in case water becomes contaminated or services are cut off.

Where Can I Pick Up Sand Bags?

Check with your local county or city fire station. To look up the location and phone number of the closest county fire station, go to: www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/fire/battalion.asp or reference the 411 Directory in the back of this guide.