

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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CAL FIRE Urges Preparedness as a Winter Storm Approaches

Sacramento - CAL FIRE is urging California residents to take active steps to prepare for a significant winter storm expected to hit the Golden State this week. While it's too early to predict the exact impacts of the storm, [National Weather Service](#) meteorologists say the effects are expected to be statewide with localized flooding, snow accumulation at higher elevations and gusty winds.

The storm is already bringing rain to the northern part of the state. More significant storm activity is expected Wednesday through Friday of this week. "We have an active period of weather coming up across the state of California," said Eric Schoening, a meteorologist with National Weather Service. The storm comes after strong rains and flooding prompted Governor Gavin Newsom to issue [disaster declarations](#) for San Diego and Ventura counties.

CAL FIRE, cooperating agencies, and local officials are monitoring the storm and preparing to preposition resources such as swift water rescue teams and helicopters, should they be needed. During the winter 2023 storms and already in 2024, CAL FIRE has deployed units across the state to assist in protection and rescue efforts.

In many communities across the state, sandbags and sand are being made available to residents that may need them. Officials urge those in need to contact your local city, county, public works, or fire department to identify where sandbags can be picked up.

"CAL FIRE is taking all the necessary steps to prepare, but it's also important for residents to do the same," said CAL FIRE Deputy Director Nick Schuler. "Taking proactive steps like preparing an evacuation bag, fueling up your vehicle and having enough food and water for a couple days, is paramount should disaster strike in your community".

Here are a few storm preparation actions items:

Before the storm:

- Stay informed – Monitor weather forecasts and sign up for emergency alerts
- Pack an Emergency Kit – Food, water, flashlight, medication and important documents
- Evacuation Plan – Identify multiple routes to leave your area

During the storm:

- Stay indoors unless ordered to evacuate
- Observe road closures – Never attempt to walk or drive through flooded areas
- Communicate – Keep your phone charged, share regular updates with family
- Assist the Vulnerable – Check on your elderly and at-risk neighbors and family

B-roll footage and photos of CAL FIRE storm preparation can be found [HERE](#).