

Winter Storm

THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING PREPAREDNESS TIPS

BEFORE

- 1 Keep insurance policies, documents, and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.
- 2 Consider flood insurance if you are in a high-risk flood area. Regular homeowner's insurance policies don't cover flood damage.
- 3 Know safe routes from your home or office to high, safe ground.
- 4 Discuss emergency plans with your family.
- 5 Help prevent storm drain blockages by keeping leaves and other debris out of streets, gutters, and catch basins.
- 6 Store the following supplies at work, home and in your car in handy locations:
 - First aid kit and essential medicines
 - Food (packaged, dried, canned, or food for special diets)
 - Non-electric can opener
 - Cash (ATMs may not be working)
 - Portable radio, flashlights, and extra batteries (stored in water-tight plastic bag)
 - Drinking water stored in closed, clean containers (allow one gallon per person per day for at least three days)
- 7 Post emergency numbers near the telephone.
- 8 Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber and other emergency building materials handy for waterproofing.
- 9 If you need assistance during a flood, pre-arrange a contact person or volunteer to assist you during this time.
- 10 Keep your car fueled in the event filling stations are inoperable.

DURING

- 1 If advised by local authorities to leave your home, move to a safe area before access is cut off by floodwaters.
- 2 Do not try to drive across a flooded road—you could become stranded.
- 3 Use the telephone ONLY for emergency needs or to report dangerous conditions.
- 4 Tune to local radio or television stations for emergency information and instructions from local authorities.
- 5 If flooding is likely, and time permits, move valuable household possessions from off the floor.
- 6 If your car stalls, abandon it IMMEDIATELY and seek higher ground.
- 7 Before leaving, disconnect all electrical appliances and, if advised by the City of Palo Alto Utilities, shut off electric circuits at the main panel and gas service at the meter.
- 8 Do not try to enter areas blocked off by local authorities.

AFTER

- 1 Avoid disaster areas—your presence could hamper rescue and other emergency operations.
- 2 Do not use fresh foods or canned goods that have come in contact with floodwaters.
- 3 Follow local instructions regarding the safety of drinking water. If in doubt, boil or purify water before drinking.
- 4 Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines. Report them immediately to the City (see reverse side for phone numbers).
- 5 Use flashlights—NOT lanterns, matches, or candles—to examine buildings; flammables may be present.
- 6 Stay tuned to radio or television for information and instructions from local authorities.
- 7 Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas. If electrical equipment or appliances have been in contact with water, have them checked before use.
- 8 If your gas has been turned off because of a possible gas leak, DO NOT TURN GAS BACK ON YOURSELF. Wait for a City of Palo Alto Utilities crew.



Join PANDA!

Attend Palo Alto's Neighborhood Disaster Activities Training by Calling **617-3197**.

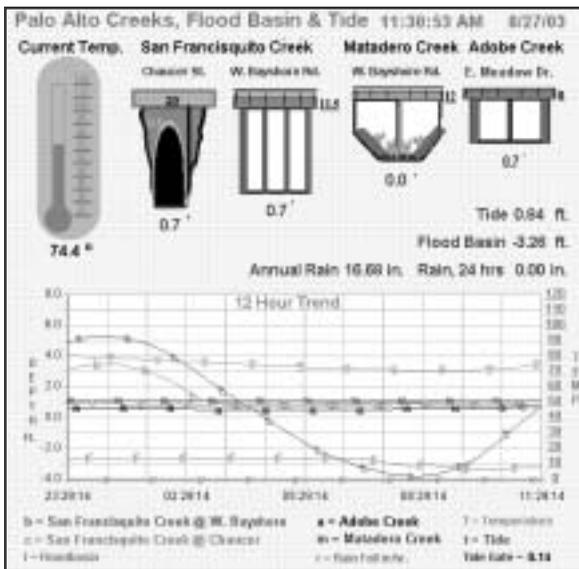
*Wherever you live, work, or travel, you should be aware of the dangers of winter storms and be prepared to cope with one. The Palo Alto Office of Emergency Services provides these tips for your safety. For more information on how you and your family can prepare for winter storms and other emergencies, call us at **617-3197**.*

Local Winter Storm Preparedness **Information**

It's hard to predict what this year's winter weather will bring, but one thing is certain: **IT PAYS TO BE PREPARED.** This flyer contains the City of Palo Alto's suggestions for things that you and your family can do to prepare for the very real possibility of flooding in our area.

Web-Based Weather Information:

Palo Alto residents with Internet access can monitor creek levels and local weather trends by checking the City's web site at www.cityofpaloalto.org. The image below depicts the typical information available on the web site.



If Flooding Is Present Or Imminent:

- Stay informed about weather conditions. Use the radio (tuned to KCBS 740 AM or KZSU 90.1 FM) as your primary source of information or instruction. Additional resources are located in the box below for your convenience.
- Make sure your family and pets are safe. Then, if time permits, move valuable household possessions off the floor.
- Report downed power lines, leaking gas lines or blocked storm drains to the City immediately using the phone numbers provided below.
- Be ready to evacuate if directed by emergency personnel.
- Share emergency information you may receive with your neighbors.



For more information about winter storm preparedness, call the Palo Alto Office of Emergency Services at **617-3197**.



Resource List

Flood Zone Information:

329-2151

www.cityofpaloalto.org/floodzones/welcome.html

Palo Alto flood alert information:

Radio stations: KCBS 740 AM
KZSU 90.1 FM

Fire/Police:

329-2413 (non-emergency)

911 (emergency only)

321-4433 (emergency number from cell phones)

Updates on Citywide emergencies:

329-2420 (taped message)

Real-time creek level information:

www.cityofpaloalto.org

Sandbag locations:

(Starting 11/15/03)

Palo Alto Airport
(end of Embarcadero Road)

Greer Park
(Colorado Avenue at West Bayshore Road)

Online weather information:

www.valleywater.org
www.wrh.noaa.gov/Monterey
www.kpix.com/weather

Blocked storm drains and mud slides:

Palo Alto Public Works
496-6974 (weekdays 7am-5pm)
329-2413 (after hours)

Gas/water leaks and sewer spills:

Palo Alto Communications
329-2579

Power outages and electrical problems:

Palo Alto Electric Operations
496-6914

Fallen trees:

Palo Alto Public Works
496-5953 (weekdays 7am-5pm)
329-2413 (after hours)

Road conditions:

Palo Alto 329-2420
(during flood emergency)
Caltrans (800) 427-7623

