

EL NIÑO PREPAREDNESS

Community preparedness information sourced from NOAA/NWS, County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, and other government agencies.



Be prepared to be on your own
for at least 72 hours.

1 BACKGROUND

El Niño is the warm phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), a natural climate pattern in the tropical Pacific. It can shift the jet stream and change seasonal rainfall patterns. Moderate to strong El Niño events typically increase the odds of wetter-than-average conditions in Southern California — but no single storm or wet winter is guaranteed.



HEAVY RAIN



FLOODING



DEBRIS
FLOWS



POWER
OUTAGES

2026–27 OUTLOOK

El Niño is strengthening.
There is a greater than 90%
chance of a very strong event
this fall and winter.

Prepare for impacts, not predictions.

2 HOW TO PREPARE

- **Stay informed.**
Sign up for govt. notifications, enable Wireless Emergency Alerts, and monitor NWS forecasts.
- **Know your risk.**
Use Cal OES MyHazards to check flood risk. Near recent burn areas or steep slopes, monitor mud and debris-flow information.
- **Make a plan.**
Discuss transportation options and evacuation routes, pick a meeting place and out-of-state contact.
- **Prepare your family.**
Plan for children, older adults, people with access and functional needs, and pets.
- **Protect your finances.**
Review insurance before storm season. Standard homeowners policies generally do not cover flood damage.
- **Prepare your home.**
Clear gutters, downspouts and drains. Check roofs and drainage paths, keep water moving away from buildings.
- **Prepare your vehicle.**
Check tires, brakes and windshield wipers. Avoid low-lying or flood-prone roads during storms.
- **Build a go-kit.**
Include water, food, medications, flashlights, batteries, chargers, important documents, cash and pet supplies.
- **Charge your devices.**
Charge phones and backup batteries before storm hits.
- **Act early.**
Follow evacuation warnings/orders. Avoid channels, debris basins, downed power lines and moving water.



TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN | Never walk or drive through floodwater.

Water may be deeper, faster, or hiding damaged roadway beneath the surface.

3 KEY RESOURCES

NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard

weather.gov/lox

Local forecasts, watches,
warnings and weather safety
information.

Ready LA County

[ready.lacounty.gov/rain/
alert.lacounty.gov](https://ready.lacounty.gov/rain/alert.lacounty.gov)

Sign up for emergency alerts
and notifications for LA County.

Ready LA

emergency.lacity.gov/rain
emergency.lacity.gov/notifyla

Sign up for emergency alerts
and notifications for City of LA.