



CITY OF RIVERSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 27, 2014
Contact: Anthony Coletta, Emergency Operations Manager
Phone: 951-320-8100 **Cell:** 951-237-9899 **Fax:** 951-320-8102
Email: acoletta@riversideca.gov

Riverside Prepares for Rainstorm; Offers Personal Preparedness Tips

RIVERSIDE CA, FEBRUARY 27, 2014 – A strong low-pressure system approaching from the Eastern Pacific is forecasted to bring long overdue rain to Riverside beginning Friday. This storm is expected to bring with it the first significant rainfall of the year. As a result, Riverside City officials are making final preparations to insure the city's readiness to respond to storm related emergencies.

City Preparations

- The city's 311 (non-emergency) and 911 (emergency) call centers are preparing for increased calls for city services
- The city's Emergency Operations Center is testing essential communications systems and updating storm response procedures
- Fire Department has readied its swift water rescue equipment for water related emergencies
- Police Department is preparing for increased calls for service and traffic related emergencies
- Public Utilities Department is inspecting power systems, water control channels, insuring the readiness of its vehicle fleet and assigning extra crews for emergency response
- Public Works Department is inspecting water control facilities, cleaning catch basins, preparing for debris clearing operations from roads and city property and assigning extra crews for emergency response
- Other city departments remain at the ready by insuring adequate staffing levels, updating emergency plans and procedures, and planning for increased demand for services

Public Sandbags

The Public Works Department has made emergency sand and sandbags available for residents non-commercial use during this storm event.

Sand and sandbags are available at the following locations:

1. City Corporation Yard 8095 Lincoln Street – across from the security hut
2. Fire Station #6 1077 Orange Street – adjoining lot next to station
3. Fire Station #7 10191 Cypress – adjoining lot next to station

Sand and sandbags are also available at all major hardware stores such as Lowes, Home Depot, and Ace Hardware.

Personal Preparedness

The City of Riverside Office of Emergency Management offers the following tips to help you stay safe during this storm.

- Never attempt to drive through flooded roadways. Nearly 50 percent of all flash flood fatalities nationwide involve vehicles. Saving your life can be as easy as turning your car around when you see water on the road. Turn Around Don't Drown.
- Do not attempt to cross flooded roads or streams on foot. As little as six inches of water can knock an adult off his or her feet. Furthermore, water may be flowing more rapidly than it appears.
- Never allow children to play near ditches and storm drains.
- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio or your local media for important weather related information and advice. If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Allow extra travel time during periods of heavy rain; expect road closures, detours and delays. Drive defensively, cautiously and be patient.
- Keep your car well maintained. Checking your windshield wipers, brakes and tires is advised. Keep an emergency kit in your trunk.
- If you are in your car and it is in contact with a downed line, stay in your car. Honk your horn and summon passerby's for help – but tell others to stay away from the vehicle. Call 911 if you have a cell phone.
- Never touch any downed utility lines. Consider even downed wires to be charged with electrical current or "live". If you see a downed utility line, call 911.

Additional information on the steps you can take to be ready for all types of emergency may be found on the city's emergency preparedness website at: <http://www.readyriverside.com>.

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