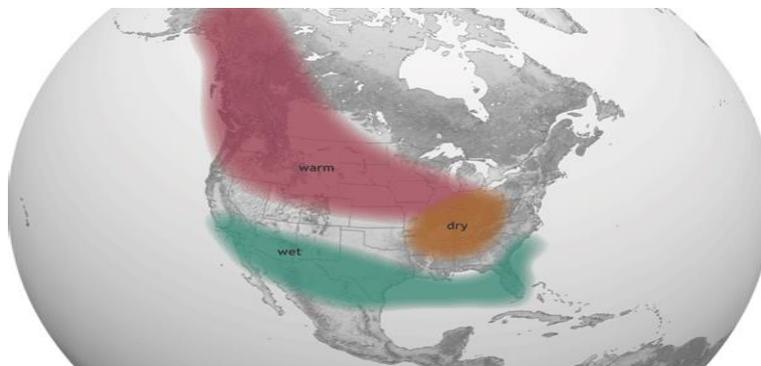


Tips to Prepare for El Niño 2015/16



What is El Niño?

“El Niño” is weather pattern created by the warming of equatorial Pacific waters. This warming is caused by a weakening of the trade winds that normally push sun-warmed waters to the west. An El Niño can produce increased rainfall and increases in the number of storms in California. Weather forecasters unanimously predict a strong El Niño that will continue through spring 2016.

What does this mean for Southern California?

The stretch between December and February is typically the wettest part of the year for California, and government forecasters predict there's an above average chance that most of the drought-parched state, particularly Southern California, could see significant precipitation this winter. Greater than average rainfalls can contribute to severe flooding, mud slides and other emergencies associated with wet weather.



What Should I Do to Prepare for El Niño?

- Be prepared for wet weather.** Have a sturdy umbrella, slip-resistant shoes, and a good rain coat.
- Drive carefully.** Turn on your headlight, leave in plenty of time and drive slowly. Wet weather hazards include hydroplaning, low visibility and wet brakes.
- Be prepared at home, in the office and on the road.** Have supplies! Have a plan. Severe wet weather can knock out power, block routes, and can create unforeseen hazards.
- Don't bring water indoors.** Wipe feet on entry mats. Carry a plastic bag to store wet umbrellas.
- Pay attention to the "Wet Floor" signs.** Walk carefully on wet surfaces. Use stair hand rails.
- Report wet, slippery conditions indoors.** Call the Facilities Help line at X4850.
- Move slowly and carefully.** Rain makes everything more slippery. Walk carefully, avoid climbing ladders and heights.
- Use the correct equipment.** Use properly outdoor rated tools with textured nonslip grip handles in wet weather.
- Stay Dry.** Wear appropriate rain gear.
- Wear appropriate non-slip footwear.** type.
- Be seen and see clearly.** Wear reflective vests or striping. Use anti-fogging eyewear.
- Drive in a covered utility or golf cart.** Drive a cart with a protective rain cover.

Helpful Links:

California Office of Emergency Services: <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/home>

National Weather Service: <http://alerts.weather.gov/cap/ca.php?x=1>

California Department of Transportation: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/>

*For additional information contact:
Safety and Risk Management Office
Administrative Services, Building 4
(909) 274-4230*