

Glenn County Sheriff's Office Office of Emergency Services

Commitment to Service, Dedication to Community **IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 9-1-1**

The Glenn County Sheriff's Office/Office of Emergency Services encourages all of the citizens of Glenn County to be prepared for the approaching winter season with its storms and high water levels or possible flooding.

NEVER DRIVE AROUND ROAD CLOSED SIGNS OR BARRICADES

In the event of mandatory evacuations you will be advised of:

- Safe routes for you to follow
- Locations of shelters
- Other actions you may need to take

We have several means of notifying you of emergencies and possible evacuations, they include:

- A prerecorded telephone message from the Sheriff's Department.
 - Local radio and television station announcements.
 - The Emergency Broadcast System.
- In the event of extreme cases and/or the inability to contact residents in another manner – we will go door to door.

On the following pages you will find pointers for you to follow in preparing for the upcoming winter weather, in addition we suggest that –

- You decide where your family will reunite after any disaster.
- Medication and portable oxygen tanks on hand for at least one week's dosage. (Make sure your prescriptions are current and refilled on a regular basis)
- Consider assembling a "GO BAG" which holds those items you are likely to need in the event a power outage or an evacuation such as a portable am/fm radio with extra batteries to listen to emergency broadcasts and weather information, non-perishables food stuffs, water, blankets, rain gear, warm clothing, personal hygiene items, and whistles for alerting help or locating each other.

Young children may be unsure of what could happen in the event of a severe storm or localized flooding. We hope that you will have the ability to reassure them by reviewing your preparedness with them. They will feel that they are a vital part of your plan if allowed to assist in your preparation activities such as contributing to your family's GO BAG. It is especially important that young children know their full names, address, and telephone number. If there are grandparents, other relatives, or close friends of the family in the area they should at least know their names.

We encourage you to keep emergency telephone numbers such as your local law enforcement agency, fire department, doctors, hospitals, and other health providers close at hand.

The following check points are provided to you courtesy of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and will give you and your family a routine to follow and methods by which you can be ready for power outages, severe winter storms, and floods.

Before the Storm

✓ Keep insurance policies, documents and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.

✓ Check your homeowners or renters insurance for flood insurance coverage--if none exists, purchase.

✓ Store supplies at work, home and car in handy locations:

- First aid kit and essential medicines.
- Food (packaged, dried, canned, or food for special diets.)
- Non-electric can opener.
- Keep some cash on hand. ATM machines may not be working.
- Portable radio, flashlights and extra batteries (stored in water-tight plastic bag.)
- Store drinking water in closed, clean containers in case water service is interrupted. Allow one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days.

✓ Keep your car fueled. If electric power is cut off, filling stations may not be able to operate. Know safe routes from your home or office to high, safe ground.

✓ Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber and other emergency building materials handy for waterproofing.

During the Storm

✓ Avoid areas that are subject to sudden flooding.

✓ Do not try to cross a flowing stream where water is above your knees. Even water as low as 6 inches deep may cause you to be swept away by strong currents.

✓ Do not try to drive over a flooded road. This may cause you to be both stranded and trapped.

✓ If your car stalls, abandon it IMMEDIATELY and seek higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.

✓ Do not sightsee in flooded areas. Do not try to enter areas blocked off by local authorities.

✓ Avoid unnecessary trips. If you must travel during the storm, dress in warm, loose layers of clothing. Advise others of your destination.

✓ Use the telephone ONLY for emergency needs or to report dangerous conditions.

✓ Tune to local radio or television stations for emergency information and instructions from local authorities.

✓ If flooding is likely, and time permits, move valuable household possessions to the upper floors of your home.

✓ If advised by local authorities to leave your home, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water. Establish an out-of- state family contact so that friends and relatives will know who to call to get information about where you are.

✓ Before leaving, disconnect all electrical appliances, and if advised by your local utility, shut off electric circuits at the fuse panel and gas service at the meter.

After the Storm

✓ DO NOT TURN GAS BACK ON YOURSELF. Rely on utility crews.

✓ Do not use fresh foods or canned goods that have come in contact with flood waters.

✓ Follow local instructions regarding the safety of drinking water. If in doubt, boil or purify water before drinking. Have wells pumped out and the water tested before drinking.

✓ Avoid disaster areas; your presence could hamper rescue and other emergency operations, and you may be in danger.

✓ 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.

✓ Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines. Report them immediately to the electric or gas company, police or fire department.

- ✓ Use flashlights NOT lanterns, matches or candles to examine buildings; flammables may be inside.
- ✓ Stay tuned to radio or television for information and instructions from local authorities.

Storms Can Kill

Winter storms in California can be deadly, causing flooding, flash floods, high coastal surf, mudslides, snowstorms and avalanches. Your city, county, and state Offices of Emergency Services have prepared these brief safety tips to help you prepare for a safe winter.

Wherever you live or travel, you should be aware of the dangers of winter storms and be prepared to cope with one. For more information on the history of flooding in your area, and how you and your family can prepare for winter, call your city or county Office of Emergency Services (in the Government section of the telephone book), or the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

Flood Insurance

Most homeowners insurance policies do NOT offer protection against flood losses. For information about flood insurance, call your local insurance agent, or call the National Flood Insurance Program at (888) Call-Flood.

Watches & Warnings: What to do

When a flood WATCH is issued

- ✓ Move valuable household possessions to the upper floors of your home.
- ✓ Fill your cars gas tank in the event an evacuation order is issued.

When a flood WARNING is issued

- ✓ Tune in for information and advice to local radio and TV stations.
- ✓ When told to evacuate, do so as quickly as possible.

When a flash flood WATCH is issued

- ✓ Watch for signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moments notice.

When a flash flood WARNING is issued

- ✓ If you believe flash flooding has begun, evacuate immediately as you may have only seconds to escape.
- ✓ Move to higher ground and away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades. These are placed to keep you out of harms way.
- ✓ If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.