



Winter Storm Preparedness Tips

It doesn't matter if you are at home or at work – winter storms can occur at any time. It is important to be aware of the weather and any alerts or warnings that the National Weather Service has issued.

Winter storms that occur in San Anselmo can cause flash floods, flooding, and mudslides. Following are some safety tips to help you be ready for the upcoming winter:

Before the Storm

Clear the drains around your home; including roof gutters, drain inlets, downspouts, pipes and drainage ditches.

Get furnaces and chimneys inspected once a year and cleaned or repaired if needed.

Rake up and bag leaves often and especially before storms. Leaves can clog the storm drains and cause water to back up which can cause local flooding.

Keep emergency supplies at work, at home and in your car, including:

- First aid kit and essential medications.
- Non perishable food:
- Cash (ATM's might not be working).
- Portable radio, flashlights and extra batteries.
- Drinking water for at least 3 days per person.
- Keep your car fueled.
- Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber and other emergency building materials handy.

Know your flood risk. Flood maps and elevations that describe areas of past inundation are available at www.surfsananselmo.org.

As the Storm Approaches

- Stay tuned to TV, radio broadcasts and Nixle alerts regarding the weather and storm developments.
- Ensure that your home or business is secured against storm damage.
- Be aware of storm developments as reported in the local media.

During the Storm

- Cancel all non-essential appointments. Try to remain at home.
- Avoid areas that are subject to flooding.
- Do not try to cross flowing water.
- Do not try to drive down a flooded road.
- If your car stalls, abandon it, if you can safely do so, and seek higher ground.
- Do not sightsee in flooded areas or try to enter areas blocked off by authorities.
- Tune to local radio or television stations for emergency information.
- Move possessions higher in your residence or business.
- Be prepared to evacuate, and if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

Emergency Notification Systems

During a flood emergency, telephone notification systems will be activated within affected areas per emergency services protocols.

Sign up to get Emergency alerts on your cell phone at www.alertmarin.org.

It is important that you do not rely on the telephone notification systems alone. Stay tuned to local radio and TV stations and watch for Nixle texts for up to date information. Sign up for Nixle texts at www.nixle.com.

Watch/Warning Terminology

- **A Flood Watch** is issued whenever flooding is considered a possibility (but is not certain or imminent).
- **A Flood Warning** is issued to warn the public that flooding is occurring or is imminent.
- **A Flash Flood Watch** indicates that flash flooding is a possibility in or close to the watch area.
- **A Flash Flood Warning** signifies a dangerous situation where rapid flooding of small streams or urban areas is imminent or is occurring.
- **An Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Advisory** alerts the public to flooding which is generally only an inconvenience (not life threatening) to those living in affected areas.

Flooding

From past experience we know that flooding is likely when:

- The ground is completely saturated (usually after 10-12 inches of rain has accumulated in the season) and a high percentage of the falling rain becomes runoff, and
- The lakes are full and are spilling water from spillways, and
- Six inches or more of rain falls in a 10–12 hour period.

San Anselmo Flood Horn

- When flooding appears to be imminent, Town staff will sound the Flood Horn with 5 blasts, a pause, 5 blasts, a pause, and 5 more blasts.
- **When you hear the flood horn, do not go to flood prone areas. Seek higher ground.**

During a Flood

- If you are indoors, stay tuned to TV and radio, and if without power, listen to a battery-operated radio for news and evacuate immediately if told to do so.
- If you are outdoors, climb to high ground and stay there. Avoid walking through any floodwaters.
- If you are in a car, don't drive through a flooded area and if your car stalls, abandon it.

Signs of Land Movement

- Doors or windows that jam for the first time.
- New cracks that appear in plaster, tile, brick, or foundations.
- Outside walls, walks, or stairs that begin pulling away from the building.
- Slowly developing, widening cracks that appear on the ground or on paved areas.
- Bulging ground that appears at the base of a slope.
- Water that breaks through the ground surface in new locations.
- Fences, retaining walls, utility poles, or trees that tilt or move.

If you notice any of these signs on your property, you may need professional assistance. Call 911 if you feel the situation is life threatening.

Useful Websites

More storm and flood resources:

www.surfsananselmo.org

Nixle Updates: <https://local.nixle.com/central-marin-police-authority/>

County of Marin:

http://www.marinsheriff.org/about.aspx?gi_id=60

National Weather Service: (A great resource for current warnings, watches, and forecasts)

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/>

More assistance: If you have questions or would like information about protecting your property, Public Works staff are available at Town Hall, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency ONLY 911

Central Marin Police non-emergency(415)927-5150

Ross Valley Fire Dept. (415)258-4686

Department of Public Works (415)258-4616

PG&E..... 1-800-743-5002

Cal Trans (roads).....511

Weather Forecast (831) 656-1725

Local AM and FM Radio Stations: KCBS 740 AM, 106.9 FM, KGO 810AM, KTID 100.9 FM & KQED 88.5 FM.