

What Is An El Niño ?

El Niño conditions are characterized by unusually warm ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific. El Niño conditions do not “cause” individual storms but rather **influence their frequency and characteristics**. This El Niño event is forecast to rival previous strong El Niño events, such as 1982/83 and 1997/98.

What does this mean for Oceanside? El Niño can bring increased and more frequent rainfall across San Diego County. The wet conditions are expected to extend January through April. Heavy and prolonged rains can cause mudslides, flash floods, and flooding in low lying areas.

It is critical to remember that the City of Oceanside is a coastal city subject to wave action, tidal and storm surge flooding from the Pacific Ocean, and is vulnerable to riverine flooding from San Luis Rey River, Loma Alta, Garrison, Buena Vista, Pilgrim Creeks and their tributaries. There are over 5000 properties and 3700 buildings in the City of Oceanside that are located in the **Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)**. Heavy rains during 2010 caused some property damage, several roads including Coast Highway at Buena Vista Lagoon and Center Street were impassable, and a mudslide damaged some houses on Skylark. The flood water was 3 feet deep at Coast Highway due to heavy rains and high tides. **Being prepared** is your best defense against such events.



City Engineering Division provides information and technical assistance regarding flood plain and drainage issues such as:

- Responding to citizen’s complaints on drainage or flooding problems. Providing site visits when requested to review flooded areas, drainage problems, and retro-fitting issues.
- Providing one-on-one advice during or after site visits on how to mitigate for flood damage, flood proofing, elevating buildings and other flood protection measures.
- Providing FIRM information such as determining flood zones, flood depth, base flood elevation, building elevation, data on historical flooding events, and copies of available elevation certificates.

Safety Tips During Floods

- **Do not attempt to drive, walk, or wade through deep pockets of water or running washes.** Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away.
- **If there is a chance of flash flooding, move immediately to higher ground.** Flash floods are the #1 cause of weather-related deaths in the US.
- **Avoid low-lying areas, ditches and unstable banks or slopes.** Leave the flooded area or seek shelter on the highest floor, attic, roof top, or area if possible.
- **If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is NOT moving, abandon the car and move to higher ground.** Do not leave the car and enter moving water.
- **Move valuable** furniture, appliances, memorabilia, important documents to higher floors when possible.
- **Avoid camping or parking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall.** These areas can flood quickly and with little warning.
- **Do not call 9-1-1 for information.** Listen to radio station KOGO/AM 600 for weather updates and emergency information or watch KOCT TV. Access information with your smartphone through the [SD Emergency App](#).
- **Call 2-1-1 San Diego for information.** 2-1-1 is a resource and information hub that connects people with health and disaster services via by phone or web.



**SD EMERGENCY:
The Must-Have
Preparedness App**



Stay Informed

For more information about flood safety or the National Flood Insurance Program go to www.floodsmart.gov.

For information and technical assistance regarding flood maps, insurance, drainage problems, permit issue, reporting illegal dumping, and grading, contact

City of Oceanside, Development Services, Engineering Division at (760) 435-3950.

For Reverse 9-1-1 Cell Phone notification, Self Register at: ReadySanDiego.org



For further information, contact:

www.elnino.noaa.gov

www.readysandiego.org/el-nino/

www.211SanDiego.org

www.readyoceanside.org

Stay Connected—Follow us



Oceanside Fire Department / City of Oceanside



@Oceanside_Fire / @CityofOceanside

Do Not Dump it is against the law

Floodplains are a natural component of the City environment. They are part of the City’s drainage system to provide flood storage and conveyance, to reduce flood velocity, erosion, and deposition of sediments and to improve groundwater recharge. Floodplains are a scenic, valued wildlife habitat, and suitable for farming.

It is illegal to dump trash, chemicals, leaves, landscape debris, paint, grease, or any other material into any portion of the City’s drainage system, along the rivers and beaches. Such dumping can have devastating impacts on the natural flood plain function, water quality, habitat areas, in addition to causing flooding, and it is a violation of City Ordinance No. 40.1.2. To report drainage problems, obstructions, or illegal dumping, please contact Storm Water Maintenance at (760) 435-5800 or check City website at <http://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/qov/water/clean/report.asp>

Floods & El Niño EMERGENCY INFORMATION



*City of Oceanside
Disaster Preparedness*

Before a Flood: Be Flood Ready!

Know your flood risk. Are you in the flood zone? Low lying areas in the City along the Pacific Ocean, the rivers, and the creeks are particularly exposed to potential flooding. Such areas are usually identified as flood zone areas on the **Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)** published by the **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**. Copies of FIRMs are available at the City's Engineering Division or they can be viewed on www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/engineering. To find out if you live in a flood hazard area, go to www.msc.fema.gov.

Consider purchasing flood insurance. Standard homeowner's insurance policies **DO NOT** usually cover losses from flooding. A separate flood insurance policy may be required to cover damages incurred by flooding to a building and its contents.

Just a couple of inches of flooding can cost thousands of dollars in damages. Tenants may also buy flood insurance against flood loss. Note: There is generally a 30-day waiting period before coverage goes into effect.

More than 25 percent of **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)** claims are filed by properties located outside the **Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)**. Contact the City or your insurance agency for more information. Flood insurance information is also available at <http://www.Floodsmart.gov>.

The City Of Oceanside participates in the Community Rating System (CRS), which enables residents to receive a discount on their flood insurance.

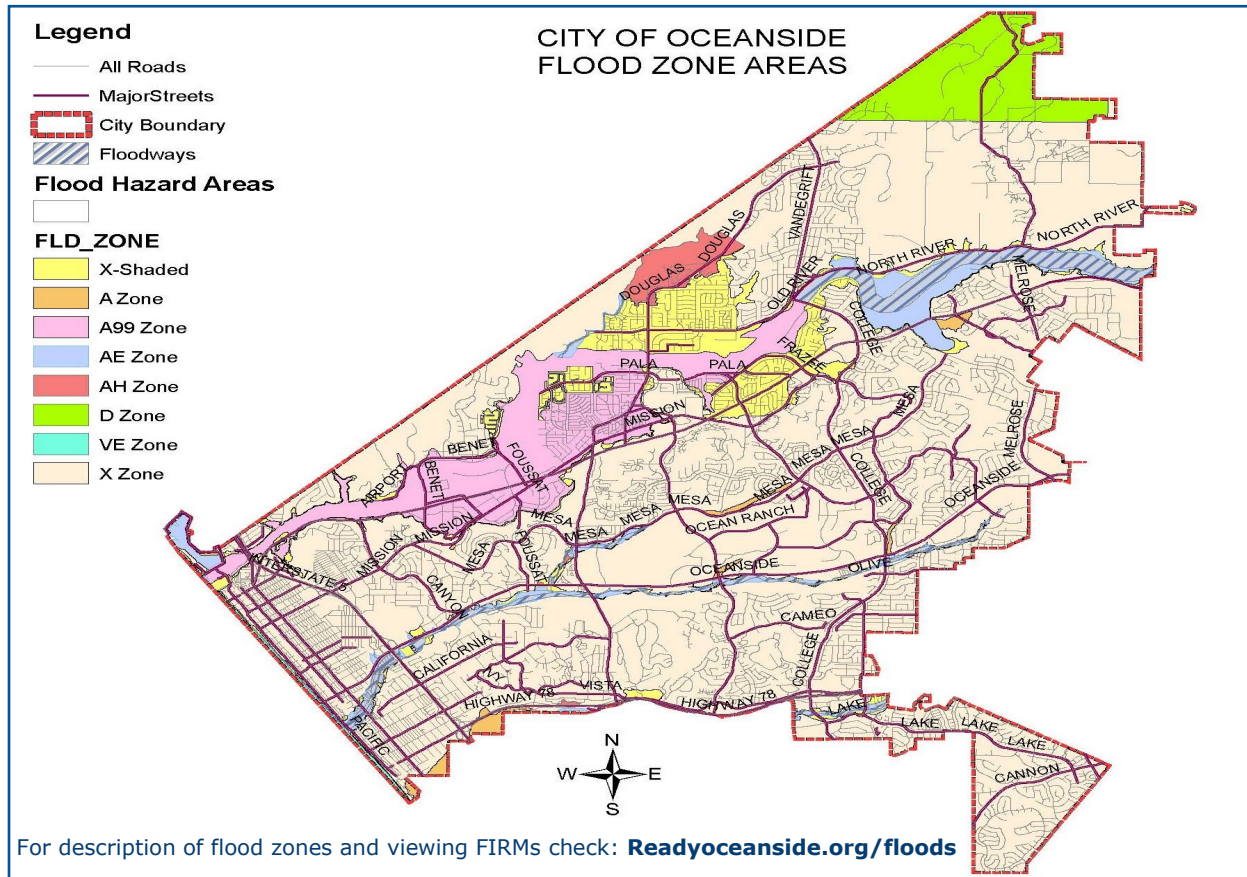
Know The Flood Warning System

Flood Watch	Flooding is possible
Flash Flood Watch	Flooding is possible with little or no warning
Flood Warning	Flooding is imminent (it may take several hours/days to occur)
Flash Flood Warning	Flash flooding is imminent & precautions should be taken.

National Weather Service (NWS) Alerts Flood watches, warnings, & forecast services are issued by (NWS). Listen to local radio stations for up-to-date information & instructions: (KOGO 600) or TV stations (KOCT 18 & 19).

How Can I Prepare?

Make a flood emergency plan. Have an out of area contact person. Develop an emergency list of family members, doctors, and insurance agents contact numbers. Fill out a *Family Disaster Plan and Personal Survival Guide* NOW, available at readysandiego.org/family.



Register your cell phone with AlertSanDiego (Reverse 9-1-1) to receive emergency notifications.

Educate your children about flooding and other hazards such as dangers of fires, earthquakes, and tsunamis. Talk to them about safety, family emergency plan, how and when to call 911, police, fire, or other family members.

Build an emergency preparedness kit of non-perishable food, water, blankets, clothes, batteries, flashlights, a manual can opener, battery-operated radio, cash, medication, copies of prescriptions and important documents, and place it in a waterproof back pack and store in a safe and easy place to reach.

Set up a plan for your pet. Pets may not be permitted in the shelters. Include pet carrier, leash, food, water, medications, & vaccination records in your emergency kit.

Inventory, video, and photograph the content in your home. It will be very useful if you have to claim a loss with your insurance company.

Protect your property from the hazards of flooding by:

Elevating the building above **BFE** "Base Flood Elevation" (elevation of a 100-year flood, based on the FIRM), if possible.

Keep water away from the building by: re-grading the lot, building flood walls, or earthen berms. Use waterproof materials and place water tight closures over the openings.

Elevate or locate electrical panel, furnace, water heater, washer/dryer (all major equipment) above BFE.

Protect and restrict the flow of flood water to lower levels, basements, and garages.

If a flood is imminent, protect the building by sand-bagging areas subject to the entry of water such as the entrance to the basements and vent openings.

After a Flood:

- Listen to the radio for emergency instructions.
- Avoid driving if possible.

- Return home only when authorities say it is safe
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded and watch out for debris, washed-out roads.
- Do not attempt to drive through areas that are still flooded.
- Avoid standing water as it may be polluted or electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- If your house is damaged, do not enter until it is permitted to do so.
- Photograph damage to your property for insurance purposes.
- Before making improvements or doing any construction or repairs, contact the City Building and Engineering Divisions for required permits at (760) 435-3950, or 760-435-5086 or send an e-mail to: engineeringstaff@ci.oceanside.ca.us.
- Hire only licensed and insured contractors to repair and rebuild damaged buildings.

Meet improvement requirements.

National Flood Insurance Program requires that all new and substantially improved buildings in SFHA meet FEMA development requirements. All new buildings including room additions in the SFHA need to be elevated above **Base Flood Elevation**. If the cost of reconstruction, additions, or other improvements to an existing building in the SFHA equals or exceeds 50% of the building's market value, then the existing building must meet the same construction requirements as a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standards. For example, a residence damaged from fire or flood so that the cost of repairs equals or exceeds 50% of the building's value before it was damaged must be elevated above the BFE.

Meet permitting requirements. All development within the city, particularly in the floodplain, requires a permit. Always check and fulfill permit requirements with the Development Services Department before you build on, alter, fill, or re-grade any portion of your property and/or within any easement or road way.

Report any unpermitted building and grading activity by calling the City at (760) 435-3950.