CalHHS
California Health & Human Services Agency



What is El Niño?

- El Niño is a natural weather pattern caused by warmer ocean water in the Pacific. It can increase the chance of strong storms in parts of California.
- Strong storms can bring heavy rain, flooding, landslides, power outages, road closures, and disruptions to services and care.
- El Niño increases the risk of severe weather, but it does not guarantee that every area will be affected.

What is the State of Emergency?

- The Governor declared a State of Emergency to help California **prepare before severe weather happens.**
- The State of Emergency helps California:
  - Plan with local and tribal governments and share information.
  - Get needed supplies, equipment, and services faster.
  - Move flood-fighting supplies and other resources where they may be needed.
  - Speed up work that can reduce flooding, landslides, and other risks.
- **The State of Emergency does not mean a disaster has already happened.** It also does not automatically provide disaster assistance or financial help to individuals and families.

What should I do?

You can take a few simple steps now.

- **Stay Informed.** Sign up for local emergency alerts, pay attention to weather forecasts, and follow instructions from local officials.
- **Make a Plan.** Think about where you would go and how you would get there if you needed to leave your home.
- **Plan for Daily Needs.** Think about medications, medical equipment, transportation, pets, communication needs, and anything else you rely on each day.
- **Stay Alert During Storms.** Flooding can happen in places that have not flooded before. Never drive through floodwater.
- **Know Where to Get Help.** Call 211 for information about local services and resources. Call 911 in an emergency.

View the **Proclamation of the State of Emergency.**