The L.A. County Fire Dept. reminds you: in rainstorms, flood control channels and rivers can quickly fill with fast-moving water, creating a potentially life-threatening danger. We urge you to listen to local radio and t.v. stations or to NOAA Weather Radio <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/> or visit the EDIS website <http://edis.oes.ca.gov/> for the latest weather or emergency information.

**FLOOD PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS TIPS:**

Make sure all drains, gutters, and downspouts are working correctly.

Keep ground-level drains and drainage areas (ditches, small channels) free of debris.

Move valuable or easily damaged items away from low-lying areas that may be prone to flooding.

Identify and collect important documents that you may need in case of evacuation.

Contact your insurance agent to verify that your flood and storm coverage is sufficient and in effect.

Review your Family Emergency Plan and prepare an emergency kit that includes food, water, medications, flashlight, battery-powered radio, rain gear, and first aid supplies.

Plan for the needs of your pets in case you are evacuated.

Keep your vehicle fueled in case power is cutoff to local gas stations.

Identify the safe routes from your home or work to high ground.

Establish out-of-state family contacts so friends and relatives can determine your location and status.

If necessary, consult an engineer or licensed contractor to design or build permanent water and debris control systems for your property.

Landscape slope areas with plants that are fire retardant and suitable for erosion control.

Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber, hand tools, and other materials ready if you have storm water problems.
WHAT IF YOU NEED SANDBAGS?

Obtain sandbags from local fire station [http://gis.dpw.lacounty.gov/sandbags/] to provide for water or mud diversion. Construct a wall using no more than 25 bags (in excess of 25 bags may require engineering advice to ensure proper placement and usage). To find your closest L.A. County fire station providing sandbags: [http://gis.dpw.lacounty.gov/sandbags](http://gis.dpw.lacounty.gov/sandbags)

TIPS FOR PERSONAL SAFETY DURING A FLOOD:

Do not “sightsee.” Do not to play or linger near flood control channels and storm drains.

Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be deceptive. 6 inches of moving water can knock you off your feet and cause drowning.

Do not drive through a flooded area. Do not drive around road barriers because the road or bridge may be washed out. Do not follow a fire engine through flooded areas—they are better able to maneuver in flooded areas that passenger vehicles cannot.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Electrical currents can travel through water and electrocute you. Report downed power lines to your electrical utility company.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU FALL IN MOVING WATER?

Avoid getting into this dangerous situation.

Remain calm. Don’t waste energy yelling for help after someone has spotted you.

Get ready to be rescued.

Try to float on your back with your legs straight and your feet pointed downstream.

Use your legs to shove yourself away from obstructions.

Keep your head up so that you can see where you are going.

Watch for obstacles and debris! If a tree or other stationary object is blocking the channel, forcing water over it, try to flip over on your stomach and approach the obstacle head-on, crawling over the top of it.
Most victims in swift water die when they get pinned against obstacles or get trapped in submerged debris and vegetation.

WHAT IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL INTO MOVING WATER?

Immediately call 9-1-1. Give accurate information about where and when you saw the victim and what the victim was wearing.

Do not go into the water after the victim.

Do not try to pull the victim out with your hands, rope, or similar way. Do not attach anything to yourself and toss it to a victim in the water. The force of the current will pull you in.

If possible, throw a floatation device to the victim, such as a boogie board, styrofoam ice chest, basketball, or other unattached object.

Though members of your L.A. County Fire Department are specially trained and equipped to respond to water rescues, not every victim survives. For that we reason, we remind you that when it comes to swift moving water: Stay Away and Stay Alive!