

## **Flood Preparations**

The recent floods in Louisiana and Iowa are good and timely reminders for us to review our storm preparedness. With the storm season a few weeks away and, we know from recent experience that many neighborhoods in Sunnyvale experienced localized flooding during the intense storm of December 11, 2014. City staff has been hard at work cleaning more than 4,200 catch basins, ensuring the two existing storm pump stations are ready for any upcoming winter season.

Intense storm events can overwhelm any urban storm water system. While the City is working to mitigate flooding, property owners share the responsibility for minimizing the risk of flood damage caused by rain. For more information on how you can prepare for storms visit [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov) . FEMA's low-cost National Flood Insurance Program is also available to all Sunnyvale's homeowners, renters, and businesses. Visit <https://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart> for additional information.

In Sunnyvale winter storms can cause floods, uprooted trees, and downed or broken utility lines in almost any neighborhood. The City has prepared safety tips to help you have a safe winter and protect yourself and your property. For all emergencies, call 9-1-1. To report clogged catch basins or localized flooding, call 408-730-7400. To report downed trees or tree limbs, call 408-730-7506.

### **How to prepare for the next storm:**

- Be aware of low-elevation spots that could flood.
- Store emergency items such as first-aid kits, flashlights and portable radios in a safe, high place.
- 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.
- Consider installing a back-flow prevention device if any of your inside drains or fixtures are lower than the side sewer vent on the sidewalk.
- Prepare written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn them back on.)

### **During the storm:**

- If water has entered a garage or basement, do not walk through it.
- If you are asked to leave your property, disconnect all electrical appliances.
- Tune to local radio and TV channels for emergency advisories and instructions.
- Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines.

### **After the storm: DO NOT TURN GAS BACK ON YOURSELF – Call PG&E 800-743-5000.**

- Avoid direct contact with floodwater. Wear protective clothing, including heavy gloves, to remove wet materials that may be contaminated.
- Follow local instructions regarding the safety of drinking water.
- Do not use fresh foods or canned goods that have come in contact with floodwaters.
- Flooded buildings should be pumped out, disinfected and dried as quickly as possible to prevent mold.
- Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas. Have them checked before use.