



# WINTER IS COMING... ARE YOU PREPARED? GET FLOOD WISE, MARIN!

## BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE STORM

Marin County has a long history of flooding. The mountainous geography that makes our area so beautiful also makes us susceptible to flooding, especially during the rainy winter months. In our history, the rain storms of 1986, 1998, 2005, and 2006 caused significant damage. Our creeks can overflow and cause flooding, especially when combined with high tides or blocked drainage systems. During El Niño years, tides are expected to be higher and result in tidal flooding along the shoreline.

**You are receiving this brochure because your property is in or near a flood-prone area. Preparation is key.**

## BEFORE A BIG STORM

### KNOW YOUR FLOOD HAZARD

Do you know if your property is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area? Find out by calling your community Public Works Department for your flood coordinator. Unincorporated Marin County flood information is available at **415-473-3755** and you can visit the website **www.marinmap.org**.

### PROTECT YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY



Have you signed up to receive emergency alerts? If you live, work or go to school in Marin County, and are 18 years old and over, you can register to receive emergency alerts sent from the

County of Marin by phone, text, email, or even an app on a smart phone. Emergency officials use the Alert Marin System to deliver incident-specific information or potentially life-saving instructions to the precise geographic area(s) affected. To register, go to **www.AlertMarin.org**.

Preparing makes  
good sense.

- know your risk
- make a plan
- get a safety kit
- get involved
- stay informed



Merchants prepare for stormy weather by protecting storefronts with sandbags and floodgates.

## PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES

Did you know local street flooding is often caused by blockage of local drainage systems? If leaves and other waste block the flow of water into storm drains, what starts as a puddle can soon flood a whole street. Debris and waste that washes through the drainage system can cause environmental damage to our creeks and the San Francisco Bay.

- Instead of leaving yard debris in the street, keep our creeks and stormwater drainage systems clear by composting leaves and organic yard debris, which could obstruct the flow of water. Composting not only protects our storm drains, but also benefits our communities and the environment.



- Protect our communities and our sensitive waterways and habitat by preventing hazardous waste from going into the storm drain. Take your chemicals, paints, and motor oil to a local recycling facility ([www.zerowastemarin.org](http://www.zerowastemarin.org)).

## COUNTY FLOODPLAIN INFORMATION SERVICES

Did you know that the County of Marin provides free services? As a public service, County of Marin staff will provide basic information from the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). Contact your community representative for additional flood information, such as known drainage issues, levee or dam inundation areas, areas of predicted flooding areas due to sea level rise, and areas of repetitive loss as reported to FEMA. Staff is available to perform site visits, provide information on reducing flood risk, and available financial assistance. The Marin County Department of Public Works maintains copies of elevation certificates for unincorporated areas. Build in accordance with County codes and FEMA recommendations for flood protection, and get required permits for work.

If you live in unincorporated areas of Marin County, and have any questions or would like additional information, visit our Land Development offices located in Room 308 and the Marin County Civic Center, 3501 Civic Center Drive in San Rafael. Or you can call us at **415-473-3755**, email [DPWLandDevEngineer@MarinCounty.org](mailto:DPWLandDevEngineer@MarinCounty.org) and visit our website [www.marinwatersheds.org](http://www.marinwatersheds.org).

If you live within one of our cities or towns, please contact your local Public Works Department for your flood representative.

## INSURE YOUR PROPERTY

Did you know that homeowner's insurance does not cover flood damage? Flooding is not covered by standard insurance policies. Whether you are a property owner or renter, a flood insurance policy is critical to protecting your home or business. Even a few inches of water can result in thousands of dollars in repair and restoration costs. Marin County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which makes federally backed insurance available for all structures. Contact your insurance agency for more information or visit the website [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov).



**During times of heavy rain, be observant of flooding in your neighborhood and report any problems to your city or county.**

## DURING THE STORM

- **Tune to local radio or television stations for emergency information.**
- **Avoid areas that are subject to sudden flooding.**
- **If you are in a car, do not drive through a flooded area. If your car stalls, abandon it, if you can safely do so, and seek higher ground.**
- **Please do not cross a flowing stream where water is above your knees. Even water as low as 6 inches deep may cause you to be swept away by strong currents.**
- **Do not sightsee in flooded areas or try to enter areas blocked off by authorities.**
- **If flooding is likely, and time permits, move valuable possessions to the upper floors in your residence or business.**
- **Be prepared to evacuate, and if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.**

## AFTER THE STORM

- **Do not turn gas back on by yourself. Please rely on utility crews.**
- **Do not use fresh foods or canned goods that have come in contact with flood water.**
- **Follow local instructions regarding the safety of drinking water. If in doubt, boil or purify water before drinking.**
- **Avoid disaster areas; your presence could hamper rescue and other emergency operations, and you may be in danger.**
- **Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas. If electrical equipment or appliances have been in contact with water, have them checked before use.**
- **Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines. Report them immediately to the electric or gas company, police or fire department.**
- **Use flashlights but not lanterns, matches or candles, to examine buildings because flammables may be inside.**

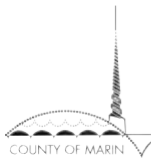
## PREPARATION CHECKLIST

Use the checklist below to track how close you are to getting FLOOD WISE. Post this checklist on your refrigerator and check off the items as you complete them.

- Register your cell number with [www.Alert.Marin.org](http://www.Alert.Marin.org)
- Know your flood hazard
- Insure your property
- Make a family emergency plan visit [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan)
- Create a safety kit with drinking water, canned food, first aid supplies, blankets, radio, flashlight, and batteries
- Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to be your emergency contact
- Create a personal flood file with a copy of insurance policies
- Keep an inventory of household items and valuables
- Mark your fuse box to show circuits to floodable areas
- Install HVAC equipment and proper ventilation above the base flood elevation
- Clean the drains around your home; including roof gutters, drain inlets, downspouts, pipes, and drainage ditches
- Keep our creeks and storm water drainage systems clear by always removing leaves and debris
- Tune to local radio or television stations for emergency information.
- Be prepared to evacuate, and if advised to evacuate, do so immediately

Thank you for taking the time to read these safety tips to help prepare and protect you, your loved ones, and our communities from the risk of a flood.

If you require materials in alternate forms, please call 415-473-4381(voice), CRS 711 or email [disabilityaccess@marincounty.org](mailto:disabilityaccess@marincounty.org).

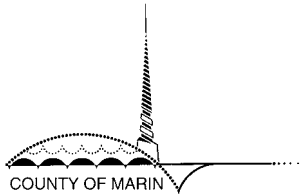


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PO Box 4186  
San Rafael, CA 94913-4186  
[www.marincounty.org](http://www.marincounty.org)

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
COUNTY OF MARIN

**This mailing is sent to the listed property owner. Please distribute to onsite tenants for their preparedness information and use.**



**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

FEMA [www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart](http://www.floodsmart.gov/floodsmart)

Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation [www.marincounty.org/depts/pw/divisions/flood-control](http://www.marincounty.org/depts/pw/divisions/flood-control)

Marin County Watershed Program [www.marinwatersheds.org](http://www.marinwatersheds.org)

Marin County [www.marincounty.org](http://www.marincounty.org)

National Weather Service [www.floodsafety.noaa.gov](http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov)

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

For unincorporated area of Marin

Marin County Public Works, Land Development [415-473-3755](tel:415-473-3755)

Marin County Community Development, Building & Safety [415-473-6550](tel:415-473-6550)

\* For residents of cities and towns, please contact your community Public Works Department for more information.

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION:**

Real time rainfall, creek stage, and weather data [www.Marin.OneRain.com](http://www.Marin.OneRain.com)

Marin County Sheriff Office of Emergency Services [www.marinsheriff.org](http://www.marinsheriff.org)

Alert Marin [www.AlertMarin.org](http://www.AlertMarin.org)

Get Ready [www.ready.gov/floods](http://www.ready.gov/floods)

**LOCAL PUBLIC WORKS**

**DEPARTMENT CONTACTS:**

Listed from Southern Marin to North Marin

Sausalito [415-289-4113](tel:415-289-4113)

Mill Valley [415-384-4800](tel:415-384-4800)

Tiburon [415-435-7399](tel:415-435-7399)

Corte Madera [415-927-5057](tel:415-927-5057)

Larkspur [415-927-5017](tel:415-927-5017)

San Rafael [415-485-3355](tel:415-485-3355)

Ross [415-453-1453](tel:415-453-1453)

San Anselmo [415-258-4654](tel:415-258-4654)

Fairfax [415-458-2370](tel:415-458-2370)

Novato [415-899-8246](tel:415-899-8246)