

# Prepare for Winter Storms

**Even though we are in a drought**, flooding can happen. Extreme dry conditions can harden the ground. Within the first few days of heavy rain, the ground can deflect water into streams and creeks, increasing the chances of flash flooding. It can strike quickly with little or no warning.

Floodwater can flow swiftly through neighborhoods and away from streams when creeks “overbank” or flood. Dangerously fast-moving floodwaters can flow thousands of feet away from the flooded creek within minutes.

Santa Clara County has had several damaging floods over the years. Visit our website to learn how you can protect your family and property during floods:

[www.valleywater.org/Services/FloodProtection.aspx](http://www.valleywater.org/Services/FloodProtection.aspx)

**Report street flooding or blocked storm drains or contact your local floodplain manager to learn if your home is in a floodplain:**

Campbell	408.866.2145	Mountain View	650.903.6329
Cupertino	408.777.3269	Palo Alto	650.496.6974
Cupertino (after hours)	408.299.2507	San Jose	408.794.1900
Gilroy	408.846.0451	San Jose (after hours)	408.277.8956
Los Altos	650.947.2785	Santa Clara	408.615.3080
Los Altos (after hours)	650.947.2827	Santa Clara (after hours)	408.615.5640
Los Altos Hills	650.941.7222	Saratoga	408.868.1245
Los Gatos	408.399.5770	Saratoga (after hours)	408.299.2507
Milpitas	408.586.2600	Sunnyvale	408.730.7415
Milpitas (after hours)	408.586.2400	Unincorporated	408.299.5700
Monte Sereno	408.354.7635	Water District	408.630.2378
Morgan Hill	408.776.7333		



## WHAT TO DO

Protect your family and property from flooding

### before

- Consider flood insurance. Typically, there’s a 30-day waiting period from date of purchase before your policy goes into effect.
- Prepare a family emergency plan and emergency kit for your home and car with supplies. Store important documents and valuables in a safe deposit box. Visit for more information:
  - 1) [www.redcross.org/prepare](http://www.redcross.org/prepare)
  - 2) [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan)
  - 3) [www.californiavolunteers.org/familyplan](http://www.californiavolunteers.org/familyplan)
- Designate a family meeting spot.
- Examine your house for cracks in the foundation, exterior walls and small openings around pipes. Seal them.
- Keep rain gutters and drainage channels free of debris.



Download the free Flood App!  
Visit [www.redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps/flood](http://www.redcross.org/prepare/mobile-apps/flood)

Text **“GETFLOOD”** to **90999**  
or search **“Red Cross Flood”** in the Apple App Store or Google Play.

### during

- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If a flood is imminent, avoid low-lying areas and seek shelter in the highest area possible.
- Tune to radio station KCBS (740 AM) for emergency information.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground. A foot of water will cause many vehicles to float. Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles, including SUVs and pick-ups.



Sign up for the free “Alert SCC” Santa Clara County emergency alert system at [www.alertscc.com](http://www.alertscc.com)

### after

- Listen for news reports on whether the community’s water supply is safe to drink.
- Never drive through flooded roadways. Play it smart, play it safe. Whether driving or walking, any time you come to a flooded area, **Turn Around Don’t Drown®**. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgn9RVau2QI> Don’t walk, swim, drive or play in floodwater.
- Oil, gasoline or raw sewage may have contaminated the water. Underground or downed power lines may also have electrically charged the water.
- Stay away from downed power lines and report them to your power company.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.

Santa Clara Valley  
Water District



### CONTACT US

See trash or downed trees in a creek? Want to report dumping or other problems? Let us know. Use our Access Valley Water customer request and information system to submit requests directly to a water district staff person. Go to [Valleywater.org](http://Valleywater.org) or download the **Access Valley Water App**.

# Be FloodSafe with sandbags





## BE PREPARED

Residents need to monitor water levels in creeks and storm drains near their homes as we enter the wet weather season. Major flood protection projects have been completed in Santa Clara County since 1982, but urban flooding can still occur along other portions of the rivers and creeks. Overflowing storm drains also can cause serious flooding.

Flooding in the Santa Clara Valley can occur with little warning. Heavy winter rains can cause flooding in minutes. The heaviest rains and flooding are most likely to occur between December and March, so now's the time to begin preparing.

For questions on sandbags, wet weather checklist and other information visit us online at [www.valleywater.org/sandbags/](http://www.valleywater.org/sandbags/)

## MAP LEGEND

-  Creeks, rivers and reservoirs
-  Flood prone areas
-  City/County public works yards
-  Water district maintained sites



## SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT SANDBAG STATIONS

**FILLED SANDBAGS. AVAILABLE LATE NOVEMBER THROUGH APRIL. AT CERTAIN TIMES, SITES MAY BE STOCKED WITH SAND AND EMPTY BAGS. BRING YOUR OWN SHOVEL. SITES OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK. BAGS MAY BE HEAVY, CONSIDER BRINGING ASSISTANCE TO LOAD BAGS.**

- A Palo Alto:** 1925 Embarcadero Road, adjacent to Palo Alto Air Terminal
- B Alviso:** Northeast corner of Gold and Catherine streets
- C San Jose:** City Main Yard, 1404 Mabury Road (self fill, sand and empty bags are provided)
- D San Jose:** City Central Service Yard, 1661 Senter Road at Phelan Avenue
- E San Jose:** Santa Clara Valley Water District Winfield Warehouse, 5905 Winfield Boulevard, between Blossom Hill Road and Coleman Avenue – bag pickup street access only
- F Morgan Hill:** El Toro Fire Station, 18300 Old Monterey Road, next to the Union Pacific Railroad overpass above Monterey Highway

## OTHER SOURCES OF UNFILLED SANDBAGS

**UNFILLED SANDBAGS. BRING YOUR OWN SHOVEL. EMPTY BAGS SUPPLIED BY THE WATER DISTRICT. CONSIDER BRINGING ASSISTANCE TO FILL AND LOAD BAGS. PROOF OF RESIDENCY MAY BE REQUIRED AT SOME SITES. CHECK INDIVIDUAL SITES FOR OPERATING HOURS.**

- 1 Palo Alto:** Mitchell Park, 600 E. Meadow Drive near baseball field. Bags and sand available all day. (650) 496-6974, after hours: (650) 329-2413
- 2 Milpitas:** 540 S. Abel Street. Additional bags located at the Sports Center at 1325 E. Calaveras Blvd. (408) 586-2643, after hours: (408) 586-2400. BOTH sites will have sand and bags 24/7.
- 3 Mountain View:** Public Services, 231 N. Whisman Ave. (Located at Whisman Rd. and Gladys Ave.) (650) 903-6329, after hours: (650) 903-6395. Bags and sand available all day at parking lot.
- 4 Los Altos:** Municipal Service Center, 707 Fremont Ave. at McKenzie Park parking lot. Bags and sand available all day. (650) 947-2785, after hours: (650) 947-2770
- 5 Los Altos Hills:** Corporation Yard, 27500 Purissima Rd. at Little League Field at little league field, (650) 941-7222, Mon.- Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- 6 Cupertino:** City Corporation Yard, 10555 Mary Ave. Bags and sand available all day. (408) 777-3269, Mon. - Fri. 6 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., after hours: County Communications (408) 299-2507
- 7 Sunnyvale:** Corporation Yard, 221 Commercial St. at end of California Street. Bags and sand available all day. (408) 730-7510, Mon. - Fri. 6:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., after hours: (408) 730-7180

- 8 Santa Clara:** City Corporation Yard, 1700 Walsh Ave. (408) 615-3080, after hours: (408) 615-5640. Available 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. inside gate (Must call first. Sandbags)
- 9 San Jose:** County East Yard, 1505 Schallenger Rd., Mon. - Fri., 7:30 am. - 4 p.m. (408) 494-2750, after hours: County Communications (408) 299-2507
- 10 San Jose:** County West Yard, 11030 Doyle Rd., bags and sand available anytime outside gate. (408) 366-3100, after hours: County Communications (408) 299-2507
- 11 San Jose:** City West Yard, 5090 Williams Road, filled sandbags available anytime outside gate. (408) 277-4373
- 12 San Jose:** City South Yard, 4420 Monterey Rd. at Skyway Drive, filled sandbags available anytime outside gate. (408) 361-6818
- 13 Los Gatos/Monte Sereno:** 41 Miles Avenue at Balzer Field parking lot (Monte Sereno citizens pick up at Los Gatos site), bags and sand available anytime at lot. (408) 399-5770, after hours: (408) 354-8600
- 14 Saratoga:** Corporation Yard, 19700 Allendale Ave., near Post Office, bags and sand available anytime outside gate. (408) 868-1245, after hours: County Communications (408) 299-2507
- 15 Campbell:** City Corporation Yard, 290 South Dillon Ave., (408) 866-2145, Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- 16 Morgan Hill:** City Corporation Yard, 100 Edes Ct., Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., open all day, bags and sand available anytime outside gate. (408) 776-7333, after hours (408) 779-2101
- 17 Gilroy:** Fire Station, 7070 Chestnut St. at 10th Street, bags and sand available in the parking lot behind fire station. (408) 846-0451, after hours: (408) 846-0350 (leave msg)
- 18 Palo Alto:** Rinconada Park Tennis Court Parking Lot (intersection of Hopkins Avenue and Newell Road). (650) 496-6974, after hours: (650) 329-2413