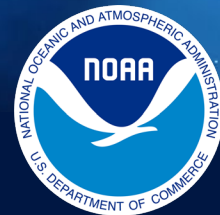


El Niño Preparedness Town Hall



cityofirvine.gov/berainready



El Niño Outlook

Current Status: El Niño Advisory

National Weather Service SGX

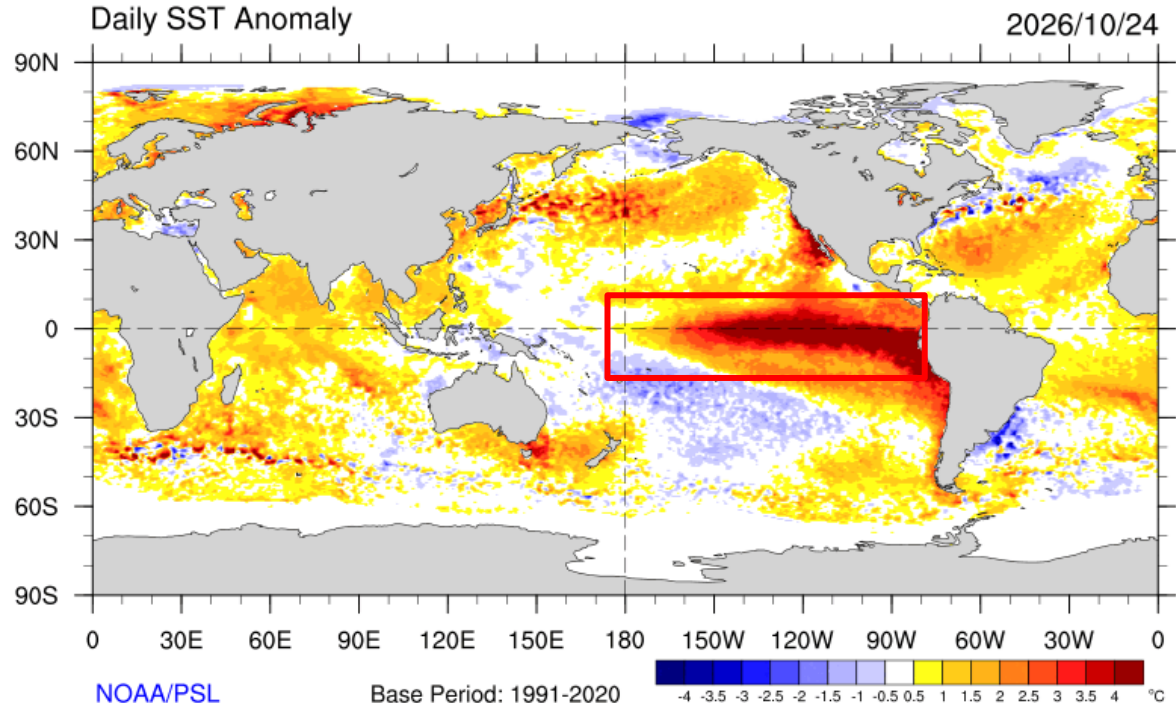
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service



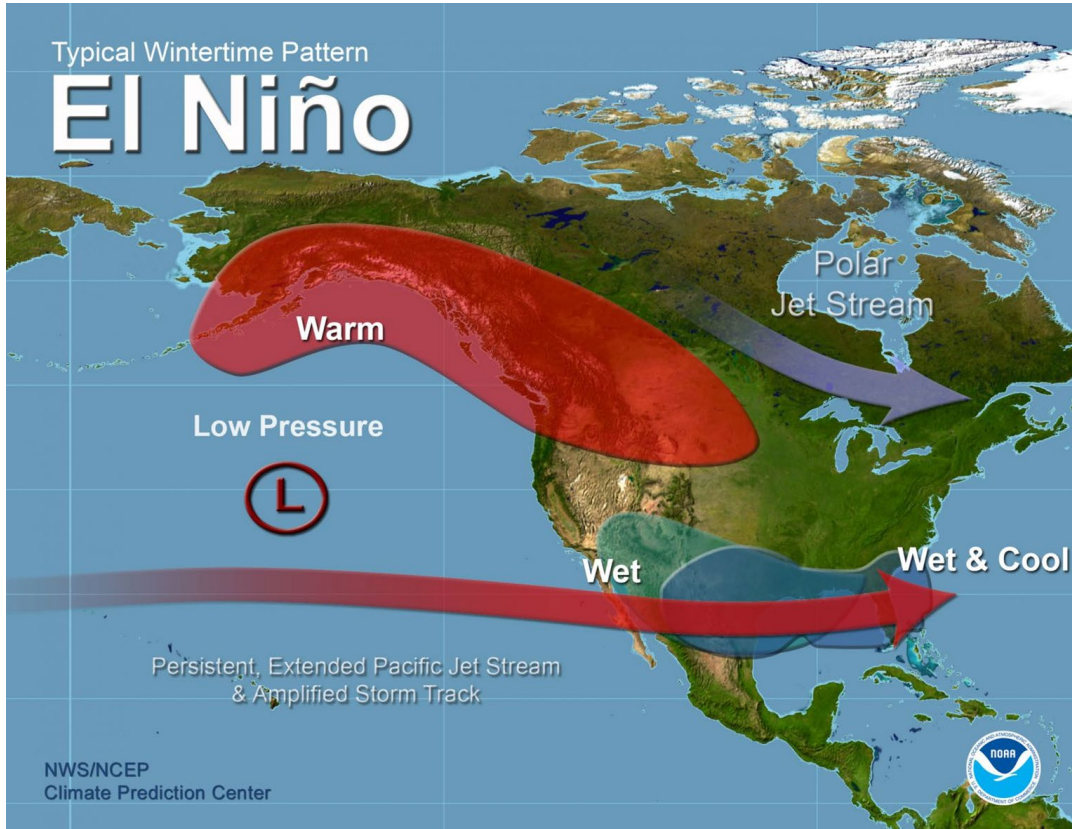
Weekly SST: **NOT** a direct correlation with Atmosphere

El Niño is an **Oceanic**
Phenomenon

The Outcome is **Far From**
Certain!



El Niño North American Impacts and what this means for Southern California



- During El Niño years, but especially during Strong El Niño like 2026-2027, Southern California, favor above normal precipitation.
- The odds are for a wetter late fall and winter 2026-2027 for Southern California.
- Remember: El Niño is one predictor.
- More updates and higher confidence as we approach this winter season.

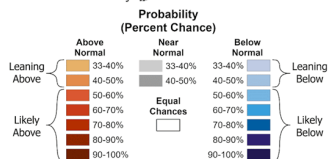
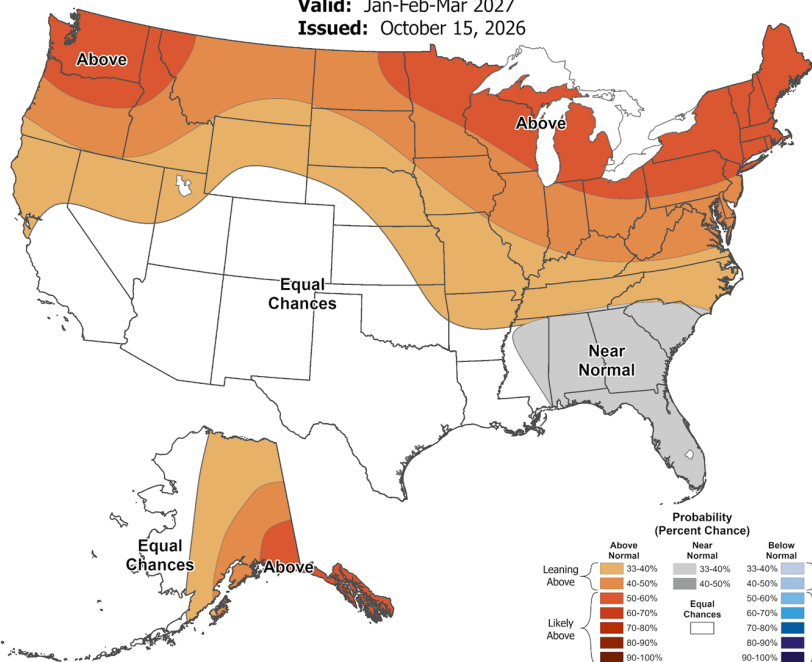


Winter Temperature & Precipitation Outlook

Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Jan-Feb-Mar 2027

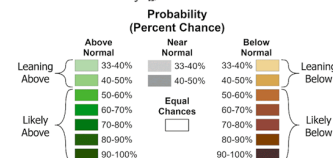
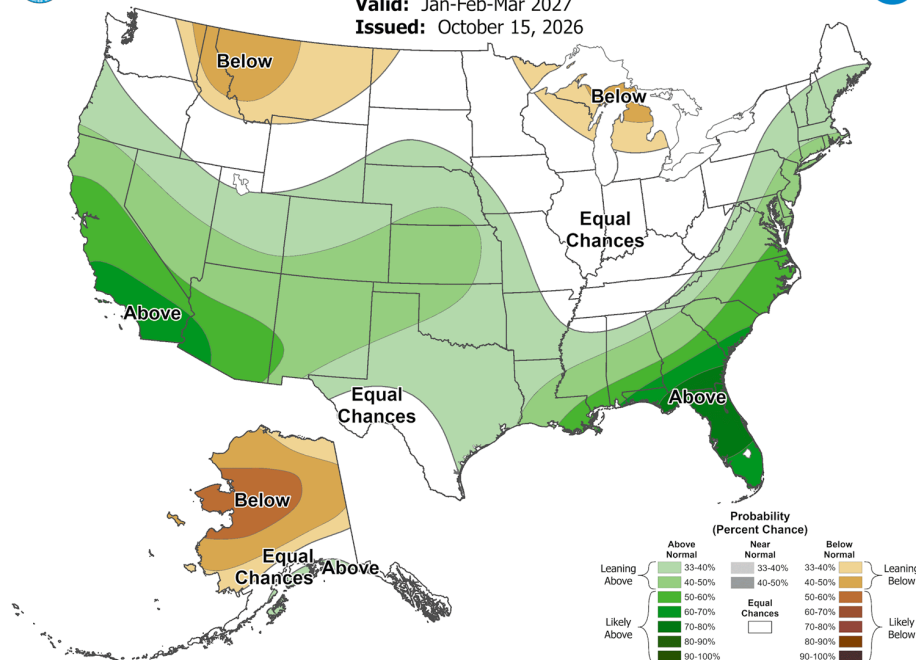
Issued: October 15, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Jan-Feb-Mar 2027

Issued: October 15, 2026





El Niño Impacts across Southern California



Low Confidence Impacts



- Flash flooding
- Debris flows
- Thunderstorms
- Wind damage

Remember, local impacts are dependent on individual or series of atmospheric river storms! We cannot predict that seasons in advance.



Moderate Confidence Impacts



- Coastal flooding
- Beach erosion

Here's why:

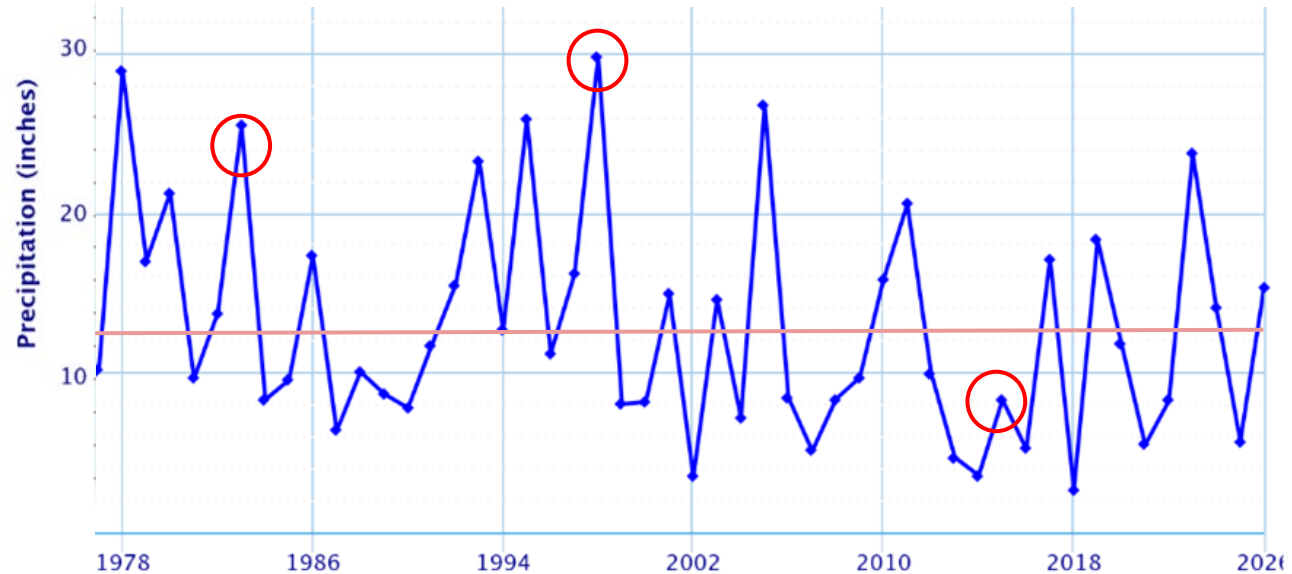
- Thermal expansion of the ocean
- King tides
- Coastally trapped Kelvin Waves
- Winter swells



Orange County Past “Super” El Nino’s

El nino research is relatively new in science. Since we started reliably recording SST's in the equatorial Pacific (1950), there have been three “very strong” El Nino Events: **1982-1983, 1997-1998** and **2015-2016**.

The first two brought rain over **200%** of average. The last was below average.



Data from



Seasonal Impactful Rain - 1997/1998

December

5.35 in (248% of avg)

6 days of rain

Date	Max Temperature	Min Temperature	Precipitation
1997-12-01	M	M	0.00
1997-12-02	70	52	0.00
1997-12-03	71	49	0.00
1997-12-04	72	50	0.00
1997-12-05	70	53	0.00
1997-12-06	M	40	3.47
1997-12-07	64	52	1.02
1997-12-08	63	M	0.18
1997-12-09	68	40	0.00
1997-12-10	68	38	0.00
1997-12-11	67	35	0.00
1997-12-12	68	52	0.00
1997-12-13	72	40	0.00
1997-12-14	72	42	0.00
1997-12-15	68	54	0.00
1997-12-16	77	49	0.00
1997-12-17	75	47	0.00
1997-12-18	68	52	0.60
1997-12-19	69	51	0.05
1997-12-20	69	46	0.00
1997-12-21	65	49	0.03
1997-12-22	66	38	0.00
1997-12-23	66	41	0.00
1997-12-24	64	44	0.00
1997-12-25	59	59	0.00
1997-12-26	67	46	0.00
1997-12-27	71	40	0.00
1997-12-28	77	37	0.00
1997-12-29	81	52	0.00
1997-12-30	80	54	0.00
1997-12-31	80	52	0.00

January

2.68 in (135% of avg)

12 days of rain

Date	Max Temperature	Min Temperature	Precipitation
1998-01-01	76	50	0.00
1998-01-02	74	52	0.00
1998-01-03	65	54	0.11
1998-01-04	64	46	0.05
1998-01-05	64	41	0.20
1998-01-06	65	44	0.00
1998-01-07	67	43	0.00
1998-01-08	67	49	0.00
1998-01-09	63	54	0.26
1998-01-10	62	53	0.54
1998-01-11	66	53	0.01
1998-01-12	64	49	T
1998-01-13	69	56	0.07
1998-01-14	68	48	0.00
1998-01-15	66	51	0.00
1998-01-16	70	57	0.02
1998-01-17	71	51	T
1998-01-18	68	57	0.00
1998-01-19	66	53	0.11
1998-01-20	66	46	0.01
1998-01-21	67	M	0.00
1998-01-22	71	44	0.00
1998-01-23	71	44	0.00
1998-01-24	69	46	0.00
1998-01-25	77	46	0.00
1998-01-26	73	49	0.00
1998-01-27	70	49	0.00
1998-01-28	68	48	0.00
1998-01-29	69	52	0.68
1998-01-30	69	48	0.00
1998-01-31	68	52	0.13

February

7.65 in (348% of avg)

15 days of rain

Date	Max Temperature	Min Temperature	Precipitation
1998-02-01	M	M	0.00
1998-02-02	67	56	0.00
1998-02-03	65	52	1.80
1998-02-04	68	46	0.35
1998-02-05	64	50	0.00
1998-02-06	63	52	0.90
1998-02-07	64	48	0.18
1998-02-08	65	52	2.30
1998-02-09	64	46	0.59
1998-02-10	69	46	0.00
1998-02-11	65	49	0.00
1998-02-12	68	49	0.00
1998-02-13	66	50	0.01
1998-02-14	64	53	1.76
1998-02-15	64	47	0.54
1998-02-16	64	44	0.00
1998-02-17	65	48	0.56
1998-02-18	66	42	0.00
1998-02-19	66	47	0.56
1998-02-20	64	44	0.73
1998-02-21	64	46	T
1998-02-22	68	51	1.13
1998-02-23	65	50	0.15
1998-02-24	63	46	2.43
1998-02-25	67	43	0.00
1998-02-26	66	46	0.00
1998-02-27	67	46	0.00
1998-02-28	72	47	0.00



Climate Signals vs. Short-Range Storm Forecasting



Seasonal Backdrop vs. Individual Storms: Think of El Niño as the seasonal backdrop rather than an actual weather event. While it influences our broad climate patterns over time, *it isn't a storm itself—meaning it doesn't control when, where, or how strong individual storms will be.*



How to be weather ready for this El Niño winter (and winter weather in general)

El Niño - How to be weather ready?

El Niño Shifting Actions Timeline



Plan Ahead

1-5 Day Outlooks



Hazardous Weather Cycle

Be Prepared

Watches - Hours

Tornado Watch

Valid Until
8:00 PM CDT Thursday
May 15, 2025

Threat Information

TORNADOES
A few Tornadoes
Likely

HAIL
Scattered Hail Up To
Apple Size Likely

WIND
Scattered Gusts
Up To 70 MPH Likely

Potential Exposure

Population: 5,124,283
Schools: 263
Hospitals: 117



Take Action!

Warnings - Minutes

Tornado Warning

Valid Until
4:30 PM CDT Thursday
May 15, 2025

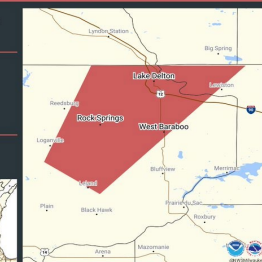
Threat Information

TORNADO
Radar Indicated

HAIL
Quarter
Size Possible

Potential Exposure

Population: 25,355
Schools: 9
Hospitals: 0



Stage 1: Outlook

Review NWS Products and Services daily.

Typically issued several days out

Have a plan and know what to do in the event hazardous weather strikes. Make sure you have emergency supplies.

Have a Plan!

Daily

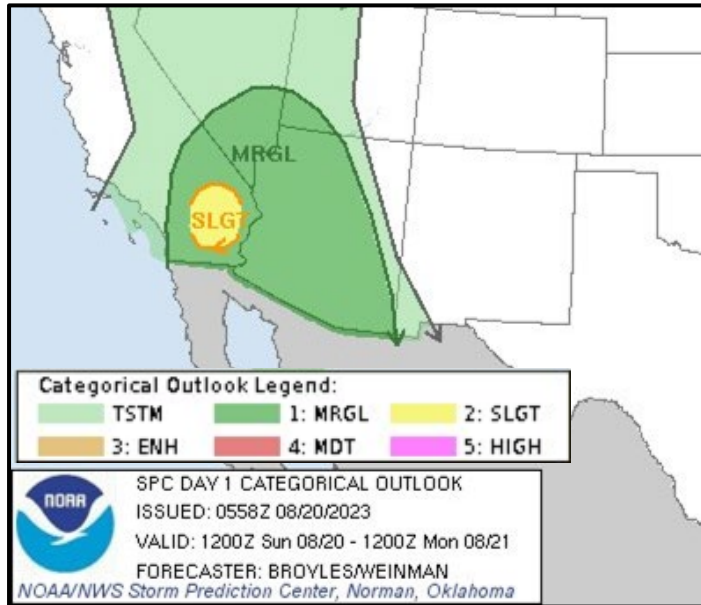


**Hazardous
Weather
Cycle**

NWS National Centers

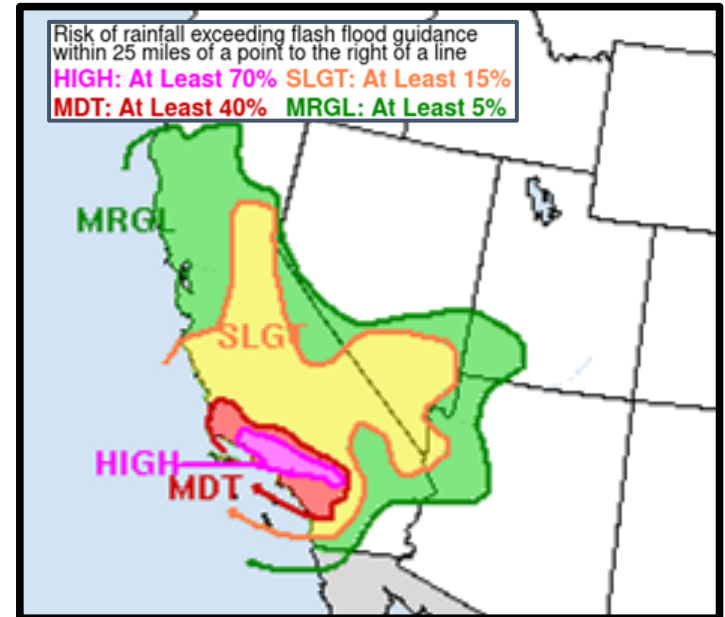
Storm Prediction Center

www.spc.noaa.gov



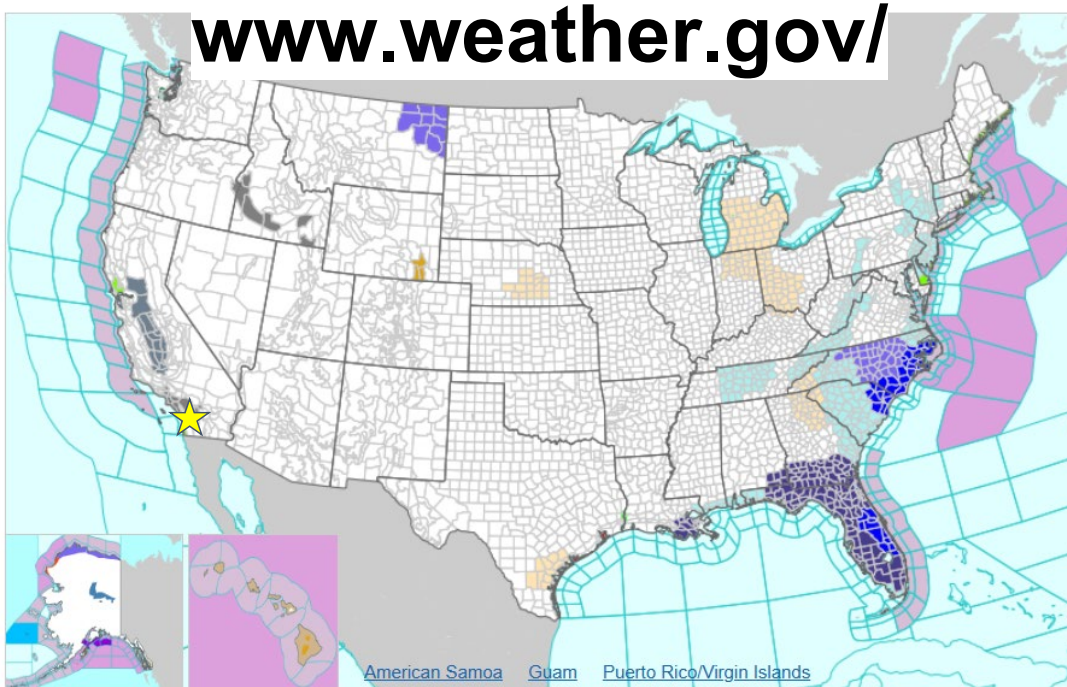
Weather Prediction Center

www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov



NWS Forecast Offices, Your LOCAL Resources

ACTIVE ALERTS FORECAST MAPS RADAR RIVERS, LAKES, RAINFALL AIR QUALITY SATELLITE CURRENT



- Each NWS Office has a website to get more information about the current and upcoming weather.
- Don't know the office where you may be traveling? Visit www.weather.gov and click on the map over your location.

Local Office Example:
www.weather.gov/sgx

Stage 1: Outlook

Review NWS Products and Services.

Have a plan and know what to do in the event hazardous weather strikes.
Make sure you have emergency supplies.

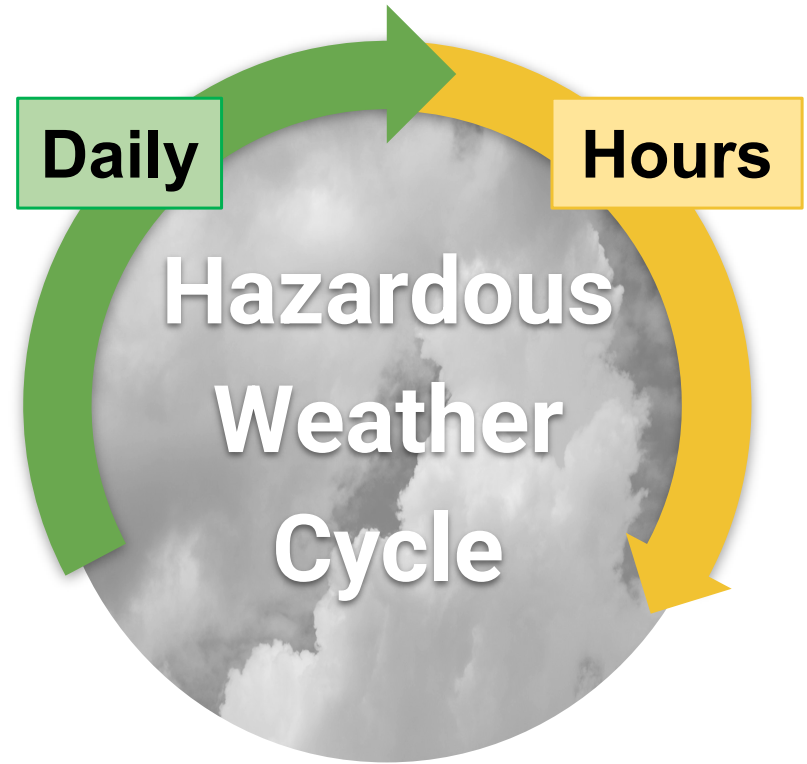
Have a Plan!

Stage 2: Watch

Monitor Watches, NWS Graphical Forecasts,
Radar.

Stay informed and monitor closely for
warnings

Be Prepared!



NWS Watches (relevant to this winter)

High Wind Watch

Primary Hazards: Strong, damaging winds

Additional Hazards: Blowing dust/reduced visibility



Flood Watch

Can be issued for river flooding, long-fused flooding, flash flooding

Water flowing over roadways

A rapid, life/property threatening rise in water



Severe Thunderstorm Watch

Primary Hazards: Damaging Wind Gusts and Large Hail

Additional Hazards: Flash Flooding, Tornadoes



Stage 1: Outlook

Review NWS Products and Services.

Have a plan and know what to do in the event hazardous weather strikes.
Make sure you have emergency supplies.

Have a Plan!

Stage 2: Watch

Monitor SPC Mesoscale Discussions and Severe Weather Watches, NWS Graphical Forecasts, Radar.

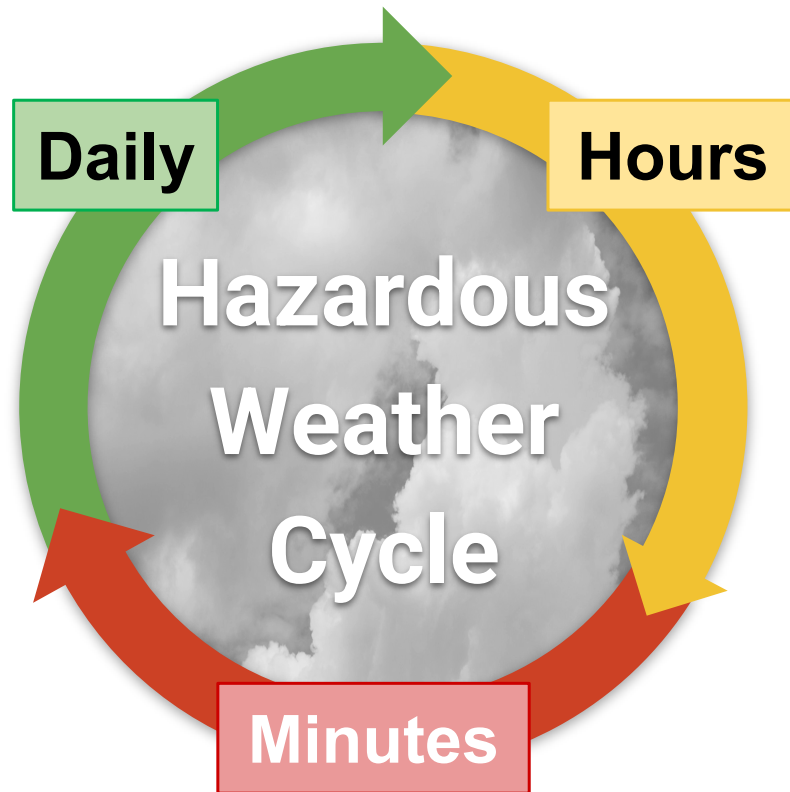
Stay informed and monitor closely for warnings

Be Prepared!

Stage 3: Warning

When a warning is issued or in effect for your area, it is time to act or take shelter!

Take action & seek shelter now!



NWS Warnings (Hazard is imminent or occurring - TAKE ACTION)

High Wind Warning

Primary Hazards: Strong, damaging winds
Additional Hazards: Blowing dust/reduced visibility



Flood or Flash Flood Warning

6" or more of water over roadways (esp. flowing)
A rapid, life/property threatening rise in water



Severe Thunderstorm Warning

T-Storm Wind Gusts $\geq$ 58 mph &/or
Hail $\geq$ 1" Diameter (Quarter Size)



Tornado Warning

Doppler Radar Indicated Rotation
Confirmed Reports of a Tornado



Ways To Receive Warnings

- Have **multiple ways** to receive warnings.
- Keep Wireless Emergency Alerts turned ON. You never know when getting an urgent weather alert on your phone may save your life!
- This includes having a way to wake you up in the middle of the night!

Check with Emergency Management on any local alerting apps or services you can sign up!



FEMA



American Red Cross



Thank you

IRVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

El Niño Preparedness

Presented by the
Office of Emergency Management



Are you **STORM READY?**

Secure outdoor furniture & loose objects

- **Secure patio furniture, umbrellas, trash cans, decorations, and other loose objects**
- **Evaluate dead or damaged tree limbs**
- **Inspect fences & gates for instability**
- **Check that outdoor storage and lightweight structures are properly secured**

Are you **STORM READY?**

Take steps to protect flood-prone areas with sandbags

- **Identify low points around garages, doorways, & patios where water could enter**
- **Obtain sandbags or flood barriers before a storm**
- **Learn proper sandbag placement & understand their limitations**
- **Move valuable items & electrical equipment off garage floors and low-lying areas**

Are you **STORM READY?**

Obtain emergency supplies & build household kit

- **Store at least 3 days of water and non-perishable food; more is preferable when feasible**
- **Have flashlights, batteries, power banks, first-aid kit, and battery-powered radio**
- **Include medications, kid, and pet supplies as applicable**
- **Keep important documents in waterproof container**

Are you **STORM READY?**

review your homeowners, renters, & flood insurance

- **Contact your insurance provider to understand what types of water damage are covered**
- **Understand that standard policies generally do not cover flooding**
- **Consider purchasing separate flood insurance**
- **Photograph valuable possessions and document your home's condition**

Are you **STORM READY?**

ake a family emergency and evacuation plan

- **Establish family communication and reunification plans**
- **Identify alternate ways out of your neighborhood**
- **Know where to go if your residence becomes unsafe**
- **Plan for children, older adults, pets, & people with disability or access and functional needs**

Are you **STORM READY?**

Remove debris from gutters, drains, and drainage pathways

- **Remove leaves, dirt, and debris from roof gutters and downspouts**
- **Clear yard drains, driveway drains, and drainage swales**
- **Make sure water flows away from your home's foundation**
- **Report blocked public storm drains to the City**

Are you **STORM READY?**

Examine your roof, windows, and exterior doors

- **Inspect for damaged roofing, loose tiles, deteriorated flashing, and leaks**
- **Check weatherstripping and seals around windows & exterior doors**
- **Repair known leaks before the winter storms**
- **Consider having a professional inspect your roof if it has not been maintained recently.**

Are you **STORM READY?**

ccess emergency alerts and stay informed

- AlertOC
- Wireless Emergency Alerts
- Emergency Web Page
- AM 1640
- Social Media



Are you **STORM READY?**

on't drive in severe rain unless necessary

- **Never drive around barricades or through standing or moving floodwater**
- **Avoid flooded underpasses, drainage channels, and low-lying roadways**
- **Reduce speed and increase following distance during heavy rain**
- **Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle**

Are you **STORM READY?**

our neighbors: check on them & report hazards

- **Check on older neighbors and individuals who may need assistance**
- **Share preparedness information with family, friends, and neighbors**
- **Coordinate with HOA/Property Management on common-area drainage and slope maintenance**
- **Call 911 for life-threatening emergencies; use ACCESS IRVINE app for non-emergency issues**

IRVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

El Niño Preparedness

For more information:
www.cityofirvine.org/prepare



El Niño Preparedness Town Hall



cityofirvine.gov/berainready

El Niño Preparedness Town Hall

Public Works & Sustainability

October 26, 2026

City of Irvine



A constant state of readiness

Public Works maintains, inspects, and responds year-round so the City is ready when storms arrive.

Monitor & Plan

Continuous weather monitoring and storm planning

Inspect

Inspecting and clearing drainage systems

Maintain

Storm drains, streets, trees & facilities kept ready

Respond

Crews on duty around the clock to keep the public safe

Work Together

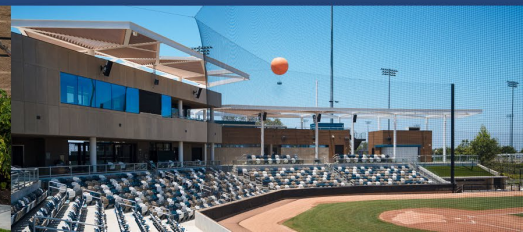
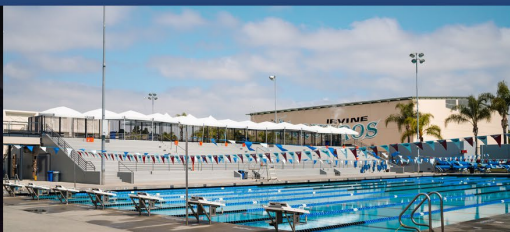
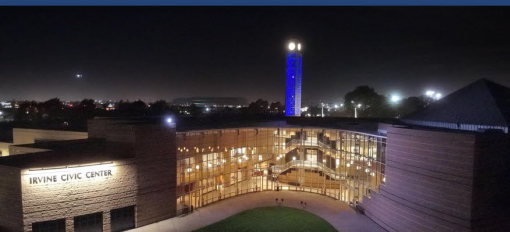
City divisions and partner agencies on one plan

City of Irvine



Monitor & Plan

City of Irvine



Continuous weather monitoring

Forecasts are tracked year-round. As a storm approaches, Public Works builds a response plan sized to the threat.



7 DAYS OUT

- Analyze Forecast
- Identify potential impacts
- Start the storm planning process



72 TO 24 HOURS

- Assess risks to infrastructure
- Build the response plan
- Set staffing levels



STORM DAY

- Brief crews & contractors
- Put the plan into action
- Staff around the clock

City of Irvine



INSPECT



City of Irvine



Routine inspections

01

DRAINAGE

6,600-Drainage Facilities
4-Pump stations
6 acres-Basins, Channels & V-ditches

02

FACILITIES

City buildings, parks, & trees
Streets & trail underpasses
Open space trails

03

EQUIPMENT

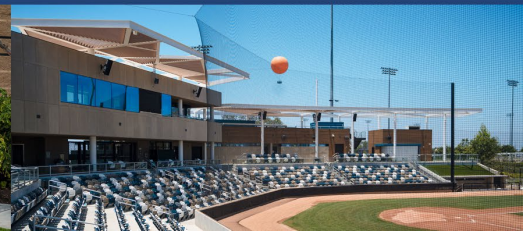
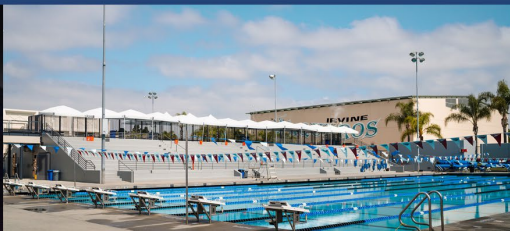
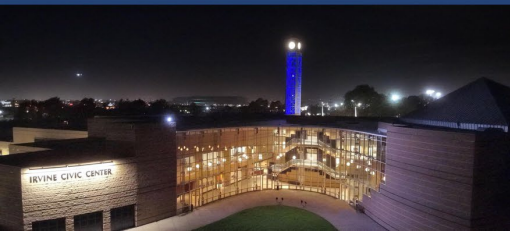
Generators & light towers
Vehicles & equipment
Sandbags & supplies

City of Irvine





City of Irvine



Keeping the system storm-ready

Routine maintenance keeps water moving and reduces hazards before the first storm.

BEFORE THE RAINS

- Clear debris from catch basins and grates
- Sweep streets to keep debris out of drains
- Inspect and prune trees on cycle
- Clear landscape drains to keep runoff flowing
- Keep facility roof drains & pump stations working

Constant Readiness

- Routine inspections
- Routine Maintenance
- Response ready
- Communication ready

City of Irvine



RESPOND



City of Irvine



Respond quickly. Restore safely.

During and after storms, City crews and contractors work around the clock to monitor conditions, address hazards, and restore services.



DURING

- Clear downed tree debris
- Rapid response where needed
- Close underpasses & trails



AFTER

- Remove downed trees & debris
- Inspect parks, facilities & trails
- Document damage



RESTORE

- Reopen trails & facilities when safe
- Complete permanent repairs
- Review lessons learned

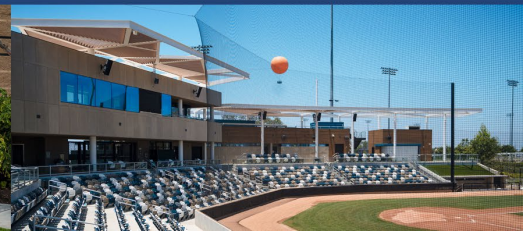
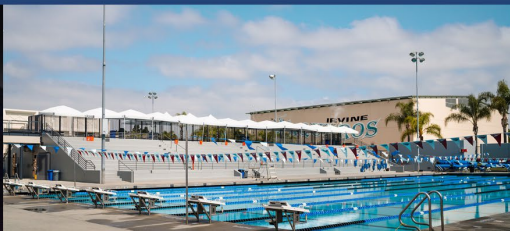
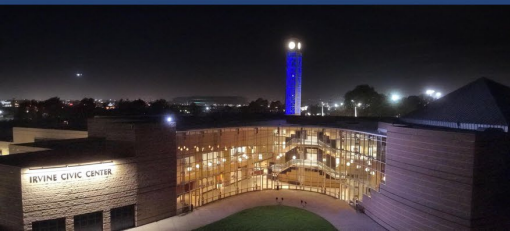
City of Irvine





WORK TOGETHER

City of Irvine



One team, many partners

Every storm response is coordinated across City divisions and partner agencies.

ONE PUBLIC WORKS TEAM

- Landscape, Facilities, Signals, and Streets crews
- One shared response plan
- One dispatch point for every call
- Contractors alongside City crews

ASSISTING AGENCIES

- OCFA
- Irvine Police Department
- Irvine Ranch Water District
- Southern California Edison

City of Irvine



Free sandbags for residents

01

PICK UP

Operations Support Facility
6427 Oak Canyon
Up to 10 per household
6 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

02

SELF-FILL

OCFA Station 36
301 E. Yale Loop
Bring your own shovel

03

SELF-FILL

OCFA Station 27
12400 Portola Springs
Bring your own shovel

City of Irvine



What residents should know

Help us keep everyone safe during El Niño storms.

Stay clear of hazards

Avoid downed trees, flooded roads & closed off areas

Trail closures

Underpasses & open space trails may close when wet

Sandbags

Pick-up at 6427 Oak Canyon, up to 10 per household

Get alerts

Sign up at AlertOC.org and tune to AM 1640

Report problems

Use the Access Irvine app; call 911 in an emergency

City of Irvine

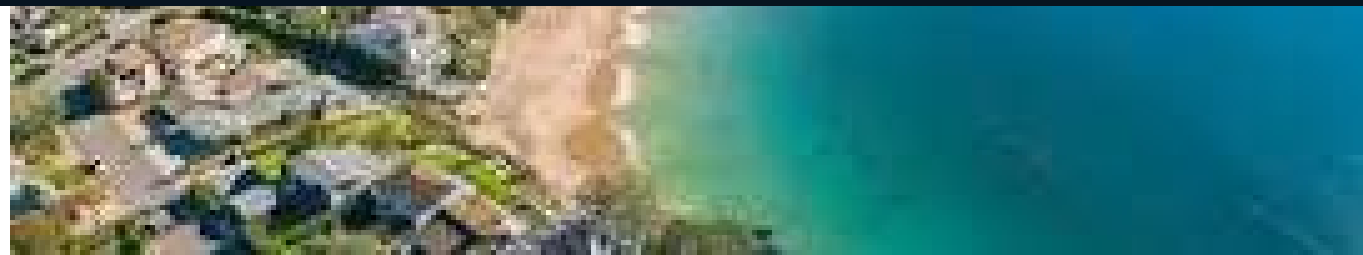


El Niño Preparedness Town Hall



cityofirvine.gov/berainready

**Orange County Seasonal
Preparedness
Division Chief
Nick Freeman
Orange County Fire Authority**



Outlook: Elevated Now, Normalizing by Winter

Source: NIFC / CAL FIRE Predictive Services, Southern Ops outlook issued September 1, 2026

- Significant fire potential across Southern California is near to above normal in September, returning to normal October through December.
- September precipitation is forecast near to below normal with above-normal temperatures; October–December flips to above-normal rain and below-normal temperatures.
- Santa Ana wind events this fall are expected to be fewer than normal as storm tracks drop into the West Coast rather than the Great Basin.
- NOAA gives a greater than 90% chance of a very strong El Niño for winter 2026–27, with above-normal precipitation probabilities above 50% along coastal California.
- National picture stays severe: Preparedness Level 5 held through August, with 8.2 million acres burned nationwide — 166% of the 10-year average.

The Season So Far: Quiet Locally, Record Dry Statewide

Figures current as of September 2026 — CAL FIRE incident archive and NOAA / Drought.gov

4

Wildfires in Orange County this season, up from 2 a year ago

975

Acres burned countywide — led by the 230-acre Gibby Fire (Sept 2)

5,541

California wildfires in 2026, burning 326,558 acres statewide

1st

Driest August on record for Orange County in 132 years

Year-to-date rainfall sits 4.01 inches below normal — the 37th driest January–August in 132 years — so light fire activity reflects ignition luck, not favorable fuels.

Planning Assumptions for the Remainder of the Season

How the outlook shapes OCFA staffing, prepositioning, and public messaging

Hold peak staffing through October

Fuels remain critically dry after a record-dry August; the first soaking rain, not the calendar, ends local fire season.

Plan for fewer but sharper wind events

A below-normal Santa Ana count concentrates risk into a handful of days — preposition on red flag forecasts rather than a fixed schedule.

Pivot to storm response after November

A very strong El Niño brings above-normal rain, shifting demand toward flood, swiftwater, and burn-scar debris flow.

Keep mutual aid capacity available

Statewide totals at 166% of the 10-year average mean out-of-county requests may continue into the fall.

OCFA Wildland Resources Ready for the Fall

The crews, aircraft, and equipment carrying our wildland response

Type 3 engines and wildland-capable crews

Brush engines staffed out of stations across the county give us initial-attack reach into the canyons and wildland-urban interface.

Handcrews for line construction and fuels work

Hand crews build containment line on steep terrain and, between incidents, carry out fuel reduction in high-risk corridors.

Air resources for rapid knockdown

OCFA helicopters and contracted air support deliver early water drops, extending night-flying and Quick Reaction Force coverage during wind events.

Dozers, water tenders, and mutual aid

Heavy equipment and the statewide mutual aid system backfill our capacity when several incidents run at once.



El Niño Sets Up a Wet Finish to 2026

What the developing event means for Orange County this fall and winter

A very strong event is now more than 90% likely

NOAA puts the odds of a very strong El Niño for winter 2026–27 above 90%, one of the strongest signals on record heading into a Southern California rainy season.

Above-normal rain arrives October through December

Coastal California sits in a greater-than-50% probability of above-normal precipitation, with below-normal temperatures replacing this summer's record-warm, record-dry pattern.

Fewer Santa Ana events, but not zero

Storm tracks dropping into the West Coast rather than the Great Basin suppress offshore wind frequency — the events that do occur still land on critically dry fuels.

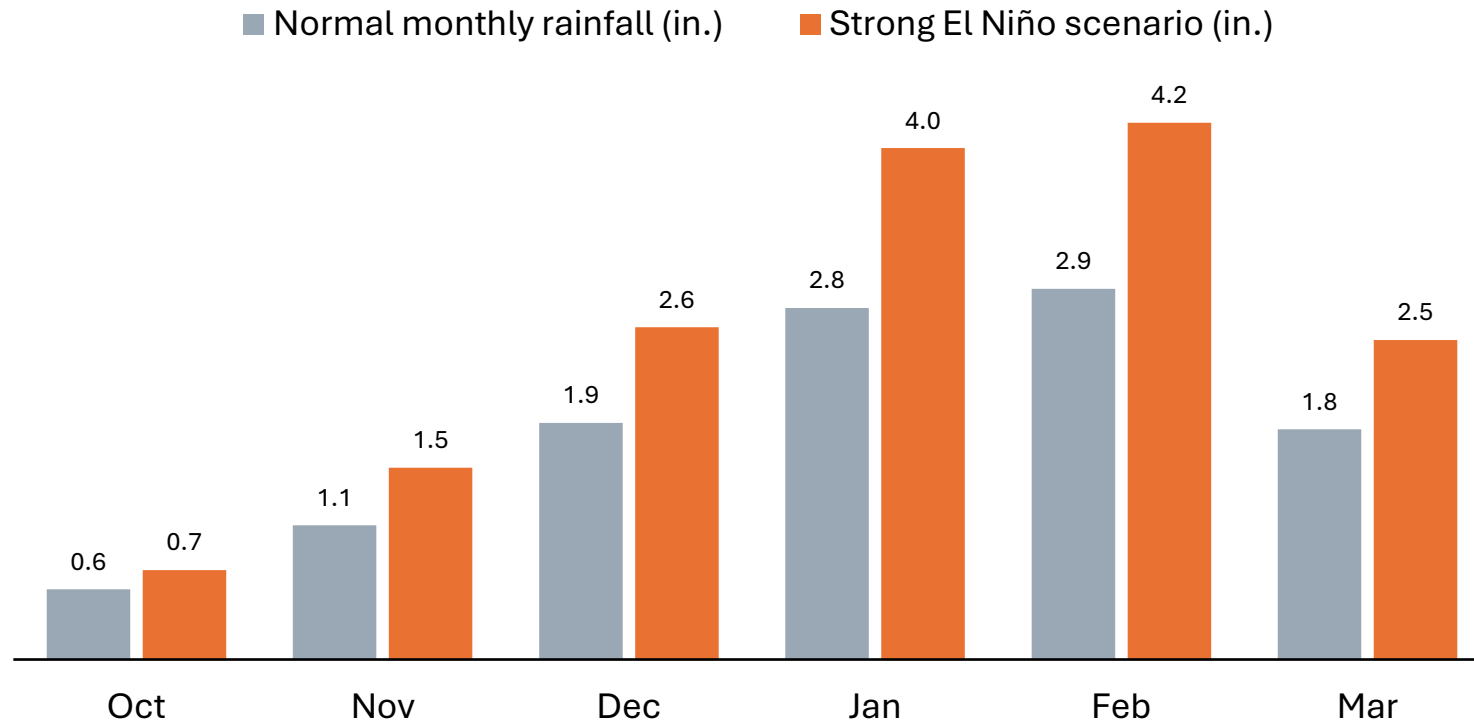
The first soaking storm, not the calendar, ends fire season

Until that rain arrives, Orange County sits 4.01 inches below normal and behaves like a peak-season county.



Rainfall Outlook: A Wet October Through March

Illustrative monthly rainfall for Orange County under a strong El Niño winter



Peak storm risk: December–February

Under a strong El Niño, the wettest three months can run 40–50% above normal — the window when burn-scar debris flow and swiftwater demand peaks.

Preposition storm resources before the first December system.

Illustrative scenario: long-term average monthly rainfall for coastal Orange County scaled to NOAA's above-normal precipitation outlook for winter 2026–27. Not a forecast of specific monthly totals.

Planning for El Niño Impacts Across Orange County

Where a wet winter shifts risk, demand, and OCFA response

Debris flows on recent burn scars

Canyon watersheds burned this season — including the Gibby Fire footprint — can produce mud and debris flows in short, intense downpours. Set evacuation triggers with the County before the first storm.

Flooding and swiftwater rescue demand

River and creek channels, flood-control basins, and low-lying urban streets drive swiftwater and vehicle-in-water calls. Confirm team readiness and equipment caches before December.

Coastal surf, erosion, and storm damage

Strong El Niño winters raise sea levels and surf along the coast, adding beach rescue, structure-threat, and road-closure calls from Sunset Beach to Dana Point.

A heavy grass crop for the 2027 season

Wet winters grow fine fuels that cure by late spring, so this year's rain sets up next year's grass-fire exposure — carry fuels work into the wet months.



OCFA Resources for Heavy Rain and Debris Flows

What OCFA brings to a wet-season storm response

Swiftwater rescue teams

Trained swiftwater crews with boats, throw bags, and rope systems cover river channels, flood-control basins, and vehicle-in-water calls during storm cycles.

Urban Search and Rescue capability

USAR-trained personnel and heavy rescue equipment handle collapsed structures, trench and mud entrapments, and shoring after debris flows hit occupied areas.

Engines, crews, and heavy equipment

Type 1 and Type 3 engines, handcrews, and dozers and water tenders support sandbagging, channel clearing, access cutting, and evacuation support in the canyons.

Coordination, air support, and mutual aid

Emergency Command Center dispatch, County flood and public works coordination, helicopter hoist rescue, and statewide mutual aid scale the response as storms stack up.



El Niño Preparedness Town Hall



cityofirvine.gov/berainready



Irvine Ranch
Water District



EL NIÑO TOWN HALL

JOSE ZEPEDA

DIRECTOR OF WATER &
RECYCLING OPERATIONS

IRWD OVERVIEW

A not-for-profit local public agency serving residents and businesses in central O.C.



181 square miles

20% of Orange County



450,000 Residents served

639,000 Daytime population served



127,000 Water service connections

116,000 Sewer service connections

7,000 Recycled water service connections



Serving all or parts of:

Irvine

Newport Beach

Costa Mesa

Unincorporated O.C.

Lake Forest

Tustin

Orange



IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT SERVICES



DRINKING WATER

6 water treatment plants
27 wells
37 closed reservoir tanks
2,127 miles of pipeline
Largest drinking water reservoir in Orange County



SEWER COLLECTION

2 sewage treatment plants
1,518 miles of collection pipes
Sewer water treated for non-potable reuse
Biosolids treated for use as fertilizer and fuel



RECYCLED WATER

4 recycled water reservoirs,
28 million gallons a day
135+ dual-plumbed buildings
583 miles of pipeline
6,400+ metered connections



URBAN RUNOFF TREATMENT

46 wetland treatment sites, including the San Joaquin Marsh
34 tons of nutrients removed annually
Cost-effective and environmentally sound

IRWD EMERGENCY PREPERATIONS

- Advanced Planning
 - Emergency response plans in place
 - Regularly emergency response training
 - Plans and training includes large storm events
- Inter-Agency Coordination
 - County
 - City
 - First responders (i.e. police, fire, etc.)
 - Others (e.g. state and federal agencies)
- Weather Monitoring
 - Continuous weather tracking and adapting



EL NIÑO PREPARATIONS

- IRWD monitors and manages its reservoir levels for rain and fire weather
- IRWD installs a flood wall to protect its Michelson Water Recycling Plant during the wet weather season in preparation for large storm events
- IRWD monitors its water and sewer infrastructure in real time to address storm impacts promptly
- IRWD has fixed backup electrical generators at critical facilities and portable generators fueled and on standby to deploy as needed



SAND CANYON RESERVOIR

- Sand Canyon Reservoir has a large watershed behind it
- IRWD actively reduces its water level to prevent/minimize spillway discharges during storm events
- During large or multiple back-to-back storms, excess water may discharge via the reservoir's spillway. The water will flow through San Canyon Creek, through Mason Park, and into San Diego Creek.



El Niño Preparedness Town Hall



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El Niño Preparedness Townhall

City of Irvine

October 26, 2026

What a Wet Season Can Mean Locally

The hazards that most affect both utility service and local government operations.

Primary Hazards

- Atmospheric river events delivering heavy rainfall in short windows
- Debris flows below recent burn scars once rainfall intensity thresholds are reached
- Urban and riverine flooding in known low-lying corridors, channels, and washes
- Accelerated land movement in landslide-prone areas after sustained rain

Operational Effects

- Road and canyon closures that delay utility and emergency crews
- Flooded or blocked access to substations, poles, and field equipment
- Localized outages and longer restoration times wherever access is cut
- Compounding effects when storms arrive back-to-back on saturated ground
- Increased vegetation contact with overhead wires, third-party tree falls damaging electrical equipment

How SCE Prepares for the Season

Preparation begins months before the first storm and steps up as forecasts sharpen.

Before the Season

- Pre-storm and flooding readiness planning across all operating units
- Incident Management Teams (IMT) staffed, trained, and exercised before the season
- Post-fire assessments and mitigations in recent burn-scar areas
- Field inspections covering drainage, erosion, vegetation, and access routes
- Staging of materials, equipment, and mutual-assistance arrangements

As Storms Approach

- Weather briefings drive pre-event coordination and readiness posture
- IMT and emergency operations center may activate on defined triggers, with duty rosters set in advance
- Crews, equipment, and support functions positioned ahead of forecast impacts
- Defined escalation from routine readiness into response and recovery
- Customer notifications and emergency protections activated as conditions warrant

How We Coordinate with Local Jurisdictions

Established channels connect SCE to city, county, and tribal partners

Standing Channels

- Pre-season coordination meetings with emergency managers
- SCE liaison officer participation on county and regional emergency management calls
- Agency representatives available for activation to county EOCs if approved by LNO and BRDM

During an Event

- Coordination under FEMA's standardized emergency management system
- Shared situational awareness on conditions, damage, and restoration priorities
- Alignment on evacuations, access, and re-entry with incident command
- Hazard and mapping information shared through established partner channels

Severe weather customer communications

Website and social media

Share safety tips and preparation steps for severe weather and possible outages through [sce.com](https://www.sce.com), X, Facebook and Instagram.

Downed wire safety

Run an ongoing advertising campaign on downed wire safety.

Energized by Edison

Publish El Niño stories on [sce.com](https://www.sce.com) covering SCE's preparedness efforts and actions customers can take for severe weather and possible weather-related outages.

Customer bills

Include severe weather preparation information on customer bills.

Outage alerts

Provide current outage information, status updates and estimated restoration times when available by email, voice and text. Customers can enroll through their [sce.com](https://www.sce.com) account.

Local and tribal governments

Encourage customers to update contact information and/or enroll in outage alerts on [sce.com](https://www.sce.com) so communications reach them.

Community partnerships

Work with community-based organizations, public agencies and trusted partners to share preparedness information and safety resources for people with access and functional needs, including older adults, individuals with disabilities and customers with medical needs.

Building Your Emergency Preparedness Kit

Make an emergency preparedness plan for your family. List key supplies and where the items are stored. Include special items for infants, older adults, those with medical needs and family pets. Share the plan with someone outside of your household.

First aid kit: Include prescription medications — check the expiration dates.

Medical information: Include copies of your insurance cards and medical information.

Sanitation items: Pack items like hand sanitizer and moist towelettes.

Bottled water: Experts recommend a gallon per person per day.

Flashlights and fresh batteries: Have extra batteries for all battery-powered equipment. Store them where you can easily find them.

Non-perishable food: Choose items that don't require cooking or heating.

Garage Doors & Gates: Learn how to manually open automatic garage doors or gates.

Manual can opener: Select safe-cut can openers that don't have sharp, jagged edges.

Coolers, ice chests and ice packs: Have a few in case of a lengthy outage.

Special needs items: These include items for infants, older adults or people with disabilities.

Battery-operated radio or hand-crank radio: A radio will keep you abreast of vital breaking news.

External rechargeable battery pack: Use a battery to charge cellphones and other electronic devices.

Phone numbers: Keep a written or printed list of important phone numbers nearby (e.g., hospital, doctor, relatives).

Home Generator: Consult with a licensed electrician before installing a home generator.

<https://www.sce.com/outages-safety/outage-preparedness/emergency-preparedness>

DOWNLOADABLE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

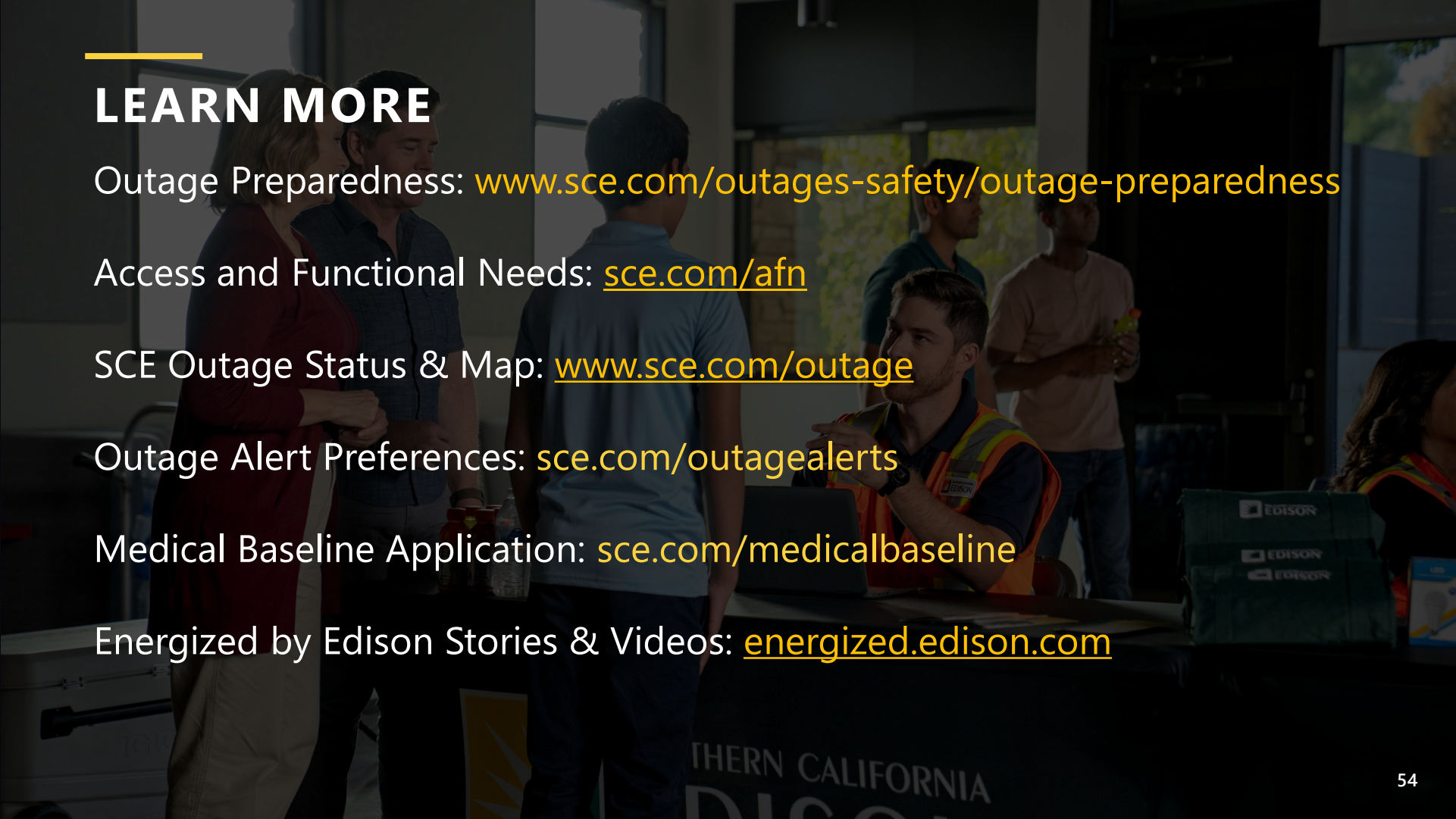


Primary Contact Information	
Name:	Chevy Chase
Phone:	805-123-4567
Cell Phone:	909-987-6543
Street Address:	1234 Main Street, My City, CA
Emergency Contact Information #1	
Name:	Steve Martin
Phone:	
Cell Phone:	626-456-9535
Emergency Contact Information #2	
Name:	Martin Short
Phone:	
Cell Phone:	323-856-7459
Emergency Location Information:	
Emergency Kit Location:	Pantry
Emergency Meeting Location:	Costco at 8945 Short Street, That City, CA
Nearest Hospital:	ACME Hospital at 8161 Swing Drive, This City
Evacuation Center:	My City Community Center at 5543 Putter Drive, This City
Location for Supplies (EX: Ice):	Local Grocery Store
Generator Rental:	ACME Generators
Nearest Cooling Station:	My City Community Center at 5543 Putter Drive, This City
Notes and Additional Information:	
1. Medicine; 2. Medical Equipment; 3. Pet Food	

Medical Contact Information			
Doctor's Name:	Michaela Quinn	Prescription #1:	Morning Meds
Phone:	213-555-6985	Prescription #2:	Afternoon Meds
Pharmacy Phone:	231-486-7512	Prescription #3:	Bedtime Meds
		Prescription #4:	
		Prescription #5:	
		Prescription #6:	

sce.com > Outage Center > Outage Tips > Outage Information Kit

- **Redcross.org – American Red Cross**
- **Caloes.ca.gov – California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services**
- **Ready.gov – US Department of Homeland Security**

A background image showing SCE staff and customers at a community event. In the foreground, a man in a blue polo shirt and a woman in a red blazer are talking. Behind them, another man in a blue polo shirt is looking at a laptop. To the right, a man in a blue polo shirt and an orange safety vest is talking to a woman. In the background, there are other people and a table with Edison bags. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

LEARN MORE

Outage Preparedness: www.sce.com/outages-safety/outage-preparedness

Access and Functional Needs: sce.com/afn

SCE Outage Status & Map: www.sce.com/outage

Outage Alert Preferences: sce.com/outagealerts

Medical Baseline Application: sce.com/medicalbaseline

Energized by Edison Stories & Videos: energized.edison.com

Social Media:

SCE on Facebook: Facebook.com/sce

SCE on X: [@sce](https://twitter.com/sce)

SCE on YouTube: YouTube.com/sce

SCE on Instagram: [@sce](https://www.instagram.com/sce)

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