



Date: January 4, 2016

To: Private Sector and Non-Governmental Organization Partners

Re: El Niño Preparedness

This year's El Niño is shaping up to be one of the most extreme — if not the most extreme — to date, even being called a “Godzilla” by some scientists. Now is the time to take steps to prepare yourself and your organization for potential storm impacts.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have helpful websites and information about the potential impacts of El Niño and how you can prepare.

Are you ready for El Niño? The United States experiences extreme and dangerous weather, and this winter, parts of the U.S. face a particularly severe threat. Forecasts are showing a soon-to-peak El Niño that could deliver drenching conditions to California and throughout the South. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has developed fact sheets on El Niño available at [NOAA El Niño Impacts by region](#) and the Winter Outlook is available at [NOAA El Niño Winter Outlook](#). These predicted conditions come with an enhanced flood threat and an increase in tornado activity through the spring.

For the next several months, many areas in the United States are at an increased flood risk from El Niño as a direct result of drought and wildfires. Disasters don't always occur when families are together in one place. Now is the time to put together a [family communication plan](#) and talk with your family about ways to contact each other during an emergency, and designate a safe meeting spot. You can also plan ahead by knowing official evacuation routes, and keeping important papers in a safe, waterproof place. Additional tips and resources on how to stay safe and prepare are available at [www.ready.gov](#).

More information is available about El Niño at [www.fema.gov/el-Niño](#). The tab labeled *Additional Resources* includes links to resources from various federal agencies including NOAA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of the Interior, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Federal and State Agency Links for Preparedness

NOAA

- [NOAA El Niño Regional Impact](#)
- [NOAA El Niño Winter Outlook](#)
- [El Niño Historical Info](#)

FEMA

- fema.gov/el-Niño
- [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance \(HMA\) Fact Sheet](#)
- [Individual and Community Preparedness Division Resources](#)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Emergency Response and Advanced Measures Fact Sheet](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- [Rural Development Rural Utility Services Fact Sheet](#)
- [Resources Related to Severe Weather and Flood Hazards Posed by El Niño](#)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- [Disaster Recovery Toolkit](#)
- [Rebuild Healthy Homes Guide](#)

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

- [USGS Water Data Collection and Resources for Emergency Management](#)

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

- [Cal OES Homepage](#)
- [Cal OES Preparedness for Businesses and Organizations](#)

California Storm Ready

- [Storm Ready Homepage](#)