Winter Storm

Preparedness Tips

The City of Brisbane Public Works Department & the Office of Emergency Services Recommends the Following:

Before the Storm

1. Keep insurance policies, documents & other valuables in a safe-deposit box.
2. Consider flood insurance if you are in a high-risk flood area. If you live on a hillside, check if your insurance policy covers earth movement or mud slides.
3. Know safe routes from your home and office to high, safe ground.
4. Discuss emergency plans with your family.
5. Pre-arrange a contact person or volunteer to assist you later during a flood.
6. Post emergency numbers near the telephone.
7. Store the following supplies at work, home and in your car in handy locations.

- First aid kit and essential medicines
- Food (packages, dried, canned, and for special diets)
- Non-electric can opener
- Cash (ATMs may not be working)
- Portable radio, flashlights, extra batteries (stored in water tight plastic bag)
- Drinking water stored in closed, clean containers (allow one gallon per person per day for at least three days)

8. Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber and other emergency building materials handy for waterproofing.
9. Keep your car fueled in the event filling stations are inoperable.
10. Help prevent storm drain blockages by keeping leaves and other debris out of streets, gutters and catch basins. (Volunteer for the City's Adopt-A-Drain Program!)
11. Keep an old phone in your house that doesn't work on batteries, in-case the power goes out and you are unable to charge your phones.

During the Storm

1. Tune to local radio or television stations for emergency information and instructions from local authorities. Use the radio tuned to KCBS 740 AM or KZSU 90.1 FM as your primary source of information or instruction.
2. Make sure your family and pets are safe.
3. Be ready to evacuate if directed by emergency personnel.
4. Share emergency information you receive with your neighbors.
5. Use the telephone ONLY for emergency needs or to report dangerous conditions.
6. If flooding is likely, and time permits, move valuable household possessions from the floor.
7. If advised by local authorities to leave your home, move to a safe area before access is cut off by floodwaters.
8. Do not try to enter areas blocked off by local authorities.
9. Do not try to drive across a flooded road—you could become stranded.
10. If your car stalls, abandon it IMMEDIATELY and seek higher ground.
11. If water from a creek reaches level with your door, back your way out and evacuate.
12. Web based weather information can be obtained at the National Weather Service—
    http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/

After the Storm

1. Stay tuned to designated radio or television stations for information and instructions from local authorities.
2. Avoid disaster areas—your presence could hamper rescue and other emergency operations.
3. Use flashlights—NOT lanterns, matches or candles—to examine buildings; flammables may be present.
4. Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines. Report them immediately. (see reverse for emergency phone numbers)
5. 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.
6. DO NOT TURN GAS BACK ON YOURSELF. Call PG&E and then wait for a PG&E crew.
7. Do not use fresh foods or canned food that have come in contact with floodwaters. (The water may be contaminated)
8. Follow local instructions regarding the safety of drinking water. If in doubt, boil or purify water before drinking.

Wherever you live, work, and travel, you should be aware of the danger of winter storms and be prepared to cope with one. The San Mateo County Area Office of Emergency Services provides these tips for your safety. For more information on how you and your family can be prepared visit the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Website and click on Citizen Preparedness

http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us