



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **ARE YOU STORM READY ?**

**LOMPOC, CA, Jan. 20, 2017** – The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting continued widespread stormy weather for the next several days. The threats today and lasting through Monday are strong winds, downed trees, heavy periods of rain and localized flooding. Residents are encouraged to recheck all storm preparations, be cautious when venturing out during stormy periods and be particularly cautious when driving through locally flooded streets. City of Lompoc Fire and Police Departments, Utility, Urban Forestry, Solid Waste and street crews are busy preparing for this winter storm. Are you prepared?

#### **Preparation**

Take time to prepare your property:

- Check your roof for leaks.
- Clean out your rain gutters and check downspouts.
- If you live near the hills, check the back, side, and rear yards for proper drainage. Make sure that the water's downhill path isn't blocked by debris.
- Secure your trash cans, lawn furniture, and anything else that can fly around in high winds.
- Know your local emergency phone numbers.
- Prepare an evacuation plan for your family.
- Keep a supply of filled sand bags and water-diverting supplies ready to use.
- Make sure you and your children know their school's and family's emergency plans.

Other preparations should include:

- Check your portable radio and flashlights - keep a supply of fresh batteries on hand.
- Pack an evacuation bag if you live in flood-prone areas.
- Keep your car's gas tank at least half full at all times.
- Sign up for alerts at <http://www.cityoflompoc.com/AwareAndPrepare/> so you can be aware of warnings and other important messages.
- If you are disabled or otherwise unable to physically prepare for the coming rainy season, seek help from neighbors, family members or service clubs.

The recent drought has stressed tree root systems which the Urban Forester says have reduced root systems and weakened limbs.



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Look at your trees carefully; if you see that limbs appear damaged or there are large cracks around the tree base call a licensed tree service for a professional inspection and necessary maintenance.

You can also help prepare public areas for water run-off. Pick up trash and plastic bags that might block street drains; during storms check for plastic trash lids, roof shingles, or other objects that could block drains and clear them if it's safe to do so.

Home owner associations and other privately maintained storm water impoundment areas should be inspected by a licensed contractor to assure that they will serve their intended purpose.

### Resources:

- TAP TV notices – all channels.
- Radio – FM station 100.9
- Aware and Prepare emergency notifications for flood prone areas.
- Sandbags and sand – City Yard at 1300 West Laurel Avenue
- Santa Barbara County Flood Control District:  
<http://cosb.countyofsb.org/pwd/pwwater.aspx?id=45293>

### When the storm happens:

The last large rain event occurred between November 1997 and April 1998 when Lompoc received over 30 inches of rain. Localized flooding and wind damage occurred between February and April of 1998 after the ground was soaked.

The areas hardest hit during this storm were on Cambridge Drive, Santa Clara Drive, West Willow Avenue between P and U Street's, South R Street and Fir Avenue, the intersection of Floradale Avenue and West Central Avenue, and the area below the landfill on Avalon Street.

If you live or have to travel in these areas or your house has a sloped back yard, you should take extra preparations and be especially vigilant during heavy rain events.

When severe rain storm warnings have been issued keep the following in mind:

- Have a battery-powered radio tuned to the city public service FM station 100.9 and follow emergency instructions.
- Be prepared for a power outage; have battery powered emergency lighting available.
- Be prepared to evacuate if necessary.
- Keep your pets in the house during severe weather.

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- Stay away from all flood control facilities and the Santa Ynez River – warn your children that flood waters run swiftly, are filled with debris and are dangerous.
- Don't become part of the problem; stay off of the streets during heavy storms since there may be fallen electrical wires or you may run into or be hit by a fallen tree.
- Be extremely cautious when driving. Do not attempt to drive through fast moving water.
- Follow all emergency traffic instructions.

City emergency services dispatchers will be very busy if there is a significant storm event, and all calls for service will be prioritized. Post storm clean-up took nearly 30 days to complete, so be patient.

The Lompoc Fire Department urges you to take these warnings seriously and use the information resources that are available. You can help prevent damage to your home and be assured that you have plans ready in case a serious storm event occurs.

If you have any questions please call 875-8054 and the Lompoc Fire Department will provide recommendations tailored to your individual circumstances.