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City of Lompoc Sustains Minor Storm Damage Over Weekend *Residents encouraged to practice storm readiness, sign up for emergency alerts*

LOMPOC, CA, Jan. 23, 2017 – The Lompoc community’s steps towards storm readiness along with the city’s preparations are credited with minimizing weather-related damage in the city.

However, the intense winds and rain from the weekend did result in a number of downed trees and limbs on city and private property. Six fallen trees were reported in City of Lompoc parks, and an additional six trees were damaged adjacent to city roads.

There were no significant flooding issues reported to the City of Lompoc over the weekend other than the typical localized streets where accumulations occur. There were no sustained power outages due to the storm, but the entire city was affected by a 20 second outage early Sunday morning.

Monday morning, the National Weather Service issued a tornado warning for the Lompoc Valley from 5 a.m. to 6 a.m., and warned of possible large hail in the area. The tornado never materialized in the region, but hail was reported. A flash flood watch issued by the National Weather Service remains in effect through 6 p.m. Monday, and a high surf advisory is in effect through 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Community members are encouraged to sign up for alerts at <http://www.cityoflompoc.com/AwareAndPrepare/> to receive emergency warnings and other important messages.

Those with questions related to the storm or other emergency preparations are asked to call **875-8054**, and the Lompoc Fire Department will provide recommendations tailored to individual circumstances.

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Tornados are highly unusual on the Central Coast, but are a possibility. Here are some tips to prepare for tornados, and information on how to protect yourself and your loved ones in the event of a tornado. *Tornado preparedness tips compiled from FEMA publications, The Weather Channel, EarthSky and fire department emergency preparedness programs.*

Tornado Preparations:

- Have a designated place to go, ideally a specially built storm shelter. The next best solution is in a central room (like a bathroom or a closet) in the basement. If you don't have a basement, the third best place is a central room in the lowest level of the house. Avoid windows, and try to have as many walls between you and the tornado as possible! If you shelter in a bathroom, get in the bathtub and throw cushions on top of you.
- Put together an emergency supply kit, including items such as a battery-operated weather radio, flashlight, batteries, first aid items, and bottled water. Keep it in a place you can easily grab it (preferably your designated shelter). Make sure cell phones are fully charged.
- Be able to protect your head. Many tornado-related fatalities are due to head trauma, so have helmets or other sturdy head coverings available.
- Have regular tornado drills so you and your family know exactly what to do and where to go.

If a Tornado Hits:

- When the tornado warning is issued, get to your safe place immediately! Don't waste time trying to watch or record the tornado. The most important thing is to keep you and your family safe.
- If you have a whistle, keep it on you. If you end up being trapped in debris, a whistle could let others know you are alive and need assistance.
- Figure out a safe place to ride out the storm, preferably your designated storm space, away from windows.
- Do you live in a mobile home? Get out and take shelter in a building such as a community center. If you cannot get out, take shelter in a bathroom, get in the bathtub and throw cushions on top of you.

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- If a tornado appears while you're on the road, you should make every effort to find a safe building for shelter. If you can't find one, NEVER hide under an overpass. Instead, find a ditch, get down and cover your head. Get as far from your vehicle as you can to prevent it from being blown onto you.
- If you're at home and severe weather is bearing down, prepare for the worst. If your house is damaged by a tornado, you could end up walking through debris riddled with nails, glass shards and splintered wood. The best way to ensure you can find a pair of shoes after the tornado passes is to put on a pair before the storm comes.
- Keep your pets on a leash or in a carrier, and bring them with you. They're a part of the family, so make sure they go to a safe place with you. Ensure their collar is on for identification purposes, and keep them leashed if they're not in a crate. If your home is damaged by a tornado, it might not be familiar to them anymore, and they could get loose. Be sure to get them to a safe place or put them in a crate while performing clean-up.
- Don't leave your home and try to drive away from a tornado. If you made it home, stay there. Tornadoes can shift their path, and even if you think you're directly in the line of the storm, being inside shelter is safer than being inside a car. Traffic jams could keep you from getting out of the storm's path, or a small wobble could send the storm in a different direction.

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