



# Floods

Winter storms in California can be deadly, causing flooding, flash floods, high coastal surf, mudslides, snowstorms and avalanches. Wherever you live or travel, you should be aware of the dangers of winter storms and be prepared to cope with them.

## BEFORE the storm:

- ◆ Keep insurance policies, documents and other valuables in a safe-deposit box.
- ◆ Check your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy for flood insurance coverage. Most homeowner's policies DO NOT offer protection against flood losses. For information about flood insurance, call your local insurance agent or call the National Flood Insurance Program at (888) Call-Flood (225-5356).
- ◆ Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber and other emergency building materials handy for waterproofing.



## DURING the storm:

- ◆ Tune in to local radio or television stations for emergency information and instructions from local authorities.
- ◆ If flooding is likely and time permits, move valuable household possessions to the upper floors of your home.
- ◆ If advised by local authorities to leave your home, move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water. Establish an out-of-state family contact so that friends and relatives will know who to call to get information about where you are.
- ◆ Before leaving, disconnect all electrical appliances and if advised by your local utility, shut off electric circuits at the fuse panel and gas service at the meter. Avoid areas that are subject to sudden flooding.
- ◆ Do not try to cross a flowing stream where water is above your knees. Even water as low as 6 inches deep may cause you to be swept away by strong currents.
- ◆ If your car stalls, abandon it IMMEDIATELY and seek higher ground. Many deaths have resulted from attempts to move stalled vehicles.
- ◆ Do not sight-see in flooded areas. Do not try to enter areas blocked off by local authorities.
- ◆ Avoid unnecessary trips. If you must travel during the storm, dress in warm, loose layers of clothing. Advise others of your destination.

