



The rainy season runs from October to May. The most severe flooding historically occurs between December and March. During this time you should be aware of anticipated weather conditions and take appropriate actions. To help residents and business prepare here are some flood safety tips.

**Know the flood warning signals:** The Police, Fire Department, Public Works Department and Emergency Manager for the city are notified of rising floodwaters. Listen for Flood Warnings on local TV, and radio station KRSO 1350. The police cars will drive the streets and attempt to notify residents of the warning by going door to door. ***Be sure to heed the flood warnings.***

**Flood safety:**

**Do not walk through flowing water.** Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths. Currents can be deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Use a pole or stick to ensure the ground is still there before you go through an area where the water is flowing. Avoid contact with floodwaters. Do not allow children or pets play in floodwater. This water may be contaminated and poses a health hazard.

**Do not drive through a flooded area.** More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. **Don't drive around road barriers;** the road or bridge may be washed out.

**Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.** The number two killer after drowning is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to PG&E or call 911.

**Be alert for gas leaks.** Use a flashlight to inspect damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns, or open flames until you are positive the gas service is turned off and the area has been ventilated.

**Sand Bags**

During the storm season, the Public Works Department also offers free sand and sandbags. Individuals may pick up sand and sandbags at the Corporation Yard 714 Johnson Street. Please note that residents must fill the sandbags themselves. Shovels will not be available. The maximum number of bags per resident is 25 bags.

**For more information on flood hazards:**

Sonoma County Water Agency, Flood Forecast and Emergency Information

<http://www.scwa.ca.gov/flood-forecast-and-emergency-information/>

Disaster Preparedness information is available on the Sebastopol Fire Department website <http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/page/disaster-preparedness>

The Sebastopol Building and Safety Department has the Flood Insurance Rate maps and the responsibility to provide flood zone and associated information. You may review this information by visiting the department or by calling 707 823 8597. We recommend you review this information in person. The Sebastopol Public Library has a copy of the Flood Insurance Rate Map. For information on the National Flood Insurance Program you can view the FEMA website <http://www.floodsmart.gov>. Or call 1 888-724-6924 and ask for an agent in your area.

For more information on disaster preparedness go to:

[www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov)

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

[www.water.ca.gov](http://www.water.ca.gov)

[www.abag.ca.gov](http://www.abag.ca.gov)