



# OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Governor's Office of Emergency Services State Operations Center Activated for Coming Storms** *Californians encouraged to be prepared*

SACRAMENTO – The Governor's Office of Emergency Services has activated its State Operations Center in Sacramento to monitor the weekend's storm activity and stand ready to deploy State resources if needed.

Throughout the week OES officials have been working closely with State Department of Water Resources officials and representatives of the National Weather Service to plan for any impacts of the heavy storms rolling in off the Pacific.

"We will be working round the clock this weekend and into next week, prepared to get emergency crews and resources to any communities that are impacted by these storms," said OES Director Henry Renteria. "Although we don't anticipate the problems we saw in 1997 and 1986, individuals need to be ready and they need to be prepared."

OES is encouraging all Californians to act on the following 10 tips in preparation for the coming storms:

1. Collect important documents (i.e., insurance policies, vital records) that you should take with you if you need to evacuate.
2. Have an easy to carry emergency supply kit on hand with at least – food, water, medications, flashlight, battery-powered radio, rain gear, and a first aid kit.
3. Keep your car fueled in case power is cutoff to local gas stations.
4. Identify the safe routes from your home or office to high ground.
5. Establish an out-of-state "family contact" so that friends and relatives will know who to call to get information about where you are.
7. Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber and other materials handy for waterproofing.
8. If ordered to evacuate, do so immediately. If you're stranded, move to your roof so rescuers can see you.
9. Avoid flooded roadways and waterways. Just six inches of water can sweep you away.
10. If your car stalls in water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.

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