October 2026 **Issue 50**

Emergency Management Department Newsletter

Connect with Us!

What to Know About Wildfires...

According to Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), catastrophic brush fires are occurring at an increasing rate not only in California but across the country. Hillside communities within Los Angeles are under continuous threat of a devastating wildfire. As this risk increases, it is important you protect yourself and your family by planning, preparing and staying aware.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), residential fires are the third-leading cause of accidental death in the home, with yearly property losses reaching billions of dollars. Cooking, careless smoking, arson and faulty heating are often the cause of fires in the home. Many fire-related deaths and damages are avoidable with a proper smoke alarm system or residential sprinklers.

Ready Your Home

- Follow the City of Los Angeles brush clearance requirements, to create an area around your home that is free of vegetation. This is called ‘defensible space. Also, consider the following tips:
- Keep roofs and gutters clear.
- Cover the attic and/or eave vents with metal mesh.
- Choose and plant fire-resistant plants.
- Prune trees and keep branches away from walls and roof.
- Store firewood away from your house.

Ready Your Family

- Be prepared before it’s time to Go!
- Sit with your family and, sign up for NotifyLA
- Review your Wildfire Action Plan.
- Complete the Pre-Evacuation Preparation Steps.
- Pack and load your emergency supply kit and your evacuation bags (including any pet kits) into your vehicle.
- Test smoke alarms Monthly, per the American Red Cross
- If asked to evacuate, do so quickly and safely.

LAFD Brush Clearance Requirements

Wildfires don't wait

Fire Prevention Week

October 4th - 10th

Fire Prevention Week

Use Your Charging Superpowers

Focus on everyday charging habits that can help reduce the risk of lithium-ion battery fires and keep homes and communities safer.

- **Cheap charger?** Don't chance it.
- **Soft surface?** Hard pass.
- **Fully charged?** Time to unplug.
- **Tools and rides?** Charge outside.
- **Feels hot?** Stop using it.
- **On a flight?** Keep it in sight.

Charge into Fire Safety

California Flood Awareness Week

October 17th - 24th

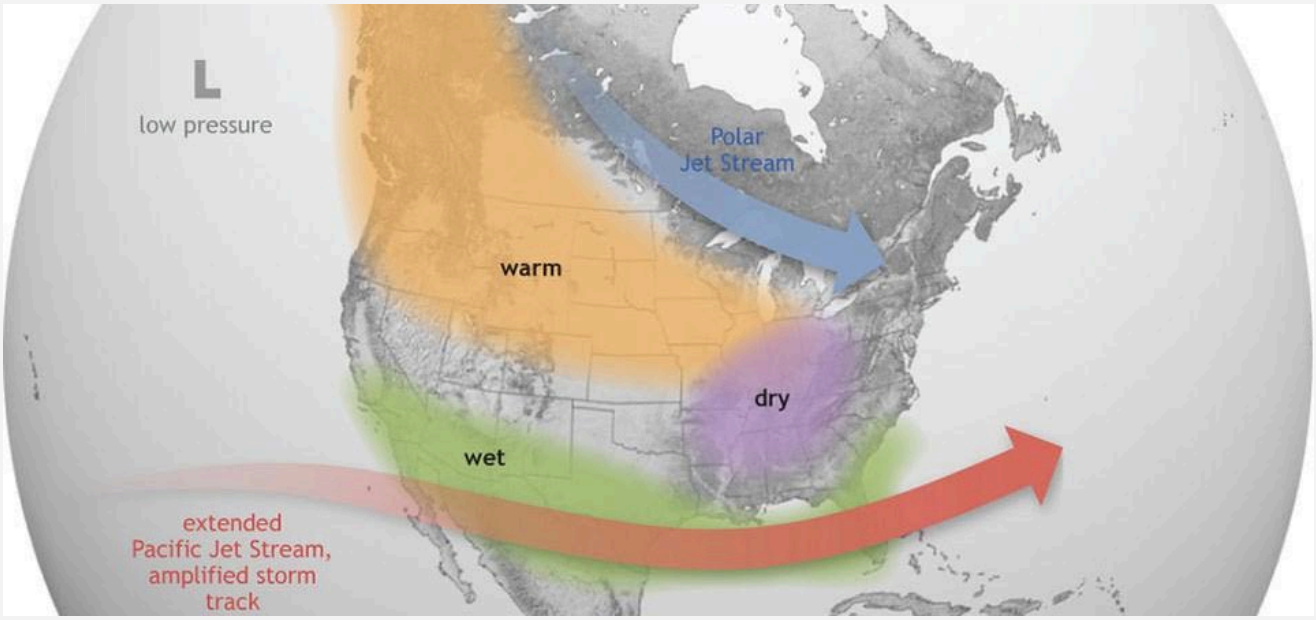
Floods can happen anywhere in California.

Take a few simple steps now before winter storms arrive:

- **Check your risk.** Find out if you live in a flood zone.
- **Monitor the weather.** Keep an eye on local forecasts.
- **Sign up for alerts.** Subscribe to NotifyLA.
- **Get more Information.** Flood Preparedness and Mudflow Protection

CA Data Exchange Center | Cal OES My Hazards | Rain Readiness

El Niño Awareness

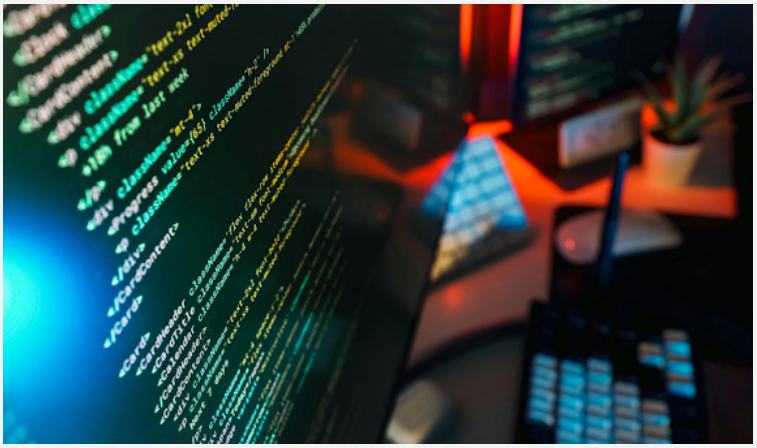


El Niño has a strong effect on Pacific Ocean waters
that could cause increased wet weather conditions or other concerns in Los Angeles.
The storm season begins in mid-October, and can last through early spring.
Here's what you can do to stay informed on weather conditions and to prepare:

National Weather Service | El Niño Awareness

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

The **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)** compares cyber hygiene to washing your hands, simple, everyday habits can stop the spread of digital infections.



Best Practices for Cyber Hygiene

- **Avoid Phishing Scams**: Employees can be tricked into opening malicious attachments or sharing sensitive information. Learn to recognize and report suspicious activity.
- **Use Strong Passwords**: Strong passwords are a simple but powerful way to block criminals from accessing your accounts by guessing or using automated attacks.
- **Use Multifactor Authentication**: MFA adds an extra layer of security beyond passwords and can make accounts significantly safer. Use phishing-resistant MFA where available.
- **Encrypt Data**: Encrypting your data and devices strengthens your defense against attacks. Even if criminals gain access to your files, information stays locked and unreadable. Make encryption part of your security strategy.

Cybersecurity Tool Kit

Get ready to participate in the Great California ShakeOut! 10/15 @ 10:15 AM

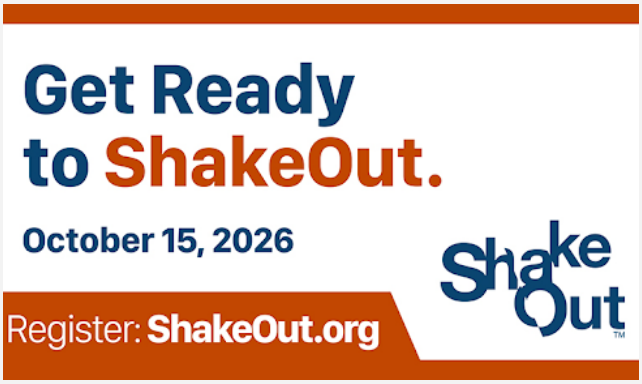
Thursday, October 15th @ 10:15 AM, the Great California ShakeOut will take place for everyone to practice earthquake safety with a Drop, Cover, and Hold On exercise. Use this as an opportunity to ensure your emergency plans are current and your supplies are up to date. Additionally, it serves as a reminder to look into earthquake insurance as another form of protection for your family.

Drop - Cover - Hold On

Earthquake Prep

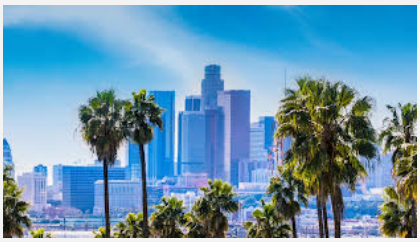
Earthquake Insurance

The Great ShakeOut



Register

Use these resources to prepare for weather hazards, receive real-time alerts, and protect your home and community.



Stay Informed

Sign up for NotifyLA to receive emergency alerts and follow @*ReadyLA* on social media

Preparedness Materials

LA County Homeowner's Guide for Flood, Debris Flow, Erosion Control

Report Concerns

Residents are encouraged to report concerns to 3-1-1

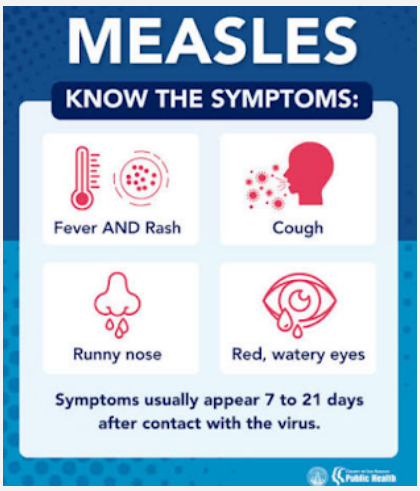
Public Health Hub

As October brings both peak fire activity and National Fire Prevention Month, it is important to remember that wildfire smoke travels long distances and poses unseen risks to your lungs and heart. Fine particulate matter $PM_{2.5}$ penetrates deep into the respiratory system, making indoor air safety just as critical as having an evacuation plan. You can safeguard your household by creating a dedicated "Clean Room", an interior space with windows closed, your HVAC set to recirculate, and a HEPA air purifier running continuously. Remember to keep a 30-day supply of essential medications on hand, equip your family with fitted N95 respirators rather than cloth masks, and avoid indoor activities that degrade air quality, such as vacuuming or frying food. Prioritizing these steps helps keep your family protected, calm, and prepared, no matter how air quality shifts this month.

Particulate Matter Basics

Trending in Public Health

Air Quality



Measles

Greater LA Vector Control

Mental Health Resources

Can What You Eat Affect Mental Health?

Tips for Coping with Stress

Breaking Bad Habits

This section of the newsletter aggregates information from the City of Los Angeles, LA County Public Health, and government partners. For official mandates, refer to the linked primary sources. This content is for informational purposes only and is not medical advice.

This newsletter has been created for you by the Community Partnerships and Engagement Division

Emergency Management Department (EMD)

City of Los Angeles

Emergency.LACity.gov

500 E. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

EMDCommunications@lacity.org

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