



EMERGENCY PREPARATION HANDOUT: 2026 Super El Niño Event

Valley Center Community Safety Flyer

Forecasters are predicting a **historic, record-breaking Super El Niño winter**, bringing significantly higher risks of **heavy rainfall, severe flooding, destructive high winds, and extended power outages** across Southern California. Because Valley Center features a distinct rural landscape with hilly terrain, private roads, and dense vegetation, our community faces unique structural risks during extreme weather events. Take action now to protect your family, home, and livestock before the storm season peaks.



SECTION 1: STAY INFORMED & REGISTER FOR ALERTS

Do not wait for a crisis to find out what is happening. Use the resources below to ensure you receive localized evacuation notices, road closures, and critical weather updates.

☐ REGISTER & MONITOR

- **AlertSanDiego Registration**

- *Register your cell phone number and email address for targeted regional emergency notifications.*

- <https://www.alertsandiego.org/en-us/preparedness/alertsandiego.html>

- **Genasys Protect Evacuation and Road Closure Maps**

- *Download the free app or access the public map. Locate your specific household "Evacuation Zone ID" so you are ready if orders are issued.*

IPHONE



ANDROID



- **San Diego County El Niño Information Hub**

- *Access the 2026 El Niño Hub to monitor regional emergency updates, view live flood plain zones, and access storm recovery tools.*

<https://www.alertsandiego.org/en-us/preparedness/flooding/elnino.html>

SECTION 2: FLOODING PREVENTION & PROPERTY PREPARATION

Valley Center's topography can cause rapid water buildup and mud standard flows on private lanes.

LOCAL FREE SAND & SANDBAG STATION

The [Valley Center Fire Protection District](#) provides **free self-serve sand and sandbags** 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- **Pickup Location:** VCFPD Station 2 — 28205 N. Lake Wohlford Road, Valley Center, CA 92082
- **Direct Inquiries Line:**  **760-751-7600** (VCFPD Station 1 Admin)
- *Note: This is a self-serve station. Residents must **bring their own shovel** to fill the bags. Call ahead to confirm stockpiles before major storms.*

CRITICAL HOME PROTECTION CHECKLIST

- **Clear Drainage Systems:** Clear all mud, leaves, and structural debris from your gutters, residential downspouts, and private culverts. Run a garden hose through property drains to confirm they flow freely.
- **Utilize Sandbags:** Proactively build barriers around vulnerable entry points, garages, and low-lying exterior doors using materials from the Lake Wohlford Road station.
- **Inspect Your Roof:** Check for missing shingles, compromised flashings, or existing leaks. Consider consulting a licensed professional via the [California Contractors State License Board](#) to complete critical repairs before heavy rains begin.
- **Review Flood Insurance:** Keep in mind that standard homeowner policies typically exclude flood damage. Review your coverage limitations immediately, as new policy provisions often require a 30-day waiting period to become active.

SECTION 3: HIGH WINDS & VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Rural properties with mature trees face severe windstorm hazards, which can drop heavy limbs onto roadways or buildings.

- **Assess Tree Health:** Inspect large trees—especially oaks and eucalyptus—close to your home, power drops, or private driveways. Consider utilizing a certified expert through the [International Society of Arboriculture](#) to remove dead wood or structurally unstable branches.
- **Secure Loose Items:** High winds can turn everyday patio objects into dangerous projectiles. Securely tie down or store patio furniture, empty trash bins, potted plants, and outdoor tools.
- **Clear Palm Fronds:** If you have palm trees on your property, trim away dead fronds proactively. Loose fronds easily break away during high winds and frequently block storm drains, causing severe localized flooding. [\[1\]](#)

SECTION 4: POWER OUTAGES & GRID FAILURE PREPARATION

Given our rural terrain, power outages in Valley Center can last from a few hours to several days if utility poles or transmission lines are downed.

- **Build an Emergency Supply Kit:** Store a bare minimum of a **72-hour supply** of non-perishable food, water (one gallon per person per day), flashlights, extra batteries, and a fully stocked first-aid kit.
- **Secure Essential Medication:** Gather a written list of all essential medical prescriptions and secure a back-up supply of critical medications. If you rely on medical equipment that requires electricity, plan a primary and secondary destination where you can access reliable backup power.
- **Safe Generator Operation:** Only operate portable fuel generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas positioned far away from windows, doors, and vents to eliminate the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Never plug a generator directly into a home wall outlet without an approved transfer switch.
- **Keep Cash on Hand:** Power outages disable automated teller machines (ATMs) and point-of-sale card registers. Maintain a small reserve of cash at home to purchase fuel or basic supplies.

SECTION 5: RURAL ROADWAY SAFETY & EVACUATION TACTICS

- **Turn Around, Don't Drown:** Never attempt to drive or walk through flooded streets or moving water. It only takes 12 inches of rushing water to wash away a small vehicle.
- **Maintain Vehicle Readiness:** Ensure your car is fully functional by verifying your tire tread depth, windshield wiper blades, brakes, and headlights are in top condition. Keep your fuel tank at least half full at all times.
- **Prepare a Go-Bag:** Pack individual go-bags for family members containing clothing changes, non-perishable snacks, charging cables, copies of vital records, and basic hygiene items.
- **Include Your Pets and Livestock:** Put together a dedicated pet go-bag with carriers, leashes, food, clean water, medications, and clear ID photos. For large animals and livestock, finalize your trailer evacuation routes and establish regional staging agreements with neighbors or local agricultural networks well in advance.

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- **PREPARE NOW • STAY INFORMED • CHECK ON YOUR NEIGHBORS**
For life-threatening emergencies, always dial 911.