



8300 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite 408, Carmichael, CA 95608
P.O. Box 2282, Carmichael, CA 95609-2282
Phone: (916) 944-5800 Fax: (916) 944-4738

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: David Ligon
(916) 879-2991

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As El Nino Storm Approaches, Northern California Ace Hardware Stores Offer Storm Preparedness Tips.

"The Helpful Place" is offering helpful tips as the rain water is about to drench Northern California.

Carmichael, Calif. - Weather forecasters are predicting rain and snow for the next week as the area is expected to get drenched with much needed water. Unfortunately that needed water sometimes can come at a price to the unprepared home or business owner.

"With the series of storms approaching, it is imperative to be prepared," says Mickey Scott, from Ace Hardware. "Make sure holes in the roof are patched, that firewood is kept dry, that flashlights are on hand with fresh batteries, and that outside furniture is covered and tied down."

Specifically, the NorCal Ace stores are suggesting having the following items on hand to help prepare for the winter storm:

Tarps - Cover all firewood to keep it dry; cover patio furniture and other outside gear, such as grilles, bikes, etc. Cover cars, boats and motorcycles.

Tie-downs and Bungee Cords - Secure tarps with tie-downs or bungee cords, or in a pinch, rope. Also, secure shutters and gates to keep them from banging against your home or fence. And any small items that can be blown away should be secured or brought indoors.

Flashlight and Batteries - Storms may result in power outages. Check to make sure you have enough flashlights around the house with fresh batteries. A flashlight should be kept in every room in the house, in an easy area to get to in the dark. Also, emergency lights can be plugged into an outlet and when power goes out the charged light will shine.

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Kerosene Lamps, Candles and Matches - For longer power outages, kerosene lamps, oil and candles are essential. And don't forget the matches.

Pipe Insulation - Higher elevations that are expecting snow need to insulate pipes to ensure the water in the pipes don't burst with the freezing temperatures.

Ponchos and Rubber Boots - One of the most overlooked items is rain gear. Have a pair of rubber boots in case you need to go out in the storm. Rubber boots will keep your feet dry and help with secure footing. Also, a poncho will protect your clothing and your skin from getting saturated.

Roof Patch - Before the rain hits, patch any holes in your roof to keep the water out.

"Every time a big storm approaches, our stores see an increase in foot traffic as people get ready for the rain. It's better to be safe now, than sorry later," said Ms. Scott.

To find a local Ace Hardware, visit www.acehardware.com

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Media Please Note: An Ace Hardware representative is available to discuss storm preparedness. Please call David Ligon to setup an interview - 916-879-2991.