



## **FRANKLIN HILLS**

### **RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

### ***BE PREPARED:*** **Storm Season Safety**

**WE BEGAN OUR “BE PREPARED” COLUMNS** a year ago to help you better prepare for challenges ranging from natural disasters to high-risk times during the holidays and extreme climate conditions. We’ve also covered “hot” topics like brush clearance compliance for wildfire prevention and how to use a fire extinguisher.

But brrrr, it’s cold outside now. And forecasters predict a warm, wet El Niño winter.

Here are steps you can take to prepare for the storm season in SoCal, with its cold temperatures, high winds, torrential rain/flooding and potential power outages.

#### **Cold Temperatures**

- If you go outside, dress warmly in insulating layers and keep extra clothes/blanket in your car
- Heat your home safely, avoiding stoves, camp stoves, generators or gas/charcoal grills for heat inside; the fumes are deadly
- Know where to go if your home becomes too cold; [here’s a list of local warming centers](#)

#### **High Winds**

- Avoid driving and stay indoors if possible to avoid flying debris
- Stay clear of trees and downed power lines
- Secure loose items outside that could blow away and cause damage or injury

#### **Floods**

- Flash floods can develop quickly during heavy rains, so be ready to evacuate all people and animals to higher ground if ordered and have emergency supplies packed in a Go Bag
- Keep your car gas tank at least half full (or battery charged) in case you’re asked to evacuate
- Never drive around barricades or drive or walk through floodwater; it may be deeper than you think and can sweep you away

## Power Outages

- [Sign up for alerts from DWP](#) so you can be notified about any energy issues (Franklin Hills is within the Los Feliz community)
- Keep phone batteries charged and limit use during an outage and purchase a USB power bank for use during outages
- Have flashlights and/or lanterns and extra batteries handy
- If you have special medical/healthcare assistive devices that require power, plan with caregivers for transportation to a location with power if needed

Source: [California Office of Emergency Services](#)

(Sign up for a short “Storm Season Safety” course by text via the link)

