

## **Getting Ready for Winter–Flooding**

1. Flood waters can be extremely dangerous. The force of 6 inches of swiftly moving water can knock people off their feet.
2. Cars can easily be swept away in just 2 feet of moving water. If a car stalls in flood water or flood waters rise around a car, it should be abandoned.
3. Roads may be closed because they've been damaged or are covered with water. Barricades are placed for your protection. If you come upon a barricade or a flooded road, go another way.
4. Flash flood waters move at very fast speeds and can roll boulders, tear out trees, destroy buildings and obliterate bridges. Walls of water can reach heights of 10 to 20 feet and generally are accompanied by a deadly cargo of debris.
5. If you must walk or drive in areas that have been flooded, stay on firm ground. Flooding may have caused familiar places to change by eroding roads or walkways. It can hide debris and be very slippery.
6. Keep listening to the radio for news about what to do, where to go or places to avoid. Keep a battery-operated or a hand-cranked radio at home. (Locally, tune to KWMMR, 90.5 Point Reyes Station, 89.9 Bolinas, 92.3 San Geronimo Valley. Try KCBS all news radio, 740 on the AM dial, if you're somewhere else in the Bay Area.)
7. Some hand-cranked radios include NOAA weather stations. (I have an ETON, which seems to be the one a lot of people around here have. It also has a flashlight.) Simple weather radios that broadcast only weather service reports can be purchased for less than \$25.

### **Preparing for Floods**

1. Please review my earlier Getting Ready for Winter #3. Here are some additional tips, courtesy of the Sheriff's Office:

Rake up and bag leaves. Leaves clog up storm drain inlets and are the primary source of most flood occurrences.

Clean all drains around your home including roof gutters, downspouts, drain inlets and pipes, drainage ditches and driveway culverts.

### **Insurance--FEMA is encouraging the public to protect themselves during the upcoming El Niño season by buying flood insurance.**

Individuals and business owners can protect themselves from flood losses by purchasing flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. Homeowner's policies do not cover flood damage. Information is available through local insurance agents. Since 1900

more than 10,000 people have died from flooding. Property damage now totals over \$1 billion each year in the US.