



## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 11, 2017

### FLOODING SAFETY TIPS

MERCED – As many residents have seen with the most recent rain, flooding can happen anywhere, anytime with devastating effects to life and property. There are measures that can be taken to help lessen the impact of a flood long before flood waters rise.

- Preplanning can help mitigate flood damage before it happens. If there are floods forecasted in your area, move appliances and valuables out of flood-prone areas and be sure all drainage areas are clear of debris around culverts. Learn how to shut off electricity, gas and water to your home.
- Develop an evacuation plan that includes a place to meet, emergency contact phone numbers and phone numbers for local and out of the area family members or friends that can coordinate family member's locations and information.
- Prepare a family disaster supply kit. Each family member should crate their own personal pack.

As flood waters begin to rise, residents should be alert for flood indicators such as rapidly rising water and flooding of roadways, highways, bridges and low-lying areas. During the flood warning, take the following precautions:

- Evacuate the area immediately if advised to do so. Be aware of potential flash flooding.
- Stay away from flooded areas whenever possible. Do not walk, swim or drive through moving water.

Caution needs to be taken after flood waters begin to recede as well.

- Watch for debris, rocks and unstable trees that might be littered on or next to roadways or homes.
- Roadways and bridges may be undermined and unstable due to flood waters. If integrity of a road or bridge is in question, turn around.
- Remove flood debris from drainage areas and culverts when it is safe to do so.
- All wells, affected by a flood, need to be disinfected before they are safe to use. For instructions on how to disinfect your well visit [www.countyofmerced.com/disinfectingwells](http://www.countyofmerced.com/disinfectingwells).

Sandbags will remain available in the Counties and Cities. Visit [www.countyofmerced.com](http://www.countyofmerced.com) for sandbag information. To sign up for Merced County emergency alerts, visit [www.countyofmerced.com/alert](http://www.countyofmerced.com/alert).

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For more information regarding Merced County, please visit our website at [www.countyofmerced.com](http://www.countyofmerced.com)