



On the Alert!

Date: October 27, 2015
Attention: ASCIP Members
Subject: Preparing for El Nino 2015
Affected Department: Business Services, Risk Management, Maintenance & Operations, Facilities, Grounds
Applicability: K-12 Districts and Community College Districts

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists have advised that an El Nino condition is predicted for winter 2015-16. "El Nino" is the warming of central Pacific waters of the eastern tropics. El Nino can produce increased rainfall and increases in the number of storms in California. The forecaster consensus unanimously favors a strong El Nino that will continue through spring 2016.

ASCIP Members are encouraged to take proactive steps prior to the start of the winter season to help minimize weather-related damage to buildings and property. These basic preparations may include:

- Check all rooftop flashings and penetrations to ensure a tight, leak-free seal
- Check all exterior window caulking and seals to ensure a leak-free seal
- Clear all gutters, scuppers and down spouts of leaves and other obstructions
- Clear all surface drains and runoff channels of leaves and other obstructions
- Check all grade-level exterior door threshold's to ensure that rubber seals are in good condition
- For sub-grade drain sumps, ensure that sump-pumps are tested and properly operating (*The District's Storm Water Prevention Plan should be followed*)
- Check for dead and dying trees caused by the drought. Consult with an arborist or ensure that tree maintenance staff remove dying or dead trees and trim trees accordingly.
- Check and replenish emergency supplies including power generators.
- Check retaining walls for weakness and modify if necessary.
- Purchase sandbags, plastic sheeting, plywood, lumber and other supplies.
- Establish agreements with local contractors for emergency response services.
- Review defensive driving principles with employee drivers and ensure they take extra precaution while driving in wet weather.

For Members in Northern California or areas that experience snow, ice and freezing temperatures, ASCIP also recommends the following basic steps:

- Check or apply insulation to unheated or exposed water lines.
- Maintain appropriate temperature levels inside unoccupied buildings to prevent freezing.
- Inspect and address tree branches or other overhanging structures that may fail in wind or through accumulation of snow or ice and cause damage to buildings, electrical etc.
- Take precautions to prevent weather related slip-and-fall incidents.

In the event that you experience moisture or fungal growth inside a building, you can refer to our [Water Intrusion Response Procedures](#). Additionally, please contact ASCIP at 562-404-8029 immediately if you have building damage or a loss to a structure.