



OFFICE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

COUNTY OF KINGS
GOVERNMENT CENTER

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COUNTY
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OFFICER

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THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

HANFORD, CA

EXCESSIVE RAINFALL RISK AND FLOOD WATCH

The National Weather Service has issued a Flood Watch and Excessive Rainfall Risk for much of the Central Valley beginning at 4:00 pm this afternoon to 10:00 am Sunday, with more storms projected next week. Please ensure you and your loved ones are prepared for multiple rounds of rain and hazardous travel conditions. Low elevation melting snow may lead to flooding and dangerous water level rises on area rivers, streams, and creeks. Kings County officials have been working closely with Water officials by monitoring levels in Kings County waterways and preparing for potential impacts.

With storms continuing to effect California, the County of Kings would like to remind residents about steps they can take to be adequately prepared. Checklists are available on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website, <https://www.ready.gov/plan>:

- Plan for your family and pets (carriers, food, litter.)
- Collect important documents (i.e., insurance policies, and vital records) to grab if you need to evacuate.
- Create an easy-to-carry emergency supply kit. Include basic food, water, medications, a flashlight, battery-powered radio, rain gear, and a first aid kit.
- Keep your car fueled in case the power is off at local gas stations.
- Identify safe routes from your home or office to higher ground.
- Establish an out-of-state "family contact," so friends and relatives know who to call to find out where you are.
- Keep sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, lumber, and other materials handy for waterproofing.
- If ordered to evacuate, do so immediately. If stranded, move to the roof so rescuers can see you.
- Avoid flooded roadways and waterways. (Just six inches of water can sweep you away.) If your car stalls in water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.

Sandbags

The following locations are providing sandbags to residents for no cost, just simply bring a shovel, supplies are limited so we encourage residents to only take what is needed. These are self service locations. *Sandbag tip fill bag $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, they work better keeping water out when stacked than bags that are completely full*

City of Hanford 900 S. 10th Ave. 7:00a.m. through 8:00p.m. Monday-Friday
City of Corcoran 750 North Ave. 7:00a.m. through 4:00p.m. Monday-Friday

City of Lemoore Corner of F. St. and Fox St. open Monday-Sunday
City of Avenal 108 W Kings St, Avenal, CA 93204 Monday-Sunday
County of Kings 10871 Bonneyview Lane, Hanford CA, 24-hour access

Travel safety

Safety comes first. Cancel all non-essential travel. Motorists should not cross standing water when the depth cannot be ascertained. Be on the lookout for stalled vehicles, downed trees and areas prone to flooding. Plan additional time for travel to all destinations in and around the Central Valley.

Check this website for current information on road conditions and closures:

Download the QuickMap app or visit [QuickMap \(ca.gov\)](https://www.quickmap.ca.gov) to learn up-to-the-minute information on road conditions, traffic, closures, chain control, and more.

Power Outages

- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.
- Use a generator, but only outdoors and away from outdoors.
- Do not use a gas stove or oven to heat your home.
- Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
- Have alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or using power-dependent medical devices.

Generator Safety

- Do not use generators indoors or in confined areas. Keep them outside away from buildings and anything flammable.
- Place generators at least 20 feet away from your home
- Check with neighbors and family to ensure they are aware of the risk of operating generators.
- Before refueling generators, turn them off and let them cool for 15-20 minutes.
- Never power the house wiring by plugging the generator into the wall outlet; instead use a heavy-duty, outdoor extension cord to plug appliances into generators.
- Do not use generators in rain or wet conditions.
- Place a fire extinguisher nearby.
- Make sure your home has operating fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

When using Portable Generators:

- Never use a generator inside your home or garage, even if doors and windows are open.
- Only use generators outside, more than 20 feet away from your home, doors, and windows.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors

- Install battery-operated or battery back-up CO detectors near every sleeping area in your home.
- Check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are functioning properly.

Emergency Alerts

Residents are reminded to dial local non-emergency communication centers (see below) to get help or ask questions. Residents are asked to report non-life-threatening storm issues to, such as:

- Clogged catch basins
- Non-life-threatening street and residential flooding
- Sewer backups or wastewater odors
- Downed trees

If you have a critical emergency, call 911.

Kings County Non-Emergency Communication Centers:

Kings County Sheriff's Office and Avenal PD	559-852-2720 and 559-584-9276
Hanford PD and Lemoore PD	559-585-2535
Corcoran PD	559-992-5151 dispatch is option 1

By opting into the Kings County emergency mass notification system, you will be informed before, during, and after incidents that could impact your safety. Kings County OES will launch a mass notification system that notifies registered users of important emergency information pertaining to severe weather, police and fire emergencies, public health crises, etc. You have complete control over alerts and can choose the delivery method of your choice: text, email or phone call. Register today to receive alerts and notifications through the citizen opt-in portal by visiting: www.kingsoes.com/alert

Well Safety

Kings County Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services would like to remind the public with residential private drinking water wells that, regardless of where storm runoff occurs causing flooding, contaminates such as animal waste, salt, pesticides and petroleum products can potentially impact drinking water. Contaminates may enter the well through gaps or cracks in the well head or casing due to flooding causing a risk to the water quality. For more information regarding what to do after your well has been flooded, please see US EPA What to Do With Your Private Well After a Flood <https://www.epa.gov/privatewells/what-do-your-private-well-after-flood>. Additional information regarding flood water safety and preparation can be found at CDC Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/index.html>.