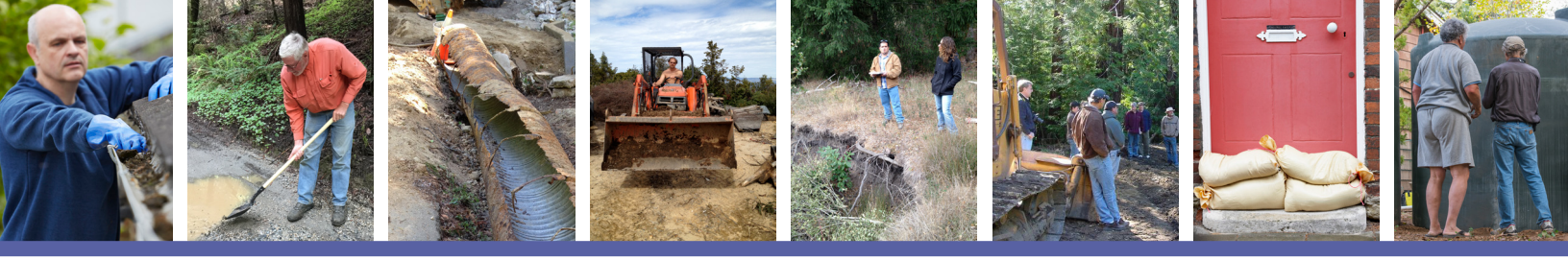

Winter Preparedness Checklist

LIVE ON A RURAL PROPERTY? PRINT THIS LIST TO HELP PREPARE.

- ☐ Register your cell phone for emergency notifications (cruzaware.org) and monitor official Santa Cruz County channels for updates (santacruzcountyca.gov/OR3.aspx)
- ☐ Know alternate escape routes in case of road closures.
- ☐ Make sure your house numbers are clear and visible to emergency personnel.

AROUND YOUR PROPERTY:

- ☐ **Check your roof** for possible leaks, especially around flashing where many leaks occur.
- ☐ Clear your **gutters and downspouts** throughout the rainy season.
- ☐ Clear/maintain **culverts and drainage systems** around your property. Make sure all culverts and drains have adequate velocity dissipation to prevent erosion at outlet points.
- ☐ **Check soil level and drainage around your home foundation** making sure storm water runs away from foundations, staircases and sidewalls.
- ☐ Have **shovels, sandbags, sand, and other emergency equipment/supplies on hand**. Store in a dry, accessible location.
- ☐ **Straw-wattles/fiber rolls/silt socks can help slow and filter stormwater runoff.** These products may also be used to safely direct water away from homes and other structures.
- ☐ **Identify any potentially hazardous trees** and call a certified arborist (treesaregood.org) if you have concerns. For trees in a public road or utility right-of-way, contact the appropriate agency.
- ☐ **Secure yard furniture**, especially items that might blow away and cause damage during a storm.
- ☐ **Wells. Ensure that well head areas is clean, clear and sealed**. Remove dirt and leaf litter from the well pad and around the well head.
- ☐ **Septic Systems.** Make sure storm water flows away and doesn't over saturate leech field. If necessary, safely divert drainage away from the system.
- ☐ If your property is prone to power outages, **consider a small generator.**
- ☐ Consider a **sump pump for below-ground areas such as basements or garages**, If you already have one, make sure it is working.
- ☐ **Turn off automatic landscaping/gardening irrigations system** during the rainy season.
- ☐ Consider a **roof runoff rain catchment system** to catch, hold and detain water during large storms.
- ☐ **Wrap outdoor pipes if freezing** temperatures are predicted.
- ☐ Consult with the RCD of Santa Cruz County and if necessary, a licensed professional such as a geologist or certified erosion control specialist for slope erosion/instability issues or concerns.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

- ☐ Scan important documents and put on a flash drive or in the cloud. Store drive in a safe location.
- ☐ Secure important family items, such as photographs, jewelry, mementos, etc.
- ☐ Prepare a family disaster plan and family disaster kit. For more information, go to https://www.santacruzcountyca.gov
- ☐ Consider flood insurance, even if you're not in a high-risk area.
- ☐ Make sure your vehicle(s) are in safe working order (brakes, lights, tires, etc.).

Contact the Resource Conservation District if you would like a no-cost assessment of erosion, drainage and/or storm damage related issues or concerns on your property.
www.rcdsantacruz.org

RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY