

COUNTER-TERRORISM AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

NOTICE

16.2

November 19, 2015

TO: All Concerned Commanding Officers


FROM: Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

SUBJECT: UPDATE TO THE STORMS AND FLOODING INCIDENT CHECKLIST -  
SUPERVISOR'S FIELD OPERATIONS GUIDE

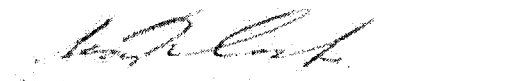
The *Storms and Flooding* Incident Checklist contained within the Supervisor's Field Operations Guide (Volume 2 of the Emergency Operations Guide) has been updated and is now available on the Department's Local Area Network under the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator's link.

If there are any questions, please contact Sergeant Michael Hammett, Officer in Charge, Emergency Preparedness Unit, Emergency Operations Division, at (213) 486-5730.

APPROVED:



MICHAEL P. DOWNING, Deputy Chief  
Commanding Officer  
Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau



SEAN W. MALINOWSKI, Commander  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Chief of Police

Attachment

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# STORMS AND FLOODING

## COMMAND OBJECTIVES (IC/OPERATIONS)

- A Size Up of the affected area.
  - Location of severe flooding or mudslides.
  - Size of the involved area (actual and potential).
  - Type of area (business, residential, hillside, etc.).
  - Ingress/egress routes for emergency vehicles.
  - Additional Department personnel required and location of Staging Area, (emphasize numbers, not units).
  - Location and radio designation of the Incident Command Post.
- Control of emergency vehicle ingress/egress routes.
- Perimeter and traffic control.
- Evacuation, if necessary. See Evacuation Checklist.

## INCIDENT COMMANDER TASKS

- If the incident is not impacting LAPD resources, send an Agency Representative to the Fire Incident Command Post (ICP).
- If the incident is impacting LAPD resources, establish Unified Command.
- Begin the unified planning process by:
  - Completing the ICS Form 201, which consists of the Map Sketch, Summary of Current Objectives and Actions, Current Organization, and Resource Summary.
  - Building an organizational chart appropriate to the scope of the incident/event (i.e., Branches, Groups, and Divisions).

## NOTIFICATIONS

- Communications
- Fire Department
- Watch Commander
- RACR/DOC

## SCOPE OF POLICE DEPARTMENT INVOLVEMENT

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District declares Phase I, II and III storm warnings. Real-Time Analysis and Critical Response Division (RACR)/ Department Operations Center (DOC) is responsible for Phase I, II and III notifications to all Areas. The Fire Department determines the need for general evacuation of an area, however, police officers at the scene may order an evacuation under emergency conditions. The LAPD mission during flood emergencies is to support the LAID Incident Commander as a Branch, Group or a Division in the Operations Section of the incident organization.

### Definitions:

**Phase I** - indicates that the overall condition of the area is basically safe for the public to conduct its business as normal with only minor, localized disruption and only minor, localized damage anticipated.

**Phase II** - indicates that the overall condition of the area is basically safe for the public to conduct its business with numerous localized disruptions and significant local damage anticipated.

**Phase III** - indicates that the overall condition of the area is extremely hazardous with significant disruption to the public in conducting its normal business and many major problems.

## Area Watch Commander/Field Supervisor Responsibilities

- Upon learning of Phase I, II, or III warnings, watch commanders of oncoming watches should notify their personnel to have appropriate rain gear on hand, and to be prepared to spend a prolonged time in the rain.
- Instruct field personnel to report to the Area watch commander any significant damage they observe during their tour of duty. The Area watch commander shall telephonically notify the RACR/DOC of all reported storm damage.

### When major damage has occurred that does NOT impact LAPD resources

Ensure an Area supervisor has been sent to the LAFD/Fire Incident Command Post as an Agency Representative to maintain liaison and to keep the Department informed of necessary directives and intelligence from the Incident Commander. Establish and maintain communications with the Liaison Officer.

### When major damage has occurred impacting LAPD resources

- Ensure that a Size Up has been obtained by field units and has been communicated to RACR/DOC and Communications Division:
  - Location of severe flooding or mudslides.
  - Size of the involved area (actual and potential).
  - Type of area (business, residential, hillside, etc.).
  - Ingress/egress routes for emergency vehicles.
  - Additional Department personnel required and location of Staging Area. (Emphasize numbers, not units.)
  - Location and radio designation of the Law Branch Director and Group/Division Supervisor(s).
- Ensure that LAFD has been notified.
- Have the Area water inundation maps and appropriate Standing Plans brought to the field.
- Direct personnel to specific missions:
  - Ingress/egress routes for authorized vehicles.
  - Perimeter control to keep unauthorized vehicles and pedestrians out of the area in accordance with directions from the LAFD Incident Commander.
  - If the LAFD Incident Commander orders evacuation of an area, see the Evacuation Checklist of this Guide.

## Additional Reference Information

Emergency Preparedness Bulletin – Volume 10, Number 10: 2015 “Godzilla” El Nino  
Emergency Preparedness Bulletin – Volume 10, Number 11: 2015 Storm/Flood Preparedness Guide

COUNTER-TERRORISM AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

NOTICE

16.2

October 15, 2015

TO: All Commanding Officers

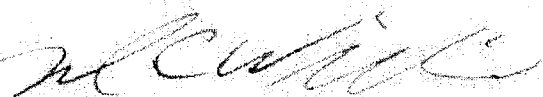
FROM: Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BULLETIN VOLUME 10, NUMBER 10 –  
2015 “GODZILLA EL NIÑO”

The Emergency Preparedness Bulletin, Volume 10, No. 10, entitled 2015 – “*Godzilla El Niño*” is now available on the Department’s Local Area Network under the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator link. In anticipation of the El Niño weather system expected in the upcoming months, Area/Divisions should review and update as necessary their flood inundation plans found within their respective Standing Plans.

If there are any questions regarding this Notice, please contact Sergeant I Michael Hammett, Officer in Charge, Emergency Preparedness Unit, Emergency Operations Division, at (213) 486-5730.

APPROVED:



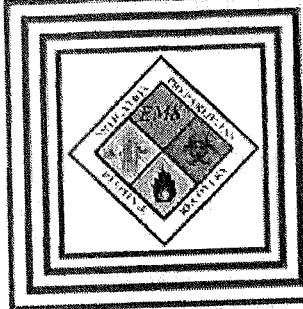
MICHAEL P. DOWNING, Deputy Chief  
Commanding Officer  
Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau



SEAN W. MALINOWSKI, Commander  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Chief of Police

Attachment

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Los Angeles Police Department  
Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
*BULLETIN*

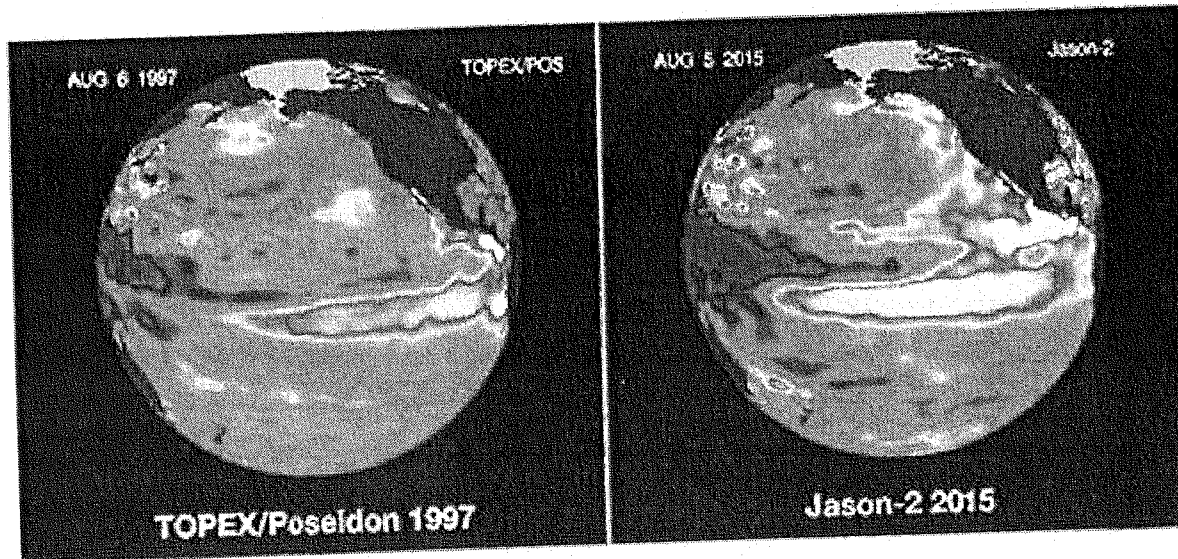
Volume 10, Number 10

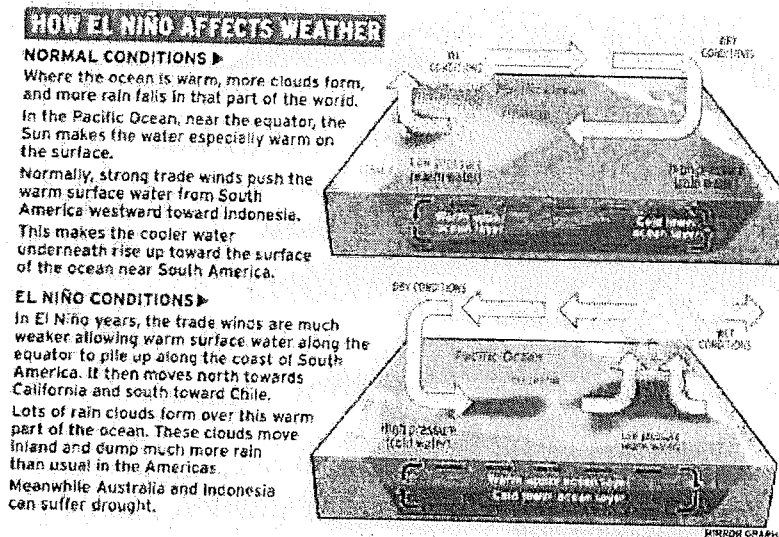
SEPTEMBER 2015

Prepared by Emergency Operations Division



The 2015 - El Niño is forecasted to possibly be the strongest on record. Based on the current build-up of contributing factors, researchers are referring to this particular coming El Niño as the "Godzilla El Niño." According to Angela Fritz, Atmospheric Scientist and Deputy Weather Editor for the Washington Post, "This year's El Niño exploded across the equatorial Pacific Ocean in March and April, while the 1997 version was still getting its legs." Bill Patzert, climatologist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory stated in a Los Angeles Times article, "In February of 1998 alone, we had four big storms and two small storms, and we got almost a year of rain in one month." Patzert continued by stating, "February looked like something that should have been spread over the entire winter." Using the past El Niño experience as an indicator for future weather behavior, what this may mean to those of us in Southern California is, in the coming winter months, we will likely get a large amount of rain in a very short period of time.

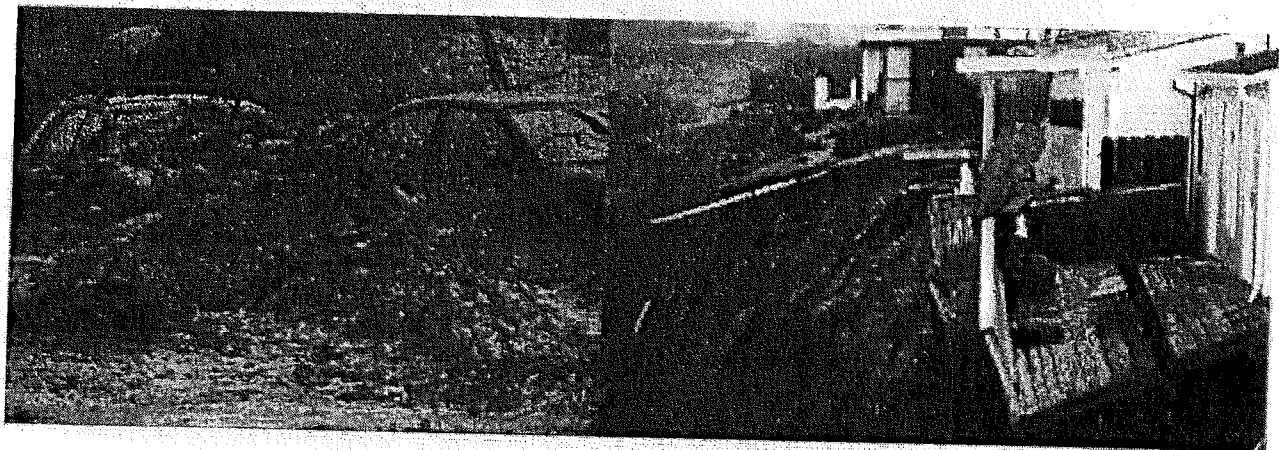




The damaged landscape and vegetation from the drought and wildfires that California has been experiencing has made us susceptible to land erosion, widespread debris flow, and isolated mudslides when the rains begin.

A debris flow is a fast-moving mass of unconsolidated, saturated debris that looks like flowing concrete. They can vary in speed from 1-35 miles per hour (mph) and may carry a large amount of wooden debris, clay particles, and even boulders. A mudslide is the most rapid (up to 50 mph) and fluid type of downhill mass wasting. It is a rapid movement of a large mass of mud formed from loose earth and water.

### Department's Mission in Response to Mudslides and Debris Flow



The mission of the Department during response to mudslides or debris flow is to ensure that endangered neighborhoods, businesses, hospitals, and vital facilities are safely and systematically evacuated prior to water, mud, or debris intrusion into the locations. In addition, Department personnel will assist with evacuations, traffic control, and provide support to all involved agencies, as needed.

The Department can help ensure the safety and welfare of the public by utilizing advanced notification when possible. The Department shall share information and objectives jointly with all involved agencies consistent with the Incident Command System.

### **EVACUATION**

Responding personnel are reminded that there may be several hundred locations needing evacuation within a short time frame. In addition to evacuations, the Department will be responsible for establishing traffic patterns for ingress and egress of evacuated areas, and for ensuring perimeter security to areas closed due to hazardous conditions.

Department personnel should refer to the Evacuation Incident Checklist found in Volume 2 of the Emergency Operations Guide as well as the Emergency Notification and Mass Communication Guide.

***NOTE: Authority to close areas and the ordering of evacuations can be found under:***

- ***Penal Code Section 409.5***
- ***Los Angeles City Charter Sections 131 and 132***
- ***Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 57.01.21***
- ***Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.224***

### **What to Do During a Mudslide or Debris Flow**



The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided some basic considerations to remember during or following a mudslide or debris flow:

- Pay special attention to recent burn areas. Burned landscape and vegetation is susceptible to land erosion, debris flow, and isolated mudslides.
- Listen for any unusual sounds that might indicate moving debris, such as trees cracking or knocking together. A trickle of flowing or falling mud or debris may precede larger mudslides.
- If near a stream or channel, be alert for any sudden increase or decrease in water flow or change from clear to muddy water. Such changes may indicate mudslide activity upstream, so move quickly.



- Be especially alert when driving. Embankments along roadsides are particularly susceptible to mudslides. Watch the road for collapsed pavement, mud, fallen rocks, and other indications of possible debris flow.
- Look for and report broken utility lines and damaged roadways. Reporting these potential hazards will get the utilities turned off as quickly as possible, preventing further injury.
- NEVER underestimate the power of moving water. Curb high water can easily knock a person off their feet and sweep them downstream. The current can be strong enough to move a small car.



The following safety points were taken from Ford Motor Company's internet article, "HOW TO DRIVE IN HEAVY RAIN: What to do if you encounter torrential rain on the road."

**SLOW DOWN.** The first thing you should do is slow down. This will give you more control and more time to react. You will need both, because when it is raining heavily, the road becomes more slippery, and visibility is limited.

**THE START OF THE STORM CAN BE DANGEROUS.** When the rain first starts, moisture mixes with the oil on the road and makes everything slippery and dangerous. Heavy rains will eventually wash the oil away. That is when you have to worry about hydroplaning, which is when your car loses contact with the road and almost feels as though it is floating.

**HYDROPLANING? TAKE YOUR FOOT OFF THE GAS.** If you find yourself hydroplaning, keep calm, take your foot off the gas and steer in a safe direction. Avoid hydroplaning by slowing down, turning off cruise control and avoiding sudden braking or turns.

You are more likely to hydroplane on non-grooved asphalt roads than ribbed concrete —particularly if there are tire ruts worn into the asphalt. Try to avoid any areas on the road where water collects.

**DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DRIVE THROUGH DEEP PUDDLES.** Puddles can hide potholes, so try to drive around them, being mindful of vehicles in adjacent lanes.

Do not drive in areas that are flooded or have moving water. Deep water can wreak havoc on your electrical system and engine. As little as a foot of water can float some vehicles, and two feet of rushing water can sweep vehicles away, including Sport Utility Vehicles and pick-up trucks.

**TURN ON YOUR HEADLIGHTS.** With heavy rain come dark skies, so turn on your headlights. But do not use your high beams, because the extra light can refract against the droplets and can distract drivers.

**USE DEFROSTERS AND SET AIR CONDITIONING OR HEAT TO FRESH AIR.** Turn on your defrosters to reduce fog, and set your air conditioner or heater on the fresh-air setting.



**KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.** The spray from trucks or large vehicles can also obscure your vision, so keep your distance or try to pass them if you find a safe opportunity.

**HEAD FOR HIGHER GROUND.** Look for higher paths to drive on. And if it gets too harsh out there, do not risk it. Find a safe place on higher ground—away from tall, isolated trees and poles in case there is lightning. Pull over to wait for the rain to pass.

**BE PREPARED.** You can help prepare your vehicle by making sure your headlamps, wiper blades, brakes and tires are always properly maintained.

Any questions regarding the content of this Bulletin should be directed to the Emergency Preparedness Unit, Emergency Operations Division, at (213) 486-5730.



## REFERENCES

### **Los Angeles Police Department Emergency Operations Guide:**

- *Volume II; Supervisor's Field Operations Guide: “Storms and Flooding,”* November 2012
- *Volume IV; Command Officer's Guide: “Evacuation,”* August 28, 2014
- *Emergency Preparedness Bulletin s:*
  - Volume 10, No. 7 Considerations During an Emergency Response for People with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs – August 28, 2014
  - Volume 10, No. 8 Conducting Community Outreach During an Emergency – the Role of the Senior Lead Officer – August 28, 2014
  - Volume 9, No. 4 Responding to Mudslides or Debris Flows – December 2008
  - Volume 1, No. 1 Storm/Flood Response Guide - October 2004
  - Volume 1, No. 2. Storm/Flood Preparedness for Police Personnel and Facilities - October 2004

### **Los Angeles Police Department Emergency Notification and Mass Communication Plan - 2014**

**Federal Emergency Management Agency:** *During a Landslide or Debris Flow*  
[www.fema.gov/hazard/landslide/lc\\_during.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/landslide/lc_during.shtm)

**Federal Emergency Management Agency:** *After a Landslide or Debris Flow*  
[www.fema.gov/hazard/landslide/lc\\_after.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/landslide/lc_after.shtm)

**Federal Emergency Management Agency:** *Ring of Fire: “Get Ready: El Niño Looks Pissed,”*  
August 21, 2015  
<http://ringoffireradio.com/2015/08/fema-get-ready-el-nino-looks-pissed/>

**The Washington Post:** “El Niño then and now – a side-by-side comparison of 1997 and 2015”  
August 13, 2015  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/capital-weather-gang/wp/2015/08/13/el-nino-then-and-now-a-side-by-side-comparison-of-1997-and-2015/>

**Los Angeles Times:** “Godzilla El Niño”: Unbelievable rain for California, dry winter for Midwest.”  
August 21, 2015  
<http://touch.latimes.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-84256398/>

**Ford Motor Company:** “*HOW TO DRIVE IN HEAVY RAIN: What to do if you encounter torrential rain on the road*”  
<http://www.myfordmag.com/service/driving-in-the-rain>