

A Super El Niño is expected to bring heavy rain, strong winds, and rising flood risk to California and Orange County in the coming months.

What Is El Niño?

El Niño is a naturally occurring climate pattern that occurs when Pacific Ocean waters become warmer than normal. These warmer temperatures can influence weather patterns around the world by shifting atmospheric conditions and storm tracks. In Southern California, El Niño often increases the likelihood of stronger storms, heavier rainfall, flooding, coastal erosion, and other weather-related hazards.

What Could Orange County Experience?

While El Niño does not guarantee severe weather, Orange County residents should be prepared for:

Heavier Rainfall

- Increased chance of stronger winter storms
- Localized flooding in low-lying areas

Coastal Impacts

- Larger waves and stronger surf
- Beach erosion
- Coastal flooding during high tides

Mudslides and Debris Flows

- Increased risk in hillside and burn scar areas
- Road closures and travel disruptions during storms

Power Outages & Infrastructure Impacts

- Downed trees and power lines during severe weather

Travel Disruptions

- Flooded roadways
- Hazardous driving conditions during heavy rain

El Niño can increase the risk of heavy rainfall, flooding, coastal hazards, and power outages in Orange County. Take these steps now to help protect your family, home, and property before storms arrive.

Resources

- [Sign Up for Emergency Alerts](#) – Register for AlertOC to receive emergency notifications and evacuation information.
- [Find Sandbag Locations](#) – Know where to obtain sandbags before flooding threatens your area.
- [Build an Emergency Supply Kit](#) – Gather essential supplies such as food, water, medications, flashlights, and batteries.
- [Monitor Weather Conditions](#) – Stay informed through trusted weather forecasts, alerts, and local emergency information.



Additional Preparedness Tips

- Clear gutters, drains, and storm pathways around your home.
- Secure outdoor furniture and loose items that could be damaged during storms.
- Charge phones, backup batteries, and other essential devices.
- Review your family emergency communication plan.
- Know evacuation routes if you live in a flood- or landslide-prone area.
- Include pets in your emergency preparedness plans.
- Never drive through flooded roadways or standing water.