STORM SAFETY TIPS

During the Storm

- **Stay informed**—Tune-in to KCBS (740 AM or 106.9 FM) or local TV channels for emergency advisories and instructions. Sign up for local alerts through AlertSF.org.
- **Disconnect appliances**—If you are asked to leave your property, disconnect all electrical appliances. Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.
- **Protect yourself**—If you come to an area that is covered with water, especially if the water is moving fast, turn around. Avoid downed power lines and broken gas lines.
- **Report Issues to 311**—Call, tweet or use the app to report any issues with damaged or clogged catch basins or water or sewer backups on your property.

After the Storm

- **Protect yourself**—Do not handle live electrical equipment in wet areas.
- **Do not restore gas service yourself**—Call PG&E (800) 743–5000.
- **Minimize direct contact with floodwater**—Wear protective clothing and heavy gloves to remove items that may be contaminated. Do not use fresh foods or canned goods that have come in contact with flood waters.
- **Prevent mold**—Flooded buildings should be pumped out, disinfected, and dried as quickly as possible to prevent mold.

PLAN

- **Know your risk**—Find out if your neighbors have experienced flooding in the past. Even inland areas can be prone to flooding!
- **Buy Flood Insurance**—Homeowners, business owners and tenants can buy flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program to cover for flood damage to buildings and building contents.
- **Apply for a Floodwater Grant**—We reimburse up to $100k for projects that help reduce the risk of damage to your property caused by flooding.

PREPARE

- **Create an emergency plan and kit**—Find out what to do in an emergency and useful guides to help you get prepared at www.sf72.org
- **Sign Up for Weather Alerts**—The National Weather Service provides forecasts at www.weather.gov. Local alerts for weather and more are available through AlertSF.org.
- **Make or pick up sandbags**—Available at most hardware stores. Up to 10 sandbags are free for San Francisco residents and businesses.
  
  SF Public Works Mon–Sat, 7am–3pm at 2323 Cesar Chavez St. (Entrance Marin St./Kansas St. gate).

PROTECT

- **Elevate your belongings**—Make sure to place valuable items and any chemicals (pesticides, cleaners, etc.) on shelves or relocate them to a higher floor before large storms.
- **Relocate Your Vehicle**—If you live in an area with a history of flooding, move your vehicle to a safe location before expected storms.
Protect Your Home from Sewer Backups and Flooding

1. **Protect Areas Below Street Level**
   Interior spaces below street level are the most vulnerable to flooding. If you have a low garage or basement, be sure to protect doorways and windows during storms. Consider sandbags, window wells, flood walls and removable barriers.

2. **Improve Drainage & Reduce Paved Areas**
   Water will pond in low-lying areas. The ground should be higher around your foundation and slope away from it. Increasing green space and using permeable pavements for parking and patio areas lets more rainfall drain into the soil, leaving more room in sewers during storms.

3. **Take Care of Your Sewer Connection**
   As a property owner, you are responsible for maintaining the sewer lateral (the connection from your building to the city sewer). Tree roots, “flushable” wipes, and grease poured down the drain can clog your sewer pipes. A clogged or cracked sewer lateral can cause backups. Note: A backflow prevention device is required if you have any plumbing fixtures below street level.

4. **Adopt a Catch Basin | adoptadrain.sfwater.org**
   The City works hard to maintain our 1,000+ miles of sewer pipes and 25,000+ catch basins, but litter and plant debris can block catch basins and cause stormwater to pond in the street. You can help by keeping litter off the street, clearing catch basin grates before storms, and reporting any problems to 311.

5. **Maintain Roof Drains and Downspout**
   Make sure your roof drains and gutters are clear to prevent clogging in a storm event. Consider connecting your downspout to a rain barrel or cistern to capture and save rainwater for later uses, such as watering plants or washing walkways.

Find out more at sfwater.org/rainreadySF