



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS MAINTENANCE CREWS ARE READY FOR MONSOON SEASON

SAN BERNARDINO – Monsoon season has arrived in the eastern deserts and mountains of southern California. Wildfires that have occurred over the past ten years have left significant burn scars in the San Bernardino, the San Gorgonio and the Cleveland National Forests. The monsoons drench these areas causing the creeks and washes to overflow their banks with water, debris, and mud, which ultimately sheet across state highways.

The Maintenance Department in District 8 is preparing for the summer storms. Additional personnel have been assigned to the maintenance stations located in the areas subject to monsoon activity. Crews are making needed repairs to affected highways and are removing loose debris in anticipation of the summer storms.

Watch out for the Caltrans crews that are cleaning highways after a monsoon event. One cubic foot of water is the size of a basketball and weighs approximately nine pounds. Imagine thousands of these washing across the highway along with solid debris caught in the current. Give the crews plenty of room. Slow down, be prepared and **TURN AROUND DON'T DROWN@!**

The following tips may aid you in your travels through monsoon territory:

- First, check the weather and traffic conditions before you leave. Listen to local traffic on the radio. You may also use our helpful social media services provided below.
- Always make sure your car is in good running condition before you drive long distances. Check your tires, brakes, fluids, wiper blades, and always have a full tank of gas in case you encounter traffic delays and a gas station is inaccessible.
- Bring plenty of water for everyone in your vehicle including snacks, required medications, a charged cell phone with car charger, blankets and sturdy shoes in the event that you may need them during an emergency.
- Be especially cautious at night. Flood dangers are much more difficult to see in the dark.
- Pay attention and follow any directions given by road signs or the overhead Changeable Message Signs (CMS).
- Follow all directions given to you by road work personnel, law enforcement, or emergency responders. Call 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency.
- If you encounter flash flooding or running water – **TURN AROUND – DON'T DROWN@!**

For road information please follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/caltrans8 or check conditions on Caltrans Quickmap <http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/>.

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