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Message from Newport Beach PD Alerts

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The City of Newport Beach is asking residents and property owners to take immediate precautions ahead of exceptionally high king tides expected Nov. 23-27, Dec. 22-26 and into the new year.

Ocean water levels could rise 12 inches or more above October's record-breaking high tide of 8.4 feet, significantly increasing the risk of coastal flooding in waterfront neighborhoods, low-lying areas and other flood-prone locations, including properties that did not experience flooding in October.

City crews continue reinforcing protective sand berms, inspecting stormwater infrastructure, maintaining tide valves and pumping systems and positioning equipment and personnel in vulnerable areas. Staff will monitor coastal conditions and respond as needed.

While the City is taking measures to reduce flooding risks, residents and property owners are asked to prepare now and take the following precautions to help protect their properties:

• Protect vulnerable areas. Place sandbags or temporary flood barriers around garages, doorways, low seawalls and other areas where water could enter.
• Inspect and protect seawalls. Check seawalls and bulkheads for low sections, cracks, openings or deterioration and make necessary repairs. The City has received authorization from the California Coastal Commission to issue emergency permits for seawall repairs and extensions, with streamlined plans and expedited permitting available. Visit NewportBeachCA.gov/FloodRecovery or call 949-644-3200.
• Protect electric vehicles and lithium-ion batteries. Move vehicles, including electric vehicles (EVs), golf carts and e-bikes, to higher ground in areas at risk of flooding. Floodwater, especially saltwater, can damage lithium-ion batteries and create a fire risk, even after water recedes. Do not operate or charge flood-exposed vehicles or batteries until inspected by a qualified professional. If a battery shows signs of damage, such as discoloration, swelling or smoke, stay away and call 911 immediately.
• Consider temporary pumps. Consider purchasing or renting a pump to help manage minor leaks and pump water back into the harbor. Please note that pumps cannot manage seawall overtopping or major flooding.
• Avoid flooded streets. Never drive through floodwaters, as vehicle wakes can push water onto nearby properties and worsen flooding.
• Limit boating activity. Reduce boating activity in Newport Harbor during exceptionally high tides, as boat wakes can cause water to overtop seawalls and flood waterfront properties.

Free, prefilled sandbags are available while supplies last at the City's Corporation Yard, 592 Superior Ave.

For upcoming king tide dates, anticipated water levels, flood preparedness resources and additional information, visit NewportBeachCA.gov/ElNino.

In the event of an immediate threat to life or safety, call 911.

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