

The Moreno Valley Fire Department would like to offer important flood preparedness information:



The Office of Emergency Management would like to remind everyone floods are one of the most common hazards in Riverside County. They can cause injury, death property damage and even contaminate drinking water and cause electrical disruptions which can severely impact the City of Moreno Valley. All floods are not alike and can develop slowly over time but can also progress very quickly in just a few minutes. Flash floods often have a dangerous

wall of rapidly moving water that carries rocks, mud, and debris and can sweep away anything in its path. Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live, but especially if you live in low lying areas, near water or even near flood prone areas or intersections. Do not attempt to cross an area or intersection that appears to be flooded but rather find an alternate route of travel.

Before the Flood Warning or Watch

Be prepared to respond to flooding by taking the following actions before rains and flooding begin:

- Assemble emergency supply kits for your home, workplace, and vehicle.
- Store a seven-day supply of food and water (at least one gallon per person, per day) in closed, clean containers.
- Gather filled sandbags.
- Be sure to have plastic sheeting on hand.
- Teach children not to play in or near rivers, streams, or other areas of potential flooding.
- Identify safe routes from your home or work place to high, safe ground. Determine whether you can use these routes during flooding or storms. Be familiar with your geographic surroundings.

During the Flood

- Avoid unnecessary trips.
- Do not drive or walk through moving water. You can be knocked off your feet in as little as 6 inches of water.
- Do not “sightsee” or enter restricted areas.
- Stay away from streams, rivers, flood control channels and other areas subject to sudden flooding.
- Move to higher ground if you’re caught by rising waters.
- Use the phone only to report dangerous conditions or emergencies that are life threatening.

What are Flash Floods?

Flash floods are short-term events, occurring within 2 hours of the start of high intensity rainfall. A flash flood is a rapid stream rise. Flash flood damage and most fatalities tend to occur in areas immediately near a stream, creek, river or flood prone areas and intersections. In addition, heavy rain falling on steep terrain can weaken soil and cause mud slides, damaging homes, roads and property. Flash floods occur when slow moving or multiple thunderstorms happen over the same area. When storms move faster, flash flooding is less likely since the rain is distributed over a larger area.



When a flash flood **WATCH** is issued

- Watch for signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment's notice.

When a flash flood **WARNING** is issued

- A flash flood warning is issued when the threat of a flash flood is imminent or occurring.
- Be ready to evacuate immediately as you may have only seconds to escape.
- Move to higher ground and away from rivers, streams, creeks and storm drains. Do not drive around barricades. These are placed to keep you out of harm's way.
- If your car stalls in rapidly rising waters, abandon it immediately and climb to higher ground.



The Moreno Valley Fire Prevention Bureau would like to offer the following information:

Overview

The Fire Prevention Bureau, in cooperation with the Riverside County Office of the Fire Marshal, is a division of the Moreno Valley Fire Department. The mission of the bureau is to provide professional fire and life safety engineering, permitting, and inspection services for our citizens and emergency responders through exemplary customer service, leadership, education, innovation and partnership with the development and business community.

The Fire Prevention Bureau has a daily effect on the community due to its involvement in the planning, construction, and maintenance of the many structures throughout the City. The goal of the bureau is to safeguard the community from fire and environmental hazards through the programs that reduce injuries, loss of life, and loss of property. This is

accomplished by ensuring adherence to fire regulations, providing public education and conducting annual inspections. Any questions or comments about the Fire Prevention Bureau can be directed to the City Fire Marshal at 951.413.3370.

Fire Prevention Q&A

What is the California Fire Code?

The California Fire Code contains the various regulations that establish fire safety requirements for a wide range of activities. The City Council adopts the California Fire Code and makes specific amendments which fulfill the needs and values of the community. These requirements govern matters such as:

- emergency preparedness
- prevention and reporting of fires
- manufacturing, storage, handling, use, and transportation of hazardous materials
- conduct of various businesses and activities that pose fire hazards
- the design, installation, operation, and maintenance of the buildings and premises that house such materials, businesses and activities

To whom does the Fire Code apply?

The Fire Code applies to all residents and businesses in Moreno Valley. Everyone must comply with its prohibitions and fire safety requirements. Residents and businesses that conduct or supervise activities regulated by the Fire Code may also be required to obtain permits that authorize them to engage in those activities. Any questions regarding the Fire Code or need for permits can be directed to the City Fire Marshal at 951.413.3370

Why do you inspect our business every year?

Fire Inspections are completed at least once a year to make sure the buildings in which you work or live, or businesses you visit, are safe to occupy. These inspections ensure that fire protection devices and systems are maintained on a regular basis and ready should an emergency occur. Fire inspectors also ensure that exit doors function properly, exit signs illuminate, and fire-rated walls are not compromised. Any questions regarding the inspections can be directed to the City Fire Marshal at 951.413.3370

What is the minimum rating required of a fire extinguisher? How often does my extinguisher need to be serviced?

The rating can be found on the label of the extinguisher near the UL (Underwriter's Laboratory) symbol. For businesses, the minimum rating for a fire extinguisher is 2A10BC. High hazard locations may require a higher rated extinguisher. In general, the Fire Code requires that one extinguisher be provided for every 75 feet of travel distance in low hazard occupancies, such as office spaces. Fire extinguishers must be serviced annually by a contractor licensed by the Contractor's State License Board or the State Fire Marshal.

Although not required, the Moreno Valley Fire Department recommends that residents have at least one fire extinguisher in



the home. A general purpose, or ABC, fire extinguisher is designed to put out the types of fires typically seen in the residential setting and can be found online or in most home improvement stores. Kitchen and garage fires are the most common type of residential fire, so having a fire extinguisher near one or both locations is advised. Any questions regarding the inspections can be directed to the City Fire Marshal at 951.413.3370

Does my home need a smoke alarm and, if so, how many?



The California Health & Safety Code requires that every single-family dwelling has operable smoke alarms that are approved and listed by the State Fire Marshal and installed in accordance with the State Fire Marshal's regulations. One of the best ways to protect yourself and your family is to have a working smoke alarm that can sound fast for both a fire that has flames, and a smoky fire that has fumes without flames. It is called a "Dual

Sensor Smoke Alarm." Place a smoke alarm on the ceiling of every level of your home and both inside and outside bedrooms as children and older people can sleep through the loud sound of a smoke alarm. If you keep your bedroom doors closed, place a smoke alarm on the ceiling of each bedroom and check smoke alarms monthly by pressing the test button.

In addition, all new construction or additions, alterations, or repairs that exceed \$1,000 in cost and for which a permit is required must have a smoke alarm installed inside each bedroom as well as one centrally installed in the corridor or area outside the bedroom. For new construction only, the smoke alarm must be hardwired with a battery backup. For all other homes, the smoke alarm may be battery operated. This law also applies to multi-family dwellings, such as apartment buildings. Any questions regarding the need or operation of smoke alarms can be directed to the City Fire Marshal at 951.413.3370

Does my home need a carbon monoxide monitor?

Beginning January 1, 2013 all single-family homes, apartments, and condominiums in California that have a fireplace, an attached garage, or fossil fuel burning appliances are required by law to have a carbon monoxide device installed. Similar to smoke detectors, you should install a carbon monoxide monitor outside of each separate sleeping area. Many detectors can serve the dual purpose of carbon monoxide and smoke detection. Any questions regarding the need or operation of carbon monoxide monitor can be directed to the City Fire Marshal at 951.413.3370

What is a "Knox Box" and do I need one?

A Knox Box is basically a locked key box. The purpose of a Knox Box is to provide the Fire Department with rapid, non-destructive access to the property and building during emergency situations. Property owners can put all necessary keys, pass cards, and other relevant items in a Knox Box to ensure efficient, effective after-hour entry should emergencies occur. If you open a new business or multi-family dwelling such as an apartment building or condominium complex, you are required to obtain a Knox Box. In addition, the fire code official is authorized to require a Knox Box to be installed on existing buildings in accordance with 2016 California Fire Code, Section 506.1.

Knox boxes are also available for purchase for private residences if homeowners would like to allow for rapid entry by emergency personnel due to a medical condition. For information on how to purchase a Knox Box, contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at (951) 413-3370.



How can I register a complaint about a possible fire hazard?

If you have a concern or question regarding a fire hazard situation, you may contact the Fire Prevention Bureau by calling (951) 413-3370 or by notifying us via email at fireprevention@moval.org. The Fire Prevention Bureau investigates complaints filed by citizens regarding potential fire hazards including blocked exits, inoperable fire protection systems, overcrowding, or dead vegetation. Once a complaint is received, a Fire Inspector will investigate the matter to verify if there is a violation. A corrective notice can be issued if the situation is deemed to be in violation of what is specifically required by the Fire Code. Aesthetic issues with conditions that may appear hazardous can also be addressed by the Code & Neighborhood Services Division at City Hall.