Are you flood-safe?

Even in a drought, flooding can happen. Extreme dry conditions can harden the ground and increase run-off to streams and creeks during the first few days of heavy rain, increasing the risk of flooding.

Any time it can rain, it can flood. Don't get caught off-guard; be flood-safe with tips from the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

Flood Safety Tips:

• Put together a family emergency plan and decide on a meeting spot in case you get separated.

• Make an emergency kit for your home and your car, and keep a full tank of gas in your car.

• Consider purchasing flood insurance. Most homeowner’s and renter’s insurance do not cover flood damage, and typically there is a 30 day waiting period for a policy to go into effect.

• Know the locations of your neighborhood streams and drainage channels. Learn the best route to high ground.

• Keep rain gutters and drainage channels free of debris.

• Gather building materials like plywood, plastic sheeting and sandbags to protect your home. For sandbags, visit www.valleywater.org/sandbags

• Don’t walk or drive in flooded areas. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. And a foot of water will cause vehicles to float away.

For more information visit www.valleywater.org