



El Niño Resources for LAUSD Classrooms



Effects

El Niño brings rainstorms and high winds that have multiple effects at school.

- **Flooding** to school sites or surrounding area
- **Delays** in student arrival and dismissal due to weather
- **Loss of power**
- **Loss of phone service**, cell or landline
- **Indoor activities** if student cannot go outside (recess, lunch, PE, etc.)
- **Extended school day** if conditions are unsafe for dismissal or delay after-school pick-ups
- **Relocation/evacuation** of part or all of a school, if flooded or otherwise damaged



Classroom Preparedness

Be prepared to shelter in place or evacuate the classroom with students. Have on hand:

- LAUSD Staff/Responder Emergency Plan app. Encourage co-workers and parents to download versions for them available at:
<http://achieve.lausd.net/emergencyapps>
- Snacks
- Activities
- Rainy day lessons/activities to use during prolonged periods of inclement weather.
- Plans to rearrange your classroom if you have to temporarily take in additional students due to storm damage or staff delays
- Emergency lesson plans for last-minutes subs or to replace “high-tech” lessons in case of a loss of power or internet
- Flashlights and batteries (one for you and one for students to take to restrooms which often have no windows)
- Securely closed windows/doors when leaving to reduce chances of water intrusion
- Wastebasket liners/trash bags to use as emergency rain ponchos
- Space for student rain gear and a wastebasket to hold umbrellas
- Walk-off mats at doors to reduce slips and falls; alert custodial staff to wet spots
- **“Go kit”** with rosters, contact information, emergency supplies and flashlight



Student Preparedness

- Discuss weather with students; incorporate into lessons
- Monitor wet/cold students for health issues
- Know how any students with disabilities/medical needs may be impacted by weather
- Remind students never to play in river/creek channels or storm drains. A few inches of water can easily knock people off their feet.





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Driving Tips

- **Headlights on** will help you see better on foggy or rainy days and it will help other drivers see you.
- **Increase following distance** and watch for brake lights ahead.
- **Slow down.** It takes longer to stop in wet weather, and the faster you drive, the greater the chances of hydroplaning.
- **Turn around, don't drown.** Never drive through moving flood waters. It takes just 12 inches of water to move a car.



Personal Preparedness

- **Prepare** your home and family for weather emergencies; get a kit, make a plan, be informed.
- **Remember**, you are a Disaster Service Worker and may need to stay at work for an extended period of time during an emergency.
- **Keep** emergency supplies in car and classroom, including food, medication, rain gear and extra clothing.
- **Wear** weather-appropriate clothing and protective gear.
- **Allow** extra time to get to/from work in wet weather.
- **Contact** your supervisor if you may be delayed in arriving at school



Internet Resources

- Classroom El Niño instruction and activities
<http://www.elNino.noaa.gov/>
- LAUSD El Niño resources
<http://achieve.lausd.net/elnino>
- LA County El Niño resources and general guidelines
<http://www.lacounty.gov/elNino>
- LA City El Niño resident resources and general guidelines
<http://www.elNinola.com/>
- Disaster preparedness
<http://www.redcross.org/prepare>
- Disaster preparedness
<http://www.ready.gov/natural-disasters>

