



# The Time to Prepare is **NOW**

[As needed or to schedule a LERT training, you are welcome to give me a call:]

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California and Reno are currently experiencing what meteorologists call an atmospheric river. Between now (12/23/25) and Friday (12/26/25), the storm is aimed at much of the CNH District. Matthew 25:1-13 offers us some words of spiritual wisdom which, in this case, are also applicable to our lives.

Between now and the main part of the storm, which is expected from Wednesday afternoon to midday on Christmas Day, here are some steps you can take in case of a power outage or the need to evacuate.

**Pray:** Pray for God to bless you with peace of mind, wisdom in your decisions, and, if it is His will, to spare your community from major trauma. If that is not His will, ask for guidance on how you can show His mercy to your family and those around you. Even if your community is safe, pray for guidance on how to be an instrument of His mercy in other communities that are less fortunate. Some ideas: volunteer, help make phone calls, prepare food for first responders or survivors, or donate money.

**Family Gathering Place:** Choose a meeting place where you and your family can gather if you don't live together or get separated.

**Phone List:** Keep a list of important contacts, including spiritual leaders, medical providers, family members, and others you may need to reach.

**Significant Documents:** Birth and marriage certificates, deeds, financial papers, credit cards, etc.

**Cash:** Keep enough cash on hand to cover at least 3 days (72 hours) of expenses.

**Clothing:** Store 72 hours' worth of clothing in one place (such as a suitcase) so you and your family can grab it quickly.

**Medications:** Have your medicines in an easy-to-reach spot so you can take them when needed.

**Blankets:** Make sure you have enough blankets to keep your family warm if the power goes out. Buy more if needed.

**Food:** Check your pantry for non-perishable foods and note anything you need to restock. Then purchase those items.

**Batteries:** Make sure you have the correct batteries for your electronic devices (flashlights, radios, cell phones, etc.). This may also be a good time to buy a portable power bank for charging your phone.

**Battery Powered Radio:** Make sure the radio works properly. Consider buying one that has a built-in crank or is solar-powered. Learn the local frequencies you'll need to tune in to stay informed.

**Charge Your Cellphone:** Fully charge your phone now, even if you cannot get or don't have extra batteries.

**Generator:** Make sure it is working. Buy fuel or batteries as needed.

**Fuel In Your Car:** If your tank is less than half full, fill it up. If it's half full or more, consider filling it anyway.

For additional ideas: [https://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/basic\\_preparedness.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/basic_preparedness.pdf)