

San Andreas Sanitary District Focuses on Emergency Preparedness in 2025

Recent weather events and wildfires have demonstrated more than ever the need to be prepared for an emergency that will impact not only individuals but the entire community. Some events do not provide much advance warning while others allow for a few days of planning. Either way, the District is implementing measures that will allow for mitigation and efficient recovery following an emergency. Read on to learn about three key components of the District's strategy and the precautionary efforts that you can implement at home.



Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Development

SASD is pleased to have received grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Cal Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to develop a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) that will complete a comprehensive risk assessment and identify mitigation actions for the District. The plan will examine the environmental impacts from wildfire, drought, power disruption and extreme wet weather conditions have on the sewer system, and ultimately the community. Mitigation efforts will include staff training and identification of key actions and projects that will protect public health and safety, provide vital sanitary sewer services, protect the environment and ensure staff safety during an emergency.

The completed plan also makes the District eligible for funding through Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance programs, as well as prior-approved grant funding from FEMA for projects identified in the LHMP.

Why is this important?

It means that should a catastrophic event hit the San Andreas community, the District is in the position to receive immediate financial assistance to ensure vital infrastructure is replaced or repaired to working condition as soon as possible.

Staff Training

District staff are continuously training for various emergency scenarios. This coming year, training is targeted on enhancing our response to natural disasters and ensuring public safety. Examples include proper application of CPR and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED), with instruction provided by Eric Werner, the District's certified trainer. Staff will also receive enhanced flagger and road safety training, especially when clearing sewer obstructions during rain events.



Community Collaboration

The District provides a vital service to San Andreas and values the community it serves. Customers will receive updates about the LHMP and be asked to participate in its development. Opportunities for public involvement, including workshops, will be publicized in the coming year.

Emergency preparedness applies to the community at every level. In addition to developing the LHMP, the District is pursuing opportunities to partner with community organizations, local utilities, and emergency service providers to identify collaboration efforts to better assist the community during an emergency. For example, SASD is currently

coordinating with the school district on fire mitigation efforts along our shared fence line with Calaveras High. The school received a grant for clearing brush and fire hazard materials, and our District was able to join the effort.

The District conducts an annual elementary school outreach program that includes a classroom lesson, plant tour with hands-on activities, and an art contest. The theme of this year's program will incorporate topics about Emergency Preparedness and how families can prepare in advance. (See *Be Prepared* article)

Be Prepared!

Simple tips and preparedness can make a big difference when faced with a challenging situation. Is your emergency kit ready?



Wet Weather Tips:

- Use caution driving through running water on streets. Avoid standing water and flooded areas.
- Keep storm drains clear of debris to prevent street flooding.
- Make sure windshield wipers are properly working.



HOW TO REACH US

Contact the District at office@sasanitary.org or (209) 754-3281.

Stay updated on District news at sasanitary.org.

After-hour emergencies? Call the District's 24-hour Service Line at (209) 754-3281.

