



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
Auxiliary Emergency Fund/Office of Emergency Services
January 2024

Welcome to the New Year. I sincerely wish that you, your family and friends had a wonderful holiday time and a joyous, healthy, and safe New Year.

As we here in California welcome the rain, we also know it can bring, heavy storms, flooding, and high winds. It is recommended that during the dry days if there are places around your home or property that are prone to having damage from any of these conditions that you mitigate the damage now. Here are some tips you can do to protect your residences and prevent costly repairs. It's wise to plan ahead for floods and water damage.

Have supplies on hand to handle problems: tarps, sandbags, as well as keeping towels, sealants, caulk, and other materials on hand to clean up and make minor repairs yourself.

If your yard slopes down toward your home, your home may be more prone to flooding and foundation damage. Fix the grade around your house so it slopes away and downward by at least 4 inches in the first 6 feet.

Rain, wind, hail, animals, debris and even extreme heat can damage your roof and cause leaks in and around your ceiling and walls. Therefore, it's wise to climb up there and inspect the shingles and flashing, especially before the rainy season arrives. Also clean out the gutters.

Did your doors and windows let in icy drafts this past winter? If air can seep through those cracks, so can water. Seal them before rain and snowmelt make their way in and boost your home's energy efficiency.

Homes that reside in areas prone to flooding often come with a sump pump. If your pump is old, the pressure sensor can fail to work and cause water to back up into your basement/crawlspace. It's important to check your pump regularly and perform routine maintenance every few months.

Remember, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is made available for emergencies during weather related disasters that could leave a member without resources to pay rent/mortgage and/or utilities, if no other source of aid is readily available. Please reach out to any member that you may be aware of that could be in that situation. The application, instructions and common questions can be found on the National website (alaforveterans.org).

As auxiliary members we serve our Veterans and active Military, however we should also serve each other. Consider as an individual, Unit, or District, donating to the fund. You may never know if you personally or someone you know may need to apply. AND the beautiful new pin is available to members who donate \$100.00 or more. The Donation form – "AEF California Donation Form" - is on the Department website under the AEF Committee/Program page.

Hope to see everyone at DEC in Sacramento January 19-21.

Linda Karnstedt, Department AEF Chairman

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