

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Media Contact: Public Information Officer Telephone Number: 626-355-7135 Email: jcarlson@cityofsierramadre.com

Agency Name: City of Sierra Madre Telephone Number: 626-355-7135 Website: www.cityofsierramadre.com

## Headline

Sierra Madre, CA. December 6, 2011 -

## Sierra Madre Windstorm Information – Update #11

As the City moves into a recovery mode following last week's windstorms, we will continue to provide some important information to our residents, businesses, and visitors.

Southern California Edison has managed to return power to most sections of the City. The have indicated that 58 services are still out at the time of this release.

All City facilities and services are now available. However, City Hall, the Police & Fire Department, Library, and Recreation Center will not have operable phone services from 3:00pm to 4:00pm this afternoon. Due to the County wide emergency, the 911 lines may be answered by an alternate agency, but your emergency will be handled in the appropriate manner.

Residents who are without power are welcome to charge phones and use the wi-fi service at City Hall, with the exception of between 3:00pm and 4:00pm today.

Residents are urged to be very careful when outside of their homes, and be aware of their surroundings, especially when walking or driving under trees. City staff and City volunteers are working to identify and mitigate potential hazards such as broken limbs that remain in trees. Please report any potential hazards that you may observe to City Hall at 626-355-7135 or the Police department at 626-355-1414. Be advised that all hazards will be recorded and corrected as soon as staff and equipment are available.

Property owners are responsible for all tree and vegetation debris; City staff cannot enter private property to remove tree debris. Private property owners are allowed to deposit tree debris from their property onto the side of the street until Wednesday, December 14th to be collected by City crews. Please do not use plastic bags and be advised that you may always continue to use your green barrels as usual for smaller debris. After December 14<sup>th</sup>, the City will be unable to assist with debris removal. Under no circumstances can tree debris be deposited in the streets in such a way as to create a hazard to vehicular or pedestrian traffic. If you have other non-vegetation debris, you may schedule a 'bulky item' pickup with Athens at (888) 336-6100. Please do not place non-vegetation debris onto the side of the street until the evening before the scheduled bulky item pickup.

Public Works crews are currently working to clear streets working from east to west. They anticipate multiple passes on streets with heavy debris, and the total clean-up effort is expected to endure to the end of December.

Trash service will continue as normal, however Athens drivers have indicated that the route is taking much longer to complete. Please understand that your normal pickup times will be delayed for the next couple of weeks.

Overnight parking restrictions have been lifted throughout the City for the remainder of the month of December. The City's Public Parking lots are also available to all residents for overnight parking for the remainder of the month.

Be cautious of door-to-door offers of repair or debris removal which would include flyers or business cards that are deposited on your property or car. Ask friends, family and associates for recommendations about contractors that they have hired. Ask for proof of a valid City Business License and/or State Contractors license. Call City Hall to confirm Business Licenses and never pay cash in advance of work.

At this time, there is no information on County, State, or Federal emergency assistance. The City has made all proper requests and is awaiting a response.

Again, City staff and City volunteers would like to express their sincerest appreciation to the residents and businesses of Sierra Madre for their continued patience and efforts to assist the City and their neighbors through this event.

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