

## California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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## **DWR Has Trained More Than 2,500 Flood Fighters**

Sacramento -- The Department of Water Resources has now trained more than 2,500 persons in flood fight techniques in preparation for possible winter floods.

This surpasses the previous record high of 759 trained two years ago.

Because training classes still are continuing, DWR officials expect this winter's total of trained flood fighters to exceed 3,000.

Keith Luster, Flood Fight Specialist for DWR's Flood Management Division, said classes began in September. More than 500 were trained in October and more than 1,000 each during November and December.

DWR annually trains personnel who battle high water during the winter flood season. Trainees come from a variety of organizations, including reclamation and flood control districts, water agencies, city and county public works departments, volunteer groups, the California Conservation Corps and other State agencies. Most of their work involves flood fights and temporary levee reinforcement in the Sacramento and San Joaquin river flood control systems, including the Delta.

"Flood fight training provides these individuals with the techniques and confidence they'll need," said Luster.

Agencies interested in scheduling people for flood fight training may contact Keith Luster of DWR at 800-952-5330.

## Information Available On Sandbag Use

DWR officials also noted that the Department this month is distributing to television stations a video news release and public service announcements (PSAs) showing the correct way to fill, stack and use sandbags to prevent flooding of homes and businesses. Printed instructions are also available by calling 800-272-8869.

DWR and the California Conservation Corps are also offering two-hour flood preparation workshops for local homeowners and businesses at no cost in flood vulnerable communities. The workshops help community groups learn how to correctly use sandbags and flood prevention techniques.

Community groups wishing to have a workshop presented in their area should contact Tony Perez, Emergency Manager at the California Conservation Corps at (916) 341-3247.

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*The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs. The State Water Project provides water to two-thirds of California's population.*

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