



Media Advisory

Media contact:

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Dial 2-1-1 for Free Sandbags

SAN FRANCISCO, January 20, 2010 – Several Bay Area cities and counties are offering free sandbags to residents who are concerned about flooding due to this week's winter storms. To find out if sand bags are available in your area, call 2-1-1.

2-1-1 referral service is free, confidential and available 24 hours a day in more than 150 languages. Residents who cannot dial 2-1-1 should call 800-273-6222 to reach United Way's 2-1-1 call center. For the hearing impaired, dial 415-808-4440 (TTY) or 7-1-1.

NOTE: B-roll video footage of the 2-1-1 call center is available upon request.

About 2-1-1

Launched throughout the Bay Area in February 2008, 2-1-1 is an easy-to-remember, toll-free phone number that connects callers with local community services, such as food, shelter, counseling, employment assistance, quality child care and more. During a disaster, 2-1-1 provides critical information about evacuation routes, food and shelter, as well as support with finding new jobs and permanent housing during long-term recovery. 2-1-1 is confidential and available 24 hours a day in more than 150 languages. 2-1-1 Bay Area is operated by United Way of the Bay Area, United Way Silicon Valley, United Way of the Wine Country, Eden I&R, and Contra Costa Crisis Center. 2-1-1 is available in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Solano and Sonoma Counties. For more information, visit www.211BayArea.org.

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