It’s Raining, It’s Pouring

While there is a chance precipitation will be only moderate this winter, there is also the possibility of powerful, drenching rain storms. It is impossible to predict how much rain California will get over the next few months.

Here are some tips to survive the rainy season:

• Check the weather before leaving the house. If rain is in the forecast, make sure that you close your apartment windows to prevent the water from doing any damage.

• The key to rainy season happiness is investing in a good waterproof raincoat. Water-resistant and waterproof are not the same thing. Water-resistant will do if you just want to be less wet, but if you want to stay dry, you need something that is waterproof.

• Always try to wear non-skid shoes if possible. Shoes that have worn or smooth soles should not be worn. Avoid high heels during inclement weather.

• Using an umbrella is better than nothing at all, but the problem with umbrellas is that they may only keep the top third of your body dry. Also, on a busy sidewalk, take care when passing others so that you do not poke them with the umbrella.

• Being alert is one of the surest ways to reduce injuries caused by slips and falls. This includes being aware of your environment, personal safety and the safety of others. Be safety-conscious.

• To prevent falls, slow down and use handrails, especially during inclement weather. Do not carry objects up or down steps that obstruct your view.

• Walk where you are supposed to walk. Do not take shortcuts, especially through areas where pedestrian traffic is not intended to go.

Tips for Safe Holiday Online Shopping

Holiday shopping on-line can be irresistible.

What’s not to love? You make a list, check it twice, then go wild. Until you land on a bogus retail website or your credit card information gets swiped.

Before you click the ‘Buy’ button this holiday season, check out these tips to help you enjoy safer on-line shopping:

Shop at websites you trust - To play it safe, consider doing on-line business only with retailers you trust and have shopped with before.

Check out the business - Does it have a history of scam reports or complaints at the Better Business Bureau? Take it one step further by contacting the business. If there’s no email address, phone number or address for a brick-and-mortar location, that could be a signal that it is a fake company.

Beware rock-bottom prices - If a website offers something that looks too good to be true, then it probably is. Compare prices and pictures of the merchandise at similar websites. Rock-bottom prices could be a red flag that the business does not have those items in stock.

Avoid public Wi-Fi - With a little tech know-how and the freely available Wi-Fi password at your favorite cafe, someone can intercept what you are looking at on the web. Shopping on-line usually means giving out information that an identity thief would love to grab, including your name and credit card information.

Check out website security - That small lock icon in the corner of your URL field tells you that the web page you are on has privacy protection installed. The URL will start with “https”. These websites mask and transfer data you share, typically on pages that ask for passwords or financial information. If you do not see that lock or the “s” after “http”, then the web page is not secure.

Watch out for email scams - Clicking on emails from unknown senders and unrecognizable sellers could infect your computer with viruses and malware. Delete them, do not click on any links and do not open any attachments from unfamiliar individuals or businesses.

Do not give out too much information - No shopping website will ever need your Social Security number. If you are asked for very personal details, call the customer service line and ask whether you can supply some other identifying information, or just find a better-known, accommodating website for your holiday buys.

Pay with a credit card - If someone racks up unauthorized charges on your credit card, keep in mind your liability for unauthorized charges on your debit card is capped at $50 if you report it within two business days. But if someone uses your account and you do not report the theft within 60 days, you may not be reimbursed at all.

Check your statements - Check your statements at least once a week for fraudulent charges, or set up account alerts.

It is smart to practice safe on-line shopping during the holidays, but the holiday season does not last forever. Make a New Year’s resolution to shop safely on-line year-round.

When to use your Headlights

When it is raining in California, some drivers may not realize that it is now the law to turn on their vehicle’s headlights when it is raining and wipers are on. Remember: “Wipers On! Headlights On!”

How about snow? Or mist? Or fog? Turn on your headlights when:

(A) it is dark,
(B) you can not see clearly up to 1,000 feet, and/or
(C) the weather conditions require windshield wiper use.

The goal is to make yourself more visible to others and to increase your ability as a driver to identify hazards around you. Whenever in doubt, turn on your headlights (low beam).

“When something bad happens to you - you have three choices. You can either let it define you, let it destroy you or you can let can let it strengthen you.” ~ Unknown
Donations of new, unwrapped toys and teddy bears suitable for infants or children up to age 14. Your generous gifts will help comfort children receiving care at UCI Health and other Orange County children’s organizations.

Donations will be accepted through December 18th at the following locations:
- UCI Police Department
- University Hills Community Center

The UCI Police Department is tremendously grateful for the continuing support of the UCI community to help children share in the magic of the holidays.

For additional information or questions, please contact Cedric Young at ckyoung@uci.edu.

Yoga for Graduate and Family Housing Residents
Final Class for Winter Quarter at 6pm in the PV Community Room
Join Palo Verde and Verano residents, partners and friends for Yoga to relax and de-stress. Yoga is a convenient way to stretch and strengthen your body, focus your mind and get in a workout with your busy schedule.

Bring along an exercise mat or towel and a water bottle. This class is suited for all levels and abilities, including beginners.

Yoga is brought to you FREE of CHARGE as a part of PVRC’s and VRC’s community programming! Space may be limited so be sure to show up early for your first session and to sign a waiver for the ARC!

Holiday Decorating Safety Tips
Decorating for the holidays? Keep it festive while decorating with safety in mind.
- CANDLES OR INCENSE ARE NOT ALLOWED in Palo Verde.
- A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. Keep fresh cut trees properly watered.
- Use flame-retardant, non-combustible artificial trees and decorations.
- Position the tree away from heat sources such as the baseboard heaters.
- Artificial snow sprays are NOT permitted at Palo Verde or on campus.
- Palo Verde only allows lights indoors. Use lights that have been tested for safety. Identify these by the label from an independent testing laboratory.
- Do not use decorations with broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Turn off all lights on trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights should shut off and start a fire.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree.
- Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children. Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food.
- When placing out-of-reach decorations, set up ladders and foot stools properly. Do not use chairs to stand on.

Palo Verde Housing Assistant 2019/2020 Recruitment
TERM BEGINS: July 1, 2020
APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, January 27, 2020 by 5pm.
HOUSING ASSISTANT COMPENSATION: Monthly Salary
RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Provide after-hours coverage for Palo Verde Housing Office.
- Respond to resident and community issues requiring immediate intervention and assessment.
- Provide routine access to recreation facilities.
- Inform residents through the bulletin boards, the PV Press and more.

Being a Housing Assistant is a great way to be involved in the Palo Verde community and to work in your own neighborhood.

You may pick up an application packet from the PV office anytime during office hours or page the Housing Assistant on duty prior to 10pm when the office closes starting on December 1, 2019. The HA Job Description is included in the packet.

For additional information that may not be included in the packet, contact sherwook@uci.edu.

PV Playgroup
Thursday from 3:30-6:30pm in the Community Room
This playgroup is a free play time for the children to make friends and develop social skills. It also allows adults time to relax, share experiences and ideas. We have light snacks for the children and coffee and tea for the adults.

All children and parents/guardians/babysitters are welcome and it is FREE!

Thank you for remaining with the children you bring to the playgroup. Childcare service is not provided.

Glen Bridge Closure - The Palo Verde/ Middle Earth Bridge will be partially closed for maintenance. In addition, the bridge will be closed to all traffic starting Saturday, Dec. 11th - Jan. 1st.

The bridge will be for pedestrian access only. Please dismount and walk your bikes over the bridge and carry skateboards.

The Facilities Management Contractor will be conducting repairs and painting all the metal components along the bridge, trellis and east/west ramps.

We appreciate your cooperation and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

For more information, please visit:
http://www.housing.uci.edu/housingOptions/Palo_Verde.html