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 rain coat. 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 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.
• Stairways are meant for walking, not running. 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.

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 vehicles’ 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 headlamps (low beam).

“Nobody trips over mountains. It is the small pebble that causes you to stumble. Pass all the pebbles in your path and you will find you have crossed the mountain.”
~ Unknown

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 individuals or businesses you are unfamiliar with.

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.

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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.

Tips suggested by www.lifelocks.com
Holiday Decorating Safety Tips
Decorating for the holidays? Keep it festive while decorating with safety in mind.

- **NO CANDLES OR INCENSE ARE 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.
- Indoors or outside, use only 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 could short 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.

2018 TEDDY BEAR AND TOY DRIVE
During this holiday season, the UCI Police Department is accepting 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 UC Irvine Health and other Orange County children’s organizations.

Donations will be accepted at the following locations until Wednesday, December 12th:

- **UCI Police Department**
  - University Hills Community Center
  - Local children’s organizations and hospitals are always in need of additional toys and teddy bears. The need is especially critical for children who have to be away from their homes and families during the holidays.

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

“*You can’t start the next chapter of your life if you keep re-reading the last one.* ~ Unknown

Tips for Clogged Drains - Have you discovered a clog in your bathtub or bathroom sink drain? Do not panic, it happens to the best of us! Many are easy fixes with home remedies you can try in order to dislodge the clog. Be sure to take a step back if you feel the job requires more attention then you can give.

Using A Plunger in Your Sink or Bathtub - If your sink or bathtub is clogged beyond what you can clear, it might be time to pull out the big guns: the plunger! This may come as a surprise to those of us who only call on this device when we have got a clogged toilet, but yes, you CAN use it for other clogs. If it is your sink that is giving you issues, fill it about halfway, and if it is your bathtub, stick to about four or five inches. This method, although effective, can be messy, so be prepared!

Do Not Put Anything Down the Sink - One of the best ways to prevent slow or clogged drains is to be careful about what you put into them. The only things that should be going down the sink are water and the light residues from soap, toothpaste, and the like. Lotions, and other creams can accumulate a build-up from soap scum and other residues and collecting hair balls and other things that are sure to cause major clogs. Pull up these pop-up stoppers as far as they go and clean them off on a regular basis.

Keep Pop-up Stoppers Clean - The pop up drain stoppers that are most likely in your bathroom basins are major clog causers. They can accumulate a build-up from soap scum and other residues and collecting hair balls and other things that are sure to cause major clogs. Pull up these pop-up stoppers as far as they go and clean them off on a regular basis.

Keeping an Unclogged Drain: Now that you have gotten rid of that nasty clog, you will want to keep your drain nice and clean, so it is not a repeat offender. Follow up any clog removal efforts with a full scrub down of your sink. Remember to keep your sinks clean and free of debris.

FREE Yoga For Graduate and Family Housing Residents! Wednesdays at 6pm in the PV Community Room
Join Palo Verde and Verano residents, partners, and friends for FREE yoga. Yoga is a convenient way to stretch and strengthen your body, focus your mind, relax, and get in a workout with your busy schedule. This class is suited for all levels and abilities, including beginners. Bring along an exercise mat or towel and a water bottle.

Yoga is brought to you FREE 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!

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