



# January 15<sup>th</sup>



## On this day in...

**2023:** Widespread heavy rainfall came in two waves, with the first occurring the afternoon of 1/14 into early this day, and the second occurring this night through 1/16. Rainfall in the first wave ranged from 1 to 2" for the coast, 1 to 2.5" in the valleys, 2 to 5" in the mountains and up to 0.50" inch in the deserts. The second, colder system again produced widespread moderate to heavy rainfall, with the heaviest rain focusing on San Diego County. Impressive totals for both waves: 2 to 4" at the coast, 2 to 5" for the inland valleys and 3 to 8+" for the mountains. A lot of flooding resulted in San Diego County, Orange County and Riverside County. The San Diego River flooded, with the highest impacts reported in Fashion Valley on 1/16. A dozen swiftwater rescues were performed before dawn, eventually totaling 19 by San Diego City. Nearby areas in Hotel Circle were evacuated due to the threat of flooding.

**2019:** A winter storm brought a band of very heavy rain to northwest Orange County. Seal Beach, Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley each reported roughly 2 inches of rain in 2 hours. The intense rain produced flash flooding. Water was up to doorways outside of homes, and the Pacific Coast Highway was closed for over a day in Huntington Beach.

**1997:** A storm that began on 1/12 and ended on this day brought 18 inches of snowfall to Mt. Laguna. Generally 18 inches to three feet of snow was reported above 2500 feet. The ski resort at Snow Valley remained open until 5/18, the latest in its 78 year history. 13 illegal immigrants died from exposure near Pine Valley.

**1993:** A very wet series of storms that began on 1/6 and ended on 1/19 produced 20 to 50 inches of precipitation in the mountains and up to 12 inches at lower elevations over a two week period. It was one of the longest periods of consecutive days of precipitation on record (14) and measurable rain fell nearly every day from 1/2 to 1/19. Flooding and flash flooding, mud slides, etc., resulted. On this day through 1/17, heavy flooding occurred on the Santa Margarita and San Luis Rey

Rivers. Highway 76 was washed out near I-15. The airports at Camp Pendleton and Oceanside sustained flood damage. In Tijuana, homes and streets were flooded along the Tijuana River. Five died and 139 people were caught in floodwaters, 600 were evacuated.

**1978:** Starting on 1/14 and ending on this day, 2.65 inches of precipitation fell in San Diego, the greatest 24-hour total on record for January.

**1952:** A series of storms brought heavy rain and mountain snow to the region starting on 1/13 and ending on 1/18. 5.52 inches fell in San Bernardino over the six days. Flooding was reported in Upland and Ontario. Heavy snow hit the San Bernardino Mountains with 40 inches in Lake Arrowhead (with a snow depth of 46 inches), and 37 inches in Big Bear Lake. All mountain roads were blocked and closed because of snow slides.

**1949:** For the first time in 6 days Palomar Mountain failed to record snowfall. Snowfall from the prior 6 days totaled 74 inches. This is by far the snowiest period at Palomar Mountain since records began in 1901. The next largest six-day total was 48 inches in 1991. Lake Arrowhead recorded 48 inches over six days.

**1932:** Up to two inches of snow fell all over the LA Basin. One inch was recorded at the LA Civic Center and even the beaches of Santa Monica were whitened. 18 inches fell in Julian, 17 inches at Mt. Laguna, 14 inches at Cuyamaca, and six inches at Descanso.

**1916:** Widespread heavy rains hit Southern California starting on 1/14 and ending on 1/21. 8.5 inches fell during this period in San Bernardino. 16.71 inches fell in 24 hours at Squirrel Inn (near Lake Arrowhead) on 1/16 and on 1/17, a record 24 hour rainfall for California until 1943. More than nine inches fell in two storms in the Coachella Valley. Previous storms had deposited deep snow in the mountains, adding to the runoff. Widespread flooding resulted and at least 22 died. Roofs in Chula Vista, poultry farm in Vista, boats in Coronado and Newport were damaged. Most cities were completely inundated. Pine trees from Palomar Mountain floated down the San Luis Rey River through Oceanside. The cities of Indio, Coachella and Mecca were underwater. Ontario and Redlands were isolated and roads, railroads and bridges were washed out.