

Water, Water Everywhere

... continued from page D1

Water pooled near the front door was only an inch from the sill. It gained entry into their son's room through another door, soaking the carpet and sheetrock and depositing a "fine mud" throughout.

King shook his head and said: "You don't even want to think what is in that water."

The force of the water lifted the asphalt along his street's new paving and completely ruined the King's new front and back yard landscaping, as well as anything that was on the floors in the affected areas. King lost a digital movie camera he left in a backpack on the floor. All told the water damage caused an estimated \$25,000 to repair, which was relatively minor compared to his neighbor's \$100,000 in damages.

"I never thought that water could cause that much damage," King said, before adding gratefully that "EBMUD took care of business."

The Kings "hustled" through their repair work in a mere 30 days – the family planned to host a Christmas celebration. Their more seriously affected neighbors' houses took six months to repair. "And that was not even an El Nino event," King said.

"The moral of the story is be prepared," he said. "We know El Nino is coming. Pick up leaves from your gutters and clear out drains. Have first aid supplies and a box of candles handy," he said. "Be prepared for a power loss of 48 to 72 hours, and watch your distressed trees" for signs of uprooting. "There are only so many aid crews (available during a disaster), and we're not going to be the only ones affected."





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