# Torrent
TECHNOLOGIES, INC

Looks Like La Niña Will Visit the US this Winter

Forecasters are predicting an 85% chance that La Niña could last through the winter and a 60% chance it could last through spring of 2021. This weather phenomenon is something that could contribute to increased chances of flooding.

What is La Niña?

La Niña occurs when the tropical ocean waters near the equator of South America are colder as a result of stronger than normal trade winds pushing the warm water west towards Asia. The cold waters from the deeper parts of the ocean flow upward and the jet stream moves further north than its normal path. When this happens, usually the Pacific Northwest part of the country gets heavier than normal precipitation that often leads to flooding.

Typical wintertime La Niña pattern
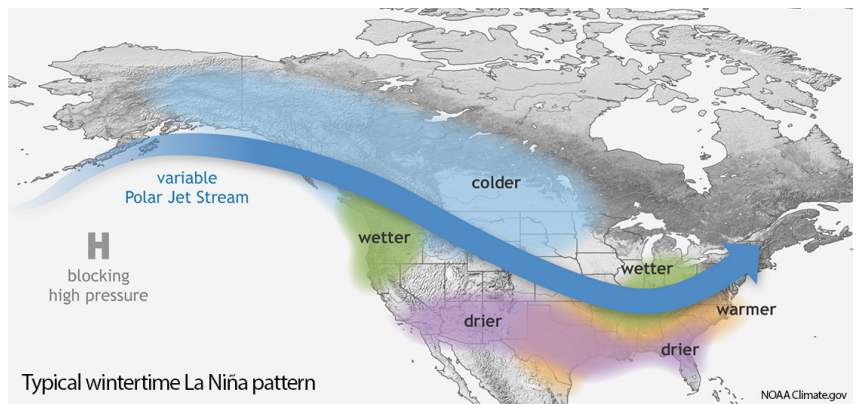
La Niña FAQs

1. La Niña typically peaks during the winter months in North America.

2. La Niña episodes typically last nine to 12 months, but some prolonged events may last for years.

3. While their frequency can be quite irregular, El Niño and La Niña events occur on average every two to seven years.

4. Typically, El Niño occurs more frequently than La Niña.

5. During a La Niña year, winter temperatures are warmer than normal in the Southeast and cooler than normal in the Northwest.

What does this mean for flooding?

Typically during a La Niña year, the Pacific Northwest gets hit with higher than normal precipitation. This increased wet weather may bring about flooding from La Niña's increased rain fall. Heavier snows may also increase flood risk during spring snow melt.

In areas where fire ravaged the land, this creates an even greater risk for flood in that the land no longer has the vegetation and soil to hold and absorb water.

Contact your insurance agent today to get your flood insurance quote.

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