



Press Release JANUARY 4, 2018

Contact:

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THOMAS FIRE INCREASES RISK OF FLASH FLOOD AND DEBRIS/MUD FLOWS *County Holding Press Conference and Public Meeting to Address Risk and Prepare Community*

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – Yesterday, the National Weather Service issued a weather briefing of a potential significant winter storm for Santa Barbara County on January 9-10. With the burn scar created by the Thomas Fire, the threat of flash floods and debris/mud flows is **now 10 times greater than before the fire**. The fire scorched more than 17 named canyons in the county. It is important that the public understand the seriousness of this situation and not delay in taking action to protect their self, family and property.

To address the situation and notify residents and visitors, the County is holding a press conference at 11 a.m. Friday, January 5 at Carpinteria City Hall, 5775 Carpinteria Ave. In addition, a community meeting will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. Monday, January 8 at 105 E. Anapamu in the County's Fourth Floor Board Hearing Room. The purpose of both events is to inform and prepare the public about damage to canyons and the watershed; flood and hazard risks due to erosion, debris flows and flooding; disaster preparedness; and tips for flood prevention and recovery. An interactive map is forthcoming that will identify the risk areas and the ability to enter a specific address.

In addition, the County established a website at www.countyofsb.org listing Thomas Fire recovery resources and assistance, as well as preparing for rain, including erosion control on private property, flood prevention, and having a disaster plan and disaster kit ready. Residents and visitors are urged to register to receive emergency alerts at www.AwareandPrepare.org.

Representatives from the following organizations have been invited to speak at the press conference and community meeting:

- Das Williams, First District County Supervisor
- Tom Fayram, County Public Works/County Flood Control
- Mark Jackson, Meteorologist in Charge, National Weather Service, Los Angeles/Oxnard Bureau
- Kevin Cooper, U.S. Forest Service, Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team Liaison
- Len Nielson, CALFIRE Forester, Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team Liaison
- Rob Lewin, Director, County Office of Emergency Management
- Commander Kelly Moore, County Sheriff Office
- Fire Chief Ray Navarro, Carpinteria/Summerland Fire
- Fire Chief Chip Hickman, Montecito Fire District

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Press Conference:

11 a.m. Friday, January 5
Carpinteria City Hall
5775 Carpinteria Ave., Carpinteria

Community Meeting:

5 - 6 p.m. Monday, January 8
County Admin 4th Floor Hearing Room
105 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara

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In English:

Emergency Alert System:

It is critical that people in Santa Barbara County register to receive emergency alerts. Sign up at www.AwareAndPrepare.org. If we can't reach you, we can't alert you.

Stay Connected:

For ongoing updates, go to www.CountyofSB.org, follow @countyofsb on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), or call 2-1-1 from 805 area code or 800-400-1572 outside of 805, or text your zip code to 898-211.

En español:

Sistema de Alerta de Emergencia:

Es muy importante que las personas en el Condado de Santa Bárbara se registren para recibir alertas de emergencias. Inscríbete a www.AwareAndPrepare.org, si no podemos localizarte, no podemos alertarte.

Permanece Conectado:

Para actualizaciones continuas, ve a www.CountyofSB.org, sigue @countyofsb en [Twitter](#) y [Facebook](#) o llama al 2-1-1 desde el código de área 805, o al 800-400-1572 para fuera del 805, o manda por texto tu código postal al 898-211.