



PRESS RELEASE

JANUARY 8, 2018

MEDIA ONLY:

**SB County Joint Information Center
(805) 696-1188**

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PROCLAIMS LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO SEVERE WINTER STORMS

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – At 11:30 a.m., Santa Barbara County proclaimed a local emergency due to the severe winter storms forecast to impact many areas of Santa Barbara County. The proclamation was signed by County Executive Officer Mona Miyasato and will be ratified by the Board of Supervisors at its regularly scheduled meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday, January 9. **[Note: see attached Proclamation]**

The declaration of a local emergency will enable the County to utilize all resources necessary to respond to damage that will likely be caused by these storms and to receive any needed funding through the California Disaster Assistance Act and any other State and Federal funding that may be available. This proclamation is for the entire County including all of the affected cities and districts.

The National Weather Service issued a Flash Flood Watch for the county beginning today through Tuesday, January 9, with the storm intensity increasing overnight to include winds of 40 to 70 miles per hour and rain amounts of anywhere from ½ inch to one inch or more per hour. The risk of debris/mud flows and flash flooding is greatly increased in the areas burned in the Thomas, Whittier, Alamo, Sherpa and Rey fires.

The intensity of the Thomas Fire left our mountains with little or no vegetation to prevent the slopes from sliding. Hence, a critical watershed was burned, and following wildfire and the immediate approach of winter storms, the threat of flash floods and debris flows is now 10 times greater than before the fire – they can happen with little or no warning. A mandatory evacuation order and evacuation warning is in place. It is imperative that the public understands the seriousness of the situation and is prepared. Do not delay in taking action to protect oneself, family and property.

To determine if your property is in the impact area, please refer to an interactive map at www.countyofsb.org. If you do not have access to the Internet, call 211 or outside the 805 area code, call toll free to (800) 400-1572. The county established an additional call center for assistance at (805) 681-5542 or text to (805) 699-0165.

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.



PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY BY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

WHEREAS, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-5(a) of the Santa Barbara County Code, empowers the County of Santa Barbara, Director of Emergency Services, to proclaim a local emergency if the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Section 8558 (c) of the Government Code defines a "Local Emergency" as: "the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county, city and county, or city, caused by such conditions as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, sudden and severe energy shortage, plant or animal infestation or disease, the Governor's warning of an earthquake or volcanic prediction, or an earthquake, or other conditions, other than conditions resulting from a labor controversy, which conditions are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of that political subdivision and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat; and

WHEREAS, On January 8, 2018, a series of storms ("**STORMS**") are forecasted to begin impacting Santa Barbara County, including areas that have been burned by the Thomas Fire. The Thomas Fire which began on December 4, 2017 is now the largest wildfire in California history. The Thomas Fire has burned 281,893 acres, and is now only 92% contained. The Thomas Fire has burned significant portions of critical watershed, and now poses serious risks of flooding and debris flow in major population centers. The **STORMS** also creates serious threats of flooding and debris flows in the recent burn areas of the Whittier Fire, Alamo Fire, Sherpa Fire and Rey Fire; and

WHEREAS, These **STORMS** are predicted to cause conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara and are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the combined forces of Santa Barbara County Operational Area to combat; and

WHEREAS, Mandatory Evacuation Orders and Evacuation Warnings for over 25,000 residents living in flood and debris flow prone areas, were issued on January 7, 2018 to alert individuals of the need to evacuate areas by noon on January 8, 2018. Evacuation shelters for residents and animals have been opened; and

WHEREAS, these conditions warrant and necessitate that the County proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency in order to utilize all resources necessary to respond to damage that will likely be caused by these **STORMS** and to receive any needed funding through the California Disaster Assistance Act and any other funding both State and Federal funds that may be available; and

PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY
BY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
2018 JANUARY STORMS

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara is not in session.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists in the County of Santa Barbara for the entire Santa Barbara County Operational Area and that;

1. All the recitals set forth above are true, correct, and valid; and
2. The conditions of extreme peril are not the results of labor controversy; and
3. This proclamation of local emergency, invokes in the County of Santa Barbara all powers and mechanisms set forth in the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code sections 8550 et seq.), Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12 and all other applicable laws, to be used by authorized personnel of the County of Santa Barbara; and
4. Pursuant to Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-5(b), the Director of Emergency Services is empowered to require emergency services of any county officer or employee and to requisition necessary personnel or material of any county department or agency; and
5. Copies of this Proclamation shall be provided to news media; and
6. A copy of this proclamation shall be forwarded to the Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it acceptable in accordance with the state law; that the Governor waive any regulations that may hinder recovery efforts and that recovery assistance be made available under the California Disaster Assistance Act or any other State and Federal funds that may be available; and
7. This Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days, unless ratified by the Board of Supervisors, and extended, or unless sooner terminated.

Dated: 1-8-18
Time: 11:30 am


County Executive Officer/
Director of Emergency Services
County of Santa Barbara