



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FIRE CHIEF

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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- Santa Barbara County Fire Department Preparedness -

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. March 20, 2011 – The area of Santa Barbara County has experienced a steady, heavy rain and wind event for more than 24 hours. In response to this, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBC FD) has increased staffing levels. SBC FD has the following additional resources on duty: six engines, a 12 person hotshot crew, the construction section, rescue helicopter with rescue swimmers, water rescue team and one battalion chief.

SBC FD has responded to numerous weather related calls for service throughout the day including calls for water rescue, trees down, power lines down, isolated flooding and numerous vehicle accidents.

SBCFD is also monitoring the Santa Ynez River and is in close contact with the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Services. The current area of concern is the area west of the city of Lompoc. The area is a sparsely populated, unincorporated area of the county. Lake Cachuma and the flow rate into the Santa Ynez River is being monitored because of its potential impact down stream.

The SBC FD reminds people living in flood prone areas to be prepared to leave if it becomes necessary.

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