



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- Flash Flooding/Debris Flow/Increased Staffing -

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. February 1, 2019 – The National Weather Service (NWS) predicts that a storm arriving Friday night and continuing through Saturday could have rainfall in the range of 0.50-1.0 inch/hour. The NWS informed the County that moderate to heavy rainfall rates late Friday and overnight should be enough to generate isolated mud and debris flows near burn areas. An Evacuation ORDER has been issued for the communities near and below the Thomas, Sherpa and Whittier burn areas for their own safety. High risk for loss of life and property exists.

Increased Staffing Will Begin At 8 pm Friday, February 1.

In response to the predicted flooding and debris flow danger, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, along with other operational area fire departments, including Santa Barbara, Montecito, Carpinteria/Summerland, Santa Maria, Lompoc and Vandenberg AFB will increase their staffing levels. The increased staffing level will add additional fire engines, bulldozers, excavators, helicopters, hand crews, an urban search and rescue team and a swift water rescue team. These additional resources will be available to respond throughout the Santa Barbara County operational area.

Stay Connected:

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

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