



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARK A. HARTWIG
FIRE CHIEF/
FIRE WARDEN

4410 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- Flash Flooding/Debris Flow/Increased Staffing -

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. March 5, 2019 – The National Weather Service (NWS) predicts that a storm arriving today and continuing through Wednesday morning could have rainfall in the range of .5 to .8 inches of rain per hour with the possibilities of thunderstorms. The NWS informed the County that moderate to heavy rainfall rates Tuesday night into Wednesday morning may be enough to generate isolated mud and debris flows near the Whittier, Sherpa and Thomas burn areas.

Increased Staffing Duration: 4pm on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 to 12pm on Wednesday, March 6, 2019

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 include the Santa Barbara County XSB Incident Management Team, along with additional fire engines, bulldozers, excavators, helicopters, hand crews, an urban search and rescue team, swift water rescue team and five National Guard high water vehicles. The additional resources will be available to respond throughout the Santa Barbara County operational area.

Funding for the increased staffing and equipment is provided through the State Office of Emergency Services (CalOES).

Stay Connected:

It is critical that Santa Barbara County residents and visitors 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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All Santa Barbara County Fire Department News Releases are available at
www.sbcfire.com