



COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

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Sunday, July 16, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 2:30 p.m.

Santa Barbara County Proclaims Local Emergency due to Whittier and Alamo Fires

(Santa Barbara, CA) – At 2:30 p.m. on July 16, 2017, Santa Barbara County proclaimed a local emergency due to the Whittier Fire and Alamo fires. The Whittier Fire has burned over 18,000 acres south of Lake Cachuma and the Alamo Fire has burned 29,000 acres west of Twitchell Reservoir. The proclamation was made by the County Office of Emergency Management; the Board of Supervisors is expected to act formally on the proclamation at its next meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 2017.

Proclaiming a local state of emergency is an essential step for local governments dealing with significant incidents. It ensures that all county resources are available for the fire control efforts and supporting activities. Having the proclamation in place also helps facilitate potential State funding and a State Declaration of Emergency, should further evacuations and damage require that declaration.

“Protecting the public, firefighters, and other first responders is our top concern, as well as preventing damage to structures, infrastructure and our county’s rich agricultural resources,” said Chairperson of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, Joan Hartmann. “We are so proud of the public safety employees who are responding so effectively to both the Whittier and Alamo Fires. This proclamation is one more step we can take to respond to these significant events.”

The Whittier Fire started off Highway 154 across from Lake Cachuma at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 8, 2017. To date, over 18,000 acres have burned and the fire is 36% contained. Currently, 16 residences and 30 structures were destroyed; 1 residence and 6 structures were damaged.

The Alamo Fire, which began July 6, 2017 in San Luis Obispo County near Twitchell Reservoir, is burning in Santa Barbara County South of Highway 166 and the reservoir. As of Sunday morning, July 16, 2017 the fire burned approximately 29,000 acres with 95% containment. There were 15 structures destroyed or damaged, including 2 residences.

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MEDIA ONLY

Joint Information Center
Hashtag

805-696-1188
#WhittierFire
#AlamoFire

County of Santa Barbara Fire, Sheriff, Office of Emergency Management and Public Health departments have posted information on their social media including Twitter and Facebook.

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Note to Editors: Please find attached the County's official Proclamation of Local Emergency.