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PRESS RELEASE

January 17, 2018

Contact:

Santa Barbara County Joint Information Center
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SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LOCAL RECOVERY & ASSISTANCE CENTER NOW OPEN

Resources Available for Thomas Fire & January Storm Incident Victims

(SANTA BARBARA)– Beginning January 17, 2018, the County of Santa Barbara, in cooperation with local, state and federal emergency agencies, opened a Local Recovery and Assistance Center for victims of the Thomas Fire and January Storm incident. This Assistance Center serves as a single point resource hub for those who have been impacted by these disasters.

Representatives from Federal, State, Local and non-profit agencies are on site to provide resources such as housing assistance, counseling support, information to aid in rebuilding, permitting, loss of business and/or employment, hazardous materials cleanup, basic health and human services resources, and other issues that have impacted people from the unprecedented back to back disasters.

The Local Recovery and Assistance Center will initially be open through February 3, 2018 at Calvary Chapel Santa Barbara, 1 N Calle Cesar Chavez, Santa Barbara, 93103 during the following hours of 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, and 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday. The center will be closed on Sunday.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is just one agency that is onsite to register impacted individuals, families, students and businesses for federal disaster assistance, as well as check the status of applications that have already been registered.

People can speak directly with a program specialist one-on-one about their individual issues, either at the Assistance Center or by phone at: 800-621-3362. FEMA assistance is available in multiple languages. People can sign up for assistance at www.DisasterAssistance.gov.

“We provide a portal to the Federal and State Disaster Assistance Programs,” said David Passey, Director of External Affairs for FEMA. “Once we register people, they may begin to see some form of assistance in about a week.”

For more information about the Local Recovery and Assistance Center, call 833-688-5551 or visit the County of Santa Barbara’s website at www.countyofsb.org.

Entities and agencies onsite include:

American Red Cross

California Department of Insurance

California Department of Tax and Fee Administration

California Office of Emergency Services (OES)

California Small Business Advocate

Contractors License Board

County of Santa Barbara

- Community Services
- Behavioral Wellness
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Social Services
- District Attorney
- Environmental Health Series
- Planning Department
- Public Defender
- Recorder Assessor

Cox Communications

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Department of Motor Vehicles

Employee Development Department

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Franchise Tax Board, State of California

Internal Revenue Services (IRS)

Pro Bono Legal

Salvation Army

Santa Barbara Food Bank

Santa Barbara Contractors Association

Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance

Team Rubicon

Unity Shoppe

Utilities

- So Cal Gas
- Montecito Water
- So Cal Edison

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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.

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.