



## Press Release

Feb. 27, 2018

**Contact:**

Santa Barbara County Joint Information Center  
805-696-1188 **Media Only**

### **RECOMMENDED EVACUATION WARNING ISSUED FOR PARTS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY EFFECTIVE 8 A.M. WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28**

**(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.)** – The Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office, in consultation with other public safety officials, has elevated the current Pre-Evacuation Advisory to a Recommended Evacuation Warning for the Thomas, Sherpa and Whittier burn areas (in Goleta, Santa Barbara, Montecito, Summerland and Carpinteria) due to an approaching winter storm. This Recommended Evacuation Warning becomes effective at 8 a.m. tomorrow Wednesday, Feb. 28.

The National Weather Service predicts that a storm arriving Thursday night and continuing through Friday will have rainfall in the range of 1/3 to 2/3 of an inch per hour. NWS informed the County that moderate to heavy rainfall rates early Friday may be enough to generate isolated mud and debris flows near burn areas. The communities near and below the Thomas, Sherpa and Whittier burn areas are strongly recommended to relocate to safer locations for their own safety. High risk for loss of life and property exists.

According to the Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office, “If at any time people feel threatened, take immediate action. Do not wait for a notification. Those with access and functional needs and those with large animals should leave.”

Additional evacuation information will be provided by 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28. If a Mandatory Evacuation Order is issued, all persons must be out of the designated areas by Thursday, March 1 at 9 a.m.

The location for evacuation centers and animal shelters will be announced Wednesday, Feb. 28. Schools will remain open on Wednesday. School districts will contact individuals through their established communication channels regarding school closures.

To determine if you are located near or below one of the burn areas, access the interactive map at [ReadySBC.org](http://ReadySBC.org).

**Attachments:**

- 1) [72-Hour Storm Evacuation Timeline](#)
- 2) [Storm Evacuation Definitions](#)

**In English:**

**Emergency Alert System:**

It is critical that people in Santa Barbara County register to receive emergency alerts. Sign up at [www.AwareAndPrepare.org](http://www.AwareAndPrepare.org). If we can't reach you, we can't alert you.

**Stay Connected:**

For ongoing updates, go to [www.CountyofSB.org](http://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.

**En español:**

**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](http://www.AwareAndPrepare.org), si no podemos localizarte, no podemos alertarte.

**Permanece Conectado:**

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## Press Release

### March 1, 2018

**Contact:**

Santa Barbara County Joint Information Center  
805-696-1188 **Media Only**

### **Mandatory Evacuation Order Issued for Parts of Santa Barbara County Effective Noon Today**

**(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.)** – The Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office, in consultation with other public safety officials, has issued a Mandatory Evacuation Order effective today (Thursday, March 1) at noon for individuals near the Thomas, Sherpa and Whittier fire burn areas throughout Santa Barbara south coast (in Goleta, Santa Barbara, Montecito, Summerland and Carpinteria) due to an approaching winter storm. Individuals must be out of the evacuation area by 6 p.m. today (Thursday, March 1).

The National Weather Service indicates that there is a potential for rainfall to exceed the 0.5 inch per hour threshold. Officials hope to return individuals to their homes as soon as it is safe to do so. To determine if a residence or business is in the evacuation area, consult the evacuation boundaries map at [ReadySBC.org](http://ReadySBC.org).

The potential for debris flows being triggered is low to moderate. Waterway flows may be rapid and blockage and overtopping in waterways is expected. Roads may be flooded and impassable. People close to and immediately downstream of choke points may be endangered. It is important that community members understand the seriousness of the situation and follow the direction of authorities.

Red Cross has established an evacuation center at Earl Warren Showgrounds, 3400 Calle Real, Santa Barbara. Anyone evacuated or otherwise affected by the approaching storm is welcome to find relief and comfort at this location. Earl Warren Showgrounds is also accepting large animals. For assistance evacuating large and small animals, contact Santa Barbara County Animal Services hotline at 805-681-4332.

According to Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown, “The decision to evacuate these areas is being made out of an abundance of caution. Due to the size and breadth of the evacuation area, not all residents will be contacted in person. Do not wait for deputies or someone else to come to your home or business. Everyone should begin the evacuation process now. Community members should check with their neighbors to see if they need help to evacuate.”

The California Highway Patrol, the National Weather Service and public safety partners will monitor storm activity to ensure Highway 101 remains open to facilitate resident evacuations. If Highway 101 needs to be closed, CHP would do so just prior to the arrival of the intense portion of the storm. Bands of rain, timing and intensity will guide this decision. Closure information will be communicated broadly to the public as decisions are made.

Community members should go to ReadySBC.org for up-to-date information on evacuations and road closures.

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**Stay Connected:**

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For updates through social media, follow @countyofsb on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). For general information, call 2-1-1 from 805 area code or 800-400-1572 outside of 805, or text your zip code to 898-211.

**Permanece Conectado:**

Es muy importante que las personas en el Condado de Santa Bárbara se registren para recibir alertas de emergencias. Inscríbete en alertas de emergencia Informados y Preparados (Aware and Prepare) en [www.ReadySBC.org/es](http://www.ReadySBC.org/es). Si no podemos localizarte, no podemos alertarte.

Para actualizaciones por las redes sociales, sigue @csbenespanol en [Twitter](#), @countyofsb en [Facebook](#). Para información en general, 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.



## PRESS RELEASE

March 2, 2018

**Contact:**

Santa Barbara County Joint Information Center  
805-696-1188 **Media Line Only**

### **Mandatory Evacuation Orders Lifted for Santa Barbara County** *Effective March 2, 9 a.m.*

**(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.)** – The Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office, in consultation with fire agencies and other public safety officials, has announced that effective at 9 a.m. today, March 2, Mandatory Evacuation Orders are lifted for all areas.

Preliminary reports indicate that the storm caused minor damage in the area. No damages were sustained to utility infrastructure.

“Together we made it through the first winter storm since the 1/9 Debris Flow. On behalf of all public safety and emergency officials, we want to thank you for staying informed, being prepared and following the evacuation orders issued yesterday. We know that being evacuated is a tremendous hardship and we did not make this decision lightly. Because of your cooperation we were able to get through this together,” said Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown.

Emergency Operations partners will be analyzing the evacuation process and thresholds for this event. Emergency Operations will use this information to make decisions for future rain events.

Tom Fayram, Deputy Director of the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, added “The catch basins were effective. The creek channels, roads were able to handle the rain and debris.”

The County’s interactive evacuation map will be updated today to reflect changes made to evacuation orders. Please visit [ReadySBC.org](http://ReadySBC.org) to access the interactive evacuation map or call the Public Information Call Center at 833-688-5551 for assistance.

If evacuated residents who are returning to their residences have a need for wheelchair or other specialized transport needs, call Easy Lift at 805-681-1180.

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## **Sistema de Alerta de Emergencia:**

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