



PRESS RELEASE

March 22, 2018

FRAUD ALERT: “Land Technicians” Attempting to Gain Unauthorized Access to Homes

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – Santa Barbara County officials are alerting the public to a fraudulent flyer that is being distributed in the Santa Barbara area with a suspect attempting to gain unauthorized access to homes.

According to a fraudulent flyer dated March 22, 2018, a “team of land technicians are conducting ground stability testing” in Santa Barbara (please see flyer attachment). Santa Barbara County logos and infographics were used to give the flyer the appearance of an official release. This flyer is fraudulent and a suspect distributing the flyer is attempting to gain unauthorized access to private property.

At approximately 1:08 p.m. today (Thursday, March 22), a suspect approached a residence in the Portesuello area of Santa Barbara and knocked on the door. The suspect wore an I.D. on a lanyard, claimed to be a representative of the Office of Emergency Management and attempted to gain access to the property. No representatives from the Office of Emergency Management are in the field and would attempt to gain access to a private home.

The suspect is described as a white male adult, 5’ 6”, approximately 25 years of age, wearing a gray hoodie and a yellow reflective vest. Officers from the Santa Barbara Police Department searched the area for the suspect and were not able to locate him.

Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office advises the public not to allow any individuals claiming to represent the County or City of Santa Barbara for “stability testing” to access their property. If you anyone attempts to gain unauthorized access to a residence, the public are to call 911 immediately.

03/22/2018



Attention Residents of Santa Barbara

Due to high volume of rain pour. We are under high risk of possible mud-slides.

Our team of land technicians are conducting ground stability testing Wednesday and Thursday.

The city and county of Santa Barbara ask that all residents comply with testing efforts to ensure everyone's safety. Testing start to finish will be completed within 30 minutes. Protocol states that at least one resident must be present during land testing.

The city and county of Santa Barbara would like to thank all residents for their cooperation to ensure the safety of our residents and our city.

Level 1 – Duty Officer Status:

The EOC is not activated however, the Duty Officer coordinates situation status and/or information from the state or operational area to the Chief of Emergency Management. This is similar to day-to-day operations and would be used for those emergencies in which normal management procedures and local resources are adequate. The incident command is at the on-the-field level and reports through established 24-hour dispatch facilities.

Emergency
Activation Level
Monitoring

1

Level 2 – Essential Staffing Providing Centralized Coordination & Decentralized Direction:

The EOC is activated however, the staffing may be at minimal levels with select functions. This is the preferred mode of operation for response to emergencies that may require coordination among several county departments, agencies or jurisdictions. In these situations, key management level personnel from principal involved agencies will locate in a central location to provide jurisdictional or multi-jurisdictional management and policy direction for the emergency.

Emergency
Activation Level
Partial

2

Level 3 – Centralized Coordination and Direction:

This mode of operation would be utilized following a major disaster which would render it impossible for the County to effectively function in either of the other modes. Incident command systems (to the extent practicable) would report to and receive direction from the County EOC.

Emergency
Activation Level
Full Scale

3