



**COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE**  
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## **P R E S S R E L E A S E**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Upcoming Winter Storms & Haiti Earthquake Serve as Important Reminders for Public to be Prepared for Emergencies**

The recent announcement by the National Weather Service about a series of winter storms moving into the county area next week and the devastating earthquake in Haiti serve as timely reminders to local residents and businesses to be prepared for emergencies.

County officials urge all residents and business owners to make emergency preparedness a top priority for 2010. Whether at home, at work or in the car, everybody should have emergency supplies and know what to do in the event of an emergency. Emergency supplies should include food, water, medicine, clothes, emergency shelters, important papers, batteries, flashlights and battery-powered radios to sustain each person and pet in your household for about a week, or longer.

Due to the incoming storms, residents and property owners, especially those in, or adjacent to, the recent burn areas, should be checking their property and structures before the storms arrive to make sure they are protected. Heavy rain in the Gap, Tea and Jesusita burn areas can produce significant runoff, possible flooding or mud and debris flows with no advance warning.

Sand and sand bags remain available at the following South County locations:

- County Fire Station 14, 320 N. Los Carneros in Goleta,
- The County Corp Yard at the Transfer Station, 4430 Calle Real
- The Santa Barbara Botanical Garden Parking Lot
- Montecito Fire Station 1, on San Ysidro Road
- City of Santa Barbara Annex Yard, 401 E. Yanonali Street

Residents and property owners may use what they need. Please, no commercial contractors.

Boat owners are reminded to make sure their vessels are seaworthy and secure. Boat owners are responsible for the cost to remove boats that wash ashore. For information about boating safety from the U.S. Coast Guard, go online to <http://www.uscgboating.org/>

Here are some additional helpful web site links for emergency preparedness:

- Main County homepage at [www.CountyofSB.org](http://www.CountyofSB.org) and click on the "Emergencies" link for a variety of departments and other sites with emergency information, including the Office of Emergency Services list of radio stations for emergency broadcasts.
- Need help building a disaster kit? Go to <http://www.sbcfire.com/>.
- Monitor local weather conditions in real time at the NWS website for the Santa Barbara County area, [www.weather.gov/losangeles](http://www.weather.gov/losangeles)
- Rain fall totals from various monitoring locations throughout the county can be viewed at: <http://santabarbara.onerain.com/home.php>
- A web-based map service for the public to look up addresses based on FEMA flood zone information. The "County Flood Zone – Look Up" is on the Public Works website at: <http://www.countyofsb.org/pwd/pwwater.aspx?id=2956>
- The County's "*The Homeowner's Guide to Flood Prevention and Response*," has tips and plans to prepare your property against flooding. The handy brochure is at: [http://pwftp.countyofsb.org/Water/FTP/CSB\\_PWD\\_FloodGuideFNLweb.pdf](http://pwftp.countyofsb.org/Water/FTP/CSB_PWD_FloodGuideFNLweb.pdf)

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