



## PRESS RELEASE

January 27, 2018

**Contact:**

Santa Barbara County Joint Information Center  
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### **ONGOING DEBRIS REMOVAL AND HEAVY TRAFFIC IN AFFECTED AREAS** *Road Congestion, Increased Noise Expected for Several Months*

**(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.)** – Residents and business owners are returning to areas that were previously evacuated. While many locations throughout Montecito are now open, active debris removal and clean up by work crews continues. All individuals in affected areas should be aware of ongoing activity and drive cautiously.

The movement of mud and debris from debris basins, roads, and local properties will continue for months. The cleaning of debris basins is necessary to protect the community from potential impacts associated with future rain events. Community members should be aware that hundreds of trucks involved in removal activities will be traveling through the community each day.

#### *Traffic Impacts*

**Anticipate truck traffic 24 hours a day.** Understand that the presence of trucks will add to traffic and overall road congestion. Many of these trucks are very large. Be patient and avoid going around trucks as the roads are narrow and it is not safe to pass vehicles.

Be aware that trucks using alternate routes to remove debris may introduce noise and activity to normally quiet areas. Limit your trips and travel in impacted areas to minimize congestion and allow these trucks to remove debris and mud as efficiently as possible. Their mission is critical.

#### *Health Impacts*

As mud dries out, it will crumble into dust and become airborne. Use N95 respirator masks as needed to protect against dust and changes in air quality.

#### *Community Impacts*

Recognize that there are people who have experienced great personal loss and are trying to rebuild their lives. There are many government agencies and community organizations working to restore the environment and make the area safe as quickly as possible. During these times, compassion and understanding will help our community to be 805 Strong.

For more information on debris removal, check the Mud Flow Cleanup [information sheet](#) for waste removal options, and the Questions and Answers about Testing Soil/Mud at Montecito Locations [information sheet](#) for testing information.

### **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.

### **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:**

Para actualizaciones continuas, ve a [www.CountyofSB.org](http://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.