



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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Date: 11/15/2018
Time: 3:30 p.m.

Updated News Release

Santa Barbara County Provides Assistance to Ventura County During Time of Need

Santa Barbara – The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office continues to provide support to Ventura County during a difficult time. Sheriff's Office employees along with hundreds of people including law enforcement from across the state attended the funeral service today, November 15, 2018, for Ventura County Sheriff's Sergeant Ron Helus who was tragically killed along with 11 other innocent victims in a mass shooting on November 7, 2018 in Thousand Oaks.

The Sheriff's Office sent a management team to cover for Ventura County Sheriff's Office managers today so that they could attend the services for their colleague who gave the ultimate sacrifice and died trying to protect others.

Santa Barbara County also continues to provide mutual aid assistance to help with security patrols in evacuated areas. The Sheriff's Office currently has 19 deputies assigned to Ventura County and the Santa Barbara Police Department yesterday, November 14, 2018 had 10 officers assigned to assist.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff/Fire Air Support Copter 308 remains assigned in Ventura County to help combat wildfires and has been utilized for nighttime airdrops the past several nights.

The Sheriff's Office will continue to provide resources to Ventura County as long as we are needed.



Santa Barbara County Continues to Provide Mutual Aid to Ventura County

Ventura – Santa Barbara County law enforcement continue to provide mutual aid support to Ventura County due to wildfires burning in both Ventura County and Los Angeles County. There are currently 43 Santa Barbara County peace officers assigned to help provide security patrols to the widespread evacuation areas in both counties.

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office currently has 20 deputies assigned and the Santa Barbara Police Department has nine officers assigned. The Santa Maria Police Department has joined the mutual aid effort and has nine officers assigned. UCSB Police also is now part of the mutual aid group and has five officers assigned.

Santa Barbara County Sheriff/Fire Air Support continues to have Copter 308 and a crew assigned to Ventura County and is available to fly if requested. Santa Barbara County law enforcement will provide continued personnel as needed.

Sheriff's Lt. Brian Olmstead said Santa Barbara County is pleased to be able to return the favor to Ventura County who has always been there for our agency. He said, "Throughout the years we have counted on mutual aid from across the state during all of our disasters. We are pleased we can provide service to our neighboring counties."

Lt. Olmstead also said the Santa Barbara County peace officers are grateful for the acknowledgment they have received from the people in the areas where they are patrolling. He said, "The community has been very receptive to us being here. We have had many people come up to us and say thank you. We appreciate their support."

Santa Barbara County Provides Mutual Aid to Ventura County

Ventura – Santa Barbara County is providing mutual assistance to Ventura County to help assist with evacuations and road closures due to several wildfires burning in Ventura County. The fires broke out less than 24 hours after a mass murder at a popular Thousand Oaks restaurant/bar, where the suspect killed 12 people including a 29-year veteran of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, Sgt. Ron Helus, before killing himself. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office wants to provide as much support as possible to our partners and neighbors at the Ventura County Sheriff's Office as they mourn the loss of their own and deal simultaneously with protecting their community members from the threat of wildfires.

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office and the Santa Barbara Police Department sent a combined total of 36 peace officers to Ventura County last night, November 8, 2018, to help with mandatory evacuations. The Sheriff's Office and Santa Barbara Police Department sent a combined total of 26 peace officers this morning, November 9, 2018, and are prepared to send more personnel as needed.

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff/Fire Air Support Unit is also providing assistance to the critical air firefighting efforts. Last night, Copter 308, was deployed to conduct nighttime water drops. Copter 308 made numerous water drops overnight. Copter 308 is still assigned to the fire and will be prepared to fly again tonight if requested.

Ventura County has always been there to provide resources to Santa Barbara County throughout all of our major fires. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office along with law enforcement agencies across the state are here to help see Ventura County through this crisis and show our support in whatever way we can.

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