



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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Date: 1/12/2018
Time: 7:45 p.m.

Updated News Release

Number of Casualties from Flood Incident Increases to 18

Montecito - We are saddened to report that today, January 12, 2018, another victim was located in Montecito bringing the total number of casualties from this tragic incident to 18 decedents. 87-year-old Joseph Francis Bleckel of Montecito was located deceased around 11:30 a.m. inside his residence. We want to express our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

We also would like to make two corrections to our previous list. Peerawat Sutthithepa is the correct spelling for the six-year-old victim. Also, the correct age for Richard Loring Taylor, who goes by his middle name Loring, is 79 years old.

Sheriff's Office Releases Names of Montecito Residents Fatally Injured During Flood Incident

Santa Barbara – As of Thursday, January 11, 2018, the Santa Barbara County Coroner's Office had received 17 decedents directly related to the January 9, 2018 flood incident in the Montecito area. All of the decedents are from Montecito and have been positively identified by the Coroner's Office. Next of kin for all 17 decedents have been notified of the deaths with the assistance of the Family Assistance Center and Coroner's Office personnel. The cause of death for all 17 decedents will be listed as "Multiple traumatic injuries due to flash flood with mudslides due to recent wildfire".

The names and ages of the decedents are as follows:

Jonathan Benitez - 10 years old

Kailly Benitez - 3 years old

Martin Cabrera-Munoz - 48 years old

David Cantin - 49 years old

Sawyer Corey - 12 years old

Peter Fleurat - 73 years old

Josephine Gower - 69 years old

John McManigal - 61 years old

Alice Mitchell - 78 years old

James Mitchell - 89 years old

Mark Montgomery - 54 years old

Caroline Montgomery - 22 years old

Marilyn Ramos - 27 years old

Rebecca Riskin - 61 years old

Roy Rohter - 84 years old

Peerawat Sutthithepa - 6 years old

Richard Loring Taylor - 79 years old

The Sheriff's Office wants to express our heartfelt sadness to the family and friends of those who lost their loved ones. We request that you respect their privacy during this most difficult time.