



Press Release

March 2, 2018

Contact:

Santa Barbara County Joint Information Center
805-696-1188 **Media Only**

Initial Storm Impact –Update at 8 a.m.

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – The Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management has monitored the latest winter storm for impacts. The following assessment is preliminary and will be updated later this morning.

“The worst of the storm has passed and we are cautiously optimistic that due to a significant amount of pre-storm preparation we have come through this with minimal impact,” said Rob Lewin, director of the Office of Emergency Management. “Crews are currently completing assessment of all roads, debris basins, condition of utilities and other public facilities for damage or impact,” he said.

Said Tom Fayram, deputy director of Santa Barbara County Department of Public Works and overseeing the County Flood Control District, “If not for the channel clearing performed since the 1/9 Debris Flow, we would have had problems with this storm.”

Facts:

- The rainfall slightly exceeded the projected total: a rate of 0.6 of an inch of rain per hour was received
- Highway 101 remained open all night
- 87 percent of residents in the Extreme Risk Area did evacuate
- 200 fire and National Guard personnel were on-scene overnight, including a swift water rescue unit, high profile vehicles, excavators, urban search and rescue, etc.
- Coast Guard and Santa Barbara County Air Support were on standby
- 26 were in the Red Cross evacuation center as of midnight at Earl Warren Showgrounds

Impacts:

- At 5:40 a.m. the 1700 block of Highway 192 and Highway 192 at Bella Vista Drive were flooded. Crews are on scene working to clear these issues.
- MTD and Easy-Lift were on standby overnight to provide transportation assistance for individuals who may have become isolated

Schools Status for Friday, March 2 (partial list; families should contact schools directly for updates):

- UCSB – classes in session
- Santa Barbara City College – classes in session
- Westmont – classes in session beginning at 11:30 a.m.
- Santa Barbara Unified School District – classes in session
- Carpinteria Unified School District – closed
- Montecito Union – classes in session at 3 Hope School District sites
- Cold Spring – classes in session at El Rancho Elementary in Goleta
- Laguna Blanca Lower – classes in session at Girls Inc. in Goleta
- Mt. Carmel – classes to be held at Notre Dame in Santa Barbara
- Cate School – on spring break

Preliminary Report for Utilities for Friday, March 2:

- SCE – no damage
- SoCalGas – no damage
- Montecito Water District – no damage
- Montecito Sanitary District – no damage

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Stay Connected:

It is critical that people in Santa Barbara County register to receive emergency alerts. Sign up for Aware and Prepare emergency alerts at www.ReadySBC.org. If we can't reach you, we can't alert you.

For updates through social media, follow @countyofsb on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). For general information, call 2-1-1 from 805 area code or 800-400-1572 outside of 805, or text your zip code to 898-211.

Permanece Conectado:

Es muy importante que las personas en el Condado de Santa Bárbara se registren para recibir alertas de emergencias. Inscríbete en alertas de emergencia Informados y Preparados (Aware and Prepare) en www.ReadySBC.org/es. Si no podemos localizarte, no podemos alertarte.

Para actualizaciones por las redes sociales, sigue @csbenespanol en [Twitter](#), @countyofsb en [Facebook](#). Para información en general, 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.