



Press Release

March 17, 2018

Santa Barbara County Issues Pre-Evacuation Advisory for Below Burn Areas *Unstable Storm Expected in the Area Tuesday Night Through Thursday*

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – A Pre-Evacuation Advisory has been issued for the areas below the Thomas, Sherpa, Whittier and Alamo fires due to an approaching winter storm forecasted for Tuesday night. This is the time to prepare for evacuation within the next 72 hours for anyone who lives near a burn area in Santa Barbara County.

The National Weather Service forecast indicates there is the potential for a prolonged period of moderate to heavy rainfall with this system, with highest rainfall intensities expected to occur sometime between late Tuesday night, March 20 through early Thursday, March 22. During this time, rainfall rates will likely exceed USGS thresholds and bring the threat of significant flash flooding and debris flows in recent burn areas. The forecast currently is indicating rainfall rates of .5 to .75 inches per hour.

"Based on today's forecast from the National Weather Service, this is the most powerful storm of the season since the 1/9 Debris Flow," said Rob Lewin, director of the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management.

The County, emergency officials and the National Weather Service are closely monitoring the situation and will alert the public with more information as the storm approaches. Impact areas need to prepare for the possibility of an evacuation for Tuesday through Thursday. If at any time during this storm, or any storm, anyone feels threatened, action should be taken to leave for high ground or a safe area. Do not wait for a notification. If an individual or family has access or functional needs, or has large animals to move, consider leaving well in advance.

For more information on the risk please go to ReadySBC.org. To go directly to the Interactive Debris Flow Risk Areas map, visit ReadySBC.org/StormReadyMap. Please also standby for future updates.

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In English:

Emergency Alert System:

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

Stay Connected:

For ongoing updates, go to www.CountyofSB.org, follow @countyofsb on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/countyofsb) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/countyofsb), or call 2-1-1 from 805 area code or 800-400-1572 outside of 805, or text your zip code to 898-211.

En español:

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, si no podemos localizarte, no podemos alertarte.

Permanece Conectado:

Para actualizaciones continuas, ve a 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.