Mandatory Evacuation Orders, Warnings for Sherpa Fire; Definition of Mandatory v. Warning

(Santa Barbara, CA) – Due to the Sherpa Fire, mandatory evacuation orders remain in effect for the following areas: El Capitan Canyon, El Capitan Ranch, El Capitan State Beach, Refugio State Beach, Refugio Canyon, Venadito Canyon, and Las Flores Canyon. Anyone in any of these areas should leave immediately. “Aware and Prepare” emergency notification alerts were sent to almost 400 phone lines, according to the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Office.

An evacuation warning is in place east of El Capitan Canyon to Farren Road. The area includes: Canada de las Destiladera, Las Llagas Canyon, Gato Canyon, Las Varas Canyon, Dos Pueblos Canyon, and Eagle Canyon.

The public is also encouraged to avoid the area surrounding Dos Pueblos High School, as fire command is currently staging personnel and equipment at this location.

In the case of a fire such as the Sherpa Fire, there is often confusion about the difference between mandatory evacuation orders and evacuation warnings.

A mandatory evacuation order means leave immediately; there is an imminent or existing risk to life and property.

An evacuation warning means there is a strong likelihood that there will be a risk to life and property, and residents in the warning area should take this time to prepare to leave quickly if given the mandatory evacuation order. Time should be taken to gather family members, pets, valuables, and important paperwork/documents. An individual or family should be ready to leave at a moment’s notice. However, if anyone feels threatened, do not wait for an evacuation order – leave immediately.

For updated information, visit www.countyofsb.org. Residents and visitors are strongly encouraged to sign up for “Aware and Prepare” alerts at www.awareandprepare.org.

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