Sherpa Fire Equipment, Resources Update

(Santa Barbara, CA) – The following equipment is currently being deployed to fight the Sherpa Fire:

- 21 crews
- Four bulldozers
- Two water tenders
- 61 engines
- 30 aircraft

Approximately 812 personnel are currently on scene battling the Sherpa Fire, which is still estimated at 1,200 acres at 0% containment. However, low-lying smoke is preventing aircraft from conducting reconnaissance flight acreage estimates.

The Sherpa Fire continues to be a significant and difficult incident because of wind and challenging terrain. All available resources continue to be dedicated to fighting the fire and providing the public with accurate information in a timely manner. Fire crews are finding it difficult to find and hold the fire line. According to the Santa Barbara County Fire commanders, there are concerns that last night’s conditions will be repeated. In addition, Highway 101 may need to be closed again depending on wind direction.

The top priority continues to be firefighter and public safety. Because of the unique terrain, firefighters are at a heightened risk due to limited access, rugged terrain, and sudden wind shifts.

Due to the unpredictability of the conditions, firefighters are concerned about the following areas:

- South side of the fire line in the event that winds shift toward 60 homes in Refugio Canyon.
- 80 homes in El Capitan Ranch at risk from sundowner winds. They have already evacuated.
- Circle Bar B Ranch and an area called “The Narrows.” Crews have been working to reinforce this line since midday today to prevent the fire from spreading to the east.
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No structures have been lost thus far.

Due to brush clearing by fire personnel over the past several months, communication towers and lines are better protected from the fire. Crews continue to work to protect these vital sites.

Community Offers and Donations
Offers of food and shelter donations from the community are greatly appreciated. However, we have no calls for supplies at this time. If at any time donations are needed, we will let the public know how, what and where to donate. We greatly appreciate your cooperation. In addition, fire crews are adequately supplied, and their needs are currently being met from our many partners.

Avoid Incident Command
For safety reasons, we ask that the public not attempt to reach the incident command post to deliver supplies. There are temporary road closures at Cathedral Oaks at Glen Annie and Alameda.

General Information
If anyone feels threatened, do not wait for an evacuation order – leave immediately.

Anyone with compromised respiratory systems should follow directions from Public Health.

The County of Santa Barbara Fire, Sheriff, Office of Emergency Management and Public Health departments have posted information on the County’s website as well as via social media channels. Visit www.countyofsb.org and www.awareandprepare.org for updated information.

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Note: A Sherpa Fire press conference is scheduled for Friday, June 17, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at Dos Pueblos High School, located at 7266 Alameda Ave., Goleta, California 93117.