



Incident Update March 22, 2018

Storm Update: March 22, 6 a.m. *Significant Increase in Storm Intensity Forecasted*

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – The National Weather Service is anticipating storm intensity to increase significantly beginning Thursday morning (March 22) and continuing through the early Friday countywide. Rainfall rates will range from half-inch to one-inch per hour with rates in excess of one-inch per hour during thunderstorms. The Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management issued a storm update and Aware and Prepare alert to residents countywide at 5:20 a.m.

These rainfall rates pose a real threat for debris flows in all recent burn areas as well as periods of urban and small stream flooding. The National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch for all of Santa Barbara County through 5 pm on Thursday, March 22. Public safety officials are asking the community to remain vigilant and to understand the potential strength of this storm and the immediate threat it may pose to your safety.

“The present wave of this storm is much stronger and more dangerous than what we have experienced over the last 24 hours,” said Rob Lewin, Director of the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management. He added, “This is a very serious situation. We all need to stay safe by following the directions of our public safety leaders. Stay out of evacuation areas. Exercise extreme caution when driving.”

For information, the public may call 2-1-1 or the storm information line at 1-833-688-5551.

The Red Cross Evacuation Center at Earl Warren Showgrounds is open and sheltering evacuees. Large and small animals have been evacuated to Earl Warren Showgrounds, County Animal Services and the Santa Barbara Humane Society.

-30-

Attachment

- 1) [March 22 Incident Fact Sheet](#)

In English:

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.

Permanezca Conectado:

Es muy importante que las personas en el Condado de Santa Bárbara se registren para recibir alertas de emergencias. Inscribábase para recibir las alertas por medio de *Informados y Preparados* (Aware and Prepare) en www.ReadySBC.org/es. Si no podemos localizarlo, no podemos alertarlo.

Para actualizaciones por las redes sociales, siga @csbenespanol en [Twitter](#), @countyofsb en [Facebook](#). Para información en general, llame al 2-1-1 desde el código de área 805, o al 800-400-1572 para fuera del 805, o mande por texto su código postal al 898-211.