

CITY OF VENTURA

NEWS RELEASE

501 Poli Street
Ventura, CA 93001

For Immediate Release
January 3, 2018
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City of Ventura encourages residents to prepare for rain: free sand and sandbags available for city of Ventura residents

A weak storm system is expected to bring light rain and the potential for minor flooding of low-lying areas in and near the recent Thomas fire burn areas. Free sand and sandbags are available for city of Ventura residents (while supplies last) at the City of Ventura Sanjon Maintenance Yard, 336 Sanjon Road (public parking lot). Residents are asked to bring their own shovel.

The National Weather Service anticipates a weak storm to start late Wednesday, January 3 and last through Friday night, January 5, with minimal rainfall to occur Thursday night into Friday evening. The best chance for light rain will remain North of Ventura County. Western Ventura County is expected to receive less than a tenth of an inch. There is another storm system possible over the weekend and into early next week.

In the aftermath of the Thomas Fire, the potential for flooding, debris flows, and erosion is greatly increased. Homeowners should consult an erosion control professional for assistance. The City stands prepared to meet the community's needs. Residents can learn how to manage excessive hillside erosion and protect infrastructure from sedimentation/slides from areas impacted by the fire by visiting the Erosions and Sediment Control Post Thomas Fire Resources at <http://venturacountyrecovers.org/erosion-sediment-control-post-thomas-fire-resources-faqs/>.

Residents are also encouraged to visit these websites for more helpful information: http://readyventuracounty.org/images/pdf/rsg_flood%20preparation_web.pdf, <https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2005/3104/>, and <https://landslides.usgs.gov/hazards/>.

Motorists may experience possible road closures in burn areas and should expect to see debris in the streets.

High tides are expected Wednesday morning which may lead to minor tidal overflow at beaches. If necessary, the historic Ventura Pier will be closed as a public safety precaution. The public is advised to avoid entering the ocean during dangerous high surf conditions.

Arroyo Verde Park and Grant Park are currently closed due to the damage from the Thomas Fire. These parks will remain closed while staff and contractors complete repairs.

Community members are encouraged to stay informed about advisories and emergencies by:

- Registering to receive emergency notifications from VC ALERT (www.vcalert.org).
- Checking www.vcemergency.com for incident information, closures and evacuations.

- Learning about emergency preparedness and flood information, including Weather Service links and other helpful tips, at www.ReadyVenturaCounty.org.
- Visiting the National Weather Service website at www.weather.gov/losangeles.

This release can be found on the City of Ventura's website at www.cityofventura.ca.gov. ###