

CITY OF VENTURA

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# NEWS RELEASE

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501 Poli Street  
Ventura, CA 93001

For Immediate Release  
March 19, 2018  
Contact:  
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**UPDATED 3/20/2018 11:27AM**  
**Sand and sandbags available at two locations:**

- **City of Ventura Sanjon Maintenance Yard, 336 Sanjon Road (public parking lot). Residents are asked to bring their own shovel.**
- **THIS LOCATION CLOSED AS OF 3/22/2018, 2pm:  
Community Park, use the Ramelli Avenue and Telephone Road entrance; the sand and bags are located at the entrance to the park at Ramelli Avenue**

**Approaching storm system with heavy rainfall results in voluntary evacuation order for areas of risk for debris flow**

The City of Ventura Police Department, in consultation with Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services and the National Weather Service, has issued a Voluntary Evacuation Order effective Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at Noon to Thursday, March 22, 2018, at 5 PM for individuals in the Thomas Fire burn areas due to a significant storm system approaching.

Voluntary evacuation orders will be in effect for the following neighborhoods:

- Westside: Generally, all areas East of Wall Street, East of Cedar Street, East of Cameron Street
- Downtown Neighborhoods: Generally North of Poli Street from Cedar to Kalorama Drive (Includes Holy Cross School)
- Midtown Neighborhoods: Generally North of Poli Street from Kalorama Drive to Aliso Lane, South to Main Street east to Lincoln, north to Poli Street east to Agnus Drive (Includes Ventura High School)
- Midtown Neighborhoods: Agnus Drive south to Loma Vista Street east to Shamrock Drive, North to Foothill Road (Includes Loma Vista School)
- East end Neighborhoods: East of Appian Way/Court Avenue to Ashwood Avenue north of Telegraph Road
- All areas North of Pomona Street/Beckford Street/Albion to Victoria Avenue
- All Areas North of Foothill Road from Victoria Avenue to Kimball Road

To determine if a residence is in the evacuation boundaries visit [www.vcemergency.com/zone-2](http://www.vcemergency.com/zone-2) and input your address in the search bar on the map. Voluntary evacuation orders are issued when residents should begin preparing for a potential mandatory evacuation order to be issued. Advance measures should be taken to prepare and prevent harm to individuals with mobility issues.

A strong storm system will bring moderate and heavy rains beginning in the afternoon on Tuesday, March 20 through the evening on Thursday, March 22. The National Weather Service anticipates a steady, 48-hour rain event with the heaviest rains Wednesday evening through Thursday morning. Peak rainfall rates have the potential to be 0.50-0.75 inches per hour. This storm will bring the potential for flash flooding and mud and debris flows in the Thomas fire burn areas; motorists may experience possible road closures.

Residents are encouraged to prepare for heavy rain and take precautions; please consider altering your travel and commuting plans.

The City of Ventura has established evacuation maps to assist residents with the best route to take during an emergency evacuation. The maps can be viewed on the City's website at [www.cityofventura.ca.gov](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov).

Free sand and sandbags are available for city of Ventura residents (while supplies last) at the following location:

- City of Ventura Sanjon Maintenance Yard, 336 Sanjon Road (public parking lot). Residents are asked to bring their own shovel.
- **Community Park, use the Ramelli Avenue and Telephone Road entrance; the sand and bags are located at the entrance to the park at Ramelli Avenue**  
Residents are asked to bring their own shovel.

Arroyo Verde Park will be closed for the duration of the storm. Grant Park is currently closed due to damage from the Thomas Fire. Any additional City of Ventura facility closures will be posted on the City's website.

It is never safe to drive or walk into flood waters. A mere 6 inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away a small car, while 2 feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles. When flooded turn around don't drown.

Public Works crews have been, and continue to be, out in the community inspecting and cleaning catch basins to ensure debris basins and flood channels are clear. Properties near a burn area remain at increased risk for flooding, erosion and debris flow. The City encourages you to talk to your neighbors who may not be aware of potential hazards. Residents can visit [www.vcemergency.com](http://www.vcemergency.com) to view an interactive map and better understand the hazards they face.

Community members are encouraged to stay informed through official sources:

- Register for VC ALERT ([www.vcalert.org](http://www.vcalert.org)) to receive emergency notifications
- Visit [www.vcemergency.com](http://www.vcemergency.com) to stay informed during an emergency
- In the event of a major incident or disaster, call the City of Ventura Hotline at 805-477-3711
- Learn about emergency preparedness and flood information including weather service links and other helpful tips at [www.ReadyVenturaCounty.org](http://www.ReadyVenturaCounty.org)

This release can be found on the City of Ventura's website at [www.cityofventura.ca.gov](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov). ###