

CITY OF VENTURA
NEWS RELEASE

501 Poli Street
Ventura, CA 93001

For Immediate Release
January 15, 2019
Contact:
Commander Rick Murray, 805-339-4343
Kelly Flanders, 805-677-3993

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

UPDATE 1/15/2019 3:52PM

The Voluntary Evacuation Order issued for the City of Ventura will be lifted on January 15, 2019 at midnight. The Voluntary Evacuation Order will be reinstated on January 16, 2019 at 5:00 pm due to the anticipated storm system reaching a possible peak of 3 quarters of an inch per hour.

A significant storm system will bring heavy rainfall beginning in the afternoon on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, through the evening on Thursday, January 17, 2019. Peak rainfall rates have the potential to be 0.75-1.25 inches per hour on Tuesday, January 15, 2019. This storm will bring the potential for flash flooding and mud and debris flows in the Thomas Fire burn areas.

A Flash Flood Watch is in effect from January 15, 2019 at 10 AM until January 15, at 11 PM. The City of Ventura Police Department and Ventura City Fire 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, January 15, 2019, at NOON for individuals in the Thomas Fire burn areas due to a significant storm system approaching.

The Voluntary Evacuation Order is based on the current weather forecast; changing conditions may occur and the public should stay alert and take precautions.

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

Voluntary evacuation orders are issued when residents should begin preparing for a potential mandatory evacuation order to be issued.

Schools located in the impacted areas are under a voluntary evacuation beginning at 10AM. Advance measures should be taken to prepare and prevent harm to individuals with mobility issues; motorists may experience possible road closures.

Residents are encouraged to prepare for heavy rain and 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.

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.

Arroyo Verde Park, Marina Park, Grant Park, and the Ventura Pier will be closed for the duration of the storm. 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.

Community members are encouraged to stay informed through official sources:

- Register for VC ALERT (www.vcalert.org) to receive emergency notifications
- Visit 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

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