

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino
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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
AT YOUR SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 21, 2010

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County declares local emergency in response to rainfall

The County of San Bernardino today proclaimed the existence of a local emergency in response to the heavy rainfall occurring throughout the county, which poses a serious threat to communities in San Bernardino County.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Gary C. Ovitt, acting as the county's Director of Emergency Services, signed the proclamation at 4:20 p.m. today. Besides making the effects of the rainfall a top priority for all county agencies, the proclamation is the essential first step toward securing state and federal disaster assistance. Such assistance may become immediately necessary in the event of damage to residential, commercial, or public property.

The Board of Supervisors will meet tomorrow, Wednesday, December 22, at 4 p.m., to ratify Chairman Ovitt's proclamation.

A series of subtropical storm systems is striking the county, bringing moderate to heavy rainfall, causing severe flooding, debris flows, and mudslides, resulting in extreme peril to people and property within San Bernardino County.

The San Bernardino Public Works Department, the Town of Yucca Valley and the cities of Loma Linda and Rialto have activated their emergency operations centers. The National Weather Service has predicted the possibility of further heavy rain striking the county tomorrow, Wednesday, December 22.

The county has successfully used its Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS), also known as "reverse 911", to convey warning information to residents. The county has also activated its Emergency Operations Center in Rialto to coordinate the county's response, which involves numerous county departments.

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY
(By Director of Emergency Services)

WHEREAS, California Government Code section 8630 and San Bernardino County Code section 21.0101 et seq. empower the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when San Bernardino County is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino does hereby find:

WHEREAS, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within San Bernardino County, caused by heavy rainfall, severe flooding, multiple mudslides, and storm run off from severe winter storms moving in and through the County of San Bernardino, which have continued daily commencing on December 16, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the San Bernardino County Operational Area and the Town of Yucca Valley activated their Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to a Level I on December 20, 2010, due to the series of winter storms threatening and taking place in the County; and

WHEREAS, the San Bernardino County Public Works Department Operations Center (DOC) activated to a Level I on December 20, 2010, due to the series of winter storms threatening and taking place in the County; and

WHEREAS, San Bernardino County Public Works Department has reported up to 36 road closures countywide as a result of flooding, falling trees, mudslides, heavy debris flows, and potential bridge failure; and

WHEREAS, as of December 20, 2010, at least two (2) apartment buildings in the Big Bear area have been reported damaged as a result of the winter storms; and

WHEREAS, swift water rescue teams from the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (County Fire) have conducted seven (7) successful rescues; and

WHEREAS, the County Emergency Operations Center has initiated and submitted multiple State Mission Tasks requests for hand crews and flood fighting resources; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) hand crews have assisted in sandbagging and flood diversion in the Wrightwood area; and

WHEREAS, On December 21, 2010, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department issued a Tens Emergency Notification System (TENS) message to the residents of Mount Baldy Village to inform them of the road closures in their area; and

WHEREAS, On December 21, 2010, the Cities of Loma Linda and Rialto have activated their Emergency Operations Center's to a Level I due to the series of winter storms; and

WHEREAS, the San Bernardino County Regional Parks Department has reported flood and debris damage at various County regional park sites; and

WHEREAS, preliminary damage estimates and County emergency personnel costs for San Bernardino County Departments are still being gathered; and

WHEREAS, to date the County of Orange has also proclaimed a local emergency due to the conditions of extreme peril caused by these winter storms; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service's weather forecast has predicted the possibility of further heavy rain striking the County of San Bernardino on December 22, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency exists throughout said County; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers and duties of the emergency organization of the County shall be those prescribed by State law, by charter, ordinances, and resolutions of this County, and by the current County of San Bernardino Emergency Plan, as approved by the Board of Supervisors; and

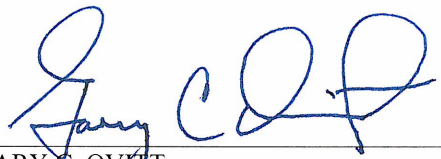
IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that this local emergency be ratified by the County Board of Supervisors in accordance to section 8630 of the California Government Code; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that a copy of this proclamation be forwarded to the Secretary of the California Emergency Management Agency; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that a copy of this proclamation be forwarded to the Governor of the State of California with the request that he proclaim that a State of Emergency exists in the County of San Bernardino and that he afford the County the benefit of recovering its costs, which include, but is not limited to weather response costs, as a result of the emergency.

Dated: 12/21/10

Time of Signing: 4:20


GARY C. OVITT
Director of Emergency Services,
County of San Bernardino and
Chairman of the Board of Supervisors,
County of San Bernardino