

# NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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.