



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PRESS RELEASE STORM STATUS

Date: November 30, 2012
Release: Immediately
Contact: Melodye Serino
Public Information Officer
454-3403

Continuous heavy rainfall coupled with high winds has been falling over Central California beginning Thursday evening and is expected to abate this evening followed by a second storm Sunday morning. Current rainfall totals have ranged from 2 to 5 inches in the Santa Cruz Mountains. This has caused the previously low rivers and streams to slowly and steadily rise overnight. At this time, all rivers and streams are well below warning levels. However, flash flood, high wind and high surf advisories have been issued by the National Weather Service through Monday morning for the San Francisco peninsula coast to the Big Sur coast, including Santa Cruz County.

A flash flood watch means that flash flooding is possible within the watch areas. Persons in the watch area are advised to check preparedness requirements, and to keep informed and be ready for quick action if flash flooding is observed or is a warning is issued.

At this time, Santa Cruz County has experienced two temporary road closures due to downed wires. Trout Gulch Road at mile marker 2.51 is currently closed due to downed wires and Highland Way at post marker 1.18 has only one lane open due to downed wires. The Department of Public Works provides a frequently updated list of road closures at:

<http://www.sccroadclosure.org/>

No mudslides or landslides have been reported, although residents in slide prone areas are encouraged to be alert for earth movement.

Currently approximately 1,300 customers are without power.

Recommended Storm Preparations

Severe storms can cause flash floods, mudslides, high surf, and stream and creek flooding, and can interrupt water, gas, and electricity. Prepare for a storm before it arrives.

1. Be sure you have first aid and critical medical supplies on hand, such as prescription medications or insulin.
2. Be sure you have safe drinking water and food which requires little cooking and no refrigeration in case utilities are interrupted.
3. Be sure that your portable radios and flashlights are working and that you have extra batteries.
4. Purchase emergency materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber at local lumber and hardware stores ahead of time.
5. Fill up your car; filling stations may not be able to operate if electricity is off.
6. Check to be sure you have the necessary tools and know where and how to shut off the water, electricity, and gas at the main switch valves in your home.
7. As much as possible, avoid traveling during the storm. If you must go out, do not try to cross a flowing stream where the water is over your knees, and do not try to drive over a flooded road. If your vehicle stalls, abandon it and seek safety.
8. Beware of downed power lines and broken gas lines.
9. Listen to local TV and radio stations for weather and flood information.
10. The following signs may indicate a dangerous situation:
 - ground cracking that is parallel to a slope
 - evidence of ground movement, such as a slumping or bulging embankments
 - sloping floors within the house
 - doors and windows sticking
 - bowing or leaning retaining walls
 - sink holes adjacent to or near the house foundation