While the Alisal Fire is still actively burning, a team of experts, scientists and geologists are beginning to study the impacts of the fire and how the watersheds above the Gaviota Coast may respond in future rain events. Downstream areas are typically at higher risk for flash floods, debris flows, mud flows and/or landslides due to the fire impacts. Properties below and within the burn area may be in a higher risk area. Please share this information with tenants, visitors and workers who share the property.

With winter storm season quickly approaching, individuals who live, visit and work within the Alisal Fire risk area should be aware the threat of flash floods and debris flows can potentially pose. These threats can happen with little or no warning, and public safety officials may only be able to alert the public with just a few minutes notice, or none at all. It is imperative to understand the seriousness of the situation and prepare to take actions to protect oneself, family, pets and any tenants, visitors and workers.

Residents are encouraged to access the FEMA 100- and 500-year flood map to identify potential flooding impacts to their property. Go to www.ReadySBC.org and click the “Maps” link on the upper right corner of the page. There is a place to enter your address within the map and learn more. If you do not have access to the Internet, call 2-1-1 for assistance [outside of 805 area code, call (800) 400-1572].

For questions or assistance, contact County of Santa Barbara Office of Emergency Management at (805) 681-5526 or email oem@sbcema.org.
We recommend the following actions be taken now:

1. Sign up for local emergency alerts at www.ReadySBC.org. If you registered for alerts in the past, log in to your account and update your contact and address information if needed. When ordered to evacuate by local public safety authorities, GO immediately. DO NOT WAIT to be told to leave if you feel threatened at any time or you need more time to prepare.

2. Review materials posted on ReadySBC.org for more information on flood preparedness and how to stay informed before, during and after storms and emergencies in Santa Barbara County.

3. Monitor weather reports and consider your safety risk when a weather advisory is issued.

4. Be prepared to leave at a moment’s notice. Remember the “Six P’s” for immediate evacuation: (1) People and Pets, (2) Papers, phone numbers and important documents, (3) Prescriptions, vitamins and eyeglasses, (4) Pictures, (5) Personal Computers (hard and flash drives), and (6) Plastic (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash. Always have a coat, shoes and a flashlight ready.

5. Know all your local access roads and understand that some may be blocked by debris. Have an alternate plan or route. Rock and mud slides can occur days after a storm when the ground is saturated. If evacuating is not safe, be prepared go to a neighbor on high ground or shelter in-place.

6. NEVER drive or walk into floodwaters or go around barricades. It is impossible to know how deep the water is just by looking at it.

7. Consider installing sandbags, straw wattles (rolled erosion control netting filled with straw), and other methods to divert water and reduce erosion on your property. The County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department offers sandbags. Information is enclosed, otherwise for locations and assistance, go to countyofsb.org/pwd/sandbag.sbc or call County Flood Control at (805) 568-3440.

8. Refer to the “Homeowner Guide to Flood Prevention and Response” posted online at readysbc.org/storm-ready/.

9. Flood Insurance: Most homeowners insurance does not cover floods from natural disasters. Make sure your home is protected. Refer to the FEMA handouts posted on ReadySBC.org or visit www.floodsmart.gov/wildfire for more information.


For recovery information, go to ReadySBC.org
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
SANDBAG INFORMATION
www.countyofsbc.org/pwd/sandbag.sbc

Updated Oct. 6, 2021
Please call for availability of sand and bags:

County of Santa Barbara Flood Control Shop
4568 County Rd., Santa Barbara
(Off of Calle Real)
(805) 568-3440

City of Santa Maria Flood Control Shop
912 West Foster Road, Santa Maria
(805) 568-3440

County of Santa Barbara Fire Station #31
168 W Hwy 246, Buellton
(805) 686-5062

Sand bags are not pre-filled and persons are limited to 25 bags. For more information about sand bags, contact County Flood Control at (805) 568-3440.

Sandbag Disposal
Sand from sandbags can be mixed with soil and used in landscaping or taken to a construction and demolition recycling plant. More locations and information can be found at https://bit.ly/3mZDdVJ. Bags can be reused or, if not usable, should be thrown in the trash.

CITY SAND AND BAG LOCATIONS - CENTRAL COUNTY
Please contact the city for current availability or information.

BUELLTON
City of Buellton
(805) 688-5177

LOMPOC
City of Lompoc
(805) 736-4513

Lompoc Fire Station #1
115 S. G Street
(805) 736-4513

SANTA YNEZ
Santa Ynez Community Services District
1070 Faraday Street
(805) 688-3008

SOLVANG
City of Solvang
1745 Mission Dr. (Veteran's Hall)
(805) 688-5575

For recovery information, go to ReadySBC.org