



Santa Barbara County
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PRESS RELEASE

Don't let the great weather fool you: Are you ready for the rainy season?

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FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

January 29, 2013

Editor's Note: Local media may paste the following at their web site. The URL identified in the email tag line below is <http://www.FloodSmart.gov> and http://www.countyofsb.org/uploadedFiles/pwd/Water/HomeownersGuide_Final.pdf

The OEM Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/SBCountyOEM>) contains videos in both English and Spanish regarding disaster preparedness. Use of the videos is allowed with appropriate credit.

(Santa Barbara, CA) – The weather in the Santa Barbara County area this week is beautiful. For emergency managers that can be a problem. With the month of February just beginning, the historical high-volume rain months are quickly approaching. Like with many other risks and threats, residents can get lulled into a sense of complacency.

According to Michael Harris, Chief of Emergency Management, “This is the last moment in which people should be prepared for any flood risks. Those people who are not mandated by their mortgage to have flood insurance, should make sure they are not in any potential flood areas.” Almost 25% of all flood losses occur outside “high-risk areas”. Harris went on to state, “Those persons who live in a flood-prone area should be prepared and they should ensure that all of their appropriate insurance policies are up to date.” It is critical that residents recognize that traditional homeowners’ insurance does not cover flooding.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from 2001-2010 floods in the United States caused nearly \$2.7 billion in flood losses. Almost 40% of businesses that were flooded never reopened their doors again.

This month emergency managers, government officials and community partners are reminding local residents of the need to be flood ready by attaching the following tag line to their emails:



Floods – Know your risks and prepare!

Check out these sites:

<http://www.FloodSmart.gov>

http://www.countyofsb.org/uploadedFiles/pwd/Water/HomeownersGuide_Final.pdf

Finally, remember that when emergencies happen, the Office of Emergency Management works with local media to provide emergency information. Having a hand-crank radio is the best way to stay in touch and receive emergency information during power outages.

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