

ORANGE COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE # 2

Date: 1/25/08

Time: 1700 hrs

FLASH FLOOD WATCH IN EFFECT AND VOLUNTARY RESIDENT AND MANDATORY LARGE ANIMAL EVACUATION ORDER FOR MODJESKA, HARDING, AND WILLIAMS CANYONS FOR 1200 NOON ON SATURDAY 1/26/08.

The National Weather Service has issued a Flash Flood Watch for Orange County indicating that flash flooding is likely between Midnight Saturday night until Sunday morning. Total storm precipitation amounts of 2-4 inches is possible at the coast and 4 to 8 inches on south and southwest facing mountain slopes.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department, Fire Authority, and County Executive Officer have issued a **voluntary** evacuation order for residents of **Modjeska, Harding, Silverado and Williams Canyons to go into effect at 1200, Saturday, 1/26/08.**

A **mandatory** evacuation order for **special needs residents** (disabled or impaired, special medical needs, etc.) and **large animals (horses, livestock, etc.) to go into effect at 1200, Saturday, 1/26/08.**

The US Geological Survey has advised that flash flood level rain is capable of producing catastrophic debris flows that can completely destroy homes and roads. Debris flows can occur without any notice. Do not delay evacuating until the rain becomes severe. Evacuation routes can quickly become impassable due to mud and debris or flooding.

If you live on or near recently burned slopes, please take immediate action to protect life and property and continue to monitor local media sources for additional information. If your property has been identified as being at moderate to high risk to life in the State BAER report, evacuate immediately.

The Orange County Fairgrounds (88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa) can accept large animals from residents. Residents must call ahead to (714) 708-1588 to inform OC Fairgrounds that they are coming and to receive directions about which gate to enter. Residents are expected to bring any necessary supplies for their large animals.

A shelter at El Modena High School, located at 3920 East Spring Street in Orange will be opening at 4pm, Saturday 1/26/08.

Please be advised that mandatory evacuations of the canyons may be ordered if the National Weather Service issues a Flash Flood Warning. A Flash Flood Warning means that flash-flooding and debris flows are imminent or occurring. Be aware that Sheriff's Deputies will NOT be making door-to-door notifications during a flash flood warning. They will utilize a Public Address system as they evacuate themselves from the canyons.

If residents have any questions, they can call the Orange County Sheriff's Department Dispatch Center at 714-647-7000.

Release authorized by:  Title: EOC Manager

Email or Faxed/time: _____

Sent by: _____ Date/Time: _____