



PRESS RELEASE July 12, 2024

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Santa Barbara County Proclaims Local Emergency Due to Lake Fire

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – On July 12, 2024, the County of Santa Barbara proclaimed a local emergency due to the Lake Fire, which threatens several communities including Santa Ynez and Los Olivos, as well as ranches, farms, homes, campgrounds, and State Routes 154 and 176. The proclamation (***attached***) was executed by Mona Miyasato, Santa Barbara County Executive Officer and Director of Emergency Services. The proclamation will be taken to the Board of Supervisors for ratification on Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

Proclaiming a local state of emergency is an essential step for local governments dealing with significant incidents. It ensures that all county resources are available for the Lake Fire control efforts and supporting activities. Having the proclamation in place also helps facilitate state and federal fiscal assistance for local government and impacted residences and businesses.

“The July 2024 Lake Fire is still burning and continuing to create dangerous conditions to the safety and well-being of persons and property within Santa Barbara County. In addition, the longer this emergency goes on the greater impact it will have on the economy of our county,” said County Executive Officer, Mona Miyasato.

On July 5, 2024, a wildfire named the “Lake Fire” began burning in the Zaca Resort area in the Santa Ynez Valley. This was followed by evacuation orders for approximately 423 residents and evacuation warnings for 1,182 residents due to threats to life and safety caused by the Lake Fire. Residents can utilize the [Santa Barbara County July 2024 Lake Fire Incident Map](#) to type in their address to see if their property currently falls within the highlighted areas.

Lake Fire Incident Information can be found at, ReadySBC.org.

For additional information, contact the Santa Barbara County Call Center at (833) 688-5551.

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PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY BY DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE LAKE FIRE AND REQUEST TO GOVERNOR NEWSOM TO PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-5(a) of the Santa Barbara County Code empowers the County of Santa Barbara, Director of Emergency Services, to proclaim a local emergency if the Board of Supervisors is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 8558(c) defines a “Local Emergency” as: “the duly proclaimed existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the territorial limits of a county, city and county, or city, caused by conditions such as air pollution, fire, flood, storm, epidemic, riot, drought, cyberterrorism, sudden and severe energy shortage, de-energization event, electromagnetic pulse attack, plant or animal infestation or disease, the Governor's warning of an earthquake or volcanic prediction, or an earthquake, or other conditions, other than conditions resulting from a labor controversy, which are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of that political subdivision and require the combined forces of other political subdivisions to combat...”; and

WHEREAS, on July 5, 2024, at approximately 1530 hours, a wildfire that has been named the “Lake Fire” began burning in the Zaca Resort area in the Santa Ynez Valley in Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, as of July 11, 2024, the Lake Fire has burned approximately 34,015 acres, is 16% contained, destroyed four buildings and damaged one additional structure, and continues to create a significant burn scar; and

WHEREAS, Evacuation Orders have been issued for approximately 423 residents and Evacuation Warnings have been issued for 1,182 residents; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Fire is threatening several communities including Santa Ynez and Los Olivos, as well as ranches, farms, homes, campgrounds, and State Routes 154 and 176; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County Fire has requested assistance through the Federal Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) program; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Fire is actively burning towards Lake Cachuma, which is the primary water source for the southern portion of Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Fire is actively burning towards Sisquoc River, Cachuma Creek, and impacting various watersheds, which can impact several groundwater basins and drinking water sources; and

WHEREAS, extensive smoke and ash have created hazardous air quality conditions in the Santa Ynez Valley and surrounding areas; and

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WHEREAS, extensive smoke and ash have impacted agricultural operations, crops and facilities, as well associated tourism in the Sant Ynez Valley; and

WHEREAS, evacuation shelters have been established for residents and for animals; and

WHEREAS, Los Padres National Forest received Incident Management Team 13 (IMT-13), Cal-Fire Incident Management Team 5 (Cal-Fire 5) was activated, and the County of Santa Barbara Fire imbedded into the response as a Unified Commander, to coordinate mutual aid, resources and situational awareness within the field; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Fire is causing conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the County of Santa Barbara and these conditions are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of the combined forces of Santa Barbara County Operational Area to combat; and

WHEREAS, these conditions warrant and necessitate that the County proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency in order to utilize all resources necessary to respond to the damage that will likely be caused by the Lake Fire, and receive assistance from the State and Federal governments; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara is not in session.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that a local emergency now exists in the County of Santa Barbara for the entire Santa Barbara Operational Area and that:

1. All the recitals set forth above are true, correct, and valid; and
2. The conditions of extreme peril are not the result of labor controversy; and
3. This Proclamation of Local Emergency invokes in the County of Santa Barbara all powers and mechanisms set forth in the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code sections 8550 et seq.), Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12 and all other applicable laws, to be used by authorized personnel of the County of Santa Barbara; and
4. Pursuant to Santa Barbara County Code, Chapter 12, Sec. 12-5(b), the Director of Emergency Services is empowered to require emergency services of any county officer or employee and to requisition necessary personnel or material of any county department or agency; and
5. A copy of this Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be posted in a publicly accessible location at the County Administration Building, and County personnel shall endeavor to make copies of this Proclamation available to news media; and
6. A copy of this Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be forwarded to the Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services requesting that the Director find it

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acceptable in accordance with state law; that the Governor waive any regulations that may hinder emergency protective measures and recovery efforts; and that recovery assistance be made available under any other State and Federal programs that may be available; and

7. This Proclamation of Local Emergency shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect for a period of seven (7) days, unless ratified by the Board of Supervisors, and extended, or unless sooner terminated; and
8. Governor Newsom is requested to proclaim a State of Emergency as a result of this emergency.

Dated: July 12, 2024

Time: 11:30 am



Mona Miyasato
County Executive Officer/
Director of Emergency Services
County of Santa Barbara