



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 6, 2018

Ready for rain tips

People living near Thomas Fire burn areas urged to prepare

CAMARILLO, Calif. – Heavy rains are predicted Monday evening through Wednesday in Ventura County. In anticipation of forecasted storms, [Ventura County Fire](http://VenturaCountyFire.org) is encouraging the public to plan ahead and prepare now. People living in, and around Thomas Fire burn areas or near flood-prone areas, should take extra steps to protect homes and properties from storm damage; have a disaster kit ready; and sign-up to receive mobile emergency text alerts.

Before the rain

- Sign-up to receive “[VC Alert](#)” messages by contacting VC Alert Hotline at (805) 648-9283 or visiting www.vcalert.org. Subscribers will receive advance notifications of voluntary or mandatory evacuations specific to their neighborhood.
- Download a “[Ready, Set, Go!](#)” flood preparation guide and create a plan.
- Stay informed and monitor potential impacts in your area through the [National Weather Service](#).
- Monitor [NOAA \(All Hazards\) Weather Radio](#) for [urgent weather updates](#) and emergency bulletins.
- Identify access route(s) in and out of neighborhoods.
- Keep emergency supplies on hand, such as a flashlight, water, food, first aid kit and a portable radio with extra batteries.
- Learn how to [prepare for rain after a wildfire](#) on VenturaCountyRecovers.org.

Property preparation

- Inspect nearby storm drains before and after heavy rainfall. If blocked, contact your local city public works department or Ventura County Public Works at (805) 654-2001.
- Clear debris from curbside gutters and drains in yards, driveways and pool decks.
- Inspect roofs to check for loose tiles, holes, or other signs of trouble.
- Research flood insurance plans and coverage needs.

Flood prevention

- Need additional sandbags? Call your local [VCFD fire station](#) at (805) 371-1111 for additional supplies. Please be prepared to fill and transport sandbags. Supplies can also be purchased at [local hardware stores](#).
- Sandbags should be placed in areas vulnerable to flooding or affected by recent fires.
- Learn [how to use sandbags](#) to divert water and redirect debris away from properties.

During the rain

- Use extreme caution when crossing roads or areas of flowing water. Flowing water can be dangerous and deceptively deep.
- Keep away from flood control debris basins, channels, facilities and river beds.

For additional rain ready tips, visit VenturaCountyRecovers.org or www.ReadyVenturaCounty.org. For information in Español about preparing for rain after a wildfire, click [here](#).

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