



NEWS RELEASE

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County declares local emergency, starts recovery efforts

VENTURA, Calif. – At a special meeting on Tuesday, November 13, the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a resolution ratifying the Sheriff's Proclamation of a Local Emergency brought on by the mass shooting at the Borderline Bar and Grill and the Hill and Woolsey Fires.

"We have endured a horrible series of tragic events in Ventura County over the past several days," said Mike Powers, County Executive Officer. "And even though we have yet to pay our final respects to the shooting victims, and residents are still being affected by the fires, the County cannot and will not stop its efforts to aid those in need; financially, physically or mentally."

The meeting began with reports by County agency heads detailing the County's actions since the shootings and the start of the fires. Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen updated the Board on the current status of the fire, including evacuations and the destruction of homes. Sheriff Bill Ayub reported on the ongoing investigation into the Borderline shootings that is being conducted jointly with the FBI and other federal agencies and the upcoming Memorial for Sergeant Ron Helus who was killed in the line of duty during the shooting.

County Disaster Recovery Director, Matt Carroll said that fire recovery efforts have already begun.

"We're working cooperatively with the City of Thousand Oaks to jump-start the recovery in the Conejo Valley and South Coast," said Carroll. "A series of town hall information meetings is being planned to occur over the next few days and we've assembled a recovery team to help expedite the process."

Wide areas of the County, including Newbury Park, Thousand Oaks, Camarillo Springs, Lake Sherwood, California State University Channel Islands, Rancho Sierra Vista, Westlake, Bell Canyon, Oak Park, Point Mugu, Point Mugu State Park and communities along the Pacific Coast Highway, have been impacted. A significant number of structures have been destroyed or damaged with some areas still threatened by fire.

Recovery actions already taken by the County include:

- Representatives from Public Health and Behavioral Health present at all emergency shelters.
- Rental assistance program available for fire victims needing temporary housing.
- Plans to open a Local Assistance Center.



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- More than 85,000 N-95 masks distributed due to air quality concerns.
- Request for debris removal program submitted to state.
- Recovery website – www.venturacountyrecovers.org – updated with information for those affected by the Hill and Woolsey fires.
- Treasurer-Tax Collector's office accepting applications for fee waivers and late payments from fire victims, evacuees and first responders.

On November 9, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, serving in the capacity of Acting Governor, declared a state of emergency in Ventura County and Los Angeles County due to the fires. A federal disaster declaration also was issued on November 9, opening federal assistance for both the Hill and Woolsey Fires as well as other active California wildfires. And now, the president has also issued a major emergency proclamation that will allow for public and personal assistance.

Also on November 9, Dr. Robert Levin, the Health Officer of Ventura County, in conjunction with William C. Stratton, Director of the Ventura County Environmental Health Division, proclaimed the existence of a local health emergency arising from the wildfires.

Because the fires continue to pose extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within Ventura County, the Board also voted to ratify and extend the Health Officer's proclamation of a local health emergency.

In situations where a board of supervisors has proclaimed a local emergency, the board may also direct the County purchasing agent to engage independent contractors to perform services related to the local emergency. The Board voted to grant that authority subject to approval by the County Executive Officer and County Counsel and capped at \$500,000 per contractor.

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