



PRESS RELEASE

January 13, 2018

Contact:

Santa Barbara County Joint Information Center
805-696-1188 **Media Line Only**

JANUARY STORM: LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP? HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS YOU CAN DONATE

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – Firefighters greatly appreciate that the community wants to make donations of food, clothing, and money, but they want the community to know that they are adequately taken care of and ask that you donate to disaster relief organizations such as the American Red Cross, Foodbank of Santa Babara County, etc. United Way of Santa Barbara County is also a lead agency for the region accepting cash donations. Do not bring donations to the Incident Command Post.

If you are wanting to financially support the incident, please be advised that individuals often take advantage of the situation by setting up false GoFundMe websites and other types of fundraising accounts that are not legitimate. If you are interested in donating to help in an incident, call and verify that the beneficiary is authentic.

Here are verified ways the community can donate and support efforts throughout the community:

United Way of Santa Barbara County has joined forces to directly support those individuals and families affected by the January Storm through the United Way Thomas Fire and Flood Fund. Nonperishable food, **new** clothing, toiletries and monetary donations are being accepted at the agencies listed below. Used clothing, bedding and toys are not being accepted.

United Way of Santa Barbara County: Monetary donations are accepted at:

- www.unitedwaythomasfirefund.org
- Call: (805) 965-8591
- 320 E. Gutierrez St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101

American Red Cross: Monetary donations are accepted at:

- www.redcross.org
- Text "redcross" to 90999.

Foodbank of Santa Barbara County: Monetary Donations, nonperishable foods, and fresh produce are accepted at:

- 4554 Hollister Ave., Santa Barbara, CA 93110

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- 1525 State St., Ste 100, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
- 490 W. Foster Rd., Santa Maria, CA 93455

Salvation Army: Unopened and canned food and monetary donations are accepted at:

- 423 Chapala St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

Unity Shoppe: New clothing, shoes, blankets, toiletries and monetary donations are accepted at:

- 1401 Chapala St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

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Emergency Alert System:

It is critical that people in Santa Barbara County register to receive emergency alerts. Sign up at www.AwareAndPrepare.org. If we can't reach you, we can't alert you.

Stay Connected:

For ongoing updates, go to www.CountyofSB.org, follow @countyofsb on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), or call 2-1-1 from 805 area code or 800-400-1572 outside of 805, or text your zip code to 898-211.

Sistema de Alerta de Emergencia:

Es muy importante que las personas en el Condado de Santa Bárbara se registren para recibir alertas de emergencias. Inscríbete a www.AwareAndPrepare.org, si no podemos localizarte, no podemos alertarte.

Permanece Conectado:

Para actualizaciones continuas, ve a www.CountyofSB.org, sigue @countyofsb en [Twitter](#) y [Facebook](#) o llama al 2-1-1 desde el código de área 805, o al 800-400-1572 para fuera del 805, o manda por texto tu código postal al 898-211.

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