



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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DOWNSIZING OF CZU LIGHTNING COMPLEX FIRE SHELTERS

The Santa Cruz County Emergency Operations Center is closing the Cabrillo College CZU Lightning Complex Fire Emergency Evacuation Shelter at 5 p.m. today, Sept. 9. The County's other two shelters remain in operation at the Seventh-Day Adventist Conference Grounds in Soquel and the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville.

The Cabrillo College shelter closure represents good news as the number of residents served has dropped across all three shelters from a high of just under 2,500 to only 190 residents as of today. The CZU Lightning Complex Fire is 83% contained with repopulation of fire-impacted areas of the North Coast, Bonny Doon and San Lorenzo Valley now in progress.

The Cabrillo closure is part of the shelter consolidation plan that is enabling staff to focus on the needs of those with longer-term displacements.

The Santa Cruz Emergency Operations Center is grateful to the American Red Cross who has provided supplies, support, and emergency response expertise. The Center is also thankful for the continued efforts of the California Department of Social Services, the California Office of Emergency Services and other state agency partners providing support at the Santa Cruz and Watsonville shelter locations.

Information on shelter help for evacuees of the CZU Lightning Complex Fire, is available at <http://santacruzcounty.us/FireResources.aspx>.