



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PRESS RELEASE

Date: January 5, 2021

Contact: Jason Hoppin

Jason.Hoppin@santacruzcounty.us

DEBRIS FLOW EVACUATION MAP UPDATED

The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce an update and refinement of debris flow evacuation zone maps. Residents living in and near the CZU Lightning Complex burn scar are urged to review their debris flow evacuation zones to see whether they remain in potential debris flow evacuation zones.

The update is based on mapping refinements and a reassessment of risk levels, including whether residents are likely to lose access to homes during a debris flow event. Residents are being urged to “Know Your Zone” by looking up their address on the Debris Flow Hazard Risk Map, available at <https://community.zonehaven.com>.

Debris flows pose a risk in hilly or sloped areas following large fires, when periods of intense rainfall can cause large mudflows carrying debris, trees, boulders and more. Residents within and below the CZU Lightning Complex burn scar should be prepared to evacuate prior to powerful storms expected to meet certain benchmarks for rainfall intensity.

Should evacuations be necessary, the County urges residents to take this risk seriously. All residents within the updated evacuated areas should be prepared to leave, or, if property access only would be impacted, should maintain adequate supplies to shelter in place for an extended duration. Debris flows can lead to property damage and loss of road access, and rescues by public safety personnel may not be possible. County public safety and emergency management staff will make evacuation determinations with the safety of residents as the highest priority. For more information, visit <https://www.santacruzcounty.us/FireRecovery/DebrisFlowsMudflows.aspx>.

Regardless of their risk level, all residents should sign up for emergency alerts. Visit <https://www.scr911.org/general/page/codered> or text “SCR911” to 99411 to sign up. Residents should also download the CodeRed app for their smartphones. In advance of any rain events, residents are also advised to tune in to local news, utilize weather radios or follow County social media to stay up-to-date on the latest information.