



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Press Release

Powerful Pacific Storm Expected Wed. P.M.

Date: December 10, 2014
Release: Immediately
Contact: Rayne Marr
Public Information Officer
458-7185

A powerful Pacific storm system will bring heavy rain and the potential for strong damaging winds to Santa Cruz County as early as late Wednesday night and through late Thursday night. The National Weather Service has issued a High Wind Warning, a Flash Flood Watch and a High Surf Advisory for Santa Cruz County. Widespread downed trees, falling power lines, mudslides, rockfalls, and difficult and dangerous driving conditions are anticipated. Elevated water levels are anticipated on small creeks and streams, pooling water in urban areas and on highways and streets and low lying spots, as well as flooding of low-lying areas. There will be an increased likelihood for dangerous rip currents and beach erosions.

The public is encouraged to avoid any unnecessary driving during the storm. If driving cannot be avoided, use extra caution, allow extra time, and watch for debris, downed trees, or downed power lines that may be obstructing the roadway, as well as standing water or flooding of roadways.

Citizens are urged to prepare for power outages and road closures. Emergency supplies should be kept on hand, including food, water (1 gal. per person per day for 3+ days), prescription medicines, a first aid kit, flashlights, extra batteries, a battery operated radio, a non-electric can opener, and extra cash in case ATM machines are down.

The High Wind Warning will be in effect from 10 PM Wednesday evening until 10 PM Thursday. Winds are anticipated to be increasing Wednesday evening with the strongest winds expected overnight. Winds of 40-55 MPH with gusts over 65 MPH are anticipated in the coastal and urban areas. Winds of 30 to 50 MPH with gusts exceeding 80 MPH are forecast for higher elevation areas. The Flash Flood Watch will be in effect from 9:00 PM Wednesday until 4:00 AM Friday. Rainfall amounts are expected to range from 2 to 4 inches for most low-elevation areas, 5-7 inches in the Santa Cruz Mountains with up to 10 inches possible at the peaks in the coastal ranges. The High Surf Advisory will be in effect from 10:00 PM Wednesday until 10:00 AM Friday. Combined seas are anticipated to be 15 to 20 feet, with a few breakers along the beach exceeding 20 feet. Higher than normal surf will likely produce hazardous conditions on the beach and surf zone.

Important Links/Numbers:

Santa Cruz Co. Office of Emergency Services: <http://sccounty01.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/oes/oesmain2.htm>

Current Santa Cruz County Road Closures: <http://www.sccroadclosure.org>

PG&E 24-Hour information on electrical outages: 800-743-5002.