



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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APTOS LIBRARY SITE TO BE USED FOR FIRE TRAINING

The County of Santa Cruz and Santa Cruz Public Libraries are pleased to partner with local fire agencies on a unique training opportunity to help increase fire preparedness and response on behalf of local residents.

Beginning Tuesday, March 1, 2022, and continuing through March 11, public safety personnel from both paid and volunteer fire agencies throughout Santa Cruz County will conduct search and rescue training and building ventilation techniques utilizing the decommissioned Aptos Public Library, which is closed and will be demolished following the training exercise to make way for a new branch library.

Residents should expect to see emergency vehicles in the Aptos Library parking lot, as well as simulated emergency activities including forcible building entry, hose deployments and the use of non-toxic theatrical smoke, which is being deployed with the permission of the Monterey Bay Air Resources District. No actual fires will be included in this training exercise.

Any hazardous building materials contained in the building's structure will be removed prior to the exercise by Coastwide Environmental. Residents are asked to refrain from calling 911 to report activities associated with the training.

Media are welcome to cover the event. However, they are asked to coordinate with Central Fire prior to visiting the site. Please use the Central Fire non-emergency line, 831-479-6842.

With a design driven by community input and funded by Measure S, the \$14 million development is being built by Bogard Construction with architectural services by Anderson Brulé Architects. In addition to modern library amenities and a greatly expanded footprint, the 12,400-square-foot new building will be a "net zero" structure producing as much energy as it uses over the course of a year.