

ORANGE COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE #1

Date: 2/17/17

Time: 9:25 a.m.

**VOLUNTARY EVACUATIONS IN SILVERADO CANYON
AND ACTIVATION OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**

At 9:00 a.m. today, a voluntary evacuation for the Silverado Canyon burn area was issued by County of Orange public safety officials due to potential flooding and debris flows. The voluntary evacuation is for homes east of 30311 Silverado Canyon Road. This voluntary evacuation has the potential to be upgraded to a mandatory evacuation as the storm progresses.

Homes against steep slopes that were burned during the Silverado Fire are urged to follow the voluntary evacuation. Beginning at 9:00 a.m. today, only residents will be allowed to enter the areas under the voluntary evacuation. However, residents should be prepared that if conditions worsen, they may not be able to return to their homes. Residents with large animals should follow their personal plans to move their animals.

The National Weather Service warns that significant rainfall is expected from late afternoon Friday through early Saturday. The public is warned evacuation routes can quickly become impassable due to mud, debris and flooding.

The County of Orange activated and staffed the Emergency Operations Center with County agency representatives at 9:00 a.m. The Public Information Hotline is staffed and ready to accept calls in regard to the rainfall in the canyon areas. The Public Information Hotline is (714) 628-7085. All resources and support personnel are identified and ready to mobilize other areas of the Emergency Operations Center when needed.

The American Red Cross has opened a care and reception shelter at 9:00 a.m. today at the Silverado Community Center at 27641 Silverado Canyon Road for evacuated residents. Residents are reminded that animals are not allowed in the shelter, with the exception of service animals. It is recommended that residents bring their medications, if possible.

Any person with disabilities and those with access and/or functional needs requiring assistance in evacuating should call the Orange County Sheriff's Department at (714) 647-7000.

Residents are urged to monitor local media for the most up-to-date information, as well as follow @OrangeCountyEOC, @OCPublicWorks and @OCSD on Twitter.