



# COUNTY OF ORANGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Heavy Rainfall Expected in Orange County, Risk of Mud and Debris Flows Near Holy Fire Burn Area

**Santa Ana, Calif.** (September 28, 2018) – With two storms making their way across the Pacific Ocean and expecting to bring rainfall across Orange County next week, local agencies are closely monitoring weather conditions and are strongly advising residents of the potential risk of mud and debris flows originating from the Holy Fire burn area. Scattered thunderstorms are currently expected as early as late Sunday, September 30 through Wednesday, October 3.

As of Friday, more than one inch of rain is expected over the three-day period, with the heaviest rainfall expected on Tuesday. The anticipated rainfall is expected as a result of Hurricane Rosa, which is forecasted to weaken to a tropical storm before reaching Southern California, followed shortly after by a second storm approaching from the western Pacific Ocean.

Residents of Trabuco Canyon are advised that the Holy Fire burn area is susceptible to mud and debris flows due to heavy rainfall and can occur with little or no warning. Mud and debris flows are fast-moving landslides that can be several feet deep and life-threatening. Flooding in nearby areas is also possible.

Several agencies, including the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Orange County Fire Authority, Orange County Public Works, the U.S. Forest Service and others are working collaboratively to monitor conditions and ensure response teams are in place.

The Holy Fire, which burned from early August to early September, scorched over 23,000 acres in Orange and Riverside Counties, including much of the Upper Trabuco Canyon and Holy Jim areas of Orange County within the U.S. Forest Service boundary.

What you can do to be prepared:

- Sign up for AlertOC evacuation alerts and other updates at [www.AlertOC.com](http://www.AlertOC.com)
- Make a plan now to be prepared to leave before any flows/flooding begin, before roads are closed.
- If debris flows, mud, or water are already flowing, go to higher ground if possible.
- Follow all evacuation orders by public safety officials.
- Obtain sandbags to protect your home and property from flooding:

Unincorporated Orange County residents: Visit [www.OCStormCenter.com](http://www.OCStormCenter.com) or call 714-955-0200  
Residents in incorporated cities: Visit [www.OCFA.org](http://www.OCFA.org)



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- Monitor official weather reports and alerts. Even if it is not raining where you are, a mud and debris flow that begins in higher terrain can quickly move and endanger you and your family.
- If accurate predictions are available, Evacuation Warnings (Voluntary) will be issued for at-risk areas 24 - 48 hours before an expected storm. The safest time to leave is during an Evacuation Warning (Voluntary) before any flows begin. If possible, Mandatory Evacuation Orders will be issued 6 - 12 hours before the storm.
- Know your local access roads and understand that some may be blocked by debris or water. Have an alternate route. Stay informed of road and highway conditions by visiting Caltrans' website at [quickmap.dot.ca.gov](http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov).
- Stay out, stay alive. Never drive or walk into flood waters, mud or debris, and never go around barricades. It is impossible to know how deep water or mud is just by looking at it and the depth can change quickly.
- Have an emergency plan and a disaster kit ready to go. Get details at available at [www.ReadyOC.org](http://www.ReadyOC.org)
- If you or someone else is in imminent danger, dial 9-1-1.

In addition to monitoring local news media, residents are also encouraged to stay informed of the most current information by monitoring the following:

#### **Social media**

#HolyFloodReady

@OrangeCountyEOC

@OCFA\_PIO (Twitter)

@ClevelandNF

@OCAAnimalCare (for animal shelter assistance)

#### **Web site**

[www.OCgov.com](http://www.OCgov.com)

Any person with disabilities and those with access and/or functional needs requiring assistance in evacuating should call the Orange County Sheriff's Department dispatch at (714) 647-7000 or 9-1-1 if you are in a life-threatening emergency.

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