MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, November 17, 2026
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County of Monterey Urges Big Sur Residents and Businesses to Prepare and Resupply Ahead of Flash Flood Watch and Debris Flow Threat while Roadways remain open.

SALINAS, CA --, The National Weather Service (NWS) issued a Flash Flood Watch for the Big Sur burn scar areas, specifically impacting the footprints of the Timber and Plaskett Fires.

It is highly likely that rainfall thresholds for debris flows and flash floods could be exceeded.

Due to incoming weather conditions with the greatest period of concern spanning from early morning Wednesday, November 18, through November 19, there is a strong chance of debris flows in these areas. Debris flows and flooding could block portions of Highway 1 between county roads, and secondary roadways, potentially cutting off vehicle access for residents and visitors. It is important to note that Highway Closures are possible from Carmel to the Monterey County/San Luis Obispo line.

Immediate Action & Travel Advisory

Visitors are advised to avoid the Big Sur area, and residents should stay off road once the storm begins. Anyone driving in the area during the storm must exercise extreme caution, as road conditions can change rapidly and become hazardous.

If you feel your property is at risk of debris flows or your life is threatened, you should consider evacuating prior to the coming storm.

Monterey County Public Safety Agencies strongly urge all Big Sur residents and businesses to prepare and resupply immediately while roadways remain open.

Residents should plan to be self-sufficient for **up to two weeks** should roadway closures isolate the area. Recommended preparations include restocking:

- Essential household and emergency supplies
- Prescription medications and first-aid items

- Non-perishable food and drinking water
- Natural gas, propane, and generator fuel

Official Information & Resources
Residents, businesses, and travelers are urged to monitor conditions closely and rely solely on official websites and verified social media platforms from trusted local and state agencies for updates, road closures, and emergency alerts:

- **Weather Forecasts & Warnings:** National Weather Service
- **County Alerts & Emergency Info:** County of Monterey and the Monterey County Department of Emergency Management
- **Housing, Water & Septic Safety:** County of Monterey Environmental Health Bureau
- **Law Enforcement & Fire:** Monterey County Sheriff's Office, Big Sur Fire, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP)
- **Highway 1 & Road Conditions:** Caltrans District 5 / Caltrans QuickMap
- **Community & Visitor Updates:** Big Sur Chamber of Commerce, Big Sur Community Association, and See Monterey

Residents are also encouraged to ensure they are registered to receive emergency notifications via Alert Monterey County at ReadyMontereyCounty.org.

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