NEWS RELEASE

San Luis Obispo County Fire Department

Unit Chief
John Owens

Tuesday, November 24, 2026

OFFICIALS URGE THE PUBLIC TO USE EXTREME CAUTION NEAR SLO COUNTY BEACHES

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – The National Weather Service has issued a High Surf Warning and a Coastal Flood Warning for San Luis Obispo County beaches from **6 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25, through noon, Nov. 26**. Breaking waves of **15 to 22 feet** and extremely high tides are expected to cause significant coastal flooding, especially around morning high tide on both days. Seawater can flood beach parking lots, harbor walkways, and low-lying roads.

STAY AWAY FROM THE WATER'S EDGE WHILE SURF CONDITIONS ARE DANGEROUS.

Unfortunately, in years past, fatalities have occurred along the San Luis Obispo County coast during similar conditions when visitors ventured too close to the water and were swept into the ocean. A single wave can surge across dry sand or shoreline rocks, knock you down, and pull you into the water. Approaching the water during these conditions places both you and first responders at great risk.

SAFETY GUIDANCE:

- **Move beach plans inland.** Stay off beaches, piers, shoreline rocks, and waterfront paths. Keep children and pets well away from the shoreline.
- **Never turn your back on the ocean.** If you are near the coast, keep the water in view and stay well back. Occasionally, larger waves can catch people by surprise.
- **Obey all closures and barricades.** If water covers a road or parking lot, turn around.
- **Approach the water at your own risk -** Conditions could become so hazardous during this period that first responders may be unable to enter the water to reach you.
- **Call 911 immediately if someone is swept into the ocean.** Alert a lifeguard if one is nearby. Stay on land, keep the person in sight, and tell dispatch where you last saw them. Do not enter the water to attempt a rescue because you may become a second victim.

We ask the public to monitor the National Weather Service for the latest weather information and warnings and to sign up for **AlertSLO** through the San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services to receive local emergency notifications.

National Weather Service · AlertSLO sign-up

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