

GOVERNOR BROWN DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY DUE TO ALAMO AND WHITTIER FIRES

7-16-2017

SACRAMENTO - Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. today issued an emergency proclamation for Santa Barbara County due to the effects of the Alamo and Whittier fires, which have burned thousands of acres, damaged agriculture, businesses and critical infrastructure including power lines, threatened homes and caused the evacuation of residents.

The full text of the proclamation is below:

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS on July 6, 2017, the Alamo Fire, and on July 8, 2017 the Whittier Fire, began burning and have rapidly burned thousands of acres of land and continue to burn in Santa Barbara County; and WHEREAS these fires have destroyed structures and continue to threaten homes, necessitating the evacuation of residents; and

WHEREAS these fires have damaged and continue to threaten critical infrastructure, including major power lines, and have forced the closure of major highways and local roads; and

WHEREAS these fires have caused significant damage to agriculture and businesses; and

WHEREAS extreme weather conditions and high temperatures have further increased the risk of fires; and

WHEREAS the circumstances of these fires by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 8558(b) of the Government Code, I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exists in Santa Barbara County due to the Alamo Fire and Whittier Fire; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 8571 of the Government Code, I find that strict compliance with the various statutes and regulations specified in this order would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the Alamo Fire and Whittier Fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, section 8625 of the Government Code, HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY to exist in Santa Barbara County.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, all citizens are to heed the advice of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.
2. The California National Guard shall mobilize, as necessary, under Military and Veterans Code section 146 (mobilization in case of catastrophic fires) to support disaster response and relief efforts and shall coordinate with all relevant state agencies, including the Office of Emergency Services, and all relevant state and local emergency responders and law enforcement within the impacted areas.
3. The Office of Emergency Services shall provide local government assistance to Santa Barbara County, if appropriate, under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, Government Code section 8680 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, section 2900 et seq.
4. The provisions of Unemployment Insurance Code section 1253 imposing a one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance applicants are suspended as to all applicants who are unemployed as a direct result of the Alamo Fire, who applied for unemployment insurance benefits during the time period beginning July 6, 2017 and ending on the close of business on January 6, 2018, and who are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits, or as a direct result of the Whittier Fire, who applied for unemployment insurance benefits during the time period beginning July 8, 2017 and ending on the

close of business on January 8, 2018, and who are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

5. Vehicle Code sections 9265(a), 9867, 14901, 14902, and 15255.2, requiring the imposition of fees, are suspended with regard to any request for replacement of a driver's identification card, vehicle registration certificate, or certificate of title, by any individual who lost such records as a result of the Alamo Fire or Whittier Fire. Such records shall be replaced without charge.

6. The provisions of Vehicle Code sections 4602 and 5902, requiring the timely registration or transfer of title are suspended with regard to any registration or transfer of title by any resident of Santa Barbara County who is unable to comply with those requirements as a result of the Alamo Fire or Whittier Fire. The time covered by this suspension shall not be included in calculating any late penalty pursuant to Vehicle Code section 9554.

7. Health and Safety Code sections 103525.5 and 103625, and Penal Code section 14251, requiring the imposition of fees, are hereby suspended with regard to any request for copies of certificates of birth, death, marriage, and dissolution of marriage records, by any individual who lost such records as a result of the Alamo Fire or Whittier Fire. Such copies shall be provided without charge.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 16th day of July 2017.

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State

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