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PRESS RELEASE
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**COMMUNITY INVITED TO A CAVE FIRE INFORMATIONAL
WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS MEETING**

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) –The public is invited to attend an informational community meeting with County of Santa Barbara public safety and flood control officials and the U.S. Forest Service Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) team at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, December 19 at 6100 Wallace Becknell Road, Santa Barbara (Direct Relief International).

Experts will update the public on the Cave Fire burn area, mitigation, preparations and decision-making processes in advance of the winter storm season; and engage the public in their resiliency through this and future storm seasons.

Due to the burn scar caused by the recent Cave Fire, there is a heightened risk of flooding and debris flows during winter storms. Within Santa Barbara County, the southern foothills and surrounding communities have experienced occasional rockslides and flooding. Residents are reminded that they may be located in historically flood-prone areas.

Public safety officials will evaluate each incoming storm and determine what protective actions, if any, the public should take. Residents should be prepared to take action and follow the instructions of public safety officials. Protective actions may include relocating prior to a storm's arrival, sheltering in place, moving to higher ground, or evacuation.

A preliminary map is located at www.ReadySBC.org, along with Storm Ready-Set-Go preparedness tips. Register to receive emergency alerts at ReadySBC.org, and make emergency plans to protect you, your family and your property. For assistance developing a family safety plan, contact a local fire department or go to <https://www.ready.gov/>. If you feel uncomfortable or unsafe at any time, do not wait for instructions and relocate from your area.