

DECLARATION OF A LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY AND ORDER PROHIBITING THE
ENDANGERMENT OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE UNSAFE REMOVAL,
TRANSPORT, AND DISPOSAL OF FIRE DEBRIS

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code section 101040 authorizes the local health officer to take any preventative measure that may be necessary to protect and preserve public health from any public hazard during an emergency;

WHEREAS, section 101080 of the California Health and Safety Code authorizes the local health officer to declare a local health emergency in the jurisdiction or areas thereof affected by release or escape of hazardous waste which is an imminent threat to the public health or imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of any contagious, infectious, or communicable disease, chemical agent, noncommunicable biologic agent, toxin, or radioactive agent;

WHEREAS, the potential for widespread toxic exposures and threats to public health and the environment exists in the aftermath of a major wildfire disaster, and debris and ash from residential structure fires contain hazardous substances that can result in adverse health impacts to the public;

WHEREAS, the combustion of building materials such as siding, roofing tiles, and insulation result in dangerous ash that may contain asbestos, heavy metals, and other hazardous substances, and household hazardous substances such as paint, gasoline, cleaning products, pesticides, compressed gas cylinders, and chemicals may have been stored in homes, garages, or sheds that may have burned or released in the fire, also producing hazardous substances;

WHEREAS, exposure to hazardous substances may lead to acute and chronic health effects and may cause long-term public health and environmental impacts; uncontrolled hazardous substances and debris pose significant threats to public health through inhalation of dust particles and contamination of drinking water supplies; and improper handling can expose workers to toxic materials, and improper transport and disposal of fire debris can spread hazardous substances throughout the community;

WHEREAS, the Health Officer of Santa Barbara County finds that the wildfire (known as the Thomas Fire) that started in Santa Paula on December 4, 2017, and concurrent fire events have created an imminent threat to public health in Santa Barbara County in the form of contaminated debris from household hazardous waste and materials and structural debris resulting from the damage or destruction of approximately 80 structures;

WHEREAS, areas that have been closed to reentry by residents and the public for safety reasons will be opened in the near future;

WHEREAS, this hazardous waste debris poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health and the environment unless its removal and disposal is performed in a manner that will protect the public health and safety;

WHEREAS, the California Office of Emergency Services has established a voluntary Fire Debris Clearance Program to ensure the safe removal, transport, and disposal of hazardous fire debris;

WHEREAS, property owners that do not participate in the Fire Debris Clearance Program must conduct their private debris removal, transport, and disposal in a manner that does not endanger the community and that complies with all legal requirements;

WHEREAS, on December 5, 2017, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a State of Emergency existed in Santa Barbara County;

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2017, the President of the United States proclaimed a Declaration of a Presidential Emergency for the Thomas Fire;

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2017, the Santa Barbara County Director of Emergency Services declared a local emergency when the Board of Supervisors was not in session;

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2017, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors ratified the local emergency declaration; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Health Officer and the Santa Barbara County Public Health Director do hereby find:

1. That conditions of certain existing debris resulting from the Thomas Fire in the County of Santa Barbara involving destruction of a number of structures pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health and the environment unless properly and immediately managed; and
2. That protection of the County's natural resources and watershed from fire related debris runoff needs to be addressed immediately; and
3. That the aforesaid threat to public health necessitates the declaration.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DECLARED that a local health emergency exists in the areas of the County of Santa Barbara affected by the Thomas Fire due to threats posed to the public health by the hazardous waste in the form of debris resulting from the recent fire and due to an imminent and proximate threat of the introduction of the debris into the residential water supply.

FURTHER, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. No removal of fire debris from the Thomas Fire and concurrent fires in Santa Barbara County shall occur from properties without a hazardous materials inspection conducted either by the County of Santa Barbara, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. The term "removal of fire debris" as used in this order includes all cleanup of fire debris, but it does not include the removal of personal property from residential sites.
2. Pending the enactment of additional requirements to address the Thomas Fire disaster clean up, no debris bins shall be provided to property owners for the purposes of the

removal of fire debris without the authorization of the Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Division.

3. Pending the enactment of additional requirements to address the Thomas Fire disaster clean up, property owners that opt out of the Fire Debris Clearance Program must register with and obtain the permission of the Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services Division before beginning the removal of fire debris and conduct their private debris removal, transport, and disposal in a manner that does not endanger the community.
4. This order applies in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County impacted by the Thomas Fire and concurrent fires within Santa Barbara County.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local health emergency, the powers, functions, and duties of the Health Officer shall be those prescribed by state law, including the provisions of Section 101085 of the Health and Safety Code, and by pertinent ordinances and resolutions of this County.

IT IS FURTHER DECLARED, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 101080 the local health emergency shall not remain in effect for a period in excess of seven (7) days unless it has been ratified by the Board of Supervisors and shall be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors, at least every 14 days until the local health emergency is terminated.

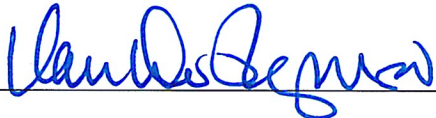
This Declaration may be signed in counterparts.



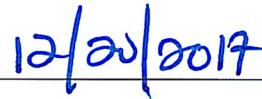
Charity Dean, MD, MPH
Santa Barbara County Health Officer



Date



Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD
Santa Barbara County Public Health Director



Date