



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PRESS RELEASE

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AVOID TRAVEL THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1

The Santa Cruz County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) requests that visitors refrain from traveling to Santa Cruz County through September 1 in order to maintain available local overnight accommodations for evacuees from the Lightning Complex Fires.

More than 45,000 Santa Cruz County residents have been displaced by fires, and many local hotels, motels and vacation rentals are at or near capacity. The EOC is providing a dozen shelter sites with more expected. Additionally, local cities, school districts and other partners are establishing additional shelter capacity. Shelters are being provided medical, behavioral health, benefits enrollment, meals and other support. Pets are welcome at most shelter sites as long as they are under family control.

Please DO NOT bring donations to shelter sites. They are not set up to receive donations. Cash donations are best and can be made to the Fire Response Fund at www.cfsc.org.

No-cost disaster relief accommodations may be available through Airbnb. Visit <https://www.airbnb.com/openhomes/disaster-relief> to register and learn more.

Information on animal boarding is available at (831) 454-7200. Horses and other large animals are being welcomed at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, with overflow capacity available at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. **Authorities will not rescue pets from the fire zone.**

If you would like to volunteer, visit the Volunteer Center online at <https://scvolunteercenter.org>.

For additional Fire Resources including a list of shelter sites, go to www.santacruzcounty.us/FireResources.aspx.