Santa Cruz County Terrain
Santa Cruz County Coastal Communities
Santa Cruz County Mountain Communities
Borders Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary
Santa Cruz is Home to Countless Wildlife
Natural Disasters: Flooding
Natural Disasters: Earthquakes
Natural Disasters: Earthquakes
Natural Disasters: Fires
Natural Disasters: Storm Damage
Natural Disasters: Storm Damage
Sandbags, Volunteers, and Mutual Aid Regions

• During times of major disaster events, volunteers play a key role in helping the community return to normal.

• Santa Cruz County has a large volunteer community as well as a Mutual Aid System between agencies.
Sandbags

• Sand and bags are provided by Public Works for emergency property protection during large storm events.

• The year the county received 288 tons of sand for sandbags.

• The county prepared 13,000 bags, purchased 30,000 more and currently only have 11,000 left from this year’s storm events.
Sandbags

• Sandbags are utilized by Public Works Crews are used to stabilize road slipouts and flood protection.

• Private residents use sandbags to protect their houses and properties from flooding.

• Sandbags are limited to 15 bags per household.

• Not for contractors or commercial use.

• Not to be resold.

• Public Works makes sandbags available at several volunteer center locations throughout the County.

• Sandbag fire station/volunteer center locations
  • Big Creek Fire Station
  • Boulder Creek Fire Station
  • Fall Creek Fire Station
  • Felton Fire Station
  • Valley Churches United
  • Zayantee Fire Station
  • Central Fire Station
  • Branciforte Fire Station
  • Aptos Chamber of Commerce
  • CalFire Station Corralitos
  • Pajaro Valley Fire Station
Mutual Aid Regions

• Statewide mutual aid system which is designed to ensure that adequate resources, facilities and other support is provided to jurisdictions.

• Agreement was developed in 1950

• Adopted by the state, all 58 counties and most incorporated cities in the State of California.
Volunteer Organizations in Santa Cruz

- Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)
- Sheriff’s Emergency Search & Rescue
- Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter
- Equine Evacuation
- Red Rover Animal Rescue
- Red Cross (Central Coast CA)
- California Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster (VOAD)
- California Conservation Corps (CCC)
- Santa Cruz Volunteer Initiative Program
- County of Santa Cruz Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Auxiliary of Santa Cruz County
Amateur Radio Emergency Service

- ARES utilizes volunteers to help with communications during emergencies or for community service.
Sheriff’s Search & Rescue Team

• Comprised of volunteers from the community and personnel from the Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s office.

• On-call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

• Perform Search and Rescue Operations in challenging terrain.
Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

- During emergencies the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter utilizes surrounding Animal Control Agencies to assist with small animal rescues, as well as depending on an extensive number of volunteers.

- The Shelter works with Equine Evacuation for larger animals such as horses and livestock to transport to safer areas.
Equine Evacuation

- Large animals such as horses, donkeys and alpacas pose special challenges in an emergency, especially during a large fire event.
- They require trailers for transport, and have unique needs for shelter, feeding and more.
- Equine Evacuation provides large animal experts to assist with their care.
Red Rover Animal Rescue

• Provides shelter and care to displaced animals in cooperation with:
  • Law enforcement
  • Local Agencies
  • Animal Organizations

• Also provides expert assistance, shelter and emergency grants.
Red Cross (Central Coast CA)

• Provides key services such as disaster relief, blood drives, as well as health and safety services.

• During emergencies the Red Cross provides shelter, food, health and mental health services to help families and entire communities get back on their feet.
California Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster (VOAD)

- VOAD associations improve outcomes for people affected by disasters by:
  - Facilitating cooperation
  - Communication
  - Coordination - share knowledge
  - Collaboration among nonprofit organizations, community-based groups, government agencies, and for-profit companies
California Conservation Corps (CCC)

• The California Conservation Corps is a state agency that puts together young people and the environment, to the benefit of both.

• Corps members are young men and women between the ages of 18 and 25 who sign up for a year of working outdoors to improve California's natural resources.

• They also assist with emergency response: fighting fires, floods, earthquakes and pest infestations.
Santa Cruz Volunteer Initiative Program

- Adopt-A-Family Project
- AmeriCorps VIP Program
- Cityserve
- Community Connection
- File of Life
- Friends Outside
- Neighborhood Pride
- Helping Hands Senior Home Repair
- Literacy Program
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- Transportation Program
- Volunteer Initiative Program (VIP)
- Donate to VIP
- Volunteer Referral
- YouthSERVE
Santa Cruz County Parks

• Volunteers routinely clean up parks, trails, and County beach access points.

• After major storm events, volunteers cleaned up the parks and addressed needed repairs.

• The Parks Department is working on expanding their volunteer community to have more resources available, especially after the major storm events like we just experienced.
CERT Auxiliary of Santa Cruz County

• A public benefit 501(c)(3) corporation formed to support the Santa Cruz County CERT Council and other disaster service organizations in:

• Managing, funding, and developing CERT programs and activities in Santa Cruz County.

• Planning training classes and other activities like Dangers in Paradise.

• Working to build the local CERT infrastructure including a database of CERT volunteers.
Private Citizens

• Step in during disasters and fill in when emergency crews are stretched to their brink
• The photo to the right shows commuters, who were driving to Santa Cruz, working together to remove a downed tree on Highway 17.
Vigilante Pothole Team

• Frustrated by flat tires and rattling suspensions.

• A band of volunteers are roaming some of our County roads in north Santa Cruz Mountain area repairing this winter’s potholes.

• These potholes are ones that the County has trouble getting to given the scope of damage done to roads in the area due to the recent storms.
Contact Information

John Presleigh
Director of Santa Cruz County Public Works
Current President of County Engineers Association of California
Committee Member of the National Association of County Engineers (NACE)

John.Presleigh@santacruzcounty.us

701 Ocean Street, Room 410
Santa Cruz, CA 95060