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PRESS RELEASE

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MUD CLEANUP SAFETY AND PROTECTION

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – To protect residents from exposure to raw sewage and other chemicals that may be present in the mud, the Public Health Department offers the following guidance:

1. Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, rubber boots and nitrile gloves. If there is potential for exposure to wet mud and boots do not offer enough protection, a water-repellent coverall should be worn. If there is potential for eye exposure, then goggles should be worn.
2. Remove excess mud from footwear before entering a vehicle or a building.
3. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after contact with mud.
4. Avoid touching face, mouth, eyes, nose, genitalia, or open sores and cuts while working.
5. Wash hands before you eat, drink, or smoke and before and after using the bathroom.
6. Eat in designated areas away from mud-handling activities.
7. Do not smoke or chew tobacco or gum while working with mud.
8. Keep wounds covered with clean, dry bandages.
9. Thoroughly but gently flush eyes with water if mud comes in contact with eyes.
10. Change into clean work clothing on a daily basis. Keep footwear for use at worksite only.
11. Do not wear work clothes home or outside the work environment.
12. Use gloves to prevent skin abrasions.
13. Hand-washing stations with clean water and mild soap should be readily available. In the case of workers in the field, portable sanitation equipment, including clean water and soap, should be provided.
14. Where the mud has dried out and is now creating dust, workers who may be exposed to dust should be given, at a minimum, N95 particulate filtering face piece respirators.