



NOTIFICATIONS & WARNINGS



EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

Sign up in advance for emergency notifications. Monitor radio and TV. Heed all warnings and directives given by police, fire or emergency personnel!

ALAMEDA COUNTY ACALERT

AC Alert is the primary emergency alerting system for Oakland residents. As a unified county-wide system, alerts can be specified for Oakland and/or any other city or address in the county. Subscribe to receive automatic AC Alerts to your home phone (voice), cell phone (voice/text) and/or via email at: www.acgov.org/emergencysite

Nixle is a similar alert system in use: www.nixle.com

In an emergency, a brief Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) text message with immediate, life-saving information may automatically be sent to cell phones in the affected area.

RADIO & TV

Tune your portable AM/FM radio to **KCBS 740 AM (our local Emergency Alert System/EAS station), KGO 810 AM or KQED 88.5 FM** for emergency information. If you don't have a portable AM/FM radio you can use your vehicle's. A NOAA Weather Radio for emergency and hazard alerts is also good to have. Monitor local TV stations such as **KTVU, KRON, KPIX and KGO.**

EMERGENCY SIRENS



An array of 27 sirens throughout Oakland will sound in the event of a major emergency. There are 3 different tones depending on the emergency and what you should do:



"STEADY" TONE: you should shelter in place and listen to the radio/TV



"SLOW WAIL" TONE (also the 1st Wednesday of the month test tone): Tsunami warning, listen to the radio/TV and if you are along the coast or Bay, consider moving to higher ground



"FAST WAIL" TONE: there is a fire, listen to the radio/TV and be prepared to evacuate



TWITTER

Follow these agencies:

AC Alerts

@AlamedaCoAlert

Oakland Fire Dept.

@OaklandFireLive

Alameda County Fire

@AlamedaCoFire

CAL FIRE

@CAL_FIRE

Nextdoor AND OTHER INTERNET APPLICATIONS

The **Nextdoor** neighborhood application can be a good source for emergency information. **Citizen** is a smart phone application whereby the public can create and view local safety alerts.

However, **know that during a wildfire or other disaster, cell phone/Internet service may not be available** as cell towers can be damaged, power can be lost or the network overloaded. No one system is guaranteed to work in an emergency – monitor all the different sources above.

RED FLAG WARNINGS

A Red Flag Warning (or a Fire Weather Watch) is issued by the National Weather Service when predicted weather conditions may result in extreme wildfire danger.

This is a time to be extremely cautious and alert!



How are Red Flag Warnings determined?

A Red Flag Warning is issued for weather events that may result in extreme fire behavior within 12 - 24 hours. A Fire Weather Watch is for similar events within 24 - 72 hours. Any combination of strong winds, low relative humidity, dry vegetation or the possibility of dry lightning strikes may lead to a Watch or Warning. Wind speed (≥ 25 mph) and relative humidity ($\leq 15\%$) are the primary factors driving a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning declaration. These conditions often occur when there are strong "Diablo winds" out of the northeast during the hot and dry late summer and fall seasons.

How will I know that a Red Flag Warning has been issued?

Local radio, TV and weather stations should broadcast when Red Flag Warnings are in effect, and an AC Alert may be sent out. Red Flag Warnings should also be posted on the Twitter accounts noted above and on Nextdoor. Fire Stations will display a red flag outside. Details can be found on the National Weather Service site at: www.weather.gov

How do Local Fire Agencies Respond to a Red Flag Warning?

During a Red Flag Warning or Fire Weather Watch, local fire agencies may place additional firefighters on duty and may increase patrols of high wildfire danger areas so that they are better positioned to quickly respond if needed. Civilian emergency radio organizations may also monitor and report during these times.

WHAT TO DO AND NOT DO DURING A RED FLAG WARNING

During a Red Flag Warning or Fire Weather Watch, you must be extremely cautious, prepare yourself and your family and take steps to prevent wildfires!

- ❖ Review your evacuation plan and be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice
Refer to OCP&R Guide #05 – Evacuation Planning and Guide #06 – Emergency Evacuations
- ❖ Verify that your Go-Bag is packed and accessible, review your evacuation checklist
Refer to OCP&R Guide #07 – Evacuation and Go-Bag Checklists
- ❖ Ensure your cell phone is charged and turned on at all times, charge back-up batteries
- ❖ Remain alert, monitor conditions outside and listen for AC Alerts and other notifications
- ❖ Don't smoke or use power tools, barbecues or any potential heat or spark source outside
- ❖ City and Regional Parks may be closed – if so, please do not enter these parks
- ❖ PG&E may turn off power during Red Flag Warnings (Public Safety Power Shutoffs)
Refer to OCP&R Guide #08 – Public Safety Power Shutoffs

OCP&R is a program of the Oakland Firesafe Council.

Contact OCP&R for more information and assistance with notifications and warnings.

Thanking CAL FIRE, the Oakland Police and Fire Departments for their contribution to this content. Version 1.3 9/10/20

OAKLAND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

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