

# NOTIFICATIONS AND WARNINGS



Sign up for AC Alerts and heed all warnings and directives given by authorities.

## ALAMEDA COUNTY ACALERT

**AC Alert is the primary emergency alert system for Alameda County.** Alerts can also be specific to Oakland. Be sure to sign up for automatic AC Alerts to your home phone (voice), cell phone (voice/text) and/or email at: [www.acgov.org/emergencysite](http://www.acgov.org/emergencysite)

**Nixle** is also used for local alerts: [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)

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

## RADIO & TV

Tune a portable (or your vehicle's) AM/FM radio to **KCBS 740 AM** (our **Emergency Alert System station**), **KGO 810 AM** or **KQED 88.5 FM** for emergency information. A NOAA weather radio for hazard alerts is good to have on-hand. And monitor local television stations such as **KTVU 2, KRON 4, KPIX 5 and KGO 7.**

## EMERGENCY SIRENS



The 27 sirens around Oakland will all sound during a major City-wide emergency. There are 3 tones:



**"STEADY"** tone: you should shelter in place and monitor the various alerts noted here.



**"SLOW WAIL"** tone (also the 1st Wednesday of the month test tone): Tsunami warning; monitor alerts and if you are along the coast or Bay, consider moving to higher ground.



**"FAST WAIL"** tone: there is a major fire; monitor alerts and be prepared to evacuate.

## X/TWITTER

Follow these agencies:

**AC Alert:** @AlamedaCoAlert

**Oakland Fire Dept:**  
@OaklandFireLive

**Oakland Police Dept:**  
@OaklandPoliceCA

**Alameda County Fire:**  
@AlamedaCoFire

**CAL FIRE:** @CAL\_FIRE

**Weather:** @NWSBayArea



**Genasys Protect (Zonehaven)** is an emergency evacuation management application that provides evacuation information and hazard status. Know Your Zone from [protect.genasys.com](http://protect.genasys.com) and refer to: **Guide #23 – Genasys Protect (Zonehaven)**

## SMART PHONE/INTERNET APPLICATIONS

The **Nextdoor** application can be a good source for emergency information. **Watch Duty** provides local wildfire reports. **MyShake** and **Tremblor** are examples of smart phone apps that provide earthquake information. **Citizen** is a smart phone application for crowd-sourced alerts.

However, **for some time period after a major disaster, cell phone/land line/Internet service may not work** as infrastructure can be damaged, power lost or the system overloaded. The **GENOAK** 2-way radio network was created as an alternate means for communicating: [www.genoak.org](http://www.genoak.org)

**No one alert system is guaranteed to work in an emergency** – know how to access multiple alerts.

# RED FLAG WARNINGS



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

**Take all Red Flag Warnings seriously and 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, which may then lead to a Red Flag Warning. Any combination of strong winds ( $\geq 25$ mph), low relative humidity ( $\leq 15\%$ ), dry vegetation or the possibility of dry lightning strikes may lead to a Red Flag Warning or Watch. 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 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 will be sent out. Red Flag Warnings should also be posted on the local NWS X/Twitter feed (@NWSBayArea) and on social media/Nextdoor. Fire Stations will display a red flag outside. Details can be found on the NWS site at: [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

## HOW DO LOCAL FIRE DEPTS REACT TO A RED FLAG WARNING?

During a Red Flag Warning/Fire Weather Watch, local fire departments 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 at this time, including ORCA and GENOAK 2-way radio networks.

## 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 a wildfire.**

- ❖ Review your family plan and be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice. Refer to: **Guides #05 – Emergency Planning** and **#06 – Emergency Evacuations**
- ❖ Know your Genasys Protect zone name. Refer to: **Guide #23 – Genasys Protect**
- ❖ Verify that your Go-Bag is packed and accessible, review your evacuation checklist. Refer to: **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, grills or any potential source of heat or spark outside
- ❖ City and/or 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). To prepare, refer to: **Guide #08 – Public Safety Power Shutoffs**