



# EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS



Monitor AC Alert, Zonehaven, AM/FM radio stations, television, social media and 2-way radios for emergency information and evacuation notifications. Refer to **OCP&R Guide #02 – Notifications Warnings** for more information.

Emergency personnel will attempt to provide timely evacuation notifications and information if your area is threatened. Act quickly and follow their instructions. **Leave early if unsure.**

## EVACUATION TERMINOLOGY

The terms “voluntary” and “mandatory” are often incorrectly used to describe evacuations. In Oakland, fire/police agencies will use the terms Evacuation Warning, Evacuation Order and Shelter-in-Place to alert you to the significance of the danger and to provide basic instructions.

### EVACUATION WARNING

**GET READY TO EVACUATE.** You may have a short time to gather valuables and prepare your home. **Leave early if you do not feel safe.**

### EVACUATION ORDER

**LEAVE NOW!** Evacuate immediately, do not delay to gather belongings or prepare your home. **Follow directions given by authorities.** In a fast-moving wildfire or flood situation you may only have a few minutes to get out. Do not remain behind.

### SHELTER-IN-PLACE

Stay where you are or in the safest nearby building, open area or high ground. Sheltering may be required if evacuation isn't immediately necessary or if it's too dangerous at the moment. Continue monitoring.

## 4 CRITICAL EVACUATION STEPS

### PREPARE

Prepare yourself, your family, your pets and your home in advance, long before a disaster strikes. Create an emergency plan and practice it regularly. Build a Go-Bag for everyone, and have a Stay-Box. Verify your out-of-area contact.

### MONITOR

Monitor the situation around you and be aware of smoke, fire, rising water, etc. Look for AC Alerts, monitor AM/FM radio and listen for other notifications. Check Zonehaven. Turn on your 2-way radio. And touch base with your neighbors.

### GET READY

During Red Flag Warnings or severe weather be prepared to leave at a moment's notice. Dress in protective clothing and follow your emergency plan. Leave immediately if ordered. Alert and assist your neighbors if possible. Leave early if you ever feel unsafe.

### STAY CALM AND GO

Take the fastest and safest route to a major road or highway. Use one vehicle or carpool. Don't panic in traffic, even if roads are jammed. Be aware of your surroundings and continue to monitor for notifications.

For additional information, refer to these OCP&R Guides:

**Guide #02 – Notifications and Warnings**  
**Guide #03 – Preparedness Before a Disaster**  
**Guide #05 – Emergency Planning**  
**Guide #22 – Emergency Communications**  
**Guide #23 – Zonehaven**

# EVACUATING

**Take the fastest and safest route away from any fire, flood or other threat to a major road or highway.** Avoid evacuating by park fire roads or trails where you might be caught in flammable vegetation, unless there is no other way out. Above all be alert, calm and as safe as possible.



**ORDERS** - When a wildfire, flood or other emergency threatens an area, authorities will do their best to determine who needs to evacuate, and when, depending upon the situation. Zonehaven will be used to help manage the process. **Law enforcement is responsible for enforcing evacuation orders.** Promptly follow their directions and do not stop to ask for information.

If possible, officials will attempt to advise you of the safest evacuation route(s). **You still must take the initiative to keep informed and stay alert.** Monitor AC Alert for notifications and updates. Check Zonehaven. Listen to your AM/FM and 2-way radios for updates on changing conditions. You may be directed to temporary refuge areas to await transfer to a safe location.

**ROUTES** - Take the fastest route to safety. **The way you normally take to a major road or highway may be the best route to evacuate by. However, know that you might have to alter your route if it is blocked, so know many ways out.** If possible, officers will direct traffic and wave vehicles through intersections.

**DRIVING** - Even if there is a wildfire around you, you will usually be safer inside your vehicle than out. Keep the windows rolled up, outside vents closed, turn on your lights and drive carefully. Don't panic if caught in traffic. **You are likely safer in your vehicle!** If in a flood, avoid low areas, underpasses and any deep or fast-moving water.

**CHILDREN & SCHOOLS** - Schools may attempt to notify parents of their situation, and will evacuate children only if safe to do so. Schools may need to shelter-in-place and will protect children in secure areas on campus if a threat strikes without sufficient time to evacuate.

**REFUGE/EVACUATION CENTERS** - Authorities will provide information on safe evacuation and refuge centers as soon as they can. **For small-scale evacuations or sheltering, local schools, community centers, open areas or large parking lots may be used.** The American Red Cross will typically set up temporary refuge shelters after a disaster, with food/water and beds.

## SHELTERING-IN-PLACE OR IN A VEHICLE

**A solid building may be the best option for shelter** if evacuation is not possible.

- ❖ Take car keys, cell phone, ID, flashlight and 2-way radio if you have one with you.
- ❖ Close all building doors and windows and leave them unlocked.
- ❖ Gather all family members and pets (in carriers) in one area. In a fire, breathe near the floor if smoky. If water is rising move to a higher floor or to the roof.
- ❖ Call 911 and tell them your location.
- ❖ Monitor notifications and be observant.

If all escape routes are blocked and there is no close building, **look for a large, open area such as a field or parking lot to take refuge while remaining in your vehicle.**

- ❖ Turn on lights and emergency flashers to make your vehicle more visible.
- ❖ Close all windows and doors, shut off all air vents and turn off the ventilation fan.
- ❖ Get below windows, under blankets (preferably wool) and lie on floor.
- ❖ Call 911 and tell them your location.
- ❖ Monitor notifications and be observant.