

Module 1 - Getting Ready to Go!

How to know when to go

Good to Go Sunol!

How to get ready, stay informed, evacuate and return from wildfire



Download additional workbooks at <https://goodtogowildfire.com/>

Questions? E-mail us at GoodToGoSunol@gmail.com

Module 1 - Getting Ready to Go!

How to know when to go.

Module 2 - Set to go!

What to take when you go.

Module 3 - Way to go!

How to know which way to go.

Module 4 - Everyone goes!

Evacuating pets and large animals.

Module 5 - Going home!

Tips for returning after a wildfire evacuation.

Module 6 – Just in time!

Last minute tips to help you evacuate from wildfire evacuation.



Funding for this project provided by the
California Department of Forestry and
Fire Protection
as part of the California Climate Investments Program.

Module 1 - Getting Ready to Go!

How to know when to go.

Topics

- Warnings
- Notifications
- Communications
- Situational Awareness

Actions

- *Sign up now to know.*
- *Determine the current wildfire situation.*
- *Your communication networks*
- *How do I communicate with my neighbors?*
- *Disaster Plan Worksheet.*



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Warnings

Three types of alerts

- Evacuation warning
- Evacuation order
- Shelter in place

The terms “voluntary” and “mandatory” are often incorrectly used to describe evacuations.

In Sunol and throughout Alameda County, fire agencies and law enforcement will use the terms **Evacuation Order**, **Evacuation Warning**, and **Shelter-In-Place** to alert you to the significance of the danger and provide basic instructions.



EVACUATION WARNING

Evacuate as soon as possible. Potential threat to life and/or property. A short delay to gather valuables and prepare your home may be ok. Leave immediately if you feel unsafe.



EVACUATION ORDER

Immediate threat to life. This is a lawful order to leave now. The area is lawfully closed to public access. Evacuate immediately, do not delay to gather belongings or prepare your home. Follow any directions provided in the evacuation order.



SHELTER IN PLACE

Go indoors. Shut and lock doors and windows. Stay in your current location or the safest nearby building or unburnable area. May be required when evacuation isn't necessary or is too dangerous. Be prepared to self-sustain until further notice and/ or contacted by emergency personnel for additional direction.

Notifications

Tools used to communicate in an emergency.

AC Alert

- Alameda County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Service maintains AC Alert through Everybridge.
- Used for emergency information.
- MUST OPT-IN. Register cell phones, and VOIP phones.
- Also register for text and email messages.
- To register:
 - www.acalert.org
 - Ensure 925-560-5950 is not blocked for notifications.



NIXLE <https://local.nixle.com/register/>

- Alameda County & East Bay Regional Park host NIXLE.
- Used routinely to transmit non-life threatening messages.
- May be first method used to notify community of small fires.
- **Text** your zip code to **888777** to opt in to alerts from local agencies.

Social media:

- **Facebook** - www.facebook.com/AlamedaCountyFire
- **Twitter** –@AlamedaCoFire
- **Instagram** - www.instagram.com/AlamedaCoFire/
- **Flicker** - www.flickr.com/photos/alamedacountyfire
- **EventBrite** www.eventbrite.com/o/alameda-county-fire-department-1734344016

Pulse Point: <https://www.pulsepoint>

Emergency Alert System (EAS) & Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

- Interrupts TV and radio broadcasts, and sends text to smart phones.
- Used to deliver major local, regional, and national emergency alerts.

Other Communications

- Pre-designate an out-of-state contact.
- "Safe and well" registration on Red Cross website www.safeandwell.org.



Action: Sign up **now** to know

Pull out your smart phone or tablet and sign up for at least one of the notification methods. We recommend everyone be signed up for AC Alert.

Tip: To confirm if you are signed up, try to sign up again.

- www.acalert.org
- <https://local.nixle.com/register/>
- www.facebook.com/AlamedaCountyFire
- [Alameda County Fire@AlamedaCoFire](https://twitter.com/AlamedaCoFire) (Twitter feed)
- www.instagram.com/AlamedaCoFire/
- www.flickr.com/photos/alamedacountyfire
- <https://www.pulsepoint.org/>

Community Goal:

By end of program all participants should be signed up for AC Alert.

Situational Awareness – Weather

Monitor Daily Weather Conditions

- Red Flag warning
- Fire weather watch
- <https://www.wrh.noa.gov/fire2/?wfo=mtr>
- **Text your Zip code to 888777 to register for Nixle and receive Sunol Fire Weather information notices**

Monitor active fires in the Sunol area

- <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents>
- Used to predict when fire will be difficult to control and evacuation may be necessary.

NOAA Weather Radio .

AC Alert uses the National Weather Service to provide emergency alerts and information for major non-weather related emergencies.

Weather radios are an inexpensive and reliable way to receive these alerts. These devices can be battery powered to provide a means of receiving emergency alerts if your power is out.

Learn more about NOAA Weather Radios at

<https://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/>.



What to do during a Red Flag warning.

- Prepare your family for potential evacuation.
- Review your Go Bag* & ensure it is complete.
- Review the steps on your evacuation checklist.*
- Ensure phones are charged & receiving messages.
- Remain alert & monitor conditions nearby.
- Prevent ignitions. Don't use power tools, barbecues, or any potential heat or spark source outside.



*See Module 2 – Set to Go! to develop your Go Bag and evacuation checklist.

What do fire danger signs tell us?

Reflect potential for fire to ignite, spread and resist control.

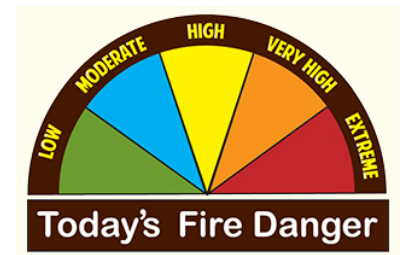
Part of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS). Allows fire managers to estimate today's or tomorrow's fire danger for a given area.

Closest sign is located at CAL FIRE Station on Pleasanton-Sunol Road.

Key inputs: fuels, weather, topography and risks.

5 Levels of fire danger:

- **Low:** fuels do not ignite easily.
- **Moderate:** fires can start from most accidental causes, but the number of fire starts is usually low.
- **High:** fires can start easily. Fires can become serious and difficult to control unless they are put out while they are still small.
- **Very high:** fires will spread rapidly and have a quick increase in intensity, right after ignition. Difficult to control and will often become much larger and longer-lasting fires.
- **Extreme:** All fires are potentially serious and can spread very quickly with intense burning. Very difficult to fight and may become very dangerous and often last for several days.



- Used to determine staffing and use restrictions.



Action: Determine the current wildfire situation

What is the current wildfire situation? Should you be ready to evacuate now?
Worried about evacuating tonight?

Where can you find out?

This group exercise will remind you of where to check current alerts, fire weather and active fires.

Note: You can also do this by yourself -- checking all 4 information sources.

Divide into 4 small groups and assign each one of the tasks.

After 10 minutes gather for discussion and take the group consensus.

1. Connect with AC Alert for alert status www.acalert.org.
2. Connect NOAA for current weather status
<https://www.wrh.noa.gov/fire2/?wfo=mtr>
3. Use weather radio.
4. Connect with <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/> for active fire status.

Other ideas?

Use your social network.

Check with your neighbors.

Step outside and use your own senses.



Ready for Notifications During Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)

It is common for Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to turn off electrical power in high fire threat areas before a fire strikes.

The evacuation notification systems are not guaranteed to work during a power outage. Monitoring and understanding the surrounding situation is your personal responsibility.

Ensure you have access to information from multiple sources:

- Monitor a battery powered Weather or AM/FM radio continuously during power outages to keep apprised of current conditions. See the exercise on page 8 for other ways to monitor current wildfire situation.
- Don't neglect to use your own senses - look, listen, and smell for signs of fire and changing conditions!
- Use your neighborhood connections to find out what your neighbors know.

Prepare for a PSPS in advance:

- Update your contact information with PG&E.
- Consider purchasing an uninterruptible power supply for your home phone and internet. Understand the limits of these power sources.
- Know how to open your garage door without power (or install a battery back up).
- Plan for power outages that can last for several days (72 hours +).

Lessons learned from recent wildfires

Lessons learned in 2017 North Bay Fires and 2018 Camp Fire:

- Not everyone is signed up for emergency alerts.
- Loss of phone service early.
- Loss of electricity early.
- Loss of internet early.
- Loss of cell sites early.
- Ham Radios worked if power was available.

Take home message: Need for personal responsibility.





Action: How do I communicate with my neighbors?

Check all the ways you are able to communicate with others in your community.

- ☐ Face to face. Who do I call first: _____
- ☐ Phone tree. Who do I call first: _____
- ☐ Email. Who do I email first: _____
- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Google groups
- ☐ Social media platforms
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____



Disaster Plan Worksheet

Post your completed worksheet in an obvious place for quick reference by family members and guests. It may help save a life!



Family Information

Family Name: _____
Address: _____
Cross Street: _____
Home phone: _____
Work phone 1: _____
Work phone 2: _____
Cell phone 1: _____
Cell phone 2: _____
Cell phone 3: _____
Cell phone 4: _____

Our Children

Name _____ Age _____
School _____
Name _____ Age _____
School _____
Name _____ Age _____
School _____

Our Neighbors

Neighbor 1 Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____
Neighbor 2 Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____
Neighbor 3 Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____

Our Doctor

Name: _____
Phone Number: _____

Local Contact

Name: _____
Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Out of Area Contact

Name: _____
Home Phone: _____
Work Phone: _____
Cell Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

School Plan

I have authorized these people to pick up my child/children from school:

The above people, as well as my spouse and children, know the family's secret password. My children have been told not to go anywhere with any person who does not know this password.

Signed _____

Notification Systems

Call | 211
Register | AC Alert <https://goo.gl/xmz055>

For additional information on Disaster Planning see Alameda County Fire Department Emergency Preparedness Unit <https://www.acgov.org/ready/>

Recap - Getting Ready to Go!

How to know when to go.

Key concepts

Warnings.

Three different types of warnings. Need to be prepared to go and to shelter in place. *Reminder: warning systems are not guaranteed to work in an emergency. Make sure you know how to find emergency information from many sources.*

Notifications.

Need to be signed up to receive alerts. Various uses of the alerts.

Other communications.

Out of state contacts and registering safe and well.

Situational awareness

When to be ready to evacuate from wildfire by knowing the current wildfire situation. Red flag weather. Fire danger signs. Ready for Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

Lessons learned in recent fires.

Need for personal responsibility and disaster plan.

How do you communicate with your neighbors?