

Emergency Alerts & Notifications

Introduction

Wildfires and PSPS (public safety power shutoff) outages have become a recurring part of our lives in Sonoma County. In order to know what's going on, sign up to receive alerts from several agencies who will send notifications when conditions are or may be threatening our safety. SoCo Alert is the preferred notification system, but it is wise to have more than one way to receive alerts and warnings. On your smart phone, under Notifications, **Emergency Alerts** should be turned on. For more information on signing up for alerts, see:

<https://www.sonomacountyrecovers.org/notifications/>

SoCo Alert

- Sonoma County strongly recommends subscribing to this to receive urgent notifications about local emergencies and advisories from law enforcement
- You must register all addresses you wish to receive alerts for (ie, work, school)
- You don't have to be in the location of the emergency to receive the alert
- Can sign up by either:
 - ⇒ clicking on this link
<https://socoemergency.org/get-ready/sign-up/socoalert/>
 - ⇒ calling: (866) 939-0911 (press "2" at the menu)
- Can receive alerts via:
 - ⇒ home phone
 - ⇒ text
 - ⇒ email
 - ⇒ TTY/TDD phones for the hearing impaired
- For general questions: (707) 565-1369

Nixel

- This service is managed by the Sheriff, Santa Rosa Police and Fire Departments
- Notifications are related to public safety (ie, road closures and other adverse conditions)

- There are 3 types of notifications:
 - ⇒ Alert
 - ⇒ Advisory
 - ⇒ Community
- Will receive these alerts via
 - ⇒ email
 - ⇒ text
- You can sign up by either:
 - ⇒ texting your zip code to 888777
 - ⇒ logging on to: <https://local.nixle.com/register/>
 - ⇒ be sure to customize which types of notifications you want to receive

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

- This system sends geographically targeted text messages to compatible mobile phones
- You will only receive notification if you are in the area of the emergency
- There are three alert categories:
 - ⇒ Imminent Threat
 - ⇒ Amber
 - ⇒ Presidential
- Most mobile phones have the default setting of receiving WEA (**make sure yours does!**)

Emergency Alert System (EAS)

- This is a national warning system that will interrupt local broadcast TV and radio programming, when there is a large-scale emergency
- No registration needed

CAL Fire

- Go to the website: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/> to get the latest updates on fire incidents

PG&E

- To get notifications about power shutoffs (PSPS):
https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/wildfire-safety.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_wildfiresafety

Press Democrat

- Can get alerts online from the local newspaper such as The Press Democrat
<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- To receive National Weather alerts, you will need a NOAA Weather radio
 - ⇒ insert 3 AA batteries and plug it in
 - ⇒ batteries will last approximately 6-8 hours when the power goes out
 - ⇒ **leave it on at all times**
- When activated by an event, these radios will generate
 - ⇒ an alarm
 - ⇒ voice alert
 - ⇒ flasher
- Oakmont OEPC suggests a Midland WR120 radio
 - ⇒ Amazon cost is about \$30
- For those who may be hard of hearing, the WR-120 emits a loud warning that cannot be missed
- There are also optional add-ons for the hearing impaired:
 - ⇒ strobe lights
 - ⇒ bed shakers
- For installation, follow the supplied instructions and select “Sonoma” county as the location
- When batteries are changed, radio settings may need to be reset
- To find out how to use a NOAA radio, click here, scroll to the bottom, and watch the video: <https://srcity.org/3540/NOAA-Weather-Radio-Distribution>



Hi-Lo Sirens

- In addition to knocking at your door, police and deputies will use hi-lo sirens
- Make sure you can identify the sound of a siren
- **When you hear the siren, it is time to go**
- Abide by the accompanying instructions from first responders

Local Radio Stations

- KCBS: 740 AM and 106.9 FM
- KSRO: 1350 AM and 103.5 FM
- KBBF: 89.1 FM (Bilingual/Spanish)
- KXTS: 98.7 FM (Spanish)
- KRCB: 91 FM
- KZST: 100.1 FM

Local TV Stations

- KTVU Ch2
- NBC11 Ch3
- KRON Ch4
- KPIX Ch5
- KGO Ch7

Air Quality

- Purple Air: www.purpleair.com
- AirNow: www.airnow.gov
- Spare the Air: www.sparetheair.org
- Windy: www.windy.com

Local Information

- Santa Rosa City Emergency Services
 - ⇒ <https://www.Srcity.org/emergency>
- Sonoma County Fire District Facebook page
- 2-1-1
 - ⇒ call 211
 - ⇒ text your zip code to 898-211 for 24/7 access

- Fire Safe Sonoma
 - ⇒ info on fire prevention and fire safety
 - ⇒ <https://www.firesafesonoma.org>

Sonoma County Fire Information

- Cal Fire Incidents
 - ⇒ <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/>
- Evacuations
 - ⇒ <https://socoemergency.org/>
 - ⇒ <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=69a0e54e9e2b48c086d122027b21c961>

The fires we've experienced since 2017, the earthquake risk, and the power outages, all require us to be prepared and ready to respond. Please, if you haven't done so already, sign up for SoCoAlert and Nixel and buy a NOAA alert radio. The life you save may just be your own!