

Community Warning System

Contra Costa County

NOTIFICATION TOOLS



There are several ways residents can receive CWS Alerts. For more information and to register for alerts please visit www.cococws.us.

REGISTER TODAY AT:
WWW.COCOCWS.US



Outdoor Safety Sirens

The CWS may use sirens to alert you to a possible hazard in your area. No matter the hazard, the **best first protective action** when you hear a siren is to **Go In & Tune In**. Sirens are tested on the first Wednesday of every month at 11:00am. For a siren location map, visit the **About CWS tab** on our website at www.cococws.us. Most of the sirens in Contra Costa County are located near major hazardous materials facilities and are generally only activated for hazardous materials releases and health emergencies. Sirens are primarily intended for outdoor notifications and are not always a reliable warning tool for people who are inside.



Phone Calls, Text and Email

CWS alerts can also be sent via Text Message, Voice call and/or E-mail. To receive text, voice call and/or email alerts on your cellphone, you have to register first on the CWS website at www.cococws.us.



In addition to the registered cellphone numbers, the CWS Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS) is used for call-out in case of emergency. The TENS system is also referred to as Reverse 911 and it calls the landline numbers included in the affected area. If you have a regular landline (connected directly to your wall and serviced from AT&T) you don't need to register this number. If you have an internet landline (VoIP) you need to register using the same process as a cell phone number at www.cococws.us

Phone calls, text messages and emails are included as notifications tools for most CWS activations. Phone calls may take longer than other alerting tools because of backlogs in phone dialing infrastructure. Text messages and emails are generally very fast alerting tools. Phone calls, text messages, and emails are typically not used for advisory alerts (Public Health Advisory) and follow up incident information.



CWS Website & Social Media

The Community Warning System has a dedicated website to display current alerts, including alert information and a map of the affected area (www.cococws.us). Residents can also register to receive alerts on the CWS website. The CWS website will display ALL active alerts from the Community Warning System, including public health advisories. Red Flag Warnings are not posted on the CWS website and can be found on the San Francisco Bay Area National Weather Service website (<https://w2.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=mtr>). These types of advisories are also generally very well covered by media.

All CWS alerts are posted to Facebook and Twitter. "Like" CoCoCWS on Facebook and follow "CoCoCWS" on Twitter. The CWS Facebook page displays the entire message including a map of the affected area. Media follows our social media accounts and this is often the fastest way they can become aware of official incident information to broadcast.

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EAS

Emergency Alert System (EAS)

The CWS has the ability to activate the federally managed Emergency Alert System. The EAS interrupts cable TV and radio broadcasts to deliver major local, regional, and national emergency alerts. Following the initial alert, TV and radio stations typically provide ongoing status reports and information. In order to see these alerts, residents must either be watching cable television or listening to AM or FM radio.

The Emergency Alert System is generally only activated for major, wide spread emergencies. As these alerts are broadcasted throughout the entire Bay Area Region, this system is typically not activated for very local emergencies.

WEA

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

The CWS has the ability to activate the federally managed Wireless Emergency Alert System that sends text-like alerts to your smartphone during major emergencies, no registration needed! This is the same system the California Highway Patrol uses to send Amber Alerts. Wireless Emergency Alerts broadcast short emergency alerts from cell phone towers in the affected area of an emergency. While this system is becoming more reliable and targetable, there are still concerns with targeting and message length. WEA is generally used for severe emergencies, regardless of the geographic size of the emergency (most fire evacuations). Wireless Emergency Alerts can be sent to most smart phones, but are not compatible with older cell phones and flip phones.



NOAA Weather Radios

CWS 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. Weather radios can be put on a standby mode that will be silent a majority of the time, only turning on when an emergency alert is being broadcast. Because this tool broadcasts out countywide, this tool is typically only used for major, widespread emergencies, not for very local emergencies.

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PROTECTIVE ACTIONS



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Shelter-In-Place/Lockdown

The following Shelter-in-Place procedures are recommended as the best first response after the Safety Sirens are sounded:



The danger will be much less indoors. Go inside, and close all windows and doors. Turn off all heaters, air conditioners, and fans. Unless you are using your fireplace, close your fireplace dampers and vents. Cover any cracks around doors or windows with tape or damp towels. Stay off the phone unless you need to report a life-threatening emergency at your location. Re-

Evacuation Immediate

Leave now by MEANS_OF_TRAVEL to DESTINATION. Go by way of ROUTE. Take only those essential items you have ready and can carry with you. Pets must be in a carrier or on a leash. Lock your windows and doors as you leave. Stay off the phone unless you need to report a life-threatening emergency at your location. However, if you are physically unable to leave your home unassisted, call 9 1 1 for help. Children in school will be transported by school authorities: do not try to pick them up.



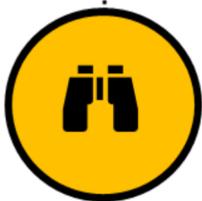
Avoid the Area

Due to INCIDENT DESCRIPTION residents are advised to avoid the area of AREA. Further incident description and avoid the area reasoning.



BOLO—Missing Person

Law enforcement officers are currently searching for a missing person believed to be in the area of DESCRIBE_AREA. The individual is NAME, a RACE MALE_FEMALE, AGE years of age, HEIGHT tall and weighing approximately WEIGHT pounds, with COLOR hair and COLOR eyes. HE_SHE is wearing CLOTHING_DESCRIPTION. HE_SHE has ANY_DISTINGUISHING_CHARACTERISTICS. HE_SHE was last seen at LOCATION_AND_TIME. This person is believed to be DANGEROUS_ILL_INJURED_NON_ENGLISH_SPEAKER_ETC. If you believe you have seen this person or have any information regarding this person, please call the DEPARTMENT immediately at PHONE_NUMBER.



For any questions or concerns please contact CWS at 925-313-9622 or cws-staff@so.cccounty.us