

## Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Meeting



**EPO's history and core mission:** 31-year-old volunteer resident organization with the core mission of helping residents ready their household for a major disaster or emergency striking Rossmoor and beyond.

Residents hold the sole responsibility for their household emergency preparedness. **Who are all the entities in Rossmoor who are not coming to bring you needed food, water and medications post-disaster?** — Golden Rain Foundation, Public Safety Office, Securitas, your Mutual, your Project, your local EPO neighborhood team and Rossmoor Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members.

**What is our highest natural disaster risk in Rossmoor** — earthquakes! Next at medium risk: wildfires, landslides and severe weather. Lowest risk: flooding.

### **What are the five emergency alerts that Rossmoor EPO endorses?**

Rossmoor Nixle, city's WCAAlert, county sheriff's Contra Costa County Community Warning System, FEMA weather and emergency alert (for Red Flag Warning days) and MyShake (early warning alert for earthquakes 4.5 or greater magnitude giving us up to sixty seconds to "drop, cover and hold on" under a strong table, desk or against an inner manor wall away from windows).

## Rossmoor Nixle Tip Sheet:



### **Rossmoor Nixle: What It Is and How to Sign Up**

Rossmoor Nixle is a targeted opt-in-only emergency and community messaging system that comes in three formats: Alerts, Advisories and Community Messages. You will receive more than public safety emergency alerts through this community venue including water stoppages, power outages and street closures.

Rossmoor Nixle alerts provide Rossmoor residents with real-time need-to-know emergency and disaster alerts, home fire events, wildfire incidents, evacuation warnings and evacuation orders from civil authorities, protective actions to take and how to safely shelter-in-place within Rossmoor.

Choose only one way to receive your Rossmoor Nixle alerts: by cell phone, home phone or email (or any combination). Your cell phone is your wisest and best option — Nixle alerts on smart phones provide a helpful hyperlink giving more detailed information and instructions on how to respond safely to the incident or event.

#### **How to Sign Up:**

Click on the Rossmoor Nixle link at the bottom of Rossmoor EPO's web site home page [[www.rossmoorepo.org](http://www.rossmoorepo.org)] and follow the prompts to register your cell phone.

OR call Rossmoor's Public Safety Nixle Registration phone number at (925) 988-7688 and follow their directions to register your cell phone.

OR complete a form and submit it to the Rossmoor Public Safety office.

OR text "rossmoor" to 333111 and you are you are automatically opted-in.

**Rossmoor Nixle has been a community emergency preparedness asset since its inception in 2017 — sign up today to receive timely and targeted alerts on incidents and events specific to our senior community and your personal safety.**

FFG/9/2023

Emergency Preparedness Messaging for Neighborhood Meetings, Rev. E.docx  
**City's WCAAlert Emergency Alert Tip Sheet:**



**HOW TO SIGN UP FOR CITY OF WALNUT CREEK'S  
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM**

“WCAAlert” is Walnut Creek’s official emergency alert system for city residents that alerts us in real-time to potentially dangerous emergencies and disasters striking Rossmoor and beyond — earthquakes, landslides, severe weather, flooding, drought and wildfires. WCAAlert also provides us with instructions on how to remain safe and resilient following a major incident or event.

Part of our emergency preparedness includes opting into this crucial emergency alert system before a disaster or emergency strikes Tice Valley.

Sign up for local safety alerts from the City of Walnut Creek’s Emergency Alert system called “WCAAlert” by texting WCAAlert to 888-777.

We recommend visiting the [WCAAlert website](#) to verify your account information is current, customize how you receive messages and to sign up for notifications from outside your zip code.

For example, you can register to receive alerts also for where you have friends and family.

If you need assistance completing your WCAAlert registration or do not own a smart phone, contact the Civic Park Community Center at 1 (925) 943-5852 Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Visit the City of Walnut Creek [Emergency Management Page](#) for up to date information on emergency preparedness for you Rossmoor household.

## County Sheriff's Contra Costa County Community Warning System:



### **Contra Costa County's Community Warning System: What It Is and How to Sign Up for these Vital Emergency Alerts**

#### **What It Is:**

The Community Warning System is our county's all-hazards mass emergency alert system activated by our County Office of the Sheriff (Emergency Services Division) on behalf of our law enforcement, fire departments and other first responder agencies to deliver imminent life-threatening alerts to county residents. You will only receive alerts designed to protect your life, safety and health.

Alerts include incident information and specific protective actions to take immediately (e.g., shelter-in-place orders, lockdown orders, evacuation warnings and areas to be avoided). All older solid-core copper-wire "traditional" landlines in the county (listed and unlisted) are already registered to automatically receive the CCC CWS alerts. If your broad-band internet-connected landline comes through your internet provider (VoIP or Voice over Internet Protocol) you do need to opt-in and register your VoIP landline if you want to receive these critical alerts on your VoIP landline.

When you receive an initial alert, listen all the way through to the end of the alert. Do not hang up as directions may be provided at the end of the alert to protect your life, safety and health. Follow the public safety instructions provided precisely and monitor Rossmoor Television (Channel 28) and/or KCBS ALL NEWS radio stations (740 AM and 106.9 FM) for further incident information.

#### **How to Sign Up:**

Go to [www.cwsalerts.com/registration](http://www.cwsalerts.com/registration) and follow their prompts to create an account to register your smart phone.

OR print out their on-line registration form and submit it by mail to Community Warning System, 1850 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94533.

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### **FEMA's Weather and Emergency App:**

Download the updated FEMA App on [iOS](#) or [Android](#) or go to <https://www.ready.gov/fema-app>

### **MyShake App:**

- **Shake Alert** (USGS) - How it Works ([Video](#)) - **Download the App:** [Website](#).

**Do you have a household Emergency Plan:** communication plan, evacuation plan, Grab n' Go bags for all in household (pets too), shelter-in-place supplies, emergency alerts on cell phones, knowing your evacuation zone number (8 evacuation zones within Rossmoor — WCR-001 to WCR-008).

- **Communications Plan:** one central contact 200 miles away to text (do not call) with your post-disaster or evacuation status which s/he then forwards to your list of loved ones (keeping regional communication networks open for first responders and public safety agencies).
- **Evacuation Plan:** 2 destinations minimally in case one is blocked, evacuation notice (front door or street/walkway window). Do you have a plan if you cannot self-evacuate?

### **Do you know the difference between an evacuation warning and an evacuation order?**

- **Evacuation Warning:** imminent threat to life and property. If you cannot self-evacuate, this is the only time you have to contact a family member or friend to evacuate you (usually an order follows within 4 hours!). Always assume a mandatory order will soon follow the warning.
- **Evacuation Order:** immediate threat to life and property (within **two hours or less from your Rossmoor door steps**)! You have 15 minutes to leave. All orders are lawful and mandatory! Once an order is called no one can enter the evacuation zone being evacuated except first responders — all other traffic is outward only!

### **Can we voluntarily self-evacuate at any time?**

- Public safety officers encourage evacuating anytime you feel unsafe or when the evacuation warning is given. This lessens roadway congestion and boosts firefighting capacity in the impacted areas.

## What ensures a safe and successful evacuation out of Rossmoor?

- **Know what to wear in wildfire conditions:** only natural fiber clothing (synthetic fibers melt into your skin in high temperatures), wear a KN-95 vented respirator mask (not a Covid mask), eye goggles, long pants and long-sleeve shirts and sturdy shoes or boots.
- **Drive out in a car** — walking out is dangerous and deadly. Cars made of glass and steel keep evacuees safe from flying embers, polluting smoke, hot gasses and radiant heat.
- If you cannot leave in a car and have no other way to evacuate, **go to the golf course.**
- Turn on your headlights, run your air-conditioner in re-circulate mode, keep your car windows rolled up and your outside vents closed.
- **Monitor the incident** on KCBS All-News radio stations: (106.9 FM and 740 AM) and KQED 88.5 while driving to your destination.
- **If you need a shelter**, text the word “shelter” and your zip code (shelter94595) to 43362 (FEMA) for nearby open shelters.
- **Click on all links in any emergency alerts you receive** — they provide specific instructions from public safety officials on how to remain safe: blocked roadways, open shelters, areas to avoid.
- **Do you have paper maps** for each of your destination points: paper maps offer a “big picture” of side streets and possible alternate routes not afforded us on a cell phone GPS map.
- **Do you have at least \$300 per household member** in small bills and coins (\$1, \$5 and \$10) in case we go to a cash-only economy post-disaster?
- Have you **crate-trained and microchipped your pets** to expedite getting into your car quickly?
- Have you engaged **“location sharing” tools on your smart phones** so loved ones can follow your progress in evacuating safely?

**Do you believe Rossmoor is a one way in/one way out community given we have only one Main Gate?**

- Rossmoor has 9 alternate emergency access points scattered around Rossmoor. Most are unpaved fire roads and traverse private property — some can be used as alternate emergency exits if needed. All 9 access points serve in the main as fire roads to bring in heavy firefighting equipment. Several are impassable by civilian cars. All are locked and only outside civil authorities and public safety officials can unlock them. The location of the event or incident would determine which access points would be used as alternate evacuation exits. Emergency warning systems like Rossmoor Nixle will alert residents which alternate exits are open — click on all links within the alert and follow all instructions.

**Do you know what a Red Flag Warning Day is?**

- Red Flag Warning days are those where weather conditions combine (high temperatures, strong winds, low humidity and drought conditions) to markedly raise our risk for a wildfire in or near us here in Rossmoor.
- Bring your Grab n' Go Bags and pet crates to the front door, grab your small-bill cash, medications, charging cords, power banks, back-up batteries — and remain vigilant for a speedy evacuation.
- Keep your car gassed up or your EV fully charged. In wildfire season keep your gas tank 3/4's full and your EV 3/4's charged. In a mass evacuation, we will be idling with 1000's of other cars on major byways trying to reach our evacuation destination. You will need a full tank of gas or a fully charged EV.

## **Where can you get more information on emergency preparedness?**

Go to Rossmoor EPO's website at [www.rossmoorepo.org](http://www.rossmoorepo.org) and click on "Resident Resources". If you have questions or challenges, send an email to [rossmoorepo@gmail.com](mailto:rossmoorepo@gmail.com) and EPO leaders will respond.

### **Links to Helpful Products and Guides:**

#### **Blue Can Water in Aluminum Cans:**

Water in aluminum cans does not rust nor does it leach metals and chemicals into your emergency drinking water, especially when it is stored in cars, garages or carports whose internal temperature reaches 150° or more in summer heat. Water in plastic containers does leach chemicals and metals into the water when stored in cars in our summer heat. It spoils within 12 to 24 months and must be replaced. Blue Can water has a shelf life of 50 years and comes in pallets of 24 12-ounce cans. Store some in your car so water is always available and you never need to check expiration dates.

#### **Blue Can Water**

<https://www.bluecansales.com>





**Etekcity Collapsible Ultra-Bright Lanterns for Power Outages:**



Google “Etekcity lanterns” — they are available in a set of 3 lanterns for \$21.33 through Amazon. EPO cautions residents to NEVER light candles in a power outage — in the stress of a power outage we tend to fail to attend to lighted candles properly and far too many manor fires have been caused by unattended candles. Store one lantern in each room so you can pull them out in a power outage — the ambient bright light they provide is very soothing!

### **Alternate Evacuation Exits Out of Rossmoor:**

The link below offers an excellent *Rossmoor News* article written in November 2017 by former Public Safety Manager Dennis Bell. Dennis outlines the nine emergency access points in Rossmoor that could be converted by civil authorities from locked access points (used to bring in heavy firefighting equipment) into alternate evacuation exits. Only 3 or 4 of the 9 emergency access points are likely to be converted to evacuation exits and the Rossmoor Nixle will advise the impacted evacuation zone which alternate exit to use (depending on the geographic location of the incident or event). Do not attempt to leave by any alternate evacuation exit unless you are directed to do so by public safety personnel and civil authorities (police, county fire or county sheriff).

[Re-Print of Rossmoor News Article, 11-1-17](#)

Additionally, GRF's 2020 Emergency Operations Plan contains excellent and detailed information and maps with locations of alternate evacuation exits in its Appendix G titled "Alternate Exit Points" (pages 85 to 88).

Go to [www.rossmoor.com](http://www.rossmoor.com) and click on the link "Emergency Operations Plan" to access this vital information. Far too many Rossmoor residents mistakenly believe we only have "one way in and one way out" through our Main Gate in an emergency or disaster — this is a myth.

## The Only Mask to Wear as You Evacuate Rossmoor in Wildfire Conditions:

Leave Rossmoor in wildfire conditions wearing an N-95 vented respirator mask. Covid masks are useless in wildfire smoke conditions. Wildfire smoke contains fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) which is 50 times smaller than a grain of beach sand. It enters deep into our lungs and can enter the blood stream attacking key organs leading to permanent organ damage or death. Seniors are considered one of the several “sensitive groups” at greatest risk for wildfire smoke dangers (especially those suffering respiratory and cardiovascular disease). These masks can be ordered on-line and Ace Hardware carries them. Keep masks for each household member in your Grab n’ Go Bag and in your car.



## How to Store your Evacuation Notice so It Is Always at the Ready:

Place your evacuation notice (available at [www.rossmoorepo.org](http://www.rossmoorepo.org)) in a plastic bag with four band-aids inside and place it atop your Grab n’ Go Bag. Having the band-aids handy in the bag ensures you do not have to take precious time searching for tape when you are under a mandatory evacuation order and need to leave within 15 minutes! Post it on a window or front door where it can be seen easily from the nearest street or sidewalk. This notice lets first responders know they do not need to check your manor and can focus on residents who cannot self-evacuate.

