



Detailed Information about the City of Berkeley's Alert and Warning Systems

Section I: General Questions

How do you know which system will work during an emergency?

There is no single alert and warning system that is guaranteed to work in an emergency. The City of Berkeley has multiple alert and warning systems in place to create redundancies among systems in case a particular type of telecommunications infrastructure or facility is impacted by an unfolding disaster. As a member of the Berkeley community, you should be prepared to use different sources to find information in an emergency.

What is the difference between Nixle, AC Alert, and Wireless Emergency Alerts?

- <u>Nixle</u> is the Berkeley Police Department's primary communication tool. The Berkeley Police Department uses <u>Nixle</u> to share updates about urgent police matters as well as non-urgent crime prevention tips and information about community engagement initiatives. You can sign up for an account and view a feed of recent messages from BPD <u>here</u>. <u>Nixle</u> can send messages to targeted to zip codes. For additional information about BPD's <u>Nixle</u> account, visit their webpage.
 - <u>Key Tip</u>: Sign up for <u>Nixle</u> if you want to be in the know about traffic advisories, missing persons, police activity, and other current public safety issues that may not pose a hazard to you. Still not sure? Visit the BPD Nixle page to see recent <u>Nixle</u> alerts and get a sense of the kinds of messages sent out on this system.
- <u>AC Alert</u> is the official alert and warning system used by the City of Berkeley (and other public
 agencies throughout Alameda County) to rapidly disseminate emergency alerts to affected
 community members. If you want to receive alerts on your cell phone or email, you must sign up
 for an <u>AC Alert</u> account. With this account you can choose locations you care about to receive
 targeted alerts. All residents should sign up their cell phones and email addresses before an
 emergency.
- <u>AC Alert</u> includes a database of publicly listed AT&T landlines that can be contacted in a reverse-911 call. If you have an unlisted land line or you use VoIP for land line phone service, you should sign up these phone numbers on your <u>AC Alert</u> account.
- When you sign up with AC Alert you can provide multiple methods of contact, including your cell, home and work phones, and email addresses.
 - <u>Key Tip</u>: Sign up for <u>AC Alert</u> so you can receive emergency information and instructions on your cell phone and email to help you stay safe if there is an emergency putting you in danger.





• Wireless Emergency Alerts are part of the federal government's public safety system that allows customers who own compatible mobile devices to receive geographically targeted, text-like messages alerting them of imminent threats to safety in their area. Authorized public safety officials send WEA alerts through FEMA's Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) to participating wireless carriers, which then push the alerts to compatible mobile devices in the affected area. Government officials might send WEA messages to specific geographic areas in the event of a major emergency that requires people in the area to take immediate protective actions.

How often does the City use its alert and warning tools?

The City's alert and warning tools (<u>Emergency Map</u>, <u>AC Alert</u>, <u>Wireless Emergency Alerts</u>, 1610 AM) are only used when:

- 1) There is a specific protective action that affected residents must take to stay safe (such as an Evacuation Warning, immediate Evacuation Order, or Shelter in Place Order), and
- 2) Field personnel cannot notify all the people who need to take protective action.

The Berkeley Police Department uses its <u>Nixle</u> system more often to provide updates about urgent and non-urgent law enforcement matters. You can sign up for an account and view a feed of recent messages from BPD here.

Which systems will be used during an emergency to tell me what I should do?

- If there is a major emergency requiring members of the public to take protective action and no significant telecommunications impacts, first responders plan to update the **Emergency Map**. First responders will use the <u>Emergency Map</u> to change the status of zones to reflect evacuation warnings and orders in progress, managing the evacuation process and making this information public in real-time.
- 2. Public officials would alert you to the threat by sending out an **AC Alert**. The <u>AC Alert</u> message, text, or phone call would refer the public to the <u>Emergency Map</u> to view affected locations.
- 3. In an extreme emergency, officials may also activate **Wireless Emergency Alerts** (WEA) and/or the **Outdoor Warning System**. Public officials may also post updates on official social media channels and share updates with media.

Depending on the specific characteristics of the emergency and its impacts, the City will use the most appropriate and effective combination of alert and warning tools to share information with those affected by the emergency and with the community at large. If these primary systems are not available, the City would look to back-up tools like **1610 AM** to communicate with residents.





Section II: Emergency Map

What is the City of Berkeley's **Emergency Map?**

Alameda County and the City of Berkeley have partnered with software provider Genasys to develop an interactive, real-time <u>emergency map</u> that helps communities and first responders more effectively plan, communicate, and execute evacuations. The <u>Emergency Map</u> is a website (and mobile app) where residents can look up their addresses using the search bar and use the zone map to find evacuation information for their area.

This product used to be called "Zonehaven"—but after that company was acquired by Genasys Inc. in 2022, the product was renamed "Genasys Protect". Moving forward, regardless of the software provider or product name, we will refer to this platform as the City of Berkeley's Emergency Map.

Why are evacuation zones important?

Pre-established evacuation zones help fire, law, and emergency service agencies clearly communicate about areas that are under threat without relying on describing street boundaries. This provides a common reference system for all first responders and the community. Evacuation Zones help responders prepare for, streamline, and reduce confusion around the evacuation process so that roads are clear for those who need to evacuate quickly. By evacuating the most at-risk zones first, emergency personnel are able to manage the traffic flow and more easily prevent the traffic jams that occur when an entire town or city tries to evacuate all at the same time.

When I enter my address into Berkeley's <u>Emergency Map</u> site, why don't I see the best route to evacuate? How will I know where I should go?

Evacuation routes are always incident-specific because the best route to take is always relative to the location and type of threat. When an emergency evacuation occurs, make sure to check your phone for <u>AC Alert</u> messages and open the <u>Emergency Map</u> to review the status of your zone. When it's time to evacuate, pay close attention to your surroundings and look out for law enforcement directing traffic.

To prepare further, you should become familiar with your zone, both on the platform and out in the real world. Take the time to walk or drive around areas around Berkeley that you are less familiar with and locate the fastest routes out of your neighborhood to nearby major roadways to ensure you are familiar with the various ways of getting in and out during an emergency. Ideally, you should be able to find your way even without access to a map or if you lose internet access. We recommend taking a screenshot of your zone and its surrounding area and drawing out multiple potential evacuation routes or highlighting possible routes on a printed map that you can reference in the case of a disaster.





Is there a mobile app version of Berkeley's Emergency Map?

Genasys Protect has a mobile app for <u>iOS</u> and <u>Android</u> that can be downloaded on cellular devices and tablets. The app contains all the same functions as the website, with the additional feature of being able to follow a zone to receive alerts on your phone (sent as app notifications) when that zone's status changes.

What's the difference between Berkeley's <u>Emergency Map</u> and Google or Apple Maps? Can I plug in an address and get directions to another location?

The <u>Emergency Map</u> powered by Genasys Protect is not a navigation tool like Google or Apple Maps, which means you cannot plot directions or receive evacuation directions.

Genasys automatically sends road and zone closure information to <u>Waze</u> (another navigation tool that provides real-time traffic data), which you will be able to see and use to determine your evacuation route. Remember that it is crucial to always follow directions from emergency response personnel first and foremost, and connectivity may fail during an emergency, so don't rely on navigation apps to tell you where to go. Be sure to know your area, and have several different evacuation routes planned from your house.

I thought I already had an evacuation zone, but in the Berkeley <u>Emergency Map</u> it is different. Did something change?

All zones in the City of Berkeley's Emergency Map powered by Genasys Protect are published by the City and Alameda County and are the most current, official evacuation zones. The City of Berkeley had evacuation zones prior to partnering with Genasys, and there were slight changes made to zone boundaries to take into account things like population density, geography, law and fire jurisdictions, traffic flow, etc. If you are seeing a discrepancy or have any questions, please contact oes@berkeleyca.gov

Where does the information in the **Emergency Map** come from and who keeps it updated?

Alameda County and the City of Berkeley worked directly with Genasys to add and approve all of the information for your zone, and public safety officials update the statuses and information during emergencies.





Can I evacuate before my zone is under an Evacuation Order status?

You can certainly leave early, or if you see an immediate threat. In fact, during <u>extreme fire weather</u> the Berkeley Fire Department recommends that people leave the hills before a fire starts.

An emergency incident may behave unpredictably and rapidly, meaning it is possible that your zone status may not always be updated ahead of the threat. If you feel unsafe, evacuate immediately. Berkeley's Emergency Map/Genasys Protect is simply a resource to give you additional information to help you make evacuation decisions.

Why is my zone identifier so cryptic? Why doesn't it just have a name?

The first three letters represent the city's name (for Berkeley, this is "BER"), the E is short for Evacuation, and the last three numbers are the unique code that distinguishes your zone from the others in your area. This system is consistent across Alameda County and makes it easy for first responders to plan and execute evacuations. The zone identifier system provides each zone with a globally unique ID so there is no confusion about which zone is being referred to.

I noticed that my zone has a letter attached on the end of it. What is the difference between zone BER-E005 and BER-E005-A?

During an incident, first responders may need to split your zone into multiple sections in order to evacuate community members or repopulate a zone in the most effective way. If your zone contains a letter on the end (example: BER-E005-A, BER-E005-B, BER-E005-C), this means that your original zone (BER-E005) was split up. Type in your address at protect.genasys.com to make sure you have the right information and follow all instructions for the zone you are given.

Can I find evacuation shelters in the Emergency Map?

Yes, during an emergency you will have the ability to view temporary evacuation points, which include evacuation centers, animal shelters, and other resources. Generally, these evacuation points are not visible to the community until an emergency occurs because the location must be selected at the time of the emergency at a location that is a safe distance away from the incident.





Section III: Outdoor Warning System—Emergency Sirens

What is the City of Berkeley's Outdoor Warning System for?

The City of Berkeley's Outdoor Warning System is a network of emergency sirens designed to alert residents and visitors of Berkeley about possible danger. Specific emergency announcements can be broadcast over any one (or more) of the 15 sirens which are located on top of buildings throughout Berkeley.

When does the City of Berkeley test its Outdoor Warning System?

At this time, the City of Berkeley does not maintain a monthly public testing schedule for the outdoor warning system. The City performs silent tests of the system regularly, and public tests with audible siren messages are scheduled as needed, and announced through <u>Community Messages</u>, <u>Nixle</u>, social media, and traditional media.

What do I do when I hear the sirens sound during a scheduled siren test?

Use scheduled siren tests as a chance to practice what you would do in an actual emergency. Take a moment to practice finding your location on the Emergency Map. You can also check out our webpage on Emergency Notifications to learn more about the tools public safety agencies in Berkeley use to provide information and instructions during emergencies.

Before emergencies happen, it is important to sign up for <u>AC Alert</u> to receive text and phone notifications, follow <u>@cityofberkeley</u> on social media, and learn about our <u>Emergency Map</u>, where the City shares updated information about evacuation and shelter-in-place orders.

What do I do if I hear the siren sound and it's not a test?

- Stop what you are doing and listen for possible voice announcements
- Follow the instructions provided through the voice announcement
- Check your phone for messages from <u>AC Alert</u>, <u>Nixle</u>, or a <u>Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA)</u>
 message and follow the instructions described
- Check <u>the City's Emergency Map</u> for information about possible evacuation or shelter in place orders.
- Do not call 9-1-1 for more information, unless you require immediate assistance from emergency responders.





What if I can't hear or understand a voice announcement coming from a siren?

While we are pleased to have an outdoor warning system with the ability to provide voice announcements, the sirens are not intended to be your only source of information during emergencies. The City of Berkeley plans to disseminate messages through <u>AC Alert</u> and post updates to the <u>Emergency Map</u>, whenever the Outdoor Warning System has been activated. Look for more information whenever you hear a siren activate.

The City of Berkeley has pre-recorded the voice recordings that will most likely be used during an emergency. You can listen to our siren recording library here to get familiar with these messages ahead of time.

Why can't I hear the sirens from inside my home?

The emergency sirens are an outdoor warning system. While some people may be able to hear the siren from inside buildings depending on a number of factors, this is not the primary function of the outdoor warning system.

Based on FEMA guidelines, siren tones lose an estimated 10 - 20 decibels when traveling through a wall, inside of a home. Building material, thickness of walls/windows and insulation along with foliage and other environmental factors impact sound significantly.

As homes continue to become more energy efficient and sound proofing has enhanced, outdoor warning sirens that once could be heard decades ago inside of a home can no longer be heard. That's why other means of alert and warning are in place.

What if I can't hear the sirens at all?

The City uses multiple tools in our alert and warning program to provide the public with information during emergencies. The outdoor warning system is just one tool used to support this system. The city's outdoor warning system will always be activated in conjunction with <u>AC Alert</u> and supported with information posted to the <u>Emergency Map</u>.

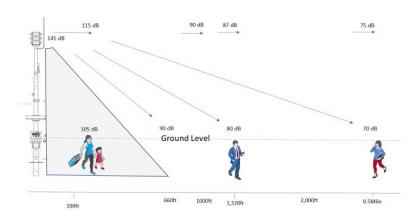




Can the sirens cause hearing damage if someone is nearby?

OSHA states that hearing damage may occur after 5 minutes of continuous sound at over 119db (a decibel level that describes extremely loud sounds such as a rock concert, chain saw, or ambulance siren). The City of Berkeley's sirens are mounted to the roofs of buildings, so the decibel range will drop well below 119db beyond the immediate vicinity of the mounted siren. The following diagram from siren vendor Genasys shows anticipated decibel ranges for the City of Berkeley's outdoor warning system:

DB over distance



What is the range of the emergency sirens?

The sirens are designed so that the tone can be heard for an approximate distance of ½ mile. Sounds can travel different distances depending on weather, terrain, foliage, so please remember these distances are just estimates and that the primary function of the emergency sirens is to alert people who are outside to look for more information in emergencies.

How are the sirens triggered?

During emergencies, the sirens are activated by trained operators from the City of Berkeley's public safety agencies.





How many sirens are there throughout the City?

When the City of Berkeley's Outdoor Warning System is complete, sirens will be installed at 15 sites within the city limits. City residents and visitors may also hear outdoor warning sirens that are owned and operated by other entities, including:

- <u>UC Berkeley</u> (tested on the first Wednesday of every month at 12:00pm)
- <u>Bayer</u> (tested on the first Wednesday of every month at 12:00pm)
- <u>City of Oakland</u> (tested on the first Wednesday of every month at 12:00pm)
- Contra Costa County (tested on the first Wednesday of every month at 11:00am)

Please check their websites above for information about siren tests and activations.

How can I locate the siren closest to my home?

There is a map of the Outdoor Warning System sirens available on this webpage.

Does the City of Berkeley issue an "all clear" notice from the outdoor warning sirens when the danger has passed?

No. With the unpredictability of emergencies and severe weather, the outdoor warning system sirens are intended to notify anyone outside to seek additional information immediately. Thus, you should not expect to be near a siren to listen for an "all clear" message.





Section IV: AC Alert

What is the **AC Alert** Program?

AC Alert is the emergency mass notification system used by city and county agencies throughout Alameda County to rapidly disseminate geo-targeted emergency alerts to people who live, work, or visit Alameda County. When you sign up with AC Alert you can provide multiple methods of contact, including your cell, home and work phones, and email addresses. You can designate multiple locations in Alameda County where you want to receive emergency alerts. This system is precise enough to geotarget people within specific areas in danger, so that only those people who may be directly affected by an emergency are notified.

<u>AC Alert</u> is not a 2-way communication system and should not substitute calling 911 in the event of an emergency.

AC Alert can send:

- Voice alerts to phones
- SMS text messages
- Emails
- TTY/TDD messages
- App notifications through the Everbridge App

Listed AT&T "land lines" are automatically included in AC Alert's voice calls.

Community members must sign up to receive voice or text alerts on cell phones, TTY/TDD phones, VoIP phones, unlisted phones or through email. To sign up, visit: www.acalert.org

When will **AC Alert** be used?

In the event of an emergency posing an immediate threat to life, health, or safety, the City of Berkeley plans to use AC Alert to send critical information and instructions to affected community members.

Will I still get emergency notifications if I don't sign up? Don't you have my phone number? It depends. The <u>AC Alert</u> system has contacts from various public database sources to notify residents of high urgency incidents and events via phone call. This database is primarily comprised of listed AT&T landline phones.

In certain extreme situations, you may be notified of hazardous conditions without opting into <u>AC Alert</u> through a <u>Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) message</u>. WEA messages are geographically targeted messages that can be disseminated to WEA-enabled mobile devices in the area of concern. These messages may have limited detail, and are only available for newer cellular devices.

For more information on <u>Wireless Emergency Alerts</u>, visit <u>https://www.fema.gov/frequently-asked-questions-wireless-emergency-alerts</u>.





What number will be displayed in the text message or caller ID for AC Alert?

AC Alert phone calls will come from (925) 560-5950. We highly encourage community members to save this number as a contact in their phone under "AC Alert".

AC Alert text messages will come from 88911.

Nixle text messages come from 888-777.

How do I update or confirm my AC Alert contact information?

- 1. Click here to log in to your account.
- 2. Input your username and password. If you do not remember your username and password, click the "Forgot Username" and "Forgot Password" links to recover these.
- 3. To update your contact information: Click the "My Profile (Edit)" link.
- 4. Review the "Contact Information" section and ensure at least one contact method is listed. Contact methods are listed in the order you prefer to be reached.
- 5. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click the blue "Save" button.
- 6. Log out of your account (top left corner of the screen), or click on "Home" in the menu bar to access your address next.

How do I update or confirm my address in AC Alert?

- 1. Click here to log in to your account.
- 2. Click the "My Locations (Edit)" link. You will be taken to a list of current locations.
- 3. For current locations
 - a. Click "Edit" to update
 - b. Click "View on Map" button to confirm that your address is correctly located.
 - c. Click the trash can icon to stop receiving alerts for that location.
- 4. Click "Add Another Location" to add another location.
- 5. You must have at least one (1) address listed and may have up to five (5) locations within Alameda County.
- 6. Log out of your account (top left corner of the screen).





I don't want to receive any notifications or alerts. How do I unsubscribe from AC Alert?

- 1. Click here to log in to your account.
- 2. Input your username and password. If you do not remember your username and password, click the "Forgot Username" and "Forgot Password" links to recover these.
- 3. Under the "My Profile (Edit)" link, locate the gray "Delete My Account" button (located between username and contact information). Click the button and a dialog box will appear asking for confirmation to delete the user account. Click the blue "OK" button.

If you want to temporarily stop receiving notifications or believe you may want to opt-in later in the future, delete your contact information instead of your user account. Click the "My Profile (Edit)" link. Delete all but one phone number. Replace the remaining phone number with "0000", then check the box "Use as-is". Scroll to the bottom of the page and click the blue "Save" button.

Will my contact information be shared with others?

No. The information that you provide will be used only by the City of Berkeley and Alameda County for public safety notification purposes. We will not give or sell your contact or location information to any vendor or other organization.

Can I have my phone number be associated with multiple locations?

Yes. You can have your number associated with up to 5 locations you maintain an interest in.

I have call screening/interception to discourage telemarketers. Will I get the message?

It depends. If your telephone system simply requires a valid caller ID, <u>AC Alert</u> will get through. Our caller IDs will show as <u>AC Alert</u> and a short introductory message will play when you pick up. However, if your telephone blocks, electronically fools or intercepts a caller then waits until the call is accepted, the system may not be able to get through to you. During a community disaster, please consider disabling such blocking.

How can I download the Everbridge app to receive AC Alert messages as app notifications?

Once you have an <u>AC Alert</u> account, you can also download the Everbridge App on your phone (<u>iOS</u> or <u>Android</u>). With the app, you will receive <u>AC Alert</u> messages on your phone. Signing up for the app provides another way to receive messages on your phone.

Once you've downloaded the Everbridge App, you will still need to connect it to your AC Alert account.

- Open the app
- Under the sandwich icon, click "Profile"
- Under Add a Subscription, search on "AC Alert"
- Add "AC Alert"
- Make sure notifications are enabled in your phone for the Everbridge App





I did not get an <u>AC Alert</u> during a recent emergency near me. How can I be sure my information is correct?

We only try to notify the individuals who are likely to be directly impacted by an event. In some cases that is a very small area (a few blocks), in others, that could be the entire city. If you did not get a call, it is usually because you were not in the hazard zone (or footprint). It could also be because you did not enter accurate contact information and may need to log back in to check your information. Email us if you have further questions or require additional support at oes@berkeleyca.gov.

Will my telephone get a phone call from AC Alert if it is in "Do Not Disturb" mode?

No it will not, unless you set up <u>AC Alert</u>'s phone number to bypass "Do Not Disturb" mode. We recommend community members do this in order to receive important emergency alerts.

Here are instructions for setting up <u>AC Alert</u> to bypass your "Do Not Disturb" settings on Android and iPhone:

Android

- 1. Create a **Contact** for **AC Alert** at **(925)560-5950** and tap the **Star** icon in the top right to make it a favorite.
- 2. Go to **Settings** and in the Search bar at the top of the screen, enter **Do Not Disturb**.
- 3. Follow the instructions for the Android system on your phone.

iPhone

- 1. Create a Contact for AC Alert at (925)560-5950
- 2. Tap the Edit button in the upper-right corner, and scroll down and select Ringtone.
- 3. The first item on the screen is **Emergency Bypass**. Toggle it on.
- Tap **Done** in the top right.

Will my telephone get a call from <u>AC Alert</u> if the power goes out?

If your telephone is "corded", meaning a plain old telephone powered by the phone line, yes. If you have a cordless phone, it will work as long as the base unit has battery or backup power. If you are you are using a cell phone, it is possible that a cell tower nearby may be affected by the outage.

Can I add more than one member of my household to my AC Alert account?

We advise that you have one <u>AC Alert</u> account per person in your household. During an emergency, the system is generally set to contact devices in the account one-by-one until the call is confirmed by the recipient. This means that if you receive and confirm a call, the call may not reach the other person in your household.





What if my phone number or email address changes?

The system is only as good as the information you provide. If your contact information changes, please visit your profile and update your information.

I received an alert but missed what it said and now I can't find it. How can I access the message?

Most alerts disseminated by jurisdictions in Alameda County are simultaneously posted on the AC Alert website here (in the "Notifications" tab in the top right corner). The most current notifications appear at the top of the list and include the message, date and time sent.

I received an alert. What do I do now?

Alerts provide information on what the hazard is (e.g., wildfire, tsunami, gas leak), where the hazard is occurring, and what protective action to take. It is imperative that community members follow instructions and take protective action to stay safe. Protective actions may include:

- Evacuation Warning: Be ready to leave at moment's notice.
- Evacuation Order: Leave the area immediately.
- Shelter in Place: Stay indoors or where you are. Close and lock doors and windows.

Any additional information, such as temporary evacuation points and shelter locations, may be disseminated in follow up alerts, on the Emergency Map, or directly with impacted residents shortly after the dissemination of an alert. Contact 9-1-1 only if you have an emergency and require assistance from emergency responders.

Members of my household and/or neighbors received an alert but I did not. Why did this happen?

There are various explanations as to why you did not receive an alert, including the type of alerts sent, type of cell phone you have, your cell carrier, and your location at the time of notification. Here are a few reasons you may not have received a notification:

- You are not signed up to receive <u>AC Alerts</u>. Sign up for <u>AC Alert</u> by clicking <u>here</u>. If you have already signed up, sign in to your account and confirm at least one contact method and one address are listed.
- Not all cell phones are compatible with Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs), particularly older model phones. Additionally, some older phones are WEA capable, but may still block WEA messaging while you are on a call or using data. Most new phones are WEA compatible and will still receive the message while you're using the phone. Check with your cell provider to determine if your phone is WEA capable, and sign up for AC Alert to ensure the City can reach you directly.
- The Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) expired prior to you being in the area impacted by the emergency. Most messages are set to expire after 1 hour. If you were not already in or entering the area within 1 hour of the alert, you will not receive it.





- Your cell provider does not support Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) or does not have a cell
 tower in the area geographically targeted for the alert. Sign up to receive <u>AC Alert</u> to ensure the
 City can reach you directly.
- Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) have been disabled on your phone. Check with your cell provider for assistance with your WEA settings.

I want to get more notifications about emergency activities than the City currently provides through <u>AC Alert</u>. Are there any other tools I can use to get more up-to-date information?

<u>Nixle</u> is the Berkeley Police Department's primary communication tool. You can <u>sign up</u> for <u>Nixle</u> to receive urgent police updates as well as non-urgent crime prevention tips from BPD.

While the Office of Emergency Services does not endorse any particular third-party apps, there are a number of resources available online and through your phone's app store that provide near real-time updates about emergency events as they are happening in the community.

These apps notify subscribers of emergency calls and show maps of where the incident is occurring. Additionally, there are several emergency radio scanner apps exist that allow citizens to listen in to publicly-available emergency communications between law, fire, and EMS agencies. Scanner traffic is a direct source of information as it happens, but this information is always unconfirmed until it is shared through official channels.

DISCLAIMER: These "real time" apps provide raw, unconfirmed information as events are unfolding. This information has often not been vetted for public release and should not be confused with official communication from public safety agencies. For example, through radio scanner apps, response agencies may discuss potential for evacuation and evaluate expanding threats. This discussion does not constitute an official evacuation order or even indicate that an evacuation will be ordered; it may be a routine tactical discussion. Anyone tuning into a live scanner feed, or reading a transcription of a feed on social media, should not assume that everything they are hearing is accurate.

Resources for maintaining additional situational awareness include but are not limited to:

- Alert Wildfire Cameras
- Citizen App
- Watch Duty
- Broadcastify

Please monitor these resources responsibly. Stay tuned to official public safety channels (<u>AC Alert</u>, as well as social media channels for <u>City of Berkeley</u>, <u>Berkeley Fire Department</u>, <u>Berkeley Police</u>

<u>Department</u>, and other public safety agencies and municipalities) for official communication.