



KENSINGTON
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS WORKBOOK

ALERTS & EVACUATION READINESS

KEEP THIS IN A SAFE PLACE



Being Neighborly is part of your preparedness plan.

**Preparedness starts at home.
Include your neighbors for a safer community.**

- Get to know your neighbors.
- Understand each others' needs.
- Coordinate preparedness efforts.
- Form a collective supply stockpile.
- Attend a Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Block Party.

Need help getting introduced? Email: prepare@kensingtonfire.org



KENSINGTON
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

SECOND EDITION EFFECTIVE 4/2022

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS WORKBOOK

KEEP THIS PUBLICATION

This document contains life-saving information.

Please use this Wildfire Preparedness Workbook as a starting point for your emergency preparedness needs. This publication focuses on four pillars of preparedness; staying aware and informed, understanding critical weather conditions, preparing for your basic needs, and knowing your way to safety.

Kensington residents are encouraged to stay informed throughout the year. This workbook presents an opportunity for residents to receive helpful information making Kensington a safer community.

COMMUNICATION TOOLKIT
STAYING AWARE + INFORMED

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EVACUATION READINESS
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KENSINGTON

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

KFPD COMMUNICATION TOOLKIT

This segment provides an overview of the primary communication tools used in Kensington. Consider using as many of these tools available to increase your access to information that will help you prepare for an emergency. Although it may seem redundant to have multiple contact points, each platform serves a specific purpose, and not every forum can be a one-stop-shop for everything.

This Communication Toolkit illustrates the different categories of information from the KFPD, what that information will look like from the residents' point of view, and which platforms will carry that information.

Use your mobile phone camera to scan each of the following QR codes. These codes will direct you to the registration pages for each tool. You can alternatively use the address in your web browser.

AGENCY ALERTS & WARNINGS



www.cwsalerts.com



www.nixle.com



www.pge.com

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS



nextdoor

www.nextdoor.com



facebook

www.facebook.com



Instagram

www.instagram.com

FIRE AGENCY NEWS & INFO



KENSINGTON
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

www.kensingtonfire.org



incidents.readyforwildfire.org

Community Warning System (CWS)

Contra Costa County's Community Warning System is the primary source for emergency alerts. When wildfire threatens a community, police and firefighters will work together quickly to form a unified command. KFPD/KPD will communicate with CWS and coordinate to evacuate based on their respective roles. CWS will transmit the alert to registered residents in the impacted area. CWS requires registration for receiving emergency-related alerts.

1. Start with registering your contact information with CWS. You can do this from your mobile phone or computer.



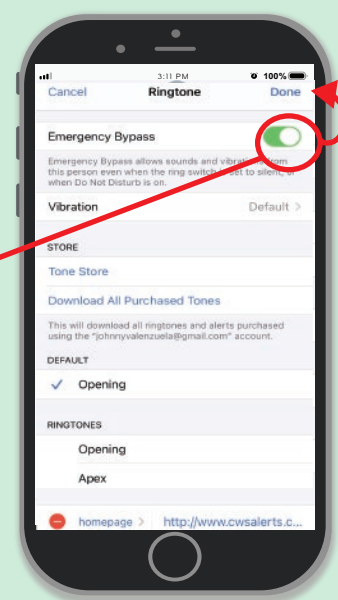
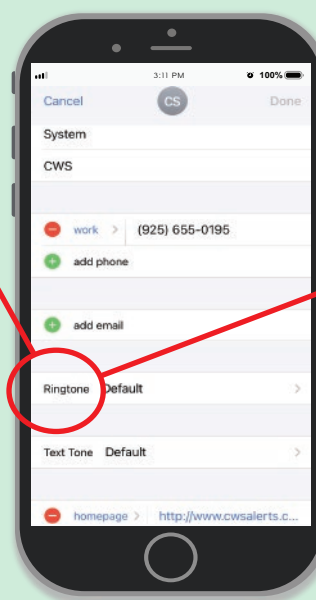
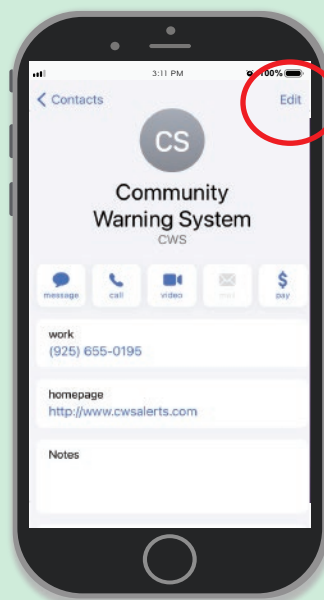
2. Add the CWS contact card to your mobile phone. Scan the QR code with your mobile phone and click save.



3. Emergency Bypass can be enabled to override silent mode.

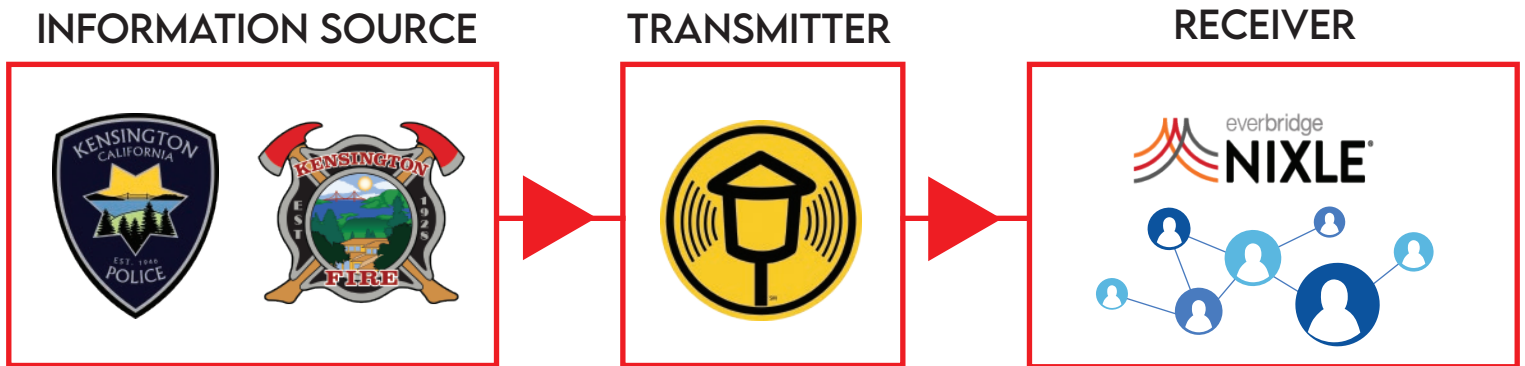
If you do not have an Apple device, directions may be different.

Additional instructions available for other devices found at kensingtonfire.org/prepare.



Community Warning System (CWS)

FLOW OF EMERGENCY INFORMATION



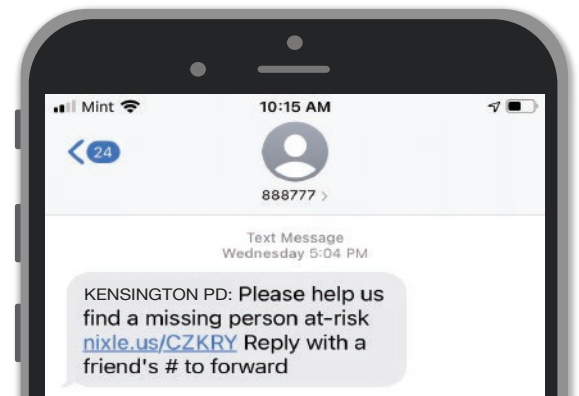
During an emergency, unified command is established between Kensington Police and Kensington Fire. A message for the residents will be sent to CWS and transmitted to resident devices and Nixle subscribers.

ALERTS MARKED AS SPAM

Prevent alerts from being marked as spam by adding the CWS contact to your phone. Go to page 3 to learn how.

TYPE OF ALERTS ISSUED:

- Shelter-in-Place
- Evacuate Immediately
- Avoid the Area
- Attempt to Locate Missing Person
- Law Enforcement Activity



OPT-IN TO RECEIVE NIXLE TEXT ALERTS

Text your zip code to 888777. Don't forget to download the Everbridge Nixle App for your mobile device. Nixle will allow you to register up to 5 zip codes to monitor, if you have other areas of interest.

CWS QUESTIONS?

Email: CWS-Staff@so.cccounty.us
Call: 925-655-0111
Web: www.cwsalerts.com



SCAN THE QR
TO DOWNLOAD
THE NIXLE APP.





PG&E PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFFS (PSPS)

PG&E will provide you advance notice about events affecting your service, including the possible need to turn off power for public safety proactively. Ensure your email, phone number, language preference, and mailing address are current in your online account. For more preparedness information visit: www.pge.com/wildfiresafety.

We often forget how much we depend on electricity.
Here are some things you should consider:



May disrupt communications, water, transportation



May close retail businesses, grocery stores, gas stations, ATMs and other services



Can cause food spoilage, water contamination



Can prevent use of medical devices

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS DURING A POWER OUTAGE



KEEP FREEZERS AND REFRIGERATORS CLOSED.

The refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours. Use coolers with ice if necessary. Monitor temperatures with a thermometer.



TURN OFF OR DISCONNECT APPLIANCES, EQUIPMENT OR ELECTRONICS.

Power may return with momentary "surges" or "spikes" that may cause damage.



USE ALTERNATE PLANS FOR REFRIGERATING MEDICINES OR POWER-DEPENDENT MEDICAL DEVICES.



USE FOOD SUPPLIES THAT DO NOT REQUIRE REFRIGERATION.



GO TO A COMMUNITY LOCATION WITH POWER WHEN HEAT OR COLD IS EXTREME (IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO).



SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Social media platforms provide KFPD with an interactive platform for sharing photos, videos, and articles. These platforms connect residents and agencies both within Kensington and beyond. Unlike Agency Alerts (Category 1) that do not permit residents to reply, social media allows residents to comment and share content provided by KFPD. During an emergency, KFPD will re-post CWS alerts received by residents. Social media posts are not a primary source of emergency information. All residents should register for CWS alerts and supplement their communication tool kit with social media.

facebook
facebook.com/kensingtonfpd



The KFPD Facebook account connects local agencies, enabling efficient sharing of valuable information, both emergency and non-emergency. The KFPD Facebook account shares relevant information posted from other fire agencies, in addition to our community-specific communications. Facebook is best for sharing; news articles, videos, weather alerts, safety topics, and photos.

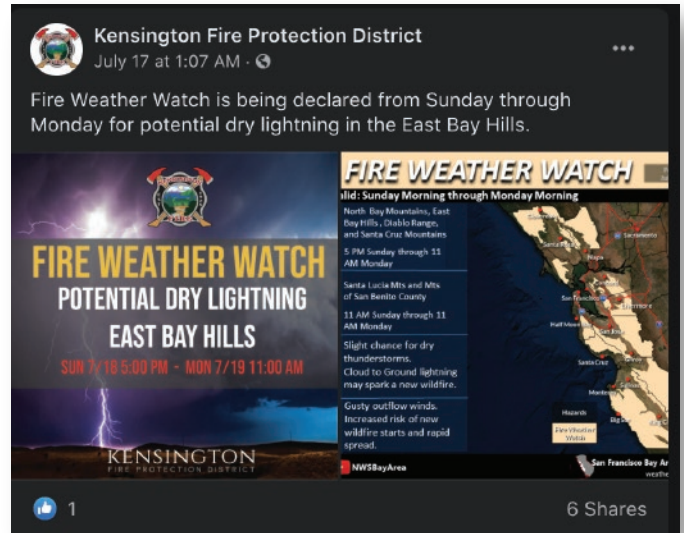


**FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK**

The KFPD Facebook Page is accessible from the KFPD Web-page. No downloading is required. Just look for the image to the left on the home page:
www.kensingtonfire.org

PLEASE SHARE INFORMATION RESPONSIBLY.

To avoid spreading misinformation, please share directly from an official agency social media account.



Instagram

[instagram.com/kensingtonfpd](https://www.instagram.com/kensingtonfpd)



Instagram is a platform for sharing videos and photos. In contrast to Facebook, Instagram is visually immersive for pictures but not for sharing articles. Instagram is a platform to see short video clips and snapshots from agency accounts. Fire agencies typically post to Instagram to show images of their on-scene responses or charitable initiatives. KFPD will share community-related information and alerts to followers on Instagram.



nextdoor

[nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com)



Nextdoor is a social network that connects neighbors within a geographic region. A home address is used to verify members and allows neighbors within a fixed group to interact. KFPD will share images and communications with the community on Nextdoor. But not all content posted on Facebook and Instagram is optimized for sharing on Nextdoor.



PLEASE SHARE INFORMATION RESPONSIBLY.

To avoid spreading misinformation, please share directly from an official agency social media account.



FIRE AGENCY NEWS & INFORMATION



KENSINGTON
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
www.kensingtonfire.org

KFPD sends announcements for monthly and special meetings, agendas, and notices related to the community. Kensington residents may request emails for general information and a separate request for monthly and special board meeting packets.

Send an email request to subscribe@kensingtonfire.org or by scanning the QR code and sending the preloaded email.

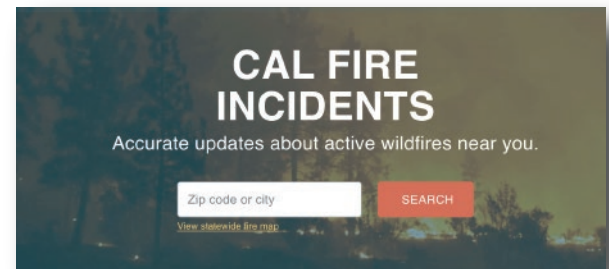
SCAN TO
SUBSCRIBE
TO DISTRICT
EMAILS.



incidents.readyforwildfire.org

CAL FIRE wants you to be fire safe. Being ready for wildfire starts with maintaining defensible space, hardening your home, and planning to evacuate in case of an emergency. Find the right wildfire action plan for your family and home by using the Prepare for Wildfire App or by visiting the ReadyforWildfire website.

SCAN TO
REGISTER
FOR TEXT
ALERTS.



SIGN UP FOR TEXT MESSAGES

Enter your zip code and phone number

Phone Number

Zip Code

+15555555555

55555

SIGN UP

Use this form to sign up for text messages with updates on local wildfires.

Users are able to message STOP to unsubscribe and START to re-subscribe.

FIRE WEATHER WARNINGS

OUTLOOK

WEATHER OUTLOOK

Monitoring weather is a continuous process that predominantly goes unseen by the general public. The National Weather Service provides an outlook on when a hazardous weather event is possible in the coming week. An Outlook raises awareness of the potential for significant weather that could lead to situations that may threaten life or property. KFPD will not communicate weather until a Fire Weather Watch is issued by the National Weather Service.

Please follow the sequence from Outlook to Watch, then Warning as a weather event progresses.

WATCH

FIRE WEATHER WATCH

A FIRE WEATHER WATCH is issued when fire weather conditions could exist in the next 12-72 hours. During a Fire Weather Watch climate pattern, areas may encounter low relative humidity, strong winds, dry fuels, the possibility of lightning strikes, or a combination of these factors. The image to the right will be the KFPD social media notification for Fire Weather Watch. Please refer to the Communication Toolkit to register for notifications.



WARNING

RED FLAG WARNING

A Red Flag warning is the highest alert for weather events that may result in extreme fire behavior. During a red flag alert, all residents must use extreme caution when engaging in activities that may increase the risk of producing a spark, such as mowing the lawn, operating equipment outdoors, as well as lighting fire pits and grills. The image to the right will be the KFPD social media notification for Red Flag Warnings. Please refer to the Communication Toolkit to register for notifications.



WEATHER CONDITIONS TRIGGER RED FLAG WARNINGS

Red Flag Warnings are issued by the National Weather Service when conditions combine to produce the possibility of extreme fire behavior. This matrix shows the conditions that trigger Red Flag notifications. In 2021, the National Weather Service added a new event to the matrix. The extreme category in purple indicates a **Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS)**. These events are driven by extremely low humidity, high winds, and record dry fuels.

Watch this video to learn more about this new addition to the Red Flag Weather Matrix. www.kensingtonfire.org/pds

Red Flag Weather Matrix		Sustained Winds				
		<6 mph	6-11 mph	12-20 mph	21-29 mph	30+ mph
Humidity	Daytime Min <29-42% and/or Night Max 60-80%	Green	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red (RFW)
	Daytime Min <19-28% and/or Night Max 46-60%	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red (RFW)	Red (RFW)
	Daytime Min <9-18% and/or Night Max 31-45%	Yellow	Orange	Red (RFW)	Red (RFW)	Red (RFW)
	Daytime Min <9% and/or Night Max <31%	Orange	Red (RFW)	Red (RFW)	Red (RFW)	Purple (PDS RFW)

Low Medium High Very High Extreme

DIABLO WIND EVENTS (DWEs)

“Diablo Wind Events” (DWEs) are a subset of Red Flag Warnings (RFWs). It’s important to emphasize that not all RFWs are DWEs. DWEs are especially dangerous: this is when hot dry winds from the northeast course over the hills and valleys at high speeds. They can fan a spark quickly into a fire, which can quickly become an uncontrolled wildfire. DWEs usually occur 2-3 times a year in Summer and Fall.

If you receive notice of an impending RFW that predicts a DWE, take extreme caution. Have your go bag packed and ready near the door or loaded in your vehicle which should be pointed nose-out in your driveway.

If a DWE-caused fire occurs it will likely reach Kensington from the east or northeast through Tilden Park. Plan possible evacuation routes accordingly.

If you or people in your household have limited mobility or medical issues, if you have children and pets, if there are essential things you need to take with you, consider **pre-evacuation**. This means not waiting to leave until you’re given an order to go; **GO WHENEVER YOU FEEL UNSAFE OR UNCOMFORTABLE**. Staying a day or two with friends or in a hotel can be well worth the peace of mind and the potential threat to your safety. (See Page 14.)

IF YOU FEEL UNSAFE, DO NOT WAIT TO EVACUATE.

Diablo and Santa Ana Winds at a Glance

This is how the hot, powerful Santa Ana winds in Southern California and Diablo winds in Northern California increase the regions’ fire risk.

HOW SANTA ANA AND DIABLO WINDS OCCUR

- 1 A high-pressure system in the Great Basin generates clockwise desert winds.
- 2 These winds flow over the Sierras and desert ranges, compressing and warming, losing humidity. As a result, the relative humidity drops and dries out vegetation.
- 3 Winds squeeze through canyons like water through a hose, gusting up to 60 mph.
- 4 These strong, hot winds fan fires and create turbulence and unpredictable conditions for firefighters.

SOURCES: Natl. Weather Service; InsideClimate News research
PAUL HORN / InsideClimate News

RED FLAG EVENTS

A combination of the following conditions triggers Red Flag Warnings.

These conditions could happen at any point as unseasonal dryness persists regionally.



High Temperatures



Low Humidity
20% AND BELOW



Strong Winds
25 MPH +



Possibility of Dry
Lightning Strikes



Dry Fuels

EVACUATION READINESS

Receiving Alerts & Warnings

The Communication Toolkit provided in this Wildfire Preparedness Workbook is designed to keep residents informed year-round. Emergency preparedness is an iterative process, which requires reminders and notifications to help residents prepare effectively. Please use the checklist on Page 12 to ensure you have all the tools necessary to stay informed.

Kensington Car Parking Etiquette

Consider your safety and the safety of others when parking your car. Every second matters in an evacuation, and an efficient strategy depends on everyone following the best practices for your block. All blocks may have different approaches, but the goal across the community is the same. To learn the parking etiquette for your block, contact: prepare@kensingtonfire.com.

Prepare an Emergency Kit

Put together your emergency supply kit long before a wildfire or other disaster occurs. Plan to be away from your home for an extended period. Each person should have a readily accessible emergency supply kit. Backpacks work great for storing these items (except food and water) and are quick to grab. Storing food and water in a tub or chest on wheels will make it easier to transport. Keep it light enough to be able to lift it into your car. Consider what unique needs your family might have, such as supplies for pets, children, or seniors. Use the resources on Page 13 to help in planning.

Organize Vital Documents

Protect your livelihood in addition to protecting your safety and wellness. Organize and guard your vital documents, which include anything and everything that you might need to access during a crisis. Think about the paperwork you would want on hand during an emergency or when trying to rebuild your life after a disaster – your goal is to bring these items together into one organized file. For a more complete list of items to include, visit: www.kensingtonfire.org/prepare.

Identification

Birth, marriage, and death certificates, passport, Social Security card

Medical

Health records, employee benefits, medication information

Estate Planning

Wills, trusts, powers of attorney, funeral/burial instructions

Insurance

Inventory of household items, insurance policies

Financial

Investments, banking account info, credit cards, bonds, checks

Property

Deed, auto title, vehicle registration, family records and memorabilia

ASSESS YOUR COMMUNICATION TOOLS

Use this checklist to ensure all the tools from this workbook are accounted for in your preparedness efforts.

- Register with Community Warning System (CWS).
- CWS Contact Card entered into your cell phone.
- CWS Contact Card Emergency Bypass enabled on your mobile device.
- Download NIXLE App and opt-in by texting your zip code to '888777'.
- Confirm your contact information with PG&E.
- Establish Nextdoor Account.
- Follow Kensington Fire Protection District on Facebook.
- Follow Kensington Fire Protection District on Instagram.
- Subscribe to Kensington Fire Protection District email communications.
- Download a weather app for your mobile device.
- Visit the KFPD Preparedness Website at: www.kensingtonfire.org/prepare

Please reach out if you need assistance preparing:

Non-Emergency Line: (510) 527-8395

prepare@kensingtonfire.org

PACK & PERSONALIZE YOUR GO BAG

Assemble your Go Bag before a wildfire, or other disaster occurs, and keep it easily accessible to take with you when an evacuation order is issued. Plan to be away from your home for an extended period. Use the 6 P's to help plan your priorities. These include but are not limited to; people and pets, papers (vital documents), photos and priceless irreplaceable mementos, plastic payment and cash, PC /laptop and access to information/files, Pills and prescriptions and medical devices. Everyone will have the same basic needs, but many will have different preferences, use the suggestions below to prepare for your individual needs.

FIRST AID



- Adhesive Strips
- Medical Tape
- Wound Dressing
- Antiseptic Swab
- Tweezers / Scissors
- Medication

HYGIENE



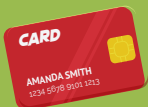
- Antibacterial Soap
- Dental Care Products
- Alcohol / Hydrogen Peroxide
- Antibacterial Wet Napkins
- Grooming Products
- Sanitary Products

TOOLS



- Portable AM/FM Radio
- Flashlight
- Whistle
- Pocket Knife / Multi-Tool
- Multipurpose Rope
- Thermal Blanket

VITAL DOCS



- Vital Documents Binder
- Cash and Credit Cards
- Identification
- Data Storage Device
- Resealable Plastic Bags
- Emergency Contacts

FOOD KIT



- Bottled Water
- Trail Mix
- Energy Bars
- Crackers
- Non-Perishable Food
- Utensil / Can Opener

PETS



- Water bottle
- Food & Water Dish
- Waste Bags
- Dry Food and Treats
- Leash & Toys
- Pet Bed / Blanket

PACK SMART TRAVEL LIGHT

Each person in your household should have a readily accessible Go Bag. Backpacks work great for storing these items and are easy to carry when you leave. Keep it light enough to carry on foot, if needed.

DRESS FOR SAFE TRAVEL

Dress yourself in clothes that will shield you from heat, embers and flames. Natural fibers, such as heavy denim or pure wool are better than synthetics. Keep these items near your Go Bag during wildfire season.

KEEP CALM & COMFORTABLE

An evacuation is a stressful experience. Remember to include a few items that can keep you comfortable and entertained while away from home.

Consider adding a book, a deck of cards, a yoga mat, or even a game to play.

EVACUATION ORDER

PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SITUATION (PDS)

The National Weather Service has implemented a new term to warn of dangerous fire situations for potential explosive, fast-moving fires that may result in little evacuation time. The three criteria to determine the new Red Flag Warning: Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS) will be: fuels like grasses and brush at record dry levels, humidity is lower than 9% during the day and/or 31% at night, and sustained winds, not just gusts, over 30 miles per hour.

VOLUNTARY PRE-EVACUATION

Voluntarily leaving the area and staying elsewhere for a few days during times of a **“Particularly Dangerous Situation” (PDS)** is starting to be a trend in our region. Berkeley Fire Department has built the suggestion to leave the community during these conditions into their emergency preparedness plan.

The Traffic Evacuation Study commissioned for Kensington in 2019 (linked on the main web page of www.kensingtonfire.org) determined that there is nowhere near enough room on our streets for even one car per household if everyone evacuates at once.

Households with residents who have mobility problems, small children or pets, necessary medical equipment or other devices to transport, and other essential items should consider taking the time to pack and leave before an actual fire ignites.

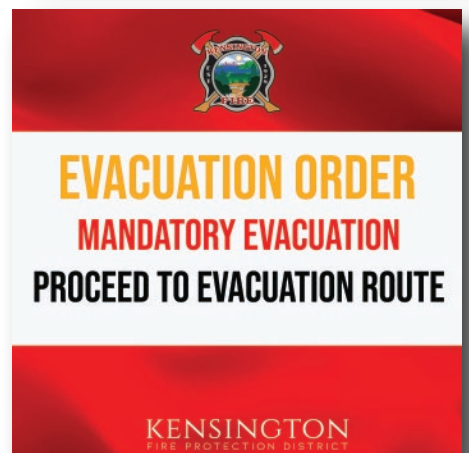
EVACUATION WARNING

Law enforcement agencies managing an evacuation may issue a “pre-evacuation warning.” These warnings mean that the need to evacuate is highly likely. Residents should prepare to evacuate with little or no notice. Individuals who may need additional time to leave for an evacuation order should consider evacuating when the evacuation warning is issued.

EVACUATION ORDER

An evacuation order restricts access under California Penal Code, section 409.5. Law enforcement coordinates all evacuation actions with the fire department. The police will secure the evacuated area and facilitate re-entry and repopulation of residents when deemed safe for residents to return. Evacuation orders are mandatory evacuations.

Individuals with functional needs and the disabled need to arrange for several "guardian angels" to help get them out should evacuation become necessary. Everyone needs to know their neighbors and their emergency needs. If you anticipate needing evacuation assistance, don't hesitate to get in touch with KFPD now so that your needs can be planned for in advance of an emergency. Email: prepare@kensingtonfire.org.





EVACUATION CHECKLIST

FOR HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCY EVACUATION

DOUBLE-CHECK YOUR GO BAG

GO BAG

- Medications
- Hygiene items
- Tools
- Vital documents
- Food & water
- Cash / credit cards
- Pet needs
- Keys
- Phone Charger / batteries
- Change of clothing

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

QUICK GRAB

- Medical devices
- Cell phone
- Wallet, purse
- Computers, data storage
- Family heirlooms, art, photos
- Pets, pet records, pet food
- First aid kit, N95 mask
- Toiletries, sanitation supplies

FOLLOW A PLAN

CHECK INFO

- Follow CWS Alert Instructions
- Check updates after evacuated
- Post status on social media
- Change your voicemail message to let others know you're safe.
- Listen to 1610 AM for local info.
- Listen to KCBS 740AM. KQED 88.5FM and KSOL 98.9FM

IF TIME ALLOWS

PREPARE YOUR HOME

- Shut all inside doors
- Raise shades and remove curtains
- Turn on inside lights
- Turn on outside lights
- Shut off air conditioning
- Close/seal ground and attic vents
- Move furniture away from walls
- Move outdoor items away from home
- Leave a ladder visible for firefighter use

BE HELPFUL & NEIGHBORLY

CHECK ON OTHERS

- Tell neighbors to evacuate
- Share information with others
- Ask if they have a plan to get out safely
- Offer help for those who need it
- Take your pets with you

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

IMPROVE YOUR PLAN

The KFPD website has an extended library of additional resources: www.kensingtonfire.org/prepare.

Arrange For Shelter

When an evacuation order is issued, you will need a place to go until law enforcement allows re-population. Consider your needs and what will be available for you at the time of the emergency. If you have a second residence, a friend or relative to stay with, or a hotel stay, you should already have in mind a place to go before you evacuate.

Visit the KFPD website at www.kensingtonfire.org/prepare for additional information about shelter situations during emergencies..



PLAN FOR PETS

Having a pet may change your options during an evacuation. Don't forget to include them in your planning.

Evacuation Route

Your evacuation plan starts from knowing your primary route from your house and learning alternate routes if there are changes in conditions. Register for alerts and communications as discussed in this Wildfire Preparedness Workbook to ensure you receive critical messages. Every resident should know their way to safety, and Kensington Police and Fire will provide additional evacuation route details if necessary.

Law enforcement and fire may direct you to a temporary assembly area to await transfer to a safe location. Please follow their directions promptly.

As of August 2021, evacuation route signs have been placed at the intersection of Arlington and Sunset to point toward Sunset View Cemetery. If an evacuation occurs, Kensington Police will open the gates to the cemetery to provide an opportunity for residents to evacuate with reduced congestion.

Visit the KFPD website at www.kensingtonfire.org/prepare for additional information about evacuation routes and planning for an evacuation during emergencies..

**IF YOU FEEL UNSAFE,
DO NOT WAIT TO EVACUATE.**

Late evacuation contributes to traffic jams and puts you, your neighbors, and first responders at risk. Leaving early increases your chance of survival. Every minute counts during evacuations. Be prepared by knowing where your Go Bag is, be sure you can open your garage if the power goes out, and keep pets close.

PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

To stay informed about Kensington Fire Protection District's initiatives and plans for the community, you can opt-in for communications. Visit www.kensingtonfire.org and subscribe to district communications. Just find and click the red tab "Join our mailing list."

Every home has its own unique emergency preparedness needs. You are encouraged to visit the following resources to understand better the risks of natural disasters and how to prepare.

KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
www.kensingtonfire.org/prepare

READY.GOV
www.ready.gov/prepare

CAL FIRE
www.readyforwildfire.org

**EMERGENCIES TURN
NEIGHBORS INTO HEROES.
TRAINING IS AVAILABLE**

VISIT: www.kensingtonfire.org/Community-Programs



KENSINGTON
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

FUNDED AND DEVELOPED BY



KENSINGTON
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

WWW.KENSINGTONFIRE.ORG