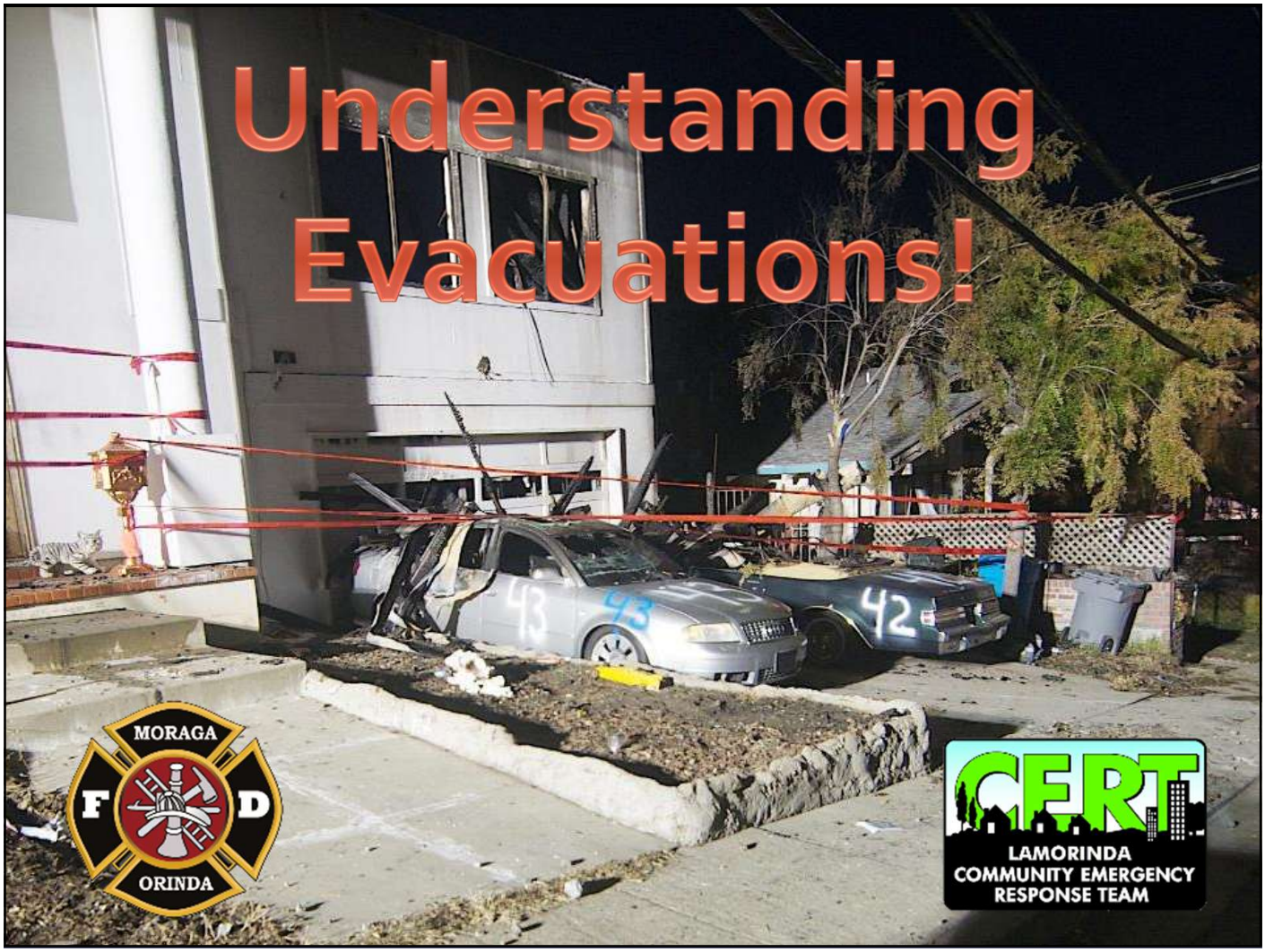

Understanding Evacuations!
MORAGA
F D
ORINDA
CERT
LAMORINDA
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TEAM

1

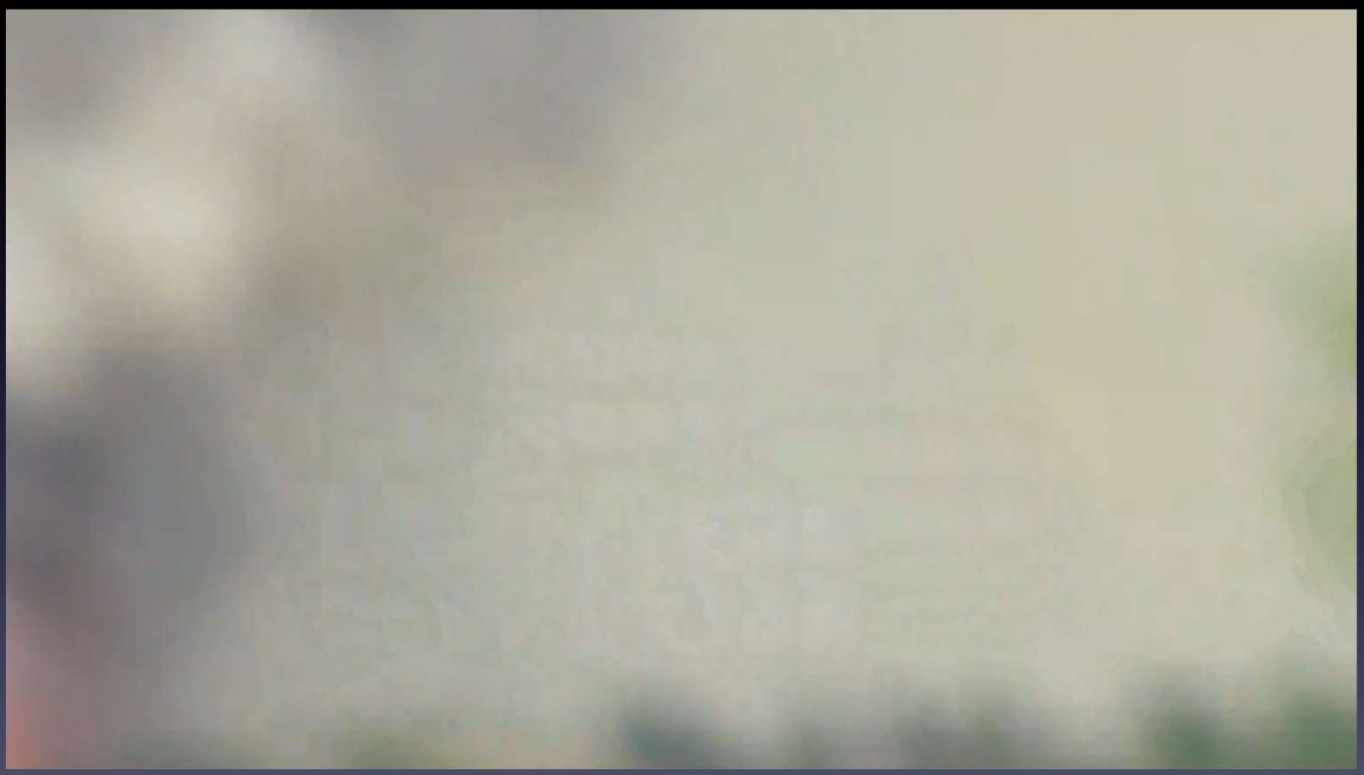
Evacuation Study

According to a Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority Evacuation Study, the 3 major factors that contribute to the most civilian fatalities during a wildfire evacuation are:

1. Extreme fire behavior conditions
2. Failures and/or delays in alerting and communications systems
3. Delays in evacuee departure due to last-minute evacuation or an inability to evacuate

2

People React Differently!



3

Evacuation Case Study #1
Oakland Hills Fire

4

Evacuation Case Study #2
Lower North Folk Fire



5

Before Evacuation

By being prepared for an evacuation before it is necessary, you can save yourself time, stress, valuables, and maybe even your life.

6

Warnings & Notifications

By remaining aware of the weather and potential wildfire conditions, residents can make more informed decisions.

- Fire Weather Watch
- Red Flag Warning
- PDS – Particularly Dangerous Situation



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Warnings & Notifications



The Community Warning System (CWS) is Contra Costa County's official emergency alert system. CWS alerts may be issued to warn people in affected areas that they are, or may soon be, in danger and should take immediate protective action to protect life or health. Sign up for CWS Alerts at *cwsalerts.com*.

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Stay Informed

- Subscribe to Nixle in your community
- Download "Watch Duty" Application
- Download the "Genasys Protect" app @ *protect.genasys.com* and "Know Your Zone"
- Download the "PulsePoint" Application and monitor local activity
- Lamorinda Emergency Channel is AM 1670

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Pack a Go-Bag

Have a Go-Bag for each member of the household, including kids and pets. Add a check list of last-minute items that you can grab and go (phone, laptop, chargers).

Go-Bags may include:

- Change of clothes/ sturdy shoes
- Map with at least 2 evacuation routes planned
- N95 masks
- Toiletry kit including medications and eyeglasses
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio with extra batteries
- Copies of important documents
- Food & water

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Pets or Large Animals

- Plan for how you will evacuate and care for your pets.
- When you evacuate, take your pets with you but understand that only service animals may be permitted in some public shelters.
- Animal shelters are frequently co-located with human shelters.

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Keep Your Gas Tank Full

Plan to evacuate with one car per family to reduce congestion and delay.

Keep a full tank of gas or fully charge your vehicle on Red Flag Days. Otherwise, keep a half tank of gas in case of an unexpected need to evacuate.

- Gas stations may be closed during emergencies and unable to pump gas during power outages.

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Know Where & How You'll Go

- Make plans to stay with friends, at a hotel, or at an evacuation center. Don't forget about your pets when planning where you will stay.
- Become familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area. Know at least 2 routes out.
  - Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.
  - Choose several destinations in different directions so you have options in an emergency.

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Have Designated Meeting Spots

- Plan places where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate neighborhood.

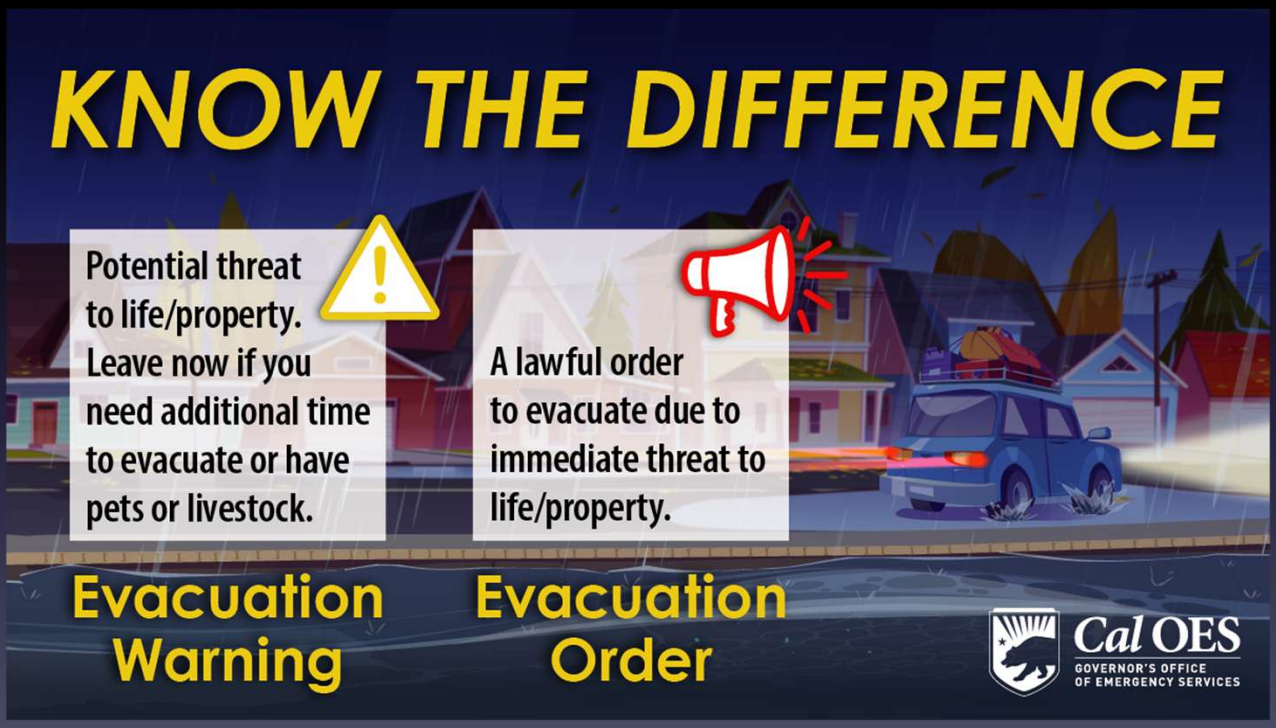
When it is Time to Evacuate

Depending on your individual or family needs and abilities, evacuate or leave the area on Red Flag Days, when you see or smell a nearby fire, during an evacuation warning, or at the latest under an evacuation order.

Warning vs Order

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Evacuation Warning vs Order



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If You Think You Should Go, GO!

- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped.
  - Don't wait to be told . . .
- Take your Go-Bag and emergency supply kit with you.
- Call, text message, or email the out-of-state contact in your family emergency communications plan and tell them where you are going and when you expect to arrive.
- Check with neighbors who may need a ride.
- Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going.

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IF TIME PERMITS:
In A Wildfire Situation (Inside)

- Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- Remove flammable window shades, curtains and close metal shutters.
- Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- Shut off the air conditioning and ceiling fans.

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IF TIME PERMITS:
In A Wildfire Situation (Outside)

- Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside, in garage, or 30' from any structures.
  - (patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, trash cans, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off propane tanks. Move small propane tanks and appliances at least 15' from structures.

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- Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running, they can affect critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on so your home is visible to firefighters in the smoke or darkness of night.
- Have a ladder available and place it at the corner of the house for firefighters to quickly access your roof
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- Prop open fences and side gates.
- Clean gutters and blow leaves away from home.

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Travel Cautiously

- Only take 1 car
- Turn on headlights
- Turn on inside air and A/C
- Turn radio to local news station
- Stay on pavement – do not take fire roads
- Be alert for road hazards such as heavy smoke, washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines
- Stay in your car and find a refuge area if you become trapped

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Travel Cautiously – No Car?

- Make prior arrangements with friends, family, or neighbors if you cannot evacuate on your own
- Leave sooner rather than waiting for the alerts
- Your go-bag should be packed light in case you need to leave on foot

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If You Become Trapped and Cannot Evacuate - Home

- In your home (hopefully you have hardened your home and done all required fuel mitigation maintenance):
  - Shelter in place – protect airways, eyes, and skin
  - Close all doors & windows; leave unlocked
  - Keep car keys, cell phone, ID, and flashlights with you
  - Gather all family members and pets and lay down near the front door (smoke and heat rise)
  - Monitor fire and be observant. Try to extinguish small spot fires near the home
  - Call 911 and let them know your location
  - Leave the house only if it becomes too hot or smoky inside or when it is safer to go outside

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If You Become Trapped and Cannot Evacuate - Car

- In your car:
  - Stay Inside as long as possible
  - Park on pavement away from vegetation
  - Turn on headlights and flashers to be more visible
  - Get below windows, under blankets, and lie on the floor to shelter from radiant heat
  - Call 911 with your location
  - Wait until fire passes and temperature drops before getting out and moving to a safe area

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If You Become Trapped and Cannot Evacuate

- Seek Temporary Refuge:
  - Wide parking lot, ballfield, house or commercial building with a non-combustible roof, siding, and zone zero
  - Location far from vegetation or other structures
  - If in vehicle, stay there with windows up
  - Protect airways, eyes, and skin
  - Leave the area once directed by emergency personnel or when it is safe to do so

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Returning Home

- Plan on being away for several days following an evacuation for a wildfire
- You may need identification to return to your neighborhood
- When officials re-open the area, watch for downed power lines and other hazards
- By Knowing Your Zone, check Genasys Protect to find the status of your evacuation zone
- At home, check propane tanks, gas lines, and look for embers or smoldering fire
- Remain on alert for anything that might rekindle a fire
- Wildfires and Evacuations are traumatic events. Give yourself the space and time to process and recover as you move forward

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Evacuation Information Links

- www.mofd.org
- https://cwsalerts.com
- https://lamorindacert.org
- https://protect.genasys.com
- https://app.watchduty.org
- https://www.fire.ca.gov/prepare/get-ready-go
- https://www.ready.gov/evacuation
- https://Firesafemarin.org/prepare-yourself/evacuation-guide/
- Pacific Palisades Timeline of Evacuation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9YSU-Mom1Jk

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