



# EMERGENCY EVACUATION, ROAD CLOSURE & SHELTERING FACT SHEET

The purpose of this document is to provide Ventura County Agencies including law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services with knowledge and criteria relating to emergency evacuations and road closures.

## EVACUATION TYPES

### Evacuation Warning

- **An Evacuation Warning** may be initiated by law enforcement, Fire Departments, Public Health Agencies, and in rare cases federal agencies. Evacuation warnings are issued when residents should begin preparing for a potential evacuation order to be issued.
  - The threat to lives is **NOT YET IMMINENT**.
  - Due to the potential for rapidly changing conditions to develop into a serious threat, residents are advised to prepare for the issuance of an **evacuation order**.
- Access to the area under an evacuation warning may be restricted by a soft or hard closure.
- Residents should prepare personal belongings including pets and livestock for evacuation.
- Advance measures should be taken to prevent harm to individuals with mobility issues or other types of access and functional needs.

### Evacuation Order

- **Evacuation Orders** may be initiated by law enforcement, Fire Departments, Public Health Agencies, and in rare cases some federal agencies when residents are requested to vacate the area due to an imminent threat.
  - Conditions exist that **SERIOUSLY IMPERIL** or **ENDANGER** the lives of those in the defined area.
  - The danger is **IMMINENT!**
- All non-essential persons are requested to leave the area immediately.
- Generally, residents will not be forcibly removed from their own property however those found to be on public property including roadways and public parks may be subject to removal from the area.
- Once out of the area, the general public (including residents) will not be permitted to return until conditions permit.
- Any non-essential persons found by officials traveling through, or loitering in, the area will be escorted out and not permitted to re-enter the area. Those found to be interfering with the disaster response are **SUBJECT TO ARREST**.
- Utility workers in work vehicles including Southern California Edison, the Gas Company, etc shall be permitted beyond closures for official business only.
- Pursuant to §409.5(d) p.c., nothing shall prevent a duly authorized representative of any news service, newspaper, or radio or television station or network from entering the area unless the area is determined to be a crime scene.

### Shelter-in-Place Order

- Conditions exist that may **ENDANGER** the lives of those in a defined area.
- Access to the area under a shelter in place order may or may not be restricted by a soft or hard closure.
- Residents should select an interior room or rooms within their home or business with no or few windows, and taking refuge there. All doors and windows should be locked to prevent unauthorized entry.
- Wait for an "All Clear" notification from a news radio station.



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## ROAD CLOSURES

### Hard Road Closure

- Law enforcement will prevent the public from entering the area on foot or by vehicle.
  - In the case of a long-term closure, barricades may be used to maintain the closure in lieu of law enforcement personnel.
- Pursuant to §409.5(d) p.c., nothing shall prevent a duly authorized representative of any news service, newspaper, or radio or television station or network from entering the area unless it is a secured crime scene.

### Soft Road Closure

- Closed to all traffic except Fire, Law Enforcement, and critical incident resources (i.e. utility, Caltrans, City/County Roads, etc)
- Those residents who reside in the impacted area may be allowed access with ID.

### Resident Only Closure

- Soft Closure with the additional allowance of residents and local government agencies assisting with response and recovery.

## NOTIFICATION OF RESIDENTS DURING AN EVACUATION

The Ventura County Sheriff Office of Emergency Services will assist all agencies with the development and implementation of evacuation warnings/orders during events of significance. OES personnel will respond to the incident command post and will work with the incident commander or designee to identify areas requiring evacuation. When appropriate, this information will be disseminated through the variety of notification systems available.

### **These systems include the following:**

- VC Alert Emergency Notification System – Telephonic notification of residents within a geographic area
- VCemergency.com – Realtime mapping of evacuations areas, road closures and shelters
- Wireless Emergency Alerts – Similar to Amber Alerts, these alerts notify all cell phones within a geography area
- Local media including TV, radio & social media & agency website

**Evacuation coordination assistance can be initiated by calling the Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services Duty Officer at (805) 947-8210.**



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## EMERGENCY EVACUATION SHELTERS

In the event an evacuation order is issued to any residential area that may last an extended period of time it is recommended an evacuation shelter be activated to provide temporary refuge for evacuees.

The lead agency for shelter coordination in Ventura County is the Ventura County Human Services Agency. At the onset of an emergency event, the Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services will initiate a shelter coordination conference call to include the Ventura County Human Services Agency, the City having jurisdiction for the incident, Ventura County Animal Services, the American Red Cross and Ventura County Behavioral Services. During this call, an evacuation shelter location will be selected, and staffing will be determined.

Due to limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, emergency congregate shelters will be limited in size and may take longer to setup.

**To request the activation of a Red Cross Shelter please call the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services on-call Duty Officer at 805-947-8210.**