EVACUATION PLANNING

DEPARTMENT OF
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
COUNTY OF MONTEREY

Many kinds of emergencies can cause you to have to evacuate. In some cases, you may have a day or two to prepare while other situations might call for an immediate evacuation.

Planning is vital to making sure that you can evacuate quickly and safely no matter what the circumstances.

PREPAREDNESS

Stay informed by registering for Emergency Alerts to receive area-specific emergency information, including evacuation orders and street closures.

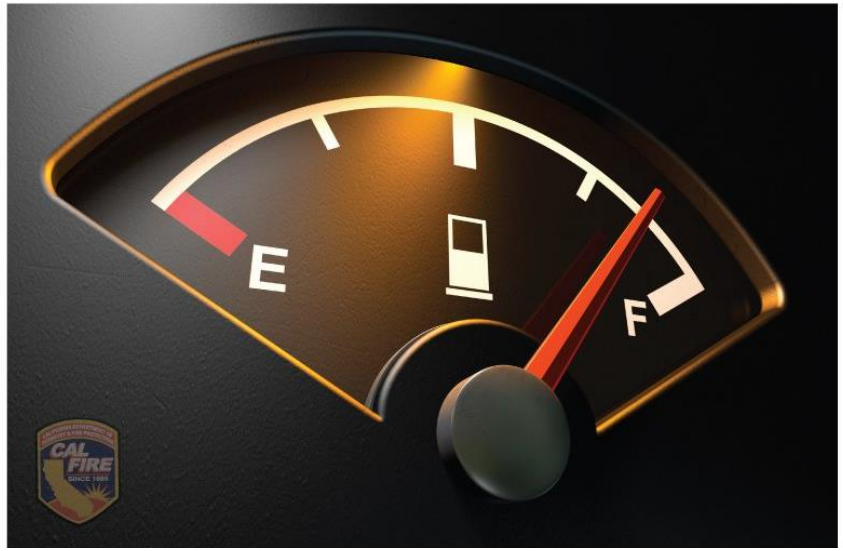
Alertmontereycounty.org or text your zip code to 65513

Assemble supplies that are ready for evacuation

Ensure your vehicle is ready.

PRE-EVACUATION PREPARATION

Always keep the gas tank at least half full in your vehicles



PLANNING

Create a family emergency plan

Emergency plan should include:

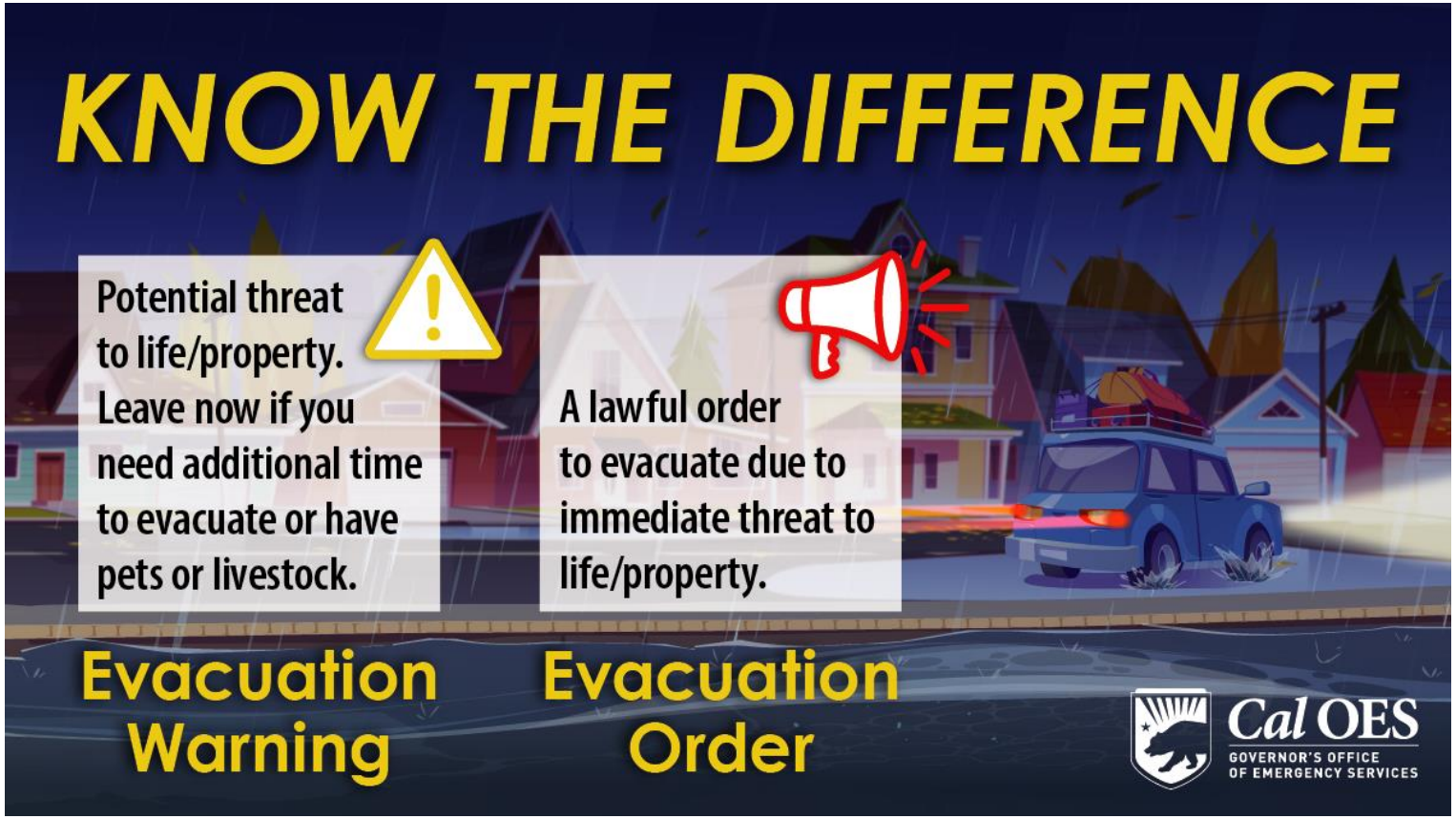
- Evacuation route
- Family communication plan
- How often update emergency kits
- Shelter plan (or reunification site)
- Phone numbers of all family members
- Emergency contacts for out of area
- Escape routes
- Emergency meeting spots (3, with 1 being out of area)
- Pet plan (if needed)
- Important documents (in firesafe/waterproof bag or box)

Practice your plan

- Visit emergency meeting places
- Designate roles and responsibilities
- Practice evacuation and escape routes
- Review your emergency essentials and add/replace as needed
- Update emergency contact information
- Encourage neighbors to participate/share contact information.

DURING AN EVACUATION

Understand the alerts



Procedure

- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped.
- Contact Monterey County SPCA if need assistance with large animals.
- Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, hat.
- Initiate family communication plan.
- Secure your home by closing and locking doors, windows.
- Unplug electrical equipment such as TV's, small appliances.
- Check with neighbors who may need a ride. Carpool when possible, to help avoid congestion.
- Follow evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts as they may be blocked.
- Be alert for road hazards.

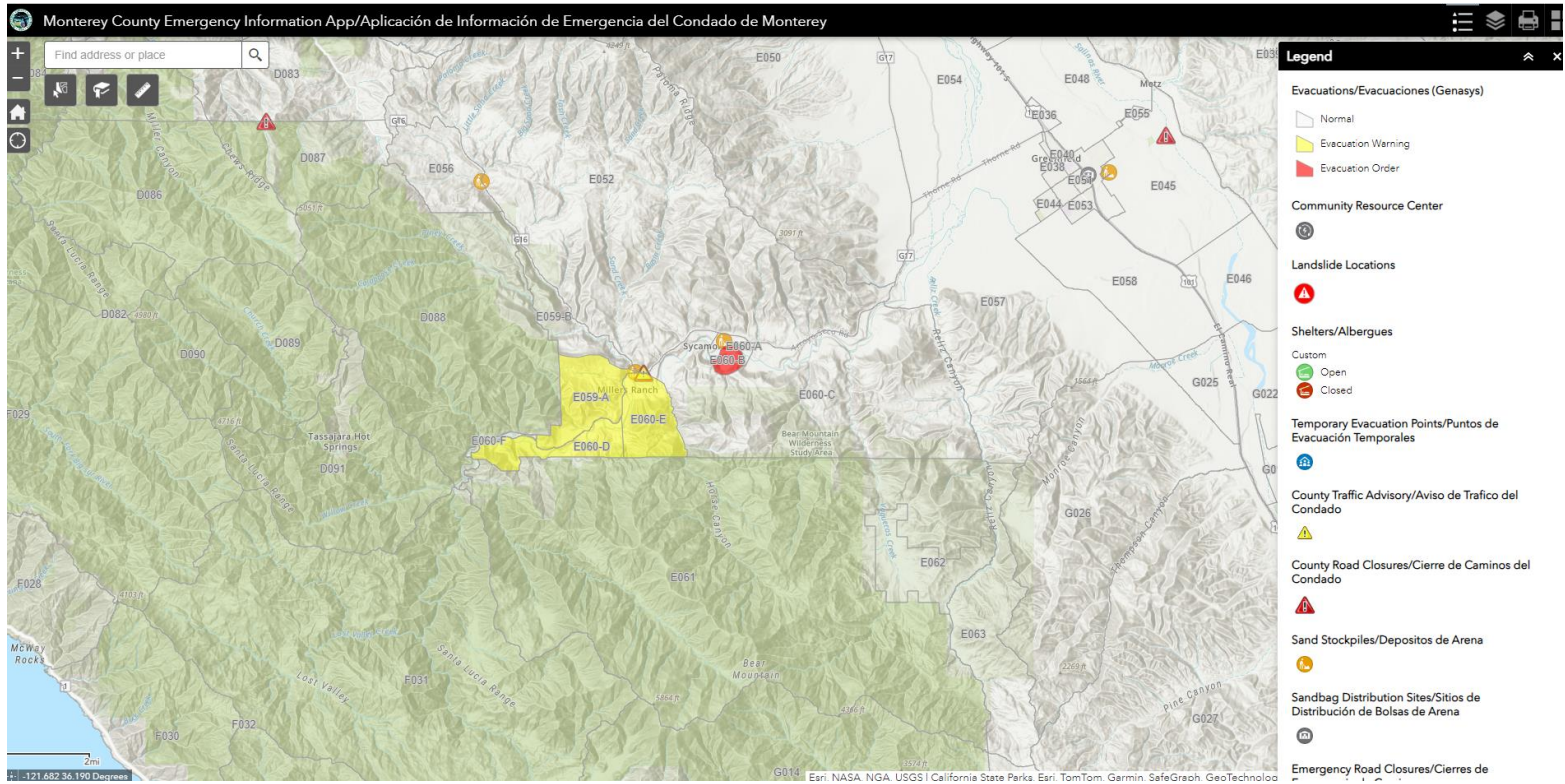
AFTER AN EVACUATION

Returning home

- Return only when officials have instructed to do so.
- Expect hazards and utility disruption- proceed with caution.
- Walk carefully around outside, look for damage, loose power lines, gas leaks.
- Bring a flashlight and turn it on before entering.
- Enter carefully and watch for hazards (broken glass, loose boards, etc.)
- Open windows to air out and check for any leaks/breaks.
- Check with local authorities before using any water and pump out wells- water could be contaminated.

COUNTY RESOURCES

Know your zone

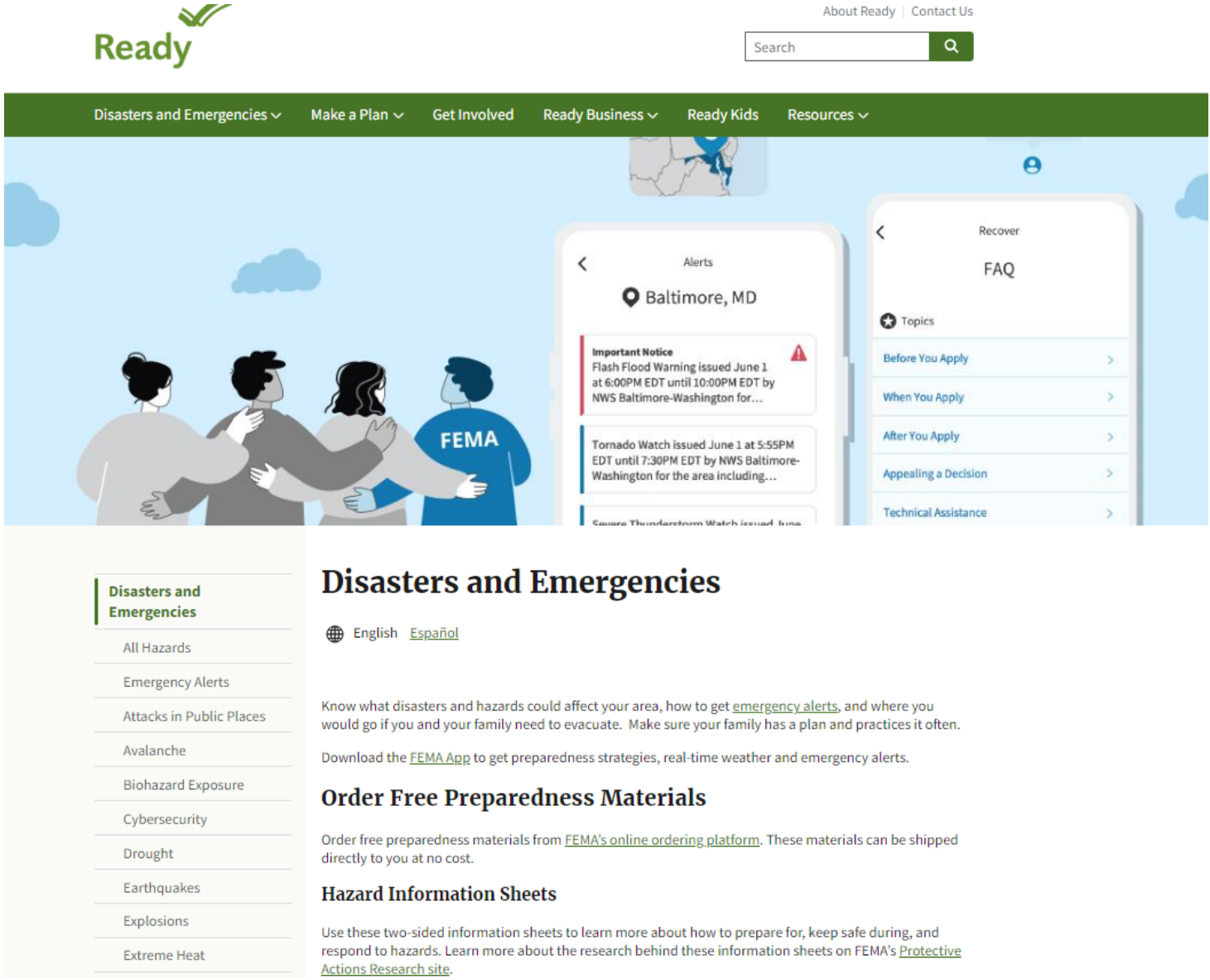


Additional resources

- **Register for alerts:** www.alertmontereycounty.org
- **DEM website:** www.readymontereycounty.org
- **SPCA:** www.spcamc.org
- **PG&E Emergency page:** www.pgealerts.alerts.pge.com
- **National Weather Service:** www.weather.gov

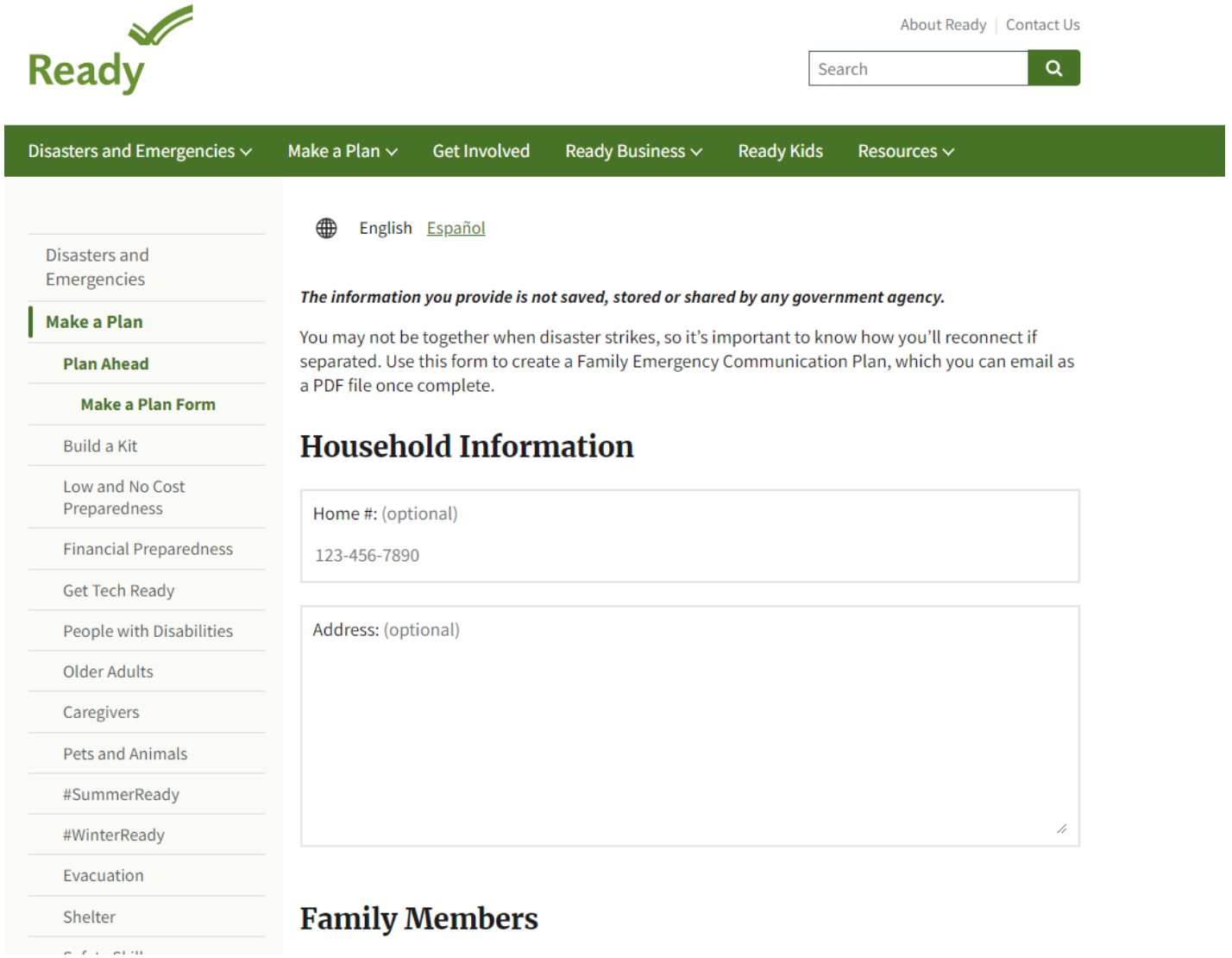
Preparedness materials

www.ready.gov

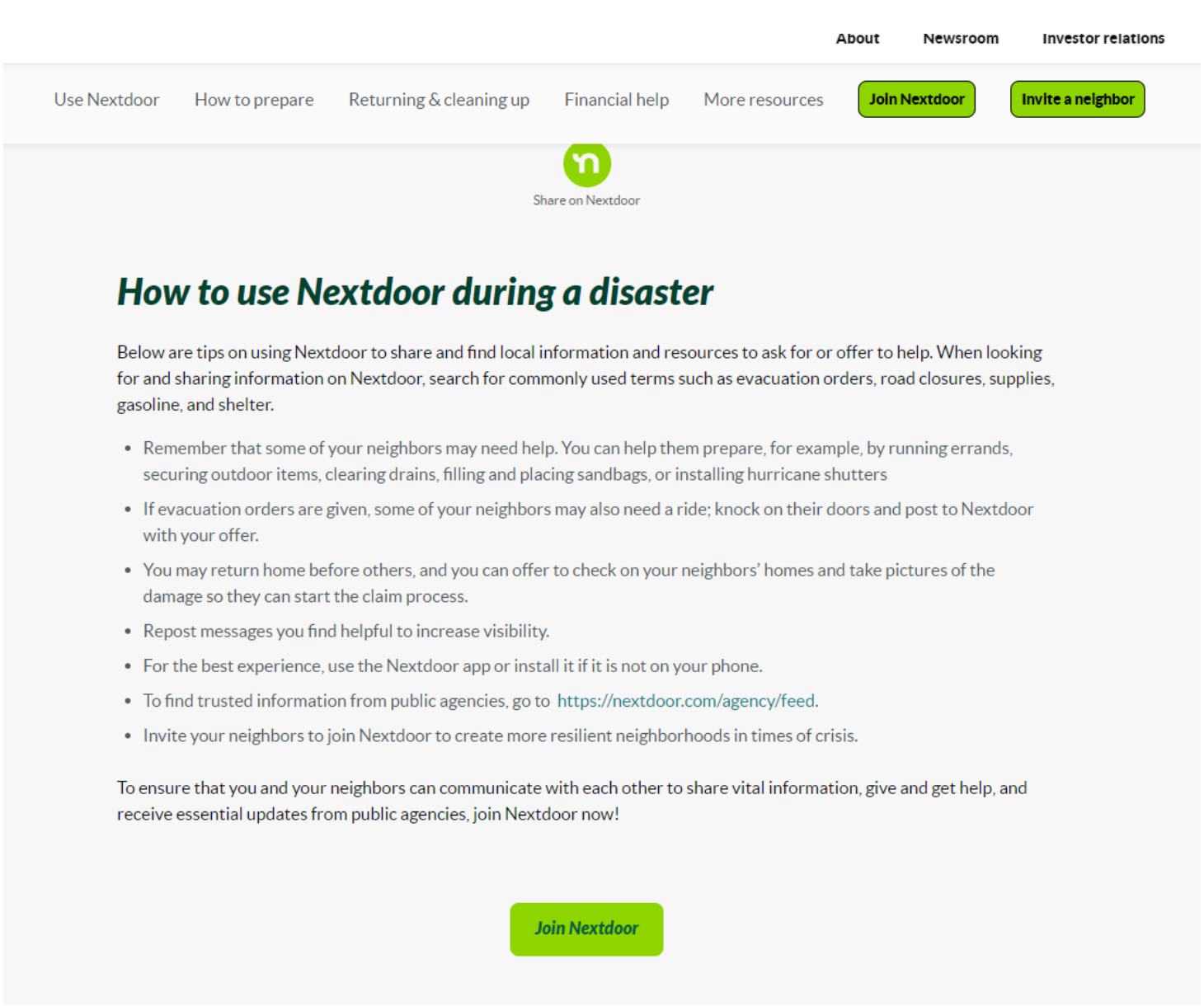


Planning materials

www.ready.gov

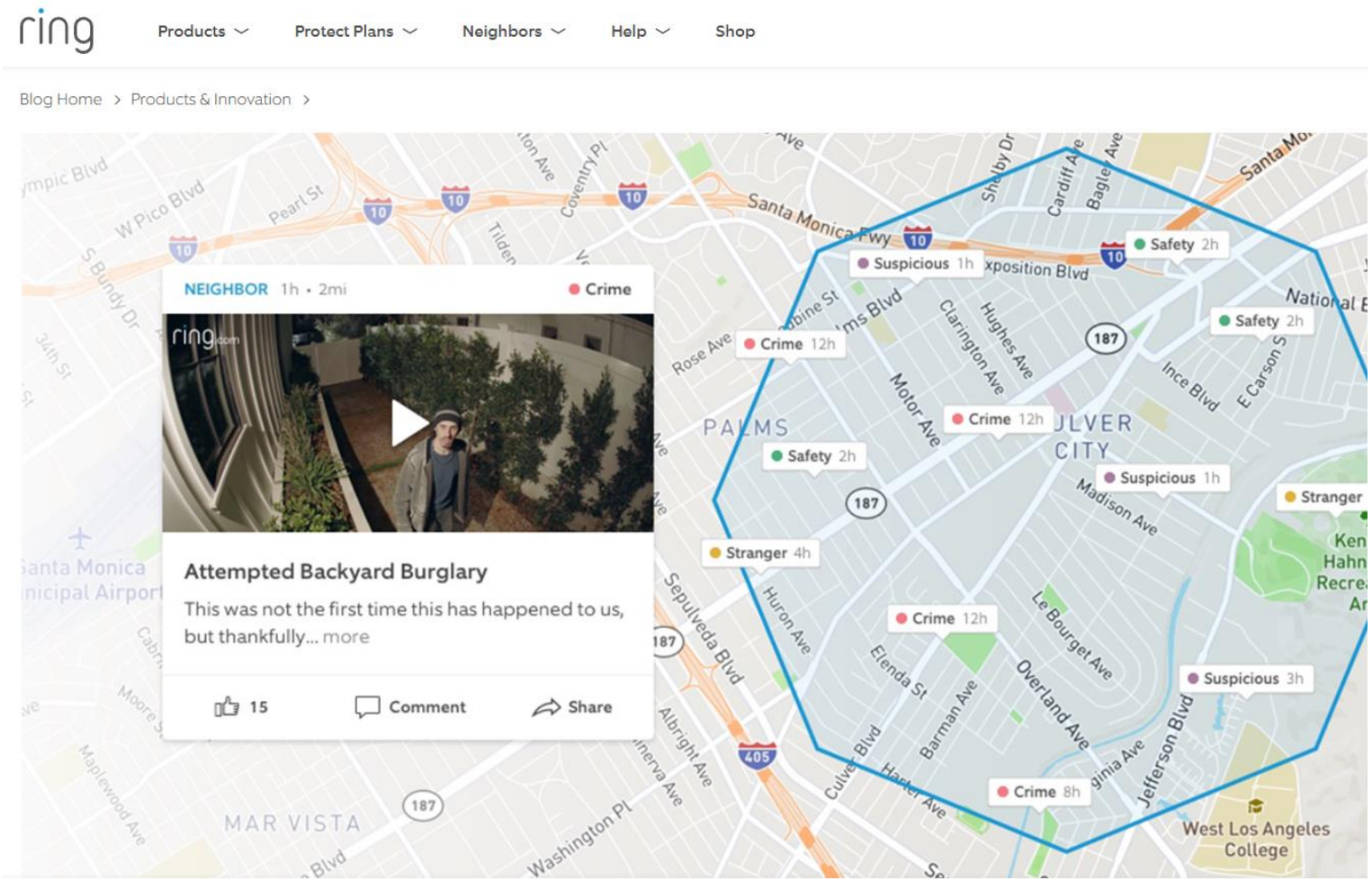


Neighborhood communication tools: nextdoor.com



Neighborhood communication tools:

Ring.com/neighbors



Evacuation checklist:

readymontereycounty.org/prepare/evacuation-guide

WILDFIRE EVACUATION CHECKLIST

Learn more at **https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/go-evacuation-guide/**

Alert Monterey County

If evacuation is anticipated and time allows, follow this checklist to give your family and home the best chance of survival. Complete the Family Communication Plan on the opposite side for each family member and keep in your wildfire and emergency "Go Kit(s)."

EVACUATION NOTIFICATIONS & INFORMATION *Register for Alert Marin and Nixle to receive evacuation and fire information notices!*

ALERT MONTEREYCOUNTY alertmontereycounty.org **when** emergency action **is needed** at a **specific address**: wildfires, imminent flooding, evacuations, or other public safety incidents where lives may be at risk; critical information about evacuation routes, hazards, and shelters. *Online registration required!*

NIXLE www.nixle.com
Used to provide **incident information**. Text MocoOES to 888777 and include any and all zip codes you want to be alerted for in your text. For daily fire updates for the River and Carmel fires text MCFIRES2020 to 888777.

211
You can call or text 211. Operators can provide updated fire and evacuation information. You can also text "fire" or "wildfire" to 211-211, add your zip code and receive links to current information.

EVACUATION ORDER: Leave now! Evacuate immediately. Do not delay to gather valuables or prepare your home. Follow any directions given in the evacuation order.

EVACUATION WARNING: Evacuate as soon as possible. A short delay to gather your *Go Kit* and prepare your home may be OK. Leave if you feel unsafe or conditions change.

SHELTER IN PLACE: Stay in your current location or the safest nearby building or unburnable area. May be required when evacuation is impossible, too dangerous, or unnecessary.

ALWAYS:

COMMUNICATIONS

- ☐ Keep your cell phone fully charged.
- ☐ Notify an out-of-area contact of your phone number, location and status. Update regularly.
- ☐ Leave a note with your contact info and out-of-area contact taped to fridge or inside a front window.
- ☐ Check on or call neighbors to alert them to prepare at first sign of fire.

ON YOUR PERSON

- ☐ Dress all family members in long sleeves and long pants; heavy cotton or wool is best, no matter how hot it is.
- ☐ Wear full coverage goggles, leather gloves, head protection.
- ☐ Cover faces with a dry cotton or wool bandanna or scarf over an N95 respirator. Tie long hair back.
- ☐ Carry a headlamp *and* flashlight (even during the day).
- ☐ Carry car keys, wallet, ID, cell phone, and spare battery.
- ☐ Drink plenty of water, stay hydrated.
- ☐ Put "Go Kits" *(reverse)* in your vehicle.

PETS & ANIMALS

- ☐ Locate your pets and place in carriers NOW. You won't be able to catch them when the fire approaches.
- ☐ Be sure your pets wear tags and are registered with microchips.
- ☐ Place carriers (with your pets in them) near the front door, with fresh water and extra food.
- ☐ Prepare horses and large animals for transport and consider moving them to a safe location early, before

IF TIME ALLOWS:

INSIDE THE HOUSE

- ☐ Shut all windows and doors (interior too) and leave them *unlocked*.
- ☐ Remove combustible window shades and curtains; close metal shutters.
- ☐ Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows.
- ☐ Leave indoor and outdoor lights on.
- ☐ Shut off HVAC and ceiling fans.

OUTSIDE & IN NEIGHBORHOOD

- ☐ Place combustible outdoor items (patio furniture, toys, doormats, trash cans, etc.) in garage or 30' from structures (optional: place in a pool).
- ☐ Shut off gas at the meter or propane tank; move small tanks at least 15' away from combustibles.
- ☐ Connect garden hoses with squeeze-grip nozzles to outdoor spigots for use by firefighters.
- ☐ Fill water buckets and place around outside of house, especially near decks and fences.
- ☐ Clean your gutters and blow leaves away from house.
- ☐ Back your car into driveway, loaded, with doors and windows closed.
- ☐ Prop open fence and side gates.
- ☐ Place ladder(s) at the corner(s) of structures for firefighters.
- ☐ Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or metal covers (even duct tape will protect from ember entry) if time allows.
- ☐ Patrol your property and monitor conditions. Leave if spot fires ignite or

WHEN YOU LEAVE:

- ☐ Leave immediately if ordered.
- ☐ Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel unsafe or conditions change; leave early if unsure.
- ☐ Assist elderly or disabled neighbors.
- ☐ Carpool with neighbors to reduce traffic.
- ☐ Take only essential vehicles with adequate fuel.
- ☐ In your car, turn on headlights, close windows, turn on inside air and AC, tune to local radio.
- ☐ Drive slowly and defensively; be observant.
- ☐ The best evacuation route is usually the one you know best. Take the fastest *paved* route to a valley floor, away from the fire if possible.
- ☐ Proceed downhill, away from the fire if possible. Know at least two routes.
- ☐ If roads are impassable or you are trapped: take shelter in a building, car, or an open area; park in an *outside turn* if trapped on a hillside; stay far from vegetation; look for wide roads, parking lots, playing fields, etc.
- ☐ If trapped, you are better protected inside a building or vehicle.
- ☐ Don't abandon your car in the road if passage is impossible. If you must leave your car, park it off the road and consider other options for shelter.
- ☐ Evacuate on foot *only as a last resort*.
- ☐ Don't evacuate by fire road, uphill, or into open-space areas with unburned vegetation.

COUNTY OF MONTEREY

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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