KNOW ALL OF YOUR WAYS OUT

When disaster strikes, residents may be asked to evacuate their homes. The safest route out of your neighborhood may not be the typical route you would take. Know all the ways out and listen for instructions from emergency personnel on which way to go when asked to evacuate.

Learn your routes at srcity.org/knowyourwaysout.

SUBSCRIBE TO SOC ALERT

Register for emergency notifications at socoalert.com to receive evacuation notices by phone call, text, and/or email. Evacuation notices sent through SoCoAlert will use the following terminology:

Evacuation Order:
You must evacuate immediately due to imminent threat to life.

Evacuation Warning:
There is potential threat to life and property within a given timeframe. Begin preparing yourself, your animals, and your property for a potential evacuation order.

Shelter-In-Place:
Stay secure at your current location. This may be required when evacuation is impossible, too dangerous, or unnecessary.

HEAR THE HI/LO, TIME TO GO!

Depending on the emergency, the City’s ability to reach you via traditional alert and warning tools may be limited. Santa Rosa police and fire department vehicles are outfitted with Hi/Lo sirens. These European-style, two-tone sirens make a different sound than traditional sirens and will only be used in an emergency to alert residents within specific areas to evacuate. If you hear the Hi/Lo, it’s time to go.

Listen to the Hi/Lo siren by scanning this QR code (right) with the camera on your mobile device.

PREPARE HOUSEHOLD AHEAD OF TIME

Update your “Go Bag” with COVID-19 necessities, like face coverings and sanitization supplies. In certain emergencies, you may need to manually open your garage door, shut off your gas, or take other important actions. Prepare now at srcity.org/readytoevacuate.

KEEP EVACUATION CHECKLIST VISIBLE

Keep this checklist of pre-evacuation steps visible — near your front door, on the refrigerator, or next to the garage door opener — and follow the checklist (back of page) when time allows.

COVID-19 means you need to prepare for an emergency differently. Check out the new COVID-19 tips in green.

More questions? View FAQs at srcity.org/evacFAQs
Prepare Yourself & Family

☐ Prearrange a safe place to go, out of the local area, in lieu of a shelter. If possible, go to friends or family in a location where COVID-19 infection rates are low.

☐ Listen to the radio and follow local evacuation instructions including the location of the Temporary Evacuation Point (TEP). If you don’t have a plan for where to go right away, TEPs provide a safe area for you to park and remain in your vehicle, socially distant from other households, while you figure out your next move or are referred to another location.

☐ Carry car keys, wallet, ID, cell phone, and spare battery.

☐ Leave a note informing others of the date you are leaving and where you are going.

Prepare Your Pets & Animals

☐ Place carriers (with your pets in them) near the front door, with fresh water and extra food so they are ready to go.

☐ Prepare horses and large animals for transport and consider moving them to a safe location early, before evacuation is ordered.

☐ Take your pets but understand that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters.

Prepare Inside the House

☐ Shut all windows and doors (interior too).

☐ 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.

☐ Leave freezers and refrigerators plugged in unless there is a risk of flooding. If there is damage to your home and you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas, and electricity before leaving.

Prepare Outside & Around the Neighborhood

☐ Check on or call neighbors to alert them of emergency. Assist elderly and those with access and functional needs.

☐ Only take essential vehicles with adequate fuel. Back your car into driveway, loaded with “Go Bags” and other necessities, leave doors and windows closed.

☐ Place combustible outdoor items (patio furniture, toys, doormats, trash cans, etc.) in garage or 30’ from structures (optional: place in a pool).

☐ Consider need to 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. Don’t leave sprinklers on or water running – they are ineffective and can reduce critical water pressure for the entire neighborhood.

Follow this guidance once you evacuate:

- In your car, turn on headlights, close windows, turn on inside air and AC.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.
- Drive slowly and defensively; be observant.
- Proceed downhill and away from the hazard if possible.
- Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. Do not drive into flooded areas.
- 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.
- Have temporary refuge areas pre-planned in your neighborhood if needed; this includes large parking lots, large open lush green grass areas, etc.
- 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.