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To: bburnett@sonic.net

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Fire Safe Occidental August 21, 2020 Newsletter



Emergency Alerts

- How to get them?
- Why also add a weather radio?
- FREE weather radios available!

This week's Sonoma County fires remind all of us how important it is to receive alerts should an emergency be happening closer to our area. Although notification Tuesday went to a larger group than intended, usually they will be geo-fenced to go only to people in specific zip codes or even smaller geographic areas. If you haven't already **signed up for Nixle and SoCoAlerts**, please do so today at the links provided below.

Alerts often can be unreliable here because the greater Occidental area has so many trees, valleys, and ridges. This inspired FSO to research **NOAA weather radios that can supplement your ability to receive timely notification** of fires, evacuations, or other emergencies.

You can read more about our findings below. Some can be complicated to set up, so make sure you read these details before buying one for yourself.

Lastly, FSO received support from Lynda Hopkin's office to place weather radios throughout our community. We will be **gifting these radios** to two people in every neighborhood to ensure each small area has redundancy in alert systems. Neighbors with these radios will commit to repeat any emergency alerts within their neighborhood via automatic text or voicemail messaging systems we are helping each neighborhood acquire. If you are interested in being one of your neighborhood's designated people to receive a free NOAA radio, please contact your neighborhood leader, or email Carolyn Sell (carolynsell@gmail.com).

Do you have a vacation rental in the Occidental area?

We will also be offering free weather radios to the first 8 property owners who sign up with FSO as a vacation rental owner. We are developing an emergency package you can keep in your rentals that will include evacuation maps, emergency phone numbers, and more to support you caring for your guests. Sign up by emailing FireSafeOccidental@gmail.com and supplying us your name, email, phone number, and rental property address.

Here's to a well-informed neighborhood supporting each other's safety and well-being!



<https://socoemergency.org/prepare/get-ready/stay-informed/socoalert/>



<https://www.nixle.com/>

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

This system of the Federal Communications Commission works exclusively by sending a text message to your cell phone, much like an Amber Alert. A WEA message is accompanied by a special warning tone. To activate this alert, make sure you cell phone settings are set up to accept these emergency and public safety alerts.

<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/wireless-emergency-alerts-wea>



Our recommended NOAA Weather Radio

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Stay safe and keep in touch. Fire Safe Occidental is always looking for people who can get involved or ideas you may have about how we can best serve our community.



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