



Emergency Preparedness Forum THIRD WALNUT CREEK MUTUAL

Preparing Together for Recovery and Resilience

September is National Preparedness Month and Third Walnut Creek Mutual urges its residents to gain free and easy access to three real-time alert opportunities offered by Rossmoor Public Safety, county and city civil authorities that benefit the safety and well-being of all households in Third Mutual.

Residents must know their evacuation zone number listed on their entry gates — emergency alerts will come to residents by zone number and not by street address. We have six evacuation zones covering entries in Third Mutual: WCR-001, WCR-003, WCR-004, WCR-005, WCR-006 and WCR-008.

Residents should opt into five emergency alert systems that will offer each household real-time disaster and emergency advisories and alerts as well as specific instructions in how to remain safe and resilient following a major event or incident. These instructions will include what evacuation zones are impacted, what shelters or cooling centers are open and other specific directions on what residents need to do post-disaster to remain as safe and resilient as possible.

The five strongly recommended emergency alert systems are (1) Rossmoor Nixle, (2) Contra Costa County Community Warning System, (3) WCAAlert, the FEMA weather and emergency app and MyShake (alerting users to earthquakes 4.5 magnitude or higher).

Rossmoor Nixle messages come in three modes — alerts, advisories and community messages. Go to Rossmoor Emergency Preparedness Organization's web site [www.rossmoorepo.org] and at the bottom of the home page find a Rossmoor Nixle link. Follow the prompts to register your cell phone. Or, text "rossmoor" to 333-111 and you're opted-in immediately. Or, call Rossmoor Public Safety's Nixle registration phone number [1 (925)

988-7688 and follow their directions. Or, complete an on-line Public Safety form and submit it to the Rossmoor Public Safety Office. Rossmoor Nixle has been a champion community disaster and emergency messaging asset since 2017 — sign up today to receive Rossmoor-targeted timely alerts to maximize your personal safety and well-being.

The second vital and necessary alert system is Contra Costa County's all-hazards Community Warning System (CCC CWS) which is activated only for life-threatening events by the County Office of the Sheriff. These alerts include incident information and protective actions TWCM residents should take immediately to safeguard their lives and property. Go to www.cwsalerts.com/registration to sign up. Follow the prompts to create an account to register your cell phone. Or, you can print out their on-line registration form and mail it to Community Warning System, 1850 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94533. Or, call in your request to (925) 655-001. Program CWS's caller ID number into your cell phone so you do not assume the alerts are spam calls: 1 (925) 655-0195.

The third vital community alert system for all Third Mutual residents is Walnut Creek's "WCAAlert" which is an official Walnut Creek Police Department alert system for city residents warning us of potentially damaging emergencies and disasters — earthquakes, landslides, severe weather, flooding, droughts and wildfires. Sign up by texting "WCALERT" to 888-777. Visit WCAAlert's web site (www.walnut-creek.org) to set up a household account for these alerts. If you need assistance completing your WCAAlert registration or you do not own a cell phone, call the Civic Park Community Center at 1 (925) 943-5852 Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 1 PM for personal assistance getting registered.

Third Mutual's Emergency Preparedness Forum urges residents to listen through to the entire messaging coming from any one of these crucial alert systems and to click on all links for more detailed instructions on how to remain safe — for instance, you will receive official notice of nearby shelters, cooling centers, best evacuation routes and shelter-in-place orders.

Our Forum reminds all residents it is for your sole responsibility to ready your household for future disasters and emergencies striking Tice Valley and

beyond — especially with the extreme weather events we face with increasing frequency and ferocity. While preparedness is an individual responsibility for each household here in Rossmoor, it is also a collective effort with Third Mutual, GRF Public Safety, Rossmoor EPO and partners and stakeholders inside and outside our vulnerable senior community.

Spend the second week of National Preparedness Month registering for all five of these emergency alert systems to bolster your household's resilience and readiness for disasters and emergencies — knowledge is power!