



VISTA BURN AREA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. When should I evacuate?

Resident should leave their homes when conditions pose a threat to life, property or the environment.

2. What is the difference between voluntary and mandatory evacuations?

Evacuations orders may be initiated by Law Enforcement, Fire Departments, Public Health Agencies, and in rare cases federal agencies.

Mandatory Evacuation orders are issued when the threat to life and property is imminent. All non-essential persons are requested to leave the area immediately.

Voluntary Evacuation orders are issued when threat to life and property is not yet imminent; however, residents should begin preparing to leave their home for a potential mandatory evacuation order to be issued. Residents should prepare personal belongings including pets and livestock for evacuation.

3. In what direction should I evacuate?

If possible, you should evacuate to the south toward the city of Ventura.

4. How will I be alerted?

The National Weather Service will issue flash flood watches, advisories and warnings to residents when there is forecasted or observed rainfall rates that could cause threat to life or damage to property.

The Sheriff's Office will issue alerts through the VC Alert emergency notification system, through Sheriff's Nixle, Social Media – Sheriff's Twitter, Facebook and via our emergency website – www.vcemergency.com.

5. What is VC Alert and how can I sign up to receive emergency notifications?

VC Alert is an emergency notification system that may be used to deliver alerts when there is a threat to the health or safety of residents. Residents can sign up to receive emergency alerts by:

Website: www.vcalert.org

Telephone: 805-648-9283

Text **VCALERT** to **313131** to complete the registration form

6. Where can I get more information during an emergency?

The Ventura County Emergency Operation Center will activate a Hotline number and emergency webpage to disseminate important incident information.

Ventura County Emergency Operation Center Hotline: 805-465-6650

Emergency Webpage: www.vcemergency.com

7. Where do I get Sandbags?

The Ventura County Fire Department will provide a limited amount of Sandbags at Fire Station 23, 25 Kunkle St, Oak View, CA 93022 to residents or you may visit www.readyventuracounty.org for a full list of vendors that provide sandbags in Ventura County.

8. What are the potential hazards?

Debris Flow: A debris flow is a form of rapid mass movement in which a combination of loose soil, rock, organic matter, air, and water mobilize as slurry that flows downslope. Debris flows are commonly caused by intense surface-water flow, due to heavy precipitation or rapid snowmelt that erodes and mobilizes loose soil or rock on steep slopes. Debris flows also commonly mobilize from other types of landslides that occur on steep slopes, are nearly saturated, and consist of a large proportion of silt- and sand-sized material.

Flooding: Excessive amounts of rainfall can happen throughout the year, putting your property at risk. Properties directly affected by fires and those located below or downstream of burn areas are most at risk of flooding.

Flash Floods: A flash flood is a rapid flooding of low-lying areas in less than 6 hours, which can be caused by intense rainfall. Flash floods are known to roll boulders, tear out trees, and destroy buildings and bridges.

For more information, please contact Ventura County Sheriff's OES at (805) 654-2551.