



SONOMA READY

Sonoma County is more prepared for disasters than ever before

In October 2017, 173 square miles burned, 5,300 homes were destroyed, and 24 lives were lost in the Sonoma Complex Fires. Sonoma County staff and officials are working to recover and increase our capacity to respond to future fires and other disasters. Here's how we have improved local policies and committed tens of millions of dollars to become a stronger, more resilient community:

We are improving our disaster alert and warning systems to reach everyone.



**WIRELESS
EMERGENCY
ALERTS**

No alert system is perfect. This is why we use multiple, redundant alert mechanisms to inform the community when there is an emergency. These include Nixle, SoCo Alert, and the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, or IPAWS which includes the Wireless Emergency Alert system and the Emergency

Alert System. We continue to work towards making systems better.

We make sure all jurisdictions within Sonoma County are working together. Public safety staff now meet weekly to review relevant weather conditions and risks, plan, and improve alerting methods.

Evacuation routes throughout the county are being planned to help people get out safely when needed.



We are managing our environment and homes for wildfire.



Through the Fuels Reduction and Landscape Resiliency Campaign, we are reducing wildfire risk through vegetation management, including controlled burns, property inspections, and grazing projects.

We are hosting community workshops to educate home and landowners about best practices to manage their land and make their homes more fire resistant.



The Sonoma County Energy Independence Program (SCEIP) offers education and advice on home hardening, such as fire resistant materials like roofing and siding. This Program offers financing opportunities for these types of home improvements.



Learn how YOU can be prepared at SoCoEmergency.org

We have new early detection tools.

Fire cameras have been installed throughout the county to provide early detection of wildfires and give fire fighters real time information. More cameras will be installed in the North Bay this year.

And, a system of stream and rain gauges have been installed throughout burn areas to monitor potential dangers and risks of debris flows and flash floods.



We increased capacity of our County Staff to prepare for and manage disasters.

We created the Department of Emergency Management and hired new staff to focus on critical topics such as community preparedness and engagement and alert and warning systems. We are one of only a handful of counties in California to have a dedicated full time person committed to alerts and warnings.

County staff are required to serve as disaster workers during an emergency and designated staff are always available to activate alerts when necessary.

We centralized public communications and increased accessibility.

To avoid confusion and misinformation, we established SoCoEmergency.org to serve as a single source for official information during a disaster.

We are partnering with United Way of the Wine Country to improve 2-1-1, a central number to call to get information and referrals, especially during disasters.



SoCo
Emergency

And we are implementing our Community Preparedness Plan to expand the way we share information in both English and Spanish with the community.

We learned how to respond, plan, and rebuild.



The Board established the Office of Recovery & Resiliency to address immediate needs and sustain long-term efforts to help Sonoma County rebuild and recover.

We created the Resiliency Permit Center to expedite permits and inspection services for fire survivors. Currently, 64% of destroyed homes are somewhere in the rebuilding process and 10% of homes are completely rebuilt.

We made sure California HOPE counselors were immediately available after the fires. They have since provided over 70,000 services and counseling sessions to provide emotional support to community members.

And, we are leveraging every possible funding opportunity to help our community including the potential to receive \$32.6 million from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to fund projects to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from future disasters.



Learn how YOU can be prepared at [SoCoEmergency.org](https://www.socoeemergency.org)