City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: **Oakland Fire Department**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Oakland Emergency Siren System Upgrades

Oakland, CA — Emergency sirens are an important part of the City of Oakland's public safety infrastructure. As part of an upgrade, tone testing on individual sirens will begin Wednesday, January 11. These will be brief three-second "burps" of different tones. A full-system test is slated for Friday, February 3. From now until the end of April, the City's emergency sirens will not be used to notify residents and businesses of an emergency. Instead, emergency notifications will be sent via the county-wide AC Alert system.

About AC Alert

During the upgrade, the City's emergency sirens will not be used to notify residents and businesses of an emergency. Instead, in the event of an emergency, those in the impact zone will receive notification by phone (landline and mobile) via the AC Alert as the system has both reverse 911 and geographic based telephone targeting capabilities.

The public is encouraged to subscribe to AC Alert to receive emails and text messages. The system allows subscribers to provide up to five locations, such as a school, home, work and an elder dependent's address. That way, subscribers will receive updates when an emergency alert impacts one of their self-identified locations.

AC Alert is a unified emergency notification system for Alameda County residents, businesses and visitors. An AC Alert subscription is free, and all residents and business owners are strongly encouraged to sign up. For more information about this system and to find out how to participate, please visit www.acalert.org.

Through the geo-based database, the City can send notifications to targeted geographic areas (such as radius or blocks), street addresses or special lists to avoid sending out notifications to those not in an affected area.

Timeline for Siren System Upgrades

In an effort to ensure that emergency sirens are functioning properly, the City of Oakland entered into a contract with Federal Signal to provide upgrade and installation service to the Emergency Siren System and ensure operability throughout the city. Work commenced in December 2016, and will be completed by the end of April 2017.

A team of engineers from Federal Signal will visit each site to upgrade and/or install any needed components to make the City's Emergency Siren System fully operational. The contractor's normal working hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00p.m., Monday through Saturday, at 27 locations throughout the City (see attached site plan for location of the project site information). Should you have any concerns about the identity of workers at a site, please contact Mr. Nick Desautels, Federal Signal Project Manager at (708) 587-3112 to provide verification. Additionally, City staff will be on site periodically, with appropriate identification which you may ask to see at any time.

The City will make every effort to minimize any inconveniences caused by this project; however, should you have any questions concerning this project, please do not hesitate to contact Brian Tino Granados at (510) 238-6407 or by email at Bgranados@oaklandnet.com, or Cathey Eide at (510) 238-6069 or by email at Ceide@oaklandnet.com. If emergency problems occur after normal business hours, please call (510) 615-5566.

Oakland's Emergency Siren System was planned as a result of the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire, and was to be used almost exclusively to provide fire evacuation warnings; however, the system was expanded to alert individuals of other emergencies such as chemical spills.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this process.

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City of Oakland Siren Site Locations