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 the upgrade project described below, tone testing on individual sirens began in January. A full-system test is slated for Wednesday, March 29, at noon. This test is a 90-second slow wail followed by a second 90-second slow wail at 12:20 p.m. Emergency notifications will be sent via the county-wide AC Alert system until the system testing is completed. Public notification will go out when the siren system goes "live" in April 2017.

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 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 7:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, at 27 locations throughout the City. 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 Bgranados@oaklandnet.com, or Cathey Eide at (510) 238-6069 or 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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