

Correspondence with Brendan Manning, Emergency Operations Coordinator, Laguna Beach FD, 3 March 2022, regarding the operations of their Genasys devices during the recent fire (with Dave Spath and Kevin Padian)

I do not have a comprehensive summary of the use of Genasys completed yet. As you're aware, we used the applicable speaker sites to notify the community of evacuation orders during our recent wildfire. There was some feedback from a few residents (emphasis on a few) that at times it was difficult to understand the message. I will add that most of the feedback has been nothing but positive in terms of hearing the alerts and understanding the message. A few notes/comments which you may find helpful.

- We did not have a speaker in the immediate affected area. This was primarily due to the area most closely impacted and evacuated was unincorporated county land (not city) and they elected to not get a speaker when we offered one. Therefore we chose the 3 speakers that surrounded the communities to triangulate the alerting.
- While some people reported the message was confusing, my take away is that they heard the tone, knew there was an emergency and to find out more information. The Outdoor Warning System is only 1 piece of our notification toolbox, and we continue to urge people to ensure they're signed up for AlertOC and Nixle to augment the outdoor warning system.
- We are working with Genasys to add a sequential alerting feature, which would send the alert tone and message one-after-another rather than simultaneously. This would help when we are sending alerts to geographically close locations.
- We are currently only using the Genasys alert & warning and not Zonehaven. Our evacuation zones and website are managed in-house with our GIS team. We are looking to see if and how we can incorporate the Zonehaven components.
- We've been given direction from City Manager to explore opportunities for expanding our array to reach even more vulnerable communities.

Overall the feedback on the use and deployment of our Outdoor Warning System has been positive.