



# EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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**DATE:** November 2, 2021

**NOTE:** Re-Issued for January 12, 2022 BOD mtg item 5d

**TO:** Bill Hansell: General Manager

**FROM:** Michael Pigoni: Fire Chief

**RE:** **Red Flag Parking & Evacuation Drill Discussion**

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To kick start the discussion on “**Red Flag Parking and Evacuation Drills**” I am recommending that the Board and/or the Emergency Preparedness Committee place this topic on their agenda for a focused discussion and decision. The following is a recommended topic for this discussion. The first part on Red Flag parking is to provide feedback to the County on the actual wishes of the District (FIRE and PD)

## **Red Flag Parking**

1. The first point of discussion is whether to endorse no parking on the streets on Red Flag Days.
  - Throughout the Community?
  - Just the main evacuation routes?
2. If the decision is to endorse the no parking, then discuss where the residents would park their cars if off road is not available at their location.
  - Side streets?
  - Out of the area?
  - Percentage of residents that do not have off street parking for one vehicle in their garage or driveway?
  - Would this leave a car for the residents to evacuate later if so needed.
3. Determine the main initial evacuation streets. (Baby steps) These have been discussed in the past but recent conversations with Gioia’s office indicates that the County is not sure of the final plan.
  - Beloit/Cambridge/Yale/Princeton/Amherst to the Arlington?
  - Purdue/Kenyon/Wellesley or Westminster to the Arlington?
  - Sunset/Franciscan or cemetery bypass?
  - Coventry/Berkeley Park?
4. Discuss the needs or benefit of Red Flag/No Parking signs.
  - Consider the visual blight/pollution
  - Public education versus signs
  - Is social media, printed and televised media adequate?
  - Would signs make a difference

## **Evacuation Drill**

1. Discuss approximate time frame for the drill.
  - Suggest 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022
  - Weekday/Saturday/Sunday
  - Morning versus afternoon

## 2. Evacuation Area

- One/two zones?
- Entire Community?
- Volunteer evacuees?

## 3. Destination

- Drive through check in point?
- Virtual or email check in?
- What other data would be desired?

These are just some of the topics that need to be discussed and feedback provided to ensure that the drill be successful.

**Notes for Discussion of Proposed Modified Parking Configuration and Evacuation Drill**

**KFPD EPC Meeting, 2 December 2021**

**I. Item 04a: Proposed Modified Parking Configurations**

A. Focus on road segments that (1) impede emergency vehicle access and/or (2) require residents to turn their cars around in order to go with the traffic evacuation flow.

1. Beloit/Cambridge/Yale/Princeton/Amherst to the Arlington
2. Junction of Princeton and Amherst
3. Purdue/Kenyon/Wellesley or Westminster to the Arlington
4. Windsor, York, St. Albans
5. Sunset to Franciscan
6. Mid-portion of Lenox
7. Coventry/Berkeley Park and Ardmore

B. Types of proposed changes:

1. Two-sided -> one-sided parking (eliminate one parking lane)
2. Reverse direction of one-sided parking, possibly changing the side of the street for parking
3. Elimination of street parking on some street segments

C. Alternatives for proposed changes

1. Year-round: simpler so less confusing, but more inconvenient overall
2. Fire season: from first forecast Diablo Wind Event to first heavy rains
3. Red Flag Days: shorter durations but more confusing; notification difficult

D. Considerations for alternate parking during restricted periods

1. Issue street permit for a second car if the first one is parked on the property
2. Relax County requirement for cars in driveways not to encroach sidewalks
3. Ensure that each household has at least one nearby vehicle for evacuating
4. Enforce 72-hour parking rule on all streets; boats and RVs off the streets

E. Public notification of Fire Season or Red Flag Days

1. Social media, District websites, CWS, Nixle
2. Signs on stanchions posted on main traffic sites (Arlington/Amherst; Arlington/Ardmore; Sunset/Franciscan; W end of Vassar; Grizzly Peak/ Spruce; Colusa Circle)
3. Education of residents must stress that these are not local block/street problems but problems that affect all neighbors in Kensington and beyond
4. Encouragement of pre-evacuation for residents with mobility/time needs

## II. Item 04b: Evacuation Drill

- A. Timing: as soon as practically possible but before Fire Season begins again
  - 1. County OES must agree to schedule and coordinate
    - a. Non-interference with other County drills or calendar holidays/events
    - b. Pre-education effort coordinated and approved with County
    - c. Evacuation destination(s) must be coordinated through the County
  - 2. Coordination of Police and Fire Departments
    - a. Adequate staffing from both Depts to coordinate the drill
    - b. Auxiliary staffing from County Sheriff's Office?
    - c. Possible role of citizen volunteers to help with traffic?
  - 3. Day/Time: Other districts have used Saturday mornings for alerts and drills
- B. Evacuation Area
  - 1. One or two "zones"
  - 2. Entire community
  - 3. Triggered by Zonehaven zone alerts?
- C. Destination
  - 1. What is/are the destination(s)?
  - 2. Drive-through check-in point?
  - 3. Virtual text/email check-in (by actual evacuees)?
  - 4. Reliable data on what percentage of residents received the alert (survey)
- D. Preparation and Education of Residents before the Drill
  - 1. Having go-bags and cars packed the night before
  - 2. Informing residents of their destination(s)
  - 3. Discussing traffic protocols and neighborly procedures during evacuation
  - 4. Taking care of less mobile neighbors
  - 5. Follow-up survey on how well the drill went / possible improvements