



NEWS RELEASE

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New Emergency Alerting System Outfitted on Ventura Police Cars to Aid in Evacuation Orders

Ventura, Calif. — The Ventura Police Department’s patrol vehicles are now equipped with new Hi-Lo sirens, a different sound than traditional sirens, used to alert residents to evacuate.

The new warning system will be used when VPD has issued an evacuation order, and in all disasters where there is an immediate threat to life, including wildfires, earthquakes, and floods.

“Wildfire and other emergencies over the last few years have shown us that during a disaster there are never too many ways to receive a possible life-saving alert,” said VPD Sergeant Craig Kelly. “Remember that during an emergency, if you hear the Hi-Lo, it’s time to go!”

The Hi-Lo warning system is a European-style alert that rocks back and forth between two fixed pitches, one high and one low. Regular emergency sirens sound more like a repeated yip-yip-yip or wailing sound. The Ventura Police Department reminds the community to have an evacuation plan and escape route in place, pre-packed essential ready, and to register to receive emergency notifications through VC Alert at www.vcalert.org

The Hi-Lo Warning System was made possible due to California [Senate Bill 909](#). The urgency statute was signed by Governor Newsom on September 29, 2020 and took immediate effect.

To hear the new Hi-Lo Warning System, visit www.cityofventura.ca.gov/EvacuationOrders or watch the video on the City’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/cityofventura.

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