

5.A. Sheriff Report

First and foremost, I wanted to let you all know we, the Sheriff's Office and the County Office of Emergency Services, are actively monitoring the progress of the fire and are in regular communication with the Federal officials managing the fire suppression efforts.

That said, currently, the fire has burned over 15,000 acres and has very little containment at this point. Due to the progress of the fire, still very much in Monterey County, evacuation WARNINGS have been issued for the northernmost portions of the county, along the Coast.

I wanted to take a moment to explain some of the key terms in case there are questions from residents.

Evacuation Zones - The county is divided into numbered Evacuation Zones that assist first responders and the public in identifying areas and ultimately impacted residents, that may be impacted by the incident in a clear and concise method. One could find the Zone they live in on the [Readyslo.org](https://readyslo.org) website. For example, the Sheriff's Coast Station is located within the SLC-206 Evacuation Zone. Cambria is divided into several Evacuation Zones. It is important that residents are aware the Evacuation Zone they reside in should orders or warnings come into effect (NOT THAT I AM SAYING THAT IS CURRENTLY THE CASE). Again, this information can be found on readyslo.org.

I wanted to add that THIS IS DIFFERENT THAN PROTECTIVE ACTION ZONES (PAZ). PAZ's refer to areas that would be impacted by a disaster at Diablo Canyon. There are no PAZ's in Cambria, but, as I noted, several Evacuation Zones.

Evacuation WARNINGS - Per CalOES: An evacuation warning means there's **IMPENDING** danger to your life or property. If a warning is given assume an evacuation order will follow. Start gathering important items for your family and pets. Any individuals who need extra time to evacuate, or anyone with large animals, should pack-up and leave when a warning is issued.

Generally, evacuation warnings mean there is time / distance between the zone and the "danger", but the time should be used to prepare in the event the "danger" gets closer or the time window gets shorter for some reason.

Evacuation ORDERS - Again, per CalOES: An evacuation order means there's an **IMMEDIATE** threat to your life and you need to leave right now! It's critical to follow all directions from law enforcement to ensure you and your family evacuate safely.

If an ORDER is issued, you should, again, leave immediately. Any preparations or planning should have been done during the warning period. That said, we cannot "force" anyone to leave, but understand, rescue efforts may be significantly delayed or impossible if one decides to remain in an order area and the "danger" reaches them. Additionally, once you leave an Evacuation Order area, you cannot return, except for some very specific circumstances.

Finally, regarding Evacuation Orders, should an area come under an Evacuation Order, resources will be made available to impacted residents and, again, that information will be disseminated by the County and should also be available on readyslo.org, when / if the time comes.

I again will direct anyone with additional questions, specifically what zone they live in, to readyslo.org. There are additional resources, including methods for the Sheriff's Office and SLO County OES to communicate with residents about changes to the status of their respective zones, i.e. Reverse 911 and Wireless Emergency Alerts, etc., on readyslo.org.

In closing, I am trying to be proactive with communication as possible as the fire, and subsequent warnings, begin to impact our North Coast. Feel free to reach out to me via email if there are any additional questions.

Respectfully,

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