



ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

1401 North Handy Street • Orange, CA 92867-4334
714-628-5550 • 714-628-4116 (Fax)

Student Support & Community Engagement

Emergency Preparedness and Wildfire Safety Update

Dear Orange Unified Parents and Caregivers,

Wildfires across Southern California serve as a somber reminder of the importance of vigilance and preparation. While our district facilities remain secure, our region continues to face seasonal risks including high winds, wildfire threats, and potential Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS).

We are currently monitoring local weather patterns and high-wind advisories closely. Should conditions impact school schedules or district operations, we will communicate with families immediately via our standard emergency notification systems.

Preparedness is Key

The best time to prepare for an emergency is before it occurs. OUSD maintains comprehensive safety plans for all school sites. To support your family's safety at home, we encourage you to review the following resources and tips:

- **Create an Escape Plan:** According to the **Red Cross**, wildfire safety requires the ability to evacuate quickly. Identify multiple exit routes from your neighborhood and designate a meeting spot for your family. Practice these routes so every household member feels confident in the plan.
- **Gather Essential Supplies:** Visit the [Red Cross website](#) for checklists on building a "Go Bag" and maintaining a line of communication with loved ones during an outage or evacuation.
- **Fire Prevention Resources:** The **Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA)** provides excellent "Ready, Set, Go!" guides in multiple languages, focusing on vegetation management and home hardening to protect your property.

Stay Informed: Local Monitoring

To receive real-time updates specific to our area, we recommend utilizing the following tools:

- **AlertOC:** This is Orange County's mass notification system. We strongly encourage you to register your cell phone and email at [AlertOC.org](#) to receive evacuation orders and disaster-related information.
- **National Weather Service:** Monitor the [San Diego/Southwestern CA office](#) (which covers Orange County) for red flag warnings and wind advisories.

- **2-1-1 Orange County:** For non-emergency disaster-related services, including shelter information and road closures, dial **2-1-1** or visit 211oc.org.

Protecting Health During Poor Air Quality

If smoke from regional fires affects our air quality, please take the following precautions to protect your student's health:

1. **Limit Outdoor Activity:** If you smell smoke, reduce physical exertion and stay indoors when possible.
2. **Seal Your Home:** Keep windows and doors closed. If using an air conditioner, set it to "recirculate" to prevent pulling outside smoke into the house.
3. **Identify Sensitivity:** Students with asthma or respiratory conditions should take extra care; please ensure their school health plans are up to date.

We will continue to monitor conditions throughout the week and take all necessary precautions to ensure our campuses remain safe learning environments. Thank you for your continued partnership and for helping us keep the OUSD community prepared.

Sincerely,

Orange Unified School District