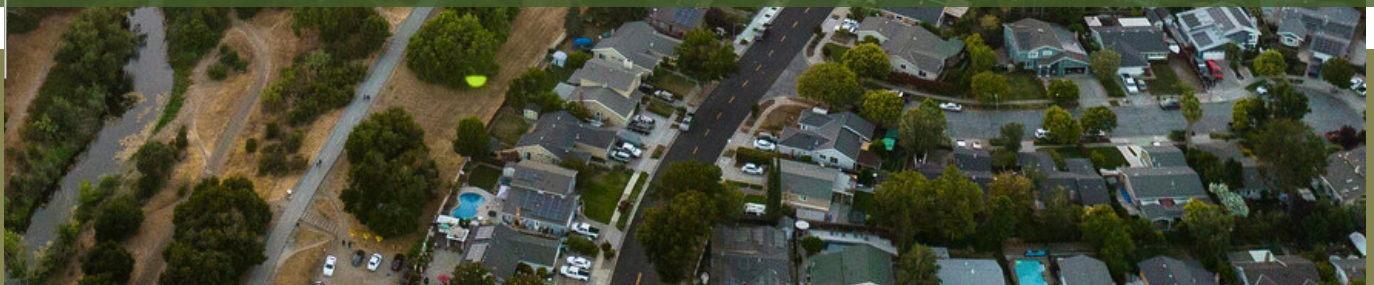


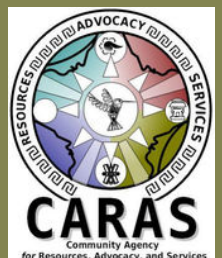


# **BE PREPARED GILROY**

## ***A COMMUNITY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT***



**NOVEMBER 2024**



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# About the Report Sponsors



## Greenbelt Alliance

Greenbelt Alliance is a regional environmental nonprofit focused on land use and climate resilience advocacy in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Our mission is to educate, advocate, and collaborate to ensure the Bay Area's lands and communities are resilient to a changing climate. Greenbelt Alliance has stewarded the region's beautiful natural landscapes while promoting the growth needed for thriving communities for over 65 years. We focus on innovative policy solutions and accelerating local and regional collaboration to plan and invest in resilient communities.

In 2023, we launched the Bay Area Resilience Hotspots initiative, a blueprint for where we must protect communities that stand to lose the most in the face of climate change. We leveraged local community expertise and original research to pinpoint 18 Hotspots locations that are at greatest risk of overlapping climate hazards and equity concerns. This guides the foundation of our work across the region as we seek to support these Hotspots locations by investing in people and leading with nature will change the trajectory of our region's future so that people and ecosystems thrive.



## Community Agency for Resources, Agency, and Services (CARAS)

CARAS is a Gilroy-based non-profit committed to community empowerment and the betterment of Latino families through leadership development, advocacy, and cultural awareness. In response to the growing climate impacts the Gilroy community has faced in recent years, CARAS has worked to build community awareness and understanding of climate change and foster equitable community climate resilience. A recipient of a state grant, CARAS, along with other Gilroy community based organizations, is leading the groundwork to plan for and implement the development of a resilience hub in Gilroy and East San Jose.



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# INTRODUCTION

Do you want to learn more about how climate change is impacting your community? Are you looking for ways to prepare you and your family for natural disasters?

**The purpose of the Be Prepared Gilroy toolkit is to provide Gilroy residents with key local disaster preparedness resources in one place and propose a roadmap to community disaster resilience.**

**In the past decade, the City of Gilroy has experienced record high temperatures and more intense flooding and wildfires.** As climate change continues to impact Gilroy, and is projected to increase in frequency and intensity, it is more important than ever for residents, families, and neighborhoods to leverage local resources, educate themselves, build local safety networks, and advocate for local elected officials to prioritize policies and investments that work to increase community resilience.

“

*“Resilience refers to the ability of communities to prepare for, adapt to, and recover from the impacts of climate change before disaster occurs.”*

**This toolkit is part of Greenbelt Alliance’s Bay Area Resilient Hotspots Initiative ([greenbelt.org/hotspots/](https://greenbelt.org/hotspots/)). The Resilience Hotspots Initiative is a data-driven, community-informed program that aims to collaboratively work with trusted community partners to help foster community resilience and climate change awareness in places throughout the Bay Area where the climate threat to people and nature is the highest.**

Gilroy was identified as a hotspot due to its significant climate risks including fire, flooding, and extreme heat. Severe flooding and wildfires have historically and recently caused serious property damage and economic challenges for local residents — a community that is also grappling with health issues caused by rising temperatures. **Resilient Hotspots efforts in Gilroy are focused on increasing community resilience to wildfire, extreme heat, and flooding by engaging with residents to understand community priorities and promoting climate change and disaster preparedness resources.**

This toolkit is a direct response to the community’s desire for more disaster preparedness resources and opportunities to learn about climate impacts in a way that reflects their everyday lives and culture. **This is a starting point, but more long-term, sustainable, and transformative change will require collaboration between local government, community members, and other key stakeholders to implement plans and policies to make a more resilient Gilroy possible for all.**

# CLIMATE RISKS IN GILROY



The main climate risks facing Gilroy are floods, wildfires, and extreme heat — all of which contribute to challenges related to economic development, public health, and the protection of private property and the environment. Certain populations are more at risk to impacts than others due to pre-existing barriers and historical inequality, such as the elderly, youth, undocumented individuals, the unhoused, and English language learners.



## Wildfire

Wildfire is a natural part of our ecosystems and has been used as a tool for land stewardship by indigenous communities for centuries. However, due to changes in land use, increased development, and warming temperatures, wildfires have grown stronger and more frequent. In Gilroy, 28% of the city is ranked as a “moderate, high, or very high” fire hazard region.

Wildfires pose large risks to property and the environment and can lead to serious health issues and large scale displacement. Agricultural workers and other individuals who spend most of their time in the outdoors are more at risk to the impacts of wildfire smoke. This is especially important in Gilroy, due to the region’s large agricultural workforce and the lack of labor protection that exposes many farmworkers during times with unhealthy air quality levels.



## Flooding

Climate change is resulting in more severe rain storms and changing weather patterns that contribute to flooding. Flooding occurs during heavy rainfall events when there is not enough permeable surfaces (which allow water to infiltrate the soil) to absorb water and existing storm drains and rivers do not have the capacity to take in extra water. Flooding has large impacts on infrastructure, jobs, public health, and housing.

Located near multiple watersheds, canals, and creeks, Gilroy faces a growing risk of flooding in a warming climate. The majority of Gilroy is located in a high flood risk zone, meaning there is a high chance that these areas will experience flooding at some point within the next 30 years. Recurrent flood events are already negatively impacting residents, especially low-income residents.

# CLIMATE RISKS IN GILROY



Scan to learn more about  
Greenbelt Alliance's Resilient  
Hotspots Initiative



## Extreme Heat

Like floods and wildfires, extreme heat events are becoming increasingly common and more severe due to climate change. **Extreme heat is defined as a period of at least 2-3 days with temperatures above 90°.** During the summertime, temperatures in Gilroy often reach past 100 degrees. Extreme heat issues are exacerbated due to a lack of green space and trees, lack of access to air conditioning, poor housing conditions, and the urban heat island effect (where areas with lots of concrete pavement are hotter than surrounding areas).

Extreme heat can be very dangerous, often resulting in more people going to hospitals, worsening of health conditions, prolonged losses of electricity, and leading to more deaths. Children, the elderly, low-income individuals and people who spend/work the majority of their time outdoors are more at risk from the impacts of extreme heat.



## What do we do now?

Understanding the impacts of climate change and the specific risks that impact you and your community is an incredible first step in helping create a more climate resilient Gilroy.

Working with community leaders and asking your elected representatives to put in place policies and strategies to reduce our contribution to climate impacts — for example, by expanding access to transit and using less fossil fuels and more renewable energy — and at the same time invest in the community to adapt to the impacts we are already feeling, while taking steps to prepare yourself and your families for extreme weather events will be critical to ensuring that we can create more resilient communities.

These climate risks pose extreme challenges to the Gilroy community, but can also serve as a powerful opportunity for local government leaders and community organizations to meaningfully engage and work collaboratively to transform Gilroy into a more climate resilient, just, safe, economically vibrant, and joyful city for all.

# Staying Safe During Wildfire



*How to Prepare Before, Stay Safe During, and Recover After*

| Wildfire                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Preparing for Wildfire                                                                                                                                                                                         | Staying Safe During Wildfire                                                                                                                             | Recovering from Wildfire                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>Pay attention to signs of a “Local High Fire Risk” period.</b><br/>During this time, each Gilroy fire station will fly a red flag to alert the community of the increased risk and need for caution.</p> | <p><b>Pay attention to emergency alerts</b> for information and monitor air quality conditions through local news outlets and social media.</p>          | <p><b>Do not return home until instructed to do.</b> Avoid hot ash, burned trees, slow-burning debris, and live embers.</p>           |
| <p><b>Sign up for local alerts</b> through Alert SCC and Nixle (see page 14 for instructions).</p>                                                                                                             | <p><b>Evacuate immediately if authorities tell you to do so.</b> Check local news and alert systems for up-to-date information on evacuation routes.</p> | <p><b>If engaging in clean-up activities,</b> wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, gloves, and thick-soled shoes.</p>                 |
| <p><b>Be ready for an evacuation.</b><br/>Make a plan for your household and prepare a grab-and-go kit (see page 12 for checklist).</p>                                                                        | <p><b>Use a N-95 mask to limit smoke inhalation</b> or stay in a safe location where smoke levels are lower.</p>                                         | <p><b>People with asthma and other lung conditions should take precautions</b> in areas with poor air qualities.</p>                  |
| <p><b>Strengthen your home by creating a fire-resistant zone</b> free of flammable materials and vegetation. Check out this <a href="#">guide</a> by the Santa Clara County Fire Department.</p>               | <p><b>If trapped,</b> call 911 and turn on lights to help rescuers locate you.</p>                                                                       | <p><b>Connect and check-in</b> with family, friends, and neighbors through text message and social media if phone lines are busy.</p> |

# Staying Safe During Floods



*How to Prepare Before, Stay Safe During, and Recover After*

| Flooding                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Preparing for Flooding                                                                                                      | Staying Safe During Flooding                                                                                                                                              | Recovering from Flooding                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Sign up for local alerts</b> from the City of Gilroy and Santa Clara County (see page 14 for instructions)               | <b>Evacuate immediately if authorities tell you to do so.</b> Secure your home, if possible, safely turn off utilities at main switches and unplug electrical appliances. | <b>Do not return home</b> until authorities have declared it safe                                                                                                           |
| <b>Store important documents</b> in a waterproof container                                                                  | <b>Listen to the EAS, NOAA, or local alert system</b> for weather information and evacuation instructions                                                                 | <b>Wear protective clothing and gear</b> if cleaning up mold and other debris.                                                                                              |
| <b>Move valuables</b> to higher levels                                                                                      | <b>Play it safe, do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.</b> Stay off of bridges over fast moving water. Flooding water can sweep you and your vehicle away.    | <b>Be aware of the risk of electrocution.</b> If possible, safely turn off electricity.                                                                                     |
| <b>Be ready for an evacuation.</b> Make a plan for your household and prepare a grab-and-go kit (see page 12 for checklist) | <b>If flooding occurs, get to higher ground.</b> If trapped in a building, get to the highest floor and signal for help                                                   | <b>Avoid wading in flood water</b> which may contain debris, be contaminated, and be electrically charged from fallen power lines                                           |
| <b>Purchase or renew flood insurance</b> through the <u>National Flood Insurance Program</u>                                | <b>If your car is trapped in fast moving water,</b> stay inside and climb on the roof if water is entering the car.                                                       | <b>Document losses and expenses.</b> If possible, take photos, keep receipts, and contact your insurance agent for support with large and complicated damages to your home. |

# Staying Safe During Extreme Heat



*How to Prepare Before, Stay Safe During, and Recover After*

| Extreme Heat                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Preparing for Extreme Heat                                                                     | Staying Safe During Extreme Heat                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Gather emergency supplies and prepare a grab-and-go kit</b> (see page 12 for checklist)     | <b>Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing</b>                                                                                                         |
| <b>Learn to recognize the signs of heat illness</b> (see page 11)                              | <b>Stay hydrated</b> and take cool showers/baths                                                                                                               |
| <b>Identify places in your community</b> where you can go to cool down                         | <b>If air conditioning is not available in-home</b> , go to a safe and predesignated cooling location (see page 15 for resources)                              |
| <b>Identify people in your community</b> you may need to assist and who can assist you as well | <b>Limit outdoor activity and avoid high energy activities.</b> If you are outside, do your best to find shade and wear a hat wide enough to protect your face |
| <b>Register for local alerts and warning systems</b> (see page 14 for instructions)            | <b>Check-in with family, friends, pets, and older adults.</b> Do not leave pets or people unattended in closed cars                                            |

## Signs of Heat-Related Illness

### Heat Cramps

*Muscle cramps caused by a large loss of water and salt in the body.*

#### Signs:

- Muscle pains or spasms in the legs, arms, or stomach
- Heavy sweating

#### What to do:

- Move to a cool place
- Drink water or a sports drink
- Get medical help if cramps last more than an hour or person has a heart condition

### Heat Exhaustion

*Condition that occurs when your body overheats. Can be severe and may require medical attention.*

#### Signs:

- Heavy sweating
- Cold, pale, and clammy skin
- Weakness or tiredness
- Fast or weak pulse
- Nausea
- Vomiting

#### What to do:

- Move to a cool location
- Cool the body using a wet cloth, misting, fanning, or by taking a cool bath
- Sip water slowly
- Get medical attention if symptoms worsen or last more than an hour

### Heat Stroke

*Heat stroke can be fatal and requires medical attention right away.*

#### Signs:

- High body temperature (above 103°)
- Red, hot, and dry skin with no sweat
- Rapid pulse
- Headache, dizziness, confusion, or unconsciousness

#### What to do:

- First, call 911 right away or get the person to a hospital immediately
- Move to a cool location
- Cool the body with any methods possible
- Do NOT give the person anything to drink due to the risk of fluids entering the lungs through the airway

# BUILD A GRAB-AND-GO KIT

Grab-and-go kits are easily transported emergency supply kits that contain basic needs and specialized items that your household may need in the event of an emergency.

Preparing for a natural disaster does not have to be scary, expensive, or done all at once. Many of these items can be found at your local dollar store or department store. The best way to make sure you and your household are safe is to build your grab-and-go kit overtime and regularly review items to make sure materials are still usable. Customize this checklist to meet the unique needs of your household.

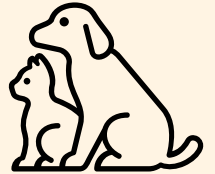


## Grab-And-Go Kit Materials Checklist

|                                                                        |                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water (1 gallon per person per day)           | <input type="checkbox"/> Books, games, and other activities for children   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-perishable food (3-day supply per person) | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper and pencil                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Battery powered radio                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Feminine hygiene supplies                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra pair of clean clothes and sturdy shoes      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bags or warm blankets                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra batteries                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone charger                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whistle (to signal for help)                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Local maps                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rope                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> N95 Face masks (to help filter contaminated air)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Manual can opener (for food)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prescriptions Medications                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic sheet and duct tape (to shelter in place) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of important family documents          | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire extinguisher                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush and toothpaste                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Matches in a waterproof container                 |

# PREPARE YOUR PET FOR DISASTERS

If you have pets, it is important to plan for their safety and well-being too! Similar to preparing a grab-and-go kit for your household, include basic survival items for your pet to last several days. Review your kits regularly to ensure that all materials remain fresh and up to date.



## Grab-And-Go Kit Pet Materials Checklist

|                          |                                              |                          |                                                                |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Collar with ID tag                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pet litter and litter box                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Water (1 gallon per pet per day)             | <input type="checkbox"/> | Copy of Vaccination Record                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Travel bag or crate                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Treats                                                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Poop bags                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Toys                                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Harness or leash                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | Familiar items (favorite toys or bedding to reduce pet stress) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Food (for several days)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Food and water dish                                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Medications                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Picture of you with your pets (for identification purposes)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Grooming items (for sanitation and cleaning) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Newspaper or pee pads                                          |

## Make a Plan for your Pet

- **Have an evacuation plan for your pet.** Some shelters and predesignated safety locations may not allow pets, identify safe places to bring your pet during emergencies.
- **Have your pet microchipped and ID tagged.** Keep your contact information up to date and provide an emergency contact outside of your immediate area
- **Collaborate with your neighbors and household.** Identify individuals who can help care for your pet if you become unable to do so in the event of a disaster.

# GILROY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

## Stay Informed During Disasters

**1) Register for AlertSCC** Gilroy's official emergency and alert notification system that sends alerts/warnings directly to your phone.

**2) Register for Nixle**, a tool used by the City of Gilroy to share community-related public safety information. Register online or text your zip code to 888777

### **3) Tune into local radio and television stations.**

Cable Channel 17 and AM radio 1610 will be used to share emergency information with the Gilroy community

### **4) Other ways to stay informed and be prepared:**

Visit the City of Gilroy website, join the Email Express Newsletter, and stay connected through Facebook, Instagram, X, and Nextdoor.

## Emergency Preparedness Training

### **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid Classes**

American Red Cross Silicon Valley Chapter

American Heart Association

### **Join the Gilroy Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).**

CERT is a 20-hour, nationally recognized course which prepares individuals to help prior to, during, and after a large-scale disaster. Register at [gilroycert.com](http://gilroycert.com).

### **Emergency Services Volunteer Opportunities**

Under the direction of Gilroy's Office of Emergency Services, Emergency Services Volunteers provide much needed trusted community support during disaster response and recovery. Apply now!

For more information contact Andrew Young ([Andrew.Young@cityofgilroy.org](mailto:Andrew.Young@cityofgilroy.org)).

# GILROY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

## Hazard Specific Information

### Earthquake

Get alerts before earthquakes occur through the [MyShake App](#).

Learn about earthquake impacts in your region on [ShakeOut](#).

Check out [CADRE's multi-lingual local Earthquake resources](#), tips, and preparedness videos.

Check out the County of Santa Clara's [Be Earthquake Ready resources hub](#).

### Wildfire

Check out the resources compiled by the [Gilroy Fire Department](#).

See current emergency incidents on the [CA Active Wildfire Map](#).

Check out [CADRE's multi-lingual local wildfire resources](#), air quality information, and preparedness videos.

For updates and information, follow the [Cal Fire Santa Clara Unit X](#).

### Severe Weather and Flooding

Check out the resources compiled by the [City of Gilroy Public Works Flood Management](#).

Get flood-ready tips from the [Valley Water Flood Protection Resources](#).

Get [free fill-it-yourself sandbags](#) to protect your home or business from flooding on 613 Old Gilroy St. Additional sandbag locations can be found at [valleywater.org/sandbags](http://valleywater.org/sandbags).

Check out the [Be Flood Ready](#) resources compiled by the County of Santa Clara Office of Emergency Management.

### Extreme Heat and Cold

Call 2-1-1 United Way Bar Area for health and human services and cooling/warming information in Santa Clara County

Call Here4You: (408) 385-2400 for shelter information, referrals, and transportation to shelters

Call HomeFirst Homeless Helpline at (408) 539-2105 for emergency overnight sheltering resources

Gilroy Library at 350 W. 6th Street is typically activated as a heating/cooling center during regular business hours.

# **GILROY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES**

## **National Alert Systems, Preparedness Training, and Educational Resources**

### **Emergency Alert System**

National public warning system that will interrupt local television and radio broadcasts. **No registration required.**

### **Wireless Emergency Alert System**

Urgent alerts sent as text-like messages to your mobile phone based on your location. **No registration required.**

### **National Weather Service Flood Safety Tips and Resources**

Access an interactive flood map, information on the different types of floods, flood survivor stories, and alerts and warnings.

### **FEMA Independent Study Program**

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers self-paced courses designed for people who have emergency management responsibilities and the general public. All are offered free-of-charge to those who qualify for enrollment.

### **Ready.gov: People with Disabilities Resources**

Ready.gov has created a disaster preparedness guide designed with the unique needs of people with disabilities and their families in mind.

### **FEMA Disaster Specific Safety and Preparedness Tips**

To sign up to get preparedness tips: text PREPARE to 43362. To search for open shelters (for disaster survivors): text SHELTER and a ZIP code to 43362.

To sign up for disaster specific safety tips, text one of the following keywords to 43362: BLACKOUT, WILDFIRE, EARTHQUAKE, FLOOD, FIRE, WILDFIRE, WINTER, HURRICANE, TORNADO.

# GILROY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

## Community Based Organizations, Local Government, and Services

### American Red Cross Silicon Valley

- **Services:** Disaster relief, home fire campaign, wildfire safety visits
- **Address:** 2731 North 1st St., San Jose, CA 95134
- **Phone:** (877) 727-6771
  - Non-urgent disaster assistance: (415) 427-8000
  - 24/7 Hotline: 866-272-2237
- **Email:** SVCAdmin@redcross.org
- **Website:** <https://www.redcross.org/local/california/northern-california-coastal/about-us/locations/silicon-valley.html>

### CADRE

#### *Collaborating Agencies' Disaster Relief Effort*

- **Services:** Food justice and food access, disaster preparedness training and resources, bringing organizations together during disasters
- **Address:** 2731 North First Street, San Jose, CA, 95134
- **Phone:** (408) 577-2175
- **Email:** cadre.scco@gmail.com
- **Website:** <https://cadresv.org/>

### CARAS

#### *Community Agency for Resources, Advocacy, and Services*

- **Services:** Free Legal Clinic, Youth Mentorship, Climate Change Education and Outreach, Housing Assistance, Basic Needs Provision
- **Address:** 381-B First Street, Gilroy, CA 95020
- **Phone:** 408-847-4978
- **Email:** [infor@carassouthcounty.org](mailto:infor@carassouthcounty.org)
- **Website:** <https://www.caras-southcounty.org/>

# GILROY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

## Community Based Organizations, Local Government, and Services

### Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

- **Services:** Emergency preparedness workshops (available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese), Storm Relief and Recovery Program, Food Distribution Programs, Housing Assistance, Immigration Services and Support, Family and Youth Resources, Job and Employment Services, Older Adults and People with Disabilities Wellness and Resources
- **Address:** 2625 Zanker Rd, Suite 201, San Jose, CA 95134
- **Phone:** 408-273-7478
- **Email:** [disasterrelief@catholiccharitiesscc.org](mailto:disasterrelief@catholiccharitiesscc.org)
- **Website:** <https://www.ccsc.org/get-help?locale=en>

### City of Gilroy Office of Emergency Services

- **Services:** Responsible for interagency coordination and developing a sustainable, comprehensive approach for whole community protection.
- **Address:** 7351 Rosanna St., Gilroy, CA 95020
- **Phone:** 408-846-0202
- **Website:** <https://www.cityofgilroy.org/174/Emergency-Preparedness>

### Interfaith Community of South County

- **Services:** Provides educational, social, and service programs
- **Phone:** (408) 763-7120
- **Email:** [interfaithcommunity.org@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithcommunity.org@gmail.com)
- **Website:** [ICSCfaith.org](http://ICSCfaith.org)

# GILROY

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

### Community Based Organizations, Local Government, and Services

#### Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council

- **Services:** Provides education and project assistance for homeowners and landowners in communities that are vulnerable to wildfire.
- **Address:** 14380 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070-5953
- **Phone:** (408) 975-9591
- **Email:** [info@sccfiresafe.org](mailto:info@sccfiresafe.org)
- **Website:** <https://sccfiresafe.org/>

#### Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Management

- **Services:** Engages the whole community in assessing needs and developing strategies to achieve stronger preparedness, prevention, response, and mitigation capabilities within the Santa Clara County Operational Area.
- **Address:** 55 West Younger Avenue, Suite 450, San Jose, CA 95110
- **Phone:** (408) 808-7800
- **Website:** <https://emergencymanagement.sccgov.org/home>

#### South County Compassion Center

- **Services:** Unhoused support, basic needs provision, case management, safe parking, and emergency rental assistance
- **Address:** PO Box 233, Gilroy, CA 95021
- **Phone:** (408) 763-7120
- **Email:** [info@gilroycompassioncenter.org](mailto:info@gilroycompassioncenter.org)
- **Website:** <https://www.thecompassioncenter.org/>



# CLIMATE CHANGE & DISASTER PREPAREDNESS GLOSSARY

**Adaptation:** strategies that aim to help communities adapt to life in a warming climate. Examples: building community awareness and understanding of climate change, transitioning to drought-resilient crops, and protecting ecosystems.

**Community Emergency Response Team (CERT):** program trains volunteers in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

**Climate Change:** long-term changes in local and global temperatures and weather patterns that will have dramatic impacts on the social and physical environment. Climate change is primarily caused by human activity, specifically the burning of fossil fuels, resulting in the emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane.

**Climate Resilience:** ability of communities to adapt to and respond to the impacts of climate change. Climate resilience includes more sustainable physical infrastructure and technologies, access to healthy and culturally-relevant food, safe housing, living-wage jobs, culturally competent healthcare, and quality education.

**Equity:** all people are justly and fairly included in society and that everyone is able to participate, prosper, and achieve their full potential. Equitable climate adaptation planning involves identifying persons who may be most vulnerable to climate change and ensuring that planning processes, distribution of resources, and efforts to address systemic wrongs are all conducted in an equitable manner.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** National government agency responsible for responding to disasters by delivering federal assistance and resources to individuals and communities recovering from natural disasters.

**Emergency Alert System (EAS):** State-of-the-art digital system designed to give emergency information and instructions from federal, state, and local authorities through the cable television system and broadcast radio.

**Evacuation Order:** Lawful order to evacuate due to an immediate threat to life and property. When an evacuation order is issued it is critical to follow all directions provided by law enforcement.

**Evacuation Warnings:** are issued if there is a potential threat to life and property. If a warning is issued assume that an evacuation order will follow. Individuals who need extra time to evacuate should pack-up and leave when a warning is issued.

**Mitigation:** The process of implementing measures to address, avoid, minimize, or compensate for the impacts to the environment caused by human action.

**Natural Hazard:** Source of harm or difficulty created by a meteorological, environmental, or geological event.

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