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## Orinda begins emergency evacuation planning for senior and special needs citizens

By Sora O'Doherty

In an emergency such as the North Bay fires last year, there are always people who require assistance with evacuations. Recognizing this, the Orinda Police Department is trying to maintain a list of folks who would need support so that emergency services can quickly find them without the need for a call-in during an emergency. The OPD is encouraging people with medical disabilities or transportation needs to register. By filling out a form and mailing it to the department, residents will be added to Orinda's confidential database of seniors and people who may require evacuation and shelter assistance during an emergency. Those who register will be asked to keep their information current and to update it annually; information not updated will be removed from the database. Personal information will be kept confidential in accordance with state and federal law, and will be maintained by the Orinda Police Department. Data will only be used by emergency personnel during preparedness planning and evacuations. A separate form is required for each individual requesting evacuation registration. Registrants should retain a copy for their records. Registration is free and voluntary. Registrants are encouraged to complete the entire form, answering all questions regarding medical and transportation requirements and providing correct contact information, including telephone number and address. Information provided will be used solely by public health and safety agencies who will assist during an emergency. Registrants should note that filing the form does not imply or guarantee any other services.

The form can be downloaded from the department's website, at [www.cityoforinda.org/367/Emergency-Evacuation-Planning](http://www.cityoforinda.org/367/Emergency-Evacuation-Planning), or may be obtained by mail by calling the OPD at (925) 254-6820. Once completed, the form should be returned by mail to:

Orinda Police Department  
Attn: Emergency & Evacuation Planning  
22 Orinda Way  
Orinda, CA 94563

Questions or concerns may be directed to the Orinda Police Department at (925) 254-6820.

Reach the reporter at: [sora@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sora@lamorindaweekly.com)

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