

Item #18



Kensington Emergency Preparedness Report

OCTOBER 2026

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

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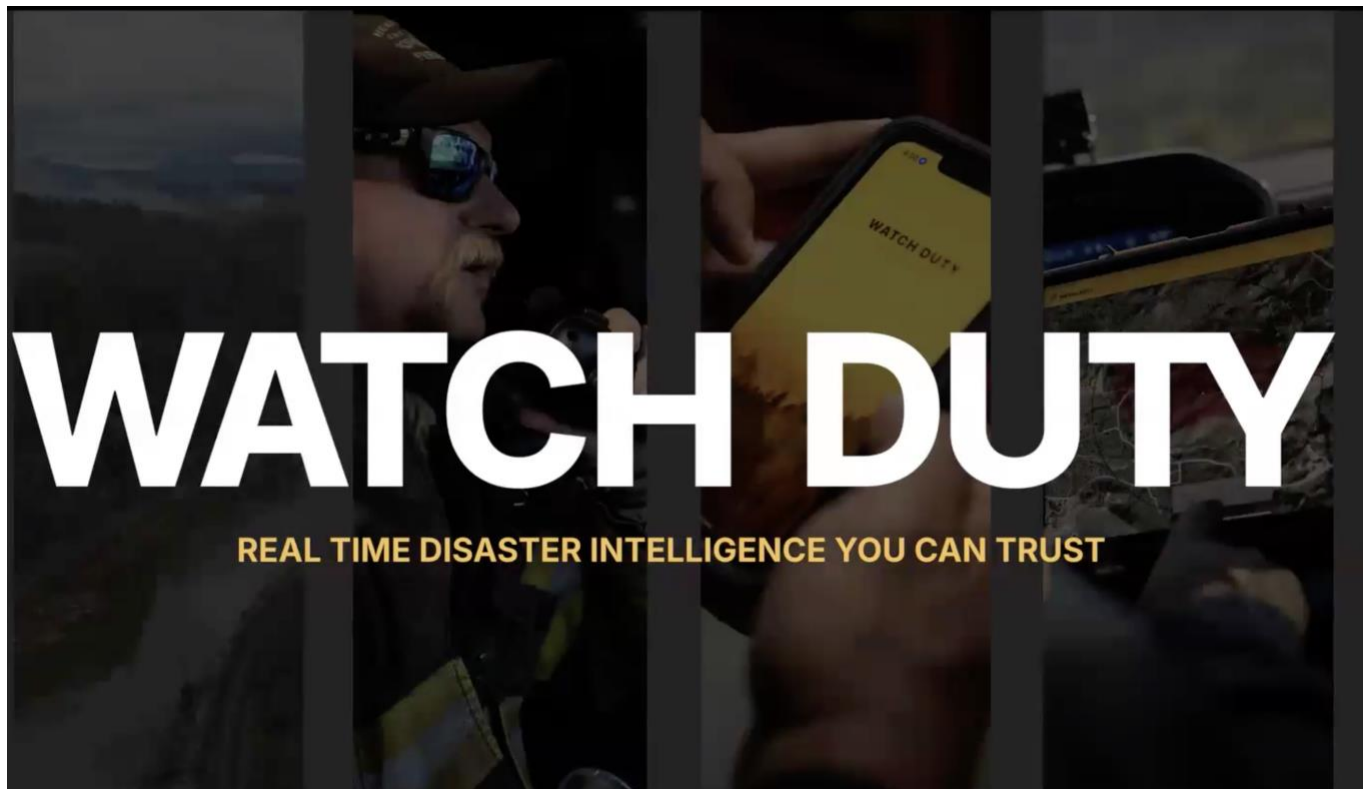
October Overview

This month's work strengthened the tools, neighborhood networks, and public-facing resources that support an all-hazards approach to preparedness in Kensington. Key developments included translating the September 14 Watch Duty presentation into practical communications guidance, launching ECKCERT.org, beginning standardized Firewise renewal reporting, convening Firewise leads, and testing a combined CERT and Firewise block-meeting format.

Watch Duty Presentation

Watch Duty's September 14 presentation to Kensington residents made a strong case for including the free app in every household's emergency-information toolkit. The presentation emphasized that Watch Duty is not a replacement for official emergency alerts. Instead, it is a complementary, fast-moving situational-awareness resource that can help residents understand a developing incident, prepare earlier, and make informed decisions.

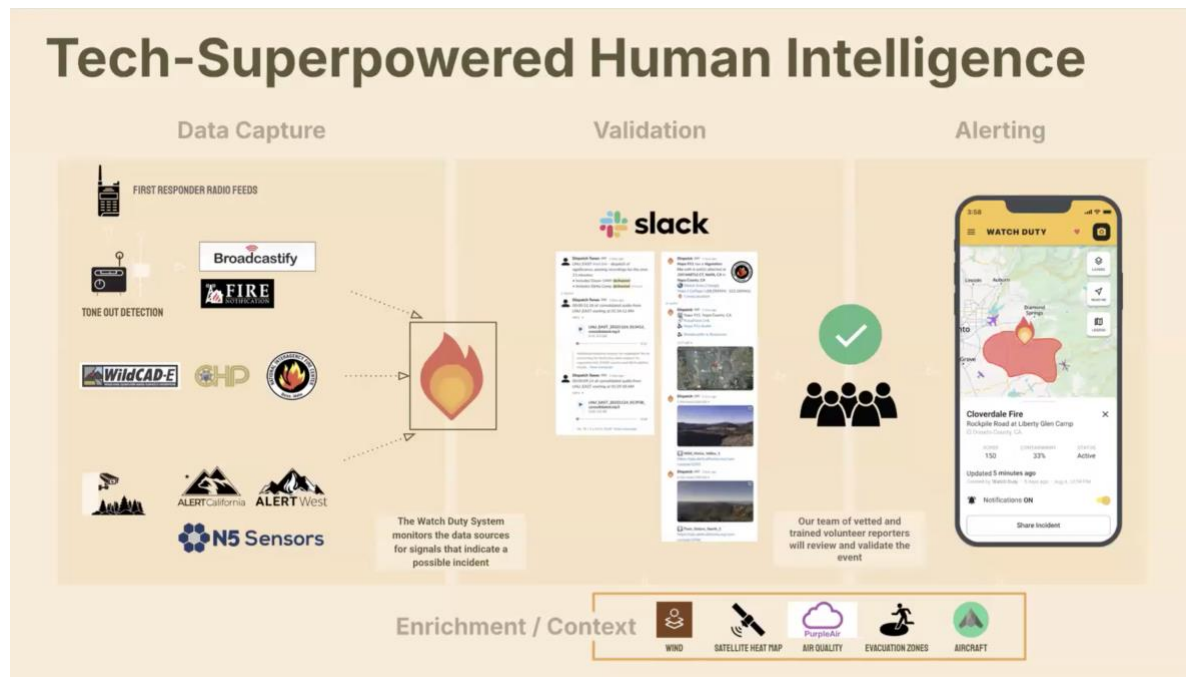
The platform's verified reporting, map-based context, continuous updates, and free public availability make it particularly relevant to residents navigating wildfire, smoke, severe weather, and evacuation risks.



Watch Duty: Local Takeaways

For the Kensington Community Services District, the most practical takeaways are:

- Continue promoting a layered alert strategy: Watch Duty for situational awareness; Contra Costa County alerts and Nixle for official notifications; and District preparedness communications for locally relevant planning and evacuation-zone information.
- Include Watch Duty in preparedness outreach, evacuation-readiness campaigns, CERT and neighborhood-group materials, and resource pages as a recommended—but supplemental—tool.
- Emphasize early preparedness for residents with mobility limitations, medical needs, pets, transportation barriers, or other factors that may require additional evacuation time.
- Monitor Watch Duty’s continued development of radius-based notifications, flood intelligence, critical alerts, weather resources, and fire-agency integrations, as these features may increase local utility over time.



The organization’s incident-reporting process combines automated signal detection with human verification. Watch Duty monitors public-safety dispatch traffic, wildfire cameras, satellite data, official announcements, weather and wind data, evacuation information, and other public sources. Reports are reviewed by trained staff and volunteers before publication, with an emphasis on official information, no speculation, no sensationalism, privacy protection, and multiple-person review.

The Zoom presentation has been recorded and posted on the Kensington Fire Protection District Website.

Presentation recording: www.kensingtonfire.org/wd

CERT Program Update



ECKCERT.org Is Live

ECKCERT.org is now live as a centralized online resource for training, events, preparedness information, and community updates from El Cerrito-Kensington CERT. The site is intended for residents, families, organizations, and community partners seeking consistent, reliable information.

Previously, El Cerrito-Kensington CERT information was distributed across Kensington Fire, the City of El Cerrito, and social media. The new site gives residents and partner agencies a direct destination operated by El Cerrito-Kensington CERT. The CERT page on the Kensington Fire District website now redirects to ECKCERT.org..

What the Site Provides

- Information about El Cerrito-Kensington CERT and its role in supporting the community.
- Resource links and materials for residents and local partners.
- Updates, announcements, and community-focused information.
- Opportunities to connect, participate, or learn more.
- A central online destination that can expand as new needs and resources emerge.

Visit: [ECKCERT.org](https://eckcert.org)

Firewise Progress and Renewals

A resident survey has been developed to document home-hardening and defensible-space work for annual Firewise renewal applications. The process is designed to make resident participation easier to record while producing consistent, community-level data that can also be totaled across Kensington.

Each Firewise lead will email a link to residents in their area. The survey will be cloned for each community so responses remain organized by neighborhood while still supporting an overall community-wide tabulation.

Firewise Communities Filing Renewal Applications

COMMUNITY	COMMUNITY
Tilden	Kingston
Shakespeare Cluster	Edgecroft
Arlmont	Colgate-Columbia
Eldridge	College District
Sunset	Blakemont
Arcove Island	700 Coventry
Highland Hilltop	Westminster
Purdue	Rincon

Firewise Lead Engagement

Firewise Lead Mixer

Representatives from more than a dozen of Kensington’s 22 Firewise communities gathered to connect face-to-face, share information, and strengthen the network supporting wildfire mitigation and neighborhood resilience across the community.

Announcements were provided, questions were answered about upcoming events and program status, and leads shared feedback about the support they need as Firewise activity continues to grow. A Zoom presentation has been scheduled to provide more in-depth information and resources as leads enter the renewal-application period.

Neighborhood Preparedness



Avon–Shakespeare Cluster Block Meeting

A community block event was held on Avon Circle on September 26, bringing CERT and Firewise concepts together in a single neighborhood setting. The presentation covered practical actions residents can take before an emergency and highlighted the connection between household readiness, neighborhood coordination, and wildfire mitigation.

Topics Covered

- Natural-gas shutoff procedures.
- Neighborhood meeting points.
- Storage of emergency supplies.
- Emergency power alternatives.
- Emergency water storage.
- Wildfire mitigation and home hardening.

The event offered an opportunity to discuss CERT and Firewise in the same meeting—a format that has not yet been used widely across Kensington. Existing CERT participation in areas west of Arlington provides a practical starting point for integrating more CERT information into Firewise gatherings and neighborhood events.

This combined format supports an all-hazards approach. Residents need to understand not only wildfire risk and evacuation readiness, but also the potential for a major earthquake to damage utilities, disrupt communications, create fire conditions, and require evacuation or extended self-sufficiency.