

City of Westminster



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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Update: Portions of Westminster Remain Under Evacuation Orders; New Shelter Information

Mandatory evacuations continue in northern Westminster.

WESTMINSTER, Calif. – Portions of the City of Westminster continue to be included in a mandatory evacuation order as part of an ongoing hazardous materials incident occurring in the City of Garden Grove. The situation is ever-evolving, and updates will be provided as information becomes available. We do not currently have an end time for the evacuation orders from the Orange County Fire Authority and ask that evacuees expect the orders will remain in place through the holiday weekend.

The City of Westminster and Westminster Police Department are assisting residents within the impacted area and are coordinating closely with partner agencies. As a precautionary measure, the mandatory evacuation area includes portions of northern Westminster spanning from Valley View Street to Dale Avenue and from Ball Road to Trask Avenue/Vallecito Avenue in Westminster. Residents who border the evacuation zone who can stay at a safe location away from the evacuation zone are asked to please do so if it makes them feel more comfortable and safer.

The California Highway Patrol has closed the following freeway interchanges along the 22 Freeway: Beach Boulevard, Goldenwest Street/Knott Street, and Bolsa Chica Road/Valley View Street. Roads are currently closed at the following locations:

- Trask Avenue and Beach Boulevard,
- Hoover Street and Trask Avenue,
- Goldenwest Street and Trask Avenue,
- Edwards Street and Trask Avenue,
- Springdale Street and Iroquois Road,
- Hoover Street and Benton Avenue, and
- Springdale Street and Cynthia Drive.

Bolsa Chica Park and restrooms at 13660 University Street, Goldenwest Park at 13200 Siskiyou Street, and Frank G. Fry Park at 7481 21st Street are closed until further notice; these parks are within or border the evacuation zone and are closed out of an abundance of caution. Street sweeping and trash collection are paused, and parking control is not citing passenger vehicles and recreational vehicles within the evacuation area. Services are not affected in areas outside of the evacuation zone.

While the mandatory evacuation area remains limited, residents throughout the surrounding area are encouraged to stay informed and take reasonable precautions as conditions evolve. Anyone within the evacuation area is strongly urged to comply with the evacuation orders. For updated evacuation maps, visit ocsheriff.gov/resources-during-disaster.

Uber is offering free rides (up to \$40 per ride, max 2 trips) to help residents safely reach temporary evacuation shelters from evacuation areas during the ongoing chemical emergency. Use code OCSAFE26 in the Wallet section of the app before booking.

The City of Westminster does not have an overnight shelter. Shelters are being run regionally by the American Red Cross. The closest shelter with availability is Golden West College, located at 15744 Goldenwest Street, Huntington Beach.

The Westminster Senior Center at 8200 Westminster Blvd. is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, including to residents with dogs who require a safe place for the day, though space is limited. For assistance, including in Vietnamese and Spanish, call (714) 895-2878.

WAGS, at 6621 Westminster Boulevard, is sheltering animals for affected residents and has reached capacity. Residents are encouraged to explore other available sheltering options if possible.

An industrial tank in the City of Garden Grove containing a flammable, highly volatile plastic epoxy called methyl methacrylate could fail and spill chemicals into the parking lot and area surrounding the facility or could explode, affecting surrounding tanks at an

aerospace facility in Garden Grove. Methyl methacrylate is a skin and respiratory irritant that can cause health problems from both short- and long-term exposure.

Officials are carefully considering additional ways to handle the situation in the safest manner possible to protect life, property and the environment. At this time, no dangerous materials have leaked and no residents have been exposed to the material. Emergency responders from multiple agencies are working in partnership to address the situation.

Call 911 only for a life-threatening emergency. If you have questions regarding the incident itself including questions about public health or the status of the tanks, a public information hotline is available 24 hours a day at (714) 628-7085. Those who need assistance can call the Westminster Police Department's non-emergency line at (714) 548-3212. For information about trash pick-up, contact the Midway City Sanitary District at (714) 893-3553. Staff will be available to assist with Vietnamese or Spanish translation between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. at (714) 895-2878. For business assistance if you are an impacted business, call (714) 417-5897 or email economicdevelopment@westminster-ca.gov.

For additional updates specific to Westminster, please follow the Westminster Police Department at [facebook.com/westminsterpdca](https://www.facebook.com/westminsterpdca) and [westminsterpdca](https://www.westminsterpdca.com). The City of Westminster can be found at [facebook.com/CityofWestminster](https://www.facebook.com/CityofWestminster) and [cityofwestminsterca](https://www.cityofwestminsterca.com).

We understand this is an unprecedented time in our community. We ask for your patience as we continuously assess the situation occurring in our neighboring city. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the affected communities.

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