

General

- **What is Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911?**

Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 is the City of Alamo Heights' official emergency alert and notification system. This system is used to send alerts to the public during emergencies as well as other important notification such as weather, traffic, Council agendas, etc. Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 is a free service that allows you to sign up online to receive customized alerts via text message, email, and voice message.

In addition to emergency alerts, you can also choose to receive customizable community notifications. These include notifications about severe weather, safety, health, utility disruptions, major traffic incidents, and more. This service is provided by the City of Alamo Heights at no cost to the public; however, message and data rates may apply.

- **Why should I sign-up for Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911?**

When emergencies happen, be the first to know. The City of Alamo Heights uses Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 to send official, real-time alerts to the public with information about potentially life-saving actions they may need to take to keep themselves and their families safe. By signing up for Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 you are taking a large step toward improving your personal safety.

- **How does it work?**

When an emergency occurs that meets the criteria for sending out an alert to the public, the City of Alamo Heights' emergency dispatchers will gather the necessary information and push out an alert to the affected area. Alerts can be sent out city-wide to everyone who has opted-in to the system, or to a specific area or neighborhood for more localized events. The City of Alamo Heights also utilizes the system to send out email blasts concerning weather, traffic and agendas for the City Council Meetings.

- **How much does it cost?**

This service is provided by the City of Alamo Heights at no cost to the public; however, message and data rates may apply depending on your provider and phone services.

- **Can you guarantee that I will receive notification if I register?**

While Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 is an excellent system, we cannot guarantee that you will receive notification in all cases. Disasters and emergencies are chaotic and unpredictable, and notification is dependent on external providers such as your wireless carrier or email delivery service outside the City of Alamo Heights' control. Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 will use several means of communications to try to ensure that should any one communications method, technology, or delivery option be unavailable to reach residents, other methods will be used to improve the likelihood that citizens will see the message.

Signing up

- **How do I sign-up for Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911?**

Signing up for Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 is easy! Go to <https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=alamoheightstx> and register your contact information.

To update your existing Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 preferences, click here <https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/login.action?pa=alamoheightstx>

- **Who can sign-up for Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911?**

Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 is available to anyone who lives, works, travels through, or visits the City of Alamo Heights. The address can be your home location, work location, or any other location you care about.

- **Will I receive alerts if I don't sign-up?**

Alamo Heights residents who have a landline phone may receive alerts. However, there are strict rules governing when the City of Alamo Heights can use this contact information to send out an alert. Only extremely critical alerts containing potentially life-saving information will be sent. In order to ensure that you are able to get all emergency alerts we recommend that you sign-up for Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 online. If you do not sign-up and register your contact information, you will not receive alerts on your preferred devices, and may miss out on receiving important safety information.

Alerts

- **What types of alerts will I receive?**

Emergency alerts are sent 24/7 when there is an immediate threat to life and/or property. In addition to emergency alerts, you can also choose to receive customizable community notifications. These include notifications about:

- Severe Weather
- Safety risks
- Health risks
- Road/Lane Closures
- Special event information
- City Council Agendas
- Test messages.

- **Can I call the alert phone number back or reply back to the email?**

You are not able to reply to texts or emails sent by Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911. Voice messages provide a dial-back number to replay an alert message. You are able to respond to emails – it goes to a designated staff member.

- **When will I start receiving alerts?**

Once you have signed up online

at <https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/reg.action?pa=alamoheightstx> and confirmed your contact information within the system, you will begin receiving alerts

- **How do I update or remove my notification preferences and contact information used by Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911?**

Follow the below steps to change your Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 preferences (for example, to reduce the number of messages of a certain type, or to change the contacts used for each kind of message):

1. Go to the login page
<https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/login.action?pa=alamoheightstx> for Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911
2. Login using your Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 username and password (If you've forgotten these, follow the instructions on the page under "Forgot Username or Password?")
3. Once signed in, click the 'Preferences' tab at the top

4. Under 'Notification Preferences', you can make changes to both the phone numbers and email addresses on which you want to receive Alerts powered by Smart911[or insert your alert system name] messages by clicking or unclicking the checkboxes
5. You can also choose what alerts you want to receive and the method you wish to receive them by (text, voice, email)
 - a. For example, if you wish to turn off **all** messages regarding Road/Lane Closures, simply uncheck the box to the left of "Road/Lane Closures"
 - b. If you wish instead **only to receive emails** for Road/Lane Closures notifications, instead uncheck the "Text" and / or "Voice" choices, so that only "Email" remains checked

- **How often will I receive alerts?**

The frequency for which you receive alerts depends on the addresses you provide and the types of alerts you select to receive as well as the frequency of actual emergencies. Emergency alerts will only be sent when there is an immediate threat to life and/or property. Community notifications will be sent when the criteria for sending an alert are met.

This system is not intended to bombard you with information. The City will only send you alerts about the information you select to receive. To change your alert settings, login to <https://www.smart911.com/smart911/ref/login.action?pa=alamoheightstx> and edit your preferences.

- **How does the Alerts powered by Smart911[or insert your alert system name] system respond to busy signals or no-answer situations?**

If a call completes and is sent to your answering machine or voice mail system, a message is left. If a phone call is not answered or busy, the system redials your number several times.

Privacy and Contact Information

- **Will my information be disclosed or shared?**

No, your information is private and will not be used or distributed in any manner. The information that you provide is exempt from public disclosure and will be used for emergency purposes only.

- **What precautions are taken to protect personal contact information stored in the Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 system?**

Personal information provided to Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 is private and only used to notify you for official City of Alamo Heights communications and to support the City of Alamo Heights' emergency services.

Your information is not used for marketing purposes and will not be sold to telemarketers or data-mining organizations. A variety of "opt-in" mechanisms are available to ensure you are getting just the messages you want to receive, delivered via the devices and communications modes that you choose.

Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 utilizes the highest standards in physical and computer security technologies and conducts regular audits to ensure all information is kept secure. Privacy policies are also outlined in the Terms and Conditions you review when you sign up to receive Alerts powered by Rave/Smart911 notifications.