

Lessons Learned from the 1991 Firestorm



Prevention and Planning

- Enforce existing ordinances to clear trees and brush on private and public property to prevent a recurrence. Provide annual funding to do the job right.
- Stricter building codes, particularly related to roofs and decks, in fire-prone areas.
- Standardization of emergency response systems among cities and other agencies to ensure rapid communications and coordination.
- An emergency response plan that is understood by residents and public agencies to avoid unnecessary loss of life in a natural disaster.



PHOTO: OAKLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Since the 1991 Firestorm, emergency agencies from Berkeley, Oakland, Orinda, Albany and the East Bay Regional Park District routinely coordinate their training and support in providing emergency coverage to East Bay hills communities.

Community Disaster Preparedness

In a major earthquake, local residents can expect to be on their own for up to 72 hours. CORE (Communities of Oakland Respond to Emergencies) offers free neighborhood training programs, and many neighborhoods in the Oakland-Berkeley hills are already organized.



PHOTOS: OAKLAND CORE