

Supporting Oakland and Alameda County in reducing the risks of wildfire danger to people and property

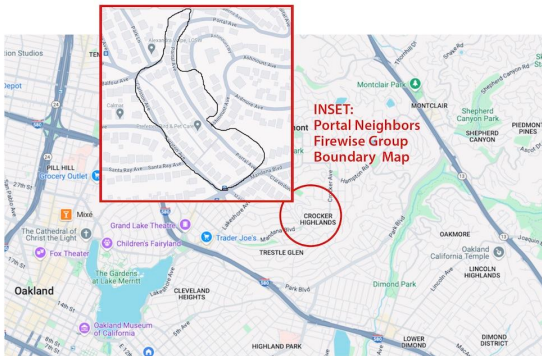


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CONGRATULATIONS #7!

Oakland's SEVENTH Firewise USA® Recognized Site is Portal Neighbors Firewise Group



Carol Haberberger, resident lead, had this to share:

"The Portal Neighbors Firewise Group is focused on fire safety AND community building in Crocker Highlands. Our 50 homes surround the old Key System Tramway Trail. Half overlap the Trail itself. It's a favorite walking place and short cut between three streets.

Although it may be used as an evacuation route, it has been neglected for years.

Ivy climbs up over fences in numerous fire ladders, covering old logs from fallen trees, branches and dried vegetation. It is within 50'-100' zone of half the houses.



Although our location is lower in the hills than other Firewise groups, we are easily within distance of traveling embers from several overgrown areas that immediately surround us, including Davie Stadium. Most of the homes are older and closely packed together with very old trees and vegetation crowded around them. Home hardening is essential to address these particular conditions.



Our first task was working together to remove the fire unsafe vegetation on the trail – many pickup loads..."

CONTINUE READING & SEE MORE PHOTOS

about wildfire risks and provide a self-directed, collaborative framework for neighbors to work together to reduce these risks by engaging in fuel reduction and home hardening activities. See how OFSC can help your neighborhood group with the process – visit our program page **FIREWISE USA® FOR OAKLAND**

JOIN US ONLINE – WEDNESDAY EVENING 5/21



OFSC MEETING (ONLINE)

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

7:00-8:30pm

REGISTER

Meeting **AGENDA**. We welcome everyone from all communities of Oakland and the East Bay to observe, participate and/or get involved.

FOLLOW-UP FROM OUR APRIL MEETING



Our special guests from UC Smart and Connected Communities project presented on Evacuation Simulations and Gaming.

MJ Johns, doctoral student in Computer Science, UC Santa Cruz, demonstrated a set of 'serious games' representing

dilemmas that residents face when confronted with the threat of evacuation in areas at high risk of wildfire. Here's your chance check out their work in progress and test your skills – UCSC Wildfire Minigames Collection **PLAY**

OFSC AWARDED



We're honored to receive an Oakland Fire Department "Community Partnership Award", presented in recognition for our organization's essential role in fire prevention through successful collaboration with OFD.



And on top of that, a hug of mutual gratitude between OFSC President Elizabeth Stage and OFD Chief Covington warmed our hearts ;)

HELP HIDDEN HYDRANTS

REMINDER: with lots of vegetation "springing" up, it's important to keep hydrants cleared and visible so that firefighters can easily locate them...



A fire hydrant covered by vegetation, or half-buried in leaves and soil, or missing its blue Bob's Dot street markers, can be difficult for firefighters to

locate in an emergency – when seconds count!! Learn more on the OFSC program page [ADOPT-A-HYDRANT](#)

LET'S TALK ABOUT ZONE ZERO



from CAL FIRE TV

Zone Zero = the first five feet from your home. Keeping the area closest to buildings, structures, and decks clear will prevent embers from igniting materials that can spread the fire to your home.

Why? The majority of homes lost to wildfire are ignited by flying embers. Embers can travel miles ahead of the active front of wildfires. [See more](#)

MORE OF NOTE

- United Policyholder (UP) Webinar – CA Home Insurance Shopping Help May 29 | Thursday | 5:00-6:30PM UP Executive Director Amy Bach will lead an informational webinar for California homeowners on shopping for insurance in

today's challenging marketplace, the latest on non-renewals and mitigation discounts, and tips for keeping your assets protected despite an availability and availability crisis. [Details & Registration](#)

- SF Chronicle Virtual Event (held 4/23) – "Is Your Home Underinsured?" After every major recent California wildfire, families who've lost their homes have faced a secondary trauma: learning their insurance policies won't cover the cost to rebuild. Known as underinsurance, this phenomenon can leave homeowners and their communities without the means to recover. Chronicle Reporters Susie Neilson and Megan Fan Munce discuss their investigation and answer your questions on underinsurance. [View recording](#)
- CAL FIRE engages in fuels reduction work and fire prevention activities year-round. Track the progress of projects funded this year and last fiscal year. Visit [CAL FIRE Fuels Reduction](#)
- "Wildfire is Coming. Are You Ready?" – review CAL FIRE's Wildfire Action Plan in their colorful ["Ready Set Go" Brochure](#)
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Wildfire Resources for Resilience & Recovery include "Creating a Fire-Resilient Home" and a "Fire Recovery Guide" Visit [CNPS Wildfire Resources](#)
- Fire Safe Sonoma Speaker Series (held 4/24) – "Resilient Landscaping: Sustainability in the Defensible Space Zone" Jennifer Roberts, Environmental Educator and Landscape Designer shares sustainable practices in the defensible zone can help protect your home from wildfires. View recording

AND FINALLY

- NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS – Our newsletter is published once a month, about one week before our third-Wednesday-of-the-month meeting. If you have something you'd like to announce or share, send along a submission by the [first Monday of the month](#) for consideration. EMAIL: outreach@oaklandfiresafecouncil.org
- Next month's OFSC meeting is Wednesday, June 18th



Oakland Firesafe Council (OFSC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to reducing the risks of wildfire danger to people and property through preparedness education, programs and materials, outreach, advocacy and volunteer opportunities.

[CONTACT](#)

OFSC free services and communications are received by thousands in Oakland and the East Bay. We're only able to continue doing this with the help of donors like you.

Oakland Firesafe Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Donations are tax-deductible.

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