

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



EDUCATION  
ADVOCACY  
PROGRAMS  
COMMUNITY BUILDING

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## OFSC IS HERE FOR YOU

**Happy New Year!**

**We'd like to thank you for your continued support of our work.**

Our hearts go out to everyone in Southern California who is affected by the nightmare of wildfires, along with our deep gratitude to all of the first responders who are risking their lives to save others.

As we keep an eye on the news and follow-up reports, we are painfully aware that we could experience a similar scenario here in the East Bay. For example, were it not for the confluence of preparation, relatively good weather, and commendable work by Oakland Fire and its partners, the outcome of the recent Keller Fire could have been more disastrous.

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## AND SO, WHAT IS OUR ROLE?

Our focus is education and outreach, primarily through our preparedness programs, and advocacy at the local, regional, and state level. While there is increasing attention on wildfire prevention at all of these levels, we believe OFSC brings knowledge, experience and urgency to the needs of residents living in the unique environment of the **wildland/urban interface** (WUI) and throughout the rest of Oakland.



Oakland Firesafe Council, among many other services, engages and empowers residents to do their part to make their homes and communities safer. We can't control weather, but we all can take action toward better preparedness.

Now more than ever, neighbors are reaching out to us for advice, customized preparedness workshops, materials and other resources...

As laid out in our December newsletter, we need additional resources to be able to respond to all of the current and pending requests for **FireWise USA** assistance, and all of the recent inquiries about our **Wildfire and Emergency Preparedness workshop (WEP)**. Your donation will make a difference, allowing us to continue this work that is so important for the safety of our communities and the place we call home. And we need your involvement to help grow our vital programs. **DONATE**



NOTE: a cause for current concern is the dry weather forecast for January, normally our highest month of rainfall. Unless we receive more rain, we could be in a precarious position in February.

## PULL UP A CHAIR, WEDNESDAY EVENING 1/15

Join us for the first meeting of the year and invite a neighbor or two.



OFSC MEETING (ONLINE)

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025

7:00-8:30pm

Meeting Link **HERE**

### TOPICS IN THE FOREFRONT

- Evacuation
  - OFSC Guide **Emergency Evacuations**
  - OFSC Guide **Evacuation and Go-Bag Checklists**
  - OFSC **Evacuation Guidelines**
  - "Bay Area residents revisit evacuation plans as fires devastate Southern California" **Video w/ Article** (featuring interview with OFSC president Elizabeth Stage)
- Insurance
  - **Consumer Alert** (Dec. 2024) Commissioner Lara enforces groundbreaking regulation to expand insurance coverage in wildfire-prone areas
  - **Insurance Help** from the non-profit United Policyholders
- Fire Station Closures
  - "As Oakland shuts fire stations, firefighters ramp up campaign opposing cuts" **Article**
  - **District 4 Fire Station Closure Town Hall** with Councilmember Ramachandran and Fire Chief Covington on Thursday, January 16th at 6:00 PM. Join online with this link <https://zoom.us/j/92238174738>



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

## MANAGE SOME VEGETATION



Martin Luther King Day of Service 2025 is on Monday, January 20th. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities for [fuel reduction](#) and restoration in Oakland parks and open spaces.

Visit our [PARK STEWARDS](#) page for a PDF of some of this year's projects hosted by Oakland Wildland Stewards (OWLS).

**\*\* NOTE** that some projects happen on dates other than Monday the 20th.

## MORE OF NOTE

- City of Oakland free personal emergency preparedness class – "Are you prepared for wildfires? Oakland can help" [Article](#)
- Wind – "Why is California's wind blowing so hard in January? Santa Ana and Diablo winds are both blowing in California – but there's a difference" [Article](#)
- Watch Duty – "Bay Area app thrives amid Palisades, Eaton Fires" [Article](#)
- East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWC) [Meeting Recording](#) (11/14/24)
- "Defensible Space Training for Wildfire Mitigation Professionals" presented by The Resilient Landscapes Coalition [Webinar Recording](#) (12/17/2024)
- "Mental Health Preparedness Starts at Home"– Interactive presentation with Susan Snyder, hosted by Berkeley Disaster Prep Neighborhood Network. Thursday, January 30, 6:30–7:30pm. at Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists (1606 Bonita Ave, Berkeley) [Details](#)
- ReScape's Resilient Regenerative Firescaping Qualification Training (FQT) Two-day Live Online Training • Tuesday 2/18 and Wednesday 2/19 • 9:00am – 1:30pm [Details & Registration](#)
- California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Hazard Mitigation Summit (Dec. 5-6, 2024) [Presentation Slides](#)

## AND FINALLY

- NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS – Our newsletter is going to be published once-a-month, a few days 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, February 19th



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.

SUPPORT

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

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