

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

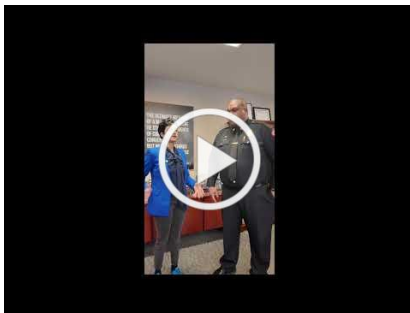


EDUCATION
ADVOCACY
PROGRAMS
COMMUNITY BUILDING

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RE-OPENING OAKLAND'S FIRE STATIONS

Oakland City Councilmembers Share the Good News



Councilmember Janani Ramachandran (District 4) talks with Oakland Fire Chief Damon Covington about a recently passed City Council resolution that will allow three temporarily closed fire stations to reopen, as well as newly identified funding that will prevent the closure of four additional stations.

District 1 City Councilmember Zac Unger describes the decision as "a big win for public safety as the council unanimously passed the legislation that Councilmembers Janani Ramachandran (D4) and Rebecca Kaplan (Interim D2), and I introduced to protect fire services. We will reopen the three shuttered stations before the end of June and we will NOT proceed with the planned closure of four additional stations. All of our Council colleagues have been working tirelessly to find funding to protect our fire stations. I want to thank everyone on the Council and in the offices of the City Administrator and Mayor for their hard work on this legislation to restore our fire services. Also thank you to everyone who has emailed, called, and messaged the Council these last few months, urging us to protect fire services."



OFSC President, Elizabeth Stage, spoke on our behalf to thank Council Members Unger, Kaplan, and Ramachandran for their work and to support keeping as many fire stations open as soon as possible. She reports, "It was great to testify with so many community members and at least a dozen fire fighters."

JOIN US ONLINE! WEDNESDAY EVENING 3/19

Our guest speaker is from United Policyholders (UP). Joel Laucher will give a brief overview of UP,

a non-profit organization that serves as a voice and an information resource for **insurance** consumers.
See meeting **AGENDA**



OFSC MEETING (ONLINE)
Wednesday, March. 19, 2025
7:00-8:30pm
REGISTER

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

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE EVACUATION SURVEY

City of Oakland | Emergency Management Services Division

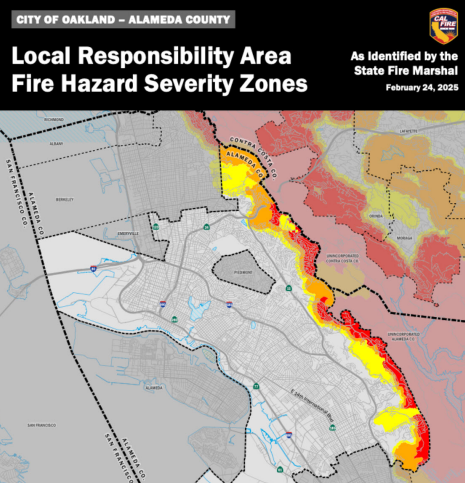


This survey is designed to help improve our fire evacuation plans and to help ensure that our community is fully prepared to evacuate safely during a wildfire. Your feedback will help us assess potential evacuation routes and facilities, assess community preparedness levels, identify any special circumstances that could make evacuating harder, and improve our ability to address these challenges. The information you share is confidential and will be used to shape better evacuation plans. Once the survey is complete, we'll share the results and updates on how your input has helped improve our community's fire safety. Thank you for taking a few minutes to help make our community safer! **TAKE SURVEY**

CONFUSION OVER LRA FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAPS

On February 24th, 2025, CAL FIRE released its updated **DRAFT** Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps, which include the Oakland/Berkeley hills.

While these were expected updates following previously updated State Responsibility Area (SRA) maps, what was **unexpected** and **surprising** was that the High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) areas, especially



in the Oakland hills, were significantly decreased in size. Most folks involved in wildfire safety, including OFSC, had expected an increase in size...!

This of course has led to much confusion...

[READ MORE](#)

WELCOME VOLUNTEERS!

We've recently gotten a great boost of energy from some wonderful neighbors donating their time, skills and passion. Here's why they've chosen to volunteer with OFSC...



Wendy Goldsby (Piedmont Pines) – "I have always been passionate about Safety both at home and at work. I have had 20+ year career in Corporate Environmental, Health, and Safety, to develop and implement safety and emergency action programs. Our home was purchased from a family who had lost their home in the 1991 Hills Fire. In 2018, we lost a home that had been in our family for 37 years in the Malibu Woolsey Fire. The recent devastating fires in LA have again raised alarm bells. We have seen the highly destructive nature of these fires and the more we can do to understand the dangers and be prepared as a community, the better the outcome for our families, friends and homes. I am looking forward to working with OFSC to help raise awareness and keep us safe from this increasing threat."



Maryanne Hubbard (Montclair- CABS Firewise) – "With a background in television news, I've covered fires and disasters both in the field and behind the scenes. This firsthand experience led me to join my neighborhood's CABS Firewise group, where I organize communication initiatives and events to promote fire safety. This work led me to the Oakland Firesafe Council, where I am committed to educating and empowering Oakland neighbors on emergency preparedness, fire safety, and evacuation planning."

Christophe Marcant (Piedmont Pines) – "I moved to Piedmont Pines from San Francisco in 2022 and am well aware of the fire risks in our community. With a long history in safety and readiness – as a former Eagle Scout, volunteer ski patroller, and Red Cross instructor – I felt compelled to get involved. After completing firescape training, I'm now pursuing CERT certification to further enhance my ability to contribute. I look

forward to helping on both the technology and Firewise fronts, ensuring we're better prepared as a community. When I'm not working on fire safety, I enjoy sailing on the Bay, mountain biking in Reinhardt Redwood, or cruising on my motorcycle."



Macy Cornell, (Montclair, CABS Firewise Lead, Diablo Firesafe Council Advisory Board) – "I spent some time on the Montclair Neighborhood Council Board in 2019 where I served as Chair, working directly with OPD, OFD and various other City agencies. I joined the Oakland Firesafe Council shortly after to lead the Firewise USA Program for Oakland while acquiring Firewise registration status for our own CABS Neighborhood (the 2nd in Oakland). Most recently, I re-joined the Oakland Firesafe Council and the Diablo Firesafe Council to help advocate for our communities in the Very High Severity Zones for fire. I'm a busy Montclair Mom with a vested interest in the safety and well-being of Montclair and our surrounding communities."

We are grateful for this growing community of volunteers who are vital in helping make our communities better prepared for wildfire.

Interested in volunteering? Use our **CONTACT** form or email info@oaklandfiresafecouncil.org



Want to be part of making Oakland better prepared for wildfire but just don't have the spare time to volunteer? You can still be of great help through financial support! OFSC is in much need of donations in order to continue doing our important wildfire safety work. **DONATE**

FIRESCAPING TIP FOR MARCH

Check Irrigation BEFORE the Dry Season Begins

Dead and dried vegetation are a source of combustible fuel, so maintaining healthy, appropriately hydrated plants is a key factor in creating a **fire-smart yard**.



UC Master Gardener Program of Alameda County [month-by-month garden calendar](#) reminds us that March is a good time to start checking irrigation systems and do any needed repairs (and revamps).

EBMUD Water Conservation Rebates

Efficient Irrigation Rebates. Mulch and Compost Coupons. Gray Water Rebates. Landscape Design Assistance Program and more... [VISIT](#)



SPEAKING OF REBATES



Generator & Battery Rebate Program. Add a backup power system to your home and apply for a \$300 rebate. Learn more about backup power and see if you're eligible for the rebate [HERE](#)

SPEAKING OF EBMUD



What has EBMUD done to prepare for major fires and reduce fire risk? What is the status of the East Bay's fire hydrants?

Find the answers along with an EBMUD Fire Preparedness Fact Sheet at [EBMUD Wildfire Preparedness](#)

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, April 16th



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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