



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS 2014-2024

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FIRESCAPING TIP OF THE MONTH

Check Irrigation BEFORE the Dry Season Begins



UC Master Gardener Program of Alameda County **Month-by-Month Calendar** reminds us that March is a good time to start checking irrigation systems and do any needed repairs (and revamps).

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

Efficient Irrigation Rebates from EBMUD

Revamp your irrigation system with technology proven to reduce waste and increase efficiency, like drip irrigation, self-adjusting "smart" controllers, flow sensors and high-efficiency nozzles. **VISIT**

SPEAKING OF WATER

Shout Out to Preparedness Neighbors Across the Bay

Menlo Park Community Ready's Prepare in a Year "campaign" focuses on 1 HOUR of planning and action each MONTH to lead to successful household preparedness.

The month of March is dedicated to water – something that quickly becomes a precious resource following many disasters.

SEE MORE

Prepare in a Year

3. Water

Water

We quickly become a precious resource following many disasters. It is vital that all household members know how to shut off the water at the main house valve so that you don't lose clean water which you could use. The effects of gravity may drain the water in your hot water and toilet tanks unless you turn it in your house by shutting off the main house valve (not the street valve in the basement at the curb – this valve is extremely difficult to turn and requires a special tool).

Label this valve with a tag for easy identification, and make sure all household members know where it is located.

In addition to storing water, be aware of your surroundings and where you can find other sources of water. Available water sources include: hot water heaters, toilet tanks, sump pumps, lakes, rivers, etc. Consider adding a water filter to your kit so that you can safely use water you find.

How much water should I store?

For your household, we recommend at least two weeks' worth of water. That's one gallon per person per day to take care of drinking, cooking and hygiene needs. You might need less depending on your cooking methods and if you're using wet wipes for hygiene. Plan to drink at minimum one quart of water per person per day. Remember to have water for your pets, too!

Which containers should I use?

Plastic containers with a screw-on lid, such as two-liter soda pop bottles or food-grade plastic jugs, work great. Don't use glass bottles or old bleach bottles for any container that has held a toxic substance.

Avoid the use of plastic milk jugs. (They are difficult to seal tightly, and their plastic becomes very fragile and brittle over time).

Storing Water

We know storing 14 gallons per person is difficult, especially for large families. Having food that will not use water is one way to minimize water storage.

Consider multiple locations to store water, especially if in an apartment or small house. Thoroughly rinse out the container and the lid with water and fill to the very top of the container. For extra safety, thoroughly rinse the container with a weak solution of liquid chlorine bleach (1/2 tsp drops in two cups water). Empty this solution out and fill the container right to the top with fresh water.

- Seal the container tightly.
- Label it "Drinking Water" and date it.
- Store it in a cool, dark place.

3. Water

Distillation – One method of purification in addition to filters and purification tablets

1. Fill a pot halfway with water.
2. Tie a cup to the handle on the pot's lid so that the cup will hang right-side up when the lid is placed upside-down on the pot (make sure the cup is not clamping in the water).
3. Boil the water for 20 minutes. The water that drips from the lid into the cup is distilled.

This method allows the vapor resulting from boiling water to collect in the cup. This condensed vapor will not include salts or other impurities.

Is adding liquid bleach recommended?

The Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency says that tap water does not need anything added to it before it is used because it has already been chemically treated. Commercially purchased water does not need anything added to it. Keep it in its original, sealed container. It is recommended that stored tap water be rotated every 6 months. Commercially sealed water is safe for up to two years, some are labeled for longer storage.

The only thing that should be used to purify water is liquid household bleach containing 6 percent sodium hypochlorite and no dyes, soaps, or scents.

Boiling water kills bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can make you sick. Treating water with chlorine bleach kills most viruses, but will probably not kill bacteria. Therefore, boiling and then adding chlorine bleach is an effective water purification method.

GENOAK OUT & ABOUT



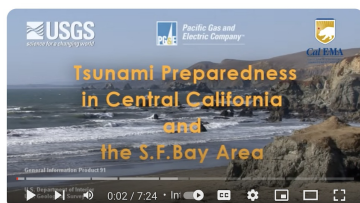
GENOAK Practiced Their Skills at the Oakland Marathon

"At this year's **Oakland Running Festival/Marathon** on March 17th, six volunteer OFSC **GENOAK** 2-way radio operators assisted **ORCA** Amateur/Ham radio operations in course monitoring and relaying of event information. It was fun and good practice, and thanks to those who participated!" ~ Doug Mosher, OFSC Vice Chair

>>> OFSC Guide **Emergency Communications** <<<

MORE ITEMS OF NOTE

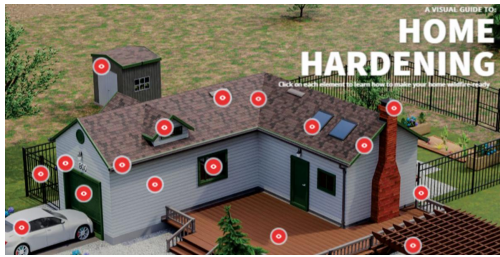
CALIFORNIA TSUNAMI PREP WEEK 2024



Tsunami Preparedness Week is March 23-31. There are many ways to participate – you can organize or join a group tsunami walk, attend an in-person lecture or an online webinar, find out if you are in a tsunami hazard zone, update your “Go Bag,” or many other options.

LEARN MORE

CAL FIRE - OSFM NEW HOME HARDENING WEBPAGE



Designed to break down the challenges of home hardening area by area. Home Hardening considers the relationship between your home and its exposure to nearby combustible features such as vegetation, vehicles, accessory buildings, or even miscellaneous structures like a fence. [VISIT](#)

2024 CALIFORNIA FIRE SCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES



Join California Fire Science Consortium for a biweekly, virtual presentation and discussion on emerging fire science topics from a diverse range of topics and speakers.

California's Prescribed Fire (R)evolution: Changing Hearts, Minds, and Landscapes

April 2, 2024 / Tuesday / 2:00-3:00pm [MORE](#)

WEBINAR: INTRODUCING THE NEW CALSCAPE



Get ready for a new Calscape! We are introducing exciting new features and improvements to Calscape.org. In this webinar, we will go over the new release, which is loaded with descriptions of more than 8,500 California native plants; a free garden planner; expanded search criteria; and a new directory of native plant landscaping professionals.

April 4, 2024 / Thursday / 5:30-6:30pm [REGISTER](#)

CITY OF OAKLAND PEP CLASS



Personal Emergency Preparedness [PEP] Class

April 18, 2024 / Thursday / 6:00-7:30pm

[REGISTER](#)

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 5, 2024 / SATURDAY / 10 AM - 2 PM

Join Alameda County District 5 Supervisor Keith Carson



and Oakland Firesafe Council for a day filled with great information & resources at **Alameda County Emergency Preparedness Day** at Ed Roberts Campus, Berkeley. Stay tuned for details!

COMMUNITY KEEPS US GOING



Working together contributes to the well-being and safety of each other, our neighborhoods and our communities in Oakland (and beyond). OFSC continually strives to help everyone be prepared and ready for disasters. In addition to continuing the Firewise USA® for Oakland program, your **tax-deductible contributions** help us

- Provide free workshops
- Develop new wildfire safety programs
- Nurture connections with other East Bay partners in preparedness

THANK YOU for all that you have done so far in supporting OFSC's work and thank you for ANY donation you are able to make now.

SUPPORT

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



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.
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