



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS 2014-2024

Publication #137. OFSC free services and communications are received by thousands in Oakland and the East Bay. We are only able to continue doing this with the help of supportive donors like you. **SUPPORT**

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A CALL TO ACTION

From Oakland Firesafe Council President, Elizabeth Stage

*(Note: in the time since Elizabeth sent the following message for publication, **mandatory evacuations** have been ordered for wildfire near Lake Sonoma.)*

In the last week, we've seen wildfires in and around Livermore and Tracy; The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning this weekend from Redding to Fairfield, has reminded Bay Area residents that gusting wind should prompt caution with outdoor activities that prompt sparks.

Wondering how to channel your anxiety into something more productive?

OFSC's work over the last decade has helped to create many mechanisms that can and will make us less likely to suffer catastrophic loss from fires. Many of our efforts are coming to fruition in the next few weeks and months and we're hoping that you'll be inspired to take some steps with us, so we'll be successful together.

The Wildfire Prevention Zone (WPZ) and the Wildfire Prevention Coordinating Group (WPCG) are evidence. For a personal reflection, read David Kessler's message below. From a policy perspective, the WPZ and the reasons we should support it tie together several initiatives that OSFC has spearheaded or collaborated on with other community organizations and partners.

The WPZ is a ballot measure that's scheduled for a final vote by the Oakland City Council on **June 26th; the meeting starts at 1:30pm**

- The preliminary round of documents are posted **HERE**
- If you'd prefer a summary, it's posted **HERE**

For more background information and to **learn how to get involved with the WPZ**, continue reading Elizabeth's message **HERE**

1991 Wildfire Safety Dreams Finally Becoming Reality in 2024?

"After the 1991 fire, returning residents had two dreams about making their future safe. The first was a regional approach to vegetation management; the fire did not see the border between Oakland and Berkeley. This year, with the creation of the Wildfire Prevention Coordinating Group, Oakland is now part of a network of East Bay governments that can plan and execute in concert. We have regional planning at last, 30 plus years later.

The second dream was a source of funding for essential annual vegetation management would be independent of the General Fund and the fluctuations of the City Budget. The City has tried to set up such a source before, with the creation of the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District. Both the funding and the operation of the WPAD were imperfect, leading to its eventual failure. With the proposed Wildfire Prevention Zone, a simple mechanism for financing and a detailed Vegetation Management Plan to blueprint its work, we hope that we will have the work for a safer environment paid for every year. **We can make that second dream come true..."** [READ MORE](#)

PULL UP A CHAIR, WEDNESDAY EVENING 6/19



OFSC MEETING (ONLINE)

Wed., May 15, 2024
7:00-8:30pm

Details / registration [HERE](#)

INSURANCE CRISIS WEBINAR

Berkeley Vice Mayor Susan Wengraf recently hosted a panel on the Insurance Crisis with experts in their field.

Feedback indicates that it was extremely informative and helpful.

She has shared the recording along with some helpful links. **Thank you, neighbor!**



Resources for further research on insurance coverage include:

- **California FAIR Plan** – Phil Irwin
- **United Policy Holders** – Amy Bach
- **Preparing Property for Wildfire** – Colin Arnold
- **California Department of Insurance** – Julia Juarez. Call for help with insurance: 800-927-4357
- **Safer from Wildfires** lists wildfire mitigation actions for insurance discounts

- **Consumer Watchdog** – Carmen Balber
- **Susman Insurance Agency** – Karl Susman

>>> Review Oakland Firesafe Council's Guide on Home Insurance

RELATED READ:

Map: Here's where California could push insurers to cover more fire-risk homes

"Stabilizing a collapsing home insurance market: State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara unveiled plans that would allow companies to raise rates based on climate change threats while insurers would agree to expand coverage to higher-risk places." [ARTICLE](#)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF NOTE

TOP FIRE RISKS OF BAMBOO



Great Fire Smart Tip from our neighbors at Fire Safe Marin.

Fire Smart Gardening: Why Bamboo Doesn't Make the Cut

"While bamboo may be known for its aesthetic appeal and rapid growth, it comes with a set of risks that make it unsuitable for areas susceptible to wildfires. Bamboo's rapid moisture loss during periods of hot, dry weather and tendency to accumulate fine, dead leaf litter makes it unsuitable as a screening plant near homes." [PDF](#)

CITY OF OAKLAND PEP CLASS



Personal Emergency Preparedness [PEP] Class

June 20, 2024 / Thursday / 6:00-7:30pm

[REGISTER](#)

WILDFIRE SEASON IS HERE – STAY IN THE KNOW

The **Watch Duty app** is a collaborative wildfire notification service, powered by volunteers – firefighters, dispatchers, and first responders – who monitor radio scanners and other official sources 24



hours a day to send the most up-to-date information.



With the **Genasys Protect** (formerly Zonehaven) **mobile app**, turn on your location to learn your zone name and be able to get notified about danger and when to evacuate wherever you are.



The **Wildfire Forecast & Threat Intelligence Integration Center (WFTIIC)** serves as California's integrated central organizing hub for wildfire forecasting, weather information, threat intelligence gathering, analysis and dissemination.

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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