

Supporting Oakland
and surrounding areas
in reducing the risks of
wildfire danger to people,
property and environs



EDUCATION
ADVOCACY
PROGRAMS
COMMUNITY BUILDING

[View in browser](#)

PG&E GRANT HELPS REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK

In June, Oakland Firesafe Council completed the final project funded through our **2026 PG&E Fuel Reduction Grant**, providing targeted vegetation management and structural wildfire mitigation across **eight high-priority residential properties** in the Oakland Hills' Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.



The projects focused on reducing hazardous fuels, removing invasive vegetation, improving defensible space, and clearing evacuation routes. An estimated **227 cubic yards of vegetation and other fuels were removed**, improving property safety and emergency access while reducing wildfire risk to neighboring homes and infrastructure.

All participating properties were located within established **Firewise USA® communities** or communities working toward recognition. This helped ensure that grant-funded work was paired with ongoing neighborhood planning, education, and long-term wildfire risk reduction.



We are grateful to PG&E for supporting this important work and to the homeowners who helped make these projects possible.



Want to see the results? View before-and-after photos and learn more about the projects in our full [blog post](#).

JOIN US ONLINE – OFSC AUGUST MEETING



OFSC MEETING (ONLINE)

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

7:00–8:30pm

REGISTER

August Presentation – "Fire Smart Plant Selection" by Jessie Godfrey, an Environmental Horticulture and Water Resources Management Advisor with University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), an off-campus wing of UC's Agriculture & Natural Resources (UC ANR) division. Her job is to serve landscaping and nursery professionals as well as UC Master Gardener volunteers through horticulture research and education in Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco counties. Current themes of her program are fire-smart landscaping, integrated vegetation management, woody plant establishment, and irrigation efficiency. Meeting **AGENDA**

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

FOLLOW-UP TO OUR JULY PRESENTATION: INSURANCE



Many of us in Oakland's WUI have felt the sting of losing our homeowners/fire insurance and/or seeing our insurance costs increase significantly. We were very happy to have Joel Laucher from United Policyholders review the situation with us and provide input on possible actions. Here's his presentation **recording** and **PDF**.

Some takeaways: It is good to keep checking in with insurers for the best pricing and availability; Some insurers may be open to insuring a home that has been certified as a wildfire prepared home, see **wildfireprepared.org**; It may also be possible to get a discount for individual wildfire protection measures taken, including becoming part of a Firewise USA neighborhood. Check with your insurance provider.

REMEMBERING JERRY KENT

A Champion for Wildfire Prevention



The Oakland Firesafe Council is deeply saddened by the passing of Jerry Kent, a longtime wildfire prevention advocate, fire science expert, and former Assistant General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District.

OFSC Co-Founder and Former President (Board Emeritus) Sue Piper said, "**Jerry was our 'Go-To Guy' on anything to do with fire science and wildfire prevention.**" He provided expert advice to the Oakland Firesafe Council as we weighed in on the City of Oakland's Vegetation Management Plan over the decade or more it took to complete. His expertise and low-

key affability made him one of our favorite OFSC members, and **contributed greatly**

to the solid reputation of the **Oakland Firesafe Council** as a respected champion for residents in the Oakland Hills High Wildfire Hazard Zone."

We are grateful for Jerry's many contributions to Oakland's wildfire resilience and invite you to read our full tribute honoring his life, leadership, and lasting impact.



Read the full tribute on our website to learn more about Jerry's contributions to wildfire safety, his partnership with the Oakland Firesafe Council, and the many ways he helped strengthen wildfire resilience in Oakland and throughout the East Bay.

FIRE CREWS BATTLE WILDFIRE IN JOAQUIN MILLER PARK



On Friday evening, July 31st, the Oakland Fire Department battled a wildfire in steep, wooded terrain near the Chabot Space & Science Center and the Sequoia Arena in Joaquin Miller Park. Thanks to the swift response from OFD and mutual aid from CAL FIRE, East Bay Regional Park District Fire Department, and Contra Costa Fire, the fire was contained to just over a half acre. No structures were threatened, and no injuries were reported. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

This incident is a reminder of the ongoing wildfire threat in our area. Many neighbors became aware of the fire after seeing aircraft supporting firefighting operations overhead. Stay informed about local fire activity by downloading

apps such as Citizen and **Watch Duty***, which provide notifications about emergency incidents and fire responses.

***Watch Duty Tip:** If you had not turned on "Include Silent Incidents" under County notifications, then you didn't receive a notification of this Skyline Fire incident. Thanks to the quick action from fire crews, the incident didn't reach the threshold of being a community threat. If you wish to receive Watch Duty notifications of smaller incidents, then be sure to turn on (check) Include Silent Incidents.



For an extensivel list of ways you can stay in the know about nearby incidents, visit OFSC's page on **Wildfire Monitoring and Reporting**

WEP Workshop: Prepare Your Neighborhood for Wildfire

Incidents like the Skyline Fire highlight the importance of being prepared before an emergency occurs. OFSC's **Wildfire and Emergency Preparedness (WEP) workshop** brings neighbors together to learn about wildfire preparedness, home hardening, defensible space, and the steps we can take to make our neighborhoods safer from wildfire. **Request a WEP Workshop**

FIREWISE-RELATED HAPPENINGS IN OAKLAND

CRANE WAY FIREWISE CLEAN-UP DAY

On Saturday, July 11, the **Crane Way Firewise Neighborhood** held a Clean-Up Day to engage the community in preparing for the possibility of wildfire. The five-member Firewise Committee planned the event and promoted it through a series of emails, yard signs, and paper yard-waste bags delivered to each household with the event schedule. **Residents were encouraged to fill the bags with yard debris for collection** on garbage day.



The three-hour event brought the community together for education, connection, and wildfire preparedness. Activities included a lemonade and cookie stand hosted by neighborhood children, a visit from Oakland Fire Department Engine 24, and a neighborhood walkthrough focused on home hardening and defensible space.

The Battalion Chief discussed how OFD prioritizes resources during a wildfire and encouraged residents to learn about the Firewise-recommended five-foot zone around homes.



Joelle Fraser, Firewise Lead for the Oakland Firesafe Council, and Sheryl Drinkwater, architect and President of the Diablo Firesafe Council, led the walkthrough, highlighting homes where residents have invested significant time improving their wildfire readiness. Councilmember Janani Ramachandran also joined the event and participated in the walkthrough.

Neighbor Dale Riden hosted a Tool Lending Library, allowing residents to borrow equipment for brush trimming, tree maintenance, and raking.

The event was a great example of community-driven wildfire preparedness, bringing together residents ranging in age from 5 to 85, along with partners from the Oakland Fire Department, Oakland Firesafe Council, and the City of Oakland.

~ Thanks to Resident Lead Susan Carlson for this update.

FIREWISE IN THE WORKS FOR MONS 24!

The Piedmont Pines “7 Streets” Neighborhood (MONS 24) celebrated National Night Out (NNO) by highlighting its efforts to become a Firewise USA® Recognized Community. A team of 10 block captains, led by a four-member steering committee, has been working for several months to establish Firewise boundaries and prepare for a formal launch this August.

Firewise was front and center at the NNO celebration, which drew more than 60 neighbors for an evening of good food and conversation. The event also welcomed City Councilmember Janani Ramachandran and her Chief of Staff, Iris Merriouns.



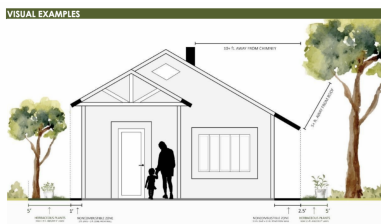
FIREWISE WEBINAR

“Organizing your neighbors – Firewise Communities” webinar hosted by **Pacific Region Garden Clubs**. Joelle Fraser, Oakland Firesafe Council and Macy Cornell, Oakland’s CABSS Firewise Neighborhood. Monday, Sept. 14, 2-3 pm **Register**



Is your community interested in becoming a Firewise community? Firewise USA® helps neighbors work together to reduce wildfire risk and improve preparedness. OFSC can help your neighborhood get started.
Contact us!

ZONE 0 UPDATE



On July 23, 2026, the California Board of Forestry’s Regulatory Advisory Committee met to review the latest draft Zone 0 regulations and answer questions from the Board of Forestry. The latest draft rule contains only minor modifications to the April 23, 2026 draft, including an expanded definition of

combustible materials and clarification on the local alternative method approval processes.

The estimated timeline for approval is:

- **August 19:** Final presentation to the Board of Forestry for review and vote
- **August 24:** Public notice of rulemaking submission (if approved)
- **August 31:** Rule text submitted to the California Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and a five-day public comment period begins
- **September 10:** OAL review completed; earliest potential effective date if approved

Once approved by the State, these regulations will move to local jurisdictions for implementation. Local jurisdictions, such as the City of Oakland, will have the authority to implement practices that are substantially similar to or stricter than the State regulations. For existing homes, compliance would be phased in:

- **Within three years:** Remove combustible materials (such as mulch, firewood, and dead plant debris) and update landscaping.
- **Within five years:** Complete additional Zone 0 improvements, including creating the safety zone, addressing fences and gates within 5 feet, relocating sheds, and pruning trees.

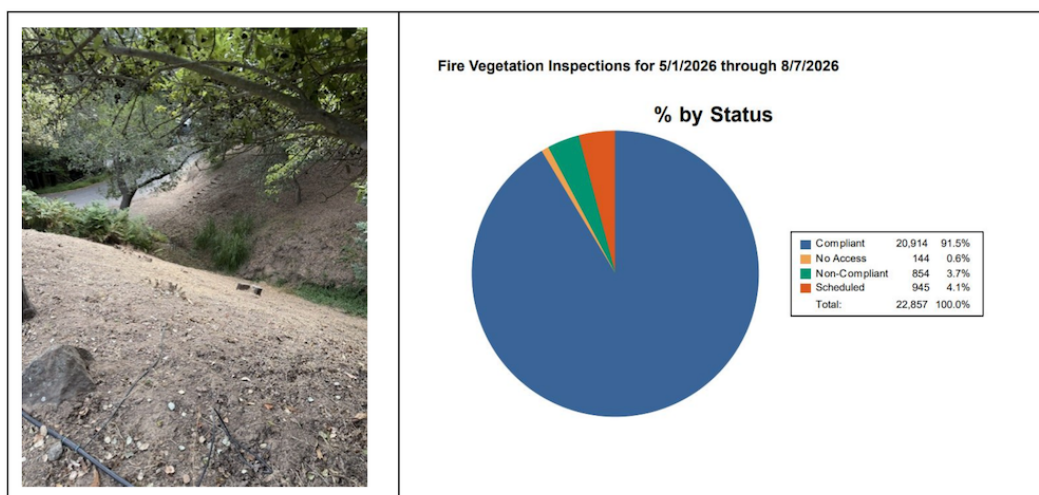
The agenda for the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection meetings scheduled for August 18th and 19th is online [here](#).

The latest summary of the draft Zone 0 Regulations can be viewed [here](#).

UPDATE ON OAKLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT (OFD) WUI INSPECTIONS

Wildfire District Inspections began in June, and it's been great to see many in our neighborhoods cutting grass, cleaning yards, pruning trees, and taking steps to reduce vegetative fuels and make us more firesafe.

At our July monthly community meeting, OFD Acting Vegetation Management Supervisor Edgar R. Molina Perez reported that compliance levels have been strong this year. Below is a graph showing inspection results through August 7.



In early July, the Oakland Fire Department implemented a policy change requiring inspections to be conducted from the public right-of-way following safety incidents involving community members and firefighters, including an incident where a firefighter was injured by dogs. We were saddened to learn of this incident and are grateful that the firefighter has recovered.

Looking ahead to the 2027 inspection cycle, the Oakland Fire Department is exploring expanded inspection methods to improve safety for city personnel while continuing efforts to reduce wildfire risk throughout our community.

UPCOMING EVENTS, WEBINARS & RESOURCES

- **Statewide Insurance Market Update**
August 19 | 5:00 pm [Register](#)

- **Firescaping Qualification Training**
August 26-27, 2026 | Online [Register](#)
- **PG&E Bay Area Wildfire Preparedness Webinar**
Updates and information on wildfire preparedness efforts in the Bay Area
July 8 [Recording](#)
- **East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWCG)**
Access the July 22 meeting recording and find details about the next meeting
on September 23 on their [website](#)
- **United Policyholder's WRAP Working Group**
July 28 meeting [Recording](#) Next meeting is August 25 [Register](#)
- **KQED Forum: With FEMA Cuts, Is There a New Disaster Relief Economy?**
A discussion exploring changes in disaster response and the future of disaster
recovery. July 22 Episode [Watch/listen](#)

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
- Was this newsletter forwarded to you? Join our mailing list: [SUBSCRIBE](#)
- The following OFSC meeting is on September 16



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.

Publication #171

(510) 575-0916



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!