

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



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HAPPENING TONIGHT! YOU'RE INVITED

WILDFIRE SAFETY FOR HIGH RISK AREAS

Wednesday, January 14, 7:00pm, Online



The Garden Guild, along with Oakland FireSafe Council, invites you to attend a **Wildfire Safety Presentation** for High Fire Risk Areas.

Presentations will include:

- Advice on home hardening and vegetation management from the **Oakland FireSafe Council** and a local horticulturist
- Discussion of the advantages of and steps to becoming a **Firewise USA®** community
- Information from the **Oakland Fire Department** and **City Council District 4** on fire safety and vegetation inspections

Attendance will only be by Zoom. **Advance registration is required for this meeting.** After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Zoom meeting.

[REGISTER](#)

All registered attendees will receive links to fire safety planning materials following the meeting. Note: We'll also share the recording and materials in our February newsletter.

AND WE'RE BACK! OFSC JANUARY MEETING



OFSC MEETING (ONLINE)

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

7:00-8:30pm

REGISTER

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



JANUARY SPECIAL PRESENTATION

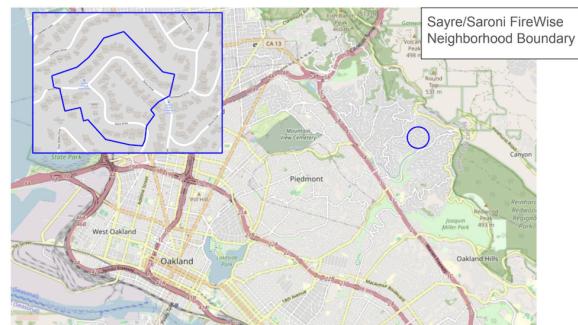
– an update on **Oakland's 2026 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan**: Veronika Cole, Emergency Planning Coordinator, Emergency Management Services Division (EMSD).

OAKLAND'S SAYRE/SARONI FIREWISE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Sayre/Saroni Firewise Neighborhood consists of 47 homes near the intersection of these two streets. Jim Floyd, resident Firewise lead, shared:

"We were spurred to action in the wake of the devastating SoCal fires a year ago.

At that time we saw posters by the nearby CABS Firewise group that introduced us to the Oakland Firesafe Council effort. Discussions with Joelle and CABS members were very inspiring and **motivated us** to join in!



Neighbors in our community had already developed relatively strong social connections but this was our first effort at actually organizing..."

READ THEIR STORY



See how OFSC can help your neighborhood group with the NFPA Firewise USA® recognition process – visit our program page **FIREWISE USA® FOR OAKLAND**

WILDFIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION (WPC) MEETING



In-Person and Online

Thursday, January 15, 2026

5:00-7:00pm

[Agenda & Attendance Details](#)

MANAGE SOME VEGETATION ON MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Martin Luther King Day of Service 2026 is on Monday, January 19th. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities for **fuel reduction** and restoration in Oakland parks and open spaces, such as this one hosted by OFD:



The Oakland Fire Department (OFD) is hosting a habitat restoration event at King Estate Open Space Park.

Monday, January 19
9:00 - 11:30 am

Volunteers can sign up [HERE](#) and select "King Estate Open Space Park" as their site.

Additionally, we recommend checking out some of the projects hosted by Oakland Wildland Stewards (OWLS). Visit our [PARK STEWARDS](#) page.

** NOTE that some projects happen on dates other than Monday the 19th.

MAYOR PROUD OF OFD'S HISTORIC YEAR



At the end of December 2025, Mayor Barbara Lee shared a short reel on social media about Oakland Fire Department:

"Oakland Fire had a historic year. For the first time in over 20 years, all 25 fire stations are open and fully staffed - giving our firefighters the resources they need to effectively respond to over 70,000 911 calls per year.

On wildfire prevention, we deployed 5,500 goats to clear 1,300+ acres of hazardous vegetation and conducted 25,000 property inspections in hillside communities..."

See the rest of the Mayor's post with video [here on Facebook](#) or [here on Instagram](#)

ZONE ZERO... WHAT NOW?



Zone 0 regulations were supposed to be finished by the end of 2025. They weren't.

After five years of hearings, testimony, and near-final drafts grounded in wildfire science, the Zone 0 rulemaking process stalled at the very moment it was expected to conclude.

Strong support from firefighters, fire scientists, Firesafe, and Firewise communities was met with escalating pushback, largely from Southern California interests opposed to removing vegetation near homes. As the statutory deadline passed without adoption, it became clear that the remaining obstacle was no longer technical.

Read this update by Christophe Marcant, OFSC Board Member, which explains what happened, why the delay matters, and why finishing Zone 0 will now require not just good science, but sustained oversight, leadership, and political courage.

RELATED ITEMS OF NOTE

- Wildfire Risk Reduction and Asset Protection (**WRAP**) Working Group Meeting – Tuesday, January 20th at 1pm – Guest speaker will be Forest Advisor Yana Valachovic from UC Agriculture and Natural Resources.
She will present an update on the Board of Forestry Zone Zero Standards. Steve Hawks will be reviewing IBHS' recently released report on The 2025 LA Conflagrations. [Register](#)
- "Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) findings on LA County's Palisades and Eaton Fires reinforce **systems-based mitigation dramatically improves home outcomes** during wildfires." [Read](#)

FIREWISE LANDSCAPING WEBINAR



Monday / February 9 / 2-3pm / Online

"Firewise Landscaping" hosted by [Pacific Region Garden Clubs](#) with Priscilla Robinson, President, Clackamas County Master Gardeners. First in the series of five 1-hour Firewise Webinars to help you reduce your risk of loss from wildfire.

Tell your Garden Club friends, your neighbors, your local fire department, and even your local Firewise Communities about this special informative series. [Register](#)

RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS NETWORK

The Resilient Neighborhoods Network is a growing collective of interdependent neighborhood associations in the Bay Area that are dedicated to building collective resilience through community connection, preparedness, and mutual support.



According to organizer Shirah Wagner, "The Resilient Neighborhoods Network had a very successful second meeting + potluck on December 15th at Oakland Firestation 1.

33 people showed up from over 20 neighborhoods. Partners like EMSD, Red Cross, Alco VOAD, Tzu Chi, Oakland Firesafe Council, and CORE Response shared introductions to their work.



Guest speaker Kat Vellos, professional community builder and author of *We Should Get Together*, spoke on the importance of hyper-local community and connections.

We got into groups and discussed specific needs we had around our resilience efforts (**the majority wanted more practical, hands-on training**) and got to know each other better."

Oakland is home to numerous neighborhood associations, Firewise communities, and self-led preparedness initiatives. Let's unite! If you're interested in learning more or attending a meeting, please reach out to Shirah Wagner at shirah@resilientpeeps.com

MORE OF NOTE

- Berkeley's Assistant Fire Chief Colin Arnold was the keynote speaker at Claremont Canyon Conservancy's annual meeting back in November. Here is the [PDF](#) of his presentation on how to make homes and neighborhoods more wildfire safe.
- **Firescaping Qualification Training (FQT) Course**, February 11 &12 – Go beyond traditional vegetation management with ReScape's science-based

- The **East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments** is highlighted in the January issue of the SF Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) Report for their work as a collaborative governance model advancing wildfire resilience. [See report](#)
- "Embers at the Edge: Modeling Fire Spread in the Wildland-Urban Interface, Partners in Resilience Part 1" – This episode of Disaster Discussions Podcast from Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) dives into cutting-edge work with **research partners at UC Berkeley** based on findings from the IBHS Structure-to-Structure Fire Spread experiment. [Watch](#)
- "Can yards in the Berkeley Hills be both fire-safe and beautiful?" - *The Berkeleyside* republished this article as one of their favorite stories of 2025 [Read](#)
- Reminder: Cal Trans is conducting a study regarding removing the Truck Ban on 580 (which would affect Highway 13 as well). A wildfire safety concern is that big rigs on 580 could cause **more congestion on a major evacuation route**. With this and other concerns in mind, the group "No Big Rigs on I-580" is advocating to maintain the truck ban [Learn More](#)

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 next OFSC meeting is on February 18th



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.

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