

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](#)

NEW OFSC VENDOR LIST!

Looking for a contractor to help reduce wildfire risk around your home?



The **Oakland Firesafe Council's Vendor List** connects residents with local businesses that provide wildfire preparedness and mitigation services, including defensible space, vegetation management, tree work, home hardening, and more!

While inclusion on the list does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by the Oakland Firesafe Council, we hope it serves as a helpful starting point for homeowners seeking qualified professionals to help.



If you've had a positive experience with a local vendor, **submit a recommendation** to be added to the list.

JOIN US ONLINE – OFSC JULY MEETING



OFSC MEETING (ONLINE)

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

7:00–8:30pm

REGISTER

July Presentation – Joel Laucher of United Policy Holders will give us the latest on new insurance regulations aimed at increasing fire insurance policies written in high-risk areas. **United Policyholders** (UP) is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) whose mission is to be a trustworthy and useful information resource and a respected voice for consumers of all types of insurance across the United States. Meeting **AGENDA**

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

FOLLOW-UP TO OUR JUNE MEETING

Thank you to guest presenter Ian Moore for providing an overview of several **open-source wildfire risk modeling programs** offered by Spatial Informatics Group (SIG) and discussing how communities can use these resources to better understand and reduce wildfire risk. Review the [PDF of his presentation](#).

IN MEMORIAM: BARBARA GOLDENBERG



The Oakland Firesafe Council was saddened to learn of the passing of former Board Vice President Barbara Goldenberg in June. Barbara was a dedicated volunteer whose leadership and commitment helped shape wildfire preparedness efforts in the Oakland Hills.

Barbara played an integral role in the successful campaign to establish Oakland's Wildfire Prevention Assessment District, helping organize precinct materials for the historic ballot measure, which passed with overwhelming community support. She later served as President of the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District Board and as Vice President of the Oakland Firesafe Council.

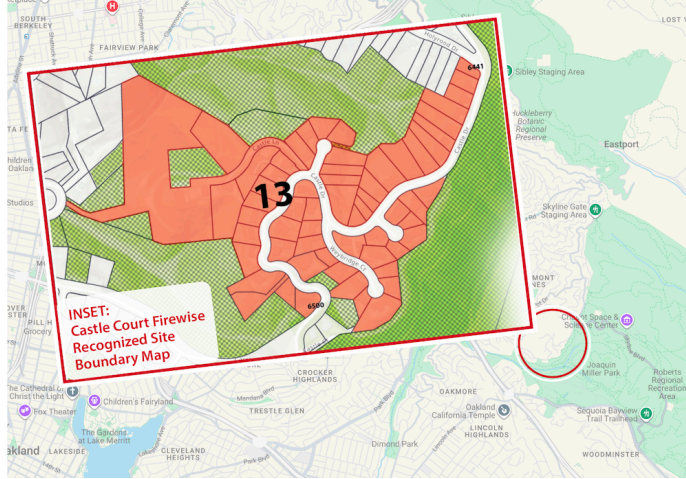
Those who worked alongside Barbara remember her for her wisdom, candor, and unwavering dedication. OFSC Emeritus Board Member Sue Piper recalled that Barbara was "someone I could always rely on for good advice." Her thoughtful leadership, steady presence, and commitment to protecting Oakland's communities left a lasting impact on the organization and on the many volunteers who had the privilege of working with her.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Barbara's husband, Alan, her family, and all who knew and loved her. Barbara will be greatly missed, and we are grateful for the legacy of service she leaves behind.

OAKLAND'S SIXTEENTH FIREWISE SITE

CONGRATULATIONS to the residents of **Castle Court, Oakland's newest Firewise USA® Recognized Site!** The neighborhood began its Firewise journey last October and has now achieved this important milestone in community wildfire preparedness.

Our April newsletter featured Castle Court's wildfire risk assessment, an important step on the path to Firewise recognition. Now you can [read the full story](#) of how neighbors worked together to earn their recognition in our latest blog post.



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!

PG&E FUEL REDUCTION GRANT

In June, the Oakland Firesafe Council completed the final project funded through our 2026 PG&E Fuel Reduction Grant. Crews **tackled hazardous vegetation, removed invasive species, improved defensible space, and strengthened evacuation routes** across multiple Oakland Hills properties.



In this example, the project addressed an urgent safety concern for property that backs directly onto Joaquin Miller Park. Several large trees, including a mature Monterey pine affected by pitch canker, a lethal fungal disease vectored by bark beetles, were overhanging the fenceline and reaching toward the rear of the home. The proposed work included

removing the pine, thinning, and selective removal of hazardous black acacia (*Acacia melanoxylon*) to reduce canopy encroachment and restore defensible space.

The appreciative homeowner shared, "As someone who was here during the 1991 Oakland Firestorm, I can tell you that I learned a lot during this process – most important is that this program can reduce our fire risk and save lives and property if we all do our part."

In next month's newsletter, we'll share more before-and-after photos of several high-risk sites and highlight the impact of this grant on wildfire resilience in our community.

ORCA 4th OF JULY RADIO PATROL

On Saturday, July 4th, the **Oakland Radio Communication Association** (ORCA - Amateur/Ham radio) in conjunction with Oakland's Emergency Management Services Division/OFD conducted mobile wildfire patrols in the Oakland hills during the late afternoon and early evening. **This was ORCA's 33rd consecutive year performing this service!**



13 ORCA volunteers patrolled and observed, looking for fire or smoke as well as illegal fireworks. They communicated via their Amateur/Ham radios with the network being run from Oakland Fire Station 25 on Butters Dr. Thankfully no fire/smoke was encountered--in that regard, it was a quiet evening, not from the fireworks, however!

REDUCING FIRE DANGER IN AND AROUND OAKLAND PARKS

Joaquin Miller Road Fuel Reduction and Park Safety Improvements

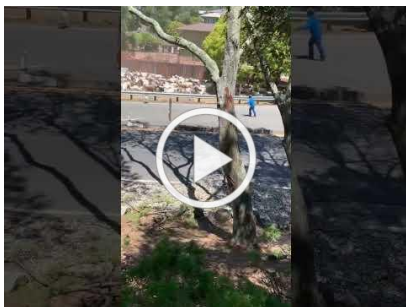


Oakland Public Works (OPW) has been busy reducing wildfire fuels along Joaquin Miller Road, clearing eucalyptus duff and hazardous vegetation from the park side of the roadway up to Skyline Boulevard. Friends of Joaquin Miller Park (FOJMP) member Dale Ridsen alerted us to the work and praised OPW crews for tackling the steep hillsides along this important evacuation route.

Ridsen also shared that FOJMP has been working with East Bay Regional Park District Police to address recent overnight parties and illegal parking in the area. Joaquin Miller Park is closed from dusk to dawn, and these efforts help improve public safety while ensuring emergency access remains available when needed.

Goats on the Move!

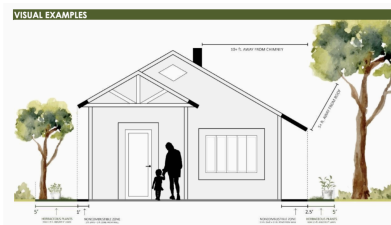
It was a lively scene on Golf Links Road recently as a hard-working herd of goats crossed from one side of Knowland Park to the other on their way to their next grazing assignment.



Goat grazing is an important part of the [City of Oakland's Vegetation Management Plan \(VMP\)](#), which provides a framework for reducing hazardous vegetation and managing fuel loads on City-owned properties and along roadways within the City's Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). The four legged firefighters help reduce wildfire risk.

Many thanks to the Grass Valley residents who captured [this fun video](#) and shared it with OFSC.

ZONE 0 UPDATE



The Zone 0 Committee held its latest public workshop on June 16 in Sacramento, where members discussed draft regulatory language and accepted public comment on the proposed rules.

You can watch a [recording of the workshop](#) and review the latest draft documents on the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's [website](#).

The Board's next meeting is scheduled for **July 21–23** in Santa Cruz, where Zone 0 may be discussed further. Agendas are typically posted in advance, so check the Board's website closer to the meeting date for the latest information.

Read more from OFSC board member Elizabeth Stage [here](#).

DID YOU KNOW...



Embers can fly a mile or more and potentially ignite structures far from a main wildfire. The most effective and efficient way to protect lives and property from wildfire is to prepare and maintain defensible space “from the house out.” **Start by focusing on reducing fire danger in Zone 0** – the area 0-5’ around homes and structures. Learn about wildfire preparedness actions that [Don't Give Embers a Chance!](#)

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Tuesday, August 4, 2026, 5:00pm - 8:00pm

National Night Out – It's time to reconnect with neighbors and friends! Organize a block party, barbecue, ice cream social, or other outdoor event that brings neighbors together. City of

Oakland staff, Oakland Fire Department and Police Department personnel and elected officials will visit as many parties as possible.



For a list of **OFSC's suggested information** that you can print out for and/or electronically share with your NNO group, email prepare@oaklandfiresafecouncil.org



WE WANT TO SEE OFSC AT YOUR NNO EVENT! Share photos of your neighborhood with OFSC guides and Firewise resources, and we may share them in our newsletter and social media channels. email outreach@oaklandfiresafecouncil.org

AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CREATES APP: REDFLAG CHECK



When the National Weather Service issues a Red Flag Warning (RFW), the alert often covers a large geographic area, making it difficult for some to know whether their home is actually in or just near the warning zone. To help answer that question, Fremont High School junior **Vedant Thakker** created redflag-check.info.



The site and app let users check an address to see whether it's inside the warning zone, in a downwind threat area, adjacent to the warning zone, or outside the current warning area, using live National Weather Service data.

This free tool is intended for informational purposes during Red Flag Warning events. The Oakland Firesafe Council and Vedant encourage residents to rely on **AC Alert**, **Genasys Protect**, and **other official emergency notifications** for evacuation orders and public safety information. Remember that **even if you are outside a Red Flag Warning area, you may still be at risk from a wind-driven wildfire**. Stay informed, have a plan, and be prepared.

Kudos to Vedant for recognizing a need and volunteering his time and programming skills to create a new resource for our community!

MORE OF NOTE

- **East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWCG)**
Next meeting is July 22 – check their [website](#) for agenda and meeting materials closer to the date
- **Disaster Preparedness Webinar**
Hosted by Pacific Region Garden Clubs. Monday, August 10, 2–3 pm, Online [Register](#)
- **Fire-Smart Landscaping Forum**
Hosted by UC ANR Fire Network (6/23) [Recording](#)

- **Firescaping Qualification Training**
Rescape FQT. Online August 26 & 27, 2026 [Register](#)
- **United Policyholder's WRAP Working Group**
June 16 meeting [Recording](#)
- **Residential Insurance Webinar**
California Department of Insurance (6/17) [Recording](#)

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 August 19



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 #170

(510) 575-0916



Oakland Firesafe Council | 6114 La Salle Avenue Suite 462 | Oakland, CA 94611 US

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



Try email marketing for free today!