

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



EDUCATION  
ADVOCACY  
PROGRAMS  
COMMUNITY BUILDING

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## AFTER THE RAIN...

### HOME HARDENING: GUTTERS



Did you notice any clogged or overflowing gutters around your home during the recent rains? Here's why it matters:

Regularly cleaning your gutters not only keeps them functioning properly but also prevents them from becoming a potential fire hazard.

According to the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) Fire Network, "**Accumulation of debris in gutters poses one of the greatest fire hazards for a building.** If embers ignite debris, such as leaves or pine needles, the resulting fire will directly expose the edge of the roof to flames." [See more](#)



### FIRESCAPING: KEEP UP WITH IRRIGATION



Get your yard and garden ready for fire season. Check your irrigation system now to keep your plants and grass healthy **BEFORE** the dry season hits. Dry and dead vegetation becomes fuel, while healthy, well-watered plants are essential to a **fire-smart yard**.

Stay up on top of planting and maintenance with the [UC Master Gardener Program of Alameda County's month-by-month garden calendar](#). March is a good time to check and fix your irrigation systems.

## EBMUD Water Conservation Rebates

Explore water-saving programs from East Bay Municipal Utility District! They offer free soil coupons, **irrigation rebates**, and more... [VISIT](#)



OFSC Guide – [Home Hardening for Wildfire](#)

OFSC Guide – [Defensible Space & Landscaping for Fire Safety](#)

## JOIN US ONLINE – OFSC MARCH MEETING



### OFSC MEETING (ONLINE)

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

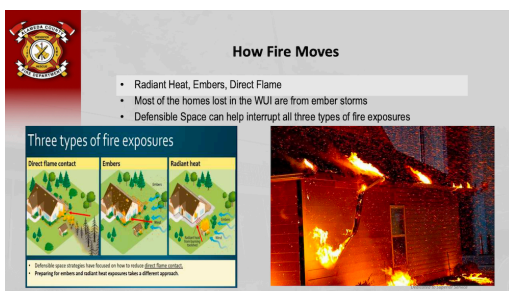
7:00–8:30pm

[REGISTER](#)

March's Special Guest – Chris Pinto will discuss his role and responsibilities as California Fire Safe Council's Alameda County Coordinator. Meeting [AGENDA](#)

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

## FOLLOW-UP FROM FEBRUARY'S MEETING



Breanne Slimick of Alameda County Fire Department gave an excellent and well-received presentation on Alameda County wildfire defensible space recommendations, AC Alert, and Genasys Protect. If you missed it, or would like to review, here is the [Recording](#) and [PDF](#) of her slides.



OFSC Guide – [Notifications and Warnings](#)

OFSC Guide – [Emergency Evacuations](#)

## FROM STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS

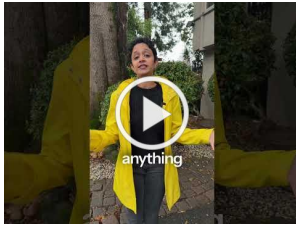
### COUNTY WILDFIRE PLAN

In December, the Alameda County Fire Chiefs Association, Hills Emergency Forum, and Diablo Fire Safe Council, with community stakeholders, released the [2025 Countywide Update to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan](#)



(CWPP). The update outlines wildfire risks in the wildland-urban interface and recommends actions, including wildfire education, fuel reduction, home hardening, and improved emergency preparedness. [Read more](#) in Alameda County Supervisor Bas' February Newsletter.

## ZONE 0 AWARENESS



Oakland District 4 Councilmember Janani Ramachandran recently shared a short video explaining Zone 0, what these regulations entail, and how these requirements help prevent homes from catching fire during the spread of a wildfire.

## CITY OF OAKLAND PEP COURSE



**READY, OAKLAND?**  
Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP) Course

Wednesday / April 8, 2026 / 4:30pm  
Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce

Prepare yourself and your household for the next disaster or emergency. [Register](#)

## FEDERAL WILDFIRE RESILIENCE GRANTS

Senator Alex Padilla introduced [legislation to establish a Community Wildfire Resilience Grant Program](#), which supports local wildfire mitigation projects.

## NEW WILDFIRE SAFETY LAWS

Three new California laws took effect on January 1 to strengthen wildfire resilience and homeowner protections. [Learn more](#)

# WILDFIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION Of Note from the February Meeting

Oakland's [Wildfire Prevention Commission](#) (WPC) met on February 19. Chair Tom Grossman reported that the Oakland Fire Department will take responsibility for maintaining the physical accessibility of fire hydrants affected by sliding soil or excess vegetation.

However, hydrants still need community support to stay clear and accessible. **Consider adopting a hydrant** in your neighborhood – learn more about the OFSC Program [Adopt-a-Hydrant](#).



The **next meeting** of the Commission is Thursday, March 19, 5–7pm at City Hall.

The WPC serves as the public oversight body for Measure MM funding, providing an estimated \$2.7 million annually to support vegetation management activities in Oakland to reduce wildfire risk.

## INSURANCE WEBINAR



**Insurance Matters: Understanding and Renewing Your Insurance**

**Monday / April 13 / 2–3pm / Online**

Hosted by **Pacific Region Garden Clubs** featuring Emily Rogan of United Policyholders (UP). This is the third in a series of five Firewise webinars designed to help you lower your risk of wildfire loss.

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

## CHECK YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS!



**Did you know that your fire extinguishers have an expiration date?**

Disposable ones have a shelf life of 10–12 years, depending on the manufacturer. Rechargeable ones require more frequent maintenance.

Former OFSC board member Bob Meyers recently shared his positive experience with **Acme Fire Extinguisher Co.** Thanks to Bob for the recommendation!

*NOTE: This does not constitute an endorsement by OFSC.*

If you have a fire-related contractor, let us know! We are compiling a list for the community. [Contact OFSC](#)

## MORE OF NOTE

- **East Bay Resilient Neighborhoods Network** Workshop + Potluck: Sunday, March 22, 1–3pm, at 1605 MLK Jr Way, Oakland – In collaboration with CORE Response, they will be facilitating a 90-min personal emergency planning workshop. [Details & registration](#)
- The next meeting of **East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWCG)** will be Wednesday, March 25, 9am–12pm, at 2180 Mivvia St. Berkeley, CA 94704 in the Redwood Room. Agenda and meeting materials are posted closer to that date at on their [website](#).
- **United Policyholder's Wildfire Risk Reduction and Asset Protection (WRAP) Working Group:**
  - March Meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 1pm – Featuring speakers from the California Association of Realtors Insurance Task Force. They will discuss how the current home insurance marketplace is impacting the Real Estate market in their region and how wildfire mitigation measures (or lack of) are affecting buyers and sellers outcomes. [Register](#)
  - February Meeting (2/24) [Recording](#)
- **United Policyholders (UP) Tip of the Month:** "Just because your insurance is costing more, it may actually be covering less!" Check that your coverage will cover your needs. [Read](#)
- **Smart & Connected Communities (SCC)** January Newsletter [Read](#)
- **Zone Zero Landscape Design Webinar** hosted by Berkeley Councilmember Brent Blackaby (2/19) [Recording](#)
- **Open for Public Comment:** Regional Wildfire & Landscape Resilience Grant Guidelines. CAL FIRE is inviting public feedback on draft guidelines under the new Regional Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Grant Program. [Give feedback](#)

OOPS! Sincere apologies to Nancy Mueller for the misspelling of her last name in our February Newsletter.

## 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](mailto:outreach@oaklandfiresafecouncil.org)
- Was this newsletter forwarded to you? Join our mailing list: [SUBSCRIBE](#)
- The following OFSC meeting is on April 15



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.*

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