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OFSC Publication #123

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## CONGRATS, CHIEF!

**OFSC congratulates Chief Covington and is pleased to continue our relationship for wildfire prevention and readiness.**



Damon Covington speaking outside an Oakland Fire Station in May after his appointment as interim chief. Credit: Courtesy of Oakland Fire Department

The Oakland Fire Department announced Damon Covington for the permanent position of Fire Chief, after months of serving as the interim chief. Chief Covington was officially sworn in on October 26, 2023. **ARTICLE**

## PULL UP A CHAIR, WEDNESDAY EVENING 11/15



### OFSC MEETING (ONLINE)

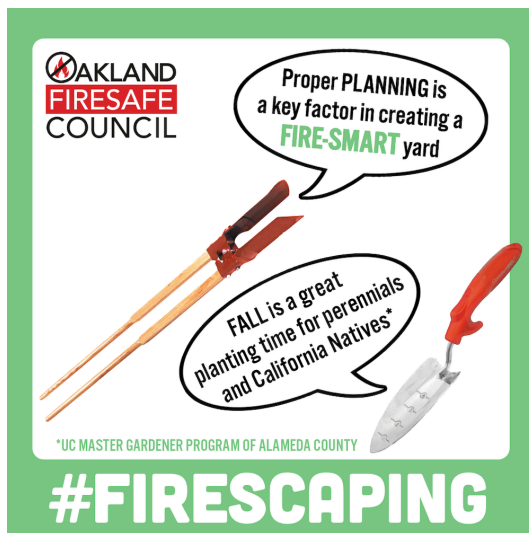
Wed., Nov. 15, 2023

7:00-8:30pm

Details and registration [HERE](#)

## FALL FIRESCAPING PROJECTS

According to **UCCE Master Gardeners of Alameda County** month-to month garden calendar, FALL is a great planting time for perennials and California Natives. And now is also a great time to cut back and divide leggy perennials.



**PLANNING** – choosing the right plant for the right place – is a key principle in **firescaping**.

Be sure to start with healthy plants so they have a better chance of establishing well and staying healthy (and not end up being a deceased pile of fire fuel.)



**MAINTENANCE** – monitoring plant health, removing debris, pruning to reduce fuel load– is a key principle in **firescaping**.

Healthy plants that are sufficiently hydrated are less likely to ignite, so regular maintenance helps keep them from ending up as piles of fire fuel.

## IT'S BEEN 5 YEARS – A STUDY IN ADAPTATION



The Camp fire tore through Paradise, Calif. ((Carolyn Cole / Los Angeles Times))

## Has California addressed the failures that led to the deadly Camp Fire five years ago?

"We don't fight earthquakes, tornadoes or hurricanes," **We adapt and build smarter.** And Paradise really has given us strong information about what that adaptation needs to look like." - Yana Valachovic, UCANR forest advisor.

**ARTICLE**



Five years after the Camp Fire, construction of steel frame homes are among the precautions the town is taking to prevent future devastation. Unlike wood, steel does not ignite, so can better withstand fire. (Gail Monden/Big Area News Group)

## WORKING TO BUILD A FIREPROOF TOWN

" 'We have come so far': Five years after California's historic Camp Fire killed 85, Paradise moves ahead with a goal to build a fireproof town. A town some feared might be permanently wiped from the map is welcoming a new generation of young families." **ARTICLE**

**TO FORTIFY ITSELF AGAINST FUTURE DISASTERS**, the town has launched 37 projects, such as:

- An emergency notification system.
- Widened evacuation routes.
- Underground utilities.
- Linked road segments.
- Toughened residential building codes.
- Fuel breaks.

## MORE ITEMS OF NOTE

### YOU ARE INVITED: CLAREMONT CANYON CONSERVANCY MEETING

Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, 4-6 PM // Skyline Room of the Claremont Club & Spa



The Annual Meeting will be an opportunity to learn about **Oakland's revised vegetation management plan** and assess whether the plan and its

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) merit support. **Janani Ramachandran**, the Oakland District 4 Council Member who represents the Oakland Hills neighborhoods, will be the keynote speaker. She will be accompanied by **Joe DeVries**, Oakland's Deputy City Administrator; who continues to coordinate the City's work across departments to reduce the risk of wildfire. **DETAILS**



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## CITY OF OAKLAND SEEKS INPUT FOR URBAN FOREST PLAN

The Urban Forest Plan assesses Oakland's urban forest and provides an equitable vision for the care, maintenance, and growth of our trees.

**Review and comment** on the draft Plan.

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## GROUPS WORK TO REDUCE FIRE RISK IN OAKLAND

*"Dale Riden always worries when he sees the densely packed trees growing on the hills in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park, which spans 500 acres within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone designated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection."* **ARTICLE** by Julian Wray

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## MENTAL HEALTH FOR WILDLAND FIRE PERSONNEL

A joint wildland firefighter behavioral health program, currently under development, will expand the mental health support available to wildland fire personnel. **READ**

## DO YOU DEEM THIS EMAIL WORTHY?

If you think OFSC newsletters (and occasional important advisories such as those regarding Red Flag Warnings) are **crucial for community safety**, we could use your help. Your financial support would help us to continue on with these and other important, potentially life-saving endeavors such as:

- offering Firewise USA® support
- providing free workshops
- developing new wildfire safety programs
- nurturing 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.

**CONTACT**



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