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SUPPORT

OFSC Publication #121

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OAKLAND NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZES AND PERFORMS ITS OWN EVAC DRILL

Saturday, October 7, 11:30am – the CABS neighborhood received the following text and voice alert:



“This is a drill and not an actual emergency. Your CABS neighborhood group is holding an evacuation drill. If you’re participating in this drill, please prepare to evacuate in the next half hour and meet up at noon on the top floor of the Montclair Parking Garage at 6235 La Salle Avenue. Again, this is a drill and not an actual emergency.”

CABS SHARES THEIR PROCESS AND IMPLEMENTATION:



*Our neighborhood group, CABS, is defined by four streets (Colton, Asilomar, Balboa and Snake) and has approximately 87 homes. We formed over 15 years ago as a first line of defense in the event of an emergency, and **became recognized by the Firewise USA program in 2022**. In our first-year Firewise plan, we worked on reducing fuel loads around our homes and neighborhood.*

As we entered our second year, we had to come up with a plan to not only keep our homes safe but our neighbors and families as well. We needed to get back to basics and practice like in school with a neighborhood evacuation drill.



First, we had to come up with a plan...

SEE THEIR FULL REPORT

which details their in-depth planning, experience on the day of the drill, and the takeaway lessons from the exercise.

- OFSC Guide [Emergency Evacuations](#)
- OFSC Guide [Evacuation & Go-Bag Checklists](#)

GRASS FIRE IN EAST OAKLAND SHOWS THAT WILDFIRE IS A CITYWIDE CONCERN

The importance of and need for **home hardening against wildfire** and **defensible space** practices beyond "the Hills" was demonstrated by this recent incident. See article along with some more excellent photos of the scene [HERE](#)

Defensible space creates a buffer between buildings & surrounding areas of vegetation. In addition to helping slow or stop the spread of wildfire, it also provides a

safer place for firefighters to defend properties and allows more time for evacuation if needed.

- OFSC Guide **Defensible Space** and Landscaping for Fire Safety
- OFSC Guide **Home Hardening** Against Wildfire
- OFSC Guide **Assessment Checklist** for Home Wildfire Hardening

SPEAKING OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE...



"Slow the Spread of Fire"

This 30-second video from Fire Safe Marin is a helpful reminder that creating fuel breaks – space around your house and between plants – will help interrupt the spread of fire and (it bears repeating) also provides a **safer place for firefighters** to defend properties.

LOOKING FOR SOME HELP WITH THAT?



Creating **defensible space** and following fire-smart landscaping (**firescaping**) principles can greatly improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. The overall approach is aimed at the **reduction and separation of combustibles** in order to protect structures from three types of ignitions: embers, radiant heat, and direct flames.

Need help finding a contractor that is knowledgeable about firescaping and/or vegetation management practices? **OFSC has curated a directory** of local landscapers, contractors, and other service providers who help Oakland residents protect their homes:

Directory of Firescaping / Veg Mgmt Services

PULL UP A CHAIR, WEDNESDAY EVENING 10/18



OFSC MEETING (ONLINE)

Wed., Oct. 18, 2023

7:00-8:30pm

Details and registration [HERE](#)

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR IMPORTANT SAFETY PROGRAMS



Early in 2022, OFSC helped the Klamath-Brunell neighborhood become **Oakland's FIRST Firewise USA® Site!** Helping our communities be prepared and ready for any disaster is a **crucial service that OFSC has provided**, and needs to continue doing so. We are seeking funding to help re-instate our works in the community safety such as:

- offering Firewise USA® support
- providing free workshops
- developing new wildfire safety programs
- nurturing connections with other East Bay partners in preparedness

Your financial support would help us to continue on with these and other important, potentially life-saving endeavors. And should you have any **contacts with corporate and/or foundation sources** of grant funds and donations, we'd be grateful for any connections.

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

(510) 575-0916



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

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