

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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FIREWISE 2026 EVACUATION DRILL



We Practiced Evacuating. Here's What We Learned.

What happens when you actually practice evacuating before an emergency? More than 40 Oakland households from 10 Firewise communities found out on September 19 during Oakland's second annual Firewise Evacuation Drill.

Firewise Neighborhoods CABSS, CastleGate, Crane Way, Estates Fountains, Grand View, LaMasNa Plus, Mid Canyon, Sayre/Saroni, Skyline/Moon Gate and Valley View each took the lead in practicing evacuation within their neighborhoods. The drill also introduced a new radio communications component using **GENOAK** with an emergency scenario in play.

The grassroots drill gave residents a chance to test their communication systems, practice evacuation routes, check their go-bags and think through challenges, including pets, traffic, construction, narrow roads and limited routes.

One of the most valuable parts of the day was coming together afterward to share what each neighborhood experienced and learn from one another as well as from the Oakland Fire Department Chief, Fire Marshall and OES Manager.

What did we learn? What surprised participants? And what should we be thinking about before the next evacuation?

Read the full story (more photos!) on our blog for highlights from the drill, lessons from participating neighborhoods, and a look at how Oakland's Firewise communities are building preparedness together.

JOIN US OCTOBER 21

We'll take the conversation a step further at the **OFSC Community Meeting** (see below) on Wednesday, October 21, where we'll share highlights and lessons from the 2026 Firewise Evacuation Drill and talk about what comes next for wildfire preparedness in Oakland.

JOIN US ONLINE – OFSC OCTOBER MEETING



OFSC MEETING (ONLINE)

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

7:00–8:30pm

REGISTER

October Presentation – Our speakers this month are Jessica Feil, Manager of Oakland Emergency Services and Maryanne Hubbard, OFSC Board member and Marketing Lead. They will be sharing observations and lessons learned from the recent Oakland Firewise Evacuation Drill held on September 19, 2026 Meeting **AGENDA**

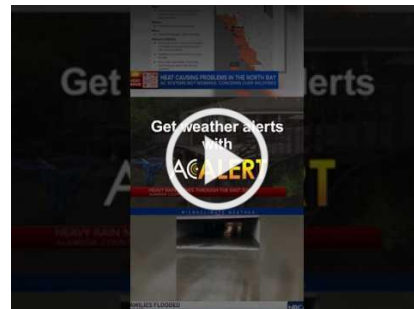
We welcome everyone from all Oakland and East Bay communities to observe, participate, and/or get involved.

FOLLOW-UP TO SEPTEMBER MEETING

Doug Mosher, OFSC Board member, and Vedant Thaker, a Fremont 11th grade student, spoke about the significance of **Red Flag Warnings** and a new tool for better assessing the areas impacted by these warnings.

We are now in peak fire danger season, please remember to **UPDATE YOUR AC ALERT PREFERENCES!** Alameda County residents can receive automated National Weather Service weather alerts through AC Alert but you must sign up!

Watch the AC Alert instructional video



NEW OFSC PROGRAM



DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSESSMENTS!

Wondering how to better protect your home from wildfire?

Oakland Firesafe Council (OFSC) is now offering educational **Defensible Space (D-Space) Assessments** to help homeowners identify potential vulnerabilities and explore practical ways to reduce wildfire risk.

An OFSC volunteer will conduct a 360-degree, ground-level walk-around of your home's exterior and surrounding landscape, sharing recommendations for home hardening and defensible space. Our checklist draws on current state and local regulations and established best practices from CAL FIRE, Oakland, Firewise USA, and the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS).



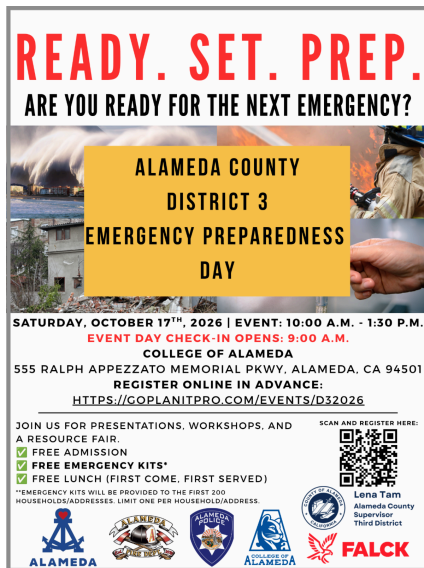
These **assessments are educational** and are not official fire department or insurance compliance inspections.



Request an assessment: **Complete this request form** and an OFSC volunteer will contact you to discuss the process and schedule a visit.

OFSC OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

ALAMEDA COUNTY D3 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DAY 10/17



Join us for presentations, workshops, and a resource fair – **OFSC will be tabling** and we'd love to meet you and answer any questions you might have!

Saturday, October 17, 2026

10:00 am – 1:30 pm

College of Alameda, 555 Ralph Appezzato Memorial Pkwy, Alameda, CA 94501

- Free Admission
- Free Emergency Kits*
- Free Lunch (First Come, First Served)

REGISTER Online in Advance

**Emergency kits will be provided to the first 200 households/addresses. Limit one per household/address.*

HOME GARDENER'S LUNCH



OFSC presented a Wildfire Preparedness seminar at the Home Gardeners September lunch meeting on September 28 at the Hiller Highlands Club in Oakland. The presentation covered essential steps for personal preparedness as well as home hardening, defensible space, firescaping and Firewise USA. There were approximately 30-40 in attendance

and the presentation was very well received with a lot of interest and many questions. If your organization is interested in having such a presentation, please email a request to info@oaklandfiresafecouncil.org or use our website [Contact Form](#)

SOLANO STROLL



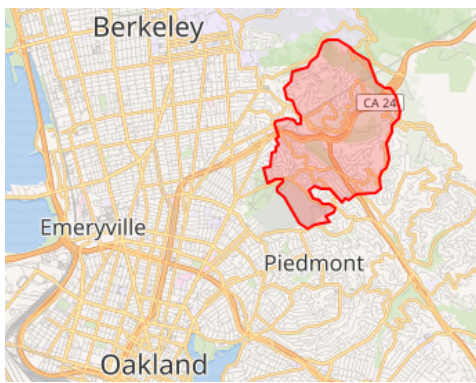
OFSC tabled with Alameda County D5 at the Solano Stroll on September 13, 2026.

OFSC fielded many questions regarding home hardening and defensible space. We met many youth who, we were pleased to learn, were well aware of what a go bag was all about! :)

1991 TUNNEL FIRE COMMEMORATION

You're Invited: 35th Anniversary of the Oakland/Berkeley Hills Fire

Join the [North Hills Community Association](#) on **Sunday, October 18, from 1–3 pm** at Gateway Garden (intersection of Hiller Drive, Caldecott Lane and Tunnel Road) to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the devastating 1991 Oakland/Berkeley Hills Fire.



On October 20, 1991, a fast-moving wildfire claimed 25 lives, injured 150 people and destroyed 3,000 homes, forever changing the Oakland community. Its legacy includes the resilience of survivors, stronger regional emergency coordination, and the growth of community-led wildfire preparedness efforts. Today, the anniversary serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of protecting our homes, neighbors and neighborhoods from future wildfires.

Join fellow community members to **remember those impacted, honor the resilience of our community, and reflect on the lessons of 1991** as we continue working together to protect Oakland from future wildfires.

Hear from Oakland Fire Chief Damon Covington, local elected officials, and a representative of the Oakland Firesafe Council.

Picture sources for Tunnel Fire: Brant Ward/The Chronicle and Wikipedia

FIREWISE

Congratulation to Oakland's 17th Firewise Site!



Having received official recognition in August, the Evergreen Slater Neighborhood Firewise Community shared this about their experience:

"The Evergreen Slater Neighborhood Firewise Community grew out of our neighborhood's experience **living through the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire**. The fires came within feet of homes in our Firewise community and tragically destroyed many just next door to us. Since that time, we have been part of several efforts to educate and prepare for the next one. Sitting on one end next to the eucalyptus grove behind the Claremont Hotel, and

Garber Park on the other end, we know we need to be vigilant ..." [Read more](#)



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!](#)

ZONE 0 UPDATE

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has withdrawn its Zone 0 regulatory package from review by the California Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

So, what does that mean?

On September 8, the Board of Forestry withdrew the Zone 0 regulations from review by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for what we understand are procedural issues. **It does not mean that Zone 0 is dead.** The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection will resubmit the regulations once certain questions are answered and the requested technical edits are made. While a timeline has not been publicized, we expect that the delay will not be very long. The OAL guidance allows a withdrawn rulemaking package to be resubmitted before the one-year notice period expires.

What does this mean for Oakland?

At present, there are no new Zone 0 requirements to act on at the moment but you should continue to **prepare your home for wildfire**. We'll continue to follow the process and share updates as we learn more.

NEWS ON OTHER STATE SPONSORED WILDFIRE PREVENTION BILLS

The State of California continues to proactively seek legislative solutions to wildfire prevention and preparedness. On September 29, Governor Newsom signed into law several bills accelerating wildfire prevention efforts, strengthening fire response and water supplies, providing home hardening initiatives, as well as supporting Cal Fire Safe Council initiatives surrounding County Coordinators. For details on these bills see **Governor Newsom signs legislation to accelerate wildfire prevention projects, strengthen fire response, and harden communities against future disasters**

FROM THE CITY OF OAKLAND

WILDFIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION (WPC)

By Elizabeth Stage, OFSC Boardmember

The Wildfire Prevention Commission (WPC) had its first meeting since it reported to City Council in June on September 17th.

- The Commissioners were dismayed that many requests for information in the annual report were not provided or even acknowledged. Council Member Zac Unger was the first speaker in Open Forum and he offered to convene a small group that would include OFD Chief Covington, a representative of Public Works, and a couple Commissioners; he hoped that it would become a regular meeting to discuss the lack of progress in providing information and taking actions to implement MM. Subsequent Open Forum speakers asked questions and made suggestions that further supported the Commission's positions.

- Tom Grossman and Jim Robinson were re-elected as Chair and Vice Chair. The Commissioners set the schedule for 2026-27, plenary meetings in alternate months with subcommittee meetings in the other months. Many suggestions were made about the subcommittees and Chair Grossman said that he'd work on those by email so there was plenty of time to discuss Measure MM and the essential steps that should be updated and set an agenda for the 2026-27 goals.

- Public Works provided information in print (after the meeting started) on the work done in 2025-2026 and/or 2026-27; a quick glance identified several examples of inconsistent and confusing data were. Instead of getting into the weeds, a new subcommittee was proposed by Commissioner Stage; the Data Committee will begin work in October, including representatives from Public Works, Fire, and the Commission with the goal of figuring out what data will be updated quarterly so that the Commission has the information it needs to conduct its work. The Commissioners channeled their disappointment to constructive suggestions for accountability and timeliness, so we were pleased with the outcome of the meeting and the continuing support of Chief Covington and Assistant Fire Marshal Javan Smith.

The WPC's next meeting is **Thursday, October 19**, 5-7pm, City Hall and on Zoom. The agenda and meeting materials should be posted on Monday, October 16 here on the [City website](#).

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.

REGIONAL WILDFIRE SAFETY EVENT



The City of Orinda is hosting a regional wildfire safety event called **Safe at Scale** on October 29 at the Orinda Theater, which has free parking and is one block from Orinda BART.

The evening will be a regional conversation about working together to create a more wildfire-resilient area and will feature an expert panel including Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Senator Tim Grayson, Steve Hawks from the Insurance Institute for Home and Business

Safety (IBHS), Jeff Isaacs from the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, and Trip Jennings, award-winning film director. They'll also be screening Jennings' PBS film, **Weathered: A Year After the LA Firestorm**.

UPCOMING EVENTS, WEBINARS & RESOURCES

- **2026 Great California ShakeOut**
October 15, 10:15 am [More info](#)

- **Resilient California Summit**
October 20-22 [Details](#)
- **FOSC Annual Native Plant Sale**
Saturday, October 24, 10 am - 3 pm at the Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) Nursery in Joaquin Miller Park [More Info](#)
- **East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments**
Sept 30 Meeting recording and info for next meeting on October 28 [here](#)
- **United Policyholder's WRAP Working Group**
September meeting [recording](#)
- **El Niño Information & Preparedness Guide**
from National Weather Service (NWS) Bay Area [PDF](#)

NEW RESOURCES



AwareCA App – California’s official statewide emergency information platform is one trusted source for accurate, time-stamped emergency information before, during, and after disasters. [Download](#) in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and sign up for emergency notifications near you.



The new Alameda County Office of Emergency Services (OES) website features all of your emergency resources in one spot. Emergency preparedness, road closures, emergency alerts, and more [Visit New Website](#)

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 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 November 18



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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(510) 575-0916



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

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