

Supporting Oakland and Alameda County in reducing the risks of wildfire danger to people and property



EDUCATION  
ADVOCACY  
PROGRAMS  
COMMUNITY BUILDING

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## HELP SUPPORT FIRE SAFETY!

September is National Preparedness Month. Oakland Firesafe Council works year-round to keep communities prepared.

### Here's how we're helping keep Oakland safer from wildfire:

- OFSC funds vegetation management and hazardous fuels reduction projects
- OFSC trains neighbors to build Firewise USA® groups
- OFSC leads wildfire prevention outreach and education in our communities
- OFSC delivers wildfire preparedness workshops and public education

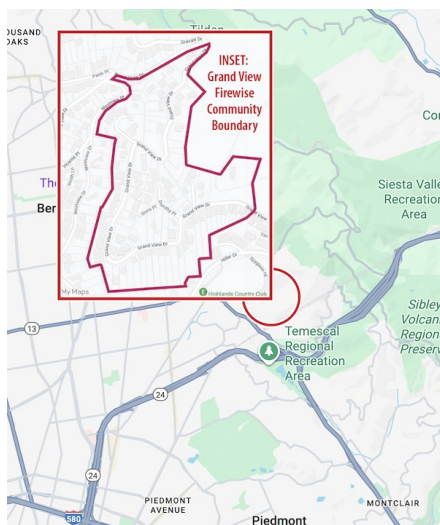
### Wildfire Risk is Rising – Let's Keep Oakland Firesafe TOGETHER

Your donation to OFSC funds **REAL WORK** on the ground: clearing brush, training neighbors, protecting parks, and more. Hit that button!

**SUPPORT**

*Oakland Firesafe Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Donations are tax-deductible.*

## OAKLAND'S GRAND VIEW FIREWISE COMMUNITY



**This Firewise Recognized Site is located where everything had burned to the ground in the 1991 Oakland Firestorm!**

As all homes on Grand View Drive were rebuilt after the fire, most (if not all) of them meet some of the Firewise home hardening standards. Therefore, the organizers' pitch to neighbors was to **ensure safe evacuation routes**. Part of the work includes clearing encroaching vegetation from roadways and keeping flammable debris to a minimum in two bordering eucalyptus groves.



Admittedly getting newer residents involved has been a harder sell for the group. However, they continue to reach out to their neighbors and, with the January wildfires in Los Angeles and the continuing insurance crisis, there is more and more interest in being involved. **SEE THE WHOLE STORY**

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See how OFSC can help your neighborhood group with the NFPA Firewise USA® recognition process – visit our program page **FIREWISE USA® FOR OAKLAND**

## JOIN US ONLINE – WEDNESDAY EVENING 9/17

Meeting **AGENDA**. August's special presentation is Oakland's 2026 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Jessica Feil, Emergency Management Services Division (EMSD) Manager.

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**OFSC MEETING (ONLINE)**  
**Wednesday, September 17, 2025**  
**7:00-8:30pm**  
**REGISTER**

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

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## FOLLOW-UP ITEMS FROM OUR AUGUST MEETING

- Our invited guest speaker was Berkeley FireSafe Council (BFSC) President Henry DeNero. He spoke about BFSC's collaboration with Prof Gollner at UC Berkeley and their fuel reduction program and wildfire simulations. If you missed the meeting or want to review the info check out this **ARTICLE**
- Henry sent this along to share with our readers: "Fire Risks of Tasmanian Blue Gum, *Eucalyptus globulus*" **PDF**

- A message from Tom Grossman ~ "At the August 20 OFSC meeting Daniel Hamilton suggested that we might be able to get a tour of the Carbonizer that EB Regional Parks was using at Chabot Park. I contacted the EBRPD Fire Department, and learned that **The Carbonizer** has moved on to greener pastures because the grant-funded project was completed. They will contact me if they are successful in getting it back. For those who are interested in the contraption, you can look **HERE** (and if you're a geek you can go **HERE**)."

## OFSC OUT & ABOUT



### Wildfire Preparedness Takes Center Stage in El Cerrito

On August 16, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks hosted a Wildfire Preparedness event in El Cerrito bringing together neighbors, city leaders & fire officials – and OFSC was there to represent Oakland.

From Zone 0 to Firewise communities, we shared practical ways to protect homes and neighborhoods. [Read more & see photos](#)



### Sacramento's Zone 0 Hearing: Why the First Five Feet Sparked the Biggest Fire Debate Yet

On August 18th, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection convened a hearing in Sacramento to receive public comment on the proposed Zone 0 regulations.

Representatives from the Oakland Firesafe Council were in attendance, monitoring the hearing to keep our community informed about emerging wildfire policy. [Read our report](#)

CAL FIRE Zone 0 deliberations: The next session of the Zone 0 Regulatory Advisory Committee will take place in **Altadena on September 18**, followed by another hearing in **Sacramento on September 24, 2025**.



On August 11, the Oakland Firesafe Council participated in a fishbowl panel discussion on *Fire and Water Resilience* hosted by the East Bay Permaculture Guild at the PLACE for Sustainable Living. The topic of discussion was "what does fire resilience look like in our communities"? Key points raised were that Fire has been part of our ecosystem for centuries and that indigenous & cultural burning are essential for healthy ecosystems, cultural health, and climate adaptation. Prescribed burning, water restoration, healthy soils and the creation of natural fire buffers are important elements in building resilience.

However, with the advent of densely populated urban environments that border

wildland areas, it is now more than ever important for communities to also get involved in neighborhood preparedness activities (for example Firewise), home hardening and vegetation management to create fire resilience and resistance in our communities. We must work together as a community to build resilience.

We thank the EB Permaculture Guild for the opportunity to participate in this important discussion.



OFSC volunteers are vital in helping make our communities better prepared for wildfire. Interested in joining us? Use our **CONTACT** form or email [info@oaklandfiresafecouncil.org](mailto:info@oaklandfiresafecouncil.org)

## JOIN OFSC AT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

### WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS & FIRE STATION 25 OPEN HOUSE - SEPT. 13TH



**Saturday • 12-3PM • In-Person • Free**

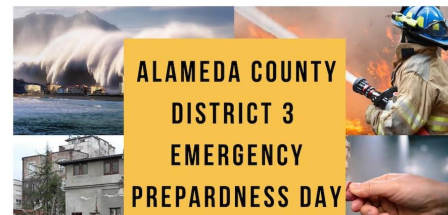
Co-hosted by Councilmember Janani Ramachandran, Councilmember Zac Unger, County Supervisor Nikki Fortunato Bas, and the Oakland Fire Department. This event will celebrate the reopening of Station 25, highlight the importance of wildfire preparedness from local and regional fire prevention officials, and provide critical information about the City's evacuation survey, inspections and defensible space, and AC Alert program. **RSVP**

### ALCO D3 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EVENT - OCT. 18TH

**Saturday • 10AM-2:30PM • In-Person • Free**

Hosted in partnership with Alameda County Supervisor Lena Tam's Office, the Alameda County Fire Department, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, and the City of San Leandro. This emergency preparedness event is being held to inform and educate the community on how to stay ready before an emergency strikes. Join us for presentations, workshops, and a resource fair. [Learn more & get tickets](#)

**ARE YOU READY FOR THE NEXT EMERGENCY?**



## GETTING PREPARED TOGETHER

Recently The Piedmont Ave Resilience Committee hosted "Fireproofing Fiesta" – a street-wide afternoon of collective preparation for this year's fire season. Activities included gutter cleaning, defensible space clearing, learning fire safety tips, and preparing with fellow neighbors.



The Resilient Neighborhoods Network is a growing collective of interdependent neighborhood associations in the Bay Area who are dedicated to **building collective resilience** through community connection, preparedness, and mutual support. We believe that true emergency readiness is rooted in relationships: knowing our neighbors, sharing resources, and looking out for one another.

Under the umbrella of the Resilient Neighborhoods Network, individual neighborhoods will lead their own hyper-local resilience plans, but create a **network of mutual aid and support**. RNN members will have an annual get-together and block leaders will have quarterly in-person meetings to share resources, ideas, and advice. We will also support each other in our shared goals where appropriate and applicable.



Oakland is home to numerous neighborhood associations, Firewise communities, and self-led preparedness initiatives. **Let's unite!** If you're interested in learning more or attending a meeting, please reach out to Shirah Wagner at [shirah@resilientpeeps.com](mailto:shirah@resilientpeeps.com)

## MORE OF NOTE

- **Home Hardening with Berkeley Fire Dept.** Sept. 20/ Saturday / 2–4PM /In-person/ Free. Learn about how you can protect your home and property from wildfire from home hardening experts from the Berkeley Fire Department and Diablo Firesafe Council's Sheryl Drinkwater. [Details](#)
- **East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments (EBWC) Meeting:** Sept. 24 / Wednesday / 9AM-12PM / In-person and online. Open to the public. [Details](#)
- **Resilient Landscapes Coalition Webinar Series – Resilient Landscaping: Gardening in the Defensible Space Zone.** 4 Part Weekly Bilingual Series. Tuesdays, October 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th, 5:30-6:30pm [Register](#)
- **UC Berkeley News, California communities can reduce wildfire damage by half. Here's how.** A new UC Berkeley-led study demonstrates how two mitigation strategies — home hardening and defensible space — can have a major impact on wildfire destructiveness. [Read article](#)
- **The Oaklandside, This fire season, Oakland Fire says it's fully staffed for the first time in 20 years** OFD saw the reopening of three fire stations this year and the launch of a special tax to fund vegetation management. [Read article](#)
- **The Oaklandside, 'It's a labor of love and a sacrifice': A Q&A with Oakland's fire chief.** Nearly two years into his post, Damon Covington discusses his career, the challenges facing the department, and how residents can prepare for an

emergency. [Read article](#)

- EBMUD Webinar Recording: [Firescaping Your Water-Wise Garden](#) Practical, sustainable strategies for building fire-resilient, water-wise gardens with renowned ecological land designer and author Douglas Kent [View 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](mailto:outreach@oaklandfiresafecouncil.org)
- If this newsletter was forwarded to you, join our mailing list: [SUBSCRIBE](#)
- The next OFSC meeting is Wednesday, October 15th



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

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