

Preparedness: The Path to Safety



**Wildfire and
Emergency
Preparedness**

**Doug Mosher
Oakland Firesafe Council**

Oakland Firesafe Council

- Founded 2014, 501(c)(3) non-profit
- One of over 100 CA Firesafe Councils
- Board and volunteers (need more!)
- Volunteer efforts include:
 - Wildfire prevention/vegetation mgmt (MM)
 - Emergency/wildfire preparedness
 - Building resilient Oakland communities
 - Partnering with City/County/Councils
 - Sharing best practices

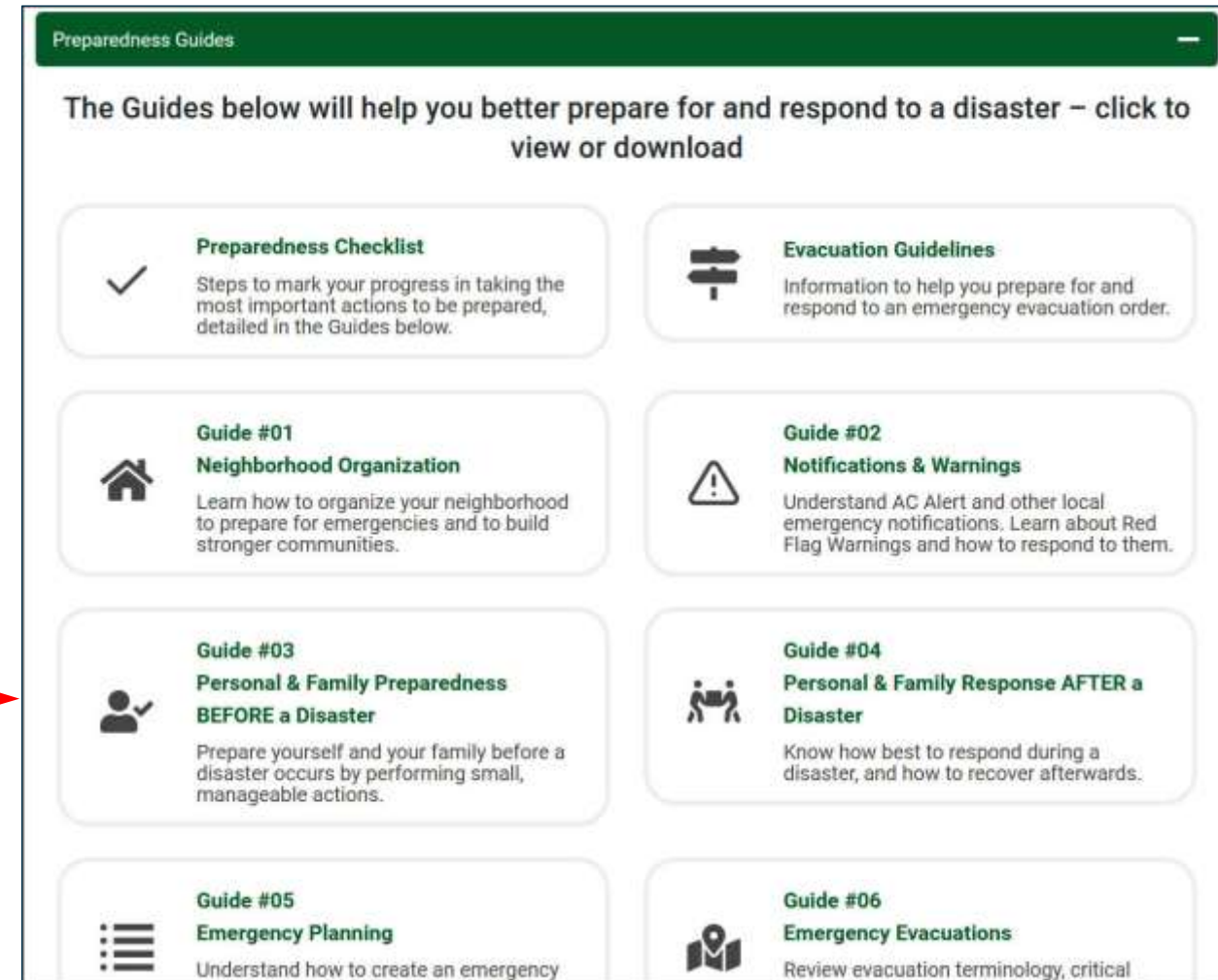
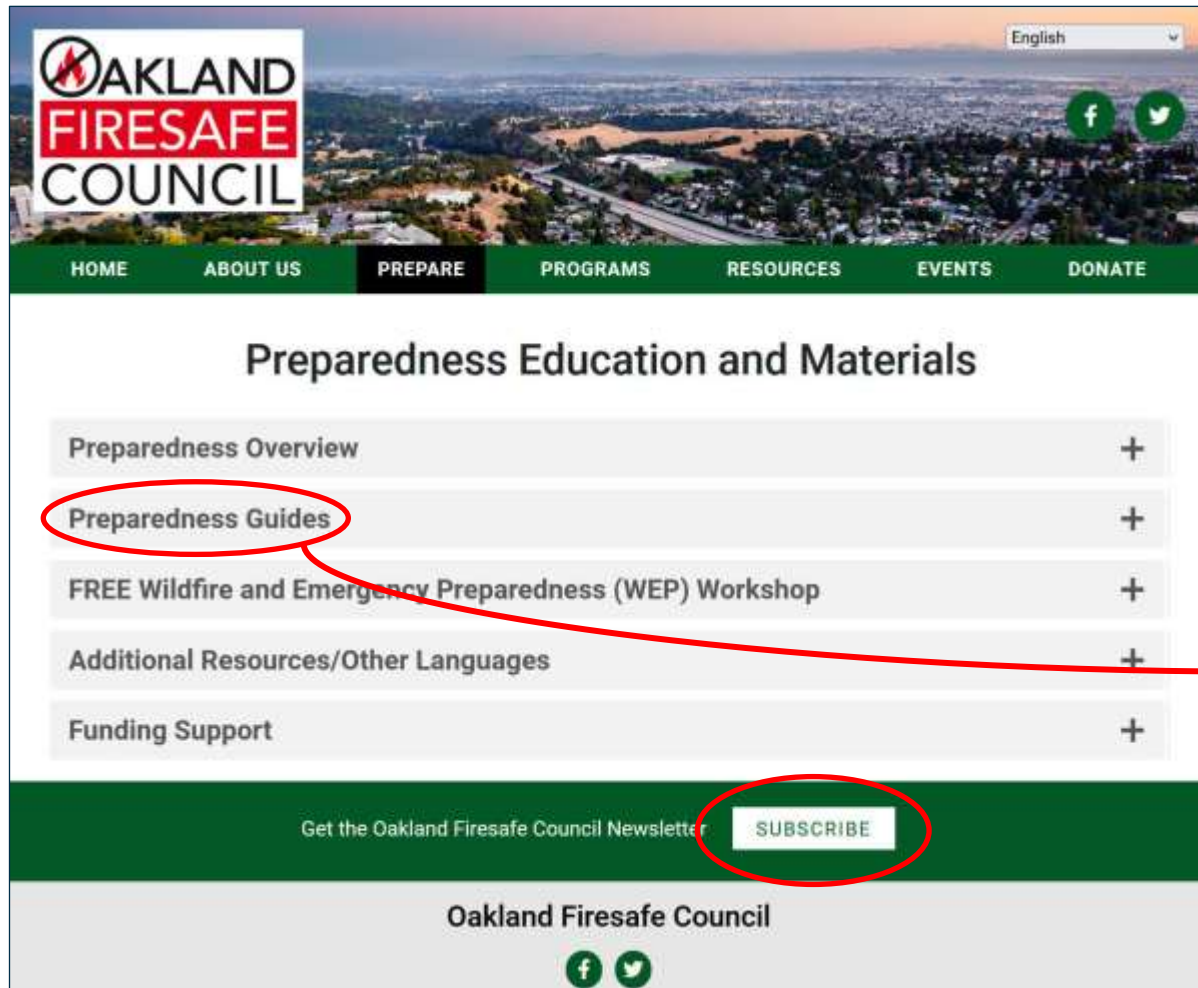


Garber Park Vegetation Clean-up

oaklandfiresafecouncil.org

Firesafe Council Preparedness Offerings

oaklandfiresafecouncil.org/prepare



Firesafe Council Wildfire Safety Programs

oaklandfiresafecouncil.org/programs

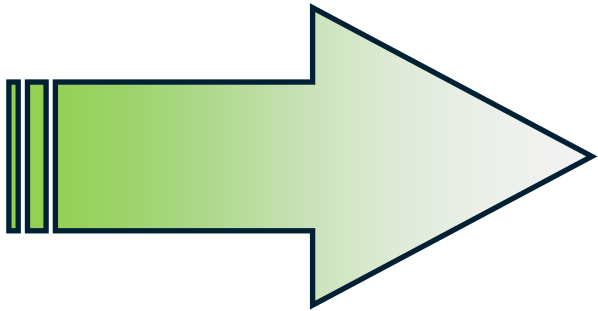
HOME	ABOUT US	PREPARE	PROGRAMS	RESOURCES	EVENTS	DONATE
Wildfire Safety Programs						
Firewise USA® for Oakland						+
Firescaping						+
Red Flag Warnings – Be Ready!						+
Don't Give Embers a Chance						+
Wildfire Monitoring and Reporting						+
Park Like Your Life Depends On It						+
Adopt-A-Hydrant						+
GMRS 2-Way Radio Emergency Network (GENOAK)						+
OFSC "Savvy" Town Halls						+

Workshop Agenda

- ✓ Why we need to prepare
- ✓ How to prepare (5 most important steps)
- ✓ Wildfire/earthquake safety
- ✓ How to respond
- ✓ How to recover
- ✓ Actions to take

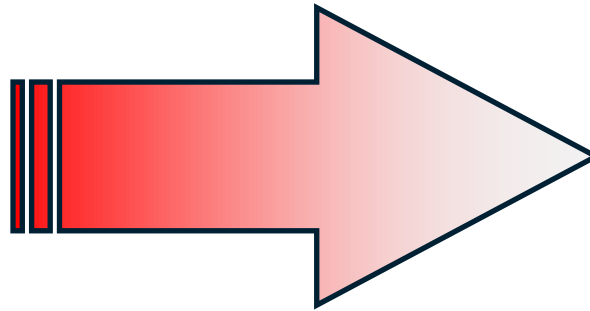
Process Flow

Organize and
Prepare



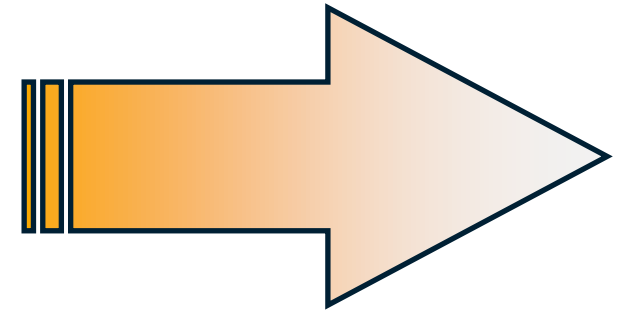
Before an
Emergency

Respond



During an
Emergency

Recover

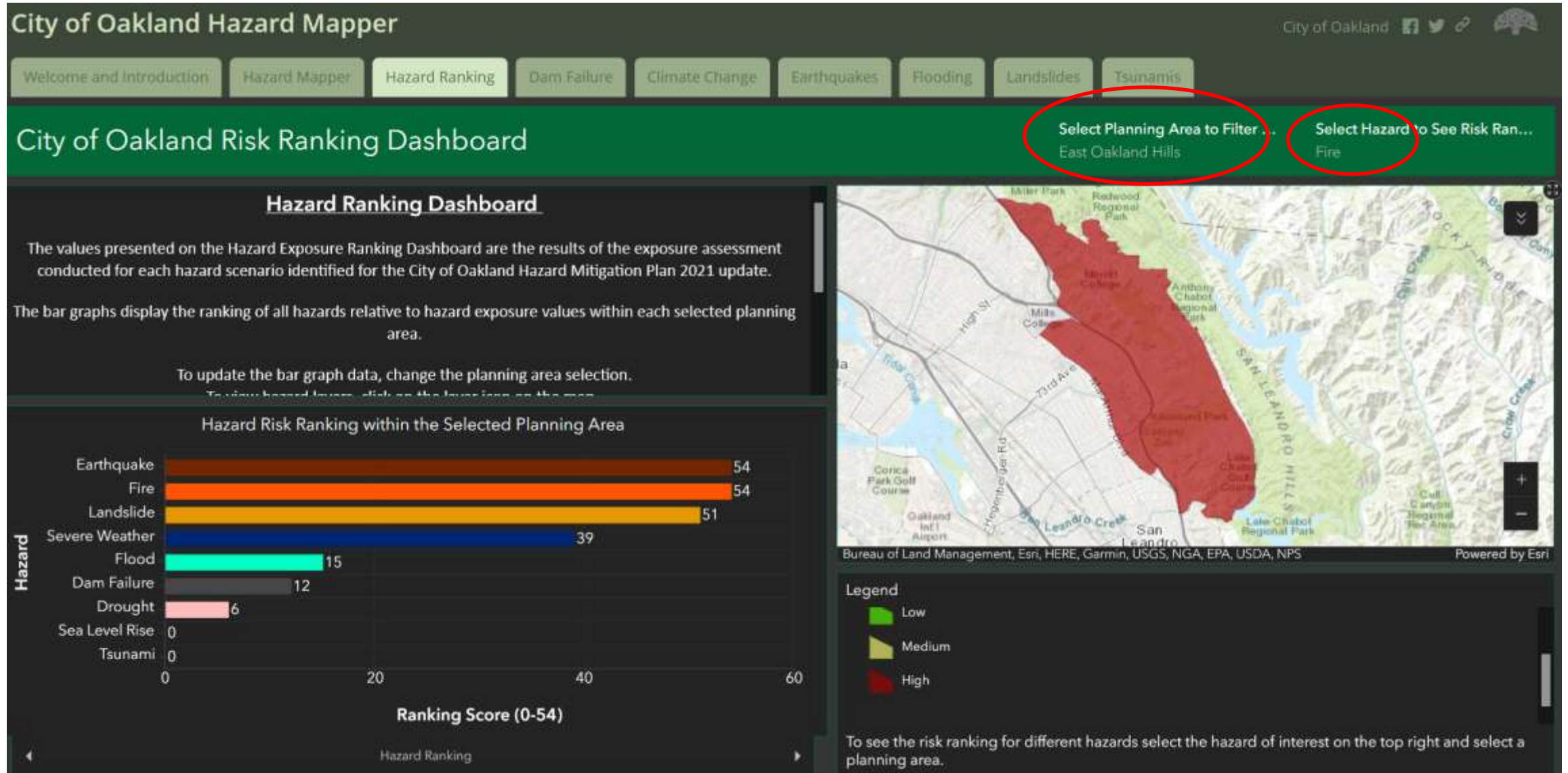


After an
Emergency



Evaluate/
Improve

Oakland Hazard Map



We Respond First*

“We are the help until
help arrives”

* However, most of us are **not**
First Responder professionals!

We need to be able to care
for ourselves, our families
and our neighbors for
several days, as first
responders will likely be
engaged elsewhere.

To do this requires being
prepared!

PREPARE

BEFORE AN EMERGENCY

- ✓ **5 Most Important Steps**
- ✓ **Be Ready!**

1) Receive Alerts and Notifications



**Don't delay,
register today!**

- Delivers emergency information to your home phone, cell phone and/or email acgov.org/emergencysite
- ALERTtheBay.org
- IPAWS: WEA, MyShake – calalerts.org
- Nixle (Everbridge) – OPD, AC Fire
- Genasys Protect (Zonehaven) – phone app
- Watch Duty, Twitter/X, Citizen, Nextdoor...
- GENOAK 2-way radio network – genoak.org

AM/FM/NOAA Radio Alerts

- Emergency Broadcast News

- **KCBS - 740 AM**
- KGO - 810 AM
- 530 AM (emergencies only)
- **KQED - 88.5 FM**



- NOAA Weather
 - Up-to-date information on the current emergency



AM/FM/NOAA Radio

Follow all instructions given by police, fire or emergency responders!

Watches, Warnings and Orders

- Fire Weather Watch: Prepare for Wildfire
- Red Flag Warning: **Exercise Caution – Be Ready!**

- Evacuation Warning: Prepare to Evacuate
- Evacuation Order: **Take Action – Leave!**

- Shelter-in-Place: Go Indoors, Stay Put

- Oakland Emergency Siren System: Monitor



2) Make a Family Emergency Plan

- ✓ Study a map to identify potential evacuation routes in every direction, plus local potential refuge areas



2) Make a Family Emergency Plan

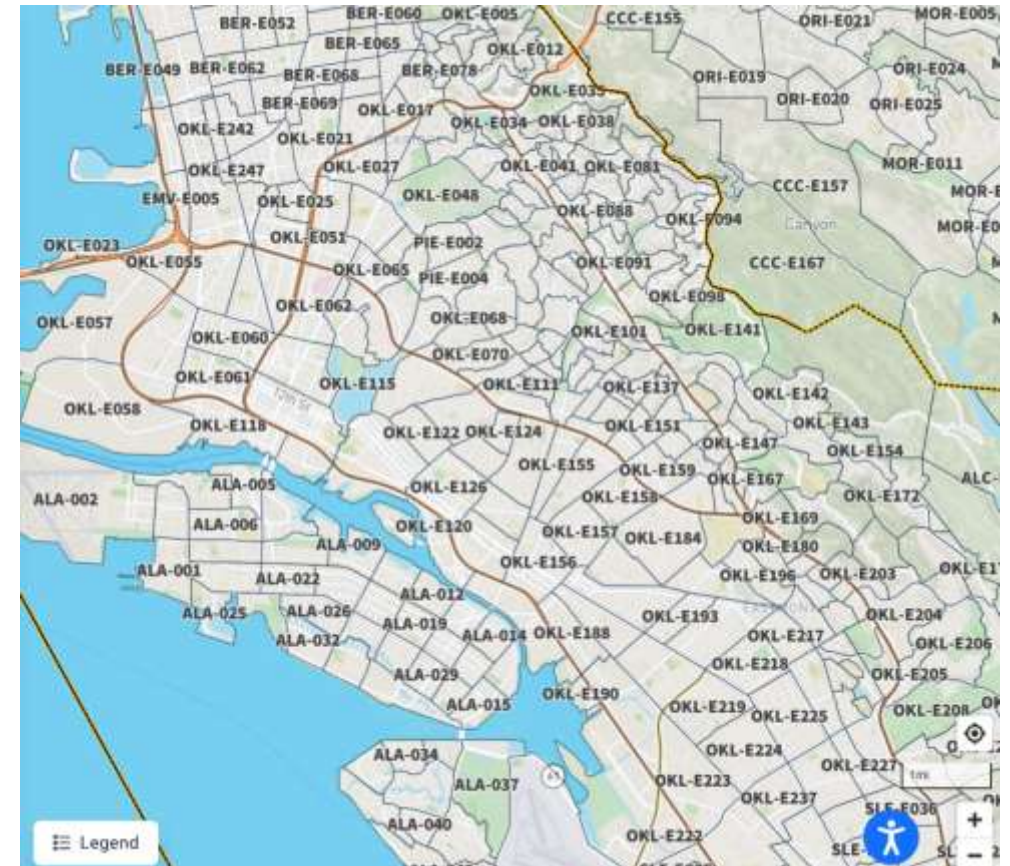
- ✓ Study a map to identify potential evacuation routes in every direction, plus local potential refuge areas
- ✓ Designate meeting locations to reunite with family members, and an out-of-area contact to update
- ✓ Have a checklist of items to quickly grab (5/30/60 mins notice)
- ✓ Know which neighbors may need help (AFN), plan to assist
- ✓ Review and practice!
- ✓ “Semper Gumby”



3) Be Ready for an Evacuation

- Be able to monitor AC Alert, AM/FM radio, etc, for an evacuation notice, practice “situational awareness”

KNOW YOUR
ZONE
protect.genasys.com



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Zone
OKL-E167
Leona Heights - Mountain Blvd, Belfast Ave, Bermuda Ave, Knoll Ave

📍 4650 Belfast Ave, Oakland, CA, 94619, USA

✓ Status
NORMAL

No current knowledge of active incidents in your area.

🔔 **CRITICAL NOTIFICATIONS**

Never miss an alert, and receive critical notifications on the go with the Genasys Protect mobile app



3) Be Ready for an Evacuation

- Be able to monitor AC Alert, AM/FM radio, etc, for an evacuation notice, practice “situational awareness”
- Plan to assist neighbors that need help, and when leaving try to take one vehicle or carpool
- Practice all possible ways out (without GPS)
- Know that schools will protect children
- Have animal harnesses/carriers/leashes ready
- Keep > ½ tank gas/charge in your vehicle, park facing out
- Remember to remain as calm as possible



4) Build Your Go-Bag to Survive 1 - 2 Days



Build Go-Bags for
your home,
vehicles
and workplace

Build Your Stay-Box to Survive a Week+

And a Stay-Box with extra food and water, fire extinguishers, sanitary supplies, camping supplies, etc.



5) Help Family, Friends and Neighbors

- ✓ Build a connected community/organized neighborhood to better know and help each other
- ✓ Know who may need assistance and have a plan
- ✓ Trusted support network
- ✓ Alert each other to an emergency (phone tree/OCN*, d-2-d, TM, radios)
*OneCallNow.com
- ✓ Encourage everyone to prepare

Address security concerns!



Why Embers are Dangerous!

Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety



Harden Your Home Against Fire

Wildfire embers, radiant heat and direct flame contact ignite structures



Embers cause 60-90% of fires



Harden Your Home Against Fire

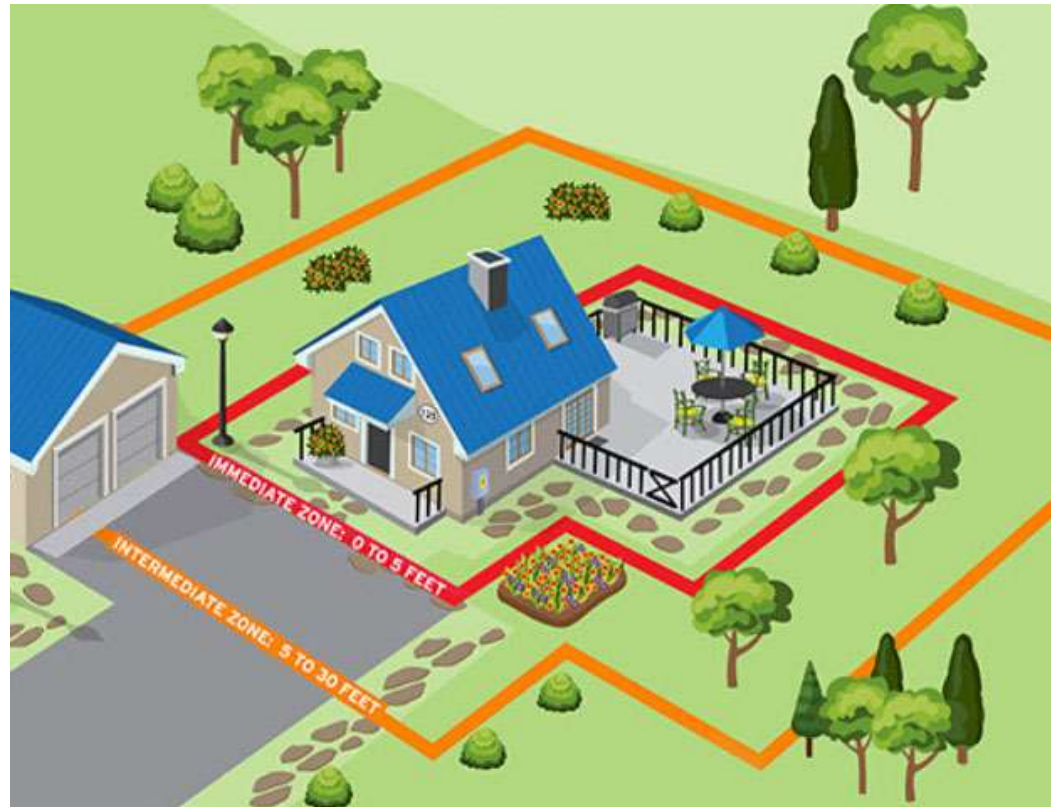
RELATIVE COST AND PRIORITY LEVEL OF HOME HARDENING FEATURES FOR FIRE-RESISTANCE



Source: defensiblespace.org

Harden Your Home Against Fire - Easy

- Create 5' of no combustibles around your home – “Zone 0”



Work from the house out

Harden Your Home Against Fire - Easy

- Create 5' of no combustibles around your home – “Zone 0”



Regularly clean roofs and gutters!

Harden Your Home Against Fire - Easy

- Create 5' of no combustibles around your home – “Zone 0”
- Remove flammables on or under porches/decks and next to fences
- Install vent screens ($\leq 1/8''$ mesh) or commercial vents to keep embers from entering



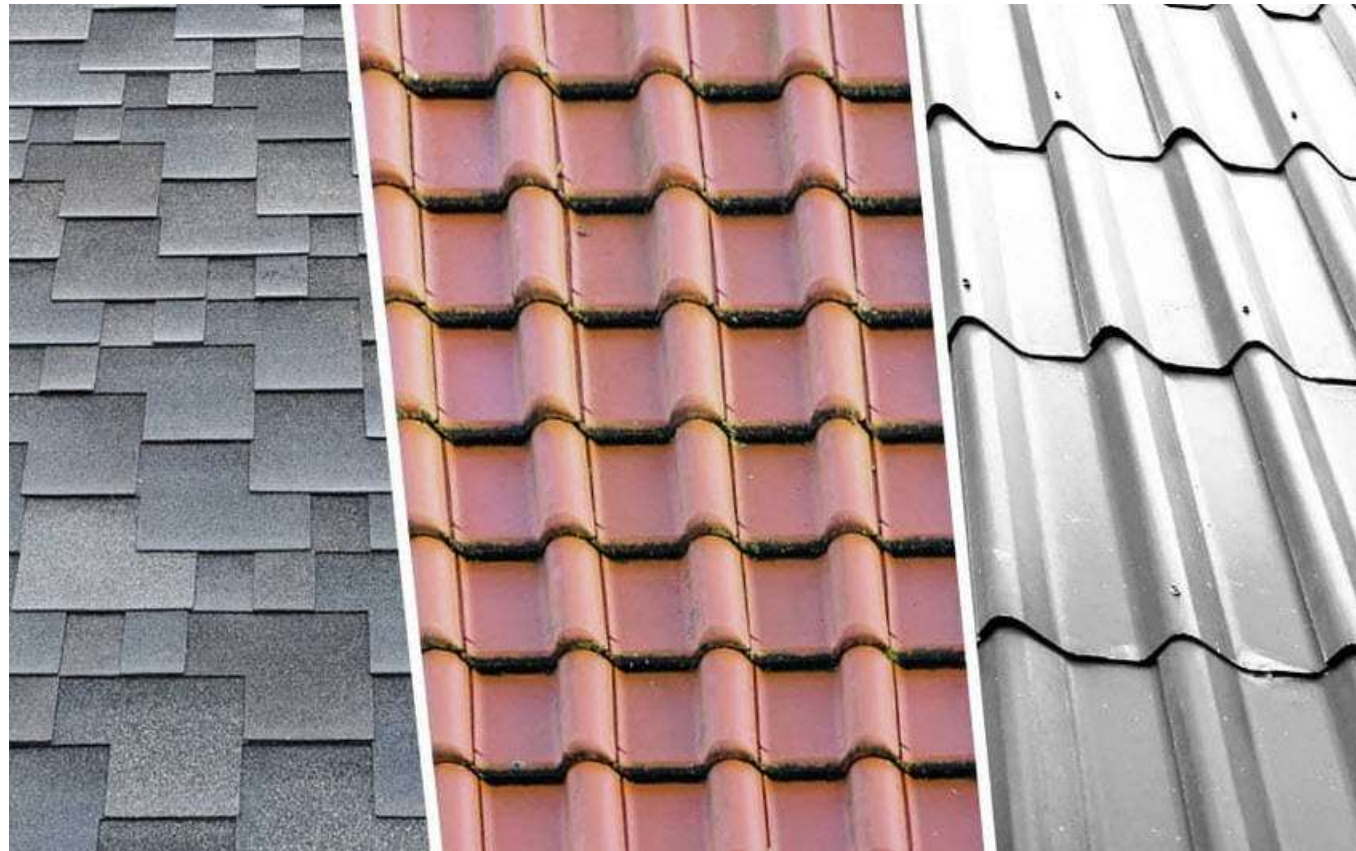
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- Check/replace outside and garage door weatherstripping
- Check/replace chimney spark arrestor, assess structure, keep clean
- Have functioning smoke/CO detectors and working fire extinguishers



Harden Your Home Against Fire - ~~Easy~~

- Roof: UL Class A rated, metal gutters, tempered-glass skylights ideal



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- Fire resistant exterior walls—stucco/cement, Hardie fiber board, etc.



Harden Your Home Against Fire - ~~Easy~~

- Roof: UL Class A rated, metal gutters, tempered-glass skylights ideal
- Fire resistant exterior walls—stucco/cement, Hardie fiber board, etc.
- Metal flashing at wall-roof/deck intersections
- Box in open framed eaves
- Fences should have non-combustible sections next to structures



Harden Your Home Against Fire - Easy

- Roof: UL Class A rated, metal gutters, tempered-glass skylights ideal
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- Box in open framed eaves
- Fences should have non-combustible sections next to structures
- Create hardscaped fire breaks, walkways, etc.
- Tempered double-pane windows ideal, fire resistant shutters
- Roof/siding sprinkler or foam systems—pros and cons, separate water source advisable



Firescaping – Fire Smart Landscaping

- Proper plant selection, placement and maintenance
- Start with whatever is in place
- A carefully Firescaped design will:
 - ✓ reduce the chance of ignition
 - ✓ lower a fire's intensity to help your home survive
 - ✓ slow the spread of fire and give you more time to escape
- Leverage “fire-resistant” plants and trees plus hardscaping
- Reference our Firescaping Services/Vendors and Tools list



Guide #13 – Defensible Space & Landscaping for Fire Safety and
Guide #14 – Firesafe Planting Checklist

Become Firewise USA® Recognized

- National Fire Protection Association program
- Encourages neighbors to work together on wildfire safety
- May help retain insurance, some companies give a discount
- Becoming a Firewise USA® site is a straight-forward process:
 1. Form small committee, create neighborhood assessment and action plan
 2. Neighbors invest one volunteer hour per home per year on average
 3. Report efforts back to the Firewise USA® program

firewise.org



Red Flag Watches and Warnings

Be extremely cautious and alert during Red Flag Warnings!

- National Weather Service issues RFWs when predicted weather conditions may result in extreme wildfire danger in 24/72 hours
- Strong winds, low humidity, dry vegetation, potential lightning
- AC Alert, radio/TV, @NWSBayArea, Nextdoor, GENOAK, red flag
- Review family plan and evacuation checklist, have items ready
- Be prepared to evacuate, consider temporarily relocating
- Don't smoke or use power tools, grills or any potential source of heat or spark outside

Harden Your Home Against Earthquake

Minimize structural and non-structural hazards inside and outside your home!

- Secure appliances, bookshelves, water heater, etc.
- Install safety latches on cabinets
- Ensure porches/decks are secured to the house
- Have chimneys inspected/reinforced
- Know how to shut off utilities, consider an Auto (Seismic) Gas Valve
- Have your home inspected by a contractor or engineer certified in seismic work and consider recommended seismic upgrades



Prepare for Power Outages/PSPS/EPSS

Be Ready (note: PSPS typically on RFW days)

- Sign-up at PG&E's Website for notices and info
- Prepare for your own medical needs
- Charge your devices and backup batteries
- Know how to open your garage door manually, consider a garage door opener battery back-up
- Check out backup power sources (PG&E rebate)
- Know that cell phone service isn't guaranteed!



[pge.com](https://www.pge.com)



Insurance

- ✓ Prepare by conducting a home inventory
 - ✓ List all contents in home, garage, etc.
 - ✓ Take videos or photographs
 - ✓ Store online, give storage drive to trusted contact
- ✓ Ensure you have the right amount and type of insurance
- ✓ NFPA Firewise USA® program may help retain insurance
- ✓ Work with (awesome) United Policyholders: uphelp.org



Photo: American Family Insurance

Additional Training

CORE: Communities of Oakland
Respond to Emergencies



CORE is an umbrella program that includes volunteer opportunities

CERT: Community Emergency
Response Team (FEMA)



CERT is the training curriculum for individuals

oaklandca.gov/topics/oaklandcert

RESPOND

DURING AN EMERGENCY

- ✓ **Be Safe – don't become part of the disaster!**
- ✓ **Take Action**

What Should I Do?!



If a wildfire approaches

- Monitor AC Alert, AM/FM radio, Genasys, 2-way radio, surroundings, etc.
- **Evacuate if ordered, or if you feel unsafe at any time—LEAVE!**
- Follow your plan and help others in your neighborhood if possible
- When evacuating, a vehicle will provide some protection, but may have to proceed on foot

What Should I Do?!



What **3 steps** should you take when a major earthquake occurs and the ground is shaking?

What Should I Do?!



After the shaking is over

- Check yourself, family and home, go outside if home is damaged
- Monitor surroundings, watch for fires, expect aftershocks
- Help others in your neighborhood
- You may not need to evacuate (unless ordered or if you feel unsafe)

RECOVER

AFTER AN EMERGENCY

- ✓ **Be Aware**
- ✓ **Be Helpful!**

Evaluate and Be Safe

- ✓ Breathe, recompose and check yourself
- ✓ Evaluate your family's health
- ✓ Wear a mask, gloves, eye protection, sturdy shoes, long sleeves and pants
- ✓ Only return home when authorized
- ✓ Check your home for unsafe conditions



Help Others and Check In

- ✓ Provide caring support to others,
“See the Need, Say the Need”
- ✓ Check in with your contacts
 - ✓ Get in touch with your out-of-area contact
 - ✓ Send text messages during limited cell service
 - ✓ Post your status on social media
- ✓ City and American Red Cross may open shelters



Next Steps!

Your Next Steps

1. Register for AC Alert: acgov.org/emergencysite
 2. Make a family emergency plan
 3. Be ready for an evacuation
 4. Create your Go-Bags/Stay-Box
 5. Be ready to help others
- ✓ Prepare for RFWs, power outages, etc.
 - ✓ Harden your home against wildfire and earthquake
 - ✓ Take additional training (CERT) and practice



And Finally

- ✓ Take preparedness actions one small step at a time
- ✓ Anything you do, you are better off than before!
- ✓ Review our Guides and online sources like Ready.gov, CAL FIRE, PG&E, LISTOS CA, Firesafe Marin, EMSD
- ✓ Encourage your friends and neighbors to prepare
- ✓ Reach out to us with any questions

Contact Us

Oakland Firesafe Council Preparedness

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oaklandfiresafecouncil.org

genoak.org

