

Preparedness: The Path to Safety



**Wildfire and Emergency
Preparedness (WEP)
Workshop**

Firesafe Council Preparedness Offerings

oaklandfiresafecouncil.org/prepare

The screenshot shows the Oakland Firesafe Council website's 'Prepare' page. At the top left is the logo, and at the top right is a language dropdown set to 'English' and social media icons for Facebook and Twitter. A green navigation bar contains links for HOME, ABOUT US, PREPARE (highlighted), PROGRAMS, RESOURCES, EVENTS, and DONATE. Below the navigation bar is the heading 'Preparedness Education and Materials'. A list of five items is shown, each with a plus sign to its right: 'Preparedness Overview', 'Preparedness Guides', 'FREE Wildfire and Emergency Preparedness (WEP) Workshop', 'Additional Resources/Other Languages', and 'Funding Support'. At the bottom of the page, there is a green bar with the text 'Get the Oakland Firesafe Council Newsletter' and a white 'SUBSCRIBE' button circled in red. Below this is the Oakland Firesafe Council name and social media icons.

A banner for 'OFSC Publication #108' featuring the Oakland Firesafe Council logo on the left and an aerial view of a city on the right. The text 'OFSC Publication #108' is in the bottom left, and 'View in browser' is in the bottom right.

SPRING INTO FIRESCAPING

A thumbnail of the 'Firescaping' program page. It features the Oakland Firesafe Council logo and a navigation menu with 'Programs' circled in red. Below the menu is a section titled 'Fire Safety Programs' with a 'Firescaping' link circled in red. The page content includes a description of the program, a 'What is Firescaping?' section, and a 'Carefully Prepared Design will' section with a list of bullet points.

Springtime is here (despite how the weather may feel) and it's the perfect time to present the latest addition to the OFSC program lineup: **Firescaping!** The primary goal of our new program is to **promote and raise awareness** (to both residents and professionals) around fire-smart landscaping and maintenance practices.

Visit our **Firescaping** program page for an introductory overview, at-a-glance reference guides, suggestions for more in-depth resources and more.

Firesafe Council Wildfire Safety Programs

oaklandfiresafecouncil.org/programs

HOME	ABOUT US	PREPARE	PROGRAMS	RESOURCES	EVENTS	DONATE
<h2>Wildfire Safety Programs</h2>						
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						+

WEP Workshop

Covers most important steps to take:

- 1) Receive alerts and notifications
- 2) Make a family emergency plan
- 3) Be ready for an evacuation
- 4) Build Go-Bags/Stay-Box
- 5) Be able to help family and community

Plus wildfire safety actions:

- ✓ Home hardening, ember protection
- ✓ Firewise USA[®], Firescaping
- ✓ Red Flag Warnings, power outages, smoke

Oakland Firesafe Council Guide #02
NOTIFICATIONS AND WARNINGS

Sign up for AC Alerts and heed all warnings and directives given by authorities.

ALAMEDA COUNTY AC ALERT
AC Alert is the primary emergency alert system for Alameda County. Alerts can also be specific to Oakland. Be sure to sign up for automatic AC Alerts to your home phone (voice), cell phone (voice/text) and/or email at: www.acgov.org/emergencysite

RADIO & TV
Tune a portable (or your vehicle's) AM/FM radio to **KCBS 740 AM** (our **Emergency Alert System station**), **KGO 810 AM** or **KQED 88.5 FM** for emergency information. A NOAA weather radio for hazard alerts is good to have on-hand. And monitor local television stations such as **KTVU 2, KRON 4, KPDX 5 and KGO 7.**

EMERGENCY SIRENS
The 27 sirens surrounding Oakland will all sound during a major emergency. There are 3 tones:
• "STEADY" tone: you should shelter in place and monitor the various alerts noted here.
• "SLOW WAIL" tone (also the 1st Wednesday of the month test tone): Tsunami warning; monitor alerts and if you are along the coast or Bay, consider moving to higher ground.
• "FAST WAIL" tone: there is a major fire; monitor alerts and be prepared to evacuate.

TWITTER
Follow these agencies:
AC Alert: @AlamedaCAlert
Oakland Fire Dept: @OaklandFire
Oakland Police Dept: @OaklandPoliceCA
Alameda County Fire: @AlamedaCoFire
CAL FIRE: @CAL_FIRE
Weather: @NWS2bayArea

KNOW YOUR ZONE
Genasys Protect (Zonehaven) is an emergency evacuation management application that provides evacuation information and hazard status. Know Your Zone from protect.genasys.com and refer to: Guide #23 -- Genasys Protect (Zonehaven)

SMART PHONE/INTERNET APPLICATIONS
The Nextdoor application can be a good source for emergency information. Citizen is a smart phone application for crowd-sourced alerts. MyShake and Tremblor are examples of smart phone apps that provide earthquake information, and Watch Duty provides local wildfire reports.

However, for some time period after a major disaster, cell phone/land line/Internet service may not work as infrastructure can be damaged, power lost or the system overloaded. The GENOAK 2-way radio network was created as an alternate means for communicating: www.genoak.org

No one alert system is guaranteed to work in an emergency -- know how to access multiple alerts.

www.oaklandfiresafecouncil.org | 510.575.0916 | info@oaklandfiresafecouncil.org

All information is on our website:

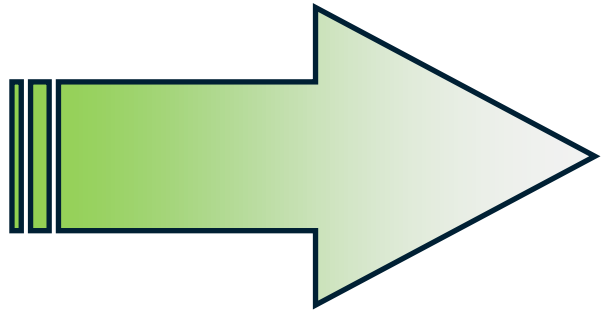
oaklandfiresafecouncil.org

Workshop Focus

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

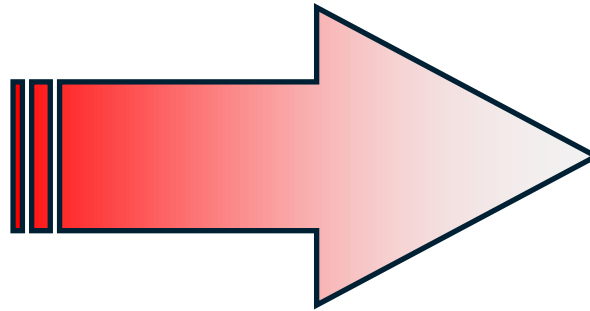
Process Flow

Organize and Prepare



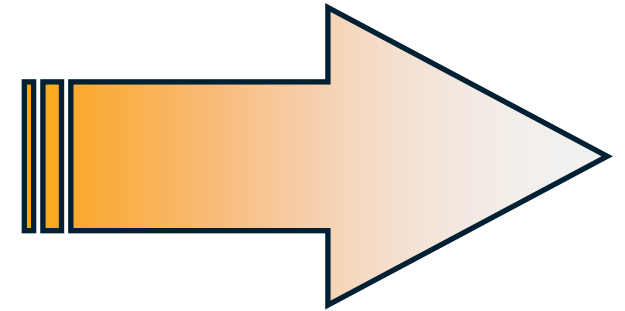
Before an
Emergency

Respond



During an
Emergency

Recover



After an
Emergency

Oakland Hazard Map (25Y)

City of Oakland Hazard Mapper

City of Oakland    

Welcome and Introduction

Hazard Mapper

Hazard Ranking

Dam Failure

Climate Change

Earthquakes

Flooding

Landslides

Tsunamis

City of Oakland Risk Ranking Dashboard

Select Planning Area to Filter ...
East Oakland Hills

Select Hazard to See Risk Ran...
Fire

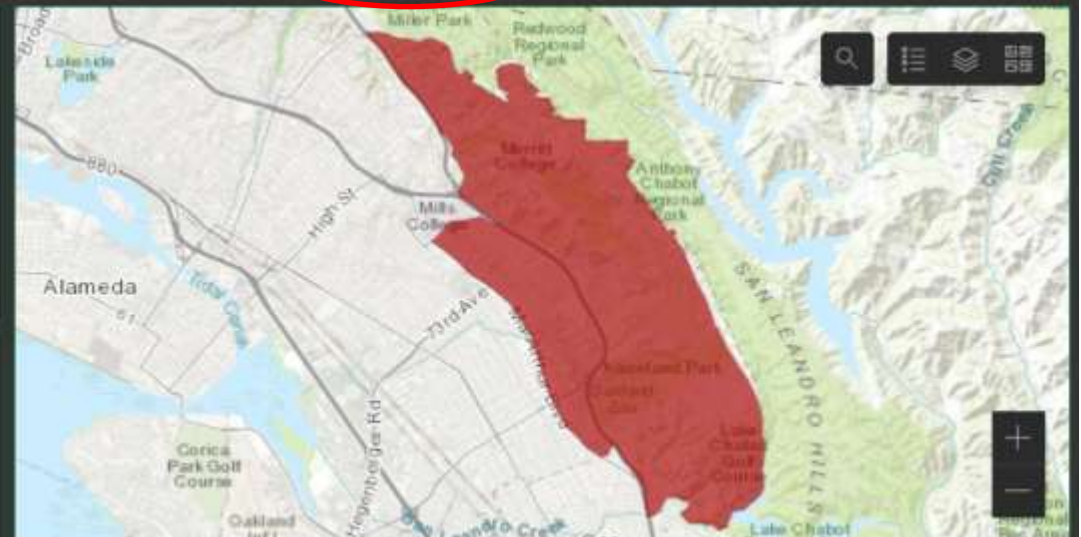
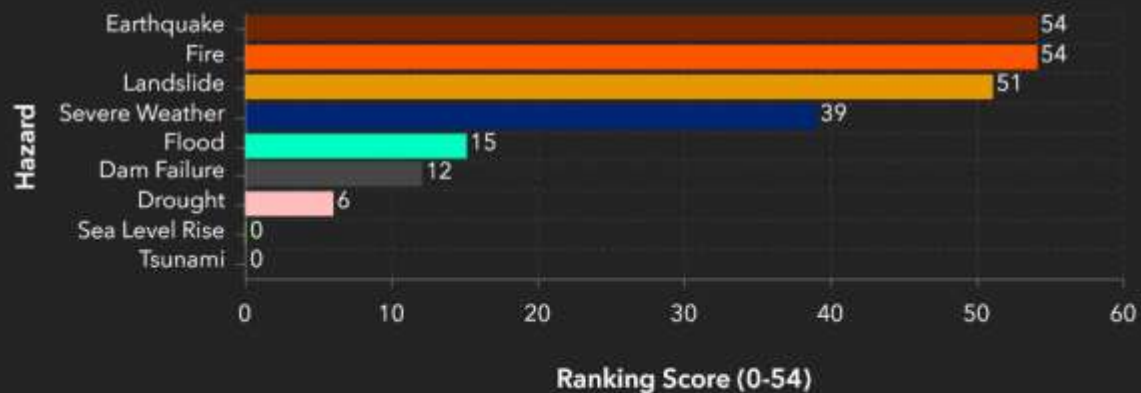
Hazard Ranking Dashboard

The values presented on the Hazard Exposure Ranking Dashboard are the results of the exposure assessment conducted for each hazard scenario identified for the City of Oakland Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021 update.

The bar graphs display the ranking of all hazards relative to hazard exposure values within each selected planning area.

To update the bar graph data, change the planning area selection.

Hazard Risk Ranking within the Selected Planning Area



Bureau of Land Management, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS
Powered by Esri

Legend

- Low
- Medium
- High

To see the risk ranking for different hazards select the hazard of interest on the top right and select a planning area.

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
- IPAWS: WEA, MyShake – calalerts.org
- Nixle (Everbridge) – OPD, AC Fire
- Genasys Protect (Zonehaven) – new app
- Twitter, Citizen, Nextdoor, Watch Duty...
- 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)
- FM Stations
 - **KQED - 88.5 FM**
- NOAA Weather



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

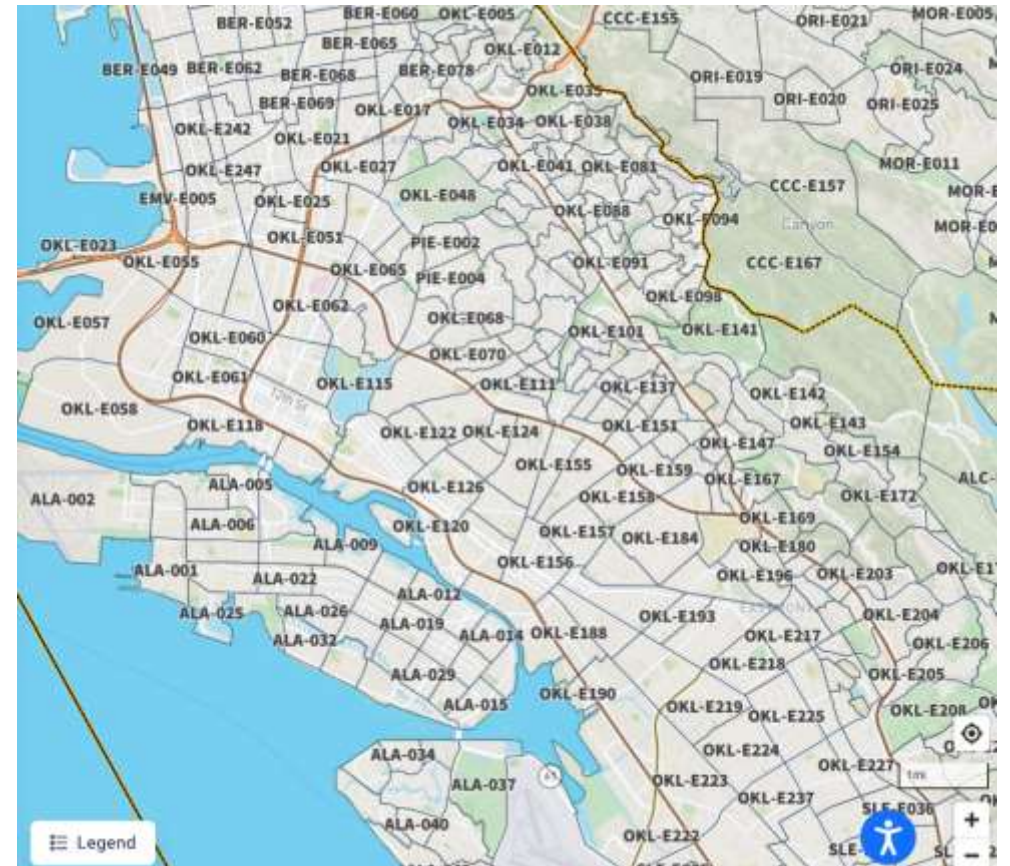
- ✓ Study a map to identify potential evacuation routes in every direction, plus local potential refuge areas
- ✓ Designate meeting locations to reunite with family members, and an out-of-area contact to update
- ✓ Have a checklist of items to quickly grab
- ✓ Know which neighbors may need help, plan to assist
- ✓ Review and practice!



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



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 your possible ways out
- 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

GO-BAG BASICS

YOU CAN USE A BACKPACK, GYM BAG, SHOPPING BAG, ETC.

FIRST AID
PPE



TOILETRIES



TECH EQUIPMENT
HEADLAMP, BATTERIES



CLOTHING



SPARE GLASSES
EXTRA MEDS



EMERGENCY CONTACTS LIST



ID
CASH
VITAL DOCS



WATER
FOOD



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, d-2-d, texts, radios)
- ✓ Encourage everyone to prepare

Address parking and traffic concerns!



Photo: Paul Chinn, The Chronicle

WILDFIRE SAFETY

- ✓ **Home Hardening**
- ✓ **Firewise USA®**
- ✓ **Firescaping**
- ✓ **Red Flag Warnings**
- ✓ **Power/PSPS**
- ✓ **Smoke**

Why Embers are Dangerous!

Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety



Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety

Harden Your Home Against Fire

Embers, radiant heat and direct flame contact will ignite structures!

- Create 5' of no combustibles around your home
- Remove flammables on or under porches and decks
- Install vent screens (1/8" mesh or less) to prevent embers from entering
- Fences should have non-combustible sections next to structures
- Have functioning smoke/CO detectors and working fire extinguishers
- Class A rated roof, metal gutters, tempered double-pane windows ideal



Regularly clean roofs and gutters!

Become Firewise USA® Recognized

- National Fire Protection Association program
- Encourages neighbors to work together on wildfire safety
- May help retain insurance, many 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](https://www.firewise.org)



FIREWISE USA®
Residents reducing wildfire risks

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
- Plant smart using more fire-resistant plants and trees
- Use our Firescaping Services and Tools list



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

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

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 alternate backup power sources
- Know that cell phone service isn't guaranteed!



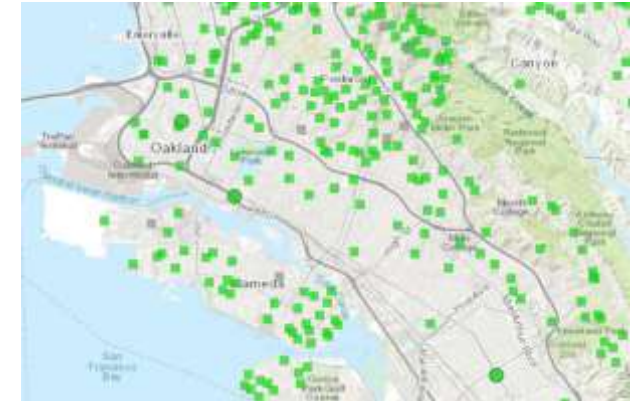
[pge.com](https://www.pge.com)



Prepare for Smoke from Nearby Wildfires

Wildfire smoke can make anyone sick, but people with asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) or heart disease, and children, pregnant women, and responders are especially at risk.

- ✓ Monitor air-quality sites (e.g. AirNow)
- ✓ Stay indoors if possible, close off outside air
- ✓ Leave if you have trouble breathing
- ✓ Have a good supply of N-95 masks on-hand
- ✓ Air filters/cleaners can help, even home-made
- ✓ Monitor to ensure a wildfire isn't approaching



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 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, GP/ZH, 2-way radio and surroundings
- **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 it's usually best to remain in your vehicle

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
- ✓ 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](https://www.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 embers
 - ✓ Take additional training (CERT) and practice



And Finally

- ✓ Take preparedness steps one at a time
- ✓ Anything you do, you are better off than before!
- ✓ Review the Guides as well as online sources like LISTOS California, Ready.gov, PG&E, Oakland 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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genoak.org

