Fire Prevention Bureau
Oakland Fire Department
250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 3341
Oakland, CA 94612-2032

OFD ANNUAL INSPECTION NOTICE

Inspections begin June 2026. Read this brochure for information on how to prepare.

Scan to sign up for Accela Citizen Access (ACA) to see inspection results for your property or visit aca.accela.com/oakland

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Need a different language?
Email wildfireprevention@oaklandca.gov

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE CITY OF OAKLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF OAKLAND

You are receiving this notice because **your property is within Oakland's Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area** and will be subject to an annual defensible space inspection.

Please read this brochure for important information about the upcoming 2026 vegetation inspection season.

Annual inspections will begin for all properties in June.

Start preparing your property for fire safe conditions now. Do not delay!

A Message From Your Fire Chief

Dear Residents of Oakland,

As we prepare for wildland fire season, I'm asking every Oakland resident to stay alert and take proactive steps to reduce wildfire risk across our community.

California is seeing a clear increase in catastrophic wildfires, driven by hotter, drier conditions, stronger winds, and seasonal vegetation cycles. That's why maintaining defensible space is critical. Wildfire prevention is a shared responsibility, and our collective actions will determine how resilient Oakland is this fire season.

In 2024, Oakland voters passed Measure MM, the Wildfire Prevention Act, funding the implementation of wildfire prevention plans, including the 2024 Vegetation Management Plan. This will support vegetation management, high-risk site inspections, evacuation route maintenance, and interagency coordination.

Last year, the Oakland Fire Department conducted over 25,000 vegetation management inspections, achieving a 95% compliance rate. That level of community participation is strong, and it directly contributes to safer neighborhoods. This year, we're building on that momentum as we begin the next round of annual inspections. Clearing dry brush, trimming vegetation, and maintaining safe distances between fuel sources and structures can significantly slow the spread of fire and improve firefighter access during emergencies.

Looking ahead, the State of California is expected to release final guidance on "Zone 0," a new 5-foot ember-resistant zone standard around structures in high-fire-severity areas. While final regulations are pending, Oakland Fire is already preparing to support residents with education and phased implementation over the next three years. We will provide updates and clear guidance as soon as those standards are finalized.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to keeping our community safe.

Chief Damon Covington
Oakland Fire Department

Vegetation Inspection Checklist

Follow the checklist below to prepare for your annual inspection. For more information about common code violations, visit OaklandCA.gov/VMU-Inspections

WUI = California Wildland-Urban Interface Code / CFC = California Fire Code

- [ ] **Maintain Defensible Space:** Maintain at least 30 feet of defensible space (Zone 1) and up to 100 feet (Zone 2), depending on the slope of your property (WUI 604)
  - [ ] **Remove Clippings and Mulch:** Do not leave cut grass and other vegetation more than 3 inches deep. Do not leave wood chips and mulch more than 12 inches deep (WUI 604)
  - [ ] **Remove Waste:** Storage of combustible or flammable waste (i.e. weeds, trash) is not allowed anywhere on your property, even outside of Zones 1 and 2 (WUI 604). Firewood must be stored at least 20 feet from structures and at least 10 feet from other flammable materials (WUI 607.1)
  - [ ] **Move Sources of Ignition**: All items that can be a source of fire, including grills, BBQs, fire pits, torches, and any other device that generates flame or heat, even items "not in use", must be at least 30 feet away from any combustible materials (WUI 604)
  - [ ] **Clear Off Roofs:** Remove dead and dying vegetation, such as pine needles or leaves, from roofs and gutters (WUI 604)
  - [ ] **Trim Vegetation Above Roofs and Chimneys:** Remove all tree limbs and other vegetation growth at least 10 feet from rooflines and above structures (WUI 604). Remove all tree limbs and other vegetation growth at least 10 feet from all chimneys and rooftop exhaust pipes, including chimneys and fireplaces "not in use" (WUI 604)
  - [ ] **Limb Trees:** Remove all tree limbs within 6 feet of the ground (WUI 604)
- [ ] **Maintain Address Numbers:** Must be minimum of 4 inches tall, in a contrasting color, reflectorized, and visible from the street. Remove or prune vegetation that blocks visibility. Place numbers where first responders can easily see from the roadway (CFC 505.1 and WUI 403.2.4)
- [ ] **Clear Above and Along Roadsides:** Maintain at least 10 feet of horizontal clearance along, and 13.5 feet of vertical clearance above, all roadsides, driveways, parking lots, and fire trails (CFC 503.2.1)

Important Information: Inspection Process

When is the inspection?

- Check inspection dates on Accela Citizen Access (ACA) at aca.accela.com/oakland
  - OFD cannot guarantee inspection dates due to emergency responses.
  - OFD will not show up before the date noted on the website.
- Sign up for an ACA account at aca.accela.com/oakland to see full inspection results.
  - Microsoft Edge is required to experience all website functions. Most ACA features are not available on cell phone mobile browsers. If you need free computer access, please visit your local library.

What is inspected?

- We inspect all parcels, not addresses, within Oakland's Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area.
- We inspect to identify potential hazards that could contribute to the spread of wildfire and work with residents to mitigate violations of the Fire Code. Visit OaklandCA.gov/VMU for more information.

Compliant?

- A door hanger with instructions will be left at the property advising that an inspection has been completed.
- A letter of compliance will be mailed to the address of the owner on file. The property owner can retrieve this information on the ACA website.

Non-compliant?

- A door hanger with instructions will be left at the property advising that an inspection has been completed.
- A letter of non-compliance will be mailed with notice of what needs to be corrected. No photos are supplied in the letter.
- Log in to your ACA account to see photos immediately following the inspection. Photos are to assist with abatement. Photos may not reflect all items that need to be corrected, and are to be used only as a guide.
- Correct the violations.
- Send photos of corrections via email or by mail within 45 days of initial non-compliant inspection. Email and address are listed below under "Contact Information." Email is preferred.
- Congratulations! With proof of all corrections within the 45-day period, your 2026 vegetation inspection will be marked compliant.
- Please remember that compliance and maintenance are required year-round.

Didn't send proof of corrections?

- Up to two more inspections could occur. Fees will be assessed per the City Council-approved master fee schedule for each additional inspection.

Vacant lot?

- All vacant lot property owners must go to ACA to see the status of their inspection and details. A letter will also be mailed with the status of the inspection. Please do not wait for the letter to arrive, as you will still only have 45 days from a non-compliant initial inspection to provide abatement details to our office.

Contact Information

Fire Prevention Bureau – Vegetation Management Unit

- **Phone:** 510-238-7388
- **Email:** wildfireprevention@oaklandca.gov
- **Mailing Address**
  Fire Prevention Bureau
  Attn: Vegetation Management Unit
  250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza #3341
  Oakland, CA 94612
- **Website:** OaklandCA.gov/VMU
  This is the only website currently managed by the Fire Prevention Bureau. Any website that does not have "oaklandca.gov" in the address line is not monitored or edited by Oakland Fire Department.

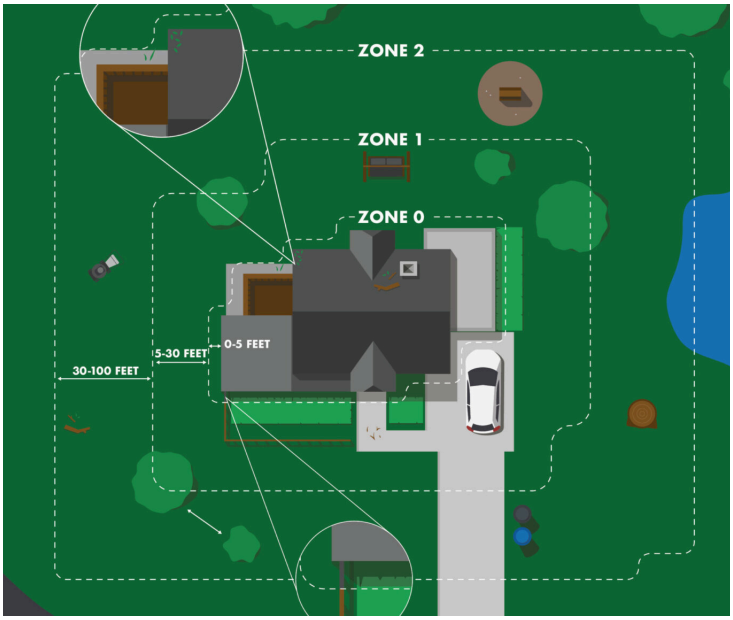
We experience a very high call and email volume from May to November. Please be patient when attempting to make contact and listen carefully to the voicemail greeting to ensure the best service.

Complaints About City Property: Call Oak 311 by dialing 3-1-1 or report online at oaklandca.gov/services/oak311

Fire Hydrants: If you have any concerns about a fire hydrant (e.g., leaking, needs paint, or inaccessible), please contact EBMUD at 866-403-2683

Power Lines: If you see vegetation growing within overhead power lines, please contact PG&E at 1-800-743-5000

Defensible Space: What You Need To Know



Zone 0
0 - 5 ft around the structure

Zone 1
5 - 30 ft around the structure

Zone 2
30 - 100 ft around the structure

Defensible space is the buffer between a structure and hazardous vegetation. It is the first line of defense for your home and neighborhood against wildfire.

Oakland enforces defensible space requirements at all properties in the Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area. Compliance is assessed during yearly inspections and must be maintained year-round.

IMPORTANT: California will soon adopt regulations for Zone 0. These requirements will go into effect immediately for new builds and will be phased in over three years for existing properties.

Scan to learn more about defensible space and Oakland's phased approach to Zone 0 or visit OaklandCA.gov/Zone0

Red Flag Day Information

Red Flag Warnings are issued by the National Weather Service when critical weather creates high wildfire risk. This may include low humidity and strong winds. Check weather.gov for current declarations in Oakland. Sign up for Alameda County Emergency Alerts at OaklandCA.gov/ACAlert to be notified directly. Learn more about emergency notifications at OaklandCA.gov/StayInformed

Fires are NOT allowed anywhere in the Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area on Red Flag Days. This includes open burning, recreational fires, portable outdoor fireplaces, smoking, gasoline powered equipment, and all types of outdoor cooking devices (CFC 307.4.3 and 307.4.4).

NOTICE: Joaquin Miller Park is entirely closed on Red Flag Days.

Evacuation Zones and Evacuation Routes

Get information about your **evacuation zone** at protect.genasys.com

Give your feedback on proposed new **evacuation routes** in the Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area at evacuation-oakgis.hub.arcgis.com

NOTICE: To ensure road access by emergency responders on evacuation routes, please obey all parking regulations.

OAKLAND FIRESAFE COUNCIL

Prepare your home and community for wildfire! The Oakland Firesafe Council offers home hardening resources, Firewise USA support, emergency preparedness Guides, wildfire safety workshops, monthly public meetings, and much more. Scan the QR code to learn, volunteer, and sign up for a free monthly newsletter, or visit OaklandFiresafeCouncil.org