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News from: **Office of the Mayor Libby Schaaf**

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**CITY OF OAKLAND, REGIONAL PARTNERS COMMEMORATE
24th ANNIVERSARY OF OAKLAND HILLS FIRESTORM**

OAKLAND, CA – Today, Mayor Libby Schaaf, Fire Chief Teresa Deloach Reed, Police Chief Sean Whent, East Bay Regional Parks District General Manager Robert Doyle, Ken Benson of the Oakland Firesafe Council, and local community members gathered to commemorate the anniversary of the Oakland-Berkeley Hills Firestorm, an event that remains one of the worst fire disasters in our nation's history.

The mayor shared her memories of the three-day firestorm and called on Oaklanders to honor and remember its victims, which included Oakland Fire Department Battalion Chief James Riley and Oakland Police Officer John Grubensky.

"The anniversary of the firestorm is a time to pause, to honor and remember all those who lost their lives on that tragic day," said Schaaf. "It's also a reminder for all Oaklanders to plan and prepare."

Speaking to preparedness efforts since the 1991 disaster, Mayor Schaaf and Fire Chief Deloach Reed shared that the Oakland Fire Department's capability to maneuver through our hills neighborhoods has been improved with the purchase of several specially designed fire apparatus. Firefighters also receive wildland personal protective clothing and annual training in the use of wildland related tools, safety equipment, strategy and tactics, and fire behavior.

"We need everyone to help keep our Oakland hills fire-safe, especially now when fire risk is high," said Oakland Fire Chief Teresa Deloach Reed. "A quick response is key. Our fire companies are ready, but we rely on our residents to report concerns. If you see smoke, don't hesitate to call 9-1-1 immediately."

Chief Deloach Reed stressed vegetation management as a key prevention

method her department has undertaken. She noted that reducing fuels in key areas can do much to prevent future fires and to mitigate the advance of a fire should one occur. As part of a comprehensive vegetation management program, OFD conducts about 26,000 public and private property inspections annually in high fire-hazard areas to ensure all properties are kept in a “fire-safe” manner. In the past year, the department made significant progress in reducing fuels along major roadways, large open spaces, city lots and park lands. OFD also conducts extensive public education and outreach at homeowners’ association meetings, emergency preparedness fairs, and other community meetings and events to keep our residents and property owners informed of the critical importance of fire prevention measures.

Mayor Schaaf also highlighted the importance of cooperation saying: “We recognize that the threat of fire extends beyond our city borders, which is why we partnered on fire prevention with neighboring cities, fire departments and organizations like East Bay Regional Parks and community partners such as the Oakland Firesafe Council, Hills Emergency Forum, North Hills Community Association, to name a few.”

Learn more: Visit Oaklandnet.com to learn more about fire season do’s and don’ts, subscribe to Red Flag Day alerts or sign up for disaster response training taught by Communities of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE).

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