



City of
OAKLAND
California

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News from: **Oakland Fire Department**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Department to Begin Annual Vegetation Inspections

Oakland, CA — While Winter and Spring rains brought a welcome change from the drought, the moisture has also led to the growth of weeds, brush and trees in the Oakland Hills. These plants can serve as fuel during a fire and place the Hills neighborhoods at greater fire risk unless removed. The Oakland Fire Department (OFD) wants to remind residents to “protect your investment, and help give firefighters a fighting chance by keeping good defensible space around your home.”

OFD works year round to raise the public’s awareness of wildfires, and to prevent fires from occurring. OFD’s fire prevention efforts save lives, reduce damage to property and protect open space from fire damage. Across the state, thousands of acres of land and countless homes are destroyed by wildfires annually. Fire prevention activities within Oakland greatly minimize these risks. A key component of OFD’s wildfire prevention program is its Annual Vegetation Inspection Program.

OFD’s Fire Prevention Bureau will begin Annual Vegetation Inspections on or about May 18, 2016. Inspection notices have been sent out to the owners and occupants of property located in the Very High Fire Hazard Areas of the Oakland Hills.

Persons who own property or live in these areas are reminded that, while mandatory inspections occur once per year, all properties must remain in compliance year round. Residents can reduce wildfire risk, achieve compliance with Oakland’s regulations and pass their annual inspection by installing wildfire resistant landscaping and creating at least 30-feet of defensible space around their homes by clearing dead weeds and vegetation. A failure to comply increases the wildfire risk for neighboring properties and will result in a minimum \$303 fine to the property owner.

There are several resources – such as free extra yard trimming pick up from Waste Management and free chipping of small tree limbs and brush – that can make it easier for residents and property owners in the Very High Fire Hazard Areas to achieve and maintain compliance with these regulations. Please call (510) 238-7388 for more information about the chipping program. Another resource is the Demonstration Garden at the Gateway Emergency Exhibit Center at Caldecott Lane where you can learn ideas on how to meet Oakland’s defensible space requirements.

For more information, contact Fire Prevention/Vegetation Management at (510) 238-7388 or visit oaklandnet.com/wildfireprevention.

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