



Fire Prevention Bureau
Oakland Fire Department
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, #3341
Oakland, CA 94612-2032
www.OaklandWPD.org



ANNUAL INSPECTION NOTICE

Important Tips to help you pass
your 2011 Fire Inspection.
INSPECTIONS BEGIN JUNE 15TH



RESOURCES – www.OaklandWPD.org

For more information on making your home fire safe, visit these websites:

	Agency or Website	All Numbers are 510
Vegetation Management Hotline	Fire Prevention Bureau	238-7388
Chipping Program, City Properties, and Complaints	www.OaklandWPD.org	
Tree Removal Permits	Tree Assessments	615-5566
Borrowing Gardening Tools	Tool Lending Library	597-5089
Recycling/Composting	www.stopwaste.org	
Yard Trimmings Recycling	Waste Management of Alameda County	613-8710
Creekside Property Regulations – Clean Creek Hotline	www.oaklandpw.com/creeks	238-6600
Oakland Watershed Improvement Program	www.oaklandpw.com/creeks	
Firewise Communities	www.firewise.org	
CORE Emergency Preparedness & Response Training	www.oaklandcore.org	238-6351
Report a Problem to Public Works	PWAcallcenter@oaklandnet.com	615-5566
Streets, sidewalks, sewers, storm drains		
Illegal Dumping (Private Property)	Code Enforcement	238-3381
Illegal Dumping (Public Property)	Litter Enforcement	434-5101
Water Wise Gardening Tips	www.ebmud.com	

To see online video examples, go to www.OaklandWPD.org and click on

WILDFIRES CAN OCCUR ANYTIME

Each year the Oakland Fire Prevention Bureau inspects properties to determine compliance with Vegetation Management requirements in the adopted California Fire Code.

California law requires compliance year-round. Inspections will begin June 15th.

You will receive a Vegetation Management Inspection Report to inform you of the results at the time of the inspection.

Failure to comply will result in a re-inspection.

Properties not in compliance at the time of re-inspection will be assessed a \$275.15 re-inspection fee. The City will initiate action to have the property meet compliance requirements. Any fees incurred by the City to abate hazards will be billed to the property owner.



COMPLIANCE AND INSPECTIONS

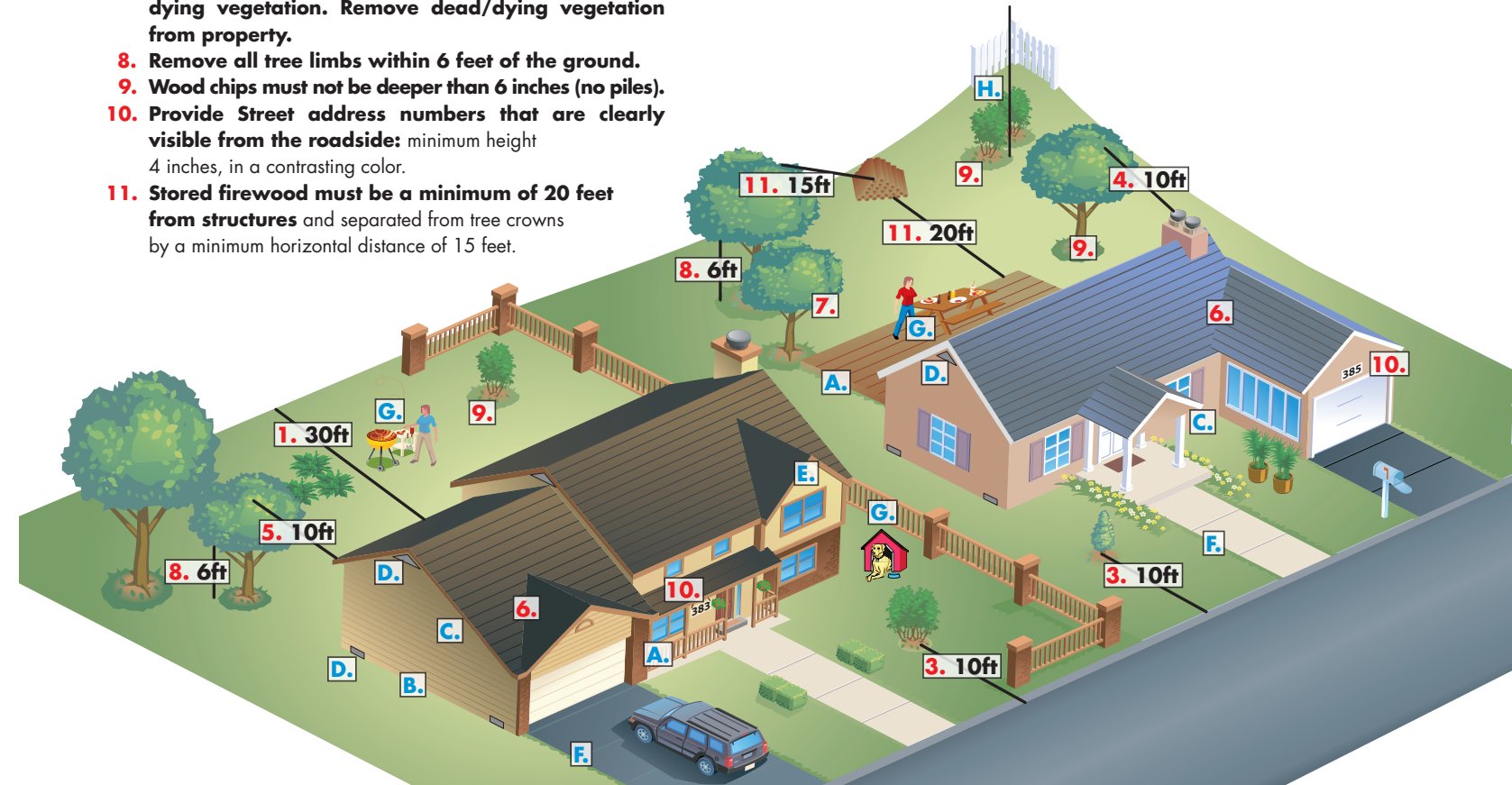
REQUIRED

- Maintain a 30-foot fuel reduction zone around all buildings/structures;** more may be required. Cut grass to 6 inches or less. Shrubs need to be maintained.
- If property is greater than 1/2 acre, maintain a 100 ft. defensible space/fuel reduction zone from all buildings and neighboring structures;** more may be required.
- Maintain a 10-foot minimum clearance next to the roadside;** more may be required.
- Remove all portions of trees within 10 feet of chimney and/or stovepipe outlets.**
- Maintain a 10 feet minimum horizontal clearance of tree crowns from any structure.**
- Maintain the roof of any structure free of leaves, needles or other dead/dying vegetation.**
- Maintain trees adjacent to structures free of dead/dying vegetation. Remove dead/dying vegetation from property.**
- Remove all tree limbs within 6 feet of the ground.**
- Wood chips must not be deeper than 6 inches (no piles).**
- Provide Street address numbers that are clearly visible from the roadside:** minimum height 4 inches, in a contrasting color.
- Stored firewood must be a minimum of 20 feet from structures and separated from tree crowns by a minimum horizontal distance of 15 feet.**

RECOMMENDED

- Keep storage areas under porches, steps, and decks clean.
- Check the bottom of siding and enclose it with screen.
- Keep eaves clear of leaves, pine needles & debris.
- Use 1/8 inch screen to cover attic and lower vents.
- To keep out flying embers, roll screen into the openings of terracotta roof tiles.
- Use pebbles, cement walkways/stepping stones for landscaping; it especially reduces the fuel ladder on slopes.
- Keep leaves and combustible debris away from lawn and deck furniture, barbeques, dog houses, fences, children's play structures, or toys.
- Reduce fuel ladders:** Separate and space your plants to reduce fuel ladders. Plants should be spaced 4 ft. to 40 ft depending on slope, vegetation type, and size. Flames can be as much as 4 times as high as a burning object.

See next page for more
GENERAL COMPLIANCE STANDARDS & REQUIREMENTS.



Call the Fire Prevention District Hotline (510) 238-7388 or visit our website www.OaklandWPD.org

GENERAL COMPLIANCE STANDARDS & REQUIREMENTS

The Wildfire Prevention Assessment District is located within **A VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY AREA** as designated by State of California PRC 4291. For additional information on how you can make your property and neighborhood fire safe visit www.OaklandWPD.org, or call the Fire Prevention Bureau (510) 238-7388

TREES: Remove tree branches from the ground a minimum of 6 feet or one-fourth the total height of the tree. Branches must be trimmed a minimum of 10 feet from any roof, structure, and chimney. Remove all dead/dying branches from trees.

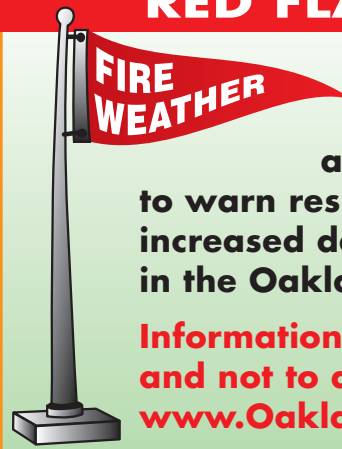
SURFACE FUELS: Grass, weeds, leaf litter, ground cover, etc. must be 6 inches or less within 30 feet (Fuel Reduction Zone) of a structure. Maintain the maximum 6 inch height within 10 feet of all roads or driveways. In situations where necessary to stabilize soil, grasses may reach a height of 18 inches.

ORNAMENTAL PLANTS: Must be irrigated, maintained and pruned.

DEBRIS PILES: Do not pile wood chips or mulch on your property. Spread and maintain to a depth not exceeding 6 inches. Compost should be kept in an appropriate container.

KEEP YOUR HOME FIRE SAFE. Help our District and the City of Oakland continue its success in Wildfire Prevention.

IMPORTANT WILDFIRE SAFETY RED FLAG DAYS



Firefighters will raise red flags at fire stations to warn residents of the increased danger of wildfire in the Oakland Hills.

Information about what to do and not to do is posted at www.OaklandWPD.org.

RATE YOUR HOME FIRE RISK – What Is Your Risk?

Score your level of risk. The higher your score, the higher your risk!

Score Points • Yes = 1 • Needs to Be Improved = 3 • No = 5

1. Does your home have defensible space (10' to 30' to 100' or to street and/or property line)?
2. Have you removed all "fuel ladders" (continuous path of vegetation) ?
3. Are your trees limbed up a minimum of 6 feet?
4. Are your weeds and grasses cut to 6 inches or less?
5. Are all mulch or chips spread no deeper than 6 inches?
6. Is your vegetation maintained year-round by regular watering, weeding, pruning, and removing dead and dying material?
7. Is your roof clear of overhanging branches, vines, and free of all debris?
8. Is all dead and dying debris removed from your property?
9. Are foundation and attic vents screened with 1/8 inch mesh?
10. Is your roof constructed of fire-retardant materials?
11. Are your gutters clear of overhanging branches, vines, and free of all debris?
12. Is the area underneath all open decks, porches, stairs, eaves, and overhangs clear of debris?
13. Do you have spark arrestors on all chimneys?
14. Are your house address numbers clearly visible from the street, day and night?
15. Does your family have an emergency plan?
16. Does your family have escape routes by foot and by car?
17. Does your family practice its emergency preparedness plan?

TOTAL SCORE _____

Visit www.OaklandWPD.org for solutions to reduce risk and enhance the safety of your family, friends, neighbors, pets, and community.

BE FIRE SAFE!

WILDFIRE PREVENTION ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

In 2003, Oakland voters approved the Wildfire Prevention Assessment District to fund fire prevention activities. Thanks to these benefit fees, the City of Oakland is able to monitor fire risks on more than 25,000 parcels, manage vegetation on public lands, and conduct other activities designed to reduce the threat of damaging wildfires.



The District sponsors a FREE chipping service.

For tree and brush chipping and removal services:

- Call Wildfire Prevention (510) 238-7388 before stacking branches along street
- You will receive a return call to schedule an appointment
- Then stack branches in 4' x 4' x 4' piles
- Piles are not to obstruct vehicle passage
- Stack cut ends facing travel direction of the street
- No lumber will be chipped or taken
- Plastic bags and piles of leaves will not be picked up
- Chips can be removed or left on property

Free weekly curbside pick up of green debris is included in your regular garbage service. Use "green bins" or paper bags, NOT plastic.

WHAT MORE CAN I DO?

- Watch for signs, billboards, news articles and radio announcements regarding fire conditions in the Oakland Hills.
- Call (510) 238-7396 to request a speaker or presentation on fire safety for your group.
- Visit our website: www.OaklandWPD.org for tips, do's & don'ts, recommended plants, and other resources. Click ▶ to see online video examples.
- Email your questions or concerns, info@OaklandWPD.org
- Call Vegetation Management at (510) 238-7388 to report a problem or ask questions.
- Join volunteer efforts on Earth Day, Creek to Bay Day, Wildfire Prevention Day, and other activities, plus workshops listed on our website.
- Join us monthly for our Citizens' Advisory Committee Meetings – **3rd Thursday** of each month, **7 pm**, at the Trudeau Training Center, **11500 Skyline Blvd.**, Oakland.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Am I required to keep my property in compliance year-round?** Yes.
- **Should ivy climbing on my house and trees be removed?** Yes. Ivy and other vines act as a fuel ladder and make your home vulnerable to fire.
- **Should I worry about erosion from vegetation removal?** Yes. Grasses, shrubs and trees help keep slopes stable. Do NOT remove or disturb the root system.
- **Can you recommend some fire resistant plants?** Visit our website: www.OaklandWPD.org and remember ALL plants will burn.
- **I don't use my fireplace. Do I still need a spark arrester?** Yes, it is required by law.
- **I'm concerned about a neighboring property? What do I do?** Call 238-7388 and leave a message for an inspector to address your concern.
- **Does the required 30-foot clearance apply to ornamental plants and trees?** All trees and plants must be maintained, limbed and kept free of weeds and dead branches. Stand alone specimens of trees, ornamental shrubs and plants used as ground cover may remain if they do not create a fuel ladder.
- **My property includes a creek or stream. Are there any special fire requirements?** Yes. For further information please visit, www.oaklandpw.com/creeks
- **What are the requirements for address numbers?** Address numbers must be 4 inches high and visible from the street, day and night.
- **What should I do since I received this notice in error?** So that the new owner can be notified, please call our hotline (510) 238-7388.

PRESERVATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

Oakland is home to four species designated endangered, threatened, or rare. These are the **Pallid Manzanita** (*Arctostaphylos Pallida*), **Tiburon Buckwheat** (*Eriogonum Hiteolum* var. *Caninum*), **Presidio Clarkia** (*Clarkia Franciscana*), and the **Most Beautiful Jewel Flower** (*Streptanthus Albidus* ssp. *Peramoenus*).

If you have any of these on your property, do not cut or move it! Instead, hire a certified botanist to confirm the plant's identity, or call Oakland's Watershed Improvement Program (510) 238-7571.