



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

OFD ANNUAL INSPECTION NOTICE
Please see inside for important information from the
City of Oakland – Oakland Fire Department

INSPECTIONS FOR ALL REQUIRED PROPERTIES BEGIN IN JUNE 2024
This brochure tells you how to prepare.



SCAN FOR ACA

Sign up for your Accela Citizen's Access (ACA) account today to immediately see the inspection results for your property! An ACA account is required to see inspection results.

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Red Flag Day Information:

Red Flag declarations are made by the National Weather Service in response to critical weather and dry conditions that could lead to rapid or dramatic increases in wildfire activity. Weather patterns that could result in a Red Flag declaration include low humidity and strong winds as well as other specific conditions. Please refer to this webpage to see if a Red Flag declaration has been made in our area:
<https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/fire2/cafw/>

(OMC 307.4.4 "Red-flag" and other high fire risk conditions. Open burning, including recreational fires and fires within portable outdoor fireplaces, shall not be permitted on "red-flag" or other days which pose a high fire risk as determined by the fire code official.)

Smoking, using gasoline powered equipment, or using any type of outside cooking device are also not allowed anywhere in the Very High Fire Severity Zone on designated red flag days.

NOTICE: JOAQUIN MILLER PARK WILL BE CLOSED IN ITS ENTIRETY DURING RED FLAG EVENTS.

More defensible space information:



The Oakland Firesafe Council helps Oakland residents and organizations reduce the risk of wildfire danger to people and property. Explore practical information on wildfire prevention, risk reduction and safety programs like Firewise USA and Fire-scaping at:
<https://oaklandfiresafecouncil.org/>.

Also, check out...
<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/defensible-space/>

A Message from your Fire Chief:

Dear Residents of Oakland,

As we transition into the dry season, I urge each of you to remain vigilant and proactive in our collective efforts to mitigate the risk of wildfires in our community.

While recent rains have provided some relief, they have also spurred vegetation growth, potentially creating fuel for fast-spreading wildfires in the months ahead. This underscores the importance of maintaining defensible space around our homes and properties.

I'm proud to report that in 2023, the Oakland Fire Department conducted over 25,000 vegetation management inspections, with an impressive 95% compliance rate. This is a testament to our community's dedication to fire safety, and it's something we aim to build upon in the upcoming annual inspection process.

Whether you've lived through past wildfires or are new to the area, it's crucial that all residents in high-risk zones are informed about their role in fire prevention. Creating and maintaining defensible space around our properties is essential for slowing the spread of wildfires.

Our Fire Prevention Bureau works tirelessly year-round to ensure our personnel are well-trained and equipped with the latest educational resources. Additionally, our firefighters undergo rigorous training to effectively respond to wildfire emergencies.

In the coming months, we will utilize every available channel to disseminate information about fire safety. Your partnership in spreading this critical message and reducing hazardous fuel loads in our hills is invaluable.

Thank you for your cooperation and dedication to keeping our community safe from wildfires.

Sincerely,
Fire Chief Damon Covington



IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE CITY OF OAKLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT



You are receiving this notice because your property is within the

Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and an annual defensible space inspection is required by the Oakland Municipal Code*.

Please read inside for important information on the upcoming vegetation inspection season.

Annual inspections will begin for all properties in June.
Start preparing your property for fire safe conditions now. Do not delay!



*City of Oakland Ordinance 13720 Chapter 49

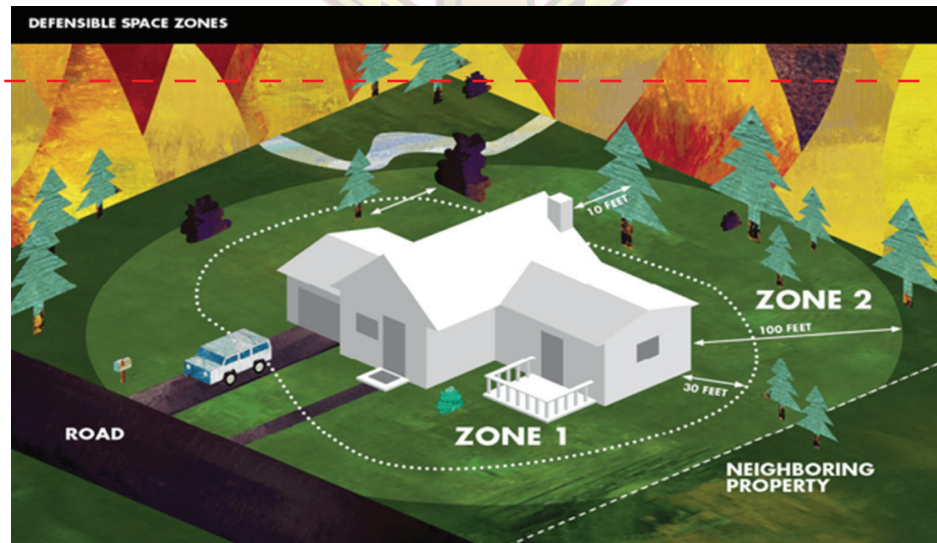


SCAN FOR ACA

Defensible Space Requirements and Code Explanations

Here are explanations for the most commonly cited codes. Check online for full OMC language at https://library.municode.com/ca/oakland/codes/code_of_ordinances or more detailed explanations at <https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/compliance-standards-for-vegetation-inspections>.

OMC 4907.4: Defensible Space minimum — Maintain 30 feet of defensible space by cutting tall weeds, grasses, hazardous vegetation, and removing all dead & dying vegetation.	CFC 505.1: Property address — Addresses must be visible for all emergency responders.
OMC 4907.5: Defensible Space maximum — Increase defensible space protection to 100 feet from all structures due to slope of land.	OMC 4907.5.2: Roadside Clearance — Maintain at least 10 feet of clearance along all roadsides, driveways, parking lots, and fire trails. <i>Note: Maintenance of roadsides on public right-of-ways are the responsibilities of adjacent property owners per California Streets & Highway Code.</i>
OMC 4907.5.4: Clippings & Mulch — Do not leave cut grasses and other vegetation more than 3 inches deep on property. Wood chips and mulch can't be left more than 12 inches deep on property.	CFC 507.5.5: Clearance above roads — All trees and vegetation need to be cut back at least 13 feet & 6 inches above all roadsides, driveways, parking lots, and fire trails.
CFC 304.1.1: Waste & Storage on property — No combustible or flammable waste or storage is allowed anywhere on property. Even outside of required defensible space areas.	CFC 507.5.5: Fire Hydrant clearance — Do not allow overgrown vegetation within 3 feet around any fire hydrant.



Defensible space from hazardous vegetation is the required 30 feet for flat properties or 100 feet on properties with a slope between all structures and the surrounding areas.

Defensible space is the first line of defense for your home and neighborhood against wildfire.

OMC 4912.8.3: Sources of Ignition — All items or devices that can be a source of fire shall be at least 30 feet away from any combustible material. This includes grills, BBQ's, fire pits, torches, and any other device which generates flame or heat. Even not in use.	OMC 4907.5.1.3: Tree separation from ground — Limb up all trees within defensible space area at least 6 feet from ground.
	OMC 4907.5.1.1: Tree clearance from roofs — Keep tree limbs and other growth at least 10 from rooflines and above structures.
CFC 304.1.2: — Keep roofs clear of dead & dying vegetation such as pine needles and fallen leaves.	OMC 4907.5.1.2: Clearance from chimneys — Keep all vegetation, including tree limbs, at least 10 feet from all chimneys and rooftop exhaust pipes. This includes chimneys or fireplaces "not in use".

When is the inspection?

- Check for inspection dates at the ACA website. <https://aca.accela.com/oakland>
 - Please note: *OFD cannot guarantee inspection dates due to emergency responses.
 - OFD can guarantee we will not show up before the noted date on the website.
- Sign up for ACA account to see photos and full inspection results. <https://aca.accela.com/oakland>
 - Please note: *Only updated web browsers will work with this website.
 - Most functions are not available on cell phone at this time.

Compliant?

- Door hanger with instructions will be left at property advising that an inspection has been completed.
- Letter of compliance will be mailed to address of owner on file & property owner can this information immediately from ACA website.
- *Congratulations! Your 2024 vegetation inspection is compliant but please remember to keep your property in compliance all year.*

Non-compliant?

- Door hanger with instructions will be left at property advising that an inspection has been completed.
- Letter of non-compliance will be mailed with notice of what needs to be corrected. No photos are supplied in the letter.
- Log into ACA account to see photos immediately following the inspection. Photos are to assist with abatement. (Photos might not necessarily reflect on all items to be corrected and are to be used only as a guide).
- Correct violations.
- Send photos of corrections to our email address, (wildfireprevention@oaklandca.gov) or mailing address found below within 45 day from initial non-compliant inspection. Emailing corrections is the preferred method of communication to show proof of abatement.
- *Congratulations! Your 2024 Vegetation Inspection will be marked compliant with proof of all corrections. Please remember compliance is required all year.*

Didn't send proof of corrections?

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

Contact Information

- **Fire Prevention Bureau – Vegetation Management Unit:**
 - **Phone:** 510-238-7388
 - **Email:** wildfireprevention@oaklandca.gov
 - 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.
 - **Website:** <https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/wildfire-district-inspections>
 - Please note, 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 the FPB.
 - **Address:** Fire Prevention Bureau – Attn: Vegetation Management Unit – 250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza #3341 – Oakland, CA 94612
- **All property complaints:** Call Oak 311 by dialing 3-1-1 or report online at <https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/oak311>. *Please do not contact VMU.*
- **Fire hydrants:** Customers that have any concerns about a fire hydrant (e.g., leaking, needs paint, or inaccessible) should call EBMUD at 866-403-2683.
- **Power lines:** If you see trees or vegetation growing within overhead power lines, please contact PG&E at 1-800-743-5000.