



ABE ROMAN / INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

2100 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAY, BERKELEY, CA 94704 510.981.3473
 AROMAN@CITYOFBERKELEY.INFO

Date: Tuesday, June 01, 2021

To: «OWNER_NAME»
 C/O: «CO»
 «OWNER_ADDRESS», «OWNER_UNIT»
 «OWNER_CITY» «OWNER_ZIP»

Re: Educational Outreach for Vegetation Management

Dear Property Owner(s):

The Berkeley Fire Department wants the community to be prepared for wildfires that could impact our City. Large fires in California are increasing in number and severity. These fast moving, complex fires occur throughout the Bay Area including Berkeley's hills. Please refer to the resources in this packet for information to help you reduce the risk of wildfire and be prepared if a wildfire happens.

Vegetation Management

Our records indicate that you are the owner(s) of a property or vacant lot located within Fire Zones 2 or 3 as designated by the City of Berkeley. It is important that you, as a property owner, take steps to reduce the risk of wildfires to yourself, your property, neighbors, and firefighters. Overgrowth of vegetation becomes hazardous fuel for wildfires as it dries and cures in the coming months.

To assist you in reducing the vegetation fire hazards on your property we have enclosed *Diagram 1 – Defensible Space*. This visually summarizes how to help reduce the fire hazards around your property. You should act now to manage the fuel load on your property.

Some actions you should take to create defensible space around your property include

- Remove combustible waste from your property.
- Remove vegetation debris like dead leaves and needles from the roof.
- Remove seasonal weeds and brush.
- Remove "Ladder Fuels" that allow fire to climb from the ground to trees:
 - o Remove lower tree branches at least 10 feet from the ground,
 - o Trim vegetation away from utility lines,
 - o Remove shrubs and brush from under trees.
- Clear brush and trees 10 feet back from roadways.
- Ensure no obstructions to fire access roads.
- Install spark arresters on chimneys.
- Address Identification: Have legible address signs visible from the street during the day and night. The sign should be a contrasting color from the home.
- Work with your neighbors to have a Vegetation Bin located in your area to remove debris or to have it chipped. Trimmed vegetation should not remain on the property, it should be disposed of.
- Consider mowing before 10 am, if it's too hot for you, it's too hot to mow. REMEMBER: Don't mow during the heat of the day or when the wind is blowing.

- Be sure weed whackers / or mowers have spark arrestors.
- Clear flammable materials from your deck. This includes brooms, stacked wood and easily ignitable patio furniture. Consider boarding up the area under your deck to keep it from becoming a fuel bed for hot embers.
- Move wood piles and garbage cans away from your home, at least 10-feet.
- Inspect/clean your chimney every year. Trim away branches within 10-feet and install a spark arrestor with ½" or smaller mesh screen.
- Window screens should be metal, not plastic or other flammable or meltable material.
- If you have a wood shake roof, consider replacing the shingle roof with non-flammable (Class-A) roofing materials such as asphalt shingles, tile or metal roofing.

Wildland-Urban Interface Area Inspections

The Berkeley Fire Department will begin annual wildfire safety inspections in designated parts of Fire Zones 2 and the entire Zone 3 on June 1, 2021. Please be advised that the Berkeley Fire Department is in the process of dramatically expanding this formal inspection program with the goal of ultimately inspecting all properties within Fire Zones 2 and 3 for wildfire safety compliance on a regular basis. In the meantime, we encourage you to inspect your property and address any apparent issues to comply with wildland fire safety requirements and the City of Berkeley Fire Code. A self-inspection checklist is enclosed to assist you. Also, remember that even though your specific property may not be included in this current round of HFA inspections that you are still responsible for wildfire safety compliance on your property.

Wildfire Evacuation

Now is the time to prepare yourself and your household to rapidly evacuate from wildfire. We have enclosed a Berkeley Wildfire Evacuation Checklist in this mailer. This list gives you information on:

- 1) What you can do if you have to leave quickly.
- 2) What to do if you have time to prepare to evacuate.
- 3) How to find information about the emergency and how to share that information.

You can find more information on being ready at: www.cityofberkeley.info/Ready

Thank you in for your cooperation and compliance. Your efforts will help make the entire Berkeley community safer. If you have any questions please contact the Berkeley Fire Department at (510) 981-5585 during normal business hours.

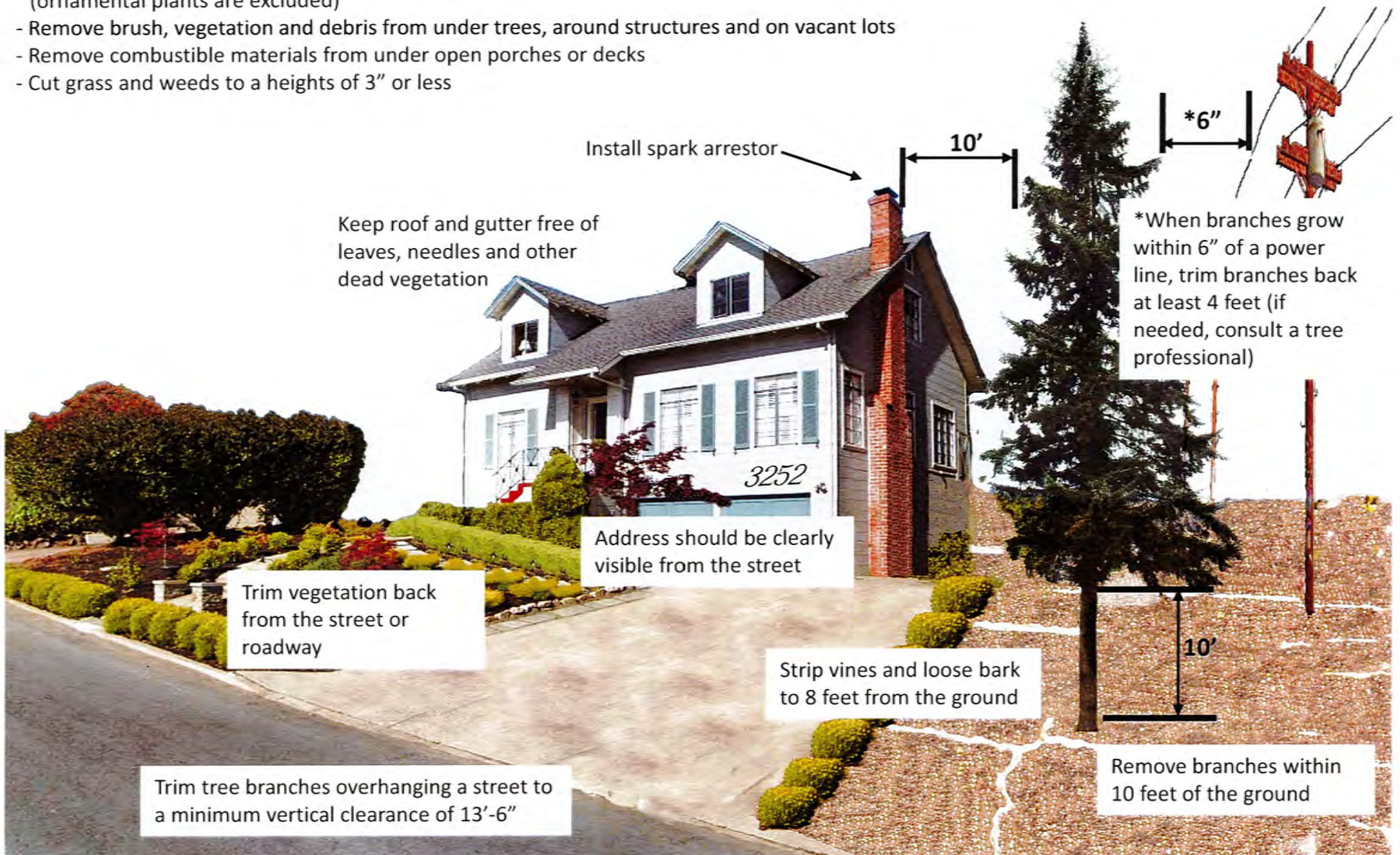
Sincerely,



Steven Riggs
Fire Marshal

- Enclosures:
- A. Self-Inspection Check List
 - B. Diagram 1 – Defensible Space
 - C. Berkeley Wildfire Evacuation Checklist

- Clear brush and flammable vegetation within 30 feet or to the property line of a structure (ornamental plants are excluded)
- Remove brush, vegetation and debris from under trees, around structures and on vacant lots
- Remove combustible materials from under open porches or decks
- Cut grass and weeds to a heights of 3" or less



*When branches grow within 6" of a power line, trim branches back at least 4 feet (if needed, consult a tree professional)

Diagram 1 – Defensible Space





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BERKELEY FIRE DEPARTMENT - VEGETATION MANAGEMENT SELF-INSPECTION CHECKLIST

- Do you have any accumulated vegetation waste?
- Is your car blocking any fire apparatus access to roads? Fire trucks need a minimum lane of 26 feet wide and 13' 6" tall for clearance. We recommend backing your vehicle into driveways on Red Flag warning days.
- Can you see your address from the street? Address identification must be seen from the street in the day or night time and contrast in color from their background.
- Are the power lines cleared? There must be a minimum of 4 feet of clearance from high voltage conductor. If the power lines are obstructed, contact PG&E to request trimming around the power lines.
- Is there clearance of brush from roadways? Minimum of 10-feet on each side of the roadway must be cleared of vegetation such as tall grass, weeds or brush.
- Is there defensible space around your home? Some things to consider:
 - o Cut grass and flammable vegetation
 - o Remove combustible items from areas such as decks, overhangs and stairs
 - o Relocate combustible outdoor furniture
 - o Create space between plants and between plants and structures
 - o Trim trees 10 feet back from chimney(s) and if possible from overhanging your roof
 - o Remove old leaves and pine needles from roofs, eaves and gutters
 - o Remove branches within 10 feet from the ground (limbing)
 - o Remove dead wood / or thin overly dense tree crowns
 - o Remove understory, brush and ground fuel beneath trees
 - o Thin stands of trees / shrubs by removing individual stems or plants
 - o Strip loose bark 8-feet from the ground (eucalyptus)
- Do you have Spark Arrestors installed? Spark arrestors are required for chimneys, fireplaces, barbecues, incinerators or heating appliances (Berkeley Building Code 704A1.6 for specifications).
- Can you maintain an effective fire break by removing anything combustible 30 feet from the structure?
- Remember, brush and debris does not need to be completely removed but may be chipped into pieces less than 3 inches in size.



BERKELEY FIRE DEPARTMENT
 2100 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAY, 2ND FL.
 BERKELEY, CA. 94704
 (510) 981-5585

FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTION REPORT WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE AREA

Occupancy Address	Business Name	<input type="checkbox"/> NO VIOLATIONS NOTED
Type of Business	Occupancy Group A B E F H I M R1 R2 R3 S U	APN (Parcel) #
Property Owner	Property Owner's Address	Phone #
Type of Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation (Annual Hazardous Fire Area) <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation (Re-inspection) <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen Complaint		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st Notice <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd Notice <input type="checkbox"/> Refer to F. P.

NOTICE OF FIRE AND SAFETY HAZARDS

You are hereby notified that an inspection of your premises for the minimum fire & life safety requirements of Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 19.48, known as "Berkeley Fire Code" (BFC) and/or the provisions of the California Fire Code (CFC), has revealed the following violations.

<p>Fire Code Violation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A CFC 304.1 Waste Accumulation Prohibited Prohibited in buildings, structures or upon premises</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> B CFC 503.4 Obstruction of Fire Apparatus Access Road Obstruction of width or height prohibited. Min. 13'-6" vertical clearance and 26' width required</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> C CFC 505.1 Address Identification Must be plainly legible from street / road frontage - min. 4 inches high on contrasting background</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> D BFC 4906.5.2 Trimming Clearance (Electrical Conductor) min. 4' clearance from high voltage conductor (>400V)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> E BFC 4906.5.3 Trimming Clearance (Electrical Power Line) min. 6" clear from high voltage (>750V)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> F BFC 4906.6 Clearance of Brush and Vegetation from Roadways Clear within 10 feet on each side of highways, streets and roads. Single plant specimens and ground covers permissible provided they will not readily transmit fire</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> G BFC 4908.5 Spark Arresters. (2019 CBC 2113.9.2) Provide chimneys, barbecues, incinerators or heating appliances using solid/liquid fuels with a spark arrester</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Recommended Separation of Plants Based on Slope: 0-20% slope= 2x fuel height (Shrubs) or 10Ft (Trees) 20-40% slope= 4x fuel height (Shrubs) or 20Ft (Trees) >40% slope= 6x fuel height (Shrubs) or 30Ft (Trees)</p> </div>	<p>Fire Code Violation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> H BFC 4907.2 Clearance of Brush and Vegetative Growth from Structures. May include but is not limited to: Create 30' defensible space around structure-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1. cut grass and flammable vegetation to ≤3 inches, remove if mulch is >5" deep [single plant specimens ok if they will not rapidly transmit fire to a structure] <input type="checkbox"/> 2. remove storage (incl. under decks/ overhangs/ stairs) <input type="checkbox"/> 3. relocate combust. outdoor furniture / features <input type="checkbox"/> 4. create space between plants, and between plants and structures <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Provide 10' clearance around chimneys <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Remove vegetation & debris from <input type="checkbox"/> roofs <input type="checkbox"/> eaves <input type="checkbox"/> gutters <p>Trees/Shrubs (ea. correction may apply to trees/shrubs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 7. prune trees overhanging or in contact with structures <input type="checkbox"/> 8. remove branches within 10' of the ground (limbing) 9. <input type="checkbox"/> remove dead wood <input type="checkbox"/> thin crowns <input type="checkbox"/> 10. provide separation distance between trees / shrubs <input type="checkbox"/> 11. remove understory / brush / ground fuel below trees <input type="checkbox"/> 12. thin stands of trees / shrubs <p>Create additional fuel break if required by the inspector (may range from 30' – 100')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 13. cut grass/weeds (max. 18" height on steep slopes) <input type="checkbox"/> 14. strip loose tree bark to 8 feet from the ground <p><input type="checkbox"/> I Other: _____</p>
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ORDER TO COMPLY: As the above conditions are contrary to law, you are hereby required to correct said conditions immediately upon receipt of this notice. A re-inspection to determine whether you have complied with this notice will be conducted after _____ days. Failure to correct the violations identified on this form will constitute an infraction of the law under City of Berkeley Ordinance No. 5499N.S. and may result in the issuance of a citation, which may require your appearance in court, and a fine of up to \$500.00 for each violation every day the violations remain uncorrected. If you have any questions regarding the inspection, please contact the inspector below at the listed telephone number. Thank you for your cooperation.

Signature (person receiving report)	Inspector (Print)	Date of Insp.	Company	Shift (A) (B) (C) (D)	Telephone (510) <input type="checkbox"/> 981- <input type="checkbox"/> 981-5585 Fire Prevention
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BERKELEY WILDFIRE EVACUATION CHECKLIST

LEAVE QUICKLY

Go-Bag

- Flashlight/headlamp
- Local map with walking paths
- Water, snacks
- Important documents
- Emergency blanket
- Cash
- Portable radio & batteries
- Sturdy shoes and socks
- Whistle
- Change of clothing
- Add last minute: Wallet, cell phone

Check on Others

- Tell neighbors to evacuate and which way to go
- Ask if they have a plan get out safely
- Offer help for those who need it
- Take your pets with you

**IF SOMEONE IS TRAPPED
AND CAN'T ESCAPE**

CALL 911

IF YOU HAVE TIME

Prepare Your Home

- Shut all inside doors
- Raise shades and remove curtains
- Turn on inside lights
- Turn on outside lights
- Shut off air conditioning
- Close/seal ground and attic vents
- Move furniture away from walls
- Move outdoor items away from home including BBQ
- Put a ladder at the corner of your house for firefighters

Grab Extra Items

- Wear heavy shoes, cotton clothing, and a dry bandanna
- Computers, electronics & chargers
- Medications, prescriptions, and medical devices
- Family treasures, art, photo albums
- Pet carriers/leashes, vaccination records, and pet food

FIND & SHARE INFO

Receive Alerts

- Sign up at www.ACAAlert.org for emergency alerts
- Listen to 1610 AM for Berkeley info
- Listen to KPFB 89.3FM, KCBS 740AM, KQED 88.5FM and KSOL 98.9FM (Spanish) for general info
- Check www.cityofberkeley.info for updates
- Change your outgoing voicemail message so callers know you are ok
- Update your status on social media
- Register with Red Cross Safe & Well



- 1: People & Pets
- 2: Prescriptions
- 3: Papers
- 4: Personal Needs
- 5: Priceless Items

Five Ps of Evacuation