

DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

April 23, 2025

7:00 PM

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Mayor's Appointee- Andy Katz

District 1 – Michael Wilson
District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet
District 3 – Todd Darling
District 4 – Robert Kinosian

District 5 – Shirley Dean
District 6 – Greg Murphy*
District 7 – Taj Herzer-Baptiste
District 8 – Theo Gordon**

AGENDA

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

Public Present

Approval of the Agenda

*Discussion –
Agenda approved as amended by Acclamation or Vote?*

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

Public speakers:

1. Chairperson's Report
2. Fire Department Staff Report

REGULAR AGENDA MATTERS *All Regular agenda Matters are for discussion and possible action.*

- 3. Action:** Minutes of March 26, 2025 (Chair)
- Recommendation:** Approve the Draft Minutes of the March 26, 2025 Regular Meeting.
- Written Material:** DFSC 3/26/25 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes
- 4. Discussion/Action:** Fire Weather Outreach (Staff)
- Written Material:** PowerPoint Presentation
- 5. Discussion/Action:** Review 2025/2026 Work Plan Groups (Murphy)
- Recommendation:** The commission reviews and provides input into the following draft workgroup plans for 2025-2026. Develop an ad hoc work group to further develop a draft plan for the 2025-2026 Work Plan based on the following potential groups and input from other commissioners.
- Written Material:** Possible 2025-2026 DFSC Work Plan
- 6. Discussion/Action:** Review Understanding of Work Group Plans (Murphy)
- Recommendation:** Confirm Assignments and Work Group Plans
- Written Material:** Work Groups and Work Plans Document, 2023-2024 Work Plan
- 7. Discussion/Action:** Letter Regarding AB612 (Wilson)
- The DFSC recommends that Council submit a letter to Assembly member Wicks, recommending that she work with her colleagues to revise AB 612 by (1) including mention of the role of fire departments in advancing street trauma prevention, alongside their role in ensuring effective and timely street trauma response; and (2) including definitions for the terms “negatively” and “response times.” We recommend that Council work with representatives of DFSC and the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission (TIC) in developing the text of the letter
- Recommendation:** Approve Referral to City Council
- Written Material:** Commission Report Draft, Rogers AB612

8. **Work Group Reports**

Receive reporting on recent activities by the following work groups:

- Plan & Budget Oversight
- Home Hardening
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Safe Passages
- Community Outreach
- Vision Zero

9. **Future Agenda Items and Next Steps**

- PIG/CPI Recommendation Memo to City Council

*Chair

**Vice-Chair

Adjournment

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Keith May, kmay@berkeleyca.gov 510-981-5508.

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Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Berkeley Fire Department located at 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA.

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~~~~~  
I hereby certify that the agenda for this regular/special meeting of the Berkeley City's Disaster and Fire Safety Commission was posted at the front of the Division of Training, 997 Cedar Street, as well as on the City's website, three days prior to the scheduled Commission meeting.

SECRETARY SIGNATURE

*Keith May* 4/18/25

## DFSC Staff Report

April 23, 2025

### 1. Measure FF Monthly Report

a. Budget Overview –

b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November

Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February

Quarter 3 (January, February, March) report due in **May**

Quarter 4 (April, May, June) End of Year Report due in October

i. Program Review

- **WUI Interns** – The Interns provide Berkeley Fire Department with a trained, mobile and mission-specific workforce that is principally assigned to monitor vegetative hazardous fuel on or near structures, collect data, and identify reduction activities
  - **Updates:** The inspections on Panoramic were completed. They are also busy filling Mesh orders.
- **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections** –
  - **Updates:** Inspections on Panoramic have been completed. Also, we are exploring the feasibility of the Governor’s Emergency Order for suspension of CEQA and how to leverage it responsibly.
  - **Safe Passage - The Fire Department has contracted with a vendor to help the City of Berkeley meet requirements outlined in SB 99, AB 747, and AB 1409, provide City with professional services in the areas of traffic and evacuation modeling and planning, given various evacuation and/or emergency response scenarios as determined by the City.**
    - **Update: No New Updates.**

### 2. Measure GG Monthly Report

a. Budget Overview – No new update

b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November

Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February

Quarter 3 (January, February, March) report due in **May**

Quarter 4 (April, May, June) End of Year Report due in October

- ### 3. Fire Facilities Master Plan (FMP): Berkeley Fire Department stations are undersized, in poor condition and in need of remodels or replacement. The Department initiated a long-term

replacement planning process to better understand infrastructure needs. This process will provide the City leaders of today and tomorrow with actionable information ahead of future infrastructure bond measures. (*Measure FF has funded the study only*)

- a. Update: **No new update**

4. Department Activities

- a. **114<sup>th</sup> Firefighter Academy:** We opened 250 interviews at 0700 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, they were gone in an hour. We opened another 250 spots and they were gone by midafternoon the same day. Entry level interviews started on April 14<sup>th</sup> and will continue through April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- b. **EMS-06 Paramedic Academy:** The interviews and EMS skills exam is complete. Candidates have been sent conditional offers.
- c. Staff participated in a Tsunami exercise March. The outcome was a validation of the City’s response to the December 5<sup>th</sup> Tsunami notification that was issued by the National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC). The recommended actions reviewed during the exercise, for municipalities that have areas within a Tsunami flood zone, was to initiate immediate evacuation of those areas. This is exactly what our OES team recommended and what happened in December. While Berkeley was an outlier, in retrospect, the team was actually well prepared and executed the play just as it was intended.
- d. On April 1<sup>st</sup> Dr. Naomi Doohan will start work with the COB. Dr Doohan grew up in Berkeley and graduated from Berkeley High before going on to Mills College, earning a degree in Biochemistry; completing her PhD in molecular biology from UCSB and an MD from Stanford; Family Medicine Residency at Contra Costa County Regional Medical Center; and an MPH from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Since 2019, she's been serving as a Public Health Officer for Lake and Mendocino Counties and the California Department of Public Health, and as the Chief Medical Officer for Santa Barbara County Public Health.

5. Call Volume Report

| <b>Fire Department Report by California Incident Type</b>                                                                      |    |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|--|
| <b>February</b>                                                                                                                |    |  |
| <b>Fires – including Encampment Fires</b><br>(structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney, | 55 |  |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |              |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Encampment Fires</b><br>(structures, warming/cooking,<br>debris)                                                                                                                                                        | 48           |  |
| <b>Explosion</b> - no fire<br>(overpressure ruptures,<br>explosions)                                                                                                                                                       | 1            |  |
| <b>Rescue &amp; EMS</b> (medical assist,<br>vehicle accident)                                                                                                                                                              | 845          |  |
| <b>Hazardous Condition</b> - no fire<br>(combustible spills/leaks,<br>chemical release, radioactive<br>condition, electrical wiring<br>problem, biological hazard,<br>potential accident w/<br>building/aircraft/vehicles) | 52           |  |
| <b>Service Calls</b> (person in<br>distress, water issue,<br>smoke/odor problem, animal<br>issue, public assist, cover<br>assignment/standby)                                                                              | 105          |  |
| <b>Good Intent</b> (canceled en-<br>route, wrong location,<br>nothing found, steam<br>mistaken for smoke)                                                                                                                  | 89           |  |
| <b>False Alarm Calls</b> (malicious,<br>malfunction, unintentional,<br>biohazard scare)                                                                                                                                    | 184          |  |
| <b>Severe WX</b> (lightening, wind<br>storms)                                                                                                                                                                              | 0            |  |
| <b>Special Incidents</b> (citizen<br>complaints)                                                                                                                                                                           | 1            |  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>1,332</b> |  |

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| <b>Apparatus Count</b> |              |  |
|------------------------|--------------|--|
|                        | <b>3,005</b> |  |

**DFSC Action Tracker**

| <b>Date of DFSC Action</b> | <b>Description</b>                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Status</b>                                                     |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3/26/2025</b>           | Remove the 1-year pre-transfer eligibility restriction of the transfer tax rebate for wildfire hardening from BMC 7.52.060, to encourage early mitigation efforts. | Entered into the Agenda program. Projected 5/20/25 Council Agenda |
|                            |                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                   |

# WILDLAND FIRE MITIGATION MONTHLY REPORT

MARCH 2025

Prepared by the SPP Division



## Program Data - Cumulative 2024-2025 (+/- current month)



### Grizzly Peak Clean-up

<https://www.berkeleyfiresafe.org/grizzly-peak>

- Continued work on phase one of five proposed phases
- 1 mile of the 1.8 miles cleared on Wildcat Canyon Rd
- 99.6 tons of vegetation removed between February 17 & March 31, 2025



### FireWise Application Status



**13** FireWise Communities **4** Pending / In-Progress



### Home Hardening Mesh Program



**164 (+25)**  
Applications



**93 (+13)**  
Pickups



**33 (+8)**  
Deliveries



### Eucalyptus Understory Program



**43 (+3)**  
Applications



**24 (+0)**  
Properties Completed



**127,514**  
Total Spent



### Chipping Program

The Chipper Program restarted the week of March 17, to coincide with the start of the 2025 defensible space inspection season.



**2990.5 (+212.5)**  
Cubic yards removed



**1094 (+81)**  
Pickups



**28 (+0)**  
Weeks Completed

## Defensible Space Inspections

**535 (+148)**

**15 (+3)**

**112 (+70)**

**140 (+67)**

**404 (+116)**

**11 (+0)**

**46 (+10)**

**19% (30.2%)**

Inspections

Re-Inspections

Violations

Discoveries

Resolved Violations

Total Citations

Resolved Items

Full Inspection Access

## Right of Entry Agreement Program

**FORM:** gives inspectors permission to access property during inspection

**GOAL:** increasing full inspection access

**BENEFIT:** increases compliance, reduces number of re-inspections, residents expressed their need for more thorough inspections



**37**  
Invitations



**7**  
Signed

## Access Level on Inspections (month)



**62.4% (+0)**  
Street Only Access



**6.4% (+0)**  
Partial Access



**30.2 (+0)**  
Full Access

## Announcements

### Effective Mitigations for Berkeley Ember Resilience (EMBER)

New initiative proposing to readjust fire zones, establish a new zone, revise the fire code, add Zone 0 as an enforceable measure, and prohibit combustible materials.

### EMBER TIMELINE

- Introduced EMBER- January 2025
- First Reading of the Ordinance- March 2025
- Council Meeting to Adopt the Resolution- April 15, 2025
- Public Hearing to Adopt the Code- May 6, 2025
- Education Campaign May – December 2025
- Increased Services and Support May 2025
- Enforcement by Inspection January 1, 2026
- Reduced Risk of Loss Zone 4 2026

# March 2025

Inspections: 142  
 Discoveries: 67  
 Violations: 0  
 Citations: 0  
 Citation Revenue: \$0  
 Re-inspections: 0  
 Resolved items: 10  
 Resolved violations: 6  
 Full access inspection: 39%

## Home Hardening Mesh Program

Applications: 25  
 Pick ups: 13  
 Deliveries: 8

## Euc Program

Applications: 3  
 Properties completed: 0

## Effective Mitigations for Berkeley Ember Resilience (EMBER)

The Berkeley Fire Department is going through the process to create a new fire zone (zone 4) and new fire code for that zone. The updated code will require no combustibles within 0-5 feet of structures. This will include most vegetation.

Effective Mitigations for Berkeley's Ember Resilience) was introduced this year in January and on March 24th, EMBER went to the Public Safety Committee.

The proposed changes could go into effect for the 2026 inspection season.

## Right of Entry (ROE) Program

BFD launched its "Right of Entry" pilot program in March. The goal of the program is to increase the number of full inspections BFD staff are able to complete. By filling out the online form, residents are able to designate a date range for when BFD staff have permission to enter their property and conduct a full Defensible Space Inspection .

# Cumulative

## Home Hardening Mesh Program (2024-2026)

Applications: 164 (+25)  
 Pick ups: 93(+13)  
 Deliveries: 33(+8)

## Euc Program (2024-2026)

Applications: 43 (+3)  
 Properties Completed: 24 (+0)  
 Cubic yards removed: ?  
 Total spent: \$127,514

## Home Hardening 2024- 2025

Applications  
 Dec - 19  
 Jan - 85  
 Feb-32  
 March-25  
 Total = 161

## Home Hardening 2024- 2025

Pickups  
 Dec - 0  
 Jan - 42  
 Feb-38  
 March-13  
 Total = 93

# YTD

Inspections: 535  
 Discoveries: 9  
 Violations: 0  
 Citations: 11  
 Re-inspections: 15  
 Resolved items: 46  
 Resolved violations: 404  
 Full access inspection: 19%

## Home Hardening Mesh Program

Applications: 142  
 Pick ups: 87  
 Deliveries: 33

## Euc Program

Applications: 7  
 Properties Completed: 4  
 Cubic yards removed: ?  
 Total spent: \$6,800

## Grant Aquisition & Strategic Planning



**The Strategic Programs & Projects (SPP) Division** developed fire pathway analysis products

- Consultants completed their fire pathway analysis for Alameda County. BFD staff are translating these highly technical findings into accessible resources designed for community use and understanding.
- Preparing grant application for CC 2025



# DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 2025

7:00 PM

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Mayor's Appointee- Andy Katz – 7:19 pm

District 1 – Michael Wilson  
District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet  
District 3 – Todd Darling (A)  
District 4 – Robert Kinosian

District 5 – Shirley Dean  
District 6 – Greg Murphy\*  
District 7 – Taj Herzer-Baptiste  
District 8 – Theo Gordon\*\*

### AGENDA

#### Preliminary Matters

**Call to Order** 6:59 pm

Absent: Darling, Katz (arrived 7:19pm) Dean (left 7:12pm)

**Public Present** 4

#### Approval of the Agenda

*Discussion –*

*Agenda approved as amended by Acclamation.*

#### Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

*Public speakers: 1*

1. Chairperson's Report
2. Fire Department Staff Report

**REGULAR AGENDA MATTERS** *All Regular agenda Matters are for discussion and possible action.*

- 3. Action:** Minutes of February 26, 2025 (Chair)  
**Recommendation:** Approve the Draft Minutes of the February 26, 2025 Regular Meeting.  
**Written Material:** DFSC 2/26/25 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes  
Motion to approve: Approved by Acclamation
- 4. Discussion/Action:** DFSC Vice-Chair Election (Staff)  
**Recommendation:** Vote in New Vice-Chair Nomination(s) – Wilson nominated Gordon  
Motion to Approve: Wilson  
Second: Bradstreet  
Vote:  
Ayes: 6 Wilson, Bradstreet, Kinosian, Gordon, Murphy, Herzer-Baptiste  
Nays: 1 Dean  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 2 Darling, Katz
- 5. Discussion:** Planning Department Safety Element Update of the General Plan Presentation (Staff)  
**Written Material:** PowerPoint Presentation  
Public Comment: 2
- 6. Discussion:** Measure FF Budget Allocation Presentation (Staff)  
**Presentation:** PowerPoint Presentation  
Public Comment: 2
- 7. Discussion/Action:** Recommendation to City Council to Remove Pre-Transfer Eligibility Restriction of The Transfer Tax Rebate for Wildfire Hardening (Katz)  
**Recommendation:** Approve Referral to City Council  
**Written Material:** Commission Report Draft  
Public Comment: 1  
Motion to approve: Katz  
Second: Kinosian  
Vote:  
Ayes: 7 Katz, Wilson, Bradstreet, Herzer-Baptiste, Gordon, Murphy, Kinosian  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 1 Dean
- 8. Discussion:** Review Current & FY25/26 Work Plan (Murphy)  
**Recommendation:**

**Written Material:** Work Plan

**9. Work Group Reports**

Receive reporting on recent activities by the following work groups:

- Plan & Budget Oversight
- Home Hardening
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Safe Passages
- Community Outreach
- Vision Zero

**10. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps**

- PIG/CPI Recommendation Memo to City Council
- Berkeley Ready Program Presentation
- Budget Part 2

\*Chair

\*\*Vice-Chair

**Adjournment 9:01PM**

**Approved by Acclamation**

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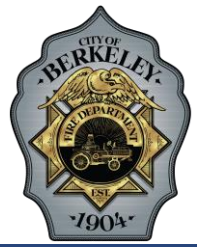
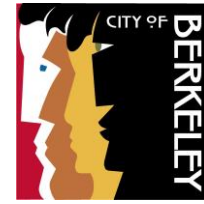
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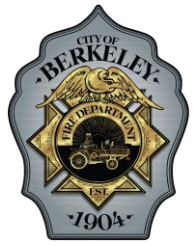


**City of Berkeley**  
Office of Emergency Services



# Fire Weather Outreach

**Berkeley Fire Department  
Office of Emergency Services**



## What we will cover

- Fire Weather
- What we recommend to the community
- What's in a Household Fire Weather Plan?
- How we help the community make a Plan
- What we do during Fire Weather
- Q&A

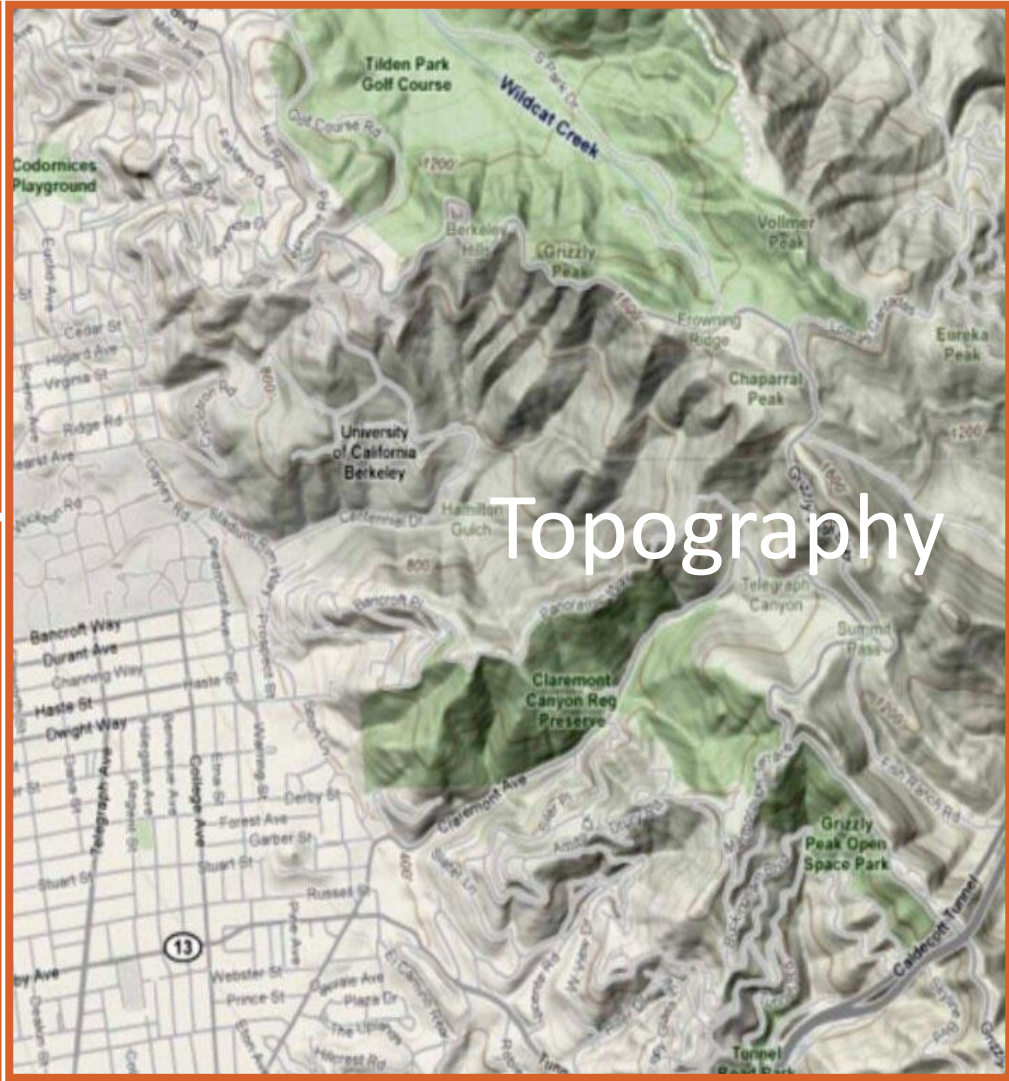


**City of Berkeley**  
Office of Emergency Services

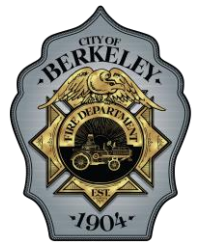


# Fire Weather and Risks in Berkeley





**Fuel, weather, and topography are the primary drivers of wildfire behavior**

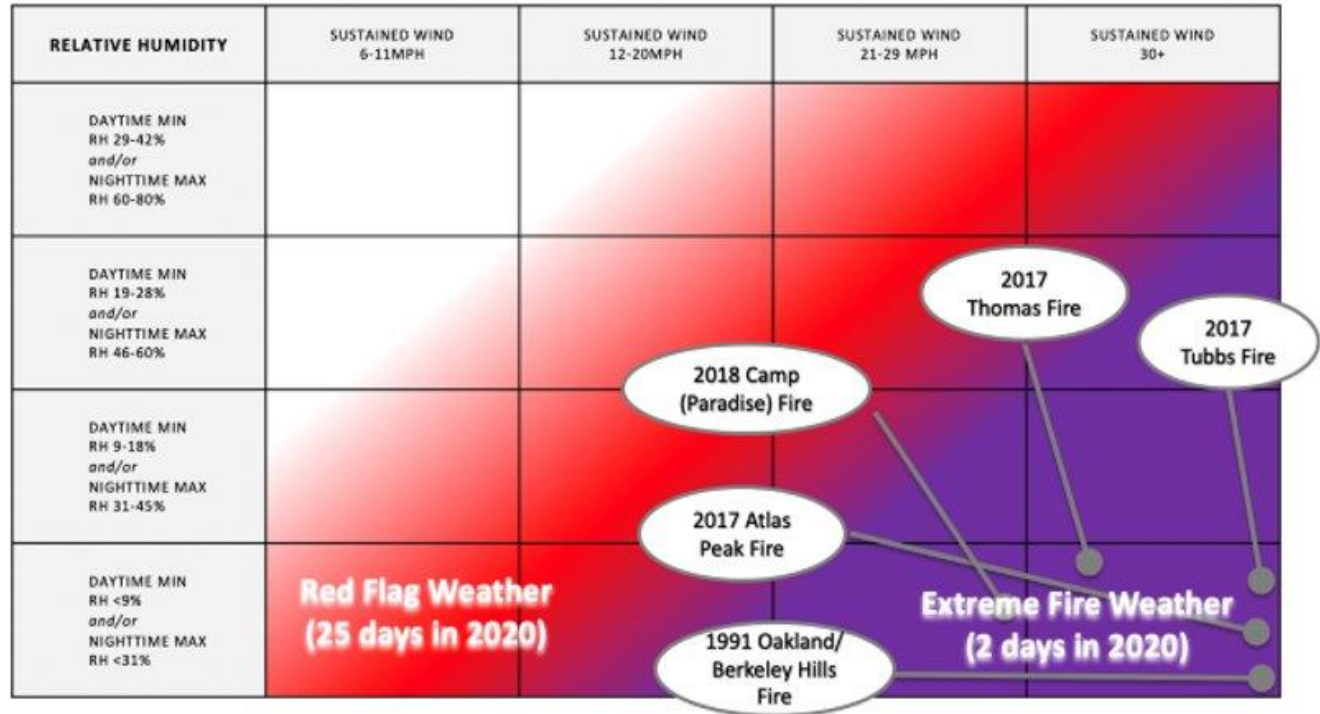


# The good news

Megafires ignite and spread under **predictable** but **rare** weather conditions.

## AND

We can tell you when these conditions are forecasted in Berkeley.



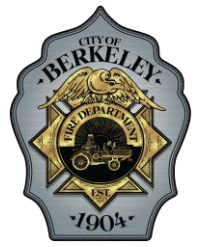


**City of Berkeley**  
Office of Emergency Services



# What we recommend to the community





# Extreme Fire Weather: Our recommendations for you to stay safe

## Have a Household Fire Weather Plan

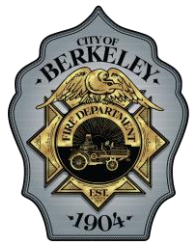
Make sure you're connected to us

Signed up for AC Alert

Downloaded Genasys Protect App

Keep your phones on

If you live in the Berkeley Hills, LEAVE EARLY before a fire starts for the duration of the Extreme Fire Weather period.



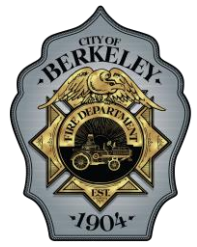
# Why a Household Fire Weather Plan?



***Tunnel Fire, 1991***

***Palisades Fire, 2025***





# The benefits of leaving early



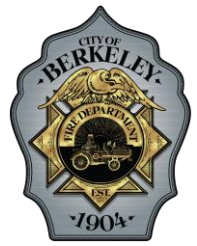


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Office of Emergency Services



# What's in a Household Fire Weather Plan?





## Question # 1

# When will you leave?

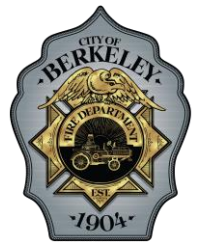
- Extreme Fire Weather
- After a fire starts
- Not sure



## Question # 2

# Where will you go?

- Family or friend's house
- Hotel
- Other
- Not sure



## Question # 3

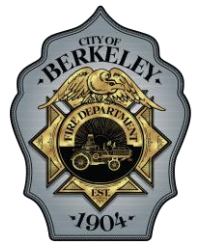
# How will you get there?

### **Before a fire (extreme)**

- Can rely on your typical route.
- Can rely on your typical networks for support – friends, family, caregivers.
- Can rely on your typical transportation mode.

### **After a fire starts**

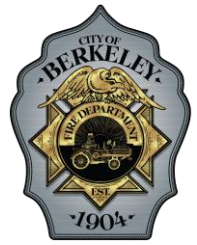
- May have to take an alternative route, depending on the fire.
- May have to rely on neighbors, or people in your immediate vicinity for help.
- May have to consider an alternative transportation mode.



## Questions # 4

# How will you get notified?

- Signed up for AC Alert
- Downloaded Genasys Protect App
- Phone on



## Questions # 5

# Who can help you?

- Right now, text or email one person who can help you answer these questions.
- Ask them to schedule a time to continue to finalize your Household Fire Weather Plan.
  - *Note: If you need help downloading Genasys Protect or signing up for AC Alert, email [oes@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:oes@berkeleyca.gov)*

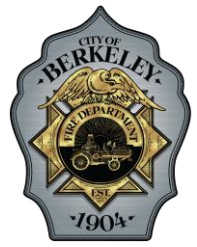


**City of Berkeley**  
Office of Emergency Services



# How we help the community make a Household Fire Weather Plan





## Options for making a Plan

- Tool is available online: [www.berkeleyca.gov/wildfire](http://www.berkeleyca.gov/wildfire)
  - Printed copies at the Public Safety Building
- YouTube videos on filling out the plan
- Hands-on workshops
  - Hosted a virtual one in February
  - Hosted in person at North Branch Library in March
  - Hosted in person FireWise Communities in March
  - Hosted in person at Claremont Branch Library in March
  - More workshops to be scheduled this summer

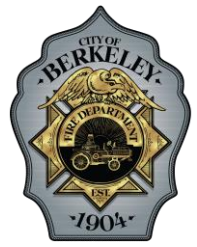


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Office of Emergency Services



# What we do during fire weather





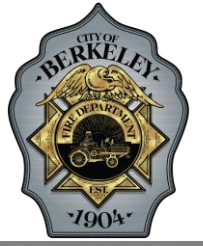
# Extreme Fire Weather: What We Do



- Send out AC Alert messages and use Genasys Protect
- Continue weather monitoring
- Fly Red Flags
- Activate the Emergency Operations Center
- Upstaff Fire Department
- Coordinate with BPD to do patrols in the hills
- Ban certain work and activities that contribute to fire risk, such as construction



**City of Berkeley**  
Office of Emergency Services



# Q & A





**City of Berkeley**  
Office of Emergency Services



**Thank you**

**[jalbrecht@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:jalbrecht@berkeleyca.gov)**

April 15, 2025

To: Keith May, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Secretary

From: Greg Murphy, Chair, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

RE: Discussion and Possible Action regarding DFSC Workplan for 2025-2026

Discussion: Review and discuss possible Work Plan Groups for 2025 – 2026 fiscal year

Recommendation: The commission reviews and provides input into the following draft workgroup plans for 2025-2026.

Possible Action: Develop an ad hoc work group to further develop a draft plan for the 2025-2026 Work Plan based on the following potential groups and input from other commissioners.

Written Materials: Provided below

Presentation: NA

### **Possible 2025-2026 DFSC Work Plan**

- Plan and Budget Oversight – Murphy, lead; No rotations
  - *Review current presentation materials/dashboards and possible recommendations for changes*
  - *Review with Staff the percentage of funding to Zones 3 & 4*
  - *Continue to track FF & GG finances*
- Neighborhood Fire Resiliency (combining Home Hardening with WUI) – Lead and members TBD
  - *Monitor progress of EMBER compliance*
- Safe Passages – Gordon, lead; others TBD (Possibly merge with Vision Zero Workgroup?)
  - *Continuation of 23-24 Work plans Activities and Outcomes*
  - *Perhaps combine with Vision Zero?*
- Community Outreach – Should we continue this effort?
- Vision Zero – Wilson, lead; others TBD (Possibly merge with Safe Passages?)
- Facilities Master Plan – Lead and Members TBD
  - *Opinion of Staff - should we create a workgroup?*
  - *What would be the Activities and Outcomes?*

## DFSC Agenda/ Mtg Items 4/23/25

**Work Plans / Work Groups - Review my understanding of the progress of current plans and assignments: *{Please add the text below to the agenda packet}***

- Plan and Budget Oversight- Murphy, lead; rotating members: Gordon? Katz?
  - *Review budget plans with Chief Sprague*
  - *Review and support concentration of FF Funds to Zones 3&4*
  
- Home Hardening - Murphy, lead; Bradstreet, Dean, Katz
  - *Request update on HH mesh program – will that also be concentrated to Zones 3 & 4?*
  - *Research possible financial resources to help subsidize HH expense*
  
- Wildland Urban Interface – Katz, lead; Darling, Wilson, Herzer-Baptise
  - *Activities Completed, Research possible financial resources to help subsidize Veg. Mgmt. expense*
  
- Safe Passages – Gordon, lead; Wilson, Darling
  - *Review Safe Passages Component to EMBER Ordinance, Discuss Priorities with Staff*
  - *If completed prior to July, Review with Staff the results of the Evacuation Study*
  
- Community Outreach – Bradstreet, lead; Herzer-Baptise, Murphy
  - *Meet w/ S. Lana to discuss assisting in Outreach activities*
  - *Confer with Staff regarding current Communications Plan and research providing resources to implement unfulfilled activities of the plan*
  
- Vision Zero – Wilson, lead; Gordon, Herzer-Baptise
  - *Document Activities and Outcomes*

# Berkeley Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

## WORK PLAN – FY 2023-2024

### Mission Statement

The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission serves as the public oversight body for Berkeley's Measure GG and Measure FF funds, charged with reviewing the budget on a regular basis to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the intent of the voter approved measures, recommending the appropriate annual increase to the tax rate, and recommending new programs and policy positions requiring Measure GG and Measure FF funding. The ultimate goal of the Commission is to increase community safety, resilience, and education for community disaster preparedness. The Commission also reviews and makes recommendations on items referred by the City Council or other Commissions.

### Summary of FY 2023-2024 Work Plan Activities

| <u>Name</u>                                                                                         | <u>Activities</u>                                                                                                                                                                                         | <u>Expected Outcomes</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <u>Commissioners</u>                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Plan &amp; Budget Oversight</b><br><br><i>BFD Staff</i><br><b>Contact: D. Sprague/ K. May</b> | a) Review BFD materials on a quarterly basis<br>b) Meet monthly as Finance ad hoc working group with FD to review monthly materials<br>c) Track financial issues related to FF & GG with the City Council | a) Budget development plan<br>b) Provide input of quarterly budget<br>c) Provide annual budget recommendation City Council on FF & GG<br>d) Provide recommendation to City Council on annual GG increases<br>e) Provide City Council recommendation for midyear program corrections (ad hoc) | Rotating group of commissioners (based on availability) on a quarterly basis hosted by Chair / Chief                                                                                   |
| <b>2. Home hardening</b><br><br><i>BFD Staff</i><br><b>Contact: C. Arnold</b>                       | a) Lead review of monthly inspection report<br>b) Review sessions with Fire Marshal<br>c) Listening sessions with Building Department                                                                     | a) Provide recommendation to City Council on annual inspection program targets<br>b) Provide recommendation to City Council on building code modifications for fire safety (ad hoc)                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">G. Murphy</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">W. Bradstreet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">S. Dean</a></li> </ul>                              |
| <b>3. Wildland-urban interface</b><br><i>BFD Staff</i><br><b>Contact: C. Arnold</b>                 | a) Review vegetation management program<br>b) Discuss grant applications and planned project allocations                                                                                                  | a) Provide recommendation to City Council on vegetation management program<br>b) Knowledge of grant funding distribution                                                                                                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">T. Gordon</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Open</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">A. Katz</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">T. Darling</a></li> </ul> |

| <u>GOAL</u>                                                                                 | <u>Activities</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <u>Expected Outcomes</u>                                                                                                                                                                 | <u>Commissioners</u>                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>4. <b>Safe passages</b></p> <p><i>BFD Staff<br/>Contact: C. Arnold / S. Lana</i></p>     | <p>a) Review previous safe passages program and its component parts (parking restrictions, red curb, notification alerts, evacuation planning)</p> <p>b) Meet with community members for intake</p> <p>c) Absorb CWPP report</p>                                                                                                                             | <p>a) Restart of Safe Passages Program</p> <p>b) Formation of team/committee to develop plan</p> <p>c) Provide recommendation to City Council on draft revised Safe Passages program</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>T. Gordon</u></li> <li>• M. Wilson</li> <li>• T. Darling</li> </ul> |
| <p>5. <b>Community Outreach</b></p> <p><i>BFD Staff<br/>Contact: S. Lana/ D. Dailey</i></p> | <p>a) Work with FD on educating the public on disaster and fire safety programs</p> <p>b) Coordinate / alert commission of potential outlets for information</p> <p>c) Follow / facilitate / support meetings with community groups</p> <p>d) Follow to conclusion external emergency speaker system</p> <p>e) Track Commission recommendations / status</p> | <p>a) Provide recommendation to City Council on mid-program changes to current communications plan</p> <p>b) Provide City Council recommendation into annual communications plan</p>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Open</u></li> <li>• G. Murphy</li> <li>• W. Bradstreet</li> </ul>   |



Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission  
Submitted by: Greg Murphy, Chairperson, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission  
Subject: Letter regarding AB 612 (Rogers)

RECOMMENDATION

The DFSC recommends that Council submit a letter to Assembly Member Wicks, recommending that she work with her colleagues to revise AB 612 by (1) including mention of the role of fire departments in advancing street trauma prevention, alongside their role in ensuring effective and timely street trauma response; and (2) including definitions for the terms “negatively” and “response times.” We recommend that Council work with representatives of DFSC and the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission (TIC) in developing the text of the letter.

SUMMARY

AB 612 (Rogers) would add section 14033.5 to the Government Code, as follows:<sup>1</sup>

*On or before July 1, 2026, the department shall update the Highway Design Manual to direct local governments to consult with local fire departments when making road improvements to ensure the improvements do not negatively impact emergency response times.*

Street Trauma Prevention

The proposed language would benefit by including mention of the emerging role of fire departments in working with sister agencies to advance street design changes that reduce serious and fatal traffic collisions, consistent with the goals of Vision Zero.<sup>2</sup> This change would reflect the approach taken by the Berkeley Fire Department, which is building a Street Trauma Prevention (STP) program, while also taking steps to ensure an effective and timely response to street trauma.

More broadly, by focusing narrowly on response times, the bill ignores the essential role of prevention programs in the fire service. Nationwide, fire prevention efforts produced a

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<sup>1</sup> LegiScan. <https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB612/2025>. Accessed April 16, 2025

<sup>2</sup> City of Berkeley Vision Zero Action Plan. <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-02/Berkeley-Vision-Zero-Action-Plan.pdf>. Accessed April 16, 2025

64% reduction in civilian fire deaths from 1977 to 2021, saving more than 5,000 lives over this period.<sup>3</sup> As a result, in Berkeley during the period 2017 to 2022, two persons were injured per year on average in fires within the City;<sup>4</sup> however, during the period 2017 to 2022, an average of 694 persons were injured and five died each year from street trauma.<sup>5</sup> By expanding its prevention efforts to include street trauma prevention, the California fire service has the potential to make a substantial impact in preventing serious and fatal injuries among motorists, cyclists and pedestrians across the state, potentially saving thousands of lives each year. AB 612 would benefit by noting this potential contribution by the fire service to public safety.

### Definitions

It is necessary to define the terms “response times” and “negatively” because some changes to street designs might initially appear to negatively affect response times, whereas over time, they might improve response times by reducing congestion, for example.

A protected bike lane, for example, would likely improve safety for residents in using bicycles for transportation purposes, thereby potentially reducing individual dependence on cars and overall congestion; this effect, however, would only be realized after an initial lag time, as residents adapt to these changes. In some cases, even substantial changes to street design have been shown to have little to no effect on response times, both quantitatively and in the perception of firefighters.<sup>6</sup>

Therefore, at the very least, these terms should be qualified by acknowledging the time frame over which response times should be considered following changes to street design, and by requiring a quantitative evaluation.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No impacts to the environment.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

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<sup>3</sup> Hall, S. (November 2023). Fire loss in the United States during 2022. Quincy, MA: National Fire Protection Association. <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/home-and-community/safety-topics/fire-related-fatalities-and-injuries/>

<sup>4</sup> FireCARES. Berkeley Fire Department (<https://firecares.nfors.org/departments/74866/berkeley-fire-department?page=1>).

<sup>5</sup> Collision data from the Collisions Stats tab of the Berkeley Police Transparency Portal - Traffic Safety website: (<https://bpd-transparency-initiative-berkeleypd.hub.arcgis.com/pages/traffic-safety>). Death & severe injury collision data from the UC Berkeley SafeTREC Transportation Injury Management System (TIMS) Query & Map (<https://tims.berkeley.edu/tools/query/index.php?clear=true>). All data accessed 5/18/2023 – 5/20/2023 and prepared by Tom Lent.

<sup>6</sup> Corcoran, Hamann, Reyes, Jansson, Cavanaugh. Impact of 4-to-3 lane conversions on emergency response. Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives 26 (2024) 101158. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39381505/>. Accessed April 16, 2025.

The fire service has an important role to play in preventing street trauma, while also ensuring an effective response to it. This dual function should be reflected in AB 612.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternative actions.

CITY MANAGER

CONTACT PERSON

Dave Sprague, Fire Chief, Fire Department, 510-981-3473

Keith May, DFSC Secretary, Fire Department, 510-981-5508

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 612**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Rogers**  
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ahrens, Davies, and Papan)*

February 13, 2025

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An act to add Section 14033.5 to the Government Code, relating to transportation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 612, as introduced, Rogers. Transportation: Highway Design Manual: emergency response times.

Existing law vests the Department of Transportation with full possession and control of the state highway system and requires the department to update the Highway Design Manual to incorporate the “complete streets” design concept.

This bill would require the department, on or before January 1, 2026, to update the Highway Design Manual to direct local governments to consult with local fire departments when making road improvements to ensure the improvements do not negatively impact emergency response times.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 14033.5 is added to the Government
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 14033.5. On or before July 1, 2026, the department shall update
- 4 the Highway Design Manual to direct local governments to consult

1 with local fire departments when making road improvements to  
2 ensure the improvements do not negatively impact emergency  
3 response times.

4

5

6 **REVISIONS:**

7 **Heading—Line 2.**

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O

**From:** [Greg Murphy](#)  
**To:** [May, Keith](#)  
**Subject:** Communication to DFSC  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 16, 2025 4:10:42 PM

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**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Deputy Chief May, can you please send the following to the commission:

As reported in the SF Chronicle yesterday, San Francisco is moving forward with an ordinance to require inspections and submit a survey of suspected non-ductile concrete structures. This proposed ordinance does NOT require a retrofit of vulnerable buildings. Please check out this link:

[S.F. fears nearly 4,000 buildings could be at risk in an earthquake. It could soon know for sure](#)

Thank you.

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Please excuse any typographical errors.

Greg Murphy  
1530 LaLoma Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94708

510-542-0839