

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

**Agenda
For the Regular Meeting of the
Disaster and Fire Safety Commission**

DATE: Wednesday, April 24, 2019

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Fire Department Training Facility - 997 Cedar Street

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order.

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

1. Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services Staff Report Including Measure GG
Budget Update

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of Meeting of March 27, 2019*

Action Items

3. City Manager Referral to Improve Fire Safety Standards for Rebuilt Fire Damaged Structure*

Discussion Items

4. Measure GG Preparedness Outreach Report
5. Safe Passages Project
6. Commission Workplan*
7. Cal Fire Fuel Reduction Priorities Report
8. Future Agenda Items

Berkeley Fire/OES 2100 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704
Tel. 510.981-3473 TDD: 510 981-5799
E-mail: fire@ci.berkeley.ca.us

Adjournment

(*Material attached for Commissioners for this month's meeting)

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Email: ADA@cityofberkeley.info

Phone: 1-510-981-6418

TTY: 1-510-981-6347

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To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services Specialist at 981-6418(v) or 981-6347(TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date.

Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

Disaster & Fire Safety Commission
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 27, 2019
997 Cedar Street, Berkeley, CA 94710

Present: Paul Degenkolb, Gradiva Couzin, Bob Flasher, Toni Stein, Annie Bailey, Shirley Dean, Ruth Grimes, Toby Simmons

Absent:

Staff: Khin Chin, Keith May

Public: David Peattie, Sarah Jones, Chris Cullander, Susan St. George, Caroline Swinehart

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

G. Couzin called meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Approval of the Agenda

Approved by Acclamation.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Chris Cullander said that he received a useful business preparedness brochure in his Internal Revenue Service's mail that described the possibility of deducting costs from emergency preparedness.

Berkeley Disaster Preparedness Neighborhood Network (BDPNN) will work with BeCERTAINN to do an emergency activation drill on May 4. Participation is open to everyone and GMRS radio will be a feature. BDPNN's general meeting on May 30 will be a meeting on Fire Evacuation. August meeting may be used as a public forum on community preparedness efforts.

Gradiva Couzin said that there was a Wireless Emergency Alerting (WEA) system test for earthquake early warning today, March 27 in Oakland.

1. Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services Staff Report

3/2 Encampment Fire on Westbound University off-ramp.

3/2 auto vs. bicyclist with serious injuries.

3/2 19 y/o student fell 15-20 ft at a party.

3/14 Elderly male fall approximately 30 ft down a steep embankment near waterfall in Codornices Park resulting in a High-Angle rope rescue.

3/20 Small Fire on the 1400 block of Allston. Combustibles were placed over a floor furnace. No displacements or injuries.

Evacuation planning continues with mapping of the evacuation zones, vulnerable populations within the evacuation zone. We received input from Disabilities Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF), Berkeley Lab, Cal Fire, Berkeley Police.

Consent Items

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of February 27, 2018*

Motion approve minutes as revised: S. Dean

Second: R. Flasher

Vote: 8 Ayes: Degenkolb, Flasher, Simmons, Stein, Bailey, Couzin, Grimes, Dean; 0

Noes; 0 Absent; 0 Abstain:

Action Items

3. Support for Wildfire Evacuation, Emergency Alerting, and Public Education*

Motion to recommend that the City immediately begin the process to purchase, install, and maintain an outdoor public warning system (sirens) as a supplement to other alert and warning technologies within our boundaries and coordinated with abutting jurisdictions and Alameda County: R. Flasher

Second: P. Degenkolb

Vote: 8 Ayes: Degenkolb, Flasher, Stein, Bailey, Couzin, Grimes, Simmons, Dean;

Discussion Items

4. City Manager Referral to Improve Fire Safety Standards for Rebuilt Fire Damaged Structure*
5. Report from the Community-Based Response Working Group*
6. Next Steps on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan*
7. BAUASI Cutting Alameda County Funding for Urban Shield*
T. Simmons left at 9:16p.
8. Future Agenda Items
R. Grimes left at 924p.
A. Bailey left at 931p

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: G. Couzin

Second: P. Degenkolb

Vote: 5 Ayes: Degenkolb, Flasher, Stein, Couzin, Dean; 0 Noes; 0 Absent: Bailey, Simmons, Grimes; 0 Abstain:

Adjourned at 934pm

DRAFT

4/10/2019

To: Disaster & Fire Safety Commission

From: Gradiva Couzin

RE: Notes regarding City Manager Referral to Improve Fire Safety Standards for Rebuilt Fire Damaged Structures

After further research and reviewing the staff presentation, I think our commission should concur with the staff recommendation against creating an ordinance requiring a fire safety upgrade in rebuilding fire damaged structures.

I think the explanation and arguments given in the staff presentation are good, and I would add that most people are probably underinsured already and would be hit even harder by this additional regulation.

Homes being underinsured will be particularly problematic after a wildfire. According to this article, "nearly 80% of the homes affected by the [2017] wildfires were underinsured – of which 60% were severely underinsured."

<https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/us/news/catastrophe/wildfire-victims-are-largely-underinsured-116580.aspx>

There are several factors involved in why people are so badly underinsured, according to this article:

"These factors include:

- *Insurance buyers wrongly equate insurance limits to the selling price of their home.*
- *Building code upgrades easily add to the cost of a home – as much as 35% to 50%.*
- *Construction costs increase following a disaster; in California, building costs have increased by 30% to 35%.*
- *Insurance company programs that estimate replacement costs are inaccurate "nine times out of 10."*

I question how many people really have a full 50% extra insurance on their homes to cover code upgrades. Everyone who doesn't have this insurance add-on is going to have their tragedy exacerbated by new code regulations as they try to rebuild.

I also appreciate that staff took a look at the unintended consequences of a new ordinance like this one, even though it's anti-intuitive and surprising to think that requiring a code upgrade could result in reduced safety overall.

Another unintended consequence that the staff report didn't mention is that people who may otherwise choose to make fire safety upgrades (at their own cost) before any fire damage occurs could instead decide to hold off on making those upgrades, waiting in hopes that insurance will cover the upgrade at a later date. Something along these lines is described in this document:

<https://www.robinskaplan.com/~media/PDFs/Insurance%20Coverage%20for%20Building%20Code%20Upgrades.pdf>

interpreting policy in this manner could dissuade insureds from complying with the law until such time as the building suffered damage and the insured could recover the cost of code compliance from its insurer.

Berkeley Disaster and Fire Safety Commission WORK PLAN – 2019

Mission Statement

The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission serves as the public oversight group for Berkeley’s Measure GG, 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 measure, recommending the appropriate annual increase to the tax rate, and recommending new programs and positions requiring Measure GG funding.

The Commission also focuses on ways to increase community safety and resilience, working on education, community disaster preparedness, and other strategies as appropriate, and making recommendations to the City Council for adoption and implementation.

Lastly, The Commission reviews and makes recommendations on items referred by the City Council or other Commission.

Summary of 2019 Work Plan Activities

	Topic	Resources	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
2	Fire safety & community resilience in the face of a wildland-urban interface fire	Staff time, venue	Research, staff reports and information gathering	Recommendations on alerting, parking restrictions, sirens, vegetation management, and other topics to improve wildfire safety	Prevent loss of life by improving the City’s planning and available tools for WUI evacuation, and mitigate spread through fuel management.
1	Undergrounding Subcommittee	Staff time, venue	Currently in Phase 3 of a 3 year plan. Meetings with PG&E, community, and others.	Recommendation to either underground along arterials or mitigate hazard in another manner.	City Council to make a well informed decision on undergrounding efforts
3	Improve community resilience throughout Berkeley with a whole community approach	Community members’ time (volunteer), Commissioner time, and staff time.	Participate in a working group for community based disaster response	Recommendations to City Council to improve community resilience throughout Berkeley. May include Measure GG fund expenditures.	Measurable improvement in community preparedness, especially previously underserved communities & neighborhoods
4	Ensure that Measure GG	Commissioner time, staff time	Measure GG spending report is	Recommendations to City Council to ensure funds are	Fire stations remain open & disaster

	Funds are spent appropriately		reviewed by the Commission every 6 months	spent in accordance with the measure.	preparedness is improved by using Measure GG funds as intended.
5	Help other city entities incorporate a disaster and fire safety perspective into decisions	Commissioner time.	Respond to referrals seeking input on matters relating to disaster and fire safety.	Recommendations or other documentation to City Council and other Commissions that send referrals.	Incorporates disaster preparedness into City decisions, leading to a safer and more resilient city.

Work Plan Details

1. FIRE SAFETY AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF A WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE

Resources

Specific resources include staff time to properly notice meetings and council submissions prepared by the Disaster Fire Safety Commission. A venue and staff time may be needed for community meetings.

Program Activities

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY ALERTING AND EVACUATION

- This Commission has recommended that the city install sirens as a component of the suite of available alerting tools. We will continue to follow up on the progress of this recommendation through the budgeting process.
- Review and provide feedback and recommendations on the city’s draft evacuation plan.
- Review and provide feedback and recommendations on the city’s emergency alerting protocol. This will include the city’s compliance with state guidelines on WEA alerting in wildfires, anticipated in July 2019.
- Commissioners will attend community events and integrate community feedback and concerns into alerting and evacuation recommendations. Observe and/or participate in any evacuation drills that the City runs in 2019.
- Integrate the needs and contributions of seniors and people with mobility challenges or other access and functional needs in all of our emergency alerting and evacuation recommendations.

SAFE PASSAGES – ACCESS & EGRESS ON NARROW HILLS STREETS

- The Commission will review and provide recommendations on access and egress needs in a WUI fire, specifically the “Safe Passages” program that is part of the City’s Wildfire Safety Plan
- The Commission will work to monitor and recommend parking restrictions in the hills; for example, a simple approach such as painting curbs red on one side of all the streets narrower than 20 feet to allow access by first responders and clear the way for successful evacuation.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- Support the City’s community outreach measures to improve vegetation management and slow the spread of a WUI fire in the hills
- Seek any available data on use of the chipper program, and explore if changes to the program would increase adoption
- Review and provide recommendations on new approaches to vegetation management, including employment of Youthworks (city youth jobs program) staff over the summer to reduce fire fuel in the hills

Additional Items

Commissioners working independently in other capacities (such as in neighborhood groups in the hills, or as volunteers) may develop ideas to improve WUI safety in those environments and bring these to the Commission for consideration throughout the year.

Outputs

- Recommendations to City Council regarding parking restrictions on the hills, siren expenditures, vegetation management and other topics relevant to improving wildfire safety in the City.
- Feedback to city staff on the Draft Evacuation Plan and alerting tools and protocols.
- Recommendations to support testing and drills to ensure that both staff and residents are prepared to carry out emergency alerting and evacuations

Outcomes

Prevent loss of life by improving the City’s planning and available tools to create a safe and efficient evacuation of all endangered residents in the case of a major WUI fire. Improve and practice emergency alerting so that all residents are alerted adequately and in a timely manner of any life-threatening hazards such as an approaching fire.

2. UNDERGROUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE

Resources

Specific resources include staff time to properly notice meetings and council submissions prepared by the Undergrounding Subcommittee. A venue and staff time may be needed for community meetings.

Program Activities

The Undergrounding Subcommittee is in Phase Three of a proposed three year plan to study and make recommendations on the feasibility of undergrounding utility lines along arterial and collector streets throughout the City of Berkeley.

- Berkeley has now assigned an employee to work with the Undergrounding Subcommittee through the process of finalizing the plan and determining the expense of undergrounding utility lines along 2-3 major arterials to be used for evacuation from disasters.
- Berkeley already has undergrounded utilities along north-south arterials such as Telegraph, Sacramento, University, and San Pablo. Our focus in this phase will be on west-east ones such as Dwight, Gilman, and Marin.

- This subcommittee currently has members from the Public Works Commission and two liaison representatives, one each from the Disaster & Fire Safety and Transportation Commissions. The Disaster & Fire Safety Commission has two observers on the sub-committee: Paul Degenkolb and Bob Flasher.

Outputs

- Recommendation to Council that main arterials be undergrounded

Outcomes

- 2-3 more east-west arterials will have undergrounded utility lines for safety in evacuations.
- Lives will be saved in the next WUI by enhancing evacuation routes.

3. IMPROVE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGHOUT BERKELEY WITH A WHOLE COMMUNITY APPROACH

Resources

Resources include community members' time (volunteer), Commissioners' and staff time to participate in working group and/or subcommittee work, and staff time to present yearly Berkeley Ready presentations to Commission.

Program Activities

Support accessible preparedness outreach and training, with a special focus on underserved and/or vulnerable members of our community, including residents of South and West Berkeley, seniors, persons with disabilities, families with children, Spanish-speakers, and renters. Consider ideas toward the goal of equitably and adequately serving all people who live, work, study or play in Berkeley.

Community Based Disaster Response

Commission member(s) will continue to participate in a working group to explore ways to support community-based post-disaster response, creating an inclusive, broad-based response that better meets the post-disaster needs of all people in Berkeley:

- explore options to help give the community a better structure or pathway to participate in disaster response.
- explore ways to improve and support social cohesion throughout the city that will naturally increase post-disaster assistance, information-sharing, and shared resources among neighbors.

This may include new directions such as developing a network of “communication hubs” that community members can self-deploy and staff in a disaster.

To stay apprised of CERT and Berkeley Ready activities in the City, the Commission will host presentations at Commission meetings by the following groups:

- CERT Advisory Committee presentation(s)

- Berkeley Ready staff presentation(s)
- Berkeley Disaster Preparedness Neighborhood Network (BDPNN)
- Disaster and Disability group

~~[Comment from Gradiva: PAUL – do you still want this? No action was taken last year]~~
~~Shut Off Valves~~

~~The Commission will also work on a plan to increase the number of properties in Berkeley protected by seismically activated gas shutoff valves. Possible elements in Commission's recommendation to Council:~~

- ~~• Expand the program to pay for the entire cost of installing the valve through a list of pre-approved contractors.~~
- ~~• Require seismic gas shutoff valves to be installed before transfer of title, or in conjunction with alteration greater than \$10,000 (currently set at \$50,000).~~
- ~~• Require seismic gas shutoff valves for rental units, with partial recovery of costs for landlords.~~

Additional Items

Commissioners working independently in other capacities (such as with schools and businesses) may develop ideas to improve community resilience in those environments and bring these to the Commission for consideration throughout the year.

Output(s)

- Develop recommendation(s) to City Council to enhance Berkeley Ready, CERT and other city programs to support community resilience. This may include scaling up current activities, or redirecting efforts towards new activities.
- ~~• Develop recommendation(s) to City Council to increase the number of properties in Berkeley protected by seismically activated gas shutoff valves~~

Outcomes

Measurable improvement to Berkeley's community preparedness. Measurement may be in number of people reached, or number of active volunteers, or new previously underserved populations reached. ~~An increase in the number of properties in Berkeley protected by seismically activated gas shutoff valves.~~

4. ENSURE THAT MEASURE GG FUNDS ARE SPENT APPROPRIATELY

Resources

Commissioners' time and staff time to generate financial reports and present them to the Commission every 6 months

Program Activities

- Staff to generate a Measure GG spending report every 6 months
- Commission to review staff report every 6 months.
- Commission to provide recommendation on optional tax percentage increase

Output(s)

The Commission will create recommendations to Council if needed to ensure that Measure GG funds are used to enhance the safety of the Berkeley community and remain within the definition, scope, and intentions of the original law.

Outcomes

With funds correctly allocated, the goal of Measure GG is maintained: keeping all fire stations in the city open 24-7 as well as improving community resilience through programs such as Berkeley Ready.

5: HELP OTHER CITY ENTITIES INCORPORATE A DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY PERSPECTIVE INTO DECISIONS

Resources

Commissioners' time for research and recommendation creation

Program Activities

Respond to requests for input on matters relating to disaster and fire safety. Requests may come from City Council, City Staff, other Commissions, or the public.

- Examples of recent referrals:
 - City Council referral for feedback on Ordinance to Improve Fire Safety Standards for Rebuilt Fire Damaged Structures
 - City Council referral for feedback on Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Staff request for feedback on Draft Evacuation plan
- Provide input into Council decisions when decisions will affect disaster resilience or fire safety in Berkeley

Output(s)

Recommendations to City Council or communications with other city entities, often in response to referrals.

Outcomes

City Council will incorporate disaster preparedness considerations into decisions, leading to a safer and more resilient city.

Chin, Khin

From: Gradiva Couzin <gradiva@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 07, 2019 3:24 PM
To: Chin, Khin
Cc: bob flasher
Subject: Fwd: DFSC Work Plan

Hi Khin,

Can you include the attached message with the Work Plan agenda item for next month? Also if you could re-include last year's plan, I think that would be helpful to have together in our next agenda.

I expect to send an additional work plan outline as a starting point for this year as well.

Thank you,
Gradiva

Begin forwarded message:

From: bob flasher <rangerdude333@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: DFSC Work Plan
Date: March 31, 2019 at 9:51:52 PM PDT
To: Gradiva Couzin <gradiva@gmail.com>

POSSIBLE WORK PLAN FOCI FOR 2019-2020

We can hopefully pick 3-4 among them that we can accomplish this year.

UTILITY UNDERGROUNDING ON ARTERIALS: Continue developing the utility undergrounding planning through stage 3. Berkeley has now assigned an employee to work with the undergrounding sub-committee through the process of finalizing the plan and determining the expense of undergrounding utility lines along 2-3 major arterials to be used for evacuation from disasters. Berkeley already has undergrounded utilities along north-south arterials such as Telegraph, Sacramento and San Pablo. Our focus will be on west-east ones such as Dwight, Gilman, Marin. (We have two observers on the sub-committee: Paul and Bob. Others members are commissioner representatives from Public Works and Transportation.)

PARKING REGULATIONS ON NARROW HILLS STREETS: BFD has already striped 4-5 narrow streets to clear a lane for one-way traffic. Continue this or paint curbs red on one side of all the streets narrower than 20 feet to allow access by first responders and clear the way for successful evacuations by citizens. Evacuation failures are the major cause of loss of life in WUI fires (24 deaths in 1991), so restricting parking is essential on narrow, winding streets to minimize loss of life.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION EFFORTS: Continue educating the community about how to prepare for disaster, opportunities for CERT training, why it's important to form neighborhood groups, and the advantage of signing up for AC Alert. Participate in

disaster prep fairs and the Council member's annual fire safety community meeting. Neighborhood disaster centers/information hubs could be encouraged. Neighbors informing neighbors was responsible for saving many lives in the 2017 and 2018 north bay fires. After any major earthquake, neighbors will need to depend on each other as first responders for days afterwards.

COMMUNITY SIREN ALERT SYSTEM: Sirens provide an overlapping means of early warning of disasters that may reach more people than AC Alert or Nixle. They are currently in use in many states and communities nationwide. Early warning with sirens encourages citizens to turn on TVs, radios and phones for further essential information. Sirens can be engaged before communication or power lines burn down in WUI fires. Sirens will supplement WEA early warnings, as redundancy is important.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF MEASURE GG SPENDING: Our commission is tasked with monitoring expenditures of Measure GG funds. The fund gets depleted when there is a lot of BFD overtime. Make recommendations on percentage increase necessary to keep it funded. Evaluate any necessary changes that might be a better expenditure of funds. Review progress of the employees we hire with GG funds to do community outreach.

ASSIGNMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL: Allow time to study and submit recommendations on issues we receive from City Council. This can vary from 1-3 per year. Undergrounding of utilities and parking restrictions on narrow streets were Council assignments to our commission. So was creating an acceptable tree ordinance for future plantings. Reviewing the Disaster Mitigation Plan also came from Council.

ANY IMPORTANT ISSUE I FORGOT TO MENTION: Is there another issue I forgot to mention that should be a top priority or supplant one of the issues above? Keeping our total number of issues short will make it more likely that we can give each thoughtful consideration and make reasonable recommendations.



Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR
September 12, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Submitted by: Paul Degenkolb, Chairperson, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
Subject: 2017 Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Work Plan

INTRODUCTION

As directed by the City Council, the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (DFSC) hereby submits its annual workplan for Fiscal Year 2018.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On June 28, 2017, the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission passed a motion to submit the attached annual commission work plan. Motion: R. Flasher, Second: R. Grimes, Vote: (6 Ayes: Grimes, Flasher, Bailey, Jones, Couzin, Griffin; 0 Noe; 3 Absent: Golomb, Legg, Degenkolb; 0 Abstain)

The proposed workplan focuses on five topics of concern: 1) Undergrounding of utilities; 2) Increasing fire safety and resilience in the wildland urban interface 3) Improving community resilience and community preparedness; 4) Monitoring Measure GG Fund expenditures; and 5) Assisting other city entities with incorporating a disaster and fire safety perspective

BACKGROUND

On July 19, 2016, 2016, the City Council approved a consent item that directs Berkeley Commissions, with the exception of the Board of Library Trustees, the Zoning Adjustments Board, and the Design Review Committee, to submit a workplan to the City Council at the beginning of each fiscal year.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Not applicable.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Not applicable.

CONTACT PERSON

Keith May, Assistant Fire Chief, Berkeley Fire Department, 510-981-5508

Attachments:

1: 2017 Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Work Plan

2017 Disaster and Fire Safety Commission WORK PLAN

Mission Statement

The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission serves as the public oversight group for Measure GG, 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 measure, recommending the appropriate annual increase to the tax rate, and recommending new programs and positions requiring Measure GG funding.

The Commission also focuses on ways to increase community safety and resilience, working on education, community disaster preparedness, and other strategies as appropriate, and making recommendations to the City Council for adoption and implementation.

Lastly, The Commission reviews and makes recommendations on items referred by the City Council or other Commission.

Summary of 2017 Work Plan Activities

	Topic	Resources	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
1	Undergrounding Subcommittee	Staff time, venue	Currently in Phase 2 of a 3 year plan. Meetings with PG&E, community, and others.	Report to City Council in late 2017 or early 2018	City Council to make a well informed decision on undergrounding efforts
2	Fire safety & community resilience in the face of a wildland-urban interface fire	Staff time, venue	Survey, community outreach, study, and information gathering	Educational outreach to the community to raise awareness of fire risk and mitigation.	City Council will be well informed on how to improve the safety of Hills Fire Zone residents, travelers and first responders.
3	Improve community resilience throughout Berkeley with a whole community approach	Community members' time (volunteer), Commissioner time, and staff time.	Participate in a working group for community resilience program reform; explore ideas for improvement	Recommendation(s) to City Council to improve community resilience throughout Berkeley. May include Measure GG fund expenditures.	Measurable improvement in community preparedness, especially previously underserved communities & neighborhoods
4	Ensure that Measure GG Funds are spent	Commissioner time, staff time	Measure GG spending report is	Recommendation(s) to City Council to ensure funds are	Fire stations remain open & disaster

	appropriately		reviewed by the Commission every 6 months	spent in accordance with the measure.	preparedness is improved by using Measure GG funds as intended.
5	Help other city entities incorporate a disaster and fire safety perspective into decisions	Commissioner time.	Respond to referrals seeking input on matters relating to disaster and fire safety.	Recommendation(s) or other documentation to City Council and other Commissions that send referrals.	Incorporates disaster preparedness into City decisions, leading to a safer and more resilient city.

Work Plan Details

1. UNDERGROUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE

Resources

Specific resources include staff time to properly notice meetings and council submissions prepared by the Undergrounding Subcommittee. It is anticipated that a venue and staff time will be needed for a series of community meetings.

Program Activities

The Undergrounding Subcommittee is in Phase Two of a proposed three year plan to study and make recommendations on the feasibility of undergrounding utility lines along arterial and collector streets throughout the City of Berkeley. This subcommittee is currently made up subcommittee members from the Public Works Commission and two liaison representatives, one each from the Disaster Fire Safety and Transportation Commissions.

- Work with and provide resources to our two selected Goldman School of Public Policy masters candidates researching 1) Future Technologies and 2) Benefit/cost Analysis and Social/geographic Equity issues related to undergrounding. A final report will be provided to the subcommittee in May, 2017.
- Working with Council-member Susan Wengraf, we will initiate meetings with the City of Palo Alto, San Diego and possibly one or two other California cities to learn how their undergrounding programs are set up and financed. Our first meeting, with the City of Palo Alto was on May 4, 2017. Southern California meetings are planned for late spring or early summer.
- Meetings have been held with Comcast (March 30), AT&T (April 6) and soon to be scheduled
- with PG&E for the purpose of learning their planned investments for the near and far future, how they approach disaster scenarios, and what insights they have on large scale undergrounding in the Bay Area. Additional meetings are planned with technology companies such as Google and Paxio.
- Community input is also included in Phase Two of our plan. For this phase, input will likely be in the form of an on-line survey to gauge community-wide interest in undergrounding.

Outputs

By the fall the subcommittee will have completed its research and will begin writing a report to City Council. We expect to submit the report in late 2017 or early 2018. This report will reflect our research findings and our recommendation on continuing into Phase Three.

Outcomes

City Council will have valuable information on the pros and cons of undergrounding utility wires that will allow council members to make an informed decision on whether to invigorate the existing efforts to underground utilities within city limits or use resources in other effective ways to achieve the same level of resilience in the face of disaster.

2. FIRE SAFETY AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF A WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE FIRE

Resources

Specific resources include staff time to properly notice meetings and council submissions prepared by the Disaster Fire Safety Commission. It is anticipated that a venue and staff time will be needed for a series of community meetings.

Program Activities

From 1965 forward, over 15 reports have been prepared for the benefit of city council and relevant commissions about the danger to life and property in the Hills Fire Hazard Zone. The two primary cited concerns are vehicle congestion and overgrown vegetation. This has been a seemingly intractable problem studied by both BFD and by the commission numerous times. In 2015-16 a work group was formed to research community WUI disaster planning in Northern and Southern California. The work group proposed a Red Flag Day No Parking program to the City of Berkeley and later refined our recommendation to model Laguna Beach's Red Flag Day pilot program. After the commission recommendation was made to City Council, City Council agreed to devote staff resources to this issue. Commission members are taking a two prong approach to address fire safety and community resilience as outlined below.

Access and Egress

- Conducted an online survey targeting residents of Council Districts 5, 6 and 8 to ascertain their ingress and egress concerns for themselves and for first responders, whether responding to a medical or a public safety emergency. The questionnaire was sent out in early May by council members' newsletters, posted on NextDoor, and through known CERT and BDPNN neighborhood groups and other groups to promote broad participation in the survey.
- Council members from Districts 5,6, and 8 hosted the third annual community fire safety meeting in June when the results of the survey were shared and community comments encouraged.

Vegetation Management

- We are seeking updated information on vegetation tonnage collected from the Chipper program since it appears actual tonnage collected has been dropping over a

number of years. If the trend has continued throughout this last historic drought we will review the literature handouts for residents and make recommendations for a public education campaign. This summer, commission work group members plan to go door to door with CALFire vegetation handouts to elicit greater resident awareness of fire safety measures in the Park Hills Neighborhood.

Outputs

We gain immediate feedback from the community based on our outreach efforts with an eye to supporting a Red Flag Day pilot project in the Hills Fire Zone and/or other measures to relieve street congestion.

Outcomes

We will report to council on our outreach efforts regarding community and personal safety concerns related to ingress and egress in the Hills Fire Zone, and on preventative measures adopted by residents to mitigate the risk of fire. The report will include recommendations for improving the overall safety of Hills Fire Zone residents, travelers and first responders.

3. IMPROVE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGHOUT BERKELEY WITH A WHOLE COMMUNITY APPROACH

Resources

Resources include community members' time (volunteer), Commissioners' and staff time to participate in working group and/or subcommittee work, and staff time to present yearly Berkeley Ready presentations to Commission.

Program Activities

Support accessible preparedness outreach and training, with a special focus on underserved and/or vulnerable members of our community, including residents of South and West Berkeley, seniors, persons with disabilities, families with children, Spanish-speakers, and renters.

CERT and Community Preparedness Reform

We believe that the City's current community disaster resilience program is not adequate nor is it equitable. Currently, the primary efforts are the neighborhood group cache program, a small number of public events, and the CERT training program. Neighborhood groups save lives. However, there are far too few organized neighborhood groups in Berkeley to provide sufficient protection for our residents. Furthermore, organized neighborhood groups do not serve all areas of the city equitably; notably, this program does not meet the community's needs in South and West Berkeley. There is minimal, if any, follow-up assistance provided by the City to help neighborhood groups maintain their organization and skills. There is no quantitative data on whether a group remains active and organized after their initial set-up.

Efforts are underway at the City level to address the inadequacy of the community resilience programs. Berkeley Ready staff in the Fire Department is working on establishing Resilience Centers, with a focus on underserved neighborhoods. The CERT Program Manager and the CERT Advisory Committee are working on engaging volunteer District Coordinators. These efforts as well as the neighborhood cache

program should be evaluated for effectiveness, with additional funding and staffing channeled to programs that cause measurable improvement in community resilience and equity.

Commission member(s) will participate in a working group to develop a proposal for CERT and Community Resilience Reform with the goal of widening the reach of CERT training, neighborhood preparedness, and other community programs to equitably and adequately serve all people who live, work, study or play in Berkeley. Reform may include a restructuring of the CERT program, as well as new directions such as developing a database of volunteers for emergency response. If needed, the Commission will create a Subcommittee to work on CERT reform and develop recommendations.

To stay apprised of CERT and Berkeley Ready activities in the City, the Commission will host presentations at Commission meetings by the following groups:

- CERT Advisory Committee presentation(s)
- Berkeley Ready staff presentation(s)
- Berkeley Disaster Preparedness Network (BDPNN)

Shut Off Valves

The Commission will also work on a plan to increase the number of properties in Berkeley protected by seismically-activated gas shutoff valves. Possible elements in Commission's recommendation to Council:

- Expand the program to pay for the entire cost of installing the valve through a list of pre-approved contractors.
- Require seismic gas shutoff valves to be installed before transfer of title, or in conjunction with alteration greater than \$10,000 (currently set at \$50,000).
- Require seismic gas shutoff valves for rental units, with partial recovery of costs for landlords.

Additional Items

Commissioners working independently in other capacities (such as with schools and businesses) may develop ideas to improve community resilience in those environments and bring these to the Commission for consideration throughout the year.

Output(s)

- Develop recommendation(s) to City Council to enhance Berkeley Ready, CERT and other city programs to support community resilience. This may include scaling up current activities, or redirecting efforts towards new activities.
- Develop recommendation(s) to City Council to increase the number of properties in Berkeley protected by seismically-activated gas shutoff valves

Outcomes

Measurable improvement to Berkeley's community preparedness. Measurement may be in number of people reached, or number of active volunteers, or new previously underserved populations reached. An increase in the number of properties in Berkeley protected by seismically-activated gas shutoff valves.

4. ENSURE THAT MEASURE GG FUNDS ARE SPENT APPROPRIATELY

Resources

Commissioners' time and staff time to generate financial reports and present them to the Commission every 6 months

Program Activities

- Staff to generate a Measure GG spending report every 6 months
- Commission to review staff report every 6 months.
- A Commission member will sit on the Berkeley Energy Assurance Transformation (BEAT) microgrid project Technical Advisory Committee to stay apprised of microgrid plans.

Output(s)

The Commission will create recommendations to Council if needed to ensure that Measure GG funds are used to enhance the safety of the Berkeley community and remain within the definition, scope, and intentions of the original law.

Outcomes

With funds correctly allocated, the goal of Measure GG is maintained: keeping all fire stations in the city open 24-7 as well as improving community resilience through programs such as Berkeley Ready.

5: HELP OTHER CITY ENTITIES INCORPORATE A DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY PERSPECTIVE INTO DECISIONS

Resources

Commissioners' time for research and recommendation creation

Program Activities

Respond to requests for input on matters relating to disaster and fire safety. Requests may come from City Council, City Staff, other Commissions, or the public.

- Examples of recent referrals:
 - City council request for feedback on T1 infrastructure spending
 - Police Commission request for feedback on Surveillance Ordinance
 - Council request for information on Alta Bates closure impact on disaster response
- Provide input into Council decisions when decisions will affect disaster resilience or fire safety in Berkeley

Output(s)

Recommendations to City Council or communications with other city entities, often in response to referrals.

a. Outcomes

City Council will incorporate disaster preparedness considerations into decisions, leading to a safer and more resilient city. Examples:

- Seismic retrofits that are planned for Measure T1 spending will also incorporate renovations needed for disaster sheltering. This creates resiliency and avoids inefficient spending.
- City council can advocate against Alta Bates closure with the awareness of how a closure would impact disaster resilience.
- Decisions relating to other matters (surveillance, Urban Shield) will be made with City Council well-informed of the impact on disaster and fire safety.

February 27, 2019

To:

From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

Subject: Comments to the 2019 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

1. Coordination:

The 2019 Plan should be coordinated with other existing major policy plans, specifically the General Plan, Climate Action Plan and Zero Waste Plan. Such coordination would provide hazard mitigation information as a part of land use decisions in designated hazard zones before such decisions are made rather than after they have been made. In addition, it increases the opportunity to incorporate into City actions the continuing tide of new information regarding climate change, as well as encourage re-use of materials rather than just depositing them into near or distant landfills.

2. Maps/Tables:

- a. Add to the Plan existing maps, specifically but not limited to maps and tables regarding Berkeley's Narrow Streets (24 feet and 22 feet) and Pinch Points depicting locations where responders have difficulty navigating.
- b. Improve maps in the Plan using the GIS Portal layering system so that people reading the Plan will have a better understanding of the location of designated hazard zones, evacuation routes, and the like by showing street names.

3. Outreach:

Include information on how our homeless, ESL, and disabled population will be informed regarding such matters as to where and when to shelter. The process to do this must be transparent and accessible to these populations.

4. Objectives:

An appendix should be added to the Plan that contains a "To Do List" of priority goals with measurable outcomes for the coming year. The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission and appropriate City staff would develop the list and at the end of the year, provide a report to the Council that includes a new/continued list for the next year. This would be repeated each year for the five-year-period covered by the Plan. This process would provide an on-going opportunity for the Council, City staff and residents to evaluate how well we are achieving the agreed upon policies and goals expressed in the Plan, what, if any, changes we might need to make to better achieve those goals and also provide opportunities for the continued engagement of residents in safety issues.

Chin, Khin

From: Toni Stein <tweil@igc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 9:28 AM
To: Obermeit, Heidi; Chin, Khin
Subject: RE: Don't Miss - EPA Fire Safety Webinar - Thursday 2:00PM Est

Please share to other Commissioners and Staff who may be interested in this free US EPA Fire Safety Webinar regarding waste and recycling facilities.—thnx its 11 am PST tomorrow April 18th This explains what the webinar is:

"Event Title: Fire Risk in the Waste Handling and Recycling Industry – an Introduction".

The waste management industry has always dealt with fire hazards, but due to the evolving waste stream, there were an estimated 1,800 fire incidents in 2018 alone at U.S. & Canadian waste and recycling facilities. The increasing number of fire incidents are due to a range of factors, including changing weather patterns and increased contamination in a high-tempo industry. Add to this the increasing presence of misplaced lithium batteries, which if broken or short-circuited could catch fire. Each truck load and material movement can present a new risk of fire, so operators need to be constantly vigilant and prepared to safely react at a moment's notice to an incipient fire.

Join us for a 90-minute webinar with waste management and fire experts, plus a facility that has experienced a fire. Topics will include the increasing risks to your MRF or transfer facility through consolidated data and first-hand operator incidents, and practical steps you can take to develop a fire plan that focuses on reacting during those critical few moments, which can lead to minimized fire damage and even business continuity.

Speakers include:

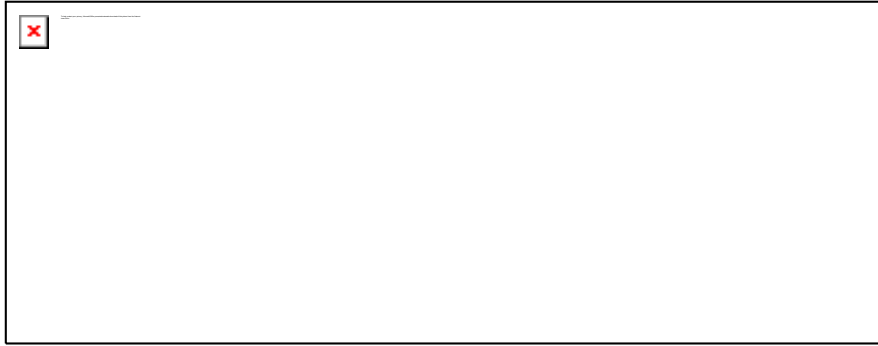
- Ryan Fogelman of Fire Rover – his latest data on waste and recycling facility fires, the insurers perspective, insights into incorporating technology into your fire planning as well as front row learnings from actual thermal and HD video of fire incidents.
- Jim Emerson of Starr Companies – how fires grow during the important first 10 minutes, and how facilities can prepare for a fire.
- Brent Shows of Advanced Disposal – how a major waste operator understood their fire risk and how they have stemmed the tide of fires at both their MRFs and transfer stations.
- Chris Newman of US EPA Region 5 – trends in waste generation and how some contaminants contribute to the fire risk.
- Sarah Murray - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – how fires have impacted Wisconsin recycling facilities and how DNR is building awareness of important contaminants.

Please send your questions, comments and feedback to: newman.christopherm@epa.gov

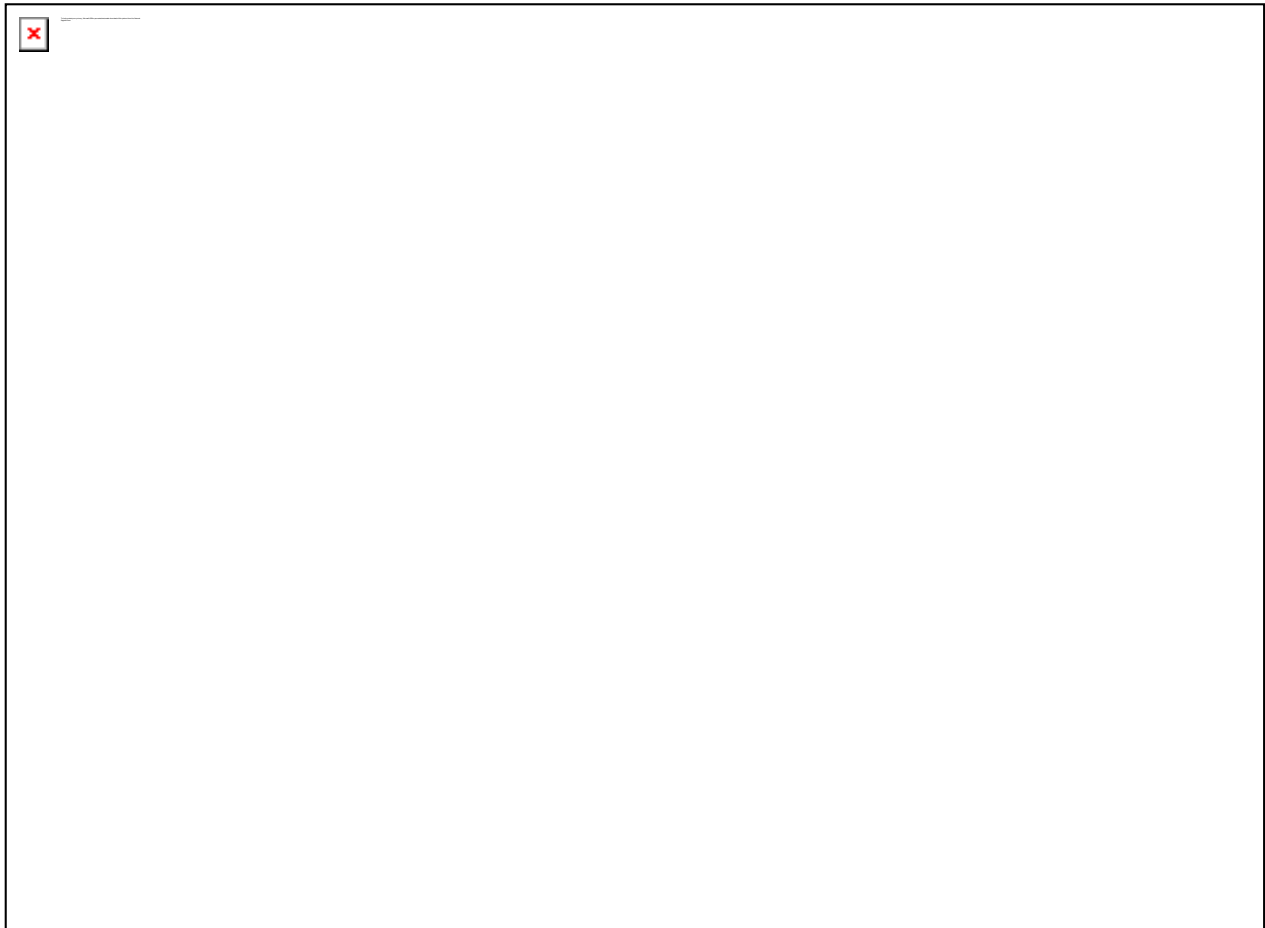
How To Join The Webinar

From: Ryan Fogelman <rfogelman@firerover.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 7:23 AM
To: tweil@igc.org
Subject: Don't Miss - EPA Fire Safety Webinar - Thursday 2:00PM Est

Fire Rover Wins Gold!



EPA Fire Safety Webinar - Still Time



Join Us: Fire Risk in the Waste Handling and Recycling Industry Webinar – An Introduction

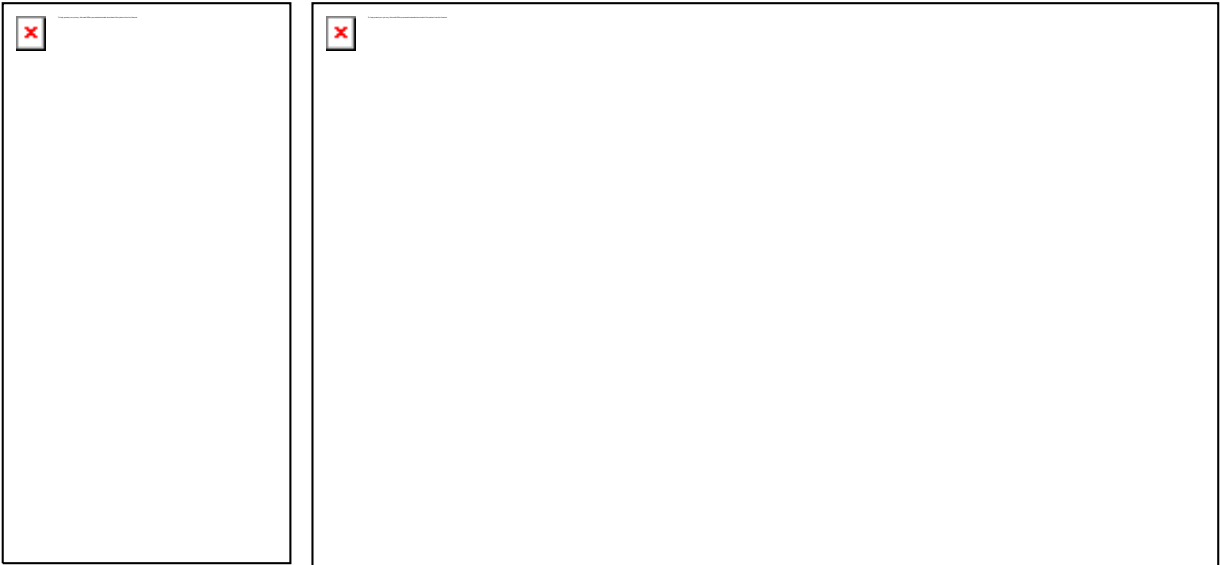
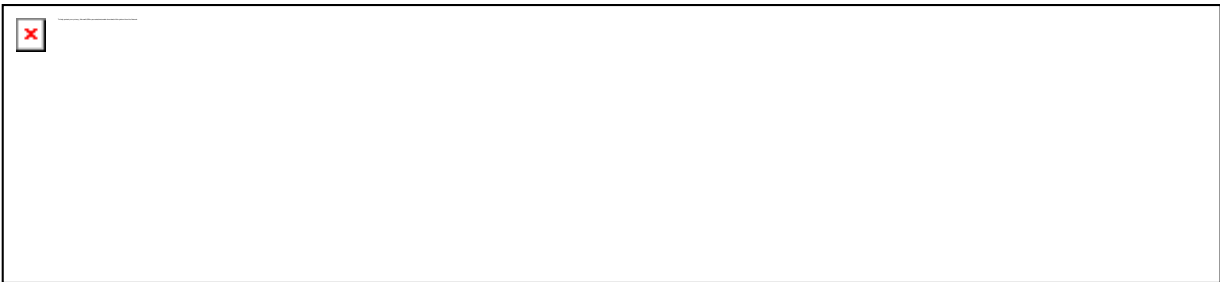
Thu, Apr 18, 2019 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EST

The waste management industry has always dealt with fire hazards, but due to the evolving waste stream, there were an estimated 1,800 fire incidents in 2018 alone at U.S. & Canadian waste and recycling facilities. (See: <https://lnkd.in/eAaZAHd>) The increasing number of fire incidents are due to a range of factors, including

changing weather patterns and increased hashtag#lithiumion contamination in a high-tempo industry. Join us for the free 90-min webinar where you will leave with a solid understanding of the scope of the fire issues facings the waste and recycling industry and real solutions that the industry is implementing to mitigate the fire risks in the future.

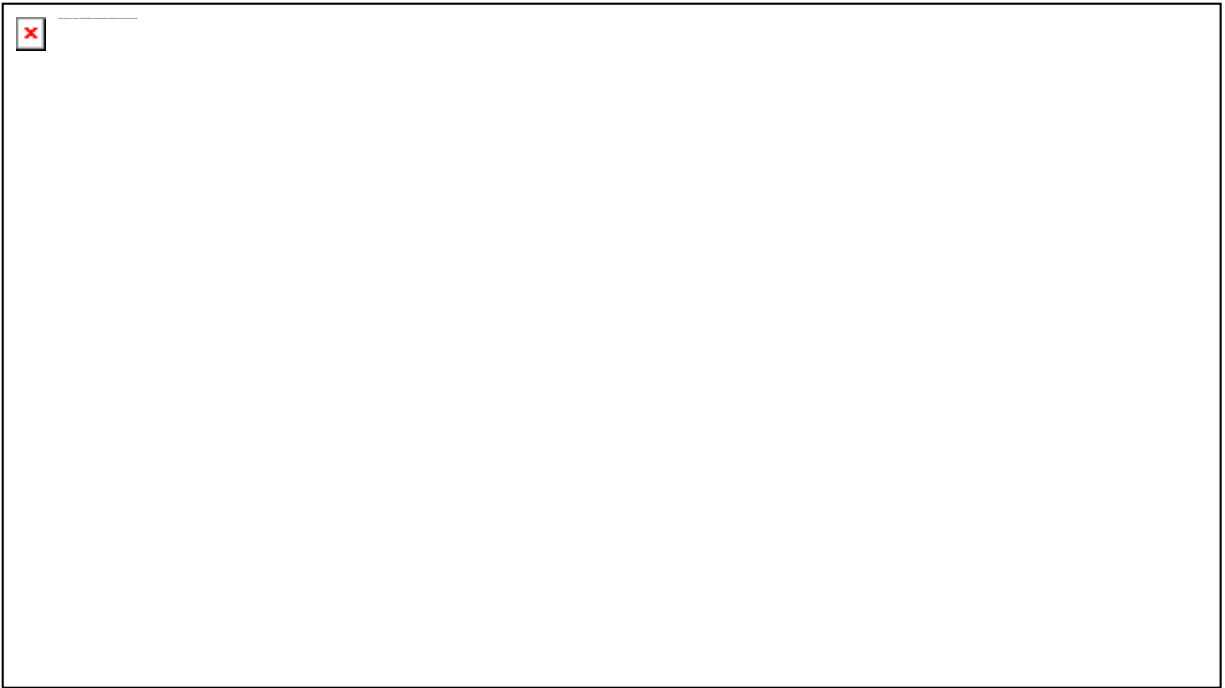
[Webinar Registration Link](#)

Fire Rover Brings Home The Gold!



[International Fire Protection Magazine Article](#)

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This email was sent to tweil@igc.org.
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

Chin, Khin

From: May, Keith
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2019 12:13 PM
To: Lazo, Jennifer; Chin, Khin
Subject: FW: PG&E Community Wildfire Safety Program Update
Attachments: FINAL CWSP PSPS Customer Letter_20190402.pdf

FYI –

Khin, I will include this in the Staff Report for the next DFSC.

Keith

From: Reid, Treva [mailto:T1RZ@pge.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 3:10 PM
Subject: PG&E Community Wildfire Safety Program Update

Dear City and County Officials,

I wanted to provide an update on the outreach PG&E is doing as part of our expanded and enhanced Community Wildfire Safety Program, which implements additional precautionary measures to further reduce wildfire risks following the 2017 and 2018 wildfires.

Over the next month, all PG&E electric customers will be receiving a letter or an email letting them know that, as a last resort, we may need to turn off their power for safety when extreme fire danger conditions are forecasted. A copy of the letter is attached for your reference.

In our letter we are also inviting customers to learn more about PG&E's wildfire safety efforts and opportunities to participate in regional open houses or webinars as they are scheduled by visiting pge.com/wildfiresafety.

We look forward to continuing this dialogue with you in the coming months. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions or for more information.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to public safety.

Sincerely,
Treva

Treva Reid
East Bay Public Affairs Team | Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Alameda and Contra Costa Counties
O: 510.874.2244 | C: 510.426.1464
www.pge.com

Chin, Khin

From: bob flasher <rangerdude333@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 13, 2019 12:54 PM
To: Chin, Khin
Subject: Fw: FYI - two wildfire articles on proposals unveiled by Newsom
Attachments: Governor releases wildfire and PG&E plan that could raise monthly power bills – East Bay Times.pdf

Khin

Will you please email this to commissioners so they have a chance to read it before our next meeting?

Yesterday Newsom put forth ideas from a report from a group he put together to address wildfires. Check out the news article about it and click on the photo of helicopter over burning forest to see the full report. It is sobering, especially 1. the statistics about the increase of steadily more destructive WUI fires, and 2. the negligence of PG&E and incompetence of the PUC.

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/Wildfires-climate-change-and-PG-E-Newsom-s-13763121.php>



**Important Customer Message:
Prepare for possible power
outages and help us reach
you. Please visit
pge.com/mywildfirealerts to
update your contact
information today.**

RE: Important Message: Take Action Today to Prepare for Possible Public Safety Power Outages

Dear Valued Customer:

Given the growing threat of extreme weather, we want all of our customers to be prepared for potential power outages. If extreme fire danger conditions threaten a portion of the electric system serving your community, it may be necessary for us to turn off electricity in the interest of public safety. This is called a Public Safety Power Shutoff.

What you need to know about Public Safety Power Shutoff

We want all our customers to understand why it may be necessary for us to shut off electric power during times of extreme wildfire risk.

- Before any Public Safety Power Shutoff, we carefully review a combination of criteria such as predictions of strong winds and very low humidity levels, along with critically dry vegetation and on-the-ground observations from field crews.
- Because the energy system relies on power lines working together to provide electricity across cities, counties and regions, your power may be shut off, even if you do not live or work in an area experiencing high winds or other extreme weather conditions. This is done to ensure the safety of all communities and customers.
- If we need to turn off your power, we will attempt to contact you in advance by phone, text and email, and provide updates through social media, local news, radio and the pge.com website.
- We expect to be able to restore power to most of our customers within 24 to 48 hours after the extreme wildfire risk ends. We urge our customers to prepare for longer outages lasting 2 to 5 days in case equipment needs to be repaired or other actions are needed to ensure public safety.

**Attend a Wildfire
Safety Open House**

To learn more about how to stay safe and about Public Safety Power Shutoffs, including details on upcoming **regional open houses and informational webinars**, please visit pge.com/wildfiresafety.

How to better prepare

We know how much our customers rely on electric service and want to work together to help you prepare for potential power outages related to extreme weather or wildfire threats. Here are some important steps you can take today:

- **Sign up for alerts by visiting pge.com/mywildfirealerts or call 1-866-743-6589** during normal business hours to update your contact information. We will use this information to alert you through automated calls, texts and emails, when and where possible, prior to a Public Safety Power Shutoff.
- **Plan for medical needs** like medications that require refrigeration or devices that need power.
- **Identify backup charging methods** for phones and keep hard copies of emergency numbers.
- **Build or restock your emergency kit** with flashlights, fresh batteries, first aid supplies and cash.
- **Know how to manually open** your garage door.

For more information on our wildfire safety efforts and Public Safety Power Shutoffs, including details on upcoming **open houses and informational webinars in your region**, please visit pge.com/wildfiresafety.

Sincerely,

PG&E Community Wildfire Safety Team

Dada la creciente amenaza de clima extremo, queremos que todos nuestros clientes estén preparados para posibles apagones. Si las condiciones extremas de peligro de incendio amenazan una parte del sistema eléctrico que sirve a su comunidad, puede ser necesario que desconectemos la electricidad en interés de la seguridad pública. Esto se denomina Public Safety Power Shutoff (Apagado de Energía por Seguridad Pública). Inscríbese para recibir alertas visitando pge.com/psps-es o llame al 1-866-743-6589 durante el horario laboral normal para actualizar su información de contacto. Utilizaremos esta información para alertarle a través de llamadas, textos y correos electrónicos automatizados, cuando y donde sea posible, antes de un Public Safety Power Shutoff. Para obtener más información sobre nuestros esfuerzos de seguridad contra incendios forestales y Public Safety Power Shutoff, incluyendo los detalles de las **próximas jornadas de puertas abiertas y seminarios informativos en línea en su región**, por favor visite pge.com/psps-es.

隨著極端氣候的威脅日益增加，我們希望幫助所有用戶預備有機會發生的停電事故。如果極端火災危險指數會危及部分在您社區提供電力的系統，為了公眾安全，我們可能有需要中斷電力服務，這稱為公共安全斷電計劃（Public Safety Power Shutoff）。如果您希望提早接獲有關安排的通知，請前往 pge.com/psps-zh 或於辦公時間內致電 1-866-743-6589 更新您的聯絡方法。我們會透過您提供的聯絡方法，使用自動留言電話、短訊及電郵，盡可能及早通知您有關公共安全斷電計劃的安排。如欲了解更多關於我們在山火安全上的工作及公共安全斷電計劃，包括將會在您所屬社區舉行的**資訊開放日及網絡研討會**，請瀏覽 pge.com/psps-zh

Trước mỗi đe dọa ngày càng gia tăng của thời tiết khắc nghiệt, chúng tôi muốn tất cả các khách hàng của mình được chuẩn bị cho vấn đề mất điện có thể xảy ra.

Nếu các điều kiện hỏa hoạn cực kỳ nguy hiểm đe dọa một phần hệ thống điện đang phục vụ trong cộng đồng của bạn, chúng tôi có thể cần phải tắt điện vì lý do an toàn công cộng. Điều này được gọi là Tắt điện vì An toàn Công cộng. Ghi danh để nhận được các báo động bằng cách gọi số 1-866-743-6589 trong giờ làm việc bình thường để cập nhật các chi tiết liên lạc của bạn. Chúng tôi sẽ sử dụng thông tin này để thông báo cho bạn bằng cách gọi, text và email tự động, bất cứ lúc nào và nơi nào có thể, trước khi **Tắt Điện vì An Toàn Công cộng**. Để biết thêm thông tin về các nỗ lực bảo vệ an toàn của chúng tôi từ các vụ cháy rừng và thông báo **Tắt điện vì An Toàn Công cộng**, bao gồm các chi tiết về các buổi hội thảo trực tiếp hay trên mạng trong khu vực của bạn để thông báo tin tức, vui lòng gọi 1-866-743-6589.