



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR
July 10, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
Submitted by: Dave Brannigan, Fire Chief.
Subject: Companion Report: Immediate Priorities For Fire Safety, Education,
Prevention and Overall Disaster Preparedness

RECOMMENDATION

Consider the attached prioritizations made by the Fire Department and the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission in referring issues regarding fire safety, education, prevention and overall disaster preparedness to the budget process and the RRV process.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Consideration of these priorities has no fiscal impact, however impacts of each item will be evaluated and determined as needed.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Three interrelated referrals that contained 82 distinct items were made to the City Manager and the “relevant commissions” on November 28, 2017, January 30, 2018 and February 28, 2018 addressing, in whole or in part, fire safety and community disaster preparedness measures.

The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission sorted and ranked the referrals based on criteria described in their report. At the March 28, 2018 regular meeting of the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission, the Commission voted to recommend that City Council review their recommendations of “Immediate Priorities” for Fire Safety, Education, Prevention and Overall Disaster Preparedness.

Fire Department staff analyzed the same referred items. This process resulted in distributing the items into specific categories, prioritizing them within those categories, indicating if this is a current activity, whether it’s achievable by the end of FY 2019, and who the lead entity is on the project.

The referral prioritizations should be considered as complimentary to each other.

BACKGROUND

The 1991 Tunnel Fire led to an increase in wildfire awareness and fuel abatement and inspection programs in the Berkeley hills. Much of the Hill Fire Hazard Area is private

property, UC Berkeley property, East Bay Regional Parks District, and City of Berkeley property. The October 2017 fires in the North Bay were a stark reminder that wildland-urban interface fires move quickly through dry fuel with no regard to jurisdictional boundaries.

These fires raised community awareness and concerns about existing fire prevention programs and triggered a need to review these programs at all levels of the City.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Vegetation management is an important part of wildfire preparedness and mitigation in regards to fuel load potential. The Berkeley hills have various types of fuels that need to be addressed at varying levels with some of the items on the priority list. Vegetation management has the potential to impact the ecosystems of the areas in question.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Many of the items referred are already in progress and are achievable. If additional items are prioritized higher than existing work, additional resources will be needed to accomplish them or the City Council and staff will need to work together to decide what programs to stop or reduce to free up resources for additional work.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

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

Attachments:

1: Fire Safety Prioritization

Recommended Action Item	Category	Category Priority	Current City Activity	Achievable by June 30, 2019	Lead Entity
Develop and annually report on clear quantitative measures for disaster prep and response programs	Berkeley Ready	1	Yes	Yes	Fire
Create emergency plans for/with local businesses	Berkeley Ready	2	Yes	Yes	HHCS
Set OES annual goal- provide one-on-one mentoring for 20+small businesses in emergency and business continuity planning	Berkeley Ready	3	No	No	HHCS
Review/Update Fire Safety Ordinances inc BMC12.50- Fire Inspection Program	Building Code	1	Yes	Maybe	Fire
Require major remodels and all ADU conversions to include indoor sprinklers	Building Code		No	No	Planning
New neighborhood disaster cache distributions meet equity criteria	Cache	1	Yes	Yes	Fire
Offer class time and location alternatives	CERT	1	Yes	Yes	Fire
# 73 Require OES hold a minimum 40 3-hour CERT trainings per year	CERT	2	No	No	Fire
Expand CERT District Coordinators to every fire district; increase support for CERT District Coordinators	CERT	3	Yes	No	Fire
Require that 6 annual weekend CERT Academy trainings are included in item #73	CERT	4	No	No	Fire
Partner with other Bay Area cities to share classes and CERT trainings	CERT	5	Yes	Yes	Fire
Partner with UC Berkeley	CERT	6	No	Maybe	Fire
Consider reducing minimum age of CERT participation	CERT	7	No	Maybe	Fire
Provide a yearly disaster training for all city staff, including their role in disaster	City Readiness	1	No	Maybe	Departments
Explore creating new department for emergency management	City Readiness	2	Yes	Maybe	CMO
Evaluate adoption of FirstNet for first responders. Consider possible cost reduction of future radio purchases.	Communication Systems	1	No	Maybe	IT
Strengthen 1610AM signal to reach all of Berkeley	Communication Systems	2	No	No	PW
Expand CRC program - goal 20 new CRCs	CRCs	1	Yes	No	Fire
Develop program for rain water catchment in homes and apartments	Environmental Impact	1	Maybe	Maybe	Planning
Completion of Evacuation Plan	Evacuation	1	Yes	Yes	Fire
Publicize Evac Routes and Protocols	Evacuation	2	Yes	Yes	Fire
DFSC/Parks & Rec commissions work with Berkeley Path Wanderers Association - improve safety and marking of paths for evacuees	Evacuation	3	Commission	Commission	PW
Increase fire prevention staffing	Fire Prevention	1	Yes	Yes	Fire

Prevention and Compliance	Fire Prevention	2			
Review, strengthen coordination and communication with nearby jurisdictions and governmental agencies	Fire Prevention	3	Yes	Yes	Fire
Issue Red Flag Day digital Nixle/AC alerts within city limits when Red Flag Day warning is issued for the East Bay Hills	Fire Weather Program	1	Yes	Yes	Fire
Expand outreach efforts for AC Alert resident participation	Fire Weather Program	2	Yes	Yes	Fire
Explore grant funded partnership with CESC to provide seismic safety related services to low income households	Grants	1	Maybe	Maybe	Fire
Dedicate city staff time to apply for and administer grants from BAUASI, State of California, and other sources for disaster preparedness improvements. Explore other forms of funding partnerships	Grants	2	Item 21		Fire
Pursue multiple sources of grant funding supporting: fire mitigation incentives and enforcement.; fire safety education; greater use of Nixle and AC Alerts; promoting evacuation routes including pathways.	Grants	3	No	Maybe	Fire
Restrict parking on Red Flag days, similar to LA Reg Flag restricted parking program	Hills Parking Restrictions	1	No	Maybe	Fire
Design and Propose a tailored red-curb program to address specific identified conditions on streets impassible by emergency vehicles or present unusual ingress or egress challenges	Hills Parking Restrictions	2	Yes	Maybe	PW
Adopt parking restrictions on narrow streets in hills fire zone	Hills Parking Restrictions	3	No	Maybe	PW
Limit parking one side of street narrower than 26 feet	Hills Parking Restrictions	4	No	Maybe	Fire
Add proper signage and/or red paint around fire hydrants	Hills Parking Restrictions	5	Yes	Maybe	PW
Enforce CVC 22514 for stopping or parking near a fire hydrant	Hills Parking Restrictions	6	Yes	Yes	PD
Have Beat Police Officers ticket hydrant infractions when making rounds in the hills fire zone	Hills Parking Restrictions	7	Item 13		
Have traffic control personnel randomly canvass hills fire zone to ensure parking compliance	Hills Parking Restrictions	7	Item 13		
Consider implementation of siren warning system	Outdoor Public Warning Systems	1	No	No	Fire
Purchase, install, maintain siren warning system	Outdoor Public Warning Systems	2	No	No	PW
OES/BUSD improve school preparedness	Partnerships	1	Yes	Yes	Fire
OES offer annual 3 hour trainings to BUSD teachers/staff	Partnerships	2	No	No	BUSD
Provide multi-lingual disaster preparedness services consistent with City communications	Preparedness Outreach	1	Yes	Maybe	Fire
Expand apartment building program (ARC) - goal:100 apartment buildings	Renter Readiness	0	Yes	No	Fire

In ARCs, minimum of 2 residents have access to emergency caches	Renter Readiness	0	No	No	Fire
Expand CRC model to multi-unit apartment bldgs. (ARC) - goal 100 bldgs	Renter Readiness	0	Yes	No	Fire
In ARCs, obtain resident input in design of above program in each bldg.	Renter Readiness	1	Yes	Yes	Fire
New Ordinance requiring new and existing rental agreements to allow bracing of water heaters	Renter Readiness	2	Yes	Yes	Rent Board
Require at least 6 of trainings in item #73 be held at apartment buildings.	Renter Readiness	3	No	No	Fire
New Ordinance requiring new and existing rental agreements to allow bracing of furniture	Renter Readiness	4	No	Maybe	Rent Board
Require Apt bldgs. with 3+units to supply residents with 3 days supply of water or develop incentives for disaster supply storage	Renter Readiness	5	No	No	Rent Board
Minimum 2 on-site residents have access to utility shut-off valves in buildings w/o property manager on-site	Renter Readiness	6	Maybe	Maybe	Rent Board
Add disaster preparedness to yearly Rental Housing Safety Program (RHSP) self-check form	Renter Readiness	7	No	Maybe	Rent Board
Require Rental Housing Safety Program (RHSP) self-check for short term rental properties	Renter Readiness	8	No	Maybe	Planning
Within 1 year, sign MOU with BUSD re: school bldg, use as sheltering sites	Shelter	1	No	Maybe	Fire
Assess and publicize current sheltering capacity	Shelter	2	Yes	Yes	Fire
Set 5 year goal to expand sheltering capacity to meet 100% need in 6.7 N. Hayward Fault EQ	Shelter	3	No	No	Fire
Sheltering plan to include most cost effective ways to meet post-disaster shelter needs	Shelter	4	Maybe	Maybe	Fire
Consider, propose new/enhanced mechanisms and funding sources for inspections and enforcement of vegetation protocols	Vegetation Management	1	Yes	Yes	Fire
Work with EBRP to ensure proper vegetation management in Tilden and other regional parks	Vegetation Management	2	Yes	Yes	Fire
Expand programs/practices to reduce fire hazards/fuel loads	Vegetation Management	3	Yes	Yes	Fire
Create & execute city-wide action and funding plan for vegetation mgmt, starting with highest risk areas. Plan to include wildlife, vegetation and tree replacement	Vegetation Management	3	Yes	Yes	Fire
Review and possible expansion of Fire Fuel Chipper and Debris Bin Program	Vegetation Management	3	Yes	Yes	Fire
Disseminate updated vegetation and tree mgmt requirements to property owners, initial outreach in high-risk zones	Vegetation Management	4	Yes	Yes	Fire
Update vegetation standards on city and private property	Vegetation Management	5	Maybe	Maybe	Fire

Incentivize and enforce fire safe vegetation management on private properties in the fire zone	Vegetation Management	6	No	Maybe	Fire
DFSC/Parks & Rec Commissions review efficacy of Fire Fuel Debris Program	Vegetation Management	7	Item 30		Commissions
DFSC/ Parks & Rec commissions to recommend improvements in educating the public on firesafe vegetation practices, meeting the needs of participants and encouraging greater participation in program	Vegetation Management	8	NA	NA	Commissions
Consider protocols for the City to monitor and advocate for inspection and maintenance of PG&E electrical facilities and power lines, tree conditions.	Vegetation Management	9	No	No	PRW
Consider and recommend improvements to community and volunteer participation in fire and disaster safety initiatives	Volunteer	1	Yes	Yes	Fire
Reinstate DSW designation for volunteer HAM radio operators	Volunteer	2	No	Maybe	HR
Designate a dedicated staff coordinator to run program	Volunteer	3	No	No	HR
Create a Volunteer Corps program including quantitative measures	Volunteer	4	No	No	HR
Improve the accountability and equity of disaster programs in the City of Berkeley	Whole Community	1	Yes	Yes	Fire
Develop plan to offer low priced 50 gal water containers	Whole Community	2	No	No	Fire
Have Rent Board review legal rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords when bldg, is red-tagged after disaster	Whole Community	3	No	Maybe	Rent Board
Launch post-disaster service hub program; goal - every person within walking distance, volunteer staffed	Whole Community	4	No	No	Fire
Update Demolition ordinance to address loss of rent controlled units post disaster	Whole Community	5	No	Maybe	Planning
OES coordinates annual citywide exercise to include all staff, residents and other disaster program partners	Whole Community	6	No	Maybe	Fire
Complete installation of blue reflectors marking location of fire hydrants	Wildfire Response Aides	1	Yes	Maybe	PW
Amend Section 23D.10 for ADUs to incorporate recommendations from public safety review before issuing AUPs	Zoning Restrictions	1	No	Maybe	Planning
Temporarily suspend ADU applications in the Very High Hazard Zone to review public safety issues relevant to risk of WUI fires	Zoning Restrictions	2	No	Maybe	Planning