



# Annual Report 2014



**City of Berkeley  
City of El Cerrito  
City of Oakland  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
East Bay Regional Park District  
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
Moraga Orinda Fire District  
University of California at Berkeley**



## **HEF Mission**

The mission of the Hills Emergency Forum is to coordinate the collection, assessment and sharing of information on East Bay hills fire hazards and further, to provide a forum for building interagency consensus on the development of fire safety standards and codes, incident response and management protocols, public education programs, multi-jurisdictional training, and fuel reduction strategies.

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## 2014 Highlights

- I. Sustained Multi-agency Partnership to Manage East Bay Hills Fire Risk.
  - Interagency issues and collaboration with other agencies.
  - Partnerships to reduce fire hazards with youth crews lead by Civicorps and groups such as Friends of Beaconsfield, Claremont Canyon Conservancy, Diablo Fire Safe Council, Garber Park Stewards, Kensington Fuel Reduction Group, Park Hills neighborhood and Pacific Gas and Electric Company.
2. Mitigation Planning, Environmental Review and Research
  - Environmental review process “Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction, East Bay Hills, CA Environmental Impact Statement” to move forward FEMA grants.
  - Sleepy Hollow, Orinda recognized as FIREWISE community.
3. Vegetation Management
  - EBRPD: Eucalyptus and other hazardous fuels reduced in several East Bay hill parks.
  - EBMUD: second growth eucalyptus thinning; brush removal, mechanical mowing; native grassland enhancement.
  - Fuel Reduction by goats on EBMUD, EBRPD, LBNL, Oakland and UC Berkeley parcels throughout the hills.
  - Fuel removal projects by CAL FIRE/ CDC, Civicorps, Student Conservation Association and private contractor hand crews on El Cerrito, EBRPD and Oakland parcels.
  - On-going maintenance of previous fuel reduction project areas.
  - Sleepy Hollow emergency path realignment, Orinda.
  - Summer arson fires slowed or stopped when flame front ran into treated vegetation.
4. Prescribed Burn Program
  - Prescribed fire (pile burns and resource management burns) in Anthony Chabot, Wildcat Canyon, Redwood, Sibley and Tilden Regional Parks, and in El Cerrito’s Natural Area Parks. Planning and field prep for future work.
  - Partnered with Civicorps hand crew to conduct fuels reduction work and assist with prescribed burns.
5. Outreach, Training, Emergency Exercises and Communications
  - Updated website: [www.hillsemergencyforum.org](http://www.hillsemergencyforum.org).
  - Field tour US Forest Service International Disaster Management Seminar.
  - Training - Use of East Bay fuel inventory photo series.
  - Emergency management exercises and multi-agency drills.

# **I.0 Hills Emergency Forum (HEF) Overview**

## **I.1 2013 Highlights**

The primary mission of the HEF continues to be to provide a sustainable framework for interagency communication, joint planning and coordinated response to the needs of our various constituents. The organization's goals, developed over the years and grouped into the four areas of Assessment, Mitigation, Preparedness and Response, continue to serve as milestones for our collective efforts. However, many of these goals are now in a "maintenance" mode as evidenced by the proposed 2015 Work Plan.

The highlights of our work during 2014 include:

### **Sustainability and Funding**

One of the on-going challenges faced by members is funding and implementing fuel reduction projects. The HEF continues to explore ways to make the forum sustainable, including pursuing additional funding mechanisms.

### **Drought and Wildfire State of Emergency Response Funding**

On January 17, 2014 Governor Brown declared a drought state of emergency. With California facing water shortfalls in the driest year in recorded state history state officials were directed to take "all necessary actions to prepared for these drought conditions."<sup>1</sup> Red flag conditions were experienced throughout the region in January as the 2013 wildfire season rolled into the 2014 season with no appreciable end. CAL FIRE received drought augmentation funding to bring their staffing levels up early in the spring. Pacific Gas and Electric Company also received drought response funding to increase their vegetation management efforts and support community fuel reduction projects through local fire safe councils and HEF member agencies. On August 2, 2014 Governor Brown declared a wildfire state of emergency for Northern California with over 17 fires burning throughout the State.<sup>2</sup>

### **SRA Fee Program, Fire STEPP and other SRA Grant Programs**

CAL FIRE's State Responsibility Area (SRA) fee program (approved by ABX129 in July 2011) began its third year and introduced FIRE STEPP funding for fire severity treatment, education, planning and prevention. The Santa Clara Unit hired a forester to assist with proactive programs, CEQA and other land use planning issues, and new defensible space inspectors for compliance with Public Resource Code (PRC) 4290 and 4291. In July, Director Pimlott provided an update on future funding programs that include: FSTEPP projects with the CAL FIRE units, one time external grant projects and green house gas reduction fund (cap and trade) block grants. In October, CAL FIRE announced the schedule for the 2014-2015 Fire Prevention Fund (FPF) Drought Related grant program. For more information see [calfire.ca.gov/fire\\_prevention/fire\\_prevention\\_fund\\_grants.php](http://calfire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fire_prevention_fund_grants.php)

### **Oakland Regional Fuel Management Project FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM 06)**

Led by the Oakland Fire Department, a regional fuel management program was submitted to the highly competitive Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program. The application was prepared collaboratively with East Bay Regional Park District and University of California Berkeley. The grant was selected as one of

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<sup>1</sup> Source: <http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18368>, accessed 8/7/2014.

<sup>2</sup> Source: <http://gov.ca.gov/news.php?id=18645>, accessed 8/7/2014

the top California applications and forwarded to Washington DC for final competition. In June 2006, FEMA announced the Oakland project as one of the national finalists.

This past year the group has continued working closely with FEMA on environmental compliance for four grants. UC Berkeley has two pending FEMA PDM grants from 2005 for Claremont Canyon and Strawberry Canyon fuel reduction projects. The third grant is the City of Oakland led regional fuel management program. A fourth grant was added to the review process with an East Bay Regional Park project focused on treatment of brush to reduce fuel loads (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, HMGP 2009). In 2010, FEMA began the environmental review process with a notice of intent in June and public scoping meeting in late August. HEF SLC members met with Senator Feinstein's staff and worked with Department of Homeland Security and FEMA headquarters to assist in the forward movement of the environmental review. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was released in May 2013 with three public meetings. Comments were accepted in person, by mail and electronically until June 17, 2013.

This past year HEF members have continued to work with FEMA as they review public comment and discuss modifications to the planned work to respond to those comments. FEMA has been coordinating with many of the other interested Federal Partners including: National Park Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Land Management and US Fish and Wildlife Service. In May 2013, US Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Biological Opinion for the proposed project. FEMA is preparing the response to the 3,751 comments received. The Final EIS document will respond to comments, amend portions of the DEIS and will then issue a Record of Decision (ROD). Currently, FEMA plans on issuing a ROD by the end of 2014 or early 2015. A ROD, authorizing release of funds, will be supported by California Environmental Quality Act compliance documents completed by each sub-grantee, based on existing plans or new studies tiered from the DEIS. Once environmental compliance is complete the regional fuel management project will move to the next phases:

- Final project scope and funding level. The grant applications identified for removal significant numbers of the non-native, flammable eucalyptus trees in four areas of the North Oakland hills. The project areas will enhance and extend the ridgetop fuel breaks established after the 1991 fire to both reduce the fuel load and provide containment/ staging areas.
- Cumulatively, the three-year projects (PDM 05, 06 and HMPG 1731) are slated to be funded at \$4.5 million Federal funds, with \$1.5 million matching funds from the three partners, according to land ownership.

### **EBRPD Measure CC Funding**

The District continues to move forward with planning and implementing fuels management on several sites within the Measure CC area. In 2014, the District's Fire Department will have treated over 800 acres using contractors, crews, and goats, including brush reduction and eucalyptus stand thinning.

### **Interagency Issues and Collaboration with Other Agencies**

HEF members have a long history of collaborating with Fire Chief organizations including the Alameda County Fire Chiefs Association and Contra Costa County Fire Chiefs Association. This year HEF members also continued their activities with local groups, and State and Federal Agencies. The group regularly outreaches to collaborate with potential partners with similar missions of fire safety, as well as assist other agencies to understand our unique fire related issues.

Alameda County Fire Chiefs and Contra Costa County Fire Chiefs Associations: HEF members continue to be active with these two organizations. During 2014 they coordinated review of the FEMA

EIS and commented on the proposed open burning fee proposed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Civicorps: Over the years, many HEF members have contracted with Civicorps (formerly East Bay Conservation Corps) for crews for fuel reduction projects. In 2014, EBRPD continued to use Civicorps crews to enhance the existing fuel breaks by cutting, piling, and burning 1-hour and 10-hour fuels in Redwood Park, Anthony Chabot Park, Leona Open Space, Tilden Park, and Wildcat Canyon Park.



National Weather Service: The Monterey Forecast Office of the National Weather Service provides HEF members vital fire weather updates several times a day that are instrumental in developing local urban interface and wildfire response plans. For more information on fire weather updates see [www.wrh.noaa.gov/Monterey/](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Monterey/). Area wide outlooks and updates of seasonal predictions can also be found at the Northern California Geographic Area Coordination Center (ONCC) [gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictive/outlooks/index.htm](http://gacc.nifc.gov/oncc/predictive/outlooks/index.htm). For most of 2014, [Predictive Services](#) in their [Seasonal Outlook](#) and [National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#), reported that the fire potential would increase to above normal over northern California due to the Extreme to Exceptional drought with drier fuels and above normal fire potential.

Northern California Fire Prevention Officers (NorCal FPO) Wildland/ Urban Interface Committee (WUI): NorCal FPO is a section of California Fire Chiefs Association with the local WUI committee interested in wildland urban interface fire prevention. HEF members continue to collaborate with this group for training and other programs. In October 28, 2014 they are hosting a workshop focused on the insurance industry de-mystified to discuss the role of insurance in the fire safety of the wildland urban interface, and promote solutions and improvements.

100 Resilient Cities Network: Berkeley and Oakland were two of the 32 cities chosen last year for the first group Rockefeller Foundation's [100 Resilient Cities network](#). The cities were chosen from around the world for demonstrating extraordinary resilience to natural and economic disaster. As part of the partnership, the Rockefeller Foundation gives each city a grant to fund a chief resilience officer position for two years.

Claremont Canyon Conservancy: HEF members continue to actively collaborate with this non-profit group on fuel management and restoration projects in Claremont Canyon. The citizen-based Claremont Canyon Conservancy focuses on long-term stewardship of Claremont Canyon to reduce wildfire hazards, improve public access and preserve or restore a healthy native ecosystem. The University of California Berkeley and the Conservancy continue to implement the joint stewardship Memorandum of Understanding for select UC lands. In the past, the Conservancy provided UCB project funding and continues to host monthly volunteer work projects toward fire management, trail creation and maintenance and revegetation efforts in the canyon. During 2012, East Bay Regional Park District and the Conservancy developed a Right of Entry agreement, which allows neighborhood groups to conduct fuel reduction work on District lands. Several volunteer sessions were held in Claremont Canyon to find and remove eucalyptus, pine and acacia sprouts, as well as controlling broom and improving the trails needed to provide emergency access. City of Oakland, UCB and East Bay Municipal Utility District who own lands in the canyon also coordinate with the organization. For more information see their website at [www.claremontcanyon.org/](http://www.claremontcanyon.org/).

Community of Canyon: EBMUD collaborated with the community of Canyon on implementing a cost-share project providing in-kind chipping and labor to lop and scatter vegetation to reduce fuel loads and improve defensible space around homes. The in-kind work matched funding for chipping and fuel



reduction work provided by a Diablo Fire Safe Council grant with the Cooperative Fire Program of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Pacific Southwest Region, through the California Fire Safe Council.

Fire Safe Councils: HEF members are regularly involved with the Diablo Fire Safe Council (representing Alameda and Contra Costa Counties), the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council and the California Fire Safe Council. These groups provide the opportunity to collaborate with local homeowners, businesses and policy makers. For more information see their websites at: [www.diablofiresafe.org](http://www.diablofiresafe.org), [www.sccfiresafe.org/](http://www.sccfiresafe.org/) and [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org).

HEF members regularly coordinate with Diablo Fire Safe Council (DFSC) to develop grant proposals for fuel reduction, education and outreach projects throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. For 2014, DFSC had one active federal grant: \$180,010 for defensible space projects in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. They have been awarded two additional grants: \$260,000 for a community hazardous fuel reduction program for the Western Contra Costa County area and \$178,320 to continue filling the gaps in defensible space project throughout the two counties. They also have received grant funds from Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Matches to these federal dollars are from local funds, such as EBRPD Measure CC funds, in-kind service from HEF members and local fire agencies, as well as sweat equity from residents. Projects included chipping and fuel reduction in HEF member communities of Canyon, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Kensington, Oakland, Orinda and Sunol. A contractor workshop on defensible space was held on April 30, 2014 utilizing Saint Mary's College for presentations and hands-on work sessions. Topics included: wildfire behavior, local codes, best management practices for fuel reduction and environmental protection, and ignition prevention. Several HEF member agencies participated in the daylong workshop. During 2014 HEF members worked with other stakeholders on the Contra Costa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Update (see [http://www.diablofiresafe.org/cococo\\_CWPP\\_planning\\_process\\_0214.html](http://www.diablofiresafe.org/cococo_CWPP_planning_process_0214.html)). An update has also begun for the Alameda County CWPP. These documents facilitate regional collaboration, as well as provide access to federal funding.

Oakland Wildfire Prevention Assessment District: In November 2013 registered voters within the boundaries of the Oakland Wildfire Prevention Assessment District (WPAD) received mail-in ballots to vote for the renewal of the District. The results of the vote were just 66 votes shy of the 67% approval rating necessary. The final assessment for the WPAD was collected in 2014. They will continue to use current reserves to conduct vegetation management until such time that the funds are depleted. It is their hope that the voters will approve a new district measure soon. For more information see their website at [oaklandnet.com/wildfireprevention](http://oaklandnet.com/wildfireprevention).

City of Oakland continues to develop community-based partnerships to remove hazardous fuels on city open spaces. Neighbors concerned with Shepherd Canyon, Garber Park and Beaconsfield participate in volunteer activities on these three open space lands to reduce the risk of fire.

## **Mitigation Planning and Research**

This past year HEF members have assisted in discussions of planning, environmental compliance documents and research related to urban wildland fire and fuel removal.

### **Hazardous Fire Risk Reduction, East Bay Hills, CA - Regulatory Compliance**

In 2014, HEF members continued to work with State and Federal elected officials to provide information on the evolving FEMA grants and the controversy this work has generated among a section of the public. Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representative Barbara Lee's offices are monitoring progress to ensure the timely completion of environmental review and to communicate with constituents regarding the



planned fuel management work. For further information on schedule and progress see [ebheis.cdmims.com/Home.aspx](http://ebheis.cdmims.com/Home.aspx)

HEF members have been working in the field with US Fish and Wildlife Service regulatory staffs to review the results of projects completed over the previous years and discuss regional best management practices. Members also have reviewed compliance with relevant parts of the Forest Practice rules and California Fish and Game requirements that need to be incorporated into fuel reduction projects.

### **Local Hazard Mitigation Plans**

In 2004, the City of Berkeley developed and adopted its first Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plan identified natural hazards in Berkeley and a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure and environment from their impacts. Berkeley staff used the latest research and an extensive public review process to develop the 2014 Plan update, which is currently with FEMA for a final technical review. This update effort will allow Berkeley to apply for federal mitigation grant programs and State recovery funding.

In 2010, other HEF member agencies participated in a coordinated planning process lead by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to develop a regional multi-hazard mitigation plan. A five-year update is planned for 2015.

### **East Bay Fuels Inventory Photo Series**

During 2014, HEF supported two field training sessions of the use of the *Photo Series for Quantifying Natural Fuels Volume XII: Grasslands, Shrublands, Oak-Bay Woodlands and Eucalyptus Forests in the East Bay of California*. Throughout the country, wildland managers have for decades used photo series as a simple, cost-effective method for quantifying existing fuel characteristics, which drive fire intensity, rate of spread and other behavior phenomena. Most have been created by the US Forest Service's Fire and Environmental Research Applications (FERA) Program in Seattle, WA. In 2010 East Bay Regional Park District received a grant to assist with developing a photo series covering a range of fuel loadings in a variety of local vegetation types. The photo series is a scientifically based support tool that can improve environmental analysis and fire management decision processes. It provides an important tool for three critical areas of fire hazard reduction - fuel evaluation and treatment objectives, contract development and administration, as well as communication with community stakeholders. As has been experienced with other photo series, the end product is expected to be useable by land managers well beyond the HEF members. Clearly other Bay Area agencies will find them applicable, and they will serve wildland urban interface fire protection agencies in other locations throughout coastal California.

In 2011, a FERA crew collected data on 13 units: three units of Grasslands, two units of Shrublands, two units of Oak/Bay Woodlands, and six units of Eucalyptus Forests and Woodlands. Some of the units presented a unique challenge to quantify the biomass present. It necessitated developing new methods of sampling and calculation. Data reduction continued in 2012. The final version *Photo Series for Quantifying Natural Fuels Volume XII: Grasslands, Shrublands, Oak-Bay Woodlands and Eucalyptus Forests in the East Bay of California* also is available digitally at <http://depts.washington.edu/nwfire/dps/>. Printed copies have been provided to HEF members as well as to agency personnel who joined the training. Additional trainings are planned for 2015.

### **Vegetation Management**

A dry winter and expanding drought conditions meant the 2013 fire season extended into 2014 for Bay Area fire protection agencies. This past year we have continued to focus on expanding our fuel mitigation projects throughout the East Bay hills. We have expanded our system of strategic fuel reduction zones through use of goats, hand crews, machinery, as well as old-fashioned horse logging techniques.

The management strategy for some of the projects promotes a forest conversion: the emerging native forest of California bay, oak, maple, and redwood are retained or augmented while the existing eucalyptus/pine/acacia dominated exotic canopy forest are eradicated. The native species produce either considerably lesser fuel loads or are most fuel productive well before the peak of the regional fire season. Most projects this last year consisted of thinning pine and eucalyptus stands to reduce fuel loading and ladder fuel continuity, while promoting a more healthy and vigorous understory of native plants.

During the removal projects, the native trees were protected, while the exotic trees were removed and their stump cambium chemically treated with herbicide to prevent re-sprouting. Felled trees were either chipped or retained whole on the project site. Removed stems were recycled as roadside timbers, retained as habitat, or positioned for erosion control on the project site. Projects included:



- **East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD)** completed the first phase of 34-acre thinning and hazardous tree removal project near Inspiration Point in Tilden Regional Park. They also completed pile burning in several of their hill parks to remove cut biomass. Much of this year's focus was on maintaining over 800 acres of existing East Bay hills fuel breaks by weed-eating, mechanical and hand removal of brush, goat grazing and eucalyptus stump resprout control, and doing the initial field planning on nearly 400 acres of new treatment scheduled for 2015. Approximately 100 acres was burned for grassland restoration and live fire training at Pt. Pinole.
- **East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)** thinned understory and expanded fuel treatment area from 16.75 to 19.25 acres on the Oakland/Berkeley watershed interface, along Grizzly Peak Blvd. and adjacent to Berkeley Hills Reservoir. Two hundred and fifty piles of brush (approx. 300 cu. yds.) were burned and another 250 cubic yards of vegetation was chipped. Eighteen (18) large (100 ft. plus) Eucalyptus trees were removed from the community of Canyon. Combined management tactics, including herded goats, mechanical mowing and hand labor, were used to reduce fuel loading and enhance native plant populations.
- **City of Oakland** The City of Oakland Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau staffs a Vegetation Management Unit specifically for the wildland urban interface areas of the city. The Vegetation Management Unit conducts roadside clearances of hazardous vegetation along major egress routes and thoroughfares within the district. It is responsible for clearing city open space properties annually. Goat grazing, hand crews and mowing are techniques used. Oakland also cleared all of its large city open space parks this year including: Joaquin Miller Park, Knowland Park, Kings Estates Park, Sheffield Village and Grizzly Peak open spaces. They completed 152 fuels reduction and debris pile chipping projects in the 2013-2014 fiscal year, and have so far completed 30 projects this fiscal year (since July 1, 2014).

Pacific Gas & Electric Company completed a collaborative project removing trees, reducing fuel loads and improving maintenance access to the distribution towers of the high voltage transmission lines in Oakland's Dimond Canyon.

The Oakland Vegetation Management Unit, along with its Wildfire Prevention Assessment District (WPAD) Citizens Advisory Board partner, is moving forward this fall with a tree removal and habitat restoration project at the Chabot Space and Science Center. Non-native eucalyptus trees will be removed to re-establish endangered, native pallid manzanita habitat.

- **Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL)** has completed all of the recommendations in its previous 10-year Wildland Fire Plan. The Lab is expanding their fire protection program. A new fire management plan is being developed to comply with federal requirements. LBNL continues to maintain their property using goatherds and hand-labor to reduce annual fuel loads.
- **The El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department** continues to aggressively manage the fire fuel loads, fire trail and the fuel breaks within their 90 plus acres of city owned natural parkland and the miles of urban interface with Wildcat and Tilden Regional Parks. This is achieved through multiple partnerships with Diablo Fire Safe Council, East Bay Regional Park District, CAL FIRE, and their own community groups. Their fuel management efforts include: prescribed burns and mechanical methods (i.e. weed eating, chainsaw and mowing). Since 2012/13 the El Cerrito / Kensington has significantly reduced the acreage of prescribed burns. During 2014 they completed tree removal projects. These included private residential and commercial properties. In addition projects were completed in partnership with the West County Unified School District and properties near condominium residences. This year their aggressive fuel management programs proved to be extremely effective in slowing fire spread from intentionally set (arson fires). Three arson fires that were slowed or stopped when the flame front ran into areas that had been treated. This allowed firefighters to control and extinguish the fires without creating significant damage.
- **University of California, Berkeley (UCB)** completed their eucalyptus removal project below Lawrence Hall of Science. They have maintained previous fuel reduction work related to eucalyptus sprouts over 189 acres. UC also has managed, extended and improved its 8-mile fire trail network, cleared roadsides, turnouts and neighborhood interface zones with contract hand crews. During 2013, they restored an existing fire road to reinstate direct access between two loops of Grizzly Peak Boulevard. Broom control along the fire trails and in conversion sites continues as a priority, with suppression, rather than eradication, as the goal of the work. After 7 years of annual chemical treatment, broom has been reduced by 90% along the Jordan Fire Trail right-of-way. UC installed milepost markers along 3 ½ miles of Grizzly Peak Blvd in the City of Oakland to enable emergency responders to more rapidly identify and respond to calls for service. Twenty-two such signs were installed, primarily at turnouts, fire road intersections and other unmarked intersections.

In addition to vegetation on public lands, HEF members work with property owners to enforce local requirements for hazard abatements and creation of defensible space on private lands. 2014 saw an earlier start to inspections and compliance due to drought conditions and heightened concern about wildfire.

- **City of Berkeley:** The Berkeley Fire Department annually inspects over 1,200 parcels in designated high fire risk zones for hazards such as excess vegetation. The Fire Department also conducts complaint-driven inspections throughout the City. Residents must clear combustible brush and vegetation adjacent to building property lines and roadsides. Tree branches must be cleared from any chimney, stovepipe, or overhang over a building. All leaves, needles, and dead vegetation must be swept from roofs. This program is operated in cooperation with the East Bay Regional Park District, which has programs to limit combustible material



in the wildland-urban interface zone on its property adjacent to Berkeley residences and roadways.

- **City of El Cerrito and Kensington Fire Protection District.** The City of El Cerrito and the Kensington Fire Protection District began vegetation and fire safety inspections of every one of the 10,500 plus properties within their jurisdictions and completed the inspection in early June. As a result more than 300 letters of non-compliance were sent to property owners informing them of their violations and directing them to bring their properties into compliance with the vegetation management standards. All but two (2) properties voluntarily brought their properties into compliance. The City abated the two properties that did not comply.
- **City of Oakland:** The City of Oakland Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau staffs a Vegetation Management Unit specifically for the wildland urban interface areas of the city. This unit consists of four Inspectors and one Supervisor. The unit is responsible for overseeing and maintaining the records of over 21,000 residential inspections and 4,000 vacant lot parcels within the WUI area. This area is 10,590 acres in size, approximately 16.5 square miles with over 300 miles of interior roadways. 2014 annual inspections of residential properties began on May 24, 2014 and were completed on August 8, 2014. A comprehensive firefighter-training program presented to Oakland Fire Department suppression crews in April 2014 resulted in accurate and efficient inspections.
- **Moraga Orinda Fire District:** Moraga Orinda Fire District sent out notices in mid April to the 4,000 homes in their District's interface fire areas. They began follow-up inspections in June and continued throughout the fire season. 2014 continued a new approach to the program with more outreach and education. Homeowners were offered assessments by fire personnel to advise on abatement and remodeling of their homes. The changes in the program have been well received.

To support those inspections and required compliance, vegetation management programs offer services to assist homeowner reduce fuel loads on privately owned property.

- **City of Berkeley:** Berkeley's Fire Fuel Chipper Program is a popular yard waste collection service. The program serves properties in the hills from June through September each year. From 2005 to 2011, over 200 tons of vegetation was collected and recycled, on average, each year. The Department of Public Works' Solid Waste Division coordinates the Fire Fuel Debris Bin Program. The Program delivers and removes 30-yard roll-off boxes from requesting neighborhoods, an effort yielding an average of 20 tons of plant debris per year. Additionally, 14,000 tons of residential plant debris is collected annually through weekly curbside collection. From mid-June to mid-August each year, a fire fuel abatement program removes an average of 125 tons of debris from 95 public sites, including parks, pathways and medians. This program is a joint effort of the City of Berkeley and the East Bay Conservation Corps
- **City of Oakland:** The Oakland Wildfire Prevention Assessment District funds a similar chipping program and debris bins, in addition to the greenwaste collected through weekly curbside waste collection.

### **Use of CDCR/ CAL FIRE Conservation Camp crews**

Alameda and Contra Costa Counties are two of the few counties in the state that do not contain a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)/ CAL FIRE Conservation Camp. The nearest facility is the Delta Camp out of Suisun City. The CDCR/ CAL FIRE work crews have been used successfully on several local fuel mitigation projects in the East Bay. In 2002 a sixth crew was established in the Delta Camp and has been an asset to the Bay Area. This past year they assisted with brush cutting and pile burns in several fuel break maintenance areas on EBRPD lands in the East Bay

Hills. They worked with El Cerrito cutting brush, trimming trees, creating brush piles and conducting pile burns from cut materials. They also worked on EBMUD watershed lands, around the Berkeley Hills Reservoir, adjacent to Grizzly Peak Boulevard and the main entrance to the San Pablo Recreation Area. Hand thinning to reduce fuel loading and preparing for pile burns later this winter.

The El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department has developed a partnership with CAL FIRE and their CDC fire handcrews. This partnership has been instrumental in the maintenance of crucial fire fuel reduction zones between their Natural Area Parks and the neighborhood interface zones surrounding these parks. This relationship has been so effective, El Cerrito/ Kensington Fire Department has expanded the program and the partnership with East Bay Regional Parks (EBRPD) to maintain the existing fire fuel reductions zones along the miles of EBRPD parkland urban interface with the City of El Cerrito and the Community of Kensington.

### **Research Developments in Fire Science**

In 2014 EBMUD continued to do research using myceliated spawn from the *Pleurotus* genus to accelerate the decomposition of woody debris. This decomposition project is having positive consequences and will continue for the coming year.

### **Prescribed Burn Program and BAAMQD Open Burning Fee**

Prescribed fire continues to be used by the East Bay Regional Park District, the City of El Cerrito and East Bay Municipal Utilities District, in cooperation with local fire agencies in the Berkeley-Oakland hills. This past year pile burns were conducted in Wildcat Canyon, Tilden, Redwood, Anthony Chabot and Sibley Regional Parks, Claremont Canyon Preserve and resource management burns were conducted at Point Pinole. These prescribed burns provide resource management, such as weed plant control and enhancing plant diversity, as well as fuel reduction and valuable live fire training. Written plans are prepared for each project, with agency staff working closely with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and CALFIRE for approvals and coordinating with local fire agencies. Incident Action Plans are written for each project to define procedures for establishing control lines, making proper notifications, briefing personnel on safety considerations, managing smoke and applying appropriate burning techniques. The prescribed burns enhance firefighter skills and interagency cooperation, in addition to meeting resource and fuel management goals.



The City of El Cerrito also conducted burns that consisted of both dried vegetation piles and standing fuels throughout City parks and wildland-urban-interfaces areas. Prescribed burning within El Cerrito has been used for more than twenty years to reduce wildland-urban-interface fuels. In recent years, prescribed burns have been conducted in conjunction with mechanical means of vegetation management. This year El Cerrito reduced the number of prescribed burns they conducted and focused more on hand labor to remove heavy brush and limb trees. The brush and branches that were cut were either chipped in place and broadcast spread in the area or moved to safe areas and piled for burning. By taking this approach they were able to reduce the fuel loads in areas that were considered unsafe for prescribed burning. This has enabled the City to provide pinpoint accuracy in reducing the fuels that create the greatest risk of wildland-urban-interface fire loss within the City.





- Operational procedures within 24 hours of a predicted red flag event as determined by the National Weather Service, including on-going weather sampling and immediate operations cessation if relative humidity is at or below 30% or sustain wind speeds reach 10mph or higher
- Applicable laws and regulations.
- Contact information.
- Equipment Use Safety

Guidelines apply to both agency owned and hired or contracted private equipment and operations. CAL FIRE also shared this information at the contractor workshop on defensible space sponsored by the Diablo Fire Safe Council and local fire agencies.

## **Weather Monitoring and Fire Danger Operations Plan**

The local uses of Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) data are important. Weather information is used to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of fire patrols and deployments. National Weather Service (NOAA) forecasters in Monterey issue Fire Weather Watch and Red Flag Warnings for the East Bay (see their web site at [www.wrh.noaa.gov/Monterey/](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Monterey/)). These watches and warnings trigger heightened alert and deployment of additional local fire suppression resources when responding to a fire. RAWS provide more current local microclimate data in five zones that can be used to confirm the NOAA red-flag warning. This confirmation of local weather can prevent the over deployment of resources when the local conditions are not as severe as general statewide conditions. Occasionally local RAWS data will also provide data that recommends the use of additional suppression resources even when no NOAA red-flag warning has been issued. These red-flag warnings and fire weather watches signal cooperative patrols throughout the high hazard areas. The information is also used by EBRPD, Oakland and El Cerrito as a part of their high fire danger park announcements, use restrictions and is used to set dispatch levels by EBRPD, LBNL, Berkeley, Oakland, El Cerrito and EBMUD. The data from the RAWS can be accessed at a web site developed by the East Bay Regional Park District at [www.ebparks.org/about/fire/raws](http://www.ebparks.org/about/fire/raws).



## **Mutual Aid**

HEF agency personnel and equipment participated in the suppression of several large fires in many western states, northern California and others closer by during 2014. EBRPD personnel worked with OES engine 348 on Eiler, King, and Pulgas fires. They provided overhead staff on the on Butts, Day, July, King, Monticello fires, as well as coverage at the local CAL FIRE station in July and August when their staff was providing out of county support. The El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department supported overhead fire operations on the Happy Camp Complex Fires and the Lightning Complex Fires, in California. In addition to the overhead assignments, the El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department sent two engines totaling eight personnel to the King Fire, Eiler Fire, Monticello fire, Bald fire and the Lodge fire. Mutual aid extended beyond fire with EBMUD personnel providing assistance with repair of Napa water mains damaged by the August 24<sup>th</sup> earthquake.

City of Berkeley is in the process of updating their mutual aid agreements with Albany, El Cerrito, Kensington, Lawrence National Laboratory, Moraga/Orinda, in addition to the existing agreements in place with Oakland and East bay Regional Parks District.

## **Countywide Emergency Notification System**

In 2013, the Alameda County Civil Grand Jury recommended that the County take the lead in developing a countywide emergency notification system. Berkeley staff members are providing subject matter expert guidance to Alameda County on its procurement of a countywide emergency notification



system for joint use by the County and its cities. The countywide system is expected to be online in July 2015.

### **Interagency Exercises and Preparedness Training**

During 2014 multi-agency fire training exercises were planned in which local fire departments would meet to practice coordinated Mutual Response Area move-ups. This involved having fire apparatus and crews actually move between predetermined staging areas that will be used in the event of a major wildland interface fire in the East Bay Hills. Participating agencies included Berkeley Fire Department, El Cerrito Fire Department, East Bay Regional Park District Fire Department, Moraga Orinda Fire District and Alameda County Fire Department.

The City of El Cerrito also participated in the Point of Dispensing (POD) a coordinated medical surge exercise to dispense prophylactic medications for Contra Costa County.

City of Berkeley Fire Department conducts regular training and drills to keep firefighters ready to respond to a wind-driven WUI fire in the hills, which could transition into a fast-moving urban firestorm in the flatlands. All firefighters are certified in basic wildland firefighting and receive four sessions of wildland training, including fire behavior, structure protection, tactics and off-road driving. All firefighters receive annual training to understand “fire weather” and to perform surveillance of critical fire weather patterns. Additionally, firefighters hone these skills in annual wildland firefighting training drills with Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, as well as regional communications and staging drills to familiarize outside agencies with Berkeley target hazards and staging areas. The department also provided extensive off-road driver training. Due to the extreme drought conditions during 2014 the department has provided additional training for the potential extreme fire behavior.

This Spring, Oakland Fire Department began the process of coordinating with HEF member agencies information relating to local fire access roads, gate locks and place names in their jurisdiction and on neighboring lands. Using the East Bay Regional Park District trail maps as base data, Oakland is in the process of developing a new map book and GIS map layers. This information will be shared with HEF members and first responders.

### **Heli-tack Support**

EBRPD maintained its two helicopters, Eagle VI and Eagle VII, for use on fires this year. During the prolonged hot, dry months of the summer and fall, the Helicopter Unit teams up with the EBRPD Fire Department to provide Heli-tack and water bucket responses to fires. Bambi Bucket® equipment is carried on all routine patrol flights, enabling a rapid response to fires. If a fire should erupt, the Bambi Bucket is quickly attached to the helicopter for direct attack. Ponds, streams and lakes are ready water sources for providing rapid delivery of water on active fires via the Bambi Bucket. During times of extreme fire hazards, selected, specially trained Park District Fire Fighters act as Heli-tack crewmembers and are transported swiftly to fires. Once deployed at the fire scene, Heli-tack crews act in concert with the water-dropping helicopter in an effort to extinguish fires quickly.

## **Outreach, Media Relations and Disaster Communication**

### **Public Outreach**

HEF members have used a variety of methods over the years to distribute fire safety information to their constituencies including newspaper articles, brochures and hands-on workshops in neighborhoods. During “Red Flag” days many HEF members fly fire weather flags at fire stations, on the watershed and at recreation facilities. These bright red pennant flags were provided in 2008 by the Diablo Fire Safe

Council to increase public awareness of periods of increased fire danger. Several members also participated in open houses at local fire stations during National Fire Prevention Week in October.

Training: Oakland Fire Department sponsored a Contractor's Training workshop before the start of fire season. In addition to training local contractors regarding fuel reduction regulations and defensible space, the program provided information about creek protection, endangered species and compliance with the various environmental regulations.

City of Berkeley provides a 20-hour training to give residents the skills to organize on their own when disaster strikes and ensure they're ready with crucial information when emergency crews arrive. The CERT academy, run by the Berkeley Fire Department, is a city program that brings free training to Berkeley residents, who can then go on to take more specialized classes and share information with their neighborhood groups. The weekend training program teaches participants how to set up a chain of command structure and organize into key groups with the aim of turning a chaotic situation into order. Training modules include fire suppression, search and rescue operations and disaster first aid. The city has provided four academies over the last year that is in addition to the normal CERT classes.

Media Coverage: HEF members regularly contribute to local and national news coverage and special interest series that address wildland fire safety, fuel management and other environmental issues.

Alexander, Kurtis. California Drought: Parched state braces for fire season. San Francisco Chronicle. May 10, 2014.

Associated Press. Governor declares state of emergency amid fires. Contra Costa Times. August 4, 2014.

Borrowman, L. MOFD acts quickly to fight Orinda Wildfire. July 22, 2014

Dausman, Cathy. Dry conditions pose risks beyond water restrictions. Lamorinda Weekly January 5, 2014.

Dausman, Cathy. Fire safety outside: Sealing the house. Lamorinda Weekly, June 4, 2014.

Dausman, Cathy. Watching for Wildfire in Lamorinda. Lamorinda Weekly, July 2, 2014.

Dausman, Cathy. Clear the brush – It's the law! Lamorinda Weekly July 16, 2014

*EBRPD Staff – Tree Work on Wildcat Canyon Road in Tilden Park Will Improve Safety.*

Levin, Sam. A Growing Fire Hazard in the Berkeley Hills. East Bay Express. May 21, 2014.

Tracey Taylor. East Bay at high risk of wildfires: Preventative measures key. Berkeley Bayside. May 30, 2014.

PG&E Pipeline Pathways Program at [www.pge.com](http://www.pge.com) an overview of natural gas pipeline and tree removal project.

Rohr, Mimi. Concern heightened over fire danger in Oakland Hills. Contra Costa Times. July 9, 2014.

Rohrs, Sarah. Kensington's Woodland Elf has heart and passion for firebreak, trail. Contra Costa Times. July 30, 2014.

Stephen, Scott (U.C. Berkeley), J.K. Agee, P.Z. Fulé et al. *Managing Forests and Fire in Changing Climates* Science, 4 October 2013: Vol. 342, no 6154, pp.41-42.

Smith Christie and Vince Cestone. Bay Area Fire Fighters rush to fight northern California fires. NBC Bay Area. August 4, 2014.

Tonn, Shara. *California Wildfire Study: Spending on prevention to save on disaster*. KQED Science. April 11, 2014.

Upton, John. *Climate change just reshaped American wildfire strategy*. Grist. April 10, 2014.

Community Outreach : The City of Berkeley held a free fair to encourage emergency preparedness on Saturday, April 26, 2014. The theme was protecting kids and pets, and among the demonstrations were a one on pet first aid and hands-only CPR led by the Red Cross, and one on animal safety, led by Berkeley Humane. The Berkeley Community Forum was held on Monday, June 2, 2014 and included participating from CAL FIRE, EBMUD, EBRPD, LBNL and UCB to highlight coordinated preparedness and response to wildfire hazards in the Berkeley area. Berkeley's annual disaster preparedness event, scheduled October 18, 2014, includes activities to teach residents how to handle kids and pets in an emergency, as well as general skills. It can be customized for any schedule, with exercises that take anywhere from 5 minutes to the whole two hours. It's a self-directed exercise, which means you can perform the activities in your home or business, or with an organized neighborhood group. This year, Albany is joining in as part of the community-wide training. Last year, an estimated 2,000 people took part in a range of neighborhood activities in Berkeley.

On April 7, 2014, Diablo Fire Safe Council and CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit join the residents of Sunol in a defensible space education program. A pilot project was funded with homeowners and future projects are in the works.

This past year also saw continued outreach and coordination with local neighborhood groups, especially in the Claremont Canyon, Panoramic Hill, Gwinn Canyon, Lamorinda areas, and the community of Canyon. East Bay Regional Parks District partnered with Diablo Fire Safe Council, and the Park Hills Home Owner Association in Berkeley to facilitate neighborhood group efforts through a right of entry agreement to reduce fuel levels on public lands adjacent to their homes. Similar right of entry partnerships have also been established with Kensington homeowners and the Claremont Canyon Conservancy in Claremont Canyon.

Moraga Orinda Fire District hosted two open house / safety fair events to provide residents with information about emergency preparedness and wildfire risk reduction. Regional partners participating in these events included Diablo Fire Safe Council, Red Cross, Community Emergency Response Team, Pacific Gas & Electric, East Bay Regional Park District, and the Contra Costa County Community Warning System.

A resident of Hiller Highlands in Oakland, Robert Sieben published the [Homeowners Guide to Vegetation Management](#) in 2014. Dr. Sieben has been the volunteer coordinator of fire prevention for his homeowners association since 1998. The guidelines in his book represent what he has learned from thousands of hours of hands-on experience managing fire-prone vegetation on the large undeveloped portion of the homeowner association property. He served four terms on the Advisory Committee of the Oakland Wildfire Prevention Assessment District (WPAD), which he chaired, and also served on the North Hills Community Association, chairing its fire prevention committee.

### Tours

American Society for Environmental History: On March 14, 2014 HEF members facilitated a tour of the Oakland-Berkeley hills for 24 historians from across the United States, Brazil, British Columbia and Australia. This 3-hour tour included presentations by staff from Oakland, EBMUD, UCB and EBRPD about why the Tunnel fire played such an important role in the transition to the predominantly urban interface fire paradigm we find ourselves in today.

International Seminar on Disaster Management: On August 15, 2014 HEF SLC members hosted a field tour for the US Forest Service International Programs Disaster Management Seminar. The program shares U.S. expertise with an international audience helping them build capacity in their own countries and develop a network of disaster managers worldwide. Nineteen participants attended from 16 countries, including representatives from national programs, US Embassy and USAID (Resource managers, emergency managers) and non-governmental organizations (Audubon, Red Cross). The program showcased disaster management systems at the federal, state, local and private levels. HEF focused on the 1991 Tunnel Fire and lessons learned. Presentations included the disaster preparedness cycle, an overview of the Tunnel Fire with footage from the fire, background on the HEF and a driving tour of the fire area. The day provided a variety of opportunities for interaction and highlighted the Hills Emergency Forum cooperative approach.

Web Site: The Forum pursues effective methods of communicating information on East Bay hills fire hazards and mitigation techniques. The HEF continues to update their web site to provide information on the Hills Emergency Forum, fire hazards in the East Bay hills and fuel mitigation and can be reached at [www.hillsemergencyforum.org](http://www.hillsemergencyforum.org). The e-mail address provides another way for residents in the hills to access member agencies at [hillsemergencyforum@comcast.net](mailto:hillsemergencyforum@comcast.net).

### **Legislative Outreach**

Since the formation of the HEF, members have provided support to state legislators to help shape legislation related to fire safety and fuel mitigation. The HEF continued to monitor legislative issues.

Sudden Oak Death (SOD). In 2014 HEF members continue to be affected by and to monitor the spread of this disease in the region. The SODMAP Project (SOD Blitz) is a partnership of scientists and citizens, working together to create the most complete distribution map of a forest disease ever produced in North America. The SOD Blitz of 2014 took place in April and May. Results were released in September at <http://nature.berkeley.edu/garbelotto/english/sodblitzresults.php>. In the Fall of 2014, 500 Blitz volunteers surveyed more than 10000 trees. Unexpected high levels of *P. ramorum* were found in north Berkeley and Tilden Regional Park on both California bay trees and oaks. In the East Bay/ UC Berkeley area 382 trees were surveyed with 48.4% showing symptoms. 90 trees were sampled with 10% testing positive for the pathogen (estimated true infection rate 4.8%). Past surveys have identified the pathogen on UC Berkeley Campus and southward movement of SOD in the Orinda area. This year it was also identified on Mt Diablo. Both Alameda and Contra Costa County are under State and Federal quarantine. This quarantine placed special rules regarding movement and use of susceptible plants, as well as sanitation practices that must be followed to minimize spread of the pathogen. While the course of the disease is unpredictable and variable, death of the shrub or tree is almost certain. The pathogen is known to attack 17 species, 16 of them found in California including madrone, bay laurel, redwood, Douglas fir and two species of native oaks. Up-to-date information can be found at [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org) or through the University of California Cooperative Extension offices.

Light Brown Apple Moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*): Early spring 2007 an outbreak of light brown apple moth was positively confirmed in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The moth is considered a High-Risk pest; if left unchecked it has the potential for significant economic losses due to major impact on fruit crops. During 2014, quarantines remain in effect restricting intrastate shipment of plant materials including biomass from fuel reduction projects. The moths live on eucalyptus and can affect a wide variety of plants. All materials leaving the counties must be inspected, including materials produced during fuel reduction projects.



## **ANNUAL ROTATION OF HEF CHAIR**

2015	Moraga Orinda Fire Protection District
2016	East Bay Municipal Utility District
2017	East Bay Regional Park District
2018	City of Oakland
2018	University of California, Berkeley
2019	City of Berkeley
2020	Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
2021	City of El Cerrito
2022	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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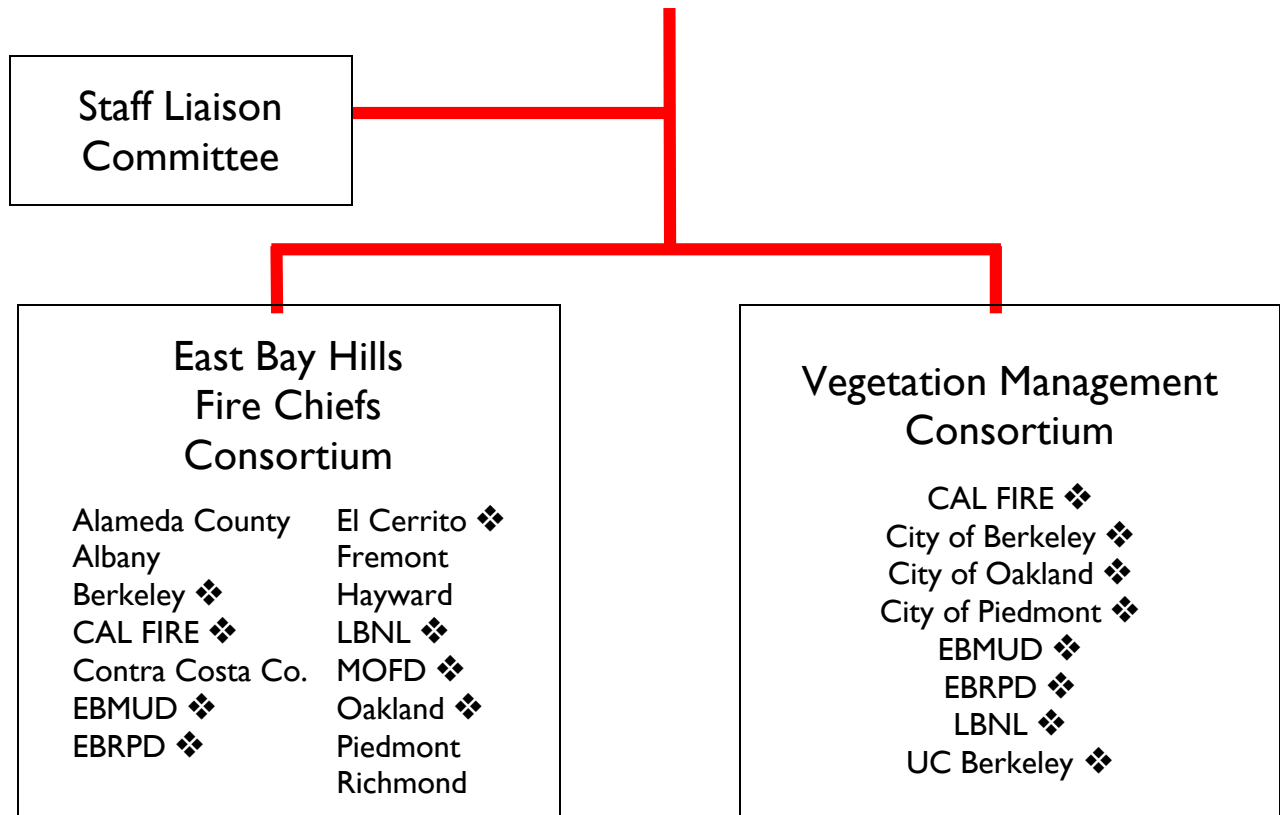
9/23/2014

# Organization Structure



City of Berkeley  
 City of El Cerrito  
 City of Oakland

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) ☆  
 East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)  
 East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD)  
 Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)  
 Moraga Orinda Fire Prevention District (MOFD) ☆  
 University of California, Berkeley



☆ 2014 Chair  
 ☆ 2015 Chair  
 ❖ HEF Member



## **2.0 Report Background and Overview**

This report describes activities undertaken to achieve the HEF's 2014 workplan. The workplan, which appears in the Appendices, identified goals and projects in four critical areas of emergency management: assessment, mitigation, preparedness and response. It sets a milestone or due date for action and it designates the lead or responsible standing committee, organization or jurisdiction. We have organized the report by these goals and include the group with the primary responsibility.

### **The Staff Liaison Committee:**

The HEF's administrative component -- the Staff Liaison Committee (SLC) -- is comprised of representatives from all member agencies. The SLC is responsible for developing and monitoring progress on the Forum's annual workplan, analyzing HEF policy issues for agency executives, identifying issues for possible legislative support, and coordinating the HEF annual public meeting.

Two subcommittees are activated by the SLC as needed to address specific issues -- the East Bay Fire Chiefs (EBFC) and the Vegetation Management Consortium (VMC).

### **East Bay Fire Chiefs**

EBFC consists of the chief officers from fire departments in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties and representatives of allied agencies, such as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). It aims to standardize equipment and training for the two counties, assure coordinated responses to major incidents, and educate the East Bay community about wildland fire safety. Fire Chiefs from the East Bay meet on a regular basis in conjunction with the Alameda and Contra Costa County Chiefs Associations.

### **Vegetation Management Consortium**

The VMC includes representatives from the East Bay cities, other public agencies and utilities, who have a stake in fire safety and fuel management in the East Bay hills. Its focus is fire-hazard reduction through vegetation management strategies.

The third section of the report summarizes the accomplishments of the HEF member agencies during 2014. All activities are discussed in terms of the four key areas -- assessment, mitigation, preparedness, response -- and in light of HEF's goals in each area. Finally, Section 4.0 is a summary of the proposed 2015 Goals and Workplan.

This report is not an exhaustive list of ongoing efforts by each agency to manage fire risk. It simply highlights important interagency efforts conducted under the Forum's auspices.

## 3.0 Workplan Accomplishments

### Assessment

**Goal:** *Assess critical infrastructure support systems, operation plans, and public concerns.*

**Objective:** *Continue quarterly meetings with fire jurisdictions regarding water supply and delivery issues.*

**Status:** The Berkeley Fire Department Disaster Firefighting Water System is operational for those times when the regular firefighting water system is not available or has limited flow. Department wide training was completed October 2010. The system has two 6,000 gallon per minute pumps HS-900s, six hose-layer units each with a mile of 12 inch ultra large diameter hose and the necessary connections to create a firefighting water main flowing up to 12,000 gallons a minute. Normal distance the hose can be deployed depending on elevation is three miles. Longer deployments of up six miles are possible at 5,000 to 6,000 gallon per minute flows.

The pumps do not depend on drafting for access to the bay or lakes for water. The system is truck transportable and the hose is deployed at speeds up to 15 mph. Deployment time from pump at water source to hose deployed with water flowing over a two mile distance is one hour or less depending on conditions with a crew of five people. The system has hose recovery units that assist loading hose back into the hose-layers. The equipment is containerized and only two transport trucks are needed to deploy the system.

In addition the system has a smaller pump HS 150 and 5-inch hose system, which can provide 1,000 gallon per minute flows over a mile for smaller operations or extension of the larger system. The system is not part of the mutual aid system at this time but regional events that impact on Berkeley could warrant use of the system outside of Berkeley.

The City of El Cerrito provides fire protection services for Kensington. The Kensington Fire Protection District continues to improve the waterflow at its interface edge with East Bay Regional Park District lands. This is a five-phase project of which, four of the five phases have been completed. Phase V of the project originally consisted of installing cisterns in strategic locations. Completion of geotechnical studies indicated the soil was unstable and would not support cisterns in close proximity to residential units. Because of this, phase V was reevaluated, and the determination was made that looping the existing fire mains would provide the best water supply for the area in consideration. Along with enhancing the areas of concern, they found the looping would greatly enhance the water main system in adjoining parkland urban-interface neighborhoods. They are currently working with property owners to establish easements to install new water mains to facilitate the looping of the fire main system. The City of El Cerrito has been undertaking a similar water flow study for their area.

The California Water/ Wastewater Agency Response Network (Cal WARN) supports and promotes statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response and mutual assistance matters for public and private water and wastewater utilities. At least annually, each of the 6 regional chairs provides member utilities an updated list of emergency contacts and a database of available equipment. Website: [calwarn.org](http://calwarn.org)

**Objective:** *Revise fire response plans to incorporate review comments.*

**Objective:** *Conduct annual review of local fire response plans for urban wildland intermix fires.*

**Status:** All participating fire jurisdictions have response plans for urban/wildland intermix fires in the East Bay hills. These plans identify equipment and staffing levels for different levels of response, incident coordination procedures and guidelines for resource deployment during major incidents, and are periodically reviewed and updated.

In 2011 the East Bay Regional Park District updated their Fire Danger Operating Plan. Fire restriction levels were supported with more focus on visitor behavior changes as fire danger increases. Additional minor adjustments were made in 2012. In 2014, the District's Fire Department continues to provide timely information on weather and fuel conditions to park staff, visitors, and contractors in the parks. The information is found on its webpage and through the use of fire danger rating signs. They are also updating the fire danger warning signs that are used in the parks to notify the public of restrictions.

The El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Department continues their commitment to maintaining complete comprehensive emergency response plans. Last year they completed and the Council approved and adopted the updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The City of El Cerrito and the Kensington Fire Protection District have worked in conjunction with other Contra Costa County Cities and Special Districts to update and enhance their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) that identify risks within their jurisdictions and allow them be able to receive pre disaster mitigation grants. High risk priorities identified in the LHMP include reducing the risk of wildfire within their jurisdictions.

In addition to emergency response plans and the LHMP, the El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Department has an unyielding dedication to providing the most effective urban interface fire response possible. This has been demonstrated over the past couple of years by the purchase two type 3 fire engines. One of these Type 3 engines actively supported firefighting operations on the RIMS Fire. These engines are specifically designed for wildland and wildland-urban interface fires and have been strategically assigned to their two most demanding wildland interface stations.

**Goal:** *Support continued funding for fuel hazard assessment and mitigation programs.*

**Objective:** *Develop plan for updating 1995 GIS base date (vegetation & residential hazard).*

**Objective:** *Re-evaluate programs in light of Proposition 218 funding challenges.*

**Status:** Agencies update data regarding their individual properties on an on-going basis. Forum members continue to search for an effective methodology to update the data on fuel hazard assessment on a region-wide basis.

Funding remains the primary challenge to completing the regional assessment update and mitigation programs. A variety of funding sources have been pursued at the Local, State and Federal levels.

EBRPD, UC Berkeley and the City of Oakland have continued to work with supporting Claremont Canyon Conservancy and their fuel removal projects in Claremont Canyon area to improve fire safety. The Claremont Canyon Conservancy continues to be a major supporter with both volunteers to assist in the management and stewardship of wildlands as well as financial gifts towards Claremont Canyon fuel reduction projects. EBRPD, El Cerrito Fire Department, Kensington Fire District, and Diablo Fire Safe Council have supported similar stewardship projects with the residents of Kensington and Berkeley along the interface with Wildcat Canyon and Tilden Regional Parks.

The citizens of the City of Oakland voted in Fall 2004 to fund their Wildfire Prevention Assessment District (WPAD) to provide funding for a period of ten years. In November 2013 registered voters within the boundaries of the Oakland Wildfire Prevention Assessment District (WPAD) received mail-in ballots to vote for the renewal of the District. The results of the vote were just 66 votes shy of the 67% approval rating necessary. The final assessment for the WPAD was collected in 2014. The program will continue until those funds are expended. An eleven member Citizen's Advisory Committee oversees the activities in the district and meets on a monthly basis. Services include inspection of approximately 25,000 public and private properties in the high fire hazard area by the Oakland Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau Vegetation Management Unit, debris removal, and wood chipping program and public education. The education program for homeowners includes instructional workshops, volunteer work days, improved resources on the website ([www.oaklandnet.com/wildfireprevention](http://www.oaklandnet.com/wildfireprevention)) and presentations at community and public events

### **Prevention/ Mitigation**

**Goal:** *Incorporate recommendations from the Fuel Management Plan and support AB 337 information sharing requirements.*

**Objective:** *Incorporate the Fuel Management Plan (FMP) in all planning and mitigation projects.*

**Status:** The FMP has been incorporated into each member's guiding policy documents and projects that are underway.

**Objective:** *Monitor 203 plans for goat-grazing and joint maintenance operations.*

**Status:** HEF members continue to benefit from joint Request For Proposal for multi-year contracts that were issued in past years. This resulted in a more coordinated effort throughout the region and the identification of new goat herds. In recognition of the need to get the fire hazard reduction work accomplished earlier in the season East Bay Regional Park District split its goat grazing program into two roughly equal projects and awarded new contracts to two contractors for the three year period 2012-2014. Goat contractors have helped reduce fuel loads on properties managed by City of Oakland, East Bay Municipal Utility District, East Bay Regional Park District and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Over 500 acres were managed using goats. This continues to be a popular fuel reduction technique with some neighboring residents, while being anathema to others. The City of Oakland manages contracts for goat grazing on over 460 acres in eight areas, with enhanced treatment precautions and controls. Grazing has proven to be a cost-effective wildfire prevention measure in specific areas. EBMUD continues using goats on 40 acres to reduce fuel loading and convert from brush to grassland.

**Objective:** *Share Geographic Information Systems (GIS) report and data with other agencies (upon request)*

**Status:** The GIS data is available on CD-ROM. As the data is refined and updated it will continue to be shared with HEF members and others.

**Goal:** *Promote implementation of fire code compliance programs*

**Objective:** *Provide public education about code requirements.*

**Objective:** *Conduct and track inspections on private property.*

**Objective:** *Issue notices of violations, monitor corrective action.*

**Objective:** *Report on inspection and compliance programs.*

**Status:** During 2014, the **City of Berkeley** completed inspections with compliance for 100% of the over 1,200 properties in the Berkeley Hazardous Fire Area.

**El Cerrito** has over 4,000 properties it inspects in its very high fire hazard severity zones (VHFHSZ) and 6,000 properties outside of the VHFHSZ, with an additional 2,000 in Kensington. To date, the El Cerrito Fire Department continues a very proactive public education program to make the citizens aware of the extreme fire dangers in the community. Along with this public education, El Cerrito aggressively pursues citizen compliance with the City Council's approved vegetation management standards. These standards require property owners to maintain these minimum vegetation standards or risk having the city council declare the properties a fire hazard and forcefully abating non-compliance properties. This past year, the fire safety inspection program had voluntary compliance rate over 99%. As the economy continues to grow, so do the fuels that contribute to catastrophic wildfires. Fortunately, the growth in the economy has allowed many properties previously foreclosed within El Cerrito and Kensington to re-establish their defensible space/vegetation management practices. As a result the El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department only had to abate the fire hazard on two properties this year.

**MOFD** inspected approximately 4,000 inspections in Orinda and Moraga to assure compliance with their vegetation management program. This includes about 1,800 properties located in the Very High Fire Hazard Fire Severity Zones. District staff works closely with property owners to educate as they bring their properties into compliance with District standards. If deficiencies are not corrected the District can place work orders to have the work done and the property owner is billed for the work. This year over 99% of properties complied with District standards.

The **City of Oakland** Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau staffs a Vegetation Management Unit specifically for the wildland urban interface areas of the city. This unit consists of four Inspectors and one Supervisor. The unit is responsible for overseeing and maintaining the records of over 21,000 residential inspections and 4,000 vacant lot parcels within the WUI area. This area is 10,590 acres in size, approximately 16.5 square miles with over 300 miles of interior roadways. 2014 annual inspections of residential properties began on May 24, 2014 and were completed on August 8, 2014. A comprehensive firefighter-training program presented to Oakland Fire Department suppression crews in April 2014 resulted in accurate and efficient inspections. Oakland Wildfire Prevention Inspectors work closely with large public entities such as Cal Trans, PG&E and fellow HEF members (UC Berkeley, EBMUD and EBRPD) on special projects and areas important to maintaining defensible space and reducing fuel loads.



**Goal:** *Continue annual fuel reduction actions.*

**Objective:** *Continue annual maintenance of existing fuel breaks*

**Objective:** Continue fuel reduction (including removal of hazardous trees on public property)

**Objective:** Evaluate options for restoring curbside vegetation recycling programs for private lands in hills (June – October).

**Status:** HEF members have continued and expanded on-going fuel reduction projects.

**East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)** thinned understory and expanded fuel treatment on the Oakland/Berkeley watershed interface, along Grizzly Peak Blvd. and adjacent to Berkeley Hills Reservoir. Large eucalyptus trees were removed from the community of Canyon. Combined management tactics, including herded goats, mechanical

mowing and hand labor, were used to reduce fuel loading and enhance native plant populations.

**EBMUD** continued follow-up maintenance on the fuel reduction area located at the intersection of Fish Ranch Road and Grizzly Peak Boulevard including harvesting and sowing seeds from native grasses indigenous to the site. Follow-up treatments included: mowing, weed whacking, goat grazing and hand control to minimize colonization of the site by thistles, hemlock and broom.

**EBMUD** completed their annual mowing and weed whacking for reducing herbaceous fuels in wildlife/urban interface fuel break areas of Oakland, Berkeley, Moraga and Orinda

**East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD)** continued their on-going fuel mitigation projects using tree hand falling, prescribed fire, goats, mechanical treatments, and hand crews. These include removal of eucalyptus and Monterey pines, broom and other brush in existing fuel management zones along the urban wildland interface in Miller Knox, Tilden, Claremont, Sibley, Leona, Redwood, Wildcat Canyon, Lake Chabot, and Anthony Chabot Regional Parks.

This year **EBRPD** fire fighter crews utilized prescribed fire to treat fuels on 100 acres of grassland through multiple prescribed burn projects. These resource and fuel management prescribed fires also provided the opportunity for multi-agency experience with live fire.

Goat herds continue to be an effective tool in managing grass and young brush in the Tilden, Claremont Canyon, Sibley, Redwood and Chabot Regional Park areas.

Hand crews provided specialty fuel removal to create shaded fuel breaks in many of the **EBRPD** units. This year CALFIRE/CDCR crews included fuel reduction projects and on-going maintenance on Frowning Ridge, in "Sibley Triangle" at the top of Thornhill Canyon, along Canyon Drive and around Alvarado area of Wildcat Canyon. Civicorps (formerly East Bay Conservation Corps) crews continue to provide hand labor through Department of Labor and Proposition 84 grants, as did enrollees with the Student Conservation Association.

**UC Berkeley** continues to treat three miles of roadside and maintain and improve eight miles of fire trails for fire access while addressing erosion and invasive species concerns.

The cities have found creative ways to find dedicated funding sources for urban wildland fire prevention services. **Berkeley's Fire Fuel** Curbside Chipper and Debris Bin Programs for residents of the Berkeley hills high risk fire area continued to be popular. Debris bags are available throughout the year.

The **City of Oakland** Fire Department, Fire Prevention Bureau staffs a Vegetation Management Unit that planned and scheduled a variety of fuel reduction activities this year, including: roadside clearances of hazardous vegetation along major egress routes and thoroughfares within the district, as well as clearing city open space properties annually. Goat grazing, hand crews and mowing are techniques used. Oakland also cleared all of its large city open space parks this year including: Joaquin Miller Park, Knowland Park, Kings Estates Park, Sheffield Village and Grizzly Peak open spaces. They completed 152 fuels reduction and debris pile chipping projects in the 2013-2014 fiscal year, and have so far completed 30 projects this fiscal year (since July 1, 2014).

The **City of El Cerrito** and the community of Kensington continue to manage their two demonstration vegetation management projects, along Leneve Place to Camp Herms, developed in conjunction with the East Bay Regional Park District. They continue to manage 90 acres of city property (parks, trails, fire trails etc.) with a year round program

that use prescribed burns and mechanical methods to maintain fuel management zones and manage the areas along the fire trails at the interface of Kensington and Tilden/ Wildcat Canyon Regional Parks (EBRPD).

In recent years, prescribed burns have been conducted in conjunction with mechanical means of vegetation management. This year El Cerrito reduced the number of prescribed burns they conducted and focused more on hand labor to remove heavy brush and limb trees. The brush and branches that were cut were either chipped in place and broadcast spread in the area or moved to safe areas and piled for burning. By taking this approach they were able to reduce the fuel loads in areas that were considered unsafe for prescribed burning.

**Objective:** *Evaluate the potential for sharing specialized equipment (for brush-clearing and chipping) among HEF agencies.*

**Objective:** *Foster inter-jurisdictional cooperation in the buffer zone identified in the Fuel Management Plan*

**Status:** Member agencies actively seek new ways to foster inter-jurisdictional cooperation and share information on specialize equipment or operators coming into the region.

HEF members collectively are seeing the results of the multiple, regional on-going fuel reduction projects with additional contractors interested in bidding on projects and improved efficiencies and cost effectiveness. Members are have also been able to share information about the changing financial market and difficulties contractors are facing obtaining financing for bonds or long term oversight on projects.

## **Preparedness**

**Goal:** *Provide continued support for coordinated safety planning in Agency and City Plans.*

**Objective:** *Ensure that General Plans contain updated state-mandated Safety Elements that are compatible between jurisdictions.*

**Status:** This is an ongoing effort to ensure that the elements in agency plans are compatible. To this end, the SLC shares information and seeks to establish strong lines of communication between agencies.

Many HEF members have adopted long range plans and environmental compliance documents incorporating wildland fire hazard reduction. Existing plans include:

In 2010, the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors adopted the Wildfire Hazard Reduction and Resource Management Plan and certified its Environmental Impact Report. The study focus was the wildland-urban interface along the western edge of the East Bay hill parks, including Wildcat Canyon, Tilden, Claremont Canyon, Sibley, Huckleberry, Roberts, Redwood, Leona, and Anthony Chabot. Best Management Practices incorporated in this hazard reduction plan are also applied to fuels treatment projects elsewhere within the Park District

The University of California, Berkeley 2020 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP), and the 2020 LRDP Environmental Impact Report (EIR). UC Berkeley 2020 Hill Area Fire Fuel Management Program informed the 2020 LRDP and provides the organizational and technical basis for continued vegetation management on Regent's land. In progress is a Timber Harvest Plan to fulfill the Forest Practice Act and meet requirements of California Environmental Quality Act.



Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory finalized its 2006 Long Range Development Plan and Environmental Report in July 2007. A new fire management plan is being developed to comply with federal requirements.

Oakland Safety Element Update to the Oakland General Plan, Initial Study and Negative Declaration adopted November 2004.

East Bay Municipal Utilities District adopted its East Bay Watershed Master Plan in 1996 and Fire Management Plan in October 2000.

HEF members participated in the 2010 update of "Taming Natural Disasters," the Multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area prepared by the Association of Bay Governments. This was the required five-year update of the annexes to the initial plan prepared in 2004. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) required state and local communities to have an approved multi-hazard mitigation plan in place by November 1, 2004, in order to be eligible for FEMA pre- and post-hazard mitigation grant funds (Public Law 106-390). This Act established a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program and new requirements for the national post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

In 2004, the City developed and adopted its first Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plan identified natural hazards in Berkeley and a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure and environment from their impacts. Staff used the latest research and an extensive public review process to develop the 2014 Plan update, which is currently with FEMA for a final technical review. This update effort will allow Berkeley to apply for federal mitigation grant programs and State recovery funding, and is agendaized for adoption by City Council at its December 16 meeting.

Chief Resilient Officer: Berkeley was one of 32 cities chosen last year for the first group of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities network. The cities were chosen from around the world for demonstrating extraordinary resilience to natural and economic disaster. As part of the partnership, the Rockefeller Foundation gives each city a grant to fund a chief resilience officer position for two years. It will also pay half the salary of an associate civil engineer to work alongside the city's Resilient Officer Timothy Burroughs to encourage resilience. Berkeley was chosen for its national leadership on resilience issues, specifically the Berkeley Climate Action Plan and the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, according to the city. Oakland was also chosen during 2014 to join the network.

**Goal:** *Continue Citizen emergency training programs.*

**Objective:** *Maintain citizen emergency programs, such as CORE and CERT.*

**Status:** Berkeley, El Cerrito, Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) and Oakland have continued to find funding to support their CERT programs that help prepare citizens for emergencies. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory offers training to their employees.

City of Berkeley provided a 20-hour training to give residents the skills to organize on their own when disaster strikes and ensure they're ready with crucial information when emergency crews arrive. The CERT academy, run by the Berkeley Fire Department, is a city program that brings free training to Berkeley residents, who can then go on to take more specialized classes and share information with their neighborhood groups. The weekend training program teaches participants how to set up a chain of command structure and organize into key groups with the aim of turning a chaotic situation into order. Training modules include fire suppression, search and rescue operations and disaster first aid. The

city has provided four academies over the last year that is in addition to the normal CERT classes.

El Cerrito and Kensington continue to enhance public awareness and provide public education in disaster preparedness and response. Their program is an all risk emergency preparedness program, training for earthquake, flood, wildland urban interface fire defensible space, terrorism and will begin training citizens to handle large-scale pet emergencies and sheltering. To reach a broader citizen base, El Cerrito and Kensington has begun working with their neighborhood watch programs to ensure a diverse and comprehensive training program is delivered. The program teaches all required CERT components and standards and adds these additional programs for continuing education.

MOFD continues to support their District's CERT program that trains citizens in Moraga and Orinda in emergency preparedness. Their Emergency Preparedness Coordinator continues to build relationships with these groups to increase efficiency, cooperation and consistency. Education relating to creating defensible space and surviving fires in the wildland urban interface is included in the curriculum presented to all CERT students. In 2014 the Sleepy Hollow neighborhood of Orinda was recognized as the fire FIREWISE community in Contra Costa County. The Ready Set Go! Program continues to prepare residents for wildfire.

Oakland continues to train its citizens through Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE) in addition to public education program in the schools. Early in October, the CORE program sponsored a networking social to encourage CORE members from across the city to connect with other CORE volunteers. See [www.oaklandnet.com/fire/core/resources.html](http://www.oaklandnet.com/fire/core/resources.html).

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's Emergency Services Staff has also taught CERT classes in the last few years. The class is designed to educate people about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their work areas and trains them in basic response skills. It is voluntarily open to all staff.

All three cities coordinate and train amateur radio enthusiasts and promote citizen involvement in awareness programs. The Oakland Radio Communications Association (ORCA) ham radio operators continue to refine their emergency system by participating in monthly training and testing of equipment, as well as conducting a formal annual test of their full system with a Simulated Emergency Testing (SET) at all Oakland fire stations.

**Goal:** *Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training.*

**Objective:** *Continue to evaluate the performance of the Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) equipment*

**Status:** The Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) continues to be included as a line item in East Bay Regional Park District's annual budget to support maintenance of four stations that are representative of large portions of the East Bay Hills and surrounding regions. In 2009 Oakland fire Department replaced its two nearly obsolete RAWS with new, state-of-the-art equipment. These stations, together with four RAWS owned by other agencies in the two county area, form part of a National Fire Danger Rating System network. Up to date information from these stations and others that serve the HEF membership can be found at [www.ebparks.org/about/fire/raws](http://www.ebparks.org/about/fire/raws).

**Objective:** *Conduct interagency training in systems operations and development of user protocols.*

**Objective:** Expand interagency prescribed burns for training and fuel management purposes. 1) Conduct a two day Wildland Fire Academy. 2) Conduct two interagency fire exercises and prescribed burns.

**Status:** During the region's MRA drills and training, the City of El Cerrito and the Kensington Fire Protection District participated in the annual Mutual Response Area Exercise (MRA) with the City of Berkeley and other participating agencies. During this exercise, participating agencies conducted strategic fire apparatus assignment and response for a major wildfire in the Berkeley Hills.

EBRPD conducted two live fire training exercises that also served as grassland restoration projects. Firefighters attending the exercises practiced hose lays and mobile attack. As in years past, EBRPD will invite HEF members and other agencies to join their Basic Wildland Training courses (S-190, S-130) in years when the courses are scheduled for new firefighters at the District.

The Berkeley Fire Department will start a 16-week academy for six new firefighter/paramedic recruits starting on October 14, 2014.

**Objective:** *Expand public education programs*

**Status:** HEF members continue to provide information to the local communities through various programs and direct home owner association contacts. In 2008 the HEF had the opportunity to customize a DVD developed by Habitat Media for FireSafe Marin. The DVD continues to be used by the HEF Members and neighboring jurisdictions in their Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) programs.

The **Oakland** Wildfire Prevention District (WPAD) created a short DVD help educate new and to remind long time residents in the high fire danger zone the importance and benefits of the District. Wendy Tokuda narrated using Channel 2 footage from the 1991 Firestorm and members from the WPAD Advisory Committee participated. It can be viewed from the home page of the WPAD website [www.Oaklandnet.com/Wildfireprevention](http://www.Oaklandnet.com/Wildfireprevention).



**Goal:** *Plan and conduct public safety and outreach programs to improve public awareness during the 2014 fire season*

**Objective:** *Issue information on fire safety to newspapers and other media outlets.*

**Objective:** *Conduct Public Safety Programs during fire season.*

**Objective:** *Maintain and update HEF website and e-mail*

**Objective:** *Develop a compendium for homeowners of existing research about common landscape plants and fuel management treatments.*

**Status:** SLC members participated in public safety and education outreach programs including response to requests for information from local newspapers, radio and television. Oakland continues to educate and prepare students through its Junior Fire Marshal and Public Education programs in the Fire Prevention Bureau, as well as through CORE. The HEF web site [www.hillsemergencyforum.org](http://www.hillsemergencyforum.org) and [hillsemergencyforum@comcast.net](mailto:hillsemergencyforum@comcast.net) e-mail continues to provide information about the HEF and an electronic method to connect with the organization.

The Berkeley Community Fire Forum was held on Monday June 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Berkeley's Northbrae Church. Participants and guest speakers were Berkeley's Fire Department Chief

Gil Dong and Deputy Chief Aaron Lee; Robert Chew, Cal Fire's Assistant Chief of East Bay operations; Sal Genito, Associate Director of Grounds and Environmental Services at UC Berkeley; and Brad Gallup, Fire Captain from the East Bay Regional Parks District. This forum was an unprecedented opportunity to hear about strategies from institutional and governmental neighbors about their efforts to protect Berkeley residents from a wildfire in extremely dry and dangerous drought conditions. After presentations, there was time for questions and discussion. The City of Berkeley Fire Department discussed ways for residents to minimize danger, notification systems and escape routes.

The City of Berkeley held a fair to encourage emergency preparedness on Saturday, April 26, 2014. The theme this year was on protecting kids and pets, and among the demonstrations was a one on pet first aid and hands-only CPR led by the Red Cross, and one on animal safety, led by Berkeley Humane. In addition, there was live music, food, children's activities, survival demonstrations, fire extinguisher practice and family preparedness games.

Berkeley's annual disaster preparedness event is scheduled for Oct. 18, 2014. It can be customized for any schedule, with exercises that take anywhere from 5 minutes to the whole two hours. It's a self-directed exercise, which means you can perform the activities in your home or business, or with an organized neighborhood group. This year, Albany is joining in as part of the community-wide training. Last year, an estimated 2,000 people took part in a range of neighborhood activities in Berkeley. The city is pushing for participation because, in the event of a large-scale disaster, it will likely take some time for first responders to make their way around the city. In the meantime, having neighborhoods that are organized will allow community members to deal with problems and assess risks sooner. To aid in that process, the City of Berkeley runs a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program throughout the year "to help us take care of ourselves, and each other, until more help is available. Many individuals and neighborhood preparedness groups plan to take care of themselves for two weeks. The annual exercise gives neighbors a chance to practice important skills and work together.

The SLC continues to look for opportunities to link with other relevant research. They regularly share information about continuing or new pests in the area such as the Light Brown Apple Moth and the spread of Sudden Oak Death. This includes incorporating quarantine restrictions and best management practices into fuel reduction contracts.

**Goal:** *Strengthen media coordination among Agency Representatives*

**Objective:** *Provide information briefing materials and sessions as required to cover local issues.*

**Objective:** *Support the HEF joint information system, including the prescribed burn notification protocol.*

**Status:** The Staff Liaison Committee distributes materials and conducts briefing sessions with information officers (IOs) highlighting issues attractive to local media in order to continue reinforcing regional protocols, multi-agency preparedness and response actions.

**Goal:** *Inspect and maintain readiness level of infrastructure, such as fire roads.*

**Objective:** *Evaluate storm damage from winter rains and refurbish fire roads as needed.*

**Objective:** *Maintain existing fire roads.*

**Status:** HEF members continue the annual process of evaluating storm damage and maintaining fire roads where required.

## **Response**

**Goal:** *Maintain and refine formal Mutual Response*

**Status:** Formal Mutual Response Agreements (MRAs), some of which are over twenty years old, continue to be effective between fire agencies in the Oakland-Berkeley hills area. The area covered by MRAs has expanded to the east side of the hills through discussions with Moraga Orinda Fire District. City of Berkeley is updating MOUs with Albany, El Cerrito, Kensington, Lawrence National Laboratory, and Moraga/Orinda. These are in addition to the existing agreements in place with Oakland and East Bay Regional Parks District.

During fires in areas of “mutual threat,” both Alameda County and Contra Costa County Fire Departments also provide aid. The Santa Clara Unit of CAL FIRE continues to provide support; backfilling positions of suppression personnel. City of Berkeley and Oakland MRA radio procedures are consistent with the rest of Alameda, Contra Costa and CAL FIRE agencies using the statewide mutual aid channel CAL FIRE Tac2, V-Fire 22, V-Fire 23 and CAL FIRE Tac 6.

#### Countywide Emergency Notification System

In 2013, the Alameda County Civil Grand Jury recommended that the County take the lead in developing a countywide emergency notification system. Berkeley staff members are providing subject matter expert guidance to Alameda County on its procurement of a countywide emergency notification system for joint use by the County and its cities. This countywide system will provide an opportunity for the City to harness new emergency alerting technology from the federal Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). This system will enable the City to send wireless emergency alerts to mobile phones based on their real time location, instead of relying on pre-emergency signups. IPAWS will also automatically coordinate alert deliveries from multiple systems, instead of requiring a manual activation process for each system. The countywide system is expected to be online in July 2015.

**Goal:** *Monitor and support the implementation of SEMS by EBFCC/ HEF agencies*

**Objective:** *Monitor implementation of Gov. Code 8607 (SEMS) requirements.*

**Objective:** *Expand mutual aid agreements with water utilities. Work with statewide program to increase signatories.*

**Status:** Each agency in the HEF monitors their own plans and training related to the state-wide Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS). Continued training and coordination in the uniform Incident Command System (ICS) is provided at each of the mutual aid drills. As of this year, the state wide mutual aid agreement has been signed by 135 water utilities. EBMUD has signed a mutual assistance agreement with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and Las Vegas Valley Water District.

# 2015 Hills Emergency Forum Goals

## Annual Focus

- Collaboration with Other Agencies
- Legislative Outreach
- Public Education
- Special Projects

*Primary  
Responsibility*

## Assessment

- Assess critical infrastructure support systems, operation plans, and public concerns. (SLC)
- Support continued funding for fuel hazard assessment and mitigation programs. (SLC)

## Prevention/ Mitigation

- Incorporate recommendations from the Fuel Management Plan and support AB 337 information-sharing requirements. (SLC)
- Promote implementation of fire code compliance programs. (SLC)
- Continue annual fuel reduction actions. (SLC)

## Preparedness

- Provide continued support for coordinated safety planning in Agency and City plans. (SLC)
- Continue Citizen emergency training programs. (SLC)
- Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training. (EBFCC)
- Plan and conduct public safety and outreach programs to improve public awareness during the 2015 fire season. (SLC)
- Strengthen media coordination among Agency Representatives. (SLC)
- Inspect and maintain readiness level of infrastructure, such as fire roads. (EBFCC)

## Response

- Maintain and refine formal Mutual Response Agreements. (EBFCC)
- Monitor and support the implementation of SEMS by EBFCC/ HEF agencies. (EBFCC)

# Hills Emergency Forum 2015 Workplan

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Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
<b>A. Assessment</b> 1. Water system 2. Fire Response 3. Public Comment 4. Hazardous Fuel Assessment 5. Funding for Mitigation Programs	a. Continue quarterly meetings with fire jurisdictions regarding water supply and delivery issues. a. Revise fire response operation plans to incorporate 2015 review comments. b. Conduct annual review of local fire response plans for urban-wildland intermix fires. a. Acknowledge and evaluate public comments on threat zone management issues. a. Develop plan for update of 1995 GIS base data (vegetation & residential hazards). a. Re-evaluate programs in light of Proposition 218 funding challenges.	Ongoing October 2015 Annual April 2015 October 2015 October 2015	EBMUD EBFCC EBFCC SLC SLC SLC
<b>B. Prevention/ Mitigation</b> 1. Fuel Management Plan (FMP)	a. Incorporate FMP in all planning. b. Monitor 2015 goat grazing contracts and joint maintenance operations.	October 2015 October 2015	SLC SLC

# Hills Emergency Forum 2015 Workplan

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Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
<p>2. Support implementation of AB 337 (Bates)</p> <p>3. Promote and support full implementation of municipal programs for fire safety codes, inspection and enforcement</p> <p>4. Fuel Reduction</p>	<p>a. Share Geographical Information System (GIS) data with other agencies (upon request).</p> <p>a. Provide public education about code requirements.</p> <p>b. Conduct and track inspections on public &amp; private properties.</p> <p>c. Issue notices of violations, monitor corrective action.</p> <p>d. Report on inspection and compliance programs.</p> <p>a. Continue annual maintenance of existing fuelbreaks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ EBRPD: Maintain 15 miles of existing fuelbreak. Control suckers from cut eucalyptus stumps.</li> <li>❖ EBMUD: Maintain 1.5 miles of multi-agency fuelbreaks within District lands. Remove suckers from 19 acres of eucalyptus stumps in Oakland urban wildland interface. Manage ridgetop annual grasslands.</li> <li>❖ UCB: Maintain 8 miles of defensible space, including roadside and fire trail maintenance.</li> <li>❖ Oakland: Maintain 4 miles of existing fuelbreak.</li> </ul> <p>b. Continue fuel reduction (including removing hazardous trees on public property).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ EBRPD: Thin stands of eucalyptus trees in Anthony Chabot Park.</li> </ul>	<p>October 2015</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Annual</p> <p>Annual</p> <p>Annual</p> <p>Annual</p> <p>Annual</p> <p>Annual</p> <p>October 2015</p>	<p>VMC</p> <p>Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland</p> <p>EBRPD</p> <p>EBMUD</p> <p>UCB</p> <p>Oakland SLC</p> <p>EBRPD</p>



# Hills Emergency Forum 2015 Workplan

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Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
<p><b>B. Mitigation (continued)</b>                      4. Fuel Reduction (cont.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ EBMUD: Maintain 15 acres using goat grazing. Maintain 10 acres by hand labor. Continue selective removal in ridgetop Eucalyptus groves, culling 1,000 stems per year. Maintain 1.2 mile grassland fuel break along ridge at Grizzly Peak Blvd and Fish Ranch Road.</li> <li>❖ UCB: Maintain 37 acres using goat grazing. Maintain an additional 18 acres using hand crews. Manage 15 acres to develop and maintain ground force fire suppression zone at ridgetop interface with Panoramic Hill residential area.                      Manage 25 acres at Claremont Canyon Headslope for eucalyptus resprouts ( Phase 1 - 3 removal projects) . Continue Phase 4 selective culling of eucalyptus and pine.</li> <li>❖ Berkeley: Continue use of hand crews to reduce fuels on public lands.</li> <li>❖ El Cerrito Continue use of hand crews, machinery and prescribed fire to reduce fuels on public lands and at buffer between City and EBRPD park lands.</li> <li>❖ Oakland: Continue use of goat grazing and hand crews to reduce fuels on 320 acres of public lands.</li> <li>❖ LBNL: Maintain 170 acres to reduce potential wildland fire effects. Manage 30 acres to maintain a Striketeam Fire Suppression Line at midcanyon wildland interface. Manage 20 acres to intermix zone standards to minimize effect of firebrand, and to minimize other ignitions on developed side of interface. Manage 20 acres to permit ground force suppression at border of natural areas within lower canyon intermix zone.</li> </ul>		<p>EBMUD</p> <p>UCB</p> <p>Berkeley</p> <p>El Cerrito</p> <p>Oakland</p> <p>LBNL</p>

# Hills Emergency Forum 2015 Workplan

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Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
<b>B. Mitigation (continued)</b> 4. Fuel Reduction (cont.)	c. Continue Berkeley's and Oakland's curbside vegetation recycling programs for private lands in hills (June - October). d. Evaluate the potential for sharing specialized equipment (for brush-clearing and chipping) with HEF agencies. e. Foster inter-jurisdictional cooperation in the buffer zone identified in the Fuel Management Plan.	Annual  October 2015	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland SLC
<b>C. Preparedness</b> 1. Promote coordinated safety planning in Agency and City plans	a. Ensure that General Plans contain updated state-mandated Safety Elements that are compatible between jurisdictions.	October 2015	SLC
2. Maintain citizen training	a. Maintain citizen emergency programs, such as CERT	October 2015	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland MOFD
3. Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training	a. Continue to evaluate performance of the Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) equipment. b. Conduct interagency training in systems operations and develop user protocols.	May-15  October 2015	EBFCC  EBFCC

# Hills Emergency Forum 2015 Workplan

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Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
<p><b>C. Preparedness (continued)</b></p> <p>3. Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training (cont.)</p>	<p>c. Expand interagency prescribed burns for training and fuel management purposes.                      1) Participate in the regional two-day Wildland Fire Academy.                      2) Conduct two interagency fire exercises and prescribed burns.</p>	<p>October 2015                      Annual                      Annual</p>	<p>EBFCC                      EBFCC                      EBFCC</p>
<p>4. Improve Public Awareness</p>	<p>a. Issue information on fire safety to newspapers and other media outlets.                      b. Expand public education programs during Wildland Fire Prevention Month (June).                      c. Conduct Public Safety Programs during fire season.                      d. Maintain and update a HEF website.  <a href="http://www.hillsemergencyforum.org">http://www.hillsemergencyforum.org</a> and e-mail <a href="mailto:hef@value.net">hef@value.net</a></p>	<p>Annual                      Ongoing                      October 2013                      October 2015</p>	<p>SLC/ EBFCC                      EBFCC                      SLC                      SLC</p>
<p>5. Media Support</p>	<p>a. Provide information briefing materials and sessions as required to cover local issues.                      b. Support the HEF joint information system, including the prescribed burn notification protocol.</p>	<p>Ongoing                      October 2015</p>	<p>SLC                      SLC</p>
<p>6. Maintain Fire Roads within the study area</p>	<p>a. Evaluate storm damage from winter rains and refurbish fire roads as needed.</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>EBFCC</p>

# Hills Emergency Forum 2015 Workplan

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Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
<p><b>C. Preparedness (continued)</b></p> <p>6. Maintain Fire Roads within the study area (cont.)</p> <p><b>D. Response</b></p> <p>1. Mutual Response Agreements (MRAs)</p> <p>2. Support Standardization Emergency Management System (SEMS)</p>	<p>b. Maintain 155 miles of existing fire roads. Continue to maintain 6 miles of existing fire roads. Maintain 25 miles of existing fire roads. Maintain 8 miles of existing fire roads.</p> <p>a. Refine MRAs among EBFCC members.</p> <p>a. Monitor implementation of Gov. Code 8607 (SEMS) requirements.</p> <p>b. Expand mutual aid agreements with water utilities. Work with statewide program to increase signators.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>EBRPD EBMUD Oakland UCB</p> <p>EBFCC</p> <p>EBFCC</p> <p>EBMUD</p>

## **5.0 Appendices**

2014 Hills Emergency Forum Goals

2014 Hills Emergency Forum Workplan

Staff Liaison Committee Members

# 2014 Hills Emergency Forum Goals

## Annual Focus

- Collaboration with Other Agencies
- Legislative Outreach
- Public Education
- Special Projects

*Primary  
Responsibility*

## Assessment

- Assess critical infrastructure support systems, operation plans, and public concerns. (SLC)
- Support continued funding for fuel hazard assessment and mitigation programs. (SLC)

## Prevention/ Mitigation

- Incorporate recommendations from the Fuel Management Plan and support AB 337 information-sharing requirements. (SLC)
- Promote implementation of fire code compliance programs. (SLC)
- Continue annual fuel reduction actions. (SLC)

## Preparedness

- Provide continued support for coordinated safety planning in Agency and City plans. (SLC)
- Continue Citizen emergency training programs. (SLC)
- Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training. (EBFCC)
- Plan and conduct public safety and outreach programs to improve public awareness during the 2014 fire season. (SLC)
- Strengthen media coordination among Agency Representatives. (SLC)
- Inspect and maintain readiness level of infrastructure, such as fire roads. (EBFCC)

## Response

- Maintain and refine formal Mutual Response Agreements. (EBFCC)
- Monitor and support the implementation of SEMS by EBFCC/ HEF agencies. (EBFCC)



# Hills Emergency Forum 2014 Workplan

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Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
<b>A. Assessment</b> 1. Water system 2. Fire Response	a. Continue quarterly meetings with fire jurisdictions regarding water supply and delivery issues. a. Revise fire response operation plans to incorporate 2014 review comments. b. Conduct annual review of local fire response plans for urban-wildland intermix fires.	Ongoing October 2014	EBMUD EBFCC
3. Public Comment	a. Acknowledge and evaluate public comments on threat zone management issues.	April 2014	SLC
4. Hazardous Fuel Assessment	a. Develop plan for update of 1995 GIS base data (vegetation & residential hazards).	October 2014	SLC
5. Funding for Mitigation Programs	a. Re-evaluate programs in light of Proposition 218 funding challenges.	October 2014	SLC
<b>B. Prevention/ Mitigation</b> 1. Fuel Management Plan (FMP)	a. Incorporate FMP in all planning. b. Monitor 2014 goat grazing contracts and joint maintenance operations.	October 2014 October 2014	SLC SLC



# Hills Emergency Forum 2014 Workplan

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Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
<p>2. Support implementation of AB 337 (Bates)</p> <p>3. Promote and support full implementation of municipal programs for fire safety codes, inspection and enforcement</p> <p>4. Fuel Reduction</p>	<p>a. Share Geographical Information System (GIS) data with other agencies (upon request).</p> <p>a. Provide public education about code requirements.</p> <p>b. Conduct and track inspections on public &amp; private properties.</p> <p>c. Issue notices of violations, monitor corrective action.</p> <p>d. Report on inspection and compliance programs.</p> <p>a. Continue annual maintenance of existing fuelbreaks                      ❖ EBRPD: Maintain 15 miles of existing fuelbreak. Control suckers from cut eucalyptus stumps.                      ❖ EBMUD: Maintain 1.5 miles of multi-agency fuelbreaks within District lands. Remove suckers from 19 acres of eucalyptus stumps in Oakland urban wildland interface. Manage ridgetop annual grasslands.                      ❖ UCB: Maintain 8 miles of defensible space, including roadside and fire trail maintenance.                      ❖ Oakland: Maintain 4 miles of existing fuelbreak.                      b. Continue fuel reduction (including removing hazardous trees on public property).                      ❖ EBRPD: Thin stands of eucalyptus trees in Anthony Chabot Park.</p>	<p>October 2014</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Annual</p> <p>Annual</p> <p>Annual</p> <p>Annual</p> <p>Annual</p> <p>October 2014</p>	<p>VMC</p> <p>Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland</p> <p>EBRPD</p> <p>EBMUD</p> <p>UCB</p> <p>Oakland SLC</p> <p>EBRPD</p>

# Hills Emergency Forum 2014 Workplan

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Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
<p><b>B. Mitigation (continued)</b></p> <p>4. Fuel Reduction (cont.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ EBMUD: Maintain 15 acres using goat grazing. Maintain 10 acres by hand labor. Continue selective removal in ridgetop Eucalyptus groves, culling 1,000 stems per year. Maintain 1.2 mile grassland fuel break along ridge at Grizzly Peak Blvd and Fish Ranch Road.</li> <li>❖ UCB: Maintain 37 acres using goat grazing. Maintain an additional 18 acres using hand crews. Manage 15 acres to develop and maintain ground force fire suppression zone at ridgetop interface with Panoramic Hill residential area. Manage 25 acres at Claremont Canyon Headslope for eucalyptus resprouts ( Phase 1 - 3 removal projects) . Continue Phase 4 selective culling of eucalyptus and pine.</li> <li>❖ Berkeley: Continue use of hand crews to reduce fuels on public lands.</li> <li>❖ El Cerrito Continue use of hand crews, machinery and prescribed fire to reduce fuels on public lands and at buffer between City and EBRPD park lands.</li> <li>❖ Oakland: Continue use of goat grazing and hand crews to reduce fuels on 320 acres of public lands.</li> <li>❖ LBNL: Maintain 170 acres to reduce potential wildland fire effects. Manage 30 acres to maintain a Striketeam Fire Suppression Line at midcanyon wildland interface. Manage 20 acres to intermix zone standards to minimize effect of firebrand, and to minimize other ignitions on developed side of interface. Manage 20 acres to permit ground force suppression at border of natural areas within lower canyon intermix zone.</li> </ul>		<p>EBMUD</p> <p>UCB</p> <p>Berkeley</p> <p>El Cerrito</p> <p>Oakland</p> <p>LBNL</p>

# Hills Emergency Forum 2014 Workplan

Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
<b>B. Mitigation (continued)</b> 4. Fuel Reduction (cont.)	c. Continue Berkeley's and Oakland's curbside vegetation recycling programs for private lands in hills (June - October). d. Evaluate the potential for sharing specialized equipment (for brush-clearing and chipping) with HEF agencies.	Annual October 2014	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland SLC
<b>C. Preparedness</b>	e. Foster inter-jurisdictional cooperation in the buffer zone identified in the Fuel Management Plan.	October 2014	SLC
1. Promote coordinated safety planning in Agency and City plans	a. Ensure that General Plans contain updated state-mandated Safety Elements that are compatible between jurisdictions.	October 2014	SLC
2. Maintain citizen training	a. Maintain citizen emergency programs, such as CERT	October 2014	Berkeley El Cerrito Oakland MOFD
3. Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training	a. Continue to evaluate performance of the Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) equipment.	May-14	EBFCC
	b. Conduct interagency training in systems operations and develop user protocols.	October 2014	EBFCC

# Hills Emergency Forum 2014 Workplan

Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
<p><b>C. Preparedness (continued)</b></p> <p>3. Continue interagency preparedness coordination and training (cont.)</p>	<p>c. Expand interagency prescribed burns for training and fuel management purposes.</p> <p>1) Participate in the regional two-day Wildland Fire Academy.</p> <p>2) Conduct two interagency fire exercises and prescribed burns.</p>	<p>October 2014</p> <p>Annual</p> <p>Annual</p>	<p>EBFCC</p> <p>EBFCC</p> <p>EBFCC</p>
<p>4. Improve Public Awareness</p>	<p>a. Issue information on fire safety to newspapers and other media outlets.</p> <p>b. Expand public education programs during Wildland Fire Prevention Month (June).</p> <p>c. Conduct Public Safety Programs during fire season.</p> <p>d. Maintain and update a HEF website. <a href="http://www.hillsemergencyforum.org">http://www.hillsemergencyforum.org</a> and e-mail <a href="mailto:hef@value.net">hef@value.net</a></p>	<p>Annual</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>October 2013</p> <p>October 2014</p>	<p>SLC/ EBFCC</p> <p>EBFCC</p> <p>SLC</p> <p>SLC</p>
<p>5. Media Support</p>	<p>a. Provide information briefing materials and sessions as required to cover local issues.</p> <p>b. Support the HEF joint information system, including the prescribed burn notification protocol.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>October 2014</p>	<p>SLC</p> <p>SLC</p>
<p>6. Maintain Fire Roads within the study area</p>	<p>a. Evaluate storm damage from winter rains and refurbish fire roads as needed.</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>EBFCC</p>

# Hills Emergency Forum 2014 Workplan

Projects	Objectives	Milestones	Lead
<p><b>C. Preparedness (continued)</b></p> <p>6. Maintain Fire Roads within the study area (cont.)</p> <p><b>D. Response</b></p> <p>1. Mutual Response Agreements (MRAs)</p> <p>2. Support Standardization Emergency Management System (SEMS)</p>	<p>b. Maintain 155 miles of existing fire roads. Continue to maintain 6 miles of existing fire roads. Maintain 25 miles of existing fire roads. Maintain 8 miles of existing fire roads.</p> <p>a. Refine MRAs among EBFCC members.</p> <p>a. Monitor implementation of Gov. Code 8607 (SEMS) requirements.</p> <p>b. Expand mutual aid agreements with water utilities. Work with statewide program to increase signators.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>EBRPD EBMUD Oakland UCB</p> <p>EBFCC</p> <p>EBFCC</p> <p>EBMUD</p>



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