



## News from: **Oakland Fire Department**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 24, 2018

#### **Red Flag Warning in Effect**

*Oakland, CA* — The [National Weather Service](#) has issued a Red Flag Warning for the City of Oakland that started Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:21 am and will be in effect until 5pm Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. The National Weather Service expects that there will be Northeasterly winds of 5 to 15 mph on Monday but increasing 10 to 20 mph with gusts to 35 mph tonight into early Tuesday morning. Humidity will be 5 to 15% and locally lower with little or no night time recovery through midweek.

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In addition to the Oakland Fire Department's normal operations, the firefighters will be conducting roving fire patrols in the Oakland Hills. Please see the attached flyer which provides tips to reduce wildfire hazards,

#### **WHAT IS A RED FLAG WARNING?**

The National Weather Service issues Red Flag Warnings to alert fire departments of the onset, or possible onset, of critical weather and dry conditions that could lead to rapid or dramatic increases in wildfire activity. Firefighters will raise red flags at fire stations to warn residents of extreme fire weather, as warnings are issued by the National Weather Service.

A Red Flag Warning is issued for weather events which may result in extreme fire behavior that will occur within 24 hours. A Red Flag Warning is the highest alert. During these times extreme caution is urged by all residents, because a simple spark can cause a major wildfire. Please see the attached flyer which discusses what you residents and visitors can do to prevent a wildfire.

#### **JOAQUIN MILLER PARK CLOSURE**

Section 12.64.180 of the Oakland Municipal Code (OMC), states that Joaquin Miller Park is closed to the public when a Red Flag Warning is in effect. Signs will be posted at all park entrances and trails regarding the closure.

#### **STAY UP TO DATE ON EMERGENCIES AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

The public is encouraged to subscribe to AC Alert to receive calls, emails and text messages. The system allows subscribers to provide up to five locations, such as a school, home, work and an elder dependent's address. That way, subscribers will receive updates when an emergency alert impacts one of their self-identified locations.

AC Alert is a unified emergency notification system for Alameda County residents, businesses and visitors. An AC Alert subscription is free, and all residents and business owners are strongly encouraged to sign up. For more information about this system and to find out how to participate, please visit [www.acalert.org](http://www.acalert.org).

## **LEARN HOW TO PREPARE FOR A WILDFIRE OR OTHER EMERGENCY**

Communities of Oakland Respond to Emergencies (CORE) is a free training program for the public. Individuals, neighborhood groups and community-based organizations in Oakland can join. CORE helps communities form disaster response teams. These teams will help care for the community if a major disaster happens. To learn more about CORE, please use this link: <https://bit.ly/2K9e9a1>.

# # #

# THE NEW REALITY: FIRE SEASON IS YEAR ROUND

Help reduce the risk of fires in Oakland's parks and open spaces by following these rules when **Red Flag Days and/or High Fire Danger conditions exist.**

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**PARK CLOSURES** - On Red Flag Days, parks, trails and recreational facilities may be closed to all visitors due to the high risk of fire. Please observe the posted closure notices. Per Oakland Municipal Code (OMC) [Section 12.64.180](#), Joaquin Miller Park is closed to the public on Red Flag Days.



**BBQs** – BBQs (barbeques) are prohibited in all City of Oakland Parks when there is a Red Flag Warning in effect. ([12.64.170 OMC](#))

**Report illegal fires by calling 911, or from a cell phone (510) 444-1616.**



**OPEN FLAMES AND CAMP FIRES** – Open flames and camp fires are not allowed in the City of Oakland. ([12.64.160 OMC](#) and [15.12.030 OMC](#); [307.1 California Fire Code](#))



**SMOKING** – Smoking is not allowed in any City of Oakland park and recreational facility. ([8.30.055 OMC](#))



**GUNFIRE** – Wildfires have been started by firearms. **Report any gunfire, including celebratory gunfire, by calling 911 from a landline or (510) 238-3211 from a cell phone.**



**DRIVING** – Only drive and park in designated areas. Parking or driving over dry grass and vegetation can cause a fire.



**FIREWORKS** – Fireworks are not allowed in the City of Oakland. ([8.06.030 OMC](#), [Health and Safety Code 12505](#)) **Report illegal fireworks by calling the Fireworks Tip Line at (510) 777-8814.**

Those caught with fireworks, even the “Safe & Sane” brand, **will be fined up to \$1,000.** Possession of large quantities of fireworks carry penalties of **\$5,000 to \$10,000 and imprisonment.**

## RESOURCES



- Oakland Fire Department: [www.oaklandca.gov/departments/fire](http://www.oaklandca.gov/departments/fire)
- Oakland Municipal Code (OMC): <https://library.municode.com/ca/oakland>
- Information for preparing for wildfires and creating defensible space, please visit: [www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org) and [www.preventwildfireca.org](http://www.preventwildfireca.org)
- CAL FIRE: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)
- Oakland Firesafe Council: [www.oaklandfiresafecouncil.org](http://www.oaklandfiresafecouncil.org)
- Diablo Firesafe Council: [www.diablofiresafe.org](http://www.diablofiresafe.org)



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