

Why do you do inspect so often?

Inspections for vegetation in High Severity Fire Hazard Zones are required to be completed yearly per the California Fire Code 4906.1.1.

Who is inspecting my property?

For homes, the first and second round of inspections are completed by Firefighters out of the local Fire House. For vacant lots and special circumstance properties, a Vegetation Inspector from the Fire Prevention Bureau is assigned. All third round inspections are completed by Vegetation Inspectors.

What are inspectors looking for during an Annual Inspection?

Please follow this link for information on the compliance standards used during an Annual Inspection.

What happens if I fail an inspection?

Properties that fail the annual inspection are scheduled to be re-inspected on or after 30 days from first inspection. Property owners should utilize this time to mitigate any violations found by the inspector. If a parcel is found to be non-compliant on the re-inspection, a third inspection is scheduled. The third inspection occurs after 14 days from the re-inspection.

What are inspection fees?

Inspection fees are issued when a parcel fails an initial inspection and requires a re-inspection. An inspection fee is also issued for any third inspection, whether the property is in compliance or not. Fees are set by the City Master Fee Schedule and go into the City's General Fund. Fees are not received by the Fire Prevention Bureau.

How can I pay my inspection fees?

To pay online, go to the Accela Citizen Access website link: <https://aca.accela.com/oakland>. **No account is required to pay your Fire Prevention inspection fees.** Select "Pay Fee" then "Search & Pay Fire" then select "Payments" then "Fees" and "Pay Fees". You can select which items you want to pay with the "View Cart" option on the payment screen. Note: If you searched by Record Number, there may be additional fees owed for your property under other Records.

To pay by check, please make checks payable to City of Oakland, 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 5342, Oakland, CA 94612. Remember to write the Record # and Inspection Reference # on your check.

How can I see my inspection records?

Inspection records can be viewed on the Accela Citizen Access website.

Non-registered users can see inspection results for their properties. For detailed inspection results, including photos, users will need to register. In order to register, you will need to provide proof ownership, usually a driver's license or ID card.

Can I access a neighbor's inspection record?

Inspection results are not shared with those that do not own the property. We do our best to maintain privacy.

My neighbor has blatant vegetation violations, what is being done about it?

Each property in the VHFSHZ is inspected each year. Some owners are slow to react, and others may not respond to the notice promptly if their information has not been updated in our system. The Vegetation Management Unit does not hire outside contractors to mitigate vegetation hazards on private property. The VMU will inspect parcels, assess fees if necessary, and as a last resort, place a lien on the property in the event of unpaid inspection fees.

Can the Vegetation Management Unit force someone to remove a tree?

The VMU does not recommend or force anyone to remove trees

If you have a vegetation complaint outside of the VHSFHZ please call Oakland Code Enforcement at (510) 238-3381.

Other than to issue inspection fees and imposing liens on a property, what other methods of enforcement are used by the Vegetation Management Unit?

Continuous non-compliant properties may be referred to the City Attorney for prosecution.

Can the Vegetation Management Unit pick up vegetation debris from my yard?

The program and funding for vegetation pickups at private residences has expired. We do not do pickups any longer.

How can I remove large volumes of vegetation debris from my parcel?

If you have vegetation debris that needs pickup, please call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710.

Is Oakland a FireWise Community?

No

Can the Firefighters at the Fire Station help me with inspection findings or billing concerns?

No. Firefighters at Fire Stations do not have the authority to act on inspection findings or billing issues. All issues regarding inspection findings should be directed to the Fire Prevention Bureau.