



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Why Am I subject to inspection?

- Your property is located in a high fire hazard area. The Oakland Fire Department conducts approximately 25,000 public and private inspections annually in the high fire hazard area of the Oakland Hills. Inspections are mandated by City of Oakland Ordinance No. 13401 and the State of California. Inspections begin mid-May each year. Property owners are mailed reminder notifications regarding property upkeep expectations prior to the beginning of the inspections.

How do I know what is required by me as the property owner?

- The Oakland Fire Department provides a brochure, which describes according to the Oakland Fire Code tips and helpful information for passing an inspection, such as the removing tree limbs 6 feet from the ground, removing climbing vines and other corrective measures to remove potential fire hazards and protect your investment.

As a property owner, what is my responsibility?

- Property owners should plan to remove weeds, tall grass, brush, and tree limbs that pose a fire hazard. Upon inspection, homeowners will receive a Vegetation Management Inspection Report with the results of the inspection.

Where can I find information on how to meet the Fire Code requirements, and how to pass my inspection?

- On the City website, www.oaklandnet.com, click on Government, click on Wildfire Prevention District, click on Compliance Standards.

Who will be inspecting my property?

- Inspections are conducted by either City of Oakland Fire Suppression District Inspectors or Oakland Fire Fighters.

Will I be charged for the first inspection?

- No, Property owners are not charged for the first inspection.

What happens if my property does not pass the initial inspection?

- Property owners who have not removed these hazards by the start of the inspection period will be found non-compliant and will be re-inspected 30 days from the date of the initial inspection.

How will I be notified of a re-inspection?

- A copy of the inspection report is left at the property location and a copy is mailed to the owner of record.

Is there a fee for a re-inspection and if so, how is it determined?

- Inspection fees will be charged as follows:

1st Step - Annual Inspection – FREE

2nd Step - Re-Inspection (after 30 days)

- Non-compliant – Fee assessed
- Complaint – Re-inspection fee is waived; no fee is assessed

3rd Step - 2nd Re-Inspection (after 15 days)

- Non-compliant – Fee assessed
- Complaint – Fee assessed

4th Step - for non-complaint properties: Hearing notice mailed certified with a scheduled hearing date with a 10-day time frame.

- Parcel owner is required to appear to show evidence of abatement, or present reasons why abatement was not completed.
- Per the Master Fee Schedule, there is an administrative fee charged
- No evidence or valid reason of non-abatement, the property is selected for private property abatement and put out for competitive bid.
- Competitive bid selected. Notice to proceed issued to contractor and cost of abatement billed or lien processed for the property.

What if I do not agree with an invoice I have received for a re-inspection fee/fees

- The California Fire Code does provide the homeowner an appeal process. The Procedure to request an administrative hearing or appeal shall contain the following information:
 1. A brief statement setting forth the legal interest of the party or parties in the real property identified in the order, decision or determination made by the Fire Code Official;
 2. A brief statement in ordinary and concise language of that (those) specific order(s), decision(s) or determination(s) protested;
 3. A brief statement in ordinary and concise language, together with any material facts to support that contention that the intent of this code or the rules legally adopted hereunder have been incorrectly interpreted, the provisions of this code do not fully apply, or an equivalent method of protection or safety is proposed;
 4. The signature of the property owner, and his or her mailing address; and
 5. The verification (by declaration under penalty of perjury) of at least one person requesting a hearing as to the truth of the matters stated in the request for hearing. The written request for an administrative hearing or appeal with the accompanying fee shall be received by the Fire Code Official within fourteen (14) calendar days from the date of the service of such order, decision or determination of the Fire Code Official.