

DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

September 17, 2025

7:00 PM

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Mayor's Appointee- Andy Katz

District 1 – Michael Wilson
District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet
District 3 – Todd Darling
District 4 – Robert Kinosian

District 5 – Shirley Dean
District 6 – Greg Murphy*
District 7 – Taj Herzer-Baptiste
District 8 – Theo Gordon**

AGENDA

Preliminary Matters

Public Present

Approval of the Agenda

Discussion –

Agenda approved as amended by Acclamation or Vote?

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

Public speakers:

1. Chairperson's Report
2. Fire Department Staff Report

REGULAR AGENDA MATTERS *All Regular Agenda Matters are for discussion and possible action.*

- 3. Action/Discussion:** Minutes of August 20, 2025

Recommendation: Approve the draft minutes of the August 20, 2025 Regular meeting.

Written Material: DFSC 8/20/25 Regular Meeting Minutes

Presentation:

4. Work Group Reports

Receive reporting on recent activities by the following work groups:

- Plan & Budget Oversight
- Neighborhood Fire Resiliency
- Safe Passages
 - Evacuation Time Study Communication w/ staff
- Community Outreach
- Street Trauma Prevention Program

Written Materials:

Presentation:

5. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

-

Adjournment

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Keith May, kmay@berkeleyca.gov 510-981-5508.

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: E-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required but, if included in any communication to a City board, commission, or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission, or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission, or committee for further information.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Berkeley Fire Department located at 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair-accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

I hereby certify that the agenda for this regular/special meeting of the Berkeley City's Disaster and Fire Safety Commission was posted at the front of the Division of Training, 997 Cedar Street, as well as on the City's website, three days prior to the scheduled Commission meeting.

SECRETARY SIGNATURE

DFSC Staff Report

September 17, 2025

1. Measure FF Monthly Report

a. Budget Overview –

b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November

Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February

Quarter 3 (January, February, March) report due in May

Quarter 4 (April, May, June) End of Year Report due in **October**

i. Program Review

- **WUI Interns** – The Interns provide Berkeley Fire Department with a trained, mobile and mission-specific workforce that is principally assigned to monitor vegetative hazardous fuel on or near structures, collect data, and identify reduction activities
 - **Updates:** No new updates.
- **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections –**
 - **Updates:** No new Updates.
 - **Safe Passage - The Fire Department has contracted with a vendor to help the City of Berkeley meet the requirements outlined in SB 99, AB 747, and AB 1409, provide City with professional services in the areas of traffic and evacuation modeling and planning, given various evacuation and/or emergency response scenarios as determined by the City.**
 - **Update:** Staff presentation on the 8/20/25 Agenda.

2. Measure GG Monthly Report

a. Budget Overview – No new update

b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November

Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February

Quarter 3 (January, February, March) report due in May

Quarter 4 (April, May, June) End of Year Report due in **October**

- ### 3. Fire Facilities Master Plan (FMP): Berkeley Fire Department stations are undersized, in poor condition and in need of remodels or replacement. The Department initiated a long-term replacement planning process to better understand infrastructure needs. This process will provide the City leaders of today and tomorrow with actionable information ahead of future infrastructure bond measures. *(Measure FF has funded the study only)*

- a. **Update:** No new Updates.

4. Department Activities

- a. **Emergency Services Coordinator:** The opened position has now been filled. Stephen Decatur has been hired as the new ESC. He will start on September 29th. Stephen holds a Master’s degree in Public Administration/Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Most recently, he was the Emergency Manager for the City of Dunsmuir.
- b. **Training:** The Office of Emergency Services held three staff training courses on Disaster Authorities and Decision-Making. Other community outreach/trainings include Household Fire Weather Planning, Family Preparedness Workshop on Evacuation and Go Bags at North Branch Library.
- c.

5. Call Volume Report

Fire Department Report by California Incident Type		
August		
Fires – including Encampment Fires (structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney,	39	
Explosion - no fire (overpressure ruptures, explosions)	1	
Rescue & EMS (medical assist, vehicle accident	977	
Hazardous Condition - no fire (combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles)	52	

Service Calls (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public assist, cover assignment/standby)	96	
Good Intent (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)	97	
False Alarm Calls (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)	184	
Severe WX (lightening, wind storms)	0	
Special Incidents (citizen complaints)	4	
TOTAL	1,450	
Apparatus Count		
	3,337	

DFSC Action Tracker

Date of DFSC Action	Description	Status
3/26/2025	Remove the 1-year pre-transfer eligibility restriction of the transfer tax rebate for wildfire hardening from BMC 7.52.060, to encourage early mitigation efforts.	Referred to the Budget & Finance Committee and heard on 5/22/25. Committee. Staff are working a revised version to take back to Committee.

WILDLAND FIRE MITIGATION MONTHLY REPORT

AUGUST 2025

Prepared by the SPP Division



Program Data - Cumulative 2024-2025 (+/- current month)



Grizzly Peak Project Clean-up Updates:

- Phase 1: Completed 4 miles
- Phase 2: Completed 3.24 miles to date
- Phase 3: In Progress
- **706.2 tons** of vegetation removed



FireWise Application Status



18 FireWise Communities **4** Pending / In-Progress



Home Hardening Mesh Program

Pick-ups and deliveries provided bi-weekly



292 (+31)
Applications



129 (+0)
Pickups



85 (+0)
Deliveries



Eucalyptus Understory Program



51 (+0)
Applications



31 (+0)
Properties Completed



156,698
Total Spent



Chipping Program



5688
(+526.50)
Cubic yards removed



1874
(+185)
Pickups



47
(+3)
Weeks Completed

Defensible Space Inspections YTD (+/- current month)

1049 (+175)

40 (+0)

1218 (+690)

574 (+159)

624 (+84)

11 (+0)

233 (+46)

9 (+0)

Inspections

Re-Inspections

Violations

Discoveries

Resolved Violations

Total Citations

Resolved Items

Inspectors

Right of Entry Agreement Program

77% + of our total inspections were full access.
15% of total inspections had a signed RoE.

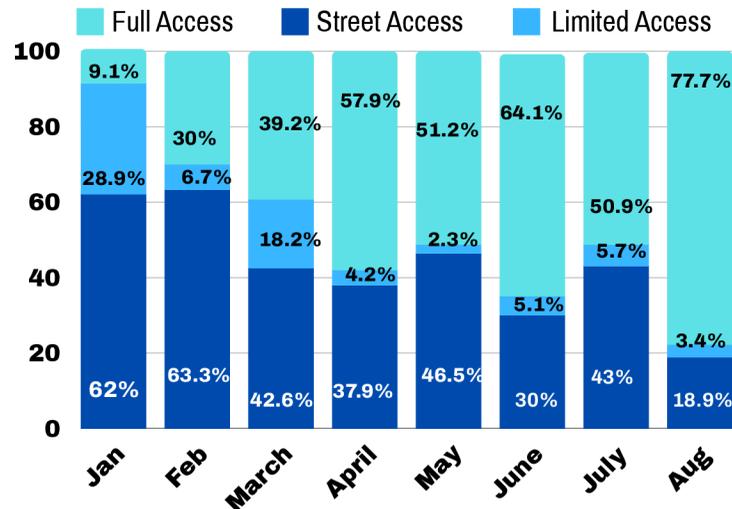


8713
Invitations Sent



512
RoE's Signed

Inspection Access %



Announcements

Coming Soon - Updated BerkeleyFireSafe .org

The redesigned site will feature a **Filter-by-Address Locator** to help residents quickly identify their FireSafe requirements and resources.

EMBER Initiative Timeline

Effective Mitigations for Berkeley's Ember Resilience (EMBER)

- **Introduced EMBER-** January 2025
- **First Reading of the Ordinance-** March 2025
- **Council Meeting to Adopt the Resolution-** April 15, 2025
- **Public Hearing to Adopt the Code-** June 17, 2025
- **Education Campaign** May – December 2025
- **Increased Services and Support** July 2025
- **Enforcement by Inspection** January 1, 2026
- **Reduced Risk of Loss Zone 4** 2026

DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

August 20, 2025

7:00 PM

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Mayor's Appointee- Andy Katz

District 1 – Michael Wilson
District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet
District 3 – Todd Darling
District 4 – Robert Kinosian

District 5 – Shirley Dean
District 6 – Greg Murphy*
District 7 – Taj Herzer-Baptiste
District 8 – Theo Gordon**

AGENDA

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Present: Wilson, Kinosian, Dean, Murphy, Herzer-Baptiste, Gordon

Late: Katz 7:09 pm, Darling 7:11 pm

Absent: Bradstreet

LOA:

Public Present 8

Approval of the Agenda

Discussion –

Agenda approved as amended by Acclamation or Vote?

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

Public speakers: 0

1. Chairperson's Report
2. Fire Department Staff Report

REGULAR AGENDA MATTERS *All Regular agenda Matters are for discussion and possible action.*

- 3. Action/Discussion:** Minutes of June 25, 2025 (Murphy)
- Recommendation:** Approve the draft minutes of the June 25, 2025 Regular Meeting.
- Public speakers:** 0
- Motion: To approve the draft minutes of the June 25th meeting
Motion to approve: Kinonian
Second: Wilson
Vote: Ayes: Wilson, Kinonian, Dean, Murphy, Herzer-Baptiste, Gordon
- Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Katz, Darling, Bradstreet
- Written Material:** DFSC 6/25/25 Regular Meeting Minutes
- 4. Action/Discussion:** Update on the Commission Recommendation on Transfer tax Rebate for Home Hardening (Katz)
- Recommendation:** Adopt Recommendation to City Council of Updated Transfer Tax Rebate Recommendation.
- Public speakers:**
- Motion: Approve the recommended changes and amendments as spelled out in the Update on the Commission Recommendation on Transfer Tax Rebate for Home Hardening.
- Motion to approve: Katz
Second: Darling
Vote: Ayes: Katz, Wilson, Darling, Kinonian, Murphy, Herzer-Baptiste, Gordon
- Nays: None
Abstain: Dean
Absent: Bradstreet
- Written Material:** (1) Recommendation to Council "Remove Pre-transfer Eligibility Restriction of the Transfer Tax Rebate for Wildfire Hardening". (2) Updated Transfer Tax Rebate Recommendation.
- 5. Action/Discussion:** Evacuation Time Study Presentation (Staff)
- Recommendation:** None

Public speakers: 4

Motion: Motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes put forth at 9:00pm

Motion to approve: Herzer-Baptiste

Second: Gordon

Vote: Ayes: Katz, Darling, Dean, Murphy, Herzer-Baptiste, Gordon

Nays: Kinosian

Absent: Bradstreet

Written Material: PowerPoint Presentation

6. Work Group Reports

Receive reporting on recent activities by the following work groups:

- Plan & Budget Oversight
- Fire Resiliency
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Safe Passages
- Community Outreach
- Street Trauma Prevention

Written Materials:

Presentation:

7. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

- Discussion on the Evacuation Time Study
-

Motion to Adjourn: Kinosian
Second Wilson
Approved By Acclamation
Adjournment 9:27 pm

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Keith May, kmay@berkeleyca.gov 510-981-5508.

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: E-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required but, if included in any communication to a City board, commission, or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission, or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission, or committee for further information.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda

will be made available for public inspection at Berkeley Fire Department located at 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair-accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

~~~~~  
I hereby certify that the agenda for this regular/special meeting of the Berkeley City's Disaster and Fire Safety Commission was posted at the front of the Division of Training, 997 Cedar Street, as well as on the City's website, three days prior to the scheduled Commission meeting.

SECRETARY SIGNATURE

*Keith May*

8/21/2025

DRAFT

**From:** rachel bradley <rachelbradleywood@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 7:15 PM

**To:** May, Keith <KMay@berkeleyca.gov>

**Subject:** Evacuation Time Estimate Study

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Disaster and Fire Safety Commission,

I have not yet had a chance to fully review the Evacuation Time Estimate Study, but at first glance it appears to place less emphasis than would be prudent on the importance of assuring access to our neighborhoods for fire engines and egress by residents fleeing a fire or other disaster. The report does acknowledge the obvious truth that having streets which are not overly obstructed by parked cars will make access for firetrucks quicker and easier, which could be critical in controlling spreading fires in our hillside neighborhoods. But it assumes that residents leaving in their cars will be slowed down by traffic at intersections, and that parking restrictions will not substantially ease that congestion. This does not really make sense: if you think through the traffic on a street like Shasta, which is an important route down the hill (although it is not mentioned as such in the report by the New York based consultants) - if traffic could flow freely down the street, instead of being obstructed in many places by parked cars, then the whole process would run more smoothly and there would be less congestion at intersections. From my conversations with fellow residents of the hills, there is now widespread concern about this issue, and support for taking steps to improve problems of congestion by limiting parking on narrow streets where there is no room for two cars to pass. This could be the difference between life and death for our residents, and could substantially affect the growth of the fire and how much property it destroys. It could also improve response times for emergency calls generally (a problem often mentioned anecdotally by fire department personnel). I hope you will consider this problem carefully, and come up with a practical way to assure sufficient available width on our winding narrow streets for cars to pass in both directions.

Sincerely,

Rachel Bradley