



Fire Prevention efforts at Albany Hill and Creekside Parks

Jim Boito, Interim Fire Chief
John Weitzel, Fire Captain

Tonight's Review:

- ☐ History of Fire Prevention Efforts
- ☐ Vegetation Management
- ☐ Guiding Documents and Procedures
- ☐ Cross-Department Collaborations
- ☐ Community Partnerships and Collaborators
- ☐ Community Outreach
- ☐ Current and Future Fire Department Plans
- ☐ Questions

History of Fire Prevention on “The Hill”

2003 to 2010:

- Improved Hillside and Gateview access points
- “Hazardous Fire Area” signage posted at trail entrances
- Knox padlocks added to all access gates
- Fire roads re-established, and improved annually, at the top of Taft, and from , Top of the Hill to Pierce St by AFD personnel and Public Works.
- Our First Type-6 engine is placed in service
- Shelterbelt hired to perform annual vegetation management along fire roads and Creekside Park

2010 to present:

- 2011 update to 1991 Albany Hill Plan
- 2012 Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan
- 2016 Measure R funds for Vegetation Mgmt.
- 2017 Albany Hill Vegetation Mgmt. Cord.
- 2020 Dry standpipe installed to supply fire road hydrant on top of hill
- 2021 Hydrant will be installed at Taft turnaround

Vegetation Management on “The Hill”

CREEKSIDE GRASSES



CROSSROADS



Vegetation Management on “The Hill”

WEST SLOPE DEAD AND DOWN



WESTERN MID SLOPE DEAD AND DOWN



Fire Prevention Guidance

California Fire Code 2019

- Chapter 49 Requirements for Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Areas
 - Section 4906 Hazardous Vegetation and Fuel Management

Albany Municipal Code

- Chapter XI: Fire Prevention

California Building Code

2012 Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan

Standard Operating Procedure-24: Albany Hill Patrol

Albany Hill Patrols

- *Performed daily during CalFire declared Fire Season*
- *Occur twice a day during Red Flag warning events*

ALBANY FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

SOP #24

SUBJECT: Patrolling Albany Hill Area

DATE: 7/26/05

Page: 1 of 1

CATEGORY: Operations

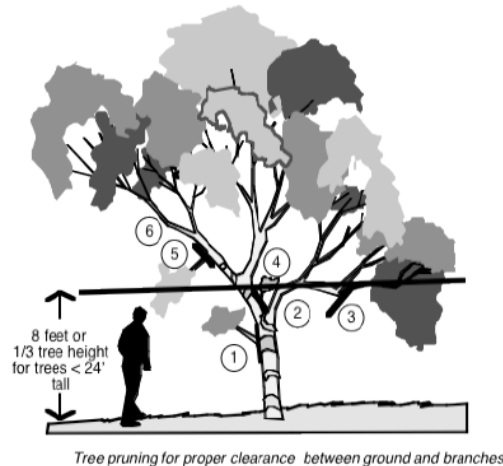
REFERENCED MATERIALS: None

Purpose: To provide guidelines for patrolling the Albany Hill area to ensure fire safety of hill residents and those using the area for recreational purposes.

Procedure:

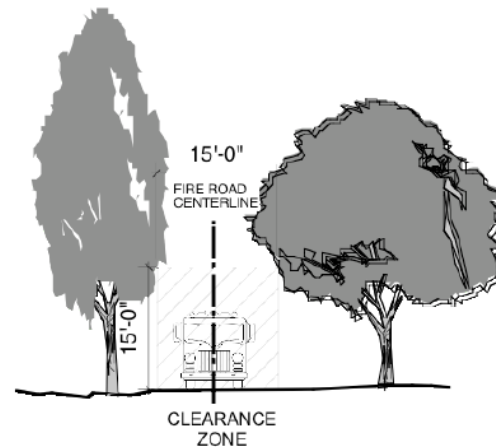
- A. Patrolling Albany Hill will begin when the California Department of Forestry (CDF) declares the fire season open and will end when CDF declares the season closed.
- B. Areas to be patrolled will include but are not limited to; the ends of Madison, Jackson, Hillside and Gateview Streets, the 535 Pierce St. fire access trail and the Albany Hill Park. The 535 Pierce and the Albany Park trails will either be walked or driven on one of the two days of each shifts tour.
- C. Under normal conditions, the hill will be patrolled once a day. When CDF declares a Red Flag Day or when conditions warrant, i.e., extremely hot/low humidity days, the Hill area will be patrolled at least twice a day.
- D. Patrolling will be conducted in 2192. 2140 or 2141 may be used to patrol the Hill, however 2192 is preferred due to its ability to travel along the park trails. The ambulance will not be utilized for this purpose.
 - a. When patrolling the Albany Hill Park area 2192 may enter at the end of Hillside, South end of 555 Pierce or the top of Taft.
 - b. A Knox Lock will be used to secure the entrances at the end of Hillside and Taft.
 - c. Prior to leaving the paved road 2192 will be placed in four-wheel drive high.
 - d. A 10-mph speed limit shall be adhered to while driving on the park trails.
 - e. Due to the inherent danger with four-wheel driving, the driver will traverse hills by going straight up or down when possible. Any attempt to transverse a hill sideways should be avoided.
 - f. If the vehicle becomes trapped for any reason the driver shall not attempt to free the vehicle. The driver shall radio the station for assistance.
- E. Crews will report any activities deemed unsafe or conditions representing an extreme fire hazard to the on-duty officer. Illegal activities or evidence thereof shall be reported to APD. Examples of such activities include smoking, illegal burning, campfires, fireworks or vandalism to city property. When appropriate and practical, crews will attempt to educate or inform the public about the inherent dangers of activities related to fire hazards, in an urban/wildland interface zone.

Vegetation Guidance Provided to Property Owners



Key to Pruning Diagram

- ① The stem with foliage attached is below 8 feet so would be cut at the junction with the tree trunk.
- ② The branch even though it is under 8 foot in height, does not have any foliage directly attached below the 8 foot height, so would be left.
- ③ ④ These stems with foliage are under 8 feet, so would be cut at the junction with the tree.
- ⑤ The branch bends below 8 feet in height and so would be cut.
- ⑥ This stem is higher than 8 feet and so would be left.



1. Ensure all grasses are no greater than 4 inches in height that are within 30 feet of any walking trail, parking areas, seating areas, picnic tables, or other places people congregate on your property.
2. Ensure all grasses are no greater than 6 inches in height throughout your property unless otherwise stated in #1.
3. Limb up all trees 8 feet that are greater than 24 feet tall (see illustration below) on your property.
4. Limb up all trees 1/3 their height that are less than 24 feet tall on your property.
5. Remove all “fuel jackpots” (leaf litter, logs, tree trunk rounds, dead branches, dead ivy/poison oak, shredded/draping bark, and dead vegetation) on your property.
6. Ensure bushes and shrubs have a separation of 3 times their height from all trees on your property.
7. Ensure the removal of any duff layers greater than 2 inches throughout your property.

Access Points

GATEVIEW AVE.



HILLSIDE AVE.



Access Points

TAFT FIRE ROAD GATE



TAFT TO JACKSON TRAIL



Access Points

PIERCE ST. TO FIRE ROAD/TRAIL



CREEKSIDE FIRE ROAD/TRAIL



Access Points

JACKSON STREET

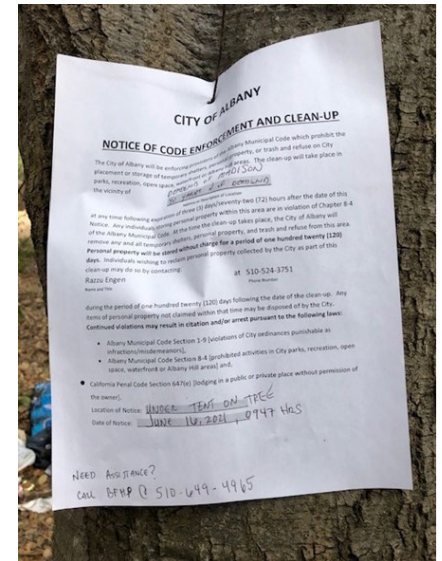


MADISON STREET



Cross- Departmental Collaboration Public Works

- *Vegetation management*
 - *Natural Areas Coordinator*
Margot Cunningham
- *Capitol Improvement Projects*
- *Encampment mitigation*



Cross-Departmental Collaboration

Community Development

- *Building code enforcement*
- *Planning and Development*



Cross-Departmental Collaboration

Albany Police

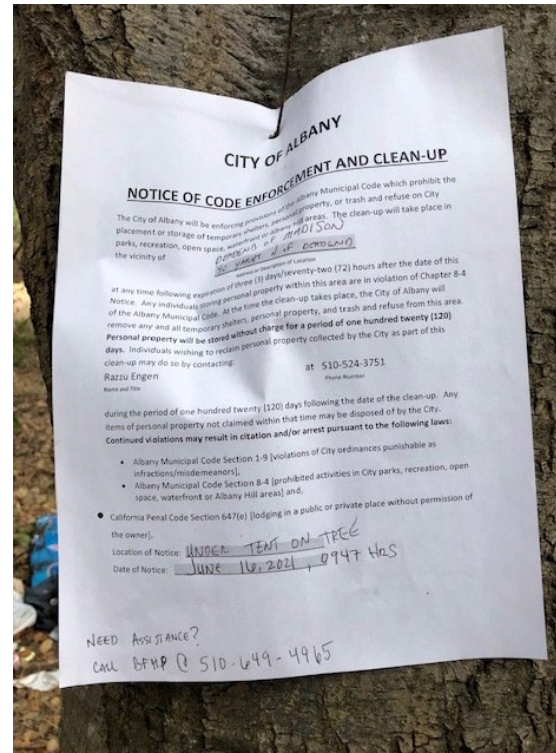
- *Hill Patrols*
- *Encampment mitigation*
- *Investigating Arson Fires*



Cross-Departmental Collaboration

Neighborhood Services

- Homeless outreach & Engagement
- Encampment mitigation



Community Partnerships and Collaborators

Friends of Albany Hill

Friends of Five Creeks

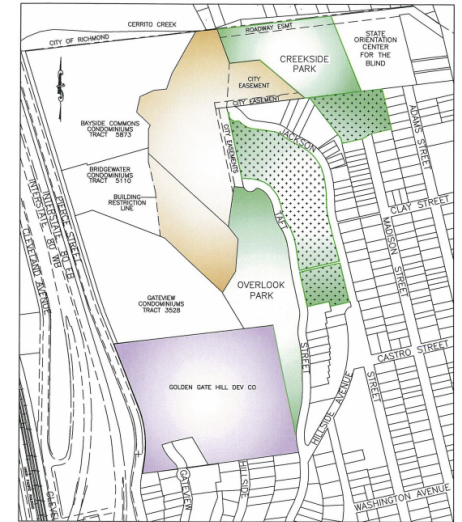
CERT

Golden Gate Development Co.

Gateview HOA

Bridge Water HOA

Bayside Commons HOA



Friends of Albany Hill



Friends of Five Creeks

Community Outreach

- Annual Abatement Letters
- Critical Fire Area signage
- Evacuation Drills
- Firesafe landscape resources



FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE

May 4, 2021

NAME
ADDRESS
ADDRESS

Subject: Property **DISCRIPTION.**, Lot No. **XXX-XXXX-XXX-XX**

Dear Property Owner:

This is a reminder of the City of Albany Code, Chapter 11, Section 2.3(f), property owners are required to remove noxious or dangerous vegetation and accumulated debris from their properties. These materials shall be removed to provide a clear 30-foot strip adjacent to surrounding improvements. Improvements include; structures, fences, hedges, shrubbery and trees. Grass and weeds must be cut short enough to prevent the spreading of fire (4 inch), and all cuttings and debris entirely removed from the property.

The work must be completed by June 25, 2021. In the event you do not have the work completed by **June 25, 2021**, a private contractor hired by the City will perform the required abatement. All costs of labor, materials, overhead and Fire Department fines will be assessed against your property until paid. **It is not possible to estimate in advance the amount of these charges.**

Your prompt attention to this abatement notice is appreciated. **There will be no additional notices or reminders sent.** If you have already completed the weed abatement of your property, the Albany Fire Prevention Bureau thanks you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chief Lance Calkins at (510) 528-5770 extension 5.

Respectfully,

Lance Calkins
Fire Chief



Firesafe Landscaping resources

<http://www.diablofiresafe.org/tolerance.html>

Current and Future Plans

Current

- Coordinated training with Mutual-Aid Departments
 - Berkeley Fire
 - El Cerrito Fire
 - Richmond Fire
- Install additional fire hydrant at top of Taft Ave
- Continue Fire Prevention and Code enforcement efforts
- Collaborate with Regional Resources experiencing similar Eucalyptus issues

Future

- Update 2012 Albany Hill Creekside Master Plan
- Seek and Apply for Grant Funding to complete
- Vegetation Management projects
- Review and implement vegetation management suggestions for Albany Hill Tree Study

Recent Fire Protection Improvements

FIRE ROAD HYDRANT



TAFT FDC TO FIRE ROAD HYDRANT



Training with Berkeley Fire on “The Hill”

2181-TYPE 6 ENGINE



BERKELEY FD TYPE 3 ENGINE



Questions

