

EMBER

Effective Mitigation for Berkeley's Ember Resilience



**FIRE
SAFE
BERKELEY**

Clarifying What's Required in the City's EMBER Proposal

Zone 0 will become effective 1/1/2026 in two areas identified in the map below, with inspections commencing in mid-2026. This provides residents and the City a year to work together before inspections begin.

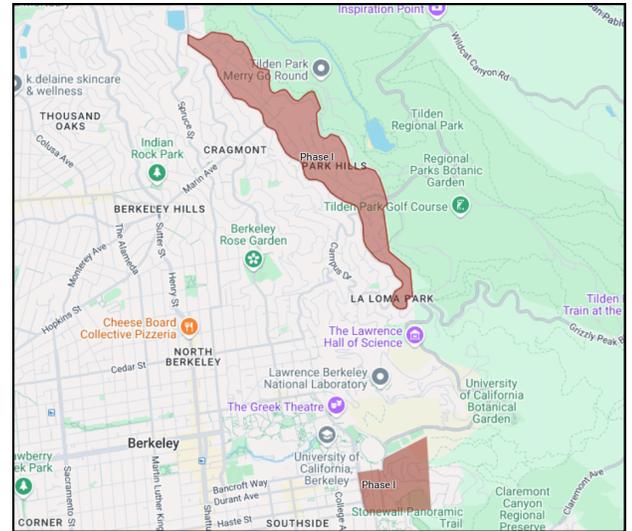
What is Required?

Make these updates within **five feet** of structures, attached decks, and stairs (Zone 0):

- No in-ground vegetation
- No climbing vines
- No combustible mulch
- No wooden or combustible fences that attach to structures (replace the first 5 feet with a non-combustible alternative)

EXCEPTIONS:

- Mature trees as long as they are well maintained and limbed up 10 feet above the roof
- Plants in non-combustible planters/pots (≤ 5 gal) and less than 18-inches in height



Map Shows Proposed Implementation Areas east of Grizzly Peak Blvd. and Panoram Hill



Examples of Beautiful Bay Area Gardens that include Zone 0



Marin Fire Safe



Marin Fire Safe

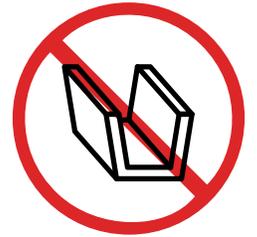
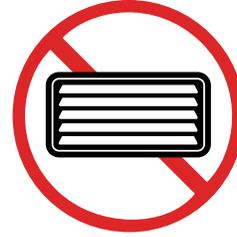


Berkeley, Ca

EMBER Does Not Require any Home Hardening

There are no home hardening measures proposed in the proposal before the Berkeley City Council, this includes:

- Installing ember-resistant vents. **Not Required**
- Upgrading to dual pane windows. **Not Required**
- Upgrading to a Class A roof. **Not Required**
- Screening gutters. **Not Required**



While the City is not requiring these mitigations, home hardening, when coupled with defensible space that includes Zone 0, offers the best way to improve the chances a home will survive a wildfire.

EMBER is a collaboration between the City and residents rooted in an education first approach

The City and Fire Department have and will continue to take an education first approach. This is demonstrated by Defensible Space Inspection program three year performance (below). Note the extremely low number of citations issued when compared to total inspections and total violations discovered:

21,000 Inspections

Of homes in Berkeley

9,000 Violations

Identified for correction

70 citations issued

0.8% of violations, 0.3% of inspections



Fines are rarely more than \$100 are only issued when a homeowner repeatedly ignores fire hazards, since one unsafe property can endanger the entire neighborhood. Like health or building codes, enforcement ensures public safety when voluntary compliance through education and coaching fails.