

Action 15:

Increase Fire Detection and Fire Response Capabilities

Description:

Develop a system to improve ability to detect, respond to, and contain fires. Specific actions include installing automatic fire detection sensors, establishing a resident/volunteer monitoring program to increase community awareness and improve fire risk monitoring and reporting skills, and urging continued or enhanced fire fighter patrols on red flag days. This action could be coordinated with Action 10, which includes establishment of a notification phone tree, improved evacuation response time and improved fire response through a faster, more coordinated communication regarding fire detections.

The fire detection sensor concept is still somewhat experimental, but the Corridor is an excellent location to test this technique due to its fire history and surrounding topography which is well suited for monitoring by a single device. The City of Oakland is constructing a new fire station at the intersection of Alvarado and Amato Roads just west of the study area which should enhance fire response and detection capabilities in the Corridor.

Implementation:

Agencies primarily responsible for implementing this action would be EBRPD, EBMUD, CDF, and the Cities of Oakland and Berkeley. Initiating a resident monitoring program should be included with Action 13, "Emergency Alert and Preparedness". Homeowner involvement is necessary.

Fiscal Impacts:

Estimated costs to establish a resident monitoring program are \$1000 to \$2000 per neighborhood to initiate and \$250 per neighborhood per year to maintain (no independent cost if this ac-

tion is performed as a part of Action 13). Estimated costs associated with an infrared fire detector connected electronically to appropriate agencies is \$5,000 to \$50,000 to install and \$1000 to \$3000 per year to maintain. Costs for any increased fire-fighter patrols are difficult to estimate because they depend on which current actions would be displaced, on the availability of staff to work over-time, and the availability of engines or other patrol vehicles, etc.

Anticipated results:

Reduce fire ignition potential, improve response time to fires, and reduce the threat of fire to people and property.

Cautions:

Infrared fire detection is experimental. Neither it nor resident monitoring should substitute for other, established fire detection and response procedures.



The East-Side of the Caldecott Corridor from the south. Homes exist in places along the ridgeline (J. Kopchik)