



PEAK FIRE

Fuel Break Utilization

Fire Year 2024



THE PEAK FIRE

The Peak Fire started on July 1, 2024 at an overlook turnout on Grizzly Peak Boulevard in Tilden Park, Alameda County. The East Bay Regional Parks District Fire Department arrived at scene and observed the fire burning in light, flashy fuels with a slow rate of spread on both sides of Grizzly Peak Boulevard. Because of immediate suppression actions by responding resources and the fuels treatment of the UC Berkeley Hill Campus Fire Hazard Reduction project, the Peak fire was contained at 0.21 acres.



EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UC BERKELEY HILL CAMPUS FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION PROJECT



Figure 1 Image of treatment "Fuel Reduction Grant": Peak Fire fuels treatment below turnout, looking West (date: July 10, 2024)

The UC Berkeley Hill Campus Fire Hazard Reduction project is funded by a \$3,621,000 CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant awarded to UC Berkeley. Fuel treatment activities on this project date back to 2019 including manual and mechanical thinning. More recently weed whacking took place around the turnouts on Grizzly Peak Boulevard prior to the 4th of July 2024 holiday. This treatment area was 140 acres, however, there have been over 480 acres of treatments carried out around the UC Berkeley Campus as part of this project since 2019. Projects, such as this one, are a collaborative

effort between the members of the Hills Emergency Forum to strategically connect fuels treatment projects and to better protect the communities they serve.



LESSONS LEARNED

The Peak Fire is a good example of the effectiveness of cooperative fuels management along roadways. With steep terrain, high temperatures, and dry conditions, UC Berkeley demonstrated forethought in treating the fuels prior to a disaster. The effect the project had on the rapid containment of the Peak Fire to 0.21 acres demonstrates the importance of fuels treatment within the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The Peak fire's close proximity to the perimeter of the 1991 Tunnel Fire - one of the largest WUI conflagrations in the history of the state – is a stark reminder of the importance of constant maintenance and identification of new projects in WUI areas.



Figure 2 Image of treatment “Fuel Reduction Grant”: Peak Fire fuels treatment below turnout, looking Southeast (date: July 10, 2024)