



Final Ocean Beach Fire Program Elements (Selected Program)

The NPS has developed new elements to provide a safe, manageable, and sustainable Ocean Beach Fire Program. This Ocean Beach Fire Program consists of elements from the NPS preferred proposal, the options under consideration, and new or revised elements based on substantive comment from the public. This program is based on what the NPS has determined best meets the program's purpose, need and objectives.

The Final Ocean Beach Fire Program consists of the following main elements:

1. Permit System

No permits will be required for groups under 25 people. Groups of 25 people or larger will continue to be required to obtain a Special Use Permit from the NPS.

2. Burn Season

Fires will be allowed on Ocean Beach for eight months, March through October. Fires will not be allowed on Ocean Beach from the first day in November to the last day in February. This Burn Season aligns with when demand from the public for fires is the highest, and avoids burning during the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's (BAAQMD) Winter Spare the Air season. During the No-Burn period fire rings could either be removed from the beach or remain with locked lids affixed for the season. A comprehensive cleaning of the affected beach area will occur at the beginning of the No-Burn period followed by a reduced maintenance schedule for the remainder of the period. A thorough evaluation of the beach fire season will also occur annually during the No-Burn period (see Element 11 "Ongoing Program Evaluation").

3. Partnership with San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (SFRPD)

San Francisco District One Supervisor Eric Mar and the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) have generously allocated \$185,000 annually (out year funding pending CCSF budget approval) to support the Ocean Beach Fires Program. This partnership and financial support will facilitate an improved fire program, where SFRPD will provide support for maintenance, trash removal, and cleaning associated with the fires, and will also provide for a continuation of support for public outreach and education which began with the 2014 Revised Pilot Program.

The NPS will continue to cooperate with SFRPD to best utilize the allocated funding for both cleaning of fire rings and the surrounding area on a regular basis, solid waste collection, and operation of the Beach Fire Liaison Program (as described in Element 7, "Public Outreach and Education").

Current Ocean Beach solid waste collection in stairwells 15-20 is in the form of individual trash cans. These trash cans are often overwhelmed by the amount and size of debris during peak burning season. In an effort to improve overall conditions in this area, the NPS will pursue a partnership with the City of San Francisco, to improve trash capacity and reduced maintenance effort.

4. Replace Fire Rings

Beginning in spring 2016, the NPS will add four fire rings to the existing 12, and the ongoing objective of the NPS will be to furnish 16 fire rings for Ocean Beach fires. As existing fire rings fail, they will be replaced with new heat and corrosion resistant rings modeled after designs based on successful installations at other coastal beaches. See Attachment B for examples of possible fire ring designs.

5. Replace Signage

Replace existing complex signage associated with the fire program with a simpler design. A plan for the design, number, and location of replacement and/or additional signs will be developed with input from stakeholders and with consideration of the possible impacts to the historic landscape of the seawall, promenade, and stairwells. The feasibility of signage immediately adjacent to or attached directly to the fire rings will also be explored. The signage program will also be able to clearly communicate information about the burn season. See Attachment B for an example of current signage.

6. Enforcement

Law Enforcement Ranger and United States Park Police (USPP) enforcement operations will be supported by an expansion of the outreach and education activities of the NPS and SFRPD. As described below in Element 7, “Public Outreach and Education”, the NPS will pursue a partnership with SFRPD and stakeholder organizations to create a Beach Fire Liaison program, in which staff and volunteers can provide educational support and assistance in complying with beach fire rules and regulations.

Law Enforcement Rangers and USPP will continue to work toward ensuring the success of the Ocean Beach Fire Program by making contact with visitors on Ocean Beach which may result in warnings, citations, and arrests.

7. Public Outreach and Education

To contribute to the long term success of the Ocean Beach Fire Program, the NPS and SFRPD will work together to conduct community engagement and education that may include, among other things, the following elements:

- City Partnership

As part of the support provided by City and County of San Francisco (CCSF), the NPS will continue to work with the volunteer management and outreach staff of the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (SFRPD) to provide interpretive and educational information and materials for volunteer programs about Ocean Beach. The NPS could also coordinate with SFRPD to create co-hosted programs and provide opportunities for stakeholder or community organizations to volunteer at Ocean Beach.

- Press Release

The NPS will disseminate a press release near the start and end of Burn Season to local media contacts and will remain open to requests for further information or interviews. Visitors will be directed to the park’s website for more information.

- Flyer

Informational flyers will be created for distribution to visitors, local residents, business, and schools. The flyer will also be available to visitors at multiple locations throughout the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), including the Roving Ranger mobile visitor center.

- Website

The NPS maintains a website at www.nps.gov/goga with information on many aspects of the GGNRA. The NPS will update and maintain a page with information specifically about Ocean Beach Fires and the associated rules, regulations, and laws at http://www.nps.gov/goga/learn/management/fire_beachfireregs.htm.

- Social Media

The NPS and CCSF/SFRPD will periodically post information regarding the Ocean Beach Fire Program through its social media accounts which include Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, Tumblr, Pinterest, and Instagram.

- Email Notification

The NPS will leverage its email database to spread the word about the Ocean Beach Fire Program to individuals, organizations, and agencies who have expressed interest in GGNRA updates.

- Beach Fire Liaison Program

The NPS will pursue a partnership with several stakeholder organizations and volunteers to initiate an on-site liaison program for peak burning periods. The Beach Fire Liaison Program will recruit, assemble and train a cohort of staff and volunteers. The Beach Fire Liaison Program partners will collaboratively develop training, outreach materials and best practices. The Beach Fire Liaison Program will establish a staffing schedule and deploy individuals and/or teams during peak burning times to increase awareness and educate users with the goal of improving compliance and resolving issues. The Beach Fire Liaison Program will assist with developing and conducting the Revised Data Collection and Monitoring program.

8. Curfew Time

The 2014 Revised Pilot Program changed the fire curfew from 10:00pm to 9:00pm. The Ocean Beach Fire Program curfew will be 9:30pm. All fires will need to be extinguished by this time, although visitors in compliance with other regulations are allowed to remain on the beach indefinitely.

9. Summer Spare the Air Days

While the BAAQMD does not prohibit fires on summer Spare the Air days, the NPS will continue to prohibit them.

10. Revised Data Collection and Monitoring

The data collected during the 2014 Revised Pilot Program provided a baseline for evaluation of the success of the fire program at Ocean Beach. Data collection will continue under the Ocean Beach Fire Program in a revised manner based on periodic, sample based monitoring with details to be determined (see Beach Fire Liaison Program under Element 7 “Public Outreach and Education”).

11. Ongoing Program Evaluation

In an effort to ensure the continued success of the Ocean Beach Fire Program, the NPS will coordinate with partners, stakeholders, and interested public to evaluate the program on an annual basis. Successes and opportunities will also be identified through comparison of data collected with the baseline formed during the 2014 Revised Pilot Program. The NPS will host annual public workshops during the no burn period to share information about how the past burn season went, discuss what’s working and what’s not, to identify the damage to park resources

(signs, fire rings, etc.) that must be repaired or replaced, and to chart a course together for the next burn season.

12. Age Requirement

Current Ocean Beach fire regulations state “Minors must be supervised. A responsible leader, 21 years or older, must be present for every 10 children under 18 years of age.” This regulation will be changed to state “Minors must be supervised. A responsible leader, 18 years or older, must be present for every 10 children under 18 years of age.”