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THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN  
Thursday, October 21, 2021

# NEWS

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CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021

## UC Berkeley students clean eucalyptus debris to prepare for fire season



NICK QUINLAN/STAFF

Campus students teamed up with Berkeley residents in clearing the debris of eucalyptus tree, which pose a fire hazard to the greater community.

BY [LANCE ROBERTS](#) | STAFF

LAST UPDATED 18 HOURS AGO

A group of UC Berkeley students and Berkeley community members helped clear eucalyptus tree debris that has been posing a threat to the community Sunday.

About 90 students volunteered for the environmental cleanup in Hidden Canyon. Home to a line of eucalyptus trees local residents call the "Line of Fire," the area has been considered a threat for

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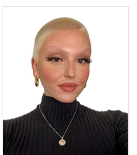
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### CAMPUS

many years, according to local resident and volunteer Marcus Von Engel.


“It is a row of very flammable trees that has a lot of ground-level fuel,” Von Engel said. “So many bark branches have been collecting over the many years that if the winds come, they will funnel through that canyon directly onto all the homes in Berkeley.”

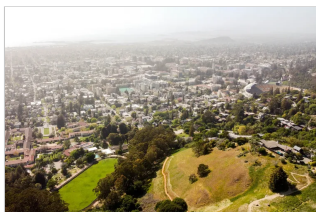
As the leader of the Hillside Fire Safety Leadership Committee’s communication committee, Von Engel relays information to the community to keep everyone informed about Berkeley’s fire danger. Von Engel also decided to tap the campus’s student population to assist in clearing the hillside.

The group has conducted several clearing sessions, with Sunday being the most recent. The first session was slow: only Von Engel, his wife and four students participated in cleaning the hill. After the second session showed a greater turnout, news for Sunday’s cleanup spread like “wildfire,” according to Von Engel.

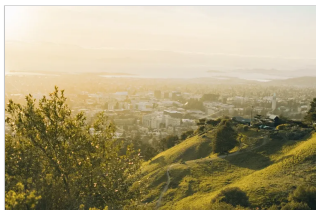
Campus’s Kappa Alpha Order was one such student group to participate in cleaning Hidden Canyon. According to chapter

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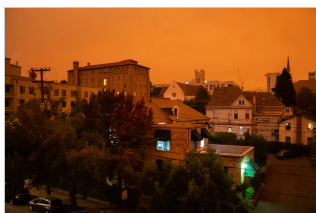
 [Berkeley Hillside Fire Safety Group, Hidden Canyon, Kappa Alpha Order, Marcus von Engel, Matteo Garbelotto, Oakland Hills Fire, Pablo Rayon](#)



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UC Berkeley students clean eucalyptus debris to prepare for fire season



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