

# Ghost Ship Fire

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016



On Friday, December 2, 2016, at approximately 11:24 PM, Oakland firefighters responded to a reported fire at 1315 31st Avenue (commonly known as the Ghost Ship Warehouse)

# From the Oakland FD Investigation report

- The building was an occupied structure divided into live/work spaces. The space was also used that evening for a music event being held on the second floor.
- The building was not equipped with an automatic fire suppression system (sprinklers) or an automatic fire detection system. Several fire extinguishers were located throughout the warehouse. One battery operated smoke detector was found in the debris.
- The fire resulted in 36 fatalities.

# From the Oakland FD Investigation report

- The affected structure was a 2-story, concrete block warehouse built in 1930. According to public record, the combined square footage of both floors is 9,880 sq. ft.
- The walls of the hallways were assembled together from aggregates of salvaged and scavenged materials, such as pianos, organs, windows, wood benches, lumber, and innumerable other items stacked next to and on top of each other





# From the Oakland FD Investigation report

- The warehouse was further divided into individual “cubicle” live-work spaces by a conglomeration of makeshift items including but not limited to: wooden studs, steel beams, doors, window frames, bedframes, railings, pianos, benches, chairs, intact motorhomes and trailers, portions of trailers, corrugated metal sheeting, tapestries, plywood, sculptures, tree stumps and tree limbs. Tenants described several live-work units that were constructed of multiple levels to the height of the first-floor ceiling. The elevated units were variously described as lofts, perches, and tree forts, constructed of actual tree stumps and large dimensional lumber.



# From the Oakland FD Investigation report



# From Media

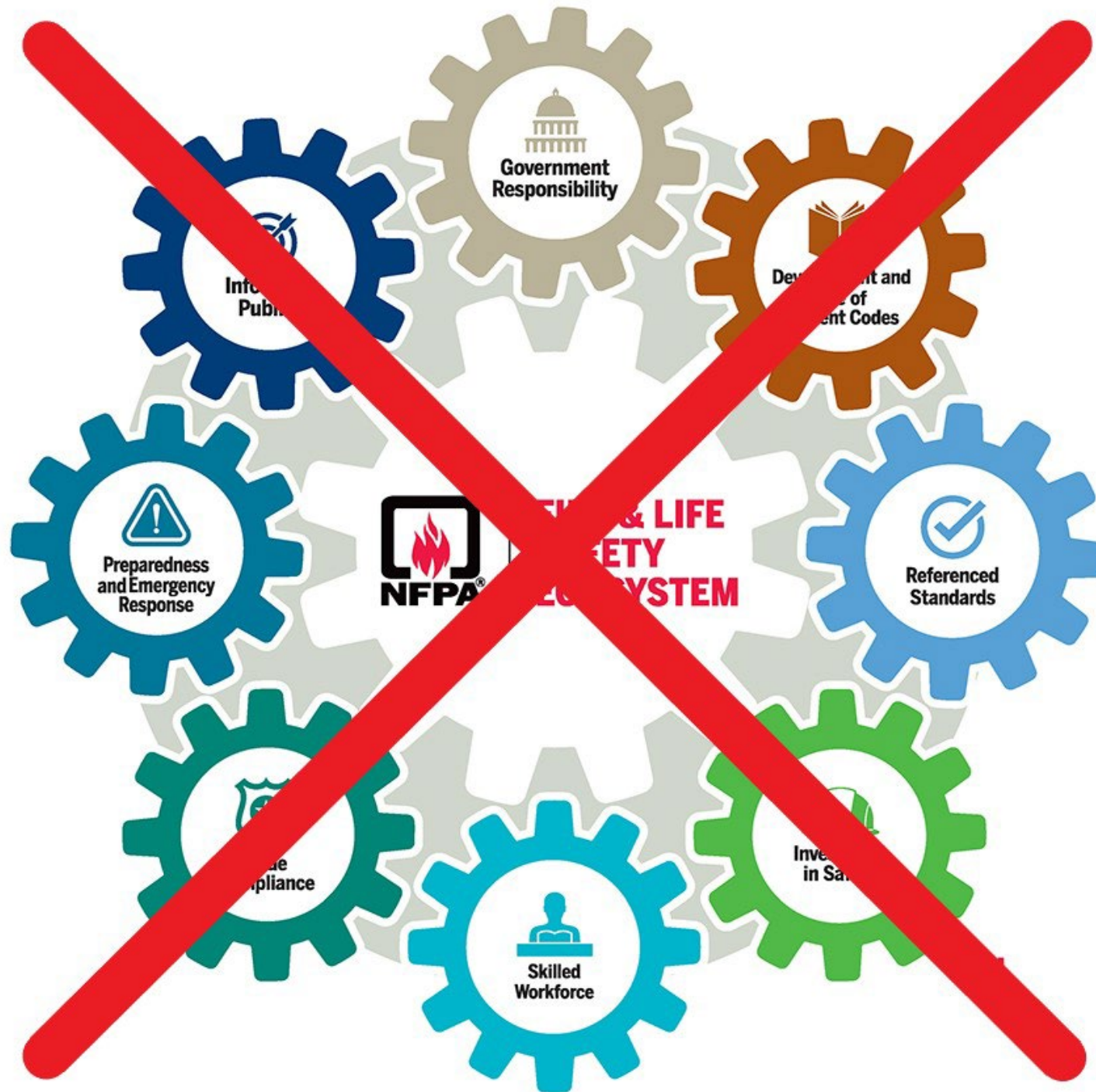
- Several complaints to the city since 1998.
- Police and Fire officials aware of the fire hazard.
- Ghost Ship Founder ignored warnings.
- There had been no inspection for 3 decades.
- No permit applied for or issued for event of night of the fire.
- Oakland Fire Chief:
  - "there were no indications this was an active business",
  - there are no city records showing that Oakland FD had received complaints about the building and
  - that the department "inspects businesses, not buildings"





Photo by Jim Heaphy. Cullen328 - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,  
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# Invisible Fire Problem!

A photograph of a large fire at night. Thick, dark smoke billows from a building, partially obscuring the sky. Firefighters are visible in the foreground, with one spraying a powerful stream of water onto the burning structure. The scene is illuminated by the orange glow of the fire and the white light of the water jets. A sign for 'CAR ALARMS STEREO'S Auto-UPHOLSTERY HEAD LINERS' is visible on the right side of the building.

By Janna487 <https://www.flickr.com/photos/54485353@N05/30582046494>, Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=53813720>