



Unit Strategic Fire Plan

San Benito-Monterey



Last update: 1 June 2020

UNIT STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN AMENDMENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Section Updated</u>	<u>Page Numbers Updated</u>	<u>Description of Update</u>	<u>UpdaBy</u>
1/07/14	Dispatch Agreements	5	Deleted "Monterey Airport Fire District"	CST
4/26/14	Appendix A	36 - 50	Updated Battalion Projects	CST
5/9/14	Section II - Collaboration	6	Added stakeholders	CST
12/19/14	Battalion/Program Plans	29	Combined Batt 7 with Batt 5	CST
12/19/14	Appendix A	49 - 50	Combined Batt 7 with Batt 5	CST
4/1/16	Annual Accomplishments	57-58	Updated Annual Accomplishments	EPM
4/1/16	Appendix A	40 - 48	Updated Battalion Projects	EPM
4/1/16	Exhibits: Maps	50 - 58	Unit Maps and Battalion Maps	EPM
4/1/16	Figure C: Fire History Map	56	Updated Fire History Map	EPM
5/2/17	Annual Accomplishments	55-56	Updated Annual Accomplishments	EPM
5/2/17	Figure C: Fire History Map	54	Updated Fire History Map	EPM
5/2/17	Appendix A: Pre-Fire Projects	33-45	Updated Appendix A: Pre-Fire Projects	EPM
5/2/17	Appendix B: Ignition Data	46-47	Updated Appendix B: Ignition Data	EPM
4/16/18	Appendix A: Pre-Fire Projects	33-45	Updated Appendix A: Pre-Fire Projects	EPM
4/16/18	Appendix B: Ignition Data	46-47	Updated Appendix B: Ignition Data	EPM
4/16/18	Exhibits: Maps	55-56	Unit Maps, Land Ownership	EPM
4/16/18	Figure C: Fire History Map	54	Updated Fire History Map	EPM
4/16/18	Annual Accomplishments	56-57	Updated Annual Accomplishments	EPM
4/10/19	Appendix A: Pre-Fire Projects	41-52	Updated Appendix A: Pre-Fire Projects	EPM
4/10/19	Appendix B: Ignition Data	53-54	Updated Appendix B: Ignition Data	EPM
4/10/19	Exhibits: Maps	55-57	Unit Maps, Land Ownership, Fire History	EPM
4/10/19	Annual Accomplishments	59	Updated Annual Accomplishments	EPM
4/10/20	Appendix A: Pre-Fire Projects	49-61	Updated Appendix A: Pre-Fire Projects	EPM
4/10/20	Appendix B: Ignition Data	62-63	Updated Appendix B: Ignition Data	EPM
4/10/20	Exhibits: Maps	64-66	Unit Maps, Land Ownership, Fire History	EPM
4/10/20	Annual Accomplishments	67-68	Updated Annual Accomplishments	EPM

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SIGNATURE PAGE

Unit Strategic Fire Plan developed for San Benito-Monterey Unit:

This Plan:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties, Federal, State, City, and County agencies within the Unit have been consulted and are listed in the plan.
- Identifies and prioritizes pre-fire and post-fire management strategies and tactics meant to reduce the loss of values at risk within the Unit.
- Is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only. It is the responsibility of those implementing the projects to ensure that all environmental compliance and permitting processes are met as necessary.



6/1/2020

Unit Chief

Date

David Fulcher



6/1/2020

Pre-Fire Engineer

Date

Elliot Maiorana

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

California's Strategic Fire Plan is the state's road map for reducing the risk of wildfire. By placing the emphasis on what needs to be done long before a fire starts, the Strategic Fire Plan seeks to reduce firefighting costs and property losses, increase firefighter safety, and to contribute to ecosystem health. The San Benito-Monterey Unit, with the cooperation of key stakeholders, has designed a plan with the intention of meeting the goals set by both the stakeholders and the California Strategic Fire Plan. Pre-fire management projects are designed to reduce costs and losses, especially during periods of severe fire weather. With the use of fire resistant landscaping, mechanical fuels treatment, prescribed burns, building construction standards, infrastructure, land use planning, and escape plans, the Unit strives to keep what would otherwise be a large, catastrophic fire, to smaller fire with less intensity, reducing suppression costs and property loss.

The San Benito-Monterey Unit management intends to support the Fire Plan and make it successful by meeting the following objectives:

- Collect, analyze and prepare data to assess communities at risk and in need of fuel reduction or other projects
- Work with grant writers and stakeholders to secure funds to implement projects.
- Utilize CAL FIRE personnel and resources in conjunction with other public and private efforts to assist with the project work on the ground.
- Educate the public on fire prevention and incorporating fire resistant landscaping and construction to their property, as well as hazardous fuel reduction to keep their lives, homes, property and natural resources safe from catastrophic wildfires.

With these goals in mind, the Unit strives to reduce fire suppression costs, property loss, and damage to our environment and local ecosystems in the San Benito-Monterey Unit through our pre-fire work and by protecting life, property, and the environment from destructive wildfires.

SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW

UNIT DESCRIPTION

The San Benito-Monterey Unit is located along the central coast between San Luis Obispo County to the south and Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties to the north. The Pacific Ocean abuts the western side of the Unit and the Diablo Mountains and the San Joaquin Valley lie to the east. The Los Padres National Forest lies along the coast south of the Carmel Highlands encompassing the Ventana Wilderness and the Silver Peak Wilderness. The community of the former Ft. Ord also lies within the Unit and has largely become Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land for public recreational use. Pinnacles National Park is centered in the Unit in both Monterey and San Benito Counties.

The Unit encompasses over 3 million acres, of which 2.1 million acres are State Responsibility Area (SRA), representing one of the largest state responsibility jurisdictions in CAL FIRE.

The topography of the unit varies from steep and rugged mountains with moderate to heavy vegetative cover to rolling hills used for livestock grazing. Plant species vary by aspect, slope, elevation, soil type, past fire history, and distance from the coast. The predominant vegetation types are coastal chaparral, and oak/grass woodland, with the Monterey Peninsula supporting stands of various coastal tree species.

The weather in the unit is divided into two basic patterns. The northwestern area of the unit experiences a common coastal weather pattern with low clouds and fog which by mid-day give way to temperatures in the mid 70's to 80's, recovering in the evening with the marine layer moving in. This tends to keep fires near the coast to the first burn period. The eastern and southern areas of the unit generally have less fog and temperatures commonly reach the 90- to 100-degree range with strong afternoon valley winds upwards to 10-15 mph. Fires in the eastern and southern parts of the Unit have greater potential of going into extended attack, especially late in the fire season when heavier fuels are dry. Winters are mild with rainfall from 7 to 30+ inches. Wind speed and direction is variable, but is predominantly northwest at 7-10 mph.

The coastal weather influence, together with periods of extreme fire weather conditions, provides a window for extreme wildland fire behavior in areas of potentially high dollar loss. These conditions combine with the expanding wildland interface and urban population to yield the potential for large, damaging, and costly wildfires. These areas at risk are defined further in the "Priority Areas" section of the Strategic Fire Plan. The unit has an overall fire hazard rating of High (56% of Unit) in the State Responsibility Area (SRA), while 30% is rated Very High and 14% is in the Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Fire history in the San Benito-Monterey Unit is collected for every fire 10 acres and larger. The majority of the fire history is in and around the Los Padres National Forest on the west side of the Unit, primarily due to lightning and camp fires. Fires in the foothills of the Salinas Valley in light, flashy fuels tend to be afternoon, wind driven incidents ranging from under 100 acres to over 1,000 acres, depending on temperatures, wind speed, and topography.

There are several "Priority Areas" identified in the Unit, shown in Appendix D, which are further addressed in the Battalion priorities where fuel reduction projects and public education are discussed.

Primary businesses in the Unit include farming, industry, and tourism.

UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES

The San Benito-Monterey Unit is operationally divided into three divisions and further into seven battalions offering a wide variety of programs which includes: Fire Prevention, Resource Management, Law Enforcement, Air Attack, Helitack, Conservation Camp, Emergency Command Center (communications), and Cooperative Fire Protection.

FIREFIGHTING RESOURCES

Fire Stations – CAL FIRE.....	11
Fire Stations – Cooperative Fire.....	11
Air Attack.....	1
Helitack Base.....	1
Conservation Camp.....	1
Volunteer Fire Stations.....	4

EQUIPMENT

Engines – CAL FIRE.....	17
Engines – Cooperative Fire.....	16
Dozers – CAL FIRE.....	3
Water Tenders – Cooperative Fire.....	2
Ladder 100' – Cooperative Fire.....	1
Patrol – Cooperative Fire.....	2
Squad – Cooperative Fire.....	3
1Air Tankers – CAL FIRE.....	2
Helicopter – CAL FIRE.....	1
Air Attack plane – CAL FIRE.....	1
Rescue Boat (IRB) - Cooperative Fire.....	2
Rescue Water Craft (RWC) – Cooperative Fire.....	1

PERSONNEL

Permanent – CAL FIRE.....	225
Seasonal – CAL FIRE.....	131
Defensible Space Inspector– CAL FIRE.....	4
Volunteer FF.....	60
Volunteers in Prevention.....	10
Firefighters (inmate).....	120
Inmate Crews.....	6

COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENTS

Pebble Beach Community Services District
Cypress Fire Protection District
Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District
Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District
South Monterey County Fire Protection District
Soledad Fire Department

DISPATCH AGREEMENTS

Cachagua Fire Protection District
Mid Coast Volunteer Fire Brigade

MUTUAL THREAT ZONE RESPONSE AREAS

Fort Hunter Liggett

AUTOMATIC / MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS

CAL FIRE maintains several Automatic and Mutual Aid Agreements itself and through the Cooperative Fire Protection agreements in the Unit. All agencies in Monterey County are party to a countywide mutual aid agreement. Many of our contract districts maintain automatic aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions such as:

Cypress Fire Protection District has Auto Aid with:

Pebble Beach Fire Department
Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District
Monterey Fire Department
Monterey County Regional Fire District

Pebble Beach Fire Department has auto aid with:

Cypress Fire Protection District
Monterey Fire Department

Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District has Auto Aid with:

Cypress Fire Protection District

Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District has Auto Aid with:

North Monterey County Fire District
Pajaro Valley Fire District
Watsonville City Fire Department
San Benito County Fire Department

Soledad City Fire Department has Auto Aid with:

Greenfield Fire Protection District
South Monterey County Fire Protection District
CTF Fire

South Monterey County Fire Protection District has Auto Aid with:

Greenfield Fire Protection District
Soledad City Fire Department

CAL FIRE has local operating agreements with:

USFS-Los Padres National Forest
Pinnacles National Park
Bureau of Land Management-Central Coast Field Office

SECTION II: COLLABORATION

COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Representatives involved in the development of the Unit Strategic Fire Plan are included in the following table. Their organization and title are indicated below:

Plan Development Team:

Organization	Title
Fire Safe Council for Monterey County	President
San Benito Fire Safe Council	President
Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association	President
USDA Forest Service	District Ranger
Bureau of Land Management	Field Manager
RCD of Monterey County	Forest Health Coordinator
County of Monterey – Resource Management Agency	Director
Pacific Gas & Electric	Vegetation Management Manager

SECTION III: VALUES

A: VALUES

Valued assets susceptible to fire damage are identified in the Fire Plan as air quality, rangelands, recreation, agriculture, structures, timber, water and watersheds, wildlife and habitat, and other resources (cultural, historical, and scenic). The focus of this plan and relative importance of each value has been determined by reviewing input from local stakeholders and CAL FIRE managers. The San Benito-Monterey Unit Fire Plan has been engineered with these issues in mind.

The priority values in the San Benito-Monterey Unit are tourism, recreation, and rangelands. Pinnacles National Park is split on the border of Monterey and San Benito County attracting visitors all year long. The Monterey Peninsula thrives on tourism year-round as home of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Pebble Beach's 17-Mile Drive, and many world-famous golf courses. The Big Sur area is another popular attraction bordering the Los Padres National Forest (LPF) that was heavily impacted during the Basin Complex Fires in 2008, the Pfeiffer Fire in December of 2013, and the Soberanes Fire of 2016 when several homes were destroyed. Laguna Seca is a popular recreational facility playing host to several large events throughout the year.

Agriculture is a big industry in the Unit. Cattle ranches encompass hundreds of thousands of acres of rangelands in the Unit, while most of the floor of the Salinas Valley is crops of various produce. Vineyards line the foothills of the valley, bringing tourists to wineries throughout the Salinas Valley, Carmel Valley, and the Monterey Peninsula.

Communications such as repeater sites, cell towers, radio towers, FAA communications, and the Big Sur VOR are among the highest priorities to protect from wildfires. The unit maintains access roads to all the repeater towers and removes vegetation buildup, protecting these towers in the event of a fire.

Priority Areas:

Several areas have been identified as "Priority Areas" by the San Benito-Monterey Unit management team. The identification of these specific areas was based on available data from Pre-Fire Engineering assessments and stakeholder input. Additionally, local employees provided anecdotal and historical information that was considered useful in understanding local conditions. Priority Areas described in this plan are not listed in order of priority but rather as elements of the overall Unit Plan and are listed below:

- **State Highway 68 Corridor between Salinas and Monterey Peninsula / Laureles Grade**
- **Carmel Valley / Carmel Valley Village**
- **Carmel Highlands / Palo Colorado Canyon**
- **San Juan Canyon (San Benito County)**
- **Cachagua (Carmel Valley)**
- **Pine Canyon (King City)**
- **North Monterey County / Aromas**
- **Jacks Peak / Pebble Beach**

Following the assessment of each Priority Areas, a series of potential mitigation actions was identified and agreed upon by the Unit Management Team. The following describes each area's geographic location, values, and potential mitigation actions:

State Highway 68 Corridor / Laureles Grade:

This area is located in the western portion of the unit, between Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula. The area is bounded on the east by the Salinas Valley, on the north and west by the former Fort Ord Army Base, on the south by Carmel Valley, and on the west by Jacks Peak.

Values include a large number of single and multi-family residences. Highway 68 is a major travel route between Salinas and the Monterey Peninsula. Several commercial / industrial parks are located along Highway 68, including the Laguna Seca Recreation Area. Large areas of BLM wildland are located along the northern border. This area contains large plots of vegetation that have not burned in several years, resulting in a build-up of decadent mature fuels.

Priority Area Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified values and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within this Priority Area.
- Strive to provide chipper services as available to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified assets at risk.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Encourage development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the Priority Area. Such plans should identify access routes, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the Priority Area that can be pre-planned and identified.

Carmel Valley / Carmel Valley Village:

This area is located in the western portion of the Unit on both sides of Carmel Valley Road from State Highway 1 west to the Sleepy Hollow subdivision. It is bordered by Jacks Peak and State Highway 68 on the north, Garland Ranch Regional Park on the south, City of Carmel-by-the-Sea on the west, and Cachagua Fire Protection District on the east.

Values include a large number of single and multi-family residences and other rural structures. Carmel Valley Road is a primary travel route leading to and from the Monterey Peninsula from Hwy 101 in the Salinas Valley to Hwy 1 in Carmel. Several commercial/retail centers are located along Carmel Valley Road as well as the Quail Lodge and Carmel Valley golf courses. Several wineries are also located in the area. Large areas of National Forest wildland / wilderness are located to the south of the target area. This area contains large plots of vegetation that have not burned in several years, resulting in a build-up of dead mature fuel.

Priority Area Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified values and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within the Priority Area.
- Strive to provide chipper services, as available, to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291, and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified assets at risk.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Encourage development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the target area. Such plans should identify access routes, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the target area that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Work closely with the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.
- Maintain and improve the Palo Corona-White Rock Fire Roads project. Phase I was completed and now we are working to continue to expand the fuel modification efforts.

Carmel Highlands / Palo Colorado Canyon:

This area is located in the western coastal area of the Unit, and is bordered by the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea on the north, the Los Padres National Forest on the east, Andrew Molera State Park and Big Sur on the south, and the Pacific Ocean on the west.

Values include single and multi-family residences and other rural structures, many located in remote areas with limited access. Point Lobos State Reserve, Garrapata State Beach, and the California Sea Otter Refuge are also within this Priority Area. Highway 1 is the only access/egress route for this Priority Area.

Priority Area Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified values and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within Priority Area.
- Continue to provide chipper services, as available, to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291, and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified assets at risk.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Continue development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the Priority Area. Such plans should identify access routes, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the Priority Area that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Work closely with the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.
- Maintain and improve the Palo Colorado Fuelbreak project. Phase I was completed and now we are working to continue to expand the fuel modification efforts.

San Juan Canyon: (San Juan Bautista)

This area is located southwest of the community of San Juan Bautista, and is bordered by State Highway 156 on the north, Fremont Peak on the west, Hollister Hills SVRA on the east, and Wildhorse Canyon on the south.

Values include single and multi-family residential structures, many located in remote areas with limited access, and several large ranches. Access to and egress from the entire Priority Area is very limited.

Priority Area Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified values and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within the Priority Area.
- Continue to provide chipper services, as available, to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291, and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified assets at risk.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Encourage development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the target area. Such plans should identify access routes, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the target area that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Work closely with the San Benito County Fire Safe Council and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.
- Maintain and improve the San Juan Canyon Shaded Fuelbreak project. Phase I was completed and now we are working to continue to expand the fuel modification efforts.

Pine Canyon: (King City)

This area is located southwest of the community of King City in southern Monterey County. It is bordered by Hwy 101 on the north and east, and Fort Hunter Liggett to the west.

Values include single family and multi-unit residential structures. This area continues to grow with the construction of new residential sub-division projects in the planning stages.

Priority Area Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified values and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following prescriptions have been identified as potential successful methods of achieving the Unit's Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within the Priority Area.
- Roadside fuel modification to ensure egress / exit route safety and reduce the possibility of "roadside starts".
- Work closely with the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, the Resource Conservation District for Monterey County, and local fire agencies to identify additional prescriptions suitable for the area.

Cachagua: (Carmel Valley)

This Priority Area is located in the western portion of the Unit, and is situated south of Carmel Valley Road and north of the Las Padres National Forest east of Carmel Valley Village. The area is served by the Cachagua Fire Protection District.

Values include single and multi-family residential structures, and several large ranches, many of which are located in remote areas with limited access. Fire history in the area is minimal, leading to the overgrowth of dead brush and light flashy fuels.

Priority Area Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified values and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within the Priority Area.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Continue development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the Priority Area. Such plans will identify access routes, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant elements of a wildland fire strategy for the Priority Area that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Work closely with the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, the Resource Conservation District for Monterey County, and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.
- Maintain and improve the Laurel Springs / Hennicksons Ridge Fuelbreak project. Phase I was completed and now we are working to continue to expand the fuel modification efforts.

North Monterey County / Aromas:

This area is located in the northwestern part of the Unit, situated west of State Highway 101, south of State Highway 129, north of State Highway 156, and east of the Pacific Ocean. It includes the communities of Aromas, Pajaro, Las Lomas, Prunedale, Royal Oaks, and Moss Landing.

Values include the four major highways noted above. Each of these routes is vital to vehicular traffic in the region. Although considered a “rural” region, the area contains a large number of single-family dwellings, ranchland, and commercial/retail properties. Additionally, the Moss Landing power plant and Moss Landing Harbor are located on the western edge of the Priority Area. Moss Landing and Zmudowski State beaches and the Elkhorn Slough provide scenery, recreation, and wildlife refuge. The potential for a large damaging fire in this area is increased dramatically due to the large number of eucalyptus trees throughout the area.

Priority Area Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified values and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within Priority Area.
- Strive to provide chipper services, as available, to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291, and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified values.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Encourage development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the Priority Area. Such plans should identify access routes, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the target area that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Work closely with the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, the Resource Conservation District for Monterey County, and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.
- Implementation and completion of the Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District / North County Fire Protection District LE-100 Inspection program.
- Annual chipper program jointly offered by CAL FIRE, Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District and the Aromas Water District

Jacks Peak / Pebble Beach:

This area is located on the Monterey Peninsula in the western portion of the Unit, and is bordered by the Pacific Ocean on the west, the City of Monterey on the north, Carmel Valley and the Highway 68 corridor on the east, and the City of Carmel-by-the-Sea on the south. This area represents one of the most scenic and affluent communities in California.

Values for this area are varied, including resort areas, championship golf courses, single family and multi-unit residential structures. Highway 1 is the primary north-south travel route, providing access to Big Sur and other coastal areas to the south. The potential for a large damaging fire in this area is high. The vegetation lends itself to crown fires in the Monterey pine and Monterey cypress. The entire Priority Area has limited access and egress.

Priority Area Goals:

- Reduction of available wildland fuels, particularly adjacent to identified values and primary access/egress routes
- Increased public awareness and education relative to wildland fire threat and defensible space

Potential Mitigating Actions:

The following actions have been identified to achieve the Unit Fire Plan goals for this Priority Area:

- Annual inspection and enforcement of fire safety and clearance requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291 for at least 33% of structures within target area.
- Continue to provide chipper services, as available, to assist property owners in meeting the wildland fire safety requirements of Public Resources Code Section 4291, and reducing the overall wildland fuels load adjacent to identified values.
- Reduction and/or removal of wildland fuels along primary access/egress routes to reduce the incidence of roadside ignitions, and to ensure safe access and egress by firefighters and residents in the event of a wildland fire emergency.
- Continue development and distribution of wildland emergency plans for specific sub-areas of the Priority Area. Such plans should identify access routes, water sources, helibases and helispots, command posts, staging areas, and/or any other significant element of a wildland fire strategy for the Priority Area that can be pre-planned and identified.
- Continue enforcement of the Cypress FPD and PBCSD Fire Defense Plan to ensure compliance and maintenance of emergency access routes, designated open space areas, and undeveloped parcels.
- Work closely with the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, the Resource Conservation District for Monterey County, and local stakeholders to identify additional mitigating actions suitable for the area.

B: COMMUNITIES

Monterey County:

Aromas *
Big Sur *
Bryson-Hesperia
Cachagua
Carmel-by-the-Sea *
Carmel Highlands *
Carmel Valley *
Carmel Valley Village *
Corral de Tierra
Del Monte Forest *
Del Rey Oaks *
Elkhorn *
Fort Ord *
Gonzales *
Greenfield *
Jamesburg
King City *
Las Lomas *
Lucia *
Marina *
Monterey *
Pacific Grove *
Pajaro *
Pinnacles National Park *
Prunedale *
San Benancio
Soledad *
Sand City *
Salinas *
Seaside *

San Benito County:

Antelope Valley
Bitterwater
Cienega Canyon
Hollister *
Paicines
Panoche Valley
Ridgemark
San Juan Bautista *
San Juan Canyon
Tres Pinos

For more information on Communities at Risk and the California Fire Alliance go to

http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/fireplan/fireplanning_communities_at_risk.php

* Communities listed as Communities at Risk on the California Fire Alliance website

SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

A: FIRE PREVENTION & LAW ENFORCEMENT - Battalion 4620

The primary goal of the San Benito-Monterey Unit, Strategic Fire Plan is to prevent the ignition and spread of unwanted, human-caused fires with an emphasis on reducing losses as a result of large damaging fires. Utilizing fire history, fuels data, weather data, and assets at risk, as well as incorporating input from the Monterey County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, San Benito County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and Federal partners, the Unit has identified Priority Areas as indicated in this document. Proactive pre-fire suppression activities, public information, and education programs are key elements of this plan.

San Benito-Monterey Unit management addresses fire prevention through the engineering, education, and law enforcement programs. Their shared objective is reduced fire hazard and risk. This is more narrowly addressed in a planning process based on ignition management and loss reduction, including biomass utilization, fire resistant landscaping, mechanical fuels treatment, building construction standards, infrastructure, land use planning and pre-fire, safety zone and escape plans.

Ignitions are managed by preventing fires likely to exceed the capabilities of available suppression forces that could result in large damaging fires. Loss reduction is integral to mitigating large and damaging fires. Significant improvement can be achieved by reducing hazards (fuel buildups around structures and communities), and working with private industry to implement hazard reduction plans around residential developments in the rural-urban intermix areas. Additionally, pre-designated suppression and ingress/egress routes are effective tools in ensuring civilian and firefighter life safety. Successful programs permit more effective utilization of CAL FIRE's initial attack forces, and enhance firefighter and citizen safety.

See Appendix B for Ignition Data



ENGINEERING & STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY

While many structures in the Unit are not built to current standards, all new construction is being held to the California Building Code, Chapter 7 (Fire-Resistance-Rated Construction) and Chapter 7A (SFM - Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure) building construction standards. Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) dictate what codes are to be followed in which areas. A map showing the FHSZs in the Unit is shown in the “Maps” portion of this document.

Title 19, Public Resources Code 4290 - Addresses fire apparatus access and water requirements and is implemented at the County level.

Protection Planning - Fire Protection planning is reviewed at the subdivision and parcel map level and typically implemented at the development stages of a project.

Code Enforcement - Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District, Cypress Fire Protection District, and Pebble Beach Community Services District have full time Fire Protection Planners who review all building permits. Among other codes, they enforce the current California Building Codes, which include Chapter 7 (Fire-Resistance-Rated Construction) and Chapter 7A (SFM - Materials and Construction Methods for Exterior Wildfire Exposure).

Title 19, Public Resources Code 4291 - Addresses defensible space around structures. Each battalion has predetermined areas in where to perform Defensible Space Inspections each year. Some battalions, due to housing density, have more inspections and are on a three-year cycle to alternate neighborhoods. Inspections will be done on any structure(s) when requested.

Pre-Plans - Unit personnel are constantly gathering updated data in each battalion to submit to Unit GIS personnel in efforts to produce updated battalion preplan maps. The San Benito-Monterey Unit also works with students from local colleges for pre-plan mapping of communities for emergency response. The goal of this is to increase public and emergency responder awareness of community values, hazards, egress/ingress routes, potential safe refuge areas, and coordinate emergency responders, while also providing students with the opportunity to engage in GIS projects and emergency planning for college credit.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) – In 2007, FHSZs were updated with improved accuracy and adopted throughout the Unit— not only on state responsibility lands, but also in local jurisdictions. Several cities throughout Monterey County had Very High FHSZs which required cities to either adopt or reject. All cities affected within the San Benito-Monterey Unit adopted recommended changes in the Very High FHSZs, and now adhere to building code regulations contained in California Building Code Chapter 7A.

http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fire_prevention_wildland.php

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Fire safety education is a high priority in the unit, whether it is a formal school program or advising residents on how to keep their homes safe inside and out. Unit personnel perform training at schools in each battalion on fire safety inside the home as well as what to do if there is a fire outside in the wildland. The crews also utilize Defensible Space Inspections to help educate residents on ways to cut back brush, trim trees and mow grasses while keeping an attractive, natural look to the landscape.

The unit has several large fire prevention signs placed in strategic locations throughout the unit to spread fire safety messages. Several of the signs have been placed at fire stations of local fire agencies to gain high visibility of the dangers of wildfire. In the years since the signs went up, the Unit has seen a decrease in fires caused by “equipment use”.



Results of the Unit’s ignition data shows that recent vegetation fires caused by equipment use, smoking, and vehicles have been reduced. Unit managers believe that our public education efforts are having a positive influence on members of the public.

The San Benito Fire Safe Council and Fire Safe Council for Monterey County actively seek grant funding to work with local landowners and stakeholders as well as CAL FIRE personnel to reduce roadside fuels, increase public awareness, build fuel breaks around communities and develop updated egress/ingress plans in the Unit. Grant funding will enable Unit personnel to purchase newspaper ads, large roadside signs, fund a Unit website and other avenues for public outreach.

The unit has made it a priority to have a public information officer available at all times during the year to notify the media of emergencies in the unit. Since a majority of fires are human caused, we believe that public awareness is key to reducing ignitions and have partnered with the California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (CWCG) in the “One Less Spark Campaign”. The *One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire* campaign educates Californians about how to prevent wildfires caused by sparks from sources around the home and vehicle, as well as by industrial usage.

The San Benito-Monterey Unit has been proactive in gaining defensible space compliance by hiring Defensible Space Inspectors to conduct Defensible Space inspections in the interface areas. Public reaction has been positive as residents are educated on the various ways they can be compliant with the law and still maintain an attractive landscape that will assist fire personnel in the event of a wildfire in their neighborhood. The Unit’s ability to keep fires small with minimal damage in and around structures has proven that more residents are becoming fire safe and our education efforts are working.



B. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The San Benito-Monterey Resource Management Program strives to enhance the Unit's natural resources for both present and future use. The Unit has two Registered Professional Foresters on staff and an Environmental Scientist to provide assistance and education to landowners on forestry issues.

The Unit administers an active Vegetation Management Program (VMP). The purpose of the VMP program is to reintroduce fire to the landscape, restoring aspects of historic fire regimes, and to reduce flammable vegetation that may contribute to large, damaging wildfires and high fire suppression costs. The flammable vegetation on public or private lands can be reduced through prescribed burning or mechanical treatment. Vegetation management also results in benefits to grazing, wildlife, plant diversity, and water quality.

Overview:

The Vegetation Management Program is a cost-sharing program that focuses on the use of prescribed fire and mechanical means for addressing wildland fire fuel hazards and other resource management issues on State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands. The use of prescribed fire mimics natural processes, restores fire to its historic role in wildland ecosystems, and provides significant fire hazard reduction benefits that enhance public and firefighter safety.

VMP allows private landowners to enter into a contract with CAL FIRE to use prescribed fire to accomplish a combination of fire protection and resource management goals. Implementation of VMP projects is by CAL FIRE Units. The projects which fit within a Unit's priority areas (e.g., those identified through the Fire Plan) and are considered to be of most value to the unit are those that will be completed.



History:

The Vegetation Management Program is a cost share program that allows public and private landowners to participate in wildland fuel reduction projects. The primary tool used is prescribed fire, although in more recent years CAL FIRE has used the program for mechanical treatments of vegetation as well.

Vegetation Management, or VMP, was preceded by the Range Improvement Program that was used aggressively by CAL FIRE to remove undesired woody vegetation and increase forage production for domestic stock and wildlife. Early records indicate that range improvement burns were conducted by CAL FIRE as early as 1945, when CAL FIRE was known as the Division of Forestry under the Department of Natural Resources. Acres burned during the period of 1949-1953 averaged 141,400 acres per year and totaled approximately 707,000 acres for the same period (T. F. Arvola Deputy State Forester, Inter Office Memo, April 5, 1954). These burns were carried out in cooperation with landowners primarily interested in improving forage for livestock.

In July of 1980 Senate Bill 1704 (Keene) created the Chaparral Management Program. This legislation provided CAL FIRE authorization to contract with private and public landowners for the purpose of fuel hazard reduction, vegetation management, and the improvement of wildlife, range, and forest resources. The program is currently known as the Vegetation Management Program; however, the objectives and authority for fuel reduction projects are still guided by the statutes created by Senate Bill 1704. VMP acres treated have declined significantly in recent years, averaging approximately 13,000 acres per year since 1999. Increasing rural populations,

air quality issues, and new CAL FIRE programs have reduced the use of prescribed fire in many areas of the state. However, VMP is a cost-effective tool that is still used to treat vegetation where physical and social conditions are conducive to its use. The program has proven to be well suited for controlling invasive weeds and improving wildlife habitat under joint projects with organizations such as the Nature Conservancy. Its use to establish fuel breaks and eliminate heavy fuel accumulations in many areas of the state will continue.

Local Program:

Locally, the emphasis is on projects in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and the Wildland-Urban Intermix. The intention is to treat hazardous fuel accumulations near structures and infrastructure to reduce potential losses during wildfire. Other items of concern for VMP project selection are watershed protection, habitat enhancement (especially for threatened and endangered species), and property owner goals.

The unit has multiple projects in various stages of planning that are addressed in each Battalion section of this plan. In 2019, CAL FIRE identified 35 priority fuels reduction projects throughout the state that could be initiated almost immediately to protect the lives, health, property, and natural resources. Four of the projects were in the Unit. CAL FIRE shall work, to the extent feasible, with other public agencies, landowners, and the communities themselves to implement these projects to implement rapid treatment of fuels. The department has assigned a Prescribed Fire/Fuels Crew and activated the California National Guard to the Unit, to assist with completing these projects.

Depending upon weather conditions and resource availability, we may be able to conduct multiple prescribed burns this year on projects with an active contract. Public notification of an impending prescribed burn shall be through a press release to local media outlets and may include road signs, as well.



Fuels:

Four distinct wildland fuel types dominate the San Benito-Monterey Unit.

Fuel Model 1 (annual grasses)

Although inter-mixed with fuel model 4 (brush), this fuel model dominates the foothills of the eastern portion of the Unit. Extending from the Santa Clara County line southward along the foothills east of the Salinas valley, this fuel model represents more than fifty percent of the fuel types in the Unit.



Fuel Model 2 (oak woodland)

This fuel model is typically located on the north and east facing slopes of the Unit. It is predominant in the northeast, southeast and southwest areas of both San Benito and Monterey Counties and typically aligned with Fuel model 4 (brush), on the opposite facing slopes.



Fuel Model 4 (brush)

While a substantial amount of brush is located in the foothills east of the Salinas Valley, in the area of Pinnacles National Park, the majority of this fuel type is found in the mountains west of the Salinas Valley throughout the coastal range. Typically, it is found on south and western facing slopes in areas not used for cattle grazing. Brush can be found measuring over five feet in height, which corresponds to over 30 years of age.



Fuel Model 9 (conifers)

Conifers consisting of several species of pine and redwood are located in three distinct areas within the Unit, specifically, in the Gabilan Range, as well as the Diablo Range and throughout the coastal mountains south of Monterey. The conifer forests extend into the Big Sur and Ventana Wilderness areas.



SECTION V: PRE- FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS

Battalion 1: Carmel Battalion - Battalion 4611

Battalion 1 Description

The Carmel Battalion is in the western area of the San Benito / Monterey Unit. Encompassing more than 900 square miles, it contains a diverse amount of topography and vegetation. To the west, the Pacific Ocean beaches rise into the steep Santa Lucia coastal mountains, transitioning from coastal chaparral to redwood canyons bordered on the ridges by oak and grass woodlands. Inland, several east to west running valleys are bounded by the Sierra de Salinas Range to the east. The valley floors are predominantly grass and oak woodlands rising to dense chaparral stands on the south aspects and hardwood forests on the north aspects. Throughout most of these valleys, residential development has occurred both on the ridges and the floors, creating pockets of Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). The north of the battalion is comprised of an area of ancient sand dunes hosting the West Coast's largest maritime chaparral community in the former Fort Ord area. Most of that land remains in a natural state and is the State Direct Protection Authority of Federal Responsibility Areas (FRA). To the northwest, the Monterey Pine stands of the Monterey Peninsula intermingle with a dense population of WUI. To the south, Battalion 1 borders the northern boundary of the vast Los Padres National Forest and Ventana Wilderness.

Values at Risk

Interspersed throughout the varied topography and vegetation, one will find the Battalion 1 assets at risk. They include large cattle ranches, exclusive gated communities, federal, state and local forests, parks and recreation areas, commercial / industrial developments, vineyards, and many WUI communities.

Statistics:

Below is the breakdown of the Responsibility Area and Direct Protection Area for Battalion 1.

FRA acres: 249,722

SRA acres: 252,330

LRA acres: 86,245

Total acres: 594,243

CAL FIRE DPA acres: 232,940

Battalion Fire History and Occurrence

Fire history in Battalion 1 is varied. Many wildland fires have been started by lightning in inaccessible areas. Some of these have started on Federal lands and burned into State Responsibility Areas (SRA). Unattended controlled burns or campfires have historically contributed to damaging fires. Power line failures are also a common cause of fires due to the corrosive effects of the marine air on the lines. Major Fires in the battalion have included Marble Cone 1977, Rat Creek - Gorda Complex Fire 1985, Kirk Complex 1999, Basin Complex, 2008, Soberanes 2016.

Weather

The weather patterns in Battalion 1 during the summer may range from cool and foggy 60s near the coast to 100s in the upper reaches of the inland valleys. The normal summer northwest air flow generally carries the cool moist marine air inland by evening, somewhat moderating the fire risk at night in the valleys. A summer inversion often keeps the upper elevations warm and dry throughout the 24-hour cycle.

Fire Prevention Plan Development

The Fire Prevention Plan was developed through a systematic approach from statistical values, mapping data of the following criteria; fuels, housing density, historical data of fire ignitions and major infrastructure including major highways and power lines. These areas overlaid with historical data of fire ignitions and perimeters then gave clear Target Areas. These Target Areas allow for a focus and prioritization that is specific and unique to the battalion and the assets at risk. Three Target Areas were identified in Battalion 1.

Target Area 1 the community of Palo Colorado, which is a very narrow canyon with one way and one way out roads and narrow driveways.

Target Area 2 the communities of Jamesburg and Cachagua, which have a major WUI issue with narrow roads and limited access to homes.

Target Area 3 is Carmel Valley at large. Carmel Valley is a WUI issue with narrow driveways and limited access to homes and steep driveways and many one way in and one way out areas etc.

The 3 target areas are adjacent to major fire history, including Marble Cone, Kirk, Basin, and Soberanes.

Mitigation Strategies and Action Plan

1. Public Education/Contact:

Public contact and education continue to be a priority within Battalion 1 to reduce the number of fire ignitions. The local Battalion Chief will work the Monterey County Fire Safe Council, the Resource Conservation District for Monterey County, and community stakeholders in order to prioritize projects and grant funding.

A. Burn Permit Administration

LE-62s (Residential Burn Permit – Burn Pile) will be issued by CAL FIRE at an open State Facility and or obtained online via CALFIRE website. Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) determines burn hours.

LE-5 (California Inter-Agency Burning Permit) are issued on SRA lands after an inspection by an authorized employee of CAL FIRE. These project burn permits are typically used to dispose of larger piles of material and typically require an inspection by CAL FIRE prior to authorization to burn during declared fire season.

B. Public Education Forums

Battalion staff remains involved in multiple public education programs. Ongoing events throughout the year:

1. Monterey County Fair
2. Fire Prevention Signage
3. Fire Safe Council for Monterey County Meeting and functions
4. Battalion 1 Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) signs
5. Participate in tabletop drills

C. Stakeholder

Battalion staff works with the following stakeholders to ensure there is a common vision of fire prevention education:

1. Pebble Beach Company (PBCo)
2. Monterey County Regional Fire District (MCF)
3. Cachagua Fire Protection District (CFC)
4. Mid Coast Fire Brigade (MCFB)
5. Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade (BSVFB)
6. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)
7. California Department of Parks and Recreation
8. Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD)
9. United States Forest Service (USFS)
10. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
11. Santa Lucia Preserve (SLP)
12. Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT)
13. Monterey County (MoCo)
14. Hastings Preserve
15. Del Monte Forest Conservancy (DMFC)
16. Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District (CHF)
17. Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD)
18. Cypress Fire Protection District (CYP)
19. Resource Conservation District of Monterey County (RCDMC)
20. Local, State and Federally Elected Officials

2. Fire Prevention Engineering

The West Division will also focus its available resources to support the prevention of large wildfires in Target Areas 1, 2 and 3. The West Division, in cooperation Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, Pre-Fire Planning and Prevention Staff, Defensible Space Inspectors, and various other local public agencies will continuously educate, evaluate, and propose current and new efforts to prevent a large-scale wildfire in this area.

A. Strategic Community Fuel Breaks:

During the 2016 Soberanes Fire, there were many control lines established south of Carmel Valley which are being maintained as fuel breaks. These included but are not limited to:

1. Palo Corona-White Rock Fire Roads - Carmel Valley
2. Chamisal Ridge-San Clemente Fuel Break - Carmel Valley
3. Laurel Springs/Hennicksons Ridge Fuel Break - Jamesburg
4. Long Ridge-Green Ridge-Mescal Ridge - Palo Colorado
5. Palo Corona-Corona-Red Wolf-Mal Paso area - Carmel Highlands
6. Coast Ridge and Partington Ridge - Big Sur
7. Pico Blanco-Mt. Manuel-North Coast Ridge - Big Sur

B. Vegetation Management:

Battalion staff works with the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, RCDMC, and other cooperators to reduce fuels with community chipping projects.

Fuel reduction programs involving mechanical means as well as controlled burns are being used to reduce fuel loads, create strategic fuel breaks to protect communities, and maintain safe egress in case of fire.

C. Pre-Fire Engineering:

BEU West Division Battalion 4611 works with Caltrans, Monterey County Public Works, and BLM to ensure fuels reduction practices on each agency's public easements is completed. These fuel reductions include mowing or clearing vegetation in a manner to reduce significant fire spread from a public roadway to the vegetation caused by vehicle caused fires. The application of the current Fire and Building Codes to new construction in Battalion 1 directs homeowners in the safest ways to build their homes.

D. Inspection:

Battalion staff will continue working with PG&E to guide and assist in Power Line Engineering and PRC 4293 Enforcement. This will include prioritizing their line inspections to be in line with the identified Target Areas along with identifying and removing any hazard vegetation that could compromise the lines and create a fire ignition.

3. Law Enforcement

The Unit has two Law Enforcement/Fire Investigators in its Fire Prevention Bureau. These officers are tasked with enforcing all Forestry and Fire Laws within the Unit and State. Law Enforcement duties include enforcement of PRC4291, citation issuance for negligently caused fires, and investigations of all fires. The Unit has additional Law Enforcement Officers who are available to assist the Fire Prevention Bureau with the enforcement of the all Forestry and Fire Law within the Unit and Battalion.

- A. Defensible Space Inspections:** PRC 4291 inspections serve a dual purpose. First, they are a vegetation management motivator. The second purpose is as a public education tool. In 2020, our goal is to complete LE-100 inspections of all of the residential structures within the SRA in Target Areas 1 and 2. This process will include an initial LE-100 inspection. After the initial inspection, if any violations are found, a 2nd inspection will be required to assess the property. If after the 2nd inspection is completed and violations are still present, the property owner will have a 3rd and final inspection. If violations are found on the last inspection, the property owner shall be cited. All inspections will follow the criteria found on the CAL FIRE LE-100 Defensible Space Inspection Worksheet. LE-100 inspection process will take place based on resource availability and completion of LE-100 inspections and fuel reduction projects in Target Area 2.

The remainder of SRA in BEU West Division Battalion 1 within Target Areas 3 will have a percent of LE-100 inspection done each year as we work with Monterey County Regional Fire Department to ensure this is completed.

Battalion 2: Peninsula Battalion (Schedule A – Contract Districts)

Battalion 4605 – Prevention & Planning

Battalion 4612 – Cypress FPD & Carmel Highlands FPD

Battalion 4618 – Pebble Beach CSD

Battalion 2 is comprised of three local government cooperative agreements or “Schedule A” contracts made up of the Pebble Beach Community Services District (PBCSD), Cypress Fire Protection District, and Carmel Highlands Fire Protection District.

The Pebble Beach area is entirely within the State Responsibility Area (SRA). Also referred to as the Del Monte Forest, this area has a closed-cone coniferous forest with areas of chaparral and coastal scrub, as well as small remnants of coastal prairie in the common areas. There are homes all throughout the forested areas, including homes interfaced between golf courses and timber. Small fires that occur in these areas pose a major threat to many high-dollar homes. The Morse Fire in 1987, started by an illegal campfire, burned 190 acres and destroyed 31 structures, causing an estimated damage of approximately \$18,000,000. Fire road signage, mapping, and maintenance are a high priority in the district due to recreation and fire occurrences in the open spaces within the forest.

The Cypress FPD borders the southern end of Pebble Beach and wraps around the city of Carmel-by-the-Sea on the north, east, and south, stretching from the beaches to approximately two miles east from the mouth of Carmel Valley and bordering Carmel Highlands FPD to the south. The lower part of the district to the east encompasses Hwy 68, Josselyn Canyon, and the homes surrounding the Del Monte Golf Course. Cypress FPD is in both the SRA and Local Responsibility Area (LRA) with housing developments surrounded by wooded areas.

The Carmel Highlands FPD is the southern-most district in Battalion 2, with the northern border just south of the Carmel River, down to Mal Paso Creek, encompassing the wildland-urban interface on the west facing slope. The district has many large homes under a tall canopy of closed-cone coniferous forest with areas of chaparral and coastal scrub, as well as small remnants of coastal prairie in the common areas. Most of the district, both SRA and LRA, is rated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

The three fire districts maintain good working relationships to collaborate on fuel reductions projects with several different agencies such as Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District, Pebble Beach Company, Caltrans, PG&E, homeowner associations, and private homeowners.

Defensible space remains a high priority in Battalion 2 due to the housing density within the WUI. The battalion has an aggressive LE-100 program employing Retired Annuitant Fire Captains to educate homeowners and to ensure compliance throughout the districts. The Fuel Management Officer/Fire Captain has been working on fuel reduction projects in all three Districts of Battalions 2 to increase fire fuel reduction and defensible space efforts. The Fuel Management Officer works with the Fire Protection and Planning Battalion (FPP) staff.

Battalion 3: King City Battalion - Battalion 4613

Battalion Description

The King City Battalion covers an area of approximately 556,841 total acres with approximately 776 residents. The Battalion is comprised almost entirely of SRA; starts from the Chualar area and encompasses both sides of the Salinas Valley “ridge top to ridge top” south to Hwy 198. This area includes the west entrance to Pinnacles National Park, Arroyo Seco, Mission Soledad Rural Fire Protection District, and many vineyards, cattle ranches and infrastructure to name of few values at risk. There are two Federal Responsibility Areas (FRA) within the Battalion: The west side of the Pinnacles National Park (NPS) and the eastside of Los Padres National Forest-Monterey District (LPF).

The battalion is mostly located within the central and southern portion of Monterey County. The eastside of the Salinas Valley follows with the westly contour of the Gabilan Range, which is home to many large cattle ranches and grass-covered rolling hills (Fuel Model 1). The western side is home to Santa Lucia Highlands American Viticulture Area consisting of 50 wineries with over 6,200 acres under vine. The Santa Lucia Highlands has a mixed of rural residential and commercial buildings on the foothills of the eastern side of the Santa Lucia Range, which is steep rugged terrain with heavy fuels brush (Fuel Model 4) and conifers (Fuel Model 9).

Weather

The weather patterns in Battalion 3 during the summer months range from the 70s and into the low 100-degree mark. The valley winds ranging from 10-25 mph, usually begin early afternoon and subside around sunset when the marine layer occasionally blows in to cool the valley temperatures.

The strong winds affect the early season fires, pushing grass fires from a few hundred acres into the thousands in the cattle grazing pastures of the eastern foothills. The steep terrain of Arroyo Seco and southern end of Carmel Valley has driven some large wildland fires in the late summer/fall crossing borders into the LPF where access for firefighting equipment becomes very challenging.

Statistics

Below is the breakdown of Responsibility Area and Direct Protection Area for Battalion 3.

FRA acres: 96,782
SRA acres: 337,248
LRA acres: 122,811
Total acres: 556,841
CAL FIRE DPA acres: 343,996

Battalion Fire History and Occurrence

Fire history shows that equipment use is a leading cause of ignitions and has resulted in several large, damaging fires in Battalion 3. With this knowledge, the Unit has made educating ranchers and homeowners on the importance of spark arresters and mowing in cooler weather conditions a high priority. Large billboards signs are posted in the battalion stating to “mow before 10 a.m.” before the heat of the day. Statistics show that these efforts have been successful, and ignitions have decreased. Debris burning and powerline caused fires are also among the frequent ignitions in Battalion 3. Prevention staff have been working with the utility company to upgrade powerline equipment to reduce the number of fires in the Unit. Battalion personnel continue to educate homeowners on laws of debris burning and how to safely burn brush piles in the non-peak fire season to reduce the amount of control burn escapes in the Unit.

Fire Prevention Plan Development

The Fire Prevention Plan was developed through a systematic approach from statistical values, mapping data of the following criteria: fuels, housing density, historical data of fire ignitions and major infrastructure including major highways, railroad routes, and power lines. These areas are overlaid with historical data of fire ignitions and perimeters, revealing clear Target Areas. These Target Areas allow for a focus and prioritization that is specific and unique to the battalion and the assets at risk.

Target Area 1 the southwest of Pinnacles, stretching from Stonewall Canyon, Metz Rd and Hwy 146 including Pinnacles National Park, which is a very narrow canyon with one way in and one way out roads and narrow driveways.

Target Area 2 the Arroyo Seco East Carmel Valley road, which is a very narrow canyon with one way and one way out roads and narrow driveways.

Target Area 3 the communities of Pine Canyon, which have a major WUI issue with narrow roads and limited access to homes.

The 3 Target Areas were identified in Battalion 3. The first is the southwest of Pinnacles, stretching from Stonewall Canyon, Metz Rd and Hwy 146 including Pinnacles National Park. Second, including Arroyo Seco/East Carmel Valley Road and Arroyo Seco Road. The second is geographically located west of the community of Greenfield. Third is the Pine Canyon, west of the King City. This incorporates areas of Monterey County, Jolon Road west towards the Los Padres National Forest and Hunter Liggett boundaries.

Mitigation Strategies and Action Plan

1. Public Education:

Public contact and education continue to be a priority within Battalion 3 to reduce the number of fire ignitions. The local Battalion Chief will work the Monterey County Fire Safe Council and community stakeholders in order to prioritize projects and grant funding. The action plan for public contact and education is as follows:

A. Burn Permit Administration

LE-62s (Residential Burn Permit – Burn Pile) will be issued at the following CAL FIRE stations: King City, Gonzales, and Soledad— If the station is not staffed, signage will be posted to inform the public of the open CAL FIRE facility. Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) determines burn hours.

LE-5 (California Inter-Agency Burning Permit) are issued on SRA lands after an inspection by an authorized employee of CAL FIRE. These project burn permits are typically used to dispose of larger piles of material and typically require an inspection by CAL FIRE prior to authorization to burn during declared fire season.

B. Public Education Forums

Battalion staff remains involved in multiple public education programs.

Ongoing events throughout the year:

1. Salinas Valley Fair
2. School Programs at Santa Lucia, San Lucas Union School and Soledad High School career day.
3. Fire Prevention Signage
4. Monterey County Fire Safe Council Meeting and functions
5. YMCA National Night and Career Day

2. Fire Prevention Engineering

Battalion personnel in conjunction with the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, Pre-Fire Planning and Prevention Staff, Defensible Space Inspectors, and various other local public agencies will continuously educate, evaluate, and propose current and new efforts to prevent a large-scale wildfire in this area. The Battalion is educating the public as well as providing information regarding equipment use and fire safe programs. In addition to FDRS signs, the battalion has posted prevention signs with interchangeable messages based on the season.

A. Roadside Disk Line Program:

Starting in 2020, Battalion personnel will assist in educating property owners of large parcels (>10 acres) the advantages of disking perimeter lines approximately 20' wide and adjacent to roadways to mitigate ignition points near a roadway. The program will be voluntary and provide a tool for the property owners which will significantly reduce fire spread and possibly contain the fire to its origin. The implementation/education of the program will be concurrent with educating at community meetings, through mailers and press releases. The priority road will be Metz Road, which is identified as the main thoroughfare in Target Area 1. This, combined with Caltrans and County Roads providing PRC road clearance, will assist in preventing the highest percentage of ignitions for the battalion, a roadside start, from going large-scale.

B. Vegetation Management:

The vegetation management programs are directed at reducing the potential of a large fire and reducing the damage from a large fire. There are currently two VMPs in progress, The Sierra De Salinas VMP, totaling over 16,000 acres. This will provide a large reduction of fuels in the south of the battalion, assisting in providing fuel breaks, established dozer lines and limiting the extent of large scale, extended attack fires. It will also be converting a large amount of brush to enhance wildlife habitat. Battalion staff are continually looking at new VMPs along Pine Canyon, as well as working with and educating landowners of the benefits/differences and avenues of RI (Range Improvement) burns and VMP (Vegetation Management Program) burns. Battalion staff regularly meet with local stakeholders regarding prescribed fire and fuel reduction projects. Both Battalion staff and Unit staff will be available as a resource to assist in planning and implementation of an RI burn. This will help ensure efficient and effective RI prescriptions, that align with both the landowner and the Department objectives. Target areas 1, 2 and 3 have been identified to give prioritization to areas of the

battalion for future VMP planning. In concurrence with the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for Pinnacles National Park, the opportunity for a fuel break or VMP to hinder a fire entering or exiting the Park is in the planning stages.

C. Pre-Fire Engineering:

In conjunction with Battalion 4 and the South Division, Battalion 3 staff will continue to focus on compiling water sources, road access, and assets at risk for Battalion pre-plans. Battalion staff will also work to improve the database of historical fire perimeters, including Range Improvement burns.

3. Law Enforcement

The Unit has two Law Enforcement/Fire Investigators in its Fire Prevention Bureau. These officers are tasked with enforcing all Forestry and Fire Laws within the Unit and State. Law Enforcement duties include enforcement of PRC4291, citation issuance for negligently caused fires and in investigations of all fires. The Unit has additional Law Enforcement Officers that are available to assist the Fire Prevention Bureau with the enforcement of the all Forestry and Fire Law within the Unit and Battalion.

- A. Defensible Space Inspections:** The primary objectives in Battalion 3 will be to target areas within the battalion that have a significant wildland fire threat, and to inspect homes using the PRC 4291 program. PRC 4291 inspections serve a dual purpose: First, they serve as a vegetation management motivator; second, they act as a public education tool. Gonzales Fire Station will focus on Arroyo Seco Road while King City Fire Station will focus on Pine Canyon Road; the battalion will expand out from there. The Unit Defensible Space Inspectors will be assigned to eastside along Metz Road. These areas are prioritized by outputs of the data which determined the Target Areas. Staff will advise the battalion chief of a violation; the battalion chief will conduct the last inspection and determine if enforcement is necessary, and if so, advise the Division or Prevention Battalion to issue a citation. May and June are the more appropriate time of year to conduct inspections within the battalion, because it aligns with the primary fuel type (annual grass) phenology. The goal is to inspect all habitable structures in the battalion with 50% completion acceptable due to fire activity and drawdown, covering 100% of willing property owners over two years.



Battalion 4: Bradley Battalion – Battalion 4614

Battalion 4 Description

The Bradley Battalion is located in the south end of the San Benito-Monterey Unit in Monterey County. The north end of the Bradley Battalion aligns with the Highway 198 corridor going east from Highway 101 to the San Benito county line and runs west of Highway 101 along the eastern base of the Santa Lucia Mountain Range to the southeastern border of the Los Padres National Forest. The east side of the Battalion runs south from the San Benito county line along the Diablo Mountain Range, encompassing Priest Valley, Peach Tree Valley, Cholame Valley and the community of Parkfield running parallel with the San Andreas Fault and Fresno County border to the northern edge of San Luis Obispo County. Fuels on the eastern side of the Battalion are predominantly open rangeland, transitioning to heavier fuels with extremely steep topography moving east. The west side of the Battalion follows the Los Padres National Forest border south to the San Luis Obispo county line, encompassing the communities of Bryson-Hesperia, Lockwood, Bradley, San Ardo, and the Lake San Antonio Recreation Area. Fuels on the western side of the Battalion are predominantly grass, oak woodland, and chamise, which transitions to heavier fuels with steeper terrain. The Battalion is also comprised of two (2) Department of Defense military compounds: Fort Hunter Liggett (167,000 acres) and the northern section of Camp Roberts which also extends into San Luis Obispo County.

Values at Risk

Valued assets within the Battalion include range lands, communication towers/repeaters, Calandra & Smith Mountain, residential structures, recreation areas, agricultural land, watershed resources, and an abundance of oil fields in the southern Salinas Valley. By working in conjunction with multiple entities— Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Forest Service (USFS), Monterey County Water Authority, Salinas River Cogeneration Facility, and the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, we can work on mitigating fire hazards and protect the people, property and resources.

Statistics:

Below is the breakdown of Responsibility Area and Direct Protection Area for Battalion 4.

FRA acres: 193,097
SRA acres: 602,072
LRA acres: 11,345
Total acres: 806,514
CAL FIRE DPA acres: 615,788

Battalion Fire History and Occurrence

Statistics have shown that most of the fires started within the Battalion are due to roadside starts, with the leading causes of ignitions being equipment use, vehicles, and electrical power. Many these fires are wind driven fires, with successful control objectives keeping the fires 10 acres or less. History has shown the Diablo Mountain Range and Santa Lucia Mountain Range have sustained the larger fires in the Battalion, with recent fires such as the 2018 Turkey Fire (2,225 acres), 2016 Coleman Fire (2,520 acres), and the 2006 Rico Fire (14,507 acres), which was classified as a major fire.

Weather

The weather patterns in Battalion 4 during the summer months range from the 70's and into the low 100-degree mark, with some areas reaching the 110-degree mark. The valley winds range from 15-25 mph, usually begin early afternoon, and subside around sunset when the marine layer occasionally blows in to cool the valley temperatures.

The southern Salinas Valley area of the Battalion has seen wind driven fires extend into the hundreds of acres, where the Parkfield and Lockwood areas have been protected from topography and don't typically see the high winds.

Fire Prevention Plan Development

The Fire Prevention Plan was developed through a systematic approach from statistical values, mapping data of the following criteria: fuels, housing density, historical data of fire ignitions and major infrastructure including major highways, railroad routes, and power lines. These areas overlaid with historical data of fire ignitions and perimeters then gave clear Target Areas. These Target Areas allow for a focus and prioritization that is specific and unique to the battalion and the assets at risk. Three Target Areas were identified in Battalion 4.

Target Area 1 is Lockwood-Jolon at large, a WUI area with narrow driveways and limited access to homes with step driveways, and many one way in and one way out areas.

Target Area 2 is the communities of Parkfield and Cholame Valley, which have narrow roads and limited access to homes.

Target Area 3 is Bryson-Hesperia, a WUI community with narrow driveways and limited access to homes with step driveways, and many one way in and one way out areas.

The 3 Target Areas were identified in Battalion 4. The first Target Area encompasses the Lockwood-Jolon Area. This includes the Lockwood-San Lucas Road, Jolon Road, and the Calandra infrastructure, with the residential communities on the east/west flats of the southern portion of the Santa Lucia Mountain Range. Target Area 2 is comprised of the Parkfield Community and the Cholame Valley area. This area includes Ranchita Canyon Road, Turkey Flat Road, Vineyard Canyon Road, and Slacks Canyon. Target Area 3 is the Bryson-Hesperia area that has moderate to high population density in some areas and is still going through fuel modification efforts. This area is comprised of Hesperia Road, Sapaque Valley Road, Pleyto Road, and Interlake Road.

Mitigation Strategies and Action Plan

1. Public Education/Contact:

Public contact and education continue to be a priority within the Battalion to reduce the number of fire starts. Target areas have been identified which prioritizes areas within the Battalion. These identified Target Areas work in conjunction with the Fire Safe Council of Monterey County, BLM, and through community outreach programs that help fund projects through prioritizing.

A. Burn Permit Administration

LE-62s (Residential Burn Permit – Burn Pile) will be issued at the following CAL FIRE stations when open; Bradley, Lockwood and Parkfield. If the station is not staffed, signage will be posted to inform the public of the open CAL FIRE facility. Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) determines burn hours.

LE-5s (California Inter-Agency Burning Permit) are issued on SRA lands after an inspection by an authorized employee of CAL FIRE. These project burn permits are typically used to dispose of larger piles of material and typically require an inspection by CAL FIRE prior to authorization to burn during declared fire season.

B. Public Education Forums

Battalion staff remains involved in multiple public education programs and ongoing events throughout the year:

1. Salinas Rodeo
2. Fire Prevention Signage
3. Fire Safe Council of Monterey County Meetings and functions
4. Local School Programs
5. Battalion 4 Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) signs
6. Parkfield Community Meetings
7. Bryson-Hesperia Community Meetings

2. Fire Prevention Engineering

Battalion personnel in conjunction with the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, Pre-Fire Planning and Prevention Staff, Defensible Space Inspectors, and various other local public agencies will continuously educate, evaluate, and propose current and new efforts to prevent a large-scale wildfire in this area. The Battalion is educating the public as well as providing information regarding equipment use and fire safe programs. In addition to FDRS signs, the battalion has posted prevention signs with interchangeable messages based on the season.

A. Roadside Disk Line Program:

Starting in 2020, Battalion personnel will assist in educating property owners of large parcels (>10 acres) the advantages of disking perimeter lines approximately 20' wide and adjacent to roadways to mitigate ignition points near a roadway. The program will be voluntary and provide a tool for the property owners which will significantly reduce fire spread and possibly contain the fire to its origin. The implementation/education of the program will be concurrent with educating at community meetings, through mailers and press releases.

B. Vegetation Management:

The vegetation management programs are directed at reducing fuel loads and continuity of fuels to help reduce fire spread which can prevent fires from going into extended attack or a major fire. To start the fuel mitigation process in the Battalion's first target area, CAL FIRE will start vegetation management (brush clearing, burn piles, masticating and property owner education) along the Santa Lucia Mountain Ridge line which extends 27 miles from the Jolon north road to the Jolon south road. This process is labor-intensive and time-consuming and will be in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The vegetation management process for the second target area will be mitigated using multiple techniques (roadway brush clearing, masticating, range improvement burns, disk lines, and property owner education). The vegetation management process in the third target area will be to continue public education and enforcement of the LE-100 program utilizing the department's defensible space inspectors and engine company personnel.

C. Pre-Fire Engineering:

Battalion personnel in conjunction with the Unit pre-fire engineer will continue creating Pre-Fire plans for prone areas within the Battalion by compiling water sources, road egress routes, staging areas and hazards that can interfere with suppression capabilities. These pre-fire plans assist fire department personnel with resource needs to contain/control a vegetation fire and also give the public a methodical route to travel to safety.

Battalion 4 personnel will also be working with the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County to continue the Chipping Program which assists homeowners with clearing unnecessary fuel which adheres to the Department's LE-100 program.

3. Law Enforcement

The Unit has two Law Enforcement/Fire Investigators in its Fire Prevention Bureau. These officers are tasked with enforcing all Forestry and Fire Laws within the Unit and State. Law Enforcement duties include enforcement of PRC4291, citation issuance for negligently caused fires and in investigations of all fires. The Unit has additional Law Enforcement Officers that are available to assist the Fire Prevention Bureau with the enforcement of the all Forestry and Fire Law within the Unit and Battalion.

- A. Defensible Space Inspections:** PRC 4291 inspections serve a dual purpose. First, they are a vegetation management motivator. The second is a public education tool. In 2020 we anticipate a 100% LE-100 inspection process will take place on all structures within the SRA in all Target Areas. This process will include an initial LE-100 inspection. After the initial inspection, if any violations are found, a 2nd inspection will be required to assess the property. If after the 2nd inspection is completed and violations are still present, the property owner will have a 3rd and final inspection. If violations are found on the last inspection, the property owner shall be cited. All inspections will follow the criteria found on the CAL FIRE LE-100 Defensible Space Inspection Worksheet. LE-100 inspection process will take place based on resource availability and completion of LE-100 inspections and fuel reduction projects.

Battalion 5: Hollister Battalion – Battalion 4615

Battalion 5 Description

The Hollister Battalion is located at the north end of the San Benito/Monterey Unit in San Benito County and northwestern Monterey County. The Hollister Battalion follows the San Benito County line on the east down to the end of Cienega Road and East to South of the Panoche and Antelope Valleys. The west side (Gabilan Mountain Range) of the battalion is comprised of steep terrain and heavy fuels up near Fremont Peak, as well as the communities of Aromas, Castroville, Las Lomas, Pajaro, Prunedale, Royal Oaks, and Moss Landing. The east side (Diablo Mountain Range) is predominately grasslands, home to many large cattle ranches, and quickly transitions into steep rugged terrain. The fuels commonly encountered in Battalion 5 are grass, oak woodland, chamise, and gray pine, with the Aromas-Las Lomas areas containing some heavily wooded areas of eucalyptus groves.

Values at Risk

The main values at risk in Battalion 5 are the life and property of local residences including residential structures, recreational areas, agriculture, watershed, and infrastructure. With the cooperation of members from the San Benito Fire Safe Council, Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, BLM, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and CAL FIRE BEU North Division, we will be diligent in protecting our local citizens and their properties and valued infrastructure.

Statistics:

Below is the breakdown of Responsibility Area and Direct Protection Area for Battalion 5.

FRA acres: 3,493
SRA acres: 443,646
LRA acres: 120,625
Total acres: 459,201
CAL FIRE DPA acres: 446,827

Battalion Fire History and Occurrence

Most fires within the battalion occur as roadside starts. These fires are classified as equipment, vehicle, electrical, or are undetermined as to specific ignition source. Most of these fires are contained at less than 20 acres. Large fires are not a regular occurrence in the battalion. Areas that had significant extended attack fires in recent years include Cienega and Panoche. Hollister Hills SVRA also experiences small fires that are usually contained to less than 20-30 acres.

Weather

The weather patterns in Battalion 5 during the summer months range from the high 70s and into the low 100-degree mark with the marine layer moving in most evenings and burning off mid-morning. The winds in the Hollister area range from 5-15 mph. The terrain is predominately rolling hills with some areas of brush-covered, steep slopes.

Fire Prevention Plan Development

The Fire Prevention Plan was developed through a systematic approach from statistical values, mapping data of the following criteria: fuels, housing density, historical data of fire ignitions and major infrastructure including major highways, railroad routes, and power lines. These areas overlaid with historical data of fire ignitions and perimeters then gave clear Target Areas. These Target Areas allow for a focus and prioritization that is specific and unique to the battalion and the assets at risk. Two Target Areas were identified in Battalion 5.

Target Area 1 the unincorporated area from Hwy 101, Hwy 129 and San Juan Canyon Road, which are areas of highly traveled highways to a very narrow canyon with one way in/one way out roads and narrow driveways.

Target Area 2 the Cienega road area, which has with narrow roads and limited access to homes.

The 2 Target Areas were identified in Battalion 5. The first is the Aromas Tri County and North Monterey County areas. This includes areas of Monterey and San Benito Counties, including Hwy 101, Hwy 129, and San Juan Canyon Road.

The second is geographically located in the WUI area of Cienega road and State Hwy 25, southwest of the community of Hollister.

Mitigation Strategies and Action Plan

1. Public Education/Contact:

Public contact and education continue to be a priority within Battalion 5 to reduce the number of fire ignitions. Target areas have been identified to give prioritization to areas of the Battalion. These identified Target Areas work in conjunction with the San Benito County Fire Safe Council, Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, their community outreach and helping in prioritizing projects through their grant funding.

A. Burn Permit Administration

LE-62s (Residential Burn Permit – Burn Pile) will be issued at CAL FIRE Aromas station when open or provide signage to an open State Facility. Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) determines burn hours.

LE-5 (California Inter-Agency Burning Permit) are issued on SRA lands after an inspection by an authorized employee of CAL FIRE. These project burn permits are typically used to dispose of larger piles of material and typically require an inspection by CAL FIRE prior to authorization to burn during declared fire season.

B. Public Education Forums

Battalion staff remains involved in multiple public education programs.

Ongoing events throughout the year:

1. San Benito County Fair
2. Fire Prevention Signage
3. San Benito County Fire Safe Council Meeting and functions
4. Fire Safe Council for Monterey County Meetings
5. Battalion 5 Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) signs

2. Fire Prevention Engineering

The North Division will also focus its available resources to support the prevention of large wildfires in Target Areas 1 and 2. The North Division, in cooperation with the San Benito Fire Safe Council, the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, Pre-Fire Planning and Prevention Staff, Defensible Space Inspectors, and various other local public agencies will continuously educate, evaluate, and propose current and new efforts to prevent a large-scale wildfire in this area. Battalion 5 is educating the public as well as providing information regarding equipment use and fire safe programs. In addition to FDRS signs, the battalion is considering prevention signs with interchangeable messages based on the season.

A. Roadside Disk Line Program:

Property disking is an additional tool that can be implemented on larger lots to reduce fire spread. Property boundary disking to assist in controlling and even containing fires to a specific area. The North Division will mail a flyer out to property owners. Property owners can significantly affect the containment of fires by supporting CAL FIRE in this program.

The following are the program components:

1. On vacant lots or tracts of wild land, disk a fire break line, 20 feet wide adjacent to roadways and or property lines.
2. May 15th is the preferred date by which to create your fire break. However, any time after the grasses are cured and available to burn is a good time to disk your fire break.
3. Fire break confirmation. Simply call your local CAL FIRE station upon completion of your fire break and provide either your address or APN number or general location of the property. This information assists department personnel with pre-fire planning in the event of a fire on the property.

B. Vegetation Management:

Fuels Management Programs include the Aromas Tri Counties FPD annual chipper program. This program runs in conjunction with our transition from winter preparedness into peak fire season. The chipper program is free to the Aromas community and lets residence drop off clippings they have accumulated while creating defensible space around their homes.

C. Pre-Fire Engineering:

Public roadways have trended in years past to have a significant number of ignitions. These ignitions can have a direct influence in Target Areas 1 and 2 due to heavy fuel loading and density of structures in the area. BEU North Division Battalion 4615 will petition Caltrans, Monterey County Public Works, and San Benito County Public Works Departments to perform fuels reduction practices on each agency's public easements in Target Areas 1 and 2. These fuel reductions should include mowing or clearing vegetation in a manner to reduce significant fire spread from a public roadway to the vegetation caused by vehicle caused fires. Reduction of fuels adjacent to public roadways can also directly affect strategies and tactics for offensive and defensive fire control during a wildfire event.

3. Law Enforcement

The Unit has two Law Enforcement/Fire Investigators in its Fire Prevention Bureau. These officers are tasked with enforcing all Forestry and Fire Laws within the Unit and State. Law Enforcement duties include enforcement of PRC4291, citation issuance for negligently caused fires and investigations of all fires. The Unit has additional Law Enforcement Officers who are available to assist the Fire Prevention Bureau with the enforcement of the all Forestry and Fire Law within the Unit and Battalion.

A. Defensible Space Inspections:

PRC 4291 inspections serve a dual purpose. First, they are a vegetation management motivator. The second is a public education tool. In 2020, our goal is to complete LE-100 inspection of all residential structures within the SRA in Target Areas 1 and 2. This process will include an initial LE-100 inspection. After the initial inspection, if any

violations are found, a 2nd inspection will be required to assess the property. If after the 2nd inspection is completed and violations are still present, the property owner will have a 3rd and final inspection. If violations are found on the last inspection, the property owner shall be cited. All inspections will follow the criteria found on the CAL FIRE LE-100 Defensible Space Inspection Worksheet. LE-100 inspection process will take place based on resource availability and completion of LE-100 inspections and fuel reduction projects in Target Area 2.

The remainder of SRA in BEU North Division Battalion 5 will be under the LE-100 Defensible Space Inspection Process. With generally light fuels and small amounts of residential population, in conjunction with minimal fire ignition trends in all the areas not included in the Target Areas 1 and 2 previously mentioned, the BEU North Division will complete an annual LE-100 Process in this area. This Process will be a primary inspection for compliance, with a follow up inspection if needed.

Battalion 6: Bear Valley Battalion – Battalion 4616

Battalion Description

The Bear Valley Battalion covers an area of approximately 484,322 acres with approximately 200 residents. The Battalion is comprised almost entirely of SRA. However, there are two areas of FRA: Pinnacles National Park (NPS) 26,000 acres; and the Clear Creek Recreation and Laguna Mountain Area (BLM) 77,000 acres CAL FIRE DPA. The Battalion lies on the east side of the Unit in San Benito County and contains Hwy 25/Pinnacles National Park Hwy (also known as Airline Hwy) running north/south down the center. The northern border is Cienega Road with the southern border being Hwy 198/ Priest Valley. The east/west boundaries are the Fresno and Monterey County lines respectively. Terrain ranges from rolling hills, home to many large cattle ranches, on the east side (west aspects of the Diablo Range) to steep rugged terrain with heavy fuels on the west side (east aspects of the Gabilan Range). Battalion 6 is comprised of grass, oak woodland, chamise, and gray pine. The area is populated with rural residential properties/ranches varying in size from 5-50,000 acres. The makeup of residence and fuel types creates a true wildland model. The fuels and topography are influenced by the local weather. Traditional weather patterns during fire season range from mid-70°s to low 100°s with low overnight RH recoveries. On average, winds range from 5-10 mph.

Statistics

Below is the breakdown of Responsibility Area and Direct Protection Area for Battalion 6.

FRA acres: 103,095

SRA acres: 380,561

Total acres: 484,322

CAL FIRE DPA acres: 460,105

Battalion Fire History and Occurrence

A clear majority of fires within the battalion occur as roadside starts. These fires are classified as equipment, vehicle, electrical, or are undetermined as to specific ignition source. Most of these fires are contained at less than 20 acres. Large, costly, and damaging fires are not a regular occurrence in the battalion, although 2018 had 2 large-scale extended attack fires in the

Beaver Dam area of the battalion. To mitigate the hazard from roadside starts, a fence line disk program is being implemented for 2020.

Fire Prevention Plan Development

The Fire Prevention Plan was developed through a systematic approach from statistical values. Mapping data of hazard severity zones along with housing density and assets were combined. These areas overlaid with historical data of fire ignitions and perimeters then gave clear Target Areas. These Target Areas allow for a focus and prioritization that is specific and unique to the battalion and the assets at risk. Two Target Areas were identified in Battalion 6.

Target Area 1 is the Pinnacles, stretching from La Gloria Road south to include Pinnacles National Park, which is a narrow canyon with one way and one way out roads and narrow driveways.

Target Area 2 is the Coalinga Road corridor from Hwy 25 to Clear Creek, which has narrow roads and limited access to homes.

Mitigation Strategies and Action Plan

1. Public Education/Contact:

Public contact and education continue to be a priority within Battalion 6 to reduce the number of fire starts. Target areas have been identified to give prioritization to areas of the Battalion. These identified Target Areas work in conjunction with the San Benito County Fire Safe Council, their community outreach and helping in prioritizing projects through their grant funding. The action plan for public contact and education is as follows:

A. Burn Permit Administration

LE-62s (Residential Burn Permit – Burn Pile) will be issued at CAL FIRE Bear Valley station, when open, or provide signage to an open State Facility. The local pollution control district determines burn hours.

LE-5 (California Inter-Agency Burning Permit) are issued on SRA lands after an inspection by an authorized employee of CAL FIRE. These project burn permits are typically used to dispose of larger piles of material and typically require an inspection by CAL FIRE prior to authorization to burn during declared fire season.

B. Public Education Forums

Although very rural, battalion staff remain involved in multiple public education programs.

Ongoing events throughout the year:

1. San Benito County Fair
2. School Programs at Jefferson and Bitterwater Schools
3. Fire Prevention Signage
4. San Benito County Fire Safe Council Meeting and functions
5. Battalion 6 FDRS signs

2. Fire Prevention Engineering

Battalion staff will educate local homeowners and assist San Benito County Fire Department and San Benito Fire Safe Council in educating the public as well as providing information regarding Equipment Use and Fire Safe programs. In addition to FDRS signs, the battalion is considering Prevention signs with interchangeable messages based on the season.

A. Roadside Disk Line Program:

Starting in 2020, Battalion personnel will assist in educating property owners of large parcels (>10 acres) the advantages of disking perimeter lines approximately 20' wide and adjacent to roadways to mitigate ignition points near a roadway. The program will be voluntary and provides a tool for the property owners which will significantly reduce fire spread and possibly contain the fire to its origin. The implementation/education of the program will be concurrent with educating at community meetings, through mailers and press releases.

Priority roads will be Hwy 25, Coalinga Road and La Gloria Road. These roads are identified as the main thoroughfares in Target Areas 1 and 2. This, combined with Caltrans and County Roads providing PRC road clearance, will assist in preventing the highest percentage ignition for the battalion, a roadside start, from going large-scale. The implementation of the disc program will occur through mailers, press releases, and public education.

B. Vegetation Management:

The vegetation management programs are directed at reducing the potential of a large fire and reducing the damage from a large fire. There is currently one VMP in progress, The Rock Springs VMP, totaling over 10,000 acres. This will provide a large reduction of fuels in the south of the battalion, assisting in providing fuel breaks, established dozer lines and limiting the extent of large scale, extended attack fires. It will also be converting a large amount of brush to enhance wildlife habitat. 4,400 Acres were burned and completed in November 2019. Battalion staff are continually looking at new VMP's along the Gabilan Range as well as working with and educating landowners of the benefits/differences and avenues of RI (Range Improvement) burns and VMP (Vegetation Management Program) burns. Battalion staff regularly meet with local stakeholders regarding prescribed fire and fuel reduction projects. Both Battalion staff and Unit staff will be available as a resource to assist in planning and implementation of an RI burn. This will help ensure efficient and effective RI prescriptions, that align with both the landowner and the Department objectives. For instance, The Battalion worked with the UC Cooperative Extension to host a training RI burn in the Bitterwater area to help educate and reintroduce RI burns, and possibly create a RI Association. Target areas 1 and 2 have been identified to give prioritization to areas of the battalion for future VMP planning. In concurrence with the AOP for Pinnacles National Park, the opportunity for a fuel break or VMP to hinder a fire entering or exiting the Park is in the planning stages.

C. Pre-Fire Engineering:

In conjunction with Battalion 5 and the North Division, Battalion 6 staff will continue to focus on compiling water sources, road access, and assets at risk for Battalion pre-plans. Battalion staff will also work to improve database of historical fire perimeters, including Range Improvement burns. This will in turn allow us to better plan and prioritize mitigation strategies when focusing on the Target Areas.

3. Law Enforcement

The Unit has two Law Enforcement/Fire Investigators in its Fire Prevention Bureau. These officers are tasked with enforcing all Forestry and Fire Laws within the Unit and State. Law Enforcement duties include enforcement of PRC4291, citation issuance for negligently caused fires and in investigations of all fires. The Unit has additional Law Enforcement Officers who are available to assist the Fire Prevention Bureau with the enforcement of the all Forestry and Fire Law within the Unit and Battalion.

- A. Defensible Space Inspections:** PRC 4291 inspections serve a dual purpose. First, they serve as a vegetation management motivator. The second purpose is as a public education tool. The Battalion 6 goal will be to target areas within the battalion that have a significant wildland fire threat, and to inspect homes using the PRC 4291 program. Bear Valley Station will focus on the Hwy 25 corridor from Baker Grade to Pinnacle NP entrance, expanding out from there. Beaver Dam will start at the densest housing east of Hernandez Reservoir and work west along Coalinga Hernandez Rd. These areas are prioritized by outputs of the data which determined the Target Areas. Staff will advise the battalion chief of a violation; the battalion chief will conduct the last inspection and determine if enforcement is necessary, and if so, advise the Law Enforcement Bureau to issue a citation. May and June are the more appropriate time of year to conduct inspections within the battalion, due to the annual grass component as the primary fuel type. The goal is to inspect all habitable structures in the battalion with 50% completion acceptable due to fire activity and drawdown, covering 100% of willing property owners over two years.

TRAINING DIVISION: Battalion 4607

The Unit Training Division maintains a highly active and dynamic program. Not only is the Training Division tasked with providing and delivering the departmental training program at the Unit level, it also delivers and coordinates training classes for over 275 CAL FIRE permanent and seasonal personnel, and up to 60 volunteers. Delivering and tracking of certifications for CAL FIRE personnel, the Training Division utilizes a web-based service – Target Solutions – to deliver on-line training courses and to track certifications. Additionally, the Training Division coordinates and delivers the annual Wildland Fire Preparedness Exercises.

In terms of supporting the Unit Fire Plan, the Training Division provides two key functions:

- 1) Provides training to ensure all staff meet Operational Readiness, and
- 2) Provides training to support the Unit's Pre-Fire/Resource Management, Education and Prevention (PEP) programs.

In terms of meeting the Unit's Operational Readiness standards, the Training Division provides basic and intermediate training courses to support the entry-level firefighter through the Chief Officer/Command Staff disciplines to ensure all firefighters are proficient. Key training classes provided by the Training Division include wildland firefighter safety and survival, C-234 Intermediate Firing Operations and the breadth of the CAL FIRE and NWCG Incident Command courses. Additionally, the Training Division coordinates with the Unit's Emergency Command Center and tracks the number and type of Incident Command System qualified and trainee positions within the Unit. To further Operational Readiness, the Training Division has set two goals:

- 1) All fire suppression employees receive A-Faller training/certification within two years of employment with the department. Selected personnel will be chosen to attend Class "B" or "C" faller training.
- 2) All Chief Officers and Fire Captains receive CAL FIRE(C-234) Intermediate Firing Operations training/certification.

The Training Division provides and coordinates training that integrates departmental programs. As an example, all BEU Fire control personnel assigned to Helitack or Hollister air attack base attend the following training where applicable: RT-372 Helicopter Manager Refresher Training, RT 378 Air Attack Group Supervisor, Basic Helicopter Safety - Short Haul, and Air Base Safety Training. As another example, to meet the Pre-Fire/Resource Management Division program objectives for fuels treatment and acres burned under the Vegetation Management Program, the Training Division conducts and coordinates live fire training under the C-234 and the Fire Control 7 (FSTEP program by the State Fire Marshal).



GABILAN CONSERVATION CAMP: Administered by Division 4603



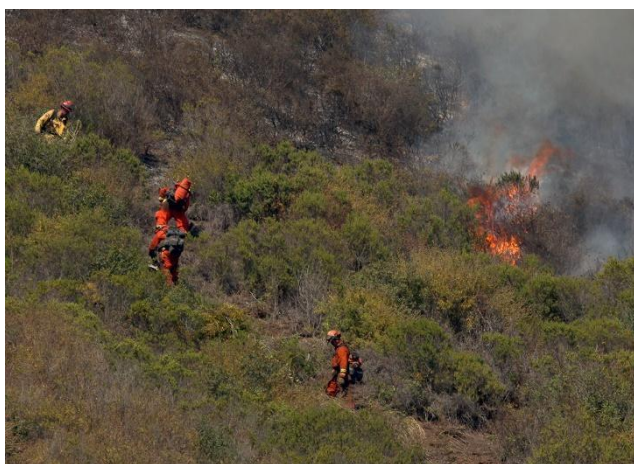
Gabilan Conservation Camp (CC #38) is centrally located in Monterey County and the only camp servicing the CAL FIRE San Benito-Monterey Unit. The facility is situated in the front of Soledad State Correctional Facility and the Salinas Valley State Prison on Hwy 101 between the cities of Soledad and Gonzales. The camp houses approximately 100 to 132 low-risk inmates under the direction of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and CAL FIRE. CAL FIRE operates 6 Type one Fire Crews and a Mobile Kitchen Unit (MKU) from Gabilan Camp. The crews are available to respond year-round to all-risk emergencies throughout the state such as wildland fires, floods, rescues and other disasters.

In preparation of emergency response, Gabilan Camp conducts an annual Fire Crew Preparedness Exercise, which evaluates each inmate fire crew's performance through arduous evolutions for the upcoming fire season.

In addition to emergency responses, Gabilan Camp is actively engaged in Pre-Fire Management. Gabilan fire crews perform community service and hazard fuel reduction projects with the local governments, state and federal agencies within Santa Clara, Monterey, San Benito and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Sponsors during the last years include (but are not limited to): Hollister Hills State Park; State Parks and Recreation; Monterey County Parks; Laguna Seca Raceway; City of Monterey; City of Del Rey Oaks; City of Soledad; Camp Roberts National Guard Base; Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District; Salinas Valley Fairgrounds; Salinas Airshow; San Benito County Park; San Benito County Historical Park; Monterey Peninsula College; Gonzales Unified School District; Washington Union School; National Park Service; Bureau of Land Management; and San Benito-Monterey and Santa Clara CAL FIRE facilities. Numerous federal hazardous fuel reduction grant projects were also completed.

Since the opening in 1986, Gabilan Conservation Camp has continued to be a valuable resource for the State of California and the citizens of San Benito and Monterey Counties through conservation and the protection of life, property and natural resources.



AIR ATTACK PROGRAM: Hollister Air Attack - Battalion 4608

The Hollister Air Attack Base, established in 1962, is located along the central coast of California, 30 miles south of San Jose in the CAL FIRE San Benito-Monterey Unit. Hollister responds to an average of 350 calls per year. Staff at the base consists of one Battalion Chief, two Fire Captains, one Fire Apparatus Engineer, and seven Firefighters. The complement of aircraft located at Hollister includes one OV-10 Bronco and two S-2T air tankers. On average, the base pumps about 300,000 gallons of retardant a year. With the base's pumps, three loading pits and equipment, Hollister has a possible peak output of 60,000 gallons of retardant each day. The base provides initial attack for 3.1 million acres encompassing 11 Counties, an area spanning north to Mt. Diablo, south to King City, east to Interstate 5 and west to the Pacific Ocean. This area includes the Los Padres National Forest.



HELITACK PROGRAM: Bear Valley Helitack

The Bear Valley Helitack Base was established in 1987 and was located in the San Benito-Monterey Unit on Airline Highway in Bitterwater Road area. The base was originally named Bitterwater Helitack Base and kept this name until 1992 when it was moved to the Bear Valley Fire Station in Paicines, changing the name to Bear Valley Helitack. Bear Valley responds to an average of 150 calls per year ranging from fires to hoist rescues. In addition to responding to emergencies, the helicopter conducts control burns and recon flights necessary to the state mission. On a daily basis, the crew of the Helitack Base consists of one pilot, two Fire Captains, five to six Firefighters and an Engineer. In addition to the Helitack crew, there are two fire engines staffed at Bear Valley station. Bear Valley Helitack operates a UH-1H Super Huey helicopter. It is one of four state helicopters that have a fixed tank rather than a bucket. The fixed tank can hold 325 gallons of water. The state has 12 helicopters with 10 helicopter bases; 2 helicopters are used as spares when maintenance is needed.



Also operated out of Bear Valley is the helitender, which serves as a support vehicle for the copter. The helitender contains 1,000 gallons of fuel, along with foam, backup tools, out-of-county bags, Meals Ready-to-Eat (MREs) and many other items that are necessary to support the crew. Bear Valley provides coverage and protection from southwest Santa Clara to Interstate-5 in the Fresno-Kings Unit, down to Northern San Luis Obispo and all the way to the Pacific Ocean. As a state resource, Bear Valley is also able to respond anywhere in the state.

CAL FIRE Helitack crews consist of highly trained and experienced firefighters who are assigned to and respond to wildland fires and rescues aboard CAL FIRE helicopters. Once arriving on a fire incident, the crew, typically 5 to 6 Firefighters along with a Fire Captain, are let off with firefighting hand tools and initiate fire suppression actions as the helicopter supports the Helitack crew with water drops. Helitack crews also perform other helicopter support operations when not assigned to direct fire line operations, such as establishing and staffing helibases, conducting necessary operations, and support.



APPENDIX A: PRE- FIRE PROJECTS



PRE-FIRE PROJECTS For San Benito – Monterey Unit (BEU)

<u>PROJECT NAME</u>	<u>PROJECT STATUS</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>
Aromas/North Chipping Program	Active	FPL	310.00
BEU Community Preplanning	Planned	FPL	0.00
BEU Fire Plan Data Collection	Active	FPL	0.00
Bryson-Hesperia Fuel Break	Active	FPL	150.00
Calandra Fire Road	Active	FPL	30.00
Call Mountain Fire Road	Active	FPL	6.00
Carmel Highlands Chipping Program	Active	FPL	393.32
Carmel Highlands Community Fuelbreak	Active	FPL	60.71
Carmel Views Fuel Reduction	Active	FPL	55.00
Cypress Chipping Program	Active	FPL	317.13
High Meadows Fuel Reduction	Active	FPL	222.00
Carmel Highlands Foothill Fuel Reduction	Active	FPL	260.00
Laurel Springs-Hennicksons Ridge Fuel Break	Active	FPL	417.04
Hatton Canyon Fuel Reduction	Active	FPL	39.00
Haul Road Fuel Reduction	Active	FPL	24.82
Hwy 68 Fuel Reduction	Active	FPL	40.00
Jacks Peak County Park	Active	FPL	74.00
Los Compadres Fire Road	Active	FPL	10.00
West Side Fuel Break	Planned	FPL	4396.00
East Molera State Park VMP	Active	VMP	86.00
Monterey County Regional FPD Chipping	Complete	FPL	431.69
Outlook Fuel Break	Active	FPL	14.00
Pacific Meadows Fuel Reduction	Active	FPL	404.62
Palo Colorado Fuel Break	Active	FPL	739.42
Palo Colorado Wildland Pre-Plans	Active	FPL	0.00
Pebble Beach Fuel Reduction	Active	FPL	206.00
Pine Canyon Wildland Fire Pre-Plans	Active	FPL	0.00
Point Lobos VMP	Active	VMP	10.45
Public Education Signs	Active	FPL	0.00
Pescadero Canyon	Active	FPL	688.00
Corona Road Fuel Reduction	Complete	FPL	231.86
Rock Springs VMP	Complete	VMP	4,410.00
San Juan Canyon Shaded Fuel Break	Active	FPL	464.00
Palo Corona Fire Roads	Active	FPL	882.00
Cachagua Community Chipping	Active	FPL	22.00
Smith Mt. Fire Road	Active	FPL	15.00
Tassajara Rd / Cachagua Road Fuel Break	Complete	FPL	0.00
Thompson Valley VMP	Active	VMP	1230.00
Church VMP	Completed	VMP	365.00
Sierra de Salinas VMP	Planned	VMP	16,000.00
Williams Canyon Fuel Reduction	Active	FPL	107.25
White Rock Ridge Fuel Break	Active	FPL	70.30
Sierra de Salinas VMP	Planned	VMP	16,000.00
Bird VMP	Planned	VMP	1,135.00
Hart VMP	Planned	VMP	283.00
Bengard VMP	Planned	VMP	2500.00
Stone Canyon VMP	Planned	VMP	8,000.00

Planned

Battalion 1 Projects:

Project #1

Project Name: Palo Colorado Wildland Fire Pre-Plans

Description: Preplan community with updated maps and tactical planning in preparation for wildland fires in their area.

Community: Palo Colorado - south of Carmel

Project Collaborators: Mid Coast Fire Brigade / Monterey FSC

Project #2

Project Name: Cachagua Wildland Fire Pre-Plans

Description: Preplan community with updated maps and tactical planning in preparation for wildland fires in their area.

Community: Cachagua – east of Carmel Valley

Project Collaborators: Cachagua FPD / Monterey FSC

Project #3

Project Name: Hatton Canyon Fuel Break Maintenance

Description: Maintain current fuel break in canyon between subdivisions.

Community: Carmel at the mouth of Carmel Valley

Project Collaborators: State Parks / Cypress FPD

Project #4

Project Name: Outlook to Outlook Fuel Break Maintenance

Description: Maintain current fuel break in canyon between subdivisions.

Community: Carmel at the mouth of Carmel Valley

Project Collaborators: Monterey County Public Works / Private / Cypress FPD

Project #5

Project Name: Cachagua Road / Tassajara Road Fuel Break

Description: Establish a fuel break along Cachagua and Tassajara Roads around the community.

Community: Cachagua - east of Carmel Valley

Project Collaborators: Monterey County / Monterey FSC / Private

Project #6

Project Name: Carmel Valley Regional Fuel Break

Description: Establish a fire road for emergency egress.

Community: Carmel Valley area

Project Collaborators: Cachagua FPD / Private Owners / Monterey FSC

Project #7

Project Name: Robinson Canyon Road Fuel Break

Description: Establish a fuel break along Robinson Canyon Road.

Community: Santa Lucia Preserve – Carmel Valley

Project Collaborators: Santa Lucia Preserve / White Rock / Monterey County

Project #8

Project Name: Palo Corona Fire Roads

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway.

Communities: Benefits: Carmel Highlands, Carmel Valley, White Rock, Palo Colorado areas

Project Collaborators: MPRPD, DF&W, White Rock Community

Project #9

Project Name: Residential Chipping Program

Description: Treatment and disposal of vegetative material created during defensible space maintenance by the property owner.

Community: Cachagua, White Rock areas

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / private landowners

Project #10

Project Name: San Benancio Fuel Break (7.0 miles)

Description: Establish a fuel break above San Benancio to Mount Toro

Community: San Benancio

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Monterey County Regional Fire District, private landowners

Project #11

Project Name: Rana Creek Road Fuel Break (11.0 miles)

Description: Establish Roadside Fuel Treatment along Rana Creek

Community: Cachagua - east of Carmel Valley

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Monterey County Regional Fire District, private landowners, Monterey FSC, Cachagua FPD

Project #12

Project Name: Calera Canyon Road Fuel Break (5.0 miles)

Description: Establish Roadside Fuel Treatment along Calera Canyon Road

Community: Corral Tierra

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Monterey County Regional Fire District, private landowners

Project #13

Project Name: Carmel Valley Village Roadside Fuel Treatment (5.0 miles)

Description: Establish Roadside Fuel Treatment in and around Carmel Valley Village

Community: Carmel Valley Village

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Monterey County Regional Fire District, private landowners

Project #14

Project Name: Laurel Springs-Hennicksons Ridge Shaded Fuel Break

Description: Establish a fuel break along Hennicksons Ridge and Laurel Springs communities.

Community: Cachagua - east of Carmel Valley

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, US Forest Service, private landowners, MPRPD

Project #15

Project Name: Palo Colorado Fuel Break

Description: Establish a fuel break along Long Ridge, Mescal Ridge, Green Ridge

Community: Palo Colorado - south of Carmel

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, US Forest Service, Mid Coast Fire Brigade, private landowners, MPRPD

Project #16

Project Name: East Molera VMP

Description: Burn approximately 100 acres of brush/grass. This project is in the planning stages.

Community: Big Sur area

Project Collaborators: State Parks, Big Sur Fire Brigade, private landowner

Project #17

Project Name: Big Sur Strategic Fuel Break

Description: Utilize fuel break as a tactical wildfire control and establish roads for egress and emergency access.

Community: Big Sur area

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / Big Sur Fire Brigade / US Forest Service

Battalion 2 Projects:**Cypress FPD****Project #1**

Project Name: Aguajito/Jacks Peak Fuel Reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway. Utilize crews to perform clearance along target roadways in SRA. Equipment utilized for masticating, cutting/removing materials, mowing, chipping

Community: Gentry Hill, Olmstead Road, Loma Alta, Aguajito areas

Project Collaborators: Cypress FPD, CAL FIRE, HOA, Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, Monterey Co Regional Parks, PG&E, Monterey County Public Works.

Project #2

Project Name: Del Mesa Carmel / Pacific Meadows Fuel Reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway. Utilize crews to perform clearance along target roadways in SRA. Equipment utilized for masticating, weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing, chipping.

Community: Del Mesa Carmel, Pacific Meadows areas

Project Collaborators: Cypress FPD, CAL FIRE, HOA, Monterey County Public Works.

Project #3

Project Name: Hatton Canyon Fuel Break Maintenance

Description: Maintain current fuel break in canyon between subdivisions. Equipment utilized for weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing, and chipping.

Community: Carmel at the mouth of Carmel Valley

Project Collaborators: State Parks, Cypress FPD, CAL FIRE

Project #4

Project Name: Carmel Knolls Rancho Ria Vista Fuel Reduction

Description: Reduce fuels in open space areas and large lots. Utilize hand crews and contractors to masticate, limb trees, cut brush and chip material. Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway and open space areas with mowing, weed eating and additional brush clearance.

Community: Carmel Knolls and Rancho Rio Vista area

Project Collaborators: Cypress FPD, Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, CAL FIRE, HOA, PG&E, Monterey County Public Works.

Project #5

Project Name: Quail Meadows Fuel Reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway. Utilize crews to perform clearance along target roadways in SRA. Equipment utilized for weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing.

Community: Carmel Views, Carmel Knolls areas

Project Collaborators: Cypress FPD, Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, CAL FIRE, HOA, PG&E, Monterey County Public Works.

Project #6

Project Name: High Meadows Fuel Reduction

Description: Reduce fuels in open space areas, increase defensible space buffer to 100 feet around community. Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway. Utilize crews to perform clearance along target roadways in SRA. Equipment and crews utilized for weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing.

Community: Via Mar Monte, Carmel Hills Dr, High Meadows area

Project Collaborators: Cypress FPD, CAL FIRE, HOA, Monterey Co Regional Parks, State Parks, PG&E, Monterey County Public Works, Caltrans, HOAs

Project #7

Project Name: Residential Chipping Program

Description: Treatment and disposal of vegetative material created during defensible space maintenance by the property owner. Four chipping cycles by private contractor from spring to fall

Community: All communities within Cypress Fire Protection District

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / private landowners

Carmel Highlands FPD**Project #1**

Project Name: Carmel Highlands Foothill Grant

Description: Provide 100-foot fire line along the foothills of Carmel Highlands. Equipment utilized for masticating, chipping, crews to cut brush, goats in open grasslands and steep areas.

Community: Carmel Highlands

Project Collaborators: Private residents, Carmel Highlands FPD, Cal Fire, State Parks

Project #2

Project Name: San Jose Creek Fuel reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway for ingress and egress. Equipment utilized for weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing, chipping.

Community: Red Wolf, Carmel Highlands area

Project Collaborators: State Parks, Carmel Highlands FPD

Project #3

Project Name: Ribera Road (Carmel River State Park) Fuel Reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway for ingress and egress. Equipment utilized for weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing, chipping.

Community: Ribera Road area

Project Collaborators: State Parks Carmel Highlands FPD

Project #4

Project Name: Carmel Highlands Fuel Reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway. Utilize crews to perform clearance along target roadways in SRA. Equipment utilized for masticating, weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing, and chipping.

Community: Carmel Highlands area

Project Collaborators: Carmel Highlands FPD, CAL FIRE, Private HOA, Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, Monterey County Regional Parks, PG&E, Monterey County Public Works, Caltrans

Project #5

Project Name: Victorine Ranch Fuel Reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway. Equipment utilized for mowing, weed eating, cutting/removing materials.

Community: Victorine Ranch area

Project Collaborators: Carmel Highlands FPD, Carmel Lahaina Water Co., Private HOA

Project #6

Project Name: Residential Chipping Program

Description: Treatment and disposal of vegetative material created during defensible space creation and maintenance by the property owner.

Community: Carmel Highlands area

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / Private landowners

Project #7

Project Name: Corona Road Fuel Reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway.

Equipment utilized for masticating, weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing, cutting trees and chipping.

Community: Corona Road area

Project Collaborators: Carmel Highlands FPD, Corona Road Maintenance Association, private HOA

Project #8

Project Name: Mal Paso Creek Fuel Reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway and fuel break. Utilize crews to perform clearance along target roadways in SRA. Equipment utilized for masticating, weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing, and chipping.

Community: Mal Paso Creek area

Project Collaborators: Carmel Highlands FPD, Carmel Riviera Water Management District, Mal Paso Creek Property Owners

Pebble Beach CSD

Project #1

Project Name: Sunridge Pines common area fuel reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway. Utilize crews to perform clearance along target roadways in SRA. Equipment utilized for masticating, weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing, and chipping.

Community: Sunridge Pines common area, Pebble Beach areas

Project Collaborators: Pebble Beach FPD, CAL FIRE, Private HOA, Pebble Beach Community Service District, PG&E

Project #2

Project Name: Huckleberry Hill fuel reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway, fire roads and fuel breaks. Utilize crews to perform clearance along target roadways in SRA. Equipment utilized for masticating, weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing, and chipping.

Community: Sunridge Pines common area, Pebble Beach areas

Project Collaborators: Pebble Beach FPD, CAL FIRE, Pebble Beach Community Service District, Del Monte Forest Conservancy PG&E

Project #3

Project Name: Shepherd's Knoll fuel reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway. Equipment utilized for weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing.

Community: Shepherds Knoll, Sunridge, 17 Mile Dr, Pebble Beach areas

Project Collaborators: Pebble Beach FPD, CAL FIRE, Private HOA, private contractor

Project #4

Project Name: Navajo Tracts (Area B and Area C) fuel reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway, fire roads and fuel breaks. Equipment utilized for weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing.

Community: Forest Lodge, Majella, Pebble Beach areas

Project Collaborators: Pebble Beach FPD, Del Monte Forest Conservancy

Project #5

Project Name: Forest Lake fuel reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway, fire roads and fuel breaks
Equipment utilized for weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing.

Community: Lopez, Congress, Pebble Beach areas

Project Collaborators: Pebble Beach FPD, Pebble Beach Community Service District, CAL AM

Project #6

Project Name: Indian Village (Indian Village Annex) fuel reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway, fire roads and fuel breaks. Utilize crews to perform clearance in target areas in SRA. Equipment utilized for masticating, weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing, and chipping.

Community: Spyglass Hill, Stevenson, Pebble Beach areas

Project Collaborators: Pebble Beach FPD, CAL FIRE, Pebble Beach Community Service District, Del Monte Forest Conservancy

Project #7

Project Name: Crocker Grove / SFB Morse Memorial fuel reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway fire roads and fuel breaks. Utilize crews to perform clearance in target areas in SRA. Equipment utilized for weed eating, cutting/removing materials, mowing, and chipping.

Community: Cypress Point, Portola, Pebble Beach areas

Project Collaborators: Pebble Beach FPD, Del Monte Forest Conservancy

Project #8

Project Name: Pescadero Canyon fuel reduction

Description: Maintain the clearance on the existing roadway, fire roads and fuel breaks.

Equipment utilized for masticating, weed eating, cutting/removing materials, chipping, and mowing. Livestock utilized in steep canyons and areas inaccessible for equipment or crews.

Community: Carmel Woods, Carmel Way, Pebble Beach areas

Project Collaborators: Pebble Beach FPD, CAL FIRE, Pebble Beach Community Service District, Del Monte Forest Conservancy, PG&E

Battalion 3 Projects:**Project #1**

Project Name: Sierra de Salinas VMP

Description: Fuel Modification with Fire Use.

Community: Greenfield, Soledad, Paraiso Springs areas

Project Collaborators: BLM, Private Ranches, CAL FIRE, MBARD

Project #2

Project Name: Santa Lucia School Program

Description: Public Education on Fire Safety Awareness to 5th grade students.

Community: King City

Project Collaborators: Santa Lucia Teachers, CAL FIRE

Project #3

Project Name: Arroyo Seco Homeowners Association

Description: Public education on fire awareness and preparation for wildland fires in homeowners' area.

Community: Arroyo Seco Area

Project Collaborators: Arroyo Seco HOA, CAL FIRE, SoMoCo, Monterey County SO

Project #4

Project Name: Deer Creek Homeowners Association

Description: Public education on fire awareness and preparation for wildland fires in homeowners' area.

Community: Deer Creek Subdivision, Pine Canyon Road (Middle Canyon) King City

Project Collaborators: Deer Creek HOA, CAL FIRE, SoMoCo, Monterey County SO

Project #5

Project Name: Highland Hills Homeowners Association

Description: Public education on fire awareness and preparation for wildland fires in homeowners' area.

Community: Highland Hills Subdivision, Pine Canyon Road (Middle Canyon) King City

Project Collaborators: Highland Hills HOA, CAL FIRE, SoMoCo, Monterey County SO

Project #6

Project Name: Via Cañada Homeowners Association

Description: Public education on fire awareness and preparation for wildland fires in homeowners' area.

Community: Via Cañada Subdivision, Via Canada Rd (lower Pine Canyon) King City

Project Collaborators: Via Cañada HOA, CAL FIRE, SoMoCo, Monterey County SO

Project #7

Project Name: Pine Canyon Wildland Fire Pre-Plans

Description: Identify predetermined evacuation areas, values at risk, control lines and objectives, create preplan maps for responders

Community: Pine Canyon area

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, SoMoCo

Project #8

Project Name: Arroyo Seco Wildland Fire Pre-Plans

Description: Identify predetermined evacuation areas, values at risk, control lines and objectives, create preplan maps for responders

Community: Arroyo area

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, SoMoCo

Project #9

Project Name: Residential Chipping Program

Description: Treatment and disposal of vegetative material created during defensible space maintenance by the property owner

Community: Pine Canyon area

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / private landowners

Battalion 4 Projects:**Project #1**

Project Name: West Side Fuel Break

Description: Fuel modification using vegetation management techniques (Pile burning, masticating, road widening, vegetation thinning and brushing)

Community: Lockwood, East/West side of Santa Lucia Mountain Range, Williams Hill Recreation Area, Communication Infrastructure, Calandra Lookout, Paris Valley Road

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Project #2

Project Name: Ranchita Canyon Truck Trail (Brush clearing/VMP)

Description: Fuel clearing, road widening assisting fire department ingress and egress, Range Improvement burns (local landowners), live fire used

Community: Parkfield, Cholame Valley

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, various landowners

Project #3

Project Name: Bryson-Hesperia Area Fuel Management

Description: Increase public awareness on defensible space throughout the area, continue widening roads by brush clearing

Community: Bryson-Hesperia

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Fire Safe Council for Monterey County

Project #4

Project Name: Parkfield Area Pre-Plan

Description: Identify evacuation routes, temporary refuge areas (TRA), water sources, fire suppression hazards

Community: Parkfield, Cholame Valley, Slacks Canyon, Parkfield Grade

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE

Project #5

Project Name: Indian Valley Cattle Company VMP

Description: Live fire use for fuel modification

Community: Indian Valley Area

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, various landowners

Project #6

Project Name: Sky Rose Vegetation Management Project

Description: Fuel Modification using vegetation management techniques

Community: South Monterey County, Vineyard Canyon Road, Portuguese Canyon Rd

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, various landowners

Project #1

Project Name: CAL FIRE / Fort Hunter Liggett Southern Boundary Fuel Break

Description: Establish a fuel break along the entire length of the Ft. Hunter Liggett (FHL) and CAL FIRE southern boundary in the Copper Head / Bryson Hesperia area

Community: Ft. Hunter Liggett Military Base

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, FHL

Project #2

Project Name: Bryson-Hesperia CERT Group

Description: Form an emergency response team of community members that live in the Bryson-Hesperia area

Community: Bryson-Hesperia (BH) community

Project Collaborators: Monterey County OES, CAL FIRE

Project #3

Project Name: Residential Chipping Program

Description: Treatment and disposal of vegetative material created during defensible space maintenance by the property owner

Community: Bryson-Hesperia, Bradley, Ranchita Canyon, Parkfield area

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / private landowners

Project #4

Project Name: Parkfield Wildland Fire Preplan

Description: Identify predetermined evacuation areas, values at risk, control lines and objectives, create preplan maps for responders

Community: Bryson-Hesperia area

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, SoMoCo

Project #5

Project Name: Ranchita Canyon Truck Trail

Description: This project is in the initial planning phase

Community: South Monterey, Ranchita Canyon, Parkfield area

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / private landowners

Project #6

Project Name: Indian Valley Cattle Company VMP
Description: This project is in the initial planning phase
Community: South Monterey, Indian Valley area
Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / private landowners

Project #7

Project Name: Work Ranch VMP
Description: This project is in the initial planning phase
Community: South Monterey, Ranchita Canyon, Parkfield area
Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / private landowners

Project #8

Project Name: Sky Rose VMP
Description: This project is in the initial planning phase
Community: South Monterey, Vineyard Canyon, Portuguese Canyon area
Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / private landowners

Battalion 5 Projects:**Project #1**

Project Name: San Juan Canyon Wildland Fire Pre-Plans
Description: Gather hazard assessment data. Develop updated preplans and tactical/strategic planning
Community: San Juan Canyon area
Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, San Benito County Fire Safe Council, San Benito County Fire

Project #2

Project Name: Thompson Truck Trail Improvement
Description: This road stretches from Limekiln Road to the Fremont Peak area. At one time, this road was maintained annually by CAL FIRE and is a main access road to areas in that part of the county. The trail can also be used for evacuation of citizens from the San Juan Canyon area. Collaboration with the various property owners and gaining their trust and permission to allow CAL FIRE to once again maintain the road is crucial to the success of this project. Brushing of the roads, utilizing crews, and grading and installing water bars are some of the items that would need to be addressed.
Community: Thompson Truck Trail runs from Cienega Road to San Juan Canyon Road on the West side of San Benito County
Project Collaborators: Various landowners, San Benito Fire Safe Council (pending grant approval), Gabilan camp crews.

Project #3

Project Name: Public Education
Description: Increase public awareness on defensible space throughout San Benito County, with emphasis in the south county area and the Panoche Valley. Personnel will utilize public events such as the San Benito County Fair and work closely with the San Benito Fire Safe Council for high visibility and spread the fire safety message
Community: San Benito County
Project Collaborators: San Benito County Fire Department, San Benito Fire Safe Council

Project #4

Project Name: Thompson Valley VMP

Description: Burn approximately 1000 acres of brush/grass. This project is in the active stages.

Community: South San Benito County

Project Collaborators: Wilbur Ranch, Enz Ranch

Project #5

Project Name: Willow Springs Wildland Fire Pre-Plans

Description: Gather hazard assessment data. Develop updated preplans and tactical/strategic planning.

Community: Willow Springs area

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE

Project #6

Project Name: Battalion 5 Hazard Assessment

Description: Use gathered hazard assessment data to begin updated preplans and tactical/strategic planning.

Community: Aromas – northern Monterey County

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE

Project #7

Project Name: Gabilan Ranch VMP Prescribed Burn Project

Description: This project is in the initial planning phase.

Community: South San Benito County

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / private landowners

Project #8

Project Name: Range Improvement burns

Description: Multiple Ranchers - Taylors RI, Silacci RI, Gabilan Ranch RI, Bengard RI

Community: Eastern foothills of Salinas Valley

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / private landowners

Project #9

Project Name: Residential Chipping Program

Description: Treatment and disposal of vegetative material created during defensible space maintenance by the property owner.

Community: Aromas/ North Monterey County area

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, Aromas Water District, private landowners

Project #10

Project Name: San Juan Canyon Shaded Fuel Break

Description: Establish a fuel break along San Juan Canyon up to Fremont Peak.

Community: San Juan Canyon – south of San Bautista

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, SBFSC, State Parks, Private landowners

Project #11

Project Name: Bird VMP

Description: Burn approximately 1139 acres of brush/grass. This project is in the planning stages.

Community: San Juan Canyon

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, private landowner

Project #12

Project Name: Hart VMP

Description: Burn approximately 283 acres of brush/grass. This project is in the planning stages.

Community: San Juan Canyon

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, private landowner

Project #13

Project Name: Bengard VMP

Description: Burn approximately 2500 acres of brush/grass. This project is in the planning stages.

Community: Salinas

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, private landowner

Battalion 6 Projects:**Project #1**

Project Name: Public Education

Description: Increase public awareness on defensible space throughout the south county area of San Benito County utilizing public events such as Neighborhood Prevention Gathering and San Benito County Fair.

Community: County of San Benito

Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE, San Benito Fire Safe Council

Project #2

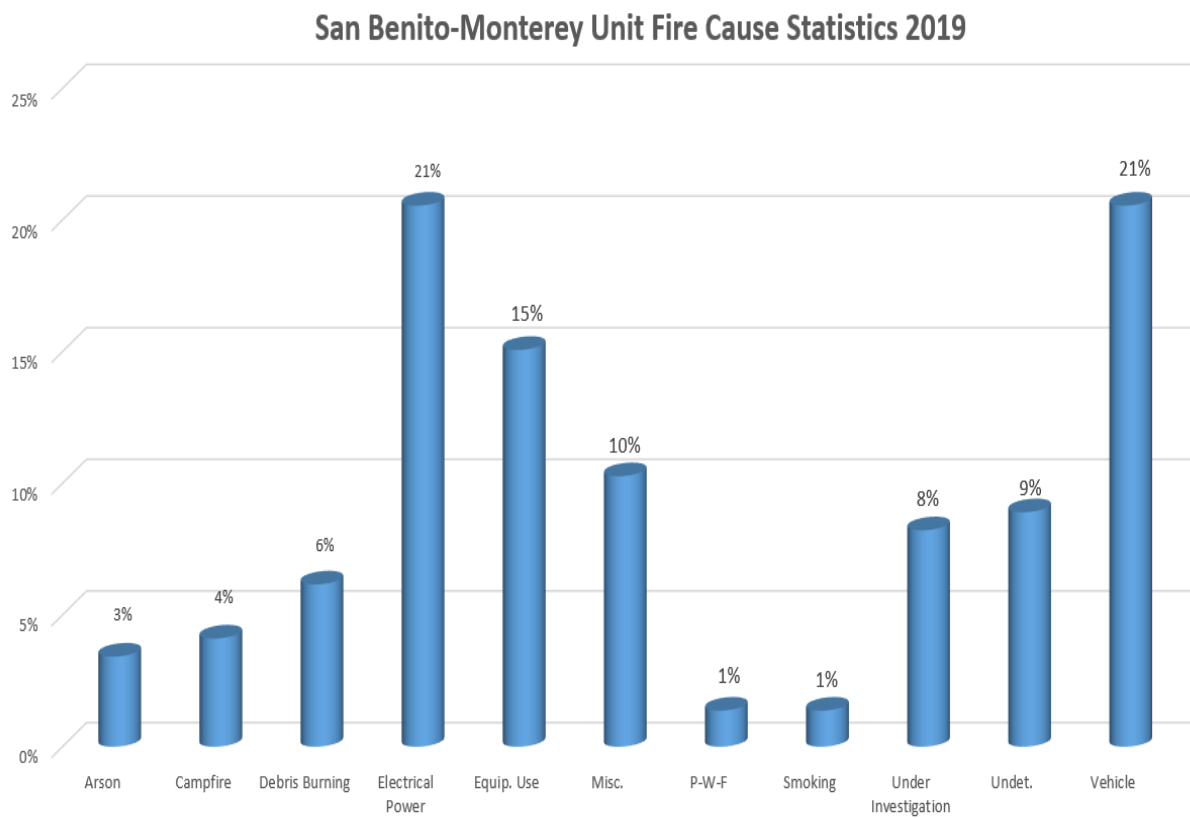
Project Name: Stone Canyon Ranch VMP

Description: The site is the first of two or three separate burn projects located all on the Stone Canyon Ranch, approximately 8,000 acres in total. This project is in the planning phase and will tie in with Battalion 5's VMP projects on the Gabilan Mountain Range.

Community: Private ranch located in San Benito County Northwest of the Pinnacles National Park between Highway 25 and the Monterey County line.

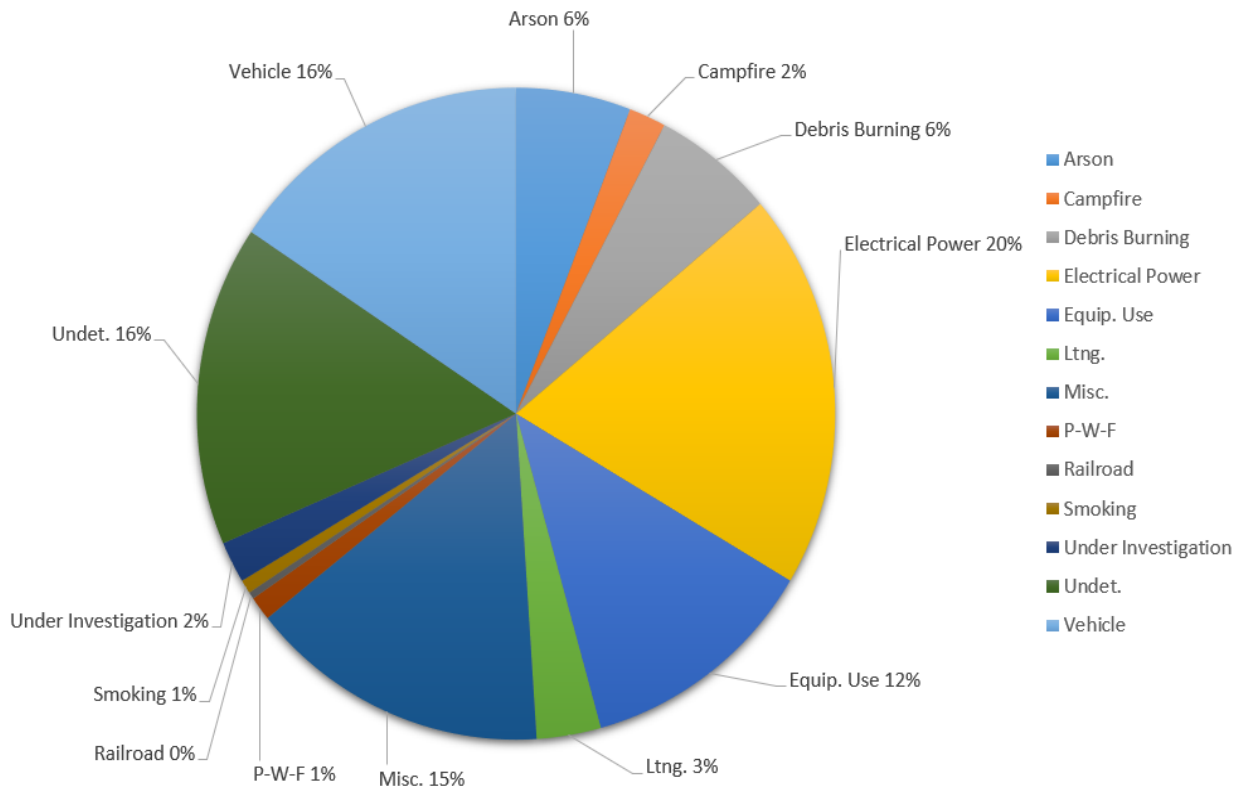
Project Collaborators: CAL FIRE / private landowners

APPENDIX B: IGNITION DATA



Fire Cause	Number of fires from 2019	Percentage by Cause
Arson	7	3%
Campfire	6	4%
Debris Burning	9	6%
Electrical Power	30	21%
Equipment Use	22	15%
Miscellaneous	15	10%
Playing with Fire	2	1%
Smoking	2	1%
Under Investigation	12	8%
Undetermined	13	9%
Vehicle	30	21%
	Total = 148	Total = 100%

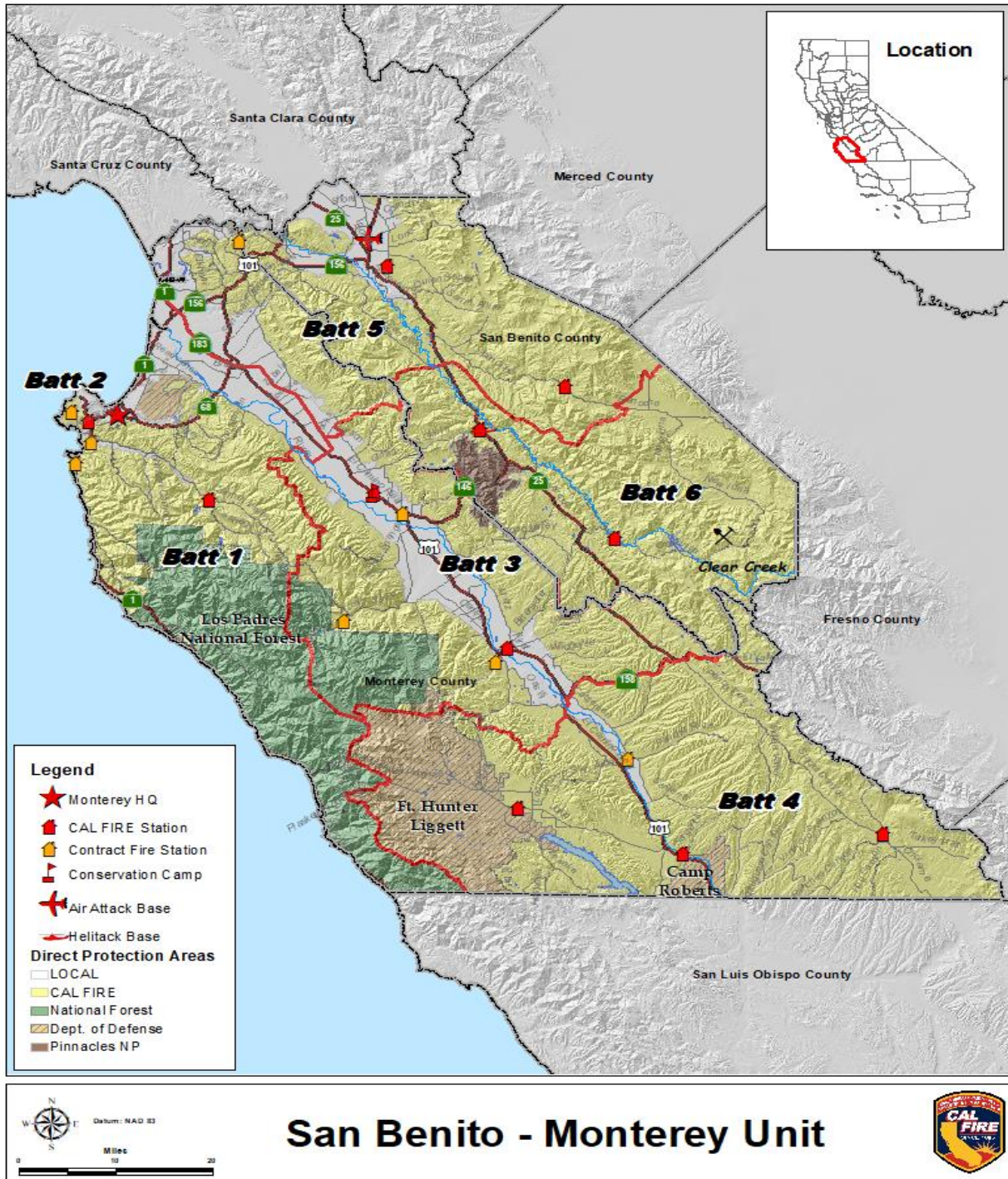
Cause Totals: 2014 to 2019



Fire Cause	Number of fires from 2014-2019	Percentage by Cause
Arson	34	6%
Campfire	11	2%
Debris Burning	36	6%
Electrical Power	115	20%
Equipment Use	71	12%
Lightning	19	3%
Miscellaneous	89	15%
Playing with Fire	7	1%
Railroad	2	0%
Smoking	4	1%
Under Investigation	12	2%
Undetermined	93	16%
Vehicle	91	16%
	Total = 584	Total = 100%

EXHIBITS: MAPS

Figure A: Unit Map



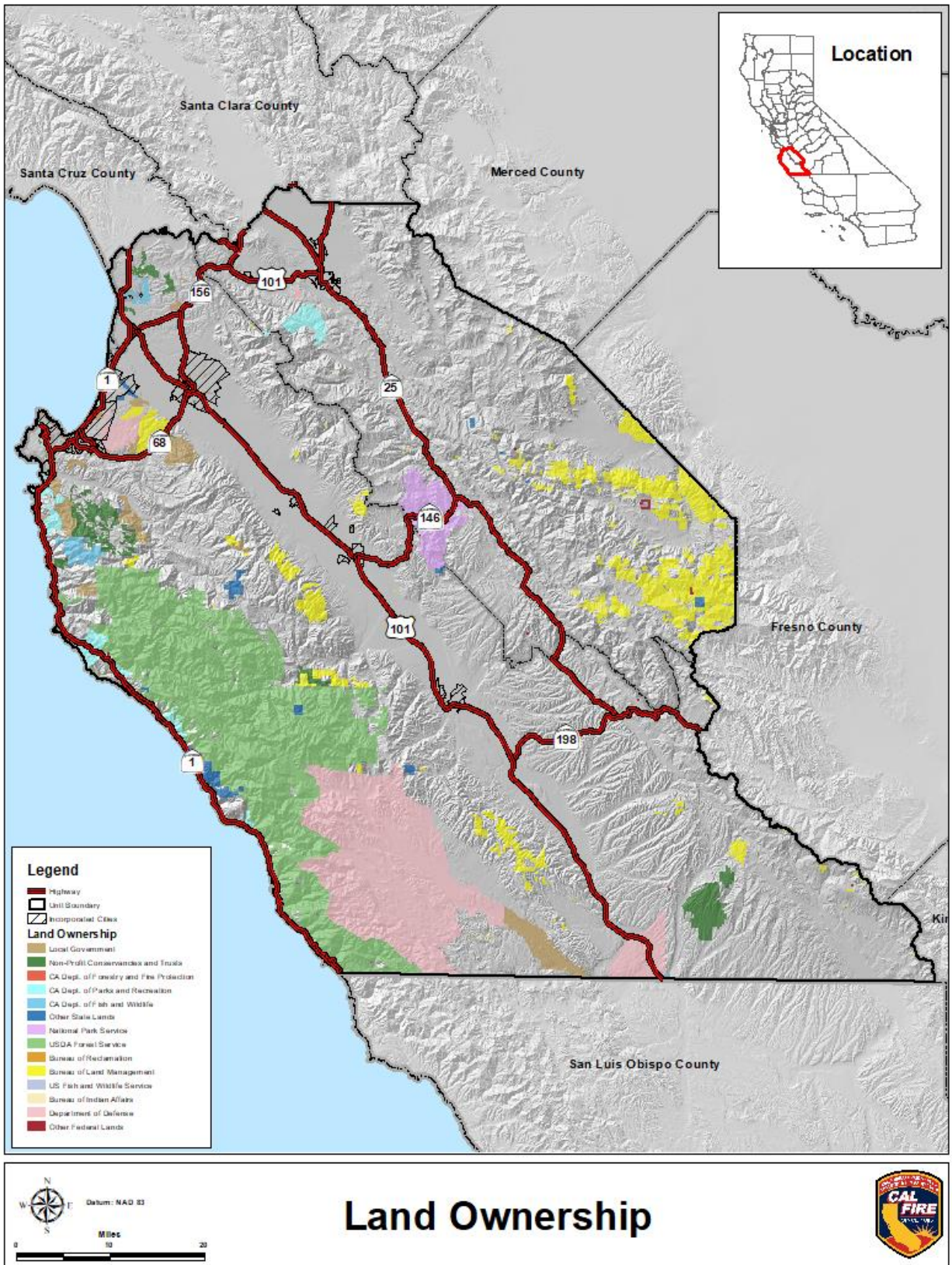
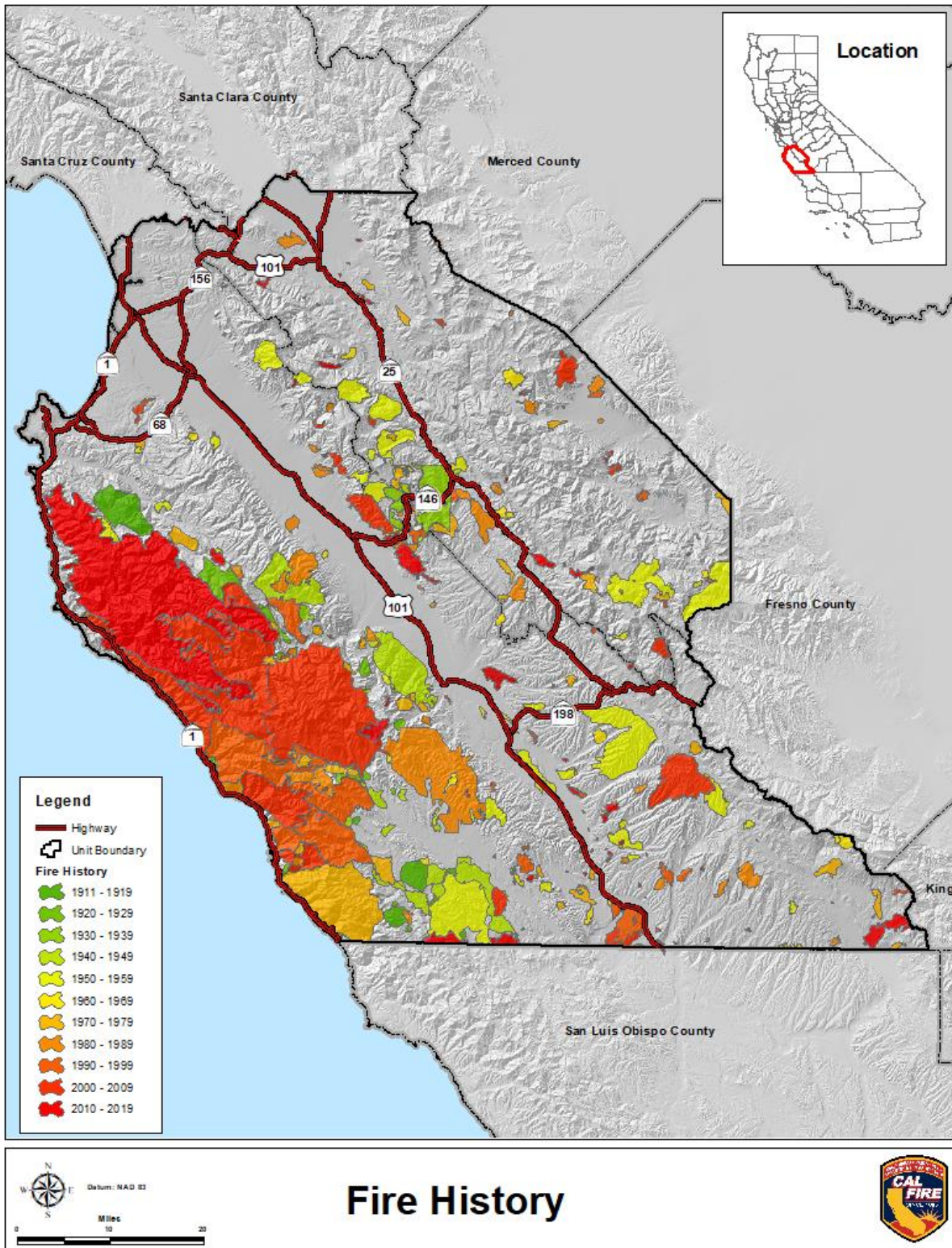


Figure C: Fire History Map



SUPPLEMENT:

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING (2019)

Fire Planning:

The Unit continues to assemble a Unit-wide Pre-Plan. Community members, fire safe councils, and homeowner groups have come together to assist Unit personnel in gathering information, collecting data and making maps of their respective areas, to compile a resource to educate residents and visitors in the event of an emergency, as well as assist responding emergency personnel. We completed the pre-plan for Bryson-Hesperia, and we have draft maps for several additional communities, as well as ongoing information collection for several more.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering:

In 2019, the San Benito-Monterey Unit was successful in providing 4291 Public Resource Code inspections, fire prevention, and fuel reduction education to communities with the Defensible Space Inspectors and engine companies.

CalMAPPER has been instrumental in collecting data, tracking, fiscal reporting, emergency response, planning, and assessment, for fuel reduction projects in the San Benito-Monterey Unit.

Education and Information:

In conjunction with fire districts and other groups such as fire safe councils, Resource Management has completed multiple community fuel reduction projects. CAL FIRE is committed to working with fire safe councils and other local groups to seek new grant funding or other sources to create a more fire safe environment for the citizens.

CAL FIRE attended the Monterey County Fair, the San Benito County Fair, and other public events. CAL FIRE also attended numerous schools to illustrate the importance of preparedness and safety.

Vegetation Management:

The San Benito-Monterey Unit has an active and successful Vegetation Management Program, with many planned, active, and ongoing projects. In 2019, progress was made on 3 active VMP projects. The San Benito-Monterey Unit was successful in burning the Church Ranch VMP in the northern Gabilan Range, as well as the Rock Springs VMP in the southern Diablo Range. However, the San Benito-Monterey Unit was not successful in completing the remainder of Thompson Valley VMP in the Gabilan Range. Nevertheless, the unit completed 4 Governor's Priority Projects: Palo Corona-White Rock Fire Roads, Palo Colorado Fuel Break, Laurel Springs-Hennicksons Ridge Fuel Break, and the San Juan Canyon Shaded Fuel Break, as well as additional fuel reduction in the Carmel Valley Regional Shaded Fuel Break around the communities of Carmel Views (Carmel Valley), Del Mesa (Carmel Valley), Pacific Meadows (Carmel Valley), and Tularcitos Ridge (Cachagua); the Cachagua-Jamesburg Community Chipping; Cachagua Road Fuel Reduction; Bryson-Hesperia and San Antonio Valley Fuel Breaks; Lockwood and San Antonio Valley Community Chipping; Aromas Fuel Reduction and Community Chipping; and the San Juan Canyon Shaded Fuel Break (San Juan Bautista).

The San Benito-Monterey Unit works closely with many organizations within our Unit to achieve our goals in reducing the risk of wildfire. These organizations include the Fire Safe Council for Monterey County, the San Benito Fire Safe Council, the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the California Conservation Corps, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County and the Monterey Bay Air Resources District. Our cooperators are an integral part of the overall Vegetation Management Program.

The San Benito-Monterey Unit has proposed broadcast burn projects in the Gabilan Range (LaMacchia North VMP, Thompson Valley VMP, Bengard VMP, and Gabilan Ranch VMP) and Diablo Range (Indian Valley VMP, Sky Rose VMP, Work Ranch VMP), as well as a portion of the Sierra de Salinas Range (Sierra de Salinas VMP). Implementation of these projects is dependent upon weather and fire activity.

The San Benito-Monterey Unit has proposed a maintenance program for historic fuel breaks and truck trails, such as the West Side Fuel Break, Thompson Truck Trail, Ranchita Canyon Truck Trail, and the Paloma Truck Trail. Work has begun on these projects to secure property owner access and environmental compliance. In addition, we have begun planning work for the overall Santa Lucia Fire Defense system, including future phases of the Palo Corona-White Rock Fire Roads, Palo Colorado Fuel Break, and Laurel Springs-Hennicksons Ridge Fuel Break.

Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA:

The San Benito-Monterey Unit Strategic Fire Plan sets forth a vision to identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property and natural resources at risk, including watershed, habitat, social and other values of functioning ecosystems. In 2019, the San Benito-Monterey Unit continued to foster inter-agency relations, collaboration, and abiding by the goals and objectives set forth in the Strategic Fire Plan for California. The Gabilan Conservation Camp crews actively continued collaboration with neighboring agencies. In addition, the SRAFPF allowed for a more proactive role in community fuel reduction, especially with neighborhood chipping programs. The neighborhood chipping program helped with the treatment and disposal of vegetative material created during defensible space creation and maintenance by the property owner in multiple communities, such as Bryson-Hesperia, Lockwood, San Antonio Valley, Aromas, Prunedale, Bradley, Parkfield, San Juan Canyon, Cachagua, Jamesburg, Tassajara, Carmel Valley, and Monterey.



Unit Chief
David Fulcher

6/1/2020

Date