

2014 Unit Strategic Fire Plan Amador-El Dorado Unit



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UNIT STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN AMENDMENTS

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SIGNATURE PAGE

Unit Strategic Fire Plan developed for Amador-El Dorado 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.



Unit Chief

Mike Kaslin



Date



Pre-Fire Engineer

Darin McFarlin



Date

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of the Amador – El Dorado Unit of CAL FIRE is to reduce the loss of life, property, watershed values, and other assets at risk from wildfire through a focused pre-fire management program and increased initial attack success.

The above statement is clear; however the roadmap to accomplish this involves collaboration between stakeholders and communities who have different complexities as it relates to project implementation and priorities regarding the threat of a wildland fire. The purpose of this Strategic Fire Plan is to provide adequate direction to departmental staff and communities within the Administrative Unit to direct resources and personnel commitments towards the implementation of this Strategic Fire Plan.

The Amador - El Dorado Unit Pre-Fire Management Plan has been prepared with the following objectives in priority order.

- 1) Support project work and planning efforts that encourage the development of safe ingress and egress routes for emergency incidents.
- 2) Continue to provide operational training that will support safe and successful suppression operations.
- 3) Utilize CAL FIRE and community resources to mitigate large and damaging wildfires with defensible fuel zone/fuels reduction projects at critical operational locations.
- 4) Continue to support the implementation of fire safe clearance around structures.
- 5) Support implementation of the new 2008 WUI Building standards through cooperation with local government planning departments.
- 6) Conduct incident analysis to evaluate Unit success in achieving the 95% threshold of keeping fires less than 10 acres in size.
- 7) Educate the community on their role in the wildlands and support Fire Safe Council activities.
- 8) Utilize prevention operations to reduce ignitions within the Unit.
- 9) Nurture and build relationships with local public and private industries to develop cooperative project plans.
- 10) Continually reassess local mitigation projects and update this Fire Plan.

SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW

UNIT DESCRIPTION

AEU has a unique wildland fire environment owing to its Mediterranean climate, highly combustible fuels, numerous wildland-urban interface zones, and the complexity of its terrain. Fires burn with greater intensity in this environment and are more costly and difficult to control, creating a greater risk of loss of life, property, and resources.

The Unit's Direct Protection Area (DPA¹) on the west slope of the Central Sierra Nevada Mountain Range is experiencing moderate population growth. Most of this growth is occurring in the unincorporated areas of the Unit - the same areas that contain the most hazardous fuels and most difficult terrain. Most of the man-made values at risk from wildfire are also located in these areas.

The majority of CAL FIRE's DPA contains high to very high hazard fuels (brush and timber). These areas contain steep, rugged river canyons making access difficult, and fighting fires with bulldozers is difficult, if not impossible in some locations.

Key Issues:

- Increasing life, property, natural resources, and ecological losses.
- Inadequate community ingress/egress routes.
- Difficulty of fire suppression, increasing safety problems for firefighters.
- Longer periods between recurring fires in many vegetation types increasing volumes of fuel per acre.
- Increasing fire intensities.
- Increasing taxpayer costs and asset losses.
- More people are living and recreating in wildland interface areas, which adds to the increases in ignition sources, resulting in more fires.

Fire History

The Unit's fire history is one of numerous small fires with large fires occurring every thirty to forty years. The last large fire was the Rancheria Creek Fire in 1961 (34,104 acres). However, over the past twenty years population growth and development in the wildland have placed many additional homes and businesses at risk. Now small fires often create wildland-urban interface fire protection problems previously only found in the most densely populated areas of southern California. On fire history maps, the fires shown prior to the 2002 fire season are 300 acres and larger. In 2008, CAL FIRE updated its fire mapping requirements to include mapping grass fires 300 acres and over, brush fires 50 acres and over, and timber fires 10 acres and over, and wildland fires destroying three or more residential dwellings or commercial buildings.

Most large fires in AEU are aligned east to west. This is particularly evident in Amador County. This orientation is due to two factors, seasonal winds and terrain. Western El Dorado and Sacramento Counties are more likely to experience fires which run from the north to the south due to north wind events affecting the Sacramento Valley. However, the historical large fires in El Dorado County follow the same east to west orientation as those in Amador County.

¹ The area in which an agency has the financial responsibility to provide fire suppression. *CDF Direct Protection Area* (DPA) can include any combination of SRA, *Federal Responsibility Area* (FRA), or *Local Responsibility Area* (LRA), depending upon the contractual situation. For wildland fire protection DPA excludes LRA lands not intermingled in small blocks with SRA.

Fire Weather & Terrain

The Wildland Fire Triangle consists of fuels, weather, and topography. The most variable component is weather and the most stable of the three is topography. These components of the fire environment cannot be altered by humans to affect the potential outcome of wildland fire occurrence, however the contribution to fire behavior by both require significant analysis to meet the objective of mitigating wildland fire activity on State Responsibility Lands.

Fire Weather

Fire weather for AEU is typically dominated by three general weather phenomenon; the delta push influence, north wind events, and east foehn winds caused by high pressure development in the Great Basin. All three weather conditions cause potential increases in fire intensity and size, however the delta influence is the most common and surfaces frequently throughout summer.

Typically, high pressure systems will dominate Northern California in the summer months bringing extremely hot and dry conditions over much of the region. As these systems develop, they will tend to yield near the Delta and Sacramento areas bringing the marine influence to the Unit. This is generally considered a good thing for fire behavior; slightly cooler afternoon temperatures and increases in relative humidity. The downside however is the strong winds that typically accompany these patterns. These winds are generally capable of overriding any benefit that may come from marine air. There is, however, an upside. This type of wind will typically subside after sundown causing fire behavior to drop off dramatically.

The other critical wind patterns for AEU are very difficult to predict, are relatively rare, and often times are forecasted only the day before. Northerly or easterly winds are typically warmer and drier than most other wind patterns due to air compression. These conditions provide the perfect environment for increased fire intensity and large fire growth. Fire growth is typically wind driven, however as these events recede, fire immediately returns to fuel/topography driven in opposing directions to the wind driven direction. This type of wind event is commonly referred to as a Santa Ana Wind in Southern California, and a foehn wind in the Sierra/Cascade Region.

Topography

Topography in AEU is much like most other Sierra Units; flat near the valley bottom and increasingly steep as the Unit reaches higher elevations. More importantly is the relationship of vegetation change with that of topography. Fuel loads tend to increase significantly as the topography becomes more rugged. The area near the Central Valley and Delta region, which is characterized by rolling hills and flat valley bottoms, is generally dominated by grass and oak-woodlands. The fire behavior is generally wind driven short duration fires, typically lasting no more than one burning period. (Typically between 10:00 A.M. to sundown.)

As the terrain approaches the upper foothills the vegetation changes dramatically to brush and tree dominated fuel types. These areas are generally steeper and longer sloped which will tend to cause more fuel and topography dominated fire behavior. Heavier fuels over steeper slopes cause marked increases in fire intensity and fire size; this combination makes firefighting efforts increasingly more difficult. This is primarily due to the demands that heavier fuels on steeper terrain can have on resources during active suppression and mop up operations.

Higher elevation areas of the Unit are typically steeper than that of the upper foothill region. Fuels are generally Sierra Mixed Conifer which is made up of heavy timber and significant loads of accumulated dead fuels. Fire spread is typically fuel and slope driven but winds can cause long range spotting.

A major topographic feature that can lead to increased fire spread and intensity is the canyon alignment of the major river systems within the Unit. All of the major river systems are generally aligned in an east/west direction which coincides with the general prevailing westerly wind patterns over the Unit. This

alignment can have the effect of “channeling” which can increase the wind speed and turbulence along these river systems. This alignment can often cause fire to spread farther and with greater intensity.

Geographic/Ownership

AEU is located in the Northern Central Sierra. It includes Amador, El Dorado, Alpine and portions of Sacramento and San Joaquin counties. AEU encompasses 2,667,841 acres. AEU's DPA serves approximately 910,589 acres. The United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation manage lands that are protected by AEU. Conversely, in addition to national forest lands, the Forest Service provides direct wildland fire protection to private lands within the Eldorado and Toiyabe National Forest. Even with the USFS providing that protection, the Unit is still actively engaged in wildland fire suppression with our federal cooperators and pre-fire projects outside of its DPA.

Within AEU there are two all season trans-Sierra highways, State Highway 50 in El Dorado County and State Highway 88 in Amador County that run east-west. Historic State Highway 49, on the west side of the Sierra and State Highway 89 in the Lake Tahoe Basin on the east side of the Sierra both run north-south. Most population growth has historically occurred along the two east-west highways (Hwy 50 and Hwy 88). The population growth can be attributed to the close proximity of Sacramento, and many people living in the Unit that commute daily to the Sacramento area for work prefer to live in the foothills.

AEU contains all or part of three major watersheds, the Middle and South Forks of the American, the North Fork of the Mokelumne, and the Cosumnes River basin. Numerous water agencies and power companies utilize the resources of these rivers and their tributaries for generation of hydroelectric power, and acquisition of drinking and irrigation water.

Socioeconomic

The approximate resident population in AEU's DPA is 320,053. El Dorado County's highest population densities are found along the Highway 50 corridor from El Dorado Hills to Pollock Pines. The areas of Pleasant Valley and along State Highway 49 south of the community of El Dorado are also experiencing population growth. In Amador County, the population densities are greatest along the State Highway 88 corridor from the City of Jackson to the Pioneer area. A significant seasonal population increase occurs in mid-spring and continues to gradually increase due to the influx of seasonal workers seeking employment during the apple and grape harvests in the late fall.

The easy access to the Lake Tahoe Basin, recreational areas, summer homes, and tourist attractions are also major factors that influence the population during fire season. Even though most of these areas are located within the Eldorado National Forest, visitors must travel through CAL FIRE's DPA to reach them. Since the majority of the fires are human caused, this increase in population usually results in more wildland fire ignitions.

The major industries that support the local economy includes timber, tourism, recreation, wine and fruit

County	Population²
Alpine	1,175
Amador	38,091
El Dorado	181,058
Sacramento	1,418,788
San Joaquin	685,306
Unit Total	2,324,418

production, construction, service oriented businesses and to a lesser extent, light industry. All of these industries have at one time or another been affected by wildfires. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been lost both directly and indirectly due to wildfires. It has been estimated that a closure of Highway 50 during the summer months would result in a loss of between 1.5 and 2 million dollars a day in the South Lake Tahoe Basin (including Nevada interests). Additionally, an

estimated \$150,000 in revenue per day would be lost by west slope communities due to a closure of Highway 50 from the west county line to Echo summit.

² 2010 Census Data

UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES

AEU Action Plan



The Unit's Fire Management Plan was developed to address fire safe planning and hazardous fuel reduction concerns of state, federal, local fire agencies, as well as fire safe councils and other collaborators. A detailed description of AEU facilities and firefighting resources is covered in Battalion descriptions (page 17). The Fire Plan incorporates an across the board approach to reducing the occurrence and impact of wildland fires on communities and local resources. A coordinated effort involving, Engine Companies, Law Enforcement, and local Fire Safe Councils educate the public and enforce PRC-4291 defensible space requirements. In addition, the public is educated and given the opportunity for input on community fire safety, evacuation planning and hazardous fuel reduction through the community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) process. These efforts have an emphasis upon the wildland-urban interface and in particular the homeowner and creating defensible space.

Shaded fuel breaks are also a large component of the overall fuel reduction effort with the Unit, focusing on those fuel breaks that support the safe ingress of fire suppression forces and egress of the civilians in the surrounding communities.



The Unit considers collaborator support extremely important. Lack of collaborators may eliminate otherwise important fuels modification and education projects from consideration. To gain community support, the Unit works closely with the Fire Safe Councils (FSC's), Rural Conservation Districts (RCD's), local governments, private cooperators, and Federal agencies in a coordinated effort to reduce the loss of life, property, and resources. Fire Safe Councils provide a forum for creating support for all kinds of projects. This resource has proven so effective that the Unit now accomplishes projects it could not accomplish in the past. Also, the Fire Safe Councils closely link their projects with projects in the Unit's Fire Plan. This allows greater progress towards the ultimate goal of reducing damage from wildfire.

The key to effective fire planning is the CAL FIRE Battalion Chiefs acting as community wildfire leaders. Consequently, as community wildland leaders, the Battalion Chiefs can only achieve the Unit's and Department's goals with support from the community they serve.

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
Sierra Pacific Industries	Forester (209) 223-7170
Pacific Gas and Electric	Vegetation Program Manager (800) 743-5000
Amador County Fire Safe Council	Executive Director (209) 295-6200
El Dorado County Fire Council	Chairperson (530) 647-1700
Folsom Fire Safe Council	President (916) 988-0585
Alpine Fire Council	President (619) 244-6093
United State Forest Service	Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (530) 543-2600
United State Forest Service	District Ranger, El Dorado National Forest(530) 622-5061 Placerville Ranger District
United State Forest Service	Forest Supervisor, Humbolt-Toiyabe (775) 331-6444
Bureau of Reclamation	Area Manager (916) 989-7179
California State Parks	Marshal Gold Discovery SHP (530) 622-3470
Bureau of Land Management	Mother Load Field Office (916) 941-3101

SECTION III: VALUES

A: VALUES

Values refer to real, societal, and culturally important features that have the potential to be burned or damaged by wildfire. Sixteen values have been identified as to their risk from wildfire. The table below provides a description of the values evaluated.

Values	Public Issue Category	Location and ranking methodology
Hydroelectric power	Public welfare	Watersheds that feed run of the river power plants, ranked based on plant capacity
Fire-flood watersheds	Public safety Public welfare	Watersheds with a history of problems or conducive conditions to future problems, ranked based on affected downstream population
Soil erosion	Environment	Watersheds ranked based on erosion potential
Water storage	Public welfare	Watershed area up to 20 miles upstream from water storage facility, ranked based on water value and dead storage capacity of facility
Water supply	Public health	Watershed area up to 20 miles upstream from water supply facility
Scenic	Public welfare	Four mile view shed around Scenic Highways and 1/4 mile view shed around Wild and Scenic Rivers, ranked based on potential impacts to vegetation types (tree versus non-tree types)
Timber	Public welfare	Timberlands ranked based on value/susceptibility to damage
Range	Public welfare	Rangeland ranked based on potential replacement feed cost by region/owner/vegetation type
Air quality	Public health Environment Public welfare	Potential damages to health, materials, vegetation, and visibility; ranked based on vegetation type and air basin
Historic buildings	Public welfare	Historic buildings ranked based on fire susceptibility
Recreation	Public welfare	Unique recreation areas or areas with potential damage to facilities, ranked based on fire susceptibility
Structures	Public safety Public welfare	Ranked based on housing density and fire susceptibility
Non-game wildlife	Environment Public welfare	Critical habitats and species locations based on input from California Department of Fish and Wildlife and other collaborators
Game wildlife	Public welfare Environment	Critical habitats and species locations based on input from California Department of Fish and Wildlife and other collaborators
Infrastructure	Public safety Public welfare	Infrastructure for delivery of emergency and other critical services (e.g. repeater sites, transmission lines)
Ecosystem Health	Environment	Ranking based on vegetation type/fuel characteristics

Knowledge of the type, magnitude, and location of values, is critical to fire protection planning. Given the limits on fire protection resources, these resources should be allocated, at least in part, based on the value. Knowledge of values is also necessary to choose those projects, which will provide the greatest benefit for a given investment.

B: COMMUNITIES

During the 2000 fire season wildfires burned millions of acres throughout the United States. These fires dramatically illustrated the threat to human lives and development. Under Executive Order, the **National Fire Plan** was created as a cooperative, long-term effort of the **USDA Forest Service, Department of the Interior**, and the **National Association of State Foresters**, to protect communities and restore ecological health on Federal lands.

A major component of the National Fire Plan was funding for projects designed to reduce fire risks to people and their property. A fundamental step in realizing this goal was the identification of areas that are at high risk of damage from wildfire. Federal fire managers authorized State Foresters to determine which communities were under significant risk from wildland fire on Federal lands.

CAL FIRE undertook the task of generating the state's list of communities at risk. With California's extensive Wildland-Urban Interface situation, the list of communities extends beyond just those on Federal lands.

Three main factors were used to determine wildland fire threat to Wildland-Urban Interface areas of California.

- **Ranking Fuel Hazards** = ranking vegetation types by their potential fire behavior during a wildfire.
- **Assessing the Probability of Fire** = the annual likelihood that a large damaging wildfire would occur in a particular vegetation type.
- **Defining Areas of Suitable Housing Density that Would Create Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Strategy Situations** = areas of intermingled wildland fuels and urban environments that are in the vicinity of fire threats.

The **Communities at Risk List** includes a total of 1,289 communities. Of those, 843 are adjacent to federal lands (USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, etc.) and are indicated as such with a checkmark in the Federal Threat column. The Hazard Level Code included on the list designates a community's fire threat level with 3 indicating the highest threat.

Amador El Dorado Unit Communities At Risk			
Communities	COUNTY NAME	FEDERAL THREAT	HAZARD LEVEL
Bear Valley	ALPINE	F	3
Kirkwood	ALPINE	F	2
Markleeville	ALPINE	F	3
Paynesville	ALPINE	F	3
Woodfords	ALPINE	F	3
Woodfords Community (Indian Reservation)	ALPINE	F	3
Amador City	AMADOR	F	3
Fiddletown	AMADOR	F	3
Ione	AMADOR		3
Jackson	AMADOR	F	3
Pine Grove	AMADOR	F	3
Pioneer	AMADOR	F	3
Plymouth	AMADOR	F	3
River Pines	AMADOR		3
Sutter Creek	AMADOR	F	3
Volcano	AMADOR	F	3
Cameron Park	EL DORADO	F	3
Coloma	EL DORADO	F	3
Cool	EL DORADO	F	3
Diamond Springs	EL DORADO	F	3
El Dorado Hills	EL DORADO	F	3
Georgetown	EL DORADO	F	3
Grizzly Flat	EL DORADO	F	3
Kelsey	EL DORADO	F	3
Latrobe	EL DORADO	F	3
Omo Ranch	EL DORADO	F	3
Outingdale	EL DORADO	F	3
Placerville	EL DORADO	F	3
Pleasant Valley	EL DORADO	F	3
Pollock Pines	EL DORADO	F	3
Shingle Springs	EL DORADO	F	3
South Lake Tahoe	EL DORADO	F	3
Rancho Murrieta	SACRAMENTO		3
Folsom	SACRAMENTO	F	
Galt	SACRAMENTO		
Sacramento	SACRAMENTO		

SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

A: FIRE PREVENTION

AEUs Fire Prevention and Pre Fire Engineering Bureau establish management goals utilizing four primary components. These Engineering components are law enforcement, engineering, information / education, and cooperation.

AEUs law enforcement staff investigates all fires for origin and cause; enforce California's Forestry and Fire Laws, Penal Codes, Health and Safety Codes and Public Resources Codes throughout the Unit, including PRC 4290 and 4291.

Engineering is a cooperative effort between CAL FIRE and County personnel assigned to ensure the compliance of Title 19 and Title 21 during the planning phase of structures. This staff also offers supportive guidance in the design of local fire safe projects; such as a Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs).

AEU incorporates a proactive approach to public information and education. Direct contact with the local schools, cooperation with the local boards and councils, is a catalyst for positive communication between CAL FIRE staff and the communities they serve.

The balance of each of these components allows the prevention program to address statewide, regional and local fire issues. AEU's Fire Prevention Bureau annually evaluates ignitions data for fire origin and cause. With the updated ignition data AEU's Battalion staff is better prepared to address and mitigate local issues; and to assist local fire prevention, education and strategic planning.

2013 Fire Season Ignition Statistics

Wildland fire ignition statistics were tracked for the entire year of 2013. The Unit experienced 293 fires within its Direct Protection Area (DPA). This number represents a 46% increase from 2012 (201 fires), and a 14% increase from the 10-year average (257 fires). Wildland fire statistics are tracked based on information from each LE-66 Fire Investigation Report submitted to the Fire Prevention Bureau.

The Five Largest Fires in the Unit:

- 1) 50 Fire at 163 acres, estimated \$20,000 dollars of damage and the cause was a blown trailer tire being pulled on Hwy 50.
- 2) Union Fire at 116 acres, estimated \$700,000 dollars of damage and the cause was smoking by a Union Mine High School student.
- 3) Roadrunner Fire at 96 acres, estimated \$10,000 dollars of damage and the cause was a bird into the power lines.
- 4) French Fire at 65 acres, estimated \$5,000 dollars of damage and the cause was chafe buildup on a riding lawn mower.
- 5) Collier Fire at 63 acres, estimated \$6,000 dollars of damage and the cause was from a riding lawn mower.

2013 Five Largest Fires	Acres	Damage	Cause
50	163	\$20,000	Vehicle - Blown Trailer Tire
Union	116	\$700,000	Smoking
Roadrunner	96	\$10,000	Electrical - Bird into Power Lines
French	65	\$5,000	Equipment – Riding Lawn Mower
Collier	63	\$6,000	Equipment – Riding Lawn Mower

Approximately 826 acres burned in 2013 compared with the 10-year average of 1,110 acres. Damage caused by these fires was estimated at approximately \$2,000,000. The Union (mentioned above) and the Empire Fire (34 acre Fire in Georgetown from Tree into Power lines) were the costliest due to destroyed and damaged structures. They burned a combined 150 acres, and totaled \$1,200,000 damage.

In reviewing fire causes during the 2013 season it was found that the five leading causes of vegetation fires in the Unit were:

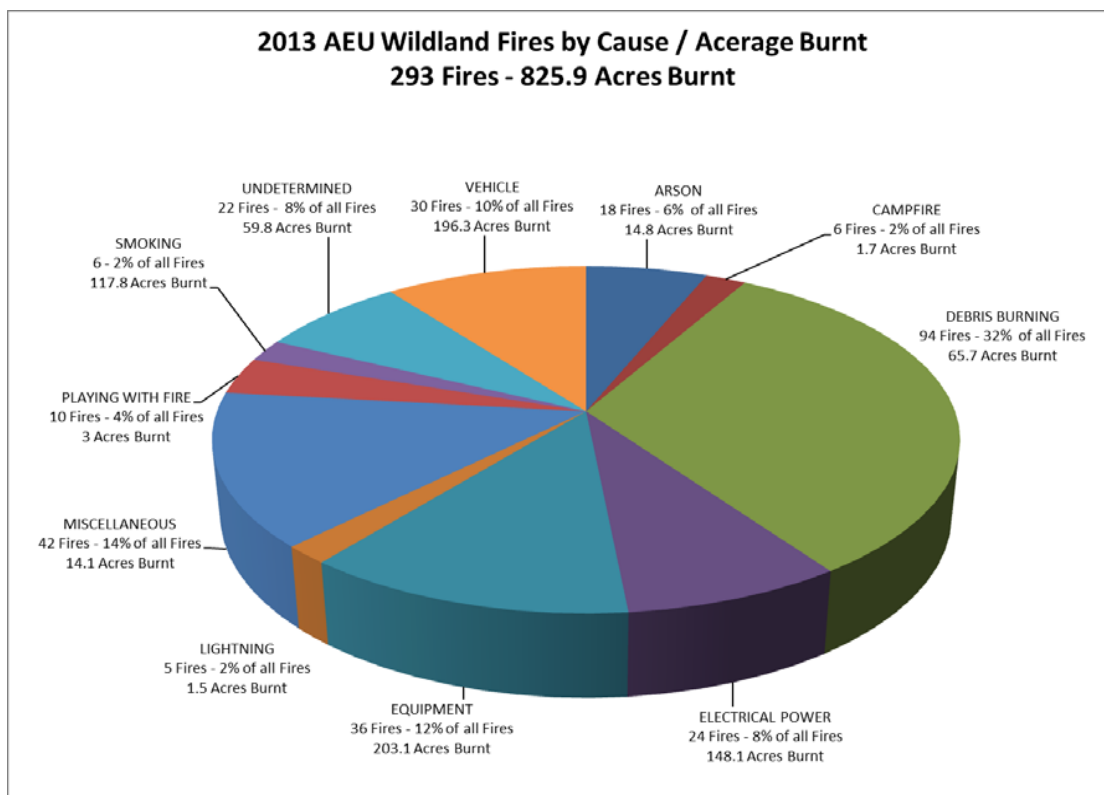
- 1) Debris Burning (94 fires – 32%)
- 2) Miscellaneous (42 fires – 14%)
- 3) Equipment (36 fires – 12%)
- 4) Vehicles (30 fires – 10%)
- 5) Electrical (24 fires – 8%)

The five leading causes accounted for 226 fires, or 76%, of all fires that occurred.

The remaining causes of fires in the Unit were:

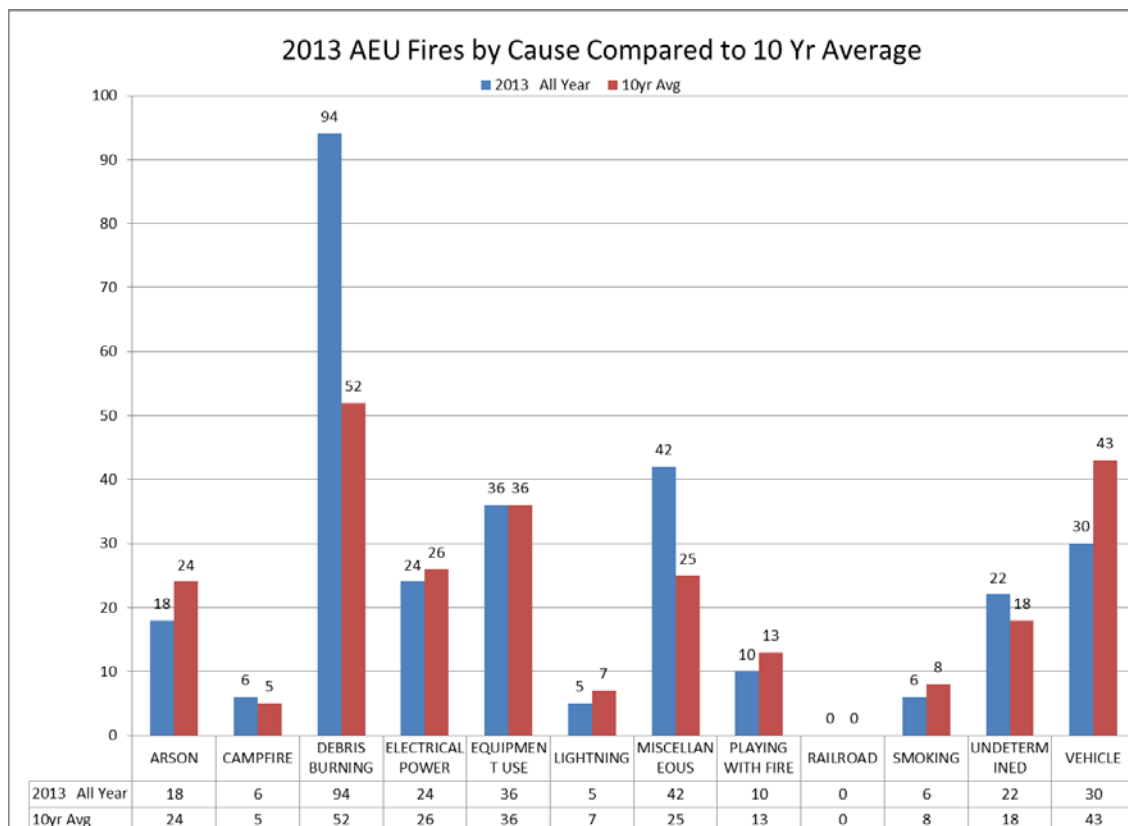
- 6) Undetermined (22 fires – 8%)
- 7) Arson (18 fires – 6%)
- 8) Playing with Fire (10 fires – 4%)
- 9) Smoking (6 fires – 2%)
- 10) Campfire (6 fires – 2%)
- 11) Lightning (5 fires – 2%)
- 12) Railroad (0 fires)

In 2013, debris burning, miscellaneous, campfires, and undetermined fires increased over the 10 year average. All other categories decreased from the 10- year average. Ignitions causing the most acreage loss were equipment at 203 acres and vehicle at 196 acres. One smoking caused fire burnt 116.7 acres out of the total acreage burnt of 117.8 acres by smoking caused fires.



In 2013 there were 293 fires in the Unit, which is 92 more fires than 2012. The 10 year ignition average for the unit is 257, which means 2013 ignitions were 12.3% higher than the 10 year average. Analyzing fire activity within the Unit, November was the busiest month for fire activity with 56 fires. The month of July was the second most active month with 48 fires. Of the documented 293 fires in the Unit, only 9 fires were larger than 10 acres. In order to better address ignition management in the Unit, a more detailed analysis of the fires in each major cause classification was conducted.

The following chart compares the 2013 primary causes compared to the 10-year average.



2013 Primary Causes Compared to the 10-Year Average.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Each year Amador – El Dorado Unit Field Battalion Chiefs identify target hazards areas within their individual geographic areas of responsibility to conduct/concentrate 4291 Defensible Space inspections in for that year. These target hazard areas are determined based on a set of elements/criteria that the Battalion Chief is asked to consider in that determination. AEU's Pre-Fire Engineer then creates a series of target hazard area maps which are distributed to our Forestry Aide 4291 Defensible Space Inspectors, all CAL FIRE AEU Fire Stations whose engines company's conduct 4291 defensible space inspections and local cooperators (Fire Protection Districts, Fire Safe Councils). This information is provided to local fire protection districts and fire safe councils to avoid a duplication of prevention effort. Our local cooperators also conduct 4291 advisory inspections within their districts and communities, providing additional guidance and education to residents on creating defensible space around their homes. The following is a list of criteria Battalion Chiefs consider when determining target hazard areas for defensible space inspections:

- Number of calls run in a specific area within a Battalion (call volume)

- Number of SRA habitable structures in a specific area (structural density)
- Evacuation concerns (ingress/egress, dead-end roads, road clearance, road width, turnouts)
- Fire Hazard Severity Zone rating (Very High, High, moderate)
- Fire history/Ignition history and ignition cause (AEU Ignition Management Plan data)
- Assets at Risk (Infrastructure- hydro-electric power generation, EID ditch system, timber resource etc.)
- Prevailing weather patterns
- Communities at Risk (WUI)
- Topography
- Existing fuels modification work (CAL MAPPER, CWPP, AEU Fire plan)
- Existing 4291 data (passes, fails, citations)

In 2013 the Unit completed a total of 4,322 inspections. This is the second highest number of inspections since records were kept starting in 2004. Of the 4,322 inspections, 2,497 inspections were completed by Station personnel in Battalions 1,2,3,4 and 5; 1068 inspections were completed by four firefighters dedicated to 4291 inspections for two months starting in May; and 757 inspections were completed by Forestry Aides. Managing and reducing the flammable vegetation around structures will also reduce the number of structure ignitions from wildland fires. Clearing vegetation and maintaining that clearance is required by section 4291 of the Public Resources Code (PRC 4291). Although this law requires it, many landowners fail to maintain adequate clearance around their structures. CAL FIRE's fire safe inspection program is used to enforce compliance with PRC 4291. Additionally, the fuel reduction projects within AEU are aimed at reducing wildland fuels and educating the public on what they can do for themselves to protect their homes from wildfires and reducing structure ignitability.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Public Information Program:

The Unit's Public Information Officer provides media releases and articles, conducts live interviews (TV and Radio), prepares and disseminates fire information/incident information fact sheets, information on evacuations (in support of local law enforcement), etc. Duties include responding as an Incident Information Officer (Field PIO, PIO Center Manager, PIO in JIC, PIO on unified command incidents, etc.) locally or statewide. This year the program will expand to include coordinating a Media Safety Training for local media outlets.

Public Education and Awareness Program:

The Public Education and Awareness Program is comprised of four components: School Programs, Group Programs, Exhibits / Displays, and Parades.

1) School Programs are done throughout the Unit and reach children from preschool through 12th grade. The "team teaching" approach is used at the schools and is done on a request basis and is generally handled by engine companies. There is a variety of programs available depending on the request or needs of a particular school. For PreK-6 they include "Smokey Bear Team Teaching", "Flannel Board", "9-1-1", "Stop/Drop and Roll", "Crawl Low Under Smoke", "Exit Drills In The Home", "Friendly Firefighter", "Fire Station Tours", State Farm's Smoke Detectives, Bic's Play Safe-Be Safe, Masters of Disasters and Learn Not To Burn.

For 7th-12th grades the presentation is given in an assembly setting and the focus will range from Juvenile Fire Setting behaviors to Career Days. The Juvenile Fire Setting education program is presented in the following format: introduction; ice breaker, explanation of who, what, when, where and why juveniles set fires and the consequences. A discussion follows on making good/bad choices, responsibilities of those choices (civil and criminal) and a review of basic fire safety principals. For Career Days, the program will include an overview of the agency, its mission and the types of careers available and levels of education required to be competitive in the specific field.

2) Group Programs are done on a request basis and can cover all fire and life safety topics including Defensible Space, Disaster Preparedness, Preparing a "Go Kit", Senior Fire Safety, and Fire Safety for the Disabled/Special Needs etc. We provide these presentations to the public, local businesses, groups, clubs and organizations. Requests vary and presentations may be done in conjunction with another such as a fire agency or law enforcement.

3) Exhibits and Displays designed and constructed for fairs, parades, home and garden shows, wildfire awareness week, fire prevention week, burn awareness week, arson awareness week, homeowner association gatherings, National Night Out, etc. These may be done in concert with another emergency service agency, local government, fire safe council, etc.

4) Parades are handled at the Battalion level and requests are directed to the Battalion Chief. If it is appropriate, a fire engine and other equipment may be directed to participate.

The JFS Program is initiated when a juvenile has been experimenting with fire. The juvenile and parents/caregivers are assessed utilizing the FEMA JFS assessment program. Following the assessment, the family will view one or two videos specifically designed for JFS. If further assistance is needed, the referrals are processed through the juvenile justice system.

Assessments are done in cooperation with the US Forest Service and local fire districts. The objectives of the JFS Program are:

- Identify juvenile firesetters
- Assess the juvenile firesetters needs
- Provide life skill training and education
- Provide referrals to family counseling
- Evaluate firesetters and program progress

ENGINEERING & STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY

The following section will discuss structure ignitability within the Amador-El Dorado Unit. Structure ignitability is a building's susceptibility to catching on fire. This is a growing concern as more homes and businesses continue to be built in the wildland-urban interface. Measures can be taken to reduce the ignitability of structures in wildland areas through proper planning and building design techniques that prevent flames or windborne embers from entering the structure, and use of building materials that are fire and heat resistant.

Planning: The Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU) has seen rapid growth over the last couple of decades with homes and businesses being built farther away from population centers creating new areas of wildland-urban interface. Improper planning in regards to minimizing a structure's exposure to wildfire has allowed many of the structures to be built in areas that increase their exposure to the effects of wildfires, such as building on steep slopes and within or at the top of both large and small drainages. Drainages act as chimneys and funnel heat and energy from wildfires. Homes within these drainages are subjected to a lot more heat and embers during a wildfire increasing the structures chance of igniting. Many times firefighters are unable to defend structures within these drainages from an oncoming wildfire because of the amount of heat. Unfortunately, new construction continues to occur within these areas increasing the number of structures with a high susceptibility to igniting during a wildfire. AEU's Fire Prevention Bureau works with county planning and building departments to locate new construction in areas that minimize a building's exposure to wildfire.

Construction: How a structure is constructed and the type of material it is constructed out of is just as important as where a structure is located. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/Office of the State Fire Marshal have developed wildland-urban interface building standards for new construction. The objective of the Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area Building Standards is to establish minimum standards for materials and material assemblies and to provide a reasonable level of

exterior wildfire exposure protection for buildings in Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Areas. The use of ignition resistant materials and design to resist the intrusion of flame or burning embers projected by a vegetation fire (wildfire exposure) will prove to be the most prudent effort California has made to try and mitigate the losses resulting from our repeating cycle of interface fire disasters. The new standards became effective on January 1, 2008 for all areas within State Responsibility Areas and on July 1, 2008 in Local Responsibility Areas classified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The new standards address such things as roofing, attic ventilation, ignition resistant siding, decking, windows, and wall vents. The new standards will help to reduce the number of burning embers that enter a building and ignite fires. Burning ember intrusion is the main reason homes are destroyed in wildland-urban interface fires.

Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps

In 2007-2008 CAL FIRE updated the existing Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps to coincide with the adoption of the new wildland-urban interface building standards. The updated maps have incorporated improved wildland fire behavior science, data sets, and understanding of structure ignition mechanisms during conflagrations. These fire hazard severity zones will be used by building officials to determine appropriate construction materials for new buildings in the wildland-urban interface. The updated zones will also be used by property owners to comply with natural hazards disclosure requirements at the time of property sale. It is likely that the fire hazard severity zones will be used by local government as they update the safety element of general plans. The Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps and new building standards for each county can be obtained from the CAL FIRE website, www.fire.ca.gov.

B. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Under the Vegetation Management Program (VMP), the Unit has treated approximately 20,600 acres since 1982 and has treated an average of 500 acres annually over the past decade with 624 acres treated in 2013 alone. Many of the projects undertaken in the Unit have been within the wild land-urban interface. Due to the existing land use patterns within the Unit and the increasing population densities in Amador and El Dorado Counties, it is anticipated that the emphasis of the Vegetation Management Program will continue to focus on projects within the wild land-urban interface areas. The emphasis for future projects will be on densely populated and high asset at risk areas.

California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)

The California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) is a state run cost share program designed to assist private timberland owners in the management of their non-industrial timberlands. Through CFIP funding, CAL FIRE will reimburse 75% - 90% of the cost of eligible practices based on cap rates. Many of the cost share practices such as site preparation, timber stand thinning, pruning, and chemical release aid in forest stand improvement and reduce fuel loading.

In 1999, CAL FIRE foresaw the need to expand the ability of the program to meet other watershed needs. These measures include thinning, shaded fuel breaks, and other land treatments or forest resource improvement projects consistent with PRC 4794.

Proposition 40 Fuel Reduction Program

The goal of the CAL FIRE Prop-40 Fuels Reduction Program is to reduce wildland fuel loadings that pose a threat to watershed resources and water quality. These funds would be for planning, administration, and implementation of forest land and fuels management projects that protect watersheds from catastrophic wildfire, thereby improving water quality, protecting habitat and fisheries, and controlling erosion and sedimentation in the Sierra Nevada region.

CAL FIRE is using the VMP program, Community Assistance Grants (CAG's) and CFIP as tools to accomplish the goal of protection of the targeted watersheds, specifically fuels management projects. In order to protect these stands from fire it may be necessary to accomplish more than the standard logging

of fuels generated from hand site preparation, Pre-Commercial Thinning (PCT), pruning and/or release activities.

California Tahoe Conservancy Fuel Reduction Program

The California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) conducts fuel reduction projects throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin through their Urban Land Management Program.

Pre Fire Engineering

Pre fire engineering is a critical part of the Unit Strategic Fire Plan. GIS mapping is used to analyze the fire environment and help Unit managers make key decisions for on the ground Pre-Fire projects. It is the goal of engineering to provide the most current and accurate data for the fire plan process. This goal is accomplished by field validating the data with Unit Battalions, collaborators, county officials, and federal agencies.

Objectives:

- Update the Assets At Risk data
- Update the fuels for the Unit
- Maintain current and up to date county parcel data
- Work with Unit personnel and collaborators to enhance the fire plan data
- Assess the weather rankings for accuracy

SECTION V: PRE- FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS

Amador County

Amador County consists of 299,861 acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area and is divided into Battalion's 3 and 4. (See Figure B for Battalion Boundaries Map) Within these two Battalions are six local fire cooperators; Amador Fire Protection District, Jackson Fire Department, Lone Fire Department, Latrobe Fire District, Lockwood Fire and Pioneer Fire.

The Amador County terrain consists of low lying grasslands to the west and productive timber lands on the eastern boundary. In the center of Amador County is a flourishing agricultural community. These low mountain ranges are thick with brush and trees, and the valleys are lush with vineyards making Amador County a very popular area to live as well as a great travel destination.

Battalion 3

AEU Battalion 3 is 282,349 acres and encompasses portions of El Dorado and Amador counties. Amador County communities within the Battalion include Pioneer, Pine Grove, Volcano, and Lockwood. El Dorado County community within the Battalion includes Omo Ranch. The fuel types in the Battalion range from 45% timber, 48% brush, to 7% grass/oak woodland.

Like many areas in the Sierra Nevada, there exists a significant wildland-urban interface (WUI) problem within Battalion 3. There are several large, well-populated subdivisions within Battalion 3 that are at risk from a catastrophic fire occurrence. As a Unit, through VMP, we are proactively working with residences, Sierra Pacific Industries and our Federal and Local cooperators to reduce these risks.

Battalion 3 consists of two CAL FIRE stations, a Conservation Camp, one un-staffed lookout, and Mount Zion Demonstration State Forest (164 acres). Pine Grove station, in Pine Grove, has two engines, while Dew Drop station, east of Pioneer, and has one engine. Our eastern most station, Dew Drop / Station 10,

located along Highway 88 is staffed with an engine and crew during the fire season. Dew Drop station is also staffed with an engine and crew by the Eldorado National Forest during the fire season. Pine Grove Conservation Camp provides four hand crews. Pine Grove Camp provides most of the labor for pre-fire treatment programs in Amador County, as well as an invaluable resource on initial attack.

The Local Fire Agencies that lie, at least partially, within Battalion 3 boundary lines are:

- Pioneer Fire Protection District
- El Dorado County Protection District
- Lockwood Fire Protection District
- Amador Fire Protection District in Amador County

Battalion 4

AEU Battalion 4 is 650,424 acres in size and encompasses portions of Amador, El Dorado, Sacramento, and San Joaquin counties. The fuel types in the Battalion range from 15% timber, to 34% brush, and 51% grass/oak woodland.

Like the other Battalion's in the Unit, there exists a significant wildland-urban interface problem within the Battalion. There are several large, well-populated subdivisions that are at risk to large catastrophic fires. As a Unit, through VMP, we are proactively working with residences, Sierra Pacific Industries and our Federal and Local cooperators to reduce these risks.

There are two CAL FIRE stations within the Battalion. Sutter Hill station staffs one engine year-round and a second engine and bulldozer during fire season. Sutter Hill station is also the location of an automotive shop, the Unit's service center, and the Unit's training room. River Pines station, in River Pines, staffs one CAL FIRE engine during fire season. There are no CAL FIRE stations in Sacramento or San Joaquin counties.

Cooperating Fire Agencies

The CAL FIRE Academy and Fourteen fire departments lie, at least partially, within the Battalion. The Local Fire Agencies that lie within Battalion 4 boundary lines are:

- Amador Fire Protection District
- Lone City Fire
- Jackson City Fire
- Jackson Rancheria Casino Fire
- Jackson Valley Fire Protection District
- Lockwood Fire Protection District
- Mule Creek State Prison Fire
- Plymouth City Fire
- Sutter Creek Fire Protection District
- Clements Fire District
- Liberty Rural Fire Protection District
- Herald Fire Protection District
- Wilton Fire Protection District
- Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

CAL FIRE and the above fire departments serve the following communities: Buena Vista, Carbondale, Comanche, Fiddletown, Lone, Jackson, Jackson Rancheria Casino, Martell, Plymouth, River Pines, Sutter Creek, Amador City, Dry Town, Clements, Herald, Wilton and Rancho Murieta.

El Dorado County

El Dorado County consists of 459,863 acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area and is divided into all or portions of CAL FIRE Battalion's 1, 2, 3, 5, and 8 (See Figure B for Battalion Boundaries Map) Similar to Amador County, El Dorado County consists of low lying grass and brush lands to the west and productive

timber lands on the eastern boundary. Amongst the brush and timber terrain of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, El Dorado County has a productive agricultural community; apple orchards and vineyards line the southern aspects and lush valleys. Highway 50 not only provides easy access to and from South Lake Tahoe but provides an easy Sacramento commute for those thousands of residence wanting to live in a rural community.

Battalion 1

Battalion 1 encompasses approximately 587,545 acres in El Dorado and Sacramento counties. El Dorado County communities within the Battalion include Camino, Diamond Springs, El Dorado, El Dorado Hills, Pioneer, Logtown, Latrobe, Nashville, Cameron Park, Placerville, Pleasant Valley, Pollock Pines, Rescue, Shingle Springs, and Grizzly Flats.

Battalion 1 is an active Battalion in the Amador-El Dorado Unit in regards to vegetation fire response. Additionally, it has the highest urban interface population density in the Unit. Within Battalion 1 there are two CAL FIRE facilities and one fire lookout/communication infrastructure sites.

Camino Fire Station 20 and Amador El Dorado Unit Headquarters

Camino Fire Station 20 houses one frontline Type III Fire Engine and one reserve Type III fire engine. In addition, it houses the Battalion utility vehicle. Camino Fire Station was built in 1936 with additions completed in the 1950's and 1960's. It was built for the protection of, and continues to provide service to the surrounding lands owned by private timber companies. The Fire Station shares the compound with the Unit Administrative Headquarters, the Unit Emergency Command Center, the Unit Expanded Dispatch Center, and the Regional DGS Radio Technician Offices. In addition, the facility houses Mt. Danaher Fire Lookout. This lookout is not currently in service, but is registered with the National Historic Lookout Association and is the tallest free standing lookout tower in California.

Camino Fire Station 20 is responsible for all risk response to the areas including Camino, Pollock Pines, Placerville, Pleasant Valley, Grizzly Flat, Omo Ranch, the American River Canyon / Highway 50 corridor and is the 2nd due CAL FIRE engine into the Lake Tahoe Basin.

El Dorado Fire Station 43 and North Division Automotive Shop

El Dorado Fire Station 43 houses two frontline Type III fires engines and one type II Fire Dozer and Transport. It also houses the Dozer Tender Unit and is the Battalion Chief Headquarters. The Fire Station shares the compound and is responsible for the North Division Automotive Shop. This facility includes the Fleet Equipment Managers office and is staffed with one full time mechanic. The shop provides fleet support for all of the North Division as well as the staff vehicles at the Unit Administrative Headquarters and assists with support to the Cameron Park Fire Department Schedule A contract.

The response area for El Dorado Fire Station 43 includes eastern Sacramento County, El Dorado Hills, Shingle Springs, Latrobe, Cameron Park, Placerville, El Dorado, Diamond Springs, Gold Hill, Nashville, Omo Ranch, Pleasant Valley, Pioneer, Grizzly Flat, and Rescue.

The Local Fire Agencies that lie, at least partially within Battalion 1 boundary lines are:

- El Dorado County Fire Protection District
- El Dorado Hills Fire Department
- Cameron Park Fire Department
- Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District
- Rescue Fire Protection District
- Latrobe Fire Protection District
- Pioneer Fire Protection District
- Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

Battalion 2

CAL FIRE Battalion 2 lies primarily on the Georgetown Divide in northern El Dorado County. The communities of Georgetown, Garden Valley, Pilot Hill, Mosquito, Kelsey, Coloma, Auburn Lake Trails and Rescue are within the Battalion. The total area of the Battalion is 357,725 acres. Fuel types within the Battalion range from 19% timber, 54% brush, to 27% grass/oak woodland.

Like most Sierra Nevada areas, Battalion 2 has a significant wildland-urban interface problem. The majority of construction in the area took place prior to the adoption of the Fire Safe Regulations. This has led to areas with inadequate ingress/egress routes and insufficient defensible space clearance around structures. An example of this problem was the destruction of fourteen homes in the 1994 Kelsey fire.

Battalion 2 consists of two CAL FIRE stations, a Conservation Camp, and two un-staffed lookouts. Garden Valley station and Pilot Hill station are each two engine stations, with Growlersburg Conservation Camp, located outside of Georgetown, providing five hand crews. Growlersburg Camp provides most of the labor for pre-fire treatment programs in El Dorado County, as well as an invaluable resource on initial attack.

The Local Fire Agencies that lie, at least partially, within Battalion 2 boundary lines are:

- Garden Valley
- Georgetown
- Mosquito
- Rescue
- El Dorado County

Battalion 5 – Cameron Park

Cameron Park is a foothill community located 32 miles east of Sacramento on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in El Dorado County. The Community Services District was established in 1961 to provide the community with Fire Protection, Parks and Recreation. The community initially consisted of several hundred homes surrounding a championship golf course and a small commuter airport located on the Highway 50 corridor.

Community Development

Since the Cameron Park Community Services District was formed in 1961 it has seen a lot of development both residential and commercial. More than 5,500 single family homes, 1200 multi-family residences, commercial buildings, retail centers, industrial plants, and schools have developed in the eight and one-half square mile area (5,440 acres) that makes up Cameron Park. The population has grown from 400 residents in 1961 to an estimated 18,228 residents per the 2010 census information.

Geography

The general topography of the area consists of a central valley along the Deer Creek drainage, approximately ½ mile wide running in a northwest/southeast direction. Commercial buildings, residences, golf course, airport, and 40 acre lake, are the primary features located in the valley. The elevation at the valley floor ranges from 1200 to 1300 feet above sea level. The valley is enclosed between two ridges to the east and west that rise 300 to 400 feet above the valley floor. The slopes leading up to the ridge tops range from approximately 15% to 35%. The ridge line to the east is also home to the largest portion of the Pine Hill preserve which is made up of mainly large stands of brush.

The Wildland-Urban Interface Problem

Development in Cameron Park has encroached into these wildland areas and has created a wildland-urban interface condition. These areas are made up of dense mature stands of brush, mostly Manzanita

and Chamise, which reach heights greater than 10 feet, and dense oak woodland forests. These mature stands of brush contain a high ratio of dead brush to live brush making them extremely dangerous. There are a variety of oak species in the area including Blue Oak and Valley Oak; other species of oak include Live Oak and Holly Oak. In parts of the community, mostly along the lower elevations and gentler slopes there are also seasonal dry grasses.

There are several areas of open space within the community ranging from 5 acres to 300 acres. The majority of this open space consists of undeveloped lots and preserve lands (Pine Hill Preserve) which are covered with flammable vegetation around the community where a large wildfire could become established. The rest of the open space such as the golf course, airport, and Cameron Park Lake has been cleared of flammable vegetation.

Fire History

The community of Cameron Park is located along Highway 50 which is heavily utilized by local, state, and interstate travelers. Wildfire history is much higher along the Highway 50 corridor than surrounding areas of El Dorado County in terms of numbers of fires started. Over the 40 year history of the community, numerous large vegetation fires have occurred in the immediate surrounding areas.

Given the fuels, topography, weather, development and fire history in the area, the community is vulnerable to a catastrophic wildfire. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) in cooperation with the Cameron Park Fire Department (CPFD) has implemented a comprehensive "Fire Safe" project for the community of Cameron Park to minimize the potential for costs and losses associated with a catastrophic wildfire.

Cameron Park Fire Safe Project

A common complaint received by the Cameron Park Fire Department from the public is about their concern for protection from a wildfire emergency. An analysis of emergency incidents in the local area supports the public perception that the greatest threat to the community may be from a destructive wildfire similar in nature to the fire that occurred recently in South Lake Tahoe, the Angora Fire, which started on June 24, 2007. The Angora Fire burned less than 5 square miles (3100 acres) but it destroyed 254 homes and 75 commercial and other structures in one day.

The Cameron Park Fire Department in Cooperation with CAL FIRE implemented a project in the Community of Cameron Park with a long term goal of establishing a "Fire Safe" community. The enormous scope of the problem necessitated that it be approached by a coalition of public and private stakeholders that included: 1) Fire Department officials, 2) El Dorado County government and agency officials, 3) Community Services District officials, 4) utility company representatives, 4) environmental groups, 5) insurance industry representatives, 6) real estate industry representatives, 7) homeowners associations, 8) large land owners, and 9) the general public.

The project is comprehensive enough to address the entire wildland-urban interface problem in the district from small strips of flammable vegetation along roadside easements, to large tracts of undeveloped brush covered lands. No timeframes were established for the completion of this project. Progress is dependent upon the cooperation and initiative of the stakeholders, and the success in securing project funding through grants or other sources.

Cameron Park Wildland Fire Community Hazard and Risk Assessment

The Cameron Park Fire Safe Plan and Fuels Reduction Project depicts, in detail, the critical fire hazard and threat to the Cameron Park Community. This tool allows Cameron Park to prioritize wildland-urban interface mitigation projects. The complete geographic inventory of the community identified those areas from extreme to low. Attributes assessed to develop this map include: building materials including roof construction, fuel type or fuel model, and lot slope and aspect.

Battalion 8

CAL FIRE Battalion 8 lies in the El Dorado County portions of South Lake Tahoe and most of Alpine County. The communities of South Lake Tahoe, Meeks Bay, Twin Bridges, Kirkwood, and Markleeville are within the Battalion. The total area of the Battalion is 790,002 acres and is primarily timber fuels.

The Battalion has many fuel reduction programs and works closely with The California Conservation Corps (CCC), California State Parks, and the California Tahoe Conservancy to accomplish them. The State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fee helped to fund two fuel reduction projects in the Tahoe Basin including the Tahoma Defense Zone in Sugar Pine Point State Park, and Meyers Urban Lot Fuel Reduction in the South Lake Tahoe area.

Battalion 8 consists of one CAL FIRE station and a Resource Management Business Office.

Lake Tahoe Fire Station 5

Lake Tahoe Station 5 houses one frontline type III engine in South Lake Tahoe at a facility owned by Lake Valley Fire Protection District. The crew from this station has a close working relationship with surrounding local government and federal fire agencies. CAL FIRE has Direct Fire Protection responsibility in the Tahoe Basin; therefore, these relations are key to the success of the program. In addition to responding to all risk emergencies, the Lake Tahoe Station is very proactive in public education and defensible space inspections within the surrounding community.

The Battalion enjoys cooperative relationships with local fire agencies that lay within Battalion 8. In addition, the Battalion values a close working relationship with the federal land management agencies including the USDA Forest Service and the USDI Bureau of Land Management.

The Local Fire Agencies that lie within Battalion 8 boundary lines are:

- Lake Valley Fire Protection District
- Meeks Bay Fire Protection District
- Fallen Leaf Fire Protection District
- South Lake Tahoe Fire Department

Battalion 9 - Camino Emergency Command Center

The Camino Interagency Emergency Command Center (CICC) provides the Command and Control for all State Responsibility Area (SRA), Local Responsibility Area (LRA), and Federal Responsibility Area (FRA). Those areas include Amador, El Dorado, Alpine, Sacramento Counties as well as the Eldorado National Forest (ENF), and Tahoe Management Unit (TMU).

Amador - El Dorado Unit (AEU), Eldorado National Forest (ENF) and Tahoe Management Unit (TMU) are located in CICC's dispatch center at Camino Headquarters. The Interagency Command Center allows each agency to assist the other during times of high activity, the opportunity to share personnel and assures coordination of local, state, and federal fire fighting forces during wildland fires, structure fires, and medical emergencies.

CICC monitors fire weather conditions within the Unit to augment staffing prior to these weather events. CICC maintains 4 Remote Weather Stations (RAWS), and monitors these stations on a daily basis to set the appropriate dispatch level. A Standard Response Plan is pre-determined for each dispatch level for timely activation of resources in the event of a wildfire, or other type fire which is threatening to burn the wildland.

CICC utilizes the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) and Hired Equipment Management System (HEMS) which allows personnel to support any given incident within the area. ROSS and HEMS contain information, such as, the Incident Command System (ICS) qualifications for AEU, ENF, and TMU personnel, supplies, vendors, private resources available for hire, call when needed support or tactical equipment (i.e.; dozers, helicopters, water tenders, etc.), and Local Government Cooperator information.

CICC is also set up for expanded operations for incidents that may require extended attack operations. The CICC Expanded Dispatch is used for large or complex incidents that outgrow the initial attack (IA) floor of the command center. When an Initial Attack incident occurs that has the potential to become an extended attack or major incident, CICC immediately staffs expanded with additional ECC personnel. Once CICC Expanded is up and running, all ordering for the given incident takes place within this building and staffing levels are adjusted based on the size or complexity of the incident. The incident is assigned a separate Command Frequency. This allows the CICC to return to normal operations on the main IA floor. As the incident continues to grow, additional resources are assigned from within AEU, ENF, or TMU, or orders are placed to other areas of the state or nation. The properly staffed Expanded Operation allows for timely ordering, cancellation, or reassignment of resources, overhead, and equipment while taking the load off of the CICC IA floor.

Mission Statement

The Camino Interagency Command Center, operated by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the United States Forest Service, is a cooperative interagency command center. The command center is dedicated to providing professional and efficient dispatch services for the residents and visitors of El Dorado, Amador, Sacramento, and Alpine Counties including the Eldorado National Forest and the Tahoe Management Unit. The primary mission is to achieve the most economical and effective cooperative fire, aviation management, emergency medical response, law enforcement, and rescue service through collaboration.

Training Bureau

The primary responsibility of the AEU Training Bureau is to provide training and records maintenance for all employees assigned to the CAL FIRE Amador El Dorado Unit. Additional responsibilities include the coordination of State, Region and outside training in support of the Department's mission. The Training Bureau is also responsible for scheduling and facilitating the required training and testing of the Unit's CFFJAC employees. This is accomplished by the development of an annual training plan that serves the needs of the Department and all personnel within the Unit. The primary goal of the Unit's training plan is to develop and support comprehensive training for all employees, ensure compliance with state and policy mandated training, enhance employee's incident command qualifications, and develop career tracks that benefit the Department's mission as a leader in all risk emergency response and incident command.

The Department training program operates within a traditional chain of command process, from the Department to the Region, then to the Unit. The Department utilizes four basic levels of responsibility for its training program: Department, Program, Region and Unit.

All Training is prioritized and allocated utilizing the following criteria:

- Mandatory / Position Required Training (required by policy, law, or statute)
- Incident Command System Training (based on the ERD needs in support of Department's Mission)
- Career Enhancement and Employee Development

Sacramento County

Sacramento County consists of 119,248 acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area and is divided into portions of CAL FIRE Battalion 1 and Battalion 4 (See Figure B for Battalion Boundaries Map). The majority of Sacramento County is provided fire protection by local government cooperators; Sacramento Metropolitan Fire, Folsom Fire Department, Cosumnes Fire Protection District, Herald Fire Protection District, and Wilton Fire Protection District.

Alpine County

Alpine County consists of 474,265 acres and is entirely Federal DPA. However, 36,959 of those acres are private lands making them SRA (approximately 13%). Alpine County is part of CAL FIRE Battalion 8 (See Figure B for Battalion Boundaries Map) and consists of mostly National Forest and Wilderness lands. Fire protection is mostly provided by Federal cooperators (USFS, BLM).

San Joaquin County

San Joaquin County consists of 24,888 acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Areas with the Amador-El Dorado Unit and is part of CAL FIRE Battalion 4 (See Figure B for Battalion Boundaries Map). San Joaquin County terrain consists of mostly grazing grassland and agriculture. Fire protection is provided by CAL FIRE AEU, TCU and local government cooperators.

APPENDIX A: PRE- FIRE PROJECTS

Batt.	Project Number	Project Name	Planning Area	Status	Project Type	Activity Acres	Project Acres
4	2700-2001-VMP-003	Chance	SRA	Complete	VMP		13383
3	2700-2004-VMP-067	Shake Omo	SRA	Complete	VMP		4748
2	2700-2011-FPL-021	Volcanoville	SRA	Complete	CAG		3337
4	2700-2010-VMP-010	Van Vleck	SRA	Active	VMP		3207
3	2700-2010-VMP-011	Shake Fiddletown	SRA	Active	VMP		2909
1	2700-2001-VMP-009	Sly Park	SRA	Active	VMP		2708
2	2700-2008-CFP-004	Auburn Lake Trails	SRA	Complete	CFIP		2646
2	2700-2001-VMP-001	Bacchi	SRA	Active	VMP		2387
3	2700-2011-VMP-005	Doaks	SRA	Active	VMP		2287
1	2700-2004-FPL-001	Grizzly Flats	SRA	Active	CAG		1740
2	2700-2010-FPL-022	Gold Hill 2	SRA	Complete	VMP		1226
3	2700-2006-FPL-001	Antelope	SRA	Complete	VMP		1022
1	2700-2008-CFP-003	Leoni Meadows	SRA	Complete	CFIP		1020
2	2700-2001-VMP-002	Lewis	SRA	Active	VMP		940
1	2700-2013-VMP-019	Prairie City OHV	SRA	Active	VMP		848
3	2700-2011-CFP-008	Jones	SRA	Complete	CFIP		773
3	2700-2008-CFP-010	Volcano	SRA	Complete	CFIP		657
8	2700-2008-CFP-001	High Meadows Ranch	SRA	Complete	CFIP		468
2	2700-2002-CFP-007	Buchholz	SRA	Complete	CFIP		451
2	2700-2010-VMP-006	Gold Hill	SRA	Complete	VMP		281
2	2700-2008-CFP-009	Black Rock Ranch	SRA	Complete	CFIP		281

Batt.	Project Number	Project Name	Planning Area	Status	Project Type	Activity Acres	Project Acres
3	2700-2007-FPL-001	Antelope 08	SRA	Maint	VMP		279
3	2700-2011-CFP-005	McCamant	SRA	Complete	CFIP		208
1	2700-2013-FPL-001	Lakehills	SRA	Active	Other		198
1	2700-2008-CFP-011	Proctor Prop 40 Project	SRA	Complete	CFIP		192
3	2700-2012-FPL-001	Chawse' State Park	SRA	Active	Other		132
2	2700-2008-CFP-006	Smith	SRA	Complete	CFIP		127
2	2700-2010-VMP-004	Finnon	SRA	Complete	VMP		118
4	2700-2008-CFP-002	Raught	SRA	Complete	CFIP		103
3	2700-2007-CFP-006	Gallion School	SRA	Complete	CFIP		99
2	2700-2007-CFP-002	Smith Prop 40 Project	SRA	Complete	CFIP		83
2	2700-2012-FPL-002	Pine Hill	SRA	Active	Other		81
3	2700-2007-CFP-001	Marz	SRA	Complete	CFIP		76
1	2700-2013-FPL-002	Gold Bug Park	LRA	Active	Other		62
1	2700-2012-CFP-001	Pollock Pines	SRA	Active	CFIP		54
2	2700-2008-CFP-008	Case	SRA	Complete	CFIP		44
1	2700-2008-CFP-005	Genovesio	SRA	Complete	CFIP		41
2	2700-2008-CFP-012	Stewart	SRA	Complete	CFIP		41
2	2700-2008-CFP-007	Forrest Lea	SRA	Complete	CFIP		40
1	2700-2007-CFP-005	Standeven	SRA	Complete	CFIP		38
8	2700-2013-FPL-003	Tahoma Defense Zone	SRA	Active	Other		27
2	2700-2007-CFP-007	Auburn Lakes Trail Fuels Reduction Project	SRA	Complete	CFIP		26
3	2700-2009-CFP-003	07-AED-AMA-1095	SRA	Complete	CFIP		22

Batt.	Project Number	Project Name	Planning Area	Status	Project Type	Activity Acres	Project Acres
2	2700-2007-CFP-004	Tleimat-Allen	SRA	Complete	CFIP		21
3	2700-2012-CFP-005	McCamant	SRA	Active	CFIP		21
4	2700-2012-VMP-010	HFEO	SRA	Active	VMP		1202
3	2700-2011-FPL-005	Sherwood	SRA	Active	CAG		88
3	2700-2011-FPL-006	Stone Jug	SRA	Active	CAG		107
1	2700-2012-CFP-003	Nutting	SRA	Active	CFIP		54
2	2700-2012-CFP-012	James	SRA	Complete	CFIP		39
3	2700-2011-CFP-013	Kirkley	SRA	Active	CFIP		28
2	2700-2013-VMP-020	Auburn Lake Trails	SRA	Active	VMP		2646
2	2700-2013-FPL-007	Auburn Lake Trails	SRA	Active	CAG		2646
1	2700-2012-FPL-008	Logtown	SRA	Active	CAG		194
8	2700-2011-FPL-007	Meeks Bay Chipper	SRA	Active	CAG		5665
8	2700-2011-FPL-003	Alpine County Chipper	SRA	Active	CAG		2404
1	2700-2014-VMP-022	Ladies Valley	SRA	Planning	VMP		314
8	2700-2011-FPL-006	Lake Valley	SRA	Complete	CAG		45916

Project Number: Cal MAPPER ID Project Name: Project Name as in Cal MAPPER

Planning Area: SRA or LRA

Status: A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance

Project Type: VMP, CFIP, FPL = Fire Plan, PREV = Prevention, and FI = Forest Improvement, CAG=Community Assistance Grant, Other = identify at the bottom of the table.

Amador County

Current Battalion 3 Projects:

Doaks Vegetation Management Program

Develop a fuel break on Doaks Ridge and surrounding lands to tie the Antelope Fuel break in with SPI fuel breaks on Cooks ridge. This project is ongoing and will consist of mechanical work, crew work and broadcast burning. Most of the work will be on PG&E and SPI ground. This project is VMP funded, and supported with labor from Pine Grove Camp.

Shake Fiddletown Vegetation Management Program

Develop and maintain a fuel break along the Shakeridge Road and Fiddletown Road. This project is a continuation on the Shake Omo VMP that was completed in 2009. This project is ongoing and will consist of mechanical work, crew work and broadcast burning. This project is VMP funded and supported with labor from Pine Grove Camp.

Sherwood Forest, Chawse, and Stone Jug.

The Sherwood Forest project and the Stone Jug Project focus on fuels reduction along ingress/egress routes into high risk subdivisions. The Chawse Project will be the beginning of the proposed Pine Grove Fuels Reduction project.

These are ongoing fuels reduction projects that are funded by Prop.40 money, and are supported with labor from Pine Grove Camp.

California Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) in the Battalion:

- Grizzly Flat CWPP
- Pioneer-Volcano CWPP
- Pine Grove CWPP

Future Battalion 3 Projects:

Tiger Creek Fuel Break

Develop a defensible fuel zone extending west from the Antelope Fuel Break to the Tiger Creek Power Plant on the Mokelumne River.
Coordinate with other groups to facilitate ingress/egress route clearing.

Pine Acres Fire Safe Project

Maintain a defensible fuel zone within and between the community of Pine Acres and the Mokelumne River Canyon.

Pine Grove Fuel Break

Develop a fuel reduction zone extending North-East from Ridge Road, beginning in the vicinity of Bates Road, and tying into the BLM projects on Mitchel Mine Road and the Chawse project.

Continuous Maintenance

We will continue to work cooperatively with the County of Amador and The Amador County Fire Safe Council to explore funding options to maintain all past and ongoing fuels reduction projects.

Current Battalion 4 Projects:

Within Battalion 4 a strong emphasis is placed on projects which involve fire preparedness training. Logistical and training support is provided to the CAL FIRE Academy in Lone and to the AEU training program with the following projects:

Heavy Forestry Equipment Operations Training:

Through the efforts of the AEU VMP Coordinator landowners who control strategically significant lands are placed under VMP contract to allow the HFEO class to train/practice their dozer operator skills. The land placed under contract is primarily that which is owned by cattle ranchers desiring to convert their brush covered lands to grazing lands and eradicate non-native invasive weed species. To enhance the effectiveness of this project CAL FIRE burns the resulting piles and the ranchers seed the treated land each fall. In this fashion there is mutual benefit to the rancher, in the form of additional/improved grazing land, and to the Department, in the form of trained and tested operators. A benefit to CAL FIRE is significant fuels reduction within the training areas which are located primarily in Amador County.

Van Vleck VMP and Training Site:

Through VMP agreements, the Unit uses two sites in eastern Sacramento for training purposes. Each year the Unit burns between 500 and 700 acres of grass. We use this land to conduct Intermediate Firing Class and the FI 210 investigation class. This gives our Unit personnel valuable training, while providing for range improvements and vernal pool habit improvements.

El Dorado County

Battalion 1 Hazard / Target Areas:

The fuels within Battalion 1 are diverse, and include approximately 18% timber, 33% brush, and 49% grass/oak woodland.

Like many areas in the Sierra Nevada's the Battalion contains a significant wildland-urban interface problem. All communities within Battalion 1 SRA are evaluated using the following general and specific criteria to determine their Hazard/Target status:

- Potential for life loss
- Potential for property loss
- Potential for high community consequence (historical, environmental, infrastructure, etc.)
- Fuel types and fuel loading
- Ingress and egress
- Stakeholder collaboration

All communities within Battalion 1 meet the Target Hazard Criteria, some to a greater or lesser degree than others listed. According to FRAP data, approximately 95% of Battalion 1 is rated as high or extreme in SRA fire severity ratings.

Battalion 1 Projects:

Sly Park VMP

This project is a 1,200 acre fuels treatment project that prescribes the creation of a Defensible Fuels Zone/shaded fuel break between Park Creek Road and Sly Park Reservoir with the utilization of broadcast burning as well as hand treatment by CAL FIRE Growlersburg crews. This project provides a fuel break for the surrounding communities and natural resources around Sly Park Reservoir. Landowners, situated along the border of the project, will be allowed to participate in the Sly Park Fire Safe Project by including their residential parcels in the fuel break.

Lakehills Fuel Break (SRA Fee Funded)

Project Description:

CCC crews will construct and maintain the shaded fuel break adjacent to the Lakehills Estates Community, within the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (FLSRA). The purpose of this project is to reduce wildfire risk along a portion of the Wildland Urban Interface of the FLSRA by eliminating ladder fuels between the ground and canopy foliage and create horizontal separation between residual trees and shrubs. The shaded fuel break is approximately 16 acres in size and extends 130 feet from the property line and residences. Crews will treat the shaded fuel break which was developed in coordination with the Bureau of Reclamation, California State Parks, El Dorado Hills Fire Department, and Cal Fire. Dense vegetation will be carefully thinned and trees will be limbed 8-10 feet from the ground. Crews will remove dense undergrowth and brush to create vertical separation between the ground and tree canopy. Select trees with a diameter of 6" will be identified and marked for removal. Vegetation will be chipped and broadcast on site.

Gold Bug Park

Project Description:

This project includes the removal of brush, dead trees, seedlings, and small trees, to provide a horizontal separation of a minimum of 20' between trees. Vertical clearance of 8' will be obtained in accordance with the Gold Bug Fire safe Plan. All downed limbs and logs over 4" in diameter but less than 8" will be removed. All downed Oak limbs and logs over 4" in diameter but less than 8" shall be cut into "biofuel" lengths and stacked in a safe area where personnel can efficiently remove at a later time. Maintain a safe area where personnel can efficiently remove at a later time. Maintenance activities in previously treated (2008) area's will be treated to reduce the amount of emerging vegetation and control of noxious weeds. The work may be completed by CCC crews to remove the aforementioned combustible material with the use of hand tools, chainsaws, weed eaters, and chippers by hand crews. The most appropriate tools will be used as needed. The Fuel Reduction Guidelines listed in the Gold Bug Park Fire Safe Plan will be followed. Approx. 22 of the 64 acres have been identified for treatment. However, total acres treated will vary based on topographical and property-structure proximity restrictions.

California Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) in the Battalion:

- Highway 49 El Dorado County CWPP
- Highway 50 Corridor CWPP
- Royal Equestrian CWPP

Current Battalion 2 Projects:

Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safe Project / CWPP

The Auburn Lake Trails subdivision is situated at the rim of the American River canyon near the community of Cool. Exclusion of fire and the heavy public use below the subdivision create a very hazardous condition with respect to the potential for ignition. The topography, fuels, and significant numbers of homes create a combination of factors that will cause significant resource damage as well as a major risk to life safety within the community.

The primary strategy is to establish defensible fuel zones around and within the subdivision. CAL FIRE crews have conducted VMP project work on federal lands adjoining the subdivision. Private land owners will be asked to participate in the VMP so fuels reduction will continue on the private lands between homes and the federal lands project area. The property owner's association retains control of all the

common area within the subdivision and is the primary partner with the Auburn Lake Trails VMP. Currently CAL FIRE has treated approximately 200 acres of federal and private lands.

Georgetown Divide VMP

This complex of Ranches (Bacchi- Lewis- Baer Ranches) sits between the communities of Garden Valley, Greenwood and Coloma. This encompasses approximately 5000 acres of rangeland, oak woodland, brush and timber as well as WUI. It currently has a road system that connects the communities and can be utilized for response. Additionally the project has provided usable fuel breaks as well as fuels conversion treatment. Range land improvement has also been an objective in the project by fuels conversion as well as noxious weed eradication. Most work has been accomplished through training opportunities such as live fire and heavy fire equipment training.

Gold Hill VMP

The Gold Hill VMP lies between the communities of Placerville and Coloma. It is a historic site that is owned by the American River Conservancy. The main intention of the 150 acre project is to eradicate noxious weeds and to restore to natural grasslands. The eradication is done primarily through live fire that provides the rare and unique live fire training for CAL FIRE as well as Federal and Local Government cooperators.

Pine Hill Infrastructure Protection

This project provides defensible space to critical communications infrastructure on Pine Hill. The current communications site supports CAL FIRE, EDSO, CHP, DHS, and numerous private communications companies. In addition, CAL FIRE is responsible for the protection of the historical fire lookout on Pine Hill. The top 80 acres of Pine Hill is owned by CAL FIRE and the communications site is managed by American Tower in cooperation with DGS.

The fuel reduction project encompasses approximately 15 acres surrounding the immediate infrastructure and has been treated initially by hand piling and burning. Once the project is placed into a maintenance mode, there is support to increase the amount of acreage and to incorporate additional types of treatments including broadcast burning. This project has year round mitigation measures with handcrew work from Growlersburg Camp and is accelerated in the fall with prescribed fire use from Battalion 1 and 2 resources.

Battalion 2 Hazard/ Target Areas

The entire area covered within Battalion 2 would be considered a Target Area with significant potential. As noted earlier, the Divide has a significant fire history that has proven to challenge fire suppression efforts over the years. With the increase in population on the Divide, the potential for increased ignitions are ever growing. Some Target Areas include but are not solely limited to:

- Community of Mosquito
- Community of Garden Valley and surrounding communities
- Community of Georgetown and surrounding communities
- Community of Rescue
- Auburn Lake Trails
- Major travel corridors noted below
- American River Drainage
- Coloma State Park

California Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) in the Battalion:

- **Volcanoville CWPP**
- **Auburn Lake Trails CWPP**
- **Georgetown CWPP**

Future Battalion 2 Projects:

Future projects within the boundaries of Battalion 2 should focus on the following areas:

- Continued work on the ALT Fuels project including roadside clearing and ALT greenbelt/ common space areas.
- VMP's with major landholders to reduce fire hazards and noxious weeds (Bacchi, Lewis, and Baer).
- Input and support of the three noted CWPPs.
- Continuous Defensible Space inspection program (PRC 4291)

As opportunities present themselves, we plan to accomplish these goals through CWPPs, Fire Safe Council collaborations and grants as well as working with Cal Trans and County Roads to provide roadside clearances along all major routes of travel on the Divide.

- Hwy 49 corridor
- Hwy 193 corridor
- Rock Creek Road
- Mosquito Road
- Sliger Mine Road
- Spanish Dry Diggings Road
- Wentworth Springs Road
- Marshall Road
- Bayne Road
- Shoo Fly Road
- Bear Creek Road
- Spanish Flat Road
- Rattlesnake Bar Road
- Salmon Falls Road

Current Battalion 8 Projects:

Tahoma Defense Zone (SRA Fee Funded)

Project Description:

24 acres of pile burning and 3 acres thinning and pile building = 27 acres total. Project located upwind (prevailing SW wind) of the Tahoma neighborhood and the General Creek Campground to protect lives and property from the threat of catastrophic wildfire. Piles of hazardous fuels were burned this winter. CCC crews will also pile an additional 3 acres along the North Fire Road to connect with other treated areas and provide for safe firefighter access into and out of the park.

Meyers 6 Urban Lot Fuel Reduction (SRA Fee Funded)

Project Description:

Meyers 6 Urban Lot Fuel Reduction project is within a Community Wildfire Protection Plan which includes 60 acres of California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) owned urban lots in the SRA within the Lake Tahoe Basin. The proposed project consists of Phase 2, 35 acres. The proposed project is comprised of 134 urban parcels located in portions of Sections 16 and 21 of Township 12 North, Range 18 East, MDB&M. Parcels are located in El Dorado County, West of Pioneer Trail and East of US Highway 50 in the community of Meyers, California.

The residual conifer stand shall consist primarily of the healthiest dominant and codominant trees from the pre-harvest stand. Treatment will focus on thinning and the removal of hazard trees, dead, dying, and diseased trees, understory ladder fuels, brush and down woody debris. All trees to be removed will be marked in advance of operations by a California Registered Professional Forester (RPF) or supervised designee. Limbs will be pruned within 6 feet of ground. Brush will be removed around leave logs and snags, within the dripline of retained trees and to a spacing of two times the height of retained brush clumps.

Tree removal operations will be conducted using a CCC Hand Crew. All trees and slash designated for treatment will be removed, chipped, or hand piled and burned depending on site conditions and proximity to existing roads. Chipped material shall be removed or spread within the project area.

The Meyers 6 Urban Lot Fuel Reduction Project is identified as being within the boundaries of 2004 Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the California Portion of Lake Tahoe Basin (CWPP). The CWPP categorizes this project area as a NFFL Fuel Model 10. Subsequently, a fire in this area would have a rate of spread of 300 to 1600 feet per hour with flame lengths 3 to 6 feet. This type of fire would be an intense surface fire with passive crowning. Wind from any direction would move a wildfire quickly into homes or a structural fire into the open forest.

The excessive build-up of hazardous fuels near wildland-urban interface communities threatens life, property and the environment due to the risk of wildfire entering or leaving a community. In 2007, the Angora Fire originated on federal land and quickly spread into neighborhoods destroying over 3000 acres and 254 homes. This event has led to significant negative impacts upon lives, homes, businesses, natural ecosystems, and the water quality locally and regionally. By breaking up the continuity of fuels on CTC's urban lots the risk and negative effects of another catastrophic wildfire would be reduced and thereby provide watershed protection for Lake Tahoe's largest sub-watersheds, the Upper Truckee River and Saxon Creek.

California Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) in the Battalion:

- South Lake Tahoe CWPP

APPENDIX B: UNIT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property and natural resource assets at risk, including watershed, habitat, social and other values of functioning ecosystems. Facilitate the sharing of all analyses and data collection across all ownerships for consistency in type and kind.

Objectives: Engage and participate with local stakeholder groups (i.e., fire safe councils and others) to validate and prioritize the assets at risk.

Goal 2: Increase awareness, knowledge and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildland fires, such as defensible space and other fuels reduction activities, fire prevention and fire safe building standards.

Objectives: Increase the number and effectiveness of defensible space inspections and promote an increasing level of compliance with defensible space laws and regulations through the use of CAL FIRE staffing as available, public and private organizations, and alternative inspection methods.

Goal 3: Develop a method to integrate fire and fuels management practices with landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional efforts within local, state and federal responsibility areas.

Objectives: Support the availability and utilization of CAL FIRE hand crews and other CAL FIRE resources, as well as public and private sector resources, for fuels management activities, including ongoing maintenance. Both Growlersburg Camp and Pine Grove are a key contribution to the success of AEU's ongoing VMP, CFIP, Prop 40, and CAG projects.

APPENDIX C

Unit Specific Plans

AEU has developed three additional documents to aid in the operational decision making process. The three documents are the Fire Danger Operating Plan, Ignition Management Plan and the AEU Complex Incident Plan.

Fire Danger Operating Plan

This National Fire Danger Rating System Fire Danger Operating Plan discusses the setup and management of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) fire danger modeling program for the Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU). Fire danger is only one factor affecting operational decision making. The analysis framework used to develop this operating plan tries to account for the weather, fuels and topography driven factors as they affect fire danger and burning conditions throughout AEU. This analysis framework does not necessarily account for other factors such as resource draw down, training levels, political factors, mutual aid status, over riding budget constraints, and other pertinent issues. AEU created a Fire Weather Working Group charged with the creation and maintenance of this plan. Individuals with specific expertise were selected to work towards a Unit wide operating plan that fulfills the objectives set forth by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

AEU Complex Incident Plan

The Amador-El Dorado Unit Complex Incident Plan has been created to guide Unit operations, and support personnel, during lightening, and other complex incidents. Lightning events are an example of an incident that can become especially overwhelming for the Unit and the Emergency Command Center (ECC). Lightning complexes can tax the daily ECC operations as the complexity of the event increases. The intent of this plan is to establish, and maintain, a seamless flow of resource dispatching, ordering and accountability. Preparation of this plan was originally prepared with the intent of managing lightning incidents; however it is recognized that it can be activated for any incident that presents similar demands on the Unit and ECC. This plan is designed as an outgrowth of the Incident Command System (ICS) using the standard organizational elements to cover geographic areas that are impacted by lightning or any other emergency incident that exceeds the operational control of the Unit ECC.

AEU Ignition Management Plan

It is the goal of the Unit to investigate all fires according to established procedures, quickly identify arson and/or potential civil cost recovery fires, and to staff and manage investigations adequately and cost effectively. Fire incident documentation and reporting is critical to the development of the Unit's Ignition Management and Fire Prevention Plan. In 2012, the Fire Prevention Bureau updated the Unit's Fire Incident Documentation Policy. The new policy directive should streamline the reporting and investigation of vegetation fires. In addition to the updates done within the Unit, a statewide cadre developed a new version of the LE-66, Preliminary Fire Report. The updated LE-66 is easier to use and collects the most pertinent data used by Fire Prevention to reduce unwanted fires.

Current statewide and Unit policy requires that a report (LE-66 and CAIRS) be completed for every wildland fire. A wildland fire is defined as any uncontrolled vegetation fire which threatens to destroy life, property or resources and is either unattended or attended by persons unable to prevent the fires spread. Examples include vegetation fires burning uncontrolled (whether attended or not); vegetation fires that are a threat to life, property or resources; debris or control burns that have escaped the landowner's control; and any debris or control burn *without an escape* that was extinguished due to a *threat* to the wildland.

EXHIBITS: MAPS

Figure A: Unit Map

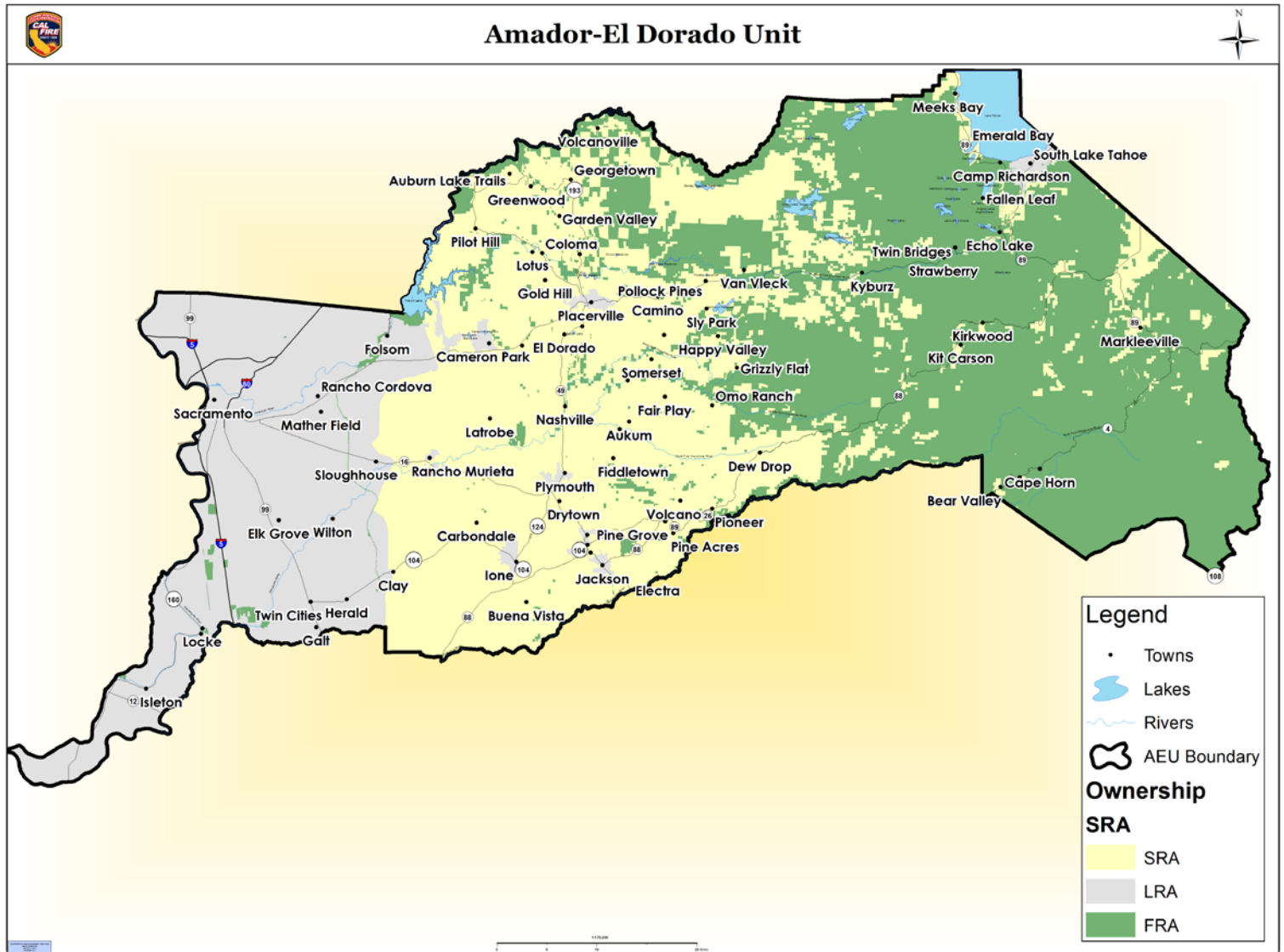
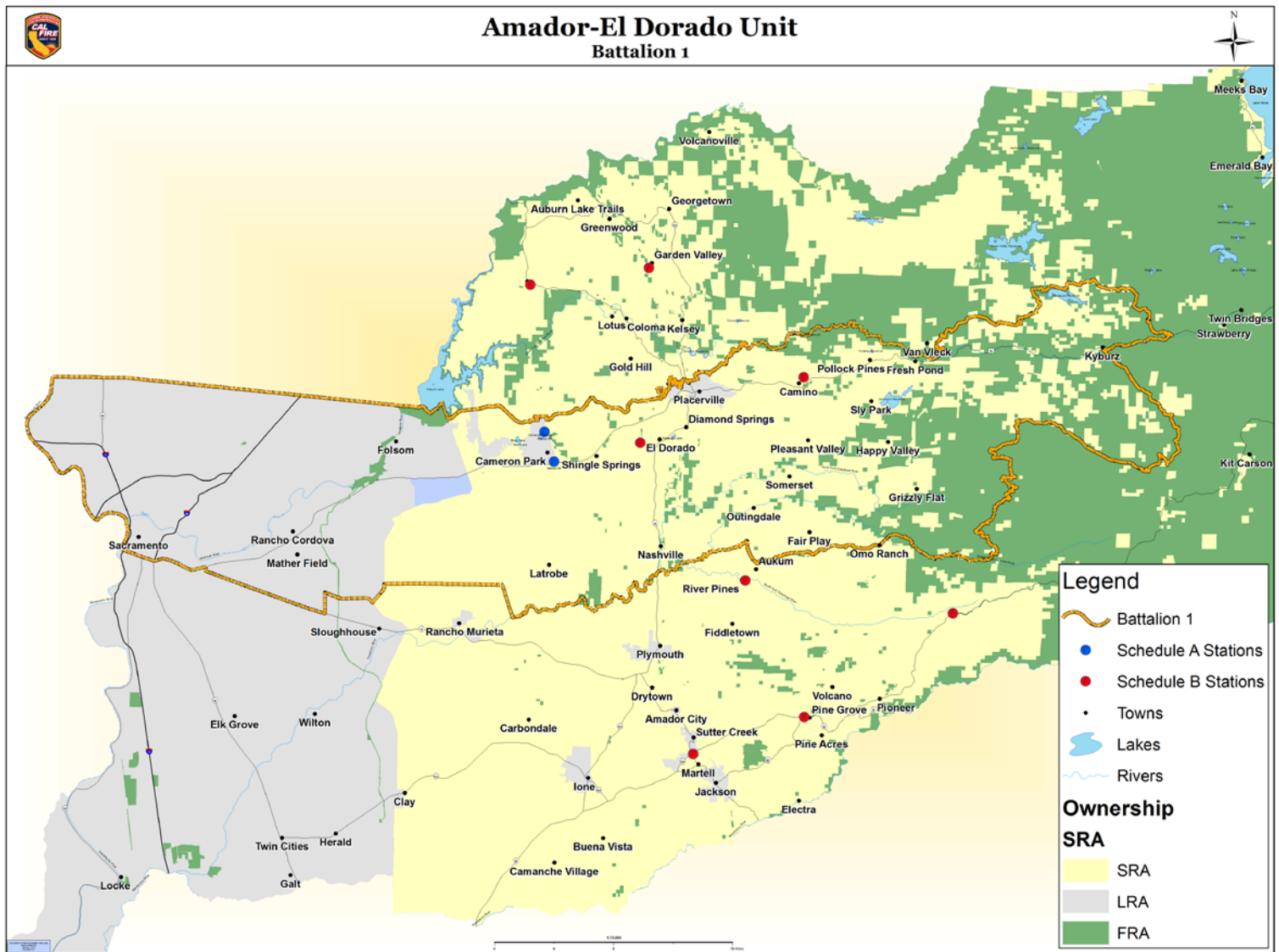
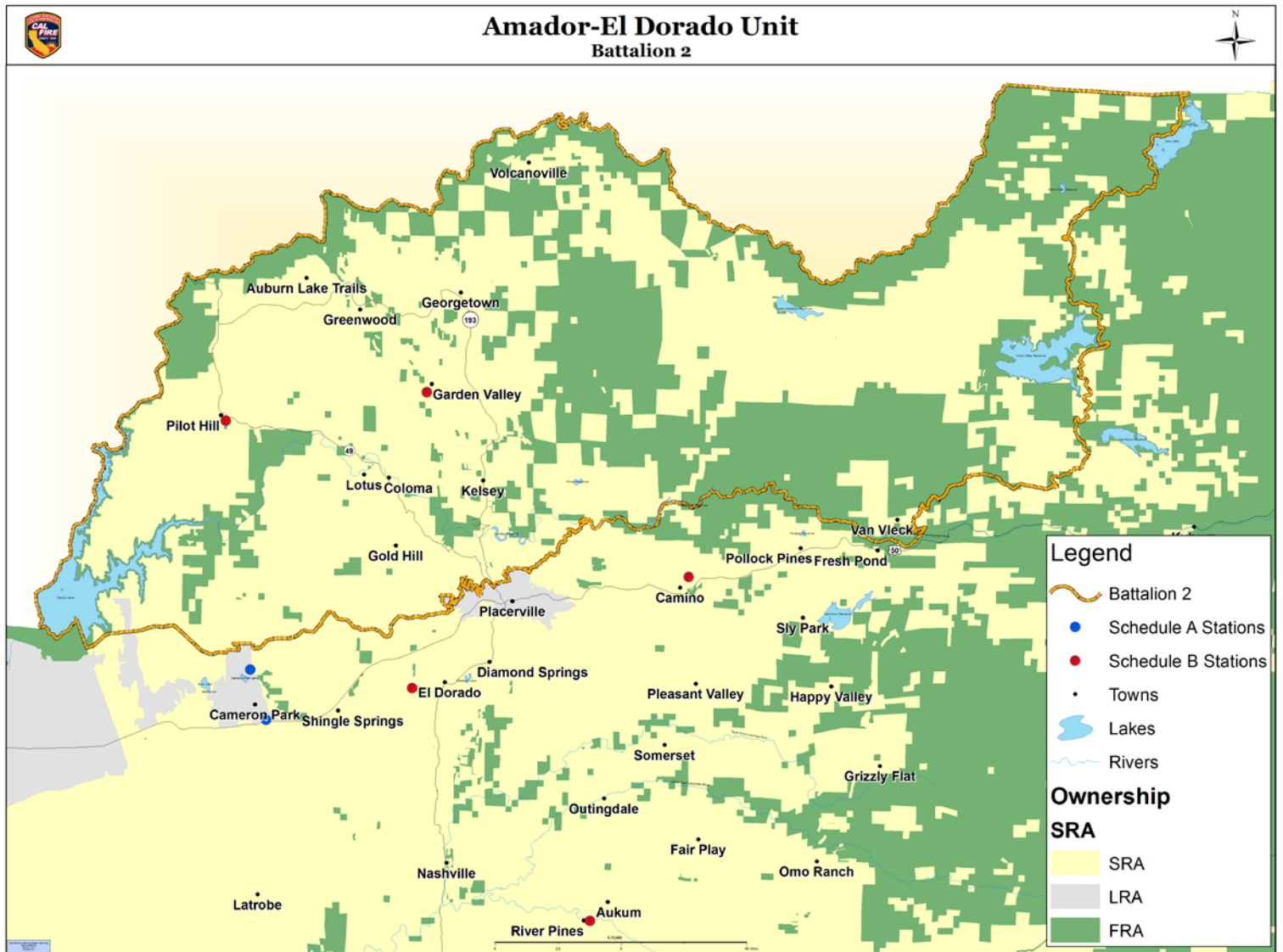
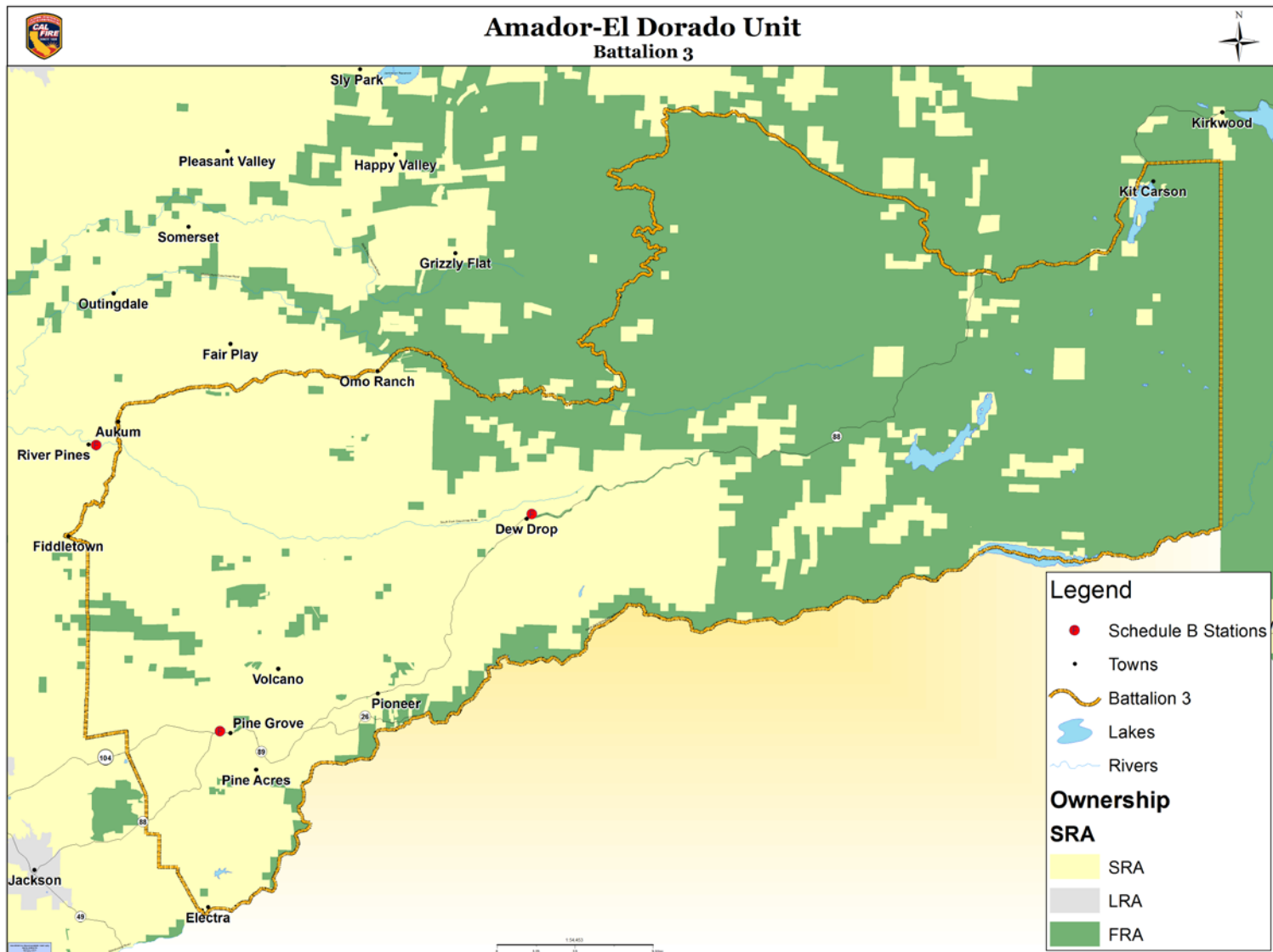
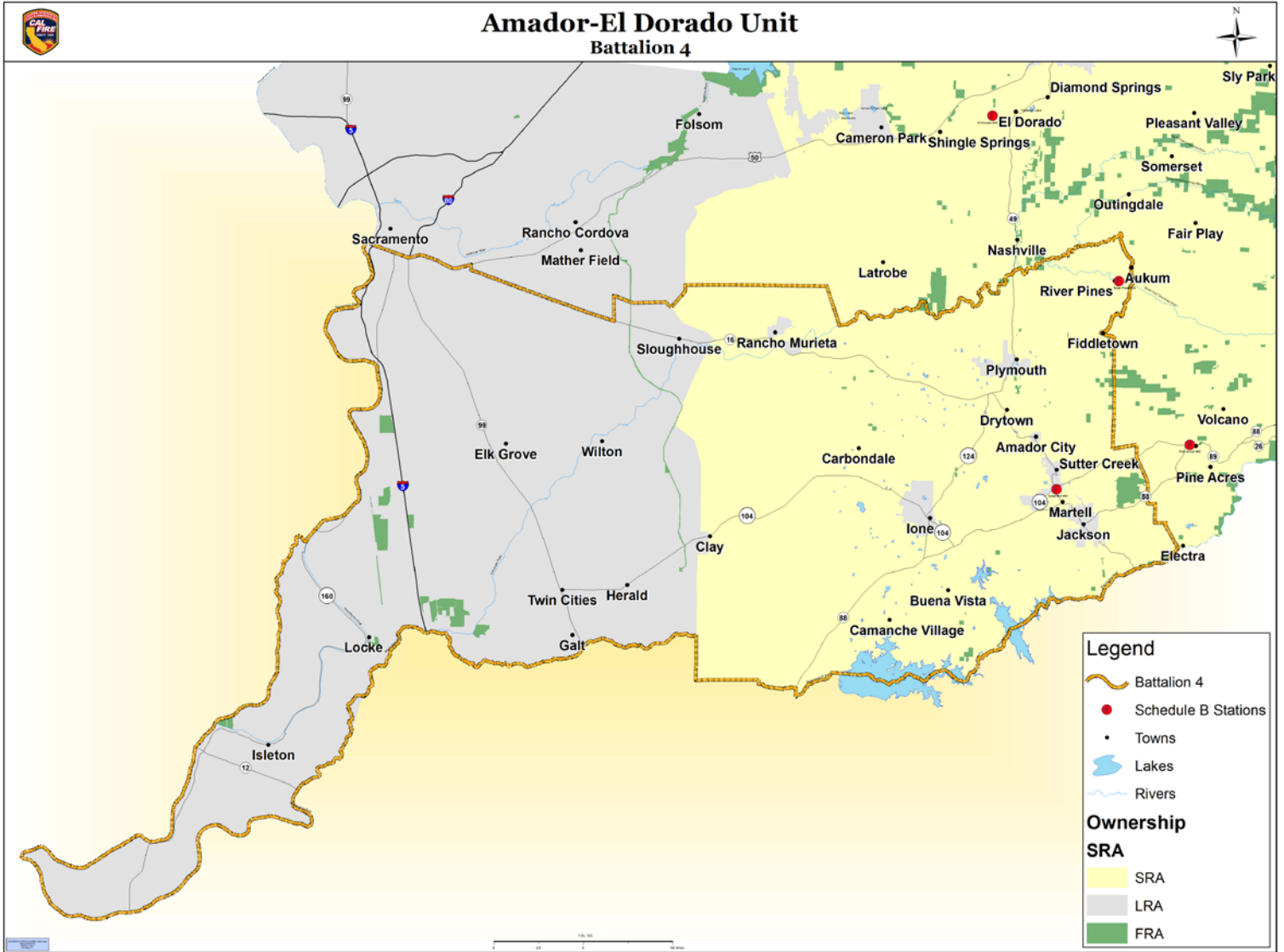


Figure B: Battalion Maps

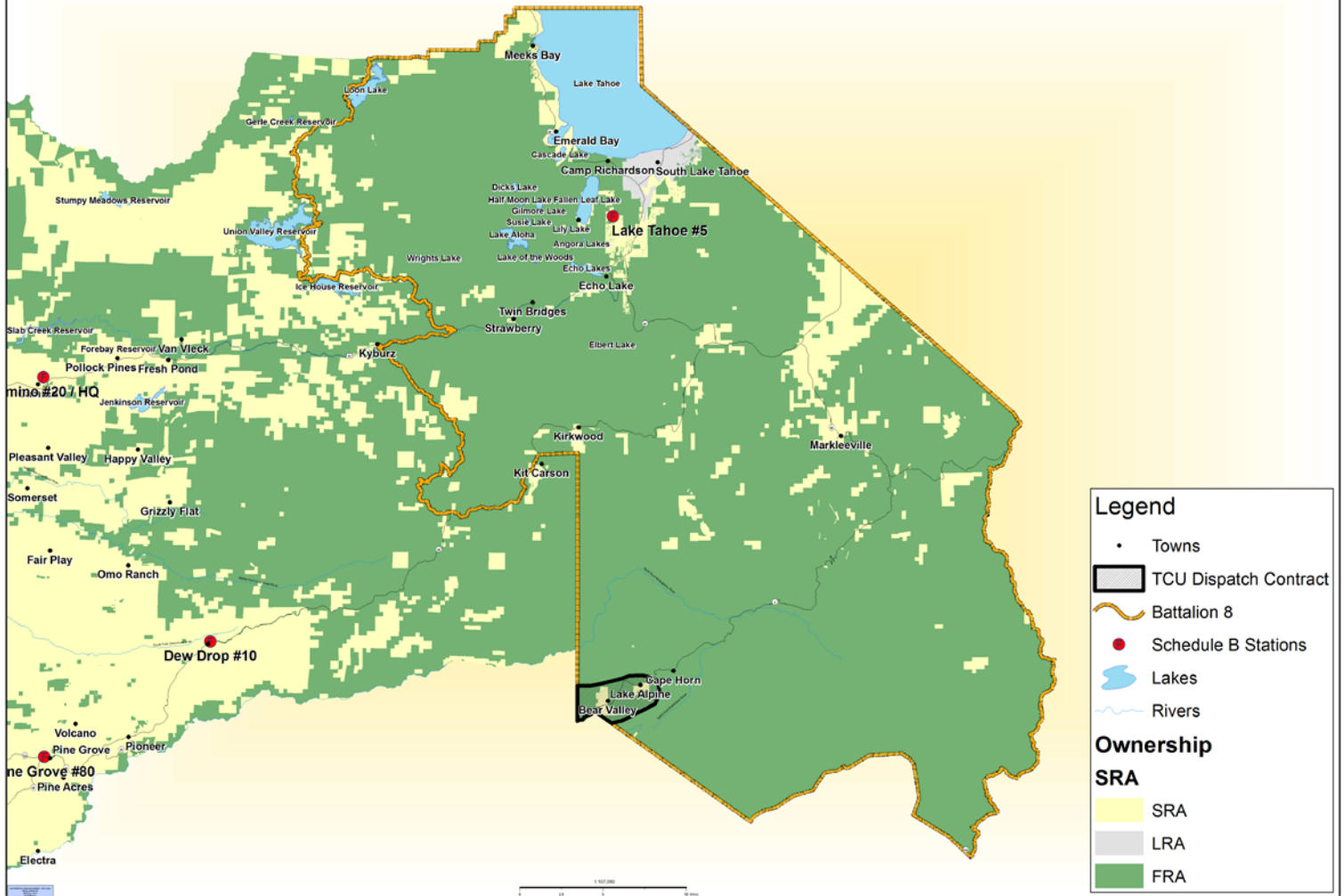




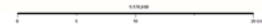








Amador-El Dorado Unit DPA



Annual Accomplishments Reporting (2012)

1. Continue to support the implementation of fire safe clearance around structures (LE 100 Inspections).

AEU personnel conducted a total of 1,994 4291 inspections in 2012. Field Battalions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 conducted a total of 1,217 inspections in pre-identified target hazard areas established by their respective Battalion Chiefs. In addition four seasonal Forestry Aides were hired specifically to conduct inspections in the Tahoe Basin and Alpine County. The four aides conducted a total of 777 in 2012. Their efforts combined with Battalion personnel resulted in a total of 542 violations being issued. Our ultimate goal is homeowner compliance with PRC 4291. AEU gives most homeowners ample time to mitigate the fuel hazard problem before we re-inspect which results in almost 100% compliance. AEU had no citations issued in 2012.

2. Support project work and planning efforts that encourage the development of safe ingress and egress routes for emergency incidents.

AEU throughout 2012 continued to support project work and the planning efforts in both Amador and El Dorado Counties through comments provided during the initial consultation phase of the environmental review process as it related to proposed subdivision development and land conversion. Comments provided concentrated on PRC 4290 and Title 14 Fire Safe Regulations related to safe ingress and egress for emergency incidents.

3. Support implementation of the new 2008 WUI Building standards through cooperation with local government planning departments.

CAL FIRE, in conjunction with local fire departments and County Fire Prevention Officer's associations, continue to work closely with Building Departments to ensure new construction complies with the WUI Building Standards as found in Chapter 7A of the California Building Code (CBC). It is standard for all new subdivision development to comply with the new WUI guidelines. This also applies to non-discretionary permits where individual parcels are improved or a structure is remodeled. The Building Department is responsible for inspection and compliance of these regulations since the regulations are codified in the CBC. However, CAL FIRE and the local fire district having jurisdiction will condition all new parcel maps and subdivisions to comply with the requirements found in Chapter 7A.

4. Continue to provide operational training that will support safe and successful suppression operations.

The primary responsibility of the AEU Training Bureau is to provide training and records maintenance for all employees assigned to the CAL FIRE Amador El Dorado Unit. Additional responsibilities include the coordination of State, Region and outside training in support of the Department's mission. The Training Bureau is also responsible for scheduling and facilitating the required training and testing of the Unit's CFFJAC employees. This is accomplished by the development of an annual training plan that serves the needs of the Department and all personnel within the Unit. The primary goal of the Unit's training plan is to develop and support comprehensive training for all employees, ensure compliance with state and policy mandated training, enhance employee's incident command qualifications, and develop career tracks that benefit the Department's mission as a leader in all risk emergency response and incident command.

The Department training program operates within a traditional chain of command process, from the Department to the Region, then to the Unit. The Department utilizes four basic levels of responsibility for its training program: Department, Program, Region and Unit.

All Training is prioritized and allocated utilizing the following criteria:

- *Mandatory / Position Required Training (required by policy, law, or statute)*
- *Incident Command System Training (based on the ERD needs in support of Department's Mission)*
- *Career Enhancement and Employee Development*

5. Utilize CAL FIRE and community resources to mitigate large and damaging wildfires with defensible fuel zone/fuels reduction projects at critical operational locations.

In 2012 AEU was very active with vegetation management programs and fuel reduction programs involving communities, agencies, and fire safe councils as stated in Section II of this document.

6. Utilize prevention operations to reduce ignitions within the Unit.

Wildland fire ignition statistics were tracked for the entire year of 2012. The Unit experienced 201 fires within its Direct Protection Area. This number represents a 4% increase from 2011 (194 fires), and a 26% decrease from the 10-year average (266 fires). Wildland fire statistics are tracked based on information from each LE-66 Fire Report submitted to the Fire Prevention Bureau.

Every year the Unit completes an Ignition Management Plan (IMP). The IMP identifies causes for every ignition within the Unit as well as other pertinent, actionable information that can be used by each Field Battalion to reduce unwanted wildland fires. For instance, in 2011 Cameron Park Fire/CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Mike Webb used historical vehicle caused fire data to enlist El Dorado County's assistance in clearing vegetation along Cameron Park Drive. Cameron Park Drive has seen numerous fires caused by failed catalytic converters in the past several years. In 2012, no vehicle caused fires occurred along Cameron Park Drive.

7. Conduct incident analysis to evaluate Unit success in achieving the 95% threshold of keeping fires less than 10 acres in size.

In 2012, the Unit experienced a total of 201 wildland fires. Only 7 of those wildland fires exceeded 10 acres in size. Therefore, the Unit kept 96.5% of all fires below 10 acres or less. The five largest fires in the Unit were:

- Salmon Fire at 108 acres. The cause was miscellaneous (spontaneous combustion) from piled organic material at an old illegal marijuana garden.
- Rock Fire at 45 acres. The cause was a tire falling off a trailer while being towed through a single lane construction site.
- Wilton Fire at 44 acres. The cause was a welding operation.
- Electra Fire at 27 acres. The cause was lightning (part of the AEU July Lightning Complex).
- Brown Fire at 21 acres. The cause was a burning stump that was burned out previously from a control burn.

8. Educate the community on their role in the wildlands and support Fire Safe Council activities.

In 2012 AEU accumulated approximately 1300 hours towards educating and informing the public (communities) on their role(s) in the wild lands they call home and recreate in. The Unit's Public Information Officer, the Fire Prevention Specialist provided Media releases and articles, conducted live interviews (TV and Radio), prepared and disseminated fire information/incident information, fact sheets, information on evacuations (in support of local law enforcement). By the end of 2012 there were a total of 58 media releases and 2 fact sheets generated by the Unit. This was the most media releases in the Unit's history. Unique topics included the dangers of oxygen therapy, heat related fires (including electrical fires, underground fires, vehicle exhaust fires, etc.), "buy it where you burn it" media releases and messages related to timber operations on private land, to name a few. In addition, Unit staff conducted three interviews on Amador County's local cable television station, TSPN. AEU personnel also had an opportunity to contact and educate the public during many of the 1,994 4291 inspection conducted in 2012. AEU continues to be a large supporter and in 2012 took an active role in attending Fire Safe Council meetings in both Amador and El Dorado counties on a monthly basis. Working with the

Fire Safe Councils in both counties AEU Division Chiefs and Battalion Chiefs also participated in the formulation and review of 5 new Community Wildfire Protection plans, (Pioneer/Volcano, Greater Pine Grove, Highway 50 Corridor, Highway 49 (Shingle Spring/Nashville), City of Folsom, and the updating of 2 others (Grizzly Flat and Volcanoville).

9. Nurture and build relationships with local public and private industries to develop cooperative project plans.

In 2012 AEU continued to nurture existing and build new relationships with our local public and private industries to develop cooperative project plans. This was in part accomplished through a series of annual spring cooperator meetings held with the U. S. Forest Service, with local fire protection districts personnel in El Dorado County, Sacramento County, and Amador County, and in accordance with the CAL FIRE/ CFA MOU AEU and TCU held a joint spring meeting with Sierra Pacific Industries three southern districts (Camino, Martell and Sonora). In addition AEU continued in 2012 to engage local cooperators (private ranch owners and landowners, Sierra Pacific Industries, PG&E, El Dorado Irrigation District, American River Conservancy, California State Parks and the Auburn Lake Trails HOA) to maintain/enhance our existing relationship through the cooperative cost share Vegetative Management Program (VMP). Fuels reduction work continued on 5 existing VMPs, a new VMP was developed with States Parks for their Prairie City OHV Park and a new VMP is being developed in Ladies Valley, an American River Conservancy property along the North Fork of the Cosumnes River. Also throughout 2012 AEU has been engage with our counterparts from Sacramento County in the development of a Type 3 Incident Management team.

10. Continually reassess local mitigation projects and update this Fire Plan.

Through our involvement with local cooperators to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), Vegetation Management Plans (VMPs), our review of timber harvest documents and Prop 40 CFIP and CAG projects AEU's reassessing of local fuels mitigation projects, as well as developing future projects, and the updating of this Fire plan is on-going.

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING (2013)

Investigations and Enforcement:

Fire activity for 2013 increased in the Unit by 92 fires as compared to 2012. This was an increase over the 10 year average of 257. Analyzing fire activity within the Unit, November was the busiest month for fire activity with 56 fires. The month of July was the second most active month with 48 fires. Of the documented 293 fires in the Unit, only 9 fires were larger than 10 acres. In order to better address ignition management in the Unit, a more detailed analysis of the fires in each major cause classification was conducted.

1) Debris burning accounted for 94 fires or 32% of the total fires in the Unit. Escaped control burns resulted in 66 acres being burned. This cause saw an 80% increase from the 10-year average of 52. The increase can be explained by the dry conditions and lack of rain. During the month of June, 3 escaped debris burn piles burned a total of 1.7 acres. During the month of May, 16 escaped debris burn piles burned 4.5 acres. During November, 42 escaped debris burn piles burned 37.6 acres.

Public education and public awareness has substantially limited the number and severity of these fires. 9-1-1 calls occur quickly when smoke is seen resulting in fire equipment arriving sooner at scene of the fire. The number one cause of escaped debris burns was lack of clearance around the burn pile. Unattended debris burns also contributed to the totals. All fire departments in Amador and El Dorado Counties are assisting the Unit in handing out legal notices (LE-38's) on all control burn caused fires. These legal notices serve to educate the public and put them on notice that their next escape could result in a citation or recovery of fire suppression costs.

In addition, Unit Fire Prevention Bureau staff work closely with local Air Quality Management Districts in the event that a debris burn violates air district ordinances. Violations typically include landowners burning debris piles larger than four feet by feet in size without a valid air quality permit; landowners burning illegal materials; and landowners burning on a no-burn day. Potential violations of air quality rules are forwarded to the local air district office on a LE-38 for potential action. Monetary fines typically range from \$40.00 to \$500.00, or more, depending on the type of violation.

Coordination between air district offices and the Unit Fire Prevention Bureau is important in order to reduce the number of unwanted debris burn escapes and illegal debris burns. In addition, air district offices have enforcement options not available to CAL FIRE Officers. The fines assessed by air quality help prevent future debris burn escapes and also help to reduce the number of fire department responses to these types of fires.

2) Miscellaneous causes accounted for 42 fires or 14% of the total ignitions in the Unit. This cause class saw a 68% increase from the 10 year average of 25. Miscellaneous caused fires resulted in 14 acres burned, down from the 10 year average of 87 acres. This classification includes causes such as spontaneous combustion, fireplace ashes deposited in the wildland, barbequing, cooking fires, and fireworks. Ashes deposited in dry vegetation caused 17 of these fires. The second cause of these fires was from structure fires spreading into the wildland.

3) Equipment accounted for 36 fires or 12% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Equipment caused fires resulted in 203 acres being burned or 24% of the Unit's total. 36 equipment caused fires is equal to the 10 year average of 36 fires. The 203 acres burnt by equipment caused fires is a 28% increase from the 10 year average of 158 acres. Two equipment caused fires, Collier and French, burnt 128 acres, or 63%, of all acreage for this category. Historically, this classification has been one of the top causes of wildfire starts in the Unit.

The main cause of equipment fires continues to be due to mowers. These fires start as a result of blades striking rocks, or friction igniting chaff collected around the belts, pulley systems or exhaust

systems of mowers. Ironically, most of the mower caused fires occurred as a result of residents trying to clear their property for fire safety; however, the residents were clearing during the hottest part of the day- usually between the hours of 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Grinding and welding are the next leading cause of equipment fires.

4) Vehicles accounted for 30 fires or 10% of the total ignitions in the Unit. This represents a 43% decrease from the 10-year average of 43 fires. Vehicle caused fires resulted in 196 acres being burned or 11% of the Unit's total. This represents a 45% decrease in acres burned by vehicle from the 10 year average of 458 acres. This category has been one of the leading causes of fires in the Unit for the past several years. The majority of these fires occurred along the major traffic corridors of Highway 16, 49, 50, 88, 124 and Cameron Park Drive. Catalytic Converter failure is the leading cause of fires caused by vehicles.

5) Electrical power accounted for 24 fires or 8% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Electrical caused fires resulted in 148 acres burned or 17% of the Unit's total. Electrical caused fires decreased by 2 from the 10 year average of 26. Most of these fires resulted from trees, branches, or birds contacting power lines. One electrical caused fire from a bird into the power line burnt 96 acres and a second electrical caused fire burnt 36 acres and destroyed one residence and damaged several others.

6) Undetermined accounted for 22 fires or 8% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Undetermined caused fires resulted in 60 acres being burned or 7% of the Unit's total. This category saw a 22% increase of the 10 year average of 18.

Continued hard work and dedication of the Unit's Fire Prevention Staff and Company Officers who conduct thorough origin and cause investigations aided in the declining number in this cause class. Every year the Unit hosts a Fire Investigation FI-110 and FI-210 class to train state, local, and federal co- operators in wildland fire investigation techniques and awareness. Thorough origin and cause investigations also assist in determining fire patterns which may be reduced by public education and/or enforcement. It is through the dedication of fire personnel to correctly identify the cause of fires that prevention activities can take place to lower fire occurrences.

7) Arson accounted for 18 fires or 6% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Arson caused fires are down 33% from the 10-year average of 24. Arson caused fires resulted in 15 acres burned or 2% of the Unit's total. The 15 acres burned represents an 85% decrease from the 10 year average of 107 acres burned.

Arrests for arson included one female adult who ignited four fires totaling 10 acres; a male adult who started two fires in Amador County; a male adult who started a vegetation fire that also consumed a tent trailer; and two male adults who recklessly caused a fire. Two juveniles were also referred to County Probation for arson.

Past years arrests of serial arsonists and a proactive approach in seeking out and prosecuting arsonists, as well as public awareness, has caused the decrease in this cause category. In addition, the continued working relationships between all fire and law enforcement agencies within the Unit is definitely aiding in successful apprehension and prosecution of arsonists. The importance of a thorough origin and cause investigation plays a key role in identifying suspicious fire patterns early. Apprehending and prosecuting arsonists is a team approach that depends on everyone. The Unit also benefits from continuous, seven day a week, staffing of the Fire Prevention Bureau. A trained investigator can quickly identify arson, collect valuable evidence, and work with local law enforcement to solve this crime.

8) Playing with Fire accounted for 10 fires or 4% of the total ignitions in the Unit. This was a 23% decrease from the 10 year average of 13. Playing with Fire resulted in 3 acres burned or less than 1% of the Unit's total. In 2013 several juveniles were caught playing with fire by CAL FIRE Officers and went through a Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Class.

It is important for Company Officers to understand that **they** make a difference when it comes to children playing with fire. Passing key information on to the Fire Prevention Bureau, as well as completing a thorough report, is critical for Fire Prevention Staff when it comes to following up with the juvenile and their parents related to these types of fires.

9) Smoking accounted for 6 fires or 2% of the total ignitions in the Unit. This was a decrease of two fires from the 10 year average of 8 fires. Smoking caused fires resulted in 118 acres burned or 14% of the Unit's total. One smoking caused fire (the Union Fire) burnt 117 acres and the responsible person came forward about his actions. That Union Fire destroyed one residence and damaged many other residences and vehicles.

10) Illegal campfires and campfire escapes caused 6 fires or 2% of the total ignitions in the Unit. A total of 2 acres were burned from campfire caused fires. Campfire caused fires passed the 10-year average of 5 fires by one. Most of the small fires were located at homeless camps.

11) Lightning accounted for 5 fires or 2% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Lightning caused fires decreased by 2 from the 10-year average of 7. Lightning caused fires burned 2 acres compared to the 10 year average of 18 acres. Not much can be done to prevent or alter this category. In anticipation of predicted dry-lighting events, the Unit will activate its AEU Complex Incident Plan in order to reduce the number of acres burned due to lightning.

12) Railroad accounted for zero fires in 2013. Amador County has one active commercial railroad in the western portion of the county. A private historical train is beginning to operate in the Shingle Springs / Diamond Springs Area.

Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering:

The Amador-El Dorado Unit Fire Prevention Bureau oversees the application of PRC 4290 and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 1270, on all private lands classified as SRA within the Unit. These regulations are best known as the "SRA Fire Safe Regulations," and constitute the basic wildland fire protection standards of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. CAL FIRE has been given the role of wildland fire protection expert and is provided the opportunity to review and comment on all proposed construction and development within the SRA.

In cooperation with El Dorado County Planning, Amador County Planning and Alpine County Planning, CAL FIRE has oversight responsibility and reviews proposed tentative subdivision maps, tentative parcel maps and special use permits for compliance with PRC 4290. CAL FIRE forwards recommendations to the appropriate Planning Department specifying the minimum requirements necessary to meet State law.

The major factors considered in the review of any discretionary permit application are:

1) Access

Access is a major fire prevention and protection need, whether wildland or structural. Failure to provide reasonable access for emergency equipment and evacuation exits for civilians can result in major loss of life, property and natural resources. Fire apparatus sitting at an intersection, waiting for civilians to exit on a narrow road, cannot provide the necessary fire suppression action. Safe access requires street and road networks that limit dead-end roads and provide reasonable widths, grades, turn-outs, and curves on all roads and driveways.

2) Addressing and Street Signing

The difficulty of locating an unnamed or poorly signed road during an emergency, especially under smoky conditions, is a major problem to wildland and structural firefighters. Beyond this, many jurisdictions have allowed duplicate numbering and naming for roads and access, further compounding the location problem.

The potential losses of life, property and resources are greater without an adequately visible, reflective sign and consistent addressing and numbering system.

3) Water Supplies

The application of water and the construction of a fire line are the primary tools used by wildland firefighters to contain and control a wildfire. The location and availability of sufficient quantities of water are essential to fire suppression and firefighter safety. Emergency water supplies are necessary to provide readily available, and accessible, emergency water for structural and wildland fire protection.

4) Fuel Modification Considerations

The establishment of physical barriers between a structure and the wildland is recognized as a major deterrent and loss reduction measure. Such barriers should be considered key to individual and community defensible space. While fuel breaks have strategic application over large geographical areas, they are expensive to construct and maintain. Other measures, such as the strategic placement of roads, recreational parks, irrigated landscaping, setback from property lines, green belts, open space and fuel modification around structures are more suitable around homes and subdivisions.

Civil Cost Recovery:

In 2013 Unit Fire Prevention Bureau staff initiated a total of eight civil cases. Due to a change in policy, all cases not already settled will be handled by the CNR Fire Prevention/Civil Cost Recovery Office for case management. In addition, reimbursements will be sent directly to Sacramento where payment status will be tracked. A number of cost recovery cases still remain open. These include court ordered restitution (generally paid in small sums throughout the year), and civil cases submitted to Region.

Fire Name	Incident No.	Start Date	Final ARC Amount	Settlement Amount	LOD Date Sent	Case Status Open/Closed
193	CAAEU009493	4/29/2013	\$1,870.18	\$1,870.00	6/6/2013	OPEN
Collier	CAAEU012796	6/3/2013	\$4,574.27		6/7/2013	OPEN
Happy	CAAEU001769	1/21/2013	\$10,660.22	\$10,660.22	8/16/2013	CLOSED
Border	CAAEU017118	7/31/2011	\$4,247.02		9/27/2011	OPEN
Warmby	CAAEU018204	9/19/2010	\$5,860.20	\$5,860.20	Court Ordered	OPEN
Cunha	CACNR000044		\$70,956.16	\$70,956.16	Court Ordered	OPEN
South	CAAEU019941	10/16/2010	\$1,851.70	\$1,851.70		OPEN
Quarry	CAAEU013312	6/8/2013	\$21,877.70			OPEN
Spur	CAAEU019771	8/13/2013	\$13,781.00	\$13,781.00	9/18/2013	CLOSED
Wilton	CAAEU013415	6/18/2012	\$21,774.71		Waiting Spanish LOD	OPEN

Pines	CAAEU019193	8/6/2013			No LOD until ARC	OPEN
Forni	CAAEU022252	9/21/2011	\$1,437.82	\$1,437.82	3/28/2011	CLOSED
Inspiration	CAAEU009388	5/3/2012	\$1,954.55	\$1,954.55	6/4/2012	CLOSED
Ryan	CAAEU019261	8/18/2012	\$3,051.31	\$3,051.31	8/18/2012	CLOSED
Sand 1	CAAEU019704	8/16/2012	Unknown			OPEN
Sand 2	CAAEU023133	10/2/2012	Unknown			OPEN
Rock	CAAEU021791	9/15/2012	Unknown			CLOSED
Empire	CAAEU020956	8/24/2013	Unknown			OPEN
El Dorado Complex	CAAEU028107	12/1/2011	Unknown			OPEN
Gold	CAAEU016913	7/15/2013	\$1,070.01		With DA Office	OPEN

Education and Information:

A. Public Information Program

- By the end of 2013 there were a total of 65 media releases (the most in the Unit's history) including several multi-agency media releases put out by the Unit. The cooperating agencies ranged from federal agencies like the United States Forest Service, state agencies such as State Parks and Department of Juvenile Justice, and local governmental agencies like El Dorado Irrigation District and the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office. Unique topics included grilling fire safety, manufactured/mobile home fire safety, timber operations on private land, heat related fires (including electrical fires, underground fires, vehicle exhaust fires, etc.), "How quickly can a wildfire move?", as well as cooperative media campaigns such as "One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire", "Buy it Where You Burn It" and "Living With Fire-Lake Tahoe Basin: Get Defensive, Reduce the Fuels, Reduce the Risk" media releases.

- The Crew Readiness Exercise attracted both internal and external attention. The Unit's PIO set up a JIC. PIO's from within the Unit, Sacramento Communications, CAL FIRE NEU, CDCR and DJJ were in attendance. These PIO's assisted in escorting staffers and media throughout the two day event. Media representing AP Sacramento, KGO Radio in San Francisco, two Placer County papers, and Sacramento radio and television covered the training.

- Incidents which drew television and radio interest in the Unit were the Highway 50 Fire in Shingle Springs, the Kyburz Fire (Federal fire)* near Kyburz, the Highway 50 Fire in the El Dorado Hills/Folsom area and the Union Fire in Diamond Springs. The Unit received heavy television coverage as a result of these incidents.

The Kyburz Fire was a Unified Command Incident until a Federal Type III IMT assumed command of the fire. CAL FIRE's PIO Phone Center supported the Teams information effort throughout the incident.

- Unit staff conducted three interviews on Amador County's local cable television station, TSPN.

- On June 3rd, 2013, CAL FIRE assumed direct fire protection responsibility for 13,861 acres of SRA in the El Dorado County portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin which expanded the Unit's media market in the Basin, Alpine County and parts of Nevada. Overall, these media outlets have supported CAL FIRE's return and utilized the Unit's media releases in the printed press, online, on local radio stations and on cable stations in Tahoe and Reno.

- A major redesign of the Unit's PIO phone center within ECC's Expanded Dispatch Center began in the Fall of 2013. Plans are to continue the project through 2014.

- The Unit PIO assisted a local Fire Safe Council with a marketing and fundraising plan for 2013. This is an ongoing project.

- A representative from the OSFM's Training Division contacted the Unit's PIO for input/assistance with a training track for a new state classification, Community Risk Officer. The cadre will meet in 2014.

B. Public Education and Awareness Program:

The Public Education and Awareness Program is comprised of four components:

1) School Programs, 2) Group Programs, 3) Exhibits and Displays and 4) Parades which are coordinated with Field Battalions.

1) **School Programs** are done throughout the Unit and reach children from preschool through 12th grade. The "team teaching" approach is used at the schools and is done on a request basis and is generally handled by Engine companies. There are a variety of programs available to use depending on the request or needs of a particular school. For Preschool through 6th grade they include "Smokey Bear Team Teaching", "Flannel Board", "9-1-1", "Stop/Drop and Roll", "Crawl Low Under Smoke", "Exit Drills In The Home", "Friendly Firefighter", "Fire Station Tours", State Farms Smoke Detectives, Bic's "Play Safe-Be Safe", Masters of Disasters, and Learn Not To Burn.

The Unit supported the 2013 Arbor Day Poster Contest and mailed out 41 postcard to every third, fourth and fifth grade teacher in the Unit announcing a poster contest. A few months later it was announced that the Unit had the statewide 4th grade poster contest winner (Maria Estrada) from Jackson Elementary School in Amador County!

For 7th-12th grades the presentation is given in an assembly setting and the focus will range from Juvenile Fire Setting behaviors to Career Days. The Juvenile Fire Setter education program is presented in the following format: introduction; ice breaker; and an explanation of who, what, when, where and why juveniles set fires and the consequences of fire setting. A discussion follows on making good versus bad choices, responsibilities of those choices (civil and criminal) and a review of basic fire safety principals. For Career Days the program will include an overview of the agency, its mission and the types of careers available and levels of education required to be competitive in the specific field.

**Note: It has been an ongoing challenge to get support from local schools to allow fire and life safety programs into the classroom. With their required curriculums and testing policies, time in the classroom is at a premium. Too often they have turned down offers by fire departments. This will remain a challenge but annually the schools are approached and offered free programs.*

2) **Group Programs** are done on a request basis and can cover subjects across all fire and life safety issues, resource management themes, and who is CAL FIRE questions. Specific often requested programs are: Defensible Space, Disaster Preparedness for families, pets, livestock, seniors and the disabled, Preparing a "Go Kit", Senior Fire Safety, Fire Safety for the Disabled, Special Needs and Fire Safety, Smoke and CO alarms, etc. Group programs also support campaigns such as "One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire", "Buy it Where You Burn It" and "Living With Fire-Lake Tahoe Basin: Get Defensive, Reduce the Fuels, Reduce the Risk". We provide these presentations to the public, state agencies, county agencies, local businesses, service groups, clubs and organizations. Requests vary and presentations may be done in conjunction with another government agency such as a fire district or law enforcement agency.

3) **Exhibits and Displays** designed and constructed for fairs, parades, home and garden shows, wildfire awareness week, fire prevention week, burn awareness week, arson awareness week, career days, health and wellness fairs, Fire Fest, Ag and Farm days, homeowner association gatherings, National Night Out, the Capital Air Show, local non-profits, etc. These may be done in concert with another emergency service agency, local government, fire safe council, etc.

4) **Parades** are handled at the Battalion level and requests are directed to the Battalion Chief. If it is appropriate, a fire engine and other equipment may be directed to participate.

Vegetation Management:

In 2013 AEU had ten active VMP's totaling 624 acres. Fuel reduction VMP's in the Timber fuel type included Sly Park VMP which protects subdivisions surrounding the Jenkinson Lake Recreation Area., Doaks VMP which protects homes along the CA Hwy 88 corridor, and Shake Fiddletown VMP which protects communities along the ridge separating the Cosumnes and Mokelumne watersheds. Fuel Reduction work in the Chamise Chaparral fuel type included the Bacchi Ranch VMP where crew preparedness exercise occur annually, and the Auburn Lake Trails VMP where a perimeter shaded fuel break is being constructed and maintained to protect a community of hundreds of homes along the rim of the middle fork of the American River. Progress on these five fuel reduction projects was greatly enhanced by hundreds of days of Pine Grove and Growlersburg camp crew labor funded out of the federal Disaster Supplemental Program. AEU also operated four VMPs in the grass fuel model to achieve AEU's spring firefighter training exercises. They are the Prairie City State OHV area VMP, The Lewis Ranch VMP, American River Conservancy's Gold Hill Ranch VMP, and the Van Vleck Ranch VMP. The CAL FIRE academy operates its HFEO VMP located in SRA lands of AEU in the Chamise Chaparral fuel type.

Other Fire Prevention Projects in SRA:

LE 100 Defensible Space Program

In 2013 the Unit completed a total of 4322 inspections. This is the second highest number of inspections since records were kept starting in 2004. Of the 4322 inspections, 2497 inspections were completed by Station personnel in Battalions 1,2,3,4 and 5; 1068 inspections were completed by four firefighters dedicated to 4291 inspections for two months starting in May; and 757 inspections were completed by Forestry Aides.

Amador and El Dorado County Fire Safe Councils completed a total of 1828 inspections while local fire districts within the Unit completed a total of 3,719 inspections.

The combined total of all defensible space inspections within the Unit was 9869.

The Unit recognizes the value of working with our local cooperators to increase the overall effectiveness of defensible space inspections. In addition, a multi- agency approach acts as a force multiplier to increase the number of inspections and directly benefits a fire safe council, local agency and CAL FIRE.

The goals of the Unit's Defensible Space Program are as follows:

1. Identify Target Hazard Area's within the Unit where inspections will occur
2. Provide a margin of safety for firefighters and the public
3. Educate resident's and developer's regarding their responsibility for defensible space

4. Ensure structures have some basic level of self-protection
5. Mitigate wildland fire losses and resource damage
6. Increase the survivability of a home or development
7. Provide a point of attack for a wildland fire
8. Provide CAL FIRE personnel greater awareness of response areas within the Unit where inspections are occurring
9. Work closely with Local Fire Districts and Fire Safe Council's to enhance work being done



Unit Chief
Mike Kaslin



Date