# Angora Fire Dead Tree and Woody Debris Management Plan California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this plan is facilitate removal of dead and dying trees on privately owned lands in the Angora Fire area to assist in restoration and recovery efforts.

#### Goals

The goals of this plan are to:

- Facilitate timely removal of dead and dying trees.
- Maximize coordination of tree removal and debris removal efforts.
- Provide needed information and technical assistance to homeowners, licensed timber operators, and the public.
- Actively inspect and enforce applicable provisions of the Forest Practice Act and the Governor's Emergency Proclamation

#### **Action and Implementation**

#### Action Item 1-Facilitation of the timely removal of trees

Vegetative debris consists primarily of large and small trees. If left standing, these trees will pose a threat to life and property as they deteriorate. The optimum time to remove the trees is before home rebuilding takes place. However, given the concerns regarding potential toxics associated with debris from burned homes, tree removal will need to be coordinated with debris removal in order to minimize potential health risks to tree removal workers and the public.

It is anticipated that tree removal efforts have the potential to move more quickly than the debris clean up. Because many of the trees to be removed are large enough to have commercial value, homeowners are likely to be contacted by licensed timber operators interested in removing the trees. Homeowners should be aware that processing of the larger trees into sawlogs will generate limbs and other debris that will need to be treated. In addition, the homeowner should consider whether disposal of smaller trees and other vegetative debris could be facilitated by the licensed timber operator.

To assist and coordinate removal of trees and vegetative debris the Department will:

- Maintain a list of licensed timber operators.
- Insure that any licensed timber operators have contacted El Dorado County Environmental Management and Cal EPA prior to conducting tree and vegetative debris removal activities.

 Work with licensed timber operators and homeowners to facilitate a one time treatment that is consistent with soil stabilization and erosion protection recommendations of the BAER team.

### Action Item 2-Maximize coordination of tree removal and debris removal efforts.

A high level of coordination between tree removal and debris removal efforts will need to be achieved to reduce costs but more importantly to insure that public health and safety needs are fully addressed. This is particularly critical relative to the potential for toxic materials associated with debris from burned homes. To address this need for coordination the Department will:

- Maintain a current list of contact information for landowners and licensed timber operators to reference relative to questions about startup of tree and vegetative debris removal.
- Discourage tree removal where removal operations can not be conducted without disturbing home debris until appropriate evaluations for toxics have been conducted and tree removal is determined to be safe.

## Action Item 3-Provide needed information and technical assistance to homeowners, licensed timber operators, and the public.

Coordination between tree removal and debris removal will require high levels of communication between a number of parties including, homeowners, licensed timber operators, agencies, and clean-up contractors. The Department will need to provide a full spectrum of information outreach to facilitate communication and coordination of the tree removal including the following:

- Maintenance of public information in a readily accessible location on the CAL FIRE website.
- Participation in public meetings.
- Meetings with licensed timber operators.
- Regular communication and coordination with other agencies.
- Updating of FAQs on a regular basis to insure access to the most current information.

## Action Item 4-Actively inspect and enforce applicable provisions of the Forest Practice Act and the Governor's Emergency Proclamation

Under the terms of the Governor's proclamation the required permits from the Department are waived under the proviso that appropriate agencies be advised prior to the start of operations. All operational elements of the Forest Practice Rules apply. Additionally, the proclamation only allows for removal of dead and dying trees. Removal of green trees or fire damaged trees which will survive will require obtaining permits from the appropriate agencies within the Tahoe Basin. The Lake Valley Fire Protection District will be providing services of a Registered Professional Forester to assist landowners in making the determination as to

whether or not a fire damaged tree will survive. Active inspections by the Department will be conducted on a frequent basis to accomplish the following:

- Insure compliance with operational requirements of the Forest Practice Rules with particular emphasis on compliance with 14 CCR 957.2 (c), 957.9(b) and (c) and Board of Forestry and Fire Protection "Technical Rule Addendum No. 3 Brood Material".
- Provide frequent contact and technical assistance regarding operations to be conducted under the rules and the Governor's proclamation.
- Prevent removal of green trees and fire damaged trees that will survive.
- Take appropriate enforcement action, as necessary, to enforce the Forest Practice Act and Forest Practice Rules.