

# *Ignition Management Plan*

## *Battalion 10*

### **SECTION V: PRE FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS**

#### **Battalion Description**

The Dry Creek Battalion serves a 41 square mile area with a population of approximately 7000 residents. The Battalion is located almost entirely in the LRA but has significant wildland fire potential. Fuel types range from grassland typical of an oak savannah with denser drainages to a dense live oak component containing brush. The land is primarily flat with some rolling hills. The area is populated with rural residential properties varying in size from 5-100 acres with some larger ownerships remaining. Located amongst these rural residential parcels are pockets of densely populated subdivisions where parcel size and spacing between homes is more indicative of rural development. The make up of development and fuel types creates a true WUI problem. The Battalion lies adjacent to multiple cities and population centers. Elements from these populated areas have caused some ignition problems related to burning abandon vehicles, fireworks discharge, and carelessness.

Agency cooperators include South Placer Fire District, Dry Creek Fire Advisory Committee, Placer County Fire Alliance, Western Placer Municipal Advisory Committee, Roseville City Fire, Rocklin Fire, Sac Metro Fire Department, Dry Creek Fire Protection District.

#### **Battalion Fire History and Occurrence**

A vast majority (near 90%) of fires in the Battalion occur as roadside starts. These fires are classified as arson, equipment, vehicle, smoking, or are undetermined as to specific ignition source. A majority of these fires are contained at less than 20 acres. Large costly and damaging fires are not a regular occurrence in the Battalion, although structure loss does occur. In order to mitigate the hazard from roadside starts, a fence line disc program is managed by Battalion staff to provide a first line of defense.

Arson fires account for 40% of the fires in the Battalion. These fires are intentionally set fires with a determined cause. These fires are the most difficult to reduce due to their nefarious nature. The Unit's Prevention Bureau and Battalion Chief / LEO is charged with investigation and pursuit of arson as felonious activity. The Unit Prevention Bureau assists Battalion staff with cause determination if a fire problem persists. The result is, over time, a reduction in arson fires due to arrest and conviction. In order to address the arson problem, the Battalion will continue a high profile prevention program.

Fires with an undetermined cause account for 16% of fires in the Battalion. These fires are the most difficult to reduce due to their difficulty in assessing the cause. The Unit Prevention Bureau assists Battalion staff with cause determination if a fire problem persists with no apparent cause. Over time, causes are determined and the appropriate mitigations are applied.

Equipment caused fires account for 14% of fires in the Battalion. Much of the weed abatement occurring in the Battalion, including mowing and disking, involves the use of equipment. Also,

construction and other land management activities often require the use of equipment. This equipment use takes place in the wildland areas where vegetative fuels are available and susceptible to burning.

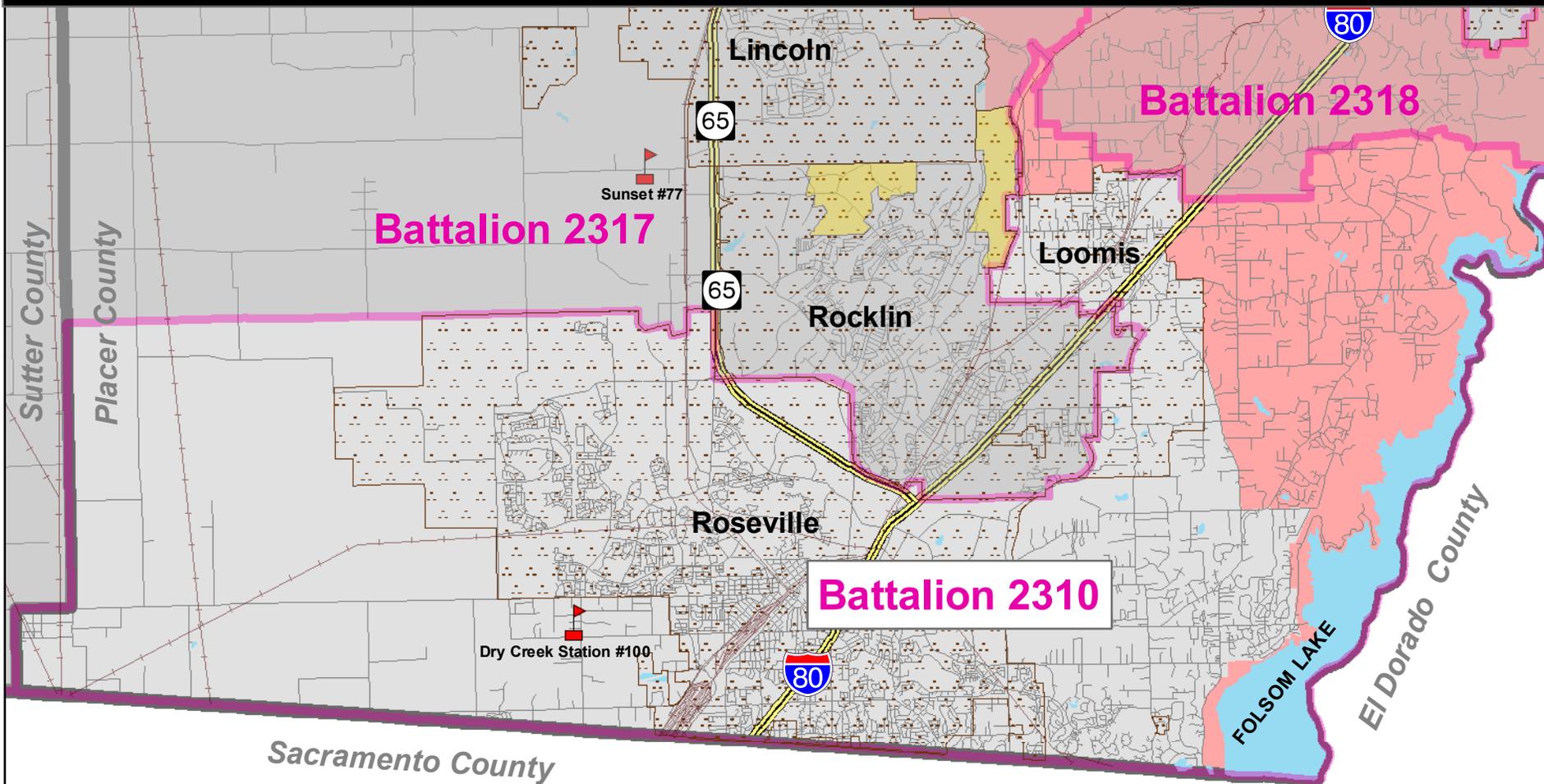
The statistics show that escaped debris burns account for 9% of wildfires in the Battalion. The residents realize that the fuel treatments near their residences must be done and often delay burning until the final weeks prior to burn bans being instituted. The result is a greater number of burn piles being burned later in the season, when control of the fires is more difficult due to weather and fuel conditions. Public education at the time of burn permit issuance is used to reduce the number of escapes.

The balance of the fires is split between various factors which are considered normal accidental fires. Powerline fires account for 5% and Vehicle causes account for 5%. State and Federal law requires the treatment of fuels within certain distances of regulated power distribution infrastructure.



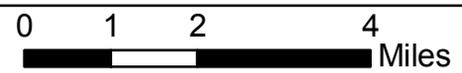
# NEVADA - YUBA - PLACER UNIT (NEU)

## Battalion 10 - Administrative Boundaries



	Railroad		County	<b>DPA PROVIDER</b>	
	Incorporated Cities		Highways		CAL FIRE
	Battalion		County Roads		Local Wildland Contract
	Fire Station		Rivers		Local Government

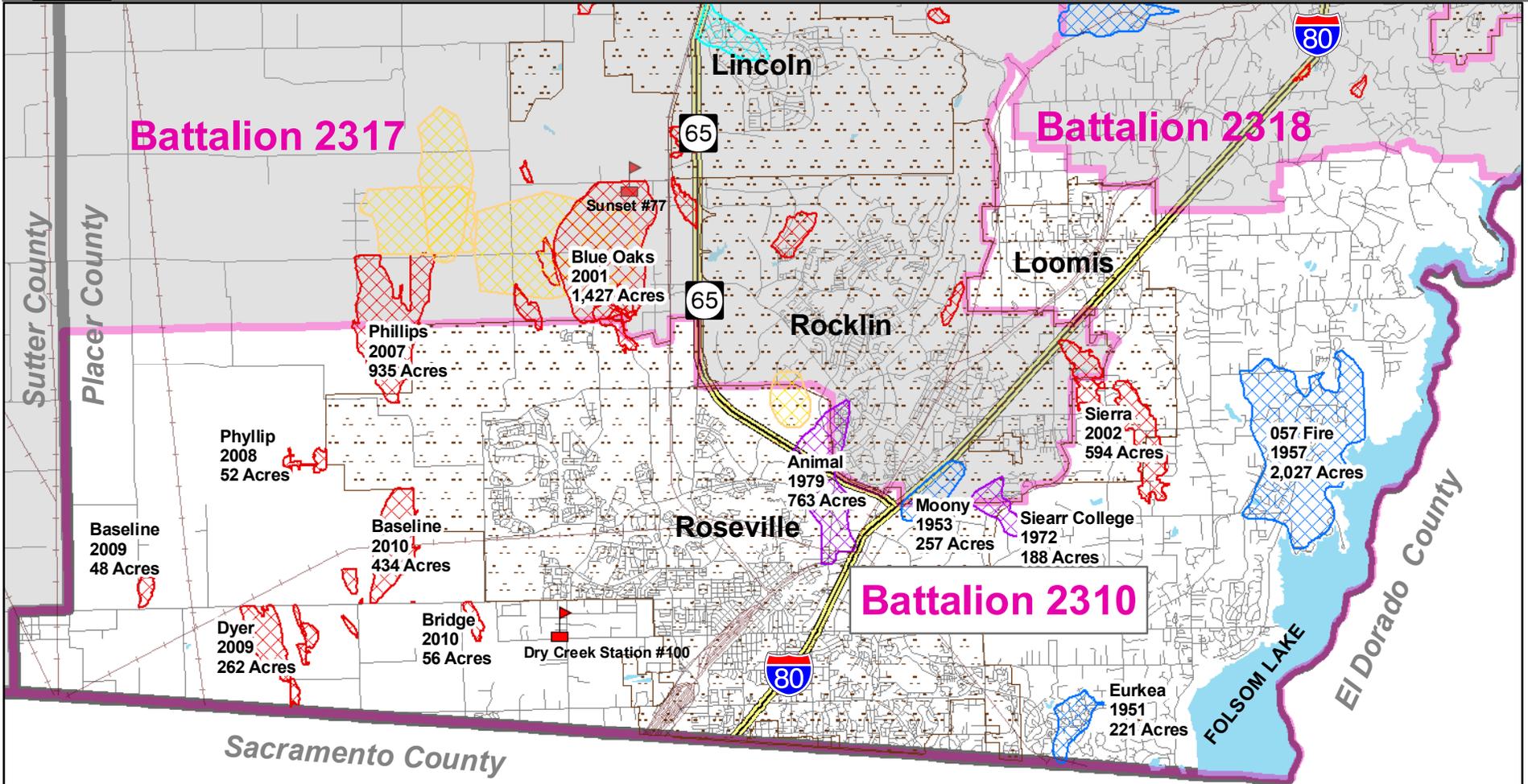
1 in = 2 miles





# NEVADA - YUBA - PLACER UNIT (NEU)

## Battalion 10 - Fire History



	Railroad		County
	Incorporated Cities		Highways
	Battalion		County Roads
	Fire Station		Rivers

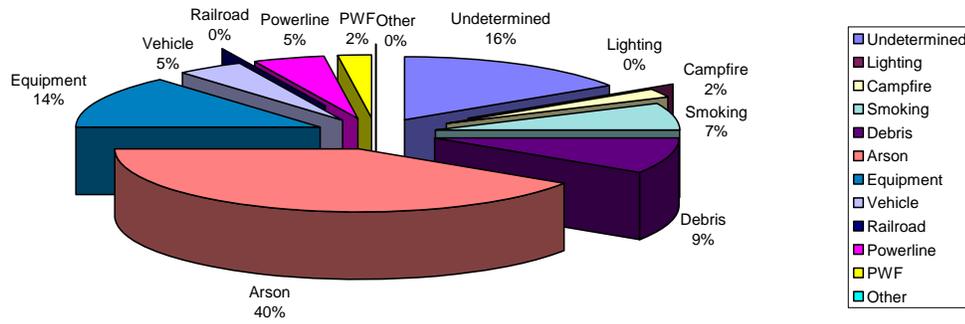
Fire History	
	1950 - 1959
	1960 - 1969
	1970 - 1979
	1980 - 1989
	2000 - 2010

1 in = 2 miles

0 1 2 4 Miles

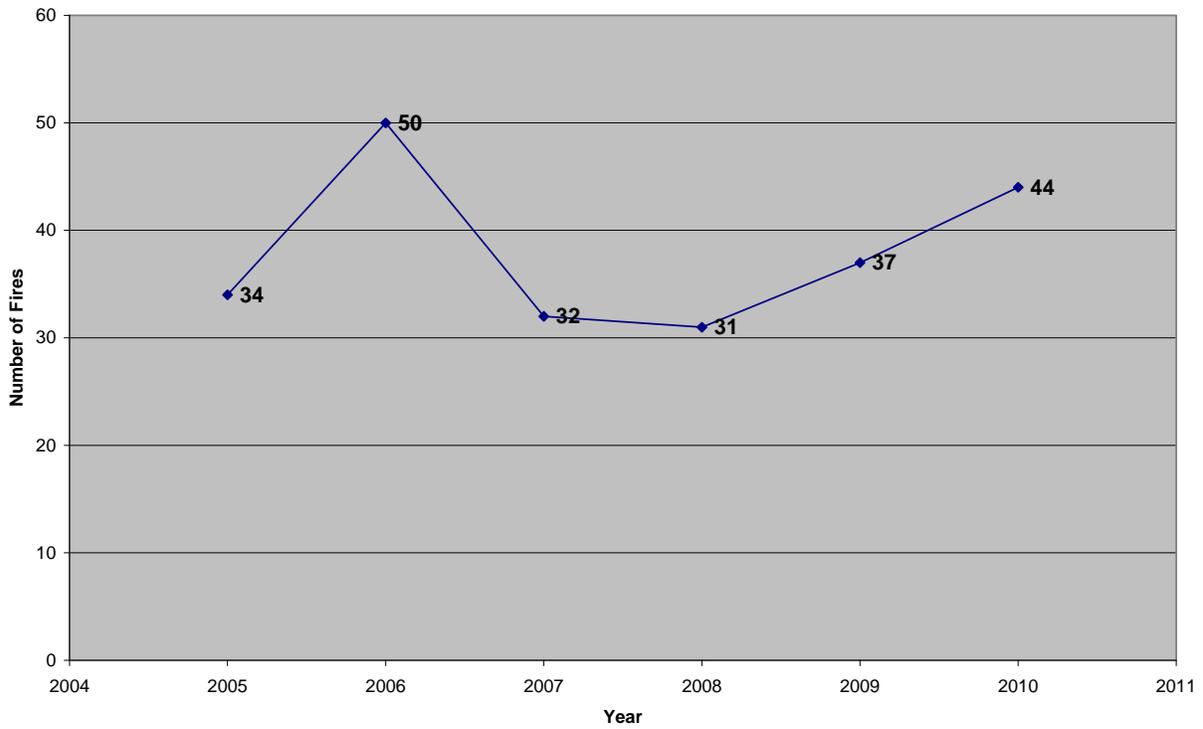
J. Harvey  
August, 2011

2010 Battalion 10 Fire Causes



Undet.	Lighting	Campfire	Smoking	Debris	Arson	Equip.	Vehicle	Railroad	Powerline	PWF	Other
7	0	1	3	4	18	6	2	0	2	1	0

Battalion 10 Ignitions (2005-2010)



## **Mitigation Strategies**

### **1. Public Education:**

Public education continues to be a priority within Battalion 10 to reduce the number of fire starts. The action plan for public contact and education is as follows:

#### **A. Burn Permit Administration**

Approximately 9% of the total fire incidents in the battalion are identified as escape debris burns. This indicates there is a need to educate the public on proper debris burning techniques. One effect may be that residents are new to the community and are unaware of the proper methods and timing for debris burning.

LE-62s (Residential Burn Permit – Burn Pile) will be issued at CAL FIRE /Placer County Fire Station 100. The local pollution control district determines burn hours. Pre-inspections will be provided on a requested or as needed basis. A copy of the permit will be filed at Station 100. With each permit written, a Placer County Air Pollution Control District's Residential Open Burning informational sheet will be included.

LE-5 (California Inter-Agency Burning Permit) and LE-7 (Project Type Burning Permit) are issued on SRA lands after an inspection by an authorized employee of CAL FIRE. These project burn permits are typically used to dispose of larger piles of material and typically require an inspection by CAL FIRE prior to authorization to burn.

#### **B. Public Education Forums**

Battalion staff remain involved in numerous public education programs. Many programs are cooperative efforts with other fire agencies. The Nevada County Fair is an example of agency cooperation that provides information and education to the public. This venue provides a receptive and captive audience.

On going events through out the year:

- Business Fire Safety programs / Fire Extinguisher Training
- School Programs
- Fire Prevention Signage
- Station 100 Message Board
- Placer County Fair
- Parades
- Community Barbeque and Pancake Breakfasts

#### **C. Fire Prevention:**

News Releases - CAL FIRE will continue to utilize a local radio station, the local news paper, as well as the Lake of the Pines & Alta Sierra monthly publications and the Nevada County Fire Safe Council's newsletter to educate the public on fire safe issues.

Equipment Use Information - In addition CAL FIRE will work with local equipment rental yards and dealers with prevention material and to ensure compliance with spark

arrestor laws. The focus will be trying to mitigate the rising occurrence of equipment caused ignitions.

Fire Safe Programs - The Placer County Fire Planner will continue to provide building plan fire and life safety reviews for PRC 4290 and uniform fire code regulations.

#### **D. PRC 4291 inspection:**

PRC 4291 inspections serve a dual purpose. One is as a vegetation management motivator. The other is as a public education tool. The Battalion 10 goal will be to target areas within the Battalion that have a significant wildland fire threat and inspect 100 homes using the PRC 4291 program, although all areas within the Battalion are LRA. Station 100 personnel will concentrate on the Central Ave., Vineyard Rd. PFE Rd. and Walerga Rd. South Brewer Road from West Sunset to Baseline. A five-year cycle through the significant wildland fire threat area will provide education and prevention information to the affected homeowners. Inspection of power lines will occur during the PRC 4291 inspections. Staff will advise the battalion chief of a violation, the battalion chief will coordinate an inspection by the Unit Prevention Bureau.

**2. Vegetation Management:** The vegetation management programs are directed at reducing the potential of a large fire and reducing the damage from a large fire.

#### **A. Hazard Reduction Programs:**

Battalion personnel manage a fence line disc project to provide a first line defense if an ignition occurs and to prevent roadside ignitions. The program is a voluntary effort by residents with their own equipment to assist in protecting their properties. Battalion staff endeavor to educate residents on the value of discing along fence lines and encourage their participation.

#### **High Priority Target Areas**

- Areas near Baseline, Dyer, Watt and Palladay.
- Central Ave.
- Vineyard Rd.
- PFE Rd.
- Walerga Rd.
- South Brewer Road from West Sunset to Baseline
- Areas of medium to light density housing where backyards have little clearances

**Table. 1 – Battalion 10 Fuel Modification Projects, Community Outreach and Education Programs**

Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
Battalion Disc Line Project	O	N/A	Fuel reduction, Weed abatement	

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

### Success Stories

4<sup>th</sup> of July flier - 2007 was the busiest year for fireworks violations. In 2008 the area was flooded with 4<sup>th</sup> of July “no fireworks” fliers. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July, 2008 resulted in no fireworks calls in the Battalion.

Disc Line program- Given 90% of Battalion 10 ignitions are along the roadside, parcels 5 acres + were sent letters requesting they disc an 8-10 ft band along the road. This program has dramatically decreased the number of ignitions.

### 2011 Action Plan:

- Continue promoting the disc program with more press releases and public education
- Work with public information to educate beekeepers from Sacramento County on safe practices.
- Continue to focus on prevention surveillance and reduce the number of arson events.
- Investigate discing around towers to reduce the number of bird strike caused fires along power lines.
- Continue to focus on compiling structural / commercial pre-plans
- Work to improve database of historical fire perimeters.