

Ignition Management Plan

Battalion 18

Description of the Battalion

The battalion includes unincorporated areas within Placer County and northwest Auburn City through Local Wildland Contract. Highway 80 borders the eastern portion of the battalion and Highway 193 comprises the southern boundary. The topography is characteristic of the Sierra Nevada foothills containing gentle slopes in the flat valley areas to steep inner gorge canyons along upper watercourses. Fuels are a mosaic of grasses, mixed brush, oak woodlands and mixed hardwood-conifer. The battalion includes an extensive amount of urban and rural developments, all bordered by wildland urban interface.

The battalion contains several cooperators including Auburn City Fire, Newcastle Fire, Penryn Fire, Placer County, Placer County Fire Alliance, Placer County Resource Conservation District, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Discussion of fire occurrence within Battalion

Historically both debris burning and homelessness have been the most significant problems within the battalion. Homelessness caused ignitions seems to be decreasing with development. Several of the undetermined fires may in fact be attributed to arson. The prevention bureau is assisting battalion staff with cause determination training to help reduce the number of undetermined causes.

Equipment use combined with vehicles comprised 40% of the fire causes within the battalion during the 2010 season. Construction and land management activities within the WUI often require the use of equipment. This equipment is often rented and use takes place where vegetative fuels are available and susceptible to burning.

The statistics show that escaped debris burns are also a significant cause (12%) of wildfire 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.

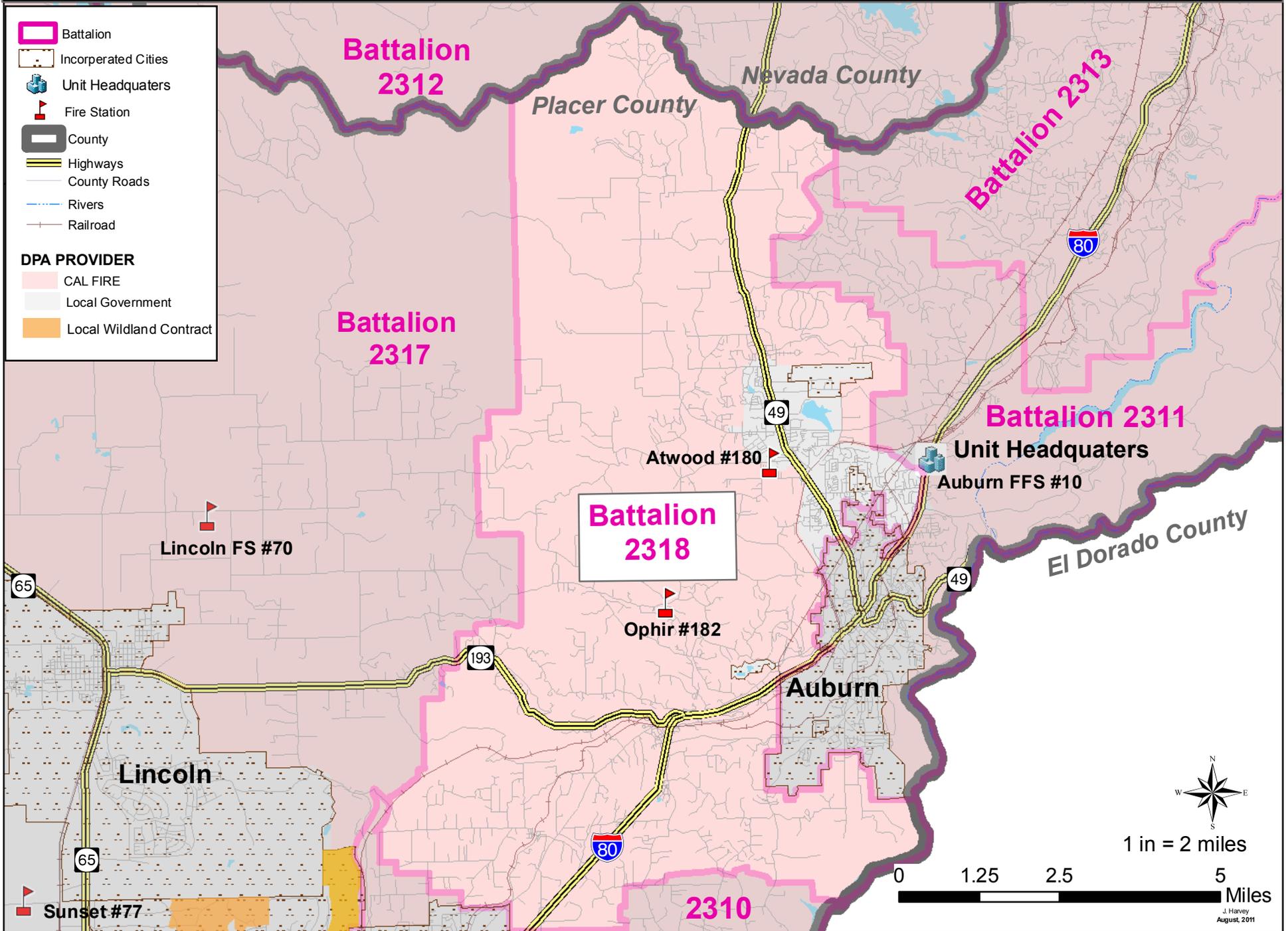
Arson and undetermined fires when combined account for 40% of the fires in the Battalion. These fires are intentionally set fire or fires which the ignition could not be determined due to various factors. These fires are the most difficult to reduce due to their nefarious nature and difficulty in assessing. The Unit's prevention program is charged with investigation and pursuit of arson as felonious activity. The Unit prevention also assists Battalion staff with cause determination if a fire problem persists with no apparent cause. The result is, over time, a reduction in arson fires due to arrest and prosecution and determination of cause on undetermined fires allowing fire prevention education or hazard mitigation to address the actual cause.

Significant fire events within this battalion include the Fawn Fire (August 1992) – 350 acres, 13 structures destroyed and most recently the 49 Fire (Aug/Sept 2009) that burned 343 acres, destroying 65 residential and commercial structures.



NEVADA - YUBA - PLACER UNIT (NEU) Battalion 18- Administrative Boundaries

- Battalion
 - Incorporated Cities
 - Unit Headquarters
 - Fire Station
 - County
 - Highways
 - County Roads
 - Rivers
 - Railroad
- DPA PROVIDER**
- CAL FIRE
 - Local Government
 - Local Wildland Contract



1 in = 2 miles



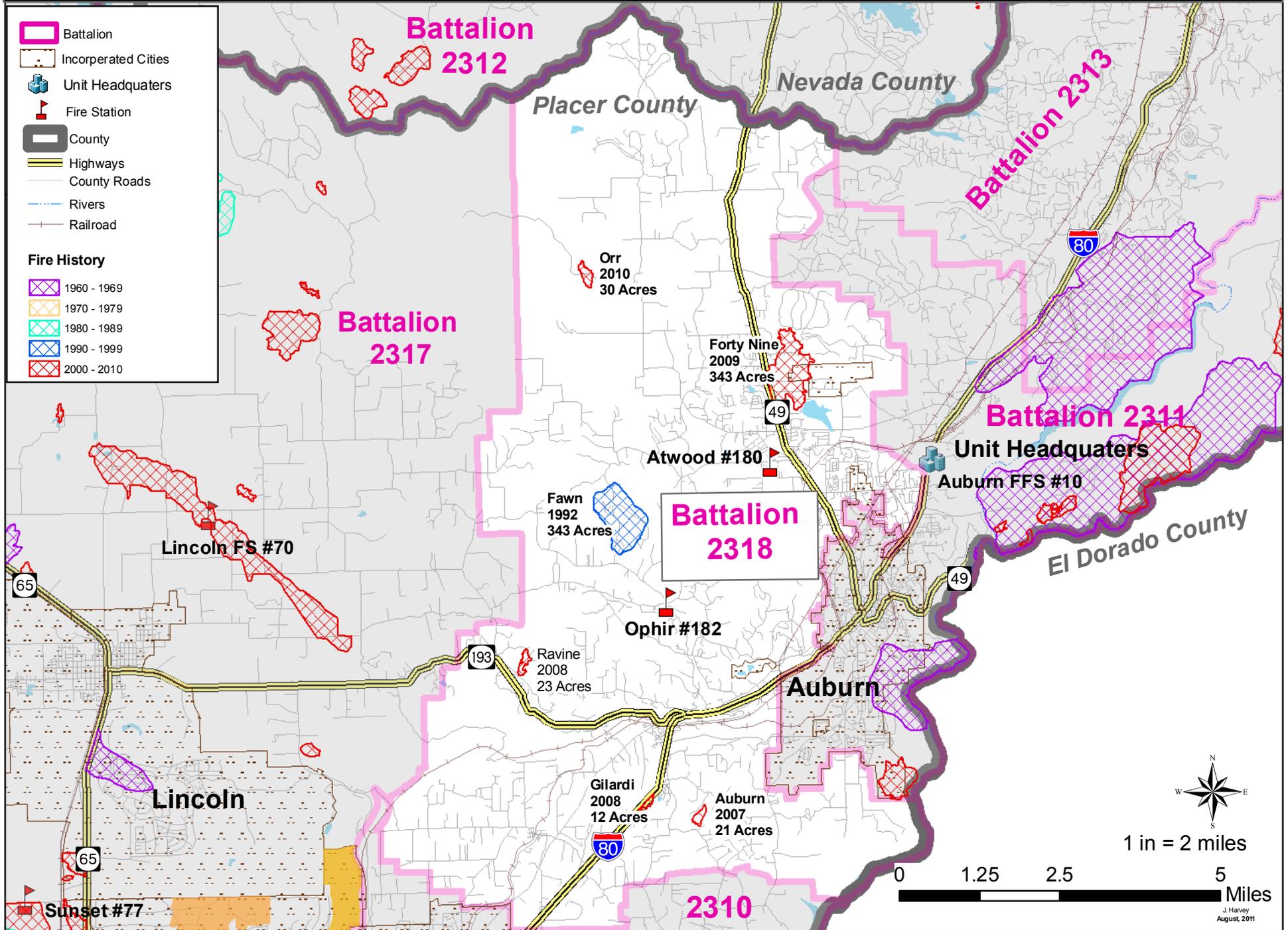


NEVADA - YUBA - PLACER UNIT (NEU) Battalion 18- Fire History

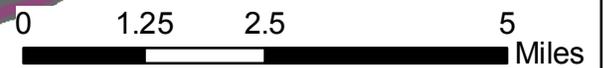
- Battalion
- Incorporated Cities
- Unit Headquarters
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Fire History

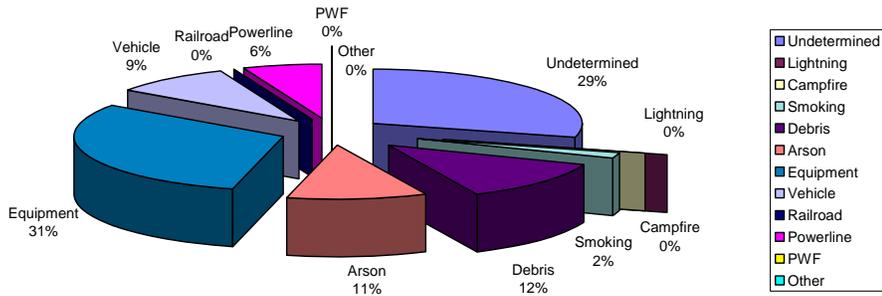
- 1960 - 1969
- 1970 - 1979
- 1980 - 1989
- 1990 - 1999
- 2000 - 2010



1 in = 2 miles

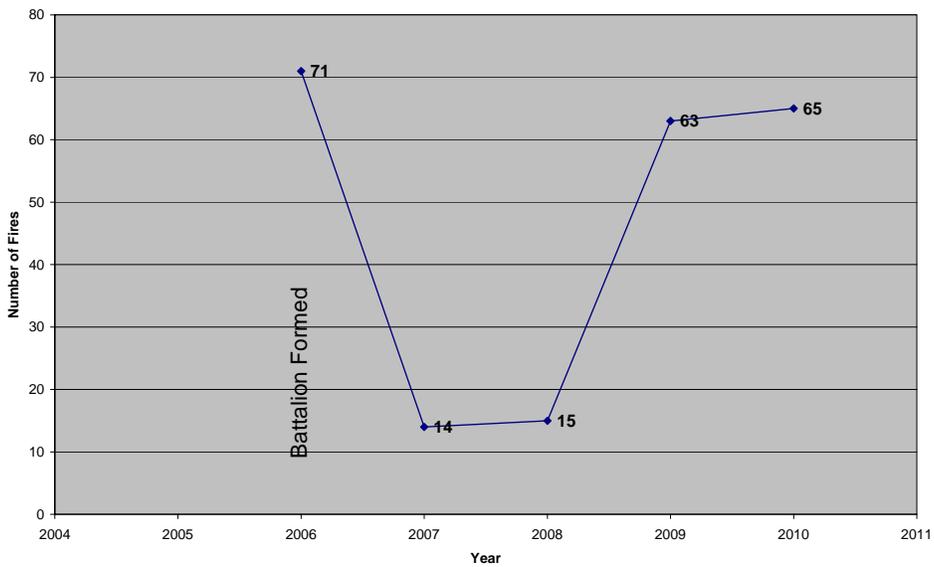


2010 Battalion 18 Fire Causes



Undet.	Lightning	Campfire	Smoking	Debris	Arson	Equip	Vehicle	Railroad	Powerline	PWF	Other
19	0	0	1	8	7	20	6	0	4	0	0

Battalion 18 Ignitions (2005-2010)



Mitigation Strategies

Public Education

- The battalion mitigation strategies will focus on public education and outreach geared toward equipment use and defensible space.
- The battalion will continue to support defensible space inspections and chipping services to reduce fuels
- Battalion staff will work with local cooperators to develop and construct fuel breaks.

Training

- Battalion staff will work with prevention on cause determination training to help reduce the number of undetermined fires within the battalion

Burn Permit Program

It must be recognized that public contact during burn permit issuance provides Cal Fire with the best opportunity to present a fire prevention message.

High Priority Target Areas

Watershed, high tension power lines, the American River drainage, Ophir, Newcastle / south of 80, Jordon, Mt Vernon, Lonestar, Christian Valley and the Penryn fire district

Table 9 – Battalion 18 Fuel Modification Projects, Community Outreach and Education Programs

Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
Placer County Chipper	A	O	Fuel Reduction	
Hidden Falls Park	O	O	Fuel Reduction	

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

Success Stories

49 Fire – Moss Rock Dr homes had exceptional defensible space.

Placer County Chipper – over the past several years the Placer Chipper program has provided chipping services and encouraged defensible space for hundreds of homeowners within the battalion.

2011 Action Plan:

- Work with Unit prevention to reduce the number of undetermined fire causes: battalion staff will continue prevention training to help improve undetermined fire causes within the battalion.
- Continue public education efforts within the battalion
- Increase defensible space inspections within the battalion