

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**SECTION V: PRE FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS**

**A: DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS**

**FIELD BATTALIONS**

The following pages contain the Field Battalions lists of objectives and action plans for the implementation of the Santa Clara Unit Strategic Fire Plan, the ‘meat and potatoes’. They are compiled by the field battalion chiefs with input from the unit’s Pre-Fire Engineer, Fire Safe Councils, Stakeholders, and the general public through community outreach. While they reflect an amazing cross section of goals and ideas, they are not inflexible or cast in stone, nor are they the only options available to mitigate a problem. These are suggestions and a starting point for the journey, not the end point.

**BATTALION 1 (MORGAN HILL)**

Battalion 1 is located in Santa Clara County’s Supervisor District One and lies solely in the SRA bordering the south side of Bailey Road in the northwest; east of Uvas Road; then westward on Redwood Retreat Road; south along the Santa Cruz County line to the San Benito County line; then jumps across the South Santa Clara Valley and San Benito County line at San Felipe Road; to the Henry Coe State Park and private ranches to the west side of the County Line Road, including the Highway 152 corridor- from Dinosaur Point to Dunne Hill; and to the south side of Metcalf Road at the United Technologies Corporation (UTC) property in the northeast. The UTC has closed down their operations this last year (2010) but are currently cleaning up the property due to EPA constraints and dismantling some of their infrastructure. In the open lands of the east side of Battalion 1 and Henry Coe State Park there is a need for state agencies and local citizens to protect mountain lions, black-tailed deer, ground squirrels, coyotes, raccoons, bobcats, and wild pigs. Also, there are golden eagles, California quail, jays, woodpeckers, red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, western bluebirds and wild turkeys.

Historically, the major wildland fire occurrence has been in the remote and sparsely populated eastern portion of the Battalion 1, the 1936 Fire, the 1961 Bollinger Ridge Fire, the 2007 Lick Fire, are the largest fires recorded in the Santa Clara Unit. In 2009 the Battalion also had the Pacheco Fire which acreage wise was not very large but the fire impacted Highway 152 which is a main commute and commercial transport network. The 2010 Fire Cause Statistics are consistent with previous years with equipment use being the leading cause for preventable wildland fires.

Fire season staffing for Battalion 1 is: 1 battalion chief; 6 permanent and 1 seasonal fire captain; 2 permanent and 1 seasonal fire apparatus engineer; and 22 seasonal firefighters with one utility pickup, four fire engines and 1 reserve fire engine.

## Santa Clara Unit Strategic Fire Plan, 2011

---

CAL FIRE has identified SRA Fire Hazard Severity Zones as Moderate, High, & Very High - based on homogeneous lands and their fuel loading, slope, and fire weather. In Battalion 1 they are located by vertically dividing into three sections: the west section is a Very High (Redwood Retreat Area), the center section is Moderate (South Santa Valley Foothills), and the east section is High (Highway 152 and the Henry Coe State Park)

Battalion 1, because of its unique combination of vegetation, topography, climate and population, has one of the most severe wild land problems in the San Francisco Bay Area. Wildland and urban interface, rugged terrain and highly flammable vegetation coupled with high winds make the southern Santa Clara County foothills especially unsafe for development unless adequate fire safe measures are taken. Without regard for wild land fire protection and water sources, continued development in the SRA will heavily impact fire protection and emergency medical services. Solutions center on designing an acceptable level of risks for firefighters and residents that measure all elements of that risk. Pre-fire planning, mutual aid agreements, standard response plans and high fire behavior warnings are necessary elements to measure the risks to reduce losses from wildfires.

Battalion 1 has identified priority hazard inspection and fuel modification areas. They are listed below:

- Armsby Lane, Tohara Way, Hardy lane, Sleep Valley Rd, and Griffis Way. These are generally 20 acre residential sites bordering along Uvas Reservoir Park and Open Space with some sites boarding large animals (horses). Access and egress into this area is limited to one road (Sycamore Drive).
- Croy Road and Uvas Road. These are generally 5 to 40 acre residential sites with some residential sites boarding large animals (horses). The Swedish American community of Sveadal is located on the upper elevation of Croy Road just outside of Uvas County Park. The fuel models vary in this area from light flashy fuels close to the valley floor to heavy brush and timber in the upper elevations and slopes. Some residential sites do not have the proper clearance to protect the property. Croy Road is a narrow 1 to 2 lane road with vegetation overgrown on both sides of the roadway. Fuel models vary from light flashy fuels close to the valley floor to heavy brush and timber at the higher elevations and ridge tops. Steep canyons and draws dot the landscape.
- Redwood Retreat Road. This road runs from Watsonville Road on the Valley floor up to Mt Madonna Road on the crest between Santa Clara County and Santa Cruz County. These are generally 5 to 50 acre residential sites with some sites boarding large animals (horses). This area has a multitude of fuel models from light flashy fuels to medium and heavy brush to heavy timber (Redwoods). Access and egress is limited to one narrow windy road (Redwood Retreat Road).
- Whitehurst area off of Highway 152. There are various sized residential sites located in the area. Access and egress in this area is limited to narrow

## Santa Clara Unit Strategic Fire Plan, 2011

---

roads and driveways. The fuel models go from forest litter to light flashy fuels to medium and heavy brush with heavy timber (Redwoods). Any fire in this area will have a major impact on Highway 152 which is a main route between Santa Clara County and Santa Cruz County.

- Areas east of Ferguson Road and Leavesley Road including Canada Road, Roop Road and Gilroy Hot springs Road. There are generally 5 to 40 acre residential sites with some sites boarding large animals (horses). The roads listed are access routes into Henry Coe State Park and Gilroy Hot springs. Fuel models vary from light flashy fuels lower down towards the valley floor to light and medium brush as you climb in elevation to some oak woodland as you get closer to Henry Coe State Park. Access and egress is through the road system of Canada Road and Roop Road.

An example of pre-fire planning and community outreach in Battalion 1 is the Croy Fire Area Defensible Space Chipping Program. This program is targeted at Communities at Risk to provide education and assistance to property owners to create Defensible Space around their homes. Property owners in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas prepare brush and other material for chipping and this program pays the cost for contracted, professional chipping crews to chip the prepared material. A second part of the program also funds the preparation work for seniors or disabled residents who cannot do this work themselves or pay for it to be done. The community outreach and education part of this program will educate property owners to create and maintain defensible space.

Duke Energy Moss Landing LLC (1206 mega watts), Monterey County supplies two separate, aerial transmission lines entering Battalion 1 near Highway 152 at the Santa Cruz County line. One 250 KVW transmission line travels towards Gilroy City and the other 250KVW travels to Morgan Hill City through heavy redwood timbered areas with noticeable dead oaks related to the Sudden Oak Disease.

The Calaveras Fault zone created by the meeting of two distinct geological structural blocks (Foothill and Mountain Blocks) that bisect and underlie the foundation of Anderson and Coyote Lake Dams. Anderson Reservoir is the largest man-made lake in Santa Clara County and can store 90,373 acre-feet (~29.45 billion gallons) of water. On the west side of San Luis Reservoir, the powerful Pacheco Pumping Plant pulls water from the reservoir and sends it flowing by gravity through 36 miles of the San Felipe Project's underground tunnels and pipelines to the base of Anderson Dam.

Coyote Dam was one of the six original reservoirs approved for construction by voters in May 1934 and can store 23,244 acre-feet (~7.57 billion gallons) of water. In case of an earthquake that would result in a dam failure, Coyote Reservoir would flow directly into the Anderson Reservoir. However, if Anderson reservoir should fail, it would inundate Morgan Hill City, Gilroy City, and the South Santa Clara Valley.

If Chesbro Dam, which can store 7,945 acre-feet (~2.59 billion gallons), would fail, water would follow Llagas Creek down Oak Glen Avenue; cross Sycamore Avenue; continue

**Santa Clara Unit**  
**Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

down along Watsonville Road; into south end of Morgan Hill City; and then through the center of South Santa Clara Valley towards Gilroy City.

Uvas Dam would inundate along the lowest elevations of Uvas Road and south of Watsonville Road. The Uvas Dam can store 9,835 acre-feet (~3.2 billion gallons) of water and is located in the Sergeants Fault zone. Uvas Dam was completed in 1957 as a part of the South Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District.

**Objectives for Battalion 1:**

- Improve awareness and involvement between the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council and south Santa Clara County communities by personnel at the fire station and the available “Living with Fire” in Santa Clara County handouts.
- Continue hazard reduction inspections (LE100 Inspections) for structures with the VIPs and Engine Companies.
- Continue input on all new construction and developments with the Santa Clara County Fire Marshal’s office.
- Install and maintain a Remote Fire Weather Station (RAWS) in the foothills east of South Santa Clara County basin when funding becomes available.
- Participate in all local community activities (i.e. Back Country Event, Renaissance Fair, Indian POW WOW, and Tarantella Festival)
- Continue assistance for Henry Coe State Park, and private ranchers in fuel modification projects.
- Continue 3.0 staffing on all state funded ICS Type III fire engines during declared fire season and continue to seek 4.0 staffing, when funding permits, for initial attack responses to further reduce the costs and losses due to wild land fires.
- Train and pre-plan to assist local government for the possibility of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and terrorist acts.
- Train and preplan to assist local government for the possibility of natural or man-made disasters which may occur.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**Action Plan:**

- Continue staffing the first Advanced Life Support (ALS) engine at a state funded wildland station located at Pacheco Pass on Highway 152.
- Vegetation fuel inspections on Armsby Lane, Tohara Way, Hardy Way, Croy Road, Uvas Road, Sleepy Valley Road, and Griffis Way as the hazard reduction target areas for LE-100 inspections and collection of data related to:
  - Roof types
  - Water sources and capacities
  - Wildland fuel types near residences
  - Address numbers
- Continue community outreach and education programs as part of the Croy Fire Area Defensible Space Chipping Program.
- Provide general fire prevention contacts and prevention materials to local groups and schools.
- Maintain the Fuel Break Clearance and road maintenance along the County Line Road and establish a Fuel Break along Bollinger Ridge and Castle Ridge to the County Line Road.
- Annual pre-fire planning of Henry Coe State Park (the second largest state park in California), Santa Clara County Parks, Indian POW WOW, and the Renaissance Fair.
- Abide by the agreement between CAL FIRE and Henry Coe State Park's Wildfire Management Plan to create a Local Operation Plan and prepare as a template for other public lands requiring fire protection agreements.
- Obtain and install Fire Safe Signs to be located on eastbound Hwy 152 near Casa De Fruta community where the Indian POW WOW (estimated 2,000 people daily) and Renaissance Fair (estimated 6,500 people per weekend day) are occurring during the peak fire season. And, year-round routine eastbound traffic has been estimated by California Highway Patrol (CHP) as 2,500 vehicles per hour.
- Continue fire engine replacement with fire engines that have enclosed passenger protection, and air conditioning to meet the arduous demands of firefighting in the urban interface, rugged terrain, highly flammable vegetation, and associated high dry winds in south Santa Clara County to minimize mileage accumulation of equipment.
- Request for additional firefighters available to staff fire engines 4.0 effective to reduce excessive amount of engaged work hours and enhance personnel safety.
- Work in cooperation with the Santa Clara Fire Safe Council, local law enforcement, and local cooperators in developing evacuation plans for the areas at risk for Wildland/Urban Interface.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

- Utilization of the reverse 911 system now in place in Santa Clara County for public notification regarding major incidents that may impact their communities.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**BATTALION 2 (SAN JOSE)**

The San Jose Battalion (Battalion 2) encompasses approximately 250 square miles of SRA lands in the northern and eastern portions of Santa Clara County and the SRA lands in the Almaden Valley. A major portion of the battalion covers the remote undeveloped area of the Diablo Range. The wildland urban interface areas are adjacent to the Almaden Valley and the eastern foothills of San Jose.

The foothills rise abruptly off the valley floor and have limited access for fire engines. The portion of the Diablo Range within the battalion is very remote with elevations running from 500' to 4300'. The prominent ridges have a network of private ranch roads. Travel times for engines on these roads can exceed 2 hours to access the remote areas of the battalion. The Arroyo Hondo watershed is approximately 10 miles long, runs from Calaveras Reservoir to Highway 130, and is the most remote and inaccessible canyon in Santa Clara County.

Grass fires are fairly common in the San Jose Mutual Threat Zones, but with the network of roads, close proximity of San Jose City Fire Stations, and the weed abatement regulations the majority of these fires are quickly contained. Fires that are not contained by the initial dispatch resources are usually contained within the same burn period.

This certainly does not rule out the potential for a significant wildfire within San Jose resulting in considerable structure loss. Some high density Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) communities in the lower foothills are intermixed with native wildland fuels, eucalyptus trees, and flammable non-native landscaping. Alignment of a high wind event could drive a fire front through these subdivisions with the structures themselves becoming the main source of fuel loading and heat transfer.

The remote SRA areas have a high potential for major fires but ignitions are limited. In 2003, lightning ignited numerous fires in the Diablo Range with several becoming major incidents.

Fire potential in the lower elevations of Santa Clara County is largely influenced by the strength of the marine air mass. Higher elevations above the inversion layer stay very dry and commonly experience nighttime subsidence with an off shore component dropping the relative humidity into the single digits. Extreme fire behavior has been observed on several wildfires above 2000' in the Diablo Range due to this micro climate. In late summer and fall when the offshore flow is more prevalent, and the live fuel moistures reach critical levels, fire potential is quite high. Strong pressure gradients between interior California and the ocean allow for very strong winds through Pacheco Pass and the Altamont Pass during most of the summer months.

A variety of fuel regimes are observed throughout Battalion 2. Open grassland, grassland with Blue Oak, Black Oak, and Valley Oak overstory, and pockets of sage is quite common in the foothills of San Jose. Areas of oak woodland, sage, scrub oak and mixed chaparral are also present.

## Santa Clara Unit Strategic Fire Plan, 2011

---

The east side of Mt Hamilton and the Isabel Valley have large areas of chamise dominated chaparral, gray pines, and oak trees. Isolated pockets of ponderosa pine are growing on some high elevation locations. Due to the marginal growing site, reproduction is limited and without the natural fire cycle the understory fuel loading is quite high placing these stands at risk from wildfire.

Most of fuels in the WUI areas on the border of San Jose would be classified as a grass model with the exception of the Alum Rock area. The fuel type that presents the greatest threat for this interface area is the Eucalyptus trees. These trees will be the main source of brand production and have the potential to cause moderate to long range spot ignitions, and will make control efforts and structure protection difficult.

Fire season staffing for Battalion 2 is: one battalion chief, four permanent and one seasonal fire captain and 10 seasonal firefighters with one utility pickup, and two fire engines.

Currently there is not a contract for an Amador Plan in Battalion 2. During the winter months, the captains conduct station projects, equipment maintenance, and provide Amador Plan coverage at Pacheco Station in Battalion 1. The battalion chief for Battalion 2 is the VMP coordinator for Santa Clara County and in the winter months is assigned battalion chief relief coverage for the South Santa Clara County Fire District.

Battalion 2 has identified Alum Rock Falls, Lick Observatory, and the community of Twin Creeks as target areas for fuel modification projects and hazard inspections. This battalion has a large area of remote SRA lands that can be difficult to determine the correct route of travel and workable perimeter control lines. Some watershed incidents have travel times up to two hours. An issue identified is that unit personnel, whom possess the local knowledge of the remote areas of the battalion, have or will be retiring; a goal of the Battalion is to develop concise pre-plans and compartment maps that will provide new personnel, ECC staff, and overhead teams with the location of strategic control points and access into the vast area of SRA lands. In 2010, the working draft template was developed for this project.

Vegetation management projects (prescribed burning) are frequently conducted in Battalion 2. Listed below are the ongoing prescribed burn projects:

- Blue Oak Ranch VMP. This is a 3000 acre ranch that was purchased by UC Berkeley in 2007 and is currently being developed into a research facility for faculty and students. The university staff requested a cooperative burn project with CAL FIRE to facilitate research on prescribed fire and the effect on oak regeneration and non-native grasses. The approved VMP contract is for 540 acres and approximately 40 acres were burned in 2010.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

- Grant Ranch VMP. This contract was approved in April 2010 and is a cooperative project with the Santa Clara County Park Department. Approximately 1000 acres of upland grasses, oak woodland, and mixed chaparral are included in the plan. A total of 388 acres were burned in 2010.
- Western Zone Complex VMP. This is a cooperative project with the Department of Parks and Recreation, Henry Coe State Park and was approved in November 2010. Project size is 4665 acres of mixed chaparral, oak woodland, annual grasses, and ponderosa pine. A total of 2025 acres were burned in November 2010.

**Objectives for Battalion 2:**

- Increase the ability to suppress wildfire and reduce damage in the urban interface areas within the battalion.
- Maintain the strong working relationship with local cooperators.
- Utilize prescribed fire to maintain the natural fire regime, reduce fuel loading, and reduce non-native invasive grasses.
- Reduce wildland fire suppression cost in the remote unpopulated areas of the battalion.

**Action Plan:**

- Develop fire pre-plans for the following target areas:
  - Alum Rock Park
  - Lick Observatory
  - The community of Twin Creeks
- Provide wildland strategy and tactics training for the Fire Departments within Santa Clara.
- Assist San Jose Fire with pre-attack plan development in the mutual threat zones.
- Conduct prescribed burn projects in Grant Park and Henry Coe State Park.
  - Completed 2300 acres in 2010
  - Planned project size for 2011 is 1600 acres
- Draft and distribute a wildfire suppression map that identifies the compartment zones within the battalion lines.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**BATTALION 3 (LOS GATOS)**

Battalion 3 is located in Santa Clara County and lies solely in the SRA bordering north of Highway 152; west of the Almaden Valley; east of the Santa Cruz County line; south from the San Mateo County Line. The battalion includes watershed for local communities, as this watershed flows into many lakes and streams managed by both the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the San Jose Water Company. The battalion also is home to a large amount of Coastal Redwoods protected from development by open space districts along with county parks. The battalion also has a number of small rural communities that have little or no governmental services.

There are many structures located throughout the battalion. The large population centers, Palo Alto, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Saratoga, are within Local Responsibility Area (LRA) but are in Mutual Threat Zones (MTZ). The fuels are redwood and mature pine trees on the eastern aspects and brush fields on the western aspects. The battalion has grass oak woodland on the lower elevations.

Historically, the major wildland fire occurrence has been in the remote and sparsely populated south western portion of Battalion 3, the 2009 Loma Fire, the 2008 Summit Fire, the 2002 Croy Fire and the 1987 Lexington Fire were large structure loss incidents in the Santa Clara Unit. The 2010 Fire Cause Statistics are consistent with previous years equipment use being the leading cause for preventable wildland fires.

Fire season staffing for Battalion 3 is: 1 battalion chief; 7 permanent and 2 seasonal fire captains; 2 fire pilots; 2 seasonal fire apparatus engineer; and 25 seasonal firefighters with one utility pickup, two fire engines, one helicopter, and one helicopter service unit.

CAL FIRE has identified SRA Fire Hazard Severity Zones as Moderate, High, & Very High - based on homogeneous lands and their fuel loading, slope, and fire weather. In Battalion 3 they are located by vertically dividing into three sections: the south section is a Very High (Loma Prieta area), the center section is Moderate (west Santa Clara Valley foothills), and the north section is High (Highway 85 and Interstate 280)

Battalion 3, because of its unique combination of vegetation, topography, climate, and population, has one of the most severe wildland problems in the San Francisco Bay Area. Wildland and urban interface, rugged terrain and highly flammable vegetation coupled with high winds make the southwest Santa Clara County foothills especially unsafe for development unless adequate fire safe measures are taken. Without regard for wildland fire protection and water sources, continued development in the SRA will heavily affect fire protection and emergency medic services. Solutions center on designing an acceptable level of risks for firefighters and residents that measure all elements of that risk. Pre-fire planning, mutual aid agreements, standard response plans, Mutual threat zones, and high fire behavior warnings are necessary elements to measure the risks to reduce losses from wildfires.

## **Santa Clara Unit Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

Battalion 3 has identified the watershed areas of western Santa Clara County including Saratoga, Lexington Basin, Los Gatos, Summit Road, and Croy Road as target areas for fuel modification projects and hazard inspections. These areas have become highly populated and have a heavy fuel loading which requires fuel modification to reduce the overall fire risk. Lexington Basin is a large area that includes the communities of Aldercroft Heights, Soda Springs, Upper Montevina, Chemeketa Park, Lower Montevina, Redwood Estates, Summit Road, Upper Loma Prieta, Skyline Road, Black Road, Lake Canyon, Hebard, Upper Redwood Estates, Call of the Wild, Melody Lane, Lower Loma Prieta, Idlewild and Bear Creek.

### **Objectives for Battalion 3:**

- Work with local Fire Safe Council, Stakeholders, and Community Group under the Fire Safe Council framework.
- Continue the fuel modification and work towards a Western Santa Clara County Fuel Break. This will provide an ability to manage fire with a high success rate and keep both the Stakeholders and the Watershed safe.
- Use priorities set forth in the Santa Clara Fire Safe Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- Create interlocking fuel breaks throughout the battalion.
- Strive to insure minimum level of yearly training and protective clothing for all non CAL FIRE Wildland first responders. This includes the following agencies:
  - Mid Peninsula Open Space District
  - Santa Clara Open Space Authority
  - Santa Clara Valley Water District
  - California State Parks
  - Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation
  - Pacific Gas and Electric
- Support Stakeholder participation in fuels reduction and fire defense activities.
- Support landowner fuel breaks in conjunction with the Santa Clara Fire Safe council.
- Continue to support the Community wildfire prevention plans for the Uvas and Lexington basin watersheds.
- Assist Stakeholders in fuels projects as defined priorities in both the Croy and Lexington Basin Wildfire Protection Plans.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**Action Plan:**

- Support the ongoing shaded fuel break in conjunction with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and other stakeholders.
- Assist both Mid Peninsula and the Santa Clara Open Space Districts in planning and implementing fuels reduction on lands they manage in the public trust.
- Continue to expand the Fire Safe Council chipper program to include stakeholders in the Croy Ridge area.
- Continue to assist and gain stakeholder support of the western Santa Clara County fuel break.
- Continue to assist with the Community Wildfire Prevention Plans in western Santa Clara County to include a countywide Community Wild Fire Protection Plan.
- Continue with school and special event Fire Prevention Programs in the target areas aggressively enforce and inspect under Public Resources Code 4290 and 4291 (LE-100).

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**BATTALION 4 (ALAMEDA)**

Battalion 4 covers the entire county of Alameda. Alameda County has a population of 1.5 million people. It is geographically located on the eastern side of the San Francisco Bay and stretches eastward from Oakland into the greater San Joaquin valley near Tracy. Contra Costa County borders it to the north while Santa Clara and San Joaquin border it to the south and east.

Topography ranges from hilly near the bay to mountainous elevations up to 4000 feet with steep canyon drainages south of Livermore. Fuel types are generally grass (50%), Chaparral (30%) and Oak Woodland (20%). Weather during fire season is temperate near the bay and hotter and drier further inland approaching the inland valleys. The most significant weather factor in Alameda County is wind. Wind patterns are predominately west to east during fire season due to the cooler marine air flowing from the San Francisco Bay into the Livermore and San Joaquin valleys. Wind speeds vary but on most summer days the winds near the bay are 10 to 20 m.p.h. In the eastern portion of the county on those same days wind velocities will be 15 to 25 m.p.h. Wind velocities of 40 to 50 mph in the eastern portion of the battalion are not uncommon under normal weather patterns. Even though relative humidity's are tempered by the marine influence the higher wind speeds adversely affect fire behavior. Any fire starts with sustained fuel continuity downwind quickly progress into moderate to rapid rates of spread at the fires head. Quick initial attack by fire suppression forces is critical in these conditions.

Operationally, Battalion 4 is a complex environment for CAL FIRE. There are twelve local government fire agencies operating in Alameda County. Nine of these cities border SRA. There are approximately 70 miles of wildland-urban interface (WUI) separating LRA from the 286,000 acres of CAL FIRE jurisdiction. The interface area is densely populated with homes that easily exceed one million dollars each. The high values at risk in Battalion 4 and the windy conditions have combined to create high damage loss fires historically. One 2 acre fire in the Oakland Berkeley hills destroyed two homes and damaged a third for a total damage loss of four million dollars. The 1991 Tunnel Fire destroyed 3000 homes for a loss of 1.8 billion dollars. Life safety at wildland fires is also a major concern. There have been 28 wildland fire fatalities in Alameda County going back to 1968 including citizens, police and firefighters. Coordination during wildland fire evacuations in the densely populated interface areas is a major challenge.

Coordination with local government fire resources is critical to fire response in Alameda County. An extensive cooperative effort over the past ten years to create and manage mutual threat zones and responses to fires has dramatically increased CAL FIRE's initial attack capability in this area. That coupled with CAL FIRE moving additional fire engines and helicopters into the East Bay during times of high fire danger increases the probability of keeping fires small and therefore reducing the need for evacuations and reducing dollar loss.

The main focus for fire prevention in Battalion 4 is public education, information and fuel reduction in prioritized areas. This focus includes a strong relationship with

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

stakeholders to maximize limited resources to accomplish prioritized objectives. East Bay Region Parks is in the process of completing an Environmental Impact Report addressing fuels management by way of the establishment of fuel breaks, shaded fuel breaks and the reduction of hazardous trees and other vegetation in Alameda County. CAL FIRE is partnered with local government fire agencies, the Diablo Fire Safe Council and the East Bay Hills Emergency Forum. This partnership is designed to reach beyond the fire service to involve homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, insurance companies, public utilities and others to reduce the risk of wildfire, before a fire starts.

Priority areas for hazard mitigation and pre-planning within Battalion 4 include Oakland and Berkeley Hills, San Leandro and Castro Valley Hills, Hayward Hills, Union City and Fremont Hills, Pleasanton Ridge and Kilcare Woods, and the Palomares and Niles Canyon areas.

**Objectives for Battalion 4:**

- Reduce the size and threat of wildfires in the interface by fuel reduction.
- Utilize fuel modification in the form of shaded fuel breaks to enhance evacuation corridors and tactical positions for firefighting operations.
- Establish and maintain strong relationships with local government fire agencies for coordination and cooperation.
- Coordinate with the Alameda County Fire Marshal to maximize the use of fire codes, ordinances, Public Resources Code 4290 and 4291 on all new developments in the SRA.
- Continue to update and administer mutual threat zone agreements in the SRA-LRA interface areas.
- Participate in interagency training including disaster services and law enforcement.
- Continue to maximize media contacts to educate the public on ways to prevent fires and preserve life safety.
- Reduce the threat of hostile fires escaping from known fire start hazard areas such as roadside and wind power generation.

**Action Plan:**

- Continue and enhance the fuel modification and fuel reduction projects in the wildland-urban interface areas. Coordinate resources with the Hills Emergency Forum and the Diablo Fire Safe Council. Projects include but are not limited to:
  - Berkeley upper Strawberry Canyon fuel reduction project.
  - Diablo Fire Safe East Bay roadside clearance project.
  - East Bay Regional Park Claremont Canyon fuel reduction project.
  - Tilden Park Eucalyptus removal project.
  - Oakland-Berkeley hills 15 mile fuel break project.

**Santa Clara Unit**  
**Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

- Oakland Shepherd Canyon shaded fuel break project
- Chabot Park fuel reduction project.
- Highway 24 Caldecott Tunnel fuel reduction project.
  
- Obtain language changes in the conditions of approval for wind generators use
- Permits requiring numbering and marking gates and road access utilizing the standards of Public Resources Code 4290 with regard to signage.
- GIS / GPS mapping and marking of wind farm gates and road system
- Conduct public information and education programs at local schools.
- Distribute Fire Safe educational materials at public gatherings and public venues.
- Utilize Volunteers in Prevention for targeted inspections of dwellings and buildings for compliance with Public Resources Code 4291 (LE-100).
- Utilize Volunteers in Prevention to conduct bulk mailing of self inspection and fire safe guides to postal customers in high hazard areas.
- Whenever dealing with the media suggest fire prevention messages to be included and integrated into their story.
- Conduct meetings with agricultural groups such as the Cattleman's Association, and Farm Bureau to provide information and encourage the use of firebreaks and clearance around all improvements such as dwellings, barns, out buildings and wells.
- Conduct training exercises and pre-fire season briefings with cooperating fire agencies and share pre-fire plans for special target hazards.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**BATTALION 5 (STANISLAUS)**

Battalion 5 covers all of western Stanislaus County west of Interstate-5 and bordered by San Joaquin County to the north and Merced County to the south. The battalion includes a portion of eastern Santa Clara County which includes the San Antone valley and is bordered by the top of the China Grade on Mount Hamilton Road to the west of the San Antone Valley.

The vegetation and topography in Battalion 5 transition from annual grass rangelands along the Interstate 5 corridor to remote, steep, brush and pine covered mountains to the west. The area includes over 230,000 acres of watershed critical to maintaining downstream water quality. All runoff flows into the San Joaquin river, a valuable fisheries and source of agricultural and domestic water supply.

Numerous plants and animals that are designated as rare, threatened or endangered species, or are candidates for such designation, occur here.

Battalion 5 includes sparsely populated rural and ranch properties and a planned upscale residential resort community in the Salado Creek area, being developed under the Diablo Grande Specific Plan. The Battalion includes wilderness areas of Henry Coe State Park and the Frank Raines Off-Highway Vehicle Park located in Del Puerto Canyon.

Frank Raines Park is an 1800 acre multi use park operated by Stanislaus County, located 18 miles west of Patterson in Del Puerto Canyon. Eight hundred acres of the park is designated for off highway vehicle (OHV) use. The OHV portion of the park is in very steep and treacherous terrain. Because of the steep terrain and the potential fire risk, The OHV portion of the park is typically closed from June through October of each year.

The 23,300 acre wilderness area of the 87,000 acre Henry Coe State Park is located in western Stanislaus County. The wilderness area is environmentally sensitive and has a number of archeological sites within its boundaries.

The area has a significant history of large damaging wildland fires. While the majority of fires start along the Interstate-5 corridor, the majority of large damaging fires have occurred in more remote areas of the battalion. The primary factors contributing to difficulty of control have been the steep, inaccessible terrain, the extreme burning conditions from decadent brush and pine trees, and the prolonged response time for fire suppression resources to the remote areas of the battalion.

The number of wildland fires and other emergency incidents has been steadily increasing over the last decade. This is primarily because of the increase in population and the corresponding increase of human risk factors from increased travel, recreational use, and other activities in wildland areas.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

Battalion 5 has identified Diablo Grande Development fire break, Mount Oso Road fire break, Stanislaus/Santa Clara County Line Road fire break, Fink Road Solar Farm project, and Copper Mountain Solar Farm project as target areas for fuel modification and hazard inspections.

**Objectives for Battalion 5:**

- Reduce the size and threat of wildfires in the interface by fuel reduction.
- Utilize fuel modification in the form of shaded fuel breaks to enhance evacuation corridors and tactical positions for firefighting operations.
- Establish and maintain strong relationships with local government fire agencies for coordination, communication, and cooperation.
- Coordinate with the Stanislaus County to maximize the use of fire codes, ordinances, Public Resources Code 4290 and 4291 on all new developments in the SRA.
- Continue to update and administer mutual threat zone agreements in the SRA-LRA interface areas.
- Participate in interagency training including disaster services and law enforcement.
- Reduce the threat of hostile fires escaping from known fire start hazard areas such as roadside and wind power generation.

**Action Plan:**

- Improve local operational efficiency and effectiveness by improving mutual and auto aid agreements between CAL FIRE and West Stanislaus Fire Protection District, City of Patterson, and City of Newman. This will include improving communications systems and dispatch procedures.
- Review all development projects for compliance with Public Resources Code 4290 and make recommendations for fire defense improvements. This will include:
  - Review of first phase development plans for Diablo Grande Development and major infrastructure projects related to it. Planning green belts and fuel breaks, and fuel reduction projects in advance of development.
  - Review of proposed Copper Mountain and Fink Road Solar farm projects.
  - Review of Fink Road Landfill in-fill project.
- Participate as a voting member of the Stanislaus County Fire Authority in developing improved local fire codes, ordinances and fire prevention processes.
- Participate in planning fire safe requirements for expansion of Frank Raines OHV Park.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

- Work with Caltrans and local landowners on mowing and other fuel reduction projects along the Interstate-5 corridor, to prevent large wind driven fires that endanger the motoring public and interrupt transportation and commerce through the area.
- Work with the Electric Utilities (PG & E and TID) on grading fire roads and maintaining fuel breaks along critical Transmission lines.
- Work closely with local fire officials to improve mutual aid and communications between agencies.
- Maintain critical fire roads and fuel breaks.
- Work with West Stanislaus County Fire Protection Districts and Stanislaus County Parks on improving fire safety conditions in Frank Raines OHV Park.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**BATTALION 6 (CONTRA COSTA)**

The Contra Costa battalion covers all of Contra Costa, a small sliver of northwestern Alameda, and western San Joaquin Counties. There are several large landowners in the battalion. Four of the largest are the East Bay Regional Park District, Mt Diablo State Park, Contra Costa Water District, and the wind power consortium near the Altamont Pass.

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) encompasses over 100,000 acres of land covering both Contra Costa County and neighboring Alameda County. In 2010 the EBRPD completed the process of finalizing an Environmental Impact Report which addresses the management of fuels by way of the establishment of fuel breaks and the reduction of fire hazardous trees and other vegetation in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. We as CAL FIRE support this report.

Mt Diablo State Park encompasses approximately 30,000 acres of open space in the middle of the battalion. The Park had not experienced a significant wildland fire event in recent years but in August of 2010 a vegetation fire started on the Southeastern boundary of the Park. The Curry Fire burned 300 acres off of Curry Canyon Rd and stretched into the Park towards Curry Point and Southgate Road. Excellent cooperation between CAL FIRE and Park Management was shown both during suppression operations and fire line suppression repair efforts.

The Contra Costa Water District includes the Los Vaqueros Reservoir and is a large stakeholder in overall watershed protection with close to 80,000 acres under management. The Los Vaqueros Reservoir and watershed incorporates some 20,000 acres and provides a domestic water supply to over 450,000 people.

While many fire safety steps have been taken by the wind power consortium, wind farms continue to be an ignition source for vegetation fires. We will continue to work with the wind farm owners in an effort to minimize this risk. In 2009, Battalion 6 personnel from the Castle Rock Fire Station were able to install and have maintained a Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) on wind farm property. This RAWS has allowed our Emergency Command Center in Morgan Hill to remotely monitor the weather conditions in the Altamont therefore providing better intelligence on fire potential and activity.

The population of Contra Costa County is now over one million people while the population of the San Joaquin County portion of Battalion 6 is over 100,000. In Contra Costa County, the majority of citizens reside within the 19 incorporated cities although more than 20% live in unincorporated communities. The continuing growth in the population further increases the pressure on areas of wildland urban interface. Top on the list of projects for the battalion are the cooperative agreements with other fire agencies. These include the continued staffing of Sunshine Forest Fire Station though the non-fire season months under the current Amador plan with the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District and updating and improving the MTZ response plans.

## **Santa Clara Unit Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

The Diablo Fire Safe Council has been very successful in obtaining grant money to further fire safety and fuels management projects in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Battalion 6 personnel will continue to support these projects in any way possible.

The vegetation and wildlife habitat of Contra Costa County includes several broadly defined types: native and non-native forests and woodlands, shrub lands, grasslands, riparian woodland and scrub, and wetlands. Numerous plants and animals that are designated as rare, threatened, or endangered species or are candidates for such designation occur here.

Contra Costa County contains 13 major watersheds and sub-watersheds, with over 1300 miles of creeks and drainages. These watersheds form a crucial part of the Bay Area's domestic water supply, and are the location of several large reservoirs.

Wildfires are part of Contra Costa's natural eco-system. The Mediterranean-like climate, the rugged, wind-conductive topography, and fire-adaptive native vegetation set the stage for periodic burns.

In the past 60 years there have been more than 30 wildfires that were more than 300 acres and countless smaller fires in Contra Costa County mainly in the Central and Eastern portions of the County. In San Joaquin County there has been also more than 30 large wildfires many burning into adjacent Alameda and/or Stanislaus Counties. The acreage in San Joaquin County is more substantial than Contra Costa due to the expansive grass lands of the Altamont and Interstate-5 corridor.

Finally with this year being the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tunnel Fire that occurred in October of 1991 in the Oakland Hills, CAL FIRE will be continuing its relationship with the Hills Emergency Forum (HEF). This Forum made up of stakeholder agencies in both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties has worked tirelessly for 2 decades to both prevent and prepare for another Urban Interface Wildland event that could occur in the Oakland Hills area. The Tunnel Fire remains the largest loss of structures (2900) by wildfire in the history of California.

Battalion 6 has identified Canyon, Mount Diablo State Park, Alhambra Valley, Wild Cat Canyon, West Contra County, Bollinger Canyon, Las Trampas Ridge, Los Vaqueros Watershed, and Mallory Ridge as target areas for fuel modification and hazard inspections.

### **Objectives for Battalion 6:**

- Continue fuel modification, Public Resources Code 4291 inspections and look at access and egress issues within and around the Community of Canyon.
- Implement a fuel modification zone around Mt Diablo State Park boundaries.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

- Draft and implement a 20 to 25 year control burn cycle within the state park.
- Maintain Wind Farm fire plans and continue the inspections of the re-powering projects.
- Begin focused enforcement of the Public Resources Code 4291 (LE-100) in the Alhambra Valley and Wildcat Canyon areas.
- Begin groundwork for Public Resources 4291 (LE-100) program in the San Pablo Watershed.
- Continue working with Contra Costa Water District to protect and enhance the Los Vaqueros watershed and nature area.
- Upkeep, maintenance and mapping of the Contra Costa County fire trails.
- Remain active in the Diablo Fire Safe Council.
- Educate the public on equipment caused fires.
- Reduce arson fires.
- Review/update Mt. Diablo State Park pre-fire management plan with State Parks and other local agency cooperators.

**Action Plan:**

- In the community of Canyon:
  - Continue community meetings to assess the overall progress of fire safety and fuels modification projects.
  - Start a 5-year phase-in of Public Resources Code 4291 code (LE-100) inspections.
  - Address the access / egress issues with county planning, transportation and building officials.
  - Using GIS based products and a fire behavior-modeling program such as Far Site or Behave conduct a series of fire scenarios in the Canyon area before fuel modification projects and after. Take this data and perform cost suppression estimates of fires before and after projected fuel modification efforts.
  - Phase in enforcement of Public Resources Code 4290 Driveway and Water Supply requirements.
  - Explore the possibility of placing utilities present in Canyon underground with the responsible agencies.
  
- In Mt Diablo State Park:
  - Implement a fuel modification zone along the park boundaries to limit the spread of fires from the park into the urban interface and vice versa.
  - Work with park management, US Fish and Wildlife and adjacent local governments to draft and implement a 20-year fire reduction plan in the park.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

- This project would start at or near the top of Mt Diablo and proceed down slope and return to the top at the completion of a cycle.
- These burns would be limited to approximately 500 acres per year as conditions allow.
  
- In the Alhambra Valley, Wild Cat Canyon and West Contra Costa County area:
  - Begin a focused, phased Public Resources Code 4291 (LE-100) enforcement program.
  - Assess the region for fuel modification projects and secure contracts with local landowners.
  
- In the Bollinger Canyon and Las Trampas Ridge area:
  - Working with East Bay Regional Parks, San Ramon Valley Fire Department and local landowners begin fuel modification on Las Trampas Ridge running north.
  - Continue Public Resources Code 4291 (LE-100) and local weed abatement enforcement in the LRA and SRA areas.
  
- In the Los Vaqueros Watershed and Mallory Ridge area:
  - Continue assisting Contra Costa Water District with fuel modification projects and control burns in the Los Vaqueros watershed sensitive areas.
  - Assist Contra Costa Water District with weed abatement projects on Mallory Ridge.

**Santa Clara Unit**  
**Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**BATTALION 7 (SOUTH SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT)**

The South Santa Clara County Fire District, known as Battalion 7, is located in the southern San Francisco Bay Area. Battalion 7 provides fire control and advanced emergency medical services to 40,000 customers in the unincorporated areas of Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and the community of San Martin. The Battalion has 3 fire stations that cover approximately 300 square miles. The boundaries are: San Jose city limits to the north along highway 101 at Metcalf road; to the Santa Cruz County Line; to the west Hecker Pass Highway; East to Bell Station on the Pacheco Pass Highway; South to the San Benito County Line at Pajaro River.

Battalion 7 protects: residential, commercial and light industrial occupancies; the wildland urban interface communities; 10 wildland Mutual Treat Zones, 450 miles of State Highways 152, 156, 25, and 101; 45 miles of two separate rail lines owned by Union Pacific Railroads, also used by Cal Train Commuter and Amtrak trains.

The San Andrea's, Hayward, and Sergeants Faults Zones run through Battalion Seven. One large major water supply from San Luis Reservoir and a gas pipeline run through the battalion.

Since 1997, the Fire District has provided advanced life support (paramedic) services for all members of the community. The Fire District works closely with the local ambulance provider (American Medical Response), Santa Clara County EMS. In July of 2011 the County of Santa Clara will start a new Ambulance Provider contract with Rural Metro. Along with fire suppression and emergency medical service, the fire district personnel are trained in many other aspects of emergency responses. These include: vehicle extrication, swift water rescue, hazardous material response, earthquake, and flood preparedness. The Fire District also provides fire prevention and education, code enforcement, and engineering services to the public. The Fire District staff includes 1 Battalion Chief, 1 Fire Captain Paramedic in the position of EMS Coordinator, 4 Fire Captains/Paramedics, 2 Fire Captains, 8 Fire Apparatus Engineers/Paramedics, 4 Fire Apparatus Engineers, 3 Firefighters, 1 mechanic, 2 Communication Operators and 1 Staff Service Analyst. The fire district operates 4- type 1 Fire Engines, 1- 75' Truck, 2- 3,000 Gallon Water Tenders, 3 Utility Vehicles, a Chief Officer's Vehicle, Mobile Air Support Unit and a Technical Rescue Unit. The Fire District is supported by its' 20 paid call firefighters. In addition to emergency response, the Paid Call Firefighters are frequently utilized to staff stations when front line engines are on other emergencies. The Paid Call Firefighters are also involved in numerous charitable activities and fund raisers.

The South Santa Clara County Fire District participates actively in automatic aid agreements, with the Gilroy City Fire Department, Santa Clara County Fire Department (Morgan Hill City), CAL FIRE, Pajaro Valley Fire District, San Benito County Fire, and San Jose City Fire Departments. We are an active participant in the Santa Clara County and State of California Mutual Aid Plans responding to disasters in the County and throughout California

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

The Insurance Service Rating (ISO) rating for the South Santa Clara County Fire District is 5 and 10. The ISO rating of 5 is within 5 miles of any Fire District station or a fire department we currently have an auto aid agreement with.

The South Santa Clara County Fire District was established in 1980 when the Gilroy Rural Fire District merged with the Morgan Hill Rural Fire District. The South Santa Clara County Fire District contracts for personnel and administration with the CAL FIRE which is the largest multi-purpose emergency service and resource protection agency within the United States. The Santa Clara Unit of CAL FIRE is responsible for over 1.35 million acres of SRA, as well as LRA.

A seven-member Board of Fire Commissioners oversees the South Santa Clara County Fire District. The Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors appoints them. The Board Members live in different areas of the Fire District and represent the diversified views of the local community. Their diversified views provide input, oversight, and budget management, as representatives of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

The South Santa Clara County Fire District is an all risk emergency response battalion. Responding to approximately 4,500 incidents per year which include various assists to other fire departments, emergency medical services, structure, vehicle, and wildland fires, hazardous materials spills, water rescues, and public service assists as listed below:

INCTYPE	SUBTYPE	Count Of SUBTYPE
FIRE	Structure	143
FIRE	Wildfire	122
FIRE	Other	811
Medical	Minor Life Threatening Vehicle accident w/ injuries Vehicle accident w/ rescue	1963
FMS	Hazardous Condition Hazardous Materials Power Lines Down	1671
PSA	MSC	11
Total		4562

**Santa Clara Unit**  
**Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

Battalion 7 has identified Holiday Lake Estates, El Matador Drive, Redwood Retreat Road, the area east of New Avenue, Day Road, Burchell Road, Chesbro Reservoir, and Live Oak Area as target areas for fuel modification and hazard inspections.

**Objectives for Battalion 7:**

- Keep structure fires to the floor of origin.
- Treat, package, and transport patients to definitive care within 1 hour.
- Meet designated EMS response times 95% or above.
- Adopt new fire code.
- Minimize the interface fire threat.
- Identify high fire severity zones and complete pre-response and evacuation plans.
- Identify fuel reduction and fuel modification projects in the high fire severity zones.
- Establish a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in San Martin.
- Maintain staffing at all Fire District Stations.
- Attempt to locate funding using all grant resources.

**Action Plan:**

- Maintain pre fire plans.
- Educate the public about the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council.
- Maintain school and special event programs.
- Assist Unit VIPs with LE 100 program for Public Resources Code 4291.
- Continue to recruit and retain Paid Call Firefighters.
- Continue plans reviews and enforcement of Public Resources Code 4290.
- To provide employees with the latest Fire and EMS training.
- To continue to work with and support all of our cooperators.
- Work in cooperation with the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council, Local Law Enforcement, and our local Cooperators to develop evacuation plans and fire plans for communities at risk due to a major incident.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**ADMINISTRATIVE BATTALIONS**

The following pages contain the Administrative Battalions descriptions and goals for the implementation of the Santa Clara Unit Strategic Fire Plan. They are compiled by the administrative battalion chiefs with input from the units Pre-Fire Engineer, Fire Safe Councils, Stakeholders, and the general public through community outreach.

**BATTALION 9 (EMERGENCY COMMAND CENTER)**

The Morgan Hill Emergency Command Center (ECC) of the Santa Clara Unit is one of 21 unit ECCs in CAL FIRE, providing command and control services for 12 State Fire Stations (Schedule B), positioned to protect the SRA, of Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, western San Joaquin, and western Stanislaus Counties. The Morgan Hill ECC also provides command and control for the Local Government Cooperative Agreements with the South Santa Clara County Fire District, Alameda County Fire Protection District at the Sunol Fire Station and two Amador Contracts. One Amador Contract at the Pacheco Fire Station in Santa Clara County, and the other is at Sunshine Fire Station in Contra Costa County.

The ECC has budgeted positions for four Fire Captains (Schedule B), three Communication Operators (Schedule A), and one Battalion Chief (Schedule B). The shifts are staggered to maintain a Fire Captain (Duty Officer) on 24 hours per day. A minimum of two other ECC qualified employees are on duty in the daytime during transitional and peak staffing. A minimum of one other ECC qualified employee is on duty in the winter preparedness during daytime hours. The Battalion Chief provides oversight 4 days per week with extended oversight during peak season as needed.

A Fire Captain fills the role of the Duty Officer to assist the SCU Duty Chief in command and control functions. The ECC Duty Officer is maintained year round, 24 hrs per day. In addition, the ECC has the ability, with Duty Chief approval, to access staffing patterns to recall off-duty personnel for staffing and access to Santa Clara Unit VIPs to assist as needed for any and all large incidents. The VIPs are cross-trained to assist in answering phones, communicate with media, tracking of incidents, assisting in radio communications, staffing the Mobile Communications Center.

The ECC provides command, control, communications, logistical support, and CAL FIRE resources to mitigate wildfires and to assist local and federal government and cities, for any emergency management needs including but not limited to fires, floods, and earthquakes in the LRA, of Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara, western Stanislaus and western San Joaquin Counties.

A portion of LRA lands in the Santa Clara Unit are protected by means of MTZs, with the various cities, and local governments in the Santa Clara Unit. The Santa Clara Unit

## **Santa Clara Unit Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

has approximately 110 MTZs. These MTZs are located in Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara and western San Joaquin Counties. The MTZs are divided into geographic portions dictated by community, geography, and structure density. At which time infrastructure is developed in Stanislaus Counties, it is anticipated that additional Mutual Threat Zone Agreements will be established to protect the values at risk in these areas.

The ECC has the ability to access, through requests, resources throughout the state to mitigate a given incident within the Santa Clara Unit by means of the Statewide Command and Control Structure and the forest agencies resource ordering system. Additionally through the California Fire Assistance Agreement local government resources may be requested to assist. The local government resource-rich environment of the Bay Area means that oftentimes there are many local resources that can respond in short-order in comparison to the reflex and travel time of State and Federal resources. Requests for local government resources are made at the local county level from the ECC. The Statewide Command and Control Structure are divided into two areas. The Northern Region, which is controlled by the Northern Operational Coordination Center (NOPS), and the Southern Region, which is controlled Southern Operational Coordination Center (SOPS). The Morgan Hill ECC is a Unit in the Northern Region. The Morgan Hill ECC processes requests for additional forest agency resources through NOPS by means of the Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS).

ROSS is accessible on all computers in both the ECC and ECC Expanded Dispatch. All ECC personnel are trained to dispatch and utilize ROSS as part of their basic training. In the case of large fires, flooding, earthquake or other disaster, the ECC can rapidly access the available resources throughout the state by means of ROSS. NOPS or the county operational area then coordinates and tracks the resources to monitor drawdown, and track resource commitments. NOPS coordinates with SOPS to then reassign CAL FIRE resources in the southern region that have not been committed to Santa Clara's Incident(s) as to provide ample coverage throughout the state. This system gives the ECC the ability to assist any of the 52 cooperating emergency agencies within the Santa Clara Unit in a timely manner. Rapid augmentation has proven to be the foundation for success when dealing with large, damaging, and/ or multiple incidents in Santa Clara Unit and throughout California. ROSS and the functionality of the Computer-Aided Dispatch System (CAD) to ROSS interface allows for rapid resource ordering. The CAD to ROSS interface introduced in 2009 has reduced the duplication of data entered by entering a few commands in CAD. The CAD to ROSS interface can be used interdependently with an independent version of ROSS allowing it to continue to work without the interface.

The resource ordering system and business practices established by CAL FIRE and the forest agencies in California are enhanced by the California Public Safety Microwave System. The microwave link allows a number of enhancements to be a possibility to the ECC. The microwave system helps with resource ordering by linking the ECC with all CAL FIRE Units and forests north of the Grapevine through an intercom system called the NOPS and SOPS intercoms. This allows for needed aircraft to be ordered verbally

## **Santa Clara Unit Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

prior to placing the requests in ROSS which reduces reflex time and thus reducing lag time for ordering, reassigning and cancellation of aircraft.

Since April 2005, the ECC has been using Altaris CAD. This product, produced and supported by Northrup Grumman Information Technology, has moved CAL FIRE resource dispatching to a new technical milestone. The new CAD program provides a number of enhancements and future possibilities. Current uses that are improved over the previous CAD program (CAL CAD) are paging of resources with pertinent information, improved routing based on incident and resource location and road speeds, improved data collection and CAD to CAD functionality. The CAD to CAD functionality allows real-time resource availability for neighboring units, allowing closest resource concept to be improved. The improved technology comes with many challenges and continued improvements. A significant challenge has been the commitment of personnel hours to provide administration and maintenance of the program.

The ECC works hand in hand with our cooperators by means of Mutual Aid, and Automatic Aid Agreements. On a day to day basis the ECC provides assistance to adjoining jurisdictions by means of our automatic aid agreements. These agreements allow CAL FIRE and its cooperators to respond the closest available resource to any given incident with a reduced delay. On a broader scale, if a given entity determines the incident they are responding to will exceed, or has exceeded their capabilities, CAL FIRE will assist as requested to manage and mitigate the incident.

The ECC is well versed as it applies to the utilization the OES Fire, and Rescue Mutual Aid System. The Santa Clara Unit has three counties that lie within OES Region II (Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara). The Santa Clara Unit also has portions of western San Joaquin and western Stanislaus counties, which lie within the boundaries of OES Region IV. Requests for resources to mitigate the given incident are processed through the County Operational Area Coordinators (Op-Area) for the county in which there is emerging incident. Great care must be taken to insure the correct ordering process is followed to insure the integrity of the system and the ability of the Op Areas to track resources. During the declared Fire Season the ECC works closely with the County Op Areas to maintain these ordering processes and to further strengthen our working relationships. With the abundance of MTZs within the Santa Clara Unit and the eminent structure threat in these MTZs, it is imperative that the ECC provides professional leadership to the Op Areas. This is accomplished by joint training, site visits by the ECC Battalion Chief, open dialog, and consistent ordering processes by ECC personnel.

The ECC provides a leadership role in the monitoring of fire weather conditions within the Santa Clara Unit. The issuing of Red Flag Warnings and Fire Weather Watches are a foundation for success. The ECC works closely with the Monterey and Sacramento Fire Weather Office to anticipate such weather events, which allows the ECC to augment staffing prior to the barrage of fire activity that accompanies some weather events. The ECC also works closely with the SCU Duty Chief and the NOPS Duty Officer as it pertains to pre-positioning of CAL FIRE resources in the critical areas of the Santa Clara

## **Santa Clara Unit Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

Unit and tracking of costs associated with these augmentations. The ECC strives to be ever-prudent, but appropriately prepared to respond.

The ECC manages two Remote Weather Stations (RAWS) and monitors 14 other (which are the property of State Parks, San Francisco Water Department, East Bay Regional Parks, Contra Costa Water District, Central Fire Protection District and the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District) stations on a daily basis to set the appropriate dispatch levels based on burn indices. A Standard Response is pre-determined for each dispatch level in the event of a wildfire, or other type of fire determined to be a threat to the wildland. Dispatch levels and responses are determined based on the approved Unit Fire Danger Operating Plan.

The ECC maintains an electronic Emergency Resource Directory (ERD). The ERD contains information such as the ICS qualifications for SCU personnel, supplies, vendors, private resources available for hire, call when needed resources (dozers, helicopters, water tenders, etc) Local Government Cooperator information, and other documentation that might be needed for incident response and support. The ERD is updated yearly based on the information obtained from the unit training bureau, unit hired equipment coordinator and field battalion submissions.

The ECC Expanded Operation (SCU Expanded) is a co-located facility that allows for the operation of an incident, which goes beyond the scope of initial attack, to be managed off the main ECC floor. The ECC can then continue to maintain the day-to-day business of the Unit with less distraction. The ECC Expanded building is a state of the art resource ordering operation with 4 desktop computers, 3 printers, a fax phone, internet connectivity for redundancy, 20 phone and data connections, and ample space for 20 people. The SCU Expanded operation is fully functionalized (Crews, Equipment, Overhead, Supplies, and General Information). When an Initial Attack Incident occurs that has the potential to become an extended attack, or major incident, the ECC duty officer can request to open the SCU Expanded. Staffing can be requested by call-back of off duty ECC personnel or by requesting and ECC Support Team be activated by NOPS. Once SCU Expanded is up and running, all ordering for the given incident (with the exception of aircraft) takes place at SCU Expanded. The given incident is assigned a separate Command Frequency to allow the ECC to maintain communications in a normal manner. If the given incident continues to grow additional personnel may be assigned from within SCU, or an order may be placed in ROSS for fill of the overhead positions. The properly staffed Expanded Operation allows for timely resource ordering, cancellation, or reassignment, of resources, reducing the workload of supporting the incident from the ECC main floor.

### **ECC facts:**

- In 2010, the ECC processed 5800 events of which 5203 were created as Incidents. Events include administrative documentation and incidents outside of SCU.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

- The call volume for the ECC has been near the same for the last 3 years.
- The SCU ECC dispatches year round, 24 hrs/ day to process Medical Aids, Vehicle Accidents, Structure Fires, Hazardous Material Incidents, Law Enforcement Activities (for the CAL FIRE Peace Officers), Wildland Fires, Flooding, Earthquakes, Cliff Rescues, River Rescues, Trench Rescues, Helicopter Rescues, Evacuations, Fire Prevention Activities, Terrorist Threats, Industrial Accidents, Other Natural Disasters, and Public Service Requests.

**ECC Goals and Expectations:**

- The ECC will endeavor to meet or exceed the call processing and dispatching recommendations set forth in NFPA 1221 and NENA Standards.
- To hold the public, and fire service personnel safety as the number one priority in relation to ECC responsibilities.
- To strive to improve dispatching capability in the use of the systems provided and available.
- To provide accurate, and timely dispatching services to the population served by the CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit and Cooperators through training, instruction and procedural guidelines.
- To provide a proper notification to CAL FIRE and cooperator resources of all incidents in the Santa Clara Unit based on information collected, the approved standard response plans and the duty officer's knowledge and experience.
- To keep in communications with the Unit Duty Chief and Region Duty Officer as it pertains to the Command and Control structure of CAL FIRE and our cooperators.
- Provide proper notification to the public through designated processes including the media, regarding incidents and events that have a potential effect on their safety.
- To provide proper dispatch levels based upon burn indices, current and expected weather.
- To keep Unit employees and cooperators informed in areas of significance; including burn indices, weather forecasts and emergency events.
- Provide assistance to Unit employees, through education and empowerment, with electronic and automated processes to accomplish required tasks.
- To maintain a positive working relationship with all private and public agencies we encounter.
- Maintain a proper staffing level within the ECC, which will allow for timely processing of calls, accurate tracking of resources, professional radio etiquette and be fiscally conscious.
- To maintain a professional demeanor with all persons we encounter.
- To pursue the newest technology which will enable the ECC to better serve the public, and carry out our command and control objectives.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

- To attend training and maintain proficiency needed to effectively carry out all command, and control functions.
- Maintain efficiency of all tasks required, and perform them in a timely manner.
- Continue to pursue to establish 24-hour Wide-Awake Dispatch Capability at Morgan Hill ECC.
- To continue to work to improve the CAD system to meet the needs of the Unit and our cooperators and provide ease of use to the dispatching staff.
- To maintain a positive attitude towards all personnel working in the ECC, and to always treat others with respect, no matter how trying the situation may be.
- To continue our leadership role in the early recognition of extreme fire weather conditions within the Santa Clara Unit, and to communicate this information to Unit staff and our Cooperators in a timely manner.
- Aggressively initiate the Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) request process as soon as the incident is identified to meet the criteria of any given wildland fire which is damaging, or threatening to damage infrastructure within the Santa Clara Unit.
- To continue our leadership role in the aggressive mitigation of wildfires in the Santa Clara Unit.
- To develop a pool of personnel for filling ECC roles during Peak Fire Season in order for the SCU ECC to meet the Unit's Goals and Objectives.
- To maintain a proper database to use in the event of an emergency to query and activate proper resources to mitigate an event.
- To maintain ECC and Unit telecommunications resources to meet the needs of Unit personnel with fiscal responsibility.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**BATTALION 20 (FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU)**

The Santa Clara Fire Prevention Bureau falls under the direction and supervision of the Unit's Eastbay Division Chief. The Bureau is staffed by a Battalion Chief, one Fire Captain Specialist, one Pre-Fire Engineer, who also doubles as a Fire Captain Specialist, and a Fire Prevention Specialist II (FPS II). All of the Prevention Bureau staff are California Peace Officers, except the FPS II. The Bureau is involved in all areas of prevention and is broken down into three separate, but related functions handled by the individuals assigned to the Bureau, education, engineering and enforcement.

The Volunteers in Prevention program is administered and coordinated by the FPS II. The VIP's currently have 78 members and in 2010 conducted 62 public outreach and education program making an estimated 320,000 personal contacts, 24 news releases, 4,230 Public Resources Code 4291 (LE-100 Defensible Space) inspections, and when combined with other projects donated a total of 6,252 hours of personnel time to fire prevention engineering and education to the unit.

Law Enforcement branch of the Bureau includes; fire investigation (origin and cause determination), issuing citations, and processing criminal complaints with local District Attorneys, and civil cost collections, which are returned to the State General Fund. The Bureau maintains active membership in the Santa Clara and Alameda County Fire Prevention Officers, and Fire Investigation groups, and is currently working to establish an interdisciplinary fire investigation team in Contra Costa County. In addition to these groups the Bureau is actively fostering working relationships with the over 40 other Law Enforcement agencies within the unit's boundaries.

Pre Fire Engineering and Fire Protection Planning are also handled by the Bureau. The majority of the Public Resources Code 4290 inspections are conducted by the local fire department officials in cooperation with the local CAL FIRE Battalion Chief. The reason for having these local agreements is that many of the local agencies have requirements that are more restrictive than Public Resources Code 4291. In addition it makes the process easier for the property owner.

Pre Fire Engineering includes GIS mapping of assets at risk, wild land fuel belts, and the maintenance of various other GIS data layers for use in planning and implementing fuel reduction projects. The Bureau also provides technical support to for three Fire Safe Council's active in the unit, South Santa Clara County Fire Safe, Santa Clara Fire Safe, Diablo Fire Safe, and to the Hills Emergency Forum, a working group formed after the Tunnel Fire to address projects in the LRA and interface areas of the East Bay Hills and surrounding communities. With input and cooperation from these groups, and the associated stake holders, the Pre-Fire Engineer establishes goals and projects in the Unit's Fire Management Plan to reduce the threat of large damaging fires. The Fire Management Plan is the Unit's template for fuels reduction projects including pending, on going, and completed projects. The Unit's Fire Plan allows us to respond to the needs and concerns of the public and identifies projects to be funded through cooperative grants and donations.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

Through the functions of education, engineering and enforcement, the goal of the Santa Clara Fire Prevention Bureau is working to reduce unplanned ignitions within the unit, limit damage caused by uncontrolled fires, through the use of education, pre fire mitigation projects, patrol, and law enforcement to meet the mission statement of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

**Education and (Volunteer in Prevention)/VIP:**

The SCU VIP Program assists the Unit in a variety of Fire Prevention Activities. The Unit currently utilizes the VIP's to help support community outreach events, defensible space inspections (LE-100 Program), home and garden shows, educational events, staffing Copernicus Lookout and supporting the Unit during fires. The VIP's accumulated approximately 2500 hours of service during 2010.

**Pre- Fire Engineering:**

The Unit's Pre- Fire Engineer (PFE) continues to support the local Fire Safe Council's, other fire departments, public agencies and other programs by sharing information and products. The future work load of the Unit's PFE may increase dramatically, if the Governor's proposed changes to the State Responsibility Areas advance beyond the concept level. If the changes to the Unit's SRA are significant, additional assistance would be required.

**Enforcement:**

Bureau members continue to actively enforce the various state laws regarding fires. The Bureau personnel wrote approximately 10 fire related citations and 15 non-fire related citations in 2010.

Approximately 20 Civil Cost recovery cases were processed by the Unit and Region personnel in 2010. The approximate dollar amount for these cases is \$2,000,000.00.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**AUTOMOTIVE BATTALION**

Santa Clara Unit's (SCU) Automotive Battalion encompasses portions of five counties: Santa Clara, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Joaquin and Stanislaus. The Automotive Battalion has five program areas that require automotive equipment and maintenance. The five programs are: the South Santa Clara County Fire District Schedule A Program, the Sunol Schedule A Program, the Sunshine Amador Contract, the Pacheco Amador Program and the California State wildland protection funded fire equipment. To maintain the required mobile equipment spread over portions of five counties, there is a great need to have three automotive repair shops. They are located at the Morgan Hill Fire Station, the Sunol Fire Station and the Del Puerto Station. This placement reduces travel times, fuel costs and allows for repairs or maintenance on multiple pieces of mobile equipment simultaneously. The Heavy Fire Equipment Operators (HFEOs) assist the SCU's Heavy Equipment Mechanics (HEM) with automotive repairs, maintain state fire breaks and roads and participate in VMPs when not assigned to wildland fire incidents. The Fleet Equipment Manager (FEM) directs and manages the SCU's Automotive Battalion. The FEM manages the automotive budget, assigns repair projects, projects automotive needs of the future and coordinates equipment replacement.

The automotive battalion attempts to maintain each piece of mobile equipment in a condition consistent with the work for which it was designed. This is accomplished through the uniform application of an effective, preventive maintenance program in accordance with all state automotive and fiscal requirements. Repairs are made and parts replaced as necessary to keep the equipment functional, with priority being given to those items contributing to personnel safety. Mobile equipment is not altered or modified except, as outlined in the CAL FIRE Mobile Equipment Handbook. Approval for modifications or alteration is granted in writing by the appropriate level.

Regular inspections of all mobile equipment area made as outlined in the preventive maintenance procedure and record. The Automotive Battalion maintains accurate records of maintenance and repairs on all mobile equipment. As much as possible, major repairs are scheduled during the time of least expected incident activity. The Type III fire apparatus have the majority of maintenance performed during the winter months and construction equipment used in the winter months are maintained during summer. This system helps reduce occurrences of breakdown during those times when the equipment is needed most.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**Automotive Equipment Statistical Data:**

Santa Clara Unit has eighty pieces of equipment.

17	Type 3 (Wildland Engines)	3	Fire Suppression Bulldozers
6	Type 1 (Structural Engines)	3	Transports
1	Mobile Breathing Support Unit	2	Low Bed Trailers
1	District Squad Vehicle 4x4	1	Grader
1	1200 gallon Heli-tender (helicopter support vehicle)	1	Front End Loader
1	Helitack Van (personnel transport)	2	Stakeside
1	Helitack Trailer	1	Dump Truck
24	Utility vehicles (four wheel drive)	1	Forklift
2	Service Units (Mobile repair vehicles)	1	Portable Cement Mixer
1	Mobile Communications Unit (VIP)	1	Portable Air Compressor
3	Sedans	2	Water Tenders
1	Supply Van	1	75 ft. Ladder Truck
2	Dozer Tenders (bulldozer service units)		

The combined mileage for the fire equipment and support vehicles assigned to the Santa Clara Unit averages **883,899** miles per year. This is equivalent to traveling around the earth's equator 3.5 times. This exacts a much heavier toll on the equipment than what would normally occur though out the industry due to the type of operating in rough terrain. Replacement of equipment is not keeping pace with the expected wear out dates, although some improvement has occurred during the last three years. The FEM is seeking additional revenue sources to assist with equipment replacement. When automotive equipment has been replaced with new models, training and enhancing repair skills for this equipment becomes necessary. Certification in these types of repairs is a requirement in order to maintain a cost effective and safe repair program. In addition to repair skills, road maintenance and fire suppression training must also occur.

Statistics indicate that fifty six percent of fire suppression equipment that was ten years old or older and eighty percent of support vehicles has been replaced. Automotive Fleet is not the only focus for the Automotive Battalion, the replacement of the forty five year old headquarters shop in Morgan Hill initiated several years ago, has finally been completed 2010. The Patterson Transport Dozer storage facility is now under construction and should be completed before the 2011 Fire Season begins. The FEM is committed to working with the Department of General Services to construct / retrofit a professional automotive repair facility now in the Eastern portion of Santa Clara Unit located in Stanislaus County along the Interstate-5 corridor.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**Automotive Battalion Goals:**

- Enhance skills and certifications of the automotive staff in order to stay current with automotive technology changes.
- Maintain the Unit's emergency response equipment in a safe, incident ready status.
- Continue to operate a cost effective and efficient automotive operation.
- Coordinate with the Unit's Vegetation Management Program manager to maintain fuel breaks and fire roads.
- Work closely with DGS and Region Technical Services with construction / refurbishing of the Patterson Automotive Repair Facility.

**Accomplishments 2008 – 2011:**

- The Unit's Heavy Equipment Mechanics attended Allison Transmission Heavy Fire Equipment training along with Waterous Pump Theory classes. The HEMs attended multi-plex electrical chassis class for heavy fire apparatus equipment. Six newly hired Heavy Fire Equipment Operators attended a six week course of Company Officer Training.
- The annual maintenance for the automotive fleet has been completed and all fire suppression engines have been pump tested. Ten new fire apparatus were purchased, eight State Type 3 4x4's and two Type 1 Pumpers for South Santa Clara County Fire District.
- The construction of the new Morgan Hill automotive repair shop facility is completed.
- The Pacheco Peak road repair project has been completed. Improvements to the Loma Chiquita and Loma Prieta firebreaks were made during the winter months. The HFEOs are improving the fuel breaks on the eastern and western boundaries of Henry Coe Park.
- Supplied the automotive staff with lap top computers and programs current with automotive technology.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**SAFETY BATTALION**

The Santa Clara Unit's sphere of influence includes portions of Santa Clara, Stanislaus, Alameda, San Joaquin and Contra Costa Counties. It shares jurisdictional boundaries with: 35 separate city fire departments and fire protection districts; Mount Diablo and Henry Coe State Parks; East Bay Regional Parks District; and Santa Clara County parks. The SCU Safety Battalion actively participates in the Santa Clara County, Contra Costa, and Alameda Counties Safety Officer's Associations. In addition, the SCU Safety Battalion Chief participates in regular meetings with the: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Counsel; East Bay Regional Parks District; Mount Diablo and Henry Coe State Parks; Morgan Hill Police Department; Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, and other responding agencies..

The Safety Battalion oversees the quarterly Safety Committee meetings: to discuss Safety issues; review personnel and vehicle accidents; recommend steps to prevent future mishaps: ensure the department's safety requirements and safety programs are being adhered to in the fire stations and on incidents. Listed below is the Santa Clara Unit Safety Committee Charter.

**Membership:**

- Unit Safety Officer
- 1 Representative from each Battalion:
  - Battalion 1
  - Battalion 2
  - Battalion 3
  - Battalion 4
  - Battalion 5
  - Battalion 6
  - Battalion 7
- 1 Representative from each Unit Special Function:
  - Administration/Office Staff
  - Automotive
  - Emergency Command Center
  - Helitack
  - Prevention
  - Training
- Invitation will be extended to Volunteer Fire Organizations within the Unit's Sphere of Influence:
  - Casa Loma Volunteers

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

- Ormsby Volunteers
  - Spring Valley Volunteers
  - Stevens Creek Volunteers
  - Uvas Volunteers
- Invitation will be extended to our Local Cooperators within the Unit and/or the Unit Safety Officer will attend Local Cooperator Safety Committee Meetings

**Responsibilities:**

- Develop Santa Clara Unit Program Goals and Objectives.
- Review accident reports to determine causation and develop prevention recommendations. Develop a Lessons Learned educational format to disseminate info back out to the Unit for Safety Review.
- Recommend Guidelines and Programs for safety Education and Training.
- Exchange ideas to improve methods of Operation.
- Take an active role in the Unit wide safety inspections to address concerns with Health and Safety issues at all Unit facilities.
- Developing recommendations regarding Policy and Programs to:
  - Promulgate Safety Regulations and Standards
  - Establish Safety Goals
  - Review needs for Safety Clothing and Equipment (PPE)
  - Develop check sheets and techniques for Safety Inspections
  - Define major hazards and recommend corrective actions
- Disseminate safety information to keep managers, supervisors, and employees informed of Safety Hazards and Prevention Techniques
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Unit's Safety Program on an annual basis
- Review IIPP 8 submitted by employees and follow through with solutions and reply back to the employees in a timely manner.

**Meetings:**

- Frequency - The Santa Clara Unit Safety Committee will conduct meetings on a quarterly basis but will have no less than 2 meetings per year. This will depend on activity level. One before the beginning of Peak Fire season and one at the close of Peak Fire Season.
- Meeting locations shall be shifted to locations throughout the Unit to assist with attendance and interest.
- Minutes will be developed for each meeting and disseminated to the Santa Clara Unit on a timely basis. These minutes will be posted at each Unit Facility.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

- Minutes will be forwarded to the Region Safety Office and the Departmental Safety Officer when they contain items of Statewide Interest.

The first priority of the Santa Clara Safety Battalion is to provide for the overall safety of the Santa Clara Unit's 100 permanent personnel and 76 seasonal employees.

- Distribute to all Stations the following Documents, in a timely manner, to be utilized for Safety Training Purposes:
  - Focus on Safety
  - Preliminary Accident Reviews(Blue Sheets)
  - Information Sheets on Accidents and near misses(Green Sheets)
  - Safety Stand downs
  - Safety Alerts
  - Safety Advisories
  - Safety Recalls
- The Battalion Staff is comprised of: one SAFETY Battalion Chief

**Objectives:**

- Examine, re-evaluate and recommend changes in SCU's Field Accountability Tracking System (FATS). System changes are needed to effectively protect response personnel during a possible terrorist attack.
- Identify the legal state, local, and federal requirements for safety in each program area.
- Identify safety requirements for contract programs.
- Meet or exceed those Safety standards identified in the CAL FIRE State Health and Safety handbook.
- Identify Safety priorities set by the Unit's senior management.
- Identify the needs of each of the 19 program areas to meet the Safety requirements established by the program managers.
- Identify the Safety needs and requirements of our Cooperative agencies.
- Examine the current tracking and delivery systems. Identify system deficiencies.
- Implement corrective solutions necessary to meet the goals of the Safety Plan.
- Develop control mechanisms to monitor Safety Program efficiency and correct deficiencies.
- Establish a communication system, using current electronic technologies, to deliver information on Safety programs available.
- Work towards enhancing the knowledge and skill levels necessary for safe and effective response to possible weapons of mass destruction incidents.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**Action Plan:**

- Meet with the senior staff review and receive authorization to implement the updated Safety Plan.
- Meet with the supervisors from each program area to provide background information that necessitated the development of the Safety Plan. Present the plan and provide for discussion to ensure that implementation is supported, coordinated and unified.
- Present the plan to the field and begin implementation.
- Finalize the review of the 2010 fiscal year budget expenditures. Project the fiscal year 2011 budget. Make recommendations to the senior staff on how best to plan for future safety operations, when anticipated contract agreements take effect.
- Enhance electronic dissemination of SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENTS – on going.
- Seek outside funding sources – on going
- Develop and implement a Unit Wide Physical Fitness Program to be monitored by an assigned Physical Fitness Coordinator.
- Monitor the new IAPS(Injury and Illness and Accident Prevention System Program :
  - Trends in injuries and/or accidents Unit wide
  - Assist in developing safety programs to lower the risk of injuries and accidents
  - Create the Unit OSHA 300 form which must be posted each year at every Unit facility
  - Monitor and update the IIPP Program Unit wide

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

**TRAINING BATTALION**

The Santa Clara Unit's sphere of influence includes portions of Santa Clara, Stanislaus, Alameda, San Joaquin and Contra Costa Counties. It shares jurisdictional boundaries with: 35 separate city fire departments and fire protection districts; Mount Diablo and Henry Coe State Parks; East Bay Regional Parks District; and Santa Clara County parks. Joint training is held with the: State EMS; the AMR Ambulance Company; 5 different Sheriff Offices; California Highway Patrol and various city police departments.

The SCU Training Battalion personnel actively participate in the Santa Clara County, Contra Costa County, and Alameda County Training Officer's Associations. In addition, the SCU Battalion Chiefs participate in regular meetings with the: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council, East Bay Regional Parks District, Mount Diablo State Park, Henry Coe State Park, Morgan Hill Police Department, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and other responding agencies. The Battalion Chiefs assist these agencies with wildland fire training exercises and provide the Training Battalion with a list of training needs so joint operations may take place. This provides for cost effective operations and allows for enhanced interagency partnerships.

To accomplish the training objectives in 2010, the Battalion provided a total of 26,000 student contact hours to 100 Company Officers, 134 Firefighter I's, 90 Volunteer Firefighters, and other local cooperators. There are also numerous training hours logged by all the permanent personnel using Target Safety, an online training program. There was also a significant amount of staff time spent to coordinate students, courses, and instructors, recording and tracking training, and ensuring those newly qualified trainees are listed in the statewide ROSS.

The first priority of the Santa Clara Training Staff is to provide for the overall safety of our 100 permanent personnel and 134 seasonal employees through instructional programs that target operational efficiency with emphasis on safe operating procedures in all aspects of fire and emergency operations. The Training Battalion's responsibility is to also facilitate and to ensure coordination for the unit-wide training plan, match training courses with approved personnel training requests, maintain a central location for updated training records for all employees.

The Battalion Staff comprises of one Battalion Chief, one Fire Captain, and two engine Captains that work in training during non-peak staffing. The Training Staff is responsible for training five Volunteer Fire Company's in Santa Clara County under a contract with the county. The Staff continually strives to provide creative, cost effective, innovative training, and always providing the highest commitment to safety. The state-funded training operations, which are divided into 18 separate program areas, are a seven-day a week operation, and listed below are:

- Administrative and Office staff
- Battalion Chiefs
- Company Officers

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

- Firefighters
- Training
- Emergency Command Center
- Alma Helitack
- Fire Prevention
- Automotive Fleet Maintenance
- Pre-fire Engineering
- Joint Apprenticeship Program
- Vegetation Management
- Emergency Medical Services
- Hazardous Materials Responses
- Volunteer Firefighters
- Volunteers-in-Prevention
- Fire Safe Counsels
- Joint-Agency Operations

**Objectives:**

- Examine, re-evaluate, and recommend changes in SCU's Field Accountability Tracking System (FATS).
- Identify the legal state and federal requirements for training in each program area.
- Identify training requirements for contract programs.
- Meet or exceed those training standards identified in the CAL FIRE State Training handbook.
- Identify training priorities set by the Unit's senior management.
- Identify the needs of each of the 18 program areas to meet the training requirements established by the program managers.
- Identify projected vacancies and the training requirements necessary to help those personnel filling those vacancies function successfully.
- Identify the needs of each employee to help achieve career development goals.
- Identify CAL FIRE'S new training programs in the early stages of development, project their impact and develop an implementation plan.
- Identify the training needs of our partner agencies.
- Examine the current tracking and delivery systems. Identify system deficiencies. Implement corrective solutions necessary to meet the goals of the Training Plan.
- Develop control mechanisms to monitor program efficiency and correct deficiencies.
- Establish a communication system, using current electronic technologies, to deliver information on training programs available.
- Seek alternative funding sources in the form of grants, participation with universities and sharing courses with other agencies.

**Santa Clara Unit  
Strategic Fire Plan, 2011**

---

- Work towards enhancing the knowledge and skill levels necessary for safe and effective response to possible weapons of mass destruction incidents.
- Compile information derived from objectives listed above. Establish a training priority list. Develop a Training Plan with achievable goals for the Training and Safety Battalion. Set timeframes necessary to meet those goals.

**Action Plan:**

- Meet with the senior staff review and receive authorization to implement the updated Training Plan.
- Meet with the supervisors from each program area to provide background information that necessitated the development of the Training Plan. Present the plan and provide for discussion to ensure that implementation is supported, coordinated and unified.
- Present the plan to the field and begin implementation.
- Review and update the Unit's Emergency Resources Directory (ERD).
- Finalize the review of the 2010 fiscal year budget expenditures. Project the fiscal year 2011 budget. Make recommendations to the senior staff on how best to plan for future training and safety operations, when anticipated contract agreements take effect.
- Determine the training needs for the Northern Region Training allocations meeting. Allocation meeting beginning of May.
- Make student selections to fill the allocated training slots and advise the program managers for their planning purposes.
- Enhance electronic dissemination of training announcements – on going.
- Seek outside funding sources – on going.