

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

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

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

**Battalion 3**

CAL FIRE Battalion 3 is 185,062 acres and encompasses portions of El Dorado and Amador counties. Within Amador County the communities of Pioneer, Pine Grove, Volcano, and Lockwood are within the Battalion. The fuel types in the Battalion range from 45% timber, 48% brush, to 7% grass/oak woodland.

Like many areas in the Sierra Nevada's there exists a significant wildland-urban interface (WUI) problem within Battalion 3. There are several large, well populated subdivisions within Battalion 3 that are at risk from a catastrophic fire occurrence.

Battalion 3 consists of two CAL FIRE stations, a Conservation Camp, one un-staffed lookout, and Mount Zion State Forest (160 acres). Pine Grove station, in Pine Grove, has two engines, while Dew Drop station, east of Pioneer, and has one engine. Pine Grove Conservation Camp provides four hand crews. Pine Grove station is staffed year-round. Our northern most station, Dew Drop / Station 10, located along Highway 88 is staffed with an engine and crew during the fire seasons. Dew Drop station is also staffed with an engine and crew by the El Dorado National Forest during the fire season.

Battalion 3 shares its boundaries with three local CAL FIRE agencies. These fire districts are; Pioneer Fire, partially in El Dorado County, Lockwood Fire, and Amador Fire Protection District in Amador County. A close working relationship is maintained with each district as well as with the USFS.

## **Battalion 4**

CAL FIRE Battalion 4 is 367,983 acres in size and encompasses portions of Amador, Sacramento, and San Joaquin counties. The fuel types in the Battalion range from 14% timber, to 33% brush, and 49% grass/oak woodland.

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

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

### **Cooperating Fire Agencies**

The CAL FIRE Academy and fifteen Amador County fire departments lie, at least partially, within the Battalion. The local CAL FIRE departments include: the Amador Fire Protection District, Lone City Fire, Jackson City Fire, Jackson Rancheria Casino, Jackson Valley Fire Protection District, Lockwood Fire Protection District, Mule Creek State Prison Fire, Plymouth City Fire, and Sutter Creek Fire Protection District.

CAL FIRE and the above fire departments serve the following Amador County communities: Buena Vista, Carbondale, Comanche, Fiddletown, Ione, Jackson, Jackson Rancheria Casino Fire, Martell, Plymouth, River Pines, and Sutter Creek.

## *El Dorado County*

El Dorado County consists of 459,863 acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area and is divided into all or portions of CAL-FIRE Battalion's 1,2,3,5 and 8 (See Appendix B for Battalion Boundaries Map)

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

### **Battalion 1**

Battalion 1 encompasses approximately 309,544 acres in El Dorado and Sacramento counties. El Dorado County communities within the Battalion include Camino, Diamond Springs, El Dorado, El Dorado Hills, Pioneer, Logtown, Latrobe, Nashville, Cameron Park, Placerville, Pleasant Valley, Pollock Pines, Rescue, and Shingle Springs.

Battalion 1 is an active Battalion in the Amador El Dorado Unit in regards to vegetation fire response and has the highest urban interface population density in the Unit. In 2010, Battalion 1 had the highest number of vegetation fire ignitions in the Amador El Dorado Unit. Within Battalion 1 there are two CAL FIRE facilities and two fire lookout/communication infrastructure sites.

### **Camino Fire Station 20 and Amador El Dorado Unit Headquarters**

Camino Fire Station 20 houses 1 frontline Type III Fire Engine and one reserve Type III fire engine. In addition, it houses the Battalion utility vehicle. Camino Fire Station was built in 1936 with additions completed in the 1950's and 1960's. It was built for the protection of, and continues to provide service to the surrounding lands owned by private timber companies. The Fire Station shares the compound with the Unit Administrative Headquarters, the Unit Emergency Command Center, the Unit Expanded Dispatch Center, and the Regional DGS Radio Technician Offices. In addition, the facility houses Mt. Danaher Fire Lookout. This lookout is not currently in service, but is registered with the National Historic Lookout Association and is the tallest free standing lookout tower in California.

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

### **El Dorado Fire Station 43 and North Division Automotive Shop**

El Dorado Fire Station 43 houses two frontline Type III fires engines and 1 type II Fire Dozer and Transport. It also houses the Dozer Tender Unit and is the Battalion Chief Headquarters. The Fire Station shares the compound and is responsible for the North Division Automotive Shop. This facility serves as the Fleet Equipment Manager office and is staffed with 1 full time mechanic. The shop provides fleet support for all of the North Division as well as the staff

vehicles at the Unit Administrative Headquarters and assists with support to the Cameron Park Fire Department Schedule A contract.

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

El Dorado Fire Station 43 responded to 779 incidents in 2010, up from 709 incidents in 2009. These responses were between May 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 and Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. This represents the timelines that the fire station is fully staffed. Of those 703 incidents, 14% were vegetation fires in SRA.

The Battalion enjoys cooperative relationships with local CAL FIRE agencies that lay within Battalion 1. In addition, the Battalion values a close working relationship with the federal land management agencies including the USDA Forest Service and the USDI Bureau of Land Management.

The Local CAL FIRE Agencies that lie within Battalion 1 boundary lines are:

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

## **Battalion 2**

CAL FIRE Battalion 2 lies primarily on the Georgetown Divide in northern El Dorado County. The communities of Georgetown, Garden Valley, Pilot Hill, Mosquito, Kelsey, Coloma, and Auburn Lake Trails are within the Battalion. The total area of the Battalion is 128,454 acres. Fuel types within the Battalion range from 19% timber, 54% brush, to 27% grass/oak woodland.

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

Battalion 2 consists of two CAL FIRE stations, a Conservation Camp, and one un-staffed lookout. Garden Valley station and Pilot Hill station are each two engine stations, with Growlersburg Conservation Camp, located outside of Georgetown, providing five hand crews.

Five local agency fire districts lie, at least partially, within Battalion 2. These fire districts are; Garden Valley, Georgetown, Mosquito, Rescue, and El Dorado County Fire. A close working relationship is maintained with each district as well as with the USFS.

### **Cooperators/Collaborators**

CAL FIRE AEU and NEU

ALT Fire Safe Council and Homeowners Association

California Department of Parks and Recreation

United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation



## Battalion 5 - CAMERON PARK

### General Information

<b>Location:</b>	West Slope, El Dorado County, California
<b>Geographic Coordinates:</b>	W120°-59'-15" ; N38°-41'-02" (@ Cameron Airport)
<b>Area:</b>	8.5 square miles (5,440 acres)
<b>Terrain:</b>	Foothills
<b>Elevation:</b>	Low 1000' (Cameron Estates) Mid 1250' (Cameron Airport) High 1600' (Pine Hill Preserve)
<b>Land Use:</b>	Residential (70%); Recreational (10%); Commercial (8%); Nature Preserve (6%); Industrial (3%); Airport (2%); Highway (1%)
<b>Population (2010 Est.):</b>	18,225
<b>Housing:</b>	Single Family – 5,588 Dwelling Units Multifamily – 1,298 Dwelling Units

## Community History

Cameron Park is a foothill community on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada mountain range in El Dorado County. Established as a community services district in the 1960's, the community initially consisted of several hundred residents living around a championship golf course and a small commuter airport located on the Highway 50 corridor.



*The Cameron Park Country Club is located in a central valley at the south end of the community. In this view from the clubhouse (facing northwest) a ridge in the background rises approximately 300 feet above the fairway. Many homes are nestled into dense concentrations of highly flammable, mature, brush along Woodleigh Lane and*



*The adjoining streets located on the top of this ridge. The Cameron Park Airport sits in the central part of the valley immediately north of the golf course. In this view of the runway (facing northwest) surrounding homes can barely be seen through dense stands of oak woodland and brush.*

## Community Development

Since the Cameron Park Community Services District was formed in 1961, more than 5,500 single family homes, 1200 dwelling units (multi-family complexes), commercial buildings, retail centers, industrial plants, and schools have developed in an eight and one-half square mile area. The population has grown from 400 residents to an estimated 18,225 residents. The community development is in areas where buildings and combustible vegetation are collocated in an environment referred to as a **wildland-urban interface**.



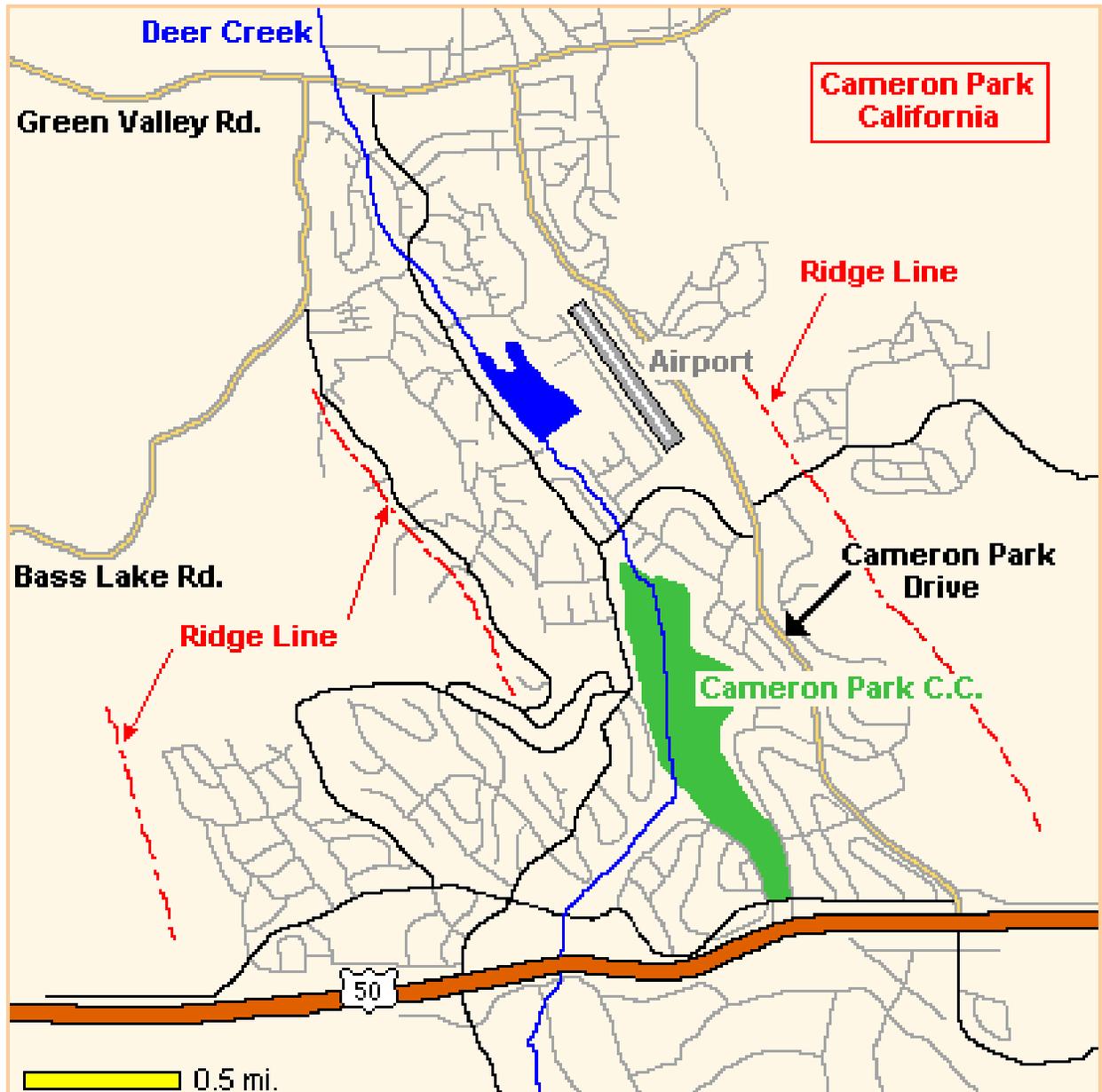
*Commercial buildings - In the background is a dense stand of brush near a retirement community and Marshall Hospital. Some private homes can be seen along the ridge top with the brush field below them.*

*Much of the commercial and residential development in the District is surrounded by a dense stand of native flammable vegetation. In this case Manzanita, Chemise, and Digger Pines are in close proximity to the building.*



## Geography

The general topography of the area consists of a central valley along the Deer Creek drainage, approximately ½ mile wide with a northwest/southeast orientation. The golf course, airpark, a 40 acre lake, and surrounding residences are the primary features in the valley. The elevation at the valley floor is in the range of 1200 to 1300 feet above sea level. Much of the valley is enclosed between ridges to the east and west sides. The ridge tops rise 300 to 400 feet above the valley floor. Slopes leading up to the ridge tops range from approximately 15% to 35%.



## The Wildland-Urban Interface Problem

Development in Cameron Park has created a wildland-urban interface condition in an area with mature stands of brush, and dense oak woodland forests. Manzanita and Chemise are the most common brush species reaching heights greater than 10 feet. There is a large amount of dead material in the brush. Oak species include large varieties such as Blue Oak and Valley Oak. However most of the trees are of the smaller brushy varieties such as Live Oak or Holly Oak.

Some areas of the community, mostly the lower elevations and gentler slopes, include seasonal dry grasses. There are several areas of open space in the community ranging from 5 acres to 300 acres. Some of the open, space such as the golf course, airport, and Cameron Park Lake, have been cleared of flammable vegetation. Much of the open space such as undeveloped lots and preserve lands (Pine Hill Preserve), are covered with flammable vegetation providing areas in and around the community where a large wildfire could become established.



*A large patch of brush located on the east side of a ridge, below Woodleigh Lane. To the right a subdivision of new homes has been carved into the hillside. At the bottom of the hill is the Deer Creek drainage which passes through Cameron Park Lake (right side of photo).*

Residential development throughout the district includes the valley floor, ridge tops, and the slopes that lead up to the ridge tops. Many of the

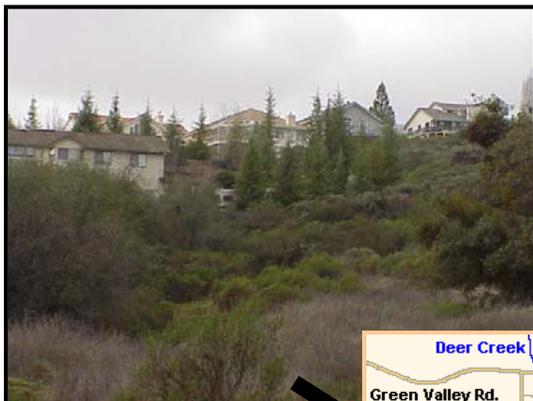
homes were built in the 1970's and 1980's, before the County of El Dorado adopted standards for roof construction. Homes with wood siding, wood decks, and shake roofs, nestled into heavy fuels on steep slopes are common. Currently, the average density of homes in the community is approximately 1 home per acre (5,180 residences in 8.5 square miles). However, residential lot sizes typically range in the  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre size, providing for densities in some areas of more than four times the average. Many of the residential roads in the community are narrow, winding, and do not support 2-way traffic when cars are parked on the road sides, thus complicating fire suppression and evacuation procedures.

## Typical Wildland-Urban Interface Conditions

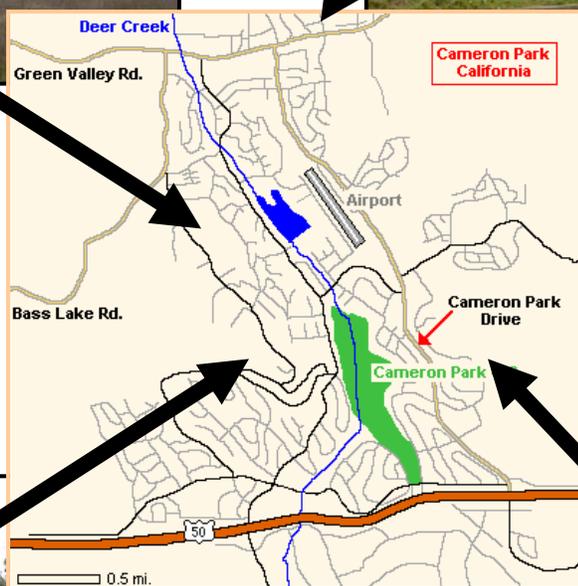
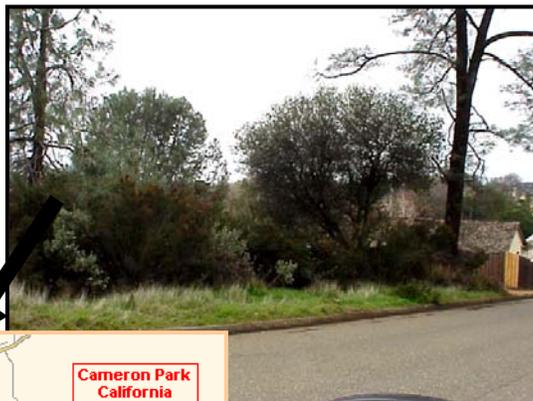
Although the most recent subdivisions have required fire safe plans, the wildland-urban interface problem remains a hazard throughout the community. Development between 1950 and 1990 typically did not remove or modify combustible vegetation sufficiently to eliminate the

fire risk. Newer subdivisions since 1990 have created a fire safe environment within the subdivision, however flammable vegetation often remains around the perimeter. Below are some typical examples of wildland-urban interface conditions in the community.

Woodleigh Lane



Royce Drive



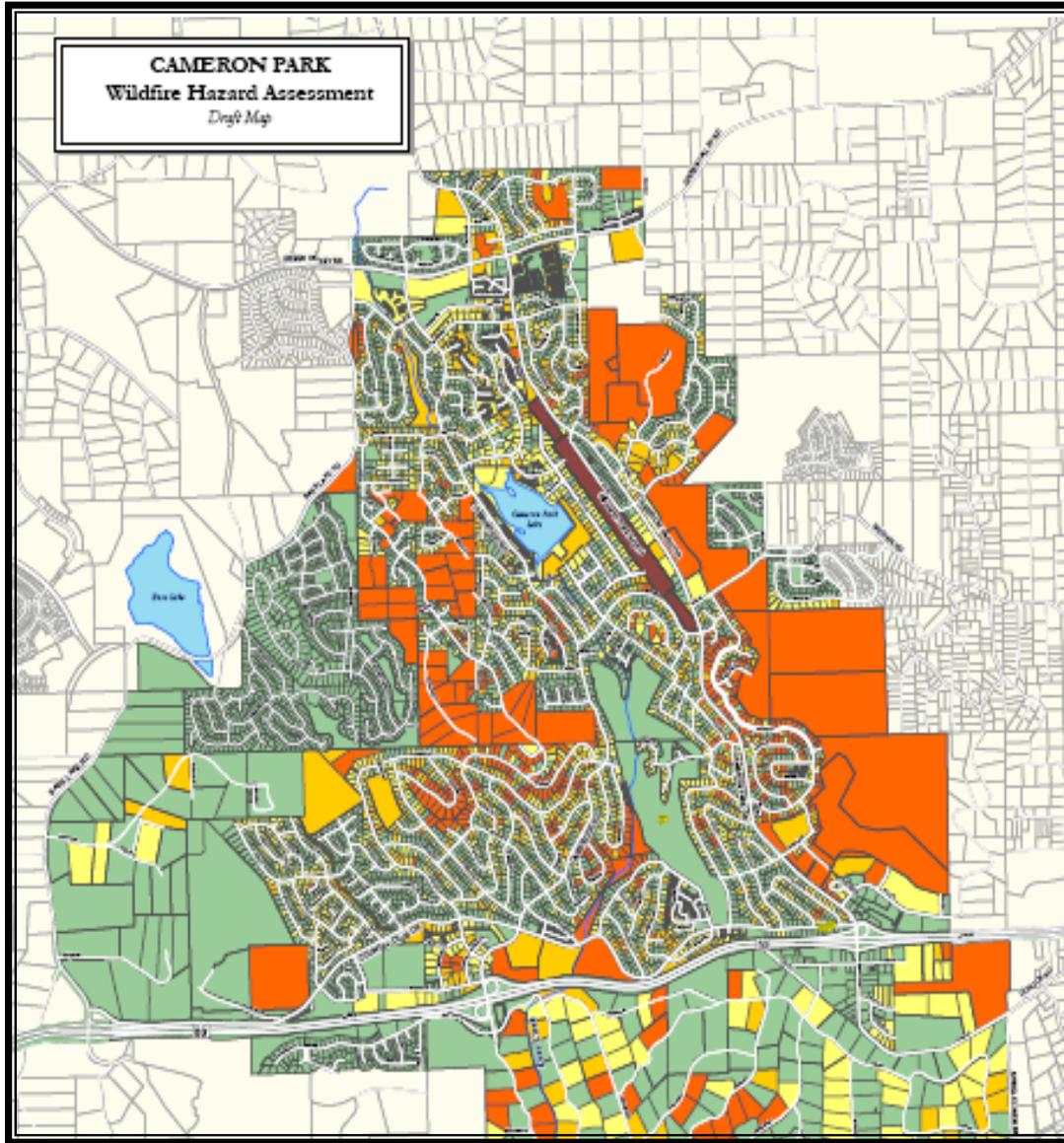
Knollwood Drive



Sudbury Road

# Cameron Park Wild Fire Community Hazard and Risk Assessment

The Cameron Park Fire Safe Planning and Fuels Reduction Project depicts, in detail, the critical CAL FIRE hazard and threat to Cameron Park. This tool allows Cameron Park to prioritize wildland urban interface mitigation projects. The complete geographic inventory of the community identified those areas in most need as “extreme”. Additionally, the Cameron Park Risk Assessment has identified others areas as high, moderate, or low. Attributes assessed to develop this map include: building materials, roof type, fuel type or fuel model, and lot slope and aspect.



Map Prepared January, 2006



## Fire History

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

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



### ***Hickok Fire September 2002***

*The most recent large fire in the Cameron Park area occurred 3 miles north of the community in 2002. The Hickok Fire burned approximately 700 acres of vegetation and threatened dozens of homes in the community of Rescue before it was stopped by firefighters at Deer Valley Road.*

View from Green Valley Road and Cameron Park Drive

*Fortunately the Hickok fire occurred on a day when winds were light (less than 5 mph). Had this fire occurred on a day when winds were blowing from the northwest at 25 mph it most certainly would have burned into, and probably through, the community of Cameron Park.*



View from Cameron Park Airport

## **Cameron Park Fire Safe Project**

A common complaint received by the Cameron Park Fire Department from the public is about their concern for protection from a wildfire emergency. An analysis of emergency incidents in the local area supports the public perception that the greatest threat to the community may be from a destructive wildfire similar in nature to the fire that occurred recently in South Lake Tahoe, the Angora Fire, which started this past summer on June 24, 2007. The Angora Fire burned less than 5 square miles (31000 acres) and destroyed 254 homes and 75 commercial and other structures in one day.

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

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

### **Project Elements**

#### **Planning:**

Cameron Park Fire Safe Bureau  
Cameron Park Fire Safe Council  
Fire Safe Development Plans – PRC 4290  
Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan  
Community Hazard and Risk Assessment

#### **Fuel Reduction:**

Residential Lot Clearing Requirements – PRC 4291  
Vacant Lot Clearing Requirements – H&S 14875 - 14922  
El Dorado County Chipper Program  
Green Waste Program  
Vegetation Management Program  
Curbside Landscaping

#### **Public Education:**

Volunteers in Prevention  
Public Displays  
Demonstration Lots  
Public Recognition  
Hazard Awareness

## Planning Element Description

**Cameron Park Fire Safe Bureau** – The Cameron Park Fire Department has a Fire Safe Bureau to coordinate the districts' efforts towards minimizing costs and losses associated with wildfire emergencies. The Fire Safe Bureau is located at Cameron Park Fire Station 89. The Fire Safe Bureau works with the Cameron Park Fire Safe Council to implement the Cameron Park Fire Safe Project. The Fire Safe Bureau re-focuses the efforts and priorities of the fire department personnel and resources directly on the wildland-urban interface problem.

**Cameron Park Fire Safe Council** – A Fire Safe Council is established in the community. It is a partnership between the fire department and the community for addressing the local wildfire hazard. The Fire Safe Council is a coalition of public and private sector stakeholders including community leaders, residents, business persons, government agencies, the fire department, and other groups and associations committed to developing a "Fire Safe" community in Cameron Park. The Fire Safe Council meets every other month. One member of the Cameron Park Fire Safe Council represents the community at the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council. The active Fire Safe Council is one of the critical elements for this project's success.

**Fire Safe Development Plans (PRC 4290)** – A Fire Safe Plan has been prepared and submitted for project applications for new construction and development within the community. The Fire Safe Plan provides for emergency vehicle access and perimeter wildfire protection measures. Elements of the fire safe plan include standards for road and street networks, water supply standards, building construction, and fuel modification and defensible space. The Department's Fire Safe Bureau works closely with the County of El Dorado Building and Planning to accomplish fire safe projects.

**Cameron Park Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP)** – A preplan for managing wildfire emergencies in and around the community has been developed. The preplan incorporates information developed in the Fire Safe Plan to improve chances for initial attack success in the event of a wildfire emergency. Fuel breaks, water supplies, evacuation routes, staging areas, resource needs, strategies and tactics, etc. are developed for a variety of wildfire scenarios. The pre-plan will be distributed to local CAL FIRE fighters for training and made available to the public for educational purposes.

**Community Hazard and Risk Assessment** – A hazard and risk assessment has been completed for the entire community. The hazard and risk assessment quantifies the threat to persons and property in the community from a wildfire emergency. Factors such as fuel, topography, land use and types of building construction were considered. The hazard and risk assessment is a critical planning tool that directs the efforts of the Fire Safe Bureau.

## Fuel Reduction Element Description

**Residential Lot Clearing Requirements (PRC 4291)** –Residents are required to establish defensible space around the structures on their lots, under the authority of Public Resource Code § 4291. PRC 4291 requires removal of flammable vegetation for

a minimum of 30 feet, and up to 100 feet around structures. Fire department personnel and volunteers make initial inspections. Failure to comply may result in a citation.

**Vacant Lot Clearing Requirements (H&S 14875 – 14922)** – Based on the community hazard and risk assessment, vacant lots are required to remove flammable vegetation under the authority of the Fire District’s weed abatement ordinance. The weed abatement ordinance was established in 2010, by the Board of Directors, under the authority of Health and Safety Code § 14875. Fire Department personnel and volunteers make initial inspections. Failure to comply may result in the fire department contracting for the abatement work and a lien being filed on the property. Failure to comply may result in a citation.

**Chipper Program** – The Cameron Park Fire Department utilizes the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council’s chipper program to support the residential lot clearing efforts. The chipper program provides a cost effective alternative and incentive for property owners to cooperate with the District’s fuel reduction efforts. Chips can be scattered in place on the property owner’s lot, stored in a central location for redistribution, or used as a groundcover in road easements or other areas.

**Fire Resistive Plants** – Ornamental trees, shrubs, and groundcovers that are fire resistive and perform well in the local soil and weather conditions have been identified. Property owners are encouraged to replace native flammable vegetation with fire resistive ornamental plants.

## **Public Education Element Description**

**Volunteers in Prevention (VIP)** – The district has established a *Volunteers in Prevention* program to assist with administration of the Cameron Park Fire Safe Project and public education. The VIP program is administered by CAL-FIRE. VIP’s are utilized for a variety of fire prevention activities including office support, inspections, and public education programs.

**Demonstration Lots** – “Demonstration Lots” have been established around the District featuring two types of fire safe landscaping. One type demonstrates how to thin and prune native vegetation (primarily oak woodland) to reduce its fire danger potential. The other type includes fire resistive ornamental plants that can be used to replace or enhance native plant species.

**Public Displays** – Public education materials are constantly displayed at community events attended by the Fire Department and/or the Fire Safe Council.

**Web Page** – The District’s web page is updated to provide a complete overview of the Cameron Park Fire Safe Project.

**Hazard Awareness and Prevention** – Public education materials have been developed to heighten the awareness of the community towards the dangers of a wildfire emergency and to educate the public on the efforts to reduce the hazard. Materials include maps and information of the fire history in the local area; history of catastrophic wildfires in the state; methods for fuel reduction and fire resistive landscaping; methods for creating defensible space around structures; methods for

preventing the ignition of a wildland fire; and/or a mock newscast of a catastrophic wildfire in the community to present the reality of the danger.

## **Conclusion**

The community of Cameron Park is in an area where high fire danger exists. This Community Fire Safe Project offered by the Cameron Park Fire Department, in cooperation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, addresses the public's concern for fire danger. It has been endorsed by the Cameron Park Fire Safe Council. It is a plan for the continued development of a "Fire Safe" community in Cameron Park. This document is subject to review and revision in the future.

## *Amador-El Dorado-Sacramento-Alpine Unit*

### *Camino Emergency Command Center*

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

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

CICC monitors fire weather conditions within the Unit to augment staffing prior to these weather events. CICC maintains 9 Remote Weather Stations (RAWS), and monitors these stations on a daily basis to set the appropriate dispatch level. A Standard Response Plan is pre-determined for each dispatch level for timely activation in the event of a wildfire, or other type fire which is threatening to burn the wildland.

CICC maintains an Emergency Resource Directory (ERD) which allows personnel to support any given incident within the area. The ERD contains information such as the Incident Command System (ICS) qualifications for AEU, ENF, and TMU personnel, supplies, vendors, private resources available for hire, call when needed rosters (i.e.; dozers, helicopters, water tenders, etc), and Local Government cooperators information.

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

#### **Mission Statement**

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

management, emergency medical response, law enforcement, and rescue service through collaboration.

## **Division 6 /Battalion 8**

The AEU staff is located in South Lake Tahoe (Meyers) and includes a Division Chief (Forester II) and a Battalion Chief. The Division Chief serves as forestry regulator, fire prevention enforcer, lead for both the forestry and fire protection programs and the many related political issues, and Agency Representative during emergencies. The Battalion Chief responsible for fire protection, fire prevention operations, and also is an Agency Representative during emergencies.

Battalion 8 and Division 6 share the same boundary and encompass both El Dorado County within the Lake Tahoe Basin and Alpine County from Bear Valley and east to the Nevada border. The SRA lands within the entire Battalion/Division are protected by the United State Forest Service under the Cooperative Management Agreement (CFMA). CAL FIRE assists with prescribed burning operations and fuel reduction funding and operations throughout Battalion 8.

The El Dorado County area of the Battalion encompasses approximately 16,000 acres of SRA land and is protected through the CFMA agreement from wildfire by the USFS Tahoe Management Unit. El Dorado County communities within the Battalion include Meyers, South Lake Tahoe, Fallen Leaf, Meeks Bay, Rubicon Bay and Tahoma.

The Alpine County area of the Battalion encompasses approximately 45,136 acres of SRA land and is protected from wildfire through the CFMA agreement by the USFS Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. Alpine County communities within the Battalion include Markleeville, Woodfords, Bear Valley, and Kirkwood.

## **EL DORADO COUNTY-LAKE TAHOE BASIN**

The elevation of the SRA lands of Battalion 8 within the Lake Tahoe Basin ranges from 6,200 feet (lake level) to upwards of 7,382 feet (Echo Summit). The SRA lands are primarily at lake level and characterized by the Upper Montane vegetative community, consisting of a mix of ponderosa pine at the lowest elevation, white fir, incense cedar, Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, lodgepole pine, and red fir at the higher elevations.

Historically, the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas surrounding Lake Tahoe burned frequently from lightning strikes with a return interval of between 7 and 15 years. However, very little of these WUI areas have been burned by lightning and human-caused ignition sources combined. In recent years, the Tahoe Basin has experienced larger fires, such as the 2002 Gondola Fire, 2007 Angora Fire, and the 2007 Washoe Fire.

The difference between the threat of catastrophic fire to the Lake Tahoe Basin and the threat of catastrophic fire to other areas of California and Nevada is the presence of Lake Tahoe itself. Lake Tahoe is one of the few areas in America that warranted creation by two neighboring states, as well as Congress, of a planning authority to oversee its protection, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

On June 24, 2007 the Angora Fire destroyed 254 homes and 3,100 acres of timberland near South Lake Tahoe. Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger acted upon the communities' requests for a fire and fuels policy review. Together, through a Memorandum of Understanding on June 25, 2007, they created the California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission to review the laws, policies, and practices that contribute to the vulnerability of the Tahoe Basin to wildfires. This task was completed May 2008. The California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission's report includes 48 findings and 90 recommendations. They are organized into six categories that address short-term and long-term needs, policy changes, education, funding, governmental structures, and environmental practices related to Lake Tahoe's vulnerability to wildfire. CAL FIRE was a key part of the commission's recommendations regarding fire suppression, fire prevention, and fuel reduction.

On May 27, 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger declared a State of Emergency for Placer and El Dorado counties, and issued a Proclamation which directed CAL FIRE to:

- Conduct vigorous defensible space inspections, provide public education about defensible space and impose fines or liens if appropriate
- Staff additional fire engines and other firefighting resources in the area as conditions dictate

With respect to all matters within the Tahoe Basin, the Commission determined that protection of life, property, and the environment be served in that order of priority (Recommendations 78 and 89). In that regard, the Commission recommended a number of actions involving CAL FIRE as follows:

- Enhance fire suppression resources within the Basin including revision of the "Balance of Acres" agreement between the State of California and federal authorities to assure that the Basin receives 24/7 fire protection services at a level equal to other state responsibility areas in California (Finding 37; Recommendations 10 and 75)
- Re-introduce CAL FIRE's presence within the Basin (Recommendation 76)
- Make fuels reduction projects in areas within and adjacent to the Basin's communities the first priority by all agencies (Recommendations 69 and 89)

### **Tahoe Station 5**

The Governor's Proclamation (Recommendation 75) mandated that CAL FIRE "secure and deploy additional resources...to protect the safety of persons and property from wildfires within the counties of Placer and El Dorado during the periods of elevated fire risk." To meet the Commission's recommendation for AEU, CAL FIRE's Director authorized one CAL FIRE engine be stationed at the south end of Lake Tahoe. The engine was stationed in Meyers, at a volunteer fire station owned by the Lake Valley Fire Protection District (Station 5). The presence of the AEU Tahoe engine was discontinued in the Governor's FY 2011 due to budget shortfall. The following are the accomplishments performed by the AEU Tahoe engine during fire seasons 2008-2011.

## **Battalion 20 Fire Prevention**

### **Introduction**

AEU is located in the North Central Sierra. It includes Amador, El Dorado, Alpine as well as portions of Sacramento and San Joaquin counties. AEU encompasses a total of 2,667,841 acres; of this, 1,047,384 acres is State Responsibility Area (SRA), and AEU's Direct Protection Area (DPA) serves 903,860 acres. The United States Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation manage lands that are protected by the Unit. Conversely, the Forest Service provides direct wildland fire protection to private lands, or SRA, that are within the Eldorado National Forest, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

The Unit contains all or part of three major watersheds. These watersheds contain the Middle and South Forks of the American River, the North Fork of the Mokelumne River and all three Forks of the Cosumnes River. Numerous water agencies and power companies utilize these watersheds for hydroelectric power generation and irrigation purposes.

### **Fire History**

The Unit's fire history is one of numerous small fires with large fires occurring every thirty to forty years. The last large fire was the Rancheria Creek Fire in 1961 at 34,104 acres. Over the past twenty years population growth and development in the wildland-urban interface have placed additional homes and businesses at risk from vegetation fires. Both large and small fires often create wildland-urban interface fire protection problems, previously only found in the most densely populated areas of Southern California.

Historically, the largest fires in AEU are aligned east to west. This is particularly evident in Amador County. The east to west orientation is due to two factors: 1) prevailing winds and 2) terrain. El Dorado and Sacramento Counties are more likely to experience fires which run from north to south - especially at the lower elevations. However, large fires in El Dorado County also follow a similar east to west orientation as those in Amador County.

### **2012 Fire Incident Documentation Policy**

It is the goal of the Unit to investigate all fires according to established procedures, quickly identify arson or potential civil cost recovery fires, and to staff and manage investigations adequately and cost effectively. Fire incident documentation is critical to the development of the Unit's Ignition Management Plan.

In 2012, the Fire Prevention Bureau updated the Unit's Fire Incident Documentation Policy. The new policy directive should streamline the reporting and investigation of vegetation fires.

**All wildland fires require a full LE-66.** A wildland fire is defined as any uncontrolled vegetation fire which threatens to destroy life, property or resources and is either:

- a. Unattended; or
- b. Attended by persons unable to prevent the spread of the fire.

Examples include vegetation fires burning uncontrolled whether attended or not; vegetation fires that are a threat to life, property or resources; a debris or control burn that has escaped the landowner's control; and any debris or control burn without an escape that was extinguished due to a *threat* to the wildland.

In addition, the Unit formalized the use of LE-38A's, Notice of Fire Hazard Inspection, for less complex investigations that do not warrant a citation by a public officer or peace officer. LE-38A's will be utilized as an educational and enforcement tool when there is a violation of a Public Resource Code, Health and Safety Code, California Code of Regulation, or Air Quality Requirement such as burning illegal material or burning on a no burn day. LE-38A's will be forwarded to the Fire Prevention Bureau Chief within 7 days so necessary follow-up actions can be taken.

### **Local Land Use Planning and the SRA Fire Safe Regulations**

In 1986, the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, supported by CAL FIRE, introduced legislation (Senate Bill 1075, Rogers) to develop *minimum* statewide standards for defensible space in State Responsibility Areas (SRA). This legislation was motivated by local government's general lack of response to wildland fire prevention and protection problems over the previous 20 years. This comprehensive wildland fire safety legislation was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in 1987. SB1075 required the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to establish minimum fire safety requirements that applied to SRA.

Regulation development began in early in 1988, and final implementation of the state and local regulation packages occurred on January 1, 1992 via PRC 4290. PRC 4290 requirements address emergency access and water supplies, addressing and street signing, and fuel modification relating to new construction and development. The implementation of these regulations occurs through the local government building permit and subdivision map approval process. Local government is still the approving authority for development.

PRC 4290 regulations are triggered by the application for a building permit for purposes other than limited remodels, including but not limited to submittal of a subdivision map, application for a use permit, placement of a mobile or manufactured home, or constructing a road. These regulations do not supersede existing local regulations that are equal to or more stringent than the state regulations.

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

In cooperation with El Dorado County Planning, Amador County Planning and Alpine County Planning, CAL FIRE has oversight responsibility and reviews Land Division Applications for compliance with PRC 4290. CAL FIRE forwards recommendations to the appropriate Planning Department specifying the minimum requirements necessary to meet state law.

The major factors considered in the review of any subdivision map are:

## **1. Access**

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

## **2. Addressing and Street Signing**

The difficulty of locating an unnamed or poorly signed road during an emergency, especially under smoky conditions, is a major problem to wildland and structural firefighters. Beyond this, many jurisdictions have allowed duplicate numbering and naming for roads and access, further compounding the location problem. The potential losses of life, property and resources are greater without an adequately visible and consistent addressing and numbering system.

## **3. Water Supplies**

The application of water and the construction of a fire line are the primary tools used by wildland firefighters to contain and control a wildfire. The location and availability of sufficient quantities of water are essential to fire suppression and firefighter safety. While a single system of water delivery and/or storage is adequate, the effectiveness of any suppression system increases with diversity. Emergency water supplies are necessary to provide readily available, and accessible, emergency water for structural and wildland fire protection.

## **4. Fuel Modification Considerations**

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

## **Law Enforcement**

The Unit currently has ten active Peace Officers (PC 830.2(g)) within the Unit. One of the eight is a Peace Officers are Field Training Officers (FTO). Current Peace Officer assignments are as follows:

Unit Chief  
Deputy Chief, Operations  
Assistant Chief, North Division  
Battalion Chief, Fire Prevention Bureau  
Fire Captain Specialist, Fire Prevention Bureau (FTO)  
Fire Captain Specialist, Fire Prevention Bureau  
Forester I, Forest Practice  
Forester I, Forest Practice

The Unit will continue to utilize its Peace Officers for general Law Enforcement duties, Fire Prevention Efforts, Forest Practice Enforcement, Civil Cost Recovery Efforts, Internal Affairs Investigations, Out of Unit Assignments, various Fire Prevention and Law Enforcement workgroups, and training assignments/cadres.

The availability of all ten Unit Peace Officers on a routine and consistent basis is obviously limited by current Peace Officers assignments within the Unit. However, the depth and continuing commitment of the Unit to maintaining and training a sufficient number of Peace Officers continues to pay dividends in successful fire prevention efforts and law enforcement actions within the Unit and on a statewide stage.

## **Sacramento County**

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

## *Alpine County*

Alpine County is located primarily within the CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado-Sacramento-Alpine (AEU) Unit and has approximately four percent of its lands designated as State Responsibility Area. The AEU portion of Alpine County extends from the Sierra Crest near Bear valley eastward to the Nevada state border. The remaining western portion of Alpine County lies within the CAL FIRE Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit. The remaining ninety-six percent of Alpine County is United States Forest Service.

Alpine County is the least populated county in California (1,159 people in 2005) and is generally split into two distinct geographic areas: Eastern Alpine County and Western Alpine

County. Elevation ranges from 5,617 feet at Woodsford adjacent to the Nevada border to upwards of 8,730 feet at Ebbets Pass. The SRA land encompasses 4% of the total acreage of Alpine County. The SRA lands are located primarily at the communities of Markleeville and Woodsford in eastern Alpine County, and Bear Valley and Kirkwood in western Alpine County. Eastern Alpine County is the area located east of the crest of the Sierra, known as the Sierra Front, and is characterized by high elevation eastside Jeffrey pine stands with sage brush and manzanita understory, as well as open rangeland areas of sagebrush, bitterbrush, and mountain mahogany adjacent to the Nevada border. Western Alpine County is dominated by the subalpine vegetative community which, depending on elevation, consists of a mix of white fir, red fir, juniper, incense cedar, Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, lodgepole pine, and western white pine and mountain hemlock at the highest elevations.

### **SUMMARY**

The Battalion enjoys cooperative relationships with local CAL FIRE agencies within its boundaries. In addition, the Battalion values a close working relationship with the federal land management agencies including the USDA Forest Service and the USDI Bureau of Land Management. The cooperating entities that lie within Battalion 8 / Division 6 are:

- Lake Valley Fire Protection District
- City of South Lake Tahoe Fire Department
- Fallen Leaf Volunteer Fire Community Services District
- Meeks Bay Volunteer Fire Protection District
- North Tahoe Fire Protection District
- North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District
- Nevada Fire Safe Council
- Eastern Alpine County Fire Services (Markleeville and Woodsford)
- California State Parks
- Alpine County Fire Safe Council
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

### ***San Joaquin County***

San Joaquin County consists of 24,888 acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Areas with the Amador-EI Dorado Unit and is part of CAL FIRE Battalion 4. (See Exhibits for Battalion Boundaries Map) San Joaquin terrain consists of mostly grazing grassland and agriculture.