

UNIT GOALS

Goal 1: Identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property and natural resource assets at risk, including watershed, habitat, social and other values of functioning ecosystems. Facilitate the sharing of all analyses and data collection across all ownerships for consistency in type and kind.

Objectives:

a) Engage and participate with local stakeholder groups (i.e., fire safe councils and others) to validate and prioritize the assets at risk.

1.) See Appendix A (HIGH PRIORITY PRE FIRE PROJECTS)

2.) See Pages 58-63 (Battalion Projects)

3.) See Pages 34-54 (Cameron Park)

Goal 4: Increase awareness, knowledge and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildland fires, such as defensible space and other fuels reduction activities, fire prevention and fire safe building standards.

Objectives:

a) Increase the number and effectiveness of defensible space inspections and promote an increasing level of compliance with defensible space laws and regulations through the use of CAL FIRE staffing as available, public and private organizations, and alternative inspection methods.

1.) See Fire Prevention Page 64

Goal 5: Develop a method to integrate fire and fuels management practices with landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional efforts within local, state and federal responsibility areas.

Objectives:

h) Support the availability and utilization of CAL FIRE hand crews and other CAL FIRE resources, as well as public and private sector resources, for fuels management activities, including ongoing maintenance.

1.) Both Growlersburg Camp and Pine Grove are a key contribution to the success of AEU's ongoing VMP, CFIP, Prop 40, and CAG projects.

Amador County

Current Battalion 3 Projects:

Pine Acres Fire Safe Project

The Pine Acres Fire Safe Project is an attempt to establish a defensible fuel zone between the community of Pine Acres and the Mokelumne River Canyon. This project has been on going for 8 years. The current phase is a Fire Safe Council Project. This year's work will consist of an herbicide application to kill the re-growth on previously treated lands. The crews from Pine Grove will then cut the dead vegetation in the fall.

The funding for this project is through a grant written by the Amador Fire Safe Council.

Cooperators / Collaborators

Amador-El Dorado-Sacramento-Alpine Unit, Amador County Fire Safe Council
BLM, and Local landowners

Omo Ranch Fire Safe Project

Omo Ranch Fuel Break is a defensible fuel zone/shaded fuel break along Omo Ranch Road in Amador and El Dorado Counties. The project begins at Highway 88 and progresses west to Road E16 near Mt. Aukum. This project also includes the Barney Ridge and Farnham Ridge fuel breaks. The primary purpose of the project is to establish a defensible fuel break to protect the interface communities of the area and to support fire fighting operations. The community of Omo Ranch is a small and relatively isolated community in southern El Dorado County.

CAL FIRE, Sierra Pacific Industries, and the USFS have completed most of the work. The next phase will be a maintenance program. All work to be completed by CAL FIRE is covered by a mitigated negative declaration and a VMP contract. All work on the National Forest lands was completed by the USFS.

Cooperators / Collaborators

Amador-El Dorado Unit
USFS
Amador Fire Safe Council
El Dorado County Fire Safe Council
Sierra Pacific Industries

Shake Ridge/Antelope Fire Safe Project

The primary objective of the project was to establish defensible fuel zones around the community near Amador Pines and provide assistance with fire safe clearances. The project also includes the areas of the Scott Creek and Fiddletown fuel breaks. This project includes prescribed fire, fire crew pre/post prescribed fire treatments, roadside clearance work, dooryard chipping, mastication, tree thinning, and enhanced fire safe inspections. All work on this project has been completed with a mitigated negative declaration and the State Vegetation Management Program.

This project has been on going for about 10 years. The work currently being done is construction of a shaded fuel break along Fiddletown Road. This phase is funded through the VMP program.

The Amador Fire Safe has a grant which is funding the continuation of the shaded fuel break in the Antelope Creek drainage south of the Rabb Park and Silver Lake Pines subdivisions.

Cooperators / Collaborators

Amador-El Dorado Unit

USFS

Sierra Pacific Industries

Amador Fire Safe Council & Local landowners

Pioneer Volcano Community Wildfire Protection Plan

This project is a joint effort between the Amador Fire Safe Council, the Local Government Fire Departments, community leaders, and CAL FIRE. Once complete, it will be a comprehensive plan which addresses, fuel reduction, ingress and egress, evacuation plans, community hazards, road signage, water supply, and any other wildfire related issues. This plan is part of the Amador County CWPP that was approved last year. Once complete, this CWPP will become the template for other CWPPs in the county.

This project is funded by a grant through the Amador Fire Safe Council. Currently Retired Cal Fire Unit Chief Jim Simmons is evaluating different communities in the CWPP for fire danger. He is using a model that looks at water supply, street signage, access, and other factors which would create hazardous situations during a wildfire.

Future Battalion 3 projects

Doakes Ridge Fuel Break

Develop a fuel break on Doakes Ridge and surrounding lands to tie the Antelope Fuel break in with SPI fuel breaks on Cooks ridge. This project will begin in the fall and will consist of mechanical work, crew work and broadcast burning. Most of the work will be on PG&E and SPI ground.

Pine Acres Fire Safe Project

Maintain a defensible fuel zone within and between the community of Pine Acres and the Mokelumne River Canyon.

Develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan/Evacuation Plan for the Pine Grove/Pine Acres area.

Develop a Public Education Program (Including Public Information Mailer/Self-Certification*) for PRC 4291.

Shake Ridge/Antelope Fuel Break

Develop New and Maintain existing defensible fuel zone extending West on Shake Ridge towards Volcano.

Tiger Creek Fuel Break

Develop a defensible fuel zone extending west from the Antelope Fuel Break to the Tiger Creek Power Plant on the Mokelumne River.
Coordinate with other groups to facilitate ingress/egress route clearing.

Omo Ranch Fuel Break

Develop new and maintain existing defensible fuel zone/shaded fuel break along Omo Ranch Road in Amador and El Dorado Counties beginning at Highway 88 and progressing North-West to E-16 in Mt. Aukum.

Surrey Junction Fuel Break

Develop a defensible fuel zone extending North-East from Ridge Road, beginning in the vicinity of Bates Road, and following the 2000 foot contour line around the Surrey Junction and Tanyard Hill residential areas to Lupe Road.

Coordinate with other groups to facilitate ingress/egress route clearing.

Defender Grade Fuel Break

Develop a defensible fuel zone extending South from Highway 88 at Pioneer following ridges to Highway 26 and then to Mokelumne River Canyon.

Coordinate with other groups to facilitate ingress/egress route clearing.

Public Information Mailer/Self-Certification*

In order to achieve all of the potential benefits of Defensible Fuel Zones established and/or in progress, an aggressive public education program is required. This public information program will target developed properties within the community. The purpose of this public education program is to provide information about individual defensible fuel zones (defensible space) around property improvements.

In order to maximize the distribution of information to the community, it is the intent to utilize a public education mailer. The mailer will include information about defensible space, fire safety precautions and a self-certification process. The self-certification process will allow community members to interact with the department regarding:

1. The completion of defensible space work
2. Incomplete defensible space work/non-response
3. Questions regarding defensible space work

Information provided by the self-certification process will be mapped in ArcView for GIS evaluation of compliance and non-compliance/no response.

Battalion 3 Ignition Management Plan

Equipment Use:

Public Education within the primary market to include but not limited to:

1. Power Equipment Retailers
2. Public Events (County Fair etc.)
3. Public Information Mailer
4. Burn Permit Process
5. Print and Television Media

Arson: Aggressively pursue investigations where patterned or recurring behavior appears to account for fire starts.

Electrical: Work with PG&E and SMUD to inspect and maintain power transmission lines and facilities especially in regard to clearance.

Vehicles: Work with Caltrans and Amador County Road Department to more aggressively pursue roadside fuel reduction/abatement programs.

Battalion 4

Within Battalion 4 a strong emphasis is placed on projects which involve fire preparedness training. Logistical and training support is provided to the CAL FIRE Academy in Lone and to the AEU training program with the following projects:

Heavy Forestry Equipment Operations Training

Through the efforts of the AEU VMP Coordinator landowners who control strategically significant lands are placed under VMP contract to allow the HFEO class to practice their dozer operator skills. The land placed under contract is primarily that which is owned by cattle ranchers desiring to convert their brush covered lands to grazing lands. To enhance the effectiveness of this project CAL FIRE burns the resulting piles and the ranchers seed the treated land each fall. In this fashion there is mutual benefit to the rancher, in the form of additional/improved grazing land, and to the Department, in the form of trained and tested operators. A collateral benefit to CAL FIRE is significant fuels reduction within the training areas which are located primarily in Amador County.

Van Vleck and Nature Conservancy training sites:

Through VMP agreements, the Unit uses two sites in eastern Sacramento for training purposes. Each year the Unit burns between 500 and 700 acres of grass. We use this land to conduct Intermediate Firing Class and the FI 210 investigation class. This gives our unit personnel valuable training, while providing for range improvements and vernal pool habitat improvements.

River Pines Community Fire Safe Plan

This project is funded by a grant through the Amador Fire Safe Council. The work is being done by private companies through contracts with the Fire Safe Council. There are two phases to this project. The first phase is now underway. The contractors are assisting

community members in removing urban waste in the town. Junked cars, household appliances and other waste has created ingress egress issues, as well as fuel loading issues. The second phase is now being planned. It will provide a shaded fuel break around the perimeter of the town.

Jackson Rancheria Project

The Jackson Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians has developed a gaming facility complete with a hotel and convention center. The Tribe has also purchased the 1000+ acre Caminetti Ranch property adjacent to the south boundary of the Rancheria. In addition to the gaming and lodging facilities described above there are new amenities being developed on the Caminetti Ranch portion of the property. A gas station and a one hundred space recreational vehicle park are now open. These amenities will potentially contribute to the wildland fire protection problems in the area. The Tribe is now creating fuel breaks along ridges and through drainages, which are designed to slow the spread of wildfire from and towards the commercial improvements.

Public Education Projects

There are two new public education projects within Battalion 4:

First, in conjunction with other Battalions in AEU, Battalion 4 would like to participate in an educational PRC 4291 project which would involve mailing defensible space literature to property owners within targeted high risk areas of the Battalion. These mailers would include educational material regarding PRC 4291 requirements and a process for residential property owners to complete LE 100 style inspections utilizing a self certification process. The program would also include a random follow-up inspection component to verify that the self certifications were accurate and that PRC 4291 objectives had been met.

Second, the fire prevention signs within Amador County are in a state of disrepair and the public education messages are dated. As a result, county residents drive past these signs on a daily basis and do not notice the signs nor the messages contained thereon. The objective in the Battalion is to repair and replace the signs with attention attracting features and relevant public education messages which will be noticed and embraced by the motoring public.

The following table shows the proposed signs:

LOCATION	PREVENTION MESSAGE BY PRIORITY	DIRECTIONAL VIEW
JVFPD Station 171 Quiver @ Curran Comanche	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Defensible Space 2. Equipment Use 3. Debris Escapes 4. Fireworks 	Two Sided Message
Plymouth @ south city limit, east side of Hwy. 49	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Defensible Space 2. Equipment Use 3. Debris escapes 4. Fireworks 	Single Sided Message
Fiddletown Road @ AmerCa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Defensible space 2. Ingress/egress/addresses 3. Debris Escapes 4. Equipment use 	Single Sided Message
Highway 88 @ Dew Drop Bypass Road	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Defensible space 2. Ingress/egress/addresses 3. Debris escapes 4. Equipment use 5. Fireworks 	Single Sided Message. Reverse side is ENF Fire Danger Rating.
Highway 88 @	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Defensible space 2. Ingress/egress/addresses 	Two Sided Message

Pioneer Cemetery	3. Debris escapes 4. Equipment use 5. Fireworks	
Ridge Road @ Climax Road Pine Grove	1. Defensible space 2. Ingress/egress/addresses 3. Equipment Use 4. Debris escapes 5. Fireworks	Single Sided Message
Sutter Hill Fire Station, 11600 Highway 49	1. Defensible space 2. Equipment Use 3. Debris escapes 4. Ingress/egress/addresses 5. Fireworks	Two Sided Message

El Dorado County

Battalion 1

The fuels within Battalion 1 are diverse, and include approximately 18% timber, 33% brush, and 49% grass/oak woodland.

Like many areas in the Sierra Nevada's the Battalion contains a significant wildland-urban interface problem. All communities within Battalion 1 SRA are evaluated using the following general and specific criteria to determine their Hazard/Target status:

- Potential for life loss
- Potential for property loss
- Potential for high community consequence (historical, environmental, infrastructure, etc.)
- Fuel types and fuel loading
- Ingress and egress
- Stakeholder collaboration

All communities within Battalion 1 meet the Target Hazard Criteria, some to a greater or lesser degree than others listed. According to FRAP data, approximately 95% of Battalion 1 is rated as high or extreme in SRA fire severity ratings.

Battalion 1 Vegetation Management Projects:

Sly Park Fire Safe Project

This project is a 1,200 acre fuels treatment project that prescribes the creation of a Defensible Fuels Zone/shaded fuel break between Park Creek Road and Sly Park Reservoir with the utilization of broadcast burning as well as hand treatment by CAL FIRE Growlersburg crews. This project provides a fuel break for the surrounding communities and natural resources around Sly Park Reservoir. Landowners, situated along the border of the project, will be allowed to participate in the Sly Park Fire Safe Project II by including their residential parcels in the fuel break.

This project has year round mitigation measures with handcrew work from Growlersburg Camp and is accelerated in the fall with prescribed fire use from Battalion 1 and 2 resources.

Cooperators:

CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit
El Dorado Irrigation District
Non-Industrial Private Landowners

Pine Hill Infrastructure Protection

This project provides defensible space to critical communications infrastructure on Pine Hill. The current communications site supports CAL FIRE, EDSO, CHP, DHS, and numerous private communications companies. In addition, CAL FIRE is responsible for the protection of the historical CAL FIRE lookout on Pine Hill. The top 80 acres of Pine Hill is owned by CAL FIRE and the communications site is managed by American Tower in cooperation with DGS.

The VMP project encompasses approximately 15 acres surrounding the immediate infrastructure and will be treated with initial hand piling and burning. Once the project is placed into a maintenance mode, there is support to increase the amount of VMP acreage and to incorporate additional types of treatments including prescribed fire.

Cooperators:

CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit
Department of General Services
Pine Hill Cooperators Local Agreement

Battalion 2

Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safe Project

The Auburn Lake Trails subdivision is situated at the rim of the American River canyon at the edge of the lake that would have been formed by the Auburn Dam. Exclusion of fire and the heavy public use below the subdivision create a very hazardous condition with respect to the potential for ignition. The topography, fuels, and significant numbers of homes create a combination of factors that will cause significant resource damage as well as a major risk to life safety within the community.

The primary strategy is to establish defensible fuel zones around and within the subdivision. CAL FIRE fire crews will conduct VMP project work on federal lands adjoining the subdivision. Private land owners will be asked to participate in the VMP so fuels reduction will continue on the private lands between homes and the federal lands project area. The property owner's association retains control of all the common area within the subdivision and is the primary partner with the Auburn Lake Trails VMP. Currently CAL FIRE has treated approximately 200 acres of federal and private lands

Battalion 2 Hazard/ Target Areas

The entire area covered within Battalion 2 would be considered a Target Area with significant potential. As noted earlier, the Divide has a significant fire history that has proven to challenge fire suppression efforts over the years. With the increase in population within the Divide, the potential for increased ignitions are ever growing. Some Target Areas include but are not solely limited to:

Community of Mosquito

Community of Garden Valley and surrounding communities

Community of Georgetown and surrounding communities

Auburn Lake Trails

Major travel corridors noted below

American River Drainage

Coloma State Park

Future Battalion 2 Projects:

Future projects within the boundaries of Battalion 2 should focus on the following areas:

Continued work on the ALT Fuels project including roadside clearing and ALT greenbelt/ common space areas.

VMPs with major landholders to reduce fire hazards and noxious weeds.

Roadside clearances along all major routes of travel on the Divide.

- Hwy 49 corridor
- Hwy 193 corridor
- Rock Creek Road
- Mosquito Road
- Sliger Mine Road
- Spanish Dry Diggings Road
- Wentworth Springs Road
- Marshall Road
- Bayne Road
- Shoo Fly Road
- Bear Creek Road
- Spanish Flat Road
- Rattlesnake Bar Road
- Salmon Falls Road

Fuel Break Projects in the Mosquito area to continue towards connecting with fuels projects already accomplished by the USFS.

Fuels reduction in the Shoo Fly/ Bear Creek Road areas to work towards connecting with the USFS Darling Ridge Fuel Break.

Opening and maintenance of the Truck Trail between Tim Mine Rd and Rock Creek Road allowing emergency equipment access between these two locations as well as providing a fuel break.

Continuous Defensible Space inspection program (PRC 4291)

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

*Battalion Chief Chris Anthony
Fire Captain Specialist Tom Oldag
Fire Captain Specialist Doug Ferro*

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.

2011 Fire Season Ignition Statistics

Wildland fire ignition statistics were tracked for the entire year of 2011. The Unit experienced 194 fires within its Direct Protection Area (DPA) for the year. This number represents an 11% increase from 2010 (174 fires), and a 27% decrease from the 10-year average (266 fires).

The Five Largest Fires In The Unit:

- 1) White Fire at 30 acres, \$2500 dollars of damage, cost to suppress estimated at \$20,000 and the cause was a motor cycle crash at the Prairie City OFF Highway Vehicle Park.
- 2) Tonzi Fire at 25 acres, \$1,650 dollars of damage, cost to suppress estimated at \$32,000 and the cause was an unknown vehicle.
- 3) Poppy Fire at 19 acres, \$2,000 dollars of damage, cost to suppress estimated at \$8,000 and the cause was burning cardboard.

4) Meiss Fire at 16 acres, \$1,500 dollars of damage, cost to suppress estimated at \$6,000 and the cause a blown SMUD Fuse.

5) Groovy Fire at 14 acres, \$10,000 dollars of damage, cost to suppress will be finalized in 2012, and the cause was an escape from burning logging slash piles.

2011 Five Largest Fires	Acres	Damage	Cause
White	30	\$2500	Vehicle
Tonzi	25	\$1,650	Vehicle
Poppy	19	\$2,000	Control Burning – Cardboard
Meiss	16	\$1,500	Electrical
Groovy	14	\$10,000	Control Burning – Piles

Approximately 262 acres burned in 2011 compared with the 10-year average of 1,302 acres. Damage caused by these fires in 2011 was estimated at approximately \$756,000. This includes 3 structures that burned due to hot ashes placed in the dry vegetation.

In reviewing fire causes during the 2011 season it was found that the five leading causes of vegetation fires in the Unit were:

- 1) **Control Burning (43 fires – 23%)**
- 2) **Vehicles (41 fires – 21%)**
- 3) **Miscellaneous (28 fires – 14%)**
- 4) **Equipment (22 fires – 11%)**
- 5) **Electrical (22 fires – 11%)**

The five leading causes accounted for 154 fires, or 70%, of all fires that occurred.

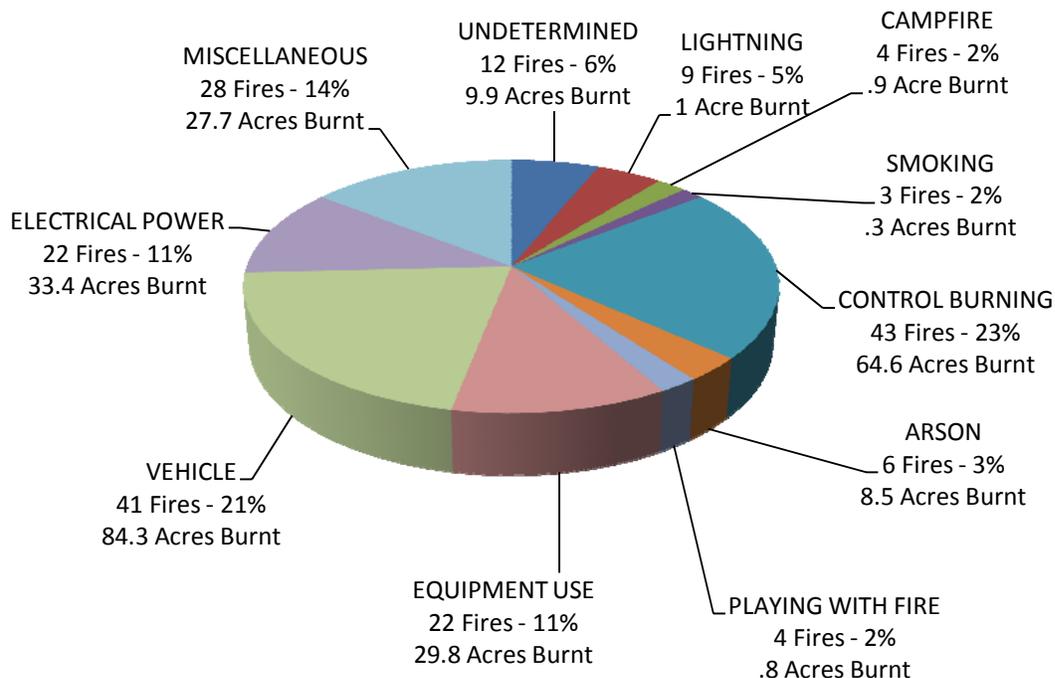
The remaining causes of fires in the Unit were:

- 6) **Undetermined (12 fires – 6%)**
- 7) **Lightning (9 fires – 5%)**
- 8) **Arson (6 fires – 3%)**
- 9) **Playing with Fire (4 fires – 2%)**
- 10) **Campfire (4 fires – 2%)**
- 11) **Smoking (3 fires – 2%)**
- 12) **Railroad (0 fires).**

In 2011, the only two categories increased over the 10 year average were lightning and miscellaneous caused fires. All other categories decreased from the 10-year average. Ignitions causing the most acreage loss were vehicle at 84.3 acres, control burning at 64.6 acres, and electrical power at 33.4 acres. When analyzing data for the whole year, the reason for the rise in miscellaneous caused fires was due to the unseasonably dry months of November and December.

2011 AEU Fires by Cause / Percentage Burnt

194 Fires - 261.2 Acres Burnt



Fire activity for 2011 was up in the Unit by 20 fires from 2010 but down from the 10 year average. In order to better address ignition management in the Unit, a more detailed analysis of the fires in each major cause classification was conducted.

1) Control Burning (debris burning) accounted for 43 fires or 23% of the total fires in the Unit. Escaped control burns resulted in 64.6 acres being burned or 25% of the Unit's total. This cause saw a 10% decrease from the 10-year average of 48. The decrease can be explained by the Unit's concerted effort in promoting an educational program along with the elimination of control burning during unfavorable conditions (June through November). The number of fires would have been significantly lower if there was normal precipitation during the months of November and December. 16 fires occurred during that time. Public education and public awareness has substantially limited the number and severity of these fires. 911 calls occur quickly when smoke is seen resulting in fire equipment arriving at scene sooner. The number one cause of escaped control burns was escapes due to winds, followed by lack of clearance and old control burns re-igniting (coming back to life). Unattended control burns also contributed to the totals. All fire departments in Amador and El Dorado Counties are assisting the Unit in handing out legal notices (LE-38's) on all control burn caused fires. These legal notices serve to educate the public and put them on notice that their next escape will result in a citation. This cooperation has proven to continually keep total numbers and acres lost below the 10 year average.

In addition, the Unit Fire Prevention Bureau works closely with the local Air Quality Management Districts in the event that debris burns violate air district ordinances. Violations typically include landowners burning debris piles larger than four feet by feet in size without a valid air quality permit, landowners burning illegal materials, and landowners burning on a no-

burn day. Potential violations of air quality rules are forwarded to the local air district office on a LE-38 for potential action. Monetary fines typically ranged from \$40.00 to \$500.00, or more, depending on the violation.

Coordination between air district offices and the Unit Fire Prevention Bureau is important in order to reduce the number of unwanted debris burn escapes and illegal debris burns. In addition, the air district offices have enforcement options not available to CAL FIRE Officers. The fines assessed by air quality help prevent future debris burn escapes and also help to reduce the number of fire department responses to these types of fires.

2) Vehicles accounted for 41 fires or 21% of the total ignitions in the Unit. This represents an 18% decrease from the 10-year average of 50 fires. Vehicle caused fires resulted in 84.3 acres being burned or 32% of the Unit's total. This represents a 79% decrease in acres burnt by vehicle from the 10 year average of 404 acres. This category has been one of the leading causes of fires in the Unit for the past several years. The majority of these fires occurred along the major traffic corridors of Hwy 16, 49, 50, 88, and 124. Catalytic Converter failure and other maintenance issues continue to be the leading cause of fires caused by vehicles. With the current economic conditions there appears to be less maintenance done on vehicles. In addition, there appears to be an increase in the number of older vehicles on the road.

In 2011, Cameron Park Fire/CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Mike Webb used historical vehicle caused fire data to enlist El Dorado County's assistance in clearing vegetation along Cameron Park Drive. Cameron Park Drive has seen numerous fires caused by failed catalytic converters in the past several years. In 2011, a dramatic reduction in vehicle caused fires along Cameron Park Drive was evident due to vegetation clearance along the road.

3) Miscellaneous causes accounted for 28 fires or 14% of the total ignitions in the Unit. This cause class saw a 14% increase from the 10 year average of 24. Miscellaneous caused fires resulted in 27.7 acres burned or 10% of the Unit's total. Acres burnt by miscellaneous caused fires saw an 82% decrease from the 10 year average of 159 acres burnt. This classification includes causes such as spontaneous combustion, fireplace ashes deposited in the wildland, barbequing, cooking fires, and fireworks. Ashes deposited in dry vegetation caused the majority of fires during the winter months. Unseasonably dry conditions and strong winds aided in spreading these fires. Personal habits like dumping fireplace ashes into an "ash pile" led to 9 fires in November and December. Three of those fires damaged or destroyed residences.

4) Equipment accounted for 22 fires or 11% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Equipment caused fires resulted in 29.8 acres being burned or 11% of the Unit's total. This represents a 40% decrease from the 10-year average of 37 fires. Equipment caused fires burnt 29.8 acres compared to the 10 year average of 157 acres. Historically, this classification has been one of the top causes of wildfire starts in the Unit. Through continued use of informational displays and education programs (handouts and the 4291 Program), we hope to continue a downward trend in this cause category.

The main cause of equipment fires continues to be mower fires. These fires were due to mower blades striking rocks and friction igniting chaff collected around the belts and pulley systems. Ironically, most of the mower caused fires occurred as a result of residents trying to clear their property for fire safety; however, the residents were clearing during the hottest part

of the day- usually between the hours of 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Grinding and welding are the next leading cause of equipment fires.

5) Electrical power accounted for 22 fires or 11% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Electrically caused fires resulted in 33 acres burned or 12% of the Unit's total. Electrically caused fires decreased by five from the 10 year average of 27. Most of these fires resulted from trees, branches, or birds into the power lines.

6) Undetermined accounted for 12 fires or 8% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Undetermined caused fires resulted in 10 acres being burned or 4% of the Unit's total. This category saw a 33% decrease of the 10 year average of 18. Continued hard work and dedication of the Unit's Fire Prevention Staff and the company officers who conduct thorough origin and cause investigations aid in the declining number in this cause class. Every year the unit hosts a Fire Investigation (FI) 110 and 210 class to train state, local, and federal co-operators in wildland fire investigation techniques and awareness. Thorough origin and cause investigations also assist in determining fire patterns which may be reduced by public education and or enforcement.

7) Lightning accounted for 9 fires or 5% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Lightning caused fires increased by 33% from the 10-years average of 6. Lightning caused fires burnt 1 acre compared to the 10 year average of 14. Not much can be done to prevent or alter this category. In anticipation of predicted dry-lighting events, the Unit will activate its Lightning Plan in order to reduce the number of acres burned due to lightning.

8) Arson accounted for 6 fires or 3% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Arson caused fires decreased by 78% from the 10-year average of 28. Arson caused fires resulted in 9 acres burned or 3% of the Unit's total. The 9 acres burnt represents a 93% decrease from the 10 year average of 138 acres burnt.

Past years arrests of serial arsonists and a proactive approach in seeking out and prosecuting arsonists and public awareness have caused the decrease in this cause category. In addition, the continued working relationships between all fire and law enforcement agencies within the Unit is definitely aiding in successful apprehension and prosecution of arsonists. The importance of a thorough origin and cause investigation plays a key role in identifying fire patterns early as well as timely reporting of LE-66s into the Prevention Bureau. Apprehending and prosecuting of arsonist is a team approach that depends on everyone.

9) Playing with Fire accounted for 4 fires or 2% of the total ignitions in the Unit. This was a 73% decrease from the 10 year average of 15. Playing with Fire resulted in 1 acre burned or less than 1% of the Unit's total. In 2011 several juveniles were caught playing with fire by CAL FIRE Officers and went through a Juvenile Fire Setter Class.

10) Illegal campfires and campfire escapes caused 2 fires or 2% of the total ignitions in the Unit. A total of 1 acre was burnt from campfire caused fires. Campfire caused fires remained 1 fire under the 10-year average of 5. Most of the small fires were located at homeless camps.

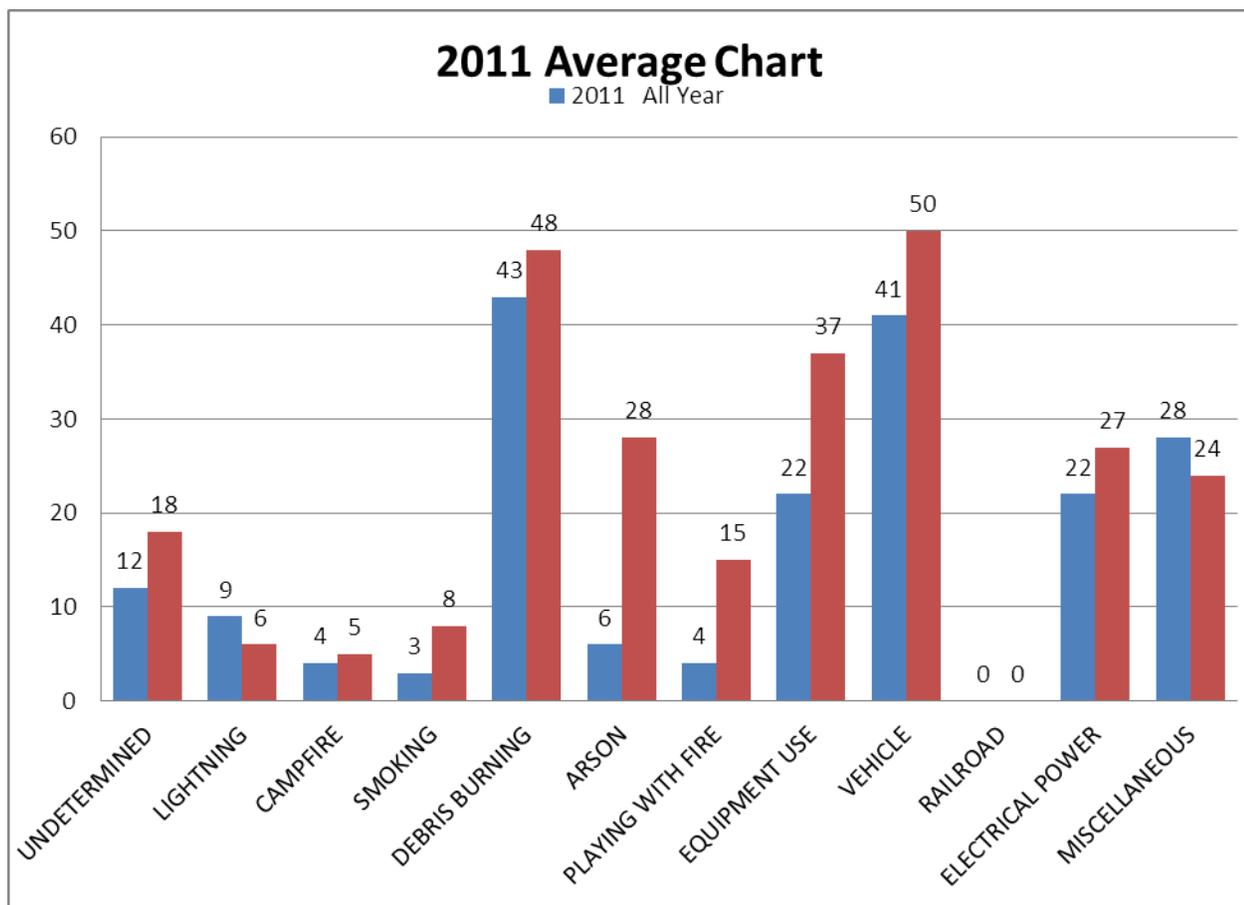
It is important to note that when burning is suspended due to proclamation by the Unit Chief, campfires are not prohibited under Public Resources Code Section 4423.3. However, in Amador and El Dorado County an ordinance is triggered when burn permits are suspended by

proclamation that restricts the use of campfires in State Responsibility Areas. These local ordinances provide CAL FIRE staff the ability to abate campfires that could threaten SRA.

11) Smoking accounted for 3 fires or 2% of the total ignitions in the Unit. This was a 62% decrease of the 10 year average of 8 fires. Smoking caused fires resulted in 0 acres burned in the Unit’s total. Thicker grass due to the spring rains and higher relative humidity greatly affects this cause category of fire causes.

12) Railroad accounted for zero fires in 2011. Amador County has one active commercial railroad in the western portion of the county and one small scale tourist train in the Pine Grove Area. A private historical train is beginning to operate in the Shingle Springs / Diamond Springs Area. .

The following chart (next page) compares the 2011 primary causes compared to the 10-year average.



2011 primary causes compared to the 10-year average.

Below is the 2011 Arrest, Citation and Conviction data for all law enforcement actions within the Unit:

ADULT				JUVENILE			
	Arrest	Citation	Conviction		Arrest	Citation	Conviction
Infraction				Infraction			
Traffic	0	3	1		0	0	0
4291	0	0	0				
Misdemeanor				Misdemeanor			
Fire (PRC)	0	2	1	Fire/Other	0	1	1
Forest Practice	0	3	2	Forest Practice	0	0	0
Traffic	0	0	0				
Felony				Felony			
Arson	0	0	0	Arson	0	0	0
Other	0	1	1				
Total	0	9	5	Total	0	1	1

**The above numbers do not reflect felony arrests made as part of serial arson investigations in other Units.*

Cost Recovery

In 2011 the Unit Fire Prevention Bureau collected \$7112.00 in civil cost recovery monies. The majority of this money was from cases involving electrical CAL FIRE's from Sacramento Municipal Utility District. The Unit continues to work closely with SMUD to reduce electrical caused fires.

There are currently three outstanding civil cost recovery fires from 2011. The first is the Borders fire in El Dorado Hills at \$4247.00. This fire is currently in juvenile court.

The second is the Forni fire at \$1438.00. This case has been filed by the El Dorado County DA's office and is expected to be heard in El Dorado County Superior Court in March 2012.

The third is the El Dorado Complex. This investigation is on-going and will be sent to Region for further follow-up.

10-C Requests

Unit personnel responded to a total of seven 10-C requests in 2011 totaling approximately 210 personnel hours of investigative time. These requests are either in the form of assistance to local government or fire investigations at State buildings where the Department has investigative responsibility. Below is a listing of 10-C requests responded to by Fire Prevention staff:

INCIDENT #	UNIT	LOCATION	JURISDICTION
AEU 006469	AEU	12505 Steiner Rd., Fiddletown	Amador Fire
AEU 015783	AEU	525 Pleasant Valley Rd, Markleeville	Markleeville FD
AEU 020254	AEU	DMV 7775 La Mancha Way, Sac	Sac City Fire Dept
AEU 024177	AEU	CSUS 6000 J St, Sac	Sac City Fire Dept
AEU 027601	AEU	Cal Expo 1600 Exposition Blvd, Sac	Sac City Fire Dept
AEU 008331	AEU	CSUS 6000 J St. Sac- Draper Hall	Sac City Fire Dept
AEU 007384	AEU	CSUS 6000 J St. Sac- Bench Fire	Sac City Fire Dept

Cadres/Workgroups

In 2011 Unit Fire Prevention staff assisted with the following special workgroups, cadres and committees:

1. Northern Region FI-210 cadre
2. Unit FI-210 cadre
3. Fire Prevention Advisory Committee
4. California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Fire Prevention Committee
5. Statewide Forms Committee
6. Statewide Evidence Program
7. 4291 Defensible Space Workgroup
8. Patrol Rifle Training
9. PIO/ECC Training at the Fire Academy
10. Unit Peace Officers provided security at Board of Forestry and Fire Protection meetings in Sacramento.

2011 Highlights include:

•By the end of 2011 there were a total of 49 media releases and 1 fact sheet generated by the Unit. This was the most media releases in the Unit's history. One of the media releases became a Hot Topic on the statewide CAL FIRE webpage (Is Your Vehicle Fire Safe?). This media release dealt with the multiple vehicle caused wildland fires in the Unit (catalytic converters, transmissions, etc.). The media release was issued to educate the public about potential fire issues connected to poorly maintained vehicles.

•Two incidents which drew television and radio interest in the Unit were the Lightning Complex and El Dorado Complex (Wind event). The Unit received heavy television coverage as a result of these incidents. A third incident which drew television and radio coverage was a Federal fire complex in late December; however, due to the lack of available USFS staff, CAL FIRE staff handled the majority of the media for the USFS.

- Prior to the 2011 fire season, the Unit's Conservation Camp conducts its annual Spring Readiness Exercise. This event drew a Sacramento television station. The news broadcast emphasized the upcoming 2011 fire season as well as the cooperative efforts between CAL FIRE and CDCR. In addition, the Unit PIO worked with the CAL FIRE Sacramento Communication Office to film the Readiness Exercise for 'b-roll' used by CAL FIRE TV.
- Prior to fire season, live fire training for returning seasonal personnel presented an excellent opportunity for fire photos and media attention. The live fire training was part of the Chance VMP and drew Sacramento Associated Press personnel and a CAL FIRE Sacramento Communications photographer.
- AEU staff worked with CAL FIRE Sacramento Communications staff to prepare a DVD project for the El Dorado County Building Department. This DVD is comprised of CAL FIRE TV videos and will loop for all customers waiting for appointments at the Building Department. The video will further educate the public on seasonal fire and life safety issues.
- Unit staff did two interviews on Amador County's local cable TV station, TSPN, and one ride-a-long with the Sacramento Bee.
- AEU created a Unit Website. The website will be the first completed Unit website accessed via the CAL FIRE internet webpage. This project took over one year to complete. Unit staff worked closely with Sacramento Communications staff on the design elements of the website.
- In the Fall of 2011, the Unit PIO began assisting CAL FIRE Communications on updating the Public Education Program handbook. The update of this handbook is set for statewide release in mid 2012.
- The Unit, in conjunction with CAL FIRE PIO Daniel Berlant, hosted a Fire Safety training for the Media in June 2011. Television and newspaper reporters, photographers and videographers attended the 3 hour training. CAL FIRE Nomex was loaned to journalist as part of the safety element of the training. The CAL FIRE Nomex will provide greater exposure of the Department during media coverage.
- Unit personnel hosted 37 French firefighters and fire officers for 2 days educating the French firefighters about CAL FIRE.

In 2011 the Unit logged approximately 900 public education hours associated with Unit level programs.

LE 100 Defensible Space Program

In 2011 there was no funding to hire CAL FIRE firefighters on April 1st to begin inspecting high hazard areas within each Battalion. The lack of staff early in the year accounts for the drop in the overall number of inspections in the Unit. By year's end, there were **2239** inspections completed by Battalions 1,2,3,4,5, and 8. This exceeded the overall goal of the Unit of 1,750 inspections on an annual basis. Federal and Local government agencies (El Dorado County Fire, El Dorado Hills Fire, Latrobe Fire, Mosquito Fire, City of South Lake Tahoe, Meeks Bay Fire and Jackson City Fire) completed a combined **4223** inspections, and the two Fire Safe Councils (Amador Fire Safe Council and El Dorado County Fire Safe Council) completed **1447** inspections. The total number of inspections completed in the Unit were **7,909 inspections**.

The Unit recognizes the value of working with our cooperators to increase the overall effectiveness of defensible space inspections.

Conclusion

The year 2011 clearly showed a reduction in the number of fires as compared to the 10 year average within the Unit, but a slight increase from 2010. In 2011, the Unit successfully engaged in all aspects of Fire Prevention including public education, engineering, and law enforcement. In addition, the Unit was able to support two out-of-unit law enforcement assignments while maintaining twenty-four hour, seven-day a week, prevention coverage within the Unit.

It is the intent of the Amador-El Dorado-Sacramento-Alpine Unit in 2012 to continue to actively seek ways to reduce unwanted wildland fires, aggressively pursue criminal or civil action against violators of forest and fire laws, enhance the law enforcement skills of all of its Officers through on-going training, increase the visibility of CAL FIRE through media outlets, engage local jurisdictions in land use policy and planning decisions, and continue to provide support to the Regions and Sacramento on out-of-unit assignments. The Unit plans to build on past successes while seeking ways to improve processes internal to the Unit.