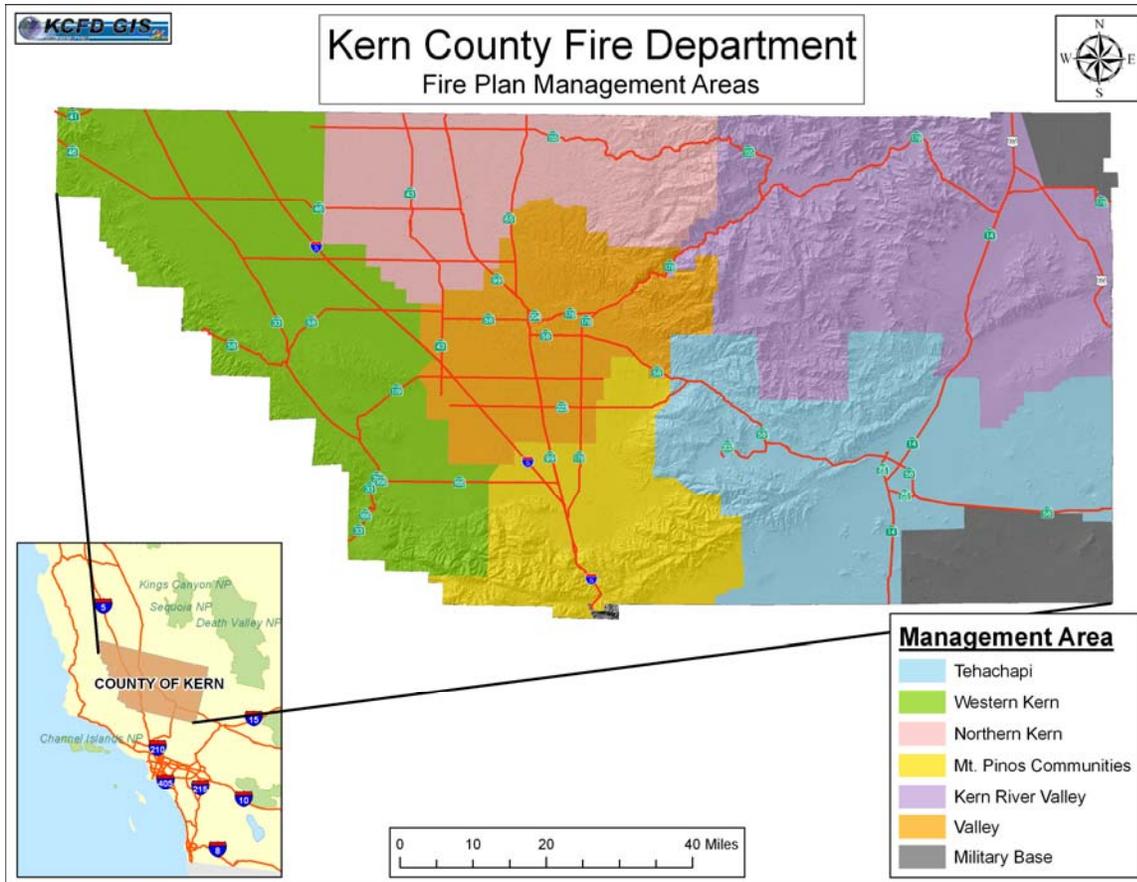


UNIT DESCRIPTION

The County has been broken into 6 different Fuel Management Areas:



Battalion 1 Tehachapi

OVERVIEW

Battalion 1 includes the southeastern portion of Kern County. It is divided by State Highway 58 that runs east/west and by State Highway 14 that runs north/south. The California Aqueduct, running north and south, establishes the eastern edge of the State Responsibility Area (SRA) in Battalion 1. The western edge of the SRA in Battalion 1 is defined by the toe of the slope along the southeastern edge of the San Joaquin Valley. The total SRA acreage in Battalion 1 is 951, 6000 of which 351,276 acres is SRA lands. Of the incorporated cities within Battalion 1, Tehachapi is surrounded by SRA and Arvin has SRA to the south and east. The town of Rosamond has SRA to the west. There is also a substantial amount of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Direct Protection Area (DPA) to the north and west.

The fuel models that predominate are grass (FM1 and 2), brush (FM4 and 6), and some areas of timber in the higher elevations (FM8). Additionally, there has been a substantial amount of bug kill in the larger trees in the Tehachapi and Bear Valley Springs areas. Historically, many of the larger fires in the County have originated in this area, however, an influx of residential development has reduced the number of large fires in recent years. The reduction in the number of fires is a positive aspect; however, the negative side of this growth is that any fires that become established in this area will immediately threaten high value/high risk exposures. A CWPP has been adopted and has been put in place to represent the communities of battalion

Battalion 2 Western Kern

OVERVIEW

Battalion 2 comprises most of the west side of the County of Kern. West of State Highway 33 and most of what is adjacent to State Highway 166 is either SRA or Federal Responsibility Area (FRA). The FRA is predominantly Bakersfield BLM with a small portion of Los Padres National Forest, with some Fish and Wildlife Service area in the Bitter Creek Wildlife Refuge. There are no large, incorporated cities within Battalion 2 that impact the SRA; however a large portion of the area is oil installations. The total acreage is 1,100,147 which SRA acreage within Battalion 2 is 455,293.

The fuel model that covers most of the west side of the battalion is grass (FM1) with a scattering of brush and some oak trees. As the elevation increases in the southern and western end of the battalion there is more sage and pine (FM2).

Battalion 3 North Kern

OVERVIEW

Battalion 3 includes the north central portion of the county. Relative to the State Responsibility Area, the most important feature is State Highway 65. Highway 65 is the western boundary for most of the SRA in Battalion 3. The other main road through the area is State Highway 155 that runs east and west from Lake Isabella to Delano. To the east of the SRA in the battalion is Sequoia National Forest. There is a large portion of SRA (193,450 acres) in Station 26's area in the northwest corner of the County. The total SRA acreage for Battalion 3 is 409,566 acres. The fuel model is predominantly grass and oak trees (FM1), with some pockets of brush. Much of the area is rangeland utilized for cattle grazing, with very little public access.

There are presently no identified projects within the Urban Interface areas of Battalion 3 that would take a higher priority than projects identified in other battalions.

Battalion 5 Mt. Pinos Communities

OVERVIEW

Battalion 5 is the extreme South/South West portion of the County it is bordered by Los Angeles County and Ventura County. Most of the mountain areas of Battalion 5 are sparsely populated with the exceptions of the pockets created by Lebec, Frazier Park, Lake of the Woods, Pinion Pines, and Pine Mountain Club. These communities all

located adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest. Fires that become established in or immediately adjacent to these areas will threaten lives and property in a short time.

Historically, fires in Battalion 5 which start in the grasslands reach large acreage in a short period of time, however, they are able to control in the first 1-2 burning periods unless there is a significant wind component associated with the spread. Fires in the higher elevations are generally much smaller, but are much more resistant to control due to the heavy fuels. A CWPP has been adopted and been put into place for the area.

Battalion 4&6 Valley/ Foothill

OVERVIEW

Battalion 4 and 6 is predominantly Local Responsibility Area (LRA) on the south and east sides of Bakersfield. There is some SRA in the eastern portion of the battalion that adjoins the Sequoia National Forest. There are 96,023 SRA acres in Battalion 4. The main accesses to the State Responsibility area within Battalion 4 is along State Highway 58 which runs east and west through the battalion and Breckenridge Road, which runs northeast out of Bakersfield up into the National Forest on top of Breckenridge Mountain. Within the SRA of Battalion 4, there are no towns or cities, incorporated or unincorporated, and only one subdivision of consequence.

Battalion 7 Kern River Valley

OVERVIEW

Battalion 7 includes the northeast portion of Kern County. It is a diverse mixture of Direct Protection Areas with Federal Responsibility Areas, both Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management and SRA (253,776 acres). North/south highways include State Highways 178 and 14 and the main east/west highway being State Highway 155. There are numerous unincorporated towns within the battalion, including Havilah, Lake Isabella, Bodfish, Wofford Heights, Kernville, and Southlake. All of these towns are listed by the California Fire Alliance as being at high risk to wildfire. Battalion 7 has a history of large, damaging wildfires. Included recently are the King (2000), Borel (2002; five residences lost), and the Deer Fire (2002; 47 residences lost). The Manter (2000) and the McNally (2002) Fires also burned just north of the Kern County line in this same area. The fuel models range from grass (FM1) to brush (FM4) to timber (FM8), with large areas of pinion/juniper (FM6). A CWPP has been adopted and been put into place for the area.

Level of Service

Fighting fire in Kern County is truly a cooperative effort. Kern County Fire Department provides fire protection by contract to the cities of Delano, McFarland, Wasco, Shafter, Arvin, and Ridgecrest. Kern also cooperates fully with the other incorporated cities within the county: Bakersfield, Taft, and California City. Additionally, Kern County Fire Department actively participates in the State Master Mutual Aid system and has operating agreements with the USDA Forest Service Sequoia and Los Padres National Forests, the Bakersfield and Cal Desert Districts of the USDI Bureau of Land Management, CAL FIRE & Department of Forestry, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The cooperation between all the above-listed agencies comprises the fire protection delivery system within the County of Kern.

The legislature has charged the California fire service with providing an equal level of fire protection to lands of similar type (PRC 4130). To do this, we must have a system to analyze the level of service being provided to the wildland areas. This rating is expressed as the percentage of fires that are successfully attacked. Success is defined as those fires that are controlled before unacceptable damage or cost is incurred.

$$\text{Success Rate} = \frac{\text{Annual number of fires that were small and extinguished by initial}}{\text{Total number of fires}} \times 100 = \text{the success rate in percent}$$

The result is an initial attack success rate in percentage. **For our purposes, and as defined by Cal Fire (State Board of Forestry), any fire suppressed at less than 10 acres was considered an initial attack success.**

Available Resources

Available Resources	
Resource Type	Number
Helicopter Type 2/Hoist & Night Vision Capable	2
Dozer Type 2*	6
Hand Crew Type 1*	3
Engine Type 4	45
Engine Type 3	15
Engine Type 2x	5
Engine Type 1	36
Mobile Kitchen Unit	1

** Crews/Dozers can be assembled in Strike Team configuration. Two dozers staffed daily.*