

## SECTION IV: PRE FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### A: FIRE PREVENTION



#### **Battalion 4220 Program Plan**

Currently assigned to the Prevention Bureau is a Battalion Chief, four Fire Captains, a Fire Prevention Specialist II and an Office Technician. In the Unit there are currently nine full-time peace officers. The Unit has three Range Masters and qualification shoots are held monthly.

Following department policy, MMU Prevention staff actively and aggressively investigates fires within the Unit and pursues criminal and civil action against violators of forest and fire laws. The Unit responds to an average of 1,500 fires annually. Of these 1,500 fires an average of 300 wildland fires start in the state responsibility areas. The state legislature has determined that if a person causes a fire through willfulness, negligence, or violation of Law, that person is responsible for their actions and may be liable for the fire suppression costs. Each year the Unit bills hundreds of people for fire suppression costs. Once the investigation is completed and the cost of fire suppression is determined, the responsible person is sent a "Letter of Demand" which outlines the act of negligence or violation of law that occurred and demands repayment of costs that were spent suppressing the fire. If the person responsible ignores the demand or denies responsibility, civil litigation is initiated and the matter is settled through the courts. It is the policy of the Department to actively and aggressively pursue those cases in order to recover those costs. The Unit also pursues local civil cost recovery cases for its Cooperative Fire Protection contracts.

The Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit over a ten year average conducted over 10,000 PRC4291/LE-100 defensible space inspections. It also bears noting that in the last 10 years the Unit averaged over 800 hours of public education.

The Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit Fire Prevention Bureau will build on past successes while seeking ways to improve upon deficiencies identified throughout the past years. We will continue identifying ways to reduce unwanted wildland fires within our Unit. The Fire Prevention Bureau will maintain relationships with our co-operators such as the Eastern Madera County and Mariposa Fire Safe Councils, South West Interface Team (SWIFT), Madera and Mariposa County Resource Conservation Districts, as well as many other local government and Federal agencies in land use planning and policy decisions. Through training it is a goal of the Bureau to enhance the law enforcement skills of all of its officers. Public contact and perception is important to Fire Prevention staff and we will continue to seek opportunities to increase the visibility of CAL FIRE.

## B: FIRE CAUSE ANALYSIS

With the Unit averaging 1,500 fires per year, the goal of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to reduce fire causes through prevention, intervention, and enforcement. We hope to accomplish this through public education by the FPS II, intervention by the engine companies with LE 100 inspections, and enforcement conducted by the Prevention Bureau's law enforcement officers.

The highest causes of fires were "Undetermined/Unknown" averaging over 500 or 34% per year. The Prevention Bureau is working with responding engines to provide better education in fire investigation and report writing in an attempt to lower the number of undetermined fires. The Bureau also audits and tracks all fire reports in an attempt to capture all fire information. The second highest category was "Vehicle caused Fires" with an average of 270 or 19% of the ignitions. The third highest was "Arson" with an average of 240 fires or 17%. Through the Fire Investigation training and education process the Bureau is trying to lower the number of fires that are being listed as intentionally human caused. The Bureau is responding to an increasing number of fires to help eliminate this cause. The fourth highest category was "Electrical" with averages totaling 160 or 11%. The fifth is "Equipment Use" which averaged 90 fires or 6%. A larger number of these fires occur when people are trying to do the right thing the wrong way. The Unit has focused on this cause through public education; inspections and cost recovery to those who are not using the appropriate methods for equipment use. The sixth highest cause was "Debris Burning" at 70 fires per year or 4%. The Unit is trying to curtail this with education and citations. Playing with fire historically has been a large cause of fire. The average for the Unit is 26 fires a year or 3%. The Unit is very active in educating children about fire safety and uses the Firesetter program when a problem is identified. The eighth highest cause of fire is "Smoking" with an average of 31 fires or 2% a year. The second to lowest cause of fire is railroad with an average of 10 fires a year or less than one percent. There are no railroads in the SRA within the Unit. The railroads have also been maintaining the railroad right of way more over the past few years. The lowest cause of fire in the Unit is "Lightning" with an average of 6 fires, which is less than half of a percent.



## **C: ENGINEERING & STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY**

The Madera County Fire Marshal's Office (Department of Fire Prevention for Development) provides plan review and inspection services to all unincorporated areas of Madera County in order to implement the fire and life safety regulations and building standards established and adopted by the State Fire Marshal and County Board of Supervisors. In addition, the department performs fire and life safety clearance inspections in State Licensed facilities and is charged with annual inspections of schools, motel/hotels, and apartment buildings as well as regular inspections of public assembly buildings and facilities using or storing acutely hazardous materials. The Fire Marshal also serves as the appointed "County Fire Warden" and is responsible for ensuring that the regulations stipulated in the California Public Resources Code 4290 are applied to new developments and structures in the State Responsibility Areas of Madera County. <http://www.madera-county.com/firemarshal>

Mariposa County CAL-FIRE Fire Prevention has the responsibility for enforcing Public Resources Code 4290, 4291 and California Fire Code on all use permits, minor use permits, and commercial building permits, lot line adjustments, grading permits, parcel splits, subdivisions, general plan amendments, administrative permits, and rezones countywide. This processed is done alongside Mariposa County Building Department and Public Works with Mariposa County Building Department enforcing Chapter 7A of the building code. <http://www.mariposacounty.org> Chapter 7A Building code Link: [http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire\\_prevention/fire\\_prevention\\_wildland\\_codes.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fire_prevention_wildland_codes.php)

Merced County Fire Prevention Bureau is a division of the Fire Department. It provides services and support for education, building construction, facilities inspection, daycare inspections, hazard abatement, and Fire Code enforcement. <http://www.co.merced.ca.us>

### **Public Resources Code 4290**

These regulations have been prepared and adopted for the purpose of establishing minimum wildfire protection standards in conjunction with building, construction, and development in State Responsibility Areas (SRAs). The future design and construction of structures, subdivisions, and developments in State Responsibility Area (SRA) shall provide for basic emergency access and perimeter wildfire protection measures as specified in PRC 4290. These measures shall provide for emergency access; signing and building numbering; and vegetation modification. The fire protection standards contained within PRC 4290 shall specify the minimums for such measures.

Click here to view PCR 4290: [http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire\\_prevention/downloads/Title\\_14.pdf](http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/downloads/Title_14.pdf)

### **Public Resources Code 4291**

To ensure continued maintenance of properties in conformance with the defensible space requirements outlined in PRC 4290 and to assure continued availability, access, and utilization of the defensible space provided during a wildfire, provisions for annual maintenance shall be included in the development plans and/or shall be provided as a condition of the permit, parcel, or map approval. PRC 4291 is the law requiring annual defensible space be provided around all structures in, upon, or adjoining any mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or any land that is covered with flammable material.

Click here to view PCR 4291:

[http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications\\_firesafety\\_publiccode4291.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_publiccode4291.php)

### **Fire Hazard Severity Zone**

Fire Hazard Severity Zones are geographical areas designated pursuant to California Public Resources Codes Sections 4201 through 4204 and classified as Very High, High, or Moderate in State Responsibility Areas or as Local Agency Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones designated pursuant to California Government Code Sections 51175 through 51189.

The California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 1280 designates the maps of these geographical areas as "Maps of the Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the State Responsibility Area of California."

Click here to view:

[http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications\\_firesafety\\_publiccode4291.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_publiccode4291.php)

# 100' DEFENSIBLE SPACE Make Your Home FIRE SAFE



or



Contact your local CAL FIRE office, fire department,  
or Fire Safe Council for tips and assistance.  
[www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)

## Why 100 Feet?

Following these simple steps can dramatically increase the chance of your home surviving a wildfire!

A Defensible Space of 100 feet around your home is required by law.<sup>1</sup> The goal is to protect your home while providing a safe area for firefighters.

### 1 "Lean, Clean and Green Zone."

– Clearing an area of 30 feet immediately surrounding your home is critical. This area requires the greatest reduction in flammable vegetation.

### 2 "Reduced Fuel Zone."

– The fuel reduction zone in the remaining 70 feet (or to property line) will depend on the steepness of your property and the vegetation.

Spacing between plants improves the chance of stopping a wildfire before it destroys your home. You have two options in this area:

**a** Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants. The amount of space will depend on how steep the slope is and the size of the plants.

**b** Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical "fire ladder."

When clearing vegetation, use care when operating equipment such as lawnmowers. One small spark may start a fire; a string trimmer is much safer.

Remove all build-up of needles and leaves from your roof and gutters. Keep tree limbs trimmed at least 10 feet from any chimneys and remove dead limbs that hang over your home or garage. The law also requires a screen over your chimney outlet of not more than 1/2 inch mesh.

<sup>1</sup> These regulations affect most of the grass, brush, and timber-covered private lands in the State. Some fire department/jurisdictions may have additional requirements. Some activities may require permits for tree removal. Also, some activities may require special procedures for: 1) threatened and endangered species, 2) avoiding erosion, and 3) protection of water quality. Check with local officials if in doubt. Current regulations allow an insurance company to require additional clearance. The area to be treated does not extend beyond your property. The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has approved Guidelines to assist you in complying with the new law. Contact your local CAL FIRE office for more details.



April 2007

## D: INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The Fire Prevention Specialist II for the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit, under the general direction of the Fire Prevention Bureau Chief, has program responsibility for the following:

- School Programs
- Career Day Events
- Fairs
- Exhibits and Displays
- Public Information - News Releases and Interviews
- Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program Manager
- Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Team Coordinator
- Volunteer In Prevention Coordinator
- Roadside Sign Production
- Parades
- Public Officer
- Public Presentations
- Develop Corporate Sponsorships
- Smokey Bear - Fire Safety Programs
- Sparky the Fire Dog- Fire and Life Safety Programs
- Smokey Bear 10K Race
- Order, stock, store, and disseminate fire prevention and public safety materials and supplies
- Develop/create, purchase, stock, and utilize fire and life safety displays
- Vehicle care and maintenance
- Management of Assigned Budget



### SCHOOL PROGRAMS

School Programs consist of various portions and/or options including “Team Teaching”, “Flannel Board”, “9-1-1”, “Stop/Drop and Roll”, “EDITH and DAN”, “Poster Contests”, “Friendly Firefighter”, “7th and 8th Grade Presentation” and “Station Tours” to be utilized for the proper audience. A minimum of 25 schools are visited by the FPS II each year with a total of 1600 to 1800 children in Madera and Mariposa Counties.

The basic fire safety program that teaches children not to play with matches, lighters or fire is the “Team Teaching” program. Team Teaching targets preschool through second grade.

Team Teaching is a highly professional program developed by teachers, CAL FIRE personnel, and child psychologists. This program utilizes Smokey Bear, an internationally recognized fire prevention symbol to teach children not to play with matches, lighters, or fire. Pre-planning is the most important factor for a successful team teaching program. Historically the program has been presented to school children in cooperation with local government and/or county fire departments, Fire Safe Councils, and the United States Forest Service.

The FPS II (Fire Prevention Specialist II) is responsible for contacting every organized preschool and elementary school within Madera and Mariposa counties. Each spring a phone call is made to each school to schedule the annual “Team Teaching” program. It has become increasingly difficult to schedule all cooperating parties and the schools due to scheduling conflicts, winter staffing levels, budgetary issues, and testing policies at each school.

The first planning meeting the FPS II must schedule is with the U.S. Forest Service and local government representatives to create a calendar of potential dates for the program. Then each school is called to place them on the schedule. When the schedule is complete the program materials are gathered, counted, and prepared. The FPS II then coordinates the Team Teaching calendar with all of CAL FIRE and County Fire Station personnel, Chief Officers, each school, and the Volunteers in Prevention. A request is formulated and each VIP is contacted by letter, email, and by telephone to request assistance for the program.

The Flannel Board Program is designed specifically for preschool children but it can be used for kindergarten also. This program has been met with great success. Teachers have stated that the flannel board story held the children’s attention and that, beyond enjoying the lesson, the children retained the information from the presentation. The flannel board is the story of Smokey

Bear and a family that drove to the wildland to enjoy the day. The “Don’t play with matches, lighters, or fire” theme is introduced to the students and they are told what to do with them if they find them. Each class of students at this age is different so the amount of information that is provided is tailored to their ability to understand and absorb the information. If appropriate, a demonstration of smoke detectors and exit drills in the home occurs. Occasionally personnel from an engine company will don their personal safety gear to show the children what they could expect to see if/when coming into contact with a firefighter. An entire dialogue occurs during this time explaining the firefighters’ role for the children during an emergency; what each piece of clothing, gear, and equipment is used for; and why it is important. Questions and answers are allowed if time permits. A packet containing a CAL FIRE sticker; a stop, drop and roll pencil; a Smokey Bear comic book; and a Smokey Bear coloring book are left with the teacher for each student. Smokey Bear comes into the classroom and the FPS II helps the children tell Smokey what they have learned. Smokey is pleased to accept them in his club as “Smokey’s Helpers”. The FPS II wishes everyone a safe summer and Smokey and the crew leave.

Kindergarten through second grade is the target audience for Team Teaching. This program takes 35 minutes to present per classroom. When the “team” arrives at the school, the FPS II checks in with the office to get the schedule for the day and to make arrangements for a safe and secure changing area for Smokey Bear. One team member will play Smokey and one will be Smokey’s escort. Additional team members will be responsible for presenting fire safety messages to the students; counting and distributing handout materials; demonstrating and assisting with stop, drop and roll; friendly firefighter; 9-1-1; smoke detector training; and EDITH and DAN information, etc. When the program presentation is complete the class receives a visit from Smokey Bear. The students are quizzed about what they have learned and Smokey is happy to welcome them as “Smokey’s Helpers”. A follow-up packet of materials are left for each student with the teacher containing the following materials: The True Story of Smokey Bear comic book; Smokey Bear coloring book; CAL FIRE sticker; pencil with stop, drop, and roll message; Fire Prevention bookmark; and a large poster for the classroom. The second grade students receive the “Discover Fire Safety Book” and the teacher receives the Smokey Bear Thematic Teacher’s Guide. The FPS II must make sure to schedule the Smokey Bear costume, SCBA with shroud and mask, a set of turnouts with structure boots, a smoke detector, props that look like a lighter, a book of matches and enough qualified volunteers.

#### 7th and 8th Grade Presentation

This presentation is given in an assembly at the school by the FPS II. The focus is Juvenile Fire setting behaviors and is presented with discussion under the following categories: Introduction; Icebreaker questions; Explanation of who, what, when, where and why juveniles set fires. The talk includes who becomes involved when a fire is set, a critical thinking portion is explored, and then it moves into consequences for poor choices; economics of fire setting; how fire is represented by the media, by peers, and by teachers; accidental fires, cry for help fires and arson fires. A review of basic fire safety principals is typically included. Then a discussion of how juvenile fire setting can be prevented in the community starts, which generally leads to a discussion on parenting and bullying issues. This program is provided to 11 elementary schools in Madera and Mariposa counties.

The FPS II assists in the training of Unit personnel in public fire prevention education programs.

#### CAREER DAYS

These programs are provided by request only. The FPS II coordinates, plans, and provides the display and/or presentation materials to station personnel appropriate to the age level of the audience and confirms dates, times, locations, and materials requested. The FPS II attends the event to provide a table top display, information and job bulletins. Furthermore the FPS II must notify the Battalion Chief and Station personnel and place requests for engines and staff to assist.

#### FAIRS

The FPS II plans, coordinates, constructs, staffs and manages the Mariposa and Madera County fairs. They provide support, staff and materials for the Los Banos Fair and the Merced County Fair.

They are the responsible party for contract agreements, display location, display theme, duration, staff, set up and removal for Mariposa and Madera County Fair. Additionally the FPS II must notify the Battalion Chief and Station personnel and place requests for engines and staff.

#### EXHIBITS AND DISPLAYS

The FPS II responds to requests to provide exhibits and displays. They determines the theme, recruits VIPs to assist with staffing, and notifies the Battalion Chief and Station personnel of the request. They also constructs displays and puts exhibits together for Fire Prevention Week; Station Open House; Poster Contests; Wildfire Awareness Week; Mt. Heritage Days; Town Hall Meetings; Fairs; Fire Safe Council events; and other community requests. The FPS II oversees and ensures departmental policies and procedures for consistency in fire prevention, education, information and the dissemination for forest fire laws in the Unit's exhibits and displays.

#### PUBLIC INFORMATION

Under the direction of the Unit Prevention Bureau Chief or Incident Commander, the FPS II functions as a Public Information Officer for the Unit, or statewide as a Field PIO, PIO Center Manager, PIO in JIC, PIO on unified command incidents, etc), to provide information regarding events of public interest, public safety, evacuations conditions, and emergency response situations, etc. by issuing Public Service Announcements, news releases, media briefings, television, radio and print interviews, verbal and other written communication. The FPS II preplans the public service announcements; writes and reviews news releases, and prepares articles for newsletters. They provides, conducts, or arranges for appropriate CAL FIRE personnel to provide live and pre-recorded radio and TV interviews according to departmental guidelines and procedures and the format prescribed by the Communications Section of CAL FIRE. The FPS II ensures that accurate information is expended to the media and works with local PIOs to assist in dissemination of information. They should work to create and maintain good relationships with the media, the public, and other agencies to ensure adequate distribution of accurate information to the public. The PFE II writes articles or reports for various publications (Departmental or otherwise) to advertise or inform the public, the Department or other agencies of activities, issues or other pertinent information. They distributes news releases to the media and elected officials on various topics such as information relating to an arson arrest, media event, preparedness levels, etc. Furthermore the FPS II plans, designs and coordinates, in cooperation with the Sierra Star newspaper, the annual fire safety and home clearance section. The FPS II participates as an instructor for the Emergency Command Center Academy Course at the CAL FIRE Academy in Lone to provide departmental guidelines, policies and procedures to assure Departmental compliance with state Policies in the ECC.

#### JUVENILE FIRESETTER INTERVENTION SPECIALIST

Under the direction of the Fire Prevention Bureau Chief, the FPS II is responsible for developing and maintaining the Units Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program (JFS). They develops the program for the Unit and compiles materials, videos, and programs to educate Juvenile Firesetters of the dangers of playing with fire. The FPS II should be certified at a Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I and II. They will respond to requests for intervention interviews assessments from the Madera, Mariposa and Merced County Sheriffs Office, the Madera, Mariposa and Merced County Probation Office, local school administrators, concerned parents and referrals from station personnel and/or Fire Prevention Bureau Staff.

The FPS II will develop a Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program Team and recruit personnel from the Unit to join the team. As the JFS team coordinator, the FPS II provides them with the initial Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I training. They will coordinate interview requests for the team and monitor their interview techniques and reports. Additionally they will supply the team with updates in the JFS field. It is vital to supply the team members with the JFIS II training. Unfortunately this class has not been offered locally in recent years.

#### VIP COORDINATOR

The Volunteers In Prevention (VIP) of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is an efficient fire prevention and loss reduction education force for California. Each year wildfires burn thousands of acres of California's watershed, timber, and grasslands. As a result, millions of dollars in damage are done to the environment; homes are destroyed; lives are threatened and sometimes lost. With 95 percent of the wildland fires CAL FIRE responds to each year being the product of negligence, fire prevention and public life safety education are

key to reducing losses from fires in California. The VIP program is a vital part of providing this service to the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit. The following is a list of activities that VIPs are asked to provide support.

1. Fire and Life Safety Education Programs
2. Public Information Education.
3. LE 100 Inspection Program under PRC 4291
4. Red Flag, Holiday, and Arson Patrols
5. Communications

The FPS II coordinates and manages the Unit's VIP program. This includes recruitment and training of VIPs, identification and tracking of the Units VIP activities and maintenance of the Unit's VIP database. The FPS will maintain and file records to track all VIP hours, miles driven, events attended and training provided. They provides letters of proof of service on demand for VIPs. Upon request the FPS II will provide a potential VIP the CAL FIRE 670 form. When it is completed and returned, they will process the form, supply the new VIP with a welcome packet, and add the individual to the VIP database. The welcome packet includes information on the VIP identification card, a VIP Orientation Guide, VIP Activity Sheet, AO 448 and AO 449 forms and a list of contact information.

There is no mandatory number of hours required of a volunteer, but the FPS II may require at least one program per year for a VIP to stay active. If that requirement is not met the FPS II will send out a letter of inactivity to the VIP and place them on an inactive list for one year. After that year if the VIP has not responded, they are deleted from the system. All VIPs work under the direction of the FPS II and they is responsible for their performance. If necessary, the FPS II shall follow the Departmental Progressive Discipline Policy for all inappropriate behavior. They shall provide annual training classes for the VIPs which includes PIO and Defensive Driving. The FPS II is responsible for tracking the VIP hours donated, miles driven, meal costs, and related expenses. The FPS II may also track some certificates and training records in addition to completing all VIP Performance Evaluations. They will process all CALATERs forms for each VIP and is responsible for keeping VIP uniform shirts in stock and delivering them to each VIP. If a VIP becomes injured while volunteering, the FPS II is also responsible for processing their IAPS forms, as they are covered under workers' compensation insurance.

The FPS II assists the Unit LE 100 inspection process by recruiting VIPs to perform first and second home clearance inspections. The FPS II provides annual LE 100 training for VIPs that are interested in helping with this process and conducts inspections upon request.

The FPS II is responsible for recruitment and retention of VIPs. This has become increasingly difficult over the past decade due to a decline in support and funding for the VIP program. The VIP program is in competition with programs supported by AmeriCorps. This program provides funding for uniforms, awards, certificates, vehicles, training and advertisements. The FPS II may attempt to incorporate Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) training into the VIP program.

#### ROAD SIDE SIGNS

The FPS II will plan and construct road side signs for the entire Unit. They shall purchase the materials, deliver them to a vendor or a conservation camp for construction of all signs, pick the signs up when completed, and deliver them to the appropriate stations for display. The FPS II will track all signs in a database and contact station personnel four times each year to remind them to change out their roadside signs, to check on locations, and assist with any problems.

#### POSTER CONTEST

Every other year the FPS II will coordinate a poster contest within school programs. The FPS II will advertise the contest and collect and judge the entries. During the school programs the FPS II will present each winner with an award. The overall winner in each category will have a roadside sign constructed from their poster.

#### PARADES

The FPS II receives the requests for and processes all documents and entry certificates for all parades in the Unit. They plans and coordinates with the Fire Prevention Bureau Chief, the Battalion Chief and station personnel to ensure equipment, staff, and VIPs are available to participate. The FPS II will collect, deliver, and supply all necessary handouts, materials, and

Smokey Bear or Sparky the Fire Dog. The FPS II may occasionally participate in the parades as time and workload permit.

#### **PUBLIC OFFICER**

As a public officer, the FPS II is responsible for keeping current on all relevant training. The FPS II will assist the Unit when necessary in issuing citations. After responding to a request, the FPS II completes a citation package; delivers it to all appropriate parties, including the local District Attorney; and keeps all necessary documentation in a secure file cabinet.

#### **PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

Upon request the FPS II shall provide fire and life safety presentation to the public, local businesses, group, clubs, and organizations. Each request is different in nature and requires research of the topic, construction of displays, development of a PowerPoint presentation, and preparation of handout materials. If necessary the FPS II arranges for an expert guest speaker for a specific topic of request.

#### **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP**

The FPS II shall seek corporate sponsorship for programs and purchase of materials. One example of this would be the annual Smokey Bear Color Contest. This program is sponsored by Sierra Telephone and the Sierra Star newspaper. The coverage area for this contest includes Madera and Mariposa counties.

The FPS II will work with Pacific Gas and Electric, Smokey Bear Race Committee, Home Depot, Mariposa Feed Store, Sierra Telephone Company, ABC Channel 30 Television, Intermountain Nursery, Western Sierra Nursery, Chukchansi Resort and Casino and ACE Hardware.

Each sponsorship attempt requires the preparation of a proposal, presentation of the proposal, and follow-up with each potential sponsor. If the proposal is accepted, the FPS II will facilitate the purchase, construction, delivery, creation and implementation of the request.

#### **SMOKEY BEAR**

The FPS II is responsible for the purchase, maintenance, appearance and security of the Unit's Smokey Bear costumes. There are specific federal and state requirements and regulations to the use, care, and security of the Smokey Bear costume and image. Smokey Bear is a widely recognized fire prevention symbol and his success and longevity are directly related to the standards that have been identified for use and all aspects of the Smokey image, public appearances and care of the costume. The FPS II will utilize Smokey Bear in the majority of all fire prevention programs in the Unit. The FPS II will ship or deliver Smokey to approved events, recruit VIPs to be Smokey Bear or his escort, receive the Smokey costume when it is returned from events, and store the Smokey Bear costume. Occasionally the FPS II will dress up as Smokey Bear when necessary.

#### **SPARKY THE FIRE DOG**

The FPS II is responsible for the purchase, maintenance, appearance, and security of the Unit's Sparky the Fire Dog costumes. There are specific state requirements and regulations to the use, care, and security of the Sparky the Fire Dog costume and image. The FPS II will utilize Sparky in many fire prevention programs in the Unit. They will ship or deliver Sparky to approved events, recruit VIPs to be Sparky or his escort at events, receive the Sparky costume when it is returned from events, and store Sparky. Occasionally the FPS II will dress up as Sparky when necessary.

#### **SMOKEY BEAR 10 K RACE**

As a member of the Smokey Bear Race committee, the FPS II shall attend monthly committee meetings as a representative of CAL FIRE. As such they is responsible for assisting with race planning, advertisements, registration, food, raffle prizes, t-shirts, trophies, announcer equipment, water stations, radio communicators, award ceremonies, banners, corporate sponsorships, and donations. The FPS II will also assist with publicity, all race day functions, and recruitment of runners. Each year the committee votes on the distribution of the proceeds from the event. They must benefit eastern Madera County citizens. The 2010 race proceeds facilitated the purchase of school program materials and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for eastern Madera County along with new ball caps for the Unit's VIP program.



## E: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Resource Management in MMU involves administration and enforcement of the Forest Practice Act, administration of the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP), administration of the Prop 40 fuel reduction fund, administration and supervision of the Hazard Fuels Treatment Grants (HFT), conducting California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance for Unit projects, and general service forestry.

1. The Forest Practice Act and the Forest Practice Rules govern the harvest of timber from private lands in California. The Rules require a landowner who harvests timber for commercial purposes (i.e. selling, bartering or trading logs or milled lumber to another party) to submit an exemption notice or timber harvesting plan document with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Some of the notices or plans that are required may require the services of a Registered Professional Forester. Listed below are the most common documents required by the state and the conditions under which each is appropriate.
  - a. Less than 3 acre Conversion Exemption – This conversion exemption is to harvest trees while doing a one time conversion to a non-timber growing use (i.e. orchard, house site, pasture.) on parcels less than 3 acres. The conversion requires that 100% of the slash be removed. These strict slash removal requirements were designed to minimize fuels in and around residences.
  - b. Emergency Notice of Operations - This emergency allows for the harvest of dead and dying trees to capture fire salvage and insect- and disease-killed trees.
  - c. Fuel Hazard Reduction Emergency - This emergency, adopted in 2004, allows for the immediate harvest of trees where high, very high or extreme fuel hazard conditions and the combination combustible fuel quantity, type, condition, configuration and terrain positioning, pose a significant fire threat on private timberlands. Cutting and removal of hazardous fuels, including trees, shrubs and other woody material, is needed to eliminate the vertical and horizontal continuity of understory fuels and surface fuels for the purpose of reducing the rate of fire spread, fire duration and intensity, fuel ignitability and to achieve a flame length under average severe fire weather conditions that is less than 4 feet in the treated areas.
  - d. 10% Dead & Dying Exemption - This exemption allows for the immediate harvest of dead, dying, or diseased trees of any size, fuel wood or split wood products, in amounts less than 10% of the average volume per acre.
  - e. Fire Safe Exemption - This exemption allows for the removal of ladder fuels and thinning of trees within 150 feet of a permitted structure. All slash is to be treated within 45 days. This activity is encouraged to further the intent of Public Resources Code (PRC) 4290.
  - f. Modified Timber Harvest Plan - This plan allows for the harvest of trees on an ownership of 100 acres or less.
  - g. Timber Harvest Plan (THP) - This plan addresses the harvest of timber on more than 3 acres and is beyond the scope of a modified THP. An approved THP acts as the functional equivalent of an Environmental Impact Report as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
  - h. Non-industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) - The long-term timber harvest plan has no termination date and is designed to be utilized by a timberland owner with less than 2,500 acres.
  - i. In 2011, there were 4 active THPs and a total of 1,679 acres under harvest. There are 10 NTMPs and a total of 5,052 acres under active management. A total of 14 exemptions occurred for a total of 203 acres. There is one pending forest practice enforcement action that has been referred to Civil Penalties adjudication. To achieve compliance with the Forest Practice Act, public education is the primary tool and enforcement action is the secondary tool.
2. California Forest Improvement Project (CFIP)
3. There were two CFIP projects funded in 2011. The Unit encourages fuel reduction CFIP projects. There are 2 CFIP projects waiting funding.
4. PROPOSITION 40

There were two Prop 40 projects waiting funding in the Unit:

- a. MMU Shaded Fuel Break Maintenance
- b. Lushmeadows Shaded Fuel Break Phase II.

5. HFT Grants

There were five HFT grants pending in the Unit: Stumpfield-Watts Fuel Break, Lush Meadows Shaded Fuel Break, Greeley Hill VMP, Kinsman Flat VMP and Miami Mountain-Salts Spring Shaded Fuel Break. Stumpfield-Watts Fuel Break is now complete. Lush Meadows Shaded Fuel Break is active and scheduled for completion in the fall of 2012. The Greeley Hill VMP and Kinsman Flat VMP are in the environmental planning stage and are scheduled for completion in the fall of 2012 and winter of 2012, respectively. The Miami Mountain-Salts Spring Shaded Fuel Break is currently inactive.

6. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance

The Unit seeks 100% CEQA compliance on all projects.

7. Service Forestry and Urban Forestry

The Unit Forester is also required to provide forestry advice upon request to private landowners. This advice includes, but is not limited to recommendations for fuel management and fire safe activities that can be applied to residences. Often times, service forestry calls are related to bark beetle activity in pine trees. Landowners are encouraged to immediately remove the bark beetle killed trees and treat the slash. Urban Forestry activities within the Unit include annual Arbor Day presentations at the cities of Los Banos and Merced.

