

SECTION V: PRE- FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS

Battalion I

Battalion 1 stretches from the Santa Clara county line north along the Highway 280 and Highway 35 corridors to just south of the San Francisco City limits. It sits between two of the most densely populated cities in the nation being San Francisco, and the City of San Jose. The infamous San Andreas earthquake fault dissects the western and eastern portions of the Battalion.

The geography within the battalion is very diverse. Terrain ranges from rolling grass and brush intermix in the valley and foothill locations to heavily forested coastal redwoods. The fire weather conditions are also very diverse throughout the battalion. The temperature and humidity values typically fluctuate widely with the northern portions of the battalion usually under a coastal influence with mild temperatures in the mid 60's, while just 10 miles south the temperature may be in the mid 80's to low 90's. The Battalion has many areas of WUI and most fires will threaten structures within the initial attack period. The Hwy 280 corridor and San Bruno Mountain area continue to be the locations with the most fire activity.

Cooperators: San Mateo County Fire Safe, San Francisco Water Department, Mid-Peninsula Open Space District, Woodside Fire Protection District, Redwood City Fire Department, CAL FIRE / San Mateo County Fire Department, and San Mateo County Parks.

2012 Goals:

The Targeted Activity priorities for the Battalion 1 are broken down into three main components.

1. LE-100 structural clearance inspections (4291)
2. Fuel Breaks
3. Fuel reduction projects
4. Continued Community outreach and education

Each year, the Battalion Chief designates areas to focus defensible space inspections. In 2012, LE-100 inspection will focus on Burlingame Hills.

Current Battalion 1 fuel break projects include the shaded fuel breaks along upper skyline south of Hwy 92 as well as fuel reduction along southern portion of Skyline Boulevard.



SF Water southern fuel break looking towards Hwy 280 Corridor.

Battalion 2

Battalion 2 stretches from the Santa Cruz County line north along the Highway 1 to just south of Pacifica City limits. The Battalion extends east toward the Hwy 35 corridor. Half Moon Bay, El Granada and Moss Beach are the most densely populated urbanized areas in the Battalion.

The geography within the battalion is very diverse. Terrain ranges from rolling grass and brush intermix in the coastal foothills, eucalyptus groves and coastal redwoods in the uplands. The fire weather conditions are also very diverse throughout the battalion. The temperature and humidity values typically fluctuate widely with the near coastal portions of the battalion usually under a marine influence with mild temperatures in the mid 60's. As the battalion extends to the east the temperatures can increase rapidly. The Hwy 1 and Hwy 92 corridors continue to be the locations with the most fire activity. Battalion 2 is committed to working with our cooperators in reducing the fire and life safety hazards that exist within the battalion boundaries.

Cooperators: Coastside Fire Protection District, Fire Safe San Mateo

2012 Goals:

The Targeted Activity priorities for the Coastside Battalion are broken down into three main components.

1. LE-100 structural clearance inspections (4291)
2. Fuel Breaks
3. Fuel reduction projects
4. Continued Community outreach and education



Fuels management in Coastside Battalion near El Granada (2010).

Battalion 3

Battalion 3 is the northern Santa Cruz County Battalion. The boundary of Battalion 3 is north of the HWY 17 corridor, east of Hwy 1, South of the San Mateo County line and West of the Santa Clara County line. The Battalion includes the communities of Bonny Doon, Davenport. Within and adjacent the Battalion are Boulder Creek, Ben Lomond, Felton, Scotts Valley and the City of Santa Cruz.

Fuels vary greatly within the Battalion, from coastal grasses to varying levels of brush in the sandy soils upland. There are also many areas of heavy fuels including oak, madrone, knob cone pine, Douglas-fir and Coastal Redwood.

The weather is heavily influenced by the ocean during the summertime, keeping coastal areas cool and normally low to medium dispatch levels. Inland temperatures consist of low, medium to high dispatch levels depending on either the absence or the presence of the local coastal influence.

The topography in Battalion 3 varies greatly depending on your location, coastal areas have flat and gently rolling areas and then quickly transition into moderate to steep canopy covered canyons.

The Battalion has seen two major fires in the recent years. The Battalion has areas of high fire severity and many of these areas an over growth of and overcrowded forest will lead to high hazard burning if weather comes into alignment.

2012 Goals:

The Targeted Activity priorities for Battalion 3 are broken down into three main components.

1. LE-100 structural clearance inspections (4291)
2. Fuel Breaks
3. Fuel reduction projects
4. Continued Community outreach and education

An aggressive LE100 program has been in effect in recent years, targeting hazard areas in the WUI. Several shaded fuels breaks have been completed, including those along HWY 35 and in the Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve. Several more fuel breaks are planned by the BDFSC are projected along the Empire Grade Road corridor from Braemoor to south of Pine Flat road. An aggressive fuel load reduction project is taking place on Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company property.

Cooperators: South Skyline Fire Safe Council, Bonny Doon Fire Safe Council, Bonny Doon Resource Conservation District, Lockheed Martin Space Systems Cooperation, Big Creek Lumber.



Example of fuels in Battalion 3, near Hwy 35 and Hwy 9 (Castle Rock State Park).

Battalion 4

The Battalion stretches from Highway 17 in the north to the Monterey and San Benito County lines to the south and the Santa Clara County line to the east. The western boundary runs adjacent to several Fire Protection Districts and to the Pacific Ocean in the southern part of the County. The Battalion contains heavy timber on steep slopes turning to mixed brush with grass lands in the foothills and valleys. Special features include the Soquel Demonstration State Forest and the Forest of Nicene of Marks, numerous State and County Beaches, two high schools, and portions of Highways 1, 129 and 152.

The general population varies from dense residential and commercial to the less dense rural settings found throughout much of the SRA. As with most SRA areas we have growing challenge of protecting homes in the WUI. In the past 5 years there has been one major fire (Summit) and one extended attack fire (Trabing). Both fires occurred in 2008.

Battalion 4 is committed to working with our cooperators to reduce the fire and life safety hazards that exist within the Battalion boundaries. Cooperators: Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District, Santa Cruz County Fire Department, Aptos La-Selva Fire Protection District, Central Fire protection District, Scotts Valley Fire Protection District, Soquel Demonstration Forest, Cal Fire Santa Clara and Cal Fire San Benito Monterey Unit.

2012 Goals:

1. Inspections of burn piles/areas and public education during permit issuance.
2. LE-100 inspections.
3. Complete reports and inform Fire Prevention on Cost Recovery incidents.

4. Public awareness/education of fire danger in State Park during Public Access days.
5. Report abandoned vehicle to the Santa Cruz County vehicle abatement program.
6. Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District will mail clearance notice to 600 residences in the SRA.
7. Continued Community outreach and education

The battalion LE-100 inspection program is focused on the following communities and roads:
Eureka Canyon, Tindall Ranch, and Las Colinas.



Aptos Creek Fire Road in Battalion 4 (2011).

Training

The CALFIRE CZU Training Battalion is responsible for delivery and documentation of training for all career and volunteer personnel. The Battalion will ensure that all federal, state and local training mandates, laws and regulations are followed as they pertain to training.

GENERAL GOALS:

- Enforce state/federal law, and County/District training policies, procedures and protocols as they apply to career and volunteer personnel.
- Ensure that all personnel receive the opportunity for training that is required for their specific positions.
- Document all employees training in a common database (Target Safety)
- Work with the CALFIRE Region Office regarding the allocation of training for CALFIRE personnel and the presentation of training at regional training locations.
- Work with cooperators at the County/State level to ensure communications, cooperation and coordination of all public safety training.
- Work with cooperators as a member of the San Mateo County Training Officers Association and Santa Cruz County Training Officer Association.

- The Training Battalion will assist and closely coordinate all training with assigned battalion training representatives.

The CALFIRE CZU Training Battalion in coordination with local cooperators conducts pre-wildland fire training. Training is conducted at the company level and also consists of the complete activation of multiple county strike teams. The training covers all mandated safety requirements including perishable wildland firefighting skills. The Training Battalion also hosts a Strike Team Leader Refresher course for local government agencies in coordination with CAL-EMA. Many other State Fire Marshall and NWCG courses are offered through the Training Officer Associations to build local knowledge of wildland firefighting.



State and local Government firefighters participate in wildland fire training (2011).