

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

California's Strategic Fire Plan is the state's road map for reducing the risk of wildfire. By placing the emphasis on what needs to be done long before a fire starts, the Strategic Fire Plan seeks to reduce firefighting costs and property losses, increase firefighter safety, and to contribute to ecosystem health. The San Benito – Monterey Unit, with the cooperation of key stakeholders, has designed a plan with the intention of meeting the goals set by both the stakeholders and the California Strategic Fire Plan. Pre-fire management projects are designed to reduce costs and losses, especially during periods of severe fire weather. With the use of fire resistant landscaping, mechanical fuels treatment, prescribed burns, building construction standards, infrastructure, land use planning and pre-fire safety zones and escape plans, the Unit strives to keep what would otherwise be a large, catastrophic fire, to smaller fire with less intensity, reducing suppression costs and property loss.

The San Benito-Monterey Unit management intends to support the Fire Plan and make it successful by meeting the following objectives:

- Collect, analyze and prepare data to assess communities at risk and in need of fuel reduction or other projects
- Work with grant writers and stakeholders to secure funds to implement projects.
- Utilize CAL FIRE personnel and resources in conjunction with other public and private efforts to assist with the project work on the ground.
- Educate the public on fire prevention and incorporating fire resistant landscaping and construction to their property, as well as hazardous fuel reduction to keep their lives, homes, property and natural resources safe from catastrophic wildfires.

With these goals in mind, the Unit strives to reduce fire suppression costs, property loss and damage to our environment and local ecosystems in the San Benito-Monterey Unit through our pre-fire work and by protecting life, property and the environment from destructive wildfires.