

***The need for wildfire planning*** is no more self-evident than the devastating footprint from the 2003 and 2007 Fire Sieges in San Diego County. These fire sieges left major lingering impacts – perhaps for decades. Over half a million acres were burned, twenty-five lives were lost and many more were injured, thousands of homes and other structures were damaged or destroyed, the loss of personal property and keepsakes un-measurable, business and traffic were significantly disrupted, historic and prehistoric cultural resources were damaged, carbon was added to the atmosphere, air and water quality was impacted for months, maybe years, wildlife habitat was altered, and forest succession was significantly setback at least 100 years. These fires not only effected San Diego, but California and the rest of the United States as well, as the cost to taxpayers reached into the hundred of millions of dollars for fire suppression. Pre and post wildfire planning is paramount to minimize, and possibly, avoid these devastating impacts in the future.

The San Diego Unit Fire Plan (Unit Fire Plan) represents a local wildfire planning document that tiers under the [2010 California Strategic Fire Plan](#) (Strategic Fire Plan). Directed by the Public Resources Code 4114-4130, the Strategic Fire Plan was developed in partnership with the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The statewide plan outlines seven broad goals and fifty-seven objectives with the vision to create “a natural environment that is more resilient and man-made assets which are more resistant to the occurrence and effects of wildland fire through local, state, federal and private partnerships.” CAL FIRE Administrative Units and Contract Counties are required to develop work plans to implement the Strategic Fire Plan. Essentially, the San Diego Unit Fire Plan is the work plan on how the San Diego Unit will implement and meet the goals and objectives identified in the Strategic Fire Plan.

The San Diego Unit staff selected sixteen of the fifty-seven objectives from all seven goals and intends to implement these objectives over the course of the next eight years (2011-2018). These objectives were selected based on the knowledge that Unit is already working towards these objectives or intends to put forth effort to accomplish these objectives. Moreover, these objectives can only be accomplished through the partnerships with local, county, and federal agencies, fire safe councils, stakeholders, and the public – and the Unit is already actively involved with these partners.

Utilizing the statewide template, the San Diego Fire Plan presents five sections:

- Section I: Provides an overview of the Unit and includes identifying the selected goals and objectives from the Strategic Fire Plan
- Section II: Describes the collaboration efforts by the Unit
- Section III: Briefly describes the priority landscapes
- Section IV: Identifies fire prevention, training, and pre-fire management activities and strategies
- Section V: Provides the tactical information to be implemented by the battalions and programs

While the first three sections provide basic information describing the background work to support the implementation of the Unit's goals and objectives, the last two sections are the key sections outlining the activities and projects. Essentially, these last two sections describe the measureable progress towards meeting the goals and objectives. Appendix A list all the project and activities by the battalion and/or program and correlates each with a specific goal and objective for 2011. Appendix B reflects the accomplishments of the 2011 projects and activities (Appendix A). Appendix C lists the Unit's 2012 priority projects. Supplement information maybe added in the Addendum section.

Lastly, like the Strategic Fire Plan, the Unit Fire Plan has a planning horizon through 2018. The first operational period of the Unit Fire Plan is set as July 2011 – June 2013. The Unit intends to provide annual progress reports (first progress report due June 2012). Nevertheless, the Unit should review the entire document in July 2013 to ensure consistency with the Unit's mission, vision and priorities, as well as supporting the goals and objectives of the statewide plan.