Strategic Fire Plan for California

The 2010 Strategic Fire Plan for California is the first statewide fire plan developed through a collaborative effort between the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and the California Department of Forestry (Board) and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The Plan recognizes that fire will occur in California and works to answer the question of "how do we utilize and live with that risk of wildfire?" The 2010 Plan builds upon the concept first developed in the 1996 California Fire Plan, which led to collaborative efforts in fire prevention. A copy of the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan for California can be found at http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/pub/fireplan/fpupload/fpppdf668.pdf

The vision of the 2010 Strategic Fire Plan: 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.

The 2010 Strategic Fire Plan outlines seven goals focused on enhancing the protection of lives, property, and natural resources from wildland fire, as well as improving environmental resilience to wildland fire. Each of the goals is meant to build upon the previous one; the seven goals are listed below:

1. Identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property and natural resource assets at risk, including watershed, habitat, social and other values of functioning ecosystems. Facilitate the sharing of all analyses and data collection across all ownerships for consistency in type and kind.
2. Articulate and promote the concept of land use planning as it relates to fire risk and individual landowner objectives and responsibilities.
3. Support and participate in the collaborative development and implementation of wildland fire protection plans and other local, county and regional plans that address fire protection and landowner objectives.
4. Increase awareness, knowledge and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildland fires, such as defensible space and other fuels reduction activities, fire prevention and fire safe building standards.
5. Develop a method to integrate fire and fuels management practices with landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional efforts within local, state and federal responsibility areas.
6. Determine the level of fire suppression resources necessary to protect the values and assets at risk identified during planning processes.
7. Address post-fire responsibilities for natural resource recovery, including watershed protection, reforestation and ecosystem restoration.

Santa Barbara County is one of six "contract counties" (Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, Kern, and Marin), which has executed a contract with the State of California to provide wildland fire protection on state responsibility areas (SRA). Santa Barbara County has the responsibility as a contract county to implement the 2010 State Strategic Fire Plan for California in Santa Barbara County. As such the Santa Barbara County Fire Department functionally operates as a Unit of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and is responsible for all Strategic Fire Plan activities within the County. This plan, the *Santa Barbara County Unit Strategic Fire Plan,* replaces the previous unit fire plan: *Santa Barbara County Unit Fire Plan,* and the *Santa Barbara County Communities Wildfire Protection Plan 2005.*

Santa Barbara County Unit Strategic Fire Plan

Mission Statement

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department serves and safeguards the community from the impacts of fires, medical emergencies, environmental emergencies, and natural disasters through leadership, planning, education, prevention, code enforcement, and all-hazard emergency response.

Our *Mission Statement* is a written description of the purpose of the Department.

Vision Statement

The Santa Barbara County Fire Department will be a model public safety agency, widely recognized for our effectiveness, regional strength, and community attentiveness.

Our *Vision Statement* is a compelling description of how the organization will or should operate at some point in the future and of how our stakeholders will benefit from our Department's services.

Core Values

Commitment – Courage - Integrity - Innovation - Teamwork – Service

Our *Core Values* list the key behaviors and beliefs that determine how the Department operates.

The Department's *Mission Statement, Vision Statement,* and *Core Values* are the shared attributes and behaviors that inform and guide our actions in delivering services; one of these services is producing and implementing the Unit Strategic Fire Plan. As an "all-risk" department it is our duty to protect life, property, and the environment. In order to accomplish this, a frame work is required to guide our efforts. This Unit Strategic Fire Plan will provide this frame work and will identify goals and objectives pertaining to reducing and preventing the impacts of wildland fire. The Unit Strategic Fire Plan is intended to convey management direction from the County Fire Chief, involve and educate stakeholders on the wildfire environment, establish strategic priorities for wildfire prevention and suppression projects and programs into a single unified plan, and be a living document that will adapt to changing conditions and be updated on a regular basis. The Unit Strategic Fire Plan was developed and will be maintained by the Vegetation Management Section at the direction of the County Fire Chief. The Vegetation Management Section is located in the Fire Marshal's Office in the Fire Prevention Services Division of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

The Santa Barbara County Unit Strategic Fire Plan incorporates elements of other important planning documents that include the Santa Barbara County Fire Department Strategic Plan, Santa Barbara County Seismic Safety and Safety Element of the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan[1], and the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan[2]. The Santa Barbara County Fire Department Strategic Plan clarifies what our organization must do as a result of assessing and planning for major issues and opportunities facing us. The Seismic Safety and Safety Element is a guide for land use planning which

[1] The electronic version of the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan can be found at: http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org

[2] The electronic version of the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan can be found at: http://www.countyofsb.org/ceo/oes.aspx?id=376

provides pertinent data regarding geologic, soil, seismic, fire and flood hazards. The Seismic Safety and Safety Element also provides recommendations and criteria to aid in land use planning in order to ensure that future development will be compatible with the environment. The Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan coordinates risk assessment, mitigation planning, and implementation efforts in both incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County.

Key objectives identified by Santa Barbara County Fire based on the seven goals of the California Strategic Plan include:

- Maintain an up-to-date GIS database used for operations, planning, and analysis.
- Collaborate with local governmental agencies in the creation and adoption of land use plans, building codes, fire codes, and development standards in High Fire Hazard Areas.
- Create a Santa Barbara County approved Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) template and provide communities technical support and guidance in the preparation of CWPPs.
- Provide ongoing public education and outreach.
- Enforce defensible space laws and ordinances, and provide defensible space education.
- Conduct collaborative vegetation management projects.
- Maintain suppression forces: engine companies, construction section, air operations unit (helicopter program).