

SECTION V: PRE- FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS

The following pages contain the Field Battalions lists of projects and goals for the implementation of the Santa Clara Units Fire Management Plan, the “Meat and Potatoes.” They are compiled by the field Battalion Chiefs with input from the units Pre Fire Engineer, Fire Safe Councils, Stakeholders, and the general public through Community outreach. While they reflect an amazing cross section of goals and ideas, they are not inflexible or cast in stone, nor are they the only options available to mitigate a problem. These are suggestions and a starting point for the journey, not the end point.

BATTALION ONE (MORGAN HILL)

Battalion One is located in Santa Clara County’s Supervisor District One and lies solely in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) bordering the south side of Bailey Road in the northwest; east of Uvas Road; then westward on the Redwood Retreat Road; south along the Santa Cruz County line to San Benito County line; then jumps across the South Santa Clara Valley and San Benito County Line at San Felipe Road; to the Henry Coe State Park and private ranches to the west side of The County Line Road, including the Highway 152 corridor- from Dinosaur Point to Dunne Hill. In the open lands of the east side of Battalion One and Henry Coe Park there is a need for state agencies and local citizens to protect mountain Lions, black-tailed deer, ground squirrels, coyotes, raccoons, bobcats, and wild pigs roam. Also, there are golden eagles, California, quail, jays, woodpeckers, red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, western bluebirds and wild turkeys.

Historically, the major wildland fire occurrence have been in the remote and sparsely populated eastern portion of the Battalion One, the 1936 Fire, the 1961 Bollinger Ridge Fire, , the 2007 Lick Fire, are the largest fires recorded in the Santa Clara Unit. Fire Season staffing (May through October) statistics for Battalion One are: 1 Battalion Chief; 6 permanent and 1 seasonal Fire Captain; 2 permanent and 1 seasonal Fire Apparatus Engineer; and 22 seasonal firefighters answered the calls with one utility, four fire engines and 1 reserve fire engine responded to incidents within the Battalion.

Objectives:

1. Improve awareness and involvement between the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council and south Santa Clara County communities by personnel at the fire station and the available “Living with Fire” in Santa Clara County handouts.
2. Continue hazard reduction inspections (LE100 Inspections) for structures with Volunteers In Prevention (VIP) and Engine Companies.
3. Continue input on all new construction and developments with the Santa Clara County Fire Marshall’s office.
4. Install and maintain a Remote Fire Weather Station (RAWS) in the foothills east of South Santa Clara County basin when funding becomes available.
5. Participate in all local community activities (i.e. Back Country Event, Renaissance Fair, Indian POW WOW, and Tarantella Festival)

6. Continue assistance for Henry Coe State Park, and private ranchers in fuel modification projects.
7. Continue 3.0 staffing on all state funded ICS Type III fire engines during fire season (June through October) and continue to seek 4.0 staffing, when funding permits, in for initial attack responses to further reduce the costs and losses due to wild land fires.
8. Train and pre-plan to assist local government for the possibility of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and terrorist acts.
9. Train and preplan to assist local government for the possibility of natural or man-made disasters which may occur.

BATTALION TWO (San Jose)

The San Jose Battalion encompasses approximately 250 square miles of SRA lands in the northern and eastern portions of Santa Clara County and the SRA lands in the Almaden Valley. A major portion of the Battalion covers the remote undeveloped area of the Diablo Range. The wildland urban interface areas are adjacent to the Almaden Valley and the eastern foothills of San Jose.

Wildland fire activity in the battalion was very low due to mild weather conditions. It was reported to be the coolest location in the Bay Area. Most fires in the battalion are typically contained by the initial attack resource assignment. There is little too no structure loss or damage to public infrastructure. Fire Season staffing (May through October) statistics for Battalion Two are: 1 Battalion Chief; 4 permanent and 1 seasonal Fire Captain; and 10 seasonal firefighters answered the calls with one utility, two fire engines responded to incidents within the Battalion.

Objectives:

1. Continue hazard reduction inspections (LE100 Inspections) for structures with Volunteers In Prevention (VIP) and Engine Companies.
2. Selected areas in the battalion were based on three factors; assets at risk, communities at risk, and watershed value. The three areas are Alum Rock Falls, Lick Observatory, and the community of Twin Creeks.
3. Develop concise pre-plans and compartment maps that will provide new personnel, ECC staff, and overhead teams with the location of strategic control points and access into the vast area of SRA lands.
4. Continue with pre-plans for areas of the Battalion that are remote.

BATTALION THREE (LOS GATOS)

Battalion Three is located in Santa Clara County and lies solely in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) bordering the north of Highway 152; west of the Almaden Valley; then east of the Santa Cruz County line; South from the San Mateo County Line. The Battalion includes watershed for

local communities, as this watershed flows in to many lakes and streams managed by both the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the San Jose Water Company. The Battalion also is home to a large amount of Coastal Redwoods protected from development by open space districts along with County parks. The Battalion also has a number of small rural communities that have little or no governmental services.

Historically, the major wild land fire occurrence has been in the remote and sparsely populated South western portion of the Battalion Three, The 2009 Loma Fire, The 2008 Summit Fire, the 1994 Croy Fire and the 1987 Lexington Fire were large structure loss incidents in the Santa Clara Unit. The 2010 Fire Cause Statistics are consistent with previous years equipment use being the leading cause for preventable wild land fires. Fire Season Staffing (May through October) statistics for Battalion Three are: 1 Battalion Chief; 7 permanent and 2 seasonal Fire Captains; 2 Fire Pilots and 2 seasonal Fire Apparatus Engineers; and 25 seasonal firefighters answered the calls with one utility (circa 2002) two fire engines (circa 2008, 2010) one helicopter (circa 1968) and one helicopter service unit (circa 1996) responded to 688 separate incidents,

Action Plan

1. Support the ongoing shaded fuel break in conjunction with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and other stakeholders.
2. Assist both Mid Peninsula and the Santa Clara Open Space Districts in planning and implementing fuels reduction on lands they manage in the public trust.
3. Continue to expand the Fire Safe Council chipper program to include stakeholders in the Croy Ridge area.
4. Continue to assist and gain stakeholder support of the western Santa Clara County fuel break.
5. Continue to assist with the Community wildfire prevention plans in western Santa Clara County to include a countywide Community Wild Fire Protection Plan.

BATTALION FOUR (ALAMEDA)

Battalion four covers the entire county of Alameda. Alameda County has a population of 1.5 million people. It is geographically located on the eastern side of the San Francisco Bay and stretches eastward from Oakland into the greater San Joaquin valley near Tracy. Contra Costa County borders it to the north while Santa Clara and San Joaquin border it to the south and east.

Topography ranges from hilly near the bay to mountainous elevations up to 4000 feet with steep canyon drainages south of Livermore. Fuel types are generally grass (50%), Chaparral (30%) and Oak Woodland (20%). Weather during fire season is temperate near the bay and hotter and drier further inland approaching the inland valleys. The most significant weather factor in Alameda County is wind. Wind patterns are predominately west to east during fire season due to the cooler marine air flowing from the San Francisco Bay into the Livermore and San Joaquin

valleys. Wind speeds vary but on most summer days the winds near the bay are 10 to 20 m.p.h. In the eastern portion of the county on those same days wind velocities will be 15 to 25 m.p.h. Wind velocities of 40 to 50 mph in the eastern portion of the battalion are not uncommon under normal weather patterns. Even though relative humidity's are tempered by the marine influence the higher wind speeds adversely affect fire behavior. Any fire starts with sustained fuel continuity downwind quickly progress into moderate to rapid rates of spread at the fires head. Quick initial attack by fire suppression forces is critical in these conditions.

Operationally, Battalion four is a complex environment for CAL FIRE. There are twelve local government fire agencies operating in Alameda County. Nine of these cities border CAL FIRE state responsibility areas (SRA). There are approximately 70 miles of wildland-urban interface(WUI) separating local government responsibility areas (LRA) from the 286,000 acres of CAL FIRE jurisdiction. The interface area is densely populated with homes that easily exceed one million dollars each. The high values at risk in Battalion four and the windy conditions have combined to create high damage loss fires historically. One 2 acre fire in the Oakland Berkeley hills destroyed two homes and damaged a third for a total damage loss of four million dollars. The 1991 Tunnel Fire destroyed 3000 homes for a loss of 1.8 billion dollars. Life safety at wildland fires is also a major concern. There have been 28 wildland fire fatalities in Alameda County going back to 1968 including citizens, police and firefighters. Coordination during wildland fire evacuations in the densely populated interface areas is a major challenge. Coordination with local government fire resources is critical to fire response in Alameda County. An extensive cooperative effort over the past ten years to create and manage mutual threat zones and responses to fires has dramatically increased CAL FIRE's initial attack capability in this area. That coupled with CAL FIRE moving additional fire engines and helicopters into the East Bay during times of high fire danger increases the probability of keeping fires small and therefore reducing the need for evacuations and reducing dollar loss.

Priority Areas:

1. SRA-LRA wildland urban interface areas.

WUI Communities

Oakland-Berkeley Hills: 16,200 acres with an estimated population of 105,000. Oakland Fire, Berkeley Fire, East Bay Regional Parks and CAL FIRE have jurisdiction.

San Leandro-Castro Valley Hills: 8500 acres with an estimated population of 30,000. Alameda County Fire, East Bay Regional Parks and CAL FIRE have jurisdiction.

Hayward Hills: 5000 acres with an estimated population of 38,000. Hayward Fire, East Bay Regional Parks and CAL FIRE have jurisdiction.

Union City-Fremont Hills: 10,000 acres with an estimated population of 20,000. Alameda County Fire, Fremont Fire and CAL FIRE have jurisdiction.

Pleasanton Ridge-Kilcare Woods: 4000 acres with an estimated population of 5000. Livermore-Pleasanton Fire, East Bay Regional Parks and CAL FIRE have jurisdiction.

Palomares-Niles Canyon: 3500 acres with an estimated population of 1500. Alameda County Fire, Hayward Fire, Fremont Fire, East Bay regional Parks and CAL FIRE.

Action Plan:

1. Continue and enhance the fuel modification and fuel reduction projects in the wildland-urban interface areas. Coordinate resources with the Hills Emergency Forum and the Diablo Fire Safe Council. Projects include but are not limited to:
 - Berkeley upper Strawberry Canyon fuel reduction project.
 - Diablo FireSafe East Bay roadside clearance project.
 - East Bay Regional Park Claremont Canyon fuel reduction project.
 - Tilden Park Eucalyptus removal project.
 - Oakland-Berkeley hills 15 mile fuel break project.
 - Oakland Shepherd Canyon shaded fuel break project
 - Chabot Park fuel reduction project.
 - Highway 24 Caldecott Tunnel fuel reduction project.

2. Obtain language changes in the conditions of approval for wind generators use permits requiring numbering and marking gates and road access utilizing the standards of PRC 4290 with regard to signage.
3. GIS / GPS mapping and marking of wind farm gates and road system
4. Conduct public information and education programs at local schools.
5. Distribute Fire Safe educational materials at public gatherings and public venues.

6. Utilize Volunteers in Prevention for targeted inspections of dwellings and buildings for compliance with PRC 4291.
7. Utilize Volunteers in Prevention to conduct bulk mailing of self inspection and fire safe guides to postal customers in high hazard areas.
8. Whenever dealing with the media suggest fire prevention messages to be included and integrated into their story.
9. Conduct meetings with agricultural groups such as the Cattleman's Association, and Farm Bureau to provide information and encourage the use of firebreaks and clearance around all improvements such as dwellings, barns, out buildings and wells.
10. Conduct training exercises and pre-fire season briefings with cooperating fire agencies and share pre-fire plans for special target hazards.

BATTALION FIVE (STANISLAUS)

Battalion Five covers all of western Stanislaus County west of Interstate Five and bordered by San Joaquin County to the north and Merced County to the South. The Battalion includes a portion of eastern Santa Clara County which includes the San Antone valley and is bordered by the top of the China Grade on Mount Hamilton Road to the west of the San Antone Valley.

The vegetation and topography in Battalion Five transition from annual grass rangelands along the Interstate Five corridor to remote, steep, brush and pine covered mountains to the west. The area includes over 230,000 acres of watershed critical to maintaining downstream water quality. All runoff flows into the San Joaquin river, a valuable fisheries and source of agricultural and domestic water supply.

Numerous plants and animals that are designated as rare, threatened or endangered species, or are candidates for such designation, occur here.

The Battalion includes sparsely populated rural and ranch properties and a planned upscale residential resort community in the Salado Creek area, being developed under the Diablo Grande Specific Plan. The Battalion includes wilderness areas of Coe State Park and the Frank Raines Off-Highway Vehicle Park located in Del Puerto Canyon.

Frank Raines Park is an 1800 acre multi use park operated by Stanislaus County, located 18 miles west of Patterson in Del Puerto Canyon. Eight hundred acres of the park is designated for off highway vehicle (OHV) use. The OHV portion of the park is in very steep and treacherous terrain. Because of the steep terrain and the potential fire risk, The OHV portion of the park is typically closed from June through October of each year.

The 23,3000 acre wilderness area of the 87,000 acre Coe State Park is located in western Stanislaus County. The wilderness area is environmentally sensitive and has a number of archeological sites within its boundaries.

The area has a significant history of large damaging wild land fires. While the majority of fires start along the Interstate 5 (I-5) corridor, the majority of large damaging fires have occurred in more remote areas of the Battalion. The primary factors contributing to difficulty of control have been the steep, inaccessible terrain, the extreme burning conditions from decadent brush and pine trees, and the prolonged response time for fire suppression resources to the remote areas of the Battalion.

Action Plan:

1. Improve local operational efficiency and effectiveness by improving mutual and auto aid agreements between CDF and West Stanislaus Fire Protection District, City of Patterson, and City of Newman. This will include improving communications systems and dispatch procedures.
2. Review all development projects for compliance with PRC 4290 and make recommendations for fire defense improvements. This will include:
3. Participate as a voting member of the Stanislaus County Fire Authority in developing improved local fire codes, ordinances and fire prevention processes.
4. Participate in planning fire safe requirements for expansion of Frank Raines OHV Park.
5. Work with Caltrans and local landowners on mowing, discing, and other and fuel reduction projects along the I-5 corridor, to prevent large wind driven fires that endanger the motoring public and interrupt transportation and commerce through the area.
6. Work with the Electric Utilities (PG & E and TID) on grading fire roads and maintaining fuel breaks along critical Transmission lines.
7. Work closely with local fire officials to improve mutual aid and communications between agencies.
8. Maintain critical fire roads and fuel breaks.
9. Work with West Stanislaus County Fire Protection Districts and Stanislaus County Parks on improving fire safety conditions in Frank Raines OHV Park.

Priority Areas:

Diablo Grande Development Fire Break / Fuel Reduction Project WUI

Diablo Grande Development is a 28,500 acre Planned Residential and Resort Community (Specific Plan) located nine miles west of Patterson. Currently constructed (as part of the first phase) are two 18 hole golf courses and approximately 440 residential homes. This project consists of a combination of fire breaks, fuel reduction projects, and greenbelts.

Mount Oso Road Fire Break

The Mount Oso Road fire break is maintained by Cal Fire to provide safe access and to act as a critical fire break to protect the critical communications facilities, which serve central California, located at the summit of Mount Oso.

Stanislaus / Santa Clara County Line Road Fire Break

This primarily ridge top road runs from the San Antone Valley to Highway 152. The road serves as a critical access road and a fire break between the urban interface of Santa Clara County and the environmentally sensitive wilderness areas of Coe State Park and the Orestimba creek watersheds.

Fink Road Solar Farm

The Fink Road Solar farm is a proposed 800 acre, 80 to 100 megawatt, photovoltaic solar energy farm located just west of Interstate 5 west of Newman.

Copper Mountain Solar Farm

The Copper Mountain Solar farm is a proposed 13 megawatt photovoltaic solar energy farm located in portions of a 4,147 acre site within the confines of the Diablo Grande Development.

BATTALION SIX (CONTRA COSTA)

The Contra Costa battalion covers all of Contra Costa, a small sliver of northwestern Alameda, and western San Joaquin Counties. There are several large landowners in the battalion. Four of the largest are the East Bay Regional Park District, Mt Diablo State Park, Contra Costa Water District, and the wind power consortium near the Altamont Pass.

Mt Diablo State Park encompasses approximately 30,000 acres of open space in the middle of the battalion. The Park had not experienced a significant wildland fire event in recent years.

The Contra Costa Water District includes the Los Vaqueros Reservoir and is a large stakeholder in overall watershed protection with close to 80,000 acres under management. The Los Vaqueros Reservoir and watershed incorporates some 20,000 acres and provides a domestic water supply to over 450,000 people.

While many fire safety steps have been taken by the wind power consortium, wind farms continue to be an ignition source for vegetation fires. We will continue to work with the wind farm owners in an effort to minimize this risk.

The population of Contra Costa County is now over one million people while the population of the San Joaquin County portion of the Battalion is over 100,000. In Contra Costa County the majority of citizens reside within the 19 incorporated cities, although more than 20% live in unincorporated communities. The continuing growth in the population further increases the pressure on areas of wildland urban interface. Top on the list of projects for the battalion are the cooperative agreements with other fire agencies. These include the continued staffing of Sunshine Forest Fire Station though the non-fire season months under the current Amador plan with the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District and updating and improving the Mutual Threat Zone response plans. The Diablo Fire Safe Council has been very successful in obtaining grant money to further fire safety and fuels management projects in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Battalion Six personnel will continue to support these projects in anyway possible.

The vegetation and wildlife habitat of Contra Costa County includes several broadly defined types: native and non-native forests and woodlands, shrub lands, grasslands, riparian woodland and scrub, and wetlands. Numerous plants and animals that are designated as rare, threatened, or endangered species or are candidates for such designation occur here.

Contra Costa County contains 13 major watersheds and sub-watersheds, with over 1300 miles of creeks and drainages. These watersheds form a crucial part of the Bay Area's domestic water supply, and are the location of several large reservoirs.

Wildfires are part of Contra Costa's natural eco-system. The Mediterranean-like climate, the rugged, wind-conducive topography, and fire-adaptive native vegetation set the stage for periodic burns.

In the past 60 years there have been more than 30 wildfires that were more than 300 acres and countless smaller fires in Contra Costa County mainly in the Central and Eastern portions of the County. In San Joaquin County there has been also more than 30 large wildfires many burning into adjacent Alameda and/or Stanislaus Counties. The acreage in San Joaquin County is more substantial than Contra Costa due to the expansive grass lands of the Altamont and I-5 corridor.

Finally with this year being the 20th anniversary of the Tunnel Fire that occurred in October of 1991 in the Oakland Hills, CAL FIRE will be continuing its relationship with the Hills Emergency Forum (HEF). This Forum made up of stakeholder agencies in both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties has worked tirelessly for 2 decades to both prevent and prepare for another Urban Interface Wildland event that could occur in the Oakland Hills area. The Tunnel Fire remains the largest loss of structures (2900) by wildfire in the history of California.

Action Plan:

1. Continue fuel modification, 4291 inspections and look at access and egress issues within and around the Community of Canyon.
2. Implement a fuel modification zone around Mt Diablo State Park boundaries.
3. Draft and implement a 20 to 25 year control burn cycle within the state park.
Santa Clara Unit Fire Management Plan, 2009
4. Maintain Wind Farm fire plans and continue the inspections of the re-powering projects.
5. Begin focused enforcement of the 4291 code in the Alhambra Valley and Wildcat Canyon areas.
6. Begin groundwork for 4291 program in the San Pablo Watershed.
7. Continue working with Contra Costa Water District to protect and enhance the Los Vaqueros watershed and nature area.
8. Upkeep, maintenance and mapping of the Contra Costa County fire trails.
9. Remain active in the Diablo Fire Safe Council.

10. Educate the public on equipment caused fires.

11. Reduce arson fires.

12. Review/update Mt. Diablo State Park pre-fire management plan with State Parks and other local agency cooperators.

Priority Areas:

1. Canyon

Continue community meetings to assess the overall progress of fire safety and fuels modification projects in the community. Start a 5-year phase-in of 4291 code inspections. Address the access / egress issues with county planning, transportation and building officials. Using GIS based products and a fire behavior-modeling program such as Far Site or Behave conduct a series of fire scenarios in the Canyon area before fuel modification projects and after. Take this data and perform cost suppression estimates of fires before and after projected fuel modification efforts.

2. Mt Diablo State Park

A. Implement a fuel modification zone along the park boundaries to limit the spread of fires from the park into the urban interface and vice versa. Work with park management, US Fish and Wildlife and adjacent local governments to draft and implement a 20-year fire reduction plan in the park. This project would start at or near the top of Mt Diablo and proceed down slope and return to the top at the completion of a cycle. Santa Clara Unit Fire Management Plan, 2009 These burns would be limited to approximately 500 acres per year as conditions allow.

3. Alhambra Valley, Wild Cat Canyon and West Contra Costa County

Begin a focused, phased 4291 code enforcement program. Assess the region for fuel modification projects and secure contracts with local landowners.

4. Bollinger Canyon and Las Trampas Ridge

Working with East Bay Regional Parks, San Ramon Valley Fire Department and local landowners begin fuel modification on Las Trampas Ridge running north Continue 4291 and local weed abatement enforcement in the LRA and SRA areas.

5. Los Vaqueros Watershed and Mallory Ridge

Continue assisting Contra Costa Water District with fuel modification projects and control burns in the Los Vaqueros watershed sensitive areas. Assist Contra Costa Water District with weed abatement projects on Mallory Ridge.

Battalion Seven (South Santa Clara County Fire District)

The South Santa Clara County Fire District, known as Battalion Seven, is located in the southern San Francisco Bay Area. Battalion Seven provides fire control and advanced emergency medical services to 40,000 customers in the unincorporated areas of Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and the community of San Martin. The Battalion has 3 fire stations that cover approximately 300 square miles. The boundaries are: San Jose city limits to the North along highway 101 at Metcalf road;

to the Santa Cruz County Line; to the West Hecker Pass Highway; East to Bell Station on the Pacheco Pass Highway; South to the San Benito County Line at Pajaro River.

Battalion Seven protects: residential, commercial and light industrial occupancies; the wildland urban interface communities; 10 wildland Mutual Treat Zones, 450 miles of State Highways 152, 156, 25, and 101; 45 miles of two separate rail lines owned by Southern and Union Pacific Railroads, also used by Cal Train Commuter and Amtrak trains.

The San Andrea's, Hayward, and Sergeants Faults Zones run through Battalion Seven. One large major water supply from San Luis Reservoir and a gas pipeline run through the battalion.

The South Santa Clara County Fire District participates actively in automatic aid agreements, with the Gilroy City Fire Department, Santa Clara County Fire Department (Morgan Hill City), California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Pajaro Valley Fire District, San Benito County Fire, and San Jose City Fire Departments. We are an active participant in the Santa Clara County and State of California Mutual Aid Plans responding to disasters in the County and throughout California

The South Santa Clara County Fire District is an all risk emergency response battalion. Responding to approximately 4,500 incidents per year which include various assists to other fire departments, emergency medical services, structure, vehicle, and wildland fires, hazardous materials spills, water rescues, and public service assists as listed below:

BATTALION TWENTY (FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU)

The Santa Clara Fire Prevention Bureau falls under the direction and supervision of the Unit's Eastbay Division Chief. The Bureau is staffed by a Battalion Chief, one Fire Captain Specialist, one Pre-Fire Engineer, who also doubles as a Fire Captain Specialist, and a Fire Prevention Specialist II (FPS II). All of the Prevention Bureau staff are California Peace Officers, except the FPS II. The Bureau is involved in all areas of prevention and is broken down into three separate, but related functions handled by the individuals assigned to the Bureau, education, engineering and enforcement.

The Volunteers in Prevention program is administered and coordinated by the FPS II. The VIP's currently have 78 members and conduct public outreach and education programs, news releases, 4,230 PRC- 4291 (LE-100 Defensible Space) inspections, and when combined with other projects of personnel time to fire prevention engineering and education to the unit.

Law Enforcement branch of the Bureau includes; fire investigation (origin and cause determination), issuing citations, and processing criminal complaints with local District Attorneys, and civil cost collections, which are returned to the States General Fund. The Bureau maintains active membership in the Santa Clara and Alameda County Fire Prevention Officers, and Fire Investigation groups, and is currently working to establish an interdisciplinary fire investigation team in Contra Costa County. In addition to these groups the Bureau is actively fostering working relationships with the over 40 other Law Enforcement agencies within the units boundaries.

Pre Fire Engineering and Fire Protection Planning are also handled by the Bureau. The majority of the Public Resources Code 4290 inspections are conducted by the local fire

department officials in cooperation with the local CAL FIRE Battalion Chief. The reason for having these local agreements is that many of the local agencies have requirements that are more restrictive than PRC 4291. In addition it makes the process easier for the property owner.

Pre Fire Engineering includes GIS mapping of assets at risk, wild land fuel belts, and the maintenance of various other GIS data layers for use in planning and implementing fuel reduction projects. The Bureau also provides technical support to for three Fire Safe Council's active in the unit, South Santa Clara County Fire Safe, Santa Clara Fire Safe, Diablo Fire Safe, and to the Hills Emergency Forum, a working group formed after the Tunnel Fire to address projects in the LRA and interface areas of the East Bay Hills and surrounding communities. With input and cooperation from these groups, and the associated stake holders, the Pre-Fire Engineer establishes goals and projects in the Unit's Fire Management Plan to reduce the threat of large damaging fires. The Fire Management Plan is the Unit's template for fuels reduction projects including pending, on going, and completed projects. The Unit's Fire Plan allows us to respond to the needs and concerns of the public and identifies projects to be funded through cooperative grants and donations.

Through the functions of education, engineering and enforcement, the goal of the Santa Clara Fire Prevention Bureau is working to reduce unplanned ignitions within the unit, limit damage caused by uncontrolled fires, through the use of education, pre fire mitigation projects, patrol, and law enforcement to meet the mission statement of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Education and (Volunteer in Prevention)/VIP

The SCU VIP Program assists the Unit in a variety of Fire Prevention Activities. The Unit currently utilizes the VIP's to help support community outreach events, defensible space inspections (LE-100 Program), home and garden shows, educational events, staffing Copernicus Lookout and supporting the Unit during fires.