

A: FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Prevention Bureau is comprised of one Battalion Chief and one Fire Captain Specialist. Both of these positions are Sworn State Peace Officers and Certified Fire Investigators. Due to the limited staffing levels, the Unit Fire Marshal and the Pre Fire Engineer assist with both coverage and Fire Investigations.

In 2011 there were 259 investigated fires in the Tehama Glenn Unit, burning a total of 326 acres. Of these fires 130 were in the State Responsibility Area, and 129 were located in the Local Responsibility Area. The above statistics include all types of fires including structure, vehicle, and vegetation. These numbers are extremely low considering the approximately 100,000 population of both counties.

The key to success is two-fold. First the Prevention Bureau considers education a top priority. In order to educate the public we have given numerous power point presentations and Fire Prevention speeches to Fire Safe Councils and local businesses, and are continually educating school aged children at both school assemblies and public events. We have a strong Public Information Officer (PIO) program which is constantly educating the public through various local and nationwide media outlets.



Secondly Tehama County has passed an ordinance which is based off of the Public Resource Code Section 4291, thus allowing us to enforce within the Local Responsibility Areas. The vast majority of those contacted were compliant; however during the contacts they and their neighbors were educated on the ordinance and the importance of defensible space and fire safety awareness.

Highlights of Tehama County Ordinance 9.05.08 –

- Parcels under 1.25 acres are required to have 100% clearance regardless of being improved or not.
- Parcels between 1.25 acres and 2 acres that are not improved require a 30 foot fire break around the perimeter, and for improved parcels the ordinance requires 100 feet of clearance.
- Parcels over 2 acres that are improved require 100 feet of clearance.

During 2011, 2,357 inspection forms were completed for the Fire Hazard program, however nearly 3000 contacts were made. Many of the contacts were follow up or courtesy contacts. Of the 2,357 inspections, there were 544 violations, 4 citations were issued.

Escape control burns and equipment caused fires were the two leading causes of fires within Tehama County for 2011. Fire Prevention is continuing to make public education a top priority to reduce the number of fires.



Fire prevention banner used at public safety awareness events

- ENGINEERING & STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY

Currently the Tehama Glenn Unit and Tehama County Fire Department utilize different statutes to determine fire department requirements dependent on which county is in question. To implement fire safety standards in Glenn County, standard LE-100 Forms are used to enforce Title 19 and 24 access and vegetation issues. Glenn County Building Department is the enforcing agency for the enforcement of building codes.

In Tehama County, Ordinance No. 1537 chapter 9.14 “FIRE SAFE REGULATIONS” as well as the California Building Code are used to condition residential and commercial development within Tehama County. Enforced by these standards are addressing, road signing, road standards, drive way standards, fire-flow standards, building construction standards, residential and commercial sprinkler standards (when requested or required) .

Land development standards are enforced within Tehama County by the Tehama County Fire Marshal. The Fire Marshal is an active member of the Tehama County Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) where new subdivisions, parcel splits, new roads, and special developments within Tehama County are reviewed. During this review process the committee addresses access and egress, water for fire use, road standards, lot size and total number of lots as well as other issues that are relative to fire and life safety and county development standards. All projects are subject to the Tehama County Land Development Standards and are required to meet all safety standards as conditioned by the TAC.

Tehama County employs two, Title 3 funded Tehama County Fire Prevention / Life Safety Education officers. In 2011 these officers have completed over 950 inspections, have driven over twenty thousand miles and have logged more than 774 hours for inspections and public contacts. The inspectors have reviewed approximately 175 plot plans for new construction projects within the unincorporated areas of Tehama County.



With a focus on preventing significant fire damage to residential structures, the Fire Prevention Bureau has worked to develop strategies that coincide with standards established by organizations such as “Fire Safe Council” and “Fire Wise”.

Currently in the bureau, we have identified and inspected approximately 640 commercial businesses in operation within the jurisdiction of Tehama County Fire, as mandated by Title 24 Part 9 Section 104.3 right of entry of the California Fire Code and Division 12 Part 2 Chapter 1 Article 2 Section 13146.2 (a) of the California Health And Safety Code; requiring these businesses to be inspected once a year. The inspections provided to business owners have given our inspectors the opportunity to educate them on preventable fires within their facilities.

Tehama Glenn Unit / Tehama County Fire Department employ seasonal firefighters to conduct Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291 defensible space inspections. This program was further enhanced with the adoption of Tehama County Ordinance No. 1912 Chapter 9.05 FIRE HAZARD ABATEMENT. In 2011 over 2,350 defensible space inspections were completed while educating the public on fire safe landscaping and fire hazard reduction around their homes

and property. In Glenn County, State Responsibility Area (SRA) engine crews have the responsibility of conducting PRC 4291 inspections.

CAL FIRE / Tehama County Fire Prevention Specialist and the Volunteers in Prevention (VIP) participated in numerous public education programs including school presentations, fairs and parades, Special Olympics, Library Programs, Discovery Center and fire station activities. The department also uses our local media contacts to educate the public on fire and life safety through news releases and live interviews. The Fire Protection/Planning and Fire Prevention Bureaus continue to actively promote fire prevention and fire safety education within Tehama and Glenn Counties.

- INFORMATION AND EDUCATION



The Tehama Glenn Fire Prevention Specialist II. is responsible for all media contacts and dissemination of public and fire information. They are also responsible for the Volunteers In Prevention (V.I.P.) program and all school / public events.

In 2011 the Information and Education Section of the Fire Prevention Bureau participated in numerous fire prevention programs in Tehama and Glenn Counties, including school presentations for over 2000 kids, the Tehama County Fair, parades, the Corning Olive Festival and the Emergency Preparedness Day in Red Bluff, as well as the Special Olympics of Tehama County and the Special Olympics of Northern California in Davis CA. This was the first year that Tehama-Glenn Unit Fire Prevention personnel participated in the Regional games in Davis. It is estimated that over 25,000 public contacts were made for the year. There are currently 53 active V.I.P.'s who assist the Fire Prevention Bureau in educating the public about fire safety. The V.I.P.'s worked approximately 626 hrs in 2011. There were approximately 164 media contacts via news release and interviews.

By educating the public about the dangers of fire and by providing fire safety programs and messages via news releases, the information and education section will continue to help reduce the number of ignitions within the Tehama-Glenn Unit. These efforts are felt to have been highly successful in teaching the fundamentals of fire safety and fire prevention in 2011. This section will continue to actively promote fire prevention and fire safety in the community.

B: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

UNIT FORESTER – VMP COORDINATOR – D2506

Fuels Reduction - The Resource Management staff of the Tehama-Glenn Unit are tasked by state statute (1973 Z' Berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act) to enforce the California Forest Practice Act and Forest Practice Rules for private timberland owners within Tehama and Glenn counties. This enforcement starts with the review of the initial project and carries through the actual harvesting of timber to the final completion of the project, with treatment of logging slash to reduce the overall fuel hazard if necessary. During the review of commercial timber harvesting plans (THP's) CAL FIRE staff has opportunities to provide written recommendations to project proponents designed to facilitate a positive change in the methods in which timber operations are conducted. We continually look for ways to improve fire safety, hazard reduction, public safety, vehicular access, water sources, timing of operations, wildlife benefits, and other site specific mitigating measures necessary to support the Strategic Plan.



We oversee and implement the VMP (Vegetation Management Program) within the Tehama-Glenn Unit. The cost share program is utilized to assist private timber and range landowners in performing fuel reduction and range improvement projects, such as prescribed burning and creation of fuel breaks. TGU is one of the most active units within the state with annual acreage burned averaging between 1,000 and 2,000 acres.

Suppression Repair - Resource Management staff generally accept the role of suppression repair duties in the Unit. Our resource background, training and knowledge of both fire control issues and methods of addressing complex environmental issues greatly support the Department's Strategic Plan. Our ICS qualifications and knowledge of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) allows us to work effectively and lawfully to provide a level of protection for the Department from legal issues. We have many private and agency contacts such as other resource professionals from whom we may seek advice or assistance in repair efforts.

Forest and Range Health - Management of overstocked timber stands through restoration, enhancement and protection ensures the forest is healthy. Treating existing logging slash helps prevent insect outbreaks such as bark beetles. Healthy forests are also more resistant to diseases that weaken trees or cause mortality. Restoring rangeland through prescribed burning of non-native noxious weeds, forbs and grasses promotes increased range health, which has environmental and socio-economic benefits.