

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CURRENT FIRE PROBLEM

The San Mateo & Santa Cruz Unit has not had a long-standing significant fire history. In the late 1950's to the mid 1960's, the Unit experienced a number of large fires, the largest being the Lincoln Hill fire (1962) that consumed over 3000 acres. Since then, fires within the unit have been kept relatively small. The Sunset Fire (Big Basin State Park) burned approximately 32 acres in 1995. In that same year, a late season fire along Highway 35 in San Mateo County consumed 20 acres and a 54-acre fire occurred in October of 2001 along the same corridor.

Three significant fires have occurred outside the Unit and by virtue of weather conditions and vegetation types, threatened Santa Cruz County. The Austrian Gulch, Lexington, and Croy Fires started in the Santa Clara Unit and extended into Santa Cruz County. Each fire was a large event, ranging from 3,000 to 13,000 acres in size.

The San Mateo & Santa Cruz Unit works cooperatively with Local Government Agencies and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. This interagency cooperation is the result of Automatic and Mutual Aid Agreements that were initiated and are maintained by the Unit. These cooperative efforts of the fire service providers result in an integrated fire protection delivery system. The following table illustrates the number of local agency resources that are immediately available to the Unit:

San Mateo County

Agency	Structural Engines	Wildland Engines
Half Moon Bay FPD	2	
South County FPD	2	
Woodside FPD	2	1
Hillsborough FD	1	
South City FD	2	
Redwood City FD	2	1
Palo Alto FD	2	1
Menlo Park FD	1	1

Santa Cruz County

Agency	Structural Engines	Wildland Engines
Aptos La Selva FPD	3	1
Ben Lomond FPD	2	
Boulder Creek FPD	2	1
Branciforte FPD	1	1
Central FPD	4	1
Felton FPD	2	
Santa Cruz City FD	3	
Scotts Valley FPD	2	1
UCSC FD	1	
Watsonville FD	2	1
Zayante FPD	1	1