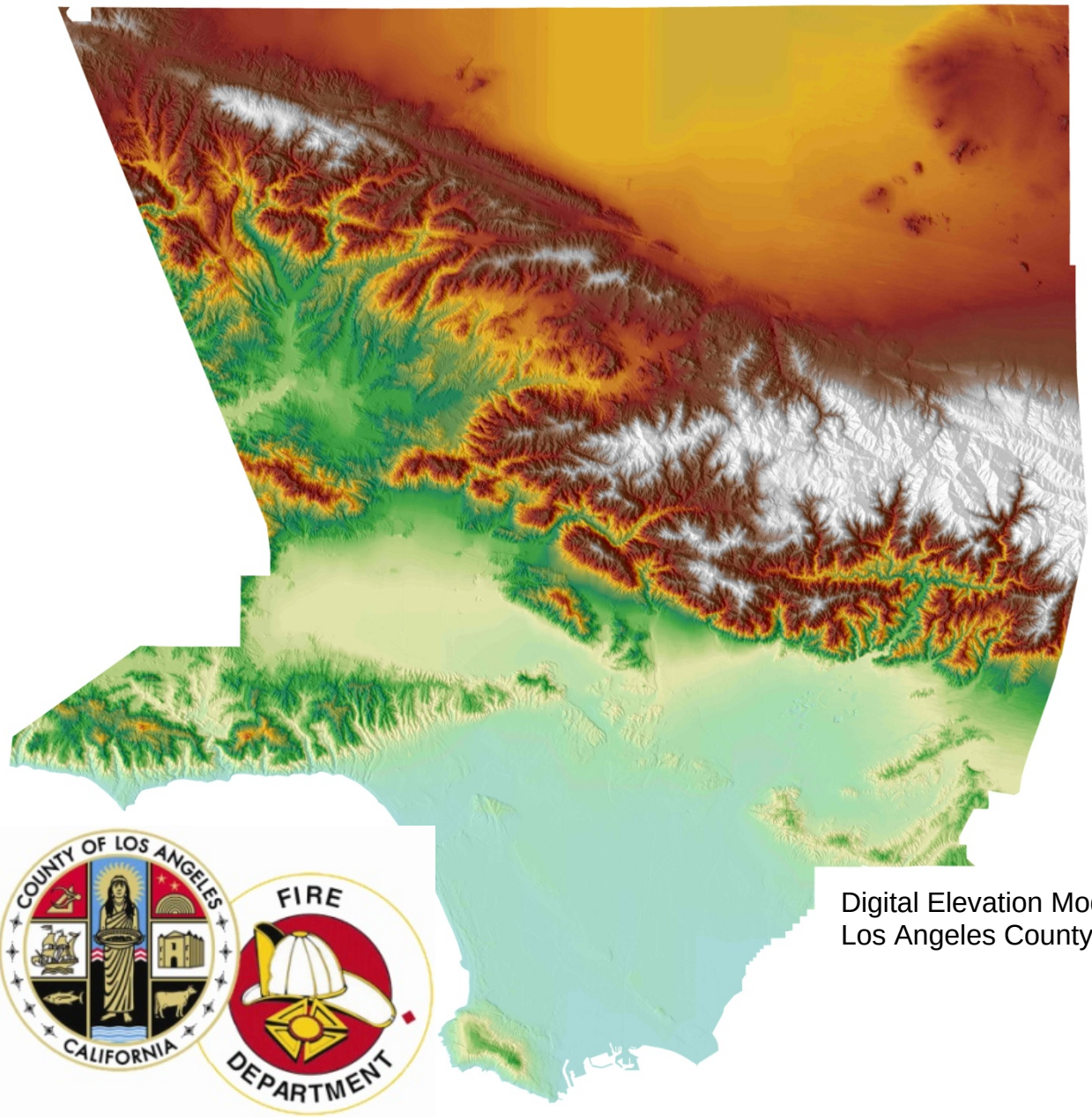
County of Los Angeles
Fire Department
2015 Strategic Fire Plan



Digital Elevation Model of
Los Angeles County

UNIT STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN AMENDMENTS

Date	Section Updated	Page Numbers Updated	Description of Update	Updated By
4/20/15		4-50	Revisions throughout document	Fire Plan Unit

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SIGNATURE PAGE

Unit Strategic Fire Plan developed for the County of Los Angeles:

This Plan:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties, Federal, State, City, and County agencies within the Unit have been consulted and are listed in the plan.
- Identifies and prioritizes pre-fire and post-fire management strategies and tactics meant to reduce the loss of values at risk within the Unit.
- Is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only. It is the responsibility of those implementing the projects to ensure that all environmental compliance and permitting processes are met as necessary.

Daryl L. Osby — 05/01/15

Unit Chief — **Date**

Daryl L. Osby, Fire Chief

Forester and Fire Warden

David Whitney — 05/01/15

Pre-Fire Engineer — **Date**

David H. Whitney, Deputy Forester

Forestry Division

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 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.

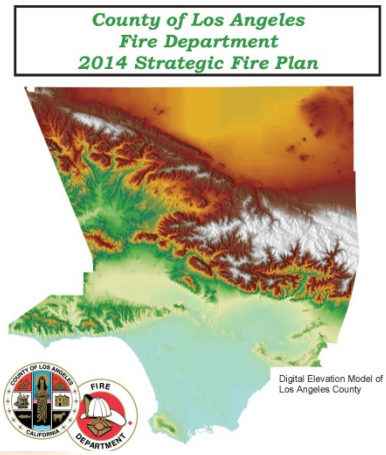
4. Increase awareness, knowledge and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildland fires, such as defensible space and other fuels reduction activities, fire prevention and fire safe building standards.

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.

The County of Los Angeles is one of six contract counties (Los Angeles, Kern, Ventura, Orange, Santa Barbara, and Marin), which has executed a contract with the State of California to provide wildland fire protection on State Responsibility Areas (SRA). The County of Los Angeles Fire Department has the responsibility as a contract county to implement the 2010 State Strategic Fire Plan in Los Angeles County. As such, this 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. The 2015 *County of Los Angeles Unit Fire Plan* replaces the previous unit fire plan, the *County of Los Angeles Fire Department 2014 Strategic Fire Plan.*



SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Los Angeles County, one of California's original 27 counties, was established on February 18, 1850. Originally the County occupied a comparatively small area along the coast between Santa Barbara and San Diego, but within a year, its boundaries were enlarged from 4,340 square miles to 34,520 square miles, an area sprawling east to the Colorado River.

In 1853, a bill was introduced to divide the eastern portion of Los Angeles County to then create San Bernardino County. During subsequent years, Los Angeles County slowly ebbed to its present size and the last major detachment occurred in 1889, with the creation of Orange County. Los Angeles County encompasses 4,083 square miles of land, in which 1,741 square miles are flat, 1,875 square miles are mountains, 246 square miles consist of hills, 59 square miles of mountain valleys, and 28 square miles of marshland. It also includes 131 square miles of islands consisting of San Clemente and Santa Catalina islands.

Los Angeles County has the largest population (9,818,605; 2010 Census) of any county in the nation and is exceeded by only eight states. Approximately 25 percent of California's residents live in Los Angeles County.

The Board of Supervisors, created by the State Legislature in 1852, is the governing body within the Los Angeles County. It consists of five supervisors who are elected to four-year terms by voters within their respective districts. The Board has executive, legislative, and quasi-judicial roles, in addition to appointing all department heads other than the assessor, district attorney, and sheriff, which are elective positions.

As a subdivision of the state, the County is charged with providing numerous services that affect the lives of all its residents. Traditional mandatory services include fire protection, law enforcement, property assessment, tax collection, public health protection, public social services, and relief to indigents. The County also provides specialized services through the Department of Parks and Recreation, Flood Control, Fire, etc. Within the Fire Department, the Forestry Division manages the Brush Clearance Inspection Program, Fuel Modification Program, Vegetation Management Program, Environmental Review, Oak Tree Ordinance implementation and Fire Plan implementation.

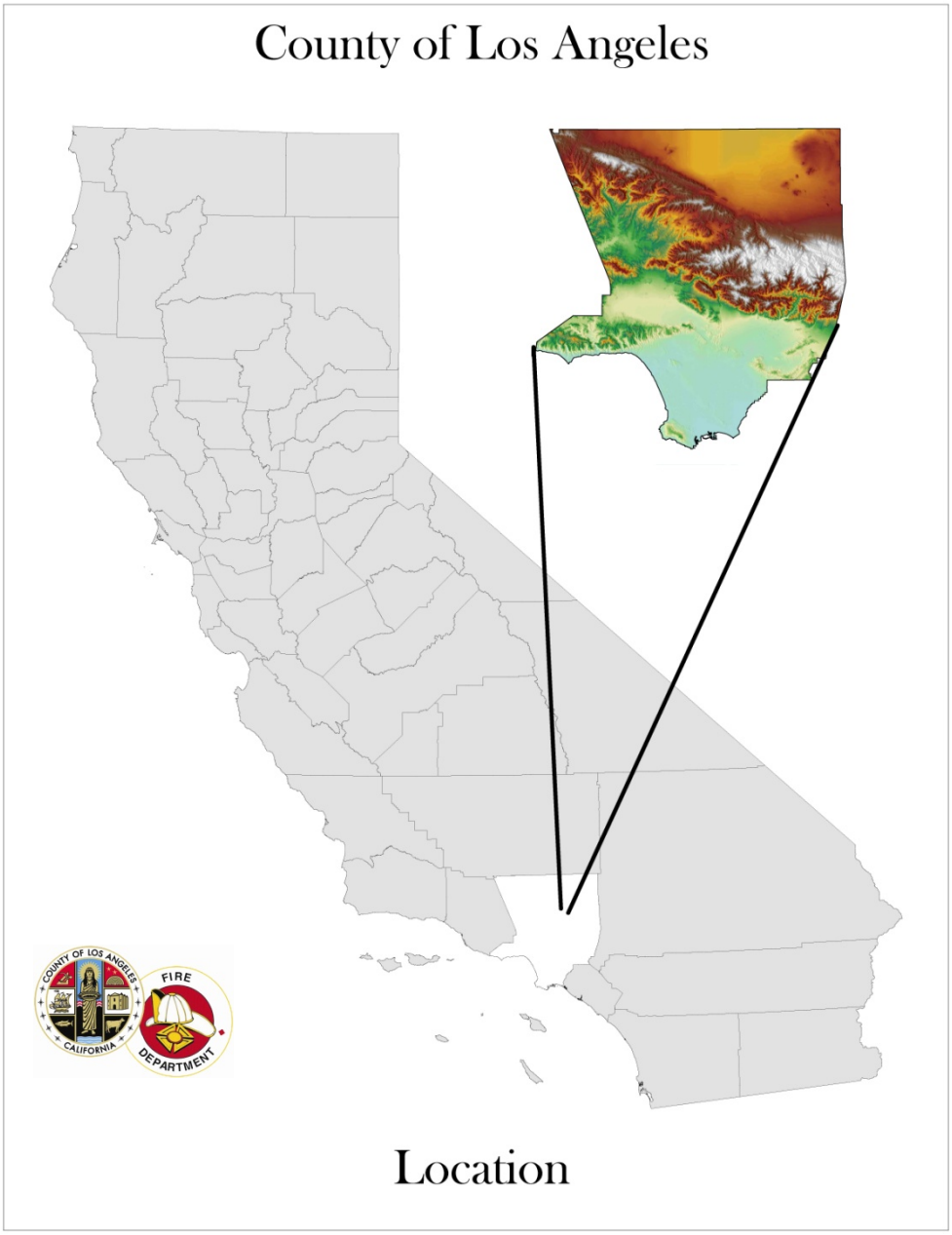
There are 88 cities within the County who contract with the County of Los Angeles to provide municipal services to varying degrees. Los Angeles County also provides municipal services to more than 65 percent of unincorporated areas within the County. For the one million people living in those areas, the Board of Supervisors serves as their "city council." The County is the largest employer in the five-county region with 105,503 budgeted employees.

The history of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department started in the late 1800s with the formation of two separate departments. The first department, the County Forester was in charge of protecting natural resources and responsible for planting and

maintaining the landscape. The second department, the County Fish and Game Warden, was then assigned the responsibility as County Fire Warden.

On May 8, 1911, the County Board of Supervisors created the County of Los Angeles Board of Forestry, which later became the County of Los Angeles Forestry Department.

In 1919, over 135,000 acres of wildland fires blackened the County of Los Angeles prompting the merging of these two separate departments and resulting in a greater emphasis on fire suppression and creating the County Forester and Fire Warden. Between September 1923 and 1925, 31 separate fire districts were formed, the first two being in Signal Hill and Santa Monica Canyon.



In 1956, Fire Chief Emeritus Keith E. Klinger created the visionary Lakewood Plan, allowing incorporated cities within the County to contract with the Department for fire protection services. Today, 58 cities are served by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, which staffs a total of 163 engine companies, 32 truck companies, 101 paramedic units, and numerous other pieces of specialized apparatus.

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department is credited with the creation of the nation's first 911 emergency phone calling system and the nation's second firefighter paramedic program. Throughout its history, the Department has emerged as a leader in the fire service on local, regional, and national levels, growing to become the nation's second largest fire protection agency.

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department operates nine divisions, 22 battalions, 171 fire stations and nine fire suppression camps and answers over 358,000 emergency calls annually. Additionally, the Department has Planning, Information Management, Fire Prevention, Air and Wildland, Lifeguard, Forestry and Health Hazardous Materials Divisions, which provide valuable services to about four million people.

The 2014-2015 Los Angeles County Fire Department adopted budget is approximately $1.059 billion with the largest funding source coming from property tax, which equals approximately 57%. Other funding sources include, Fund Balance, Fee-For-Service, and Prop E tax monies.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Los Angeles County Fire Department is to protect lives, the environment, and property by providing prompt, skillful, and cost effective fire protection and life safety services.

CORE VALUES

Integrity – Teamwork – Caring – Courage – Commitment – Community

FIRE DEPARTMENT VISION

The Los Angeles County Fire Department will be an exemplary organization acclaimed for our national reputation, our regional strength, and our hometown attentiveness as we provide fire protection and life safety services

Los Angeles County Fire Department Strategic Plan
Engineering Our Future

On February 17, 2011, Daryl L. Osby, Chief Deputy of Business Operations, was selected by the Board of Supervisors as the ninth Fire Chief of the Department.

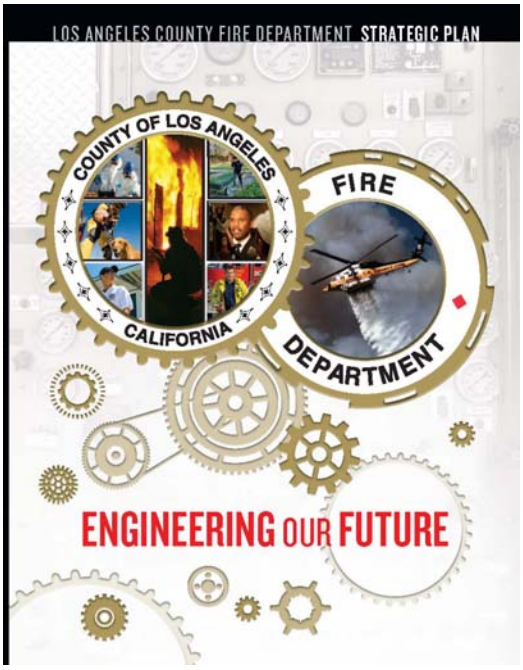
Fire Chief Osby quickly recognized the Department's need to embrace and introduce many technological advances, organizational culture shifts, and internal business process improvements to truly bring the organization into the 21st century. He established and began to work with the Strategic Planning Team. It became apparent that many business systems within the organization were in need of upgrading and integration with other systems. The 12 goals of the Strategic Plan includes a technology component for success, so the entire team has focused on identifying strategies and projects designed to improve business operations.

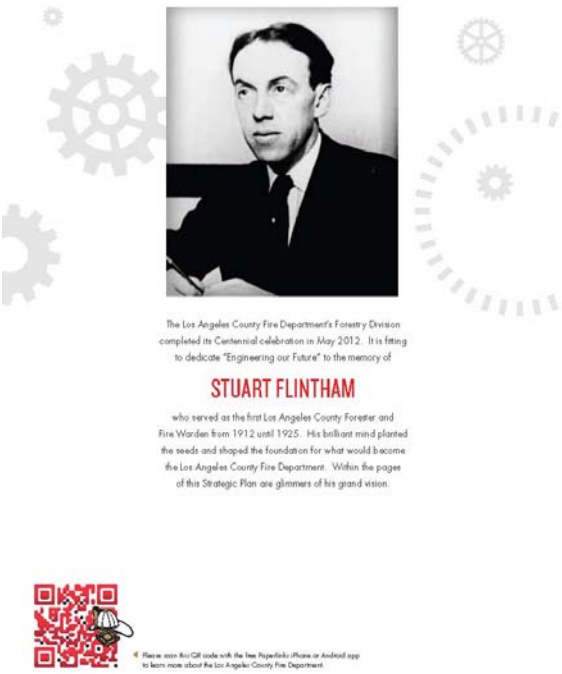
County of Los Angeles Fire Department provides services to a cross section of society and strives to recruit a workforce, which reflects its increasingly diverse customer base. A plan was needed to not only focus on workforce excellence through training and other forms of professional development, but also a plan to train future generations of the Department's leadership. First responders and others serving the community in a direct way must continue to receive external customer service training to meet the real needs of the public it serves. Clearly, the organization has experienced a paradigm shift in the makeup of its own workforce.

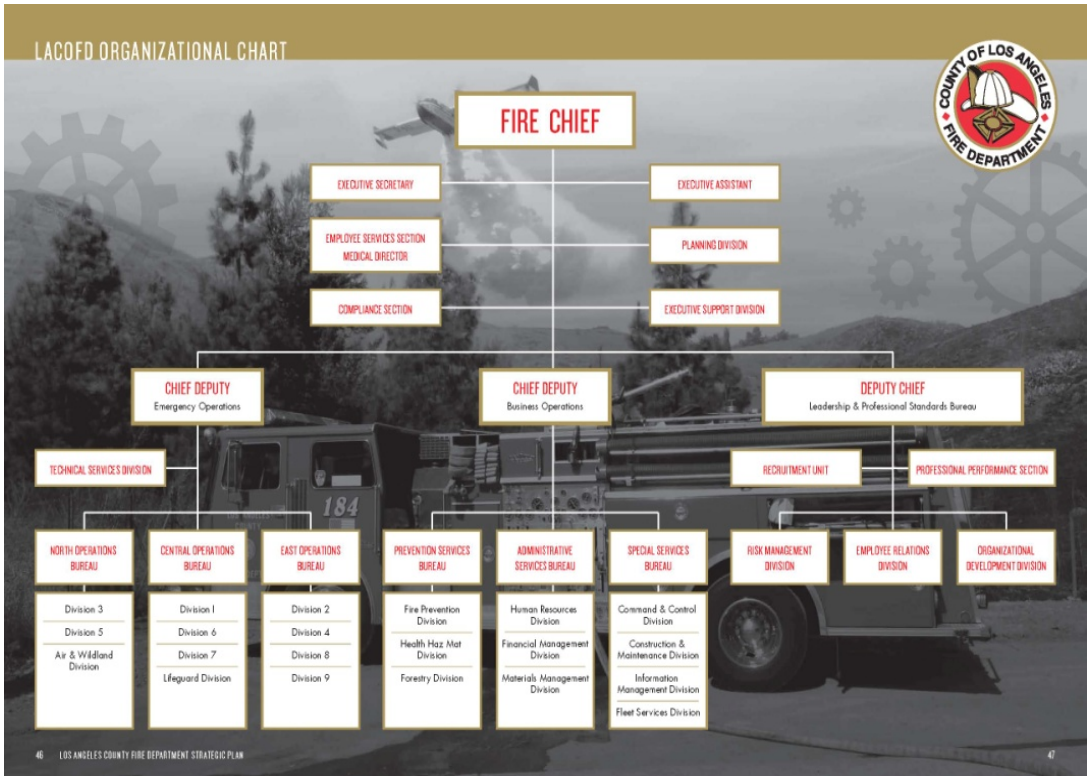
Currently, the Department communicates its programs and services through a number of traditional vehicles, including publications, the internet, public education handouts, the media, and public presentations. With millions of residents in its jurisdiction, its audience is large and diverse. Social media has emerged as another new, instantaneous way to connect the organization with those it serves. The Department is expanding its current use of Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to directly communicate messages to the public.

Opportunities to involve ordinary citizens in emergency preparedness through the Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will be further developed, as well as other volunteer opportunities to assist the Department. Marketing the Department to generate revenue to support public education and information programs also needs to be explored and developed as part of the organization's grant development program.

Firefighters are tasked with not only suppressing fires and saving lives and property, but also educating the public about how to stay safe and prevent fires in their homes, businesses, and public areas. Fire prevention is another critical component of the mission. In addition, emerging areas of responsibility also bring an increasing level of training and support. Firefighters are being called upon to serve in many community-based activities to help raise public awareness of its services, how it is funded, and other basic information about the daily work of local fire station personnel.


LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PLAN
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA
FIRE
DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING OUR FUTURE


The Los Angeles County Fire Department's Forestry Division completed its Centennial celebration in May 2012. It is fitting to dedicate "Engineering our Future" to the memory of
STUART FLINTHAM
who served as the first Los Angeles County Forester and Fire Warden from 1912 until 1925. His brilliant mind planted the seeds and shaped the foundation for what would become the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Within the pages of this Strategic Plan are glimmers of his grand vision.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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE CHIEF
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
EMPLOYEE SERVICES SECTION
MEDICAL DIRECTOR
PLANNING DIVISION
COMPLIANCE SECTION
EXECUTIVE SUPPORT DIVISION
CHIEF DEPUTY
Emergency Operations
CHIEF DEPUTY
Business Operations
DEPUTY CHIEF
Leadership & Professional Standards Bureau
TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION
RECRUITMENT UNIT
PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE SECTION
NORTH OPERATIONS BUREAU
Division 3
Division 5
Air & Wildland Division
CENTRAL OPERATIONS BUREAU
Division 1
Division 6
Division 7
Lifeguard Division
EAST OPERATIONS BUREAU
Division 2
Division 4
Division 8
Division 9
PREVENTION SERVICES BUREAU
Fire Prevention Division
Health Haz Mat Division
Forestry Division
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU
Human Resources Division
Financial Management Division
Materials Management Division
SPECIAL SERVICES BUREAU
Command & Control Division
Construction & Maintenance Division
Information Management Division
Fleet Services Division
RISK MANAGEMENT DIVISION
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS DIVISION
ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
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VEGETATION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County has a vast range of vegetation types that include coastal areas, the Santa Monica Mountain range, desert areas, valleys, and the high country.

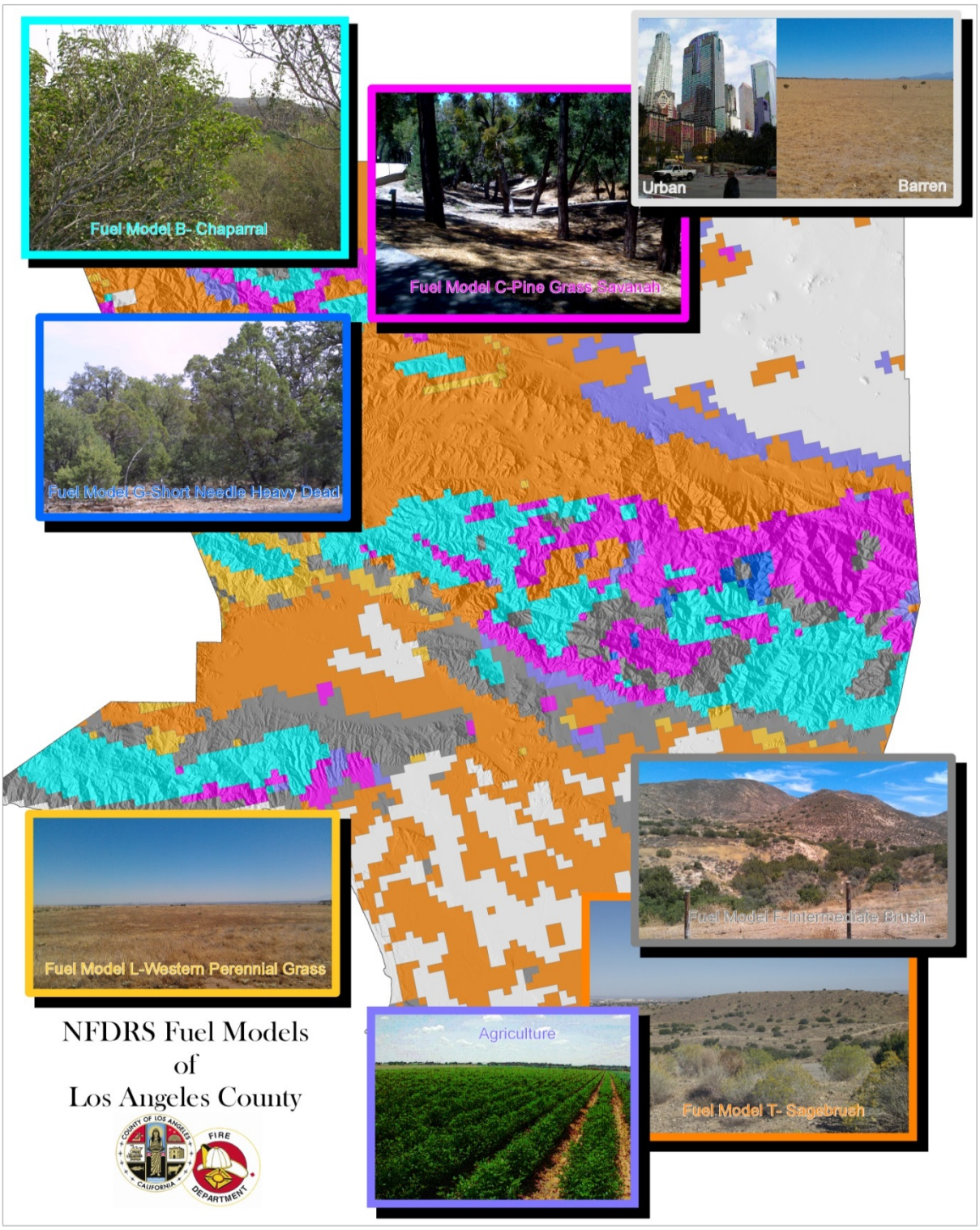
The Antelope area of the County is located on the western side of the Mojave Desert. The vegetation types there consist of California Juniper, Joshua tree, California Scrub oak, Creosote, California Poppy, and many native and non-native grasses. Traveling east, the landscape is dominated by Pinyon pine woodlands and a Desert Chaparral understory. The streambeds in the area have cottonwoods, willows, and other vegetation that require more water.

The high country areas located east of the county involve elevations from 5,000-10,000 feet. The dominating vegetation types are conifers, hardwoods, and more traditional forest vegetation types: The landscape consists of Coulter pine and mixed conifers on dry slopes whereas bigcone Douglas Fir and Jeffery pine populate slopes that receive more precipitation. There is also a significant Oak Woodland communities along shaded slopes of the canyons and riparian community within the streambeds.

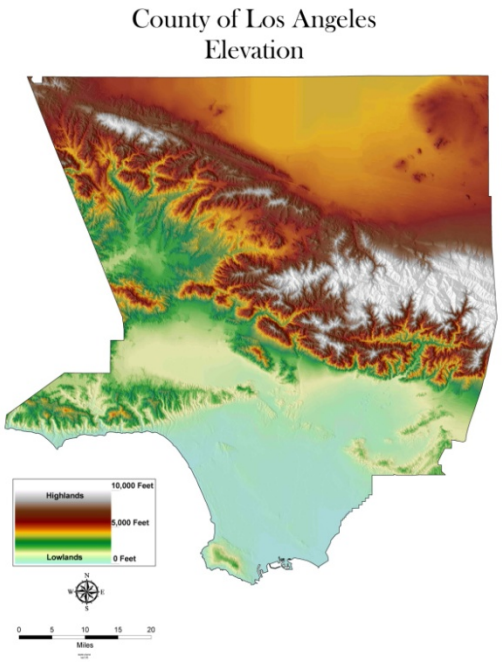
Much of the Santa Clarita Valley and the Santa Monica Mountains areas have the following vegetation types; coastal sage, riparian, oak woodlands, and chaparral communities. Coastal sage communities are typically found in lower elevations, dryer sites of coastal south-facing slopes. The coastal sage can be referred to as soft chaparral where foliage is soft, grey-green, and aromatic. Some of the plants include Purple Sage, California Sage, Coastal Buckwheat, Laurel Sumac, and Lemonade Berry. Riparian communities are woodlands with multi-layered vegetation including Arroyo willows, California Black Walnut, California Sycamore, Fremont Cottonwoods, Mexican Elderberry, California Bay Laurel, and Mule Fat. Oak Woodlands are found on northern slopes blanketed with Coast Live Oak, Valley Oak in warmer areas, Hollyleaf Cherry, California Bay Laurel, Coffeeberry, and Poison oak. Chaparral communities can be shrubby vegetation seen on both coastal and inland hillsides and separated into two types, soft chaparral (usually called coastal sage scrub) and the taller hard chaparral. Chaparral is dominated by evergreen and drought deciduous shrubs 1 to 15 feet tall. Most of these plants are recognized by their tough, leathery leaves that reduce water loss in our dry climate. Many chaparral plant species contain volatile oils, which produce a strong odor and increase their flammability. Common examples include various species of Ceanothus, Manzanita, Sage, Sumac, Toyon, and Chamise.

Determining the risks of wildfire in Los Angeles County involves assessing the fire adapted ecosystems of the chaparral vegetation, the dynamic weather of a Mediterranean climate, the values at risk, and the fire protection system's ability to deal with the occurrence of wildland fire events. A major element of the California Strategic Fire Plan is an intensive assessment process that graphically depicts fuels, weather, and assets at risk in the Geographic Information System (GIS) program. The GIS layers are continually field-validated and used to identify the areas within or adjacent to the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) that are most at risk.

The *California's Forests and Rangelands: 2010 Assessment* (http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/assessment/2010/document.php) produced a variety of GIS data layers identifying assets, threats, and priority landscapes (combinations of assets and threats into priorities).



TOPOGRAPHY AND WEATHER OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY



Los Angeles County encompasses a land area of 4,083 square miles. Forty-seven percent of this area is mountainous, while the remainder consists of alluvial valleys, coastal plains, and high desert. The large mountain ranges within the County include the Santa Monica, San Gabriel, Santa Susana, and Verdugo Mountains and run from east to west while the main canyon drainages flow north and south. This natural topography has created airflow patterns linking the desert area with the Pacific Ocean. The elevation of the county starts at sea level and rises to the highest point of 10,069 feet at Mount San Antonio, also known as Mount Baldy in the San Gabriel Mountains.

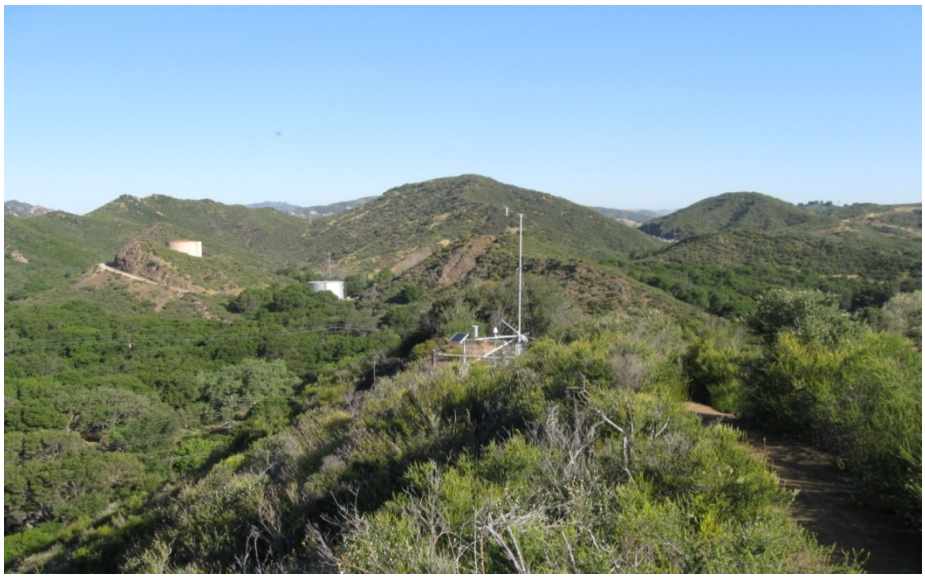
The Los Angeles basin experiences a Mediterranean climate with warm dry summers and mild wet winters. Due to the different landscapes of the County, the coastlines experience cooler temperatures of 40's°F to 80°F, while the inland areas experience more extreme temperatures from light snow in the winter to 100+°F in the summer. Precipitation occurs approximately 35 days a year averaging about 15 inches. However, the recent years without average rainfall have forced the county into a severe drought, which has brought our vegetation moisture levels to a hazardous low.

During the autumn and winter months, high-pressure weather systems will originate over the Great Basin and upper Mojave Deserts, which heats up the air. This system byproduct is commonly referred to as the Santa Ana winds by the National Weather Service and is described as having strong down slope winds blowing through the mountain passes of Southern California. The relative humidity of the air is further decreased as it travels from the high desert to the coast. These hot dry winds blow through the valley and canyons pre-heating and dropping the fuel moisture in all areas of Los Angeles County. This is where we experience a high frequency of wildland fires where the temperatures are high, while fuel moistures are extremely low, and winds are blowing at 30-70 miles per hour.

Due to the vast differences in weather across the county, we have strategically placed Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) to effectively and accurately collect weather data and then track daily Fire Weather Forecasts back to our fire personnel to give current weather conditions on the ground. The data is displayed in tabular and graphic formats on various public websites. These sites also act as multi-agency data collection and distribution systems. RAWS data from CAL FIRE, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and others are collected and shared by the interested participants.

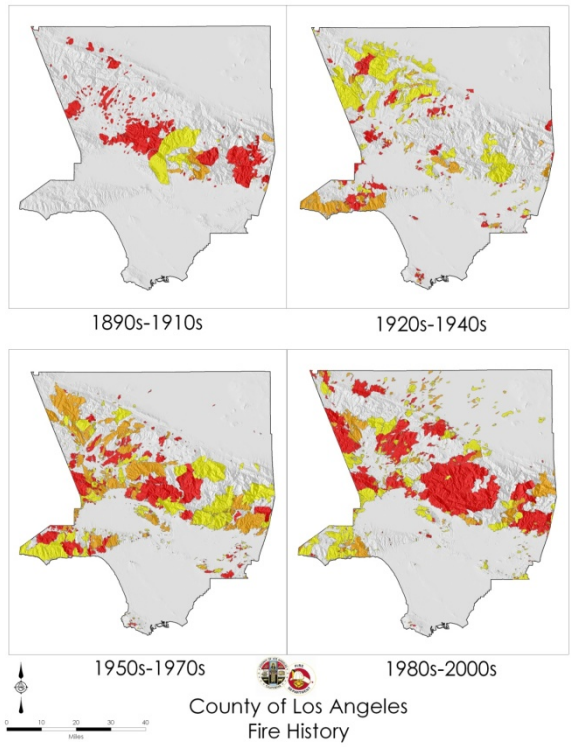
The RAWS station is solar powered and automatically detects weather conditions such as Air Temperature, Relative Humidity, Wind Speed and Direction, Fuel Moisture and Temperature, Barometric Pressure, and Precipitation. RAWS transmits the information

via the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite system (GOES) every hour. The host server receives, compiles, sorts, and files the data for downloading into a local agency computer. The information can be displayed on maps, charts, and graphs to show the weather picture throughout the state. Historical data can also be accessed to show weather patterns for specified areas and times.



FIRE HISTORY OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County has a long history with fire dating back to the Native Americans using fire to create diversity and maintenance in the landscape. Today the County experiences many large, damaging, and costly wildfires which affect the population. The County in recent years has battled large, wind driven fires that have destroyed hundreds of homes and hundreds of thousands of acres of scenic landscape. The Colby fire in 2014 in Glendora destroyed nearly 2,000 acres and five homes. In 2009, the Station fire consumed 160,000 acres of land while in 2008 the Sayre fire engulfed more than 500 structures. Due to the continual growth and development of the open space within the County, we will continue to work with these communities to protect and prevent catastrophic fires from destroying their communities and continue to address the wildfire potential as a top priority of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department.



THE WILDFIRE ENVIRONMENT

A thorough understanding of the wildfire environment is essential in understanding the fire severity potential in Los Angeles County. Determining which programs and projects are the most efficient in preventing catastrophic wildfires are major focuses of the Fire Plan Unit. Firefighters become skilled at recognizing the status of the three components that make up the wildfire environment. The nature and condition of fuels, weather, and topography helps determine the behavior of a fire once ignited.

FUEL

Wildland fuel is the vegetation that covers the landscape. Fuel provides the thermal energy source which fire needs to spread. Fuels can also be considered as ornamental vegetation around homes and the structure themselves. The large Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas within the County are where the native fuels and residential communities come together which provide a dangerous wildfire environment. These areas are one of our greatest concerns.

WEATHER

Weather is the most dynamic component of the fire environment and can change rapidly in space and time. Weather represents such elements as temperature, wind, relative humidity, cloud cover, precipitation, and atmospheric stability.

TOPOGRAPHY

Topography includes such elements as slope, aspect, elevation, or the lay of the land. These factors play an important role while fighting a wildland fire. Slope can affect the rate of spread of a fire while the aspect could also affect the intensity of the fire. Elevation changes affect the amount of oxygen in the air and the vegetation type.

DAILY FIRE DANGER REPORT

The Daily Fire Weather Forecast is a tool for firefighting personnel to use in determining staffing levels, response, and ability to control wildland fires. The forecast and staffing levels are provided daily and transmitted to all sites and units upon receipt by the Department's Command and Control Division as an administrative message on mobile data terminals (MDT) and by e-mail. The information below explains these daily messages:

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department produces a Daily Fire Weather Forecast by processing wildland fire weather data from manual and RAWS that it operates, or acquires data from other agencies located in Los Angeles County. These agencies include the City of Beverly Hills, the National Park Service, and the Angeles National Forest. RAWS observations and historical data can be accessed daily at http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/forestry-division/fire-weather-report/.

These observations are reported electronically to the Weather Information Management System (WIMS) in Boise, Idaho, between 1300 and 1330 hours, and are processed by the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS).

A few of the stations are seasonal and do not report during the off season. Department personnel from the Henninger Flats Forestry Unit query WIMS each afternoon at 1400 hours to adjust weather data and enter manual weather station data. (http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/fireweatherdoc/FireWeatherDanger.pdf)

UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department currently has 4,663 personal on staff. A total of 171 fire stations (including FS55 and FS155 on Catalina Island), 259 fire engines (including 500 series), five light forces, 25 quints, 101 paramedic squads, 30 patrols, nine wildland fire suppression camps, 10 bulldozers, nine helicopters, three USAR teams, one USAR Task Force, 58 Lifeguards vehicles and 12 rescue boats, 23 Prevention Offices, 12 Forestry Units, and numerous other response vehicles and facilities as listed on Appendix "C". The Department serves the unincorporated areas of the County as well as 58 incorporated cities.

The County has a contractual agreement with CAL FIRE to provide wildland fire protection on state responsibility areas (SRA). The Gray Book staffing agreement identifies resource allocations that CAL FIRE considers necessary for the protection of SRA and provides funding accordingly. In the Los Angeles County, the Gray Book provides funding for 23 stations and fire prevention activities.

SECTION II: COLLABORATION

COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Cooperative Fire Services

In emergency services, mutual aid is an agreement among emergency responders to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries. This may occur due to an emergency response that exceeds the abilities of local resources, such as a disaster or a multiple-alarm fire. Mutual aid may be ad hoc, requested only when such an emergency occurs. It may also be a formal standing agreement for cooperative emergency management on a continuing basis, such as ensuring that resources are dispatched from the nearest fire station, regardless of which side of the jurisdictional boundary the incident is on. Agreements that send closest resources are regularly referred to as "automatic aid agreements." Current agreements are:

- Los Angeles County Operational Area Mutual Aid Plan
- California Fire Master Mutual Aid Agreement
- California Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management (CFMA) and Stafford Act Response Agreement
- California Fire Assistance Agreement
- Public Resources Code 4104

Additional Fire Agencies in Los Angeles County:

USDA Forest Service, Angeles National Forest
USDOI National Park Service, Santa Monica Mountains Recreational Area

City of Alhambra	City of La Habra Heights	City of San Marino
City of Arcadia	City of La Verne	City of Santa Fe Springs
City of Avalon	City of Long Beach	City of Santa Monica
City of Beverly Hills	City of Los Angeles	City of Sierra Madre
City of Burbank	City of Manhattan Beach	City of South Pasadena
City of Compton	City of Monrovia	City of Torrance
City of Culver City	City of Montebello	City of Vernon
City of Downey	City of Monterey Park	City of West Covina
City of Glendale	City of Pasadena	
City of Hermosa Beach	City of Redondo Beach	
City of San Gabriel		

A stakeholder can be defined as any person, agency, or organization with a particular interest, a stake in fire safety, and protection of assets from wildland fires. The stakeholders include: Federal, State, local, private agencies, fire safe councils, or interest groups with assets at risk from wildland fires. The County of Los Angeles Fire Department's goal is to involve as many stakeholders as possible in the development of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Fire Plan and continually update planning efforts involving stakeholder input.

Plan Development Team:

Coordinating agencies within the County of Los Angeles Fire Department

POLITICAL ENTITY	**JURISDICTION**
LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS	LOCAL GOVERNMENT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	LOCAL GOVERNMENT/LAW ENFORCEMENT
ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY	LRA AND SRA FIRE PROTECTION
KERN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT	LRA AND SRA FIRE PROTECTION
VENTURA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT	LRA AND SRA FIRE PROTECTION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP, DPA FIRE PROTECTION
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS	PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP, SRA FIRE PROTECTION
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY	PUBLIC LAND OWNERSHIP, RECREATIONAL USE
LOCAL WATER COMPANIES	WATER STORAGE & TREATMENT
NON-PROFIT OPEN SPACE DISTRICTS	LOCAL GOVERNMENT
PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES	STATE/COUNTY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION	STATE/COUNTY
AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT	STATE/COUNTY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE	STATE/COUNTY
USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES CONSEVATION SERVICE	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
USDA-FOREST SERVICE	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
USDI-NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
TOPANGA COALITION FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION
FIFTY EIGHT (58) CONTRACT CITIES	LOCAL GOVERNMENT
THIRTY (30) CITY FIRE DEPARTMENTS	LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Participation

Fire Safe Councils (FSC) - www.cafiresafecouncil.org

Fire safe councils are grassroots community-driven organizations who share the objective of making California's communities less vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire. Fire safe councils accomplish this objective through education programs and fire hazard reduction projects such as shaded fuel breaks or home structure hardening to protect area residents against an oncoming wildfire and to provide fire fighters with a place to fight the oncoming fire. The first fire safe councils started in the early 1990s; there are now over 200 statewide. Through the Fire Plan Unit the Department supports these community-based organization and efforts. In early 2000s, the Los Angeles County Fire Department set in motion the support mechanism for the FSC. Currently, there are more than 26 active Fire Safe Councils in Los Angeles County.

Firewise Communities Program - www.firewise.org

Brush, grass or forest fires do not have to be disasters. The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Firewise Communities program encourages local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters, and others in the effort to protect people and property from wildfire risks.

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) - http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/lacofd-cert-program/

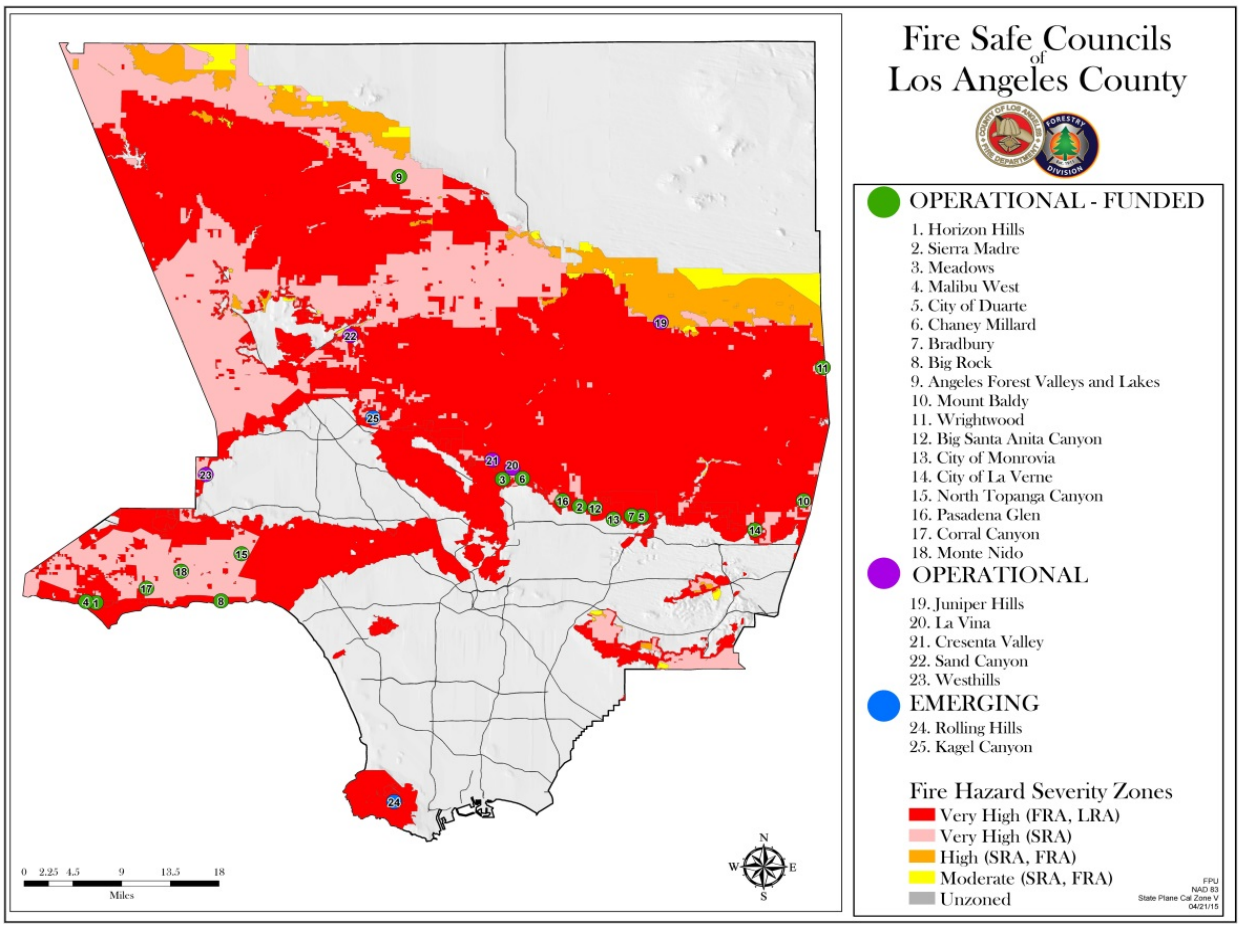
The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community. In June 2003, the Los Angeles County Fire Department began offering the FEMA-approved 20-hour CERT training curriculum to the cities and communities we serve. The program operates from the Public Affairs Section under the direction of a fire captain who serves as the Department CERT coordinator.

Fire Adapted Communities - www.fireadapted.org

A fire adapted community accepts fire as part of the natural landscape. The community understands its fire risk, and takes action *before* a wildfire to minimize harm to residents, homes, businesses, parks, utilities, and other community assets. These

collective actions empower all residents to be safer in their environment. To help prepare your community, consider **your role** in making it fire adapted:

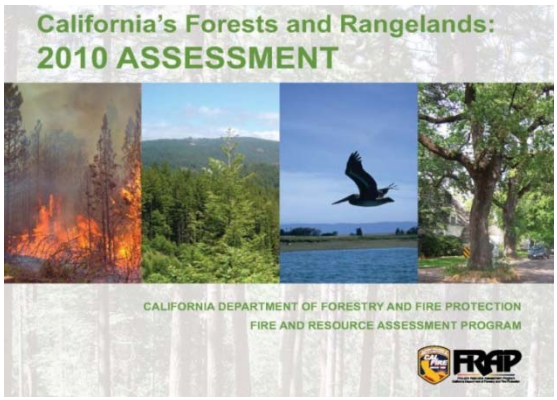
- Build homes with fire-resistant materials.
- Landscape gardens using the appropriate native plants.
- Support land management practices in parks, forests, and natural areas that reduce wildfire spread to your community.
- Encourage the development and implementation of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- Work with neighbors to get recognized through the Firewise Communities/USA® Recognition Program.
- Encourage your local fire department to participate in the Ready! Set! Go! Program.
- Prepare an emergency planning kit and safety plan.
- Meet with your local forester to better understand your region's unique fire risks.
- Locate your community's resident safety zone.
- Talk to your insurance agent about your wildfire coverage and how to reduce risk.
- Promote the adoption of building codes and local regulations that address structural and site vulnerabilities to wildfire.
- Identify shared responsibilities with other community members and explore local tools and solutions.



25 Fire Safe Councils in Los Angeles County

SECTION III: VALUES

PRIORITY LANDSCAPES OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY



Priority Landscapes as defined by *California's Forests and Rangelands: 2010 Assessment,* prepared by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), are landscapes that feature assets, such as water supply, urban population, and ecosystems that are threatened by any form of damage (i.e. fire, pollution, pest damage, etc.). It also presents an analysis of trends, conditions, and the development of priority landscapes throughout California.
Based on the assessment, communities in the WUI, rangelands and protected habitats in the Los Angeles County, are considered high priority landscapes.

The State Mandate

By State law (Public Resource Code 4789) CAL FIRE must periodically assess California's forest and rangeland resources. The last assessment was completed in 2003 by FRAP, a unit within CAL FIRE, whose mission is to produce these periodic forest assessments. The results are used by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) to develop and update a forest policy statement for California. The last BOF statement was finished in 2007 and reflects various strategies designed to address key issues defined by the 2003 assessment.

The Federal Mandate

The 2008 Federal Farm Bill amended the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act to provide for development of state forest resource assessments and related resource strategies. Among other things, the intent of the amendments is to facilitate identification of priority forest landscape areas, to underscore work needed to address issues on these landscapes, and to frame and focus related strategies and actions.

In 2008, the U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry Program (S&PF) "redesigned" its approach to reflect these plans and funding strategies, and program redesign has strongly shaped the approach CAL FIRE has taken with the California 2010 Assessment.

The 2010 effort covers two components of the redesign approach:

- Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources – Provides an analysis of forest conditions and trends in the state and delineates priority rural and urban forest landscape areas.

- Statewide Forest Resource Strategy – Provides long-term strategies for investing resources to address priority landscapes identified in this assessment. It also focuses where federal investment can most effectively stimulate or leverage desired action and engage multiple partners.

The redesign approach emphasizes the use of available data and spatial framework for analysis to delineate priority landscapes, where possible. The focus is on incorporating existing plans and information within states. Some categories of plans are specified, such as the state wildlife action plan and community wildfire protection plans. Outreach to stakeholders is encouraged, though the outreach process and extent is left to the lead agency or group. However, a requirement exists to seek input from specified stakeholder categories or entities such as federal management agencies, the state wildlife agency, the urban forest council and others.

A: VALUES

Generalized assets at risk need to be identified within the County to indicate what areas contain highly valuable assets. The areas with the highest combined asset values and fire risk are then targeted for fire plan projects, particularly where such projects will reduce damage should a fire start in the project area during high fire hazard weather.

In the County of Los Angeles the following are the priority values and assets at risk:

- Public and firefighter safety
- Water and watershed
- Vital infrastructure (power lines, gas lines, highways, roads, etc.)
- Structures
- Wildlife and habitat (including rare and endangered species)
- Air quality
- Soil erosion
- Recreation
- Agriculture, range
- Cultural and historic resources

Potential projects are identified and then an objective analysis will determine the degree to which the projects will reduce potential suppression costs and reduce damage to valued assets within the project area. The asset framework and validation process will be refined as stakeholders are identified and are participating in the Fire Plan process. Multiple agencies have played a vital role in identifying the assets within Los Angeles County. Knowledge of the types and value of assets at risk to wildland fire, as well as their locations, are critical to fire protection planning. Given the limits on fire protection resources, they should be allocated, in part, based on the value of the assets being protected.

Knowledge of assets at risk is necessary to choose those pre-fire management projects that will provide the greatest benefit for the given amount of investment. The County of Los Angeles Fire Department's primary concern is reducing the fire risk and potential loss of the various assets described herein, in addition to providing safety and

protection of life, property and the environment while reducing suppression costs. Public and firefighter safety is paramount. As development continues and expands into the WUI, it becomes exceedingly more difficult to provide protection against the threat of wildland fires.

ASSET AT RISK	PUBLIC ISSUE CATEGORY	LOCATION AND RANKING METHODOLOGY
FIRE/FLOOD/WATERSHEDS	PUBLIC SAFETY, PUBLIC WELFARE	WATERSHED WITH A HISTORY OF PROBLEMS OR PROPER CONDITIONS FOR FUTURE PROBLEMS. RANKS ARE BASED ON AFFECTED DOWNSTREAM POPULATIONS
SOIL	ENVIRONMENT	WATERSHED RANKED BASED ON EROSION POTENTIAL
WATER SUPPLY	PUBLIC HEALTH	1) WATERSHED AREA UP TO 20 MILES FROM WATER SUPPLY FACILITY (HIGH RANK); 2) GRID CELLS CONTAINING DOMESTIC WATER DIVERSIONS, RANKED BASED ON NUMBER OF CONNECTIONS; 3) CELLS CONTAINING DITCHES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS (HIGH RANK)
SCENIC VALUE	PUBLIC WELFARE	FOUR MILE VIEWSHED AROUND SCENIC HIGHWAYS, RANKED BASED ON POTENTIAL IMPACT TO VEGETATION TYPES (TREE VS. NON-TREE TYPES)
AIR QUALITY	PUBLIC WELFARE, PUBLIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT	POTENTIAL DAMAGES TO HEALTH, MATERIALS, VEGETATION AND VISIBILITY; RANK BASED ON VEGETATION TYPE AND AIR BASIN
HISTORIC BUILDING	PUBLIC WELFARE	FROM STATE OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION; RANKED BASED ON FIRE SUSCEPTABILITY
RECREATION	PUBLIC WELFARE	UNIQUE RECREATION AREAS OF AREAS WITH POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO FACILITIES, RANK BASED ON FIRE SUSCEPTABILITY
STRUCTURES	PUBLIC WELFARE, PUBLIC SAFETY	RANK BASED ON HOUSING DENSITY AND FIRE SUSCEPTABILITY
NON-GAME WILDLIFE	PUBLIC WELFARE, ENVIRONMENT	CRITICAL HABITATS AND SPECIES LOCATION BASED ON INPUT FROM CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
GAME WILDLIFE	PUBLIC WELFARE, ENVIRONMENT	CRITICAL HABITATS AND SPECIES LOCATION BASED ON INPUT FROM CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
INFRASTRUCTURE	PUBLIC WELFARE, PUBLIC SAFETY	INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DELIVERY OF EMERGENCY AND OTHER CRITICAL SERVICES (IE. REPEATER SITES, TRANSMISSION LINES)

California's Forests and Rangelands: 2010 Assessment identified a variety of "Priority Landscapes" that are applicable to all areas of California.

Based on the Priority Landscapes developed by the Assessment, 11 categories are considered as immediate priorities for Los Angeles County. The following best identify Los Angeles County's current problems, problem areas, and potential strategies:

1. Community Wildfire Planning
2. Population Growth and Development Impact
3. Preventing Wildfire Threats to Maintain Ecosystem Health
4. Restoring Wildfire Impacted Areas to Maintain Ecosystem Health
5. Preventing Wildfire Threats for Community Safety
6. Water Quality
7. Water Supply
8. Conserving Green Infrastructure
9. Managing Green Infrastructure
10. Threats to Forest Carbon from Wildfire, Insects and Disease
11. Threats to Forest Carbon from Development

From the Priority Landscapes the following Assets at Risk are identified as the highest concerns and should be addressed first:

- Structures, Major Roads, and Transmission Lines – as threatened from wildfire. The value of housing, as measured by density, with susceptibility to loss (exposure). Power delivery and communications sites susceptible to extended loss of service due to fire or the simple interruption of these services is a public safety as well as a public welfare issue.

- Ecosystems – as threatened by localized development and landscape level development. Based on potential ecological damage from a severe fire event, areas can diverge significantly due to the historic fire return interval and development resulting in fuel conditions that could promote ecological damage (e.g. large tree mortality and soil impacts).

- Water Supply, Water Quality – as threatened by wildfire and the effects of wildfire on soil surfaces, threats to and from localized development, watersheds and climate changes. Watersheds can burn in the dry season and then discharge torrents of debris into downstream-populated plains during severe storms in following wet seasons.

B: COMMUNITIES

	Communities at Risk in Los Angeles	Battalion	Division	Incorporated City
1	Acton	17	V	N
2	Agoura	5	VII	N
3	Agoura Hills	5	VII	N
4	Agua Dulce	22	III	N
5	Altadena	4	III	Y
6	Arcadia	N/A	N/A	Y
7	Azusa	16 and 2	II	N
8	Beverly Hills	N/A	N/A	Y
9	Big Rock Springs	17	V	N
10	Bradbury	16	II	N
11	Burbank	N/A	N/A	Y
12	Calabasas	5	VII	N
13	Castaic	6	III	N
14	Claremont	2	II	N
15	Cornell	5	VII	N
16	Covina	16	II	N
17	Del Sur	11	V	N
18	Del Valle	6	III	N
19	Desert View Highlands	17	V	N
20	Diamond Bar	19 and 15	VIII	N
21	Duarte	16 and 10	II and IX	N

22	El Nido	5	VII	N
23	Elizabeth Lake	11	V	N
24	Fernwood	5	VII	N
25	Glendale	N/A	N/A	Y
26	Glendora	2	II	N
27	Glenview	5	VII	N
28	Gorman	6	III	N
29	Green Valley	11	V	N
30	Hacienda Heights	12	VIII	N
31	Hidden Hills	5	VII	N
32	Juniper Hills	17	V	N
33	Kagel Canyon	4	III	N
34	La Canada Flintridge	4	III	N
35	La Crescenta-Montrose	4	III	N
36	La Habra Heights	N/A	N/A	Y
37	La Verne	N/A	N/A	Y
38	Lake Hughes	11	V	N
39	Lake Los Angeles	11	V	N
40	Lancaster	11	V	N
41	Lang	22	III	N
42	Leona Valley	11 and 17	V	N
43	Littlerock	17	V	N
44	Llano	17	V	N
45	Longview	17	V	N
46	Los Angeles	N/A	N/A	Y

47	Malibu	5	VII	N
48	Malibu Bowl	5	VII	N
49	Malibu Vista	5	VII	N
50	Mint Canyon	22	III	N
51	Monrovia	N/A	N/A	Y
52	Monte Nido	5	VII	N
53	Neenach	6 and 11	III and V	N
54	Oban	11	V	N
55	Olive View	N/A	N/A	Y
56	Palmdale	11 and 17	V	N
57	Palmdale East	11 and 17	V	N
58	Palos Verdes Estates	14	I	N
59	Pasadena	N/A	N/A	Y
60	Pearblossom	17	V	N
61	Pico Rivera	8 and 10	IV and IX	N
62	Point Dume	5	VII	N
63	Pomona	15 , 19, and 2	VIII and II	N
64	Quartz Hill	11	V	N
65	Rancho Palos Verdes	14	I	N
66	Ravenna	17	V	N
67	Rolling Hills	14	I	N
68	Rolling Hills Estates	14	I	N
69	Rowland Heights	12	VIII	N
70	San Dimas	2 and 16	II	N
71	San Fernando	N/A	N/A	Y

72	Santa Clarita	6 and 22	III	N
73	Saugus-Bouquet Canyon	22	III	N
74	Seminole Hot Springs	5	VII	N
75	Sierra Madre	N/A	N/A	Y
76	Sleepy Valley	22	III	N
77	South Pasadena	N/A	N/A	Y
78	Stevenson Ranch	6	III	N
79	Sun Village	17	V	N
80	Sylvia Park	5	VII	N
81	Three Points	6	III	N
82	Topanga	5	VII	N
83	Topanga Park	5	VII	N
84	Val Verde	6	III	N
85	Valyermo	17	V	N
86	View Park-Windsor Hills	1	VII	N
87	Vincent	17	V	N
88	Walnut	19	VIII	N
89	West Covina	N/A	N/A	Y
90	Westlake Village	5	VII	N
91	Whittier	8	IV	N
92	Wilsona Gardens	11	V	N

SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

A: FIRE PREVENTION

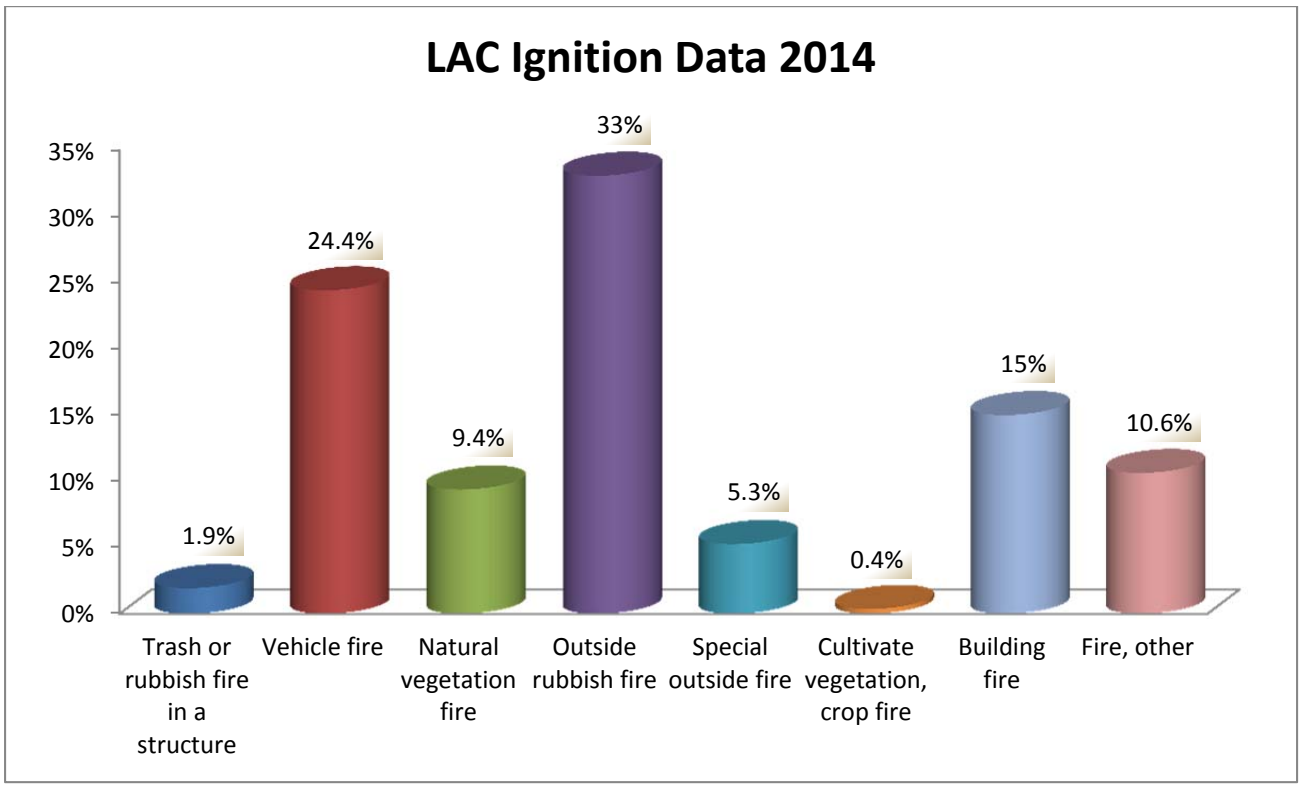
In 2014, Los Angeles County recorded over 8,000 ignition starts. Nearly 40,000 ignition starts took place over the 2010-2014 timeframe. Due to the large number of ignition starts, the Fire Plan Unit has evaluated and analyzed the cause of these starts to find methods in preventing fires from developing.

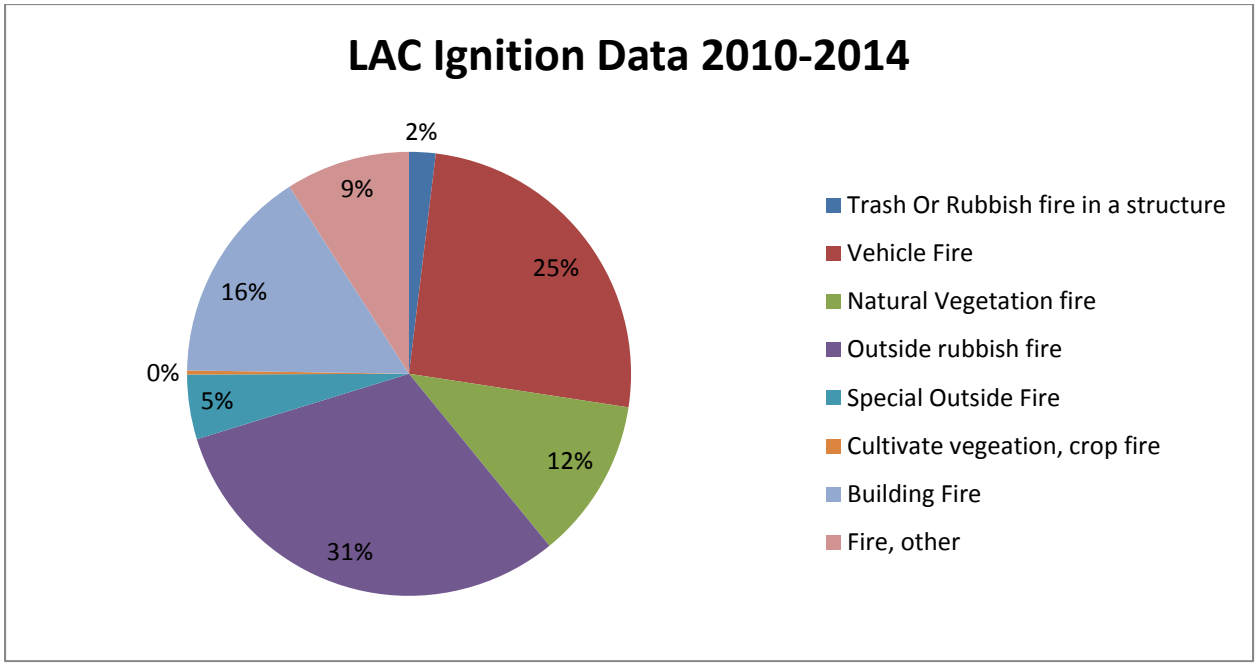
The largest number of ignition starts is caused by outside rubbish fires. The NFIRS reference guide describes outside rubbish fires as trash, waste fires, garbage dump or sanitary landfill fires, construction or demolition landfill fires, dumpsters, or other outside trash receptacle fire and outside stationary compactor or compacted trash fire.

The next largest category of ignitions that threatens Los Angeles County is vehicle fires. Due to the number of people occupied within the county, the number of vehicles ignitions corresponds respectfully. The concentration of ignition starts occurs within the major freeway thoroughfares.

An effective mitigation method for vehicle ignition starts is the timely completion of the annual roadside brush clearance on all major and minor roads within the WUI. Brush clearance should be completed for 10 feet on both sides of the roadway.

Please refer to the following charts for the ignition causes in 2014 and the five-year trend.





Prevention
The focus of fire prevention is educating the citizens in ways to reduce the risk of hazardous conditions and situations relating to fire. These programs are focused on awareness of fire causes and the potential of reduced costs due to fire damage. The Department's Fire Plan Unit coordinates the efforts and activities of these programs with the intent of creating efficient and timely Pre-Fire Management projects.

Passive Protection
Passive protection such as defensible space, hazard fuel reduction, proper brush clearance, fire-resistive landscaping, fire-resistive construction, and good housekeeping around the structure plays an important role in increasing its survivability in a wildfire. The sum effect of passive protection is a force multiplier for active firefighting resources. A single firefighting resource may protect many more structures when passive protection is properly employed. In some cases, firefighting resources may not be necessary at all, thus freeing them for other uses.

Pre-Fire Management
The pre-fire engineer and unit staff work with many stakeholders and cooperators including federal, State and local government entities, Fire Safe Councils, individual citizens, and other organizations to assist with the development and implementation of their Fire Plan. The program in which the pre-fire engineer works varies from unit to unit and includes the following: Prevention, Vegetation Management Program (VMP), Resource Management, Administration, and, in some cases, directly for the Unit Chief.

ENGINEERING AND STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY

The Fire Prevention Division is under the leadership of the County's Fire Marshal. The Fire Prevention Division focuses on educating the community about the benefits of proper safety practices and identifying and eliminating all types of hazardous conditions, which pose a threat to life, property, and the environment. Safety inspections are

consistently conducted in commercial, industrial, and residential developments and business operations. Numerous fires are investigated and tracked. The acquired information is used to update the fire codes and the fire prevention best management practices.

The Fire Prevention Special Units Section is comprised of the following specialized units:

Petroleum/Chemical Unit: Conducts fire safety inspections and issue permits for major plants manufacturing, using and storing hazardous materials and explosives.
Schools and Institutions Unit: Conducts annual fire/life safety inspections in all public, private, and parochial schools, private and community colleges, child day care centers, acute and convalescent care hospitals, surgery centers, outpatient dialysis clinics, residential care facilities, assisted living centers, adult day facilities, local detention facilities and jails, county detention camps, and organized church and school camps.
Arson **Fire Investigation Unit**: Conducts investigations of major alarm fires and other fires to determine the cause or investigate suspected arson. They interview witnesses, collect evidence, write reports, and conduct training programs for departmental personnel.

The Fire Prevention Central Region consists of the following**:**

Codes and Ordinances Unit: Conducts research, answers requests for information and maintains the Department's legal and historic library. They propose code changes to the Uniform Fire Code and Uniform Building Code and meet with architects and other government officials.
County Facilities Unit: Is responsible for plan check and field inspection activity for new construction projects for many of the 36 Los Angeles County Departments. They act as the Department's liaison and/or represent County facilities outside of our jurisdiction, such as the Disney Concert Hall and the LAC-USC Medical Center.

The Fire Prevention Engineering Section consists of the following**:**

Building Plan Check Unit: Has the responsibility of performing nonstructural fire safety plan review and approving architectural plans for various complex occupancies.
Fire Sprinkler Plan Check Unit: Is responsible for providing plan review service for all structures requiring an automatic fire sprinkler system, fire pump, and on-site hydrants. They also review and approve all types of fire protection systems.
Plan Check Unit: Performs plan review services on all structures requiring a fire alarm or smoke management systems. They review and approve all types of fire alarm systems and assist with on-site inspections and testing of complex alarm and smoke management systems.

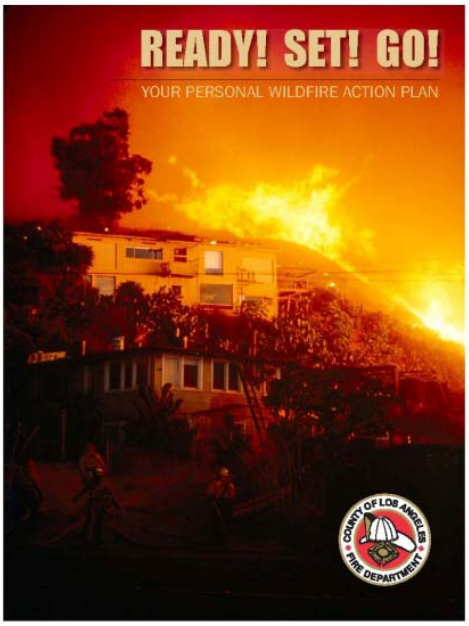
State Law requires the use of ignition resistant building methods and materials as a measure to reduce structure ignitability for new buildings located in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ).

The Health Hazardous Materials Division's mission is to protect the public health and the environment throughout Los Angeles County from accidental releases and improper handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes. In 1981, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors established the Hazardous Materials Control Program in the Department of Health Services for the inspection of businesses generating hazardous waste. In 1991, the program merged into the Fire Department and became the Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD). All Hazardous Material Specialists are sworn Los Angeles County Deputy Health Officers.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The Public Information Officer develops specific programs, educational materials, and public statements. Ultimately public education is the responsibility of all members of the Fire Department. Each section interacts with the public and is responsible for increasing the public's awareness of wildfire safety and preparedness. The Department uses several publications to provide safety information to the citizens of the County of Los Angeles. Among them are:

- ✓ Ready! Set! Go! http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/RSG-Booklet.pdf
- ✓ Community Emergency Response Team (CERT): http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/lacofd-cert-program/
- ✓ County of Los Angeles Fuel Modification Guidelines: http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Fuel-Modification-Plan-Guidelines-8-10-11.pdf
- ✓ For a complete list of Wildland-Urban Interface fire prevention education materials; please visit: http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/forestry-division/fire-hazard-reduction-programs/



Additional WUI information and brochures are available through the Forestry Division's Interpretive Unit, at (818) 890-5723.

Los Angeles County Fire Department
Website: www.fire.lacounty.gov
Facebook: www.facebook.com/LACoFD
Twitter: @LACo_FD

Community Fire Hazard Reduction Project Support

The Department's Fire Plan Unit provides fire hazard reduction project design, development, planning, and implementation for Communities in Los Angeles County.

2014-2015 Projects

- Corral Canyon Fire Safe Alliance Fire Safe Council Grant Completed
- North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council 2012 Grant Completed
- City of Monrovia Fire Safe Council Grant Completed
- City of Monrovia Fire Safe Council Grant Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Completed
- North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council 2013 Grant Implemented
- Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council Grant Implemented
- Monte Nido Fire Safe Council Grant Implemented
- Meadows Fire Safe Council Grant Implemented
- Pasadena Glenn Fire Safe Council Grant Implemented
- City of Duarte Fire Safe Council Grant Implemented

B: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The Forestry Division of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, since its inception in 1911, has been involved in the conservation and protection of natural resources through its forestry programs. The Forestry Division is comprised of three sections: Operations, Natural Resources, and Brush Clearance. The employees of the Forestry Division serve the citizens by using their knowledge to preserve and enhance the environment for the benefit of all residents of Los Angeles County. The Division is responsible for the review of environmental documents related to development and protection of oak tree resources, development of vegetation management projects, and coordination of wildland fire planning, enforcement of the Department's brush clearance program, review of fuel modification plans, support to Fire Safe Councils, and implementation of the California Strategic Fire Plan.

As the population of Los Angeles County increases, further expansion of residential areas into the WUI is inevitable. Panoramic views, wildlife, fresh air, and solitude are just a few of the reasons that people choose to live in the wildland areas of Los Angeles County. The rewards may be numerous, but the increased risk of wildland fires, flooding, and erosion poses a serious threat to life and property.

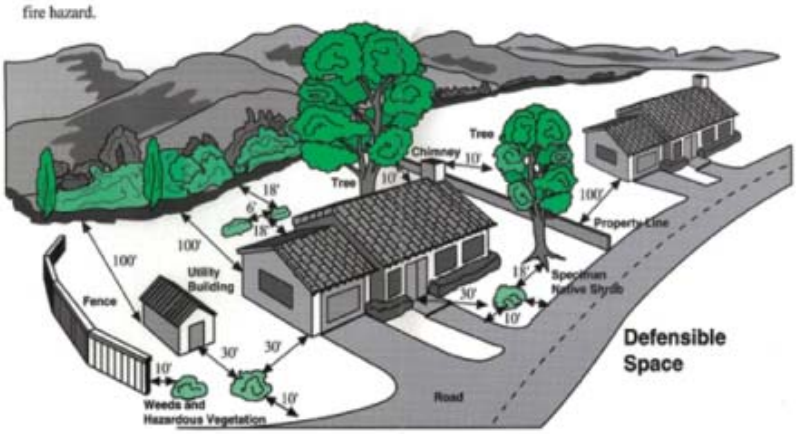
Vegetation management, as it relates to wildland fire, refers to the total or partial removal of high fire hazard grasses, shrubs, or trees. This includes thinning to reduce the amount of fuel and modification of vegetation arrangement and distribution to disrupt fire progress. In addition to fire hazard reduction, vegetation management has other

benefits. These include increased water yields, improved habitat for wildlife, reduction of invasive exotic plant species, and open access for recreational purposes.

The Vegetation Management Program (VMP) is a cost-sharing program that focuses on the use of prescribed fire, mechanical, biological, and chemical means for addressing wildland fire fuel hazards and other resource management issues on defined SRA and Local Responsibility Area (LRA) lands. The use of prescribed fire mimics natural processes, restores fire to its historic role in wildland ecosystems, and provides significant fire hazard reduction benefits that enhance public and firefighter safety.

The VMP allows private landowners to enter into a contract with CAL FIRE to use an integrated vegetation management plan to accomplish a combination of fire protection and resource management goals. The Forestry Division's Vegetation Management Unit and the Air and Wildland Division's Prescribed Fire Office implement the VMP projects, which fit within the Department's priority areas (e.g., those identified through the fire plan) and are considered to be of most value for the County to be completed.

The Forestry Division's Environmental Review Unit works with the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning in implementing existing environmental ordinances. The unit personnel review all County Oak Tree Permit applications submitted to the Department of Regional Planning and develop recommendations for implementation. Additionally, the unit personnel produce environmental documentation and recommendations such as non-significant impact documents, negative declarations and mitigation measures consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) mandates for construction projects and developments. The Environmental Review Unit ensures that the statutory responsibilities of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Forestry Division are addressed in the project planning phase.



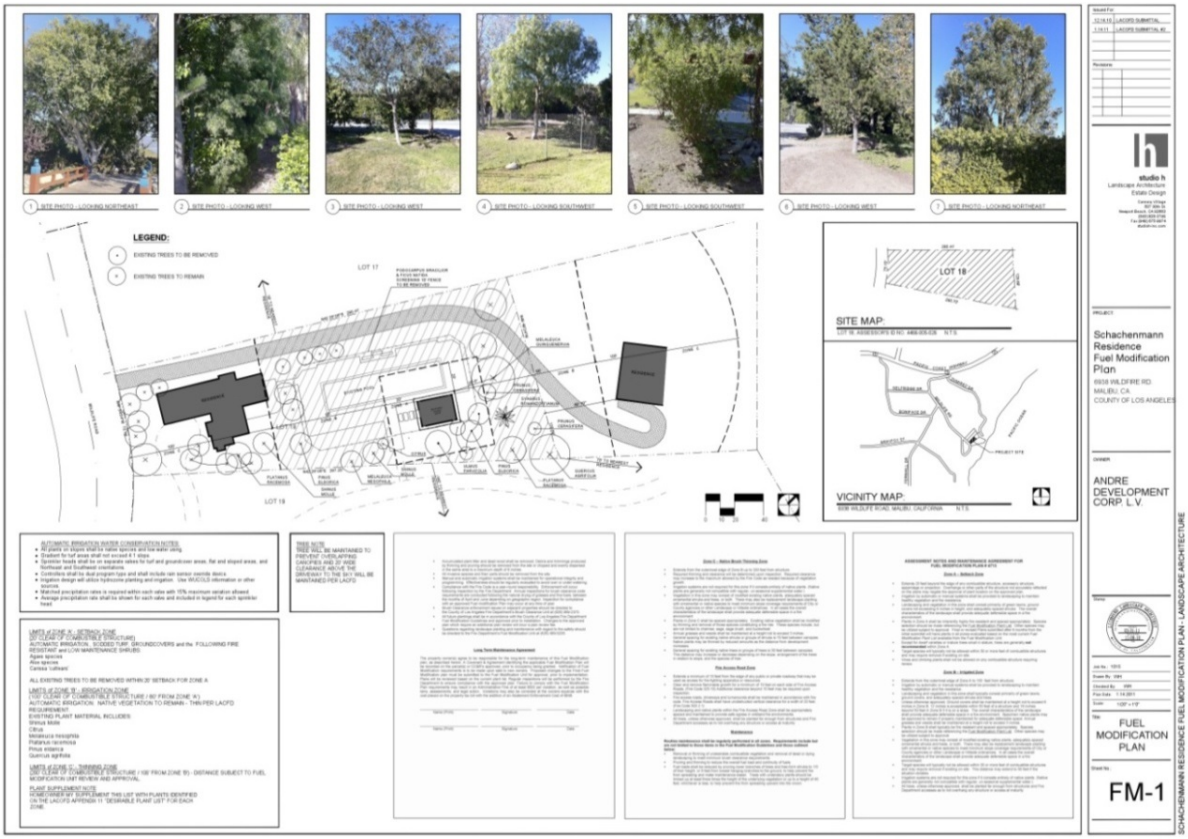
The Brush Clearance Program is a joint effort between the County of Los Angeles Fire Department and the County of Los Angeles Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures, Weed Hazard and Pest Abatement Bureau (Weed Abatement Division). This unified enforcement legally declares both improved and unimproved properties a public nuisance, and where necessary, requires the clearance of hazardous vegetation. These measures create "Defensible Space" for effective fire protection of life, the environment, and property. The Department's Brush Clearance Unit enforces the Fire Codes as it relates to brush clearance on improved parcels, coordinates inspections and compliance efforts with fire station personnel, and provides annual brush clearance training to fire station personnel.

The Fuel Modification Unit objective is to create the Defensible Space necessary for effective fire protection in newly constructed and/or remodeled homes within the

Department's Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ). Fuel modification reduces the radiant and convective heat, and provides valuable defensible space for firefighters to make an effective stand against an approaching fire front. Fuel modification zones are strategically placed as a buffer to open space or areas of natural vegetation and generally would occur surrounding the perimeter of a subdivision, commercial development, or isolated development of a single-family dwelling.

The fuel modification plan identifies specific zones within a property, which are subject to fuel modification. A fuel modification zone is a strip of land where combustible native or ornamental vegetation has been modified and/or partially or totally replaced with drought-tolerant, low-fuel-volume plants. The County of Los Angeles Fuel Modification Guidelines can be found at:
http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Fuel-Modification-Plan-Guidelines-8-10-11.pdf

The Forestry Division's Fuel Modification Unit provides guidelines and reviews the landscape and irrigation plans submitted by the property owner for approval before construction or remodeling of a structure. The fuel modification plans vary in complexity and reflect the fire history, amount and type of vegetation, arrangement of the fuels, topography, local weather patterns, construction design, and placement of structures.

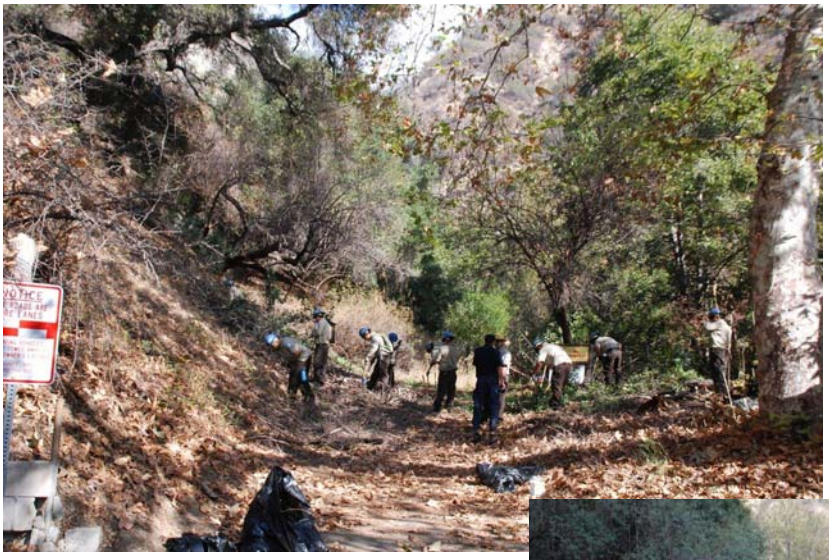


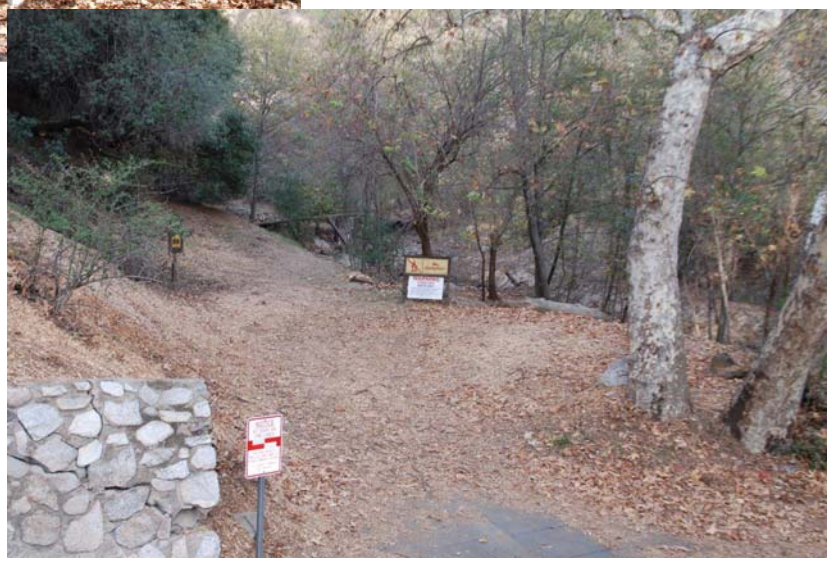
The Forestry Division's Fire Plan Unit is in charge of implementing the California Strategic Fire Plan and the County of Los Angeles Strategic Fire Plan in Los Angeles County. The State Board of Forestry and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) have drafted a comprehensive document for wildland fire protection in California. The planning process defines a level of service measurement,

considers assets at risk, incorporates the cooperative inter-dependent relationships of wildland fire protection providers, provides for public stakeholder involvement, and creates a fiscal framework for policy analysis.

The unit works with communities and organizations across the county to limit the risk of fire in the WUI areas.

The most effective method to limit damage and loss due to wildfire is to mitigate the fire exposure requiring the construction of homes with the most fire resistant material and layout, reviewing the modification of the vegetation around a structure to create adequate defensible space. The focus of the Department's Fire Prevention Program is on educational programs, development and enforcement of fire codes and building codes in the Fire Hazard Severity Zones, Pre-Fire Planning, Vegetation Management, Brush Clearance, Environmental Review and Fuel Modification Programs. These programs are focused on awareness and mitigation of fire causes, fire spread potential, total costs and effects of fire damage associated with the protection of life, property and the environment. The Department's Fire Plan Unit coordinates the efforts and activities of these programs with the intent of creating efficient and timely Pre-Fire Management projects.





SECTION V: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS

Engineering and Ignitability of Structure

All new construction of homes in the High Fire Severity Zone is subject to strict construction guidelines. There must be specific material over all attic vents, which prevent or limit the entry of embers into the attic home. All eves must be 'boxed in' which provides no exposed wood to catch on fire. The windows are required to be one hour fire danger rated which means that they can withstand one hour of heat from a wildfire before breaking. These are just a few of the specifics preventive methods that reduce structure damage and loss.

Vegetation Management Unit

The Vegetation Management Unit works closely with the Fire Plan unit and the Air and Wildland Division's Prescribed Fire Office to implement the projects outlined in this plan. The Vegetation Management Unit provides the State and County with the appropriate paperwork for prescribed burning, mechanical, biological and chemical methods used on the areas in consideration. This unit provides the legal document for CEQA or Negative Declaration documents.

Brush Clearance Unit

Existing homes in the Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) are inspected annually by their local fire personnel. These inspections are performed in the spring and the goal is to evaluate the property for adequate defensible space. Los Angeles County requires more than the State's 100 feet of clearance and may extend the fire hazard reduction up to 200 feet depending on aspect, slope, and other environmental conditions. Some of the guidelines for inspection are that the property has no vines on structure or large trees within the first 30 feet of the home. Inspectors are looking for adequate fire hazard of vegetation that breaks the fuels continuity and density. Depending on slope direction from the structure, fire intensity can be mitigated by the proper density and clearance of the vegetation. If a property is found in non-compliant, the County has procedures in place that warns the property owner and allows for infractions for inadequate fire hazard reduction. A non-compliant property might be fined and the fire hazard reduction work will be completed by the Agricultural Commissioner's Weights and Measures contracted personnel.

Fuel Modification Unit

The Fuel Modification Unit reviews and approves landscape plans for all new construction within the Fire Hazard Severity Zones within the County. Once homes are constructed, an inspection is performed to confirm the implementation of their approved landscape plan. At three-year intervals, the property is again inspected to guarantee that the plan is being implemented. If properties are in non-compliance, the home owners can be charged a fine and are required to amend the issues.

FIRE SUPPRESSION PHILOSOPHY

The human element is always the number one priority for all fire suppression efforts. Many rules and guidelines have been developed to protect firefighters and public safety during wildfires. These rules and guidelines can be helpful for the layperson to understand why firefighters may say or do certain things related to wildfire. Some of these rules and guidelines are: "The Ten Standard Firefighting Orders, The Eighteen Watch Out Situations, Common Denominators of Fire Behavior on Tragedy and Near-miss Forest Fires, LCES - Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, Safety Zones, and Look Up, Look Down, Look Around." With all wildfires, certain strategic and tactical actions must take place. From the time of alarm to the abandonment or closure of a wildfire, one single unified entity must be in command of the incident. To accomplish this, all fire agencies in the County and in the State, for that matter, use the Incident Command System (ICS). Tactically all wildfires must be anchored, which means that a secure starting point is established from which all other strategic and tactical decision-making can build upon.

Once a wildfire grows beyond the initial attack stage in areas with assets at risk, particularly in the WUI, two additional dimensions are added to the already complex nature of wildland firefighting. In addition to anchoring and flanking the fire, firefighting resources must also be committed to protecting assets situated in front of the fire and resources must be left to protect assets from residual embers and fire after the fire passes through.

THE FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM

Although fire is a necessary component of the local ecosystem, in most cases, unchecked wildfire is no longer a viable fire/fuel management option in Los Angeles County. Mostly because of population growth, assets at risk have interfaced and intermixed with the wildlands to such an extent that uncontrolled fires must be quickly extinguished. Therefore, at the heart of the wildfire protection system in Los Angeles County is an aggressive initial attack firefighting strategy.

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department provides structural fire protection and rescue services to the Los Angeles County unincorporated areas and contract cities.

PRIORITY AREAS

The fire plan assessment process utilizes weather, assets at risk, fuels and input from the various regions, bureaus, divisions, and battalions to help target critical areas and prioritize projects. Fire plan assessments aside, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to achieve fuel reduction on the ground without community and stakeholder involvement, whether that be in the form of a community fire safe council, homeowners association, or other organized forum. The Fire Plan Assessment with its science-based approach is evaluated in conjunction with other intangibles to arrive at a "reasonable" assessment of the needs and likelihood of accomplishing a project. The current assessment indicates that there is a significant need throughout the foothill

communities, especially in the WUI areas adjacent to wildland areas of the Santa Monica Mountains, the Angeles National Forest, Verdugo, San Rafael Mountains, etc.

Each of the Department's battalions was consulted to determine pre-fire management projects they consider important to reduce the potential and impact of a wildfire. Projects are assigned a relative ranking by the Department's Vegetation Management Task Force. Theoretically, the project with the highest hazard would have the first priority. Nonetheless, there are a number of circumstances where other than the highest priority would be given preference to a project. Some of these circumstances might include the following: the Department's current commitment to an existing pre-fire project, community participation necessary to complete a project, preparatory work and ease of instituting the project, project type, required match for grant funded project and established commitment between the Department, Fire Safe Councils and communities. The Fire Plan Unit function is to identify, propose and support countywide fire hazard reduction projects.

APPENDIX A: PRE-FIRE PROJECTS

Project Number	Project Name	Planning Area	Status	Project Type	Project Acres
3020-1971-OTH-012	Annual Road-Siding	SRA	C	PREV	NA
TBD	Bonelli Park VMP	LRA	D	VMP	TBD
3010-2013-CAG-016	Bradbury & Duarte	SRA	A	FPL	TBD
3010-2010-FPL-001	Bradbury FSC	LRA	A	FPL	209
3010-2015-FRP-006	Bradbury FSC Phase 1	SRA	P	FPL	842
TBD	Bradbury-Duarte FEMA Grant	LRA	D	VMP	900
TBD	Castaic Park VMP	SRA	D	VMP	TBD
3010-2015-FRP-003	Catalina Island	SRA	P	FPL	TBD
3015-2008-FPL-005	Chaney Millard FSC	SRA	C	FPL	469
3010-2015-FRP-005	Claremont Hills Wilderness Park	LRA	P	FPL	2190
3010-2013-FPL-001	Corral Canyon	SRA	C	PREV	50
3010-2015-FRP-001	Crescenta Valley FSC	LRA/SRA	P	FPL	533
3010-2013-FPL-016	Duarte	SRA	P	FPL	507
3010-2013-PRE-002	Fuel Reduction	SRA	A	FPL	NA
TBD	Glendora Vegetation Mgmt Program	LRA/SRA	D	VMP	1640
3010-2014-PRE-001	Helispot Fuel Reduction	SRA	A	PREV	NA
3010-2010-VMP-003	Holiday Lake RX	SRA	C	VMP	3
3010-2013-VMP-017	Horizon Hills	SRA	A	PREV	66
3010-2008-FPL-010	Horizon Hills FSC	SRA	A	PREV	82
3010-2010-FPL-002	LA Verne FSC	LRA	A	FPL	946
3010-2013-VMP-014	Lake Palmdale RX Burn	SRA	A	VMP	14
3010-2008-FPL-006	Malibu West FSC	SRA	C	FPL	134
3020-008-FPL-009	Meadows FSC	SRA	A	PREV	137
3010-2013-CAG-018	Meadows FSC	SRA	A	PREV	137
3010-2014-PRE-002	Motorway Maintenance-Dozer	SRA	A	PREV	NA
3010-2014-PRE-003	Motorway Maintenance-Hand crew	SRA	A	PREV	NA
3010-2008-VMP-008	MRCA Brush Clearance	SRA	A	PREV	180
3010-2011-VMP-007	MT Wilson Hazard Fuels Reduction	SRA	C	VMP	49
TBD	Newhall Ranch VMP	SRA	D	VMP	TBD
3010-2014-FRP-004	North Topanga Canyon FSC	SRA	O	FPL	6097
3010-2013-CAG-015	Pasadena GLEN FSC	SRA	A	PREV	57
3010-2012-VMP-013	Spinks Canyon	LRA	P	VMP	36
TBD	Stevenson Ranch VMP	SRA	D	VMP	TBD
3010-2015-FRP-006	Tonner Canyon South	SRA	P	VMP	350
TBD	Tonner Canyon West	SRA	D	VMP	274
TBD	Tricolored Blackbird Habitat Lake Palmdale	SRA	D	VMP	TBD
3010-2011-OTH-004	Wayside Spring Drills	SRA	O	Other	254

Status: A=Active; C=Complete; D=In Development; P=Planned; O=Ongoing ;

APPENDIX B: UNIT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The mission statement for Los Angeles County Fire Department is to protect lives, the environment, and property by providing prompt, skillful, and cost effective fire protection and life safety services, which compliments the goal of the 2010 California Strategic Fire Plan. Therefore, our Department will continue to support and align with the intent of the 2010 California Strategic Fire Plan by addressing our objectives. The goals of the Los Angeles County Fire Department are as follows:

- Analyze the potential of wildfire threats to communities at the battalion level within and adjacent to the wildland-urban interface.

- Prioritize within each battalion where hazardous fuel reduction projects can make the largest impact to protection of life, property, and natural resources.

- Identify, categorize, and prioritize through a detailed assessment the values and assets at risk at the battalion level.

- Establish and prioritize which battalions have the highest wildfire threat potential in regards to values and assets.

- Develop battalion specific maps identifying prioritized values and assets and at risk communities.

- Develop battalion specific strategies and tactics within our own strategic fire plan.

- Determine large scale fire prevention strategies which parallel the County's land use planning strategies.

- Continue to reach out and assist with communities at risk to establish local Fire Safe Councils and establish appropriate defensible space.

- Continue to work with communities at risk to develop community wildfire protection plans.

APPENDIX C: 2014 STATISTICAL SUMMARY

County of Los Angeles
Fire Department
Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby

2014 STATISTICAL SUMMARY

FIRE DEPARTMENT — Three Year Data 2012 -2014	2014	2013	2012
Acreage Burned	2,075	31,625	6,599
FIRE INCIDENTS			
Structures	2,157	2,188	2,090
Vehicles	1,766	1,678	1,731
Rubbish	2,342	2,203	2,047
Brush / Grass	453	616	666
Outside Storage	370	352	336
Misc. Property	992	871	771
TOTAL	**8,080**	**7,908**	**7,641**
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES			
TOTAL	**277,122**	**245,552**	**229,633**
OTHER INCIDENTS			
False Alarms	24,688	32,372	34,102
Mutual Aid Provided	3,057	2,808	2,508
Haz-Mat	785	678	677
Misc. Incidents	44,503	39,801	39,947
TOTAL	**73,033**	**75,659**	77,234
TOTAL INCIDENTS	**358,235**	**329,119**	**314,508**

Fire Loss in Dollars 2012 -2014	2014	2013	2012
Property or Structure	$ 74,956,844	$ 85,066,997	$ 60,583,311
Vehicle Contents	$ 49,591,279	$ 18,141,526	$ 15,234,256
Misc. Property	$ 1,738,412	$ 1,625,245	$ 2,545,478
Total Dollar Loss	**$ 126,286,535**	**$ 104,833,768**	$ 78,363,045

LIFEGUARD — Three Year Data 2012 -2014	2014	2013	2012
Ocean Rescues	15,851	9,745	7,784
Medical Calls	19,133	16,437	16,831
Boat Rescues (Distress)	444	382	509
Missing Persons	1,673	1,280	1,478
Resuscitations	559	612	766
Drownings	2	3	1
Beach Attendance	**73,882,107**	**71,367,580**	**76,298,601**

4,005,526 Residents
1,231,993 Housing Units
58 District Cities and all Unincorporated Areas
2,305 Square Miles

DIVISION I
Battalions 7, 14 & 18 – 20 Stations, 9 Cities

CARSON, GARDENA, HAWTHORNE, LAWNDALE, LOMITA, PALOS VERDES ESTATES, RANCHO PALOS VERDES, ROLLING HILLS, ROLLING HILLS ESTATES

DIVISION II
Battalions 2 & 16 – 16 Stations, 9 Cities

AZUSA, BALDWIN PARK, BRADBURY, CLAREMONT, COVINA, DUARTE, GLENDORA, IRWINDALE, SAN DIMAS

DIVISION III
Battalions 4, 6 & 22 – 24 Stations, 2 Cities

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, SANTA CLARITA

DIVISION IV
Battalions 8, 9 & 21 – 25 Stations, 12 Cities

ARTESIA, BELLFLOWER, CERRITOS, HAWAIIAN GARDENS, LA HABRA, LAKEWOOD, LA MIRADA, NORWALK, PARAMOUNT, PICO RIVERA, SIGNAL HILL, WHITTIER

DIVISION V
Battalions 11 & 17 – 20 Stations, 2 Cities

LANCASTER, PALMDALE

DIVISION VI
Battalions 13 & 20 – 13 Stations, 6 Cities

CUDAHY, HUNTINGTON PARK, INGLEWOOD, LYNWOOD, MAYWOOD, SOUTH GATE

DIVISION VII
Battalions 1 & 5 – 18 Stations, 6 Cities

AGOURA HILLS, CALABASAS, HIDDEN HILLS, MALIBU, WEST HOLLYWOOD, WESTLAKE VILLAGE

DIVISION VIII
Battalions 12, 15 & 19 – 18 Stations, 5 Cities

DIAMOND BAR, INDUSTRY, LA PUENTE, POMONA, WALNUT

DIVISION IX
Battalions 3 & 10 – 16 Stations, 7 Cities

BELL, BELL GARDENS, COMMERCE, EL MONTE, ROSEMEAD, SOUTH EL MONTE, TEMPLE CITY

County of Los Angeles
Fire Department
Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby

2014 STATISTICAL SUMMARY

CURRENT PERSONNEL

Chief Officers	117
Captains	674
Firefighter Specialists	770
Firefighter Paramedics	736
Firefighters	477
Call Firefighters	57
Fire Suppression Aides (Paid)	93
Pilots	11
Administrative Support	717
Lifeguards	156
Seasonal Recurrent	641
Dispatchers	92
Foresters	40
Haz Mat Specialists	82
TOTAL PERSONNEL	**4,663**

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Battalions	22
Fire Stations	171
Engine Companies	
Type 1	163
Type 3 (Cal EMA)	6
Patrols	30
Reserves	60
Truck Companies	32
Light Forces	5
Quints	25
Trucks	2
Reserve Trucks/Quints	12
Paramedic Units	
Air Squads	3
Assessment Engines	24
Assessment Quints	2
Engines	5
Squads	67
Hazardous Materials Squads	4
USAR Squads	2
Emergency Support Teams	4
Swift Water Rescue Units	4
Fire Boats	2
Foam Units	4
Mobile Air/Light Units	4
Fuel Tenders	6
Water Tenders	12

LIFEGUARD DIVISION

Lifeguard Stations	24
Lifeguard Towers	159
Beach Patrol Vehicles	58
Rescue Boats	8
Paramedic Rescue Boats	2
Baywatch Paramedic Squads	2

FORESTRY

Forest Tree Nurseries	5
Plants Distributed	34,345

HEALTH HAZ MAT

Emergency Responses	1,761
Response Teams	3

AIR OPERATIONS

Fire Responses	271
EMS Transports	1,013
Facilities	4
Aircraft Mechanics	17
Hoist Rescues	100
Water/Foam Dropped(gallons)	671,600
Helicopters	
Bell 412 (10-Passenger)	6
Firehawk (14-Passenger)	3
Heli-Tenders	9

WILDLAND DIVISION

Fire Suppression Camps	
Paid	4
Correctional	5
Fire Suppression Crews	
Paid	4
Correctional	24
Dozers	10
Dozer Transport Trucks	10
Equipment	26

L.A. County Fire Department: 2014 Brush Fire Log						
NO.	NAME	INC #	JURISDICTION	DATE	SRA	AREA
1	Colby Fire	014099	FS 86	01/16/14	72.9	1,951.8
2	Pine Fire	065279	FS 77	03/15/14	117.1	117.0
3	Howlands Fire	099034	FS 55	04/21/14	1.0	1.0
4	Clark Fire	157298	FS 68	06/18/14	0.8	0.8
5	Valley Fire	194461	FS 111	08/01/14	0	4.6
				Totals	191.8**	2,075.2**

*SRA and AREA totals in Acres

**Calculated Areas are for LA County Jurisdiction

APPENDIX D: GLOSSARY

Climate Change – Any long-term significant change in the "average weather" that a given region experiences. Average weather may include average temperature, precipitation, and wind patterns.
(http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/assessment/2010/definitions.php#C)

Communities at Risk – Defined by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 as "Wildland-Urban Interface Communities within the vicinity of federal lands that are at high risk from wildfire," CAL FIRE expanded on this definition for California, including all communities (regardless of distance from federal lands), for which a significant threat to human life or property exists as a result of a wildland fire event. California uses the following three factors to determine at risk communities: 1) high fuel hazard; 2) probability of a fire; and 3) proximity of intermingled wildland fuels and urban environments that are near fire threats.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) – A community-based collaborative plan developed by local stakeholders that identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments to protect communities and infrastructure from wildfire. Stakeholders, applicable local government, local fire departments, State forestry, and federal land management agencies agree to the plans.

Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements – Agreements established between federal, State, tribal, and local government entities to provide long term fire and emergency service protection.

Defensible Space – The area within the perimeter of a parcel, development, neighborhood, or community where basic wildland fire protection practices and measures are implemented, providing the key point of defense from an approaching wildfire or defense against encroaching wildfires or escaping structure fires.
(http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/fire_er/fpp_engineering_view?guide_id=8)

Fire Hazard – A fuel complex, defined by volume, type condition, arrangement, and location, that determines the degree of ease of ignition and of resistance to control. (http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary)

Fire Prevention – Activities such as public education, community outreach, building code enforcement, engineering (construction standards), and reduction of fuel hazards that is intended to reduce the incidence of unwanted human-caused wildfires and the risks they pose to life, property or resources. (http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary)

Fire Resilient – The ability of a vegetation type, ecosystem, or community to respond positively to or recover quickly from the effects of a wildfire burning within, across, or adjacent to them.

Fire Resistant – The condition of an asset that resists ignition and damage from wildfire. Structures are built using ignition resistant materials such as stucco, tile roofs, and boxed eaves with the likelihood that they will withstand most wildland fires or at least reduce damage caused by them.

Fire Risk – The chance of fire starting, as determined by the presence and activity of causative agents; a causative agent or a number related to the potential number of firebrands (embers) to which a given area will be exposed during the day. (http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary)

Fire Safe Building Standards – Various laws and codes that apply accepted fire safety practices (as determined by scientific research panels and associations with replicated results) into construction of assets. Examples of laws and codes include; California Fire Code Chapter 49, California Building Code Chapter 7A, Public Resource Code §4290 and Fire Safe Regulations §1270.

Fire Safe Councils (FSC) – A group of concerned citizens organized to educate groups on fire safe programs, projects, and planning. The councils work closely with the local fire agencies to develop and implement priorities. (http://www.cafiresafecouncil.org/)

Fireshed – A contiguous area displaying similar fire history and problem fire characteristics (i.e., intensity, resistance to control) and requiring similar suppression response strategies.

Fire Suppression Resources – State, federal, tribal, local, and private equipment and resources gathered to extinguish and mitigate wildland fires.

Firewise – A national program designed to reach beyond the fire service by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and others in the effort to protect people, property, and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire before a fire starts. The Firewise program is community driven.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones – Areas of significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors. These zones then define the application of various mitigation strategies to reduce risk associated with wildland fires.

Forest and Rangeland Health – An expression of the prevalent ecological conditions on a landscape as compared to benchmark conditions yielding maximum benefit to multiple resource values - ecological, economic, and social/political.

Fuels Treatment – The manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of igniting and to reduce fire intensity (e.g., lopping, chipping, crushing, piling and burning).

Fuels Reduction Projects – The modification of vegetation in order to reduce potential fire threat. These projects often result in improved wildlife habitat capability, timber growth, and/or forage production.

GIS – Geographic Information Systems is a configuration of computer hardware and software that stores, displays, and analyzes geographic data spatially or through attribute features.

Hand Crew – A number of individuals organized, trained, and supervised principally for fire suppression or fuel reduction projects.

Ignition Density – The number of fire ignitions that occur in a specific unit of area, over a specified period of time; often used as a measure of initial attack workload.

Initial Attack – A planned response to a wildfire given the wildfire's potential fire behavior. The objective of initial attack is to stop the fire and put it out in a manner consistent with firefighter and public safety and values to be protected. (http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary)

Land Use Planning – A comprehensive assessment leading to a set of decisions that guide use of land within an identified area.

Mutual Aid – An agreement in which two or more parties agree to furnish resources and facilities and to render services to each and every other party of the agreement to prevent and combat any type of disaster or emergency.

Native Species Seed Bank – A storage area for seed that is collected from a species which is a part of the original vegetation of the area in question.

Prescribed Fire – A planned wildland fire designed to meet specific management objectives.

Reforestation – The establishment of forests on land that had recent (less than 10 years) tree cover. (http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/assessment/2010/definitions.php#R)

Salvage – The harvesting of dead, dying, and damaged trees to recover their economic values that would otherwise be lost to decomposition.

Situational Awareness – The application of the human senses to current and predicted weather, fire, or other emergency conditions, to plan and execute actions that provide for the safety of all personnel and equipment engaged in an emergency; includes development of alternative strategies of fire suppression and the net effect of each.

Type Conversion – The replacement of native vegetation (e.g., from native chaparral to non-native grassland) with non-native vegetation or the maintenance of an ecosystem in a pioneer state, which prohibits the maturing of the native vegetation.

Unit Fire Plan – Plans developed by individual CAL FIRE Units to address wildfire protection areas, initial attack success, assets and infrastructure at risk, pre-fire management strategies, and accountability within their geographical boundaries.

Values and Assets at Risk – Accepted principals or standards and any constructed or landscape attribute that has value and contributes to community or individual wellbeing and quality of life. Examples include: property, structures, physical improvements, natural and cultural resources, community infrastructure, commercial standing timber, ecosystem health, and production of water.

Wildland – Those unincorporated areas covered wholly or in part by trees, brush, grass, or other flammable vegetation.

Wildfire – An unplanned ignition, unwanted wildland fire, including unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped prescribed fire projects, and all other wildland fires where the objective is to put the fire out.

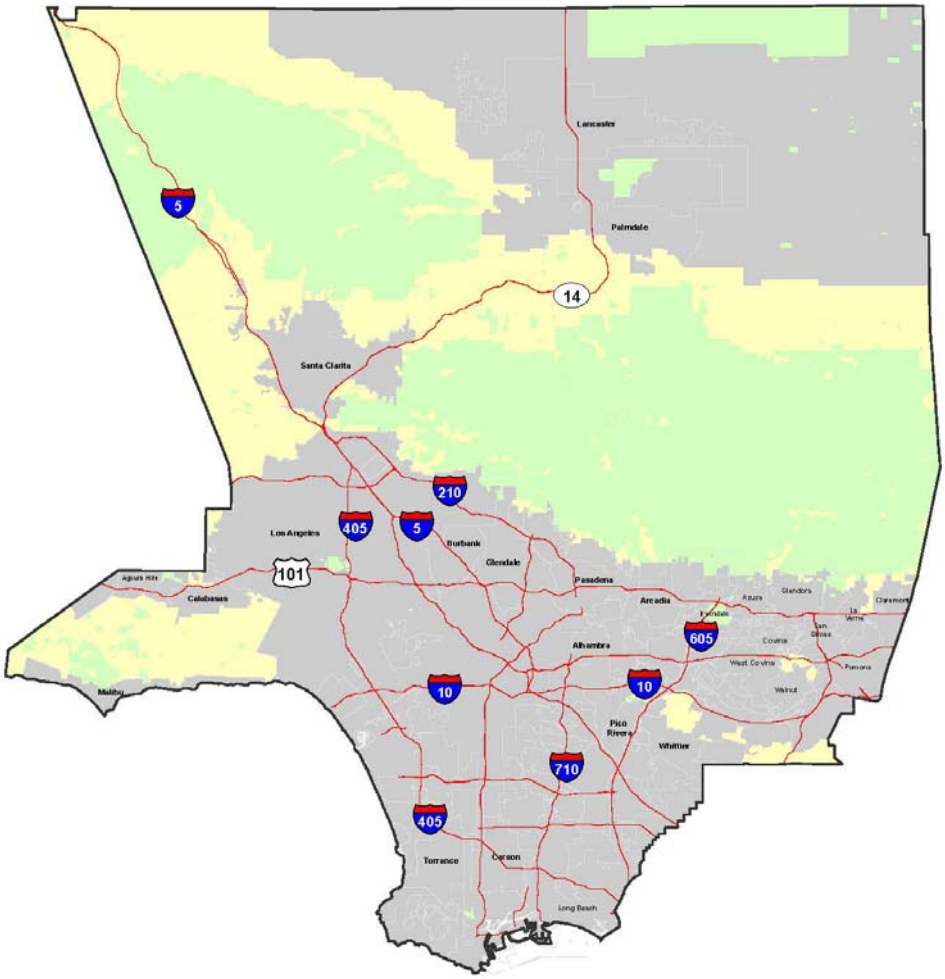
Wildland Fire – Fire that occurs in the wildland as the result of an unplanned ignition.

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) – The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. (http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary)

EXHIBITS: MAPS

County of Los Angeles

Unit Boundary Map



Legend

Major Highways

Unit Boundary

State Responsibility Area (SRA14_2)

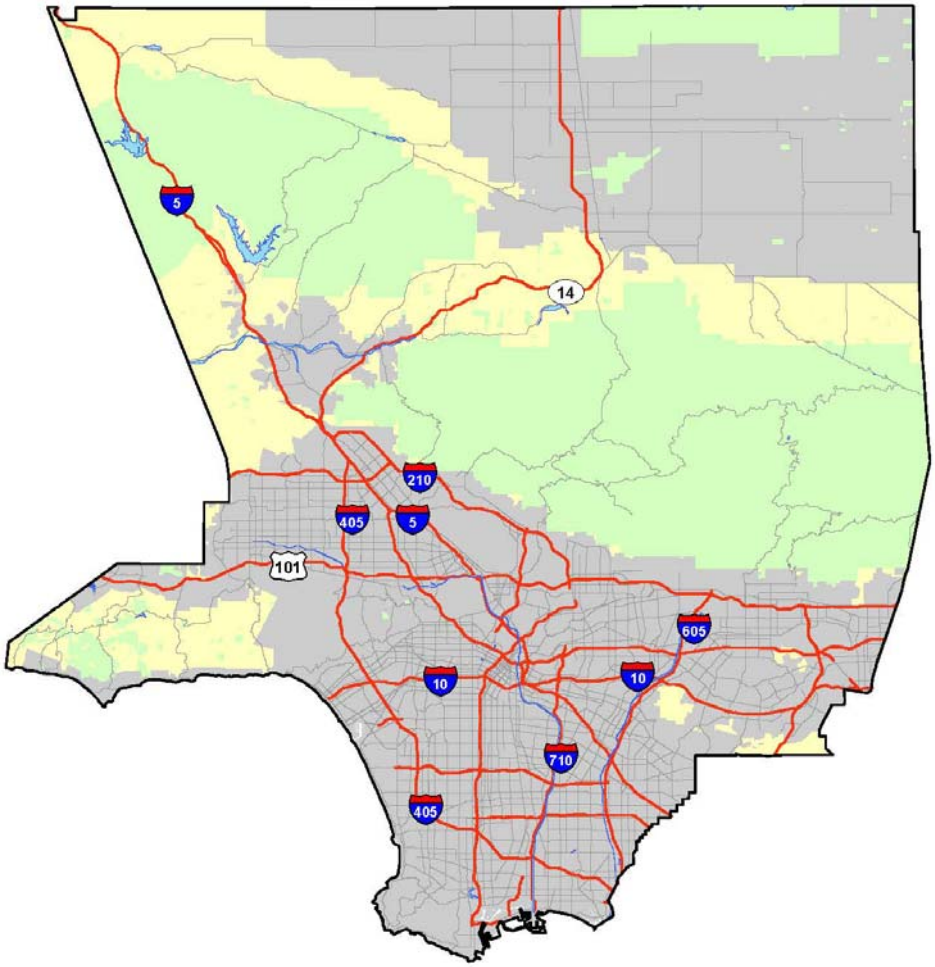
FRA LRA SRA

N W E S

0 5 10 20 30 Miles

FPU
04/01/15
NAD 83

County of Los Angeles
Direct Protection Areas Map



Legend

- County Boundary
- Lakes and Rivers
- Major Highways
- Major Roads

N
W E
S

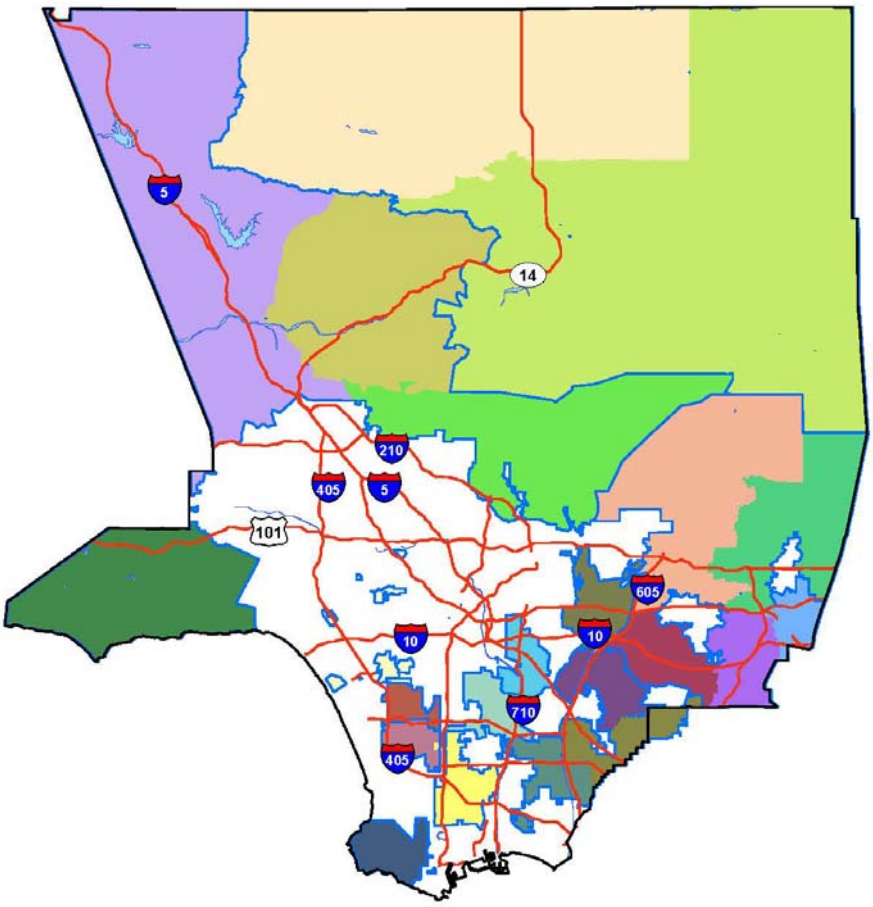
0 5 10 20 30 Miles

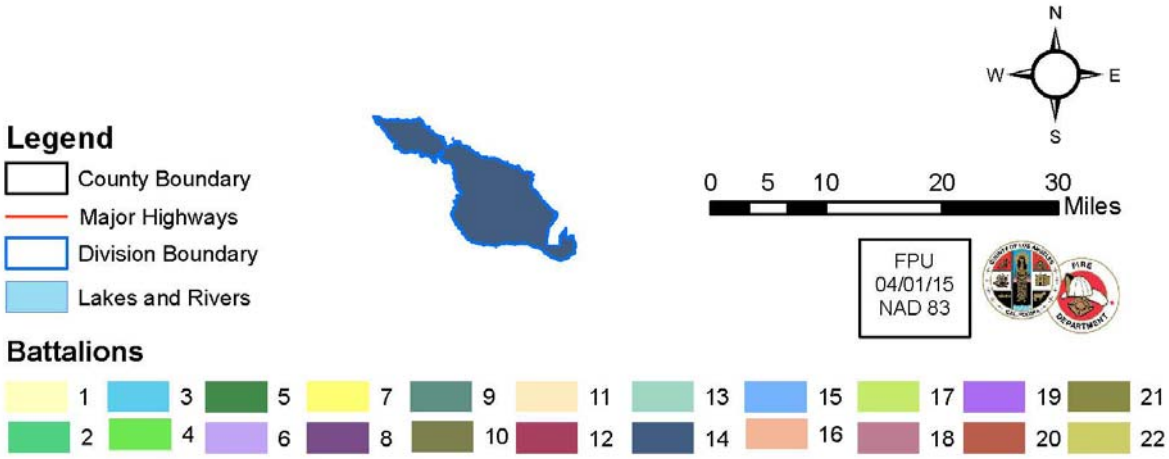
Direct Protected Areas (DPA13_3)

FEDERAL LOCAL STATE

FPU
04/01/15
NAD 83

County of Los Angeles
Battalion Boundary Map





ANNUAL REPORT OF UNIT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department completed 40,758 Fire Hazard Reduction Inspections and issued 2,815 Official Inspection Reports (Form 410B) for non-compliant hazard fuel reduction citations. Out of the 2,815 citations written by Fire Station personnel, 344 were turned into the Forestry Division Brush Clearance Unit for non-compliance follow-up. After property owner consultation from our Brush Clearance Unit, 142 non-compliance letters were sent out to the property owners. Subsequently 25 structures were cleared by the County of Los Angeles Department of Agricultural Commissioner / Weights and Measures, Weed Hazard and Integrated Pest Management Bureau**.**

The County's Fuel Modification Unit reviewed over 1,700 Fuel Modification Plans and performed over 700 follow-up inspections on previously approved Fuel Modification Plans.

The Department's Air and Wildland Division brushed and maintained roughly 300 miles of motorways and fire roads with the assistance of our Heavy Equipment Section. The Fire Suppression Camps, both paid and correctional, treated some 1,123 acres which protected 542,027 structures, 129 communities, and involved approximately 5,889 crew and personnel hours.

The Department's Fire Plan Unit supported the fire hazard prevention efforts of local Fire Safe Councils (FSC) by assisting with project planning, development and implementation. The North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council (NTCFSC) was an example of one of many FSCs working with the Fire Plan unit. The NTCFSC reported a total of 94 hazard and non-native trees removed in 2014. The NTCFS received a grant from the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) for $83,200 to implement the fire hazard reduction project. The community and stakeholders provided $42,298 of matching funds to meet the CFSC grant requirements. Additionally, a total of 28 Home Ignition Zone Evaluations were performed by the North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council.

County of Los Angeles
Fire Department
Strategic Fire Plan