

IGNITION MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Fire Prevention Bureau's primary mission relative to the Unit's Fire Management Plan is to reduce and hopefully eliminate the ignition of unwanted fires. Additional measures are taken to reduce flammable fuels adjacent to structures and other improvements for the purpose of preventing fire spread both to, and from these improvements. Through sound engineering practices, plans for new construction and modifications are developed with fire and life safety as a primary consideration.

IGNITION MANAGEMENT GOAL

“To develop and implement a fire prevention plan which will establish specific objectives to reduce the ignition of unwanted fires of all types throughout the San Mateo / Santa Cruz Unit”

The natural and human produced conditions existing in the San Mateo / Santa Cruz Ranger Unit dictate that an aggressive fire prevention plan be initiated to reduce the probability of ignition of any fire that may threaten life, property, natural resources or the environment. This ignition reduction plan must be applied as an all areas, all assets, all fire types endeavor.

Through planning, implementation and control, the Ignition Management Plan addresses each of the Fire Prevention Elements of Information, Education, Engineering and Enforcement. The plan utilizes paid staff as well as participants in the Volunteers In Prevention (VIP) Program to accomplish specific fire prevention objectives. These objectives are developed through the analysis of fire statistics from previous years and through an assessment of fire potential in each of the six geographic battalions.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

The Unit Fire Prevention staff consists of the Fire Prevention Bureau Chief, one Fire Captain Specialist and one Fire Prevention Specialist I (currently unfilled). The San Mateo County Fire Protection Planning Section includes one Battalion Chief and one Fire Captain Specialist that report. The Santa Cruz County Fire Protection Planning Section consists of two Fire Captain Specialist and two Fire Prevention Specialist IIs.

IGNITION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

INFORMATION

Public awareness of the fire problems that exist in the Unit and measures that can be taken by citizens and visitors to reduce the chances of fire occurrence of any type will be enhanced by the following methods:

- The release of Public Service Announcements (PSA) through all available media sources. These PSAs will address seasonal fire and life safety

concerns such as spring fire hazard reduction, campfire regulations, home heating safety, use of spark and heat generating equipment, home smoke detectors, etc.

- The periodic distribution of press releases to all media sources detailing current fire hazard conditions, planned events and Department status and response readiness. These releases include information on the implementation of the annual fire hazard inspection program, the beginning of declared fire season, peak season and end of season.
- The release of special bulletins during periods of extreme fire hazard, burn permits suspensions, declarations of hazardous fire areas and information regarding the enforcement of the forest and fire laws.
- The posting of roadside and trailhead fire prevention signs.

EDUCATION

While the Information element serves to notify and increase public awareness of the fire problem, additional measures must be taken to target specific groups and activities and to provide a more focused approach to educating the targeted audience to the dangers and the prevention of fires. The following measures are taken to expand the Unit's Education element:

- Develop, schedule and implement a proactive elementary school Team Teaching program that will provide fire prevention education to the elementary schools in the Unit. This program requires the participation of the paid and volunteer fire companies and the Volunteers In Prevention as well as the Fire Prevention Staff.
- Establish and implement an annual elementary school fire prevention poster contest.
- Participate in the county fairs, local parades and special events such as public safety exhibits.
- Provide fire and life safety programs and demonstrations as requested by community service groups and governmental agencies and their employees.
- Develop Community Emergency Response Teams with cooperation with other local government fire agencies.
- Encourage CERT members to become involved in Volunteers in Prevention program.
- Expand the department's involvement in the state and county parks recreational programs as an opportunity to project the fire prevention message.

- Explore the possibilities of conducting fire prevention education programs on the local public access television stations.
- Be a leading participant in local San Mateo Fire Safe Council.

ENGINEERING

The Engineering component of the plan involves all areas within the Unit's jurisdiction. Fire Safe engineering practices must be maintained in both SRA and LRA under CDF protection.

- Continue construction plan review and site inspections to insure compliance with the state and county fire, life safety and building requirements (PRC 4290, County Ordinances, etc.).
- Continue the hazard inspection program to insure compliance with PRC 4291. This program requires the designation of target areas and minimum inspection performance levels within each of the Unit's six (6) field Battalions.
- Both San Mateo and Santa Cruz Planning sections continue to work towards County adoption of Wildland Urban Intermix Code (WUIC).
- San Mateo Planning section continue to work on adoption of the 2003 Building and Fire Codes
- Conduct annual pre-fire season fire prevention meetings with cooperators and allied agencies such as Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Roaring Camp and Big Trees Railroad, County Parks and Recreation Departments, CalTrans, Mid Peninsula Open Space and the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

ENFORCEMENT

- Conduct a complete investigation to determine the origin and cause of each fire occurring within the Unit's jurisdiction.
- Pursue the collection of suppression costs on all fires determined to be the result of negligence or a violation of the law.
- Continue the practice that enforcement action be taken on all incidents that are determined to be the result of negligence or a violation of the law. Require that the responsible officer in instances submit an in-lieu letter where enforcement action was not initiated.
- Explore the possibility and practicability of certifying all Battalion Chiefs (staff and field) as Public Officers as provided in the Public Resources Code.
- Develop working relations with other local law enforcement agencies.

- Participate with Santa Cruz County Arson Task Force and San Mateo Arson Investigators Unit.

VOLUNTEERS IN PREVENTION

This program utilizes interested VIPs in the fire prevention elements of Information and Education.

- Continue the Unit-wide campaign to recruit program volunteers.
- Continue the formulation and implementation of the program to utilize VIPs to assist in the application of the Information and Education components of the Unit Ignition Management Plan.
- Coordinate a LE-38 training program with local Fire Station staff.

2004 SAN MATEO & SANTA CRUZ UNIT BATTALION PREVENTION IGNITION OBJECTIVES

Battalion 1

Overview

Battalion 1 is located in the northern section of SM/SC Unit. The city and county of San Francisco to the north, the Pacific ocean and the cities of Daily City, Pacifica and Half Moon Bay to the west. Highway 280 along with the cities of San Carlos, Redwood City, Woodside, Menlo Park and Palo Alto generally make up the east boundary. Battalion 1 continues south to the Santa Clara County line. Battalion 1 consists of Belmont FS (Station 17) and Cordilleras FS (Station 18).

Objectives

1. LE-38 inspections and hazard reductions in the San Francisco water sheds.
2. Weed abatement in LRA of South County area.
3. Hazard fuel reduction in island of SRA within San Francisco city.
4. Fire Hazard posters
5. Work with CalTrans on fuel modification along Highway 280.

Battalion 2

Overview

Battalion 2 follows the Ward Truck trail west to the Haul Cutoff and on to the Gazos Creek truck trail to the San Mateo County line. The Pacific Ocean is the boundary to the west. The south boundary runs from the coast up Last Chance Road to Big Basin State Park, Highway 236 to Highway 9 to Bear Creek and then up to Summit Road. The east edge follows Summit Road and Highway 35 north along San Mateo County line. Battalion 12 consists of Saratoga FS, Jamison FS, Las Cumbres Volunteers and South Skyline Volunteers.

Objectives:

1. Inspect burn sites prior to burning to reduce debris burn escape incidents.
2. LE-38 inspections of the Castle Rock area. Continue to support Las Cumbres VIPs and their LE-38 inspection program.
3. Power line inspections to reduce power line caused fires.
4. Install and monitor Roadside signs located at Saratoga FS, Highway 35 and Skyline.
5. Continue school education programs with Boy Scout Camp, Camp Hammer and Boulder Creek.

Battalion 3

Overview:

Battalion 3 boundaries generally follow Highway 236 to Highway 9 to Bear Creek Road to Skyline, east to Highway 17 to Glenwood and over to Branciforte Ave. The south boundary is the city limits of Santa Cruz and west to the Pacific Ocean and San Mateo County line Battalion has responsibility for Felton FS, Big Creek FS, Davenport Volunteers, Bonny Doon Volunteers and Ben Lomond Camp.

Objectives:

1. LE-38 inspections with a goal of 15 inspections per company per month throughout fire season.
2. Develop Fire Management plan for Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve.
3. Update hydrant location map, measure flow and mark hydrants.
Clear and map Fall Creek and Waranella Truck Trails, update necessary property agreements.
4. Update preplans and record any new target hazards.

Battalion 4

Located in the area south of Santa Cruz City to the Pajaro River. Stretching from the Monterey County line, east along the City of Watsonville to the Santa Clara County line and along the summit west through the Soquel Demonstration Forest. The Battalion contains heavy timber on steep slopes turning to mixed brush with grass; lands in the foothills and valleys. Special features include the Soquel Demonstration State Forest and the Forest of Nicene of Marks, numerous State and County Beaches, two high schools, portions of Highway 1, and a growing intermix challenge.

Objectives:

1. Inspections of burn piles/areas and public education during permit issuance.
2. LE-38 inspections.
3. Power line inspection.
4. Complete reports and inform Fire Prevention on Cost Recovery incidents.
5. Public awareness/education of fire danger in State Park during open Public Access days.

Battalion 5

Located in southwest San Mateo County. Its boundaries on the east from Skyline corridor/Crystal Springs Reservoir, to the west is the Pacific Ocean, and the northern boundary runs along Highway 92, and the southern boundary is the San Cruz County line. Within the Battalion are the communities of La Honda, Pescadero, Kings Mountain, Loma Mar and Middleton Tract. There are no incorporated cities. The Battalion is predominantly open space and rural residential. There several parks; Butano, San Gregorio, Pomponio, Bean Hollow, Ano Nuevo and Portola State Parks; Memorial, Pescadero, Huddart and Sam MacDonald County Parks.

Vegetative cover along Skyline is predominately redwood forest changing to brush and hardwoods to grasslands down to the Pacific Ocean.

Objectives:

1. Fire inspection and public education for burning permit, inspection of burn sites.
2. LE-38 inspection, 200 inspection per station, Pescadero will target Pescadero Road from Beach to Horse Camp (118 homes), all of Loma Mar (14 homes), all of Wurr Road (46 homes), Cloverdale Road (24 homes).
3. School education, make contact with local schools, parks and operators of local events and continue education programs.
4. Public presence at public events, two-day motorcycle event, two-day Pumpkin Festival in Half Moon Bay and two-day rodeo in La Honda.
5. Battalion Chief Biscay will attend Pescadero Municipal Advisory Committee and San Mateo County Fire Safe Meetings.

SAN MATEO & SANTA CRUZ UNIT FIRE CAUSE

Fire Cause	* Pre 2000, 5yr avg.	2001	2002	2003	3 year Average	2003 SRA Veg. Cause
Accident (vehicle)		6	11	3	6.7	1
Arson (Vehicle)		14	16	23	17.7	3
Arson (Structure)	*16.0	0	1	3	1.3	
Arson (wildland)		15	10	9	11.3	5
Barbeque		5	0	4	3.0	2
Bonfire		4	0	1	1.7	
Cad. Converter		1	0	3	1.3	2
Campfire	*11.4	20	17	12	16.3	7
Candle		1	3	2	2.0	
Children	*7.8	4	5	7	5.3	4
Chimney		10	15	11	12.0	1
Cigarette		12	6	9	9.0	3
Control Burn	*18	12	6	8	8.7	7
Cooking Fire		4	0	1	1.7	
Dryer		1	3	1	1.7	
Electrical (Structure)		54	53	16	41.0	
Electrical (Veg.)	*46.2	**na	**na	13	13.0	3
Electrical (Vehicle)		**na	**na	10	10.0	
Fireworks		10	5	6	7.0	6
Flare		1	0	1	0.7	1
Fuel Line (Vehicle)		14	14	10	12.7	2
Gas (prop./nat. gas)		3	4	5	4.0	
Hot Ashes		9	9	9	9.0	4
Hot Oil		7	5	0	4.0	
Illegal Burn		18	24	24	22.0	14
Lighting/Lamp		11	0	3	4.7	
Lighter (juvenile)		0	0	1	0.3	
Lightning		10	2	1	4.3	1
Matches		5	1	3	3.0	
Mechanical Malf.	*12.6	8	6	6	6.7	2
Mower		0	2	2	1.3	4
Powerlines		2	1	4	2.3	2
Powerlines (veg fire)		0	0	9	3.0	9
Smoke Bombs		0	2	1	1.0	1
Smoking	*8.2	0	0	1	0.3	
Spontaneous Comb.		6	3	1	3.3	
Stove (propane)		7	12	1	6.7	
Stove (wood)		3	0	8	3.7	2
Undetermined (veh)		3	2	5	3.3	
Undetermined (str)	*25.8	18	26	3	15.7	
Vehicle Exhaust		7	2	4	4.3	5
Water Heater		1	2	3	2.0	
Welding		2	0	1	1.0	
TOTAL		308	268	248	290.0	91

* Prior to 2001 only 12 fire causes were recorded, Child/Matches, Campfire, Debris Escape, Electrical, Equipment Use, Miscellaneous, False Alarms, Agency Assist, Smoking, Undetermined, Missing, Arson