

**SECTION C**

**SAN DIEGO UNIT**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The San Diego Unit is comprised of San Diego and portions of Imperial County located in the extreme southwest corner of California. It is bordered by the Republic of Mexico to the south and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Riverside and Orange counties make up its border to the north and Imperial County to the east. San Diego County spans over 4,200 square miles and its population has grown to 2.9 million people which ranks second in the state. The unit is responsible for protecting 1,237,201 acres of state responsibility lands, 301,130 acres of cooperative direct protection responsibility lands and 4 local government full service fire protection agreements.

The San Diego Unit comprises of:

- 18 CDF Fire Stations, 26 CDF Fire Engines.
  - 7 Local Govt. Stations, 11 Fire Engines
  - 4 CDF / CDC Conservation Camps, 19 Handcrews
  - 1 CDF / USFS Air Attack Base - 1 CDF OV-10 Air Attack Aircraft
- 2 CDF S-2T Air Tankers  
1 USFS Type 2 Helicopter
- 4 CDF Bulldozers
  - 1 CDF / USFS Interagency Command Center, Monte Vista Headquarters

Total incidents for 2004: 10,528

SRA Fires: 1146, 89 Assist, 444 False Alarms, Acres Burned: 10,903, Dollar Loss \$2,806,850.

LRA Fires: 322, 32 Assist, 60 False Alarms, Acres Burned: 4, Dollar Loss \$508,300.

Currently San Diego along with Riverside and San Bernardino counties are under a state of emergency where hundreds of thousands of trees and vegetation are dead and dying after being weakened by drought and attacked by an infestation of bark beetles. In the unit, we have estimated approximately 215,000 acres, 115,000 SRA, 100,000 USFS to have been infested. The proclamation by Governor Schwarzenegger allows landowners and CDF to take steps to prevent a catastrophic fire by providing regulatory relief necessary to quickly remove dead and dying trees from their property. It also directs CDF to take immediate steps to protect public safety by clearing effective routes for evacuation and emergency response and by establishing fire safe evacuation centers. CDF San Diego has been charged with coordinating and cooperating with all agencies involved in this task and facilitate this effort. A group has been formed in the county named The San Diego Forest Area Safety Task Force which consists of state, local, federal, private groups and utility companies. The SDFAST shall be the clearinghouse for plans and information sharing as agencies mobilize and clear vegetation and trees to mitigate the hazard to the public.

During 2004, the Unit experienced a total of 614 unwanted fires compared to 602 the previous year. There was a significant decrease in acres burned in 2004, 10,903

compared to 265,080 acres in 2003.

A summary of fire starts in the Unit show significant reductions in arson 48% and vehicle fires 14% with increases in campfire 28% and debris burning 12%. The leading fire cause in the Unit was debris burning totaling 25%.

Our focus in 2005 and beyond will be to continue to address those ignitions that have the greatest risk in becoming large and damaging fires in the Unit. By working collectively with Pre-Fire Planners, Vegetation Management, and field personnel, we will determine areas of priority based on risk, values and ignition trends as well as fire history.

The overall goal of the Pre-Fire Management Plan is to reduce total government costs and citizen losses from wildland fires in the San Diego Unit by protecting assets at risk through focused Pre-Fire Management prescriptions and increasing initial attack success.