

**SECTION F**

**SAN DIEGO UNIT**

**THE FIRE SITUATION**

## **THE FIRE SITUATION**

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The San Diego Unit fire history map shows that the county has had a significant history of major fire incidents over the last 50+ years. Almost every community in the unit has been threatened by wildfires that have occurred during this period. Readily available fuels, influenced by topography and Santa Ana winds year round, will always present suppression problems in the Unit. Combine these factors with the populace continuing to move to the wildland urban interface and reduced budgets, will continue to hinder our efforts to stay on top of this situation.

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION**

Our plan to reduce the occurrence of large damaging wildfires will include Battalion Pre-Fire plans, fuel breaks (both shaded and non-shaded), defensible perimeters around communities, clearances around structures and a diverse mosaic of fuels and continuity which would help with strategies to combat wildfires. This effort is dependent on staffing and funding available to implement these projects.

### **IGNITION WORKLOAD ASSESSMENT**

#### **FUELS**

Analysis of fuel type and conditions present in the San Diego Unit show that over 66% of the fuels within the county are ranked in the high to very high range with the remainder being ranked in the medium range.

#### **WEATHER**

San Diego County has the potential of experiencing “Severe” to “Extreme” fire weather on any given day (including winter months). Normal weather conditions for the summer months place the county in a “High fire danger” classification.

#### **FIRE HISTORY**

San Diego County has a long history of major fire occurrence distributed throughout the county with only the lower desert and immediate coastal areas excluded.

#### **FRAP ANALYSIS**

Analysis by FRAP illustrates that nearly the entire San Diego Unit, again with the exclusion of the deserts and some coastal zones, is rated as having a “Very High

Probability of Burning”. Additionally FRAP has determined nearly all of the San Diego Unit to be a “High Fire Threat Zone”.

### **CONCLUSION**

These factors, combined, demonstrate the need and benefit of the application of Pre-Fire Management efforts to any portion of the San Diego Unit. Therefore, the Unit will continue its efforts, as previously outlined, to initiate projects in cooperation with partner stakeholders and the public in and around identified communities at risk.

### **VEGETATIVE WILDFIRE FUELS**

Appropriate Fuels Management Strategies and Tactical Actions, including vegetation management, resource management, and assistance to landowners, are covered in the appendix section under Strategies.

### **STRUCTURE FUELS**

This is an ongoing assessment throughout the Unit. Each Battalion is identifying areas of concern in each initial attack area. Engine companies are continuing to make contact with homeowners and educating them on how to prepare their homes against wildfires.

### **FREQUENCY OF SEVERE FIRE WEATHER**

Because of extreme fire weather in the Unit, strategic solutions have been developed. During days of high wind events, the Unit will cover additional fire engines (reserve and camp), additional handcrews, mobilize Santa Ana strike teams from all over the state, receive more air tankers from other bases, and notify the public via media to help prepare themselves in case of wildfires in the county.