

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The San Bernardino Unit is the largest of all CAL FIRE Units. Its eastern edge takes up almost 2/3 of the California boarder along Arizona and Nevada, and is made up of three counties, Mono, Inyo and San Bernardino.

The San Bernardino Unit administers Approximately 900,000 acres of State Responsibility Area (SRA) in the three Counties. Approximately 532,000 acres are located in the Inyo and Mono Counties, with the balance located in the southern portion of San Bernardino County.

Currently San Bernardino Unit contracts with the Cities of Yucaipa and Highland for medical, structural and wildland fire protection and has wildland fire protection agreements with the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Loma Linda and Redlands. These wildland contracts add over 18,000 acres to the San Bernardino Unit's wildland fire protection responsibilities.

Additionally San Bernardino Unit is responsible for the administration of approximately 500,000 acres of SRA within the County of Los Angeles.

San Bernardino Unit operates nine state fire stations, six city stations, four conservation camps, one regional training center for inmates, one heli base and one large air tanker base. Two of the state fire stations and one of the conservation camps are located in Inyo County and are referred to as the Owens Valley Division. Although over sixty percent of the Units SRA acres are in the Owens Valley Division, less then ten percent of the Units SRA fires occur in the Division. Fire occurrence in the Owens Valley Division is directly related to the amount of highway traffic and recreational use in the area, rather than any population growth, because the Division is primarily a major tourist destination. San Bernardino County however, has had a very rapidly growing population. Population increases have had a significant effect on the wildland fire problem in the Wildland Urban Interface areas within the Unit.

In 2000 the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce or MAST was formed. MAST is a coalition of local, state and federal government agencies, private companies and volunteer organizations, in San Bernardino and Riverside counties working together to help prevent catastrophic wildfires, and to address the public safety concerns affiliated with the Wildland Urban Interface. The San Bernardino Unit continues to be an active participant in MAST and its efforts to coordinate projects related to public safety, fuel reduction and forest health. MAST operational meetings are held monthly where projects by the various agencies are coordinated to help insure the best use of public funds, develop more effective fuel reduction projects and educate the public. The MAST has achieved a remarkable degree of success in this interagency cooperative environment, and CAL FIRE San Bernardino Unit is proud to be a part of this effort.

Doug McKain
Unit Chief