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## FIRE PLAN FRAMEWORK

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Five major components will form the basis of an ongoing fire planning process to monitor and assess the San Bernardino Unit's wildland fire environment:

- 1) **Wildfire protection zones.** Areas of low fire risk intended to buffer communities from devastating wildfire.
- 2) **Initial attack success.** Measurements of the percentage of fires that are successfully controlled before unacceptable costs are incurred. This measure can be used to assess the department's ability to provide an equal level of protection to lands of similar type.
- 3) **Assets protected.** The assets addressed in the plan are citizen and firefighter safety, watersheds and water, timber, wildlife and habitat (including legally protected species), unique areas (scenic, cultural, and historic), recreation, range, structures, property, and air quality.
- 4) **Prefire management.** This aspect focuses on evaluating which prefire activities to best protect assets from wildland fires. Specific themes of these activities include the Unit fire prevention collaboration at every opportunity, management of fire-prone vegetation, the management of fire ignition sources, fire prevention enforcement and education, and implementation of fire safe concepts in all existing and planned urban areas at risk from wildfire.
- 5) **Fiscal framework.** A framework to evaluate and insure that the most cost-effective means are being used to protect assets from wildfire.

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## STATUS OF FIRE MANAGEMENT IN THE SAN BERNARDINO UNIT

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- Components of the San Bernardino Unit's Fire Plan process are being evaluated and verified using computer models, field surveys, community stakeholder involvement and historical data.
- Thirteen Fire Safe Councils exist within the Unit. Planning projects range from community clean-up days to fuel break improvements. Significant vegetation mortality resulting from several years of sustained and record setting drought and bark beetle infestation has increased the fire danger throughout the Unit but most significantly in the mountain communities. The Fire Safe Councils have been instrumental in, project implementation community outreach, public information, as well as representing the public on the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) and support of CAL FIRE with its efforts to get increased awareness of fire safety.
- MAST began removing dead and dying trees under state and federal grants, including a \$70 million grant from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. At the height of the program, Southern California Edison contractors were taking out 650 trees a day. Since 2004, MAST members have removed more than 1.5 million dead or dying trees, and more are being taken out every day.