

## **Kern County Fire Department Wildland Fire Management Plan 2009**

The Kern County Fire Department Wildland Fire Management Plan documents the assessment of the wildland fire situation throughout the State Responsibility Area (SRA) within the county. It includes stakeholder contributions and priorities, and identifies strategic targets for pre-fire solutions as defined by the people who live and work with the local fire problem.

The goal of the Plan is to reduce costs and losses from wildfire by protecting assets at risk through focused pre-fire management prescriptions and increasing initial attack success.

Utilization of computer-based data and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) provides for a comprehensive analysis of fire hazards, assets at risk, and level of service to be included in the Wildland Fire Management Plan. In short, the Kern County Fire Department Wildland Fire Management Plan will systematically assess the existing levels of wildland protection services, and identify high-risk and high-value areas that are potential locations for costly and damaging wildfires. The Plan will then rank the areas in terms of priority needs, and prescribe what can be done to reduce future costs and losses.

### **Applications of the Fire Plan Framework**

- Identify for state, federal, and local officials and the public those areas of concentrated assets and high risk.
- Allow the KCFD to create a more efficient wildland fire protection system, focused on meaningful solutions for identified problem areas.
- Give citizens an opportunity to identify public and private assets to design and carry out projects to protect those assets.
- Identify, before fires start, where the most cost-effective fire management investments can be implemented.
- Encourage an intergovernmental public/private approach to reducing costs and losses.
- Enable policy makers and the public to focus on what can be done to reduce future costs and losses from wildfire.

The intent of the Kern County Fire Department Wildland Fire Management Plan is to document the findings of the assessment and communicate the intent of the KCFD management and the stakeholders toward solving a mutually agreed on fire problem within Kern County. This fire plan would also be used to communicate with adjacent administrative units. Coordinated projects that make sense in a regional perspective, as well as a local perspective, can gain additional support. This plan will be especially helpful when explaining funding requests to control agencies, i.e., the Board of Supervisors and committees, and in explaining the Kern County Fire Department's activities to the general public.

Citizen advisory groups, and appointed and elected officials; prepare long-range plans that reflect local community desires for public safety, public health, public welfare, and environmental quality of life. Many areas of Kern County have more localized community plans or area plans containing safety and conservation elements. Wildland fire issues and county land use zoning and development will be considered in the Wildland Fire Management Plan.

The intent of this document is to have a simple, easy to understand report that gets used. Annual (or more frequent) monitoring will be included when elements of the Wildland Fire Management Plan are implemented. This will help determine effectiveness of the projects in reducing costs and losses to the wildland fire protection system. Monitoring will be tested against pre-project conditions and will allow for adjustments for initial attack fires. These results will be used to adjust project design and priorities over time.

The Kern County Fire Department Wildland Fire Management Plan is intended to be a dynamic document that will continue to develop and evolve over time.

**The Table below represents the area within Kern County that is SRA:**

