

## **Support Bureaus**

### **Fuels Management Programs / Vegetation Management Program**

During the past 10 years, the Unit has treated an average of 1,000 acres annually under the Vegetation Management Program (VMP). Currently the Unit has treated approximately 19,825 acres since 1982, with an estimated 1500 additional treated acres by the end of the year. Many of the projects undertaken in the Unit have been within the wildland-urban interface. Due to the existing land use patterns within the Unit and the increasing population densities in Amador and El Dorado Counties, it is anticipated that the emphasis of the Vegetation Management Program will continue to focus projects within the wildland-urban interface areas. Future projects will concentrate on densely populated areas with high assets at risk.

### ***California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)***

Both federal and state cost share programs exist to assist private timberland owners in the management of their lands; CAL FIRE will pay as much as 90% of the cost of the project. The California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) has recently been funded to aid non-industrial timberland owners in managing their lands. Many of the cost share practices such as site preparation, timber stand thinning, pruning, and chemical release aid in managing and reducing fuel loading on non-industrial timberlands.

In 1999, CAL FIRE foresaw the need to expand the ability of the program to meet other watershed needs. These measures include thinning, shaded fuel breaks, and other land treatments or forest resource improvement projects consistent with Section 4794.

### ***Proposition 40 Fuel Reduction Program***

The goal of the CAL FIRE Prop-40 Fuels Reduction Program is to reduce wildland fuel loadings that pose a threat to watershed resources and water quality. These funds are for planning, administration, and implementation of forest land and fuels management projects that protect watersheds from catastrophic wildfire, thereby improving water quality, protecting habitat and fisheries, and controlling erosion and sedimentation in the Sierra Nevada region.

CAL FIRE is using the Vegetation Management Program (VMP), Community Assistance Grants (CAG's) and the standard cost-share program called the California Forest Improvement Program of CFIP as tools to accomplish the goal of protection of the targeted watersheds, specifically fuels management projects. In order to protect these stands from fire it may be necessary to accomplish more than the standard lopping of fuels generated from hand site preparation, Pre-commercial thinning (PCT), pruning and/or release activities. The table below displays the Community Assistance Grant projects implemented under the Proposition 40 Program:

| <b>Project name</b>                                  | <b>Type</b>               | <b>County</b> | <b>Treated Acreage</b> | <b>Completion Date</b> |
|--|---------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Auburn Lake Trails #2 - Perimeter Common Lots        | Modified shaded fuelbreak | El Dorado     | Up to 251              | April 15, 2010         |
| Gold Ridge Forest #1 -Priority Common Lots           | Modified shaded fuelbreak | El Dorado     | 130                    | April 15, 2009         |
| Chrome Ridge #1                                      | Modified shaded fuelbreak | El Dorado     | 41                     | April 15, 2009         |
| City of Placerville #1 - Gold Bug Park               | Modified shaded fuelbreak | El Dorado     | 45                     | April 15, 2010         |
| SPI #2 - Sly park / Swansboro                        | Modified shaded fuelbreak | El Dorado     | 170                    | April 15, 2009         |
| Sand Ridge #3 - Wolverine Modified Shaded Fuelbreak  | Modified shaded fuelbreak | El Dorado     | 30                     | April 15, 2009         |
| Auburn Lake Trails #3 - Perimeter Private Lots       | Modified shaded fuelbreak | El Dorado     | Up to 239              | April 15, 2010         |
| Meeks Bay Fire                                       | Chipper                   | El Dorado     |                        | April 15, 2009         |
| Lake Valley Fire                                     | Chipper                   | El Dorado     |                        | April 15, 2009         |
| Sandridge #1 Freshwater lane                         | Roadside fuelbreak        | El Dorado     | 6.5                    | Dec 31, 2007           |
| Sandridge #2 Puma Point / Jaguar lane                | Roadside fuelbreak        | El Dorado     | 8.0                    | Dec 31, 2007           |
| Georgetown #1 Spanish Dry Diggins                    | Roadside fuelbreak        | El Dorado     | 20                     | Dec 31, 2007           |
| Mosquito Priority Evacuation Routes phase 2          | Roadside fuelbreak        | El Dorado     | 23                     | Dec 31, 2007           |
| South Rubicon Bay Fuels Reduction                    | Fuelbreak                 | El Dorado     | 20                     | Dec 31, 2007           |
| Fallen Leaf Fire Project 4, Phase 1 Fallen Leaf Road | Fuelbreak And Thinning    | El Dorado     | 14                     | Dec 31, 2007           |
| Jackson Extension Fuelbreak (46Ac)                   | Fuelbreak                 | El Dorado     | 46                     | Dec 31, 2007           |
| Antelope Fuelbreak (50% of Project= 75Ac.)           | Fuelbreak                 | Amador        | 147                    | Dec 31, 2007           |
| Marz Fuel Modification                               | Fuelbreak                 | Amador        | 59                     | Dec 31, 2007           |
| *Bear Valley -- total cost \$58,280(funded AEU/TCU)  | Fuelbreak                 | Alpine        | 30                     | Dec 31, 2007           |
| Grizzly Mtn Defense Zone                             | Fuelbreak                 | El Dorado     | 8                      | Dec 31, 2007           |
| City South Lake Tahoe Fuels                          | Fuelbreak                 | El Dorado     | 30                     | 2009                   |

|  |                           |           |     |                |
|--|---------------------------|-----------|-----|----------------|
| reduction Project (Springwood)                                   |                           |           |     |                |
| El Dorado RCD C.A.G.- Uncle Toms Pre Fire mgmt area I            | Modified shaded fuelbreak | El Dorado | 200 | May 31, 2007   |
| Auburn Lake trails C.A.G.  | Roadside fuelbreak        | El Dorado | 65  | Dec 31, 2006   |
| Mosquito Priority Evacuation Routes                              | Roadside fuelbreak        | El Dorado | 62  | Dec 31, 2006   |
| Amador FSC C.A.G - Shake Rams Fiddletown complex                 | Fuelbreak                 | Amador    | 143 | 2006           |
| Alpine FSC C.A. G.-Hot Springs Road Right-of-Way Fuels Treatment | Roadside Fuelbreak        | Alpine    | 30  | 2009           |
| Fallen Leaf Lodge Homeowners                                     | Fuelbreak and Thinning    | El Dorado | 25  | 2009           |
| Lake Valley Fire Protection District Chipper Program             | Chipper                   | El Dorado | 245 | Oct. 2005      |
| Christmas Valley 3 Fuelbreak (Combined into Chipper Agreement)   | Fuelbreak and Thinning    | El Dorado | 25  | Nov. 2006      |
| Meath Road C.A.G   | Modified Shaded Fuelbreak | Amador    | 112 | April 15, 2010 |
| Grizzly "GF4" PFSB   | Perimeter Fuelbreak       | El Dorado | 129 | April 15, 2010 |
| Logtown  | Fuelbreak & Thinning      | El Dorado | 127 | April 15, 2010 |
| Greenstone country #1  | Modified Shaded Fuelbreak | El Dorado | 50  | April 15, 2010 |
| Markleeville/Woodfords Fuel Reduction                            | Roadside Fuelbreak        | Alpine    | 100 | April 15, 2010 |

### ***California Tahoe Conservancy Fuel Reduction Program***

The California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC) conducts fuel reduction projects throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin through their Urban Land Management Program. The California Tahoe Conservancy, through contract, funds CAL FIRE personnel to perform various professional forestry duties, including those duties required to implement fuel breaks. In addition, CAL FIRE provides professional forestry advice and services, including but not limited to, preparation and implementation of THPs, Exemptions and vegetation management projects on

California Tahoe Conservancy properties. CAL FIRE also works with the California Tahoe Conservancy Forest Habitat Enhancement Program on fuel reduction, forest health and wildlife habitat enhancement projects located within the urban interface and general forest areas.

In January 2005, CAL FIRE was authorized approximately 40 million dollars of Proposition 40 funds over 5 years by the legislature for fuels reduction projects which would result in improvement and protection of watersheds and their water quality and assets at risk. Approximately \$600,000 was allocated to CAL FIRE expressly for authorizing its use to the California Conservation Corp for fuels reduction projects on California Tahoe Conservancy lands.

### ***Pre-Fire Engineering***

Prefire engineering is a critical part of the Unit Fire Plan. GIS mapping is used to analyze the fire environment and help unit managers make key decisions for on the ground prefire projects. It is the goal of engineering to provide the most current and accurate data for the fire plan process. This goal is accomplished by field validating the data with Unit Battalions, collaborators, county officials, and Federal agencies.

#### **Objectives:**

- Update the AAR data.
- Update the fuels for the Unit.
- Maintain current and up to date county parcel data.
- Work with Unit personnel and collaborators to enhance the Fire Plan data.
- Asses the weather rankings for accuracy.

# **FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU**

## **CAL FIRE**

### **AMADOR-EL DORADO-SACRAMENTO-ALPINE UNIT (AEU) 2010 IGNITION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

***Battalion Chief Chris Anthony  
Fire Captain Specialist Tom Oldag  
Fire Captain Specialist Gianni Muschetto***

#### **2009 Fire Season Ignition Statistics**

Wildland fire ignition statistics were tracked for the entire year of 2009. The Unit experienced 224 fires within its Direct Protection Area (DPA) for the year. This number represents a 48% decrease from 2008 (332 fires), and less than a 31% decrease over the 10-year average (295 fires).

The five largest fires in the Unit were:

- 1) Latrobe Fire at 172 acres, \$15,000 dollars of damage, cost to suppress estimated at \$48,000, and the cause arson.
- 2) Scott Fire at 42 acres, \$20,000 dollars of damage, cost to suppress estimated at \$74,000, and the cause a vehicle.
- 3) Coloma Fire at 21 acres, \$2,000 dollars of damage, cost to suppress estimated at \$85,000, and the cause arson.
- 4) Alta Fire at 13 acres, \$2,000 dollars of damage, cost to suppress estimated at \$8,000, and the cause a vehicle.
- 5) Spring Fire at 12 acres, \$2,000 dollars of damage, cost to suppress estimated at \$9,000, and caused by lightning.

| <b>2009 Five Largest Fires</b> | <b>Acres</b> | <b>Total Cost</b> | <b>Cause</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Latrobe Fire                   | 172          | \$48,000          | Arson        |
| Scott Fire                     | 42           | \$74,000          | Vehicle      |
| Coloma Fire                    | 21           | \$85,000          | Arson        |
| Alta Fire                      | 13           | \$8,000           | Vehicle      |
| Spring Fire                    | 12           | \$9,000           | Lightning    |

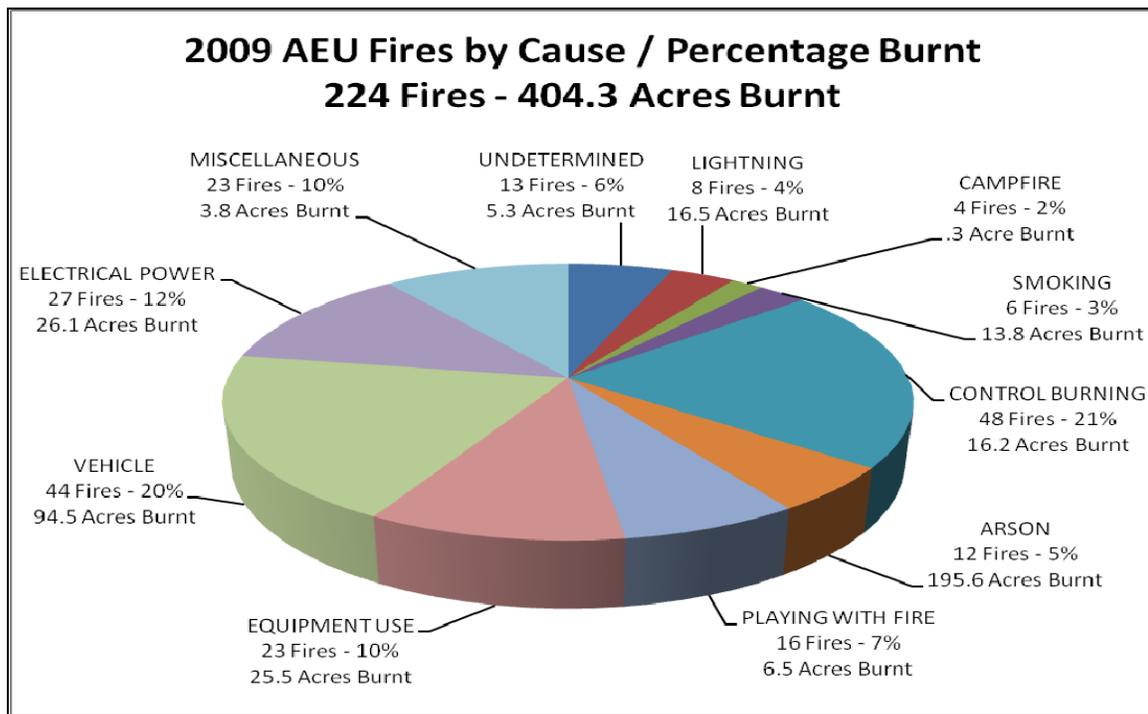
Approximately 404 acres burned in 2009 compared with the 10-year average of 1,770. Damage caused by these fires in 2009 was estimated at approximately \$78,000.

In reviewing fire causes during the 2009 season, it was found that the five leading causes of vegetation fires in the Unit were:

- 1) Control Burning (48 fires – 21%)
- 2) Vehicle (44 fires – 20%)
- 3) Electrical (27 fires – 12%)
- 4) Equipment (23 fires – 10%)
- 5) Miscellaneous (23 fires – 10%)

These accounted for 165 fires or 73% of all fires that occurred. These were followed in order by: playing with fire (16 fires – 7%), undetermined (13 fires – 6%), arson (12 fires – 5%), lightning (8 fires – 4%), smoking (6 fires – 3%), campfire (4 fires – 2%) and railroad (0 fires).

In 2009, the two categories that increased over the 10 year average were Electrical and Lightning caused fires. All other categories decreased from the 10-year average of fire activity. Ignitions causing the most acreage loss were arson at 196 acres, vehicle at 95 acres, and electrical power at 26 acres. When analyzing data for the whole year, control burning caused the most fires (48). These fires were kept relatively small with the total acres burnt from control burn piles at 16 acres. Arson fires totaled 12 fires for the year with 196 acres burnt. One Arson fire accounted for 172 acres.



Fire activity for 2009 was down in the Unit as well as throughout the state. In order to better address ignition management for the Unit, a more detailed analysis of the fires in each major cause classification was conducted.

**1) Control Burning (debris burning)** accounted for 48 fires or 21% of the total fires in the Unit. Escaped control burns resulted in 16 acres being burned or 4% of the Unit's total. This cause saw a 1% decrease from the 10-year average of 49. The decrease can be explained by the Unit's concerted educational program along with the elimination of control burning during unfavorable conditions (June through November). This effort has substantially limited the number and severity of these fires. The number one cause of escaped control burns was lack of clearance followed by wind, and old control burns re-igniting (coming back to life). Unattended control burns also contributed to the totals. All fire departments in Amador and El Dorado Counties are assisting the Unit in handing out legal notices (LE-38's) on all control burn caused fires. These legal notices serve to educate the public and put them on notice that their next escape will result in a citation. This cooperation has proven to continually keep number and acres lost below the 10 year average.

**2) Vehicles** accounted for 44 fires or 20% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Vehicle caused fires resulted in 95 acres being burned or 24% of the Unit's total. This represents a 27% decrease from the 10-year average of 53. This category has been one of the leading causes of fires in the Unit for the past several years. The majority of these fires occurred along the major traffic corridors of Hwy 16, 49, 50, 88, and 124. Catalytic Converter failure and other maintenance issues remains to be the leading cause of fires caused by vehicles. With the current economic conditions there appears to be less maintenance done on vehicles.

**3) Electrical power** accounted for 27 fires or 12% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Electrically caused fires resulted in 26 acres burned or 6% of the Unit's total. Electrically caused fires increased by one from the 10 year average of 26. Most of these fires resulted from trees, branches or birds into the power lines.

**4) Equipment** accounted for 23 fires or 10% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Equipment caused fires resulted in 26 acres being burned or 5% of the Unit's total. This represents a 49% decrease from the 10-year average of 45. Historically, this classification has been one of the top causes of wildfire starts in the Unit. Through continuing displays and education programs (handouts and the 4291 Program), we hope to continue a downward trend. The main cause of equipment fires continues to be mower fires. These fires were due to mower blades striking rocks and friction belts igniting chaff collected around the belt. Ironically, most of the mower caused fires occurred as a result of residents trying to clear their property for fire safety but they were clearing during the hottest part of the day, usually between the hours of 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

**5) Miscellaneous causes** accounted for 23 fires or 10% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Miscellaneous caused fires resulted in 4 acres burned or 2% of the Unit's total. This cause class saw a 12% decrease from the 10 year average of 26. This classification includes causes such as spontaneous combustion,

fireplace ashes deposited in the wildland, barbecuing, cooking fires, and fireworks. Ashes deposited in the dry vegetation caused the majority of the fires.

**6) Playing with Fire** accounted for 16 fires or 7% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Playing with Fire resulted in 7 acres burned or 2% of the Unit's total. This was an 11% decrease from the 10 year average of 18. Several juveniles were caught and went through either a Juvenile Fire Setter Class and others were sent to the Juvenile Justice System and sentenced to probation.

**7) Undetermined** accounted for 13 fires or 6% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Undetermined caused fires resulted in 5 acres being burned or 1% of the Unit's total. This category saw a 41% decrease of the 10 year average of 22. Continued hard work and dedication of the Unit's Fire Prevention Staff and the company officers who conduct thorough origin and cause investigations aid in the declining number in this cause class. Thorough origin and cause investigations also assist in determining fire patterns which may be reduced by public education and or enforcement.

**8) Arson** accounted for 12 fires or 5% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Arson caused fires resulted in 196 acres burned or 49% of the Unit's total. Arson caused fires decreased by 66% from the 10-year average of 35. The two large arson fires were the Latrobe Fire that burnt 172 acres and the Coloma Fire that burnt 21 acres. It appears the past years arrests of serial arsonists and a proactive approach in seeking out and prosecuting arsonists have caused the decrease. The continued working relationships between all fire and law enforcement agencies is definitely aiding in the cause.

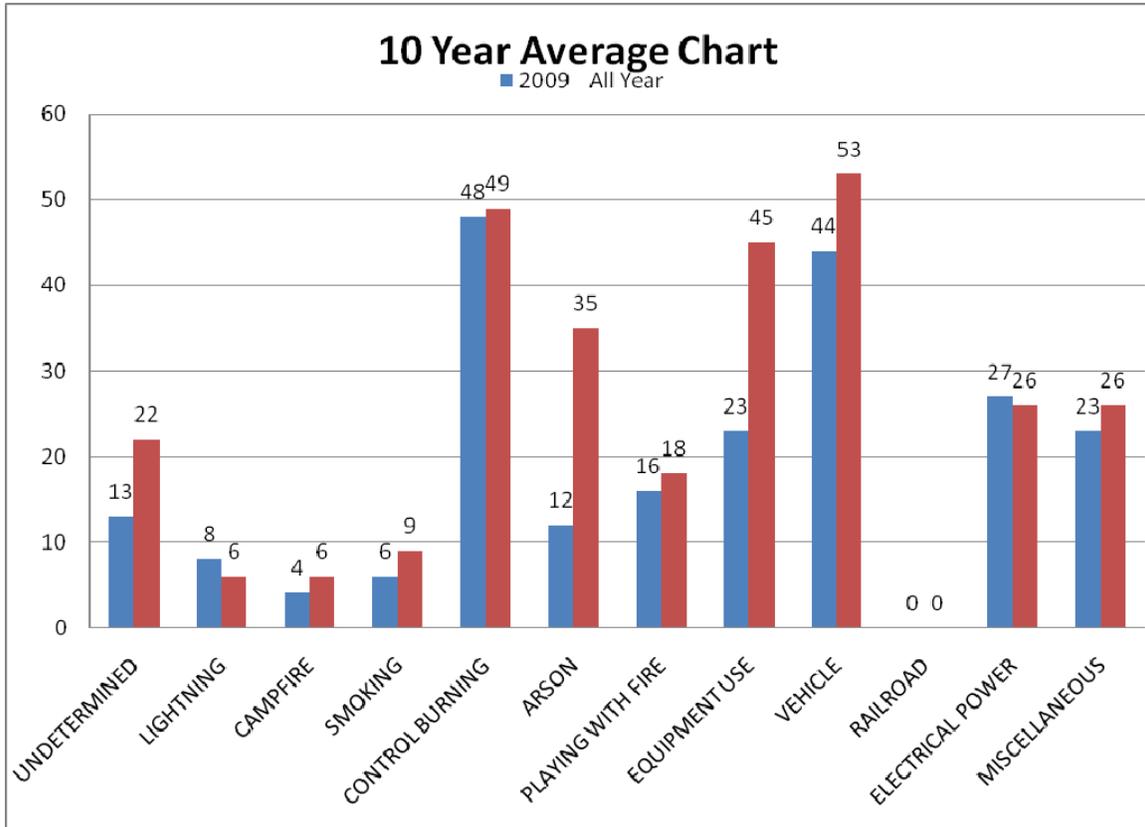
**9) Lightning** accounted for 8 fires or 4% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Lightning caused fires resulted in 17 acres burned or 4% of the Unit's total. Lightning caused fires increased by 13% from the 10-years average of 3. Not much can be done to prevent or alter this category.

**10) Smoking** accounted for 6 fires or 3% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Smoking caused fires resulted in 14 acres burned or 3% of the Unit's total. This was a decrease by three fires from the 10 year average of 9. The majority of these fires were carelessly discarded cigarettes along our roadways. However, several bark and planter box fires were directly attributed to smoking.

**11) Illegal campfires and campfire escapes** caused 4 fires or 2% of the total ignitions in the Unit. No acres burned were recorded as a result of these fires. Campfire caused fires decreased by two from the 10-year average of average of 6.

**12) Railroad** accounted for zero fires in 2009. No active rail lines are working in either Amador or El Dorado Counties at this time. Sacramento County contains very few working rail spurs in the SRA.

The following chart compares the 2009 primary causes compared to the 10-year average.



### Education and (Volunteer in Prevention)/VIP

The AEU VIP Program assists the Unit in a variety of Fire Prevention Activities. The Unit currently utilizes the assistance of the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council and the Amador County Fire Safe Council to fill the Unit's VIP needs. The Fire Safe Councils in conjunction with the Unit help support community outreach events, defensible space evaluations, home and garden shows, and educational events. The Fire Safe Councils are active year round in the Unit and are an integral part of the community.

The Fire Prevention Public Information Office actively works with the media in order to keep the public informed on fire safety and wildfire awareness. Numerous press releases are issued throughout the year to remind residents of such items as: defensible space requirements, burn permit requirements, burn permit restrictions, ready-set-go campaign information, and wildland fire incident information. Prevention personnel, along with fire engine personnel, participate in fairs, school activities, and community programs.

## **Juvenile Firesetters**

The JFS Program is initiated when a juvenile has been experimenting with fire. The juvenile and parents/caregivers are assessed utilizing the FEMA JFS assessment program. Following the assessment, the family will view one or two videos specifically designed for JFS. If further assistance is needed, the referrals are processed through the juvenile justice system.

Assessments are done in cooperation with the US Forest Service and local fire districts. The objectives of the JFS Program are:

- Identify juvenile firesetters
- Assess the juvenile firesetters needs
- Provide life skill training and education
- Provide referrals to family counseling
- Evaluate firesetters and program progress

## **Public Resources Code 4290**

In 1986, the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, supported by CAL FIRE, introduced legislation (Senate Bill 1075, Rogers) to develop *minimum* statewide standards for defensible space in State Responsibility Areas (SRA). This legislation was motivated by local government's general lack of response to wildland fire prevention and protection problems over the previous 20 years. This comprehensive wildland fire safety legislation was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in 1987. SB1075 required the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to establish minimum fire safety requirements that applied to SRA.

Regulation development began in early in 1988, and final implementation of the state and local regulation packages occurred on January 1, 1992 via PRC 4290. PRC 4290 requirements address emergency access and water supplies, addressing and street signing, and fuel modification relating to new construction and development. The implementation of these regulations occurs through the local government building permit and subdivision map approval process. Local government is still the approving authority for development.

PRC 4290 regulations are triggered by the application for a building permit for purposes other than limited remodels, including but not limited to submittal of a subdivision map, application for a use permit, placement of a mobile or manufactured home, or constructing a road. These regulations do not supersede existing local regulations that are equal to or more stringent than the state regulations.

The Amador-El Dorado-Sacramento-Alpine Unit Fire Prevention Bureau oversees the application of Public Resources Code Section 4290 and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Section 1270 on all private lands classified as

SRA within the Unit. These regulations are best known as the “SRA Fire Safe Regulations,” and constitute the basic wildland fire protection standards of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. CAL FIRE has been given the role of wildland fire protection expert and is provided the opportunity to review and comment on all proposed construction and development within the SRA.

In cooperation with El Dorado County Planning, Amador County Planning and Alpine County Planning, CAL FIRE has oversight responsibility and reviews Land Division Applications for compliance with PRC 4290. CAL FIRE forwards recommendations to the appropriate Planning Department specifying the minimum requirements necessary to meet state law.

The major factors considered in the review of any subdivision map are:

### **Access**

Access is a major fire prevention and protection need, whether wildland or structural. Failure to provide reasonable access for emergency equipment and evacuation exits for civilians can result in major loss of life, property and natural resources. Fire apparatus sitting at an intersection, waiting for civilians to exit on a narrow road, cannot provide the necessary fire suppression action. Safe access requires street and road networks that limit dead-end roads and provide reasonable widths, grades and curves on all roads and driveways.

### **Addressing and Street Signing**

The difficulty of locating an unnamed or poorly signed road during an emergency, especially under smoky conditions, is a major problem to wildland and structural firefighters. Beyond this, many jurisdictions have allowed duplicate numbering and naming for roads and access, further compounding the location problem. The potential losses of life, property and resources are greater without an adequately visible and consistent addressing and numbering system.

### **Water Supplies**

The application of water and the construction of a fire line are the primary tools used by wildland firefighters to contain and control a wildfire. The location and availability of sufficient quantities of water are essential to fire suppression and firefighter safety. While a single system of water delivery and/or storage is adequate, the effectiveness of any suppression system increases with diversity. Emergency water supplies are necessary to provide readily available, and accessible, emergency water for structural and wildland fire protection.

### **Fuel Modification Considerations**

The establishment of physical barriers between a structure and the wildland is recognized as a major deterrent and loss reduction measure. Such barriers should be considered key to individual and community defensible space. While fuel breaks have strategic application over large geographical areas, they are expensive to construct and maintain. Other measures, such as the strategic placement of roads, recreational parks, irrigated landscaping, setback from property lines and fuel modification around structures are more suitable around homes and subdivisions.

## ***Training Battalion – Battalion Chief Robert Withrow***

The AEU Training Bureau exists to provide mandatory and career enhancement training to CAL FIRE employees so that they can carry out the mission of the Department effectively and safely.

The Training Bureau is currently staffed with a Battalion Chief and Fire Captain. The Training Bureau oversees the training for over 160 permanent and seasonal employees. These employees work in Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Command Center, Administration, Resource Management, and our Schedule "A" contracts with both the Cameron Park Fire Department and the Amador Fire Protection District (Amador Plan).

In 2007, the Unit Training Bureau committed employees to over 15,000 staff hours of training. This training included courses on the Incident Command System, Wildland and Structural Firefighting, Emergency Medical System and Hazardous Materials Incidents. This training was facilitated through local, regional and state level courses. 2008 will see an overall increase in training hours and diversity.

### **Training and the Fire Plan**

The Training that is provided through the AEU Training Bureau supports the Unit's Fire Plan. A well trained work force will not only perform more safely on a wildland fire, but will also more effectively mitigate and/or prevent major wildland fires from occurring. Training in the Incident Command System as well as refining basic company officer skills in prevention and suppression will complement the mission of the Fire Plan.

## ***Emergency Command Center – Battalion Chief Justin Sanders***

The Camino Interagency Command Center (CICC) is an Emergency Command Center that has Command and Control authority for the Local Responsibility Area (LRA), State Responsibility Area (SRA), and Federal Responsibility Area (FRA) for the counties of Amador, Alpine, and El Dorado. The Alpine, Amador, El Dorado, Sacramento Unit (AEU), Eldorado National Forest (ENF), and Tahoe Management Unit (TMU) operate and dispatch from the CICC.

AEU, ENF and TMU dispatch from the Command Center located at the CAL FIRE Headquarters for AEU in Camino. The Interagency Command Center allows each agency to assist the other during times of high emergency activity. This opportunity allows each agency to contribute resources and assures the coordination of local, state, and federal emergency resources during wildland fires, structure fires, and medical emergencies.

CICC monitors fire weather conditions to augment staffing levels prior to these weather events occurring. CICC maintains 9 Remote Weather Stations (RAWS), and monitors these RAWS stations hourly to adjust the dispatch level for resource response. A Standard Response Plan is programmed in the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) for each dispatch level that allows for the appropriate resource response in the event of a wildfire, or other type fire which is a threat to the wildland.

CICC maintains an electronic Emergency Resource Directory (ERD) which allows the Command Center to support any type of incident. The ERD contains information such as the ICS qualifications for AEU, ENF, TMU and local government personnel, supplies, vendors, private resources available for hire, call when needed rosters (i.e.; dozers, helicopters, water tenders, etc).

CICC also has an expanded operation. The CICC Expanded Dispatch is utilized for the support of large or complex incidents. When an Initial Attack incident occurs that has the potential to become an extended attack or major incident, CICC immediately staffs expanded with Command Center personnel. Once CICC Expanded is operational, all resource ordering for the incident occurs within the Expanded Operation. The personnel staffing levels in Expanded are adjusted based on the size or complexity of the incident. The incident is assigned a separate Command Frequency, to allow the CICC to return to processing new incidents. As the incident continues to grow, additional resources are assigned from AEU, ENF, and TMU, or the resource requests are placed to be filled from other areas of the state or nation.

In 2009, the CICC processed 27,324 incidents which is an increase of 6.3% from the previous year.

## **Mission Statement – Camino Interagency Command Center**

The Camino Interagency Command Center, operated by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the United States Forest Service (USFS), is a cooperative interagency command center. The command center is dedicated to providing professional and efficient dispatch services for the residents and visitors of El Dorado, Amador, Sacramento, and Alpine Counties including the El Dorado National Forest and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. The primary mission is to achieve the most economical and effective cooperative fire, aviation management, emergency medical response, law enforcement, and rescue service through collaboration.

## **Resource Management** : Division Chief Thomas Tinsley

The State Forest Practice Act and Forest Practice Rules govern the harvest of timber from private lands in California. The Rules require a landowner who harvests timber for commercial purposes (i.e. you sell, barter, exchange or trade logs or milled lumber to another party) to submit an exemption notice or timber harvesting plan document with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Some of the notices or plans that are required may require the services of a Registered Professional Forester. Below we have listed the most common documents required by the state and the conditions under which each is appropriate.

1. **Less than 3 acre Conversion Exemption** - For the harvesting of trees which is a single conversion to a non-timber growing use (orchard, house, pasture etc.) on parcels less than 3 acres. The conversion requires that 100% of the slash be removed; these strict slash removal requirements were designed to minimize fuels in and around residences. A Registered Professional Forester (RPF) is required to prepare this exemption.
2. **Emergency Notice of Operations** - This emergency allows for the immediate harvest of dead, dying and/or damaged trees primarily resulting from fire, wind, snow, and insect and/or disease attack. A Registered Professional Forester (RPF) is required to prepare this emergency document.
3. **Fuel Hazard Reduction Emergency**-This emergency, adopted in 2004, allows for the immediate harvest of trees where high, very high or extreme fuel hazard conditions, the combination combustible fuel quantity, type, condition, configuration and terrain positioning, pose a significant fire threat on private timberlands. Cutting and removal of hazardous fuels, including trees, shrubs and other woody material, is needed to eliminate the vertical and horizontal continuity of understory fuels and surface fuels for the purpose of reducing the rate of fire spread, fire duration and intensity, fuel ignitability and to achieve a flame length under average severe fire weather conditions that is less than 4 feet in the treated areas. A Registered Professional Forester (RPF) is required to prepare this emergency document.
4. **10% Dead & Dying Exemption** – This exemption allows for the immediate harvest of dead, dying or diseased trees of any size, fuel wood or split wood products, in amounts less than 10% of the average volume per acre
5. **Fire Safe Exemption** - This exemption allows for the removal of ladder fuels and thinning of trees to break up both the vertical and horizontal continuity of fuels within 150 feet of a permitted structure. All slash be

treated within 45 days. This activity is encouraged to further the intent of Public Resource Code (PRC) 4290.

6. **Modified Timber Harvest Plan** - This plan allows for the harvest of trees on an ownership 100 acres or less. A Registered Professional Forester (RPF) is required to prepare this harvest document.
7. **Timber Harvest Plan (THP)** – A plan addressing the harvest of timber on more than 3 acres that is beyond the scope of a modified THP. An approved THP acts as the functional equivalent of an Environmental Impact Report as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A Registered Professional Forester (RPF) is required to prepare this harvest document.
8. **Non-industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP)** - A long-term timber harvesting plan with no termination date for a timberland owner with less than 2500 acres. A Registered Professional Forester (RPF) is required to prepare this harvest document.

### **Timber Harvesting Plans (THP)**

Timber harvest Plans are required to go through a multi-agency environmental review and most require a pre-harvest inspection to determine whether potential environmental impacts are adequately mitigated prior to harvest activities. The potential for creating or reducing fire hazards from timber harvesting is evaluated during the THP review. In the Amador-EI Dorado-Sacramento-Alpine Unit, Area Foresters contact the Battalion Chiefs in the area where the harvesting will occur and solicit their input on THPs that pose potential fire hazards. Any concerns the Battalion Chiefs and Area Foresters have with regard to reducing the fire hazard will be incorporated into the THP as additional mitigations. Foresters preparing a THP must show how the proposed harvest will meet maximum sustained production of wood products. Demonstrating maximum sustained production includes addressing the health and productivity of the residual stand. Fuels treatments are considered in this process, fire resilience is a key component of a healthy and productive stand.

Occupied residences and public and private roads are required to comply with the Forest Practice rules that address hazard reduction. Additionally, where logging occurs in and adjacent to subdivisions and residential developments the Area Forester may require that the THP include slash treatments above and beyond the requirements of the Forest Practice Rules.

While logging is active on THP's the Area Forester will make compliance inspections to ensure that the loggers have the required fire fighting tools and equipment on site. Loggers are also required to leave all logging roads passable at the end of each workday.

The Region Office builds and maintains a GIS database of all THP's; this database is provided to the Area Foresters on an annual basis. The THP

database is a valuable tool that could be used in identifying recently logged areas that may require different firefighting strategies.

Area Foresters encourage consulting Foresters, to utilize Special Prescriptions to reduce stocking to levels lower than that allowed in the general forest in order to create a more open, fire resistant stand of trees. The use of special prescriptions is the primary means by which fuels are modified to create Community Fuelbreaks. Community Fuelbreaks such as the Omo Ranch shaded fuelbreak in El Dorado County cross over Federal lands, industrial timberlands and non-industrial ownership and fuels treatments are consistent over all ownerships. Landowners are encouraged to create Community Fuelbreaks where:

- Residential developments abut industrial timberlands and /or Federally managed lands,
- On ridges in and adjacent to Communities at Risk,
- On a ridge that will provide for wildlife and watershed protection
- Adjacent to major highways, haul routs and evacuation routes
- Around isolated residence surrounded by timberland
- Where the Area Forester and Battalion Chief agree

### **Community Fuelbreak Implementation through the THP Process**

One of these Special Prescriptions is the Fuelbreak/Defensible Space Prescription. The Rules specify it can be applied where; some trees and other vegetation and fuels are removed to create a shaded fuel break or defensible space in an area to reduce the potential for wildfires and the damage they might cause. Additionally the Rules ask the RPF to describe in the plan specific vegetation and fuels treatment, including timing, to reduce fuels to meet the objectives of the Community Fuelbreak area. Area Foresters provide the following guidelines to RPFs to aid them in the application of the Fuelbreak Prescription.

The purpose of a Community Fuelbreak is to create a defensible fuel zone that provides wildfire protection for wildland urban interface communities, watersheds, and firefighters engaged in fire suppression operations. The fuelbreak treatments are intended to protect communities from fires that originate in the wildlands as well as minimizing the spread of fires that originate in urban areas. The fuelbreak is not intended to stop the fire but should be a place where the vegetation has been modified, giving firefighters a safe place to initiate suppression activities. The vegetation will be modified so that the horizontal and vertical continuity of forest fuels are broken up. The extent of vegetation modification will vary depending on topographic features and vegetation types and condition, slope, aspect, and urban environment. The seven objectives listed below may be implements through the THP process if they are included in the pre-harvest inspection recommendations. Depending on the timing and

complexity of the project, the objectives may be implemented through the Units VMP or CFIP Program. .

1. The optimum width for a defensible zone is at a minimum 500' or wider depending on topography and resources at risk. If the defensible zone is along an existing road or ridge it should extend a minimum of 150 feet from the edge of the road or the center of the ridge. Road passage will be a primary goal, where a well developed private or public road lies within the Fuelbreak, for evacuation, tactical, and operational access.
2. Crowns of the overstory trees should be separated, leaving canopy cover ranging between 30% and 50%.
3. A minimum of 80% of the ladder fuels shall be removed if ladder fuels are left (as in the form of regeneration) the lower branches shall be pruned so that they do not provide continuity between the surface fuels and the canopy. Trees over 6 inches DBH will be pruned to 10 feet above the ground.
4. The residual trees shall meet a minimum of the following criteria:
  - a. The tree must be alive and healthy
  - b. The tree must have at least 1/3 of its length in live crown as a ration of total tree height.
  - c. The tree must be a commercial species from a local seed source or a seed source, which the registered Professional Forester determines, will produce commercially trees physically suited for the area involved.
  - d. Leave tree specie preference is ponderosa pine, sugar pine, Douglas-fir, incense cedar, black oak, and true fir in that order.
5. Tree removal targets understory suppressed and intermediate trees, with primarily healthy dominant and co-dominant trees being retained.
6. Surface and ground fuels shall be treated so that they do not function as ladder fuel to the residual stand. A minimum of 80% of the activity generated non-merchantable material (slash) shall be treated, piled and burned, chipped or removed from the site.
7. Regeneration will be allowed for where it does not act as ladder fuel.

### **Service Forestry**

The Area Foresters are also required to provide forestry advice upon request to private landowners. This advice includes, but is not limited to, recommendations for fuels management and fire safe activities that can be applied to residents. Many times service forestry calls are related to bark beetle activity in pine trees. Landowners are encouraged to immediately remove the bark beetle killed trees and treat the slash.