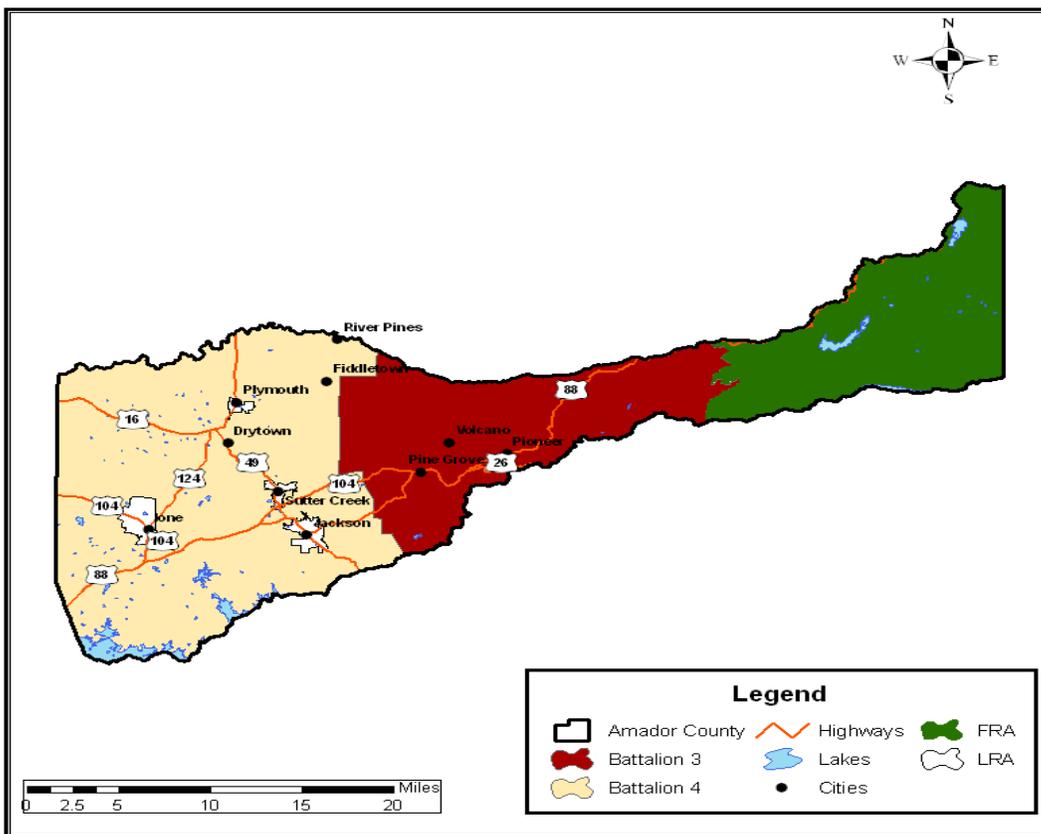


# Amador-El Dorado-Sacramento-Alpine Unit Fire Planning By County

## Amador County

Amador County consists of 299,861 acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Areas and is divided into CAL FIRE Battalion's 3 and 4 as shown below:



## ***Battalion 3 – Battalion Chief Charlie Blankenheim***

CAL FIRE Battalion 3 is 185,062 acres and encompasses portions of El Dorado and Amador counties. Within Amador County the communities of Pioneer, Pine Grove, Volcano, and Lockwood are within the Battalion. The fuel types in the Battalion range from 45% timber, 48% brush, to 7% grass/oak woodland.

Like many areas in the Sierra Nevada's there exists a significant wildland-urban interface problem within Battalion 3. There are several large, well populated subdivisions within Battalion 3 that are at risk from a catastrophic fire occurrence.

Battalion 3 consists of two CAL FIRE stations, a Conservation Camp, one un-staffed lookout, and Mount Zion State Forest (160 acres). Pine Grove station, in Pine Grove, has two engines, while Dew Drop station, east of Pioneer, and has one engine. Pine Grove Conservation Camp provides four hand crews. Dew Drop station is staffed year-round, and during fire seasons the El Dorado National Forest operates an engine out of the Dew Drop station.

Three local agency fire districts lie, at least partially, within Battalion 3. These fire districts are; Pioneer Fire in El Dorado County, Lockwood Fire, and Amador Fire Protection District in Amador County. A close working relationship is maintained with each district as well as with the USFS.

### **Current Battalion 3 Projects:**

#### **Pine Acres Fire Safe Project**

The Pine Acres Fire Safe Project is an attempt to establish a defensible fuel zone between the community of Pine Acres and the Mokelumne River Canyon. This project has been on going for 8 years. The current phase is a Fire Safe Council Project. This year's work will consist of an herbicide application to kill the re-growth on previously treated lands. The crews from Pine Grove will then cut the dead vegetation in the fall.

The funding for this project is through a grant written by the Amador Fire Safe Council.

#### ***Cooperators / Collaborators***

Amador-El Dorado-Sacramento-Alpine Unit, Amador County Fire Safe Council  
BLM, and Local landowners

### **Omo Ranch Fire Safe Project**

Omo Ranch Fuel Break is a defensible fuel zone/shaded fuel break along Omo Ranch Road in Amador and El Dorado Counties. The project begins at Highway 88 and progresses west to Road E16 near Mt. Aukum. This project also includes the Barney Ridge and Farnham Ridge fuel breaks. The primary purpose of the project is to establish a defensible fuel break to protect the interface communities of the area and to support fire fighting operations. The community of Omo Ranch is a small and relatively isolated community in southern El Dorado County.

CAL FIRE, Sierra Pacific Industries, and the USFS have completed most of the work. The next phase will be a maintenance program. All work to be completed by CAL FIRE is covered by a mitigated negative declaration and a VMP contract. All work on the National Forest lands was completed by the USFS.

#### ***Cooperators / Collaborators***

Amador-El Dorado Unit  
USFS  
Amador Fire Safe Council  
El Dorado County Fire Safe Council  
Sierra Pacific Industries

### **Shake Ridge/Antelope Fire Safe Project**

The primary objective of the project was to establish defensible fuel zones around the community near Amador Pines and provide assistance with fire safe clearances. The project also includes the areas of the Scott Creek and Fiddletown fuel breaks. This project includes prescribed fire, fire crew pre/post prescribed fire treatments, roadside clearance work, dooryard chipping, mastication, tree thinning, and enhanced fire safe inspections. All work on this project has been completed with a mitigated negative declaration and the State Vegetation Management Program.

This project has been on going for about 10 years. The work currently being done is construction of a shaded fuel break along Fiddletown Road. This phase is funded through the VMP program.

The Amador Fire Safe has a grant which is funding the continuation of the shaded fuel break in the Antelope Creek drainage south of the Rabb Park and Silver Lake Pines subdivisions.

#### ***Cooperators / Collaborators***

Amador-El Dorado Unit  
USFS  
Sierra Pacific Industries  
Amador Fire Safe Council & Local landowners

## ***Pioneer Volcano Community Wildfire Protection Plan***

This project is a joint effort between the Amador Fire Safe Council, the Local Government Fire Departments, community leaders, and CAL FIRE. Once complete, it will be a comprehensive plan which addresses, fuel reduction, ingress and egress, evacuation plans, community hazards, road signage, water supply, and any other wildfire related issues. This plan is part of the Amador County CWPP that was approved last year. Once complete, this CWPP will become the template for other CWPPs in the county.

This project is funded by a grant through the Amador Fire Safe Council. Currently Retired Cal Fire Unit Chief Jim Simmons is evaluating different communities in the CWPP for fire danger. He is using a model that looks at water supply, street signage, access, and other factors which would create hazardous situations during a wildfire.

## ***Future Battalion 3 projects***

### **Doakes Ridge Fuel Break**

Develop a fuel break on Doakes Ridge and surrounding lands to tie the Antelope Fuel break in with SPI fuel breaks on Cooks ridge. This project will begin in the fall and will consist of mechanical work, crew work and broadcast burning. Most of the work will be on PG&E and SPI ground.

### **Pine Acres Fire Safe Project**

Maintain a defensible fuel zone within and between the community of Pine Acres and the Mokelumne River Canyon.

Develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan/Evacuation Plan for the Pine Grove/Pine Acres area.

Develop a Public Education Program (Including Public Information Mailer/Self-Certification\*) for PRC 4291.

### **Shake Ridge/Antelope Fuel Break**

Develop New and Maintain existing defensible fuel zone extending West on Shake Ridge towards Volcano.

### **Tiger Creek Fuel Break**

Develop a defensible fuel zone extending west from the Antelope Fuel Break to the Tiger Creek Power Plant on the Mokelumne River. Coordinate with other groups to facilitate ingress/egress route clearing.

### **Omo Ranch Fuel Break**

Develop new and maintain existing defensible fuel zone/shaded fuel break along Omo Ranch Road in Amador and El Dorado Counties beginning at Highway 88 and progressing North-West to E-16 in Mt. Aukum.

### **Surrey Junction Fuel Break**

Develop a defensible fuel zone extending North-East from Ridge Road, beginning in the vicinity of Bates Road, and following the 2000 foot contour line around the Surrey Junction and Tanyard Hill residential areas to Lupe Road.

Coordinate with other groups to facilitate ingress/egress route clearing.

### **Defender Grade Fuel Break**

Develop a defensible fuel zone extending South from Highway 88 at Pioneer following ridges to Highway 26 and then to Mokelumne River Canyon.

Coordinate with other groups to facilitate ingress/egress route clearing.

### **Public Information Mailer/Self-Certification\***

In order to achieve all of the potential benefits of Defensible Fuel Zones established and/or in progress, an aggressive public education program is required. This public information program will target developed properties within the community. The purpose of this public education program is to provide information about individual defensible fuel zones (defensible space) around property improvements.

In order to maximize the distribution of information to the community, it is the intent to utilize a public education mailer. The mailer will include information about defensible space, fire safety precautions and a self-certification process. The self-certification process will allow community members to interact with the department regarding:

1. The completion of defensible space work
2. Incomplete defensible space work/non-response
3. Questions regarding defensible space work

Information provided by the self-certification process will be mapped in ArcView for GIS evaluation of compliance and non-compliance/no response.

## ***Battalion 3 Ignition Management Plan***

### **Equipment Use:**

Public Education within the primary market to include but not limited to:

1. Power Equipment Retailers
2. Public Events (County Fair etc.)
3. Public Information Mailer
4. Burn Permit Process
5. Print and Television Media

**Arson:** Aggressively pursue investigations where patterned or recurring behavior appears to account for fire starts.

**Electrical:** Work with PG&E and SMUD to inspect and maintain power transmission lines and facilities especially in regard to clearance.

**Vehicles:** Work with Caltrans and Amador County Road Department to more aggressively pursue roadside fuel reduction/abatement programs.

## ***Battalion 4 – Battalion Chief Mike Olivarria***

CALFIRE Battalion 4 is 367,983 acres in size and encompasses portions of Amador, Sacramento, and San Joaquin counties. The fuel types in the Battalion range from 14% timber, to 33% brush, and 49% grass/oak woodland.

Like the other Battalion's in the Unit there exists a significant wildland-urban interface problem within the Battalion. There are several large, well populated subdivisions that are at risk to large catastrophic fires.

There are two CALFIRE stations within the Battalion. Sutter Hill station staffs one engine year-round and a second engine during fire season. A CALFIRE bulldozer is also stationed at Sutter Hill, along with an automotive shop, and the Unit's service center. River Pines station, in River Pines, staffs one CALFIRE engine year-round. There are no CALFIRE stations in Sacramento or San Joaquin counties.

### **Cooperating Fire Agencies**

#### AMADOR COUNTY

The CALFIRE Academy and fifteen Amador County fire departments lie, at least partially, within the Battalion. The local fire departments include: the Amador Fire Protection District, Lone City Fire, Jackson City Fire, Jackson Rancheria Casino, Jackson Valley Fire Protection District, Lockwood Fire Protection District, Mule Creek State Prison Fire, Plymouth City Fire, and Sutter Creek Fire Protection District.

CALFIRE and the above fire departments serve the following Amador County communities: Buena Vista, Carbondale, Comanche, Fiddletown, Lone, Jackson, Jackson Rancheria Casino Fire, Martell, Plymouth, River Pines, and Sutter Creek.

#### **Current Battalion 4 Projects:**

Within Battalion 4 a strong emphasis is placed upon projects which involve fire preparedness training. Logistical and training support is provided to the CALFIRE Academy in Lone and to the AEU training program with the following projects:

#### **Heavy Forestry Equipment Operations Training**

Through the efforts of the AEU VMP Coordinator landowners who control strategically significant lands are placed under VMP contract to allow the HFEO class to practice their dozer operator skills. The land placed under contract is primarily that which is owned by cattle ranchers desiring to convert their brush covered lands to grazing lands. To enhance the effectiveness of this project CAL FIRE burns the resulting piles and the ranchers seed the treated land each fall. In

this fashion there is mutual benefit to the rancher, in the form of additional/improved grazing land, and to the Department, in the form of trained and tested operators. A collateral benefit to CALFIRE is significant fuels reduction within the training areas which are located primarily in Amador County.

### ***Van Vleck and Nature Conservancy training sites:***

Through VMP agreements, the Unit uses two sites in eastern Sacramento for training purposes. Each year the Unit burns between 500 and 700 acres of grass. We use this land to conduct Intermediate Firing Class and the FI 210 investigation class. This gives our unit personnel valuable training, while providing for range improvements and vernal pool habitat improvements.

### ***River Pines Community Fire Safe Plan***

This project is funded by a grant through the Amador Fire Safe Council. The work is being done by private companies through contracts with the Fire Safe Council. There are two phases to this project. The first phase is now underway. The contractors are assisting community members in removing urban waste in the town. Junked cars, household appliances and other waste has created ingress egress issues, as well as fuel loading issues. The second phase is now being planned. It will provide a shaded fuel break around the perimeter of the town.

### **Jackson Rancheria Project**

The Jackson Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians has developed a gaming facility complete with a hotel and convention center. The Tribe has also purchased the 1000+ acre Caminetti Ranch property adjacent to the south boundary of the Rancheria. In addition to the gaming and lodging facilities described above there are new amenities being developed on the Caminetti Ranch portion of the property. A gas station and a one hundred space recreational vehicle park are now open. These amenities will potentially contribute to the wildland fire protection problems in the area. The Tribe is now creating fuel breaks along ridges and through drainages, which are designed to slow the spread of wildfire from and towards the commercial improvements.

### **Public Education Projects**

There are two new public education projects within Battalion 4: First, in conjunction with other Battalions in AEU, Battalion 4 would like to participate in an educational PRC 4291 project which would involve mailing defensible space literature to property owners within targeted high risk areas of the Battalion. These mailers would include educational material regarding PRC 4291 requirements and a process for residential property owners to complete LE 100 style inspections utilizing a self certification process. The program would

also include a random follow-up inspection component to verify that the self certifications were accurate and that PRC 4291 objectives had been met.

Second, the fire prevention signs within Amador County are in a state of disrepair and the public education messages are dated. As a result, county residents drive past these signs on a daily basis and do not notice the signs nor the messages contained thereon. The objective in the Battalion is to repair and replace the signs with attention attracting features and relevant public education messages which will be noticed and embraced by the motoring public.

The following table shows the proposed signs:

LOCATION	PREVENTION MESSAGE BY PRIORITY	DIRECTIONAL VIEW
JVFPD Station 171 Quiver @ Curran Comanche	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Defensible Space</li> <li>2. Equipment Use</li> <li>3. Debris Escapes</li> <li>4. Fireworks</li> </ol>	Two Sided Message
Plymouth @ south city limit, east side of Hwy. 49	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Defensible Space</li> <li>2. Equipment Use</li> <li>3. Debris escapes</li> <li>4. Fireworks</li> </ol>	Single Sided Message
Fiddletown Road @ AmerCa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Defensible space</li> <li>2. Ingress/egress/addresses</li> <li>3. Debris Escapes</li> <li>4. Equipment use</li> </ol>	Single Sided Message
Highway 88 @ Dew Drop Bypass Road	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Defensible space</li> <li>2. Ingress/egress/addresses</li> <li>3. Debris escapes</li> <li>4. Equipment use</li> <li>5. Fireworks</li> </ol>	Single Sided Message. Reverse side is ENF Fire Danger Rating.
Highway 88 @ Pioneer Cemetery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Defensible space</li> <li>2. Ingress/egress/addresses</li> <li>3. Debris escapes</li> <li>4. Equipment use</li> <li>5. Fireworks</li> </ol>	Two Sided Message
Ridge Road @ Climax Road Pine Grove	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Defensible space</li> <li>2. Ingress/egress/addresses</li> <li>3. Equipment Use</li> <li>4. Debris escapes</li> <li>5. Fireworks</li> </ol>	Single Sided Message
Sutter Hill Fire Station, 11600 Highway 49	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Defensible space</li> <li>2. Equipment Use</li> <li>3. Debris escapes</li> <li>4. Ingress/egress/addresses</li> <li>5. Fireworks</li> </ol>	Two Sided Message

### ***Battalion 4 Ignition Management Plan***

The four leading causes of State Responsibility Area (SRA) vegetation fires in Battalion 4 during the 2007 season were:

Fire Cause	Number of Fires	Acres Burned
Equipment	8	9
Debris Burning	8	4
Electrical	8	9
Arson	6	173

Equipment: Continued public education including prevention signs will emphasize the danger of mowing dry grass during the wrong time periods. Information will also be distributed during the spring 4291 inspections.

Debris Burning: Continued public education as to 'best practices' for conducting residential burning operations will be pursued. The best opportunities to deliver this educational message is during the face to face contacts between property owners and CALFIRE employees associated with the issuance of residential burn permits and during 4291 inspections. The opportunities shall be maximized.

Arson: Thorough and focused preliminary fire investigations along with aggressive follow up by the Fire Prevention Bureau when suspicious patterns or activity occurs shall continue to be the goal within Battalion 4.