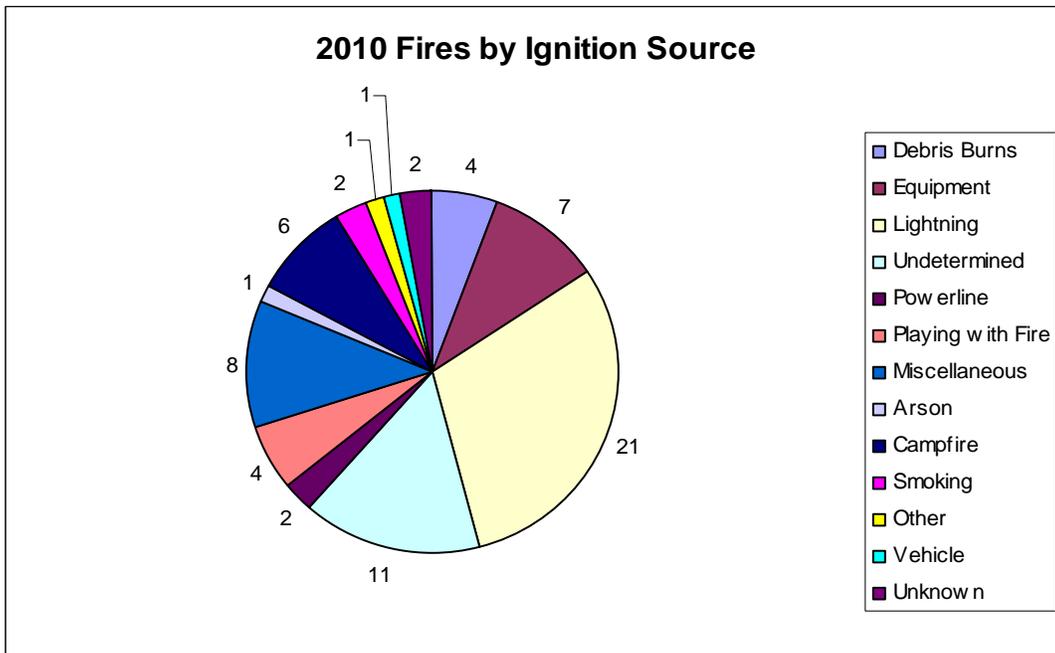




**A: FIRE PREVENTION**

The Siskiyou Unit Fire Prevention Bureau is comprised of a Battalion Chief, two Fire Captains and a Fire Prevention Specialist II. Pre-fire engineering, enforcement, public education, information, and Volunteer In Prevention (VIP) are the five components of prevention. In general, these programs have been shown to be highly effective at reducing the incidence of fire. The Siskiyou Unit contributes its success to the utilization of these five main components. In addition, the Prevention Bureau prides itself on providing quality public service in a timely, accurate, and courteous manner.

In 2010 there were 70 Fires within the Siskiyou Unit State Responsibility Area (SRA). These statistics do not include the 23 calls within SRA to debris burns without escape, or assistance on Local Response Area (LRA) Fires and Federal Response Area (FRA) Fires. In 2010 lightning was the leading ignition source for fires in the Unit. This is consistent with historical data which shows lightning as the number one cause of fires within the Unit.



## ENGINEERING & STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY

### Public Resources Code 4290

These regulations have been prepared and adopted for establishing minimum wildfire protection standards in conjunction with building, construction and development in State Responsibility Areas (SRA). These regulations became effective September 1, 1991. The future design and construction of structures, subdivisions and developments in State Responsibility Area (SRA) shall provide for basic emergency access and perimeter wildfire protection measures as specified in Public Resources Code (PRC 4290). These measures shall provide for emergency access, signing and building numbering, private water supply reserves for emergency fire use, and vegetation modification. The fire protection standards contained within PRC 4290 shall specify the minimums for such measures. The Unit enforces PRC 4290 in its original form. The county has not yet increased these standards.

The County of Siskiyou is currently in the process of developing a *Land Development Manual for Improvement Standards and Specifications*. The County's purpose of adopting standards for the development of land in Siskiyou County is to protect the health and safety of its citizens, and to minimize or avoid environmental consequences. When complete, this manual will reference Public Resources Code 4290 and include provisions requiring applicable improvements to either meet or exceed these regulations.



## Public Resources Code 4291

One of the main objectives of the Siskiyou Unit is to ensure residents comply with the provisions set forth within California Public Resources Code 4291. This is accomplished through education and enforcement. It is important residents recognize that their first defense against wildfire is to create and maintain defensible space around their homes.

California Public Resources Code 4291 requires property owners in mountainous areas, forest-covered lands, or any land that is covered with flammable material to create at a minimum a 100-foot defensible space (or to the property line) around their homes and other structures.

The state legislature enacted PRC 4291 to improve fire safety and to help prevent catastrophic fires. Under the law, property owners or those who control a property must establish a:

- 30-foot clean zone (or to property line).
- 70-foot reduced fuel zone (or to property line)

This does not mean the property must be clear-cut to bare soil, it involves thinning and breaking up the continuity of ladder fuels and large areas filled with contiguous shrubs that can readily transmit fire.



## FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Fire Safe Councils were developed with the mission to preserve California's natural and manmade resources by enlisting all Californians to make their homes, neighborhoods and communities fire safe. Siskiyou County is fortunate to have a large number of active Fire Safe Councils. The Siskiyou CAL FIRE Unit is very appreciative of the tremendous efforts these Fire Safe Councils have made in attempting to make Siskiyou County fire safe. Fire Safe Councils are pre-dominantly volunteer based organizations and are continually looking for new community members to join in their efforts. For a detailed list of Fire Safe Councils located in Siskiyou County refer to the Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County website: [www.firesafesiskiyou.org](http://www.firesafesiskiyou.org).

## SISKIYOU COUNTY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PANEL

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors recently created the Siskiyou County Wildfire Protection Panel. The purpose of the Siskiyou County Wildfire Protection Panel is to set forth and describe in detail the elements that shall be required of each community wildfire protection plan affecting lands within Siskiyou County. The County Plan will also describe the collaborative processes that are to be used in developing fuels reduction strategies and projects, as well as the community wildfire protection plans. In addition, the County Plan will establish County priorities for projects. As a result, opportunities for community forests or stewardship projects in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) may be identified. Membership on the panel consists of the County Natural Resource Specialist, representatives from CAL FIRE, the U.S. Forest Service and other members as deemed appropriate by the County Board of Supervisors.

## INFORMATION AND EDUCATION



Information and education is an extremely important component of the Siskiyou Unit. Each year the Unit participates and promotes many Fire Safety Education Programs throughout the County.

One of Siskiyou Units most successful Fire Safety Education Programs is the Fire Pals program. Fire Pals uses comedy and characterization to teach children about fire prevention and life safety at home and in the forest. In addition to Fire Pals, Smokey Bear and Sparky the Fire dog are commonly called to service to introduce and instill fire prevention and life safety messages in both children and adults. Our fire prevention messages are presented to the public by the Siskiyou Unit participating in hundreds of outreaches each year which include fair exhibits at (Siskiyou County Fair and Tulelake Fair), Northern California Special Olympics, poster contests, living with fire flyers, prevention road signs, rodeos, parades, classrooms, printed materials, radio, television spots, community meetings, Fire Safe Councils, one-on-one contacts with homeowners and up keeping of the Units web page. Our educational programs are informative and are provided to all ages.

Siskiyou Unit has a dedicated Volunteer in Prevention (VIP) Program that utilizes the citizens of our community who graciously volunteer their time to increase awareness, knowledge and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildland fires. VIPs assist in accomplishing these goals by conducting defensible space inspections required by Public Resource Code 4291. VIPs in the Siskiyou Unit educate thousands of people of all ages about fire prevention by participating in events and outreaches throughout Siskiyou County and other counties of California as well. Within the Siskiyou Unit, VIPs have also been trained to be fire lookouts, to inspect power lines, and to educate homeowners on how to keep their home fire safe. Furthermore, VIPs are trained to assist CAL FIRE's efforts in providing information to the media and public during wildland fires and other emergencies.

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The Siskiyou Unit Resource Management staff administers numerous programs which support the California Strategic Fire Plan.

### ***Fuels Modification***

- Forest Practice – Siskiyou Unit Resource Management staff is responsible to enforce the California Forest Practice Act and Forest Practice Rules for timber operations on private timberlands. This enforcement starts with the review of the initial project, and continues through the harvesting of timber to completion. During the review of commercial timber harvesting plans, Unit staff has opportunities to provide written recommendations to project proponents designed to facilitate a positive change in the methods in which timber operations are conducted. We continually look for ways to improve forest health, fire safety, hazard reduction, public safety, vehicular access, water sources, timing of operations, wildlife benefits, and other site specific mitigating measures necessary to support the California's Strategic Fire Plan. The treatment of logging slash to reduce the overall fuel hazard must comply with the rules and regulations, which generally apply around structures and along roads.



- Vegetation Management Program (VMP) - The Vegetation Management Program (VMP) is a cost-sharing program utilizing prescribed fire, and mechanical means, for addressing wildland fire fuel hazards and other resource management issues on State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands. The use of prescribed fire mimics natural processes, restores fire to its historic role in wildland ecosystems, and provides significant fire hazard reduction benefits that enhance public and firefighter safety.

VMP allows private landowners to enter into a contract with CAL FIRE to use prescribed fire to accomplish a combination of fire protection and resource management goals. The Unit will support projects that fit within the Unit's priority areas and are considered to be of the most value to the citizens and resources.

- California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) – A state cost share program to assist private timberland owners in the management of their lands. Eligible practices include: site preparation, reforestation, pre-commercial thinning, pruning, release, slash disposal and land conservation projects. Funding assistance to landowners is 75%, or up to 90% for projects on lands damaged by wildfire.
- Grant funded fuel treatments – These projects generally involve the construction or maintenance of fuel breaks in the Wildland-Urban interface.

### ***Environmental Review***

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires public agencies to consider actions on projects that may directly or indirectly result in a physical change in the environment. When CAL FIRE funds, approves, permits, facilitates or carries out a project as lead agency it is obligated to ensure that the appropriate steps are taken in complying with CEQA by preparing an environmental review. This review is conducted by a Resource Management representative in the Forester classification assigned as the Unit Environmental Coordinator.

Reviews conducted by the Environmental Coordinator ensures that the statutory responsibilities of CAL FIRE are addressed in the project planning phase. Examples of CAL FIRE projects in the Unit include facility construction or repairs, maintenance and fire hazard clearance; fuel reduction projects such as shaded fuel breaks, prescribed burns, and live fire training.

### ***Fire Suppression Repair***

CAL FIRE has authority to conduct fire suppression repair activities during emergency incidents on State Responsibility Areas (SRA). This authority is provided under the Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections 4675 & 4676. Fire suppression repair includes mitigating damage to resources and property caused by fire fighting efforts, including but not limited to, potential erosion from dozer and hand lines, road opening and watercourse crossings. The primary objective is to mitigate, fire suppression caused damage to as close to pre-fire conditions as is reasonably possible. This is done by minimizing sediment delivery to watercourses, mitigating slope conditions to pre-fire drainage patterns, removing fire suppression-related debris, restoring or removing berms and barriers as necessary, repairing gates and fence lines removed for fire control access, and implementing appropriate mitigation measures (in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist) to protect cultural and/or historic resource sites.

The Resource Management staff provides suppression repair duties in the Unit. Their natural resource background, training and knowledge of both fire control issues and methods of addressing complex environmental issues greatly support the California's Strategic Fire Plan. They work with landowners and other stakeholders to provide a rapid post-fire assessment of the burned area. They have many private and agency contacts, and effectively utilize available resources, including CAL FIRE hand crews, to accomplish the restoration and protection activities.

### ***Forest and Range Health***

CAL FIRE's mission emphasizes the management and protection of California's natural resources. The Resource Management Program is an integral part of that responsibility. Management of overstocked timber stands is necessary to achieve the goals of restoring, enhancing and protecting California's natural resources. Healthy forests are more productive, are more resistant to diseases that weaken trees or cause mortality, and generally are at lower risk to catastrophic wildfire. Restoring rangeland through prescribed burning of non-native noxious weeds, forbs and grasses promotes increased range health, which has environmental and socio-economic benefit