

2011 IGNITION MANAGEMENT PLAN

# CAL FIRE

MADERA-MARIPOSA-MERCED UNIT  
PRE-FIRE DIVISION  
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU



**Battalion 4220 Program Plan  
Year 2011  
Bureau Chief Bernie Quinn**

In 2010 there were several personnel changes within the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit (MMU). A new Battalion Chief joined Prevention staff as well as two new Fire Captains, one of which replaced a retired Fire Captain Specialist. One of the new Captains hired was sent to POST while the other new Fire Captain Specialist came to the unit POST certified and already having completed his FTO program. A Fire Captain Specialist completed his Field Training giving the Bureau an additional fulltime Peace Officer. Currently Assigned to the Prevention Bureau, there is a Battalion Chief, four Fire Captains, a Fire Prevention Specialist and an Office Technician.

In the unit there are currently nine full-time peace officers, including the one currently attending POST. The unit has three range masters and qualification shoots are held monthly.

Following department policy, MMU Prevention staff actively and aggressively investigates fires within the unit and pursues criminal and civil action against violators of forest and fire laws.

For the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit there were 1320 fires Unit-wide. State Responsibility Area accounted for 184 fires. Of those 184 SRA fires, three were sent to Region Office Cost Recovery totaling just under \$340,000.00. Four local civil cost recovery cases totaling just over \$10,400.00 were initiated in 2010.

The Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit conducted 12,041 LE 100 defensible space inspections in 2010 as compared to 9,269 in 2009. There were 777 hours of Prevention Education logged in 2010.

The Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit Fire Prevention Bureau will build on past successes while seeking ways to improve deficiencies identified throughout the past year. We will continue identifying ways to reduce unwanted wildland fires within our unit. The Fire Prevention Bureau will maintain relationships with our co-operators such as the Eastern Madera County and Mariposa Fire Safe Councils, South West Interface Team (SWIFT), Madera and Mariposa County Resource Conservation Districts, as well as many other local government and Federal agencies in land use planning and policy decisions. Through training it is a goal of the Bureau to enhance the law enforcement skills of all of its officers. Public contact and perception is important to Fire Prevention staff and we will continue to seek opportunities to increase the visibility of CAL FIRE.

### **State Responsibility Area Fire Cause Analysis**

- Undetermined:** For the year 2010 the highest percentage, 30%, of fire causes were listed as undermined. It is the priority goal of the bureau to lower the number of fires listed as "Undetermined".
- Lightning:** 2010 there were only two lightning-caused fires, or just 1% of our total fires.
- Campfires:** There were four campfire-caused fires resulting in 2% of our total SRA fires.
- Smoking:** Two percent of our fire ignitions were caused by smoking.
- Debris:** There were 16 debris burn escapes in the Unit, 10% of the Unit's overall ignitions.
- Arson:** The number of SRA arson fires decreased dramatically in 2010 from 2009: in 2009 there were 41 arson-caused ignitions; in 2010 there were only four, one of which resulted in an arrest.
- Equipment Use:** There were 15 equipment-caused fires in 2010, 9% of ignitions. The main cause of equipment fires is lawn mowers. Such fires were due to mower blades striking rocks or friction heat igniting the chaff. This is the fifth leading cause of fires in the Unit.

Public awareness, education, and enforcement of the Public Recourse Code will continue to be a priority for the Unit.

**Vehicle:** Vehicle fires accounted for 21 ignitions or 16 % of the units SRA fires. Vehicle fires are the third leading cause of fires within the SRA.

**Railroad:** There were no railroad-caused fires in the SRA in 2010.

**Electric Power:** Fifteen electrical fires within the SRA resulted in nine percent of ignitions within the Unit. The Robinson fire, which occurred in Battalion One, was caused by a bird coming into contact with the power line which resulted in the largest wildland fire in the SRA in 2010.

**Playing with fire:** Two percent of SRA fire ignitions were caused by children playing with fire. One fire resulted in 27 acres being burnt with the costs being in excess of \$175,000.00.

**Miscellaneous:** Miscellaneous fire causes resulted in 29 fires, 18% of ignitions in the SRA. This classification includes causes such as spontaneous combustion, fire place ashes deposited in the wildland, and fires associated with barbequing, cooking, and fireworks.

#### **Unit-Wide Fire Cause Analysis**

**Undetermined:** 373 Undetermined caused fires. This was the highest percentage of fire causes in 2010.

**Lightning:** Lightning accounted for four fires in the unit, less than .5%.

**Campfire:** Thirty-seven, or three percent, of the overall fires within the unit were caused by campfires.

**Smoking:** Smoking-caused fires resulted in 15, or 1%, of the Unit's total fire causes.

**Debris:** There were 81 debris burn escapes Unit-wide, seven percent of the Unit's over all ignitions.

**Arson:** Arson was the third leading cause of fires Unit-wide resulting in 13%, or 144 fires. This is a dramatic reduction from 2009 in which arson was the leading cause at 23% or 333 fires.

**Equipment Use:** There were 74 equipment-caused fires in 2010, 7% of ignitions. This is the seventh leading cause of fires Unit-wide.

**Vehicle:** Vehicle fires accounted for 105 ignitions, or 9 %, of the unit's fires. Vehicle fire is the fourth leading cause of fires unit wide.

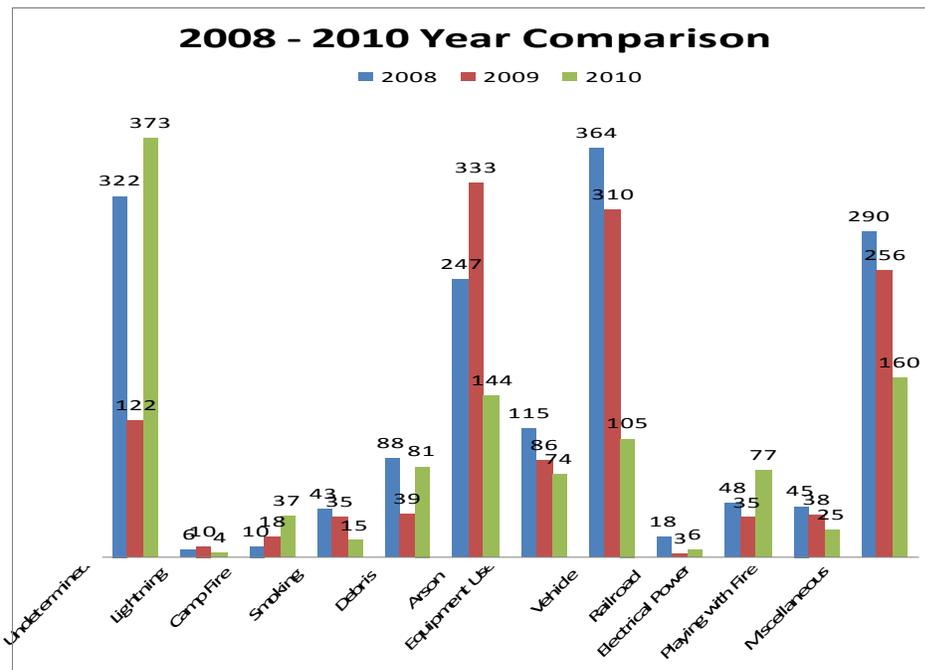
**Railroad:** There were six fires caused by railroad within the LRA, which amounts to less than .5% Unit-wide.

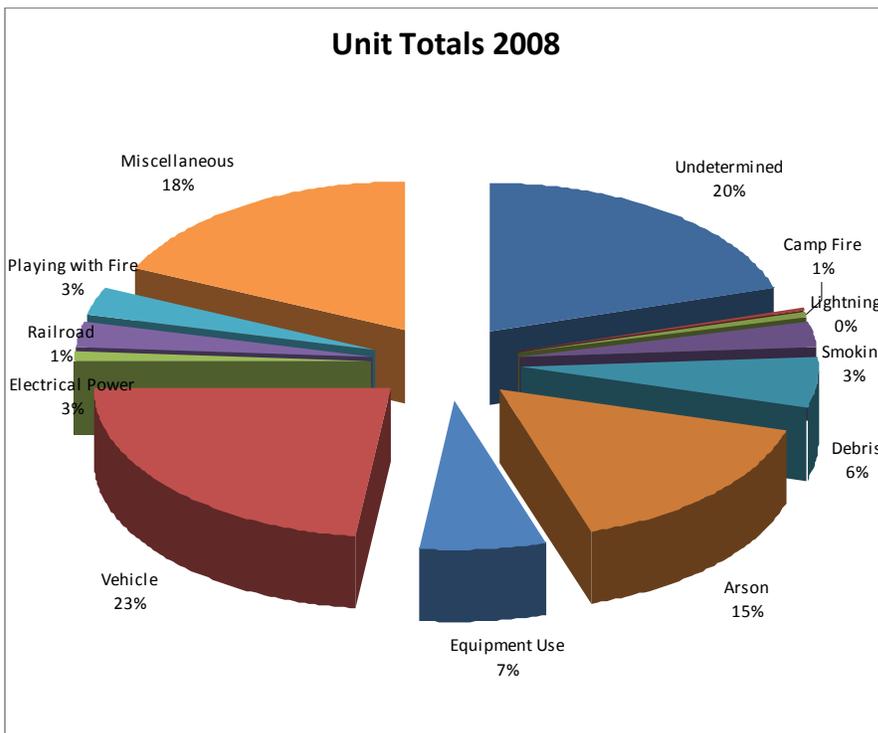
**Electric Power:** Seventy-seven electrical fires within the Unit resulted in 7% of ignitions.

**Playing with fire:** Twenty-five fire ignitions Unit-wide were caused by children playing with fire which equates to 2%.

**Miscellaneous:** Miscellaneous fire causes resulted in 160 fires, 14% of ignitions within the Unit. This classification includes causes such as spontaneous combustion, fire place ashes deposited in the wildland, and fires associated with barbequing, cooking fires, and fireworks.

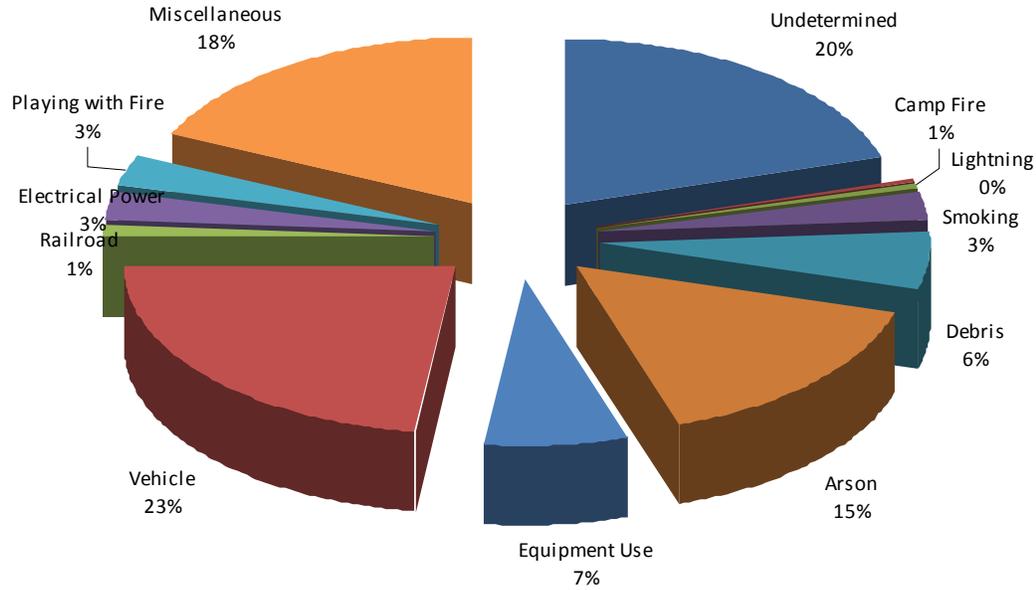
2008 - 2010 Year Comparison														
Cause	Undetermined	Lightning	Camp Fire	Smoking	Debris	Arson	Equipment Use	Vehicle	Railroad	Electrical Power	Playing with Fire	Miscellaneous	Total Fires	Total SRA Fires
2008	322	6	10	43	88	247	115	364	18	48	45	290	1596	192
2009	122	10	18	35	39	333	86	310	3	35	38	256	1285	165
2010	373	4	37	15	81	144	74	105	6	77	25	160	1101	161





<b>2008</b>														
Cause	Undetermined	Lightning	Camp Fire	Smoking	Debris	Arson	Equipment Use	Vehicle	Railroad	Electrical Power	Playing with Fire	Miscellaneous	Total Fires	Total SRA Fires
BATTALION 4211	3	1	1	0	5	1	1	11	0	2	2	3	30	30
BATTALION 4212	4	2	0	0	12	6	0	5	0	1	1	4	35	35
BATTALION 4214	7	0	1	3	6	10	6	7	0	2	1	21	64	64
BATTALION 4215	18	0	1	3	3	6	3	13	0	1	4	11	63	63
BATTALION 10	43	0	1	7	2	6	5	24	6	3	8	48	153	
BATTALION 13	78	1	0	4	20	104	26	82	1	7	2	54	379	
BATTALION 14	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	6	0	0	1	16	
BATTALION 16	39	1	3	6	10	23	25	35	3	8	5	35	193	
SRA Batt 16	3						2			2		2		9
BATTALION 17	53	1	1	7	11	22	20	100	0	11	6	38	270	
SRA Batt 17	23			1			2				1	5	32	32
BATTALION 18	47	0	0	7	8	14	9	33	2	7	3	30	160	
SRA Batt 18														
BATTALION 19	30	0	2	6	11	55	12	53	0	6	13	45	233	
<b>Totals by Cause</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>1596</b>	<b>192</b>

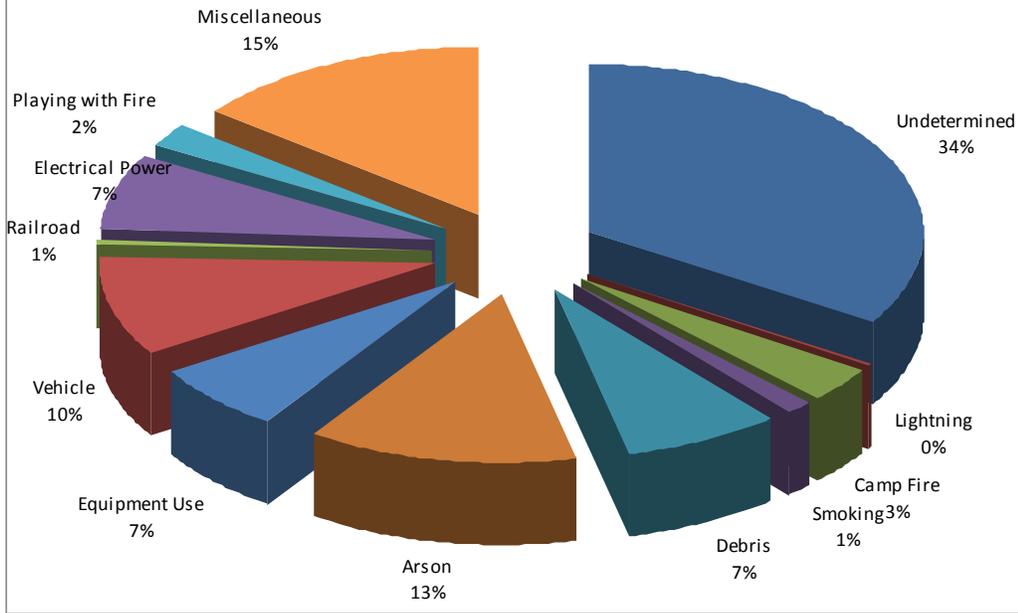
## Unit Totals 2009



## 2009

Cause	2009												Total Fires	Total SRA Fires
	Undetermined	Lightning	Camp Fire	Smoking	Debris	Arson	Equipment Use	Vehicle	Railroad	Electrical Power	Playing with Fire	Miscellaneous		
BATTALION 4211	2	0	0	0	0	7	1	1	0	0	1	3	15	15
BATTALION 4212	0	0	0	1	1	6	0	5	0	0	0	4	17	17
BATTALION 4214	2	1	0	0	2	13	1	4	0	0	0	11	34	38
BATTALION 4215	5	0	0	2	2	15	1	7	0	0	1	12	45	45
BATTALION 10	10	0	1	3	4	37	8	37	0	1	0	19	120	
BATTALION 13	34	3	5	6	5	72	35	95	1	8	13	64	341	
BATTALION 14	6	0	0	2	1	12	8	15	0	0	2	24	70	
BATTALION 16	6	0	1	1	1	29	9	29	0	3	4	16	99	
SRA Batt 16	1				1								2	2
BATTALION 17	17	1	1	8	3	48	8	66	0	6	7	32	197	
SRA Batt 17	10		1	1	1	4	1	26				3	47	47
BATTALION 18	17	4	3	9	4	34	11	20	2	12	6	22	144	
SRA Batt 18						2							2	2
BATTALION 19	23	1	7	3	16	60	4	31	0	5	4	49	203	
<b>Totals by Cause</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>1285</b>	<b>166</b>

### Unit Totals 2010



### 2010

Cause	Undetermined	Lightning	Camp Fire	Smoking	Debris	Arson	Equipment Use	Vehicle	Railroad	Electrical Power	Playing with Fire	Miscellaneous	Total Fires	Total SRA Fires
Battalion 4211	1	0	0	0	4	0	3	2	0	2	0	3	15	15
Battalion 4212	8	0	1	1	5	0	6	2	0	2	0	6	31	31
Battalion 4214	10	0	2	1	1	3	2	7	0	6	1	9	42	42
Battalion 4215	19	2	0	2	5	1	2	3	0	4	1	9	48	48
Battalion 10	31	0	9	1	2	30	0	15	0	11	5	14	118	
Battalion 13	109	1	9	3	23	33	17	33	2	18	6	35	289	
Battalion 14	11	0	0	0	1	7	0	2	0	0	2	4	27	
Battalion 16	41	0	4	1	10	18	16	4	2	7	2	15	120	
SRA Batt 16	1						1							2
Battalion 17	70	0	4	2	10	16	8	15	0	11	3	24	163	
SRA Batt 17	8				1		1	7		1	1	1		20
Battalion 18	32	0	4	2	15	8	12	10	2	9	1	18	113	
SRA Batt 18	1		1									1		3
Battalion 19	41	1	4	2	5	28	8	12	0	7	4	23	135	
<b>Totals by Cause</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>1101</b>	<b>161</b>

**- ENGINEERING & STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY**

The Madera-Mariposa-Merced Fire Prevention Bureau oversees the application of Public Resource Code 4290 and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Code 1270 on all private lands classified as SRA within Mariposa County. In 2010 there were 44 building permit applications approved and 88 final inspections completed in Mariposa County. Mariposa County Planning and Building Department receives a building permit application and provides a copy of permit to Fire Prevention for review. When the project has been completed the homeowner/contactor contacts Fire Prevention for a final inspection. Fire Prevention then conducts the inspection and, if the project is in compliance with all fire safe requirements, the inspection is approved and final paperwork is then submitted to the County for issuance of Certificate of Occupancy. In addition to formal inspections, Fire Prevention staff has performed over 150 informal, pre-inspections upon landowner request.



## ***DID YOU KNOW...?***

That the average well water storage tank holds the same amount of water as 5 Fire Engines?



***With the right connections YOUR Well Water Storage Tank can become another source of water for a Fire Engine. This can be important due to the great distances between Fire Stations. By contacting your local Well System Company for installation of the correct connections, an Engine Crew can hook Fire Hose to your Water Storage Tank and pull water to assist in putting out a fire, either on your property or on your neighbor's!***

**A general estimated cost, depending on your tank needs, is between \$200-\$500.**

**Something important to think about doing.**

**Thank you!**

## - INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The Fire Prevention Specialist II for the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit, under the general direction of the Fire Prevention Bureau Chief, has program responsibility for the following:

- School Programs
- Career Day Events
- Fairs
- Exhibits and Displays
- Public Information - News Releases and Interviews
- Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program Manager
- Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Team Coordinator
- Volunteer In Prevention Coordinator
- Roadside Sign Production
- Parades
- Public Officer
- Public Presentations
- Develop Corporate Sponsorships
- Smokey Bear - Fire Safety Programs
- Sparky the Fire Dog- Fire and Life Safety Programs
- Smokey Bear 10K Race
- Order, stock, store, and disseminate fire prevention and public safety materials and supplies
- Develop/create, purchase, stock, and utilize fire and life safety displays
- Vehicle care and maintenance
- Management of Assigned Budget

### SCHOOL PROGRAMS

School Programs consist of various portions and/or options including "Team Teaching", "Flannel Board", "9-1-1", "Stop/Drop and Roll", "EDITH and DAN", "Poster Contests", "Friendly Firefighter", "7th and 8th Grade Presentation" and "Station Tours" to be utilized for the proper audience. A minimum of 25 schools are visited by the FPS II each year with a total of 1600 to 1800 children in Madera and Mariposa Counties.

The basic fire safety program that teaches children not to play with matches, lighters or fire is the "Team Teaching" program. Team Teaching targets preschool through second grade.

Team Teaching is a highly professional program developed by teachers, CAL FIRE personnel, and child psychologists. This program utilizes Smokey Bear, an internationally recognized fire prevention symbol to teach children not to play with matches, lighters, or fire. Pre-planning is the most important factor for a successful team teaching program. Historically the program has been presented to school children in cooperation with local government and/or county fire departments, Fire Safe Councils, and the United States Forest Service.

The FPS II (Fire Prevention Specialist II) is responsible for contacting every organized preschool and elementary school within Madera and Mariposa counties. Each spring a phone call is made to each school to schedule the annual "Team Teaching" program. It has become increasingly difficult to

schedule all cooperating parties and the schools due to scheduling conflicts, winter staffing levels, budgetary issues, and testing policies at each school.

The first planning meeting the FPS II must schedule is with the U.S. Forest Service and local government representatives to create a calendar of potential dates for the program. Then each school is called to place them on the schedule. When the schedule is complete the program materials are gathered, counted, and prepared. The FPS II then coordinates the Team Teaching calendar with all of CAL FIRE and County Fire Station personnel, Chief Officers, each school, and the Volunteers in Prevention. A request is formulated and each VIP is contacted by letter, email, and by telephone to request assistance for the program.

The Flannel Board Program is designed specifically for preschool children. It can be used for kindergarten also. This program has been met with great success. Teachers have stated that the flannel board story held the children's attention and that, beyond enjoying the lesson, the children retained the information from the presentation. The flannel board is the story of Smokey Bear and a family that drove to the wildland to enjoy the day. The "Don't play with matches, lighters, or fire" theme is introduced to the students and they are told what to do with them if they find them. Each class of students at this age is different so the amount of information that is provided is tailored to their ability to understand and absorb the information. If appropriate, a demonstration of smoke detectors and exit drills in the home occurs. Occasionally personnel from an engine company will don their personal safety gear to show the children what they could expect to see if/when coming into contact with a firefighter. An entire dialogue occurs during this time explaining the firefighters' role for the children during an emergency; what each piece of clothing, gear, and equipment is used for; and why it is important. Questions and answers are allowed if time permits. A packet containing a CAL FIRE sticker; a stop, drop and roll pencil; a Smokey Bear comic book; and a Smokey Bear coloring book are left with the teacher for each student. Smokey Bear comes into the classroom and the FPS II helps the children tell Smokey what they have learned. Smokey is pleased to accept them in his club as "Smokey's Helpers". The FPS II wishes everyone a safe summer and Smokey and the crew leave.

Kindergarten through second grade is the target audience for Team Teaching. This program takes 35 minutes to present per classroom. When the "team" arrives at the school, the FPS II checks in with the office to get the schedule for the day and to make arrangements for a safe and secure changing area for Smokey Bear. One team member will play Smokey and one will be Smokey's escort. Additional team members will be responsible for presenting fire safety messages to the students; counting and distributing handout materials; demonstrating and assisting with stop, drop and roll; friendly firefighter; 9-1-1; smoke detector training; and EDITH and DAN information, etc. When the program presentation is complete the class receives a visit from Smokey Bear. The students are quizzed about what they have learned and Smokey is happy to welcome them as "Smokey's Helpers". A follow-up packet of materials are left for each student with the teacher containing the following materials: The True Story of Smokey Bear comic book; Smokey Bear coloring book; CAL FIRE

sticker; pencil with stop, drop, and roll message; Fire Prevention bookmark; and a large poster for the classroom. The second grade students receive the "Discover Fire Safety Book" and the teacher receives the Smokey Bear Thematic Teacher's Guide. The FPS II must make sure to schedule the Smokey Bear costume, SCBA with shroud and mask, a set of turnouts with structure boots, a smoke detector, props that look like a lighter, a book of matches and enough qualified volunteers.

#### 7th and 8th Grade Presentation

This presentation is given in an assembly at the school by the FPS II. The focus is Juvenile Firesetting behaviors and is presented with discussion under the following categories: Introduction; Icebreaker questions; Explanation of who, what, when, where and why juveniles set fires. The talk includes who becomes involved when a fire is set, a critical thinking portion is explored, and then it moves into consequences for poor choices; economic of fire setting; how fire is represented by the media, by peers, and by teachers; accidental fires, cry for help fires and arson fires. A review of basic fire safety principals is typically included. Then a discussion of how juvenile firesetting can be prevented in the community starts, which generally leads to a discussion on parenting and bullying issues. This program is provided to 11 elementary schools in Madera and Mariposa counties.

The FPS II assists in the training of Unit personnel in public fire prevention education programs.

#### CAREER DAYS

These programs are provided by request only. The FPS II coordinates, plans, and provides the display and/or presentation materials to station personnel appropriate to the age level of the audience and confirms dates, times, locations, and materials requested. The FPS II attends the event to provide a table top display, information and job bulletins. Furthermore the FPS II must notify the Battalion Chief and Station personnel and place requests for engines and staff to assist.

#### FAIRS

The FPS II plans, coordinates, constructs, staffs and manages the Mariposa and Madera County fairs. He or she provides support, staff and materials for the Los Banos Fair and the Merced County Fair.

He or she is the responsible party for contract agreements, display location, display theme, duration, staff, set up and removal for Mariposa and Madera County Fair. Additionally the FPS II must notify the Battalion Chief and Station personnel and place requests for engines and staff.

#### EXHIBITS AND DISPLAYS

The FPS II responds to requests to provide exhibits and displays. He or she determines the theme, recruits VIPs to assist with staffing, and notifies the Battalion Chief and Station personnel of the request. He or she also constructs displays and puts exhibits together for Fire Prevention Week; Station Open House; Poster Contests; Wildfire Awareness Week; Mt. Heritage Days; Town Hall Meetings; Fairs; Fire Safe Council events; and other community requests.

The FPS II oversees and ensures departmental policies and procedures for consistency in fire prevention, education, information and the dissemination for forest fire laws in the Unit's exhibits and displays.

#### **PUBLIC INFORMATION**

Under the direction of the Unit Prevention Bureau Chief or Incident Commander, the FPS II functions as a Public Information Officer for the Unit, or statewide as a Field PIO, PIO Center Manager, PIO in JIC, PIO on unified command incidents, etc), to provide information regarding events of public interest, public safety, evacuations conditions, and emergency response situations, etc. by issuing Public Service Announcements, news releases, media briefings, television, radio and print interviews, verbal and other written communication. The FPS II preplans the public service announcements; writes and reviews news releases, and prepares articles for newsletters. He or she provides, conducts or arranges for appropriate CAL FIRE personnel to provide live and pre-recorded radio and TV interviews according to departmental guidelines and procedures and the format prescribed by the Communications Section of CAL FIRE. The FPS II ensures that accurate information is expensed to the media and works with local PIOs to assist in dissemination of information. He or she should work to create and maintain good relationships with the media, the public, and other agencies to ensure adequate distribution of accurate information to the public. The PFE II writes articles or reports for various publications (Departmental or otherwise) to advertise or inform the public, the Department or other agencies of activities, issues or other pertinent information. He or she distributes news releases to the media and elected officials on various topics such as information relating to an arson arrest, media event, preparedness levels, etc. Furthermore the FPS II plans, designs and coordinates in cooperation with the Sierra Star newspaper the annual fire safety and home clearance section. The FPS II participates as an instructor for the Emergency Command Center Academy Course at the CAL FIRE Academy in lone to provide departmental guidelines, policies and procedures to assure Departmental compliance with state Policies in the ECC.

#### **JUVENILE FIRESETTER INTERVENTION SPECIALIST**

Under the direction of the Fire Prevention Bureau Chief, the FPS II is responsible for developing and maintaining the Units Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program (JFS). He or she develops the program for the Unit and compiles materials, videos, and programs to educate Juvenile Firesetters of the dangers of playing with fire. The FPS II should be certified at a Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I and II. He or she will respond to requests for intervention interviews assessments from the Madera, Mariposa and Merced County Sheriffs Office, the Madera, Mariposa and Merced County Probation Office, local school administrators, concerned parents and referrals from station personnel and/or Fire Prevention Bureau Staff.

The FPS II will develop a Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program Team and recruit personnel from the Unit to join the team. As the JFS team coordinator, the FPS II provides them with the initial Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I training. He or she will coordinate interview requests for the team and monitor their interview techniques and reports. Additionally he or she will

supply the team with updates in the JFS field. It is vital to supply the team members with the JFIS II training. Unfortunately this class has not been offered locally in recent years.

#### VIP COORDINATOR

The Volunteers In Prevention (VIP) of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is an efficient fire prevention and loss reduction education force for California. Each year wildfires burn thousands of acres of California's watershed, timber, and grasslands. As a result, millions of dollars in damage are done to the environment; homes are destroyed; lives are threatened and sometimes lost. With 95 percent of the wildland fires CAL FIRE responds to each year being the product of negligence, fire prevention and public life safety education are key to reducing losses from fires in California. The VIP program is a vital part of providing this service to the Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit. The following is a list of activities that VIP's are asked to provide support.

1. Fire and Life Safety Education Programs
2. Public Information Education.
3. LE 100 Inspection Program under PRC 4291
4. Red Flag, Holiday, and Arson Patrols
5. Communications

The FPS II coordinates and manages the Unit's VIP program. This includes recruitment and training of VIP's, identification and tracking of the Units VIP activities and maintenance of the Unit's VIP data base. The FPS will maintain and file records to track all VIP hours, miles driven, events attended and training provided. I provide letters of proof of service on demand for VIP's. Upon request the FPS II will provide a potential VIP the CAL FIRE 670 form. When it is completed and returned, he or she will process the form, supply the new VIP with a welcome packet, and add the individual to the VIP database. The welcome packet includes information on the VIP identification card, a VIP Orientation Guide, VIP Activity Sheet, AO 448 and AO 449 forms and a list of contact information.

There is no mandatory number of hours required of a volunteer, but the FPS II may require at least one program per year for a VIP to stay active. If that requirement is not met the FPS II will send out a letter of inactivity to the VIP and place them on an inactive list for one year. After that year if the VIP has not responded, they are deleted from the system. All VIPs work under the direction of the FPS II and he or she is responsible for their performance. If necessary, the FPS II shall follow the Departmental Progressive Discipline Policy for all inappropriate behavior. He or she shall provide annual training classes for the VIPs which includes PIO and Defensive Driving. The FPS II is responsible for tracking the VIP hours donated, miles driven, meal costs and related expenses. The FPS II may also track some certificates and training records in addition to completing all VIP Performance Evaluations. He or she will process all CALATERs forms for each VIP and is responsible for keeping VIP uniform shirts in stock and delivering them to each VIP. If a VIP becomes injured while volunteering, the FPS II is also responsible for processing their IAPS forms, as they are covered under workers' compensation insurance.

The FPS II assists the Unit LE 100 inspection process by recruiting VIPs to perform first and second home clearance inspections. The FPS II provides annual LE 100 training for VIPs that are interested in helping with this process and conducts inspections upon request.

The FPS II is responsible for recruitment and retention of VIPs. This has become increasingly difficult over the past decade due to a decline in support and funding for the VIP program. The VIP program is in competition with programs supported by AmeriCorps. This program provides funding for uniforms, awards, certificates, vehicles, training and advertisements. The FPS II may attempt to incorporate Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) training into the VIP program.

#### ROAD SIDE SIGNS

The FPS II will plan and construct road side signs for the entire Unit. He or she shall purchase the materials, deliver them to a vendor or a conservation camp for construction of all signs, pick the signs up when completed, and deliver them to the appropriate stations for display. The FPS II will track all signs in a database and contact station personnel four times each year to remind them to change out their road side signs, to check on locations, and assist with any problems.

#### Poster Contest

Every other year the FPS II will coordinate a poster contest within school programs. The FPS II will advertise the contest, collect and judge the entries. During the school programs the FPS II will present each winner with an award. The overall winner in each category will have a road side sign constructed from their poster.

#### PARADES

The FPS II receives the requests for and processes all documents and entry certificates for all parades in the Unit. He or she plans and coordinates with the Fire Prevention Bureau Chief, the battalion Chief and station personnel to ensure equipment, staff and VIPs are available to participate. The FPS II will collect, deliver and supply all necessary handouts, materials and Smokey Bear or Sparky the Fire Dog. The FPS II may occasionally participate in the Parades as time and work load permit.

#### PUBLIC OFFICER

As a public officer, the FPS II is responsible for keeping current on all relevant training. The FPS II will assist the Unit when necessary in issuing citations. After responding to a request, the FPS II completes a citation package; delivers it to all appropriate parties, including the local District Attorney; and keeps all necessary documentation in a secure file cabinet.

#### PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Upon request the FPS II shall provide fire and life safety presentation to the public, local businesses, group, clubs, and organizations. Each request is different in nature and requires research of the topic, construction of displays, development of a PowerPoint presentation, and preparation of handout

materials. If necessary the FPS II arranges for an expert guest speaker for a specific topic of request.

#### CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

The FPS II shall seek corporate sponsorship for programs and purchase of materials. One example of this would be the annual Smokey Bear Color Contest. This program is sponsored by Sierra Telephone and the Sierra Star newspaper. The coverage area for this contest includes Madera and Mariposa counties.

The FPS II will work with Pacific Gas and Electric, Smokey Bear Race Committee, Home Depot, Mariposa Feed Store, Sierra Telephone Company, ABC Channel 30 Television, Intermountain Nursery, Western Sierra Nursery, Chukchansi Resort and Casino and ACE Hardware.

Each sponsorship attempt requires the preparation of a proposal, presentation of the proposal and follow-up with each potential sponsor. If the proposal is accepted, the FPS II will facilitate the purchase, construction, delivery, creation and implementation of the request.

#### SMOKEY BEAR

The FPS II is responsible for the purchase, maintenance, appearance and security of the Unit's Smokey Bear costumes. There are specific federal and state requirements and regulations to the use, care, and security of the Smokey Bear costume and image. Smokey Bear is a widely recognized fire prevention symbol and his success and longevity are directly related to the standards that have been identified for use and all aspects of the Smokey image, public appearances and care of the costume. The FPS II will utilize Smokey Bear in the majority of all fire prevention programs in the Unit. The FPS II will ship or deliver Smokey to approved events, recruit VIPs to be Smokey Bear or his escort, receives the Smokey costume when it is returned from events, and stores the Smokey Bear costume. Occasionally the FPS II will dress up as Smokey Bear when necessary.

#### SPARKY THE FIRE DOG

The FPS II is responsible for the purchase, maintenance, appearance and security of the Unit's Sparky the Fire Dog costumes. There are specific state requirements and regulations to the use, care and security of the Sparky the Fire Dog costume and image. The FPS II will utilize Sparky in many fire prevention programs in the Unit. He or she will ship or deliver Sparky to approved events, recruit VIPs to be Sparky or his escort at events, receive the Sparky costume when it is returned from events, and store Sparky. Occasionally the FPS II will dress up as Sparky when necessary.

#### SMOKEY BEAR 10 K RACE

As a member of the Smokey Bear Race committee, the FPS II shall attend monthly committee meetings as a representative of CAL FIRE. As such he or she is responsible for assisting with race planning, advertisements, registration, food, raffle prizes, t-shirts, trophies, announcer equipment, water stations, radio communicators, award ceremonies, banners, corporate sponsorships and

donations. The FPS II will also assist with publicity, all race day functions, and recruitment of runners. Each year the committee votes on the distribution of the proceeds from the event. They must benefit eastern Madera County citizens. The 2010 race proceeds facilitated the purchase of school program materials and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors for eastern Madera County along with new ball caps for the Unit's VIP program.

## B: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

### Resource Management Forester Guy Anderson

Resource Management in MMU consists of administration and enforcement of Forest Practice Act, administration of California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP), administration of Prop 40 fuel reduction fund, administration and supervision of Hazard Fuels Treatment Grants (HFT), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance for Unit projects, and general service forestry.

The 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 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. Listed below are 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 act.) 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.
2. **Emergency Notice of Operations** - This emergency allows for the harvest of dead and dying trees to capture fire salvage in addition to insect- and disease-killed trees.
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.
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 within 150 feet of a permitted structure. All slash is to 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 of 100 acres or less.
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).
8. **Non-industrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP)** - A long-term timber harvesting plan with no termination date for a timberland owner with less than 2,500 acres.

In 2010, there were 4 active THPs for a total of 1986 acres under harvest. There are 10 NTMPs for a total of 5052 acres under active management. A total of 11 exemptions were in the Unit for a total of 201 acres. There is one pending forest practice enforcement action that has been referred to Civil Penalties adjudication. To achieve compliance of the Forest Practice Act, public education is the tool of choice and then enforcement action.

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

There were no CFIP projects funded in 2010. The Unit encourages fuel reduction CFIP projects. There are 8 CFIP projects awaiting funding. Most are fuel reduction projects, with one being a reforestation fire rehabilitation project.

#### **PROPOSITION 40**

There were three Prop 40 funded projects in the Unit: Stumpfield/Watts Shaded Fuel Break Phase II, Lushmeadows Shaded Fuel Break, and New Road 620 Shaded Fuel Break. Stumpfield/Watts Shaded Fuel Break Phase II is now complete. Lushmeadows and New Road 620 are both currently inactive awaiting additional funding from Prop 40.

#### **HFT Grants**

There were five HFT grants pending in the Unit: Stumpfield-Watts Fuel Break, Lush Meadows Shaded fuel Break, Greeley Hill VMP, Kinsman Flat VMP and Miami Mountain-Salts Spring Shaded Fuel Break. Stumpfield-Watts Fuel Break is now complete. Lush Meadows Shaded Fuel Break is active and scheduled for completion in the spring of 2012. The Greeley Hill VMP and Kinsman Flat VMP are in the environmental planning stage scheduled for completion in the fall of 2011 and winter of 2012. The Miami Mountain-Salts Spring Shaded Fuel Break is currently inactive.

#### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance**

The Unit seeks 100% CEQA compliance on all projects. Some of units projects requiring CEQA documents include: Bark Beetle tree removal at Usona Fire Station, tree planting at Usona Fire Station, and road repair at Mount Bullion Conservation Camp.

#### **Service Forestry and Urban Forestry**

The Unit Forester is also required to provide forestry advice upon request to private landowners. This advice includes, but is not limited to, recommendations for fuel 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. Urban Forestry activities within the Unit include annual Arbor Day presentations at the cities of Los Banos and Merced.