

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the last decade San Bernardino Unit has seen unprecedented change in the dynamics of public safety within the Unit, with population growth pushing further and further into the wildland areas, prolonged drought, and poor forest health, along with a dramatic increase in bark beetle infestation that killed off approximately one third of all the pine trees in the local mountains. All public agencies including CAL FIRE were faced with an overwhelming public safety emergency that would take all agencies collaborating to handle. Thus in 2002 the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce or MAST was formed. MAST is a coalition of local, state and federal government agencies, private companies and volunteer organizations, in San Bernardino and Riverside counties working together to help prevent catastrophic wildfires, and to address the public safety concerns affiliated with the Wildland Urban Interface. The San Bernardino Unit continues to be an active participant in MAST and its efforts to coordinate projects related to public safety, fuel reduction and forest health. MAST operational meetings are held monthly where projects by the various agencies are coordinated to help insure the best use of public funds, develop more effective fuel reduction projects and educate the public. The MAST has achieved a remarkable degree of success in this interagency cooperative environment, and CAL FIRE San Bernardino Unit is proud to be a part of this effort.

As we start to experience a decline in pine tree mortality within the San Bernardino Mountains, we have also had an opportunity to step back and reevaluate the needs in the rest of the Unit. During this reevaluation we have found several community defense and watershed improvement projects within the Owens Valley Battalion, which we are currently pursuing with the local agencies. These projects also present an opportunity to share some of the programs and ideals learned during the emergency experienced in San Bernardino County. Our hope is that we can take the MAST concept of interagency cooperation and emulate it within the other counties in our Unit. The mission of the San Bernardino Unit is “Working together today for a healthier, safer and more resilient tomorrow.” With this attitude we feel we can best serve the people of California.

SIGNATURES

Unit Strategic Fire Plan developed for San Bernardino:

This Plan:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties, Federal, State, City, and County agencies within the Unit have been consulted and are listed in the plan.
- Identifies and prioritizes pre fire and post fire management strategies and tactics meant to reduce the loss of values at risk within the Unit.
- Is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only. It is the responsibility of those implementing the projects to ensure that all environmental compliance and permitting processes are met as necessary.



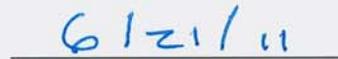
Unit Chief
Tim McClelland



Date



Pre-Fire Engineer
Paul Camarena



Date