



CAL FIRE's 2022-23 FIRE PREVENTION REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

PURSUANT TO PRC 4137 AND PRC 4291.5

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE)
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL (OSFM),
COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION DIVISION**

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The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection serves and safeguards the people and protects the property and resources of California.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CAL FIRE annually reports the work completed in fire prevention per Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 4137 and most recently, Assembly Bill 203 (Section 35, Statutes 2022). Many of these activities and accomplishments have also been reported throughout the year in media stories and to the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. This report details the activities within CAL FIRE’s fire prevention programs that are identified in PRC 4137 and includes totals for the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program awarded throughout the State.

The reporting period covers activities completed by and funded by CAL FIRE from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. The following highlights the included information and accomplishments:

- Fire Prevention Activities:
 - Defensible Space Inspections: 253,587
 - Defensible Space citations issued: 1,048
 - Public Education hours: 13,531
 - Mechanical Fuel Reduction: 53,774 acres
 - Prescribed Fire Fuel Reduction: 37,826 acres
- Fire Prevention Funding;
- Fire Suppression Costs recovered through the Civil Cost Recovery Program: \$80.5 million;
- CAL FIRE’s target goals for fire prevention activities for Fiscal Year 2023-24;
- The number of and total contracted amount for CAL FIRE’s Amador Contracts; and
- The number of grant applications and awards for the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program, by county.

CAL FIRE has developed a dynamic air table that will provide the public with transparency for environmental documents and information about California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for projects undertaken by CAL FIRE as the Lead agency or Responsible agency. The project description, mitigation, maintenance, and monitoring requirements are available from the website below. CEQA document types that may be found include: Notice of Exemption (NOE), California Vegetation Treatment Program (Cal VTP) plans, Negative Declarations (ND), Mitigated Negative Declarations (MND) and/or Environmental Impact Statements or Impact Reports (EIS or EIR), and Notice of Determination (NOD) or Notice of Completion (NOC). The air table is located at [Environmental Protection Program | CAL FIRE.](#)

BACKGROUND

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is unwavering in its commitment to safeguarding nearly 31 million acres of privately-owned wildlands in California, with a focus on fire protection, prevention, and responsible stewardship of natural resources. Furthermore, CAL FIRE extends its services to over half of the State's counties through contractual agreements with local governments, ensuring diverse emergency services are readily accessible to communities across the State.

Preventing wildfires within the State Responsibility Area (SRA) stands as a pivotal mission for CAL FIRE. Over the years, CAL FIRE has continually adapted to combat the evolving and destructive nature of wildfires, significantly escalating its fire prevention efforts. These endeavors are orchestrated through the recently established Community Wildfire and Mitigation Division, overseeing a comprehensive fire prevention program. This program encompasses various activities, such as pre-fire wildland planning, wildfire risk reduction, land use planning, and public education.

The spectrum of fire prevention initiatives includes projects like fuel reduction, prescribed burns, defensible space inspections, home hardening, land use planning, emergency evacuation planning, fire prevention education, fire hazard severity mapping, and fire-related law enforcement activities.

While 2022 witnessed a below-average number of fires compared to the five-year average, California's peak wildfire seasons continue to lengthen due to the undeniable impact of climate change. The total acreage consumed in 2022 was substantially less, with fewer than 400,000 acres burned, in stark contrast to the five-year average of over 1,889,000 acres.

Despite the apparent reduction in acreage, several significant wildfires ravaged California in 2022, including the Oak Fire in Mariposa County, which destroyed over 180 structures, the McKinney Fire in Siskiyou County, claiming four lives, and the Mosquito Fire in Placer and El Dorado counties, ranking as the largest wildfire of the year in California.

Fiscal Year 2022-23 posed considerable challenges to CAL FIRE's fuel reduction efforts, attributable to climate change, reduced crew availability, winter flooding, and ongoing wildfire activity. In early 2023, the State experienced a precipitation level 141% above the average, which alleviated wildfire risk but simultaneously fostered new vegetation, potentially fueling future fires. From December 2022 to April 2023, CAL FIRE personnel and resources were consistently mobilized in response to atmospheric river events, providing immediate support to ongoing recovery efforts. CAL FIRE's emergency

response to the widespread storm impacts spanned 43 counties, involved 33 crews, five Damage Inspection Teams, and two Incident Management Teams, all deployed to safeguard communities and assist numerous local government agencies across the entire State. Additionally, in August 2022, CAL FIRE launched an interactive online viewer for fuel reduction projects, offering the public easy access to the locations of recent and completed projects, accessible at [Pre-Fire Planning | OSFM \(ca.gov\)](#).

The Department's comprehensive "all of the above" strategy has proven to be an effective approach to wildfire prevention and enhancing community resilience. This multi-pronged strategy underscores the simultaneous importance of homeowner efforts in creating defensible spaces and fortifying homes, complemented by community-level fuel breaks and broader landscape-scale projects. Together, these initiatives constitute a critical spectrum of wildfire prevention endeavors.

As California's climate continues to undergo transformation, it threatens the way of life for its residents. Consequently, we must collectively strive to create a more fire-resilient natural environment, develop fire-resistant buildings and infrastructure, and foster a society that is keenly aware of and responsive to both the benefits and threats posed by wildland fires. Achieving these goals necessitates collaboration between local, State, federal, tribal, and private partners.

The overwhelming majority of CAL FIRE's budget, approximately \$3.3 billion out of a total of \$3.8 billion for the 2022-23 fiscal year, is allocated towards wildfire protection and suppression, commonly referred to as wildfire response or firefighting. It is important to note that CAL FIRE leverages its fire suppression resources in performing various fuel reduction and fire prevention activities. For example, CAL FIRE's engine companies and crews constantly work on fuel reduction efforts including prescribed fire, as emergency incidents allow. The residual funding plays a crucial role in sustaining various other Departmental responsibilities, including wildfire prevention initiatives and resource management activities designed to enhance the overall health of our forests. These programs will address the most pressing vegetation management and community protection projects that are known to CAL FIRE and its partners and meet the statutory requirements specific to defensible space inspections and home hardening retrofitting required by AB 38 (Chapter 391, Statutes of 2019).

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES (PRC 4137)

Pursuant to PRC 4137, listed below is the breakdown of the fire prevention activities performed by the Department on lands designated as SRA by fiscal year, and by counties, where, pursuant to a contract with the Department, a county has agreed to provide fire protection services in the SRA within county boundaries on behalf of the Department.

Fire Prevention Funding

Funding source and estimated amounts for the fire prevention activities are listed below.

CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Estimated FY 22-23 Costs		
Fire Prevention Activity	Total	Funding Source
Defensible Space Inspections	\$18.5	\$8.9 GGRF / \$9.6 GF
Fuel Reduction	\$61.5	\$41.5 GGRF / \$20 GF
Public Education	\$5.7	\$3.7 GGRF / \$2 GF
Wildfire Prevention Grants	\$115	\$35 GGRF / \$80 GF

GF: General Fund, GGRF: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Dollars in Millions.

Defensible Space, Fuel Reduction, and Public Education

Defensible space inspections and enforcement, fuel reduction, and public education are critical actions to help combat wildfires and the effects of these potential disasters. The table outlines numbers for the Fiscal Year 2022-23 compared to previous fiscal years.

Statewide Fire Prevention Activities					
	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
Defensible Space Inspections (DSI)	204,341	222,040	227,656	289,255	253,587
<i>Northern Region DSI</i>	<i>47,629</i>	<i>64,390</i>	<i>71,164</i>	<i>76,178</i>	<i>62,707</i>
<i>Southern Region DSI</i>	<i>156,712</i>	<i>157,650</i>	<i>156,492</i>	<i>213,077</i>	<i>190,880</i>
Defensible Space Citations Issued	549	973	683	737	1,049
<i>Northern Region DSI Citations</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Southern Region DSI Citations</i>	<i>489</i>	<i>931</i>	<i>666</i>	<i>703</i>	<i>1,048</i>
Public Education Hours	38,165	31,490	33,552	10,768	13,531
<i>Northern Region PE Hours</i>	<i>13,807</i>	<i>9,160</i>	<i>13,224</i>	<i>4,141</i>	<i>4,844</i>
<i>Southern Region PE Hours</i>	<i>24,358</i>	<i>22,330</i>	<i>20,328</i>	<i>6,627</i>	<i>8,687</i>

Statewide Fuels Reduction Activities					
	Fiscal Year 2018-19	Fiscal Year 2019-20	Fiscal Year 2020-21	Fiscal Year 2021-22	Fiscal Year 2022-23
Mechanical Fuel Reduction (Acres)	15,092	30,432	12,678	12,425	9,417
<i>Northern Region MFR (Acres)</i>	<i>10,224</i>	<i>18,509</i>	<i>7,391</i>	<i>7,472</i>	<i>5,834</i>
<i>Southern Region MFR (Acres)</i>	<i>4,868</i>	<i>11,923</i>	<i>5,287</i>	<i>4,953</i>	<i>3,584</i>
Prescribed Burn (Acres)	30,769	29,855	30,894	14,384	36,736
<i>Northern Region PB (Acres)</i>	<i>14,781</i>	<i>13,840</i>	<i>15,017</i>	<i>6,880</i>	<i>16,193</i>
<i>Southern Region PB (Acres)</i>	<i>15,989</i>	<i>16,016</i>	<i>15,878</i>	<i>7,504</i>	<i>20,544</i>
California Forest Improvement Program (Acres)	3,941	4,108	3,037	4,189	3,322
<i>Northern Region MFR (Acres)</i>	<i>1,418</i>	<i>1,438</i>	<i>1,851</i>	<i>2,965</i>	<i>1,811</i>
<i>Southern Region MFR (Acres)</i>	<i>2,523</i>	<i>2,670</i>	<i>1,186</i>	<i>1,224</i>	<i>1,511</i>
Wildfire Prevention Grants (Acres)	8,101	20,650	20,734	25,856	9,216
<i>Northern Region WP Grant (Acres)</i>	<i>5,988</i>	<i>16,851</i>	<i>13,748</i>	<i>18,426</i>	<i>7,647</i>
<i>Southern Region WP Grant (Acres)</i>	<i>2,113</i>	<i>3,799</i>	<i>6,986</i>	<i>7,431</i>	<i>1,569</i>
Forest Health Grants (Acres)	6,477	27,215	53,151	58,687	32,909
<i>Northern Region FH Grant (Acres)</i>	<i>3,537</i>	<i>24,389</i>	<i>46,529</i>	<i>46,348</i>	<i>24,059</i>
<i>Southern Region FH Grant (Acres)</i>	<i>2,940</i>	<i>2,816</i>	<i>6,622</i>	<i>12,339</i>	<i>8,850</i>
Total Acres Treated	64,380	112,260	120,495	115,541	91,601

Numbers may be different by 1 due to rounding. These figures have been updated from the 2021-22 Report due to late grant project reporting, as well as minor validation adjustments.

Definitions:

Mechanical Fuel Reduction: This category includes activities associated with the following treatment objectives:

- **Fuel Reduction** - Work conducted in an area where the primary objective is to reduce fuel load. This objective excludes prescribed burning. However, fuel reduction may be used to record activities conducted to reduce fuel loads or change fuel arrangements in advance of a prescribed fire treatment objective. Pile Burning activities are also included under Fuel Reduction.
- **Fuel Break** - An area of modified vegetation that provides a safe location from which to fight fire, and which reduces fire spread, duration, and intensity. Fuel breaks sometimes contain flammable vegetation.
- **Right of Way Clearance** - Also known as Roadway Clearance. Work conducted on a fire road or other roads to keep them in a usable condition.

Prescribed Burn: This category includes activities associated with the following treatment objective:

- **Broadcast Burn** - A Prescribed Fire objective. Broadcast Burn is the controlled application of fire to wildland fuels in their natural or modified state over a predefined area, often conducted to reduce wildland fire fuel loads, restore the ecological health of an area, or clear vegetation.

Qualified Entity Program (PRC 4291.5)

Pursuant to PRC 4291.5, in early 2023, the Department established a Statewide program to allow qualified entities to support and augment the Department in its defensible space and home hardening assessment and education efforts. As part of this program, the Department established a common reporting platform that allows defensible space and home hardening assessment data collected by the qualified entities to be reported to the Department. The Department is working on outreach and scheduling qualified entity training sessions. Once this phase is complete, the personnel who are trained through the program will begin defensible space and home hardening assessments within their communities. This data will be reported once the assessments begin.

Civil Cost Recovery

CAL FIRE’s Civil Cost Recovery Program continues to be an effective way to deter carelessly caused fires and assigns fire suppression costs to culpable parties rather than to taxpayers. Monies collected in these cost recovery efforts are returned to the State’s General Fund.

Civil Cost Recovery Program Fire Suppression Costs Recovered						
Fiscal Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Amount	\$20.8	\$4.3	\$17.3	\$18.6	\$32.1	\$80.5

Dollars in Millions.

Projected Fire Prevention Activities

The projected fire prevention activities for Fiscal Year 2023-24 are as follows:

Fire Prevention Activity	Target Total
Defensible Space Inspections	250,000
Combined Mechanical Fuel Reduction & Prescribed Burn (Acres)	100,000

Amador Contracts (PRC 4144)

The chart below provides the number of contracts and reimbursement amounts received from local governments for the Department to provide local fire protection and emergency services pursuant to PRC Section 4144, commonly referred to as “Amador agreements.”

CAL FIRE Amador Contracts	
Number of Contracts	Total Contracted Amount
25	\$14.1 million

Contract Name	22-23 Contracted Total
Butte County	\$1,137,820.00
City of Pismo Beach	\$36,120.00
County of Humboldt	\$283,184.00
County of Madera	\$654,063.00
County of Napa	\$183,525.00
County of San Diego	\$1,149,491.00
County of Santa Cruz	\$2,526,954.00
Contra Costa County FPD	\$616,651.00
El Dorado County FPD	\$275,611.00
Fresno County	\$1,302,190.00
Higgins FPD	\$256,986.00
Lockwood Fire Protection District	\$197,554.00
Loma Rica/Browns Valley CSD	\$258,220.00
Mariposa County	\$552,864.00
North Bay Fire	\$483,765.00
Placer County	\$760,461.00
San Luis Obispo County	\$978,479.00
Shasta-Tehama-Trinity JCCD	\$264,382.00
Siskiyou County, General Fire	\$226,109.00
South Lake County FPD	\$45,980.00
South Santa Clara County	\$594,573.00
Tehama County	\$674,525.00
Town of Paradise	\$78,156.00
Trinity County	\$25,941.00
Tuolumne County	\$580,941.00

WILDFIRE PREVENTION GRANTS

CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants Program provides funding for fire prevention projects and activities in and near fire-threatened communities that focus on increasing the protection of people, structures, and communities. Funded activities include hazardous fuel reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education.

[California's Strategic Fire Plan](#) serves as a roadmap for project development. Projects are evaluated based on the overall benefit to reduce the threat of wildfires to people, structures, and communities. CAL FIRE considers the wildfire hazards and risks of an area, the geographic balance of projects, and whether the project is complementary to other fire prevention or forest health activities when awarding grants. Disadvantaged and low-income communities as defined by Assembly Bill 1550 (Gomez) (Statutes of 2016, Chapter 369), and projects that demonstrate a carbon benefit by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and contain matching funds will receive additional priority. Projects are selected on a competitive basis and consecutive awards are not guaranteed.

CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants Program posted grant solicitation announcements through various media:

- Wildfire Prevention Grants email listserv
- California State Library Grant Clearinghouse
- California Air Resource Board California Climate Investments Events Calendar
- CAL FIRE Website
- CAL FIRE Press Release

Additionally, CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants Program conducted a virtual workshop via Microsoft Teams. This workshop was attended by over 250 potential applicants and the recorded workshop has been viewed by additional interested applicants. This year the Wildfire Prevention Grants team added four one-hour Office Hour sessions geared towards specific subjects such as the Budget, Scope of Work, Application, and Project Mapping Component for the application period. During the office hours sessions, interested applicants were able to seek additional technical assistance with their applications. They were attended by around 100 participants at each office hour. The Wildfire Prevention Grants webpage was designed to showcase the workshop recording as well as other tutorials and tools to assist applicants with the application and mapping process. The Wildfire Prevention Grants Program email listserv was used to provide specific information related to the program as well as other grant programs from other agencies. Staff also provided one-on-one technical assistance for all portions of the application process as well as the post-award process. Northern and Southern Region staff also conducted workshops and made site visits to local CAL FIRE Units to assist

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applicants. Unsuccessful applicants received feedback on why their application was unsuccessful along with how to improve their application for future grant cycles.

The chart below shows the number of grant applications and awards by county for the Fiscal Year 2022-23 (July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023).

County	Number of Applications Received	Number of Grants Awarded	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Alameda County	6	2	\$15,756,339.71	\$3,848,900.00
Alpine County	2	2	\$1,295,733.00	\$1,300,132.70
Amador County	3	1	\$2,274,970.50	\$633,584.00
Butte County	10	4	\$16,487,743.75	\$4,696,996.22
Calaveras County	9	4	\$8,471,745.28	\$3,089,493.28
Contra Costa County	4	0	\$6,924,516.24	\$-
Del Norte County	1	0	\$3,222,150.00	\$-
El Dorado County	9	5	\$11,661,431.00	\$3,132,275.00
Fresno County	2	1	\$5,336,267.40	\$460,941.00
Glenn County	1	1	\$3,455,521.44	\$1,999,971.68
Humboldt County	4	1	\$8,697,784.43	\$982,287.59
Inyo County	1	0	\$3,246,377.60	\$-
Kern County	5	2	\$11,398,188.25	\$4,927,511.15
Lake County	4	2	\$11,194,294.88	\$2,149,234.14
Lassen County	2	1	\$6,394,468.00	\$2,999,766.78
Los Angeles County	20	2	\$31,201,352.92	\$4,829,926.16
Madera County	2	1	\$3,142,763.92	\$976,706.80
Marin County	2	2	\$6,372,160.00	\$3,979,000.00
Mariposa County	5	4	\$9,231,654.90	\$3,318,126.31
Mendocino County	6	2	\$10,253,057.20	\$3,899,442.68
Modoc County	1	0	\$4,813,250.00	\$-
Monterey County	7	3	\$5,654,259.91	\$1,821,908.95
Napa County	4	3	\$10,837,638.61	\$3,249,727.93
Nevada County	4	1	\$15,630,543.01	\$3,914,536.64
Orange County	8	2	\$13,902,046.01	\$4,935,923.93
Placer County	5	2	\$6,952,404.54	\$2,047,980.00
Riverside County	4	4	\$8,044,012.14	\$5,626,083.52
Sacramento County	1	0	\$5,000,000.00	\$-
San Benito County	2	0	\$3,293,641.20	\$-
San Bernardino County	5	2	\$11,222,793.08	\$5,299,243.77
San Diego County	12	4	\$10,001,698.30	\$813,942.18

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San Luis Obispo County	9	4	\$5,807,567.14	\$4,349,626.70
San Mateo County	6	3	\$1,034,674.00	\$363,075.41
Santa Barbara County	6	4	\$7,156,015.75	\$5,108,555.84
Santa Clara County	3	0	\$3,948,035.32	\$-
Santa Cruz County	5	4	\$16,709,709.32	\$3,127,812.00
Shasta County	8	2	\$20,875,760.69	\$1,968,085.28
Sierra County	2	1	\$2,696,425.50	\$2,239,033.00
Siskiyou County	12	4	\$16,242,347.83	\$3,166,313.96
Solano County	2	1	\$6,063,992.00	\$599,999.68
Sonoma County	11	3	\$13,105,716.67	\$899,850.20
Tehama County	1	1	\$4,803,002.00	\$1,999,984.00
Trinity County	3	2	\$5,858,080.43	\$3,146,478.10
Tulare County	13	2	\$19,119,114.00	\$4,339,977.60
Tuolumne County	7	3	\$8,077,675.55	\$1,405,091.74
Ventura County	8	2	\$28,194,595.95	\$4,986,272.20
Yolo County	2	2	\$5,464,939.34	\$595,884.36
Yuba County	1	0	\$1,108,294.21	\$-
Total	250	96	\$437,636,753	\$113,229,682