



FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 FIRE PREVENTION REPORT

Public Resources Codes
4137, 4144, & 4291.5

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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, Senate Bill 170 (Ch. 240, Stats. 2021) and Assembly Bill 203 (Ch. 60, Stats. 2022). Many of these activities and accomplishments have also been reported throughout the year in media stories, and to groups including the CAL FIRE-Office of the State Fire Marshal's Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee, the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. This report details the activities within CAL FIRE's fire prevention programs that are identified in PRC 4137 prior to the statute being amended by SB 156 (Ch. 72, Stats. 2024). The report also 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, 2023, through June 30, 2024. The following highlights the included information and accomplishments:

- Fire Prevention Activities:
 - Defensible Space Inspections: 299,273
 - Defensible Space citations issued: 9
 - Public Education hours: 18,321
 - Mechanical Fuel Reduction: 77,059 acres
 - Prescribed Fire Fuel Reduction: 29,628 acres
- Fire Prevention Funding: \$168.9M
- Fire Suppression Costs recovered through the Civil Cost Recovery Program: \$192 million.
- CAL FIRE's target goals for fire prevention activities for Fiscal Year 2024-25.
- 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 this website. CEQA document types that may be found include Notice of Exemption (NOE), California Vegetation Treatment Plans (Cal VTP), Negative Declarations (ND), Mitigated Negative Declarations (MND) and/or Environmental Impact Statements or Impact Reports (EIR or EIS), Notice of Determination (NOD) or Notice of Completion (NOC). The air table is located at the [Environmental Protection Program](#) webpage.

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 Community Wildfire Preparedness Mitigation Division (CWPM) within the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), 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.

The 2023 California wildfire year was relatively mild compared to the State's five-year average of 1.284 million acres burned, with around 233,000 acres burned and more than 7,166 wildfires. Despite the numbers, several significant fires occurred during the hotter months of August and September. The Smith River Complex consumed just over 95,000 acres and destroyed five structures and the York Fire burned more than 93,000 acres and destroyed six structures, underscoring the growing threat posed by rising temperatures and drier landscapes.

Fiscal Year 2023-24 proved successful for CAL FIRE, largely due to mild weather conditions at the start of 2024. This allowed resources to focus effectively on completing fuels reduction efforts. Spring and early summer saw favorable weather, enabling numerous successful prescribed fire activities across the State.

However, incident activity increased in June, necessitating the simultaneous activation of multiple CAL FIRE Incident Management Teams. Resources and crews were committed heavily through August, protecting communities and assisting local government agencies Statewide.

In the spring of 2024, CAL FIRE launched the Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reporting (FTER) application to evaluate the impacts vegetation management treatments have on fire behavior and highlight how fuel reduction activities not only assist in suppression efforts, but how they protect life, property, and natural resources. An interactive online viewer for Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reporting provides the public with easy access to the locations of recent fuels treatments impacted by wildfires, enhancing transparency and community awareness. A link to the dashboard can be found on the [website](#).

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 wildfires. Achieving these goals necessitates collaboration between local, State, federal, tribal, and private partners.

CAL FIRE leverages all of its programs to participate in fire prevention. While the CAL FIRE-OSFM is focused on fire prevention in every aspect of its team, the Department's Resource Management Program plays a key role in environmental review of fire prevention projects, while the Department's firefighting resources implement many of the projects including prescribed fire. This all-hands approach of fire prevention is part of the Department's "Total Force" concept. Fire prevention is everyone's responsibility within CAL FIRE.

The lion's share of CAL FIRE's budget, approximately \$3.2 billion out of a total of \$4.08 billion for the 2023-24 fiscal year, is allocated towards wildfire protection and suppression, commonly referred to as wildfire response or firefighting. It is important to note again that CAL FIRE leverages its fire suppression resources in performing various fuel reduction and fire prevention activities. Dollars categorized as fire protection fund resources that perform fire prevention. 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 (Ch. 391, Stats. 2019).

FIRE PREVENTION EFFORTS (PRC 4137)

Pursuant to PRC 4137, listed below is the breakdown of the Fire Prevention efforts 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 funds for the fire prevention activities are listed below.

CAL FIRE Fire Prevention Estimated Funds FY 2023-24		
Fire Prevention Activity	Total	Funding Source
Defensible Space Inspections	\$15.2M	\$10.8M GGRF / \$4.4M GF
Fuel Reduction	\$43.5M	\$43.5M GGRF / \$0 GF
Public Education	\$1.652M	\$700K GGRF / \$500K GF / \$452K Federal Grant
Wildfire Prevention Grants	\$110.29M	CCI FY 2023-24 / \$35,000,000 CCI FY 2023-24 / \$21,641,095 TRFRF FY 2024-25 / \$53,651,700

GF: General Fund. GGRF: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, and Federal Grant. TRFRF: Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration 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 Fiscal Year 2023-24 compared to previous fiscal years.

Statewide Fire Prevention Activities					
	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
Defensible Space Inspections (DSI)	222,040	227,656	289,255	253,587	299,273
<i>Northern Region DSI</i>	64,390	71,164	76,178	62,707	83,162
<i>Southern Region DSI</i>	157,650	156,492	213,077	190,880	216,111
Defensible Space Citations Issued	973*	683*	737*	1,049*	9**
<i>Northern Region DSI Citations</i>	42	17	34	1	0
<i>Southern Region DSI Citations</i>	931	666	703	1,048	9
Public Education Hours	31,490	33,552	10,768	13,531	18,321
<i>Northern Region PE Hours</i>	9,160	13,224	4,141	4,844	4,304
<i>Southern Region PE Hours</i>	22,330	20,328	6,627	8,687	14,017

*Due to changes in internal reporting processes, these numbers represent noncompliant Defensible Space inspections recommended to CAL FIRE Law Enforcement for citation.

**Actual citation issued. These are now being tracked utilizing a new process.

Statewide Fuels Reduction Activities					
	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
Mechanical Fuel Reduction (MFR) (Acres)	30,755	12,740	12,436	10,859	13,595
<i>Northern Region MFR (Acres)</i>	<i>18,759</i>	<i>7,391</i>	<i>7,483</i>	<i>6,711</i>	<i>8,986</i>
<i>Southern Region MFR (Acres)</i>	<i>11,996</i>	<i>5,350</i>	<i>4,953</i>	<i>4,148</i>	<i>4,609</i>
Prescribed Burn (PB) (Acres)	29,855	30,904	14,950	35,190	26,063
<i>Northern Region PB (Acres)</i>	<i>13,840</i>	<i>14,931</i>	<i>6,880</i>	<i>16,215</i>	<i>16,314</i>
<i>Southern Region PB (Acres)</i>	<i>16,016</i>	<i>15,878</i>	<i>8,070</i>	<i>18,975</i>	<i>9,749</i>
California Forest Improvement Program (Acres)	4,108	3,037	4,237	3,566	6,811
<i>Northern Region MFR (Acres)</i>	<i>1,438</i>	<i>1,851</i>	<i>3,013</i>	<i>1,968</i>	<i>4,744</i>
<i>Southern Region MFR (Acres)</i>	<i>2,670</i>	<i>1,186</i>	<i>1,224</i>	<i>1,598</i>	<i>2,067</i>
Wildfire Prevention (WP) Grants (Acres)	20,651	20,482	30,782	19,350	24,105
<i>Northern Region WP Grant (Acres)</i>	<i>16,851</i>	<i>14,757</i>	<i>23,605</i>	<i>16,548</i>	<i>21,448</i>
<i>Southern Region WP Grant (Acres)</i>	<i>3,800</i>	<i>5,725</i>	<i>7,177</i>	<i>2,802</i>	<i>2,657</i>
Forest Health (FH) Grant (Acres)	27,143	54,752	58,935	47,946	60,462
<i>Northern Region FH Grant (Acres)</i>	<i>24,326</i>	<i>46,878</i>	<i>47,826</i>	<i>34,799</i>	<i>52,395</i>
<i>Southern Region FH Grant (Acres)</i>	<i>2,816</i>	<i>7,874</i>	<i>11,109</i>	<i>13,147</i>	<i>8,067</i>
Total Acres Treated	112,513	121,914	121,339	116,912	131,034

Numbers may be different by 1 due to rounding. These figures have been updated from the FY 2022-23 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.

Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reporting

PRC 4137(i) states, “The Department shall develop a standardized protocol for monitoring implementation and evaluating the positive and negative ecological and fire behavior impacts from vegetation management projects undertaken by the State.” In the spring of 2024, the Department established a Statewide program to accomplish this request.

The purpose of Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reports (FTER) is to evaluate the impacts vegetation management projects have on fire behavior and showcase how fuel reduction activities not only assist in suppression efforts, but how they protect life, property, and the natural resources of California.

The Department is responsible for collecting data related to the positive effects of hazardous fire fuel treatments that may have occurred prior to a wildfire impacting a treatment identified within CalMAPPER. After an ignition is detected within 0.25 miles of a treatment within CalMAPPER, an automated system sends a request to the relevant CAL FIRE Unit or Contract County Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reporting Coordinator, who has been identified by the Unit or Contract County Chief, to complete an ArcGIS Survey 123 questionnaire. The surveys are intended to be completed by operational resources familiar with the wildfire incident. This information is publicly available through an online dashboard and distributed to the public through the CAL FIRE Sacramento Communications Office. This data will be reported in the FY 2024-25 PRC 4137 Annual Report where a full year's data will be included.

Qualified Entity Program (PRC 4291.5)

In early 2023, the Department established a Statewide program to allow organizations or “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 has instructed 12 classes covering nine CAL FIRE Units and a contract county with a student count of 172. The California Conservation Corps, Fire Safe Councils, Firewise USA, and Resource Conservation Districts have been the larger attendee groups. In total, 223 assessments on residential structures were completed by qualified entities.

Qualified Entity Assessments	
	FY 2023-24
<i>Northern Region Assessments</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>Southern Region Assessments</i>	<i>172</i>
Total Number of Assessments	223

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					
	FY 2019- 20	FY 2020- 21	FY 2021- 22	FY 2022- 23	FY 2023-24
Amount	\$17.3	\$18.6	\$32.1	\$80.5	\$192.1

Dollars in Millions

Projected Fire Prevention Activities

The projected fire prevention activities for Fiscal Year 2024-25 are as follows.

Fire Prevention Activity	Target Total
Defensible Space Inspections	250,000
Combined Mechanical Fuel Reduction & Prescribed Burns (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
22	\$13,654,329 million

Contract Name	2023-24 Contracted Total
Butte County	\$1,323,788
City of Pismo Beach	\$91,749
County of Humboldt	\$283,184
County of Madera	\$547,323
County of Napa	\$74,497
County of San Diego	\$1,350,250
County of Santa Cruz	\$1,936,070
Contra Costa County FPD	\$741,355
El Dorado County FPD	\$289,392
Fresno County	\$1,365,746
Higgins FPD	\$269,816
Lockwood Fire Protection District	\$0
Loma Rica/Browns Valley CSD	\$383,879
Mariposa County	\$723,170
North Bay Fire	\$0
Placer County	\$631,677
San Luis Obispo County	\$999,015
Shasta-Tehama-Trinity JCCD	\$254,647
Siskiyou County, General Fire	\$226,314
South Lake County FPD	\$409,915
South Santa Clara County	\$626,136
Tehama County	\$636,482
Town of Paradise	\$69,746
Trinity County	\$0
Tuolumne County	\$420,178

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. When awarding grants, CAL FIRE considers the wildfire hazards and risks of an area, the geographic balance of projects, whether the project is complementary to other fire prevention or forest health activities, and whether the project is included in or consistent with a CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plan or a local plan that addresses the hazards and risks from wildfire. Disadvantaged and low-income communities as defined by Assembly Bill 1550 (Gomez, Ch. 369, Stats. 2016), 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. As projects are selected based on the above criteria, overall population of a county may not directly impact the amount of funding awarded, as some grant applications may not be as impactful as other projects in counties with lower populations.

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. This workshop was attended by over 327 potential applicants and the recorded workshop has been viewed by additional interested applicants. The Wildfire Prevention Grants team hosted 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. Each office hour session was attended by around 90 participants, totaling 360 attendees. During the office hours sessions, interested applicants were able to seek additional technical assistance with their applications. 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 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 Fiscal Year 2023-24 (July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024).

**2023-24 Fire Prevention Report to the Legislature,
CAL FIRE – OSFM, Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division**

County	Number of Applications Received	Number of Grants Awarded	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Alameda County	4	3	\$4,447,000	\$2,320,536
Alpine County	1	1	\$343,509	\$512,436
Amador County	4	2	\$3,266,272	\$1,186,064
Butte County	3	2	\$1,719,268	\$1,449,268
Calaveras County	6	2	\$3,462,076	\$923,888
Contra Costa County	4	1	\$1,810,649	\$299,957
Del Norte County	1	0	\$2,501,982	\$0
El Dorado County	13	5	\$16,576,001	\$4,097,688
Fresno County	3	1	\$6,492,682	\$3,000,000
Glenn County	1	1	\$2,203,930	\$2,203,930
Humboldt County	1	1	\$300,000	\$300,000
Imperial County	0	0	\$0	\$0
Inyo County	0	0	\$0	\$0
Kern County	4	4	\$2,858,399	\$2,905,095
Kings County	0	0	\$0	\$0
Lake County	3	0	\$703,806	\$0
Lassen County	3	2	\$7,505,412	\$5,999,912
Los Angeles County	23	5	\$24,253,563	\$1,165,543
Madera County	3	2	\$567,857	\$208,510
Marin County	5	0	\$4,160,326	\$0
Mariposa County	4	3	\$5,841,379	\$3,495,496
Mendocino County	5	3	\$5,581,792	\$3,062,814
Merced County	0	0	\$0	\$0
Modoc County	0	0	\$0	\$0
Mono County	1	0	\$28,000	\$0
Monterey County	5	4	\$4,995,760	\$2,612,445
Napa County	1	1	\$959,926	\$1,102,943
Nevada County	4	2	\$6,217,649	\$2,009,553
Orange County	11	3	\$19,450,201	\$5,377,766
Placer County	6	4	\$4,032,285	\$2,931,540
Plumas County	2	0	\$5,082,180	\$0
Riverside County	11	5	\$15,080,335	\$7,347,642
Sacramento County	1	0	\$8,000	\$0
San Benito County	1	1	\$150,798	\$168,894
San Bernardino County	6	5	\$4,737,858	\$2,345,544
San Diego County	7	2	\$5,140,337	\$895,147

**2023-24 Fire Prevention Report to the Legislature,
CAL FIRE – OSFM, Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division**

County	Number of Applications Received	Number of Grants Awarded	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
San Francisco County	0	0	\$0	\$0
San Joaquin County	0	0	\$0	\$0
San Luis Obispo County	3	2	\$3,169,601	\$3,271,741
San Mateo County	3	0	\$3,075,000	\$0
Santa Barbara County	3	3	\$6,150,627	\$6,114,413
Santa Clara County	5	0	\$3,784,691	\$0
Santa Cruz County	5	2	\$8,297,756	\$1,093,620
Shasta County	9	3	\$12,944,582	\$3,501,256
Sierra County	0	0	\$0	\$0
Siskiyou County	11	4	\$12,008,289	\$4,527,932
Solano County	1	0	\$383,735	\$0
Sonoma County	7	2	\$3,900,693	\$2,288,285
Stanislaus County	0	0	\$0	\$0
Sutter County	0	0	\$0	\$0
Tehama County	1	1	\$2,498,579	\$2,498,478
Trinity County	3	0	\$5,797,625	\$0
Tulare County	6	2	\$9,943,288	\$637,753
Tuolumne County	9	5	\$6,698,419	\$2,530,831
Ventura County	5	3	\$7,145,044	\$4,447,454
Yolo County	2	1	\$1,048,591	\$701,628
Yuba County	1	1	\$1,550,262	\$499,845
Statewide	9	6	\$25,623,549	\$20,256,948
Total	230	100	\$274,499,563	\$110,292,796