2024 Strategic Fire Plan
Amador- El Dorado Unit

SIGNATURE PAGE

Unit Strategic Fire Plan developed for the Amador El Dorado Unit This Plan:

- Was collaboratively developed. Interested parties, Federal, State, Tribal, County and City 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 to be used 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.

DocuSigned by:
Mike Blankenheim
1958A3E570E948D...

May 1, 2024

Unit Chief — Date

Mike Blankenheim

DocuSigned by:
Jeff Hoag
EF9F8B40873747E...

May 1, 2024

Battalion Chief - Wildfire Resiliency Program — Date

Jeff Hoag

DocuSigned by:
Arend Tosti
F0FF2393BF8A4DA...

May 1, 2024

Fire Captain - Pre-Fire Engineer — Date

Arend Tosti

Table of Contents

Table of Contents (Cont.)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of the Amador – El Dorado Unit (AEU) of CAL FIRE is to reduce the loss of life, property, watershed values, and other assets at risk from wildfire through a focused pre-fire management program and increased initial attack success.

The above statement is clear; however, the roadmap to accomplish this involves collaboration between stakeholders and communities each of which present different complexities related to project implementation and priorities regarding the threat of a wildland fire. The purpose of this Strategic Fire Plan is to provide effective direction to departmental staff and communities within the Administrative Unit to direct resources and personnel commitments towards the implementation of this Strategic Fire Plan.

The Amador - El Dorado Unit Strategic Fire Plan has been prepared with the following objectives in priority order.

1. Support project work (fuels reduction) and planning efforts that encourage the development of safe ingress and egress routes for emergency incidents.

2. Continue to provide operational training that will support safe and successful suppression operations.

3. Utilize CAL FIRE and community resources to mitigate large and damaging wildfires with defensible fuel zone/fuels reduction (prescribed fire) projects at critical operational locations.

4. Continue to support the implementation of fire safe clearance standards around structures.

5. Support Implementation of the 2008 Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Building Standards by collaborating with local government planning departments and ensuring compliance with the state's minimum wildfire protection regulations for building, construction, and development in State Responsibility Areas (SRA) under California's Minimum Fire Safe Standards.

6. Conduct incident analysis to evaluate Unit success in achieving the 95% threshold of keeping fires less than 10 acres in size.

7. Continually educate the community on their role in the wildlands and support Resource Conservation Districts and Fire Safe Council activities.

8. Utilize Fire Prevention operations to reduce ignitions within the Unit.

9. Foster and build relationships with local public and private industries to develop cooperative project plans.

10. Continually reassess local mitigation projects and update this Fire Plan annually.

SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW

UNIT DESCRIPTION

AEU has a unique wildland fire environment based on its Mediterranean climate, highly combustible vegetation, numerous wildland-urban interface zones, and the complexity of its terrain. Fires burn with greater intensity in this environment and are more costly and difficult to control, creating a greater risk of loss of life, property, and resources.

The Unit's Direct Protection Area (DPA[1]) on the west slope of the Central Sierra Nevada Mountain Range is experiencing moderate population growth. Most of this growth is occurring in the unincorporated areas of the Unit - the same areas that contain the most hazardous fuels and most difficult terrain. Most of the man-made values at risk from wildfire are also located in these areas.

Much of CAL FIRE's DPA contains high to very high hazard fuels (brush and timber). These areas contain steep, rugged river canyons making access and the use of heavy equipment difficult, if not impossible in some locations.

Key Issues:

- Increasing loss of life, property, and natural resources.
- Inadequate community ingress/egress routes.
- Difficulty of fire suppression, resulting in safety problems for firefighters.
- Longer periods between recurring fires in many vegetation types, resulting in increasing volumes of fuel per acre.
- Increasing fire intensities.
- Increasing taxpayer costs and asset losses.
- More people are living and recreating in wildland interface areas, which adds to the increases in ignition sources, resulting in more fires. 95% of all ignitions are human caused.

Fire History

The Unit's fire history is one of numerous small fires with large fires occurring every thirty to forty years. Fire season 2023 was mild with only 7 fires exceeding 10 acres, the largest, Liberty Fire at 71 acres. In September 2022, the Mosquito Fire burned in Placer and El Dorado Counties and was the State's largest fire that year. The Mosquito Fire burned a total of 76,788 acres and destroyed 78 structures. The last large fire completely within the Unit boundary was the Caldor Fire in 2021 (221,835 acres) which started on the El Dorado National Forest (ENF) and spread into State Responsibility Area (SRA). Over the past 20 years, population growth and development in the wildland have placed many additional homes and businesses at risk. Currently, small fires often create wildland-urban interface fire protection problems previously only found in the most densely populated areas of Southern California. In 2008, CAL FIRE updated its fire mapping requirements to include mapping grass fires 300 or more acres, brush fires 50 or more acres, timber fires 10 or more acres, and wildland fires destroying three or more residential dwellings or commercial buildings.

Apart from the King and Butte fires, most large fires in AEU are aligned east to west. This is particularly evident in Amador County. This orientation is due to two factors, seasonal winds and terrain. Western El Dorado and Sacramento Counties are more likely to experience fires which run from the north to the south due to north wind events affecting the Sacramento Valley. The King fire was an exception as it ran south to north, influenced by wind and topography alignment. The Butte fire was influenced by a north wind during very hot and dry conditions that pushed the fire south.

[1] The area in which an agency has the financial responsibility to provide fire suppression. *CDF Direct Protection Area* (DPA) can include any combination of SRA, *Federal Responsibility Area* (FRA), or *Local Responsibility Area* (LRA), depending upon the contractual situation. For wildland fire protection DPA excludes LRA lands not intermingled in small blocks with SRA.

Fire Weather & Terrain

The Wildland Fire Triangle consists of fuels, weather, and topography. The component with the most variability is the weather, and topography being the most static. These components cannot be altered by humans to affect the potential outcome of wildland fire occurrence. The contribution to fire behavior by these components and humans requires significant analysis to meet the objective of mitigating wildland fire activity on State Responsibility Area (SRA) Lands.

Fire Weather

Fire weather for AEU is typically dominated by three general weather phenomena; the delta push influence, north wind events, and east foehn winds caused by high pressure development in the Great Basin. All three weather conditions cause potential increases in fire intensity and size. The delta influence is the most common and surfaces frequently throughout summer.

Typically, high pressure systems will dominate Northern California in the summer months bringing extremely hot and dry conditions over much of the region. As these systems develop, they tend to originate near the Delta and Sacramento areas bringing the marine influence to the Unit. This is generally considered a good thing for fire behavior; slightly cooler afternoon temperatures and increases in relative humidity. The downside is the strong winds that typically accompany these patterns can override any benefit that may come from marine air. Typically, this type of wind will subside after sundown causing fire behavior to drop off dramatically.

The other critical wind patterns that are difficult to predict for AEU are the northerly and easterly winds. They are relatively rare, and often are forecasted only the day before. Northerly or easterly winds are typically warmer and drier than most other wind patterns due to air compression. These conditions provide the perfect environment for increased fire intensity and large fire growth. Fire growth is typically wind driven, however as these events recede, fire immediately returns to fuel/topography driven in opposing directions to the wind driven direction. This type of wind event is commonly referred to as a Santa Ana wind in Southern California, and a foehn wind in the Sierra/Cascade Region.

Topography

Topography in AEU is much like most other Sierra Units; flat near the valley bottom and increasingly steep as the Unit reaches higher elevations. More important is the relationship of vegetation change with that of topography. Fuel loads tend to increase significantly as the topography becomes more rugged.

The area near the Central Valley and Delta region, which is characterized by rolling hills and flat valley bottoms, is generally dominated by grass and oak-woodlands. The fire behavior is generally wind driven short duration fires, typically lasting no more than one burning period. (typically, between 10:00 A.M. to sundown.)

As the terrain approaches the upper foothills the vegetation changes dramatically to brush and tree dominated fuel types. These areas are generally steeper and longer sloped which will tend to cause more fuel and topography dominated fire behavior. Heavier fuels over steeper slopes cause marked increases in fire intensity and fire size; this combination makes firefighting efforts increasingly more difficult. This is primarily due to the demands that heavier fuels on steeper terrain can have on resources during active suppression and mop up operations.

Higher elevation areas of the Unit are typically steeper than that of the upper foothill region. Fuels are generally Sierra Mixed Conifer which is made up of heavy timber and significant loads of accumulated dead fuels. Fire spread is typically fuel and slope driven but winds can cause long range spotting.

A major topographic feature that can lead to increased fire spread and intensity is the canyon alignment of the major river systems within the Unit. All the major river systems are generally aligned in an east/west direction which coincides with the general prevailing westerly wind patterns over the Unit. This alignment can have the effect of "channeling" which can increase the wind speed and turbulence along these river systems. This alignment can often cause fire to spread farther and with greater intensity.

Geographic/Ownership

AEU is in the Northern Central Sierra. It includes Amador, El Dorado, Alpine and portions of Sacramento and San Joaquin counties. AEU encompasses 2,667,841 acres. AEU's DPA serves approximately 910,589 acres. The United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) manage lands that are protected by AEU. Conversely, in addition to national forest lands, the USFS provides direct wildland fire protection to private lands within the Eldorado and Toiyabe National Forest. Even with the USFS providing that protection, the Unit is still actively engaged in wildland fire suppression and pre-fire projects with federal cooperators.

Within AEU, there are two all season trans-Sierra highways, US Highway 50 in El Dorado County and State Highway 88 in Amador County running east-west. Historic State Highway 49, on the west side of the Sierra and State Highway 89 in the Lake Tahoe Basin on the east side of the Sierra both run north-south. Most population growth has historically occurred along the two east-west highways (Hwy 50 and Hwy 88). The population growth can be attributed to the proximity of Sacramento, as many people living in the Unit that commute daily to the Sacramento area for work, prefer to live in the foothills.

AEU contains all or part of three major watersheds, the Middle and South Forks of the American River, the North Fork of the Mokelumne River, and the Cosumnes River basin. Numerous water agencies and power companies utilize the resources of these rivers and their tributaries for generation of hydroelectric power, and acquisition of drinking and irrigation water. In addition, these watersheds offer many outdoor recreational opportunities to residents and visitors.

Socioeconomic

The approximate resident population in AEU's DPA is 320,053. El Dorado County's highest population densities are found along the Highway 50 corridor from El Dorado Hills to Pollock Pines. The areas of Pleasant Valley and along State Highway 49 south of the community of El Dorado are also experiencing population growth. In Amador County, the population densities are greatest along the State Highway 88 corridor from the City of Jackson to the Pioneer area. A significant seasonal population increase occurs in mid-spring and continues to gradually increase due to the influx of seasonal workers seeking employment during the apple and grape harvests in the late fall.

The easy access to the Lake Tahoe Basin, recreational areas, summer homes, and tourist attractions are also major factors that influence the population during fire season. Even though most of these areas are located within the Eldorado National Forest, visitors must travel through CAL FIRE's DPA to reach them. Since most of the fires are human caused, this increase in population usually results in more wildland fire ignitions.

The major industries that support the local economy includes timber, tourism, recreation, wine and fruit production, construction, service-oriented businesses and to a lesser extent, light industry. These industries have at one time, or another been affected by wildfires. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been lost both directly and indirectly due to wildfires. It has been estimated that a closure of Highway 50 during the summer months would result in a loss of between 1.5 and 2 million dollars a day in the South Lake Tahoe Basin (including Nevada interests). Additionally, an estimated $150,000 in revenue per day would be lost by west slope communities due to a closure of Highway 50 from the west county line to Echo summit.

County	***Population***
Alpine	1,204
Amador	40,474
El Dorado	191,184
Sacramento	1,585,046
San Joaquin	779,233
Unit Total	2,597,141

[2] 2020 Census Data

Section II: UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES

AEU Action Plan

The Unit's Fire Management Plan was developed to address fire safe planning and hazardous fuel reduction concerns of state, federal, and local fire agencies, as well as fire safe councils and other collaborators. A detailed description of AEU facilities and firefighting resources is covered under each Battalion descriptions. The Fire Plan incorporates an across-the-board approach to reducing the occurrence and impact of wildland fires on communities and local resources. The coordinated effort involving, Engine Companies, Law Enforcement, and local Fire Safe Councils, has contributed to education of the public regarding Public Resources Code (PRC)-4291 defensible space requirements. This has also given the public the opportunity for input on community fire safety, evacuation planning and hazardous fuel reduction through the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) process. These efforts have an emphasis on the wildland-urban interface, the homeowner and creating defensible space.

Shaded fuel breaks constitute a significant aspect of the comprehensive fuel reduction strategy within the Unit, prioritizing areas crucial for facilitating the safe access of fire suppression forces, the evacuation of civilians from surrounding communities, and the protection of communities from wildfires.

The Unit considers collaborator support extremely important. Lack of collaborators may eliminate otherwise important fuels modification and education projects from consideration. To gain community support, the Unit works closely with the Fire Safe Councils. Resource Conservation Districts, local governments, private cooperators, and Federal agencies in a coordinated effort to reduce the loss of life, property, and resources. Fire Safe Councils provide a forum for creating support for all kinds of projects. This resource has proven so effective that the Unit now accomplishes projects it could not accomplish in the past. Also, the Fire Safe Councils closely link their projects with projects in the Unit's Fire Plan. This allows greater progress towards the goal of reducing damage from wildfire.

CAL FIRE acting as community wildfire leaders is an effective key to fire planning. As community wildland leaders, CAL FIRE can only achieve the Unit's and Department's goals with support from the community we serve.

TREE MORTALITY

California has been facing the worst epidemic of tree mortality in modern history. Five years of drought promoted an increased population of native bark beetles, which have contributed to the death of millions of trees on federal, state, and private lands across California. In 2023, an estimated 28.8 million dead trees were counted across California. According to the 2023 USFS Aerial Detection Survey, the estimated number of dead trees by forested county within AEU was 2.2 million in El Dorado County, 930,000 in Alpine County, and 520,000 in Amador County. Unlike the previous wave of tree mortality across the state (2015-2016) that mostly impacted pine species, tree mortality in 2022 consisted of 77% true fir species (white fir and red fir), more true fir mortality than has ever been recorded.

Bark beetles are native to California and play an important role in forest health. At normal population levels, they attack and kill weakened trees or small pockets of trees which creates natural openings and contributes to desirable structure variability in the forest. When the majority of the forest is under stress due to factors such as drought and longer growing seasons with higher temperatures, bark beetles can reach epidemic levels and cause widespread tree mortality. Following the record rain and snowfall of the 2022-2023 winter, tree mortality moderated over the summer of 2023; however, the quantity of standing and fallen dead trees from previous mortality waves remains high in forested areas and contributes to fuel loading and fire hazard in the forest.

SECTION III: COLLABORATION

COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Collaborators and partnerships with CAL FIRE and the Amador- El Dorado Unit are included in the following table. Their organization and title are indicated below:

Plan Development Team:

Organization	Title	Contact Number
Sierra Pacific Industries	Forester	(209) 223-7170
Pacific Gas and Electric	Vegetation Program Manager	(800) 743-5000
Amador Fire Safe Council	Executive Director	(209) 304-2187
Amador County OES	Sheriff	(209) 223-6384
El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience	Principal Management Analyst	(530) 621-5569
El Dorado County Fire Safe and Satellite Council's	Chairperson/Co-Chairperson	(530) 647-1700
El Dorado County OES	Sheriff	(530) 621-5895
El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District	District Manager	(530) 303-5328
Alpine Fire Council	President	(619) 244-6093
United States Forest Service	Lake Tahoe Basin	(530) 543-2600
United States Forest Service	El Dorado National Forest	(530) 622-5061
United States Forest Service	Humboldt/Toiyabe Forest	(775) 331-6444
U.S.D.I. Bureau of Indian Affairs	Pacific Regional Director	(916) 978-6000
Bureau of Reclamation	Area Manager	(916) 989-7179
California State Parks	Marshal Gold Discovery SHP	(530) 622-3470
Bureau of Land Management	Motherlode Field Office	(916) 941-3101

SECTION IV: VALUES AT RISK

A: VALUES

Values refer to real, societal, and culturally important features that have the potential to be burned or damaged by wildfire. Sixteen values have been identified as to their risk from wildfire. The table below provides a description of the values evaluated.

Values	Public Issue Category	Location and ranking methodology
Hydroelectric power	Public welfare	Watersheds that feed run of the river power plants, ranked based on plant capacity
Fire-flood watersheds	Public safety Public welfare	Watersheds with a history of problems or conducive conditions to future problems, ranked based on affected downstream population
Soil erosion	Environment	Watersheds ranked based on erosion potential
Water storage	Public welfare	Watershed area up to 20 miles upstream from water storage facility, ranked based on water value and dead storage capacity of facility
Water supply	Public health	Watershed area up to 20 miles upstream from water supply facility
Scenic	Public welfare	Four-mile view shed around Scenic Highways and 1/4-mile view shed around Wild and Scenic Rivers, ranked based on potential impacts to vegetation types (tree versus non-tree types)
Timber	Public welfare	Timberlands ranked based on value/susceptibility to damage
Range	Public welfare	Rangeland ranked based on potential replacement feed cost by region/owner/vegetation type
Air quality	Public health Environment Public welfare	Potential damages to health, materials, vegetation, and visibility; ranked based on vegetation type and air basin
Historic buildings	Public welfare	Historic buildings ranked based on fire susceptibility
Recreation	Public welfare	Unique recreation areas or areas with potential damage to facilities, ranked based on fire susceptibility
Structures	Public safety Public welfare	Ranked based on housing density and fire susceptibility
Non-game wildlife	Environment Public welfare	Critical habitats and species locations based on input from California Department of Fish and Wildlife and other collaborators
Game wildlife	Public welfare Environment	Critical habitats and species locations based on input from California Department of Fish and Wildlife and other collaborators
Infrastructure	Public safety Public welfare	Infrastructure for delivery of emergency and other critical services (e.g., repeater sites, transmission lines)
Ecosystem Health	Environment	Ranking based on vegetation type/fuel characteristics

Knowledge of the type, magnitude, and location of values at risk, is critical to fire protection planning. Given the limits on fire protection resources, these resources should be allocated, at least in part, based on the value. Knowledge of values is also necessary to choose those projects, which will provide the greatest benefit for a given investment.

B: COMMUNITIES

During the 2000 fire season wildfires burned millions of acres throughout the United States. These fires dramatically illustrated the threat to human lives and development. Under Executive Order, the **National Fire Plan** was created as a cooperative, long-term effort of the **USDA Forest Service**, **Department of the Interior**, and the **National Association of State Foresters**, to protect communities and restore ecological health on Federal lands.

A major component of the National Fire Plan was funding for projects designed to reduce fire risks to people and their property. A fundamental step in realizing this goal was the identification of areas that are at high risk of damage from wildfire. Federal fire managers authorized State Foresters to determine which communities were under significant risk from wildland fire on Federal lands.

CAL FIRE undertook the task of generating the state's list of communities at risk. With California's extensive Wildland-Urban Interface situation, the list of communities extends beyond just those on Federal lands.

Three main factors were used to determine wildland fire threat to Wildland-Urban Interface areas of California.

- **Ranking Fuel Hazards** = ranking vegetation types by their potential fire behavior during a wildfire.
- **Assessing the Probability of Fire** = the annual likelihood that a large damaging wildfire would occur in a vegetation type.
- **Defining Areas of Suitable Housing Density that Would Create Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Strategy Situations** = areas of intermingled wildland fuels and urban environments that are near fire threats. The **Communities at Risk List** includes a total of 1,289 communities. Of those, 843 are adjacent to federal lands (USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Defense, etc.) and are indicated as such in the Federal Threat column.

Communities	COUNTY NAME	FEDERAL THREAT
Bear Valley	ALPINE	F
Kirkwood	ALPINE	F
Markleeville	ALPINE	F
Paynesville	ALPINE	F
Woodfords	ALPINE	F
Woodfords Community (Indian Reservation)	ALPINE	F
Amador City	AMADOR	F
Fiddletown	AMADOR	F
Ione	AMADOR	
Jackson	AMADOR	F
Pine Grove	AMADOR	F
Pioneer	AMADOR	F
Plymouth	AMADOR	F
River Pines	AMADOR	

Sutter Creek	AMADOR	F
Volcano	AMADOR	F
Cameron Park	EL DORADO	F
Coloma	EL DORADO	F
Cool	EL DORADO	F
Diamond Springs	EL DORADO	F
El Dorado Hills	EL DORADO	F
Georgetown	EL DORADO	F
Grizzly Flat	EL DORADO	F
Kelsey	EL DORADO	F
Latrobe	EL DORADO	F
Omo Ranch	EL DORADO	F
Outingdale	EL DORADO	F
Placerville	EL DORADO	F
Pleasant Valley	EL DORADO	F
Pollock Pines	EL DORADO	F
Shingle Springs	EL DORADO	F
South Lake Tahoe	EL DORADO	F
Rancho Murrieta	SACRAMENTO	
Folsom	SACRAMENTO	F
Galt	SACRAMENTO	
Sacramento	SACRAMENTO	

SECTION V: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

A: FIRE PREVENTION

AEU's Fire Prevention and Wildfire Resiliency Program establish management goals utilizing four primary components. These components are law enforcement, information / education, engineering, and cooperation.

Law enforcement staff investigates all fires for origin and cause and- enforce California's Forestry and Fire Laws, Penal Codes, Health and Safety Codes and Public Resources Codes throughout the Unit.

AEU incorporates a proactive approach to public information and education. Direct contact with the local schools and- cooperation with the local boards and councils, is a catalyst for positive communication between CAL FIRE staff and the communities they serve.

The balance of each of these components allows the prevention program to address statewide, regional, and local fire issues. AEU's Fire Prevention Bureau annually evaluates ignitions data for fire origin and cause. With the updated ignition data AEU's Battalion staff is better prepared to address and mitigate local issues; and to assist local fire prevention, education, and strategic planning.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Public Information Program:

The Unit's Public Information Officer (PIO) writes and distributes media press releases, media advisories, and articles; posts and shares information on the Unit's social media platforms; coordinates and conducts interviews for television, radio, newspapers, social media, and blogs; prepares and disseminates fire information and incident information fact sheets; provides relevant incident information to the public; and coordinates public education events with Battalion personnel. Duties also include responding as an Incident Information Officer (Field PIO, PIO Center Manager, PIO in JIC, and PIO on unified command incidents) locally and statewide.

Public Education and Awareness Program:

The Public Education and Awareness Program is comprised of four components – school programs, group programs and events, exhibits and displays, and social media.

1) **School Programs**: These are done throughout the Unit and reach children from preschool through 12th grade. The "team teaching" approach is used at the schools and is done on a request basis and is generally handled by engine companies. There are a variety of programs available depending on the request or needs of a particular school. For younger students (typically K-5th grade), programs can include fire station tours, Captain Cal educational visits, and presenting/sharing fire safe educational messaging (i.e. 911, stop/drop/roll, exit drills in the home, friendly firefighters, crawl under smoke). Engine companies are also requested to visit schools to read to students in the classroom about fire and life safety. For the older students (typically 6 – 12th grade), programs can vary from attending career days to share the types of careers available at CAL FIRE to attending assemblies to present age-appropriate fire safe information.

2) **Group Programs and Events**: These are done on a request basis and can cover a variety of fire and life safety topics, including, but not limited to, defensible space, home hardening, disaster preparedness, preparing a "go bag," recruitment, proper equipment use, and debris burning. The Unit provides information and presentations to the public, local businesses, fire safe councils, neighborhood associations, and local groups/organizations. Requests vary and presentations may be done in conjunction with another agency, such as a fire or law enforcement agency.

3) **Exhibits and Displays**: These are designed and constructed for various events, including fairs, parades, home and garden shows, wildfire preparedness week, homeowner association gatherings, National Night Out, community events, recruitment fairs, holiday events, fire preparedness drills, Fire Safe Councils, etc. These may be done in partnership with another emergency service agency, local government, or fire safe council.

4) **Social Media:** AEU's social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Nextdoor, and YouTube – are used to inform the public of Unit events/happenings, as well as to increase awareness and educate the public on fire and life safety topics. These topics can include, but are not limited to, debris burning, defensible space, home hardening, emergency preparedness, equipment use, campfire and grilling safety, fireworks safety, forest health, returning home after a wildfire, evacuations, animal evacuations, and holiday safety (cooking, holiday decorations, and kitchen safety). All social media posts and campaigns are handled directly through the PIO.

ENGINEERING & STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY

Structure ignitability is a building's susceptibility to catching on fire. This is a growing concern as more homes and businesses are built in the wildland-urban interface. Measures can be taken to reduce the ignitability of structures in wildland areas through proper planning and building design techniques that prevent flames or windborne embers from entering the structure, and use of building materials that are fire and heat resistant.

Planning: AEU has been experiencing a rapid growth in recent years, with new homes and businesses being built in areas that were previously undeveloped. The absence of wildfire planning regulations during early development in the Unit has led to many structures being built in areas that increase their exposure to the effects of wildfires, such as on steep slopes and within or at the top of large and small drainages. New construction in these areas has continued, leading to more structures with a high susceptibility to igniting during a wildfire. To address this issue, AEU's Wildfire Resiliency Program collaborates with county planning, building, and local fire departments to identify areas for new construction and development that minimize a building's exposure to wildfire. AEU enforces the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations to ensure that new construction is in areas that minimize a building's exposure to areas prone to wildfire. Implementing this approach aims to reduce the number of structure ignitions during a wildfire.

Construction: This plays a critical role in reducing the risk of structure ignitions during wildfires. In response to the recurring cycle of interface fire disasters, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/Office of the State Fire Marshal has developed Wildland-Urban Interface Building Standards for new construction under Chapter 7A of the California Building Code. These standards establish minimum requirements for materials and material assemblies to provide a reasonable level of exterior wildfire exposure protection for buildings in Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Areas. The use of ignition-resistant materials and designs to resist the intrusion of flames or hot embers projected by a vegetation fire has proven to be the most prudent effort California has made to mitigate wildfire losses. The standards became effective on January 1, 2008, for all areas within State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and on July 1, 2008, in Local Responsibility Areas classified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The standards address critical features such as roofing, attic ventilation, ignition-resistant siding, decking, windows, and wall vents. By implementing these new standards, we can reduce the number of hot embers that enter a building and ignite fires. This approach is crucial since hot ember intrusion is the primary cause of homes destroyed in wildland-urban interface fires

Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps: Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps are required by Public Resources Code Section 4201, which mandates that the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection identify areas of significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather patterns, and other relevant factors. The FHSZ maps evaluate "hazard," not "risk". The zones consider the probability of the area burning and potential fire behavior in the area based on elements such as fire history, potential fuel over a 30- to 50-year period, blowing embers, terrain, weather, and the likelihood of structures igniting. It is not an evaluation of the level of risk the area faces because it does not consider modifications such as defensible space, building construction, or water supply. Local governments use FHSZ maps to evaluate and update the safety element of general plans.

The Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps are updated every seven years, or as necessary, to reflect changes in the landscape, fuel conditions, or other factors that may impact fire hazard severity. CAL FIRE released updated Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps in mid-2023, which are an update from the previous layers that were adopted in 2007. The new FHSZ maps were adopted on April 1, 2024.

Pre-Fire Engineering

Pre-fire engineering is a critical part of the Unit Strategic Fire Plan. GIS mapping is used to analyze the fire environment and help Unit managers make key decisions for on the ground Pre-Fire projects. It is the goal of engineering to provide the most current and accurate data for the fire plan process. This goal is accomplished by field validating the data with Unit Battalions, collaborators, county officials, and federal agencies.

Pre-Fire Engineering Objectives:

- Update the Assets at Risk data.
- Assist with Fuel Reduction Project Implementation
- Maintain current and up to date county parcel data.
- Work with Unit personnel and collaborators to enhance the fire plan data.
- Create Pre-Attack Maps and Plans
- Reporting of Fuel Reduction projects to Region/State (CalMAPPER)

B. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

AEU has an active Vegetation Management Program (VMP). This program is responsible for developing landowner partnerships with individuals, homeowners' associations, tribal partners, ranches, parks, conservancies, and timberland owners for fuel reduction and prescribed fire projects. All VMP projects are in alignment with the Unit Fire Plan goals and strategies. In 2023, AEU's VMP program includes the following projects:

Project	*County*	*Acres*	*Status*
Sly Park	El Dorado	3,909	Active
Shake Fiddletown	Amador	2,500	Active
Georgetown Divide	El Dorado	4,888	Active
Auburn Lake Trails	El Dorado	426	Active
Van Vleck / Sac Valley Shooting Center	Sacramento	5,000	Active
Prairie City SVRA	Sacramento	836	Active
Pine Acres	Amador	2,544	Active
Doaks	Amador	2,171	Active
Amoruso	Amador	1,100	Active
Ladies Valley	El Dorado	320	Active
Rancho Arroyo Seco	Amador	5,005	Active
Sacramento Valley Conservancy	Sacramento	6,101	Active
Lyon Ranch	El Dorado	1,500	Active
Shake Omo	Amador/El Dorado	3,572	Active
Salmon Falls Ranch VTP	El Dorado	3,933	Active
Shay Creek	Alpine	75	Active

SECTION VI: PRE- FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS

North Division

El Dorado County consists of 459,863 acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area and is divided into all or portions of CAL FIRE Battalion's 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 (See Figure B for Battalion Boundaries Map) El Dorado County consists of low-lying grass and brush lands to the west and productive timber lands on the eastern boundary. Amongst the brush and timber terrain of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, El Dorado County has a productive agricultural community; apple orchards and vineyards line the southern aspects and lush valleys. Highway 50 not only provides easy access to and from South Lake Tahoe but provides an easy Sacramento commute for those thousands of residences wanting to live in a rural community.

Battalion 1

Battalion 1 encompasses approximately 587,545 acres in El Dorado and Sacramento counties. El Dorado County communities within the Battalion include Camino, Diamond Springs, El Dorado, El Dorado Hills, Pioneer, Logtown, Latrobe, Nashville, Cameron Park, Placerville, Pleasant Valley, Pollock Pines, Rescue, Shingle Springs, and Grizzly Flats.

Like many areas in the Sierra Nevada, there exists a significant wildland-urban interface (WUI) threat within Battalion 1. There are several large, well-populated subdivisions within the Battalion that are at risk from a catastrophic fire occurrence. As a Unit, we are proactively working with residences, Sierra Pacific Industries, Pacific Gas & Electric, El Dorado Irrigation District, El Dorado Fire Safe Council, and our Federal, Tribal, and Local cooperators to reduce these risks.

Battalion 1 is an active Battalion in the Amador-El Dorado Unit regarding vegetation fire response-it has the highest urban interface population density in the Unit. Within Battalion 1 there are two CAL FIRE facilities and two unstaffed fire lookouts.

Camino Fire Station 20 and Amador El Dorado Unit Headquarters

Camino Fire Station 20 is responsible for all risk response to the areas including Camino, Pollock Pines, Placerville, Pleasant Valley, Grizzly Flat, Omo Ranch, the American River Canyon / Highway 50 corridor and is the 2nd due CAL FIRE engine into the Lake Tahoe Basin.

El Dorado Fire Station 43

The response area for El Dorado Fire Station 43 includes eastern Sacramento County, El Dorado Hills, Shingle Springs, Latrobe, Cameron Park, Placerville, El Dorado, Diamond Springs, Gold Hill, Nashville, Omo Ranch, Pleasant Valley, Pioneer, Grizzly Flat, and Rescue.

The Local Fire Agencies that lie, at least partially within Battalion 1 boundary lines are:

- El Dorado County Fire Protection District
- El Dorado Hills Fire Department
- Cameron Park Fire Department
- Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District
- Rescue Fire Protection District
- Pioneer Fire Protection District
- Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

The Associate Fire Safe Councils (FSC) which reside within the Battalion 1 Boundaries are:

- Aukum / Fairplay FSC
- Camino FSC
- Cedar Grove FSC
- Diamond Springs FSC
- Fort Jim FSC
- Gold Ridge Forest FSC
- Grizzly Flat FSC
- Logtown FSC
- Oak Hill FSC
- Omo Ranch FSC
- Patterson Ranch FSC
- Placerville FSC
- Royal Equestrian FSC
- Rancho Del Sol FSC
- Sand Ridge FSC
- Sierra Springs Regional FSC
- Texas Hill FSC

Battalion 2

CAL FIRE Battalion 2 lies primarily on the Georgetown Divide in northern El Dorado County. The communities of Georgetown, Garden Valley, Pilot Hill, Cool, Mosquito, Kelsey, Coloma, Lotus, Auburn Lake Trails, Rescue, and a portion of El Dorado Hills are within the Battalion. The total area of the Battalion is 357,725 acres. Fuel types within the Battalion range from 19% timber, 54% brush, to 27% grass/oak woodland.

Like most Sierra Nevada areas, Battalion 2 has a significant wildland-urban interface problem. The majority of construction in the area took place prior to the adoption of the Fire Safe Regulations. This has led to areas with inadequate ingress and egress routes and insufficient defensible space clearance around structures. An example of this problem was the destruction of fourteen homes in the 1994 Kelsey fire. As a Unit, we are proactively working with residents, Sierra Pacific Industries, Pacific Gas & Electric, El Dorado Fire Safe Council, and our Federal and Local cooperators to reduce these risks. Battalion 2 has multiple Vegetation Management Plans (VMP) located within its boundaries. Lyon, Georgetown-Divide and Auburn Lake Trails VMPs remain as a priority in the Battalion and unit for fuels reduction and range improvement projects, to help prevent the spread of major fire and protect the surrounding communities.

Within Battalion 2, consists of two CAL FIRE stations, Growlersburg Conservation Camp and one staffed Fire Lookout. Growlersburg Conservation Camp, located outside of Georgetown, providing up to five hand crews. Growlersburg Camp provides labor for pre-fire treatment programs in El Dorado County, as well as an invaluable resource on initial attack fires.

Garden Valley Station 50

Garden Valley Station 50 is responsible for all risk response to the areas including Garden Valley, Georgetown, Mosquito, Greenwood, Volcanoville, Coloma, Lotus and areas of Rescue.

Pilot Hill Station 70

Pilot Hill Station 70 is responsible for all risk response to areas including Pilot Hill, Cool, Coloma, Lotus, Rescue and areas of El Dorado Hills. Pilot Peak Fire Lookout is currently staffed during summer months with Volunteers in Preventions (VIP) members, to help with early detection of any new fires in the area.

The Local Fire Agencies that lie, at least partially, within Battalion 2 boundary lines are:

- Garden Valley
- Georgetown
- Mosquito
- Rescue
- El Dorado County
- El Dorado Hills

The Associate Fire Safe Councils (FSC) which reside within the Battalion 2 Boundaries are:

- Auburn Lake Trails FSC
- Coloma-Lotus FSC
- Cool-Pilot Hill FSC
- Gallagher Land Owners FSC
- Georgetown Divide FSC
- Gold Hills Estates FSC
- Greenstone FSC
- Lakehills FSC
- Mosquito FSC
- Rescue Community FSC
- Volcanoville FS

West Division

The newly created (2024) West Division oversees the administration and operation of the Cameron Park Fire Department Agreement, the Ponderosa Fire Crews, the McClellan Reload Base, and the Training Bureau.

Battalion 5 – Cameron Park Fire Department (Cooperative Agreement)

Located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, the Cameron Park Fire Department sits within the unincorporated community of Cameron Park. It serves the community, its citizens, visitors, and neighboring areas under the direction and governing Board of the Cameron Park Community Services District. Situated along the Highway 50 corridor the Fire Department provides a wide array of fire and emergency services to those living in the community as well as those passing through for business and leisure activities.

The Fire Department serves the community from two full-time staffed fire stations situated in the north and south ends of the district. Station 88 is located on the North side of town at the intersection of Cameron Park Drive and Alhambra. Station 89 serves the South side of town and is located on County Club Drive. Each engine is staffed with a minimum of two personnel each day and can provide paramedic services 24 hours per day. In addition, one paramedic ambulance is based out of the Cameron Park Fire Department serves the community.

Cameron Park Fire Department, in a cooperative agreement with CAL FIRE, strives to provide its citizens, business members and visitors with fire and emergency services that meet or exceed expectations. From fire prevention education through the participation in school programs, static displays, and community events, to fire prevention inspection and enforcement, it is our goal to make Cameron Park a fire safe community.

The Local Fire Agencies that immediately surround Battalion 5 are:

- El Dorado County Fire Protection District
- El Dorado Hills Fire Department
- Rescue Fire Protection District

The Associate Fire Safe Council (FSC) which reside within the Battalion 1 Boundaries are:

- Greater Cameron Park FSC

Ponderosa Fire Crews

In the summer of 2020, due to a reduced number of California Department of Corrections (CDCR) crews, CAL FIRE initiated a pilot program for Fire Fighter 1I hand crews. The success of these crews statewide led to CAL FIRE permanently funding them. By 2022, the Ponderosa Fire Center secured full funding for 2 Battalion Chiefs, 7 Fire Captains, 6 Fire Apparatus Engineers, and 80 firefighters, enabling the deployment of 2 Fire Fighter I hand crews daily. In January 2024, additional funding was granted to expand staffing to 2 Battalion Chiefs, 10 Fire Captains, 9 Engineers, and 120 Firefighters, resulting in 3 Fire Fighter 1 crews daily. The establishment of the new Ponderosa Fire Center in Cameron Park offers a more suitable location to accommodate the increased number of Fire Fighters and proximity to various vegetation management programs and cooperative fuels reduction projects within the Unit. Moreover, its central location facilitates a more efficient response throughout the Unit.

CAL FIRE Firefighter I Hand Crews are highly trained firefighters who specialize in wildland fire operations and all hazard incident operations. Their primary responsibility while assigned to a wildland fire is constructing handline with chainsaws and hand tools. These crews are also used to defend structures during a wildfire. While FF I Hand Crews are utilized primarily for wildland fire operations, they can also assist in efforts to contain and mitigate any of California's major disasters, including floods, earthquakes, heavy snow, and search and rescue operations. When not assigned to a wildland fire or emergency incident, these crews focus on fuels reduction and vegetation management project work in communities.

McClellan Reload Base

McClellan Airtanker Base (MATB) originated in 2008. Located in McClellan at the McClellan Airport, MATB is the only airtanker base for CAL FIRE that can load every type of airtanker. The base was designed to handle multiple Very Large Air Tankers (VLAT) at one time, to be dispatched throughout the state.

The McClellan Airport is a general aviation airport situated at the 76.8-foot elevation with a 10,599-foot-long runway. The airport can support any air tanker, large helicopter operations and air attack platforms.

Resources stationed at McClellan Airtanker Base:

1 – OV-10 Bronco – Primary Mission is to function as Ariel Supervision Module. It can function as an Air Attack Platform if needed for Multiple Aircraft resources assigned throughout the year.

CAL FIRE's fire protection objective is to contain 95% of all unwanted fires to 10 acres or less. Aviation assets are instrumental in meeting and maintaining this objective. Air Attack and Helitack base locations and aircraft deployment is designed to reduce the number of large fires throughout the State. The purpose and capability of air tankers and helicopters is to place fire retardant and personnel at the fire scene before ground forces, and to support those forces.

Aircraft initial response criteria have been established to deliver retardant to the fire scene (on state responsibility lands) within 20 minutes of dispatch and to provide follow- up aircraft as needed. This response criteria plan was developed to include the use of USFS and BLM aircraft on a closest forces concept. Air assets located at MATB can respond to a fire anywhere in California, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho and nationally depending on the fire activity.

Training Bureau

The primary responsibility of the AEU Training Bureau is to provide training and assist with records maintenance for all employees assigned to the CAL FIRE Amador El Dorado Unit. Additional responsibilities include the coordination of State, Region and outside training in support of the Department's mission. The Training Bureau also assists with scheduling and facilitating the required training and testing of the Unit's CFFJAC employees. This is accomplished by the development of an annual training plan that serves the needs of the Department and all personnel within the Unit. The Unit's training plan is used to develop and support comprehensive training for all employees, ensure compliance with state and policy mandated training, enhance employee's incident command qualifications, and develop career tracks that benefit the Department's mission as a leader in all risk emergency response and incident command.

The Department training program operates within a traditional chain of command process, from the Department to the Region, then to the Unit.

All Training is prioritized and allocated utilizing the following criteria:

- Mandatory / Position Required Training (required by policy, law, or statute)
- Incident Command System Training (based on the ERD needs in support of Department's Mission)

Career Enhancement and Employee Development

Administrative Division

Battalion 9 - Camino Emergency Command Center

The Camino Interagency Emergency Command Center (CICC) provides Command and Control for all State Responsibility Area (SRA), Local Responsibility Area (LRA), and Federal Responsibility Area (FRA) incidents. Those areas include Amador, El Dorado, Alpine, and Sacramento Counties as well as the Eldorado National Forest (ENF), and Tahoe Management Unit (TMU).

Amador - El Dorado Unit (AEU), Eldorado National Forest (ENF) and Tahoe Management Unit (TMU) are located in CICC's Emergency Command Center at the CAL FIRE Camino Headquarters. The Interagency Command Center allows each agency to share resources and assures coordination of local, state, and federal emergency response forces.

CICC monitors fire weather conditions within the Unit. This helps the decision-making process to ensure proper staffing prior to weather events that could affect fire behavior. CICC maintains 4 Remote Weather Stations (RAWS) and monitors these daily using this information to set the appropriate dispatch level. A Standard Response Plan is pre-determined for each dispatch level for timely activation of resources in the event of a vegetation fire, or any type of incident which is threatening the wildland.

CICC utilizes the Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC) and Hired Equipment Management System (HEMS) to move resources which allows personnel to support any incident locally, statewide, or nationally. ROSS and HEMS contain information, such as, the Incident Command System (ICS) qualifications for AEU, ENF, TMU, and cooperator personnel / equipment. Other supplies, vendors, private resources, and call when needed support or tactical equipment (i.e., dozers, helicopters, water tenders, etc.), information. CICC is also capable of handling incidents that may require Extended Attack operations into multiple days. The CICC Expanded ECC is used for large or complex incidents that outgrow Initial Attack (IA), so the IA floor of the ECC can continue mitigating new Initial Attack incidents. When an IA incident occurs that has the potential to become an extended attack or major incident, CICC immediately staffs Expanded with additional ECC personnel. Once the CICC Expanded is open and functional, all ordering for the given incident takes place within expanded and staffing levels ~~and~~ are adjusted based on the size and / or complexity of the incident.

CICC Mission Statement

The Camino Interagency Command Center, operated by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the United States Forest Service, is a cooperative interagency command center. The command center provides professional and efficient command and control services for the residents and visitors of El Dorado, Amador, Sacramento, and Alpine Counties including the Eldorado National Forest and the Tahoe Management Unit. The primary mission is to achieve the most economical and effective cooperative fire, aviation management, emergency medical response, law enforcement, and rescue service for the communities we serve.

AEU Wildfire Resiliency Program

In 2023 CAL FIRE AEU implemented the Wildfire Resiliency Program. This is a comprehensive program designed to mitigate wildfire risks and increase resiliency within the Amador-El Dorado Units jurisdiction. The program is led by one battalion chief who oversees several key components, including the defensible space inspection program, the unit PIO, and the unit Pre-Fire Engineer (PFE) captain. The program Battalion Chief serves as a liaison to various wildfire resiliency groups, such as Firewise communities, Fire Safe Councils, as well as county and local fire departments to facilitate community outreach, education, and enforcement. The Battalion Chief also oversees enforcement of state wildfire regulations relating to development and wildfire prevention.

The defensible space inspection program is responsible for ensuring that homes and properties within the AEU jurisdiction meet the state-mandated defensible space requirements. The program is staffed with six defensible space inspectors (DSI) who perform LE 100 inspections to PRC 4291 standards. The DSI’s also perform inspections related to California Civil Code 1102.09 for real estate transactions within designated fire severity zones.

The Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program was created in 2018 by Senate Bills 1028 and 901 as a response to loss of property and lives from utility-caused fires and climate change. By mitigating tree failure and contact with electric infrastructure, the consequence of direct and indirect loss is less likely to occur. The Unit's objective is to have Defensible Space Inspectors conduct Utility inspections as they are observed.

The unit PFE Captain is responsible for the unit's fire plan, fire maps, and other GIS-related functions. The PFE also oversees the daily functions of the unit Defensible Space Program and ensure that defensible space inspections are conducted consistently and effectively.

The Wildfire Resiliency Program also enforces state regulations related to wildfire safety. This includes the California State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations, PRC 4290, as well as other relevant wildfire legislation in California. The program works closely with county planning and building offices along with local fire jurisdictions for buildings, construction, and development in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) and the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ).

South Division

Amador County consists of 299,861 acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area and is divided into Battalions 3 and 4. (See Figure B for Battalion Boundaries Map) Within these two Battalions are six local fire cooperators; Amador Fire Protection District, Jackson City Fire Department, Jackson Valley Fire Protection District, City of Ione Fire Department, and Lockwood Fire Protection District.

The Amador County terrain consists of low-lying grasslands to the west and productive timber lands on the eastern boundary. In the center of Amador County is a flourishing agricultural community. These low mountain ranges are thick with brush and trees, and the valleys are lush with vineyards making Amador County a very popular area to live as well as a great travel destination.

Battalion 3

AEU Battalion 3 covers 282,349 acres and includes portions of El Dorado and Amador counties. Amador County communities within the Battalion include Pioneer, Pine Grove, Volcano, and Lockwood. El Dorado County communities within the Battalion include Omo Ranch and Mt Aukum. The fuel types in the Battalion range from 45% timber, 48% brush, to 7% grassy oak woodland.

Battalion 3 has a significant wildland-urban interface (WUI) problem. There are several large, densely populated subdivisions within the Battalion that are at risk of a large catastrophic fire occurrence. As a Unit, we are proactively working with several cooperators including residences, Sierra Pacific Industries, Pacific Gas & Electric, Amador Fire Safe Council, Federal and Local cooperators to reduce the risk of a large damaging fire.

Battalion 3 consists of two CAL FIRE Stations (Dew Drop Station 10 and Pine Grove Station 80), a Conservation Camp, one Fire Lookout, Mount Zion Demonstration State Forest (164 acres) and the North Mokelumne Demonstration State Forest (1,065 acres). Pine Grove Station, located in Pine Grove, is staffed with two Type III engines and a Battalion Chief, Dew Drop Station, located east of Pioneer, is staffed with one Type III engine. Dew Drop station is also staffed with an engine from the El Dorado National Forest during fire season. Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp provides up to four Type I hand crews. Pine Grove Camp is the last remaining youth camp in the state. Youths range in age from 18-25. Counties throughout California provide youth to the state under a contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). Crews provide hundreds of hours of work on fuel reduction and vegetation management projects to the communities in Amador County, as well as an invaluable resource on initial attack. The camp does regular project work for Amador County Roads, Amador Fire Safe Counsil, State Parks and the cities of Jackson, Sutter Creek, and Ione. Since 2020 Mount Zion Lookout has been staffed with VIP's and will continue to be staffed every fire season.

Other fire agencies that are located within the boundaries of Battalion 3 include:

- Pioneer Fire Protection District
- El Dorado County Protection District
- Lockwood Fire Protection District
- Amador Fire Protection District.
- El Dorado National Forest

Battalion 4

AEU Battalion 4 covers 650,424 acres and encompasses portions of Amador, El Dorado, Sacramento, and San Joaquin counties. The fuel types in the Battalion range from 15% timber to 34% brush, and 51% grass/oak woodland.

Like the other Battalions in the Unit, there exists a significant wildland-urban interface problem within the Battalion. There are several large, well-populated subdivisions that are at risk to large catastrophic fires. As a Unit, we are proactively working with residences, Sierra Pacific Industries, Amador Fire Safe Council, and our Federal and Local cooperators to reduce these risks.

Sutter Hill Station 60

Sutter Hill station staffs one Type III engine year- round and a second Type III engine and bulldozer during fire season. Sutter Hill station is also the location of an automotive shop, and the Unit's training classroom.

River Pines Station 30

Station 30 in River Pines, staffs one Type III engine during fire season. There are no CAL FIRE stations in Sacramento or San Joaquin counties.

Cooperating Fire Agencies

The CAL FIRE Academy and fifteen fire departments lie, at least partially, within the Battalion. The Local Fire Agencies that lie within Battalion 4 boundary lines are:

- Amador Fire Protection District
- Ione City Fire
- Jackson City Fire
- Jackson Valley Fire Protection District
- Lockwood Fire Protection District
- Mule Creek State Prison Fire
- Plymouth City Fire
- Sutter Creek Fire Protection District
- Clements Fire District
- Liberty Rural Fire Protection District
- Herald Fire Protection District
- Wilton Fire Protection District
- Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District
- Pioneer Fire Protection District

CAL FIRE and the above fire departments serve the following communities: Buena Vista, Carbondale, Comanche, Fiddletown, Ione, Jackson, Jackson Rancheria Casino, Martell, Plymouth, River Pines, Sutter Creek, Amador City, Dry Town, Clements, Herald, Wilton, Rancho Murieta and Mt. Aukum.

The Amador Fire Safe Council (FSC) is a cooperating agency within Amador County.

East Division (Battalion 6)

CAL FIRE Battalion 6 includes most of Alpine County and those portions of Lake Tahoe Basin that lie within El Dorado County. The only portion of Alpine County that does not fall within Battalion 6 is Bear Valley, California, which is administered by the Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit of CAL FIRE. The Communities of South Lake Tahoe, Meyers, Fallen Leaf Lake, Phillips, Meeks Bay, Twin Bridges, Kirkwood, Woodfords, and Markleeville are within Battalion 6. The Lake Tahoe Basin is highly complex with fire service jurisdiction split between two states, five Counties, seven local fire districts, one city fire department, two CAL FIRE Units, the Nevada Division of Forestry, and U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. For this reason, the Amador-El Dorado Unit coordinates closely with the adjoining Nevada-Yuba-Placer CAL FIRE Unit for operational, administrative, prevention, and grant funding decisions within the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Amador-El Dorado Unit has direct wildland fire protection responsibility for all State Responsibility Area lands within the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Alpine County is included within the administrative boundaries of Battalion 6. Alpine county is largely made up of Federal National Forest and designated Wilderness Area lands. CAL FIRE has resumed Direct Protection Authority over State Responsibility Areas (SRA) in Alpine County, while continuing to utilize the closest resource concept through the CFMA. The total area of the Battalion is approximately 800,000 acres and is comprised of mostly high-altitude conifer stands common to the high elevation (5,000 – 10,000+ feet) Sierra Nevada Mountains. The primary fuel type of the State Responsibility Area is Jeffery Pine Mixed Conifer Forest, Pinyon-Juniper, and East Side Sage Brush.

Lake Tahoe Fire Station 5

On June 1, 2013, 33,000 acres of land previously protected by the United States Forest Service (USFS) formally became SRA land due to recommendations made in 2008 by the Emergency California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission; a Commission convened by the Governors of California and Nevada following the devastating Angora Fire the previous year. In 2008, because of a Governor's Executive Order, CAL FIRE began staffing two fire engines in the Basin. CAL FIRE staffs one Type III fire engine at a leased facility located within the Lake Valley Fire Protection District. Lake Tahoe Station 5 is one of two CAL FIRE facilities located in the Tahoe Basin with the other located in Carnelian Bay on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe.

Tahoe Fire Center

In 2021, CAL FIRE was given authorization to staff two (2) CCC crews to help with fuels reduction projects and fire suppression duties from Meyers Station in South Lake Tahoe. On May 3, 2021, CAL FIRE began the implementation of two (2) CCC Fire Crews to bolster the number of hand crews available for fuels reduction projects and fire suppression response. The Tahoe Fire Center consist of 2 Battalion Chiefs, 7 Fire Captains, 6 Fire Apparatus Engineers and 2 crews, each staffed with 15 Corp members. The Center provides crew availability 7 days a week, actively engaged with state and local cooperators in fuels reduction and vegetation management projects.

In addition to responding to all risk emergencies, Lake Tahoe Station 5 is very proactive in public education and defensible space inspections within the surrounding community. In addition, the Battalion maintains a close working relationship with the federal land management agencies including the USDA Forest Service and the USDI Bureau of Land Management.

The Lake Tahoe CAL FIRE station also works closely with the Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC) assisting with their firefighter academy, teaching classes and assisting in training drills. Additionally, the Amador El Dorado Unit Training Bureau's current training contract is hosted by the LTCC.

Given recent wildfire activity, current trends in the Lake Tahoe Basin towards prioritizing fuels reduction projects that will protect SRA lands and increase forest resiliency, and efforts to develop fire-adapted communities, CAL FIRE has the potential to be well positioned to support these on-going initiatives through development of adequate infrastructure. This will require building a modern facility with additional room to accommodate fire engines, firefighter hand crew(s), additional cover resources during periods of high fire danger (engines and dozers), and sufficient office capacity for CAL FIRE support staff. In early 2024, CAL FIRE acquired a 15-acre property on Sawmill Road to build such a facility.

It is important to note, over the next several years The Lake Tahoe Restoration Act approved up to $150 million dollars in funding for additional fuels reduction and forest thinning projects, biomass programs, competitive grants, stewardship contracts, municipal firefighting water supply upgrades and updates of strategic fuels reduction and fire prevention guidance documents. These community and resource protection initiatives are aligned with CAL FIRE's mission and strategic goals.

Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT)

The Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team vision is to establish proper forest management that reduces the threat of catastrophic wildfire, and proactively inform and educate the public on how to protect lives, communities, property, and the exceptional natural resources of Lake Tahoe. The Mission Statement of the TFFT is "To protect lives, property and the environment within the Lake Tahoe Basin from wildfire by implementing prioritized fuels reduction projects and educating the public on becoming a Fire Adapted Community." Nearly all fuels reduction hazard work in the Tahoe Basin coordinated through the TFFT.

Continued Development of Fire Adapted Communities

The Fire Adapted Community (FAC) program encourages communities to be aware of local wildfire hazards, act to reduce their vulnerability to these hazards, inform the public of environmental and socio-economic benefits of being a part of a FAC network and inspire others within neighboring areas to prepare their communities for the occurrence of wildfire. Information distributed to communities encourages owners of structures and property in the SRA to lower their risk by staying informed, creating defensible space, reducing, and removing fuels within the SRA, and understanding their effects on the environment. When a FAC accomplishes these actions, the risk of wildfire is reduced at a larger scale because the entire community is working together to create and maintain a regional approach to preparing for the occurrence of wildfire.

Meyers Administrative Offices

Division and Battalion Headquarters are both located at administrative offices CAL FIRE maintains in Meyers, California. The East Division Operations Chief, Battalion Chief, SRA funded staff work from this facility.

Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Agencies:

Federal Fire Agencies

- U.S.F.S Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

State Fire Agencies

- Amador-El Dorado Unit CAL FIRE
- Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit CAL FIRE
- Nevada Division of Forestry

Local Fire Districts

- Lake Valley Fire Protection District
- Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Community Service District
- Meeks Bay Fire Protection District (under agreement with North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District)
- Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District
- North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
- North Tahoe Fire Protection District

Local Government Fire Departments

- South Lake Tahoe Fire Department

Alpine County Fire Agencies:

Federal Fire Agencies

- U.S.F.S. El Dorado National Forest
- U.S.F.S. Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
- U.S.D.I. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management

State Fire Agencies

- Amador El Dorado Unit CAL FIRE

Local Fire Districts/Departments

- Eastern Alpine County Volunteer Fire Department
- Kirkwood Fire Department

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) in the Battalion:

- Lake Tahoe Basin CWPP
- Alpine County CWPP
- Fire safe Council

Alpine County

Alpine County consists of 474,265 acres and is entirely Federal DPA. However, 36,959 of those acres are private lands making them SRA (approximately 13%). Alpine County is part of CAL FIRE Battalion 6 (See Figure B for Battalion Boundaries Map) and consists of mostly National Forest and Wilderness lands. Fire protection is mostly provided by Federal cooperators (USFS, BLM).

Sacramento County

Sacramento County consists of 119,248 acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area and is divided into portions of CAL FIRE Battalion 1 and Battalion 4 (See Figure B for Battalion Boundaries Map). Much of Sacramento County is provided fire protection by local government cooperators; Sacramento Metropolitan Fire, Folsom Fire Department, Cosumnes Fire Protection District, Herald Fire Protection District, and Wilton Fire Protection District.

San Joaquin County

San Joaquin County consists of 24,888 acres of CAL FIRE Direct Protection Areas with the Amador-El Dorado Unit and is part of CAL FIRE Battalion 4 (See Figure B for Battalion Boundaries Map). San Joaquin County terrain consists of mostly grazing grassland and agriculture. Fire protection is provided by CAL FIRE AEU, TCU and local government cooperators.

APPENDIX A: PRE- FIRE PROJECTS

PRE-FIRE PROJECTS

Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU)

01/01/2023 thru 12/31/2023

Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU)

PROGRAM	PROJECT NAME	Project Status	Treatment Footprint Acres	
VMP	**2017 Sly Park VMP**	Active	**1,399.43**	AEU
Fire Plan	**2020 Forestry Challenge**	Complete		AEU
Fire Plan	**2CA05282 Amador RCD**	Active	**71.01**	AEU
Fire Plan	**5GA21129 Georgetown Marshall Road Fuels Reduction Project**	Active	**0.01**	AEU
Fire Plan	**5GA21149 Upper Rancheria Community Fuel Break**	Active	**30.93**	AEU
Fire Plan	**5GG17108 Fire Adapted 50 PHII - El Dorado Cooperative Wildland Fire Prevention Strategy**	Active	**720.85**	AEU
Fire Plan	**5GG21199 South El Dorado County Fuel Reduction**	Active	**0.54**	AEU
Fire Plan	**5GG21200 Fuel Reduction for Critical Roads**	Active	**62.75**	AEU
Fire Plan	**5GG21201 Amador Community Fuel Break Development Project**	Active	**55.11**	AEU
Fire Plan	**Amador Community Chipping Project**	Active		AEU
Fire Plan	**Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress and Education Phase 2**	Active		AEU
Fire Plan	**Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress and Education Plan**	Active	**902.02**	AEU
Fire Plan	**Amador County Roads SRA**	Active	**239.62**	AEU
VMP	**Amoruso VMP**	Active	**869.41**	AEU
Fire Plan	**Arroyo Seco VMP**	Active	**1,108.16**	AEU
VMP	**Auburn Lake Trails 2016**	Active	**56.87**	AEU
VMP	**Auburn Lake Trails VMP**	Active	**18.95**	AEU
CFIP	**Barentson CFIP 2021**	Active	**83.69**	AEU
Forest Health	**Calforests Caldor Fire Post Fire Recovery – Phase I**	Active	**4,269.09**	AEU
Forest Health	**California State Parks Forest Health**	Active	**1,633.44**	AEU
Fire Plan	**California Tahoe Conservancy**	Active	**57.76**	AEU
Fire Plan	**CFTC-Ione FR**	Active	**17.24**	AEU
Fire Plan	**Communication Repeater Fuels Maintenance**	Active	**4.20**	AEU
Forest Health	**Cosumnes Ladder Fuel Reduction Project**	Active		AEU
CFIP	**Dauphinais CFIP 2023**	Active	**56.31**	AEU

Fire Plan	**Dew Drop Station FR**	Active	**10.52**	AEU
VMP	**Doaks Ridge VMP 2016**	Active	**96.51**	AEU
Fire Plan	**Eastern Alpine Communities Fuels Mitigation Project**	Active	**130.26**	AEU
Fire Plan	**Eastern Alpine Communities Fuels Reduction & Curbside Chipping**	Active	**47.45**	AEU
Fire Plan	**El Dorado Chipper**	Active		AEU
Fire Plan	**El Dorado County Hazardous Fuels Reduction**	Active		AEU
Fire Plan	**El Dorado County SRA Roads**	Active	**236.28**	AEU
Fire Plan	**El Dorado Resource Conservation District (RCD)**	Planned		AEU
Fire Plan	**Fallen Leaf FD**	Active	**6.20**	AEU
Forest Health	**Fire Adapted 50 Phase IB - Wildland Fire Protection Program**	Active	**1,642.21**	AEU
Forest Health	**Forest Projects Plan (Phase I)**	Active		AEU
VMP	**Georgetown Divide Complex 2015 VMP**	Active	**2,228.92**	AEU
Fire Plan	**Indian Grinding Rock State Park**	Active	**15.99**	AEU
Forest Health	**Jackson Creek Forest and Watershed Health Project**	Active	**1,319.74**	AEU
CFIP	**James CFIP 2022**	Active	**35.85**	AEU
VMP	**Ladies Valley 2014 VMP**	Active	**25.13**	AEU
Forest Health	**Leoni Meadows Forest Restoration Project**	Active	**2,011.18**	AEU
VMP	**Lyon VMP**	Active	**322.33**	AEU
Fire Plan	**Pilot Peak FR**	Active	**33.41**	AEU
Fire Plan	**Pine Acres Fuel Break Maintenance**	Active	**626.30**	AEU
VMP	**Pine Acres VMP**	Active	**515.45**	AEU
Fire Plan	**Pine Hill BLM**	Active	**51.06**	AEU
Fire Plan	**Pine Hill Fish and Wildlife**	Active	**31.76**	AEU
CFIP	**Pongratz Family Trust CFIP 2020**	Active	**353.56**	AEU
VMP	**Sacramento Valley Conservancy 2020 VMP**	Active	**1,207.86**	AEU
VMP	**Shake / Omo VMP 2019**	Active	**197.74**	AEU
VMP	**Shake/Fiddletown 2017**	Active	**286.54**	AEU
CFIP	**Sherrill CFIP 2023**	Active		AEU
Fire Plan	**South Lake Tahoe FR**	Active	**8.27**	AEU
Forest Health	**Spanish Flat North: Phase III Chili Bar to Georgetown Fuel Reduction Project**	Active	**1,534.57**	AEU
Fire Plan	**State Parks Alpine FR**	Active	**39.72**	AEU
Fire Plan	**State Parks Gold Fields**	Active	**181.02**	AEU
Fire Plan	**State Parks Tahoe Basin Fuels Reduction**	Active	**368.16**	AEU
Fire Plan	**Sutter Hill Station**	Active	**31.98**	AEU
CFIP	**Tamarack CFIP 2021**	Complete	**415.60**	AEU
Forest Health	**TCSI El Dorado/French Meadows**	Active	**10,420.14**	AEU
VMP	**Van Vleck / Shooting Center 2016**	Active	**1,608.89**	AEU
CFIP	**Volcano CFIP 2023**	Active		AEU
		Totals	**37,697.99**	

***TOTALS REPRESENT PROJECT BOUNDARY ACRES, NOT ACRES TREATED**

Note: With the passing of AB 398, SRA Fees have been suspended for 10 years. Funding for future projects will come from Climate Change Initiative funds and an extension of the cap-and-trade program beginning in 2018.

North Division

Battalion 1 Hazard / Target Areas

The fuels within Battalion 1 are diverse, and include approximately 18% timber, 33% brush, and 49% grass/oak woodland.

Like many areas in the Sierra Nevada's the Battalion, this area contains a significant wildland-urban interface problem. All communities within Battalion 1 SRA are evaluated using the following general and specific criteria to determine their Hazard/Target status:

- Potential for life loss
- Potential for property loss
- Potential for high community consequence (historical, environmental, infrastructure, etc.)
- Fuel types and fuel loading
- Ingress and egress
- Stakeholder collaboration

All communities within Battalion 1 meet the Target Hazard Criteria, some to a greater or lesser degree than others listed. According to FRAP data, approximately 96% of Battalion 1 is rated as high or very high in SRA fire severity ratings.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) in the Battalion:

- Highway 49 El Dorado County CWPP
- Diamond Springs/El Dorado CWPP
- Highway 50 Corridor CWPP
- Royal Equestrian CWPP
- Grizzly Flat CWPP
- Logtown CWPP

Battalion 1 Current Projects:

Sly Park VMP

This project is a 1,200 acre fuels treatment project that prescribes the creation of a Defensible Fuels Zone/shaded fuel break between Park Creek Road and Jenkinson Lake with the utilization of broadcast burning as well as hand treatment by CAL FIRE hand crews, heavy equipment and engines. This project provides a fuel break for the surrounding communities and natural resources adjacent to Sly Park Recreation Area. This shaded fuel break was utilized in slowing and diverting the Northward spread of the Caldor Fire away from Pollock Pines. CAL FIRE works in cooperation with Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) and El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) to continually reduce the fuel loading and improve forest health on their lands. Landowners, situated along the border of the project, will be allowed to participate in the Sly Park Fire Safe Project by including their residential parcels in the fuel break. Project work will continue from the 2nd Dam to Park Creek Road (North and East of Jenkinson Lake).

Prairie City OHV Park VMP

The project area is located 13 miles east of the City of Sacramento and 3 miles south of U.S. Highway 50, along White Rock Road. This project is a range improvement and live fire training exercise over grass lands. Two particularly invasive and destructive species that occurs throughout the grassland is Medusa head and Yellow Star Thistle. These species can be effectively controlled with properly timed burning. CAL FIRE will utilize live fire exercises to treat the grass lands. All firing operations will be in conjunction with the unit training program. We expect rangeland project work to be conducted between May and August annually for training and invasive species control between October and November annually for training and thatch reduction. This Project has been inactive since 2019, however there are plans to make it active in Spring of 2023 for Vegetation Management and Live Fire training purposes.

Texas Hill

The Texas Hill community is defined for the purposes of this plan as the area bordered by Cedar Ravine Road on the west, Newtown Road on the east, the fuel break along the ridge adjacent to the airport on the north and Weber Creek on the south. The area encompasses approximately 900 acres and includes single-family residential and rural residential uses and timberland zoned Timber Production Zone. The predominant land use within the Texas Hill community is single family residential with lot sizes ranging from 2.5 acres to 20.0 per unit (Table 3). They are more concentrated in the southwestern part of the planning area and within the Texas Hill Estates development.

The majority of the planning area is characterized by gentle to moderately steep terrain. Elevations range from 2000-2400 feet. Slopes greater than 45 percent are found along the Weber Creek drainage and in a few isolated locations. The primary hydrologic feature is Weber Creek, a perennial stream. Relatively steep areas north of the New Weber Ditch and along Weber Creek are places where wildfire risk is greatest due to difficulties staging suppression forces and propensity for fires to race uphill under high winds. In addition to the wildfire risk inherent to vegetation communities as affected by topography and weather, there is also the risk of ignition. In El Dorado County and in most of California risk of ignition is closely related to the presence of humans. In the planning area, likely sources of ignition include roads and residences.

The Texas Hill community planning area is bounded on the west by Cedar Ravine Road and on the east by Newtown Road. Both roads provide access to Highway 50 and would serve as the primary evacuation routes from the community in the event of an emergency. A formal evacuation route is located on Big Barn Road that connects to New Town Road. Texas Hill Road and most of the internal roads in the community including Big Barn Road, Gingham Court, Nugget Lane, Promenade Lane, Fairover Drive and other local roads are commonly bordered by excessive vegetation that poses a risk of ignition and wildfire and potentially would impair access by emergency vehicles during a wildfire or other disaster.

The next steps in the planning process will be to prepare an environmental analysis of the proposed treatments. This will involve conducting database searches to determine if there are any notable historic or pre-historic resources in the planning area, estimating the potential impacts of treatments on vegetation and wildlife and evaluating any potential effects on other natural resources or socio-economic conditions. Measures to ensure avoidance of impacts will be incorporated into the analysis. Ultimately, a project package including the proposed treatments and environmental analysis will be prepared as a proposal for funding to be submitted during the next cycles of CAL FIRE and Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant for wildfire prevention projects.

Weber Creek Grant

El Dorado County has secured a grant from the California Wildfire Mitigation Program to launch a pilot project aimed at creating defensible space and retrofitting homes for ignition-resistant construction. This three-year initiative will target 525 homes at high risk from wildfires along the Weber Creek drainage area south of Placerville. In addition to the grant funding, El Dorado County is contributing its own funds to support the effort. Each home within the project area will undergo evaluations to determine necessary defensible space and home hardening improvements, which will be provided to eligible homeowners at no cost, up to a maximum dollar limit. This inclusive program is open to all residents within the project area, including those meeting social vulnerability criteria outlined by the California Wildfire Mitigation Program. The grant's Phase 1, focusing on environmental review requirements, was approved on June 28, 2023, with project implementation anticipated to commence in 2024 during Phase 2.

Fire Adapted 50 – Sly Park – Phase I, II, III

The Sly Park Vegetation Management Project is located near Pollock Pines and close to the southern edge of the King Fire Burn area which consumed 97,717 acres in the fall of 2014. The event threatened 12,000 residences, destroyed 12 residences and 68 other structures and damaged critical infrastructure including facilities, roads, bridges, and electrical transmission and distribution lines.

The overall objectives of this project are to return forests and wildlands to a more natural, fire resilient condition and to ensure that the community's risk has been reduced. This fuel modification treatment strategy has identified Sly Park as a WUI defense zone where the focus is on protecting life and property. The strategic fuel management project should help to contain wildfires and facilitate long-term stewardship through practices such as continued mechanical and hand treatment and prescribed fire.

Specific objectives include:

- Support an all-lands approach to create fire resilient and fire-adapted communities along the Highway 50 corridor.
- Use existing fuel breaks and forest treatments to create large, more fire resilient fuel breaks.
- Protect communities, infrastructure, and forest resources within the WUI.
- Conduct vegetation prescriptions to reduce fire hazard, improve tree growth, and increase forest resiliency.
- Conduct vegetation prescriptions to reduce the rate of spread, duration and intensity, and fuel ignition of crowns.
- Retain or enhance ecosystem processes compatible with the fuel hazard reduction prescription.
- Assess carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas reduction benefits by reducing the likelihood of wildfire emissions, improving the health and growth rates of trees and exploring various biomass utilization opportunities.
- Identify measures that may be required to protect watershed values and water quality in watersheds that are important sources of domestic water supply.

In addition to phase I, the Fire Adapted 50 fuels reduction project is comprised of two other phases, phases II & III. Portions of phases II & III are under a Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreement between CAL FIRE and the USDA, Forest Service, Region 5 – Eldorado National Forest. Both phases II & III have the same overall objectives as those stated above. Phase II runs from Slab Creek Dam to the town of Pollock Pines. Phase II is primarily to enhance and maintain fire suppression line established during the King Fire of 2014. Phase III is from Icehouse Road to Echo Summit along the Highway 50 corridor. Specifically, under the GNA agreement CAL FIRE AEU has been contracted to implement fuels reduction work on the north side of the highway for 300 feet from the road's edge. This fuels treatment work was accomplished in 2021 primarily by CAL FIRE crews out of Growlersburg Camp in Georgetown. The phase III fuels reduction work is being done under a NEPA document, the Roadrunner Environmental Assessment (EA). The environmental analysis for phase II NEPA & CEQA under the GNA has been subcontracted out by CAL FIRE to the Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District (RCD) to perform. The Good Neighbor Authority agreement is a 5-year agreement which shall terminate on June 15, 2021.

Fire Adaptive 50 (FA50) project phases 1, 1.a, II & III

This was a landscape level fuels reduction project which demonstrated a cross-jurisdictional, all lands wildland fire management strategy through cooperation and coordination along the Highway 50 corridor area in a high fire hazard area. The three main goals accomplished by the project were:

Resilient landscapes
Fire Adapted Communities
Safe and Effective Wildfire Response

Portions of this fuel break were used in containing the Caldor Fire keeping the fire South of Highway 50 in the White Hall and Kyburz Communities in August 2021

Partners include:

CAL FIRE
El Dorado County and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts (RCD)
USFS - El Dorado National Forest
Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI)
El Dorado Irrigation District (EID)
CAL TRANS
Private Landowners

Battalion 2 Hazard/ Target Areas

The entire area covered within Battalion 2 would be considered a Target Area with significant potential. As noted earlier, the Divide has a significant fire history that has proven to challenge fire suppression efforts over the years. According to FRAP data, approximately 99% of Battalion 2 is rated as high or very high in SRA fire severity ratings. With the increase in population on the Divide, the potential for increased ignitions is ever growing. Some Target Areas include but are not solely limited to:

- Community of Mosquito
- Community of Garden Valley and surrounding communities
- Community of Georgetown and surrounding communities
- Community of Rescue
- Communities of Coloma/ Lotus
- Auburn Lake Trails
- Major travel corridors
- American River Drainage
- Coloma State Park

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) in the Battalion:

- Volcanoville CWPP
- Auburn Lake Trails CWPP
- Georgetown CWPP
- Auburn Lake Trails CWPP
- Lakehills & Southpointe CWPP

Battalion 2 Current Projects

Auburn Lake Trails Fire Safe Project / CWPP

The Auburn Lake Trails subdivision is situated at the rim of the American River canyon near the community of Cool. Exclusion of fire and the heavy public use below the subdivision create a very hazardous condition with respect to the potential for ignition. The topography, fuels, and significant numbers of homes create a combination of factors that will cause significant resource damage as well as a major risk to life safety within the community.

The primary strategy is to establish defensible fuel zones around and within the subdivision. CAL FIRE crews have conducted VMP project work on federal lands adjoining the subdivision. Private landowners will be asked to participate in the VMP so fuels reduction will continue on the private lands between homes and the federal lands project area. The property owner's association retains control of all the common area within the subdivision and is the primary partner with the Auburn Lake Trails VMP. Currently CAL FIRE has treated approximately 200 acres of federal and private lands.

Georgetown Divide VMP

This complex of Ranches (Bacchi- Lewis- Baer Ranches) sits between the communities of Garden Valley, Greenwood and Coloma. This encompasses approximately 5000 acres of rangeland, oak woodland, brush, and timber as well as WUI. It currently has a road system that connects the communities and can be utilized for response. Additionally, the project has provided usable fuel breaks as well as fuels conversion treatment. Range land improvement has also been an objective in the project by fuels conversion as well as noxious weed eradication. Most work has been accomplished through training opportunities such as live fire and heavy fire equipment training.

Lyons Ranch VMP

This VMP is currently in the approval and development process. It encompasses 1400 acres in the Pilot Hill area. Fuels consist of grass, oak woodland, brush and timber. The goals of the VMP are to create a fuel break between the numerous homes surrounding the property by fuels reduction. Range land improvement has also been an objective in the project by fuels conversion as well as noxious weed eradication. The VMP will also provide an area for training opportunities which will also accomplish the other goals of this project.

El Dorado County Road Clearance (CCI Funded – CAL FIRE and DOT)

CAL FIRE and El Dorado County DOT are using SRA Fee Funds in a cooperative effort to remove roadside vegetation along four high hazard roads. This work is imperative for safe ingress and egress in the event of an emergency. Both agencies will be involved with fuel reduction. Roads to be treated will be determined as the project and funding nears.

El Dorado County CWPP Revision (El Dorado County FSC Fiscal Sponsor)
The proposed project will create an Integrated El Dorado County Community (County) Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The project is needed to consolidate several individual CWPPs into a single comprehensive document that is consistent with the County fire plan.

American River Canyon Perimeter Shaded Fuel Break (Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District)

The community of Auburn Lake Trails and surrounding watershed is a high priority area located in the American River Canyon along the Middle Fork American River watershed based on assets at risk as defined in the California Fire Plan. This project entails removing un−merchantable sized trees and brush to create a modified shaded fuel break. The shaded fuel break will be constructed by combination of treatments to include mechanical; hand crews utilizing hand tools and may include pile and burns.

South Fork of the American River Fuel Reduction (American River Conservancy Fiscal Sponsor)

CCC Crews will work on the implementation of a fuel reduction project at the Wakamatsu Colony Farm in the South Fork of the American River watershed. The project will take place on approximately 10 acres of densely vegetated live oak woodland.

South Division

Battalion 3 Projects

The entire area covered within Battalion 3 would be considered a Target Area with significant potential. This area has a significant fire history that has proven to challenge fire suppression efforts over the years. According to FRAP data, approximately 98% of Battalion 3 is rated as high or very high in SRA fire severity ratings. With the wildland urban intermix, the potential for increased ignitions is ever growing. Some Target Areas include but are not solely limited to:

- Community of Pine Grove (Pine Acres)
- Community of Volcano and surrounding communities
- Community of Pioneer and surrounding communities
- Community of Lockwood and surrounding communities
- Community of Buckhorn and surrounding communities
- Amador Pines and surrounding communities

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) in the Battalion:

- Pioneer-Volcano CWPP
- Pine Grove CWPP
- High County CWPP

Doaks VMP

This project creates a 2,190 acre fuel break on Doaks Ridge and surrounding lands to tie the Antelope Fuel break in with SPI fuel breaks on Cooks Ridge. This project is ongoing and will consist of mechanical work, crew work and broadcast burning. Most of the work will be on PG&E and SPI ground. This project is VMP funded and supported with labor from Pine Grove Camp.

Shake Fiddletown VMP

This project develops and maintains a 2,526 acre fuel break along Shakeridge Road and Fiddletown Road. This project is a continuation on the Shake Omo VMP that was completed in 2009. This project is ongoing and will consist of mechanical work, crew work and broadcast burning. This project is VMP funded and supported with labor from Pine Grove Camp.

Shake Omo VMP

This is a cooperative VMP that includes acres in Battalion 1 within El-Dorado County and acres within the El Dorado National Forest. The project will maintain the 4,748 acre Shake Omo and Garrabaldi VMPs which were completed in 2009. This project is designed to defend against an East Wind driven fire coming from the El Dorado National Forest. It will extend from the Shake Fiddle - Shaded Fuel Break and provide protection to the communities of Lockwood, Pioneer, and Omo Ranch.
Though the project was completed in 2009, in January of this year we started retreatment consisting of mechanical work, crew work and prescribed fire.

Amador County Road Clearance (CCI Funded – CAL FIRE and DOT)

CAL FIRE and Amador County DOT are using SRA Fee Funds in a cooperative effort to remove roadside vegetation along strategic roadways in high fire hazard areas. This work is imperative for safe ingress and egress in the event of an emergency.

Both agencies will be involved with fuel reduction along the following roads:

- Fiddletown Road
- Quartz Mountain Road
- Shake Ridge Road
- Pine Gulch Road
- Lupe Road
- Clinton Road
- Pioneer Creek Road
- Tiger Creek Road
- Ridge Road
- Hale Road

Pine Acres VMP (CCI Funded-Partially)

This project creates a 2,190 acre, multi-year, multi-agency project continuation and improvement of the Pine Acres fuel break. This fuel break will tie into the Butte Fire burn and proceed north to Highway 88 along the Mokelumne River Canyon edge to protect the community of Pine Acres. The first phase was funded by grants received by the Amador Fire Safe council, and the work will be completed by crews from Pine Grove Camp. In 2021 PG&E and CAL FIRE cleared brush around Lake Tabeaud using mechanical treatment, prescribed fire and pile burning. The goal will be the continued treatment of fuels along the Mokelumne River and Sutter Creek drainages, to protect the greater Pine Grove Community.

Mitchell Mine Fuel Break

This project is connected to the Pine Acres VMP and includes BLM, BIA, the Amador Fire Safe Council, and CAL FIRE. Currently this project is in an herbicidal maintenance phase and funding is set to expire in June of 2024. This project includes fuels treatment on the Indian Grinding Rock State Park, BLM property and on Mitchel Mine Road and Lupe Road.

Tiger Creek/Doaks Fuel Break

This project develops a defensible fuel zone extending west from the Antelope Fuel Break to the Tiger Creek Power Plant on the Mokelumne River. This will tie into the current ongoing work on the Calaveras side of the drainage. We will continue to coordinate with other groups such as PG&E, SPI and USFS to facilitate ingress/egress and route clearing.

Continuous Maintenance
We will continue to work cooperatively with the County of Amador and The Amador County Fire Safe Council to explore funding options to maintain all past and ongoing fuels reduction projects. These projects will continue to be prioritized in the respective CWPPs.

Battalion 4 Projects

The entire area covered within Battalion 4 would be considered a Target Area with significant potential. This area has a significant fire history that has proven to challenge fire suppression efforts over the years. According to FRAP data, approximately 65% of Battalion 4 is rated as high or very high in SRA fire severity ratings. With the wildland urban intermix, the potential for increased ignitions is ever growing. Some Target Areas include but are not solely limited to:

- Community of Jackson and surrounding communities
- Community of Sutter Creek and surrounding communities
- Community of Amador City and surrounding communities
- Community of Plymouth and surrounding communities
- Community of Fiddletown and surrounding communities
- River Pines and surrounding communities
- Ione and surrounding communities
- Jackson Valley/Camanche Village and surrounding communities

Within Battalion 4 a strong emphasis is placed on projects which involve fire preparedness training. Logistical and training support is provided to the CAL FIRE Academy in Ione and to the AEU training program with the following projects:

Amoruso VMP and Training:

Vegetation Management Project. This project is:

1) A range improvement and live fire training exercise over upland grass lands. The upland grasslands, which make up the vegetation type, are primarily mixed non-native grasses and forbs (*Bromus* spp., *Avena* spp., *Erodium* sp., *Brassica* spp.) with some native forbs present. Two particularly invasive and destructive species that occur throughout the grassland are medusa head (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*) and Yellow Star Thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*). Both species can be effectively controlled with properly timed burning. Broadcast prescribed fire will be utilized to treat rangelands that are significantly damaged by the invasion of Medusa head and Yellow Star Thistle.
2) CAL FIRE will utilize live fire exercises to treat the upland grass lands. All firing operations will be conducted as a part of the unit training program. We expect rangeland project work to be conducted between May and August annually for training and invasive species control and between October and November annually for training and thatch reduction. The equipment to be used will be Type III fire engines from AEU. A technique referred to as black lining will be utilized to create control lines as well as to break the project area into approximately 10 acre blocks.
   Each block will be used as a separate training area. Firefighters will utilize water in the engines to spray water over the grass which will then be set on fire at the leading edge of the wet grass. An additional group of firefighters will be doing the same evolution in parallel up wind which will create a 25-30-foot-wide strip that is" blacked" off. This backing fire will be the control line and the first training evolution of the firing class. These black lines will be the basis of the grid for the training exercise.

3) This project will also consist of fuels reduction work undertaken:
   a) As part of the Units S-212 tree faller training and recertification class's cutting of dead and diseased foothill pine (*Pinus Sabiniana*), and Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus Ponderosa*) as tree mortality has accelerated within the VMP since the drought year of 2015.
   b) As part of fire crew line construction training that will utilize hand brush cutting, and heavy fire equipment operation in brush. Under burning of piles that are generated will be completed in the fall winter and spring when weather conditions permit.

Van Vleck VMP and Training Site:

Through VMP agreements, the Unit uses two sites in eastern Sacramento for training purposes. Each year the Unit burns between 200 and 400 acres of grass. We use this land to conduct Intermediate Firing Class and the FI 210 investigation class. This gives our Unit personnel valuable training, while providing for range improvements and vernal pool habit improvements.

River Pines Community Fuel Break

River Pines Fuel Break includes vegetation clearance, removing ladder fuels including dead or dying trees, and providing fuel breaks in critical and strategic locations, to prevent wildfire intensity including rate of spread to protect habitable structures and infrastructure. The plan will include modifying vegetation adjacent to roads to provide safer ingress and egress for evacuating residents and responding emergency personnel. Additionally, the plan will provide community level fire prevention programs like community chippings days, roadside chipping, and temporary green waste bin programs.

Amador County Road Clearance (SRA Fee Funded – CAL FIRE and DOT)

CAL FIRE and Amador County DOT are using SRA Fee Funds in a cooperative effort to remove roadside vegetation along ten high hazard roads. This work is imperative for safe ingress and egress in the event of an emergency.

Both agencies will be involved with fuel reduction along the following roads:

- Fiddletown Road
- Lawrence Road
- Tyler Road
- Ostrom Road
- Quartz Mountain Road
- Shake Ridge Road
- Clinton Road
- Sutter Creek Volcano Road
- Butte Mountain Road
- Middle Bar Road

Butte/Electra Fire Burn area:

Work will continue with Local, State and Federal cooperators to maintain reduced fuels in the Butte and Electra fire areas and identify future fuel reduction projects within the Battalion.

<u>East Division Projects (Battalion 6)</u>

In addition to the projects planned under the SNPLMA funding, CAL FIRE provides financial, personnel, and administrative support to a wide array of projects within the Tahoe Basin and Alpine County. According to FRAP data, approximately 91% of Battalion 4 is rated as high or very high in SRA fire severity ratings. The following list represents the various fuels reduction, defensible space inspection, and support projects located within Battalion 6:

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) in the Battalion:

- Lake Tahoe Basin CWPP
- Alpine County CWPP

PROJECT ID	EIP Number	Method	SIZE (ACRES)	IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES	OWNERSHIP
South Tahoe- Montreal WT	02.01.01.0106	Mechanical Thin	463	USFS	Federal
Ski Run Bijou	02.01.01.0100	Hand Thin/Chip	65	Conservancy	State CA
Gardener Mtn./Tahoe Keys Urban		Hand Thin/Chip	58	Conservancy	State CA/Federal
South Lake Tahoe- Defensible Space Inspections- Area 1	02.01.02.0005	Defensible Space Inspection	3,300 parcels	SLTFR	Private
Forecasted Projects (2 years)					
Tahoe Keys Larger Acreage		*Hand Thin/Chip*	*35*	*Conservancy*	*State CA/Federal*
Airport East Side Haz. Fuels Reduction	*02.01.01.0121*	*Hand Thin/Chip*	*20*	*SLTFR*	*SLTFR*
56 Acre Parcel		*Hand Thin/Chip*	*50*	*SLTFR*	*SLTFR*
Shay Creek, Alpine County		*Hand Thin/Chip*	175	*CAL FIRE*	*Private*

APPENDIX B: UNIT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Identify and evaluate wildland fire hazards and recognize life, property, and natural resource assets at risk, including watershed, habitat, social and other values of functioning ecosystems. Facilitate the sharing of all analyses and data collection across all ownerships for consistency in type and kind.

Objectives: Engage and participate with local stakeholder groups (i.e., fire safe councils and others) to validate and prioritize the assets at risk.

Goal 2: Increase awareness, knowledge and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss and property damage from wildland fires, such as defensible space and other fuels reduction activities, fire prevention and fire safe building standards.

Objectives: Efforts should focus on increasing the number and effectiveness of defensible space inspections. This includes promoting a higher level of compliance with defensible space laws and regulations by CAL FIRE staffing, public and private organizations, and utilizing alternative inspection methods as available.

Goal 3: Develop a method to integrate fire and fuels management practices with landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional efforts within local, state, and federal responsibility areas.

Objectives: To integrate fire and fuels management practices with landowner priorities and multiple jurisdictional efforts, engage stakeholders to understand their concerns and resources. Collaboratively develop flexible plans that accommodate diverse priorities and jurisdictional boundaries. Provide support and resources for implementation while monitoring and evaluating effectiveness. Foster ongoing collaboration to adaptively manage efforts and promote resilience.

APPENDIX C: Amador-El Dorado Unit - Proposed Wildfire Risk Reduction Projects

Summary of Methodology and Evaluation of Proposed Risk Reduction Projects:

The following Wildfire Risk Reduction Project Proposal endeavors to mitigate wildfire risks in Amador-El Dorado Unit communities by employing a robust methodology and fostering collaboration with key stakeholders. Community details and statistics, encompassing historical ignitions, fuel loading, and hazard severity zones, reinforce our approach. Strategic considerations are guided by the Unit's prioritization of high-risk communities and factor in population density, topographical considerations, and proximity to fire ignition areas.

Feasibility assessments are informed by logistical and environmental variables, including the Cal Fire Subdivision review, particularly emphasizing safe ingress/egress routes for residents. Risk modeling informs project placement, with a focus on Fire Hazard Severity Zones, while strategic and tactical advantages for firefighting resources guide project locations.

Our methodology integrates input from local CAL FIRE Battalion Chiefs and fosters collaboration with Fire resiliency groups and local cooperators to enhance community wildfire resiliency. Furthermore, the projects align with existing initiatives, leveraging active grants, and promoting information sharing. By prioritizing areas with strategic firefighting advantages and proximity to fire suppression resources, these projects aim to effectively mitigate wildfire risks while ensuring safe evacuation routes for residents.

The Wildfire Risk Reduction Project Proposal aims to mitigate wildfire risks in Amador-El Dorado Unit communities through a comprehensive approach and strong collaboration with key stakeholders. Detailed community data, including historical ignitions, fuel loading, and hazard severity zones, supports our strategy. We prioritize high-risk communities based on population density, topography, and proximity to fire ignition areas.

Feasibility assessments consider logistical and environmental factors, emphasizing safe ingress/egress routes for residents as highlighted by the Cal Fire Subdivision review. Project placement is informed by risk modeling, focusing on Fire Hazard Severity Zones and leveraging strategic advantages for firefighting resources.

Our methodology incorporates input from local CAL FIRE Battalion Chiefs and fosters collaboration with Fire Resiliency Groups, Safe Councils, and Firewise groups to enhance community wildfire resilience. Additionally, our project aligns with existing initiatives, leveraging active grants and promoting information sharing.

By prioritizing areas with strategic firefighting advantages and close proximity to fire suppression resources, these projects aim to effectively mitigate wildfire risks while ensuring safe evacuation routes for residents. Selected projects are tailored to achieve our goal of creating a more fire-resilient unit and aiding suppression operations. Our overarching aim is for CAL FIRE to lead and guide collaborative wildfire resilience efforts and projects benefiting lives, property, and natural resources within the Amador El Dorado Unit.

Battalion 1 Proposed Projects:

Logtown Ridge Project Overview:

Logtown Ridge, situated along Hwy 49 between Consumnes River and Crystal Blvd, holds strategic significance with approximately 2,000 residents and around 1,000 structures. Crystal Blvd., particularly noteworthy, raises concerns due to limited ingress/egress, encompassing 442 homes along a 4.25-mile stretch with only one point of ingress/egress, identified under the CAL FIRE subdivision review program for limited egress.

Residing in an area marked as a Very High Fire Hazard severity zone by CAL FIRE FRAP 2023, Logtown Ridge has a history of significant fires, including the 2014 Sand Fire covering 4,240 acres. Ignition data from 2004 to 2020 along Hwy 49 indicates a recurring pattern of multiple starts in the vicinity. Identified as a feasible project location, El Dorado Ranch, spanning 3,150 acres south of Crystal Blvd, presents an opportunity for intervention. While no projects directly align with the immediate area, the Logtown Fuel Reduction project (RCD) is situated within 0.5 miles.

Logtown Ridge falls within the jurisdiction of the Logtown Fire Safe Council and Diamond Springs Fire Protection District. The area's extended response times for initial attack (16-22 minutes) underscore the importance of implementing a project in the region. Emphasizing strategic and tactical significance, local CAL FIRE Battalion Chief input highlights Logtown Ridge as crucial for home protection and fire attack points for fires deriving from Highway 49 or the Consumnes River drainage.

Church Mine Road Project Overview:

The Church Mine Road Project area encompasses to the North-Church Mine Road to Union Mine Road, East-Martinez Creek, South-Little Canyon Road, and the Consumnes River drainage, with Union Mine Road to the west. It falls within the Wildland Urban Intermix with an approximate population of 250 and around 200 structures on large parcels ranging from 5 to 100 acres.

Notably, it's adjacent to the Oak Hill Fire Safe Council (FSC) and resides in the Logtown FSC jurisdiction. Several factors highlight the significance of this project location. Recent fire incidents, such as the Sand Fire (2014) covering 4,240 acres, underline the area's vulnerability. Historical ignition patterns along Hwy 49 indicates potential risk. Feasibility is evident due to collaborative efforts involving the Fire Safe Council, local Fire District, and public engagement in fire safety initiatives. Adjacent ongoing fuel reduction projects further support this endeavor.

Convenient accessibility via HWY 49 and Union Mine Road facilitates intervention. Moderate to steep terrain characterizes the area, with limited egress points for subdivisions identified under the CAL FIRE subdivision review program. Improved road clearance along Church Mine Road and Little Canyon Road is crucial for enhancing fire suppression access and evacuation routes. Long response times of 10-15 minutes for the initial three engines emphasize the urgency of preventative measures.

Serving as a buffer against fires from Hwy 49 and the Consumnes River, this project is pivotal in protecting surrounding homes. Situated within High and Very High Fire Hazard severity zones, the project aligns with existing fuel reduction initiatives in the region. Identified as strategically important by local fire battalions, the project aims to safeguard homes in the Church Mine/Union Mine Rd. area and serve as a frontline defense against potential fires originating from Martinez Creek, Consumnes River, and Hwy 49.

Chili Bar Project Overview:

Located within the jurisdiction of Cal Fire Battalion 1 in El Dorado County, the Chili Bar-Hwy 193 area is bordered to the north by Hwy 193 and the South Fork of the American River, to the east by Bear Rock Rd. and Fortuna Mine Road, to the south by the intersection of Hwy 193 and Hwy 49, and to the west by Hwy 193 (Georgetown Highway). This region comprises a wildland-urban interface with approximately 1,250 residents and 650 structures spread across parcels ranging from 0.25 to over 30 acres. Notably, a fire in this area would directly impact the city of Placerville, with a population of over 10,000 and 6,000 residential structures.

Historical fire occurrences north of the South Fork of the American River and along Hwy 193 highlight the potential for ignition and wildfire impact to the area. The project's significance is further emphasized by its topographical features, including moderate to steep terrain, spur ridges, and drainages below a heavily populated area. The project area is situated within a Very High Fire Hazard severity zone with heavy fuels present.

Subdivisions in the area, identified for limited egress under CAL FIRE's subdivision review program, underscore the critical need for improved ingress/egress routes and clearance efforts. Prolonged response times and susceptibility to fires originating from the Chili Bar Recreation Area or Hwy 193 necessitate proactive measures for home protection and fire suppression access.

The proposed project area is strategically important for safeguarding homes in the Bear Rock Rd./Fortuna Mine Rd. vicinity and near the Hwy 193/Hwy 49 intersection, as identified by the local fire battalion. Well places fuel projects will plan a critical role in protection of the community and create opportunities for tactical fire attack points.

Battalion 2 Proposed Projects:

Thompson Hill/Luneman Project Overview:

The Thompson Hill/Luneman Project area is bordered to the North by the South Fork American River, to the East by Cold Springs Rd, to the South by Gold Hill Rd/Luneman Rd, and to the West by Hidden Lake Dr. It falls within the Wildland Urban Intermix. This project would reside in the Coloma-Lotus FSC and be adjacent to the Gold Hill Estates FSC. Local-government fire protection is provided by the El Dorado County FPD and Rescue FPD in this area.

The population in the area is approximately 2,000, with approximately 1,000 structures on mixed parcel sizes ranging from 5 to 80+ Acres. The Bassi Subdivision in the area has been identified under the CAL FIRE subdivision review program for limited egress, with a total of 243 homes having only 1 point of ingress/ egress. Bassi Rd. following Peterson Lane to the American River is 3 miles in length, whereas Bassi Rd following Clark Mountain Rd. to the end is 3.5 miles in length. The road has two lanes of traffic.

The project is situated in an area of Moderate terrain from the American River drainage, characterized by rolling foothills with areas of steep slopes. The fuel model is Oak Woodland with Conifer mix. It is located in a Moderate and High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Ignition history in this area shows potential for impact, with multiple starts recorded from 2004 to 2020.

Currently, there is a project in the immediate area known as the Coloma Lotus Prevention-Fuel Reduction (RCD), encompassing approximately 3,500 acres (50%) of the proposed project. Thompson Hill/Luneman has been identified as a feasible location for a project, with 6,000 acres in this area that could be modified. Easy access off Lotus Rd. and favorable topography makes it conducive for work to be done.

This project would provide a buffer for homes and evacuation of residents during wildfires or disasters. The local CAL FIRE Battalion Chief has identified this area as strategically important for the protection of homes and the egress of residents in the Thompson Hill/Luneman area. Moderate response times of 8-15 minutes for the first three engines emphasize the urgency of preventative measures.

Mt. Murphy/Garden Park Project Overview:

The Mt. Murphy/Garden Park Project area is bordered to the North by Marshall Rd./Hackomiller Rd., to the East by Hwy 193 (Georgetown Rd.), to the South by Bayne Rd., and to the West by Mt. Murphy Rd. It falls within the Wildland Urban Intermix. This project would reside in the Georgetown FSC and be adjacent to the Coloma-Lotus FSC. Local-government fire protection is provided by the Garden Valley FPD and El Dorado County FPD in this area.

The population in the area is approximately 1,600, with around 1,200 structures on mixed parcel sizes ranging from 2 to 30+ Acres. The Garden Park Subdivision has a total of 283 homes, and the Johntown Creek Subdivision has a total of 277 homes, both with 1 point of ingress/egress. Garden Park Dr. from Garden Valley Rd is 2.5 miles in length, whereas Johntown Creek Rd. to the end is 2.25 miles in length. The road has two lanes of traffic.

The project is situated in an area of Moderate to Steep terrain from the American River drainage, characterized by rolling foothills with areas of steep slopes. The fuel model is Oak Woodland with Conifer mix. It is in a Moderate and High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Ignition history in this area shows potential for impact, with multiple starts recorded from 2004 to 2020.

The Mt. Murphy/Garden Park area has been identified as a feasible location for a project due to its high-risk profile and the need for fire mitigation efforts. Easy access off Garden Valley Rd and Marshall Rd, along with favorable topography, make it conducive for work to be done. This project would provide a buffer for homes and evacuation of residents during wildfires or disasters. The local CAL FIRE Battalion Chief has identified this area as strategically important for the protection of homes and the egress of residents in the Mt. Murphy/Johntown/Garden Park area.

Cherry Acres Project Overview:

Cherry Acres is situated with its northern boundary along Highway 193, east boundary along Penobscot Road, southern boundary along Highway 49, and western boundary also along Highway 49. It falls within the Wildland Urban Intermix, with an approximate population of 2,000 and approximately 1,600 structures on a total of 14,000 acres. Mixed parcel sizes range from 5 to 50+ acres. This project would reside in the Cool-Pilot FSC, with the Auburn Lake Trails FSC to the North and the Garden Valley FSC to the East. Local-government fire protection is provided by the El Dorado County FPD in this area. It is also located near the Garden Valley FPD to the East.

Ignition history along Highway 49 and 193 shows potential for impact in the area, with multiple starts recorded from 2004 to 2022. Feasibility is likely considering the involvement of the Fire Safe Council, local Fire District, and public interest in fire safety. Located in a High Fire Hazard severity zone, this project would connect existing fuel reduction projects in the area; including the Auburn Lake Trails CFIP (RCD) to the North and the Lyon VMP to the South, as well as the Coloma Lotus Prevention Project (RCD) south of this area.

Easy access off HWY 49 and 193 facilitates intervention. The topography does not present any major challenges for work to be done. The project is situated in an area of moderate terrain with steep terrain from the South Fork of the American River drainage to the West. There are no identified subdivisions with limited ingress/egress in this area. Efforts in widening and improving roadways will greatly enhance survivability and fire suppression access.

The local CAL FIRE battalion chief has identified this area as strategically important for the protection of homes in the Cherry Acres Community area and a point for fire attack should a fire come from the west out of American River drainage and Hwy 49. El Dorado County FPD has local-government fire protection in this area, along with the Garden Valley FPD to the East. Long response times, ranging from 8-15 minutes for the first three engines, emphasize the urgency of preventative measures. The Cherry Acres project would provide a buffer for any fires coming from Highways 49/193 and the South Fork of the American River.

Wentworth Springs Road Project Overview:

Wentworth Springs Road begins from the West at Highway 193 and concludes at Quintette, with a North and South buffer along the road. It falls within the Wildland Urban Intermix, with an approximate population of 700 and approximately 800 structures on a total of 5,800 acres. Mixed parcel sizes range from 1 to 70+ acres. This project would reside in the Georgetown FSC and the Volcanoville FSC to the North, with local-government fire protection provided by the Georgetown FPD in the area. Additionally, it is located in the USFS Georgetown Ranger District.

Recent significant fires, such as the King Fire (2014) and the Mosquito Fire (2022), along with numerous annual starts around the Wentworth Springs Area, highlight the area's susceptibility. Feasibility is likely due to the involvement of the Fire Safe Council, local Fire District, and public interest in fire safety. Located in a Very High Fire Hazard severity zone, the area lacks existing Fuel Reduction Projects. However, it should be noted that there is a mix of State and Federally owned land in this area.

The project is situated in an area of moderate terrain with steep terrain from the North Fork of the American River drainage to the North. There is an identified subdivision to the north in Volcanoville, with limited Ingress/Egress concerns. Efforts in widening and improving roadways will greatly enhance survivability and fire suppression access. Easy access off HWY 193 facilitates intervention. The topography does not present any major challenges for work to be done.

This project would reside in the Georgetown FSC and be adjacent to the Volcanoville FSC to the north. Georgetown FPD has local-government fire protection in this area, and it is adjacent to the USFS Fire Protection to the East. Long response times, ranging from 8-15 minutes for the first three engines, emphasize the urgency of preventative measures. The Wentworth Springs Road project would provide a buffer for any fires coming from Highway 193 and the North Fork of the American River. The local fire battalion chief has identified this area as strategically important for the protection of homes and a point for fire attack should a fire come from the north out of the American River drainage.

Battalion 3 Proposed Projects:

Pine Acres/Clinton Road Project Overview:

The Pine Acres/Clinton Road Project area is bordered to the North by Clinton Road, to the East by Clinton Bar Road, to the South by the North Fork Mokelumne River, and to the West by Freguelia Ranch Road. It falls within the Wildland Urban Intermix. This project resides in the Amador FSC, adjacent to the Coloma-Lotus FSC. Local-government fire protection is provided by the Amador County FPD. Approximately 700 people inhabit the area, with around 430 structures on parcels ranging from 5 to 30+ Acres. There are no CAL FIRE identified subdivisions with limited ingress/egress, however the large number of residents in this area would benefit greatly by improved roadway buffering.

The project area features moderate to steep terrain from the North Fork Mokelumne River drainage, characterized by rolling foothills and steep slopes. Fuel primarily consists of Oak Woodland with Conifer mix. It resides in a Moderate and High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, with ignition history indicating potential for impact, including multiple starts between 2004 and 2020.

Pine Acres/Clinton Road is deemed feasible for a project due to its high-risk nature and need for fire mitigation. Convenient access off of HWY 88 and Hwy 49, coupled with manageable topography, facilitate intervention efforts. This project is crucial for providing a buffer against wildfires and ensuring the safety of residents during emergencies. Identified as strategically significant by the local CAL FIRE Battalion Chief, it plays a vital role in protecting homes and facilitating resident evacuation during fire incidents.

Battalion 4 Proposed Projects:

Clinton/Butte Mountain Road Project Overview:

The Clinton/Butte Mtn Road Project area is bordered to the North by Clinton Road, to the East by Freguelia Ranch Road, to the South by the North Fork Mokelumne River, and to the West by Highway 49. It falls within the Wildland Urban Intermix, covering approximately 9,200 acres. The approximate population is 1,600, with around 1,050 structures on mixed parcel sizes ranging from 2 to 30+ Acres. This project resides in the Amador FSC, with local-government fire protection provided by the Amador FPD and Jackson City FD.

The project area features moderate to steep terrain from the North Fork Mokelumne River drainage. Topography does not pose significant challenges for intervention efforts. It is situated in a High Fire Hazard severity zone, adjacent to a Very High FHSZ. The fuel model is primarily Oak Woodland with Conifer mix.

Long response times of 10-15 minutes for the first three engines underscore the urgency of preventative measures. Existing projects facilitated by the Amador FSC and RCD near this area include the Pine Acres Fuelbreak Maintenance, County Roads Vegetation Maintenance, Private Road Vegetation Maintenance, and the Jackson Creek Cal VTP. These projects contribute to the overall fire resiliency of the region.

The Clinton/Butte Mtn Road Project is deemed feasible due to its high-risk nature and the involvement of the Fire Safe Council, local Fire District, and public interest in fire safety. Convenient access off of HWY 88 and Hwy 49 enhances intervention capabilities. This project is crucial for providing a buffer against wildfires and ensuring the safety of residents during emergencies. Identified as strategically significant by the local CAL FIRE Battalion Chief, it plays a vital role in protecting homes and facilitating resident evacuation during fire incidents.

Sutter Creek/Volcano Road Project Overview:

The Sutter Creek/Volcano Road Project area is delineated to the North by Gopher Flat Road/Shake Ridge Road, including the Amador Creek watershed, to the East by the town of Volcano (Charleston Road), to the South by Sutter Creek/Volcano Road, and to the West by the town of Sutter Creek. It encompasses a total of 7,700 acres within the Wildland Urban Intermix. The approximate population in this region is 1,300, with around 750 structures on mixed parcel sizes ranging from 5 to 30+ Acres. This project falls under the jurisdiction of the Amador FSC, with local-government fire protection provided by the Amador County FPD and Lockwood FPD.

The project area features moderate to steep terrain from the Sutter Creek and Amador Creek drainage. Despite this, the topography does not pose significant challenges for intervention efforts. It is situated in a High Fire Hazard severity zone.

Response times for the first three engines are relatively long, averaging between 10 to 15 minutes. Shake Ridge Road and Sutter Creek/Volcano Road serve as the main ingress/egress routes for the area. Efforts to expand horizontal and vertical clearances along these thoroughfares would significantly improve access for fire suppression and public evacuation. This project would contribute significantly to the overall fire resiliency of the region and enhance the safety of residents in the Sutter Creek/Volcano area.

The Sutter Creek/Volcano Road Project is deemed feasible due to the active involvement of the Fire Safe Council, local Fire Districts, and the community's interest in fire safety. Ongoing fuel reduction efforts, such as the Amador County Road Clearance project, are further enhancing safety measures in the area. This project's strategic importance lies in its role as a buffer against wildfires originating from Highway 49 and the local creek watersheds of Amador and Sutter Creeks. Identified as crucial by the local CAL FIRE Battalion Chief, it serves to protect homes in the Sutter Creek/Volcano area and act as a pivotal point for fire attack.

Battalion 6 Proposed Projects:

South and West Shore Lake Tahoe (SRA) Project Area Overview:

The South and West Shore Lake Tahoe (SRA) project area spans from Tahoma at the Eldorado/Placer Co. Boundary to the Highway 50 x Luther Pass Rd, extending to the SRA at the end of Grass Lake Rd. With its western boundary parallel to Desolation/Pacific Crest. Within this zone lies a Wildland Urban Intermix area with an approximate population of 29,300 and nearly 18,600 structures on parcels ranging from 0.25 to 40+ acres. The project operates within the network of Fire Adapted Communities/Tahoe RCD (Resource Conservation District), overseen by the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team (TFFT).

The South Lake SRA project serves as a buffer for the communities, homes, and residents of the South Lake Tahoe Basin. Situated within a High to Very High Fire Hazard severity zone, the project area demands heightened vigilance. Feasibility is evident through the active involvement of TFFT, Fire Adapted Communities, Tahoe RCD, local Fire District, and public engagement in fire safety. The area's topography poses no significant challenges to project implementation. While the surrounding mountain ranges feature moderate-steep terrain, the basin presents flat to moderate terrain. Some areas may experience extended response times, averaging 10-15 minutes for the first three engines.

Several subdivisions within the area have limited egress points, as identified under the CAL FIRE subdivision review program. Enhancing horizontal and vertical clearance in all thoroughfares is crucial for improving fire suppression access and public evacuation routes.

- Cold Creek (192 Bldgs.)
- Echo View (35 Bldgs.)
- Fallen Leaf (160 Bldgs.)
- Glenmore (72 Bldgs.)
- Golden Bear (314 Bldgs.)
- Matheson (116 Bldgs.)
- Otomites (33 Bldgs.)
- Sky Meadows (54 Bldgs.)
- Texas (109 Bldgs.)
- Wildwood (61 Bldgs.)

CAL FIRE and Local fire battalion chiefs recognize the strategic importance of protecting homes and residents in South Lake Tahoe. Its location within the Tahoe Fire Adapted Communities boundary further underscores its significance in regional fire prevention efforts. Several crucial points underscore the significance of this project: The Angora Fire (2007), spanning 3,100 acres, stands as the most recent significant fire in the vicinity, resulting in the loss of 242 residences and 67 commercial structures. Historical ignition patterns along Hwy 50 and Hwy 89, coupled with fires in the SRA and TMU (Tahoe Management Unit), highlight potential risks.

Alpine County SRA (Diamond Valley/Markleeville) Project Area Overview:

The Alpine County SRA (Diamond Valley/Markleeville) project area stretches from Highway 88 at Stateline to Highway 89 x Crystal Springs Road to the east, encompassing the SRA south of Markleeville and the west buffer of Highway 89, extending from Hwy 88 to Markleeville. It falls within the Wildland Urban Intermix, with an approximate population of 860 and around 950 structures on mixed parcel sizes ranging from 0.25 to 30+ acres. This total area encompasses 68,000 acres.

Several factors highlight the significance of this project location. Recent significant fires, such as the Washington Fire (2015) covering 17,780 acres and the Tamarack Fire (2021) spanning 67,055 acres, underscore the area's vulnerability. Ignition history along Hwy 88 and 89 shows potential for impact in the area. Feasibility is likely due to the involvement of the Fire Safe Council, local Fire Districts, and public interest in fire safety.

Easy access off HWY 88 and 89 facilitates intervention. The topography does not present any major challenges for work to be done. The area is characterized by moderate-steep terrain, with no identified subdivisions having one ingress/egress. Expanding fuel reduction along Highways 88 and 89 and road clearance projects would greatly enhance the survivability of Alpine County residents and assist fire suppression resources in their efforts to save lives, property, and resources. Long response times of 10-15 minutes for the first three engines emphasize the urgency of preventative measures.

Located in a High and Very High Fire Hazard severity zone, the project area is of strategic importance for the protection of homes in the Alpine County SRA. The project is situated within the Alpine County Fire Safe Council boundary, and there are also the Marklee Village and Mesa Vista Firewise communities in this area. All of these factors makes this project a high priority for Alpine County and is supported by the strategic goals of CAL FIRE chiefs.

APPENDIX D: Amador-El Dorado Unit Plans

Unit Specific Plans

AEU has developed four additional documents to aid in the operational decision-making process. The four documents are the Fire Danger Operating Plan, AEU Complex Incident Plan, Ignition Management Plan, and the Defensible Space Inspection Plan.

Fire Danger Operating Plan

This National Fire Danger Rating System Fire Danger Operating Plan discusses the setup and management of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) fire danger modeling program for the Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU). Fire danger is only one factor affecting operational decision making. The analysis framework used to develop this operating plan tries to account for the weather, fuels and topography driven factors as they affect fire danger and burning conditions throughout AEU. This analysis framework does not necessarily account for other factors such as resource draw down, training levels, political factors, mutual aid status, over riding budget constraints, and other pertinent issues.
AEU created a Fire Weather Working Group charged with the creation and maintenance of this plan. Individuals with specific expertise were selected to work towards a Unit wide operating plan that fulfills the objectives set forth by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

AEU Complex Incident Plan

The Amador-El Dorado Unit Complex Incident Plan has been created to guide Unit operations, and support personnel, during lightning, and other complex incidents. Lightning events are an example of an incident that can become especially overwhelming for the Unit and the Emergency Command Center (ECC). Lightning complexes can tax the daily ECC operations as the complexity of the event increases. The intent of this plan is to establish, and maintain, a seamless flow of resource dispatching, ordering and accountability. Preparation of this plan was originally prepared with the intent of managing lightning incidents; however, it is recognized that it can be activated for any incident that presents similar demands on the Unit and ECC. This plan is designed as an outgrowth of the Incident Command System (ICS) using the standard organizational elements to cover geographic areas that are impacted by lightning or any other emergency incident that exceeds the operational control of the Unit ECC.

AEU Ignition Management Plan

It is the goal of the Unit to investigate all fires according to established procedures, quickly identify arson and/or potential civil cost recovery fires, and to staff and manage investigations adequately and cost effectively. Fire incident documentation and reporting is critical to the development of the Unit's Ignition Management and Fire Prevention Plan. In 2012, the Fire Prevention Bureau updated the Unit's Fire Incident Documentation Policy. The new policy directive should streamline the reporting and investigation of vegetation fires. In addition to the updates done within the Unit, a statewide cadre developed a new version of the LE-66, Preliminary Fire Report. The updated LE-66 is easier to use and collects the most pertinent data used by Fire Prevention to reduce unwanted fires.

Current statewide and Unit policy requires that a report (LE-66 and CAIRS) be completed for every wildland fire. A wildland fire is defined as any uncontrolled vegetation fire which threatens to destroy life, property or resources and is either unattended or attended by persons unable to prevent the fires spread. Examples include vegetation fires burning uncontrolled (whether attended or not); vegetation fires that are a threat to life, property or resources; debris or control burns that have escaped the landowner's control; and any debris or control burn *without an escape* that was extinguished due to a *threat* to the wildland.

Defensible Space Inspection Plan

This Defensible Space Inspection Plan outlines the objectives, goals, and direction for Field Personnel and Forestry Aide / Forestry Technician Defensible Space Inspectors in carrying out PRC 4291/LE 100(a) Defensible Space Inspections. Considering California's recent fire history, fire prevention activities have become one of the state's top priorities. As such, the state's legislation enacted Public Resource Code 4137 to ensure high levels of fire prevention activities are maintained throughout the year. The Unit's objective is to conduct a minimum of 5,000 defensible space inspections annually, with inspections being conducted each month of the year. By achieving this objective, the Unit aims to achieve broader goals such as providing a margin of safety for firefighters and the public, increasing the survivability of homes and developments, and mitigating wildland fire losses and resource damage.

Defensible space inspections have traditionally been conducted between April and November, with limited inspections during the winter preparedness period. The Wildfire Resiliency Program intends to adapt the Unit's inspection process to align with the "Ready, Set, Go" program, which includes a consistent year-round inspection process by Unit engine companies and defensible space inspectors. The Unit's ability to do so will depend on maintaining engine staffing levels year-round and hiring/maintaining Forestry Technician and Forestry Aid staffing levels.

Field Battalion Chiefs will identify Defensible Space Areas within their individual geographic areas of responsibility to conduct 4291 Defensible Space Inspections for that year. The Battalion Chiefs, in collaboration with the AEU’s Wildfire Resiliency Program, submit the Defensible Space Areas for that year and the prior years' completed inspection maps to the Unit's Pre-Fire Engineer. The Pre-Fire Engineer will create Defensible Space Area maps that will be distributed to Battalion Chiefs, Fire Stations, Forestry Aide/ Forestry Technician Defensible Space Inspectors, local cooperators, as well as the public through our Public Information Officer. Battalion Chiefs consider factors such as call volume, structural density, evacuation concerns, Fire Hazard Severity Zone rating, fire history, and others when determining Defensible Space Areas for defensible space inspections.

2024 AEU Ignition Management & Fire Prevention Plan

Introduction

The Amador-El Dorado Unit (AEU) is located in the North Central Sierra. It includes all of Amador, El Dorado, Sacramento, and Alpine Counties, as well as a portion of San Joaquin County. AEU encompasses over 2,600,000 acres; of this, over 1,000,000 acres is State Responsibility Area (SRA), and AEU's Direct Protection Area (DPA) serves over 900,000 acres.

The United States Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation manage lands that are protected by the Unit. Conversely, the Forest Service provides direct wildland fire protection to private and state lands, or SRA, that are within the Eldorado National Forest, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

The Unit contains all or part of four major watersheds. These watersheds contain the Middle and South Forks of the American River, the North Fork of the Mokelumne River, all three Forks of the Cosumnes River, and the Upper Truckee River in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Numerous water agencies and power companies utilize these watersheds for hydroelectric power generation, irrigation purposes, and public recreation.

CAL FIRE'S statewide, annual goal is to keep 95% of vegetation fires to less than 10 acres. Although weather and fuel conditions have a huge impact on the outcome of this goal, CAL FIRE and it's supporting agencies consistently strive to meet this with safe and aggressive fire attack.

Fire History

The Unit's fire history is one of numerous small fires with large fires occurring every ten to thirty years. The most recent large fires (greater than 10,000 acres within the Unit's DPA) were the following:

FIRE NAME:	YEAR:	ACREAGE:
Caldor	2021	40,066
Rancheria Creek	1961	34,104
Quarry	1976	20,870
Meiss	1981	14,126
Kelsey Mill	1961	11,816

In September of 2014, the King Fire burned 97,717 acres. Of that, 2,823 acres burned were within the Unit's DPA. In July 2014, the Sand Fire burned 4,240 acres within the SRA. In September 2015, the Butte Fire burned 70,868 acres on FRA and SRA. Of the 58,797 SRA acres burned, 3,626 acres burned were within AEU's DPA. Although the fire started in AEU, a vast majority of the damage caused by the Butte Fire was in TCU.

In 2021, there were two large fires within AEU. The Tamarack Fire started on July 4th in Alpine county on Fed DPA and burned 68,637 acres. Of that, 9,373 acres were SRA. On August 14 the Caldor Fire started on Fed DPA. This fire burned 221,786 acres from Omo Ranch to South Lake Tahoe. Of the 221,786 acres, 40,066 acres were SRA within AEU. The fire destroyed 1003 structures and damaged 81. Over the past twenty years, population growth and development in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) have placed additional homes, businesses and public infra-structure at risk from wildland fires. Both large and small fires often create wildland-urban interface fire suppression challenges previously only found in the most densely populated areas of Southern California.

Historically, the largest fires in the Unit, particularly in Amador County, are aligned east to west due to topography and prevailing winds. El Dorado and Sacramento Counties are more likely to experience fires which run from north to south - especially at the lower elevations. This is especially true during red flag fire weather conditions when strong north winds are predicted. However, large fires in El Dorado County can also follow an east to west orientation similar to fires in Amador County.

Fire Incident Documentation Policy

It is the goal of the Unit to investigate all fires according to established procedures, to quickly identify arson fires, and to staff and manage investigations adequately and cost effectively. Fire incident documentation and reporting is critical to the development of the Unit's Ignition Management and Fire Prevention Plan.

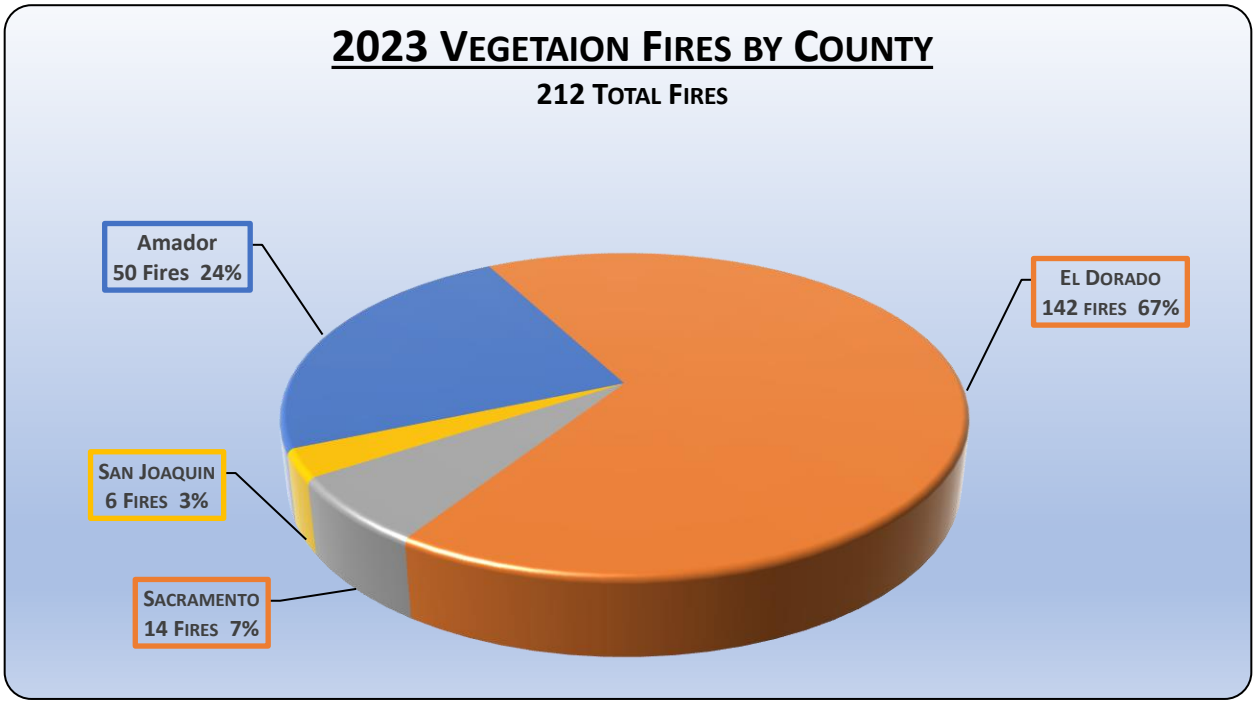
Current statewide and Unit policy requires that a CALFIRS Fire Report (new reporting program as of 2019) be completed for every wildland fire. A wildland fire is defined as any uncontrolled vegetation fire which threatens to destroy life, property or resources and is either unattended or attended by persons unable to prevent the fire's spread. Examples include vegetation fires burning uncontrolled (whether attended or not);
vegetation fires that are a threat to life, property or resources; debris or control burns that have escaped the landowner's control; and any debris or control burn *without an escape* that was extinguished due to a *threat* to the wildland. A CALFIRS Incident report was completed for every wildland fire that occurred within AEU's DPA for 2023.

In addition, the Unit continues to utilize LE-38A's, Notice of Fire Hazard Inspection, for less complex investigations that do not warrant a citation by a public or peace officer. LE-38A's are utilized as an educational and enforcement tool when there is a violation of a Public Resource Code, Health and Safety Code, California Code of Regulation, or Air Quality Requirement. LE-38A's are forwarded to the Fire Prevention Bureau Chief within 7 days so necessary follow- up actions can be taken. It is the goal of the Unit that a Prevention Message be given after every wildland fire if a responsible party is identified. A prevention message will consist of either verbal education with an LE-38a issuance, civil or criminal prosecution. It is the Units goal to utilize these forms of prevention messages to educate the public and prevent further ignitions from occurring.

2023 Fire Season Ignition Statistics

Wildland fire ignition statistics were tracked for the entire year of 2023. The Unit experienced 212 wildland fires within its Direct Protection Area (SRA-DPA). There was a decrease of 2 ignitions from 2022 (214 fires) and a decrease of 47 fires from 2021 (259 fires). The 212 fires are 33 fires less than the 10-year average of 245 fires. Wildland fire statistics are tracked based on information from each Fire Report submitted to the Law Enforcement and Investigations Bureau.

COUNTY	IGNITIONS WITHIN AEU DPA
Amador	50
El Dorado	142
Sacramento	14
San Joaquin	6
Alpine	0



2023 Five Largest Fires in AEU:

1) Liberty Fire, ignited on July 11th and burned 72 acres near Lake Camanche in Amador County. This was a series of 5 ignitions caused by an 18-year-old male throwing illegal fireworks out of the vehicle he was in. This case is still being litigated in Amador County.

2) Carbon Fire, also ignited earlier in the day on July 11th and burned 56 acres in Amador County. This fire was caused by the unintentional shooting of “Dragon’s Breath” in dry grass. Parties involved were loading shot gun rounds from a bag of random shells to get rid of them. They unintentionally loaded “Dragon’s Breath”.

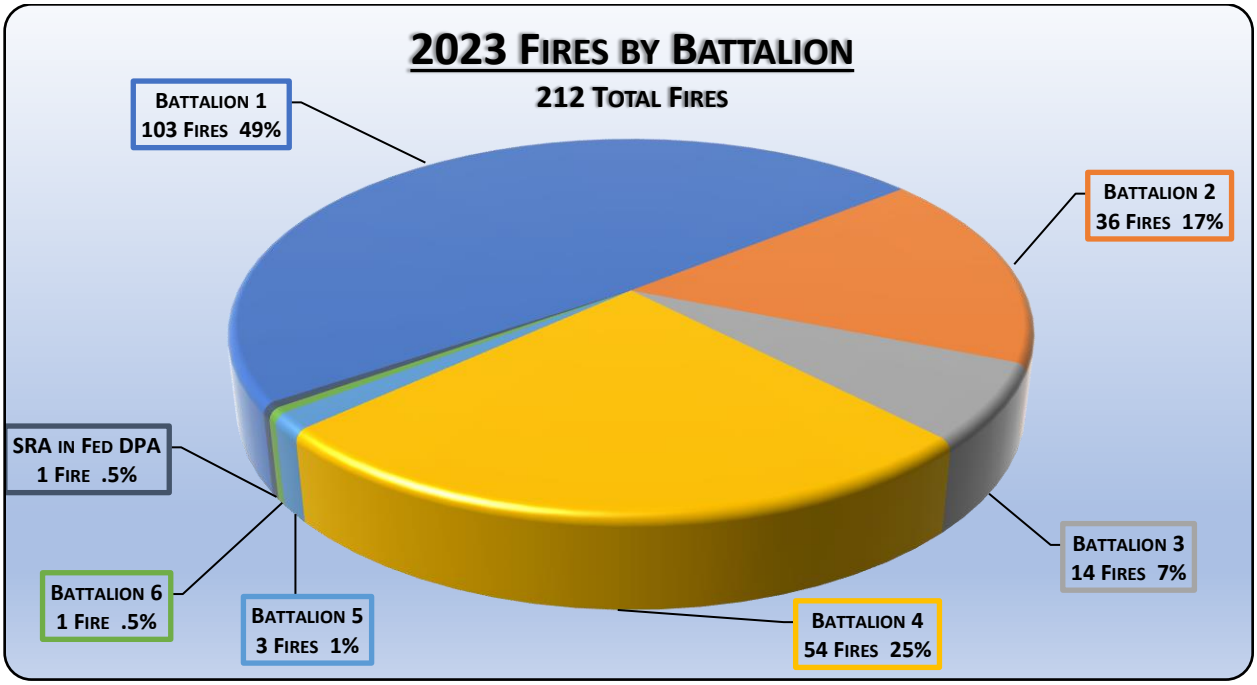
3) Clay Fire, on the morning of June 18th, burned 29 acres off Clay Station East Road in Sacramento County. The cause of this fire was determined to be from a vehicle. No responsible party was identified.

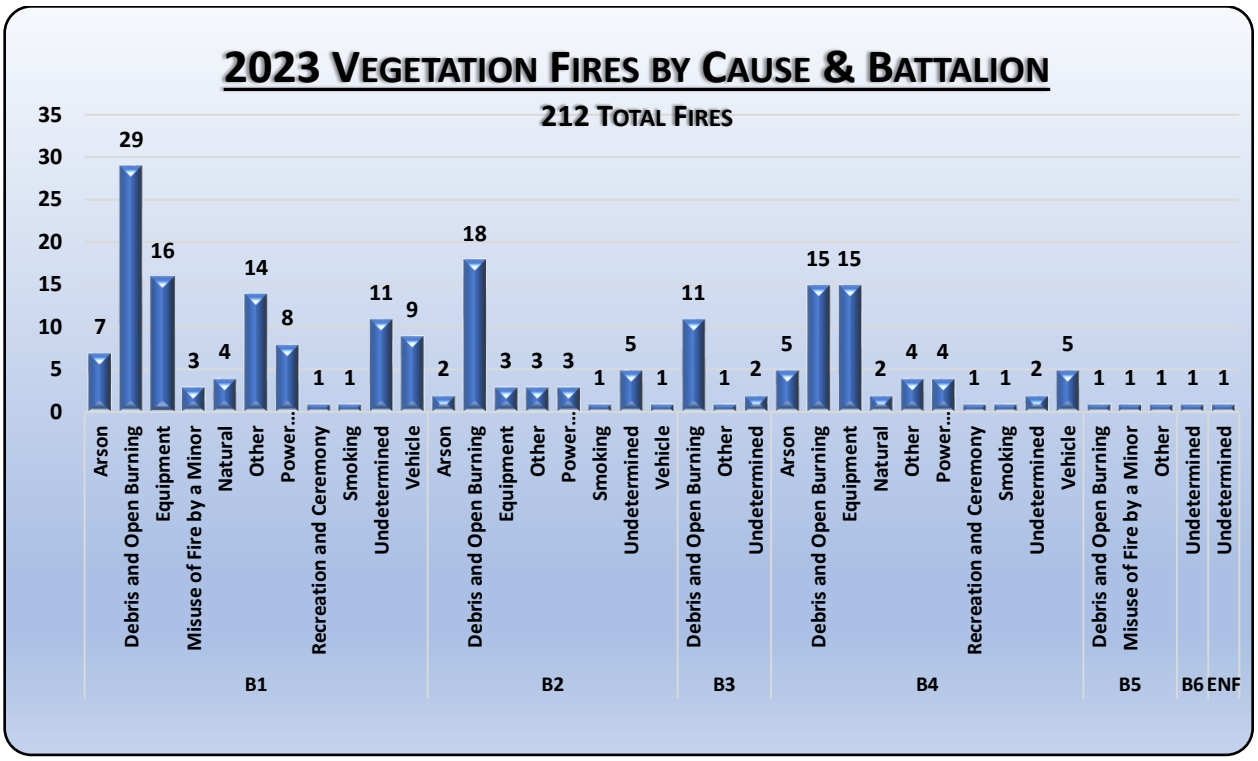
4) Jackson Fire, on July 1st, burned approximately 28 acres along Jackson Valley Road in Amador County. This fire was several separate ignitions attributed to a vehicle shooting catalytic converter from the exhaust. Several pieces of catalytic converter were found in several origin areas. No responsible party was identified.

5) Borden Fire, on May 27th, burned approximately 22 acres in Sacramento County. The cause of this fire was determined to be a bird nest in some high-tension power lines.

Calculating all the fires that started within the Unit's DPA in 2023, approximately 383 acres burned (down from 4,830 acres in 2022). The top five fires contributed to 207 acres of that total. The 10-year average for AEU is 3,050 acres. While AEU experienced a similar number of ignitions as recent years, in 2023, AEU experienced approximately 12.5% acres burned over the ten-year average.

Of the 212 vegetation fires in AEU in 2023, 10 fires were over 10 acres. The Unit kept 95.3% of fires in 2023 below 10 acres. This is just outside CAL FIRE'S goal of 95% of vegetation fires to be held at 10 acres or less.

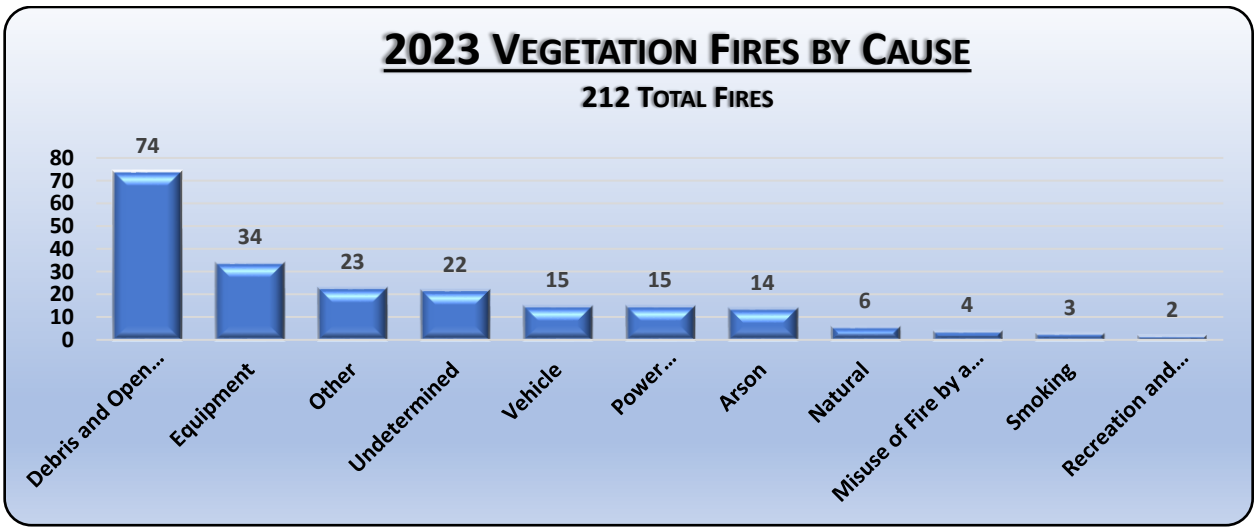




While reviewing fire causes during 2023, it was found that the five leading causes of wildland fires in AEU were:

1)	**Debris Burning**	**(74 fires – 35%)**
2)	**Equipment**	**(34 fires – 16%)**
3)	**Other**	**(23 fires – 11%)**
4)	**Undetermined**	**(22 fires – 10%)**
5)	**Vehicle**	**(15 fires – 7%)**
5)	**Power Generation**	**(15 fires – 7%)**

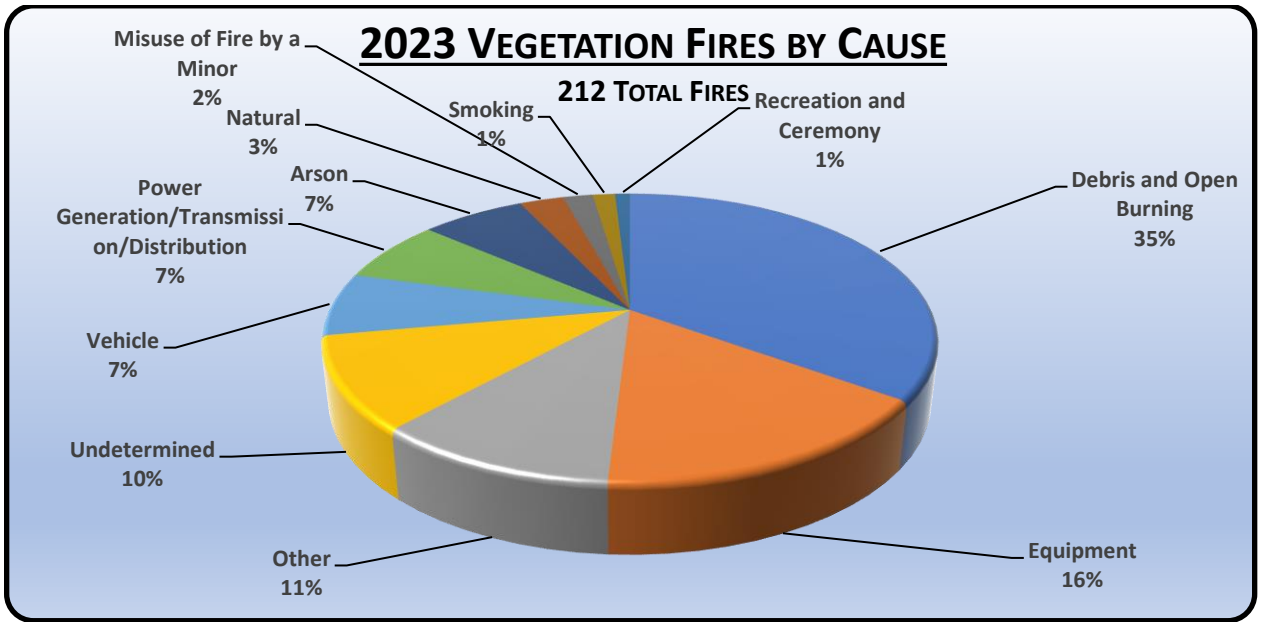
The five leading causes accounted for 183 fires, or 86%, of all 2023 fires that occurred.

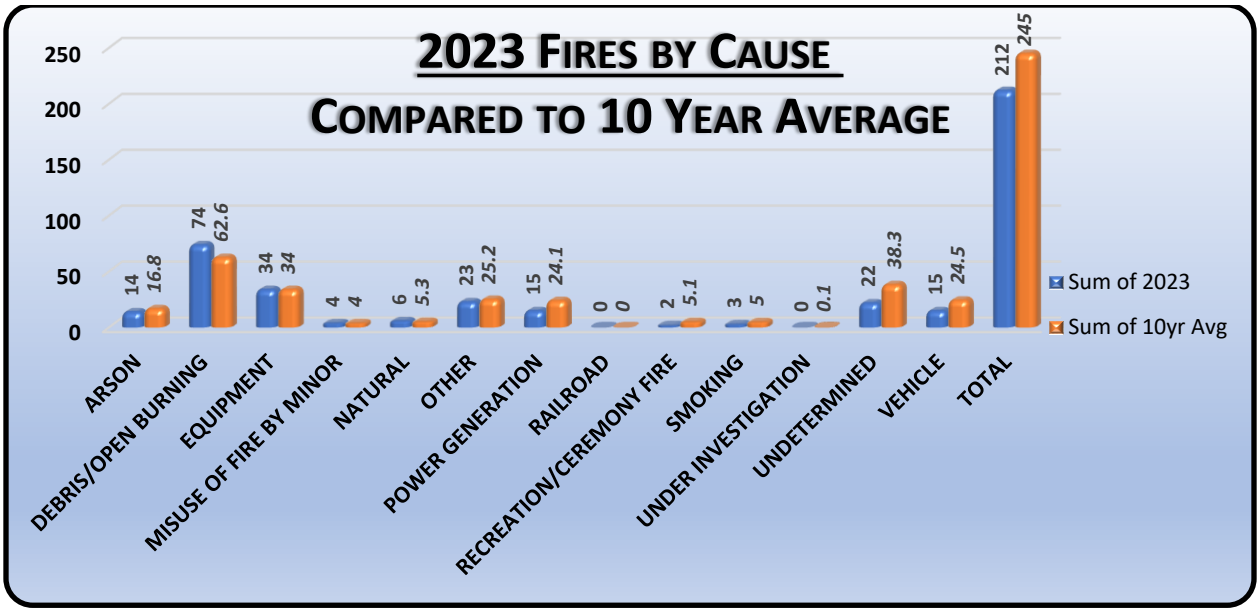


The remaining causes of fires in 2023 within AEU were:

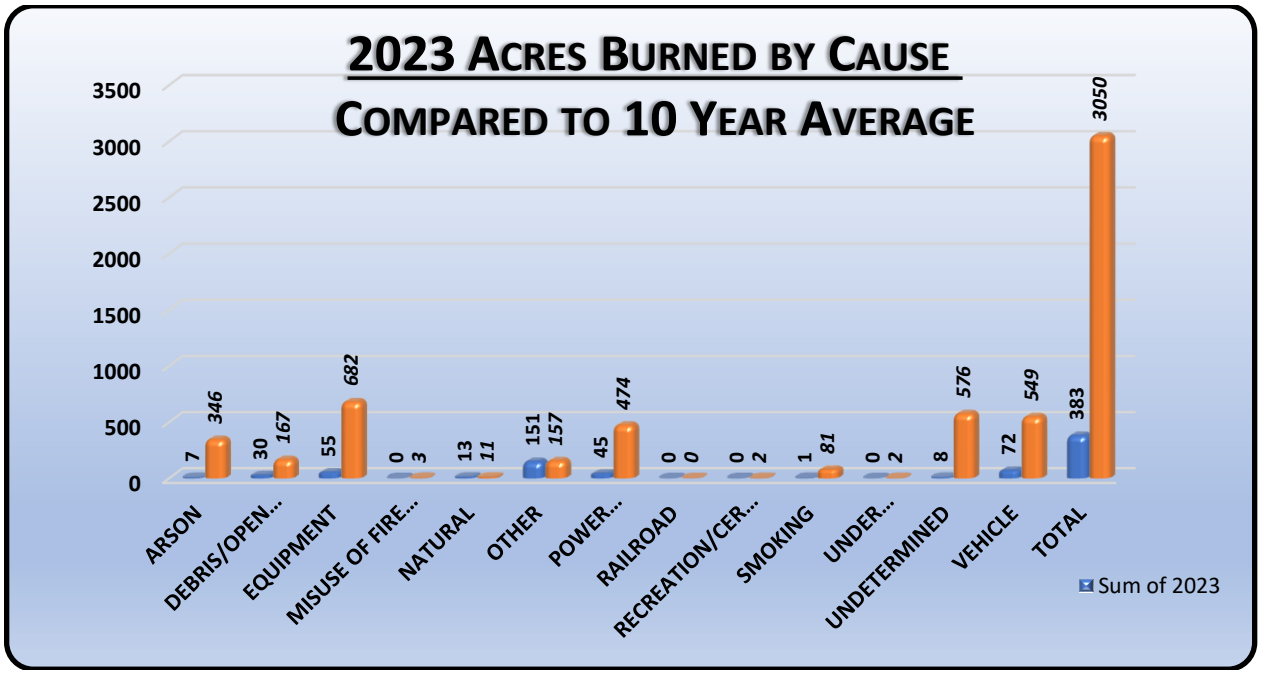
6)	**Arson**	**(14 fires – 7%)**
7)	**Natural**	**(6 fires – 3%)**
8)	**Misuse of fire by Minor**	**(4 fires – 2%)**
9)	**Smoking**	**(3 fires – 1%)**
10)	**Recreation/Ceremonial Fire**	**(2 fires – 1%)**

The total of ignitions in 2022 was 214. In 2023, we had 212 ignitions, very close to 2022. This trend continues through to the Wildland Cause Class. All causes in 2023 were similar to what AEU had in 2022 with slight fluctuations. However, in 2023 Undetermined, Vehicle, and Recreational/Ceremonial Fires were all below the 10-year averages. While overall Debris/Open Burning caused fires has decreased since 2021 (102 fires), it is still above the 10-year average of 63 fires and the main cause of vegetation fires in AEU. With new burn laws/regulations, it is imperative we continue to educate the public on safe burning practices. The number of Undetermined fires continues to trend down. In 2023, AEU had 22 which is below the 10-year average of 38. Through education and experience of our personnel, we hope the number of Undetermined fires continues to decrease. It is important to conduct a thorough investigation of every wildland fire we respond to, taking in to account your training, knowledge, experience, evidence at scene, as well as statements of witnesses to come to your conclusion of the Wildland Cause Class.





In 2023, there were 212 ignitions, 2 less ignitions then in 2022, and 33 less than the 10-year average of 245 fires. To better address ignition management in the Unit, a more detailed analysis of the fires in each major cause classification was conducted.



1) **Debris burning** accounted for 74 fires, or 35% of the total fires in the Unit. Debris caused fires resulted in approximately 31 acres burned within the unit for 2023. The 10-year average for this category is 167 acres burned. There was a minimal increase in the number of ignitions from Debris Burning from 2022 (73 fires) to 2023. However, 74 ignitions in 2023 is still higher than the 10-year average of 63 fires.

While we encourage the use of burn piles to clean vegetation of property, we need to continue and even improve education on proper burning techniques. The Unit Management suspended all burning in the Unit in July due to dry conditions.

Public education regarding the proper way to conduct debris burns, public safety and public awareness limited the number of these fires in recent years. 9-1-1 calls occur quickly when smoke is seen resulting in fire equipment arriving sooner at the scene of a fire. The number one cause of escaped debris burns continues to be lack of clearance around burn piles. Unattended debris burns also contributed to the totals. CAL FIRE engine companies are issuing an LE-38a notice when they determine a fire is caused by an escaped debris burn. These legal notices serve to educate the public and put them on notice that their next escape could result in a citation, arrest and/or recovery of fire suppression costs. Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau personnel are also issuing citations when debris burn caused fires violate law or violate the terms of the burn permits issued.

In addition, Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau staff work closely with local Air Quality Management Districts in the event a debris burn violates Air District ordinances. Violations typically include landowners burning debris piles larger than four feet by four feet in size without a valid air quality permit; landowners burning illegal materials; and landowners burning on a no-burn day. Potential violations of air quality rules are forwarded to the local Air District office on a LE-38a for potential action. Monetary fines typically range from $40.00 to $500.00, or more, depending on the type of violation.

Coordination between Air District offices and the Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau is important in order to reduce the number of debris burn escapes and illegal debris burns. In addition, Air District offices have enforcement options not available to CAL FIRE Officers. The fines assessed help prevent future debris burn escapes and also help to reduce the number of fire department responses to these types of fires.

As of 2023, CAL FIRE and the Office of the State Fire Marshall has implemented the online burn permit program allowing homeowners to go online to get the appropriate permit for the burning they would like to do. Although this is new process and there are several kinks to be worked out, this should allow more extensive education on proper burning practices and techniques which will hopefully lead to less escape debris piles.

2) **Equipment** use accounted for 34 fires, or 16% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Equipment caused fires resulted in approximately 55 acres being burned within the Unit in 2023. This acreage is well below the 10-year average of 682 acres. The main cause of equipment fires continues to be mowers. These fires typically start as a result of blades striking rocks, or friction igniting chaff collected around the belts, pulley systems or exhaust systems of mowers. Ironically, most of the mower caused fires occurred as a result of residents trying to clear their property for fire safety. Continued public education on the appropriate equipment to use in dry vegetation as well as the appropriate time of day (before 10:00 AM) and conditions to work will help reduce ignitions. The Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau will continue to conduct enforcement action when violations of law are identified as well.

3) **Other** causes accounted for 23 fires, or 11% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Formerly classified as Miscellaneous, Other caused fires resulted in approximately 151 acres being burned within the unit in 2023. The 10-year average of acres burned for Other caused fire is 157 acres. This classification includes causes such as structure fires, spontaneous combustion, fireplace ashes deposited in the wildland, barbequing, cooking fires, target shooting and fireworks. Target areas for these activities in AEU include the "Old Latrobe Road" and Meiss Road areas of eastern Sacramento County. Beatty Road and Powers Road; also known as "Heaven" in the SRA of El Dorado Hills, is an area where AEU has significant issues. Continued public education efforts, such as "One less spark, one less wildfire" and enforcement action by the Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau when violations of law are identified will help reduce the number of ignitions.

4) **Undetermined -** Fires with an undetermined cause accounted for 22 fires, 10% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Undetermined caused fires resulted in approximately 8 acres being burned in the Unit. The 10-year average of acres burned for this cause class is 576 acres. Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau staff continue to investigate these fires based on the information provided on the fire investigation reports.

   Continued hard work and dedication of the Unit's Law Enforcement & Investigations Staff and Company Officers who conduct thorough origin and cause investigations are imperative. We are bound by law and policy to investigate fires and it is crucial fire investigations be conducted as completely and factually as possible. It is only through origin and cause investigations that true prevention can be administered.

5) **Vehicles** accounted for 15 fires, or 7% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Vehicle caused fires resulted in approximately 72 acres being burned within the Unit. The 10-year average of acres burned for vehicle caused fires is 549 acres. Vehicle caused fires are typically due to mechanical failures, usually within the exhaust system where hot particles are expelled into the dry vegetation. Another common cause is vehicles dragging chains or other metallic objects. Continued public education on the importance of vehicle maintenance will reduce the number of ignitions. Because these fires are usually along a roadway, they are reported quickly allowing for a timely response.

6) **Power Generation** caused fires accounted for 15 fires, or 7% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Formerly classified as Electrical Power, Power Generation caused fires resulted in approximately 45 acres burned within the Unit. The 10-year average of acres burned for electrical caused fires is 474 acres. The Unit's Law Enforcement & Investigations staff as well as Defensible Space Inspectors continue to report PRC 4292 and PRC 4293 violations when they are observed to the appropriate utility company to mitigate the violation. Law Enforcement & Investigations Staff will document the violation on and LE-38a if the violation isn't addressed in a timely manner or may issue a citation dependent on the circumstances.

7) **Arson** accounted for 14 fires, or 7% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Arson caused fires burned approximately 7 acres in 2023. The 10-year average acres burned for arson caused fires is 346 acres. Arson caused fires are a good reason why investigating fires needs to be conducted quickly, thoroughly and with integrity.

   Our continued good working relationships between all fire and law enforcement agencies within the Unit is aiding in successful apprehension and prosecution of

arsonists. The importance of a thorough origin and cause investigation plays a key role in identifying suspicious fire patterns early. Apprehending and prosecuting arsonists is a team approach that depends on everyone.

The Unit also benefits from continuous, seven day a week, staffing of the Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau during fire season and should continue throughout the year. Arson fires occur on a year-round basis and often go overlooked outside of declared fire season due to inadequate staffing. A trained investigator can quickly identify arson, collect valuable evidence, and work with local law enforcement to solve this crime.

8) **Natural** accounted for 6 fires, 3% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Lightning caused fires burned a little over 13 acres in 2023. The 10-year average of acres burned from lighting caused fires is 11 acres. Not much can be done to prevent or alter this category. In anticipation of predicted dry-lighting events, the Unit will activate its AEU Complex Incident Plan in order to reduce the number of acres burned due to lightning.

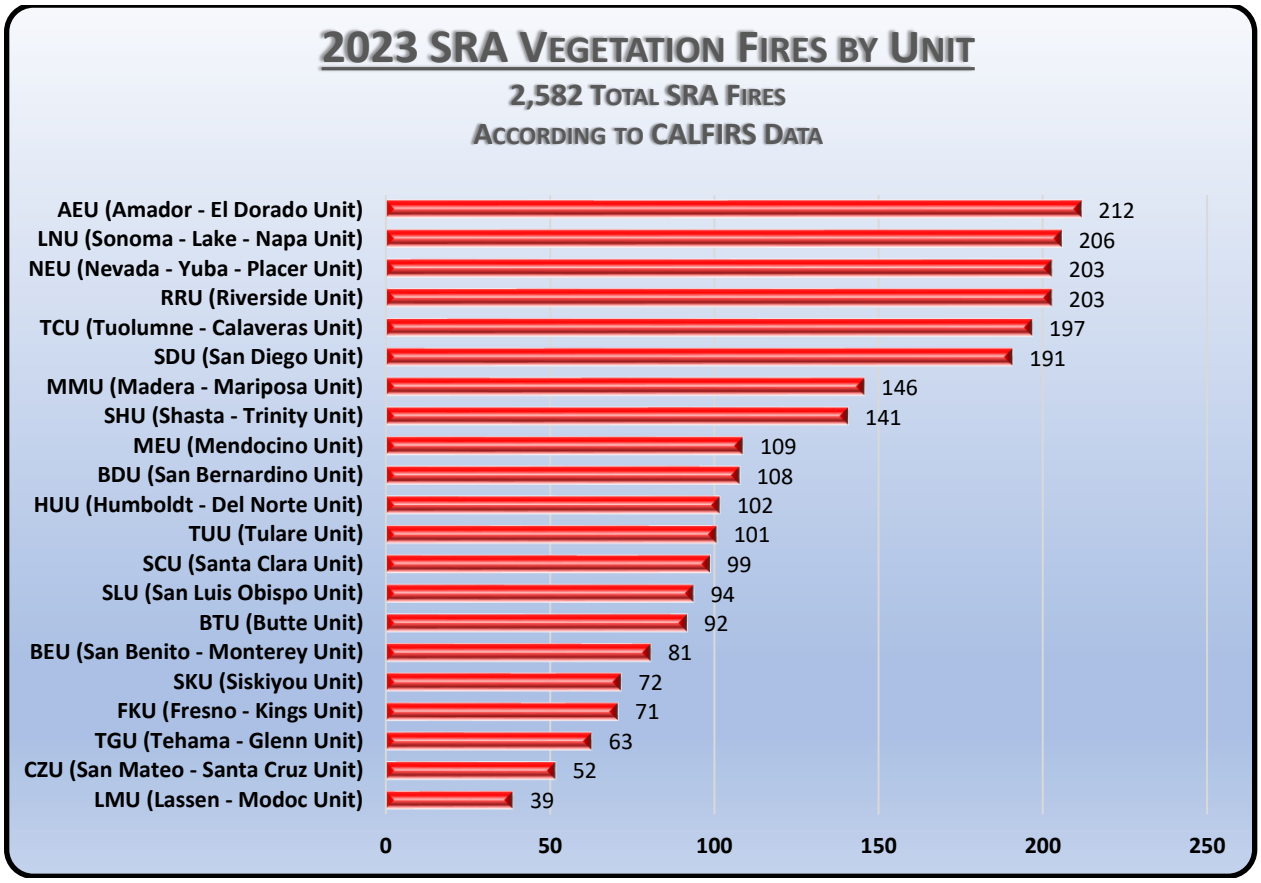
9) **Misuse of fire by Minor** accounted for 4 fires, or 2% of the ignitions in the Unit. Formerly classified as Playing with Fire, Misuse of Fire by a Minor caused fires burned less than ½ acre in 2023. The 10-year average of acres burned from Misuse of Fire by a Minor is 3 acres. CAL FIRE Officers, with the assistance of local agencies, continues to use the Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program when a juvenile is identified as being responsible for causing the fire.

10) **Smoking** accounted for 3 fires, or 1% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Smoking caused fires burned less than 2 acres in 2023. The 10-year average of acres burned from Smoking caused fires is 81 acres. Continued public awareness and education will continue to reduce the number of smoking caused ignitions.

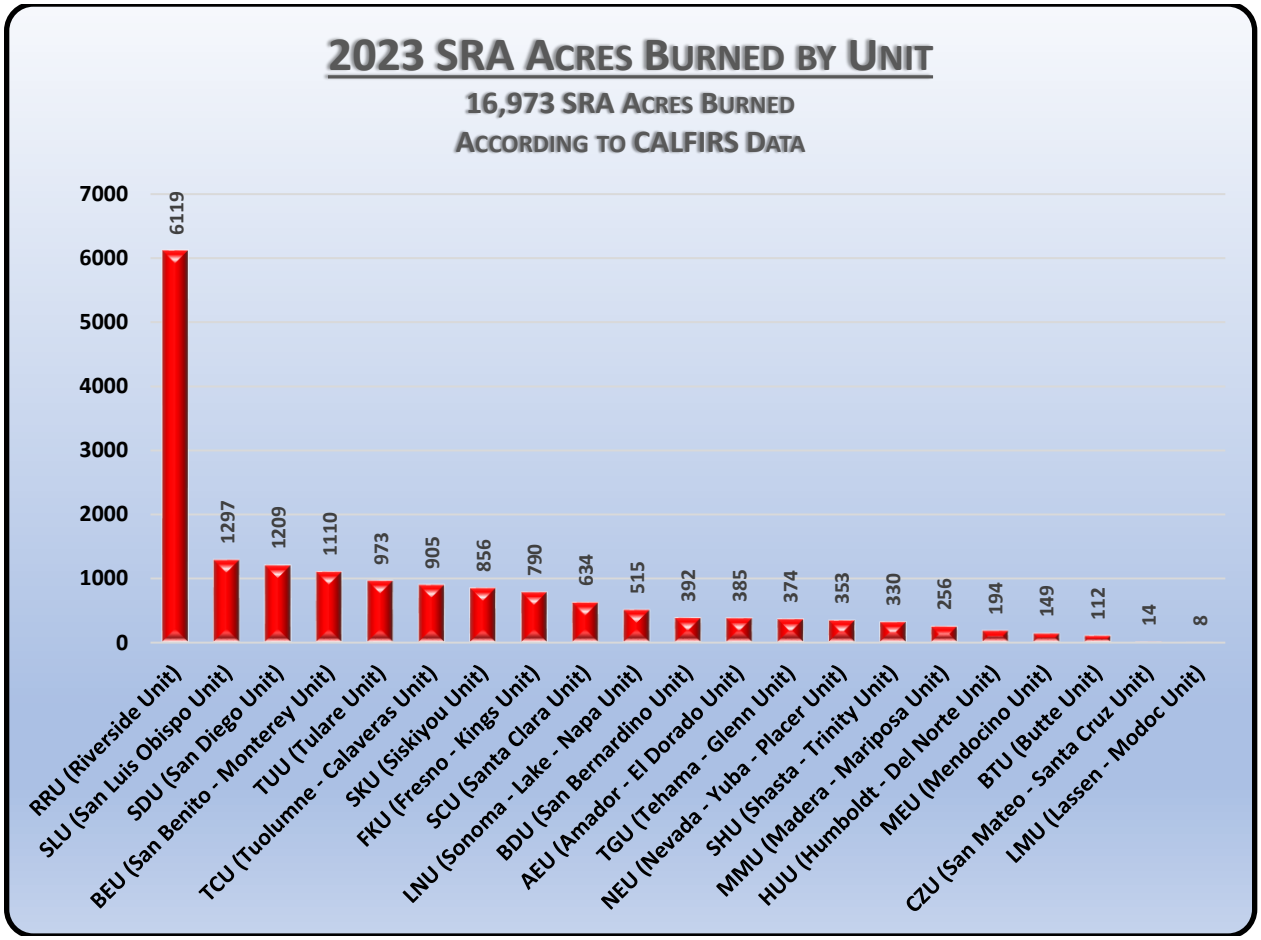
11) **Recreation/Ceremonial fires** accounted for 2 fires or 1% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Formerly classified as Campfire, Recreation/Ceremonial caused fires burned less than ½ acre in 2023. The 10-year average of acres burned from campfire caused fires is 2 acres. Most of these campfires were located at transient camps. While fires in transient camps have dropped in AEU SRA over the past 5 years, in the LRA, they have increased. This is primarily due to the strict enforcement from the Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau and the local Sheriff's Departments. Little to no action has been taken on illegal campfires in Placerville and South Lake Tahoe which has caused much of the population to move to these areas. With the close proximity to the SRA, transient campfires in the LRA directly affect the SRA. It should also be noted that the transient population of Amador County has been continuing to increase since approximately 2019. This may lead to more of an issue of transient caused fire in Amador County. CAL FIRE Officers and local law enforcement continues to patrol these encampments to reduce the number of illegal campfires.

12) **Under Investigation** is a category added in 2019 when Calfirs was introduced. This is a category set aside for CAL FIRE Officers for ongoing cases. In 2023, there were no fires left under investigation.

13) **Railroad** accounted for zero fires in 2023 or over the past 10 years. Amador County has one active commercial railroad in the western portion of the county. El Dorado has a railroad association which operates small railcars for historical tours on two small sections of railroad in the western end of the county.



The above graph shows AEU SRA Ignitions compared to all CAL FIRE Unit's SRA Ignitions. This data is collected from CALFIRS. Unlike previous years, illegal debris fires are not included in this total. With a total of 212 SRA ignitions for 2023, AEU had the highest number of ignitions.



The above graph shows the Statewide SRA acres burned according to CALFIRS data. In 2023, AEU had 385 acres burned with the largest fire being the Liberty Fire on July 11th at 72 acres. The 10-year average is 3,050 acres.

Law Enforcement

With recent movement, The Amador-El Dorado Unit currently has 3 active Peace Officers (PC 830.2(g)) with 2 more graduating the Peace Officers Standardized Training (POST) Regular Basic Course (RBC). Once completed with RBC, the 2 recruits will undergo a field training program. Most recruits complete the field training program by October at which point they are fully qualified to be a solo officer. Current Peace Officer assignments are as follows:

Battalion Chief, Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau - 1
Fire Captain Specialist, Fire Prevention Bureau – 2

Graduating in June 2024:
Forester I, Forest Practice – 1
Fire Captain Specialist, Fire Prevention Bureau –1

The Unit will continue to utilize its Peace Officers for general Law Enforcement duties & investigations, Fire Prevention efforts, Forest Practice Enforcement, Civil Cost Recovery, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Security Detail, Internal Affairs Investigations, Serious Accident Review Teams, Out of Unit Assignments, various Fire Prevention and Law Enforcement workgroups, and training assignments/cadres.

The availability of all 5 Unit Peace Officers on a routine and consistent basis is limited by current Peace Officer assignments within the Unit. The number of Peace Officers in the Unit has declined from 12 in 2008 to 5 in 2024.

Due to the reduced number of Peace Officers both statewide and within the Unit, it is anticipated that there will be greater demand on existing Peace Officers for Fire Investigations, the Field Training Program, Cadres, Workgroups, Law Enforcement assignments, Serious Accident Review Team deployments and Administrative Investigations.

2023 Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau Statistics:

- Fire Prevention Bureau officers responded to 200 incidents
  - 4 Arrests were made within the Unit related to arson type fires
  - 6 Citations were issued
  - 2 District Attorney complaints were filed
  - Approximately 70 LE-38(a)’s were issued

2023 Cadres/Workgroups:

1) CAL FIRE Field Training Program
2) FI-210 cadre
3) Fire Prevention Advisory Committee
4) Sacramento - Sierra Regional Arson Task Force
5) Sacramento Regional - High Tech Crimes Task Force
6) El Dorado County Fire Arson Task Force
7) Amador County Arson Task Force
8) Regular Basic POST Academy
9) CAL FIRE Firearms cadre
10) CAL FIRE Defensible Space Collector App
11) El Dorado County Vegetation Management working group

Administrative Investigations:

Complex administrative investigations should be routed through the CAL FIRE Professional Standards Program (PSP). However, less complex investigations should be done by the appropriate supervisor with a notification made to the Units Administrative Officer. In cases where the nature or complexity of the investigation is not clear, unit personnel should contact the CAL FIRE Professional Standards Unit through the Unit Administrative Officer (or directly if the situation warrants).

LE 100a Defensible Space Program

In 2023, a total of 9,797 defensible space inspections were conducted in the Amador-El Dorado Unit. CAL Fire Forestry Aide & Forestry Technician Defensible Space Inspectors performed 3,943 inspections. CAL FIRE engine companies conducted 2,396 inspections. CAL Fire totaled 6,339 inspections within state responsibility area within AEU. A total of 3,458 inspections were performed by cooperators, performed by El Dorado County Vegetation Management Inspectors and Local Government Fire Personnel. AEU Defensible Space Inspectors have the additional workload of conducting defensible space inspections related to real estate transactions under California Civil Code 1102.19.

The goals of the Unit's Defensible Space Program are as follows:

1) Identify Defensible Space Areas within the Unit where inspections will occur.

2) Provide a margin of safety for firefighters and the public.

3) Educate residents and developers regarding their responsibility for defensible space.

4) Ensure structures have some basic level of self-protection.

5) Mitigate wildland fire losses and resource damage.

6) Increase the survivability of a home or development.

7) Provide a point of attack for a wildland fire.

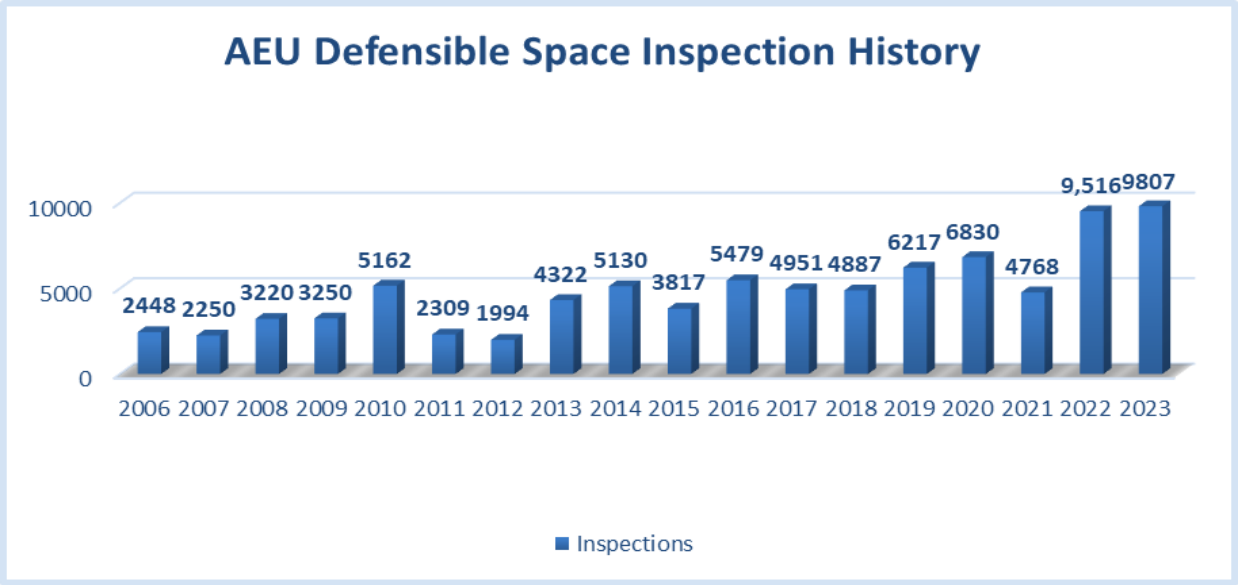
8) Provide CAL FIRE personnel greater awareness of response areas within the Unit where inspections are occurring.

9) Work closely with Local Fire Districts and Fire Safe Councils to enhance communication and work being done throughout the Unit.

10) Train and certify Fire Safe Council assessors.

11) During fire season conduct PRC4292/4293/LE-38(a) utility inspections.

Below is a historical snapshot of defensible space inspections since 2006. It is important to note that in the years 2005-2006, most inspections were completed by Volunteers-In-Prevention (VIP's) and Fire Safe Councils. It was not until 2007 that CAL FIRE personnel began to actively conduct inspections on a consistent, Unit-wide basis.



Defensible Space Inspection Numbers by Year

Amador-El Dorado Unit

Year	Inspections	Completed By	Comments
2004	2,100	(Majority VIP, FSC's)	3-0 Staffing
2005	1,899	(Majority VIP, FSC's)	3-0 Staffing
2006	2,448	(Majority VIP, FSC's)	3-0 Staffing
2007	2,250	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing
2008	3,220	CAL FIRE	4-0 Staffing
2009	3,250	CAL FIRE	4-0 Staffing
2010	5,162	CAL FIRE	5 FF1's Hired April 1st. Last year of 4-0 staffing.
2011	2,309	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing
2012	1,994	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 4 Forestry Aides hired mid-July
2013	4,322	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 4 FF1's & 4 Forestry Aides hired in May
2014	5,120	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 4 Forestry Aides hired in April
2015	3,817	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 5 Forestry Aides hired in April
2016	5,479	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 5 Forestry Aides and Surge Capacity FFs
2017	4,951	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 4 Forestry Aides
2018	4,887	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 5 Forestry Aides
2019	6,217	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 3 Forestry Aides
2020	6,830	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 5 Forestry Aides
2021	4,768	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 4 Forestry Aides
2022	9,516	CALFIRE, Cooperators	3-0 Staffing, 4 Forestry Aides, 1 Forestry Technician
2023	9,797	CALFIRE, Cooperators	3-0 Staffing, 2 Forestry Aides, 2 Forestry Technicians

Defensible space is the area within the perimeter of a parcel, development, neighborhood or community where basic wildland fire prevention practices and measures are implemented, providing the key point of defense from an encroaching wildfire or an escaping structure fire. Pursuant to Public Resources Code 4291, residents are required to maintain defensible space of 100 feet around their structure, but not beyond their property line. The amount of fuel modification required factors in the flammability of the structure as affected by building material, building standards, location, and type of vegetation. Fuels are required to be maintained in a condition so that a wildfire burning under average weather conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure.

Information and Education Program

Public Information Program

The Unit's Public Information Officer (PIO) writes and distributes media press releases, media advisories, and articles; posts and shares information on the Unit's social media platforms; coordinates and conducts interviews for television, radio, newspapers, social media, and blogs; prepares and disseminates fire information and incident information fact sheets; provides relevant incident information to the public; and coordinates public education events with Battalion personnel. Duties also include responding as an Incident Information Officer (Field PIO, PIO Center Manager, PIO in JIC, and PIO on unified command incidents) locally and statewide.

Public Education and Awareness Program

The Public Education and Awareness Program is comprised of four components – school programs, group programs and events, exhibits and displays, and social media.

1) **School Programs**: These are done throughout the Unit and reach children from preschool through 12th grade. The "team teaching" approach is used at the schools and is done on a request basis and is generally handled by engine companies. There are a variety of programs available depending on the request or needs of a particular school. For younger students (typically K-5th grade), programs can include fire station tours, Captain Cal educational visits, and presenting/sharing fire safe educational messaging (i.e. 911, stop/drop/roll, exit drills in the home, friendly firefighters, crawl under smoke). Engine companies are also requested to visit schools to read to students in the classroom about fire and life safety. For the older students (typically 6 – 12th grade), programs can vary from attending career days to share the types of careers available at CAL FIRE, attending assemblies to present age-appropriate fire safe information, to presenting the Juvenile Fire Setting education program.

2) **Group Programs and Events**: These are done on a request basis and can cover a variety of fire and life safety topics, including, but not limited to, defensible space, home hardening, disaster preparedness, preparing a "go bag," recruitment, proper equipment use, and debris burning. The Unit provides information and presentations to the public, local businesses, fire safe councils, neighborhood associations, and local groups/organizations. Requests vary and presentations may be done in conjunction with another agency, such as a fire or law enforcement agency.

3) **Exhibits and Displays**: These are designed and constructed for various events, including fairs, parades, home and garden shows, wildfire preparedness week, homeowner association gatherings, National Night Out, community events, recruitment fairs, holiday events, fire preparedness drills, Fire Safe Councils, etc. These may be done in partnership with another emergency service agency, local government, or fire safe council.

4) **Social Media:** AEU's social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Nextdoor, and YouTube – are used to inform the public of Unit events/happenings, as well as to increase awareness and educate the public on fire and life safety topics. These topics can include, but are not limited to, debris burning, defensible space, home hardening, emergency preparedness, equipment use, campfire and grilling safety, fireworks safety, forest health, returning home after a wildfire, evacuations, animal evacuations, and holiday safety (cooking, holiday decorations, and kitchen safety). All social media posts and campaigns are handled directly through the PIO.

Youth Fire Setter Intervention and Education Program (YFS)

The Unit's Youth Fire Setter Intervention and Education Program is coordinated by the Fire Prevention Bureau Chief. The Fire Prevention Bureau manages cases that originate from CAL FIRE Prevention personnel, CAL FIRE Battalion Chiefs or Engine Company Officers, local and federal fire agencies, local law enforcement, the Probation Department and the District Attorney's Office. The program includes the following:

1) Assessment of the juvenile for future fire setting.
2) Educate the juvenile and family about fire setting and fire safety.
3) Make recommendations to County Probation (Probation/District Attorney's Office), Social Services, Mental Health, Child Protective Services, and private mental health providers.

Volunteer in Prevention Program

The Unit's Volunteers in Prevention (VIP) program staffs the Pilot Peak and Mt. Zion Lookouts and provides support for public information events. This program entails recruiting, training, coordinating and supervising activities of Unit VIPs and record keeping (VIP Database, CALATERS, etc.) associated with the program. The VIP Program is overseen primarily at the Battalion level.

Local Land Use Planning
and the
SRA Fire Safe Regulations

California Senate Bill 1075, also known as the State Responsibility Area Fire Protection Act, was signed into law in 1987. The bill was introduced in response to a series of large wildfires that caused significant property damage and loss of life in California. It established a system of fire protection in State Responsibility Areas (SRAs), which are areas where the state has responsibility for fire protection and required the development of fire safe regulations to reduce the risk of wildfire.

As a result of Senate Bill 1075, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) developed the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations, which were first implemented in 1991. These regulations established minimum requirements for defensible space around homes and structures in SRAs, as well as standards for road access and water supply for firefighting. The regulations have been periodically updated and expanded over the years to include additional requirements for new development, vegetation management, and other fire safety measures. Today, the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations continue to be a critical component of CAL FIRE's efforts to reduce the risk of wildfire and protect lives and property in California's wildland-urban interface areas. The latest update to the Fire Safe Regulations was adopted and implemented on April 1, 2023.

Public Resources Code (PRC) 4290 requirements address emergency access and water supplies, addressing and street signing, and fuel modification relating to new construction and development. The implementation of these regulations occurs through the local government permit and subdivision map approval process.

PRC 4290 regulations are primarily triggered by the application for a permit for purposes other than limited remodels, including but not limited to, submittal of a tentative subdivision map, tentative parcel map, special use permit, or construction of a road. These regulations do not supersede existing local regulations that are equal to or more stringent than State regulations.

The Wildfire Resiliency Program of the Amador-El Dorado Unit plays a crucial role in ensuring wildfire prevention within the Unit and lands identified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. The program oversees the enforcement of PRC 4290 and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 1270, which are commonly known as the "SRA Minimum Fire Safe Regulations." These regulations are the fundamental standards for wildland fire protection set by the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection within SRA and LRA Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Access

Access is a major fire prevention and protection need, whether wildland or structural. Failure to provide reasonable access for emergency equipment and evacuation exits for civilians can result in major loss of life, property and natural resources. Fire apparatus sitting at an intersection, waiting for civilians to exit on a narrow road, cannot provide the necessary fire suppression action. Safe access requires street and road networks that limit dead-end roads and provide reasonable widths, grades, turn-outs, and curves on all roads and driveways.

Addressing and Signing

The difficulty of locating an unnamed or poorly signed road during an emergency, especially under smoky conditions, is a major problem to wildland and structural firefighters. Beyond this, many jurisdictions have allowed duplicate numbering and naming for roads and access, further compounding the location problem. The potential losses of life, property and resources are greater without an adequately visible, reflective sign and consistent addressing and numbering system.

Water Supplies

The application of water and the construction of a fire line are the primary tools used by wildland firefighters to contain and control a wildfire. The location and availability of sufficient quantities of water are essential to fire suppression and firefighter safety. Emergency water supplies are necessary to provide readily available, and accessible, emergency water for structural and wildland fire protection.

Fuel Modification Considerations

The establishment of physical barriers between a structure and the wildland is recognized as a major deterrent and loss reduction measure. Such barriers should be considered key to individual and community defensible space. While fuel breaks have strategic application over large geographical areas, they are expensive to construct and maintain. Other measures, such as the strategic placement of roads, recreational parks, irrigated landscaping, setback from property lines, green belts, open space and fuel modification around structures are more suitable around homes and subdivisions. Strategic ridgelines if identified by the local jurisdiction have been identified to reduce fire risk and improve fire protection. New buildings on strategically important undeveloped ridgelines are prohibited unless Development activities, such as mass grading, will significantly alter the topography resulting in the elimination of ridgeline fire risks.

Fire Prevention, Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau 2023 Summary:

In 2023, the Unit successfully engaged in all aspects of Fire Prevention including public education, engineering, law enforcement and volunteerism. In addition, the Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau was able to support out-of-unit assignments while maintaining seven-day a week prevention coverage during fire season within the Unit. The AEU Law Enforcement & Investigations Bureau was successful in preventing fires where we usually have issues due to active and consistent patrolling. Prevention of these fires continues to be a team effort attributed to fire prevention patrol, public education, and fire suppression efforts in the Unit. In recent years the transient population in the Unit has been on the rise as well as transient related fires. The Bureau continues to work with the El Dorado County Sheriffs Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and the recently developed Amador Sheriffs Homeless Amador React Team (HART) to educate the transient population on fire safety and at times enforce the law when appropriate.

During the course of fire prevention patrol in the Unit, Bureau personnel observed multiple illegal fires, successfully extinguishing them and holding those responsible accountable, potentially preventing several large damaging wildfires from occurring.

It's the intent of the Amador-El Dorado Unit in 2024 to continue to actively seek ways to reduce unwanted fires, aggressively pursue criminal or civil action against violators of forest and fire laws, enhance the law enforcement skills of all of its Officers through on-going training, increase the visibility of CAL FIRE through media outlets, engage local jurisdictions in land use policy and planning decisions and continue to provide support to the Regions and Sacramento on out-of-unit assignments. The Unit plans to build on past successes while seeking ways to improve processes internal to the Unit.

EXHIBITS: MAPS

Figure A: Unit Map

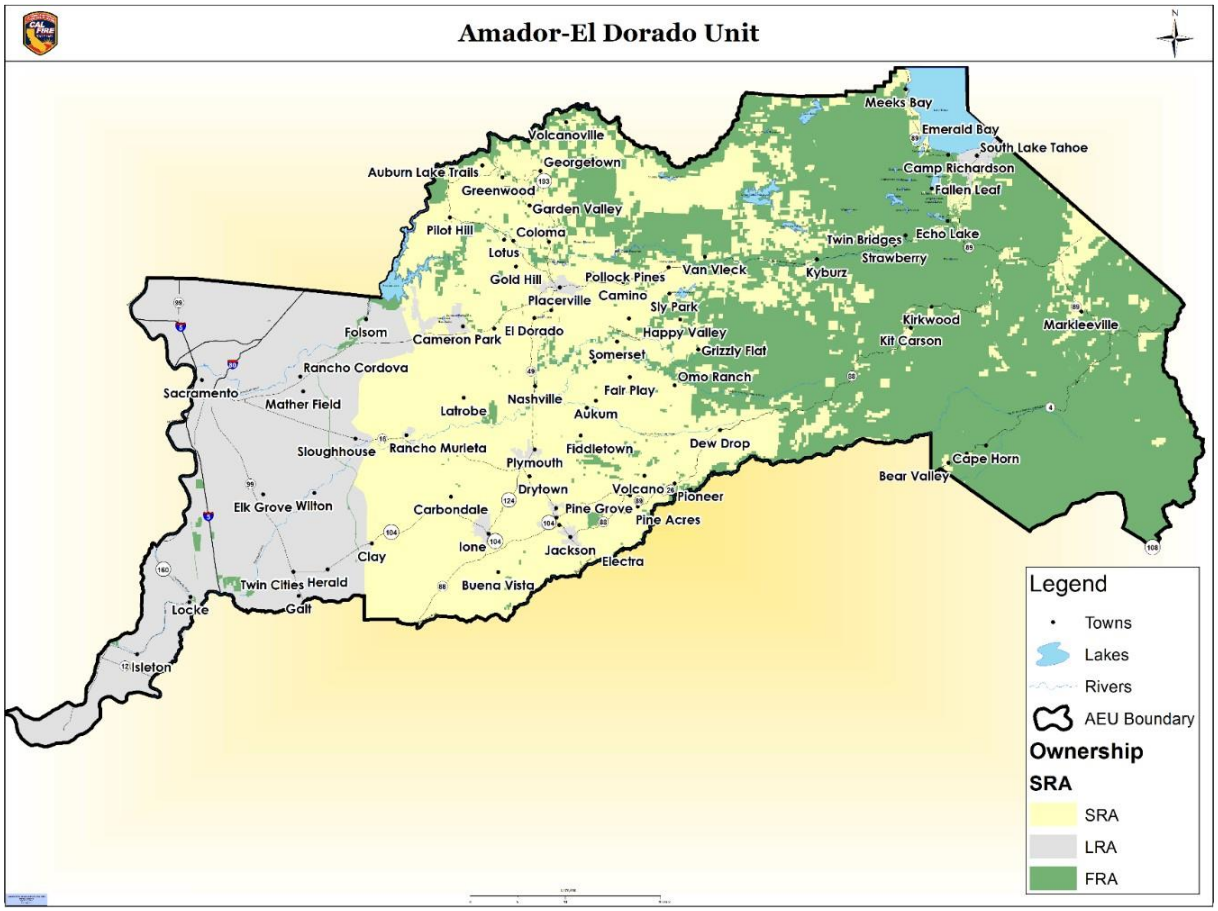
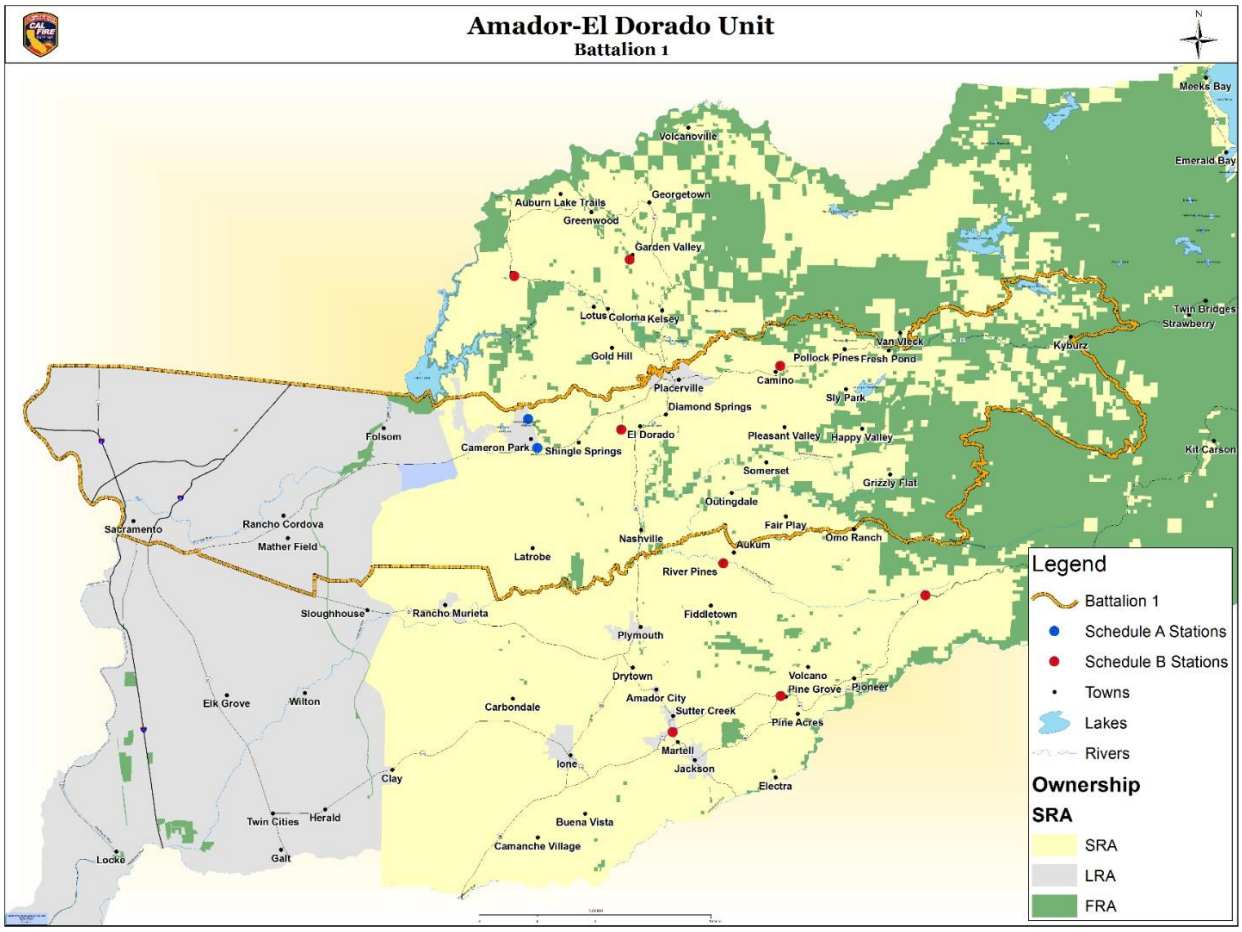
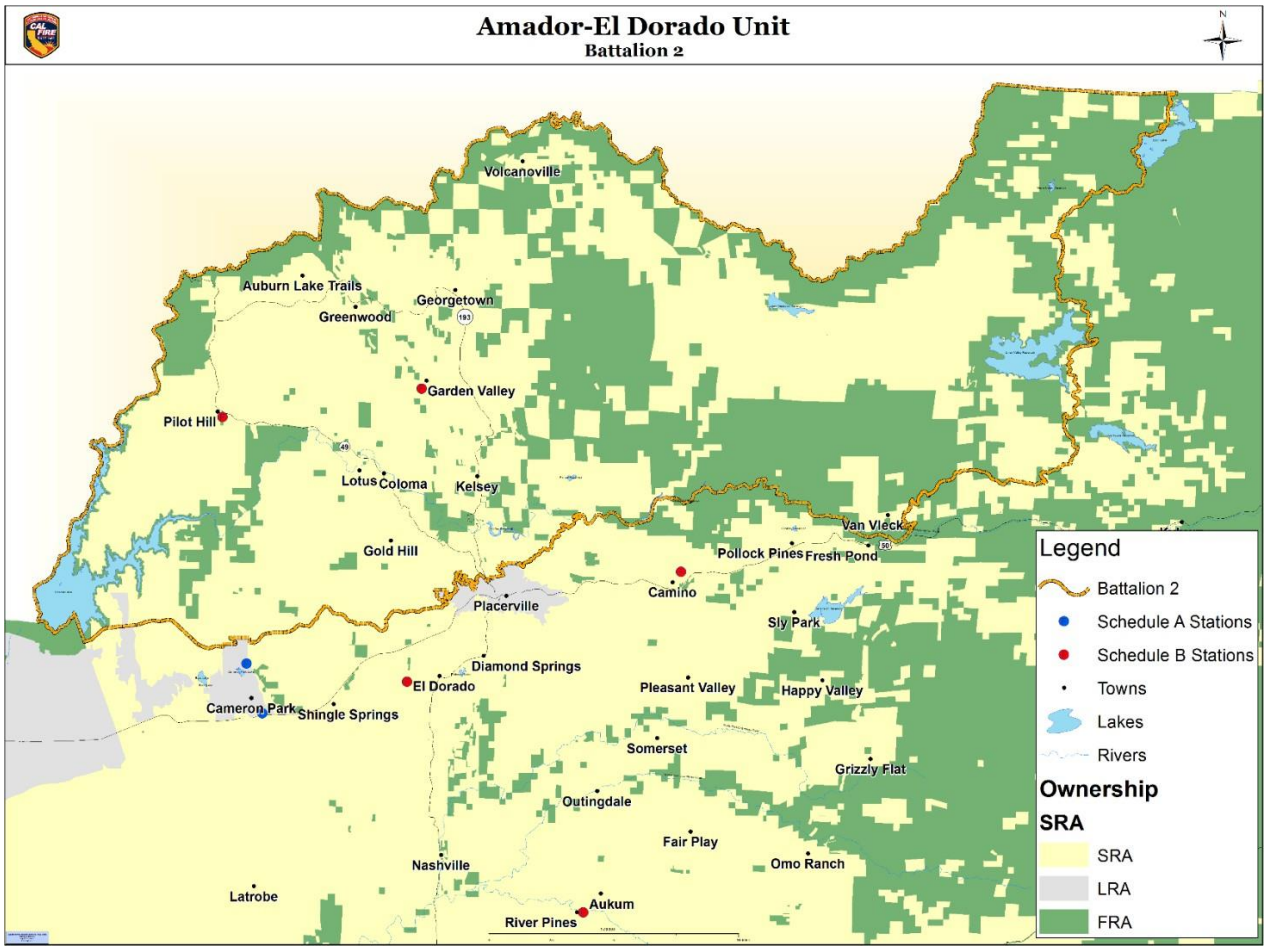
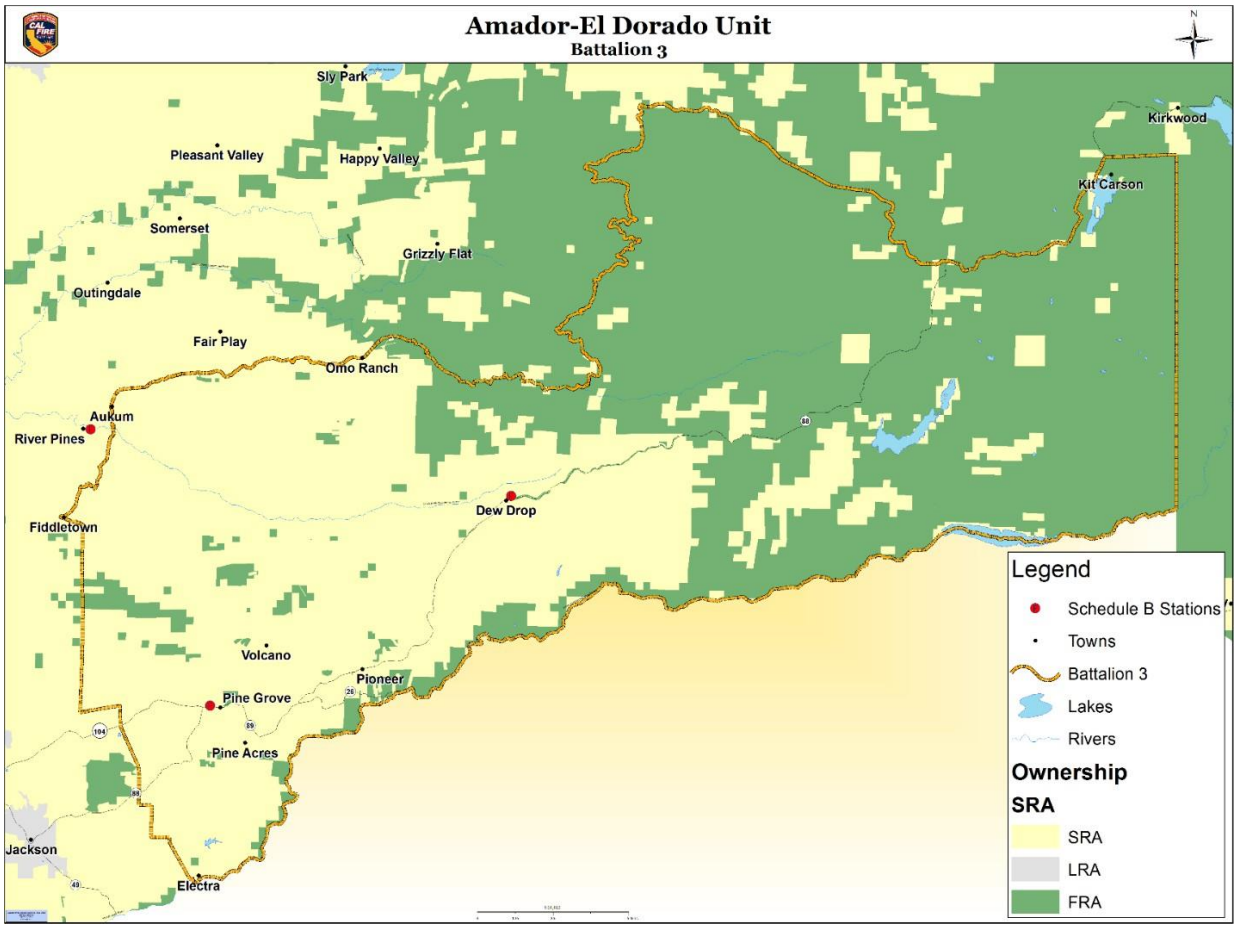


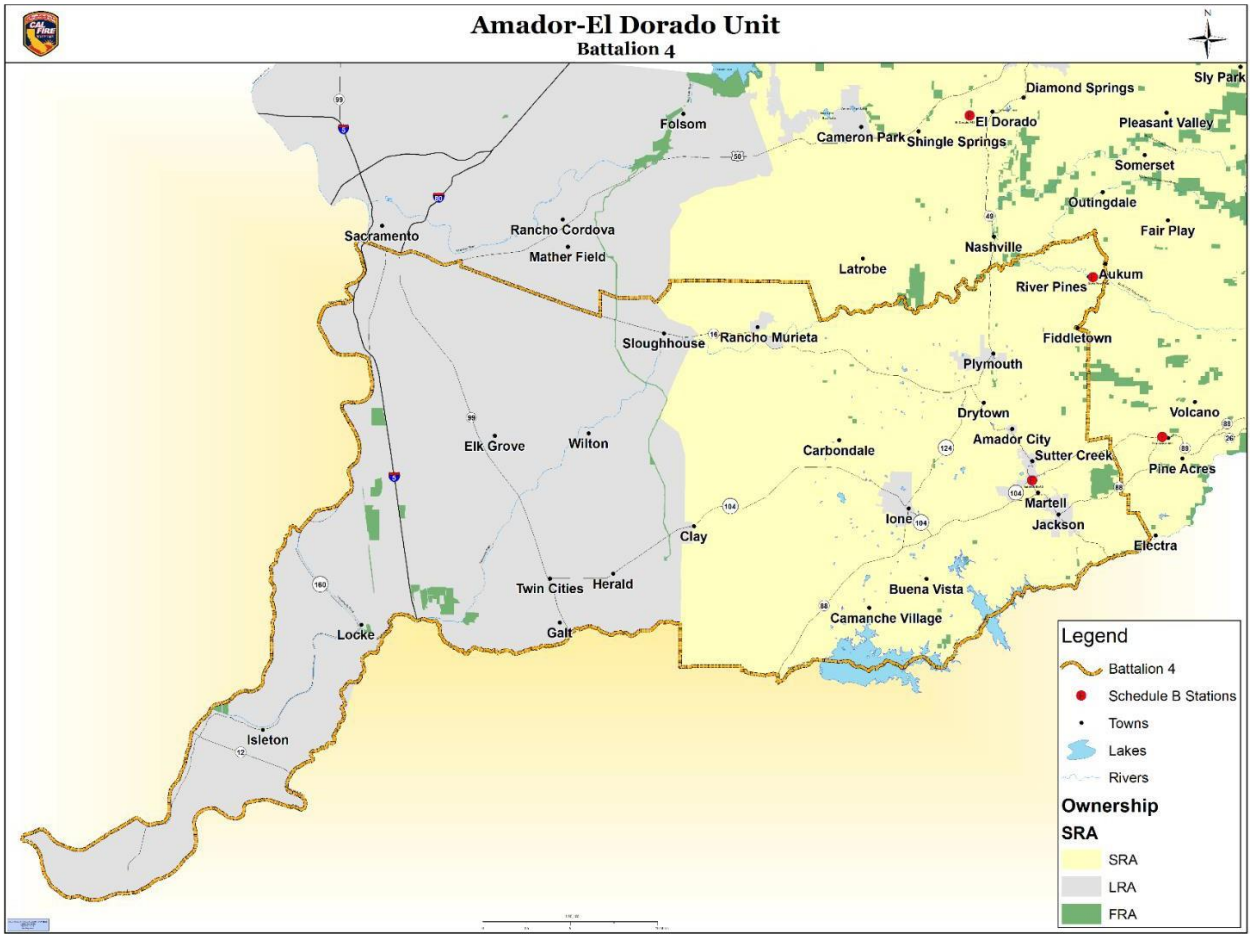
Figure B: Battalion Maps

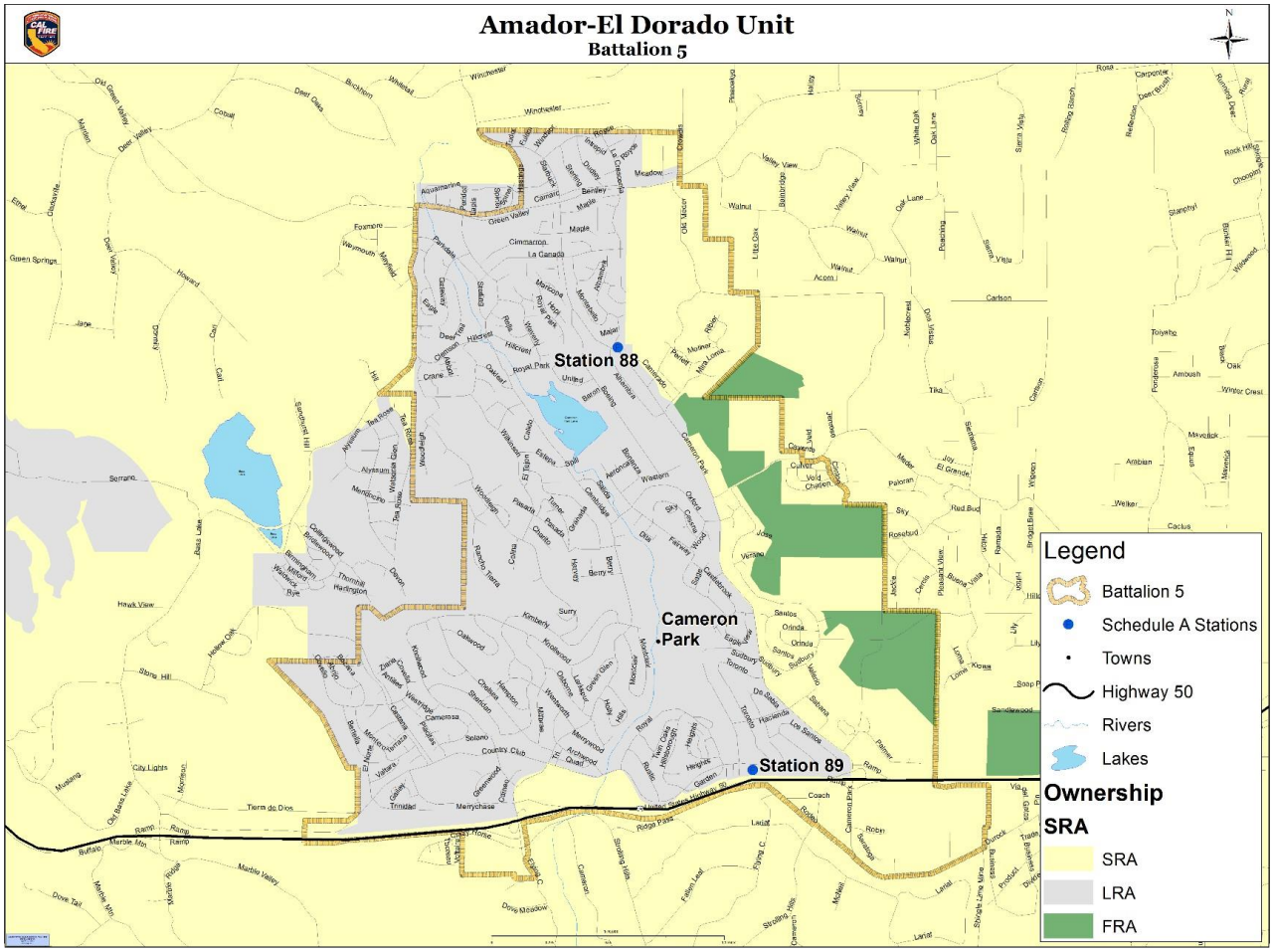


1 map


Amador-El Dorado Unit
Battalion 2
Volcanoville
Auburn Lake Trails
Georgetown
Greenwood
Garden Valley
Pilot Hill
Lotus
Coloma
Kelsey
Gold Hill
Placerville
Van Vleck
Pollock Pines
Fresh Pond
Camino
Sly Park
Diamond Springs
El Dorado
Pleasant Valley
Happy Valley
Cameron Park
Shingle Springs
Somerset
Grizzly Flat
Outingdale
Fair Play
Omo Ranch
Nashville
Latrobe
Aukum
River Pines
Legend
Battalion 2
Schedule A Stations
Schedule B Stations
Towns
Lakes
Rivers
Ownership
SRA
SRA
LRA
FRA


Amador-El Dorado Unit
Battalion 3
Sly Park
Pleasant Valley
Happy Valley
Kirkwood
Kit Carson
Somerset
Grizzly Flat
Outingdale
Fair Play
Omo Ranch
Aukum
River Pines
Dew Drop
Fiddletown
Volcano
Pioneer
Pine Grove
Pine Acres
Jackson
Electra
Legend
Schedule B Stations
Towns
Battalion 3
Lakes
Rivers
Ownership
SRA
SRA
LRA
FRA


Amador-El Dorado Unit
Battalion 4
Folsom
Cameron Park
Diamond Springs
El Dorado
Shingle Springs
Sly Park
Pleasant Valley
Somerset
Outingdale
Fair Play
Nashville
Latrobe
Aukum
River Pines
Fiddletown
Plymouth
Drytown
Volcano
Amador City
Sutter Creek
Pine Acres
Martell
Ione
Jackson
Electra
Carbondale
Buena Vista
Camanche Village
Clay
Sloughhouse
Rancho Murieta
Sacramento
Rancho Cordova
Mather Field
Elk Grove
Wilton
Twin Cities
Herald
Galt
Locke
Isleton
Legend
Battalion 4
Schedule B Stations
Towns
Lakes
Rivers
Ownership
SRA
SRA
LRA
FRA


Amador-El Dorado Unit
Battalion 5
Station 88
Station 89
Cameron Park
Legend
Battalion 5
Schedule A Stations
Towns
Highway 50
Rivers
Lakes
Ownership
SRA
SRA
LRA
FRA

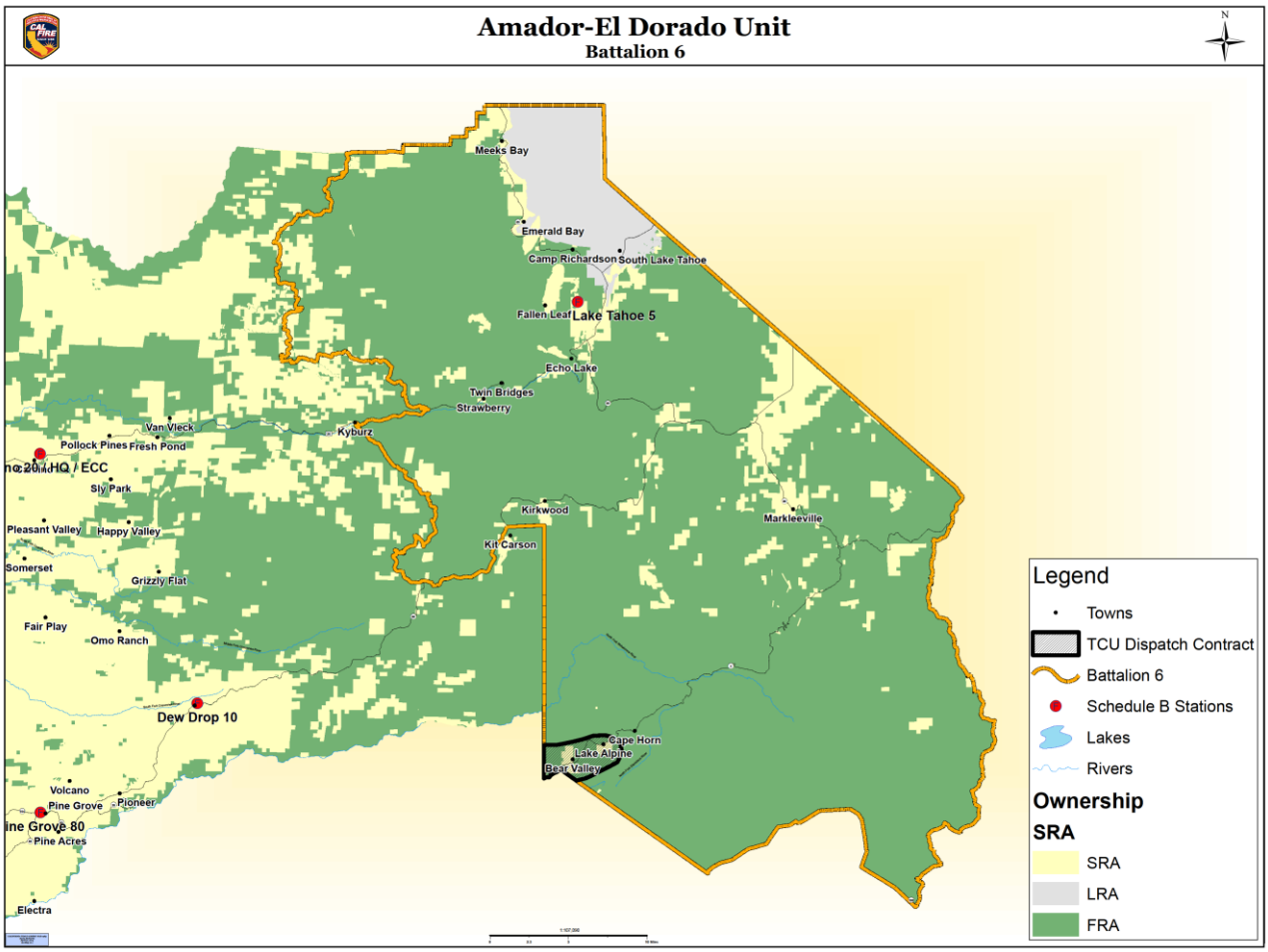

Amador-El Dorado Unit
Battalion 6
N
Meeks Bay
Emerald Bay
Camp Richardson
South Lake Tahoe
Fallen Leaf
Lake Tahoe 5
Echo Lake
Twin Bridges
Strawberry
Kyburz
Van Vleck
Pollock Pines
Fresh Pond
Sly Park
Pleasant Valley
Happy Valley
Somerset
Grizzly Flat
Fair Play
Omo Ranch
Dew Drop 10
Kirkwood
Kit Carson
Markleeville
Cape Horn
Lake Alpine
Bear Valley
Volcano
Pine Grove
Pioneer
Pine Acres
Electra
Legend
Towns
TCU Dispatch Contract
Battalion 6
Schedule B Stations
Lakes
Rivers
Ownership
SRA
SRA
LRA
FRA

Figure C: Unit DPA Map