



Unit Fire Plan Humboldt-Del Norte 2026



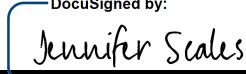
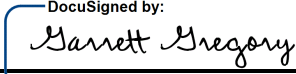
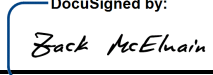
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Unit Strategic Fire Plan developed for Humboldt – Del Norte Unit:

This Plan was collaboratively developed with interested parties, including: Federal, State, Local, and County agencies within the Humboldt-Del Norte Unit that have been consulted and are listed in the plan. It identifies and prioritizes pre-fire and post-fire management strategies and tactics meant to reduce the loss of values at risk within the Unit and is intended for use as a planning and assessment tool only. It is the responsibility of those implementing the projects to ensure that all environmental compliance and permitting processes are met as required by law and policy.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Fire Plan is a planning document intended to be updated annually with State and Unit priorities.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Humboldt-Del Norte Unit (HUU) is located along the California coastline and includes Humboldt and Del Norte counties, and portions of Western Trinity County. The Unit extends north to south approximately 180 miles and inland approximately 50 miles. This encompasses 1,914,267 acres of state responsibility lands and 1,782,111 acres of direct protection area. Approximately 70% of these lands are zoned for timber production and another 10% are recreation areas. Watersheds within the Unit include the Smith, Klamath, Mad, Trinity, Van Duzen, Mattole, and Eel Rivers.

Federal cooperator responsibility areas account for nearly 1.3 million acres in HUU. These cooperators include: the Six Rivers National Forest, Rogue – Siskiyou National Forest, Klamath National Forest, Redwood National Park, and the Bureau of Land Management. The Bureau of Indian Affairs supports

twelve tribal agencies within the Unit. The Hoopa Valley Tribe provides wildland fire protection on its reservation as delegated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The formulation of the HUU Strategic Fire Plan is a collaborative endeavor led by the HUU Planning Battalion, engaging CAL FIRE field Battalions, fire prevention and resource management personnel, administrative staff, county and local Fire Safe Councils, and other cooperating agencies. Under the guidance of the Unit Chief, the plan outlines the strategic direction for meeting California's key fire management objectives, with localized and programmatic plans developed by field and administrative Battalions to support these goals. Execution of the Fire Plan is overseen by Assistant Chiefs, Battalion Chiefs, and Foresters.

The efficacy of the HUU Fire Plan hinges on the attainment of objectives outlined in the 2018 Board of Forestry Strategic Fire Plan for California, ensuring a proactive and coordinated approach to fire management within the region:

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.
2. Promote and support local land use planning processes as they relate to: (a) protection of life, property, and natural resources from risks associated with wildland fire, and (b) individual landowner objectives and responsibilities.
3. Support and participate in the collaborative development and implementation of local, county, and regional plans that address fire protection and landowner objectives.
4. Increase fire prevention awareness, knowledge and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss, property damage and impacts to natural resources from wildland fires.
5. Integrate fire and fuels management practices with landowner/land manager priorities across jurisdictions.
6. Determine the level of resources necessary to effectively identify, plan and implement fire prevention using adaptive management strategies.
7. Determine the level of fire suppression resources necessary to protect the values and assets at risk identified during planning processes.
8. Implement post-fire assessments and programs for the protection of life, property, and natural resource recovery.

SECTION I: UNIT OVERVIEW

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Unit General Priorities

Through collaborative efforts involving Federal, local government, and community stakeholders, HUU pursues objectives aimed at safeguarding lives, property, and natural resources against the threat of wildland fires. Additionally, the Unit endeavors to improve environmental resilience in the face of such fire events. Community protection initiatives encompass a spectrum of measures designed to ensure the safety of both the public and emergency responders, alongside the preservation of property and associated infrastructure.

Location

CAL FIRE HUU is the most northern CAL FIRE unit along the California coastline. The Unit extends north to south approximately 180 miles and inland approximately 50 miles. This encompasses 1,914,411 acres of state responsibility lands and 1,782,111 of direct protection area. The Unit includes Redwood National Park, United States Forest Service (USFS) Six Rivers National Forest and Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management's Headwaters Forest and King Range, as well as eleven State Parks, and 20 county parks and beaches. There are also twelve tribal agencies residing within the unit including the Hoopa Tribe, which provides wildland fire protection on their reservation as delegated Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Yurok, Wiyot, Karuk and Tolowa are some of the other tribes that have lands, for which CAL FIRE provides wildland fire protection under contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Vegetation and Fuels

The fuel analysis for the HUU Fire Plan indicates the predominant vegetation type within the Unit as mixed conifer forest (NFDRS Fuel model G) or Fire Behavior Fuel Model 10. This vegetation profile encompasses a variety of tree species, including coast redwood, Douglas-fir, spruce, and pine, interspersed with hardwoods such as madrone and tanoak. Notably, a significant component of this fuel type comprises dead and down woody material.

This vegetation classification spans across three distinct Fire Danger Rating Zones. Within the Zone one, the landscape is dominated by coast redwood, Douglas-fir, and Sitka spruce, forming a dense forest canopy with a lush understory of brush. The biomass within this zone rivals or exceeds that of certain tropical rainforests, earning it the moniker of a temperate rainforest.

Moving inland, the second zone is characterized by Douglas-fir-dominated mixed conifer forests, with a moderate presence of hardwood species. This results in a more open canopy structure and a less dense understory compared to the coastal strip.

In the southeastern portions of the unit, the third zone represents a transition to a typical Oak Woodland environment. Here, the vegetation is marked by an open understory comprised of grasses and brush, representative of chaparral.

Accompanying this description, a series of photographs has been compiled to provide a visual representation of the diverse vegetation types present within HUU.



Zone 1



Zone 2



Zone 3

Desired Conditions

The landscapes within HUU currently exhibit a moderate ecological departure from their historic fire-adapted condition as a result of prolonged fire exclusion, altered disturbance regimes, and the cumulative effects of industrial-scale timber harvesting practices conducted throughout the last century. Much of HUU is presently characterized within Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) 2, representing a “moderate departure from historic conditions,” wherein vegetative structure, stand density, species composition, and surface and ladder fuel accumulations differ substantially from the historic range of variability. Ecologically, the majority of the Unit historically functioned within Fire Regime I, characterized by frequent fire return intervals

ranging from 0–35 years with predominantly low- to mixed-severity fire effects. These recurring fire events historically maintained heterogeneous stand conditions, reduced surface fuel continuity, limited ladder fuel development, moderated pathogen and insect susceptibility, and promoted resilient watershed and ecosystem function.

The disruption of these natural and cultural fire cycles has resulted in elevated fuel loading, increased horizontal and vertical fuel continuity, expanded conifer encroachment in historically more open environments, and greater susceptibility to high-severity wildfire behavior under contemporary climatic conditions. These altered conditions increase the probability of large, fast-moving, and ecologically damaging wildfire events that threaten communities, critical infrastructure, watersheds, cultural resources, and forest health across the Unit.

Achieving a transition from FRCC 2 toward Condition Class 1, defined as landscapes functioning “near historic conditions,” will require coordinated participation and sustained investment from all stakeholders, including federal, state, tribal, local, and private partners. Restoring landscapes toward historic fire-adapted conditions increases wildfire resilience by reestablishing more frequent, low-intensity fire on the landscape, thereby reducing accumulated fuel loads and moderating future fire behavior. These conditions are demonstrably more resistant to catastrophic fire effects and provide direct public benefits through enhanced firefighter safety, improved ecosystem function, protection of communities and infrastructure, and increased long-term sustainability of natural resources.

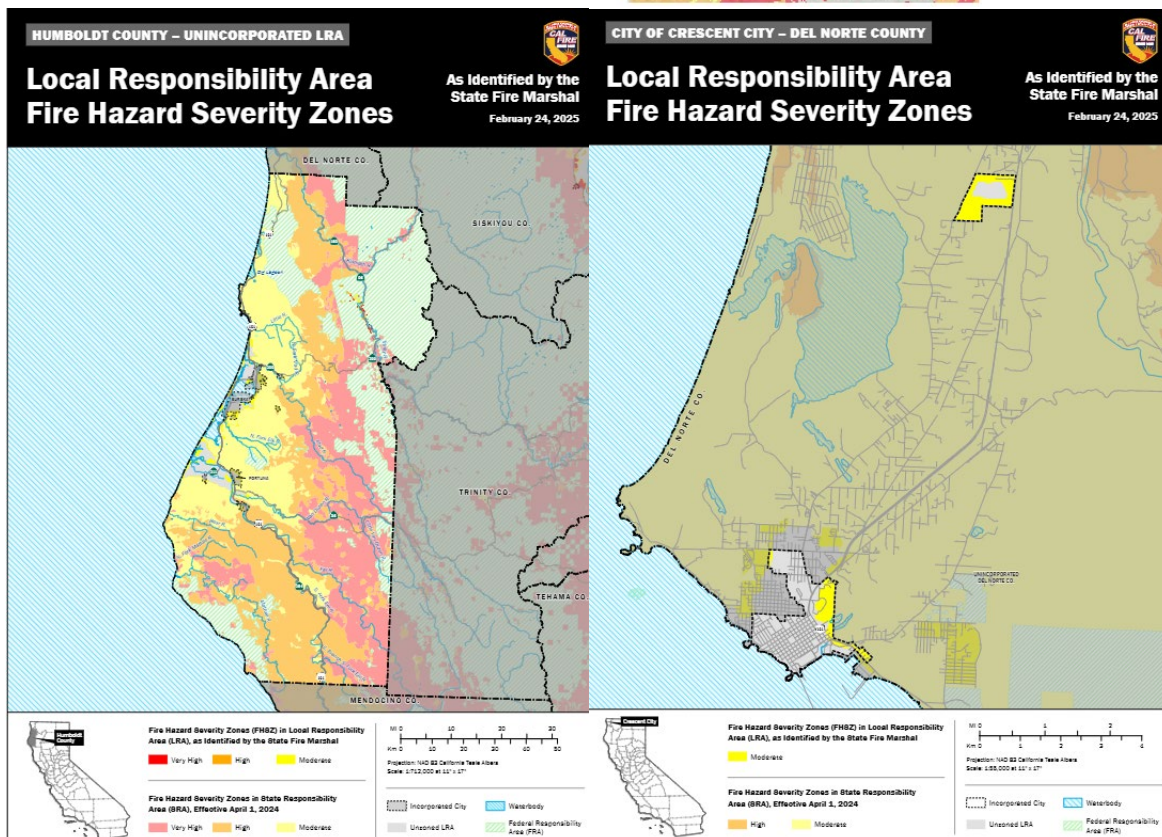
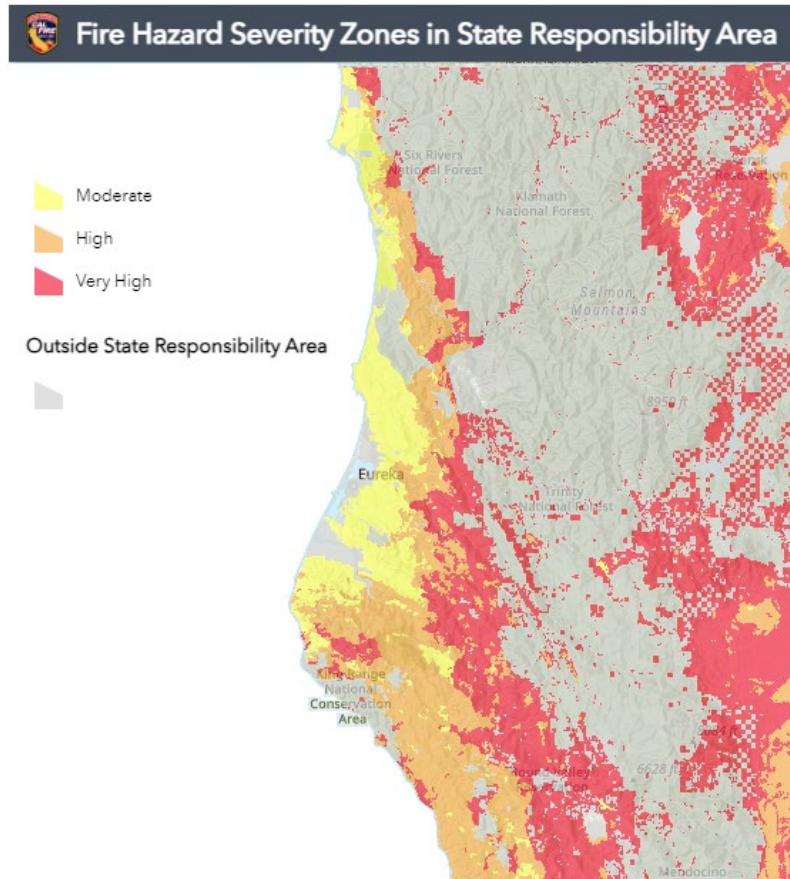
CAL FIRE is uniquely positioned to facilitate this transition by leveraging its longstanding relationships with private landowners, Prescribed Burn Associations, Tribes, cultural practitioners, Resource Conservation Districts, and cooperating agencies to expand the pace and scale of beneficial fire implementation across HUU. Increasing the application of prescribed and cultural fire, in conjunction with strategic mechanical treatments, will be essential to restoring resilient landscape conditions and reintroducing fire as a foundational ecological process throughout the Unit.

Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ)

In November 2007, as part of the implementation of Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) building code standards, CAL FIRE initiated a significant endeavor to reassess the classification of Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) across State Responsibility Area (SRA) and Local Responsibility Area (LRA) lands statewide. These zones within HUU are predominantly categorized as Moderate along the immediate coast, with High and Very High FHSZs dominating the inland region.

LRA SHSZ Humboldt County: [Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Area](#)

LRA SHSZ Del Norte County: [Fire Hazard Severity Zones in Local Responsibility Area](#)



Topography and Weather

HUU is a coastal region characterized by diverse topography, predominantly mountainous, with elevations ranging from sea level to 5,600 feet. Slopes within the unit vary from moderate to very steep, with slopes exceeding 65% being common.

At present, the HUU Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) serves as a pivotal tool in documenting the decision-making process for agency administrators, fire managers, dispatchers, and firefighters. By establishing interagency planning and response levels, the FDOP ensures a cohesive approach to wildfire management. Currently, the HUU FDOP is undergoing review for potential updates and refinements to enhance its efficacy.

Expectations from the public, industry stakeholders, and our own agency personnel emphasize the need for wildland fire management agencies to make judicious and timely decisions that lead to safe, efficient, and effective wildfire management actions. Achieving an optimal level of preparedness hinges upon a comprehensive assessment of vegetation, climate, and topography, utilizing the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS). This systematic approach equips interagency fire managers with a science-based framework to gauge risks associated with decisions that could potentially jeopardize wildfire safety and management. Currently, the Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) designated as the fire severity station for the Unit is the Eel River RAWS, chosen for its ability to provide an accurate portrayal of the Unit's most severe fire potential.

Three major synoptic weather systems—namely the Pacific High (post-frontal), the Great Basin High, and the Subtropical High Aloft pattern—are closely associated with large fires in HUU. These weather patterns typically occur for approximately 50-55 days during the summer months, with the highest frequency observed in July, August, or September. In addition to the weather systems, anomalous lightning and east wind events have contributed to significant fire growth in the region historically.

The National Weather Service provides all daily fire weather forecasting for HUU from their Eureka office. All fire weather forecasts are available on the Eureka office main web page:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Eureka>.

Fire History

To understand the objective of the fire management plan, it is important to recognize the area's rich fire history. Fire has played a significant role in the landscapes of Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity counties for centuries. In the pre-settlement era (before 1875), indigenous communities utilized fire as a tool to shape their environment, effectively managing both flora and fauna alike while keeping forest understories clear for ease of travel and hunting. Moreover, controlled burning fostered an environment that supported abundant growth of forbs and grasses essential for basket weaving.

With the arrival of European settlers (1875-1897), fire became instrumental in maintaining and expanding pasturelands, as well as clearing land for agricultural purposes. Notably, the post-settlement period

(1898-1940) witnessed a surge in various land activities, including livestock grazing, farming, tanoak debarking for

tannin extraction, and extensive logging of Douglas-fir and coast redwood. Logging emerged as the dominant industry, marked by the proliferation of sawmills and logging camps throughout the California Redwood region. During this era, fires were commonly ignited in logged areas to aid in log removal and debris reduction and were often left to burn with minimal control efforts. Similarly, ranchers routinely employed fire to manage fields and prairies for cattle grazing.

Extensive research has been conducted on fire frequency within the Coast Redwood region, revealing significant variations between the northern and southern portions of the unit. Studies indicate a fire cycle ranging from 50 to 100 years in the northern portion, contrasting with a more frequent cycle of 12 to 50 years in the southern portion. Historical records, including newspaper archives and studies conducted at Cal Poly Humboldt, underscore a notable fire history from the late 1800s to the early 1950s. During this period, colloquially termed "fire seasons," the average fire interval was approximately 3.3 years. Several catastrophic fires, such as the 1908 blaze that razed the community of Luffenholtz, resulted in widespread devastation, displacing residents, and causing substantial damage to local industry and infrastructure.

The mid-1930s saw the Civilian Conservation Corps establish efforts in the Humboldt-Del Norte area to develop and enhance firefighting infrastructure. Following World War II, the implementation of a more proactive fire suppression program, supplemented by the influx of returning soldiers, coincided with a notable decline in fire severity and frequency. In 1973, the California Forest Practice Act ushered in significant changes in timberland management practices, including the curtailment of logging activities and a shift away from the use of fire. Subsequent amendments to the Forest Practice Act have further bolstered natural resource protection measures across California again allowing the utilization of fire in a prescriptive manner.

In recent years, HUU has experienced several large-scale wildfire events, including the Hill Fire, Red Salmon Complex, McCash Fire, Slater Fire, SRF Lightning Complex, and the colossal August Complex, spanning approximately one million acres alone. These incidents serve as stark reminders of the region's susceptibility to wildfire and underscore the necessity of proactive fire management strategies within HUU.

UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES

HUU is composed of one Unit administration headquarters facility, eleven fire stations, one camp one fire center, one air attack base, one helitack base, and one State Fire Marshal office. CAL FIRE HUU maintains fourteen frontline engines, with five engines in reserve, two dozers, four incarcerated persons hand crews (blue booked for five incarcerated persons hand crews), two firefighter hand crews, one helicopter, one air attack, and one air tanker for fire suppression efforts. Additionally, one California Conservation Corps hand crew is exclusively available to HUU year-round. There are approximately 175 permanent staff which includes fire suppression, resource management, and clerical personnel. Additionally, approximately one hundred eighty limited term and peak staffing personnel to supplement permanent staff during the fire season.

CAL FIRE aircraft provide rapid initial attack and are especially valuable in the Unit's remote areas where steep terrain and narrow, winding roads greatly increase ground response times. In such situations, aircraft assigned to HUU are often at scene and applying water or retardant before ground resources arrive, cooling the fire and giving ground resources the ability to achieve initial attack success. Aircraft also provide "eyes in the sky" for those on the ground, noting spot fires and providing operational direction from their vantage point.

HUU is developing a comprehensive Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Program designed to enhance operational effectiveness across a broad range of mission areas. This emerging capability will support project planning, wildland fire mapping, suppression activities, and search-and-rescue operations throughout the Unit.

The program will integrate UAS technology into daily operations to improve situational awareness, increase responder safety, and support data-driven decision-making. Capabilities will include real-time aerial reconnaissance, thermal imaging for hot-spot identification, perimeter mapping, and detailed project-level mapping to assist fuels management, prescribed fire preparation, and post-incident documentation.

The Unit will maintain a dedicated UAS Module available for immediate response. This module will serve the needs of HUU while also supporting statewide wildfire suppression efforts, large-scale incidents, and special project assignments.

The Fortuna Emergency Command Center (Fortuna ECC) is staffed 24 hours, 7 days a week where they receive and process 911 calls for HUU, 36 volunteer fire departments, Arcata Fire Protection District, City Ambulance, Arcata Ambulance, and Hoopa Ambulance. The CAL FIRE ECC dispatches all vegetation fires, structure fires, medicals, and traffic accidents (all risk) in Humboldt County, with the exception of Humboldt Bay Fire (City of Eureka) and Fortuna Fire (Fortuna Fire District). In Del Norte County, the Fortuna ECC dispatches for wildland fires within the SRA. Del Norte County Sheriff's department dispatches the ambulance and Volunteer Fire Departments. CAL FIRE is also the central ordering point for medical helicopter responses in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. The ECC is the ordering point for the counties of Humboldt and Del Norte Operational Office of Emergency Services (OES) areas.

The Command Center staffing consists of one Battalion Chief, five Fire Captains, five Communications Operators, and one Research Data Specialist 2. All dispatching personnel are certified as Emergency Medical Dispatchers, which provides 911 callers with medical advice over the phone until help arrives. Due to the rural locations of most of the communities in the counties we serve, it's critical to provide pre-arrival emergency instructions over the phone to increase the survival rate of patients.

HUU has experienced large catastrophic fires, especially in the southern and eastern portions of the Unit. As the area becomes more popular because of varying land uses and scenic beauty, the fire risk will continue to grow, especially for those who reside in remote areas. Most of the fire stations in the Unit are positioned near population centers, providing fast initial attack. However, many portions of the Unit are rural and require extended response times and a heavy reliance on local volunteer departments during the initial attack phase of wildland fires.

CAL FIRE's Fire Protection Objective found in the Fire Operations Handbook, policy 7001.2 states that a system of basic fire protection will be provided so that damage to life, property and natural resources will

be held at or below a level acceptable within social, political and economic constraints. CAL FIRE will strive to contain 95% of all unwanted fires at 10 acres or less.

Humboldt County has an extraordinarily strong and effective mutual aid system. Humboldt County has thirty-six volunteer and paid departments that respond to emergencies 365 days a year. CAL FIRE responds with the local fire departments to vegetation fires, structure fires, medical aids, traffic accidents, and other all-risk emergencies. These agencies are quick to assist each other within Mutual Aid zones, even outside their response areas. On wildfires, CAL FIRE and local firefighters, paid and volunteer, work side by side as a team. In addition, the local fire departments and CAL FIRE work frequently with the US Coast Guard, local ambulance services, and air ambulance services on calls requiring ground or air medical transport.

Del Norte County is the northernmost county on the California coast. It is bordered north by Oregon, the east by Siskiyou County, and to the south by Humboldt County. The total area of Del Norte County is 683,500 acres, of which 192,357 acres are privately owned, and 489,697 acres are publicly owned. It is a mountainous region characterized by steep, inaccessible topography with vast forest resources (primarily redwood and Douglas-fir) with two dominant rivers, the Klamath and Smith River. The climate of Del Norte County varies, depending on elevation and proximity to the ocean, but is a Mediterranean climate with mild temperatures, wet winters, and dry summers. Fog is often present in the coastal parts of the county, while inland areas experience warmer temperatures and less fog.

Local Fire Organizations and County Agencies Providing Service in the Humboldt-Del Norte Unit

Battalion 1	Battalion 2	Battalion 3	Battalion 4	Battalion 5
-Alderpoint -Briceland -Garberville -Palo Verde -Redway -Shelter Cove -Telegraph Ridge -Whale Gulch -Whitethorn	-Fruitland -Honeydew -Mattole -Miranda -Myers Flat -Petrolia -Phillipsville -Redcrest -Salmon Creek -Scotia	-Bridgeville -Carlotta -Ferndale -Fortuna Fire -Humboldt Bay Fire -Kneeland -Loleta -Rio Dell	-Arcata Fire -Blue Lake -Fieldbrook -Hoopa VFD -Hoopa Wildland FD -Orick -Orleans -Samoa -Trinidad -Westhaven -Willow Creek -Yurok VFD -Yurok Wildland FD	-Crescent City Fire & Rescue -Fort Dick -Gasquet -Klamath -Smith River -Yurok VFD

In Del Norte County, there are five Fire Protection Districts:

- Klamath Fire Protection District
- Crescent City Fire Protection District
- Fort Dick Fire Protection District
- Smith River Fire Protection District
- Gasquet Fire Protection District

There are also several governmental fire agencies in Del Norte County:

- US Forest Service
- Redwood National and State Parks
- Pelican Bay State Prison

Private lands that are not within one of these districts are: Big Flat, Rock Creek, and Sun Star. These communities have no official structural fire protection service. CAL FIRE provides wildland fire protection services to these communities and will respond to all other emergencies. However, due to the long response times, responses for emergency medical services and structure fires are mostly ineffective for non-wildland fire emergencies.

Below is a link to the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association. Majority of the departments in Humboldt County are associated within a special district, such as a fire protection district or community service districts. The districts are supported by revenue from a combination of taxes, fees, and fundraising (<https://humboldt.gov/698/Fire-Protection-Services>).

SECTION II: COLLABORATION

This plan is a compilation of efforts from various groups and agencies throughout the Unit to address the mitigation of the hazardous fuel loading within the Unit and around the communities at risk therein. The plan addresses the priorities put forth by the Unit based on the key issues gathered from cooperators: assets at risk, level of service, fuels, fire weather, and fire history.

COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Representatives that have been involved over the years in the development of the Unit Strategic Fire Plan are included in the following table. The organizations are indicated below: The demographics of the area lend themselves to many stakeholders with a wide array of needs.

Plan Development Team:

Organization	
Humboldt County FSC	Humboldt County Planning
Del Norte County FSC	Humboldt Redwood Company
Trinity County FSC	Green Diamond Resource Company
Southern Humboldt FSC	Bureau of Land Management
Cathey Road FSC	Mattole Restoration Council
Lower Mattole FSC	Bridgeville Community Center
Orleans / Somes Bar FSC	Six Rivers USFS Mad River District
Van Duzen Watershed FSC	Karuk Tribe Dept of Natural Resources
Willow Creek FSC	Smith River National Recreation Area
Humboldt Redwoods State Parks	Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Six Rivers National Forest	Northern CA Prescribed Fire Council
UC Cooperative Extension	USDA Natural Resource Conservation District

CONCEPTUAL PLANNING AND COLLABORATIVE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

In addition to projects currently underway, a growing number of stakeholders across the Unit are engaged in conceptual planning efforts that further reinforce the shared objectives of the HUU Fire Plan. These conceptual projects represent proactive strategies designed to reduce hazardous fuels, enhance community protection, and restore fire-adapted ecosystems. While most are not yet operationally implemented, these initiatives demonstrate the capacity and commitment of local partners and are essential for long-term fire resilience.

Notable examples of cooperator planning include the following planned projects by the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District (HCRCD): shaded fuel breaks and roadside fuel reduction proposals in high-risk areas such as Salmon Creek, Redway, Mail Ridge, and Old Briceland Road; landscape-scale treatments around Apple Tree Ridge and Burgess Ridge in Petrolia; and strategic ingress/egress route projects across the Ettersburg, Wilder Ridge, and Redwood Valley areas. Tribal partners, including the Yurok Tribe and Blue Lake Rancheria, are actively exploring cultural burning and prescribed fire planning to meet both ecological and community safety goals. Roadside fuels management and defensible space improvements are also conceptually planned by the HCRCD throughout Bridgeville, McKinleyville, and Del Norte County, with several projects positioned to support prescribed burn associations and CAL FIRE prescribed fire initiatives.

The Mattole Restoration Council (MRC) has also contributed an extensive list of conceptual fuel reduction projects focused on protecting rural communities and high-value ecological corridors. These include potential treatments in the Mattole River headwaters, the Upper North Fork, and along critical infrastructure corridors such as Mattole Road and Lighthouse Road. MRC's project concepts integrate mechanical thinning, manual crew efforts, and prescribed fire with an emphasis on fuel continuity disruption and biodiversity preservation.

Lastly, The Smith to Klamath Initiative (SKI), conceptualized by the Del Norte Fire Safe Council, is a locally driven, landscape-scale effort to reduce wildfire risk across the Smith River watershed to the Lower Klamath corridor. Recognizing that wildfire does not follow jurisdictional boundaries, SKI brings together federal, Tribal, state, county, and private partners under a coordinated framework for cross-boundary planning and implementation.

Through shared priorities and collaboration, partners are working to protect communities, critical infrastructure, and key evacuation routes such as US-199 while advancing forest health and long-term resilience. The initiative is designed to remain adaptive, evolving with partner input while maintaining a focus on strategic, outcome-based work at meaningful scale.

SKI is partner-led, with CAL FIRE providing a critical support role through technical expertise, enhancing operational capacity, and alignment with state priorities. By leveraging the strengths of each participating entity, the initiative demonstrates how cooperative, forward-thinking approaches can deliver effective wildfire resilience across the landscape where mutual objectives exist.

By highlighting early-stage projects within the Unit Plan, CAL FIRE recognizes the initiative of local partners while strengthening their competitiveness for grant funding through demonstrated alignment with Unit and state priorities. Through coordinated implementation, this collaborative framework identifies opportunities to advance the shared values of community protection, resource stewardship, and fire-adapted landscapes.

Together, these efforts reflect the place-based strategies needed to address the Unit's complex fire environment and reinforce CAL FIRE's commitment to inclusive, community-driven fire prevention planning.

SECTION III: VALUES

Shifting population dynamics in California have led to rapid development in the periphery of metropolitan areas and in rural regions boasting attractive recreational and aesthetic amenities, particularly forested areas. This demographic shift has resulted in the expansion of the wildland urban interface (WUI), delineated as the geographical area where human infrastructure intersects with undeveloped wildland, posing a significant risk to human lives and structures in the event of wildfires. This expansion of the WUI in recent decades carries substantial implications for wildfire management and mitigation efforts, as it fosters an environment conducive to the rapid spread of fire between structures and surrounding vegetation fuels.

The WUI encompasses two distinct types of communities: intermix and interface. Intermix communities are characterized by the intertwining of residential housing with contiguous wildland vegetation, where the vegetation cover exceeds 50% and there is a density of more than one house per 40 acres. On the other hand, interface communities are defined by residential areas situated in close proximity to contiguous vegetation, with a housing density of more than one house per 40 acres and vegetation cover of less than 50%. These interface areas are typically located within 1.5 miles of regions where vegetation cover exceeds 75%.

The concept of "vicinity," as defined by the California Fire Alliance in 2001, encompasses all areas within a 1.5-mile radius of wildland vegetation, which is roughly the maximum distance that firebrands can travel from a wildfire to ignite structures. This definition underscores the vulnerability of homes situated near wildland areas, emphasizing that even properties not directly adjacent to timberlands remain at risk of wildfire damage. Building upon these definitions, the communities situated within and surrounding WUI areas are deemed "Communities at Risk," highlighting the heightened susceptibility of these areas to wildfire incidents. Most properties within HUU fall within either the intermix or interface zones, including many homes on the fringes of urban centers within the unit making many of these areas "Communities at Risk".

COMMUNITIES

These high-risk communities identified within the wildland-urban interface, the area where homes and wildlands intermix, were published in the Federal Register in 2001. At the request of Congress, the Federal Register notice only listed those communities neighboring federal lands. The list represents the collaborative work of the 50 states and five federal agencies using a standardized process, whereby states were asked to submit all communities within their borders that met the criteria of a structure at high risk from wildfire.

With California's extensive urban Wildland-Urban Interface situation, the list of communities extends beyond just those adjacent to Federal lands. The California State Forester (CAL FIRE Director) has the responsibility for managing the list.

The following list includes “Communities at Risk” within HUU. The federal register includes most, but not all the potentially threatened areas.

Community	Federal Register	Community	Federal Register	Community	Federal Register
Alderpoint	No	Carlotta	No	Garberville	No
Alton	No	Cobb Ridge	Yes	Gasquet	Yes
Arcata	No	Crannell	No	Gray Ranch	Yes
Bayside	No	Cutten	No	Hawkins Bar	Yes
Bayview	No	Douglas Park	Yes	Hiouchi	Yes
Beatrice	No	Essex	No	Holmes	No
Benbow	No	Ettersburg	Yes	Honeydew	Yes
Berry Glen	Yes	Eureka	No	Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation	Yes
Big Flat	Yes	Fickle Hill	Yes	Humboldt Hill	No
Big Lagoon	Yes	Fieldbrook	No	Hydesville	No
Big Lagoon Rancheria	Yes	Flying AA Ranch	Yes	Kettenpom Valley	Yes
Blocksburg	No	Fort Dick	No	Klamath	Yes
Blue Lake	Yes	Fortuna	No	Klamath Glen	No
Blue Lake Rancheria	Yes	French Hill	Yes	Kneeland	No
Bracut	No	Freshwater	No	Korbel	Yes
Briceland	No	Friday/Morton Ranch	No	Kuhn Ranch/Ammon	Yes
Bridgeville	Yes	Fruitland	No	Lado Del Rio	Yes
Mad River	Yes	Pine Mountain	No	Smith River	No
Major Moore's	Yes	Pioneer Tract	Yes	Sportshaven	Yes
Maple Creek	No	Redcrest	No	Stafford	No
McKinleyville	No	Redway	No	Suzy Q Ranch	Yes
Miranda	No	Rio Dell	No	Trinidad	Yes
Myers Flat	No	Riverside Park/Swains Flat	No	Trinidad Rancheria	Yes
Myrtletown	No	Rock Creek	Yes	Upper Mad River	Yes
Oden Flat	Yes	Rohnerville	No	Van Duzen	Yes
Orick	Yes	Ruth	Yes	Weitchpec	Yes
Orleans	Yes	Ruth Lake East	Yes	Weott	No
Patrick Creek	Yes	Ruth Lake West	Yes	Westhaven-Moonstone	Yes

Community	Federal Register	Community	Federal Register	Community	Federal Register
Patricks Point	No	Salyer	Yes	Whitethorn (Thorn)	Yes
Pepperwood	No	Scotia	No	Willow Creek	Yes
Petrolia	Yes	Shelter Cove	Yes	Yurok Indian Reservation	No
Phillipsville	No	Shivley	No	Zenia	Yes
Pine Hills	Yes				

SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

FIRE PREVENTION

HUU's proactive approach to fire prevention encompasses a multifaceted strategy aimed at engaging communities and individuals. This includes participation in local fairs and community fire safety exhibitions, the issuance of burn permits, PRC 4290 planning approval, and undertaking fuels reduction projects and prescribed burns. Additionally, the Unit disseminates information through news media releases and public service announcements, conducts defensible space inspections, and maintains an active presence on Humboldt County, Willow Creek, and Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Councils.

The overarching goals of these prevention efforts are twofold: to diminish the occurrence of ignitions and fires through education, information dissemination, planning, and enforcement, and to foster increased awareness, knowledge, and action among individuals and communities to mitigate human loss and property damage resulting from wildland fires. This includes promoting practices such as defensible space creation and other fuels reduction initiatives, as well as adherence to fire prevention and fire-safe building standards.

Furthermore, fire prevention programs are closely coordinated with fire-safe councils and local fire departments to ensure maximum efficacy and community engagement. Central to these efforts is the Unit's objective of curbing human-caused fire ignitions, thereby safeguarding lives, property, and natural resources within the region.

ENGINEERING & STRUCTURE IGNITABILITY

HUU contains many communities that are threatened with potential loss of life and property due to wildfires. During the last few decades, the number of homes built in the WUI areas have greatly increased. The California Building Commission adopted the Wildland-Urban Interface codes in late 2005. Many of the new requirements took effect in 2008 and have been updated in the 2010 California Building code. The California Board of Forestry updated the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations, effective April 2023. These measures are intended to reduce the spread of fire to and from structures, helping to save lives, minimize property loss, and protect the environment. These codes include provisions for ignition resistant construction standards in the WUI. The updated fire hazard severity zones will be used by building officials to determine appropriate construction materials for new buildings in the wildland urban interface. The updated zones will also be used by property owners to comply with natural hazards disclosure requirements at time of property sale, mandated by Assembly Bill 38. LRA Fire Hazard Severity

Zones, published in Spring of 2025, are used by local governments as they update the safety element of their general plans. The new building standard for the Fire Hazard Severity Zones will be enforced by the local Building Official as projects go through the plan checking process. Below is the link for State Fire Marshall's website, which has more in-depth information on the building code requirements and approved construction materials: <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/code-development-and-analysis/wildfire-protection/>.

Other measures have been in effect for many years. California State Fire Safe Regulations have been in place since 1991. They provide statewide standards for roads, driveways, gates, emergency water supply, vegetation setbacks, address and road signage, and other topics related to defensible space. In HUU, the Pre-Fire Planning Battalion is the point of contact for County Planning departments for matters related to PRC 4290 and the Fire Safe Regulations. PRC 4291 provides standards for vegetative clearance – requiring a 30-foot fuel exclusion and 100-foot fuel reduction zone. The Unit also maintains Roadside Public education signs and Fire Danger Rating Signs throughout the Unit. CAL FIRE provides numerous brochures and guides on minimum defensible space standards.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

CAL FIRE HUU's Fire Safety Education Programs encompass a diverse array of initiatives tailored to reach audiences of all ages. These programs include school presentations, fair exhibits, roadside public fire information signs, dissemination of posters and flyers, utilization of Smokey Bear fire danger roadside signs, distribution of locally produced printed materials, radio and television spots, community meetings, one-on-one interactions during Defensible Space Inspections, and engaging social media posts.

Our efforts extend to utilizing Fire Prevention mascots such as Captain Cal, Smokey Bear, Sparky the Fire Dog, and Pluggie the fire hydrant. These mascots play a vital role in imparting crucial fire safety lessons both at educational institutions and public events, such as the Humboldt County Fair. While Smokey and Sparky primarily target younger audiences, our prevention staff also provides educators and Fire Safe councils with tailored informational and educational materials.

In May of 2023, HUU forged a formal education partnership with Cal Poly Humboldt. This collaborative initiative aims to facilitate the exchange of forest and fire science knowledge through in-person educational opportunities and collaborative endeavors in the field.

PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE 4290 & 4291

Defensible Space Inspectors and firefighting personnel, working under the direction of the Pre-Fire Planning Battalion, conduct compliance monitoring inspections of defensible space clearance requirements around buildings & structures on SRA lands. Concurrently with defensible space inspections, Forest Practice personnel also conduct compliance inspections of projects which are exempt from Timber Harvesting Plan preparation, if applicable. Examples of such projects include fire hazard exemptions and/or less than three-acre timberland conversions which involve fuel treatment. CAL FIRE also reviews and comments on the fire safe regulation application for discretionary projects in county planning.

PRE-PLANS

HUU FIRE DANGER OPERATING PLAN

HUU Pre-Fire maintains a Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) which serves as a comprehensive guide for agency personnel operating at the local level, providing essential instructions for navigating fire danger rating applications. The plan outlines the recording, analysis, and administration of the local unit fire weather systems, providing fire danger modeling to inform unit-level fire management decisions effectively. Additionally, the plan specifies fire danger rating areas, detailing their locations and criteria for dispatch and response action points, furthermore, establishing NFDRS thresholds, influencing staffing levels, forecast adjective ratings, preparedness levels, and indices (data) utilized for each. Operational procedures are meticulously formulated to guide personnel in managing fire danger effectively, ensuring streamlined decision-making processes. Moreover, the plan includes Fire Danger Pocket Cards, serving as handy reference tools for field personnel, thereby enhancing overall fire management capabilities.

LIGHTNING COORDINATION AREA (LCA)

The Fortuna Emergency Command Center (referred to as the ECC within this document) identifies the need to implement this plan based on current and expected lightning events. The impact upon this communication center during a lightning event with multiple simultaneous incidents can be immense. This plan was developed to handle multiple incidents that can occur within a very short time frame. For example, in 2015 there were approximately 75 lightning caused fires in one day within HUU's jurisdictional boundaries.

HUU has also experienced major fires burning simultaneously. This plan has been developed to manage our resources in a safe, efficient manner during times of numerous concurrent emergency incidents.

LCA PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The LCA plan was developed to standardize the procedures used by HUU during a multiple incident occurrence. The plan is designed to handle multiple incidents as a result of lightning or other large-scale events. It does not include fire operational procedures; for example, a lightning fire that develops beyond initial attack suppression efforts will be removed from the lightning complex area and treated as a separate incident (assuming sufficient resources and personnel are available to manage the fire).

ACTIVATION OF THE LCA

Activation may occur when one or more of the following conditions exist, keeping in mind there could be outside influences or local conditions that will call for plan activation. The ECC will notify all field units by a radio broadcast of activation of LCA plan when:

1. Widespread incidents occur (i.e. lightning, earthquake, flood, terrorism, tsunami, etc).
2. Significant lightning forecasted for HUU Direct Protection Areas (DPA).
3. Down strikes occur on HUU DPA.

Additionally, each Unit Battalion maintains an LCA kit. Each kit includes but is not limited to a copy of the LCA Plan, Maps, and other items important to the successful implementation of the plan. Other Battalion specific pre-plans are maintained at the Battalion level for first-in response.

CALIFORNIA MASTER COOPERATIVE FIRE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

The "California Master Cooperative Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement" (CFMA) between the Federal Agencies and the State of California. Authorizes the use of Federal Resources on State incidents and State resources on Federal incidents. It also allows the use of those resources to facilitate cooperative fuels reduction projects. HUU is currently using CFMA to facilitate a cooperative fuel reduction project with Six Rivers National Forest near the community of Ruth. A separate fuel reduction project with Six Rivers National Forest is being utilized for various locations within Del Norte County.

The authority for the Oregon Department of Forestry is provided under the "Interstate Civil Defense and Disaster Compact for Emergency Mutual Assistance" between the state of California and Oregon. Under this agreement, CAL FIRE ground resources can respond for initial attack incidents into the State of Oregon up to 25 miles.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT & FOREST FUELS REDUCTION

Vegetation management and forest fuels reduction activities are a critical solution to increasing forest and community resiliency to impacts from wildfires. Implementing landscape level as well as strategic smaller scale fuel reduction and forest improvement projects throughout HUU is a very high priority. The use of all available means of effecting these projects in collaboration with other government entities, Fire Safe Councils, Resource Conservation Districts, Firewise Communities, prescribed burn associations, cultural fire practitioners, and private landowners is paramount in achieving resiliency to wildfires. To foster operational and financial feasibility, landscape level projects need to include a means of treating and utilizing forest by-products such as small diameter sawlogs, biomass energy, and other potential by-products. CAL FIRE Forest Programs and grant funding as well as other sources of public and private funding are integral to leveraging operational and financial resources for these types of projects. Specifically, some landscape level project goals established by HUU include shaded fuel breaks along strategic fire suppression ridges as well as areas adjacent to communities where the potential of large wildfires exist; forest-wide fuel reduction projects utilizing a portion of forest project by-products to further the scope of forest projects and create community based jobs as well as multiple social benefits; and improving access and egress for the public as well as firefighters during wildfire events. Examples of current and future projects intended to meet these goals within HUU include:

- A shaded fuel break along South Fork Ridge between State Highways 36 and 299.
- A shaded fuel-break around the Salmon Creek watershed in southern Humboldt County.
- Strategic forest fuel reduction along Mail Ridge
- Strategic forest fuel reduction within the communities along and near Ruth Lake.
- Strategic forest fuel reduction within and adjacent to the towns Willow Creek and Salyer.
- Completion and/or maintenance of shaded fuel breaks around the towns of Bridgeville, Redway, and Garberville.

- Forest fuel reduction along State Highways and County Roads within the HUU.
- Smith to Klamath Resilience Initiative which includes Shaded Fuel Breaks, Prescribed Fire, and community protection zones.

CAL FIRE Vegetation Management Plans allow private landowners to enter a contract with CAL FIRE to use prescribed fire to accomplish a combination of fire protection and resource management goals. The projects which fit within HUU's priorities (e.g., those identified through the Fire Plan), and those considered to be of the most value by unit staff, are those that will be completed.

CAL FIRE administers several state and federal forestry assistance programs with the goal of reducing wildland fuel loads and improving the health and productivity of private forest lands. California's Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) and other federal programs that CAL FIRE administers offer cost-share opportunities to assist individual landowners with land management planning, conservation practices to enhance wildlife habitat, and practices to enhance the productivity of the land. The Department also delivers the Forest Stewardship Program which combines funds from state and federal sources to assist communities with multiple-ownership watershed and community issues related to pre-fire fuels treatment, forest health, erosion control, and fisheries issues.

CAL FIRE Grant Program

HUU augments funding for local fire safe councils through matching funds derived from staff time, chipper use, fire crews, engines, dozers and grant review support. These resources are channeled mostly through letters of commitment in the grant application process. CAL FIRE has many grant opportunities available for local state and federal agencies, Native American Tribes, private forest landowners, fire safe councils, conservation groups, and non- profit organizations. Over the next few years, CAL FIRE will be awarding millions of dollars per year within the CCI Forest Health grants and CCI Fire Prevention grants. Go to <http://www.fire.ca.gov/grants> for more information.

CAL FIRE Grants Awarded in the Humboldt - Del Norte Unit

Grant Type	Grantee	Project Name	Year Awarded	Award
Fire Prevention Grant	Humboldt County RCD	CWPP Phase VI	2025	\$947,515.63
Fire Prevention Grant	Bridgeville Community Center	Van Duzen Watershed Community Wildfire Resilience	2025	\$949,455.84
Fire Prevention Grant	Humboldt County	Humboldt County CWPP Update	2024	\$300,000.00
Forest Health Grant	Mid Klamath Watershed Council	Western Klamath Fire Resilience and Forest	2023	\$7,000,000.00

Grant Type	Grantee	Project Name	Year Awarded	Award
		Health Project		
Fire Prevention Grant	Humboldt County	CWPP Phase V: Wildfire Preparedness	2022	\$191,318.00
Fire Prevention Grant	Yurok Tribe: Yurok Fire Department	Weitchpec Community Infrastructure Protection Project	2022	\$1,769,414.00
Fire Prevention Direct Award	Humboldt County	Willow Creek Storm Damage	2022	\$500,000.00
Fire Prevention Direct Award	Humboldt County RCD	Increasing Pace and Scale of Fuels Reduction in Humboldt County	2022	\$635,037.00
Forest Prevention Planning Grant	Humboldt County	Evacuation Ready Humboldt	2022	\$333,000.00
Forest Health Grant	Travis Ranch LLC	Travis Ranch Fire Recovery and Forest Health Improvement	2022	\$4,403,583.72
Forest Health Grant	Mid Klamath Watershed Council	Mattole and Salmon Creek Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Project	2022	\$4,997,829.49

PREScribed FIRE PROGRAMS (VMP & VTP)

Prescribed fire is an effective tool for fuels reduction, in addition to providing other positive results in managing the landscape. These projects may vary in scale, from landowner conducted individual burns through our LE-5 and LE-7 burning permit process, to large burns conducted by CAL FIRE under the Vegetation Management Program (VMP) or Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP). Managed timberlands undergo fuel reduction through various methods, including pile burning or broadcast burning within treatment units. CAL FIRE actively collaborates with other public agencies such as

State Parks, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California Conservation Corps, the US Forest Service, and the National Parks Service, providing equipment, crews, and resources to support their prescribed burns. Training burns are also conducted, offering an additional benefit of fuels reduction. Treatment of areas under CAL FIRE's VMP or VTP transfers liability for the burn to the State under a contractual agreement. These projects, often identified as "targets of opportunity," require willing landowners, projects demonstrating substantial public benefit, and feasibility without significant environmental or community impact.

Appendix A contains comprehensive lists of current, ongoing, and recently completed projects, which may be subject to renewal. The objective is to ensure representation of at least one VMP project within each of the five field battalions. However, due to limited burn windows typically confined to September and October, approved projects may extend beyond the contract period. To enhance prescribed fire efforts, HUU aims to expand activities into other seasons.

Furthermore, burn operations are not exclusive to CAL FIRE, as private landowners, local fire agencies, and fire-safe councils also engage in prescribed burning initiatives, collectively contributing to comprehensive wildfire mitigation strategies.

A CAL FIRE permit for burning is required from May 1st until the date the Unit Chief declares, by proclamation, that the hazardous fire conditions have abated for that year. Or, at any other time during any year when the director has declared, by proclamation, that unusual fire hazard conditions exist in the area. Outside of that period, burns may be conducted without a CAL FIRE permit, so our knowledge of burn projects outside of CAL FIRE is often limited. The North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District always requires a smoke management project permit throughout the year. CAL FIRE coordinates with the AQMD for small pile "dooryard" permits – consolidated into a single document issued by the AQMD. Larger burns are not coordinated between the agencies unless CAL FIRE conducts the burn.

Burning programs are also conducted on public lands by our federal cooperators. Redwood National Park has an active program that often uses CAL FIRE resources. Humboldt Redwood State Park and Prairie Creek State Park also utilize HUU resources to execute their burns. The BLM burns are usually coordinated with CAL FIRE since most BLM areas are within the State's Direct Protection Area by agreement. The US Forest Service – Six Rivers National Forest also has an active fuels treatment program.

VMP projects have been successfully executed in recent years with other projects under current review. These projects provide many benefits including but not limited to unit personnel training, range and forage improvement, habitat maintenance for flora and fauna, and strategic treatment of hazardous vegetative fire fuels that will result in decreased fire behavior in the event of a wildfire affecting the area of a recent burn. VTP project opportunities are expected to enhance CAL FIRE forest fuel reduction project opportunities.

HUU also strives to support and promote programs and projects that focus efforts on the below vision and central goals of the California Board of Forestry Strategic Fire Plan. This support is a manifest of the above-mentioned goals as well as supporting local fire safe councils in an effort to obtain grant funding for projects that meet the objectives of the California Board of Forestry Strategic Fire Plan.



STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN FOR CALIFORNIA

The 2018 Board of Forestry Strategic Plan reflects CAL FIRE's focus on fire prevention and suppression activities to protect lives, property, and ecosystem services, and natural resource management to maintain the state's forests as a resilient carbon sink to meet California's climate change goals and to serve as important habitat for adaptation and mitigation. A vision for a natural environment that is more fire resilient; buildings and infrastructure that are more fire resistant; and a society that is more aware of and responsive to the benefits and threats of wildland fire; all achieved through local, state, federal, tribal, and private partnerships.

Through government and community collaboration, the following goals will enhance the protection of lives, property and natural resources from wildland fire, as well as improve environmental resilience to wildland fire. Community protection includes promoting the safety of the public and emergency responders, as well as protection of property and other improvements. Each goal listed here is meant to build upon the previous one (e.g., Goal 3 builds upon the accomplishments in Goals 1 and 2). Although full attainment of a goal is ultimately dependent upon the success of previous goals, any of the goals can be worked on at any given time based on available funding and other opportunities.

- 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 collaborative development and sharing of all analyses and data collection across all ownerships for consistency in type and kind.
- Promote and support local land use planning processes as they relate to: (a) protection of life, property, and natural resources from risks associated with wildland fire, and (b) individual landowner objectives and responsibilities.
- Support and participate in the collaborative development and implementation of local, county and regional plans that address fire protection and landowner objectives.
- Increase fire prevention awareness, knowledge and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss, property damage and impacts to natural resources from wildland fires.

- Integrate fire and fuels management practices with landowner/land manager priorities across jurisdictions.
- Determine the level of resources necessary to effectively identify, plan and implement fire prevention using adaptive management strategies.
- Determine the level of fire suppression resources necessary to protect the values and assets at risk identified during planning processes.
- Implement post-fire assessments and programs for the protection of life, property, and natural resource recovery.

In concert with the mission of the Board, the mission of CAL FIRE is to serve and safeguard the people and protect the property and resources of California.

PRE-FIRE PLANNING – BATTALION 6

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires public agencies to consider actions on projects that may directly or indirectly result in a physical change in the environment.

CAL FIRE provides resource management and fire safe comments on proposed discretionary projects routed through the county/city planning process and from the State Clearinghouse. Where projects cannot meet fire safe standards, CAL FIRE provides expert analysis on proposed project alternatives. For discretionary projects where CAL FIRE funds, approves, permits, facilitates, or carries out a project as lead agency, it is obligatory to ensure that the appropriate steps are taken in complying with CEQA by preparing an environmental review. The Planning Battalion manages the Unit's environmental review program.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL / FIREWISE SUPPORT

The Planning Battalion provides staff support for local and county-wide Fire Safe Councils within the Unit. They attend meetings, develop materials, and fill an expert role on fire safe practices. The Unit has provided chipper support and other in-kind match value to local councils seeking grant funding. CAL FIRE, in the role of the State Forester, reviews and is a signatory to local Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

FUELS TREATMENT AND GRANT MANAGEMENT

Hazardous fire-fuel treatment projects conducted by CAL FIRE staff are monitored by the Pre-Fire Planning Battalion to ensure consistent tracking and reporting. High Rock Fire Center and Eel River Conservation Camp manage day-to-day operations for the projects they sponsor, while projects funded through Fire Prevention grants or other CAL FIRE grants are administered by the Pre-Fire Planning Battalion. CAL FIRE also reviews grant applications submitted by local fire departments, fire safe councils, tribes, and Firewise communities. HUU does not administer local CAL FIRE Forest Health or Forest Legacy grants.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS SUPPORT / MAPPING

Map development using GIS is provided by the Planning Battalion. This includes incident support, response maps, jurisdictional information, demographic analysis, and numerous other mapping products that can be generated. Unit level CAL FIRE digital data sets are developed and maintained by the HUU Planning Battalion Staff.

HISTORICAL FIRE PERIMETERS

Historic fire perimeters provide a mechanism for estimating current fuel conditions within burned areas, providing a starting point for field validation. Fire perimeter data is used during major fires to display where fires have taken place in order to take advantage of reduced fuels and previous control lines. Data is submitted annually to CAL FIRE's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) and is available for download by the public in GIS format.

[Fire and Resource Assessment Program | CAL FIRE](#)

CAL MAPPER

Cal MAPPER is a forest improvement and fuel reduction project activity tracking database. This effort has been organized to bring the Department's records from various fuels reduction and forest improvement programs into a common database. Cal MAPPER is an acronym, to stand for, CAL FIRE Management Activity Project Planning and Event Reporter. It contains GIS and tabular information. The goal is to improve project tracking and fiscal reporting, and to support emergency response, planning, and assessment.

The Pre-Fire Engineer and Vegetation Management Forester are responsible for collecting all data from CAL FIRE programs and its cooperators, entering it into Cal MAPPER and submitting it to Sacramento monthly.

The Unit Fire Plan recognizes the extensive collaborative efforts of CAL FIRE representatives with local Fire Safe Councils, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and Firewise Community Assessments for their identification of action items or projects that, when completed, offer significant fire prevention benefits to State Responsibility Areas and provide alignment with the Unit's fire prevention strategy. These projects will be considered part of the Unit's Fire Plan and may be submitted to CNR for consideration if they meet the Fire Prevention Program and/or funding source criteria.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE INSPECTION

The growing risk of loss of life, property, and natural resources from wildfires in California's wildland areas is a major concern for the Department. Creating defensible space is a critical strategy to increase a home's chances of withstanding wildfire. Defensible space inspections—an important part of wildfire prevention engineering—are carried out in coordination with public education and enforcement efforts to reduce or eliminate fire hazards.

For over 60 years, CAL FIRE's Defensible Space (DSpace) Inspection Program has played a key role in fire prevention. Under the authority granted by Public Resources Code (PRC) 4119, CAL FIRE originally

conducted these inspections to prevent structure fires from spreading into nearby vegetation and wildland areas. Over time, the program's focus has evolved to prioritize providing adequate clearance around structures for firefighter and public safety, while also maximizing the structures' chances of surviving wildfire exposure. HUU hired a full-time Forestry Technician in late 2025 to continue inspections year-round.

In 2025, HUU conducted inspections on 2,474 primary structures and 378 auxiliary structures. Of the primary structures inspected, 1,511 were found to be in compliance, while 699 were identified as non-compliant. Inspectors drove over 11,260 miles and performed 415 hours of inspection with 240 hours of public contact. We prioritized historically underrepresented and uninspected communities, adding and updating the communities of Salyer, Hawkins Bar, Orleans, Somes Bar, Blocksburg, Honeydew, Benbow, and Shelter Cove.

For more information, please visit: [Defensible Space | CAL FIRE](#).

SECTION V: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

DIVISION / BATTALION / PROGRAM PLANS

HUU is divided into five field Battalions as well as: Prevention, Planning, Aviation, Emergency Command Center, and Training Battalions. Each field Battalion works closely with the Planning Battalion to assure fuel reduction projects and other projects within the Battalion are coordinated. Each field Battalion is involved in VMP projects and decisions that are located within their areas. Field Battalions also participate in local fire safe council activities and CWPP development in conjunction with the pre-fire planning Battalion.

HUU BATTALION 1

HUU, Battalion 1, is in the far southern portion of the HUU. The Battalion is comprised of State, Federal, and local firefighting resources.

Battalion 1 borders the USFS Six Rivers National Forest to the East and North, the Mendocino National Forest to the southeast, the CAL FIRE Mendocino Unit to the south and the CAL FIRE Shasta Trinity Unit to the east. Within the Direct Protection Area (DPA), there is a mixture of private property, National Forest, BLM, and State lands.

BATTALION RESOURCES

Fire Protection within the Battalion is largely made up of volunteer Fire Departments and staffing within CAL FIRE schedule B fire stations and the Eel River Conservation Camp. The Volunteer Fire Departments within Battalion 1 include: Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District, Shelter Cove Fire, Whitethorn Fire Protection District, Garberville Fire Protection District, Redway Fire Protection District, and Briceland Fire Protection District, as well as the Alderpoint Volunteers, Whale Gulch Volunteers, Palo Verde Volunteers and Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue.

CAL FIRE FACILITIES

There are three Fire Stations in Battalion 1. Garberville Station houses two Type III Schedule B engines and a Battalion Chief; Whitethorn (Thorn) Station houses one Type III Schedule B engine; and Alderpoint

Station houses one Type III Schedule B engine. Eel River Conservation Camp is also located within Battalion 1. Pratt Mountain communications tower is located within the Battalion.

WILDLAND AND URBAN INTERFACE

Battalion 1 is largely comprised of agriculture zoned private timberland with Green Diamond Resource Company being the largest industrial timberland holder. There are several small communities with mostly residential structures spread out in the SRA. The town of Garberville is the largest town in the Battalion with several commercial properties as well as a few hundred residential structures all in the urban interface.

Battalion 1 has experienced a steady increase in fire activity driven by population growth and the expansion of homeless communities, particularly along major transportation corridors. Increased human presence and activity levels have contributed to a higher frequency of fire ignitions. HUU field personnel continue to engage with the public to promote fire prevention and build trust, supporting more effective suppression efforts when incidents occur.

Emergency response in these areas is often complicated by limited compliance with State Fire Safe Regulations and local ordinances intended to protect the public and assist responders. Challenges such as locked gates, unpermitted roads, inadequate signage, poor ingress and egress, limited or unavailable water sources, hazardous materials, and other site-specific risks can significantly hinder access and reduce overall response effectiveness.

FUELS-WEATHER-TOPOGRAPHY

Battalion 1 encompasses a diverse range of vegetation types and fuel characteristics influenced by topography, microclimates, and elevation gradients. The majority of the Battalion is dominated by coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), various hardwood species, and mixed brush. Moving eastward, the landscape transitions into Douglas-fir and oak woodland fuel types, with species composition and density varying based on slope exposure.

The southern portion of the Battalion presents a mix of forest types. Along the U.S. Highway 101 corridor extending to the county line, classic coast redwood stands are prevalent. To the west of this zone, forest structure becomes more open, characterized by mixed conifer stands interspersed with hardwoods and an understory composed of grasses and brush. The southern interior reflects fuel conditions, which are more typical of the Sierra Nevada foothill region, with open fir stands, oak woodlands, and dry understory vegetation. This area lies outside the coastal fog belt, resulting in a markedly warmer and drier climate with higher potential for sustained fire behavior.

Under typical summer high-pressure systems, fire activity in Battalion 1 tends to decrease after sunset due to increased relative humidity and reduced wind speeds. Prevailing wind patterns generally move from the northeast to the southwest, contributing to dry offshore conditions. Afternoon upriver winds frequently develop within the South Fork and Main Stem Eel River canyons, while the western slopes of the King Range experience downslope “sundowner” wind events that can accelerate fire spread.

Topographically, Battalion 1 is situated within the Coast Mountain Range and has been shaped over geologic time by the uplift of marine sediments and active seismic processes. It is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to

the west and Haman Ridge in southwestern Trinity County to the east. The Eel and Mattole Rivers traverse the Battalion in a predominantly south-to-north direction, carving steep, narrow canyons that present significant operational challenges for fire suppression and fuels management activities.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL / BATTALION 1 SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

There are three active fire safe councils within Battalion 1: The Humboldt County Fire Safe Council, Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council and the Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council. The Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council covers the Eel River and the southern part of Humboldt County through the communities of Whitethorn, Briceland, Garberville, and Shelter Cove.

Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council covers the eastern portions of Wilder Ridge Road towards Ettersburg. The Humboldt County Fire Safe Council covers both Mattole and Eel River drainages. Firewise Communities within the Battalion include Shelter Cove. Benbow Firewise and Garberville Firewise are in the beginning stages of becoming certified Firewise Communities.

The Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council has successfully completed several shaded fuel breaks in and around the community of Shelter Cove and the King Range, provides defensible space assistance and education through the County Fire-Adapted Landscapes and Safe Homes (FLASH) program (currently funded through a CAL FIRE, Fire Prevention Grant), and conducts significant community wildfire preparedness outreach. The Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District, through its fire department and Firewise Community program, with support from a variety of funding sources and in collaboration with CAL FIRE (including incarcerated person crews) and the County, has completed roadside fuels reduction, run a chipper program, and provided extensive community education and outreach. Fuels reduction projects are a priority with the Battalion and Eel River Conservation Camp, as well as Unit sponsored chippers used in accomplishing these fuel reduction programs and efforts.

The completed 2021 Garberville Shaded Fuel Break was a joint project with CAL FIRE HUU, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council, and the Humboldt County Resource Conservation District. This project was a result of the ongoing efforts of the Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council to improve the resilience of Garberville and other Southern Humboldt communities to wildfire. The fuel-break encompasses a 48-acre area primarily on the east side of Garberville. The Redway Shaded Fuel Break Project (CalVTP) began in 2022 and is a multi-phasic effort comprised of 142 acres of mixed fuel reduction occurring in and around strategic areas of the community of Redway. Phases 1 (ridgetop fuel break) & 2 (defensible space within WUI) are nearing completion, with the final treatment being the application of prescribed fire which requires favorable weather conditions. The final phase, Phase 3, consists of treating the steep slopes adjacent to the commercial business park where crews are limited to manual treatments due to the area being inaccessible to equipment.

WILDLAND AND URBAN INTERFACE

Battalion 2 is largely comprised of private timberland with Humboldt Redwood Company being the largest industrial timberland owner. Much of the Humboldt Redwoods State Park is located within the Battalion boundary. There are several municipalities and small communities with mostly residential structures spread out in the SRA. Weott is the largest community in the Battalion with several commercial properties as well as residential structures, some of which are in the urban interface. Other small communities located within the Battalion have residential structures located in the urban interface.

Battalion 2 has experienced increased fire activity driven by population growth expanding into remote and difficult-to-access areas. Increased human presence has led to a higher frequency of ignitions, prompting HUU to enhance tracking efforts and implement more targeted prevention strategies. Field personnel continue working with the public to promote fire safety and strengthen cooperation during incidents. Emergency response is often complicated by limited compliance with State Fire Safe Regulations and local ordinances. Challenges such as locked gates, unpermitted roads, inadequate signage, poor ingress and egress, restricted water access, water limitations, hazardous materials, and other site-specific risks can significantly hinder access and reduce overall response effectiveness.

GEOGRAPHICAL ASPECTS

The Weott Battalion encompasses approximately 300,000 acres of primarily timber with some grass and brush components. Land use includes timber production, recreation, ranching, and cannabis cultivation.

FUELS, WEATHER AND TOPOGRAPHY

Steep, rugged terrain describes much of Battalion 2, which includes the most remote and undeveloped portion of the California Coast, the “Lost Coast”. Fuels include high value mixed conifer tree species such as redwood and Douglas-fir. Some higher elevation areas of the Battalion have a mixed oak woodland component with grass and mixed brush. Hardwoods including madrone and tanoak can be found on drier slopes and ridges. Timber slash can be found in areas of previous timber harvest. Grazing land can be found in the Petrolia area and much of the Mattole Valley. Due to a lack of fire, there is an encroachment of Douglas-fir in many prairies. California State Parks has monitored the encroachment within Humboldt Redwoods State Park and has implemented an ongoing plan to reclaim the prairies through controlled burn operations.

Heavy deposits of driftwood can be found at times along the coastline of the Battalion. Major rivers in the Battalion include: the Eel and Mattole Rivers. Marine air influence can produce strong and shifting winds, especially in the Mattole Valley

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL / BATTALION 2 SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

The Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council has successfully completed several shaded fuel-breaks in and around the community of Petrolia and Honeydew and in some areas of the Kings Range. The Fire Safe Council, through its affiliation with the Mattole Restoration Council, also provides defensible space assistance,

roadside vegetation treatment, and educational outreach. These activities are coordinated with CAL FIRE and County staff and funded by a variety of sources including CAL FIRE, the California Fire Safe Council, PG&E, and fee for service. Petrolia Firewise and Honeydew Firewise are two very active Firewise communities within Battalion 2. Salmon Creek Firewise has been recently certified as a Firewise Community and CAL FIRE is currently designing a plan to construct a shaded fuel break within the community.

2026 BATTALION 2 GOALS

- Continued cooperation with State Parks and private landowners for additional projects.
- Encourage implementation of an identified escape route for the communities of Salmon Creek, Briceland and Ettersburg.
- Assist State Parks with continued support for fuels reduction
- Develop and implement a shaded fuel break between State Parks and the Community of Weott, Miranda and Humboldt Redwood Company lands northern park boundary
- Identify additional projects in collaboration with local communities/groups and the Planning Battalion around the areas of Fruitland Ridge, Salmon Creek, and the Mattole Watershed.
- Encourage and support the development of additional Firewise Communities and the formation of Fire Safe Councils.
- Engage in roadside vegetation clearance activities in areas with the most ignitions (see ignition analysis).



HUU Battalion 3

Battalion 3 is located in the central portion of the HUU. Battalion 3 borders the United States Forest Service Six Rivers National Forest and the CAL FIRE Shasta-Trinity Unit to the east. The Direct Protection Area of Battalion 3 consists of a mixture of private property, National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, and State lands.

The Bureau of Land Management Headwaters Reserve is located within the Battalion and is one of the largest old growth redwood preserves in the Unit outside of State Park and National Park lands.

BATTALION RESOURCES:

Fire protection in the Battalion is largely made up of paid local government, volunteer fire departments, and CAL FIRE staffing. The paid fire departments include Humboldt Bay Fire and Fortuna Fire with a paid Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, Fire Inspector, and Secretary. The volunteer fire departments include Rio Dell Fire Protection District (which now includes the Scotia, Shively, and Redcrest fire station), Fortuna Fire Protection District, Ferndale Fire Protection District, Loleta Fire Protection District, Carlotta Fire, Kneeland Fire Protection District, and Bridgeville Fire Protection District. The Humboldt Redwood Company, Sierra-Pacific Industries, and Green Diamond Resource Company are industrial timberland companies that have resources available to assist CAL FIRE in fire suppression.

CAL FIRE FACILITIES

There are two CAL FIRE stations in Battalion 3. Fortuna Station houses one Type III engine, one dozer, and a Battalion Chief. Bridgeville Station houses one Type III engine during peak fire season. The Rohnerville Air Attack Base and Mount Pierce communications tower are also located within the Battalion.

DISTRICTS AND MUNICIPALITY

There are ten Fire Protection Districts in the Battalion; they are the communities of Rio Dell, Scotia, Fortuna, Ferndale, Loleta and Humboldt Bay, and a portion of Kneeland and a portion of Alderpoint and Bridgeville Fire Protection Districts. Carlotta Community Services District provides funding for Carlotta fire protection. Each of these Fire Districts has portions of SRA within their districts.

WILDLAND AND URBAN INTERFACE:

Battalion 3 is largely comprised of private timberland with Humboldt Redwood Company and Green Diamond Resource Company being the largest industrial timberland owners. There are several municipalities and small communities with mostly residential structures spread out in the SRA. Eureka is the largest municipality in the Battalion with a high density of commercial properties and residential structures, some of which are within the urban interface. Other small communities located within the Battalion have residential structures located within the urban interface. The eastern portions of the Battalion have experienced increased fire activity driven by a growing population in remote areas with favorable environmental conditions. The rise in human activity has contributed to more frequent ignitions. These areas present challenges during suppression efforts due to limited compliance with fire safety regulations and local ordinances. Issues such as locked gates, inadequate ingress and egress, poor signage, restricted water access, and other access limitations complicate emergency response and impact firefighters and public safety.

FUELS-WEATHER-TOPOGRAPHY:

Battalion 3 is comprised of coast redwood and Douglas-fir forests and mixed brush and agricultural land. The east side of the Battalion is mostly a Douglas-fir/oak woodland fuel type, depending on the exposure. Under normal summer high pressure, the fire activity will diminish after dark. The normal wind pattern is a west to northwest direction during the afternoon, and it is common to have a significant upriver wind in the afternoon in the Eel River canyon and Van Duzen River drainage of the Battalion. Much of the Battalion has been shaped over millions of years by marine uplift and seismic activity. The Battalion lies between Pacific Ocean to the west and the coast mountain range to the east. The Van Duzen and Elk River drainages run through the central and northern portion of the Battalion and the Mad River runs along the eastern edge of the Battalion with very steep and narrow canyons.

The interior area of the Battalion is more typical of the Sierra Nevada Foothill vegetation mixed conifer fuel type. It features more open stands of Douglas-fir and mixed conifer species, as well as areas of oak woodland. The understory is grass and brush (*ceanothus*). This area often escapes the fog belt and is much warmer and drier.

The coastal strip area of the Battalion is a redwood and Sitka spruce forest with the biomass equal to or greater than a tropical rainforest. This area sees a significant amount of rainfall in addition to being in a fog belt for a good portion of the summer months.

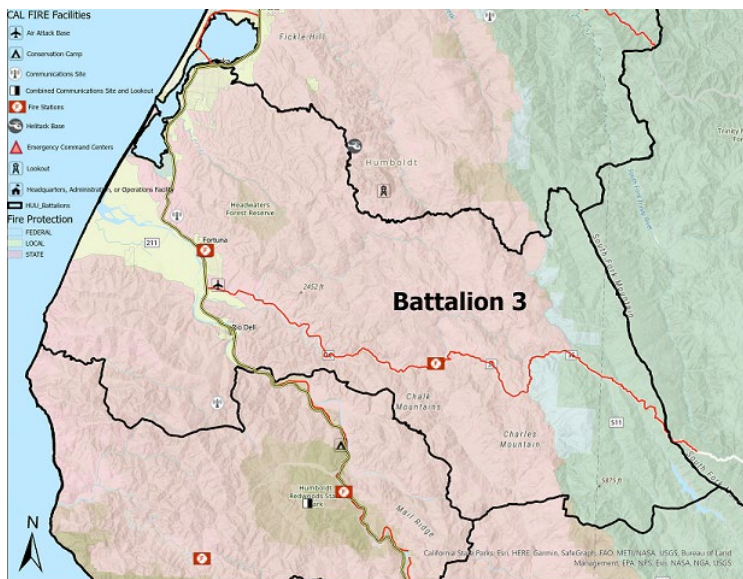
FIRE SAFE COUNCIL / BATTALION 3 SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

The Humboldt County Fire Safe Council and the Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safe Council cover the central part of Humboldt County including the communities of Carlotta, Bridgeville and Blocksburg. The Humboldt County Fire Safe Council is active in both the Lower Eel River and Elk River Drainages. The Van Duzen Watershed Fire Safe Council is active and has successfully obtained fuel reduction grant opportunities in the past. Hydesville and Bridgeville continue the re-building process to become active Firewise communities again.

2026 BATTALION 3 GOALS

- Expand the B3 VMPs and continue to meet the goals of B3 property owners.
- Work with and support the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association.
- Work with the Yager Environmental Stewardship group for additional VMPs.
- Identify additional projects in collaboration with local communities/groups and the Planning Battalion around the areas of Hwy 36.
- Encourage and support the development of additional Firewise Communities and the formation of Fire Safe Councils.
- Engage in roadside vegetation clearance activities in areas with the most ignitions (see ignition analysis).
- Engage in roadside clearing in areas with potential for significant structure loss, such as around community centers like Bridgeville, Swaine's Flat, Hydesville, and others.

- Engage in roadside clearing to provide safer ingress and egress routes to and from communities, especially in areas with limited access such as Little Golden Gate subdivision.



HUU BATTALION 4

Battalion 4 is located in the Northern portion of Humboldt County. The Battalion is comprised of State, Federal and local firefighting resources. Battalion 4 borders the USFS Six Rivers National Forest, and the CAL FIRE Shasta-Trinity and Siskiyou Units to the east. Within the Battalion 4 Direct Protection Area (DPA), there is a mixture of private property, National Forest, BLM, and State land. The Redwood National Park is also located within the Battalion and is a large old growth redwood preserve. The State and National Park area is also home to the largest Roosevelt Elk population within the State of California.

BATTALION RESOURCES:

Fire Protection within the Battalion is largely made up of paid local government and volunteer Fire Departments and Cal Fire Personnel. Arcata Fire Protection District operates with paid engine companies and utilizes volunteers to assist with large emergencies. Blue Lake Fire Department is a volunteer department but maintains a paid Fire Chief. The volunteer departments include Kneeland Fire Protection District, Fieldbrook Community Services District, Trinidad City Fire Department, Westhaven Volunteers, Willow Creek Volunteers Fire Protection District, and Orick Community Services District. Hoopa Forestry and the Hoopa Volunteer Fire Department provide fire protection to the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation, as well as assistance to CAL FIRE on SRA DPA. Green Diamond Resource Company, Humboldt Redwood Company, and Sierra-Pacific industries are industrial timberland companies that have resources available to assist CAL FIRE in fire suppression activities.

CAL FIRE FACILITIES

There are two CAL FIRE stations and a helitack base in Battalion 4. Trinidad Station houses 2 Type III Schedule B engines and a Battalion Chief. Elk Camp Station houses 1 Type III schedule B engine. The

Battalion also has an Amador contract for the County Service Area 4 covering the areas surrounding the city of Trinidad.

DISTRICTS AND MUNICIPALITY

There are seven fire related special districts within the Battalion; they are the communities of Kneeland Fire Protection District, Arcata Fire Protection District, Blue Lake Fire Protection District, Fieldbrook, Willow Creek Fire Protection District, and Orick Community Services District. Orleans Somes Bar Community Services District may provide nominal funding for the Orleans Volunteer Fire Department. Each of these Fire Districts has portions of their districts that are SRA. County Service Area 4 is also located within Battalion 4 and services within the district are provided by the CAL FIRE Trinidad Station on a contractual Amador Agreement basis.

WILDLAND AND URBAN INTERFACE:

Battalion 4 is largely comprised of private timberland with Green Diamond Resource Company being largest industrial timber landowner. There are several municipalities and small communities with mostly residential structures spread out in the SRA. The cities of Arcata, McKinleyville, and Trinidad are the largest cities in the Battalion with several commercial properties and residential structures, some of which are in the urban interface. Other small communities located within the Battalion have many residential structures located mostly in the urban interface.

The eastern portion of the Battalion has seen a noticeable increase in fire activity, largely driven by a growing population in remote areas, particularly throughout the Redwood Creek watershed extending east toward the Willow Creek area. Increased human presence has contributed to a higher frequency of fire ignitions, and HUU is working to improve tracking and identification of these causes to better address the trend. Field personnel continue to engage with the public to promote fire prevention and build relationships that support more effective suppression efforts.

Emergency response in these areas is often complicated by limited compliance with State Fire Safe Regulations and local ordinances intended to support public and firefighter safety. Challenges such as locked gates, unpermitted roads, inadequate signage, poor ingress and egress, limited or restricted water access, hazardous materials, and other site-specific hazards can significantly impact response effectiveness.

FUEL-WEATHER-TOPOGRAPHY:

Most Battalion 4 is comprised of coast redwood, Sitka spruce, Douglas-fir and mixed brush. The east side of the Battalion contains oak woodland as well as mixed conifer fuel types. Under normal summer high pressure, the fire activity will diminish after sunset. The normal wind pattern is a west to southwest push during the afternoon, and there is commonly a significant upriver wind in afternoon up in the Redwood Creek, Klamath River, and Trinity River canyons. Battalion 4 is in the Coast Mountain Range. The majority of the Battalion has been shaped over millions of years by marine uplift and seismic activity. The Battalion lies between Pacific Ocean to the west and the coast mountain range to the east. Redwood Creek, Klamath River, and Trinity River run through the central and eastern portions of the Battalion. Mad River

runs along the southwestern edge of the Battalion and all watersheds have very steep and narrow canyons.

The interior area of the Battalion is more typical of the Sierra-Nevada Foothill fuel type. It features more open stands of Douglas-fir, as well as areas of a typical oak woodland community. The understory is grass and brush. This interior area escapes the fog belt and is much warmer and drier. The coastal strip area of the Battalion is a true redwood forest with the biomass equal to or greater than a rainforest. This area sees a significant amount of rainfall in addition to being in a fog belt for a good portion of the summer months.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL / BATTALION 4 SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

There are three active fire safe councils within Battalion 4; the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council, Willow Creek Fire Safe Council, and the Orleans-Somes Bar Fire Safe Council (sponsored by the Mid-Klamath Watershed Council). The Humboldt County Fire Safe Council covers both the Redwood Creek and Mad River Drainages. Firewise Communities within the Battalion include Willow Creek, Orleans, Redwood Creek/ Chezem, and Upper Jacoby Creek. The Willow Creek and Orleans-Somes Bar Fire Safe Councils are active and have historically been successful in obtaining fuel reduction grant funds.

The Willow Creek and Orleans-Somes Bar Fire Safe Council have successfully completed several shaded fuel breaks in and around the communities of Willow Creek and Orleans. The Battalion routinely partners with cooperators for fuels reduction projects such as Lack's Creek pile burning with the BLM and the England Ranch VMP that focused on prairie restoration through controlled fire. The Battalion also partners annually with the Cultural Fire Management Council and the Mid Klamath Watershed Council to reintroduce fire to the landscape in a controlled environment for fuels reduction and native plant health.



HUU BATTALION 5

Battalion 5 is located at the northern end of HUU and encompasses all of Del Norte County. The Battalion is comprised of state, Federal, and local firefighting resources as well as Bureau of Indian Affairs resources.

Battalion 5 borders the USFS Six Rivers National Forest to the east, the Siskiyou/Rogue National Forest to the north at the Oregon border, with the Pacific Ocean as its most western boundary. Within the Battalion 5 Direct Protection Area (DPA), there is a mixture of private property, National Forest, National and State Park land, and Tribal land.

BATTALION RESOURCES:

Fire Protection within the Battalion is largely made up of the volunteer Fire Departments and staffing at CAL FIRE facilities, there are four fire districts and one municipal department that make up the volunteer force. Additionally, National Parks maintains a Type III and a Type VI fire engine during peak fire season. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation staffs a Type II and a Type III engine 24 hours/day at Pelican Bay State Prison available for local response. It is important to note that Alder Conservation Camp was part of a Camp Consolidation and is no longer in service as of January 2026.

CAL FIRE FACILITIES

Two Fire Stations and Alder Conservation Camp (currently unstaffed) are located in Battalion 5. Assigned to Crescent City Station is one Type III engine, a Battalion Chief, and one Forester. Station is staffed during peak fire season with one Type III engine. Red Mountain Lookout remains in active use; however, due to the termination of the long-term land lease with Six Rivers National Forest—a decision that was not the preference of CAL FIRE—the department will ultimately need to relocate the site's state government radio repeaters. To maintain the level of radio coverage currently provided by Red Mountain, four proposed replacement sites will need to be constructed.

DISTRICTS AND MUNICIPALITY

There are five Fire Protection Districts within the Battalion; they are the communities of Klamath, Crescent City, Fort Dick, Smith River, and Gasquet. Each of these fire departments has a portion of their district that is in SRA. Crescent City Fire and Rescue is the only municipal district within the Battalion.

WILDLAND AND URBAN INTERFACE:

Battalion 5 is largely comprised of private timberland, with Green Diamond Resource Company being the largest industrial timberland holder. State and National Parks, as well as Six Rivers National Forest are also large landowners in the Battalion. There are several small communities with mostly residential structures spread out in the SRA. Crescent City is the largest city in the Battalion with several commercial properties as well as a few hundred residential structures in the urban interface. The communities of Gasquet, Smith River, Hiouchi, Fort Dick, and Klamath all have various levels of structural density in the Interface.

FUELS-WEATHER TOPOGRAPHY:

Battalion 5 is comprised of dense timber including coast redwood, Douglas-Fir, Sitka spruce, and red alder combined with various heavy-mixed brush understory species.

Additionally, State Parks owns property that includes thousands of acres of grass. The normal wind pattern is a west to northwest direction during the afternoon. The coastal strip of the Battalion is often shrouded in a fog blanket most of the summer due to the high temperatures inland. However, 10-15 miles inland it is common to reach triple digit temperatures. Battalion 5 is located in the Coast Mountain Range. The majority of the Battalion has been shaped over millions of years by marine uplift and seismic activity. The Battalion lies between Pacific Ocean to the west, the Oregon border to the north, and the Six Rivers National Forest to the east. The Smith and Klamath River drainages run east to west within Battalion 5 and have very steep and narrow canyons.

BATTALION FIRE HISTORY:

Battalion 5 and Del Norte County have had significant fire history of both lightning and human-caused fires. Most of the fires occur at the end of the summer season and the early part of fall. This trend is due to the heavy fuel loading and the associated seasonal drying finally peaking in the months of September and October leading to conducive burning conditions.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL / BATTALION 5 SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

There is one active Fire Safe Council within Battalion 5. The Del Norte County Fire Safe Council covers the entire county including the communities of Gasquet, Smith River, Fort Dick, Crescent City, Hiouchi and Klamath. The Del Norte County Fire Safe Council covers both the Smith and Klamath River drainages.

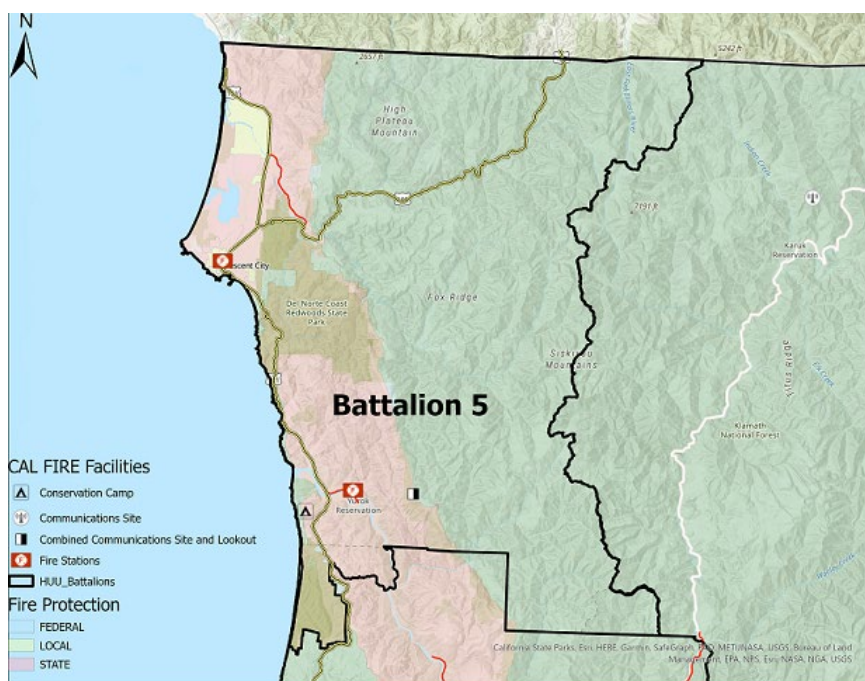
The Del Norte Fire Safe Council has successfully completed several shaded fuel-breaks in and around the community of Gasquet and Hiouchi. Public Education programs are provided annually to each of the schools in the county.

A significant fuels reduction project is ongoing in the Smith River watershed. Much of this project is located within the Six Rivers National Forest and is funded through a CAL FIRE grant.

2026 BATTALION 5 GOALS

- Continued cooperation with State Parks and private landowners for additional projects.
- Encourage and work with the Del Norte RCD and DNFSC on implementation of new projects.
- Assist State Parks and National Parks with continued support for fuels reduction.
- Develop and implement a shaded fuel break between Green Diamond and Community of .
Smith River
- Develop and implement a shaded fuel break between Green Diamond and the Community of
Hunter Creek.
- Develop and implement a shaded fuel break between the United States Forest Service and
Green Diamond along the SRA/FRA DPA line from the Oregon California border to the
Klamath River.

- Develop and implement a shaded fuel break between Green Diamond and the Communities of Klamath and Klamath Glenn.
- Identify additional projects in collaboration with local communities/groups USFS and the Planning Battalion around the areas of Hiouchi, Gasquet, Rock Creek, Big Flat
- Identify additional projects and implement cultural burns with Tolowa Dee Ni Nation.
- Identify additional projects and implement cultural burns with Yurok Tribe.
- Identify additional projects and implement cultural burns with Elk Valley Rancheria.
- Encourage and support the development of additional Firewise Communities and the formation of Fire Safe Councils.
- Engage in roadside vegetation clearance activities in areas with the most ignitions. (see ignition analysis)



HUU BATTALION 7 TRAINING BUREAU

BATTALION OVERVIEW

The HUU Training Bureau is responsible for the delivery and documentation of training for all permanent and Cal Fire personnel, coordination and facilitation of courses, implementation of the unit-wide training plan, maintaining the JAC program and training newly appointed company officers, enrolling personnel in courses identified in their approved training requests, maintaining up-to-date training records for all employees, and managing the unit ICS Qualifications.

The HUU Training Bureau provides training that is economical, effective, and consistent with the needs of the public, the State of California, the Department, the County of Humboldt, and the employee and ensures that all federal, state, and local training mandates, laws and regulations and department policies are followed as they pertain to training.

Additional duties of the HUU Training Office include facilitation of Basic Firefighter Academies through College of the Redwoods, coordination of annual firefighter rehire academies, coordination and implementation of annual Continued Professional Training, Unit JAC Coordination, Unit EMS coordination, participation in the Humboldt County Fire Instructors' Association, members of the statewide training working group, and provide Unit representation on the statewide Target Solutions Working group.



Image 1 Annual Continuing Professional Training.

HUU BATTALION 8 AVIATION

The Aviation Program consists of the Rohnerville Air Attack Base (established in 1964) and the Kneeland Helitack Base (established in 1982). The HUU Aviation Program directly serves the people of Humboldt, Del Norte, Western Trinity, and Northern Mendocino Counties. The Six Rivers National Forest and portions of the Shasta/Trinity, Klamath and Mendocino National Forests are also served by the CALFIRE aviation Program as they are in the Initial Attack sphere of influence. Our initial attack response area serves roughly 31 million acres of Private, State, and Federal land. These aircraft and personnel also serve the citizens of California and respond when emergencies arise throughout the state and southwestern portions of Oregon.



Image 2 Rohnerville Air Attack Base

The Rohnerville Air Attack Base is located southeast of Fortuna at the east end of Rohnerville Airport (KFOT). The base has two firefighting aircraft assigned from June 1st through November 1st. The aircraft assigned are an OV-10 Bronco (Air Attack 120) and the Grumman S-2T Air Tanker (Tanker 96). The Ov-10 is utilized as a command-and-control platform to transport an Air Tactical Group Supervisor (Battalion Chief or Fire Captain) whose duties are to safely supervise and direct firefighting aircraft on emergency incidents. The S-2T carries 1200 gallons of fire retardant which is dropped from the aircraft to help ground crews by slowing and extinguishing the advancing fire.



Image 3 Kneeland Helitack Base

The Kneeland Helitack Base is located next to Kneeland airport, 12 miles east of Eureka. The helicopter assigned to Kneeland is a S-70i Blackhawk Helicopter. The primary use of the helicopter is for quick, initial attacks to suppress new wildland fires. During peak fire season, the helicopter is staffed with one Pilot, Two Fire Captains, 1 Ops Supervisor, and five firefighters. The helicopter is also used for medical emergencies to rescue / transport patients to a local hospital or awaiting air / ground ambulance. Kneeland “CAL FIRE HAWK” is also equipped for hoist rescue operations where ground access is a challenge allowing timely insertion of crews and extrication of victims. The Kneeland “CAL FIRE HAWK” can deliver more water to fires at a faster rate with its increased flight speed and tank capacity (1000gal) than its predecessor the “Super Huey”. The helicopter is supported by Helitender which is staffed by a Fire Apparatus Engineer. Helitender carries 1000 gallons of Jet A Fuel, rescue equipment, and miscellaneous mission and support equipment.



Image 4 S-70i Blackhawk Helicopter

In 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 an “exclusive use” type 1 helicopter was assigned to Rohnerville Air Attack base. The helicopter successfully assisted in the suppression of numerous wildfires.

The use of these aircraft in emergency incidents is to provide quick initial attack response to areas that can take hours for ground resources to make access. Additionally, these aircraft play an extremely important role in supporting CAL FIRE’s goal to keep 95% of wildland fires to 10 acres or less. At times, CALFIRE aircraft are used to conduct specialty reconnaissance, provide emergency access to isolated areas, and deliver emergency supplies.

HUU’s Aviation Program have a positive financial contribution to the County of Humboldt and local businesses. The county of Humboldt directly benefits from landing and fuel flow fees that can range from 25 to 30 thousand dollars per year. The associated expenses that are incurred by the bases provide a wealth of return in minimizing the impacts of wildfires.

In summary, the HUU Aviation Program has benefited from its positive relationship with Humboldt County businesses and the Humboldt County Airport Division. CAL FIRE will continue to utilize both bases at Rohnerville and Kneeland Airports to support the Department’s mission to serve and safeguard the people and protect the property and resources of California.

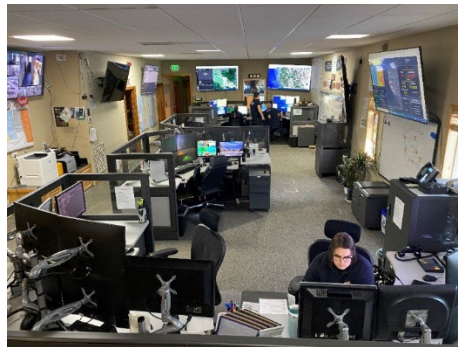
HUU BATTALION 9 EMERGENCY COMMAND CENTER

BATTALION OVERVIEW

The CAL FIRE Fortuna Emergency Command Center provides emergency dispatching services and coordinates efforts to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate emergencies, disasters, and catastrophic events.

The Emergency Command Center is staffed with 1 Battalion Chief, 1 Research Data Specialist II, 1 Communications Supervisor, 1 Telecom System Analyst, 6 Fire Captains, and 5 Communications Operators. The Command Center is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Fortuna Emergency Command Center is the largest fire and medical Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in Humboldt County. The Command Center is an Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD) certified dispatch. In 2025, the Command Center processed 13,973 events including medical aids, traffic collisions, structure fires, wildland fires, as well as a variety of other significant events throughout the county.



In addition to CAL FIRE, the Fortuna Emergency Command Center provides dispatching services for 36 local government fire districts throughout Humboldt County, as well as multiple ambulance companies. We are the Fire and Medical aircraft coordinator for both Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. The Command Center is also the OES Operational Dispatch for local government in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

The Emergency Command Center oversees our unit Intel program, unit Command and Control, all our unit communications and related infrastructure including our 5 radio towers and vaults.

HUU BATTALION 20 PREVENTION BUREAU

The primary focus of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to fulfill the CAL FIRE mission by enforcing state forest and fire laws, conducting origin and cause investigations, fire report reviews, fulfilling Public Records Act (PRA) requests, case development, civil cost collection, fire prevention inspections, public education and outreach, media relations, and utilization of Volunteers in Prevention.

The HUU Fire Prevention Bureau is allocated one Battalion Chief (BC), six Fire Captain Specialists (FCS), and one part-time Fire Prevention Specialist I (FPSI). The BC and FCS positions are the designated primary law enforcement positions within the Unit. Employees assigned in the BC and FCS positions have received law enforcement training designated by the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training and are qualified as peace officers. This peace officer authority is derived from the California Public Resources Code and California Penal Code, Section 830.2(g). In addition to maintaining law enforcement qualifications the fire prevention bureau BC and FCS personnel receive advanced training and skills in case development, surveillance operations, law enforcement interviewing, explosives and post blast investigations, crime scene reconstruction and evidence collection, along with wildland, structure, and vehicle fire investigation processes and methodologies.



Origin and Cause Investigation and Incendiary Device-Cigarette Matchbook

The Fire Prevention BC and FCS staff are utilized year-round for assignments to support statewide fire prevention and law enforcement missions. Additional assignments include aiding local government agencies during investigations of arson and fire fatality incidents, or mutual aid requests for law enforcement assistance. The FPS position coordinates public education and outreach programs, may assist with juvenile fire setter evaluations, coordinates the Unit VIP program, and assists the unit Public Information Officer.

INTERAGENCY INVESTIGATION

In addition to activities performed by the Unit Fire Prevention Bureau, HUU utilizes both fire control and resource management staff to support the fire prevention mission. This support may consist of engine companies performing defensible space inspections and education programs, fire control and resource management personnel qualified as peace officers conducting enforcement actions and investigations, resource management staff conducting fire safety inspections at timber harvest operations, public officer and/or Resource Management personnel qualified as investigators conducting origin and cause investigations.

HUU Fire Prevention Bureau staff participates with and supports interagency entities such as the Humboldt County Fire/Arson Investigation Unit, Humboldt County Fire Prevention Officers Group, Law Enforcement Chiefs of Humboldt County, Law Enforcement Training Managers of Humboldt County, and the Del Norte County Law Enforcement Chiefs.

HUU peace officers participate in site inspections as part of an environmental task force led by the Humboldt District Attorney's Office or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. These site inspections often resulted in forest practice violation citations and arrests. HUU Fire Prevention peace officers assisted in these operations by providing officer safety and scene security.

With limited local law enforcement resources within both Humboldt and Del Norte County, HUU law enforcement officers are often requested to assist federal, state, and local agencies. This assistance includes investigation of various misdemeanor and felony incidents.



Cal Fire Peace Officer taking a suspect into custody

HUU fire prevention officers conduct field training for new officers who complete the CAL FIRE Regular Basic Course (RBC) law enforcement training program, as designated by the California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST). CAL FIRE's RBC and subsequent Field Training Program (FTP) comprise approximately 40 weeks of training to obtain a POST Basic Peace Officer certificate. Recurring training is required to maintain peace officer currency as well as other specialized training such as Firearms Instructors or Field Training Officers.

CALFIRE HANDCREWS

EEL RIVER CONSERVATION CAMP #31

Eel River Conservation Camp is located in the southern portion of the Unit just west of Redway and has historically staffed five crews. However, due to the change in social values with criminal incarceration, incarcerated persons fire crew availability has diminished. Two crews are currently staffed to provide fire suppression and fuels reduction work at various projects in the Unit. Eel River Conservation Camp works with Humboldt County Roads Department to mitigate road hazards and make improvements to traffic safety. Other project work includes hazardous fuels reduction, shaded fuel breaks, improving emergency evacuation road access, and maintenance of parks and cemeteries.



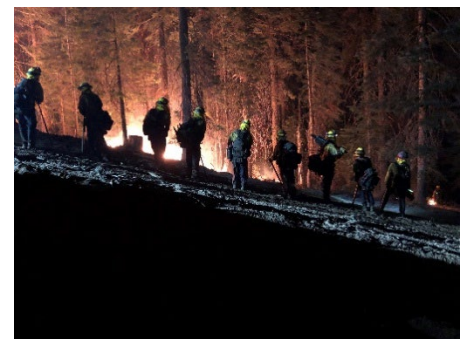
Eel river Crews Conducting Fuel Reduction Before and After

HIGH ROCK FIRE CENTER

High Rock Fire Center (HRFC) is centrally located in HUU, west of Highway 101 and near the community of Redcrest. HRFC houses, trains, and utilizes, 2 fully staffed firefighter type 1 hand crews that are available for fire assignments, emergency response, and fuels reduction projects. The fire crews are staffed seven days a week for nine months out of the calendar year, primarily during California's declared peak fire season.

HRFC employs a Stationary Engineer, a Water and Sewer Plant Operator (WASPO), a Heavy Fire Equipment Operator (HFEO), a Heavy Equipment Mechanic (HEM), a Staff Services Analyst (SSA), a Cook Specialist, a Food Service Technician (FST), five crew Fire Captains, one Training Fire Captain, one Administrative Fire Captain, six Fire Apparatus Engineers, 80 firefighters (42% of the units' firefighters), and a Battalion Chief, all falling under the administrative responsibility of a Division Chief. Current fuels reduction projects include California Department of Parks & Recreation and the Lawrence Shaded Fuel Break in Southern Humboldt County. Crews perform trail maintenance, meadow restoration, preparing State Parks land for prescribed burns, and removal of invasive flora. High Rock Fire Center also mills timber directly to support State Parks projects. The Lawrence Shaded Fuel Break project is to reduce flammable vegetative fuels while restoring the ranch back to its natural, meadow-like habitat.

HRFC hosts multi-department/multi-agency training courses, utilizing a variety of training tools such as a ventilation prop, vehicle fire prop, forcible entry door, and an all-hazards simulation (SIM) table. HRFC provides training for all levels of employees for job-required, job-enhancement, and career-development. These training aids at HRFC allow the unit to produce transitionally trained staff, necessary for fire suppression throughout the State.



FORTUNA FIRE CENTER

The California Conservation Corps (CCC) Fortuna Fire Center located in Fortuna CA, sits in the heart of redwood country on California's wild and scenic North Coast. It operated on a seasonal fire crew basis since 1992, it became a permanent CALFIRE fire crew in 2023 as Fortuna Crew 1 (FOR1). The center is collaborating with HUU to operate the 15-person fire crew. This program is staffed with three CALFIRE Fire Captains and 3 CALFIRE Fire Apparatus Engineers, 1 CCC Conservationist (C1), four days a week.

CALFIRE provides training to our Corps members throughout the year in fire suppression activities, policies, procedures, and natural resource education. Corps members gain hands-on experience as well as gaining the certifications needed to launch a career with CALFIRE. We also participate in fuel reduction and restoration projects throughout the unit. Current fuels reduction projects include California Department of Parks & Recreation, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Lawrence Property in Southern Humboldt County. Crews perform trail maintenance, meadow restoration, preparing State Parks land for prescribed burns, fuel reduction, fuel breaks and removal of invasive flora.



Resource Management Program

Forest Practice Program

The Unit has 12 Forester positions whose primary duties include the enforcement of state forest laws and regulations on non-federal timberlands. The Unit Resource Management staff conduct approximately 1,000 forest practice inspections per year. During these inspections, Resource Management staff inspect legal and potentially illegal timber operations for conformance with forest and fire laws.

It is the Department's policy to pursue vigorously the prompt and positive enforcement of the Forest Practice Act, the Forest Practice Rules, related laws and regulations, and environmental protection measures that apply to timber operations on the non-federally owned lands of the State. This enforcement policy is directed primarily at preventing and deterring forest practice violations as well as prompt and adequate correction of violations when they occur.

The Forest Practice Program strives to maintain the maximum sustained production of high-quality timber products and water quality, while protecting areas of recreation, watershed, wildlife, range, and fisheries. The program encourages the aesthetic enjoyment of the State's forests and promotes the retention of high-quality timberland devoted to timber growing, harvesting, and compatible forest related uses. In addition, the program informs each timber owner and each operator before he/she harvests their timber, of the fire risks and hazards directly associated with timber operations, with particular emphasis of fire hazard reduction requirements, and all applicable fire laws.

Timber harvesting documents are submitted to CAL FIRE for all commercial timber harvesting operations on non-federal timberlands. Registered Professional Foresters (RPF) must prepare plans, and Licensed Timber Operators (LTO) must carry out the timber operations. CAL FIRE is the lead agency of an interagency review team which reviews the timber harvest documents to determine compliance with forestry laws and regulations.

PRC Section 4526 defines timberland as nonfederal land "available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of any commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products."

Unless specifically exempted by law, all timber operations must comply with the following:

1. Must be conducted by a Licensed Timber Operator.
2. Having an approved Timber Harvest Document.
3. Meeting the appropriate tree stocking requirements.
4. Obtaining a conversion permit if a change to non-timber growing land use is intended.
5. Complying with all other applicable requirements

Landowners are required to replant after harvesting, if necessary, to meet required tree stocking standards. A Timberland Conversion Permit is required by the Director of CAL FIRE to convert timberland to non-timber growing uses.

Forest Landowner Assistance

The Unit helps administer State and Federal forestry assistance programs with the goal of reducing wildland fuel loads and improving the health and productivity of private forest lands. California's Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) offers cost-share opportunities to assist individual landowners with land management planning, conservation practices to enhance wildlife habitat, and practices to enhance the productivity of the land. The Unit also coordinates with Sacramento staff to deliver the Forest Stewardship Program which combines funds from state and federal sources to assist communities with multiple- ownership forest and community issues related to pre-fire fuels treatment, forest health, erosion control, and water quality issues.

CAL FIRE Foresters work closely with small landowners to fund and review forest management plans. These plans outline timberland owner's goals and objectives. They also provide valuable information related to property history, forest conditions, road system, access and security, soils, water resources, fish and wildlife, fire prevention practices, smoke management, and potential forest improvement projects. Many of the forest improvement projects directly relate to fire prevention by identifying road improvement projects, existing and potential water sources, fire infrastructure improvements, and vegetation treatment projects.

Unit Desired Future Conditions

Each field Battalion has areas within their boundaries where wildland fire poses a potential threat to critical community assets. Our primary objective is to heighten public awareness regarding these vulnerabilities, with the aim of fostering stakeholder engagement in enhancing defensible space measures. Through concerted efforts, we aspire to mitigate fire hazards via fuel reduction activities, concurrently enhancing safety for both the public and firefighters by optimizing ingress and egress routes.

Moreover, our endeavors extend to the preservation and enhancement of diverse ecosystems, integral to sustaining the quality of life for residents across Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity counties. This commitment encompasses the implementation of prescribed burning initiatives aimed at preserving indigenous cultural values, practices, and landscapes, thereby safeguarding the ecological integrity of these cherished environments, and promoting and maintaining biodiversity.

Sudden Oak Death Areas

Scattered throughout the Unit are areas of Sudden Oak Death (SOD) infestation. At times, these areas become priorities for fuel treatment to check expansion of the disease and also reduce fuels buildup. Infected areas can become a priority for fuels treatment along roads and near communities due to safety reasons. While SOD can increase hazardous forest fuel conditions, it has not presented adverse effects on fire behavior in HUU. Attempts to contain SOD have largely been abandoned due to the lack of effective containment of SOD and a lack of public interest.

Land Use Planning

In 2024, a comprehensive survey was conducted across the unit to assess subdivisions with restricted ingress and egress points, potentially impeding safe evacuation during wildland fire incidents for residents. Subsequently, recommendations were formulated, including strategies such as establishing secondary routes, widening roadways, regulating parking, posting evacuation route signage, and advocating for modified development practices. These recommendations were communicated to the respective municipalities vested with jurisdiction.

CAL FIRE remains committed to identifying and mitigating fire-related hazards, thereby enhancing community preparedness and resilience against wildfires. Through proactive measures and collaborative efforts with local authorities, our agency strives to safeguard communities by addressing vulnerabilities and implementing corrective actions.

APPENDIX A: PRE- FIRE PROJECTS through 05/01/2026

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>PROJECT NAME</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
Cal VTP	Redway SFB	Active	28.66
VMP	Eaton Roughs 19 VMP	Active	601.28
VMP	England 19 VMP	Active	89.42
VMP	French Ranch 18 VMP	Active	940.31
VMP	Hunt Ranch 19 VMP	Active	564.37
VMP	Lone Star Ranch 18 VMP	Active	936.66
VMP	Mountain View 19 VMP	Active	145.61
VMP	GDRCo Williams Ridge 22 VMP	Planned	1.9

TYPE	PROJECT NAME	STATUS	ACRES
Fire Plan	5GA21152 Shively Shaded Fuel Break	Active	66.8
Fire Plan	Blue Lake Levee	Active	32.45
Fire Plan	Building Capacity through the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association	Active	
Fire Plan	C-212 Fuels Reduction	Active	77.41
Fire Plan	CDFW FUELS REDUCTION	Active	150.31
Fire Plan	Cultural Fire Climate Project Hwy 169	Active	2,490.01
Fire Plan	CWPP Phase III: Fire-adapted Landscapes and Safe Homes	Active	31.1
Fire Plan	CWPP Phase IV: Wildfire Preparedness	Active	4.15
Fire Plan	CWPP Phase V: Wildfire Preparedness	Active	5.0
Fire Plan	Gasquet SFB	Active	207.32
Fire Plan	Green Diamond Fuels Reduction	Active	211.18
Fire Plan	Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association	Active	880.34
Fire Plan	Humboldt RCD	Active	51.65
Fire Plan	HUMBOLDT REDWOOD CO FUELS REDUCTION	Active	138.22
Fire Plan	HUU Fuels Reduction	Active	369.15
Fire Plan	Increasing Pace and Scale of Fuel Reduction in Humboldt County	Active	166.34
Fire Plan	Orick Levee FR	Active	223.46
Fire Plan	Phase II - CWPP Implementation	Active	
Fire Plan	Redwood NPS Fuels Reduction	Active	5011.73
Fire Plan	RNP Bald Hills Rd SFB	Active	1.05
Fire Plan	RNP Davidson FR	Active	83.25
Fire Plan	RNP Howland Hill SFB	Active	10.96
Fire Plan	RNP Little Bald Hills FR	Active	5.34
Fire Plan	RNP RX	Active	1,144.37
Fire Plan	Ruth Lake Fuel Reduction	Active	209.51
Fire Plan	Smith River Collaborative Gasquet Community Protection Project	Active	359.18
Fire Plan	SRF Hiouchi/Low Divide/Big Flats Units	Active	171.63
Fire Plan	SRF HUU Air Curtain Burner	Active	
Fire Plan	SRF Little Jones Creek Project	Active	99.02
Fire Plan	State Parks Fuel Reduction	Active	2,749.65
Fire Plan	Western Klamath Community Engagement and Wildfire Risk Mitigation	Active	4.62
Fire Plan	Willow Creek Storm Recovery and Fuel Hazard Reduction	Active	18.95
Fire Plan	Bear Canyon SFB	Cancelled	
Fire Plan	Caltrans Alder South SFB	Complete	63.65
Fire Plan	Sponsor Fuels Reduction	Complete	9.77
Fire Plan	State Line Fuel Break	Complete	50.87
Fire Plan	Blue Lake Levee	Complete in Maintenance	32.45
Fire Plan	Orick Levee FR	Complete in Maintenance	221.46
Fire Plan	BLM Prosper Ridge Pile Burn	Complete in Maintenance	704.71
Fire Plan	Bridgeville FR	Complete in Maintenance	58.17

TYPE	PROJECT NAME	STATUS	ACRES
Fire Plan	Cathey Road Shaded Fuel Break	Complete in Maintenance	21.29
Fire Plan	Dyersville Loop Rd Fuel Reduction	Complete in Maintenance	186.28
Fire Plan	Elk Ridge SFB	Complete in Maintenance	150.28
Fire Plan	HUU TREX Assists	Complete in Maintenance	945.17
Fire Plan	Riverside Park SFB	Complete in Maintenance	45.04
Fire Plan	Shelter Cove RIDD	Complete in Maintenance	19.26
Fire Plan	Westhaven CSD FR	Complete in Maintenance	5.77
Forest Health	BLM Fuels Reduction	Planned	
Forest Health	California Forest Shared Stewardship Support Program	Active	3,952.44
Forest Health	Hoopa Valley East Viewshed Cultural Treatment and Prescribed Burn	Active	1,807.16
Forest Health	Improving Forest Health in the Yurok Community Forest and Salmon Sanctuary	Active	4,067.5
Forest Health	King Range Forest Health and Community Protection	Active	1,856.45
Forest Health	Lacks Creek Management Area Landscape Restoration	Active	1,570.12
Forest Health	Mattole and Salmon Creek Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience Project	Active	2,539.84
Forest Health	Pine Creek Watershed Forest Health Project	Active	2,819.99
Forest Health	Redwoods Rising Phase I Project	Active	2,328.60
Forest Health	Redwoods Rising Phase II	Active	1,434.57
Forest Health	Travis Ranch Fire Recovery and Forest Health Improvement Project	Active	4212.87
Forest Health	Western Klamath Landscape Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project	Active	8,956.35
CFIP	Redwoods to the Sea Corridor Forest Resilience Project	Complete	488.30
CFIP	Hohman CFIP 2022	Active	23.94
CFIP	Hohman CFIP 2023	Active	23.94
CFIP	Jones CFIP 2020	Active	136.62
CFIP	Walker Trust 2021 CFIP	Active	26.72
CFIP	Barkdull Management Plan	Complete	3,860.78
CFIP	Boak Management Plan	Complete	350.64
CFIP	Fire Horse LLC CFIP 2022	Complete	167.57
CFIP	French Management Plan	Complete	2,913.78
CFIP	Goodrow Management Plan	Complete	361.98
CFIP	Karen M Kahn Trust 2020 CFIP	Complete	27.58
CFIP	Lima 2021 CFIP	Complete	66.67
CFIP	Maple Creek Ranch Management Plan	Complete	1,055.70
CFIP	Massei CFIP 2021	Complete	273.55
CFIP	Miller Management Plan	Complete	1,641.49

TYPE	PROJECT NAME	STATUS	ACRES
CFIP	Moeller CFIP 2022	Complete	39.44
CFIP	Newman CFIP 2022	Complete	674.17
CFIP	Nichols Management Plan	Complete	1,076.00
CFIP	North Coast Land Management LLC Plan	Complete	486.56
CFIP	Silver CFIP Management Plan	Complete	143.42
CFIP	Van Eck Management Plan	Complete	2,203.29
CFIP	Davies 2024	Active	66.6
CFIP	Tomasini 2024	Active	28.0
		Total	70,816.35

APPENDIX B: UNIT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Statewide objectives for treatments and inspections include goals of 45,000 combined acres for prescribed burning and fuels reduction, alongside 250,000 defensible space inspections. Historically, HUU has excelled in meeting our objectives in broadcast burning and fuels reduction treatments, but recent challenges, including a complete turnover of Pre-Fire Battalion personnel and a shortened prescribed fire season, resulted in a decline in completed acres for fuels reduction within HUU.

To address these challenges, Unit Management staff anticipates a significant allocation of engine company and hand crew hours towards meeting these targets, demonstrating our commitment to fulfilling the prescribed goals. However, HUU encounters persistent difficulties in meeting defensible space targets, primarily attributed to challenges in recruiting inspectors and the expansive rural nature of our jurisdiction. Factors such as locked gates and widely dispersed residences pose logistical obstacles to conducting inspections efficiently.

However, it remains a priority of HUU to actively contribute to the realization of these targets, leveraging strategic initiatives and collaborative efforts to enhance wildfire mitigation endeavors.

Prescribed Burning Goals:

- To have an active and successful prescribed burn program in HUU, through VMP/VTP and cooperative burning.
- To increase our burn effectiveness by leveraging staff time with interested participants to achieve wildland management objectives.
- To develop our internal capacity for burning, while providing expertise and assistance to others who wish to burn.
- To not present an unnecessary impediment to successful burning – being part of the solution, not part of the problem.
- To implement and facilitate applying the right fire, at the right place, and at the right time.

HUU is dedicated to fostering effective collaboration with various stakeholders, including other agencies, Fire Safe Councils, public organizations, private landowners, and Firewise communities. Together, we aim to develop fuels reduction projects and prescribed fire opportunities that not only benefit the public but also

significantly mitigate risks and losses during wildland fire incidents. This collaborative effort extends to partnering with stakeholders to implement the priorities outlined in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, as detailed in Appendix C.

The HUU Planning Battalion serves as a valuable resource for agencies, tribes, organizations, fire departments, and communities within the Unit, all united in the common goal of minimizing the impact of wildland fires on lives, property, and resources. Our approach emphasizes proactive community planning and engagement, involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and other stakeholders in wildfire risk reduction efforts before a fire event occurs.

Furthermore, HUU's approach underscores both community and individual responsibility in wildfire mitigation efforts. This entails designing safe communities equipped for effective emergency response, as well as promoting safer home construction, landscaping practices, and maintenance routines.

Within HUU, CAL FIRE Battalion Chiefs play a pivotal role in advancing wildfire prevention efforts. As part of their responsibilities, they annually present Battalion Fire Prevention Plans, identifying areas within their Battalion that could benefit from Vegetation Management Program (VMP) or Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP) initiatives. These plans outline potential projects, including prescribed burns or fuel breaks, contributing to the overall wildfire risk reduction strategy.

APPENDIX C: COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS

Humboldt County

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

The Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), updated on a five-year cycle, was last revised in 2019 following a two-year collaborative process led by the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC), with partial funding support from CAL FIRE and is currently under review again. That effort engaged a broad spectrum of fire protection and prevention stakeholders—including local fire departments, fire safe councils, state and federal agencies, county departments, and members of the public—and served as a model of inclusive planning to meet the requirements of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act.

The CWPP is currently undergoing its next revision, with the update designed to improve usability and public accessibility, thereby enhancing its effectiveness as a planning tool and increasing its value for project stakeholders. The current effort continues to receive funding from CAL FIRE, with direct engagement and consultation from HUU personnel to ensure alignment with Unit priorities and broader state-level fire prevention strategies.

The Humboldt County CWPP is now in its third edition. Since 2006, the CWPP has served as the guiding document for the work of the HCFSC and has been an excellent tool for planning and securing funding for numerous projects that have helped residents and community groups prepare for the impacts of wildfire. The Humboldt County CWPP can be accessed online: <https://humboldt.gov/FirePlanFinal>.

Project Identification

The CWPP includes a GIS database of projects that is continually updated as stakeholders work together to develop and implement projects. Many of the projects have been identified with the assistance of CAL FIRE

staff and the HCFSC with input from several other local, state, and federal partners. A large portion of the potential projects were identified by community members. During each update of the CWPP, community workshops are held, in part, to provide the opportunity for residents to identify potential projects for incorporation into the database and to gather local knowledge of risks, hazards, assets, and community values. The CWPP WebGIS Portal is maintained by the County of Humboldt and can be accessed through the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council website: <https://humboldt.gov/FireSafeCouncil>

The Portal and associated GIS database is referenced by HUU CAL FIRE when developing projects and by the HCFSC when prioritizing projects for funding. When combined with other data layers such as Fire Hazard Severity Zones, building density, potential evacuation routes, and/or ignition probability, the community and agency partner identified projects can provide a powerful visualization of areas with the greatest need for treatment.

Current Implementation Projects

The county's wildfire mitigation efforts are anchored by the coordinated actions of the HCFSC, with County staff facilitating regular convenings to stimulate idea exchange and strategy alignment towards fulfillment of CWPP objectives. Members of the HCFSC actively seek funding for CWPP-driven projects, with progress monitored by a County Coordinator Team, which is funded by CAL FIRE through the California Fire Safe Council. The County Coordinator funding has made it possible to more consistently support the HCFSC, collaboratively develop and secure funding for projects, and track the project implementation progress of member organizations and other partners throughout the county.

Since its certification, the 2019 CWPP has been used by multiple local organizations and agencies to leverage over \$65 million in implementation funding from local, state, and federal grant programs. The local CAL FIRE unit, timber companies, and the smaller community fire safe councils and Firewise groups all regularly look to the CWPP for guidance and to support their individual project planning and implementation efforts. Building upon the success from 2019, the next update, slated to begin in 2024, aims to be even more accessible to stakeholders and project implementers with more current project tools and support.

Current implementation projects around the county are focused on community preparedness and landscape resilience. All members of the HCFSC have a role to play – for example, Public Works often focuses on roadside clearance, defensible space assistance, and outreach; the Resource Conservation District on large multifaceted landscape level work and planning; and the Prescribed Burn Association on restoring the use of beneficial fire. Whatever the focus, collaborations between HCFSC member groups are key. Collaborations, formed early and often in the project development process, ensure all interested groups—from Firewise community to federal agency—can voice their priorities and contribute their expertise. Exercising and expanding key partnerships through implementation also builds project planning and execution capacity within Humboldt County and supports the continued establishment of a network of wildfire mitigation practitioners who know how to work together toward mutual goals.

Local Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Within the county's 14 countywide CWPP planning units, there are several local fire safe councils that utilize their own local Community Wildfire Protection Plans in addition to the Planning Unit Action Plan for their Unit included in the countywide CWPP; these include:

- Mattole-Lost Coast Planning Unit: Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council
 - Lower Mattole CWPP: <https://humboldt.gov/LowerMattoleCWPP>
- Willow Creek Planning Unit: Willow Creek Fire Safe Council
 - Willow Creek Greater Area CWPP: <https://humboldt.gov/WillowCreekCWPP>
- Mid Klamath Planning Unit: Orleans Somes Bar Fire Safe Council
 - Orleans Somes Bar CWPP: <https://humboldt.gov/OrleansSomesBarCWPP>
- Hoopa Planning Unit: Hoopa Fire Department/Fire Safe Council
 - Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation CWPP: <https://humboldt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/65026/Hoopa-CWPP-Approved-1716>
- Upper Yurok Reservation Planning Unit: The Yurok Tribe is currently in the process of developing a CWPP.

The Planning Unit Action Plans (Part 4 of the countywide CWPP) serve as the primary guiding document for all Units without a local CWPP. Each Planning Unit Action Plan includes a brief introduction to the planning area, discusses its wildfire environment, community preparedness, wildfire-protection capabilities, evacuation issues and options, and concludes with a list of "Priority Action Recommendations". The Planning Unit Action Plans and associated GIS data are considered live documents and can be refined over time as projects are completed and new ones are developed.

Del Norte County

The Del Norte County Fire Safe Council, in cooperation with the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors, adopted a Community Wildfire Protection Plan in 2005. In 2020, the Del Norte Fire Safe Council with the assistance and cooperation of many organizations and agencies, including CAL FIRE, completed the 2020 Del Norte CWPP update.

[2020 Del Norte CWPP](#)

Trinity County

The Trinity County Fire Safe Council holds monthly meetings addressing the various projects, and plan processes that they are involved in. Trinity County CWPP was reviewed and updated in 2020. HUU staff provided an advisory role during the update process. The link below will allow review of the Trinity County CWPP update.

[Trinity County CWPP](#)

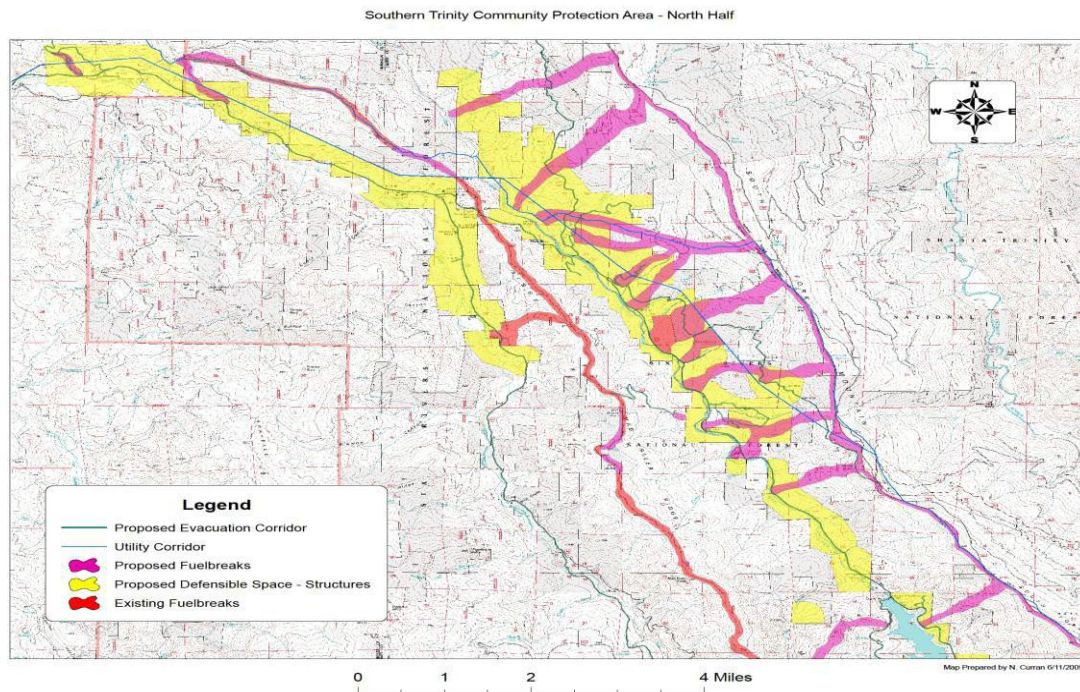


Image 5 The above map depicts identified projects in the southern Trinity County area.

APPENDIX D: ANNUAL FIRE REPORT

2025 Large Fires (greater than 10 acres)	Acres
Bridge Fire	403
Lake Fire	10
Dune Fire	37
Total	450

2025 HUU Fire Prevention and Law Enforcement Activities:

- Defensible Space Inspections: 2,549
- Public Education Contact Hours: 7,040
- Arson Arrest and other Arrests: 2
- Citations: 5
- Fire Investigations: 27

2025 Aviation Statistics:

Rohnerville Air Attack Base

- Air Attack 120 Flight Hours: 197.75
- Tanker 96 Flight Hours: 148.03
- Alternate Aircraft Flight Hours: 0
- Combined Flight Hours: 148.03
- Total Retardant from Rohnerville: 105,891 Gallons

Kneeland Helitack Base

- Total Incident Responses: 43
- Copter Flight Hours: 192.3
- Flight Hours: 283
- Gallons of Water Dropped: 383,710
- Fire Hours: 103.4
- Medivac/Air Rescue Hours: 31
- Helitorch Gallons: 800
- Aerial Ignition Balls Dropped: 900

Exclusive Use Helicopter 93HT

- Total Flight Hours: 92.20
- Gallons of Water Dropped: 798,000

Helitender 102

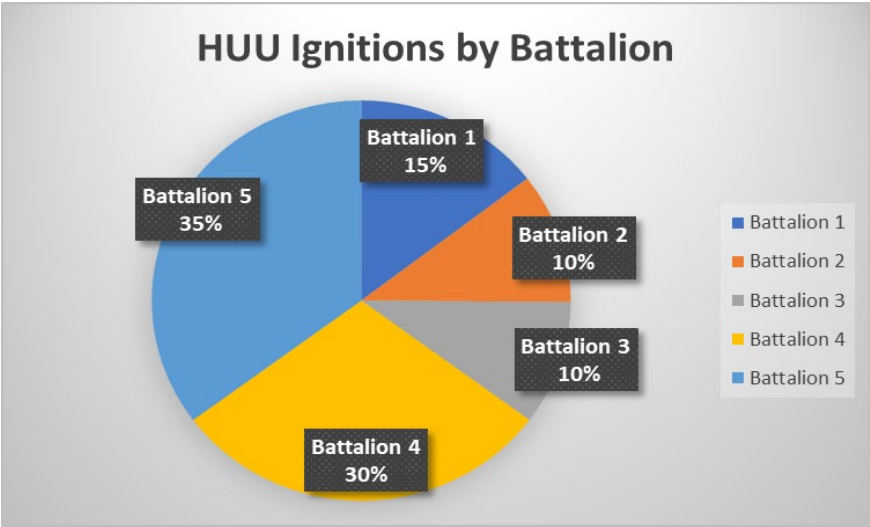
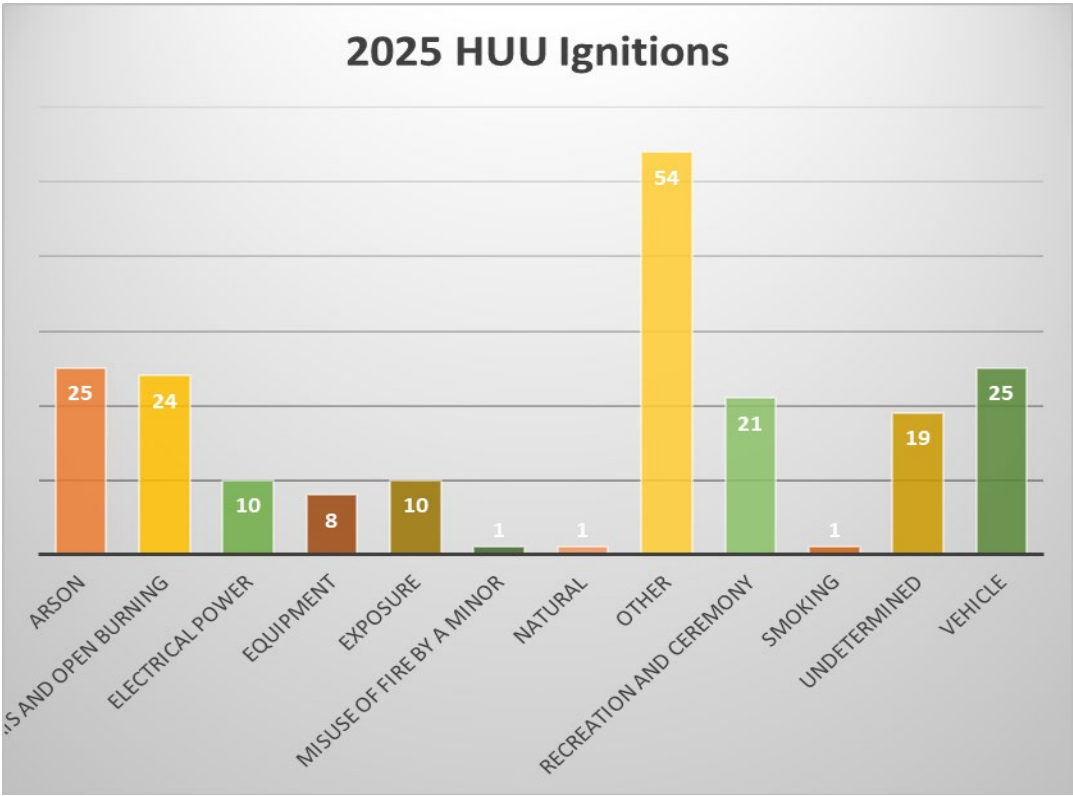
- Miles Driven: 10,309

Fire suppression activities have a major influence on fire size and initial attack success. The 2008 to 2025 peak fire season information is summarized below.

Year	IA Success %	Fires <10 acres	Ignitions	Large Fires	Wildland engines staffed	Peak Staffing	Copter / Air Attack	Burn suspension
2015	96	343	358	15	1/15 - 12/16	5/15 - 11/15	5/08 - 11/30	6/29 - 10/29
2016	98	201	206	5	01/1 - 12/31	6/01 - 11/07	5/19 - 11/14	7/01 - 11/07
2017	97	182	187	5	01/1 - 12/31	7/10 - 11/05	05/1 - 11/20	7/10 - 11/03
2018	99	206	208	2	01/1 - 12/31	6/11 - 12/10	4/16 - 12/9	7/02 - 12/10
2019	99	153	154	1	01/1 - 12/31	7/01 - 12/08	5/20 - 12/8	7/22 - 12/08
2020	98	162	165	3	01/1 - 12/31	6/15 - 12/20	5/25 - 12/20	6/29 - 11/09
2021	97	105	108	3	01/1 - 12/31	6/21 - 12/27	5/03 - 12/31	7/01 - 10/19
2022	97	127	131	4	01/1 - 12/31	6/13 - 11/21	4/18 - 11/21	7/01 - 10/19
2023	98	115	117	2	01/1 - 12/31	6/19 - 11/06	06/4 - 10/31	7/31 - 10/09
2024	99	169	170	1	01/1 - 12/31	06/3 - 12/15	06/03 - 12/15	7/01 - 11/01
2025	98	196	199	3	01/1 - 12/31	3/17 - 12/07	03/17 - 12/07	6/30 - 10/13

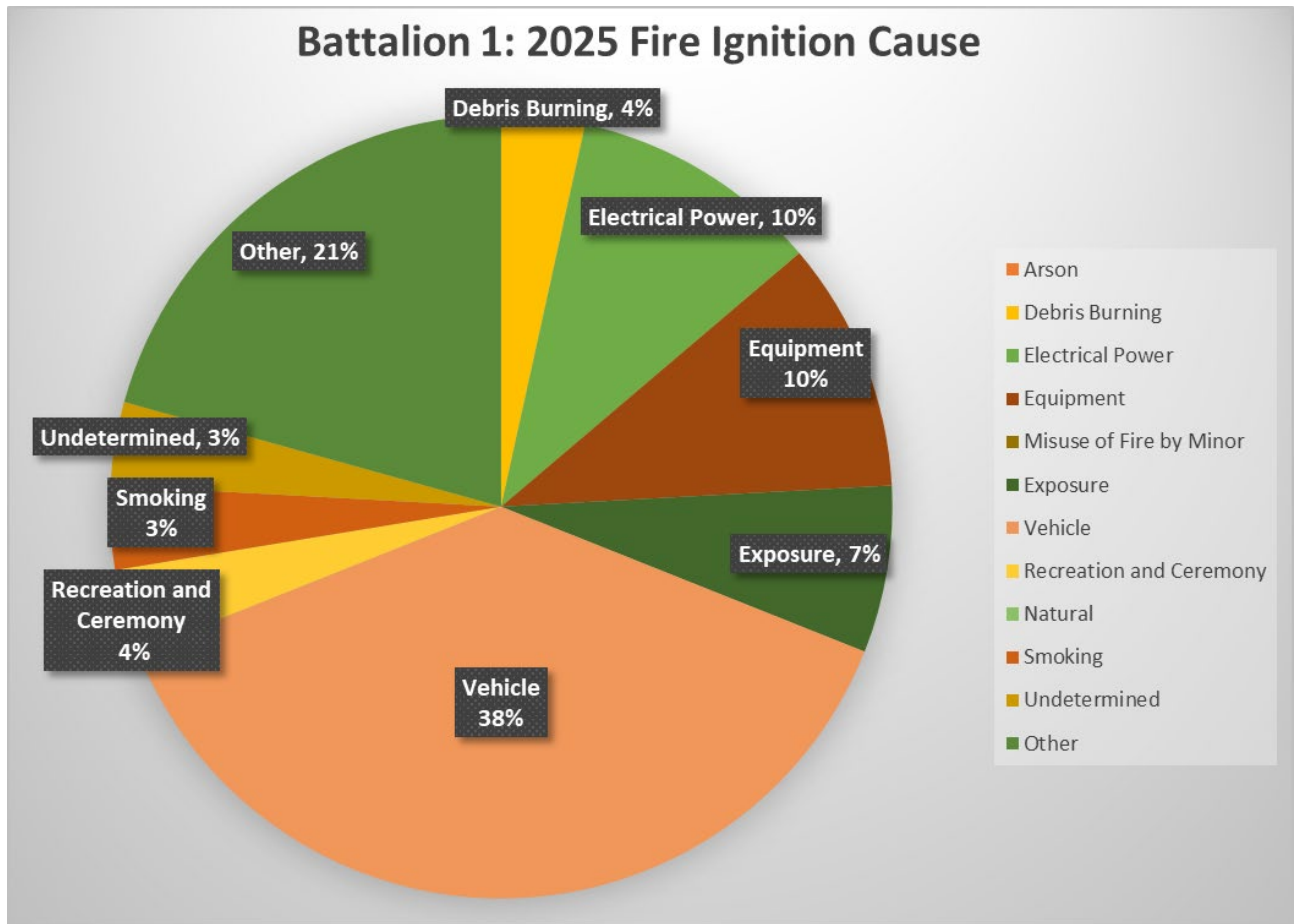
Initial attack success, ignition, and fire size data was derived from the FRAP ignitions database. It is based upon data extracted from the CAIRS (2008 to 2018) and CALFIRS (2019 to present) fire reporting systems, as well as the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system for location data. Staffing dates were derived from station logs.

Humboldt Del Norte Unit



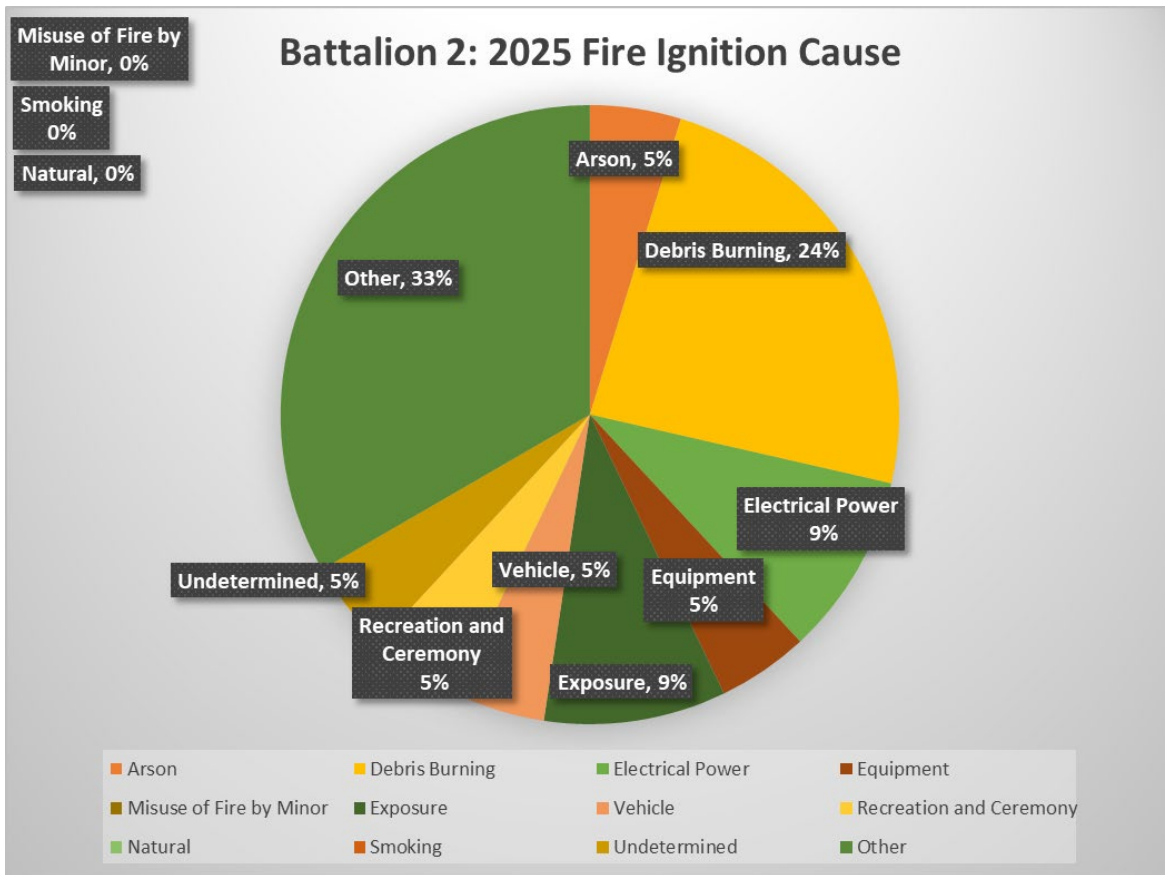
Battalion	Total Ignitions
Battalion 1	29
Battalion 2	21
Battalion 3	20
Battalion 4	59
Battalion 5	70
Grand Total	199

Battalion 1



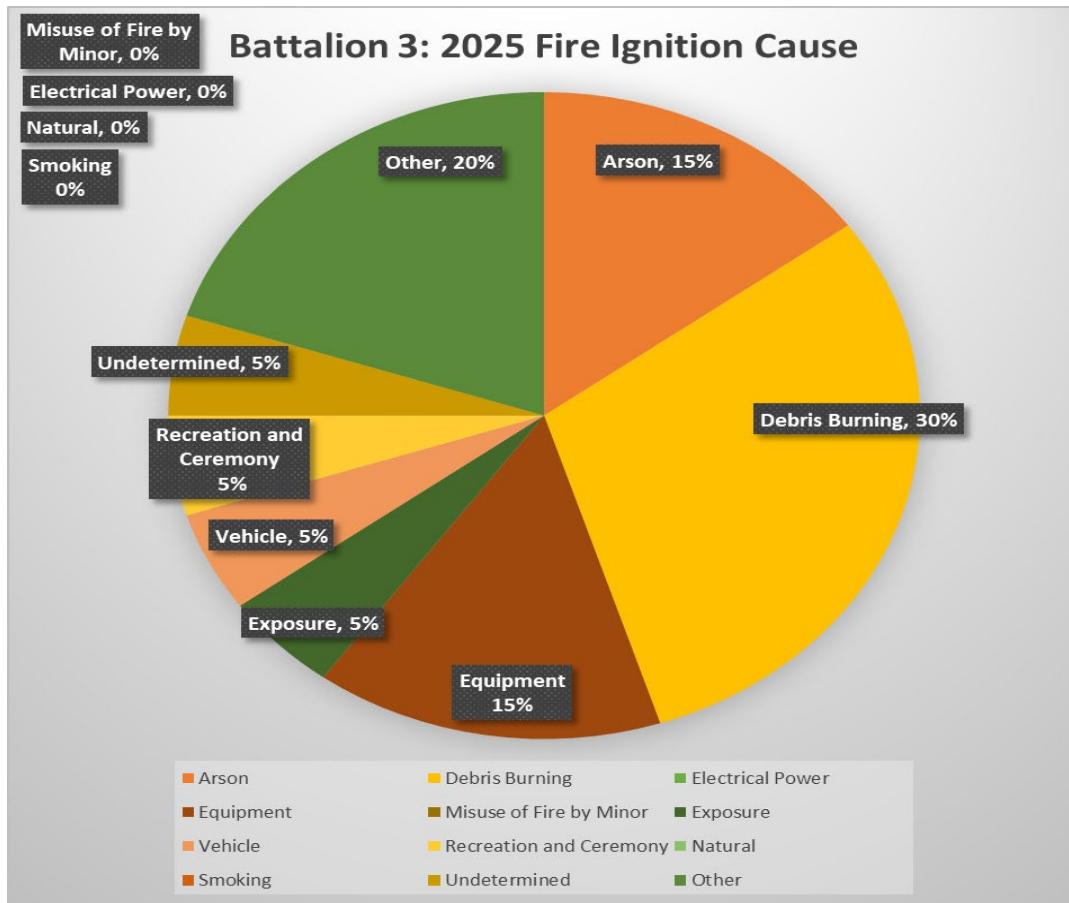
Cause	Battalion 1: 2025 Fire Ignition Cause
Arson	0
Debris Burning	1
Electrical Power	3
Equipment	3
Misuse of Fire by Minor	0
Exposure	2
Vehicle	11
Recreation and Ceremony	1
Natural	0
Smoking	1
Undetermined	1
Other	6
Grand Total	29

Battalion 2



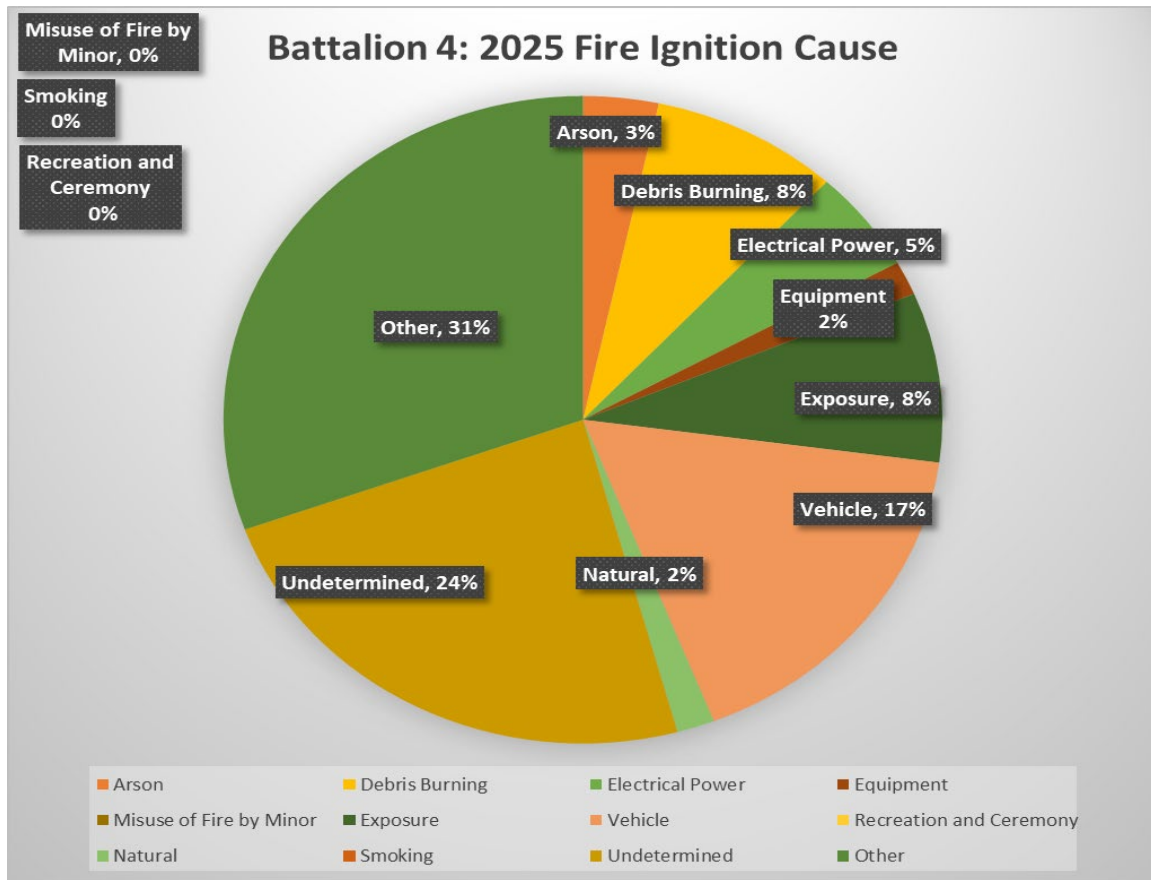
Cause	Battalion 2: 2025 Fire Ignition Cause
Arson	1
Debris Burning	5
Electrical Power	2
Equipment	1
Misuse of Fire by Minor	0
Exposure	2
Vehicle	1
Recreation and Ceremony	1
Natural	0
Smoking	0
Undetermined	1
Other	7
Grand Total	21

Battalion 3



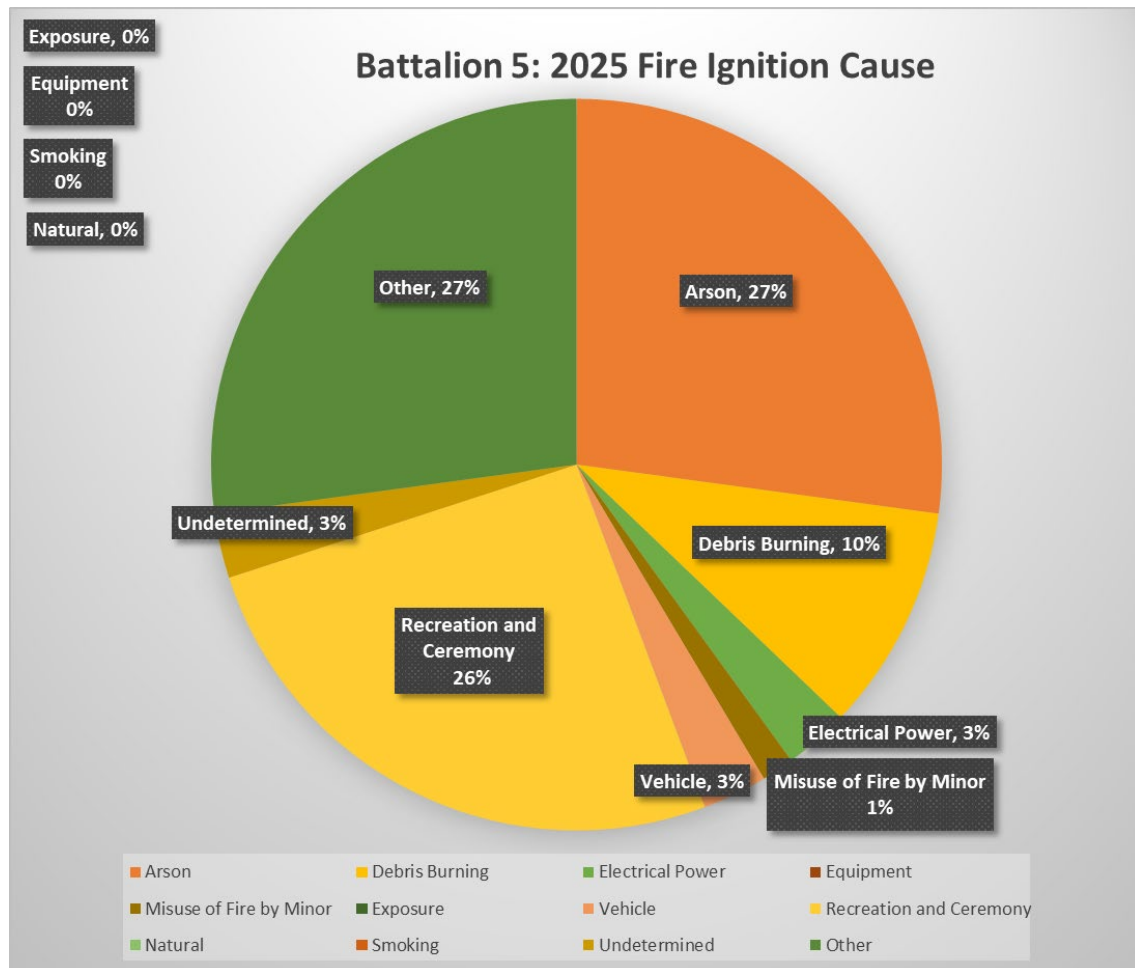
Cause	Battalion 3: 2025 Fire Ignition Cause
Arson	3
Debris Burning	6
Electrical Power	0
Equipment	3
Misuse of Fire by Minor	0
Exposure	1
Vehicle	1
Recreation and Ceremony	1
Natural	0
Smoking	0
Undetermined	1
Other	4
Grand Total	20

Battalion 4



Cause	Battalion 4: 2025 Fire Ignition Cause
Arson	2
Debris Burning	5
Electrical Power	3
Equipment	1
Misuse of Fire by Minor	0
Exposure	5
Vehicle	10
Recreation and Ceremony	0
Natural	1
Smoking	0
Undetermined	14
Other	18
Grand Total	59

Battalion 5

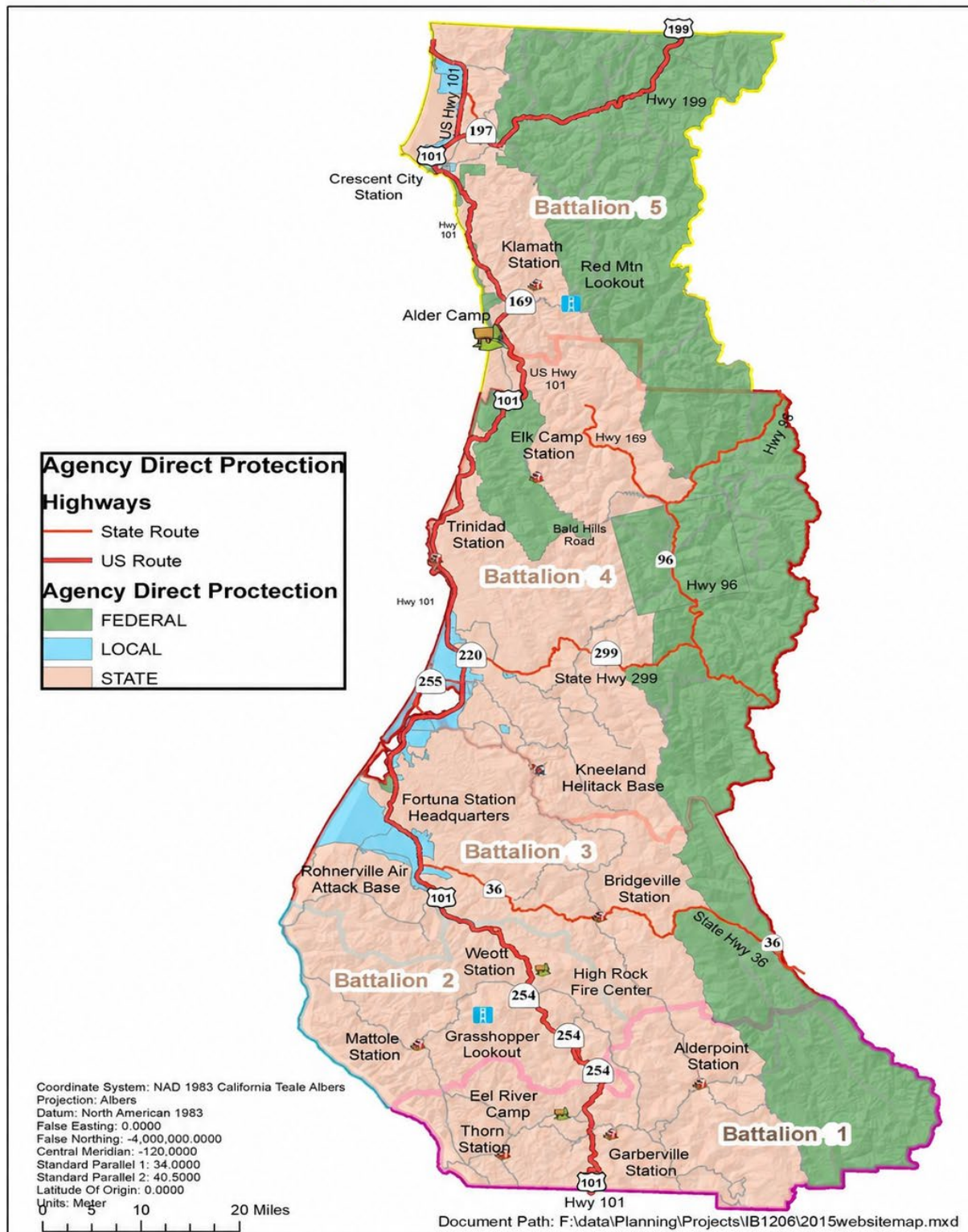


Cause	Battalion 5: 2025 Fire Ignition Cause
Arson	19
Debris Burning	7
Electrical Power	2
Equipment	0
Misuse of Fire by Minor	1
Exposure	0
Vehicle	2
Recreation and Ceremony	18
Natural	0
Smoking	0
Undetermined	2
Other	19
Grand Total	70

APPENDIX E: MAPS

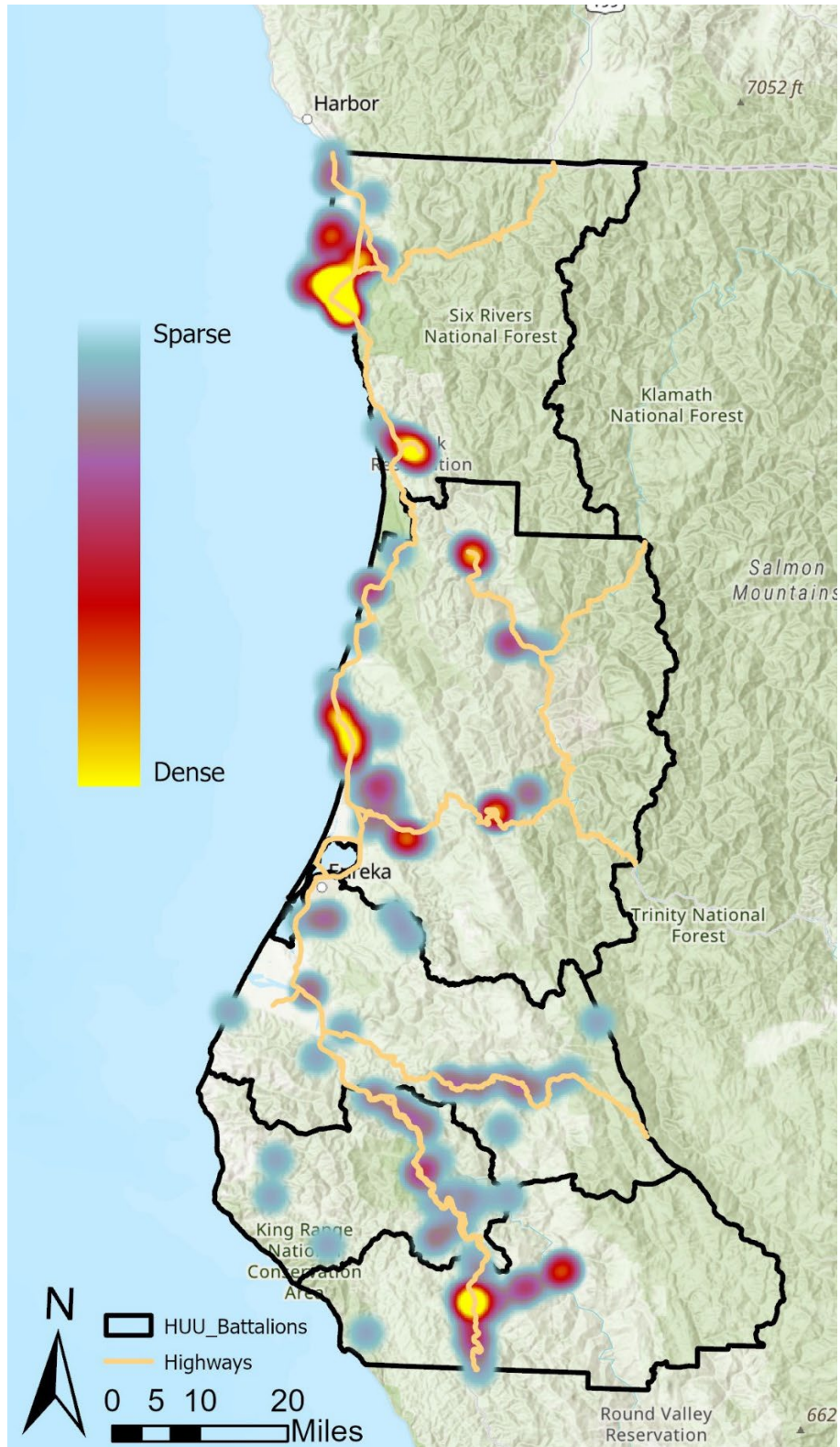


Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Agency Direct Protection





Unit Ignitions: 2025



ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORTING 2025

HUU fuels reduction projects are identified through the Unit Fire Plan, Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), Firewise Community Action Plans, Fire Safe Councils, and through collaboration with the California Conservation Corps (CCC). In addition to the CAL FIRE fuel reduction projects, the Unit also collaborates with Humboldt County Resource Conservation District, local Fire Safe Councils, various nonprofit organizations, and other local agencies to provide non-monetary match contributions for their grant funding or other fire-and-safety program support. These activities included fuel treatments, public outreach and education, presentations to the County Board of Supervisors, public meetings for CWPP updates, and support of local Fire Safe Council CWPP development.

Fuels Reduction Projects

In 2025, HUU successfully treated a total of **6,632.2 acres** through various fuel reduction efforts. These treatments included:

- **5,268.4 acres** in general fuel reduction
- **5 acres** in the construction and maintenance of fuel breaks
- **10.8 acres** of Right-of-Way (ROW) clearance
- **1,348 acres** treated through prescribed fire

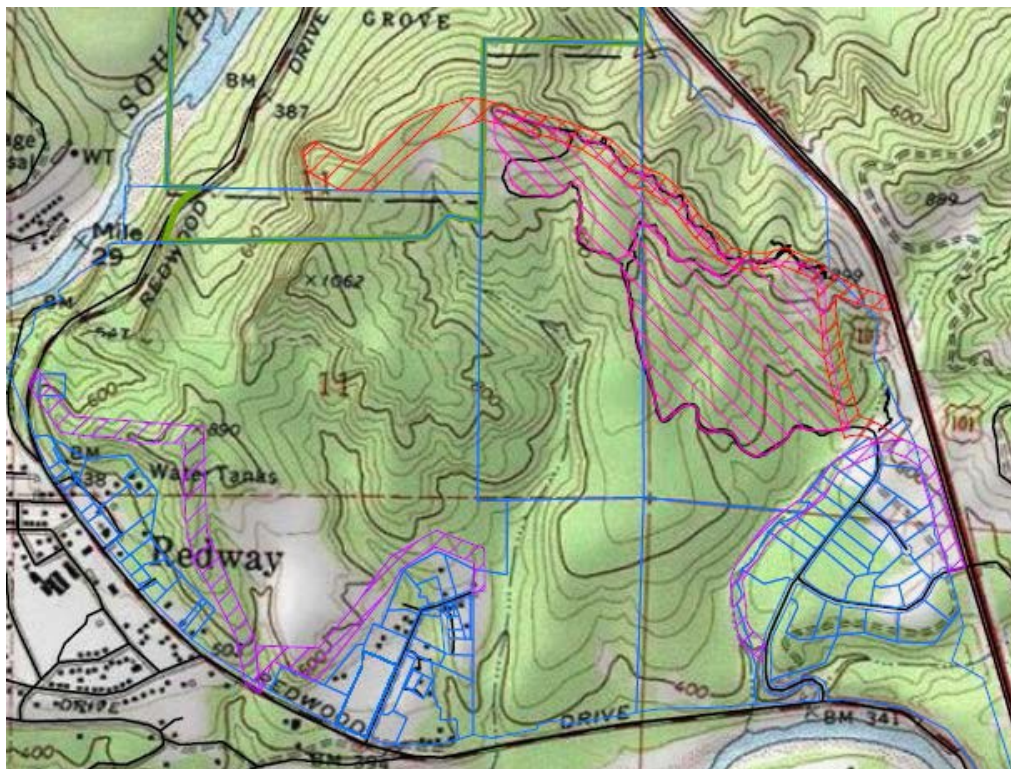


Image 6 Redway Shaded Fuel Break Project 2022-24

Enhanced control measures have been implemented on the Redway Shaded Fuel Break Project. This is the first initiative within the HUU to utilize the new Statewide Vegetation Treatment Programmatic Environmental Impact

Report (CalVTP PEIR). The project integrates multiple treatment strategies, including the construction of a ridge-line shaded fuel break and fuel reduction within the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The final phase will involve the application of prescribed fire, scheduled for completion in 2025, pending favorable conditions.

HUU continues to plan and prepare for large-scale fuel reduction efforts aimed at increasing community resilience and forest health. Upcoming initiatives include:

- A continuous shaded fuel break along the South Fork Mountain Ridge, spanning from Highway 299 to Highway 36
- Fuel breaks along critical watershed divides and state highway corridors
- Wildland-urban interface (WUI) fuels reduction projects adjacent to cities and communities
- Landscape-scale treatment projects that incorporate the use of project byproducts for forest products and biomass energy production

Several fuel reduction projects were improved or maintained in 2024 to ensure their continued effectiveness. These include:

- Bridgeville Shaded Fuel Break (SFB)
- Riverside Park SFB
- Blue Lake/Orick Levee
- Alder Camp Fuel Reduction (FR)
- Mottle Road FR
- Big Flat–Hiouchi Community FR
- Redwood National Park FR
- Gasquet SFB
- SRF Little Jones Creek SFB
- Lawrence Ranch SFB
- Table Bluff FR
- Kirtley SFB
- Klamath Levee SFB

These efforts reflect HUU's ongoing commitment to reducing wildfire risk, improving forest and rangeland resilience, and supporting community and environmental safety.

CAL FIRE HUU Vegetation Management Program (VMP) – Active and Planned Prescribed Burns

HUU is actively conducting and planning prescribed burns under the Vegetation Management Program (VMP) at the following locations: Eaton Roughs 19 VMP, England 19 VMP, French Ranch 18 VMP, Hunt Ranch 19 VMP, Lone Star 19 VMP, Mountain View 19 VMP, Stewart Ranch 22 VMP, and Williams Ridge 22 VMP. The implementation of each prescribed burn (Rx burn) is contingent upon site-specific conditions, fire weather, resource availability, and landowner objectives.

Recent prescribed fire operations have been conducted in collaboration with multiple partners, resulting in the following treated acreages:

- Local timber companies: 54 acres
- Humboldt Redwoods State Park: 434 acres
- Redwood National Park: 707.59 acres
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife: 62.88 acres

Additionally, three prescribed burns were completed under the Vegetation Management Program (VMP) on the French Ranch Rx site, treating a total of 409.56 acres. On the England Rx site, three smaller VMP plots were treated, totaling 32.92 acres. CAL FIRE HUU also provided support to the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association, assisting with five separate projects that collectively treated 149.77 acres. The Eel River Rx VMP was also successfully implemented, treating 60.07 acres.

The primary objectives of these prescribed burns include:

- Reducing conifer encroachment to maintain and restore native oak woodland ecosystems
- Enhancing rangelands, timberlands, and native prairies
- Reducing hazardous fuel loads to mitigate wildfire risk
- Roadside clearing for ingress/egress

Looking ahead to 2026, CAL FIRE HUU remains committed to strengthening partnerships with private landowners and local stakeholders. Our goal is to increase the pace and scale of prescribed fire activities within the unit and to continue leading efforts in strategic fuel reduction and land stewardship.

Cooperative Partnership Burning

CAL FIRE HUU, Redwood National Park, and Humboldt Redwood State Parks have a strong partnership conducting prescribed burning operations. The objectives of these projects are to restore and maintain open prairie grasslands by controlling fir encroachment utilizing prescribed fire. Over the past several decades the Douglas-fir encroachment into open grasslands, has threatened open range habitat and increased the potential for catastrophic wildfire.

CAL FIRE also maintains a collaborative partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to implement prescribed fire on State Wildlife Areas, advancing both ecological and public safety objectives. Through this coordination, CAL FIRE applies beneficial fire to reduce hazardous fuel loads while restoring fire as a natural ecological process. These treatments help suppress invasive species, promote native vegetation recruitment, and reestablish more resilient, fire-adapted landscapes consistent with historic fire regimes. By aligning operational capacity with resource management goals, this partnership enhances habitat quality, supports biodiversity, and reduces wildfire risk across shared landscapes.

HUU works closely with the Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC) Training Exchange (TREX), Cultural Fire Management Council (CFMC) TREX, and Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association (HCPBA). The MKWC hosted the Klamath River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX) each fall. With help from The Nature Conservancy, the Fire Learning Network, and the Karuk Tribe, and more recently from HUU and the

USFS, these events have trained hundreds of fire fighters in the skills needed for prescribed burning and have succeeded in burning hundreds of acres on private lands.

HUU will continue to provide support, expertise, permits, equipment, and overhead to ensure successful execution of other prescribed burners with the Unit. We will continue to assist other agencies, prescribed burning organizations, and private burners to build capacity and continue enhancing all prescribed burning efforts.

Additionally, HUU is engaged in a cooperative fuel reduction project located on Six Rivers National Forest timberlands near the community of Mad River. This project includes the use of a CAL FIRE air curtain burner to burn forest fuels. Six Rivers National Forest will continue the use of the CAL FIRE air curtain burner through 2026 as a collaborative project under CFMA to reduce forest fuel loading on Six Rivers National Forest properties adjacent to private properties near Ruth and the upper Mad River watershed. The air curtain burner is presently in use in the Charlotta and Shivley Shaded fuel break area being utilized to dispose of winter storm debris.



Image 7 Air Curtain Burner being utilized for storm damage clean-up in Willow Creek.