

CAL FIRE NEVADA-YUBA-PLACER UNIT 2026 STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN



In cooperation with



Nevada Yuba Placer Unit
&
Placer County Fire Department

Jim Hudson
Unit and Fire Chief



2026 UNIT STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN AMENDMENTS

Date	Section Updated	Page Number Update	Description of Update	Updated By
4/30/2026	Appendix C	91-105	Update of Statistics for 2026	SG
4/30/2026	Appendix E	108-120	Updates to Battalion projects, added descriptions and changed some effective dates.	DL
4/30/2026	Supplement: 2025	125-126	Updated Prevention Bureau and cost recovery information	DL
4/30/2026	Appendix F	121-123	Truncated list of older projects to reflect a more current and accurate list of relevant projects for the years surrounding 2021 to 2025	SG
4/30/2026	Appendix D	106-107	Reduced list of grant awards to reflect 2019-2026	DL
4/30/2026	Section I	10-13	Updated Unit Preparedness and Firefighting Capabilities	DL
	Signatures	1	Received Current signatures for 2026	DL



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Signatures Page

2026 Unit Strategic Fire Plan developed for Nevada Yuba Placer Unit

This Plan:

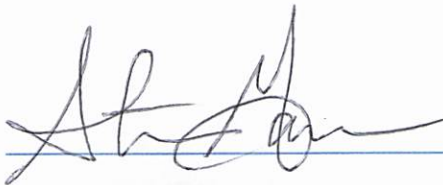
- It is collaboratively developed. Interested parties, Federal, State, City, and County agencies within NEU have been consulted and are listed in the plan.
- Identifies and prioritizes pre-fire and post fire management strategies and tactics meant to reduce the loss of values at risk within NEU.
- It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



Unit Chief
Jim Hudson

5/1/26

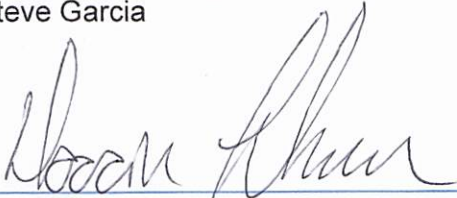
Date



Pre-Fire Planning Division
Steve Garcia

5/21/2026

Date



Pre-Fire Engineer
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5/21/2026

Date

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit (NEU) Strategic Fire Plan is a product of the implementation of the State Fire Plan. The State Fire Plan provides an analysis procedure utilizing, in part, computer based geographical information data that is validated by experienced fire managers to assess fire fuel hazards and risks to design and implement mitigation activities. The NEU Strategic Fire Plan provides background information, fuels and fire data, proposed projects, and individual Battalion reports outlining mitigation activities commonly carried out each year. The NEU Strategic Fire Plan is our local road map to create and maintain defensible landscapes to protect those assets vital to California.

NEU is one of 21 administrative Units within the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. NEU faces many challenges, not the least of which is two of its counties, Placer and Nevada, are two of the fastest growing counties within the state. This leads to the urbanization of fire adapted vegetation types and ecosystems. Many of the people moving to these mid Sierra Nevada rural counties are coming from urban areas such as the San Francisco Bay area, Los Angeles, and Sacramento.

A big challenge facing NEU is education. Many new residents do not realize what building houses in the middle of fire adapted ecosystems means for their safety and the need for fuels management to comply with PRC 4291. The forest types surrounding the population centers within NEU are Mixed Conifer, Ponderosa/Shrub, Montane Chaparral, and California Oak Woodland. Fire adapted ecosystem research shows that prior to European settlement; fire return intervals ranged from 2 to 8 years in California Oak Woodlands and 5 to 16 years in the remaining forest types. This equated to low intensity fires at frequent intervals indicative of lower fuel loading. From 1900 to 1920, wildfires have been suppressed in these vegetation types. Thus, over the last 80 - 100 years' vegetative fuels have increased significantly by tons per acre. Unnaturally high fuel loads have resulted. But most of the public do not realize this, nor do they understand what this means in terms of fire intensity and their safety. They have come to believe what they see now is "natural."

Wildfires in these unnatural fuel load conditions are very intense and more difficult to suppress. Overlay the mix of homes and personal property upon these areas and suppression is even more difficult. The task at hand is to educate the citizens within these areas as to the dangers of living in these fuels and to induce the public to take an active role in becoming an informed and appropriate land steward and taking it upon themselves to manage the fuels around their structures. Creating "defensible space" around these structures is the single best thing a resident can accomplish to protect their property. Secondary to the effort of creating defensible space around their homes, it is a landowner's responsibility to apply his or her stewardship responsibility across their entire ownership. The overall effect of each property owner properly managing wildland fuels results in a landscape level fuel reduction and a commensurate reduction in fire intensity. Once this is achieved, the goal of reducing costs and losses to human lives, property and natural resources will be reached.

Priorities and Goals

The State Board of Forestry and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection have drafted a comprehensive update of the Fire Plan for wildland fire protection in California. NEU has reviewed the 2018 Strategic Fire Plan (State) goals to develop and incorporate those goals into the Unit Strategic Fire Plan. NEU's priorities provide the foundation upon which our local goals and objects are built. NEU's priorities and Goals are as follows:

Priorities:

1. To reduce the risks to citizens and emergency responders from wildland fire.
2. Develop a "land stewardship" ethic in the residents of the NEU.

Goals:

1. Demonstrate methods that individuals and the community can use to properly manage their lands to improve forest resiliency and reduce the ignitability of structures in the Wildland Urban Interface.
2. Raise citizen and stakeholder awareness of fire risks and enlist their help and participation in risk reduction.
3. Assist local government in developing standards, policies, and plans, which will result in local, and landscape level fuel modifications.
4. Implement local and landscape level projects and programs that decrease fire risk and increase the potential for success on initial attack.

Current Pre-Fire Management and Development

Since the implementation of the State Fire Plan in 1996 and its evolution into the current NEU Strategic Fire Plan, interest by stakeholders has resulted in broad support for community wildfire safety. These groups in cooperation with CAL FIRE have taken the lead in promoting fire safe activities. Through these groups and our own personnel, we have initiated and completed several fuel reduction projects throughout NEU. It is observed that these projects help reduce the overall government costs and citizen losses resulting from a costly and damaging fire. We continuously encounter new obstacles in the project implementation stage: agency spending procedures, grant requirements, environmental documentation, etc. ...However, through the continued effort of our staff and the other stakeholders, fuel reduction and education projects will continue.

Unit Overview

The Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit (NEU) is in mid-California, along the east side of the state. The Administrative Unit boundary encompasses all of [Nevada](#), [Yuba](#), [Placer](#), [Sierra](#), and [Sutter](#) counties and extends from the Sacramento Valley floor over the crest of the Sierra Nevada to the Nevada state line. The total acreage in NEU is 2,911,086. Of the total acres, approximately 65% is forested land. The balance of acres divides nearly equally between grass and brush. CAL FIRE has direct responsibility for fire protection on approximately 1,200,000 acres. Total direct protection area (DPA) is approximately 875,000 acres, leaving approximately 325,000 acres of state responsibility area serviced by the USFS through local operating agreements.

Historical Influences

There are three major historical influences that continue to shape fire planning within NEU. These influences also reflect NEU's Assets at Risk, which are referenced in a separate section of this plan.

The first historical influence is the installation of the Transcontinental Railroad (TCRR) between approximately 1860 and 1890, which created a checkerboard pattern of land ownership. This pattern consists of alternating public and private lands managed under differing objectives and protected by different fire agencies.

The second influence is the development of major hydroelectric infrastructure (HYDRO) between approximately 1912 and 1966. This infrastructure introduced extensive ignition sources and exposure concerns across NEU while establishing critical water and power systems that remain essential to Northern California.

The third influence is the construction of Interstate 80 (I-80) between approximately 1950 and 1960. This corridor significantly increased accessibility to the region, accelerated population growth, expanded the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), and created both ignition risk and major infrastructure protection requirements.

Each of these influences has contributed to the current fire environment within NEU and is directly linked to the unit's Assets at Risk. Life, property, and natural resources remain the overarching priorities for wildland firefighting agencies. Within NEU, assets at risk are categorized as:

Life Safety

Fixed Property, Infrastructure Assets, and Real Estate

Watershed Values, Habitat, and Natural Resources

Programs and projects implemented by the Nevada Yuba Placer Unit are designed to mitigate wildfire threats to these identified values.

Transcontinental Railroad (TCRR) (Circa 1860–1890)

To incentivize construction of the TCRR, the federal government passed the Pacific Railroad Act of 1862. The Act authorized a 400-foot right-of-way and granted ten square miles of land for each mile of track constructed. Rather than forming a continuous corridor, these lands were distributed in a checkerboard pattern.

The intent of the land grants was to enable railroad companies to sell portions of land to finance infrastructure development. By creating alternating square-mile sections of federal and private ownership, federal lands increased in value as adjacent private lands were sold and developed.

Today, this checkerboard ownership pattern remains a visible legacy of the railroad's construction through NEU. [Union Pacific Railroad](#) currently owns and operates the commercial rail system within the unit, with rail traffic averaging approximately 45–50 trains per day.

Large federal landholdings within NEU continue to be managed under a multiple-use framework. The primary federal land management agencies include the [U.S. Forest Service](#) (managing [Tahoe National Forest](#), [Plumas National Forest](#), and [Eldorado National Forest – Tahoe Management Unit](#)), the [Bureau of Land Management](#), and the [Bureau of Reclamation](#). Other federal entities, including the United States Air Force, hold lands within NEU such as Beale Air Force Base.

Portions of State Responsibility Area (SRA) located within the broader Federal Direct Protection Area (DPA) receive fire protection through local operating agreements. These agreements require SRA lands within Federal DPA to receive protection comparable to SRA lands within the State's DPA. However, topographic and administrative constraints can create operational challenges and may significantly impact adjacent private lands where ownership patterns are interspersed.

Hydroelectric Infrastructure (HYDRO) (Circa 1912–1966)

Hydroelectric development in NEU began in the early 20th century and has resulted in an extensive system of reservoirs, dams, powerhouses, and transmission infrastructure that remains critical to the region.

Collectively, these systems store more than 1.6 million acre-feet of water across numerous reservoirs used for domestic supply, agriculture, recreation, and environmental management. Regional generating capacity totals approximately 700 megawatts, producing enough renewable electricity annually to serve more than 500,000 homes.

Major operators within NEU include the [Placer County Water Agency](#), the [Nevada Irrigation District](#), and the [Yuba County Water Agency](#). These agencies operate in coordination with [Pacific Gas and Electric Company](#) to distribute power across Northern California.

While these systems provide essential water storage, renewable energy, and recreation opportunities, they also introduce ignition risks, access constraints, and complex interagency coordination requirements that significantly influence wildfire planning and response within NEU.

Installation of Interstate 80 (I-80) (Circa 1950–1960)

Constructed between 1956 and 1961, Interstate 80 is the primary east–west transportation corridor linking Reno and San Francisco. Travel time from downtown Sacramento to central portions of NEU is less than one hour, making the area viable for daily commuting. This accessibility has contributed significantly to population growth since 1960 and expansion of the Wildland Urban Interface.

Communities connected by Interstate 80 include Roseville, Rocklin, Loomis, Newcastle, Auburn, Colfax, and Truckee.

Freight movement along the corridor is critical to both regional and national commerce. Interstate 80 is part of the National Highway Freight Network and carries substantial volumes of goods daily. Economic analyses of major interstate freight corridors commonly estimate impacts approaching \$1 million per minute of closure due to disrupted supply chains and logistics. While specific impacts vary by event and duration, the corridor’s economic significance is widely recognized and justifies one of the most extensive snow removal and incident management programs in the United States. Closure for any reason—whether weather, accidents, or wildfire—is highly disruptive and avoided whenever possible.

Interstate 80 descends from 7,239 feet at Donner Summit to 531 feet at Loomis, a total elevation change of 6,708 feet over approximately 67 miles. This steep gradient generates substantial braking friction for commercial vehicles traveling downslope toward the Sacramento Valley. During summer months, when temperatures are high and fuels are dry, wildfire potential increases due to overheated brakes or vehicle fires. Vehicles traveling uphill may also overheat, creating roadside ignition risks.

NEU works closely with state and local cooperators to prevent roadside ignitions from escalating into major wildland fires and to protect this critical transportation corridor during wildfire incidents.

Demographics

NEU’s primary service area encompasses 2,993 square miles. Population will continue to increase over the next decade in this area. SRA areas and LRA areas where NEU has responsibility for fire protection will experience this population growth, creating more risk and increased density of Wildland Urban Interface.

Table 1. - Land Area and Population Statistics, CAL FIRE Nevada Yuba Placer Unit, All Counties (2010 – 2024)

County Name	Land Area (Acres)	Year 2010	July 1, 2024	Trend
Nevada	621,870	98,764	100,177	Upward
Yuba	403,641	72,155	87,091	Upward
Placer	898,787	384,432	429,048	Upward
Sutter	385,625	94,737	97,327	Upward
Sierra	601,163	3,240	3,178	Downward
Totals	2,911,086	653,328	716,821	Upward

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Physical Description of Environmental Conditions

The physical variability of this portion of California is broad and is a function of geologic and meteorological factors. The elevation range extends from the floor of the Sacramento Valley (<500 ft.) to the high points along the crest of the Sierra Nevada (>9000 ft.). Topographic influences and aspects coupled with the elevation changes provide NEU with some of the most diverse landscapes in the State. Topography and soil variations provide a vegetation mosaic where cover types are mixed and extend beyond elevational dividing lines. The Mediterranean climate provides sufficient precipitation and growing season, and the highly productive soils sustain significant plant growth. Annually, and over time, the total biomass production is significant. All cover types in NEU generate sufficient annual and combined multi-year fuel loading to cause significant fire risk.

The agricultural grassland of the Sacramento Valley and the oak woodlands of the foothills are dominated by grass fuels. The density of grassland fuel is largely dependent on the quantity and timing of annual rainfall. Grass fuels are an annually critical fire concern. Fires in these potentially dense, light flashy fuels commonly result in rapid rates of spread and normally consume many acres. Wind effects from certain weather patterns at certain times of the year have resulted in extremely hazardous, rapidly expanding wildfires that damage and destroy many structures.

The oak woodlands include a significant mixed chaparral component on east and south facing slopes. The oak woodlands at the lower elevations develop into montane hardwood-conifer. The primary dividing element is elevation change. Areas above 1200' elevation typically sustain forest cover; areas below typically sustain oak woodlands with brush and grass.

Locations above 3000' transition to Sierran Mixed Conifer. Annual biomass production from these timber fuel types is impressive ranging from 40 to 50 ft³/ac/year. Much of this volume occurs in the form of light fuels, needles, and bark. In this zone, the density and distribution of hazardous fuel loading is largely a function of winter storm and pest damage. Forest fuels reach critical moisture levels in response to weather and eventually reach a point of availability to burn. Under normal average weather conditions in dense forest fuel loading, any ignition can result in large, costly, and damaging wildfire.

Above 5500' in elevation, the timber type transitions to true fir and sub-alpine conifer where environmental factors generally limit biomass production. Juniper and sage brush types dominate the higher elevations and eastside rain-shadow lying east of the crest.

Weather and Topography

The topography within NEU changes drastically from the flat lands of the Sacramento Valley below the 500' elevation to the steep upper slopes of the Sierra Nevada above 7,000'. The landscape aspect trend is generally west facing but interior and lateral slopes are common in all directions. Flat lands of the valley give way to rolling hills that eventually become steep inner-gorge in mid to higher elevation watersheds.

Predominant weather patterns in NEU are characterized by hot dry summers and mild to cool winters. The precipitation in lower elevations is generally in the form of rain with accumulations approximating 17 to 20 inches annually. Higher elevations commonly

receive annual snow accumulations of 10 to 20 feet. Predominant winds are southwest but commonly become north to northeast following weather systems.

Annually fire weather conditions become critical in late July through October. Red Flag warnings are common throughout the summer and largely attributed to low relative humidity and strong north winds. The average summer day is 85-95 degrees, winds southwest 0-7 with RH of 20-25 percent. Under these common conditions the ignition potential and likelihood of a fire growing into a significant event is high.

Fire History

CAL FIRE strives to extinguish 95% of all wildland fires at 10 acres or less. For those few fires that exceed 10 acres, costs of suppression and value losses grow exponentially. Fire history for the last decade shows that most “failures”, fires that are greater than 10 acres, occur primarily on brush and grass covered lands west of Highway 49. Some factors that contribute to these failures include limited resources, long response times, arson and negligence, delayed detection / reporting, fuel types of rapid spread rate, multiple jurisdictions, longer aircraft flight times, simultaneous rapidly expanding incidents.

Fire-threat is significant along the highway 20-49-80 corridor, and many factors contribute to a high success rate in containing wildfires:

- Quick detection – Many people, cell phones, lookout towers...
- Numerous State & Local fire suppression resources
- A single dispatch center (Grass Valley ECC) for most agencies
- Rapid response & turn-around times for air resources (tankers)

It must be reinforced, however, that a wildfire occurring on a severe fire weather day (hot, dry, and windy) will spread with such speed and intensity, that even the promptest response by emergency resources and most aggressive fire control tactics may be ineffective.

There are many local examples of this type of fire – here are some recent ones:

Fire	Year	Community	Size in Acres	Structures Lost
Mosquito	2022	Foresthill	76,788	78
Rices	2022	French Corral	920	13
Glenn	2021	Dobbins	184	10
River	2021	Colfax	2,619	142
Intanko	2021	Wheatland	939	2
Willow	2020	Oregon House	1,311	41
Jones	2020	Newtown	705	21
Cascade	2017	Oregon House	9,989	142
McCourtney	2017	Grass Valley	76	6
Lobo	2017	Bitney Springs	821	25
Lowell	2015	You Bet	2,304	1
King	2014	Placer / El Dorado County	97,717	80
Applegate	2014	Applegate	459	10
Dog Bar	2014	Alta Sierra	155	5
Robbers	2012	Iowa Hill	2,635	1

CAL FIRE NEU implements a Unit Policy requiring that all fires 10 acres or greater are mapped to provide a GIS database of fire perimeters. Historic fire perimeter data for the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit can be downloaded from the following location:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-resource-assessment-program/fire-perimeters>

UNIT PREPAREDNESS AND FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES

NEU Facilities

NEU Headquarters is located along Interstate 80 near Auburn. At the peak of the season, NEU staffs 17 fire stations (12 State, 5 Placer County Fire Department), an air attack base, two camp programs, a fire-prevention bureau, a pre-fire planning office with GIS resource mapping capabilities, 7 RPF's, and 1 Environmental Scientist. NEU also maintains numerous types of heavy equipment.

NEU facilities are spread from the Loma Rica area, in the valley grasslands of Yuba County, through the Gold Country of Placer and Nevada Counties, eastward to Truckee and the Tahoe Basin. NEU also provides various levels of fire protection service through cooperative agreements with three counties and several fire districts. Resources are dispatched and managed through the Grass Valley Emergency Command Center, which is co-located with the Grass Valley Air Attack Base. Peak season air resources include one fixed wing air attack, two air tankers, and two exclusive use Type II Helicopter (EU). NEU supports the use of four lookouts located on State lands in Nevada, Yuba, and Placer Counties. The following is a list of NEU's facilities, equipment, and overhead personnel locations:

Location	Quantity	Personnel and Resources
Auburn Headquarters	1	Unit Chief
	2	Deputy Chief
	2	Battalion Chiefs (Training, Prevention)
	3	Operational Division Chiefs
	1	Administrative Division Chief
	3	Fire Prevention Officer - Captains
	1	Heavy Equipment Mechanic
	2	Unit Service Center
	3	Foresters (VMP, Forest Practice and Unit Forester)
	2	Training Captains
	4	Defensible Space Inspectors
	1	Public Information Officer
	1	IT Coordinator
Battalion 11		
Auburn - Station 10	1	Battalion Chief
	2	State Funded Fire Engines
	1	Bulldozer / Transport
	3	Heavy Fire Equipment Operators
	1	State Funded Reserve Fire Engine
	1	Type II Exclusive Use Helicopter
Foresthill - Station 11	2	State Funded Fire Engines
Atwood - Station 71	1	Battalion Chief

	2	Type I Engines
	1	Type I Ladder Truck
	1	Rescue Unit
Ophir – Station 72	1	Type I Engine
	1	Breathing Support
	1	Type I Water Tender
Battalion 12		
Nevada City – Station 20	1	Battalion Chief
	4	Foresters (1 - Forester II, 3 - Forester I)
	2	State Funded Fire Engines
	1	State Funded Reserve Fire Engine
	1	Bulldozer / Transport
	3	Heavy Fire Equipment Operators
	1	Fire Equipment Manager
	3	Heavy Equipment Mechanics
Higgins Corner –Station 21	2	State Funded Fire Engines
Columbia Hill – Station 42	2	State Funded Fire Engines
Battalion 13		
Colfax – Station 30	1	Battalion Chief
	2	State Funded Fire Engines (1 year around)
Alta – Station 33	2	State Funded Fire Engines
Colfax – Station 136	1	Type I Engine
	1	Type III Engine
	1	Rescue Unit
Alta – Station 198	1	Type II Engine
	1	Type II Water Tenders
Battalion 15		
Truckee – Station 50	2	Battalion Chief
	2	State Funded Fire Engines
	1	State Funded Reserve Fire Engine
Carnelian Bay – Station 55	1	State Funded Fire Engine
Battalion 16		
Smartsville – Station 40	1	Battalion Chief
	2	State Funded Fire Engines
Dobbins – Station 60	2	State Funded Fire Engines
	1	Bulldozer / Transport
	3	Heavy Fire Equipment Operators
	1	State Funded Reserve Engine
Loma Rica – Station 61	2	Battalion Chief
	1	State Funded Fire Engine
Battalion 17		
Lincoln – Station 70	1	Type I Engine

Thermalands – Station 174	1	Type I Engine
	1	Water Tender
Paige – Station 175	1	Water Tender
		Type I Engine
Sunset – Station 77	2	Battalion Chiefs
	1	Type I Engine
	1	Type III Engine
	1	Type I Ladder truck
	1	Type II Hazmat
Sheridan – Station 178	1	Type I Engine
Dry Creek - Station 79	2	Type I Engines
	1	Type I Water Tender
Grass Valley Emergency Command Center	1	Emergency Command Center Battalion Chief
	6	Emergency Command Center Captains
	17	Emergency Command Center Communications Operators
Grass Valley Air Attack Base	1	Air Attack Battalion Chief
	4	Air Attack Captains
	2	Type III Air Tankers
	1	Air Tactical Platform

NEU Camp Programs

The Placer Fire Center is a cooperative program with the California Conservation Corps (CCC). These CAL FIRE/CCC fire crews are available for fire suppression, other emergency incident mitigation, and to perform fire prevention and resource management work.

Washington Ridge (WAR) is a cooperative program with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). Based on inmate population WAR can house enough inmates to form two crews. When not responding to emergencies, the crews perform service work projects for state, federal, and local government agencies.

The California National Guard Task Force Rattlesnake (CNA 23) is a Type I Fire Crew that provides hazardous fuel reduction and wildland suppression incident response in California. The program is a cooperative program between CAL FIRE and the State of California Military Department called Task Force Rattlesnake. CNA 23 is currently housed at CAL FIRE Station 20 Nevada City and responds with 15-24 soldiers and two CAL FIRE Captains in an Emergency Crew Transport.

The Senate Bill 901 (2018) provided broad funding to address the need for wildfire resiliency throughout California. NEU received funding and hiring authority to create a multipurpose fuels reduction hand crew consisting of leadership, labor, and equipment. The designed intent is to perform hazardous fuels reduction techniques including prescribed burns, hand and mechanical fuel reduction, fire planning, and fire prevention education with an emphasis on improving public health and safety while reducing wildfire potential to California communities and forests. The Bear River Crew works under NEU's Pre-Fire Program and supports fuel reduction projects. In times of resource shortages due to wildfire activity the crew also responds to wildland fire incidents.

NEU Crew Resource	Quantity	Personnel and Resources
Placer Fire Center	1	Battalion Chief
	7	Fire Captains
	6	Fire Apparatus Engineer
	2	CCC Fire Crews
Washington Ridge Camp	1	Division Chief (Northern)
	7	Fire Captains
	3	CDCR Inmate Crews
Task Force Rattlesnake	1	California National Guard Fire Crew
	3	Fire Captains
	3	Fire Apparatus Engineer
Bear River Crew	1	Fire Captain
	1	Fire Apparatus Engineer
	1	Forestry Assistant II
	1	Equipment Operator II
	9	Forestry Technicians

NEU Fire Lookouts

Mt Howell Lookout (Placer County)

Mount Howell is located two miles south of Colfax above Interstate 80 and along the Union Pacific Railroad. The lookout was initially constructed in 1930 and has been reconstructed several times. The Lookout is unstaffed unless significant fire weather is projected. Areas serviced by Mount Howell Lookout are visible from other lookouts in NEU and numerous residents and travelers provide reports of fires in the area.



Banner Mountain Lookout (Nevada County)

Banner Mountain Lookout is located four miles east of Nevada City near Scott's Flat Reservoir. The Lookout was built in 1926 and is located amongst an extensive community of mountain homes. The lookout is staffed annually through fire season by volunteer staff.



Wolf Mountain Lookout (Nevada County)

Wolf Mountain is a broad, flat north trending ridge located in Nevada County west of Wolf Creek. The lookout was built in 1981 and is staffed annually with volunteers during fire season. The site has radio and microwave facilities.



Oregon Peak Lookout (Yuba County)

Oregon Peak Lookout is located two miles northeast of Dobbins. The lookout was built in 1935 and was completely constructed with CCC labor. The lookout provides a panoramic view of the Sacramento Valley, points south towards the heart of NEU, and the Sierra Buttes in Sierra County. The lookout is staffed annually during fire season with volunteers.



Local Agreements and Contracts

Meeting the objective of containing 95% of all wildland fires to 10 acres or less requires the application of closest resource concept. This process allows the nearest fire suppression resource to respond to the scene of a wildland fire and begin suppression activities without focusing on responsibility areas or jurisdiction. The co-location of the CAL FIRE ECC with the United States Forest Service Tahoe National Forest dispatch, and local government dispatch responsibilities being a Grass Valley ECC function assists in the application of closest resource concept.

Cooperative Fire Protection

NEU provides various emergency services to local cities, counties, and districts. These cooperative agreements range from full-service fire protection services to dispatch only agreements. Agreements exist in Nevada, Yuba, and Placer Counties. Dispatch services are provided for all local departments in Nevada County. In Yuba County, five local districts receive dispatch services from NEU. In Placer County, NEU provides dispatch only services for several local fire departments and districts in Placer County. Various Amador contracts exist throughout NEU, and the Placer County Cooperative Fire Protection Contract provides full fire department services to the County of Placer.

Amador Agreements

Amador agreements are Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements between CAL FIRE and Fire Districts or Departments. The agreements provide for CAL FIRE while in Winter Preparedness to staff State engines at State facilities and provide for fire protection for local fire districts or departments.

Mutual Threat Zones

Mutual aid may also be provided to areas determined to be within a mutual threat zone, where any fire is judged to be a threat to agencies having a common boundary. Mutual threat zones will be delineated on maps maintained by both agencies. Mutual threat zones will exist primarily along SRA-LRA boundaries. Normally a negotiated automatic response is made into a mutual threat zone, thereby reducing duplication.

Communities receiving full fire protection services include:

- North Auburn
- Ophir
- Lincoln
- Dry Creek

Departments receiving Amador Contract services include:

- Higgins Fire Protection District
- Loma Rica / Browns Valley Fire Department
- Placer County Fire Department

Cities receiving Local Wildland Contracts services include:

- Rocklin - 613.2 acres
- Lincoln – 651.96 acres
- Truckee – Roughly 16,721 acres

Cities with Mutual Threat Zone Agreements include:

- Grass Valley
- Nevada City
- Auburn
- Colfax

Mutual Aid provided through Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements

- CAL FIRE / Placer County Fire Department & Local Government Closest Resource Agreement
- CAL FIRE / Placer County Fire Department & Pleasant Grove Fire Department
- CAL FIRE / Placer County Fire Department & Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District
- CAL FIRE / Placer County Fire Department & Wheatland Fire Authority
- CAL FIRE / Placer County Fire Department & Higgins Fire District
- CAL FIRE / Higgins Fire District (CAL FIRE Station 21) & Placer Hills Fire Protection District
- CAL FIRE / Higgins Fire District (CAL FIRE Station 21) & Nevada County Consolidated Fire District
- CAL FIRE / Loma Rica / Browns Valley Community Service District (CAL FIRE Station 61) CAL FIRE / Loma Rica / Browns Valley Community Service District (CAL FIRE Station 61) & Butte County Fire Department
- CAL FIRE / Loma Rica / Browns Valley Community Service District (CAL FIRE Station 61) & Smartville Fire District
- CAL FIRE / Loma Rica / Browns Valley Community Service District (CAL FIRE Station 61) & Marysville Fire Department

Departments receiving dispatch services from Grass Valley Emergency Command Center include:

NEVADA COUNTY

- CAL FIRE / Higgins Fire Protection District
- Graniteville Fire Protection District
- Grass Valley Fire Department
- Nevada City Fire Department
- Nevada County Consolidated Fire District
- North San Juan Fire Protection District
- Ophir Hill Fire Protection District
- Peardale-Chicago Park Fire Protection District

- Penn Valley Fire Protection District
- Rough and Ready Fire Protection District
- Washington Fire Protection District
- Sierra Nevada Ambulance Service

PLACER COUNTY

- CAL FIRE / Placer County Fire Department
- CAL FIRE / Alta Fire Protection District
- CAL FIRE / City of Colfax
- City of Auburn Fire Department
- American Medical Response (AMR)

YUBA AND PLUMAS COUNTIES

- CAL FIRE / Loma Rica-Browns Valley Community Services District
- Camptonville Volunteer Fire Department
- Dobbins / Oregon House Fire Protection District
- Foothill Fire Protection District
- La Porte Fire Protection District
- Smartsville Fire Protection District

EASTSIDE (EL DORADO, NEVADA, PLACER AND WASHOE COUNTIES)

- North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Northstar Fire Department
- North Tahoe Fire Protection District
- Olympic Valley Public Service District
- Truckee Fire Protection District

CAL OES COORDINATION SERVICES

- Region 4 State OES Coordination Center (11 Counties)
- Nevada County Operational Area Coordination Center
- Lake Tahoe Basin Operational Area Coordination Center

SIERRA SACRAMENTO VALLEY EMSA HELICOPTER EMS COORDINATION SERVICES

- Colusa, Nevada, Placer, Sutter, Yuba Counties

SECTION II: COLLABORATION

A: COMMUNITY / AGENCIES / FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Representatives involved in the development of NEU's Strategic Fire Plan are included in the following table. Their organization and title are indicated below:

TABLE 2 - Plan Development Team:

Organization	Representative (title)
CAL FIRE	Unit Forester
CAL FIRE	VMP Coordinator
CAL FIRE	Pre-Fire Engineer
Auburn City Fire	Fire Chief
Placer County Office of Emergency Services	Assistant Director
Placer Fire Alliance	Placer County Fire Mitigation Coordinator
Placer County Resource Conservation District	District Manager
Foresthill Fire Protection District	Fire Chief
Placer Hills Fire Protection District	Fire Chief
Fire Safe Council of Nevada County	Director
Northstar Fire Department	Fire Chief / Fuels Specialist
North Tahoe Fire Protection District	Fuels Specialist
Truckee Fire Protection District	Fire Prevention Officer
UC Davis	Sierra Foothill Research & Extension Center Director
Yuba County Fire Safe Council	Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council Facilitator
Sierra County Fire Safe Council	Sierra County Fire Safe & Watershed Council

Fire Safe Councils and CWPP's within NEU

Placer County

Placer Fire Alliance (<https://www.placer.ca.gov/5721/Fire-Safe-Alliance>)

(Foresthill FSC, Greater Auburn FSC, Placer Sierra FSC, Greater Lincoln Area FSC)

2012 Placer County CWPP: <https://www.placer.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/506/Community-Wildfire-Protection-Plan-PDF>

2025 North Lake Tahoe CWPP: <https://www.tahoelivingwithfire.com/resources-tahoe-basin-wildfire-protection-plan-update/>

2022 Northstar Fire CWPP: [2021-2022 NFD CWPP Update Final Including BoardSignatures.pdf \(northstarcsd.org\)](#)

2022 Olympic Valley CWPP <https://ovpsd.org/fire/wildfire/olympic-valley-community-wildfire-protection-plan/>

Nevada County

Fire Safe Council of Nevada County: (<http://www.areyoufiresafe.com/>)

2025 Nevada County CWPP: <https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/3829/Community-Wildfire-Protection-Plan>

2023 Truckee Fire CWPP: <https://www.truckee-fire.org/cwpp>

Yuba County

Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council:

<https://yubafiresafe.org/>

2025 Updated Interactive CWPP
<https://yubacounty.opennrm.org/home/home>

2014 Yuba County Foothills CWPP:
<https://yubacounty.opennrm.org/cwpp/community-wildfire-protection-plan>

Sierra County

Fire Safe Sierra County: <https://www.firesafesierracounty.org/>

2014 Sierra County CWPP: <http://www.sierracounty.ca.gov/documentcenter/view/1468>

SECTION III: VALUES AT RISK

A: NEU's ASSETS AT RISK

The Unit description contained in this Fire Management Plan provides the background for identifying NEU's Assets at Risk. The 2017 California Forest and Rangeland Assessment Executive Summary is the most recent analysis and utilizes the Seven Montreal Process Criterion to associate with the assets at risk. The Seven Montreal Process criteria characterize the essential components of sustainable forest management (e.g., biodiversity conservation). In NEU, the assets at risk are further defined in categories as follows: 1) Life safety, 2) Fixed Property, Infrastructure Assets and Real Estate, 3) Watershed Values, Habitat and Natural Resources. Each of NEU's programs is geared to protect or enhance following summary list of NEU's Assets at Risk:

The 2017 California Forest and Rangeland Assessment is located at:

<https://frap.fire.ca.gov/assessment/>

The 2021 California's wildfire and forest resilience action plan is located here:

<https://wildfiretaskforce.org/action-plan/>

Life Safety of Community and Fire Personnel

NEU is comprised of a significant population of residents in the Wildland Urban Interface. Many of the roads and driveways are narrow with vegetation occurring up to and overhanging the road edge. Cooperative efforts to improve ingress and egress for evacuation and fire response are needed to ensure public and firefighter safety. Work includes pre-planning of community road systems and water supplies and mapping of temporary refuge areas. Open road access contributes to rapid mitigation of emergency incidents. Reflective signage programs to increase the likelihood that emergency responders will rapidly mitigate threats to residential structures in the WUI will reduce the overall risk to residents' life safety. Water tank placement ensures that remote enclaves of structures deep in the wildland can be protected despite a protracted return time for water tenders or fire engines.

Real Estate, Fixed Property, and Infrastructure Assets

One of the most critical assets at risk are the residential and commercial real estate which provides wealth to individuals and tax base to the municipalities. Protection of structures in the wildland requires defensible space. Proper PRC 4291 clearance ensures that structures have the basics in defense necessary to quickly triage and mitigate fast moving wildfires that tend to cause the greatest damage in the WUI. Prevention efforts to implement broad PRC 4291 inspection activities across the NEU are geared toward achieving compliance. Community based programs, such as chipping programs and other grant related programs are vital in supporting the community-based efforts to achieve compliance.

Nevada, Yuba, and Placer counties are major producers of water and hydroelectric power. The total generative capacity of electricity in the region is 703 megawatts (MW) from 16 separate powerhouses, providing 3,014,000 megawatt hours (MWh) per year, a quantity of continuous electricity enough to service 502,330 homes. Hundreds of miles of main distribution lines supply power to the grid and out to residences in the community. Wildland fires cause power system interruption due to line failures and shutdown due to public and firefighter safety. Many of the main power lines run in locations that are important for the containment of a wildlife. Main ridges and road systems often align with power infrastructure, both features being important in containing a wildland fire.

Interagency and government / private partnerships encourage pre-fire mitigation efforts that minimize the

threats to a consistent uninterrupted power supply and safe conditions for fire resources and the public.

Freight and tourist travel are of prime importance when considering the Railroad and Highway infrastructure. It is said that closure of Interstate 80 or the UP-rail system has an economic impact equal to \$1 Million for each minute of closure. Recent information from Union Pacific Railroad reveals that 45-50 trains per day traverse NEU. It is well understood that the economic impact of interstate closure justifies one of the most expensive snow removal programs in the entire United States. Closure of Interstate 80 and the Union Pacific rail system for any reason is a situation to avoid if possible.

Watershed Values and Water Quality / Quantity

NEU provides approximately 1,623,000-acre feet of water which is stored in 21 reservoirs throughout the region. Of that amount, 472,000-acre feet are delivered directly for domestic and agricultural use annually to central and southern California. These waters are also used to generate significant amounts of power through hydroelectric generation that supply residents and industry throughout the State. Wildland fires cause power system interruption and can decrease the quality and quantity of water derived from the watershed. Landscape level fuel modification geared toward protection of the watershed ensures the protection of this vital resource. Public information and education on proper forest management techniques and the need for land stewardship promotes long term landscape level fuels reduction.

Timber and Agricultural Values

Timber and Agriculture is a major economic driving force for the region of California that encompasses NEU. Fire impacts to this sector of the economy can be substantial given that much of this value is derived from non-irrigated lands or lands that irrigation has ceased for harvesting and commodities or feedstocks are readily burnable. Agriculture reporting is accurate and regularly updated. Current timber figures provided below are based on multi-year statistics derived from the California Tax and Fee Administration. The comparison is provided to demonstrate fluctuations in harvest due to impacts of wildfire losses that force timber harvest to focus on salvage of burned timber versus harvest of green timber.

Timber Harvest Value in 2022 by County

Placer County	\$719,874
Nevada County	\$328,138
Yuba County	\$586,476
Sierra County	\$1,220,458
Grant Total	\$2,854,946

(Source: CA Dept. of Tax and Fee Administration)

Timber Harvest Value in 2023 by County

Placer County	\$3,945,662
Nevada County	\$627,439
Yuba County	\$623,785
Sierra County	\$1,220,445
Grant Total	\$6,417,344

(Source: CA Dept. of Tax and Fee Administration)

Timber Harvest Value in 2024 by County

Placer County	\$939,459
Nevada County	\$3,319,235
Yuba County	\$2,010,735
Sierra County	\$5,867,612
Grant Total	\$ 12,137,041

(Source: CA Dept. of Tax and Fee Administration)

Non-timber agricultural commodities provide over one billion dollars in commodity sales annually in NEU. A grand total of \$1.033 Billion is generated from timber and agriculture commodity value. A factor of four can be used to establish the total economic benefit from this economic sector which establishes that \$4.135Billion enter the economy from agricultural and timber enterprise annually in NEU. Nearly all agricultural commodities face some level of threat from wildland fire.

Wildlife and Ecosystem

Numerous rare and endangered floral and faunal species thrive in NEU. Project development includes assessment of rare, threatened, and endangered species to ensure

that projects do not result in a significant negative impact on species and individuals. Protection of the species and individuals ultimately is achieved by prevention of large damaging wildfires within NEU. Ecosystem restoration results from implementation of Vegetation Management Projects utilizing low intensity broadcast burning on Department owned properties and private landowners under the VMP program.

B: NEU COMMUNITIES AT RISK

After the 2000 fire season CAL FIRE, working with the California Fire Alliance, developed a list and associated map of communities at risk from wildfire using 1990 Census and USGS Geographic Names Information System data to identify populated places, and CAL FIRE'S Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) [<http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/>] fuel hazard data. On January 4, 2001, for the purposes of the National Fire Plan, the Department of Interior (DOI) published in the *Federal Register* a "Notice of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Communities within the Vicinity of Federal Lands That Are at High Risk from Wildfire."

https://www.cafirealliance.org/communities_at_risk/communities_at_risk_list/

Number of formally listed communities at Risk:

Nevada County: 43
Placer County: 39
Sierra County: 12
Sutter County: 2
Yuba County: 17

C: FIREWISE COMMUNITIES

The National Firewise Communities program is a multi-agency effort designed to reach beyond the fire service by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and other in the effort to protect people, property, and natural resources from the risk of wildland fire – before a fire starts. Firewise Communities emphasize community responsibility for planning in the design of a safe community as well as effective emergency response, and individual responsibility for safer home construction and design, landscaping, and maintenance.

More general information can be found at:
<http://www.firewise.org/>

Placer County Firewise Information:

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/5739/Firewise-USA-Community-Program>

Nevada County Firewise Information:

<https://www.mynevadacounty.com/2782/Organize-Your-Neighborhood>

Sierra County Firewise Information:

<https://www.firesafesierracounty.org/>

Yuba County Firewise Information:

<https://wp-9tvqc6wz7l.pairsite.com/firewise-usa/>

SECTION IV: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

D: Fire Prevention Program

NEU's fire prevention program accomplishes Unit fire management goals through implementation of four primary components. These components are law enforcement, engineering, information/education, and volunteerism.

Law enforcement includes fire investigation and cause determination, enforcement of California's Forestry and Fire Laws and PRC 4291 inspections throughout NEU.

Engineering occurs through local building department functions where CAL FIRE personnel are assigned to assist in planning fire safe projects.

Information and education occur through direct contact with the public, partnerships with local boards and councils, communication with professional organizations and employee involvement in the local community.

Volunteerism occurs through support of the Volunteers in Prevention (VIP) program, which uses local volunteers to staff fire lookouts, provide public information and represent CAL FIRE at public events, meet with residents, and correspond with the public with Cal Fire goals in mind. The balance of each of these components allows the prevention program to address statewide, regional, and local fire issues.

Annually, NEU's Fire Prevention Bureau evaluates fire causes for all fires that occurred the previous year. The ignition information is made available to NEU staff to assist in local fire prevention efforts and develop ignition management plans. These statistics inform this Unit Fire Plan by providing Unit wide and Battalion level ignition statistics.

Engineering and Structure Ignitability

As rural development continues, parcel sizes within the WUI remain large enough to sustain a significant threat of wildfire. NEU contains a mosaic of land use types ranging from rural agriculture and forested parcels, WUI with small clusters of development, and dense development near commercial centers and along main thoroughfares. Construction types, ignitability of materials and proper engineering are all critical when wildland fires encounter structures. State law establishes certain requirements for building in the WUI that affect structure placement and decrease structure ignitability. Local NEU fire planners, acting under the direction of a county Fire Marshall, are co-located with the county building and planning departments (for Placer and Nevada County). Within Yuba County, these duties are handled by the local Battalion Chief with assistance as needed from Nevada and Placer County fire protection planners. These fire protection planners evaluate development and fire engineering for new construction, including single residential, commercial, and large-scale development.

Strategies include:

- Assisting County Planning Departments to properly locate development with minimum exposure to wildfire.
- Evaluation of construction methods and materials that minimize the potential for structure ignition.

- Reduction of flammable vegetation around structures and along evacuation routes.
- Design of appropriate access capacity, including roadway design, turnarounds, fire lanes.

Daily tasks include:

- All engineering and development plans are reviewed for compliance with state and local fire laws and codes.
- Inspecting construction and development for all fire code enforcement issues.
- Inspection of all commercial, residential care homes and commercial tenant improvements and change of occupancy locations in addition to other state mandated inspections.
- Implementation of Title 19 regulations of California Building and Fire Code, including fire sprinkler and alarm system maintenance, appropriate addressing, and water requirements on new construction.
- Pre-plans for commercial buildings and annual fire code inspections for existing construction are also managed at the station level.

Construction

Fire Hazard Severity Zone Mapping directly relates to building construction standards. On September 20, 2005, the California Building Standards Commission approved the Office of the State Fire Marshall's Emergency Regulations amending the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, Part 2, known as the 2007 California Building Code (CBC). It states that any new construction or additions to structures located in a fire hazard severity zone within State Responsibility Areas (SRA), any Local Area Very-High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, or any Wildland-Urban Interface Area designated by the enforcing agency for which an application for a building permit is submitted on or after January 1, 2008, shall comply with all sections of this chapter.

The Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps are developed using a science-based and field-tested model that assigns a hazard score based on the factors that influence fire likelihood and fire behavior. Many factors are considered such as fire history, existing and potential fuel (natural vegetation), predicted flame length, blowing embers, terrain, and typical fire weather for the area. There are three levels of hazard in the State Responsibility Areas: moderate, high, and very high.

Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps evaluate "hazard," not "risk". They are like flood zone maps, where lands are described in terms of the probability level of a particular area being inundated by floodwaters, and not specifically prescriptive of impacts. "Hazard" is based on the physical conditions that create a likelihood and expected fire behavior over a 30 to 50-year period without considering mitigation measures such as home hardening, recent wildfire, or fuel reduction efforts. "Risk" is the potential damage a fire may produce under existing conditions, accounting for any modifications such as fuel reduction projects, defensible space, and ignition resistant building construction.

Defensible Space Inspection Program

Proper clearance and treatment of vegetative fuels enhance the protection of structures in the wildland. Public Resource Code 4291(PRC 4291) establishes mandates for the clearance of vegetative fuels within 100' of all structures in the wildland. Zone 1 the Lean, Clean and Green Zone, and Zone 2, the Reduce Fuel Zone currently make up the 100 feet of defensible space required by law. Assembly Bill 3074, passed into law in 2020, requires a third zone, Zone 0, or the Ember Resistant Zone for defensible space.

NEU defensible space inspectors visit residences each year to verify compliance with PRC 4291. Non-compliant landowners are provided with an opportunity to perform necessary fuel treatment prior to re-inspection. Second and third inspections are performed to determine the need for law enforcement action. General guidelines for creating defensible space are available here:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/dspace>

Assembly Bill 38 established that, as of July 1, 2021, California Civil Code Section 1102.19 requires a seller of real property located in a High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone to provide the buyer with documentation stating the property meets defensible space requirements.

The law allows that if documentation demonstrating compliance cannot be obtained by the close of escrow, the seller and buyer can enter into a written agreement showing that the buyer agrees to obtain documentation of compliance within one year of the close of escrow.

To request an AB 38 Inspection, click the following link:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a15c7706b4114e20b39d2a26294338ed>

For additional AB 38 information follow the link below:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b2fc79e82aec4ecab4250987db7312cb>

Residents who live in the wildland can also complete a self-assessment of their home and gain a greater understanding of how Defensible Space and Home Hardening can help save their home from the effects of devastating wildfires. Follow the link below to assess your home:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/31e91d1ba02b4da0b6442d09f9a9824f?portalUrl=https://calfire-forestry.maps.arcgis.com>

Online Residential Burn Permits

During certain times of the year and in certain parts of the state, **residential landscape debris burning of dead vegetation, agency sponsored and agricultural burning projects, and broadcast burning** is allowed. However, homeowners should always check with their local fire station or CAL FIRE station, as well as local air quality management agency before burning. Burn permits may be required and during the dry months, CAL FIRE will suspend burning altogether. CAL FIRE Burn Permits are only for within the State Responsibility Area (SRA), or where CAL FIRE has jurisdictional authority. For information and permits required outside the SRA / CAL FIRE jurisdiction, contact your local City/County fire authority.

For additional information on burning, to check current burn status or to apply for a permit follow the link below:

<https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>

Placer County Hazardous Vegetation Abatement Ordinance

CAL FIRE, fire protection planners within Placer County are also inspectors for the 2008 Placer County Hazardous Vegetation Abatement Ordinance (HVA). They work closely with County employed Defensible Space Inspector and provide oversight for the program. The ordinance was further updated on April 7, 2020, and extends the enforceability of PRC 4291 beyond the property line and to the parcel owner of adjoining parcels within 100' of structures creating a tool that can be applied to improved and unimproved parcels in the County. The ordinance exists only where hazardous conditions (as determined by the Fire Warden) exist. More information on this ordinance is available at:

<http://www.placer.ca.gov/7663/Hazardous-Vegetation-Abatement-Ordinance>

Nevada County Hazardous Vegetation Abatement Ordinance

Nevada County enacted an ordinance in 2014 that requires property owners of unimproved parcels to remove hazardous vegetation on their property if it is within 100' of a structure. If the owner does not mitigate the hazardous vegetation on their unimproved property, Nevada County now has the authority to mitigate the hazardous vegetation at the property owner's expense. This ordinance is to ensure that defensible space is maintained on unimproved parcels adjacent to improved parcels, along access and evacuation routes and fire access easements. This includes 10 feet of clearance along the shoulder of the roadway to a height of 15 feet along the boundary of the unimproved parcel.

The purpose of this ordinance is to help protect life, property, and the surrounding environment from the threat of wildfire. The establishment of this ordinance benefits property owners, and the community by increasing survivability should a wildfire occur. It also aids in the safety of emergency personnel when wildfires occur.

The abatement of hazardous vegetation is an essential action that property owners should take to ensure increased survivability of their home, property, and the environment around them. Regular vegetation management on unimproved parcels, as well as improved, is essential to ensure adequate defensible space is maintained.

<https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/2750/California-Local-Fire-Safety-Law>

City of Colfax Hazardous Vegetation Abatement Ordinance

On March 11, 2020, the City of Colfax adopted Ordinance No. 541 requiring hazardous vegetation, abatement and establishment of defensible space regulations. The ordinance requires fuel modification along roadways, around structures and on vacant lots. For more information on the City of Colfax Hazardous Vegetation Abatement Ordinance follow the link below:

<https://colfax-ca.gov/forms-and-faqs/hazardous-vegetation-ordinance/>

Landscape Level Fuel Modification

Most landowners respond to the defensible space inspection program prior to LE action. Generally, a fire safe zone of 100' is familiar to the public and our efforts with the inspection program are continually educating the residents that are unaware. However, to accomplish a broader application of fuel treatments beyond the mandated 100' fire safe zone, NEU promotes a stewardship ethic for landowners with property that extends beyond the 100' zone. Landscape level fuel modifications are promoted through cooperative efforts with local government partners, Resource Conservation Districts, Fire Safe Councils, and through efforts of the NEU Resource Management staff that assist landowners throughout NEU. NEU will continue to assist local government in developing standards, policies, and plans, which will result in a stewardship ethic and landscape level fuel modification.

Public Outreach and Education

The public outreach and education programs in the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit focus on promoting fire and life safety messages in the communities we serve. We focus on providing information and education to people of all ages, in public forums and through the media, and displaying and distributing educational material.

School Programs:

NEU personnel, primarily engine companies, participate in school programs throughout the year to provide fire prevention, life safety, and natural resource protection education. It is our goal to target schools that have been identified in areas with high PWF (Playing with Fire) incidents in NEU's Ignition Management Plan.

Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program:

Juveniles identified as playing with fire or intentionally starting a fire are referred to NEU's Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Program. The goal of the program is to reduce the number of fires started by juveniles within the communities we serve. The program is designed to assist parents and their children in understanding the dangers of playing with fire, how to prevent repeat incidents and other consequences of fire setting behavior.

Fairs and Public Events:

Fairs continue to be an effective method of conveying fire prevention messages to the public. NEU personnel participate in the Nevada County Fair in Grass Valley and the Gold Country Fair in Auburn. We also encourage local agencies to participate in our booths to provide a broader means to promote fire safety. At least 5,000 people annually pass-through Cal Fire Fair booths and receive fire prevention information, education, and materials.

E: Vegetation Management Program

Fuels Management

Vegetation Management Program

NEU's vegetation management program (VMP) and California Forestry Improvement Program (CFIP) program assist private landowners and non-federal agencies in addressing the common problems associated with hazardous flammable vegetation. The VMP goal is to reduce the chance of large, damaging wildfires by reducing fire hazards on wildlands in California. The intent is to encourage a range of natural resource benefits consistent with environmental protection requirements and landowner objectives. The three broad purposes of the VMP program include:

- Reduction of conflagration fires
- Optimization of soil and water productivity
- Protection and improvement of resource / ecosystem values.

CAL FIRE'S prescribed burns under the VMP are conducted for many reasons. Most burns have hazard-reduction as a major objective coordinated under NEU's Fire Plan. However, many burns have important secondary objectives that could include:

- Fuel reduction
- Community defensible space
- Range improvement
- Weed management
- Wildlife habitat enhancement

VMP projects use various techniques to accomplish program goals:

- Broadcast burning
- Mosaic burning in chaparral
- Pile & burn using hand crews
- Chipping and commercial biomass
- Mitigation of insect infestation

Vegetation Treatment Program

The California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP), developed by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, is a critical component of the state's multi-faceted strategy to address California's wildfire crisis. The CalVTP includes the use of prescribed burning, mechanical treatments, manual treatments, herbicides, and prescribed herbivory as tools to reduce hazardous vegetation around communities in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), to construct fuel breaks, and to restore healthy ecological fire regimes. The CalVTP Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (Programmatic EIR) provides a powerful tool to expedite the implementation of vegetation treatments to reduce wildfire risk while conserving natural resources.

Prescribed Burning on Public and Private Lands

NEU implements cooperative prescribed fire on federal, state, and local government jurisdictions. Using various CAL FIRE agreements, burn plans, and incident specific action plans, CAL FIRE performs prescribed fire operations on State and Federal lands. Both state and private resources assist in the preparation and implementation of broadcast and pile burning operations.

In January 2022, the Placer PBA (Prescribed Burn Association) was established and is dedicated to helping community members put good fire back on the ground in the Sierra Foothills. Placer RCD has leveraged multiple funding sources to host workshops, provide technical assistance, and develop strategies to teach community members how to use safe, legal, and ecologically beneficial fire to achieve a myriad of land stewardship and wildfire resilience objectives.

<https://placerrcd.org/projects/prescribed-burning-on-private-lands/>

New Expectations for Broadcast Burning

Fires have been a natural part of the California landscape for millennia. When prescribed fires are carefully planned and executed, they create forests that are healthy and resilient. Native Americans in California used fire as a tool that has had lasting effect on the ecology and evolution of California's forests. While many wildfires are destructive, proper prescribed fires during appropriate fuel and weather conditions help protect our communities for future generations to safely live in the wildland and continue to enjoy the beauty that surrounds us.

In response to SB 901, the pace and scale of prescribed fire and fuels reduction efforts statewide have become a high priority for CAL FIRE. Through a cooperative agreement process NEU has authorized the research and development of a prescribed burning on private lands program with the goal of increasing agency burning on small private parcels less than 100 acres. Relying upon a technical assistance agreement with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and local Resource Conservation Districts (RCD), landowners enter an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract for certain practices related to prescribed burn planning, preparation, and implementation. NRCS becomes the NEPA lead agency and achieves environmental protection requirements for the landowner. RCD and CAL FIRE provide the guidance and advice for the preparation of the burn units and plans. The landowner provides the smoke management permitting. Through a technical assistance agreement with RCD and NRCS, CAL FIRE performs ignition and holding operations as the experts in prescribed fire operations. RCD and the landowner work with various resources to mop up and patrol until CAL FIRE determines the fire is controlled.

Fire Weather and Fuels Data Collection

NEU maintains and monitors four NFDRS (National Fire Danger Rating System) RAWS stations. These include Lincoln, Secret Town, Reader Ranch and Tahoe Donner. NEU cooperatively maintains Homewood and Knox2 (Incline) RAWS with Placer County AQMD. Each station data posts hourly data via satellite to allow calculation of fire weather indices that can be utilized to guide staffing levels. Bi-monthly fuel moisture sampling throughout NEU, coupled with weather observations provide for fire behavior analysis and preparation for increased fire activity.

NEU maintains an annual Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP) for fire business decision support and fire threshold determination. A minimum of ten years of fire history and ignition data are aligned with weather data and fire environmental factors to create statistical relationships for prediction of fire growth and impact. The resulting analysis creates a statistically valid prediction model to establish dispatch levels given fuel and weather variables.

NEU Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS)

Secret Town RAWS (SRT) - Placer County

Historic data is available from May 1992 forward.

Location: Secret Town, CA

Latitude: 39°11'01" Longitude: -120°53'05"

Elevation: 2,826 ft.

NWS ID: 041808

<https://wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/rawMAIN.pl?caCSEC>

Reader Ranch RAWS (RDH) - Nevada County

Historic data is available from September 2002 forward.

Location: Reader Ranch, CA

Latitude: 39°18'13" Longitude: -121°07'02"

Elevation: 1,968 ft.

NWS ID: 041809

<https://raws.dri.edu/cgi-bin/rawMAIN.pl?caCRDR>

Lincoln RAWS (LCN) - Placer County

Historic data is available from August 1991 forward.

Location: Lincoln, CA

Latitude: 38°52'57" Longitude: -121°16'06"

Elevation: 200 ft.

NWS ID: 041907

<https://raws.dri.edu/cgi-bin/rawMAIN.pl?caCLIN>

Tahoe Donner RAWS (Install 2016) – Nevada County

Historic data is available from August 2016 forward.

Location: Truckee, CA

Latitude: 39°20'18" Longitude: -120°16'24"

Elevation: 7,399 ft.

NWS ID: 041810

<https://raws.dri.edu/cgi-bin/rawMAIN.pl?caCTDN>

Homewood RAWS – Placer County

Historic data is available from June 2011 forward.

Location: Homewood, CA

Latitude: 39°05'01" Longitude: -120°10'16"

Elevation: 7,121 ft.

NWS ID: 041909

<https://raws.dri.edu/cgi-bin/rawMAIN.pl?caCHOM>

Knox 2 RAWS – Washoe County

Historic data is available from September 2012 forward.

Location: Incline, NV

Latitude: 39°16'24" Longitude: -119°57'42"

Elevation: 7,569 ft.

NWS ID: 260117

<https://wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/rawMAIN.pl?nvNKNX>

SECTION V: PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT TACTICS

Ignition Management Plans

Fire Prevention Programs

NEU has found that the most effective method of spreading fire prevention information to educate the public is to make personal “one-on one” contact with the public. It is NEU’s view that the single most effective method to protect personal and real property from wildland fires is for each individual landowner or resident to meet the mandates of Public Resources Code 4291 (defensible space standards). NEU encourages the public to extend hazardous fuel reduction beyond the PRC 4291 mandated defensible zone into the adjacent “Defensible Landscape” zone (area beyond the required 100’). This is the area where landowners can apply stewardship ethics, improve forest health, and add to the protection of the property.

IGNITION MANAGEMENT

To better address ignition management for NEU, a more detailed analysis of the fires in each major cause classification was conducted.

- 1) Control Burning (debris burning)** - The number one cause of escaped control burns was lack of clearance followed by wind, and old control burns re-igniting (coming back to life). Unattended control burns also contributed to the totals.
- 2) Vehicles** - This category has been one of the leading causes of fires in NEU for the past several years. Most of these fires occurred along the major traffic corridors of Interstate 80, Hwy 49, and Hwy 20. Brake fires, catalytic converter failure and other maintenance issues remain the leading cause of fires caused by vehicles. With the current economic conditions, there appears to be less maintenance done on vehicles.
- 3) Electrical power** - Most electrical fires resulted from trees, branches, or birds into the power lines. Bird Causes are on the increase.
- 4) Equipment** - Historically, this classification has been one of the top causes of wildfire starts in NEU. Through continuing displays and education programs (handouts and the 4291 Program), we hope to continue a downward trend. The main cause of equipment fires continues to be mower fires. These fires were due to mower blades striking rocks and friction belts igniting chaff collected around the belt. Ironically, most of the mower caused fires occurred because of residents trying to clear their property for fire safety but they were clearing during the hottest part of the day, usually between the hours of 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM.
- 5) Miscellaneous causes** - This classification includes causes such as spontaneous combustion, fireplace ashes deposited in the wildland, barbequing, cooking fires, and fireworks.
- 6) Playing with Fire** - Several juveniles were caught and went through either a Juvenile Fire Setter Class and others were sent to the Juvenile Justice System and sentenced to probation.

7) Undetermined - Continued hard work and dedication of NEU's Fire Prevention Staff and the company officers who conduct thorough origin and cause investigations aid in the declining number in this cause class. Thorough origin and cause investigations also assist in determining fire patterns which may be reduced by public education and enforcement.

8) Arson - The continued working relationships between all fire and law enforcement agencies is high priority for NEU.

9) Lightning - Not much can be done to prevent or alter this category.

10) Smoking – Many of the fires were carelessly discarded cigarettes along our roadways. However, several bark and planter box fires were directly attributed to smoking.

11) Illegal campfires and campfire escapes - Public education and campfire permit requirements help to keep the number of fires from the category low.

12) Railroad - NEU has a major east/west rail line operated by Union Pacific railroad, yearly fire prevention meetings along with work site inspection, work to reduce the fires started by the railroad.

13) Under Investigation – Some fire causes require detailed investigation to finally establish the cause of the fire.

14) Exposure - Structure – Vegetation fires that originate at a structure fire do occur in NEU.

Ignition Management Plan

Battalion 11

Battalion Description

The Foresthill and Auburn Battalion serves areas within Placer County, including unincorporated county lands and portions of northwest Auburn City through a Local Wildland Contract. The Battalion extends along Foresthill Divide Road, with Highway 193 forming the southern boundary. The area includes densely populated communities connected by an extensive road system.

Topography is typical of the Sierra Nevada foothills. Terrain ranges from gentle valley slopes to steep inner-gorge canyons along major waterways. Elevation ranges from approximately 510 feet in the American River Canyon to 3,800 feet near Foresthill. The North Fork and Middle Fork of the American River form two separate drainage systems characterized by steep terrain and heavy fuel loading.

Fuel types within the Battalion are diverse and form a complex mosaic. Vegetation includes annual grasses, blue oak woodlands mixed with brush, chaparral, mixed hardwood–conifer forests, and conifer–oak forests. Prime timber-bearing soils along the Foresthill Divide support large pine and fir trees typical of the Sierra Nevada mixed conifer zone. Grass meadows and other light, fast-burning fuels are common and are often intermixed with residential development.

The population centers are Auburn and Foresthill, surrounded by a densely scattered urban interface where parcels range from half to 20 acres in size, much of which is developed with commercial, residential, and heavy industrial infrastructure. This mix creates a true WUI problem where even the smallest fires with the promptest emergency response can have a catastrophic result and result in burned structures.

Cooperators include Auburn City Fire, Bureau of Reclamation, California State Parks, CAL TRANS, Foresthill Fire District, Placer Fire Alliance, Placer County Resource Conservation District, Placer County Land Trust, Newcastle Fire District, South Placer Fire District, Penryn Fire, United States Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, Eldorado National Forest, Union Pacific Railroad, Placer County Water Agency, Pacific Gas and Electric and Kinder Morgan.

Acreage Statistics

Responsibility Area and Direct Protection Area for Battalion 11

Responsibility Area (acres)	Federal 231,466	Local 7,164	State 127,717
Direct Protection Area (acres)	Federal 248,217	Local 7,353	State 110,775

Battalion Fire History and Occurrence

Historically, large fires are known to occur within and adjacent to the Battalion. Notable in terms of size are the Mosquito Fire (2022 – 76,788 acres), Trailhead Fire (2016 – 5,646 acres), Volcano Fire (1960 – 44,386 acres), Roadside #51 (1964 – 3,545 acres), Ralston Fire (2006 – 8,300 acres), and American River Complex (2008 - 19,580 acres). Each of these fires consumed significant SRA acreage within the Federal DPA. Other significant fires include the Auburn Fire (1961 – 672 acres), Mammoth Fire (2009 -643 acres), Applegate Fire (2014 – 459 acres), and Trailhead Fire (2016 – 5,646 acres).

Mitigation Strategy Action Plan

1. Public Information and Outreach

A. Burn Permit Administration-

Burn permits are available online, however the Battalion will continue to issue burn permits at fire stations and events as necessary to promote fuels reduction and fire safety while burning.

B. Public Education Forums –

The Battalion will continue to implement public education forums. Typical events throughout the year include:

- Meadow Vista Pioneer Day Parade
- Foresthill Fourth of July Parade
- Auburn City Fourth of July Parade
- Gold Country Fair: Maintain and staff the fair booth display.
- Fire Prevention week open house: Conduct open house tours of the CAL FIRE / Placer County Fire Facility, Auburn Headquarters.

C. PRC 4291 inspection

Defensible space inspection activities will continue to take place throughout the Battalion, with a focus on the High Priority Target Areas. Battalion staff are working with Unit Prevention and Defensible Space Inspectors to provide inspections effectively and efficiently. Battalion staff are actively engaged with residents, providing them assistance, information, and guidance for effective defensible space.

2. Vegetation Management:

A. Chipper Program / Residential Fuel Treatment

The Battalion will encourage and support vegetation management programs within NEU, plus roadside chipping and community chipping programs provided by agency cooperators.

B. Maintenance of Fire Road Access

The following roads are deemed critical to provide fire equipment access and reduce the potential of a large costly and damaging fire which may originate in the American River Canyon:

- Drivers Flat to Long Point Fuel Break
- McKeon-Ponderosa
- Upper and Lower Lake Clementine
- Robie Point Fuel Break Maintenance
- Stagecoach Road

C. Interagency Cooperation

The Battalion will continue to work with Staff from the Auburn State Recreation Area to inform the public on Fire Danger and to work with State Park Staff to maintain and improve the fire road system within their recreation area. The Battalion will continue to work with Auburn City Fire Department shaded fuel break projects within Auburn City limits. The Battalion will continue to work with the USFS Tahoe NF and BLM to identify fuels reduction projects to reduce fire threats to communities.

D. Vegetation Management / Fuels Modification Projects

Battalion 11 Fire Mitigation Projects, Type and Status

Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
North Fork American River Shaded Fuel Break / ASRA Critical Fuels Reduction Projects	A	2030	Fuel Break / Fuels Reduction	5000
PCWA Lake Arthur	M	Ongoing	Fuel Reduction	25
PCWA Lake Theodore	M	Ongoing	Fuel Reduction	30
PG&E North Auburn VMP	P	2025	Prescribed Fire	600
Spring Garden VMP	P	Unknown	Prescribed Fire	142
Mosquito Fire Hazardous Vegetation Removal and Reforestation Project	A	2027	Hazard Mitigation / Fuel Reduction / Reforestation	3000

Status Guide: A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance.

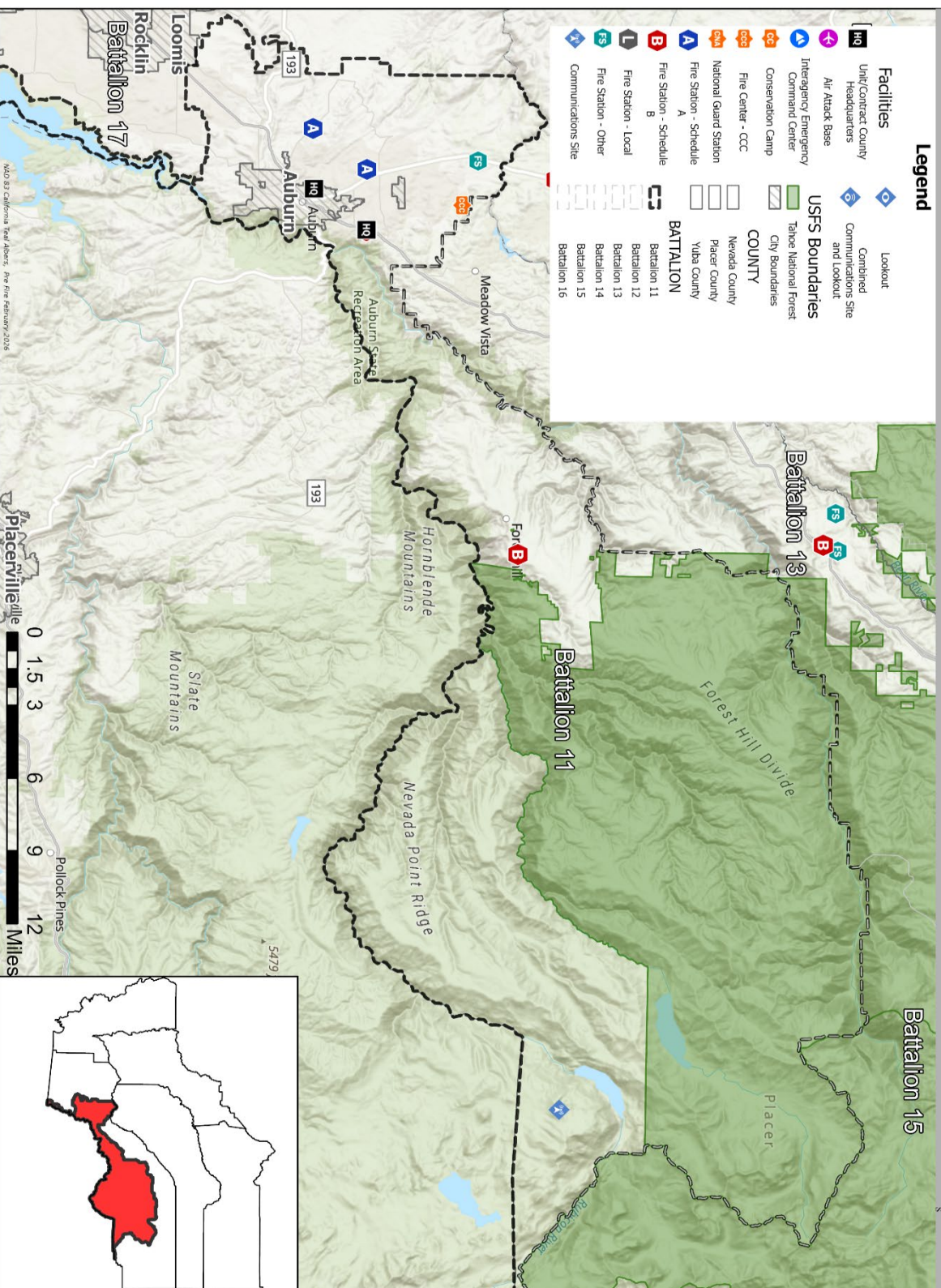
3. High Priority Target Areas:

- Auburn State Recreation Area WUI
- Christian Valley WUI
- Foresthill WUI
- Michigan Bluff WUI
- Todd Valley WUI
- Populated areas along canyon rim WUI
- Ophir
- Newcastle (South of I-80)
- Jordan
- Mt. Vernon
- Lonestar
- Penryn

NEVADA-YUBA-PLACER UNIT (NEU) BATTALION 11



Legend	
	Facilities
	Unit/Contract County Headquarters
	Air Attack Base
	Interagency Emergency Command Center
	Conservation Camp
	Fire Center - CCC
	National Guard Station
	Fire Station - Schedule A
	Fire Station - Schedule B
	Fire Station - Local
	Fire Station - Other
	Communications Site
	USFS Boundaries
	Combined Communications Site and Lookout
	Tahoe National Forest
	City Boundaries
	Nevada County
	Placer County
	Yuba County
	BATTALION
	Battalion 11
	Battalion 12
	Battalion 13
	Battalion 14
	Battalion 15



W.D. 83 California Real Alps, Fire Fire February 2006

Ignition Management Plan

Battalion 12

Battalion Description

Battalion 12 covers approximately 209,657 acres of Nevada County. It is occupied by an estimated 71,000 people living in roughly 24,000 residential structures. Fuel types range from oak woodland to timber, and the topography ranges from rolling hills to mountains. The battalion has a significant wildland urban interface (WUI) problem.

Because of the significant urban interface problem, much of the fire prevention effort has been spent on reducing the potential for large damaging fires. This has been accomplished through the efforts of a seasonal fire prevention inspector who conduct thousands of PRC 4291 inspections on residents within the battalion, along with a schedule 'A' Fire Protection Planner whose focus has been placed on land use review, concentrating on fuel modification, adequate access and egress and water storage for fire protection. CAL FIRE is also involved with the Nevada County Fire Safe Council which oversees the Nevada County chipping program.

Cooperators include Grass Valley City Fire Department, Nevada City Fire Department, Nevada County Consolidated Fire District, Higgins Fire District, Ophir Hill fire Protection District, Peardale Chicago Park Fire Protection District, California State Parks, CAL TRANS, United States Forest Service Tahoe National Forest, Nevada County Office of emergency services. Nevada County Fire Safe Counsel, Pacific Gas and Electric and Nevada Irrigation District.

Statistics

Responsibility Area and Direct Protection Area for Battalion 2312

Responsibility Area (acres)	FRA 41,052	LRA 5,581	SRA 179,889
Direct Protection Area (acres)	Federal 44,653	Local 5,579	State 176,290

Mitigation Strategy Action Plan

1. Public Information and Outreach

D. Burn Permit Administration-

Burn permits are available online, however the Battalion will continue to issue burn permits at fire stations throughout the Battalion. Staff will work with local fire protection districts and the Nevada County Resource Conservation District, and the Nevada County Fire safe council to provide educational materials on safe burning practices to residents.

E. Public Education Forums –

The Battalion will continue to implement public education forums. Typical events throughout the year include:

- NCFSC Community Wildfire Awareness Day
- School Programs / Career Days (Bear River & Nevada Union Schools.)
- Home & Garden Shows
- Fire safe workshops
- Fire Prevention Week / KNCO Talk Radio Program on Wildfire Safety
- Nevada County Air Fest
- Nevada County Fair
- Higgins Fire Protection District Open House

F. PRC 4291 inspection

The Battalion will continue to implement a defensible space enforcement program in conjunction with NEU Prevention Bureau and encourage landowners to remove hazardous vegetation adjacent to their structures and accomplish home hardening. Nevada County has also implemented Defensible Space Inspections in a cooperative effort with Nevada County Consolidated Fire District. Battalion staff will assist as available when directed by the NEU Prevention Bureau to support this program.

G. Education and Outreach

Nevada County has numerous Firewise Communities. This program educates, unites, and assists homeowners to take personal responsibility for their own property when creating defensible space and hardening their homes throughout each community. Battalion staff will continue to be engaged and support the Nevada County Coalition of Firewise Communities and the parent organization, the Nevada County Fire Safe Council, in our common goals to reduce wildfire risk in the community.

Private Landowner VMP Program: The Battalion staff will assist Private Landowners with guidance and state regulated inspections to safely conduct multi-acre VMP fuel reduction and control burns, with their own personnel or hired crews.

2. Vegetation Management:

E. Interagency Cooperation

Transient Fires – The Battalion will continue to work with local cooperator fire departments and law enforcement to identify illegal transient camps, educate the transient population on fire safety while on suppression assignments in these areas and notify law enforcement of problem areas such as congested illegal camp site while citing illegal burning on private and public lands.

Illegal Marijuana Grows – The Battalion will work with the Nevada County Planning Department to ensure Code Enforcement of Illegal Marijuana grows. Legal growth meets safe ingress/egress requirements and are also required to take fire risk reduction measures thus lessening the chance for fires.

F. Vegetation Management / Fuels Modification Projects

Battalion 12 Fire Mitigation Projects

Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
South County Fuel Break Lode Star Alta-Sierra	A	2025	Shaded Fuel Break/ Community Protection	1200
Woodpecker Ravine	A	2025	Shaded Fuel Break/ Community Protection	754
Empire Mine Historic State Park	O	Ongoing	Shaded Fuel Break/ Community Protection	300
Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone	M	Ongoing	Fuel Reduction	1237
Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Ext.	P	2025	Fuel Reduction	1000
Deer Creek Park	P	2025	Shaded Fuel Break & Prescribed Burning	312
South Yuba				
River Forest	P	2030	Fuel Reduction/ Prescribed Fire	1,867
Resilience				
You Bet	P	2031	Fuel Reduction	1,500
Resilience				
Greater Banner Mountain Ingress/Egress Project	P	2029	Fuel Reduction	795
Deer Creek canyon shaded fuel break	P/O	2029	Shaded Fuel Break/ Community Protection	3 Phases/ 3,600 Acres Total
Western Nevada County Forest Health Initiative	P/O	2025	Shaded Fuel Break/ Prescribed Fire	312

Status Guide: A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance.

3. High Priority Target Areas:

- Alta Sierra Community
- Nevada City Western Deer Creek Watershed: Bitney Springs to Champion Mine Road, Slate Creek Road (high structure loss potential)
- Grass Valley & Nevada City (historical value, high population)
- Banner Mountain Community
- Cascade Shores / Scotts Flat Community
- Hudson Rd / Purdon Rd - Lake Vera Community
- Brewer Canyon, Alta Sierra
- You Bet Community
- Retrac Road / Stoneybrook Circle, Grass Valley
- Dog Bar / Wolf Creek Communities
- Idaho Maryland/Banner Lava Cap Community
- Madrone Springs
- Rattlesnake Rd/Woodpecker Ravine Community

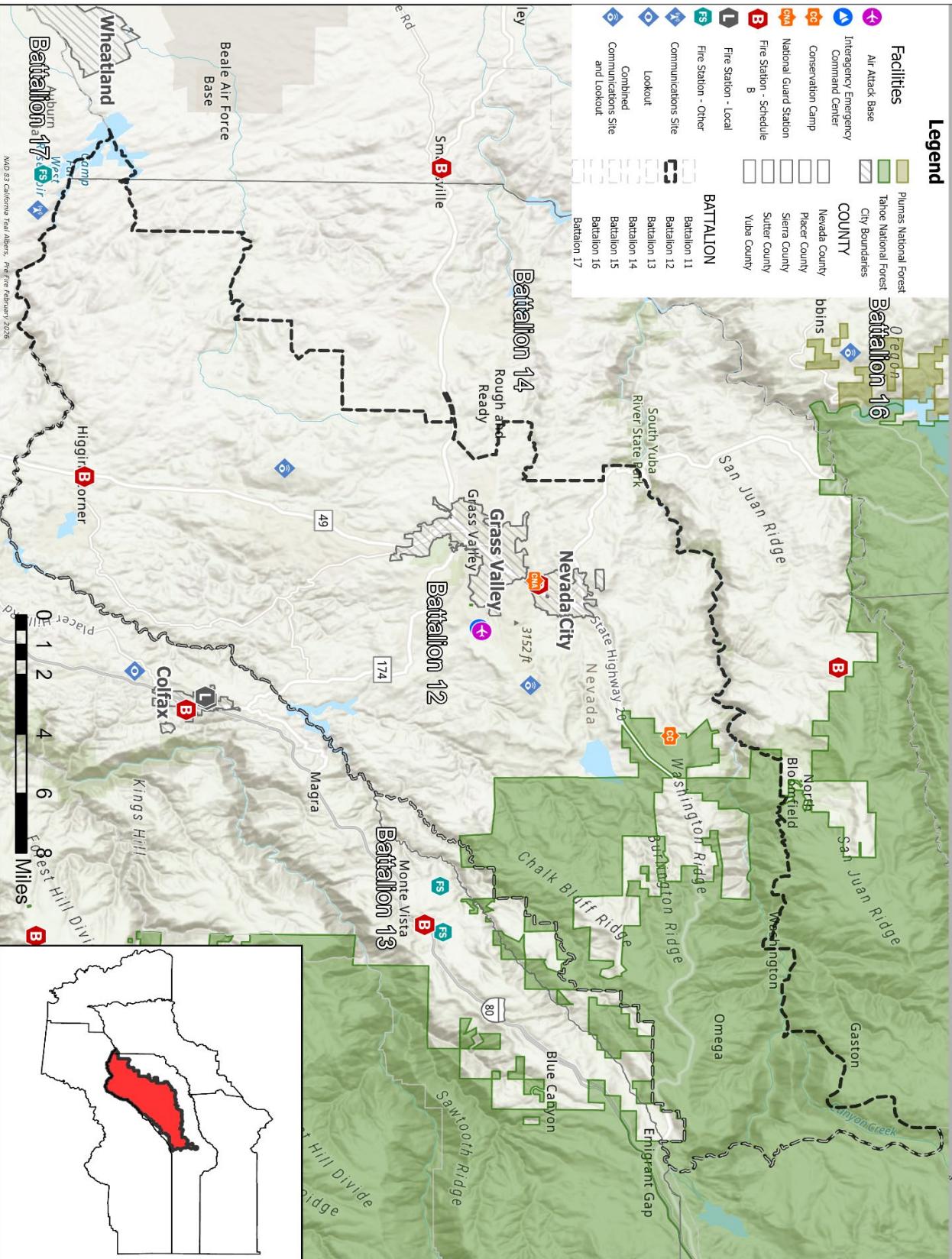
NEVADA-YUBA-PLACER UNIT (NEU) BATTALION 12



Legend

- | | |
|--|--|
| | Plumas National Forest |
| | Tahoe National Forest |
| | City Boundaries |
| | COUNTY |
| | Nevada County |
| | Placer County |
| | Sierra County |
| | Yuba County |
| | Fire Station - Local |
| | Fire Station - Other |
| | Communications Site |
| | Lookout |
| | Combined Communications Site and Lookout |

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| | BATTALION |
| | Battalion 11 |
| | Battalion 12 |
| | Battalion 13 |
| | Battalion 14 |
| | Battalion 15 |
| | Battalion 16 |
| | Battalion 17 |



Ignition Management Plan

Battalion 13

Battalion Description

The Colfax/Alta Battalion covers an area of 155,046 acres in size within Placer County along Interstate 80 between Clipper Gap and the Hwy 20/80 interchange. The area varies from densely populated pockets to large unoccupied parcels and is interlaced with an extensive road system. The elevation ranges from 1600 feet in the drainage of the American River Canyon to 5300 feet around Emigrant Gap. The North Fork American River and Bear River form two distinct drainage systems with steep inner gorges and offers dense heavy fuels. The fuels within the Battalion vary as widely as the elevations, spanning an area that contains blue oak woodland where annual grasses and oaks are mixed with brush and landscape plantings to the prime timber bearing soils of the Sierra Nevada mixed conifer zone which are covered with large pine and fir timber. In between these fuel types is a range of chaparral, conifer / oak forest, and grass meadows, all containing light flashy fuels and mixed with residential development.

The population centers of Meadow Vista, Applegate, Weimar, Colfax, and Alta/Dutch Flat are surrounded by a scattered urban interface where parcels range from 2.5 to 20 acres in size, much of which contains residential and some light commercial development. This mix creates true WUI difficulties where even the smallest fires without the promptest emergency response could be catastrophic and result in burned structures. While the Colfax/Alta Battalion is not highly populated as compared to other portions of Placer County, the day-to-day traffic flow from the major East/West Freeway (Interstate 80) continues to be a fire problem. In 2018, 9% of ignitions in the Battalion originate from vehicles.

Cooperators include Placer Sierra Firesafe Council, Iowa Hill Firesafe Council, Auburn Firesafe Council, Placer County Sheriff's Office, Foresthill Fire Department, Placer Hills Fire District, the City of Colfax, Iowa Hill Fire Company, Placer County Fire Department, Dutch Flat Company 32, Alta Company 98, Colfax Company 36, Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service, Pacific Gas and Electric, Placer County Water Agency, Union Pacific Railroad and Kinder Morgan.

Statistics

Responsibility Area and Direct Protection Area for Battalion 2313

Responsibility Area (acres)	FRA 53,118	LRA 891	SRA 89,077
Direct Protection Area (acres)	Federal 31,189	Local 902	State 110,995

Mitigation Strategy Action Plan

1. Public Information and Outreach

A. Burn Permit Administration-

Debris burn escapes accounted for numerous ignitions in the Battalion. The public underestimating fuel dryness, noncompliance with the terms of the permit, carelessness and to some degree a lack of permissible burn days in the wetter months of the year are direct causes to the high number of debris burn escapes. To reduce the number of escapes leading to vegetation fires, education at the time of permit issuance is critical so that residents know to review the restrictions and ensure that they comply before lighting their pile.

B. Public Education Forums –

The Battalion will continue to implement public education forums. Typical events throughout the year include:

- Colfax City Council meetings
- Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council meetings
- Weimar/Colfax MAC meetings
- Lions Club meetings
- Alpine Meadows Community meeting
- Meadow Vista Municipal Advisory Council meetings
- Fire Wise Community walkthroughs

C. PRC 4291 inspection

Defensible space inspection activities will continue to take place throughout the Battalion, with a focus on the High Priority Target Areas. Battalion staff are working with Unit Prevention and Defensible Space Inspectors to provide inspections effectively and efficiently. Battalion staff are actively engaged with residents, providing them assistance, information, and guidance for effective defensible space.

D. Education and Outreach

Recreational areas are frequently visited by CAL FIRE personnel to provide fire safe information and material. The local elementary schools are targeted for Smokey Bear programs. Staff participate in and support the July 3rd and 4th parades in both communities of Colfax & Dutch Flat. Fire prevention signage is used to convey fire prevention messaging to the public in a passive fashion.

2. Vegetation Management

A. Chipper Program / Residential Fuel Treatment

The Battalion will encourage and support vegetation management programs within NEU, plus roadside chipping and community chipping programs provided by agency cooperators. Also, working with the Colfax City Council, City Staff and our NEU Fire Planners, the Battalion Chief developed a Hazardous Vegetation Ordinance in 2020. This ordinance ensures that (1) structures within city limits establish appropriate defensible space and minimize the risk posed by hazardous vegetation and combustible materials, (2) promote public safety by mitigating the risk from wildfires, and (3) establish an enforcement process for

the City and procedure to reasonably maximize compliance with the requirements of this ordinance.

B. Maintenance of Fire Road Access

The following roads are deemed critical to provide fire equipment access and reduce the potential of a large costly and damaging fire which may originate in the American River Canyon:

- Drivers Flat to Long Point Fuel Break
- McKeon-Ponderosa
- Upper and Lower Lake Clementine
- Robie Point Fuel Break Maintenance
- Stagecoach Road

C. Interagency Cooperation

The Battalion will continue to work with local cooperator fire departments and law enforcement on various issues. The local battalion Chief works closely with the local Fire Safe Councils, up-dating pre-fire plans, and expanding on WUI pre-plan guidelines and maps. Staff will continue conducting business inspections throughout the year as fiscal limitations and staff time allow. Annually the Battalion Chief meets with both the Colfax Elementary and Colfax High School staff to discuss defensible space, evacuation, and shelter-in-place processes.

D. Vegetation Management / Fuels Modification Projects

Battalion 13 Fire Mitigation Projects, Type and Status

Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
Mt Howell VMP	A	Ongoing	Shaded Fuel Break	40
Alta Shaded Fuel Break	A	Ongoing	Shaded Fuel Break	50
North Fork American River Shaded Fuel Break	A	2030	Shaded Fuel Break	5000
Lake Valley Sky Mountain Defense Zone Project	P	Ongoing	Shaded Fuel Break / Management Plan	75
Interstate 80 Hazard Reduction Project	P	2028	Roadside Treatment	400

Status Guide: A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance

3. High Priority Target Areas:

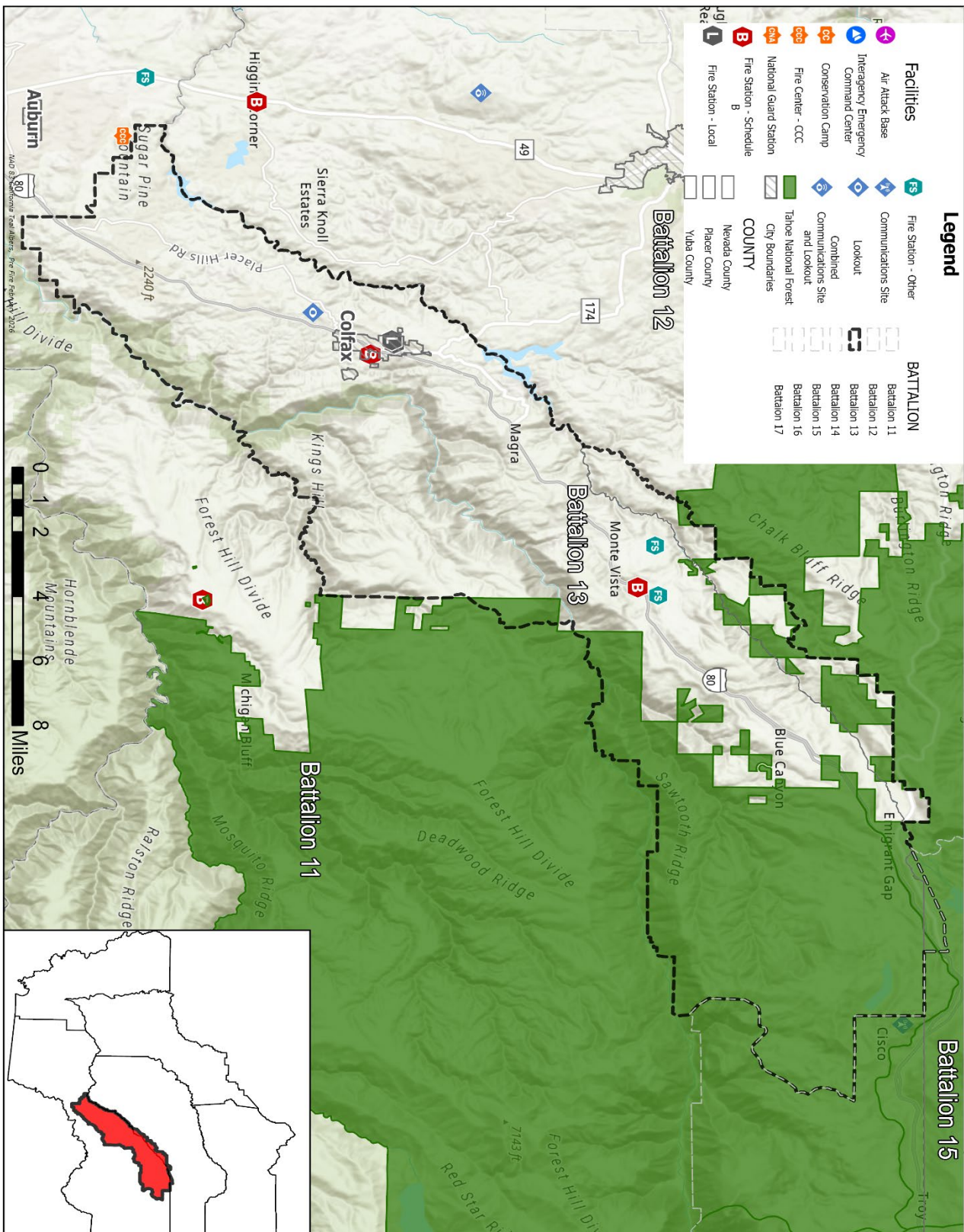
- Colfax WUI
- Alta/Dutch Flat WUI
- Secret Town/Alpine Meadows WUI
- Weimar WUI
- Clipper Gap WUI
- Applegate WUI
- Meadow Vista WUI

NEVADA-YUBA-PLACER UNIT (NEU) BATTALION 13



Legend

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Facilities | BATTALION |
| Air Attack Base | Battalion 11 |
| Emergency/Command Center | Battalion 12 |
| Conservation Camp | Battalion 13 |
| Fire Center - CCC | Battalion 14 |
| National Guard Station | Battalion 15 |
| Fire Station - Schedule B | Battalion 16 |
| Fire Station - Local | Battalion 17 |
| COUNTY | |
| Nevada County | |
| Placer County | |
| Yuba County | |



Ignition Management Plan

Battalion 14

Battalion Description

At over 270,000 acres, the Smartsville – Columbia Hill Battalion (B-14) is one of the largest in NEU. It includes more than 160,000 acres of SRA and 15,000 acres of Federal land under State DPA. The main centers of population include Penn Valley, Rough & Ready, North San Juan, North Columbia, Smartsville, Beale Air Force Base, Linda, and Wheatland. Most of these communities have been identified on the federal registry of Wildland Urban Interface Communities at Risk. The Battalion is made up of the Yuba River, Deer Creek, and Bear River Watersheds, all of which have portions that have been identified as High Hazard Watersheds. From west to east, the Battalion begins in the relatively flat lands of the Sacramento Valley and continues northeast to the mountainous terrain of the Tahoe National Forest (TNF). In between these boundaries, one will find fuel types that represent at least twelve of the thirteen fuel models. From the valley floor to around 800 – 900 ft. elevation is primarily the grass models. Beginning around 700 ft., the oak-woodland begins to appear and continues to about 1,400 ft. elevation. The brush models begin to appear around 800 ft. and extend to over 3,000 ft. in places. The timber models begin at approximately 1,600 ft. in places and continue to the TNF boundary. Most of the Battalion is zoned for residential properties of five acres or more, agriculture, or timber production.

Fire agency cooperators include Penn Valley Fire Protection District, Smartsville Fire District, North San Juan Fire District, Rough & Ready Fire District, Wheatland Fire Authority, Linda Fire District, Nevada County OES, The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Forest Service Tahoe National Forest, and Beale Air Force Base. Non-fire agency cooperators include Pacific Gas and Electric and Nevada Irrigation District.

Acreage Statistics

Responsibility Area and Direct Protection Area for Battalion14

Responsibility Area (acres)	FRA 59,067	LRA 82,742	SRA 167,037
Direct Protection Area (acres)	Federal 40,375	Local 82,787	State 185,684

Discussion of fire occurrence within Battalion

Since 1980, there have been thirty-one fires over 100 acres within the Battalion. The most notable of those are the 49er Fire (1988 - 33,500 Ac.), the Oak Tree Fire (1978 – 1800 Ac.), the Lobo Fire (2017 - 821 Ac.), the Jones Fire (2020 – 705 Ac.), and the Trauner Fire (1994 – 536 Ac.). the Rice's Fire (2022 - 904 Ac.).

NEU's most costly and damaging fire occurred entirely within the Smartsville – Columbia Hill Battalion. The 49er Fire began on Sunday, September 11th, 1988, near the intersection of Highway 49 and Birchville Rd. and was contained on Thursday September 15, 1988, about five miles south of Highway 20 in the Smartsville area. Over the course of five days, the fire destroyed 148 homes, 358 other structures, 89 vehicles, and 17 boats. Suppression costs were estimated at 7.5 million dollars, and the total dollar loss was estimated at 22.7 million dollars.

Mitigation Strategy Action Plan

1. Public Information and Outreach

A. Burn Permit Administration-

Battalion 14 consistently issues burn permits at a higher rate than many areas with the Nevada Yuba Placer Unit. Battalion 14 employees take this opportunity to engage with the public and educate our citizens on proper burning of oversized piles as well as broadcast burning. A forum for this education has been presented at workshops and Firewise community meetings on this process and what right looks like. Residential burn permits are largely administered online, but both the Columbia Hill and Smartsville Stations are still available to provide this function.

B. Public Education Forums –

The Battalion will continue to implement public education forums. Typical events throughout the year include:

- Penn Valley School Programs (K -12)
- Smartsville Pioneer Day
- Fourth of July Parade
- Beale AFB Fire Prevention Week
- Lake Englebright Campground fire line construction
- Malakoff State Park Campground – camper education
- Prescribed burning workshops administered by cooperating agencies.

C. PRC 4291 inspection

Defensible space inspection activities will continue to take place throughout the Battalion, with a focus on the High Priority Target Areas. The CAL FIRE stations and Battalion Chief will continue working with Unit Prevention and Defensible Space Inspectors and support this activity with logistical support, inspections and citations if needed.

2. Vegetation Management:

A. Chipper Program / Residential Fuel Treatment

The Battalion will encourage and support vegetation management programs within NEU, plus roadside and community chipping programs provided by agency cooperators.

B. Maintenance of Fire Road Access

There are several roads in Battalion 14 that have been maintained for fire access since the early 1950s. Due to years of neglect many of these roads have become nearly impassable for emergency vehicles. In several places changes in ownership have resulted in the new landowners being unaware of the agreements to the point that North Ponderosa Way now has a home built in the original road prism. Over the next several years, efforts will be made by Battalion 14 personnel to identify the roads that will significantly improve the access into the back country within the battalion and work towards re- establishing as many of the original agreements as possible.

- North Ponderosa Way
- South Ponderosa Way
- Jackass Flats Rd. Hoyt's Crossing Rd.
- Murphy Rd.
- Hatchet Creek Rd.
- Big Oak area roads
- Point Defiance / Rice's Crossing Fire Access Roads
- Spenceville Road
- Waldo Low Water Crossing
- Scott Forbes Rd.
- High Prairie Rd.
- Wood's Creek Truck Trail

C. Interagency Cooperation

Several cooperators provide opportunities for fuels reduction. The University of California Research and Cooperative Extension Center allows us to conduct training on their lands. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDF&W) provides us with areas to conduct wildland training exercises and fuel reduction projects. The Army Corps of Engineers provides water shuttle services for rescues and fire responses across and around Englebright Reservoir and grants access for helicopter training to our aviation resources. The California State Parks are working with us to conduct a large Vegetation Management Program (VMP) burn on their lands expanding fuel reduction efforts along the Yuba River Drainage, as well as having been a great partner on historical projects that have been completed to the same end. Battalion staff support Fire Safe Councils and encourage the establishment of Fire Wise Communities throughout the Battalion and work closely with the Nevada County Resource Conservation District on fuels reduction projects, emergency fire suppression water access projects, and control burn public education projects.

D. Vegetation Management / Fuels Modification

Projects Battalion 14 Fire Mitigation Projects,

Type and Status

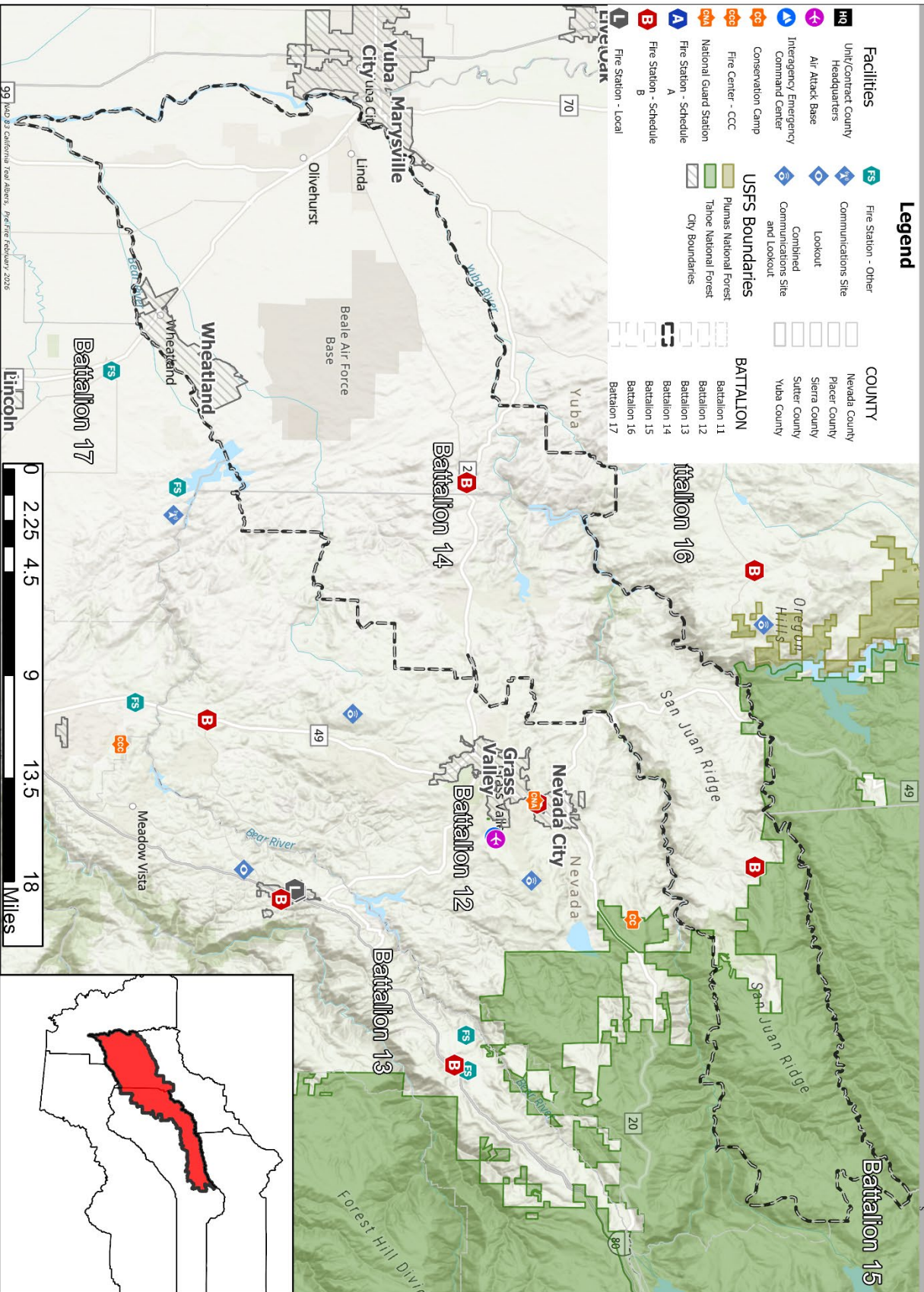
Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
UC Field Station VMP	O	Ongoing	Prescribed Fire	6,231
Reader Ranch VMP	P	Unknown	Prescribed Fire	1500
Malakoff State Park VMP	P	Unknown	Prescribed Fire	2000
South Yuba Rim Fuel Break	P	2030	Combined Treatments	800

Status Guide: A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance.

3. High Priority Target Areas:

- Lake Wildwood
- Smartsville
- North San Jaun
- French Corral, Indian Springs, Spenceville Rd
- Tyler-Foote Crossing Rd
- Oak Tree Rd
- HWY 49
- Mooney Flat
- Pleasant Valley
- Jones Bar Ridge
- Ananda Village
- Starduster Rd.
- Long Valley Rd.
- Big Oak Valley
- Chuck Yeager
- Peoria Rd
- Cruzon Grade Ridge
- Spenceville Wildlife Area Shooting Range

NEVADA-YUBA-PLACER UNIT (NEU) BATTALION 14



Ignition Management Plan

Battalion 15

Battalion Description

Battalion 15 covers approximately 832,285 acres within Placer and Nevada counties, as well as portions of Sierra County. The primary population center is the Town of Truckee which is also the location of the Battalion Headquarters at 10277 Truckee Tahoe Airport Road.

Fuel types vary from annual grasses and brush to timber in topography ranging from high desert and valley landscapes to mountain peaks climbing to over 9,000 feet. The fuel makeup is typical of this diverse high-altitude timber and meadow environment. The fuel loading varies from an average minimum of two (2) tons per acre to greater than twenty-five (25) tons per acre.

Significant Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) challenges exist and increase annually with additional buildout of the local communities. The firefighting challenges posed by the expansive growth and development into the wildlands, changing weather dynamics and increasing permanent and transient populations are dynamic, and require constant engagement and response adaptations by CAL FIRE Battalion 15 responders year-round. Battalion 15 staffs a CAL FIRE engine company year-round at Fire Station 50 to ensure the all-risk service, safeguarding and protection of the community.

There has been a significant protection shift within the Tahoe Basin area of Battalion 15. Historically, the USDA - Forest Service (USFS) had been the dominant wildland protection provider within the basin; however, following the Blue-Ribbon Commission recommendations following the destructive Angora Fire of 2007, responsibility and protection changed.

These changes were driven by clarified policies within the agency on Structure Defense Guidelines (WUI), expanding areas of privately-owned lands with structures, and areas that could not be adequately protected by the USDA – Forest Service. Areas that met these defined parameters were designated State Direct Protection Area (DPA). That translated to CAL FIRE having wildland fire protection and prevention responsibilities for populated areas and private property around the Tahoe Basin, including areas within the North Tahoe Protection Districts. Battalion 15 acquired an additional 20,000 acres of State Direct Protection Area, encompassing the communities along the West Shore of Lake Tahoe, Highway 267 and the Highway 89 corridor including Olympic Valley and Alpine Meadows.

These mountain communities have a combined population of 26,000 people which can more than quadruple on weekends and holidays, as up to half of the residential structures are vacation or second homes. This geographic area is also one of the most visited in the world.

Cooperators include Truckee Fire Protection District, Northstar Fire Department, North Tahoe Fire Protection District, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, Olympic Valley Fire Department, California Highway Patrol, Cal Trans, Fire safe council of Sierra County, USDA- United States Forest Service including the Tahoe, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Army Corp of Engineers, Union Pacific Railroad, Liberty Energy, Truckee-Donner Utility District, Tahoe City PUD, Lahontan Water Authority, Sierra Pacific Industries and Pacific Gas and Electric.

Acreage Statistics

Responsibility Area and Direct Protection Area for Battalion 15

Responsibility Area (acres)	FRA 514,785	N/A	LRA 95,660	SRA 265,930
Direct Protection Area (acres)	Federal 714,865	Local Wildland Contract 16,721	Local 45,494	State 116,079

Battalion Fire History and Occurrence

Large damaging and costly fires do occur in Battalion 15. Significant, in terms of acreage are the Donner Ridge Fire (1960 – 44,812 acres), Cottonwood Fire (1994 - 46,800 acres), Martis Fire (2001 – 14,126 acres) and the Loyalton Fire (2020 – 47,029). Fire Hazard Severity data predicts a high likelihood that such fires will occur again.

Typically, Battalion 15 will receive 20-25 vegetation fires per year dependent upon the occurrence and frequency of lightning events, which routinely accounts for a significant ignition source (20% of ignitions) annually. Battalion 15 resources routinely respond to mutual aid requests from the United States Forest Service and local fire districts, as well as to fires state-wide in support of the CAL FIRE mission

Mitigation Strategy Action Plan

1. Public Information and Outreach

A. Burn Permit Administration-

About 2,000 door yard burning permits are issued annually within Battalion 15. CAL FIRE requires permits from May 1 through December 1; however, our local fire districts enforce the permit requirement year-round or prohibit burning completely. The CAL FIRE imposed burn ban is an important and necessary regulation to ensure the protection of life, property, and resources by minimizing the potential for escapes and fire starts. Burning on the Eastside is daylight hours only on approved burn days. Escapes are rare and usually insignificant due to the proactive measures, and strong community relationships maintained by Battalion 15 staff.

An authorized employee of CAL FIRE issues LE-5 (California Inter-Agency Burning Permit) and LE-7 (Project Type Burning Permit) on State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands after an online application and in person inspection plus post inspection. These Project Burn Permits are typically used to dispose of larger piles of material and typically require an inspection by agency personnel prior to authorization to burn.

The Battalion Chief issues an average of twenty-five project burn permits annually. An example of an annual project burn is Independence Lake, which is owned and operated by The Nature Conservancy. This joint effort reduces fuel loading, improves forest health, and protects the watershed.

B. Public Education Forums –

Battalion 15 will continue to implement public education forums. Typical events throughout the year include:

- School Programs (K-12)
- Truckee Thursdays, National Night Out, Air Show, Big Truck Day
- Fourth of July Parade, Snow Fest Parade
- Pre-School Programs, Smokey Bear in Day Care Centers
- Fuel Reduction Activities within the Tahoe Basin
- Fuels Reduction Greater Truckee Martis Valley
- Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team – Fire Public Information Team
- Fire wise Communities
- MAC Meetings

C. PRC 4291 inspection

Battalion personnel will continue to collaboratively work with the Truckee Fire Protection District, North Tahoe Fire Protection Districts, Northstar Fire CSD and Olympic Valley Public Service District with LE-100 Defensible Space Inspections (DSI). These collaborative efforts have proven shared benefits during emergency and non-emergency responses in the area including State Responsibility Areas (SRA).

Northstar Fire Department has a comprehensive inspection program in Placer County within SRA that has achieved nearly 100 percent compliance annually. Tahoe Donner Association's Forestry Department also conducts inspections with a high rate of compliance, enforcement, and mitigation.

2. Vegetation Management:

A. Community Fuels Reduction Programs

CAL FIRE supports fuel treatments with forestry expertise from within the ranks of the department, combined with the fire suppression knowledge of the Battalion Chief. Through this combination of fire and forestry expertise, both large and small landowners can benefit from on-site appraisal of fuel treatment and forest health needs. It is the intent of the CAL FIRE Battalion Chief and CAL FIRE Foresters to encourage and assist landowners to actively manage their properties, Batt 15 encourages and supports fuels management through any of the grants funded process within the Department as it is a force multiplier in funding, as well as a comprehensive Land management process. This allows homeowners to proactively protect their homes through fuel reduction efforts, defensible space, and home hardening. Each of these actions also enhances natural resource values and helps protect the community. Battalion 15 is regularly involved in meeting and planning within the Tahoe Fuels and Fire Team (TFFT). Batt 15 support and is involved in the planning and implementation of their fuel reduction projects and strategic goals set forth withing the Basin wide CWPP.

B. Installation and Maintenance of Fuel Breaks

Battalion 15 staff support the acquisition of project funds that will achieve the installation and maintenance of fuel breaks. CAL FIRE Washington Ridge Crews, National Guard Crews, Fuels Crew and the Placer Center Fire Crews will continue to support the communities within Battalion 15 (Eastern Placer, Nevada, and Sierra Counties) with comprehensive fuel reduction and fuel break projects.

C. Interagency Cooperation

A large portion of the Battalion lies within the boundaries of the Truckee Fire Protection District. In 1994, the Town of Truckee was incorporated, converting 21,000 acres of State Responsibility Area (SRA) to Local Responsibility Area (LRA). As the town continued to grow, and the demands on the Truckee Fire Protection District increased, in 2010, an agreement was initiated between the Town of Truckee and CAL FIRE for wildland fire protection on approximately 7,900 acres of wildland within Truckee Fire Protection District Boundaries. In 2024, this acreage was increased to and is maintained currently at 16,721 acres. This protection agreement ensures the use of CAL FIRE's vast response arsenal in the protection of the community from wildland fires at no additional cost (outside of the annual agreement) to the Town of Truckee.

Battalion 15 staff foster cooperative fire protection, prevention, and emergency response activities with all local, state, and federal agencies. The strong relationship between CAL FIRE and Truckee Fire Protection District, North Tahoe Fire Protection District, Northstar Community Service District, Olympic Valley Public Service District, United States Forest Service, and others has provided for a professional and seamless response to both emergency and non-emergency calls for service. The limited number of fires, and their impacts can be directly tied to the proactive and cooperative daily efforts of Battalion 15 staff and our cooperators.

D. Vegetation Management / Fuels Modification Projects

Battalion 15 Fire Mitigation Projects, Type and Status

Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
NorthStar Fire Fuel Reduction / Forest Heath	P	2026	Fuel Treatments including thinning, pile burning,	
Cabin Creek –	C	2025	Treat surface and	
Waddle Ranch VTP	P	2026	Prescribed fire and hand thinning	500
SRA Fuel Reduction: Burton and Donner*	O/M	2026	Thinning, pile burning, hazard tree removal and prescribed fire	1500
Tahoe City Fuel Break	O	2025	A 40' wide fuel break including thinning, pile burning and hazard tree felling operations	225
Lakeview Canyon Fuel Break	O	2026	A 40'-50' wide fuel break including thinning, brushing, chipping, and hazard Tree felling operations	200
California Tahoe Conservancy	O	2026	Pile burning and hazardous tree felling operations	50/ 1000
Sierra Co FCS	O	2026	CWPP Project Planning	

Status Guide: A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance.

*Support for some items in the table may be dependent upon SRA Fee/GHG dollars to treat the maximum number of acres shown.

3. High Priority Target Areas:

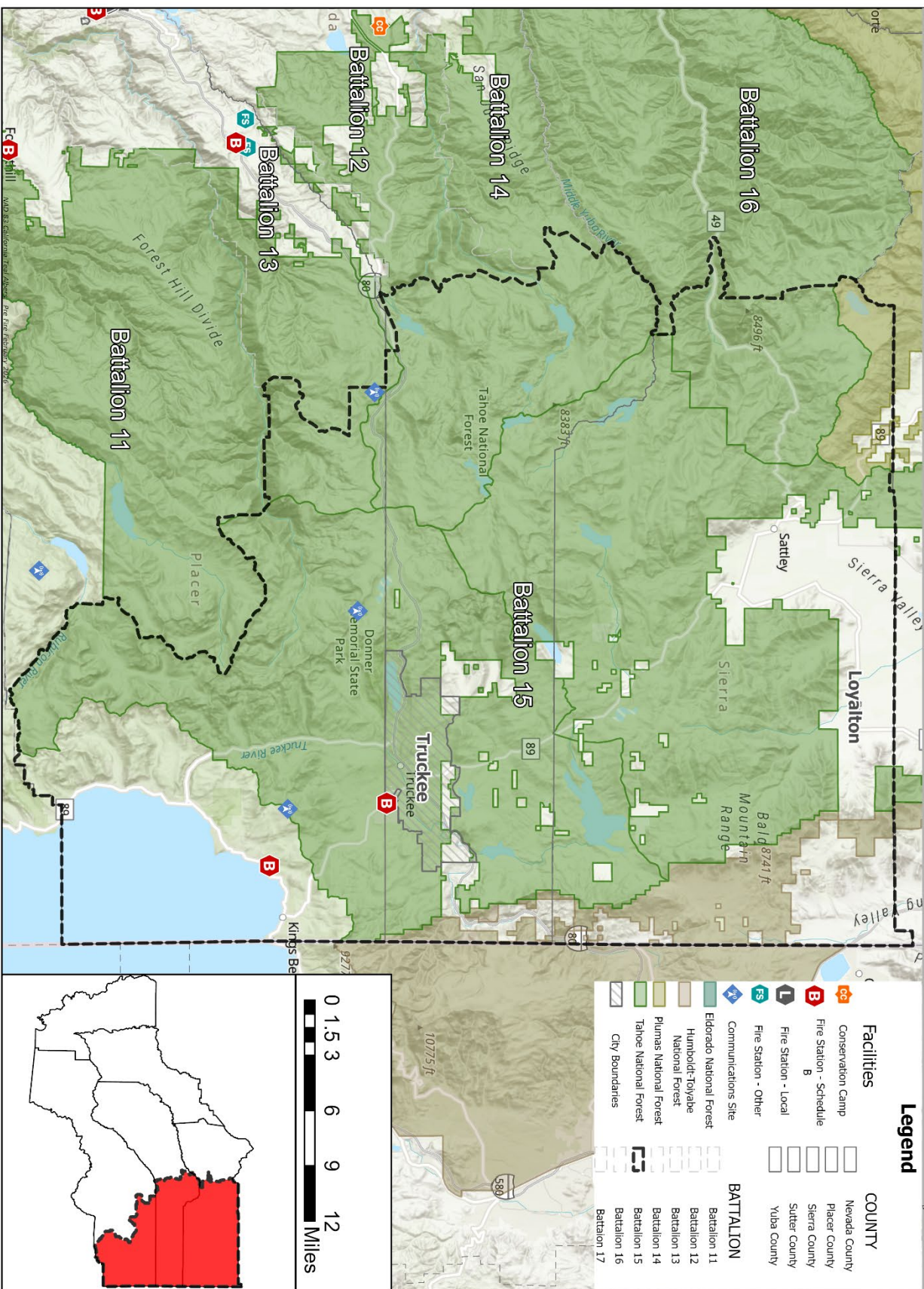
CAL FIRE Battalion 15 staff work year-round to maintain, enhance, and improve the fuel reduction, defensible space, and hazard reduction efforts to ensure the service, safeguarding and protection of our communities. Our listed mitigation projects are current projects and are not our only efforts. We will strive to continually identify, initiate, and complete additional projects that will have tangible benefits to the communities that we so proudly serve.

Below are areas that have been identified as High Priority Target Areas in Battalion 15. These areas are and will continue to be engaged to reduce the hazards they pose:

- Donner Lake Communities
- North side of Highway 80 (Communities of Tahoe Donner & Armstrong Tract)
- Glenshire – Devonshire Community
- Ponderosa Palisades / Sierra Meadows Community
- Prosser Dam Road including Gray's Crossing Community
- Burton Creek State Park
- Donner Memorial State Park
- California Tahoe Conservancy Property
- Sattley Community - Sierra County
- Sierra City Community, Bassets – Sierra County
- Truckee-Tahoe Airport District including Waddle Ranch
- Martis Camp Community
- Sugar Bowl/Nordan Community
- Royal Gorge, Donner Summit, Soda Springs, Cisco Grove, Big Bend Communities
- Northstar Community
- Alpine Meadows Community
- Tahoe Donner Community
- Summit Canyon (Old Highway 40)
- Calpine
- Sierraville
- Loyalton
- Russel Valley
- Verdi/ Sierra Pines

*These areas have had fuels work; however, they may need maintenance and or newproject

NEVADA-YUBA-PLACER UNIT (NEU) BATTALION 15



Ignition Management Plan

Battalion 16

Battalion Description

The Loma Rica and Dobbins battalion serves a large area of SRA. Population densities within the Battalion consist of the towns of Loma Rica, Browns Valley, Brownsville, Dobbins, and Oregon House. The battalion is dominated by grass fuel models in the low valley areas giving way to oak woodlands, mixed brush, and conifer at higher elevations. The topography is flat near the valley floor changing to gentle rolling slopes as one move west toward the Sierra Nevada. The battalion contains several areas where small fires could likely become large damaging incidents.

Fuels are dominated by grass, but dense brush is common along river bottoms and in non-agricultural areas. Agricultural crops comprise a significant portion of this response area.

The Local Responsibility area within the Battalion's Administrative area is commonly referred to as the Yuba-Sutter Area after the two counties. Cooperators in this area include Marysville Fire, Sutter County Fire, Yuba City Fire, Wheatland Fire Authority, Olivehurst Fire and Linda Fire.

There are several cooperators within the Battalion including Dobbins/Oregon House Fire Protection District, Foothill Fire Protection District, Loma Rica/Browns Valley Community Services Districts and the Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council.

Acreage Statistics

Responsibility Area and Direct Protection Area for Battalion 16

Responsibility Area(acres)	FRA 245,222	LRA 351,027	SRA 209,096
Direct Protection Area (acres)	Federal 320,711	Local 350,866	State 133,768

Battalion Fire History and Occurrence

Large fire activity within the Battalion has been consistent over the past few years. Large fire events include the Pendola Fire (Oct 1999 – 11,725 acres), Cascade Fire (October 2017 – 9,989 acres), William's Fire (Sept 1997- 5,838 acres), Yuba Fire (Aug 2009 – 3,829 acres), Willow Fire (Sept 2020 – 1311 acres), Bullard's Fire (Aug 2010 – 1,307 acres), Marysville Fire (Aug 2006 – 388 acres) Large damaging and costly fires are a regular occurrence in the Battalion. Fire Hazard Severity Zone mapping (2007 FHSZ) illustrates that there is a high hazard that large damaging and costly fires will occur in the future.

Debris burning escape caused fires remain a significant source of fire starts. The source of these fires relates to diligent fuels reduction efforts being conducted by residents, but the implementation of the burning proves to be risky. Public education is a key element in mitigating many of the fire causes as most fires are caused by human actions.

Mitigation Strategy Action Plan

1. Public Information and Outreach

A. Burn Permit Administration-

March - Update the Yuba County Burning Permit Issuance Plan in conjunction with the Feather River Air Quality Management District.

April - Battalion staff will train the VIPs in burn permit issuance and ensure that CAL FIRE employees have reviewed the Yuba County Burning Permit Issuance Plan.

B. Public Education Forums –

Public relations and interaction between CAL FIRE and the community is a key factor in promoting a public understanding of fire prevention. Station 60 and 61 along with VIP's and the volunteers from the LR/BV C.S.D. will participate in local community activities including:

- Year-round coordination of address sign sales and installation
- Bok Kai Parade – Marysville in February
- Be Prepared Fair – Ponderosa Community Center Brownsville in May
- Brownsville Mountain Fair – Brownsville in August
- National Night Out – Loma Rica Lions Club in August
- Marysville Veterans Day Parade- November 11th
- Marysville Christmas Parade- 1st Saturday in December

C. PRC 4291 inspection

PRC 4291 inspections serve many purposes. One is as a vegetation management motivator. The other is as a public education tool. Inspections generally occur near high priority target areas identified by Battalion Chiefs; however, all residential structures are required to comply.

3. Vegetation Management:

A. Community Fuels Reduction Programs

CAL FIRE supports fuel treatments with forestry expertise from within the ranks of the department combined with the fire suppression knowledge of the Battalion Chiefs. Through this combination of fire and forestry advice, both large and small landowners can benefit from on-site appraisal of fuel treatment and forest health needs.

It is the intent of the CAL FIRE Battalion Chief and CAL FIRE Foresters to encourage and assist landowners to actively manage their properties to protect their homes, reduce fuels and enhance natural resource values.

B. Maintenance of Fire Access Roads

There are several roads in B-16 that were maintained for fire access since the early 1950s. With changes in personnel and landownership, many of those have been neglected over the past ten to fifteen years. Due to years of neglect many of these roads have become nearly impassable for emergency vehicles. Over the next several years, efforts will be made by B-16 personnel to identify the roads that will significantly improve access to the back country within the Battalion and work towards re-establishing as many of the original agreements as possible and developing new ones where appropriate.

- Kane Ranch Rd
- Collins Lake/UC Field Station Access Rd
- Rice's Crossing Rd
- UC Field / Richard's Ranch Rd
- General Road Improvement in the Dobbins/Oregon House Area
- Daugherty Wildlife Area/White Oak

C. Interagency Cooperation

Several cooperators assist CAL FIRE in implementing fire prevention objectives. Loma Rica/Browns Valley CSD personnel and incorporate fire prevention and burning permit issuance program to the local responsibility areas of the fire district. Volunteers in Prevention (VIP) conduct school programs each winter at Yuba Feather, Dobbins, Loma Rica, and Browns Valley Schools. Generally, Battalion staff meet all local cooperators covering fire prevention subjects specific to their needs and promoting the Camptonville Community Partnership Yuba County chipping program to encourage defensible space compliance.

The Battalion Chiefs remains an acting member of the Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council. Working with the Yuba Fire Safe and Watershed Council, several roadside fuel breaks have been completed within the Battalion. The Council gets together annually to prioritize the roads needing work, then they work with the CAL FIRE staff to identify workdays when the crew will be able to clear the road right-of-way by cutting and chipping the brush.

D. Vegetation Management / Fuels Modification Projects

Battalion 16 Fire Mitigation Projects, Types and Status

Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
Oregon Ridge Fuel Break	A	2025	Fuel break	496
Brownsville fuel Break	A	2025	Fuel break	203
County Road 270	P	2026	Fire Road	50
Yuba County Fish and Wildlife Areas Fuel Breaks (Daugherty Hill, Stanfield Hill, Quail Valley)	O	Continuous	Fuel Break	1500
Rice's Crossing Rd	P	2025	Ingress/Egress Improvement / Fuel Reduction	465
Yuba foothills Healthy Forest Project	A	2025	Fuels Reduction	4627
New Bullard's Bar Forest Health	A	2029	Fuels Reductions	3498
Oregon Peak Lookout Fuel Reduction	M	Continuous	Fuels Reduction on CAL FIRE property	20
Brownsville-Oregon house Fuel Break	A	2026	Fuel Break	347
Yuba Roadside Fuel Treatment Project	O	Continuous	Ingress/Egress Improvement / Fuel Reduction	Varies

Status Guide: A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance

3. High Priority Target Areas:

Below are areas that have been identified as High Priority Target Areas in Battalion 16. These areas will continue to be used to reduce the risks they pose:

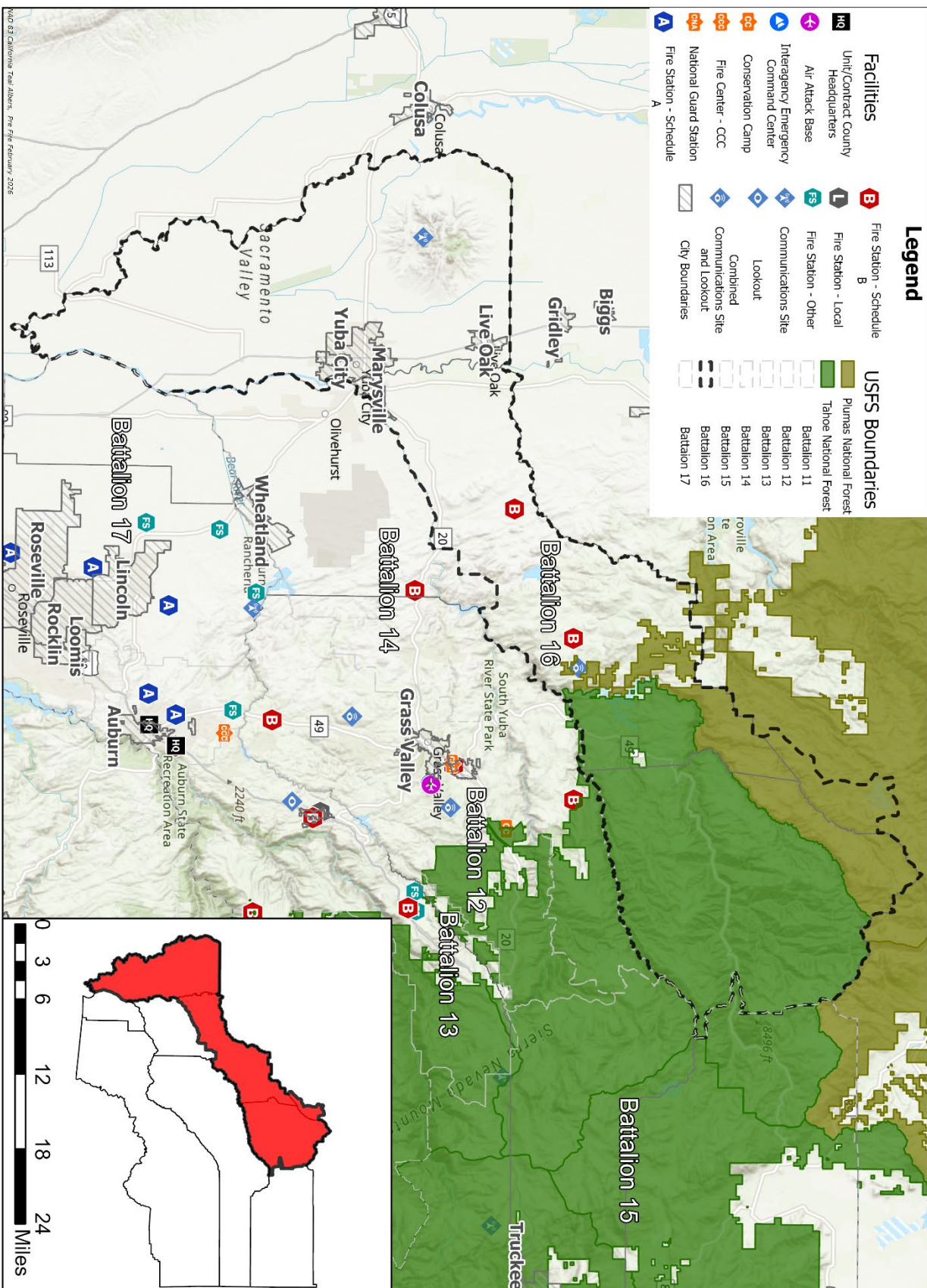
- Watershed protection for water quality and clarity.
- High tension power lines in the Battalion.
- Yuba River Drainage due to high risk to WUI and control challenges.
- Dobbins Area WUI
- Daugherty Hill and Quail Valley Wildlife Area
- Fuel Reductions Along Rural Roads for ingress, egress, and evacuations
- Community of Brownsville
- Marysville Road
- Willow Glenn Road

NEVADA-YUBA-PLACER UNIT (NEU) BATTALION 16



Legend

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| Facilities | USFS Boundaries |
| Unit/Contract County Headquarters | Plumas National Forest |
| Air Attack Base | Tahoe National Forest |
| Interagency Emergency Command Center | Battalion 11 |
| Conservation Camp | Battalion 12 |
| Fire Center - CCC | Battalion 13 |
| National Guard Station | Battalion 14 |
| Fire Station - Schedule A | Battalion 15 |
| Fire Station - Schedule B | Battalion 16 |
| Fire Station - Local | Battalion 17 |
| Fire Station - Other | |
| Lookout | |
| Communications Site | |
| Combined Communications Site and Lookout | |
| City Boundaries | |



Ignition Management Plan

Battalion 17

Battalion Description

The Lincoln Battalion serves portions of SRA and LRA covering approximately 300,000 acres. The battalion is dominated by grass fuel models in the lower valley area and oak woodlands and mixed brush at higher elevations. The topography is flat near the valley floor changing to gentle rolling slopes as one move east toward the foothill areas. The area is populated with rural residential properties varying in size from 5-100 acres with some larger ownership remaining. Located amongst these rural residential parcels are pockets of densely populated subdivisions where parcel size and spacing between homes is more indicative of rural development. The make-up of development and fuel types creates a true intermix condition. The battalion contains several areas where small wind-driven fires could likely become large and damaging events.

There are several cooperators within the battalion including the cities of Lincoln, Roseville, Wheatland, Rocklin, Sacramento Metro and Loomis Fire Departments, Pacific Gas and Electric and Placer County Water Agency.

Statistics

Responsibility Area and Direct Protection Area for Battalion 17

Responsibility Area (acres)	FRA 1,685	N/A	LRA 222,751	SRA 69,714
Direct Protection Area (acres)	Federal 0	Local Wildland Contract 1,265	Local 221,028	State 73,123

Battalion Fire History and Occurrence

The Battalion 17 area historically has small acreage fire events. This area does have the potential to experience severe wind driven events. One of the most notable in past years is the wind driven Gladding fire (Sept 2008 – 1,090 acres). Lincoln has traditionally been an area of agriculture and irrigated pastures which served as effective firebreaks. Few farms and active ranches are maintained currently, which has decreased the amount of available and maintained fuel breaks. Today, development is changing the rural landscape, creating a wildland urban interface at risk.

A clear majority of fires within the Battalion occur as roadside starts. These fires are classified as arson, equipment, vehicle, smoking, or are undetermined as to specific ignition source. Most of these fires are contained to less than 20 acres. Large costly and damaging fires are not a regular occurrence in the Battalion, although structure damage does occur. To mitigate the hazard from roadside starts, a fence line disc program is managed by Battalion staff to provide a first line of defense. It is not uncommon, however, to have 300+ acre fires that require mutual aid requests including state resources to assist with mitigation.

Mitigation Strategy Action Plan

1. Public Information and Outreach

A. Burn Permit Administration-

Issuing points for LE-62's will be Cal Fire/Placer County Fire Station 70, Station 77 and Station 79 along with online. The local pollution control district determines burn hours. Pre-inspections will be provided on a requested or as needed basis. With each permit written, a Placer County Air Pollution Control District's Residential Open Burning information sheet will be included. A copy of the permit will be filed at the respective station or on the online system.

Burn Permit LE 62's can also be issued online at <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/> . Homeowners filing online burn permits will watch a short informational video that outlines safe burning procedures and rules.

B. Public Education Forums –

Public relations and interaction between CAL FIRE and the community is a key factor in promoting a public understanding of fire prevention.

- School programs- Station staff provide fire safe presentations to schools within the Battalion.
- Amoruso and City of Lincoln 4th of July Parade
- Placer County Fair and Sheridan Christmas Parade
- Business fire safety programs on request
- Fire Prevention Signs.
- Thunder Valley Casino - National Fire Prevention Week
- National Night Out
- Thermolands, Paige and Dry Creek Volunteer Company Pancake Breakfasts

C. PRC 4291 inspection

A battalion goal is to target areas within the foothills that have a significant wildland fire threat or historical clearance problems and inspect homes using the PRC 4291 program. Campgrounds at Camp Far West Lake will be inspected prior to June 15th for compliance with related Forest and Fire Laws. Inspection of power lines will occur during the PRC 4291 inspections. Staff will advise the battalion chief of a violation; the battalion chief will coordinate an inspection by NEU's Fire Prevention Bureau.

D. Community Fuels Reduction Programs

CAL FIRE supports fuel treatments with forestry expertise from within the ranks of the department combined with the fire suppression knowledge of the Battalion Chief. Through this combination of fire and forestry advice, both large and small landowners can benefit from on-site appraisal of fuel treatment and forest health needs. It is the intent of the CAL FIRE Battalion Chief and CAL FIRE Foresters to encourage and assist landowners to actively manage their properties to protect their homes, reduce fuels and enhance natural resource values.

E. Vegetation Management / Fuels Modification Projects

Battalion personnel manage a fence line disc project to provide a first line of defense if an ignition occurs and to prevent roadside ignitions. The program is a voluntary effort by residents with their own equipment to assist in protecting their properties. Battalion staff endeavors to educate residents on the value of disking along fence lines and encourage their participation.

Battalion 17 Fire Mitigation Projects, Type and Status

Project Name	Status	Estimated Completion year	Project Type	Net Acres
Hidden Falls	A	Unknown	Fuel Reduction	
Fiddymment Training Area	O	Continuous	Firefighter Training Area	154
Clark Tunnel Rd-Bickford	P	Unknown	Fire Road/Shaded Fuel Break	
Battalion Disc Line Project	O	Continuous	Fuel reduction, Weed abatement	varies

Status Guide: A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance.

2. High Priority Target Areas:

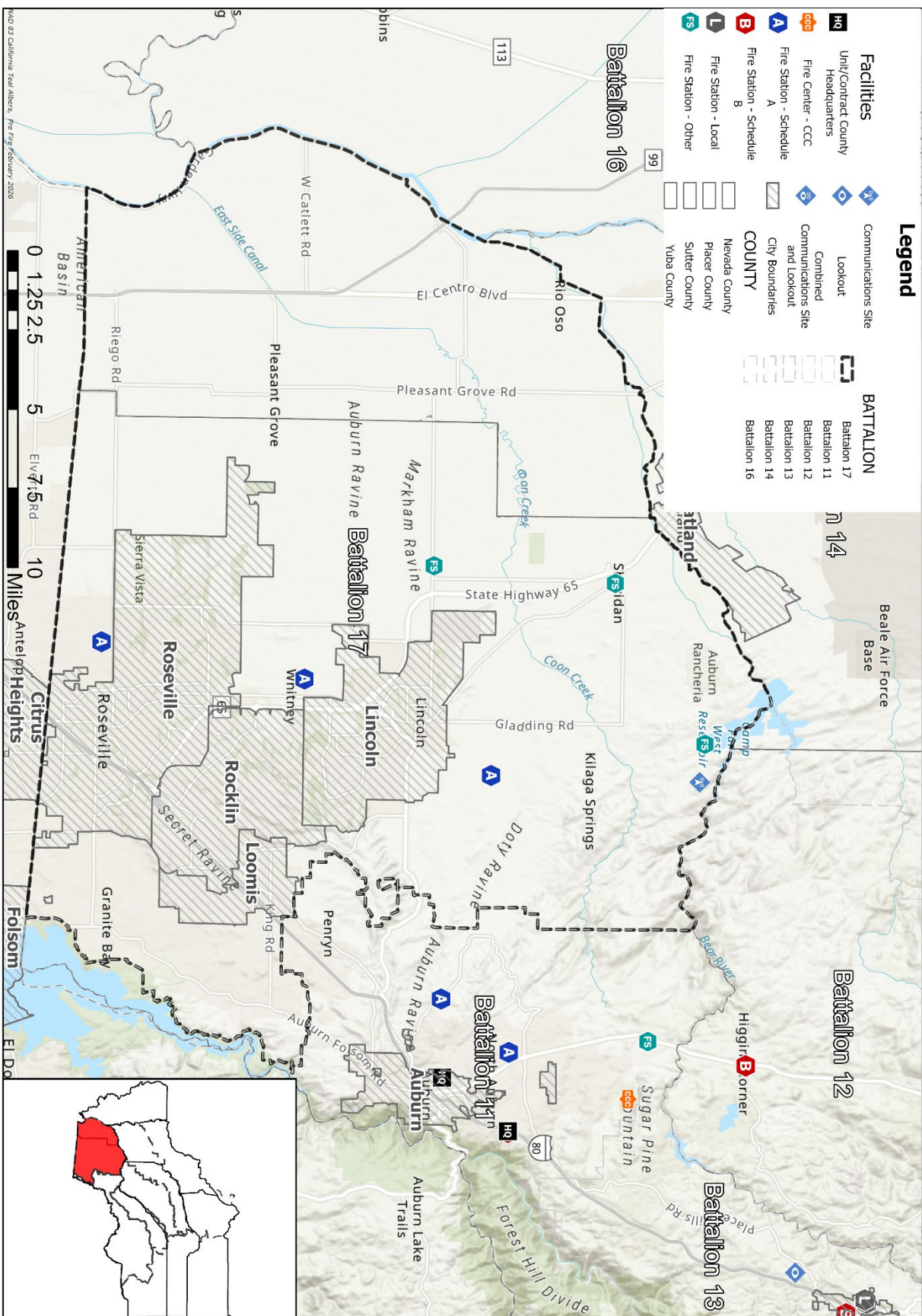
- Lincoln City boundaries, Sheridan
- Open space areas surrounding dense populations and main roadways are included in the high priority areas.
- Areas surrounding the new residential building in the Battalion, which has significantly increased.
- Areas of medium density housing where backyards have little clearances.

NEVADA-YUBA-PLACER UNIT (NEU) BATTALION 17



Legend

Facilities		BATTALION	
Unit/Contract County Headquarters	Lookout	Battalion 17	
Fire Center - CCC	Combined Communications Site and Lookout	Battalion 11	
Fire Station - Schedule A	City Boundaries	Battalion 12	
Fire Station - Schedule B	COUNTY	Battalion 13	
Fire Station - Local	Nevada County	Battalion 14	
Fire Station - Other	Placer County	Battalion 16	
	Sutter County		
	Yuba County		



Safety Bureau

I. Safety

NEU's Safety Officer oversees the Safety Committee meetings to discuss Safety issues; review personnel and vehicle accidents; recommend steps to prevent future mishaps; ensure the department's safety requirements and safety programs are being adhered to in the fire stations and on incidents.

Listed below is the Nevada Yuba Placer Unit Safety Committee Charter.

Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit Safety Committee is established in accordance with section 1703 of the Department's Safety Issuance Manual to meet the objectives of the department's safety goals and policies. The purpose of this committee is to promote a safe and healthy work environment for employees and to recommend methods to reduce accidents and personal injuries.

II. SAFETY MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Nevada-Yuba-Placer Unit Safety Committee is to develop and promote a healthy and safe environment for all employees through the involvement of all individuals with regards to education, communication, and safe work practices.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the safety committee are as follows:

- Developing program goals and objectives.
- Reviewing accident reports to determine causation and develop prevention recommendations.
- Recommending guidelines and programs for safety education and training.
- Exchanging ideas to improve methods of operation.
- Developing recommendations regarding policy and programs to senior staff.
- Review all submitted Employee Safety Suggestion & Unsafe Practices (IIPP-8).
- Reviewing needs and effectiveness of safety clothing and equipment.
- Work with all personnel in their respective program / battalion to ensure compliance is achieved for:
 - a) Facility Safety Inspections
 - b) The Injury and Illness Prevention program
 - c) Material Safety Data Sheets

- d) Mobile Equipment Safety Inspections
 - e) Personal Protective Equipment
 - f) Safety related training
 - g) The California Code of Regulations, Title 8.
- Defining major hazards and recommending corrective action.
 - Disseminating safety information to keep managers, supervisors, and employees informed of safety hazards and prevention techniques.
 - Evaluating the effectiveness of unit's safety program.
 - Make recommendations for nominations for the Employee Safety Award

IV. STRUCTURE/ORGANIZATION

Committee make-up will consist of the following members:

Program / Function

Senior Staff: 1
 Resource Management: 1
 Fire Prevention: 1
 ECC / GVAAB: 1
 Administration Support Staff: 1
 Placer County Fire Volunteer Representatives: 1
 Training and Safety Bureau: 1
 Field Battalions (one each): 1
 Washington Ridge Camp: 1
 Placer Center: 1
 Fleet: 1

The committee officers will consist of a Chairperson who will be NEU's Safety Officer, a Co-Chairperson, and a Secretary. Officers will be elected by the committee membership at the third quarter meeting of an election year to begin their tenure the following January. The objective is to ensure active participation by all committee members. Each committee member will serve a minimum two-year term.

Training Bureau

Training

NEU Training Bureau maintains a highly active and dynamic program.

TRAINING MISSION STATEMENT

NEU is committed to a Training Bureau that will exemplify the values of **CAL FIRE** by creating a Training Program that supports the **CAL FIRE** Strategic Plan, Unit Strategic Plan, and Employee Excellence.

The Battalion Staff are comprised of one Battalion Chief and two Training Captains. The staff continually strive to provide creative, cost effective, innovative training, and always provide the highest commitment to safety. The state-funded training operations, which are divided into 18 separate program areas, are a seven-day a week operation and are listed below:

Administration and Office staff
Pre-Fire Engineering
Battalion Chiefs
Joint Apprenticeship Program
Company Officers
Vegetation Management
Firefighters
Emergency Medical Services
Training
Crew Programs
Position Qualification Systems

Hazardous Materials Responses
Emergency Command Center
Volunteer Firefighters
Air Attack
Volunteers-in-Prevention
Fire Prevention and Engineering
Fire Safe Councils
Automotive Fleet Maintenance
Joint-Agency
Operations/Training
Technical Rescue Training

Strategies

- Identify the legal state and federal requirements for training in each program area.
- Identify training requirements for contract programs within NEU.
- Meet or exceed training standard identified in the CAL FIRE State Training handbook.
- Identify training priorities set by Senior Staff.
- Identify the needs of each of the 18 program areas to meet the training requirements established by the program managers.
- Maintain and update the NEU's Emergency Resources Directory (ERD).
- Determine the training needs for the Northern Region Training allocations.
- Work towards enhancing the knowledge and skill levels necessary for safe and effective response to possible weapons of mass destruction incidents.
- Identify the training needs of cooperators.
- Identify CAL FIRE's new training programs in the early stages of development, project their impact and develop an implementation plan.
- Identify projected vacancies and the training requirements necessary to help those personnel filling vacancies to do so successfully.
- Identify the needs of each employee to help achieve career development goals.
- Seek alternative funding sources in the form of grants, participation with universities and course sharing with other agencies.
- Establish a training priority list and develop a Training Plan with achievable goals for the Training Battalion.
- Work with local colleges and other local cooperators to develop interagency training opportunities and strategies.

Grass Valley Air Attack Base



Grass Valley Air Attack Base (GVAAB) originated in 1958. Located in Grass Valley at the Nevada County Airport, GVAAB is one of thirteen CALFIRE Air Attack Bases in the state. The Base sits on three acres and is co-located with the CAL FIRE and USFS Grass Valley Emergency Command Center, and the Tahoe National Forest Service Center.

Nevada County Airport is a general aviation airport situated at the 3,150-foot elevation. The airport can support CAL FIRE air tankers, large helicopter operations and air attack platforms.

Resources stationed at Grass Valley Air Attack Base:

- **One CAL FIRE Air Tactical Aircraft (AA 230)**
 - **Type:** Rockwell OV-10A "Bronco"
 - **Max Speed:** 225 knots (258 mph)
 - **Crew:** Single Pilot, Single Air Tactical Group Supervisor (ATGS)
 - **Mission:** Tactical coordination of aircraft over a fire to achieve incident objectives.
- **Two CAL FIRE Airtankers (T88, T89)**
 - **Type:** Grumman S-2T
 - **Max Speed:** 235 knots (270 mph)
 - **Crew:** Single pilot
 - **Gallons carried:** 1,200
 - **Mission:** Fast initial attack delivery of fire retardant or water on wildland fires.

CAL FIRE's fire protection goal is to contain 95% of all unwanted fires to 10 acres or less. Aviation assets are instrumental in meeting and maintaining this goal.

Air attack and Heli-tack base locations and aircraft deployment are designed to reduce the number of large fires through the capability of air tankers and Heli-tack crews to place fire retardant and personnel at the fire scene before ground forces arrive and to support fire control objectives.

Aircraft initial response criteria have been established to have a state aircraft over fires on state responsibility lands within 20 minutes of dispatch and to provide follow-up aircraft as needed. This response criteria plan was developed to include the use of USFS and BLM aircraft on a closest forces concept. Air assets located at GVAAB can respond to a fire anywhere in California and even in Nevada, should an unwanted fire threaten California.

In 2025 GVAAB was operational between June 2 and November 1. State aircraft assigned to the Base flew 196 dispatches in support of 237 incident (unwanted fire) responses. 184,820 gallons of retardant were pumped from the Air Attack Base during 2025.

APPENDIX A: HIGH PRIORITY PRE-FIRE ACTIVITIES

CALFIRE NEU Fuel Moistures

Every other week, fuel moistures are collected, dried, and weighed and posted to the FEMS (Fire Environment Mapping System)

NEU has one of the most complete historical records of fuel moisture in the state. Collection species and locational information can all be found on FEMS

The National Fuel Moisture Database Website was replaced in 2025 by FEMS (fire environment mapping system)

FEMS

FEMS is the official system for applying the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS), providing access to fire environment datasets and online analysis tools in support of wildland fire preparedness and operational decision-making. Version 3.6 is now live, featuring mapping for Fire Danger, Field Sample (Live Fuel Moisture), and RAWS/ASOS/Mesonet weather stations.

NEU Collection points:

USBOR – Chamise

Nevada City – 1000 hr. fuels

Tyler Foote – Manzanita

Reader – Manzanita and Live Oak

Truckee – Ceanothus and Greenleaf Manzanita

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 to take advantage of reduced fuels and previous control lines.

NEU exceeds state collection standards and has policy in place to collect GPS perimeters for all wildland fires in NEU greater than 10 acres and all prescribed fire activity. Information collected includes incident number, start and end dates and cause.

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.

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/fire-resource-assessment-program/fire-perimeters>

CALMAPPER

Cal MAPPER is the department's forest improvement and fuel reduction project activity tracking database. Cal MAPPER is an acronym and stands for CAL FIRE Management Activity Project Planning and Event Reporter. The Cal MAPPER v3 contains GIS and tabular information that can be used in a web browser environment by non-GIS personnel for data entry, visualization, and reporting. This effort has been organized to bring the Department's records from various fuels reduction and forest improvement programs into a common database. The goal is to improve project tracking and fiscal reporting, and to support emergency response, planning, and assessment.

The Pre-Fire Engineer is responsible for collecting all data from CAL FIRE programs and its cooperators, entering it into Cal MAPPER and submitting it to Sacramento quarterly. The Cal MAPPER public viewer is available here:

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/fuels-reduction>

Training

NEU Pre-Fire works with unit training to provide NEU training in fire behavior, GPS use, map reading and Field Observer (FOBS).

GIS

Pre-Fire works with counterparts from other units, Sacramento, local counties, USDA Forest Service, BLM, BOR, NPS and any local entities to share data and communicate projects. Placer County and Yuba County have started up local user GIS groups.

SRA / DPA Review

CAL FIRE is required to maintain official maps of State Responsibility Areas (SRA), where the State has financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires as determined by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (PRC 4102-4125). CAL FIRE conducts a 5-year review of SRA maps as required by PRC 4125 to capture changes in land use, for example conversion in or out of agriculture, areas of densification due to development, and other relevant changes. SRA data are updated on a more frequent basis to capture annexations and changes in federal ownership that affect SRA status.

To provide a level of wildland fire protection for the intermingled lands "equivalent" to similar lands protected directly by the state or the federal agencies, the said intermingled and adjacent lands have been divided into practical "Direct Protection Areas" (DPAs) delineated by boundaries regardless of statutory responsibility, and this protection is assumed by administrative units of either the federal agencies or the state. The boundary will be reviewed annually during the process of developing operating plans. Proposed changes must be mutually agreed upon prior to forwarding for approval.

Both major and minor adjustments are encouraged based on changes in protection capability, changed land ownership or use, or Board of Forestry policy which states that "lands which can reasonably be more effectively protected by the state should not be contracted to the USFS for protection."

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

[PRC 4201-4204](#) and [Govt. Code 51175-89](#) direct the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to map areas of significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors. These zones, referred to as Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ), then define the application of various mitigation strategies to reduce risk associated with wildland fires and drive Title 24 requirements for building standards.

The Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps and new building standards for each county can be obtained from the CAL FIRE website:

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-hazard-severity-zones>

CWPP Development

CAL FIRE participates in the development and advising stages of Community Wildfire Protection Planning Documents within all our counties of responsibility.

RAWS Maintenance and Monitoring

Pre-Fire is responsible for monitoring NEU's RAWS stations and working with the vendor each year to complete annual maintenance.

APPENDIX B: STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION

Purpose/Overview

The purpose of the development, implementation, and maintenance of a project such as fuel modification can be considered a fire prevention/management tool that may promote awareness, mitigation, and assist in fire suppression activities in the event of a wildland fire situation in Interface Lands. The objective is to reduce, modify, and manage fuels within designated areas that may enhance mitigation efforts in the event of a wildland fire situation. The Shaded Fuel Break is an identified key component of any project and is a strategic location along a ridge, access road, or other location where fuels have been modified. The width of the fuel break is usually 100 to 300 feet depending on the site. This is a carefully planned thinning of dense vegetation, so fire does not easily move from the ground into the overhead tree canopy. A shaded fuel break is not the removal of all vegetation in each area. Fire suppression resources can utilize this location to suppress wildland fires due to the modification of fuels of which may increase the probability of success during fire suppression activities. Any fuel break by itself will not stop a wildland fire.

The Shaded Fuel Break is a recommended guideline for fuel management within identified Interface Lands.

The goal is to protect human life and both public and private resources by reducing the risk and potential hazard of wildland fire by practicing management strategies that promote the preservation and restoration of natural resources and protection of cultural resources.

Objectives are mitigation of fire dangers to: Enhance public safety; Protect natural and cultural resources; Provide for recreational opportunities; Conduct cost effective maintenance of features and facilities.

In previous Fire Plans, three separate fuel reduction prescriptions were described (Defensible Space, Defensible Landscape, and Modified Shaded Fuel Break). With the adoption of the new PRC 4291 standards, NEU is recommending landowners utilize the guidelines adopted statewide. Further, we recommend landowners utilize the "Defensible Space – Reduced Fuel Zone" guidelines for areas beyond the required 100 feet. These guidelines and other useful information can be downloaded from the Internet at:

<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/>

The three fuel reduction prescriptions described below are standards or guidelines and are being provided for guidance, they are not intended to be regulatory and are as follows:

Defensible Space (PRC 4291): Defensible Space is your frontline defense against wildfire. Creating and maintaining defensible space around your home can dramatically increase your home's chance of surviving wildfire and improve the safety of firefighters defending your property. 100 feet of defensible space is required by law.

Defensible Landscape: The area outside of the defensible space zone where additional fuel reduction is completed to enhance the protection value of the defensible space zone around a structure. Increased aesthetics and habitat values are planned for in this prescription.

Modified shaded fuel break: defined as a defensible location, where fuels have been modified, that can be used by fire suppression resources to suppress oncoming wildfires. Any fuel break by itself will NOT stop wildfire. It is a location where the fuel has been modified to increase the probability of success for fire suppression activities. Ground resources can use the location for direct attack or firing out. Air resources can use the location for fire retardant drops. The public and fire resources can use the location for more efficient ingress and egress.

The three prescriptions are listed below. The defensible space and defensible landscape prescriptions incorporate the modified shaded fuel break prescription with a few variations. ***The only trees eligible to be removed under the following prescriptions are in the 10- inch diameter class (diameter of main stem at breast height) or smaller. All trees larger than the 10- inch diameter class will only be pruned to a height of 8 to 10 feet above ground, not to reduce the live crown ratio of the plant to below 50%. Exceptions for defective trees and snags are noted below.***

I. Defensible Space Prescription: PRC 4291

Includes all following:

1. Maintain around and adjacent to a building or structure a firebreak made by removing and clearing away, for not less than 100 feet on each side thereof or to the property line, whichever is nearer, all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth. This does not apply to single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery, or similar plants that are used as ground cover, if they do not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from the native growth to any building or structure.
2. Maintain an ember resistant zone from zero to five feet away from structures.
3. Remove that portion of any tree that extends within 10 feet of the outlet of any chimney or stovepipe.
4. Maintain any tree adjacent to or overhanging any building free of dead or dying wood.
5. Maintain the roof of any structure free of leaves, needles, or other dead vegetative growth.
6. Provide and always maintain a screen over the outlet of every chimney or stovepipe that is attached to any fireplace, stove, or other device that burns any solid or liquid fuel. The screen shall be constructed of nonflammable material with openings of not more than one-half inch in size.
7. Within 100 feet of existing structures all annual grasses are to be maintained to below 6 inches in height.
8. Except as noted in 1 above, the Modified Shaded Fuel Break prescription described below also applies.

II. Defensible Landscape Prescription Includes all the following:

1. Oak trees with trunks within 3 feet of each other, essentially making one canopy, may be considered one tree in the defensible landscape areas. Prune branches off all residual trees from 8 to 10 feet off the forest floor, not to reduce the live crown ratio below 1/2 of the height of the tree. ***Adjacent trees shall be removed to create horizontal distances between residual trees from 20 feet between trunks up to 8 to 15 feet between tree crown drip lines.***
2. One clump of trees per lot or acre, where tree trunks are within 20 feet of each other, may also be retained in the defensible landscape areas providing spread of fire to or from this feature is adequately mitigated. Mitigation measures for this feature include:
 - a. Prune branches off all residual trees from 8 to 10 feet off the forest floor, not to reduce the live crown ratio below 1/2 of the height of the tree
 - b. Trees adjacent to this feature shall be removed to create horizontal distances ***between residual trees from 20 feet between trunks up to 8 to 15 feet between tree crown drip lines.*** No ground fuels shall exist within the drip line of the feature.
3. Except as noted in 1 and 2 above, the Modified Shaded Fuel Break prescription described listed below also applies.

III. Modified Shaded Fuel Break Prescription:

Implementation consists of removing or pruning trees, shrubs, brush, and other vegetative growth on the project area. For site protection, all work is encouraged to be completed by use of a masticator and/or hand crews supported by chippers and/or burning. Heavy equipment with blades is not recommended for use for fuel reduction work.

1. Understory Fuels

Understory fuels over 1 foot in height are to be removed to develop vertical separation and low horizontal continuity of fuels. Individual plants or groups of plants up to 10 feet in canopy diameter may be retained provided there is a horizontal separation between plants of 3 to 5 times the height of the residual plants and the residual plants are not within the drip lines of an overstory tree.

For rare and endangered species concerns, elderberry trees shall not be removed or treated within the shaded fuel breaks in elevations below 3000 feet.

2. Mid-story Fuels

Only trees up to the 10-inch diameter class (at breast height (DBH)) may be removed. Exception to this size limit shall be trees that have significant defects and/or which do not have a minimum of a 16-foot saw log. Live but defective trees are larger than the 10-inch diameter class providing cavities or obvious wildlife use will be retained.

Trees shall be removed to create horizontal distances between residual trees from 20 feet between trunks up to 8 to 15 feet between tree crown drip lines. Larger overstory trees (> 10 inches DBH) do count as residual trees and, to reduce ladder fuels, shall have vegetation within their drip lines removed. Prune branches off all residual trees from 8 to 10 feet off the forest floor, not to reduce the live crown ratio below 1/2 of the height of the tree.

For rare and endangered species concerns, elderberry trees shall not be removed or treated within the shaded fuel breaks below the 3000 feet elevation level.

Criteria for residual trees (< 10-inch diameter class (DBH)):

Conifers:

Leave trees that have single leaders and thrifty crowns with at least 1/3 live crown ratio.

Conifers - Leave tree species in descending order:

- Ponderosa pine
- Sugar pine
- Douglas fir
- White fir
- Incense cedar

Intolerant to shade species have a higher preference as leave trees because their seed will be less likely to germinate in the understory.

Snags

Snags are a conduit for fire spread during wildfire. However, they also provide excellent wildlife habitat in their natural state. The following are the criteria for when snags shall be retained:

18-inch diameter class or larger and not more than 30 feet in height which cannot reach a road or structure provided there is a separation of least 100 feet between snags.

Hardwood trees:

Leave trees that have vertical leaders and thrifty crowns with at least 1/3 live crown ratio. Retain all elderberry trees.

Hardwoods -Leave tree species in descending order:

- Big Leaf Maple- Riparian area, less common
- Blue Oak - least leaf surface area, less volatile when burning
- Black Oak - higher leaf surface area
- Madrone - more volatile when burning
- Live Oaks - most volatile when burning, branches closest to ground.

Brush:

It is desirable to remove as much brush as possible within the shaded fuel break area. However, if individual plants or pairs of plants are desired to be left, leave plants with the following characteristics: young plants less than 5 feet tall and individual or pairs of plants that are no more than 5 feet wide. Retain all elderberry trees.

Brush Species - Leave species in descending order:

- Toyon – Less Common
- Buckeye – Less Common
- Dogwood – less common
- Lemmon Ceanothus - less common, less volatile
- Buck brush (Wedge leaf ceanothus) - smaller brush plant, less volatile
- Redbud - less common
- Coffeeberry - less common
- Whitethorn - lower lying plant
- Deer brush - larger plant, high leaf surface area, more volatile when burning
- Manzanita - larger plant, high leaf surface area, more volatile when burning
- Chamise - foliage contains highest number of flammable oils, most volatile when burning

Wetlands:

Functional wetlands will be avoided for treatment and ground operations.

Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ):

To provide mitigation for riparian associated species and to reduce the potential risk of habitat fragmentation, the following will apply:

Maintenance Prescriptions

Once fuels have been modified within an area, maintenance activities should be planned and implemented on a regular basis to keep the effectiveness of the original treatment. If no maintenance activities occur, the effectiveness of the original treatment will diminish every year, potentially yielding no net effect within 5 years. The necessary maintenance activities will be minimal if implemented on an annual basis.

The original prescription treatment should be followed for maintenance. Possible fuel reduction techniques to be utilized for maintenance include the following:

Hand Work: Use of hand tools by crews or individuals. This technique is labor intensive and potentially expensive (>\$2000 per acre). Impacts to soils are negligible.

Mechanical Work: Use of heavy equipment such as masticators and/or bulldozers. This technique is moderately expensive (as low as \$600 per acre) but limited by topography (to slopes less than 50%) and not appropriate for most watercourse and lake-protection zones and excessively wet soils.

Chemical Controls: Use of California registered herbicides. This is the most cost-effective technique. Implementation usually requires one or two individuals for ground application. This technique has negligible soil effects but may not be appropriate for certain areas such as riparian zones, watercourses, and areas of listed plants.

Prescribed Browsing: Use of goats in a controlled setting to browse within appropriate areas to reduce fuel levels. Browsing goats can be an effective tool to control grasses and low growing vegetation, when controlled properly, can have little impact on the environment. Costs may vary.

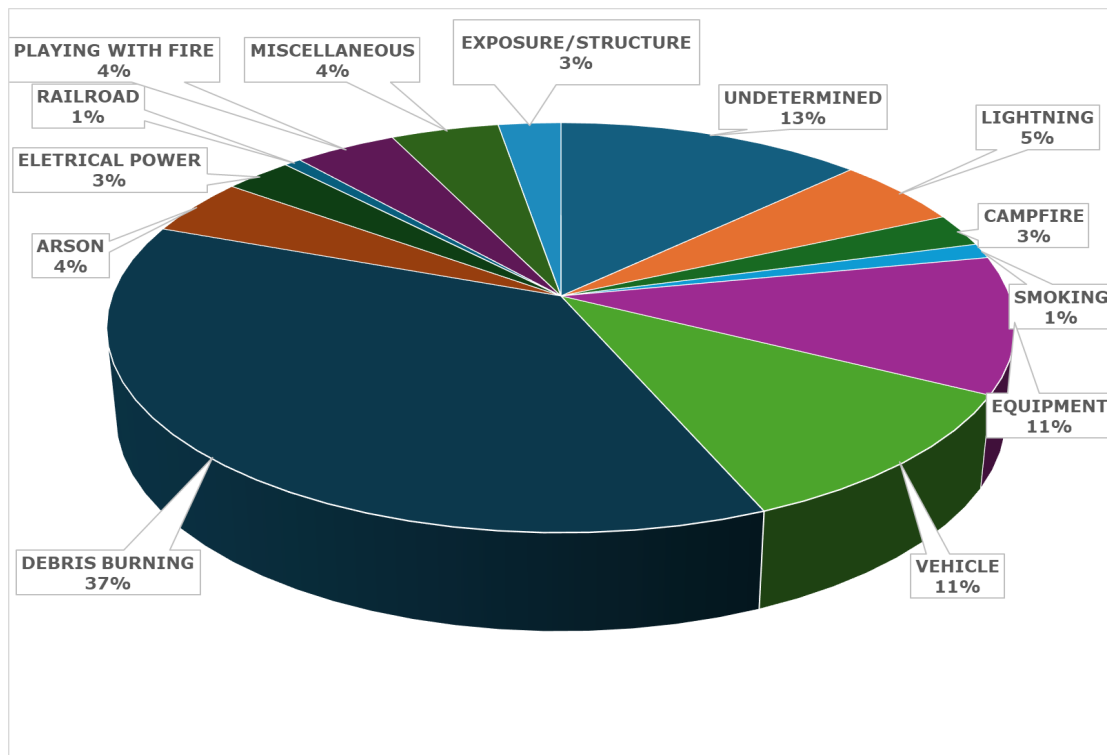
Prescribed Burning: The use of planned and controlled burning operations to reduce fuel levels. Control lines are established prior to burning. Burning and Air Pollution permits are required to conduct these operations. This technique varies in cost per acre depending on complexity of project. Burning is becoming more difficult to complete due to air regulations.

APPENDIX C: BATTALION IGNITION MANAGEMENT STATISTICS

NEU Unit Wide Fires by Cause Table 2021 – 2025 (NEU):

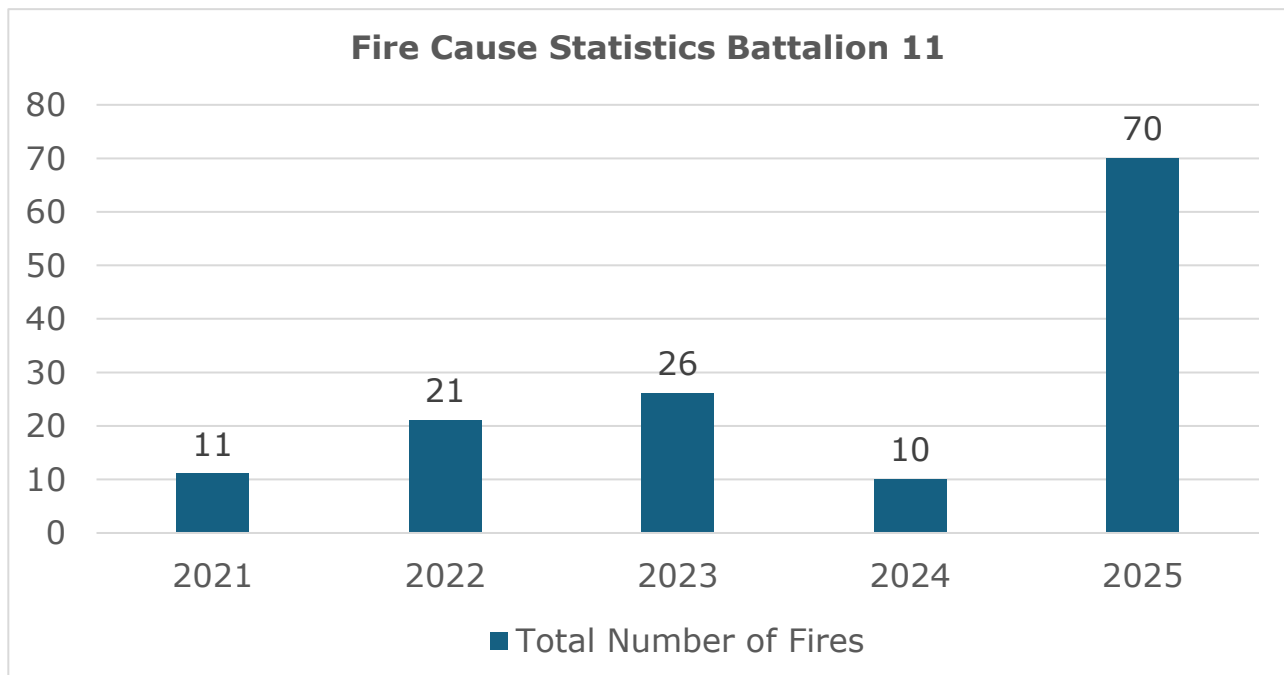
<u>NEU Unit Wide Fires by Cause Table</u>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
UNDETERMINED	162	46	37	32	54
LIGHTNING	6	1	27	7	23
CAMPFIRE	14	12	12	0	11
SMOKING	9	4	8	9	5
EQUIPMENT	60	44	78	52	46
VEHICLE	41	32	0	34	47
DEBRIS BURNING	70	88	193	86	158
ARSON	26	30	60	42	19
ELETRICAL POWER	30	25	0	20	12
RAILROAD	4	1	0	2	3
PLAYING WITH FIRE	9	4	5	4	18
MISCELLANEOUS	29	102	21	70	19
EXPOSURE/STRUCTURE	0	0	0	0	11
UNDER INVESTIGATION	0	0	0	0	0
Totals:	460	389	441	358	426

NEU Unit Wide Fires by Cause Chart 2025 (NEU):

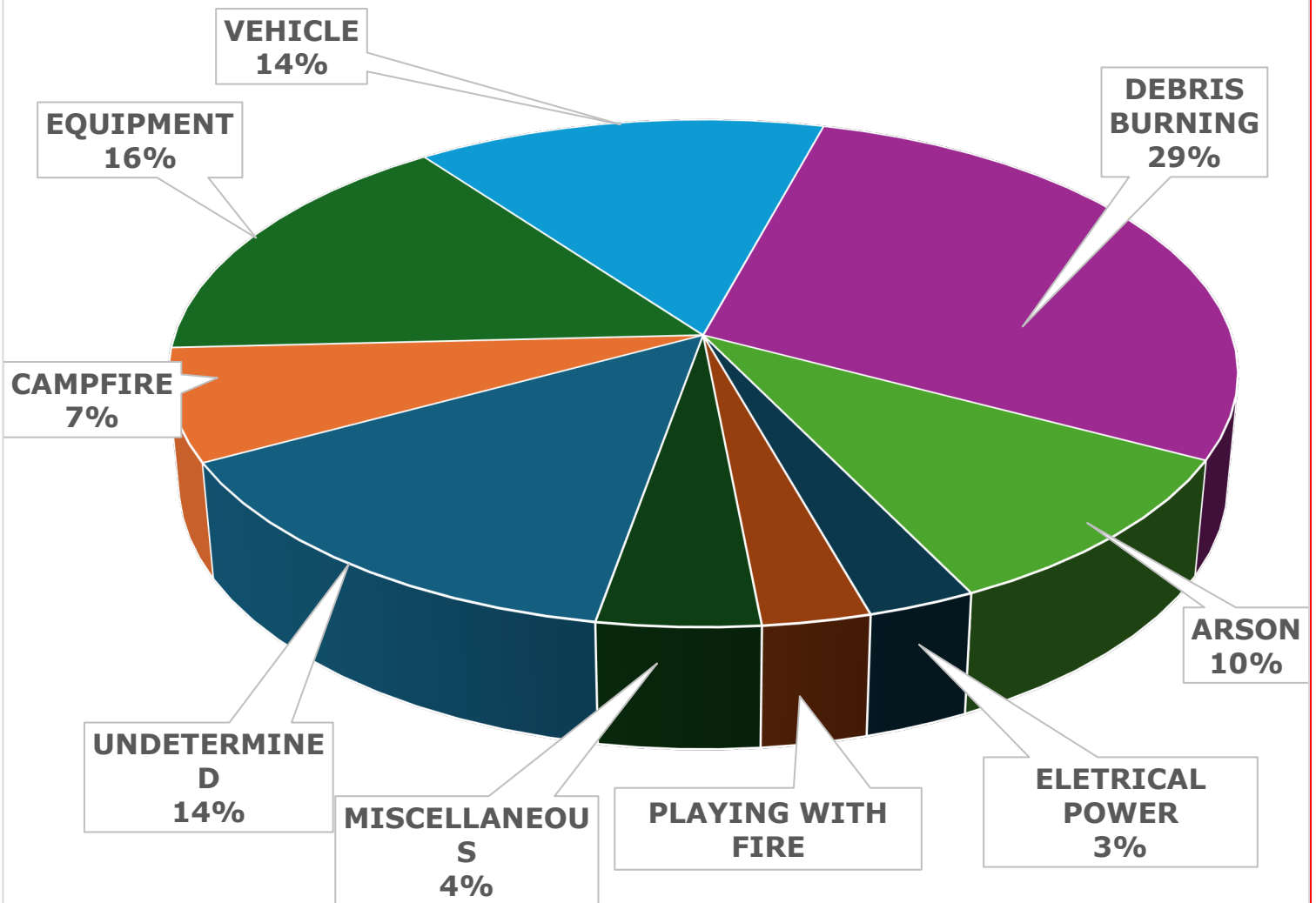


Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 11:

<u>Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 11</u>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
UNDETERMINED	3	1	0	1	10
LIGHTNING	0	0	0	0	0
CAMPFIRE	0	1	1	0	5
SMOKING	1	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	1	0	1	11
VEHICLE	2	4	0	0	10
DEBRIS BURNING	2	2	11	3	20
ARSON	1	2	12	3	7
ELETRICAL POWER	0	0	0	1	2
RAILROAD	0	0	0	0	0
PLAYING WITH FIRE	0	0	0	0	2
MISCELLANEOUS	2	10	2	1	3
EXPOSURE/STRUCTURE	0	0	0	0	0
UNDER INVESTIGATION	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Fires	11	21	26	10	70

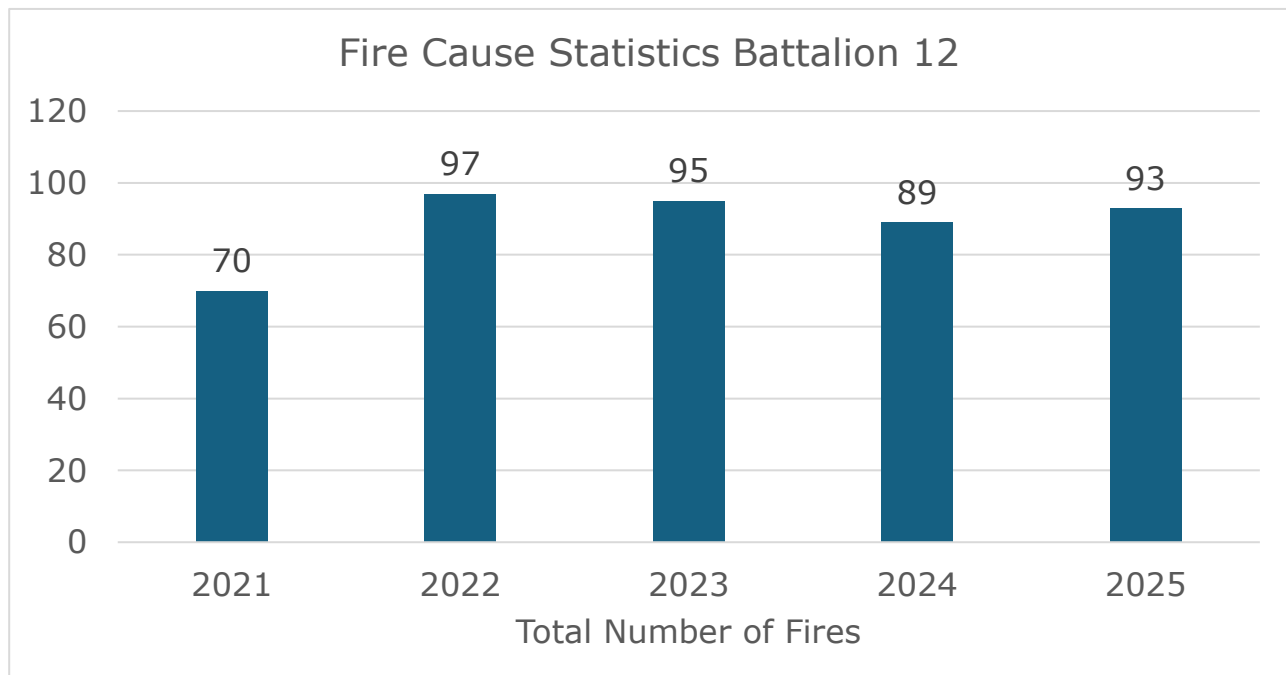


**2025 Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 11
70 Fires**

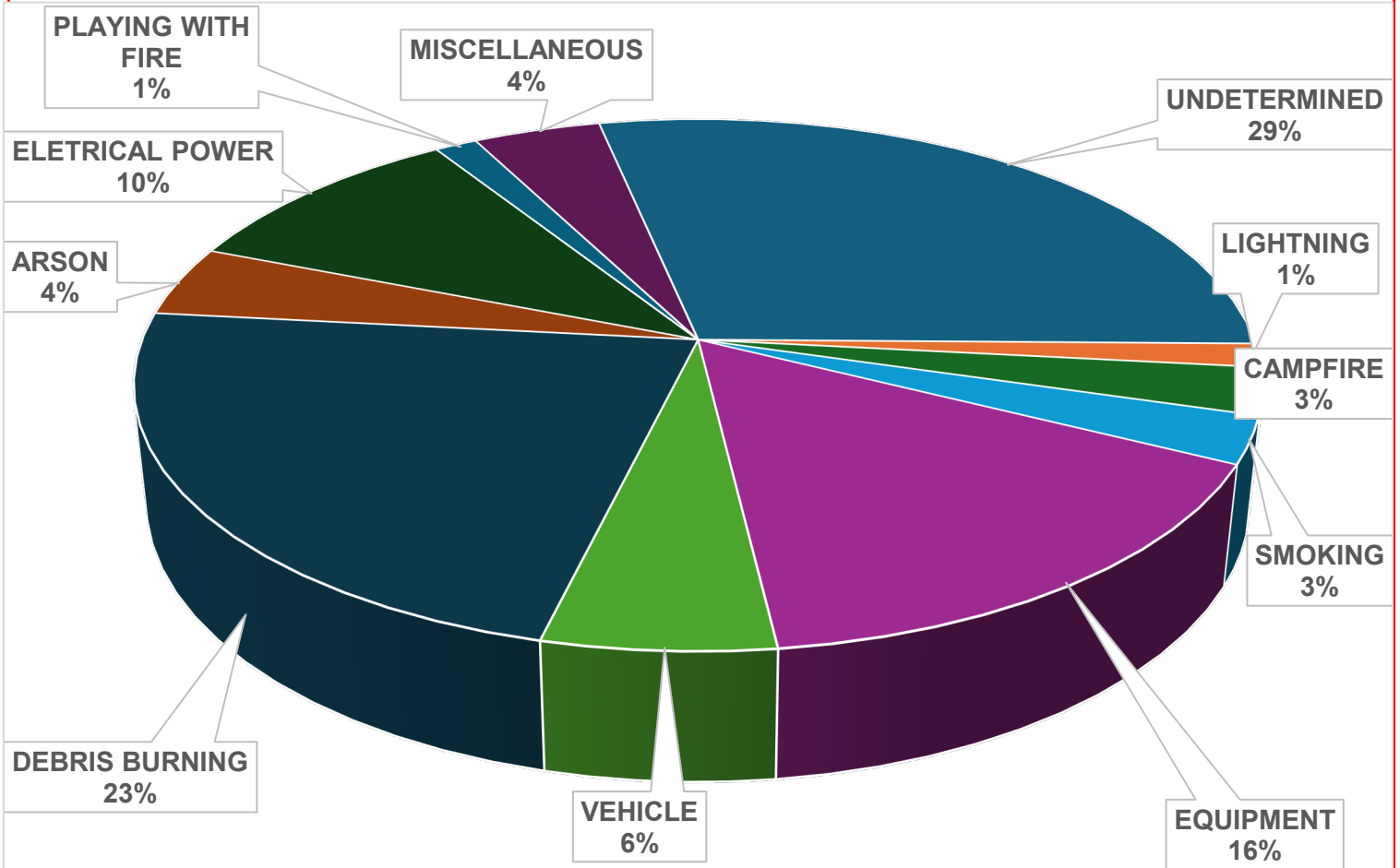


Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 12:

Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 12	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
UNDETERMINED	20	4	5	5	4
LIGHTNING	1	0	2	3	3
CAMPFIRE	2	4	6	0	0
SMOKING	2	0	3	4	3
EQUIPMENT	11	12	7	10	6
VEHICLE	4	1	0	11	3
DEBRIS BURNING	16	37	61	24	60
ARSON	3	2	3	2	1
ELETRICAL POWER	7	9	0	5	2
RAILROAD	0	0	0	0	0
PLAYING WITH FIRE	1	1	1	0	3
MISCELLANEOUS	3	27	7	25	2
EXPOSURE/STRUCTURE	0	0	0	0	6
UNDER INVESTIGATION	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Fires	70	97	95	89	93

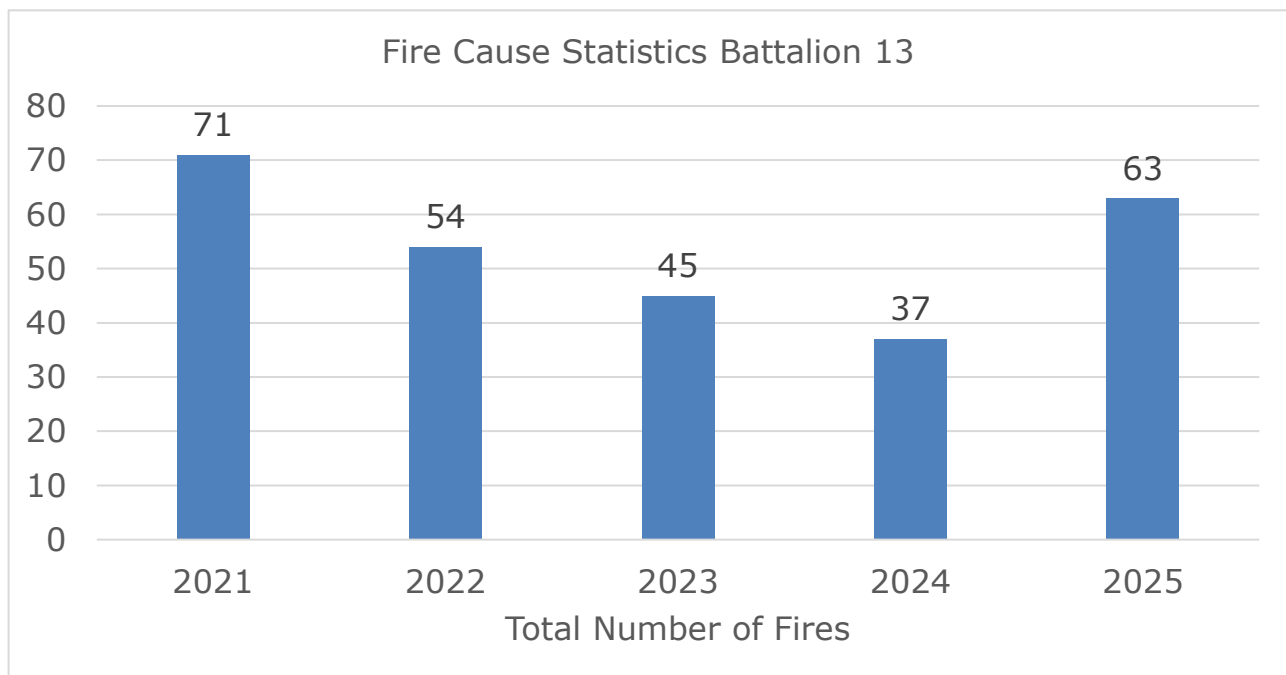


2025 Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 12
70 Fires

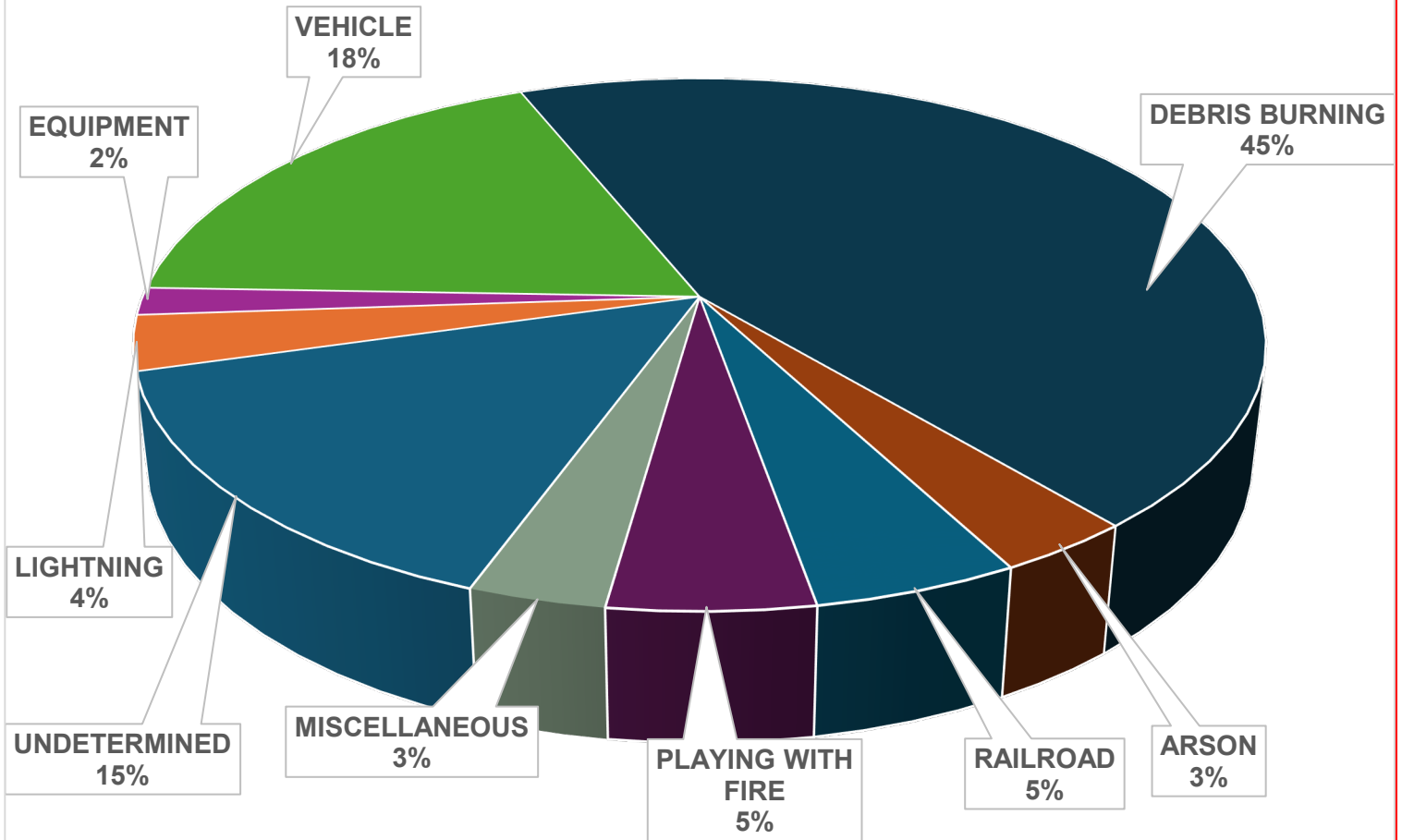


Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 13:

<u>Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 13</u>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
UNDETERMINED	33	10	3	3	9
LIGHTNING	2	0	1	1	2
CAMPFIRE	0	2	3	0	2
SMOKING	0	1	1	0	0
EQUIPMENT	3	3	10	4	1
VEHICLE	5	7	0	6	11
DEBRIS BURNING	15	10	22	6	27
ARSON	4	2	3	3	2
ELETRICAL POWER	0	1	0	3	0
RAILROAD	2	0	0	2	3
PLAYING WITH FIRE	4	0	0	1	3
MISCELLANEOUS	3	18	2	8	2
EXPOSURE/STRUCTURE	0	0	0	0	1
UNDER INVESTIGATION	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Fires	71	54	45	37	63

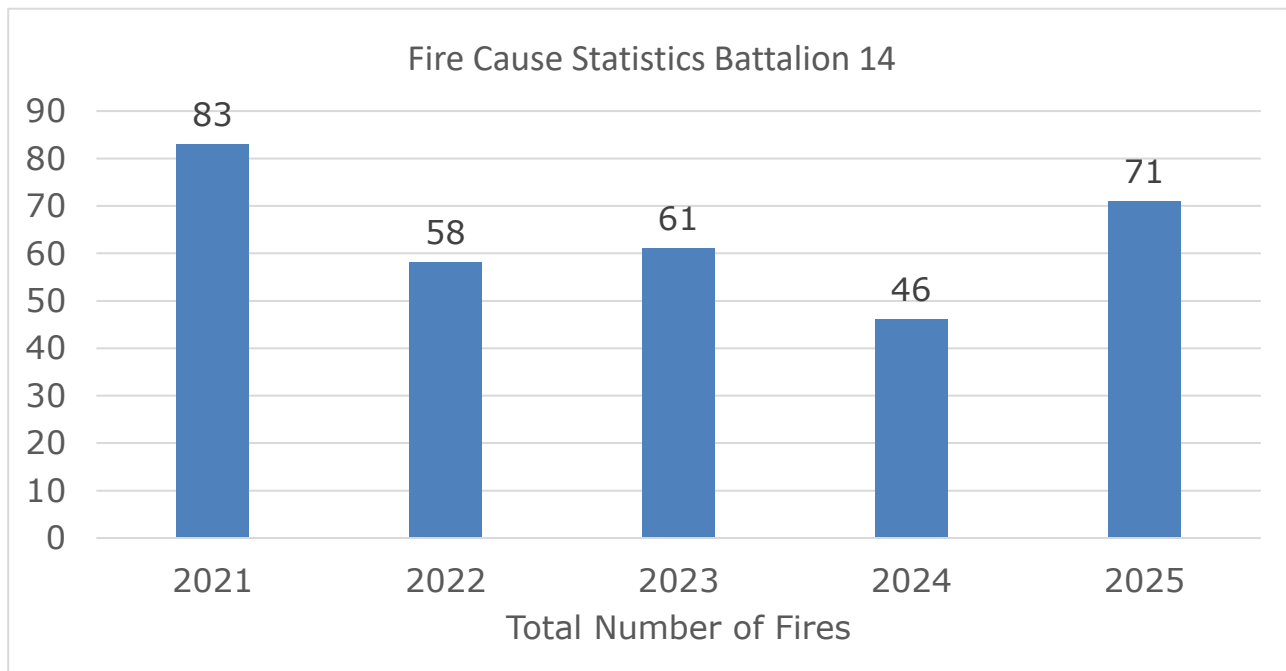


2025 Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 13
63 Fires

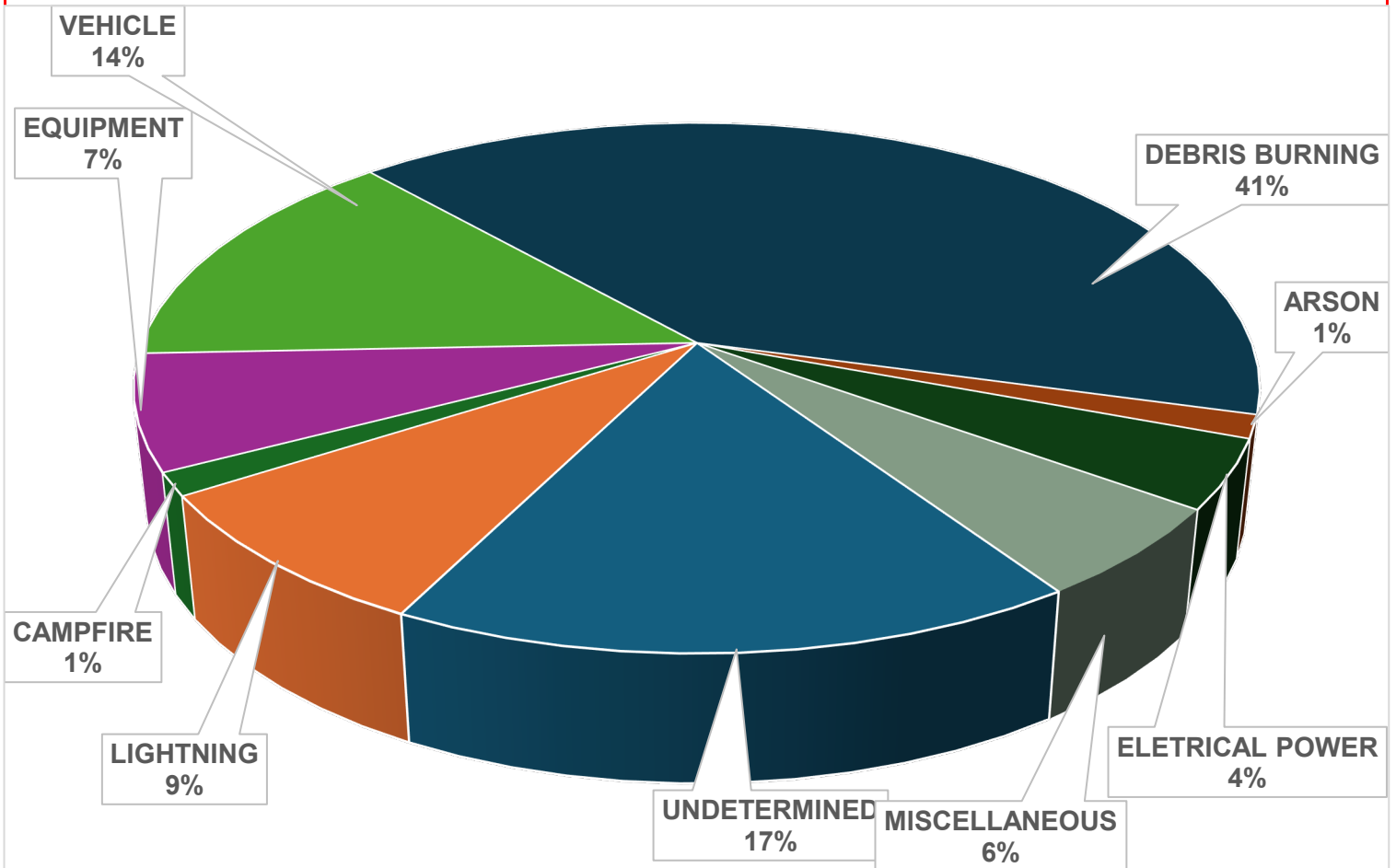


Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 14:

<u>Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 14</u>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
UNDETERMINED	26	8	4	4	12
LIGHTNING	1	0	1	0	6
CAMPFIRE	3	2	1	0	1
SMOKING	2	0	2	1	0
EQUIPMENT	8	11	11	10	5
VEHICLE	7	3	0	0	10
DEBRIS BURNING	15	12	31	10	29
ARSON	7	5	8	9	1
ELETRICAL POWER	6	3	0	3	3
RAILROAD	0	0	0	0	0
PLAYING WITH FIRE	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	8	14	3	9	4
EXPOSURE/STRUCTURE	0	0	0	0	0
UNDER INVESTIGATION	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Fires	83	58	61	46	71

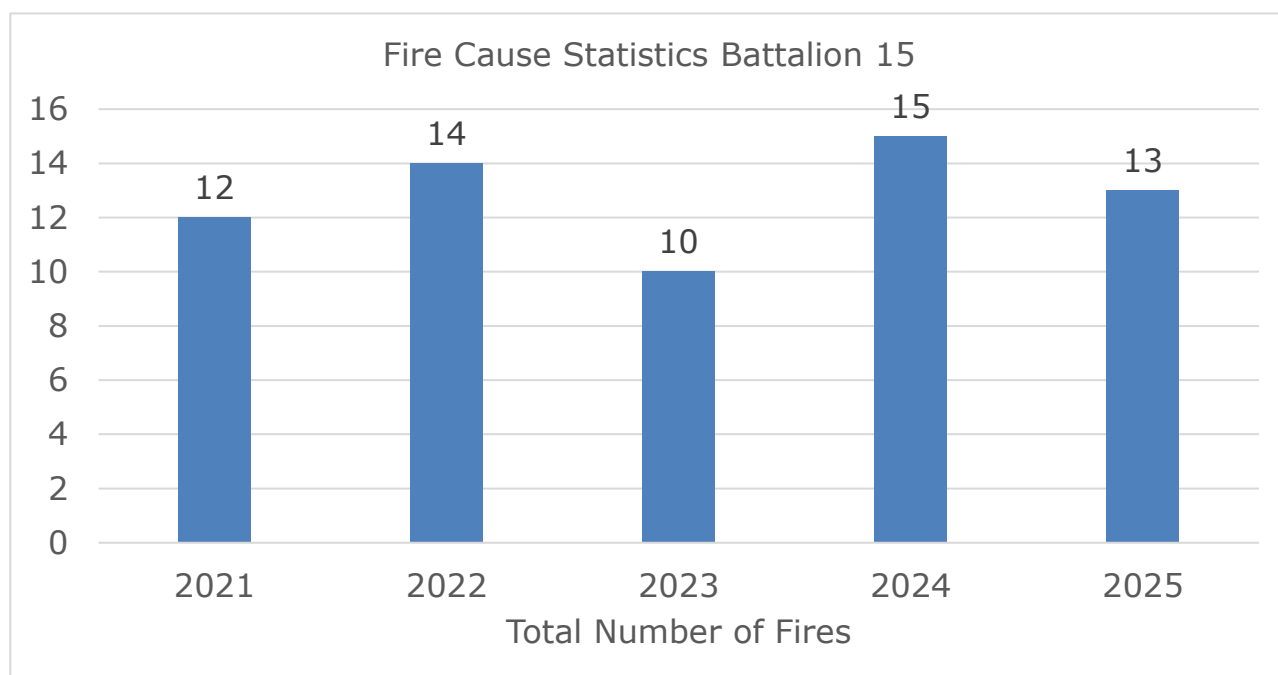


2025 Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 14
71 Fires

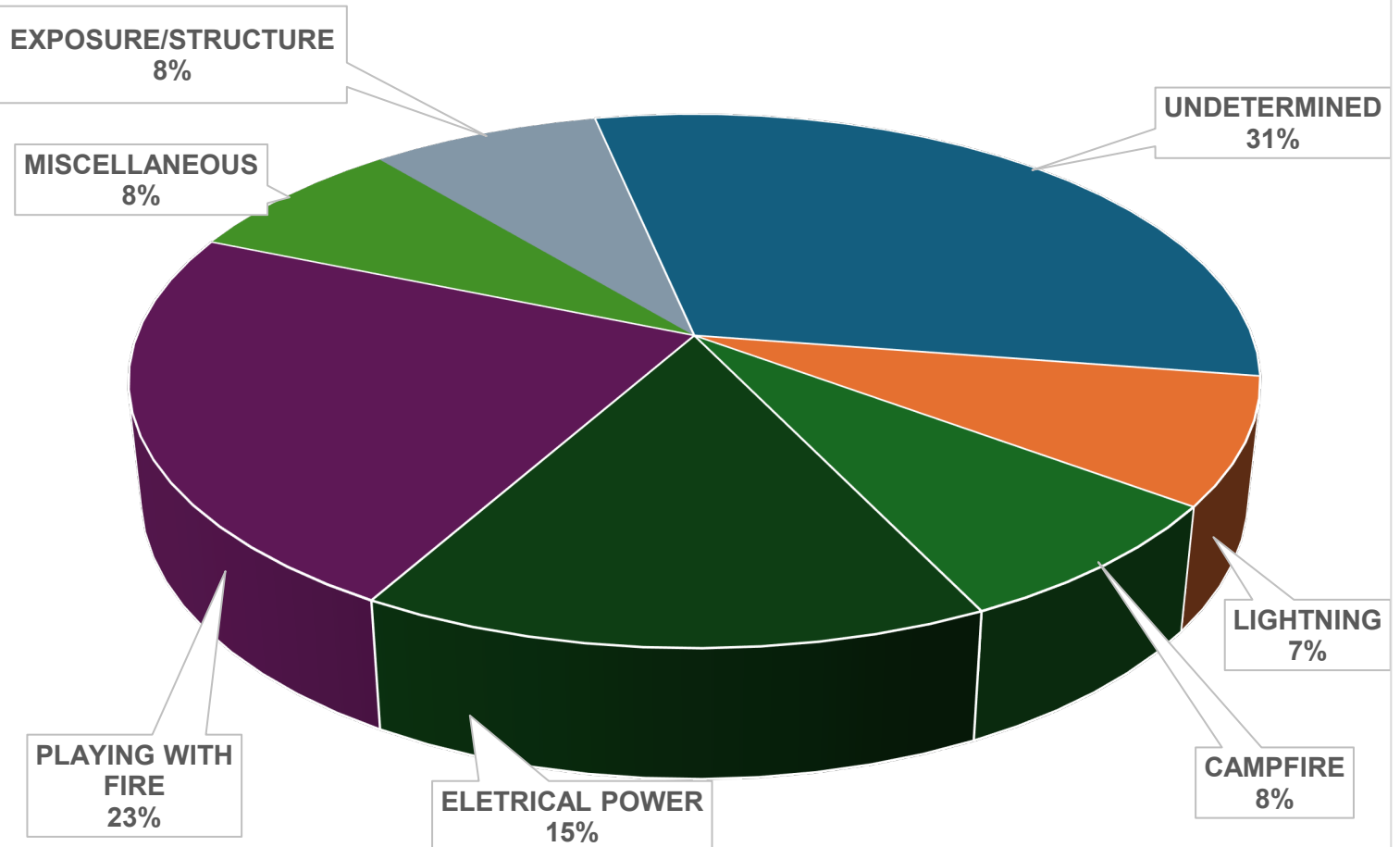


Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 15:

<u>Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 15</u>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
UNDETERMINED	4	2	1	1	4
LIGHTNING	2	1	2	2	1
CAMPFIRE	0	1	1	0	1
SMOKING	0	0	0	2	0
EQUIPMENT	1	0	0	0	0
VEHICLE	2	2	0	1	0
DEBRIS BURNING	0	2	5	5	0
ARSON	0	1	1	1	0
ELETRICAL POWER	1	0	0	0	2
RAILROAD	0	0	0	0	0
PLAYING WITH FIRE	0	1	0	0	3
MISCELLANEOUS	2	4	0	3	1
EXPOSURE/STRUCTURE	0	0	0	0	1
UNDER INVESTIGATION	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Fires	12	14	10	15	13

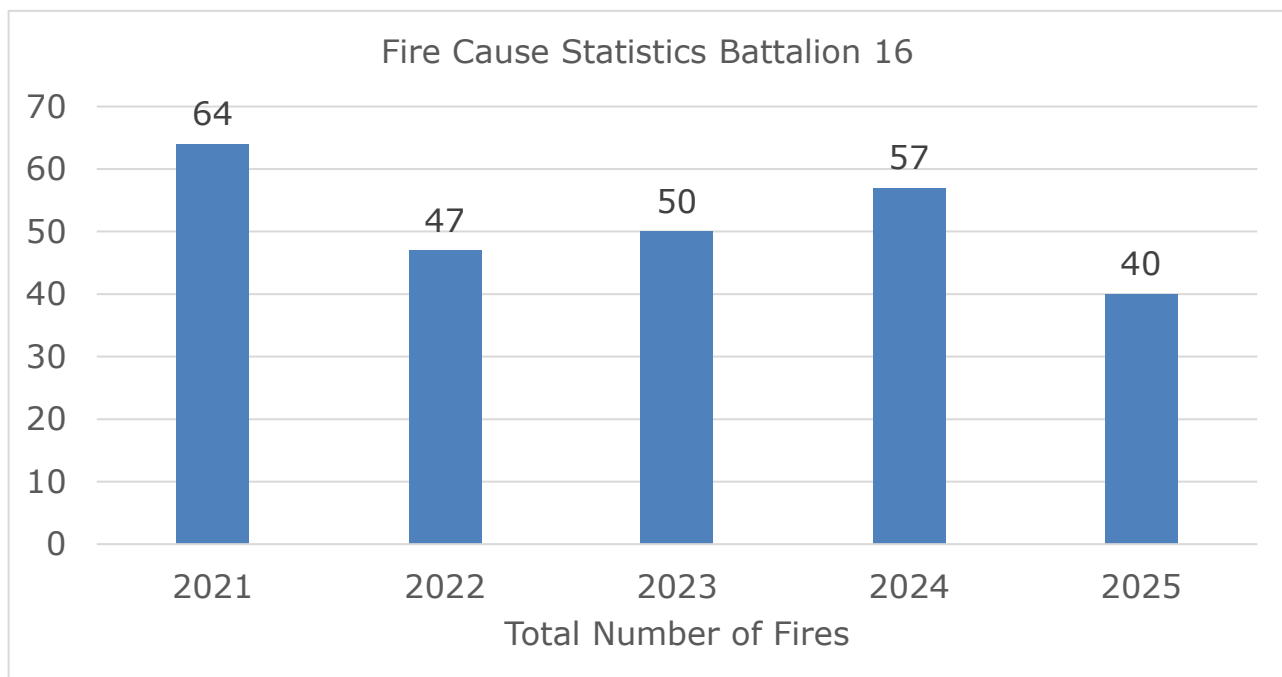


**2025 Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 15
13 Fires**

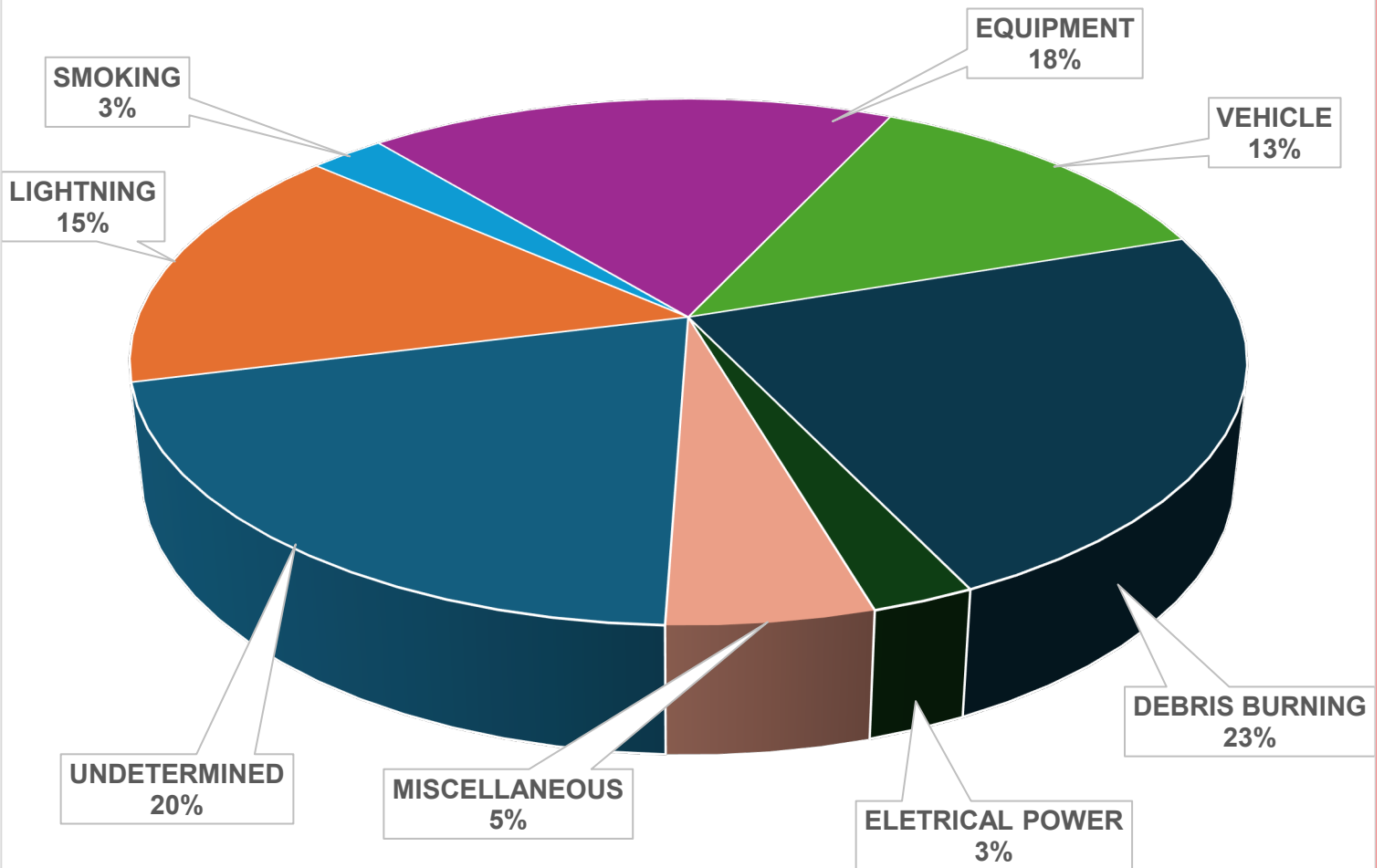


Cause Statistics Battalion 16:

<u>Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 16</u>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
UNDETERMINED	16	5	7	5	8
LIGHTNING	0	0	0	1	6
CAMPFIRE	4	0	0	0	0
SMOKING	0	0	0	0	1
EQUIPMENT	9	4	16	10	7
VEHICLE	8	6	0	6	5
DEBRIS BURNING	11	9	23	23	9
ARSON	4	4	4	4	0
ELETRICAL POWER	5	3	0	1	1
RAILROAD	0	0	0	0	0
PLAYING WITH FIRE	1	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	6	16	0	7	2
EXPOSURE/STRUCTURE	0	0	0	0	1
UNDER INVESTIGATION	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Fires	64	47	50	57	40

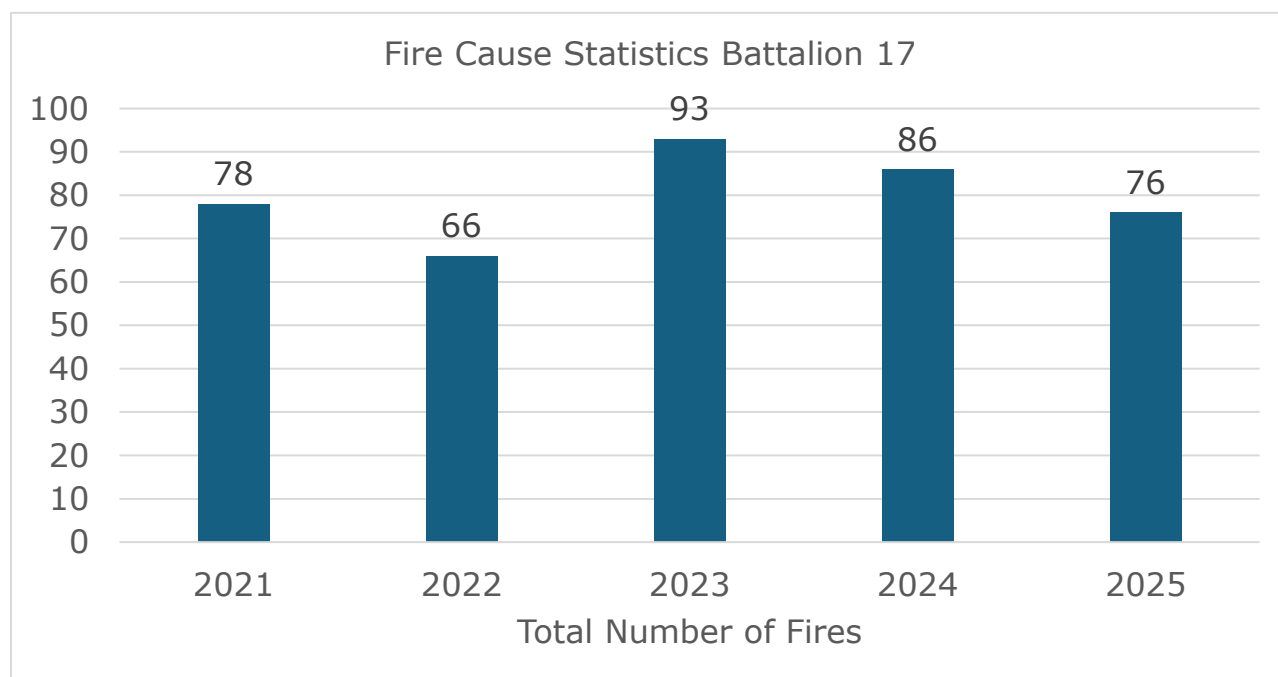


2025 Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 16
40 Fires

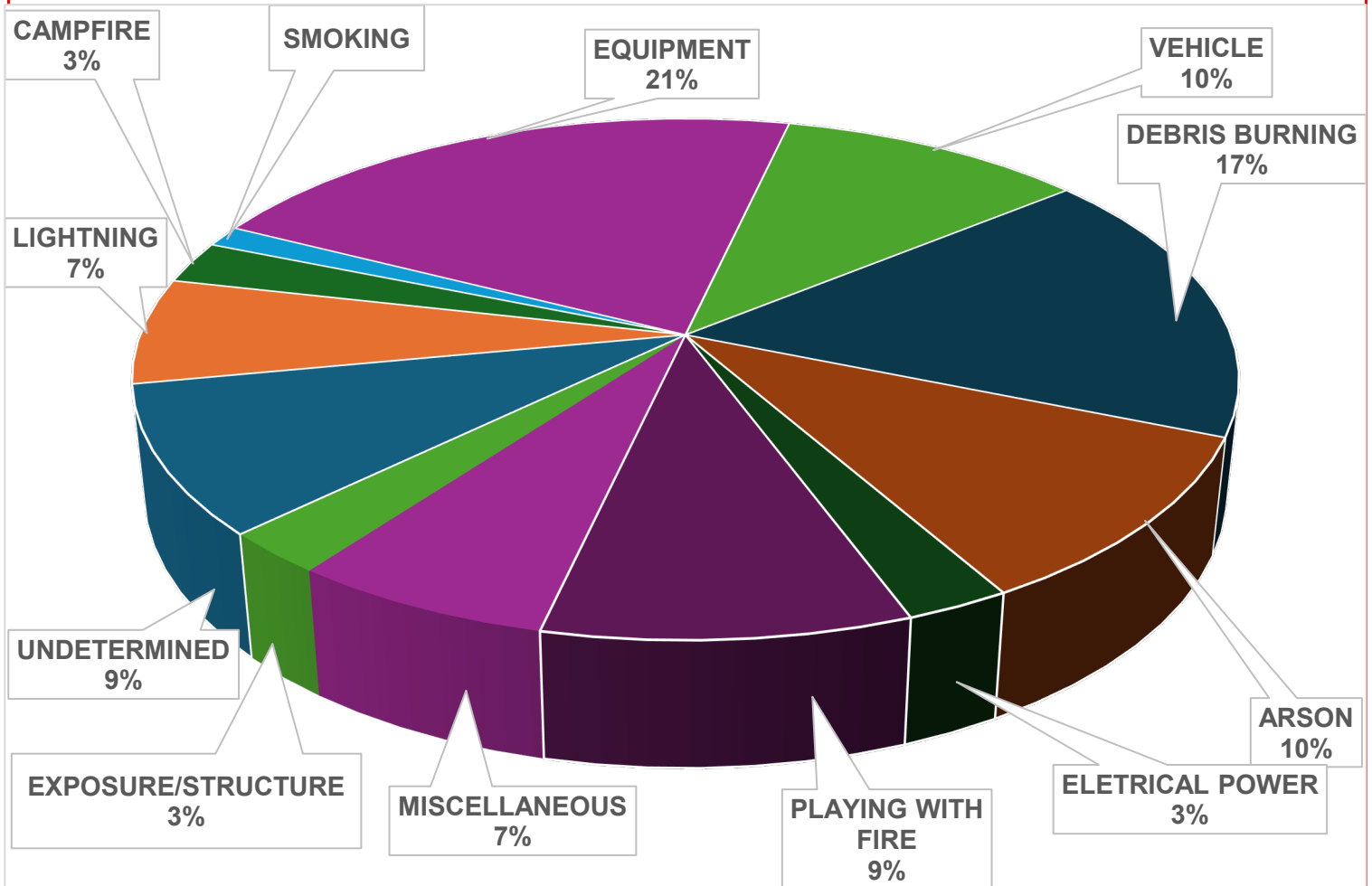


Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 17:

<u>Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 17</u>	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
UNDETERMINED	31	12	7	9	7
LIGHTNING	0	0	0	0	5
CAMPFIRE	1	2	1	0	2
SMOKING	1	1	2	1	1
EQUIPMENT	15	11	25	12	16
VEHICLE	9	6	0	10	8
DEBRIS BURNING	7	11	23	12	13
ARSON	2	8	26	20	8
ELETRICAL POWER	8	8	0	6	2
RAILROAD	0	1	0	0	0
PLAYING WITH FIRE	1	1	4	3	7
MISCELLANEOUS	3	5	5	13	5
EXPOSURE/STRUCTURE	0	0	0	0	2
UNDER INVESTIGATION	0	0	0	0	0
Total Number of Fires	78	66	93	86	76



2025 Fire Cause Statistics Battalion 17
76 Fires



APPENDIX D: UNIT FUEL REDUCTION GRANT AWARDS 2019-2026

NEU 2025/2026 Awarded Grant Projects

Project Name	Type	County	Grant ID
North Fork American River Shaded Fuel Break - Phase III	Fire Prevention Grant	Placer	25-WP-NEU-78970691
South Yuba Canal Wildfire Defense Project	Fire Prevention Grant	Nevada	25-WP-NEU-79202444
Clover Valley Preserve	Fire Prevention Grant	Placer	25-WP-NEU-79296094
Yuba County Wildfire Hazard Reduction Program Phase 2	Fire Prevention Grant	Yuba	25-WP-NEU-79211433
South Yuba Rim Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project Phase 2	Fire Prevention Grant	Nevada	25-WP-NEU-79327857

NEU 2023/2024 Awarded Grant Projects

Project Name	Type	County	Grant ID
Tahoe Truckee Airport District Waddle Ranch Fuel Reduction	Fire Prevention Grant	Nevada	23-WP-NEU-57888071
Placer County Chipper Program	Fire Prevention Grant	Placer	23-WP-NEU-57892000
Placer County CWPP	Fire Prevention Grant	Placer	23-WP-NEU-57903291
Yuba Foothills Hazard Fuel Reduction	Fire Prevention Grant	Yuba	23-WP-NEU-57986163
Prescribed Burning on Private Lands	Fire Prevention Grant	Placer	23-WP-NEU-58367543
Cabin Creek Fuels Reduction and Community Safety Project	Fire Prevention Grant	Placer	23-WP-NEU-58368272
NEUCORXFIRE	Fire Prevention Grant	Nevada	23-WP-NEU-59470408
Nevada and Placer County Cooperative Landscape Resilience Project	Forest Health	Placer / Nevada	57739728
Trapper Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project	Forest Health	Sierra	57999939

NEU 2022/2023 Awarded Grant Projects

Project Name	Type	County	Grant ID
New Bullard's Bar 2023 Forest Health Project	Forest Health Grant	Yuba	47967436
Mosquito Fire Recovery and Reforestation	Forest Health Post-Fire Reforestation and Regeneration Grant	Placer	46414303
Baltimore Ravine Shaded Fuel Break	Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Placer	22-WP-NEU-46334843
Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break Phase 2	Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Nevada	22-WP-NEU-48199437
2023 NorthStar NEU Phase II	Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Placer	22-WP-NEU-45252390
Sierra City - Sattley Fuels Reduction Project	Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Sierra	22-WP-NEU-46302574

NEU 2021/2022 Awarded Grant Projects

Project Name	Type	County	Grant ID
Nevada County Chipping – Green Waste – Firewood Project	Fire Prevention Grant	Nevada	21-FP-NEU-0195
Yuba County WUI Fuels Reduction	Fire Prevention Grant	Yuba	21-FP-NEU-0132
Woodpecker Ravine Shaded Fuel Break	Fire Prevention Grant	Nevada	21-FP-NEU--0240
Olympic Valley Fuel Reduction Project	Fire Prevention Grant	Placer	21-FP-NEU-0209
Headwaters Basin Forest Resilience	Forest Health	Placer	21-FH-NEU-012
French Meadows Ecological Restoration – Project Completion	Forest Health	Placer	21-FH-NEU-044

NEU 2020/2021 Awarded Grant Projects

Project Name	Type	County	Grant ID
NFF-USFS Sierra Valley Fire Protection Project	Fire Prevention Grant	Sierra	20-FP-NEU-0140
North Fork American River Shaded Fuel Break Phase II	Fire Prevention Grant	Placer	20-FP-NEU-0216
South County Shaded Fuel Break	Fire Prevention Grant	Nevada	20-FP-NEU-0242
Olympic Valley Community Wildfire Prevention Plan	Fire Prevention Grant	Placer	20-FP-NEU-0254
Western Nevada County Forest Health Objectives	Forest Health Grant	Nevada	20-FH-NEU-079

NEU 2019/2020 Awarded Grant Projects

Project Name	Type	County	Grant ID
Truckee Fuel Reduction	Fuel Reduction	Nevada	19-FP-NEU-1031
Egress/Ingress Fire Safety Project	Fuel Reduction	Nevada	19-FP-NEU-1131
Placer County Chipper Program	Fire Prevention	Placer	19-FP-NEU-1132
Climate Adaptive Forest Management	Forest Health Grant	Nevada	19-FH-NEU-028
Yuba Foothills Healthy Forests	Forest Health Grant	Yuba	19-FH-NEU-012
Forest Resilience Project – Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative	Forest Health Grant	Placer, Sierra, Nevada	19-FH-NEU-0051-AEU
Assessing smoke-plume injection height as a function of sub-canopy wind convergence of prescribed burns in the Central Sierra Nevada	Forest Health Research Grant	Nevada / Sierra	19-RP-NEU-092
Sierra Nevada-wide provenance trails to support climate-based seed zones and reforestation efforts	Forest Health Research Grant	Nevada	19-RP-SHU-025

APPENDIX E: BATTALION PRIORITY PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Alta Shaded Fuel Break Extension (Battalion 13):

The Alta shaded fuel break extension begins at CAL FIRE/PCFD Station 33 in Alta on the north side of Interstate 80 at the Alta undercrossing for Alta Bonnie Nook Rd. This project connects the Alta Shaded Fuel Break on the south side of Interstate 80 with other private shaded fuel breaks to the north which surround Lake Alta, Frost Hill, Dutch. The project is defined as a shaded fuel break and demonstration for the public to see as an example to follow.

American River Canyon “Auburn Shaded Fuel Break” (Battalion 11):

The American River Canyon Shaded Fuel Break consists of approximately 300 acres of public and private lands within and adjacent to the City of Auburn. The project area is considered a “very high” risk area because of the proximity of residential, commercial, and recreational development and is within the Wildland Urban Interface and is designated in Very High and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

The intent of the shaded fuel break is to provide protection through removal of flammable fuels consumed in a wildfire as so to lessen fire intensity to allow fire resources to utilize such a location to increase the probability of success during fire suppression activities. The shaded fuel break is a carefully planned thinking of dense vegetation in an area approximately 300 feet wide where fire does not easily move from the ground into the overhead tree canopy.

The purpose of the shaded fuel break is to minimize destruction to the City of Auburn from wildfire and to protect and enhance natural resources, watershed and habitat of the pristine American River Canyon and Auburn State Recreation Area. The goal is to treat these lands using the prescribed fuels application with the desired outcome of manageable lands for future fire prevention projects.

Auburn Airport (Battalion 11):

The Auburn Municipal Airport is strategically located east of North Auburn, west and north of Bowman, south of Christian Valley and is a Mutual Threat Zone with the City of Auburn. By intensifying the vegetation management efforts of this area, it could result in a reduction in fire potential and intensity and could therefore significantly reduce the loss or damage to homes and property in a wildfire event.

Battalion 14 Fire Roads – Nevada and Yuba County

Battalion 14 contains several historical un-maintained fire roads that NEU has traditionally maintained to a standard that will allow fire and emergency apparatus access and could be utilized for ingress/egress for evacuees. Each year the battalion works with private landowners to improve these roads. All work is done within the existing road prism. Road surface, road drainage and site line distance are all maintained. This includes grading with a road grader or dozer, cutting and removal of vegetation along the road edge and chipping if necessary.

Brockway Shaded Fuel Break (Battalion 15):

A cooperative project that involves multiple agencies and entities working toward a single goal of hazardous fuels reduction in the form of a shaded fuel break that runs from the top of Brockway Summit downslope to the Glenshire neighborhoods in Truckee. This project is funded by a CAL FIRE grant and partners with the affected private and federal landowners to meet the intended objectives. This project, when complete, will improve the survivability, containment, and control capabilities in the event of a catastrophic wildland fire.

Bug Killed Tree Removal-Placer East and Placer West:

This project aims to mitigate insect induced tree mortality within the SRA of Placer County. Drought has caused the endemic levels of insect mortality to rise. The impact primarily occurs between 500' and 3000' MSL. This zone aligns with the WUI zone where wildfire risk is increased due to dispersed residential development. The result of expanding mortality is an increase in fire risk directly to structures in the SRA. This project reduces tree mortality by cutting of infested stems and onsite mechanical treatment of hazardous vegetative fuels and brood material. The project aims to treat sites that are not sufficient commercial opportunities due to market, size, deterioration, and topographic constraints.

Bug Killed Tree Removal-Yuba/Nevada County:

This project aims to mitigate insect induced tree mortality within the SRA of Placer County. Drought has caused the endemic levels of insect mortality to rise. The impact primarily occurs between 500' and 3000' MSL. This zone aligns with the WUI zone where wildfire risk is increased due to dispersed residential development. The result of expanding mortality is an increase in fire risk directly to structures in the SRA. This project reduces tree mortality by cutting of infested stems and onsite mechanical treatment of hazardous vegetative fuels and brood material. The project aims to treat sites that are not sufficient commercial opportunities due to market, size, deterioration, and topographic constraints.

Burton Creek State Park Hazardous Fuel Reduction (Battalion 15):

The project area is 20 acres of upland mixed conifer forest in Burton Creek State Park on the north shore of Lake Tahoe. Under prevailing southwesterly pre-frontal winds, the project area is downwind of multiple potential ignitions sources in Tahoe City, and upwind of the North Tahoe Intermediate School and High School.

Commercial thinning of intermediate and overstory trees was implemented over the snow during the winter of 2000. Surface fuels and understory ladder fuels were not treated during that entry. Hazardous fuel reduction treating the surface fuels and ladderfuels is needed to reduce potential wildfire intensity and fire behavior in this critical area.

California Tahoe Conservancy (Battalion 15):

CAL FIRE assists the California Tahoe Conservancy with pile burning and hazardous tree felling operations on State lands to improve forest health, enhance wildland urban interface threats from wildfire and to protect watershed. CAL FIRE assists with projects that are funded by sources other than CAL FIRE Grants.

The Cedar's Structure Defense and Evacuation Plan (Battalion 15):

The Cedars Community is many remote residential structures located in the area at the top of the North Fork American River Canyon on the Tahoe National Forest (TNF). These dwellings have very limited ingress and egress and are routinely threatened by fire on the TNF. CAL FIRE has and will continue to assist the residents and property owners in establishing a viable evacuation plan, as well as assisting with hazardous fuels reduction recommendations and advice including structure hardening, defensible space, and fuels reduction. This will serve to help in safeguarding both the residents and dwellings from the threat of wildland fires.

Clark Tunnel/Bickford VMP (Battalion 17):

This is a priority project as it relates to our future, our growth, and our assets at risk. With large development in the SRA the threat of a devastating WUI wildland fire increase. The Clark Tunnel/Bickford VMP is in the planning stages of fuels reduction and shaded fuel breaks along with the ability to implement prescribed fire to reduce the threat of conflagration fires while improving the watershed as well as habitat and brows for local wildlife.

County Road 270 (Battalion 16):

This is proposed fuel clearing to improve access to 7 miles of existing fire roads. There is a significant increase in population to the Collins Lake campground during the summer months. This increases the potential number of ignitions and would create significant challenges to evacuations and access. Having county road 270 clear would create a fuel break between the Collins Lake camping areas and the more populated Dobbins/Oregon House communities, as well as improving access for fire equipment. The general area is Yuba County Road 270, North and West of Collins Lake. The location of, and the vegetation management within the project make it ideal to be utilized as an area which can assist with the protection of homes and property, by slowing the spread of fire within the area.

Nevada City's Deer Creek Hazardous Fuels Treatment Project (Battalion 12):

The City of Nevada City received a planning grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) in the amount of \$111,665 to develop an environmentally sound fuels-treatment plan for heavily forested wildland properties in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). The project area encompasses 33 parcels of private and public land totaling 348 acres on the south side of Deer Creek in the southwest portion of Nevada City, in Nevada County. These parcels include the Deer Creek and Seven Hills Schools, the St. Canice Center, the Tech Center, which houses numerous businesses, Nevada City's wastewater treatment plant, and other critical infrastructure. This is the most heavily forested area within the city limits and is vulnerable to wildfires coming up Deer Creek Canyon.

Grass Valley City Wide WUI Ravine Hazard Zone/ Fuels Reduction Program

This project aims to mitigate multiple Ravine zones within Grass Valley's WUI Residential regions. Acting as "natural chimneys," these ravines present highly hazardous wildfire ignition threats accelerating flames uphill through concentrated, inaccessible, dense fuel loads. Prioritized via the newest available wildfire modeling platforms, Grass Valley's six (6) major targeted ravines, comprising a total of 45.5 acres, contain 50+ years of accumulated dry debris (Bug-killed trees, downed trees, dense/dead shrubs/vegetation) creating intense "wicking" effects that drive fire directly into the residential areas. Steep terrain increases oxygen flow, while ladder-fuels allow surface fires to quickly become uncontrollable, high-intensity canopy fires.

The project/s aim to treat sites that are too small for CFIP funding consideration, do not afford commercial opportunities due to market size, deterioration, and topography constraints. This project/s will not resemble commercial timber operations and will not generate commercial products.

Disc Line Projects (Battalion 17):

It has been identified that the most effective way to limit the spread of roadside vegetation fires is to create fire breaks along the roads where they start. In recent years, roadside fires have burned thousands of acres in the LRA of Battalion 17. If property boundaries close to public accesses were disked, this may have significantly reduced the acres and property lost. These fire breaks can be created by disking the vegetation along the property boundary or along the property adjacent to the roadside.

Empire Mine Historic State Park (Battalion 12):

This project is being conducted in cooperation with California State Parks. The project includes three phases and is currently under way through the cooperation of State Parks for oversight and management and the CAL FIRE resources working to provide the labor force and equipment. Phase One includes clearing around the buildings in the park and has been completed in the initial phase but will need maintenance. Phase Two will be to improve the trail system in the park and reduce the general fuel loading. This phase is ongoing. Phase Three will be to complete a fuel break between the State Park and most or all the private lands on the perimeter. This phase has begun and is in progress. Adding to the current plan, there are proposed fuel breaks from Osborne Hill to the Penn Gate off Empire Street in Grass Valley and Highway 174 along Empire Cross Road to Empire Street near the Park entrance. Additional work being conducted includes removing dead and dying trees on the park property.

Fiddymment Training burn (Battalion 17):

The vegetation management programs are directed at reducing the potential of a large fire and reducing the damage from a large fire. There is currently one VMP in progress, Fiddymment Training Area VMP, totaling over 154 acres. This area provides an ideal location for wildland fire ignition, suppression, and fire behavior training. It is also a venue that exhibits what Range Improvement burning can do. The collaboration and coordination between agencies, groups and landowners is far reaching with this project.

Fire Prevention Road Signs

NEU will construct wood sign holders for them and strategically place them within communities at risk of wildfire, within the SRA, to educate the highest number of community members that we can. The fire prevention education outreach message will be "One Less Spark" and "Are You Ready."

Fire Safe Councils in the Granite Bay – and Greater Truckee Area

Establishing Fire Safe Council(s) in this area of the County is a first step towards educating residents about the fact that they live in an urban forest and there is a wildfire hazard and motivating them to take appropriate action to reduce their risk.

Foresthill Divide Fuel Break Maintenance – Placer County (Battalion 11):

The communities of Foresthill, Iowa Hill, Todd Valley and Michigan Bluff have had extensive fuel break work completed in the past 5-10 years, primarily driven by Foresthill Fire Department and Fire Safe Council grant success. These communities also have many masticated fuel breaks completed through CFIP program participation and on the Robbers Fire – during suppression repair.

Grass Valley City Wide WUI Ridgeline Hazard Zone/ Fuels Reduction Program

Ridgelines highly hazardous wildfire zones acting as convergence points for extreme fire behavior, combining high wind exposure, rapid upslope fuel consumption, and difficult access for firefighting personnel. Prioritized via the newest available wildfire modeling platforms, Grass Valley's seven (7) major targeted Ridgelines, comprising a total of 156.6 acres, contain 50+ years of accumulated dry debris (Bug-killed trees, downed trees, dense/dead shrubs/vegetation) creating intense "wicking" effects that drive fire directly into the residential areas. Steep terrain increases oxygen flow, while ladder-fuels allow surface fires to quickly become uncontrollable, high-intensity canopy fires. Each of the City of Grass Valley's targeted Ridgeline priority treatment zones contains, and/or is adjacent to one of the top identified Evacuation Route ingress/egress choke-point threats.

Using current best-treatment-protocols, these ridgelines will achieve hazardous fuels reduction through a simultaneous Top-down/Bottom-up approach utilizing newly cut and existing fire/fuel breaks (roads/driveways/power-telecom line cleared infrastructure routes etc.) to segment continuous Ridgeline stretches into smaller, containable wildfire ignition zones for the protection of The project/s aim to treat sites that are too small for CFIP funding consideration and/or do not afford commercial opportunities due to market size, deterioration, and topography constraints. This project/s will not resemble commercial timber operations and will not generate commercial products.

Gold Country Fairgrounds

This is a high visibility public education project. The Gold Country fairgrounds lie at the intersection of Hwy 49 and I-80 and hosts visitors from Placer, Sacramento, El Dorado, and Nevada Counties annually for numerous events, the largest being the Gold Country Fair and the Auburn Home show (Spring/Fall).

In 1982, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection designed and built approximately 25 ft. x 25 ft. gazebo at the front entrance gate which was used until 2014 as the fire prevention host facility at all major events. In August 2014, NEU personnel along with many volunteers built a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Demonstration Building, in place of the gazebo, that is compliant with California Building Code Chapter 7A Standards for exterior building materials. The new site presents an opportunity for CAL FIRE, USFS, BLM and local fire safe councils to interact with the public on current topics of fire prevention, building construction standards, defensible space requirements and other topics related to building a fire-resistant community. In addition, the message will be supported by new educational displays illustrating the influence of building materials on fire spread, emphasizing the role they played in the 2009 49 Fire that spread through North Auburn, destroying 65 residential and commercial structures. For the Gold Country Fair, Station 10 personnel maintain a constant presence to support fair public safety and response.

Greater Banner Mountain Ingress Egress Project (Battalion 12)

Proposed 795-acre project along critical ingress/egress in the Greater Banner Mountain area and Scott's Flat Reservoir. Up to 300 feet of roadside fuel reduction including mastication, hand cut and chip, and pile burning.

Hidden Falls (Battalion 17&18)

The location of, and the vegetation management within the Hidden Falls Regional Park makes it ideal to be utilized as an area which can assist with the protection of homes and property, by slowing the spread of fire within the area. This project is ongoing and will remain so for the life of the park.

Interstate 80 Hazard Reduction Project (Battalion 13):

CAL FIRE and the Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council have engaged with CAL TRANS in a proposal to reduce the fire risk along Interstate 80 from Colfax to Blue Canyon. A 48% increase in commercial truck fires and one wildfire that threatened the communities of Alta and Dutch Flat prompted action. CAL TRANS is committing as much as \$5 million to treat over 300 acres within the State right of way along Interstate 80.

Lake Valley Sky Mountain Defense Zone (Battalion 13):

Cal Fire NEU's new Emigrant Gap Demonstration State Forest (EGDSF) which surrounds Lake Valley near Yuba Gap. Within the EGDSF is a road network and camp property owned by the San Joaquin Office of Education. This project is intended to improve the ingress and egress along County and private roads to the camp and provide sufficient buffering to allow shelter in place at the camp during a wildland fire.

Lakeview Canyon Fuel Break (Battalion 15):

CAL FIRE and State Parks are working jointly to complete a 40'-50' wide fuel break from the old Union Pacific Railroad right of way near Donner Summit in Truckee down to the South shore of Donner Lake. This project incorporates fire road improvements, felling operations and brushing/thinning of the fire road up to 15' on each side. When completed, the fuel break will provide improved wildland urban interface protection from wildfires for Truckee around Donner Lake, as well as enhancing watershed protection and forest health.

Loyalton Mastication Senior Center (Completed 2015):

This project will reduce the horizontal and vertical continuity of the sage and bitter brush on the South and West sides of the Senior Center. The fuel ladders are present that affect scattered overstory pine will be eliminated. Torching of the pine trees will be mitigated. Thus, ember dispersal will be prevented. This project provides direct protection of structures within the SRA adjacent to and within the Town of Loyalton.

Malakoff State Park VMP (Battalion 14):

Within the boundaries of the Malakoff State Park there are over 3,700 acres in the North Bloomfield area. In 2007, approximately 1,000 of those acres were burned under VMP through a cooperative between CAL FIRE and California State Parks. This project will continue the effort along the north side of the South Fork of the Yuba River. It will re-treat much of the original footprint along with some adjoining lands. In the original effort, the State Parks completed the environmental compliance documentation along with some pre-treatments; while CAL FIRE provided the resources and command of the prescribed fire treatment, followed up by additional post fire work. The project will restore native forest composition, structure, and function while reducing the risk of a catastrophic wildfire.

Meadow Vista / Applegate Pre-Fire Project (Battalion 13):

A series of roadside fuel modifications located in strategic areas to allow firefighting resources access and a location to effectively suppress an encroaching wildfire. Using existing roads for the location of the fuel modification takes advantage of the area occupied by the road surface, which is devoid of all vegetation. Modifying the fuels for 25 feet on both sides of the existing road will give an effective fuel break width of approximately 70 to 80 feet for secondary roads. The location of these fuel modifications will allow ready access and a strategic defensive position for fire suppression resources and facilitate long term maintenance of the fuel breaks.

Meadow Vista Roadside Clearing and Shaded Fuel Break (Battalion 13):

This cooperative project combines community pre-fire planning and fuels reduction to benefit the communities of Colfax, Weimar, Iowa Hill, Meadow Vista, and Applegate. The project included a series of fuels reduction efforts of private lands involving mastication and hand crews. Treated areas will be targets that enhance fire suppression efforts, improve, and provide for safe evacuation routes and promote land stewardship.

Mosquito Fire Recovery and Reforestation (Battalion 11):

The Placer Resource Conservation District was awarded a CAL FIRE grant to reforest over 800 acres of private property damaged in the Mosquito Fire. The Mosquito Fire was California's largest wildfire in 2022 and burned 76,788 acres in Placer and El Dorado Counties.

Mt Howell VMP (Battalion 13):

Located on the top 40 acres of Mt Howell which sits between west bound side of Interstate 80 and Placer Hills Road south/west of Colfax. Mt Howell is owned by the State of California and has both a seasonal fire lookout tower and State and private telecommunications infrastructure located on it. This project is a shaded fuel break which provides direct defensible space to both the lookout tower and telecommunication infrastructure. The project started in the early 2000s and has an annual continued maintenance cycle for the treatment of 2 plots a year.

NEU Fire Prevention Education Publications:

The project will deliver comprehensive educational messaging focused on educating individual homeowners on Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness. The publications will focus on pre-fire planning and preparation, defensible space, emergency evacuations plan, and other current fire prevention topics. Publications may be purchased by cooperators under an interagency agreement or directly by CAL FIRE if necessary.

NEU PSA's/SRA Education:

The project will deliver a comprehensive media campaign focused on educating the public on Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness. The PSAs will focus on pre-fire planning and preparation, defensible space, emergency evacuation plans, and other current fire prevention topics.

Nevada County Senior and Disabled Assistance Program

The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County has identified a need to continue the Senior and Disabled Assistance Program to provide defensible space clearing for elderly and disabled Nevada County residents unable to physically and financially clear on their own. The program currently utilizes workers from the Nevada County Probation Department's Work Release Program with supervision and direction from FSCNC staff to complete the requested work and bring participants into compliance with current defensible space laws.

North Fork American River Shaded Fuel Break “NFARSFB” Phase One (Battalion13):

The North Fork of the American River Shaded Fuel Break is located on the north rim of the North Fork of the American River starting near NEU Headquarters facility and ending at Cape Horn in Colfax. Phase One is the first 850 acres completed by CAL FIRE which started in 2019 and spans from Cape Horn west to the eastern edge of the Gillis Hill FuelBreak. This section provides direct protection of the City of Colfax and surrounding communities from fires originating out of the North Fork Drainage. The entire project is an ongoing project slated for a ten-year completion schedule and Phase One is in the second year of maintenance. This project is one of the 45 designated Priority Projects of Executive Order N-05-19.

Montezuma Fuel Break Maintenance (Battalion 14):

The Montezuma Fuel Break is a shaded fuel break that was established in 1960's. This fuel break follows Jackass Flats Road, to Miller Road, to Purdon Road, and ends on Lost River Road and extends 75 feet on each side of the roadway for a 150-foot-wide treatment area along the identified roads. The Montezuma fuel break location is in a strategic position along the rim of the South Fork of the Yuba River and is in the footprint of the proposed South Yuba Rim Fuel Break. The maintenance of this fuel break would reinstitute this area as a viable fuel break, an emergency fire access road, and an example of fuels management to be incorporated into the South Yuba Rim Fuel Break. Within the footprint of the Montezuma Fuel Break is the Malakoff Diggins, an area void of continuous vegetation and widely regarded by residents of the San Juan Ridge as a Temporary Refuge Area (TRA) in the event of an uncontrolled wildfire. This treatment would maintain access to this TRA from Tyler Foote Road for all area residents. Approximately 24 landowners are incorporated into the footprint of the project.

North Fork American River Shaded Fuel Break “NFARSFB” Phase Two (Battalion 11&13):

The North Fork of the American River Shaded Fuel Break is located on the north rim of the North Fork of the American River starting near NEU Headquarters facility and ending at Cape Horn in Colfax. Phase two is a 1900-acre grant proposal developed by Placer Resource Conservation District. The Phase 2 project extends the Phase 1 project area southward and establishes treatment units toward Auburn. This section provides direct protection to residential structures and commerce along the Interstate 80 corridor from fires originating out of the North Fork Drainage. The entire NFARFB project is an ongoing project slated for a ten-year completion schedule and Phase One is in the second year of maintenance.

Northstar SRA Fuel Reduction (Battalion 15):

The North Star Fire Department's district lies within CAL FIRE State Responsibility Area (SRA), so we work cooperatively on hazardous fuels reduction projects which include thinning, tree felling, pile burning and chipping. These are on-going projects that are funded through both annual budgets and special grants.

Ophir Road Network Ingress/ Egress-Fuel Reduction (Battalion 11):

The County Road network within the community of Ophir requires vegetation management along the roadways to provide adequate egress for homeowners and ingress for emergency responders in the event of a wildfire. The project is in the planning stage and would require continual maintenance.

Oregon Peak Lookout Fuel Reduction (Battalion 16):

Oregon Peak lookout is located on 20 acres of CAL FIRE owned timberland. The maintenance and protection of the infrastructure is identified as a high priority for B2316. This project will ensure the road access is at a high standard and that the ingress and egress is provided with a sufficient buffer to act as a shaded fuel break. General forest management is proposed for the timberland parcel.

PCWA Lake Arthur (Battalion 11):

The project area consists of 30 acres of brush covered timberland between 1600' and 1900' elevation. The project is limited to mastication of brush and small trees with follow-up hand work using chainsaws and hand tools. Brush chipping of isolated sites that are above 40% will occur to tie mastication units together. The intent is to install a perimeter of masticated shaded fuel break around the entire parcel from 50' to 100' wide. An additional line will be masticated on the north side of the canal as an intermediate shaded fuel break. Trees greater than 6" diameter will be left uncut unless infested with insects and a likely threat to the remaining trees. The final phase of treatment will be the use of prescribed fire to maintain the fire resiliency of the forest.

PCWA Lake Theodore (Battalion 11):

The proposed project area consists of 69 acres of brush covered timberland between 1600' and 2000' elevation. The aspect faces south, and slopes range from 5-40% which lead into tributaries of Dry Creek and Lake Theodore, a fish bearing watercourse, tributary to the Bear River. The property is bisected by Dry Creek and Lake Theodore and is owned and operated by Placer County Water Agency. Applegate Road, a county-owned and maintained road also splits the property. Interstate 80 bounds the project to the north. Project work would be limited to hand-cutting and chipping of brush and small trees using chainsaws, hand tools, a diesel-powered chipper, and pole saws for pruning. The intent is to install a wide linear shaded fuel break along the eastern and northern boundaries of the project area, as well as to treat the area between Lake Theodore and Applegate Road.

PG&E North Auburn VMP (Battalion 11):

The PGE Cooperative North Auburn VMP Project is located between Highway 49 and Interstate 80 along Dry Creek Road. The project protects approximately 5,000 residences in heavily developed and densely populated WUI communities of North Auburn, Christian Valley, Meadow Vista, Clipper Gap, and Bowman as well as the Auburn Airport and Pacific Gas and Electric power and water infrastructure including the Boardman Canal and Halsey Powerhouse. Fire history demonstrates the potential for severe losses as was seen during the 2009 "49" Fire which burned 65 homes, several businesses and tore through several commercial buildings within a 3-hour period. This fire was an immediate threat to over 5,000 improved parcels from North Auburn to Meadow Vista.

Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone (Battalion 12):

The Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Project protects approximately 3,000 residences in the Wildland Urban Interface communities of Lake Wildwood, Penn Valley, Rough & Ready, and The City of Grass Valley. The area carries critical infrastructure for state commerce such as State Highway 20, PG&E power and water infrastructure, and Nevada County Facilities. The total values at risk for this area exceed \$600 million. The area has not burned in over 100 years and fuels have reached unmanaged and risky proportions.

Ponderosa West Grass Valley Defense Zone Extension (Battalion 12):

Treatment consists of mastication and hand cut and chip. A 300-acre extension to the original Ponderosa West Gass Valley Defensible Zone. Planned to begin in 2026

Porcupine Hill Maintenance (Battalion 15):

The Porcupine Hill Maintenance Project is a multi-year project that has a focus of fuels reduction by creating a fuel break within the Community of Northstar, above U.S. Highway 267 leading into the Northstar Community Services District. The project area is an open common space area that is used for recreational hikers and mountain bikers. A road exists through the project area that is used by the Northstar Community Services District Utilities Department, and it acts as an emergency road for fire suppression. The project area is susceptible to fire originating off the highway and or from neighboring land across the highway. The site currently contains dense brush and tree fields acting as a corridor for fire to travel aggressively into the community. Project work will break up the continuity of fuels and help protect cultural and historical sites.

Reader Ranch / Birchville Rd VMP (Battalion 14):

Located approximately 5 miles northwest of the town of Nevada City. The proposed project consists of approximately 2,300 acres of mixed brush, primarily on west, south and east facing slopes. There are currently twenty-two landowners involved including the Bureau of Land Management. This proposed project will entail the pre-treatment of the brush fuel by creating hand piles with crews and/or piling, crushing, or masticating with machinery. Some areas may be broadcast burned. The objective is to reduce the potential of a costly and damaging fire within the treated and surrounding area.

Rice's Crossing Road (Battalion16):

This project will improve a badly damaged fire access roadway that can serve as an evacuation route if needed. This is the access through the Richard's Ranch to the north side of Englebright Reservoir. This road was last graded by CALFIRE personnel in 2008 and surveyed for repairs in 2017. The road will require major work to create a reliable Fire Access Road. Improvements will also require fuels reduction along the roadway of up to 200' width.

Sierraville Defense Zone (Proposed Grant 2020):

The Sierraville Defense Zone Project is a strategic community defense zone located along Highway 89 and Willow Street in the community of Sierraville within Sierra County. Building upon existing and prior fuels treatments, the project focuses on the south to southwest side of the community to create a more resilient and defensible forest landscape. By integrating with adjacent large-scale efforts on the Tahoe National Forest, this work strengthens landscape-level continuity in fuels reduction and forest health. The project is designed to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire impacts to the community while promoting long-term ecosystem resilience through strategic thinning, surface fuel reduction, and improved forest structure, and is fully supported by CAL FIRE as it directly aligns with department, unit, and Battalion strategic goals.

Maintenance of South County Fuel Break/Lode Star/Alta Sierra Project (Battalion 12):

This project will be maintaining a shaded fuel break, utilizing existing road systems to stop or slow a wildfire and support firefighter access and community escape routes in the canyon communities between Alta Sierra and Lake of the Pines, east of Highway 49. Details of the project include maintaining the 150' depth brush removal and small tree thinning (hand crew cut and burn, prescribed fire, herbivory and mechanical mastication). The work will be on permission approved privately owned properties, on both the north and south sides of Loadstar and

Buck Mountain roads, between Dog Bar and Hwy 49.

South Yuba Rim Fuel Break (Battalion 14):

The South Yuba Rim Fuel Break is a landscape scale fuel break consisting of several smaller scale projects to create a contiguous area of hazardous fuel reduction from Bridgeport extending east up the San Juan Ridge to North Bloomfield. The fuel break includes the completed Bridgeport State Park prescribed VMP burns, the completed VMP prescribed burn at French Corral, Browning property, the completed Malakoff Diggins VMP project, and the completed Montezuma Fuel Break. This landscape scale project also includes the proposed Bunker Hill VMP, Bunker Hill Fuel Break, Shady Creek Fuel Break, Columbia Hill Fuel Break, Jackass Flat/Montezuma Ridge Fuel Break, Reader Ranch Fuel Break, and the Reader Ranch/Birchville VMP. These projects have been developed to create strategic locations where firefighting resources may more effectively attempt fire suppression activities to stop a costly and damaging fire such as the 49'er fire of 1988.

The South Yuba River Forest Resilience Battalion 12):

The South Yuba River Forest Resilience Project spans 1,867 acres along the north and south rims of the south yuba river canyon in Nevada county, CA. Treatments include commercial thinning, mechanical thinning, hand thinning, and prescribed burning. The project aims to restore forest health, reduce wildfire risk, protect water quality in the South Yuba River, and enhance carbon storage, benefiting local communities, ecosystems, and downstream stakeholders.

The You Bet Resilience Project will focus on three tiers of prioritized treatments based on direct consultation with FWC liaisons, prioritized as follows: Tier 1 - treatment of large (100-200 foot) buffers surrounding primary surface roads identified as evacuation routes, Tier 2 - connecting roads, and Tier 3 - larger parcel treatments beyond roadside clearing. The project is a unique model of community-based forestry that incorporates significant feedback from the landowners through public outreach events with education components around fire ecology as well as public tours for prescribed burning and post-treatment. Our approach is not only to treat forests to be resilient to wildfire and spare community infrastructure, but to also carefully plan treatments for climate change and wildlife habitat resilience, all while incorporating local knowledge.

Spring Garden VMP (Battalion 11):

This is a 142-acre project on the Placer Land Trust Spring Garden Preserve 5.5 miles west of Foresthill. 123 acres have been masticated prior to the land acquisition in 2020. Proposed treatments include hand treatment, chipping, pile burning and eventually broadcast burning with the goal of protecting the adjacent residential communities and preserving critical habitat.

State Park Fuel Reduction, Burton, and Donner (Battalion 15):

CAL FIRE and California State Parks have on-going cooperative, productive, and engaged hazardous fuels reduction efforts. These efforts include thinning, piling, pile, and understory (VMP) burns, hazardous tree felling, road brushing and training. These cooperative efforts are on-going, and continue through shared funding, priorities, and workforces.

Structure Ignitability Education

A cooperative project focused on creating and providing educational materials to the public on

upgrading their homes to meet current fire resistive construction code.

Tahoe City Fuel Break (Battalion 15):

CAL FIRE and State Parks are working jointly to complete a 40' wide fuel break from Tahoe City upslope tying into Burton Creek State Park. This project incorporates tree felling operations, brushing and pile burning. This fuel break, at its completion will support a public trail system in addition to the benefits of fire protection and defense. The fuel break will provide improved wildland urban interface protection from wildfires, as well as enhancing watershed protection and forest health.

Waddle Ranch VMP (Battalion 15):

It is an area South of the airport that is a high public use area and is under the stewardship of the Truckee-Tahoe Airport District. This area has been thinned and masticated. It is also included as part of the Brockway Project and has been selectively logged. To complete the shaded fuel break, an understory (VMP) burn is needed to improve the effectiveness of the fuel break, and to improve forest health and watershed protection.

The Western Nevada County Forest Health Initiative (Battalion 12):

Engaging Private Landowners in Landscape Forest Resilience will cover 534 acres of Forest Responsibility Area (FRA) land within the USFS Tahoe National Forest (TNF) and 1,000 acres of strategically selected treatments on adjacent private land within the State Responsibility Area (SRA), for a total of over 1,534 acres. The Western Nevada County Community Defense Project (WNCCDP) has been developed and implemented using a variety of treatment methods, with funding pooled over the past decade and the workload divided among partner organizations and agencies, including the Fire Safe Council (FSC), Fire Wise USA Communities, USFS – Tahoe National Forest, Nevada County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD), Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC), CAL FIRE, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The City of Nevada City received a planning grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) in the amount of \$111,665 to develop an environmentally sound fuels-treatment plan for heavily forested wildland properties in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

Woodpecker Ravine Phase 1 Project:

410 acres of treatment. 150 feet on either side of primary ingress, 100 feet on either side of secondary ingress, 100 feet along strategic ridgelines to tie in project area. Treatment completed March 2026. Treatment consisted of mastication and hand cut and chip.

Woodpecker Ravine Phase 2 Project:

726 acres of treatment. 150 feet on either side of primary ingress, 100 feet on either side of secondary ingress, 100 feet along strategic ridgelines to tie in project area. Planning and environmental compliance are currently underway. Treatment to initiate in 2027. Treatment consists of mastication and hand cut and chip.

Yuba County Fish and Wildlife Areas Fuel Breaks, Daugherty Hill, Stanfield Hill, Quail Valley (Battalion 16):

This is an annual dozer line that is created between Marysville Rd and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDF&W) lands at Daugherty, Quail Valley and Stanfield Hill. Historically, these areas experience roadside fires that have the potential to become costly and damaging, however, they are generally held in check by the dozer lines. The fuel breaks near Loma Rica

and Los Verjales Rds. provide protection to the structures and residents in the area. These fuel breaks provided critical access points and contingency lines during the 2020 Willow fire.

Yuba County Public Works Roadside Clearing Plan (Battalion 16):

Roadside clearance projects that will benefit the various foothill communities fire protection and traffic safety have been identified by the cooperative efforts of Cal Fire, USFS, and the Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council. Through a system of prioritization and cooperation the Yuba County Department of Public Works (YCDPW) will direct their roadside clearing efforts to those roads identified as having the greatest potential for improving fire safety, and evacuation ingress/egress.

Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Project (Battalion 16):

This project involves significant biomass removal treatments on 5,375 acres in the Yuba County foothills, all of which are adjacent to communities with limited resources for fire risk reduction efforts, including Oregon House, Dobbins, Brownsville, Challenge and Rackerby. These treatments will improve forest health and reduce the risk of a catastrophic wildfire within a "Project Impact Zone" that spans more than 71,000 acres and includes an estimated 2,721 structures. This project began implementation in 2020 and is expected to be completed in 2024.

You Bet Resilience Project (Battalion 12)

Proposed 1,500-acre project on private property stretching from above Rollins Reservoir along Greenhorn Creek to Steep Hollow. Proposed treatment consists of vegetation abatement 100-200 feet on either side of primary ingress and egress. Mastication and hand cut and pile treatment on larger parcels beyond ingress/egress buffer.

Deer Creek Southside Expansion:

Expansion of City of Nevada City Deer Creek Southside Project. Sierra Nevada Conservancy funded planning for 312 acres. OES secured funding from USFS for treatment of 197 acres (to be completed in 2026). City of Nevada City will be treating the remaining acres with tax measure funds.

APPENDIX F: PAST AND PROPOSED BATTALION PROJECTS

Project Name	Battalion	County	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
Alta Dutch Flat Elementary School	13	Placer	A	Ongoing	Public Education/ Evacuation/ Shelter in Place	-
Alta Shaded Fuel Break	13	Placer	A	Ongoing	Shaded Fuel Break	203
Burton State Park Fuel Reduction Program*	15	Placer	O	Ongoing	Thinning and prescribed fire	448
Colfax Elementary School	13	Placer	A	Ongoing	Public Education/ Evacuation/ Shelter in Place	-
Colfax High School	13	Placer	A	Ongoing	Public Education/ Evacuation/ Shelter in Place	-
Colfax Pre-Attack Plan	13	Placer	A	2023	Pre-Fire Planning	-
I-80 Fuel Reduction Project	13	Placer	P	2026	Roadside Fuel Reduction	330
North Tahoe Fire Defensible Space Inspections	15	Placer	O	Ongoing	Approx. 1400 Structures Alpine M, Ward CYN and Dollar Point	N/A
Northstar Fire Fuel Reduction	15	Placer	O	2025	Fire Safe Grant for existing treated	90

Project Name	Battalion	County	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
					acres	
Oest VMP	11	Placer	P	2026	Fuels Reduction and Prescribed Fire	780
Placer County Roads	17	Placer	O	Ongoing	Fuel Reduction	
WUI Preplan Christian Valley	11	Placer	P	2024	Planning	
WUI Preplan Mt. Vernon	11	Placer	P	2024	Planning	
WUI Preplan Wise Road Area	11	Placer	P	2024	Planning	

Alder Hill Fuel Reduction	15	Nevada	O	2026	Thinning, brushing and mastication	100
Banner Mtn. CAL FIRE Lookout	12	Nevada	O	Ongoing	Active Fire Lookout	6
Bear River Pines	12	Nevada	M	2026	Fuel Reduction	50
Bear Yuba Land Trust VMP	12	Nevada	P	2025	Prescribed Fire	700

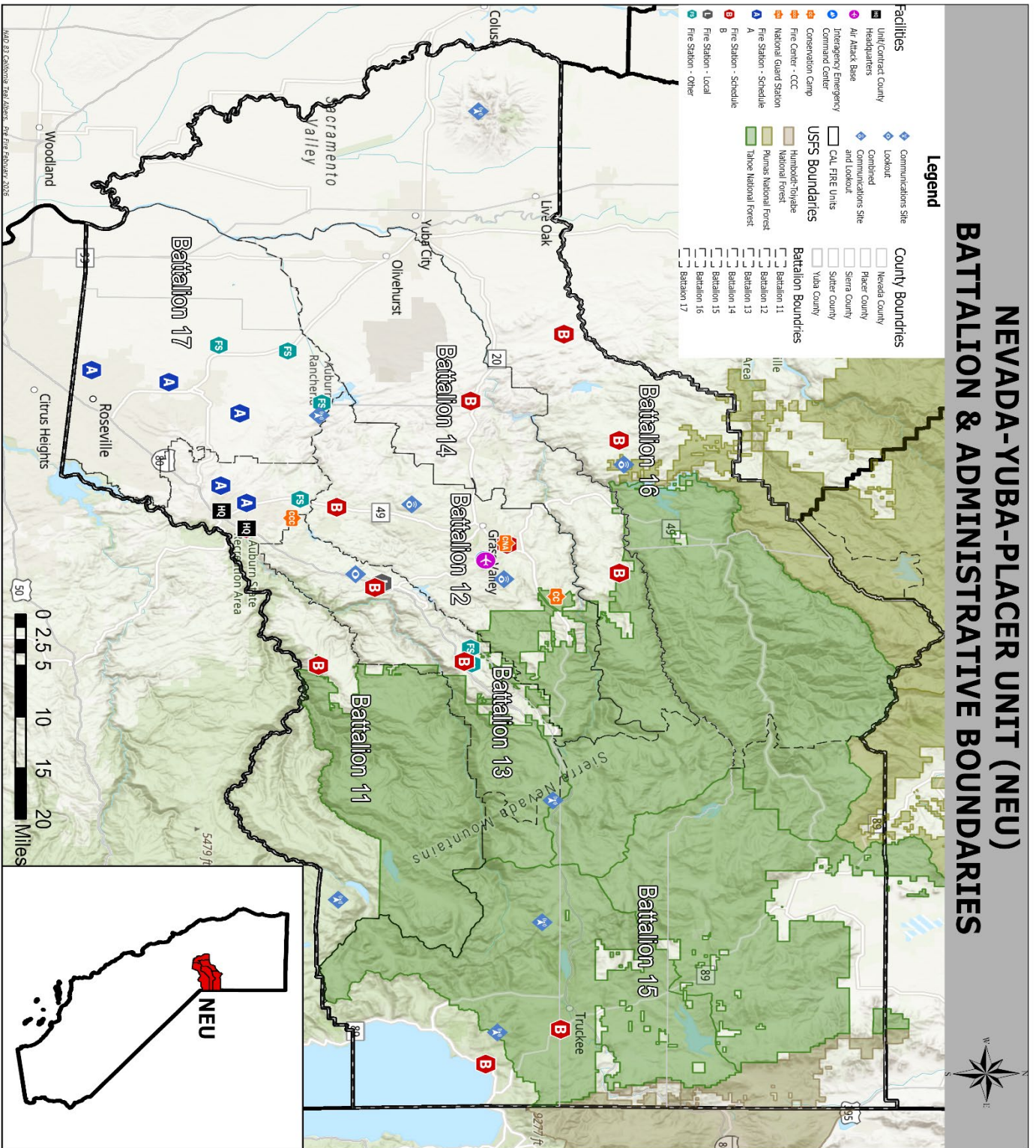
Project Name	Battalion	County	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
Bunker Hill Fuel Break	14	Nevada	P	2024	Fuel Treatments	
Bunker Hill VMP	14	Nevada	P		Prescribed Fire	
Deer Creek Park	12	Nevada	P	2026	Fuel treatment & Prescribed Fire	570
Inimim Forest Landscape Resilience Project	14	Nevada	C	2025	Fuel Treatments	1218
Jack Ass Flats Rd / Montezuma Ridge Fuel Break	14	Nevada	P	2024	Fuel Treatment and Fire Access Road Improvement	
Lake Wildwood Fuels Reduction	14	Nevada	P	2024	Fuel Treatment	
Little Deer Creek Landscape Resilience	12	Nevada	P	2025	Fuel Reduction	260
Malakoff Diggins State Park VMP	14	Nevada	P	2024	Prescribed Fire	1000
Ponderosa Way Fuel Break Phase II	14	Nevada	P	2024	Fuel Treatment and Fire Access Road Improvement	
Reader Ranch / Birchville VMP	14	Nevada	P	2024	Prescribed Fire	
Reader Ranch Fuel Break	14	Nevada	O	2024	Fuel Treatments	200

Project Name	Battalion	County	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
Truckee Air Show	15	Nevada	O	Ongoing	Community Education	N/A
Western Deer Creek	12	Nevada	P	2325	Fuel Reduction	3,000
Wolf Mtn, Lookout	12	Nevada	O	Continuous	Active Fire Lookout	11
Wood-pecker Ravine / Rattle-snake SFB	12	Nevada	P	2026	Fuel Reduction project	2124
Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Fuel Breaks	16	Yuba	O	Ongoing	Fuel Break	500
Oregon Peak Lookout Fuel Reduction	16	Yuba	P	2021	Fuel Modification	25
Stanfield Hill Wildlife Area Fuel Breaks	16	Yuba	O	Ongoing	Fuel Break	500
Stanfield Hill Wildlife Area VMP	16	Yuba	P	2021	Prescribed Fire	3,000

Project Name	Battalion	County	Status	Estimated Completion Year	Project Type	Net Acres
Quail Valley Wildlife Area Fuel Breaks	16	Yuba	O	Ongoing	Fuel Break	500
Yuba County Chipper	14/16	Yuba	A	Ongoing	Fuel Reduction	500
Yuba County Roads	14/16	Yuba	A	Continuous	Fuel Treatments	
Yuba County Roadside Clearing	14/16	Yuba	A	Ongoing	Fuel Reduction	500
Yuba Fire Safe Council	14/16	Yuba	O	Ongoing	Planning/ Education	

Status Guide: A = Active, P = Planning, C = Completed, O = Ongoing, M = Maintenance.

APPENDIX G:UNIT MAP



SUPPLEMENT: 2026

Annual Report of Unit

CAL FIRE NEU Law Enforcement - Investigations and Enforcement

Upon successful completion of a 22-week Law Enforcement Academy and over 440-hours of mandated Field Training. Our 2026 Law Enforcement staffing consists of one Battalion Chief and two Fire Captain Specialists.

In 2025, CAL FIRE NEU Law Enforcement reviewed and investigated hundreds of fires within the unit. We continued to provide investigation support to various federal, state, and local cooperators throughout the year, as well as contribute to the Sacramento-Sierra Regional Arson Task Force. CAL FIRE Law Enforcement Officers conducted origin and cause investigations, gathered evidence, documented scenes, interviewed suspects and witnesses, and conducted follow up investigations. Criminal cases were filed with the local District Attorney's Office's for prosecution, while cost recovery for negligently caused fires was obtained through our department's civil cost recovery program. CAL FIRE Law Enforcement Officers provided direct support and assistance to multiple federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in response to dangerous and life-threatening emergencies, the apprehension of major crimes offenders, patrol, and general law enforcement.

In 2025, CAL FIRE NEU Law Enforcement had three felony arson arrests in Nevada, Yuba, and Placer Counties. We conducted origin and cause investigations as an assist to local law enforcement for five felony arson cases.

CAL FIRE NEU Law Enforcement focused on education to property owners regarding defensible space and safe burning practice. With the assistance of engine companies and field Battalion Chief's education ultimately led to the issuance of multiple legal notices to the public, in lieu of citations. Additionally, 12 misdemeanor citations were issued for Public Resource Code and Health & Safety Code violations related to either negligently causing a fire or allowing it to escape control.

Additionally, CAL FIRE NEU Law Enforcement assisted local government cooperators on multiple complex fire investigations, several involving serious injuries or fatalities at the scene. These investigations involve multiple agencies, take a great deal of collaboration and cooperation, and can be extensive in the overall investigation process.

CAL FIRE NEU Law Enforcement, with the assistance of local, region, and Sacramento office staff, recovered over \$100,000 in civil cost cases.

During the Fourth of July weekend, CAL FIRE NEU Law Enforcement worked closely with local Sheriffs and Police Departments while patrolling heavy populated areas during fireworks celebrations. Multiple citations were issued, and illegal fireworks were confiscated and ultimately destroyed.

CAL FIRE Law Enforcement assisted in the training of new Law Enforcement Officers at the CAL FIRE Law Enforcement Academy in Ione. Locally, our Law Enforcement Officers documented hundreds of hours in field and formal training. Our firearms instructors train monthly and have expanded our training to our local cooperators to assist in their mandated qualification needs. This is a great cooperative effort to train and work alongside our allied agencies.

In 2025, CAL FIRE NEU Defensible Space Inspectors, CAL FIRE NEU engine companies, in collaboration with CAL FIRE NEU staff, conducted approximately 15,000 defensible space inspections throughout the Unit. Violations were found to be present in 1,200 of the inspections conducted while 10,500 had no violations. In addition to the completed inspections. With the passing of Assembly Bill 38, effective July 1, 2021, many requirements were added to the inspection process of real property within High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (HFHSZ and VHFHSZ), in addition to annual property inspections pursuant to Public Recourse Code Section 4291. Therefore, in December 2022, we expanded our Defensible Space program to include two full-time Forestry Technicians, two limited term Forestry Technicians and we restructured our four seasonal Forestry Aide personnel to ensure year-round staff conduct defensible space inspections throughout Nevada, Yuba, and Placer Counties.

CAL FIRE NEU Prevention coordinates all defensible space inspections, as requested for AB38 purposes, within the HFHSZ and VHFHSZ in Nevada, Yuba, and Placer Counties. In doing so, we work with multiple cooperators throughout the three counties. CAL FIRE NEU Prevention staff was a leader in educating the local counties California Association of Realtors (CAR) and local title companies. We spoke at multiple in person and online venues, presenting educational material on defensible space inspections and the processes throughout Nevada, Yuba, and Placer Counties. CAL FIRE NEU Prevention is a true leader in the implementation of the defensible space inspections pursuant to Assembly Bill 38.