



Orange County Fire Authority

2026 Unit Strategic Fire Plan



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Unit Strategic Fire Plan Signature Page - Developed for Orange County Fire Authority

This plan was collaboratively developed in conjunction with key stakeholders, including Federal, State, County, and City agencies, as well as other community partners, which are listed in the plan.

- Its purpose is to identify and prioritize both pre-fire and post-fire management strategies and tactics, designed to reduce the loss of values at risk within the Unit.
- The Unit Strategic Fire Plan is intended as a planning and assessment tool only, to be used in conjunction with two addendums added in 2017, including Orange County's County-Wide Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and Orange County Fire Authority's (OCFA's) Fire Danger Operating Plan (FDOP).
- It is the responsibility of those implementing the projects to ensure that all environmental compliance and permitting processes are met as necessary.

TJ McGovern
Interim Fire Chief



Date 5/27/26

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Date 5/22/2026

Juan Huerta
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Date 5/26/2026



Executive Summary

Throughout the history of the fire service in Orange County, the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA), and its predecessor agencies have been recognized as a premier wildland fire agency that effectively manages and provides wildland fire prevention and suppression services. As the County of Orange's fire agency, the Orange County Fire Authority is contracted by the State of California to provide all aspects of wildland fire management for State Responsibility Areas (SRA) within the county. Consequently, in accordance with the California Fire Plan, Orange County's Unit Strategic Fire Plan was first collaboratively developed as a planning and assessment tool in 2010, in conjunction with key stakeholders and partner organizations, with the goal of reducing total government costs and citizen losses from wildfire in Orange County. This plan addresses such topics as firefighter and public safety, Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) challenges, impactful cost-effective solutions, community preparedness, prioritization, collaborative partnerships, program 33058, policy evaluation and adaptability.

Orange County's Unit Strategic Fire Plan employs a range of strategies to effectively address the challenges posed by wildfires. These strategies include:

- Fostering collaboration with local communities and stakeholders to enhance overall resilience to wildfires.
- Collaborating with other fire management agencies, emergency services, and local authorities to ensure coordinated and effective efforts.
- Engaging communities in wildfire preparedness efforts including developing evacuation plans and promoting fire-resistant construction practices particularly in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- Leveraging modern technology and surveillance systems for wildland management and early detection of wildfires.
- Building and maintaining a robust team for emergency response and resource management.

Guided by this plan, notable progress has been made in terms of pre-fire management planning and program implementation. OCFA embraces a collaborative approach to wildfire planning and prevention efforts. By improving vegetation management, road improvement programs, and workforce capacity, our community has become more resilient to wildfire associated challenges. Recent accomplishments include:

- **Purchase of additional Remote Automated Weather Stations (2025)** – OCFA purchased one permanent and one quick deploy Remote Automated Weather Station utilizing Cal Fire grant funds.
- **End of the Tree Pest Grant (2018-2025)** – OCFA was awarded a CALFIRE grant in 2018 to address the Invasive Shot Hole Borer and Goldspotted Oak Borer posing significant threat to Southern California oak woodlands. Due to challenges completing the work during COVID, the grant was extended through February of 2025.

- **Fire Road & Truck Trail Annual Maintenance** - Completed annual road maintenance on 130 miles of roads used for fire suppression and prevention. Due to excessive rains in the 2022/2023 rainy season, many unpaved roads and trails were subject to flooding and washouts. Open space roads were also overgrown with annual weeds and grasses.
- **Crystal Cove Wildfire Training Scenario (2025)** – OCFA participated in a wildfire training exercise with personnel from Crystal Cove State Park. This exercise aimed at providing park staff with wildfire response training guided by their updated Wildfire Management Plan.

Original 2010 Key Objectives

To evaluate progress to date on the key objectives that were originally outlined in 2010 when this plan was first developed, in 2016, a scoring system of 1-10, with 10 being best, was incorporated for each objective. In general, there's been meaningful progress on most of the objectives since then, but opportunity always exists for continued improvement.

2024 Progress Report for Key 2010 Objectives

- **Establish any relationships, partnerships, and councils necessary to reduce wildfire ignitions, risks, and losses by emphasizing community-level resources and solutions. Leverage partners with common interests/or motivations.**

➤ **2024 Score: 9.0** - There's been tremendous progress in establishing relationships and partnerships such as the formation of the County of Orange Safety Task Force (COAST), a group of key organizations with a vested interest in wildfire planning and preparedness. More work is still needed at the community level, such as establishing additional fire safe councils.
- **Develop and sustain a portfolio of high-impact, least-cost, stakeholder-driven solutions for reducing wildfire ignitions, risks, and losses by creating and sustaining new solutions, eliminating low-impact solutions, and streamlining high-cost solutions.**

➤ **2024 Score: 9.0** - The CWPP has facilitated progress in developing new grants, processes, and program suggestions, which will be continually evaluated, and hopefully implemented.
- **Develop the Unit Fire Plan, using the key elements identified by CAL FIRE, and support the county and smaller communities with the development of their local CWPP.**

➤ **2024 Score: 10.0** - This objective was met in 2017 when the County-Wide Protection Plan (CWPP) was first established. OCFA recently updated the CWPP in 2021. Additionally, OCFA reviews wildfire and strategic plans for major landowners including several COAST members.
- **Engage collaborative partners to lead and drive the effort to protect communities from wildfire. OCFA's role transitioned into a support-oriented role, focusing primarily on active participation, facilitation, and evaluation of program results.**

➤ **2024 Score: 9.0** - Collaborative partners continue to be engaged, with OCFA often functioning as a facilitator or evaluator, such as with the Emerging Tree Pests of Orange County Task Force.
- **Ensure the community understands, accepts responsibility, and takes necessary action to mitigate wildfire ignitions and risk, thereby preventing lives and property from being lost or damaged in wildfires.**

➤ **2024 Score: 8.0** – The Wildland Pre-Fire Management team works with HOAs, Fire Safe Councils, and individual homeowners to educate on mitigation strategies. OCFA launched the online Home Assessment Tool and the “Become an Ember Defender” Home Hardening Coloring Book to facilitate public knowledge of home hardening tactics.
- **Develop regularly publicized motivational performance measurements regarding wildfire to facilitate change in cultural attitudes and implement a systematic mitigation of risk for the public.**

➤ **2024 Score: 7.0** –Community engagement during annual wildland inspection in the high and very high fire severity zones in the SRA and LRA as well as ongoing vegetation management and roads projects contribute to systematic risk mitigation.
- **Facilitate change in the local “cultural attitude” about wildfire risks from apathy and unawareness to alertness and empowerment, through mass marketing and outreach.**

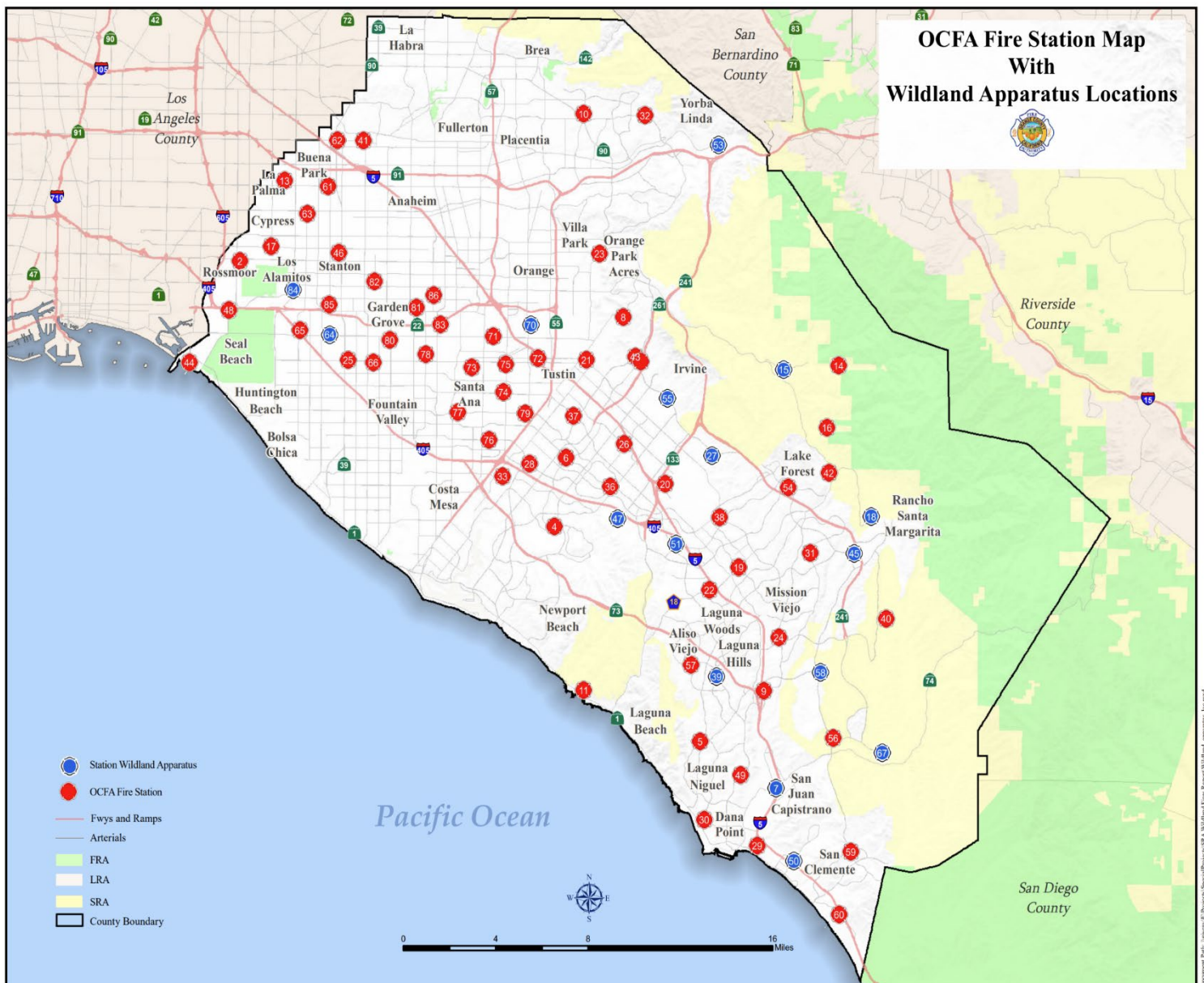
➤ **2024 Score: 7.0** - The “Ready, Set, Go!” message, along with messaging in high-risk canyon areas to help facilitate this much needed shift in cultural attitude. OCFA has also increased staffing to improve outreach abilities in communities with a historically challenging human behavior factor.

Section I: Unit Overview

Unit Description

Responsibility

Orange County Fire Authority is a Joint Powers Authority that services 23 cities in Orange County including: Aliso Viejo, Buena Park, Cypress, Dana Point, Garden Grove, Irvine, La Palma, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, Los Alamitos, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Stanton, Tustin, Villa Park, Westminster, and Yorba Linda. Additionally, OCFA is responsible for wildland fire protection in unincorporated Orange County and in the SRA. The cities of Anaheim, Brea, Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Laguna Beach, La Habra, Newport Beach, and Orange have their own municipal fire departments, but maintain collaborative partnerships with OCFA. OCFA also responds in mutual aid efforts with Los Angeles County, CALFIRE units San Bernardino, Riverside and San Diego as well as the federal government in the Cleveland National Forest and Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base.



Geography

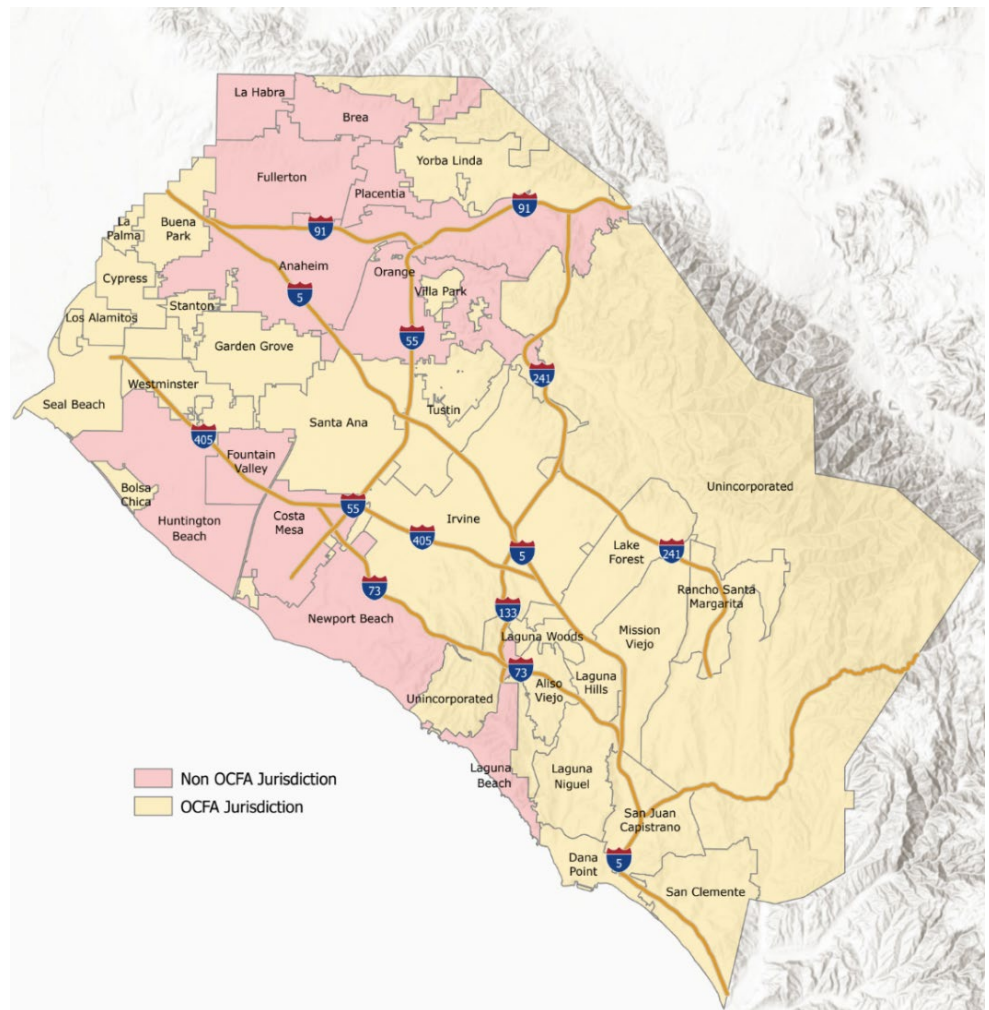


Orange County is Southern California's smallest county, with a total area of 947.98 square miles, of which 789.40 square miles (83.27%) is land, and 158.57 square miles (16.73%) is water. The Pacific Ocean is its southwest border, with Los Angeles County as its northern border, and San Diego County as its southeastern border. Moving inland, Orange County is bordered on the northeast and east by both San Bernardino County and Riverside County. While there is no formal geographic division, the county is often divided into north and south, with the 55 Freeway as the informal transition between the generally older established areas closer to Los Angeles County, and the more affluent and recently developed areas to the south.

In terms of OCFA's SRA responsibilities, it's important to note that the geography extends beyond Orange County's borders, with OCFA being responsible for protecting designated adjacent SRA lands in both Riverside and San Diego Counties.

Topography

Topographically, Orange County rises from sea level, along the Pacific Ocean, to the Santa Ana Mountains, which are located within the Cleveland National Forest. The highest Santa Ana Mountain peaks are Santiago Peak at 5,689 feet, and Modjeska Peak at 5,489 feet. Another prominent topographic feature is Loma Ridge, located west and parallel to the Santa Ana Mountains, which runs through the central part of the county. Loma Ridge is separated from the Santa Ana Mountains by Santiago Canyon. The county's major watercourse is the Santa Ana River, which flows from the Inland Empire, through the middle of the county from northeast to southwest and terminates at the Pacific Ocean on the Huntington Beach-Newport Beach border.



Land Ownership

Public lands, within or adjacent to Orange County's SRA lands, play an important role in the management of natural resources, as well with pre-fire management planning, and include Camp Pendleton Marine Base, Cleveland National Forest, Chino Hills State Park, Crystal Cove State Park, OC Parks, Orange County Transportation Authority

(OCTA) and Transportation Corridor Agency (TCA) lands. The Irvine Ranch Conservancy and Natural Communities Coalition (formerly known as Nature Reserve of Orange County) manage portions of these public lands. Similarly, there are privately owned open space lands in, and near, the SRA that play an important role, which include Audubon Starr Ranch and Rancho Mission Viejo Land Trust.

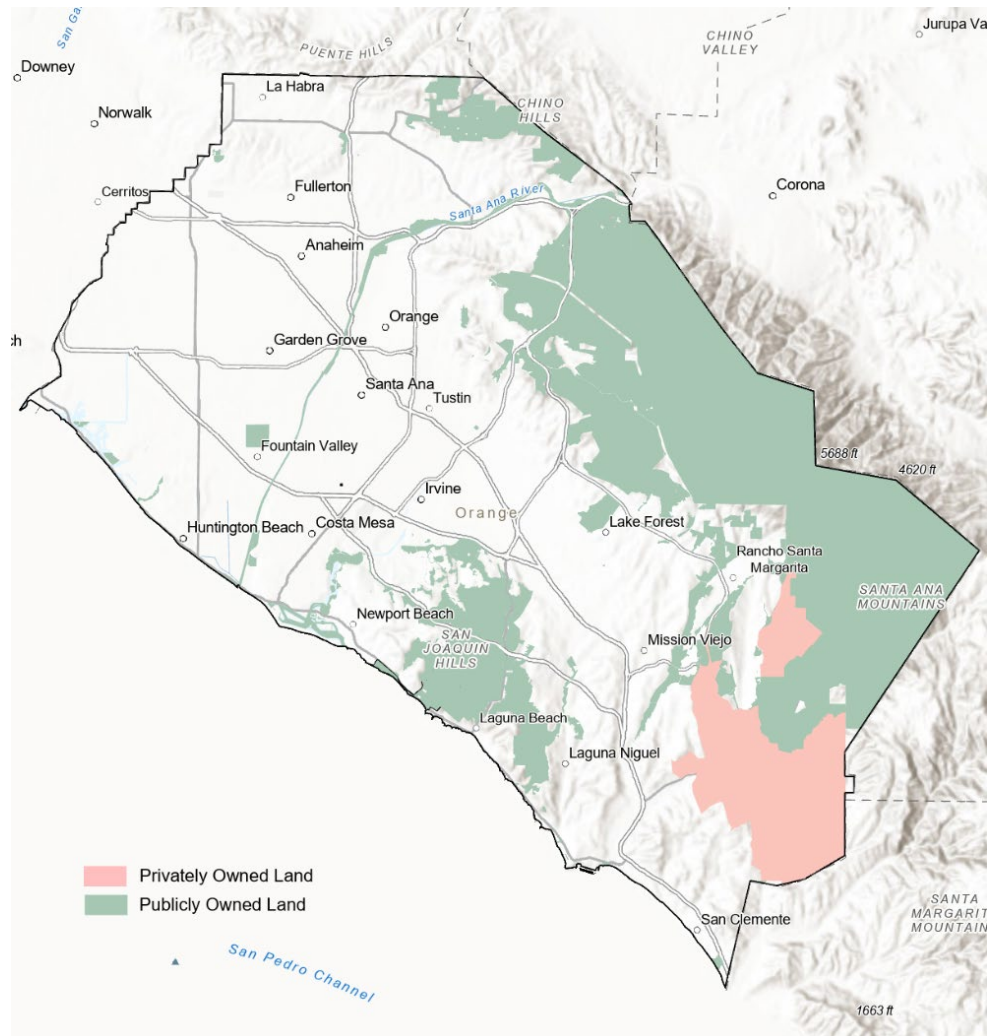
Land Ownership Distribution in Orange County

Ownership Type/Agency	Approximate Acreage
U.S. Forest Service	135,718
California Dept. of Parks and Recreation	17,201
California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	1,730
OC Parks	53,913
Local Government	3,908
Orange County Transportation Authority	1,297
Transportation Corridor Agency	1,471
Private Open Space	24,599

Population

Orange County as a whole has approximately 3.18 million residents, who reside in over 1.1 million housing units. The county has the distinction of being the second most densely populated county in the state. According to the 2020 Census, compared to California overall, Orange County is relatively more educated, affluent, and increasingly diverse.

- **Median HH Income:** OC \$106.2K vs. CA \$91.6K
- **Bachelor's Degree +:** OC 43.7% vs. CA 37%
- **Home Ownership:** OC 55.8% vs. CA 55.8%
- **MDU's:** OC 34.2% vs. CA 31.0%
- **Foreign Born:** OC 30.2% vs. CA 26.7%
- **Non-English (spoken at home):** OC 47 % vs. CA 44.4%



Major Transportation Arteries

With so many people and limited public transportation, Orange County roadways are of critical importance in keeping the resident population moving, along with the large daily influx of commuters from outside the county. However, most of the major roads pass through wildfire prone SRA lands and open space areas that are often the site of roadside wildfire ignitions, including Interstate 5, CA 57, CA 74 (Ortega Highway), CA 91, and the 73, 133, and 241 Toll Roads.



Vegetation Types

Vegetation types dominating the open spaces include grasslands, oak woodlands, desert brush, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral. The general condition of the vegetation covers a broad spectrum from healthy to decadent and from new growth to old growth. Approximately 60% of the wildland vegetation has experienced at least one catastrophic fire within the last decade. However, as drought conditions persist, the fuels have become increasingly hazardous. Additionally, invasive plant species have become more prevalent in the riparian and chaparral ecosystems in southern California as they re-establish more rapidly than native plants in burned or disturbed areas. Invasive weeds and grasses suppress the recovery of native species and provide a continuous fuel bed that ignites easier than native vegetation.

Fuel moisture is measured by OCFA at two locations monthly to help evaluate their potential as a wildfire risk factor. Samples are collected bimonthly in Black Star Canyon, in the northern part of the county, and Rancho Mission Viejo in southern part of the county, near CA 74 (Ortega Highway). The excessive rain that poured across southern California from December of 2022 through September of 2023 lead to intensified erosion and an increased quantity of invasive weeds and grasses as seen at the Black Star fuel moisture collection site. This coastal sage scrub community is still recovering from the excess of cheatgrass and other nonnative brome species (images below).



Black Star Canyon July 2023



Black Star Canyon July 2024



Black Star Canyon July 2025

Weather

Like most of Southern California, Orange County is considered to have a Mediterranean climate, where precipitation occurs during the winter months and summers are typically hot and dry. The average daily temperature is 70 °F, with average annual rainfall ranging from 10-14 inches. Weather phenomena characteristic of Orange County, includes:

- **Microclimate Conditions** - Where temperatures can vary as much as 18°F from inland areas to the coast, with a temperature gradient of over one degree per mile.
- **May Gray/June Gloom** - Often brings morning overcast skies to the coastal cities that usually give way to sunny skies by noon, during the late spring and early summer.
- **Santa Ana Winds** - Per the National Weather Service (NWS), Santa Ana Winds are "strong down slope winds that blow through the mountain passes in Southern California". They can easily exceed 40 miles per hour, are warm and dry, and can severely exacerbate brush or forest fires, especially under drought conditions.



In the 2025 Water Year, October 1st of 2024 through September 30th of 2025, California statewide received 96% of its historical average of precipitation, however southern California received only a fraction of the total. While many rainfall records broke in the winter months of 2023, the normally hot and dry August and September months saw several intense thunderstorms including Hurricane Hilary, California's first tropical storm to reach hurricane status.

Unit Preparedness & Firefighting Capabilities

OCFA is headquartered in Irvine, CA at the Regional Fire Operations Training Center (RFOTC) and operates as a Joint Powers Authority. OCFA contracts with 23 of Orange County's 34 incorporated cities to provide a full spectrum of fire protection services. Additionally, the County of Orange contracts with OCFA to protect its 16 unincorporated communities, as well as Orange County Parks. CAL FIRE also contracts with OCFA to protect Orange County's SRA lands, which include two state parks, and portions of the Cleveland National Forest Trabuco Ranger District.



Emergency Operations Bureau

The OCFA operations bureau consists of seven divisions, broken into eleven battalions, with 78 fire stations. Operations personnel provide regional all hazard emergency response to all wildland and structural fires as well as medical aids, remote rescues, hazardous materials incidents, aircraft fire and rescue services to John Wayne Airport, and other miscellaneous emergencies. The operations department encompasses Air and Wildland Operations and Investigations sections. The Command and Emergency Planning section oversees the Emergency Command Center. OCFA currently staffs 16 type 3 engines and 3 type 1 dozers. To better facilitate emergency response, a full-time duty officer has been added to the Emergency Communications Command Center. In 2024, OCFA acquired two military grade FIREHAWK helicopters capable of 1,000 gallon water drops and enhanced maneuverability.



Administration and Support Bureau

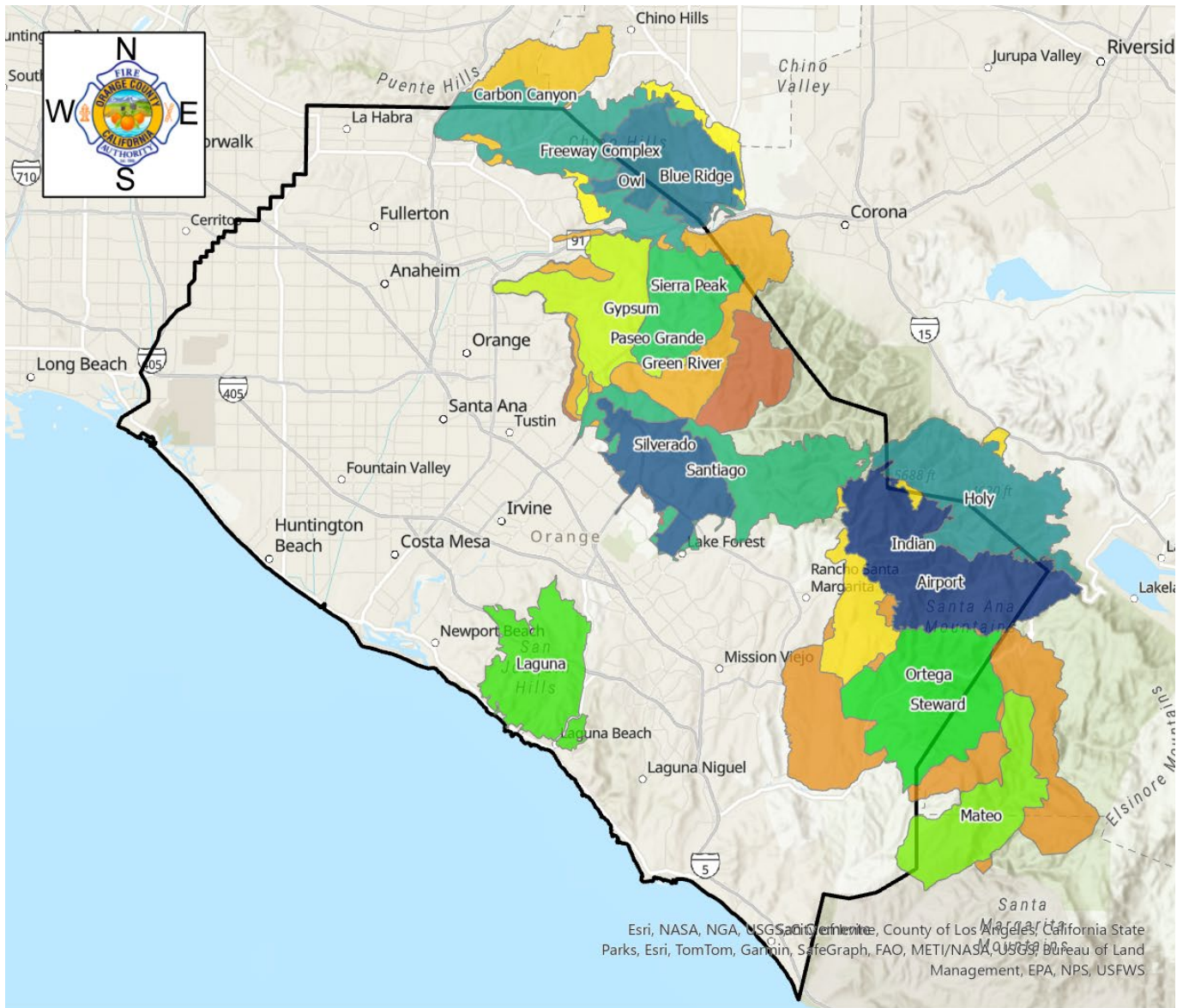
The Community Risk Reduction Department comprises of three sections: Prevention Field Services, Planning and Development, and Wildland Pre-Fire Management. Wildland Pre-Fire Management takes a proactive approach to wildland fire prevention through the systematic evaluation of risk, fuels mitigation, road maintenance, vegetation management, and home hardening education. The Wildland Pre-Fire Management team also preserves



ongoing collaboration with partner organizations, landowners, and communities. The Logistics Department provides additional support to wildland fire fighting preparedness through the Service Center, Fleet Services, and Information and Technology sections. As part of the Information and Technology section, the GIS team provides information intelligence and mapping. Directly under the OCFA Fire Chief is the Corporate Communications department which functions include the Public Information Office, Multimedia and Community Education sections.

Orange County Fire History

Recent history illustrates that Orange County is prone to large scale wildfires in and near the SRA. It is not unusual for Orange County's wildfires to exceed 10,000 acres in area as shown below. For example, the Airport Fire in September of 2024 spread to 23,518 acres.



Fire Perimeters Greater Than 10,000 Acres

Alarm Year | Fire | Name | GIS Acres

1948 | Green River | 53,079

1958 | Steward | 69,444

1967 | Paseo Grande | 51,075

1980 | Carbon Canyon | 14,612

1980 | Indian | 28,938

1980 | Owl | 18,332

1982 | Gypsum | 20,141

1989 | Mateo | 13,477

1993 | Laguna | 14,336

1993 | Ortega | 21,010

2006 | Sierra Peak | 10,515

2007 | Santiago | 28,359

2008 | Freeway Complex | 30,305

2018 | Holy | 22,885

2020 | Blue Ridge | 13,694

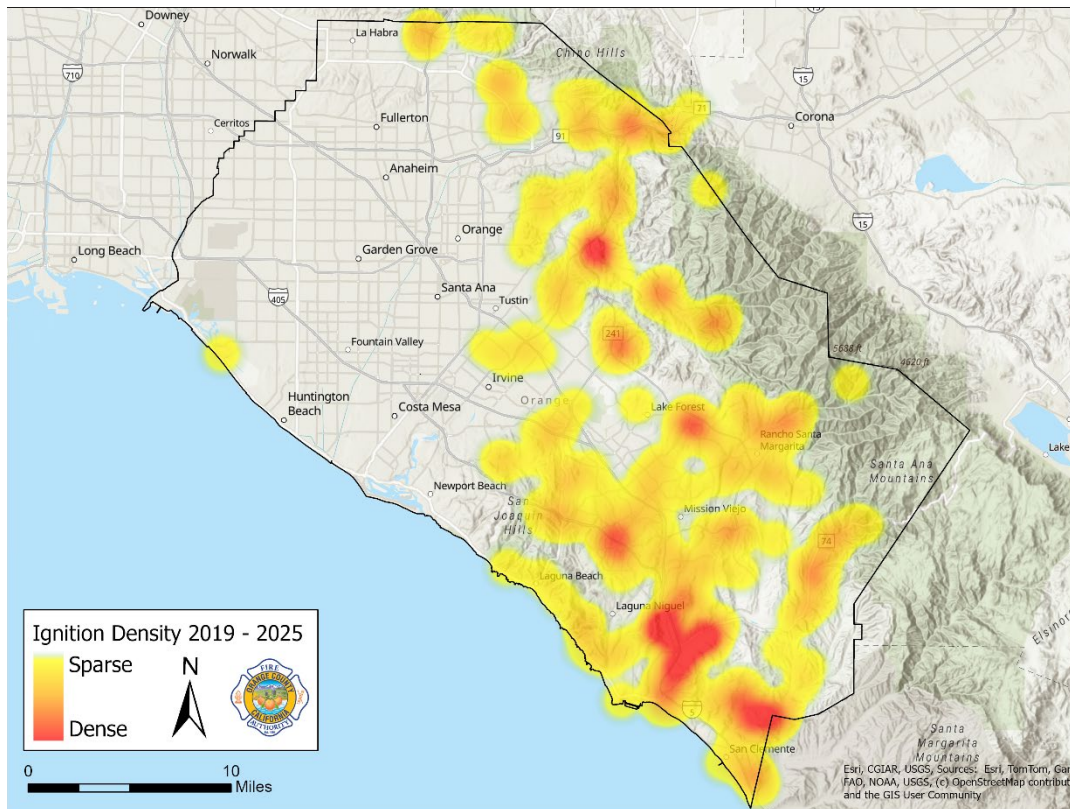
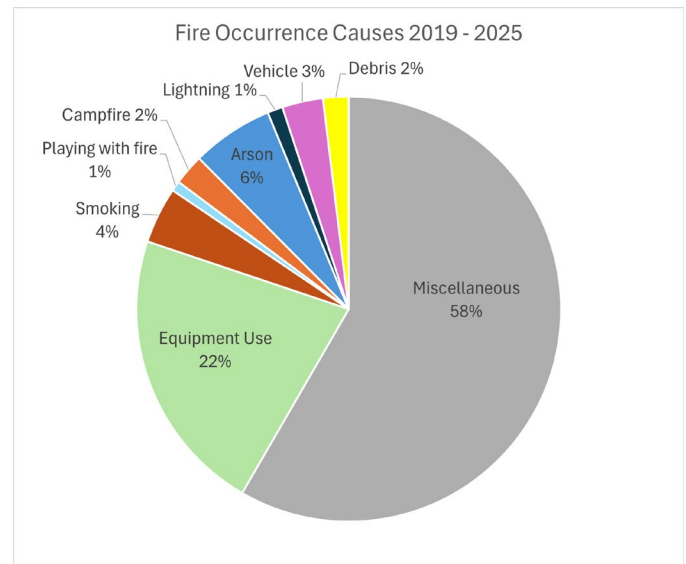
2020 | Silverado | 12,465

2024 | Airport | 23,518

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Miles

Ignitions

Ignition Cause	Frequency
Miscellaneous/Unknown	150
Equipment Use	56
Smoking	11
Playing with Fire	2
Campfire	6
Arson	16
Lightning	3
Vehicle	8
Debris	5
Grand Total	257



OCFA's Investigations Section attempts to determine the cause of all Orange County fires that are in or are a threat to SRA areas. For the majority of these starts, the cause is identified as Unknown/Unidentified or Miscellaneous. Over the past few years, as drought conditions persisted, the only definitive trend is that there are more fires, and a corresponding increase in the percentage of Unknown/Unidentified and Miscellaneous ignition causes.

Ignition data for Orange County was analyzed for the period 2019 to 2025 to evaluate ignition trends within the county. The dataset, which is depicted in the 2019-2025 Ignition Density map, includes 140 ignitions and the correlating cause for each fire. Analysis of the dataset reveals a direct correlation between ignitions and the county's major transportation arteries including Interstate 5, CA 57, CA 74 (Ortega Highway), CA 91, and the 73, 133, and 241 Toll Roads. While the unknown/unidentified

remains the highest percentage of ignition cause, of the 257 ignition points approximately 3% were due to vehicle fires and 22% were caused by equipment use. To combat roadside ignitions, which are of particular concern in Orange County, OCFA is partnering with COAST member organizations, including Caltrans, the Transportation Corridor Agency (TCA), and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) to develop preventive measures.

Challenges

In remote and rural areas of the county, firefighters are often faced with a limited water supply and lack of hydrant taps. Rural areas are characteristically outfitted with small diameter pipe water systems, which are inadequate for providing sustained firefighting flows. While not all these issues are within OCFA's control, prevention efforts for the ones that are (i.e., road clearance, fuels reduction, defensible space inspections and resident education) will continue to be incorporated into this plan. In addition to the current prevention efforts and with the assistance of partnering agencies, multiple Helo Pods and Helihydrants have been added throughout the county to reduce helicopter refill times. They are located in San Juan Capistrano, Laguna Beach, Aliso Viejo, and Yorba Linda.

Some of the most difficult fire protection problems encountered in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) are:

- Multiple stories, wood frames, high-density developments
- Large contiguous built-up areas with combustible roofing materials
- Response times for emergency equipment
- Street structure, such as truck trails, non-surfaced private roads, and/or curvilinear roads, with dead-ends and narrow street widths
- Inadequate and unreliable water supply with poor hydrant distribution

With California experiencing more extreme weather conditions, homeowners' insurance poses a new challenge for Southern California homeowners and policy makers. Insurance companies such as Allstate and State Farm are withdrawing from California causing loss of coverage for existing homeowners and delays in mortgage closings for new buyers. Many Californians are facing policy cancellation or paying significantly higher insurance premiums. The California Department of Insurance (CDI) expanded the FAIR Plan, which now provides fire insurance for more than 350,000 California residents. Additionally, the Sustainable Insurance Strategy was released in 2023 in an effort to reform California insurance policies. OCFA hosted the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety



(IBHS) demonstration burn in collaboration with CDI to illustrate the effectiveness of research-based wildfire mitigation actions. In 2024, Orange County residents and HOAs in the WUI looked to OCFA for home hardening inspections, documentation of defensible space inspections for real estate sales, and support in working with county and state agencies for vegetation clearance around homes bordering the wildland.

However, perhaps the most pressing problem overall is public apathy and unawareness regarding wildfire risks. The ongoing challenge has been for people to understand that surviving a wildfire may depend on their willingness to accept personal responsibility for protecting their homes, families, and communities, by implementing proven preparedness and prevention strategies before fire occurs.



Section II: Collaboration

When this plan was originally developed in 2010, OCFA enlisted input from outside organizations (see Appendix H), including Bon Terra Consulting (restoration ecology), California State Parks, Habitat Restoration Services (HRS), the Fire Safe Council of East Orange County Canyons, Irvine Ranch Conservancy, Orange County Parks, Rancho Mission Viejo Ranch Operations & Land Trust, The Irvine Company Agricultural Operations and The City of Irvine. During that process, the following activities were identified as requiring collaborative efforts from both private and public sector agencies:

Collaborative Programs (Identified in 2010)	Progress to Date
CWPP Management - Develop and document partnership(s) with stakeholders to recognize and understand risks from wildland fire and hazardous fuels - Develop and document strategies to mitigate risks from wildland fire and hazardous fuels	OCFA has continued to develop partnerships, as well as strategies, that will help reduce hazardous fuels and mitigate wildland fire risks. Key projects listed in the CWPP are now being planned and implemented. For example, in 2018, the hand crew completed a hazardous fuel reduction project at Mason Park, on OC Parks land. This project not only increased fire safety to the nearby homes, but decreased invasive plant species in the park and opened habitat for native species. In addition, the CWPP was re-written in 2021 to include additional cities and landowners.
Fire Hazard Mapping Develop a map of all wildland areas that will illustrate the locations of all assets at risk from wildland fire	In 2016, OCFA's Wildland Pre-Fire Management Section and IT Department launched a Wildland GIS App that contains FHSZ layers and various assets at risk. Information continues to be collected and updated. OCFA has acquired a CALFIRE grant for Normalized Difference Vegetation Index mapping of fuels within the SRA Threat Zone to gain better information regarding vegetation conditions and moistures as they change throughout the year.
Fuel Break Program - Develop a fuel break system to identify logical and potential locations - Construct new fuel breaks in strategic positions, clear existing old fuel breaks and provide a mechanism for periodic (at least annual) maintenance	Existing fuels breaks are routinely maintained and more have been added since 2010. Ongoing input from participating partners is coordinated for additional locations.
Fuel Reduction Program - Have property owners, or agencies having jurisdiction, become more aware of hazardous fuels on their respective properties - Have mechanisms in place to assist in the removal of hazardous fuels	OCFA conducts annual defensible space inspections on private and commercial properties in the SRA, and in other Very High and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Owners, land managers and residents are issued correction notices when hazardous conditions exist and are re-inspected to ensure compliance. Also, OCFA often assists in the removal of hazardous fuels on a project basis and helps with Chipper Days and other

Collaborative Programs (Identified in 2010)	Progress to Date
	events to assist private residents in SRA and WUI areas.
Prescribed Fire Program Re-establish a prescribed fire program as a mechanism for mitigating risks from wildland fire and for hazardous fuel reduction	Prescribed fire has been an ongoing challenge in Orange County for many years, but recently, OCFA has been able to get the conversation started again. In the beginning stages of planning this controlled burn OCFA reached out to the indigenous tribes affiliated with the geographic area to request comments on the proposed operation.
Road Maintenance Ensure annual maintenance is completed on all roads and trails prior to the wildland fire season	OCFA's Crews & Heavy Equipment section are contracted to perform maintenance on SCE roads, most of which are also fire access roads. Other road and trail maintenance are done regularly as time allows.

Source: 2014 ORC Strategic Unit Fire Plan & OCFA Pre-Fire Management

Since 2010, in keeping with the original vision of this plan, collaborative efforts have continued. They also regularly include ongoing dialogues and interactions, both within OCFA, and externally, with residents, cities, and communities within OCFA's jurisdiction, local fire safe councils, HOA's, other fire agencies, COAST organizations, and with many others. Regular collaborators by category include:

- **OCFA** - Operations, GIS, Crews & Heavy Equipment, Wildland Pre-Fire Management, Planning & Development, and Corporate Communications
- **Community** - Residents, volunteers, HOA's, cities and unincorporated communities
- **Firewise USA Communities** – East Orange County Canyons, Santiago Canyon Estates, Emerald Bay Community Association, Marina Hills Planned Community Association, Sea Pointe Estates, the Rancho Mission Viejo Villages of Sendero, Esencia, and Rienda, Palm Court, Laguna Heights, Laguna Sur, Pacific Island Village 1, Mariana Hills, Fire Adapted Portola Hills, Forster Ranch, Rancho Cielo, and Marbella
- **Fire Safe Councils** - North Tustin Fire Safe Council, Fire Safe Council of East Orange County Canyons, Emerald Bay Community Association, and the Inter-Canyon League
- **COAST** - Refer to the COAST member list below

COAST Background	COAST Members
In an effort to facilitate a more comprehensive, and effective approach to addressing wildfire issues for Orange County, the County of Orange Area Safety Task Force (COAST) was formed in 2013. COAST members include large open space landowners and managers, city, county, state and federal government organizations, utilities, road agencies, OCFA, and other fire agencies, as well as others. All members have a vested interest in preventing wildfire ignitions and limiting the associated losses. Member organizations can also influence policy and ensure progress is made. Among its accomplishments, COAST can be credited with helping to institute a new NWS third weather zone for Orange County. Additionally, discussions with the transportation agencies are underway about possible barriers and/or treatments to help prevent roadside ignitions. Another current endeavor is working toward implementing HPWREN cameras for Orange County. Furthermore, COAST was an active participant when OCFA established the 2017 CWPP. OCFA has since revised the CWPP in 2021. The ultimate goal of collaboratively developing a more comprehensive, and inclusive fire protection plan, through a CWPP, is to reduce the losses from wildfire (i.e., people, property, possessions, critical infrastructure and services, ecology, Threatened & Endangered Species, commerce, etc.) by helping to reduce ignitions and limit the impact, which in Orange County, requires a concentrated effort in, and around SRA and open space lands. The CWPP: (1) Better identifies impactful, yet cost effective projects (2) Analyzes and prioritize them (3) Will help secure funding to complete them Projects include, but are not limited to, planning, mapping, fuels reduction, vegetation management, structure hardening, roads hardening, infrastructure improvements, education, training, and equipment purchases/upgrades.	<u>County Organizations</u> • Orange County Parks (OC Parks) • OCFA • County of Orange <u>State Organizations</u> • CA Department of Fish & Wildlife • CA State Parks (Chino Hills & Crystal Cove State Parks) • CA Fish & Game, South Coast Region <u>Federal Agencies</u> • USFS Cleveland National Forest • US Fish & Wildlife • Camp Pendleton <u>Other Fire Agencies</u> • Anaheim Fire • Laguna Beach Fire • Newport Beach Fire • Orange City Fire • Brea Fire <u>Transportation Agencies</u> • Cal Trans • Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) • Transportation Corridor Agency (TCA) <u>Utilities</u> • Southern California Edison (SCE) • San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) • Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) • Metropolitan Water District (MWD) <u>Large Land Managers</u> • Audubon Starr Ranch • Irvine Ranch Conservancy (IRC) • Natural Communities Coalition (formerly NROC) • Rancho Mission Viejo Land Trust (RMV) • The Wildlands Conservancy <u>Other Participants</u> • UC Irvine • National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) • UC Riverside • CAL FIRE

Other Collaborative Relationships	
SOLAR	- An initial attack, communications, and response plan between the counties of San Bernardino, Orange, Los Angeles, and Riverside.
PROS	- An initial attack, communications, and response plan between Camp Pendleton Marine Base, and the counties of Riverside, Orange, and San Diego.
Response Agreement with Riverside County Fire Department	– To ensure the closest resource responds.
Response Agreement with Cleveland National Forest	– To ensure the closest resource responds.
Response Agreement with San Diego County Fire Authority	– To ensure the closest resource responds.
Response Agreement with Camp Pendleton	– To ensure the closest resource responds.
Emerging Tree Pests of Orange County Task Force	– Formed to address the growing problem of invasive pests, exacerbated by drought, which has increased hazardous fuels and impacted the ecosystem. This group includes UC Riverside, most of the COAST organizations, OC Waste & Recycling and various subject experts.
Camp Pendleton Dozer and Fire School	- Cooperative wildland training for OCFA and other local fire agencies at Camp Pendleton.
Regional Heavy Fire Equipment Workshop	- Cooperative wildland training for OCFA and other local heavy fire equipment agencies.
Chief Officer Exchange Program with MVU, RRU and MCP	- Opportunity to share best practices among regional fire agencies.
Cooperative MOU & Training Program with OC Public Works and OC Waste & Recycling	- Designed to effectively utilize heavy equipment resources as needed.
Mutual Threat Zones	-There are five mutual threat zones within the county that we collaborate with other agencies on. This collaborating consists of training activities and emergency response.

In the spring of 2024, the OCFA hand crew worked with Chino Hills State Park to clear an established fuel break between the Olinda Village community and the park land. The hand crew and heavy equipment also graded and brushed to the South Ridge Trail which extends the length of the park and acts as a fuel break for the communities in the City of Yorba Linda that boarder the park.



Olinda Village Fuel Break Before Work



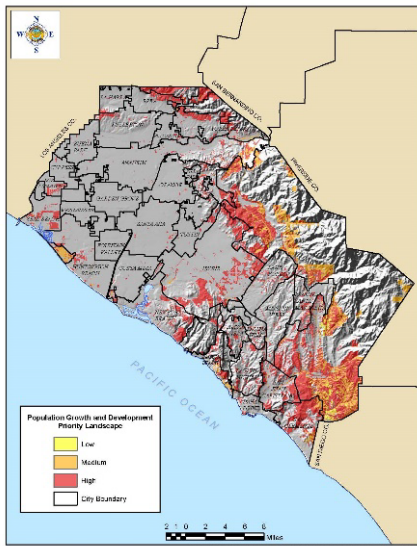
Olinda Village Fuel Break After Work

Section III: Values

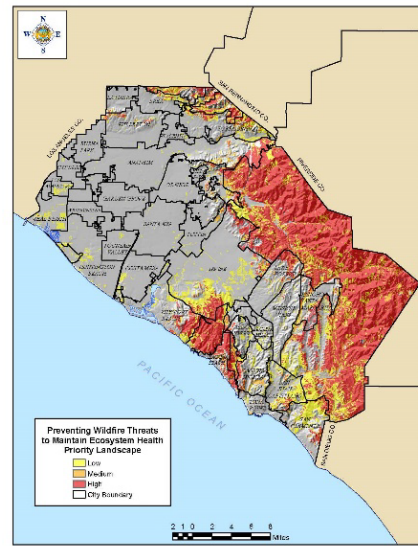
Values at Risk

CAL FIRE's California's Forest and Rangeland's 2010 Assessment was developed to identify and address the State's key wildfire risk issues pertaining to ecosystem health, forest and range economics, infrastructure, recreation, open space, and wildlife. These areas of concern are spatially categorized as "Priority Landscapes". The four types of Priority Landscapes most relevant to Wildland Pre-Fire Management are shown below:

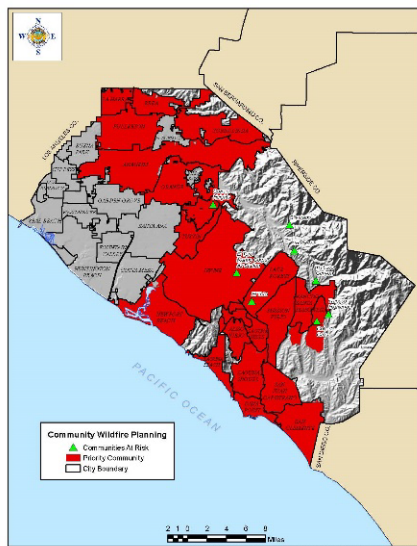
Orange County's Priority Landscape



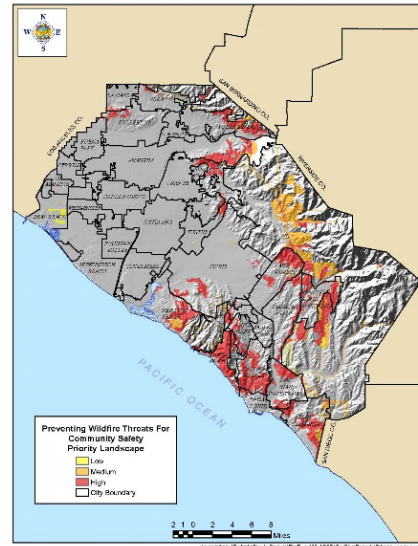
Priority Landscape 1: Population Growth & Development



Priority Landscape 2: Preventing Wildfire Threats to Maintain Ecosystem Health



Priority Landscape 3: Community Wildfire Planning



Priority Landscape 4: Preventing Wildfire Threats to Community Safety

Communities at Risk

Expanding on the 2001 National Fire Plan that identified communities near federal lands that are at risk from wildfire, CAL FIRE developed a more comprehensive list for California that went beyond the federal lands criteria. This list is now managed by the California Fire Alliance and includes 24 Orange County communities as “Nationally Recognized Communities at Risk”. Most are within OCFA’s jurisdiction, but a few are protected by other fire agencies, as indicated.

In addition, OCFA has identified several other communities as being at risk from wildfire, including:

- Emerald Bay
- Lake Forest
- Lemon Heights/North Tustin
- Santiago Canyon
- Tustin Heights

Beyond the previously listed Communities at Risk are a number of other high consequence values that require consideration but are not included in this plan, such as:

- **Commerce:** Various shopping, entertainment, business and restaurant locations
- **Recreation:** Various recreational venues (i.e. Irvine Lake, camp grounds, sports facilities, parks, beaches, etc.)
- **Nature Preserves:** Various ecological and habitat preserves (i.e. wetlands, tide pools, etc.)
- **Historical Sites:** Mission San Juan Capistrano, Richard Nixon Library, and numerous locations with indigenous cultural significance
- **Military:** Seal Beach Naval Weapons, Camp Pendleton, Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base, etc.
- **Transportation:** John Wayne Airport, and various railroads, harbors, bridges and roads, etc.
- **Utilities:** Communications infrastructure, oil and gas facilities, water and power facilities, including the San Onofre and UCI nuclear facilities, etc.
- **Educational Facilities:** Universities (i.e., UCI, Cal State Fullerton, Chapman, etc.), community colleges, and K-12 facilities

Much of the wildland in Orange County is situated on the historical homeland of indigenous peoples. Per California Assembly Bill 52, indigenous tribes in California are formally consulted if a proposed project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) impacts a geographic area with cultural or traditional affiliation to Native American heritage. For instance, Native American tribes were consulted prior to establishing the HeloPod in San Juan Capistrano in 2023.

Nationally Recognized Communities At Risk			
Community Name	Jurisdiction	Federal Threat	Federally Regulated
Aliso Viejo	OCFA		
Anaheim	Non-OCFA		
Brea	Non-OCFA		X
Coto de Caza	OCFA		X
Cowan Heights	OCFA		
Dana Point	OCFA	X	
Irvine	OCFA		X
Laguna Beach	Non-OCFA	X	
Laguna Hills	OCFA	X	
Laguna Niguel	OCFA		
Laguna Woods	OCFA		
Mission Viejo	OCFA		
Modjeska	OCFA	X	
Newport Beach	Non-OCFA		
Orange	Non-OCFA		
Rancho Santa Margarita	OCFA		X
San Clemente	OCFA		X
San Juan Capistrano	OCFA		
Silverado	OCFA	X	
Trabuco Canyon	OCFA	X	
Trabuco Highlands	OCFA	X	X
Villa Park	OCFA		
Yorba Linda	OCFA		X

Section IV: Wildland Pre-Fire Management Efforts

Wildland Resilience Goals

As mentioned previously, Orange County is the second most densely populated county in the state, with wildfire as a major risk factor. Consequently, continued residential, commercial, and industrial growth presents an ongoing challenge. In the Wildland Urban Interface, efforts to prevent ignitions and limit wildfire losses are led by OCFA's Wildland Pre-Fire Management, which includes Wildland Resource Planning and Community Wildfire Mitigation Programs. Since the original development of this plan in 2010, OCFA has adapted in accordance with increased risk of wildfire due to climate change and increased development into the Wildland Urban Interface. In 2020 alone, California experienced five of the largest wildfires recorded in the state's history. In response to this, OCFA has implemented strategies to improve wildland resilience and reduce wildfire risk.

Increase the Pace and Scale of Wildland Health Projects

To develop a workforce with the capacity to construct and coordinate the ongoing pipeline of wildland projects, OCFA has restructured the Pre-Fire Management section to include a new Deputy Fire Marshal (2020), continued staffing the Wildland Resource Planner (2022) position, created the Wildland Resource Technician (2023) position and continued staffing the Heavy Equipment Operator Position (2024). The development of these positions provides longevity, oversight, and direction for community wildfire mitigation and suppression repair activities that impact the resiliency of Orange County open spaces.



OCFA has acquired additional manpower and mechanized equipment to expand fuel reduction and fire suppression repair activities. The El Toro Hand Crew (Crew 2) was added in November 2022 on a full-time basis to support fire suppression and vegetation management projects throughout Orange County. Crew 2 consists of a superintendent, assistant superintendent, three squad bosses and 20 hand crew

firefighters. When they are not fighting fires, OCFA's Hand Crews and Heavy Equipment Operators routinely work on hazardous fuels reduction projects for a variety of organizations, including Southern California Edison, OC Parks, State Parks, and large landowners/managers. A masticator, excavator, mower, chipper, and an all-terrain skid steer tractor were purchased to improve efficiency for vegetation management and roads projects. In 2019, OCFA purchased a second skid steer and mini skid steer, and between 2020 and 2024 OCFA purchased two additional Type 1 bulldozers. OCFA also received grant funding through CALFIRE's Wildfire Prevention Program in 2021 and 2022 to purchase a third skid steer and acquire a tactical water tender for pre-fire management projects.

One major concern in Southern California is invasive tree pests becoming more prevalent in oak woodlands and other open spaces. Drought stressed trees have become more vulnerable to destructive

pests, such as the polyphagous shot hole borer and the gold spotted oak borer, which are killing trees, and adding to the fire danger. OCFA was awarded a CALFIRE Wildfire Prevention Program grant to address the invasive shot hole borers that have killed thousands of trees in Orange County. The grant allows the Wildland Pre-Fire Management team to identify areas in the SRA and SRA threat zone where severely infested trees have caused significant fuel loading of dead and dying plant material. Through the coordination with the University of California Cooperative Extension, these trees are identified so that removal and treatment can occur throughout the county. The grant also funded flights to produce normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) data throughout the SRA area. This data is hosted by OCFA for use by the major landowners throughout the county.

Strengthen Protection of Communities

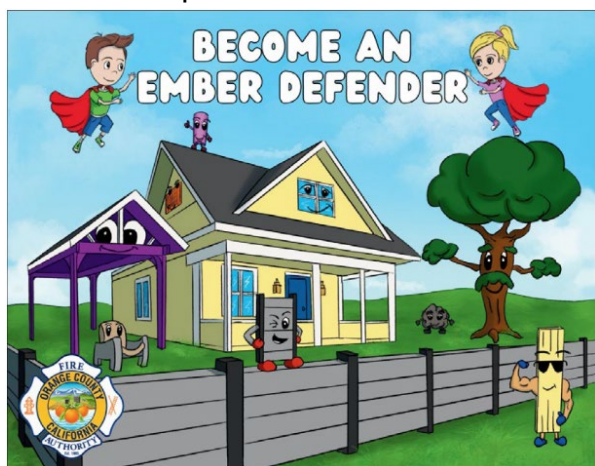
Vegetation management remains at the forefront of fire prevention efforts in Orange County, and OCFA encourages a shift towards landscaping and replanting with native species, which are more drought tolerant and fire resistive. To engineer effective defensible space into the development process, Wildland Pre-Fire



Management uses proven vegetation management practices when reviewing and approving all landscaping and fuel modification zone plans. For structures, ignition prevention efforts start with OCFA's Planning & Development section. This section ensures that comprehensive pre-emergency planning has been done, and that fire protection measures are engineered into the design of both residential and commercial structures, for both new construction and remodels. Chapter 7-A building requirements are incorporated, as well as Title 24, Title 19, Title 14, PRC 4290, and PRC 4291, to identify and address potential wildfire hazards, and to help develop mitigation measures that will aid in making the structures more defensible.

OCFA also conducts annual defensible space inspections for homes and structures within the Very High and High Fire Severity Zones to ensure they remain in compliance. The same is true for Fuel Modification Zones and Homeowners Association properties, which are also inspected. Similarly, OCFA annually inspects power poles to help prevent ignitions by ensuring adequate vegetation clearance exists.

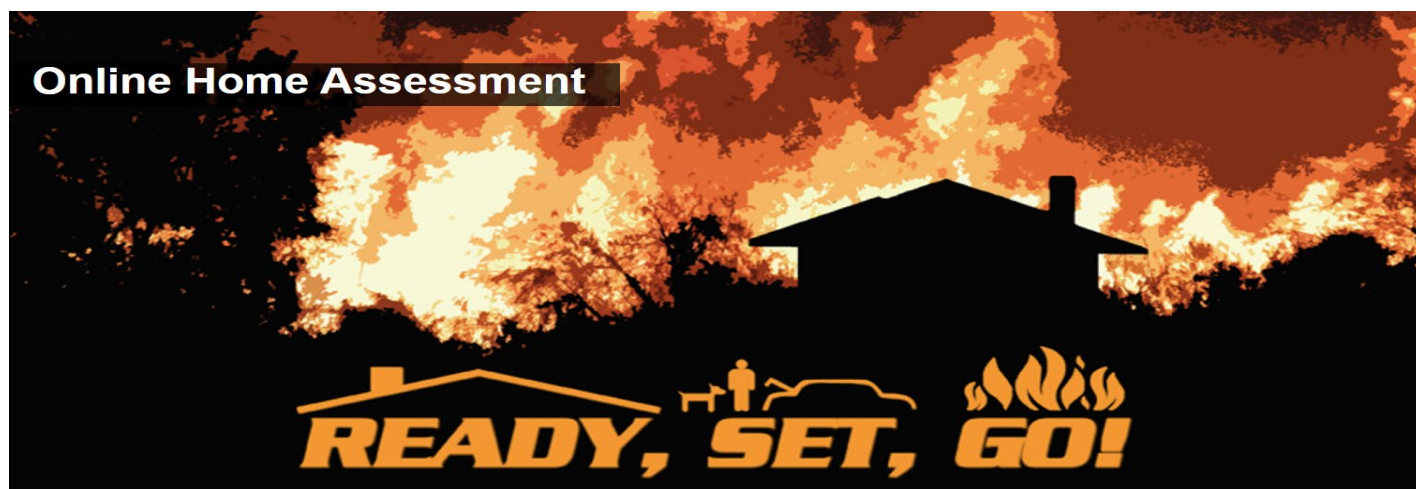
OCFA champions the “Ready, Set, Go!” message to promote wildfire education and conduct outreach programs. Based on the premise that during a major wildfire there may not be enough firefighting resources to protect every home, “Ready, Set, Go!” encourages residents to take personal responsibility for protecting their property and family. Thereby becoming part of a solution for the problem of increasing fire losses during wildfires. Special emphasis is focused on ember intrusion and the actions that homeowners can take to lower their risk, such as retrofitting homes with ignition resistive features, and creating defensible space around their property (e.g., with trimming, regular maintenance, and planting with ignition resistive plants. This is of particular importance for residents in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas, where wildfire survivability relies more heavily on the landowner’s personal initiative to take measures to protect his or her own life and property. Additional



information regarding the preparation of family emergency plans and kits, contact phone numbers, and evacuation plans are also discussed. Educational outreach such as home assessments, OCFA’s annual Open House, and presentations to HOAs, Fire Safe Councils or Fire Wise communities are logged and reported annually to CALFIRE.

In 2023, the Community Risk Reduction staff developed a home hardening coloring and activity book for children. The coloring book launched in 2024 for community outreach and education events.

To assist homeowners further, OCFA launched an updated version of the online Home Assessment tool. This new version guides the homeowner through a series of questions about the structure and surroundings using images and descriptions to inform on the basics of both Home Hardening and Defensible Space. Once the assessment form is completed the tool provides the homeowner with an emailed report of recommendations for fire hazard mitigation strategies.



Vegetation management and the application of fuel modification plans have repeatedly proven their value in Orange County. Evidence of the effectiveness can be seen in the fire perimeters for incidents such as the San Juan Fire of 2016, the Silverado Fire of 2020, or the Emerald Fire of 2022. The San Juan Fire, for example, was held between the defensible space cleared by the Hidden Mountain Estates to the west and the fuel modification plan maintained by the Rancho San Juan Community Association to the east.

San Juan Fire



SAN JUAN FIRE

La Pata Ave/Stallion Ridge
Alarm Date: 11/13/2016
Cause: Vehicle
Acres: 55.27

 Fire Perimeter

Scale: 1:9,091
Date: 2/28/2017

0 0.125 0.25
Miles



Drive Innovation and Measure Progress

OCFA promotes a culture of innovation at all levels and adopts new technology to enhance firefighting capabilities as well as ariel reconnaissance, data analytics, and resource optimization. For instance, OCFA utilized grant funding to purchase drone equipment with a normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) camera and mapping software used to map and monitor vegetation health and trends, especially in hard-to-access areas. OCFA is currently partnering with



multiple entities that show promising developments in ignition detection through ground based and satellite-based sensors. In 2017 OCFA began utilizing NOAA's satellite-based "Hot Spot" software. OCFA currently operates with two on-duty drone operators, which are included as part of the fire incident management plans and post-fire management plan.



In cooperation with the Bureau of Land management, State Parks, SDG&E, and OC Parks, OCFA oversees the use of several Remote Automatic Weather Stations (RAWS) within the county. A third RAWS in coastal Southern Orange County was installed in 2016. In 2020, OCFA installed an additional RAWS at Chino Hills State Park at San Juan Hill and in 2026 another was installed along Santiago Canyon in the Irvine Ranch Open Space. They now feed data that will enable better decision making in a variety of applications including calculation of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) indices, fire behavior, burned area fire rehabilitation, planned ignitions, and other land management operations.

In addition to the two remote detection cameras previously installed on Orange County Sheriff's (OCSD) towers that can only be viewed by OCFA and the OCSD, the program has been recently expanded through a partnership with COAST, SCE, SDG&E, the University of California, and the County of Orange. Multiple point-tilt-zoom (PTZ) cameras with meteorological sensors have been installed on additional towers throughout the county to expand remote detection across Orange County and to provide visibility to the public. These cameras utilize AI to provide early detection and notification of

fires within our county and are routinely referenced for early detection and notification of fires by the Emergency Command Center.

The images and data collected via satellite, drone mapping, RAWs, and live cameras allow OCFA to map vegetation and fuel loads across wildland areas. This information then aids in fuel reduction efforts and understanding the ecological impacts during post fire recovery. By incorporating satellite derived information into the planning process, OCFA can make better informed decisions regarding the placement of new infrastructure such as the HeloPod placed in San Juan Capistrano in 2023. As technology develops, OCFA attempts to adapt and incorporate these new technologies into pre-fire planning and response.

Maintain Progress and Partnerships

As a Joint Power Authority, OCFA relies on partnerships with local landowners, stake holders, and HOAs as well as other federal, state, and local fire and forestry agencies. Many of the large landowners and public agencies coordinate with OCFA through the COAST group, but a significant amount of the community is reached through HOAs and community education. OCFA's Wildland Pre-Fire Management section works with developers, open space partners, and homeowner associations to engineer and re-engineer fuel modification zones and landscaping that reflects the new reality of less water and the need to return to a native species plant palate to help reduce hazardous vegetation. OCFA has completed grants in partnership with communities and Fire Safe Councils. In 2018, OCFA completed a grant for additional clearance in Emerald Bay, and another grant for East Orange County Canyons to improve emergency road clearance. In 2017, OCFA finished installing grant-funded canyon-area signage that features interchangeable prevention messages.

In addition to the grant work OCFA performs to address the increase in the amount of Invasive Shot Hole Borers (ISHB) in the SRA, OCFA attends the bi-monthly "Emerging Tree Pest of Orange County Task Force" meeting hosted by the City of Irvine. This meeting is attended by key landowners, stakeholders and the University of California Cooperative Extension, the leading organization for pest management programs in Southern California.

Section V: Wildland Pre-Fire Management Tactics

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) has a wide variety of programs and plans that have been, or are in the process of being, developed to help mitigate wildfire ignitions and limit the losses for communities in and adjacent to the county's SRA and open space lands. The plans and programs are either tactical or strategic in nature, are typically developed collaboratively with OCFA's Wildland Pre-Fire Management section and/or Emergency Planning and Coordination (EPAC) sections and are available upon request from EPAC. Examples include:

- **OCFA Tactical Fire Suppression Plans** - Tactical response plans
- **Outside Organization Fire Plans** - Provided to OCFA by outside organizations, and often developed with OCFA's input
- **County of Orange Area Safety Task Force (COAST) Plans** - Proposed by COAST member organizations, which are now housed in the CWPP, and usually include input from OCFA
- **OCFA Division/Battalion Recommendations** - Generated by operations personnel who are first due near SRA and open space lands

Tactical Fire Suppression Plans

OCFA developed these plans to guide fire and law enforcement agencies during major wildfire occurrence in large areas of intermingled open spaces and densely populated residential and commercial developments that lie within unincorporated and incorporated cities. Within the plans, sections identify the needs for residents to evacuate, and the safest means of evacuation and potential rendezvous sites. OCFA has individual plans for the following areas:

San Clemente	San Juan Capistrano
Rancho Carrillo	El Cariso
Casper's Park	Rancho Mission Viejo
Laguna Beach	Laguna Niguel
Ladera Ranch	Coto de Caza and Wagon Wheel
Trabuco Canyon	Robinson Ranch
Dove Canyon	Portola Hills
Los Alisos-Mission Viejo	Foothill Ranch
Modjeska Canyon	Silverado Canyon
Baker Canyon	Williams Canyon
Laguna Hills	Portola Hills
Shady Canyon-Quail Hill	Turtle Rock-Turtle Ridge
Newport Back Bay	Buck Gully-Newport Coast
Cowan and Lemon Heights	East Orange
Anaheim Hills	Yorba Linda
Carbon Canyon	Brea-Tonner Canyon
Portola-Irvine	Las Flores
Aliso Viejo	

Outside Organization Fire Plans

Developed by outside agencies, with technical assistance from OCFA. Plans are available upon request from each organization. Examples include:

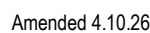
- **Natural Communities Coalition (formerly known as NROC) Tactical Fire Suppression Plan and the NCC Strategic Plan:** The Tactical Plan addresses pre-suppression, suppression, and post-suppression tactics. The suppression tactics identify desired actions and locations, while the post-suppression tactics identify the actions and responsibilities for fire suppression repair. The Strategic Plan is near completion, noting that NCC hired a consultant to work with OCFA and all stakeholders to complete the plan. This plan is the conduit to discuss and develop pre-suppression and prevention activities to reduce the loss of life, property, environment, and suppression costs.
- **The Southern Sub-Regional Wildland Fire Management Plan – Rancho Mission Viejo:** Developed by a consultant firm for the Rancho Mission Viejo Land Trust, it is designed to manage the natural resources of the ranch lands of Rancho Mission Viejo. OCFA, California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the RMV Land Trust, and a variety of other regulatory agencies were involved in the development. This plan addresses suppression tactics by identifying desired actions and locations, plus post-suppression tactics for actions and responsibilities for fire suppression repair. This plan is the conduit to discuss and develop pre-suppression and prevention activities to reduce the loss of life, property, environment, and suppression costs.
- **The Irvine Ranch Conservancy Wildland Fire Ignition Reduction Strategy:** A collaborative effort between the Irvine Ranch Conservancy (IRC) and OCFA, this plan focuses on actions that will reduce the probability of wildland fire ignitions, particularly during Santa Ana Wind conditions. The plan highlights five major action areas: Fire Watch Network, Fire-Hardening Roadways, Power line Safety, Wildland Access, and Urban-Wildland Edge. Once again, this plan is the conduit to discuss and develop pre-suppression and prevention activities to reduce the loss of life, property, environment, and suppression costs. However, emphasis on ignition reduction for environmental concerns is the highest priority.
- **The Cowan Heights – Peters Canyon Project:** This project was a collaborative effort between Orange County Public Works, OCFA, and Orange County Parks and Recreation. The intended result was to reduce hazardous fuels to a minimum of 50% of the current available hazardous fuels (responsible agency – OCFA) and the restoration of the Lower San Diego Creek riparian area (responsible agency – OC Public Works). OCFA conducted outreach and education activities on the necessities of vegetation clearance and maintenance, plus home improvements that will add to survivability during a wildfire.

CWPP

As part of the CWPP development process, OCFA, along with partner agencies, developed a library of projects, which are categorized as follows:

- Ignition Prevention Action Plan
- Communication, Education & Awareness
- Fuel Management on Public & Large-Scale Private Lands
- Firefighting & Mitigation
- Planning
- Structure Survivability & Defensible Space

- Remote Surveillance Expansion (i.e., Cameras, Fire Watch, HOA's, etc.)
- Mapping of Fuel Loads, Invasive Species and Tree Mortality
- Comprehensive Road Ignition Program
- Collaborative Partner's Joint Messaging
- Multi-Agency Training Programs



OCFA Field Operation Recommendations

Field Operations North

Area	Primary Concern	Potential Mitigation	Mitigation Challenges
Chino Hills State Park	Natural vegetation throughout canyon; power lines along the east end of the North Canyon	Improve / reconstruct North Ridge Trail to re-establish access to Chino Hills State Park Visitor Center area. Also, minor soft limb trimming is needed for overhead clearance; improve Diemer Trail for access from Telegraph Canyon	Bird nesting season requires bio monitors before and during road work. Also, Heavy Equipment access is challenging in narrow canyon along Telegraph Rd
Lambert - 57- Carbon Canyon- 71/Tonner North & South and sleepy hollow community	Natural vegetation; power lines Potential - Sleepy Hollow is problematic in a mega-fire scenario due to density, no hardening, and tight access (not OCFA jurisdiction, but probable OCFA involvement)	Sleepy Hollow early evacuation is a must; brush back county roads; construct additional safety zones on existing roads	Road closures required to perform work along narrow Carbon Canyon Road
Hollydale Mobile Home Estates	Vegetation around community and possible structure loss	Needs brush clearance and fuel modification around community	Community is not in OCFA jurisdiction
Brush Canyon Road and Vegetation Management project	Access problem: Heavy fuel loading adjacent to homes and in open space composed of a thick stand of eucalyptus and non-native vegetation	Improve/maintain existing ingress and egress; manage vegetation in open space and adjacent to homes	Road closures and vegetation management on private property
Slaughter Canyon Trail, Scully Ridge Trail, Telephone Line Road, and Wire Springs Spur	Loss of existing road/fire break	Maintain and improve existing road/fuel break	Maintenance relies on access and cooperation from Chino Hills State Park
Silverado and Williams Canyons	Limited defensible space within box canyon, which has a heavy home inter-mix	Community prevention and education efforts (RSG, inspections, media campaigns, etc.) to increase awareness, harden the community,	Relying on landowners to properly maintain fuel modification zones and defensible space around structures

		and improve defensible space	
Major “PAVED” Roads and Highways That Intersect the SRA - Santiago Canyon Road - 241 & 261 Toll Roads - State Highway 133 - Silverado Canyon Road - Black Star Canyon Road	Excessive roadside fuels are a receptive bed for starts (vehicle fires, arson, etc.)	Develop graduated roadside fuel modification zones to eliminate ladder and ground fuels	Vegetation management along Toll Road and CA highways requires cooperation from TCA and Caltrans
Major “UNPAVED” Fire and Access Roads In/Adjacent to SRA - Main Divide - Black Star - Harding Truck Trail - Maple Springs - Limestone Canyon and Ridgeline - Chinon Wash	Roads in poor condition, which limit access (overgrown, washed out, etc.)	Maintain fire and access roads with grading and shaded fuel breaks or fuel modifications	Maintenance relies on access and cooperation from the USFS. Water courses impact the maintenance of these unpaved roads
Baker Canyon	Industrial mulching operation, retreat center and RV park in box canyon with limited defensible space, as well as poor access in/out of the canyon	Community prevention and education efforts (RSG, inspections, media campaigns, etc.); limit mulching operation and protect with fire prevention enforcement; use fuel modification and fuel breaks around the property to prevent fire escape	Private property surrounded by protected wilderness.
Limestone Canyon Wilderness Area and Loma Ridge	Large open space with no compartment control zones	Shaded fuel breaks to help create compartment control zones for large non-wind driven fires	Land is managed by IRC and protected for restoration and ecological enhancement.

Sierra Peak, Gypsum Canyon, Coal Canyon, Fremont Canyon	Mixed fuel types in heavy concentration; extreme terrain; high voltage transmission lines	Update all plans, both Pre-Fire and Suppression, to reflect current fuel conditions; continued communication with Federal partners regarding conditions and plans for Forest Service lands	Vegetation is protected by NCCP and vegetation removal or “take” is prohibited in protected Coastal Sage Scrub habitats
Cowan Heights, Lemon Heights, Panorama Hill, Weir Canyon, Irvine Park	Limited defensible spaces; dense older home construction in the Wildland-Urban-Interface and SRA	Community prevention and education efforts (RSG, inspections, media campaigns, etc.) to increase awareness, harden the community, and improve defensible space; update outside agency agreements, training, and fire plans	Relying on land owners to properly maintain fuel modification zones and defensible space around structures
Blackstar Canyon, Fremont Canyon, Irvine Lake, Santiago Landfill	Excessive roadside fuels are a receptive bed for starts (vehicle fires, arson, etc.); fuels consumed in 2006 Sierra Fire are re-established; increased access to the public may result in increased fire activity	Develop graduated roadside fuel modifications; maintenance of access roads; update fire plans and outside agency agreements	Bird nesting season requires bio monitors before and during fuel reduction and road work.

Field Operations South

Area	Primary Concern	Potential Mitigation	Mitigation Challenges
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park (Shady Canyon)	No fuel breaks between Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and the City of Irvine (Shady Canyon)	Construction of fuel breaks; improve fire breaks; brush back vegetation; maintain wildland access roads for emergency response	Vegetation in open spaces is protected and vegetation removal or “take” is prohibited
73, 133, 241, 261 Toll Roads	Roadside Ignitions especially during Santa Anas	Roadside hardening	Vegetation management along Toll Road and CA highways requires

			cooperation from TCA and Caltrans
Bee Canyon and Bowerman Landfill	Composting operation at/nearby the dump within the City of Irvine	Establishing/maintaining clearance/buffers and annual inspections	Relying on landowners to maintain defensible space annually
Hwy 74	Roadside ignitions off Ortega Hwy (Hwy 74)	Improve and maintain fire breaks; brush back vegetation; reduce roadside ignitions through vegetation management projects; increased signage along highway	Caltrans cooperation and road closures are required to work in easement along highway
Proximity to Marine Corps Camp Pendleton (MCCP)	Frequent ignitions on MCCP spreading into SRA and adjacent communities of South Orange County, Riverside County, and Cleveland National Forest.	Construction and maintenance of fuel breaks; improve fire breaks; brush back vegetation	Pendleton outside of OCFA jurisdiction and requires coordination with property management for the base
Casper's Wilderness Park and Starr Ranch Audubon	No fuel breaks between Casper's Wilderness Park or Starr Ranch and the residential areas	Construction and maintenance of fuel breaks; improve fire breaks and access roads; brush back vegetation along roadways; work with park staff to increase awareness	Starr Ranch is a preserve as well as a scientific research station and prohibits fuel breaks other than minimal road brushing
Trabuco Canyon	No fuel breaks between homes and vegetation. Large areas of residential design intermix	Construction of fuel breaks, community education, work with landowners on clearance and defensible space, brush back vegetation along roads to improve ingress and egress.	Relying on land owners to properly maintain fuel modification zones and defensible space around structures
Live Oak Canyon Road	No fuel break between homes and vegetation	Fuel modification	Road closures and coordination with Caltrans required for maintenance along road

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park	No fuel breaks between Laguna Coast Wilderness Park and City of Aliso Viejo, Emerald Bay Unincorporated and Laguna Beach	Construction of fuel breaks; improve fire breaks; brush back vegetation; maintain wildland access roads for emergency response.	Vegetation is protected by NCCP and vegetation removal or “take” is prohibited in protected Coastal Sage Scrub habitats
Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Parks	No fuel breaks between Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Parks and City of Laguna Beach (Top of the World), Aliso Viejo or Laguna Niguel older construction and limited access make defense of the community difficult.	Construction of fuel breaks; improve fire breaks; brush back vegetation; maintain wildland access roads for emergency response.	Vegetation is protected by NCCP and vegetation removal or “take” is prohibited in protected Coastal Sage Scrub habitats
Crystal Cove State Park	No fuel breaks between the Crystal Cove State Park and the City of Newport Beach (Newport Coast), Laguna Beach or Emerald Bay Unincorporated	Construction of fuel breaks, improve fire breaks and brush back vegetation	State Parks permitting to allow HOAs and homeowners to construct vegetation clearance on Parks land surrounding private parcels

Appendix A: Unit Strategic Fire Plan Amendments

Fire Plan Amendments

Date	Section Updates	Page Number Update	Description of Update	Updated by
4/26/19	Cover	Cover	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Ariana Ramos
4/26/19	Table of Contents	i	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Ariana Ramos
4/26/19	Signature Page	ii	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Ariana Ramos
4/26/19	Executive Summary	1-3	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Ariana Ramos
4/26/19	Section I	9-13	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Ariana Ramos
4/26/19	Section II	14 & 15	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Ariana Ramos
4/26/19	Section IV	32-35	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Ariana Ramos
4/26/19	Section V	39, 41, 45, 55-57	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Ariana Ramos
4/26/19	Appendices	58-62	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Ariana Ramos
4/26/19	Appendices	A1 & A2	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Ariana Ramos
4/4/20	Entire document	ALL	Updated document to be ADA accessible	Ariana Ramos
4/7/20	Division and Battalion Projects	41	Included information about road brushing and grading	Dave Erickson
4/13/20	Battalion 6 projects	54, 55	Updated info about maintenance of projects	Dave Erickson
4/20/20	2010 Key Objectives	3	Updated progress on goals	Dave Erickson
4/20/20	Appendix B: 2020 Unit Fire Plan Annual Accomplishments	62	Created 2020 accomplishments	Dave Erickson
4/20/20	Battalion 3 projects	45	Added project	Dave Erickson
4/20/20	Section II: Collaboration	14-15	Updated progress on projects	Dave Erickson
4/20/20	Population	7	Updated population of Orange County	Dave Erickson
4/24/20	Unit Overview	12	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Ariana Ramos
4/24/20	Unit Overview	13	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Ariana Ramos
5/5/21	Table of Contents	i	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Ariana Ramos

Date	Section Updates	Page Number Update	Description of Update	Updated by
5/5/21	Signature Page	ii	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
4/6/21	Executive Summary	1, 2	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
4/6/21	Section I	10-14	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
4/6/21	Section II	15-17	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
5/03/21	Section V	44, 46, 49, 53-55, 59-60	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
5/3/21	Appendix A	62-63	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
5/03/21	Appendix A-1	64	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
5/03/21	Appendix B	64	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
5/03/21	Appendix B-1	65	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
5/3/22	Cover Page	i	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
5/3/22	Table of Contents	ii	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
5/3/22	Signature Page	iii	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
5/3/22	Executive Summary	1, 2	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
4/21/22	2010 Key Objectives	3	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
4/21/22	Section I	13, 14	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
5/3/22	Section II	15-17	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
5/3/22	Section V	49, 53, 54, 59	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
5/3/22	Appendix A	61, 62	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
5/3/22	Appendix A-1	63	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
5/3/22	Appendix B	64, 65	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Dave Erickson
3/27/23	Cover Page	i	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Scott Hatch
3/27/23	Signature Page	iii	Updated with current information and/or reformatted	Scott Hatch

Date	Section Updates	Page Number Update	Description of Update	Updated by
3/28/23	Executive Summary	1, 2, 3	Updated with current information	Scott Hatch
5/1/23	Population	7	Updated with current information	Scott Hatch
5/1/23	Perimeter Acreage update	11	Updated with current information	Scott Hatch
5/1/23	2021 – 2022 Vegetation fires	12	Updated with current information	Scott Hatch
5/2/23	Ignitions Map	13	Updated with new map	Scott Hatch
5/1/23	Vegetation Management	32	Updated with current information	Scott Hatch
5/1/23	Holy Fire	35	Removed map	Scott Hatch
5/1/23	Battalion 6 Map	56	Updated with new map	Scott Hatch
5/1/23	Emerald Fire	40	Updated with new map	Scott Hatch
5/1/23	Battalion 6 Map	56	Updated with new map	Scott Hatch
5/2/23	Unit Plan Annual Accomplishments	65	Updated with current information	Scott Hatch
4/11/24	Entire Document	ALL	Updated and revised full document	Aleya O'Rourke
2/25/25	Executive Summary	3, 4	Updated with current information	Aleya O'Rourke
2/25/25	Weather	10	Updated with current information	Aleya O'Rourke
2/25/25	Fire History and Ignitions	12, 13	Updated with current information and new map	Aleya O'Rourke
2/25/25	Other Collaborative Relationships	18	Updated information and project image	Aleya O'Rourke
2/25/25	Increase the Pace and Scale of Wildland Health Projects	21	Updated information and images	Aleya O'Rourke
4/10/26	Executive Summary	3	Updated with current information	Scott Hatch
4/10/26	Vegetation Types	9	Updated with current picture	Scott Hatch
4/10/26	Weather	10	Updated with current information	Scott Hatch
4/10/26	Ignitions	13	Updated with current information	Scott Hatch
4/10/26	Challenges	14	Updated with current information	Scott Hatch
4/10/26	Firewise communities	17	Updated with current information	Scott Hatch
4/10/26	Other Collaborative Relationships	19	Updated with current information	Scott Hatch
4/10/26	Increase the Pace and Scale of Wildland Health Projects	22	Removed duplicate information	Scott Hatch

Date	Section Updates	Page Number Update	Description of Update	Updated by
4/10/26	Drive Innovation and Measure Progress	26	Updated with current information	Scott Hatch
4/10/26	Unit Plan Annual Accomplishments	40	Updated with current information	Scott Hatch

Appendix B: 2025 Unit Fire Plan- Annual Accomplishments

Launching the Home Hardening Coloring Book – The “Become an Ember Defender” coloring book is designed to educate the public of all ages on the importance of home hardening and vegetation management. The book is distributed by the Community Outreach and Community Risk Reduction teams during public outreach events and meetings.

Arrival of the New FIREHAWK Helicopters – OCFA acquired two military grade FIREHAWK helicopters, each with a 1000-gallon water drop tank, twin engines for increased maneuverability and speed, and an advanced snorkel system for expedited initial attack.

Fire Road & Truck Trail Annual Maintenance - Completed annual road maintenance on 130 miles of roads used for fire suppression and prevention. Due to excessive rains in the 2022/2023 rainy season, many unpaved roads and trails were subject to flooding and washouts. Open space roads were also overgrown with annual weeds and grasses.

Tree Pest Grant – OCFA was awarded a CALFIRE grant in 2018 to address the Invasive Shot Hole Borer and Goldspotted Oak Borer posing significant threat to Southern California oak woodlands. Due to challenges completing the work during COVID, the grant was extended through February, 2025. Over 12,000 infested trees were surveyed and recommended for individual treatment at 27 different locations across the county's SRA and SRA threat locations.

Appendix C: 2024 Unit Fire Plan- Annual Accomplishments

CAL FIRE Grants - Significant progress has been made in assessing tree infestations, tree health, treating and removing infested trees. Over 12,000 infested trees were surveyed and recommended for individual treatment at 27 different locations across the county's SRA and SRA threat locations.

Collection of Fire Perimeters - OCFA Pre-Fire Management maps every SRA vegetation fire to identify trends and determine where fuel modification zones are effective and where improvements in fuel modifications can be made.

Cleveland National Forest Project - The Santiago and El Toro Crews participated in mutually beneficial prescribed fire projects and OCFA Equipment assisted with mutually beneficial roads projects with CNF.

Defensible Space Inspections - Completed annual defensible space inspections.

FIREHAWK Helicopters – OCFA acquired two military grade FIREHAWK helicopters, each with a 1000-gallon water drop tank, twin engines for increased maneuverability and speed, and an advanced snorkel system for expedited initial attack.

Fire Road & Truck Trail Annual Maintenance - Completed annual road maintenance on 130 miles of roads used for fire suppression and prevention.

Camp Pendleton Dozer School - OCFA assisted with organizing and running dozer school for two weeks on Marine Base Camp Pendleton, where HFEOs come to train on the base by opening existing fire breaks.

Crews and Equipment conducted vegetation management projects throughout the county.

Launching the Home Hardening Coloring Book – The “Become an Ember Defender” coloring book is designed to educate the public of all ages on the importance of home hardening and vegetation management. The book is distributed by the Community Outreach and Community Risk Reduction teams during public outreach events and meetings.

Placement of the Aliso-Tivoli HeloPod – A new HeloPod and hydrant were placed in the City of Aliso Viejo to aid in reducing the turnaround time for helicopter re-fills.

Replacement of the Heavy Equipment Operators – To maintain proper staffing of OCFA heavy equipment a replacement dozer operator was found to fill the position left vacant by a 2024 Heavy Equipment Operator retirement.

Appendix D: 2023 Unit Fire Plan- Annual Accomplishments

CALFIRE Grants - Significant progress has been made in assessing tree infestations, tree health, treating and removing infested trees. Over 1,100 hazard trees removed.

GIS Wildland App - OCFA's Pre-Fire Management and Information Technology Departments updated and added more information layers to their collaboratively developed multi-faceted tablet application that assists in wildland and field inspections

Collection of Fire Perimeters - OCFA Pre-Fire Management maps every SRA vegetation fire to identify trends and determine where fuel modification zones are effective and where improvements in fuel modifications can be made

Cleveland National Forest Project - The Santiago and El Toro Crews participated in mutually beneficial prescribed fire projects and OCFA Equipment assisted with mutually beneficial roads projects with CNF.

Camp Pendleton Dozer School - OCFA assisted with organizing and running dozer school for two weeks on Marine Base Camp Pendleton, where HFEOs come to train on the base by opening existing fire breaks.

Crews and Equipment conducted vegetation management projects across the County, including in the City of Irvine, Rancho Mission Viejo, City of Yorba Linda.

Defensible Space Inspections - Completed annual defensible space inspections

Fire Road & Truck Trail Annual Maintenance - Completed annual road maintenance on roads used for fire suppression and prevention

Placement of the Quest HeloPod – A new HeloPod and hydrant were placed in the City of San Juan Capistrano to aid in reducing the turnaround time for helicopter re-fills.

Wildland Resource Planning Map – A new ArcGIS Enterprise Field Map was developed to track fuel reduction and roadside brushing projects performed by the OCFA Hand Crews and Heavy Equipment Operators.

Wildland Resource Technician – A new position was filled in 2023 to help support the Wildland Pre-Fire Management section. This position reports to the Wildland Resource Planner and assists with pre-fire, community wildfire mitigation, and suppression repair activities.

Appendix E: 2022 Unit Fire Plan- Annual Accomplishments

CALFIRE Grants - Significant progress has been made in assessing tree infestations, tree health, treating and removing infested trees. The remote wildfire cameras have already been successful in monitoring several fires.

GIS Wildland App - OCFA's Pre-Fire Management and Information Technology Departments updated and added more information layers to their collaboratively developed multi-faceted tablet application that assists in wildland and field inspections

Defensible Space Inspections - Completed annual defensible space inspections

Collection of Fire Perimeters - OCFA Pre-Fire Management maps every SRA vegetation fire to identify trends and determine where fuel modification zones are effective and where improvements in fuel modifications can be made

Cleveland National Forest Project - The Santiago Crew participated in mutually beneficial prescribed fire projects

Fire Road & Truck Trail Annual Maintenance - Completed annual road maintenance on roads used for fire suppression and prevention

Installation of remote wildfire cameras - Through a CALFIRE grant and in partnerships with SCE, UCSD, and many others, OCFA will be installing up to six remote wildfire cameras throughout Orange County to help monitor and confirm wildfires.

Camp Pendleton Dozer School - OCFA assisted with organizing and running dozer school for two weeks on Marine Base Camp Pendleton, where HFEOs come to train on the base by opening existing fire breaks.
OCFA assisted the County with COVID-19 vaccinations by staffing a vaccination team and clinic
Camp Pendleton Fire School - OCFA participated in the annual prescribed fire event on Marine Base Camp Pendleton, where prescribed fires are completed to protect the base from wildfire.
Region 5 Dozer Academy - OCFA dozer apprentices participated in the Region 5 academy in San Bernardino to hone their skills and complete a training academy.
Appendix F: 2015 - 2021 Unit Fire Plan- Annual Accomplishments
Addition of Crew 2: Crew 2 is a 17-person hand crew that assisted with fire suppression and vegetation management projects throughout Orange County. In 2019, the crew conducted vegetation management within ~90 acres.
Addition of a Deputy Fire Marshal for Pre-Fire Management- In 2020, a civilian DFM will be hired to oversee the Pre-Fire Management section to provide continuity and support for the OCFA PFM mission.
Acquisition of Additional Mechanized Equipment - A grader was purchased to improve efficiencies for vegetation management and roads projects
CALFIRE Grants: Received \$5.4million in CALFIRE grants to conduct surveys and tree removals for Invasive Shot Hole Borer invaded trees. OCFA also received \$90,000 in CALFIRE grants to install remote wildfire cameras.
Cal Mapper - OCFA worked with CAL FIRE to analyze and update Cal Mapper data to more accurately reflect OC project/fire data
Canyon Area Signage - Ordered and installed GSOB and other prevention message signage in SRA areas
Chipper Days Events - Conducted annual Chipper Days in the SRA communities of Trabuco, Silverado, and Modjeska Canyons
Cleveland National Forest Project - The Santiago Crew participated in mutually beneficial prescribed fire projects
Collection of Fire Perimeters - OCFA Pre-Fire Management maps every SRA vegetation fire to identify trends and determine where fuel modification zones are effective and where improvements in fuel modifications can be made
Defensible Space Inspections - Completed annual defensible space inspections
FDOP - Completed OCFA's Fire Danger Operating Plan
Fire Road & Truck Trail Annual Maintenance - Completed annual road maintenance on roads used for fire suppression and prevention
Fuel Mapping- OCFA Pre-Fire Management purchased NDVI mapping technology to map fuels throughout the county to monitor vegetation trends and identify areas for fuel reduction projects.
Fuel Reduction Projects- Completed numerous fuel reduction projects throughout the County, including invasive eucalyptus, pepper, and palm tree removals, hazard tree removals, and creating shaded fuel breaks along fire access roads.
Grants - OCFA implemented three grant projects, including one for Emerald Bay for additional clearance, another for East Orange County Canyons, for emergency road clearance, and installed SRA canyon area signage with interchangeable prevention messages
GIS Wildland App - OCFA's Pre-Fire Management and Information Technology Departments updated and added more information layers to their collaboratively developed multi-faceted tablet application that assists in wildland and field inspections
HP WREN - Secured approval to establish an HP WREN backbone in Orange County, to provide remote fire/emergency detection using cameras and sensors

Installation of remote wildfire cameras: Through a CALFIRE grant and in partnerships with SCE, UCSD, and many others, OCFA will be installing up to six remote wildfire cameras throughout Orange County to help monitor and confirm wildfires.
RAWS Station - A third RAWS station is being installed in coastal Southern Orange County
Remote Surveillance – Installed remote fire/emergency detection cameras on Sheriff’s Towers, as well as cameras on Santiago Peak with associated meteorological sensors
Tree Mortality - OCFA assisted with the continual removal, mapping, monitoring and treatment of drought and pest infested trees
SCE Annual Roads Project - Completed over 100 miles of brushing and/or grading SCE access roads each year
Update to RSG website - Using funding provided by CALFIRE, OCFA will be updating the OCFA Ready Set Go website with an improved and updated online Home Assessment application. This application will be available online, as well as through a phone application, and will be used by OCFA staff and homeowners throughout the County to identify ways to protect and harden their homes from wildfire.
Appendix G: 2011 - 2015 Supplement (For Historical Reference)
Acquisition of Additional Mechanized Equipment - A masticator, mower, chipper, and all-terrain skid steer tractor were purchased to improve efficiencies for vegetation management and roads projects
Additional Orange County Weather Zone – OCFA, working in partnership with COAST and NOAA, implemented a new third weather zone for Orange County, which is very helpful for making decisions regarding resource deployments, facilities closures, and activity restrictions.
Adoption of MOU Between OCFA and OC Parks - For fuels mitigation and training.
Bell Ridge & West Ridge Roads - Completed Phase I of converting an existing road to a fuel break.
Bent Tree Park – Completed a grant funded project to remove over 75 large eucalyptus trees and other invasive species, then replanted the area with native vegetation, including 50 sycamores and 25 ceanothus plants.
Chipper Days Events - Conducted Chipper Days events, in conjunction with local fire safe councils, to help reduce hazardous vegetation in the wildfire risk prone areas of Cowan Heights, and the canyon communities of Silverado and Modjeska.
Cleveland National Forest Project - A mutually beneficial prescribed fire project.
County of Orange Area Safety Taskforce (COAST) - COAST is a coalition of agencies, jurisdictions, landowners, conservancies, public utilities, transportation authorities and others that can affect policy to insure safety and reduce loss of property and life.
Defensible Space Inspections - Completed annual defensible space inspections for structures in SRA areas, and in the Very High and High Fire Severity Zones in LRA areas, and for power poles.
Development of New Pre-Fire Management Section - OCFA’s Pre-Fire Management is now comprised of three sub-sections, which include Wildland Defense Planning, Community Wildfire Mitigation and Crews & Heavy Equipment. This new configuration will help ensure that Gray Book obligations are fulfilled and will better serve the community.

Acquisition of Additional Mechanized Equipment - A masticator, mower, chipper, and all-terrain skid steer tractor were purchased to improve efficiencies for vegetation management and roads projects
EI Cariso Defensible Space SRA FPF Project – A mutually beneficial and cooperative community-based vegetation management project on the border of Orange County and Riverside County
Emerging Tree Pests of Orange County Task Force - OCFA took the lead to launch a coordinated effort in Orange County to deal with the growing issue of invasive pests (i.e., gold spotted oak borer, polyphagous shot hole borer, etc.)
Fire Safe Councils - OCFA continues to assist in the development of local Fire Safe Councils in the canyon and foothill communities. In CY2012, there were four (4) Fire Safe Councils in Orange County, as of this report two (2) of these councils have upgraded to Firewise Communities.
Peters Canyon Project - Removed a grove of 75 invasive palm trees in Peter's Canyon
Ready, Set, Go! (RSG) - <i>(Update: Please note that as of 2015, RSG is now considered "the message" vs. "the program")</i> Ready, Set, Go! (RSG), our wildfire mitigation program, is an expanding effort motivating communities, partners, and stakeholders to act.
SCE Roads Project - Completed 119 miles of brushing and grading SCE access roads.

Appendix G: Priority Goals and Objectives For 2010 (For Historical Reference)

Orange County Fire Authority is undertaking the development of the READY, SET, GO! Program. The Program goals are aligned with the 2010 California Fire Plan and its objectives as listed below: *(Update: Please note that as of 2015, RSG is now considered “the message” vs. “the program”)*

State Goal	State Objective	OCFA Goal
State Goal 1 - Improve availability and use of information on hazard and risk assessment	State Goal Objective B - Engage and participate with local stakeholder groups (i.e., fire safe councils and others) to validate and prioritize the assets at risk	OCFA Goal 1 - OCFA will establish any relationships, partnerships, and councils necessary to reduce wildfire risks and losses by emphasizing community-level resources and solutions. Leverage partners with common interests/or motivations
State Goal 2 - Land use planning: including general plans, new development, and existing developments	State Goal Objective B - Assist the appropriate governmental bodies in the development of a comprehensive set of wildland and wildland urban interface (WUI) protection policies for inclusion in each county general plan or other appropriate local land use planning documents	OCFA Goal 2 - OCFA will develop and sustain a portfolio of high-impact, least-cost, stakeholder-driven solutions for reducing wildfire risks and losses by creating and sustain new solutions, eliminate low-impact solutions, streamline high-cost solutions
State Goal 3 - Shared vision among communities and the multiple fire protection jurisdictions, including county-based plans and community-based plans such as Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)	State Goal Objective B - Emphasize coordination of Unit fire plans with community wildfire protection plans to encourage and support one consistency approach. Develop county or regional fire plans by bringing together community-based groups, such as fire safe councils and affected fire and land management agencies	OCFA Goal 3 - OCFA is developing the Unit Fire Plan, using the key elements identified by CAL FIRE and supporting smaller communities with the development of their local CWPP
State Goal 3 - Shared vision among communities and the multiple fire protection jurisdictions, including county-based plans and community-based plans such as Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)	State Goal Objective C - Create and support venues in which individual community member can be actively involved in local fire safe councils, community emergency response teams, FIREWISE and other community-based efforts to develop readiness plans and educate landowners to mitigate the risks and effects of wildland fire	OCFA Goal 4 - OCFA's collaborative partners lead and drive the effort to protect communities from wildfire. OCFA's role is transitioned into a support-oriented role, focusing primarily on active participation, facilitation, and evaluation of program results

State Goal	State Objective	OCFA Goal
State Goal 4 - Establishing fire resistance in assets at risk, such as homes and neighborhoods	State Goal Objective A - Educate landowners, residents and business owners about the risks and their incumbent responsibilities of living in the wildland, including applicable regulations, prevention measures and preplanning activities	OCFA Goal 5 - Orange County communities understand, accepts responsibility, and takes necessary action to mitigate wildfire risk, thereby preventing lives and property from being lost or damaged in wildfires OCFA Goal 6 - OCFA will develop regularly publicized motivational performance measurements to facilitate change in cultural attitudes, systematic mitigation of risk
State Goal 4 - Establishing fire resistance in assets at risk, such as homes and neighborhoods	State Goal Objective C - Increase the number and effectiveness of defensible space inspections and promote an increasing level of compliance with defensible space laws and regulations using CAL FIRE staffing as available, public, and private organizations, and alternative inspection methods	OCFA Goal 7 - OCFA will institute a change in local cultural attitude about wildfire risks from apathy and unawareness to alertness and empowerment through mass marketing and outreach

Appendix H: 2010 Unit Strategic Plan Collaborators (For Historical Reference)

Representatives involved in the original development of the Orange County Fire Authority's Unit Fire Plan are included in the following table.

2010 Plan Development Team

Organization	Representative (Title)
Orange County Fire Authority	Wildland Fire Defense Planner
Orange County Fire Authority	GIS
Orange County Fire Authority	Fire Prevention
Orange County Public Works	Projects & Regulatory Permits Unit
BonTerra Consulting	Senior Project Manager – Restoration Ecology
Orange County Parks	Director
Orange County Parks	Environmental Coordination
Orange County Parks	Park Rangers
HRS (Habitat Restoration Services)	Restoration Specialists
Irvine Ranch Conservancy	Director
Irvine Ranch Conservancy	Director, Planning and Field Operations
Irvine Ranch Conservancy	Field Operations Manager
Fire Safe Council Canyons of East Orange County	Ad hoc Committee
California State Parks	District Environmental Scientist
Rancho Mission Viejo Land Trust	VP – Open Space and Resource Management
Rancho Mission Viejo Ranch	Ranch Operations
The Irvine Company – AG Operations	VP – Agricultural Operations
City of Irvine	Open Space Coordinator