Northern California Prescribed Fire Council

2019 Annual Meeting
CAL FIRE Fuel Reduction Efforts

• Vegetation Treatment Program (VMP)
• California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)
• 45-Day Report, 35 priority projects
• Defensible Space Inspectors
• Fire Prevention Grants
• Forest Health Grants
• Fuel Reduction Crews
• CA National Guard Crews
• Multiple Contracts with local RCDs and CAL FIRE Units for Unit Fire Plan or CWPP projects.
• Support CA Conservation Crews
CAL FIRE Fuel Reduction Crews

• Crew Locations
  – Willits, Magalia & Davis.
    • 13 person crews
    • Staffed with Fire Captain, Engineer, Forestry Assistant II, Equipment Operator II & 9 Forestry Technicians.
    • Equipment support includes -
      – Tow chipper, Skid Steers, Tracked Chippers and excavator with masticating head.
  – Future locations include Redding and Auburn areas.

• CA National Guard Crews
  – Crew Locations – Redding & Auburn
  – Approximately 20 + members (CNG member & CAL FIRE)
  – Large equipment needs are supplied through rental contracts.
– 50,986 acres
– 46 VMPs
  • Treated 603 acres since Jan 1 2019
– 2018, Updated indemnification language

http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_vegetation
CFIP

- 55,779 acres (2015-2018)
- 195 grantees

http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_forestryassistance_cfip
45 Day Report / 35 Priority Projects

• Jan 8, 2019 - Executive Order N-05-19
• Feb 22, 2019 - 45-Day Report
• March 22, 2019 - Proclamation of a State of Emergency (action request to complete the 35 priority projects in report)

❖ 56,289 acres in the Northern Region
❖ 17 Projects

http://www.fire.ca.gov/general/45-DayReport
• Jan NOP.
• Same framework.
• New modeling process.
• Available to all agencies and public.
  – Still working out the details on how this applies.
• Public Draft in June or July.

http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/
CAL FIRE Grants

Grant Funding by Fiscal Year (millions)

http://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/grants
CAL FIRE Grants

http://www.fire.ca.gov/grants/grants
Traditionally, two ways to conduct prescribed fire in California – with a permit or through the CAL FIRE VMP.

- **Permit** - the permit holder conducts the burn and CAL FIRE may provide standby resources if available.
- The burn permit holder is liable for the prescribed burn.

- **CAL FIRE VMP** - CAL FIRE conducts the prescribed burn (requires CEQA) and indemnifies the landowner.
Liability

• **SB 1260** (last year) made changes to both the permitting laws and the CAL FIRE VMP laws.
  • **Permit** - the law now provides that compliance with a permit issued shall constitute prima facie evidence of due diligence

• **CAL FIRE VMP** –
  • Can now burn with cooperators.
  • Can now designated a non-CAL FIRE employee as a burn boss (must complete CAL FIRE training).
  • Now several options for liability – can still indemnify or CAL FIRE can do a maximum dollar amount or percentage of liability.
  • To determine the amount of liability if not indemnifying, CAL FIRE must look at several factors including but not limit to CAL FIRE involvement with the planning and conducting the prescribed burn, fire hazard severity, assets at risk from a wildfire without the prescribed burn being conducted, wildlife habitat, and watershed values.
Gabe Schultz
CAL FIRE
Northern Region resource Manager
6105 Airport Road
Redding CA 96002
(530) 227-9688