



2020 IGNITION MANAGEMENT & FIRE PREVENTION PLAN



AMADOR-EL DORADO UNIT



PRE-FIRE DIVISION

FIRE PREVENTION- LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

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Introduction

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

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

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

Fire History

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

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

In September of 2014, the King Fire burned 97,717 acres. Of that, 2,823 acres burned were within the Unit's DPA. In July 2014, the Sand Fire burned 4,240 acres within the SRA. In September 2015, the Butte Fire burned 70,868 acres. Of that, 3,626 acres burned were within the Unit's DPA. Over the past twenty years, population growth and development in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) have placed additional homes, businesses and public infra-structure at risk from wildland fires. Both large and small fires often create wildland-urban interface fire suppression challenges previously only found in the most densely populated areas of Southern California.

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

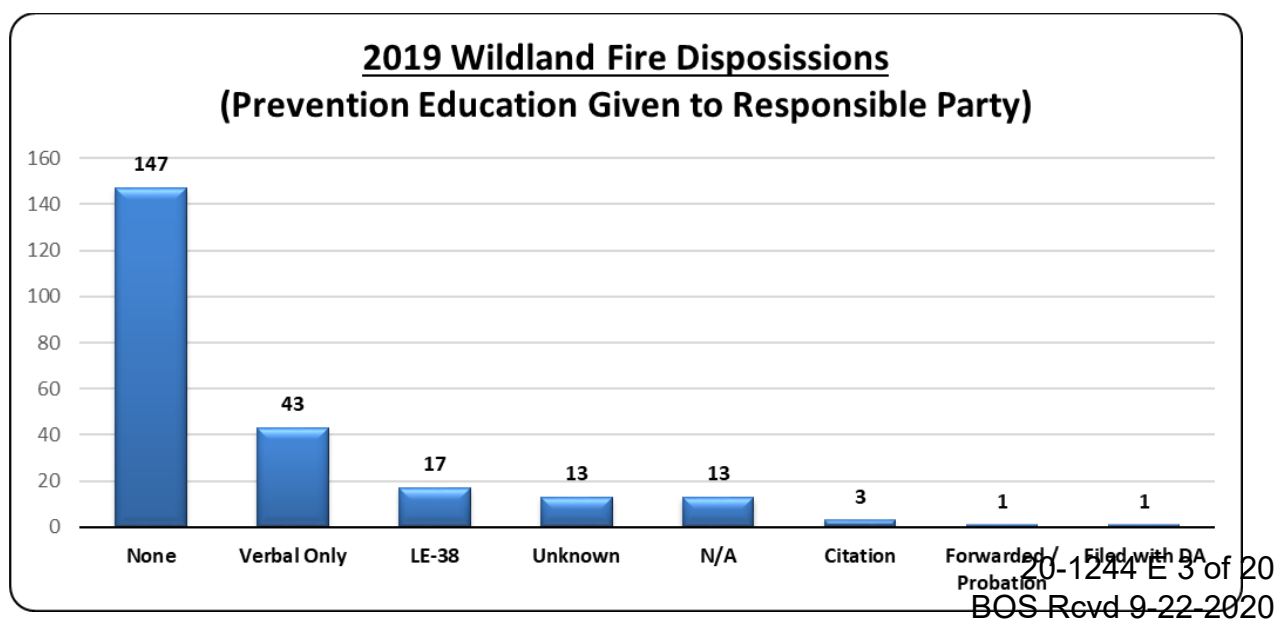
However, large fires in El Dorado County can also follow an east to west orientation similar to fires in Amador County.

Fire Incident Documentation Policy

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

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

In addition, the Unit continues to utilize LE-38A's, Notice of Fire Hazard Inspection, for less complex investigations that do not warrant a citation by a public or peace officer. LE-38A's are utilized as an educational and enforcement tool when there is a violation of a Public Resource Code, Health and Safety Code, California Code of Regulation, or Air Quality Requirement. LE-38A's are forwarded to the Fire Prevention Bureau Chief within 7 days so necessary follow-up actions can be taken. It is the goal of the Unit that a Prevention Message be given after every wildland fire if a responsible party is identified. A prevention message will consist of either verbal education with an LE-38a issuance, civil or criminal prosecution. It is the Units goal to utilize these forms of prevention messages to educate the public and prevent further ignitions from happening. Of the 238 wildland fires in AEU for 2019, 147 fires didn't have a prevention message given accounting for 61% of the Units fires. It is the goal for 2020 to reduce that number and insure 100% of the identified responsible parties receive a prevention message.

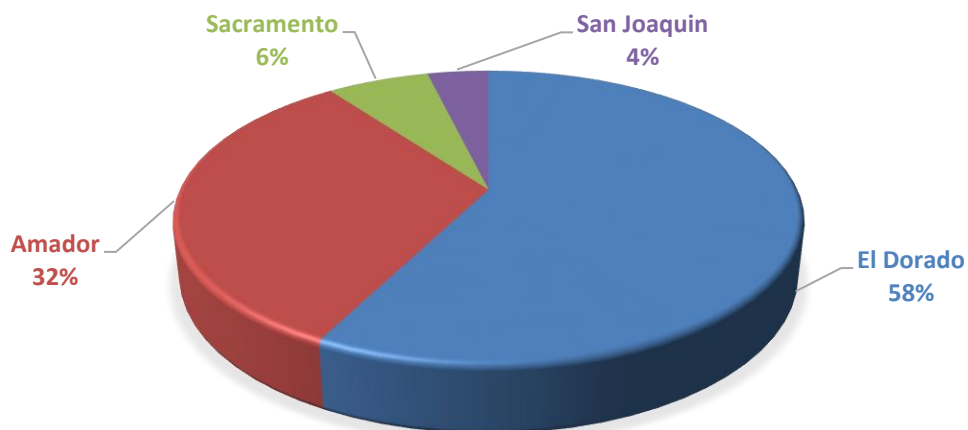


2019 Fire Season Ignition Statistics

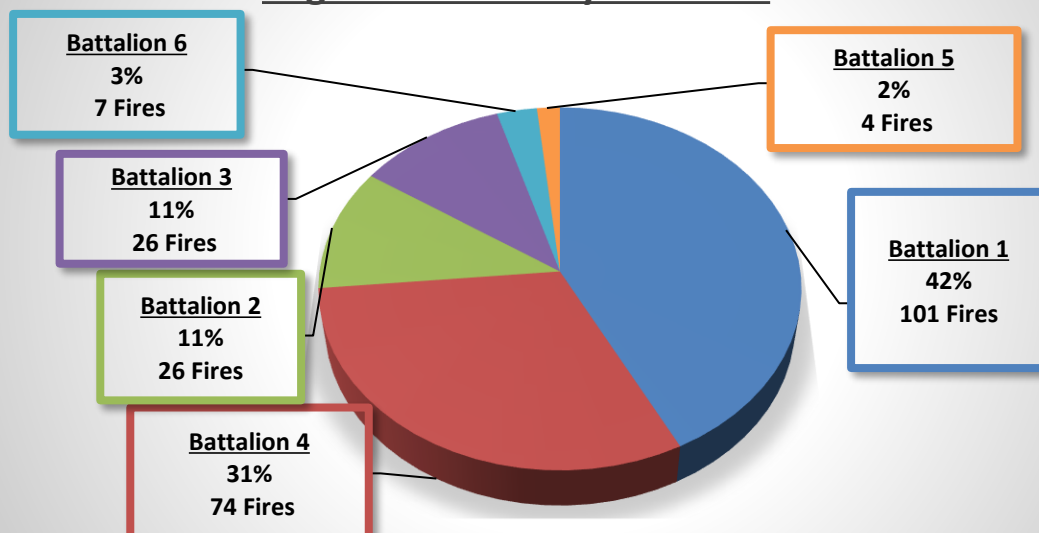
Wildland fire ignition statistics were tracked for the entire year of 2019. The Unit experienced 238 wildland fires within its Direct Protection Area. There was a minimal increase in ignitions from 2018 (233 fires), and more than the 10-year annual average of 232 fires. Wildland fire statistics are tracked based on information from each Fire Report submitted to the Fire Prevention Bureau.

COUNTY	IGNITIONS WITHIN AEU DPA
Amador	77
El Dorado	137
Sacramento	15
San Joaquin	9
Alpine	0

2019 VEGETATION FIRES BY COUNTY



Vegetation Fires By Battalion



2019 Five Largest Fires in AEU:

- 1) Country Fire, burned 85 acres in El Dorado County. The cause of the fire was undetermined.
- 2) Browns Fire, burned 84.5 acres in Sacramento County. The cause of the fire was overhead electrical powerlines.
- 3) Prairie Fire, burned 51 acres in Sacramento County. The cause of the fire was overhead electrical powerlines.
- 4) Patterson Fire, burned 35 acres in El Dorado County. The cause of the fire was undetermined.
- 5) Rimrock Fire, burned 21 acres in El Dorado County. The cause of the fire was overhead electrical powerlines.

Approximately 545 acres burned within the Unit's DPA in 2019, compared to 1,911 acres in 2018, with a 10-year average of 1,991 acres. In 2019, AEU experienced approximately a 27% percent decrease of acres burned under the ten-year average.

While reviewing fire causes during 2019, it was found that the five leading causes of wildland fires in the Unit were:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) | Debris Burning | (48 fires – 20%) |
| 2) | Undetermined | (39 fires – 16%) |
| 3) | Equipment | (37 fires – 16%) |
| 4) | Vehicle | (31 fires – 13%) |
| 5) | Electrical | (22 fires – 9%) |

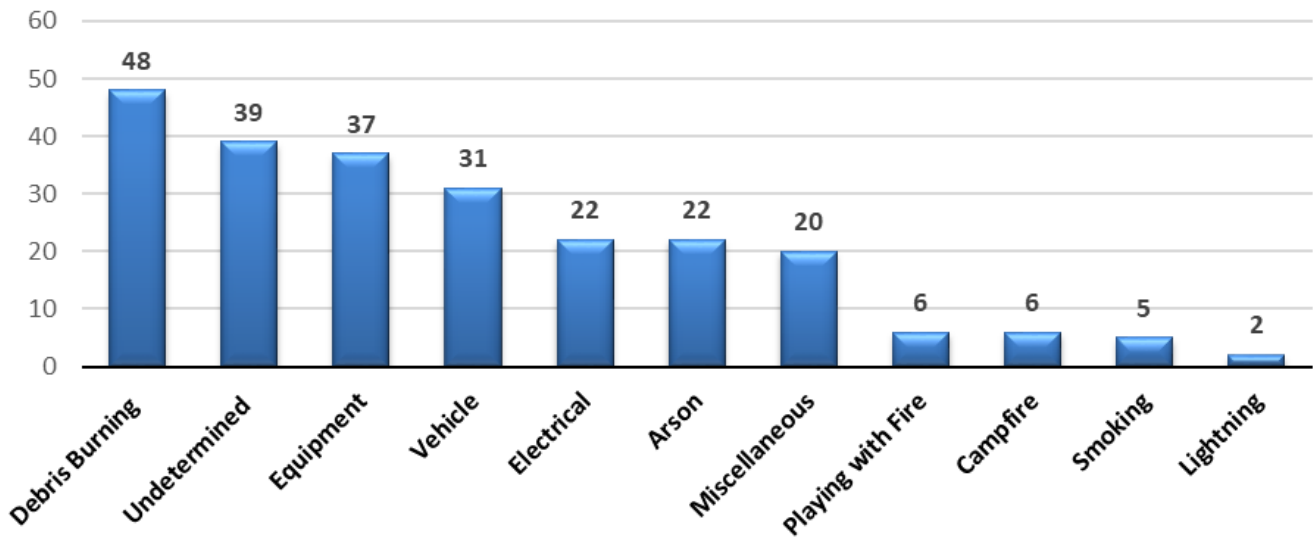
The five leading causes accounted for 177 fires, or 75%, of all fires that occurred.

The remaining causes of fires in the Unit were:

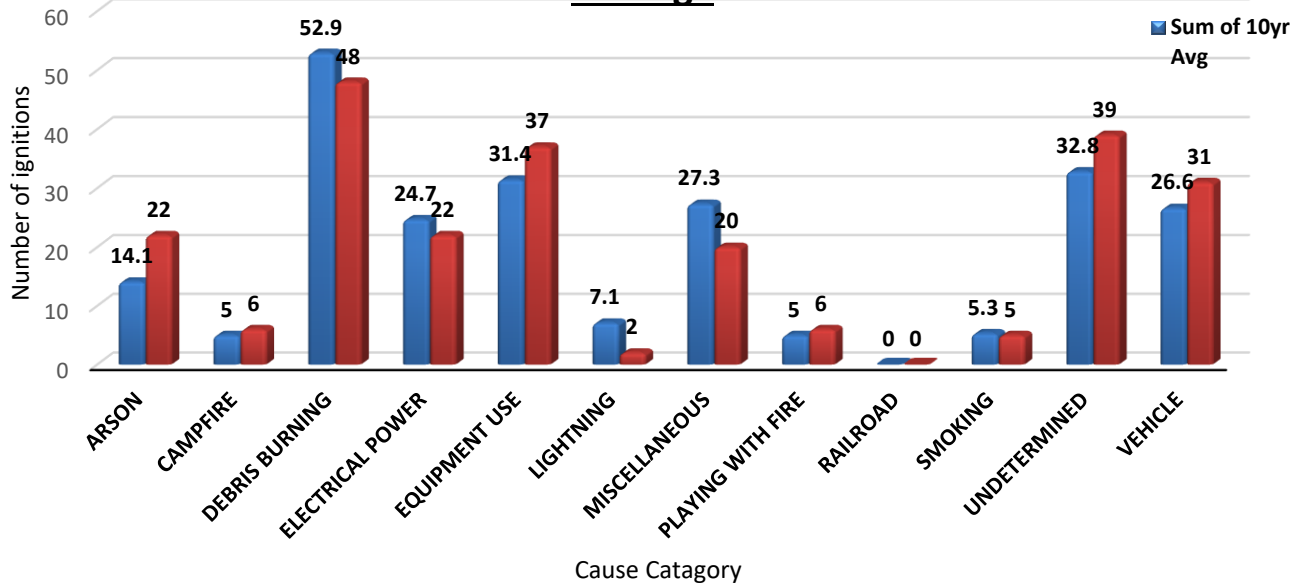
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| 6) | Arson | (22 fires – 9%) |
| 7) | Miscellaneous | (20 fires – 8%) |
| 8) | Playing with Fire | (6 fires – 3%) |
| 9) | Campfire | (6 fires – 3%) |
| 10) | Smoking | (5 fires – 2%) |
| 11) | Lightning | (2 fires – 1%) |
| 12) | Railroad | (0 fires - 0%) |

In 2019, Arson, Campfire, Equipment, Playing with Fire, Undetermined and Vehicle fire ignitions increased over the 10- year average. All other categories decreased or equaled the 10-year ignition average.

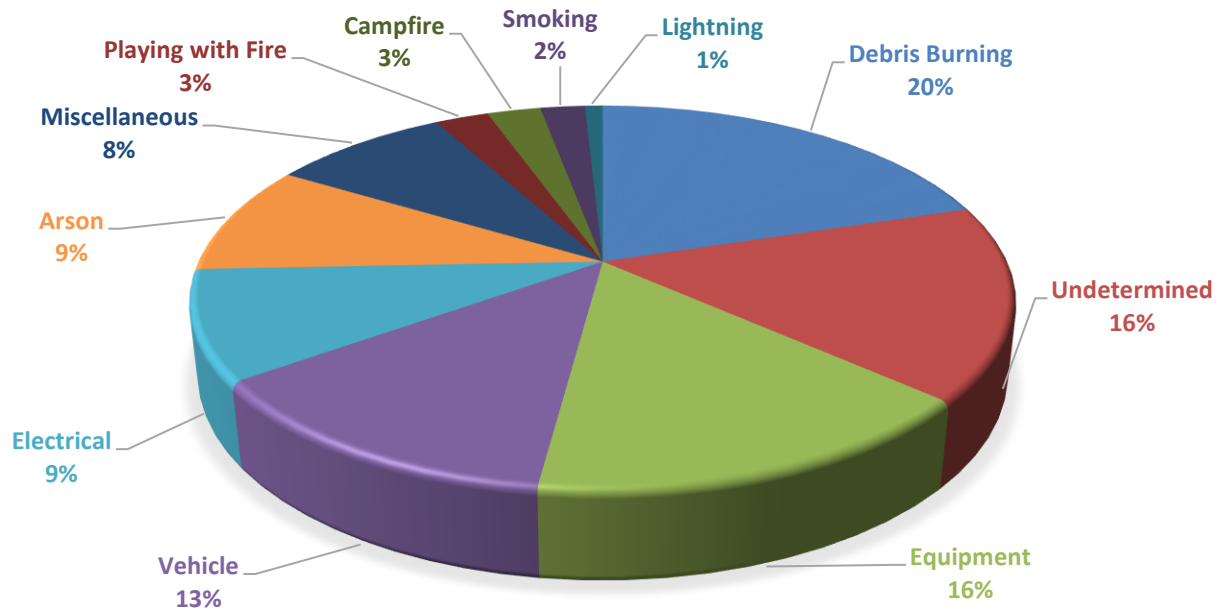
2019 Vegetation Fires By Cause



AEU 2019 Vegetation Fires By Cause Compared to the 10 Year Average



2019 FIRE CAUSES BY PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL FIRES



Fire activity for 2019 increased by 5 fires as compared to 2018, and was above the 10-year average of 232 fires. To better address ignition management in the Unit, a more detailed analysis of the fires in each major cause classification was conducted.

- 1) **Debris burning** accounted for 48 fires, or 20% of the total fires in the Unit. Debris caused fires resulted in approximately 24 acres burned within the unit for 2019. The 10-year average for this category is 159 acres burned. Unit Management suspended all burning in the Unit in June due to dry conditions.

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

In addition, Unit Fire Prevention Bureau staff work closely with local Air Quality Management Districts in the event that a debris burn violates Air District ordinances. Violations typically include landowners burning debris piles larger than four feet by four feet in size without a valid air quality permit; landowners

burning illegal materials; and landowners burning on a no-burn day. Potential violations of air quality rules are forwarded to the local Air District office on a LE-38a for potential action. Monetary fines typically range from \$40.00 to \$500.00, or more, depending on the type of violation.

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

As of January 2019 The Unit has implemented an online burn permit program allowing homeowners to go online and watch a short instructional video about how to conduct a safe/legal debris burn. These online permits are only valid for one year as opposed to the in person/hand written permit that is valid for three years. The Unit will continue to issue in-person/hand written permits for members of the community when requested.

2) Equipment - use accounted for 37 fires, or 16% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Equipment caused fires resulted in approximately 64 acres being burned within the Unit. The 10-year average acreage burned for this cause class is 172 acres. The main cause of equipment fires continues to be mowers. These fires typically start as a result of blades striking rocks, or friction igniting chaff collected around the belts, pulley systems or exhaust systems of mowers. Ironically, most of the mower caused fires occurred as a result of residents trying to clear their property for fire safety. Continued public education on the appropriate equipment to use in dry vegetation as well as the appropriate time of day (before 10:00 AM) and conditions to work will help reduce ignitions. The Fire Prevention Bureau will continue to conduct enforcement action when violations of law are identified as well.

3) Undetermined - Fires with an undetermined cause accounted for 39 fires, or 16% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Undetermined caused fires resulted in approximately 134 acres being burned in the Unit. The 10-year average of acres burned for this cause class is 131 acres. Fire Prevention Bureau staff continue to investigate these fires based on the information provided on the fire investigation reports.

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

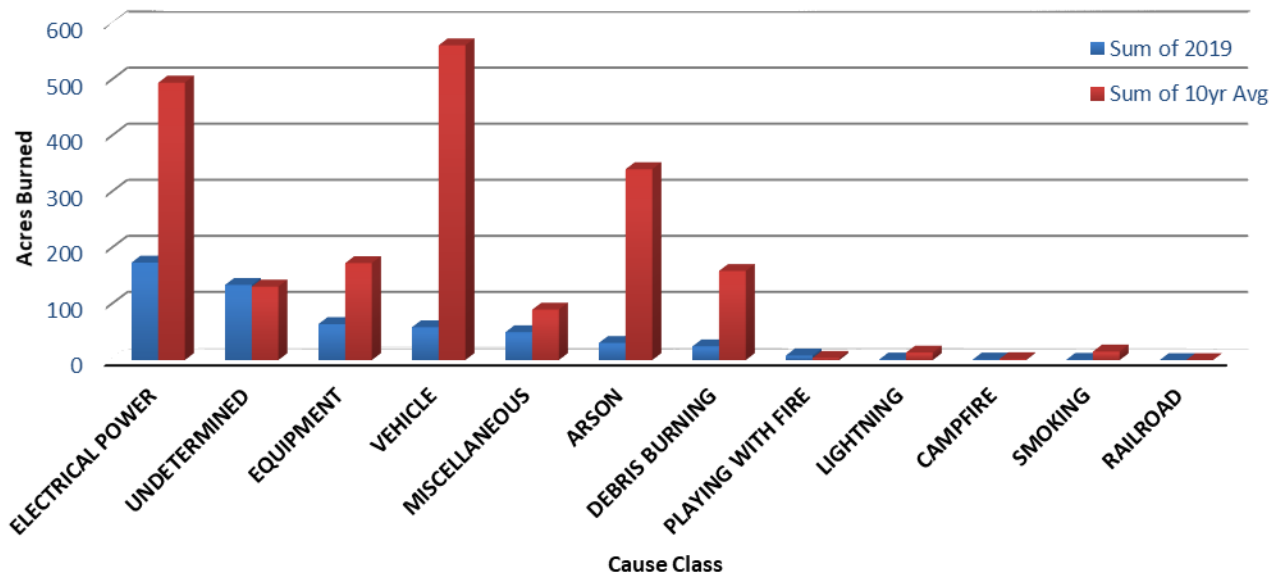
- 4) **Electrical Power** caused fires accounted for 22 fires, or 9% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Electrical power caused fires resulted in approximately 173 acres burned within the Unit. The 10-year average of acres burned for electrical caused fires is 494 acres. The Unit's Fire Prevention Staff continue to report PRC 4292 and PRC 4293 violations when they are observed to the appropriate utility company to mitigate the violation. Fire Prevention Staff will document the violation on and LE-38a if the violation isn't addressed in a timely manner, or may issue a citation dependent on the circumstances.
- 5) **Miscellaneous** causes accounted for 20 fires, or 8% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Miscellaneous caused fires resulted in approximately 49 acres being burned within the unit. The 10-year average of acres burned for Miscellaneous caused fire is 89 acres. This classification includes causes such as structure fires, spontaneous combustion, fireplace ashes deposited in the wildland, barbequing, cooking fires, fires, target shooting and fireworks. Continued public education efforts, such as "One less spark, one less wildfire" and enforcement action by the Fire Prevention Bureau when violations of law are identified will help reduce the number of ignitions.
- 6) **Vehicles** accounted for 31 fires, or 13% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Vehicle caused fires resulted in approximately 59 acres being burned within the Unit. The 10-year average of acres burned for vehicle caused fires is 561 acres. Vehicle caused fires are typically due to mechanical failures, usually within the exhaust system where hot particles are expelled into the dry vegetation. Continued public education on the importance of vehicle maintenance will reduce the number of ignitions. Because these fires are usually along a roadway, they are reported quickly allowing for a timely response.
- 7) **Arson** accounted for 22 fires, or 9% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Arson caused fires burned approximately 31 acres in 2019. The 10-year average acres burned for arson caused fires is 340 acres. Arson caused fires are a good reason why investigating fires needs to be conducted quickly, thoroughly and with integrity.

Our continued good working relationships between all fire and law enforcement agencies within the Unit is aiding in successful apprehension and prosecution of arsonists. The importance of a thorough origin and cause investigation plays a key role in identifying suspicious fire patterns early. Apprehending and prosecuting arsonists is a team approach that depends on everyone.

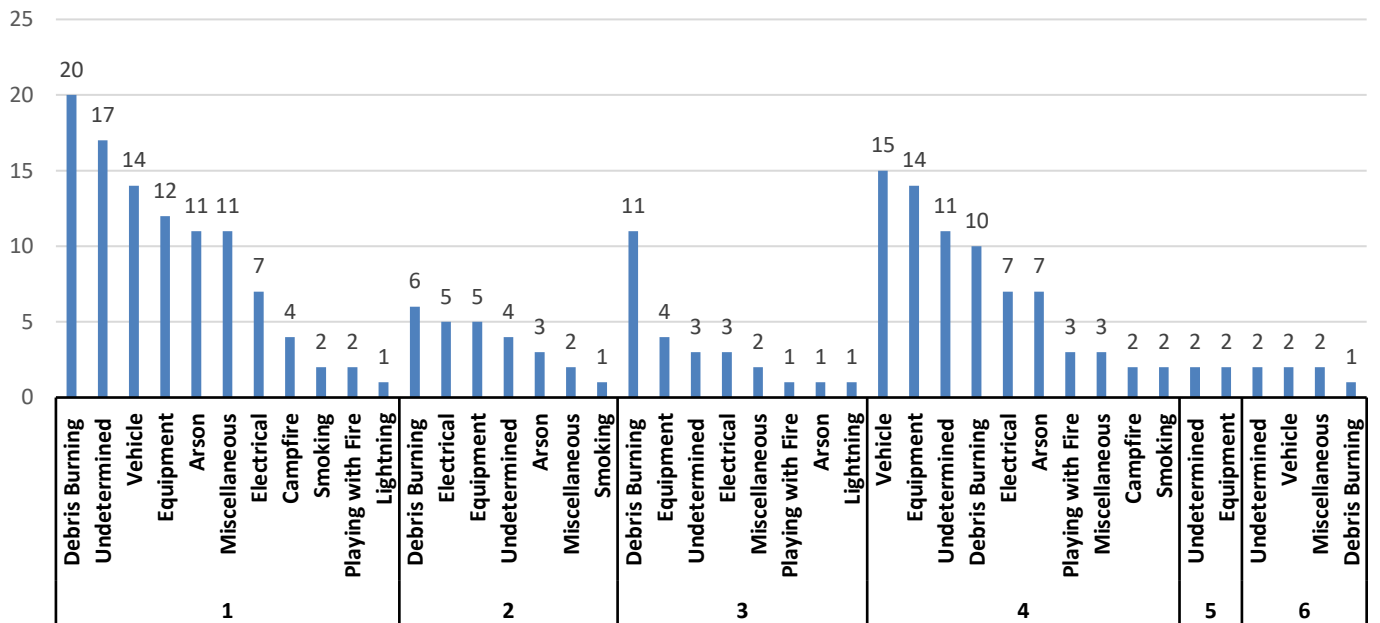
The Unit also benefits from continuous, seven day a week, staffing of the Fire Prevention Bureau during fire season and should continue throughout the year. Arson fires occur on a year-round basis and often go overlooked outside of declared fire season due to inadequate staffing. A trained investigator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

- 8) **Campfires** accounted for 6 fires or 3% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Campfire caused fires burned approximately 1 acres in 2019. The 10-year average of acres burned from campfire caused fires is 1.7 acres. Most of these campfires were located at transient camps. Fire Prevention Bureau officers and local law enforcement continues to patrol these encampments to reduce the number of illegal campfires.
- 9) **Playing with Fire** accounted for 6 fires, or 3% of the ignitions in the Unit. Playing with fire caused fires burned approximately 8 acres in 2019. The 10-year average of acres burned from Playing with Fire is 4 acres. CAL FIRE Officers, with the assistance of local agencies, continues to use the Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program when a juvenile is identified as being responsible for causing the fire.
- 10) **Smoking** accounted for 5 fires, or 2% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Smoking caused fires burned approximately half an acre in 2019. The 10-year average of acres burned from Smoking caused fires is 15 acres. Continued public awareness and education will continue to reduce the number of smoking caused ignitions.
- 11) **Lightning** accounted for 2 fires, or 1% of the total ignitions in the Unit. Lightning caused fires burned approximately 1 acre in 2019. The 10-year average of acres burned from lightning caused fires is 13 acres. Not much can be done to prevent or alter this category. In anticipation of predicted dry-lighting events, the Unit will activate its AEU Complex Incident Plan in order to reduce the number of acres burned due to lightning.
- 12) **Railroad** accounted for zero fires in 2019. Amador County has one active commercial railroad in the western portion of the county. El Dorado has a railroad association which operates small railcars for historical tours on two small sections of railroad in the western end of the county.

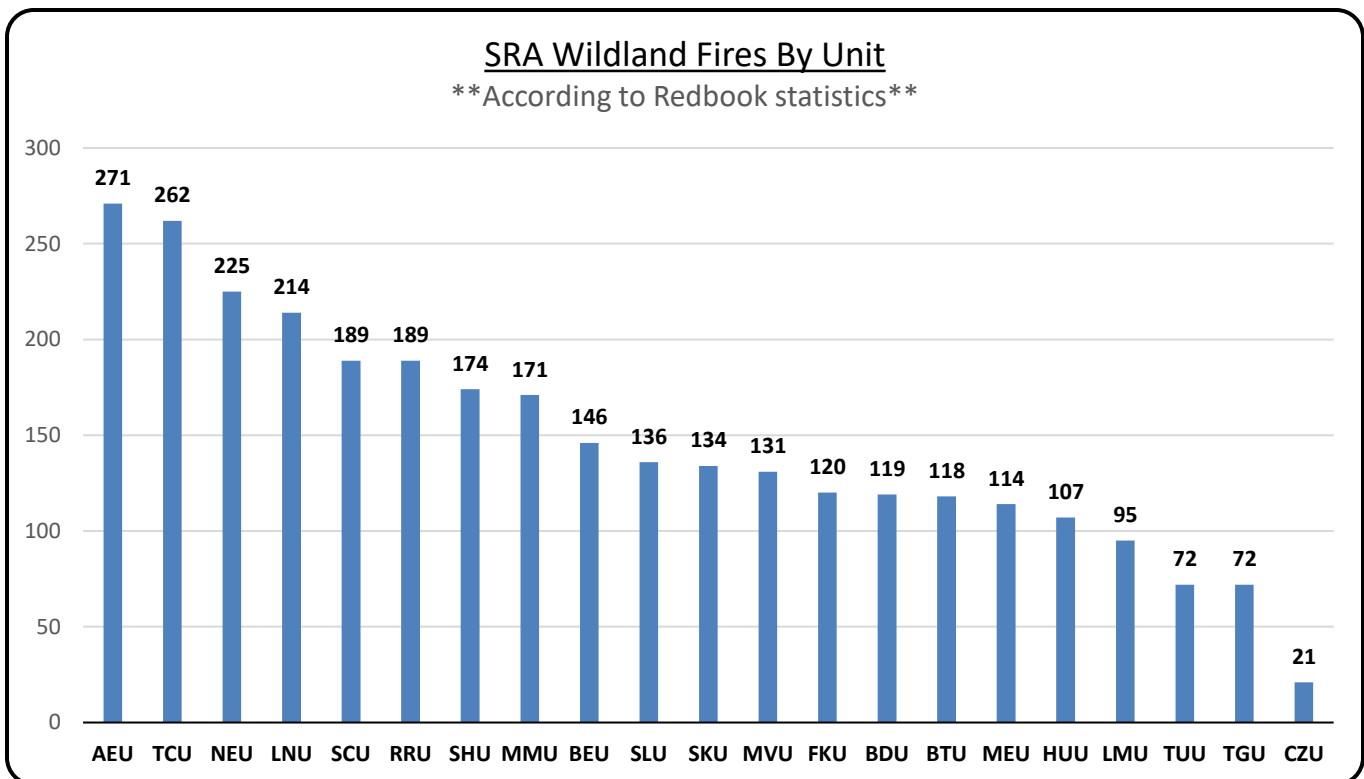
AEU 2019 Acres Burned by Cause to the 10 Year Average



Vegetation Fire Causes By Battalion



The graph below shows AEU Ignitions compared to all CAL FIRE Unit's Ignitions. This data is collected from CALFIRS and the CA. State Fire Marshal Office, 2019 Redbook statistics. AEU is showing more fires in this data than local data, due to the inclusion of Illegal Debris Fires being included in the 2019 Redbook statistics. For 2019 AEU had the highest number of vegetation fire and illegal debris fire ignitions reported in the SRA. Multiple factors can be attributed to this statistic there for these statistics will not supersede the Local Fire Prevention Bureau statistics.



Information and Education Program

Public Information Program

The Unit's Public Information Officer (PIO) prepares and disseminates fire and incident information, fact sheets, and information on evacuations (in support of local law enforcement) during incidents. The PIO also provides media releases and articles, conducts live interviews (TV and Radio), and coordinates public education events with Battalion personnel. Additional duties include responding as an Incident Information Officer (Field PIO, PIO Call Center Manager, PIO in a Joint Information Center, or PIO on unified command incidents) locally or statewide.

2019 Highlights:

The Unit instituted social media as a vital tool for incident information sharing and public education messaging.

Local citizens were alerted to fires quickly and more routinely. Consistent and timely posting of incident information reduced the number of calls to the Emergency Command Center for fire information, freeing lines for actual emergency calls.

It is important that the PIO continue to utilize social media as quick and reliable information tool. In addition to Facebook and Twitter, Instagram was added to the unit's media outlet forums.

Public Education and Awareness Program

The Public Education and Awareness Program is comprised of four components:

School Programs, Group Programs, Exhibits/Displays and Parades which are coordinated with Field Battalions.

- 1) **School Programs** are done throughout the Unit and reach children from preschool through 12th grade. The "team teaching" approach is used at the schools and is done on a request basis and is generally handled by Engine companies. There are a variety of programs available to use depending on the request or needs of the school. The program for preschool through 6th grade includes "Smokey Bear/Captain CAL Team Teaching", "Flannel Board", "9-1-1", "Stop/Drop and Roll", "Crawl Low Under Smoke", "Exit Drills In The Home", "Friendly Firefighter", "Fire Station Tours", State Farms Smoke Detectives, Bic's "Play Safe-Be Safe", "Masters of Disasters", and "Learn Not To Burn".

- 2) For 7th-12th grades the presentation is given in an assembly setting and the focus will range from youth fire setting behaviors to CAL FIRE careers. The "Youth Fire Setter" education program is presented in the following format: introduction; ice breaker; and an explanation of who, what, when, where and why juveniles set fires and the consequences of fire setting. A discussion follows on making good versus bad choices, responsibilities / repercussions related to those choices (civil and criminal) and a review of basic fire safety principals. The "Career Days" program will include an overview of the agency, its mission and the types of careers available and levels of education required to be competitive in the specific field.
- 3) **Group Programs** are done on a request basis and can cover subjects across all fire and life safety issues, resource management themes, and "who is CAL FIRE?" questions. Frequently requested programs are: Defensible Space, Disaster Preparedness for families, pets, livestock, seniors and the disabled, preparing a "Go Kit", Senior Fire Safety, Fire Safety for the Disabled, Special Needs and Fire Safety, Smoke and CO alarms, etc. Group programs also support campaigns such as "One Less Spark, One Less Wildfire", "Buy it Where You Burn It" and "Living With Fire-Lake Tahoe Basin: Get Defensive, Reduce the Fuels, Reduce the Risk". We provide these presentations to the public, state agencies, Fire Safe Councils, Homeowners Associations, county agencies, local businesses, service groups, clubs and organizations. Requests vary and presentations may be done in conjunction with another government agency such as a fire district or law enforcement agency.
- 4) **Exhibits and Displays** are designed and constructed for fairs, parades, home and garden shows, health and wellness fairs, homeowner association gatherings, Wildfire Awareness Week, Fire Prevention Week, Burn Awareness Week, Arson Awareness Week, Career Days, Fire Fest, Ag and Farm days, National Night Out, the Capital Air Show, local non-profits, etc. These may be done in concert with another emergency service agency, local government, fire safe council, etc.
- 5) **Parades** are handled at the Battalion level and requests are directed to the Battalion Chief. If it is appropriate, a fire engine and other equipment may be directed to participate.

In 2019 the Unit logged approximately 213 public education hours related to Fire Prevention. A decrease from 584 in 2018. Unit personnel made face to face education 3,528 members of the public.

Youth Fire Setter Intervention and Education Program (YFS)

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

The Program includes:

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

VIP Program

In 2019 the Unit's VIP Program was reactivated after a 13-year dormancy. Volunteers staffed the Pilot Hill Lookout. Other activities that VIP's may be recruited for and asked to provide support in:

- 1) Incident Information Center Operators
- 2) LE 100 Defensible Space Inspectors
- 3) Fire and Life Safety Education Programs (Schools, Groups, Events)
- 4) Administrative support for the Unit

This entails recruiting, training, coordinating and supervising activities of Unit VIP's and record keeping (VIP Database, CALATERS, etc.) associated with the program. There will be no minimum number of hours required from a volunteer except for Unit orientation and annual training. The Unit will require at least one program per year for a VIP to stay active.

LE 100 Defensible Space Program

In 2019 the Unit completed a total of 6,217 inspections. Of the total inspections, 1,650 inspections were completed by Local Government Fire Personnel, 424 inspections were completed by Fire Safe Councils, 2,283 inspections were completed by Station Personnel in Battalions 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 and 1,860 inspections were completed by Forestry Aide Defensible Space Inspectors

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

- 1) Identify Target Hazard Areas within the Unit where inspections will occur,
- 2) Provide a margin of safety for firefighters and the public,
- 3) Educate residents and developers regarding their responsibility for defensible space,
- 4) Ensure structures have some basic level of self-protection,
- 5) Mitigate wildland fire losses and resource damage,
- 6) Increase the survivability of a home or development,
- 7) Provide a point of attack for a wildland fire,
- 8) Provide CAL FIRE personnel greater awareness of response areas within the Unit where inspections are occurring,
- 9) Work closely with Local Fire Districts and Fire Safe Councils to enhance work being done throughout the Unit.

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

Defensible Space Inspection Numbers by Year			
Amador-El Dorado Unit			
Year	Inspections	Completed By	Comments
2004	2,100	(Majority VIP, FSC's)	3-0 Staffing
2005	1,899	(Majority VIP, FSC's)	3-0 Staffing
2006	2,448	(Majority VIP, FSC's)	3-0 Staffing
2007	2,250	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing
2008	3,220	CAL FIRE	4-0 Staffing
2009	3,250	CAL FIRE	4-0 Staffing
2010	5,162	CAL FIRE	5 FF1's Hired April 1 st . Last year of 4-0 staffing.
2011	2,309	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing
2012	1,994	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 4 Forestry Aides hired mid-July
2013	4,322	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 4 FF1's & 4 Forestry Aides hired in May
2014	5,120	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 4 Forestry Aides hired in April
2015	3,817	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 5 Forestry Aides hired in April
2016	5,479	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 5 Forestry Aides and Surge Capacity
2017	4,951	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 4 Forestry Aides
2018	4,887	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 5 Forestry Aides
2019	6,217	CAL FIRE	3-0 Staffing, 3 Forestry Aides

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

Local Land Use Planning and the SRA Fire Safe Regulations

In 1986, the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, supported by CAL FIRE, introduced legislation (Senate Bill 1075, Rogers) to develop *minimum* statewide standards for defensible space in State Responsibility Areas. This legislation was motivated by local government's general lack of response to wildland fire prevention and protection problems over the previous 20 years. This comprehensive wildland fire safety legislation was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in 1987. SB1075 required the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to establish minimum fire safety requirements that applied to SRA.

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

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

The Amador-El Dorado Unit Fire Prevention Bureau oversees the application of PRC 4290 and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 1270, on all private lands classified as SRA within the Unit and lands within the LRA identified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. These regulations are best known as the "SRA Fire Safe Regulations," and constitute the basic wildland fire protection standards of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. CAL FIRE has been given the role of wildland fire protection expert and is provided the opportunity to review and comment on all proposed construction and development within the SRA. These regulations were amended in 2019 and the amended requirements went into effect on January 1, 2020. The Fire Prevention Bureau is actively engaged with all of our

cooperating county Planning Departments to ensure implementation of the regulations. In cooperation with El Dorado County Planning, Amador County Planning, Alpine County Planning, Sacramento County Planning and San Joaquin County Planning, CAL FIRE has oversight responsibility and reviews proposed tentative subdivision maps, tentative parcel maps and special use permits for compliance with PRC 4290. CAL FIRE forwards recommendations to the appropriate Planning Department specifying the minimum requirements necessary to meet State law.

Major factors considered in the review of any discretionary permit application are:

1) Access

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

2) Addressing and Street Signage

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

3) Water Supplies

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

4) Fuel Modification Considerations

The establishment of physical barriers between a structure and the wildland is recognized as a major deterrent and loss reduction measure. Such barriers should be considered key to individual and community defensible space. While fuel breaks have strategic application over large geographical areas, they are expensive to construct and maintain. Other measures, such as the strategic placement of roads, recreational parks, irrigated landscaping, setback from property lines, green belts, open space and fuel modification around structures are more suitable around homes and subdivisions.

Law Enforcement

The Unit currently has seven active Peace Officers (PC 830.2(g)). Current Peace Officer assignments are as follows:

Division Chief – Central Division – 1
Forester I, Forest Practice – 1
Battalion Chief – Field Battalion - 1
Battalion Chief, Fire Prevention Bureau - 1
Fire Captain Specialist, Fire Prevention Bureau – 2
Fire Captain A – Station Captain - 1

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

The availability of all seven Unit Peace Officers on a routine and consistent basis is limited by current Peace Officer assignments within the Unit. The number of Peace Officers in the Unit has declined from twelve in 2008 to seven in 2019.

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

2019 Fire Prevention Bureau Statistics:

- Fire Prevention Bureau officers responded to 310 incidents
 - 1 Arrests were made within the Unit related to arson type fires.
 - 14 Citations were issued
 - 115 LE 38's were issued

2019 Civil Cost Recovery Statistics:

The Prevention Bureau recovered \$5,500.00 from previous years' cases initiated within AEU and approximately over half a million dollars still in litigation.

2019 Cadres/Workgroups:

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

Administrative Investigations:

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

Conclusion:

In 2019, the Unit successfully engaged in all aspects of Fire Prevention including public education, engineering, law enforcement and volunteerism. In addition, the Bureau was able to support out-of-unit assignments while maintaining seven-day a week prevention coverage during fire season within the Unit. An increase in only 5 ignitions from 2018 was a team effort attributed to fire prevention patrol, public education, and fire suppression efforts in the Unit. In recent years the transient population in the Unit has been on the rise as well as transient related fires. The Bureau continues to work with the El Dorado County Sheriffs Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) to educate the transient population on fire safety and at times enforce the law when appropriate.

During the course of normal fire prevention patrol within the Unit. Bureau Personnel observed multiple unattended illegal fires, successfully extinguishing them, potentially preventing a large damaging wildfire from accruing.

It's the intent of the Amador-El Dorado Unit in 2020 to continue to actively seek ways to reduce unwanted fires, aggressively pursue criminal or civil action against violators of forest and fire laws, enhance the law enforcement skills of all of its Officers through on-going training, increase the visibility of CAL FIRE through media outlets, engage local jurisdictions in land use policy and planning decisions and continue to provide support to the Regions and Sacramento on out-of-unit assignments. The Unit plans to build on past successes while seeking ways to improve processes internal to the Unit.