



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Fire Season Outlook

April 2004



Mission Statement

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Protects the People of California From Fires, Responds to Emergencies, and Protects and Enhances Forest, Range, and Watershed Values Providing Social, Economic, and Environmental Benefits to Rural and Urban Citizens.

Fire Season Outlook

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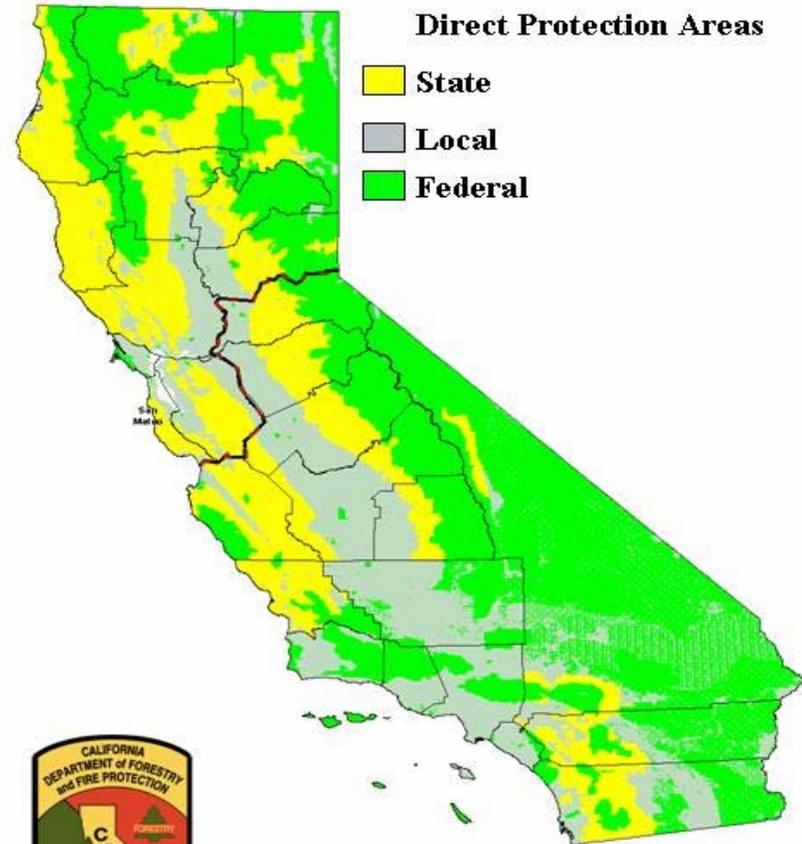


State and Federal Responsibility Areas

CDF protects over 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands
- approximately 1/3 of the acres in California

Fire Protection Objective:
Suppress 95% of all unwanted fires at 10 acres or less

California Department of Forestry And Fire Protection





Administrative Boundaries

21 Administrative Units

Interagency Operations
Coordination Centers located at
Redding and Riverside

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Contract Counties

Los Angeles County
Orange County
Ventura County
Kern County
Santa Barbara County
Marin County

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Cooperative Agreements

CDF provides full-service fire protection through 140 cooperative fire protection agreements:

- 165 *Schedule A Contracts
- 35 of the State's 58 counties have some type of agreement with CDF
- 25 cities
- 31 fire districts
- 34 special districts and service areas and others

**Schedule A (Local Government Pays for CDF Services). Public Resources Code 4142 allows CDF to provide fire protection/emergency services to local governments under contracts.*

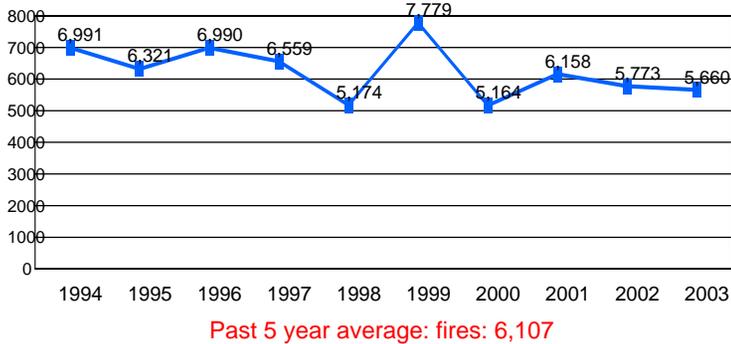
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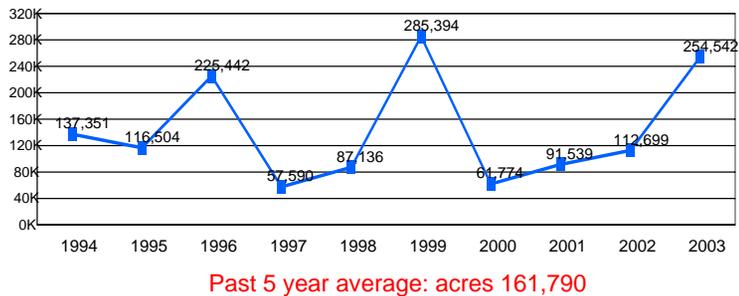


State Fire Threat

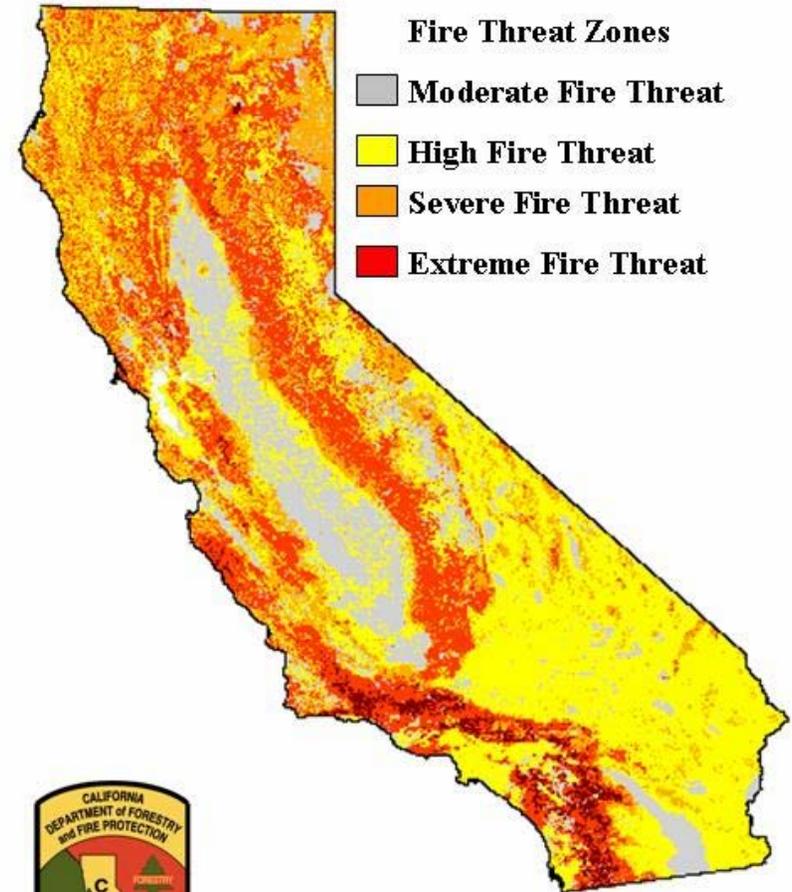
*SRA: Number of Wildfires



*SRA: Number of Acres



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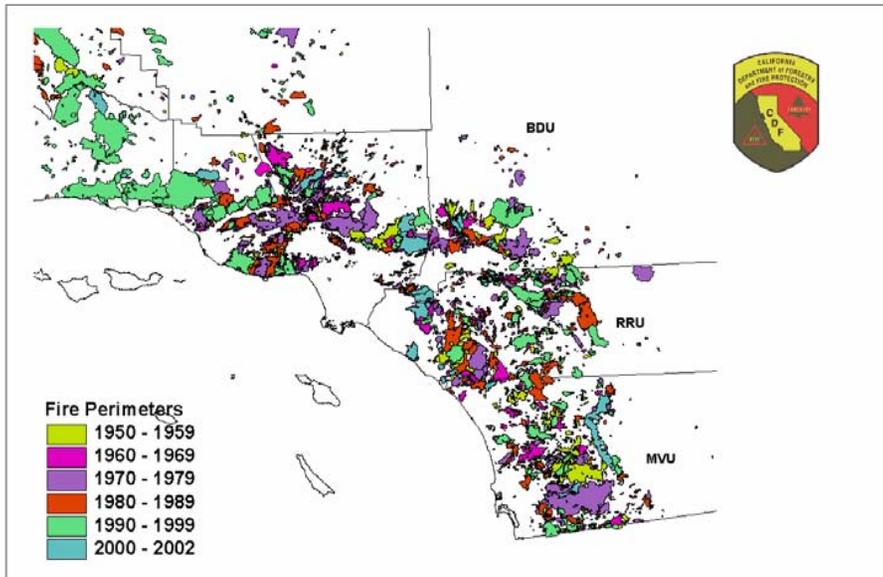
State Responsibility Area (SRA): The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection classifies areas in which the primary financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires is that of the state. These include: lands covered wholly or in part by timber, brush, undergrowth or grass, whether of commercial value or not; lands which protect the soil from erosion, retard run-off of water or accelerated percolation; lands used principally for range or forage purposes; lands not owned by the Federal government; and lands not incorporated. By Board regulations, unless specific circumstances dictate otherwise, lands are removed from SRA when housing densities average more than 3 units per acre over an area of 250 acres. CDF has SRA responsibility for the protection of over 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands.



California's 50 Year Fire History

Southern CA Fire Occurrence

1950 to 2002

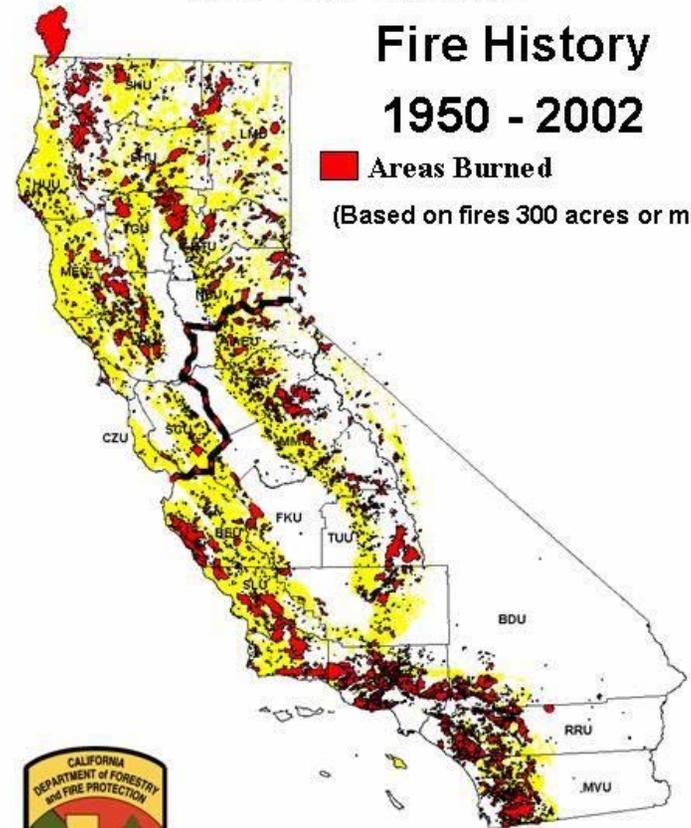


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Fire History 1950 - 2002

 Areas Burned

(Based on fires 300 acres or more)





Fire Season Budget Cycle



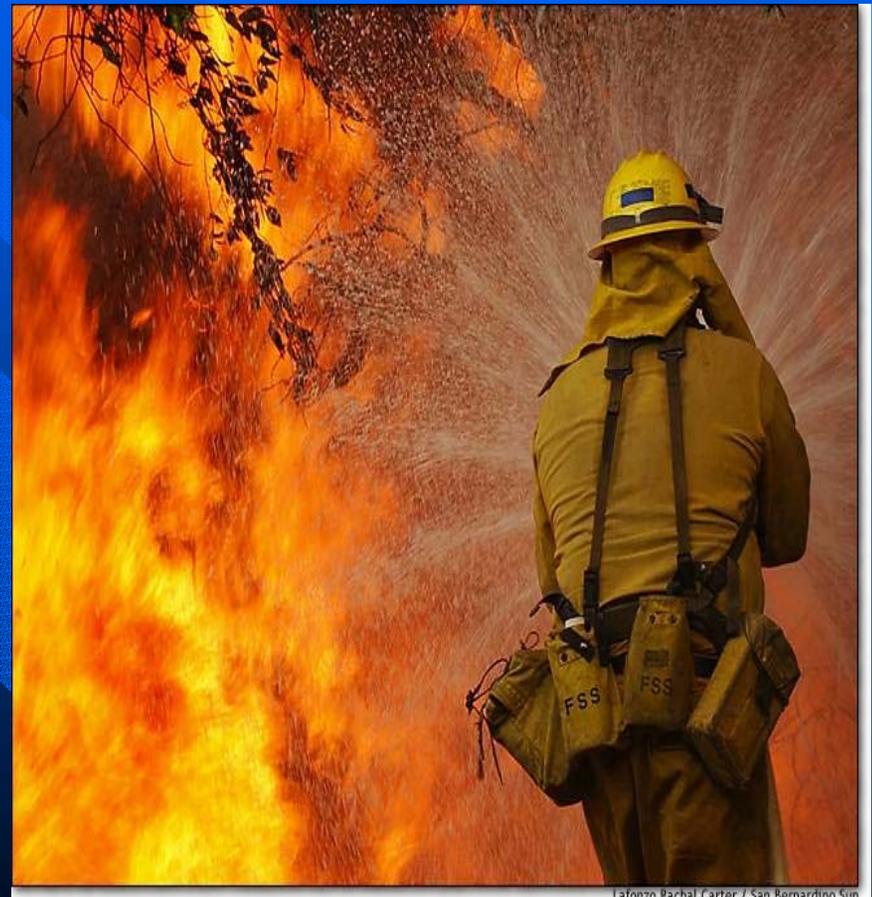


Dept. of Finance Budget Allocations

**CDF engines are staffed based on the
Approved Governor's Budgeted Allocation
Usually between 5 to 8 months**

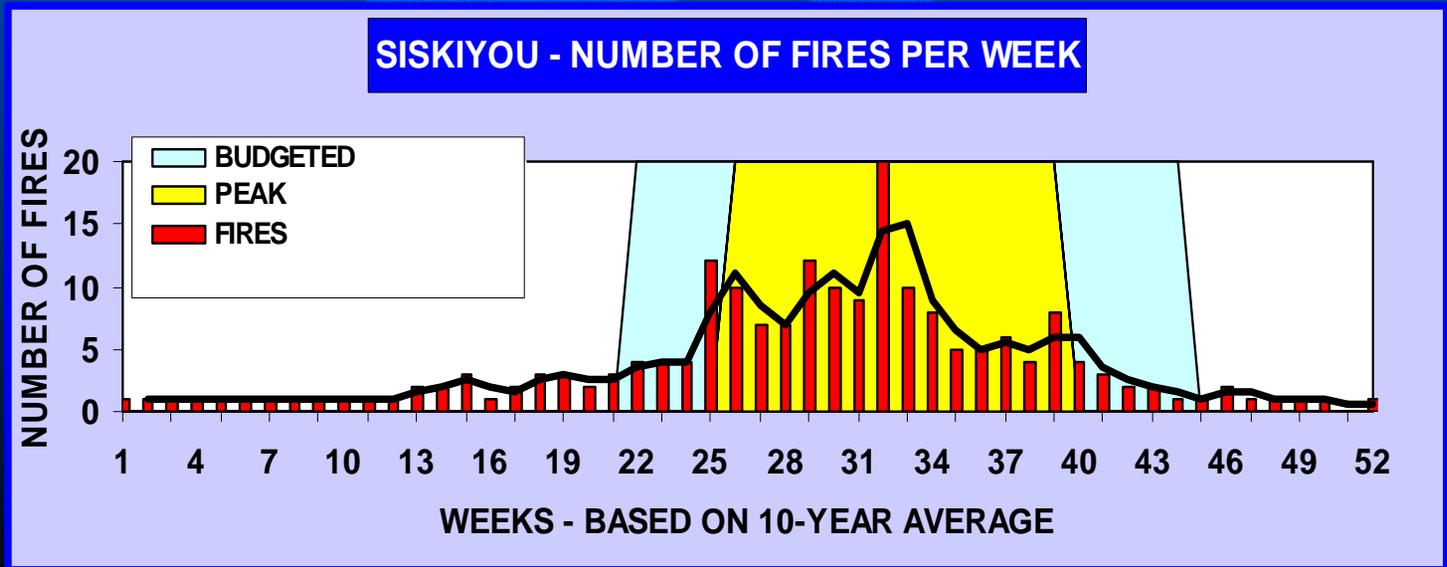
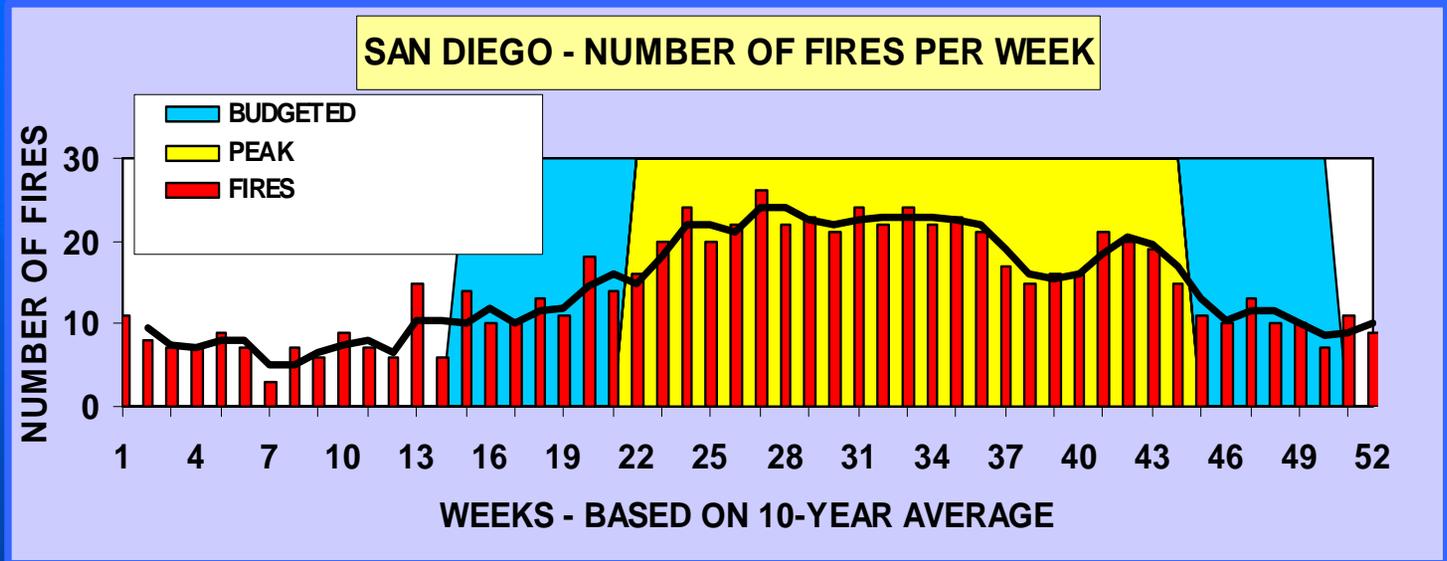
Normal Fire Protection Staffing

- 8 Units are funded for 5 months**
- 10 Units are funded for 6 months**
- 3 Units are funded for 8 months**





Fire Season Budget Cycle Examples





CDF Resources Personnel

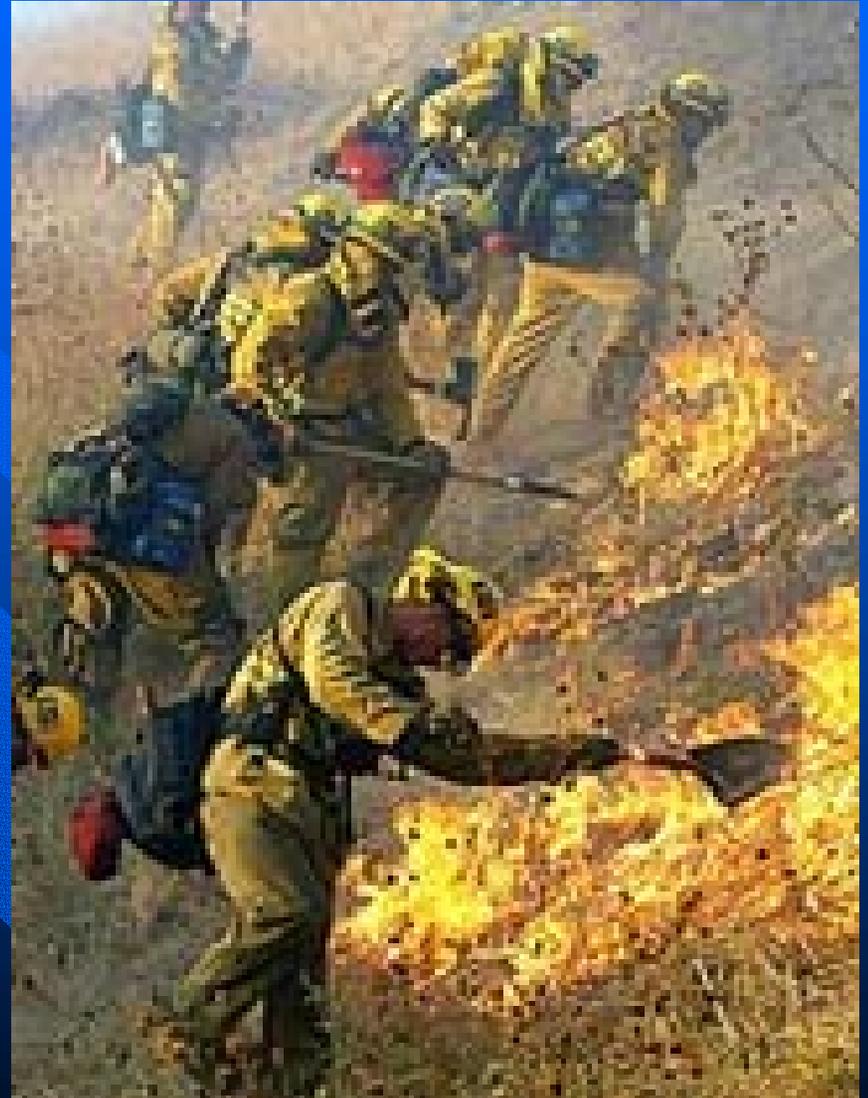
**3800 Full-Time Fire Professionals,
Foresters and Administrative
Personnel**

1400 Seasonal Firefighters

**5600 Local Volunteer Firefighters,
trained and supervised by CDF**

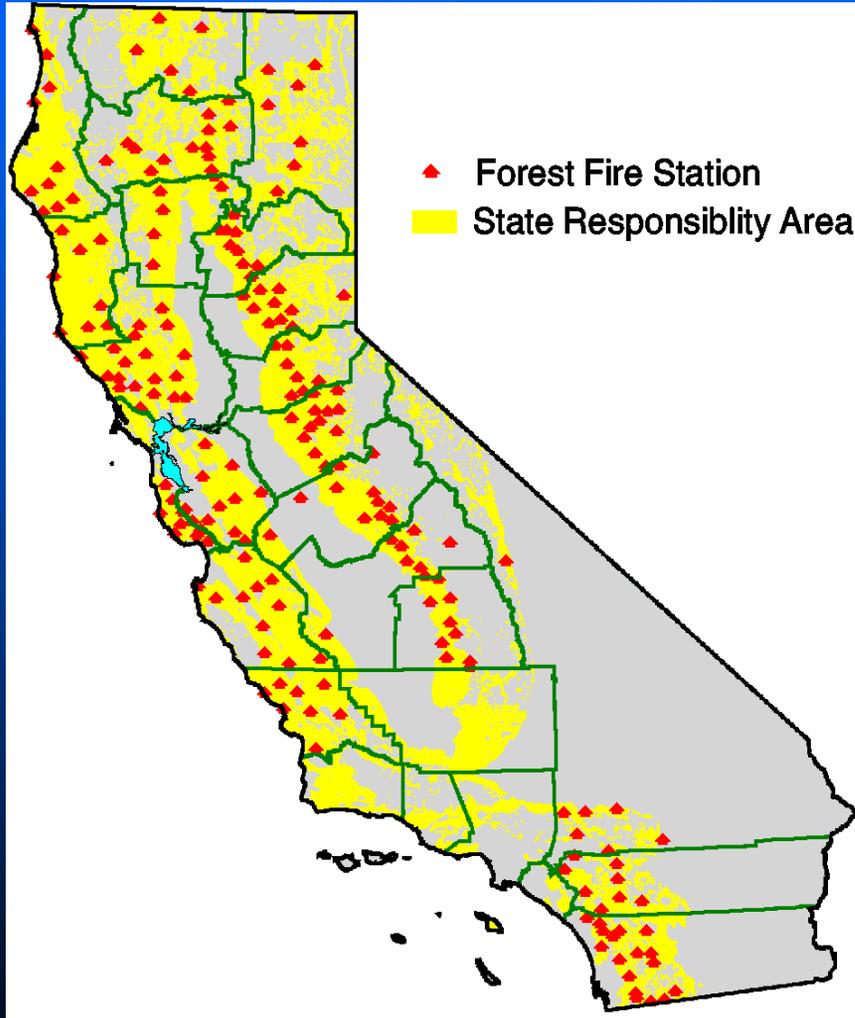
2600 Volunteers in Prevention

**4300 CA. Dept. of Corrections
(CDC) Inmate and CA Youth
Authority (CYA) Ward
Firefighters, trained and
supervised by CDF**





CDF Resources Fire Engines



State Funded:

CDF Fire Stations – 229

CDF Engines – 370

Contract County Engines - 82

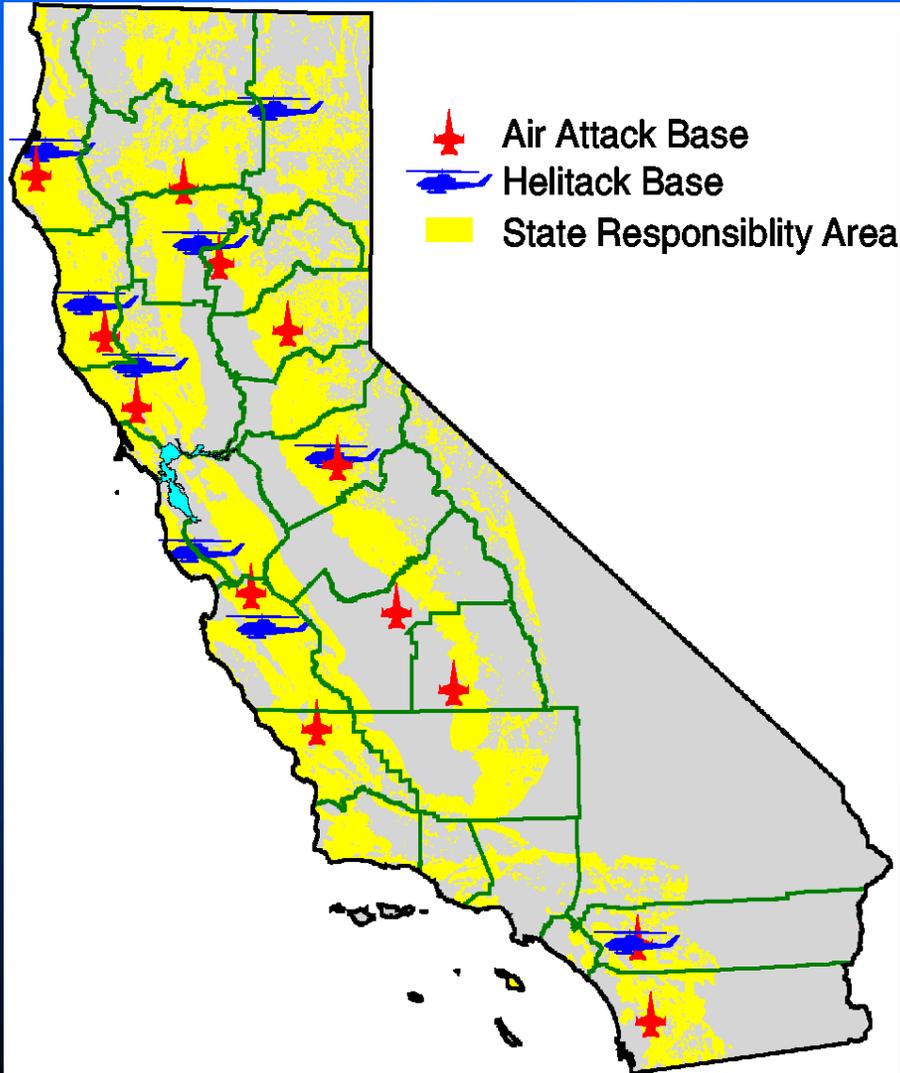
CDF Administered through Local Government Cooperative Agreement:

Local Government Stations – 405

Local Fire Engines – 689



CDF Resources Aircraft



CDF Air Program:

Air Attack Bases – 13

Helicopter Bases – 9

OV-10 Air Tactical Aircraft – 13

Airtankers – 23

Helicopters – 9

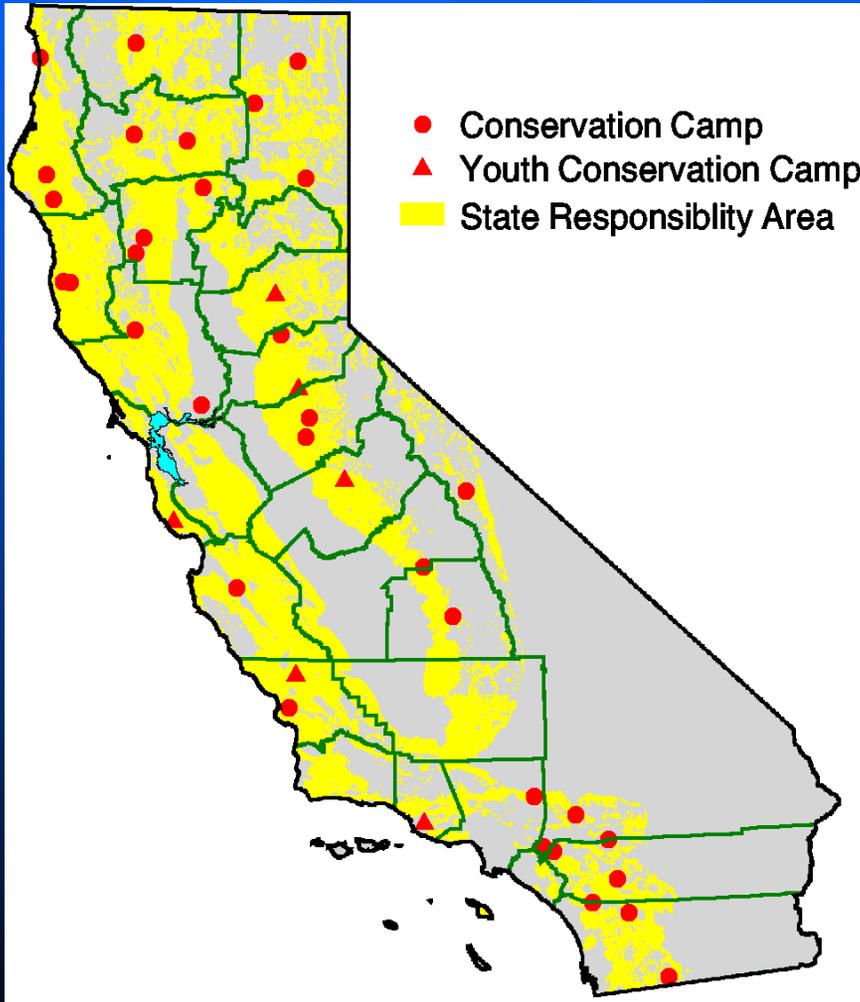
Support Aircraft - 6

Federal Airtankers – 33

Call When Needed (CWN) Helicopters - 70



CDF Fire Crews



In collaboration with the California Department of Corrections and California Youth Authority

CDF operates
Conservation Camps – 41
Fire Crews – 198
Inmates and Wards - 4300



Fire Season 2004



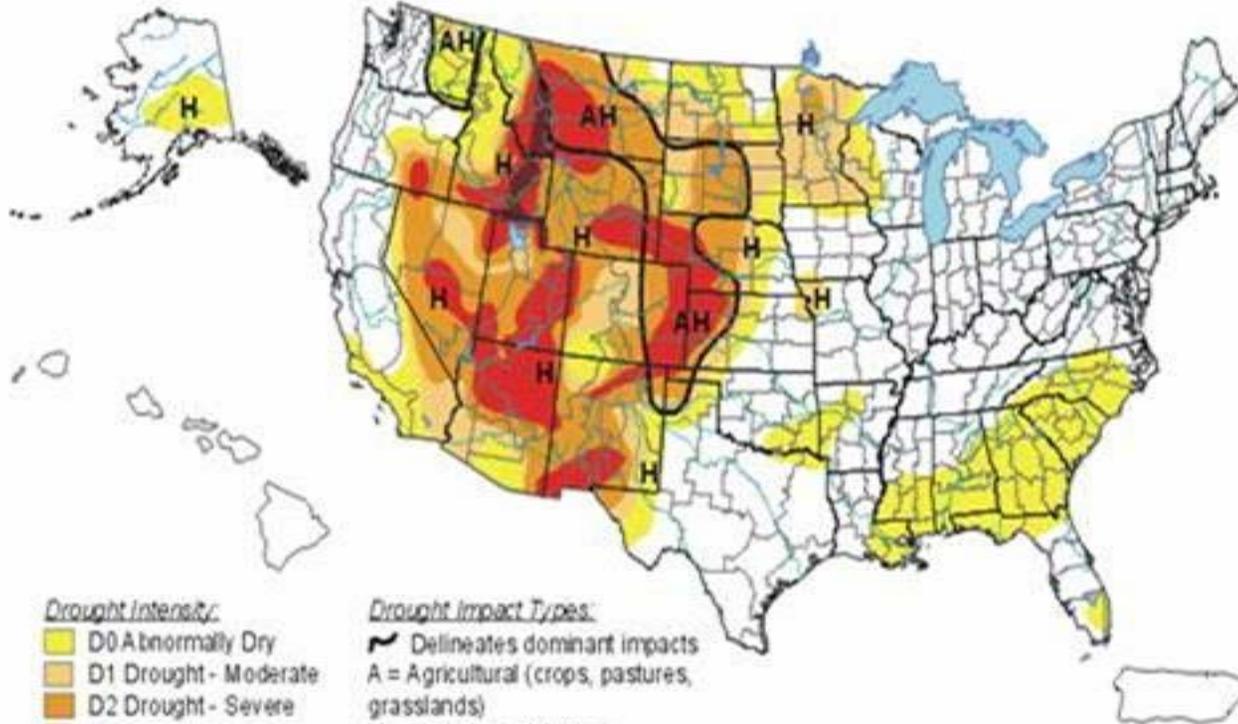


Current Drought Conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor

April 6, 2004

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
- H = Hydrological (water)
- (No type = Both impacts)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



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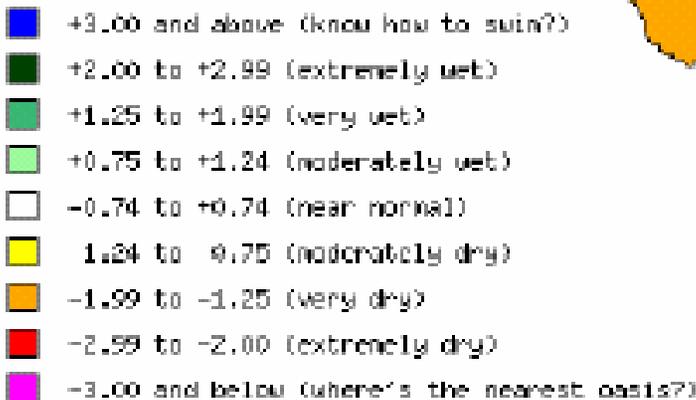
Author: Douglas Le Comte, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

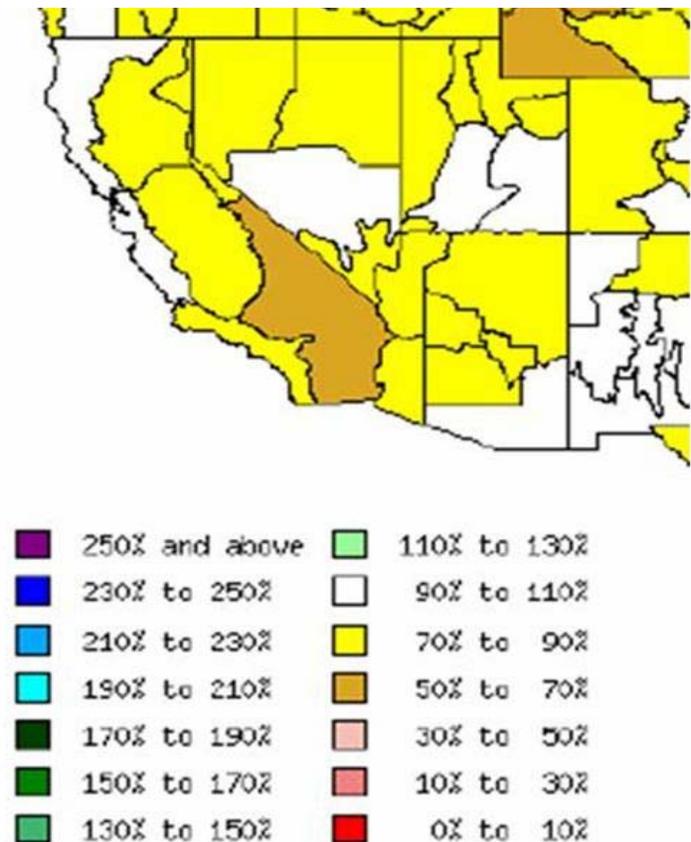


Current Rain Fall and Fuel Moistures

Rain Fall



1,000 Hour Dead Fuel Moistures

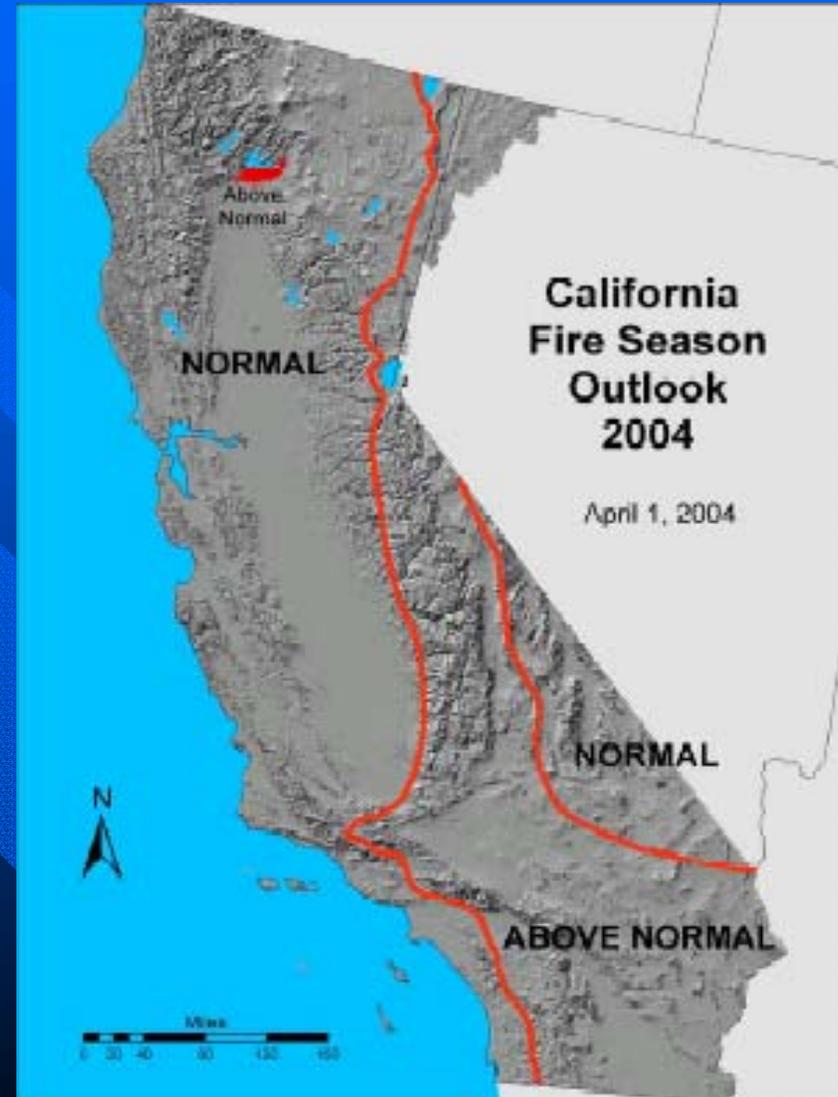




2004 Fire Season Outlook

This chart is based on the assumption that the State will receive normal rainfall in the months of April and May.

Outlook may become more severe if less than normal rainfall occurs.





Burning Conditions



March 25, 2004
Big Bear, San Bernardino National Forest
6500 feet elevation, 350 acres



Burning Conditions



April 10, 2004
West of King City, Monterey County
Prescribed fire 66 acres



Bark Beetle Kill





Bark Beetle Kill

The Problem: Combination of Impacts

- Overstocking due to lack of forest management
 - Now: 400 trees per acre
 - Natural: 40 – 100 trees per acre
- 5 Year Drought
- Weakened trees allow beetle population to explode





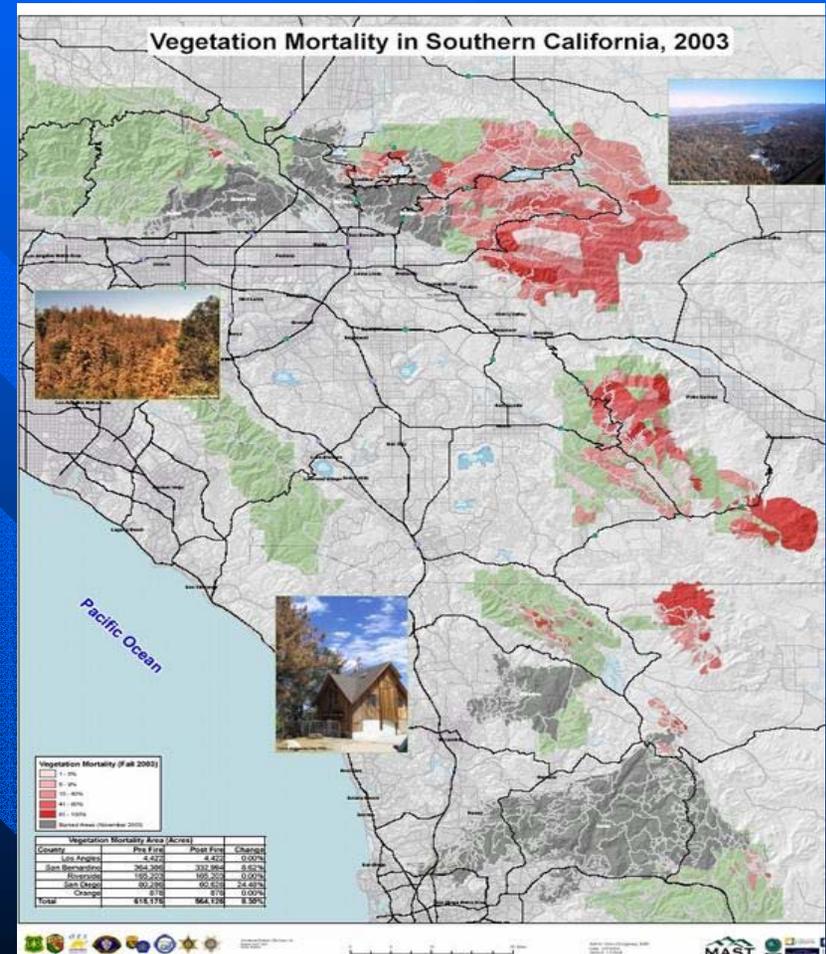
Bark Beetle Impact in Southern California

12.7 million dead trees (of 35.1) in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

As of September 2003:
Total Acres Affected

Federal	429,700
Local	116
Private	141,300
<u>State</u>	<u>39,800</u>

Total (approx.) 610,900 acres





Tree Mortality Conditions

1999 Willow Fire burn area in background (63,000+ acres)



Challenge of Urban Intermix



Interagency Response

Combined Efforts of:

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

United States Forest Service

National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)

Cal Trans

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego

Southern California Edison

San Diego Gas & Electric

Bear Valley Electric and others





The Response



Funding Sources

Federal

Congressional Members Lewis and Feinstein \$ 3.01 million

Other USFS & USDA 49.9 (Omnibus)

State

CDF, CalTrans, Office of Emergency Services: In kind labor & personnel

Local

Assistance to Mountain Area Safety Task Force (MAST), Forest Area Safety Task Force (FAST) and local tree removal programs

Utilities

Southern CA Edison – at least \$359 million estimated



2003 Fire Season





Engine Staffing During Fire Siege

Fire Siege Occurred Outside Peak Engine Staffing Period



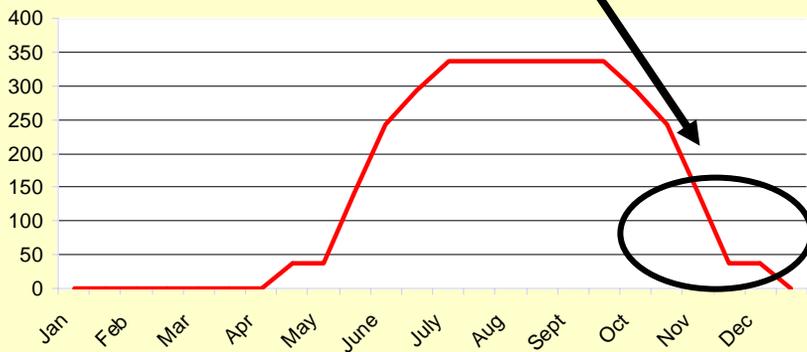
California Fire Siege 2003

October 21 – November 4

- 739,597 Total Acres Burned
- 15,631 Personnel Assigned
- 3,631 Residences Destroyed
- 36 Commercial Bldgs. Destroyed
- 1,169 Other Bldgs. Destroyed
- 24 Fatalities, (Including 1 Firefighter)
- 246 Injuries



Annual Engine Allocation





Executive Response in Past Years

Governor's Emergency Proclamation reinforced fire fighting resources available in the three counties, including assuring that aircraft and fire crews would be immediately available in the event of a fire

Governor's Executive Order to Authorize use of Emergency Fund

Northern California - 2001

Southern California - 2002

Southern California - 2003

Last Year Authorization in Southern California included:

Staffing for 10 additional engines

4 person engine staffing (increased from 3 persons)

1 additional helicopter, based in San Diego

5 additional fire crews

Based on Need:

OES to pre-position additional engines in Southern California

Additional staffing in Southern California CDF Contract Counties



Key Points

- **POTENTIALLY SEVERE FIRE SEASON IS APPROACHING**
 - Statewide, fire season is 45 days ahead of a normal year due to persistent lack of rainfall, elevated temperatures and dry fuels
 - Live fuels are already able to carry fire
- **BARK BEETLE MORTALITY CONTINUES TO EXPAND, BUT INTER-AGENCY EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY**
 - Affected area grew by 100,000 acres in a six-month period in 2003
 - 1/3 of San Bernardino National Forest is dead
 - An active, multi-agency response is underway to remove dead trees (CDF, USFS, Edison et al).
- **THERE ARE CONTINUING CHALLENGES**
 - Executive Order D-69-03 expires at end of 2003 fire season
 - “Match” requirements on Federal funds limit the State’s ability to utilize them
 - Markets for Utilization of cut trees are still young and developing (wood products, biomass)
 - Closures of Fire Crew Camps (e.g. CDC, CYA, CCC)
 - Staff for administering new, multi-million dollar grant programs