

GLOSSARY

ARSON – To unlawfully and intentionally damage, or attempt to damage, any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device.

CAMPFIRE – Outside fire used for cooking, warmth, lighting, ceremonial or aesthetic purposes.

CONTRACT COUNTIES – PRC §4133 and Section 55607 of the Government Code permit the CAL FIRE Director to contract with counties for protection of State Responsibility Area (SRA). In California, CAL FIRE contracts with six counties to provide fire-protection and prevention services in SRA. The counties of Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, Santa Barbara and Ventura are contract counties.

DEBRIS BURNING – Outside fire for vegetation, waste, or trash disposal.

DIRECT PROTECTION AREA (DPA) – The area for which a particular fire protection organization has the primary responsibility by law or contract for attacking an uncontrolled fire and directing the suppression activities.

EQUIPMENT USE – Fire ignited by the use or failure of mechanical or electrical equipment. Does not include fire ignited by powerlines.

FOREST FIRE – A fire burning uncontrolled on land covered entirely or in part by timber, brush, grass, grain or other flammable vegetation.

LIGHTNING – Fire ignited by lightning discharge.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT – A fire department, especially of a municipal government, whose purpose is preventing and extinguishing fires.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACT – PRC §4142 allows CAL FIRE to contract with local governments to provide fire protection and emergency services through the administration of 146 cooperative fire protection agreements in 35 of the State's 58 counties, 25 cities, 31 fire districts and 34 other special districts and service areas.

MISCELLANEOUS – Fire ignited by events or activities that are not classified as arson, campfire, debris burning, equipment use, lightning, playing with fire, powerline, railroad, smoking, vehicle, or undetermined.

OUTBUILDING – A building that is separate from a main building and located on the same property.

PLAYING WITH FIRE (P-W-F) – Fire ignited unintentionally by children while playing or experimenting with fire or fire-causing devices.

POWERLINE – Fire ignited by electrical power distribution or transmission.

RAILROAD – Fire ignited by rail transport vehicles or fire ignited on or near railroad right-of-way.

SMOKING – Fires ignited by smoking tobacco or other smoking material; includes matches, lighters, or other heat sources used in smoking.

STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA (SRA) – Areas of the State in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires has been determined by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, to be primarily the responsibility of the State, PRC §4102.

STRUCTURE – An assembly of materials forming a construction for occupancy or use to serve a specific purpose, includes enclosed building, fixed portable building or mobile home.

UNCONTROLLED FIRE – Any fire which threatens to destroy life, property, or resources and either: (1) is unattended by any person; (2) is attended by persons unable to prevent its unrestricted spread; and (3) is burning with such velocity or intensity that it could not be readily controlled with ordinary tools available to persons at the fire scene.

UNDETERMINED – A fire that has been investigated or is under investigation and has insufficient information to classify further or a fire that has not yet been investigated.

VEHICLE – Fire ignited by mobile property which include: Passenger automobile, bus, school bus, off road recreational, motor home, travel trailer, camping trailer, mobile home or office designed to be towed, motorcycle or scooter.

WILDFIRE – Any uncontrolled fire spreading through vegetative fuels that threatens to destroy life, property, or resources, PRC §4103 and 4104.

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE – A geographical area identified by the State as a “Fire Hazard Severity Zone” in accordance with the PRC §4201 through 4204 and Government Code §51175 through 51189, or other areas designed to be at a significant risk from wildfires.