

FOREWORD

WILDFIRE ACTIVITY STATISTICS

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), under the direction of the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, provides the annual Wildfire Activity Statistics report. Although it contains other information, this report is primarily a statistical record of wildfire incidents responded to by CAL FIRE personnel and resources, performing the State/CAL FIRE mission, using State funding within CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area (DPA).

The existing overall fire protection system involving CAL FIRE and California as a whole is rather complex. A number of technical terms are utilized and the use of fire statistics typically presupposes some understanding of the overall framework. A description of this framework can be found at (<http://www.fire.ca.gov/about/about.php>); and in the Glossary of terms at the end of this document.

The first Forest Fire Summary (RED BOOK) was published in 1943, and has continued to this date. Prior to 1989, data and statistics were tabulated manually; today, statistics are derived from an automated database. CAL FIRE began electronically entering incident data into the Emergency Activity Reporting System (EARS) on July 1, 1989. Starting at the end of 2007, CAL FIRE began reporting incidents using a web-based subscription service called California All Incident Reporting System (CAIRS). This data is imported into the CAIRS database by CAL FIRE staff and the data is uploaded quarterly to the National Database maintained by the United States Fire Administration (USFA). **Due to the changes in data collection, methods, and systems over the years, information may not always be comparable and data may be of differing accuracy or completeness.**

Throughout this report, the statistics are displayed by **who** provides the wildfire protection. Forces include those from CAL FIRE employees working under a local government contract, CAL FIRE personnel and resources using State funding, Contract County, and federal firefighters. The second part of the statistical reporting is **where** the protection is provided. Areas are categorized as State Responsibility Area (SRA) or DPA.

SRA is State and privately-owned forest, watershed, and rangeland for which the primary financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing wildfires rests with the State (Map 1).

The term "Direct Protection Area" is applied to indicate when a particular fire protection organization has the primary responsibility for responding to an uncontrolled fire and for directing the suppression activity. Thus, in addition to lands in SRA, CAL FIRE may have "direct protection" responsibility on lands in federal jurisdiction. At the same time, federal agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service, may have "direct protection" responsibility for lands in SRA. The lands in SRA and federal areas for which CAL FIRE has "direct protection" responsibility for fire protection responses are depicted on Map 2.

The State contracts with six counties to provide protection of SRA within their boundaries. These counties [Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, Santa Barbara, and Ventura] are referred to as Contract Counties.

CAL FIRE provides fire protection services to many California citizens through the administration of 146 cooperative fire protection agreements in 35 of the State's 58 counties, 25 cities and 65 districts. Wildfire statistics associated with incidents where local government reimburses CAL FIRE for services are displayed in Table 1.

This report also includes a statewide summary of California wildfires and a listing of wildfires over three hundred acres for all wildfire agencies (Table 5). The statistical information in this report is gathered from data in the previously defined CAIRS and Incident Status Summaries (ICS-209) on the National Fire and Aviation Management (FAMWEB) website <http://fam.nwcg.gov/fam-web/>.

Additional Wildfire Activity Statistics for previous years can be found at the following website:

http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_protection/fire_protection_fire_info_redbooks.php