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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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## Tree Mortality Task Force Regulations Working Group Minutes

October 7, 2016

9:00 to 11:00AM

Conference Call Number (916) 324-2474

- I. Regulations Working Group Update/Agenda Additions
- II. Action Item Discussion
  - **Insurance: Background/Update:**
    - In April 2016, the RWG completed Home/Residential Insurance and Wildfire FAQs. The document provided information to homeowners on insurance cancellations, nonrenewal or declines to issue insurance due to wildfire risk. The document also provides information on the California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan and contact information should property owners believe their insurance policy was improperly cancelled, nonrenewed or declined.
    - September 15, 2016, Meeting - CAL FIRE/CDI/FAIR Plan/OPR/Counties conduct meeting to further discuss concerns regarding insurers' use of fire risk models. Interest was expressed to engage ISO Verisk in a meeting to discuss use of the models and the concern that certain parameters such as local fuel reduction efforts are not included into the models.
    - October 4, 2016, CAL FIRE Internal Insurance Meeting - Cal Fire conducted an internal insurance meeting with their Fire and Resource Assessment Program to discuss past involvement with Verisk and the ISO Public Protection Classification (PPC) and the Verisk Insurance Solutions' Fireline models. The interest is to develop a letter that will request Verisk/ISO 1) consider how common parameters used by CAL FIRE to evaluate fire risk are represented in the models and 2) if those parameters are not being represented in the models, clarification on why they are not included. The hope is to gain a better understanding of the models and how they are used. During the CAL FIRE meeting the following was discussed:
      1. Brief History and Status of current TMTF Insurance Issues
      2. PPC-Fire Department, Water Resources, Emergency Communication, Community Risk Reduction
      3. Available CAL FIRE Data: Need to discuss the various GIS data and other data available that might be helpful to the ISO models.



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4. Satellite Imagery vs fuel layers and failure to recognize surface and ladder fuel reduction, Defensible Space clearing.

### **General Notes/Information on Fireline and PPC:**

Fireline evaluates wildfire risk of a given property and produces an overall wildfire hazard score for a property based on the individual risk factors of fuel, slope, and road access, based on analysis from multiple data sources such as satellite data, topographical and road network data. The score ranges from 0 to 30, classified as negligible (0), low (1), moderate (2-3), high (4-12), and extreme (13-30), and can assist companies in evaluating wildfire specific risk.

- Fuel rating - looks at distribution of fuels about 1/4 mi around property. This can change due to fuel changes - e.g., previous fires, vegetation (re)growth, development etc., as well as road mapping changes.
- Access rating can change due to fuel changes and road mapping changes
- Slope rating can change due to road mapping changes

Special Hazard Interface Area (SHIA) – separate component of Fireline scoring tool for Southern California. Fireline addresses flammable brush/veg, access to property, slope - address specific - how quickly a fire can spread. Score from 0 - 30. SHIA represents scientific prediction of wind patterns throughout CA (Santa Ana winds) – when winds might occur, time of year, which direction it might blow – if downwind of wildfire area, winds could blow burning embers towards home, even if not in wildfire area.

In contrast, Public Protection Classification (PPC) evaluates a community's overall capability to prevent and suppress structure fires, not specifically wildfires. In evaluating a specific fire district, emergency communication systems, the fire department capabilities, water supply, and a community's efforts such as fire prevention code adoption and enforcement, public fire safety education, and fire investigation are all evaluated.

- **Storage Sites**
  - List Updates-The RWG have identified a total of 80 potential storage sites within the Counties. Currently, 13 of these sites are active. Site location information was provided to the Mapping and Monitoring group. The site list will continue to be updated as sites are created or closed.
  - Mariposa is working with BLM in hopes of establishing sites on BLM lands. The term *Temporary Sorting and Debris Reduction Operation* is being used in-lieu of storage site to indicate the material will only be stored on a temporary basis. This helps elevate permitting constraints involved with long term use.
  - Mariposa will circulate information to the RWG describing the current process and model for temporary storage sites being used by Philip/Jordan and PG&E.



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The information describes site operations such as sorting for commercial vs noncommercial uses.

- **Air Quality:**
  - Governor's ACI Letter of Exemption - The RWG has submitted the letter to the Governor's Office. The letter will request US EPA to authorize emergency use of air curtain incinerators without a Title V permit. Because of fire season, none of the air curtain incinerators have been used beyond testing, but CAL FIRE hopes to begin use soon. Once use begins, the letter to EPA asking to continue emergency use must be sent within 8 weeks (just sending the letter triggers an ability to continue use for another 8 weeks without a permit). To continue use for more than 16 weeks without a permit requires EPA authorization.
  
- **Other**
  - Mariposa is working on an issue involving a need to clarify which trees the local utility, PG&E, is responsible to remove versus trees the residents are responsible to remove. There is an interest to have the utilities meet with landowners prior to entering an area and briefly explain what trees are intended to be removed. PG&E will be contacted for more information.
  - CAL FIRE has developed a draft document titled "*Issues with the Movement of Wood Material from the Drought Induces Bark Beetle Epidemic*". The document was developed in response to concerns surrounding debris removal and the potential to spread or increase bark beetle impacts. The draft will be circulated to the RWG and a brief summary included into the Tree Removal Guidelines with a link to the document.

III. Next working group call: Friday 10/21 9:00-11:00.  
Next TMTF Meeting 10/10, 1:00-3:00