



CAL FIRE - OSFM

Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation

The Office of the State Fire Marshal – Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division plays a critical role in working with federal, state, and local agencies, private nonprofits, and citizens to build safer communities and harden existing communities from the devastating effects of wildfire. The tasks involve working with stakeholders on wildfire planning to reduce or eliminate fire hazards and risks, modifying the environment through hazardous fuel reduction projects, conducting fire hazard compliance inspections, providing wildfire education, and providing grant opportunities for wildfire prevention efforts.

The Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division encompasses the following program areas:

- *Land Use Planning:* Assists 56 counties in the State Responsibility Area and 189 cities with lands designated as very high fire hazard severity zones in the Local Responsibility Area with fire hazard planning to address the unreasonable risk from wildfire. This program also works with the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to review subdivisions more than 30 dwelling units in these wildfire prone areas built without secondary emergency egress to improve both public evacuations and emergency access.
- *Pre-Fire Planning:* The California Fire Plan establishes a framework for reducing the risks associated with wildfire. By placing the emphasis on what needs to be done long before a fire starts, the fire plan strives to reduce firefighting costs and property losses, increase firefighter safety, and enhance ecosystem health. The program works on fire hazard severity zones, state responsibility area, fuel reduction projects, and wildfire mapping.
- *Wildfire Risk Reduction:* Strives to reduce or eliminate hazards and risks, change the environment by removing or reducing heat sources, and modifying or reducing ignitable fuels. The program tasks consist of defensible space, home hardening, damage inspection, burn permits, and utility caused wildfire mitigation.
- *California Incident Data and Statistics:* A statewide emergency incident data collection program that analyzes and distributes statistical information reported by fire departments throughout the state. The collected data is then analyzed and compiled into an annual report available to all fire officials and the public and is reported to the US Fire Administration through the National Fire Incident Reporting System.
- *Wildfire Prevention Grants:* Provide grant opportunities for fire prevention efforts in and near fire threatened communities that focus on increasing the protection of people, structures, and communities. This enables government entities and nonprofit organizations like fire safe councils to fund activities that include hazardous fuel reduction, and wildfire prevention education and planning.
- *Utility Wildfire Mitigation:* Is focused on the prevention of utility powerline caused fires. The program maintains the Powerline Fire Prevention Field Guide and assists annually in the review of the Wildfire Mitigation Plans of the investor-owned utilities to ensure electrical corporations are constructing, maintaining, and operating its electrical lines and equipment in a manner that will minimize the risks of catastrophic wildfires.

