

SUPPORTING AGENCIES

7804

(July 2015)

CAL FIRE utilizes numerous Local, State, and Federal agencies to assist with the development of fire business decisions and support. These agencies offer a wide array of services and assistance at the Unit, Region, and State level.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (NOAA)

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The National Weather Service provides various products to CAL FIRE on a year round basis. These products include Fire Weather Planning Forecasts (FWF), Fire Weather Watches, Red Flag Warnings, Spot Weather Forecasts, Emergency Command Center Dispatch Area Forecasts (ECCDA), and Area Forecast Discussions. The National Weather Service Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) covering California are Medford, Eureka, Reno, Sacramento, Monterey, Hanford, Oxnard, Las Vegas, San Diego, and Phoenix. The Western Region Fire Weather Page can be found at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/firewx/main.php> . From this page you can select the local WFO for the area of interest.

GACC PREDICTIVE SERVICES UNIT

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The Predictive Services Unit (PSU) is an organizational concept incorporated at the Geographic and National Level Coordination Centers. Predictive Services is the assimilation of the Fire Intelligence Section and the Fire Weather Program at these levels to produce various interrelated products. At the Northern and Southern California Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACC), these two sections will continue to produce their long-standing products, but will collaboratively work together as the Predictive Services Group producing daily, weekly, monthly, and seasonal Fire Weather / Fire Danger Outlook products.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR – BLM – WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

7804.3

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[\(See Wildland Fire Management Information\)](#)

The BLM is the federal agency that manages the National RAWS Program and the Wildland Fire Management Information (WFMI) data access website. This includes the National Lightning Detection System and WFMI Weather RAWS page.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES – PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE (PSCO)

7804.4

(July 2015)

The Office of Emergency Services - Public Safety Communications Office provides communications solutions to public safety agencies throughout California. Public Safety Communications ensures that FCC licensing requirements are met for all of our fixed and portable RAWS.

STORM PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA

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(July 2015)

[\(See Storm Prediction Center\)](#)

The Storm Prediction Center provides timely and accurate forecasts and watches for severe thunderstorms and tornadoes over the contiguous United States.

WESTERN REGIONAL CLIMATE CENTER

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(July 2015)

[\(See Western Regional Climate Center\)](#)

The Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) is one of six regional climate centers in the United States. The regional climate center program is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Specific oversight is provided by the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) of the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS).

WRCC acts as a repository for historical climate data and information. It disseminates high quality climate data and information pertaining to the western United States and engages in applied research related to climate issues. All of CAL FIRE's RAWS data is archived at the WRCC.

The WRCC performs / provides several distinct functions and evaluations:

- Impacts of climate variability in the western United States
- Relations of El Nino/Southern Oscillation to Western Climate
- Climatic trends/fluctuations in the West
- Quality control of western databases
- Climate extremes and drought monitoring

The WRCC is a good source of historical climate data for filling in missing weather observations outside of the WIMS editing period.

FEDERAL WILDLAND FIRE AGENCIES

7804.7

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There are numerous Federal wildland fire agencies that provide interagency support products and fire environment data. CAL FIRE works closely with these agencies via several contractual agreements. These agencies include United States Forest Service (USFS), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and National Park Service (NPS).

CONTRACT COUNTIES 7804.8

(July 2015)

CAL FIRE is responsible for fire protection within State Responsibility Areas (SRA). SRA is found in 56 of California's 58 counties and totals more than 31 million acres. In most cases SRA is protected directly by CAL FIRE. However, SRA fire protection is provided by several counties under contract with CAL FIRE. Known as "Contract Counties", they protect 3.4 million acres of SRA. These counties include Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Orange, Santa Barbara, and Ventura.

CAL FIRE works closely with the six California Contract Counties to support their RAWs and integrate their fire danger planning with CAL FIRE's mission.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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(July 2015)

CAL FIRE has a very close working relationship with local government agencies. In relation to fire danger planning, local jurisdictions have a highly vested interest in the decision process.

Geopolitical boundaries, response areas, dispatch zones, and local government policies are some of the critical items that should be considered with fire danger planning. Local government policy and decision makers need to be consulted early and regularly throughout the planning process.

[\(see Next Section\)](#)

[\(see Handbook Table of Contents\)](#)

[\(see Forms and Form Samples\)](#)