

## CHAPTER 8680 - CDF ADMINISTRATIVE MAPS

(1987)

### SECTION, TOWNSHIP, AND RANGE

8681

(1987)

You will notice that administrative maps are divided into large squares. These are further divided into smaller squares. Topographic maps also show these divisions.

The large squares are called townships, and they have a two-part designation similar to longitude and latitude. The north-south designator is called township, and the east-west designator is called range.

Each township is a six-mile by six-mile square. This square is divided into 36 sections, each one mile square, or 640 acres. Exceptions are made where the original surveys were in error. In that case, the sections may be more or less than the standard square mile (see [Section Enlargement](#)).

Each section has a specific location and is identified by a number from 1 to 36.

Imagine that the sample [Administrative Map](#) is the administrative map at your lookout. The square outlined at the intersection of Township 20 North, Range 16 West is shown enlarged in [Township Enlargement](#). This also shows the typical numbering pattern for each township. You can see that the section numbered 29 in [Township Enlargement](#) corresponds to the small square outlined within Township 20 North, Range 16 West in [Administrative Map](#).

The correct way to refer to this location is "Section 29, Township 20 North, Range 16 West." Usually though, you will hear a shorthand version such as "Section 29, 20 North, 16 West" or simply "29, 20 and 16." Learn to use the shorter versions yourself since everyone understands them, but be sure to always get the three numbers in the PROPER SEQUENCE. The first number is always the section, the second is the township, and the third is the range.

Generally, you won't have to stop and figure out the section, township, and range (or "legal") when you are reporting a smoke. You will, however, have to understand them so that when locations for fixed source smokes or control burns are given to you by others, you can mark them on your maps.

Locating these references is made easier by boldly marking the outlines of each township on your map and writing the township/range numbers in the center of each square, such as 20N, and 16W. Also be sure that all of the sections are numbered.

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