

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS

9002

(No. 4, March 1991)

The fire prevention program accomplishes its goals through the four prevention components that balance program efforts and integrate individual activities to effectively address statewide, regional and, most importantly, local needs. The traditional fire prevention components used in unit fire prevention planning are information/education, engineering, law enforcement, and volunteerism.

## INFORMATION/EDUCATION

9002.1

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The fire prevention information/education component informs, educates, and enlists the aid of the public in the safe use of fire, risk agents, and equipment in the wild lands. Activities that help achieve this objective are as follows:

- **School programs** encourage children to form positive fire prevention attitudes ([Chapter 9110](#)).
- **Group programs** aimed at various general and special interest groups achieve fire safety through public awareness ([Chapter 9210](#)).
- **Exhibits and displays** such as fairs, parades, and shows, provide fire safety messages to the public ([Chapter 9160](#)).
- **The CDF Multi-Media Fire Prevention Program** educates the public in safe fire use and broadens awareness of many facets of fire prevention ([Chapter 9132](#)).
- **The Red Flag Alert Program** uses available CDF forces, cooperating fire agencies, citizen groups, and the news media to inform the public of high fire danger, the potential for a major wildfire and the need to be aware of and exercise fire safe practices during these periods ([Chapter 9010](#)).
- **Coins for Conservation** contributions supplement regularly budgeted funds in fire prevention education ([Chapter 9020](#)).
- **Signs, posters, and printed material** present a wide range of prevention messages and inform the public of acceptable and prohibited activities ([Chapter 9140](#)).
- **Cooperative fire prevention programs** reduce the incidence of wildfire through education and awareness programs ([Chapter 9170](#)).
- **Fire Prevention Hazard and Risk Inventory and Action Program** provides an inventory of existing potential fire hazards and risks and data on fire prevention information/education activities ([Chapter 9180](#)).

## FIRE PREVENTION ENGINEERING

9002.2

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Fire prevention engineering processes reduce or eliminate fire hazards and risks by changing the environment by: 1) removing or reducing the heat source, 2) modifying or reducing the fuels, 3) modifying the act or omission allowing the heat source to contact ignitable fuels.

The proper application of civil, mechanical, electrical, chemical and industrial engineering techniques can reduce the number of ignitions caused by hazardous conditions or operations. Also, fire prevention engineering combines ignition management and fire hazard and risk reduction through fuel modification, vegetation management and hazard reduction activities carried out by unit fire prevention staff, VMP staff, and fire control personnel. The unit fire prevention plan should list procedures for carrying out these activities.

- **Fire safe/land use planning** minimizes the loss of life, structures, and resources from uncontrolled wild fires by incorporating minimum fire safety standards into all new development occurring in the SRA, creating defensible space around developments, and eliminating disastrous fuel build-ups thorough integration of fire safe/land use planning activities and the unit vegetation management projects ([Chapter 9040](#)).
- **Unit burn permit administration** activities provide an opportunity for the public to enhance their knowledge of fire safety and fire laws while preventing unwanted fires through compliance with minimum fire safety standards relating to burning of flammable material (Chapter 9205).
- **Cooperative inspection sticker and notice of violation** activities provide visibility to the public and resource protection agencies to maximize the beneficial effect of the fire prevention inspection program (Chapter 9220 and 9211).
- **Structure and premises inspection** activities prevent fires originating in structures from spreading to forested areas and also minimize the chance of a forest fire entering into populated areas, destroying improved property, and endangering human life (Chapter 9230).
- **Hazard reduction for railroads, roadsides, and powerlines** should specify minimum fire safety standards as a part of each unit fire prevention plan (Chapter 9240).
- **Recreation area inspections** obtain compliance with fire laws and ordinances and develop good fire prevention attitudes (Chapter 9250).
- **Industrial operations and construction projects**, depending on size and complexity, require planned fire prevention inspections activities aimed at obtaining compliance with fire laws (Chapter 9260).

- **Mechanical equipment** used on SRA must comply with fire prevention laws designed to reduce or eliminate the risk of fire. Unit fire prevention plans need to address this particular problem to prevent unwanted ignitions resulting from the operation of mechanical equipment (Chapter 9270).
- **Solid waste facilities**, located in SRA, are inspected to insure compliance with minimum fire safety standards listed in the Public Resources Code (Chapter 9280).

CDF has the responsibility to work with all utilities, railroads, and other businesses and organizations in an attempt to reduce fire hazards and risks through fire prevention, presuppression, and suppression plans (chapter 9290).

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**9002.3**

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Civil and criminal law enforcement practices and procedures are an integral part of any prevention and deterrent program. The department will apply these practices statewide, uniformly and equitably, under the guidelines set forth by the Director.

Unit fire prevention plans should list procedures for implementing the following elements of the law enforcement component (H. B. 9400):

- Initial and follow-up fire cause investigations determine point-of-origin, cause, and identities of responsible persons and witnesses.
- Court appearances on civil/criminal matters protect the state's interest whether the state is a party of not.
- Resolution of adverse damage claims, including investigations, writing, reviewing, or processing reports, and other related tasks.
- Cost collection procedures for the recovery of the cost of suppression from the party responsible for the fire under civil statutes, negotiating the amount of payment, and ensuring timely repayment.
- Enforcement of laws, ordinances and regulations other than forest and fire laws.

## **VOLUNTEERS IN PREVENTION**

**9002.4**

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CDF, under the authority of Government Code Chapter 8.5, will use individual citizens and public service groups to assist CDF in the prevention of ignition and spread of unwanted, human-caused fires with emphasis upon the prevention of large and damaging fires. Unit fire prevention plans should provide for the integration of VIPs into the information/education, engineering, enforcement, and fire safe/land use planning components of their prevention efforts (Chapter 9030).

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