

ORIENTATION

9400

(No.28 November 2016)

The Law Enforcement Policy Handbook provides information, policy and procedural instructions. Information and instructions in this handbook guide employees in their daily work.

This policy shall provide the framework for providing innovative, contemporary and effective enforcement, instilling excellence within the Law Enforcement Program consistent with the strategic objectives of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

LAW ENFORCEMENT MISSION STATEMENT

9401

(No.28 November 2016)

The mission of CAL FIRE's Law Enforcement is to protect the natural resources of California, through preventative measures, by enforcing the forest and fire laws in partnership with the community and allied agencies to provide the highest level of safety, service, and security to the citizens.

LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY

9401.1

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Consistent with the Department's mission and vision, it is the Department's policy to pursue vigorously the prompt and positive enforcement of the forest and fire laws, and other specified or related laws and regulations applying to fire protection, fire prevention, pest control, and forest and range protection and enhancement.

Aggressive and prompt enforcement action is expected to prevent proliferated and aggravated problems and to develop public confidence in the Department's administration of the forest and fire laws.

PRIMARY LAW ENFORCEMENT OBJECTIVES

9401.2

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- Administer enforcement to achieve the best possible compliance, using available Department resources and making full use of applicable laws and regulations.
- Determine ignition sources to assist in establishing and prioritizing prevention and enforcement activities, in addition to establishing information sources for possible regulatory changes which might affect variables pertaining to the ignition sources.
- Pursue criminal or civil actions to deter future occurrences of similar violation types when investigations reveal there was a violation of law.

- Recover fire suppression costs when a fire investigation reveals that a party caused a fire negligently, or in violation of law. This serves the State by assigning fire suppression costs to culpable parties rather than the taxpayers at large, and as a deterrent to carelessness that can result in destructive fires.
- Conserve and maintain the productivity of timber and range lands while preventing or mitigating damage to associated resources.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER EXPECTATIONS

9401.3

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A CAL FIRE employee engaged in law enforcement responsibilities will recognize the fundamental duties, obligations and philosophies inherent to that role. CAL FIRE law enforcement officers will possess a working knowledge of laws, rules and regulations, enabling them to function professionally within CAL FIRE and the criminal justice system.

To ensure that all peace officers and public officers are fully aware of their individual responsibilities and to maintain their own integrity and that of CAL FIRE, every peace officer and public officer, during basic training or at the time of appointment, shall be administered the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, as prescribed by the POST Administrative Manual, Section C-3.

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