



WILDFIRE ACTIVITY STATISTICS

FOREWARD

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) mission is to protect natural resources on State Responsibility Area from damage by wildfire. The “State Responsibility Area (SRA) is state and privately-owned forest, watershed, and range land.” CAL FIRE provides wildland fire protection for most SRA. The remainder is protected by federal agencies and counties under contract with the State. CAL FIRE also has cooperative fire protection agreements with Federal agencies to provide wildland fire protection on certain federal lands, and provides contracted life and property protection for numerous local governments. This additional protection of other agency land is included in the Direct Protection Responsibility (DPA) of CAL FIRE.

This annual report is a statistical record of wildland fires and damage on CAL FIRE’s DPA. The statistical information provided in this report is gathered from California All Incident Reporting System (CAIRS), which was implemented in CAL FIRE in November 1, 2006. CAIRS collects data on wildland fires, structure fires and other incidents, such as medical emergencies, automobile accidents, lost hikers, hazardous material spills, train wrecks, floods, and earthquakes. The CAIRS data gives CAL FIRE the ability to track their full workload. CAIRS is a web-based subscription service compliant with the United States Fire Administration’s (USFA) - National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

How does CAIRS operate? After responding to an incident, fire department personnel complete one or more of the NFIRS modules. The information in these modules describes the type of incident; where it occurred; the resources used to mitigate losses and other information designed specifically to document the nature and causes of fires, hazardous material (HazMat), and emergency medical service (EMS) incidents. Information is also collected on the number of civilian and fire service casualties.

CAIRS is an information-based system with data entry, data storage, and data retrieval, whether for a single incident or in aggregate, accessed via a computer that interacts with the database. CAIRS collects and stores data in the NFIRS 5.0 standard format. CAIRS consists of 11 modules; the Basic Module is to be completed for every incident, with additional modules used as appropriate to describe the incident. One report is completed for each incident. Several modules are optional modules depending on the situation found at the incident scene.

The majority of CAIRS data elements have been collected to provide the historical information in this report.