SAN DIEGO LAFCO
June 6, 2016
9:00 A.M.
2016-17 San Diego County Wildland Fire Season Readiness Workshop
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER
1600 Pacific Hwy, Room 302
San Diego, CA 92101

2016-17 FIRE SEASON READINESS WORKSHOP PROGRAM

1. FIRE CONDITIONS: CAL FIRE Unit CHIEF Tony Mecham
    - Drought conditions State/San Diego Region
    - Daily Weather/Fire Condition reports (Nat. Weather Service/Cal Fire)
    - CAL FIRE resources State/San Diego Region for 2016 Fire Season
    - Contractual agreement(s) for military and private aircraft

2. PRE-FIRE TRAINING: SDCFCA PRESIDENT & Viejas Fire Department CHIEF Don Butz
    - Wildland fire training
    - Strike Team Leader Training and Certification
    - Other training coordinated through SDCFCA network related to wildfires
    - Coordination with Tribal Fire Departments

3. AREA FIRE COORDINATOR: San Marcos CHIEF Brett Van Wey (Alternate Area Fire Coordinator)
    - Operational Zones in San Diego County
    - Deployment of “local” resources within San Diego County
    - Request for “outside” resources into San Diego County
    - Deployment of “local resources” outside of county

4. LOCAL AERIAL ASSETS: San Diego Fire Rescue CHIEF Brian Fennessy
    - Local aerial resources (City/County)
    - Coordination of ALL aerial resources
    - Night flying aerial resources
    - Cost recovery for local resources

SAN DIEGO COUNTY
WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM

Tony Mecham, Fire Chief – CAL FIRE/San Diego County Fire

Brian P. Fennessy,Fire Chief – City of San Diego

Bret Van Wey, Fire Chief – City of San Marcos

Don Butz, Fire Chief – Viejas Reservation Fire Department

WILDFIRE THREAT AND CAL FIRE/COUNTY PREPAREDNESS

Tony Mecham

Fire Chief – CAL FIRE/San Diego County Fire

The Wildland Fire Problem

San Diego has one of the most severe wildland fire problems in the world because of:

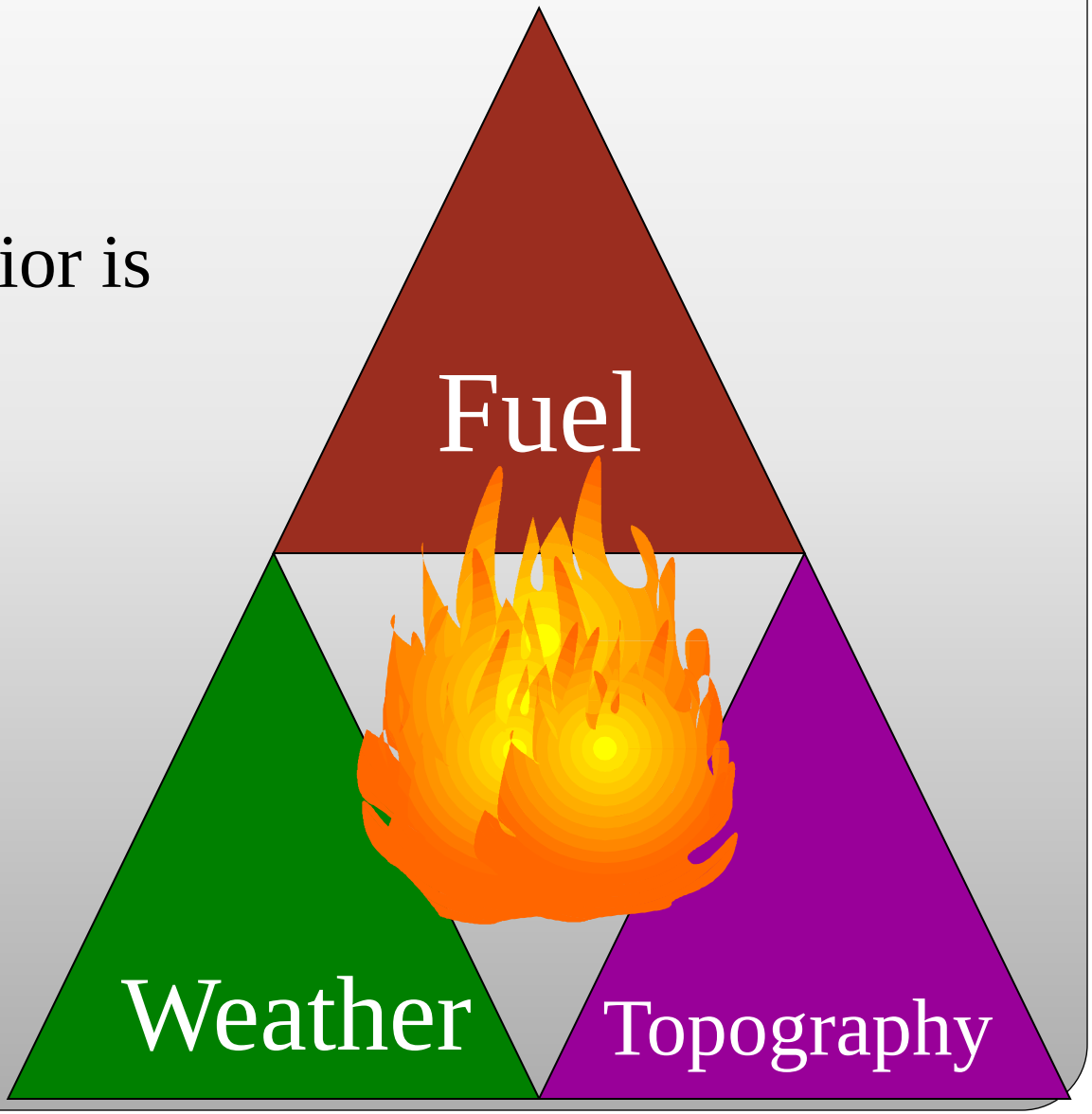
- Population,
- Vegetation,
- Topography
- Climate

In San Diego, wildfire isn't a matter of "IF," it's a matter of "WHEN."

The Wildland Fire Environment

Wildland Fire Behavior is based on three main factors,

- Fuel
- Weather
- Topography



The Wildland Enviroment

Fuels

- Live Fuels
- Dead Fuels
- Drought

Weather

- Warm Mediterranean Climate
- Influenced by Desert & Ocean
- Santa Ana Winds

Topography

- Lay of the Land
- San Diego Mountainous Terrain
- East West Aligned Drainages

Local Conditions

VEGETATION = FUEL

California's native plants and shrubs are among the most flammable in the world.

Chamise, buckwheat and sage are referred to as *chaparral*.

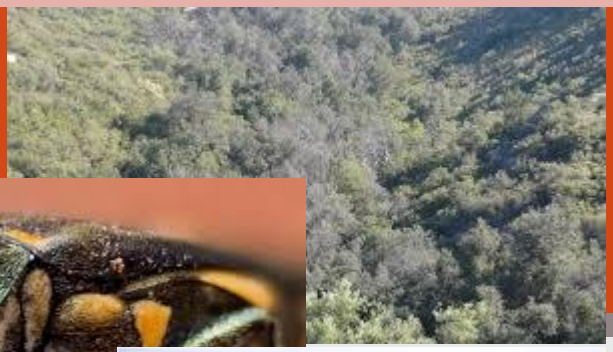
Local hillsides and canyons are covered with these flammable plant materials.

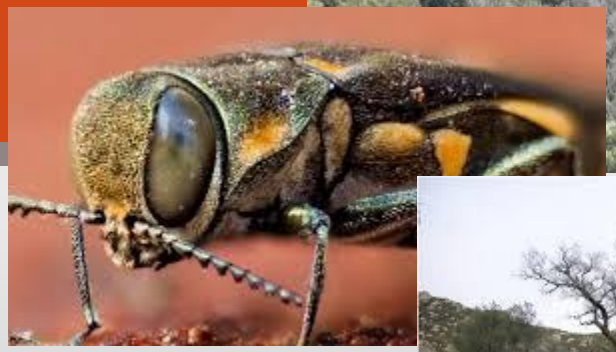
Prolonged Drought Impacts to Wildland Resources

Increase in drought-induced woodland mortality

- Woodland trees are unable to defend against insect attacks
- Fuel load increase
- Established wildland fires more resistant to containment

Tree Mortality & Rangeland Threats





Gold Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB)

Detected in 2008

- Has Spread to over 75,000 acres
- Killed over 90,000 oaks in San Diego County alone
- Takes advantage of drought stricken oaks

Tree Mortality & Rangeland Threats

Shothole Borer

- Detected in 2012
- Killed over 100,000 trees in San Diego County
- Prefers more than 200 species of tree

Long Term Effects of the Drought

VEGETATION = FUEL

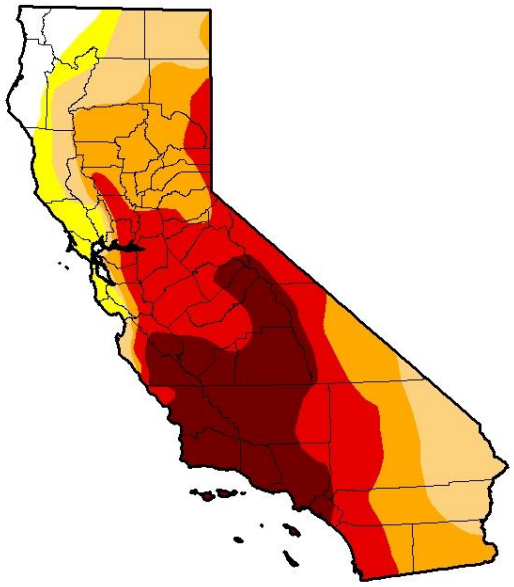
In mountain areas, 60% - 70% of trees are dead from the bark beetle.

San Diego will experience long term effects of the drought. What is happening now will change the landscape for generations.

2016 Fire Season Outlook Southern California Drought Conditions

Majority of San Diego County in Extreme Drought
Winter 2015/2016 – Normal rainfall, warmest winter recorded
Above normal potential for large fires

U.S. Drought Monitor
California



May 10, 2016
(Released Thursday, May. 12, 2016)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

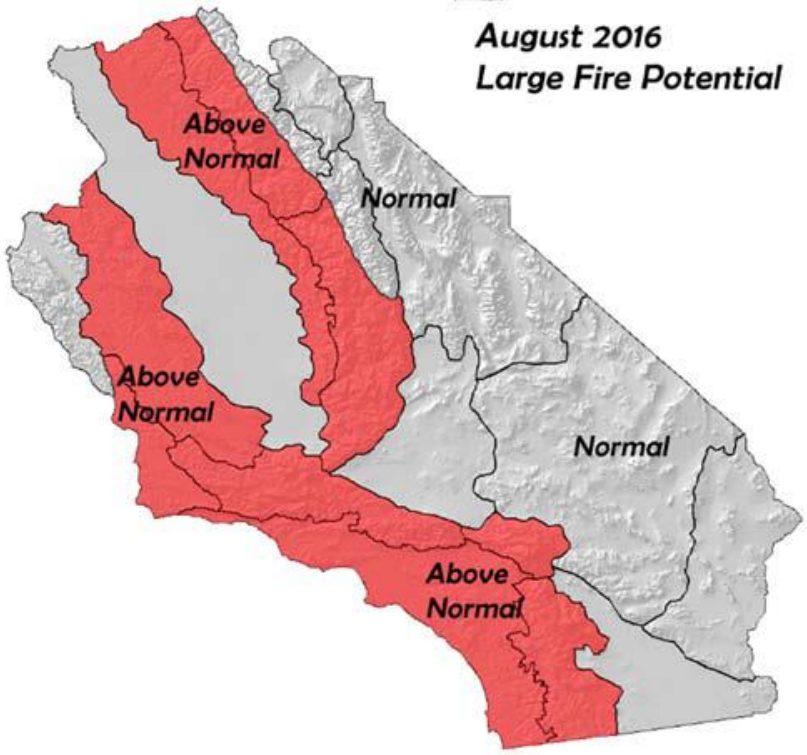
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	4.27	95.73	89.68	72.72	47.92	21.04
Last Week 5/3/2016	4.27	95.73	89.68	74.37	49.15	21.04
3 Months Ago 2/9/2016	0.22	99.78	94.77	81.82	61.40	38.48
Start of Calendar Year 12/29/2015	0.00	100.00	97.33	87.55	69.07	44.84
Start of Water Year 9/29/2015	0.14	99.86	97.33	92.36	71.08	46.00
One Year Ago 5/12/2015	0.14	99.86	98.28	93.91	66.60	46.77

Intensity:
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

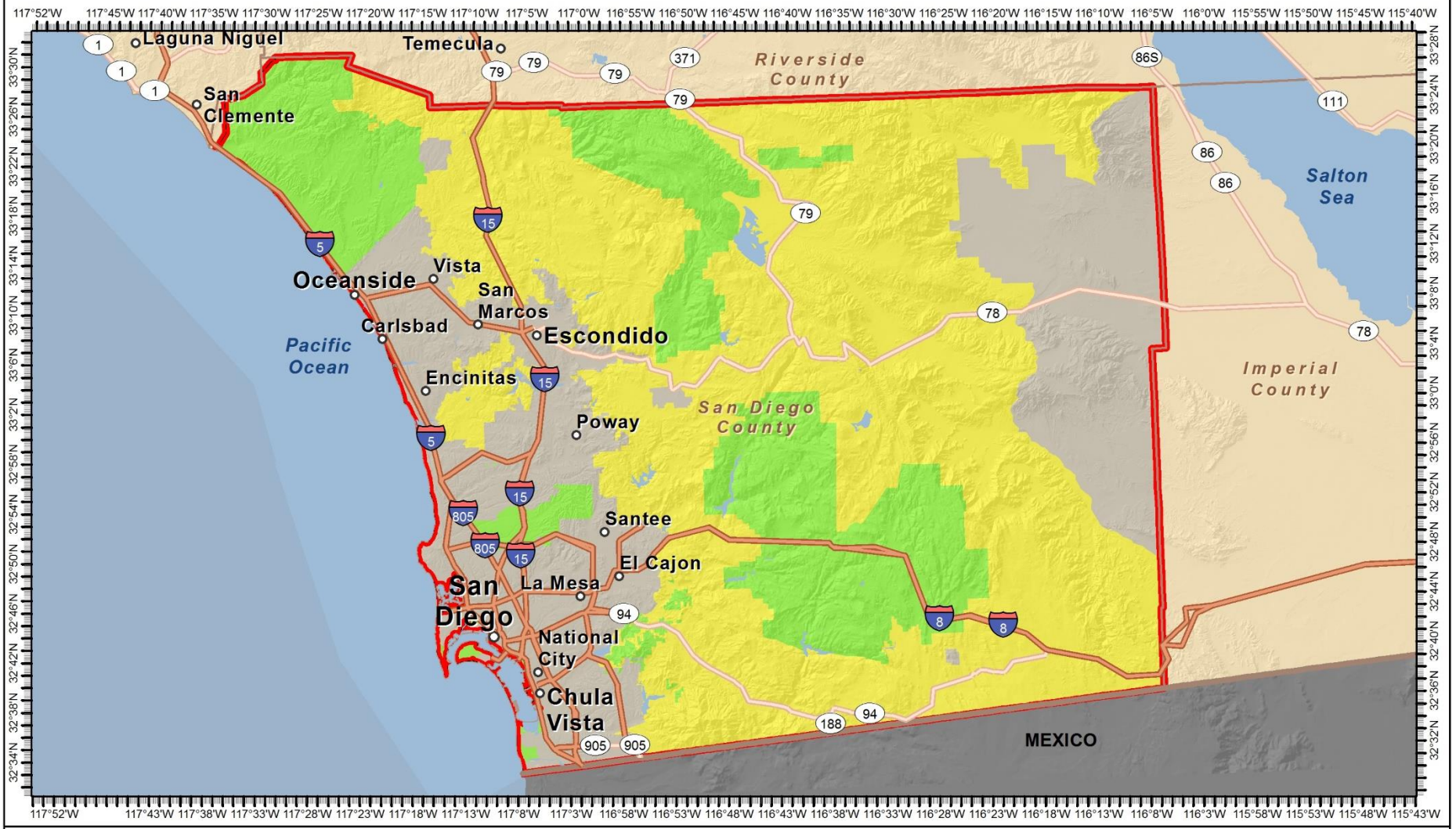
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/



~ San Diego Unit Direct Protection Areas (DPA) ~



Population 30,000 - 300,000
Population greater than 300,000
Interstates
Highways
Unit Boundary

Direct Protection Areas
DPA Group
FEDERAL
LOCAL
STATE

The State of California and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection make no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy of data or maps. Neither the State nor the Department shall be liable under any circumstances for any direct, special, incidental, or consequential damages with respect to any claim by any user or third party on account of, or arising from, the use of data or maps.

Map Location

0 10 20 40 60 80 Miles

Projected Coordinate System: NAD 83 ~ California Teale Albers

State Fire Protection System

- 18 State Funded Fire Station
  - 26 Front Line Fire Engines
  - 4 Bulldozer Units
- 4 Conservation Camps
  - 19 Hand Crews
- 1 Air Attack Base
- 2 Helitack Bases
- Fire Prevention and Investigation Staff
- Regional Interagency 911 Dispatch Center, USFS, CAL FIRE, San Diego County
- Part of CAL FIRE Statewide System with over 350 Fire Engines and 225 Hand Crews

Federal Fire Protection System

- 18 Fire Engines
- 2 Water Tenders
- 2 Hotshot Crews
- 1 Air Attack Base
- 2 Helitack Bases
- Interagency Dispatch Center with CAL FIRE and San Diego County

County Funded Fire Protection System

- 11 County Funded and Staffed Fire Stations
- 8 Volunteer Reserve Staffed Fire Stations
- 6 Co-located County Fire Stations with CAL FIRE Stations
- Extensive Water Tender Fleet
- 13 Initial Attack Patrol Units

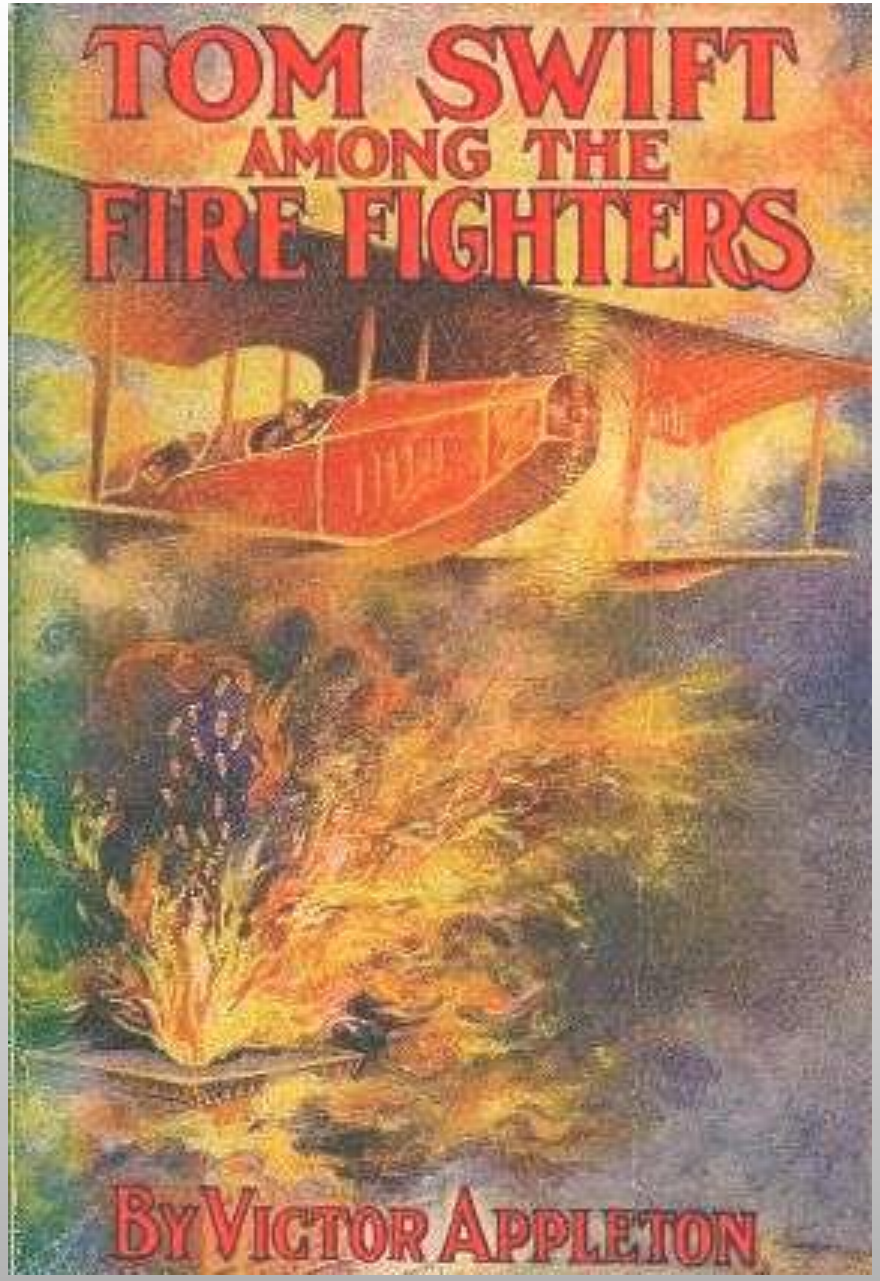
In Our Favor

- Excellent Fire Services
- Cooperative, Federal, State Local response
- Integration of OES with Fire Agencies
- Integration of Law Enforcement with Fire Agencies
- Strong stakeholder support
- Proactive Approach to the problem

AERIAL FIREFIGHTING ASSETS

Brian P. Fennessy

Fire Chief – City of San Diego



Lucifer is Tom's aerial fire-fighting platform. It holds 4 passengers and sufficient extinguisher chemical to douse a large fire. A self-starter and Swift Silencer, plus dual controls are also mounted. The frontispiece illustration shows a bi-plane configuration, a la Curtis Jenny

1921

SDFD Copter 1 – Bell 212HP

- 375 Gallon Fixed Tank – 600# Rescue Hoist - NVG

SDFD Copter 1 – Bell 212HP

Bernardo Fire

NVG operations

- SDFD Copter 1 and 2

SHERIFF
SAN DIEGO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION
CAL FIRE
SINCE 1885

Aerial Support to Regional Enforcement Agencies

- Formed in 1971
- Nine aircraft in use
- Patrol, fire supression and search & rescue missions
- Night vision and Infrared capabilities

CAL FIRE / ASTREA PROGRAM

- Joint CAL FIRE and San Diego County Sheriff Program
  - Sheriff provides the Helicopters and Pilots
  - CAL FIRE Provides Fire Staff (25 Personnel Assigned)
  - CAL FIRE Pays for flight costs when assigned to Fires
- Two Helicopters are staffed daily
  - One water dropping/Hoist
  - One water dropping with 1 9 Person Helitack Flight Crew
    - Able to engage in fire fighting activities
    - Also used to establish a helicopter base close to fire
    - Construct and staff Helispot to transport firefighting personnel

BELL 205 A1 ++ FIRE/RESCUE HELICOPTER

The three fire/rescue helicopters are equipped with 375 gallon belly tanks and rescue hoists capable of lifting 600 pounds.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION
CAL
FIRE
SINCE 1885

CAL FIRE - Statewide

- 23 Grumman S-2T 1,200 gallon airtankers
- 11 UH-1H Super Huey helicopters
- 14 OV-10A airtactical aircraft
- 13 air attack and nine helitack bases located statewide

OV-10A Air Attack Aircraft - ATGS

- Based Locally at Ramona and Hemet Air Attack Bases
- Used to coordinate Air Resources and Provide Information to Ground Commanders

CAL FIRE Tanker 71

- Bernardo Fire

CAL FIRE Copter 301 – Hemet AAB

Grumman S-2T Airtanker
1,200 gallons

V.L.A.T (DC 10)

Very Large Air Tanker

12,000 gallons

Cocos Fire - San Marcos

HT-729 Erickson S-64F SkyCrane

SDGE

A Sempra Energy utility®

S-64F SkyCrane 2,650 gallons

- SDG&E Provided – SDFD Dispatched

FOREST SERVICE
US
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USFS Air Resources

- Type II Helicopter with Crew at Ramona
- Type I Helicopter at the new Kitchen Creek Helibase

Next Generation Air Tanker

Defense Support To Civilian Authorities

- United States Marine Corps
- United States Navy

Coordination of Aerial Resources

- The coordination of mutual aid aircraft in San Diego County is provided by Cal Fire Monte Vista Unit with simultaneous notification to North County Dispatch JPA "North Comm" on FIRE CC Intercom. When out of county aircraft are requested to support an incident, the order is placed through South Ops Geographical Coordination Center in Riverside.

- When aircraft are assigned to an incident, aerial supervision is provided by either an Air Attack (ATGS) or Helicopter Coordinator (HELCO) flying over the incident. The Air Attack or HELCO provides tactical directions to aircraft crews and relays information to and from the incident commander.

Cost Recovery

- Agencies that operate aircraft such as SDFD, Cal Fire, SDSD and USFS have contracts or MOU's that have predetermined rates for the aircraft being operated. SDFD has an MOU with the County of San Diego for night firefighting and rescue in the county.

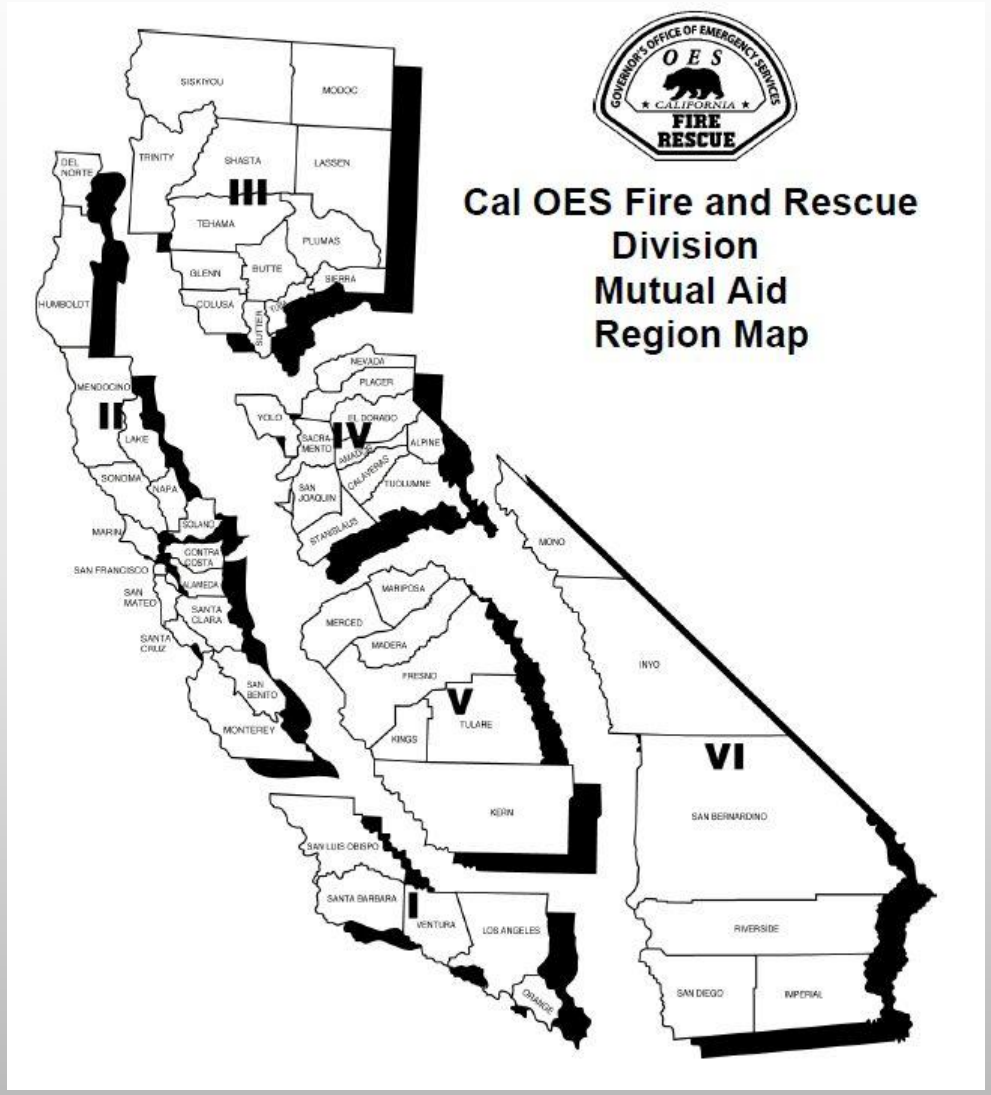
- SDFD and SDSD receive grant funding annually from SANDAG Safe Grant. The provides approximately $375,000 to each agency to offset the costs of fighting fires that may impact county or state roadways.

San Diego Operational Area

Brett Van Wey

Fire Chief – City of San Marcos

Operational Area Coordinator



- CA-six mutual aid regions
  - San Diego Region 6
  - Regional Coordinator
    - Chief Thom Porter

- CA-65 Operational Areas
  - 58 Counties
  - 6 in Los Angeles County
  - 1 -Tahoe Basin
- San Diego Op Area Coordinator
  - Chief Brett Van Wey

- San Diego has 4 Zones
  - Metro – Chief Fennessy
  - East – Chief Mecham
  - Central – Chief Paskle
  - North – Chief Van Wey

San Diego(XSD) Operational Area

San Diego is comprised of 18 individual City Fire Departments, 12 Fire Districts, County Fire Authority, CAL Fire, USFS, and DOD Fire Departments. The San Diego Operational Area (XSD Op Area) is in Region VI under the California Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES) Master Mutual Aid Agreement (MMA) for the State of California.

The XSD Operational Area is comprised of four (4) Zones, the Central, East, Metro, and North Zones. The fire agencies are assigned to one of the four zones geographically and by dispatch center when feasible for coordination of fire and rescue resources.

Operational Area Dispatch

North Comm

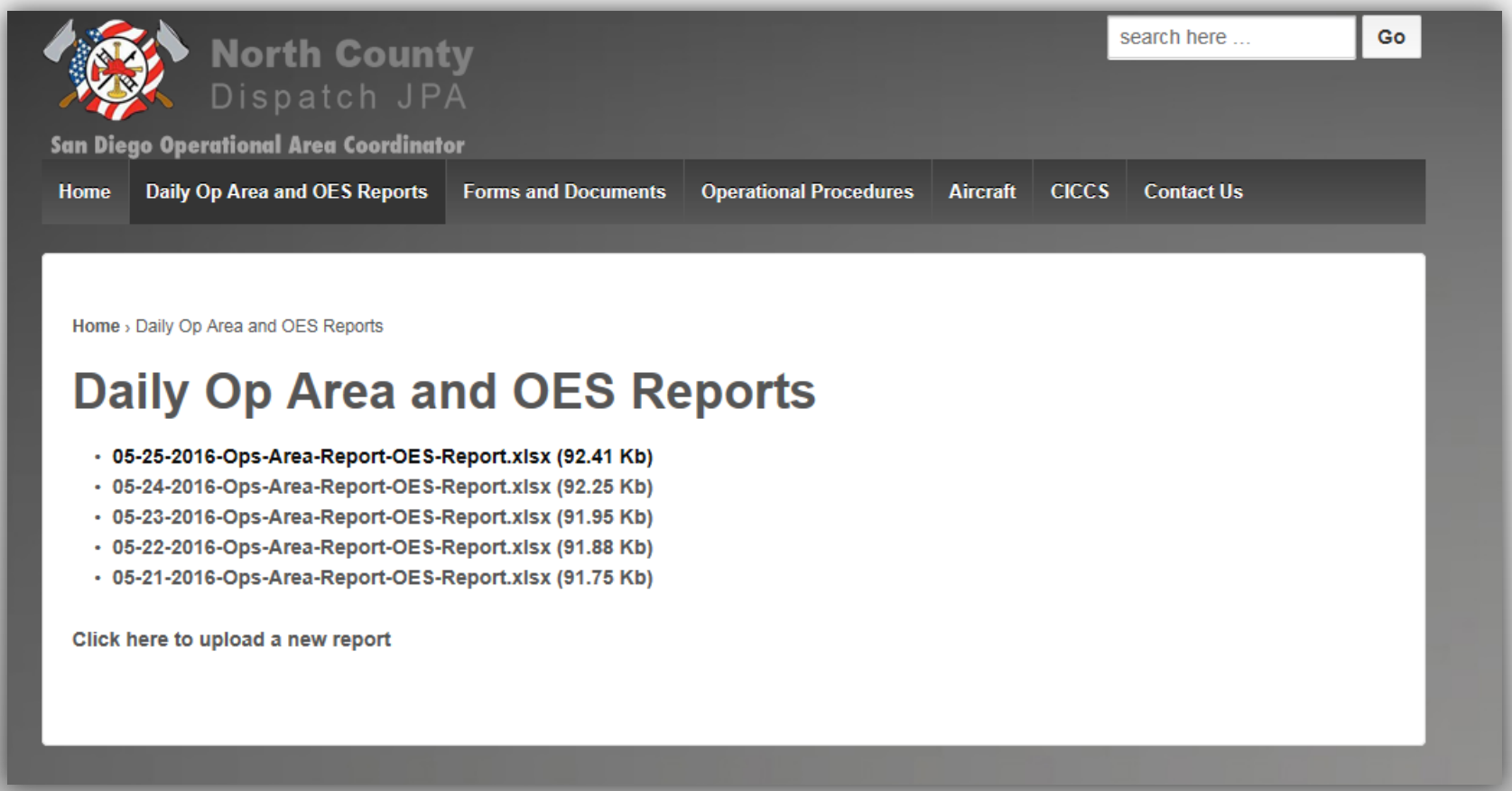
The Operational Area Communications Center will maintain several duty lists, documents, and instructions in addition to those covered in the XSD Operational Area Daily Report. These documents will assist dispatchers who are responsible for carrying out some of the day to day Operational Area duties.

- XSD Op Area Strike Team Identifiers
- XSD Op Area Committed Resources
- OES Type III Strike Team Leader Duty Rotation
- OES Type I Strike Team Leader Rotation
- OES Notification Matrix (Out of Service)
- Distribution of Incident Status Summary reports (209's)
- XSD Op Area Special Equipment Resource List

- Air resources are coordinated through CAL FIRE.

XSD OP AREA WEB SITE

http://sdoparea.org



Resources and Qualifications

- **CICCS:**
  The California Incident Command Qualifications System is the most advanced in the United States. It helps provide California with some of the best firefighters in the nation through its rigorous training and standards. The proposed 2013 revisions to the Guide recognize the need to provide the California Fire Service with a document that captures the National Incident Management System (NIMS) all-hazard certification and qualification requirements.

- **ROSS:**
  The Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) project is a National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) sponsored information systems development project. ROSS is a computer software program, which automates the resource ordering, status, and reporting process. Established in 1997 and chartered by the NWCG in June 1998, the scope of the project focuses on automating current processes enabling dispatch offices to electronically exchange and track information near real-time. ROSS tracks most tactical, logistical, service and support resources mobilized by the incident dispatch community.

San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association

Don Butz

Fire Chief – Viejas Fire Department

President

County Wildland Drill

Dates: June 6, 7, 8, 2016

Instructors: San Diego County Inter-Agency Cadre

Location: Viejas Indian Reservation

Fees/Tuition: No Cost to participating agencies.
SDG&E is the fiscal sponsor for the exercise

County Wildland Drill

Topic Description:. This training will focus on wildland and interface fire operations:

- structure defense,
- resource utilization,
- equipment deployment,
- hoselays,
- entrapment,
- safety including electrical safety from SDG&E,
- communications,
- handline construction, and
- tactical priorities.

County Wildland Drill

- The training will be a comprehensive full day preparedness exercise from check-in to demobilization
- The training is designed for engine company personnel and Strike Team/Task Force Leaders.
- A Training Specialist will be available to process training packets.
- All trainees must have an initiated task book by their home agency and be accompanied by a trainer qualified in the position being evaluated.

County Wildland Drill

- In addition to the Fire agencies that participate this year's readiness exercise will include:
  - Emergency Communication Centers,
  - San Diego Sheriffs,
  - County and State Office of Emergency Services,
  - San Diego Gas & Electric,
  - National Weather Service, and
  - Military Aviation Assets.

County Wildland Drill

- The exercise provides a unique opportunity for agencies throughout San Diego County to train on their area of responsibility during a wildland fire incident.
- The Exercise is set up to run like an actual incident including the establishment of a base camp, Incident Command post, and mobile Communications Center.
- San Diego county Sheriffs will be using these scenarios to train their deputies on evacuations and safety in the wildland fire environment.

County Wildland Drill

- The new SCOUT incident mapping program will be field tested at the drill
  - with the information sent to the San Diego County OES to exercise their Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- The EOC staff will use this opportunity to train their personnel on operations during a wildland fire event in San Diego County.

County Wildland Drill

- California OES will be participating in the demobilization process and help educate the resources on the proper way to fill out reimbursement forms.
  - They will also be training their new personnel on the processing of the state paperwork.

FIRE
TRAINING
SWINERTON CONSTRUCTION OFFICE

INCIDENT
BASE
Welcome to Viejas Casino
Team Member Parking Only
Viejas Outlets
RV/Truck/Bus Parking

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

F10
SHERIFF
KEEPING THE PEACE SINCE 1850

CITY OF SAN MARCOS
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

SAN DIEGO
COUNTY

San Diego Regional Response Vehicle
UNIFIED DISASTER COUNCIL
UDC
SAN DIEGO COUNTY

MOBILE FIELD COMMAND
SDGE
A Sempra Energy utility

FIRE
SMC
COM 14

Helibase

Daily Briefing

After Action Review

Instructor Cadre

Injured Firefighter

Classroom Instruction

Communications

- VHF Radio Fleet Map
  - Re-organized – easier to use
  - Geared for both initial attack and extended fires
    - Increases communications options with
      - Federal resources
      - Cal Fire resources
      - Local government resources from outside the Operational Area
- VHF Radio Study
  - To address lack of coverage
  - To address lack of system infrastructure
  - Increase utilization

Communications

- VHF Radio Study
  - To address lack of coverage
  - To address lack of system infrastructure
  - Goal
    - Increase utilization
    - Increase Communications = Increased Safety

- Standard Communications Policies & Procedures
  - County-wide application
  - Alert Tone Notification
  - Pre-determined channel assignments for wildland response

Wildland Operations Forum

- Held June 1 at the Barona Indian Reservation
- 108 attendees consisting of senior leadership/management
- 35 agencies representing
  - 25 San Diego County agencies (City, District & Tribal)
  - 3 Imperial County agencies
  - 2 State agencies
  - 3 Federal agencies
  - SDG&E

Wildland Operations Forum

- Agenda
  - Operational Area Coordinator Update
  - Weather Outlook
  - Fuels Outlook
  - Office Emergency Services – State & Region 6 Update
  - Cal Fire & County Fire Authority Update
  - USFS Cleveland National Forest Update
  - San Diego County Aircraft – San Diego City & County
  - SDG&E Update
  - Risk & Complexity in Wildland Fire – Lessons Learned Center