



FIRESCOPE

QUARTERLY BRIEFING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The FIRESCOPE Board of Directors, Operations Teams, Task Force, and Specialist/Working Groups continue working to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the California Fire Service consistent with the organization's mission. The California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Fire and Rescue Services Advisory Committee / FIRESCOPE Board of Directors has approved and initiated new directives at their October 2021 meeting. The dissemination and implementation of new or revised policy, procedural and developmental documents is critical to maintaining the integrity and effective execution of Cal OES Fire and Rescue Branch Operations, the Incident Command System (ICS), the Multi Agency Coordination System (MACS), and the State's Master Mutual Aid System. To that end, this "FIRESCOPE Quarterly Briefing" is designed to inform the California Fire Service and affected stakeholders of material changes, and to provide clarity to the impact associated with new or recently revised FIRESCOPE documents.

MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of FIRESCOPE is to provide recommendations and technical guidance to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) on matters involving mutual aid; to maintain the FIRESCOPE decision process; and to continue the operation, development, and maintenance of the FIRESCOPE Incident Command System (ICS) and the Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS)"

FIRESCOPE VISION STATEMENT

The FIRESCOPE vision is to continue national leadership in the development of all-hazard incident and multi-agency coordination systems, to enhance and encourage full participation by the California fire service in the statewide Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System, and to provide a common voice for the California fire service relating to these issues.

www.firescope.caloes.ca.gov

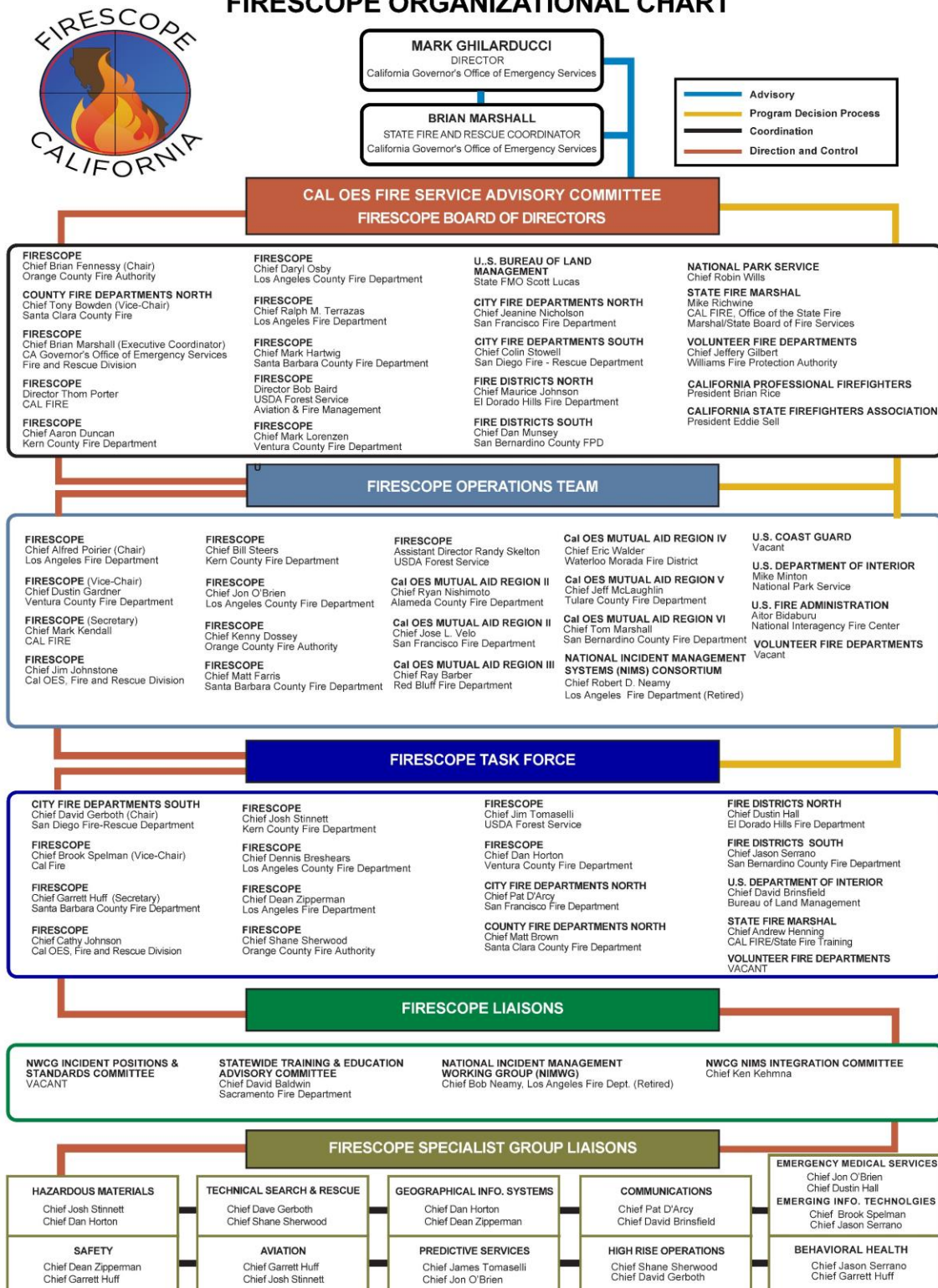
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FIRESCOPE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





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2021 Fire Season

Once again, the California Fire Service is being challenged by unprecedented fire behavior throughout the state. The Dixie Fire is now the largest single wildfire (non-complex) in the state's history and the first known fire to cross the crest of the Sierra Nevada. The Caldor Fire crossed the Sierra Nevada shortly after the Dixie, making two historic fire events in just a number of days.

Fires are getting bigger, burning longer and with more intensity. Total fires during 2021 are approximately 10% above the 5-year average, however total acres burned is almost double. Nine of the 20 largest fires in California history have burned in just the last two fire seasons:

Top 20 Largest California Wildfires

FIRE NAME (CAUSE)	DATE	COUNTY	ACRES	STRUCTURES	DEATHS
1 AUGUST COMPLEX (Lightning)	August 2020	Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, Tehama, Glenn, Lake, & Colusa	1,032,648	935	1
2 DIXIE (Under Investigation)*	July 2021	Butte, Plumas, Lassen, & Tehama	963,195	1,329	1
3 MENDOCINO COMPLEX (Human Related)	July 2018	Colusa, Lake, Mendocino & Glenn	459,123	280	1
4 SCU LIGHTNING COMPLEX (Lightning)	August 2020	Stanislaus, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, & San Joaquin	396,624	222	0
5 CREEK (Undetermined)	September 2020	Fresno & Madera	379,895	853	0
6 LNU LIGHTNING COMPLEX (Lightning/Arson)	August 2020	Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Yolo, Lake, & Colusa	363,220	1,491	6
7 NORTH COMPLEX (Lightning)	August 2020	Butte, Plumas & Yuba	318,935	2,352	15
8 THOMAS (Powerlines)	December 2017	Ventura & Santa Barbara	281,893	1,063	2
9 CEDAR (Human Related)	October 2003	San Diego	273,246	2,820	15
10 RUSH (Lightning)	August 2012	Lassen	271,911 CA / 43,666 NV	0	0
11 RIM (Human Related)	August 2013	Tuolumne	257,314	112	0
12 ZACA (Human Related)	July 2007	Santa Barbara	240,207	1	0
13 CARR (Human Related)	July 2018	Shasta County & Trinity	229,651	1,614	8
14 MATILIJIA (Undetermined)	September 1932	Ventura	220,000	0	0
15 CALDOR (Under Investigation)*	August 2021	Alpine, Amador, & El Dorado	219,060	1,003	1
16 MONUMENT (Lightning)*	August 2021	Trinity	218,457	50	0
17 WITCH (Powerlines)	October 2007	San Diego	197,990	1,650	2
18 KLAMATH THEATER COMPLEX (Lightning)	June 2008	Siskiyou	192,038	0	2
19 RIVER COMPLEX (Lightning)*	July 2021	Siskiyou & Trinity	195,779	121	0
20 MARBLE CONE (Lightning)	July 1977	Monterey	177,866	0	0

There is no doubt that there were fires with significant acreage burned in years prior to 1932, but those records are less reliable, and this list is meant to give an overview of the large fires in more recent times.

This list does not include fire jurisdiction. These are the Top 20 regardless of whether they were state, federal, or local responsibility.

*Numbers not final.



9/20/2021

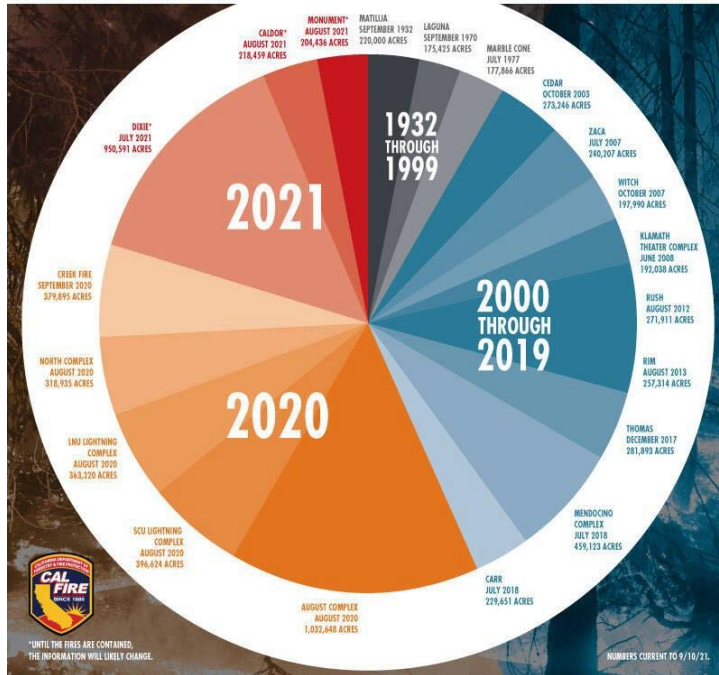
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TOP 20 LARGEST CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES



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Year to Date Wildfire Statistics (CAL FIRE and Federal)

Updated as of October 15, 2021

Interval	Fires	Acres
5-Year Average (same interval)	7,581	1,290,091
2021 Combined YTD (CALFIRE & US Forest Service)	8,106	2,495,174
2020 Combined YTD (CALFIRE & US Forest Service)	8,931	4,115,155

2021 Structures Damaged or Destroyed: 3,629



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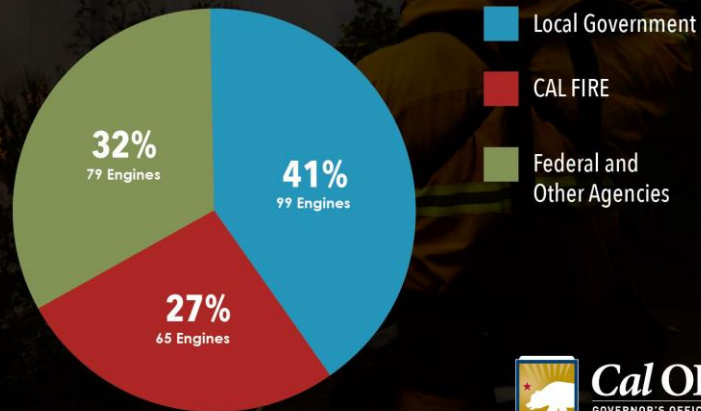
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CALIFORNIA'S MUTUAL AID SYSTEM AT WORK

Snapshot: Fire Engines on the Caldor Incident



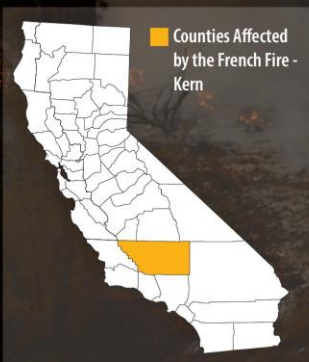
Source: ICS-209 Morning Form 8/26/21



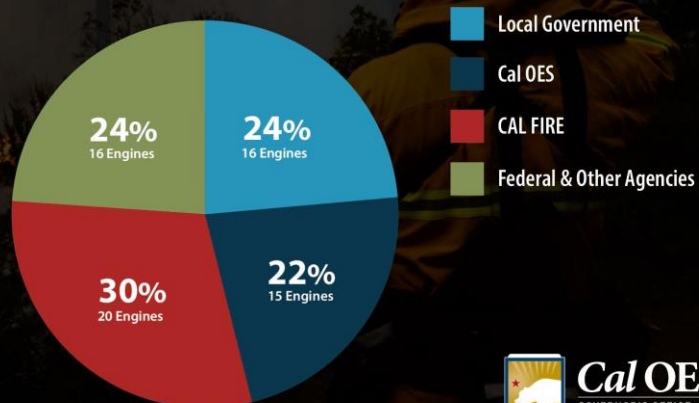
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CALIFORNIA'S MUTUAL AID SYSTEM AT WORK

Snapshot: Fire Engines on the French Incident



Source: ICS-209 Morning Form 8/26/21



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UAS Operations in California

The 2021 fire season has seen the significant use and expanded capabilities of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) throughout California.

UAS programs from the United States Forest Service, CAL FIRE, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and local governments have flown hundreds of missions on multiple fires. UAS have been utilized for recon, mapping, infrared, and aerial ignition.



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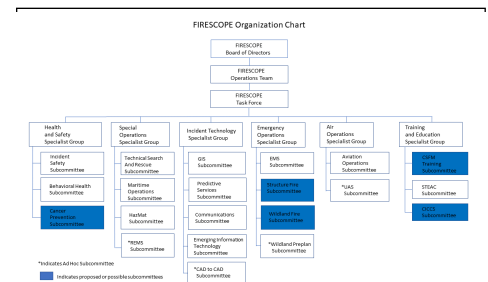
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CURRENT FIRESCOPE PROJECTS

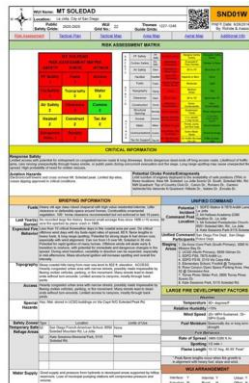
FIRESCOPE Field Operations Guide: Since its first publication in 1983, the FIRESCOPE Field Operations Guide (FOG) has provided crucial information in an easily accessible format to first responders. All levels of FIRESCOPE have been working on an updated FOG with a planned release in January 2022. The 2022 FOG will be available in the booklet and as an updated mobile device application.

Behavioral Health Web Links: The Behavioral Health Specialist Group continues to provide links to resources for all members of the California Fire Service. Topics include mental and behavioral health, family support, suicide prevention, screening tools, and cancer awareness. The links can be found on the FIRESCOPE home page at <https://firescope.caloes.ca.gov/behavioral-health>

FIRESCOPE Specialist / Working Group Reorganization: FIRESCOPE continues the process to reorganize the Specialist Groups and add a new level, Subcommittees, to maintain span of control, mentorship, collaboration, and succession planning. The intent is to provide the most efficient and effective tools necessary to address California's emerging and expanding challenges. [Link to MACS 410-4](#)



Standardized Wildland Prefire Plans: As the threat of wildland fire continues to challenge agencies across California, FIRESCOPE recognized the value of a standardized Wildland Prefire Plan format that can be utilized throughout the state. A Wildland Prefire Plan Working Group has been convened to develop a standardized plan format, identify a platform to enable multi-agency access, provide the ability to create and update plans, determine costs and funding mechanisms, as well as incorporate existing plans.



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ADVISORY MESSAGE

The information contained in this Quarterly Briefing is intended to be widely shared among the California fire service, its federal partners, as well as with other affected stakeholders. Agency Administrators, or responsible representatives, should ensure that this material is thoroughly reviewed and communicated within their respective organizations. Questions may be directed to FIRESCOPE Deputy Chief Jim Johnstone at james.johnstone@caloes.ca.gov

or call (951) 312-8966

Fire Service professionals and the public are encouraged to follow FIRESCOPE on its social media sites and visit the FIRESCOPE Web Site at <http://firescope.caloes.ca.gov> to learn more about the FIRESCOPE organization and to keep apprised of the latest product development and key initiatives



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