



Placer County Fire Department / *CAL FIRE*

Cooperative Fire Protection

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▶ PCFD's Role

- Placer County contracts with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to provide fire protection and rescue services in the unincorporated areas of the County. Placer County owns most of the equipment and facilities associated with the Placer County Fire system and CAL FIRE provides staffing. Placer County Fire/CAL FIRE provides year-round all-hazard fire and emergency services to approximately 475 square miles of unincorporated county area. PCFD is a combination fire department comprised of both full-time and volunteer firefighters, responding to approximately 5,300 calls for service annually.
- **Services Include:** Fire Protection, Administration, Fire Prevention, Dispatch, Technical Rescue, EMS (Basic and Advanced), Hazardous Materials Response.



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▶ CAL FIRE's Role

- CAL FIRE responds to all types of emergency incidents, including: Wildland fires, residential/commercial structure fires, automobile accidents, medical emergencies, technical rescues, hazardous materials, train derailments, floods, earthquakes and others. CAL FIRE firefighters, fire engines and aircraft respond to an average of 5,600 wildland fires, and answer the call more than 350,000 times for other emergencies each year.
- CAL FIRE crews and equipment are responsible for the protection of over 31 million acres of California's privately-owned wildlands. In addition, we provide emergency services of all kinds within 36 of California's 58 counties through cooperative fire protection agreements.



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▶ PCFD/CAL FIRE: Who We Serve

- PCFD/CAL FIRE serves the communities of North Auburn, Bowman, Dry Creek, Lincoln, Ophir, Colfax, and Alta from eight career staffed fire stations.
- CAL FIRE also serves the communities of Foresthill, Truckee and Carnelian Bay on a seasonal basis.
- These communities receive fire protection via mutual aid with neighboring jurisdictions, which is reciprocated in-turn to the neighboring jurisdictions.



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▶ Mutual Aid and Cooperative Fire Protection

- No Fire Department can function as a stand-alone.
- Based on reciprocity
- Cooperative efforts maximize service delivery and efficiency, working within the fire service structural and operational realities in Placer County.
- We know you don't care who helps you, you just need help. Our mutual aid efforts are designed to ensure you receive the help you need when you need it regardless of primary response agency jurisdiction.



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▶ Funding Sources

- PCFD is essentially four separate fire departments functioning as one system. Zones of benefit are established in several local areas with a corresponding assessment. This benefit assessment differs per area with some residents paying more and some less for fire protection. PCFD is funded similarly to a special district with its governing body being the Placer County Board of Supervisors.
- This funding model is a persistent operational liability for PCFD, making economies of scale impossible across the system.
- Funding for PCFD represents 1.2% of the Placer County Budget



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▶ **Strengths:**

- Depth of equipment and personnel. Leverages the operational strength of CAL FIRE.
- Strategically placed throughout the unincorporated areas of Placer County

▶ **Weaknesses:**

- No economy of scale – inefficient scheduling
- Limited support functions and administration

▶ **Shortfalls:**

- Funding model is insufficient for projected growth in County
- May be unable to adapt quickly enough to new service demands
- Insufficient support for operational demands = breaking point



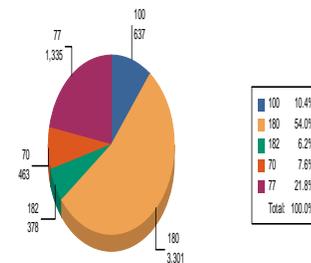
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PLACER COUNTY FIRE INCIDENTS BY CAREER STATION

2014	Veg Fires	Structure	Other Fire	Medical	Hazard / F	Law Enfor	Others	Total
100	8	27	183	343	20	6	50	637
180	6	60	369	2,489	43	1	334	3,301
182	7	27	109	201	10	0	24	378
70	3	15	101	309	14	0	21	463
77	13	57	371	803	46	1	44	1,335
Total	21	122	756	3,899	98	8	457	5,358

Incidents by Station



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▶ State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fee (SRAFPF)

- The SRAFPF was enacted by the legislature in July 2011. The law established an annual fire prevention fee to fund fire prevention services within State Responsibility Area (SRA). This fee is applied to all habitable structures within SRA. This fee only applies to fire prevention and may not be used to supplement fire protection.
- This fee funds a variety of important fire prevention services including: Fuel reduction, defensible space inspections, fire prevention engineering, emergency evacuation planning, fire prevention education, fire hazard severity mapping, implementation of fire plans and law enforcement activity such as arson investigation.
- There are approximately 75,000 habitable structures in SRA within the Nevada Yuba Placer Unit (NEU). This area has the highest rate of fee payers in the State. In 2014, approximately 1.8 million in grant funding returned to projects in NEU representing 20% of the entire statewide grant program.
- http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/hot_topics_resources/sra_report_aug_5_15.pdf