

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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Date: January 17, 2013

To: State Board of Fire Services

From:
Mike Wilson, Assistant Chief
Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering

Subject/Agenda Action Item:

Status of Wildland Fire Prevention Engineering

Recommended Actions:

None – Information Only

Background Information:

This Agenda Item is intended to bring the Board up to date on two activities in the OSFM Wildland Fire prevention Engineering Program. The two topics are: efforts of a workgroup to review content and application of defensible space regulations of the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection; and creation of an Interagency Fire Prevention website.

For context, fire prevention engineering processes reduce or eliminate fire hazards and risks. They also change the fire environment by removing or reducing the heat source, modifying or reducing the fuels and modifying behaviors that would allow a heat source to contact ignitable fuels.

- Review of Defensible Space Regulations

In 2011, at the direction of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, CAL FIRE under the leadership of the OSFM, formed a workgroup tasked with the review of relevant statutes, regulations, codes and guidelines related to fire safe development. The subject matter is commonly referred to as the “Defensible Space” program and regulations.

The goal of the workgroup is to develop recommendations for the Board that will ensure consistency in intent and language. The group includes members of CAL FIRE from Northern and Southern California, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and local government. The group is currently reviewing the road standards for fire equipment access and civilian evacuation. They recently concluded live tests using modern apparatus.

- Interagency Fire Prevention Website

Using grant funding, CAL FIRE and the California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group [CWCG] Interagency Fire Prevention Committee are working to build "PreventWildfireCA.org" as a site to host the following tools:

- A map application that will allow private industry a tool to use in making decisions whether or not to cease operations during times of high fire danger.
- An *Online Burn Permit* application that will provide local burn permit forms and require the user to view and agree to the related educational information and requirements.
- An *Online Camp Fire Permit* with the same requirements as the Debris Burn permit process
- A Defensible Space self-assessment tool that will provide the public with education as well as the specific inspection form.
- CAL FIRE's newly revised Fire Prevention Field Guides will be available in a user friendly format for information and down loading.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

None