

Glossary

CEQA

California Environmental Quality Act

climax forest

See *late seral forest*.

CFES-IAM

California Fire Economics Simulator-Initial Attack Module, a software program for modeling the initial attack system and simulating changes in the fire protection system.

contract counties

In California, the six counties that provide fire-protection services in state responsibility areas under contract with the state. These counties are Marin, Kern, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, and Orange.

defensible space

Adequate space (free from flammable vegetation) between structures and flammable vegetation, which allows firefighters a safe working area within which to attack an oncoming wildfire.

FMAZ

Fire management analysis zone, the basic planning unit for fire protection planning.

ICS

Incident Command System.

ignition management

Includes fire prevention program activities that are aimed at preventing the ignition of wildland fires and/or reducing damage from fires. Components include law enforcement, public education, engineering, fuels modification, and fire-safe planning.

initial attack

The wildfire control efforts taken by resources that are first to arrive at a wildfire.

interface, or wildland interface

The geographical meeting point of two diverse systems, wildland and structures. At this interface, structures and vegetation are sufficiently close that a wildland fire could spread to structures or a structure fire ignite vegetation. See *intermix*.

intermix, or wildland intermix

Interspersing of developed land with wildland, where there are no easily discernible boundaries between the two systems. An example would be what real estate brochures describe as “ranchettes” or “weekend farmer” homes. Poses more problems in wildland fire management than *interface*.

I-zone

Casual reference to wildland interface and/or intermix.

late seral forest

A forest that has evolved, through successional processes, near to the end of the successional line, or climax forest. Only through disturbance (fire or clear-cutting, for example) will the forest return to an earlier seral (successional) stage.

pollution rights

In some areas, industries can buy and sell rights to emit specified amounts of pollutants.

ranger unit

Administrative unit of the CDF.

silviculture

The art of cultivating a forest; forestry.

stakeholder

Any person, agency or organization with a particular interest — a stake — in fire safety and protection of assets from wildland fires.

stand-replacing fire

A fire that kills most or all of the trees in a section of forest.

uncontrolled fire

Any fire that threatens to destroy life, property or natural resources, and either is not burning within the confines of firebreaks, or is burning with such intensity that it could not be readily extinguished with ordinary tools commonly available. See *wildfire*.

wildland fire

Any fire occurring on undeveloped land. See *wildfire*.

wildfire

A fire occurring on wildland that is not meeting management objectives and thus requires a suppression response.

Sources include the Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology, produced by the Incident Command System Working Team; published by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group