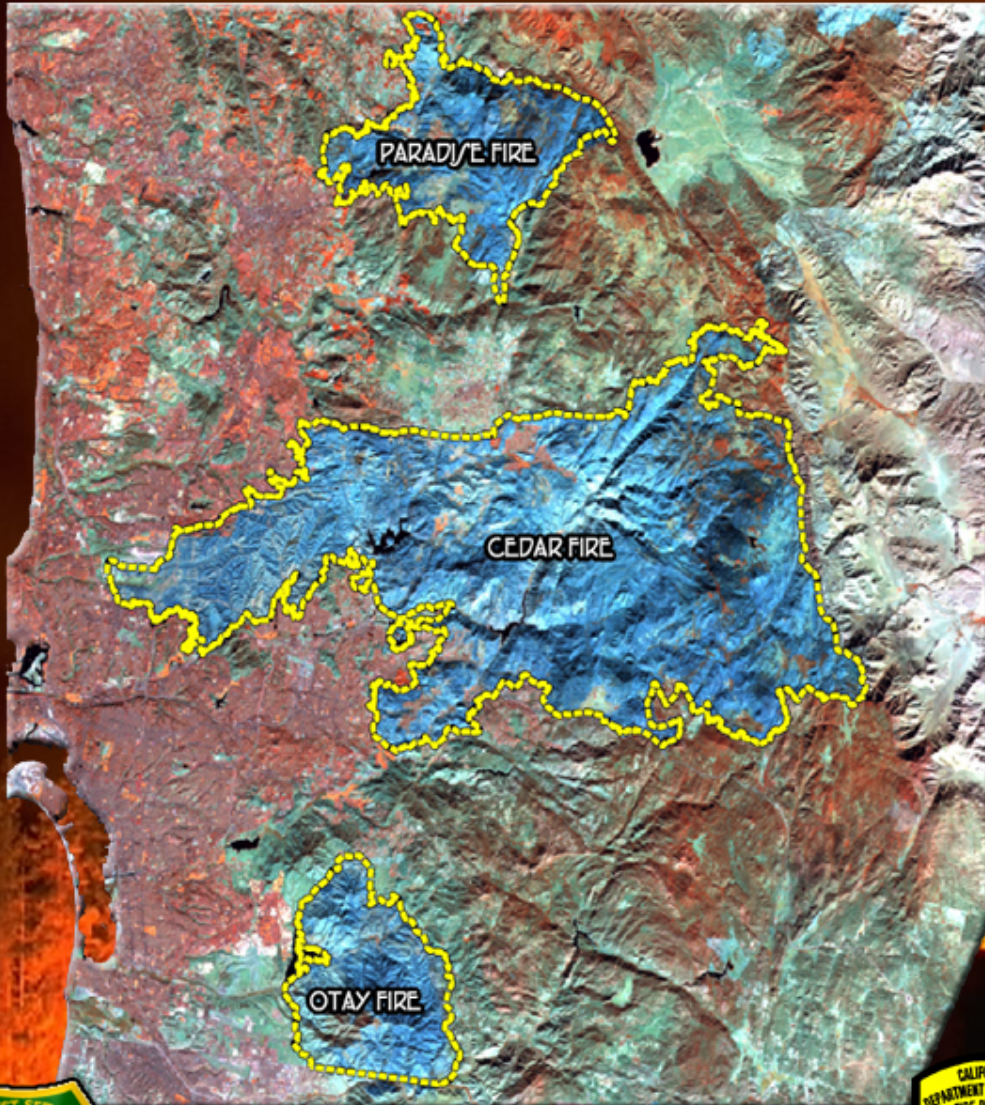


## Appendix D: Glossary

# THE 2003 SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE SIEGE FIRE SAFETY REVIEW



## Glossary of Terms

**ANCHOR POINT:** An advantageous location, usually a barrier to fire spread, from which to start constructing a fireline

**AREA COMMAND:** An organization established to: 1) oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by an incident management team (IMT) organization or 2) to oversee the management of a very large incident that has multiple IMT's assigned to it. Area command has the responsibility to set overall strategy and priorities, allocate critical resources based on priorities, ensure that incidents are properly managed, and that objectives are being met and strategies followed.

**BACKFIRE:** A fire suppression tactic. Any intentionally set fire used to consume the fuel in the path of a free-burning wildfire

**BIA:** Bureau of Indian Affairs

**BLM:** Bureau of Land Management

**BI:** Burning Index: An indices of NFDRS, it is a number related to the contribution of fire behavior to the effort of containing a fire. It rates fire danger related to potential flame length over a fire danger rating area.

**CALMAC:** California Multi-Agency Command. The information center established in Sacramento tasked to gather timely information from regions, cooperating agencies, the media, the director, interested government leaders and the public

**CDF:** California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

**CONTAINMENT:** A fire is contained when it is surrounded on all sides by some kind of boundary but is still burning and has the potential to jump a boundary line

**CONTROLLED** A fire is controlled when there is no further threat of it escaping a containment line. Crews continue to perform mop-up work within the fire lines, but firefighting is completed.

**CONVECTION COLUMN:** The rising column of gasses, smoke, flying ash, particulates and other debris produced by a fire

**COOPERATING AGENCY:** An agency supplying assistance including, but not limited to, direct tactical or support functions, or resources to the incident control effort.

**CROWN FIRE:** A fire that advances along the tops of trees or shrubs, more or less independently of the surface fire

**DEFENSIBLE SPACE:** Creating a fire safe landscape for at least 30 feet around homes (and out to 100 feet or more in some areas) to reduce the chance of a wildfire spreading and burning through the structures. This is the basis for creating a defensible space – an area that will help protect your home and provide a safety zone for firefighters. It is required by California law.

**DIRECT ATTACK** A method of fire suppression in which suppression activity takes place on or near the fire perimeter

**DIRECT PROTECTION AREA:** That area for which a particular fire protection organization has the primary responsibility for attacking an uncontrolled fire and for directing the suppression action

**ERC:** Energy Release Component: A NFDRS index, the ERC is a number related to the available energy (in BTU's) per unit area (square foot) within the flaming front at the head of the fire.

**EXTREME FIRE BEHAVIOR:** Extreme implies a level of fire behavior characteristics that ordinarily precludes methods of direct control action

**FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY AREA:** The primary responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires is that of the Federal Government. These lands are generally protected by the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, and the Department of the Interior bureaus: Bureau of Land Management, National Park service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs

**FIRE DANGER RATING:** A management system that integrates the effects of selected fire danger factors into one or more qualitative or numerical indices of current protection needs.

**FIRE LINE:** A strip of land where the vegetation has been removed to deny the fire fuel. Alternatively, a fire line may be a barrier such as a river, a freeway, or some other barrier which is reasonably expected to stop a fire. Hose lines from fire engines may also aid in surrounding and containing a fire.

**FIRE PERIMETER:** The outer edge or boundary of a fire

**FIRESCOPE:** The acronym for "Firefighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies". This is a multi-agency coordination system designed to improve the capabilities of California's wildland fire protection agencies. Its purpose is to provide more efficient resource allocation and utilization, particularly in multiple or large fire situations during critical burning period.

**FMAG: Fire Management Assistance Grant (What is this?)**

**FUELS:** Combustible material

**GACC:** Geographic Area Coordination Center

**GIS:** Geographic Information System

**INCIDENT COMMANDER:** This ICS position is responsible for overall management of the incident and reports to the Agency Administrator for the agency having incident jurisdiction

**INCIDENT COMAND SYSTEM:** A standardized on-scene emergency management concept specifically designed to allow its user(s) to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries

**INCIDENT COMMAND TEAM:** See Incident Management Team

**INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM:** The incident commander and appropriate general and command staff personnel assigned to an incident. Also known as an Incident Command Team

**INDIRECT ATTACK:** A method of fire suppression in which suppression activities take place at a distance from the fire perimeter, often to take advantage of fire barriers

**INFRARED (IR)** A heat detection system used for fire protection, mapping and hotspot identification

**INITIAL ATTACK (IA):** An aggressive suppression action taken by the resources arriving first at the scene, consistent with firefighter and public safety and resource values to be protected

**INTERFACE ZONE:** The area where wildlands come together with urban areas. Also referred to as the I-Zone

**INTERMIX ZONE:** Areas where homes are interspersed among wildlands

**LRA:** Local Responsibility Area

**MACS (Multi-Agency Coordination System)** A combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures and communications integrated into a common system with responsibility for coordination of assisting agency resources and support to emergency operations

**MAFFS:** Modular Airborne Firefighting System. Military aircraft, C-130s, which are used as airtankers

**MAST:** Mountain Area Safety Task Force

**MODIS: (Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer):** An instrument used on Terra and Aqua satellites that provided remote sensing data of fire growth to managers during the fire siege

**MOP-UP:** Activities including extinguishing or removing burning material near fire lines and felling snags to make a fire safe, or to reduce residual smoke

**MUTUAL THREAT ZONE:** A geographic area between two or more jurisdictions into which those agencies would respond on initial attack. Also called the mutual response zone or initial action zone.

**NIFC:** National Interagency Fire Center, located in Boise, Idaho.

**NPS:** National Park Service

**NFDRS:** National Fire Danger Rating System: A multiple index scheme designed to provide fire and land management personnel with a systematic means of assessing various aspects of fire danger on a day-to-day basis.

**OES:** The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

**OSC:** The acronym for "Operations Section Chief". This ICS position is responsible for supervising the operations section and reports to the Incident Commander. The OSC directs the preparation of unit operational plans, requests and releases resources, and makes expedient changes to the Incident Action Plan as necessary.

**PREDICTIVE SERVICES:** Geographic and National-level fire weather of fire danger services and products produced by wildland fire agency meteorologists and intelligence staffs in support of resource allocation and prioritization

**PREPAREDNESS LEVELS:** A national system of preparedness for incidents.

**Preparedness Level 1:** Few or no active fires under 100 acres, Minimal or no commitment of fire resources. Low to moderate fire danger.

Agencies above draw-down levels.

**Preparedness Level 2:** Numerous fires over 100 acres. Local commitment of resources for initial attack. Moderate fire danger. Agencies above draw down levels and requests for resources outside of local area are minimal

**Preparedness Level 3:** High potential for fires 100 acres and larger to occur, with several .99 acre fires active. Fire danger moderate to very high. Mobilization of resources within the region and minimal requests outside of region. Agencies above or having difficulty maintaining draw down levels

**Preparedness Level 4:** Fires over 100 acres are common. Fire danger is high to very high. Resource mobilization from outside of region. Agencies are at minimum draw down levels.

**Preparedness Level 5:** CALMAC is fully activated. Multiple large fires are common in the north and/or the south. Fire danger is very high to extreme. Resources are mobilized through the National coordination center. National Guard or Military has been or may be activated.

**RED FLAG WARNING:** Term used by fire weather forecasters to alert users to an ongoing or imminent critical fire weather pattern.

**REHABILITATION:** The activities necessary to repair damage or disturbance caused by wildfire or wildfire suppression activities

**SANTA ANA WINDS:** Santa Ana winds are a type of “Foehn” wind – a warm and dry wind that flows down into the valleys when stable, high pressure air is forced across and then down lee slopes of a mountain range. The descending air becomes warmer and drier due to adiabatic compression, producing critical fire weather conditions. “Santa Ana” is a regional name for this type of wind that occurs annually in the southern California region. These winds also occur in northern California on occasion, regionally named as “Diablo” winds.

**STRIKE TEAM:** An engine strike team consists of five fire engines of the same type and a lead vehicle. The strike team leader is usually a captain or battalion chief. Strike teams can also consist of bulldozers or handcrews.

**SPOT FIRE OR SPOTTING:** A small fire that is ahead of the main fire that is caused from hot embers being carried to a receptive fuel bed. Spotting indicates extreme fire conditions.

**STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA (SRA):** The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection classify areas in which the primary responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires is that of the state. CDF is responsible for the protection of over 31 million acres of privately owned SRA wildlands.

**SLOP OVER:** A fire edge that crosses a fireline or natural barrier intended to confine the fire. Also called “breakover”.

**UNIFIED COMMAND:** In ICS, unified command is a unified team effort, allowing all agencies with jurisdictional responsibility for the incident, either functional or geographical, to manage the incident by establishing a common set of objectives and strategies.

**WFSA:** The acronym for Wildland fire situation analysis

**WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE:** An area where improved property and wildlands meet at a well-defined boundary