



Chiefs Report

M. LaMont

March 25th, 2025

Highlights for January / February 2025

JAN. 2025

- January IFPD Board Meeting:
 - o Board nominations and elections of officers.
 - o Rhonda Andrewson was nominated and named IFPD President for 2025.
 - o Daniel Messina was nominated and named IFPD Vice President for 2025.
 - o Henry Sawicki was nominated and named IFPD Board Secretary for 2025.
 - o Commissioners Dennis Fogle and Stephanie Yost – remains as Board Commissioners.
- Meeting with USFS regarding local fuels projects.
- IFPD Assisted with the LA/Malibu/Altadena/Hemet and San Deigo area Fires
- IFPD Completed the Communications site trench for SCE Electrical run.
- IFPD Completed the BC Examination. (J. LaMont BC621 A. Rodriguez BC622)
- IFPD was present for B. Sandborg funeral, (William Sandborg was the 1st Superintendent for the Fulton Hotshot crew. Bill Jr. is an IFPD BC on team 11 as Operations Section Chief.

FEB. 2025

- SCE at IFPD Communications site for Pedestal Inspection (approved) – Should have full time power placed in March/April 2025.
- M. LaMont attended CIMC California Incident Management Complex Anaheim CA (Assist with Instruction) .
- J. LaMont attended (and Passed) CIMC California Incident Management Complex Anaheim CA.
- Attended and assisted with teaching cadre for contracts and agreements class with BDF USFS Keenwild CA.
- Weather Event Pre Position for OES (Pre Po Weather) BR625 and IFPD Crew 621
- Wind Event Pre Position for OES (Pre Po Wind.) BR625 and IFPD Crew 621
- IFPD 2025 Staff meeting.
- CPR and First Aid Class for IFPD Crew 621 and Vol. Co. 621

The following Update was distributed on January 13th 2025 During the Wind Driven Fire Storms of January 2025



The Idyllwild Fire Protection District remains Fully Staffed and is currently operating at 400% its daily operating norm. I know this sounds impossible; however, this large increase is possible through the callback of our Fire Crew members and additional full-time and reserve staff.

Last Monday (January 6th, 2025) we “staffed up for the impending and predicted wind event, and as predicted these winds showed up. On Monday the 6th the Idyllwild Fire Protection District “staffed up” to manage these winds and ensure continuous and effective emergency services without a lapse in constant coverage levels. This staffing also included staffing up and providing Mutual Aid assistance offering two (2) of our Type 3 Brush Engines and Crews to join up for a prepositioning posture with other engines from local government fire departments throughout the greater Riverside County Area. These engines were strategically located throughout the county to remain in a state of readiness in the event a fire would have broken out in the county or surrounding area.

On January 7th, 2025, the Palisades Fire started at 10:30 a.m., as many are aware this Fire immediately threatened communities in the Los Angeles area and was swept by unprecedented hurricane force winds, as of the time of this writing the Palisades Fire is 23,715 acres and 14% contained with thousands of structures destroyed and unfortunately losses of civilian lives. The cause of this fire remains under investigation.



On the evening of January 7th 2025, the Idyllwild Fire Protection District began receiving calls of trees down which impacted and brought down power, communications and data lines which crossed numerous roadways and highways throughout the Idyllwild Community and the San Jacinto Mountain Plateau. The IFPD answered those calls with several crews which split up the workload appropriately and mitigated the threat of cut off road routes to ensure that ingress and egress for possible future evacuations were secured and we also cleared numerous trees from structures and outbuildings all while answering our normal incident call volume as well. The IFPD worked nearly 30 hours straight in an effort to clear these downed trees and mitigate the ongoing threats of downed power lines throughout the Community as well as the surrounding areas.



While the Idyllwild Fire Protection District was working to ensure the safety of our community the LA City Fire Department and LA County Fire Department were battling the fast-growing Palisades Fire which grew drastically in size and scope and structures were being destroyed as these Fire Departments quickly reached out for assistance through our States very capable and robust Mutual Aid system. Then, at 18:18 the Eaton Fire erupted in the Altadena / Pasadena Area which immediately posed a threat to those communities and quickly overwhelmed emergency resources due to the massive resource draw of the already devastating Palisades Fire in Los Angeles.

The Eaton Fire is currently 14,117 acres and 33% contained, with thousands of destroyed structures and outbuildings and unfortunate loss of civilian life.

At 22:29 on the same evening (January 7th 2025) the Hurst Fire broke out near Sylmar Ca. This fire was an immediate threat and already strained resources moved strategically to mitigate yet another fast-moving wildfire. At this time, the Idyllwild Fire Protection District was well involved in mitigating threats throughout our community here at home, we had two (2) of our type three (3) engines assigned to mutual aid and we received yet another call for assistance. The IFPD quickly mobilized a Type 1 Fire engine and crew to immediately join up with XRI Strike Team 6050A and start toward the Hurst fire to assist other resources already battling the blaze. The Hurst Fire is currently 95% contained at 799 acres and thankfully no reported loss of life.

The IFPD Type 3 engines which were deployed originally for pre-position have also been assigned to the fires in the LA Area and these IFPD crews and resources will remain committed to this mission until the work is done. Please Note that the IFPD, the USFS and the Riverside County Fire Department remain fully staffed and capable of answering emergency service calls here at home.

The Idyllwild Fire Protection District is committed to mitigating the threat of emergencies to the Community of Idyllwild and assisting our cooperators and partners in their time of need under ***“Mutual Aid”*** Assistance.

So just what is ***“MUTUAL AID”***?

The Idyllwild Fire Protection District responds to a wide range of emergency incidents including Structure Fires, Wildland Fires, Medical Aid Incidents and much-much more. Whatever the emergency incident is, the Idyllwild Fire Protection District is responsible for sending an appropriate level of response to the type of incident that is reported. In the case of a reported structure fire, a standard response consists of a minimum of 2 engine companies, an ambulance, and a chief officer. This response level requires personnel who are trained, experienced and capable of managing incidents ranging from a small residential structure fire to a fire that is much larger and more involved. On occasion additional resources may be requested from other fire agencies— this is referred to as ***“mutual aid.”***



The Idyllwild Fire Protection District participates with numerous other fire agencies in the California Master Mutual Aid System. These types of agreements are very common throughout the United States. ***Every fire service provider understands that no Fire Agency, no matter its size can manage its largest incident or incidents on its busiest day.*** For this reason, fire agencies cooperate and provide ***“mutual aid”*** to help each other when situations dictate the need.

Your Idyllwild Fire Protection District personnel and equipment are proud providers of ***“mutual aid”*** and honorably serve throughout the State of California as part of the “Master Mutual Aid System”. The California Master Mutual Aid agreement provides for complete cost reimbursement for agencies which cooperate in the system. Likewise, a fire department requesting ***“mutual aid”*** assistance can ask for assistance without jeopardizing the safety of the community.

The Idyllwild Fire Protection District also participates in “Automatic Aid” response agreements with our neighboring fire departments, all of which are ready to reciprocate by sending a fire engine and other

emergency response equipment and personnel to an incident within Idyllwild without regard to jurisdictional boundaries. This type of “Automatic Aid” policy is not unique to Idyllwild, in fact it is found in nearly all fire agency response procedures, providing an incredible and lifesaving asset to all those utilizing such an assistance program. The overall cost savings to the Annual Budgets and funds available for additional personnel and equipment benefit all cooperating agencies as they each gain the benefit of personnel depth and additional coverage around the clock.

As our beautiful community continues to grow, the Idyllwild Fire Protection District remains committed to ensuring that your emergency response needs are met. Over our nearly 80-year history, the Idyllwild Fire Protection District has grown from an all-volunteer based department to a fully professional and full-time fully staffed organization with 365/24/7 fire and EMS service coverage including ALS Ambulance service and transportation. The IFPD responds to more than 1500 requests for service annually.

The cost of providing “**Mutual Aid**” is fully reimbursed, including all salaries, overtime and equipment use. Your local Fire Agency and the overall Fire Service Community have partnered together to provide you with professional, and uninterrupted emergency services.

Please note that the Idyllwild Fire Protection District and the United States Forest Service have a Fire Restriction Order which has remained in place since June of 2024. This restriction prohibits the use of outdoor fires of any type. Also, No Charcoal or wood fired BBQs are allowed in the Idyllwild Community at any time. Please contact us for more information on Fire Safety and Safe (gas fired only) BBQ usage.

As always, we would like to Thank our community for helping us to “Keep Idyllwild Fire Safe” by your consistent and mandatory property abatement efforts.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our brothers and sisters which are out on the front lines of these destructive fires, and our hearts and prayers are with those effected by them as well.

Please tune in to WNKI 1610 am radio (WNKI578) for emergency updates and information.

Should you have any questions, or need additional information please be sure to call us at (951) 659-2153. Or go to www.idyllwildfire for more information.

We are Honored at the Opportunity to serve.

Respectfully,

Mark LaMont
Fire Chief
Idyllwild Fire Protection District



Please note the following updated information pertaining to the **Palisades** and **Eaton** fires as of January 23, 2025:

Eaton Fire: Los Angeles County, Altadena California:

Start Date: January 7th 2025

Acres Burned: 14,021

Structures Destroyed: 9418

Fatalities: 17

Containment: 90%

IFPD Providing Mutual Aid: YES

Palisades Fire: Los Angeles County, Palisades California:

Start Date: January 7th 2025

Acres Burned: 23,713

Structures Destroyed: 6380

Fatalities: 11

Containment: 65%

IFPD Providing Mutual Aid: YES

In addition to the Assistance IFPD Provided for the Los Angeles Fire Storm Incidents, the IFPD mandated a call back of ALL uniformed and part time personnel.

IFPD Provided Preposition resources for local (Riverside County ongoing wind events from January 7th through January 23rd. This includes Personnel, Engines, IFPD Crew 621 and Overhead positions.

Throughout this destructive event the IFPD maintained a fully staffed response capability and posture here at home to ensure timely, effective, efficient and critical emergency services to the community of Idyllwild and the overall Mountain Plateau of the San Jacinto Mountains. We would also like to Thank our cooperative partners for their assistance in ensuring these critical services. United States Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest, Riverside County Fire, Riverside County Sheriff, Cal Trans, Cal Highway Patrol, San Bernardino County Fire Department, Fern Valley Water District.

This beautiful, fire prone place we call “HOME”:

California is well known for its incredibly temperate climate, beautiful weather, incredible coastlines and mountain ranges. We are also well known for very dry, windy, and often extremely hot weather conditions that can set us up for some incredibly severe wildfires. Pre-1800, when California was much more forested and much less inhabited the ecology was likely much more resilient, It is estimated that pre 1800 somewhere between 4 and 5 million acres of forest and shrubland burned annually. With California land area total of nearly 100 million acres that estimate is 4 to 5 percent of our landmass total. Since 2000, the area which has burned annually averaged between 100,000 acres, .01%, and 2 million acres, or 2% of the total land mass of California. The standout was the 2020 wildfire season when over 8,000 fires contributed to the burning of nearly 4.5 million acres of land throughout California.

It is estimated that more than 500,000 people throughout California live in communities which fall into zones deemed to be at “very high risk of fire”.

Moreover, with California’s population expected to hit an all-time high of 42.5 million by the end of 2025 and over 3 million of those residents residing in “high fire hazard severity zones”, What are we doing to reduce the risk?

The majority of Californias wildfire ignitions since 1980 have been caused by humans. The four most common ignition sources for wildfires in California are: equipment use, powerlines, arson, and lightning. This causes me to ponder, “what are we actually doing to increase the risk of fire”? Our misuse of equipment, neglect of power infrastructure maintenance, “mental health crisis” (arsonists) are the top three causes of fire on our landscape. So, lets unpack:

1. *How did we get here?* (January meeting 2025)
2. *What are we doing currently?* (March meeting 2025)
3. *How can we make things better?* (May meeting 2025)

It is also important to note, that in addition to the catastrophic loss of human life, structural devastation and financial impacts, recent studies have also found that wildfires greatly affect the California ecosystem and disrupt habitats.

How did we get here?

California is certainly no stranger to fire on her landscape. In fact, fire without doubt predates our historical documentation.

Population and proximity to the (WUI) Wildland Urban Interface:

The wildland–urban interface (WUI) is a zone of transition between wilderness (unoccupied land) and land developed by human activity – an area where a built environment meets or intermingles with a natural environment.

In the United States, the wildland–urban interface (WUI) has two definitions. The US Forest Service defines the wildland–urban interface as a place where "humans and their development meet or intermix with wildland fuel." Communities that are within 0.5 miles of the zone are included. A quantitative definition is provided by the Federal Register, which defines WUI areas as those containing at least one housing unit per 40 acres



For Idyllwild Residents living in the Jurisdictional boundaries of the Idyllwild Fire Protection District, YES, you reside in the “Wildland Urban Interface”.



The WUI has consistently been the fastest-growing land use type in the United States since 1990. Factors include geographic population shifts, expansion of cities and suburbs into wildlands, and vegetative growth into formerly unvegetated land. The primary cause has been migration. Of new WUI areas, 97% were the result of new housing. In the United States there are population shifts towards

the WUIs in the West and South; increasing nationally by 18 percent per decade, covering 6 million additional homes between 1990 and 2000 which in 2013 was 32 percent of habitable structures.

With a shift of population to the WUI, we have an even greater challenge and responsibility as society to commit to ensuring our communities remain fire safe:

What are we doing currently? A Summary of California's Historic and Catastrophic Wildfires

The 20 largest wildfires in California History:

Name	County	Acres	Date	Structures	Deaths
*August Complex	Glenn	1,032,648	August 2020	935	1
*Dixie	Butte	963,309	July 2021	1,329	1
*Mendocino	Mendocino	459,123	July 2018	280	1
*Park	Butte	429,603	July 2024	709	0
*Lightning Complex	Santa Clara	396,624	August 2020	222	0
Creek	Fresno	379,895	September 2020	856	0
*LNU Lightning Lake	Napa,	363,220	August 2020	1,491	6
*North Complex	Plumas, Butte	318,935	August 2020	2,352	15
Santiago Canyon	Orange, Riv	300,000	September 1989	0	0
*Thomas	Ventura, SB	281,893	December 2017	1,063	23
*Cedar	San Diego	273,246	October 2003	2,820	15
Rush	Lassen	271,911	August 2012	0	0
*Rim	Tuolumne	257,314	August 2013	112	0
*Zaca	Santa Barbara	240,207	July 2007	1	0
*Carr	Shasta, Trinity	229,651	July 2018	1,614	8
*Monument	Trinity	223,124	July 2021	50	0
*Caldor	El Dorado, Amador	221,835	August 2021	1,003	1
Matilija	Ventura	220,000	September	1932	0
River Complex	SiskiyouTrinity	199,343	July 2021	122	0
*Witch	San Diego	197,990	October 2007	1,650	2
Totals		7,259,871		18,541	73
Averages		362,993		927	3.65

* (denotes that IFPD provided resource and personnel support) (75%)

The 20 deadliest California wildfires:

Name	County	Acres	Start date	Structures	Deaths
*Camp	Butte	153,336	November 2018	18,804	86
Griffith Park	Los Angeles	47	October 1933	0	29
Tunnel	Alameda	1,600	October 1991	2,900	25
*Thomas	Ventura, S B	281,893	December 2017	1,063	23
*Tubbs	Napa, Sonoma	36,807	October 2017	5,643	22
*North Complex	Plumas, Butte	318,935	August 2020	2,352	16
*Cedar	San Diego	273,246	October 2003	2,820	15
Rattlesnake	Glenn	1,340	July 1953	0	15
Loop	Los Angeles	2,028	November 1966	0	12
Hauser Creek	San Diego	13,145	October 1943	0	11
Inaja	San Diego	43,904	November 1956	0	11
Iron Alps	Trinity	105,855	August 2008	10	10
Redwood Valley	Mendocino	36,523	October 2017	544	9
*Harris	San Diego	90,440	October 2007	548	8
Canyon	Los Angeles	22,197	August 1968	0	8
*Carr	Shasta, Trinity	229,651	July 2018	1,614	8
*LNU Lightning	Colusa, Lake, Napa	363,220	August 2020	1,491	6
*Atlas	Napa, Solano	51,624	October 2017	781	6
*Old	San Bernardino	91,281	October 2003	1,003	6
Decker	Riverside	1,425	August 1959	1	6
Totals		2,118,497		39,574	332
Averages		105,925		1,978	16.5

* (denotes that IFPD provided resource and personnel support) (50%)

The 20 most destructive California wildfires:

<i>Name</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Start date</i>	<i>Structures</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
<i>*Camp</i>	<i>Butte</i>	<i>153,336</i>	<i>November 2018</i>	<i>18,804</i>	<i>86</i>
<i>*Tubbs</i>	<i>Napa, Sonoma</i>	<i>36,807</i>	<i>October 2017</i>	<i>5,643</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Tunnel</i>	<i>Alameda</i>	<i>1,600</i>	<i>October 1991</i>	<i>2,900</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>*Cedar</i>	<i>San Diego</i>	<i>273,246</i>	<i>October 2003</i>	<i>2,820</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>*North Complex</i>	<i>Plumas, Butte</i>	<i>318,935</i>	<i>August 2020</i>	<i>2,352</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Valley</i>	<i>Lake, Napa,</i>	<i>76,067</i>	<i>September 2015</i>	<i>1,955</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>*Witch</i>	<i>San Diego</i>	<i>197,990</i>	<i>October 2007</i>	<i>1,650</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>*Woolsey</i>	<i>Ventura, L A</i>	<i>96,949</i>	<i>November 2018</i>	<i>1,643</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>*Carr</i>	<i>Shasta, Trinity</i>	<i>229,651</i>	<i>July 2018</i>	<i>1,614</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Glass</i>	<i>Napa, Sonoma</i>	<i>67,484</i>	<i>September 2020</i>	<i>1,520</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>*LNU Lightning</i>	<i>Colusa, Lake,</i>	<i>363,220</i>	<i>August 2020</i>	<i>1,491</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>*CZU Lightning</i>	<i>Santa Cruz,</i>	<i>86,509</i>	<i>August 2020</i>	<i>1,490</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Nuns</i>	<i>Sonoma</i>	<i>54,382</i>	<i>October 2017</i>	<i>1,355</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>*Dixie</i>	<i>Butte, Lassen, Plumas,</i>	<i>963,309</i>	<i>July 2021</i>	<i>1,329</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>*Thomas</i>	<i>Ventura, Santa Barb</i>	<i>281,893</i>	<i>December 2017</i>	<i>1,063</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>*Caldor</i>	<i>El Dorado, Amador,</i>	<i>221,835</i>	<i>August 2021</i>	<i>1,003</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>*Old</i>	<i>San Bernardino</i>	<i>91,281</i>	<i>October 2003</i>	<i>1,003</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Butte</i>	<i>Amador, Calaveras</i>	<i>70,868</i>	<i>September 2015</i>	<i>965</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Jones</i>	<i>Shasta</i>	<i>26,200</i>	<i>October 1999</i>	<i>954</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>*August Complex</i>	<i>Trinity, Shasta</i>	<i>1,032,649</i>	<i>August 2020</i>	<i>935</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Totals</i>		<i>4,644,211</i>		<i>51,486</i>	<i>225</i>
<i>Averages</i>		<i>232,210</i>		<i>2,575</i>	<i>11.25</i>

** (denotes that IFPD provided resource and personnel support) (70%)*

In January 2022, the US Forest Service launched a robust strategy to address the wildfire crisis in the places where it poses the most immediate threats to communities, critical infrastructure, and natural resources. The strategy combines a downpayment of congressional funding with years of scientific research and planning into a national effort that will dramatically increase the scale and pace of forest health treatments. Through the strategy, the agency will work with states, Tribes and other Partners to addresses wildfire risks to critical infrastructure, protect communities, and make forests more resilient.

USFS: January 2025 – “Where We Stand”

“We are making significant progress going into the fourth year of our strategy to address the ongoing wildfire crisis. In fiscal year 2024, we treated a record 803,633 acres across the 21 Wildfire Crisis Strategy landscapes, surpassing fiscal 2023’s accomplishments of 765,450 acres. In total, we have invested in the treatment of 1.86 million acres across the landscapes since their establishment in 2022 and 2023. Our focused work within the 21 fire-prone landscapes has resulted in reduced wildfire risk to \$700 billion worth of housing and critical infrastructure. This includes approximately 550 at-risk communities, 2,500 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, and 1,800 watersheds that provide drinking water, as well as many other values that people depend on and care about. Thanks to this work, the communities, critical infrastructure, and natural and cultural resources Americans rely upon are becoming safer”.

Lots to say, the arguments regarding climate change:

Climate change in California is a topic being highly discussed, and disputed, many believe that “climate change” has resulted in higher than average temperatures, leading to increased occurrences of both droughts and wildfires.

“Climate Change” has been predicted by some to further reduce water availability, increase wildfire risk, decrease agricultural productivity, and threaten coastal ecosystems. It is said that California could also be impacted economically due to the rising cost of providing water to its residents along with revenue and job loss in the agricultural sector. Economic impacts also include inflation from rising insurance premiums, energy costs and overall food prices.

Is the California government taking the proper steps to alter the impacts of what they describe as “climate change” throughout the state?

The following clip was taken directly from “Wikipedia” *“Because of warming, frequent droughts, and the legacy of past land management and expansion of residential areas, both people and the ecology are more vulnerable to wildfires.”* Wildfire activity is closely tied to temperature and drought over time. Globally, the length of the fire season increased by nearly 19% from 1979 to

2013, with significantly longer seasons in the western states. Since 1985, more than 50% of the wildfire area burned in the western United States can be attributed to anthropogenic climate change. In addition, due to human fire suppression methods, there is a buildup of fuels in some ecosystems. This makes them more vulnerable to wildfires. Currently, there is a greater risk of fires occurring in denser, dryer forests, whereas historically these fires have occurred in low-density areas. Lastly, with increases in human population, communities have expanded into areas that are at higher risk to wildfire threat, making these same populations more vulnerable to structural damage and death due to wildfires. Since 1990, the average annual number of homes lost to wildfires has increased by 300%.”

Lack of Prescribed Fire Treatments



“Prescribed fire is an important tool for increasing the resilience of fire-dependent ecosystems and for reducing overall wildfire risk, but it is not being applied at the necessary or desired levels. We investigated barriers and strategies for facilitating prescribed fire application on USFS and BLM lands across the western United States”.

Rocky Mountain Research Station 2020

Principal Investigator: Sarah M. McCaffrey

Although air quality is often thought to be a key barrier to prescribed fire, overall lack of adequate capacity and funding were the most commonly cited barriers.

Despite broad recognition of its value, managers are not able to use prescribed fire at the levels necessary to improve landscape resiliency in the western United States. A better understanding of policy barriers and opportunities is therefore needed. Limited research suggests that a range of factors constrain prescribed fire implementation including narrow burn windows, air quality regulations, lack of adequate funding and personnel, and other environmental laws. Through interviews conducted in 11 western states, we investigated the degree to which these factors currently act as barriers and the strategies being used to overcome key barriers for prescribed fire application on United States Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. We asked the following questions:





What are the most significant policy barriers to prescribed fire on USFS and BLM lands in the West?

The barriers to prescribed fire that were most frequently identified by our interviewees were (a) lack of adequate capacity (b) funding, Interviewees emphasized that owing to a lack of incentives and the prevalence of risk aversion at multiple agency levels, active prescribed fire

programs depend on the leadership and commitment of individual decision-makers and fire managers. Barriers related to policy requirements tended to be significant only in specific locations or situations, such as smoke regulations in the Pacific Northwest or protecting specific threatened and endangered species.

Our findings highlight the importance of contextualized investigation into policy barriers and the role of collaborative and multilevel governance approaches for addressing complex land management challenges. This research has broader implications for fire and natural hazard management. It is important in a complex governance system to continue to assess where barriers lie and how they can be addressed. Challenges will change over time, requiring a nuanced and ongoing contextual approach to understanding impediments to improving practice.

What are potential opportunities and mechanisms for change?

Findings support previous survey work that found that capacity is a major limitation for applying prescribed fire. We found less support for previous findings that air quality regulation is consistently a significant barrier, except in specific locations. Interviewees emphasized that owing to a lack of incentives and the prevalence of risk aversion at multiple agency levels, active prescribed fire programs depend on the leadership and commitment of individual decision-makers and fire managers. Successful approaches rely on collaborative forums and positions that allow communication, problem solving, and resource sharing among federal state and local partners, and that facilitate dialogue between air-quality regulators and land managers. Although not a focus in the present work, interviewees also discussed other barriers to burning, like drought conditions, short burn windows, and the presence of challenging landscape conditions, such as the presence of invasive cheat grass (*Bromus tectorum*), that limit their ability to conduct prescribed fire.

Question: What are we doing currently?

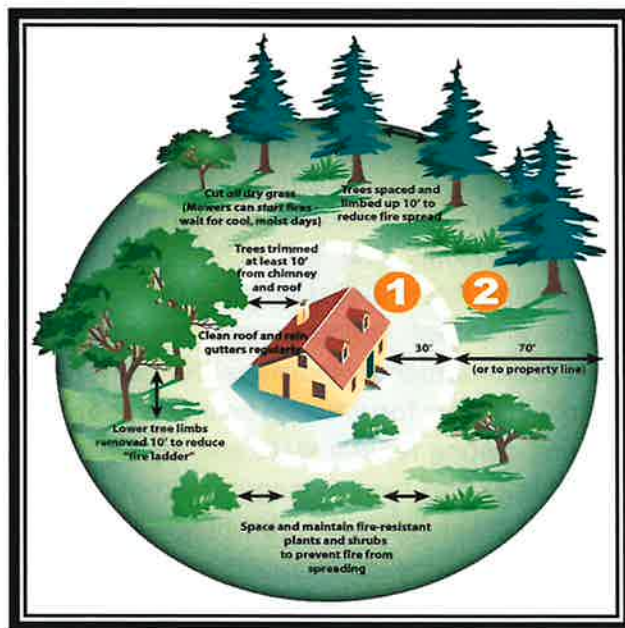
Answer:

- a) We continue to populate/inhabit areas within the WUI landscapes without clear and defined avenues for both initial and ongoing fire prevention and mitigation plans and funding mechanisms.
- b) We continue to allow fire prevention methods (such as fuels treatments and prescribed burns) to be met with nearly impossible and overly restrictive regulations, policies and standards.
- c) The fight over “climate change” has blinded many on both sides of the argument to the point that Society does not currently have an appetite to force common sense change and funding to ensure that mitigation efforts are proportionate to values and lives at risk.

Next meeting we will discuss: *How can we make things better?*

IFPD - Property Abatement:

The Idyllwild Fire Protection District inspects 3829 properties each year.



- As Per IFPD Ord. 19-01 we will begin performing our annual abatement inspections on ALL properties within IFPD jurisdiction. IFPD crews will start the first round of inspections on **April 1st** and failed inspection notices are anticipated to be mailed out to property owners by April 15th. (weather permitting)
- Second inspections should begin no later than May 15th, After the second inspection notices are mailed out, then a three week interval is given to complete the work prior to the final inspections being performed.
- We anticipate final inspections in the first couple weeks of June 2025. Last year numerous citations (approximately 5%) were mailed out for those properties which remained out of compliance.

Ongoing Property Abatement 2025:

As with previous years the Idyllwild Fire Protection District will continue inspecting ALL (3829) properties for compliance with ORD 19-01. This local ordinance is in addition to the CA State abatement regulations: (IFPD abatement Inspections begin late spring generally Early to Mid April – Early June each year).

This year's 1st inspections will be conducted beginning April 1st 2025. Our annual notification Post cards have already been mailed out.



Items which top the “Failed” inspection list each year are:

- Address Numbers – These must be 4” or greater in size and must be visible from the street in a contrasting color.
- Clearance around Propane Tanks – Must have a minimum of 10’ clearance around LP tanks.
- Roof clear of flammable debris – Your roof must be free from pine needles, leaves, and other flammable debris.
- Thirty (30’) ft. clearance of all vegetation around your home.

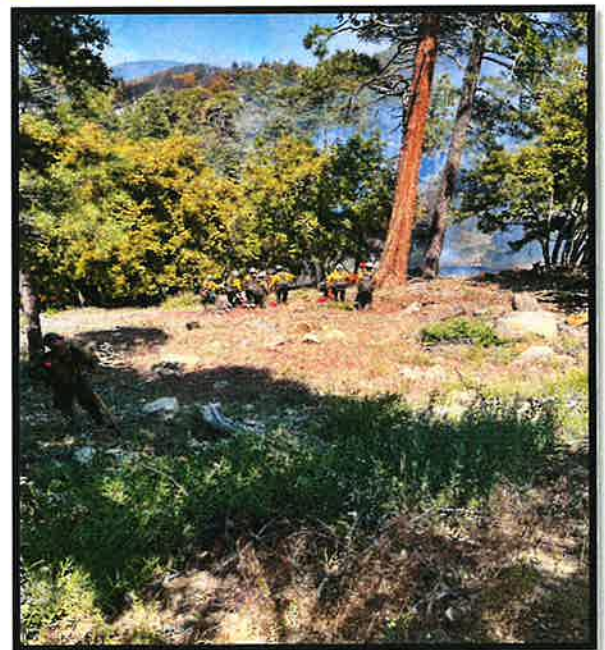
Please check our website or contact our office with any questions you may have regarding Property Abatement, the IFPD will be happy to assist you! Property Abatement is an ongoing responsibility.

Ongoing Fuels Projects: The Idyllwild Fire Protection District continues to work with our Cooperative Partners on fuels reduction and community resiliency projects: Thomas Mountain, Westridge, South Ridge, Strawberry, and other local fuels projects. The IFPD has also had the opportunity to assist with fuels projects in the Cleveland National Forest.

Update: (Partnership agreement with the USFS is completed)

Bear Trap Fuel Reductions:

IFPD continues working on this critical fuel reduction project with the private property owners to reduce fuels on a ridgeline west of Idyllwild and east of Bear Trap Canyon. These fuels reductions will greatly strengthen our fire prevention efforts along with the other ongoing fuels reductions projects on west ridge, south ridge, and strawberry fuel reductions. We anticipate an RX treatment in early 2024 on this project.



Update: The Bear Trap fuel project is ready for an RX (firing) treatment. We will likely need to do a “re-entry” on this project early 2025 and then apply the Rx treatment.

Communications Site:

The IFPD completed numerous improvements to our communications site. The IFPD plans to relocate WNKI (1610 am emergency radio) to the site which will greatly enhance our overall emergency communications network and provide a larger coverage area for the community. This relocation is anticipated to take place early 2025. Thank you to all those who participated in making this project a huge success! (We are currently working with SCE on providing permanent power to this site) Currently we have LP generator power and solar energy providing power to the site.

Update: We have worked through the project planning process with SCE and anticipate having final approvals by mid-April 2025, this will provide permanent power to the site.

Individual and ongoing Community CPR Classes:

IFPD delivers several CPR classes each year. In 2024 we provided five (5) CPR classes for the USFS, three (3) for local tree companies, two (1) local camp employees course and two (2) community CPR classes. (Persons interested in attending a CPR class should contact our office and speak with Rachel for details and schedule)



CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

IFPD held a full CERT Course in October of 2023. We also conducted 1 refresher course in June of 2023. IFPD sponsors MDP (Mountain Disaster Preparedness) and partners with them in the training of new CERT members. Twenty-two new CERT members took the October 2023 training course.



- ***The IFPD anticipates putting on one (1) new CERT course and one (1) refresher course in 2025. Check our website or call our office for details regarding upcoming classes. Thanks to all who assisted and participated in these training classes.***

2024/25 FY Mutual Aid Fires:

IFPD is a proud contributor to the greater Mutual Aid effort. IFPD has served on numerous fires to date during the 2024/25 FY including but not limited to:

2024/25FY Mutual Aid Fire assignments:

BASIN FIRE	Team 11	June 27 th – July 14 th
White Fire	T6 Strike Team	July 16 – July 20 th
Ridge Fire	T6 Strike Team	July 20 th – July 24 th
Gold Fire	T3 Strike Team	July 25 th – July 28 th
Park Fire	T3 Strike Team	July 28 th – Aug 11 th
SQF Lightning	Team 11	July 26 th – July 30 th
BOREL	Team 11	July 28 th – Aug 10 th
BOISE Fire	Team 11	Aug 22 nd – Sep. 8 th
Line Fire	Task Force 621	Sept. 6 th – 21 st
LINE Fire	Team 11	Sept. 26 th – Oct. 11 th
Mountain Fire	T3 Strike Team	BR625
Palisades Fire	T 3 Strike Team	BR621
Palisades Fire	T 1 Strike Team	E622
Hurst Fire	T 1 Strike Team	E622
Eaton Fire	T 3 Strike Team	BR625

Numerous Pre-Position Mutual Aid Assistance:
Ongoing



2024/25 Fires Invoiced to Date: \$ 4,168,000.00

(Received YTD FY24/25 \$ 3,623,240.00)

In **2024** IFPD invoiced \$ \$2,427,631.09 in mutual aid reimbursement.

In **2023** IFPD invoiced: \$ 1,353,000.00 in mutual aid reimbursement.

In **2022** IFPD invoiced: \$ 2,010,000.00 in mutual aid reimbursement.

In **2021** IFPD invoiced: \$ 1,205,000.00 in mutual aid reimbursement.

In **2020** IFPD invoiced: \$ 500,000.00 in mutual aid reimbursement.



The IFPD Continues to meet the challenge of providing assistance through the Mutual Aid system to those communities in their time of need. IFPD thanks our Cooperators and Partners for their strong commitment to this critical system of emergency service.

Grants:

**Awarded: AFG Grant 2024 – 25,000.00
PPE Gear.**

**Awarded: VFA Grant 2024 – 10,000.00
Radio and Communications Equipment.**

**Awarded: FEMA 2024: \$ 50,000.00 Medical
Equipment, gurneys, stair-chairs,
laryngoscopes, and more.**



- Previously Awarded items:
 - Firehouse Subs SCBA Grant(s)
 - Previously Awarded items: Striker Life Pac Cardiac Monitors and Gurneys.
- Pending Grants:
 - AFG Assistance to Firefighters Grant.
 - VFA Volunteer Firefighters Assistance Grant.
 - \$ 25,000.00 Rope rescue gear, misc. rescue equipment.
(Submitted)



AWARDED:

- **2024: \$ 1m California Investments in Wildfire Prevention. (on hold)**

UPDATE: IFPD was awarded the \$1m Investment in Wildfire Prevention Grant, stay tuned for more Information as this grant and the dollars associated come available (est. early 2025) Currently funding of this grant is on hold pending release.

Statistics:

<i>Incident Volume:</i>	<i>Jan: 2025</i>	<i>Feb: 2025</i>
Medical:	58	49
Fires:	11	8
Hazardous Cond:	12	6
Public Service:	15	13
False Alarm:	4	5
Other:	16	4
Total number of Incidents:	116	85
Medical:		40
Fires:		8
Hazardous Cond:		5
Public Service:		12
False Alarm:		3
Other:		7



Running total: FY24/25 779 (as of Feb.. 28, 2025)



Ambulance Transactions:

	JAN. 25	FEB. 25	YTD
Transports:	37	28	250
Charges:	\$ 69,819.00	\$ 62,648.00	\$ 669,488.00
Payments:	\$ 21,646.26	\$ 21,062.83	\$ 175,951.53
Current A/R:	\$ 348,318.00	\$ 340,030.00	\$ 340,030.00

Equipment Update:

Suppression Equipment:

Unit	Mileage	Condition	Notes
T-621	30034	Good	2024 Ladder test completed.
E-621	37841	Good	Repairs completed.
RE-622	64509	Good	Front line
BR-621	65524	Fair	PM Scheduled
BR-622	132960	Good	PM Scheduled
BR-625	36555	Excellent	NA
OES-6608	24455	Excellent	NA
WT-621	30065	Poor	See CIP needs replacement.

Ambulances:

Medic Unit One 1	63995	Excellent	NA
Medic Unit Two 2	47694	Excellent	NA
Medic Unit Five 5	45448	Excellent	NA
Medic Unit 626	64450	Good	NA

Administrative/Other Units

		Condition	Notes
C-6200	81040	Excellent	NA
B-621	36234	Excellent	NA
B-6202	19317	Excellent	NA
S-621	50950	Good	NA
U-621	131425	Good	NA
A-621	75937	Excellent	NA

IFPD CREW621:

Members of Crew 621 receive an “in Service” training in May each year. These members train to earn their “red card” and maintain certification and training for the wildland fire environment.

Crew 621 has a greater than 80% return of last year’s members which will allow crew 621 to reclassify as a type II IA crew (upgrading from last year’s classification of Type II) All members will received a full in service “red card” training and the crew will be fully in service and ready to assist the USFS (BDF) San Jacinto Ranger District with the continued prescribed burn projects on Thomas Mountain, Our Crew has provided Mutual Aid and completed local fuels and fire incident work throughout 2022/2023 and 2024. Looking forward to their continued efforts in 2025, Thank you Idyllwild Crew 621!!





Please remind your family, friends, and neighbors that Fire Prevention and Abatement efforts are a year-round commitment.

Thank you for your efforts in helping to keep Idyllwild Fire Safe!

Emergency Siren Testing

*3rd Saturday of each month @
1:00pm.*



IFPD Response Time Averages: (time of dispatch to time of arrival)

Medical Aid Incidents. 3.17 minutes

Fire Related Incidents. 4.19 Minutes

Overlapping Incidents 36.62%

*From our Family to Yours,
“You are our Mission.”*

Chiefs Report March 25th, 2025.