

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN, 2019

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3.4 FIRE PROTECTION

GOAL 4: SUPPORT FIRE-PROTECTION SERVICES FOR PEOPLE, PROPERTY, COMMUNITIES, AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

OBJECTIVE 4

THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL WILL SUPPORT ITS COLLABORATORS IN INCREASING FIRE AGENCIES' CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FIRE-PROTECTION SERVICES FOR ALL PEOPLE, PROPERTY, COMMUNITIES, AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

The following Metrics and Priority Actions have been identified by the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council to be accomplished over the next five years towards meeting the goal of supporting fire protection services for people, property, communities, and natural resources in Humboldt County.

For more information on Humboldt County's fire-protection resources and needs, see Chapter 5.3, Wildfire Protection.

It is the intention of the collaborators of this CWPP that everything recommended in this Action Plan be implemented expeditiously over the next five years. That said, implementation is subject to the availability of funds and other resources, and the willingness and ability of community members and CWPP collaborators to take action.

A list of detailed Potential Action Steps for each of the following Priority Actions can be found in Appendix O.

3.4.1 METRIC: STAFFING

ALL FIRE-PROTECTION AGENCIES WILL MAINTAIN LEVEL OF SERVICE STAFFING AS PER NFPA 1710 OR 1720, AS IS APPLICABLE TO THEIR AGENCY, AND GIVEN TRAVEL-TIME CONSTRAINTS.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.4.1-1 INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF VOLUNTEER STAFFING AND OTHER FIRE-SERVICE NEEDS BY SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A WEBSITE.	
DESCRIPTION	The Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) Fire Protection Work Group will support the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association (HCFCA) to create a website to share information with residents about volunteer staffing issues and other current needs. The website's purpose will be to educate community members regarding how they can support their local fire department, including helping with fundraisers, grant writing, reporting, paperwork, and/or becoming a volunteer firefighter. The site will include links to individual fire department websites and how community members can volunteer and join their local department.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association (HCFCA) with HCFSC Fire Protection Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Local fire departments, County of Humboldt, Fire Safe Councils (FSCs), local media, student volunteers or interns.
DESIRED OUTCOME	WEBSITE WITH CURRENT INFORMATION REGARDING VOLUNTEER STAFFING AND OTHER FIRE-SERVICE NEEDS.

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PRIORITY ACTION 3.4.1-2 COLLABORATE WITH HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS’ ASSOCIATION TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS OF VOLUNTEER STAFFING AND OTHER FIRE-SERVICE NEEDS.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>The HCFSC Fire Protection Work Group will work with information developed for the website in <i>Priority Action 3.4.1-1</i> above and identify other avenues to share this information with the public. This could include traditional media outlets (e.g. TV, radio, newspapers), social media, local blogs, and other avenues, including trader magazines. The outreach program could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creating a series of articles to share about local fire-protection needs, including one on each local fire department. ○ Exploring writing a regular column about local fire department needs in area newspapers and/or blogs. ○ Sharing the website, updates, and articles on social media, through HCFSC, HCFCFA, local fire departments, and other supporters. ○ Coordinate with the successful annual media work of the Fire Academy.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Fire Protection Work Group with HCFCFA
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Local fire departments, local media, local bloggers, County of Humboldt.
DESIRED OUTCOME	ONGOING AND CONSISTENT SOCIAL-MEDIA POSTINGS, QUARTERLY RADIO ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND ONE OR MORE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ANNUALLY.

The following lists of Potential Projects are those supported by this CWPP as having a positive benefit towards meeting this Metric, Objective, and Goal. The Humboldt County Fire Safe Council and its collaborators support and encourage implementation of the potential projects listed throughout this Action Plan.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- Identify process whereby mutual aid partners can help fill minimum staffing requirements in remote areas.
- Explore solutions to staffing issues throughout the day because of volunteers who work during the day, etc.

3.4.2 METRIC: FUNDING

A MAJORITY OF FIRE-PROTECTION AGENCIES WILL HAVE ADEQUATE AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.4.2-1 SUPPORT HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS’ ASSOCIATION EFFORTS TO PARTICIPATE IN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND ALLOCATIONS TO LOCAL FIRE-SERVICE AGENCIES.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>Nearly every fire department in Humboldt County needs additional funding to perform the services expected of them by their citizenry to ensure adequate and sustainable community fire protection for all county residents. There is a lack of resources available to dedicate to raising more funds.</p> <p>Via this action item, the HCFSC will support HCFCFA to explore options for sustainable and reliable sources of ongoing funding for fire-protection districts and departments. Funding sources could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revenue exchange agreements, ○ Special taxes, ○ Benefit assessments,

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mitigation fees, ○ User fees, ○ Impact fees, ○ Insurance billing, ○ Grant funding, ○ Revenue sharing agreements for Proposition 172, funding measures such as the Marijuana Excise Tax and Public Safety Sales Tax, and others, and ○ Funding bills passed through state legislation (legislation could also take the form of tax credits and/or discounts). <p>Funding would help cover costs, including but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dispatch fees and planning, ○ Insurance and workers compensation expenses, ○ Training programs, both local and countywide, ○ Regional coordinators to support: logistics, collaborative efforts, administrative tasks, capacity building, fundraising, recruitment and retention programs, training programs, and more, ○ Sustained services to all places where there is demand, ○ Maintaining operable and up-to-date equipment, and ○ Structures to protect and secure equipment. <p>Defining a cost per firefighter, or a local actual cost per unit of population could help departments to educate their populace regarding the basic funds needed to support a volunteer department. (<i>Fortuna Fire</i> has a display of what it costs to fully outfit a volunteer firefighter.) This information could be useful to understand if it is more expensive to outfit a firefighter and/or cover basic expenses in rural areas, and/or if there is there an economy of scale to funding local fire protection.</p> <p>Finally, this action item would support all local fire departments in having access to quality materials for handing out at fundraising events, to support their local fundraising efforts.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFCFA with HCFSC Fire Protection Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Fire departments, County of Humboldt, Fire Safe Councils and Firewise® Communities, Humboldt Area Foundation, community organizations.
DESIRED OUTCOME	LOCAL FIRE SERVICE RECEIVES AN INCREASED RATE OF FUNDING.

3.4.3 METRIC: EQUIPMENT

75% OF FIRE-PROTECTION AGENCIES WILL HAVE SAFE AND ADEQUATE EQUIPMENT.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.4.3-1 PROVIDE EDUCATION AND SUPPORT FOR MEETING EXISTING MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR STANDARDS.	
DESCRIPTION	Many local fire departments are operating with old equipment that require constant maintenance, especially water tenders. This action item would assist departments in meetings existing maintenance and repair standards with proper forms, inspection templates, and general education regarding these standards.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFCFA with HCFSC Fire Protection Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Fire departments, state and federal fire protection agencies.
DESIRED OUTCOME	ALL LOCAL FIRE-SERVICE PROVIDERS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT, AND GUIDANCE MATERIALS TO, MEET MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR STANDARDS.

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PRIORITY ACTION 3.4.3-2	
EXPLORE AGREEMENTS WITH COUNTY, STATE, OR PRIVATE ENTITIES THAT HAVE EXISTING FACILITIES TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE EMERGENCY APPARATUS MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>As described above, much firefighting apparatus is in need of maintenance and repair. This action item explores creative options to keep equipment maintained, and to help meet the standard of the previous action.</p> <p>Historically, the timber industry and others who maintained heavy equipment helped with local fire-department equipment maintenance. This action item focuses on exploring potential cooperation opportunities. It does not commit agency partners to provide equipment or maintenance.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFCA with HCFSC Fire Protection Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Local fire departments, CAL FIRE, SRNF, BLM, timber and other natural-resource industries, county, state, or private entities that have existing facilities, including County Motor Pool, school districts.
DESIRED OUTCOME	AGREEMENTS IN PLACE WITH ENTITIES TO ASSIST WITH REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL FIRE APPARATUS.

3.4.4 METRIC: TRAINING

NFPA 1403 STRUCTURAL AND NWCG FFT2 WILDLAND TRAININGS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL FOR ALL FIRE-PROTECTION AGENCIES.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.4.4-1	
ESTABLISH REGULAR FIRE-TRAINING PROGRAMS AND CLASSES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TO SERVE ALL REGIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>As previously stated in this CWPP, consistent and local training opportunities for local fire departments is a priority need for local firefighters. Given the remote nature of many areas, trainings are needed regionally, in the southern, north-eastern, and northern areas of the county, as well as in the existing facilities in the Eel River Valley and Humboldt Bay.</p> <p>HCFCFA is currently using Public Safety Sales Tax funding for training facilities. There is now a need to establish structured and coordinated training <u>programs</u>, as well as individual courses. This action would create a standard curriculum and course materials.</p> <p>These trainings would promote National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1403¹ as a goal to achieve for structural trainings, and National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) Firefighter Type 2² for wildland fire training.</p>
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	Humboldt County Fire Instructors Association (under the guidance of HCFCA) with HCFSC Fire Protection Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Local fire departments, CAL FIRE, SRNF, BLM, County Office of Emergency Services (OES), College of the Redwoods.
DESIRED OUTCOME	REGULAR FIRE-TRAINING PROGRAMS IN THE SOUTHERN, CENTRAL, AND NORTHERN REGIONS OF THE COUNTY.

¹ NFPA 1403: Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions. (2018). National Fire Protection Association. Retrieved from <https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards/detail?code=1403>

² Firefighter Type 2 (Crewmember), FFTS. (2018). National Wildfire Coordinating Group. Retrieved from <https://www.nwcg.gov/fft2-firefighter-type2>

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3.4.5 METRIC: DISPATCH

EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY DISPATCH SERVICES WILL BE IMPROVED AND MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY, INCLUDING INCREASING COVERAGE AREA TO 80%.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.4.5-1 EVALUATE CURRENT DISPATCH COVERAGE AREAS TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF DEFICIENCY.	
DESCRIPTION	Given the rural nature of Humboldt County, it is no surprise that there are several areas around the county where one does not have cellular service, let alone radio dispatch capacity. These dispatch “hole” areas include Miranda, Myers Flat, Weott, Whitethorn, Ettersburg, Honeydew, and nearby Whale Gulch, among others. This action item would identify these exact areas of dispatch deficiency so they can be addressed in future actions.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFCFA Communications Committee with HCFSC Fire Protection Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Fortuna Interagency Command Center (FICC), CAL FIRE, County OES, additional Public Safety Access Points (PSAP) including Eureka, Fortuna, County Sheriff, local fire agencies—especially those in areas without radio coverage, County of Humboldt Communications, Bureau of Land Management, local communications equipment and service vendors.
DESIRED OUTCOME	IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS OF DISPATCH COVERAGE DEFICIENCY.

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

- Secure funding to expand the program of outfitting emergency response vehicles with on-board computers that enhance dispatch and aid firefighters in their efforts to locate incidents.

3.4.6 METRIC: LEVEL OF SERVICE

ALL FIRE AGENCIES WILL DEVELOP AND ADOPT LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS FOR THE NEEDS OF THEIR COMMUNITY.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.4.6-1 PROVIDE EDUCATION AND SUPPORT TO ASSIST FIRE AGENCIES IN IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET NFPA 1710 OR 1720 STANDARDS, AS PER AGENCY NEED.	
DESCRIPTION	There are aspects of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) response standards that are challenging for rural fire departments. Specifically, response-time expectations cannot consistently be met in many areas due to terrain and roadway limitations. Hence, fire departments either decline to adopt the standards, or ignore the specific expectations as “not applicable.” Additionally, education is needed regarding NFPA 1710 and 1720 standards for many local fire departments in order to support them in meeting the applicable standard.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFCFA with HCFSC Fire Protection Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Fire departments, CAL FIRE, County Roads, Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs.
DESIRED OUTCOME	ALL LOCAL FIRE AGENCIES WILL UNDERSTAND AND MOVE TOWARDS MEETING NFPA 1710 OR 1720.

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PRIORITY ACTION 3.4.6-2 SUPPORT AND ASSIST LOCAL FIRE AGENCIES IN REPORTING LEVEL OF SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS TO ISO TO IMPROVE LOCAL RATINGS.	
DESCRIPTION	Local fire agencies, such as the <i>Westhaven Fire Company</i> , have been successful in improving their <i>Insurance Service Office (ISO)</i> ratings, which has resulted in the lowering of insurance rates for local residents. This action item would help local fire agencies to understand and facilitate the reporting process to <i>ISO</i> , and back to their community, to help improve ratings and ideally lower local insurance premiums.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Fire Protection Work Group with HCFA
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Local fire agencies, ISO, insurance companies.
DESIRED OUTCOME	IMPROVEMENT OF ISO RATINGS IN COMMUNITIES WHERE LEVEL OF SERVICE HAS IMPROVED.

3.4.7 METRIC: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

IDENTIFY AND PLAN TO MINIMIZE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF FIRE-RESPONSE OPERATIONS TO ECOSYSTEM PROCESSES AND FUNCTIONS.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.4.7-1 COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL FISHERIES RESTORATION ORGANIZATIONS TO MINIMIZE NEGATIVE IMPACTS TO CRITICAL FISH HABITAT.	
DESCRIPTION	There is increasing interest and need to ensure that fire-suppression efforts in the county do not threaten or harm already vulnerable salmonid populations. Several tangible steps can be taken toward this end, beginning with supporting and encouraging communications between fisheries-restoration organizations and fire-suppression agencies. These conversations are already happening in several of the more remote areas where fisheries habitat restoration occurs, such as Southern Humboldt and the Mid-Klamath. Representatives from these communities can help spread this message to other fire departments, as well as to state and federal fire-protection agencies. This collaboration is critical during large fires when firefighters are here from outside of the county. This information would also be beneficial to add to pre-fire attack plans (<i>see Metric 3.4.8 below</i>).
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Fire Protection Work Group
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	HCFA, Salmonid Restoration Federation, watershed organizations, CAL FIRE, SRNF, fire departments.
DESIRED OUTCOME	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES TO MINIMIZE NEGATIVE IMPACTS TO FISH HABITAT.

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3.4.8 METRIC: PRE-FIRE ATTACK PLANS

DEVELOP PRE-FIRE ATTACK PLANS FOR FIVE LOCAL FIRE AGENCIES.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.4.8-1 CREATE AND PROVIDE RESPONSE-AREA MAPS FOR EACH LOCAL FIRE AGENCY.	
DESCRIPTION	There are several local fire organizations who do not have a detailed map of their response area. These “Response-Area Maps” detail the boundaries where each fire agency is committed to responding with fire protection services. Through HCFCFA, the County of Humboldt, CAL FIRE, and SRNF, coverage-area maps will be created and shared with every local fire agency that does not already have this data resource. Maps are currently available to local fire departments for purchase at County Planning and Building/GIS.
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Fire Protection Work Group with HCFCFA
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Fire departments, CAL FIRE, SRNF, County Planning and Building GIS.
DESIRED OUTCOME	RESPONSE-AREA MAPS CREATED FOR EACH LOCAL FIRE AGENCY.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.4.8-2 CREATE A COUNTY MAP BOOK OF FIRE-PROTECTION RESPONSE AREAS AND RESOURCES.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>Use the maps created in <i>Priority Action 3.4.8-1</i>, combined with existing response-area maps, protection values as identified in this CWPP process, and other data layers as deemed available and appropriate, to create a county-wide map book for fire protection. This map book could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Home addresses, water sources, access routes, safety zones, and other resource information that can be gathered, ○ Road ingress and egress issues that could increase emergency response times, ○ Local water sites identified at community workshops, including water sources identified for fire suppression; share this information with local fire agencies (<i>see Metric 3.3.4</i>).
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFSC Fire Protection Work Group with HCFCFA and County OES
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Fire departments, CAL FIRE, SRNF, County of Humboldt Planning and Building GIS.
DESIRED OUTCOME	PROVIDE ALL LOCAL FIRE AGENCIES WITH A COUNTY MAP BOOK OF FIRE-PROTECTION RESPONSE AREAS AND RESOURCES.

PRIORITY ACTION 3.4.8-3 SUPPORT CREATION OF OPERATIONAL AREA PRE-ATTACK MAPS FOR AT LEAST FIVE LOCAL AGENCIES.	
DESCRIPTION	<p>The creation of pre-fire attack maps can facilitate pre-fire strategic planning at a variety of levels. These maps can build on the data in the county map books from the <i>Priority Action 3.4.8-2</i>, to include strategic data such as possible areas for fire breaks, evacuation sites, and more.</p> <p>Data sets would include CWPP priorities, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current or recent fuel-hazard reduction treatments and/or fuel breaks—both landscape-level strategic fuel treatments and fuel reduction around communities and in the interface—including treatment date and where possible target maintenance dates, especially for prescribed fire re-entry.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where to use managed wildfire on the landscape, and other landscape-scale actions identified in <i>Chapter 3.5 Restoration of Beneficial Fire</i>. ○ Habitat protection, including salmonids, as per <i>Metric 3.4.7</i> above. ○ Information gathered at community meetings, ideally with cross-checking and/or ground truthing. ○ Current and potential water supply sites. <p>HCFCFA, County OES, and CAL FIRE would collaborate to identify five local areas for creating pre-fire attack plans. More information and examples of this planning effort in other communities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WGRP) creation of pre-attack map books for the Orleans-Somes Bar area in coordination with SRNF, Orleans/Somes Bar FSC, Karuk Tribe, and Orleans Volunteer Fire Department. ○ CAL FIRE and San Luis Obispo County Fire, http://www.calfireslo.org/PreAttack.html ○ West Metro Fire and Rescue of Lakewood, Colorado’s set of initial maps for their two-county area, available at: http://wildland.westmetrofire.org
RESPONSIBLE PARTY	HCFCFA Fire Protection Work Group with HCFCFA
ADDITIONAL PARTNERS	Fire departments, CAL FIRE, SRNF, County OES, County Planning and Building, BLM.
DESIRED OUTCOME	PRE-FIRE ATTACK MAPS CREATED FOR FIVE LOCAL FIRE-PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS WITH A TEMPLATE FOR COUNTYWIDE IMPLEMENTATION.