

## **Glossary**

**All-Risk Fire Protection:** Protection associated with fire response that may include fire protection, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), hazardous materials (HazMat), and rescue.

**Apparatus:** Fire apparatus includes firefighting vehicles of various types. For the purposes of the Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan, fire apparatus includes wildland fire engines, rescue vehicles, ladder and aerial trucks, engines, and water tenders.

**Aspect:** The compass direction toward which a slope faces.

**Automatic Aid Agreement:** An agreement between two or more agencies whereby such agencies are automatically dispatched simultaneously to predetermined types of emergencies in predetermined areas.

**Benefit Assessment:** An assessment of taxes levied on the property owners in a district who enjoy a "special benefit". Proposition 218 establishes a strict definition of "special benefit." For the purposes of all assessment acts, special benefit means "a particular and distinct benefit over and above general benefits conferred on real property located in the district or the public at large. General enhancement of property value does not constitute 'special benefit.'" In a reversal of previous law, a local agency is prohibited by Proposition 218 from including the cost of any general benefit in the assessment apportioned to individual properties. Assessments are limited to those necessary to recover the cost of the special benefit provided the property.

**Brush:** A collective term that refers to stands of vegetation dominated by shrubby, woody plant, or low-growing trees.

**Brushfire:** A fire burning in vegetation that is predominantly shrubs, brush, and scrub growth.

**Buffer Zone:** An area of reduced vegetation that creates a barrier separating wildlands from vulnerable residential or business developments. This barrier is similar to a greenbelt in that it is usually used for another purpose such as agriculture, recreation areas, parks, or golf courses.

**Burning Conditions:** The state of the combined factors of the environment – such as winds, temperature, fuel moistures, and humidity – that affect fire behavior in a specified fuel type.

**Burning Index:** An estimate of the potential difficulty of fire containment as it relates to the flame length at the most rapidly spreading portion of a fire's perimeter.

**Burning Period:** That part of each 24-hour period when fires spread most rapidly, typically from 10:00 a.m. to sundown.

**Candle or Candling:** A single tree or a very small clump of trees burning from the bottom up.

**CEQA:** The California Environmental Quality Act (Chapters 1 through 6 of Division 13 of the Public Resources Code). A state statute that requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible.

**Community at Risk.** Wildland interface (see definition below) communities in the vicinity of Federal lands that are at high risk from wildfire. (See list in Federal Register, January 4, 2001).

**Complex:** Two or more individual incidents located in the same general area and assigned to a single incident commander or unified command.

**Contain a fire:** A situation where a fuel break around the fire has been completed. This break may include natural barriers and/or manually built fireline and/or mechanically constructed line.

**Control a fire:** To complete a control line around a fire, any spot fires, and any interior islands to be saved; burn out any unburned area adjacent to the fire side of the control lines; and cool down all hotspots that are immediate threats to the control line, until the lines can reasonably be expected to hold.

**Creeping Fire:** A fire spreading slowly with a low flame.

**Crown Fire (Crowning):** The movement of fire through the crowns of trees or shrubs more or less independently of the surface fire.

**CSA:** County Service Area. CSAs are single purpose dependent special districts (governed by the County Board of Supervisors) authorized under §25210.1 of the Government Code as a means to “extend” services to growth areas within the unincorporated area, as well as provide funding for that extended service.

**CSD:** Community Services District. CSDs are sometimes called “junior cities” and are authorized under §61000 of the Government Code. CSDs can provide a broad range of municipal services including fire protection to unincorporated areas. CSDs are governed by a five member elected Board of Directors and receive revenue from taxes and fees. In cases where a CSD is responsible for fire protection in Humboldt County, services are provided by a volunteer fire department with facilities and funding provided by the CSD.

**Dead Fuels:** Fuels with no living tissue in which moisture content is governed almost entirely by atmospheric moisture (relative humidity and precipitation), dry-bulb temperature, and solar radiation.

**Debris Burning:** Any fire originally set for the purpose of clearing land or for burning rubbish, garbage, range, stubble, or meadow burning.

**Defensible Space:** An area, either natural or manmade, where material capable of causing a fire to spread has been treated, cleared, reduced, or changed in order to provide a barrier between an

advancing wildland fire and the loss to life, property, or resources. In practice, defensible space is defined as an area with a minimum of 100 feet around a structure that is cleared of flammable brush or vegetation. Distance from the structure and the degree of fuels treatment vary with vegetation type, slope, density, and other factors.

**Detection:** The act or system of discovering and locating fires.

**Direct Attack:** Any treatment of burning fuel, such as by wetting, smothering, or chemically quenching the fire or by physically separating burning from unburned fuel.

**Direct Protection Area:** Fire protection responsibility areas as delineated for state, federal, and local agencies.

**Dispatch:** The implementation of a command decision to move a resource or resources from one place to another.

**DMA 2000:** Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended by Public Law 106-390, October 30, 2000. DMA 2000 is intended to establish an orderly and continuing means of assistance by the Federal Government to State and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to alleviate the suffering and damage which result from such disasters by (1) revising and broadening the scope of existing disaster relief programs; (2) encouraging the development of comprehensive disaster preparedness and assistance plans, programs, capabilities, and organizations by the States and by local governments; (3) achieving greater coordination and responsiveness of disaster preparedness and relief programs; (4) encouraging individuals, States, and local governments to protect themselves by obtaining insurance coverage to supplement or replace governmental assistance; (5) encouraging hazard mitigation measures to reduce losses from disasters, including development of land use and construction regulations; and (6) providing Federal assistance programs for both public and private losses sustained in disasters .

**Duff:** The layer of decomposing organic materials located below the litter layer of freshly fallen twigs, needles, and leaves and immediately above the mineral soil.

**Extreme Fire Behavior:** "Extreme" implies a level of fire behavior characteristics that ordinarily precludes methods of direct control action. One or more of the following is usually involved: high rate of spread, prolific crowning and/or spotting, presence of fire whirls, strong convection column. Predictability is difficult because such fires often exercise some degree of influence on their environment and behave erratically and/or dangerously.

**Federal Responsibility Area:** Areas within which a federal government agency has the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires (see also State Responsibility Area and Local Responsibility Area).

**Fee:** A direct charge or dedication collected on a one-time basis as a condition of an approval being granted by the local government. Also termed "exaction". The purpose of the fee or exaction must directly relate to the need created by the development. In addition, its amount

must be proportional to the cost of improvement. Includes development impact fees, permit and application fees which cover the cost of processing permits and development plans; and regulatory fees

**Fine (Light, Flash) Fuels:** Fast-drying fuels, generally with a comparatively high surface area-to-volume ratio, which are less than ¼-inch in diameter and have a time-lag constant of one hour or less. These fuels readily ignite and are rapidly consumed by fire when dry.

**Fire Behavior:** The manner in which a fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather, and topography. Common terms used to describe behavior include: smoldering, creeping, running, spotting, torching, and crowning.

**Fire Flow:** The flow rate of a water supply expressed in gallons per minute (gpm), measured at 20 pounds per square inch (psi) residual pressure, that is available for fire fighting.

**Fire Flow Requirement:** A measure comparing the amount of heat a fire is capable of generating (based on building construction and occupancy) versus the amount of water required for cooling the fuels below their ignition temperature.

**Fire Intensity:** A general term relating to the heat energy released by a fire, measured in kilowatts/meter (kW/m).

**Fire Management Plan (FMP):** A strategic plan that defines a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires. The plan is supplemented by operational plans such as preparedness plans, preplanned dispatch plans, prescribed fire plans, and prevention plans.

**Fire Occurrence Interval:** See Fire-Return Interval.

**Fire Perimeter:** The entire outer edge or boundary of a fire. Note that while acreage of a fire is determined or estimated by the fire's perimeter, it is possible that some substantially smaller acreage may have actually been burned within that perimeter.

**Fire Regime:** The combination of fire frequency, predictability, intensity, seasonality, and size characteristics of fire in a particular ecosystem.

**Fire-Return Interval:** The number of years between two successive fire events at a specific site or an area of a specified size.

**Fire Safe:** For the purposes of the Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan this term is defined as: Action(s) that moderate the severity of a fire hazard to a level of "acceptable risk," as discussed in the Safety Element of the County General Plan. In a broader context this term describes the state of lessened severity or action(s) that moderate the severity of a fire hazard or risk, while protecting structures and surrounding property from fire, whether fire is inside the structure or is threatening the structure from exterior sources.

**Fire Season:** 1) Period(s) of the year during which wildland fires are likely to occur, spread, and affect resource values sufficient to warrant organized fire management activities. 2) A legally enacted time during which burning activities are regulated by state or local authority.

**Fire Severity:** The effect of fire on plants. It is dependant on intensity and residence of the burn. An intense fire may not necessarily be severe. For trees, severity is often measured as percentage of basal area removed.

**Fire Safe Standards:** Standards adopted by ordinance for the purpose of establishing a set of standards that will result in fire safe development within a specified area.

**FIREScope: FIrefighting RESources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies.** A cooperative effort involving all agencies with fire fighting responsibilities in California. The goal of this group is to create and implement new applications in fire service management, technology and coordination, with an emphasis on incident command and multi-agency coordination. This dynamic state-wide program serves the needs of California fire service management as an ongoing program.

**Flame Height:** The average maximum vertical extension of flames at the leading edge of the fire front. Occasional flashes that rise above the general level of flames are not considered. If flames are tilted due to wind or slope, this distance is less than the flame length.

**Flame Length:** The distance between the flame tip and the midpoint of the flame depth at the base of the flame (generally the ground surface); an indicator of fire intensity.

**Flaming Front:** The zone of a moving fire where the combustion is primarily flaming. Behind this flaming zone combustion is primarily glowing. Light fuels typically have a shallow flaming front, whereas heavy fuels have a deeper front. Also called fire front.

**Flash Fuels:** See Fine Fuels.

**FPD:** Fire Protection District. Districts authorized under §13800 of the California Health and Safety Code to provide fire protection and emergency medical services. Fire Protection Districts are generally governed by a five member elected Board of Directors.

**Fuel:** Combustible material. Includes vegetation such as grass, leaves, ground litter, plants, shrubs, and trees that feed a fire. (See Surface Fuels.)

**Fuel Bed:** An array of fuels usually constructed with specific loading, depth and particle size to meet experimental requirements; also commonly used to describe the fuel composition in natural settings.

**Fuel-break:** A natural or constructed barrier used to stop or check fires that may occur, or to provide a control line from which to work.

**Fuel Description:** Designation of fuel materials into categories based on size and drying times. Fuel descriptions in use are described below:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Diameter</u>
Fine	Needles, leaves, etc...	
1 Hour	Woody material, generally drying out within 1 hour.	<1/4"
10 Hour	Woody material, generally drying out within 10 hours.	1/4"-1"
100 Hour	Woody material, generally drying out within 4 days.	1-3"
1000 Hour	Woody material, generally drying out within 40 days.	3"+
Downed	Fuel on the ground	
Heavy	Large logs and snags	

**Fuel Load:** The amount of available and potentially combustible material, usually expressed as tons/acre.

**Fuel Loading:** The volume of fuel present expressed quantitatively in terms of weight of fuel per unit area.

**Fuel Model:** (1) A standardized description of fuels available to a fire, based on the amount, distribution and continuity of vegetation and wood. (2) Simulated fuel complex (or combination of vegetation types) for which all fuel descriptors required for the solution of a mathematical rate of spread model have been specified.

**Fuel Moisture (Fuel Moisture Content):** The quantity of moisture in fuel expressed as a percentage of the weight when fuel is thoroughly dried at 212 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Fuel Reduction:** Manipulation (including combustion and/or removal of fuels) to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or to lessen potential damage and resistance to control.

**Fuel Type:** An identifiable association of fuel elements of a distinctive plant species, form, size, arrangement; or other characteristics that will cause a predictable rate of fire spread or difficulty of control under specified weather conditions.

**Ground Fuel:** All combustible materials below the surface litter (including duff, tree or shrub roots, punchy wood, peat, and sawdust) that normally support a glowing combustion without flame.

**Hazard Reduction:** Any treatment of a hazard that reduces the threat of ignition and fire intensity or rate of spread.

**Hazardous Fuels Reduction:** Any treatment that reduces the amount of hazardous fuels.

**Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA):** A portion of the 2003 President's Healthy Forests Initiative intended to reduce hazardous fuels on public and private lands. Establishes Community Wildfire Protection Plans and sets standards for those plans.

**Heavy Fuels:** Fuels of large diameter (such as snags, logs, and large limb wood) that ignite and are consumed more slowly than flash (fine, light) fuels.

**Helibase:** The main location within the general incident area for parking, fueling, maintaining, and loading helicopters. The helibase is usually at or near the incident base.

**Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association (HCFCA):** An independent organization comprised of fire chiefs from each of the County's fire departments. The HCFCA serves as a sounding board for local fire service issues and contains several subgroups that carry out specific functions, such as fire prevention, training, and arson investigation.

**Humboldt County Fire Dispatch Co-op:** A Joint Powers Authority that includes 31 fire and EMS related service providers who have pooled resources in order to contract with CDF for dispatch services.

**ICS:** Incident Command System. A standardized, on-scene emergency management concept specifically designed to allow its users to adopt an integrated organizational structure equal to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.

**Ignition Management:** A program that 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.

**Impact Fees:** Fees (often called "developer fees" or "development impact fees") that are levied on new development to cover the cost of infrastructure or facilities necessitated by that development.

**Incident:** A human-caused or natural occurrence, such as wildland fire, that requires emergency service action to prevent or reduce the loss of life or damage to property or natural resources. Incident management teams also handle other non-fire emergency response, including tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other disasters or large events.

**Initial Attack:** The actions taken by the first resources to arrive at a wildfire in order to protect lives and property and prevent further extension of the fire.

**Interface Community.** (Defined in the Federal Register, January 4, 2001) The Interface Community exists where structures directly abut wildland fuels. There is a clear line of demarcation between residential, business, and public structures and wildland fuels. Wildland fuels do not generally continue into the developed area. The development density for an interface community is usually 3 or more structures per acre, with shared municipal services. Fire

protection is generally provided by a local government fire department with the responsibility to protect the structure from both an interior fire and an advancing wildland fire. An alternative definition of the interface community emphasizes a population density of 250 or more people per square mile.

**Intermix Community:** (Defined in the Federal Register, January 4, 2001) The Intermix Community exists where structures are scattered throughout a wildland area. There is no clear line of demarcation; wildland fuels are continuous outside of and within the developed area. The development density in the intermix ranges from structures very close together to one structure per 40 acres. Fire protection districts funded by various taxing authorities normally provide life and property fire protection and may also have wildland fire protection responsibilities. An alternative definition of intermix community emphasizes a population density of between 28–250 people per square mile.

**ISO:** Insurance Services Office. Private organization that formulates fire safety ratings based on fire threat and responsible agency's ability to respond to the threat. ISO ratings from one (excellent) to ten (no fire protection). Many insurance companies use ISO ratings to set insurance premiums. ISO may establish multiple ratings within a community, such as a rating of 5 in the hydranted areas and one of 8 in the non-hydranted areas.

**Ladder Fuels:** Fuels which provide vertical continuity between strata and allow fire to carry from surface fuels into the crowns of trees or shrubs with relative ease. They help initiate and assure the continuation of crowning.

**LAFCO:** The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). Created by the State Legislature in 1963 to discourage urban sprawl and encourage the orderly formation and development of local government agencies. LAFCOs review proposals for the formation of new local governmental agencies and for changes in the organization of existing agencies. There is a LAFCO in each county in California except San Francisco. LAFCO is a seven-member Commission comprised of two city council members (chosen by the Council of Mayors), two county supervisor members (chosen by the Board of Supervisors), two special district members (chosen by Independent Special District election), and one public member (chosen by the members of the Commission).

**Large Fire:** 1) CDF defines a fire burning more than 300 acres as a large fire. 2) A fire burning with a size and intensity such that its behavior is determined by interaction between its own convection column and weather conditions above the surface.

**Late Seral/Succession 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.

**Level-of-service standard (LOS standard):** Quantifiable measures against which services being delivered by a service provider can be compared. Standards based upon recognized and accepted professional and county standards, while reflecting the local situation within which services are being delivered. Levels-of-service standards for fire protection may include

response times, personnel per given population, and emergency water supply. LOS standards can be used to evaluate the way in which fire protection services are being delivered, for use in countywide fire planning efforts.

**Light Fuels:** See Fine Fuels.

**Lightning Activity Level (LAL):** A number, on a scale of 1 to 6, that reflects frequency and character of cloud-to-ground lightning. The scale is exponential, based on powers of 2 (e.g., LAL 3 indicates twice the lightning of LAL 2).

**Litter:** Top layer of the forest, scrubland, or grassland floor, directly above the fermentation layer, composed of loose debris of dead sticks, branches, twigs, and recently fallen leaves or needles, little altered in structure by decomposition.

**Live Fuels:** Living plants, such as trees, grasses, and shrubs, in which the seasonal moisture content cycle is controlled largely by internal physiological mechanisms, rather than by external weather influences.

**Local Agency:** Pursuant to Government Code §56054 means a city, county, or district. For the purposes of the Fire Plan, a Local Agency refers to a city or special district that provides fire protection.

**Local Responsibility Area:** Lands in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires is primarily the responsibility of the local jurisdiction.

**Local Agency Boundary:** A specific land area that has been approved by LAFCO, within which a local agency (either a special district or a city) is obligated to provide services and from which the local agency generates tax revenue.

**Mutual Aid Agreement:** A reciprocal aid agreement between two or more agencies that defines what resources each will provide to the other in response to certain predetermined types of emergencies. Mutual aid response is provided upon request.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** The basic national law for protection of the environment, passed by Congress in 1969. NEPA sets policy and procedures for environmental protection, and authorizes Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments to be used as analytical tools to help federal managers make decisions on management of federal lands.

**National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS):** A uniform fire danger rating system that focuses on the environmental factors that control the moisture content of fuels.

**National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS):** A database of fire incident reports compiled at the local fire department level. NFIRS was an outgrowth of the 1974 National Fire Prevention and Control Act, Public Law 93-498. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), an

entity of the Department of Homeland Security, developed NFIRS as a means of assessing the nature and scope of the fire problem in the United States.

**National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):** An international non-profit organization whose mission is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating scientifically-based consensus codes and standards, research, training and education.

**National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG):** An organization formed under the direction of the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior that includes representatives of the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Association of State Foresters. The group's purpose is to facilitate coordination and effectiveness of wildland fire activities and provide a forum to discuss, recommend action, or resolve issues and problems of substantive nature. NWCG is the certifying body for all courses in the National Fire Curriculum.

**Peak Fire Season:** That period of the fire season during which fires are expected to ignite most readily, to burn with greater than average intensity, and to create damage at an unacceptable level.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Equipment and clothing used and worn by all firefighting personnel in order to mitigate the risk of injury from, or exposure to, hazardous conditions encountered while working.

Structure PPE, or Bunker Gear, includes NFPA/OSHA compliant helmet, goggles, hood, coat, pants, boots, gloves, pocket tools, and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus.

Wildland PPE includes 8-inch laced leather boots with lug soles, fire shelter, hard hat with chin strap, goggles, ear plugs, aramid shirts and trousers, leather gloves, and individual first aid kits.

**Planning Compartment:** Geographic subdivisions of Humboldt County developed to support the Master Fire Protection Plan risk and capabilities assessment. The boundaries of the Planning Compartments were developed using existing Humboldt County planning tools, taking into consideration watershed boundaries, established community planning areas, fire department/district protection boundaries, tribal land boundaries, and State and federal agency administrative boundaries.

**Prescribed Fire:** A fire ignited under known conditions of fuel, weather, and topography to achieve specific objectives.

**Prevention:** Activities directed at reducing the incidence of fires. Include public education, law enforcement, personal contact, and reduction of fuel hazards.

**Resort Improvement Districts (RID):** Districts authorized under §13000 of the Public Resources Code to provide a broad range of services (similar to CSDs), including fire protection, in unincorporated areas that are occupied seasonally for recreation and/or resort purposes.

**Resource Management Plan (RMP):** A document prepared by field office staff with public participation and approved by field office managers that provides general guidance and direction for land management activities at a field office. The RMP identifies the need for fire in a particular area and for a specific benefit.

**Response Area:** The Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan defines two types of response areas, District Response Areas and Non-District Response Areas.

District Response Areas are areas outside the local agency boundaries of the special district or city within which the fire department associated with local agency provides fire protection.

Non-District Response Areas are areas within which a volunteer fire company (see definition of VFC) provides fire protection. The primary difference between a response area (district or non-district) and a local agency boundary is that there is no legislated obligation for a fire department to provide structural fire protection within a response area.

**Response Time:** For the purposes of the Master Fire Protection Plan, response time is the time that elapses between the moment a 911 call is placed to the emergency dispatch center and the time that a first-responder arrives on scene. Response time includes dispatch time, turnout time (the time it takes firefighters to travel to the fire station, don their PPE, and prepare the apparatus), and travel time.

**Safety Zone:** An area cleared of flammable materials used for escape in the event the line is outflanked or in case a spot fire causes fuels outside the line to render the line unsafe. In firing operations, crews progress so as to maintain a safety zone close at hand, allowing the fuels inside the control line to be consumed before going ahead. Safety zones may also be constructed as integral parts of fuel breaks; they are greatly enlarged areas which can be used with relative safety by firefighters and their equipment in the event of a blowup in the vicinity.

**Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS):** (Government Code § 8607). The group of principles developed for coordinating state and local emergency response in California. SEMS provides for organization of a multiple-level emergency response, and is intended to structure and facilitate the flow of emergency information and resources within and between the organizational levels--the field response, local government, operational areas, regions and the state management level. SEMS incorporates by reference: the Incident Command System (ICS); multi-agency or inter-agency coordination; the State's Mutual Aid Program; and Operational Areas.

**Slash:** Debris left after logging, pruning, thinning, or brush cutting; includes logs, chips, bark, branches, stumps, and broken understory trees or brush.

**Special District:** As government organizations, special districts are a type of local agency that delivers specific public services within defined boundaries. The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (the state law that governs the activities of LAFCO) more narrowly defines a special district and excludes school related districts, financing districts and numerous other districts.

**Special Tax:** Any tax imposed for specific purposes, including a tax imposed for special purposes, which is placed into a general fund. (Subdivision (d), Section 1, Article XIII C of the California Constitution). All taxes imposed by any local government shall be deemed to be either general taxes or special taxes. Special purpose districts or agencies, including school districts, shall have no power to levy general taxes (Subdivision (a), Section 2, Article XIII C of the California Constitution)

**Spot Fire:** A fire ignited outside the perimeter of the main fire by flying sparks or embers.

**Standard:** A criterion; the ideal in terms of which something can be judged. An acknowledged measure of comparison for quantitative or qualitative value.

**Stand-Replacing Fire:** A fire that kills most or all of the trees in a section of forest.

**State Responsibility Area:** Defined in California Public Resources Code § 4125 – 4127 as lands in which the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires is primarily the responsibility of the state. State Responsibility Areas are defined by code:

§ 4126. The board shall include within state responsibility areas all of the following lands:

(a) Lands covered wholly or in part by forests or by trees producing or capable of producing forest products.

(b) Lands covered wholly or in part by timber, brush, undergrowth, or grass, whether of commercial value or not, which protect the soil from excessive erosion, retard runoff of water or accelerate water percolation, if such lands are sources of water which is available for irrigation or for domestic or industrial use.

(c) Lands in areas which are principally used or useful for range or forage purposes, which are contiguous to the lands described in subdivisions (a) and (b).

§ 4127. The board shall not include within state responsibility areas any of the following lands:

(a) Lands owned or controlled by the federal government or any agency of the federal government.

(b) Lands within the exterior boundaries of any city, except a city and county with a population of less than 25,000 if, at the time the city and county government is established, the county contains no municipal corporations.

(c) Any other lands within the state which do not come within any of the classes which are described in Section 4126.

**Structure Fire:** Fire originating in and burning any part or all of any building.

**Suppression:** All the work of extinguishing or containing a fire, beginning with its discovery.

**Surface Fuels:** Loose surface litter on the soil surface, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches that have not yet decayed enough to lose their identity; also grasses, forbs, low and medium shrubs, tree seedlings, heavier branchwood, downed logs, and stumps interspersed with or partially replacing the litter.

**Underburn:** A fire that consumes surface fuels but not trees or shrubs.

**Vegetation Type:** A standardized description of vegetation. The type is based on the dominant plant species and the age of the forest. It also indicates how moist a site may be and how much fuel is likely to be present.

**Volunteer Fire Department:** A fire department associated with a local agency (either a city or a special district authorized to provide fire protection) that is comprised almost entirely of volunteer, unpaid, firefighters, whose primary objective is community fire protection.

**Volunteer Fire Company:** A fire department not associated with a local agency (either a city or a special district authorized to provide fire protection) that is comprised almost entirely of volunteer, unpaid, firefighters. Volunteer Fire Companies also include volunteer firefighting organizations associated with Indian Tribes whose primary objective is community fire protection rather than wildland fire suppression, and volunteer firefighting organizations associated with timber/lumber companies who provide community fire protection.

**Water Tender:** A ground vehicle capable of transporting specified quantities of water.

**Wildland Agency:** Any federal, tribal, state, or county government organization participating in wildland fire protection with jurisdictional responsibilities.

**Wildland Fire:** Any non-structure fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in the wildland.

**Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI):** The zone where structures and other human developments meet, or intermingle with, undeveloped wildlands.