

approximately 33 million acres of private and State lands in California. The Riverside Ranger Unit of CDF (with headquarters in Perris) provides direct protection for 1,070,000 acres of "wildland." These vegetation-covered, watershed lands are designated by the State Board of Forestry as State Responsibility Areas. This is generally private land, outside of the cities and federal land where protection is at maximum strength during the declared "fire season".

The CDF has extensive ground forces, including a volunteer prisoner population, and an air force that includes: 15 Grumman S-2A 800 gallon airtankers, four S-2T 1200 gallon airtankers, two 2,000 gallon contract airtankers, 11 Super Huey Bell UH-1H helicopters, six O-2A air attack aircraft, 11 OV-10A air attack aircraft, and one C-26B fire mapping airplane. From 13 air attack and nine helitack bases located statewide, aircraft can reach any California fire within 20 minutes. The air attack planes fly overhead directing the airtankers and helicopters to critical areas of the fire for retardant and water drops. The retardant used to suppress fires is Di-Ammonium Phosphate + Iron Oxide which acts as a fertilizer as well as suppressant.

4.8.2 Riverside County Fire Department

The County of Riverside contracts with the State of California for fire protection. Public Resources Code (PRC) 4142 affords legal authority for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to enter into agreements with local government entities to provide fire protection services with the approval of the Department of General Services. By virtue of this authority, CDF administers the Riverside County Fire Department.

The Riverside County Fire Department (RCOFD) provides fire suppression, emergency medical, rescue, and fire prevention services. It is one of the largest regional fire service organizations in California. The Department responded to 73,999 incidents during the 1998 calendar year. It is staffed with 696 career and 1,225 volunteer personnel, and currently serves approximately 800,000 residents in an area of 7,004 square miles. This service area consists of the unincorporated county areas and fifteen contract cities (Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Canyon Lake, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Lake Elsinore, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Moreno Valley, Palm Desert, Perris, Rancho Mirage, San Jacinto, and Temecula). The assessed value of real property in the area served exceeds \$40.8 billion.

The RCOFD operates out of fire department headquarters in the city of Perris. It is organized into two operational areas and six divisions, which currently contain 16 battalions and 85 fire stations. The equipment used by the department has the

versatility to respond to both urban and wildland emergency conditions. The RCOFD inventory includes structural engines, brush engines, telesquirts, trucks, paramedic units, a helicopter, hazardous materials unit, incident command units, water tenders, fire crew vehicles, mobile communications centers, breathing support units, lighting units, power supply units, fire dozers, mobile training vans, and mobile emergency feeding units.

The RCOFD is the Operational Area Coordinator for the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System for all fire service jurisdictions in the County of Riverside. It also has several mutual and automatic aid agreements with other city jurisdictions as well as the adjacent National Forests. The Operational Area is responsible for controlling and suppressing all unwanted fires in the department's jurisdiction. RCOFD/CDF personnel frequently respond to large-scale emergencies. Recent examples include the Landers, Loma Prieta and Northridge earthquakes, the Dunsmuir hazardous materials spill/train derailment at Lake Shasta, the 1997 and 1998 California Floods and the Oakland Hills, Yellowstone, and Yosemite fires. Response to large-scale emergencies or disasters is managed by twelve Major Incident Management Teams located throughout the state.

Riverside County Fire Department Responsibilities:

Fire Control: Due to increasing population the County Fire Department is faced with a growing structural fire problem, and it is one of the most active wildland fire counties in the state.

Air Attack Program: The CDF and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operate a joint air tanker base at the Hemet/Ryan Airport. Ryan Air Attack Base is statistically the most active in the nation, deploying one CDF and two USFS air tankers. Two air coordination aircraft and one CDF helicopter are stationed at Ryan Air Attack Base.

Fire Protection-Planning and Engineering: Fire protection specialists review plans for all new developments, commercial and industrial buildings located within the contract cities and unincorporated areas of Riverside County. Requirements are established to provide a high degree of life safety and property protection. Common requirements include the installation of fire hydrants, sprinkler systems, early warning fire detection systems, and fire safety zones in remote areas.

Emergency Services: Disaster and recovery planning are the key elements. The Emergency Services Division maintains two underground Emergency Operation Centers with communications, for government use during major events.