Partners,
I am excited to share some informational resources that you may not be aware of.

Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reporting" (FTER) program
Some of you may have heard that CAL FIRE has a new program called the "Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reporting" (FTER) program. This is an internal procedure for us to follow on all new fire starts that are near a vegetation management project intended to reduce wildfire impacts, aka "fuel treatment."   Public Resource Code 4137, requires CAL FIRE to develop a standardized protocol for monitoring implementation and evaluating the positive and negative ecological and fire behavior impacts from vegetation management projects undertaken by the state.

The main purpose of this program is to document and share the effects of a fuel treatment project when threatened by an actual fire. Obviously, the goal is to show positive outcomes on how fuels reduction activities not only assisted firefighters in suppression efforts, but also how fuel treatments may protect life, property, and the natural resources of California.   The continuation of funding and staffing for wildfire mitigation may depend on this documentation. I'm sure you can appreciate how this can also benefit your organization in multiple ways. I suggest you include any relevant success stories near you in any future grant applications. In recent years, documenting success stories was optional. Now it is a requirement when the conditions described below are met.

Here is how the FTER program works:
- Any incident that CAL FIRE responds to is entered into a database called CAL FIRS (California Incident Data and Statistics Program | OSFM).   (look at the newsletter options too!)
- All fuel reduction projects that CAL FIRE is involved in are tracked in a geospatial database called CalMAPPER. This includes grant funded projects and any project our crews participate in.
- The FTER program looks at every fire start in CAL FIRS to determine if it is within ¼ mile of a fuel treatment project listed in CalMAPPER.   If the answer is true, then the local CAL FIRE Unit is required to investigate further and complete a survey.
- The survey must be completed within 7 days of when the fire is declared "controlled."   Most roadside fire starts are controlled within minutes to hours of the initial report. In these situations, the "clock" starts on the same day as the fire. Vegetation fires that go into extended attack may not be declared controlled for several days.
- The survey collects basic information about the fire and the fuelbreak including a narrative description, photographs, and who are the cooperators involved. Three specific questions need to be answered; 1) Did the fire assist with containment? 2) Assist with ingress/egress? 3) Reduce damage caused by the fire? Or 4) Other significant benefit?   A quote from someone involved with the suppression action is also specifically requested. If the fire impacted multiple treatments within the 1/4-mile radius then one complete survey will be needed for each treatment.
- A challenging aspect of this for CAL FIRE is when a fire start occurs in the LRA and is not in a mutual threat zone. We typically do not respond to these fires and often we're not even aware of them. Therefore, the initial trigger for the effectiveness monitoring protocol may not occur. Another challenge for us is gathering the information needed for the survey and submitting it within the 7-day timeframe.

Even though this is a process we must follow internally, I'm sharing this with you for the following reasons.

- It is critically important that all fuel treatment project areas we collaborate on are correctly mapped and shared with us so it can be entered into CalMAPPER correctly. This includes the treatment area in any grant agreement, direct award, or other project we assist with.
- Please advise us of any fire starts in the LRA that meet the criteria above that we do not respond to. It is not uncommon for a fire to start that is extinguished so quickly that a formal wildland response is not dispatched. Please note that if a fire is reported in the SRA and is immediately controlled by local resources or the public, we will still send an engine to prepare a CAL FIRS report and determine if a FTER is warranted.
- We would appreciate your help to collect information needed for the survey, especially if no CAL FIRE resources are involved with fire suppression. This assistance can expedite the survey submission and save us a great deal of drive time.

Fuels Reduction Treatment mapping
For the FTER program described above to succeed in its purpose, it must be associated with a comprehensive geospatial database (CalMAPPER). CAL FIRE has now developed a public-facing version of CalMAPPER called the "Fuel Reduction Projects Viewer." Fuels Reduction | CAL FIRE

This website has a wealth of information about past and present projects statewide. The data is presented in a treatment dashboard and in an interactive map viewer. Please look at the Data and Definitions tab of the dashboard for an explanation of the data shown. Also, before looking at the interactive viewer of projects, please watch the Viewer Guide video.

One of the links on this webpage leads to another fuel treatment dashboard managed by the California Wildfire & Forestry Resilience Task Force. The Task Force has developed an interagency dashboard and interactive viewer that includes projects throughout the State that CAL FIRE is not necessarily involved with. I know some of you are interested in having your local projects included as well. My understanding is that additional contributors are being considered.

And finally, at the bottom of the webpage are links to another dashboard and interactive map viewer specifically showing the FTER success stories discussed above.

All of these dashboards and viewers are a work in progress. There are some inaccuracies and vagueness but hopefully those issues will be worked out in the future. The quality and quantity of project work reflected in these displays are dependent upon what we accomplish and report. Please share this information as appropriate. If you have any questions about either FTER or CalMAPPER, please contact Pre-Fire Engineer Captain John Reynolds who manages both programs within SCU or me.
Thank you,
Ed

Ed Orre
RPF #2292
Division Chief; Resource Management – Santa Clara Unit
15670 Monterey Road, Morgan Hill, Ca 95037
(408) 206-3704 Cell