

Region 6 Ready

A Fire Preparedness Resource for Northeast Sonoma County

Our First Responder Agencies

Each fire department has a primary area for response, and all provide assistance to each other as needed. The County Fire dispatch service, REDCOM, notifies Healdsburg and Geyserville. Cloverdale and CAL FIRE are dispatched separately. The following information describes the primary response areas for each department.

The **Healdsburg City Fire Department** is a municipal fire department and responds to incidents within the Healdsburg City Limits. Sonoma County provides funding through a contract with Healdsburg to respond to Fitch Mountain and the lower Dry Creek Valley, Mill Creek, and Westside Road to Sweetwater Springs Road to ensure fire services to the area previously served by the Sotoyome volunteer fire department. (707) 431-3360



The **Dry Creek Rancheria Fire Department** is a tribal fire department, an agency within the Government of the Federally Recognized Tribe of Dry Creek Band of Pomo Indians. The Fire Department has responsibility for all the Tribal property within the Alexander Valley, and has been supporting the Knights Valley Volunteer Fire Department as part of all initial responses since the beginning of 2017. (707) 431-4074



The **Knights Valley Volunteer Fire Company** is a non-profit volunteer fire fighter organization that is contracted by Sonoma County to provide fire services to the Knights Valley and Franz Valley areas. (707) 942-4777



The **Geyserville Fire Protection District** responds to the upper Dry Creek Valley, Geyserville, and Alexander Valley. Sonoma County contracts with Geyserville to respond to various other areas including The Geysers. (707) 857-4373

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, **CAL FIRE**, has responsibility for wildland fires in areas designated as "State Responsibility Area" (SRA) which are areas outside of city limits that have timber and watershed values, usually the hills and mountains. The State Responsibility Area in our area can be viewed at this website: <http://www.fire.ca.gov/firepreventionfee/srview.html>. CAL FIRE has stations in Cloverdale and Healdsburg and can be called upon to support local response to incidents. (707) 433-2020



The **Cloverdale Fire Protection District** responds within Cloverdale City Limits and areas outside, east and west, of the City Limits. (707) 894-3545

California Public Resources Code 4291 prescribes property owner responsibilities for maintaining defensible space on forest and wildland areas. In brief, the Code states:

A person who owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains a building or structure in, upon, or adjoining a mountainous area, forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or land that is covered with flammable material, shall at all times do all of the following:

- ✓ *Maintain defensible space of 100 feet from each side and from the front and rear of the structure, but not beyond the property line.*
- ✓ *Fuels shall be maintained in a condition so that a wildfire burning under average weather conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure. "Fuel" means any combustible material, including petroleum-based products and wildland fuels.*
- ✓ *Remove that portion of a tree that extends within 10 feet of the outlet of a chimney or stovepipe.*
- ✓ *Maintain a tree, shrub, or other plant adjacent to or overhanging a building free of dead or dying wood.*
- ✓ *Maintain the roof of a structure free of leaves, needles, or other vegetative materials.*

The following local agencies have authority to **enforce and provide fire prevention information** within their jurisdiction. Healdsburg City and Geyserville are willing to assist in areas where they are contracted to provide response. CAL FIRE focuses on State Responsibility Area.

<p>Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services reviews plans associated with building permits and hazardous materials storage inspections. The Fire Prevention Division also coordinates free chipping services. https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/FES/Fire-Prevention/Curbside-Chipper-Program</p>	<p>Defensible Space Inspections</p> <p>CAL FIRE inspects for compliance with in their State Responsibility Area (see map). Geyserville is available to offer the same inspections in coordination with CAL FIRE in other areas of north county. Healdsburg Fire Prevention staff enforce the weed abatement program within the City limits and are also responsible for vegetation management plans and fuels reduction in City owned Open Space including Healdsburg Ridge and the Fitch Mountain Preserve.</p>
<p>Firesafe Sonoma's mission is to promote fire safety and protect natural and manmade resources in Sonoma County through education, information exchange, resource sharing and community cooperation. Firesafe Sonoma coordinated the development of the Sonoma County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and is working on a template for similar plans for individual communities.</p> <p>http://www.firesafesonoma.org/main/</p>	<p>Burn Piles and Broadcast Burning</p> <p>Sonoma County is in the Bay Air Quality Management District and Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District (NSCAPCD) and has different rules than the Bay Area. NSCAPCD requires "burn permits" year-round with a fee based upon the type of burning. After May 1st of each year, a CAL FIRE "burn permit" is required for all burning in State Responsibility Area. Local agencies may also require a burn permit in non State Responsibility Area but usually do not.</p>
<p>Powerline Clearance</p> <p>CAL FIRE enforces clearance along powerlines for compliance with Public Resources Code (PRC) 4293 and around the base of some power poles for compliance with PRC 4292. Utility companies also comply with Public Utility Commission regulations (General Order 95, Rule 35).</p>	

Conventional Firefighting Priorities and Tactics

You may have a need or hope that fire fighters will be taking actions that you see as helpful or urgent to you, or just seem to make sense based on your observation of what's happening during a fire. The priorities and tactics of firefighting follow nationally accepted standards so that all fire departments engaged in response to an incident can easily align and support a common mission. Fire fighters respond according to the priorities of life, property, and environment. Initial actions focus on saving people, then structures. Here are some of the tactics used and you may experience in a wildland fire situation.

Direct Attack

Often, stopping the fire accomplishes both saving people and structures, and fire fighters prefer to use "direct attack," where they work on the edge of the fire spraying water, or cutting line with hand tools or bulldozer. If fire fighters are unable to stop the fire or the fire's spread and intensity exceeds fire fighters capabilities, fire fighters focus on evacuating people, defending structures, and use an "indirect attack."

Indirect Attack

Indirect attack is when fire fighters work away from the edge of the fire and can take advantage of existing fuel breaks, roads, vineyards, etc. to stop or slow a fire.

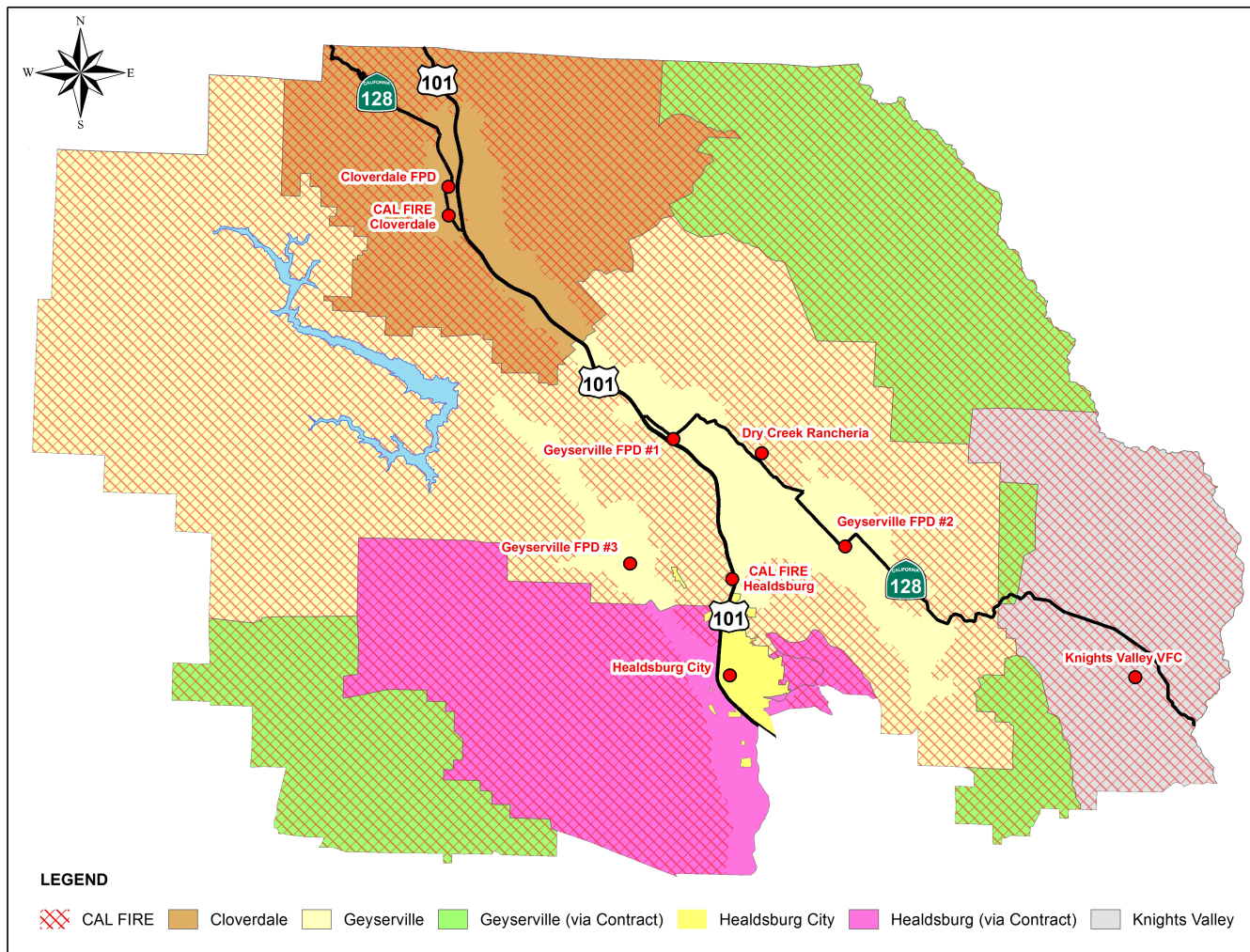
Use of Aircraft

Air tankers may be deployed to drop retardant just outside of the burning area where the fire has not yet ignited to coat vegetation, so it is less likely to burn and provide fire fighters time to access that portion of the fire area. Aircraft do not drop at night. Helicopters are used to pick up water from rivers and ponds and drop water on the edge of the fire to extinguish actively burning areas. (They usually avoid using swimming pools due to the potential damage from high surface winds that can be generated from the helicopter rotors at low elevation.)

Specialized Teams

More resources are deployed as the fire escalates including strike teams, smoke jumpers and task forces. Strike teams are resources (fire engines, bulldozers, hand crews) with a leader. Task forces are mixed resources with a leader. In extreme situations with long term fire incidents, rare for Sonoma County, in order to get to very inaccessible areas, smoke jumpers may be called in to access fire areas, fire fighters parachute in with all the gear they require and resources to support and sustain themselves for several shifts or operating periods.

Region Six Fire Jurisdictions



HOW TO COPE WITH EMERGENCIES

Citizens
Organized to
Prepare for
Emergencies

Guide for Setting up COPE Neighborhood Teams

Telephone: (707) 565-1152



Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies (COPE), is a community organizing framework that enables neighbors to come together and be prepared for emergencies.

COPE groups are forming all across Region 6. Get involved, share essential information that can help first responders help you when the time comes. Preparedness is the best investment we can make for readiness when, not if, the next fire becomes a threat to life and property.

You and your neighbors can develop individual response plans, maintain individual emergency supply kits, prepare your property to support firefighting efforts (e.g. clearly marked address, access through gates, roadside clearing and defensible space on private properties), and ensure first responders have accurate and current pre-attack maps.