

# 2021 Wildfire Update & Seasonal Outlook

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# Wildfire Board Objective Update



1. CAL FIRE 2021 Season Outlook – Deputy Chief Jim Hudson
  2. Nevada County Consolidated Fire Update – Chief Jim Turner
  3. 2021 Green Waste Event Recap – Fire Safe Council Executive Director Jamie Jones
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June 22, 2021



# 2021 Fire Season Briefing Nevada County Board of Supervisors



# Reflecting on the Statewide 2020 Fire Season



- **9,917** SRA wildland fires in 2020
- **4,257,863** acres were burned.
- **10,488** Structures were destroyed
- **33** Fatalities directly related to fires
- *2020 was the worst recorded fire season in California History*



# Nevada Yuba Placer Unit (NEU) 2020 Fire Season

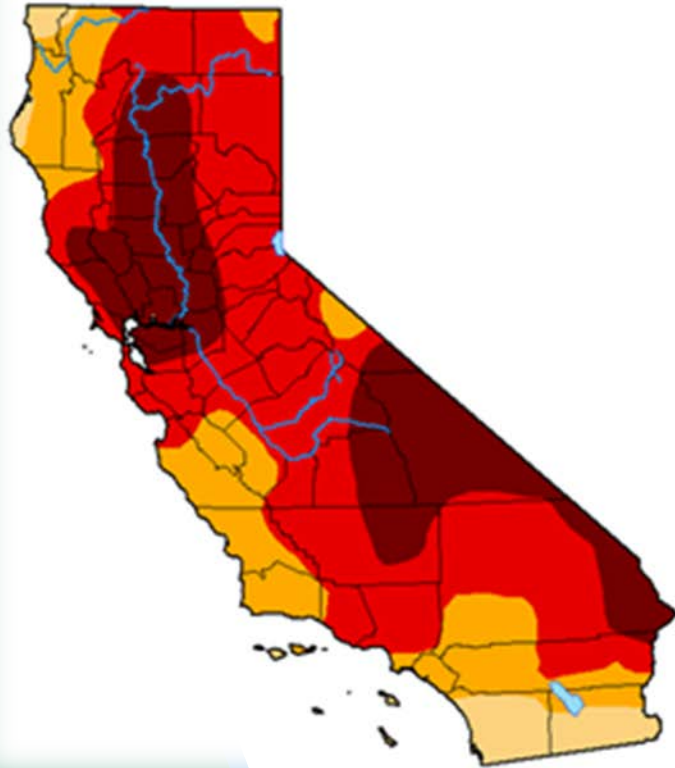
- **875,000 acres** of SRA Direct Protection area in NEU
- **990 Wildland Fires** in NEU in 2020
- **125 Wildland Fires** in Nevada County totaling **780 acres**
- Willow and Jones Fires / resource drawdown were 2020 challenges
- **95%** of fires at **10 acres** or less goal is CAL FIRE state wide goal
- **95.8%** initial attack success



# 2021 Fire Season and Forecasted Conditions

## DROUGHT CONDITIONS

U.S. Drought Monitor  
California



June 1, 2021  
(Released Thursday, Jun. 3, 2021)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	94.61	74.46	26.04
Last Week 05-25-2021	0.00	100.00	100.00	94.61	74.46	26.04
3 Months Ago 03-02-2021	0.75	99.25	90.89	56.98	29.54	3.75
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	95.17	74.34	33.75	1.19
Start of Water Year 09-29-2020	15.35	94.65	67.65	36.62	12.74	0.00
One Year Ago 06-02-2020	41.80	58.20	46.67	20.84	2.97	0.00

**Intensity:**  
 None (White)  
 D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow)  
 D1 Moderate Drought (Light Orange)  
 D2 Severe Drought (Orange)  
 D3 Extreme Drought (Red)  
 D4 Exceptional Drought (Dark Red)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:  
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National Drought Mitigation Center



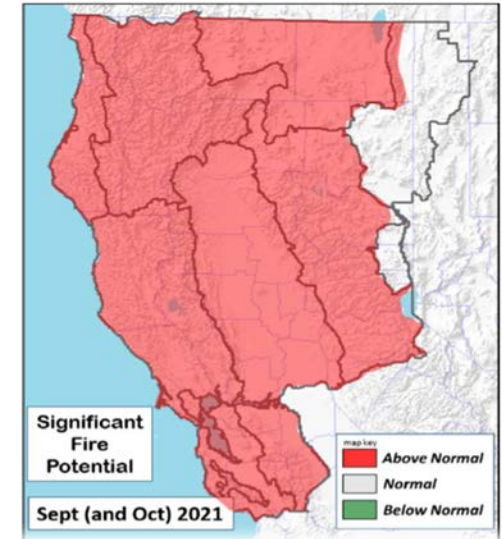
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

## SIGNIFICANT FIRE POTENTIAL

Northern Operations

### MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOKS

ISSUED JUNE 1, 2021 VALID JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2021



# 2021 Fire Season and Forecasted Conditions



- Minimal snowpack as of June 1<sup>st</sup> in the Sierra Mountains
- No additional rains predicted
- Grass loading is average and cured
- Potential for monsoonal flow with potential lightning
- Predicted **very high potential** for large fire growth at mid to higher elevations
- Fire spread predictions are approximately **3 months** ahead of normal



# 2021 Fire Season Update and Preparedness



- Burn suspension **May 24th**
- Fire Season declared **May 24<sup>th</sup>**
- Peak Staffing in NEU – **June 1st**
- **411** State funded personnel
  - ✓ *27 State staffed Engines*
  - ✓ *5 Type I Hand Crews*
  - ✓ *4 Dozer Units*
  - ✓ *2 Air Tankers and 1 Air attack*





# 2021 Fire Season Update and Preparedness



- Hand crew strength down approximately **80** crews statewide
- Adding additional dozers and Firefighter Handcrews Statewide
- CNG Crew through end of 2021
- **9 of 13** S-70i Blackhawks in service for fire season 2021
- **23** Airtankers in service and C-130 program on track for 2022



# 2020 / 2021 Fuel Reduction Efforts



- North Fork Shaded Fuel Break Phase 1 is complete – **900 acres**
- Ponderosa West Defense Zone Phase 1 is complete – **950 acres**
- **820** additional acres of private land have been treated through 2020
- Over **800 hazard** piles burned in 2020/2021. Prescribed fire hampered by dry winter of 2020



# 2020 / 2021 Fuel Reduction - Eastside



- Year round staffing at Station 50
- **712** hazard piles burned on SRA in Tahoe Region
- **58** acres treated in high hazard areas
- **97** hazard trees felled in WUI areas
- 4<sup>th</sup> Fire Dozer added to Unit for pre positioning on eastside during red flag events



# Looking forward into 2021



- Cooperative Relationships
- **Red Flag** Warning program
- Continued Cooperative Efforts with NCSO, NC OES, Local FD's, and CAL FIRE
- Evacuation Planning Efforts
- Grant Funding 2020 vs. 2021
- Fire Safe Councils, RCD, and Fire Wise Communities



*Nevada County Board of  
Supervisors*

*Nevada County Consolidated  
Fire District*

*James Turner – Fire Chief*



# Welcome to the District

- *4 District staffed fire stations and 1 joint staffed City of Grass Valley fire station*
- *143 square miles of jurisdictional responsibility*
- *Full-time staffed Department of Fire Prevention*
- *Over 3500 calls for service on an annual basis*



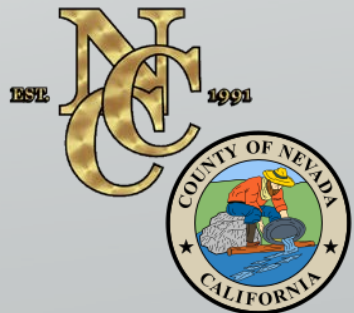
# The 2020 California Fire Season

- *22 Responses out of County*
- *18,594 Personnel hours assigned to Master Mutual Aid*
- *1 Residential structure was destroyed in NCC's jurisdiction during the Jones Fire*



# The 2021 California Fire Season Outlook

- *9 additional NCC Seasonal Firefighters*
- *Numerous NCC personnel certified to fulfill command and general staff positions*
- *On-going relationships with our allied agencies, which makes our operations seamless*
- *Shortfall - Limited number of personnel based upon NFPA 1710 recommendations*
- *Concerns - Depth of coverage during a significant incident within the County*

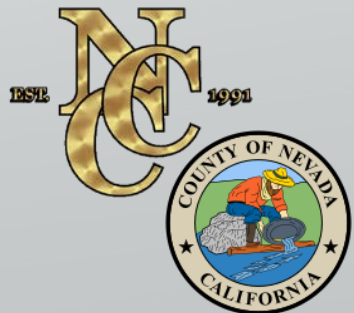




# Fire Prevention and Public Education



- *Partnership with the County of Nevada for the management of the Defensible Space Inspector program*
- *Unmanned Aerial Vehicle deployment for defensible space inspection of private properties*



# Technical Rescue



- *Swiftwater Rescue*
- *High / Low Angle Rescue*
- *California Highway Patrol Helicopter Rescue Technician Program*
- *UTV Program*

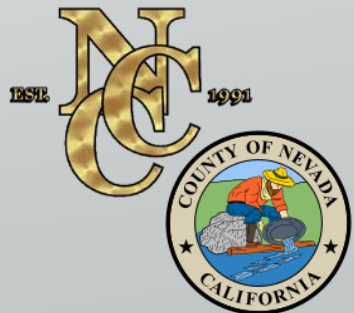


# *“Rescue 84” – The New Edition*

- 2020 Ford F-550 4-wheel drive, with 150 gallons of water*
- All-Risk response capabilities*
- 60% less cost than a 4-wheel drive fire engine*
- Capable of accessing remote areas*
- 50% less cost per mile than a 4-wheel drive engine*



*“On behalf of the Nevada County Consolidated Fire District, we would like to thank the County of Nevada for their ongoing and exceptional relationship that has fostered between our agencies”*



# Free Green Waste Disposal & Mulch Pickup



Photo: Town of Truckee

FUNDED BY COUNTY OF NEVADA





Questions?

