

Scalia, Melissa@CALFIRE

From: Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 12:32 PM
To: Doug Aumack; Scalia, Melissa@CALFIRE
Cc: Carey Pico; Becky Steinbruner
Subject: Concerns re: CALFIRE and Low Inmate Crew Staffing

Warning: this message is from an external user and should be treated with caution.

Dear County Fire Dept. Advisory Commission,
I want to make your Commission aware that, according to a report at today's State Board of Forestry, staffing for the State's Inmate Crews (CDCR) is very low as we enter another fire season.

Cooperative Fire Protection Camps

- **The current statewide strength of Type I California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Fire Crews is 45 crews staffed out of a total of 152 funded CDCR Type I Fire Crews, there are an additional 3 CDCR Crews staffed but with a crew strength of less than 12 which makes them unavailable for a statewide response. There is currently 18 California Conservation Corps (CCC) Type I Fire Crews staffed out of 29 total allocated. There are an additional 10 CCC crews unavailable for statewide response due to the lack of members or not being type I crews. Which leave CAL FIRE with a total of 63 Type 1 Fire Crews available for a statewide response out of a total of 181 CDCR and CCC funded crews.**
- *There is currently one Conservation Camp (two crews) and one CAL FIRE/California Conservation Corps Fire Center (one crew) affected by COVID and on quarantine making them unavailable for response.*
- **The current CDCR inmate crew strength is 713 inmates out of the allocated 2584, leaving the Conservation Camp Program with a shortage of 1871 inmates. For a total CDCR Camp population at 42% and a crew capacity of 28%.**

Crews

- *13 out of 13 California National Guard Crews are Type 1 and available for state response. Over the last 3 years, up to 77 Cal Guard Service Members have accepted Firefighter positions with CAL FIRE.*
- *Crew Program Working Group's (CPWG) 6000 Handbook Adhoc has drafted its first policies and procedures to reinforce the Crew Temporary Directive. The CPWG is meeting Wednesday, June 1st to review and approve the draft policies to begin the issuance process.*
- *16 additional CAL FIRE Handcrews funded through the Spring Augmentation are staffed, continuing hiring, and in the training process.*
- **16 of the 16 funded CAL FIRE Handcrews are staffed and preparing for certification.**
<https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/y1nbnr5i/full-9-june-2022-director-s-report.pdf> (page 7)

Therefore, due to the low CDCR handcrew availability, local CALFIRE units will likely once again be sent out of the area on strike teams. The Santa Cruz County Fire Dept. Volunteers will once again become of prime importance in protecting rural residents and properties.

I request that the County Fire Dept. Advisory Commission discuss this at your next meeting as an agenda item, and consider neighborhood trainings with residents in areas that will likely organize informal brigades as what occurred in the CZU Lightning Fire Complex.

I also request County Fire Dept. participate in fire defensible space inspections in high fire risk areas to encourage property owners to create significant fire defensible space around structures and fire breaks along roadways and evacuation routes.

Please respond.

Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner