



10.0 RISK OF UPSET AND SAFETY

Seismic and natural flood hazards relevant to the Paradise study area have been described in the preceding sections on *Geology and Seismicity* (3.2) and *Hydrology* (5.0). Other potential hazards include wildland fire hazards, dam failure, aircraft accidents and a hazardous materials spills and leaks. The terrain and limited access to the community restrict emergency evacuation routes. The town has recently completed preparation of a *Multihazard Disaster Plan* which addresses earthquakes, hazardous material incidents, major storms, major fires and volcanic eruptions.

The wildland fire hazard in the Paradise study area results from topography, elevation, dry summer climate, winds, access, water availability, buildup of combustible materials, vegetation patterns, and structural materials, and is compounded by periods of drought. The peak fire hazard season occurs from late June through early October. Please refer to Section 14.2 for a complete discussion of fire protection. According to the *Multihazard Disaster Plan*, due to the sheer volume of people that can be affected at one time by a wildland fire, a number of potential traffic flow problems exist. These are complicated by the existence of only one north route out of town; only four south routes out of town, two of which could easily be affected by a single fire; and only three through east-west streets. The plan concludes that any fire in the Magalia area would have a major impact on the roads in Paradise because access is via a two-lane road. The plan identifies the following specific areas of concern:

- Lower Neal Road
- The west side, especially Valley View, Valley Ridge, Acorn Ridge and adjoining areas
- Foster Road (single paved access, with Wayland Road to Neal Road as the only other escape)
- Fires threatening large sections of Skyway or Pentz, which could cut off both north and south egress

The potential for hazardous materials incidents exists primarily on the major highways which cross the study area and leaking underground tank storage. Please refer to Section 16.5 for a discussion of the *Butte County Hazardous Waste Management Plan*.

The potential for aircraft accidents exists in relation to Paradise Skypark Airport, a privately-owned, public use airport located south of the town limits, within the secondary study area, on the west side of Clark Road. According to the *Paradise Skypark Airport Land Use Plan* (Butte County Association of Governments, 1985), the airport has experienced no crashes involving the public or scheduled air carriers in recent years. According to this plan, approximately fifty percent of civilian aircraft accidents occur within airport boundaries, and approximately fifteen percent outside airport boundaries and within one mile



of airports. Of these near-airport accidents, approximately sixty percent are concentrated within narrow strips of land at both ends of the runway (approach and departure zones).

The Butte County Mosquito Abatement District has indicated that Lyme disease is present in the Paradise area due to the presence of disease-bearing ticks. The district has also indicated that storm water basins and wastewater treatment ponds may increase the potential for mosquito-borne diseases in the area.