

Kelly Keenan

Retired Unit Chief

CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado-Sacramento Unit

Retired Annuitant, Sacramento Fire Protection

Kelly Keenan began his emergency response career in 1980, working on a fire crew for the Los Padres National Forest while attending California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. After graduating in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources Management, he started his first CAL FIRE (CDF) position as a Forestry Aide in the San Mateo Santa Cruz Unit. He continued this position in the Mendocino Unit in 1983, beginning his permanent employment with CAL FIRE in 1986 at the Jackson Demonstration State Forest as a Forestry Assistant II. In 1989, Kelly promoted to the Nevada Yuba Placer Unit as a Forester I, promoting to Unit Forester in 1998.

Kelly moved to the Amador El Dorado Sacramento Unit in 2004 as Assistant Chief, responsible for field operations of the El Dorado Division, including Growlersburg Conservation Camp.

In 2011, Kelly promoted to Unit Chief, Amador El Dorado Sacramento Unit covering approximately one million acres of state responsibility area.

Since retiring in 2013, Kelly has worked as a CAL FIRE Retired Annuitant assigned to CAL FIRE's Training Center as part of various cadres (AAIM, C420, CEQA) and strategic planning. He has also had numerous assignments as the CAL FIRE Agency Representative to the California State Operations Center (SOC) and FEMA/Cal OES Joint Field Office. His CAL FIRE AREP assignments to the SOC include the 2018 Camp and Carr fires, 2017 LNU fires and Thomas fire, Oroville Dam Spillway incident and the California January and February 2017 flood incidents.

Kelly has been involved with CAL FIRE Incident Management Teams since 1989, working his way from Field Observer in 1989 to Incident Commander of CAL FIRE ICT 1 in 2010. Kelly has had numerous wildland fire and non-wildland fire type I CAL FIRE Team assignments.