

2003 ANNUAL REPORT



Fire Prevention Bureau...

In 2003, the Fire Prevention Bureau continued with its efforts to keep Red Bluff a safe place to live, work, and play. The Bureau has responsibility for fire code enforcement, public safety education, fire investigation, and weed and hazard abatement. Fire code enforcement continued to be a priority. The Fire Marshal inspects all new construction and manages the inspection programs while the engine companies perform the actual business inspections. The main focus of these inspections is "enforcement through education". This commitment to pro-active fire prevention activities continues to result in reducing or eliminating fire losses.

The Fire Prevention Bureau was an active participant in providing quality fire & life safety education to the community. Educating the public in preventing fires is a vital part of saving life and property. Fire safety demonstrations are provided to any group in our community upon request. Also, fire station tours can be scheduled throughout the year.

The Bureau is also in charge of Fire Investigation. There are several fire investigators within the department such as the Fire Marshal and several of the Fire Captains who have all received specialized training in fire origin and cause determination. All fires are investigated to determine their origin and cause. The Fire Prevention Bureau is dedicated to making our community safe today and in the future.



2003 FIRE & SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Self-Inspections.....226 Business Inspections.....638 Total.....864

Red Bluff Fire Department

555 Washington Street, Red Bluff, California 96080
(530) 527-1126.....website: www.rbfd.org



2003 Annual Report

We are proud to present the Red Bluff Fire Department's 2003 Annual Report to you.

In 2003 the Red Bluff Fire

Department experienced a very busy year with 2,272 calls for service. Your fire department responded to those emergencies and held the total annual fire loss for the City of Red Bluff to a very low \$227,550. The total dollar value saved was just over \$3 million.

In October, RBFD personnel responded to the call for assistance from the Southern California area where many wildland fires were burning out of control. The city sent two engines and eight personnel to battle the flames in Simi Valley and San Diego. Remaining personnel worked around the clock staffing our remaining engines and equipment to ensure our city's continued safety.

Most importantly, it takes qualified, experienced, and empowered employees at every level within an organization to achieve these results. The Red Bluff Fire Department is an all-risk public safety organization thanks to the dedication and commitment of all of our outstanding personnel. It is a pleasure to work with such an enthusiastic group of employees; reserves and full-time staff alike.

The RBFD has made several changes to its operations:

- Started a new firefighter academy.
- Revised and updated the California Fire Code.
- Updated the city's Disaster Plan
- Revised and updated Standards Operating Procedures.
- Dedication of the city's Emergency Operations Center after former Deputy Fire Chief Joseph "Don" Allen who proudly served at the RBFD for 52 years.

Goals for the RBFD:

- Seek ways to recruit and retain reserve fire personnel.
- Purchase of a combination Fire Engine.
- Continue upgrading our digital technology.
- Plan for the continued growth of the community.

On behalf of the firefighters and officers of the Red Bluff Fire Department I want to compliment and thank the City Council and City Manager for their continued support and consideration of the needs and activities of the Fire Department.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Damon
Fire Chief



Operations...

The number of emergency calls in 2003 (2,272) remained statistically steady over the previous annual total of 2,306.

Our firefighting fleet consists of three type-1 engines and one type-1 105-ft ladder truck (which is jointly owned by the Tehama County Fire Department.)

Our plans to purchase a wildland/structure engine are still in the works. This will greatly enhance our wildland firefighting capabilities in the Red Bluff area.

The RBFD has developed close alliances and agreements with other local agencies such as CDF, Tehama County Fire Department, Red Bluff Police Department, Tehama Co. Sheriff's Department & Office of Emergency Services, CHP, St. Elizabeth Mobile Life Support, Red Bluff Public Works, Cal-Trans, Gerber Fire Department, and the City of Corning Police and Fire Departments. These relationships greatly enhance our operations with mutual aid, exchange of information and assistance. All of these agencies have contributed to our success. We once again wish to extend a big thank you out to all of those agencies and look forward to another productive year!

Training...

We place a great deal of emphasis on training all of our fire personnel. The basic training program at the RBFD consists of a minimum of 20 hrs per month for each employee. This satisfies the federal, state, and local training requirements placed on fire departments and ensures that our personnel remain prepared for the many diverse challenges they face on a day-to-day basis.

Since September 11, 2001 the fire service has taken the lead role in the domestic emergency response to terrorism attacks. Although it is unlikely that our community will suffer from a bio-chemical or similar attack we constantly strive to stay ahead of the issues and will remain prepared for all possible events.

On October 4th, the fire department successfully conducted a live-fire training burn in an abandoned house on Jackson Street which was graciously donated for that purpose by the Abundant Life Fellowship. Our many thanks go out to Pastor J. Elmore Heitman and the other directors for providing us with this outstanding training opportunity.

Overall in 2003, the members of the fire department collectively completed a very impressive 2,113 training classes & sessions which totalled 5,801 hours.

