

# RED BLUFF FIRE DEPARTMENT



## 2005 Annual Report



### FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

In 2005 the fire prevention bureau continued with its efforts to keep our community a safe place in which to live, work, and play. The bureau has responsibility for fire code enforcement, public safety education, fire investigation, and weed & hazard abatement. Fire code enforcement continued to be a priority. The Fire Marshal inspects all new construction and manages the fire inspection program while our engine companies perform the actual routine business inspections. The primary focus of these inspections is "enforcement through education". This commitment to proactive 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 over the past year. 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.

Lastly, fire investigation is a vital function of the fire prevention bureau. The Fire Marshal and several shift captains have received all of the specialized training in fire origin and cause determination. All fires are investigated to determine their cause and detailed incident investigation reports are prepared.



*Red Bluff Fire Department at the 2005 Relay for Life event*

The fire prevention bureau is dedicated to help ensure that our community remains safe today and in the future.

Red Bluff Fire Department: 555 Washington St., Red Bluff, CA 96080 (530)527-1126  
www.rbfd.org FAX: (530)529-4768

## FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Once again it gives me great pleasure to present you with our 2005 annual report.

In 2005 the RBFD responded to 2,352 incidents — the busiest year in the long history of the department. The annual fire loss for those properties involved was a very respectable \$244,307.

Two very important documents were completed and adopted by the City of Red Bluff City Council in 2005:

- January 18, 2005 the City Council adopted the "Hazard Mitigation Plan". This document is mandated by FEMA for disaster relief funding should a disaster strike our community.
- February 15, 2005 the City Council adopted the "Standard of Coverage" document. The purpose of this document is to provide the following:
  - A baseline tool for defining emergency response performance standards
  - A descriptive tool for validating fire station locations
  - A management tool for determining apparatus type, staffing level, and staffing patterns
  - A predictive tool for helping to determine workload and ideal unit utilization
  - A basis for continually measuring performance procurement and allocation as the City and Department plan for the future.

Your fire department responded to emergencies outside the City of Red Bluff. We sent equipment and personnel to battle the devastating Manton Fire in August. In September we sent Engineers David Carr and Domenic Catona to the Gulf States at the request of FEMA to assist with the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The year ahead will provide the Department with many challenges and many opportunities. We anticipate reviewing the need for an additional fire station in response to current and proposed growth.

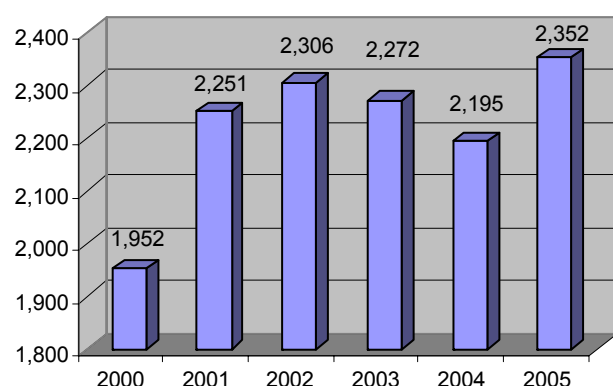
We value the trust you place in us daily and we promise to continue to do everything we can to nurture and maintain that trust.

On a personal note, as I retire after 42 years in this profession, I would like to thank the citizens of Red Bluff for allowing me to serve as your Fire Chief for the past four years. My success has come from the quality of people I have been able to work with.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Damon, Fire Chief

Number of RBFD Responses



Early moments of the devastating Manton Fire which destroyed 30 structures  
Photo by RBFD



In October, RBFD firefighters contributed \$900 to the Manton Fire Victims

## OPERATIONS

The RBFD employs 13 full-time (career) personnel and 25 reserve (part-time) personnel. Each and every one of these employees is vital to both our organization and our mission.

Our day-to-day staffing is typically four personnel; three career personnel and one reserve firefighter. This crew provides round-the-clock coverage to the community.

Our firefighting fleet consists of the following:

2005 Fire Engine (Engine #4)  
2001 Fire Engine (Engine #1)  
1997 Ladder Truck (Truck #1)  
1994 Rescue Unit  
1993 Quick Attack Unit  
1989 Fire Engine (Engine #3)  
1978 Fire Engine (Engine #2)

All of our fire personnel are trained to at least the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level and some are licensed Paramedics. Medical emergencies constitute the leading emergency call type that we typically respond to so we have placed a great deal of training and emphasis in providing our community with some of the best emergency medical responders in the county.

And although fires comprise less than 5% of our total call volume they still present the greatest risk (of all incident types) to both our community and personnel. Therefore, we continue to prepare and train on aggressive, but smart, firefighting techniques which are focused on quick rescue and fire-attack methods.

In 2005, the RBFD sent personnel and equipment to large fires in Manton, R-Ranch (Highway 36 west of Red Bluff) and Yucca Valley (Southern California). This exchange of firefighting resources with other jurisdictions is vital to the fire service as all fire agencies depend on one another during catastrophic events.

## MANY THANKS

We wish to recognize the following agencies for their assistance: Red Bluff Police, Red Bluff Public Works, Tehama County Fire/CDF, St. Elizabeth Ambulance, California Highway Patrol, Tehama County Sheriff's Dept., California Office of Emergency Services (OES).

## TRAINING

We certainly understand that it may be quite uninteresting for the average person to appreciate the huge amount of continuous training that goes into being a firefighter. But rest assured that our objective has always been to provide you with the most efficient and effective firefighters possible. We take great pride in both our organization and its members; and we set our expectations & standards very high.

The training mandate at the RBFD is 20 hrs per month *per firefighter* in an assortment of assigned fire-related topics & activities. In addition, all members gather monthly for a 3-hour department-wide drill.

This rigorous training schedule satisfies all of the federal and state training mandates for our fire department and helps to ensure that City of Red Bluff residents enjoy the lowest fire insurance premiums in the county as the RBFD holds an ISO rating of "3" — which is the best fire protection rating in all of Tehama County.

During the 2005 calendar year, the members of the RBFD completed an impressive 10,132 hours of training in such a wide-variety of topics that we could not list them all in this document. Still, our intent has always been to provide you with the best fire personnel possible — we feel that we have succeeded!

## THE YEAR AHEAD

Fire department staff will continue to monitor and plan accordingly for growth in our community. An emphasis will once again be placed on emergency medical training and fireground operations. Our goal is to have another great year serving and protecting our community with the best personnel possible.

[www.rbfd.org](http://www.rbfd.org)  
Serving our community since 1876