

RED BLUFF FIRE DEPARTMENT



2006 Annual Report



FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

In 2006 the fire prevention division continued with its efforts to keep our community a safe place in which to live, work, and play. The division 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 division 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 division. 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.

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

FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

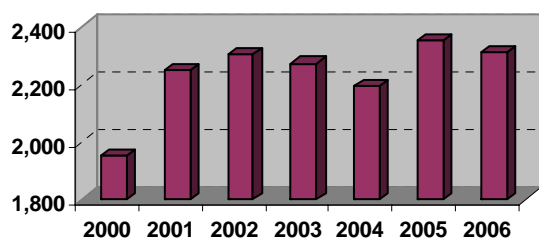
I proudly present to you the 2006 Red Bluff Fire Department Annual Report. This document summarizes the activity and accomplishments in our department over the past year.

In 2006, the firefighters of the RBFD responded to 2,312 incidents — the second busiest year in our department's long history. As expected, medical emergency calls continue to dominate the annual call volume; last year we responded to 1,665 emergency medical calls (72% of our calls).

Though the 128 fire calls last year only represent 6% of our annual call volume, these types of incidents still constitute one of the greatest threats to both our community and our personnel. Unfortunately, three major fires in 2006 produced the bulk of the \$932K fire loss for the year:

- January 2 — Ash St. Apartment complex fire
- July 4 — Countryside Deli fire
- August 13 — Givens Rd. Apartment complex fire

Number of RBFD Incidents (2000 - 2006)



In April, our firefighters staged their fourth annual "Fill the Boot Drive" at the intersection of Main Street and Oak Street in Red Bluff. All proceeds from this fundraising event went to the Tehama County Relay for Life in the battle against cancer. In one day alone, our firefighters raised nearly \$16K from passing motorists. Over the past four years, the RBFD has donated well over \$42K to the Relay for Life cause.

Building construction and new project development kept our Fire Prevention Division very busy over the past year. Although the latest economic signs suggest a slower housing market, this was hardly the case in Red Bluff through most of 2006.

Perhaps, most notable was our successful evaluation from the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) during 2006. This evaluation is a comprehensive independent assessment of a community's fire protection services and is conducted every 10-15 years. The RBFD maintained its very respectful rating of "3" and is now only a few percentage points in the grading from an improved "2" rating. Because of our outstanding ISO rating, which places us in the top 5% of fire departments nationwide, Red Bluff residents already enjoy some of the lowest property insurance premiums in the county.

On behalf of all of the firefighters and staff of the RBFD, I look forward to another year of dedicated public service to the Red Bluff community and beyond.

Gerry Gray, Fire Chief

MISC. FACTS

Annually, our firefighters meticulously test over 11,000 feet of fire hose, every one of the 540 city fire hydrants, and every single fire pump to ensure that all equipment are ready to save lives and fight fires. In addition, we aggressively manage all aspects of the city's proactive weed abatement program to prevent large wildland fires.

IN MEMORIAM

In January, we lost Reserve Fire Captain Tom Kinner and his brother Mike in a vehicle accident. In October, we lost Reserve Deputy Chief Joseph "Don" Allen who served for 54 years. Both Chief Allen and Captain Kinner will always be remembered in our department.



Maxine Richelieu of Red Bluff fulfilled a life-long wish of riding on a fire truck on her 90th birthday

OPERATIONS

The RBFD employs 13 full-time (career) personnel and 25 reserve (part-time) personnel.

Our day-to-day staffing consists of four personnel; three career personnel and one reserve firefighter. This crew provides round-the-clock coverage to our 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 (Rescue 1)
- 1993 Quick Attack Unit (Squad 1)
- 1989 Fire Engine (Engine 3)
- 1978 Fire Engine (Engine 2)

In 2006, the RBFD sent personnel and equipment to large fire incidents in Yreka, Lewiston, Susanville, and Trinity County. In addition, during the past year the RBFD provided automatic and mutual aid assistance to the Tehama County FD/CDF on 131 incidents, and received needed assistance from the TCFD/CDF on 105 incidents.



OLD FACES, NEW JOBS

On March 21, Interim Fire Chief Gerry Gray was appointed by the City Council as the permanent Fire Chief for the RBFD.

In May, after 15 years of dedicated service to the RBFD, Fire Marshal Tina Lee resigned for a Fire Marshal position in Washington State. Mike Bachmeyer was appointed as the new Fire Marshal.

In July, Captain Jon Bennett was promoted to the position of Division Chief. Engineer Dom Catona was promoted to Captain and Reserve Personnel Heinle and Shobash were promoted to full-time Engineers.

TRAINING

We certainly understand that it may be quite uninteresting for the average person to appreciate the considerable 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.

During the 2006 calendar year, the members of the RBFD completed an impressive 8,732 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!

MANY THANKS

Many thanks to all other city departments for supporting us throughout the year. Also, thanks to: Tehama County Fire & CDF, Tehama County Sheriff's Dept., St. Elizabeth Ambulance & Hospital, California Highway Patrol, California Office of Emergency Services (OES), County of Tehama departments, City of Corning Fire & Police Departments, and all of the utility companies field personnel.



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