

The fire prevention division is dedicated to helping ensure that our community remains safe both today and in the future. As in many communities, reducing the threat of fire through fuel reduction projects is an essential tool of the fire prevention division. This year's weed abatement efforts by both the community and the department were the most successful ever. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all residents to maintain your defensible spaces.

The Fire Marshal and several staff members 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. Lastly, fire investigation is a vital function of the fire prevention division. The Fire Marshal and several staff members 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.

*A collaborative fuels reduction and beautification project by the Red Bluff Fire, Planning, and Parks departments with the aid of Cal Fire's Ishi Camp.*



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.

The fire prevention division continues to reduce or eliminate fire losses. This commitment to proactive fire prevention activities continues to result in reducing or eliminating fire losses. 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.

In 2008, 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.

**FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION**

**RED BLUFF FIRE DEPARTMENT**



*2008 Annual Report*



*Whiskey Town Lake area of the Moon fire; part of the Shasta Lightning Complex. This incident was just one of many statewide mutual aid campaigns to which personnel and equipment from Red Bluff Fire Department responded during the 2008 summer.*

# FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

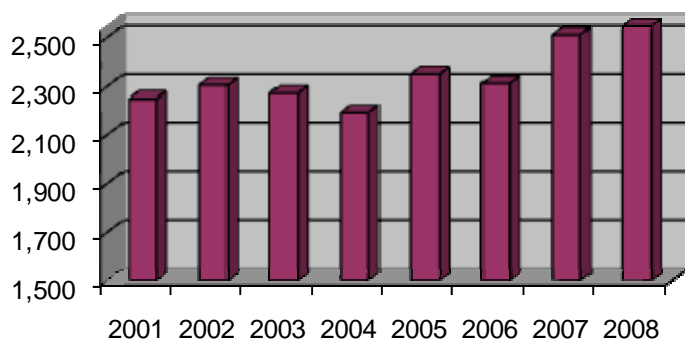
I proudly present to you the 2008 Red Bluff Fire Department Annual Report. This document summarizes the activities and accomplishments in our department over the past year.

In 2008, the firefighters of the RBFD responded to 2,568 incidents — the 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 1,886 emergency medical calls or 74% of our annual call volume.

Though the 124 fire calls last year only represent 5% of our annual call volume, these types of incidents still constitute one of the greatest threats to both our community and our personnel. Four major fires in 2008 produced the bulk of the \$873K fire loss for the year:

- January 8 — Jefferson Street fire
- January 15 — Second Street fire
- May 15 — Bidwell Street fire
- August 24 — Sutter Street fire

**RBFD Incident Count (2001 - 2008)**



In April the firefighters of the RBFD staged their fifth annual "Fill the Boot Drive" at the intersection of Main Street and Oak Street in Red Bluff. As usual, every penny from this fundraising event went to the Tehama County Relay for Life in the battle against cancer. In one day alone, our firefighters raised over \$12K from passing motorists. Over the past five years, the RBFD has donated nearly \$62K to the Tehama County Relay for Life.

Your fire department continues to be very involved in our community and continues to provide an outstanding effort and product. This requires a 24/7 commitment from some of the best firefighters in the north state — I am proud to work alongside each of our personnel. On behalf of everyone at the RBFD, I look forward to another year of dedicated public service to you, the Red Bluff community, and beyond.

As your new Fire Chief I look forward to the new year with great optimism. We are in a unique position to create new goals and standards for ourselves as a fire department and a part of the community we serve. I thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,  
*Michael J. Bachmeyer*

Michael J. Bachmeyer, Fire Chief

## ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

Despite the typical busy day of responding to emergency calls and rigorous training mandates, our firefighters are also assigned a number of large projects each year:

- Each fire engine pump undergoes a thorough and rigorous "annual pump test" by our personnel per ISO and NFPA requirements.
- Every single length of fire hose (we really do own miles of fire hose!) is pressure tested every year per NFPA & OSHA mandates.
- All of the chainsaws, rotary saws, portable generators, and small power tools are serviced by our firefighters in-house when needed.
- All of our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) are tested and serviced by certified SCBA technicians in our own department.
- Our portable atmospheric monitors are tested and serviced in-house by trained fire personnel.

Just a few examples of the talent and dedication we have in our department. The expertise to perform these tasks in-house translates to a significant annual savings for our taxpayers!



*Bidwell Incident: Vegetation fire with spread to a plastics manufacture co.*



OES 324 in Southern California

## 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 immediate service to our community.

Our firefighting fleet consists of the following:

- 2006 Fire Engine (OES Engine #324)
- 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)

In 2008, the RBFD sent personnel and equipment to several large fire incidents throughout the state from Trinity County to Southern California. In addition, during the past year the RBFD provided automatic and mutual aid assistance to the Tehama County FD/CalFire on 153 incidents, and received needed assistance from the TCFD/CalFire on 76 incidents. This exchange of firefighting resources with other jurisdictions is vital to the fire service as we all depend on one another throughout the year.

## MANY THANKS

We wish to recognize the following organizations & agencies for their assistance and continued cooperation: Red Bluff Police and all other city departments, Tehama County Fire/CalFire, St. Elizabeth Ambulance & Hospital, California Highway Patrol, Tehama County Sheriff's Dept., California Office of Emergency Services (OES), Tehama County Health Services Agency, Tehama County Dept. of Environmental Health, City of Corning Fire & Police Departments, and all of the field personnel from our local utility companies.



We wish to extend our greatest gratitude and best wishes to Chief Gray. His vision and commitment to this department and community will be greatly missed.

Most importantly, we wish to thank our community for the opportunity to serve you!



## TRAINING

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 our 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" — the best fire protection rating in *all of* Tehama County.

During the 2008 calendar year, the members of the RBFD completed an impressive 7,442 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!



**In Loving Memory: Brian D. Smalley**  
20 Years of service to the RBFD  
May 15, 1966 - May 20, 2008