

V. Fire Prevention/Protection/Planning in Prefire Management

Fire Prevention Statement

Ignition Analysis, State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA)

The Fresno Kings Unit is not unique to California Fire History or activity. The unit spans from lowlands at 300ft.on the west side to elevations at 8000ft in the east. The vegetation transitions from light flashy annual grass fuels to heavy timber. The ignitions too are not out of the ordinary for the population density and geographic make up of the unit.

The ignition analysis for the year 2004 is very similar to that of years past. The four primary ignition sources continue to be in the same order of ranking;

Other and Undermined	535 Fires
Arson	311 Fires
Equipment Use	315 Fires
Debris Burning	158 Fires

These 4 ignitions make up the units major categories of the total ignitions. The remaining causes are almost insignificant in numbers. They are split between lightning, campfires, smoking, vehicles, elec. power, and playing w/fire.

These statistics slightly vary each year, but remain the same top classes of fire ignition in the unit. The unit ranges from 120 to 200 fires a year in the SRA and 1400 to 1600 fires in the LRA. The unit does have some shortfalls relative to preliminary fire investigation as the miscellaneous category indicates. These issues will be addressed as part of our goals of the fire prevention bureau.

The California Fire Plan in the Fresno Kings Unit combines SRA and LRA as one in order to address the concerns of the county's fire mitigation efforts and integrate the fire plan. The LRA's are heavily integrated in the SRA and the potential for large damaging fires is a threat to The Fresno County Fire Protection District its shareholders, stakeholders and the county's economy.

Chart 1 – SRA Fire Causes, 2003

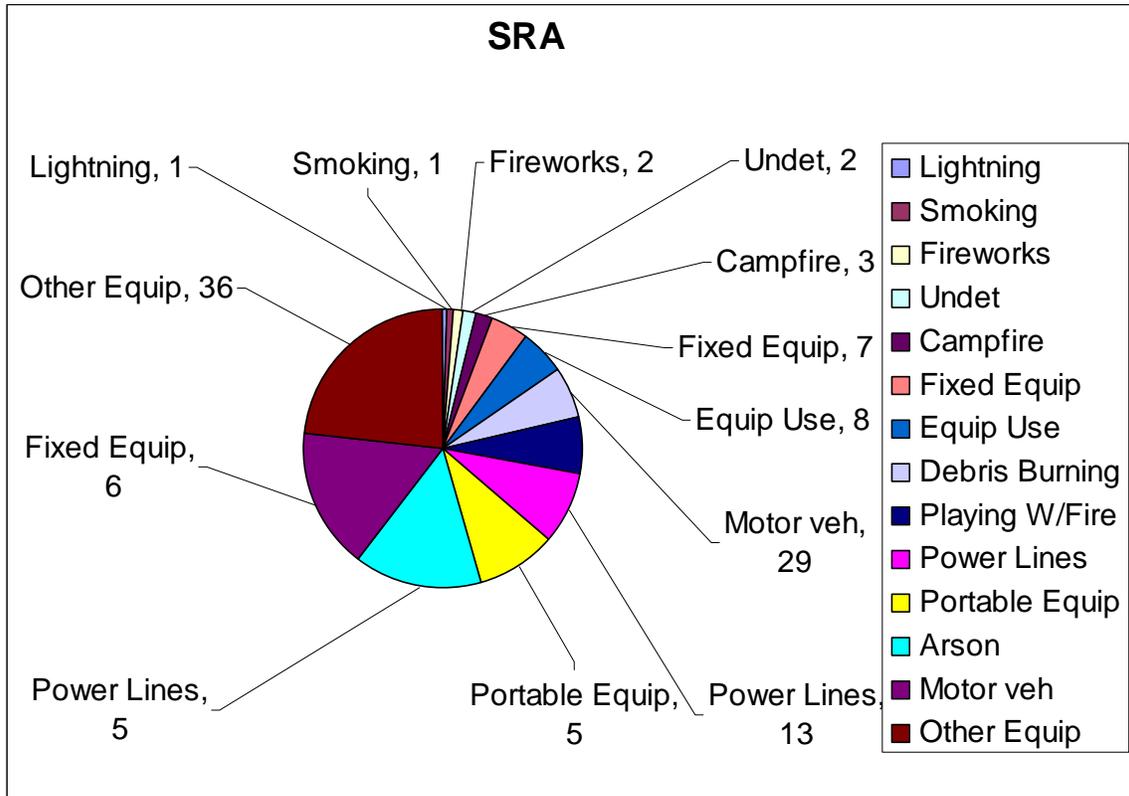


Chart 2 – LRA Fire Causes, 2003

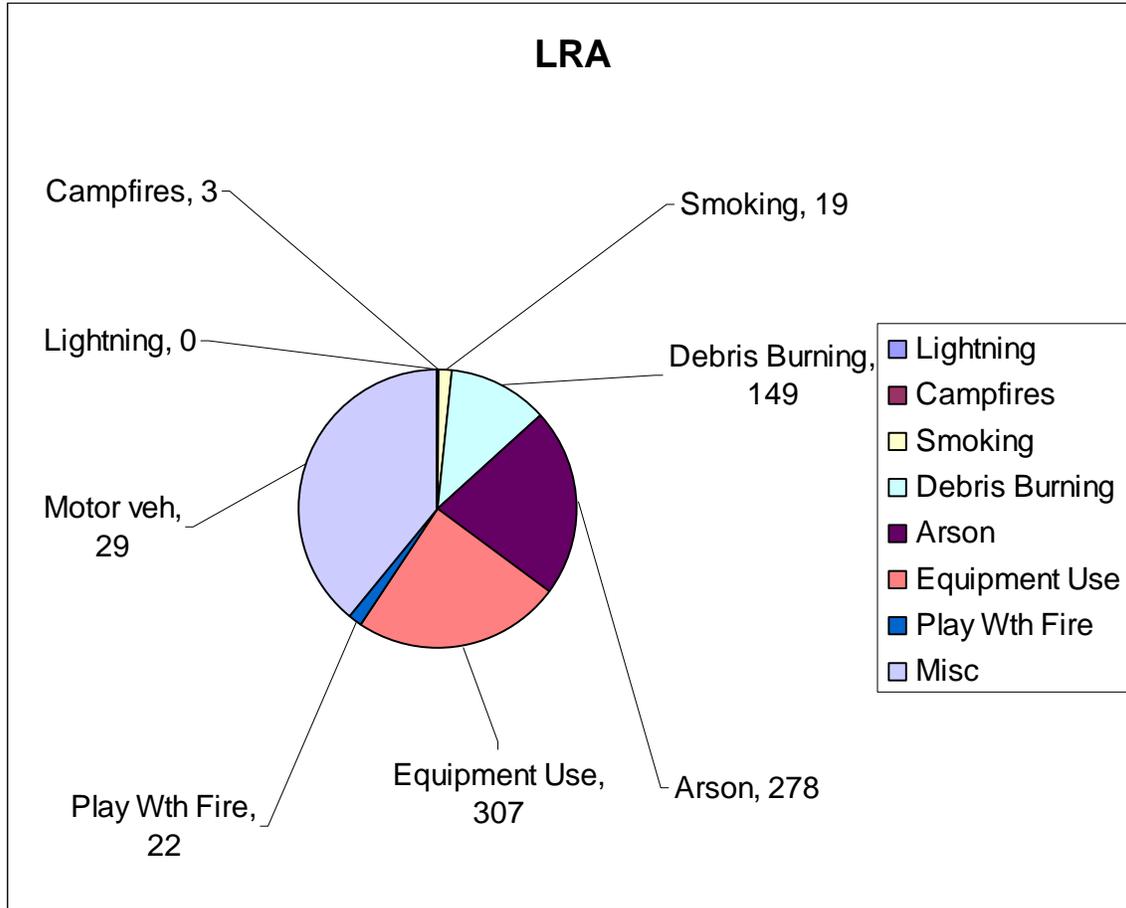
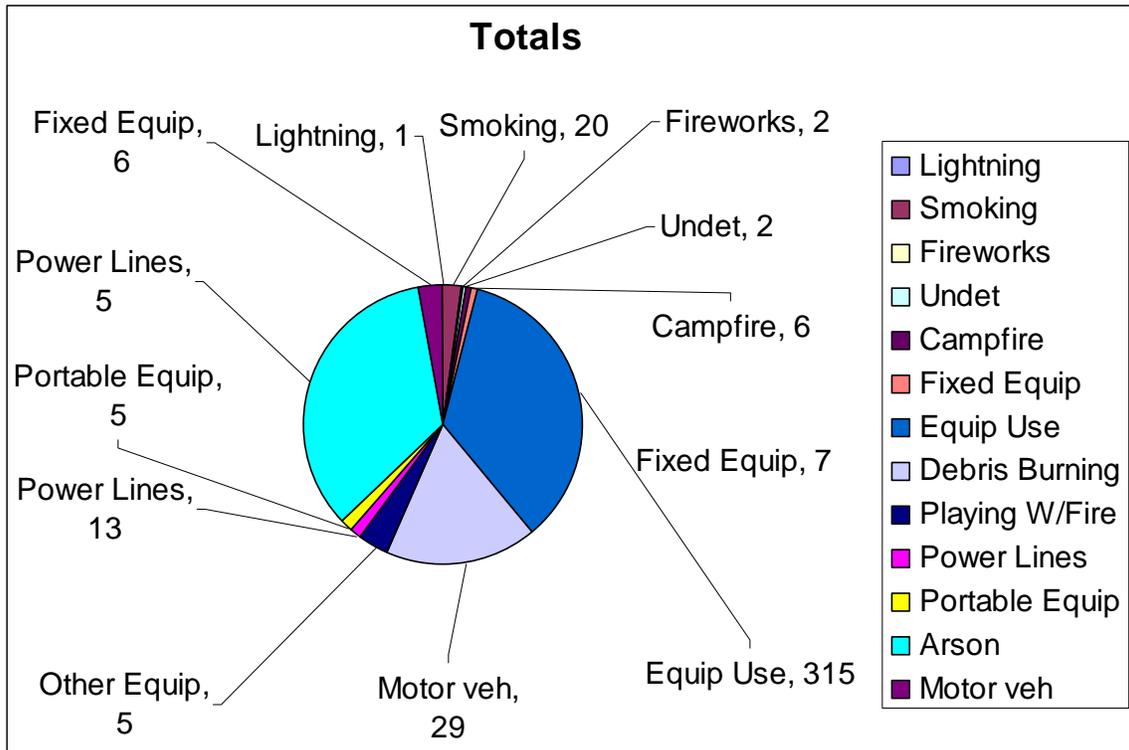


Chart 3 – Total Fire Causes, 2003



Fire Prevention Bureau Goals

Based on the previous identified information the fire prevention bureau has adopted the following actions to provide efforts of ignition mitigation to protect property, natural resource loss, and loss of life or injuries.

Protection and Planning:

The protection and planning section will continue efforts of plans checking in accordance with National Fire Code Requirements to provide for public safety. School programs and care facilities inspection will continue to be a high priority.

The Public Resource Code 4290 plans check and inspections program will continue to provide homes with a defensible space and construction. This program is essential with the rapid expansion of homeowners into the wildland environment throughout primarily the east side of the unit

Public Information and Education:

The information and education section has shown in previous pages of its ability to touch the lives of many people of all ages. The fire and personal safety message presented is invaluable.

These efforts will continue to be proactive in providing the public with information on how home owners will interface in the wildland. The program will also present home owners with how they too may participate in fire mitigation as a shareholder in the County of Fresno.

Law Enforcement:

The enforcement of forest and fire laws will continue to be proactive in efforts to pursue and prosecute violators of statute. Efforts to reduce the miscellaneous category on the ignition statistics is a two pronged approach. First, fires must be investigated in more detail. This may require some additional education for our line firefighters to assist them in cause and origin investigation. Secondly, our investigation staff must be more proactive in investigation efforts. The next effort to be identified is the ability of the department to collect suppression cost on fires of negligent or criminal nature. Emergency incidents are costly and the ability to collect suppression cost and punitive damages will be aggressively pursued.

Lastly, the law enforcement staff is given the authority and responsibility to identify, investigate and arrest subjects involved in criminal related acts. These incidents will be investigated and documented through proper case management. The management of these cases will be conducted with detail of documentation and proper evidence security.

Finally, given the correct legal circumstances the cases will be actively pursued and prosecuted.

Fire Protection/Planning Statement

- 1) Mission Statement – The mission of the fire protection/planning bureau is to reduce losses and cost from fire within the Fresno-Kings Unit in both the SRA and LRA by enforcement of applicable fire and public resource code. It is additionally the mission of the bureau to be proactive in its approach to preventing ignition, loss and cost of all types of fires.
- 2) Priorities – The priority areas for both SRA and LRA are any area, within the unit, with substantial residential and industrial development that has the potential to impact the unit’s resources. Although Millerton New Town has the potential to impact the unit’s resources, covenant agreements have been recorded for tracts 4968 and 4870 to mitigate the impact.
- 3) Existing Fire Plan Projects
 1. LRA Water Source Identification: Identification of all available water sources within the LRA for both residential and industrial applications. The project has been in existence for approximately one year. Response from fire station personnel for the requested data has been slow. In addition, the level of importance for this particular project has been low.
 2. Sub Division Fire Protection System Maintenance: Maintain and repair of all fire protection systems, which the fire district required as condition of approval. This project has been in existence for approximately eighteen months and is ongoing. The project has been successful in that the time required to repair systems has been significantly reduced. The project could be improved if a regular schedule for maintenance of the systems is established.
 3. Pressurized Fire Protection System Requirement: Require all fire protection systems in sub divisions to be pressurized rather than a draft system. The project has been in existence for approximately two months. The success of this project will be determined after January 01 when developers are informed that the requirement exists.
- 4) Potential Fire Plan Opportunities, Needs & Problems – The current planning commission had demonstrated support to improve and make more efficient fire protection systems within the county. Moreover, the commission seems to be open to new and innovative ideas to improve the more traditional mitigation measures in both the SRA and LRA The unit’s employees, who are responsible for this program will, therefore, need to make them self available to the

commission as an advisor to these issues. This can be accomplished by regularly attending the planning commission meetings.

5) Prioritization Of Existing And Potential Projects/Opportunities –

1. LRA Water Source Identification
2. Pressurized Fire Protection System Requirement
3. Sub Division Fire Protection System Maintenance

6) Objectives

Objective #1 – Develop a working relationship with the current planning commission.

Objective #2 – Begin, on January 01, 2003, requiring pressurized fire protection systems for all subdivisions within the county.

- 7) The predominant commercial construction in the LRA is industrial warehouses, south of the city of Fresno. This area is centrally located within the state and facilitates commerce both to southern and northern California. Most of the residential construction occurs within the incorporated cities. While residential construction does occur in the county area, the rate at which it occurs is not significant. Construction within the SRA is consistent but not significant.