

Butte Unit
Fire Management Plan
2005

BATTALION 4 – Battalion Chief Bill Redding

Purpose Statement

Battalion 4 of the Butte Unit is in the northwestern corner of Butte County, and includes the greater un-incorporated area surrounding the City of Chico. The Battalion 4 boundaries are Tehama County to the North, Glenn County to the West, Battalion 2 to the East at the foothills, and Neil Road to the South.

Battalion 4 encompasses an area of approximately 170 square miles and contains a population of about 50,000 people that we directly protect. The Union Pacific Railroad main line, an underground Petroleum pipeline, the Sacramento River, and Butte Creek intersect the Battalion. Two main thoroughfares also intersect the Battalion; they are Highway 99 and Highway 32.

The fire stations in Battalion 4 respond to the City of Chico, Tehama County, and Glen County in *Automatic Aid Agreements*. All stations have *Automatic Aid* agreement coverage areas.

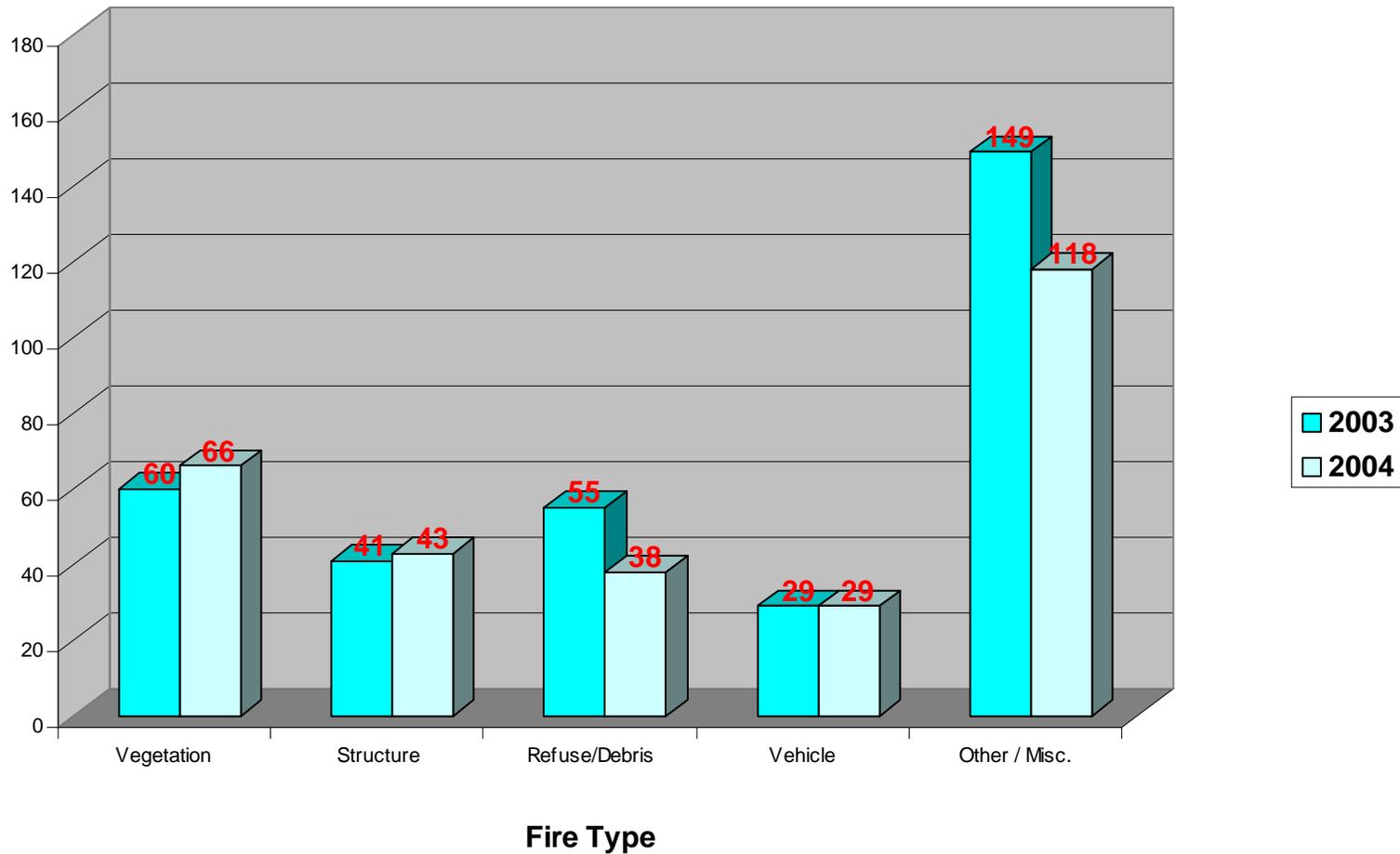
Recent fire history has shown that the most damaging fires in the Battalion have been along the Battalion 2 and 4 borders; located in the lower foothills. Major areas of concern in the Battalion include: the area surrounding Bidwell Park, Keefer Road, Cohasset Road, Highway 32 and 99 corridors, and the Skyway.

Throughout 2004 Battalion 4 extinguished multiple fires. Statistics listed below show 2003 and 2004 annual comparisons. The break down is as follows:

Fire Type	2003	2004	+ / -	Comments
Vegetation	60	66	+6	* Number of fires increased by 9%.
Structure	41	43	+2	* Number of fires increased by 5%.
Refuse/Debris	55	38	-17	* Number of fires decreased by 31%.
Vehicle	29	29	0	* Number of fires equal . No change.
Other / Misc.	149	118	-31	* Number of fire decreased by 21%.
Fire Cause	2003	2004	+ / -	Comments
Arson	27	17	-10	*Number decreased by 37%
Campfire	0	1	+1	*Number increased by 100%
Debris	38	25	-13	*Number decreased by 34%
Equipment	54	45	-9	*Number decreased by 17%
Electrical	9	6	-3	*Number decreased by 33%
Playing w/fire	6	6	0	*No Change
Powerline	3	8	+5	*Number increased by 63%
Railroad	1	0	-1	*No decreased by 100%
Smoking	3	3	0	*No Change
Other Misc.	24	29	+5	*Number increased by 17%
Undetermined	8	6	-2	*Number decreased by 25%

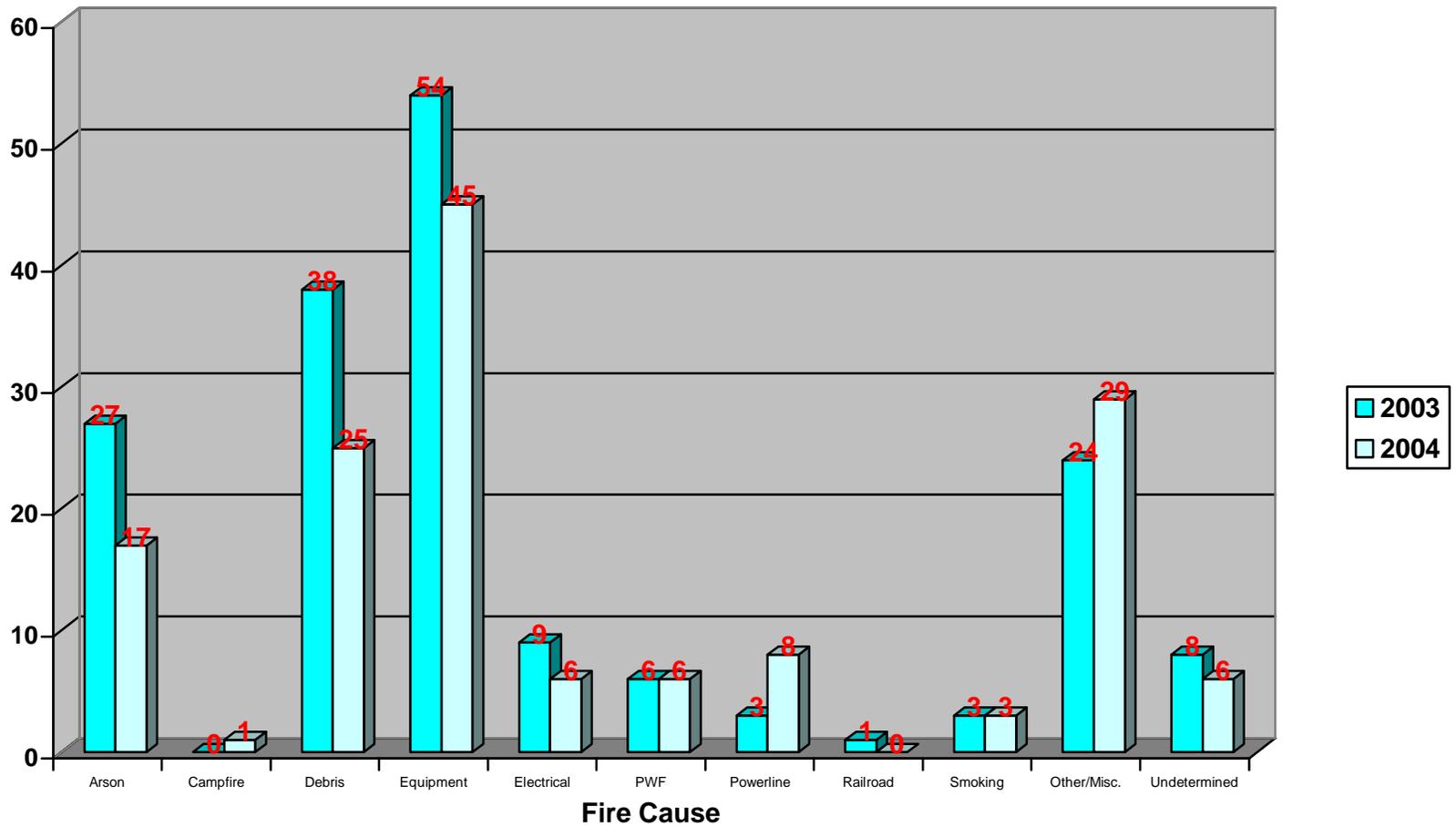
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Battalion 4 Fire Type Comparison 2003 / 2004



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Battalion 4 Fire Cause Comparison 2003 / 2004



Objectives

- ❑ Continue to educate the adult public on life and fire safety.
- ❑ Continue to educate elementary students on life and fire safety.
- ❑ Enforce PRC (Public Resource Code) 4291.
- ❑ Enforce local ordinance for weed abatement in the Chico Urban Area.
- ❑ Reduce illegal burning.
- ❑ Improve life safety in Title 19 CCR governed buildings.
- ❑ Maintain prefire plans for the inventory of high-risk buildings.
- ❑ Continue to integrate prefire plans with the City of Chico for Automatic Aid.
- ❑ Reduce risk of structure and vegetation fires in the Greater Chico Area.

Prescriptions

- ❑ Inspect all rural dwellings in the I-zone sphere of influence for compliance with PRC 4291, via LE38 issuance.
- ❑ Complete timely inspections of all PRC 4291 referrals.
- ❑ Refer all illegal Dooryard debris burns to County AQMD (Air Quality Management District) using standard fax form.

Engineering

Fuel Reduction –

- ❑ Use city, county, and state codes to secure the reduction of vegetative fuels in the local response areas for each station in the battalion.
- ❑ Refer all Butte County weed abatement issues within spheres of influence to BTU Prevention Bureau.
- ❑ Each Station Captain will coordinate the division of PRC 4291 inspections within his / her local response area. (**See previous section and Target Hazard Areas**).

Life Safety

Cooperate with Local and State Fire Marshals and Building Officials –

- ❑ Station Captains will work closely with the Unit Fire Prevention Bureau.
- ❑ Attend monthly fire drills at Nord and Shasta Elementary Schools.
- ❑ Complete all annually required Title 19 inspections in the Battalion.
- ❑ Resolve discovered Title 19 CCR violations with the assistance if the County Fire Marshal on an as needed basis.
- ❑ Inspect smoke detectors where possible at each public contact. Replace batteries where needed. Provide and install smoke detectors where needed (in homes that residents cannot obtain or install their own).

Education

- ❑ Complete all referred school programs.
- ❑ Use age appropriate fire and life safety education topics to instruct pre-teens in fire safety at all county schools.
- ❑ Present school programs to all schools asking for Butte County Fire assistance:
 - Stop, Drop, and Roll
 - Exit Drills in the Home (EDITH)

- Smokey's friends don't play with matches
- Use community outreach to increase awareness of the risk to life safety from fire within the battalion.
- Emphasize the life saving value of Smoke Detectors.
- Use professional contacts to educate adults to their risks from fire within their community.
- Stations will participate in the North Valley Public Safety Health programs.
- Battalion Prevention representative to attend as many Health and Safety Expos as possible.

Enforcement

Juveniles –

- Complete Field Interview (FI) cards for all field contacts with juvenile subjects encountered during a Preliminary Fire Investigation.
- Forward all FI cards to Fire Prevention Bureau.
- Cooperate and share information with Juvenile Probation authorities regarding offenders.

Adults –

- Enforce fire laws using appropriate enforcement tools available to fire officer at scene.
- Relay to the AQMD via fax any repeat or flagrant violators of their regulations.
- Public officers or peace officers are to be requested for issuing citations or custodial arrest on all fire law violations.
- Cooperate with the Butte County Arson Task Force.

Electric Company –

- Promptly relay power line clearance violations to fire prevention.

Analysis

The year 2004 showed a significant decrease in Refuse/Debris fires in Battalion 4, with a slight increase in fire activity, particularly in vegetation type fires. This was still lower than the previous 2002 year partially due to roadside/ditch bank burning and grading by CDF/Butte County Fire and Cal Trans along the Hwy 32 corridor to Hamilton City. The only area of increased fire activity was in Vegetation/Structure fires. This can be directly related to the increased populace of the greater Chico area and the lack of public awareness of burning regulations.

Even with some increases, we must still persistently implement Title 19 and 24 programs. We must continue to fulfill our 4291 objectives. And lastly, we must set the standard in the county for the quality of educational programs that we offer our local schools in the Battalion.

With these objectives set, we should continue to see mild fire activity in the Battalion.

Needs

Over 50,000 people live in this battalion, which is about ½ of the County Fire Department's population. A part-time FPS-1 is needed in the battalion to complete more 4291 inspections in

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target areas and to expand the target areas. This person could also help complete Title 19 inspections of existing target facilities and start inspecting Assembly buildings plus high hazard B-2 occupancies. A full time FPS-1 could be shared with other battalions.

Public education, via the media and public contact, to provide burning regulations and the hazards related to dooryard/agricultural burning.

Continued hazard reduction, by control burning and road grading by CDF/Butte County Fire and Cal-Trans along highway 32 between Meridian Road and Lower River Road.

Target Hazard Areas

Station 41 area of influence:

The Fire Hazard Reduction (PRC 4291) Inspection Plan of 2005 will begin when the weather starts to get warmer and the fuels begin to dry out. The inspections should begin by May and continue through July. For properties that require a second inspection, this should be completed through July. All non-compliances should be referred to the Weed Abatement Officer, FC-Garrett (P-2124), in Fire Prevention.

The Target Areas are:

- ❖ **The North side of Keefer Rd.** And connecting roads. Any fire starts on the North side of Keefer Rd. have the potential of becoming large fires. Responsibility of Station Captain.
- ❖ **The Meridian Rd., Munjar Rd. area** This area has the potential for large or damaging fires. Responsibility of Station 41 Fire Apparatus Engineer (James Derington).
- ❖ **The Town of Nord.** Mostly public contact and Door Yard Burning Permit Regulations, this area has been known in the past for burning violations. Responsibility of the Battalion 4 Suitcase Relief Operator.
- ❖ **School Programs.** We will provide two school programs for Shasta and Nord Elementary Schools, and we will be available if more programs are requested.
- ❖ **Station Programs.** The Nord station is also available to any interested person or group for a tour of the station and equipment.
- ❖ We are available to participate in **community activities**, promoting public safety awareness, and fire safety tips.

Station 42 area of influence:

- ❖ Vacant lots and homes in response area by complaints will be handled by the on duty Fire Captain or on duty Company Officer.
- ❖ Avenues-E. Lindo to E 5th Ave. and the Alleys, (FAE-Burrow).
- ❖ Chico Canyon Rd. and Centennial Ave area, (FC-Gonzales).
- ❖ Cohasset Rd. from Keefer to upper rock creek and Keefer Rd. from Cohasset Rd. to Missile Base Rd., (Battalion 4 Suitcase Relief FAE position).

Station 44 area of influence:

- ❖ FC Weber – Lower Skyway/Rocky Bluff area and adjoining streets
- ❖ FAE Zarate – Butte Creek Canyon area and adjoining streets
- ❖ FAE Ascencio (Relief) – Stilson Canyon area and adjoining streets

Each employee will make a minimum of 25 inspections.