

**2008 Defensible Space Inspection Summary:**

Number of STATE defensible space inspections	7,040
Number of STATE SECOND TIME defensible space inspections	46
Number of STATE THIRD TIME defensible space inspections	16
Number of STATE violations corrected	68
Number of LOCAL defensible space inspections	250
Number of STATE defensible space violations	375
Number of LOCAL defensible space violations	12
Number of STATE defensible space citations	0
Number of LOCAL defensible space citations	0
Number of Fire Prevention related education hours	1,500
<b>Number of Fire Prevention person contacts</b>	<b>7,470</b>
Number of Fire Prevention news releases	32
Acres treated by mechanical means	749
Acres treated by prescribed burn	0

The San Benito – Monterey Unit has been very proactive in gaining defensible space compliance by aggressively doing LE-100 inspections in the interface areas. Public reaction has been positive as residents are educated on the various ways they can be compliant with the law and still maintain an attractive landscape that will assist fire personnel in the event of a wildfire in their neighborhood. Our ability to keep fires small with minimal damage in and around structures has proven that more residents are becoming fire safe and our education efforts are working.

### **Stakeholders:**

Stakeholders are defined as any person, agency or organization with a particular interest, or “*stake*,” in fire safety and protection of assets from wildfires.

- **Local Fire Agencies**

- Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade
- Cachagua Fire Protection District
- Carmel-By-The-Sea Fire Department
- Carmel Valley Fire Protection District
- Cypress Fire Protection District
- Gonzales Fire Department
- Greenfield Fire Protection District
- King City Fire Department
- Marina Department of Public Safety
- Mid-Coast Fire Brigade
- Monterey Fire Department
- Monterey Peninsula Airport District Fire Department
- Natural Resources Conservation District
- North County Fire Protection District
- Pebble Beach Community Services District
- Pacific Grove Fire Department
- Presidio of Monterey Fire Department
- Salinas Fire Department
- Salinas Rural Fire Protection District
- Seaside Fire Department
- Soledad Fire Department
- South Monterey County Fire Protection District
- United States Dept. of Agriculture - Forest Service
- United States Bureau of Land Management
- Hollister Fire Department
- San Juan Bautista Fire Department

- **Fire Safe Councils:**

Monterey Fire Safe Council  
2221 Garden Rd.  
Monterey, CA 93940  
Office: (831) 333-2600  
[info@firesafemonterey.org](mailto:info@firesafemonterey.org)

The Monterey Fire Safe Council is very active with projects in both the planning and implementation stage. MFSC projects include:

- A. Partington Ridge Sudden Oak Death Removal
- B. Residential Chipping Programs
- C. Rancho Tierra Grande Demo Garden
- D. Monterey County CWPP

San Benito Fire Safe Council  
San Juan Bautista, California  
Scott Fuller, Chairperson  
[scott@sanjuanoaks.com](mailto:scott@sanjuanoaks.com)

The San Benito Fire Safe Council is very active with projects in both the planning and implementation stage. SBFSC projects include:

- A. Hollister Fire Station #2 - Fire Safe Demo Garden
- B. Aromas Fire Station - Fire Safe Demo Garden
- C. San Juan Canyon Safety Marker project
- D. GIS / Mapping project
- C. Residential Curbside Chipping Program
- D. Fire & Life Safety Message signs / Public Education
- E. San Benito County CWPP

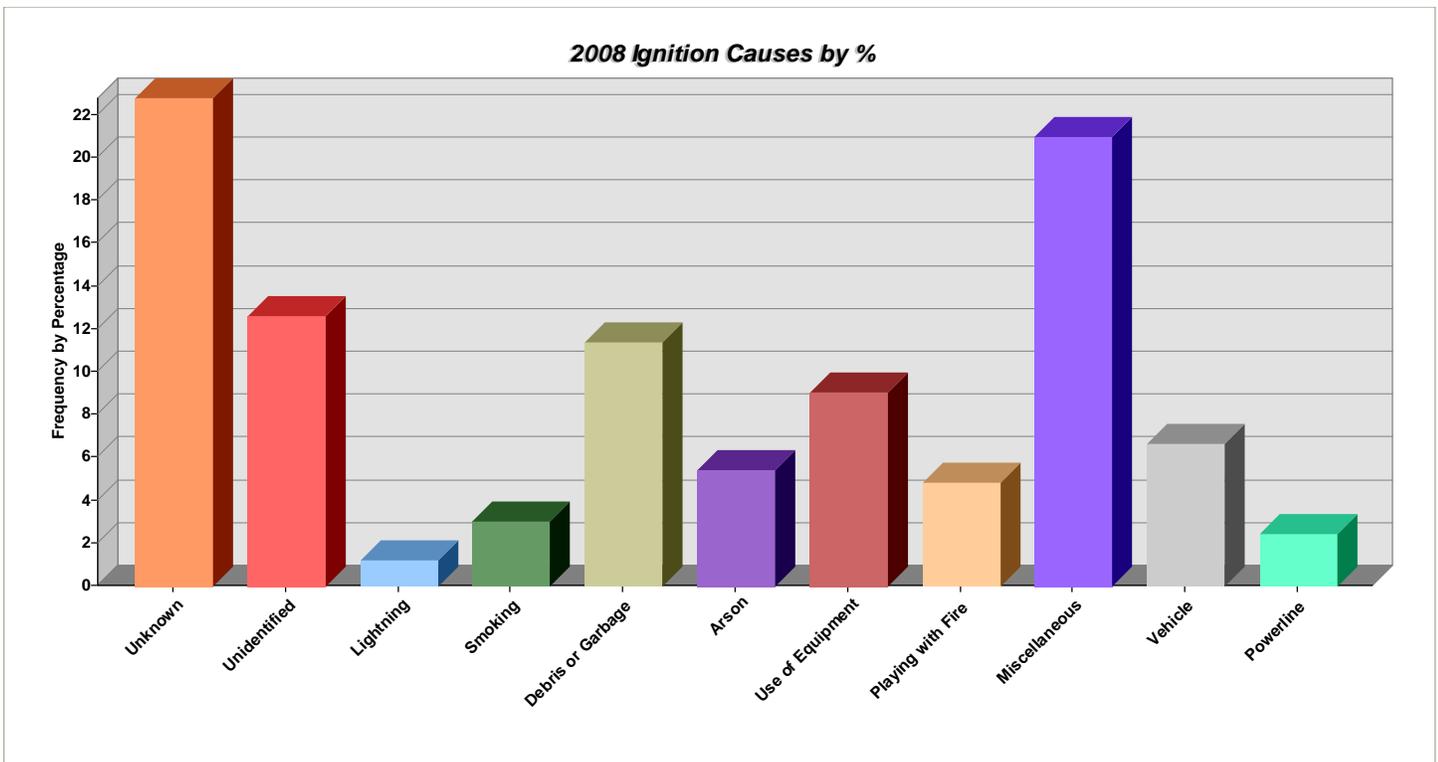
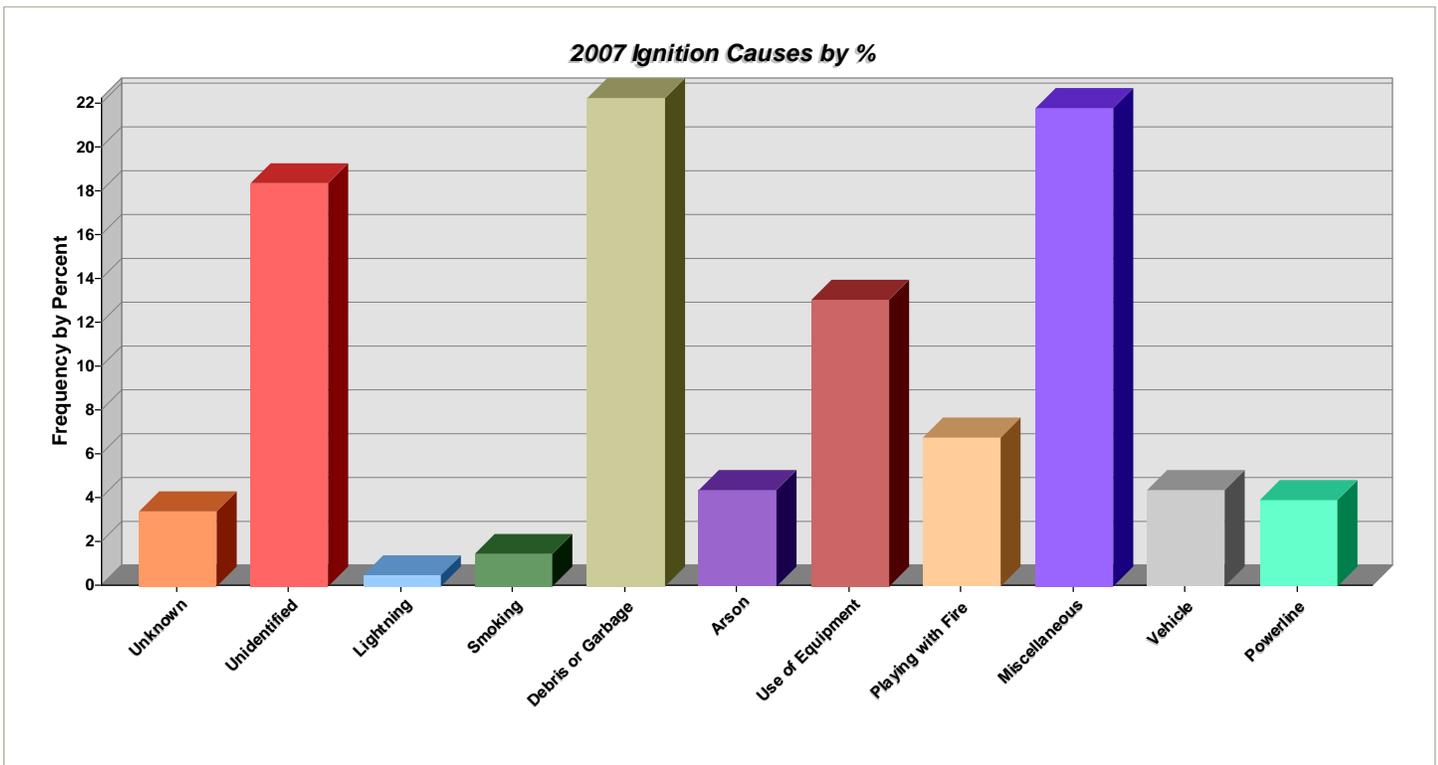
- **Government Agencies**

- Bureau of Land Management
  - California Department of Parks and Recreation
  - California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)
  - California Highway Patrol
  - San Benito County Dept. of Parks and Recreation
  - San Benito County Dept. of Public Works
  - San Benito County Office of Emergency Services
  - San Benito County Sheriffs Office

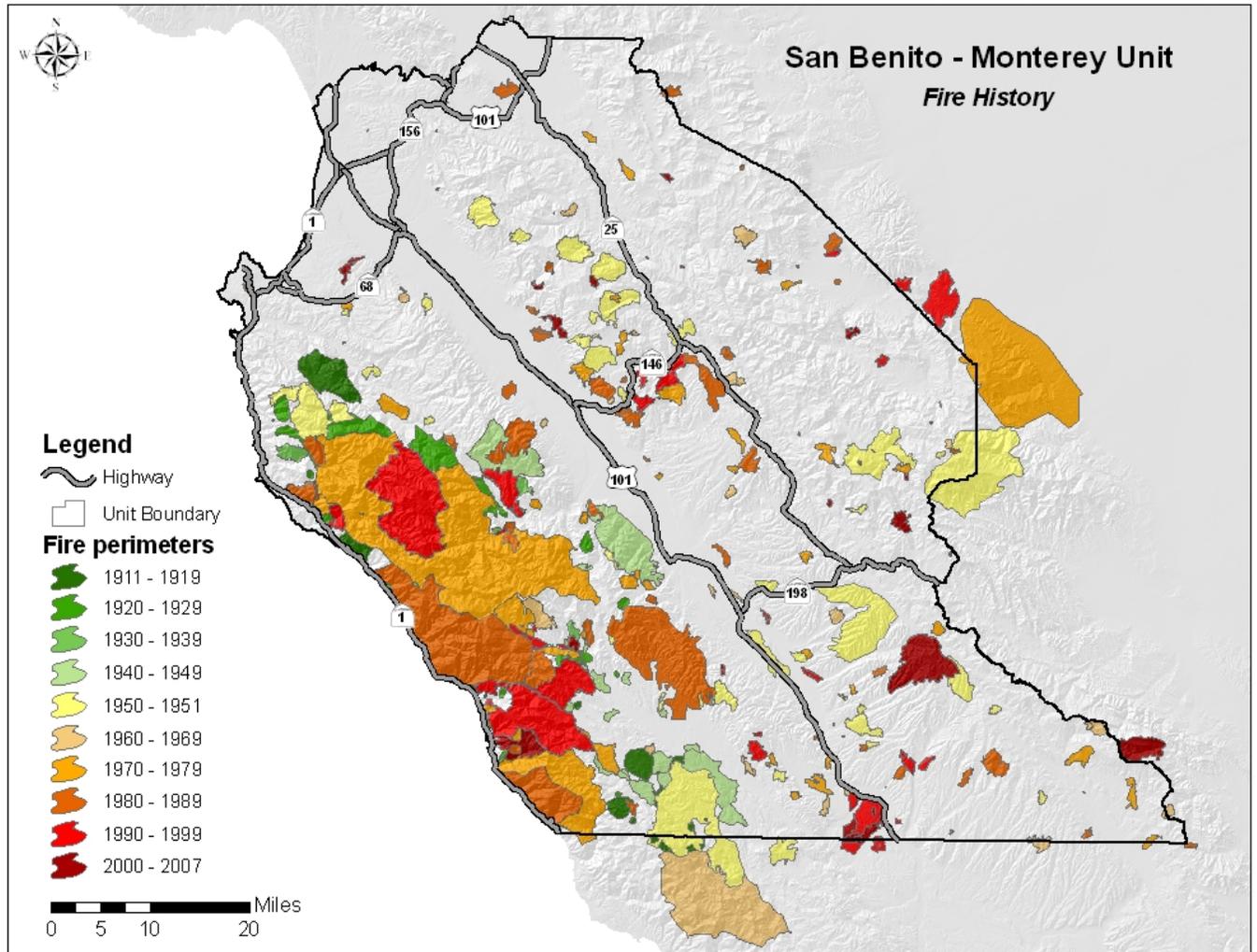
- **Other Stakeholders**

- Pacific Gas & Electric Co.
  - Cal-Am Water

**Fire Cause Summary:**



**Fire History**



### **Residential Chipping & Public Education Program**

The popularity of the Residential Chipper Program continues to grow each year making communities safer to live in the wildland urban interface areas. On average, approximately 500 residents throughout San Benito and Monterey counties participate in the free curbside chipping service. The noticeable increase in compliance of fire department inspection programs and the ability to keep fires small has proven the program's success.

The Residential Chipper Program has been a positive way to increase public awareness of the hazards of living in the wildland urban interface giving firefighters a way to educate them in reducing the flammable vegetation around their homes. Residents are able to talk one on one with fire department personnel on what they can do to keep their homes and communities safe by minimizing fire threat. Public education has been vital in getting residents to embrace the program.

San Benito – Monterey Unit has been sponsoring the program through personnel hours and utilizing the Unit's brush chipper. As the program expands into new areas, the Fire Prevention Bureau intends to continue to seek federal grant funding in the future to help with fuel reduction and education in communities that are at risk throughout the San Benito and Monterey counties.

### **Vegetation Management Program:**

The Vegetation Management Program (VMP) is currently in transition. In 2008, VMP was impacted by, among other things, changes in the state budget, changing Unit priorities and assorted other constraints. The objectives of past projects typically were, among other things, fuel reduction, range improvement, wildlife habitat improvement and increased water yield. However, due to changing priorities and the current version of the Unit Fire Management Plan, VMP may begin to evolve more toward the following:

- Smaller projects near targeted assets at risk.
- Move away from an emphasis on broadcast burning and move toward smaller pile burning and possibly mechanical fuel treatment.
- The program may be limited to simply providing wildland safety and protection zones near high value assets.
- Potential future projects may involve more pre-screening in an effort to more effectively select projects that accommodate the Unit Fire Management Plan.

Where possible, the goal in the Unit is to continue traditional controlled burning in areas of the Unit. However, in response to the urban interface issues and assets at risk, VMP may now focus more on small scale, intensive treatment projects near or adjacent to homes. This approach comes with a price in that it is riskier, requires more planning, more resources and, inevitably, more time to physically pursue the project. These types of projects require intensive use of personnel and/or mechanical equipment. The result is small areas treated at high expenses compared to large-scale burning projects.

Unexpected opportunities can alter vegetation management priorities. As the majority of VMP projects are located on private lands with the cooperation of private landowners, an unexpected request for a project may alter priorities. If a landowner in an area designated for fuels reduction efforts expresses interest in a project, it may move a project in an area not designated for fuels reduction efforts to a lower priority. Inevitably, VMP will most likely continue to evolve over time in an effort to keep up with an ever-changing world.