



V. Prevention/Protection/Planning

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 300 feet on the west side to elevations at 8000 feet 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 2008 is very similar to that of years past. The four primary ignition sources continue to be in the same order of ranking:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| ■ Unknown and Undermined | 363 Fires |
| ■ Arson | 355 Fires |
| ■ Equipment Use | 114 Fires |
| ■ Playing with Fire | 219 Fires |

These four 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, power lines, miscellaneous and debris burning.

These statistics slightly vary each year, but remain the same top classes of fire ignition in the unit. The unit ranges from 120 to 300 fires a year in the SRA and 1300 to 2200 fires in the LRA. The unit does have some shortfalls relative to preliminary fire investigation report writing. These issues have and will continue to 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.

FRESNO-KINGS PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN



FRESNO KINGS IGNITION SUMMARY

Cause Code	Cause Definition	2005	2006	2007	2008
0	Unknown	0	11	199	160
1	Undetermined	241	260	185	203
2	Lightning	13	7	10	2
3	Campfire	20	7	1	0
4	Smoking	33	11	74	102
5	Debris Burning	92	108	85	71
6	Arson	199	220	311	355
7	Equipment Use	465	344	157	114
8	Playing with Fire	19	25	182	219
9	Miscellaneous	1204	666	226	153
10	Vehicle	160	120	114	115
11	Railroad	2	1	0	2
12	Powerline	33	23	20	14
TOTALS		2481	1803	1564	1510

LRA

Cause Code	Cause Definition	2005	2006	2007	2008
0	Unknown	0	10	162	124
1	Undetermined	213	231	166	184
2	Lightning	6	4	10	2
3	Campfire	15	7	1	0
4	Smoking	30	11	67	95
5	Debris Burning	86	99	60	52
6	Arson	190	206	300	338
7	Equipment Use	404	286	126	79
8	Playing with Fire	18	25	157	194
9	Miscellaneous	1076	570	192	132
10	Vehicle	124	100	95	96
11	Railroad	2	1	0	2
12	Powerline	24	19	16	10
TOTALS		2188	1569	1352	1308

SRA

Cause Code	Cause Definition	2005	2006	2007	2008
0	Unknown	0	1	37	36
1	Undetermined	28	29	19	19
2	Lightning	7	3	0	0
3	Campfire	5	0	0	0
4	Smoking	3	0	7	7
5	Debris Burning	6	9	25	19
6	Arson	9	14	11	17
7	Equipment Use	61	58	31	35
8	Playing with Fire	1	0	25	25
9	Miscellaneous	128	96	34	21
10	Vehicle	36	20	19	19
11	Railroad	0	0	0	0
12	Powerline	9	4	4	4
TOTALS		293	234	212	202

FRESNO-KINGS PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN



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 California 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/Fresno County Fire Safe Ordinance (Chapter 15.60) plans check and inspections program will continue to provide homes with defensible space and construction. This program is essential with the expansion of single family homes into the urban intermix 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 homeowners interface in the wildland. The program will also present homeowners with how they too may participate in fire mitigation as a shareholder in the County of Fresno.

FRESNO-KINGS PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN



- **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 has improved. Fires must continue to be investigated in more detail. This may require some additional education/training of our fire personnel to assist them in cause and origin investigation and report writing. Our efforts to collect suppression cost on fires of negligent or criminal nature has improved. Emergency incidents are costly and the ability to collect suppression cost and punitive damages will remain active.
- 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. Efforts to improve our evidence collection procedures and proper evidence security are a priority in this unit.

FRESNO-KINGS PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Fire Protection/Planning Statement

- **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.
- **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 affect 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.
- **Existing Fire Plan Projects**
 - **Sub Division Fire Protection System Maintenance:** Develop and implement maintenance program for new subdivision development in Fresno County. Work with county staff to develop maintenance standards for sub divisions as a condition of approval. The requirement for developers to maintain required fire protections systems after the subdivision is fully developed will ensure continued operations of such systems for the duration of the development.
 - **NFPA 1142 Rural Water Supplies:** Developed and implemented the use of NFPA 1142 as an alternative guide for calculation of fire protection water systems for developments within the SRA or LRA areas of the unit. The guide provides alternative methods while still considering fire and life safety factors.
 - **Business Inspections:** Establish standard operating procedures for staff to conduct annual business inspection for compliance with California Fire Code Standards.
- **Potential Fire Plan Opportunities, Needs & Problems:** The unit protection and planning department within the unit works closely with the Fresno County Planning and Development Department. This relationship is critical for new projects in the county ensuring the implementation of California Fire Code standards. The process of project submission at the county level is a complicated and requires the unit to provide ongoing education of the fire code standards as it applies to projects.

FRESNO-KINGS PRE-FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN



- **Prioritization Of Existing And Potential Projects/Opportunities**
 - NFPA 1142 Rural Water Supplies
 - Business Inspections
 - Sub Division Fire Protection System Maintenance
- **Objectives**
 - **Objective #1** – Develop a better working relationship with Fresno County Planning and Development Department. This will be accomplished by staff working in the county office to provide guidance on Fire Code requirements in a more efficient manner to county staff as well as the public.
 - **Objective #2** – Begin on July 01, 2009, to utilize NFPA 1142 as a guideline for rural water supply standards.