

Battalion Four Planning Area

**CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Greg McFadden
City of Chico – James Beery**

Specific Fire Behavior Factors and Wildland Urban Interface Situation

The following synopsis is intended to specify the fire behavior factors (fuels, topography and weather) and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) problems specific to the Fire Planning Area.

Fuels:

The Valley (north) contains a large agricultural component. The Chico Foothills consists mainly of light to medium fuels such as annual grasses and chaparral brush mix. Mixed with the topography and recent development these fuels create a fire suppression concern due to their ability to increase in size quickly.

Topography:

The Valley (north) is predominately flat. The Chico Foothills rise at approximately a 15% slope into communities within other Fire Planning Belts with high scores in fuel rank, ladder scores and heavier brush.

Weather: (refer to pg 9)

The Valley (north) and Chico Foothills do not exhibit any substantial differences to the Unit wide weather pattern.

Wildland Urban Interface Situation:

The Chico Foothills and Valley (north) encompass the northwestern corner of Butte County and includes the greater un-incorporated area surrounding the City of Chico. BCFD staffs four fire stations that make up “Battalion Four” which has *Automatic aid agreements* with City of Chico, Tehama County and Glen County.

Battalion Four responsibilities encompass an area of approximately 170 square miles and contain a population of about 50,000. Critical infrastructure includes, Union Pacific Railroad main line, an underground petroleum pipeline, Highway 99 and Highway 32 as well as the Sacramento River.

The Chico Foothills have seen a substantial increase in home development. This development creates an increased populace and a lack of public awareness of burning regulations.

Prescription emphasis is placed on public education and enforcement.