

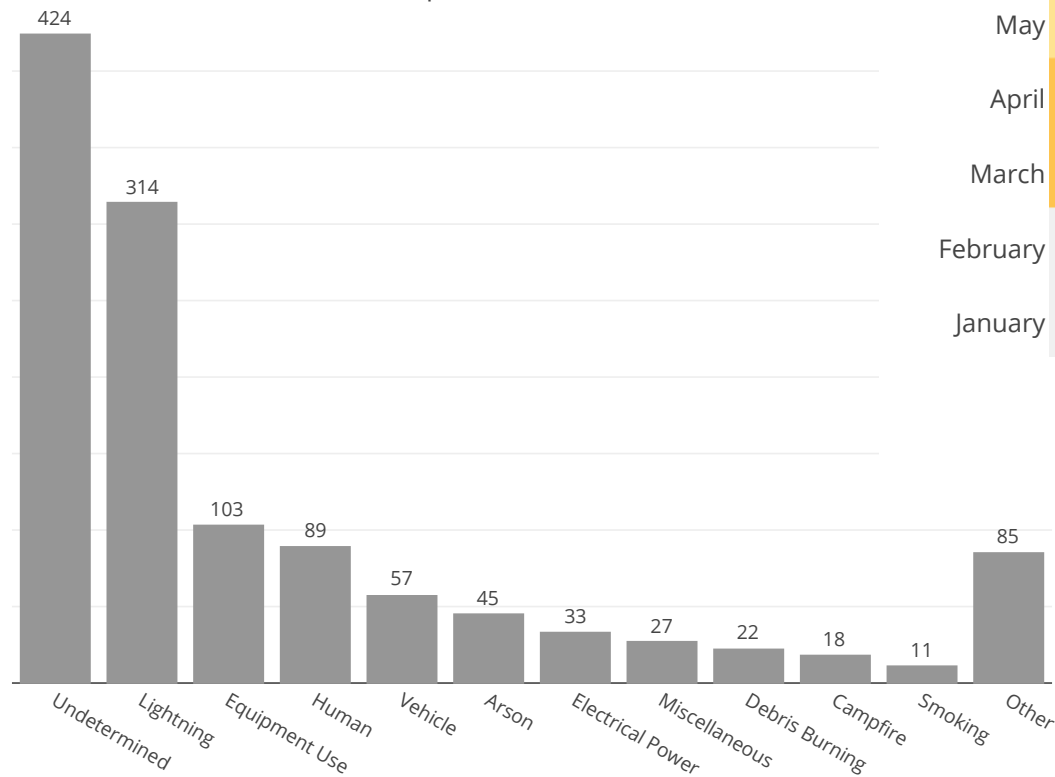
The Effects of California Wildfires

Every year the state of California suffers from unplanned wildfires, with California's Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) responding to an average of 5,600 wildfires per year.^[1]

The information below shows fires that burned 300 acres or more between 2000 and 2015 which CAL FIRE and other agencies responded to. Fire season is dependent on the changing weather patterns throughout the year with the majority of the fires occurring between May and November.

The majority of fires were caused by lightning, being the number one source for almost every year. The Southern California fire siege of 2003 was the most destructive in number of structures damaged and lives lost.

Top Wildfire Causes



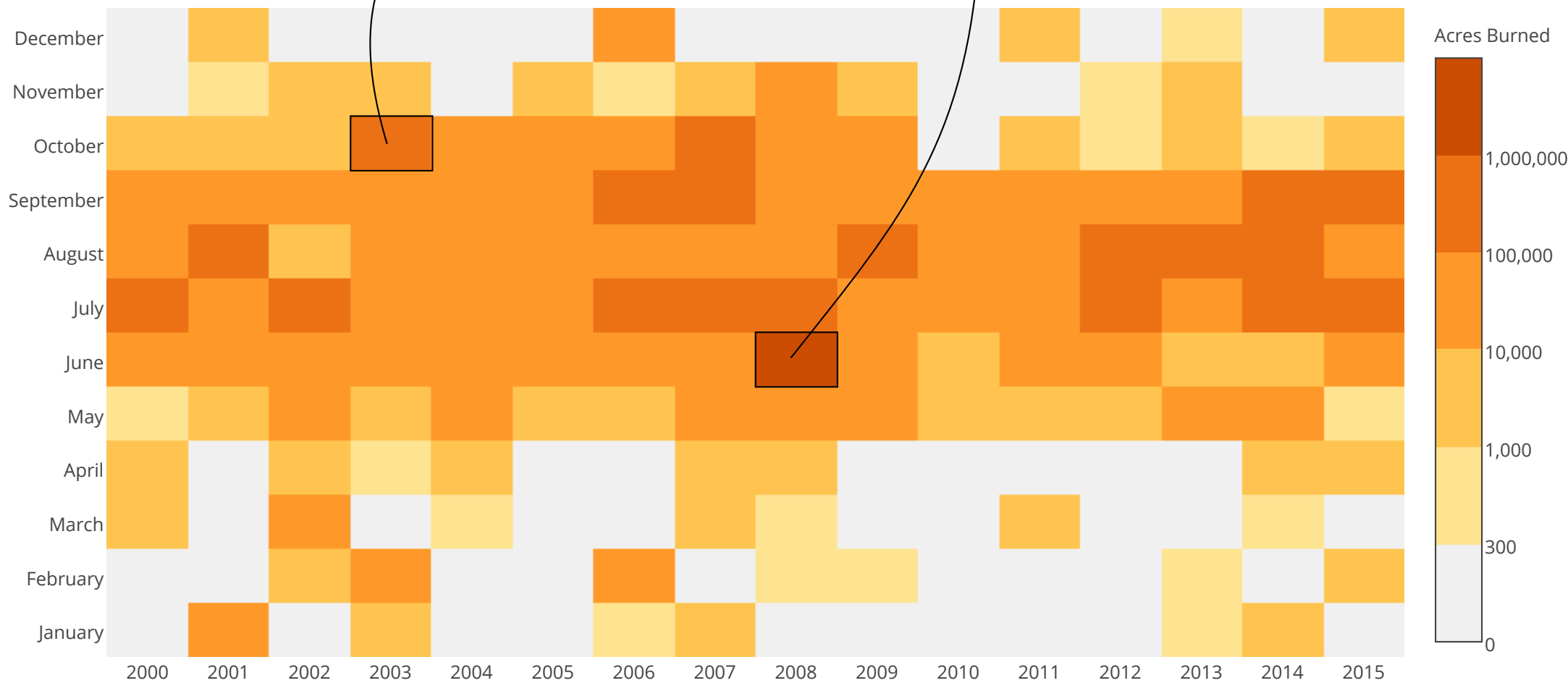
Undetermined category includes: Undetermined and Under Investigation.

Other category includes: Escape, Powerlines, Control Burn, Railroad, Play with Fire, Shooting, Rekindle, Ammunition, Debris, Structure Exposure, Equipment, Welding, Weadeater, Open/Outdoors, and Hostile Fire, in addition to the Other category (35 instances) defined in the data set.

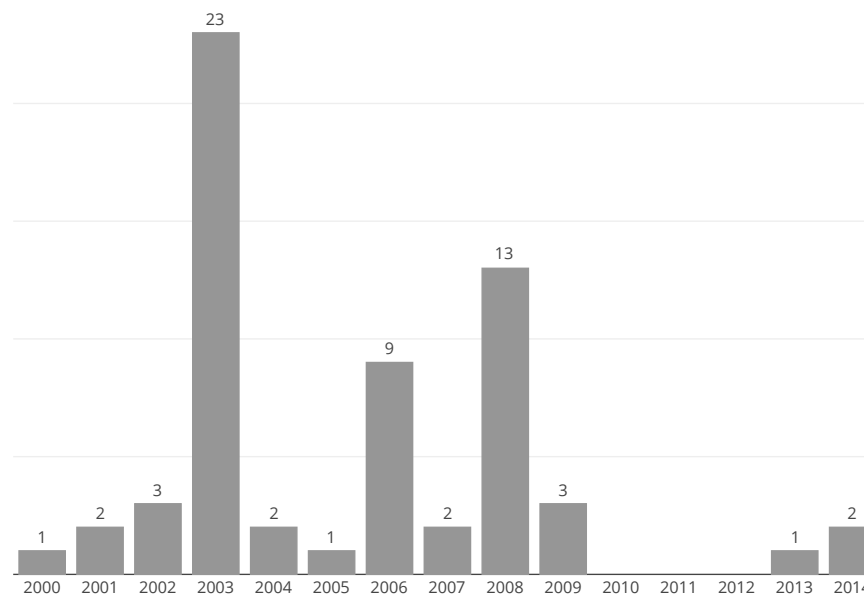
October 2003:
The largest fire in California history, San Diego's Cedar fire, burned 273,246 acres.

June 2008:
A series of dry thunderstorms ignited more than 1,750 fires, burning 1,174,698 acres.^[2]

Acres Burned



Fatality Counts



Structural Damage Counts

