

# McHenry Township Fire Protection District



Annual Report 1994



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The McHenry Township Fire Protection District proudly presents its annual report for 1994. Statistical information, divisional reports, and achievements contained within this report exemplifies the dedication of the entire organization. The progress which this department has made was only possible with the assistance of the officers and personnel of our department. The trustees have provided the necessary support and leadership to keep our department one of the most progressive in the State of Illinois. In compiling this report several individuals put forth a tremendous amount of time and effort and deserve special recognition.

Chief Bennett

- Phil Gust - Deputy Chief
- Joe Zelek - FF/Paramedic
- Pat Nelson - Secretary
- Denny Smith - FF/EMT
- Kevin Shay - Captain

***An organization made up of extremely  
proud and caring individuals.***

The earliest known organized firefighters protected the City of Rome. In 24 B.C. Emperor Caesar Augustus formed a group of 600 servants to be stationed by the gates of the city for the express purpose of fighting fires. Rome was divided into districts, the group was organized by a ranking system of officers and ordinary firefighters--an organization similar to that used by today's larger fire department. The Corps, as they were called, patrolled the town and checked for fires. They were equipped with bushels and axes, fought fires and enforced fire prevention. The Corps warned all households that fires could be caused through negligence. During this time the first fire pump was invented. It was hand operated and used as a double force pump. With the fall of Rome, the fire pump was forgotten as well as the fall of an organized and well-equipped fire department such as Europe was not to know again for another thousand years.

### FIRST FIRE ORGANIZATION IN AMERICA

In 1647, Peter Stuyvesant, the new Dutch Governor of New Amsterdam (later called New York) appointed a group of men as fire masters. They formed the first fire organization in America. Surveyors of buildings, they patrolled the streets carrying wooden noisemakers to arouse people in case of fire. They also performed fire prevention work and imposed fines on violators. Because of the great wealth in New Amsterdam, fire risk was given more serious consideration and the first municipal fire brigade was formed.

In 1717, Boston established America's first fire department. On September 30, 1718, the first fire society was formed. It was the beginning of the volunteer firefighter who was to play an important role in American history. In that same year, the fire engine arrived in Boston from England. Each member responded to a fire alarm with personal equipment, which consisted of a bucket and a bag bearing the society's emblems, a bed key and a screwdriver.

Benjamin Franklin organized the first fire organization in Philadelphia in 1752, he founded the first successful American fire insurance company, the "Philadelphia Contributorship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire". The Company's fire mark was called the "hand-in-hand" because it showed the right hands of four men gripping one another's wrists. Beneath this symbol of unity and strength appeared the number of the insurance policy. The towns had no permanent firefighters and the American volunteer received no pay.

During America's formative years, the fast growing City of New York was providing money and legislation to increase the personnel of its volunteer firefighting forces and to keep its fire equipment in good condition.

In 1811, Tommy Franklin became Chief engineer and assumed a role never practiced before. Because of his sincere personality and leadership, his role was accepted. Franklin's successors had little trouble continuing with the same authority, and for 25 years New York was the only American City to have a fire department under a unified command.

After the Revolutionary War, the volunteer firefighting then spread throughout the country. In the past, many famous Americans such as George Washington, John Hancock, Alexander Hamilton, Samuel Adams and Paul Revere served as volunteers and the age of the American volunteer firefighter began. As America grew and changed, so did the volunteer fire service.



Today's firefighters, although better equipped and better educated, still face the same dangers as the firefighters of old. The time has not yet arrived that fire does not exist. Although the fire service is staying up with today's progressive advancements, it appears there will always be a need for firefighters as long as people and flammable substances exist.

## HISTORY OF THE MTFPD FIRE DISTRICT

In 1938, the McHenry Township Fire Protection District was formed as a taxing body. Up to that point, all fire protection was provided by the City of McHenry which donated its fire engine to the new District.

All vehicles were originally housed at City Hall, until 1956, when a referendum passed to construct the Fire District owned building.

In 1954, Company #2 was organized in Johnsburg. In 1963, the original Johnsburg station was built and a third station was built in Lakemoor, in 1971.

The McHenry Area Rescue Squad merged into the Fire District in 1983 and the Johnsburg Rescue Squad merged in 1990.

Other historical facts include the inception of a Paid-on-Premise program on June 1, 1986 with 26 personnel originally participating.

In 1987, Steve Laing was appointed as a part-time Code Enforcement Officer. In October 27, 1988, the ISO rating dropped from 9 to 6 in rural areas resulting in a substantial decrease in insurance rates.

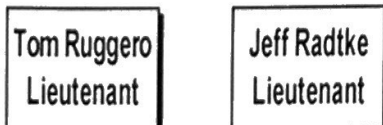
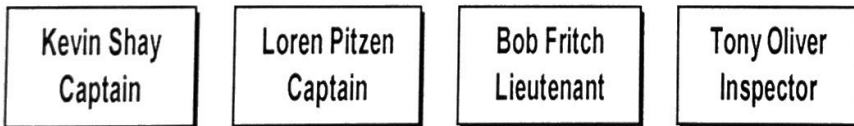
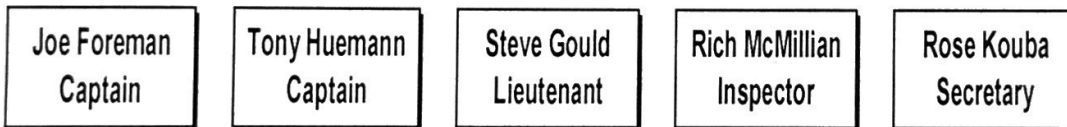
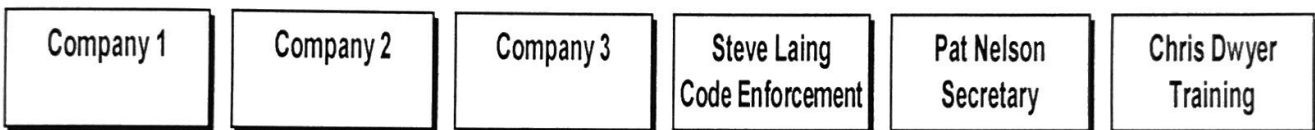
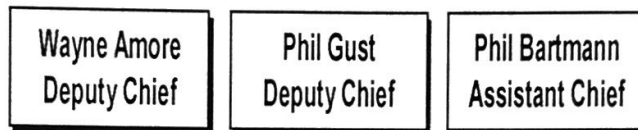
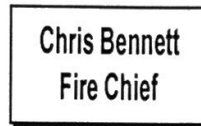
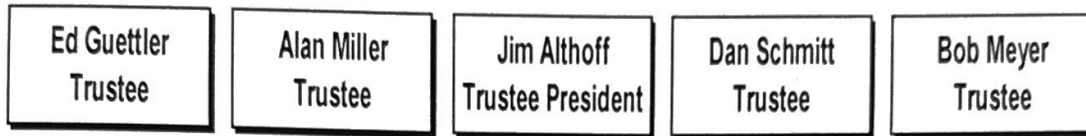
The Duty Officer Program began in 1989.

The District has had five fire chiefs in its brief history. Gus Freund served from 1939 until 1950; Harold "Red" Hobbs from 1950-1960; Ed Justen from 1960-1969; Glen Peterson from 1969 until 1986.

Chief Bennett started his fire service career on January 1, 1968 and was appointed Chief in 1986 and continues to serve today.

Today, the three fire stations of the district provide service to an area of approximately 60 square miles with a population of approximately 40,000 citizens, 27 pieces of equipment and 118 volunteers. In 1994, a total of 2,534 calls were run, an average of seven calls per day with a 4 minute response time and according to a run survey by Firehouse Magazine, the McHenry Township Fire Protection District continues to be the busiest all-volunteer fire department in the State of Illinois.

# ADMINISTRATION







COMPANY #1 MEMBERS

CAPTAIN	JOE FOREMAN
CAPTAIN	KEVIN SHAY
LIEUTENANT	DAVE KARLS
LIEUTENANT	KEVN LONG
LIEUTENANT	TOM RUGGERO

SCOTT ANDERSON  
JERRY BERES  
BEV BEYER  
LINDA BRADY  
PATTI BURGER  
TIM BUTLER  
CINDY BYRON  
ED CURRY  
CAROLYN DAVIS  
MARK DIEDRICH  
LEORA FOREMAN  
KATHY FREUND  
KEN GANDY  
NANCY GANDY  
FRANK GRAHAM  
LARRY GUMM  
DENISE HARKINS  
BOB HODGES

BILL HOMO  
JEFF HUEMANN  
MARK JUSTEN  
RON KRUMSEE  
JOHN KUHL  
KEVIN KUTZ  
BRENT LANE  
TONY LOPORCHIO  
ED MALENIUS  
AIMEE MANN  
CHRIS MANN  
RICH MCMILLAN  
TOM MICHELSEN  
BILL MILBRATZ  
JOE NOOTENS  
LYDIA NOOTENS  
TONY OLIVER  
PAUL POLEP

MIKE REID  
FRANK RODGERS  
RON SCHAEFER  
STEVE SCHWANKE  
BILL SHEEHAN  
RAY SIMON  
TOM SLUGA  
DENNY SMITH  
PHIL SZYJKA  
CINDY TABERT  
AL THENNES  
CONNIE THENNES  
TOM UTTICH  
SCOTT WHITE  
TIM WIRFS  
JOE ZELEK  
BOB ZUJEWSKI



COMPANY #2 MEMBERS

CAPTAIN  
CAPTAIN  
LIEUTENANT  
LIEUTENANT  
LIEUTENANT

TONY HUEMANN  
LOREN PITZEN  
PAT ARNOLD  
DAN GALLAGHER  
JEFF RADTKE

JEFF BARTMANN  
BILL BETKE  
DARRELL BIRKHOFF  
BILL COMSTOCK  
BRIAN DIEDRICH  
JON DIEDRICH  
DAN DiPERNA  
CHRIS DWYER  
PHIL FREUND  
BOB HAAG  
MIKE HAAG  
BILL HINTZ  
JIM HOPP  
RICH HUEBNER  
DAVE HUEMANN  
JOE HUEMANN  
TOM HUEMANN  
FRED HULT  
FRANK JAKUBICEK  
PAT KING  
JOE KRUEGER

MIKE MAJERCIK  
ROGER OLAND  
BRIAN OLENICK  
DAN OLENICK  
CATHY PIATEK  
AL ROBEL  
JUDY ROBEL  
JOHN SCOTT  
DICK SEABORN  
WILEEN SLUGA  
GREG SOBIESK  
GUY STEDMAN  
DAN STEFKA  
JOEL TAYLOR  
JUDY TAYLOR  
DAVE THOREN  
DIANE WILKINSON  
JOHN WILKINSON





COMPANY #3 MEMBERS

LIEUTENANT                      BOB FRITCH  
LIEUTENANT                      STEVE GOULD

JAMES CHANCELLOR  
DAVE FREEMAN  
NANCY FRITCH  
ELIZABETH KAMRAT  
BILL KING  
DEB MAYO  
JOHN McCAULLEY  
DAWN POTTER  
JAY RASMUSSEN  
BILL WHYTE

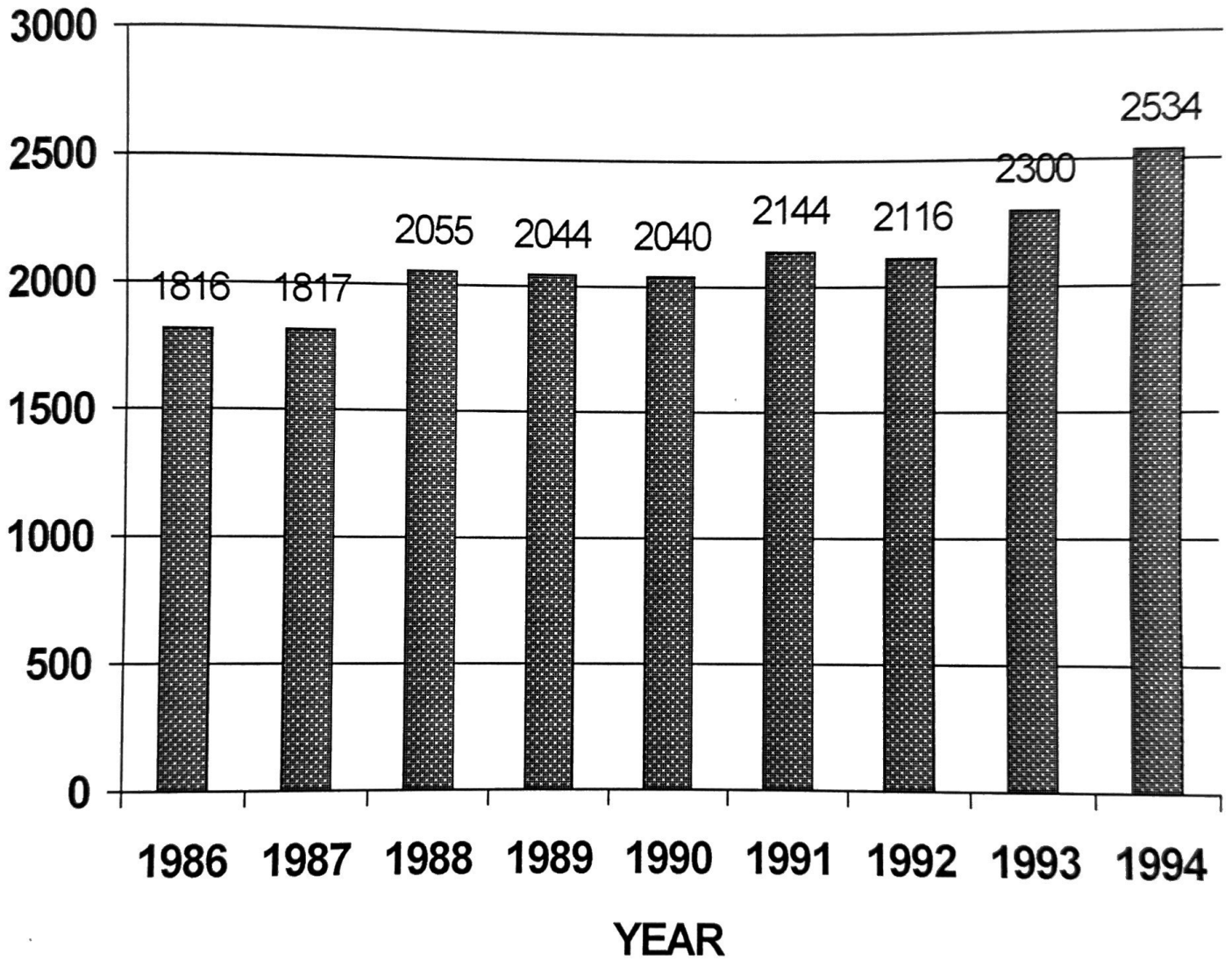
MCHENRY TOWNSHIP FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT-VEHICLES

1208	1990	PIERCE	ENGINE	
1209	1979	MACK	ENGINE	
1210	1995	PIERCE	ENGINE	
1221	1995	PIERCE	ENGINE	
1222	1992	PIERCE	ENGINE	
1235	1980	MACK	ENGINE	
1234	1974	MACK	RESERVE ENGINE	
1224	1980	INTERNATIONAL	SQUAD	
1253	1976	CHEVROLET	SQUAD	
1211	1992	PIERCE	SQUAD	
1212	1984	PIERCE	LADDER TOWER	
1223	1986	INTERNATIONAL	TANKER	
				<u>TYPE-BOX</u>
1254	1991	FORD	AMBULANCE	MED TEC
1255	1986	FORD	AMBULANCE	HORTONS
1256	1989	FORD	AMBULANCE	ROAD RESCUE
1257	1993	FORD	AMBULANCE	MED TEC
1258	1986	FORD	AMBULANCE	HORTON
1271	1990	DODGE	GRASS FIRE TRUCK	
1272	1991	DODGE	GRASS FIRE TRUCK	
1202	1994	JEEP CHEROKEE	CHIEF	
1288	1993	CHEVROLET	OFFICER	
1285	1991	CHEVROLET	OFFICER	
1286	1989	CHEVROLET	OFFICER	
1287	1974	CHEVROLET	UTILITY PICK UP	
1280	1984	DIVE BOAT		
1281	1978	FORD	DIVE/RESCUE TRUCK	
1283	1995	HOVERCRAFT		



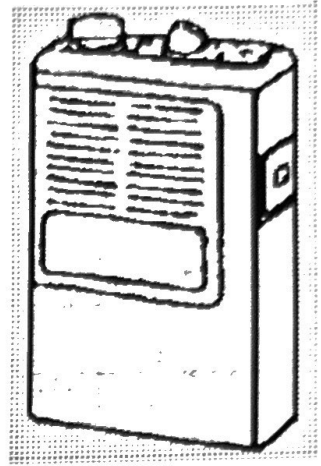
# YEARLY INCIDENTS

CALLS



# 1994 CALLS

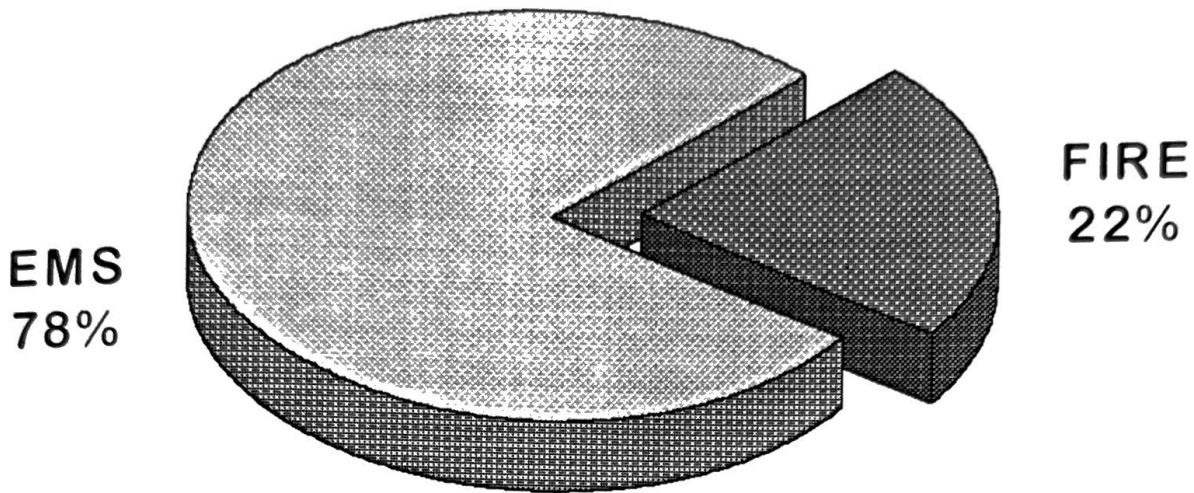
\* 2534 CALLS TOTAL



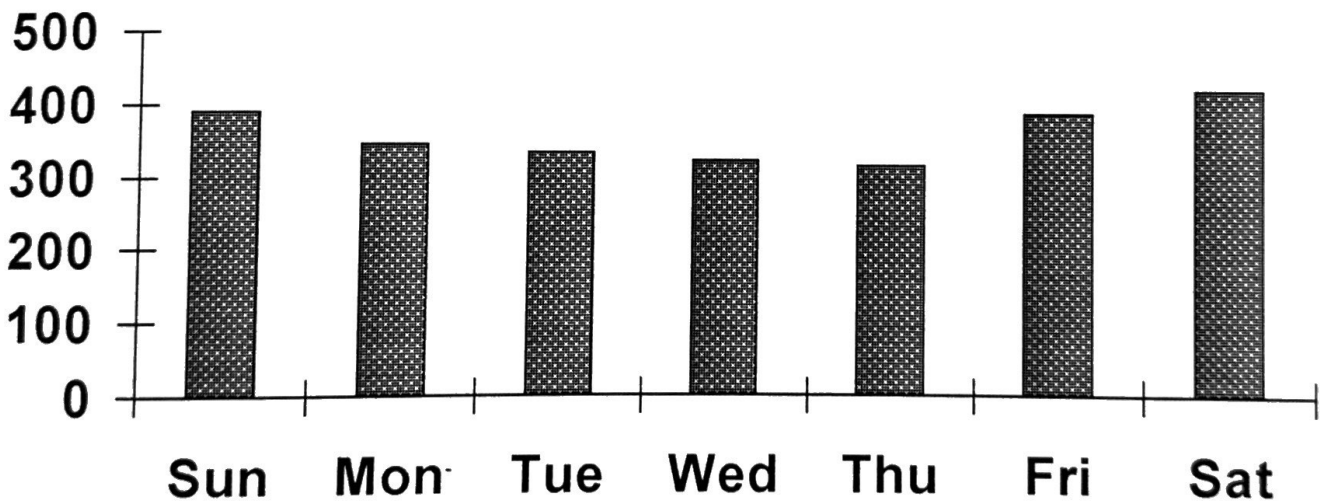
	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
<b>G</b>	1	0	7	2	12	3	6	64	<b>G</b>
<b>H</b>	0	1	10	10	5	6	76	34	<b>H</b>
<b>I</b>	0	0	11	4	24	70	65	19	<b>I</b>
<b>J</b>	1	6	40	41	27	45	15	21	<b>J</b>
<b>K</b>	7	10	36	141	212	65	11	3	<b>K</b>
<b>L</b>	7	16	37	239	266	46	34	75	<b>L</b>
<b>M</b>	6	6	24	32	64	15	4	20	<b>M</b>
<b>N</b>	7	3	3	26	18	14	4	5	<b>N</b>
<b>O</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	10	<b>O</b>
<b>P</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>P</b>
	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	



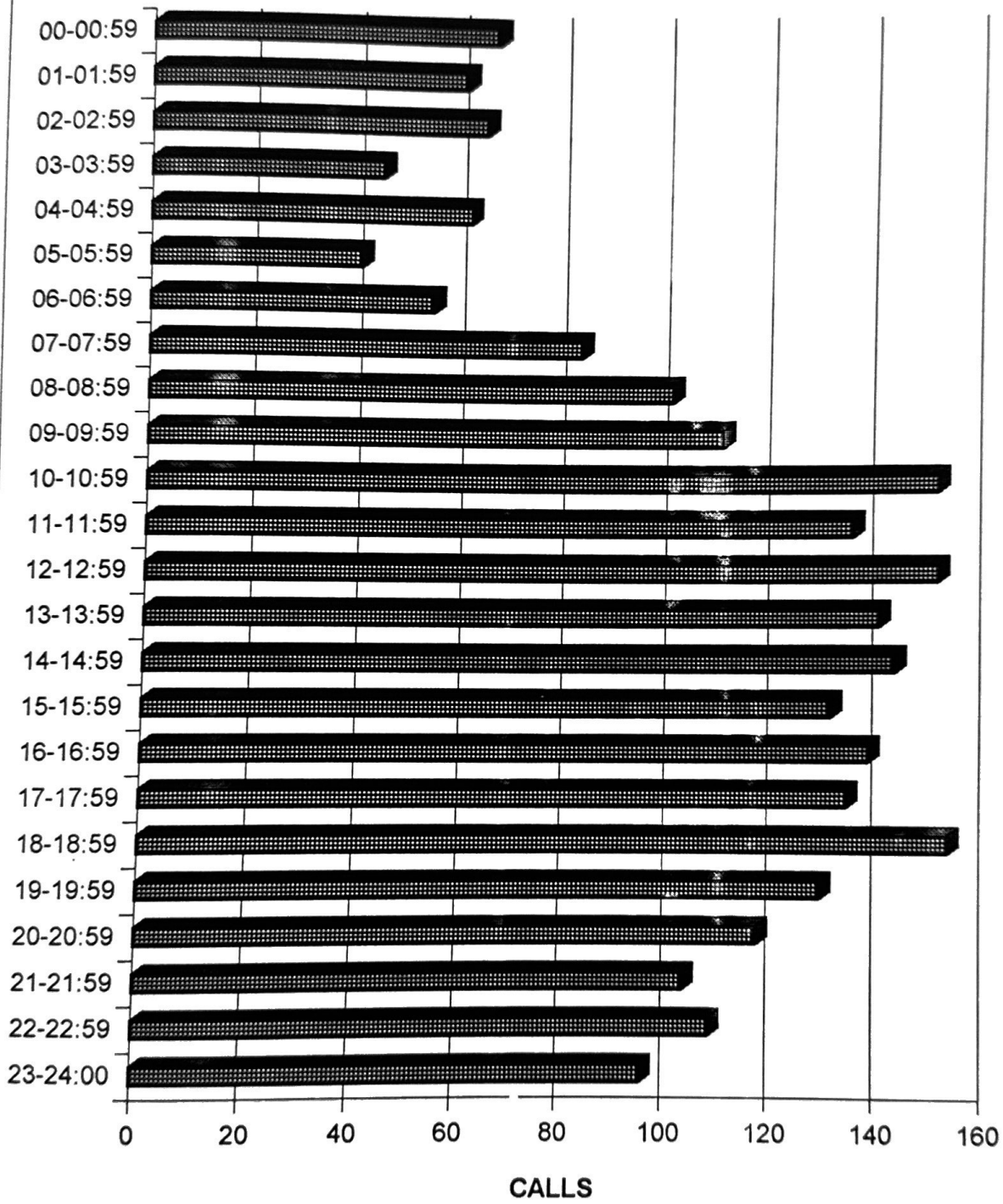
# CALL ACTIVITY



## INCIDENTS BY DAY



# INCIDENTS BY TIME OF DAY



# MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

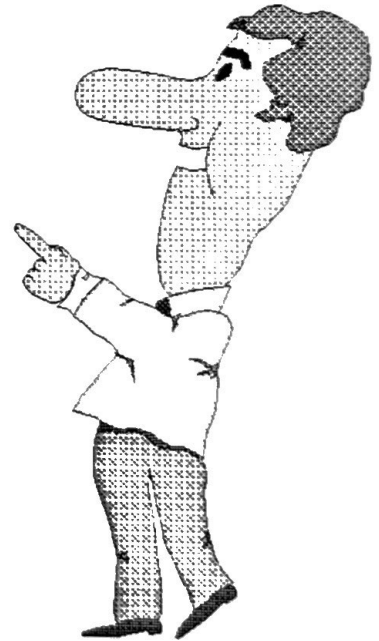
- How many active members?
- 118
  
- Average age of members ?
- 35.7 years
  
- Average time on department?
- 9.7 years
  
- Total combined years of experience?
- 1,207.32 years



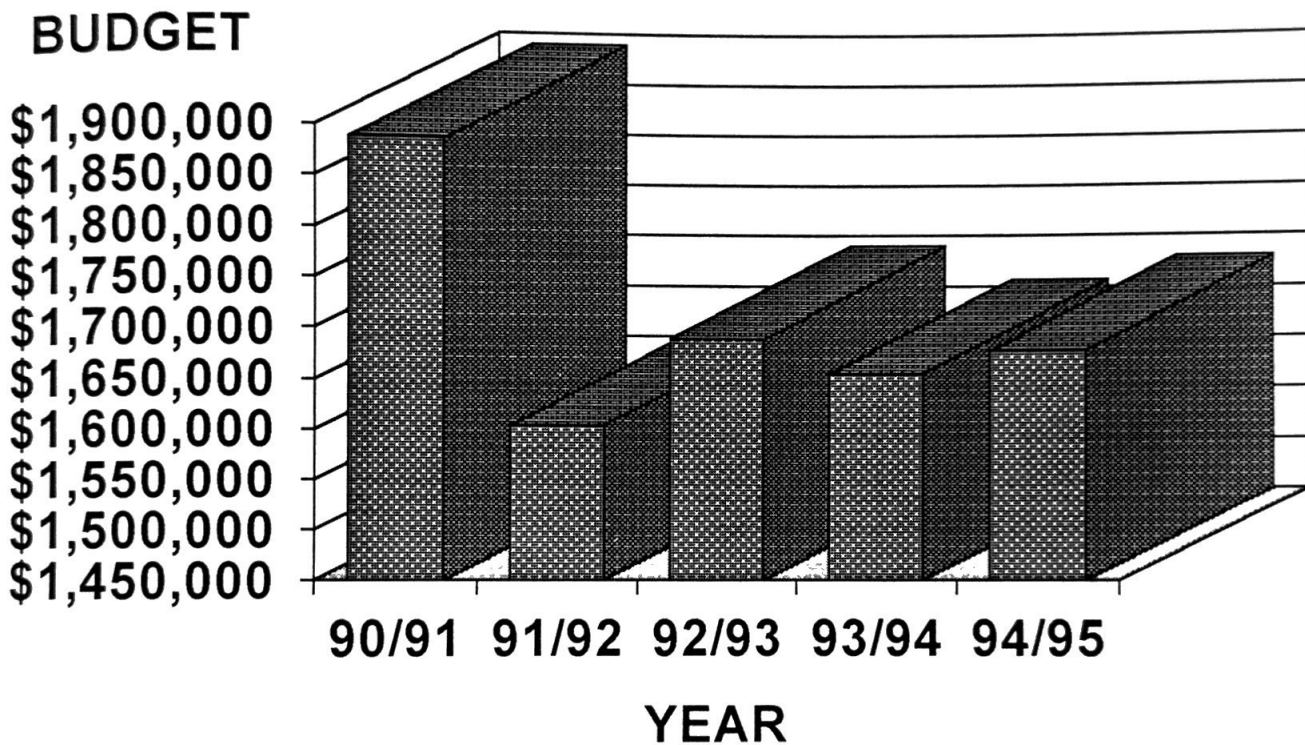
# MEMBERSHIP

## YEARS ON DEPARTMENT

● < 2 YEARS	13
● 2-3 YEARS	10
● 3-4 YEARS	5
● 4-5 YEARS	5
● 5-10 YEARS	35
● 10-20 YEARS	35
● 20+ YEARS	15



# MTFPD BUDGET/LEVY



YEAR	AMOUNT
90/91	\$1,888,400
91/92	\$1,604,400
92/93	\$1,690,800
93/94	\$1,657,000
94/95	\$1,680,000

# STATISTICAL COMPARISION

\* There are 1,312 Fire Departments in Illinois.

\* Of 554 Fire Departments reporting statistical information, 72 of them serve populations between 20,000 - 50,000. Of those Departments, only 7 have NO full time paid personnel.

Town	Population	# Volunteers	# Calls
Harlem/Roscoe	25,000	60	1178
Lake Villa	25,000	40	410
Medora	25,000	35	20
Glen Ellyn	27,740	53	921
Barrington	30,000	46	1590
<b>McHenry</b>	<b>41,000</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>2300</b>
Tinley Park	41,000	86	395

\* SOURCE: 1993 Illinois Firefighters Red Book.

**Suburban Fire Departments between 20,000 - 50,000 population with PAID personnel.**

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>POPULATION</b>	<b># PERSONNEL</b>	<b># CALLS</b>
Addison	35,000	54	2300
Bartlett	32,000	15	1516
Bloomingtondale	30,000	22	3375
Blue Island	21,203	21	1800
Buffalo Grove	38,000	59	3166
Calumet City	39,000	42	5200
Carol Stream	42,000	42	3243
Carpentersville	24,500	13	2401
Countryside	22,000	28	1860
Deerfield	25,000	26	1350
Elmwood Park	23,500	23	1990
Evergreen Park	24,000	3	2763
Fox Lake	25,000	8	1320
Lake Forest	18,000	33	1844
Mundelein	23,000	13	1735
Niles	28,263	48	3680
Wauconda	30,000	24	2063
Wilmette	26,964	44	1438



COMPARISON - McHENRY COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT	# CALLS	PERSONNEL		SQ.
		PAID	P.O.C.	MILES
ALGONQUIN	850	9	51	25
CARY	850	2	38	18
CRYSTAL LAKE	4018	20	33	50
FOX RIVER GROVE	299	1	26	9
HUNTLY	795	6	26	55
MARENGO	254	1	31	
MCHENRY	2534	0	118	60
NUNDA RURAL	175	0	33	10
RICHMOND	260	0	26	25
WAUCONDA	2248	27	43	56
WONDER LAKE	480	1	46	12
WOODSTOCK	1600	3	85	88

**EDUCATION/TRAINING HOURS**

During the past year, many members have attended classes and/or seminars for continuing education related to the Fire Service or Emergency Medical Services. Required certifications to be a member of the MTFPD includes FFII and EMT-A which only accounts for a small portion of the training hours that our members attend each year.

In addition to the list that will follow of specific certification classes and various seminars that were attended by personnel, the Fire District offers and conducts at least 3 hours of fire related training, 3 hours of EMS related training, and 1 hour of combined fire and EMS training each month. Additionally, there are about 4 hours a month of extra training (pump classes, burndowns, technical rope rescue, etc.) offered to members throughout the year.

Hours in classes:

<b>CLASS/SEMINAR</b>	<b>HOURS</b>
Firefighter II	1320
Emergency Medical Technician - Ambulance	240
Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic	1600
Firefighter III	90
Fire Apparatus Engineer	240
Fire Service related classes/seminars	296
EMS related classes/seminars	372
<b>1994 Total Hours Attending Classes:</b>	<b>4158</b>

A SPECIAL PLACE - The 4C's Camp in McHenry is a special place for young children with disabilities to have fun. A total of 80 campers came to the camp during the summer. The camp itself was established in the 1930's.

Haunted by the prospect of these children getting injured in the event of a fire, prompted firefighters to work out routes and evacuation plans for the campers and counselors.

The children found the practice drills to be a lot of fun and they also had their fears alleviated by getting to know the firefighters and by becoming familiar with their vehicles and gear.

FORT MCHENRY - Volunteers spent five days working on the Fort McHenry Project. The firemen of Company #1 donated \$900.00 to purchase materials to construct a fire engine. All construction of the fire engine was done by district volunteers.

In addition to the fire engine, a fire station was also constructed including a painted picture of the fire dog "Lucky".

The job was finally completed when the wooden, fortress-like structure, which had not been touched by a drop of rain throughout construction, was hosed down.

Despite severe sunburn and blisters, fun and good feelings were shared by all.

# DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS

McHenry County has the fastest and largest percent of growth in the State of Illinois.

McHenry Township contains 20% of the entire McHenry County population.

The following data is a result of census studies and projections by the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission.

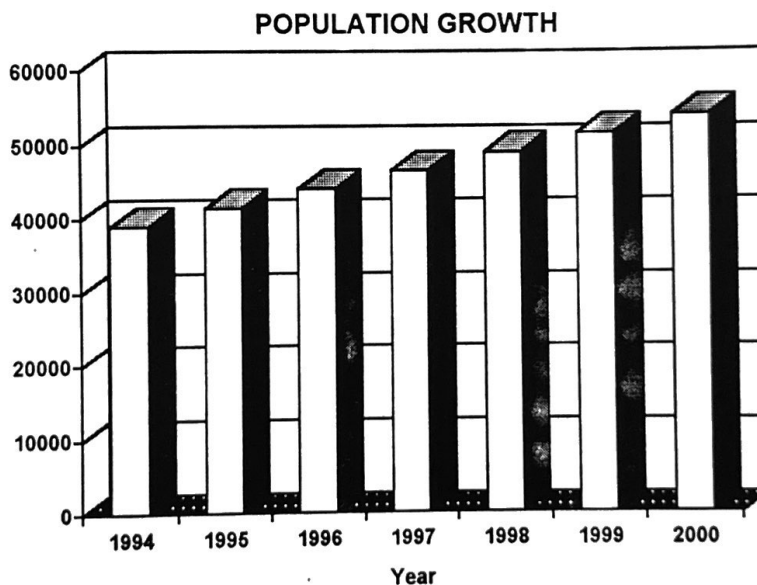
On a report dated July 14, 1992, 37,140 people resided in McHenry Township. 90% of these people resided in urban areas and 10% in rural areas. Projections are that in the year 2000, 53,300 people will live in McHenry Township.

The City of McHenry, via an updated census in 1993, has a population of 18,000. Projections for the City in the year 2010 is 25,000 with 22,000 by the year 2000.

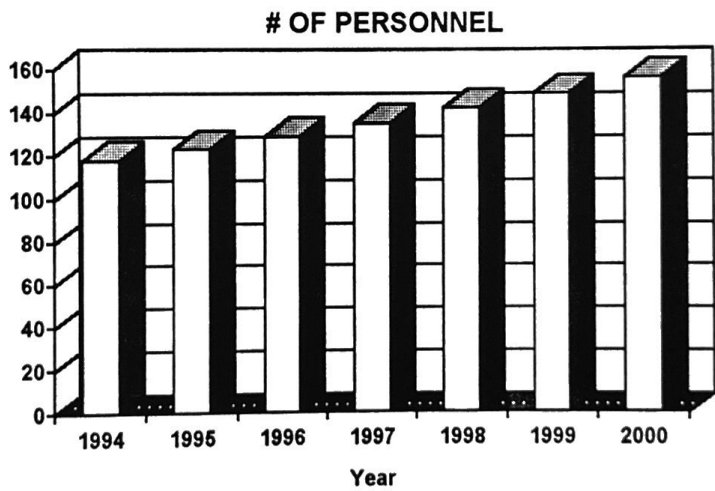
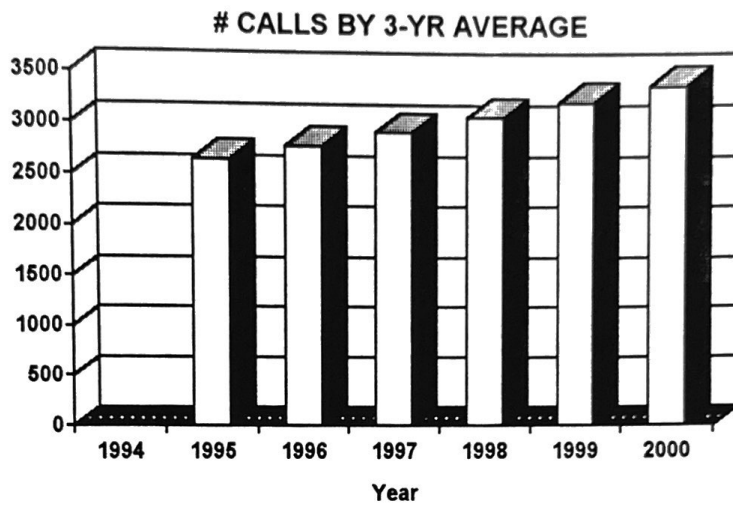
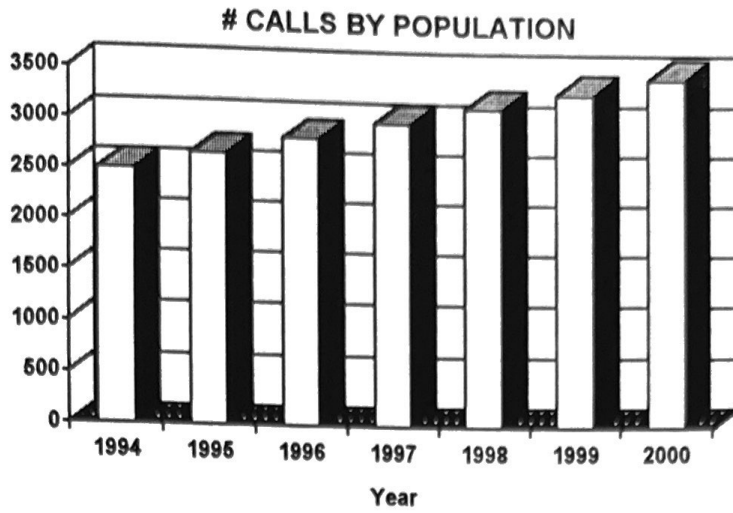
The above information has been obtained from the following agencies:

- McHenry County Government
- McHenry School District 15-156
- City of McHenry
- Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
POPULATION	39000	41500	44000	46500	49000	51500	54000
# CALLS BY POPULATION	2500	2660	2820	2980	3141	3300	3460
# CALLS BY 3 YR AVG		2652	2784	2923	3069	3222	3383
# PERSONNEL	118	123	129	135	142	149	156



# DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS





# MAJOR PURCHASES

- Water Rescue Suits
- Hovercraft
- Two New Engines
- Miscellaneous equipment for both engines
- Radio communications system update
- Provided new facilities for Station #3
- S.C.B.A. Masks and Replacement masks for individuals
- Emergency Phone Lines/Stations
- Dive Equipment
- EMS Equipment (Suction Units)

To the Trustees and members of the McHenry Township Fire Protection District.

The McHenry Township Fire Protection District's achievements over the last several years have been accomplished at an unprecedented rate. In every direction you look, improvements are being made, new programs implemented, and facilities and equipment are state of the art.

Our call activity has been growing at a steady rate. History has shown with this type of increase, many departments would have made the transition from volunteer/paid on call to a full time department. This has not been the case with the McHenry Township Fire Protection District due to the effort of the trustees, officers, and firefighters. The ability to recruit qualified personnel, has been a key element in maintaining our paid on call status. Our organization provides the highest quality of training, equipment, and facilities for these individuals to operate both safely and professionally, whether on the fire ground, or an EMS incident. We are fortunate in being able to maintain a waiting list of individuals wishing to become members of our department. The high standards which we have set forth require total commitment from our personnel. On going training, along with specialized firefighting/rescue techniques such as dive team, rope rescue, hazardous materials, fire prevention, fire education, and fire investigation to name a few, gives individuals the opportunity to pursue additional education. Being the largest paid on call fire department in the State of Illinois has not been achieved by accident, but rather by following a well laid out plan which has been in the process for a number of years. The McHenry Township Fire Protection District has reached a crossroad point in its history. Our path to the future can lead us either to a full time department or continue as a volunteer/paid on call organization. The benefits derived from a volunteer/paid on call organization are numerous, ranging from cost savings to the taxpayers of our community while maintaining high professional standards to providing members the ability to interact with the community in a unique way.

In order to insure future success and preparing for the year 2000 and beyond, management of both personnel and planning will need to be our highest priority. The memberships dedication to meeting the challenges has been second to none and I believe with proper direction, continuing team effort, proper planning and foresight, our goals will be reality.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Bennett  
Fire Chief

February 8, 1995

Chief Chris Bennett  
McHenry Township Fire  
Protection District  
3610 West Elm Street  
McHenry, IL 60050

Dear Chief,

As I review the activities of the past year I am amazed that we are able to continue to provide the public with the high level of care and professionalism considering the volume of calls we answered and how many other "special" projects we undertook.

In my role as administrator responsible for all Emergency Medical Services activities within the District, I am quite pleased with our continued exemplary service to the community. Personnel have not only been able to handle the increased call load, but they manage to keep abreast of changes and advancements in EMS on a national level as well keep current with certification requirements of the local EMS system. In his new role as Training Officer, Chris Dwyer has attended to many neglected areas such as record keeping and we now are able to keep up with EMS records as needed. Because of the District's commitment to providing EMS, we are able to keep personnel interested in becoming educated to provide this service as well as maintain the personnel we currently have. Chris also keeps current with requirements of the NIMC EMS system and conveys this information to our personnel.

The real commitment to providing quality EMS to our public comes from our members. It is only due to their dedication and sense of community pride that we have the high level of service we offer. We can buy all the new ambulances and the most up to date advanced life support equipment money can buy, but without our dedicated EMS personnel, they would only gather dust. Our District currently enjoys the highest percentage of Paramedics as part of our total membership (43 certified Paramedics and 2 in school), as compared to other departments in the area. And remember, becoming a Paramedic is done on a voluntary basis in our District.

Emergency Medical Services requires constant vigilance to keep the system operating smoothly. Considering the amount of calls we answer and the public visibility we are confronted with on a daily basis, our program within the District runs very well.

The current EMS committee has undertaken the task of monitoring the daytime response activity of Sta.#2 in an effort to constantly analyze the efficiency of their manpower and response times. The primary goal of the committee is to be prepared to make a recommendation regarding the staffing of the Sta.#2 ambulance for daytime responses should the need arise, or to recommend an alternate means of answering calls in Sta.#2's area with present staff. Since EMS calls account for about 70% of the District's calls, EMS requires a great deal of supervision and review. Future goals will probably include more staff directly involved in the day to day operation of Emergency Medical Services.

## DEPUTY CHIEF GUST

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Over the last year my constant exposure to the administrative aspect of our Fire District operation has been overwhelming at times. Day to day activity has increased substantially, due to personnel related work, increased call activity, supervision and review of increased daily tasks by office personnel and other administrative personnel such as the Training Officer and Public Education Coordinator. The activity in the office routinely requires me to interact with these individuals to assist with one project or another. Additionally, the requirements of reporting our activity to various agencies such as the OSFM, because of our volume of activity, has increased to the point where trying to keep up with all of our reporting mechanisms has become a burden.

I would recommend that we consider compensating a person with computer knowledge to be our Systems Information Manager. With the purchase of all of our new computer equipment, it is essential that someone be readily available for maintenance of the system and to train personnel on use of the various software programs. Unfortunately, at the present time we are probably only using the computer system to about 30% of it's capacity. Every aspect of the office is run with computer assistance and the amount of work the computer system does will only increase in the future.

In closing I would like to say that even though much of our daily activity appears to be managed as though it were a crisis, thanks to the efforts of many, we continue to defy any would be detractors by providing quality Emergency Services to the public that provides us with the money. My gratitude goes out to everyone that makes it work.

Respectfully,

Phil Gust, Deputy Chief

February 2, 1995

Christopher J. Bennett, Chief  
McHenry Township Fire Protection District  
3610 W. Elm Street  
McHenry, Illinois 60050

Dear Chief:

It is with a great feeling of accomplishment that I submit to you the annual report of activities for the Training Division and Engine Committee. We made great advancements in both areas during the year. I will try to outline for you some of the major accomplishments of each area.

The officers and staff did recognize the short comings in the training area and recommend to the Trustees that a position be opened for a part-time Training Officer. At the Trustee's meeting on October 21, 1993 the Trustees approved the position and the appointment of FF/PAR Chris Dwyer to fill the position effective November 1, 1993.

One of the first things that needed to be accomplished was the updating of members individual training records. Members were notified of any deficiencies in their training records and were instructed to take appropriate action to have rectified. Policy was changed to make each member responsible for turning in hours for recertification. The Training Officer appointed other members to attend EMS Council meetings in his absence and report back to the membership the results of the EMS Council meetings. The goal was set to always have one member from McHenry Township Fire Protection District present at every meeting.

A very important topic of attendance was addressed early in the year. The training officer started a program to allow members who were unable to attend the Monday night drills to attend the same class on Tuesday morning. This gives the members who work nights or are on shift time to attend drills. This effort has increased the overall percentage of members participating at drills.

During the year the district had the opportunity to receive three buildings to burn down. These buildings are very valuable in terms of training. FF/PAR Dwyer set the drills each with a different scenario and application. Emphasis on rural water supply, hose lay's, search and rescue, ventilation and ladders were just a few of the topics that were covered.

During the year the Passport Identification system was instituted within the District. This system was adopted by most MABAS division in Northern Illinois including McHenry County, Division Five. This system makes it possible to account for all members at any time during an incident. It instills in the members to work as teams and to stick together so a member does not get left in a hazardous area alone.

The Engine Committee has completed a very active year. On October 26, 1993 the Engine Committee held its first meeting after having been appointed by yourself and authorized by the Trustees to draw up specs to bid two new engines. Members of the committee toured fire apparatus manufacturing plants in Wisconsin and Florida.



At the January 20, 1994 meeting of the Trustees the engine specs were reviewed. Approval was given to go out for bid for the two new engines. Bids due back on February 17, 1994. Five Companies bid on the engines. After careful review the committee made written evaluation and recommendation of bids to the Trustees on March 11, 1994. At the Trustee's meeting on March 17th action was taken to accept the proposal from Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. for two engines in the amount of \$449,065.00. The purchase order was signed on April 5th. Delivery time was stated at eight to ten months.

The committee had to meet several times during the fall of the year to review new equipment which had to be ordered for the engines. The list of new equipment was compiled and sent out for bid. The goal was to have all equipment in inventory at the time the engines arrived.

Several meetings took place after the awarding of the contract to verify drawings and clarify points on the bid specs. On November 2nd the entire committee went to Pierce Manufacturing to do a pre-paint inspection. The engines were found to be in compliance with the specifications. On December 13th the committee went to Pierce Manufacturing to take delivery of the two engines. The engines were found to be complete and were driven to McHenry on December 14th. The engines were put into service on January 21, 1995.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne R. Amore  
Deputy Chief

February 7, 1995  
Christopher J. Bennett, Chief  
McHenry Township Fire Protection District  
3610 W. Elm Street  
McHenry, IL 60050

Dear Chief:

Attached please find the reports on communications, ISO and the Hovercraft.

As an overview I believe we should continue on our present course. Morale is at an all time high. I am very please with almost all areas of the department and the amount of dedication being shown by all. Effort and dedication is 2nd to none.

Major areas of concern are EMS response times and availability of Paramedics. I Realize that the EMS committee is working on some alternatives, but I will not be comfortable until we have a plan in place.

Additionally, I find myself being asked more and more often, "How long will we be able to remain paid on call?" by people inside and outside the District. I believe it is incumbent on us to include a realistic plan for transition in our next long range forecast. Personally I believe we can respond to four thousand calls before starting to make the transition to a full time department.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Bartman  
Asst. Chief  
Station II

### COMMUNICATIONS

The communications system of the McHenry Township Fire Protection District while relatively modern has been constantly hampered by 2 major problems.

First, the radio frequency, 154.250 Mhz, is used by almost every other fire department in McHenry County. Additionally, it is used by most departments to our north in Kenosha County. Normal operation can be tolerable but whenever multiple calls are being dispatched such as during inclement weather or multiple fire calls the frequency turns into chaos.

Second, because of considerable terrain differences within the District, a number of dead areas exist particularly for portable to base operations.

More than 2 years have been spent on researching alternatives. Initially, an 800 Mhz license was obtained from the F.C.C. for a completely new system. After considerable deliberation by the officers of the District it was decided to remain with a VHF frequency rather than use the 800 Mhz frequency. That license was returned to the F.C.C. and a new license was granted on frequency 154.385. While these steps sound simple enough, procuring radio licenses in the Fire Service is very difficult.

In addition to the new frequency it was decided to install a multiple receiver system with voting capability to eliminate the portable to base problem. Three separate receivers will be installed in strategic locations throughout the District and be wired to City Hall via phone lines.

In September 1994 the trustees advertised for bids. After all bids have been evaluated a contract will be let to make the modifications during the first quarter of 1995.

### ISO RATING

The Insurance Service Office, ISO, is charged with rating fire departments for the insurance industry. The classification issued by ISO is used as a multiplier when determining the cost of Fire Insurance for an individual home owner or business. The lower the rating, the lower the Fire Insurance cost.

The McHenry Township Fire Protection District presently enjoys a rating of 6. This is a very good rating for a completely paid on call department in a rural setting.

In 1993, the officers of the District decided to begin working toward a lower rating.

Firefighter Ron Schaefer is the primary individual responsible for keeping up to date on ISO requirements. He also keeps the necessary records to comply with these requirements.

Our goal is to complete all steps necessary to lower our rating to a 4 by August, 1995.

The upgrading process is a continuous one. Areas such as response time, water supply, equipment availability and hose and apparatus testing are just a few of the areas that are evaluated. At least 3 years of testing records are required to apply for an upgrade.

Activity in the ISO area will be picking up during the first quarter of 1995 with target for on site testing and evaluation by August, 1995.

### HOVERCRAFT

The McHenry Township Fire Protection District protects a number of water ways. This, coupled with the ever expanding use of snowmobiles has put us in a very unique position. In 1994, we responded to more than 30 reports of snowmobiles and people through the ice in the water.

During the winter of 1993 a neighboring district was unable to recover a victim before he perished because he was in the middle of the lake with very thin ice all around. there was no safe way to rescue the victim.

This taught us a difficult lesson. We could easily find ourselves in a similar situation.

It was determined that the only effective rescue apparatus for this situation would be an airboat or hovercraft. We set out to evaluate both alternatives. During the winter of 1994 various vehicles were tested for this purpose.

In January, 1994, a decision was made to purchase a 16' hovercraft from Hovercraft America of Germantown, Wisconsin. This craft was chosen because of its stability, size and close proximity of the manufacturer. It is powered by a 120 HP Mazda rotary engine.

In March a team of 5 individuals attended a 2 day factory training session and became the primary trainers for the District. They are Bob Haag, Tom Huemann, Joe Krueger, Dan Olenick and Bill Sheehan. A complete training program was developed and approximately 15 individuals attended the first training session. Because of the length and complexity of training a second program will not be initiated until these individuals have been certified to fly the craft.

It is our intent to have the hovercraft full operational by the middle of December, 1994., First ice.

The addition of this fine piece of equipment allows the District to remain one of the best equipped, best manned departments in the State of Illinois.

Despite a long-term downward trend, the United States continues to have one of the highest fire deaths per capita in the world. Part of the reason for this is the lack of adequate public fire and life safety education. Public Education can make a difference in the amount of fires, fire-related deaths and injuries and substantially cut fire-related property loss and damage.

My goal is to lay the foundation for effective programs to be implemented in these areas for schools and the community. I hope to carefully target each aspect of fire and life safety to reach a large percentage of the community, by doing research on one form or another where we can. We will then tailor our programs to an intended audience. Powerful allies such as the business community, educators, and the media can also help us to deliver our messages. Additionally, by being the final piece of a newly completed Fire Prevention Bureau and working with inspectors and investigators, education becomes the key to prevention.

Since being appointed to the position of Public Education Coordinator, I feel that I have successfully increased community awareness in all aspects of fire and life safety education.

### TO RECAP SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Coordinated a highly successful elementary school fire prevention program distributing prevention messages and materials to 4,100 students. Research alternate sources for new materials, resulting in a substantial savings to the fire district.
2. Developed "Operation Prom Night" and "Operation Homecoming". These were programs that encouraged alcohol awareness and effective decision making through the presentation of mock alcohol related accidents. These events were witnessed by over 2,500 high school students. These events will be repeated on an annual basis. As a result, some of the film footage is included in a dynamic, interactive video entitled "It Didn't Have to Happen....Drinking and Driving". The video was narrated by William Shatner of "Rescue 9-1-1" and will be distributed nationally.
3. Worked with McHenry, Johnsburg and Nunda Libraries to promote fire and life safety by designing a "mini fire house" and provided the libraries with 40 age appropriate books and videotapes. Additional books will be provided on an annual basis.
4. Instituted a "Firefighter Role Play Box". This box incorporates child size gear, equipment, teacher lesson plans and fire and life safety activity sheets to provide early education for pre-school children.
5. Established a fire extinguisher and an evacuation plan class for businesses and industrial occupancies, and residential care facilities i.e., nursing homes.
6. Instituted a Juvenile Firesetter Identification and Counseling Program. I feel that by working with the police, social services and families, we can effectively address the firesetting issue. Once the risk is identified, appropriate intervention can be applied.
7. Continued and improved upon existing programs such as "McHenry Trade Fair", "Fire Prevention Open Houses" and "Keep the Wreath Red".
8. Positive representation with the media has helped to promote special events and provided community awareness of our fire district through the local newspapers and cable access television.



- 9. Established a public education committee comprised of 15 members. The purpose of the committee is to aid in the implementation of all programs.
- 10. Public C.P.R. coordinated by FF/Paramedic Joe Nootens.

1994 has come and gone, and with it we have seen 3.5 years of operation for the C.P.R. program. The total number of students has reached 2100. If you think about each student spending four hours, one on one with a fire district member, that equals 8,400 hours of one on one instruction. Some of the organizations we have had in class and then observed their members save lives are:

McHenry Police Department	All members
McHenry Parks Department	All members, (+60 summer help)
Lakemoor Police Department	All members
Johnsburg Police Department	All members
McCullom Lake Police Department	All members
Holiday Hills Police Department	All members
McHenry Jaycee's	
McHenry Family Services	

COURSE BREAK-DOWN

Total courses in 1994	42
Public courses	12
Group courses without fees	21
Group courses with fees	9
Number of students with fees	143
Number of students without fees	420
Total student in 1994	563
Instructor courses	1

### FUTURE GOALS AND PROJECTS

- I am currently conducting research on a program entitled "Reaching the Hard to Reach". A program being developed to present residential fire prevention and education to senior citizens and low income families. Reaching these hard to reach groups is one of our greatest challenges in fire prevention. We must find a way to reach the people who continue to have the highest fire and injury rates.
- Developing a semi-annual newsletter entitled "Fire Lines" for the community.
- Working on having a professional video made depicting the McHenry Township Fire Protection District and fire and life safety issues.

If we are to stop people from being injured and dying in fires that could have been prevented and change the unenviable high fire rate, we must stop talking about our convictions that fire prevention is important and take action.

With a continued partnership from the Board of Trustees, District, Company Officers and the membership, the Public Education Division of the McHenry Township Fire Protection District will become one of the most productive and dynamic divisions of the fire service.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Brady  
Public Education Coordinator

I respectfully submit the following report as an overview/update of the Fire Prevention Bureau, covering 1993 and 1994.

Also included will be a brief review as to what I would like to see occur in the next several years in these areas, in order to continue our professionalism and services.

As Director of the Fire Prevention Bureau, my primary responsibilities of accountability are the Fire Inspection Division, the Fire Investigation Team and the Public Education Division.

Accomplishments in these areas are as follows:

## 1) FIRE INSPECTION PROGRAM

- We are currently conducting fire inspections, in excess of 700 businesses, commercial and industrial occupants. The inspection cycle is taking 18 months to complete as of this date. Specifically defined, is that it takes 18 months for the fire inspectors to inspect the 700 businesses, as well as conducting the necessary reinspection(s).
- Required inspection forms are utilized for this task and owner/occupant data is updated and filed as it is attained.
- Every business occupancy has a current, active subject file.
- The duties of the Fire Inspectors have expanded. They are now conducting sprinkler system testing as well as acceptance tests for fire alarm systems.
- Follow-up investigations are also part of their regularly assigned duties, which include the correcting of problem areas encountered by the fire officers.
- The Fire Inspection Division is a constantly busy segment of the Fire Prevention Bureau. The workload is never not full, however, it is usually more busy than not!

## 2) FIRE INVESTIGATION TEAM

- In the early part of 1992, the Fire Investigation Team was formed in order to determine the cause, origin and responsibility of all fires that occur in our Fire District. Prior to the formation of the Team, outside resources were called in on all fires for the investigation process.
- Where these outside resources, such as the Fire Marshal's Office or the Sheriff's Department were cooperative, their arrival times were always in question.
- As of this date, our fire incident commanders know that our Fire Investigation Team is already "on the scene" and that the fire investigation will proceed immediately.
- Seventeen members of our fire department are now working as a "Team" to accept these responsibilities.

- The completed final fire investigation reports are kept on file and include photo logs and all necessary supplemental reports.
- Continuing education is an ongoing process in order to develop and maintain learned skills. I always include an education time slot during the team meetings.

### 3) PUBLIC EDUCATION DIVISION

- found the installment of Linda Brady as our Public Education Coordinator.
- I have often stressed that publicly educating our community should be a 12-month a year endeavor, instead of two weeks a year during Fire Prevention Week in October of every year.
- With the new Public Education Coordinator and a Committee of eight members, this Division of the Fire Prevention Bureau has become extremely active and busy.
- The very hectic schedule of October Fire Prevention Programs includes school tours coming to the fire station and many other activities.
- The Trade Fair is also a very active time for the Public Education Coordinator.
- We must constantly strive to educate our citizens within the community to exist in a fire and life safety environment.
- The Code Enforcement areas of responsibilities absorbs most of my personal involvement with most of the other areas being delegated via committees, etc.
- All plans for new construction are reviewed by myself and transmittals are forwarded to the appropriate building and zoning departments with an itemized list of fire department code requirements.

The code enforcement aspect of the Fire Prevention Bureau also includes the following:

1. Guidance to the Fire Inspectors for their regularly assigned duties.
2. Follow-up investigations pertaining to fire alarm problems, complaints, etc.
3. Controlling and processing all open burning permits to the E.P.A.
4. Controlling all correspondence to and from the Fire Prevention Bureau.
5. Phase inspections (on-site) of all large construction projects to assure code compliance.
6. Keeping abreast of all current, applicable codes and standards.
7. Attend relative seminars and schooling for continuing education.
8. Maintain relationships with all building and zoning departments, police departments, state and outside agencies.
9. Project a professional atmosphere for the McHenry Township Fire Protection District in all areas associated with the Fire Prevention Bureau.

## THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

The future of the Fire Prevention Bureau should, and will, become more efficient and effective in the next several years.

The main reasons it will become this way are due to the following:

1. Continuing support of the Trustees, staff, officers and membership.
2. Fine-tuning and expanding in all "Bureau" programs.
3. Continuing education programs for all bureau personnel.
4. Utilizing more and more of the membership in all areas of the Fire Prevention activities.

There are several items which I will address regarding where I would like to see us going, in the immediate future.

First of all, I would truly appreciate the opportunity to be able to have the time to put in, in order to accomplish all that must be done. This can only be accomplished by my being available for at least 30 hours, or more, per week.

My present part-time status is holding back several programs.

Additional fleet type vehicles are vitally necessary ASAP. Fire prevention duties should not be conducted in personal vehicles, for obvious reasons.

Additional file cabinets and a refined filing system is very important due to business expansion. (Fire Prevention Bureau)

Assured daily coverage for the Fire Prevention Bureau during every work day, which can only be accomplished with additional personnel.

A part-time secretary/Fire Prevention Bureau Coordinator to cover all Bureau activities, including computer entries, occupant update, etc. Twenty hours per week would be a good starting point.

We have very good control of the business community regarding our inspection program and fire violation compliance.

One obvious area that needs a lot of attention is that of a Residential Fire Prevention Program. Almost all of our dollar loss fires are a result of fires in and around the home. We must develop and initiate a strong program addressing this issue.



## FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the eight years since my coming on board, the list of accomplished goals would be too lengthy to submit, in total, in this report.

What sums it up best is the fact that the McHenry Township Fire Protection District has a very active, complete Fire Prevention Bureau, as recognized by standards set forth by the N.F.P.A.

People make this happen and the personnel involved with the Fire Prevention Bureau are very professional, or soon will be after they become involved in any of the Bureau divisions.

Fire Inspectors Rich McMillan and Tony Oliver are excellent representatives of our fire department. They are dependable, intelligent and represent us in a professional manner every day they are here. Bill Betke is new in the Inspection Division and will do well, I'm sure.

The Fire Investigation Team has developed into an excellent working team unit. They are gaining field experience quickly and get the job done admirably. Where the idea of "digging around" in a burnt up building is not very glamorous, they have met this challenge with pride and a feeling of genuine accomplishment.

Our fire Inspection Team Coordinator, Nancy Gandy, has an excellent filing system for the completed fire reports, including that of indexing all fire photo negatives, in a locked vault.

Linda Brady has taken the "bull-by-the-horns" as the newly appointed Public Education Director. This Division is extremely important regarding the exposure of our department. She is a true professional and represents us very well on a daily basis in all areas.

One of my hardest achieved accomplishments was that of developing a good working relationship with all of the building and zoning departments that apply to our District.

Initially, negativism pre-empted most possibilities for production. Time and self-selling developed relationships that are vital for our assurance that fire department requirements are being met in all new construction as well as remodels and/or additions.

Today, these same building and zoning departments look for our "assistance" that the codes are being met.

My national certification level has given me great satisfaction as there are only eight (8) in the State of Illinois with National Certification as a Fire Inspector. This certification level goes a long way when credibility and/or integrity may be questioned.

My number one accomplishment, to date, is that our Fire Prevention Bureau is like no other, in the County, and/or the suburbs! We are, and shall continue to be, a model fire department which operates a complete and professional Fire Prevention Bureau.

Fire prevention spells success in our business. This success can only be attained by continuing support of the administration.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Liang, C.F.I.  
Fire Prevention Bureau

# Accomplishments for past twelve months

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- Passport I.D. System
- New Rules and Regulations
- Public Education Coordinator
- Tribune Article
- Apparatus Advancement Policy
- (Future) Officer Appointments
- Dive Team
- EMS Committee/Evaluation
- New Turn-out Gear
- New Computer System
- New Station #3
- Hovercraft
- Social Activities
- MADD Video
- All Time High Responses
- Training Officer Appointment

# TWELVE-MONTH CALENDAR

## 1995

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### January

1. Five year goals/Annual Report.
2. Call activity and growth response.

### February

1. Review of Officer Appointments
2. Awards

### March

1. Major budget items.
2. Apparatus replacement Co. 2 & Co. 3.

### April

1. Physicals NFPA 1582.
2. Divisional/committee reports and wage review.

### May

1. Uniforms
2. Test & interview for new members.

### June

1. Evaluations and reviews.
2. Divisional and committee evaluations.

### July

1. Special

### August

1. ISO
2. ISO

### September

1. Rescue Prevention Education
2. Rescue Prevention Education

### October

1. Fire Prevention, Education and Code Enforcement.
2. Specials

### November

1. Develop 12 month calendar.
2. Flow chart

### December

1. State of the District Speech.