

ANNUAL REPORT 1998

**McHENRY TOWNSHIP
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**



**Dedicated to Retired Chief Chris Bennett and
Retired Board President Jim Althoff**

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

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INTRODUCTION



The McHenry Township Fire Protection District proudly presents its 1998 Annual Report:

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**MEMBERS
TRUSTEES
FRIENDS FOREVER
PEOPLE WE PROTECT
DEDICATION AND DUTY**

Our successes are achieved by the dedication and commitment of the Trustees, Officers and Members of our Department.

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

HISTORY

In 1939, the McHenry Township Fire Protection District was formed as a taxing body. Until this point, all fire protection was provided by the City of McHenry, which donated its only fire engine to this new district.

All vehicles originally were housed at city hall until 1956, when a referendum was approved to build the fire district's first building on Elm Street in McHenry.

In 1954, Company 2 was organized in Johnsborg. In 1963, the original Johnsborg fire station was built and, in 1990, a new and expanded facility was completed.

In 1971, a third station was built in Lakemoor. A new, modified facility was built in 1994 for Company 3 to provide service for residents in eastern McHenry County.

The McHenry Area Rescue Squad merged with the fire district in 1983, followed in 1990 by the merger of the Johnsborg Rescue Squad.

Other historical facts include the inception of the Paid On Premises (P.O.P.) program on June 1, 1986, with 26 personnel participating at the outset. After several months of preparation, an additional P.O.P. program began Feb. 1, 1997, at Station 2. On Jan. 1, 1998, additional 12-hour crews were instituted at night at Station 1, providing immediate response, 24-hour ambulance service for the first time in the district's history.

In 1987, Steve Laing was appointed as a part-time Code Enforcement Officer in the fire district. On July 1, 1996, Steve was appointed assistant chief and became the district's first full-time employee.

The fire district has had six fire chiefs in its brief history. Gus Freund served as chief from 1939-1950. Harold "Red" Hobbs was chief from 1950-1960, Ed Justen served from 1960-1969, Glenn Peterson from 1969- 1986 and Chris Bennett from 1986 to 1998. Wayne Amore was appointed chief of the district on May 7, 1998. Chief Amore began his career with the McHenry Township Fire Protection District on Oct. 9, 1972. He has held every rank in the district prior to his appointment as chief.

The McHenry Township Fire Protection District still is funded as a taxing body and the responsibility for overseeing policies, procedures and financial issues is handled by a board of five county-appointed trustees.

Presently, the three fire stations in the district provide service to an area of approximately 58 square miles and a population of approximately 45,000 residents. Included within this

58-square-mile coverage area is most of McHenry Township and portions of Nunda Township and the municipalities of Bull Valley, City of McHenry, Holiday Hills, Johnsburg, McCullom Lake, Ringwood and portions of unincorporated McHenry County.

The fire district operates 27 pieces of equipment that includes engines, squads, a tanker, an aerial platform truck, two boats, five ambulances and light specialty vehicles. At present, the fire district has 138 volunteers.

In 1996, a total of 2,715 calls, an average of 7 per day, were answered by the volunteers. In some cases, this is double the number of calls that are responded to by similar departments in terms of size, geographic coverage and population. *Fire House* magazine, a national publication that conducts an annual run survey, once again has named the McHenry Township Fire Protection District as the busiest all-volunteer fire department in Illinois. The district's ranking of ninth in the survey also makes it one of the busiest all-volunteer departments in the United States.

Today's firefighters, although better equipped and educated, still face the same dangers as the firefighters of the past. Even though the fire service is keeping up-to-date on today's progressive advancements, it appears there always will be a need for firefighters as long as people and flammable substances exist. The McHenry Township Fire Protection District will continue to meet this challenge to provide the community with the best fire and life-safety protection available.

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

1998 CHIEF'S ANNUAL REPORT

Fire Chief Wayne Amore

The year 1998 saw major changes in the administration of fire district with the retirement of Board President Jim Althoff and Fire Chief Chris Bennett. These two gentlemen have given more than 70 years of service to the McHenry Township Fire Protection District. Chris Bennett has assumed the trustee position that was made vacant by the retirement of Jim Althoff. Chris brings to the board more than 30 years of experience and knowledge of the inner workings of the department. We honor these two gentlemen for their hard work and dedication with their picture on the cover of this report.

On May 7, 1998, I was sworn in as the sixth Chief of the district since its inception in 1939. I served as deputy chief of the department for 12 years under Chief Bennett. The chief's position is a part-time post responsible for the operations of the district and its 140-person membership. I have been a member of the district for 26 years. The other chief officers are Deputy Chief Phil Gust and Assistant Chiefs Steve Laing and Tony Huemann, all of whom served in these positions under Chief Bennett.

The year finished with the highest number of calls in the history of the district at 2,948. This represents a 4 percent increase from 1997 and a 40 percent increase from 1984, when the McHenry Area Rescue Squad and Johnsburg Rescue Squad merged with the fire district.

Jan. 1, 1998, was the first time in the district's history that we had members sleep overnight at Station 1. With this new 12-hour shift, we now were able to provide 24-hour coverage with three people in Station 1's response area in McHenry. In addition, we now have three people providing coverage 12 hours a day in Station 2's area in Johnsburg. The primary function of these crews in 1998 was to provide instant ambulance response to our community.

During the past year, the villages of Johnsburg, Ringwood and Lakemoor enacted ordinances to allow the fire district to collect impact fees for new home construction in those communities. These three villages join the City of McHenry, which also collects impact fees for the fire district. All these fees contribute to the overall income of the district to help it keep up with the latest technology in fire and rescue equipment.

The McHenry Township Fire District, in conjunction with Wauconda Fire Department and McHenry County College, sponsored a one-day seminar presented by Gordon Graham. Mr. Graham is a lieutenant on the California Highway Patrol, a practicing attorney and a nationally known speaker on sexual harassment in fire and police services.

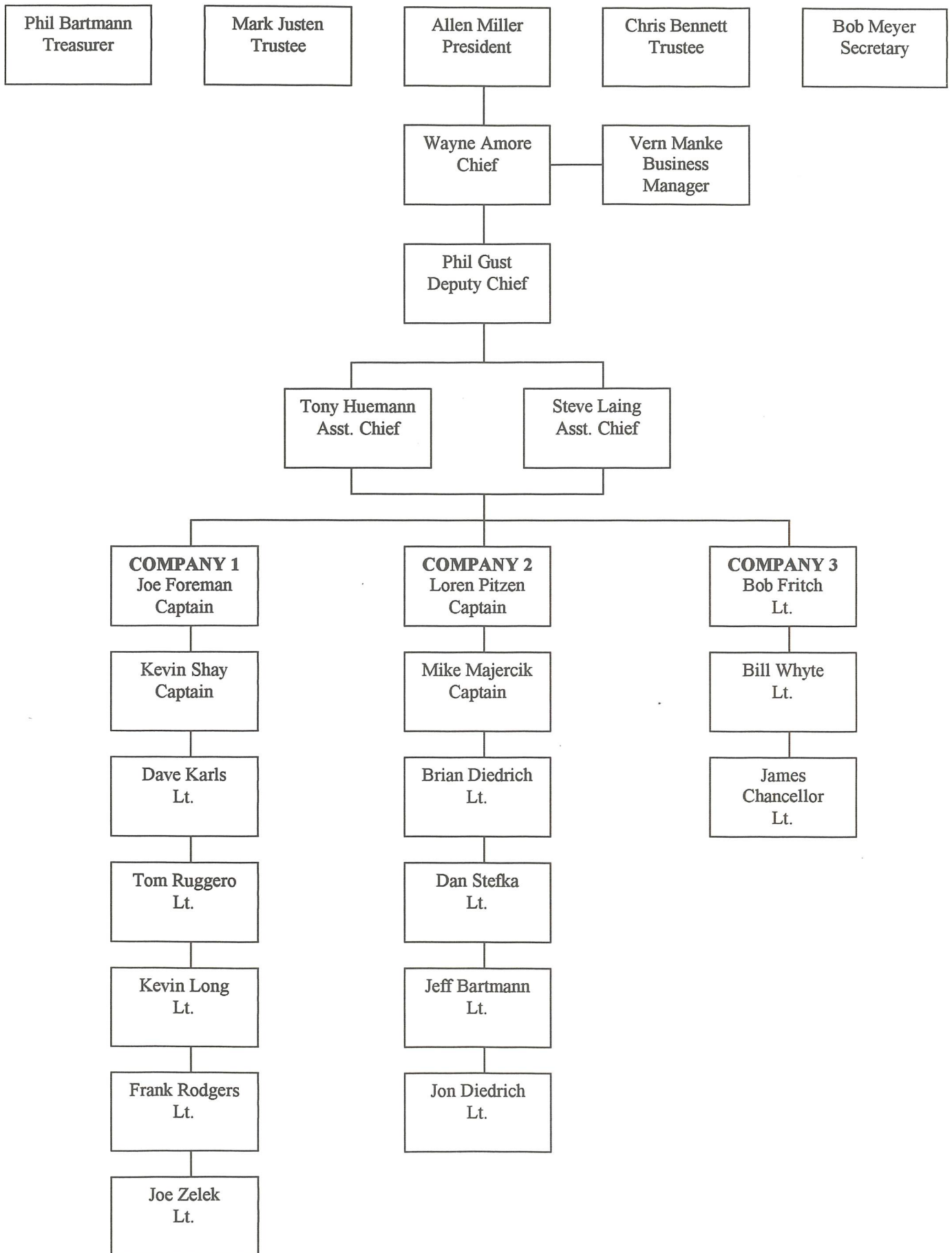
One-hundred sixty people from several northern Illinois fire departments attended this seminar.

Cheri Rickert, a resident of the fire district, approached the board about conducting a fund-raising effort to purchase a thermal-imaging camera for the department. Mrs. Rickert was given permission and she went into the community to begin raising money for this camera. As time went by, additional people joined the effort. The employees of the Wal-Mart store in McHenry sponsored a fund-raising drive at the store. Several local organizations joined in and made donations to this fund. By late fall, the district was presented with not one thermal-imaging camera, but three. This allows one camera to be on the lead engine at each of the district's three fire stations. Corporate donations from Morton International Inc., Prem Magnetics Inc. and Modine Manufacturing Co. contributed to the purchase of one of the cameras. Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4600 and the VFW Auxiliary in McHenry joined forces to purchase the third one. These cameras are a valuable tool, allowing firefighters to locate trapped victims in a fire and hidden fires in walls and ceilings. The fire district is very grateful to each and every person who participated in this effort.

During the year, the CPR Committee instructed several hundred people from the community in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation. These CPR students represented a cross-section of the community, including lifeguards, students, health-care providers and the general public. Each person who is certified in CPR in the community is an extension of the life-saving effort.

As in past years, the fire district purchased several pieces of new equipment to replace obsolete or worn-out gear. Some of the new equipment purchased included new air pack facepieces, new dive equipment, a new extrication tool, new hose for all stations, new air packs and infant seats for ambulances, to name a few.

Administration



McHenry Township Fire Protection District

MEMBERS OF COMPANY 1

Captain	Joe Foreman
Captain	Kevin Shay
Lieutenant	Dave Karls
Lieutenant	Kevin Long
Lieutenant	Frank Rodgers Jr.
Lieutenant	Tom Ruggero
Lieutenant	Joe Zelek

Mark Amore	Robert Hodges	Ronald Schaefer
James Amos	Jeff Huemann	Elizabeth Serritella
Jerome Beres	Ronald Krumsee	Thomas Sluga
John Birk	John Kuhl	Chris Smith
Kimberly Boncoskey	Kevin Kutz	Dennis Smith
David Borst	Brent Lane	Philip Szyjka
James Bove III	Ed Malenius	Allen Thennes
Linda Brady	Aimee Mann	Connie Thennes
Patricia Burger	Chris Mann	Randy Trost
Timothy Butler	Christopher Mann II	Thomas Uttich
Cynthia Byron	John McCaulley	Scott White
Edward Curry	Richard McMillan	Matthew Yegge Jr.
Carolyn Davis	Thomas Michelsen	Sara Zelek
Mark Diedrich	William Milbratz Jr.	Robert Zujewski
Leora Foreman	Joseph Nootens	
Kathleen Freund	Lydia Nootens	
Michael Gierut	William Oeffling	
Frank Graham	Anthony Oliver	
Ryan Harding	Paul Polep	
David Harwood	Michael Reid	
Steven Hill	Michael Reiken	

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

MEMBERS OF COMPANY 2

Captain	Mike Majercik
Captain	Loren Pitzen
Lieutenant	Jeff Bartmann
Lieutenant	Brian Diedrich
Lieutenant	Jon Diedrich
Lieutenant	Dan Stefka

Patrick Arnold	Carlos Medina III
William Betke	William Nethaway
Mark Buchanan	Roger Oland
William Comstock	Brian Olenick
Peter Diedrich	Daniel Olenick
Daniel DiPerna	David Peterson
Philip Freund	Wileen Peterson
Daniel Gallagher	Phillip Ried
Robert Haag	Rudy Rivera
William Hintz	Alan Robel
James Hopp	Judith Robel
Dave Huemann	John Scott
Joseph Huemann	Gregory Sobiesk
Thomas Huemann	Diana St. Clair
Frederick Hult	Damon St. Clair
Paul Jargstorf	Guy Stedman Jr.
Pat King	Dennis Storlie
John Kirk	Joel Taylor
Suzan Krapf	Judy Taylor
Timothy Manning	David Thoren
Louis Matthiesen	John Wilkinson

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

MEMBERS OF COMPANY 3

Lieutenant Bob Fritch
Lieutenant James Chancellor
Lieutenant Bill Whyte

William Baehne

Brent Calligher

Bryan DeBaets

David Freeman

Nancy Fritch

Richard Gengler

Steve Gould

Elizabeth Kamrat

Kathleen Kempster

Michael Kempster

Bill King

Kevin Knutilla

Deborah Mayo

Dawn Potter

Frank Oswald

Jay Rasmussen

Guy Smale

Patrick Spoerry

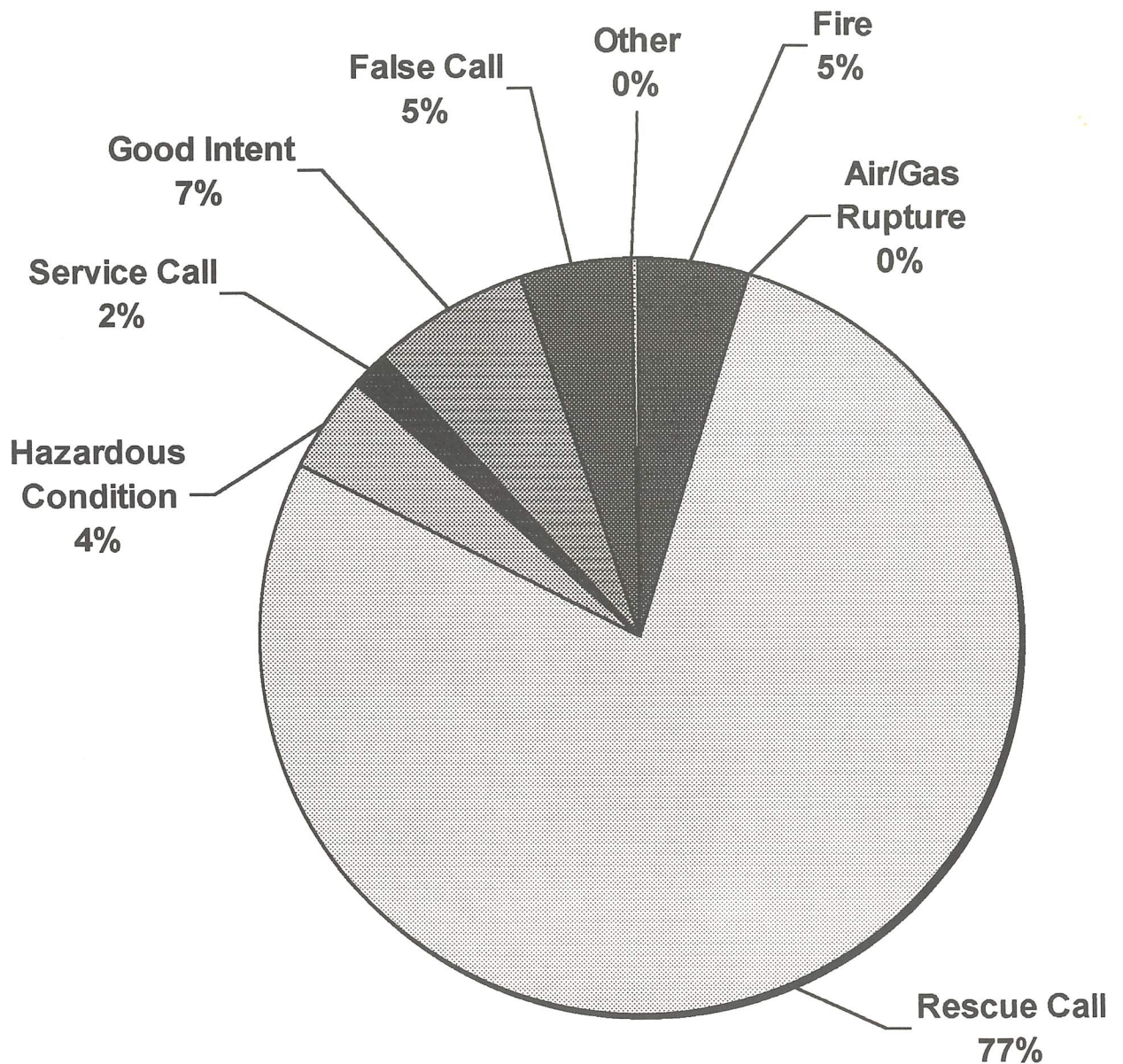
Michael Young

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

1998 EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES

1202	1996	Jeep Cherokee	Fire Chief
1208	1990	Pierce	Engine
1209	1979	Mack	Engine
1210	1995	Pierce	Engine
1211	1992	Pierce	Squad
1212	1984	Pierce	Aerial Ladder Tower
1221	1995	Pierce	Engine
1222	1992	Pierce	Engine
1223	1986	International	Tanker
1224	1996	Pierce	Squad
1234	1997	Pierce	Engine
1235	1979	Mack	Engine
1254	1994	Ford	Ambulance
1255	1995	Ford	Ambulance
1256	1998	Ford	Ambulance
1257	1993	Ford	Ambulance
1258	1996	Ford	Ambulance
1271	1991	Dodge	Grass Fire Truck
1272	1989	Dodge	Grass Fire Truck
1280	1984		Dive Boat
1281	1978	Ford	Dive / Water Rescue Truck
1284	1995	Chevrolet	Utility Pickup Truck
1285	1991	GMC	Fire Officer Vehicle
1286	1989	Chevrolet	Fire Officer Vehicle
1287	1974	Chevrolet	Utility Pickup Truck
1288	1993	Chevrolet	Fire Officer Vehicle
1289	1994	Jeep Cherokee	Staff Car

Call Breakdown 1998



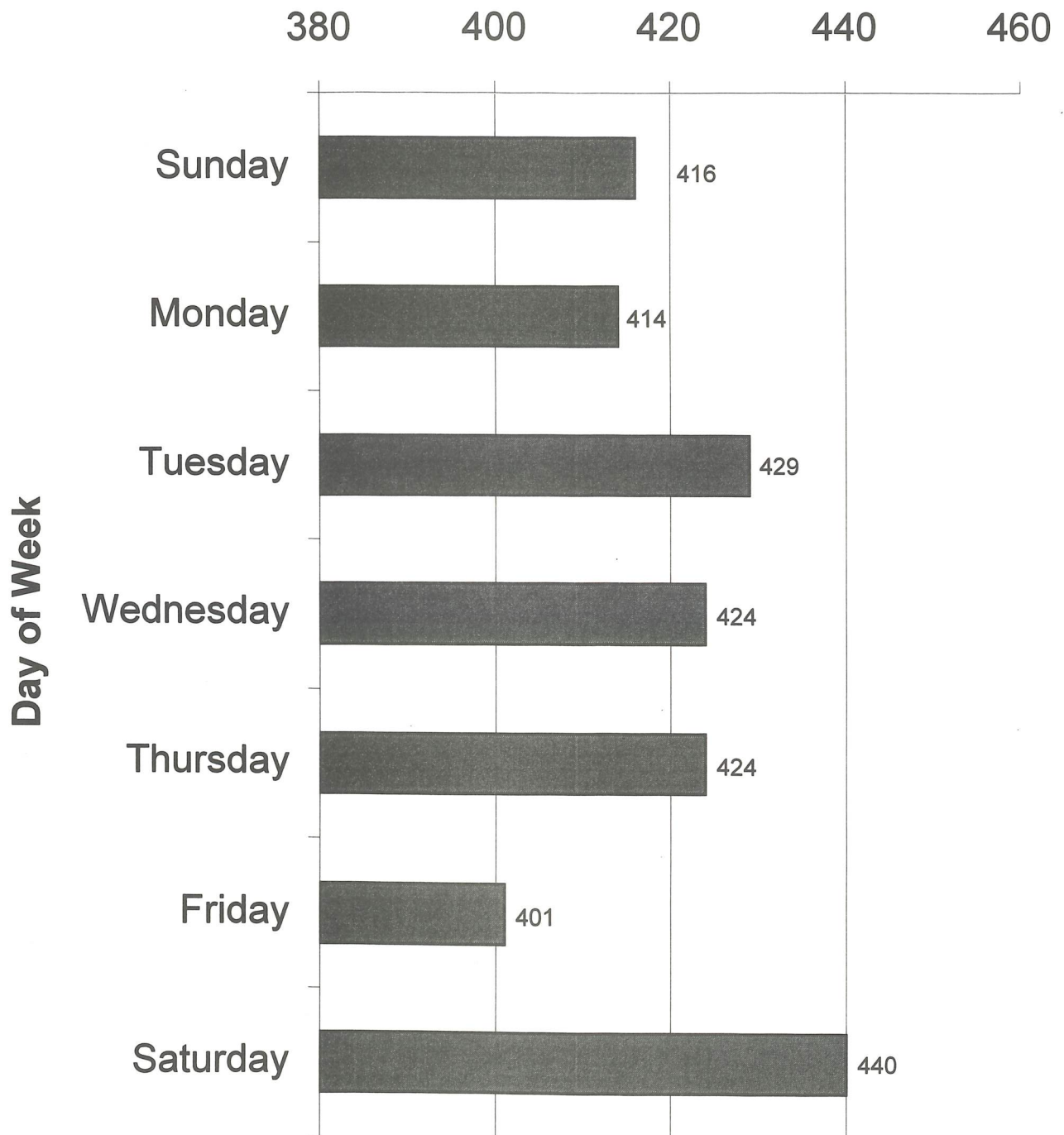
1998 GRID

2,948 CALLS

	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
G	0	0	4	4	10	6	24	84	G
H	0	1	15	18	5	11	98	25	H
I	0	1	13	0	59	62	83	17	I
J	0	4	51	41	39	36	24	32	J
K	6	11	77	238	355	78	14	4	K
L	3	9	70	240	338	47	32	68	L
M	8	4	37	58	86	36	8	38	M
N	2	7	6	39	30	40	11	4	N
O	0	0	0	1	1	0	38	17	O
P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P
	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	

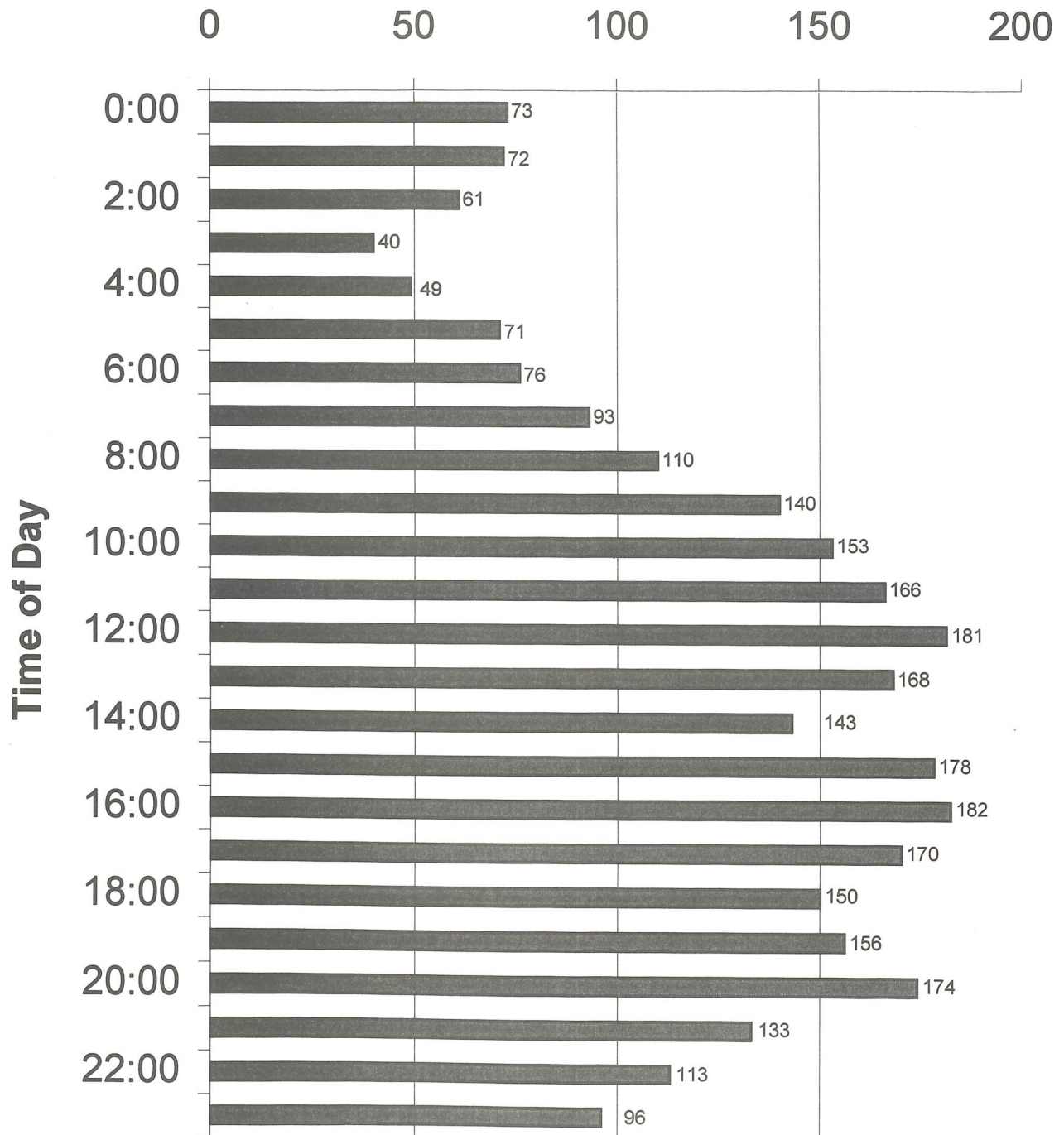
Calls by Day of Week

Number of Calls



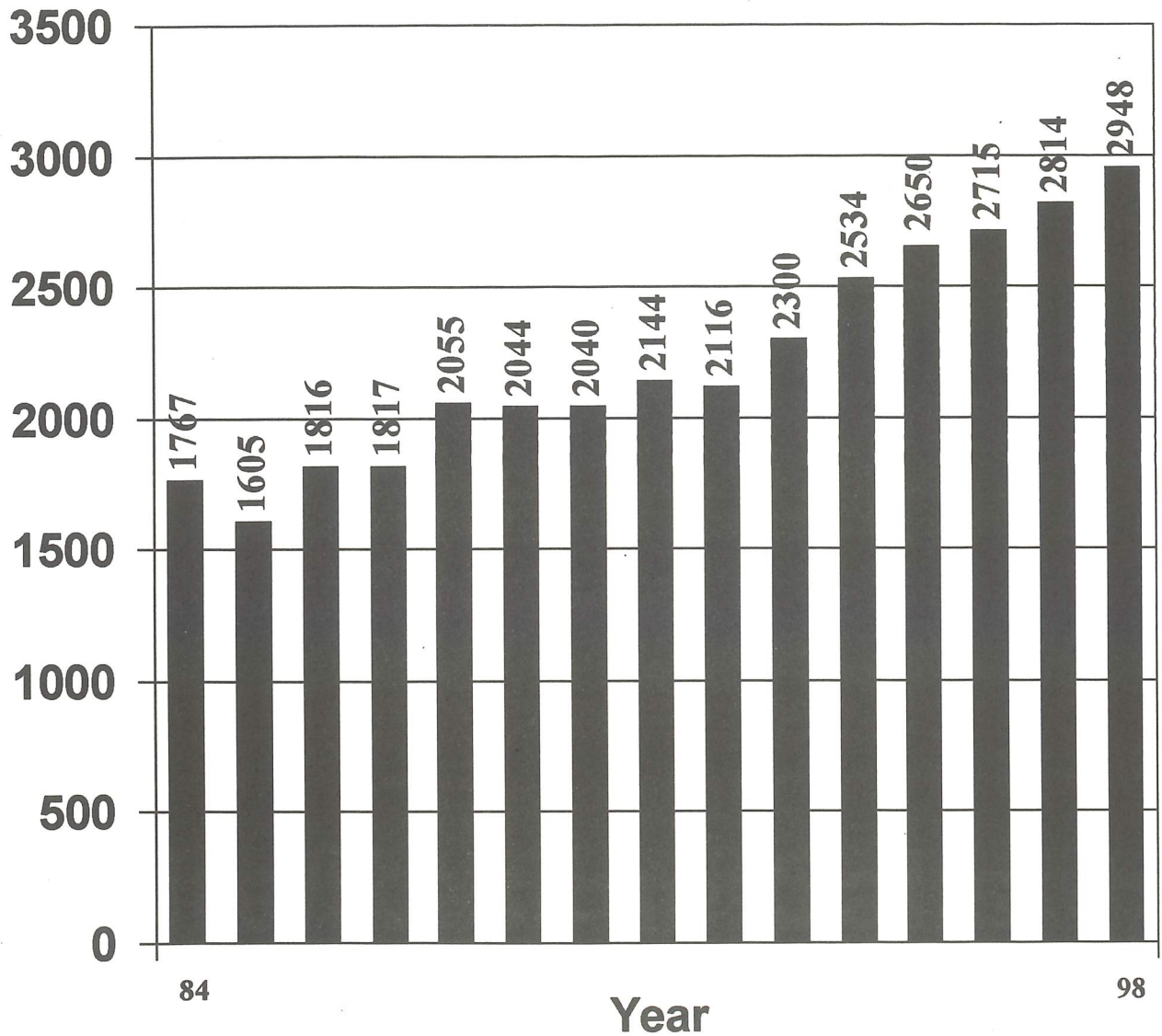
Alarm Time Analysis

Number of Calls

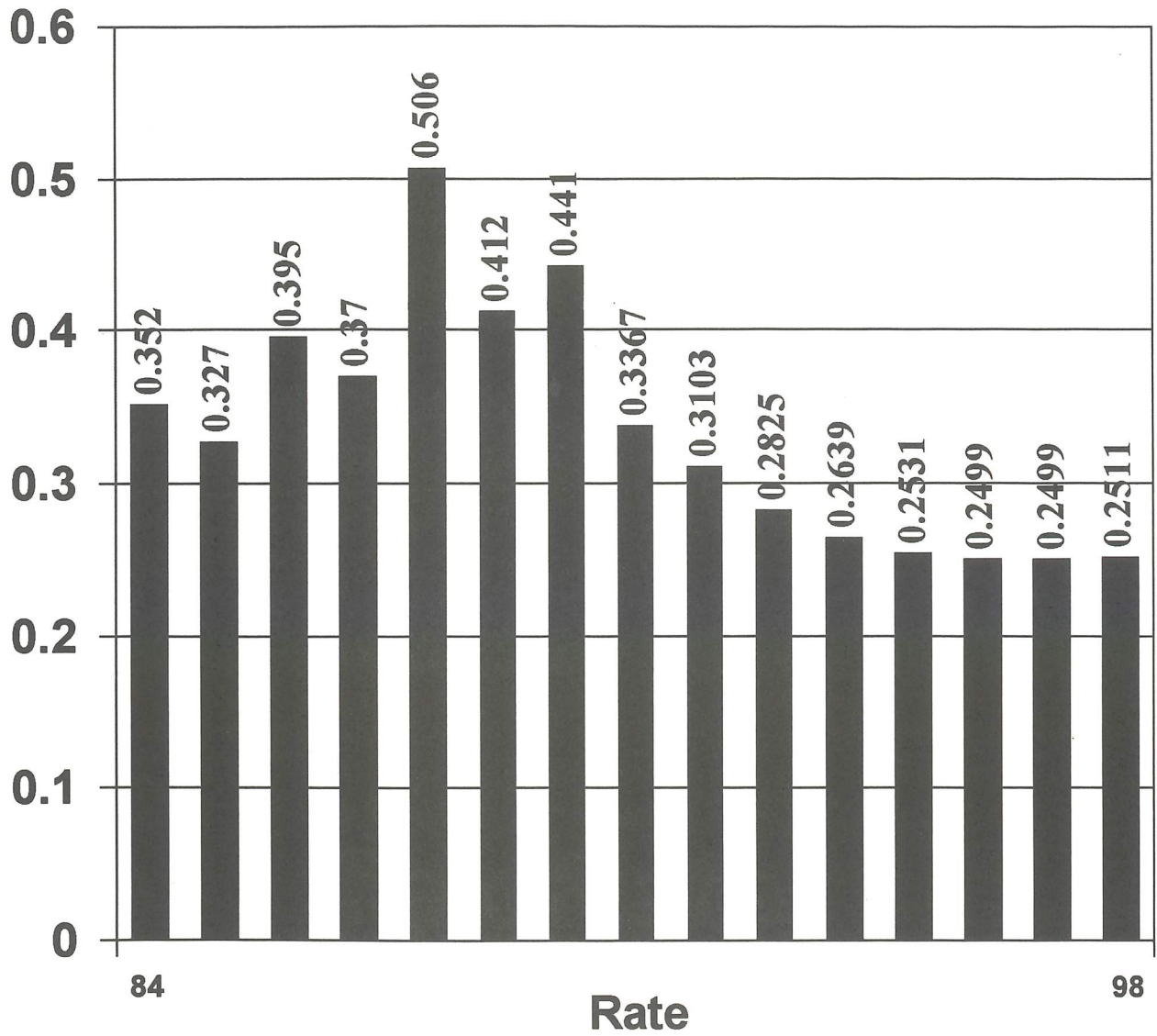


Fire/Rescue Calls

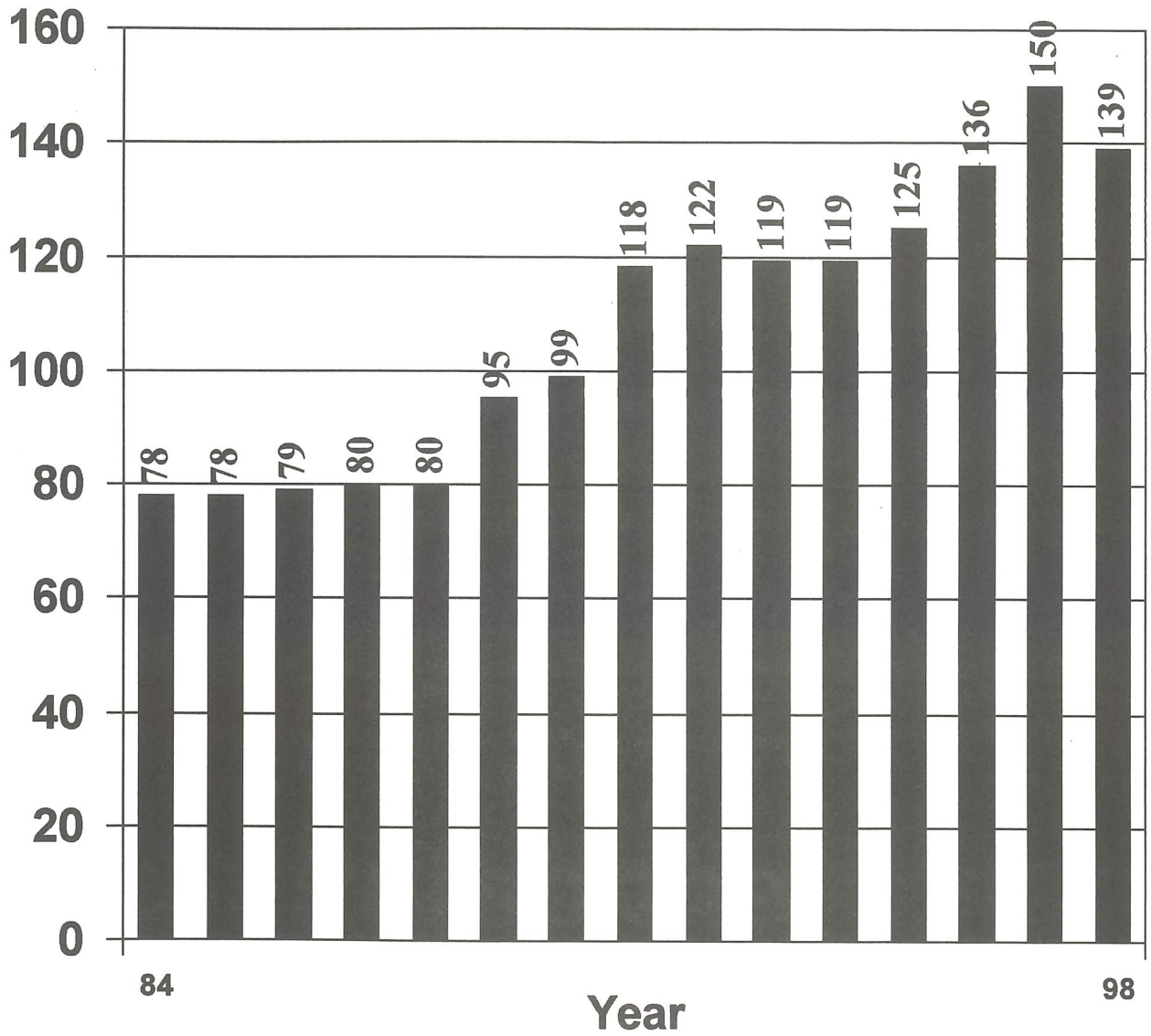
1984-1998



Tax Rate 1984-1998



Personnel 1984-1998



McHenry Township Fire Protection District

1998 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Started night crew at Station 1 in McHenry
- Villages of Lakemoor, Johnsburg and Ringwood enact impact fees
- Co-sponsored seminar presented by Gordon Graham
- Conducted officer testing
- Installed infant seats in ambulances
- Installed cellular phones in ambulances
- Installed water softener and water heater at Station 1
- Sold hovercraft
- Prepared for Insurance Service Organization (ISO) test
- Put on 10 new members
- Provided new photographs and ID cards for members
- Approved a spiller-pays ordinance for hazardous materials incidents
- Approved an automatic-aid agreement with Spring Grove Fire Department
- Approved a sexual harassment policy
- Instituted a uniform-replacement program
- Repainted Station 2 in Johnsburg
- Purchased three thermal-imaging cameras
- Purchased new Hurst cutter-spreader combination unit for Station 3 in Lakemoor
- Purchased 41 new facepieces for airpacks
- Purchased five new airpacks
- Purchased 1,700 feet of hose
- Participated in "Great Escape" fire safety program
- Purchased and update dive team equipment

McHenry Township Fire Protection District
1998 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

Deputy Chief Phil Gust
EMS Division, Operations, Personnel

As in all past years, the Emergency Medical Services activity of the McHenry Township Fire Protection District remains a high percentage of our overall emergency responses, approximately 77 percent. The credit for our continued success in maintaining our high quality of service to the public we serve goes to the dedicated men and women who make up the fire district.

The members spend a great deal of time maintaining their various certifications as Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians by attending related classes, such as Basic and Advanced Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support, Basic and Advanced Pediatric Life Support, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Roadway Extrication and other classes. This is in addition to attending the department's EMS continuing education to remain certified. Thanks go out to the many people who assisted in training, such as the required EMT-B transition course.

The EMS Division has complied with the requirements of the local EMS System and the Illinois Department of Public Health in maintaining all Paramedic and EMT licensing.

I will only briefly mention the task of maintaining the Paid On Premises program and its overall importance to the success of the fire district. The addition of a P.O.P. night crew at Station 1 this year has been well received by the membership. Many Paramedics and EMTs are participating in this program, helping to make it successful. Our future success in maintaining a Paid On Premises/Paid On Call department will be dictated by how well we manage the various changes necessitated by growth and the accompanying increased demand for services.

The size of our department in terms of personnel, 140 currently, requires a great deal of attention. Better maintenance of personnel, medical and other work-related files will be a goal in 1999. It is an enormous job, at times, to keep all the files up to date. It is my hope that this job will get easier with improved use of our computer system.

One final but monumental item is the anticipated startup of the 9-1-1 Computer-Aided Dispatch system. This undertaking will require a great deal of time from many of our personnel. It will require a lot of fact-gathering regarding occupancies in the district and input of that information into the computer system. It also will require the input of our apparatus response information and personnel information. Hopefully, the CAD system will be a helpful tool in improving our services.

McHenry Township Fire Protection District
1998 FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU REPORT

Assistant Chief Steve Laing
Fire Prevention, Code Enforcement, Investigations

The three divisions within the Fire Prevention Bureau maintained a steady pace in 1998.

The number of inspectable occupancies has been increasing steadily, showing that we are right at the number of 1,000 businesses to inspect. This number does not include multi-family common areas within the fire district.

The planning stages of all new building continues to be a priority. Being able to attain code compliance through the plan-review process with all code-enforcement jurisdictions in the district assures us that we can function effectively in as safe a manner as is possible at all structures during an emergency.

We strive to get the most fire protection and detection systems and features possible incorporated into new construction in the district. This can be achieved only at the planning stage.

Division overviews are as follows:

1. Fire Inspection Division

Fire inspectors Frank Graham, Mike Young and Tony Oliver represent the department in a professional manner.

The knee surgery for Tony kept him somewhat “grounded, however, his data entry on the computer has been extremely valuable.

The inspection cycle has been extended due to the increase in the number of occupancies, but the fire district, including multi-family building, is being, and will be, inspected.

The inspectors continue to assist in conducting alarm tests, sprinkler system tests and follow-up investigations whenever necessary.

2. Fire Investigation Team

The Fire Investigation Team now has 20 members. Individuals who have completed modules I, II and III of the state fire-arson investigation course are welcome to be added to the team.

In 1998, the F.I. Team completed 23 investigations, which is the number we usually can expect during a given year.

The F.I. Team members coordinate with the fire incident commander at all incidents, immediately upon completion of extinguishment, and most times prior to the overhaul activities. The team members are getting more experience, the more active they are, as evidenced by their scene examinations and reports.

It is a rare occurrence to see private fire investigators at structure fire scenes in our district. This is a tribute to the Fire Investigation Team's efforts and our relationships with various insurance companies.

3. Public Education

Linda Brady has resigned as Public Education Coordinator, but she will remain our contact as Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist.

Public education programs were conducted during the year with most emphasis placed on the annual Open House and fall school programs.

The fire problem in the district is the residential fire. The future in this regard will broaden to include a Residential Fire Prevention Program, targeting home and apartment dwellers. To live in a fire-safe and life-safe environment is my charge to all personnel who will be involved in developing new programs via a mission statement that is goal-oriented. Our department personnel who can make a difference will indeed do so.

In summary, 1998 was a positive year in terms of fire prevention in the business, industrial and commercial sectors of our community.

While we are under the national per capita average for structure fires, we still will strive to reduce the number of fires in our district.

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

1998 TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

Assistant Chief Anthony Huemann
Training Officer

The year 1998 started with a great training opportunity on North Route 31 in McHenry. Steffan's Jewelers and World Wide Travelers purchased land to build a new strip mall. On that property were houses and buildings donated to the fire district for live-burn training. Members participated in search-and-rescue drills, ventilation drills, live-fire drills and practiced with a thermal-imaging camera used by the Palatine Fire Department.

During the lunch break, we needed to use some of the newly acquired skills to extinguish an attic fire that started due to a rekindle. When the fire was noticed, there were no charged hand lines and only three members of the department on the scene. Chief Bennett showed up just in time to help extinguish the rekindled practice burn. Due to the fast actions of Lt. Kevin Long, Firefighter Al Thennes and Assistant Chief Steve Laing, there was minimal damage to the already burned-out structure.

The members of the McHenry Township Fire Protection District spent many hours training during 1998. With input from the district officers, the training schedule was developed in November 1997. The training schedule was developed so mandatory and suggested training could be accomplished on a monthly basis. Every lesson taught to district members is taught from a lesson plan developed by the training officer or the instructor teaching the class. The lesson plan assures consistency in the department.

Listed below are the monthly training topics.

1. Confined-space rescue techniques.
2. Driver training.
3. Water rescue and dive operations.
4. Hose load review.
5. Five-inch hose evolutions.
6. Auto extrication.
7. Cross-river Classic, draft operations.
8. Hose testing.
9. Fire apparatus engineer review.
10. Ice rescue review and practical.
11. Rapid Intervention Team rescue techniques.
12. Review of new structure fire standard operating procedures.
13. Structure fire critiques.
14. Hazardous materials refresher.

Officer training is completed on the second Tuesday of the month. The officers meet from 7 to 10 p.m. to train and review fireground operations. All officers are encouraged to attend in order to continue their development in the fire service. Some of the main topics discussed are listed below.

1. Incident Command System.
2. NIFRS reporting system.
3. Review of command vehicle procedures.
4. Tactics and Strategy.
5. Review of two-in, two out policy.
6. Review of mass casualty incidents.

An in-house Fire Apparatus Engineer class was taught in 1998 by members of the fire district who already have received their state certification as Fire Apparatus Engineers. Fred Hult, Brent Lane, Tim Wirfs, Mike Young, Ed Curry, Mike Majercik and Tim Manning did an excellent job teaching the state-required objectives. The students who attended the FAE class either have been certified by the state or are in the process of receiving state certification.

The Training Division developed and updated two operational Standard Operating Procedures during 1998. The structure fire SOP was updated to incorporate the two-in, two-out standard set by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The new SOP states that there must be at least two firefighters outside of the structure in a rescue position while interior firefighting is being accomplished. The two outside firefighters must be ready to rescue a firefighter, if needed.

The newly developed SOP is related to fireground communications. During emergency incidents, the Incident Commander must be capable of communicating with the sector officers to ensure the safety and accountability of all district members. At this time, the SOP is being finalized.

District members wishing to become officers participated in officer testing during 1998. Officer candidates completed a written exam, an oral interview and a simulated fire exercise. The simulated incident consisted of a burning building in the district. The simulated fire was shown on an overhead screen and the candidate using the Incident Command System had to communicate how they would extinguish the fire.

Using a training record software program, three years of monthly training attendance information was entered into the computer. The training records will be used to show the Insurance Service Organization (ISO) the type and quantity of training completed each month. Also, the training certificates for every firefighter were entered into the training records system.

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

1998 BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Vern Manke
Business Manager

The following is a summary of the activities and accomplishments for the past fiscal year relating to the Business Manager's function.

District Investments: Even though interest rates are significantly lower than the past fiscal year, we have managed to organize our investments so that they are invested for longer durations of time and in larger amounts. This maximizes the interest rates that are paid on the district's investments.

Financial and Operational Planning: This past year, the district trustees were provided a comprehensive overview of the financial status relative to the district's future development plans and needs.

District Repairs and Maintenance: Last summer, the parking lots were resurfaced at all three stations.

A water conditioner and circulating pump were installed at Station 1 to improve the water quality.

Station 2 was repainted and the woodwork revarnished in the fall.

Miscellaneous Events: We completed our accounting support to Cheri Rickert for the fund-raising campaign she spearheaded for the thermal-imaging cameras.

Additionally, we have developed a system for tracking the new clothing allocation program established districtwide.

A committee was established to develop personnel policies and procedures

An Ambulance Review Committee was formed to review ambulance charges and billing procedures. As a result of the findings of this committee, a recommendation was made and approved by the trustees to engage a company to do the ambulance billing for our district. This change should improve our collection rate and reduce our labor costs for this function.



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