

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

2002

Annual Report



On June 15 McHenry Firefighters' Association hosted "Party in the Park" at Petersen Park in McHenry. The main feature of the evening was the band "Bad Company".

The proceeds of the event went to the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance "Camp I Am Me". The \$25,000.00 proceeds check from this one day event was presented to the Fire Safety Alliance at Camp Duncan on Visitors Day June 19.

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

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McHenry Township Fire Protection District

Introduction



The McHenry Township Fire Protection District proudly presents its 2002 Annual Report:

M MEMBERS
T TRUSTEES
F FRIENDS FOREVER
P PEOPLE WE PROTECT
D 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.

Originally all vehicles were housed at McHenry City Hall on Green Street until 1955. A referendum was approved to build the Fire District's first building on Elm Street in McHenry. This building housed Company One until 1987 when it was razed. The current building was dedicated in June 1988. This building serves today as the Headquarters station and district office.

In 1954, Company Two was organized in Johnsburg with eleven members. In 1963 Company Two moved from its rented quarters to a new station located on Chapel Hill Road. That location housed the Company until 1990 when the building was sold and a new and expanded station was constructed on Wilmot Road. Late in 1999, construction began to complete sleeping quarters on the second floor of the station.

In 1951 The Lily Lake Volunteer Fire Department was organized as a Non-Profit Corporation. In 1955 talks began to merge with the Fire District. The consolidation took place in 1956 and then became known as Company Three. The Company operated out of the Village of Lakemoor Municipal building. In 1971, the district purchased land and a station was built on the corner of Lily Lake Road and Route 120. In 1994 additional property was purchased and the original building was razed and replaced with a new facility. In 2001 an additional adjacent home was purchased, which allowed room for sleeping quarters to be added to the station.

In the early days the Fire District did not handle any ambulance service. Originally these services were handled by the local funeral homes. Later Johnsburg Rescue Squad and McHenry Area Rescue Squad were formed to provide these and other services. These organizations were not tax supported. In 1983, the Fire District placed a referendum before the taxpayers asking to support an Ambulance Tax for the district. The referendum passed and in 1983 the McHenry Area Rescue Squad merged with the Fire District followed by Johnsburg Rescue Squad in 1990.

Over the years, with the change in technology several methods of alerting members of a call were used. Originally a blast of a steam whistles from a factory on Borden Street; a siren blowing for two minutes located at each station; to each member having a telephone in his home; to the first portable receiver the size of a

ladies purse that was tone activated and gave a voice message; to a pager which is worn on a belt which does the same function.

Other historical facts include the inception of the Paid On Premise (P.O.P) program on June 1, 1986 with 26 members participating at the onset. After several months of preparation, an additional P.O.P. program began February 1, 1997 at Station Two. On January 1, 1998, an additional 12-hour crew was instituted at night at Station One providing immediate ambulance response, twenty-four hours per day. This was the first time in the district's history that a Station was manned twenty-four hours. May 1, 2000 was the start of twenty-four hour coverage at Station Two. In addition, an assigned Duty Officer was required to stay at one of the stations as a shift commander. May 1, 2001 staffing began at Station Three with a twelve hour day shift. May 1, 2002 Station Three was staffed twenty-four hours per day. At that time new response procedures were put in place allowing duty crews to handle 95% of the District's calls.

In 1987, Steve Laing was appointed as a part-time Code Enforcement Officer for the District. This now gave the district a foundation to build a complete Fire Prevention Bureau under the authority of Steve Laing. 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 1939-1949; Harold "Red" Hobbs from 1949-1960; Ed Justen from 1960-1969; Glen Peterson, the longest serving Chief, from 1969-1986; Chris Bennett from 1986-1998; Wayne Amore was appointed Chief in 1998. Each of the six Chiefs started their career with McHenry Township Fire Protection District and was appointed to the position by the Fire District's Board of Trustees.

The McHenry Township Fire Protection District is a taxing authority and is funded from Real Estate taxes. The Fire District's Trustees are responsible for collection of and distribution of the tax dollars. The five members of the Board of Trustees are appointed by the McHenry County Board and serve for three-year terms.

The District protects approximately fifty-six square miles with a population of approximately fifty thousand people. Included in the coverage area is most of McHenry Township and portions of Nunda Township along with all or parts of the municipalities of Bull Valley, City of McHenry, Holiday Hills, Village of Johnsburg, Village of Lakemoor, McCullom Lake, Ringwood and portions of unincorporated McHenry County.

In the fall of 2002 the question of a \$0.15 tax increase in the District's ambulance fund was placed on the ballot. This was the first time since 1983 that the District went to the people it protects asking for an increase in the tax rate. The issue was approved 7,466 to 6,001.

2002 ANNUAL REPORT

CHIEF WAYNE AMORE

2002 was a very active year for McHenry Township Fire Protection District. Our district responded to 3,286 calls for aid. This represented a 2% increase from the volume of 3,211 for 2001. All of these calls were handled by our 150 part-time employees who staff our stations 24 hours per day.

At a special Budget workshop meeting in early February the Board of Trustees were presented with a financial forecast of the District. This forecast was aligned with the "Vision of the Future" five year operational plan the district had adopted. It became evident that the financial picture looked bleak for the upcoming years. As a result of this forecast, the Trustees began exploring the need for a tax referendum. After several months of research it was decided in August to place an Ambulance Tax referendum on the November ballot. The request for \$.15 was the first request for a tax increase in 19 years. A very active referendum campaign by all members of the district took place and on November 5th the referendum passed by 1,265 votes.

In mid April the District was notified by Insurance Service Officer (ISO) that our Protection Class was reduced from a Class 5 to a Class 4 effective July 1, 2002. This was the second consecutive year that ISO had reduced our Protection Class. The class reduction should result in a reduction in Homeowners and Commercial Fire Insurance premiums.

In March McHenry Township Fire Protection District along with 19,000 other fire departments around the country applied to FEMA for the *FIRES GRANT*. The Federal Government set aside \$360 million dollars to be awarded to local departments based on need. Our application request was \$280,800.00 to replace our ageing air-packs. Due to the size of our community, this grant was a 90/10 split. In late November we were notified by FEMA that our Grant Application was approved for \$252,720.00. Of all the departments in Illinois our district ranked 5th in the total amount of the approved grants. According to our replacement schedule, our air-packs were due to be replaced in fiscal year 2003-2004.

With the completion of the sleeping quarters at Station Three on May 1st the district began running all three stations 24 hours per day. Along with this staffing level, all stations were staffed with Firefighters/Paramedic/EMT who responded in a jump company environment. If the engine is needed, the crew takes the engine. If the ambulance is needed, the crew takes the ambulance. With this staffing level a complete new response procedure had to be developed. This required re-education of dispatchers, officers and firefighters as to who would respond to various types of calls with what equipment.

In September, for the first time, the District mailed a newsletter to every resident we protect. This newsletter was received with great success. The Trustees have committed to continue the newsletter to be mailed twice per year in spring and fall.

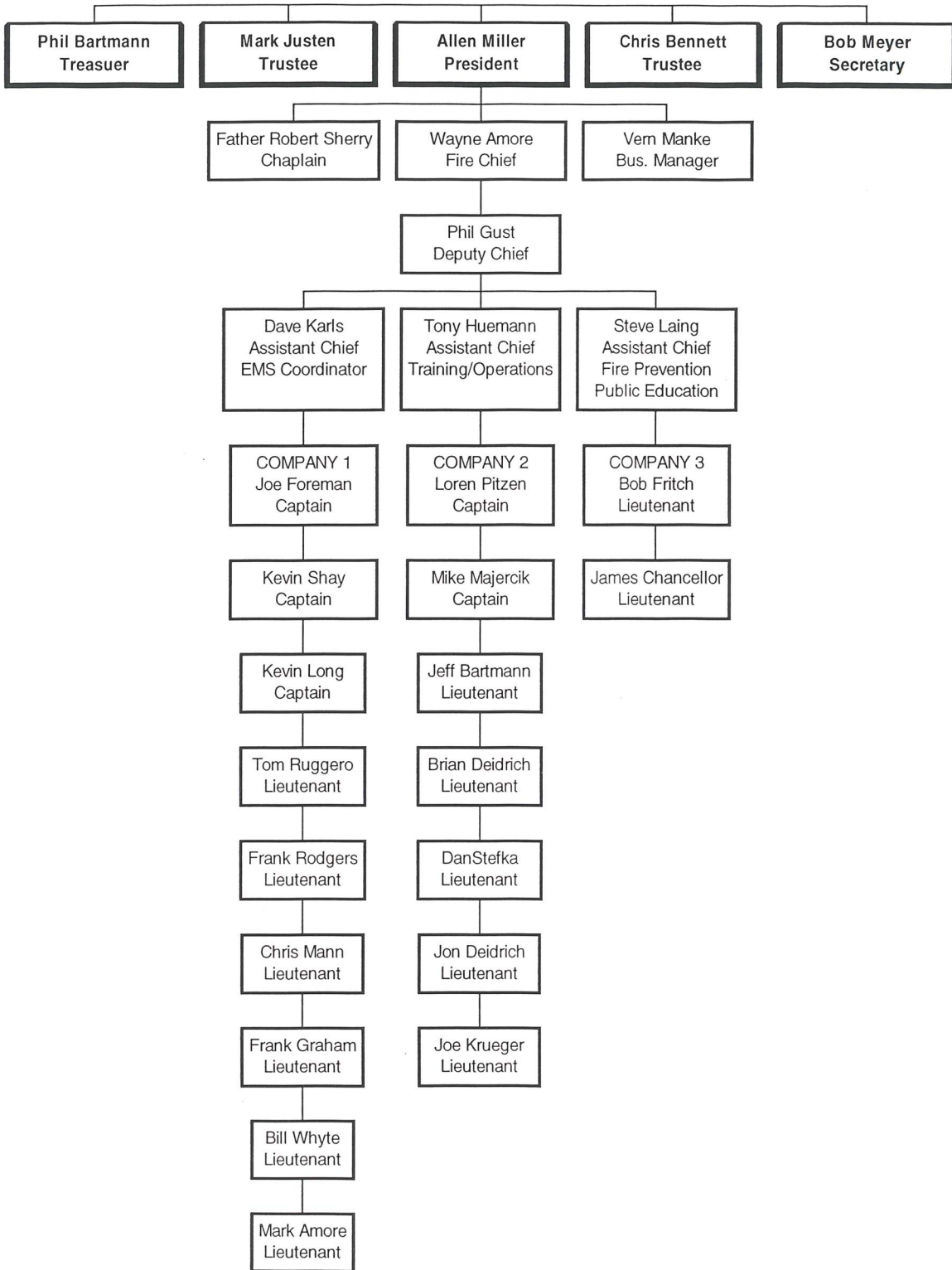
Our website, www.mtffpd.org was presented to the public in early spring. The site covers several topics that are consistently being updated. Minutes of the Trustees meetings, call activity, and the annual report are just some of the many informational topics that can be found on the website. The site also hosts our intra-net (for members only) allowing members to sign-up for crews, check e-mail and review the latest information the department has received on various topics.

Our district was fortunate in early September to have a special appearance by Firefighter Victor Fiorella of New York Fire Department. Firefighter Fiorella's engine was one of the first on the scene at the World Trade Center on 9-11. Firefighter Fiorella shared with our members several very touching events that he saw and was part of on that tragic day. His candid conversation about how things unfolded that day and the days immediately following gave us a first hand oral and visual look at the disaster suffered by the New York Fire Department.

In June, The McHenry Firefighters Association sponsored a fund raiser called "PARTY IN THE PARK". The event took place at Petersen Park in McHenry and drew several thousand people. The proceeds of the event were earmarked for "CAMP I AM ME" formally known as "BURN CAMP". The effort for this event was overwhelming. As a result of the event a check was presented by the Association to the camp in the amount of \$25,000.00.

Our district is rich with 150 dedicated part-time employees. It is from that dedication our district has been known as a hybrid as compared to most Fire Departments in the State of Illinois. Departments who have been faced with growth comparable to our area have been forced to turn to full time employees. This is because they do not have the memberships who are able or willing to work in a part-time environment. Staffing our department with part-time employees has saved our tax payers hundreds of thousands of dollars compared to departments that have had to resort to full time employees. The longer our district can maintain this membership structure every tax payer will enjoy the savings of part-time compared to full time employees.

Administration



McHenry Township Fire Protection District

Members of Company 1

Captain Joe Foreman
Captain Kevin Shay
Captain Kevin Long
Lieutenant Mark Amore
Lieutenant Frank Graham
Lieutenant Chris Mann
Lieutenant Frank Rodgers, Jr.
Lieutenant Tom Ruggero
Lieutenant William Whyte

James Amos	William Eckert	Kevin Kutz	Michael Reid
William Baehne	Thomas Farb	Kathleen Leonard	Michael Reiken
Patricia Bahr	Leora Foreman	Ed Malenius	David Robaczewski
Steven Bahr	Melissa Foreman	Aimee Mann	William Rzeszutko
Kristal Baldocchi	Kathleen Freund	William Mears	Guy Smale
Jennifer Bazan	Michael Gierut	John McCaulley	Chris Smith
Jerome Beres	Ryan Harding	Christopher Meuret	Dennis Smith
John Birk	David Harwood	Thomas Michelsen	Phillip Szyjka
Shane Boehmke	Steven Hill	William Milbratz	Allen Thennes
Kim Boncoskey	Jeff Huemann	Robert Nieman	Connie Thennes
David Borst	Frederick Hult	Joseph Nootens	Bryan Thome
James Bove III	David Johnston	Lydia Nootens	Randy Trost
Timothy Butler	James Keats	Joshua Novak	Thomas Uttich
Ed Curry	Ronald Krumsee	William Oeffling	Matthew Yegge
Mitch Czech	John Kuhl	Anthony Oliver	Michael Young
Carolyn Davis	Ty Kurth	Paul Polep	Robert Zujewski
Mark Diedrich			

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

Members of Company 2

**Captain Mike Majercik
Captain Loren Pitzen
Lieutenant Jeff Bartman
Lieutenant Brian Diedrich
Lieutenant Jon Diedrich
Lieutenant Joseph Krueger
Lieutenant Dan Stefka**

Thomas Bak	Kevin Knutilla	Rudy Rivera
Cynthia Bertulis	Walter Kochan	Al Robel
Reggie Blount	Daniel Kreassig	Ronald Schaefer
Timothy Boutin	Timothy Manning	Jerry Schillaci
Mark Buchanan	Louis Matthiesen	Gus Schmid
William Comstock	Carlos Medina III	Jon Scott Clair
Bryan DeBaets	William Nethaway	Damon St. Clair
Peter Diedrich	Darin Norberg	Diana St. Claire
Daniel DiPerna	Justin Norris	Guy Stedman, Jr.
Daniel Gallagher	Roger Oland	Robert Stermer, Jr.
William Hintz	Dan Olenick	Dennis Storlie
David Huemann	Jo Dee Olney	Joel Taylor
Joseph Huemann	David Peterson	David Thoren
Thomas Huemann	Wileen Peterson	Peter Weber
Bret Kehl	Glenn Richter	Jennifer Winkler
Pat King	Phillip Ried	Kelly Wuchter

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

Members of Company 3

Lieutenant James Chancellor

Lieutenant Robert Fritch

Nancy Fritch

Steve Gould

Steve Harkema

James Harris

Steven Kearns

Kathleen Kempster

Michael Kempster

William King

Richard Kozak

Frank Oswald

Dawn Potter

Christopher Rohde

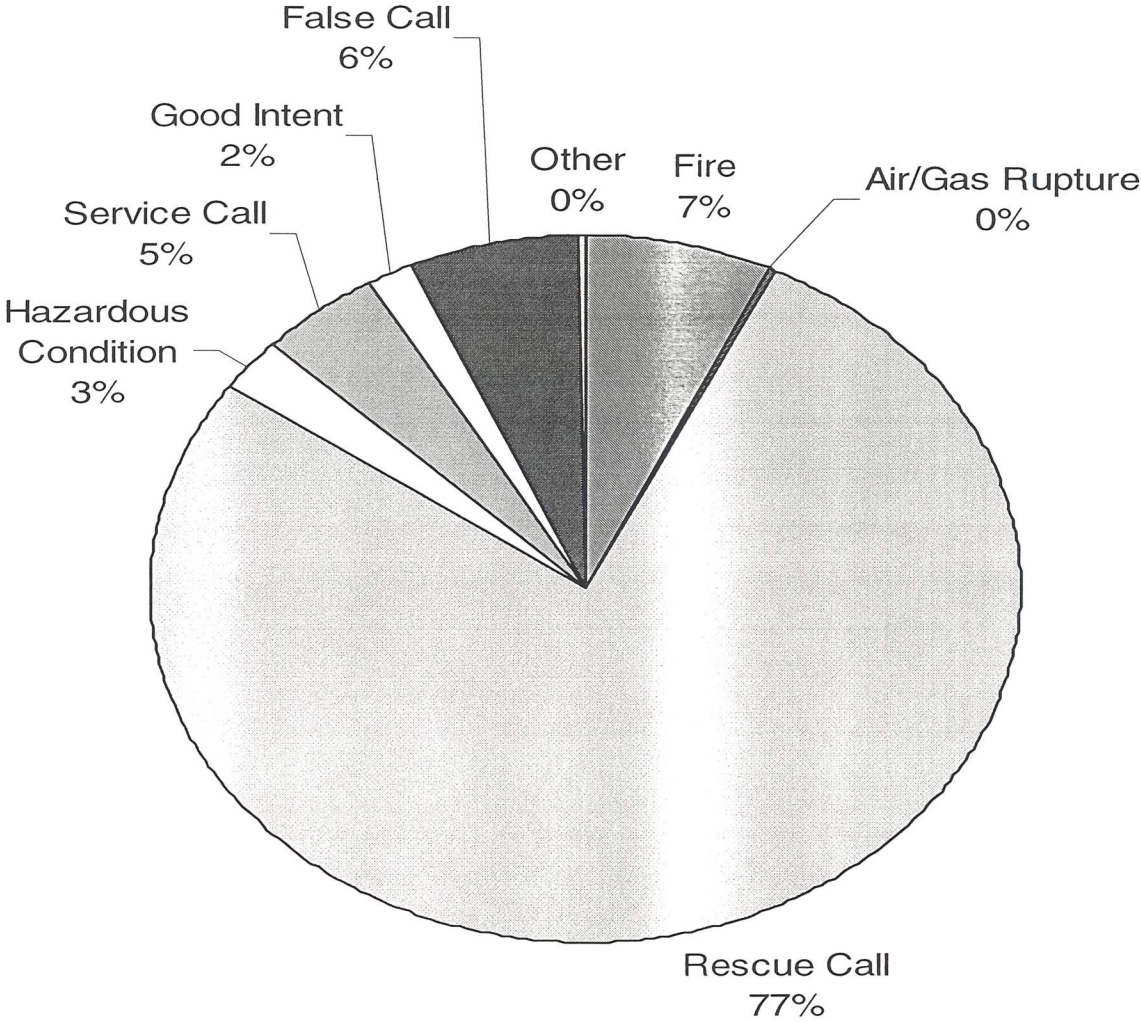
Fran Woloszynski

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

2002 EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES

<u>Equipment Number</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Type</u>
1200	1999	Chevrolet Tahoe	Shift Commander
1202	2002	Chevrolet Tahoe	Fire Chief
1208	1990	Pierce	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	1999	Ford	Ambulance
1255	2001	Ford	Ambulance
1256	1997	Ford	Ambulance
1257	1999	Ford	Ambulance
1258	1996	Ford	Ambulance
1271	1991	Dodge	Grass Fire Truck
1272	1989	Dodge	Grass Fire Truck
1280	1984	Hurricane	Dive Boat
1281	1976	Chevrolet	Dive/Water Rescue Truck
1284	1995	Chevrolet	Utility Pickup Truck
1286	2000	Chevrolet Tahoe	Fire Officer Vehicle
1287	1974	Chevrolet	Utility Pickup Truck
1288	1993	Chevrolet	Fire Officer Vehicle
1289	1999	Chevrolet Tahoe	Fire Prevention Bureau

2002 Call Breakdown



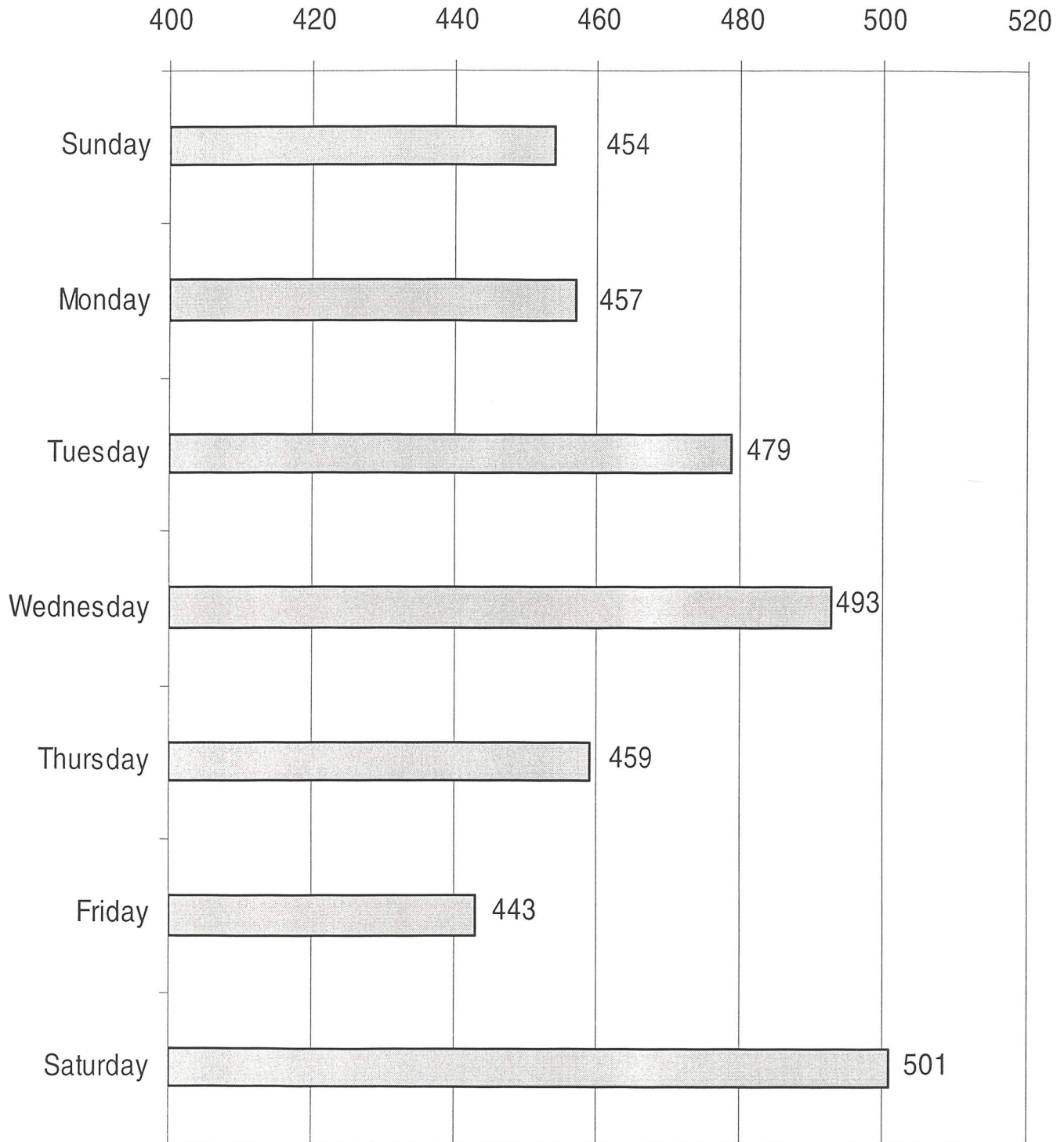
2002 GRID

3,286 CALLS

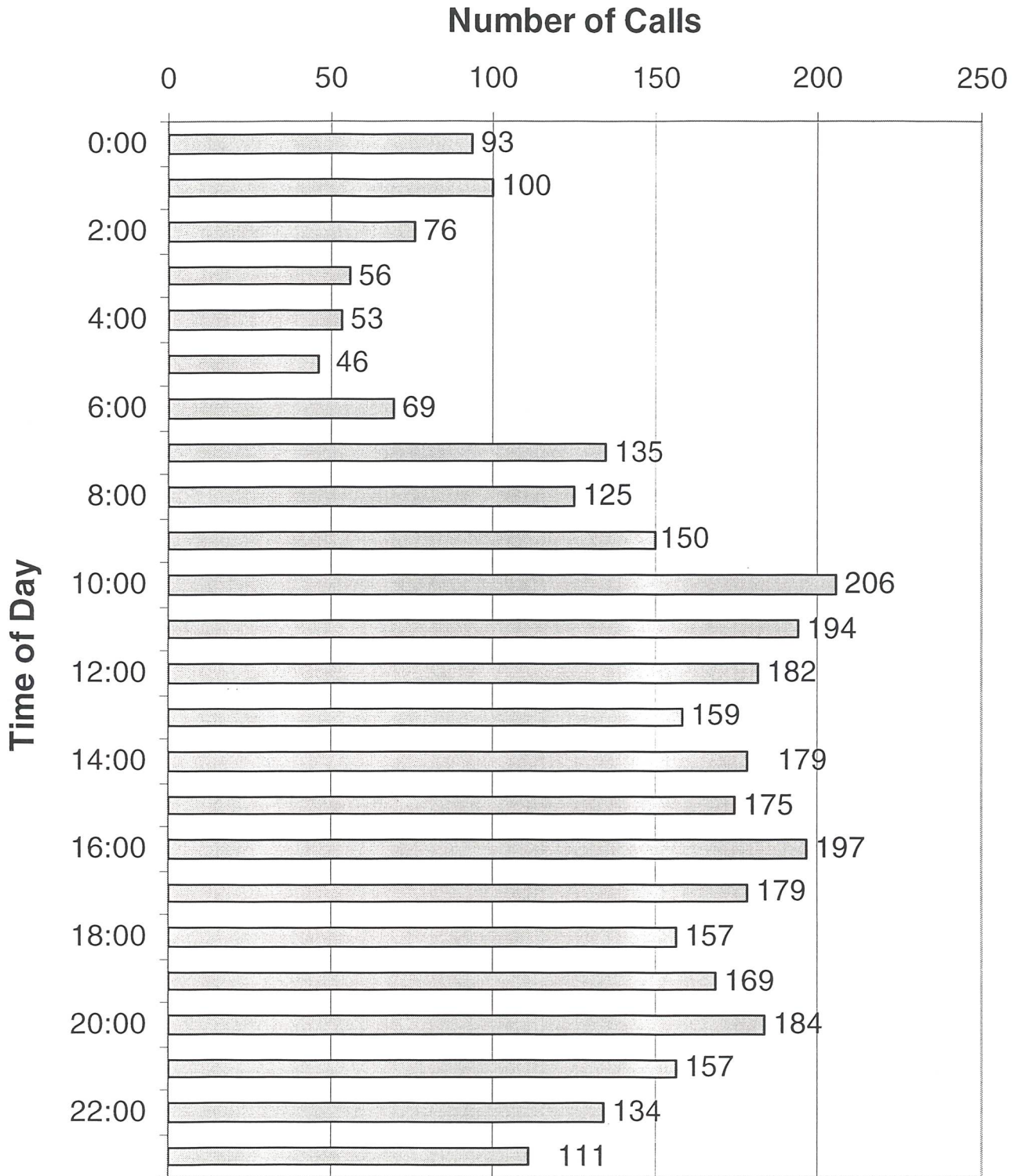
	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
G	0	0	4	4	18	17	32	101	G
H	0	0	11	15	2	3	103	25	H
I	0	0	4	0	30	40	78	11	I
J	0	4	58	46	91	59	15	34	J
K	6	7	88	230	474	68	17	9	K
L	11	8	98	245	306	43	36	114	L
M	8	3	42	94	97	39	1	58	M
N	5	12	4	42	40	30	3	4	N
O	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	20	O
P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P
	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	

2002 Calls by Day of Week

Number of Calls

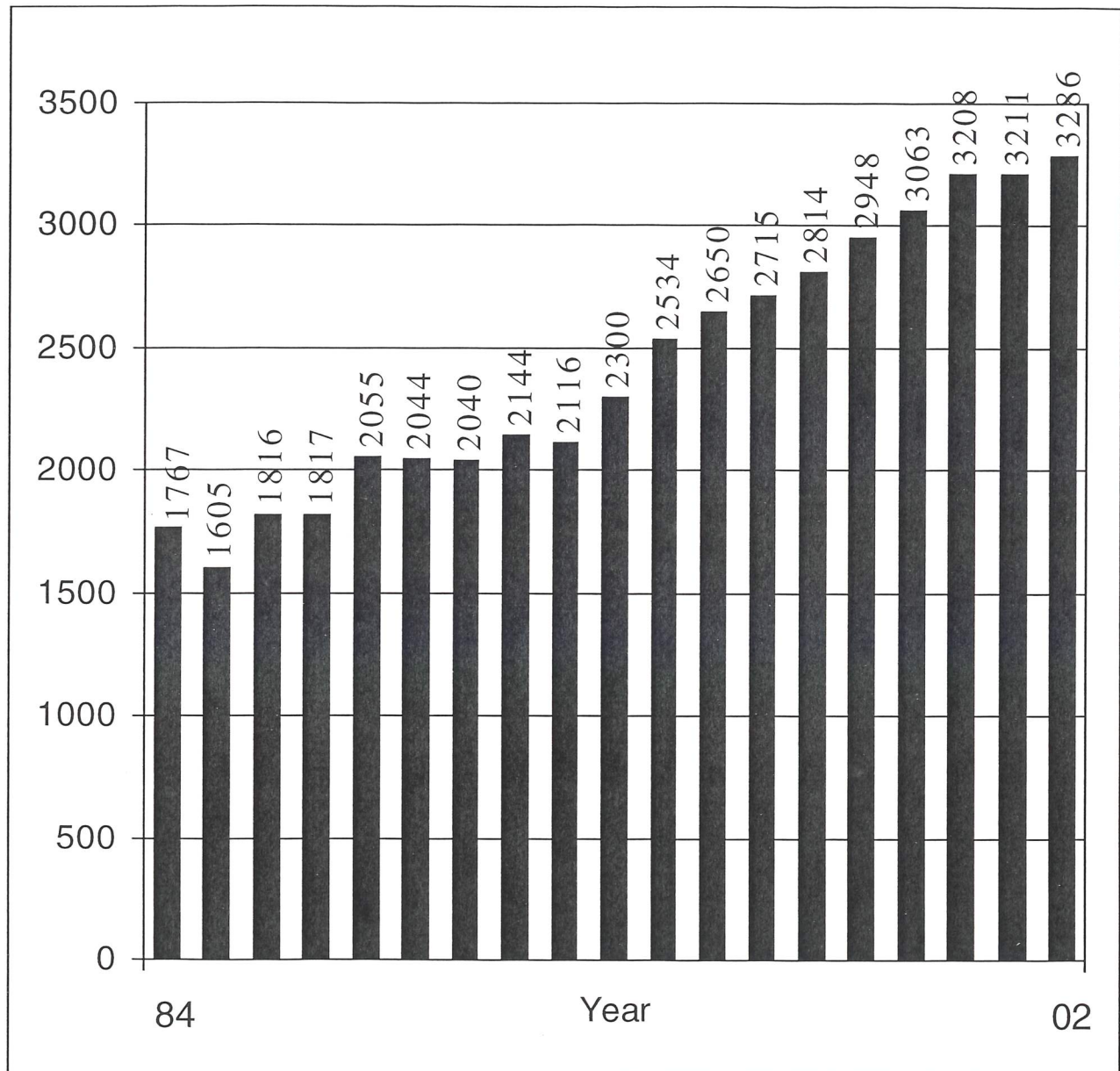


2002 Alarm Time Analysis

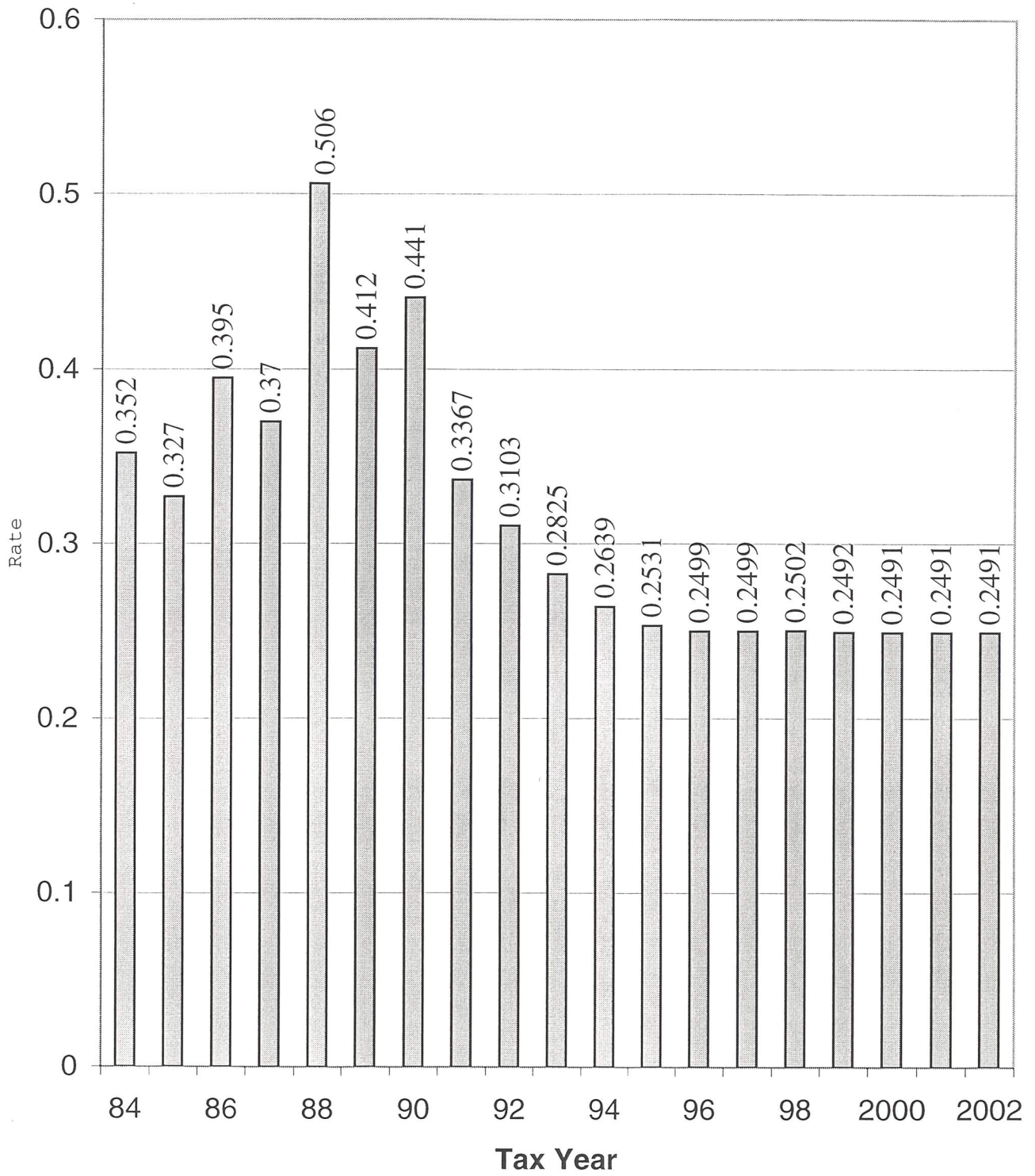


Fire/Rescue Calls

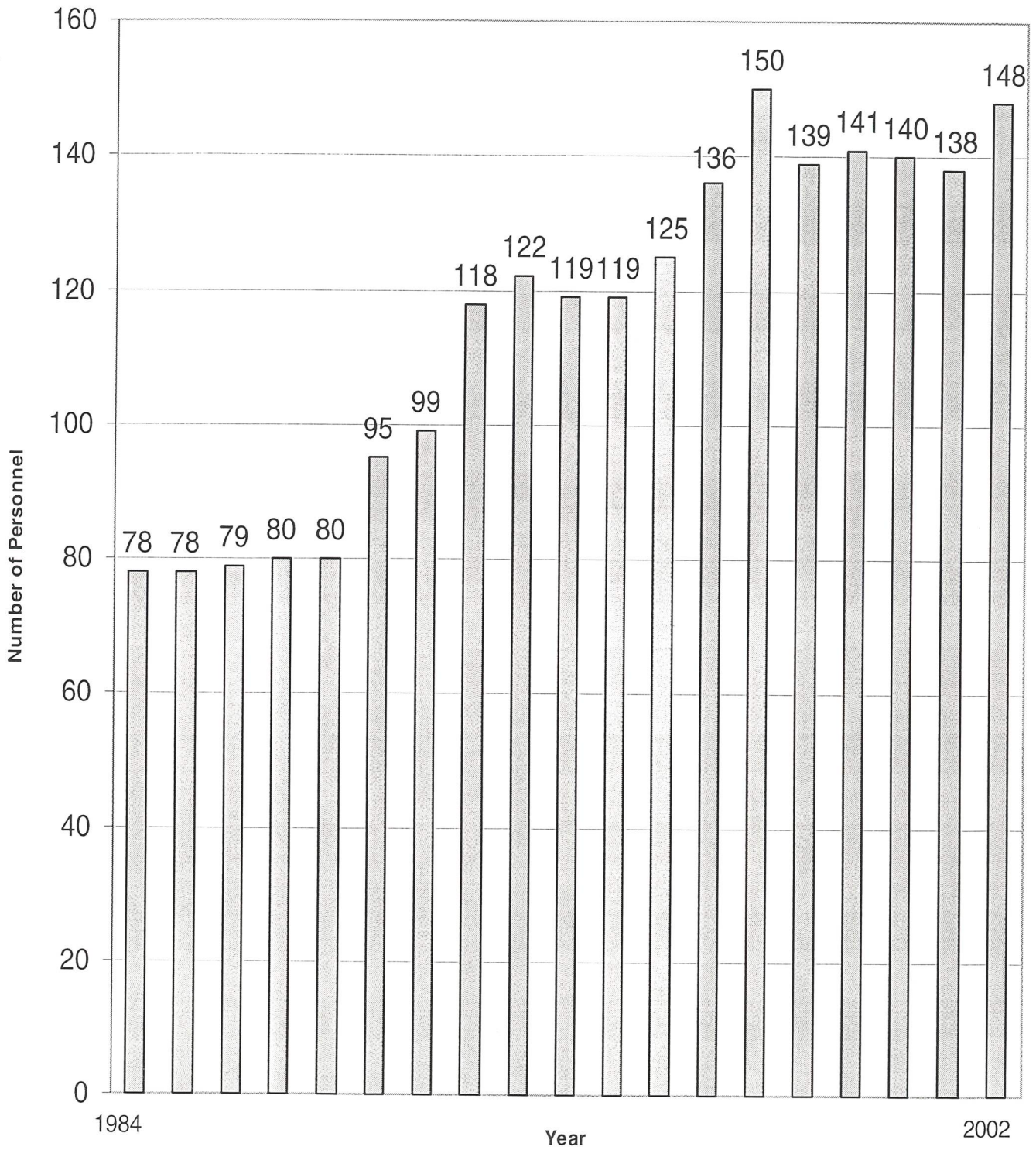
1984-2002



Tax Rate 1984-2002

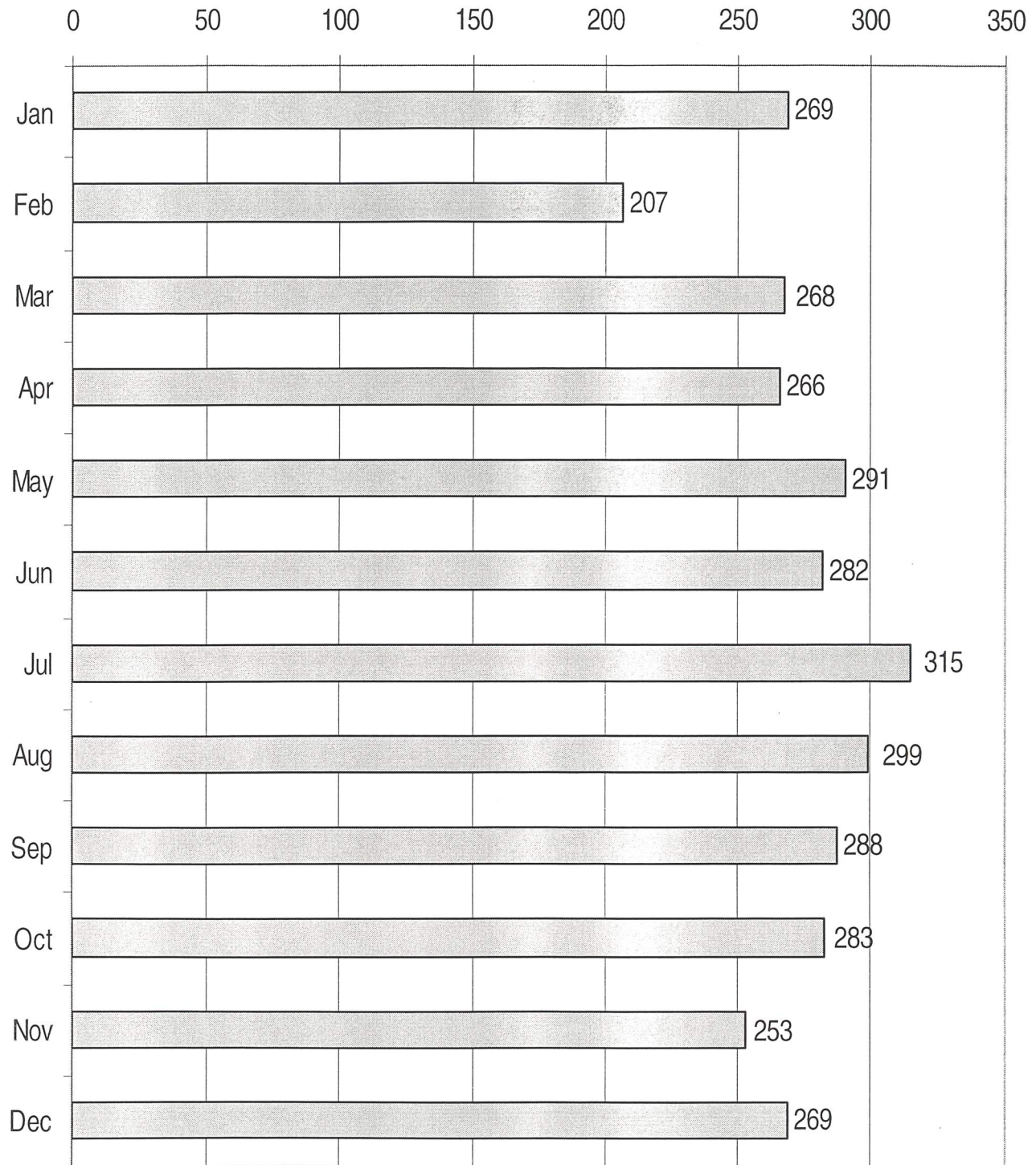


Personnel 1984-2002



2002 Calls by Month

Number of Calls



2002 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- SLEEPING QUARTERS ADDITION STATION THREE
- POP DUTY SIGN-UP ON COMPUTER
- MCHENRY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION FORMED
- NEW AMBULANCE 1255 DELIVERED
- ISO REDUCTION TO CLASS 4
- MTFPD WEBSITE UNVEILED
- PARTICIPATED IN "RELAY FOR LIFE" CANCER WALK
- RECRUITED, TESTED AND PUT ON 12 NEW MEMBERS
- REMODELED STATION TWO
- PROMOTED NEW CAPTAIN AND TWO LIEUTENANTS
- NEW PUB ED PUPPET SHOW
- HELD PARTY IN THE PARK
- PRESENTED \$25,000 TO CAMP I AM ME
- PASSED AMBULANCE TAX REFERENDUM
- AWARDED FEMA GRANT TO REPLACE AIR PACKS
- SWORE IN NINE PERMANENT MEMBERS
- HOSTED LARGEST OPEN HOUSE IN HISTORY
- PARTICIPATED IN HEART WALK
- PRESENTED BIG BROTHER PROGRAM TO ILL CHIEFS
- ON DUTY TRAINING PROGRAM STARTED
- UPDATED MEMBERS EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM
- CHANGED RESPONSE PLAN
- SOLD ENGINE 1209
- PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL BLOCK PARTIES
- FIRST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
- RESPONDED TO 3,286 CALLS

2002 ANNUAL REPORT

PERSONNEL AND STAFFING

DEPUTY CHIEF PHIL GUST

One of our biggest accomplishments in 2002, that we had been planning over the last 3 years, was the implementation of 24 hour staffing at all three stations. I was worried that our members wouldn't be able to cover the shifts adequately, but fortunately my concerns were unfounded. Our Fire District personnel rose to the occasion and adequately filled our staffing needs.

Considering the uniqueness of our part-time employee model, many of our neighboring full-time departments are envious of our staffing levels. The commitment of our personnel to meeting the needs of our Fire District is what makes our program so successful. As with every fire department, the personnel are the ones who can make or break the organization. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated members.

Our 2002 testing process for new members provided us with many qualified individuals. We currently have 12 of the 14 recruits from the 2002 class, and 1 more new member that returned from military duty last year. That brings our current active roster list to 150. This is a remarkable number considering all members are part-time. If they all remain committed to fulfilling their time requirements for the District, we won't have any problems meeting our staffing needs in 2003.

Scheduling of personnel for the shifts and stations has improved with the use of a computer program for the members to sign up on. The sign up process has become much more efficient, allowing personnel to sign up via the internet. It is my responsibility to assign the personnel to the stations for the shifts they volunteer for. All of the members are very helpful in covering for other members for emergencies, covering for partial shifts, or for other unforeseen circumstances.

I anticipate having a similar number of applicants this year as we have had in past years. Depending on the loss of any members this year, due to relocation, job changes, etc., we probably won't need to put on as many new members as usual. This will make our task of training and educating new members a little easier. Over the next few years our key component for success will be the personnel. Their motivation and personal commitment to the Fire District, and their ability to remain flexible with the changing needs of the District, will be critical.

2002 ANNUAL REPORT

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

ASSISTANT CHIEF STEVE LAING

The three divisions within the Fire Prevention Bureau are as follows, including activities and statistics for the year 2002.

Fire Inspection Division

Four part-time Inspectors are now staffing this Division, lead by lead Inspector Frank Graham. Each of the Inspectors have grid areas (quadrants) for which they are responsible. Along with the follow up investigations for sprinkler system testing, alarm system checks and Knox Box keys, 920 inspections and re-inspections were completed. Minimal inspections are conducted in December. Instead, seasonal, target occupants are observed regarding over stocking, blocked exits, etc.

The Inspectors also have other areas of responsibility.

Mitch Czech conducts the newly implemented "Learn Not To Burn" program in our schools and has been received very positively by school administrators and students. This program is already expanding in the year 2003 with Jo Dee Olney being the second instructor.

Mike Young is very active in the Haz Mat community, working with McHenry County Fire Departments to develop a plan similar to Lake County Departments.

Tim Butler works diligently in coordinating our MABAS cards and assignments. Tim attends all MABAS meetings in the County.

Lt. Frank Graham assists the Inspectors as well as managing the Knox Box program and creating the "Occupant of the Month".

Public Education Division

Year 2002 was the most productive year we have ever had.

Along with the continuing Safety House Programs, a new direction was established for managing all Public Education areas. Kim Boncoskey, Cindy Bertulis and Kathy Kempster have volunteered to be the "go to" people for their respective stations to coordinate all Public Education needs. The membership has responded very well to fill all of the requests that we receive. "Hats off" to all who participated in making 2002 a great year.

The "Learn Not To Burn" program is and shall be an on-going, positive program for the schools.

A new Puppet Production was implemented by Kelly Waters-Wuchter and assisted by Fran Woloszynski and Jim Bove. 1,900 pre-school, kindergarten and first grade students were able to enjoy this professional production about fire and life safety.

The Open Houses were a huge success. Many new programs and demonstrations were introduced. They were very well received by the public.

Total public education figures are as follows:

- Puppet Programs – 1,817 children
- Safety House – 476 students (does not include the Open House or in stations tours of the trailer)
- Station Tours – 203 people (this figure is light as several tours were not documented)
- Business Programs – (talks) 628
- School Programs, Day Care Centers, Church Groups received Public Education Contacts for 3,472 people.

We should all be proud of these efforts as we can and do make a difference.

Fire Investigation Division

Our sincere appreciation goes out to the few investigators that conduct the bulk of the fire investigation work load. Where all have assisted, Doc Hult continues to excel. His professionalism is appreciated. Additional involvement of our members is needed in this area to assist in this demanding area. Watch for a memo regarding a "Fire Investigation Awareness" mini seminar that I will be conducting in April. I have planned an informative discussion on fire investigation.

Total structure fire responses for the year 2002 were 39. 28 of these fires were formally investigated resulting in an estimated property loss of \$1,016,350. The total values of these properties were \$3,226,000. Where the property value is high, 65% was saved and 35% was lost.

We also had \$120,000 estimated losses in 14 vehicle fires.

The year was quite consistent with the past and we wish that zero dollar losses would exist. However, we know that will not occur.

In continuing with the policy/philosophy of the Fire Prevention Bureau;

"All people deserve the right to live and work in a fire and life safe environment. For the past, present and beyond."

2002 ANNUAL REPORT

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

ASSISTANT CHIEF DAVID N. KARLS

The members of the McHenry Township Fire Protection District responded to 3,286 emergency calls during the 2002 calendar year. Approximately 78% of these calls were E.M.S. related. Emergency medical calls usually account for 70-80% of the total calls in all fire departments. In operating the Fire District with part-time personnel, the members need to be congratulated for the dedication they give to the community.

In May of this year, all three McHenry Township Fire Protection District stations were staffed 24 hours per day. Each member of the District is required to work one 12-hour shift per month. With this requirement, we are able to meet the manpower needs required to operate all three stations and provide quality service to the community. We have three personnel at each station that jump between the ambulance and fire apparatus depending on the type of call. At any given time, we are able to handle three ambulance emergency calls at one time. Personnel are able to sign up via the Internet and work whenever they would like, depending on their normal work and family life schedules. This flexibility is an asset to the community because it allows us to operate similar to a full-time department and only compensates the members on a part-time basis. This saves the taxpayer money and gives good quality service to the Fire District.

One of the most important aspects of the Fire/Emergency Services is training. It is a requirement that all new members must be trained at the Emergency Medical Technician-Basic level. We had six members complete this training this year. These members attend class at McHenry County College and are taught by personnel from the E.M.S. office at N.I.M.C. We also conduct training at the department on a continual basis. Paramedics and E.M.T.-B's have to obtain 30 hours per year and are certified by I.D.P.H. every four years. With the ever-changing demands of medical service and technology, this training is very important to all personnel.

At the present time, we have 67 personnel on the roster that are State of Illinois certified Paramedics. We had five personnel complete the 950-hour paramedic class this year and we currently have two in class, which started in the fall. The members that completed the Paramedic class this year are M. Geirut, M. Kempster, K. Knutilla, J. Schillaci, and G. Schmid. This class is very demanding and these members should be congratulated for all the time and commitment they have made in completion of this class.

About 40 of our members currently work full-time for other area departments. With the flexibility of scheduling, the part-time compensation and the dedication of all members, the Fire District benefits by having good qualified personnel on the roster to keep operating at this capacity.

The department offers C.P.R. /A.E.D. training on a monthly basis to individuals from the public. T. Manning and other members who are certified through the American Heart Association to teach this class coordinate this program. The class assists in promoting community relations for the department.

I would like to acknowledge several individuals who have helped the department in the areas of Emergency Services this year. These members assist in activities that are required to keep the District operating on a daily basis. These members are D. Peterson, W. Peterson, K. Boncoskey, M. Amore, T. Manning, M. Reiken, and N. Fritch. Thank you for your support along with that of your fellow members for providing assistance with the projects, trainings and programs.

Each year we seem to get busier in the area of E.M.S. and it is my job to see that we maintain these levels of service to the community. With the support of all members, the Trustees, and the community we can maintain this level of service for some time to come.

2002 Annual Report

Training and Operations

Assistant Chief Tony Huemann

Due to the expanding growth and responsibilities of the McHenry Township Fire Protection District (MTFPD) it was evident that we needed to stream line the administrative duties of the chief officers. In an effort to increase accountability and improve efficiency and since training and operations are so closely related, the divisions were combined.

The joining of these two divisions gives one person the responsibility to coordinate all departmental fire suppression training, officer training, outside school training, communications, fire apparatus equipment inventory, special teams coordination and an emergency apparatus response plan. This report will identify the tasks completed and the many members that assisted in completing these tasks.

Departmental Fire Suppression Training

The MTFPD completes training on the second, fourth and fifth Mondays of each month. In 2002 the MTFPD completed the following departmental training:

- Fold-a-tank operations
- Passport drill
- Ladder review
- Fire stream applications
- Air consumption test
- Incident Command review
- Radio communications
- Fire incident critiques
- MABAS water supply drill

Most of the above training sessions were taught by company officers working with a department distributed lesson plan. These lesson plans provide the needed consistency throughout the department because each instructor is teaching the same material.

The MABAS water supply drill was not taught by the company officers. Capt. Kevin Long researched, developed and produced this drill. The objective was to flow two thousand gallons of water per minute for thirty minutes through numerous master stream devices and hand lines. The MTFPD incorporated the use of mutual aid companies from Richmond, Spring Grove, Woodstock, Fox Lake, Crystal Lake, Nunda and Wonder Lake.

Though we were not able to achieve our goal of flowing two thousand gallons of water per minute for thirty minutes, all that participated learned a great deal about water supply and fire streams in an extended fire operations.

All candidate firefighters are required to complete assigned monthly training with their big brother/sister. Each candidate is given a candidate booklet that outlines their training activities for the first year they are on the department. At the end of each month the candidates and their big brother/sister completes a monthly evaluation on the candidate's activities and participation.

Future development of departmental training will be necessary to maintain highly trained and skilled firefighters. Capt. Long is in the process of providing team-training activities throughout the month.

Lt. Bill Whyte is currently developing a monthly training schedule to be used by on-duty POP personnel. The drill schedule will provide lesson plans on specific training topics that will be completed during the month. The station and apparatus maintenance schedule has been adjusted appropriately to allow on-duty personnel to complete one hour of training per shift.

Outside Schools

81 students attended 32 different classes totaling 4,442 hours. Of those 81 students, 9 attended Firefighter II class at McHenry County College, 8 students attended the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis, 8 students attended the "You light em - we fight em" practical class at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

Other classes attended were Fire Officer classes, Firefighter III class, High Rise School, Fire Prevention Officer classes, Juvenile Intervention class, Back To Basics School, Trench Rescue, Confined Space Rescue and High Angle Rescue classes, Smoke Divers and Propane Emergencies class. The MTFPD believes that attending training classes can make our department stronger. We thank the Board of Trustee's for their continued support in our endeavor to be a well-trained fire department.

Communications

At the end of 2002 Capt. Kevin Shay, Lt. Mark Amore, Firefighter Jim Harris and I discussed our current and future communication needs. The biggest current issue was the addition of multiple fire ground frequencies to emergency operations. This issue requires the MTFPD to reprogram all of our portable radios.

Each portable will be reprogrammed to include a Red, White, Blue and Green fire ground frequency. Currently, Lt. Amore and Firefighter Harris are reprogramming the portable radios using software purchased from Motorola.

Apparatus Inventories

Firefighter Bill Oeffling has completed an up-to-date equipment inventory for each of the front-line engines. The inventory of each engine is basically the same with only a few

exceptions. The goal was to try to make each front line inventory consistent with each other.

Special Teams

The Special Rescue Team (SRT) is responsible for high angle, confined space and trench rescue incidents. The SRT leader is Lt. Frank Rodgers with Firefighter Bill Eckert assisting him. The team participated in MABAS drills throughout McHenry County and also participated in community events in Lakemoor and McHenry. The SRT also performed a demonstration at the MTFPD Open House.

This year the team has purchased personal gear for each of it's members, inventoried all equipment and established Squad 1211 as their primary response vehicle. The SRT is training and preparing now so that challenges can be met successfully without injury or death to team personnel.

Water and ice incidents can also be categorized as special rescue situations. The MTFPD is fortunate to have many dedicated dive teams members that are trained in both open water and ice rescue. Firefighter Dan Olenick is the Dive Master for both the MTFPD and McHenry County. Firefighter Olenick is the driving force behind a dive team that spends countless hours training for water and ice rescue/recovery incidents. The dive team does train all year round in the many different weather environments that may be encountered during a water/ice incident.

This year the dive team inventoried all the ice rescue equipment and purchased equipment and clothing to improve rescue efficiency and the safety of divers and support personnel.

Apparatus Response

Due to the added shift at Station #3, 2002 brought more changes in the department apparatus response. After reviewing the current apparatus response it was apparent that some changes were needed.

Lt. Joe Krueger developed an original plan. The officers reviewed the plan and made some changes. The plan was established for the entire MTFPD response area.

Miscellaneous Training Issues

In addition to all the training activity within the MTFPD during 2002, in August Lt. Frank Rodgers, Firefighter Paul Polep and I taught a one-day advanced SCBA class at the Monroe Fire School.

In the fall the Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors asked me to speak at the Chiefs and Instructors seminar on our candidate big brother/sister program. It was a great

opportunity to explain how the MTFPD incorporates candidate firefighters into our department operations.

Although 2002 was an extremely busy year for training and associated activities, 2003 promises to be even busier. The MTFPD was awarded a FEMA grant to replace all of our SCBA's. A committee was formed consisting of Firefighter Mark Diedrich, Firefighter John Scott, Firefighter Mike Reiken and me. Currently, the committee is researching the various types of breathing apparatus available to the fire service. This project is an exciting opportunity for our department. I am sure the committee will recommend the best possible SCBA for our department.

The other exciting news for 2003 will be the incorporation of a MABAS Division V Rapid Intervention Team (RIT). All of the departments within Division V will be trained on performance in RIT operations and each department will assign a RIT to their MABAS Box Cards.

2002 ANNUAL REPORT

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

VERN MANKE, BUSINESS MANAGER

The year 2002 was a very significant year for the McHenry Township Fire Protection District in terms of accomplishments.

The following is a summary of the accomplishments and activities which were achieved.

Financial and Operational Planning

February 23, 2002 we held a work shop to discuss future planning and budgeting items for year 2002/2003. We also reviewed an updated five year plan for the district.

The updated five year plan again indicated the need for a tax rate referendum. As a result of this forecast and significant discussion, it was decided to explore all of the financial options available to the district before officially deciding to request a referendum. After several financial review meetings, the decision was made that the most responsible and viable option was to request an ambulance tax rate referendum for the November election.

The referendum question passed successfully and the district voters approved the fifteen cent ambulance tax rate by 7,466 "yes" votes versus 6,001 "no" votes. This accomplishment represents a very significant factor in the future financial structure of the district.

Vehicles and Equipment

In 2002 we replaced an ambulance according to our replacement schedule.

Property and Buildings

Station #3 sleeping facility was completed and put into use. Also, renovation of Station #2 lower level bathrooms and day room was completed per our plans.

Summary

Through sound financial planning and management of the district's resources, the McHenry Township Fire Protection District is positioned to meet the needs of our community well into future.

