

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

2003

ANNUAL REPORT



2003 McHENRY TOWNSHIP FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT "FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR" FF/PAR JIM AMOS FOR HIS LIFE SAVING RESCUE EFFORTS AT A STRUCTURE FIRE MAY 15, 2003. DETAILS OF THE EVENT ARE IN THE CHIEF'S REPORT.

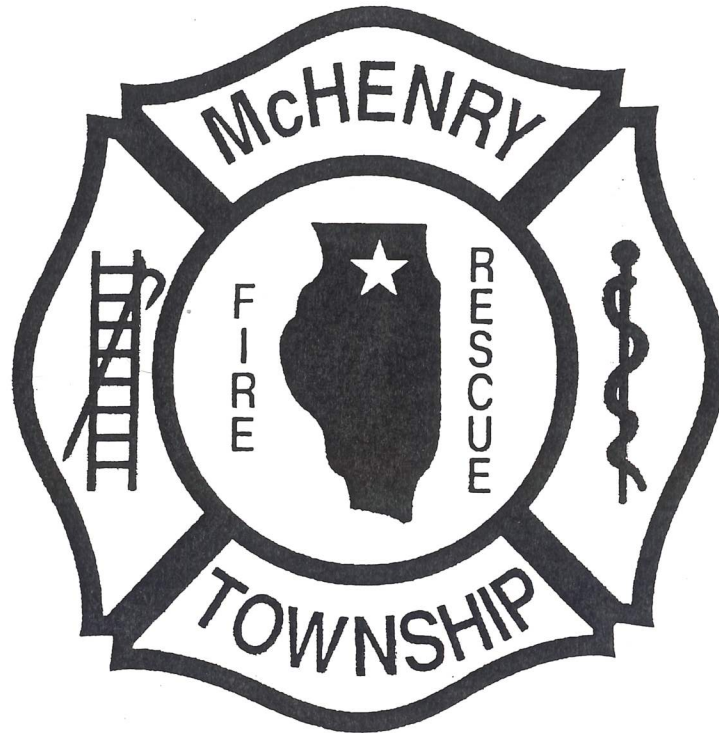
McHenry Township Fire Protection District

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McHenry Township Fire Protection District

Introduction



The McHenry Township Fire Protection District proudly presents its 2003 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 whistle 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.

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

CHIEF WAYNE AMORE

The McHenry Township Fire Protection District hit a new milestone in its sixty-four year history in 2003. Our call volume jumped by 14% from our 2002 volume of three thousand two hundred eighty-six (3,286) to three thousand seven hundred fifty (3,750) calls for aid during 2003. This call volume is an all time high for calls in a single year. I am proud to report that all of these calls were handled by one hundred fifty (150) part-time employees who staff our three stations twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Our department is known as a model department in the Illinois Fire Service for having the ability to maintain our staffing in a part-time environment. Several suburban departments were forced to go to a full time force due to the increased call volume not allowing part-time employees to keep up with the call demand.

In November the District received a Warranty Deed for 1.5 acres from Kimball Hill Homes for a Fire Station Site in the Shamrock Farms subdivision. This is the first time in the history of the district that a developer made a land donation to the Fire District for a Station. The property is located on Dartmoor Drive west of Curran Road.

During the year, the District received a bequest from the Robert G. Peterson Estate in the amount of \$24,000.00. Mr. Peterson, a life long McHenry resident, was always a supporter of the Fire Department. He operated a small engine repair business on his farm on McCullom Lake Road for years and worked on Fire Department equipment. These funds will be used to assist in the purchase of a new Dive Truck for the Underwater Recovery Team. This purchase will fulfill Mr. Peterson's request that the money be used for a piece of equipment that will last a long time. The vehicle is scheduled to be purchased in 2004.

In an effort to keep equipment up to date and to current standards, the district took delivery of a new 2003 Ford Ambulance, a new high pressure tank and pump for our grass fire truck and a new Dodge Caravan for the Fire Prevention Bureau during 2003. With the assistance of a Federal Grant, the District was able to purchase sixty-nine (69) new air packs, which replaced our fourteen (14) year old air packs. The Grant was for 90% of the purchase price of \$280,800.00 and 10% paid by the District. A second Federal Grant was received by the District in the fall of 2003 in the amount of \$231,795.00 to replace our ageing turn out gear, boots and helmets. These funds will be spent in 2004 after an appointed committee researches the bunker gear, boots and helmets that will best fit the needs of the District.

Our semi-annual newsletter continued to be mailed to residents of the District. The newsletter provides a means for the District to relate to the people we protect and communicate the latest news about the District. Special feature stories were written about various activities the District participated in during the year. In addition to the newsletter, the District supports and maintains a website at www.MTFPD.ORG. The

website is updated with all of the current happenings of the District. I invite you to check us out on the web.

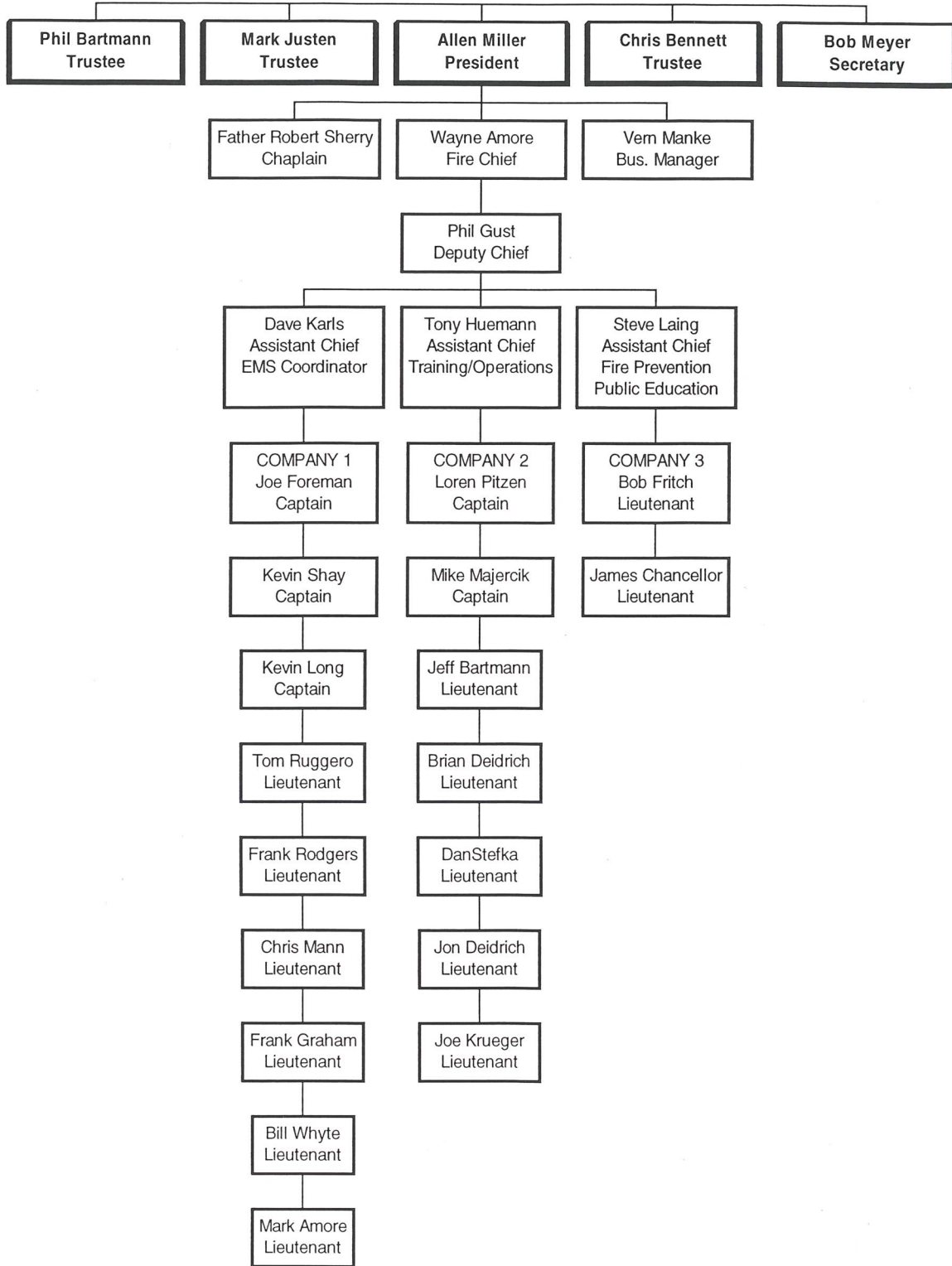
In addition to the required EMS/Firefighting training and continuing education, we have three other Specialized Rescue Teams who devote several hours per month in mandatory training to stay active on the various Teams. The three teams are Underwater Recovery Team, Haz-Mat Team and SRT Team (High angle, Trench & Below grade rescues). These specialized teams are very dedicated members of the department.

During the year, the District, in conjunction with the Village of Johnsburg, participated in a survey mailed to village residents. I am proud to report that the results of questions, as they related to Fire/Paramedic Services, were in the above average rating. In addition to this survey, the department mails survey questions to people who called for service. I am also happy to report that the results of these surveys show an overall Excellent Satisfaction Rating.

During the year, the department responded to a variety of calls. The District personnel responded to several motor vehicle accidents with extreme difficult extrications, large field/grass/corn field fires, numerous house calls for an ambulance, false fire alarms and thirty nine structure fires. One structure fire in particular in May is noteworthy.

In the early morning hours a single family structure fire was reported. Police responded and reported smoke showing and people trapped in the building. Neighbors and family members rescued a two year-old boy from an upper floor with a ladder via breaking out a window. Prior to the arrival of the fire department, police attempted to find a ten-year old girl on the lower level of the home, who had not gotten out. Two unsuccessful rescue attempts by police were stopped by the excessive smoke and heat. FF/PAR Jim Amos was on the first responding engine company and immediately entered the lower level bedroom window and conducted a search for the girl. She was found unconscious lying on the floor near the bathroom door. FF/PAR Amos retrieved the girl and exited the building with her via the same window he had entered and passed her to the waiting police officers. FF/PAR Amos exited the building and immediately started CPR. Upon arrival of the first ambulance FF/PAR Amos carried the girl to the ambulance and started an IV. FF/PAR Amos stayed with the girl until they arrived at the hospital where a waiting Flight for Life helicopter transferred her to Lutheran General Hospital. At the hospital she was placed in a hyperbaric chamber. Fortunately, she responded to the first treatment and was released from the hospital and returned to school within a week. This heroic activity by FF/PAR Amos is a credit to himself and his department. The department has submitted this call to the State Fire Marshal's Office for the annual Medal of Honor Statewide Award. It is with great pride the McHenry Township Fire Protection District has awarded FF/PAR Amos as its 2003 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR.

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

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

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

Christopher Rohde

Fran Woloszynski

SPECIALIZED RESCUE TEAMS

SRT TEAM

Jim Bove III
Mark Buchanan
Jim Chancellor
Bill Eckert
Dan Gudgeon
Chris Gumm
Frederick Hult

Jim Kornfeind
Chris Mann
Paul Polep
Dave Reid
Mike Reid
Mike Reiken
Frank Rodgers

Bill Rzeszutko
Paul Santopadre
Guy Smale
Dennis Storlie
Bryan Thome
Randy Trost

DIVE TEAM/BOAT HANDLERS

Bill Baehne
Jeff Bartman
Jennifer Bazan
Jim Chancellor
Jon Diedrich
Jeff Huemann
Frederick Hult

Joe Krueger
Mike Majercik
Chris Mann
Louis Matthiesen
Justin Norris
Danny Olenick

Dave Peterson
Rudy Rivera
Dave Robaczewski
Chris Smith
Rob Stermer
Pete Weber

HAZMAT TEAM

Jim Amos
Char McLear

Rudy Rivera
Bill Rzeszutko

Mike Young

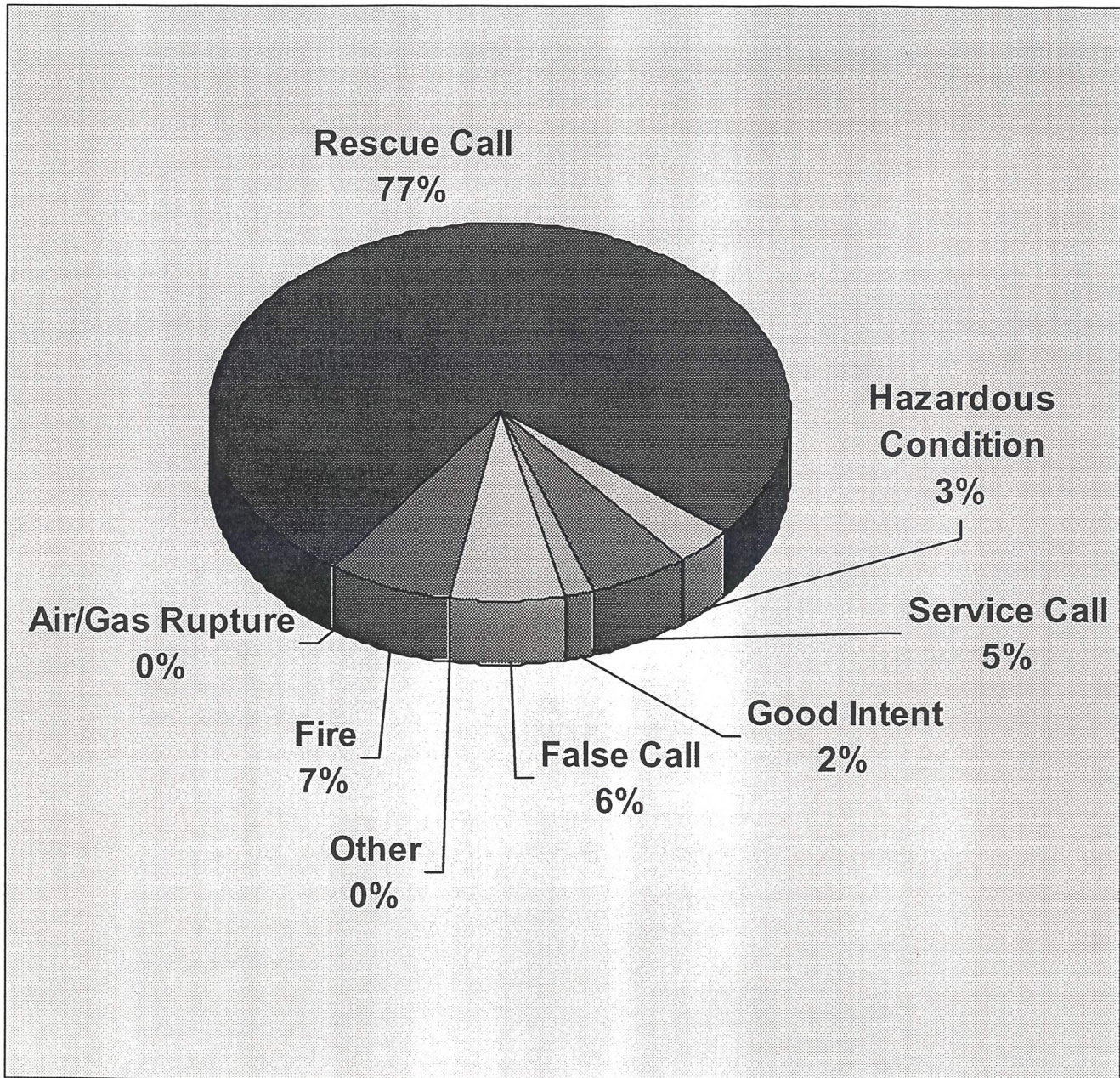
McHenry Township Fire Protection District

2003 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	2003	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	GMC	Utility Pickup Truck
1286	2000	Chevrolet Tahoe	Fire Officer Vehicle
1287	2003	Dodge Caravan	Fire Prevention Bureau
1288	1993	Chevrolet	Fire Officer Vehicle
1289	1999	Chevrolet Tahoe	Fire Prevention Bureau



2003 Call Breakdown Incident Type





2003 Grid

3,750 Calls

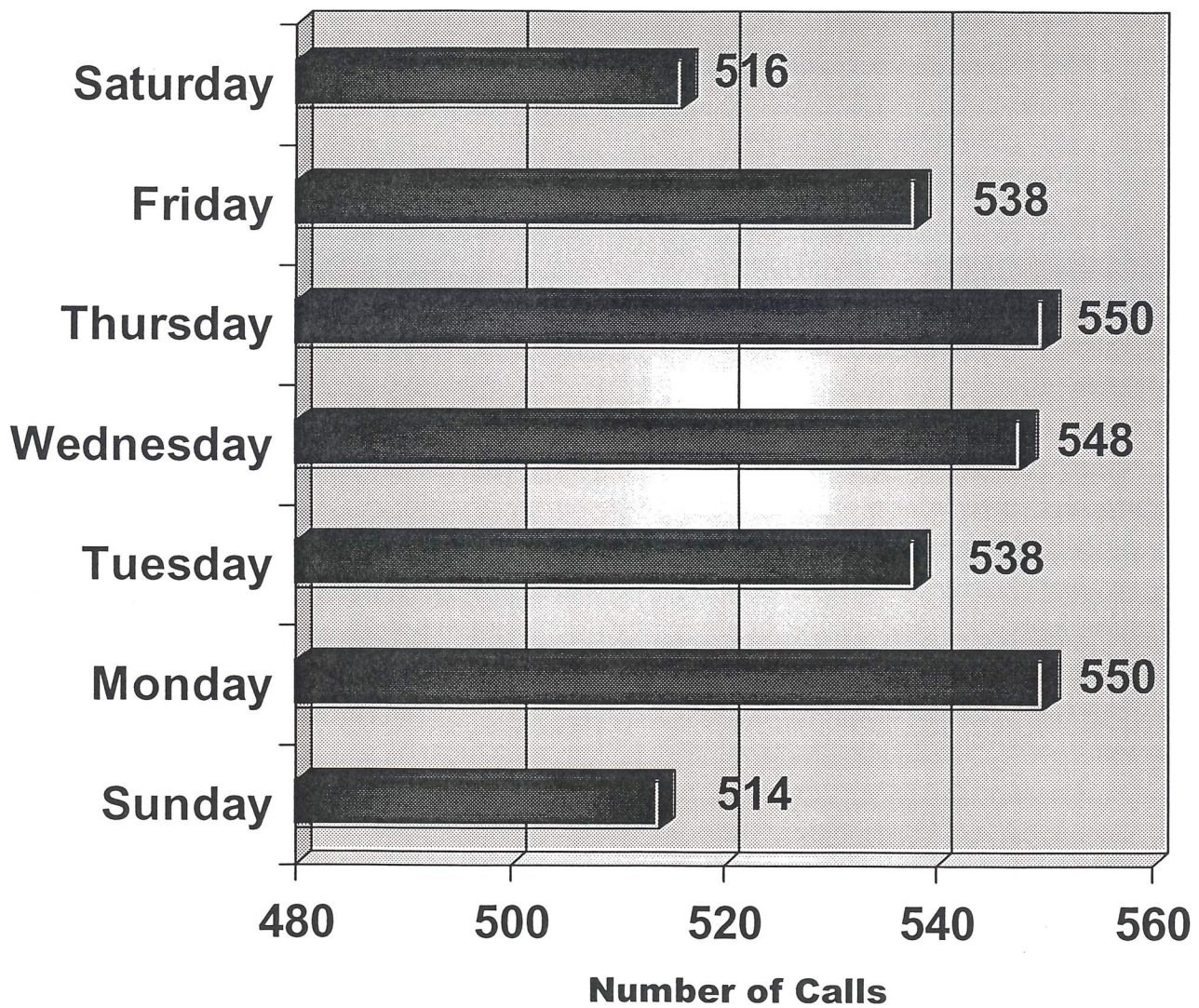


	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
G	0	1	6	2	10	24	35	84	G
H	0	2	13	24	9	13	121	32	H
I	0	0	7	0	42	52	78	21	I
J	0	10	80	49	101	61	24	26	J
K	7	16	87	271	609	107	21	9	K
L	28	10	125	289	293	54	33	150	L
M	8	4	37	122	123	46	1	51	M
N	4	14	5	52	53	25	7	5	N
O	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	19	O
P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P
	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	



2003 Calls by Day of Week

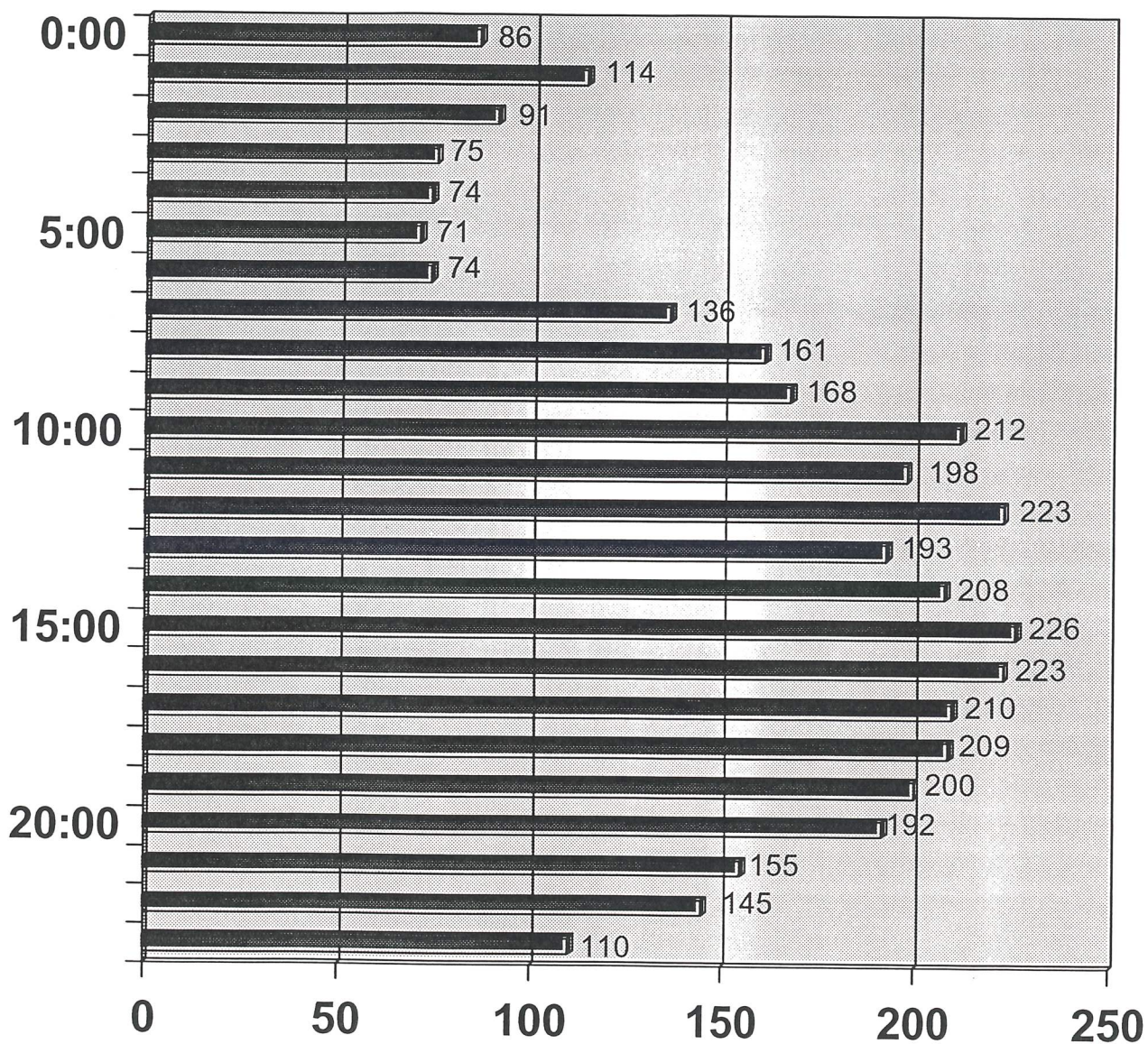
Number of Calls





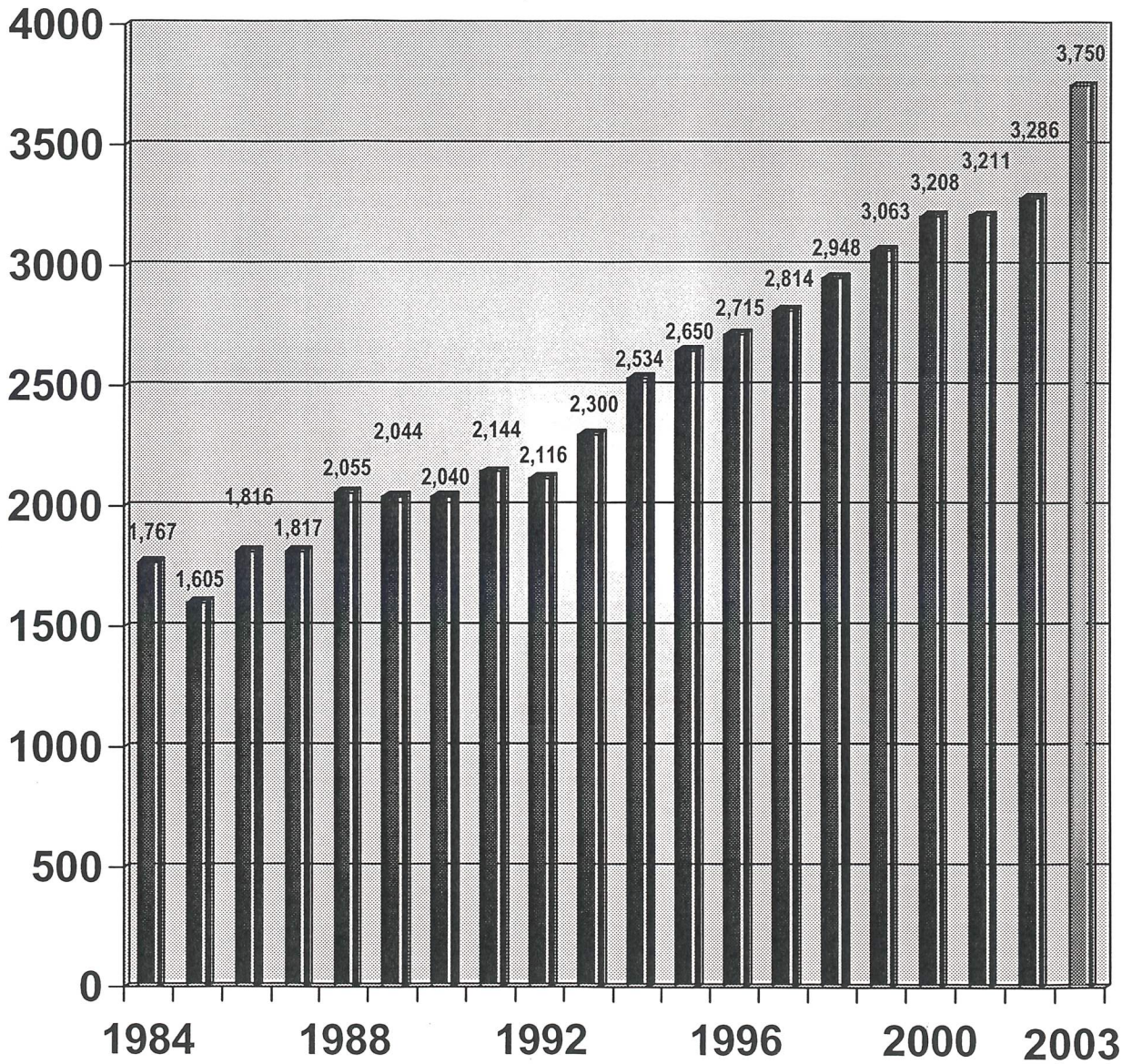
2003 Alarm Time Analysis

Number of Calls





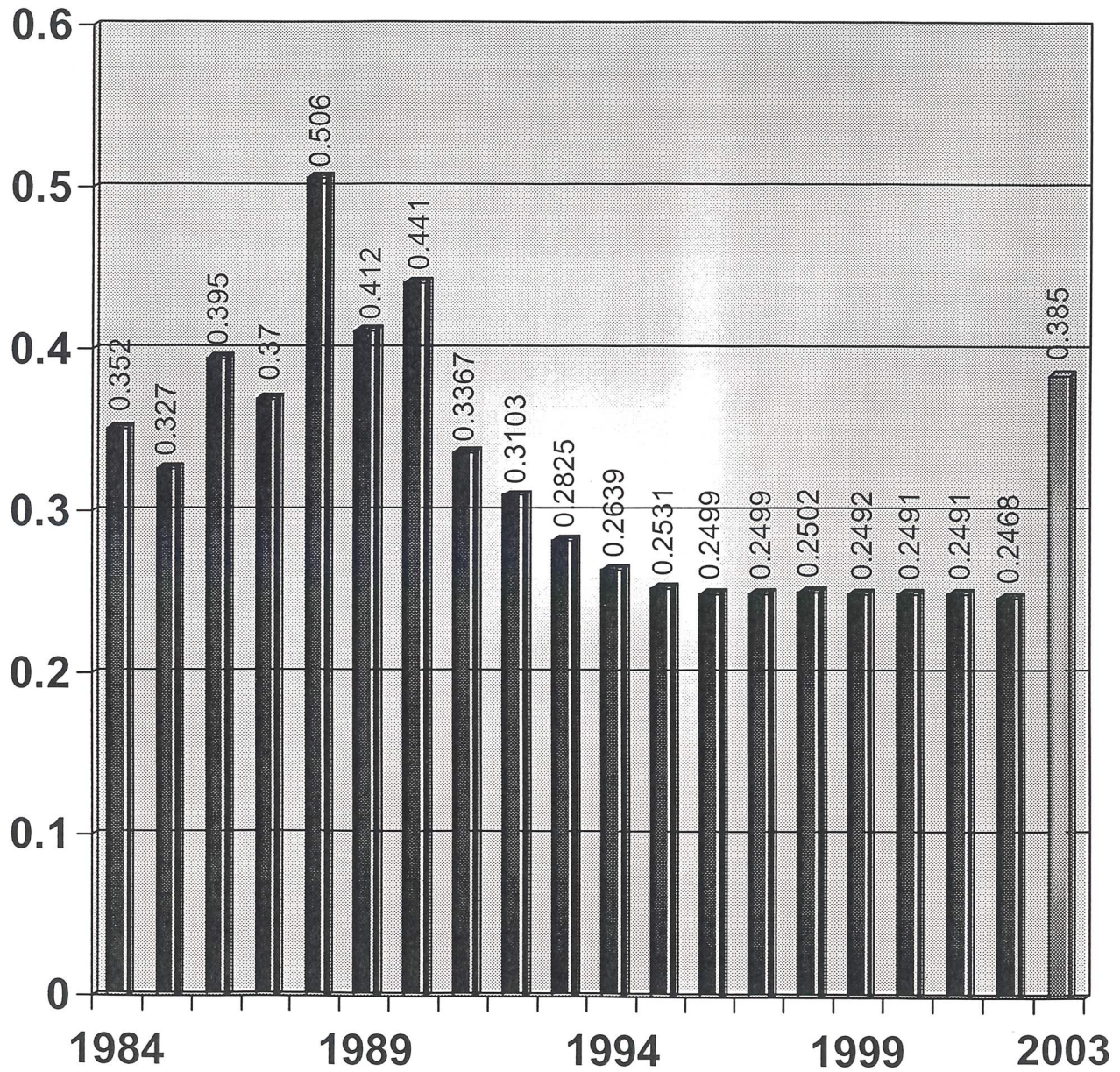
Fire / Rescue Calls 1984 - 2003





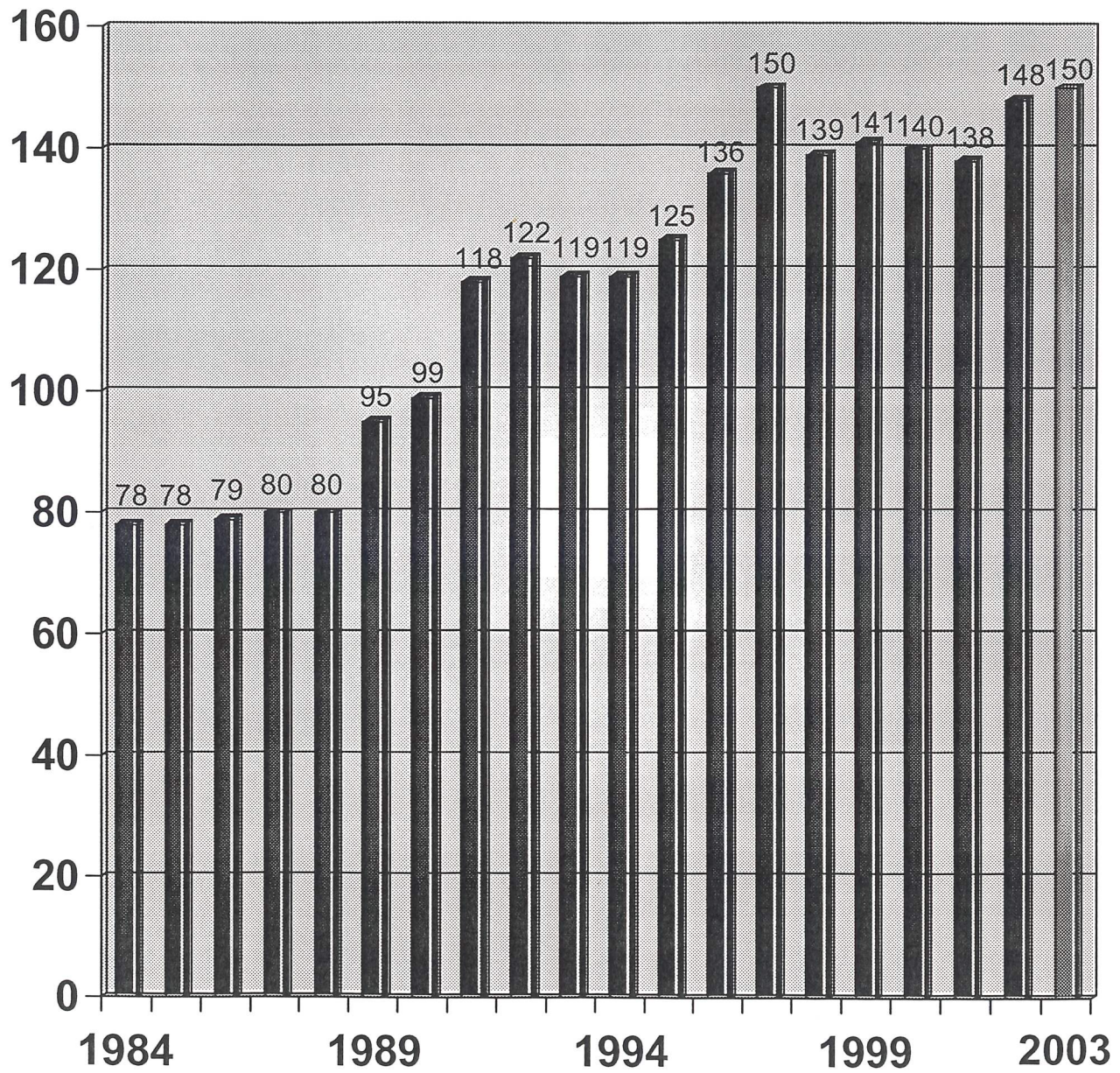
Tax Rate

1984 - 2003





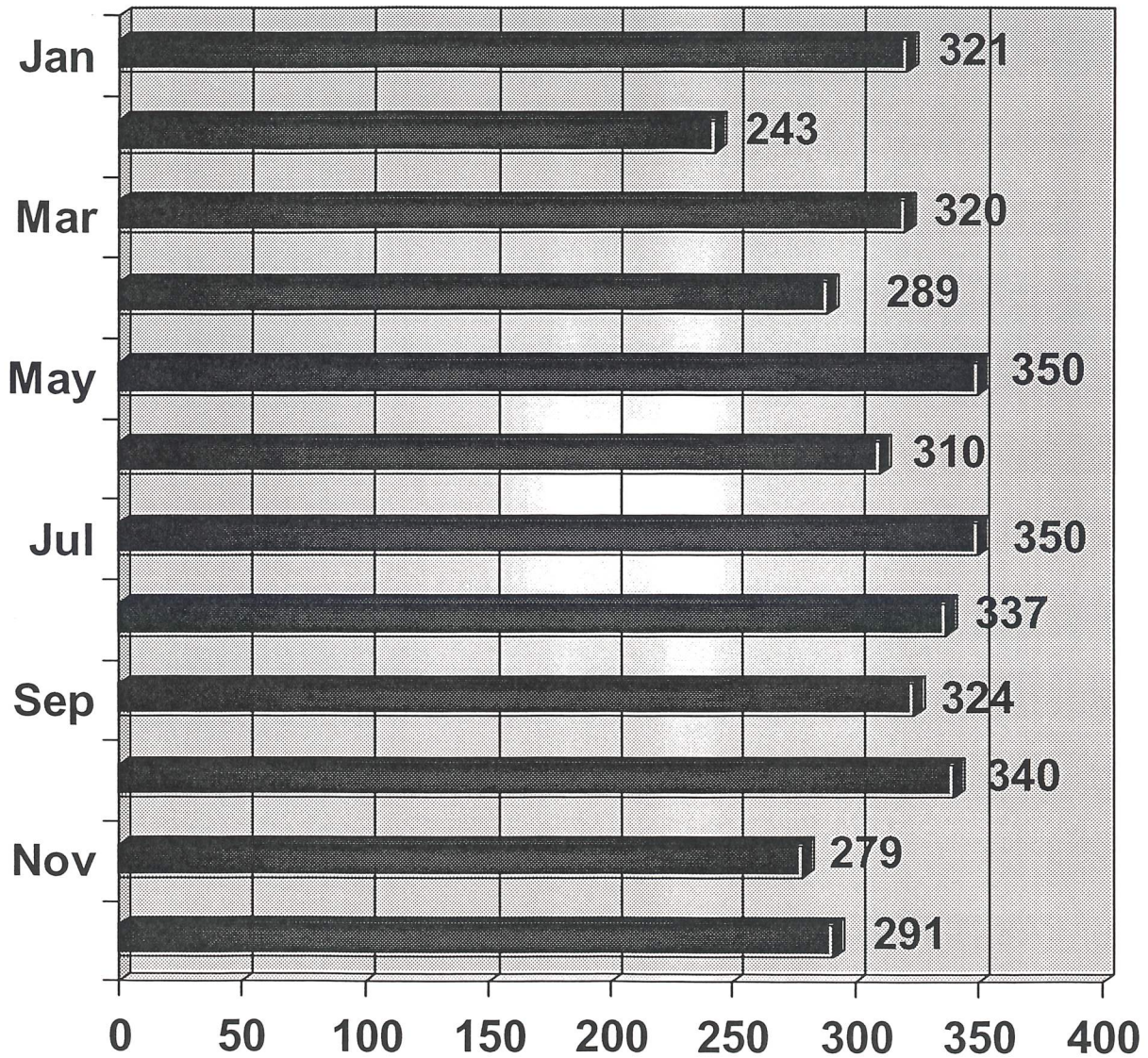
Personnel 1984 - 2003





2003 Calls by Month

Number of Calls



2003 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Built out Station 3 Weight Room
- Purchased exercise equipment for all Stations
- District Hosted State-Wide Haz-Mat Class
- Replaced Boat Trailer at Station 2
- Replaced Service Vehicle 1287 with Dodge Van
- District receives \$24,000.00 from Robert G. Peterson Estate
- Spring newsletter mailed to all residents
- Air pack committee presents final report and recommendation
- Presented three year communications update plan for District
- Purchased 21 additional portable radios
- Replaced roof on District Headquarters
- District purchased Draeger Air Packs with Federal Grant money
- New member testing for 25 candidates
- Purchased Dayroom furniture for Station 3
- Purchased 25 new pagers
- Replaced copy machines at Station 2 & 3
- All District members completed RIT Training
- District took delivery of New Ambulance 1258
- District purchased new High pressure pump & tank for grass truck 1271
- Eleven members sworn in as Permanent Members
- District receives \$231,795.00 Federal Grant to replace turnout gear
- District remodels Station One Dayroom, Office & Sleeping Quarters
- District mailed Fall newsletter to all residents
- District Hosted Open House for Fire Prevention Week
- New Draeger Air Packs put into service with all members trained & tested
- District received Deed to 1.5 acres for Station site donated by Shamrock Farms

2003 ANNUAL DIVISION REPORT

PERSONNEL, PAID ON PREMISE, APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT

DEPUTY CHIEF PHIL GUST

As we all know by now, 2003 was a banner year. The increase in our call activity impacted all areas of our Fire District operations. Due to the continued dedication of our members, especially those that staff our part time positions in the P.O.P. Program, we had little difficulty with answering the additional calls for service. It's noteworthy to point out that there were many skeptics in 1986 when we started the Paid on Premise Program. It's hard to believe it has been almost 18 years since this program started and we're still going strong.

Personnel and the need to maintain our numbers to make our programs successful is an essential part of our operation. Obviously, our personnel are the backbone of our day to day activities. We have been fortunate over the last 2 or 3 years in recruiting many new members that have experience. In 3 years we have put on over 35 new members. Of the 34 that remain active today, 17 of them had experience as EMT's, Firefighters, or Paramedics. Even though we periodically lose members due to job changes, moving from the area, or changes in other aspects of their lives, we have been able to maintain around 150 active members over the last 7 years. Based on the years of service for the 153 active members we currently have, the average time on the department is 10.5 years, which is phenomenal based on national statistics for volunteer/paid on call departments. We hope we are successful again this year in gaining new members with experience when our annual testing process is conducted in May.

Our 24/7 staffing program continues to be successful. As you know, with all three stations staffed with at least 3 people daily, our response readiness is as good as most full time departments in the area. Except for those infrequent occurrences when we have three calls at once, immediate responses from the stations is the standard. Response from the off duty personnel remains adequate for multiple calls, and General Alarms for structure fires and other responses.

One of my other duties is to make sure our fleet of fire apparatus, ambulances and service vehicles are maintained properly. We are fortunate to have a local fire apparatus service center that works closely with us to maintain our apparatus. We have an annual schedule for servicing the 15 fire apparatus and ambulances on a six month rotating schedule. Our own personnel are very helpful in performing small maintenance items that vary from replacing lights to repairing equipment on the vehicles. Our current procedure for replacing one ambulance each year is very helpful in maintaining the readiness of our ambulance fleet.

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

ASSISTANT CHIEF STEVE LAING

The Fire Prevention Bureau includes three divisions. They are the Fire Inspection Division, Fire Investigation Division and the Public Education Division. Activities and statistics for all divisions are as follows.

Fire Inspection Division

There are four part time inspectors in the Division, Lt. Frank Graham, Tim Butler, Mitch Czech and Mike Young. These fire inspectors completed the inspection cycle in November. The entire District has been completed in fourteen months. The ideal cycle would be for all inspections to be completed in one year. However, this time frame is excellent considering all of the other activities the Inspectors are responsible for. Combined totals were one thousand forty-one (1,041) inspections and four hundred eighty-one (481) re-inspections.

Fire Investigation Division

We remain consistent in the numbers of fires that occurred in 2003 compared to previous years. There were thirty-nine (39) fires that resulted in reported losses of \$1,100,250. Of these fires, twenty-six (26) were structure fires with losses of \$937,250. Of these twenty-six (26) fires, four (4) resulted in losses of \$667,000.

The positive side of the above figures is that the total percent loss was 24% of total value; meaning we had 76% saved.

We recognize that our biggest area of concern regarding our fire problem lies in the residential community. We have to work harder to educate our community in preventing fires.

We have a minimum active force in the investigation of fires. Frederick Hult continues to lead by example, as he does in other areas. Bill Milbratz and Dan Olenick have been doing great in the photographing of fire scenes. Many items must be addressed prior to a fire investigation being completed. To those of you that assist, it is appreciated.

Public Education Division

The year 2003 was a great year for the department and our community. Programs and summaries are as follows:

1. Learn Not to Burn Program - Firefighters Mitch Czech and Bill Rzeszutko

Ten (10) classes were conducted in four (4) schools. Each class has six sessions with the last class utilizing the Safety House. Two hundred fifty-two (252) students received certificates upon completion of their class. In 2004 this program will expand to six (6) schools. Mitch and Bill will be busy scheduling and conducting these classes.

2. Puppet Programs – Firefighters Kelly Waters-Wuchter, Fran Woloszynski, Kathy Kempster, Cindy Bertulis and Jim Bove
Seven (7) elementary and nine (9) pre-schools were entertained and educated by the puppet show. Three thousand three hundred seventy-two (3,372) children watched and learned from these dedicated people, who averaged two (2) to three (3) shows a week for three (3) months. The shows include sound productions via C.D.'s and the individual puppets all have fire and life safety messages. Our puppeteers present a very professional program. They are very appreciated by the school personnel as well as the parents and naturally, the children. As of this early date in 2004, the Division is already receiving performance requests.

Regular programs conducted during 2003 included Safety Trailer programs, station tours, business discussions and participation, station open houses, community events, etc. The station “go to” people, Kim Boncoskey, Cindy Bertulis and Kathy Kempster were excellent in coordinating programs and asking for assistance. In 2004 Bill Rzeszutko will be replacing Kim Boncoskey while Cindy Bertulis and Kathy Kempster remain on board.

I have observed the entire structure of the Public Education activities grow and excel in 2003. We have many plans for the immediate future and will be discussing new programs.

Diana St. Clair continues to serve as our Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist, receiving most of her cases via the McHenry County Court system.

The policy/philosophy of the Fire Prevention Bureau remains:

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

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

ASSISTANT CHIEF DAVID N. KARLS

The McHenry Township Fire Protection District completed its busiest year in the history of the Fire District. With emergency medical responses at about 74% of all calls, the department responded to a total of three thousand seven hundred fifty (3,750) calls in year 2003. As you can see, the department averages over ten (10) calls per day. Almost all of the calls are handled by the members who participate in a paid on premise program.

All three stations are manned with three members who jump from Engine or Ambulance depending on the type of call. At any given time, the community can have an ambulance in service and responding to each emergency. Each member is required to complete one 12 hour shift at their own convenience. Many members have very busy schedules and are busy with family activities. This part-time position allows each member to sign up and work when ever they wish. With this flexibility, the Fire District is able to operate at a lower cost to the tax payer and still provide the best service to the community.

The Fire District had eleven (11) new members join in May of this year. There were eight (8) new members who had training completed prior to joining the department. Four of the members were Emergency Medical Technician-Basics and four were Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedics. With these qualifications, the new members are able to work on duty at a quicker pace, which helps the department in scheduling station assignments. We currently have seventy-three paramedics active on the department, two (2) E.M.T.-B's are in class to become paramedics. A special thanks to members Joshua Novak and Christopher Meuret who completed Paramedic class and became State certified this year.

All members must complete a yearly certification program which is directed by the Emergency Medical Service department at Northern Illinois Medical Center. Each member must complete thirty hours of continuing education per year. We teach the E.M.T.-B's in house. This course is taught by Dave Peterson as the Lead Instructor and other members who assist him. Most of the E.M.T.-P certification classes are taught by Instructors from the E.M.S. department and are held in house or at other neighboring departments. Each paramedic must complete a mandatory Endotracheal Airway Management Seminar class and keep up to date on any medical changes that occur through out the year.

One of the new changes that took effect this year was to implement the new Federal guidelines for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Myself, and Vicki Seyller attended a symposium on this issue so we could better understand this new law that went in effect in April of this year. Every member was taught how to have each person we transport complete this form. The reason for this form is to maintain privacy when each citizen has health problems and is transported to the hospital.

The district took delivery of a new ambulance in July of this year. We have an ambulance replacement program that allows us to purchase a new ambulance each year. We currently have five ambulances in the district which allows the department to keep all ambulances up and running to meet the needs of the citizens in the community. I would like to thank those members who took the time to switch the equipment from the old ambulance into the new ambulance. Having all the ambulances in the district equipped identically allows for an easy transfer when the new ambulance is put in service.

I would like to thank several personnel on the department that help make the Emergency Services Division run as smoothly as possible. Thanks to Tim Manning and the Instructors that assist in the C.P.R. programs. We offer this training to the public and community groups that request this program. They also must insure that each member is certified every year, which is a requirement of I.D.P.H. Thanks to Dave Peterson who keeps all E.M.T.-B's trained and to those who assist him. Thanks to Lt. Mark Amore who attends the E.M.S. council meetings when I am unable to attend. I would like to give a special thanks to Vicki Seyller who keeps all paper work involving E.M.S. up to date and to all the Officer's and members who participate in any way they can to keep the Emergency Services Division operating on a daily basis.

Next year will bring exciting changes that need to take place to keep the Fire District active and participating in the same capacity as we do in order to meet the challenges of growth in the community. With the support of all the members, the Trustees and the community we can maintain this level of service for some time to come.

2003 Annual Report

Training and Operations

Assistant Chief Tony Huemann

Once again the membership of the McHenry Township Fire Protection District (MTFPD) met the growing challenges of maintaining a fire/rescue staff capable of providing a wide spectrum of emergency services. It is quite obvious that training and education is an important factor in maintaining a high level of proficiency in emergency services for the ever growing communities we protect.

2003 provided the MTFPD with some magnificent opportunities and some very interesting challenges. In this report I will identify those opportunities and explain how the membership met those challenges through hard work and endurance.

In January, 2003 MABAS Division V created a committee to research, develop and implement a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) policy. MTFPD personnel participated on the RIT committee and assisted in the implementation of the RIT policy. The RIT policy stated that every department associated with Division V must have trained personnel available to provide RIT assistance at every working structure fire. The policy also outlined the proper procedure that shall be followed in a firefighter rescue situation.

The RIT policy provided us with the opportunity to insure firefighter safety and accountability was considered and enacted at every working fire. The decision was made by the chief officers that all personnel must complete the sixteen hour classroom and practical course. Fortunately, the MTFPD had instructors willing to except this challenge and provide the necessary training.

Paul Polep and Rob Stermer attended a 2-day train-the-trainer course that taught them techniques to train our personnel. Paul organized, scheduled and implemented all RIT training. Rob purchased materials and produced props used for the training. Paul and Rob received assistance instructing personnel on RIT techniques from Jeff Huemann, Chris Rohde and Shane Boehmke. Congratulations to all of the instructors on a job well done and congratulations to all who completed the training.

The second major opportunity for the MTFPD in 2003 was receiving a \$256,000 FEMA grant for new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The challenge facing the District was to research SCBA products, find the best one, purchase sixty-nine SCBA units and then train all personnel on the proper operation. Once again, due to the dedication of our personnel, we met this challenge.

The SCBA research committee consisted of Mark Diedrich, Mike Reiken, John Scott and Tony Huemann. Our assignment was to research SCBA products and to organize an evaluation process. The committee decided to evaluate 4 SCBA's using 6 firefighters as

evaluators in a simulated fire situation. The evaluators were Kevin Long, Bill Oeffling, Tom Huemann, Carlos Medina, James Chancellor and Frank Oswald. The evaluators wore each of the 4 SCBA's while crawling in a completely dark atmosphere, practiced buddy breathing, talked on the radio, climbed a ladder and swung assorted hand tools.

The research committee analyzed the evaluations. The research committee and the evaluators then met and discussed the evaluation data findings and decided on one SCBA. The 10-person group decided to recommend purchasing sixty-nine (69) Draeger SCBA's, one hundred thirty-eight (138) 4500-psi air cylinders and 2 RIT packs.

A presentation was made to the trustees. The trustees required 2 committee members to tour the Draeger Plant in Pittsburgh prior to giving their full approval of the purchase. Mark Diedrich and I toured the plant and visited with members of the Pittsburgh Fire Department's SCBA maintenance team. After the trip, I submitted a written report on our findings. The trustee's reviewed the report and gave their complete approval.

Training commenced within a few days of the approval. A written and practical exam was also created. These exams were created with the intention of insuring that all members were knowledgeable of the SCBA. Kevin Long, Bill Oeffling, Mark Diedrich, Jennifer Bazan, Mark Amore, Shane Boehmke, Joe Foreman, Fred Hult, Frank Rodgers, Joe Krueger, Mike Majercik, Rudy Rivera, Rob Stermer, Chris Rohde and I trained and tested the members.

I would like to acknowledge and thank those members that participated in the mentoring – big brother/sister program again this year. The MTFPD hired eleven candidates this year. The policy of the MTFPD is that every candidate is assigned a big brother/sister.

This year's candidates and mentors are:

- John DeGroot Brian Debaets
- Jim Kornfiend Jennifer Bazan
- Don Burr Bill Oeffling
- Chris Gumm Bryan Thome
- Paul Santopadre Bill Rzeszutko
- Justin Settles Rudy Rivera
- Joe Winkleman Kim Boncoskey/Jeff Huemann
- Guy Miller Matt Yegge
- Dan Gudgeon Jim Harris
- Dave Reid Mike Kempster
- Char McLear Jennifer Winkler/Leora Foreman

This year's candidates represent a group of highly trained firefighters and paramedics that had been trained prior to joining the MTFPD. Only 4 of the 11 candidates were required to attend Firefighter II School.

Bill Oeffling has been working diligently to standardize the fire apparatus equipment inventories for over a year. Bill has standardized all equipment and included 2 Rapid

Intervention Team (RIT) compartments on the second out engine/tanker from Stations 1 and 2.

Bill continues to work on other apparatus within the district so that eventually all fire apparatus will have a complete inventory of tools and equipment. Bill has developed an inventory book identifying the location of each piece of equipment on that particular apparatus.

The MTFPD continues to encourage our personnel to participate in additional education and training in the fire and rescue services. In 2003 fifty-five (55) of our members attended twenty-four (24) different classes totaling one thousand four hundred and sixty-six (1,466) hours of fire training beyond the required Firefighter II training.

In 2004 the major goal for the training division will be to get back to the basics of firefighting. The training division plans to train with the POP crews on performing basic tasks. The training division has set a goal to produce a monthly training schedule for the entire department. This schedule will identify drills that should be completed by the POP crews as well as the 3-Company drills that will be completed during Monday night training.

**2003 ANNUAL REPORT
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

VERN MANKE, BUSINESS MANAGER

Financial Overview:

In the year 2003 the District began seeing the results of the tax rate referendum. The fifteen cent increase in our ambulance fund will produce approximately an additional \$1,601,039 in tax revenue for the year in the ambulance fund.

In regard to the Fire Fund, the tax revenue increased only \$63,963.54 for the year. However, the Fire Fund still maintains an adequate fund balance at this time and for the next few years to come.

Property and Buildings:

This past year the District seal coated all three parking lots.

Station One received a new roof on the Administration wing and repairs to the Bay area. Also, the Dayroom/Kitchen and Bathrooms were remodeled and re-decorated.

Station Two had the main sewer line repaired.

Station Three had the Weight and Exercise Room finished out and a new clothing storage room was built in the upper level of the Station.

The Fire District received a donation of land for a future fire station site from Kimball Hill Homes.

Vehicles and Equipment:

- Copy machines were replaced at Stations Two and Three.
- A new tank and pump was purchased to replace the one on Truck #1271.
- Station Three was equipped with new Dayroom recliners and a new television.
- A new Ambulance was purchased to replace #1258
- A new boat trailer was purchased to replace the old one.
- A new Pub Ed Caravan was purchased and the 1974 Pick-up was sold.
- New air packs were purchased and put into use. These were paid for through a F.E.M.A. Grant the District received.

Summary:

The McHenry Township Fire Protection District has continued to maintain a sound financial position. Also, it maintains a fleet of quality equipment and a well-trained staff.



Ambulance 58

2003

AMBULANCE 58

Ambulance 58 is a 2003 Ford Medtec. This advanced life support Paramedic ambulance is the newest arrival of the ambulance fleet. Five ambulances are utilized in the Fire District. Ambulance 58 responds from Station #1 in McHenry.

Safety Tip:

IF YOUR CLOTHES CATCH FIRE "STOP, DROP AND ROLL". KEEP ROLLING UNTIL ALL OF THE FIRE IS OUT. IF YOU GET BURNED YOU SHOULD COOL A BURN WITH WATER. IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY "CALL 911".

MCHENRY TOWNSHIP FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
 3610 West Elm Street • McHenry, IL 60050 • (815) 385-0075
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Squad 24

2003

SQUAD 24

Squad 24 is a 1996 Pierce Saber Heavy Rescue Squad. This squad is equipped with heavy extrication equipment, an air cascade system and a light tower. Squad 24 responds from Station #2 in Johnsburg.

Safety Tip:

BE SURE YOUR ADDRESS IS CLEARLY VISIBLE FROM THE STREET. WE CAN'T HELP YOU UNTIL WE FIND YOU.

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Truck 12

2003

TRUCK 12

Truck 12 is a 1984 Pierce/LTD, 100' platform. The truck has a 1,250 gallon per minute pump and carries all necessary equipment for ventilation operation as well as rescue and forcible entry operations. Truck 12 responds from Station #1 in McHenry.

Safety Tip:

PREDETERMINE A MEETING PLACE OUTSIDE YOUR HOME, WHERE FAMILY MEMBERS CAN BE ACCOUNTED FOR IN THE EVENT OF FIRE.

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Engine 34

2003

ENGINE 34

Engine 34 is a 1997 Pierce Lance with a tilt cab. This engine carries 1,000 gallons of water and has a 1,500 gallon per minute pump. It carries 1,000 foot of 5" hose and also extrication equipment. Engine 34 responds from Station #3 in Lakemoor.

Safety Tip:

IF A FIRE OCCURS IN A STRUCTURE, GET OUT AS SOON AS YOU CAN. ONCE OUT, STAY OUT! NEVER GO BACK INTO THE BUILDING UNTIL THE FIREFIGHTERS SAY IT IS SAFE TO DO SO. HAVE AN ESCAPE PLAN WITH A DESIGNATED MEETING PLACE OUTSIDE.

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