

McHenry Township



Fire Protection District

2004 Annual Report

THE McHENRY TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT WAS FORMED IN 1939. IN 1954 STATION TWO, JOHNSBURG WAS ADDED. PICTURED ABOVE ARE THE ELEVEN ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY. THIS UNSELFISH GROUP OF MEN INSTILLED PRIDE AND COMMITMENT TO KEEP THE COMMUNITY SAFE. THAT PRIDE AND COMMITMENT IS STILL PRESENT HAVING BEEN PASSED DOWN TO TODAY'S GENERATION OF MEMBERS. THIS REPORT IS DEDICATED TO THE ELEVEN MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES AS WE MARK THE 50TH YEAR OF SERVICE.

PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, JERRY HETTERMANN, NORBERT SMITH, FRED HUEMANN, JOE HILLER, HARRY FREUND, HARRY SMITH, ALBERT ADAMS, FLOYD FREUND, BILL HAAG, JOEL ADAMS AND OTTO ADAMS.



Harry Freund, Harry Smith, Lloyd Freund and Bill Haag, four of the original eleven members rode in the Saufen und Spiel Parade on September 12, 2004 to mark the 50th anniversary.



M.T.F.P.D. Co. 2
January 15, 2005

Current members of Company Two Johnsburg continue to follow the tradition of protecting the community.

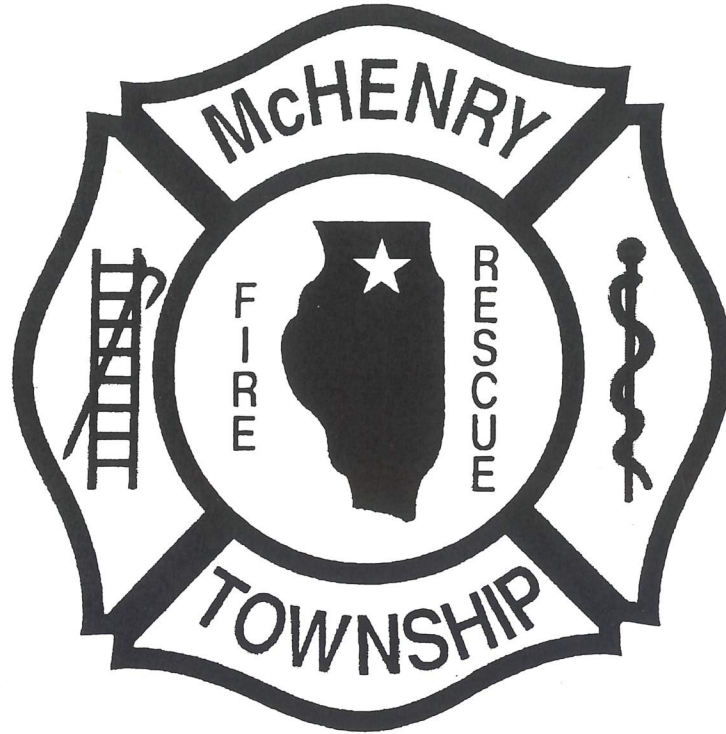
McHenry Township Fire Protection District

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McHenry Township Fire Protection District

Introduction



The McHenry Township Fire Protection District proudly presents its 2004 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.

On December 22, 2004, the District signed a three year employment agreement with Chief Wayne Amore to be the first full time Fire Chief in the District's 65 year history effective May 1, 2005.

MARCH 2005

Dad,

OUR TEAM HAS BROUGHT
THIS DEPARTMENT A LONG WAY.
I HOPE WE CAN STICK TOGETHER FOR
ANOTHER EIGHT YEARS TO BRING IT TO
THE NEXT LEVEL. THANKS FOR YOUR
DEDICATION.

[Signature]
1202

2004 ANNUAL REPORT

CHIEF WAYNE AMORE

The McHenry Township Fire Protection District experienced a 3% reduction in call volume from 2003. The year 2003 was the single greatest increase in call volume by percentage the District had experienced in twenty years at 14%. On the average over the last ten years the District call activity had grown by a five percent compounded increase. The 2004 call volume is about on line with the average over the last ten years. We finished the year responding to 3,633 calls for help. This averaged 9.95 calls per day. 78% of the total calls for the year were ambulance related. These calls were handled by our dedicated part-time staff of 153 members. About 95% of the total calls are handled by our part-time members who staff our three stations 24/7. Our current minimum staffing of members on duty is twelve.

As I reviewed our statistical information in this report, I found several similarities as compared to our 1999 Annual Report. Our 2004 activity is 16% above our 1999 activity. However, the breakdown of the types of calls we responded to is almost identical. In both years, 78% of our calls are ambulance related. One statistic that stands out on our Grid map is a 40% increase in Grid K4 from 1999 to 2004. This Grid is basically Route 120 from the Fox River to Crystal Lake Road and Waukegan Road to North of the shopping area on Route 31. The new shopping area and commerce brings additional traffic and people, which generate calls. Friday still remains the busiest day of the week with Wednesday replacing Tuesday for the second busiest. 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. still remains the busiest time of the day for calls. May replaced October in terms of the busiest month of the year. Either of these months can be controlled by the amount of grass fires we experience.

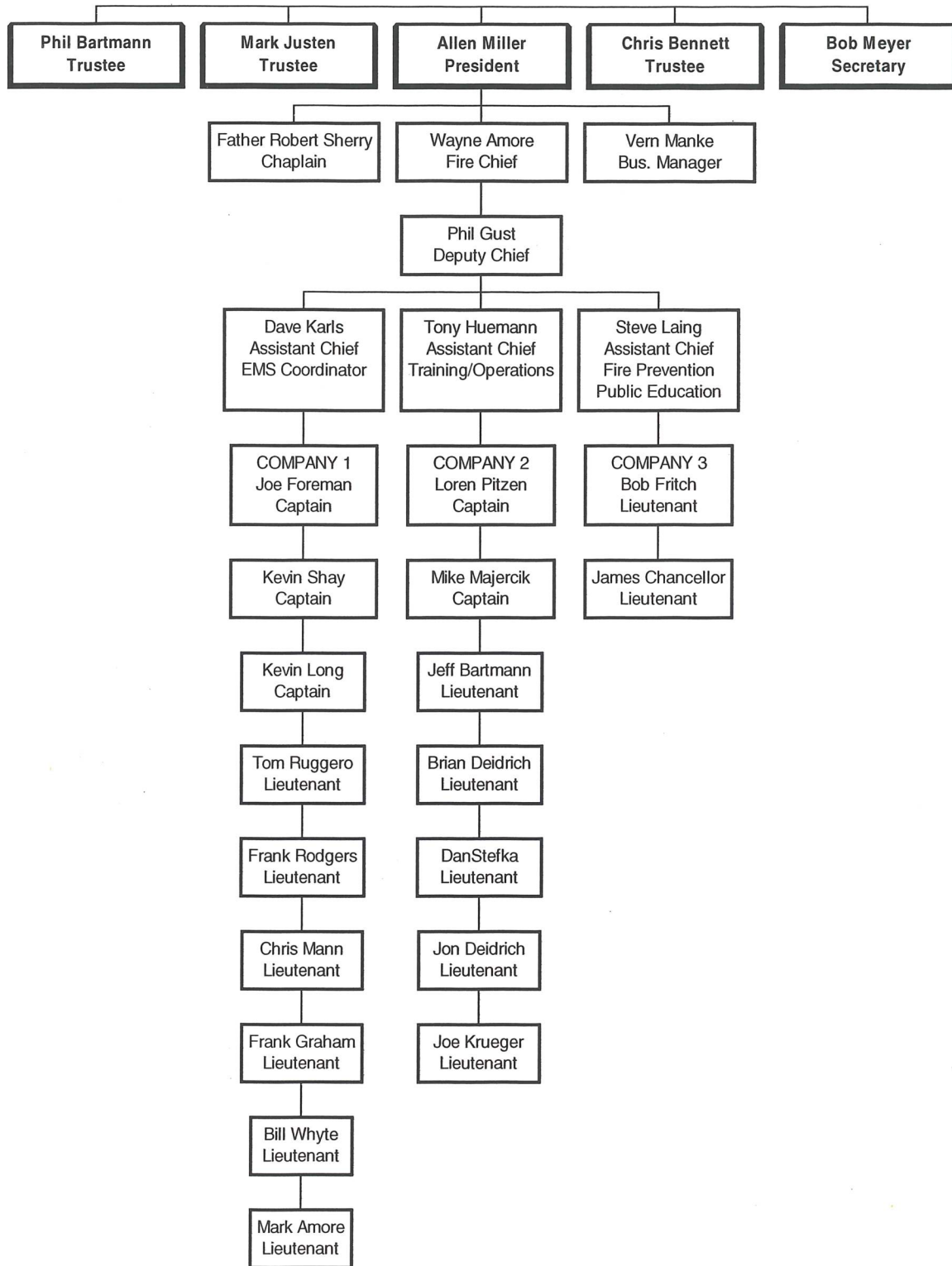
On May 13, 2004 at the State of Illinois Armory Building in Springfield, Firefighter/Paramedic Jim Amos was presented the Medal of Valor Award. The Medal of Valor is the second highest award given by the State Fire Marshal for duty related activities. Firefighter/Paramedic Amos was accompanied by his family and fifteen fellow McHenry Firefighters for this prestigious presentation.

During 2004, for the second year in a row, the District received a Federal Grant. The 2004 Grant of \$231,795 was used to replace all of the firefighter's protective clothing. In 2003 the District replaced the aging air packs that the firefighters wear going into burning buildings. For 2003 and 2004 the District has received over \$460,000.00 in Federal Grants. In addition, in the spring of 2004, the District applied for a \$150,000.00 Federal Grant to install exhaust systems in the three stations.

The District took delivery of a new ambulance; a new shift commander car, a new pump and tank for grass truck 1272 and ordered a new vehicle for the Dive Team. All of these items had been scheduled replacements. The Dive Vehicle will be delivered sometime in the spring of 2005.

The District continues to communicate with the community using our semi-annual newsletter "*THE FIRE WIRE*", which is mailed to all residents of the District. The newsletter gives safety tips, announces upcoming events and provides stories about the firefighters and duties. The District's web site, www.mtfd.org, is also a source of information for the public. The web site is up dated on a monthly basis. Via this web site, the public can learn about becoming a member, sign up for CPR classes, read minutes of the monthly District meetings and learn several other factual bits of information about the District.

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

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

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

Members of Company 3

Lieutenant James Chancellor

Lieutenant Robert Fritch

Nancy Fritch

Steve Gould

Amanda Gundlach

Steve Harkema

Steven Kearns

Kathleen Kempster

Michael Kempster

William King

Richard Kozak

Jason Lobue

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
Char McLear
Paul Polep
Dave Reid
Mike Reid
Mike Reiken
Chris Rhode
Frank Rodgers

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

DIVE TEAM/BOAT HANDLERS

Bill Baehne
Jeff Bartman
Jennifer Bazan
Jim Chancellor
Brian Diedrich
Jon Diedrich
Dan Gallagher

Jeff Huemann
Tom Huemann
Frederick Hult
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
Joseph Krueger

Char McLear
Rudy Rivera

Bill Rzeszutko
Mike Young

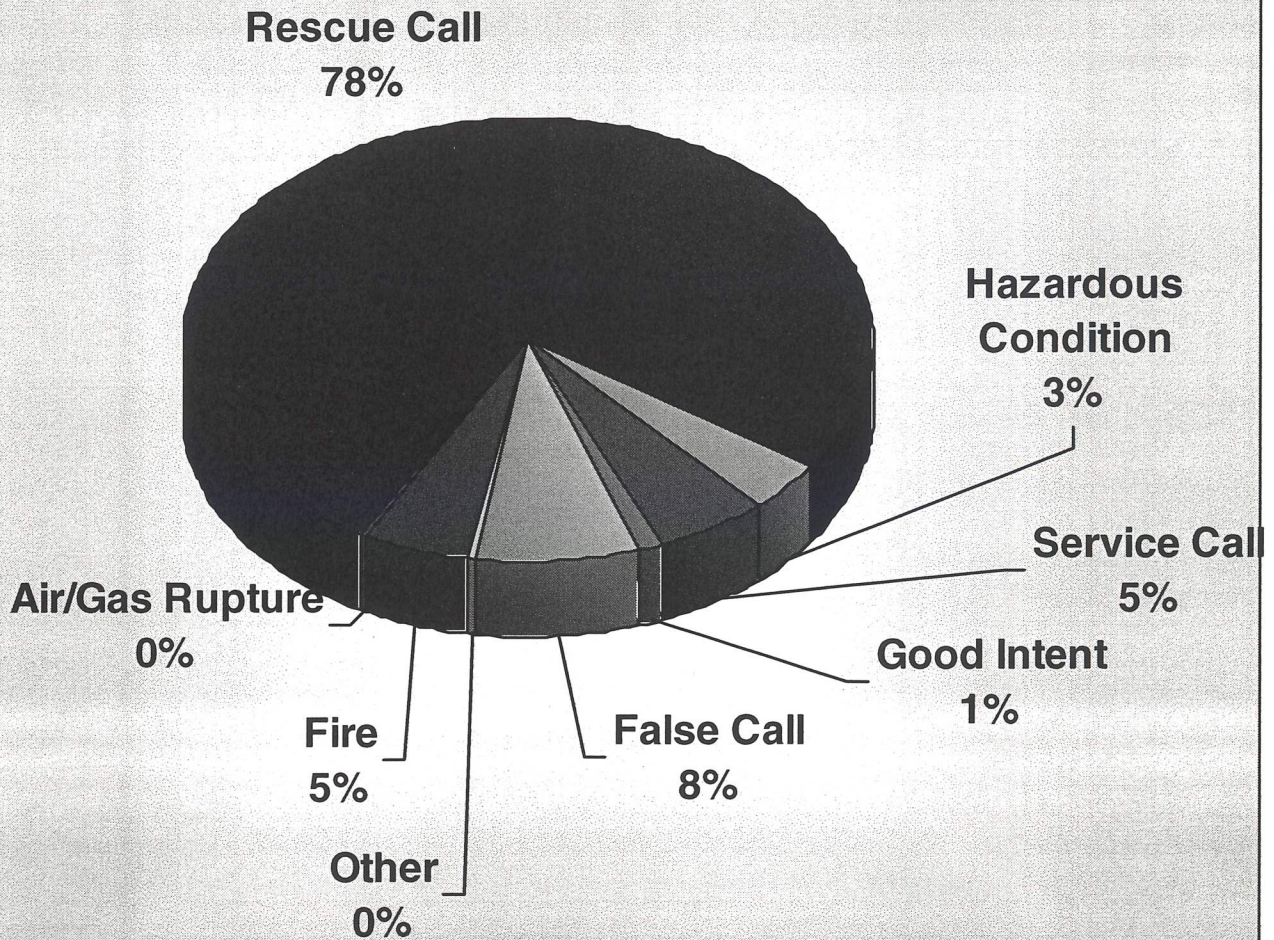
McHenry Township Fire Protection District

2004 EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES

<u>Equipment Number</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Type</u>
1200	2004	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
1252R	1999	Ford	Ambulance
1252	2001	Ford	Ambulance
1251	2004	Ford	Ambulance
1251R	1999	Ford	Ambulance
1253	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	1999	Chevrolet Tahoe	Fire Officer Vehicle
1289	1999	Chevrolet Tahoe	Fire Prevention Bureau



2004 Call Breakdown Incident Type





2004 Grid

3,633 Calls

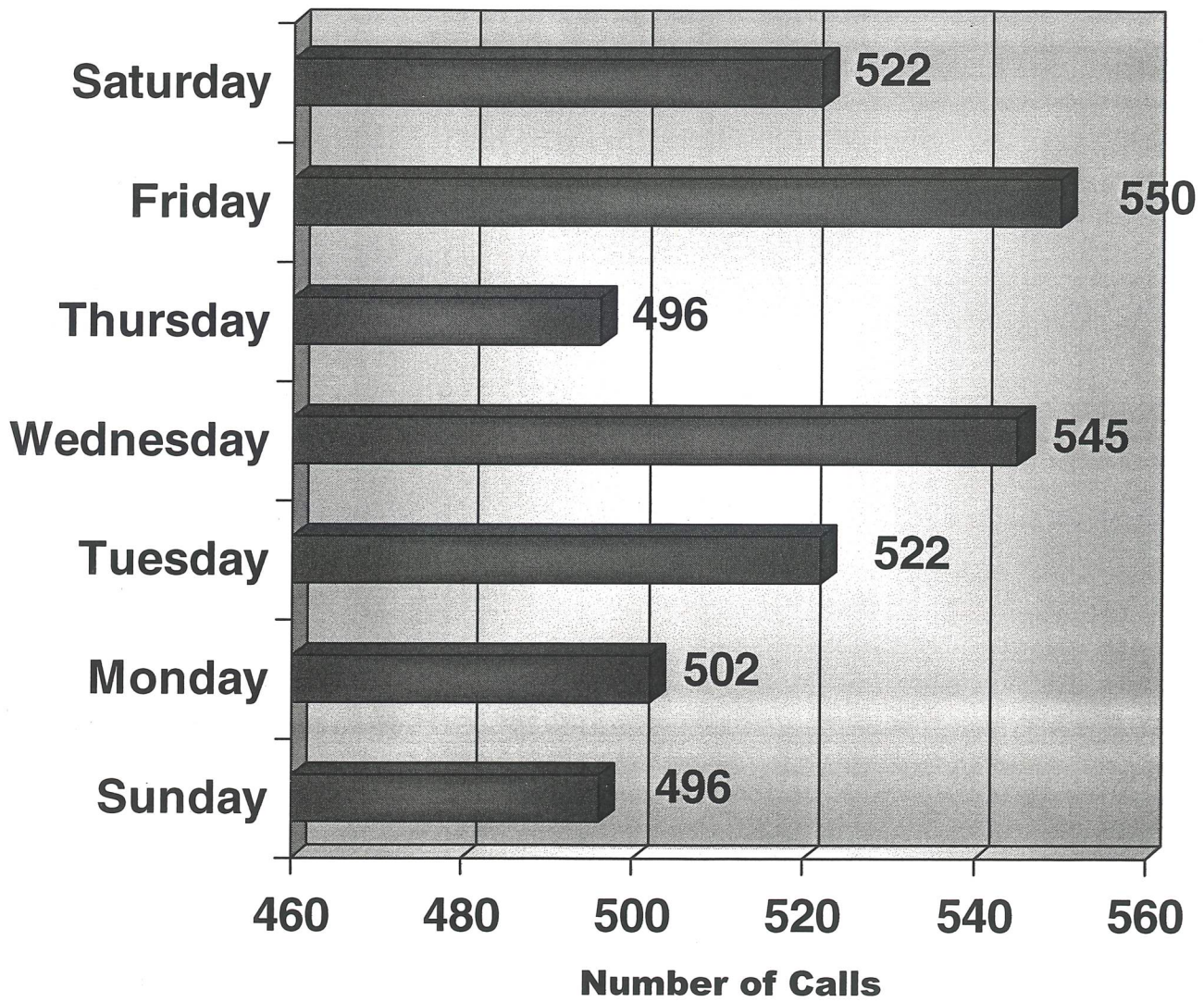


	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
G	1	7	4	7	18	34	88	67	G
H	0	0	16	24	7	8	122	36	H
I	0	0	15	0	43	61	69	10	I
J	0	3	80	62	85	62	22	36	J
K	9	18	74	283	611	96	24	14	K
L	21	15	104	272	268	46	32	151	L
M	10	7	39	101	102	25	0	74	M
N	7	3	2	63	70	29	6	2	N
O	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	29	O
P	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	P
	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	



2004 Calls by Day of Week

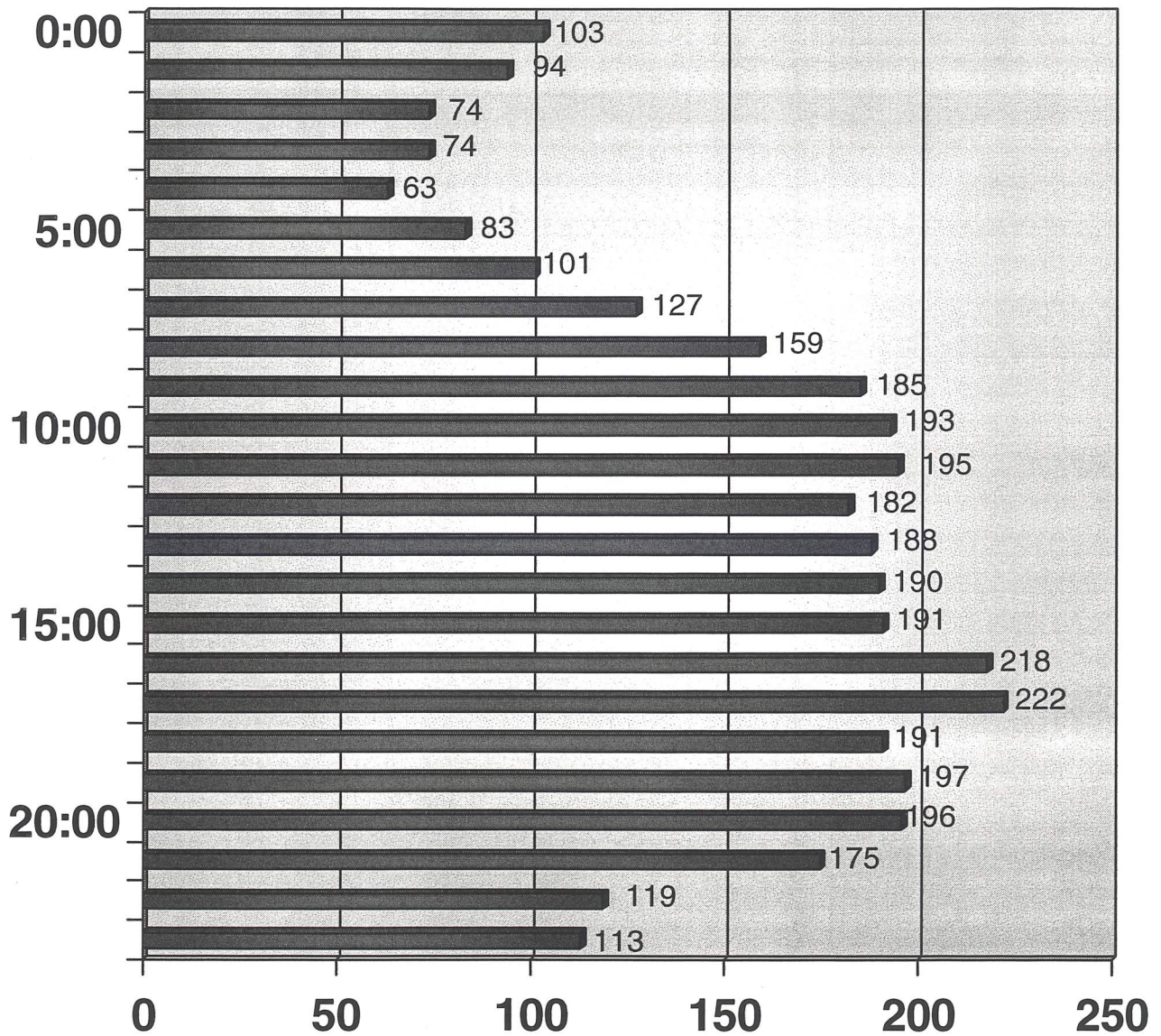
Number of Calls





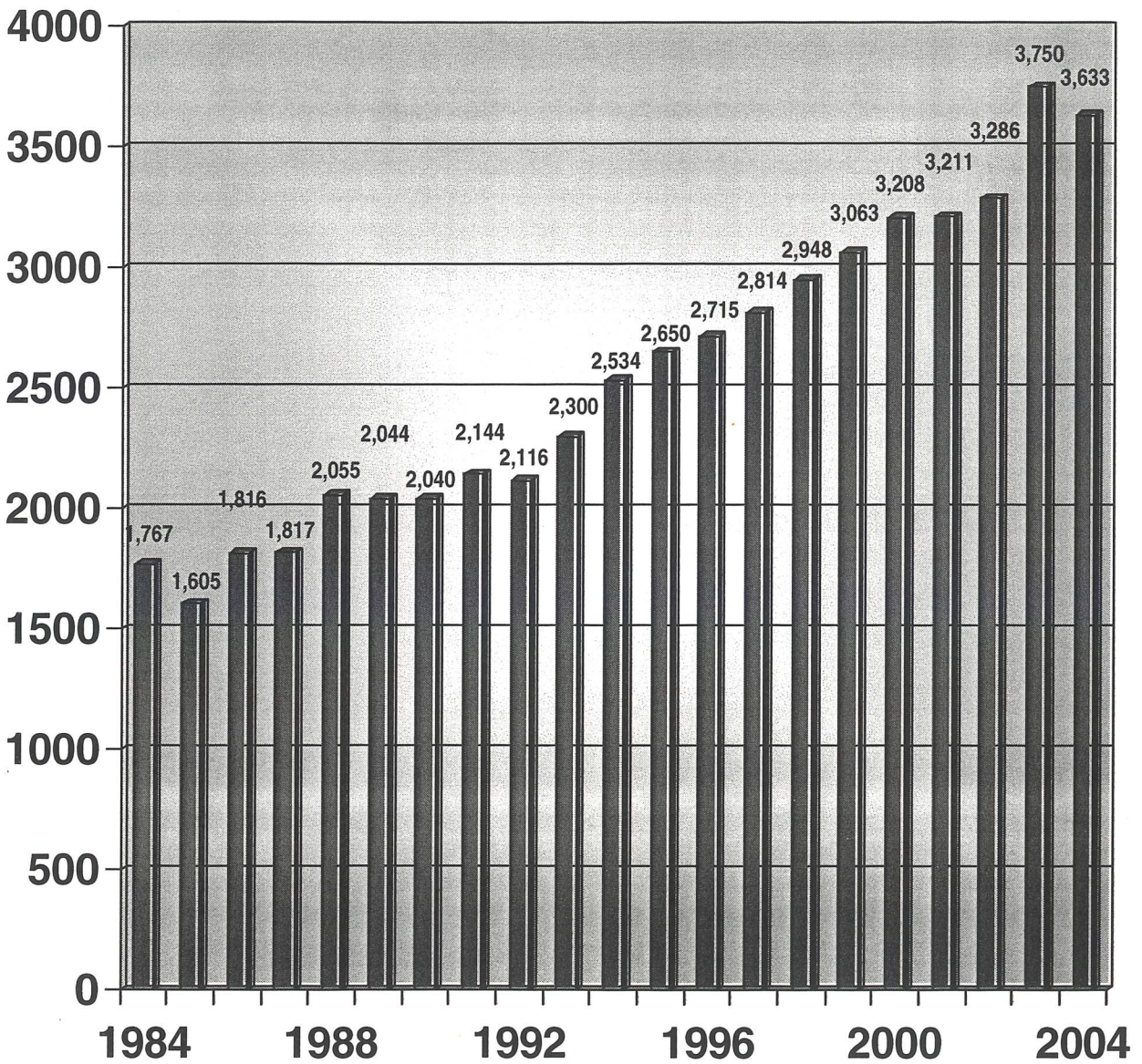
2004 Alarm Time Analysis

Number of Calls





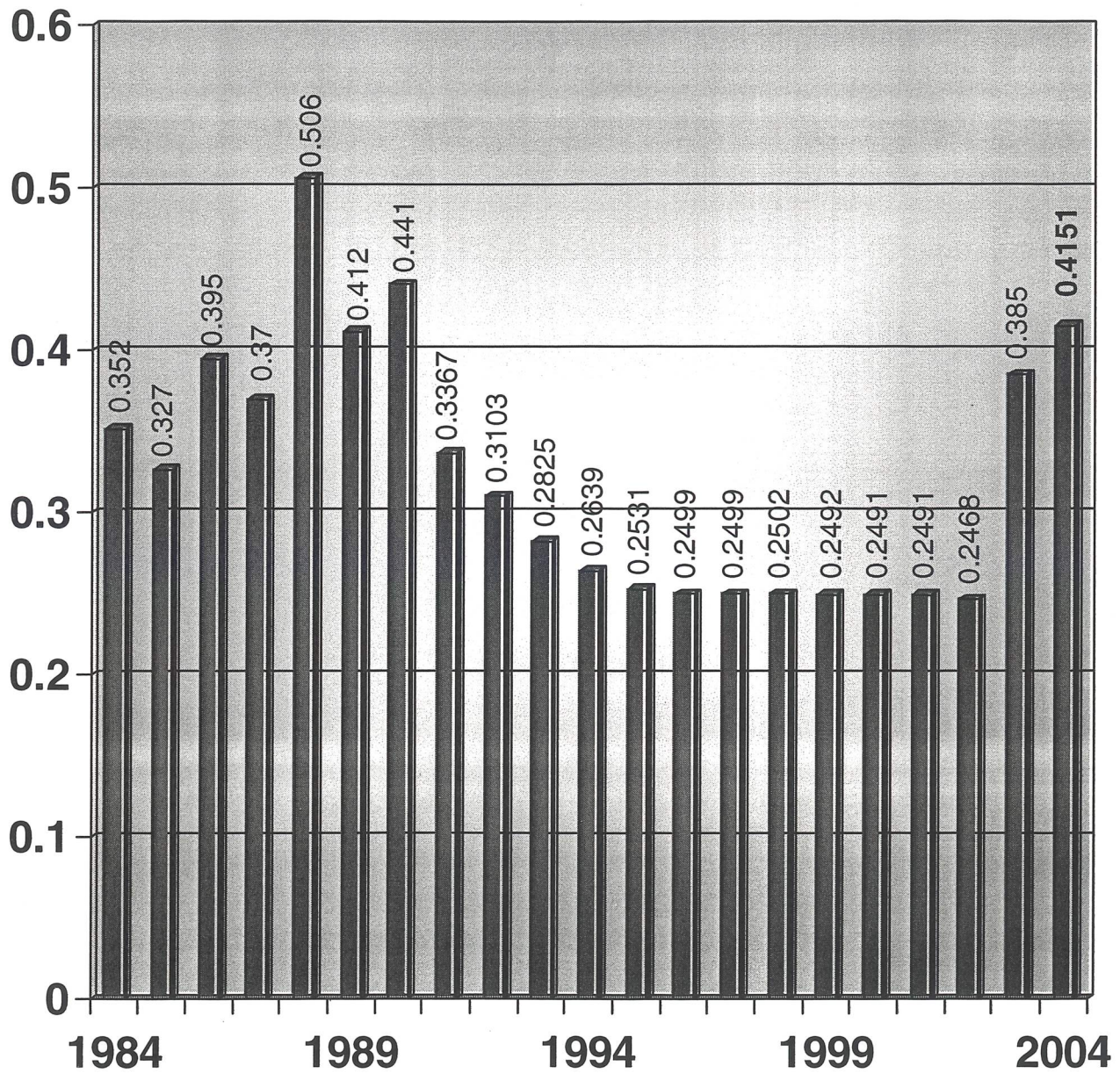
Fire / Rescue Calls 1984 - 2004





Tax Rate

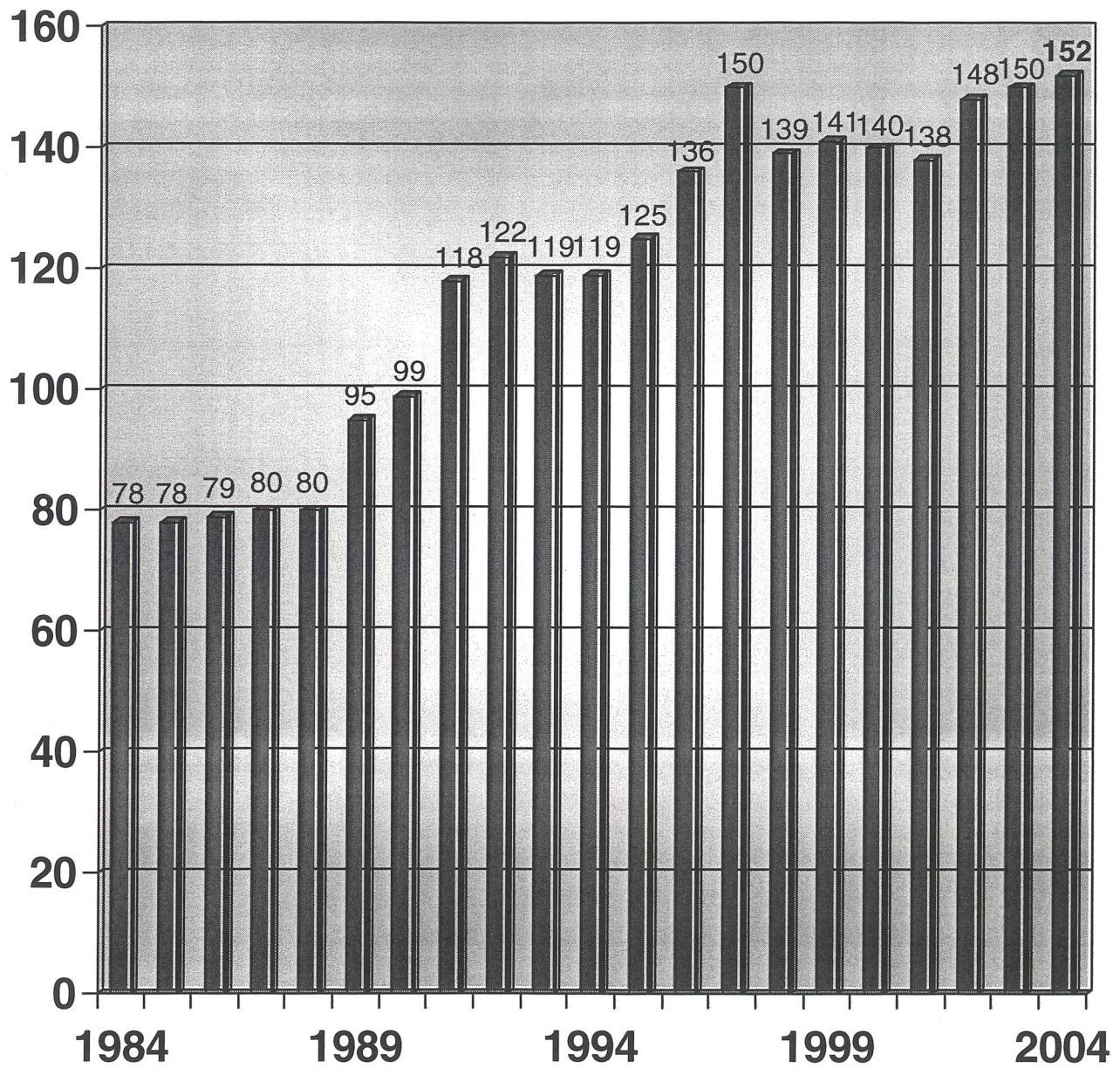
1984 - 2004





Personnel

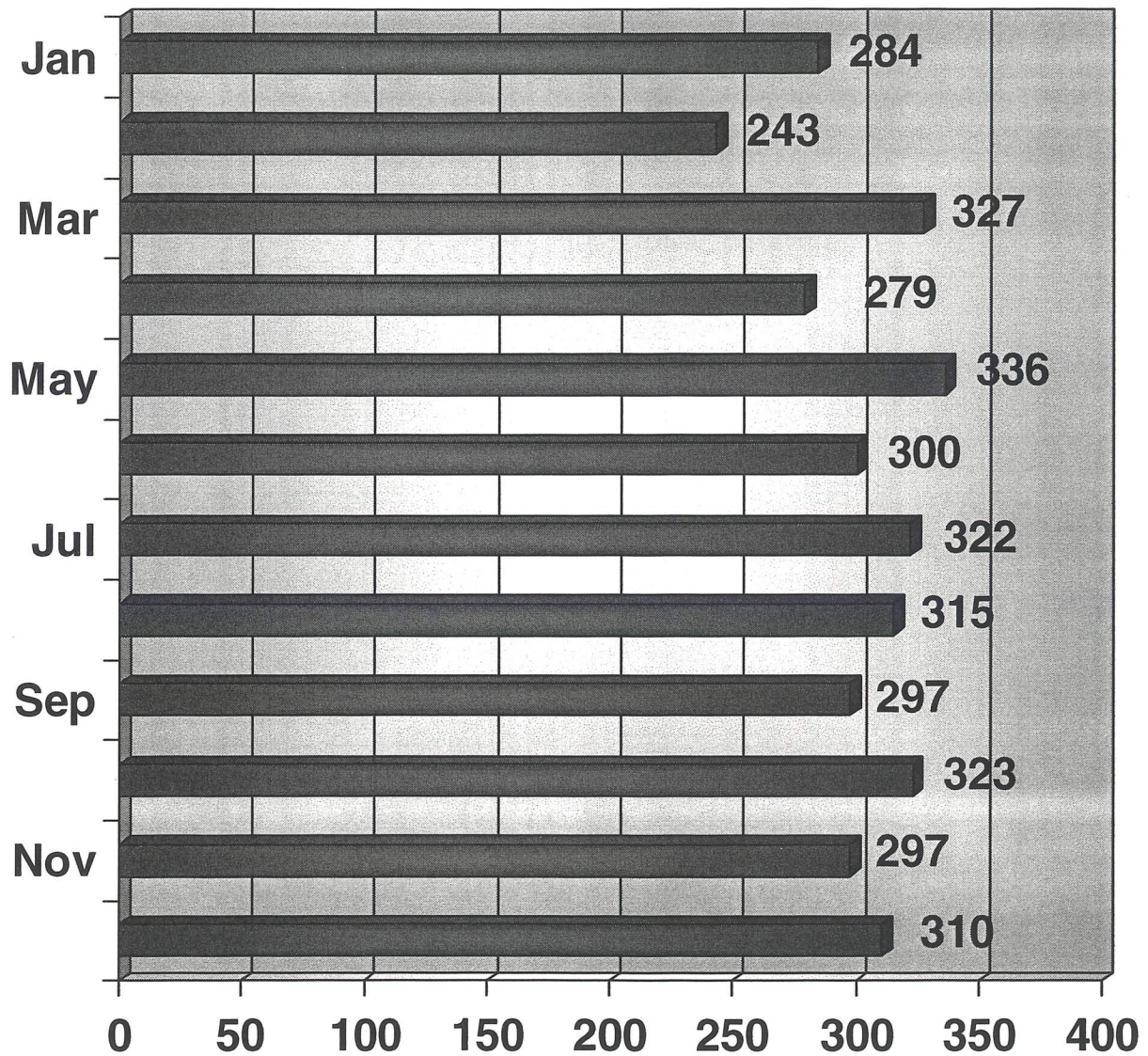
1984 - 2004





2004 Calls by Month

Number of Calls



2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Applied for grant of \$125,000 to purchase vehicle exhaust systems for all three stations
- Replaced Ambulance 1256
- Replaced dive equipment
- Purchased 4 gas trac detectors
- Purchased portable light generators
- District receives "Patriot Award" from Wisconsin National Guard
- District purchased new Shift Commander vehicle
- District purchased new radio transmitter
- FF/Par Jim Amos received "Medal of Valor" from State Fire Marshal
- District hosted county wide training drill at Eby-Brown building
- District purchased 25 new pagers
- District hosted intern from McHenry County College Tech Prep Program
- District hosted 2 "Breakfast with the Chief" with Bush School in Johnsburg reading contest winners
- District sent squad to Utica, Illinois to help after tornado
- Replaced pump and tank on Grass Fire Truck 1272
- Purchased new firefighting protection gear for all members with federal grant of \$257,000
- District adopts Ethics Ordinance
- District remodels day room and sleeping quarters at Station One
- District signs contract to build a new dive truck
- District purchases mask fit testing equipment
- District purchased 3 thermal imaging cameras
- Eleven new permanent members sworn in
- Mailed Spring and Fall "Firewire" newsletter to all residents
- McHenry County Fire Departments signed agreement with Lake County Specialized Response Team to become one unit
- District adopts GASB34 accounting method
- Retirement of FF Tom Michelsen, served District for 37 years
- Replaced roof top heating/air conditioning units and 2 boilers at Station One
- Hosted annual open house at all three stations during Fire Prevention Week
- District purchased an all terrain vehicle
- District added 2 FF/Par to daily staffing; now have 12 people on duty 24/7, all part time employees
- District purchased 5 stair chairs for ambulances
- District upgraded computer system

2004 ANNUAL DIVISION REPORT

PERSONNEL, PAID ON PREMISE, APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT

DEPUTY CHIEF PHIL GUST

As we enter the calendar year of 2005, we aren't just looking back at what we accomplished in 2004, but we're looking ahead to what needs to be accomplished in the next couple years. This will be exciting times with the addition of Chief Amore as the first full time Fire Chief of the District. With the support of the Trustees, the District will move forward with the planned fourth station for the District, and continue to increase our staffing levels.

Personnel, and our part-time environment, continue to be the mainstay of our organization. Over the last year we have been fortunate to only lose a few people from our roster. With the addition of nine new people in July of 2004, we currently have 153 active personnel. Some of those people came to us with experience and required only State certifications, which allowed them to participate in our staffing program sooner than the others that need to attend EMT or Firefighter classes. With the assistance of the new hire committee, we do anticipate conducting an entrance test this year to make an eligibility list for hiring new members.

On November 1, 2004 we implemented our new engine company response at Station 1. This allowed us to add 2 personnel to our daily staffing which puts 5 people at Station 1, 3 people at Station 2 and 3 people at Station 3, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Additionally, there is a Duty Officer on shift 24 hours a day. On a daily basis, that gives us 12 people on duty, at all times, which exceeds the staffing of many departments of similar size, population, and geographic area. We also still have the ability to call back off duty personnel for major incidents. Not to mention the fact that we save the taxpayers a great deal of money by utilizing part-time employees instead of full time. I'm hopeful that this model of our organization continues for many years into the future.

With the ever increasing use of apparatus and equipment, a major focus for the future will be apparatus replacement. A short term goal, in conjunction with the planning of our fourth fire station, will be the addition of a new aerial apparatus. This will enhance our response capabilities from the new station and add a layer of safety that doesn't exist with the older apparatus. Maintenance of present apparatus will continue to be a priority. The personnel are very helpful with daily maintenance and documentation of apparatus service needs. Our local service center cooperates with us closely to maintain our annual service schedule for the apparatus.

2004 ANNUAL REPORT

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

ASSIST. CHIEF STEVE LAING

The year 2004 ended with the McHenry Township Fire Protection District have 18 structure fires, with a reported estimated loss of \$1,332,000. This amount of structure fires was less than the 26 structure fires in 2003. The estimated value of the structures was \$4,371,300, resulting in the losses of \$1,332,000. The total dollars saved was \$3,039,900 or 70% of the values.

There were several reasons for our fire reductions. We had 117 less calls in 2004 compared to 2003. Another important aspect is the very high activities of public education presented by our personnel along with the highly visible and active Fire Inspection Division.

Inspectors Mitch Czech, Tim Butler and Ryan Harding, led by Lt. Frank Graham, continue the fire inspection program, gaining compliance via cooperation and education. The fire safety message is continually stressed.

Public Education numbers, programs, activities, etc. have never been stronger than the 2004 results. Public education is presented throughout McHenry Township all year around, including station tours, block parties, all special events (Fiesta Days, Saufen und Spiel, Lakemoor Days, etc.), Safety Trailer programs and many, many more activities.

Specialized Public Education programs include our Fire Safety Puppet Productions and the nationally recognized "Learn Not To Burn" program.

The puppet programs, presented by Kelly Waters-Wuchter, Fran Woloszynski and Cindy Bertulis, stress fire safety and is directed towards pre-school through third grade children. The puppet shows presented fire safety to 4,218 children, parents and teachers.

The "Learn Not To Burn" programs were taught by Mitch Czech and Bill Rzeszutko in two schools for fourth grade students. 2,562 contacts were made as a result of this program. An additional 2 schools are being scheduled in 2005 for the program. This program is certified by the National Fire Prevention Association and greatly appreciated by the school administrators, teachers and students.

Our "go to" people at each station are Mike Rieken (Station 1), Cindy Bertulis (Station 2) and Kathy Kempster (Station 3), with assistance from Jim Bove III at all levels.

The dynamics of all involved in Public Education is a totally worthwhile endeavor and appreciated.

Fred Hult, Bill Milbratz and Lt. Frank Rodgers step forward on a regular basis to lead the investigations of our fire. The Bureau Inspectors step up to assist in on-going investigations, including coordination with outside agencies. It is our responsibility to determine the cause and origin of all fires in our District.

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

Our communities continue to grow, requiring all divisions within the Fire Prevention Bureau to remain active and visible. We will continue to strive to meet our goals.

Our philosophy remains the same.

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

2004 ANNUAL REPORT

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

ASSISTANT CHIEF DAVID N. KARLS

As I began to write this annual report, I feel that time has flown by so fast that we can not seem to realize what we have accomplished and completed in the last year at the McHenry Township Fire Protection District. Although calls were down for the year by 3%, we were still consistent with Emergency Medical calls leading the way with a total of 78% of all calls for the year.

Some of the items that were implemented and worked on for the year are as follows:

1. Revised and adopted the ride-a-long policy.
2. Submitted the two-year E.M.T.-B training schedule for site code approval to I.D.P.H.
3. Completed the annual ambulance I.D.P.H. inspections.
4. Put in service a new ambulance.
5. Changed the numbering of each Ambulance to assist in dispatching and responses.
6. Tested and purchased new stair chairs for all five ambulances.
7. Mandatory training by all Paramedics on new E.M.S. procedures implemented by Region 9. These were Drug Assisted Intubation (D.A.I.) and Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (C.P.A.P.).

Along with the above-mentioned items, all members completed their normal yearly C.P.R. requirements, along with continuing education hours consisting of at least 30 hours per year by each member.

We had three members complete and pass Paramedic training this year. This class requires total commitment by each member and is not an ordinary class. The requirements to be accepted into Paramedic class are that each student must have a Biology or some type of Anatomy and Physiology class, take an entrance exam and pass by a grade of 80% or higher, be interviewed by the Class Instructor and Project Medical Director, and be approved by the Department sponsoring each student. The two students who passed and completed this class in the District's medical system were Fran Woloszynski, and Rich Kozak. Another member of our District, Mike Reiken, completed the class in another system and has been accepted by the District's medical system. All of their time and efforts to complete this class are greatly appreciated.

One of the goals for the department is to maintain a balance of having enough certified Paramedics on staff. At this time, I feel we do with 72 certified, 2 in class, and 1

obtaining hours before state testing can be done. The requirements and time are only going to increase with each passing year as medical technology increases and demand for medical care increases on each and every fire department.

On a personnel note, I would like to give a very big thank you to all those members and staff personnel that help keep the Emergency Services Division operating on a daily basis. A special thanks to the District trustees and the tax payers of this Fire Protection District. I would like to congratulate Fire Chief Wayne Amore for being selected as the first full-time Fire Chief in this District. With his leadership, we can only look forward to a future of untapped opportunities.

Annual Report – 2004

Training and Operations

Assistant Chief Tony Huemann

The challenge of training 150 part time firefighters to be efficient, effective and safe continues to grow with each passing year. The McHenry Township Fire Protection District is made up of business men and women, tradesmen, housewives, executives, real estate brokers, sales people and career firefighters and paramedics, just to name a few. Also, there are 2 shifts per day changing at 6 a.m. and then again at 6 p.m.. One of the main challenges is to create a schedule where all employees can participate in training sessions.

In 2004 the department decided that mask fit testing and the SCBA consumption test would become an annual mandatory training session for all personnel. The Training Division created a flexible schedule that included both AM and PM sessions on multiple dates as well as on some of the Monday night training sessions. All personnel have data in their training file indicating they completed and passed the mask fit test and completed the SCBA air consumption test.

Also in 2004, the Training Division requested the company officers to develop and implement 4 multi-company drills. Those 4 drills consisted of a rapid intervention drill at the old Eby-Brown building, a dive drill, a water-supply challenge and an auto-extrication drill at the Possum Run Pit. The RIT drill included many MABAS companies as well as McHenry Township's Stations 1, 2 and 3. A company of 4 firefighters advanced into the basement of the building and became lost or trapped. The objective of the drill was to find and rescue the lost and trapped firefighters. The drill was a complete success. All of us realized how difficult and labor intensive a firefighter rescue will be.

The second multi-company drill was a dive drill reviewing the department's procedures on water and ice incidents and showing our personnel all the equipment available for the dive team to use. A Power Point Presentation was shown on procedures that will be used by MABAS Division V divers if and when our department would request their assistance.

The third multi-company drill was held behind the Motorola building in the Prime Parkway development. The water supply challenge consisted of teams of 4 firefighters making a hydrant connection, pulling a 200' preconnected 1 ¾" handline, charging the handline with tank water and then opening the hydrant and switching from tank water to hydrant water. The goal was to complete the entire task before your competition completes all of their tasks. The first one to complete the tasks can spray the other group with water. After all personnel completed the drill, the team that completed the task the fastest received a gift certificate at a local restaurant.

The fourth and final drill was held at the Possum Run Gravel Pit. A vehicle was turned upside down on the side of a steep hill and rescue dummies were placed inside the vehicle. The situation created many challenges for the rescuers including car stabilization, tool deployment, extrication and victim removal. All 3 Stations were involved. The rescue required the assistance of about fifty firefighters, EMT's and Paramedics.

The first part of the year was very exciting because we had a house on West Route 120 to do live burns with our personnel. In December 2003 we started preparing the house for live burns by cutting holes in the roof, installing dry wall in the burn rooms and making an extremely strong stair railing so firefighters would not fall onto the stairs while crawling through thick, black, chunky smoke.

Prior to performing live burn drills, POP personnel participated in many live smoke drills during the day and night shifts. The house was also to be used for live fire officer training and for an evaluation of new bunker gear. Unfortunately, before the live burn drills commenced, a fire occurred at the house, rendering it useless for our plans.

Additional training topics in 2004 were ropes and knots, hazardous materials, extrication tool familiarization, ventilation, hose loads, drafting, ladders, Fire Apparatus Engineer and pump calculations, Truck 12 review, first-in officer class and a review of Metra Train operations. The probationary firefighters were also assigned monthly training that must be completed with their mentor (big brother/big sister). All probationary training is documented and reviewed by the probationary firefighter's company officer.

48 firefighters attended outside classes in 2004 totaling 3,060 hours. Some of those classes were fire officer development, extrication, advanced firefighter practical, reading smoke, advanced SCBA practical and command classes. Lieutenant Joe Krueger and Captain Mike Majercik attended a six-day Incident Management class at the National Fire Academy. The class illustrates and implements the use of the National Incident Management System through multiple fire and hazardous materials simulated scenarios. Lieutenant Krueger and Captain Majercik will be assisting with training of department personnel on the National Incident Management System.

The McHenry Township Fire Protection District participated as instructor again this year at the annual Monroe Fire School teaching Advanced SCBA practices and search and rescue techniques. MTFPD participating instructors in 2004 were Assistant Chief Tony Huemann, Captain Kevin Long, Lieutenants Frank Rodgers and Joe Krueger, F/P Bill Oeffling, F/P Jenny Bazan, F/P Shane Boehmke, FF/EMT Amy Mann and FF/EMT Rob Stermer, Jr.. 2004 was the third year that instructors from MTFPD have been asked to develop and coordinate the Advanced SCBA and Search and Rescue class. We have been asked back again for 2005.

Some other highlights for 2004 are an Engine Company was added to the response plan at Station #1. The engine will be available to respond with the ambulance when needed as

well as responding to fires throughout the entire District, if needed. Also, if the engine is in quarters and a second ambulance call is received for Station #1, the engine personnel will take the reserve ambulance and respond. Deputy Chief Gust and Assistant Chief Huemann, with assistance from the company officer, have developed and/or revised approximately 30 Standard Operating Procedures. After the Standard Operating Procedures have been approved by the Fire Chief, they will be adopted and implemented through the Training Division with all personnel.



