

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

2007 Annual Report



The ground breaking ceremony for the McHenry Township Fire Protection District Station Four took place on June 2, 2007. The station is located at 6300 W. Dartmoor in the Legend Lakes Subdivision. SRBL Architects of Deerfield and Stuckey Construction of Waukegan were contracted to construct the facility for the District. The approximately 9,100 square foot station is built to house six full time firefighters and four vehicles. Initially the Station will house three firefighters, one engine and one ambulance. The Station will be fully operational some time in April 2008.





MISSION STATEMENT

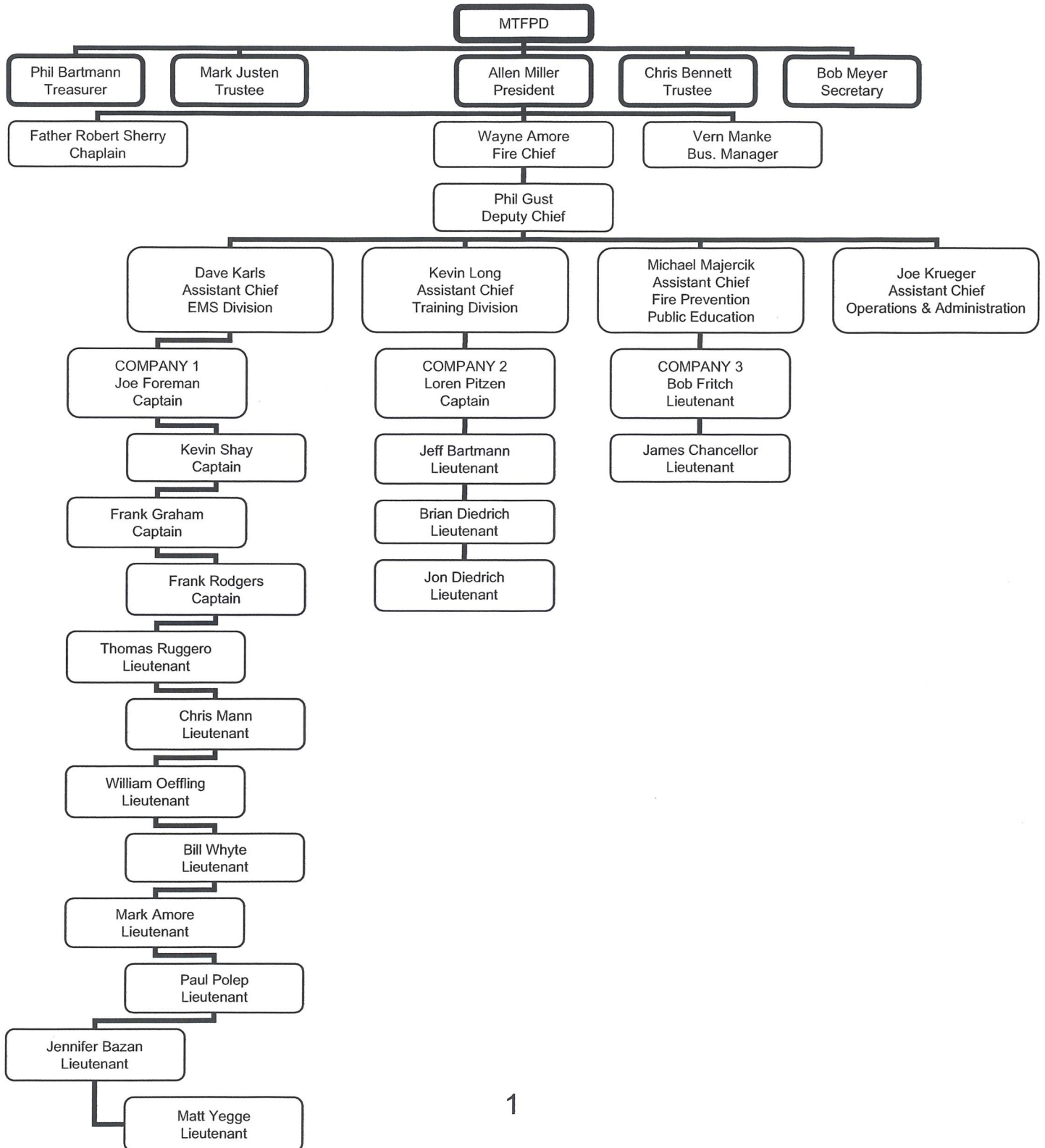
The McHenry Township Fire Protection District is dedicated to providing the highest level of fire and rescue services to the communities it serves, through the commitment, preparedness, continuing education and training of its most valuable asset, its Members, who work to assure the safety of the District's citizens on a daily basis.

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

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Administration



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 Johnsborg 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, Johnsborg 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 Johnsborg 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 with all stations' crews responding as jump companies. Call demand increased in Station One Still Area and an additional two people were added twenty-four hours per day on November 1, 2004. On October 1, 2005, an additional position was created taking the daily staffing to 4 three person jump companies. With the Shift Commander, the minimum staffing was set at 13. At that time new response procedures were put in place allowing duty crews to handle 93% 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. Assistant Chief Laing retired October 30, 2006.

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.

In the spring of 2005 the Board of Trustees requested that Chief Wayne Amore and Officers conduct a comprehensive study of the District identifying the best place to locate a fourth Fire Station. In March of 2006, the committee presented to the board of Trustees a Station Four Feasibility Study. This study identified the best site for the fourth station to be in the Legend Lakes Subdivision on a one and half acre site that was donated to the District as part of the Annexation Agreement for the subdivision. In June of 2006 the Board of Trustees signed a contract with Sente, Rubel, Bosman & Lee Architects to design the station. On June 3, 2007, the District held a ground breaking ceremony at the Station Four site, 6300 W. Dartmoor. Members of the George E. Johnson, Sr. family, land donators, were present.

2007 ANNUAL REPORT CHIEF WAYNE AMORE

The McHenry Township Fire Protection District again hit a new milestone for calls for 2007 with 4,334 responses for help from our community. This represents a 7.65% increase from the call volume of 2006 at 4,026. For the year we averaged 11.87 calls per day. About 94% of the calls were handled by the thirteen people on duty crews which staff our stations 24/7. Ambulance calls represented 76% of the activity and fire calls represented 3% of the total calls for the year.

The majority of the year was taken up with activities in and around the construction of Station Four. The early part of the year was consumed getting the finishing touches on the specifications and preparation of the bidders' packets. In May the District signed a contract with Stuckey Construction as General Contractors for the construction of the building. Groundbreaking took place on June 2nd and work began immediately. The building was under roof, the driveways were in and the majority of the landscaping work was completed before the winter weather came in. Interior work continued during the winter months with completion expected in February, 2008.

The Ladder Truck Committee had a busy year doing research on the various types of aerial devices and various manufacturers. Several meetings took place during the year to determine the current and future needs of the district. Several members of the committee attended the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) Trade Show in Indianapolis to review all of the latest models and configurations of aerial devices. Members of the committee took trips to Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin to review vehicles and manufacturing facilities. The committee made its formal presentation to the Board of Trustees on December 1st recommending the District purchase a Pierce Velocity 100' Tower Ladder from Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton, Wisconsin. The Board accepted the recommendation and approved the purchase after the presentation.

Assistant Chief Joe Krueger started his four year Executive Fire Officer Classes at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Chief Krueger is the first member of our District to apply and be accepted into the program. The classes consist of two consecutive weeks each summer for four years.

During the year, we took delivery on a new Shift Commanders' Vehicle. The 2007 Chevrolet Suburban is equipped with multiple radios, computer and a slide out storage rack which safely stores the equipment.

For the first time in the history of the District applications for membership were accepted from Firefighter/Paramedics who do not live within the district boundaries. In addition, the minimum age requirement for membership was reduced from 21 to 18 years of age provided that person was enrolled in the Fire Science Program at McHenry County College. As a result of these changes to membership requirements this year, we added 18 new members to our roster to assist with the call demands of the district.

On March 17th while responding to a call ambulance 1251 was struck broadside and knocked over on its side coming to rest about 100' from impact. The ambulance had captured the pre-emption for the traffic signal and had the green light when it was struck. Three of our members were transported to the local hospital. All of our members are back to work now. However, one member was off for over six months from injuries sustained. Our ambulance was totaled and a new ambulance was ordered immediately. We took delivery of it in October.

In late fall we completed our bi-annual testing for Officer Positions. The test consisted of four parts: written test, fire simulator test, oral interview and educational and activity participation for which points were assigned by the Chief Officers. We had a total of 13 people take the Lieutenant's test and 3 people take the Captain's test. Currently we do not have any opening for Officer Positions. The list will expire on December 11, 2009.

The District purchased new Duty Jackets for its members during the year. The jacket is waterproof, windproof, provides blood, body fluid and common chemical resistance. The zip out fleece liner makes the jacket usable year round. It also has reflective scotchlite and reflective trim for nighttime safety.

In late summer we formed a committee to look at the replacement of our existing extrication equipment used for auto accidents. The committee has done extensive work during the year interviewing various manufacturers. In addition, the committee hosted a demonstration day where each manufacturer brought in their products for our committee members to use cutting up cars and getting familiar with the product. As of the end of the year, the committee had not finished their work. It is expected that a formal report will be presented to the Board of Trustees sometime in the first quarter of 2008.

The District constructed a Technology Room in the lower level of Station One. In the past our computer servers were in a semi-private area. The new room will be a private area with limited access for all computer and phone system component parts. In late fall we began phase one of the new technology plan which will replace our aging computer system along with purchasing a centralized phone system for the district. This work should be completed in the first quarter of 2008.

Again in 2007 the District did submit a FEMA grant application for reimbursement for some of the cost of our Fire Prevention programs. In addition, a grant application was submitted to the State Fire Marshals Office for replacement of some small power tools. Unfortunately, both grants were denied.

Overall 2007 was a very active year. Staff continues to work on and research different types of equipment, staffing models and programs that will help us meet the demand for service for the present and for the future.

2007 Major Accomplishments

- Assistant Chief Joe Krueger accepted in Executive Fire Officer class scheduled at National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland
- Seven members enrolled at McHenry County College in Firefighter II class
- Submitted grant application to FEMA for fire prevention programs
- Purchase new two way radios for three vehicles
- Hosted Fire Apparatus Engineer class
- Hosted Illinois Fire Protection District Association regional meeting
- Mailed Spring and Fall edition of "Firewire" to all residents of the District
- Took delivery of 2007 Chevrolet Suburban as new shift commander's vehicle
- Put new ambulance in service at Station Two
- Installed Nextel booster antennas in all stations
- Ladder Truck Committee formed; reviewed various manufactures and recommended 100' Pierce Tower ladder to be purchased. Board approved December 1, 2007
- Changed membership age requirement from 21 to 18 provided the person is enrolled in Fire Science Program at McHenry County College
- For the first time, the District accepted membership applications from Firefighter/Paramedics who do not live in the District
- District adopted a "Mission Statement"
- Preventative maintenance (body work) done on Engines 1210 and 1221 along with Tender 1223
- District purchased 60 length of various sized hose
- District created updated map books and District map
- 47 candidates attended orientation for membership
- Resurfaced driveway in front of Station Three
- District awards construction of Station Four to low bidder, Stuckey Construction of Waukegan
- Purchased 25 new pagers
- Replaced all cribbing on all engines and squads
- Signed Automatic Aid agreement with Crystal Lake Fire and Rescue Department.
- Swore in ten probationary members as permanent members.
- Replaced treadmill at Station Three
- Purchased new duty jackets for the entire membership
- Formed committee to research new extrication equipment
- Duty crews went door to door checking smoke/CO detectors
- Technology Room built in lower level of Station One
- Purchased ice machine for the District
- Purchased five new Stryker cots for the ambulances
- District embarks on 2007 updated technology plan including new computer and phone system
- Put new ambulance in service at Station One
- Completed bi-annual officer testing
- Responded to 4,334 calls for help from our community

**PERSONNEL AND PAID ON PREMISE
DEPUTY CHIEF PHIL GUST**

As 2007 came to a close, I was fortunate to be able to retire from my full-time position with the Village of Skokie, and devote more time to the McHenry Fire District.

As you know from the Fire Chief's comments, and by looking at our 2007 statistics, it has been a very busy year. With the anticipated opening of Station #4 in 2008, there will be plenty of activity for the upcoming year.

As a special project, I have been assigned by the Fire Chief to oversee the opening of Station #4, to include the acquisition of furniture and equipment for the station. I have been assisted by many members of the department in determining what apparatus we would be moving to Station #4, what new equipment needs to be purchased, and what other apparatus movements should take place. With the help of the Business Manager, Vern Manke, we will outline a list of furnishings, kitchen supplies, fitness equipment, storage cabinets, tools, and other miscellaneous items for the station. We hope to have the station operational by May 1, 2008.

An ongoing project to have our calls dispatched with a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) format will coincide with the re-districting of our response areas for our four stations. We are hopeful that the new wireless communications system at McHenry Police Department will be up and running by the time Station #4 opens, and the CAD system will also be operational.

We are also hopeful that we can continue to staff our stations with part-time personnel, in the manner we have been for many years. Since we don't immediately anticipate adding personnel when we open Station #4 (we'll be moving a three person crew from Station #1), there won't be a big impact on our current manpower roster. The recruitment of certified Firefighter/Paramedics has been helpful in maintaining our staffing also.

Before ending my report for this year, I would like to acknowledge the members of our Fire District for their continued dedication and commitment to filling the shifts on a daily basis, answering emergency calls and providing vital services to the citizens of our District 24/7, and exhibiting the professionalism they do at every event or activity in which they participate. The McHenry Township Fire Protection District is highly respected by our peers in the Fire Service, and this is due in large part to our great membership.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION ASSISTANT CHIEF DAVID N. KARLS

The department experienced a very busy year in 2007. We had thought we would stay steady with calls and activities that continued from 2006 but as the year ended, we had surpassed the averages by 7.5% from the past years. We ended the year with 4334 calls of which approximately 76% of the calls were emergency medical calls in nature. We did see an increase in ambulance assistance calls this year compared to last year's. This will probably be the trend in the future as more and more people are being sent home earlier from the medical facilities after their injury or illness.

Some of the activities that involved the E.M.S. division this year were placing a new ambulance in service, evaluating and purchasing new cots and placing them in service, keeping all personnel up to date on the new medical procedures instituted by the local E.M.S. office and I.D.P.H., normal inspections of equipment and vehicles, and maintaining records of all the members of the department.

We had a big scare on March 17th of this year as we had an ambulance involved in a serious accident while responding to an early morning medical call. Luckily for us, our personnel were not hurt seriously. One of the members did spend some time on the mend which lasted for several months but we can say he is back in full service at this time. The other two members involved were injured and only suffered minor injuries. The bad thing about this accident was we lost an ambulance from our fleet as it was totaled beyond repair. We were able to obtain an ambulance that was sent to us as a loaner until we were able to purchase a new one and put it in to operation in the fall of the year.

With the new hiring procedure that was adopted by the District this year, we were able to hire some qualified members not only from within the District but from outside the District. The Board of Trustees waived our procedures for hiring this year and allowed us to hire out of District qualified Firefighter II/Paramedics that were looking for some part time work. This new procedure has helped us maintain a roster of 75 medics on the department. We do have two members in class and one member completing class this year.

The department still offers training to the public in C.P.R. /A.E.D. (Automatic External Defibrillator) and this is coordinated by Firefighter Paramedic Jenny Winkler with assistance from many members who have maintained the requirements in C.P.R. Instruction. They have trained quite a few citizens, businesses, and public organizations through out the year. This will be an on going program that has benefits to all the citizens of the community.

I would like to thank all those dedicated members and employees that make the Emergency Medical Services Division a success and a special thanks to the taxpayers who provide the funds to help maintain this department as one of the best departments in the State of Illinois.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU ASSISTANT CHIEF MIKE MAJERCIK

The year 2007 was another very busy year that continued to bring changes to the Fire Prevention Bureau. I entered my second year in charge of the bureau. It continues to be my goal to run this division with the utmost dedication and professionalism as my predecessor did.

In 2007 we had 28 structure fires in our own district. Those fires resulted in an estimated \$1,574,050 in property loss. We had 3 civilian injuries and 3 firefighter injuries as a result of the fires. Thankfully, none were life threatening. We also, thankfully, suffered no fire fatalities in 2007.

We continued our second summer administering our door to door smoke/CO detector program for residents in the district. It was our goal to continue to check homes in our district and to install a detector and/or change batteries in residents that did not have working detectors. In 2007, we had the additional challenge of also checking homes for working CO detectors. On January 1, 2007, it became law that all residential homes had to have a working CO detectors as well as smoke detectors. This added quite an expense to our program. To date, after 2 summers of work, we made contact with over 7,800 homes. Out of those homes, we either installed a detector and/or a battery in nearly 1,200 of these homes. This equates to 15% of the homes we contacted not having a working detector. This summer the program will be ongoing. We will continue to check residential homes for working smoke & CO detectors. It is our goal to finish our door to door program this summer by reaching our entire residential district. After that, our program will continue indefinitely by allowing people to call us anytime if they need assistance with installing a detector or battery. It will remain our philosophy that we will check, and/or install a detector or battery for anybody that needs one.

Over the summer, we hired an intern Nick Eschner. Nick was a senior at Oklahoma State University majoring in Fire Protection Engineering. He spent the 3 summer months with us assisting the bureau in every facet. In December, Nick graduated from O.S.U. with a degree in engineering. He graduated at the top of his class and is pursuing a firefighting job with the City of Skokie. I am happy to report that McHenry Township Fire has hired Nick on a part-time basis into our fire prevention bureau. His primary responsibilities will include plan-review as well as completing a Pre-plan program for our entire district. This program will greatly enhance the safety of our first responding companies to our commercial structures by giving them valuable information about the building characteristics.

In addition to Nick Eschner, we continue to use our 4 experienced inspectors to inspect all of the commercial occupancies including schools, churches, and multi family residences. They include: Mitch Czech, Tim Butler, Ryan Harding, and Tony Oliver. They all work under the direction of the Captain Frank Graham. Together they continue to inspect our roughly 1,600 commercial occupancies to gain code compliance and cooperation to promote a fire safe environment. In addition, the bureau continues to do

plan reviews on all new businesses that come into our district. This includes the very busy Rt. 31 corridor to the north of McHenry.

Our Fire Investigative team continues to stay busy investigating the origin and cause of all structure fires. Our team features 12 investigators and 4 assistants. We have trained our shift commanders when to call for an investigation. It is the goal of this team to fully and professionally investigate the origin and cause of all structure fires using all resources at our disposal.

Diana St. Clair continues to serve as our Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist. Most of her cases are referred to her directly from the McHenry County court system or directly from the local police departments in our district. In 2007 she was assigned 7 separate cases.

Public Education continues to be one of our busiest and most visible programs each year. We present this education throughout the year via: station tours, block parties, safety trailer demonstrations, special events (Fiesta Days, Saufen Speil, Lakemoor Days, etc.), and many more activities too numerous to list. Cindy Bertulis, Mike Reiken, Fran Woloszynski, Jim Bove, Joe Huemann, Matt Schulien, Dan Olenick, and Kathy Kempster continue to lead the pub ed teams from each station.

Special programs include the nationally recognized "Learn Not to Burn" program carried out by Bill Rzeszutko, Matt Schulien and Cindy Bertulis. This program reaches nearly every fourth grader in our fire district. In 2007 approximately 800 4th grade students attended the 8 day program. Fran Woloszynski, Cindy Bertulis, Kelly Water- Wuchter, Jim Bove, and Matt Schulien continue to carry out our Fire Safety Puppet Program. This program has reached over 13,350 people since its inception in 2002. The program targets mostly pre-school through 3rd graders.

It is clear that McHenry Township will continue to aggressively grow in the future. The Fire Prevention Bureau will continually strive to meet our goals and to keep pace with this growth. The best fire we have to fight is the one that never happens.

Our philosophy remains the same:

"All people within the McHenry Township Fire Protection District deserve the right to live and work in a fire and life safe environment!"

TRAINING DIVISION ASSISTANT CHIEF KEVIN LONG

As I prepared my notes for 2007, I did not realize how much time and effort the members of the McHenry Township Fire Protection District devoted to providing a fire safe community for its residents. Not only did the District see an increase in call activity, it also spent hundreds of hours on projects, committee meetings, programs and attending special events that are held throughout the year. Another increase was seen in the Training Division with an additional 3,337 training hours. Members logged a total of 10,223 training hours in classes, seminars, hands on evolutions and defining the skills needed for specialty teams.

In January the District enrolled eight probationary members in the Firefighter II class held at M.C.C. This class started on January 16th and continued to June 16th. During this time, they received classroom instructions and drilled on various topics needed to prepare them for a career in the Fire Service.

At the end of February the Fire District hosted a Fire Apparatus Engineer course. This is a 40^{hour} course that covers the principles of water and water systems, mechanical principles of pumps and pump controls, intake and discharge hydraulics, stream development, pump maintenance, service and acceptance testing. The class had 19 enrolled of which three represented the Cary Fire Department and three represented Nunda Rural Fire District. The lead instructor was Doc Hult with assistance from A/C Majercik, Capt. Rodgers, Lt. Amore, Lt. Oeffling and Firefighter Young.

In May the Fire District participated in two large drills. On May 6th the Marengo Fire Protection District hosted a disaster drill at the Marengo High School that involved a fire/explosion. As the drill progressed, it was then determined that several people had been wounded and the location of the assailant(s) was unknown. This drill created confusion and required personnel to re-evaluate their strategies. The second drill occurred on May 12th. The Crystal Lake Fire Department hosted a Hazardous Material drill at Chemtool Manufacturing that involved a chemical release/spill along with several employees requiring medical attention.

On October 27th MABAS Division 5 conducted a roll out drill from the POD, which is located at the Huntley Fire Department. The roll out drill was a test of the deployment system should a fire department request additional assistance at a disaster scene. As the drill started, several chief officers were assigned to communications, accountability, and staging as well as other tasks needed to deploy firefighters and equipment. After firefighters completed the check in process, they received a gear bag with various supplies and final instructions regarding the deployment. They then drove apparatus along a planned route to the Huntley training tower where they set up a camp and reviewed the trailer that carried extra equipment to be utilized during a deployment that could last two weeks.

In 2007 the Crystal Lake Fire Department purchased a moving trailer to be used for an S.C.B.A. (self contained breathing apparatus) maze. After several weeks of installing lumber and lighting, a three floor maze was created that is used to challenge firefighters while conducting a search for

victims, removing an injured firefighter or as an S.C.B.A. confidence course. The McHenry Township Fire Protection District along with Cary, Huntley and Richmond departments signed a lease agreement to use the S.C.B.A. trailer. During the year, each department is assigned two months that they can have the trailer at their department for training. Throughout the month of October, the trailer was at Station One. Each day firefighters were able to conduct training using three scenarios. During each evolution, firefighters had to navigate narrow hallways where they would encounter stairs, ramps, doors and obstacles that hindered their movement.

Starting in 2008 the Training Division will be making changes to meet the new requirements set by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Those areas include employment rosters, training files, training forms and documentation of specialty team training. Lesson plans will be altered to meet revisions in N.F.P.A. standards, additional instructors will be added to ensure that training is completed at all four stations and make preparations for an audit of our ISO rating. To meet these goals will require the assistance of every member, as within any department, success can only be achieved thru the commitment of its membership.

OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT CHIEF JOE KRUEGER

Our district experienced significant growth again in 2007, and our daily call activity continues to increase with it. As always, our busiest activity was providing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to our customers. EMS calls totaled 3,238 for the year. This was a 4.5% increase over 2006. There were 147 fire responses - down 18% from 2006. Twenty-nine of the fire responses were for structure fires within our district. Of those, 79% of the fires occurred in single family homes. This is consistent with the national average. On a very positive note, our property value loss from fire was reduced by 51% over 2006, and we experienced no fire fatalities.

February replaced October as our busiest month in 2007 – averaging 13.3 calls per day. Overall for the year, we averaged just over 11.9 calls per day. Our district continues to meet the needs of the community with crews working 12-hour part-time shifts scheduled around their family life and full-time professions. All members are State of Illinois certified Firefighter II / EMTs and of those, fifty percent have continued their education to become State Certified Paramedics.

The year 2007 marked two firsts for new member recruitment. The first was the opening our hiring boundaries for trained Firefighter/Paramedics (FF/P). Eight Firefighter/Paramedics who reside outside of the fire district were hired in July, and two additional were placed on a hire list that is active for one year. The second was that all non-trained members hired in 2007 or after will be required to complete paramedic training within five years of being hired. This replaces the former requirement of certification to the EMT-Basic level. These changes will help to fortify the district's paramedic staffing in future years.

Our workload was evenly distributed among the three traditional 24-hour fire service work shifts (black, red, gold). Sixty-one percent of our calls occur between the dayshift hours of 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. with the remaining 39% occurring at night. Figure 1 shows our call volume by shift color and day shift vs. night shift.

Number of Incidents			
Shift	Day Shift	Night Shift	Total
Black	926	552	1,478
Red	842	581	1,423
Gold	873	560	1,433
Total	2,640	1,692	4,334

Figure 1 – Calls by Shift Days / Day shift vs. Night Shift

Each of our fire stations is divided into two response districts. The response district defines which of the other two stations will have primary responsibility for assistance. Station One remains as the busiest station in the district answering 70% of our calls overall. Within Station One's boundaries, the Southern District (132) remains as the busiest – accounting for 45% of the district's overall call volume. When Station 4 opens in June of 2008, it is anticipated that it will assume approximately 25% of Station 1's overall call volume. Figure 2 shows our call volume by station and district for 2007.

We continue to be an active participant in the MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) organization. In 2007 we responded to 85 requests for assistance to communities outside of our fire protection district and received assistance from outside organizations 22 times.

Station	District	Calls	Percentage
Station 1 (McHenry)	123	1,060	70%
	132	1,977	
	Total	3,037	
Station 2 (Johnsburg)	213	283	19%
	231	556	
	Total	839	
Station 3 (Lakemoor)	312	174	9%
	321	199	
	Total	373	
Out of District (Mutual Aid)		85	2%
Total		4,334	100%

Figure 2 – Calls by District

Significant Incidents for 2007:

February 7, 2007 – Crews respond to a motor vehicle accident at the 1200 block of River Road. Upon arrival, they find two vehicles that were involved in a high-speed, head-on collision. There are a total of three patients - two of which are deeply entrapped in the vehicles. The alarm is upgraded with additional ambulances and our two heavy squads responding. While advanced life support is administered to the patients, firefighters remove the wreckage from around them using the “Jaws of Life” hydraulic rescue tools. The patients are extricated and transported to the helipad at Northern Illinois Medical Center. They are transported from there via Flight for Life helicopters to Level I trauma centers.

July 18, 2007 – At 8:52 a.m., firefighters receive a call for a residential structure fire in McHenry. Initial arriving units on the scene report heavy smoke coming from the residence and the Shift Commander upgrades the alarm to a District General Alarm to bring in additional resources. The homeowner is outside of the residence and confirms that the only occupants in the building are her two dogs. Engine 1210 initiates an offensive fire attack on the building and begins the primary search for the dogs. Additional crews arrive on the scene and go to work on ventilation, extending additional hose lines to the building, and setting ladders to the second floor. The Crystal Lake Fire Department arrives with a Rapid Intervention Crew as per our Automatic Aid agreement, and their team prepares equipment to perform a firefighter rescue if necessary. Interior crews locate and extinguish the seat of the fire and locate and remove the two dogs from the building. Resuscitation efforts are initiated on the dogs, but were unfortunately unsuccessful. The fire is brought under control within 30 minutes.

October 12, 2007 – Firefighters are dispatched to a working structure fire in the Eastwood Manor Subdivision. An off-duty Lieutenant is in the area and arrives on the scene within a minute of the alarm. The Lieutenant reports that the front of the building is fully involved in fire and that there is one person reported to be still inside. The Shift Commander upgrades the alarm enroute to a District General Alarm to bring in additional resources. The Shift Commander and Fire Chief arrive on the scene and neighbors confirm that there is one person still in the building. Engine 35 arrives on the scene and prepares for an offensive fire attack. A woman appears from the side of the building wearing only a towel and the Fire Chief quickly confirms that this is the missing occupant who was able to escape from the rear of the structure. Firefighting strategy is transitioned to a defensive fire attack and efforts are focused on extinguishing the building and protecting two adjacent homes. As additional apparatus arrive, a portable-tank water supply is established and water tenders are brought in from Fox Lake, Wauconda, and Nunda to assist in shuttling water. Crews continue to work for 93 minutes to bring the fully-involved structure fire under control. Unfortunately, the entire structure is consumed in the fire, but the adjacent homes are undamaged.

Administratively, I would like to make mention of the following accomplishments:

- District map books were updated by Char McLear and distributed to all apparatus.
- Lt. Bill Oeffling revised our preventive maintenance program and developed new check sheets for all apparatus.
- A new Incident Command Reference book was developed and distributed with the help of Cindy Bertulis.
- Firefighter Rob Stermer chaired a committee to evaluate new extrication equipment.
- Computers were installed in the Shift Commander's car and two ambulances.

Looking forward, our focus for 2008 will continue to be on firefighter safety and providing exceptional customer service. Major operational objectives for 2008 will include:

- Continue implementation of Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD).
- Provide ICS 300/400 training for all line officers and other local government agencies.
- Revise maps and call streaming data for the CAD in preparation for the opening of Station 4.

Our organization is truly unique in the fire service. I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve you in the past year and look forward to working with you in the future.

Be safe.

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

Members of Company 1

**Captain Joe Foreman
Captain Frank Graham
Captain Frank Rodgers
Captain Kevin Shay
Lieutenant Mark Amore
Lieutenant Jennifer Bazan
Lieutenant Chris Mann
Lieutenant William Oeffling
Lieutenant Paul Polep
Lieutenant Tom Ruggero
Lieutenant Matthew Yegge
Lieutenant William Whyte**

James Amos	Christopher Hallgren	Christopher Meuret	Christopher Shafer
Kristal Baldocchi	Christopher Harding	William Milbratz	Ryan Shay
John Birk	Ryan Harding	Guy Miller	Guy Smale
Collin Boeckmann	James Harris	Robert Nieman	Chris Smith
Shane Boehmke	David Harwood	Joseph Nootens	Ronald Smith
David Borst	Robert Hedberg	Lydia Nootens	Walter Solinski
James Bove III	Andrew Horist	Anthony Oliver	Christopher Stephens
Timothy Butler	Frederick Hult	Neal Olson	Jack Stewart
Sean Casey	Jeremiah Johnson	Scott Osel	Phillip Szyjka
Ed Curry	David Johnston	David Reid	Allen Thennes
Mitch Czech	James Keats	Michael Reid	Connie Thennes
Carolyn Davis	William King	Michael Reiken	Bryan Thome
Mark Diedrich	James Kornfeind	David Robaczewski	Daniel Torkelson
William Eckert	John Kuhl	Kurt Ross	Brad Van Ooyen
Sean Fenwick	Ed Malenius	William Rzeszutko	Collin Weldon
Leora Foreman	Aimee Oeffling	Paul Santopadre	Joseph Winkelman
Kathleen Freund	Char McLear	David Santoyo	Michael Young
Daniel Gudgeon	William Mears	James Scott IV	Robert Zujewski
Christopher Gumm			

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

Members of Company 2

**Captain Loren Pitzen
Lieutenant Jeff Bartmann
Lieutenant Brian Diedrich
Lieutenant Jon Diedrich**

Nicholas Ackerman	Thomas Huemann	Al Robel
Thomas Bak	Kevin Knutilla	Todd Robel
Cynthia Bertulis	Cari Lanan	Ronald Schaefer
Reggie Blount	Bryan Loomis	Jerry Schillaci
Timothy Boutin	Timothy Manning	Gus Schmid
Mark Buchanan	John McCaulley	Matt Schulien
William Comstock	Louis Matthiesen	Diana St. Clair
Bryan DeBaets	Carlos Medina III	Guy Stedman, Jr.
Peter Diedrich	Ryan Neiss	Robert Stermer, Jr.
Daniel DiPerna	William Nethaway	Dennis Storlie
Daniel Felt	Justin Norris	David Thoren
Daniel Gallagher	Roger Oland	John Weber
William Hintz	Dan Olenick	Peter Weber
David Huemann	Phillip Ried	Jennifer Winkler
Joseph Huemann	Rudy Rivera	Kelly Wuchter

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

Members of Company 3

Lieutenant James Chancellor
Lieutenant Robert Fritch

Craig Allen

Johnie Downey

Steve Gould

Amanda Gundlach

Steven Kearns

Kathleen Kempster

Michael Kempster

M. J. Kempster

Richard Kozak

Jason Lobue

Frank Oswald

Christopher Rohde

Christopher Tolle

Fran Woloszynski

SPECIALIZED RESCUE TEAMS

SRT TEAM

Jim Bove III
Mark Buchanan
Jon Diedrich
Bill Eckert
Chris Gumm
Frederick Hult

Char McLear
Dave Reid
Mike Reid
Mike Reiken
Chris Rhode

Frank Rodgers
Ron Schaefer
Guy Smale
Dennis Storlie
Bryan Thome

DIVE TEAM/BOAT HANDLERS

Jeff Bartman
Jennifer Bazan
Jim Chancellor
Brian Diedrich
Jon Diedrich
Tom Huemann
Frederick Hult

Mike Majercik
James Keats
James Kornfiend
Kevin Knutilla
Chris Mann
Louis Matthiesen

Justin Norris
Danny Olenick
Rudy Rivera
Dave Robaczewski
Chris Smith
Rob Stermer

HAZMAT TEAM

Char McLear

Bill Rzeszutko

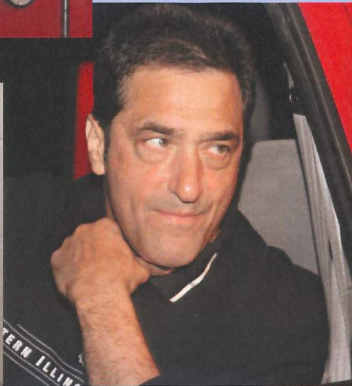
Mike Young

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

2007 EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES

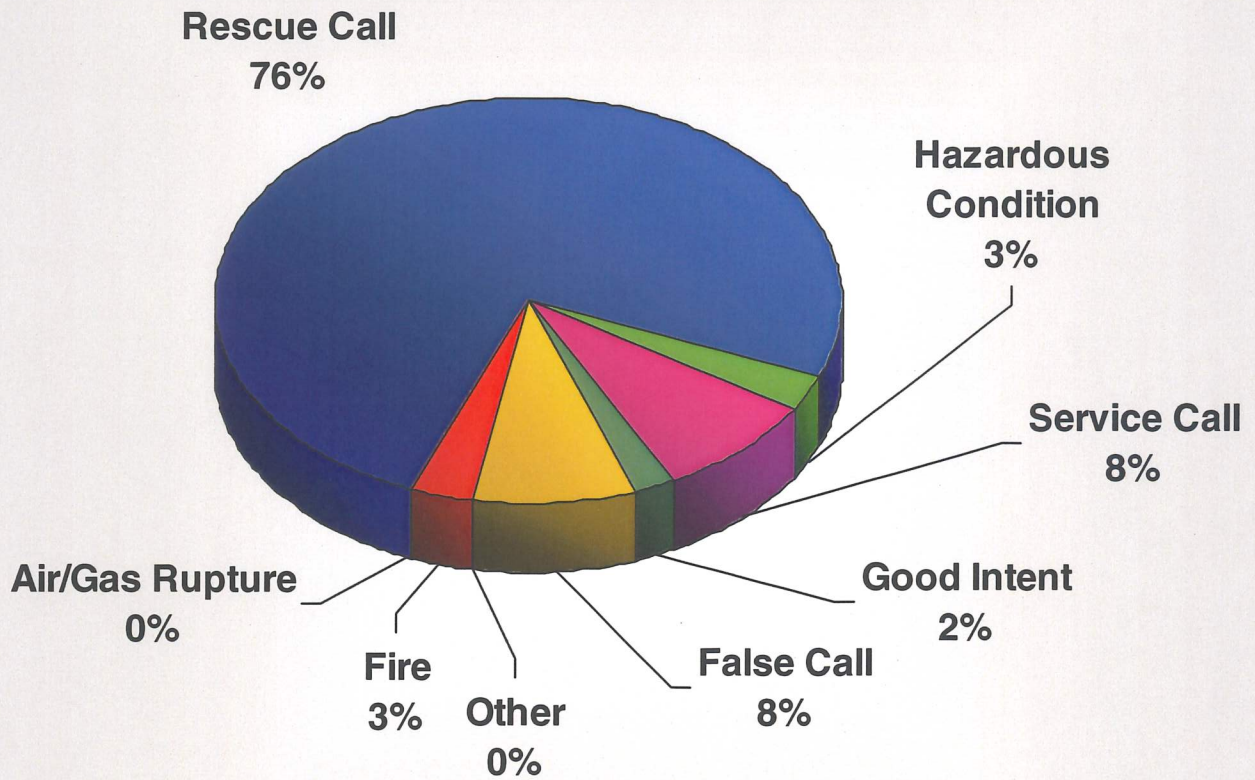
<u>Equipment Number</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Type</u>
1200	2007	Chevrolet Suburban	Shift Commander
1202	2007	Chevrolet Tahoe	Fire Chief
1208	1990	Pierce	Engine
1210	1995	Pierce	Engine
1211	1992	Pierce	Squad
1212	1984	Pierce	Aerial Ladder Tower
1221	1995	Pierce	Engine
1222	1992	Pierce	Engine
1223	1986	International	Tanker
1224	1996	Pierce	Squad
1234	1997	Pierce	Engine
1235	1979	Mack	Engine
1251	2006	Ford	Ambulance
1252	2007	Ford	Ambulance
1253	2003	Ford	Ambulance
1254	2001	Ford	Ambulance
1255	2004	Ford	Ambulance
1271	1991	Dodge	Grass Fire Truck
1272	1989	Dodge	Grass Fire Truck
1280	1984	Hurricane	Dive Boat
1281	2005	Alexis	Dive/Water Rescue Truck
1282	2005	Polaris Ranger	ATV
1284	1995	GMC	Utility Pickup Truck
1286	2000	Chevrolet Tahoe	Asst. Chief Krueger
1287	2003	Dodge Caravan	Fire Prevention Bureau
1288	1999	Chevrolet Tahoe	Fire Officer Vehicle
1289	2004	Chevrolet Tahoe	Asst. Chief Majercik







2007 Call Breakdown Incident Type





2007 Grid

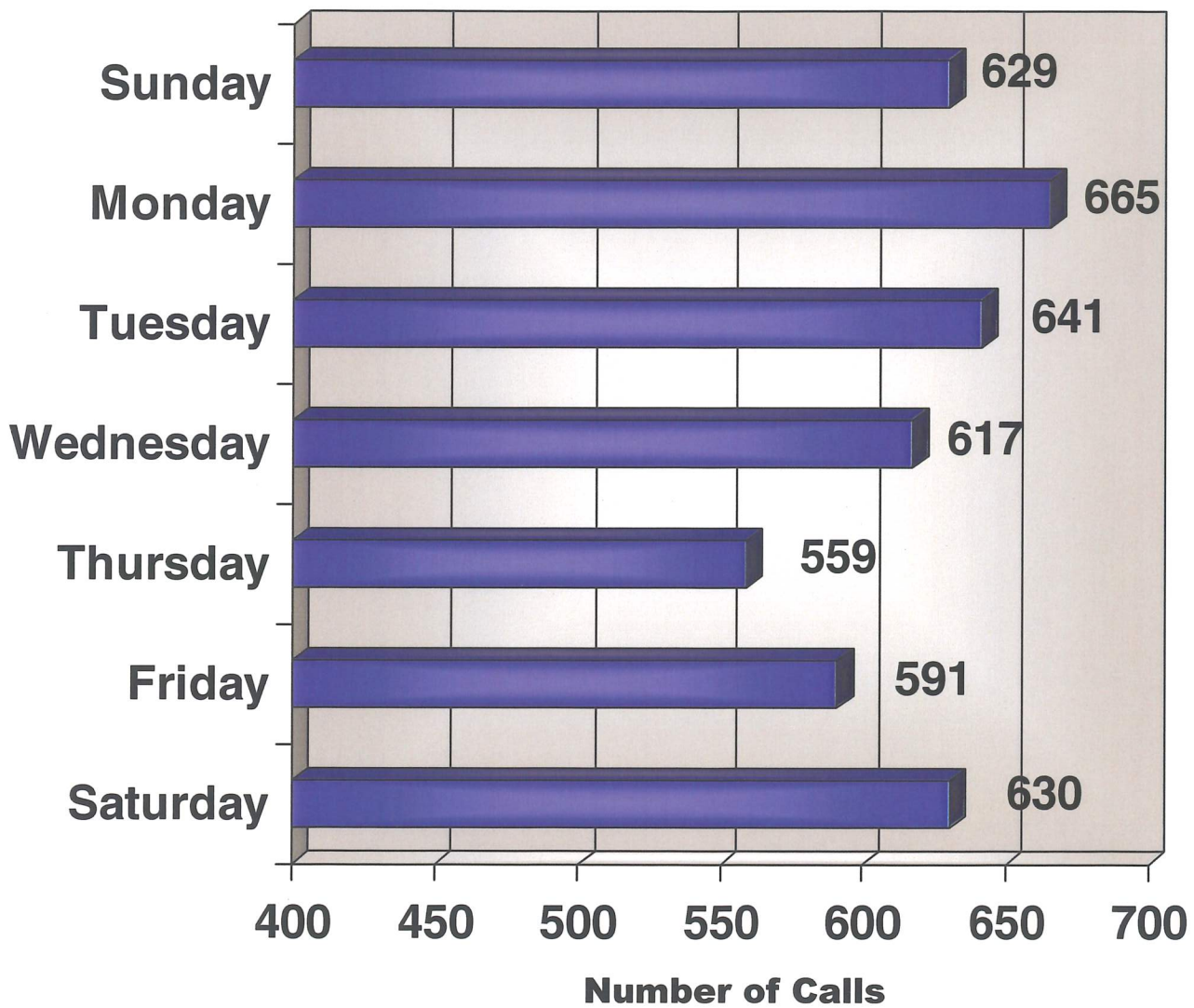
4,334 Calls



	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
G			7	6	7	25	33	108	G
H			20	21	9	18	137	36	H
I			12	3	57	104	87	19	I
J	1	11	77	68	135	62	36	46	J
K	8	17	81	263	565	135	27	14	K
L	20	38	153	353	362	51	28	125	L
M	6	6	56	126	254	24	4	59	M
N	5	16	4	79	96	26	11	7	N
O							56	28	O
P									P
	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	



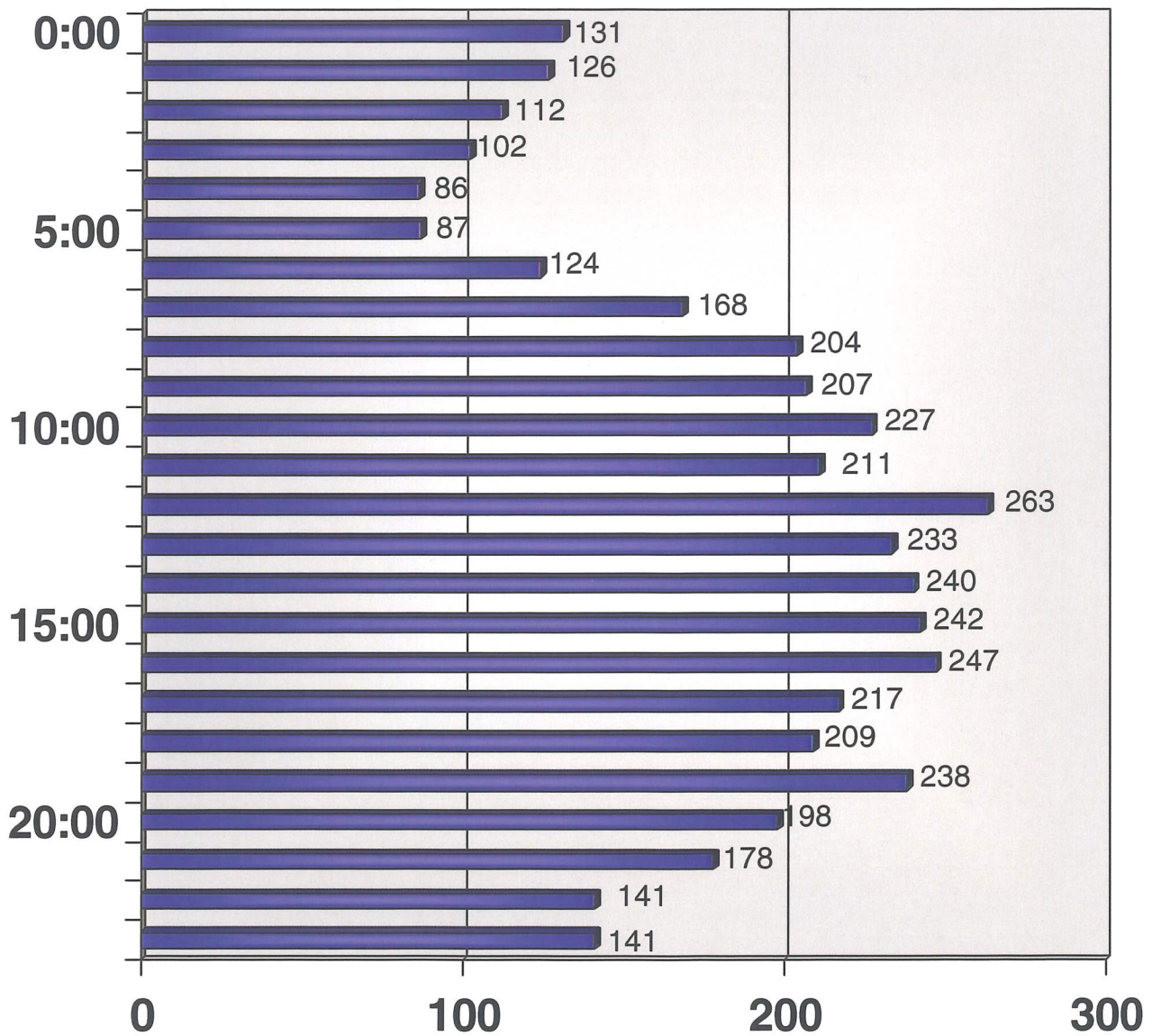
2007 Calls by Day of Week Number of Calls





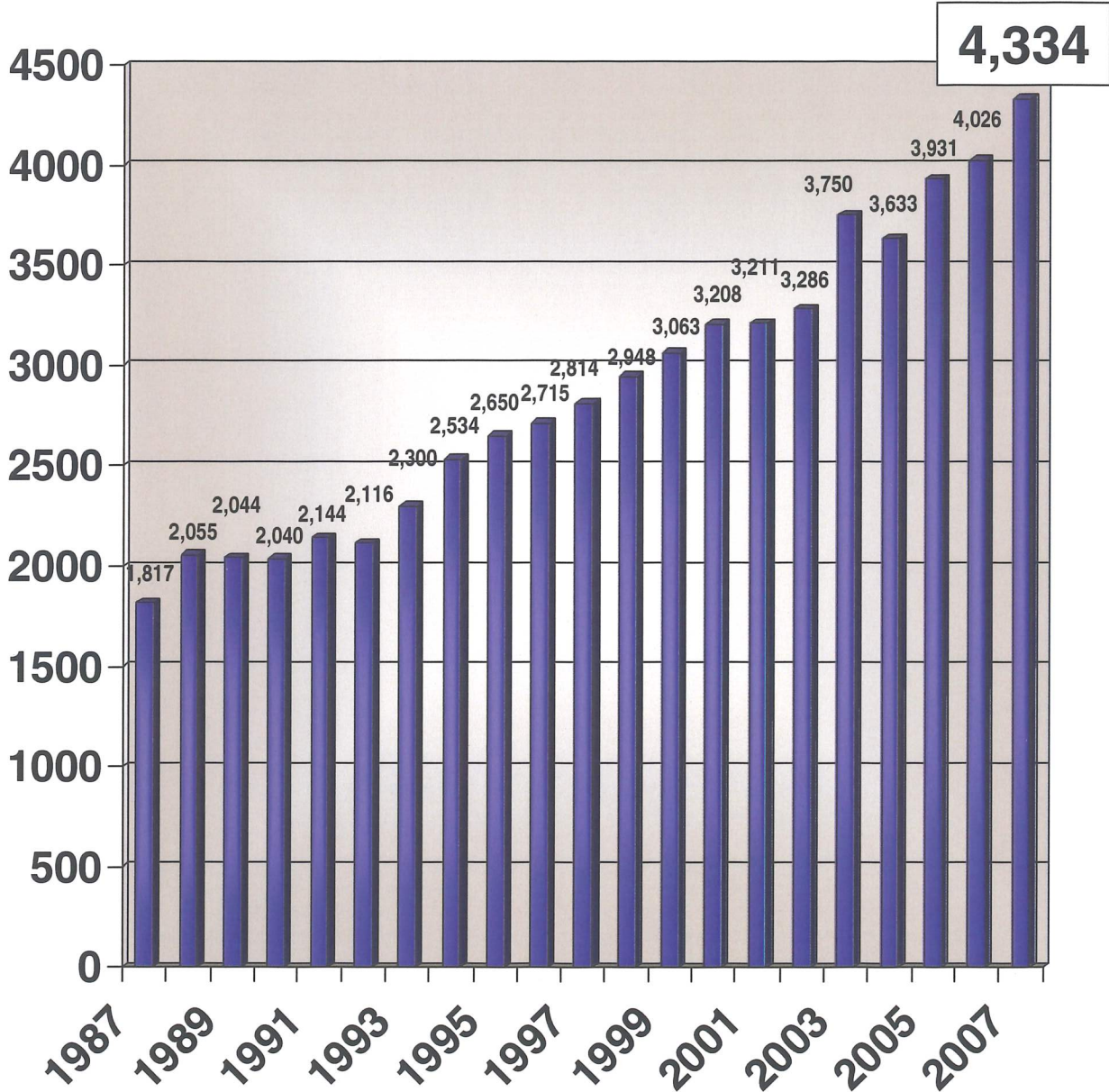
2007 Alarm Time Analysis

Number of Calls



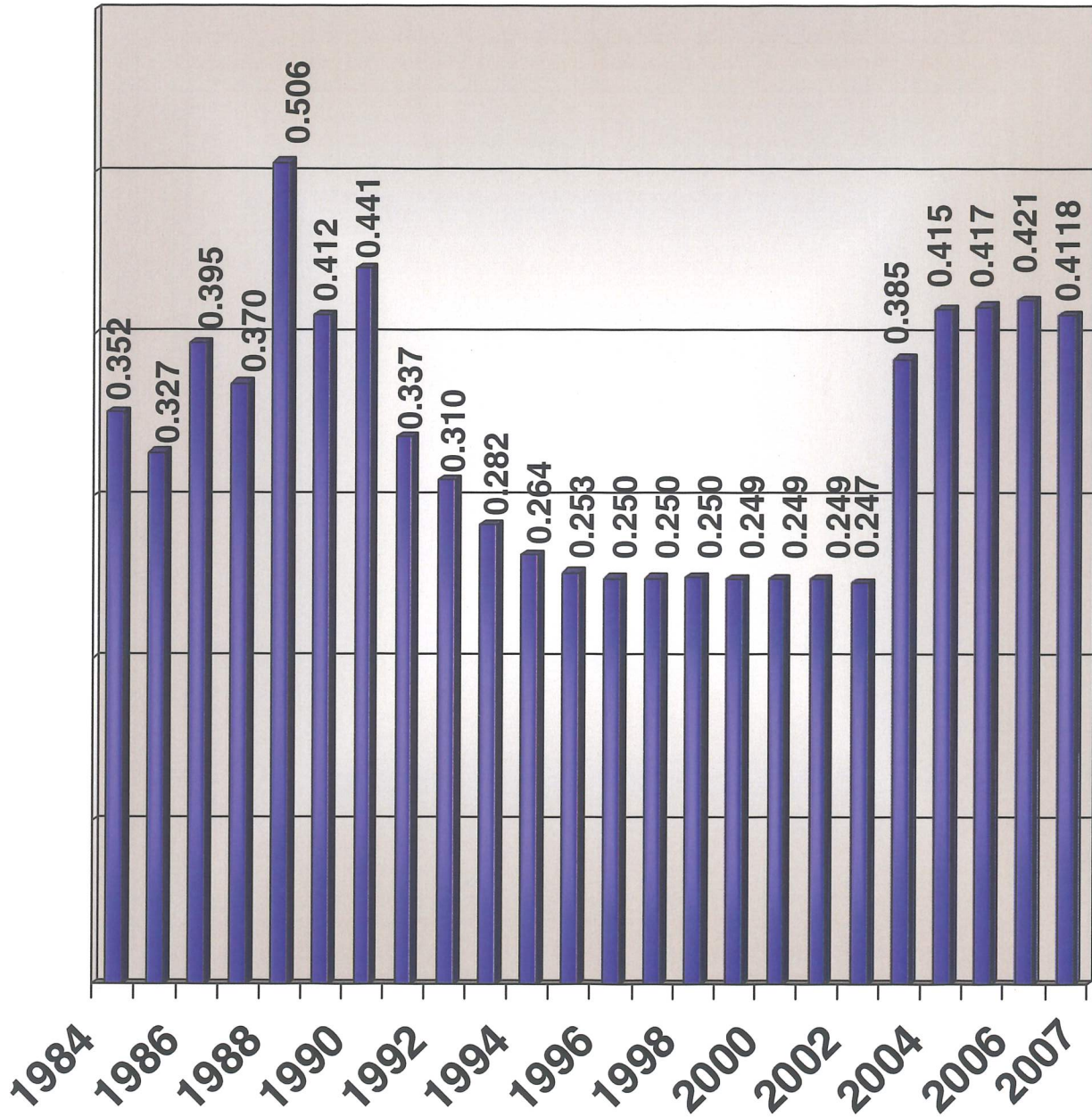


Fire / Rescue Calls 1987 - 2007



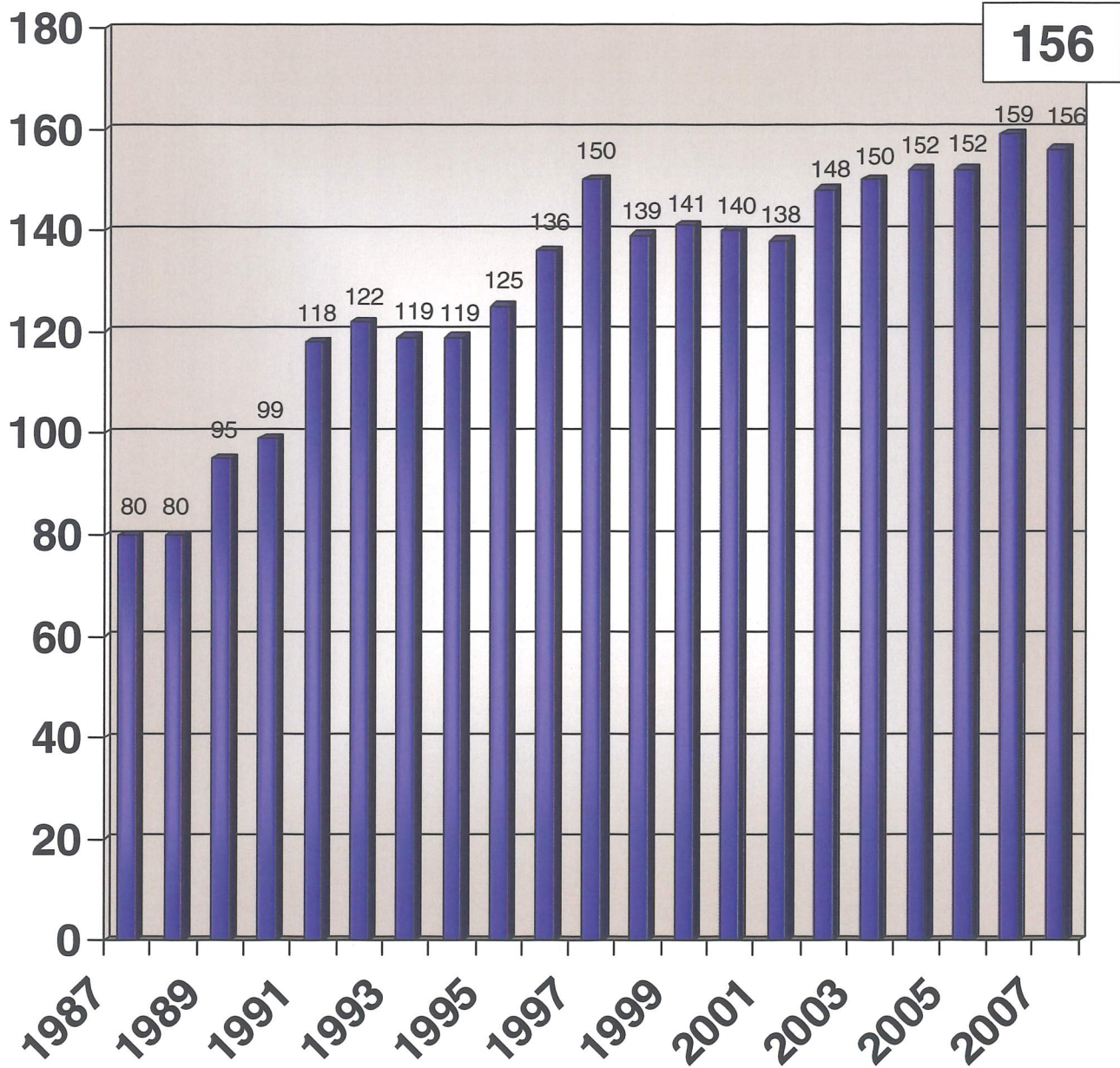


Tax Rate 1984 - 2007





Personnel 1987 - 2007





2007 Calls by Month

Number of Calls

