

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

2008 Annual Report



The Board of Trustees approved the recommendation of the Truck Committee on December 6, 2007 and authorized the purchase of the Truck. McHenry Township Fire Protection District took delivery of a new 2008 Pierce Velocity 100' Tower on November 6, 2008. This is the second Ladder truck in the 70 year history of the District. This Truck will replace the District's first truck, a 1984 Pierce 100' Tower. The Truck has a 1,500 GPM pump, 300 gallons of water, carries 1,100 feet of hose and a full complement of ground ladders.

This vehicle should serve the District for the next 25 years.





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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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 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. The building was completed March 27, 2008. The first shift staffed the station on May 1, 2008 with two Paramedics and one EMT-B. The station housed an ambulance, front line pumper and a reserve pumper.

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

CHIEF WAYNE AMORE

For the fourth consecutive year, The McHenry Township Fire Protection District had an increase in calls from the previous year. In 2008 we responded to 4,441 calls to assist our residents. This represents a 2.5% increase from last year's total of 4,334 calls. For the year we averaged 12.67 calls per day. Similar to last year's 95% of the total calls were handled by the on duty crews. Only 5% of the calls required General Alarms that bring in all available off duty members. Ambulance calls represented 74% of the overall activity with fire calls representing 3% of the total calls for the year.

Early in the year time was consumed with completing the construction of Station Four. The contractor turned the building over to us on March 27th. Our goal was to have the Station operational on May 1st. With the help of many of our members preparing the station, cleaning, locating furniture, installing computers and phones, installing alerting systems and just getting familiar with the building, we did meet our goal and the Station's first crew staffed the Station at 6:00 a.m. on May 1st. The station is equipped with one Advanced Life Support Ambulance and two Engines.

The formal dedication of Station Four took place on June 7th with a traditional hose uncoupling. The Station was open to the public for tours. Several hundred people from the neighborhood along with family and friends of the firefighters toured the station and equipment and welcomed the firefighters to the neighborhood. After six months of operational service of the station a study was completed on the response time for the Station Four's portion of the district. I am happy to report that on the average response time was reduced to this area by 1.4 minutes.

Asst. Chief Joe Krueger completed the first two week session of the Executive Fire Officer Class at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Joe will be returning this summer for the second year of the four year program. Also during the year Asst. Chief Mike Majercik was accepted to the class. Mike will be heading for Emmitsburg the last two weeks of May. This program for senior officers is funded by the National Fire Academy which includes tuition, transportation to and from and lodging.

The Ladder Truck Committee drove to the factory in Appleton, Wisconsin to take delivery of the new truck. After a detailed check of the vehicle, comparing it to the specifications as ordered, the truck was released and driven to McHenry by some of our members on November 6th. Extensive training of our members on driving and operation of the truck has taken place. Our goal is to continue training and have the truck in service for calls on March 1, 2009.

With the addition of Station Four and the aging phone and computer system, the district purchased new phone and computer systems. The district built a new Technology Center in the lower level of Station One. This serves as the hub for our central computer and phone systems. Our stations are connected via high speed phone lines that allow all stations to work off of the same system simultaneously.

During the year we worked with Insurance Service Office (ISO) to set up a testing date for our Department. We were last reviewed in 2003 and currently have an ISO Protection Class 4 rating. We have made several changes to the operation of our department since the last test. We did meet with a representative from ISO to schedule a formal review which will take one week. ISO is scheduled to be in our District the week of March 23, 2009. It is our goal to receive a reduction in our ISO Protection Class rating. The reduction should help lower the Homeowners & Commercial Fire Insurance premiums of our District.

During the year the District applied for a Grant from FEMA in the amount of \$229,000.00. This grant request was to replace, upgrade and add a repeater to the current emergency radio system. Unfortunately, we were notified in December that our grant was denied. We are continuing to work on upgrading the communications equipment and repeater system using local funds.

We did receive a grant from Illinois Public Risk Fund in the amount of \$13,000.00 to purchase computers for our vehicles. This is the fourth consecutive year that we have received this grant.

During the year we replaced all of the District's aging extrication equipment. The new generation of equipment has more cutting/pulling strength to coincide with the way vehicles are built today. Each of the District's two heavy squads along with each front line engine received new power units, cutters and spreaders.

In December the District authorized the purchase of two new Fire Engines. The new engines will be identical and will be the same chassis as the new ladder truck. They will be built in Appleton, Wisconsin and should be delivered some time in late summer. They will be replacing two front line engines that will be 15 years old.

Our District is represented in the Lake/McHenry County Specialized Response Team with 18 members serving on one or more of the five disciplines of the Team. It takes numerous hours of training in each discipline to stay active on the team. The combined resources of the Fire Departments of Lake and McHenry County assisting one another saves both time, resources and money delivering specialized responses that each department needs to be trained in.

I continue to be involved with local and state Fire Organizations. I currently serve as the Vice President of McHenry County Fire Chiefs Association, Operations Chief of MABAS Division 5, member of Volunteer & Combination Chiefs Committee of Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, committee member of the Fire Chief of the Year Committee and was elected in October, to be the Area 2 Representative for the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. Additionally, as Area 2 Representative,

I serve on the Executive Committee of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association.

The goal of this administration is to continue to deliver the best quality of service to the tax payers of our district. We will continue to deliver this service using part-time firefighters who staff our station 24/7.

2008 Major Accomplishments

- Replaced five ambulance cots
- Signed contract for new ladder truck
- Purchase new District wide phone system
- Replaced all extrication equipment in District
- Opened newly constructed District technology room
- Mailed out spring and fall edition of "FireWire"
- Began planning for ISO testing in March 2009
- Applied for FEMA grant for narrow band radio frequency and equipment
- Upgraded fire alarm systems at Station 1, 2 and 3
- Station Four became operational May 1
- Dedicated Station Four June 7
- Replaced and upgraded all computer equipment in District
- Held annual new member testing
- Hosted NIMS 300 and 400 classes
- Accepted 17 new probationary members of the Department
- Replaced 25 pagers
- Asst. Chief Mike Majercik accepted in Executive Fire Officers Class at national Fire Academy in Emmitsberg, Maryland
- Continued door to door smoke detector checks
- Six members enrolled in paramedic class
- Purchased 1,000 feet of 5" hose
- Replaced four, four gas monitors
- Purchased miscellaneous technical rescue equipment
- Replaced two sets of air chisels
- Purchased reflective safety vest for each member
- Purchased 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe
- Received \$13,000 grant from Illinois Public Risk Fund
- Received new ladder truck November 6
- Purchased two engines to replace engine 1210 and 1221
- Sent nine members to Firefighter II class
- Gained approval for annual physicals for all members

PERSONNEL, P.O.P., SPECIAL PROJECTS

DEPUTY CHIEF PHIL GUST

As we enter 2009, there are many projects to look forward to, and many accomplishments of 2008 to reflect upon.

My responsibilities over the last year have varied a bit from previous years due to my availability since retiring from my full time fire department job in 2007. A great deal of my time is spent maintaining staffing due to personnel changes, assigning staffing based on their P.O.P. sign up and qualifications, and dealing with personnel issues related to assignments, workers compensation injuries, and daily changes. All of this is accomplished with the willing assistance of the other Chief Officers, and the daily assistance of the assigned Duty Officer. I must add that our current operational responsibilities, as they have been assigned by the Fire Chief, seem to be working to the greatest benefit of the Fire District, without additional financial burdens that more full time personnel would create. I would add that it will be necessary, at some point in the future, to add full time personnel to positions that run the day to day operations of the District, based on the sheer numbers of people involved in our organization and the complexity of the operation. Maintaining our current staffing model will continue as the economy dictates, and personnel remain available on a part-time basis. The McHenry Township Fire Protection District is well respected by our peers throughout the area. Our goal should be to maintain our high level of service to the community in a manner they have become accustomed to.

A major accomplishment for 2008, even though it just occurred in December, was the approval by the Trustees to offer annual physicals based on NFPA standards for all of our members. This will be a fairly significant ongoing expense, but it will pay high dividends for our members to have personal medical evaluations. These physicals will benefit the Fire District greatly to know that our members are fit to perform the rigorous physical requirements of firefighting. Many of our members that work for other departments already receive this annual physical. Now all of our members will be afforded the opportunity to know their medical and physical fitness conditions, as they relate to performing their duties.

Over the last few months of 2008 I was involved with trying to facilitate the request of our insurance carrier for our vehicles, Volunteer Fireman's Insurance Services, to offer more defensive driving training. This request is mostly due to our ambulance accident in March 2007, but also based on the number of emergency calls we answer and how many people we have driving our emergency vehicles. This task involved using material that VFIS provided us and adapting it to a reasonable time frame that would offer our members a good, qualitative, training session that would help reduce accidents. I think we accomplished that goal, but only time will tell over the next few months when we review our accident history with VFIS. I am happy to report that since October 2008, I have conducted about 15 classes that presented material from VFIS, of about 3 hours each, for on duty and off duty personnel. In those 15 classes we reached about 160 personnel, all but 3 of our active personnel at this point. I will conduct the class for the remaining 3 as time allows.

Over the past few years, I am one of two certified third party testers for conducting Secretary of State "B exempt" drivers testing. I continue to do this to date, and anticipate spending a good deal of time certifying our members that have expressed an interest in driving and operating our new ladder truck. I am assisting the Training Division with setting up the testing standard for the new driver/operators, and as you know from Chief Amore, we hope to complete, or at least be far enough along by March 1, 2009, to put the new truck in service. This is a time intensive project, as it will require about 6 hours of training time with each person that wants to drive/operate the truck. It's very important to train members to a comfortable level of operating the new truck, considering the investment of over \$900,000.00. Training an adequate number of people to operate the truck is imperative to utilizing this new piece of equipment to its fullest potential. Anything less than making sure everyone that wants to operate the truck is competent, would be short sighted on our part. This new vehicle is a great asset to our Fire District. Being able to use it in the capacity it is designed for, is a tangible benefit.

One other project in the works, Chief Amore has asked me to coordinate the upcoming Insurance Services Organization (ISO) evaluation in March. I anticipate soliciting the able assistance of Assistant Chief Krueger and his computer skills for completing the necessary resource and data information that ISO will be requesting. Our goal will be to improve our ISO rating in areas of our District specifically where municipal water supply has improved, and to maintain our rating in other areas. Considering the opening of Station #4 and the re-allocating of our resources, we hope it's possible to improve our rating District wide.

I look forward to serving the District, its members and the community in the following year.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

ASSISTANT CHIEF DAVID N. KARLS

The department ended the year busier than last but with only an increase of about 2% in total calls. We remain consistent in the fact that about 74% of the calls for the department are Emergency Medical Service related. The department handled a total of 1,997 Advanced Life Support (A.L.S.) calls and 1,136 Basic Life Support (B.L.S.) calls in 2008. Out of these totals, 2,074 patients were treated as A.L.S. and 1,970 were transported. We had 1,233 patients and 936 transports for B.L.S. care. We did see an increase in invalid assist calls as more and more people are being released from medical facilities, probably due to cost or insurance obligations, and care at home seems to be on the increase. We are called to assist in helping family members or patients at home get back in bed or in what ever capacity they request. Most of these calls do not require a transport but still appear on the statistics as a medical call.

Maintaining records for Emergency Medical Technicians is the number one priority for the department as the State requires that all personnel have at least 30 hours of continuing education per year over a four year period of time. The Paramedic records are handled by the local Emergency Medical System as well as most of the training. The department conducts Emergency Medical Training every third Monday of the month. This is coordinated by and taught mainly by David Peterson, who offers his services to us as an outside instructor. The Training Division conducts trainings such as Hazardous Materials, Vehicle Extrication, and various other topics that each member must attend to help maintain the State requirement for continuing education hours.

Each year, all members must complete training in C.P.R./A.E.D. which is taught in-house by our members who are certified as instructors. These instructors completed the American Heart Association's Instructor training. Jenny Winkler coordinates all C.P.R. classes with the help of other members who are certified instructors. We do continue to offer C.P.R./A.E.D. classes to the public which are conducted by our instructors as well.

One of the benefits of the way we operate is the opportunity for all members to sign up to work the Paid on Premise program whenever they would like. We have placed minimum required hours worked on all members. Paramedics must work 180 hours per quarter and the Emergency Medical Technician-Basic (E.M.T.-B) must work 72 hours per quarter. The reason for this is to insure we fill the shifts at each station in the district with qualified personnel per State guidelines. The State requires at least one Paramedic and one E.M.T.-B on each call, but the District Chiefs have decided we will have three personnel at each station. This has worked out for us as we jump from ambulance to engine depending on the type of call in the District. Scheduling is done so we usually have at least two Paramedics and one E.M.T.-B at each Station. Due to the fact that we are one of the busier departments in the area, we do have quite a few of the Paramedic students ride with us to fulfill their training requirements. This not only helps them, but also us. Over the years, we have had quite a few of these students become members of our department by moving into the District and joining the department.

With the new hiring process that was adopted in 2007, the department has maintained a roster of about 80 members being Paramedics. We have benefitted from allowing personnel that work full time at other departments join the department, but not necessarily living in the District. They must maintain Paramedic status to work with us on a part time membership. Out of the seventeen personnel we hired this year, eight of them were Paramedics. We did lose one due to the commitments he had with family and career. We had two members complete the McHenry Western Lake County Paramedic program from the 2007/2008 class this year. They were Christopher Stephens and Nick Ackerman. We have six members enrolled in the 2008/2009 Paramedic program which takes 960 hours or about one year to complete and become certified in the State of Illinois.

With the economy on the rocks, the Department benefits by allowing members to work here. This benefits all taxpayers in the communities that we serve. The part time status keeps taxes low and gives our members some extra money, thus allowing our department to be one of the best run in the area. All of the members are dedicated to providing this type of service to the community. The Trustees do their best in providing the resources we need to give the taxpayers the best services we can.

I would like to thank the dedicated members who answer the calls at all hours of the day and night and leave their families so we can keep a top notch Emergency Medical Division and Fire Department. I would like to thank the office staff, Vicki Seyller and Shirley Banker, for their assistance in record keeping and personnel issues related to this Division when I am not in the office. Without them, we would be lost in many ways unimaginable. A thanks goes out 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 2008 was another very busy year. It continues to be my goal to run this division with the utmost dedication and professionalism to ensure that **McHenry Township residents can live in a fire and life safe environment.**

In 2008 we had 48 structure fires in our own district. Those fires resulted in an estimated \$1,344,700 in property loss. We had 3 civilian injuries and 3 firefighter injuries as a result of the fires. We, thankfully, suffered no fire fatalities in 2008.

We continued our third summer administering our door to door smoke/CO alarm program for residents in the district. It was our goal to continue to check homes in our district and to install an alarm and/or change batteries in residences that did not have working alarms. As in 2007, we had the additional challenge of also checking homes for working CO alarms. I am pleased to report that we met our goal by reaching all of the homes in our district after 3 summers. We made contact with over 11,500 homes. Out of those homes, we either installed an alarm and/or a battery in nearly 1,650 of these homes. This equates to 14% of the homes we contacted did not having a working alarm. This door to door portion of our program has ended. Going forward, our program will continue indefinitely by allowing people to call us anytime if they need assistance with installing an alarm or battery. It will remain our philosophy that we will check, and/or install an alarm or battery for anybody that needs one within McHenry Township Fire Protection District.

Nick Eschner continues to work on our district Pre-plan program. 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 through our computer system on our command vehicle.

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 Captain Frank Graham. Together they continue to inspect our roughly 1,700 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. Along with these plan reviews comes the witnessing of all acceptance tests on new and remodeled structures. This includes sprinkler tests and alarm tests, as well as final occupancy reviews.

Our Fire Investigative team continues to stay busy investigating the origin and cause of all structure fires. Our team features 14 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. We work hand in hand with the City of McHenry Police, Johnsburg Police, McHenry County Sheriff's Department, and the Office of State Fire Marshal.

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 2008 she was assigned a record number of 15 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. The public education division is supervised by coordinator Cindy Bertulis. She continues to lead the Public Education teams from each station. These teams consist of volunteers that assist in all of the above programs. We estimate that over 15,000 residents have seen our public education team in action in some capacity in 2008.

Special programs include the nationally recognized "Learn Not to Burn" program carried out by Bill Rzeszutko, Matt Schulien, Jerry Schillaci, and Cindy Bertulis. This program reaches nearly every fourth grader in our fire district. In 2008 approximately 600 4th grade students attended the 8- day program. Fran Woloszynski, Cindy Bertulis, Kelly Waters-Wuchter, Jim Bove, and Matt Schulien continue to carry out our Fire Safety Puppet Program. This program has reached over 15,000 people since its inception in 2002. The program targets mostly pre-school through 3rd graders.

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.

I want to thank everybody for giving me the opportunity to serve you in the past year and look forward to working with you in the years to come.

TRAINING DIVISION

ASSISTANT CHIEF KEVIN LONG

During 2008, the McHenry Township Fire Protection District experienced several challenges and changes. It is the goal of ensuring every residence has a working smoke detector, an increase in call activity, attending seminars and training, promoting fire safety to the students of area schools and at community events. Meeting these duties are the members of the McHenry Township Fire Protection District. It is with their commitment, desires and understanding families that they go above and beyond in providing a fire safe community.

Each month a training calendar is posted which describes the various skills that every member is expected to complete or attend. Helping to conduct this training are the shift officers and instructors that are proficient or have extensive knowledge in a particular area. Some of the topics listed on the calendar may require several sessions so that each member can participate. This is usually handled during their shift at the station. Throughout 2008 shift training and classes held at other locations totaled 823 training sessions. This accounted for 11,124 hours of training, which is an increase of 900 hours. This increase is a direct result of the members pursuing a higher education and the daily documentation of shift training by the officers.

In February several members attended a seminar at McHenry County College on Strategy, Tactics and Safety. This presentation was given by Deputy Chief (Ret.) Vincent Dunn of the New York City Fire Department. Covered in this seminar was building construction and collapse potential during residential and commercial structure fires.

Officer training in May also included the Fire Investigation Team. To present the training was Ken Arnold from the Office of the State Fire Marshal. A review of when to call the Fire Marshal and what assistance they can provide was discussed; this was also a chance for the officers and investigation team to meet with Ken prior to an incident.

The Fire District hosted an Ethanol Awareness class in June that was provided by the Illinois Fire Service Institute under their Cornerstone Program. Cornerstone is funded by a grant that provides various fire related classes at no charge to the hosting department.

The Ethanol Awareness class covered basic information about the production, transportation, distribution and use of Denatured Alcohol (E-95) and Ethanol (E-85) fuels. Other topics included properties, terminology, hazards, firefighting considerations and procedures, spills and resources for additional information. After the three hour class an additional hour and a half covered the use of foam which allowed firefighters the opportunity to practice techniques by flowing water creating a foam blanket that would be used to extinguish a fuel fire or cover a large fuel spill. A review of the training manuals at each station was completed in August, which indicated the manuals were two to three editions behind the current edition. A request to update these manuals was approved by the Trustees; each set purchased received a 20 percent savings. All four stations now have a new library set that consist of 37 manuals. A second purchase approved by the Trustees was testing software that was purchased at a 10 percent savings. The software can create a multiple choice computer generated test. The topics are referenced to the training

manuals and have a total of 6,178 questions. Quizzes given to the members in 2008 covered fire behavior, streams and ladders. Each quiz developed had 20 to 25 questions.

Mutual aid training occurred in September with Woodstock and Spring Grove. The training involved drafting water from a portable tank and supplying water to an engine, which maintained two separate water streams. This was held over four days and was conducted twice each day. Other mutual aid training was held with Crystal Lake at the training tower located at McHenry County College. Training consisted of locating a downed firefighter on a second floor maze and providing an air supply so each firefighter was breathing air from a single tank. Then, using teamwork, the rescuer removes the downed firefighter outside the building. This training was held over a two day period.

During the months of October and November, Captain Wes Crain from Woodstock reviewed new guidelines for the Rapid Intervention Team (R.I.T.) established by the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (M.A.B.A.S.) Division Five. The presentation covered roles and responsibilities, tools that will be needed and buildings located in the county that present a hazard to firefighters.

As the year comes to an end, preparation has started for an audit of our ISO rating to be conducted in March 2009. Some of the task will be updating every members training file, other documentation such as employment roster, lesson plans, specialty team training and instructors.

In 2009 the training schedule will include proficiency skills that members will perform both individually and as a company. Each month a basic firefighter skill will be given for a member to perform. Then during July and August each member will demonstrate the skills they have learned. Outside resources will be utilized in areas of expertise. Auto aid training will continue with our neighboring departments. It is with every effort to provide the necessary training to the members that serve to protect their community.

OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION

ASSISTANT CHIEF JOE KRUEGER

Economically speaking, 2008 is a year that many of us were happy to say goodbye to. Our robust increase in call activity in previous years leveled to only 2% in 2008 – perhaps a sign of the times. As always, our busiest activity was providing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to our customers. EMS calls totaled 3,293 for the year - a 2% increase over 2007. There were 151 fire responses – up 3% from 2007. Forty-eight of the fire responses were for structure fires within our district. Of those, 73% of the fires occurred in either single family or multi-family homes (residential occupancies). This number is significant because nationally, the majority of fire-related deaths and injuries (76% and 74% respectively) occur in residential occupancies. These figures bring home the importance of our continued efforts to ensure that there is a working smoke alarm in every residence in the district. On a very positive note, our property value loss from fire was reduced by 17% over 2007, and we experienced no fire fatalities.

December replaced February as our busiest month in 2008 – averaging 13.5 calls per day. Overall for the year, we averaged just over 12 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 / EMTBs and many have continued their education to become State Certified Paramedics as well.

The year 2008 was a very successful year for recruitment and hiring. The out-of-district firefighter/paramedic program has thus far proved to be successful with the district retaining seven of the eight members hired. Additionally, we brought on nine “home-grown” members who reside in the district. All of them are actively completing the requirements of our mentoring program and have started class work towards their Illinois State Firefighter II certification. We also have six members in paramedic training this year – our largest student body ever. All of the above will aid our ability to continue to provide excellent customer service into the future.

Our workload was evenly distributed among the three traditional 24-hour fire service work shifts (black, red, gold). Sixty percent of our calls occur between the dayshift hours of 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. with the remaining 40% 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	869	620	1,489
Red	900	579	1,479
Gold	899	574	1,473
Total	2,668	1,773	4,441

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

Each of our fire stations is divided into multiple response districts. The response district defines which of the other stations will have primary responsibility for assistance. Station One remains the busiest station in the district answering 63% of our calls overall. Within Station One's boundaries, the Southern districts (132/134) were the busiest – accounting for 34% of the district's overall call volume. The opening of Station 4 in May of 2008 helped to better the balance of incidents between stations. During this time period, the percentage of overall incidents occurring in the Station One's still district dropped from 72% for the first five months of the year to 59% for the latter seven months. The most promising statistic of the Station 4 story is the reduction in response time for incidents occurring in the Western and Southwestern areas of our district. For the six month time period evaluated (May-October), the average response time (response time is the time from the incident being dispatched until the arrival of the first unit on the scene) dropped by 1 minute and 24 seconds. Figure 2 shows our call volume by station and district for 2007. It should be noted that the still district areas were redefined with the opening of Station 4 in May. This led to the elimination of District 123 and the creation of Districts 124, 134, 142, 143, and 241. Data for these districts is for the time period that they were active.

Station	District	Calls	Percentage
Station 1 (McHenry)	123	378	63%
	124	323	
	132	850	
	134	659	
	142	197	
	143	376	
	Total	2,783	
Station 2 (Johnsburg)	213	227	19%
	231	611	
	241	24	
	Total	862	
Station 3 (Lakemoor)	312	174	9%
	321	21	
	Total	384	
Station 4 (Bull Valley)	412	65	7%
	413	255	
	Total	320	
Out of District (Mutual Aid)		92	2%
Total		4,441	100%

Figure 2 – Calls by District

We continue to be an active participant in the MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) organization. In 2008 we responded to 92 requests for assistance to communities outside of our fire protection district and received assistance from outside organizations four times.

Significant Incidents for 2008:

January 6, 2008 – Fire and EMS crews respond at 4:30 in the morning to a reported structure fire on Park St. in McHenry. Engine 10 arrives on the scene and reports a fully involved two-story wood frame house fire with smoke and flames showing from all windows. Initial reports indicated that all occupants were out of the building. 1200 arrives on scene shortly after Engine 10 and assumes command in the front of the building. A defensive fire strategy is declared by command and fire crews work to extinguish the fire and contain it to the building of origin. 1200 upgrades the alarm to a District General Alarm bringing in additional companies from all stations, and Crystal Lake responds with a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) Engine. Fire and EMS companies from Cary, Lake Villa, Wonder Lake and Woodstock are brought in to staff our stations. It takes two hours to bring this fire under control. The occupant of the structure is treated and transported by Ambulance 51 in critical condition for smoke inhalation. Numerous pets perish in the fire as well. Unfortunately, the entire structure is consumed by the fire, but there is no damage to adjacent buildings.

February 24, 2008 – A structure fire is dispatched at 2:47 a.m. on Camden Ct. in Johnsburg. A Station 2 Lieutenant arrives first on the scene and establishes that all occupants are out of the building. An Assistant Chief arrives next and reports a fully involved structure fire with flames through the roof in the attached garage area. Engine 21 arrives first on the scene and tags a hydrant located in the middle of the cul-de-sac adjacent to the house. 1200 arrives on the scene, assumes command and activates MABAS Box 5-1272 to the second level to bring in additional resources. A combination attack is initiated with 2½” hose lines hitting the large body of fire in the garage from the exterior and a 1¾” hose line advances into the home through the front door to prevent the fire from advancing into the living area. The fire is contained to the garage and family room with the majority of the residence intact.

May 28, 2008 – Crews respond to a residence on Cornell Ct. for a three year old whose foot was run over by a lawn mower. Police arrive first on the scene and find the youth conscious with a near amputation involving the entire leg area below the knee. While the EMS crew from Ambulance 51 works to stabilize the patient and save the limb, Engine 44’s crew establishes a landing zone for the Flight for Life Helicopter at Peterson Park. The scene is very emotionally charged and the Chief is on scene to provide support to the family. The child is flown to Children’s Hospital in Milwaukee, WI where he undergoes extensive repair and therapy on the limb.

June 16, 2008 – At 10:17 in the morning, crews respond to a report of a capsized boat and man in the water at the McHenry Dam. Torrential rains in the area have led to local flooding and the Fox River is reported to be discharging at the Dam at flows in excess of 5,200 cubic feet of water per second. Upon arrival, it is discovered that the man has been pulled from the river by private citizens on the scene. Advanced life support maneuvers and CPR are administered to the man, but unfortunately he cannot be revived.

December 26, 2008 – Weather related road conditions contribute to an SUV vs. garbage truck vehicle accident on River Rd. near Fernview Ln. An off-duty firefighter/paramedic arrives first on the scene and reports two critical patients with heavy entrapment. The paramedic informs dispatch that Flight for Life will be needed and goes to work to triage and treat the victims. The alarm is upgraded with an Ambulance request from Wauconda and Squad 11 is brought in for its extensive extrication resources. Ambulance 53 arrives on the scene and initiates advanced life support on the critically injured occupants of the SUV. Engine 10 arrives and crews begin work to extricate victims from the heavily damaged vehicle. Ambulance 52 arrives and provides additional EMS support. Squad 11 arrives and assists Engine 10 with the extrication efforts. A female patient is removed and transported by Ambulance 53 in cardiac arrest. Flight for Life lands at the scene, but the second patient goes into cardiac arrest during extrication and cannot be transported by air. The flight nurse assists Ambulance 52's crew during the ground transport to NIMC and they are able to restore a heartbeat and pulse to the patient. Unfortunately, he later succumbs to his injuries at the hospital.

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

- Redistricting of still districts and updating of maps for Station 4.
- Replacement of extrication tools on all engines and squads.
- Addition of vehicle stabilization systems on squads.
- Completion of ICS 300/400 training for MTFPD Chief Officers as well as officials from the City of McHenry, and Village of Johnsburg.
- Development and implementation of eleven new Standard Operational Guidelines.
- Purchase of 4 combination SPO2/CO monitoring devices.
- Purchase of 4 "Hotsticks" to verify live current in downed power lines.
- Purchase of high-visibility safety vests for all members to use when working on roadways.

Looking forward, our focus for 2009 will continue to be on firefighter safety and providing exceptional customer service. Major operational objectives for 2009 will include:

- Implementation of the new County-wide VisionAir® Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.
- Integration of MTFPD user information into County GIS Map.
- Provide ICS 300 training for all MTFPD line officers.
- Revision of still district boundaries where feasible to maximize MTFPD resources and insure continued exceptional customer service.

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

Station 1

Captain Joe Foreman
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

James Amos	Andrew Horist	Timothy Norton	Walter Solinski
Kristal Baldocchi	Frederick Hult	Aimee Oeffling	Christopher Stephens
Jeffrey Bock	Jeremiah Johnson	Anthony Oliver	Joseph Studer
Shane Boehmke	David Johnston	Christopher Ramel	Phillip Szyjka
Kevin Burris	James Keats	Kurt Ross	Allen Thennes
Timothy Butler	Kevin Knoll	Steven Rusin	Connie Thennes
Sean Casey	James Kornfeind	William Rzeszutko	Jason Thielman
Carolyn Davis	Aaron Krejci	Paul Santopadre	Bryan Thome
Mark Diedrich	John Kuhl	David Santoyo	Maksim Verlinsky
William Eckert	Ed Malenius	Timothy Schroeder	Jennifer Vojcik
Leora Foreman	Kyle Mandernack	James Scott IV	Matthew Webb
Justin Freund	William Milbratz	Ryan Shay	Joseph Winkelman
Kathleen Freund	Guy Miller	Chris Smith	Michael Young
Christopher Hallgren	Robert Nieman	Ronald Smith	Robert Zujewski
David Harwood	Joseph Nootens		

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

Station 2

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

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

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

Station 3

Lieutenant James Chancellor

Lieutenant Robert Fritch

Johnie Downey

Steve Gould

Amanda Gundlach

Steven Kearns

Kathleen Kempster

Michael Kempster

M. J. Kempster

Richard Kozak

Frank Oswald

Christopher Rohde

Christopher Tolle

Fran Woloszynski

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

Station 4

Captain Frank Graham
Lieutenant William Whyte

John Biederer	Char McLear
Collin Boeckman	William Mears
David Borst	Christopher Meuret
James Bove III	Lydia Nootens
Edward Curry	Neal Olson
Mitch Czech	Scott Osel
Nicholas Eschner	David Reid
Sean Fenwick	Michael Reid
Robert Freund	Michael Reiken
Daniel Gudgeon	David Robaczewski
Christopher Gumm	Christopher Shafer
Christopher Harding	Guy Smale
Ryan Harding	Jack Stewart
James Harris	Daniel Torkelson
Robert Hedberg	Collin Weldon
Jason Lobue	

SPECIALIZED RESCUE TEAMS

SRT TEAM

Mark Buchanan
Jon Diedrich
Bill Eckert
Chris Gumm
Frederick Hult

Char McLear
Dave Reid
Mike Reid
Chris Rohde

Frank Rodgers
Ron Schaefer
Guy Smale
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
Rudy Rivera
Dave Robaczewski
Chris Smith
Rob Stermer

HAZMAT TEAM

Char McLear

Bill Rzeszutko

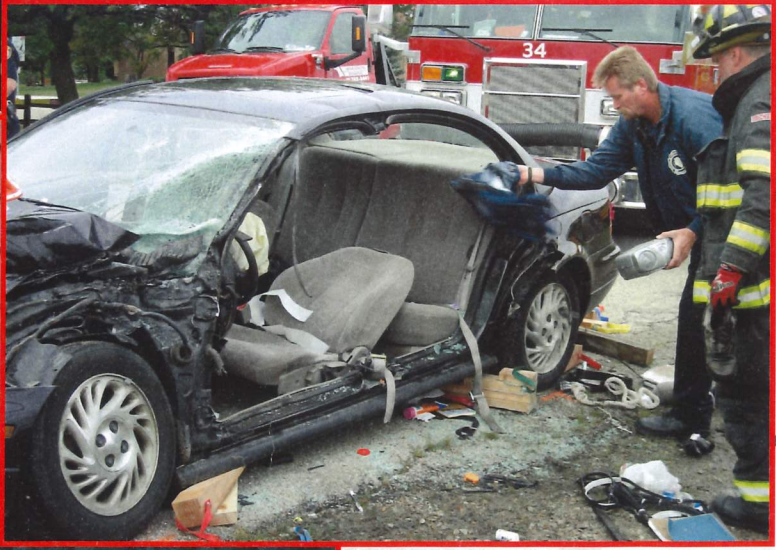
Mike Young

McHenry Township Fire Protection District

2008 EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES

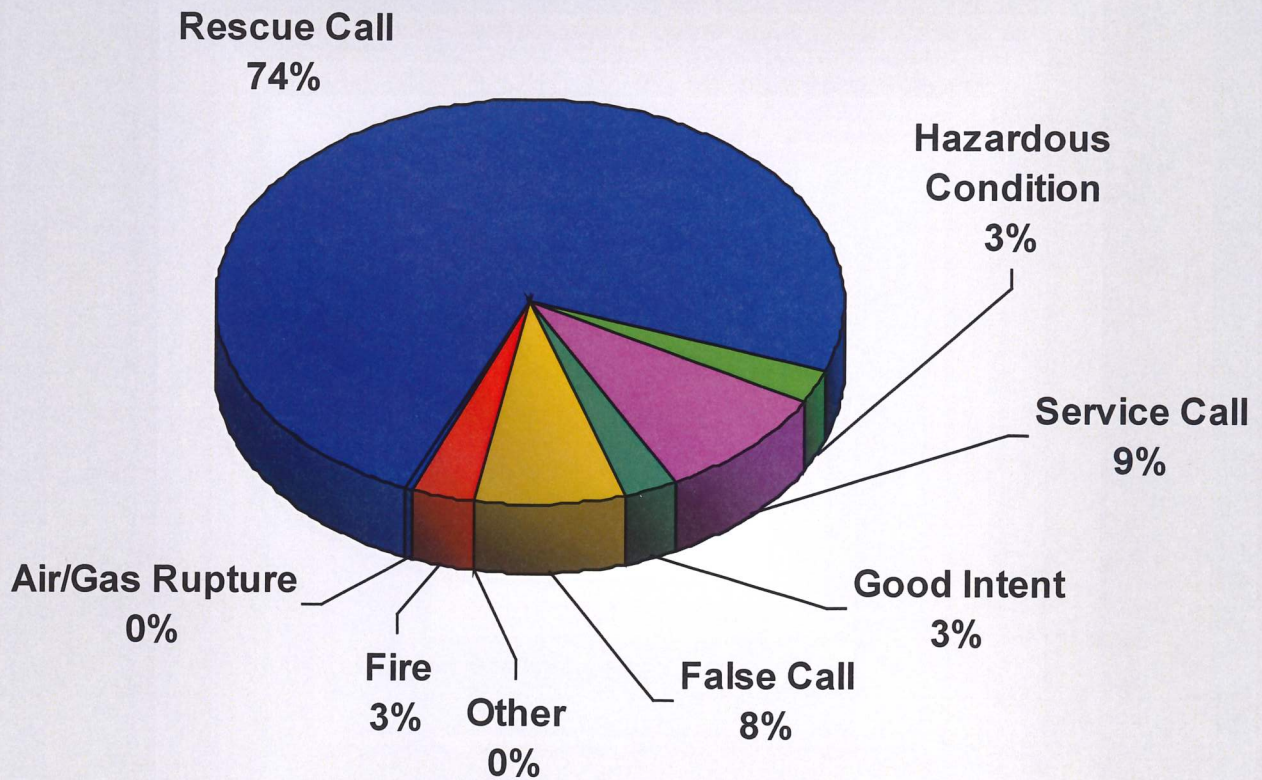
<u>Equipment Number</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Type</u>
1200	2007	Chevrolet Suburban	Shift Commander
1202	2007	Chevrolet Tahoe	Fire Chief
1222	1990	Pierce	Engine
1210	1995	Pierce	Engine
1211	1992	Pierce	Squad
1212	1984	Pierce	Aerial Ladder Tower
1221	1995	Pierce	Engine
1244	1992	Pierce	Engine
1223	1986	International	Tanker
1224	1996	Pierce	Squad
1234	1997	Pierce	Engine
1245	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
1206	2004	Chevrolet Tahoe	Asst. Chief Majercik







2008 Call Breakdown Incident Type





2008 Grid

4,441 Calls

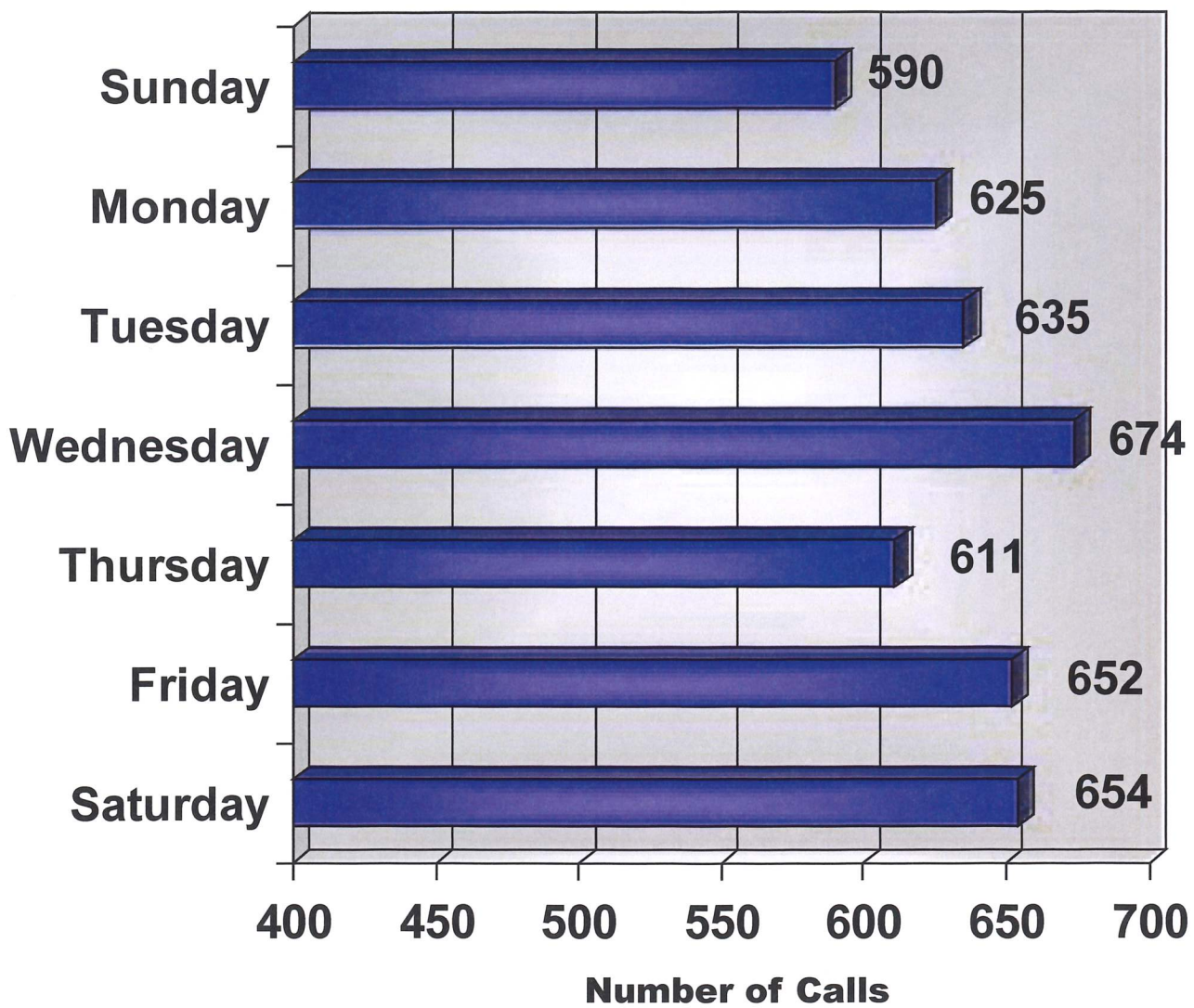


	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
G			14	9	13	17	41	109	G
H			11	14	9	28	125	46	H
I			11	5	69	79	95	12	I
J	1	11	80	70	137	70	37	42	J
K	9	22	84	248	596	102	23	11	K
L	14	51	141	399	308	62	34	118	L
M	9	9	52	136	283	38	4	62	M
N	11	7	8	91	122	24	10	6	N
O							69	23	O
P									P
	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	



2008 Calls by Day of Week

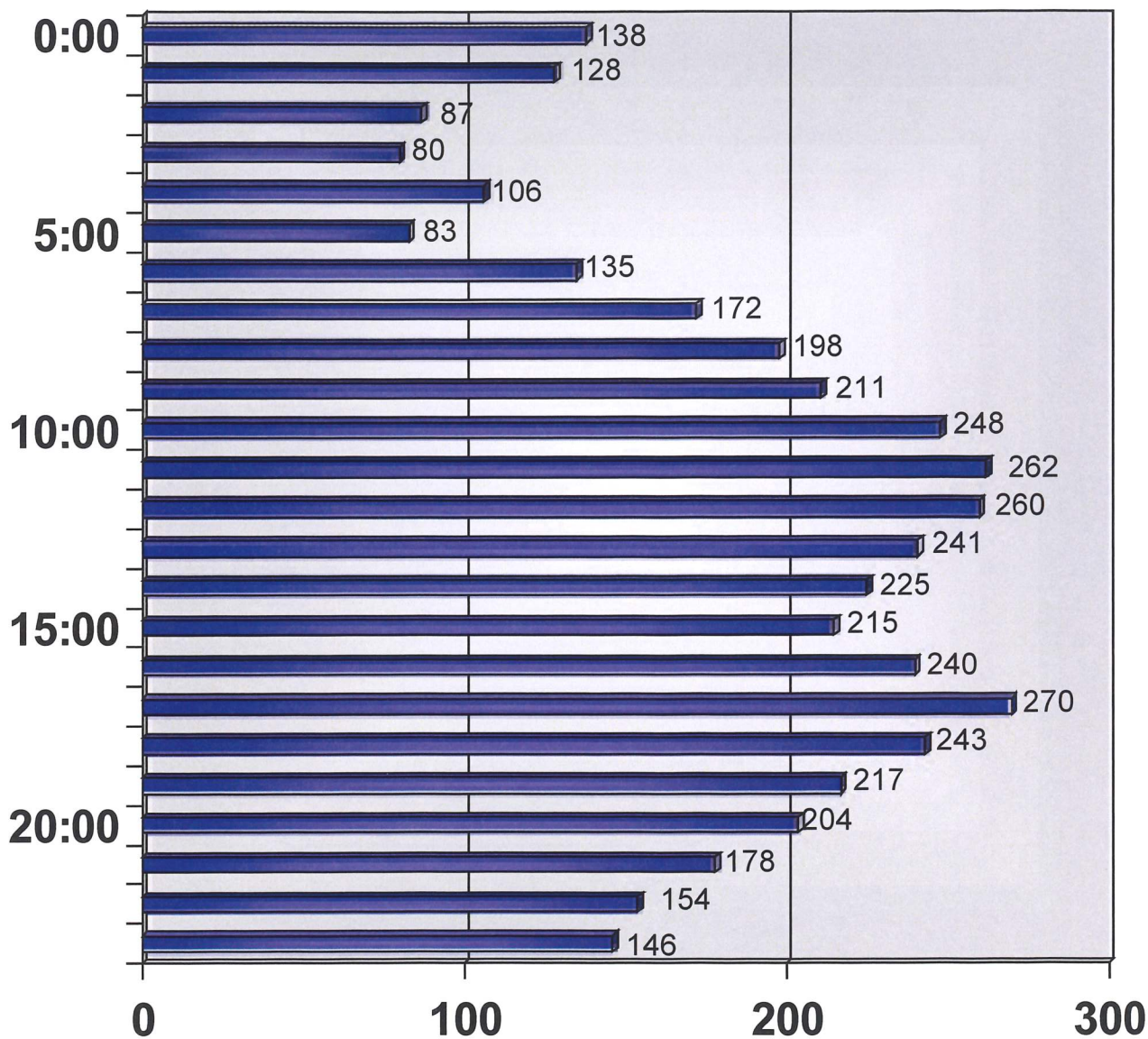
Number of Calls





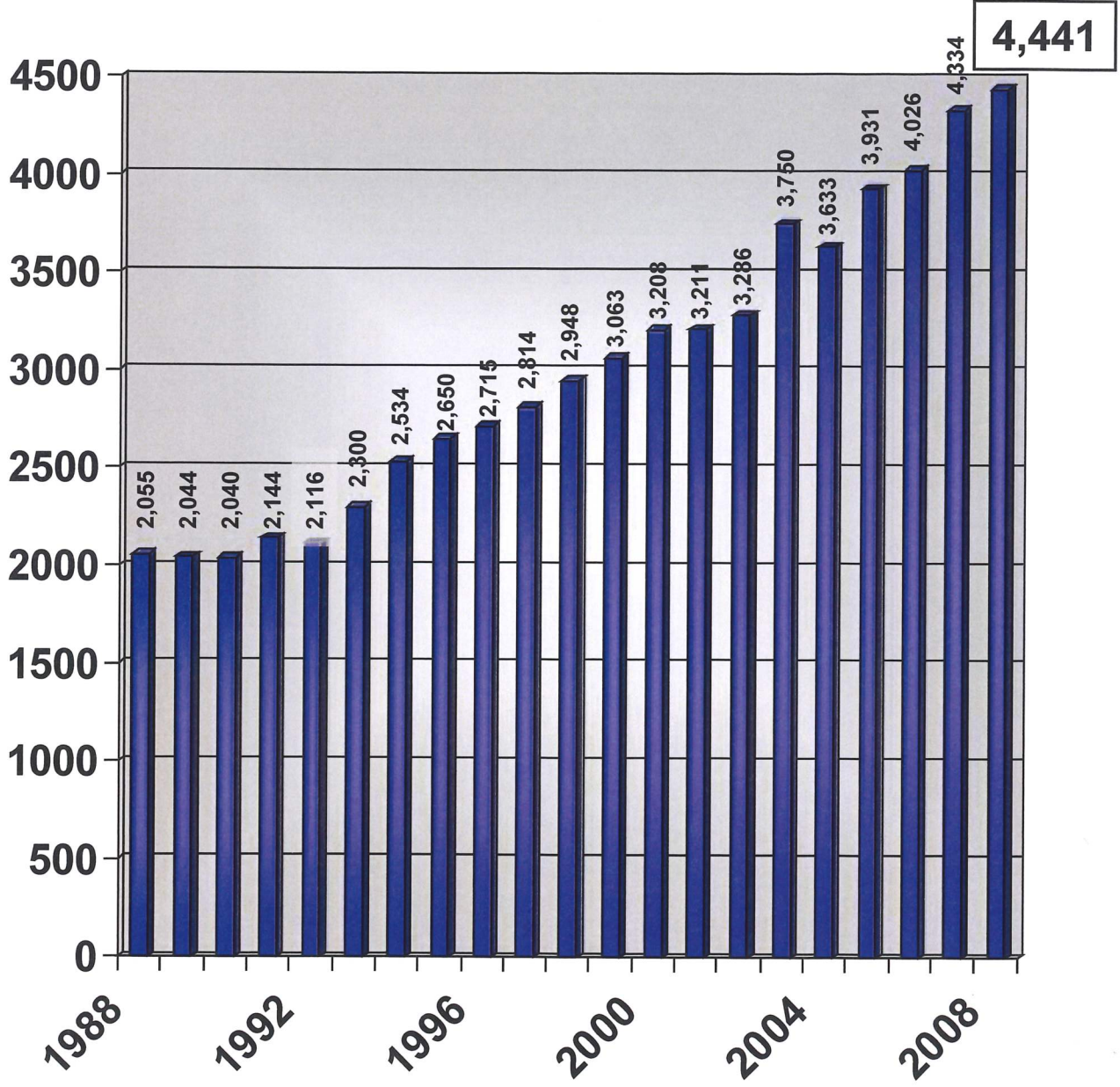
2008 Alarm Time Analysis

Number of Calls



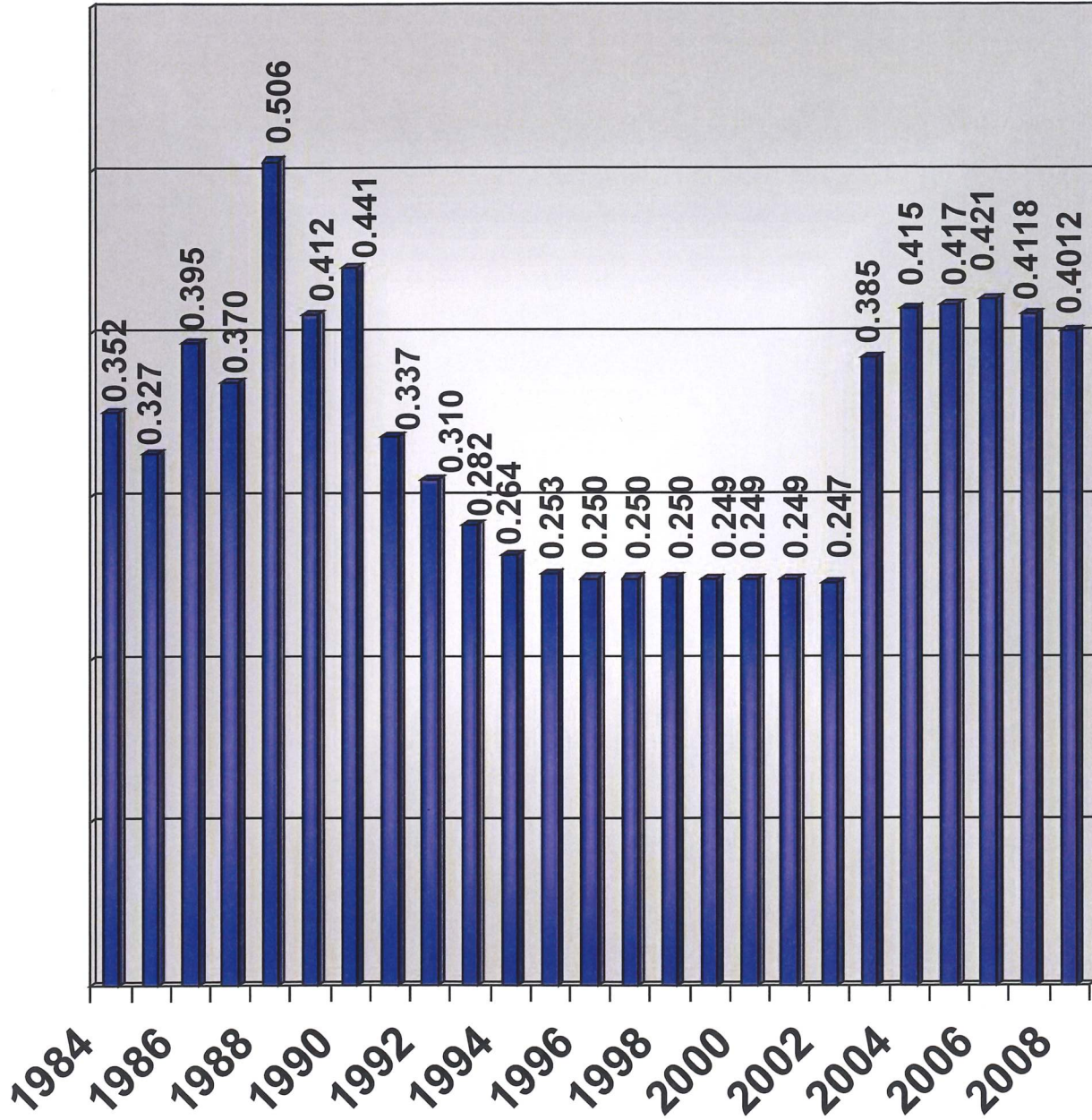


Fire / Rescue Calls 1988 - 2008



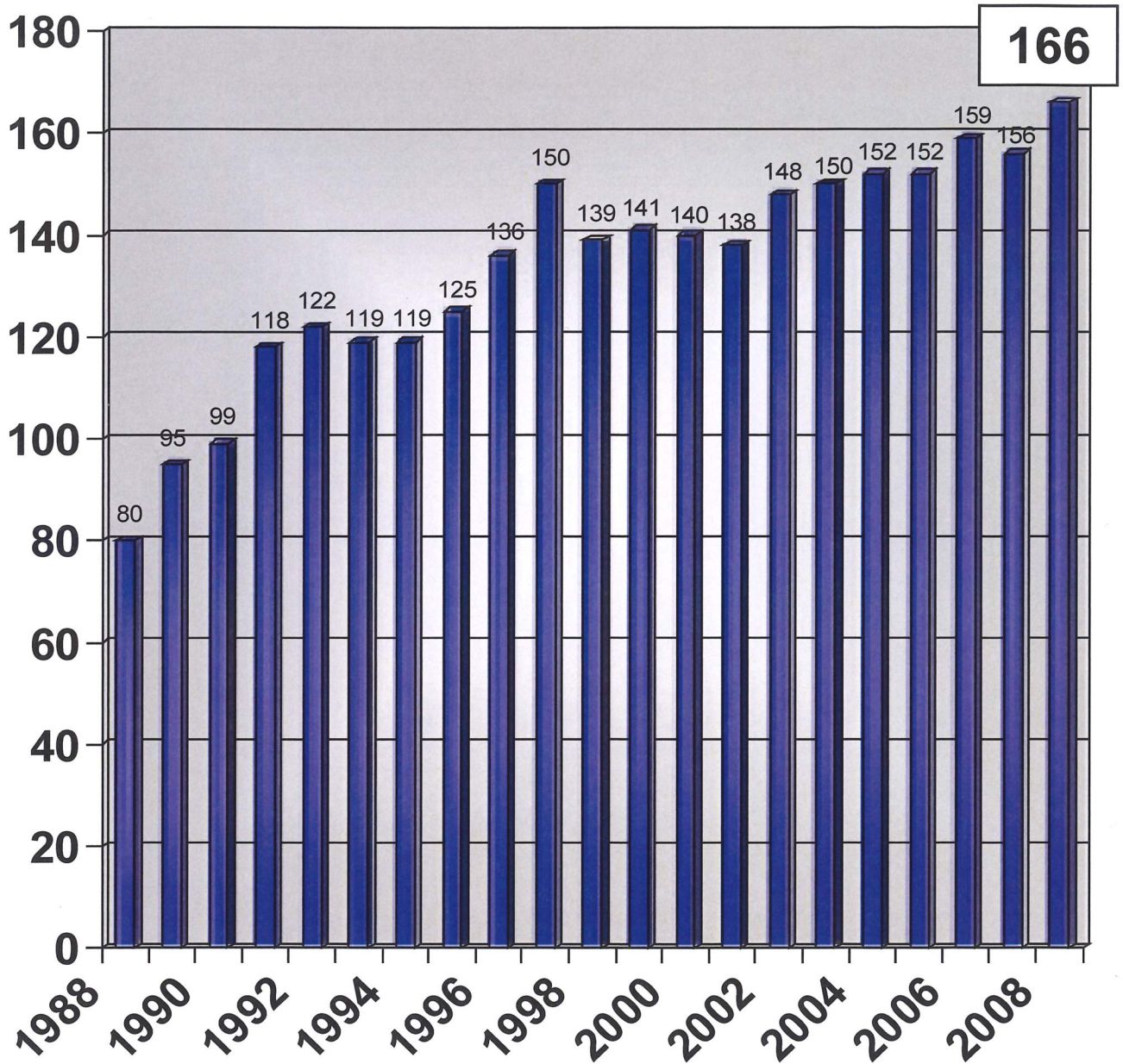


Tax Rate 1984 - 2008





Personnel 1988 - 2008





2008 Calls by Month Number of Calls

