



Beatrice Fire & Rescue

ANNUAL REPORT

2005

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Mission Statement

The Beatrice Fire Department's mission is to provide the highest level of emergency and non-emergency public safety services possible, and to protect life and property in an efficient and cost effective manner for the citizens of the Beatrice area.

This is accomplished by providing services such as:

- *Fire suppression*
- *Fire prevention & public education*
- *Rescue & emergency medical services*
- *Hazardous materials incident management*
- *Assisting during natural disasters*
- *Miscellaneous calls for service*



Department Goals

To:

Prevent the loss of life and injury; from fire-related hazards, accidents, chemical releases and natural disasters.

To:

Prevent loss of property from fire, and fire related activities.

To:

Provide injury prevention education aimed at recognizing and addressing risk factors in our community...create safer homes, schools and businesses, promote positive health choices and help decrease chances of severe injuries caused by; traffic accidents, falls, firearm mishaps, accidental poisoning, burns, and other preventable accidents.

To:

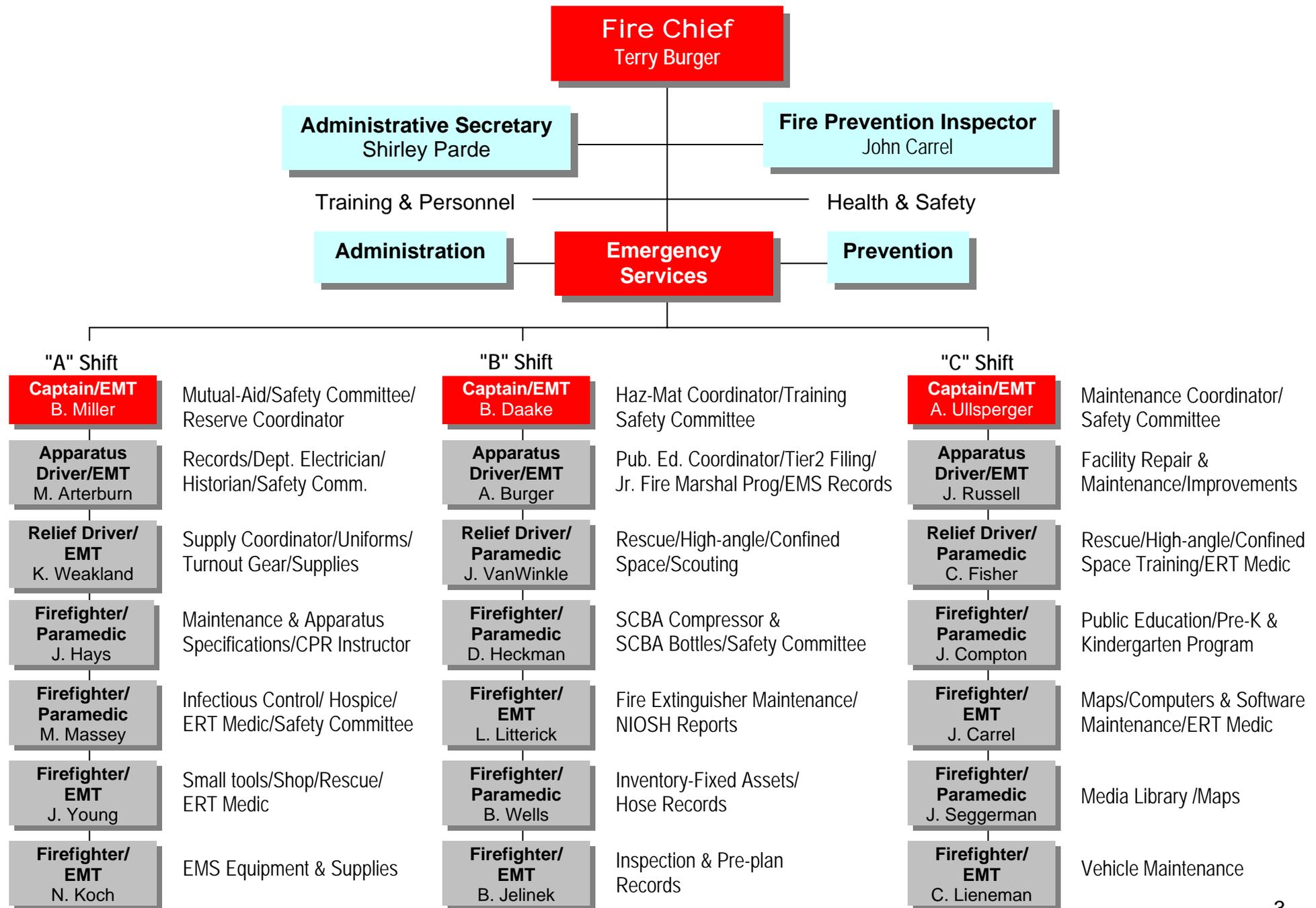
Prevent the loss of life and reduce injury through prompt professional delivery of emergency rescue and pre-hospital medical services.

To:

Increase public safety awareness among citizens through the delivery of public fire and safety education programs and public service announcements through the media.

To:

Continue to emphasize youth-directed public fire education programs in and out of our schools.



Recent Retirements

We say farewell to these “*Old Timers*”

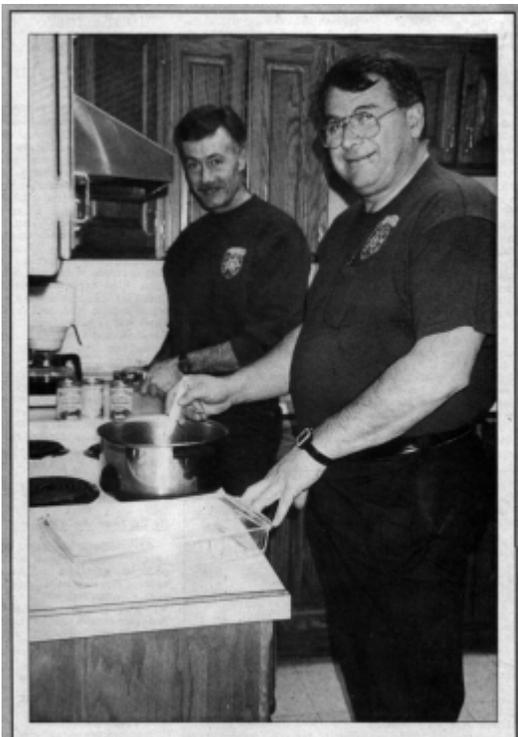


Rick Soriente started his career with the Fire Department as a volunteer in 1971 and was hired as a full-time firefighter in August 1974. Rick retired in May 2005 and is continuing his second career as a sales representative at a local new car dealership. Rick was a relief driver and EMT, but had filled a lot of shoes during his career. He was a first-aid and CPR instructor for most of his years of service, both for Fire Department personnel as well as for civilian groups and individuals. He was also the department's liaison with the service clubs in town and was instrumental in helping acquire funding for important Fire Department projects such as the “chimney cleaning equipment” and “free smoke detector” programs. Best of luck, Rick, and we hope you get a chance for more golf and fishing in the coming months and years.

John Russell joined the Fire Department in October 1973 and his last duty day was December 29, 2005 (official retirement date: January 4, 2006). John had been a Senior Driver since 1991, but had performed all duties during his years of service, including acting Captain. On top of his normal Fire Department duties, John was also our resident handy man and carpenter. There isn't one square foot of the fire station that John hasn't remodeled, repaired or rebuilt at least once, but in some cases many times. Besides being a loyal and dedicated firefighter/EMT, his tool belt is going to be mighty hard to fill. John plans to continue wearing that tool belt for awhile after retirement, so his carpentry skills will still be shared by many. Good luck, John, and try to find time for a motorcycle ride now and again.



Rick and John have shared many memories and have witnessed a lot of changes during their combined 65+ years of service



Dinner bell time
After answering seven emergency calls earlier in the day, 20-year-veteran firefighters John Russell, left, and Rick Soriente find time on this particular day to stir up anchovies using a favorite recipe of Russell's and his wife Jonelle's. Only time will tell if they get to eat this while hot or if they get called out to another emergency.
PHOTO BY MARY WETZEL



They helped fight some of the worst fires in Beatrice history



They witnessed a major evolution of modern-day fire equipment

In the early 70's we housed & maintained seven (7) pieces of apparatus in the fire station...now we have fifteen (15).



1933 Seagraves



1948 American LeFrance - Ladder



1953 American LeFrance



1978 LTI



1975 Mack



1993 Pierce

They experienced many changes in fire suppression and rescue methods and techniques, and had to adjust to the many new services added by the Department in the past 30+ years.

In the early 1970's, we answered approximately 250 fire calls per year. In 2005 we handled over 2100 calls for service. The majority of the additional calls were medical emergencies and inter-facility patient transfers, but we also now respond to Haz-Mat calls, we provide more rescue services than in the past, we are more proactive in fire prevention activities, and we spend a lot of our time training.



New Faces

We welcome the following to our Fire Department Family

Corey Lieneman was hired in June 2005 to fill the vacancy left when Rick Soriente retired.

Corey is a native of Beatrice and attended Beatrice High School, graduating in 2001. Cory also graduated from Southeast Community College (Lincoln Campus) with a degree in Fire Protection Technology. He is a certified EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and will complete his Paramedic training and become nationally certified in March 2006. He is also a Hazmat Technician.

After school, Corey was hired as a firefighter/EMT with the City of Columbus, NE where he was employed for two years prior to returning to Beatrice to accept the same position with our department.



Darren Allington was hired to replace John Russell, who retired at the end of the year. Darren was informed of his appointment in December 2005 and his first duty day was Jan. 5th, 2006.

Darren was born in Beatrice and moved to Wymore when he was three years old. He attended school in Wymore and graduated from Wymore Southern High School in 1989. Since graduation, he worked construction for a local company and later became self-employed. He joined the Wymore Fire Department in 1999, and is a certified EMT-B, Firefighter I, and Operations Level Haz-mat. In January 2003, Darren joined the Beatrice Fire Department as a firefighter/reserve, where he performed numerous duties and filled-in during short-shift times. He is married to wife Jennifer and has two sons; Parker 7 and Preston 4, and a daughter Jaidyn who was born in September 2005.

Significant Events of the Year

The department fought twenty four (24) residential fires during the year with a total fire loss of approximately \$230,000. There were also six (6) industrial/commercial fires which accounted for a combined fire loss of approximately \$277,000.



Significant Events (cont.)



In September, three members of the fire department and six members of the police department joined the relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The City of Beatrice “adopted” the City of Picayune, Mississippi as their sister city and offered personnel and much needed supplies to assist the citizens of Picayune during their time of need. The firefighters and police personnel traveled to the effected area to relieve emergency workers that had not had a break since the hurricane hit.

Fire Chief Terry Burger and paramedics Jeff Hays and Dave Heckman were the members of the fire department who volunteered to go to Picayune to fill-in for local firefighters who needed a break. Most of them hadn't even been home to survey their own personal property that may have been damaged or destroyed by the hurricane. Our personnel stayed at the fire stations and responded to emergency calls along with Picayune firefighters and also helped delivery food and supplies to relief shelters. Members of the Beatrice Police Department responded to Picayune to assist with security and to deliver a trailer full of supplies that were donated by area citizens and collected by “*Beatrice Main Street*”. “Main Street” Director Renee Bauer, who accompanied fire department personnel to Picayune, states that “\$200,000 worth of supplies and \$6,300 in cash were donated. This was an awesome response by area citizens”. Beatrice Public Properties staff, along with firefighters and the Middle School volleyball team, loaded the supplies and prepared the trailer for the trip South.

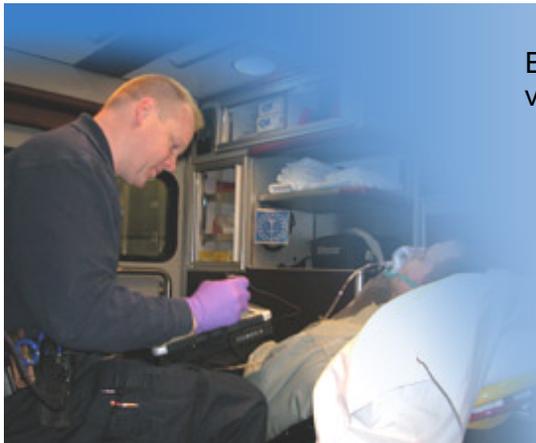


Striving to provide improved services to area citizens

During the past year, members of the fire department were involved in the research and training for a new *emergency medical response reporting system*. The new system is capable of gathering pre-hospital patient information on a mobile computer in the field and then uploading it to a secure national database when the mobile computer is in range of a wireless internet connection. This allows for the possibility of vital information about the condition of the patient to be accessible by the hospital and ER doctor prior to the patient arriving at the hospital. It streamlines the reporting process for our personnel by allowing them to start their report in the field and in some cases, like during out-of-town transfers, can have the report completed by the time they return to the fire station.

It also helps the State EMS Department collect important data, since as soon as we upload our report, it automatically is entered in the national database. It provides a system for efficiently tracking, collecting, and analyzing pre-hospital EMS data in order to help develop improved prevention and treatment programs.

All personnel have had an opportunity to experiment with the program (in demo form) during the later part of the year and have also received in-house training.



EMT or Paramedic collecting and recording valuable patient information in the field, such as:

- Patient's medical & medication history
- Monitoring & recording patient's vital signs
- Time & type of medications administered
- Patient's initial and changing condition
- Other valuable pre-hospital information that will help the hospital prepare for and treat the patient once they arrive.

We are very fortunate to have a member of our department with first-hand knowledge and experience with this new program. Corey Lieneman, who joined our department in June 2005, was employed on the Columbus Fire Department, when they became a test-site for the new program in early 2005. Corey was on the ground floor in the early development and implementation stages, so he has been a very valuable asset during our transition. We will discontinue using our old software for EMS reporting and implement the new system January 1, 2006.

Additional improvements to enhance pre-hospital care include: three new pieces of equipment and a new medical director

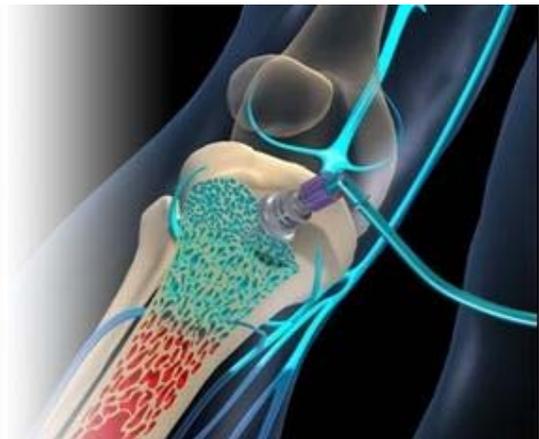
The Zoll “E-Series AED/Manual Defibrillator” has added capabilities allowing for twelve-lead heart monitoring and Carbon Dioxide monitoring. It is also capable of *Pacing*, *Cardioversion* and *Non-Invasive Blood Pressure* monitoring.



The Zoll “Auto-Pulse” CPR machine allows for continuous compressions of the chest and according to studies, provides better perfusion of the brain and heart than manual compressions. The end result may be a better outcome and survival rate of a cardiac arrest patient.

The Power to Save Lives

The Vidacare “EZ-IO” kit allows us to gain intraosseous venous access when normal IV access is not possible. The system introduces a needle into tibia tuberosity and allows us to infuse fluids and medications just as fast as a normal IV.



Dr. Brett Studley was named our new medical director during the 2005 calendar year. He is the director of the Emergency Department at Beatrice Community Hospital.

Grants

Homeland Security Grants

Rewarded to NEMA with sub-grants rewarded to Gage Co. Emergency Management

1. Funding for the development, implementation, and evaluation of a large-scale training exercise involving the Fire Department and Police Department's response to a terrorist attack including; a hostage-taking, an explosion and hazardous material release. This exercise took place over a two day period and involved the Fire Department's Haz-Mat, fire and emergency medical response and the Police Department's ERT (Emergency Response Team) and dispatch (communication) response to this event. (\$200,000+)
2. Funding for a joint training exercise with the Nebraska National Guard's 72nd Civil Support Team and the Fire Department. The scenario for this event was a terrorist attack using chemical and biological agents during the Gage County Fair. This allowed our Haz-Mat team to conduct a simulation of our response and then to witness the Civil Support Team's response involving their advanced capabilities and more sophisticated equipment. (\$3500)
3. Funding to replace some expired Haz-Mat equipment, including; Level A and Level B protective suits, boots, gloves, and sensors and calibration gases for chemical detection devices. (\$15,360)
4. Funding for updating the Police Department's communications consoles, including; new 3-position radio console, monitors and associated equipment. Since this equipment is used for dispatching all county-wide emergency services, including the Fire Department, we also benefit. (\$153,194)

MFO (Mutual Finance Organization) \$97,630

1. Funding for fire equipment replacement, including; 400 ft. of LDH (4" & 5" large diameter hose), 500 ft. of 2.5" fire hose, 500 ft. of 1.75" fire hose, 1.75" nozzle and foam aerator, 50 gal. foam, 4-sets of bunker gear and 10 pair of gloves.
2. Funding for a new tablet PC and associated mounting hardware being used for mobile (ambulance) EMS reporting in the field.
3. Remaining dollars in sinking fund for new pumper.

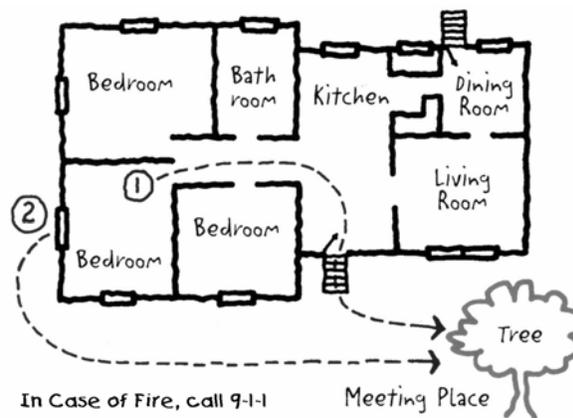
OTHER grants or donations

1. \$1000 - WALMART (Fire Safety Grant)
2. \$1000 - EXMARK Mfg.

Public Education

Fire Department personnel are trained and continue to train in their firefighting skills, so they can safely and effectively extinguish fires as they happen. They also spend a lot of time and energy on educating the public, especially our children, on ways of preventing fires and what to do if they do experience a fire.

It is difficult to track your success in this endeavour, because nobody hears or knows about the fire that “**DIDN’T**” happen, they only hear about the ones that “**DID**”. You don’t hear about the child that was saved because of something they learned about fire safety or fire prevention in school or at the Fire Station, you only hear about the ones that were not saved. We feel confident that over the many years that we have been involved in educating the public on fire prevention and fire safety practices, that we have made a positive impact. Below, are examples of some of the fire prevention and safety programs that we offer and how many citizens have participated in them during the past year.



EVENT	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Fire Station tours	193
Fire Extinguisher classes	24
Fire, Rescue & EMS demonstrations/displays and fire safety instruction	535
Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts (fire safety & first-aid)	18
Fire Prevention Week “Puppet Shows”	203
“JUNIOR FIRE MARSHAL” Program (5 th grade)	194

The Fire Department offers free home fire safety inspections and in cooperation with local Service Clubs or organizations, we offer the free use of chimney cleaning equipment to all citizens and free Smoke Detectors for eligible citizens. In partnership with the Board of Public Works, we also offer the “Emergency Light Beacon” program, which provides a free pulsating emergency light for eligible citizens.

Training

A significant portion of Fire Department personnel's time, on-duty and off-duty, is spent in preparation for emergency responses. For the safety of the citizens they serve and for their own safety, it is imperative that Department members maintain their proficiency in handling emergency operations. We also are required to comply with mandated Federal and State requirements regarding employee training and continuing education. We average nearly 200 hours of training per employee per year. This equates to approximately 5000 hrs. of training annually. Members also devote many hours per month for fitness training to help keep them physically fit to better perform the strenuous activities of fire fighting operations and the ability to safely handle other stressful emergency situations.

EXAMPLES OF DEPARTMENT TRAINING

- Computer hardware & software
- Confined-space rescue
- CPR re-certification
- Disaster preparedness
- Emergency driving
- Emergency response to terrorism & WMD
- EMT certification/Continuing Education
- Fire apparatus familiarization
- Fire cause & origin/arson investigation
- Fire and EMS equipment
- Hazardous materials
- Incident-command/Scene management
- Infectious control/communicable diseases
- Fire grounds operations
- Paramedic certification/Continuing Education
- Pediatric emergencies
- Positive pressure ventilation
- Records management
- Rescue and extrication

Hazardous Materials

(Information provided by: Captain Brian Daake)

Once again 2005 has proved to be a very busy year for the Hazardous Materials program. We continue to be proactive in preparation to our response involving a hazardous materials release or a response to a terrorism/WMD incident. This is done through the normal budget request process and the procurement of grants through Gage County Emergency Management to keep our team equipped with the best possible equipment to keep our responders and citizens safe.

In 2005 we did not purchase any new hazardous materials response equipment. This year the focus was to maintain the gear that was already part of our inventory. This allowed us to become further add to our proficiency with the existing equipment.

Training in Hazardous Materials was on the rise in 2005. This year we logged 1,037 hours of training in this discipline. We continued our monthly Haz Mat and shift training, which included reviewing the use of Chemical Protective Clothing, Decontamination Procedures (one of which included a drill with our Emergency Response Team and two suspects), Chemical Research and Identification, and NIMS training to name a few of the drills. Captain Brian Daake and Firefighter Brett Wells attended the Great Plains Hazardous Materials Symposium in Hastings in February. In July Chief Terry Burger and Captain Brian Daake attended a statewide MOU-WMD Conference in Grand Island. This conference was sponsored by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and representatives from all of the state's MOU haz mat teams were present.

The Beatrice Fire/Rescue's hazardous materials program will continue to strive towards excellence in our delivery of this service to our citizens. We will continue to search for grants to purchase additional equipment and to replace items that have an expiration date. The department will continue to train to maintain a high readiness for any man made or natural disaster.



HAZ-MAT, cont.

We also faced several new training challenges in 2005. One was the Big Blue River Storm Exercise, which occurred on March 16 & 17, 2005. Gage County Emergency Management, with the assistance of the Exercise Design Team and a private contractor, created two out-of-sequences drills and a functional exercise. These were multi-jurisdictional and multi-discipline events that included members of many different agencies. On March 16th the functional exercise occurred at the Holiday Inn Express. This was a simulated terrorist attack on our city in several different locations. Captain's Arlyn Ullsperger and Brian Daake represented the fire department in the simulated Emergency Operations Center, in the Holiday Inn Express, during the response phase of the incidents.

The out of sequence drills took place the next day at Southeast Community College. Two of our members assisted law enforcement during the hostage taker phase of the incident. Then the hazardous materials team and fire elements responded to an explosion of a vehicle carrying a haz mat load that was triggered by the hostage taker. During this event we isolated the area; preformed emergency decontamination on two of three people injured by the explosion, and then treated the patients. We then sent in an entry team into the hot zone to recover a non-ambulatory patient and then identify the chemical to perform any necessary control functions. This exercise allowed us to work together with many different agencies that we do not normally get to work with on a normal day to day operation.



HAZ-MAT. Cont.

On August 3, 2005 we had the opportunity to work with the 72nd Civil Support Team with the Nebraska National Guard. This was during the Guard's unit testing period to become an active unit. The State Fire Marshal's Office and Nebraska Emergency Management suggested that we be contacted to assist with this exercise. Mark Meints, Gage County Emergency Management Director, and Captain Brian Daake worked with personal from the Fifth Army to develop a scenario representing a terrorist attack using chemical and biological agents during the Gage County Fair. Our hazardous materials team simulated attack and conducted operations inside the hot zone to mitigate the release. This was followed up by the National Guard units responding and assuming the role to mitigate and control the incident. Our hazardous material team learned some valuable lessons in our response and a chance to see how hazardous material responses are handled by the military.



Fire Prevention Division

Inspections & Plans Reviews

OCCUPANCY TYPE	INSPECTIONS	PLANS REVIEWS
Places of Assembly	40	1
Business	21	1
Care Homes	18	0
Day Care Facilities	25	0
Education	25	2
Health Care	3	0
Industrial	22	2
Mercantile	10	0
Residential (Family)	1	0
Residential (Commercial)	5	2
Storage Facilities	3	0
Other	31	0
TOTAL	204	8

\$1414 collected for plan reviews and State license inspections

Summary of Other Activities

ACTIVITY	SESSIONS	HOURS
Misc. Administrative Duties	-----	938
Meetings	64	102
Calls for Service/Citizen Complaints	4	5
Juvenile Firesetter Counseling Sessions	2	2
Public Education	4	8
Training	19	98
Fire Suppression	5	7
Fire & Fire Alarm Investigations	9	25
Rescue/Extrication/Hazmat Response	1	1
Ambulance Assist	4	5
Shift Fill-in	5	12
Computer Hardware/Software Tech Assistance	121	279

Comparison Summary of Activity

2001-2005

Fire / Explosion

Type of Situation Found	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Commercial Fire	19	7	6	5	6
Residential Fire	8	20	25	17	24
Fire Outside Structure	2	5	1	1	3
Vehicle Fire	24	17	13	20	8
Tree, Brush, Grass Fire	28	9	7	19	4
Refuse Fire	10	12	3	8	5
Aircraft Fire	0	0	0	1	0
Outside Spill w/Fire	0	0	1	0	0
Fire/Explosion, Unclassified	4	5	12	3	0
TOTAL	95	75	68	74	50

Emergency Medical

Rescue (incl. 1045 w/o extricat.)	81	31	18	45	41
Emergency Medical Call	134	228	192	341	392
Water/Ice Rescue	0	0	0	1	0
Extrication	17	25	13	19	10
Rescue Call, Unclassified	2	7	16	11	2
TOTAL	234	291	239	417	445

Hazardous Condition

Over-pressure/Rupture	3	2	1	1	0
Gas Leak (Natural/LPG)	0	5	2	5	2
Hazardous Condition	1	2	5	3	2
Spill/Leak, No Fire	18	10	13	19	11
Electrical Wiring/Equip. Problem	0	0	0	3	6
Excessive Heat	0	0	0	7	2
Power Line Down	2	3	0	1	2
Arcing/Electrical Short	3	5	0	5	4
Carbon Monoxide Incident	0	0	0	9	2
Hazardous Condition, Unclass.	2	2	8	1	1
TOTAL	29	29	29	54	32

Public Service Assist / Good Intent Calls

Type of Situation Found	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Severe Weather/Nat. Disaster	0	0	0	1	0
Service Call	41	31	9	3	4
Smoke/Odor Removal	11	9	8	3	1
Assist Law Enf./Public Serv.	6	1	2	8	2
Unauthorized Burning	0	0	1	1	1
Cover Assignment	3	0	1	0	1
Service Call, Unclassified	4	11	23	1	1
Good Intent Call	48	21	12	4	2
Smoke Scare	29	8	5	12	8
Animal Rescue	0	0	0	2	0
Vicinity Alarm	5	0	0	0	0
Controlled Burning	1	1	0	1	1
Mistaken For Smoke	3	3	5	1	1
Water Problem				1	0
Carbon Monoxide Inv. Only				7	7
Haz-Mat Investigation Only				17	4
TOTAL	151	85	66	62	33

False Calls or Cancelled Enroute

False Call/No Incident Found	53	71	38	11	10
Malicious/Mischievous Alarm	1	2	6	4	5
Bomb Scare, No Bomb	0	0	0	0	0
System Malfunction	27	6	16	15	27
Unintentional Alarm	49	8	51	87	67
Cancelled Enroute				22	45
TOTAL	130	87	111	139	154

Miscellaneous

Mutual-Aid Calls	79	66	41	49	62
Undetermined/Unclassified	10	1	0	0	0

GRAND TOTALS	728	634	554	795	776
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Fire Response Summary

2001-2005



STATISTIC	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Fires	95	75	68	70	50
Total Fire Loss	\$64,005	\$150,350	\$421,535	\$111,450	\$510,700
Before Fire Property Value	\$2,440,060	\$450,450	\$2,248,815	\$1,606,000	\$44,848,268
Property Value Saved	\$2,376,055	\$300,100	\$1,827,280	\$1,494,550	\$44,336,585
Total Percent Saved	97.38%	66.66%	81.26%	93.06%	98.86%
Number of Fire Deaths	0	0	0	0	0
Firefighter Injuries	1	1	1	0	6
Civilian Injuries	0	1	5	2	3
Busiest Month	April	January	March	Oct.	Oct.
Busiest Day	Wed.	Thurs.	Wed.	Sat.	Tues.
Busiest Time	4-4:59 PM	1-1:59 PM	2-2:59 PM	11-11:59 AM	4-4:59 PM
Avg. Response Time	3.41 min	3.38 min.	3.27 min.	3.22 min.	3.13 min.
Mutual-Aid Calls	79	66	41	49	62

Mutual-Aid Responses

Type of Mutual-Aid Call	Number of Calls
Controlled Burn	1
Emergency Medical	3
Extrication	8
False Alarm or Canceled Enroute	5
HazMat Response	4
Refuse/Rubbish Fire	3
Motor Veh. Accident	13
Structure Fire	2
Trees, Brush, Grass, Crop Fire	13
Assist Police	3
Vehicle Fire	4
Smoke Scare	1
Other/Unclassified	2
Total Mutual-Aid Calls	62



Ambulance Service

2001 - 2005



TYPE OF CALL	NUMBER OF EMS RESPONSES				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Medical	603	465	435	545	649
Trauma	80	328	135	181	218
Vehicular	66	69	109	72	94
In-Town Transfers	117	63	189	148	72
Out-Of-Town Transfers	414	416	551	577	593
No Transport-Vehicular	41	64	73	82	97
No Transport-Medical/Trauma	141	113	117	167	205
Standby	26	28	23	31	32
Mutual-Aid	8	28	55	*	*
Other	5	16	0	0	0
Mutual-Aid/ALS (*included in TOTAL)				{121}	{148}
TOTAL EMS RESPONSES	1501	1590	1687	1803	1960
EMERGENCY RESPONSES	727	825	915	982	1095
NON-EMERGENCY RESPONSES	750	723	745	789	833
MISC/OTHER EMS RESPONSES	24	42	27	32	32

* Most Common Age of Patient 80-89 years of age

* Busiest Time of Day 2:00-2:59 PM

- * Most Common Reasons for Call
1. Trauma
 2. Cardiac
 3. Respiratory Distress
 4. Abdominal Pain

Ambulance Financial Report					
January 1, 2005 - December 31, 2005					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Billed Out	\$328,212	\$474,174	\$527,292	\$608,303	\$734,644
Total Collected	\$239,063	\$331,368	\$389,586	\$432,758	\$534,299
Percentage Collected (Annualized)	72.80%	69.88%	73.88%	71.11%	72.73%