



Beatrice Fire & Rescue

ANNUAL REPORT

2004

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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 the following services:

- *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, and natural disasters.

To:

Prevent loss of property from fire and fire related activities.

To:

Provide injury prevention education aimed at managing risk areas in our community...create safer homes, promote positive health choices and address traffic injuries, falls, firearm injuries, poisoning, and burns.

To:

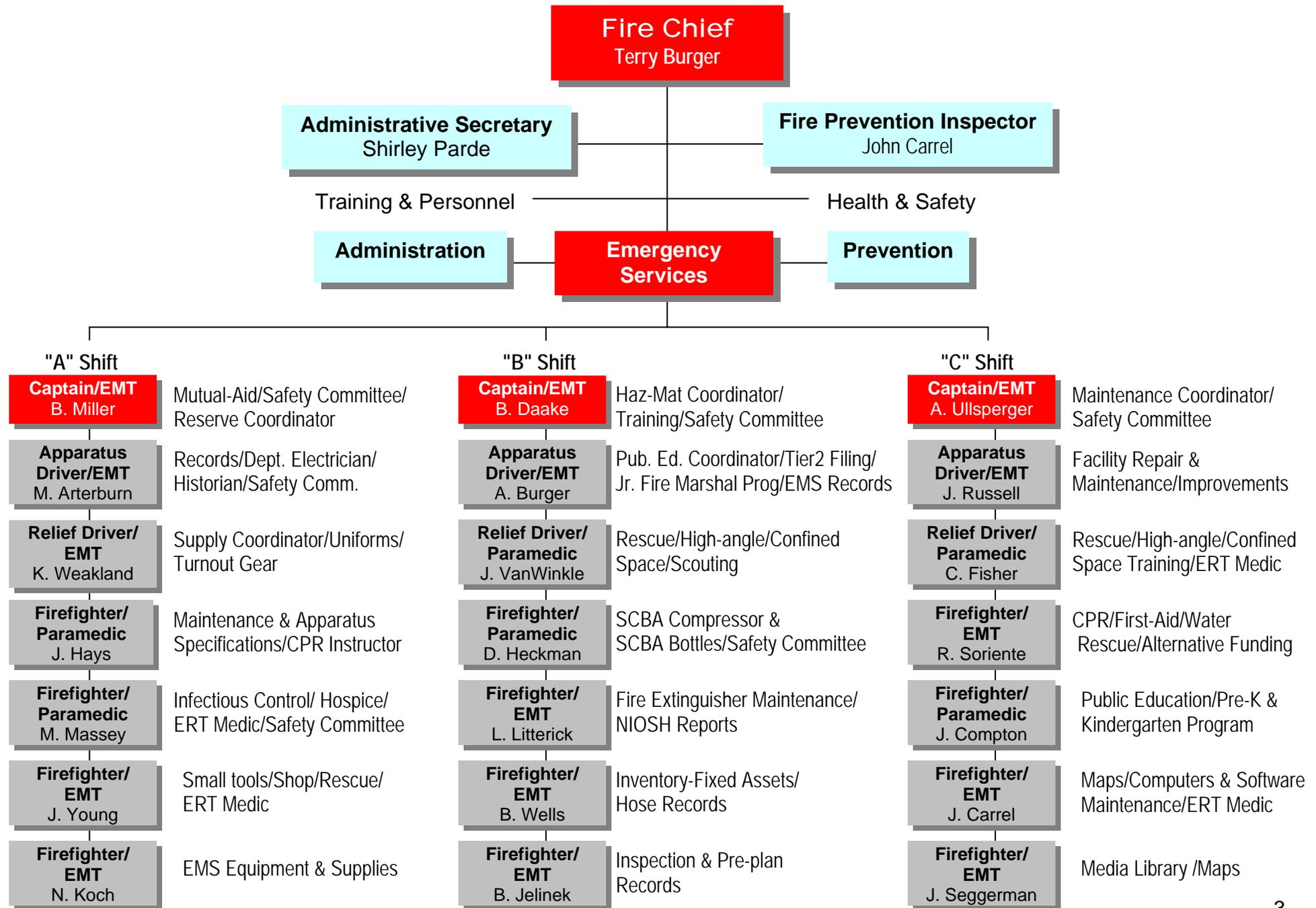
Prevent the loss of life and reduce injury through prompt professional delivery of emergency rescue and medical services.

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.



Personnel Changes

We say farewell to these familiar faces



Gene Sullivan, a 10 year veteran of the Beatrice Fire Department, moved on to pursue a full-time position at Beatrice Community Hospital, where he had worked part-time for many years. Gene served the citizens of the Beatrice & Gage County area for a long time as a Gage County Ambulance Service employee before joining the Fire Department. Gene's experience and expertise was a major factor in a smooth transition when the Fire Department acquired the ambulance service from the County in 1994. Gene's dedication, his work ethics and sense of humor leaves a void that will be hard to fill. We wish him well.

Doug VanWinkle joined the Department in 1995. He started as a reserve firefighter, and was hired full-time in 1997. Doug became a paramedic in 1999 to become one of our first paramedics, which allowed the Fire Department to become an "Advanced Life Support" ambulance service. Doug moved to Peshtigo, Wisconsin in July 2004 to be near his fiancé who was starting her career there. Doug and Carrie were married in January 2005. Some of our firefighters attended Doug's wedding, and we all wish them a happy future. Doug's enthusiasm and knowledge as a paramedic will be greatly missed.



New Faces

We welcome the following to our Fire Department Family

Bryan Jelinek joined the ranks as a Beatrice firefighter/EMT in February 2004. He was hired to replace Gene Sullivan.

Bryan was born in Verdigre, NE and moved to Lincoln with his family in 1982. He attended Lincoln East High School, where he was active in football and wrestling. He attended the University of Nebraska and Southeast Community College (Lincoln Campus) and graduated with a degree in Fire Protection Technology. He is a certified EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and Haz-Mat Technician. After school, he was employed in the family's landscaping business. Bryan was married in May 2000 and in March 2004, they had a baby boy.

Since his appointment, Bryan, his wife Sara and their son Colton have made Beatrice their home and Bryan plans to pursue certification as a paramedic.



Jeremy Seggerman was hired in July 2004 to replace Doug VanWinkle.

Jeremy is a native of Fairmont, NE and attended Fillmore Central High School in Geneva. He graduated from Southeast Community College (Lincoln Campus) with a degree in Fire Protection Technology. He is a certified EMT (Emergency Medical Technician), but in Dec. 2004 completed paramedic training and will receive his National Registry Certification in March 2005. He is also a Haz-Mat Technician.

Jeremy is a second-generation firefighter. His father is a volunteer firefighter in Fairmont, where Jeremy also served for 2 ½ years prior to joining our Department.

Jeremy is engaged to be married in May 2005 to Kim Heetderks of Adams, NE.

New Paramedics



Brett Wells



Jeremy Seggerman

Brett and Jeremy attended classes at Southeast Community College, Lincoln Campus, for 22 months and graduated from the paramedic program in December 2004. This included 700 hours of classroom time, 400 hours of hospital clinicals and 550 hours of field clinicals. This is all in addition to their EMT certification that they had to have to enter the paramedic program.

They will be taking their National Registry Exam in February 2005, to become nationally certified.

With these two newly certified paramedics, we will have a total of eight paramedics on our department, with a goal of adding one more, so we will have three per shift. This number should provide the citizens of Beatrice and the Beatrice area a better chance to be offered the advanced life-support services that paramedics can provide.

Becoming a paramedic takes a great deal of individual dedication and sacrifice and we applaud the extra effort it takes to complete the curriculum and all the time it takes them away from their families.

Congratulations Brett and Jeremy!

New and Updated Equipment

In January 2004, we were successful in obtaining a \$116,000 grant as part of the “Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program” in the area of Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety. This grant has enabled us to conform to current trade standards and technologies. Purchases funded by this grant include:



New 45 minute “air packs” allow for greater firefighter effectiveness and improved safety. These packs replaced all of our old 30 minute packs.



We replaced our mobile air supply trailer with this fully enclosed unit. This trailer can be dispatched anywhere within our Mutual Aid district.



We purchased a thermal imaging camera that allows our firefighters to “see” through smoke. This camera replaces our old helmet mounted unit that was obsolete.



A breathing air compressor used to fill our portable air bottles. This new compressor also allows us to fill our bottles in an explosion proof compartment for added safety.

New Equipment (cont.)

The following is just some of the equipment that was purchased by way of a "HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT"



Haz-Mat De-Con trailer



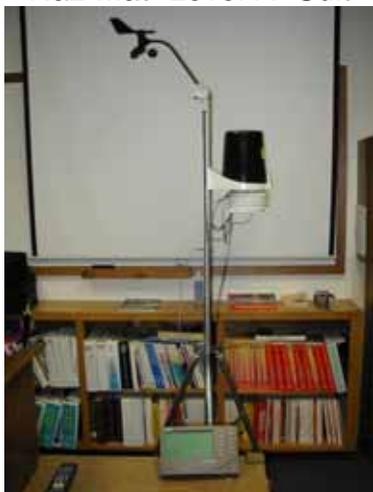
60-min. Breathing Apparatus
w/ Integrated Communication System



Haz-Mat "Level-A" Suit



Decontamination Equipment



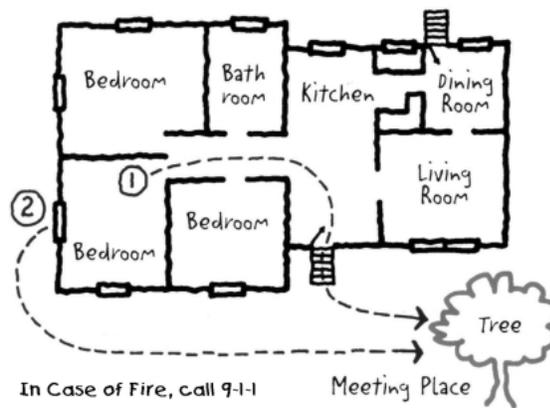
Remote Weather Monitor



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	287
Fire Extinguisher classes	75
Fire, Rescue & EMS demonstrations/displays and fire safety instruction	316
First-Aid / CPR Classes	150
Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts (fire safety & first-aid)	60
Fire Prevention Week “Puppet Shows”	174
“JUNIOR FIRE MARSHAL” Program (5 th grade)	167
Open House	Approx. 150

The Fire Department offers free home fire safety inspections and in cooperation with local Service Clubs, 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 approx. 200 hours of training per employee per year. This equates to over 5,000 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 & software training
- Confined-space rescue
- CPR re-certification
- Disaster preparedness
- Emergency driving
- Emergency response to terrorism & WMD
- EMT re-certification
- Fire apparatus familiarization
- Fire cause & origin/arson investigation
- Fire and EMS equipment training
- Hazardous materials
- Incident-command/Scene management
- Infectious control/communicable diseases
- Fire grounds operations
- Paramedic certification
- Pediatric emergencies
- Positive pressure ventilation
- Records management
- Rescue and extrication training

Training Activity Examples



Rescue Training



Haz-Mat De-Con Training



Live-Fire Training (Mutual-Aid)



Wildland Fire Training



Streets & Hydrants Training



EMS Training (simulation)

Hazardous Materials

(Information provided by: Captain Brian Daake)

The Beatrice Fire and Rescue continues to provide Hazardous Material response at the Technician level to our community. This level of response allows us to take offensive actions by entering the chemically contaminated area to mitigate the hazard. Taking these actions will reduce the potential damage and health risk these chemicals can pose to human life, property, and the environment.

Hazardous Materials responses require specialized training and equipment to effectively and safely control the incident. This requires continuing training for all department personnel that is conducted in-house and at various courses provided outside the department throughout the year.

Captain Brian Daake attended a train-the-trainer course for technician level hazmat response. Six Fire Department members attended a "Chemical Protective Clothing Team" course in Hastings, NE, put on by two members of the New York City Fire Department's Hazardous Materials team. The majority of the department members attended a course on EMS Operations and Planning for Weapons of Mass Destruction through the Office of Domestic Preparedness hosted by the Office of Gage County Emergency Management. Firefighter Nate Koch and Reserve Firefighter James Griffith attended the Technician course in Grand Island this year as well. This provides us with a total of 25 Technicians at this time.

We continued to receive "Homeland Security" grant money to purchase and maintain our hazardous materials equipment. This last year, due to the grant, we have purchased several different items. These include chemical protective suits, chemical detection equipment, and specialized decontamination equipment.

Beatrice Fire and Rescue also has the honor of being a regional response team for the State of Nebraska. Our regional response area includes our Mutual Aid Association, which has 26 fire department and ambulance districts in four counties, but by the Governor's declaration, we can be dispatched anywhere.

On September 20, 2003 we participated with the Mutual Aid Association in a Disaster Drill at Tri-County School. The training exercise scenario was a mass-casualty incident, which was caused by a chlorine leak in the school. It required the activation of our hazardous materials team to control the hazard and perform decontamination for the exposed students and responders. This was an excellent learning opportunity for our agency and it also allowed the members of our Mutual Aid Association to see us in operation.

Future plans for the Hazardous Materials program include maintaining and expanding our current level of training. Through Homeland Security Grants we will continue to be able to purchase the necessary equipment to protect our responders and our citizens in case of a hazardous materials release or weapons of mass destruction incident.

Apparatus & Building Maintenance

Fire Department personnel spend hundreds of hours each year on vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair. The majority of this time is spent on preventative maintenance for the Department's apparatus and all of the fire, rescue, haz-mat and EMS equipment that is carried on each piece of apparatus. It is imperative that our equipment be ready for the next emergency and that it is clean and functions properly. Our personnel also perform most of the maintenance to our facility.

Below, are photos of some of those activities:



Fire Prevention Division

Inspections & Plan Reviews

OCCUPANCY TYPE	INSPECTIONS	PLANS REVIEWS	HOURS
Places of Assembly	20	6	17
Business	11	3	7
Care Homes	21	0	0
Day Care Facilities	22	0	0
Education	20	2	4
Health Care	2	0	0
Industrial	31	8	40
Mercantile	10	4	10
Residential (Family)	7	0	0
Residential (Commercial)	7	1	3
Storage Facilities	0	1	1
Other	29	0	0
TOTAL	180	25	82

\$1762 collected for plan reviews and State license inspections

Summary of Other Activities

ACTIVITY	SESSIONS	HOURS
Misc. Administrative Duties	-----	1121
Meetings	136	155
Calls for Service/Citizen Complaints	12	10.5
Juvenile Firesetter Counseling Sessions	1	1
Public Education	5	5.5
Training	25	74.5
Fire Suppression	1	1
Fire & Fire Alarm Investigations	7	9.5
Hazmat Response	2	2
Ambulance Assist	4	2.5
Shift Fill-in	13	27
Computer Technical Assistance	144	308.5

Comparison Summary of Activity

2000-2004

Fire/Explosion

Type of Situation Found	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Commercial Fire	4	19	7	6	5
Residential Fire	18	8	20	25	17
Fire Outside Structure	3	2	5	1	1
Vehicle Fire	27	24	17	13	20
Tree, Brush, Grass Fire	41	28	9	7	19
Refuse Fire	10	10	12	3	8
Aircraft Fire	0	0	0	0	1
Outside Spill w/Fire	0	0	0	1	0
Fire/Explosion, Unclassified	1	4	5	12	3
TOTAL	104	95	75	68	74

Emergency Medical

Rescue (incl. 1045 w/o extricat.)	29	81	31	18	45
Emergency Medical Call	86	134	228	192	341
Water/Ice Rescue	0	0	0	0	1
Extrication	11	17	25	13	19
Rescue Call, Unclassified	110	2	7	16	11
TOTAL	236	234	291	239	417

Hazardous Condition

Over-pressure/Rupture	0	3	2	1	1
Gas Leak (Natural/LPG)	0	0	5	2	5
Hazardous Condition	3	1	2	5	3
Spill/Leak, No Fire	18	18	10	13	19
Electrical Wiring/Equip. Problem	0	0	0	0	3
Excessive Heat	0	0	0	0	7
Power Line Down	2	2	3	0	1
Arcing/Electrical Short	2	3	5	0	5
Carbon Monoxide Incident	0	0	0	0	9
Hazardous Condition, Unclass.	0	2	2	8	1
TOTAL	25	29	29	29	54

Public Service Assist

Type of Situation Found	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Severe Weather/Nat. Disaster	0	0	0	0	1
Service Call	14	41	31	9	3
Smoke/Odor Removal	1	11	9	8	3
Assist Law Enf./Public Serv.	6	6	1	2	8
Unauthorized Burning	0	0	0	1	1
Cover Assignment	6	3	0	1	0
Service Call, Unclassified	8	4	11	23	1
Good Intent Call	21	48	21	12	4
Smoke Scare	30	29	8	5	12
Animal Rescue	1	0	0	0	2
Vicinity Alarm	2	5	0	0	0
Controlled Burning	3	1	1	0	1
Mistaken For Smoke	3	3	3	5	1
Water Problem					1
Carbon Monoxide Inv. Only					7
Haz-Mat Investigation Only					17
TOTAL	95	151	85	66	62

False Calls or Cancelled Enroute

False Call	39	53	71	38	11
Malicious/Mischievous Call	5	1	2	6	4
Bomb Scare, No Bomb	1	0	0	0	0
System Malfunction	23	27	6	16	15
Unintentional Call	27	49	8	51	87
Cancelled Enroute					22
TOTAL	95	130	87	111	139

Miscellaneous

Mutual-Aid Calls		79	66	41	49
Undetermined/Unclassified	7	10	1	0	0

GRAND TOTALS	562	728	634	554	795
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Fire Response Summary

2000-2004



STATISTIC	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total Fires	104	95	75	68	70
Total Fire Loss	\$530,082	\$64,005	\$150,350	\$421,535	\$111,450
Before Fire Property Value	\$4,273,751	\$2,440,060	\$450,450	\$2,248,815	\$1,606,000
Property Value Saved	\$3,743,669	\$2,376,055	\$300,100	\$1,827,280	\$1,494,550
Total Percent Saved	87.60%	97.38%	66.66%	81.26%	93.06%
Number of Fire Deaths	0	0	0	0	0
Firefighter Injuries	1	1	1	1	0
Civilian Injuries	3	0	1	5	2
Busiest Month	March	April	January	March	Oct.
Busiest Day	Wed.	Wed.	Thurs.	Wed.	Sat.
Busiest Time	3-3:59 PM	4-4:59 PM	1-1:59 PM	2-2:59 PM	11-11:59 AM
Avg. Response Time	3.42 min	3.41 min.	3.38 min.	3.27 min.	3.22 min.
Mutual-Aid Calls	61	79	66	41	49

Mutual-Aid Responses

Type of Mutual-Aid Call	Number of Calls
Controlled Burn	1
Emergency Medical	6
Extrication	1
False Call	2
HazMat Response	2
Refuse Fire	3
Smoke Scare	1
Structure Fire	11
Trees, Brush, Grass Fire	15
Off-Road Veh. Or Heavy Equip. Fire	2
Vehicle Fire	2
Aircraft Fire	1
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster	2
Total Mutual-Aid Calls	49



Ambulance Service

2000 - 2004



TYPE OF CALL	NUMBER OF EMS RESPONSES				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Medical	447	603	465	435	545
Trauma	166	80	328	135	181
Vehicular	61	66	69	109	72
In-Town Transfers	151	117	63	189	148
Out-Of-Town Transfers	396	414	416	551	577
No Transport-Vehicular	48	41	64	73	82
No Transport-Medical/Trauma	108	141	113	117	167
Standby	35	26	28	23	31
Mutual-Aid		8	28	55	*
Other	6	5	16	0	0
Mutual-Aid/ALS (*included in TOTAL)					{121}
TOTAL EMS RESPONSES	1418	1501	1590	1687	1803
EMERGENCY RESPONSES	670	727	825	915	982
NON-EMERGENCY RESPONSES	748	750	723	745	789
MISC/OTHER EMS RESPONSES		24	42	27	32

* Most Common Age of Patient 70-79 years of age

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

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

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