

Aberdeen Fire Department



Year End Report

2007

NOV 28 2007



CITY OF ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dave Carlberg, Fire Chief Doug Craig, Assistant Chief

March 26, 2008
Honorable Bill Simpson, Mayor
City of Aberdeen

Mayor Simpson,

I respectfully submit to you and the City Council, the following annual report that records the activities of the Aberdeen Fire Department for the year 2007.

The City of Aberdeen provides fire protection within the city municipal boundaries servicing 16,500 residents over 10.5 square miles. In addition we provide fire protection to a portion of Fire District 10, Bigelow Drive and Stafford Creek Corrections. The City receives mutual aid from adjacent Fire Districts as well as the Cities of Cosmopolis and Hoquiam. Services are provided through two fire stations staffed 24/7 at each facility.

Emergency Medical Service areas encompass a larger vicinity including Fire District 10 & 15, the City of Cosmopolis, Bigelow Drive and Stafford Creek Corrections. The city provides Advanced Life Support as well as inter-facility specialty care transports.

In 2007 the Aberdeen fire department responded to a grand total of **5,486** calls for service. The analysis of last year's data indicates a 2.5% increase in overall activity. Fire losses for the year totaled \$3,400,600. The most significant occurrence this year involved a three-alarm incident at Grays Harbor Equipment Company on July 21, 2007. (See page 10)

There is one item of importance to again make note of. Based on the collection of data, \$3,400,600 of total fire loss represents **5.83%** of total property lost versus **\$54,948,585** or **94.17%** of total property saved. This information once again represents the value of what your fire department provides to its community in terms of property saved.

Overall, there were a total of **seven** incidents throughout the year that required a second alarm or greater escalation. The Activity levels are broken down as follows:

- 464 Fire Responses (33 Hazardous Materials)
- 993 Engine Medical Assists
- 4,029 Total Medical Responses

The National Fire Protection Agency's goal is for fire departments arrive within six minutes 90% of the time. Areas north and south of 1st. Street accounted for 37.3% of responses, followed by South Aberdeen at 22%, the West End at 19%, North Aberdeen 9.5% and East Aberdeen 4.5%. The Aberdeen Fire Department's average 2007 response time was **4 minutes 46** seconds to all fire incidents reported within the city.

Once again, the true value of your fire department's accomplishments is a total of **78** documented medical saves in 2007. These include patients who most likely would have died without qualified medical intervention by our firefighters and paramedics in the field. Our EMS operation reflects the dedication and professionalism of the Aberdeen Fire Department, and deserves the highest appreciation possible. A more detailed report on EMS activities by Captain/EMC Tom Hubbard begins on page 14 of this report.

Nationally, the US Fire Administration reports that there were 115 firefighter fatalities in 2007. Of those 42% were career firefighters. Stress or overexertion was listed as the leading cause, while deaths associated with vehicle operations was second. The department factors these issues and many others within the safety program under the leadership of safety officer, battalion chief Damon Lillybridge.

On December 3, 2007 the city experienced one of its worst windstorms in over 50 years. Widespread damage occurred in the city as well as the entire county. Grays Harbor received a federal disaster declaration as a result. The majority of the city was without power for a number of days. Our fire department communications system required portable generators to be placed at each of the two sites in order to maintain radio communications.

Reviewing plans is another aspect of fire prevention accomplished by the department. At least one building plan reviewer in every municipality should include a qualified firefighter. They should be asking themselves "If there was a fire in this building, what would a firefighter need to know. The fire inspector is the real hero. There is no telling how many lives he has saved and how many injuries he prevented with his observations.

This annual report again reflects the high degree of professionalism and pride in the services we offer to our citizens. This report has evolved over the year and hopes to demonstrate our performance as a vital public service. I would like to thank the various team leaders who helped compile the material for this annual report. I would also like to thank the City Council and the Public Safety Committee for the immense support they have given the department. We have again made some important accomplishments in the direction of improving Fire, EMS and Life Safety services for our citizens.

Respectfully,

Dave Carlberg, Fire Chief

2007 ANNUAL REPORT - TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents	Page
Organizational Chart	4
Mission Statement	5
Fire & EMS Budget	6
Operations	8
401 S. F Street, Level 3 Incident (Grays Harbor Equipment)	10
Emergency Medical Services	14
Code Enforcement/Fire Investigation	22
Training	24
Health/Safety	32
Breathing Apparatus/Air Supply	34
Water Supply	35
Apparatus	36
Ladders	37
Radio/Communication	38
Chaplain Report	39

Cover by FF/P Dave Swinhart - AFD file photo – 211 E Marion – November 28th, 2007. Driver/Engineers Steve Pratt & Kelly Niemi venting the roof.

ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Administration

Fire Chief
Dave Carlberg

Assistant Chief
Doug Craig

Administrative Assistant
Susie Johnson

Accounting Assistant
Bonita Greninger

Operations

SHIFT1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT3
Battalion Chief Damon Lillybridge	Battalion Chief Bill Mayne	Battalion Chief Ray Winter*
Captain-Wally Montz* Captain J.R. Streifel	Captain Mark Dulin Captain Rich Malizia*	Captain Tom Hubbard* Captain Steve Fagerstedt
Engineer Brian Swanson Engineer Dave Golding*	Engineer Steve Pratt* Engineer Kelly Niemi	Engineer Jim Blomberg Engineer Todd Bradshaw*
FF Jeremy Laier FF Ryan Knodel* FF Dave Swinhart* FF Chris Raffelson* FF Dave Cartwright FF Kevin Craig	FF Chris Eisele FF Chad Mittleider* FF Ron Smith FF Rian Colt FF Jeff Leuschen* FF Brian Newbill*	FF Nick Swinhart* FF Sam Baretich FF Mike Kolodzie FF Troy Palmer* FF Brian Peterson*

*Paramedic



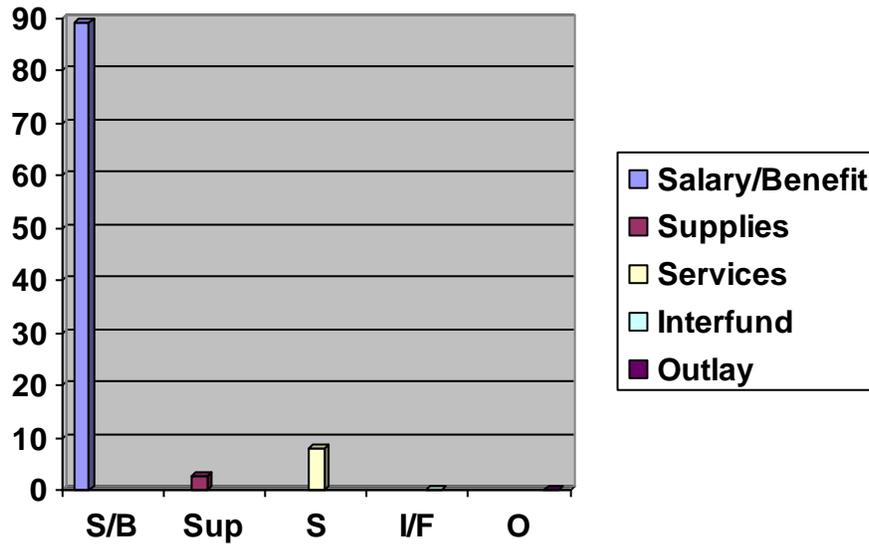
ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

**To prevent harm to the public,
protect property and the environment.
Through fire suppression, fire prevention
and emergency medical services
24 hours a day.**

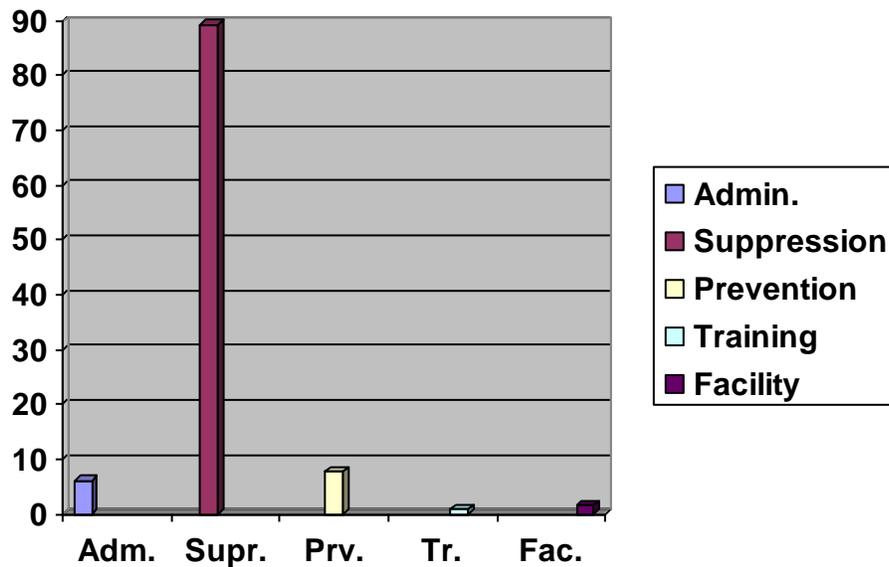
2007 Fire Operating Costs

In 2007, the cost of operating our fire protection services totaled **\$1,505,231**. Salary and Benefit compensation accounts for the largest portion of the budget dollar.

2007 - % Expenditures by Type



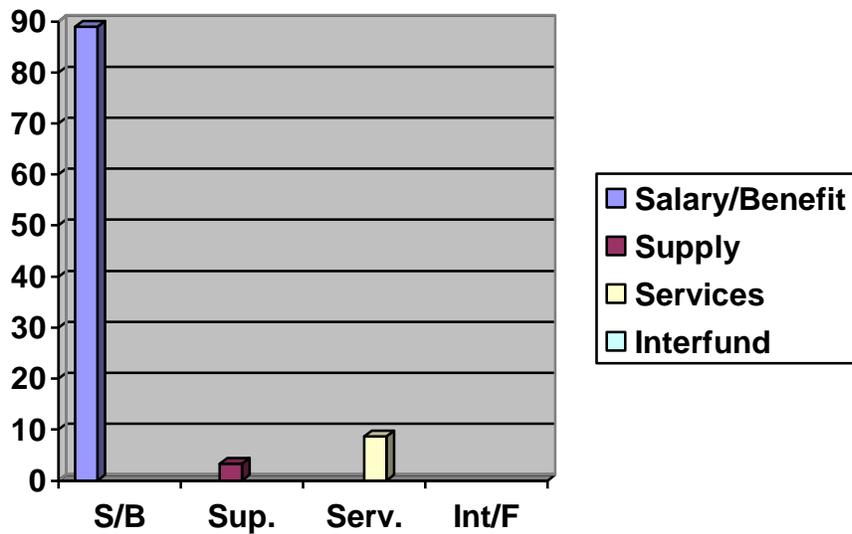
2007 - % Expenditures by Division



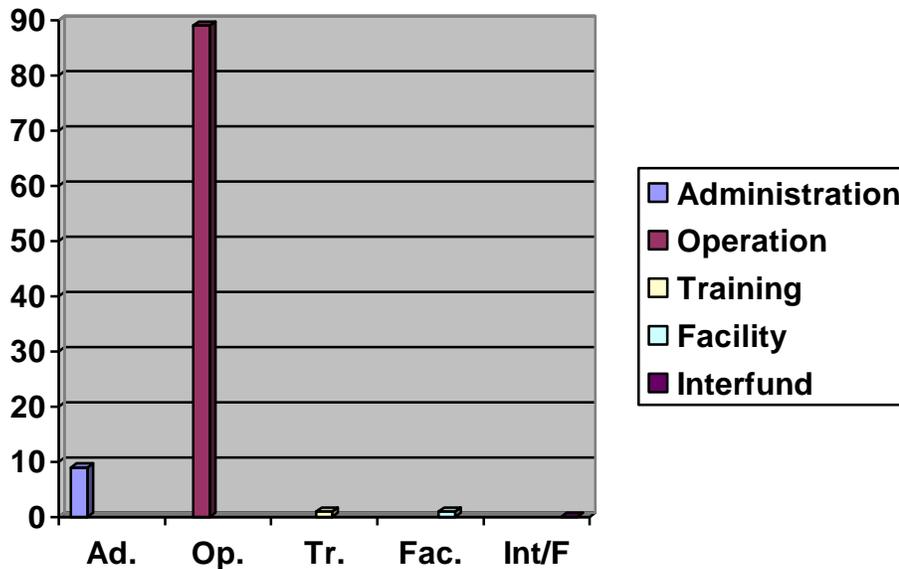
2007 EMS Operating Costs

In 2007 the cost of operating our emergency medical services totaled **\$2,365,295**. Salary and Benefit compensation accounts for the largest portion of the budget dollar.

2007 - % Expenditures by Type



2007- % Expenditures by Division

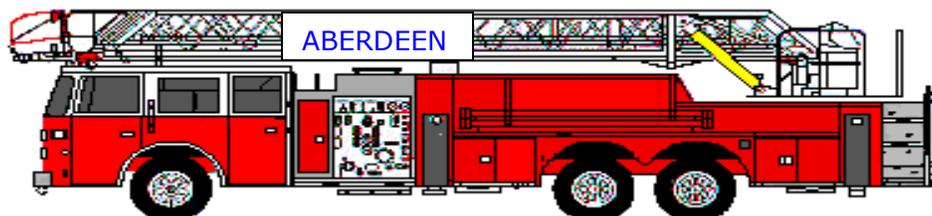


TOTAL INCIDENT BREAKDOWN FOR 2007

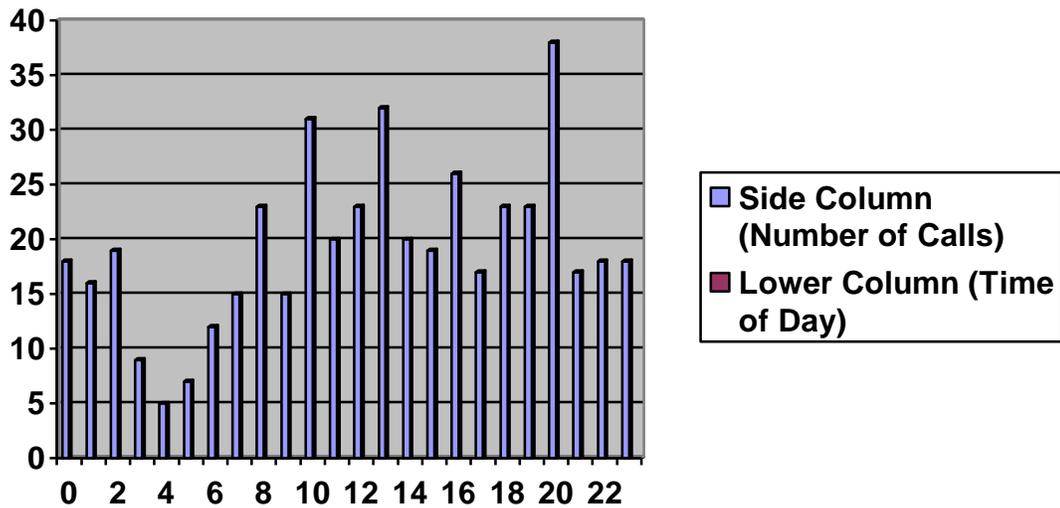
OPERATIONS DIVISION

The fire department operations division operates from one main headquarters station and one sub station located on the south side of the city. Operations consist of three shifts or battalions, supervised by a battalion chief. Thirty-three uniformed suppression personnel staff the department. All personnel are cross-trained as either emergency medical technicians or paramedics.

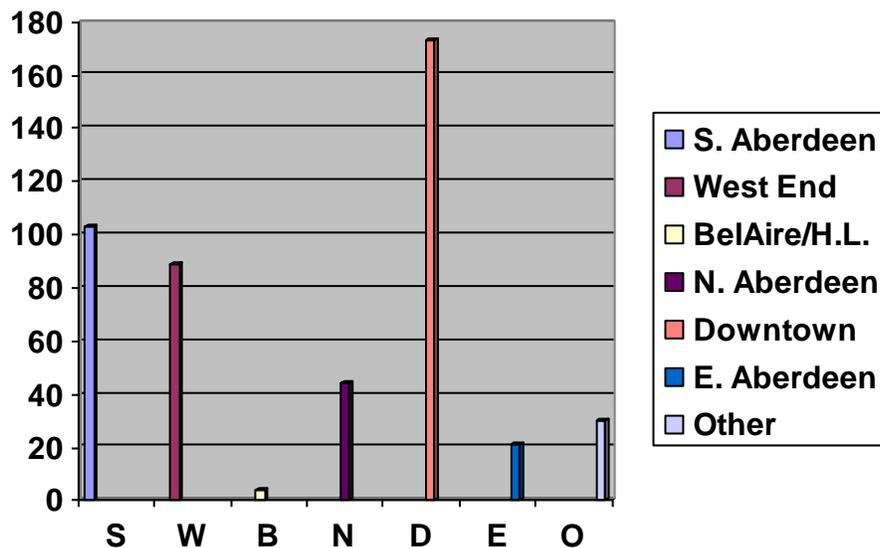
	<u>07</u>	<u>(06)</u>
• Bridge Openings	594	803
• Structure fires, (second alarm or greater)	7	8
• Hazardous Materials	31	33
• Vehicle Fire	27	25
• Wildland Fire	19	27
• Chimney Fire	14	12
• Trash Fire	30	42
• False Alarm	233	172
• Rescue	4	5
• Intentional Caused Fires	12	-
• Undetermined Caused Fires	21	-
• EMS Engine Assists	993	837
• Total EMS	4,029	4,048
• Total FIRE	464	463
• Total Activity	5,486	5,348
• Fire Related Fatalities	0	0
• Fire Related Injuries	1	2
• Firefighter Injuries	0	0
• TOTAL FIRE LOSS	\$3,400,600	\$664,065
• TOTAL PROPERTY SAVED	\$54,948,585	\$60,311,065



2007 Fire Suppression



The above chart indicates the number of calls that occur during the hour of the day. The State of Washington requires that a minimum number of firefighters be on scene and assigned to tasks prior to performing interior firefighting activities. Before two firefighters can enter a burning structure, we must have a least two additional firefighters available for rescue outside the structure. As the incident progresses, it becomes necessary to assign more firefighters to other functions.



Fire responses can be tracked geographically. This chart shows the City of Aberdeen and the number of fire calls per area that the fire department has responded to.

GRAYS HARBOR EQUIPMENT

401 South F Street

July 21st 2007

At 22:14 hours, the Aberdeen Fire Department received a report of a fully involved commercial structure at 401 South F Street, the Grays Harbor Equipment Company. The alarm was transmitted as an automatic response with the Hoquiam Fire Department consisting of two Engines, one Ladder, one Medic and one Battalion chief.

The Aberdeen Fire Department is a fully career organization of 35 uniformed personnel that includes a Chief and Assistant Chief. There are three platoons consisting of 11 personnel each. The department operates out of two fire stations, and has an automatic aid agreement with the City of Hoquiam. Mutual aid agreements include the cities of Cosmopolis and Montesano, as well as surrounding fire districts.

The fire building was constructed around 1925. The building site is located in the historic F Street district where the Black Friday incident of 1903 began. The building consisted of ordinary type and masonry block construction. Ceiling height inside was generally about 10'-20'. Grays Harbor Equipment was actually four separate occupancies, separated by firewalls that had openings to create egress from one to the other.

The building was not equipped with a sprinkler system. The building had a burglar and fire alarm system. Smoke or heat detection was present in some areas and tied to an audible alarm. The system was monitored however, did not function properly during the event. Trouble and low battery were the only signals initially received. The fire alarm did not activate until five minutes after callers reported to 911 that the building was well involved with fire.

The Fire

Weather at the time of alarm was a southwesterly wind at 20-25 mph and temperatures around 60 degrees. A phone alarm was received by Grays Harbor E-911 from a male occupant of the Guesthouse Suites directly across the Wishkah River from the fire scene. This occupant was a non-resident and not familiar with the city and its landmarks, so the location was not immediately communicated. A second 911 call was received from an occupant who resides in a downtown residence located at Heron & F Streets, which is directly across from the fire building. Both callers indicated heavy fire conditions at the location. The alarm company did not receive a notification for a fire alarm until four minutes after the initial phone calls were received.

First arriving Battalion Chief Damon Lillybridge confirmed a fully involved two-story commercial occupancy with fire involvement on all four sides. First alarm units arrived within 3-4 minutes and all secured their own water supply. The engine responding from Hoquiam Fire indicated they could see the fire and a large thermal column from Park Street.

At 22:20 command requested two additional alarms. All efforts now centered on the protection of surrounding buildings. On scene units used a variety of large appliances to cool the surrounding structures. Aberdeen units operated on the A & B sides while Hoquiam, Montesano and Fire District 2 units operated on the C & D sides. The second and third alarm included all off-duty Aberdeen firefighters and mutual aid companies from the City of Cosmopolis and Grays Harbor Fire District 2. A special call was made to Montesano to request an additional truck company since the Hoquiam unit was out of service. In addition to the third alarm resource, there were an additional five "special call requests" for additional resources. The cities of Hoquiam, Cosmopolis, Montesano and a total of 8 other fire districts responded as well as South Beach Ambulance, which was directed to cover any aid calls that occurred in Aberdeen. This was the largest response of fire agencies in the history of the Aberdeen Fire Department.

Fire involved the main retail area of GH Equipment as well as its shipping/receiving warehouse next door and completely destroyed the structure and contents of both. The storage/repair warehouse next to shipping received moderate structural damage and the building on the very end of the block being leased by Fireguard suffered only smoke and water damage.

Due to the severe problem of flying embers and debris being emitted, the building across the street at 404 South F Street (the former Breakwater Seafood) became involved. Command in turn requested three additional engines to respond. An offensive operation was commenced to deal with this new threat. Forcible entry was made and after initial crew became aware of the buildings unsafe condition due to its construction rehab, the decision was made to pull all crews out and switch to a defensive operation. This building was also considered a total loss by investigators.

Scene Processing

The processing of the fire scene occurred the following day. Due to structural instability issues with both 401 and 404 South F Street, the department ordered that the business owners provide for stabilization to protect the public. The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms was asked to join the investigation. Scene processing focused on the western section of the warehouse building immediately adjacent to the retail area that was used for shipping and receiving of products. This area indicated the most severe fire damage and longest burn duration.

The fire itself was ruled to be un-determined. There was not enough evidence present in the area of origin to indicate as to the cause being accidental or intentional. Total losses were estimated at \$2.2 million dollars. The incident remains open and under investigation.

Dave Carlberg, Chief of Department – Aberdeen Fire Dept.

GH Harbor Equipment Fire Event Timeline

- 22:12 Custom Security - receiving trouble, then low battery signals from security zones 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406 address is 401 South F Street (*Company notifies responsible party contact as per the customers direction.*)
- 22:12 Occupant from Guesthouse Suites reporting a large fire across river from his location. Occupant is a non-resident and not familiar with the city and this location.
- 22:13 Occupant residing at Heron & F Street reporting GH Equipment heavily involved with fire.
- 22:14 **Dispatch** (Auto Response) Engines -7206, 7302, Truck- 7221, Medic- 7241, Battalion -7232 (Standard response) - commercial downtown alarm - Dispatchers indicate building is well involved with heavy fire at this time.
- 22:16 Custom Security receiving fire activation on zone 600 -401 South F Street.
- 22:17 Custom Security advises 911 of fire alarm activation 401 South F Street (only zone 600 activates - one of three fire detection zones)
- 22:18 B-7232 "on scene, large 2-story commercial - fully involved - all sides. All units secure your own water supply, fire is defensive"
- 22:20 B-7232 "Strike **two** additional alarms, staging location at State & H Street."
- 22:20 All AFD off-duty recalled, Engines -7205, 7204, 7601, 3101, Medics- 7242, 7243, 7244, Chiefs -7200, 7251, Safety Officer (**2nd & 3rd alarm resources**)
- 22:30 (**Special Call**) Truck -9221
- 22:40 (**Special Call**) Engines -7501, 7502, Chief-7500
- 22:42 B-7232, "New Staging Location on F Street between State & Heron"
All incoming units assigned to F-3 for staging information.
- 22:48 (**Special Call**) E-7101,7102, 8102
- 23:28 Fire extends to 404 South F Street (Old Breakwater Seafood) across street.
- 23:31 (**Special Call**) Request 3 more engines. Engines -3103, 7902, 8603, 8102, Personnel - 7997, 8455
- 23:38 (**Special Call**) Medic-7043 to handle all AFD medical calls

01:00 Request MASCO refueling truck to scene

01:50 Begin to release mutual aid companies

04:30 All units except E-7205 clear

Station ID

Station 31- Fire District 2 (Central Park, Brady, Wynoochee)

Station 70- South Beach Ambulance

Station 71- Fire District 6 (N. Hoquiam, Grays Harbor City)

Station 72- City of Aberdeen

Station 73- City of Hoquiam

Station 75- Fire District 10 (Wishkah Valley, East Hoquiam)

Station 76- City of Cosmopolis

Station 79- Fire District 16 (Copalis Crossing)

Station 81- Fire District 15 (N. River, Artic)

Station 84- Fire District 14 (Ocosta, Johns River)

Station 86- Fire District 17 (Humptulips)

Station 92- City of Montesano

Unit ID

00-Chief Officer

01-19- Engine Co.

20-29- Truck Co.

30-39- Command

40-49- Ambulance/Medic/Rescue Co.

50-59- Command/Staff/Chief Officer

60-69- Utility

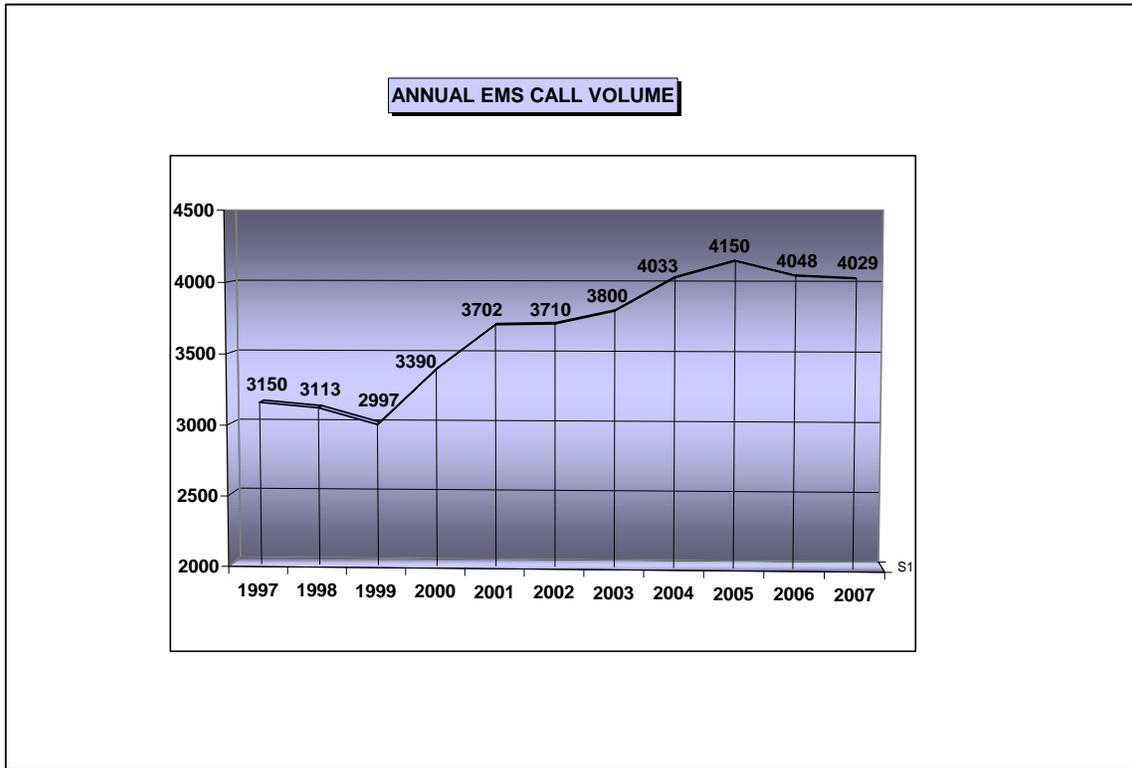
70-79- Marine Co.

80+ - Individual/Staff

Units are identified by station first and then unit number. Example: An Engine 3 from Hoquiam would be identified as 7303.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

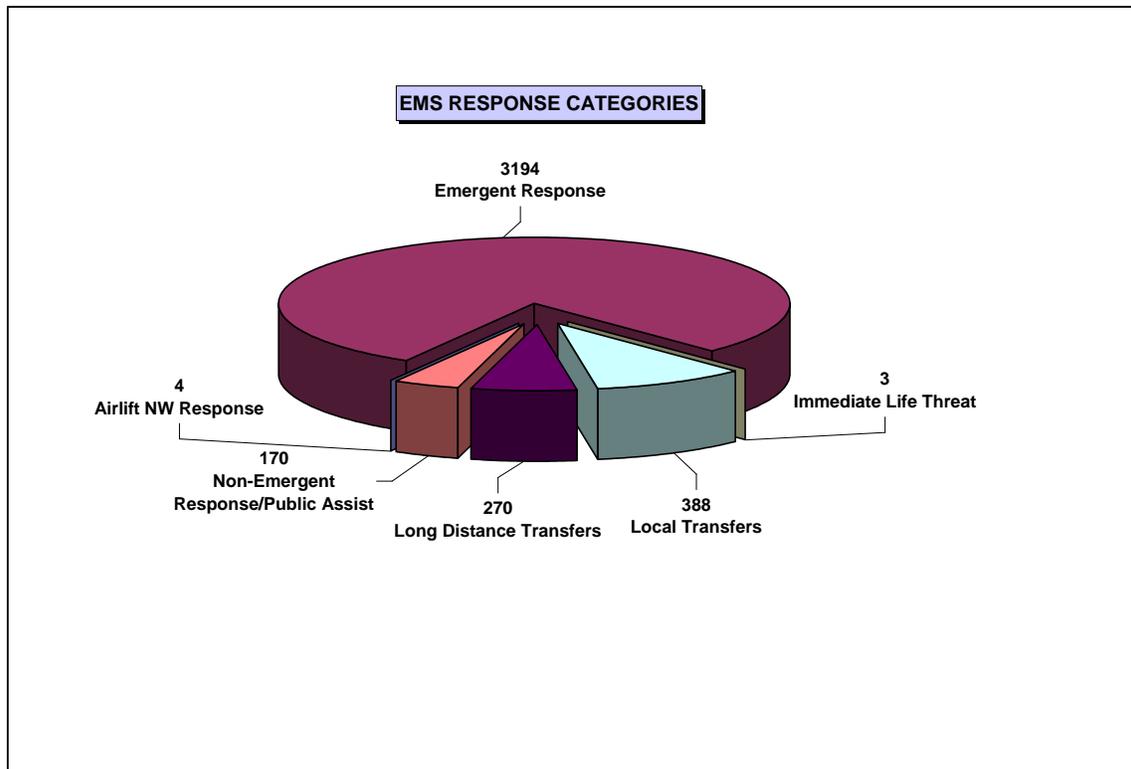
The Aberdeen Fire Department responded to 4029 medical calls during the year 2007, which totaled 19 less calls than the previous year. The graph below depicts the trend in EMS call volume over the past ten years. We believe we may have finally reached a plateau after experiencing many years of 5% annual increases in our call volume. The population base of our response area is in flux due to a variety of economic factors however, with the addition of new housing tracts, the possible mill reopening in Cosmopolis and the rejuvenation of the downtown core in Aberdeen, we expect to once again see an upward trend in our call volume.



RESPONSE CATEGORIES:

Medical responses are grouped into six categories based on their dispatch urgency and destination. The first category is emergent which totaled 3194 or 79% of our volume. This number is statistically identical to the previous year and is our normal response to calls received from the E911 center. Emergent calls dictate that we have an immediate ambulance response to provide medical care. Once again our average response time for these types of calls was just over 4 minutes. Response time is calculated from the time the fire department receives the call to the time our personnel arrive on-scene. The second category is non-emergent and public assist calls which totaled 170 or 4% of our call volume. These calls typically include lift assists, falls without injuries and welfare checks. The third category is out of town transfers of patients from Grays Harbor Community Hospital to hospitals in Olympia, Tacoma and Seattle. We performed 270 of these transfers. The fourth category is local transfers of patients between Grays Harbor Community hospital and skilled nursing facilities and diagnostic facilities. We typically manage these transfers utilizing the on-duty crew assigned to a fire apparatus which means that

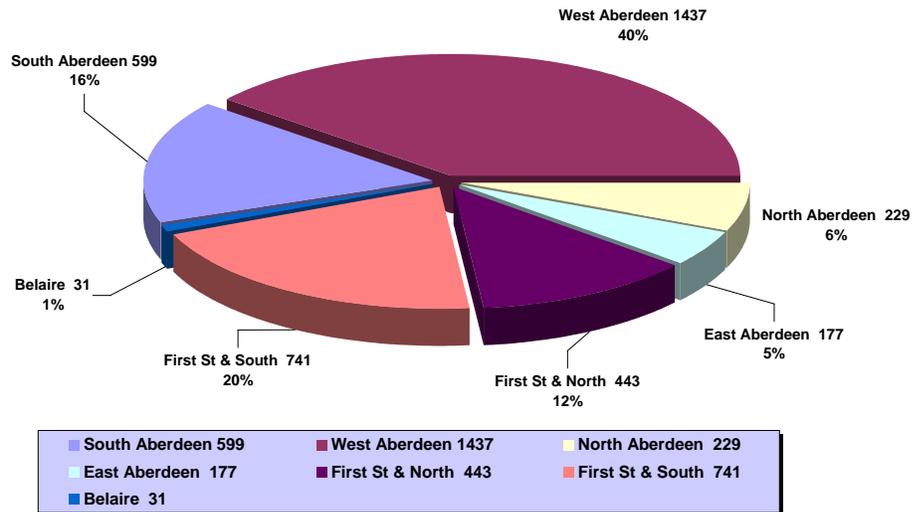
during the time the crew is engaged with the transfer the fire apparatus is out of service. We performed 388 local transfers during the year 2007. The fifth category tracks the number of times we rendezvoused with Airlift Northwest due to their inability to land at the heliport at Grays Harbor Community Hospital. This occurred 4 times. The final category is Immediate Life Threat Transfers of which we did 3. It should be noted that due to manning issues and call volume the City of Aberdeen no longer routinely handles Immediate Life Threat transfers from Grays Harbor Community Hospital. The three I.L.T. transports documented were the result of our personnel taking a patient to meet an Airlift Northwest Helicopter that had been forced to land short of the hospital due to inclement weather. The graph below illustrates our EMS response categories.



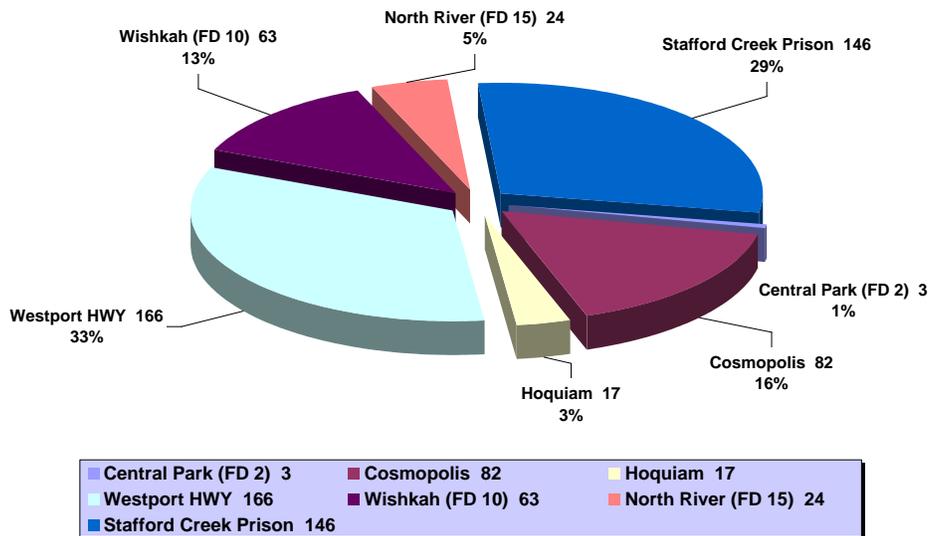
RESPONSE STATISTICS:

The Aberdeen Fire Department compiles data annually to track the number of times we respond to various locations within our response area. We also track the number of times that a fire apparatus responds on EMS calls with the ambulance. Fire apparatus respond with the ambulance on calls where additional manpower is needed to care for the patient and include such conditions as heart attack, respiratory distress, stroke or trauma. The information gathered allows us to plan so that we can meet the future needs of our customers. We have noted over the past several years that our call volume is steadily increasing on the South side of the Chehalis River Bridge. It will soon be necessary for our department to plan for a new substation in South Aberdeen that is more geographically centered and large enough to house more than the three personnel currently stationed there. The next three graphs illustrate EMS responses both inside and outside the city limits of Aberdeen and the number of engine assists during the year 2007.

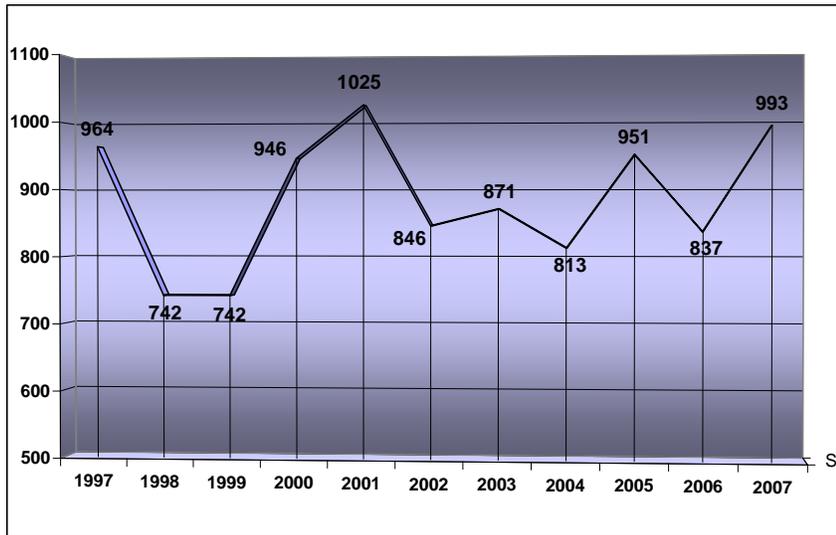
EMS RESPONSES WITHIN CITY LIMITS



EMS RESPONSES OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS

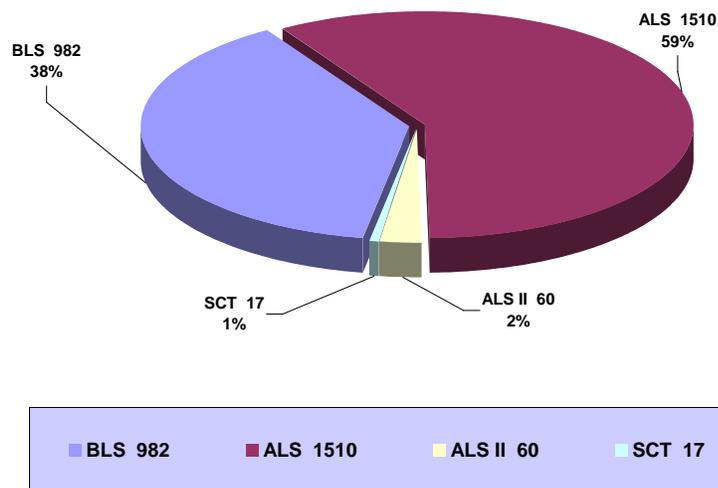


ENGINE ASSISTS

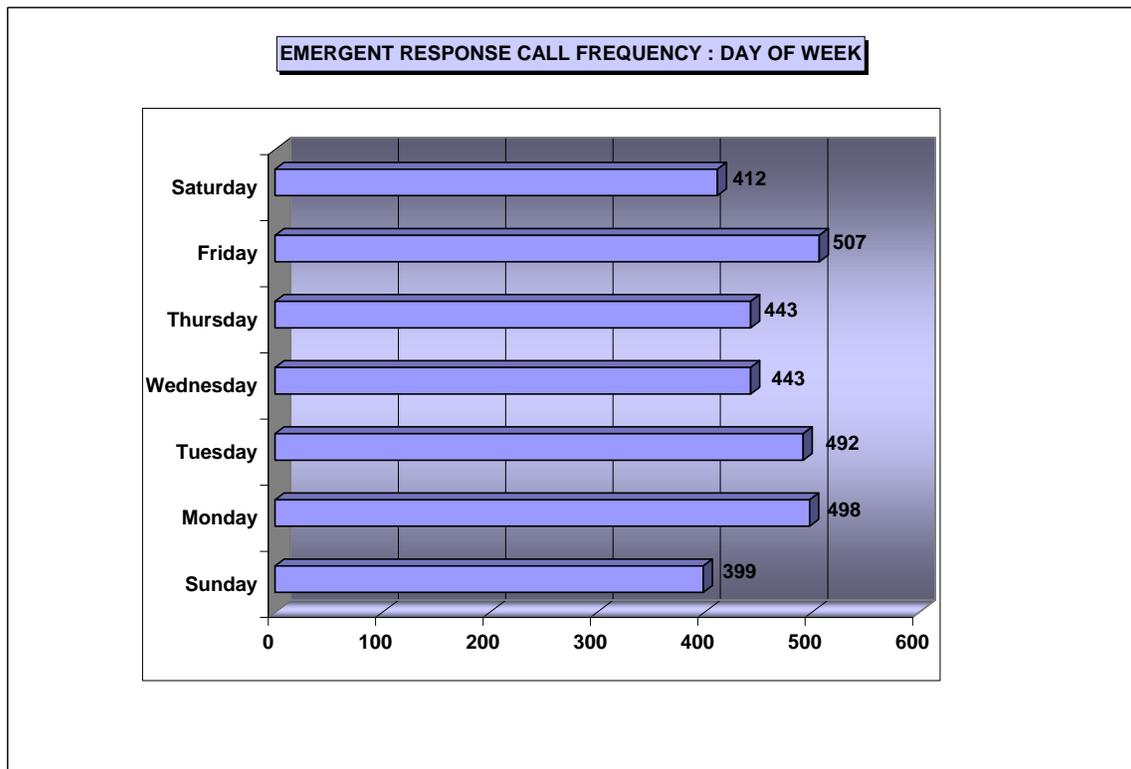


It should be noted that we had a fairly significant increase in engine assists over the previous year. We attribute this increase to the number of medical calls requiring advanced life support by our personnel this year. The graph below depicts level of care.

EMS - LEVEL OF CARE PROVIDED



BLS or Basic Life Support is care rendered by our personnel that is considered non-invasive. BLS care encompasses treatment such as splinting, spinal immobilization and wound care. ALS or Advanced Life Support involves the placement of intravenous lines, drug administration, the placement of advanced airway adjuncts and cardiac defibrillation. ALS II and SCT care indicate that multiple ALS skills were required to manage a patient's medical condition. The fire department once again examined call frequency for emergent calls with regard to the day of the week and that data is displayed below.



It is interesting to note that once again Fridays were our busiest day throughout the year however, the percentage difference between the highest and lowest is only 3.4% indicating that there really is no such thing as a slow day at the Aberdeen Fire Department.

We are once again proud to share with you that the Aberdeen Fire Department recorded 78 medical saves during this past year. We qualify a patient as a medical save if the patient arrived at Grays Harbor Community Hospital alive and the patient's condition most likely would have resulted in their death in the field had our crews not intervened.

EMS GRANTS:

The fire department was the beneficiary of several EMS grants during the past year. We once again received funds from the Grays Harbor EMS council through their grant process to upgrade our medical equipment. Grays Harbor EMS also provided tuition reimbursement to us for our paramedics to attend training in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Life Support and various medical conferences. We also received money from the Washington State Department of Health for participating in the state trauma program. These funds enable our department and

our personnel to deliver the highest quality care to our customers. The fire department was also the recipient of funds allocated by the Fire Act grant to replace our antiquated extrication equipment. We use this equipment to disentangle occupants involved in motor vehicle and industrial accidents. The grant will allow us to place equipment on fire apparatus on both sides of the river which will greatly improve our ability to manage these types of incidents.

OUTLOOK FOR 2008:

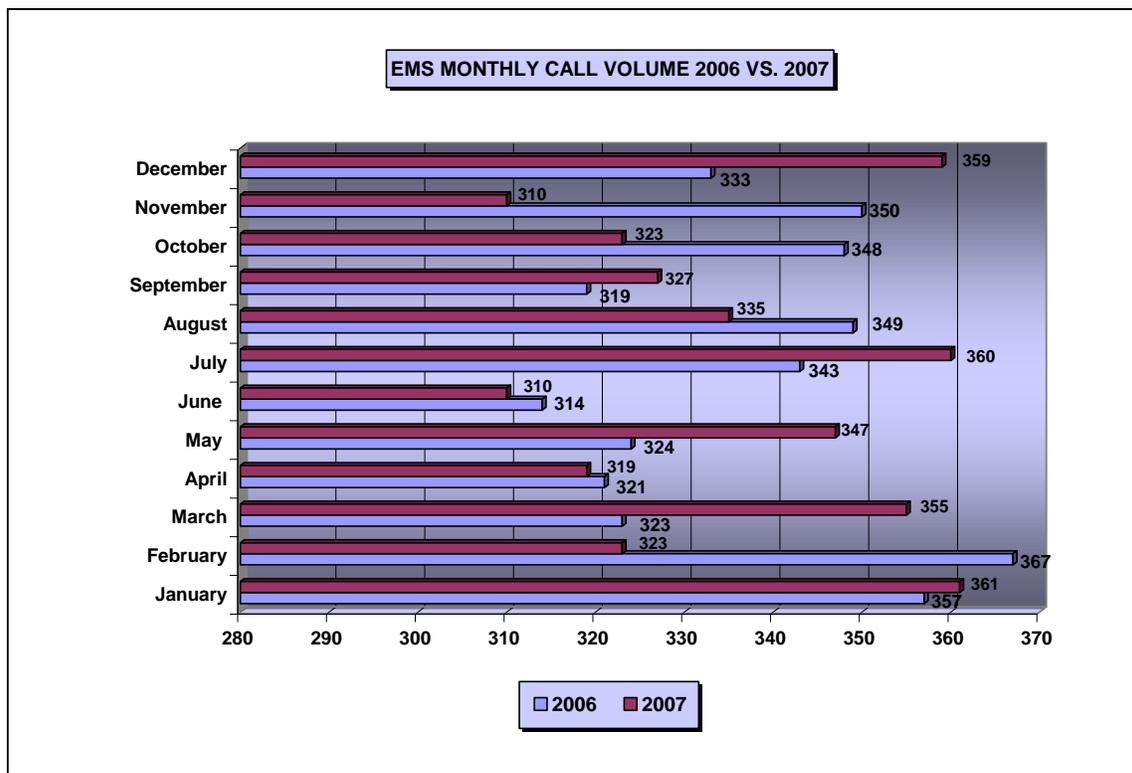
We recently took possession of a refurbished ambulance manufactured by Horton Emergency vehicles. In an effort to save money we utilized the existing rear patient care module and placed it on a new chassis realizing a cost savings of approximately \$25,000.00. The down side to this process, however, was that we were forced to operate with one less ambulance during the time the ambulance was at the factory. The negative impact this had on our ability to manage day to day operations may prevent us from choosing this method in the future. Our next ambulance due for replacement will be in 2009 so our personnel will be preparing options for budget submission during the first half of this year.

Captain Tom Hubbard
Emergency Medical Coordinator

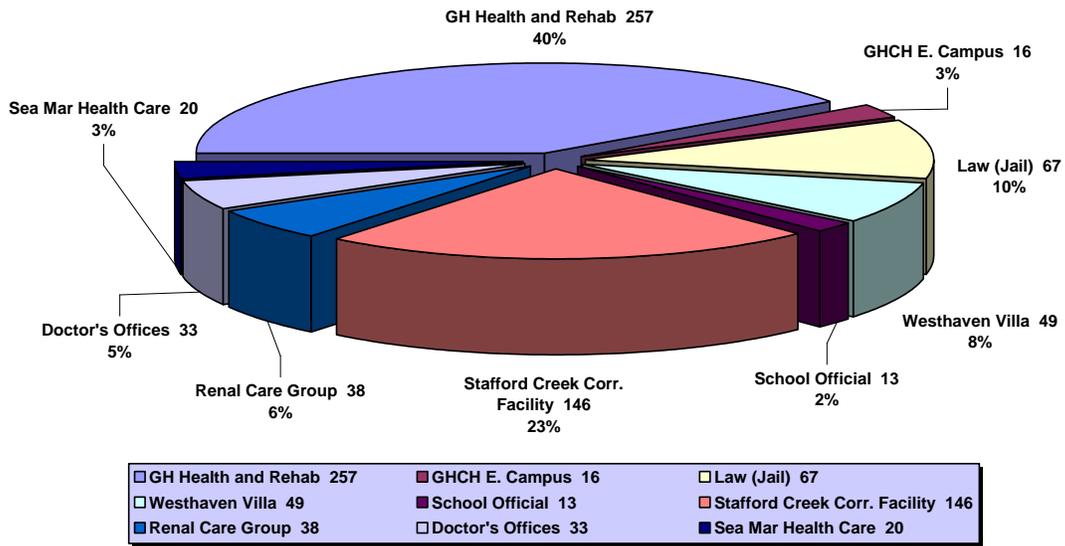
APPENDIX

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DATA ANALYSIS

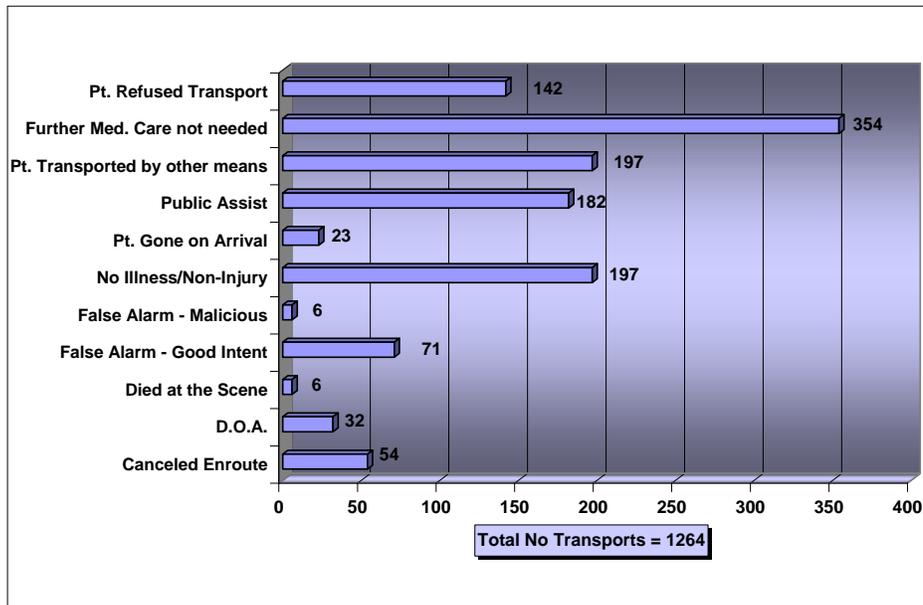
- EMS Monthly Call Volume 2006 vs. 2007
- Institutional Impact on EMS Call Volume
- No Transport Reasons



INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT ON EMS CALL VOLUME



NO TRANSPORT REASONS



2007 CODE ENFORCEMENT/FIRE INVESTIGATION

2007 was a year of continued growth for new commercial structures and residential development, but fire losses exceeded three million dollars.

In 2007 the State of Washington and the Aberdeen City Council adopted the 2006 edition of the International Fire Code. These updated codes have evolved through a hearing process to reflect the changes in building materials and life safety equipment available today. The codes are what determine the minimum standards applied during the plan review process. The fire department's review primarily evaluates access for fire equipment, emergency lighting, exiting, fire alarms and sprinkler systems.

Major plan review and inspection projects for 2007:

- Completion of the new Weatherwax building
- Community Hospital – new lab and radiology
- Grays Harbor College – new Automotive and Welding instructional building
- Miller Junior High – began the upgrading of the fire alarm system
- Mazatlan Restaurant – renovation and new addition to building
- New medical building on Sumner Avenue
- Lake View Terrace housing development

It should be noted that the Washington State Fire Marshals office provided assistance throughout the High School project from plan review to final inspection. The assistance was made possible through an agreement between WSFM, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the local Jurisdiction. There were no costs to the city for this assistance. Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Lance Talley and Deputy State Fire Marshal Barbara McMullen were assigned to the project and provided invaluable knowledge and expertise.

Business inspections are performed by on duty firefighters throughout the year. These inspections help businesses identify hazardous conditions which could contribute to a fire loss and also educate the firefighters on building construction, emergency access routes and special hazards related to a particular business or building.

Fire losses were more than three million dollars with over two million of the loss attributed to the Grays Harbor Equipment fire. Investigation of the Grays Harbor Equipment fire was a cooperative effort of Aberdeen Fire Department, Aberdeen Police Department, Insurance Company Investigators and assistance from ATF agents. The majority of the remaining fire loss dollars were the result of several residential structure fires.

Investigation of origin and cause is performed at several levels. The first arriving firefighters make observations such as fire location, smoke and flame color, heat intensity, ease or difficulty of extinguishment. The officer in charge will gather information from witnesses, occupants or neighbors. He will examine the fire scene and make a determination of origin and cause or call for the assistance of our investigation team. The investigation team will examine the scene with the officer

in charge to determine origin and cause of the fire. If the cause is determined to be arson the Aberdeen Police Department conducts a criminal investigation.

As you review this report there are two terms that encompass a broad range of information. The first is **fires intentionally ignited** of which there were 14 such fires. Those 14 break down as follows.

- 3 were persons burning debris but were not aware of the ban on burning
- 1 was a person burning insulation from copper wire, also a banned activity
- 1 was fireworks (bottle rockets) shot in to heavy brush
- 3 were transients camp fires inside vacant buildings
- 2 were arson fires at structures
- 1 was an automobile arson fire
- 3 were arson fires in trash dumpsters

The other term is **cause undetermined** of which there were 18. Fires are usually left in this category when several ignition sources are present and indicators are inconclusive as to which started the fire. These 18 fires break down as follows:

- 1 mobile property (trailer)
- 5 building fires
- 6 natural vegetation (i.e. brush or grass fire)
- 6 vehicle fires

Keeping our community aware of the issues related to fire safety is our best prevention tool. Modern building techniques incorporate fire rated materials and fire protection systems as fire prevention and control methods. Suppression crews train regularly to stay informed about fire behavior, building construction and firefighting techniques. Using the resources available we strive to reduce fire losses through prevention and suppression activities.

Assistant Chief Doug Craig

2007 TRAINING REPORT

The year 2007 has been a year of many changes. It's been a challenging year as always. Getting all the required training done in a year is a daunting task with our department due to high call volume and the lack of a dedicated training facility. The total hours for 2007 were **3,766**.

The Aberdeen Fire Department Training Program focuses upon current state mandates, firefighter basic skills, safety and Continuing Medical Education. The goal was to optimize individual performance through effective basic skill enhancement and increased safety awareness. Some of the training opportunities that took place in 2007 addressing these areas include:

- ITAC
- Firefighter I program
- Pre-fire planning
- SCBA Quarterly 60 sec don
- Rescue
- Ongoing Training Evaluation Program (OTEP)
- EVAP
- Policies and Procedures
- Haz - Mat

Training Program

In 2007 total training hours per person averaged **111 hours** or **9.25 hours** per month. This includes training done in-house and outside of the department training. The existing Training Program can be broken down into six parts:

1. Day to day in house shift training.
2. Out of department specialized training.
3. Probationary and Promotional evaluations.
4. Probationary Recruit Training Program.
5. Officer Development Program.
6. Filing and accountability.

The premise and implementation of the Aberdeen Fire Department Training program is based upon training and safety guidelines, standards, and mandates on both a State and Federal level. The goal is to produce an effective and desirable program that is capable of reaching training needs and still remain compatible with the needs of the day-to-day operations within the Fire Department.

Although the basic principles of the Fire and EMS service remain the same, the environment we work in is constantly changing. The profession requires constant re-evaluation of processes and techniques to provide for maximum safety as well as risk reduction without compromising the ability to respond to the needs of our community. This is achieved through training. The objective of a training program is to enhance both the cognitive and manipulative skills of an individual on any given subject through the process of instruction, activity, and evaluation. As in the past, most of the training for 2007 was conducted within the confines of the firehouse.

In-house Training

The Headquarter Captains on each shift are responsible for providing the posted training to all personnel on that shift on a month-by-month basis. Training may be performed as a group or on an individual basis. With the number of calls, training can sometimes be difficult to complete, on some days impossible.

Members sometimes attend training sessions on their own time to fulfill required training obligations. For 2007 total in-house was **3096 hours**.

Out of Department Training (Specialized Training)

Most specialized training is usually accomplished outside of the Department (Seminars, State Fire Service Training, and National Fire Academy).

For the year 2007 the Aberdeen Fire Department provided the opportunity for individuals to attend many different specialized classes outside of the Department for a combined total of **561 hours**. The following is a list of training classes that took place outside of the Department in 2007:

- EMS Trauma Conference
- West Region EMS Conference
- State Training & Safety Conference
- NW Leadership Seminar
- North West Region II Fire Conference
- Fire Tactics
- NW Fire Marshall Conference
- National Fire Academy Classes

Training Subjects and Topics

One of the Training Division's primary goals is to provide a diverse and well rounded understanding of the fundamentals as well as the specialized aspects of the Fire and EMS Profession. As you can imagine this understanding incorporates training in a variety of subjects and topics.

The following is a list of these subjects and topics utilized in 2007 followed by a brief description of each and the number of hour spent on each for 2007 training:

- Firefighting
- CME
- Hazardous Materials
- ICS
- Leadership
- Rescue
- Fitness
- Public Education
- Management
- SCBA
- EVAP
- Safety

Firefighting

This area of training focuses upon providing the basic skills necessary to perform duties at hazardous incidents involving fire and smoke filled environments. A basic understanding of fire behavior, structures, forcible entry, ventilation, tools and equipment, personal protective equipment, hose and nozzle operation, sprinklers and standpipes, are just a few of the many subjects contained within this training. The State of Washington mandates many of the subjects concerning firefighter training. Total time spent on firefighting training for 2007 was **793 hours**.

Continuing Medical Education (CME)

The majority of our daily call volume is dealing with incidents involving some type of medical aid. The Fire Department currently employs 16 paramedics with the remainder of personnel being EMT certified. The "on shift" medics provide much of the instruction to shift personnel on pre-designated medical training subjects.

To keep personnel medical certifications valid, we use OTEP (Ongoing Training Evaluation Program). Several of our EMT certified firefighters attended training to become instructors for OTEP. The program outlines training throughout the year, which is accomplished while on shift. The benefit to this type of training is the fact that we are able to train with the personnel we would normally work with on an actual call.

Much of the training for specific types of medical emergencies is taught outside of the department by outside sources specializing in a particular field of study. Attending these sessions gives personnel the most up to date and current methods concerning medical assistance and intervention. Total time spent on CME (Continuing Medical Education) training for 2007 was **1457 hours**.

Hazardous Materials

Training in Hazardous Materials in 2007 consisted of training on the Mass Decontamination Tent. Most of the Department re-certified their Haz - Mat Awareness from an instructor from the State Fire Marshals Office who came and instructed Aberdeen and Hoquiam firefighters at the EMS office. Total time spent on Haz-Mat training for 2007 was **164 hours**.

Incident Command System (ICS / ITAC)

ITAC (Incident Management, Tactical Objectives, Accountability, and Communication) is the incident management system that our department uses. This system enables our Department to operate in a safer more efficient manner in regards to personnel accountability, incident management, decision-making, and communication on the fire ground. Total time spent on Incident Command training for 2007 was **582 hours**.

Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

The SCBA is one of the most important components of an individual's personal protective equipment. The fire department takes very seriously the importance of all individuals being thoroughly knowledgeable in the operation and function of the SCBA. We have adopted a standard whereby all individuals should set for themselves the goal of being able to properly don an SCBA in 60 seconds or less.

This concept is nothing new. Proficiency in this area of training leaves little margin for error for obvious reasons. All individuals are required to, on a quarterly basis, participate in instruction on SCBA operations and functions to include donning and doffing as well as cleaning and maintenance procedures. State mandates require ongoing training on SCBA's annually. Total time spent on SCBA training for 2007 was **136 hours**.

Emergency Vehicle Accident Prevention (EVAP)

EVAP training is state certified training that all individuals must complete prior to operating emergency vehicles. This training is completed on a four-year cycle and is presented in the format of 8 hours of instruction followed by a driving rodeo. EVAP certification is a requirement in the Probationary Recruit Training Program.

Although EVAP certification is required every four years, emergency vehicle operation and driver training are ongoing. The fire department considers this to be an essential skill necessary for the performance and safety of day-to-day operations. Total time spent on EVAP training for 2007 was **21 hours**.

Safety

Safety is an integral part of all training subjects and topics that take place at the Aberdeen Fire Department. To categorize Safety by itself and assign given training hours does not truly reflect actual time spent on it. The moment a firefighter comes to work safety becomes a priority in some form. Whether it is for the community, fellow workers, or for himself, safety is always considered. Total time spent on Safety training for 2007 was **139 hours**.

Rescue

This category would reflect training in areas associated with specialized skills. This type of training is focused more upon a small group of individuals rather than the Department as a whole. However, we do try to provide all personnel with an awareness and basic understanding of the different types of rescues that we may encounter, such as:

- Trench Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue
- Rapid Intervention Teams
- Vehicle Entrapment Rescue

Total time spent on Rescue training for 2007 was **303 hours**.

Leadership/Management

We as a Department recognize the need to provide personnel with the skills they may need as leaders within our organization as they pursue and advance further in their careers. This type of training helps to prepare individuals in areas relating to administrative management, personnel issues, effective training, incident response and management, mentoring, attitude, motivation and customer service. Total time spent on Leadership/Management training for 2007 was **53 hours** up 45 hours from 2006.

Fitness

Fitness for our department in the past has always been left up to each individual to keep them self physically fit.

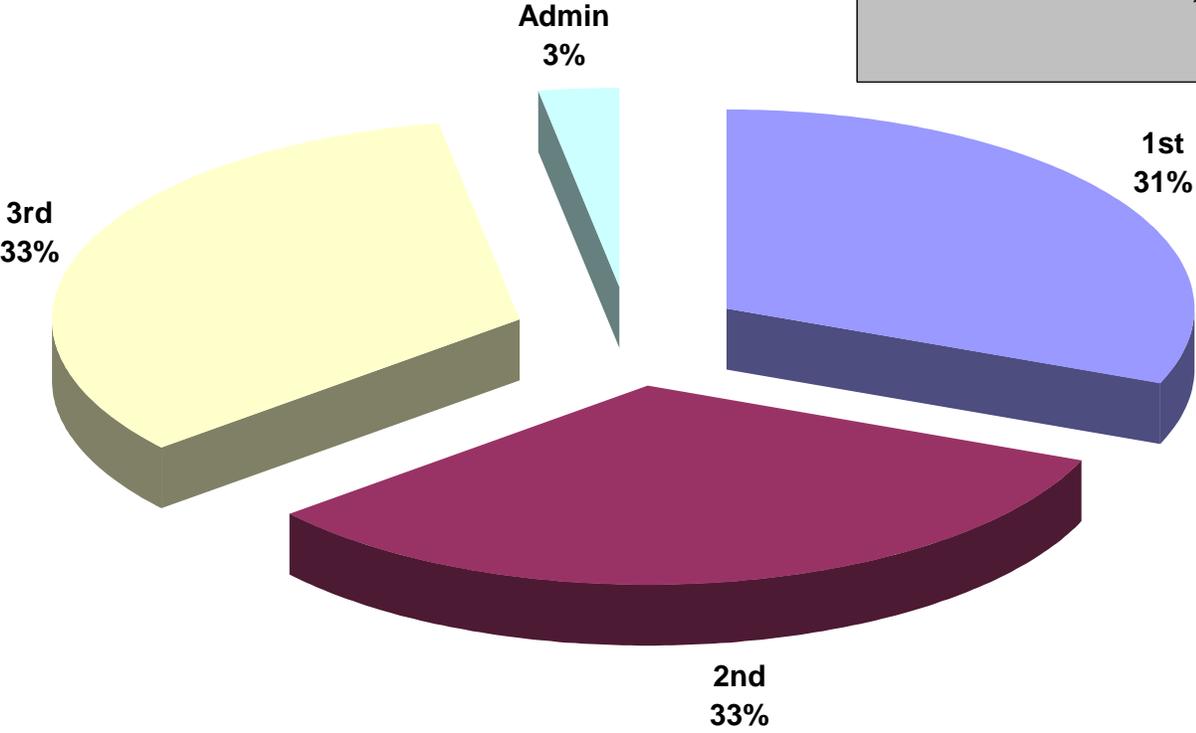
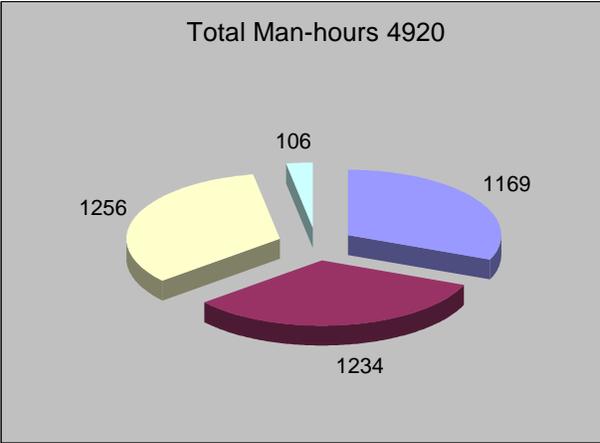
Training and Safety are two of the most vital parts of our organization. Without them we could not exist. The pursuance of progressive training for the different components of this profession is what makes it possible for us to provide the highest level of service to our community.

The Training Division consists of Battalion Chief Ray Winter, head of the division, Captain Rich Malizia, head of training delivery, Captain Mark Dulin, head of outside department training and the Officer Development Program, and Captain JR Streifel, record keeping, probationary firefighters and promotional evaluations.

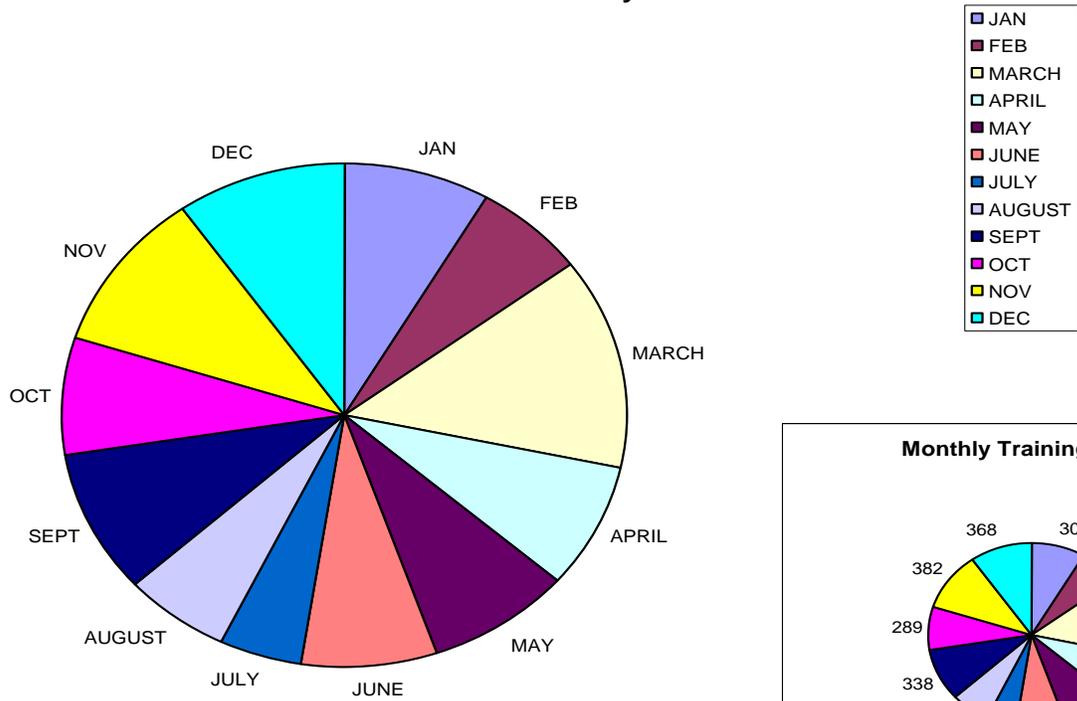
We still have no designated place to train but are in the process of communicating with the Port of Grays Harbor for a place to train. The Port has been very gracious in letting us use an area off of Terminal 4 to train and test our large diameter hose. The long-range goal is still the acquiring of land so that our department has a training facility and a place to train.

Captain JR Streifel
Training Division

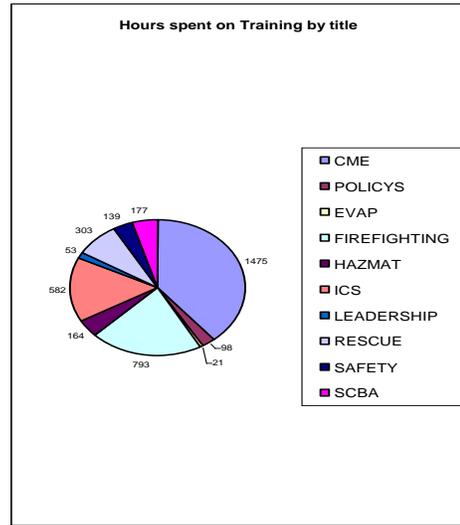
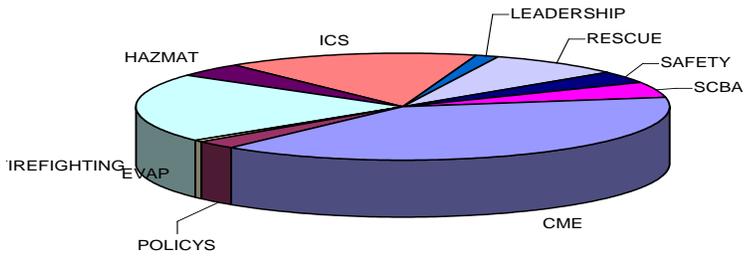
Percent of the total training hours (3763) done by shift for the year 2007



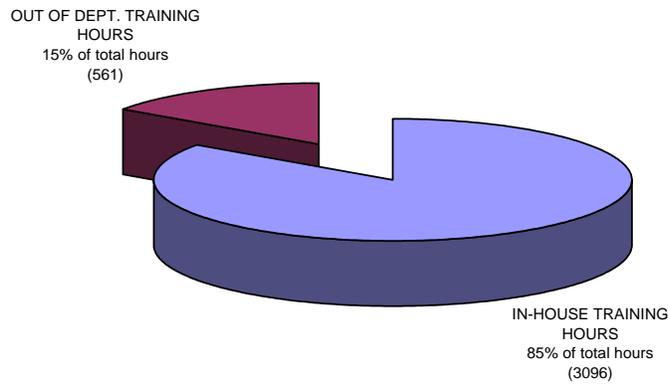
**Monthly Training Hours by percent of the total
for the year 2007**



Percent of time spent on training for the year 2007 by title



2007 In-house Training vs Out of Dept. Training



2007 SAFETY & HEALTH PROGRAM REPORT

During the year 2007 the department continued to promote and enforce safe workplace standards, goals and ideas were established, and safety concerns were met and dealt with in a productive manner. Our primary goal in the beginning of 2007 was to obtain a new vehicle exhaust extraction system utilizing a \$70,000 grant that was approved through Homeland Security. Through research and negotiations we were able to have a quality extraction system installed for all apparatus. The purchase and installation was achieved through a company called "Magnegrip". So far we have been very satisfied.

Another measure taken in 2007 to promote a healthy workplace was to provide the opportunity for a cardiac stress test to all firefighters. This service was conducted by Dr. Canfield at his office over a three day period. The test included the use of an EKG and treadmill to measure an individual's cardiac output, and to see if one's cardiac output performs within defined parameters. Dr. Canfield provided his time and equipment free of charge to the department.

Continued efforts were made in 2007 for the completion of the department's Safety Program Manual that has been ongoing for the past three years. The final five sections were added and the manual was complete by August 2007. The following are the new sections that were added:

- Traffic Hazards
- Safety Committee
- Emergency Operations
- Tools and Equipment
- Record Keeping

Back injury has always been one of the major injuries associated with Fire and EMS, and the Aberdeen Fire Department is no exception. Ergonomics are great; however when it comes to lifting and moving equipment and/or patients from an awkward position, injury to the back can often be the result. One of the steps taken to help minimize back injury was the purchase of a power lift gurney. The power lift feature allows the operator to raise and lower the gurney automatically through the use of a battery. It is our belief that this piece of equipment will, without a doubt, help reduce disability and time loss from back injury.

Other Safety Program accomplishments for 2007 include:

- Road flares for all ambulances.
- Security Safe for narcotics.
- Annual hearing tests for all employees.
- Traffic vests on all lead out apparatus.
- Safety Stand Down focusing on NIOSH Case Studies recognized in June of 2007

Future goals for the Safety and Health Program for 2008 will include:

- * Outdoor lighting for HQ Ambulance and Southside bay aprons*
- * Implementation of a formal Near Miss Program*
- * Implementation of an Ergonomics program*
- * Water line installation for west apparatus bay*
- * Continued Safety Training.*
- * Building repair and modification to promote healthy work environment to include:*
 - HEPA filters for air handling system*
 - Repair/replace HQ roof over living area to stop leaks*
 - Relocate fresh air intake from the building*

In conclusion, the goal of the Aberdeen Fire Department Safety Program is to provide a safe and healthy workplace environment by meeting and, in many cases, exceeding the recognized standards set forth by various government and private organizations to include OSHA, Labor & Industries, and the National Fire Protection Agency. To accomplish this goal, the Aberdeen Fire Department recognizes the need to utilize and apply risk analysis to day-to-day activities and emergency incident operations. Training also plays a vital role in an individual's ability to understand and perform his/her duties with safety as a priority. Effective management and consistency contribute to the continued development of individual safety awareness.

The success of a Safety and Health Program can be measured through the attitudes and actions portrayed at both an individual level and a department as a whole. The Aberdeen Fire Department takes safety and health very serious. We are committed to providing all individuals the mental and physical tools necessary to safely and effectively perform their duties and still walk away after each shift to enjoy the benefits of a normal and healthy quality of life.

Battalion Chief Damon Lillybridge
Safety Officer

2007 SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS TEAM REPORT

The primary function of the SCBA Team is to ensure that inspections and maintenance are performed. There are several standards and regulations which outline how and when these procedures will be done. ANSI (American National Standards Institute) Z88.5, OSHA 1910.143, NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), and Labor & Industry's Firefighter Safety Standards set the minimum standards that must be met.

Each year fit testing of the facemask is done to ensure that our personnel have adequate respiratory protection from hostile atmosphere. The test challenges the mask's face seal as the wearer performs a series of movements. This portion of testing has been challenging, as it has in the past. The challenge has come due to the necessity to borrow a fit tester from Fire District #2. The fit tester was out of service for a one month period for recalibration. The recalibration came at a time when we had just hired three probationary firefighters. I am optimistic a future purchase agreement between the Sewer Department and the Fire Department could be reached to rectify the situation.

The SCBA units are bench tested per manufacturers schedule. This test ensures the unit is operating within the limits set by the standards mentioned above. A bench test was performed on all SCBA units in the spring of 2007 by Sea Western technicians.

The air cylinders for the SCBA require hydrostatic testing every five years. Hydrostatic testing checks for hidden flaws and damage caused by normal use and aging. The cylinders are sent to a facility for this testing. The necessity for hydrostatic testing was irrelevant, as the SCBA units were all received in new condition in 2005.

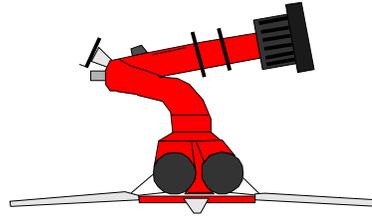
In 2005 the Aberdeen Fire Department received a grant for \$220,100. This grant enabled the department to purchase 30 new SCBA, a new air filling compressor, and a class II filling station. With the addition of these safety devices we also specified the smaller air bottle. This is about four pounds lighter than the previous bottles, but uses a higher pressure to fill. This gives our firefighters a lighter air pack for better endurance yet keeps the duration of useable air about the same.

The new MSA SCBA has been a great addition to the AFD and firefighters safety. We have however, come across a problem, as have many other fire departments. The new SCBA cylinders made by MSA are having a problem with the exterior finish. The finish is pocking and cracking, thus exposing the composite wrap. Although this has been a problem, the bottles are under warrantee and will be refinished with no cost to the AFD. This process of refinishing will continue as we can only take a limited number of cylinders out of service at a given time.

Rian Colt, Firefighter
Rich Malizia, Captain
SCBA TEAM

2007 WATER SUPPLY REPORT

- B.C. Bill Mayne
- Capt. JR Streifel
- FF. Chris Eisele
- FF. Chad Mittleider



Water Supply deals with identifying the need and purchasing of new equipment, reviewing new ideas or concepts, and dealing with requests from the Chief or other officers. These requests are all related to helping us put out fire more efficiently. With past support from the Chief of the department, we have been able to budget for the future, spending money now, to keep costs down later.

Water Supply's efforts for the past year have covered the following areas:

- The bulk of the 2007 Water Supply budget focused on increasing our 1 ¾" attack hose inventory. Some of the 1 ¾" hose we are using is more than 14 years old and beginning to show its age. Our average fire activity has caused the need to have a larger inventory to allow hose to be cleaned, hung and dried. Newer hose helps keep the department from receiving deficiency points when we are rated by the Washington State Rating and Survey Bureau. Less deficiency points relates to a better insurance rating, which keeps our resident's insurance rates lower.
- Another attack nozzle was acquired to provide for a spare when current nozzles need to be placed out of service because of damage or needed maintenance.
- Work began in providing for a true straight bore master stream capability on 7221 following a recommendation after the Grays Harbor Equipment 3rd Alarm fire. This was recently accomplished in February of 2008.
- The nozzle and fittings maintenance program continued in 2007. Chris Eisele and Chad Mittleider worked on this program for approximately three to four shifts. This program extends the life of our current equipment.

Future plans of Water Supply include:

- Maintaining the Class A fire fighting foam inventory.
- Another TFT Ball Intake valve is budgeted for in 2008. With this purchase each apparatus will have a properly functioning LDH (large diameter hose) intake valve on its pump panel side.
- Additional 2 ½" gate valves for hose testing. Using a much less expensive fitting to test hose as compared to our current \$750.00 to \$900.00 nozzles seems a better way to go.
- Water Supply will be giving input to the Training Team as they get ready to develop the Engineer/Driver promotional exam slated for May 2008.

The Water Supply Team's mission is to see to it that our fire suppression is done in a fast, efficient, and safe manner. We'll do this with the acquisition of modern equipment and improve our operations by reviewing our standard operating procedures and guidelines.

Battalion Chief Bill Mayne

2007 APPARATUS INVENTORY

**Station 1 (Headquarters)
700 W. Market Street
Aberdeen, Washington**

UNIT	Shop #	TYPE
(7232)	93	2002 Ford Excursion 4X4 Command Unit
(7221)	91	2001 Pierce 105'HD Aerial-1500 GPM 400 gal.
(7205)	89	1994 Pierce 50'Telesquirt W/-1500 GPM 500 gal.
(7204)	87	1994 Pierce 1500 GPM Pumper, 750 gallon
(7261)	85	1994 Chevrolet/Pool 4X4 1 Ton Hazmat/Rescue (2005 Cargo Mate - Decontamination/MCI Trailer)
(7243)	150	2001 Ford/Horton Ambulance
(7241)	144	2007 Ford/Horton Ambulance
(7244)	141	2004 Ford/Horton Ambulance
(7251)	140	2007 Ford F 150 Staff Vehicle
(7200)	149	2005 Crown Victoria Staff Vehicle
(N/A)	510	1998 Chevrolet Astro Van

**Station 2 (South Aberdeen)
700 W. Curtis Street
Aberdeen, Washington**

UNIT	Shop #	TYPE
(7206)	90	2001 Pierce 1500 GPM C.A.F.S. Pumper, 500 gal.
(7242)	148	1999 Ford/Horton Ambulance

(All Pierce Fire Apparatus carry 1000' of 4" angus supply line, 1.75" "high combat" and 2.5" attack line. w/Task Force Tip Nozzles)

2007 LADDER TEAM YEAR END REPORT

This year, again, we had the Underwriter Laboratories Company come into the station and test our ground ladders and one of the aerial ladders apparatus. We have found this to be a very effective method for testing our equipment.

The aerial apparatus tested this year was 7205, the 50-foot Telesquirt/Ladder. Three problems were found by the testing agency. They were as follows:

1. A small crack in the turntable where the ladder mounts to it
2. An interlock for the high idle setting (a safety concern)
3. A miss calibrated flow gauge for the Telesquirt nozzle.

These tests are in accordance with the NFPA 1914, 1997 Edition. This is the Standard for Aerial Apparatus Ladders. We sent the apparatus to Meridian/Hughes Fire Equipment Inc. in Puyallup, Washington. Who completed the repairs within two days.

The department also has 330 feet of ground ladders to test. All of these met the standards without any problems. These standards are in accordance with NFPA 1932, 1999 Edition for Ground Ladders.

Once again we have passed the annual test for this equipment with three minor repairs done. These tests have certified all the ladders for fire ground usage.

We are committed to maintaining a safe system for working above ground level at all incidents.

Battalion Chief Ray Winter
Ladder Team

2007 RADIO TEAM YEAR END REPORT

The year of 2007 was not a very busy one for the radio team. The department purchased the replacement radios needed to become narrow band compliant. We are waiting for the proper time to have them installed.

One problem that was found in December of 2007 was the power supply of the base radio on Think of Me Hill and the repeater on the hill in North Aberdeen. During the wind storm of December 2007 the power to the City of Aberdeen and surrounding areas was interrupted for five to six days. We had not had a power outage for that long at these two locations for as long as we could remember. The back up power (batteries) only lasted so long and then the repeater and the main radio bases would become faint and then not transmit. During the power outage portable generators were used as a power supply for these radios. Although this worked okay for a temporary fix the generators had to be fueled about every five to six hours. This problem will be addressed this year in co-operation with the city electrician, the county radio team and the fire department.

We will continue to update our batteries and other parts as needed during the coming year for the portables. We will also be changing our channels with updated ones as soon as the dispatch center deems this change necessary.

We are committed to maintaining a top notch system for communication at the Aberdeen Fire Department, which will assist us on incident scenes.

As always we appreciate the support from the Command Staff at the Aberdeen Fire Department.

Battalion Chief Ray Winter
Radio Team

2007 CHAPLAIN REPORT

Another year and the Chaplain is happy to report that it went well. There were the usual problems where an individual will use the system by reporting a need which is not an emergency, or use the system over and over again. As wasteful and aggravating as it is, the end result is usually productive, resulting in nursing home placement or more help in the home.

In truth, the whole business of being a fire department chaplain is a very positive and rewarding experience. All of the firefighters are very proactive and well trained professionals and it's my pleasure to be a part of the operation.

Dick Seaman, Chaplain

Chiefs Note:

Chaplain Seaman has been with the department since July of 2000. He has been a huge addition to this organization by assisting people in need and connecting them with the proper social service they need. That in itself has gone to help relieve a huge problem and need within our local community. He is always available to help people as well as taking care of our own fire department staff. He visits the firehouse every Saturday night and brings his own freshly baked chocolate chip cookies as well as regular visits with the administrative staff during the week. Dick has become one of the gems of our community that make Aberdeen a great place to live.