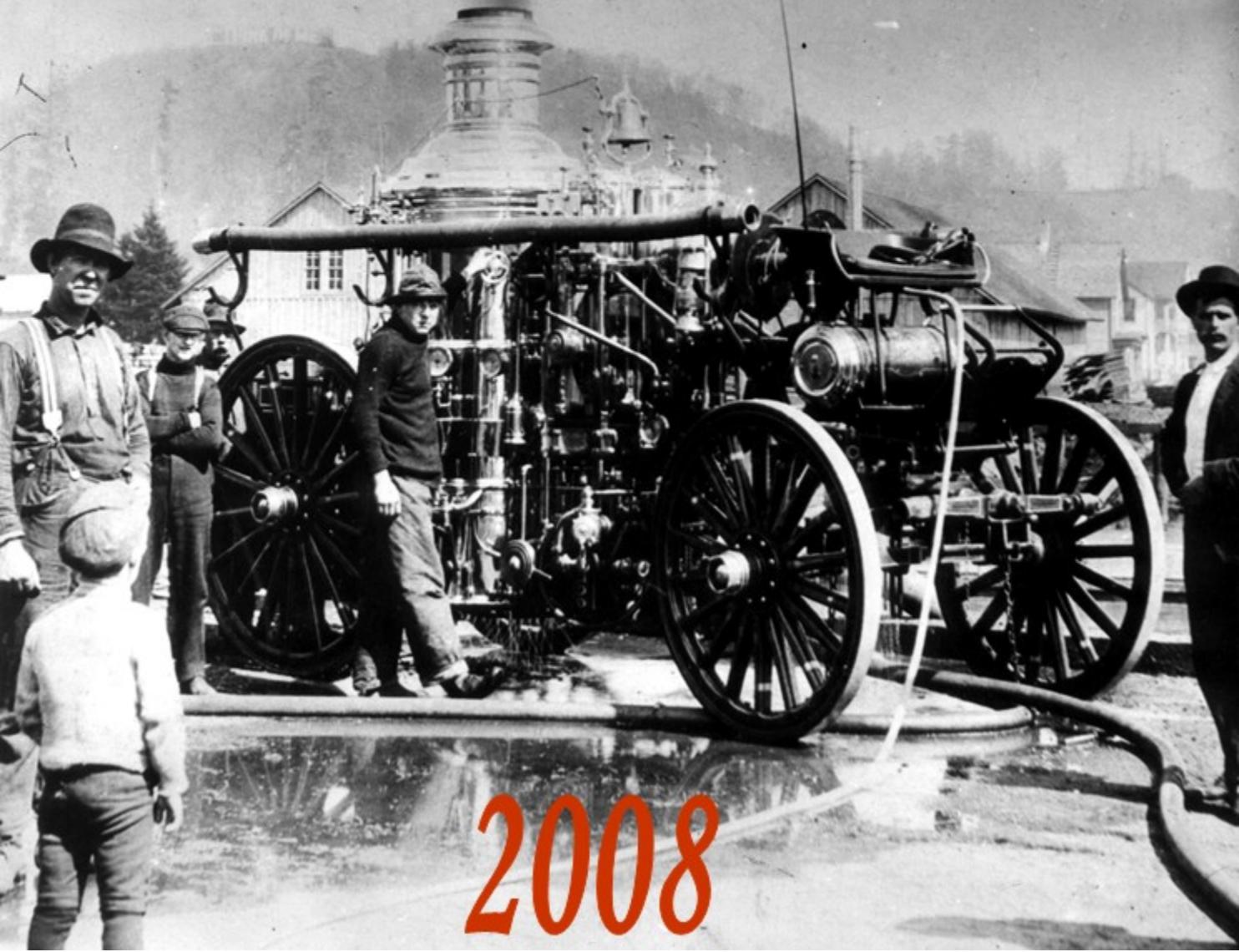


LATER BECAME

# Aberdeen Fire Department



## Year End Report



2008



## CITY OF ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dave Carlberg, Fire Chief    Doug Craig, Assistant Chief

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March 26, 2009  
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 2008.

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 and 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 2008 the Aberdeen fire department responded to a grand total of **5,605** calls for service. The analysis of last year's data indicates a 2.17% increase in overall activity. In general the department usually sees a 2% per year increase in activity and this year represents the highest total to date. Fire losses for the year totaled \$756,745 as opposed to 2007's \$3,400,600.

Based on the collection of data, \$756,745 of total fire loss represents **19.8%** of total property lost versus \$3,064,718 or **80.2%** of total property saved. Again this represents the value of what your fire department provides to its community in terms of property saved.

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

- 405 Fire Responses (26 Hazardous Materials)
- 999 Engine Medical Assists
- 4,201 Total Medical Responses

The true value of your fire department's accomplishments is a total of **57** documented medical saves in 2008. These include patients who most likely would have died without qualified medical intervention by our firefighters and paramedics in the field.

2008 has added another year of quality public safety service to our 118-year history in the City of Aberdeen. Our performance was set in the context of what has become a routine 2%+ increase in annual calls for services. Since 1998 our total emergency responses have increased **26.3%**. Our firefighters are responding to solve problems, bring needed aid or turn chaos into order on the average of 15 times per day and we are doing it with the same number of personnel as in 1998. We are proud to have an efficient and effective team that puts service first. As you read through this report, you will note that our community clearly depends upon us for a variety of services and they must have the expectation and confidence we will deliver.

I would like to thank the various team leaders and officers 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 for our citizens.

Respectfully,

Dave Carlberg, Fire Chief  
City of Aberdeen

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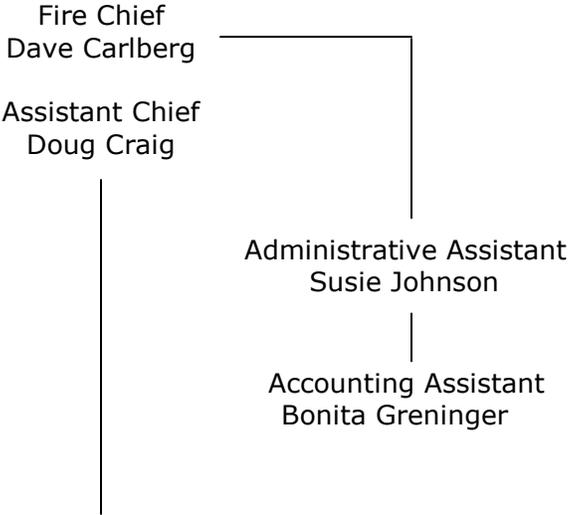
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*Cover by FF/P Dave Swinhart – Photo is circa 1911 from Jones Historical Collection-  
Future Aberdeen Fire Chief William Tamblyn operating 1902 American Metropolitan  
steam pumper capable of producing 1100 gallons per minute*

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**ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**

**Administration**



**Operations**

<b>SHIFT1</b>	<b>SHIFT 2</b>	<b>SHIFT3</b>
Battalion Chief Damon Lillybridge	Battalion Chief Bill Mayne	Battalion Chief Tom Hubbard*
Captain-Wally Montz* Captain Kelly Niemi	Captain Mark Dulin Captain Rich Malizia	Captain JR Streifel Captain Steve Fagerstedt
Engineer Brian Swanson Engineer Steve Pratt* FF Jeremy Laier FF Ryan Knodel* FF Chris Raffelson* FF Kevin Craig FF Brad Frafjord* FF John Huber*	Engineer Dave Golding* Engineer Sam Baretich FF Chad Mittleider* FF Troy Palmer* FF Dave Swinhart* FF Ron Smith FF Rian Colt FF Isaac Gustafson*	Engineer Jim Blomberg Engineer Todd Bradshaw* FF Chris Eisele FF Mike Kolodzie FF Brian Peterson* FF Brian Newbill* FF Dave Schreier* FF Trevor Wheeler*

\*Paramedic



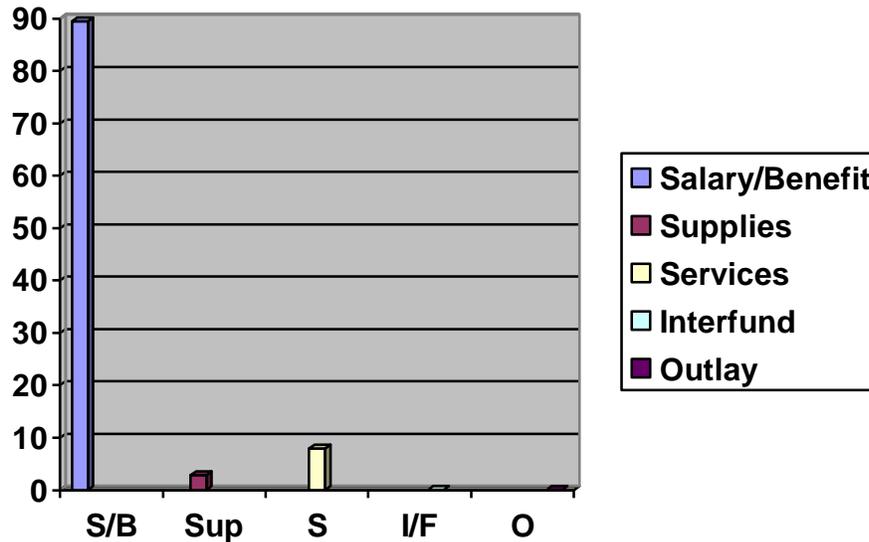
## **ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT**

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

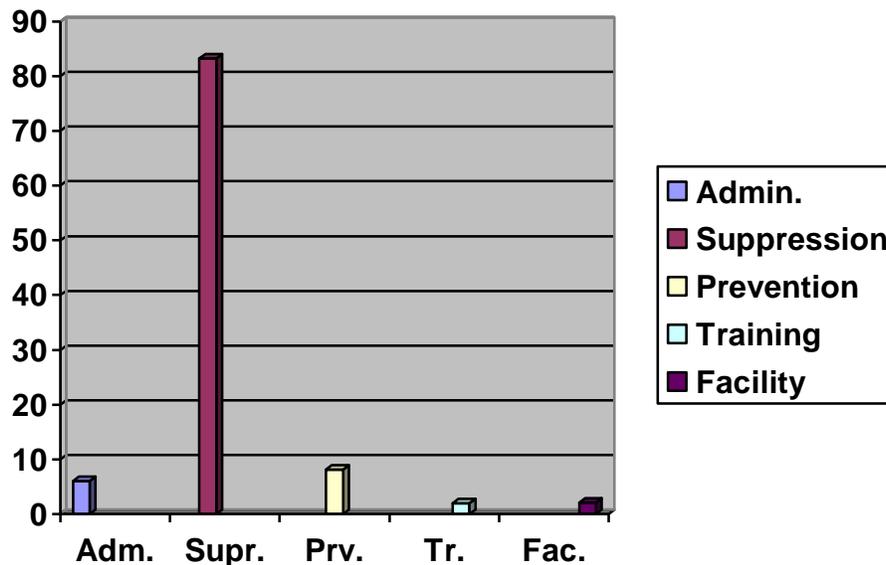
## 2008 Fire Operating Costs

In 2008, the cost of operating our fire protection services totaled **\$1,429,316**. Salary and Benefit compensation accounts for the largest portion of the budget dollar. (89.5%)

### 2008 - % Expenditures by Type



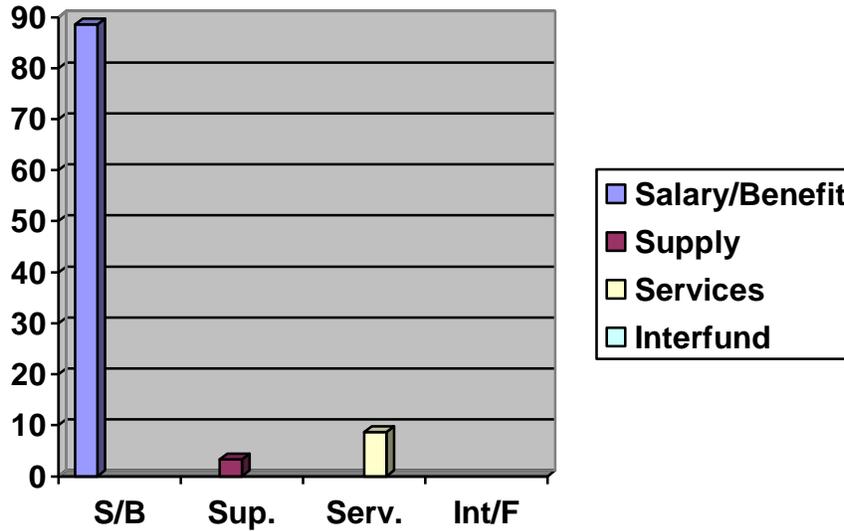
### 2008 - % Expenditures by Division



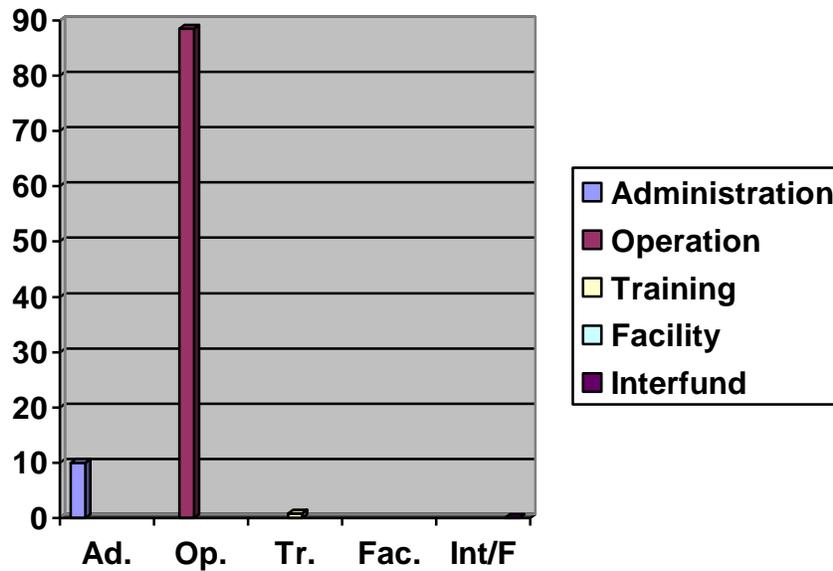
## 2008 EMS Operating Costs

In 2008 the cost of operating our emergency medical services totaled **\$2,460,072**. Salary and Benefit compensation accounts for the largest portion of the budget dollar. (88.6%)

### 2008 - % Expenditures by Type



### 2008- % Expenditures by Division

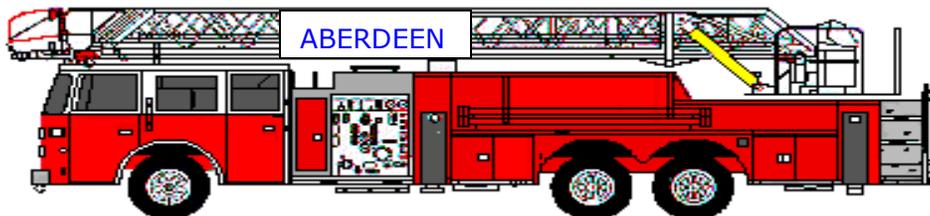


# TOTAL INCIDENT BREAKDOWN FOR 2008

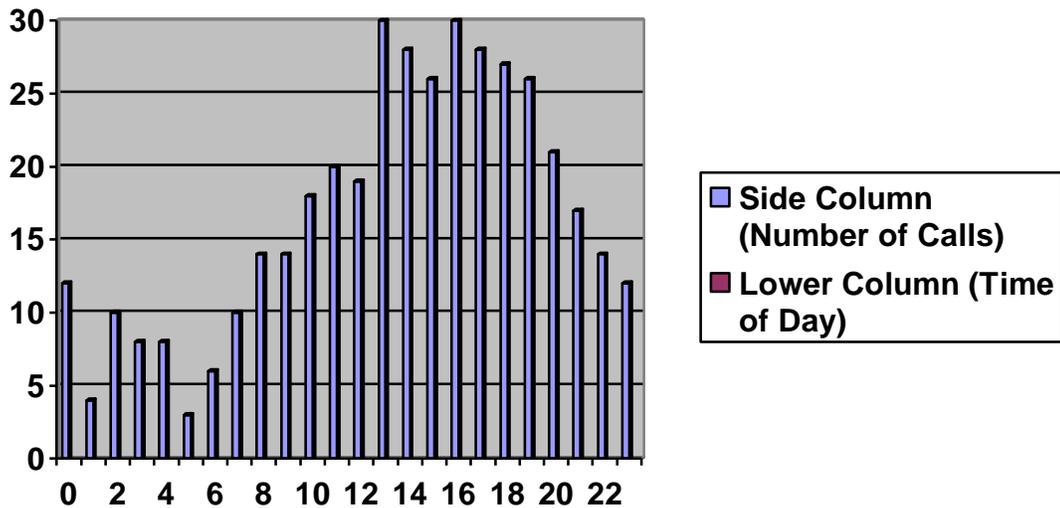
## OPERATIONS DIVISION

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 operations. All personnel are cross-trained as either emergency medical technicians or paramedics.

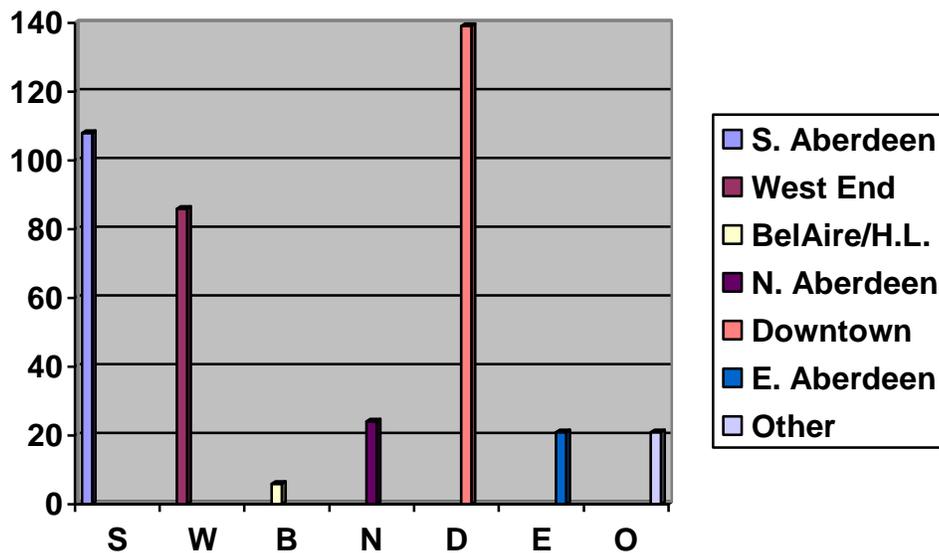
	<u>08</u>	<u>(07)</u>
• Bridge Openings	490	594
• Structure fires, (second alarm or greater)	10	7
• Hazardous Materials	26	31
• Vehicle Fire	21	27
• Wildland Fire	17	19
• Chimney Fire	24	14
• Trash Fire	22	30
• False Alarm	173	233
• Rescue	5	4
• Intentional Caused Fires	5	12
• Undetermined Caused Fires	16	21
• EMS Engine Assists	999	993
• Total EMS	4,201	4,029
• Total FIRE	405	464
• Total Activity	5605	5,486
• Fire Related Fatalities	0	0
• Fire Related Injuries	0	1
• Firefighter Injuries	0	0
• TOTAL FIRE LOSS	\$756,745	\$3,400,600
• TOTAL PROPERTY SAVED	\$3,064,718	\$54,948,585



## 2008 Fire Suppression



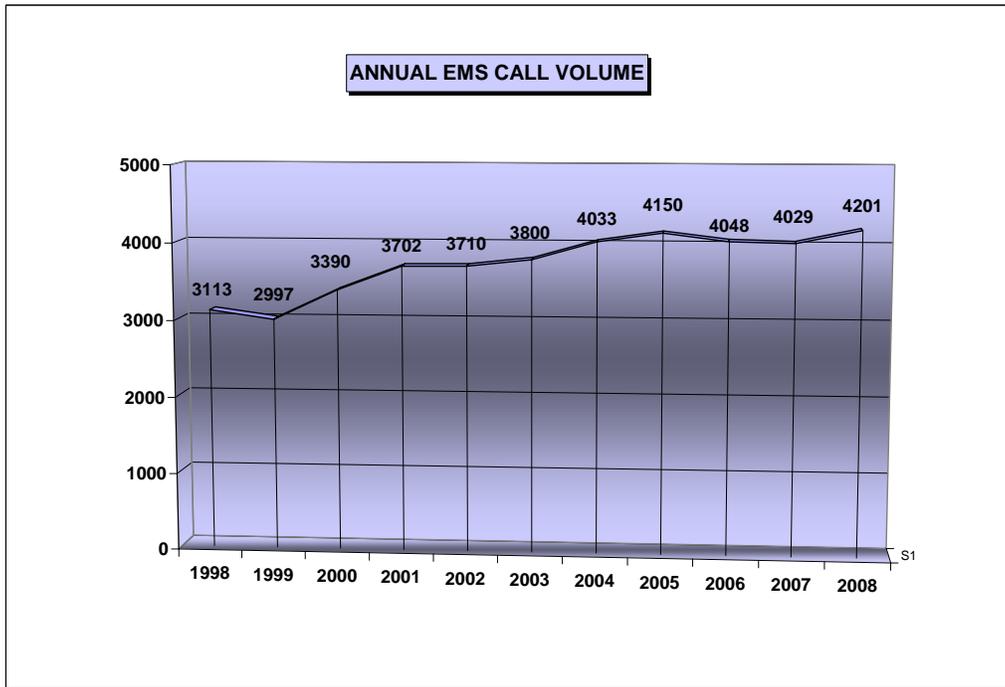
The above chart indicates the number of calls that occur during the hour of the day. The State of Washington requires that a minimum number of firefighters be on scene and assigned to tasks prior to performing interior firefighting activities. Before two firefighters can enter a burning structure, we must have a least two additional firefighters available for rescue outside the structure. As the chart indicates, call volume spikes between 8AM to 8PM.



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. Downtown, South Aberdeen and the West End account for the most fire activity.

## 2008 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

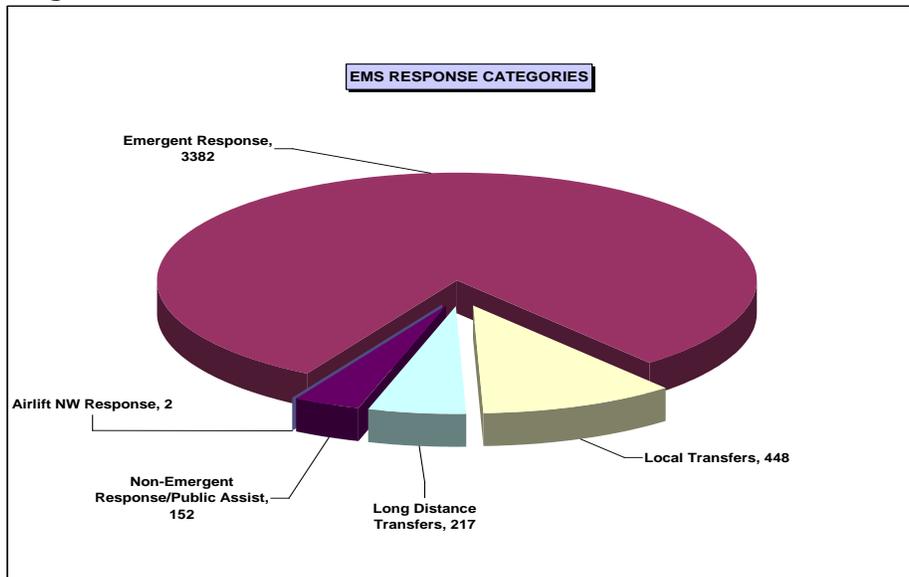
The Aberdeen Fire Department responded to 4201 medical calls during the year 2008, which represents a 4.1% increase over the previous year and a 25.9% increase when compared to requests for medical service over the past 10 years. The graph below illustrates the annual EMS call volume for the past ten years.



### RESPONSE CATEGORIES:

Medical responses are grouped into five categories based on their dispatch urgency and destination. The first category is emergent responses, which totaled 3382 and comprised 80.5% of our total EMS call volume. We experienced a 5.6% increase in this category from the previous year and early indicators for 2009 are that we are on track to meet or exceed that volume once again. Emergent responses are those calls normally dispatched through the Grays Harbor E911 center to our department. Our average response time for emergent calls is 4.5 minutes, which includes the time our station receives the call until our first unit arrives on-scene. The second category is local transfers of patients between Grays Harbor Community Hospital and skilled nursing facilities and diagnostic testing facilities within the city limits of Aberdeen. We performed 448 (10.66% of total) of these during the year, the majority of which are accomplished by the on-duty engine company staffing the headquarters fire apparatus. This number is significant because while the crew is involved with the patient, the fire apparatus they are assigned to is out of service. Our personnel must consistently balance the increase in calls for service with the available staffing so that our response capability and resources are maximized to their full potential. It is a testament to the flexibility of our crews that we only required 15 mutual aid responses from surrounding agencies this past year due to multiple simultaneous emergency calls which overwhelmed our response

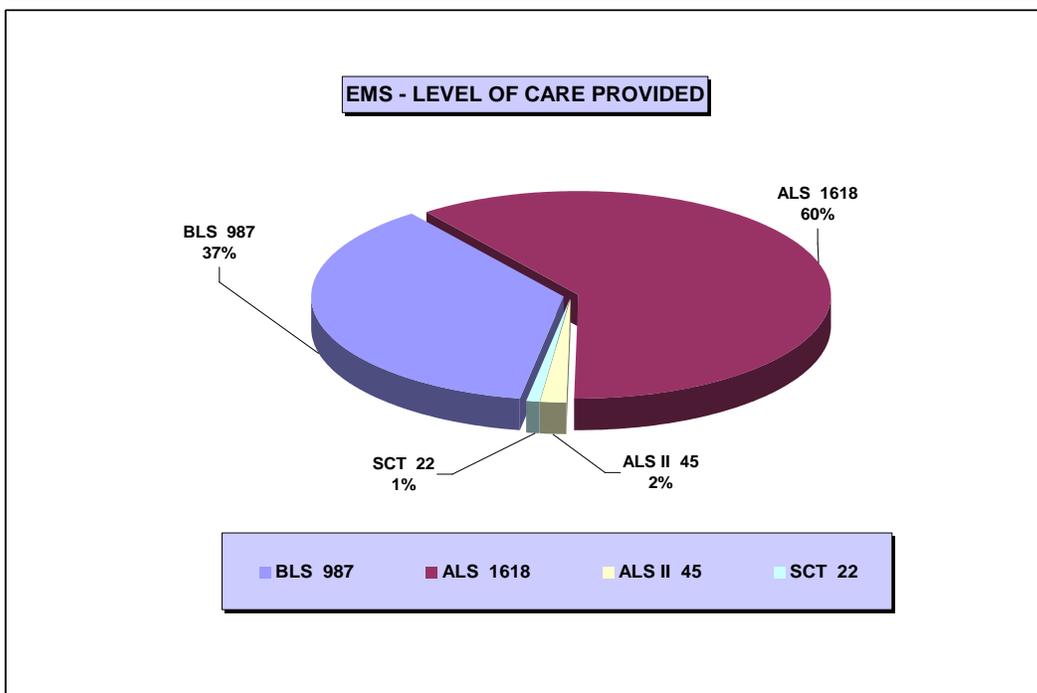
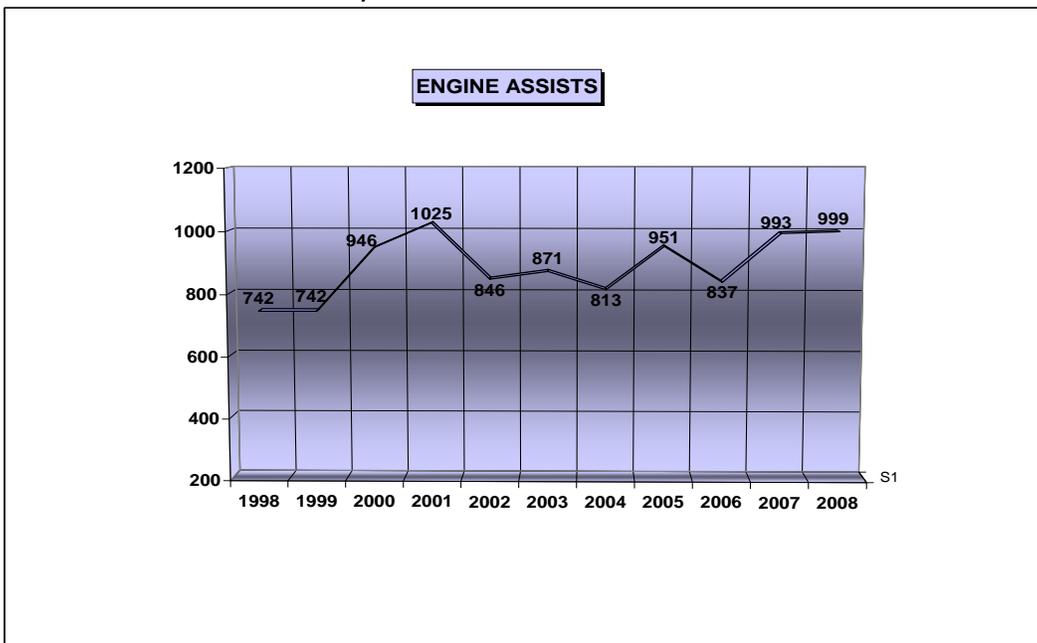
capabilities. It is also worth mentioning that our crews responded to 21 mutual aid medical calls with surrounding departments. The third category of medical responses is long distance transfers, of which we did 217 (5.17% of total). These transfers involve transporting patients from Grays Harbor Community Hospital to medical facilities in Olympia, Tacoma and Seattle. Off duty personnel are used to accomplish these transfers, which resulted in approximately 2170 man-hours above their normally scheduled shift work. These transfers occur at all hours of the day and our personnel are routinely called during their off-duty hours to provide this invaluable service to the community. The fourth category is non-emergent or public assists of which we performed 152 (3.62% of total). These calls typically involve lift assists, welfare checks, falls without injuries and medical evaluations at the Aberdeen Police Department jail. The final category is responses to meet Airlift Northwest at Bowerman Airfield when the helicopter cannot land at the GHCH. Hoquiam Fire Department is the primary response agency for this detail, but we were called 2 times this past year to move the helicopter crew and the patient between the hospital and the airfield. The following graph depicts our EMS response categories.

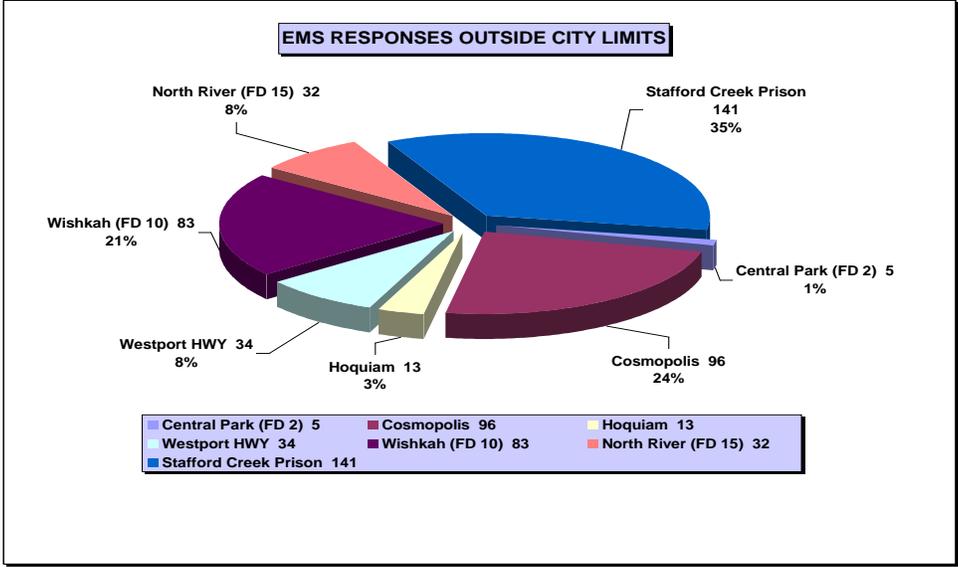
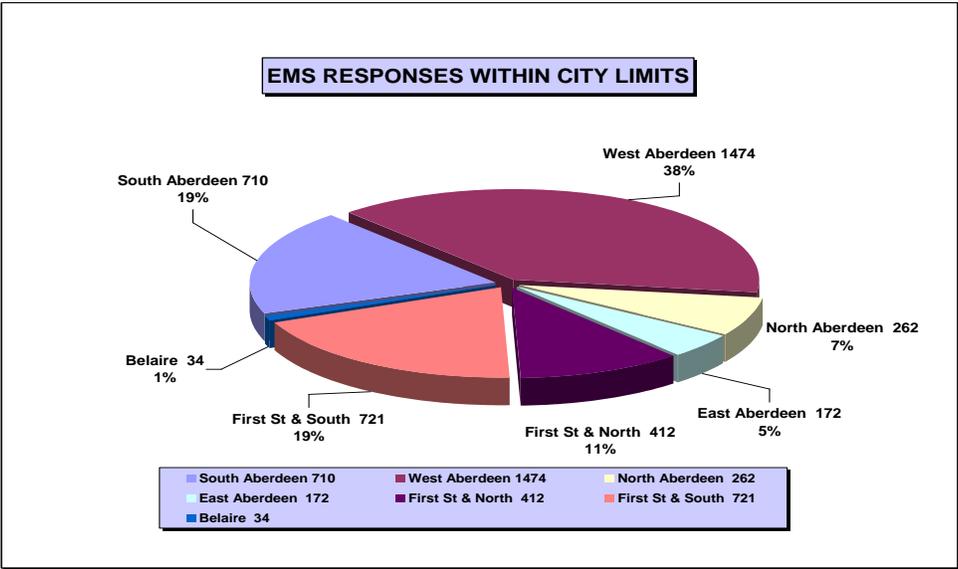


### RESPONSE STATISTICS:

The Aberdeen Fire Department compiles data annually to track response trends so that we can make adjustments if necessary to meet the needs of our customers. One of these is the number of times we send a fire apparatus with the ambulance on medical calls. It is a question we are often asked, "Why does the fire engine respond?" and the simple answer is that some medical conditions require more man-power to meet the needs of the patient. These conditions range from heart attacks, respiratory distress and strokes to traumas and motor vehicle accidents. We call these responses engine assists and we had 999 of these during the past year. We also track where medical calls are occurring, when they are occurring and the level of care required to manage the patients we are encountering. It should be noted that we have seen a steady increase in calls for service on the south side of Aberdeen, which reinforces the need for our south side fire station. The South Aberdeen fire station is presently staffed with three personnel operating an ambulance and a fire engine. We have included a graph illustrating the level of medical care provided which indicates that 63% of our emergent calls required advanced life support measures provided by paramedics. Advanced Life Support

indicates that the patient required intravenous access, advanced airway control, cardiac monitoring or medication administration to manage their medical needs prior to arriving at the hospital. One statistic we are extremely proud of is the 57 medical saves the Aberdeen Fire Department documented last year. We qualify a patient as a medical save if the patient arrives alive at Grays Harbor Community Hospital and the patient's condition most likely would have resulted in their death in the field had our crews not intervened. The following graphs depict response statistics that we track annually.





**GRANTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS:**

In order to help offset the high cost of providing emergency medical care the Aberdeen Fire Department actively pursues many grants and training reimbursement opportunities. We received \$1125.00 in tuition reimbursement from Grays Harbor Emergency Medical Services Council for on-going paramedic training. We also received \$3500.00 in advanced respiratory equipment through a Grays Harbor Transit grant administered by the GH EMS Council. The department also received its annual portion of the Washington State Trauma Reimbursement fund which amounted to \$1454.00 this year. We receive this for participating in the Washington State Trauma Program.

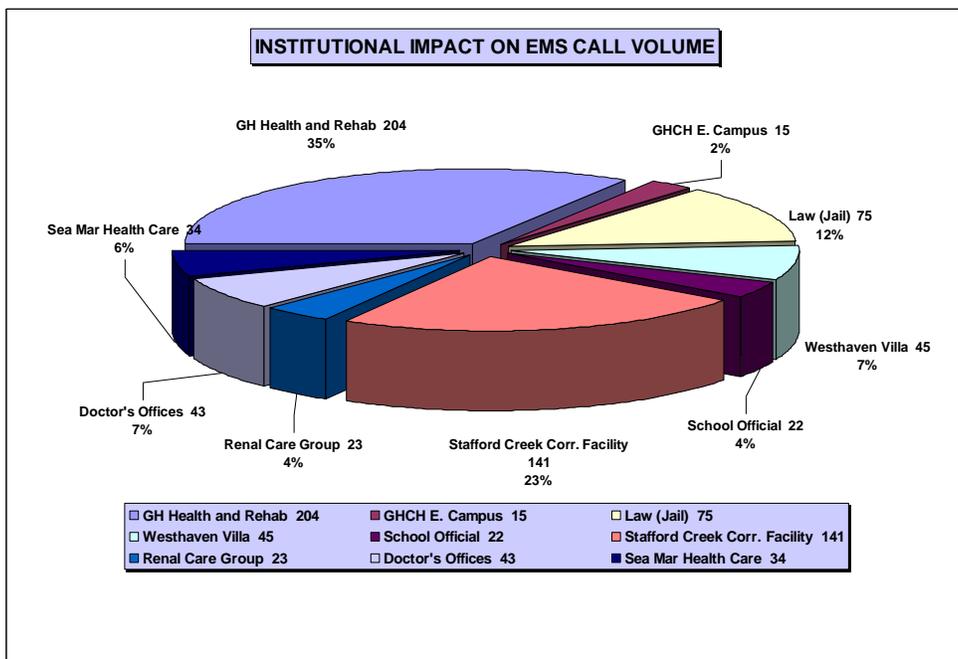
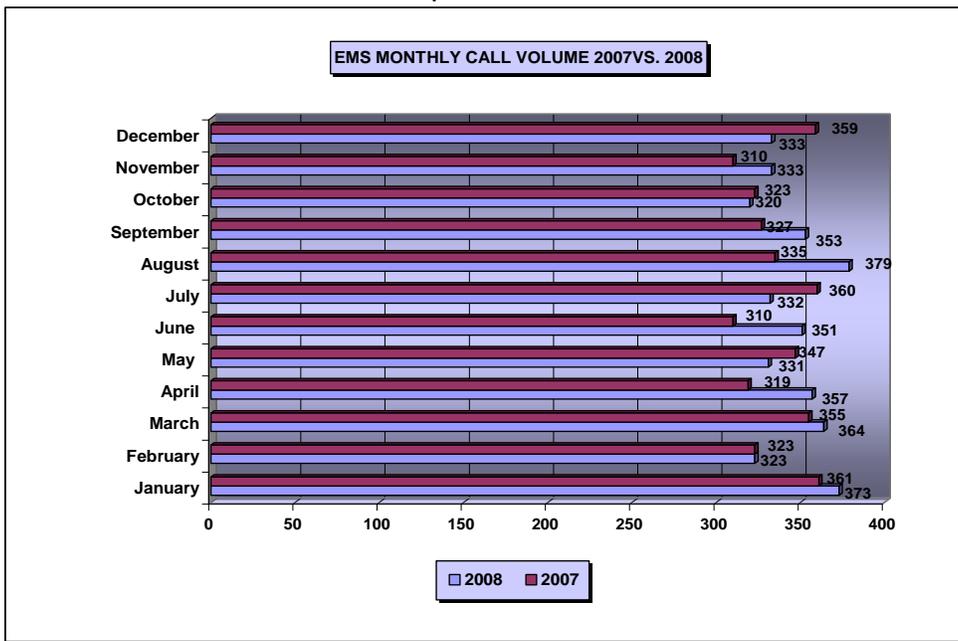
**OUTLOOK FOR 2009:**

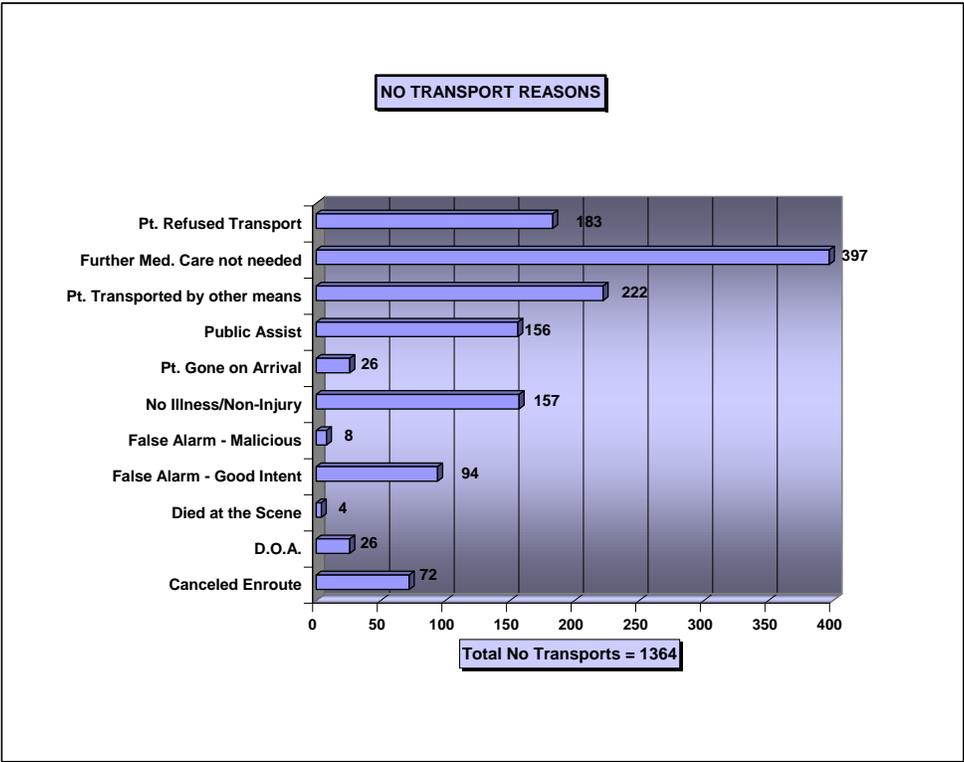
The Aberdeen Fire Department will continue to provide the highest quality medical care to our patients and we are focused on our goal to be professional and compassionate at all times. We are well aware of the current economic crisis faced by the City of Aberdeen and we are dedicated to maintaining the level of service that has become expected of us. It is not uncommon that when the economic climate is poor the impact on emergency services increases exponentially and the

Fire Chief, Chief Officers and line personnel at the fire department will endeavor to provide the highest standard of care in the most cost effective manner possible.

### SUPPLEMENTAL GRAPHS

1. EMS Call Volume 2007 vs. 2008
2. Institutional Impact on EMS Call Volume
3. No Transport Reason Codes





Battalion Chief Tom Hubbard  
 Emergency Medical Coordinator

## **2008 CODE ENFORCEMENT/FIRE INVESTIGATION**

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2008 was a year with \$756,754 in fire losses. When compared to the over \$3,000,000 fire losses of 2007 this years losses seem almost insignificant. When you are the victim of a fire loss it is never insignificant. But for the community as a whole the 2008 fire losses were down considerably. In years that our fire losses exceed a million dollars there has been one large loss fire such as Grays Harbor Equipment (2007) or Selmer's Furniture (2005) that are several million dollars by themselves. We will take a low loss year when we can but we can not think we now have a handle on the fire problem or become less vigilant in our prevention efforts.

Business inspections are performed throughout the year by our on duty Firefighters. These inspections educate the firefighters on building construction, emergency access routes and special hazards related to a particular business or building. Additionally, our crews will advise the business managers of fire hazards that are found during the visit and give advice on how to correct the situation.

This office is also involved with the Planning and Building Departments. We offer comments on new developments for requirements of Fire Department access to the area and hydrant placement. Plans are routed to us for review of Fire Code compliance, fire sprinklers systems and fire alarm systems.

Fire investigation is performed by fire officers and other department members who have received training for origin and cause determination. The first arriving firefighters make observations such as fire location, smoke and flame color, heat intensity, and 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.

Modern building techniques incorporate lightweight materials and systems that make for a sound structure but when exposed to fire these materials and system will fail very rapidly. This rapid failure of the structural members leads to building collapse during a fire causing firefighter injuries and deaths. Fire departments are adjusting their tactic to account for this new hazard. In the next code cycle we expect to see expanded fire sprinkler requirements for both commercial and residential occupancies.

Assistant Chief Doug Craig

## 2008 TRAINING REPORT

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The year 2008 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 2008 were **3,510**.

The Aberdeen Fire Department Training Program focuses upon current state mandates, firefighter basic skills, and safety. The training calendar reflects the ongoing annual training requirements that are outlined by the State of Washington WAC 305, OSHA / WISHA requirements, and the Dept of Health, that make the standards for Firefighters and EMT's. In order to meet these standards, much of the yearly calendar is required training to maintain compliancy and certifications.

The training is distributed monthly, some quarterly. Self contained breathing apparatus is an example of an annual review and proficiency standard. Once a quarter we are tested for donning and doffing the equipment and annually a class room review is done. Each fire apparatus is done in this same way so once a year each fire fighter reviews the operations of each of the apparatus in an educational environment.

An annual Live Fire Training is required for each fire fighter. Each year the three different shifts will individually train in a controlled environment promoting safety within the shift members that can be used during an actual emergency situation. During a fire there is not enough time to stop and educate members on proper techniques for safety. Time is dedicated each year for this with different specific fire ground training and a Live Fire exercise. The Live Fire exercise is done with the department's burn trailer. The trailer simulates a fire in a building and is done in a controlled setting. Education can be stopped or started during the exercise and all firefighters on duty that day can participate in the training.

EMT Training consists of Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support. The State Dept of Health, DOH, issues an EMT card for a period of three years. This certification is for Paramedic or EMT. In the three year period ongoing training must occur to recertify with the state DOH. The Grays Harbor County EMS has adopted an ongoing training program, or OTEP, that all EMT's must follow. This training is divided into a three year revolving topic format that meets the DOH requirement for recertification. Each OTEP program is tailored for the level of EMT or Paramedic certification. Each month a new topic is reviewed to fulfill the OTEP requirement. The goal is to optimize individual performance through effective basic skill enhancement and increased safety awareness.

Some of the training opportunities that took place in 2008 addressing the above mentioned areas include:

- ITAC / ICS
- Firefighting
- Pre-fire planning
- SCBA Quarterly 60 sec don

- Rescue
- Ongoing Training Evaluation Program (OTEP)
- EVAP
- Policies and Procedures
- Haz – Mat
- Leadership (Management)

## **Training Program**

In 2008 total training hours per person averaged **106 hours** or **8.86 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 2008 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 2008 total in-house was **2778 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 2008 the Aberdeen Fire Department provided the opportunity for individuals to attend many different specialized classes outside of the Department

for a combined total of **732 hours**. The following is a list of training classes that took place outside of the Department in 2008:

- 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 2008 followed by a brief description of each and the number of hour spent on each for 2008 training:

- Firefighting
- CME
- Hazardous Materials
- ICS
- Leadership
- Rescue
- Fitness
- Public Education
- Management
- SCBA
- EVAP
- Policies & Procedures
- 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 2008 was **1073 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 2008 was **1455 hours**.

### **Hazardous Materials**

Although the Aberdeen Fire Department Hazardous Material Program has been scaled back due to cost, it is still our goal to maintain Hazmat Operations Level for each individual. This continues to allow us to play an effective role in managing a potential Hazardous Material incident. Total time spent on Haz-Mat training for 2008 was **103 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 2008 was **209 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 2008 was **188 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 2008 was **78 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 2008 was **152 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 2008 was **42 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 2008 was **131 hours**.

### **Policies & Procedures**

2008 **80 hours**.

## **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 Damon Lillybridge, 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 local businesses to see if they could provide some area or land that we could use. 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.

## **Probationary Firefighters**

One of the biggest changes in the training division this past year was the revamping of the requirements, testing, and the evaluation of our new firefighters during their first year. In 2008 we acquired several new employees. With probation employees we must review several training topics throughout the year to make sure we all work together safely as a team at a fire or EMS call. This training involves fire fighter safety, all aspects of station operations, policies, maps, and equipment. This is an enormous task that involves all members of the department and is scheduled into the yearly calendar to help the Probationary Fire Fighter accomplish it.

New firefighters are required to take a map test once a month and apply their knowledge on a quarterly basis. The quarterly map tests build one upon the other. The first quarterly map test is the first three maps of the city. The next quarterly map test is the first three map tests plus the next three and so on until the final map test where all the maps are included.

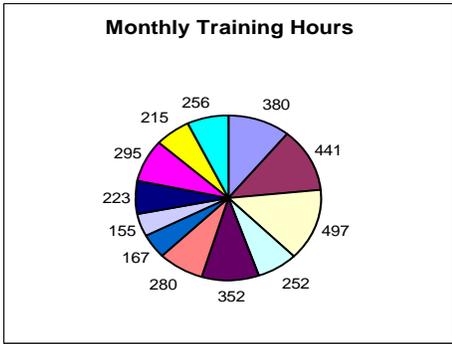
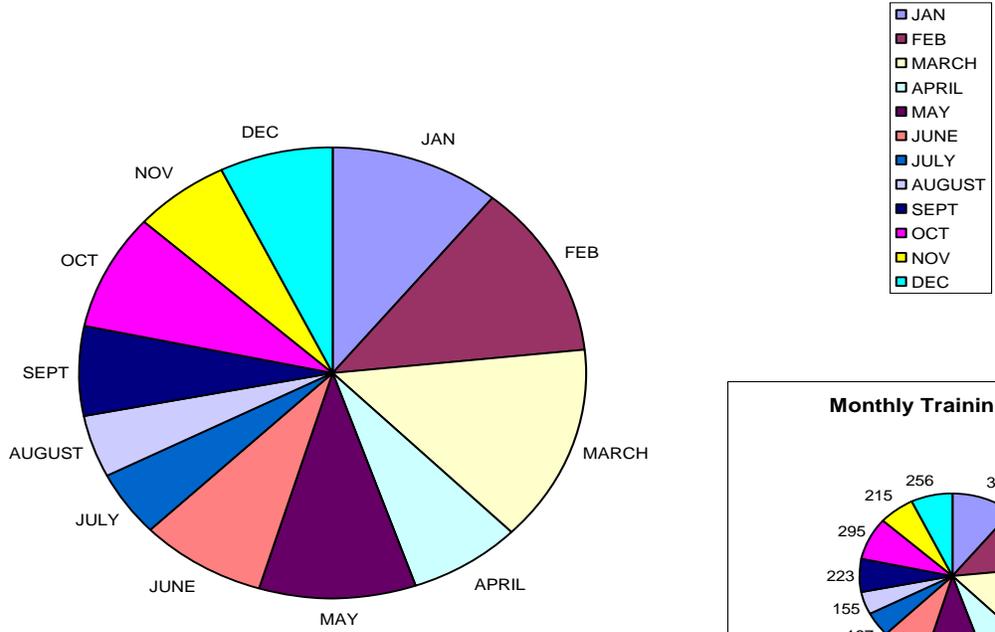
The probationary firefighter is also given a monthly policy and procedure test and a final test over all of our policies and procedures in his last month.

In addition to the map and policy tests they are also required to take inventory tests on all of our apparatus. All tests are required to be passed with an 80% or better.

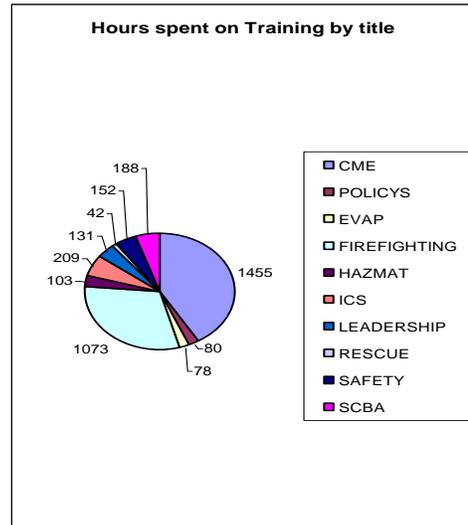
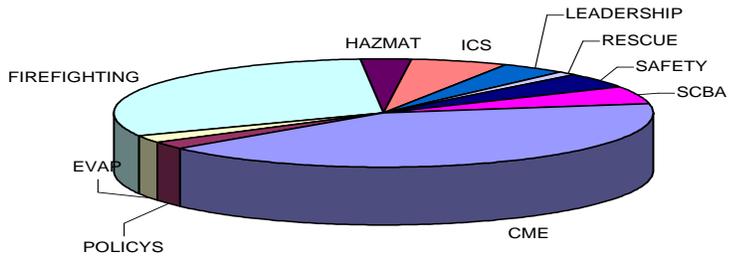
Along with the testing process, peer evaluations are given to the probationary firefighter's fellow workers. This is done the shift before the evaluation. This helps the officers to provide a fair and thorough approach to the evaluation process. This is a huge step in the evaluation process considering that the probationary firefighter spends most of his time working with peers. Typically peers are the ones most able to observe the performance and behavior of a probationary firefighter while on calls.

Battalion Chief Damon Lillybridge – Training Supervisor  
Captain Mark Dulin – Training Officer  
Captain JR Streifel – Training Officer  
Captain Rich Malizia – Training Officer

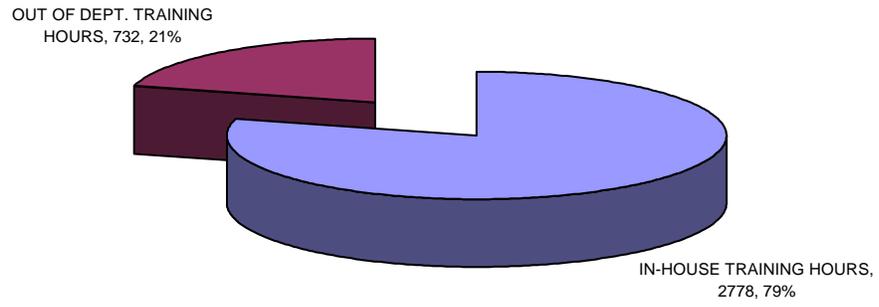
**Monthly Training Hours by percent of the total  
for the year 2008**



**Hours spent on training by title 2008**



### 2008 In-house Training vs Out of Dept. Training



## 2008 SAFETY & HEALTH PROGRAM REPORT

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During the year 2008 the department continued to promote and enforce safe workplace standards; goals and ideas were established; safety concerns were met and dealt with in a productive manner. Going into 2008 we knew that budget limitations were going to impact some projects that were requested throughout the year. Our goal was to keep moving forward with ideas and as time and finances allowed, prioritize our efforts to those items that provided the best opportunity for a safe and effective working environment. We chose two primary areas for 2008:

1. Exterior lighting for all apparatus bays for both Headquarters and Southside stations. Although the lighting has yet to be installed, all equipment necessary for installation has been purchased.
2. Water access to the west apparatus bay SW corner. Through the efforts of several individuals we were able to purchase the equipment necessary to run a water line across the building to create a water access that can be use for vehicle and station maintenance. The system was installed by station personnel in June of 2008.

Another item addressed in 2008 was placing of permanent back-up lines for all reserve apparatus. When we initially started this program in 2006, there were only enough funds to provide permanent back-up lines for lead out apparatus. In 2008 the street department was able to provide us the material to complete the project for all apparatus at no cost. Installation was achieved by on duty personnel.

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. Further steps taken to help minimize back injury were the purchase of a additional 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 2008 include:

- Tailpipe modification for all ambulances to accommodate exhaust hose hook-up.
- Completion of the Accident Prevention Program Manual.
- Annual hearing tests for all employees.
- Safety Stand Down focusing on NIOSH Case Studies recognized in June of 2008

*Future goals for the Safety and Health Program for 2009 will include:*

- \* *Installation of outdoor lighting for HQ Ambulance and Southside bay aprons*
- \* *Implementation of a formal Near Miss Program*
- \* *Implementation of an Ergonomics Program*
- \* *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 for 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.

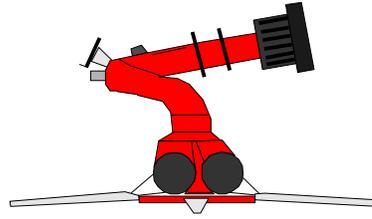
The success of a Safety and Health Program can be measured through the attitudes and actions portrayed at both an individual level and a department as a whole. The Aberdeen Fire Department takes safety and health very serious. We are committed to providing all individuals the mental and physical tools 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

## 2008 WATER SUPPLY REPORT

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- 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. The requests are usually related to improving our ability to extinguish 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 2008 Water Supply budget focused on one item. The last Task Force Tip Ball Intake valve was purchased and placed on 7204. This has been the completion of a four year project. We now have a dependable intake valve on the driver's side of all four fire apparatus.
- The first year of a two year project was completed in replacing and improving the drain valves on 7221. Positive comments on the improvement will allow us to have the same work done, in 2009, on 7206, which has the same problem.
- Nozzle and fitting maintenance was completed in 2008.
- A new Drivers/Engineers test was established. Input from Water Supply was used along with other sources and individuals to make this a well thought of test.
- Additional 2½" gate valves for hose testing were purchased. Using a much less expensive fitting to test hose as compared to our current \$750.00 to \$900.00 nozzles will be more cost effective.

### **Future plans of Water Supply include:**

- The purchase of six lengths of 2½" hose. Our 2½" inventory is mostly 25 years or older. When rated by the ISO we receive deficiency points for aged hose. As a result we'll make an effort to replace our 2½" as our budget allows.
- The purchase of two 100 ft. lengths of 4" LDH. We need to add to our inventory as we have very few extra lengths on hand. This hose is regularly run over at fire scenes by vehicles. This causes us to take the hose out of service and test it before we place it back in service. The last few years we have had several 50 ft. sections taken out of service which were not repairable. The damage appears to have occurred from studded tires.
- We are hoping to purchase a portable pump to give us more versatility in moving water from difficult locations. We presently do this with a float pump. However it has limitations that a portable should be able to overcome.

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

## 2008 PUBLIC EDUCATION

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The Public Education Division had a great year in 2008. After budget constraints of the past, we were once again able to participate in National Fire Prevention Week. During National Fire Prevention Week firefighters visit all of the grade schools in Aberdeen. While at the schools children from kindergarten through fourth grade are taught about fire safety, home escape plans, smoke detectors, disaster awareness, injury prevention, etc. This year was a great success and as always the firefighters were received warmly by the Aberdeen School District.

The opportunity to participate in National Fire Prevention Week was made possible because of the Aberdeen City Council. The twelve member council was able to allocate funds so the important message of fire safety and injury prevention could be delivered to the grade schools of Aberdeen. The City Council of Aberdeen understands the importance of this program and without their efforts we would not be able to teach children fire safety and injury prevention.

As always we were able to provide the following public education services as part of our daily operations:

- Blood Pressure Checks
- Station Tours
- Smoke Detector Installations
- Bicycle Helmet Fitting

We look forward to the coming year and the opportunity to once again share our important message of fire safety and injury prevention.

Captain Kelly Niemi

## **2008 SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS TEAM REPORT**

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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. To help rectify this problem there was discussion about a joint purchase of a fit tester, involving the Sewer Department and Fire Department. Due to the cost involved, the purchase of a new fit tester was not possible in 2008.

The SCBA units are bench tested per manufacturer's 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 2008 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  
Respiratory Protection Facilitator

## 2008 APPARATUS INVENTORY

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

<b>UNIT</b>	<b>Shop #</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
(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**

<b>UNIT</b>	<b>Shop #</b>	<b>TYPE</b>
(7206)	90	2001 Pierce 1500 GPM C.A.F.S. Pumper, 500 gal.
(7242)	148	1998 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)

(All EMS units are identical in layout and design)

## 2008 CHAPLAIN REPORT

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Another year has passed and it's been to this observer an amazing year. The department is an outstanding example of compassion combined with strength and good old American ingenuity. How so few men can provide this community with the 24/7 protection is certainly an example to behold.

The year for my part was typical of the past with no real big crisis, yet little problems can grow into big situations if not resolved early on. Grief and helping people deal with it is the biggest issue for those I've served. It's not something any one can be prepared for, yet once it's understood people can get their resolve as difficult as it is. Sometimes follow-up visits or phone calls or the intervention of a pastor can be helpful.

My prayer is that all of the people who are in need will benefit from the department services and be able to live in peace and lead a worry free life.

It is my pleasure to serve my community as the fire department chaplain and I thank the department for allowing me this privilege.

Respectfully

Dick Seaman, Chaplain

### *Chiefs Note;*

*Dick is nearing his 10<sup>th</sup> year of service as our fire department chaplain. He devotes many hours of his own time to help with grieving victims of a tragedy occurring in their life or some specific situation. Our community is very fortunate to have such an individual of his character and compassion. On behalf of the department, we are most appreciative and proud of his commitment and devotion. Thank you Chaplain Seaman.*