

Aberdeen Fire Department

Year End Report



2009



CITY OF ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dave Carlberg, Fire Chief Rich Malizia, Assistant Chief

April 7, 2010
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 2009.

The City of Aberdeen provides fire protection within the city 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 larger vicinities including Fire District 10 and 15, the City of Cosmopolis, Bigelow Drive and Stafford Creek Corrections. The department provides Advanced Life Support as well as inter-facility specialty care transports.

In 2009 the Aberdeen Fire Department responded to a grand total of **5,638** calls for service. The analysis of last year's data indicates a 1/2% 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 \$3,456,070 which included the 2.7 million dollar loss of Moore Floor Coverings on October 27th. A detailed account of that incident can be found on page 10.

Based on the collection of data, \$3,456,070 of total fire loss represents **22.8%** of total property lost versus \$11,720,325 or **77.2%** 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 **five** incidents throughout the year that required a second alarm or greater escalation. A deliberately set apartment fire occurred on January 10th at 903 E 2nd Street and resulted in the rescue and removal of trapped victims on the 2nd floor by firefighters. There were a number of other significant incidents that occurred in which crews were able to handle at a first alarm level due to the efficiency and aggressiveness of initial responders. The Activity levels are broken down as follows:

- 410 Fire Responses (30 Hazardous Materials)
- 1,121 Engine Medical Assists
- 4,107 Total Medical Responses

The departments average response time in 2009 was **5 minutes 26 seconds** to all reported fire incidents. This falls within the National Fire Protection Agencies goal for a fire department to arrive within six minutes to an incident 90% of the time.

One of the most notable accomplishments to recognize is a total of **84** documented medical saves in 2009. These include patients who most likely would have died without qualified medical intervention by our firefighters and paramedics in the field. The department added a new medic unit to its fleet in 2009. We have decided to surplus our 1995 utility truck and replace it with a reserve ambulance which will now serve as a utility unit or an additional medic unit if needed. EMS response time was **4 minutes 40 seconds** within the city.

2009 has added another year of quality public safety service to our nearly 120-year history in the City of Aberdeen. Since 1989 our analysis indicates call volumes have increased over 41% in the last 20 years. At that time the department was comprised of 36 firefighters (12 per shift) nine of which were paramedics. Today the department strength is at 33 which now include 20 EMT/Paramedics and ten EMT/IV Technicians. Five new firefighters were hired in 2009 to replace retiring members.

Our firefighters are continuing to respond to the public's needs on the average of 15 times per day and we are doing it with fewer personnel than we had in the past. 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

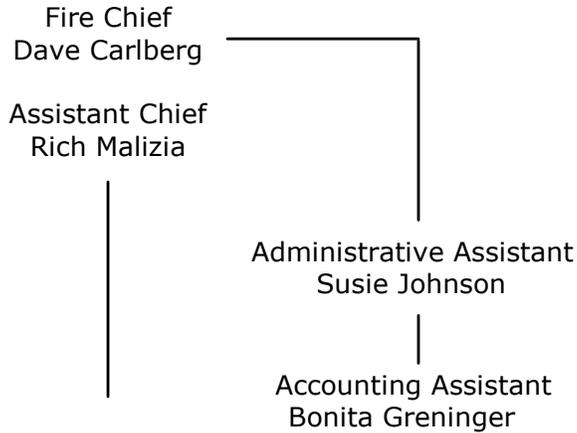
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Cover by FF/P Dave Swinhart – October 27, 2009 – 310 South I Street – 3 Alarm fire response at Moore Floor Coverings in downtown Aberdeen. (Cover Photo by Rachel Rose)

ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Administration



Operations

SHIFT1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT3
Battalion Chief Damon Lillybridge***	Battalion Chief Bill Mayne	Battalion Chief/Paramedic Tom Hubbard
Captain/P-Wally Montz** Captain Kelly Niemi	Captain Mark Dulin** Captain/P Troy Palmer	Captain JR Streifel Captain/P Dave Golding**
Engineer Brian Swanson Engineer/P Steve Pratt FF Jeremy Laier FF/P Ryan Knodel* FF/P Chris Raffelson FF Kevin Craig FF/P Brad Frafjord FF/P John Huber	Engineer/P Todd Bradshaw Engineer Sam Baretich FF/P Dave Swinhart FF Ron Smith FF/P Brian Newbill FF/P Isaac Gustafson FF/P Jordan Scott FF/P Bryce Craig	Engineer/P Chad Mittleider Engineer Chris Eisele FF Mike Kolodzie FF/P Brian Peterson FF/P Dave Schreier FF/P Trevor Wheeler FF Wayne Fournier FF/P Mike Hughes

*Emergency Medical Coordinator

**Department Training Officer

***Department Safety Officer

2009 Retirees

Assistant Chief Doug Craig
Captain Steve Fagerstedt
Engineer Jim Blomberg

2009 Resignations

FF/P Nick Swinhart
FF Rian Colt

2009 New Hires

FF/P John Huber
FF/P Jordon Scott
FF Wayne Fournier
FF/P Mike Hughes
FF/P Bryce Craig



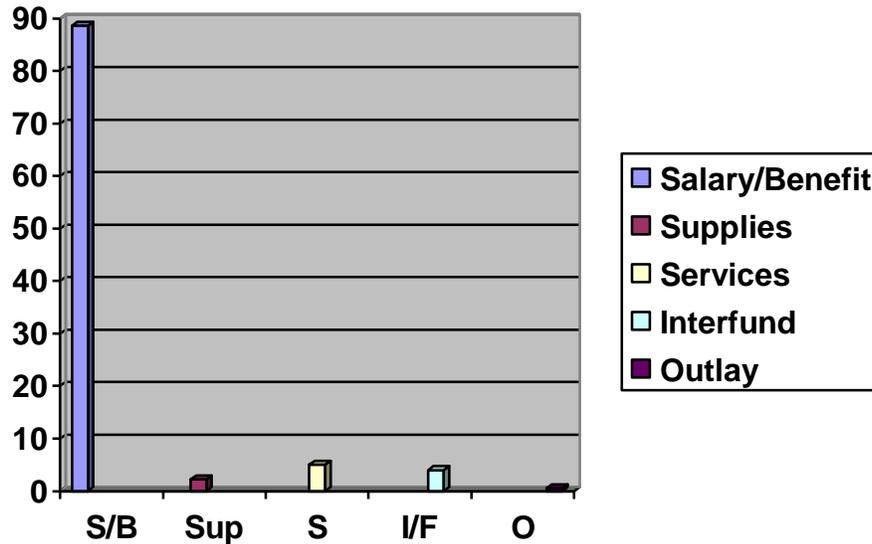
ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

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

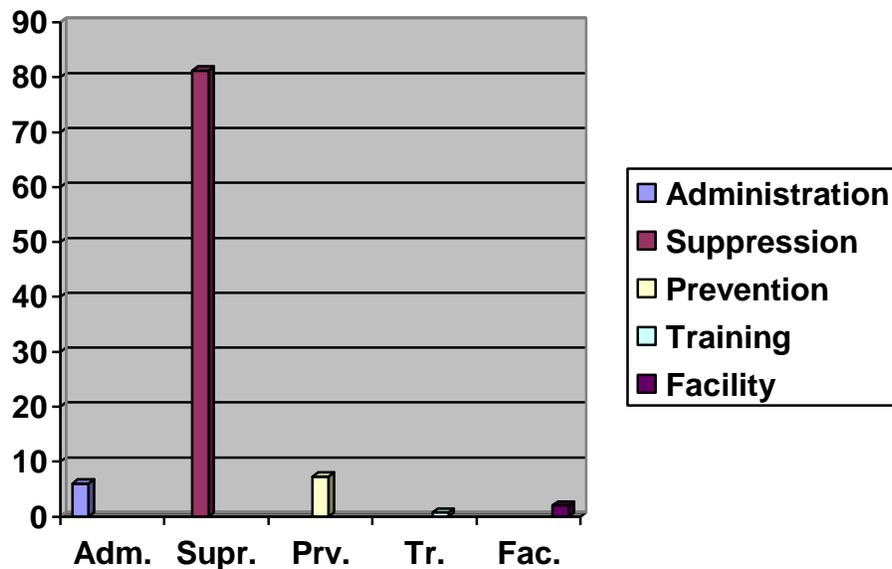
2009 Fire Operating Costs

In 2009, the cost of operating our fire protection services totaled **\$1,603,178**. Salary and Benefit compensation accounts for the largest portion of the budget dollar. (88.6%)

2009 - % Expenditures by Type



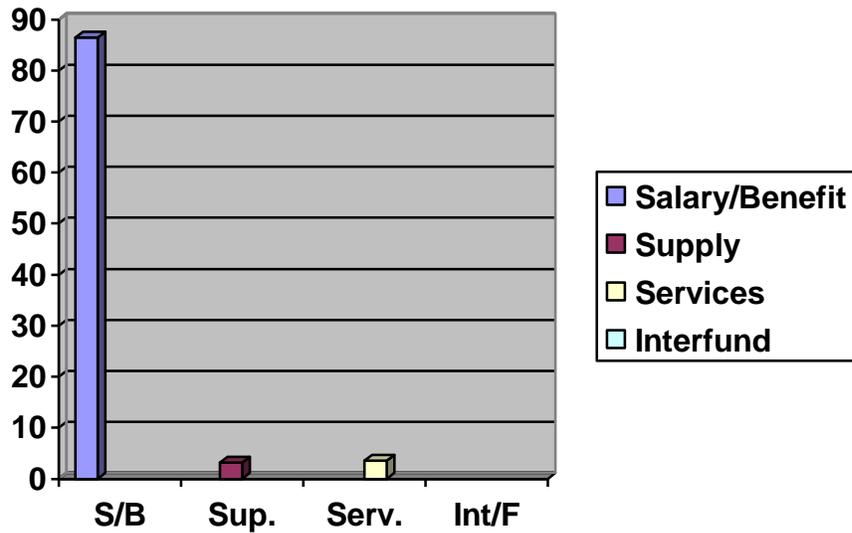
2009 -% Expenditures by Division



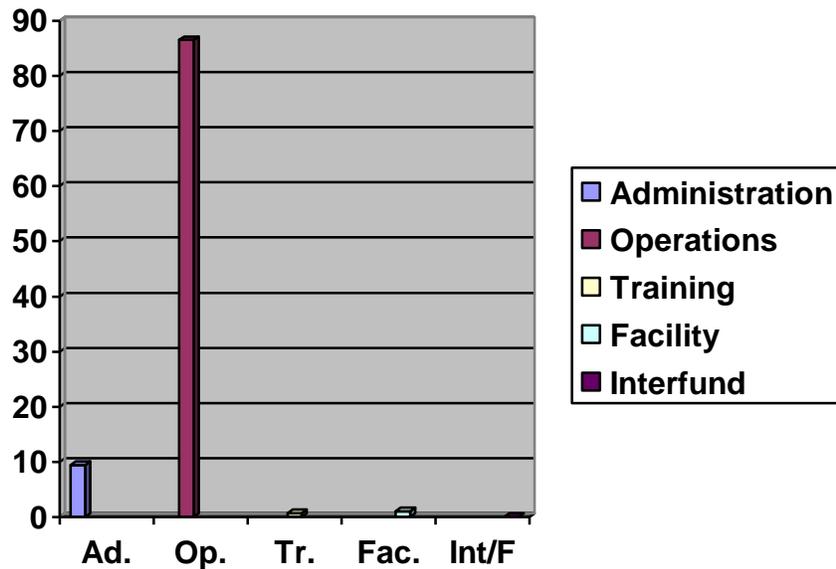
2009 EMS Operating Costs

In 2009 the cost of operating our emergency medical services totaled **\$2,748,178**. Salary and Benefit compensation accounts for the largest portion of the budget dollar. (86.5%)

2009 - % Expenditures by Type



2009- % Expenditures by Division

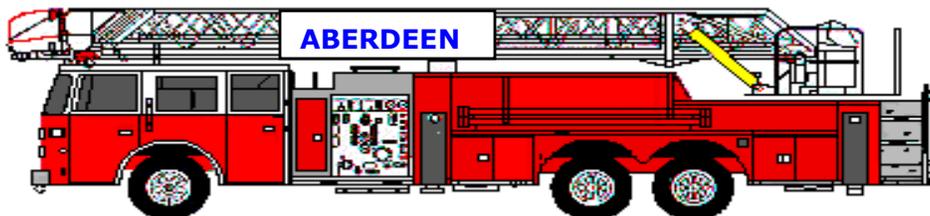


INCIDENT BREAKDOWN FOR 2009

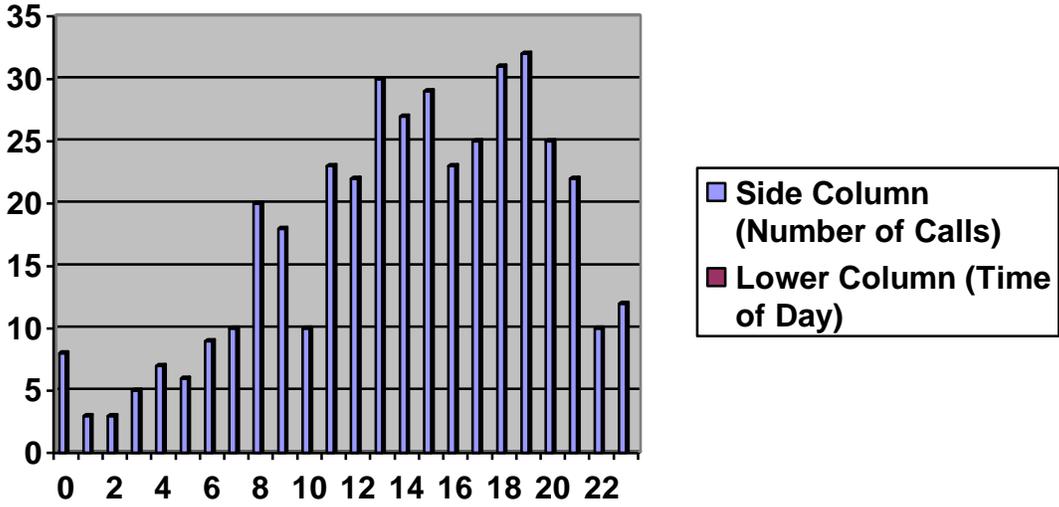
"OPERATIONS"

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

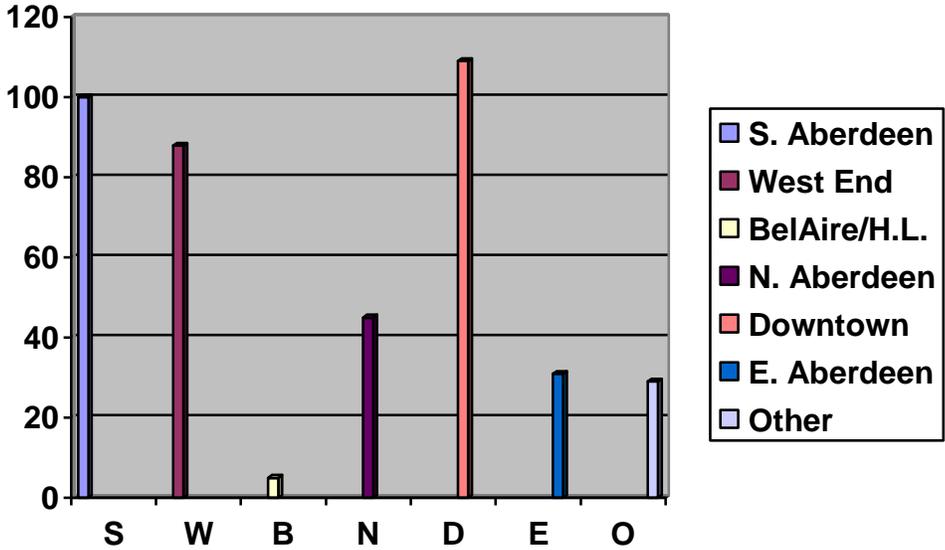
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
• Bridge Openings	283	490
• Building Fires	24	31
• Structure fires, (second alarm or greater)	5	10
• Hazardous Materials	30	26
• Vehicle Fire	14	21
• Wildland Fire	19	17
• Chimney Fire	19	24
• Trash Fire	20	22
• False Alarm	159	173
• Rescue	5	5
• Intentional Caused Fires	7	5
• Undetermined Caused Fires	16	16
• EMS Engine Assists	1,121	999
• Total EMS	4,107	4,201
• Total FIRE	410	405
• Total Activity	5,638	5,605
• Fire Related Fatalities	0	0
• Fire Related Injuries	3	0
• Firefighter Injuries	1	0
• TOTAL FIRE LOSS	\$3,456,070	\$756,745
• TOTAL PROPERTY SAVED	\$11,720,325	\$3,064,718



2009 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 at least two additional firefighters available for rescue outside the structure. As the chart indicates, call numbers spike between 08:00 to 21:00 hrs.



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 (26.6%), South Aberdeen (24.4%) and the West End (21.5%) account for the most fire activity.

MOORE'S FLOOR COVERINGS
310 South I Street
October 27th, 2009

At 18:02 hours, the Aberdeen Fire Department received a report of heavy black smoke coming from a commercial structure at 310 South I Street, the Moore Floor Coverings business and warehouse. The alarm was transmitted as an automatic response with the Hoquiam Fire Department and eventually would be escalated to 3-Alarms with a special call for an additional Truck Company.

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 in 1912. The building site is located in the main downtown area of the city. The business had a retail showroom area on the first floor with the remainder being warehouse. There was an office area in the NW corner of the 2nd floor with the remainder being warehouse. The building consisted of ordinary type construction with heavy timber framework within the warehouse area. Ceiling height inside was generally about 10'-20'. The building was a two story structure 130' X100' with approximately 26,000 square feet. A flat roof consisted of asphalt tar and was updated approximately one year ago. A freight elevator was located near the garage bay door where a pickup truck was stored. The building was not equipped with a sprinkler or alarm system. The building owner is James and Dorothy Moore.

The Fire

Weather at the time of alarm was mild with a northeasterly wind and temperatures around 50 degrees. At 18:01 a phone alarm was received by Grays Harbor Communications from a female on a cell phone at the D&R Theatre across the street reporting smoke coming from the 2nd floor windows at Moore floor coverings. With the caller still on the phone with 911 the 2nd floor windows blew out with visible fire. Other 911 calls were now beginning to flood the communications center reporting the fire. Callers indicated heavy smoke conditions at the location. A first alarm automatic response was transmitted to both Aberdeen and Hoquiam Fire Departments for two engines, one truck company, one medic and one chief officer.

First arriving 2nd shift acting battalion chief Mark Dulin confirmed heavy smoke showing from the 2nd floor of a two-story commercial occupancy. First alarm units arrived within 3-4 minutes and all secured their own water supplies. Engine 6 responding from their South Aberdeen station indicated they could see a large column of smoke after leaving their station. Command advised all units that upon arrival the fire would be defensive. At 18:08 command requested a 2nd alarm recalling 10 off duty personnel and bringing two more engines, two medic units, and three chief officers. All efforts now centered on the protection of surrounding buildings and vehicles parked in close proximity to the building. On scene units began setting up a variety of large appliances and elevated streams to deliver water. The Chehalis River Bridge was closed for a short time due to impaired visibility for vehicle traffic.



Smoke is emitting from the 2nd floor windows as 1st alarm units begin to arrive (Rachel Rose photo)

A 3rd alarm was struck at 18:30 hours bringing two additional engines and other support units. 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 at 18:39 to request a truck company from Montesano to provide for an additional elevated stream.



First arriving Firefighters beginning forcible entry with a power saw (Rachel Rose photo)

The fire at this point was well involved within the interior of the building and beginning to threaten the storage warehouse directly behind the fire building and to the east. Additional efforts were now focused on protecting this structure. Additional personnel were put on the roof of the building across the street (Marshals Garden and Pet Store) to check for any extension. Incident command was advised by division commanders of structural cracks beginning to develop and the integrity of the building becoming compromised. This fire was fought defensively for the entire duration of the incident. Command began to release units from the scene around 22:30. Truck Company 7221 was left on scene to deal with spot fires within the interior and remained on scene until 16:00 on October 29th.



Aerial view of the 2nd story (AFD file photo)

Scene Processing

The processing of the fire scene was accomplished by investigators within the AFD and the business owner's insurance company. The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) was initially asked to join the investigation but were eventually cancelled due to the instability of the building. Heavy beams and timbers were hanging precariously and potentially could have collapsed at any time. Some scene processing was accomplished during the demolition phase, however many of the areas needing further examination were compromised due to building instability. A main contributing factor to the fire's development was an unprotected open shaft freight elevator near the area of origin that led to flame spread from the 1st to 2nd floor. There was a pickup truck parked near here that was also totally consumed. Investigators interviewed witnesses and employees of the business. The insurance company determined the building a total loss and contracted with a local company for demolition.

The cause of the fire itself is classified as undetermined. Total losses were estimated at **\$2.7** million dollars. The incident remains under investigation.

Dave Carlberg, Chief of Department – Aberdeen Fire Dept

310 South I St. Incident Timeline from CAD- 10/27/09

- 18:01 Passerby notifies E-911 via cell phone of heavy smoke coming from the Stouffer/Moore floor covering building at 210 S. I St.
- 18:02 **Dispatch** (Auto Response) E -7206, 7302, T- 7221, M- 7241, B-7232 (Standard response for commercial downtown alarm)
Dispatchers indicate heavy black smoke from the building.
- 18:02 Caller reports 2nd floor windows now blowing out with visible fire showing.
- 18:04 E-7206 advises a large column of smoke visible as they depart fire station 2.
- 18:06 B-32 on scene with 2-story commercial building. Directs T-7221 to State St. and E-7206 to I St. All units secure their own water supply.
- 18:08 B-32 Requesting a **2nd Alarm** (E-7205, E-7204, M-7243, M-7244, C-7200, C-7251, Safety Officer, 10 off duty AFD)
- 18:10 B-32, PUD Requested for Power, I St. Command established.
- 18:11 B-32, Staging location Heron St. One star parking lot.
- 18:16 B-32, Have immediate exposure to building on "C" side.
- 18:17 B-32, Close State St. off ramp to traffic due to visibility.
- 18:28 T-21 reports conditions worsening on "D" building side. Heavy heat & smoke visible.
- 18:30 **3rd Alarm Requested.**, All AFD off-duty recalled, E-3101, E-7602 U-7261, M- 7242.
- 18:39 (**Special Call**) T-9221
- 18:42 B-32, advising all units that fire is through the roof.
- 18:47 B-32, advising "C" side exposure being threatened.
- 18:56 Rehab Established
- 18:58 B-32, Need T-9221 on A-B side
- 19:07 B-32 Need exposure protection on service trucks in alley.
- 19:07 Staging reports resources (3 teams ready to deploy)
- 19:09 B-32, Send 2 teams to division A and 2 to division B.

19:09 Communication problem with T-9221 positioning
19:14 Division D reports side C cracked and bowed out. Anticipating a collapse.
19:25 Division A requesting another team.
19:30 Dedicated PIO established
19:34 B-32, advise Masco Petroleum for fueling apparatus.
19:41 Division A requesting a team from staging to Marshall Bldg. roof
21:31 E-7302 clear
22:17 E-3101 clear
22:38 All units clear except T-7221 for fire watch

Station ID

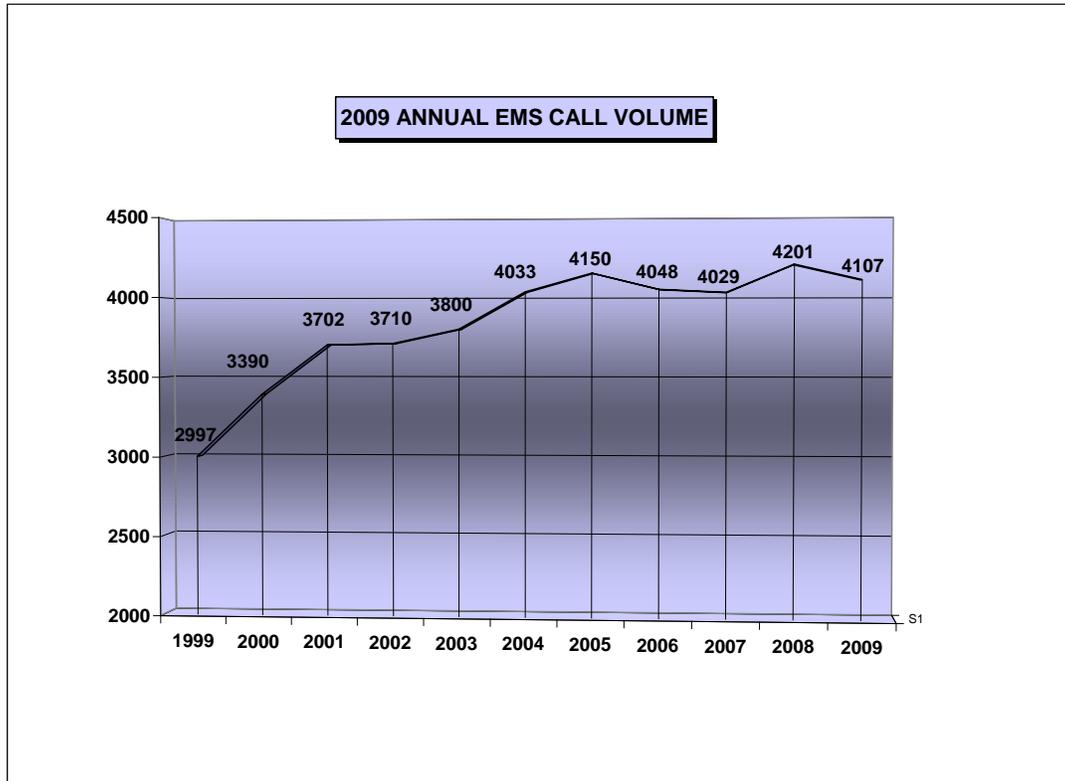
Station 31- Fire District 2 (Central Park, Brady, Wynooche)
Station 72- Aberdeen
Station 73- City of Hoquiam
Station 76- City of Cosmopolis
Station 92- City of Montesano

Unit ID

00- Chief Officer
01-19- Engines
20-29- Trucks
30-39- Command/Battalion
40-49- Ambulance/Medic/Rescue Units
50-59- Command/Staff/Chief Officer
60-69- Utility
70-79- Marine
80+ - Individual/Staff

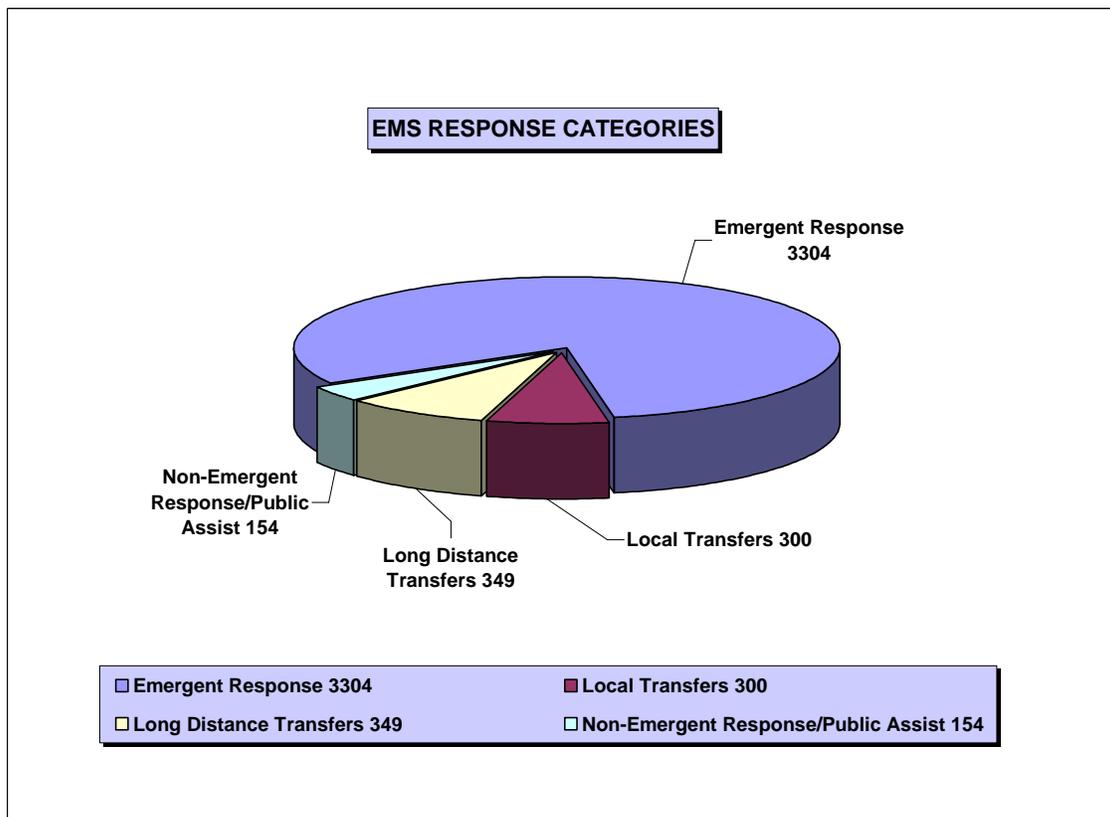
2009 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Aberdeen Fire Department responded to 4107 medical calls during the year 2009, which is a 2.3% decrease in call volume over the previous year but represents an increase of 27% over the past ten years. The graph below illustrates the Aberdeen Fire Department's emergency medical call volume over the past ten years.



RESPONSE CATEGORIES:

Medical responses are grouped into four categories based on their dispatch urgency and destination. The first category is emergent responses which totaled 3304 and accounted for 80.45% of our total EMS call volume. Emergent responses are calls that are dispatched through the Grays Harbor E911 center to our department. Our average response time from time of dispatch to arrival on scene within the city limits of Aberdeen was 4 minutes and 40 seconds. The second category is local transfers of patients between Grays Harbor Community Hospital and skilled nursing facilities, home residences and diagnostic testing facilities within the city limits of Aberdeen. We performed 300 local transfers which accounted for 7.3% of the total call volume. This service is provided by our on-duty crew which staffs the headquarters fire apparatus. It is important to note that while the fire apparatus crew is engaged on local transfers the apparatus they are assigned to is out of service for fire calls. The third category is long distance or out of town transfers from Grays Harbor Community Hospital to hospitals in Olympia, Tacoma and Seattle. Off duty personnel are utilized to accomplish these transfers and the Aberdeen Fire Department did 348 of them for 8.5% of the total call volume. This figure translates into approximately 3480 man-hours above their regularly scheduled shift work. The fourth category is non-emergent or public assists of which we did 154 for 3.8% of the total. Public assists consist of welfare checks, lift assists, falls without injuries or general assistance to our customers who did not require an emergent response from an ambulance. The EMS response categories are shown below.

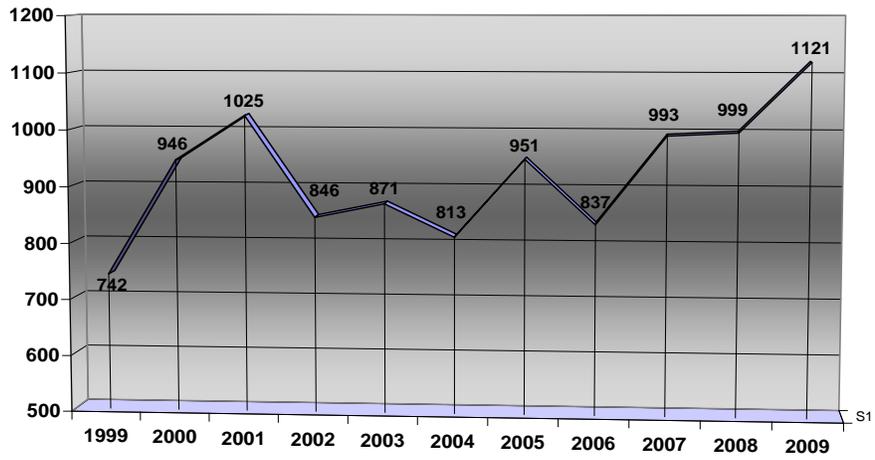


It should be noted that the Aberdeen Fire Department provided mutual aid emergency medical response to the City of Hoquiam 21 times, Raymond Fire Department 1 time and for South Beach Ambulance 8 times during the past year. The Hoquiam Fire Department provided mutual aid to the City of Aberdeen 8 times over the past year.

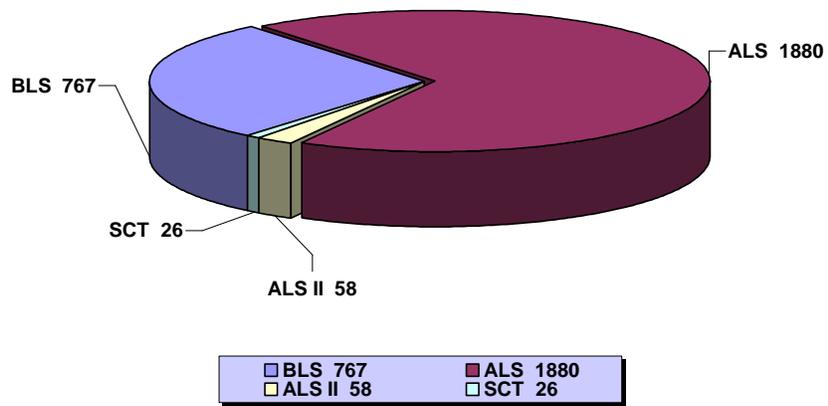
RESPONSE STATISTICS:

The Aberdeen Fire Department collects data annually to assist us in maintaining an efficient operation that is responsive to the needs of our customers. One of our data collection points is Engine Assists of which we did 1,121, an increase of 11% from the previous year. An engine assist occurs when a fire apparatus responds with the headquarters or South Side Station #2 ambulance on medical calls. The EMS calls that the fire apparatus respond on require additional man-power to meet the needs of the patient. These calls range from cardiac arrests, respiratory problems and strokes to motor vehicle accidents with injuries and severe trauma calls. It is important to note that while the fire apparatus is engaged on the medical call it is out of service for fire response until it has cleared from the previous call. This cross-staffing of personnel is what allows the Aberdeen Fire Department to manage such a high call volume with minimum staffing but the trade off is that our ability to manage a fire incident is at times throughout the day significantly impacted. The following graphs depict engine assists, level of medical care provided and our EMS responses both inside and outside the city limits.

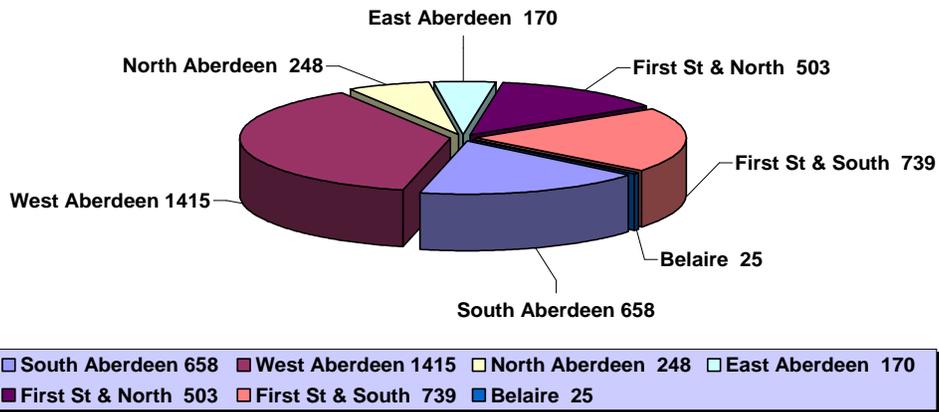
2009 ENGINE ASSISTS



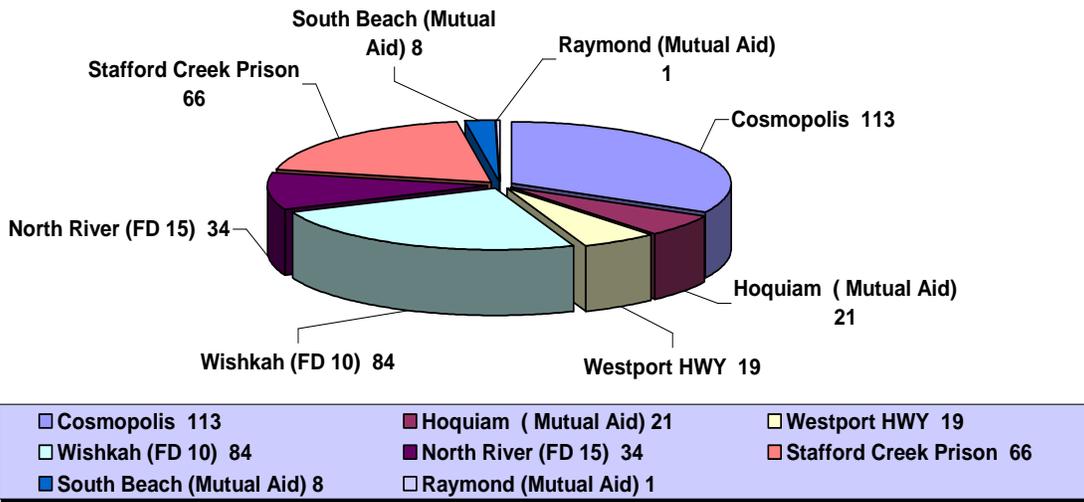
EMS LEVEL OF CARE



EMS CALLS WITHIN CITY LIMITS



EMS CALLS OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS



GRANTS AND REIMBURSEMENTS:

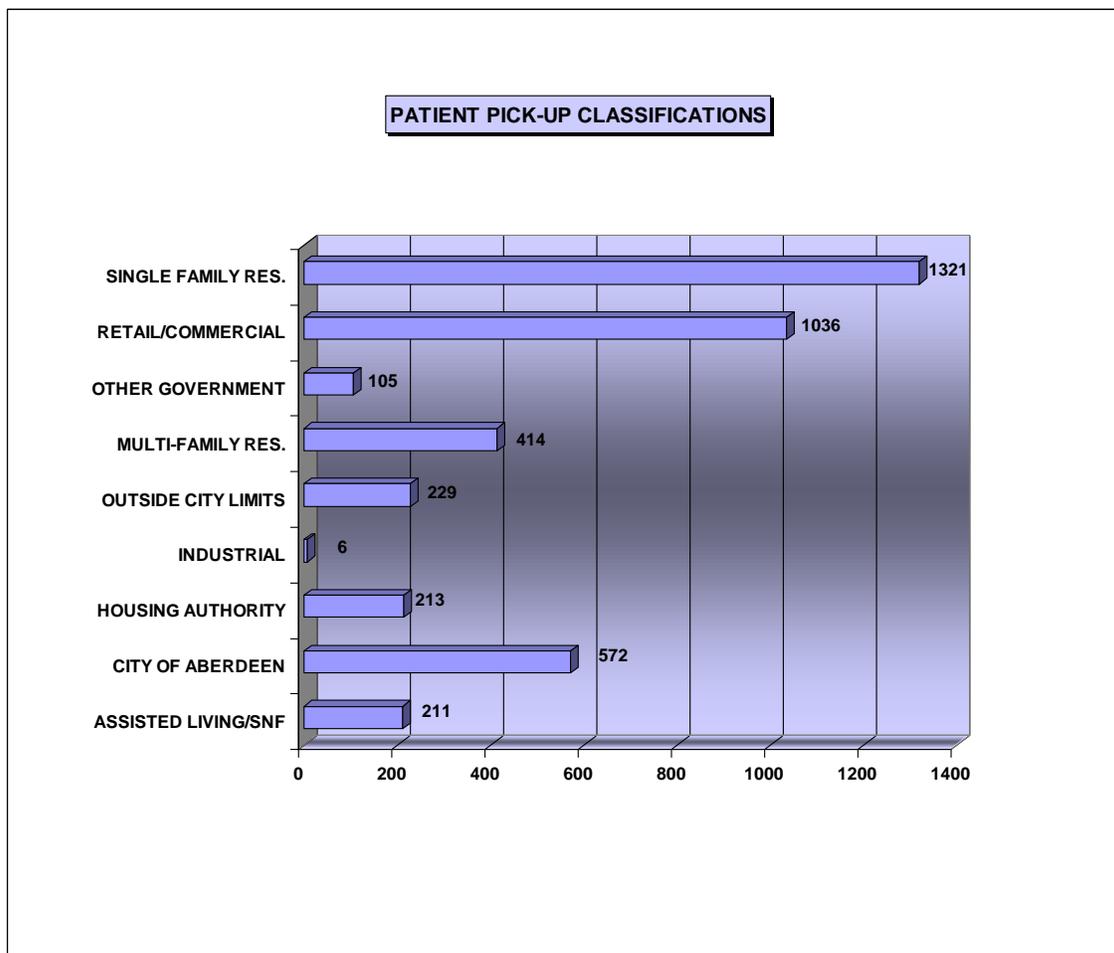
During the past year the Aberdeen Fire Department received \$1726.00 dollars from the Washington State Pre-Hospital Trauma Participation Grant which is designed to help offset the high cost of providing trauma care. Also, through training funds from the Grays Harbor

Emergency Medical Services Council, we received \$780.00 dollars for emergency medical training. The Grays Harbor Emergency Medical Services Council is instrumental in managing the money allocated by Grays Harbor Transit specifically for basic and advanced life support training that our personnel are mandated to receive by Washington State. Without these funds our ability to fulfill the training requirements would be severely impacted due to the present economic climate.

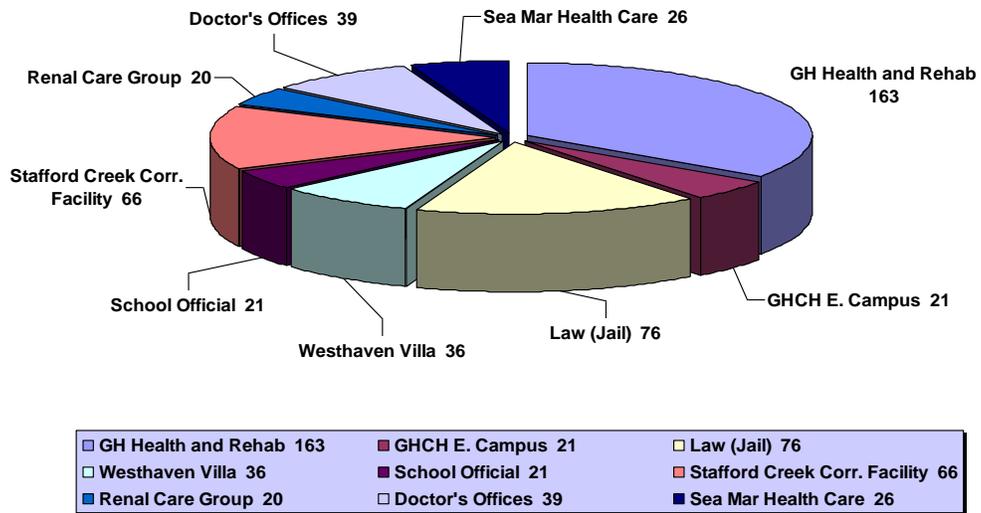
NEW BRAUN AMBULANCE:

The fire department took delivery of a 2009 E-450 Type III ambulance in December of 2009. This ambulance will replace a 1998 ambulance with has accumulated over 230,000 miles since it was placed into service. The design and build of the new Braun ambulance was a three year process and the final product is one that the fire department and the citizens of Aberdeen can be proud of. The 1998 ambulance will replace our 1 ton rescue/utility unit and be available as a 5th medic unit if needed.

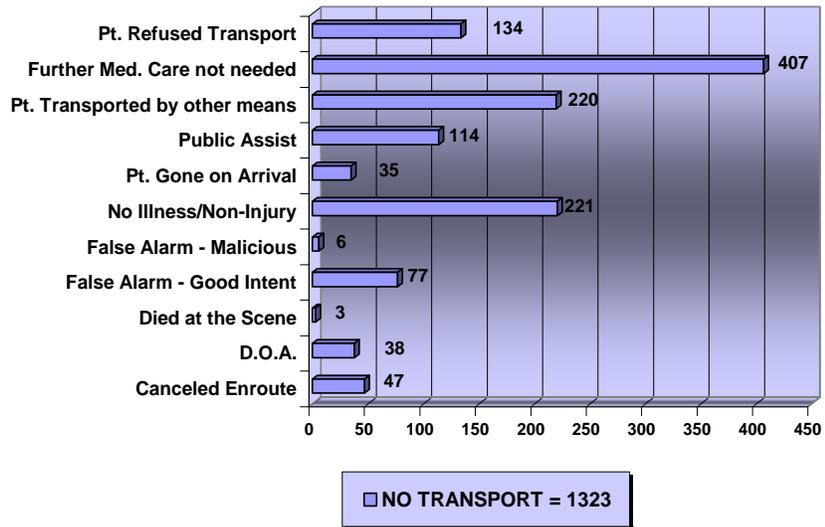
SUPPLEMENTAL GRAPHS:

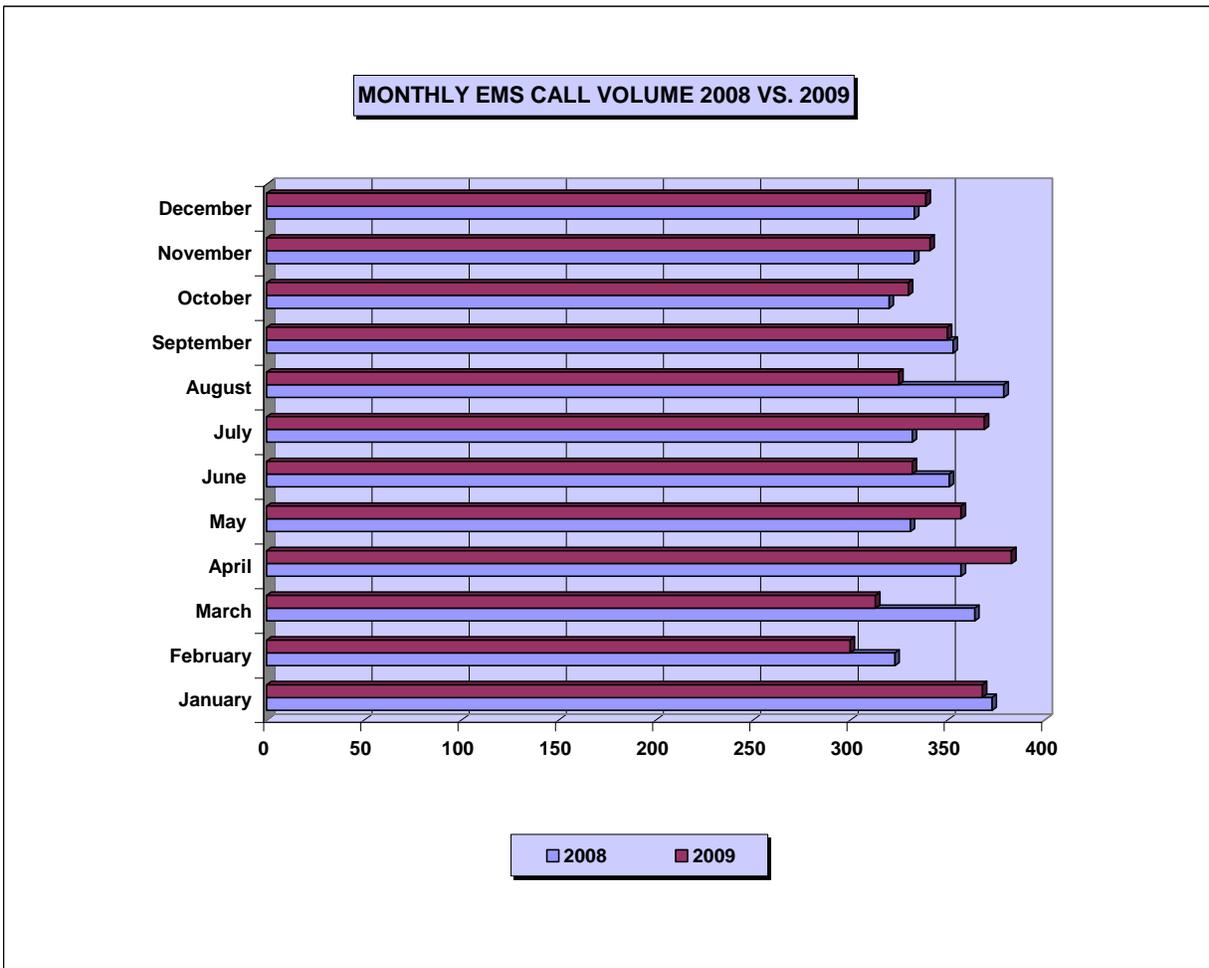


INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT ON EMS CALL VOLUME



NO TRANSPORT REASONS





MEDICAL SAVES:

During the past year the Aberdeen Fire Department documented 84 medical saves. 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.

OUTLOOK FOR 2010:

The Aberdeen Fire Department will continue to provide the highest quality emergency medical care to our patients with the core values of professionalism and compassion guiding our actions. We will also strive to provide the highest level of care while being good stewards of the tax dollars which we receive. The fire department is pleased to announce that Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Knodel will be assuming the duties of Emergency Medical Coordinator effective January 2010.

Respectfully,

Battalion Chief Tom Hubbard

Chiefs Note; the department is extremely thankful for BC Hubbard’s many years of excellent service as the department emergency medical coordinator. We are fortunate to have someone of his caliber within the organization.

2009 CODE ENFORCEMENT/FIRE INVESTIGATION

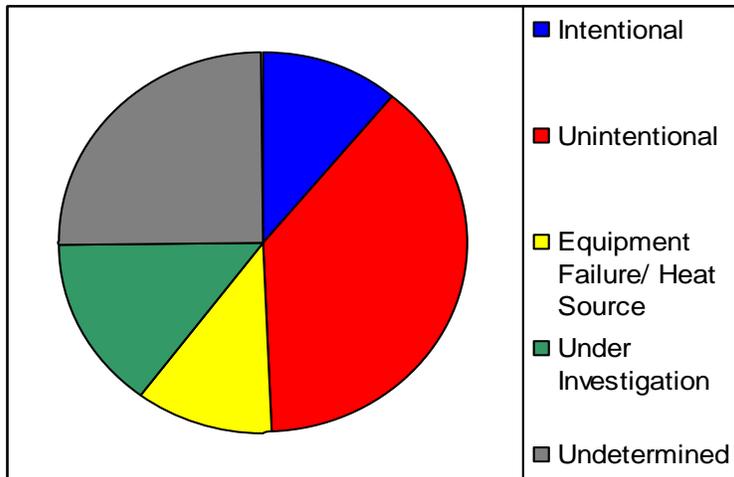
2009 was a year with \$3,456,070 in fire losses. This is an increase when compared to \$756,754 fire loss in 2008. The increased amount is directly related to the Moore's Interiors fire last October. The loss of any large commercial building and contents will have a dramatic impact to the recorded fire loss amounts.

The Moore's fire was certainly a dramatic event in the community. Highly visible fires like this one often attract a large crowd. This can sometimes hinder our job but recently it has assisted us in the days that follow. Technology has assisted our investigation process with bystanders watching, taking photos and calling 911 early. With abundant cell phones and digital cameras in the community we have been receiving visual information showing events to the incident prior to the fire departments arrival. Some of the photos of the Moore's Fire in this report are from Ms. Rachel Rose, a bystander during our first arrival at the scene, and were very helpful in our investigation.

A fire investigation starts immediately upon arrival at the scene. The officer in charge begins the investigation process by gathering information from witnesses, occupants or neighbors. He will examine the fire scene, make a determination of origin and cause or call for the assistance of the Assistant Chief or our Investigation Team if they are needed. A more complicated fire scene often requires an Investigation Team to determine origin and cause of a fire. If the cause is determined to be arson the Aberdeen Police Department will conduct a criminal investigation of the fire scene in conjunction with our investigators.

The first arriving firefighters also make observations such as fire location, smoke and flame color, heat intensity, and ease or difficulty of extinguishment.

All fires in our community are investigated and many of these are a simple interview or an obvious answer to the cause of the problem. Last year 250 fires required a formal origin and cause investigation after extinguishment by our personnel. These investigations are implemented when the cause or origin is not readily apparent. A summary of the investigation results are represented in the following graph



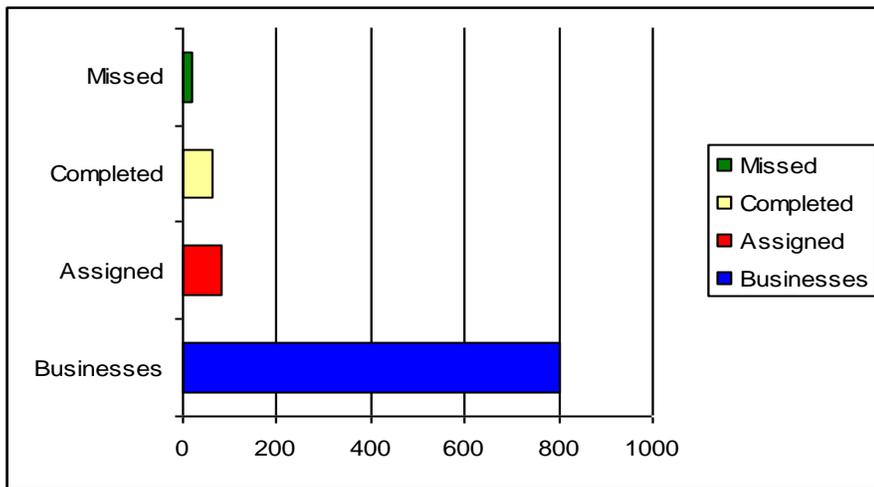
Causes of Ignition

As you can see a large majority of fires are unintentional or accidental. Several fires remain under investigation while collected evidence is analyzed or investigations continue with the Aberdeen Police Department. This can take time to complete or in several cases the classification does not change.

Unfortunately not all fires can be investigated. Safety of our personnel is always assessed at every incident during and after a fire. For example, the interior of the Moore's Interiors building was simply unsafe for an investigating team to work in. The buildings stability was compromised by the intense heat of the fire and the weight of the collapsed roof onto the second floor. All four exterior walls were leaning or cracked posing a severe collapse situation after the fire was extinguished. With the compromised wall and second floor issues we felt it would have been unsafe to enter the building for any further investigations.

The insurance company also hired a structural engineer to evaluate the condition of the Moore's building for the safety of the investigators. Places in the structure were determined safe to enter but most of the building was deemed as an unsafe structure. Areas we would have investigated further were located in these unsafe areas. In the immediate days following the fire, heavy equipment was required to stabilize the rear wall of the Moore's building from falling on top of a neighboring building. The fire scene was damaged further while stabilizing this wall. Two-thirds of the second floor suddenly collapsed inside the structure when the heavy equipment barely touched part of the compromised floor. It obviously was the right choice to limit personnel from entering the building.

Business inspections are done throughout the community in compliance with the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau and the International Fire Code requirements. This office schedules the business inspections for the City that are performed throughout the year by our on duty Firefighters. Business inspections by our fire department accomplish several things. It is a component of the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau requirements for the area insurance rating. The inspections educate the firefighters on building construction, emergency access routes and special hazards related to a particular business or buildings. We call this Pre-fire Planning. Firefighters will also advise the business managers of fire hazards that are found during the visit and give advice on how to correct the situation to maintain Fire Code compliance. There are roughly 800 businesses listed in our files for the city. With the fire department running a total of **5,638** calls, trying to fit the business inspections into the daily schedule of the on duty staff has been a difficult task. Last year, in a push to restart our inspection program, we set a new goal to accomplish 100 inspections. Eighty-three inspections were assigned to the three shifts last year and sixty-three of these inspections were completed. The graph below shows the fraction of inspections that were assigned and completed.

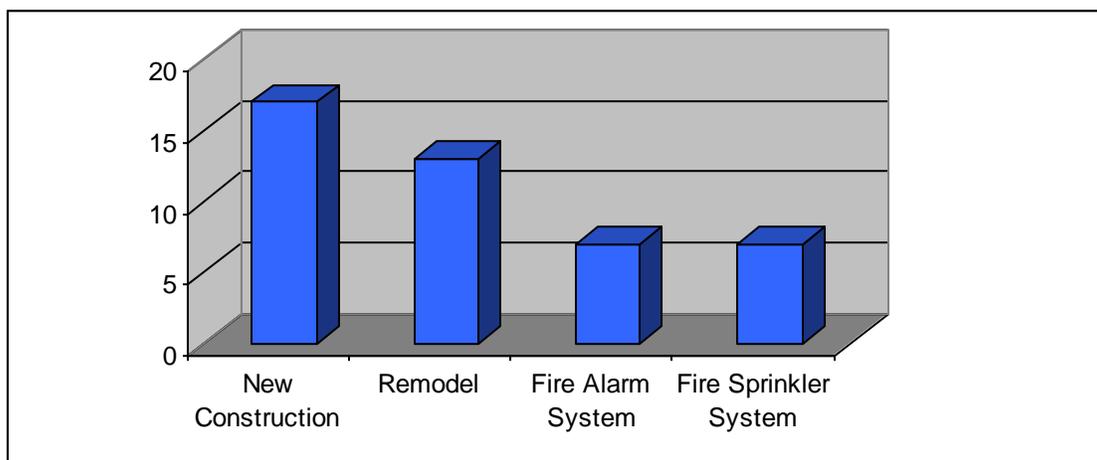


Business Inspections

Not included in this chart are individual request for inspections by business owners that are not scheduled. Several of these are for state licensing requirements and insurance needs. Next year we are attempting a new schedule of inspections in an attempt to increase the completed number of inspections for the year.

This office is also involved with the Planning and Building Departments of the City of Aberdeen. We offer comments on new developments, requirements for Fire Department access to the area and hydrant placement. Building plans are routed to us for review of fire code compliance; fire sprinklers systems and fire alarm systems. This is done with the architect's drawings for fire code compliance, sprinkler and alarm component placement.

Most plan review fit into one of four topics. The graph shows the different types of plan reviews:



Plan Review

Plan review is followed with on scene site verification. This is done during and near completion of the project. The inspections are a confirmation that components are in place, working and installed as the plans intended. This is done with one or several visits to a job site depending on the components of the building plans and the time table for the completed project.

A Certificate of Occupancy may be issued after the permit process is completed and the permits are signed meeting the compliance of the International Fire Code, NFPA and other building code requirements.

Assistant Chief
Rich Malizia

2009 TRAINING REPORT

The year 2009 was one of highs and lows. Throughout 2009 the Aberdeen Fire Department Training program, like many other programs in the city, was subjected to the effects of declining funds in the budgetary process. Through the efforts of all personnel, the fire department has continued to perform through these down times and provide a high level of professionalism and service to the community.

To address Training at the Aberdeen fire department, the Training Division has assigned the different components of the overall program to be managed by individuals to provide for a complete and comprehensive program. The goal to this approach is to optimize performance through effective organization and management without overwhelming a single individual and perhaps causing elements of the program to lapse. The following is a breakdown of the different components of the overall Training Program and those individuals assigned to manage each of the elements:

- Captain Dulin
 - Out of Department Continuing Education
 - Officer Development
- Captain Golding
 - Record Keeping
 - Probationary Firefighter program
 - Employee Evaluations
 - Promotional Exams
- Captain Montz
 - In-House Training

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, much of the training for 2009 was conducted within the confines of the firehouse.

In-House Training Delivery

Captain Montz

The position of Delivery within the Training Division is to ensure that the necessary in-house training is coordinated and scheduled throughout the calendar year. It involves providing lessons, lesson plans for individual shift instructors, drills, any equipment needed for training, and the necessary documentation. The scheduled training reflects the ongoing, annual training requirements for Firefighter, EMT, and Paramedic as outlined by the State of Washington WAC 305, OSHA/WISHA requirements, and the Department of Health.

Meeting these requirements can be a daunting task as we are often busy providing emergency assistance to the citizens within our coverage area. However, we have great participation and perseverance throughout the ranks! Every member did his part in following through with completing the required training. Some of the training that we were successful in completing in 2009 was:

- Live Fire, utilizing our burn trailer
- Hazardous Materials Operations
- Asbestos Awareness
- Communicable Disease, to include H1N1 virus
- SCBA Work Rate
- Occupational Safety
- OTEP for BLS
- OTEP for ALS

In our continued effort to stay current with required training, we will have yet another full calendar of training for 2010. What's more, we have several probationary Firefighters who have additional requirements to satisfy their probationary year. This usually serves as additional training for other personnel on shift. The following is some of the scheduled training for 2010:

- Live Fire, utilizing our burn trailer
- Confined Space Rescue Awareness
- EVAP
- Vehicle Extrication
- Decontamination/Mass Casualty Incident Trailer Familiarization
- Rapid Intervention Team training
- OTEP BLS
- OTEP ALS

Record Keeping & Probationary Firefighter Program

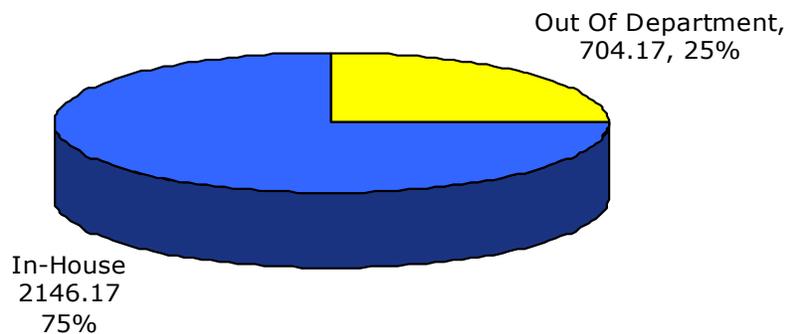
Captain Golding

Monthly Training

The training program of the Aberdeen Fire Department focuses on the many mandates set forth by the State of Washington. These mandates can be hard to comply with due to the department's ever increasing call volume.

Members of the Aberdeen Fire Department performed a total of **2,850.67** hours of training in 2009. Of this number, **704.5** hours were done outside of the department while the remaining **2,146.17** hours were done in-house.

In-House vs. Out of Department Training

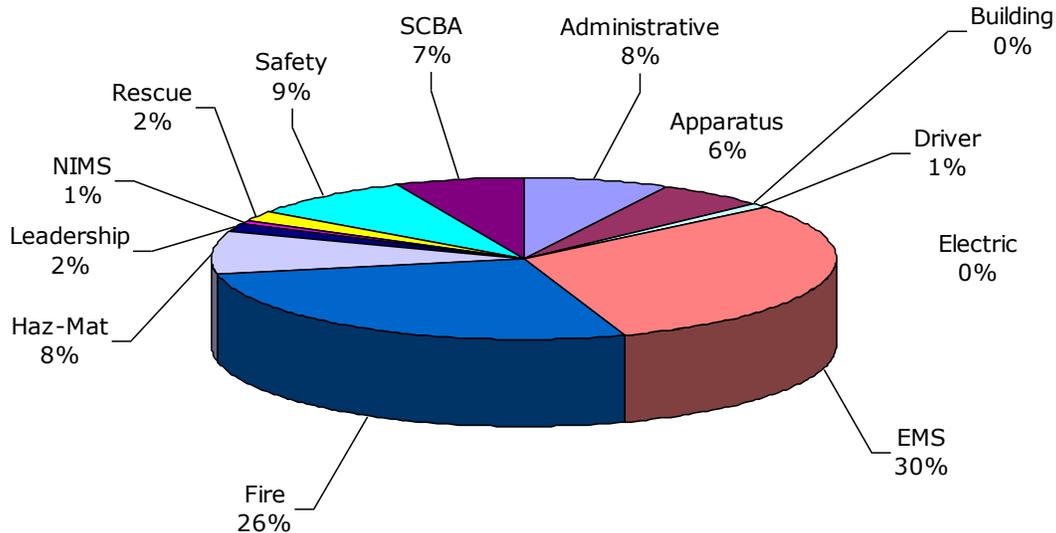


In 2009, in an effort to assist with the tracking of our member's training, the department purchased computer software to help with our training recordkeeping. Due to this change, the department has reclassified the categories that training would fall into. These categories and their corresponding hours of training are as follows:

1. Administrative – **216.31 Hours** – This is training that deals with departmental organization, policies and executive management.
2. Apparatus – **158 Hours** – Training that covers the various aspects of operation of the department's firefighting vehicles.
3. Building – **0 Hours** – This training covers the area of building construction and the effects on firefighting efforts.
4. Driver – **30.34 Hours** – Training, both in a classroom setting and out in the field that entails the actual driving of department apparatus.
5. Electric – **0 Hours** – This type of training covers general electrical safety as it pertains to the firefighter.
6. EMS – **870.08 Hours** – Any training that covers items related to Emergency Medical Services.
7. Fire – **779.5 Hours** – Classes that covers the various aspects of firefighting.
8. Haz-Mat – **242 Hours** – Training that covers the firefighter's role in responding to incidents that involve Hazardous Materials.
9. Leadership – **48 Hours** – Any training that deals with the development of the leadership skills of the members of our department.

10. NIMS – **18 Hours** – Mandated training in the area of the National Incident Management System.
11. Rescue – **52 Hours** – Topics that cover the training in dealing with rescue situations, such as auto extrication.
12. Safety – **248.11 Hours** – General safety related training.
13. SCBA – **188.33 Hours** – This includes any training that has to deal with a firefighter’s Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.

Training Category Breakdown



Probationary Firefighters

This past year the Aberdeen Fire Department hired five new members due to the retirement of others. During a new employee’s first year of employment there is a great deal of information that they must process in order to operate in an effective and safe manner as part of the firefighting team. Each probationary firefighter is given a handbook containing several training items that they must complete within their first year. As well as these training requirements, they are also evaluated by their officers on their performance. These evaluations are done on a monthly basis and take into account several aspects of their performance, such as:

1. Attitudes
2. Relations with others
3. Attendance
4. Appearance
5. Job Learning/Skills Improvement
6. Quality of Work

Also as a part of the above items, probationary firefighters are evaluated on their performance by monthly testing. Each month probationary firefighters are tested on a predetermined list of topics to include items such as...

- Policies and Procedures
- Maps
- Apparatus Inventory

All of this translates into a very busy year for the probationary firefighters and their officers.

Out of Department Continuing Education & Officer Development

Captain Dulin

The Training council sent Aberdeen Fire Department personnel to 47 "Out of Department Training Events". These classes ranged from 6 hours to 40 hours, or a full week. Some of the classes were mandatory to ensure that our personnel remained certified in their field; others were to educate our personnel as instructors to train our department in current standards, while still others were to obtain new information on changes that are being made in the fire service. Some of the courses are as follows:

- NIMS 400 (Unified Command)
- National Fire Academy, Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations
- WA State Fire Marshals Conference
- NW Leadership Conference
- Critical Care Transport
- Advanced Medical Life Support
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support
- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Hybrid Car Safety
- Fire Fighter Tactics, Scientific to Simple
- Fire Fighting Strategies for Commercial & Multi-Family structures
- ITAC Command Competency Clinic
- Advanced Fire Investigation

The importance of these classes for our safety, the fulfillment of our legal obligations and the progression of our department can not be under estimated. Our personnel understand this, and attended the majority of all of these classes on their own time.

This year we also amended our Officer Development Program to reflect the Washington State standard that has been set by IFSAC (International Fire Service Accreditation Congress) for Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II. This would mean that our officers have met the same level of minimum training as officers in Olympia, Tacoma and Seattle or any other departments that have adopted the IFSAC standards. At this time, the majority of all professional departments have adopted this standard, and more are complying every year. As we rely more and more on mutual aid from other departments these standards will ensure uniformity in operations, contributing to safety and efficiency. The training team thanks the City of Aberdeen and the administration for the opportunity to grow in knowledge and as a department.

"Train as you fight, Fight as you're trained."

Battalion Chief Damon Lillybridge
Training Officer Coordinator

2009 SAFETY & HEALTH PROGRAM REPORT

Like many other fire departments, the Aberdeen Fire Department experienced severe budget constraints for the year 2009. Going into 2009 we knew that our resources would be limited. The goals set forth from 2008 were trimmed down and the primary focus 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. Three main areas of concern were: roof repair at the Headquarters Station; bay lighting for both stations; and continued annual hearing tests for all employees.

1. Roof repair took place over the living area at the Headquarters station. For the past few years there have been several water leaks into the living area. Individuals had been using everything from buckets to pans to contain the leaking. The repair consisted of installing a membrane over the existing roof. The cost was approximately \$20,000.00
2. The bay lighting at both stations has been in place since the mid 1960's. Right now there are eighteen lighting fixtures that simply do not work, and for those that do, it is not enough to provide sufficient lighting to provide a safe working environment for driving or operating equipment in the bay areas. An energy audit was done for the lighting at both stations and the results reflected a definite need to replace the lighting. In the latter part of 2009, the fire department was awarded a grant from the Department of Commerce to replace all lighting, (both interior and exterior) at both stations. The grant also included a replacement heat pump. We are currently waiting for the bureaucracy of the grant process to be completed. We have yet to receive any monies.
3. In August 2009, the City and AWC made available hearing tests for all city employees at no cost. The Aberdeen Fire Department provides hearing tests to all employees as part of the departments on going Hearing Conservation Program and because the hearing tests were coordinated with the rest of the city employees, the department was able to save several hundred dollars.

Other Safety Program accomplishments for 2009 include:

- Driveline guards placed on Ladder Truck and Southside engine.
- Curbs on the east side of the headquarters station were painted to minimize a possible tripping hazard.
- Safety Stand Down focusing on NIOSH Case Studies recognized in June of 2009.

Future goals for the Safety and Health Program for 2010 will include:

- * Installation of both interior and exterior lighting for Headquarters and Southside stations.

- * Assessing repair options for rear apron concrete at headquarters station.
- * Continued Safety Training.
- * Modification to our formal scene rehab program to include policy and proper forms.

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 role of the Safety and Health Officer is to observe and report to the Chief of the Fire Department and/or Incident Commander recognized hazards and unsafe operating procedures and make recommendations for corrections. The Safety and Health Officer is the chair person of the Fire Department's Safety Committee. This Committee was established to ensure that Fire Department members operate Department vehicles in the safest manner possible and that all laws and rules and regulations relating to day to day as well as emergency operations are observed. The Safety and Health Officer maintains records of all on duty injuries and makes sure that comprehensive investigations have been completed for all accidents. The Safety and Health Officer also completes all necessary OSHA forms related to accident and injury and once the information is compiled, it is posted as a final report on the department's safety board.

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

2009 WATER SUPPLY REPORT

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. The water supply team consists of Battalion Chief Bill Mayne, Captain JR Streifel, Engineer Chris Eisele and Engineer Chad Mittleider.

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

- We were able to purchase two 100 ft. lengths of LDH. This allowed us to keep 7205's inventory at 1,000 ft. and to have some spare LDH for 7221.
- The second year of a two year project was completed, in replacing and improving the drain valve handles on 7206. Positive comments were received from the improvement made to 7221, which had the same problem of pump operators having great difficulty in opening and closing the valves.
- Nozzle and fitting maintenance was maintained in 2009.
- Additional Class A foam was purchased to replace foam used during the previous time span.

Future plans of Water Supply include:

- The purchase of eight 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. This purchase was deferred from the 2009 budget year.
- Water Supply is looking into replacing the Class A and Class B foam that we currently use with foam that works for both Class A and B fires. It is advertised as less corrosive, which should improve issues related to maintenance problems we are having. In addition, the product has an environmental stamp of approval from the European Union. Using foam rated for both classes provides us with greater flexibility and more foam in total when dealing with an emergent incident requiring foam.

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

2009 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 masks 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 Hoquiam Fire Department. 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 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 fall of 2009 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 SCBA's currently in service were purchased with grant monies in 2005 and will require hydrostatic testing during the 2010 year.

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.

After five years of service we are starting to see effects of wear and tear on our SCBA's. While still in good working order, we had to replace several PASS devices that were malfunctioning. The PASS device portion of an SCBA gives audible alarms that are used for trapped/ disoriented or injured firefighters to signal for help, as well as, aid other firefighters in locating firefighters in dark or low visibility atmospheres. This was an unforeseen expense that was not covered under warranty but was necessary for the continued safety of our personnel.

Currently we are at five years service with our SCBA's. The typical length of service for SCBA's is approximately 15 years. In the future we hope to pursue grants in replacement and upgrading of our SCBA's as the advancement of technology in this field is ever-changing

SCBA Team Leader, FF Dave Swinhart

2009 APPARATUS INVENTORY

Station 1 (Headquarters) 700 W. Market Street

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	1998 Ford/Horton Ambulance/Utility Unit (2005 Cargo Mate - Decontamination/MCI Trailer)
(7243)	150	2001 Ford/Horton Ambulance
(7241)	151	2009 Ford/Braun Northstar 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

UNIT	SHOP #	TYPE
(7206)	90	2001 Pierce 1500 GPM C.A.F.S. Pumper, 500 gal.
(7242)	148	2007 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)



New 2009 Ford/Braun-Northstar Medic Unit

2009 CHAPLAIN REPORT

It is with a spirit of gratitude that I'm writing this report. My involvement with the department is so much more than my doing in which I am called specifically for helping others to cope with crisis.

Hardly a day passes that I'm not asked by a stranger about my involvement with my fire department. They see the decal on the rear window of my truck or the helmet on my seat and ask. It's because fire departments around the globe are a brotherhood and a group of very dedicated souls who are committed to the safety of others. I am proud to be able to be a small part of such a grand group dedicated to being something greater than them.

My daily prayer includes our fire department and departments around the globe that they will serve and be protected. I truly thank all who allow me the privilege to help as I can.

Respectfully

Dick Seaman, Chaplain

Chiefs Note;

Dick is nearing his 11th year of service as our fire department chaplain. Again our community is very fortunate to have such an individual of his character and compassion.