

Pullman Fire Department Annual Report for Year 2005

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Overview

2005 was an extremely challenging year for the Fire Department. The major project was preparing for full service delivery to Washington State University which began May 17, 2005. To accomplish this, new personnel had to be hired, station 2 had to be updated and staffed, equipment had to be acquired and prepared for response, and orientation training on the WSU campus had to be completed in preparation for this change.

2005 showed a steep increase in calls moving from 1433 calls in 2004 to 2723 calls in 2005. This increase can be attributed to growth in the city, expanding the department's service delivery system to include all WSU property and facilities and providing services from two stations.

Administration

The year started off with the retirement of one career firefighter and one reserve firefighter who provided over twenty and thirty-five years of service respectively. The department hired ten new personnel; nine firefighter/EMT's and one training officer. Three new Lieutenant positions were created and existing personnel were promoted. Station 2 at 55 NW Terre View was staffed full time with one Lieutenant, 1 firefighter/EMT Paramedic and one firefighter/EMT basic

Another new tradition that was introduced during 2005 was a Badge Pinning Ceremony to welcome new employees and promotions. Several ceremonies were held during the year with Council members and city officials in attendance.

Emergency Medical Services

The department responded to 1986 calls for service, which was an increase of over 900 calls from 2004. During 2005, a new ambulance was also placed in service. The unit cost approximately \$160, 000. Two ambulances were also acquired from WSU for medical response bringing the total ambulance fleet to five.

One more Firefighter/EMT Paramedic was hired bringing the total number of paramedics in the department to ten. This number of paramedics has allowed the department to provide Paramedic services to the community on a 24/7 basis.

Department members continued to provide first aid for the July Fourth celebration, the Lentil festival, the WSU 100K fun run, Pullman High School football games and wrestling tournaments, Junior Miss, Parks and Recreation Halloween function, and fifth grade camp.

The department also took over responsibility for providing first aid coverage for all WSU athletic events, concerts, and other large student activities.

Hazardous Materials/Technical Rescue Team

The Technical Rescue Team was very busy training during the year gearing up for confined space operations in the City of Pullman and the WSU campus. The Haz Mat Team continued to acquire new equipment through Homeland Security Grant funding. No major incidents were reported during the year.

Fire Suppression

The department responded to 737 fire calls. This was an increase of over 300 calls from the previous year. The department responded to 75 calls involving smoke and/or fire during the year resulting in an estimated fire loss of \$115,185. Of the total fire calls, 505 were non-emergent fire situations (i.e., false alarms, system malfunctions, accidental/unintentional activations, or good intent calls).

A new 85' Aerial Platform/Pumper was placed into full service which replaced the 1973 aerial ladder. The unit cost approximately \$650,000 and was jointly funded by City of Pullman and Washington State University.

Fire Prevention

2005 was a very busy year for the Fire Prevention Office. 2005 Activity Summary: 44 site plans, 37 building plans, 23 sprinkler system plans, 17 fire alarm system plans and 6 other miscellaneous plans. At the end of 2005, 11 fraternities and 1 sorority still had not retrofitted their houses with a fire sprinkler system. This requirement is to be completed by the WSU Fall Semester 2006.

Public Education

The department conducted 22 First Aid classes and 12 CPR classes, which were attended by 203 citizens. The department also provided numerous tours at both fire stations. The department also started conducting fire alarm drills and safety talks at the WSU residence halls and campus buildings and apartment gatherings.

Firefighters visited the first grade classes in the City of Pullman's elementary schools and provided tours of the ambulance during National Emergency Medical Services Week in May. Fire Prevention Week was also celebrated in October with the annual open house at fire station 2 showing off the newly staffed station and providing numerous demonstrations including a safe house that taught exiting drills during a fire.

The department also participated in the local parades, Community Days at Dissmores, the City's Christmas tree lighting, the Egg Hunt at Kruegel Park, Career Days at Sunnyside School, Family Fair at the High School, Health Fair at Schweitzer Engineering Labs and the Boy Scout First Aid Meet at Lincoln Middle School.

Training

Departmental personnel participated in an incredible 35,590 hours of training up from 10,000 in 2004. Emphasis was placed on training ten new career employees and five new reserves from the WSU student firefighter program, also learning the Washington State University campus area, fire alarm systems and updating building response plans, developing a Confined Space Rescue Team, aerial platform operations and placing a new ambulance in service.

Facility Enhancements

New carpeting was installed in both fire stations and lockers and fitness equipment were added to station 2 to facilitate full time staffing.

2005 Department Goals

The following department goals for 2005 were achieved:

- Revised the Fireworks Ordinance restricting the sale and discharge of fireworks starting in 2006.
- Provide full fire and medical service delivery to Washington State University in May 2005.
- Initiate communications with the Pullman-Moscow Airport regarding future staffing and response.