

Pullman Fire Department Annual Report for Year 2006

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Overview

2006 was an evaluation year for the Fire Department adjusting to the first full year of delivering services out of two fire stations to the City of Pullman including Washington State University. Several departmental vehicles were upgraded and acquired. The department responded to 3159 total calls for service in 2006. This was an increase of 436 calls or 16% compared to 2005.

Administration

A used staff vehicle was purchased for the Fire Chief and a new pickup was purchased for prevention which freed up two staff vehicles for operations, training and other departmental use. Emphasis was placed on further streamlining departmental operations and looking at ways to reduce overtime.

Staffing

One career firefighter paramedic with 16 years of service retired in June and was replaced maintaining ten paramedics in the department. Another career firefighter left the department in December. New reserve firefighters were hired in the summer and in the fall to fill numerous unanticipated vacancies to bring the numbers up to twenty-five.

Emergency Medical Services

The department responded to 2252 medical calls for service, which was an increase of 266 calls or 12% compared to 2005. During 2006, a new ambulance was ordered with a delivery date of April 2007. Response to Washington State University accounted for 16% of the total medical call volume. A used Rescue/Mini Pumper was purchased upgrading the old 1986 Rescue. This will improve the department's rescue and wildland suppression capabilities. A new set of extrication tools were also purchased replacing an aging unit. Department members continued to provide first aid and other support for the July Fourth celebration, the Lentil festival, Pullman High School football games, Parks and Recreation functions, and WSU athletic events, concerts, and other large student activities.

Fire Suppression

The department responded to 907 fire calls for service. This was an increase of 170 calls or 23% compared to the previous year. Of the 907 calls, 131 involved smoke and/or fire during for an estimated fire loss of \$365,466, 107 calls were to hazardous conditions and 669 calls resulted in non-emergent fire situations (i.e., false fire alarms, system malfunctions, accidental/unintentional activations, or good intent and service calls). Response to Washington State University accounted for 33% of the total fire call volume.

Hazardous Materials/Technical Rescue Team

The Haz Mat Team received a new semi-tractor and trailer through Homeland Security Grant funding. The teams continue to train monthly to maintain operational proficiency. No major hazardous materials or technical rescue incidents were reported during the year.

Fire Prevention

2006 continued to be a very busy year for the Fire Prevention Office with over \$60 million dollars in construction evaluation. Prevention activities in 2006 involved 72 site plans (up 64%),

46 building plans (up 24%), and 52 miscellaneous plan reviews (up 25%). There were 96 sprinkler system installation inspections (up 317%), 21 fire alarm system installation inspections and other miscellaneous plans. At the end of 2006, all occupied Fraternities and Sororities have retrofitted their houses with a fire sprinkler system.

Public Education

The department conducted 15 First Aid classes and 15 CPR classes, which were attended by 257 citizens. The department also provided numerous tours at both fire stations. The department conducted numerous fire alarm drills and safety talks at the WSU campus and the City of Pullman. Firefighters continued to visit the first grade classes in the elementary schools and provide 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 held at the Wheatland Mall with numerous demonstrations including a safe house that taught exiting drills during a fire. The department also participated in the local parades, the City's Holiday 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. The fire department website was enhanced to provide up to date activities, information, press releases and specific contacts for the department.

Training

Departmental personnel participated in 9642 hours of training which averaged out to over 200 hours per firefighter in 2006. The major training activities for the year involved the utilization of the Compton Union Building at WSU for search and rescue drills, live fire training at a local abandoned residence, certifying the fire department and other city departments in the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) and training 15 new reserve firefighters utilizing the Washington State Patrol fire training certification program which will reciprocate reimbursement funding for future training opportunities.

2006 Fire Department Goals

The following department goals for 2006 were proposed and achieved:

- Develop and present to City Council a plan, for adoption by resolution, incorporating the performance policy, standards and objectives outlined in Substitute House Bill 1756. The plan will identify Pullman Fire Departments Emergency Resource Deployment and Response Time Objectives and Performance Standards.
 - This document has been completed and will be presented to City Council for adoption (see attached proposal).
- Due to community growth, consider contracting an outside consultant to develop a Fire Department Facility Strategic Plan that would evaluate existing facilities as well as identifying size and location of future facilities.
 - This has been postponed to a later date.
- Conduct an assessment and present the results and recommendation to the City Council of a survey of comparable eastern Washington cities providing like Emergency Medical Services and the service fee charged for those services.
 - This assessment was completed and approved by City Council.
- Present to City Council for consideration a plan for procuring software that will enhance the Fire Department's ability to process reports, billings and accounts receivable resulting from the provision of Emergency Medical Services.
 - The program was approved by City Council and the first phase of this program is in process.