

2009 Fire Department Annual Report

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Overview

2009 was a year of closely monitoring the department budget, while maintaining daily operations with limited resources and providing the highest level of service. Vacancies due to shift personnel with a disability and shift adjustments created challenges for the department and its budget. The department training officer left in October and a new training officer was hired in November. Total calls for service of 3034 were slightly higher than the previous year. Concurrent call volume increased to 212 simultaneous responses which was an increase of 25% from 2008. Multiple calls continue to challenge the department in the provision of essential services with minimal staffing.

Emergency Medical Services

The department responded to 2218 medical calls for service which totaled 73% of the calls for service which was a 10% increase over 2008. The department transported 69% of the time with 73% of the responses were dispatched as Advanced Life Support. The department responded to 163 simultaneous medical responses which was an increase of 24% from 2008. The area breakdowns for medical responses were as follows: NE quadrant – 26%, SE quadrant – 19%, NW quadrant – 14%, SW quadrant – 12%, WSU campus – 11%, Pullman Regional Hospital transports – 7%, WCFD 12 – 6%, and Palouse – 5%.

Fire Suppression

The department responded to 816 fire calls for service which was also slightly higher than the previous year. Of the 816 calls, 87 involved smoke and/or fire conditions for an estimated fire loss of \$677,950. Sixty-two calls were to hazardous conditions and 667 calls resulted in non-emergent fire situations (e.g., false fire alarms, system malfunctions, accidental/unintentional activations, malicious alarms or good intent and service calls). The department responded to 60 simultaneous fire responses which was an increase of 25% from 2008. The percentage breakdowns for fire responses were as follows: NE quadrant - 43%, WSU campus – 29%, SE quadrant – 12%, NW quadrant – 10%, and SW quadrant – 6 %.

Fire Prevention

In 2009 the Prevention Office activities dropped along with the economy to only 10 site plans, 15 building and 1 miscellaneous plan reviews for the year. There were 164 general business inspections and 24 installation inspections including 15 automatic fire sprinkler systems, 5 fire alarm systems and 3 kitchen hood systems for the year. Fire permits held steady at twenty-nine and generated \$2,940 in total revenue for 2009.

Public Education

The department conducted 16 First Aid/CPR classes and 17 CPR classes during 2009 generating revenue of \$11,000 and improving the skill level of 289 citizens. The department continued to provide public education through tours at the fire station, fire extinguisher classes, fire alarm drills and safety talks at the sororities and fraternities and the residence halls at Washington State University. The department participated in the community activities of National Emergency Medical Services Week, 4th of July Celebration, Lentil Festival, Fire Prevention Week, Holiday tree lighting, and the Parks and Recreation annual Egg Hunt and the Halloween party.

Training

Each department member averaged 184 hours of training during 2009. This equates to just over 15 hours per month dedicated to drills, education, and skill performance. Total hours spent training equates to 9,730 for the calendar year. Large courses that the department provided included a First Responder class for 10 reserve members, annual wildland refresher training as well as new member Red Card course, and all Paramedics were recertified in the American Heart Association course of Pediatric Advanced Life Support. Firefighter safety was incorporated into every course with emphasis on live fire training, vehicle operator training, and protection from infectious diseases.