

2010 Fire Department Annual Report

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Overview

2010 was once again a restricted budget year. The department's priority was to maintain daily operations and services with limited staffing resources. One firefighter vacancy, shift adjustments, injuries and an incessant cold and flu season combined with limited staffing levels created overtime challenges for the department and its budget. Maintaining minimum staffing consumed 57% of the overtime budget with sick leave and injury as the most common causes. Emergency calls for service contributed 26% to the overtime.

Total calls for service of 2697 were down about 300 calls from the previous year. Multiple and continuous back-to-back calls continue to challenge the department in the provision of essential services with limited staffing.

The department received two grants in 2010. The first was a \$5000 grant from the Fireman's Fund Insurance through the participation of the local Denny's restaurant for a thermal imaging camera. The other was a \$152,000 FEMA Assistance to Firefighter's grant for a vehicle exhaust system for both stations and an air compressor system for station 1 to fill Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) bottles. Both systems will be installed in 2011.

Emergency Medical Services

The department had 2018 medical responses which totaled 75% of the total calls for service. This was the same level as 2009. The department transported 65% of the time with 80% of the responses were dispatched as Advanced Life Support. The percentage breakdowns for medical responses were as follows: NE quadrant – 25%, SE quadrant – 18%, NW quadrant – 17%, WSU campus – 15%, SW quadrant – 10%, Pullman Regional Hospital transports – 6%, Palouse – 5%, and WCFD 12 – 4%.

Fire Suppression

The department responded to 679 fire calls for service which was down from the previous year. Of the 679 calls, 88 involved smoke and/or fire conditions for an estimated fire loss of \$636,175. Eighty-one calls were to hazardous conditions and 510 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 percentage breakdowns for fire responses were as follows: NE quadrant - 44%, WSU campus – 26%, SE quadrant – 15%, NW quadrant – 11%, and SW quadrant – 4 %.

Fire Prevention

In 2010 the Prevention Office activities mirrored the economy with only 10 site plans and 14 building plan reviews for the year. There were 369 general business inspections and 28 installation inspections consisting of 18 automatic fire sprinkler systems, 4 fire alarm systems and 6 kitchen hood systems for the year. Fire permits increase slightly to 34 and generated \$3,360 in total revenue for the year.

Public Education

The department conducted 21 First Aid/CPR and 10 basic CPR classes in 2010. The use of an automatic electronic defibrillator (AED) was also taught in several of these classes improving the skill level of 213 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

The past year has been an exciting adventure for the training division. Locally the department increased the total number of training hours to the highest it has been in the past 3 years. Combining the state of the economy with the importance of valuable outside training, the department was economical in its efforts to access outside talent. The addition of six new members to the department was finalized in July with a high intensity course held at the state fire academy. Utilizing department



instructors to offset costs, those in attendance withstood the '*trial by fire*' training that commenced for 3 days. After becoming a recognized Training Site by the American Heart Association, for the first time ever the department held and trained all of the Paramedics in Advance Cardiac Life Support. The benefit of not having to hire outside instructors was immediately seen. In the Fall the EMS Cadre delivered a First Responder course that provided instruction to the newest members as well as 4 other agencies in Whitman County. Training within the department will continue to explore various opportunities in order to accomplish departmental goals. Furthering the sharing of resources between neighboring departments as well as mutual training sessions is of benefit to all communities and will be explored even further in 2011.