

OAK HARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT



Oak Harbor, Washington



ANNUAL REPORT 2008



mayor
Jim Slowik

mayor pro tem
Danny Paggao

Council members

Rick AlMBERG
James M. Campbell
Eric Gerber
Beth Munns
Jim Palmer
Bob Severns

City of Oak Harbor Vision Statement:

Oak Harbor... Whidbey Island's Premier Waterfront Community

City Mission Statement:

The staff of the City of Oak Harbor is committed to delivering the highest possible level of service to its citizens, improving economic opportunity, quality of life and fostering community partnerships

City Goals:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Goal 1: Promote a healthy and growing business community | Goal 5: Deliver superior quality service to our customers |
| Goal 2: Improve the appearance and livability of the community | Goal 6: Protect and enhance capital investment in the City |
| Goal 3: Encourage a safe community | Goal 7: Promote a healthy work environment and employee excellence |
| Goal 4: Build and enhance community partnerships | Goal 8: Annual review of the City's overall performance |

Continuous Coverage to the City

Oak Harbor Fire Department is a combination department, which means that part of the personnel are full-time, career firefighters and some are Paid-On-Call (Volunteer) firefighters. Career and volunteer firefighters work together to provide continuous coverage to the City of Oak Harbor 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

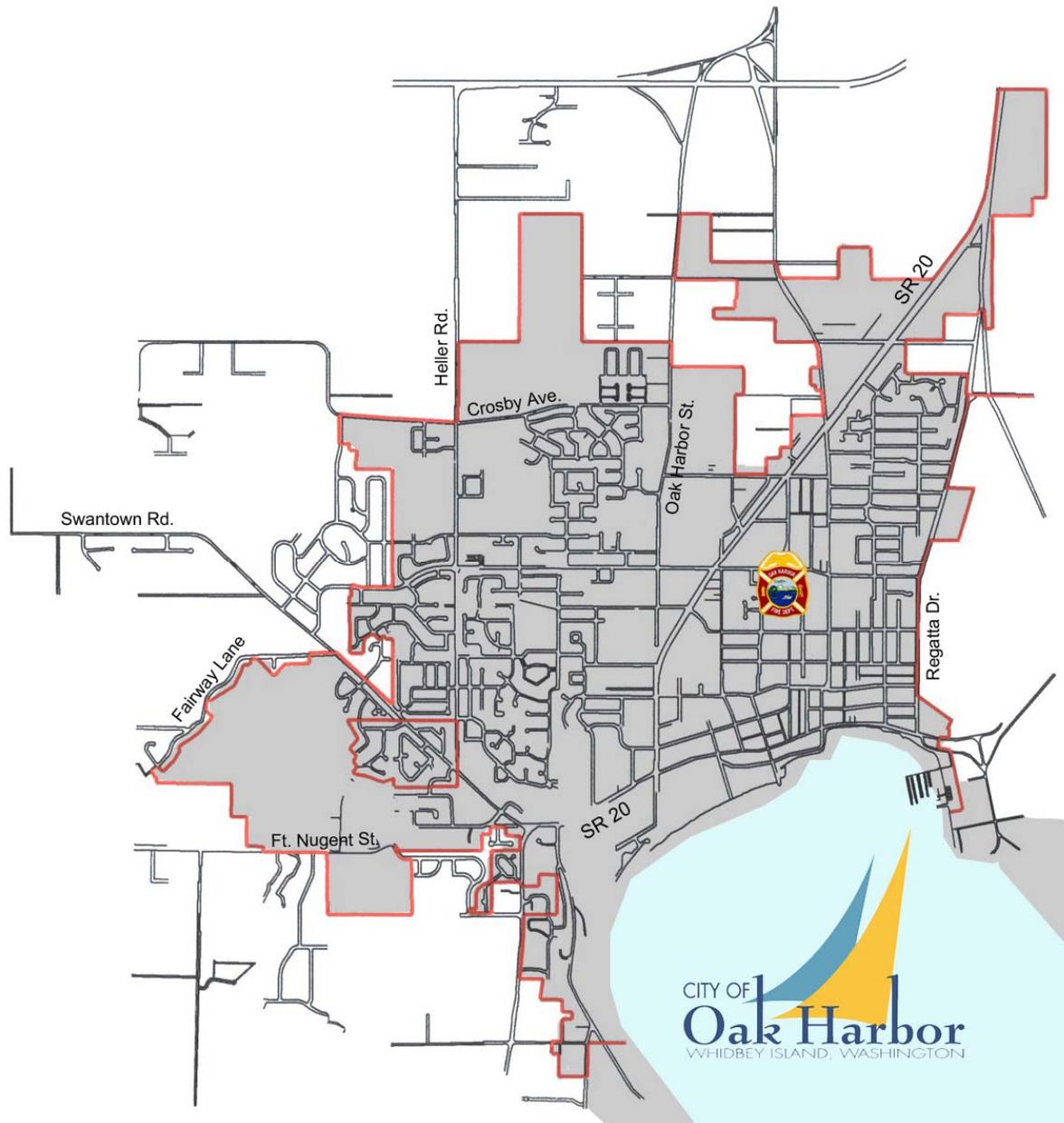
Command 800: 24 hours a day. Chief Officers alternate Command 800 duty on a weekly basis.

A/B Shift: Twelve-hour shifts Tuesday through Sunday, 0700-1900 hours (14 hour shifts on Mondays—0700-2100). Shifts work a rotating schedule: four consecutive days on shift and four consecutive days off. One full time lieutenant and two full time firefighters are on duty per shift.

Paid-On-Call Firefighters (POCFFs) are equipped with pagers and respond from home or work when additional manpower is required. POCFFs work 10 or 12 hour D shifts (not to exceed 53 hours per week).

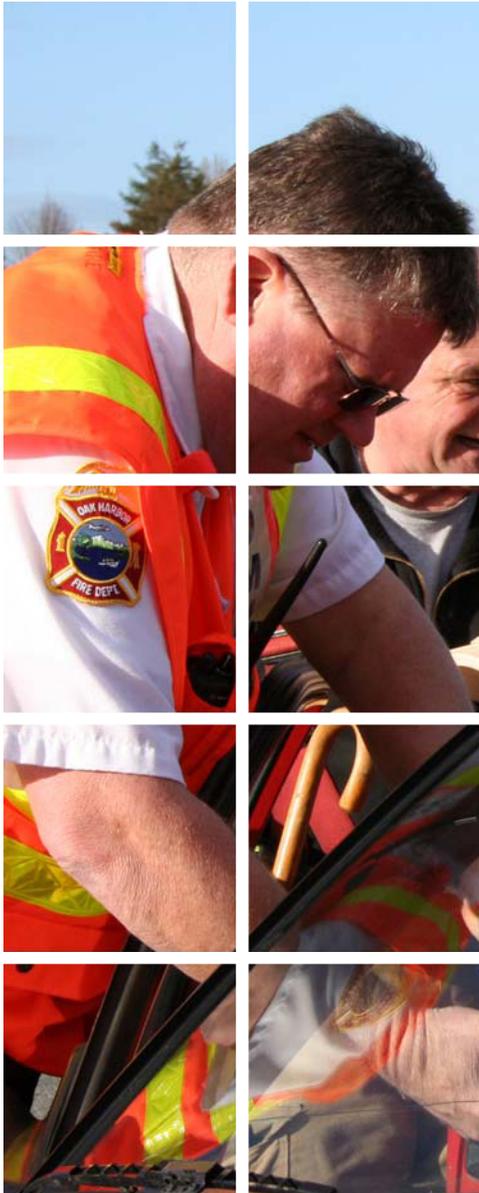
POC D Shift DAY: Twelve-hour shifts, 7 days a week, 0700-1900 hours. One POC firefighter on DAY shift completes a four-member crew for A/B Shift.

POC D-Shift NIGHT: Twelve-hour shifts, 6 nights per week, 1900-0700 hours (2100-0700, 10 hours on Mondays). Four POC firefighters on NIGHT shift perform various duties and respond to emergency incidents. Personnel occupy sleeping quarters at station 81 while on shift.



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Chief Soptich, on scene of MVA.
Photo by R. Merrill, March 2008.

message from the Fire Chief

2008 was a productive and busy year for the department. We were successful in accomplishing all required tasks due to our most important asset, our people. Both our career and Paid-On-Call (POC) personnel contribute to that success. Career personnel working day shifts complete major projects such as fire and life safety inspections, schedule and conduct training, maintenance, and administration of the department.

The major contribution of POC personnel is working night shifts and responding to incidents from their full

The following is a summarization of the accomplishments of each division for 2008:

Our web site provides valuable information such as emergency preparedness, fire safety, upcoming events, and frequently asked questions. We have partnered with Island County Department of Emergency Management to use a web based communications system www.mystateusa.com to disseminate information to our citizens quickly and efficiently. Citizens can sign up to receive alerts via e-mail or a text message.

The dedication and professionalism of our personnel is the story to our successes.

Fire prevention is a major responsibility for the department. Nine hundred twenty-one (921) annual fire and life safety inspections were conducted. Unfortunately, we experi-

enced the highest fire loss in 5 years. Two major residential fires accounted for approximately 88% of the total \$471,750 fire loss. Both fires could have been prevented.

Total incident responses were down 209 or about 15% compared to the previous year. In large part this was due to our success in reducing false alarms. We were able to work with a major apartment complex in making improvements to their alarm system.

Training is what keeps us efficient and safe. As you will read, over 5,800 hours of training, in many different areas, were completed.

Offering public education classes to our citizenry has and will continue to better prepare us to perform when major events occur. Over 4,500 citizens received some form of emergency preparedness training.

All required annual maintenance for apparatus and equipment was com-

pleted. Over 13,000 feet of hose, 30 self contained breathing apparatus, and several hundred feet of ladders to name just a few received annual testing. There were 820 fire hydrants inspected.

One of our goals in 2008 was to place into service 2 new engines. After many hours of training our goal was achieved. A Technical Rescue Trailer was also placed into service. Again, our accomplishments were achieved through the hard work and dedication of our personnel.

Our major challenge in 2009 will be to operate and provide services with reduced funding. As always, our department will do its part to provide essential services to our community as safely as possible.

Mark Soptich



The **VISION** of *your* Oak Harbor Fire Department is:

to continue to be recognized as consistently providing quality services in an efficient manner to our growing community.

Our **MISSION STATEMENT** is:

to provide professional and cost effective services by maintaining highly trained and highly motivated career and paid-on-call staff, combined with sufficient apparatus, equipment and facilities.



Our **OBJECTIVES:**

- To respond to fire, rescue, medical and hazardous incidents on land or water;
- To conduct fire and life safety inspections of existing businesses, multi-family dwellings, and public assembly facilities;
- To review plans and conduct on-site inspections of new developments and buildings to ensure fire and life safety code compliance;
- To provide public education in the areas of fire prevention, CPR, first aid, life safety, accident prevention, and disaster planning preparedness;
- To provide disaster equipment such as generators, lighting, mobile command units, and multiple casualty units during natural and manmade disasters;
- To provide training and technical support to fire and city personnel;
- To provide classroom facilities and assist with the instruction of the Juvenile Fire-Setter Intervention Program;
- To provide career opportunities with a Firefighter Pilot Program for high school students;
- To provide training facilities and assist at the Island County Recruit Academy;
- To conduct investigations of all fires to determine their cause and origin;
- To maintain the mutual aid agreement with all emergency service providers on Whidbey Island;
- To maintain and operate an Emergency Operations Center for the city;
- To conduct and participate in county-wide training at the department's training facility;
- To provide a back-up facility for I-COM, Island County Emergency Dispatch Center; and
- To provide meeting facilities for non-profit organizations.

2008 Statistics

General

Area Served in Square Miles	9.416
Miles of city streets	68.42
Population (as of 4/2008*).....	22,980
Assessed Valuation.....	\$1,953,613,398
Fire Control Appropriation	\$1,908,403
Fire Control Expended	\$1,818,034
2 New Engines Expended	\$192,000
Capital Outlay Expended	\$0
98 LTGO Fire Bond.....	\$180,370
Engine Bond 230.....	\$34,235
Emer. Service Appropriation	\$7,595
Emergency Service Expended	\$9,850
Department Revenue	\$106,578

Personnel

UNIFORMED FULL TIME	10
Number of Shifts	2
Full Time Firefighters per Shift	3
Average Hours Per Week	43
UNIFORMED PAID-ON-CALL	33
Number of Shifts	2
POC Firefighters per Day Shift.....	1
POC Firefighters per Night Shift....	4
Administrative Support.....	2

Emergency Incident Responses

Fire Insurance Rating	4
Incident Responses (all).....	1183
Fire—(5%).....	63
Medical—(51%)	651
Fire Loss	\$471,750
Injuries	(minor) 2
Fire Service, Full Time	0
Fire Service, POC	0
Casualties, Civilian.....	(minor) 2

*<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/poptrends/poptrends.pdf>

PERSONNEL

Oak Harbor Fire Dept

Area Served: 9.41 square Miles
 Population: 22,980
 Fire Insurance Rating: 4
 Fire Stations: 1
 Type of Department: Combination

Fire Apparatus

- 1 Aerial Ladder Truck
- 4 Engines
- 1 Medical Unit
- 1 Support Unit
- 1 Command Unit

Staffing

- 1 Full Time Fire Chief
- 1 Full Time Battalion Chief
- 4 Full Time Lieutenants
- 4 Full Time Firefighters
- 33 Paid-On-Call Firefighters
 (includes 1 part time pre-fire plans)
- 1 Full Time Administrative Assistant
- 1 Full Time Office Assistant

Certifications

obtained by OHFD personnel in 2008

Emergency Medical Technician

Christopher Avance
 Steven Lemme

Firefighter I

Joseph Barney
 Ryan Lange
 Adam Lowery
 Steven Peck
 Sarah Swart



Mark Soptich
 Fire Chief
 Dir. of Emergency Services
 21 years of service
 Member Since 1987



Ray Merrill
 Battalion Chief
 Fire Prevention / Code
 19 years of service
 Member Since 1989



Romy Velasquez
 Administrative Assistant
 19 years of service
 FT Member Since 1990



Angela Braunstein
 Office Assistant
 3 year of service
 Member Since 2005



Craig Anderson
 Lieutenant
 Training & Public Education
 13 years of service
 FT Member Since 1995



Corky Bridgeford
 Lieutenant
 Maintenance Division
 12 years of service
 FT Member Since 1996



Mike Engle
 Lieutenant
 A Shift
 11 years of service
 Member Since 1997



Mike Buxton
 Lieutenant
 B Shift
 16 years of service
 Member Since 1992

PAID-ON-CALL CAPTAINS



Ron Hancock
 Captain
 Paid On Call
 35 years of service
 Member Since 1973



Bob Wallin
 Captain
 Paid On Call
 22 years of service
 Member Since 1986

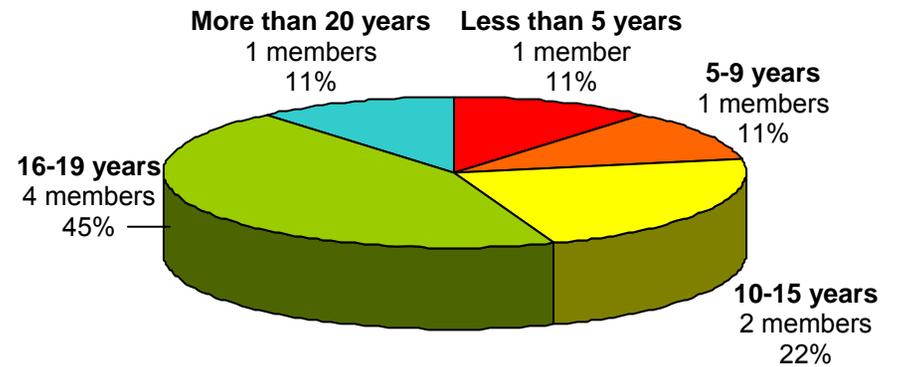


2008 OHFD Recruit Firefighters (pictured L to R):
 Sarah Swart, Ryan Lange, Joseph Barney,
 Adam Lowery, and Steven Peck.
 Photo by R. Velasquez, May 2008

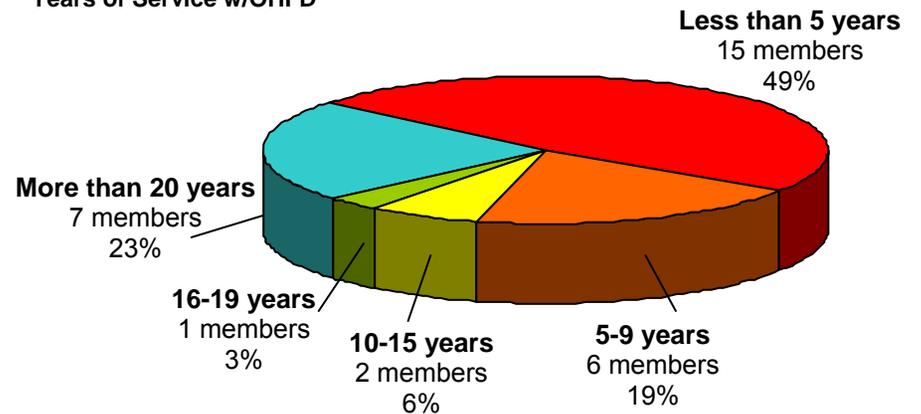
Years of Service

These graphs reflect the number of years served by firefighters with Oak Harbor Fire Department*. Included are nine career / full-time firefighters (upper graph) and 31 paid-on-call firefighters (lower graph)
 * may not reflect total firefighting experience (such as years served with other agencies).
 Administrative assistants' years of service not included.

CAREER / FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTERS
 Years of Service w/OHFD



PAID-ON-CALL (POC) FIREFIGHTERS
 Years of Service w/OHFD



Organizational Chart

"I drive up and down Whidbey Avenue on a very regular basis, making my rounds to local offices and banks. I see a lot of events unfold from high school students rear-ending a bus at the Whidbey and Highway 20 intersection*, to a motorcycle hit by a car, to someone spilling fuel in the Safeway gas station, and then to a vehicle hitting a fuel pump at AMPM. These are just a few to name...

I am always pleased to see the manner in which your department composes itself. You set a good example for the public, and these displays of action often go discredited...It isn't always about the headline stories for me. Smaller, more unnoticeable actions speak loudest in my opinion. Thank you."

Excerpt from a thank you letter received in April 2008 from a citizen, emphasis added.

** Note: the school bus driver pulled too far into the intersection and then backed into the small Honda stopped behind it.*





The Oak Harbor Fire Department organizational chart is intentionally designed with the citizens of Oak Harbor, our customer, in the center. The Oak Harbor community is at our core and all that our organization does and strives to do is for their benefit. Department personnel work together, like eight spokes of a wheel, each position has specific duties and responsibilities. Encircling the entire department is the City of Oak Harbor administration (the Mayor, City Council and the City Administrator).

FIRE ADMINISTRATION

Mark Soptich, Fire Chief
 Command 8
 Director of Emergency Operations
 Internal/External Communications
 Administration, Support Services, Paid-On-Call Firefighters, Career Incentive Program, D Shift, High School Program

CODE

Ray Merrill, Battalion Chief
 Command 8
 Code Enforcement
 Plan Review
 Investigations
 A/B Shifts
 Pre-Fire Plans
 Safety Committee Chair

SUPPRESSION FIREFIGHTERS

M. Engle, Lieutenant, A Shift
 M. Buxton, Lieutenant, B Shift
 Occupancy Inspections
 Emergency Responses
 Training
 Annual Testing: Apparatus, Pumpers, Hoses, Hydrants

SUPPRESSION POCFFS

D Shift
 Career Incentive Program
 High School Program
 Emergency Responses
 Training

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

R. Velasquez, Administrative Assistant
 A. Braunstein, Office Assistant
 Personnel
 Payroll
 Accounts Payable/Receivable
 Policy Review Committee,
 Paid-On-Call Interview Board
 Uniforms,
 Supplies,
 Reception

MAINTENANCE

SUPPORT SERVICES
 C. Bridgeford, Lieutenant
 Station 81 Facility Maintenance
 Apparatus Maintenance
 Protective Gear
 Radios and Pagers
 Annual Testing:
 Apparatus, Pumpers, Hoses, Hydrants
 Emergency Responses

TRAINING

SUPPORT SERVICES
 C. Anderson, Lieutenant
 Internal and External Training
 Fire Prevention
 Public Education
 Audio Visual
 Health and Fitness
 Emergency Responses



FF S. Carroll at a public education event.
 Photo by A. Braunstein, August 2008.

The Oak Harbor community is at our core and all that our organization does and strives to do is for their benefit.

REVENUE

By Angela Braunstein, Office Assistant

Fire Administration

Oak Harbor Fire Administration is comprised of the Fire Chief, Battalion Chief, Administrative Assistant and Office Assistant. Administration's responsibility is to ensure that services provided by the fire department are administered within the guidelines set forth by the Municipality. Administration informs the Mayor, Council, Manager, and residents of activities the department is involved with; recommends hiring and promotions; administers budget processes; purchases materials, supplies, and services; and provides support to all levels of the fire department.



Line	Type	Bars Account Code	Break Down	Amount
1	Donations and Contributions	001.55.367.000.0000		\$10.00
2	Fire Control Services			\$82,084.00
	Prehospital Medical Alarms	001.00.338.022.0000	\$52,913.00	
	Prehospital Participation Grant	001.00.344.040.9000	\$1,644.00	
	Labor & Equipment: Marina Fuel Spill	001.00.338.022.0000	\$489.00	
	State Homeland Sec. Grant	001.00.341.022.1000	\$26,038.00	
	Region 3 Fire Investigation Task Force	001.00.367.000.0000	\$1,000.00	
3	Fire Facility Rental: Station 81	001.00.362.040.0000		\$8,688.00
	Island County Recruit Training		\$1,200.00	
	Icom BackUp Dispatch Center		\$7,488.00	
4	Fire Recruit Training	001.00.341.022.1000		\$2,400.00
5	Fire Protection Services: Permit Fees	001.00.338.022.1000		\$6,301.00
6	Incident Report Fees	001.00.341.090.0000		\$42.00
7	Judgments and Settlements	001.00.369.040.0000		\$65.00
8	Other Miscellaneous Revenue			
	Taxable	001.00.369.092.0000		\$392.00
	Non Taxable	001.00.369.090.0000		\$600.00
	Xerox/Fax - Taxable	001.00.341.034.0000		\$103.00
9	Sale of Surplus Items			\$5,893.50
	2008 City Auction Items		\$893.50	
	1979 Seagraves Fire Engine		\$5,000.00	
			Total 2008 Revenue	\$106,578.50

The fire department is principally funded by the Municipality's general fund. All revenue generated by the Department in 2008 was deposited into the City of Oak Harbor General Fund with the exception of the State Homeland Security grant and the grant from the Region 3 Fire Investigation Task Force which were applied to purchases specified by the grant awards.

<http://www.oakharbor.org>

<http://www.oakharborfire.org>

When you think of a firefighter, words might come to mind like brave and strong. What may not come to mind is “tech-geek” or “web-savvy”; however, firefighters and the fire department employ technology in many different ways.

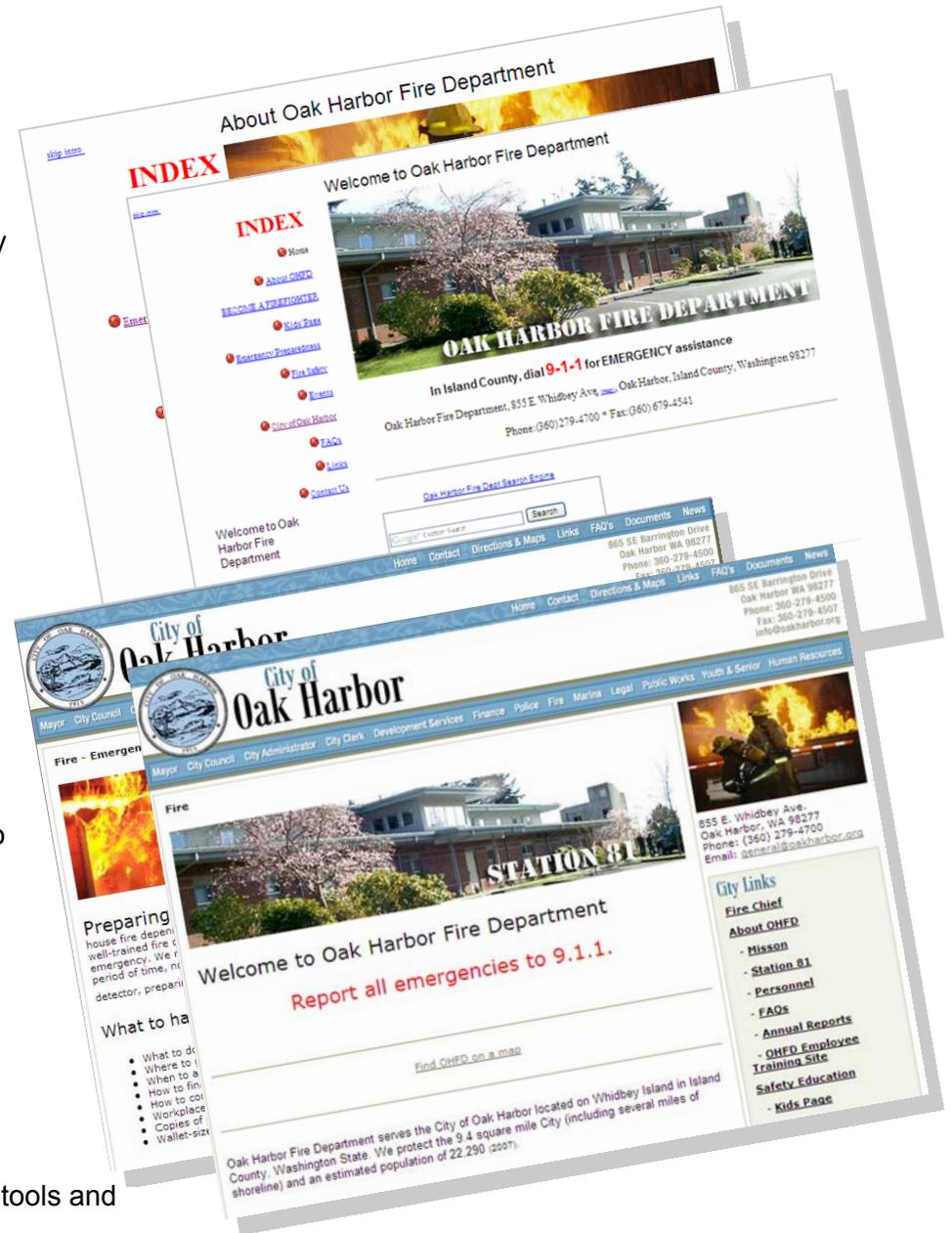
The Internet is an important element to the success of the Oak Harbor Fire Department. Developed in partnership with other city agencies, www.oakharbor.org is designed to provide the citizens of Oak Harbor with timely information about services, activities, and programs in the City of Oak Harbor.

We use this valuable resource to answer questions about fire safety, emergency preparedness, emergency medical services and Oak Harbor Fire Department. Our website is also used as a powerful training tool for department personnel. Training videos, department email, and shift schedules can be viewed from any internet connection.

OHFD has recently partnered with Island County DEM to use a web-based communication system, www.mystateusa.com, enabling us to immediately disseminate emergency information to the citizens of Oak Harbor quickly and efficiently. Interested persons can sign-up to receive alerts via email or a text message to their cell phone at the website.

We are very proud of the role that the Fire Department plays in the Oak Harbor community and are pleased to utilize these convenient communication tools to stay in contact 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Watch for an updated and more effective www.oakharbor.org in the coming year. A redesign of the site will incorporate functional tools and help users quickly and easily find what they are looking.



FIRE PREVENTION



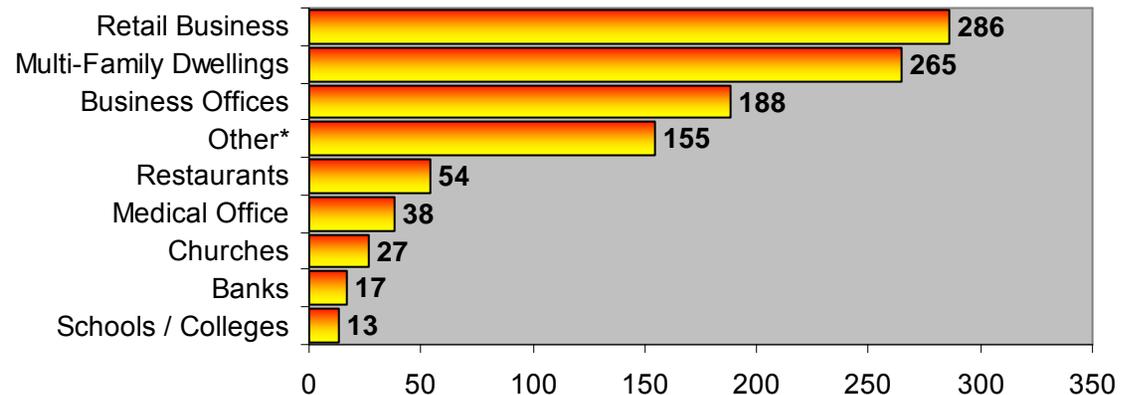
By Ray Merrill, Battalion Chief

In 2008 the fire department conducted 921 Annual Fire and Life Safety Inspections. That equates to a 92% annual inspection ratio to total number of commercial occupancies within the City (including new occupancy inspections). Department personnel conducted 49 new occupancy inspections and 71 re-inspections of the annual Fire and Life Safety Inspection.

The goal of the Annual Fire and Life Safety Inspection is to provide a safe environment for the residents, the occupants, the employees and the businesses inspected. The most common violations were:

1. Non-working exit lights or exit signs.
2. The improper use of extension cords.
3. Fire extinguishers in need of annual servicing.
4. Fire alarm or sprinkler system past due for service.

Types of Occupancies in Oak Harbor - 2008



Total number of Occupancies = 1,403

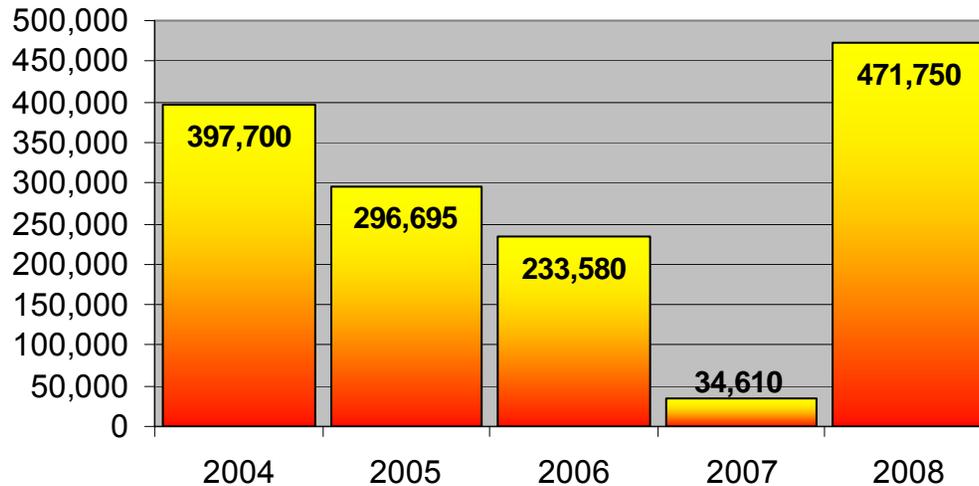
(including the building shell, 63 buildings are considered a complex — such as a strip mall, Trader's Village, Harbor Station. The building is not counted as an occupancy classification; however, the fire department does track and inspect the building and related fire protection features).

*Other includes storage, warehouses, vacant properties, recreational facilities, etc.

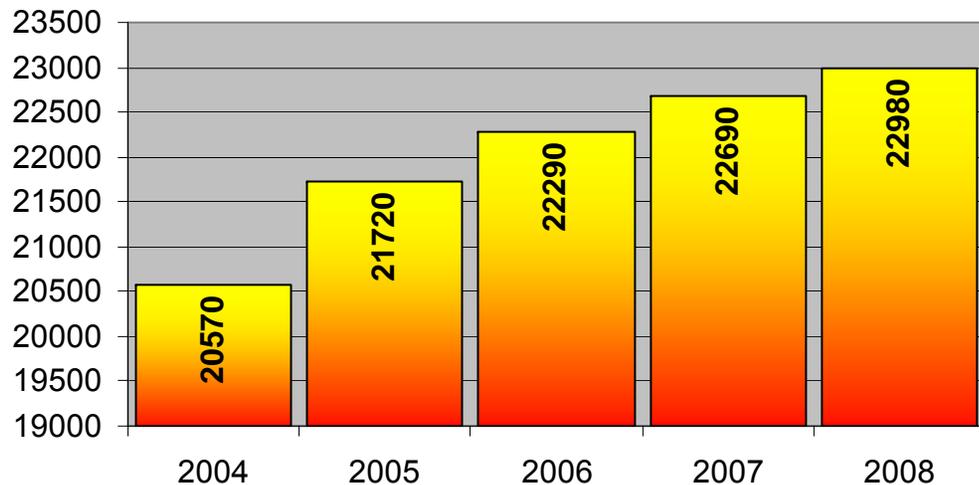
*OHFD Firefighter on scene of an MVA: car vs. motorcycle.
Photo by A. Braunstein, January 2008.*



Fire Loss Five Year Trend



Oak Harbor Population Five Year Trend



Customer Comment Cards

Businesses that have received an annual Fire & Life Safety Inspection are mailed a customer comment card which asks these four questions and provides room for comment:

Did the Fire Inspector:

1. Explain the reason for the inspection?
2. Explain the inspection process?
3. Answer questions to your satisfaction?
4. Show respect for your property and privacy?

In 2008 cards were mailed to 150 businesses and 33.33% chose to respond. The response was **99% positive**—the 1% negative response represents two answers of “no” to if the inspector explained the reason for the inspection. All comments received were positive:

"Very efficient, personable, unobtrusive"

"Always a pleasure!" ○ "Thanks!"

"Very professional!" ○ "No Beef"

"As usual, very respectful, helpful, and professional. Keep up the good work"

"Very friendly and efficient. Did not disrupt business or customers."

"The team did an awesome job!"

"Very nice and handsome!"

"Very professional, helpful and pleasant"

"Always polite, friendly, courteous, and understanding."

"Always welcome, very good guys and a job well done. Much to be proud of."

"They did a wonderful job" ○ "Job well done!"

"Very polite and efficient" ○ "They are great!"

"As always, excellent customer service"

FIRE EXPERIENCE

National Fire Experience

for year 2007

3,430 civilians lost their lives as the result of fire.

Direct property loss due to fires was estimated at \$14.6 billion.

There were 17,675 civilian injuries that occurred as the result of fire.

An estimated 32,500 intentionally set structure fires resulted in 295 civilian deaths.

There were 118 firefighters killed while on duty.

Intentionally set structure fires resulted in an estimated \$733 million in property damage.

Fire killed more Americans than all natural disasters combined.

84% of all civilian fire deaths occurred in residences.

Source: NFPA Fire Loss in the U.S. 2007 and USFA's Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2007.

2008 City of Oak Harbor Fire Experience and Loss by month

January _____
No reportable fires.

February _____
W Whidbey Ave and N Oak Harbor. Vehicle fire, mechanical failure in engine component. Fire loss \$1,500.00.

March _____
SW 8th Ave. Room fire, shorted electrical equipment. Occupant sustained minor burns to hand and fingers. Fire loss \$6,000.
SE Regatta Ave. Fire on the stove, unattended cooking. Fire loss \$500.00.

April _____
NE section of the city. Two suspicious fires: fence fire and fire in parking lot.

SW Fairhaven Ave. Gasoline fire in parking lot. Fire loss \$500.00.

May _____
No reportable fires.

June _____
W Whidbey Ave. Kitchen fire, unattended cooking. Fire loss \$13,000.00.

July _____
SW 4th Ave. House fire, discarded smoking materials. Fire loss \$286,460.00.

E Whidbey Ave. Coke Machine fire, dollar bill jammed in changer. Fire loss \$5,000.00.

SW Beeksma Dr. Electrical fire in restroom, shorted electrical heater. Fire loss \$200.00.

NW Heller Rd. Car fire, book left on engine after repair work. Fire loss \$2,000.00

August _____
NW Cathlamet Dr. Kitchen fire, unattended cooking materials. Occupant received 2nd and 3rd degree burns to hands. Fire loss: \$3,000.00.

NW Baron Dr. Dumpster fire, malicious activity. Fire loss \$600.00.

September _____
NW Crosby. Deck/fence fire, unattended smoking materials. Fire loss \$200.00.

NW Camellia Loop. Exploded candle in metal container. Fire loss: \$200.00.

SW Kaleeton Loop. Roof fire, discarded smoking materials. Fire loss: \$10,000.00

October _____
SW 6th Ave. House fire, child playing with matches. Fire loss: \$130,000.00.

N Oak Harbor St. Vehicle fire, broken fuel line. Fire loss: \$5,400.00.

State Route 20. Motor Home (RV) fire, broken fuel line. Fire loss \$3,000.00.

November _____
No reportable fires.

December _____
NE Barron Dr. Burnt carpet, discarded smoking materials. Fire loss \$100.00.

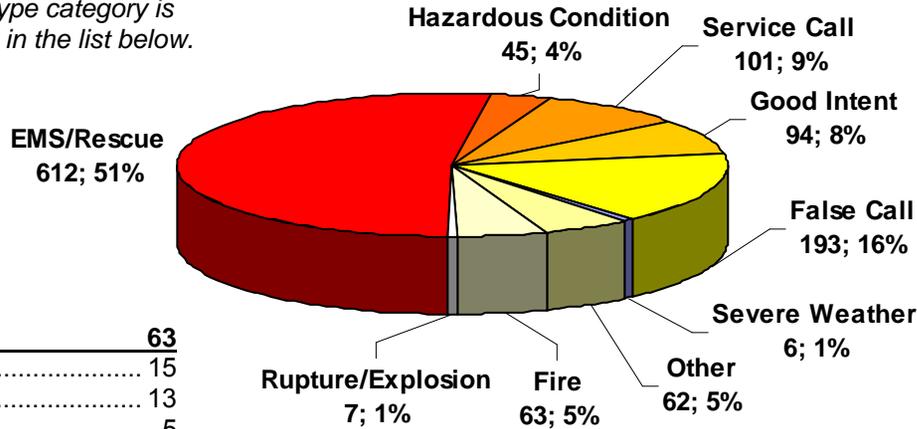
NE 7th Ave. Kitchen fire, unattended cooking materials. Fire loss \$6,100.00.

Total Fire Loss _____ **\$471,750.00**

SUPPRESSION

Incident Response 2008 — 1,183 calls

This graph represents the various incident types responded to in 2008. Each type category is broken down in greater detail in the list below.



Fire	63
Grass/Brush Fire.....	15
Residential Structure.....	13
Cooking Fire.....	5
Chimney Fire.....	3
Other.....	27

Rupture/Explosion	7

EMS/Rescue	612
Assist EMS Crew.....	437
Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA).....	119
EMS Call (not MVA).....	49
Other.....	7

Hazardous Condition	45
Gasoline or Oil spill.....	21
Natural Gas Leak.....	9
Electrical Problem.....	4
Other.....	11

Service Call	101
Water Problem/leak.....	27
Public Service.....	15
Assist Invalid.....	9
Other.....	50

Good Intent	94
Dispatched & cancelled.....	70
Smoke Scare.....	10
No Incident Found on arrival.....	5
Other.....	9

False Call	193
Smoke Detector Activation, no fire.....	81
Alarm System Activation, no fire.....	51
Malicious False Call.....	6
Other.....	55

Severe Weather	6
Wind Storm.....	4
Lightening Strike (no fire).....	1
Other.....	1

Other	62
No Response/Dispatch Error.....	49
Citizen Complaint.....	13



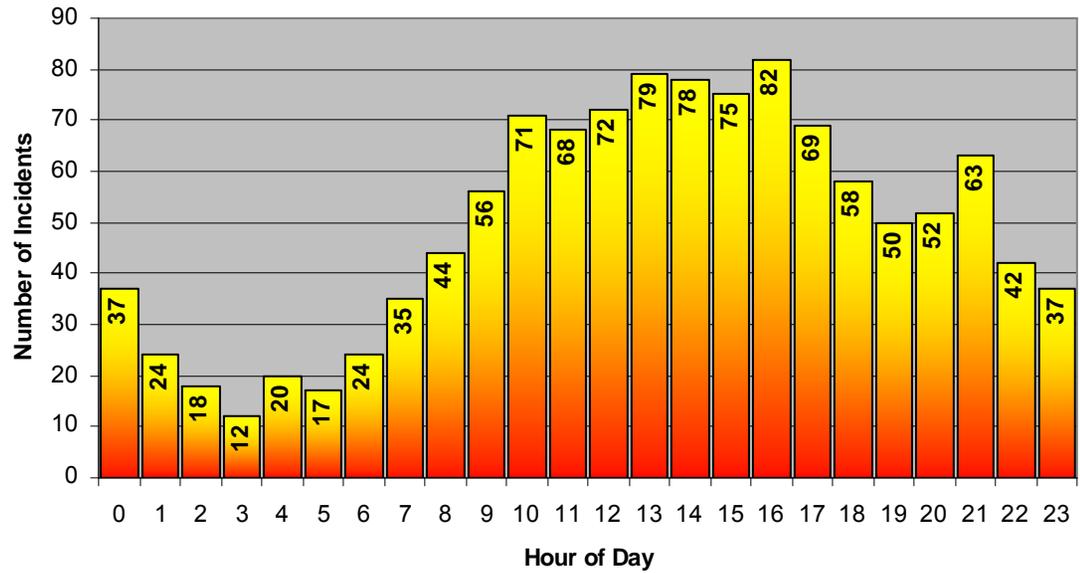
OHFD Firefighter training at Station 81 training grounds.
Photo by OHFD Staff Member, July 2008.

SUPPRESSION

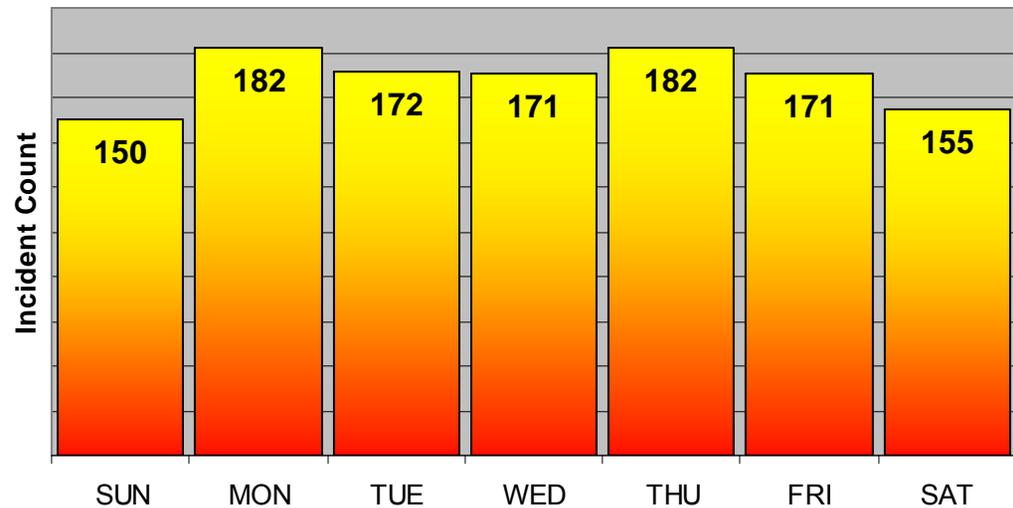


OHFD Firefighters training at Station 81 training grounds.
Photo by OHFD staff member, July 2008.

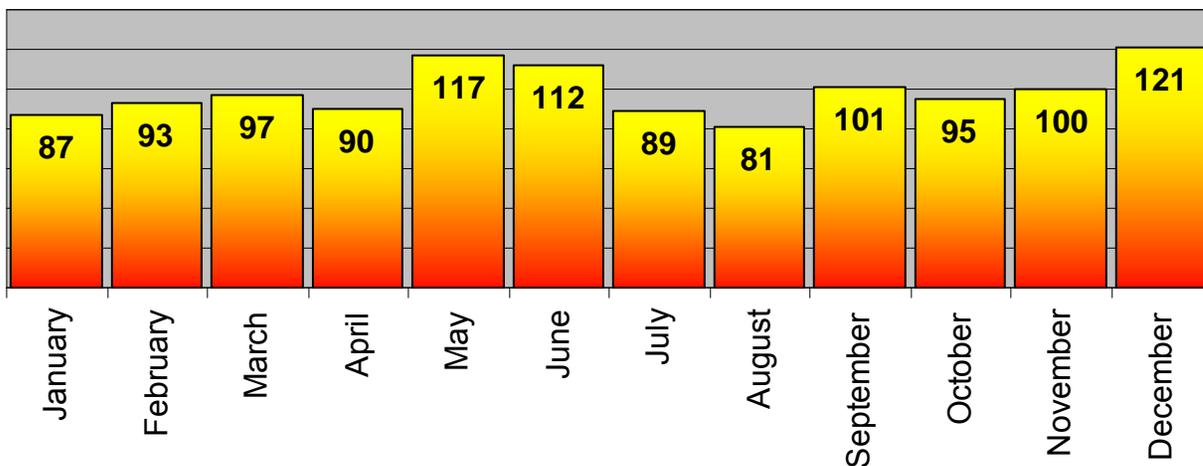
OHFD 2008 Incident Count by Hour of Day



2008 OHFD Incidents by Day of Week: 1183 total

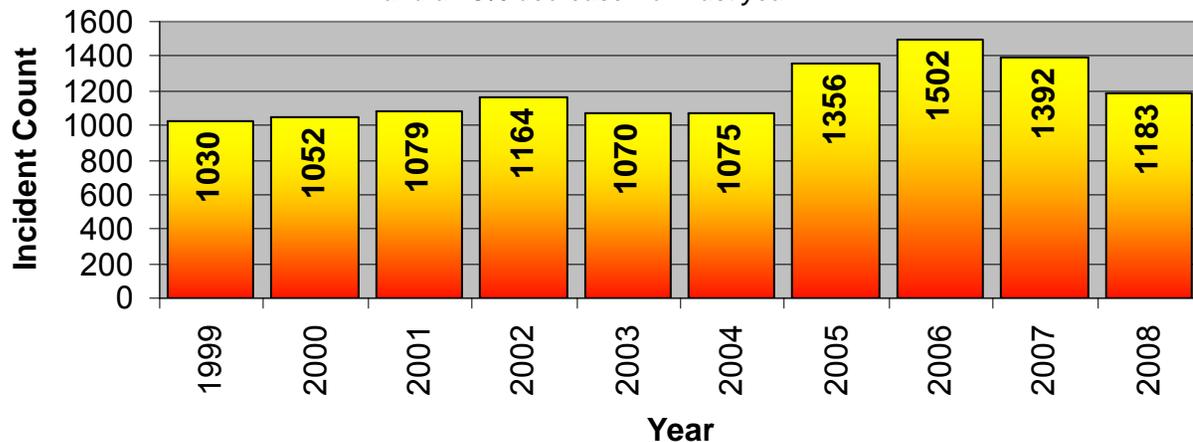


2008 Incident Count by Month: Total 1183



Ten Year Incident Trend

15% Increase in call volume over ten years
and a 15% decrease from last year.



Incident Statistics

Busiest Month:

December (121 calls)

Busiest day of the week:

Monday/Thursday (182 calls)

Busiest hour of the day:

4pm - 4:59pm (82 calls)

Slowest day of the week:

Sunday (150 calls)

Slowest time of day:

3am - 3:59am (12 calls)

Slowest Month:

August (81 calls)

Average calls per week:

23

Ten Year Call Volume Trend:

15% increase

SUPPRESSION

What about Concurrent Incidents?

In 2008, about 7% of the incidents OHFD firefighters responded to occurred at the same time as another incident. There were 40 occurrences of multiple incidents happening concurrently (at the same time). Most of these involved just two concurrent incidents; but on three occasions, firefighters were dispatched to three separate calls at the same time. During a particularly stormy day in December 2008, firefighters responded to five calls at once.

"Thanks again for the smoke detector service. You guys are a blessing, my guardian angels."

M. Caldwell, March 2008



Upper left: Multiple agencies on scene at a Motor Vehicle Accident, car vs. motorcycle at Whidbey & SR 20 (photo by A. Braunstein, Jan 2008); Upper Right: MVA at Midway & 7th Ave, POCFFs assist an accident victim (photo by A. Braunstein, May, 2008); Lower left: Firefighters train for nozzle position (photo by OHFD personnel, July 2008); Lower right, FF S. Carroll steadies the head of a "patient" during an MVA demonstration at National Night Out (photo by J. Fiskens, August 2008).

RESPONSE TIME

4 minutes, 23 seconds

The overall average response time for Oak Harbor Fire Department in 2008 (dispatch time not included): 4:23.

In emergency situations, the difference between life and death can largely depend on response time—the time it takes first responders to arrive on scene. To the person reporting an emergency, and to those needing assistance, five minutes can feel like an eternity.

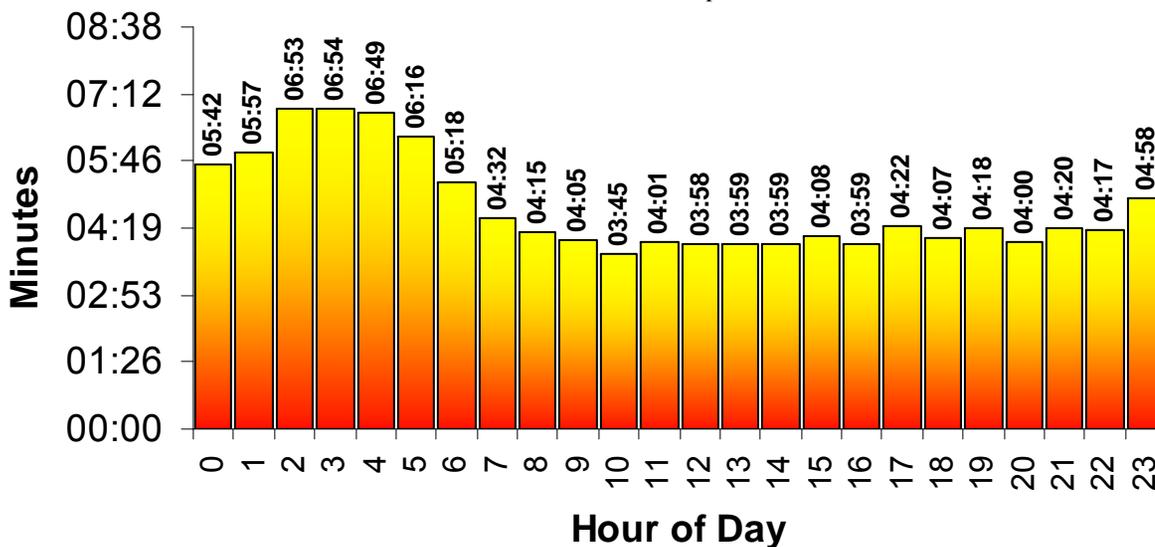
With the City's population rising, the fire department is constantly looking for ways to improve its response time. It takes, on average, one and a half minutes (90 seconds) for the Island County 911 dispatch center, ICOM, to answer an emergency call and dispatch the appropriate agency, apparatus and personnel. The remaining time is consumed by personnel getting into their gear, into apparatus and driving to the scene. Variables such as location, weather, traffic volume, and other drivers play a large part in response. Technology is helping shorten response time by pin-pointing addresses and relaying information needed to apparatus computers and maps.



OHFD Firefighter using 'jaws-of-life' during extrication training at OHFD. Photo by A. Braunstein, April 2008.

2008 Average Response by Hour of Day

90 second dispatch time not included.



TRAINING



FF S. McCalmont on scene of an MVA, school bus into vehicle. Photo by A. Braunstein, March 2008.

Ready for the Worst

At least once each year, Oak Harbor Fire Department joins forces with other emergency service providers on Whidbey Island to practice a full scale exercise. Exercises from past years have focused on a fast spreading, deadly virus, an airliner crash occurring simultaneously with a serious bus accident, and a wide-spread chemical spill/exposure. Working well with other agencies is vital in real world, large-scale situations; these exercises provide an opportunity to learn the strengths and capabilities of other agencies and to improve from any mistakes made.

In 2008, the full scale exercise was a shooting at Oak Harbor High School. This story ran in the local newspaper after the exercise.

By LIZ BURLINGAME
Whidbey News Times
Reporter
Nov 18 2008

High school students stood in the hallway clutching the walls as black-armored officers stampeded inside, shouting commands. The entry-team tried to discern between student and suspect, and stabbed the air with their guns. In a nearby classroom a gunman was holding 16 hostages.

"Run!" the squad ordered, and the disoriented students bolted to the Oak Harbor Lutheran Church parking lot, a temporary command post.

"That was kind of scary ... but fun," student Krista Hollo-man said.

The school "evacuation" was part of Monday night's mass casualty drill that at times looked like the real thing.

As part of the simulation, the Oak Harbor Police Department received a call at 6:15 p.m. that a man had entered the high school armed. A handful of mock on-duty officers arrived on-scene, along with the Oak Harbor Fire Department and the Whidbey General Hospital Emergency Medical Services. The street was closed at each end of Second Avenue.

Lt. Craig Anderson with the Oak Harbor Fire Department said that before the infamous Columbine High School shooting in 1999, in which 12 students were killed, crews would first set up perimeter around the school. Now, in these cases, they make entry as soon as possible to find the killer before he can do more damage.

As more agencies amassed, police contained the

Continued on next page →

"hostage" room, and firefighters began removing wounded victims from secured exits. Students were covered in realistic makeup to simulate gunshot wounds.

"A couple things happened from there. We had hostage negotiations involved and detectives came to get intelligence. They wanted to find out who this guy was and how many people were in there with him," Lt. John Dyer said.

If requested, detectives could access school records of the supposed shooter, played by firefighter Rich Cuevas. The students who fled from the building added descriptions of the shooter and the weapon. They appeared shaken and distraught.

"We had scripts to look at beforehand, and we had to give genuine reactions,"

Jared Ruefa said.

The agencies coordinated their efforts through a tactical frequency. Dyer described the "full-scale exercise" as a twist on typical command and control, which is usually done in car accidents.

"This gives us training in creating a unified command center and working together and individually," he said.

Oak Harbor Police Chief Rick Wallace said cross communication is key, however, it can also be a stumbling block.

"We go into this knowing it will be hectic and that we'll make mistakes, but it's good to make them now," Wallace said. "Sometimes they can be very small mistakes but they have a big impact down the road."

Once the hiding and wounded students

were escorted from the building and taken to a treatment area near the staff parking lot, negotiators convinced the "gunman" to release seven students. But soon, the standoff went south and simulators started "shooting," Dyer said.

"Police entered the classroom and had to deal with the suspect, wounded students and other students," he said. "They got everyone down and sorted out who was the bad guy."

One by one, the unit ungraded the students, who were counted off and rushed into the hall. After some rejoicing, the agencies debriefed and team leaders discussed the positives and negatives of the hostage rescue. A more in-depth, written debrief will be completed later.

"This is so we can do better, because in any large scale situation, be it something weather-related or a building collapse, all agencies must work together," Dyer said.

The students, who are members with Key Club, will receive community service credit for their efforts.



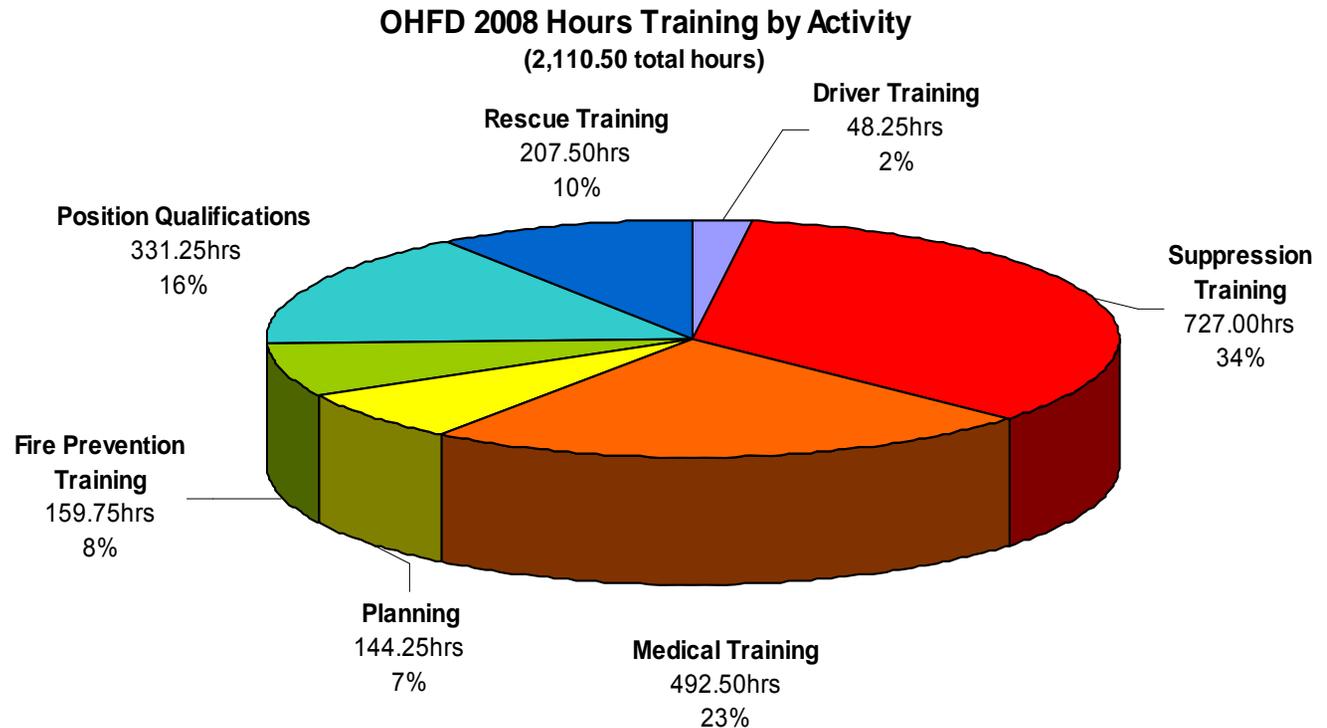
OHFD Firefighters during a full scale exercise at OHHS.
Photo by A. Braunstein, November 2008.

TRAINING



Hours spent in training

Collectively, Oak Harbor Fire Department personnel spent over 5,874 hours training in 2008. The department presented and/or sponsored over 2,110 hours of training courses, classes and learning opportunities. The chart below details the major areas of training and hours spent in each area. The list on the facing page further details the types of training presented; listed by class title from greatest number of hours to the least).



Firefighters training at Station 81 training grounds.
Photo by OHFD staff member, July 2008.

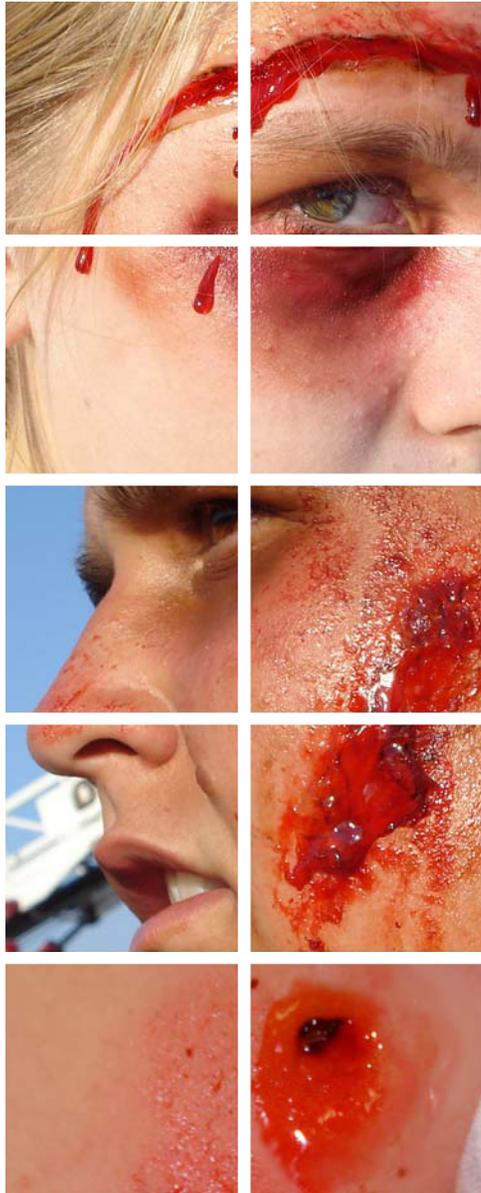


<u>Class Title</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Class Title</u>	<u>Hours</u>
EMT Class (Island County)	255.50	Multi-Company Operations	16.50
Island County Recruit Academy	220.75	EVAP Classroom	16.00
Fire Prevention & Pub Ed	153.75	Training Officers / Committee Meeting	16.00
Fire Dept. Conference	103.50	Shoring	15.00
Engine Company Operations	86.75	Patient Assessment	13.25
Pump Operator Training	80.00	Loss Control, Salvage & Overhaul	11.75
EMT Class (SVC)	76.75	Forcible Entry	11.50
Confined Space Rescue	73.75	Infectious Diseases	11.50
Ladder Company Operations	60.25	Haz-Mat Awareness	11.00
Quality Management Meeting	55.25	Obstetrics	11.00
Hydrantman Training	52.75	Extrication	10.00
Fire Service Instructor 1	48.00	Aerial Ladder Operations	8.25
Quarterly Skills	47.25	Computer Training	7.50
START Program	45.25	EVAP Rodeo	7.50
Fire Dept. Communications	43.50	Safety Committee Meeting	7.50
Fire Investigation	40.00	Splinting	7.50
Rescue Equipment	38.75	Nozzleman Training	7.25
Administration	36.50	Rope Rescue	6.25
Patient Extrication	36.50	Uniform Fire Code Training	6.00
R.I.T. Training	34.50	Burn Injuries	5.50
Wildland Fire	34.50	Firefighter Interviews	5.50
Donning/Wearing/Using SCBA	27.75	EVAP Road Course	4.75
Decontamination	27.00	DOT Guidebook Review	4.00
Rope Rigging	26.25	Medical Scenarios	4.00
Haz-Mat Operations	26.00	Whidbey One Observation	4.00
Pre Incident Plan Review	23.50	Equipment	3.00
HCP - CPR / Airway Management	20.25	Fire Detection/Suppression Systems	3.00
Drivers Training	20.00	SCBA Compressor, Use/Maintenance	3.00
Officer Development Training	19.50	Incident Safety	2.50
Wound Care	18.50	Backboarding	1.50
Basic First Aid	18.00	Rescue Systems	1.00
Ventilation	17.00		
Total Training Hours			2,110.50



FF R. Cuevas testing equipment at OH Marina
Photo by A Shift, May 2008.

MOULAGE



Moulage is the art of creating fake injuries for training purposes. It is a French word for casting or molding; which is how the practice began in the 19th century.

The military has historically used moulage to train first responders because it reduces training time and improves performance by mimicking disaster-induced psychological responses. Moulage is used in OHFD's training exercises to prepare firefighters for scenarios they may encounter. Seeing realistic-looking wounds desensitizes first responders.

When firefighters learn how to fight structure fires they train in real heat, smoke and flames. Over half of the incidents our personnel respond to are medical emergencies, these range from ground-level-falls to car accidents and gun shot wounds. Moulage is the medical equivalent to a practice burn; it prepares first responders using life-like wounds, bruising, blood and acting — the whole scene contributes.

To make the wounds realistic involves more than just a lot of stage blood. A moulage artist uses professional movie effects and make-up to create everything from simple lacerations to burns and missing limbs. When medics encounter a realistically simulated injury in training it allows them to assess the situation, come up with an immediate, definitive diagnosis of the injury, and then the required treatment on their own, on the spot — which is exactly what the community expects of them when they call 9-1-1. **The bottom line is, what is realistically experienced is better learned and retained.**

Seeing realistic-looking wounds desensitizes first responders.



OA Braunstein preparing moulage injuries for an MCI Drill
Photo by R. Velasquez, October 2007

FAKE INJURIES by A. Braunstein

PUBLIC EDUCATION



PUBLIC EDUCATION



POCFF T. Cross during Fire Prevention Week at Station 81.
Photo by A Braunstein, October 2008.

FIRE SAFETY / STATION TOUR

35.5 hours

Jan. 16 th	His Kids Pre-School	18 Students (3-5 y/o)	9 Adults	Station 81	0915-1045
Jan. 16 th	His Kids Pre-School	18 Students (3-5 y/o)	9 Adults	Station 81	1245-1415
Jan. 18 th	His Kids Pre-School	18 Students (3-5 y/o)	9 Adults	Station 81	0915-1045
Mar. 19 th	Cub Scouts	9 Students (6-8 y/o)	3 Adults	Station 81	1615-1745
Mar. 20 th	Daisy Troops	8 Students (5-6 y/o)	3 Adults	Station 81	1715-1845
Mar. 27 th	Day Care	10 Students (2-5 y/o)	2 Adults	Station 81	0915-1045
Mar. 28 th	Day Break	12 Adults		at Day Break	1045-1200
May 7 th	Pre-School	12 Students (3-5 y/o)	5 Adults	Station 81	1445-1615
May 9 th	Cub Scouts	8 Students (6-8 y/o)	3 Adults	Station 81	1715-1845
June 30 th	Day Care	4 Students (2-10 y/o)	1 Adult	Station 81	0930-1045
Aug. 14 th	Day Care	14 Students (2-7 y/o)	4 Adults	Station 81	0945-1115
Sept. 13 th	LDS Church	25 Students (2-10 y/o)	35 Adults	at LDS Church	1245-1400
Oct. 7 th	Doodle Bug Academy	35 Students (3-5 y/o)	20 Adults	Station 81	1300-1430
Oct. 8 th	O.H. Christian School Kindergarten	45 Students (5-6 y/o)	10 Adults	Station 81	1000-1130
Oct. 8 th	Moving & Grooving	15 Students (4-5 y/o)	5 Adults	Station 81	1300-1415
Oct. 9 th	Moving & Grooving	13 Students (3 y/o)	4 Adults	Station 81	0915-1045
Oct. 12 th	Walk in Tour	3 Students (3-9 y/o)	2 Adults	Station 81	1400-1500
Oct. 15 th	Walk in Tour	3 Students (3-6 y/o)	1 Adult	Station 81	1830-1900
Oct. 22 nd	Children's Academy	18 Students (2-5 y/o)	4 Adults	at Ft. Nugent	1030-1145
Oct. 22 nd	Broadview Elem. 3 rd Grade	55 Students (8-9 y/o)	15 Adults	Station 81	1200-1345
Oct. 29 th	Little Britches Academy	15 Students (2-5 y/o)	2 Adults	Station 81	0915-1045
Oct. 29 th	Little Britches Academy	15 Students (2-5 y/o)	2 Adults	Station 81	1315-1445
Oct. 30 th	North Whidbey Head Start	18 Students (4-7 y/o)	8 Adults	Station 81	0945-1115
Oct. 30 th	North Whidbey Head Start	18 Students (4-7 y/o)	8 Adults	Station 81	1345-1515
Nov. 12 th	Cub Scouts	9 Students (6-7 y/o)	2 Adults	Station 81	1800-1900

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

3.25 hours

Mar. 15 th	O.H. LDS Church 1 st Ward	25 Adults		at LDS Church	0730-0900
April 7 th	Neighborhood Group	10 Adults		at Neighborhood	1645-1830

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

9.75 hours

June 7 th	Deception Pass Power Squadron	6 Adults		at O.H. Marina	1245-1400
June 17 th	Harbor Towers Village	12 Adults		at Harbor Towers	1315-1415
June 25 th	Wal-Mart Employees	20 Adults		at Wal-Mart	0630-0800
June 25 th	Wal-Mart Employees	12 Adults		at Wal-Mart	1530-1700
July 9 th	Whidbey Island Manor	5 Adults		at W.I.M.	0745-0915
July 9 th	Whidbey Island Manor	15 Adults		at W.I.M.	1900-2015
Sept. 23 rd	Whidbey Community Physicians	45 Adults		at W.C.P.	0745-0930

JUVINAL FIRE STARTER

2.25 hours

Mar. 26 th	Referred to Program	1 Student (6 y/o)	1 Adult	Station 81	0930-1145
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HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY **1.5 hours**

Nov. 16th F.R.C. Northwest (N.A.S.)..... 450 Adults..... at NAS Theater 1245-1415

EARTHQUAKE / FIRE SAFETY **1 hour**

Oct. 9th Oak Harbor City Hall Employees 16 Adults..... at City Hall 0830-0930

Oct. 9th Oak Harbor City Hall Employees 15 Adults..... at City Hall 0930-1030

BUS SAFETY / SAFETY SYSTEMS **2 hours**

July 1st O.H. Senior Center..... 10 Adults..... at Senior Center..... 1030-1145

AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBULATOR **1.25 hours**

Sept. 18th Oak Harbor Marina..... 5 Adults..... at Marina..... 1345-1515

CPR / FIRST AID **22 hours**

Feb. 13th O.H. Police Department 12 Adults..... Station 81..... 0845-1215

Feb. 13th O.H. Police Department 4 Adults..... Station 81..... 1345-1715

Feb. 21st O.H. Police Department 10 Adults..... Station 81..... 0845-1215

Feb. 21st O.H. Police Department 7 Adults..... Station 81..... 1345-1715

June 7th Deception Pass Power Squadron 6 Adults..... at O.H. Marina 1400-1500

Nov. 12th O.H. Public Works / City Shops 30 Adults..... at City Shops 0745-1115

Nov. 20th O.H. Public Works / City Shops 20 Adults..... at City Shops 1215-1545

STRYKER STAIR CHAIR **2.5 hours**

Jan. 2nd Skagit Valley College 15 Adults..... at SVC 1345-1500

Jan. 2nd Skagit Valley College 8 Adults..... at SVC 1500-1615

SPECIAL EVENTS **40 hours**

Jan. 16th Lunch with a Firefighter..... 350 Students (5-11 y/o) 20 Adults..... at HCE 1115-1230

Feb. 20th Lunch with a Firefighter..... 350 Students (5-11 y/o) 20 Adults..... at OHE 1130-1245

May 3rd Home Depot Safety Day 50 Students (2-12 y/o) 25 Adults..... at Home Depot..... 0915-1215

May 22nd VAQ-140 Power Squadron..... 150 Adults..... at NASWI Theater.... 1030-1200

June 28th MDA 100 Students (2-12 y/o) 75 Adults..... at K-Mart..... 1100-1430

July 2nd VQ-2 Family Safety Stand Down 75 Students (2-15 y/o) 100 Adults..... at Rocky Point..... 0845-1115

July 18th Cub Scout Camp Council..... 75 Students (7-15 y/o) 25 Adults..... at Memorial Stadium. 1830-2000

Aug. 2nd Soap Box Derby 65 Students (3-15 y/o) 65 Adults..... at Barrington Dr. 0830-1230

Aug. 5th National Night Out..... 500 Students (2-15 y/o) 400 Adults..... at City Beach 1200-2100

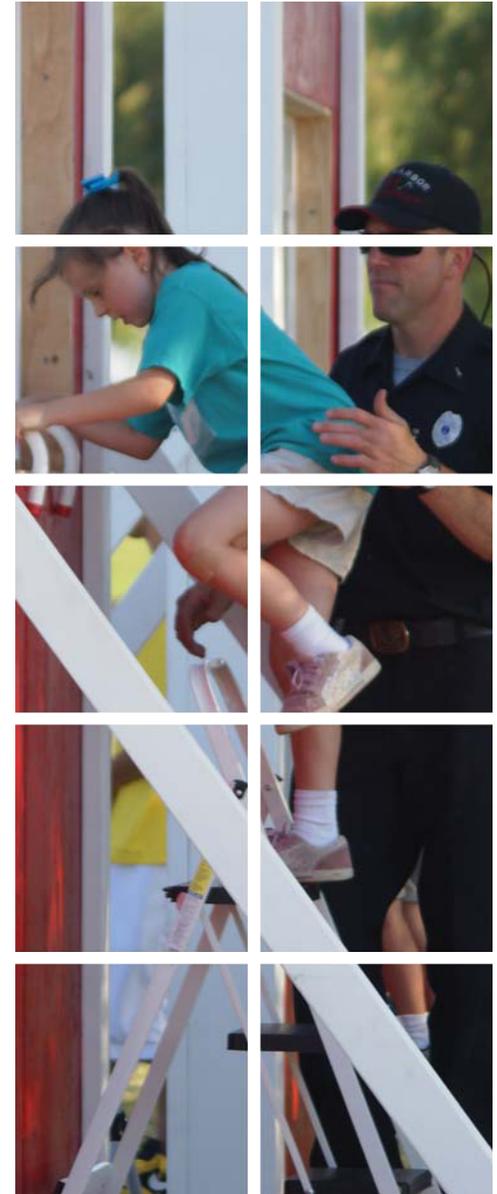
Aug. 14th Summer Reading Celebration..... 50 Students (2-15y/o) 30 Adults..... at OH Library 0930-1130

Sept. 6th City Wide Picnic 150 Students (2-12 y/o) 200 Adults..... at City Beach 1130-1630

Oct. 4th Home Depot Safety Day 250 Students (2-14 y/o) 100 Adults..... at Home Depot..... 0800-1300

Total Number of Citizens Educated: 4,569
(2,422 Students (ages 2-18) and 2,147 Adults)

121.5 Total hours

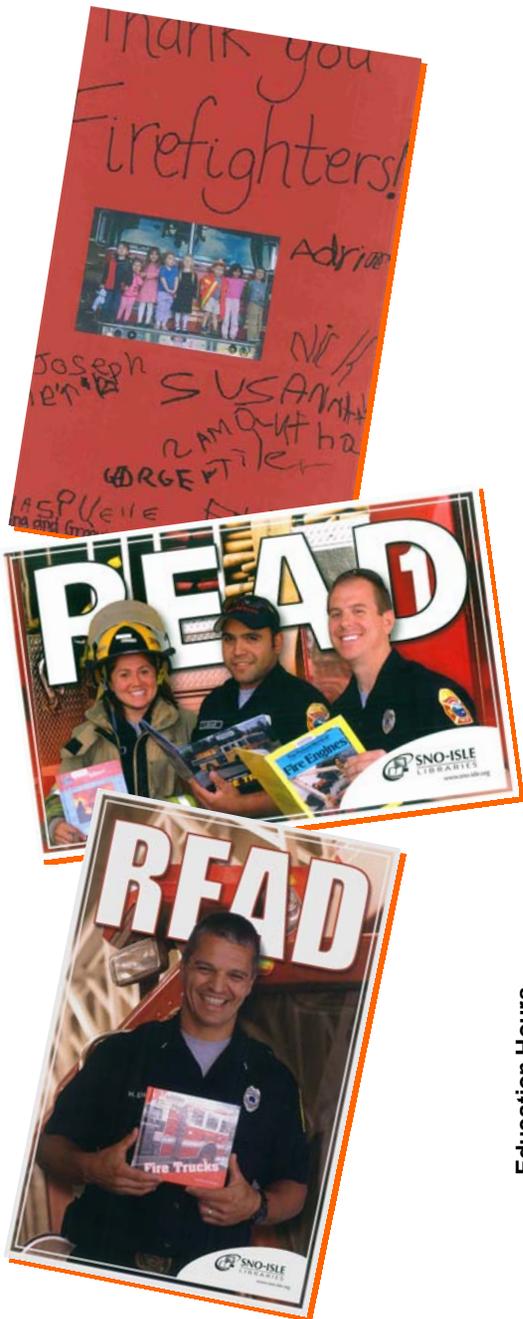


Lt. Anderson teaches a child how to exit a window at National Night Out. Photo by R. Velasquez, November 2008.

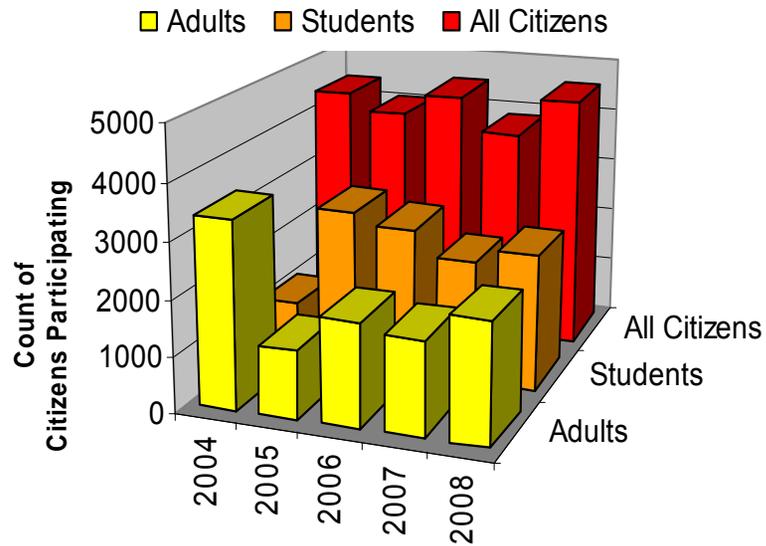
PUBLIC EDUCATION



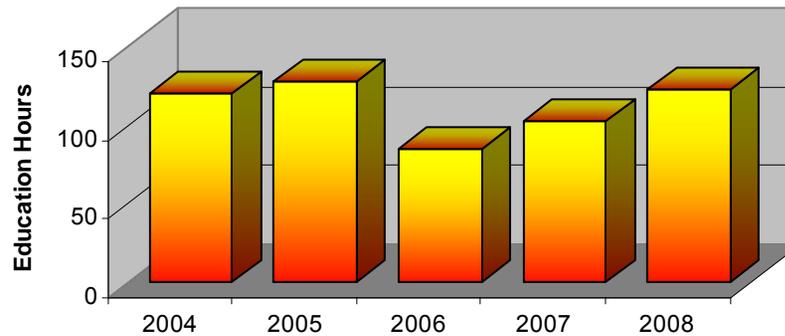
Upper left: FF R. Cuevas and Lt. Anderson teaching a child a window escape and (upper right) POCFF Schroer demonstrating a hose nozzle at National Night Out, Aug 2008 (photos by R. Velasquez). Lower left & right: A Shift (R. Cuevas, D. Baer, S. Carroll, and M. Engle) teaching a fire safety class at the Oak Harbor Library's End of Summer Reading Celebration, August 2008 (photos by A. Braunstein).



Public Education Five Year Trend



Public Education - Hours



Firefighters practicing vehicle extrication during a training drill at OHFD. Photo by A Braunstein, April 2008.

READY Oak Harbor?



Preparing makes sense.

The likelihood that an individual will survive a house fire depends as much on having a working smoke detector and an exit strategy, as on a well-trained fire department. The same is true for surviving a terrorist attack or other emergency. We must have the tools and plans in place to make it on our own, at least for a period of time, no matter where we are when disaster strikes. Just like having a working smoke detector, preparing for the unexpected makes sense. Get ready now.

The message on display in the lobby of station 81 includes examples of the personal preparedness knowledge and items OHFD would like each citizen to have in their **head, hand and home**:

What is the **ONE** thing to know? **You are responsible for your own emergency preparedness.**

No one else is going to prepare for you. If you are doing nothing to prepare, it means you are counting on others to take care of you when a disaster strikes.

What to have in your HEAD (HOUSEHOLD DISASTER PLAN)

- What to do
- Where to go
- When to act
- How to find each other
- How to communicate in an emergency
- Workplace / School emergency plans
- Copies of plans to all family members

What to have in your HAND (PERSONAL GO BAG)

- A backpack filled with items needed when you must evacuate immediately
- Copies of important documents
- Emergency cash, ATM cards
- Food and water
- First-Aid kit and medications
- Flashlight and Radio
- Other necessary items
- Wallet-size reference cards

What to have in your HOME (72 HR SUPPLY KIT)

- Water (1 gal/day for each person)
- Food (non-perishable, can opener if necessary)
- First-aid, medications and bleach
- Flashlight and Radio (extra batteries)
- Extra clothing, blankets
- Sturdy shoes, gloves
- Personal needs (infants, elderly)
- Other supplies and tools
- Customize your kit to fit the needs of your household.
- Store in portable container (duffle bag, plastic tote, etc).

Resources

Government Sites

Agency for Toxic Sub. & Disease Registry..... www.atsdr.cdc.gov
 Be Ready Campaign www.ready.gov
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention..... www.cdc.gov
 Dept of Health and Human Services..... www.hhs.gov/disasters
 Dept of Homeland Security www.dhs.com
 Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.gov
 Federal Emergency Management Agency..... www.fema.gov
 Food and Drug Administration..... www.fda.gov
 Nat. Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin www.noaa.gov
 National Weather Service..... www.nws.noaa.gov
 Nuclear Regulatory Commission..... www.nrc.gov
 US Fire Administration www.usfa.fema.gov

Local Government Sites

City of Oak Harbor www.oakharbor.org
 Island County..... www.islandcounty.net
 Oak Harbor Fire Department www.oakharborfire.org
 WA Military Dept. Emergency Mngmt..... Div.www.emd.wa.gov
 WA State Government..... access.wa.gov

Non-Government Sites

American Red Cross..... www.redcross.org
 Institute for Business and Home Safety..... www.ibhs.org
 National Fire Protection Association..... www.nfpa.org
 National Mass Fatalities Institute..... www.nmfi.org
 National Safety Compliance www.osha-safety-training.net

EMERGENCY

Management

Businesses Preparedness

OHFD continues to provide critical coordination and leadership for the City's Emergency Management Program and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which is located at Station 81. Chief Soptich serves as the Director of Emergency Services and preparedness continues to be his focus.

In 2008 Oak Harbor Fire Department placed an emphasis on **emergency preparedness for business**. Over two hundred businesses received a flyer on the topic. The flyer includes info evacuating workers, customers and visitors, 12 Steps to Ready (developed by the WA EMD to help business owners prepare in a

year), a brief discussion on the topic of what it costs to prepare, including many tips and suggestions business owners can implement at no cost, and resources they can turn to for more information.



If this were your storefront, would you be able to recover? HOW READY ARE YOU? Photo taken by R. Merrill, 2007

40%
the number of small businesses
that close due to a disaster
event and never reopen.

Practice pays...

Some disasters will require employees to leave the workplace quickly. Evacuating workers, customers and visitors effectively can save lives. People who plan and practice evacuations are better prepared than those who do not have an exit strategy.

We encourage every business in the City of Oak Harbor to protect the future of their business by creating an emergency preparedness plan.

Winter storms, earthquakes, wildfires, and other natural and man-made disasters can occur at any time. Small businesses are especially vulnerable, however, resources are available to help business owners prepare for and survive these disasters.

MAINTENANCE

By Lt. C. Bridgeford



The standards put forth by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) are guidelines that dictate how nearly every aspect of the fire service is to operate. Oak Harbor Fire strives to follow these standards and provide the safest equipment, apparatus, training and operating methods for our personnel and community. The maintenance division's share of that goal includes, but is not limited to, annual testing and preventive maintenance on equipment, fire pumps, facilities, personal protective equipment (PPE). The following is a breakdown of maintenance division's responsibilities.

APPARATUS

Four Engines: Two 2007 E-Ones (E81 & E812) and two 1998 Sea-graves (E813 & E814) each equipped with 1500 gallon per minute pumps, hose, ladders, fans, tarps, air bottles, tools and enough medical and other equipment to operate alone for a limited period of time. The 1989 E-One engine will be surplused in 2009.

NFPA 1911 requires an annual pump test on each fire engine that responds as a pumper. The test averages three hours. If the pump fails it must be repaired and re-tested. **All of our engines passed with no problems in 2008.**

Truck: Ladder 81 is a 1992 Sea-graves aerial and carries volumes of equipment ranging from mass casualty medical supplies to ladders, ventilation fans, saws, lighting, salvage and rescue gear. The truck has a 100-foot aerial ladder and is useful in reaching rooftops with limited access. It is required by NFPA 1914 to be inspected annually. The inspection takes an average of five hours and is conducted by third party inspectors who send a field inspector to complete the testing. Some repairs to the water piping and turntable were required and completed in 2008.



Aid Unit: The aid unit was decommissioned in 2008 due to brake failures that could not be repaired, it has been replaced by S81.

Support Vehicle: Support 81 is a 1986 Chevrolet one ton equipped with a generator, lights and water vacuums. In addition to support functions, S81 responds to medical aid calls and pulls special ops trailers when required.

Spec Ops Trailers: These are trailers are designed and ready to respond to specific circumstances. The Spill Containment Trailer is equipped for hazardous material response both in the sound and on the ground. The Confined Space Rescue Trailer is equipped for rescue from tight quarters or precarious perches where rope rescue is necessary. The Air/Rehab trailer houses an air compressor to refill SCBA bottles and equipment to rehab working firefighters. OHFD has mass casualty incident trailers for assisting in large scale incidents.

Support and Disaster Vehicles: The Fire Marshal Van, Training Officer Van, Utility 81 and Command vehicles are frequently utilized. There are two tractor trucks, a stake bed truck, a bus, five special operations trailers, two support trailers, three mobile generators and a light unit that ready for response. Most of this equipment has been acquired through military surplus. All three generators can supply power to City Hall when needed.

Annual preventive maintenance and repair work is done on each vehicle and piece of disaster equipment. Much of the minor repairs are done here at OHFD while the annual servicing and major repair work is scheduled at City Shops. NFPA 1915 and 1071 stipulate accurate record keeping and high quality assurance when emergency vehicles need repair.

FACILITIES

Facilities include Station 81, the training ground, the training tower



and a new facility being developed near city shops for confined space and other drills. The training tower and grounds have repair work completed as needed, including doors, windows, lighting and other items. Members of Oak Harbor Fire Department take great pride in maintaining the lawn, landscaping and parking lot at Station 81. In addition to members' efforts quarterly, preventive maintenance is performed on the heat/ventilation/air conditioning system along with annual preventative maintenance

on the apparatus bay doors, a fire inspection, and sprinkler and fire alarm confidence tests. The interior of the station receives equal pride in effort by routine cleaning, painting, and minor repairs.

The drill grounds are often used by outside departments for mutual aid drills including EOD units from NAS-WI and police department training. The pump test pit beneath the training tower and test equipment is used to test all fire engine pumps from Central Whidbey Fire & Rescue, Puget Sound Federal Fire Department, and North Whidbey Fire & Rescue along with OHFD (agencies test their own pumps).

EQUIPMENT

NFPA 1981 requires semi annual testing and maintenance on self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA's). OHFD has 30 air packs, seven RIT Packs with 60-minute bottles, 60 30-minute air bottles and



47 face pieces to maintain. This requires certification and attention to detail to insure reliability. **All SCBA bottles were hydro tested in 2008.**

NFPA 1932 pertains to ground ladder testing. OHFD has 400-feet of ground ladders to test annually which takes an average of three days a year. Test equipment was fabricated to avoid renting, borrowing or hiring out for testing. This will prove to be a cost savings over time.

NFPA 1961 requires that all fire hose be tested annually. A combined 233 pieces of hose, totaling 13,200 feet, were tested in 2008.

Hydrants

In order to retain the cities insurance rating, every hydrant in the city must be inspected annually. There are 820 hydrants, each taking an average of 20 minutes to inspect, label and record data. Tracking the out-of-service and newly installed or removed hydrants is necessary. Discrepancies are reported to the water department for repair.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Communications

Keeping PPEs in stock and in good repair is a constant challenge. Each firefighter is equipped and uniformed with NFPA compliant PPEs. New sets of are purchased as needed to replace worn out and aging gear. Radios and pagers are kept in good operating condition. Over the past five years approximately 30 replacement Motorola pagers have been purchased. Eight were purchased in 2008 in an effort to keep up with technology and to be able to use the maintenance plan that is available for pagers under five years in service.

All station maintenance and equipment testing is conducted by OHFD staff throughout the year. Each piece of equipment tested and/or receiving maintenance is documented. This requires coordination in scheduling, time on the phone, and many hours of data entry. The fire department and its members prove to be a fairly self sufficient and talented group and it is a privilege to be part of such a capable team.

MAINTENANCE DIVISION 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Tested 400 feet of ladders.
- Pump testing for OHFD, CWF&R, PSFF & NWF&R was completed at OHFD's tower pits.
- Annual Ariel inspection resulting in a minor repair to the deck swivel on the ladder truck.
- Hydrant maintenance on 820 hydrants.
- Preventive and regular maintenance on all vehicles and small gas engines.
- Small repairs as needed on all hand tools and salvage equipment.
- Semi annual bunker gear inspections were completed.
- Tested 13,250 feet of hose.
- Completed semi-annual testing of all communications equipment.
- Updated computers in the engines and ladder truck.
- Completed annual servicing of apparatus bay doors.
- Completed preventative maintenance on all scheduled equipment.
- Revamped the equipment lists between OHFD and OHPW to get everyone on the same numbering system.
- Updated the RTA Maintenance system with our numbers.
- Repaired Sentra-Lok system on E-812.
- Completed the quarterly air samples of the SCBA air compressor.
- Completed annual system maintenance for HVAC systems.
- Completed tri-annual hydro-testing of SCBA bottles.
- Completed annual servicing and major repairs to the station's backup generator.
- Changed out the L81's old model Motorola hand held radios for up to date XTS-3000 models.

APPARATUS



New Engines

Two brand new twin **2008 E-One Custom Pumper Engines** rolled into station 81 on September 26, 2008. They were built by E-One at their factory in Ocala, Florida and in addition to being 2007 EPA compliant, are loaded with some exciting new features:

- A redesigned engine cover that allows all fluids to be checked and filled from inside the cab.
- The new high-velocity heating unit provides extensive cab airflow and coverage.
- The improved cab space and ergonomics increase comfort and simplify cab entry and exit.
- The high-strength, extruded alu-

minum framework and 3/16-inch thick cab skin, roof and floor provides maximum occupant protection, corrosion resistance, and meets the ECE R-29 crash worthiness standard.

- A 45-degree front wheel cut.
- All LED lights.
- Pneumatic snow-chain install system.
- A quiet Cummins ISC 2007 electronic engine.
- A 500 gal water tank and a 30 gal foam tank.

The department's two 1998 Seagraves will be re-named, from E81 & E812 to E813 & E814 and will serve

as the department's back-up engines. The new engines will become E81 & E812.

The 1979 Seagraves Engine (formerly E814) has been sold and is now in service for the Town of Friday Harbor. The 1988 E-One (formerly E813) is currently for sale and has a few interested buyers.

The two new engines were scheduled to be placed into service beginning in January 2009.



Photos these pages by A. Braunstein and OHFD Staff Members, 2008.



Counter clockwise from top left: **COMMAND 800 & 801**—two 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe, driven by Command 8, usually first on scene and carries supplies necessary to direct the incident and special equipment, such as: medical supplies, thermal imaging and photographic equipment. **ENGINES** — E81 & E812 will enter service in January 2009 and are 2008 E-One engines; E813 & E814 are 1998 Seagraves engines. Each carries water, foam, pumps, hoses, ladders, fans, tarps, air bottles, and enough medical supplies and other equipment to operate alone for a limited period of time. **SPECIAL OPS TRAILERS**—OHFD maintains trailers designed to meet

the needs the various incident types encountered, including: Air/Rehab Unit, Spill Containment Unit, Technical Rescue Unit, MCI Trailers, and are currently outfitting an investigations trailer. **SUPPORT 81 / AID 81**—1986 Chevrolet One Ton. Currently acting as AID 81 and responding to medical incidents. Supports other apparatus by carrying generators, lights, and water vacuums. **LADDER 81**—1992 Seagraves 100ft. Aerial Ladder. Carries volumes of equipment ranging from mass casualty medical supplies to ladders, ventilation fans, saws, lighting, salvage and rescue gear.



YEAR IN REVIEW

By Romy Velasquez, Administrative Assistant

January

- **INCIDENT RESPONSES: 87**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 522**
- **ICOM BACKUP DISPATCH CENTER AGREEMENT** with OHFD renewed
- **SIX (6) PAID-ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS (POCFFs)** hired: J.Barney, R.Lange, A.Lowery, S.Peck, D.Rowland and S.Swart.
- **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)** course (5-month) began for 2 POCFFs: C.Avance and S.Lemme
- **ISLAND CO RECRUIT ACADEMY**, 5-months; began for 5 POCFFs: Barney, Lange, Lowery, Peck, and Swart
- **ICOM DISPATCH OBSERVATION**, monthly through June, begins for OHFD Officers and Administration
- **OHFD SAFETY COMMITTEE** BC Merrill, FF Cuevas, POCFF Schroer, FF Baer, POCFF Heiserman
- **DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY: Base Radios** installed in City of Oak Harbor's Emergency Operating Center
- **4TH QTR 2007 CUSTOMER COMMENT CARDS** and emergency preparedness information mailed to 47 businesses, 26 cards returned, 98.08% positive response
- **YEARS OF SERVICE**
POCFF R.Rodgers - 33 yrs
Adm Asst R.Velasquez - 18 yrs
POCFF J.Day, R.Gonzales - 2yrs
POCFF J.Lebaron - 2 yrs
POCFFs C.Avance, J.Oleson - 1yr
POCFFs J.Roberts and J.Breilein - 90-day Leave of Absence
POCFF B.Bebee resigned, out-of-state relocation

February

- **INCIDENT RESPONSES: 93**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 537**
- **PUBLIC SAFETY STANDING COMMITTEE (PSSC):** first meeting
- **E-ONE PRECONSTRUCTION MEETING** (2 new fire engines): engineers, Chief Soptich, Lt Buxton
- **LUNCH WITH A FIREFIGHTER**, monthly through May, public education / mentoring program at OHSD elementary schools
- **FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES** instructed by Training Lt. Anderson for OH Police Department
- **YEARS OF SERVICE**
Lt E.Bridgford - 12 yrs
POCFF, D.Martin - 6 yrs
Office Asst A.Braunstein - 3 yrs
POCFFs S.Carroll, J.Heiserman, R.Lemme - 3 yrs

march

- **INCIDENT RESPONSES: 97**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 804**
- **CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY NATIONAL CAMPAIGN**, reminder to change smoke detector batteries
- **WSDOT ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY** (SR20 within City Limits): renewed 2-yr agreement
- OHFD also participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade
- **YEARS OF SERVICE**
POCFF D. Wright - 16 yrs
POCFFs A.Carroll, T.Cross, P.Velasquez, R.Villaflor - 5 yrs
POCFF S.LEMME - 4yrs
FF Cuevas - 1 yr
FF J. Lamar resigned

April

- **INCIDENT RESPONSES: 90**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 666**
- **WA STATE DEPT OF HEALTH (DOH) PRE-HOSPITAL PARTICIPATION GRANT \$1,644** awarded OHFD to help meet DOH requirements to provide prehospital services to the public
- **PUBLIC SAFETY STANDING COMMITTEE (PSSC):** (1) Fire Based Basic Life Support and (2) Fire Department Re-Organization Proposal presented to committee
- **FULL-TIME ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTER/EMT:** April-May testing began to fill one (1) position vacated in March 2008
- **CONFINED SPACE TRAINING/ COLLAPSE TRAINING / TRENCH TRAINING—FUTURE SITE** (located behind and west of City Shops): cleared dead trees/vegetation. Work completed April 2-4 by Public Works, POCFFs Avance, Gonzales, Velasquez, FFs Cuevas, Baer, McCalmont, LTS Engle, Buxton, Bridgford, Anderson, Chief Soptich
- **OHFD OPEN HOUSE** for City Council
- **2007 OHFD ANNUAL REPORT:** Condensed Version distributed to City Residents
- In addition, OHFD tested applicants for Acting Appointment Temporary Full-Time Firefighter, participated in the Holland Happening Parade,



City Administrator, Paul Schmidt, has his blood pressure checked by POCFF A. Carroll. Photo by A. Braunstein, December 2008

Adopt-A-Highway cleanup of SR20 within City Limits and cleanup of Firefighter Park on Midway Blvd and Pioneer Way

- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**
FF S.McCalmont and POCFF J.Goodin - 8 yrs
POCFF J.Breilein—med LOA

may

- **INCIDENT RESPONSES: 117**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 384**
- **ISLAND CO RECRUIT ACADEMY GRADUATION. FIREFIGHTER I CERTIFICATION**, 5 POC FF recruits Barney, Lange, Lowery, Peck, Swart.

(May continued)

- **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) CERTIFICATION**, 2 POCFFs C.Avanche, S.Lemme
- **E-ONE NEW ENGINE** final drawings displayed
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**
POCFF D. Faris - 23 yrs
POCFF R. Mirabal - 2 yrs

June

- **INCIDENT RESPONSES: 112**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 576**
- **FULL-TIME ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTER/EMT:** June-July testing began to fill one (1) position vacated in March 2008
- **ICOM DISPATCH OBSERVATION**, monthly began in January, ends for OHFD Officers and Administration
- **ANNUAL PUMP TESTING AT OHFD TRAINING TOWER:** Navy Region NW Fire & Emergency Services (NASWI), Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue, North Whidbey Fire & Rescue, and OHFD
- **ANNUAL CUSTOMER COMMENT CARDS—1ST & 2ND QTRs** and emergency preparedness information mailed to 50 businesses, 17 cards returned, 98.53% positive response
- OHFD also provided generators and lighting towers for Relay for Life
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**
POCFF J.Hornsby - 30 yrs
FF D.Baer - 5 yrs
POCFF J.Roberts returned from Leave of Absence

July

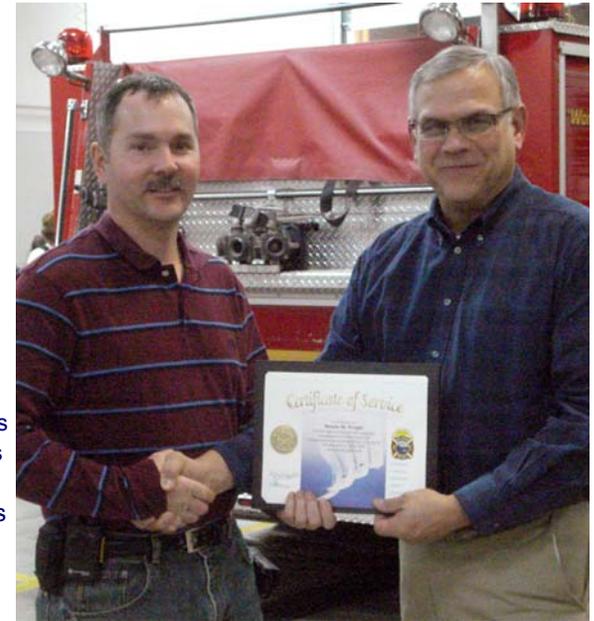
- **INCIDENT RESPONSES: 89**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 478**
- **POC FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT**, 5 months, began
- In addition, OHFD personnel participated in the Fourth of July Parade, crews were positioned by the fire-works display site and additional crews covered the City during July 4th festivities. OHFD personnel also overhauled, repaired and refurbished the station lawn.
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**
Lt C.Anderson - 13 yrs
POCFF J.Day resigned - off-island relocation

August

- **INCIDENT RESPONSES: 81**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 628**
- **ANNUAL PHYSICAL AGILITY REQUIREMENT** began for POC Firefighters
- **ACTING APPOINTMENT TEMPORARY FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTER** internal job announcement began
- **E-ONE FINAL INSPECTION** (2 new fire engines): Chief Soptich, Training Lt Anderson, Chief Mechanic Gene Sieffert
- **OHFD 1979 SEAGRAVES FIRE ENGINE (ENGINE 814)** purchased by Friday Harbor Fire Department
- **National Night Out**, children fitted for bicycle helmets, public education props provided for children, an emergency scenario played out, literature provided on Emergency Resources and an appearance by Smokey Bear.

(August continued)

- In addition, OHFD provided an EMS station at the **ROTARY ANNUAL CHALLENGE SERIES RACE** and provided generators at the **NORTH WHIDBEY LIONS CLUB ANNUAL CAR SHOW** and the **DOCK STREET BLOCK PARTY**.
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**
POC Capt R.Hancock - 35 yrs
POCCapt R.Wallin - 22yrs
POCFF C.Garden -22 yrs
Chief M.Soptich - 21 yrs
POCFF J.Breilein -18 yrs
Lt M.Engle - 11 yrs
POCFF R.Lemme resigned, out-of-state relocation



POCFF D. Wright (left) receives a Certificate of Service from Mayor Jim Slowik (right). Photo by A. Braunstein, December 2008

September

- **INCIDENT RESPONSES: 101**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 382**
- **ANNUAL PHYSICAL AGILITY REQUIREMENT** continued for POCFFs
- **ACTING APPOINTMENT TEMPORARY FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTER**, not to exceed 4 months, position filled by POCFF A.Carroll
- **LATERAL AND ENTRY LEVEL PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTER**, Sept-November testing began
- **E-ONE FIRE ENGINES (2)** in Washington State
- **OHFD 1989 FORD AID-81 UNIT** permanently out of service
- **ANNUAL CUSTOMER COMMENT CARDS—3RD QTR** and business

- preparedness information mailed to 50 businesses, 19 cards returned, 98.68% positive response
- In addition, OHFD conducted Adopt-A-Highway cleanup of SR20 within City limits.
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**
POCFF D.Jansen - 28 yrs
Batt.Chief R.Merrill - 19 yrs
POCFF P.Schroer - 14 yrs
POCFF J.Breilein returned from Leave of Absence
POCFF J.Barney resigned
POCFF S.Swart resigned, off-island relocation
POCFF A.Lowery resigned, out-of-state relocation
POCFF D.Rowland resigned, out-of-country relocation

YEAR IN REVIEW

National Statistics - FIREFIGHTERS -

Career firefighters include full-time (career) uniformed firefighters regardless of assignments, e.g., suppression, prevention/inspection, administrative. Career firefighters included here work for a public municipal fire department; they do not include career firefighters who work for state or federal government or in private fire brigades.

Volunteer firefighters include any active part-time (call or volunteer) firefighters. Active volunteers are defined as being involved in firefighting.

- Estimated number of firefighters in 2007: 1,148,800 (career: 323,350, volunteer: 825,450)
- Firefighters by age group: 16-19 (3.5%), 20-29 (21.4%), 30-39 (28.2%), 40-49 (25.9%), 50-59 (15.4%), 60 and over (5.5%)
- Seventy-four percent of career firefighters are in communities that protect a population of 25,000 or more.
- Ninety-five percent of the volunteers are in departments that protect a population of less than 25,000 and more than 50% are located in small, rural departments that protect a population of less than 2,500.

Source: National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Fire Department Profile Through 2007

October

- **INCIDENT RESPONSES: 95**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 402**
- **NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK:** Prevent Home Fires
- **PUBLIC SAFETY STANDING COMMITTEE (PSSC):** Fire Department Re-Organization Proposal presented to committee
- OHFD also participated in **HOME DEPOT'S ANNUAL SAFETY FAIR**, and the testing process began for establishing an eligibility list for POC Firefighters
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**
Lt M.Buxton - 16 yrs

November

- **INCIDENT RESPONSES: 100**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 327**
- **CHANGE YOU CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY NATIONAL CAMPAIGN**, reminder to change smoke detector batteries
- **MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT (MCI) / FULL SCALE MULTI-AGENCY EXERCISE** responded to a gunman at Oak Harbor High School. Participants included OHFD, OHPD, Navy Region NW Fire & Emergency Services, N. Whidbey Fire & Rescue, Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue and Whidbey General Hospital.
- In addition, OHFD personnel participated in cleanup from the **ELK'S LODGE THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR THE COMMUNITY**

December

- **INCIDENT RESPONSES: 121**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 235**
- **ANNUAL WELLNESS REQUIREMENT** for full time suppression personnel
- **LATERAL POC FIREFIGHTER CONDITIONAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT:** C.Blyther
- **ENTRY LEVEL POC FIREFIGHTER CONDITIONAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT:** B.Bahr, C.Ching, E.Hooper, D.Reyes
- **ANNUAL CUSTOMER COMMENT CARDS—4TH QTR** and emergency preparedness information mailed to 50 businesses, 14 cards returned, 100% positive response
- **19TH ANNUAL OHFD FAMILY PARTY AND BANQUET** held at Station 81, honored firefighters and their families
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**
POC FF J.Roberts - 12 yrs

LOOKING TO 2009

Looking forward to 2009 . .

In addition to meeting our obligations to complete fire and life safety inspections, maintenance and training requirements and respond to calls for service, our goals include completing the following projects in 2009.

Emergency Preparedness - For many years, the department has made improvements to assist the city in responding to major incidents. Communications hardware, computers and networking capability, National Incident Management System training for city personnel, emergency preparedness classes to the community, and conducting our annual full scale exercise are a few of the accomplishments. 2009 will bring additional training for city personnel and our citizens, a technical rescue training prop, additional improvements in the Emergency Operations Center, and our annual full scale exercise.

Department Re-Organization - Over the years, the demands for services we provide have grown not only in emergency responses but in administrative functions. No new positions have been added to the department since 1997. A new department structure will be provided for the Mayor's and City Council's consideration.

Medical Rescue Unit - In the Fall of 2008 the fire department lost the use of AID81, a 1989 Ford Diesel, due to mechanical and structural failures. The unit belongs to the United States Forest Service and was at OHFD through a loan program. A new rescue unit will be placed in service in 2009 and will be the designated response vehicle for medial calls.

Crime Scene and Fire Investigation Unit - Utilizing funds provided by a Region 3 Fire Investigation Task Force grant, Oak Harbor Fire Department and Oak Harbor Police Department will collaborate to create a mobile Crime Scene and Fire Investigation Unit that will serve both agencies. The fire department is looking forward to using this valuable resource to investigate fires.

Oak Harbor Fire Department looks forward to the opportunities and is preparing for the challenges forthcoming in 2009.



*Chief Soptich preparing for City Council Meeting.
Photo by R. Velasquez, August 2008*

"Thank you Oak Harbor Fire Department for donating a firetruck for CHE family bingo. A 1st grader won the ride to school on a firetruck. We highly appreciated it. Thanks so much again. Keep saving lives!!!" — Katy, K-Kids Secretary

*"Thanks for your exciting educational visit to Oak Harbor Library to celebrate Summer Reading and teach fire safety. Our families loved it, and thanks for all you do."
— Oak Harbor Library Children's Department*

"We would like to send our thanks and great appreciation for all your support and hard work...we could not have done it without you... enjoyed working with you!" — L. Sikes on behalf of the Events Committee, Harborside Merchants and OH Soroptimists, January 2008



2008 Annual Report
Oak Harbor Fire Department

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