



**2009**

# **OAK HARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT**

# Oak Harbor Fire Department Directory



Headquarters .....	(360) 279-4700
Administrative Staff	
Fire Chief Mark Soptich .....	279-4701
Battalion Chief Ray Merrill .....	279-4702
Administrative Assistant Romy Velasquez .....	279-4703
Office Assistant Angela Braunstein.....	279-4704
Training Division	
Lieutenant Craig Anderson.....	279-4706
Maintenance Division	
Lieutenant Mike Engle .....	279-4708
Suppression Division	
Lieutenant Corky Bridgeford, A Shift .....	279-4707
Lieutenant Mike Buxton, B Shift.....	279-4707

*Cover photo: 2009 OHFD Group  
Photo by C. Soptich, June 2009.*

# Organizational Overview

Oak Harbor Fire Department (OHFD) provides emergency services to the City of Oak Harbor, an area of 9.48 square miles, with a population of 23,360 (significantly higher during business hours). OHFD operates on an annual budget of approximately \$1.9 million, and protects the \$1.9 billion in property value.

The Department operates from one fire station staffed by 48 employees (12 full-time and 36 paid-on-call) and responds to roughly 1,300 incidents each year ranging from house fires and heart attacks to vehicle accidents and hazardous conditions. OHFD proudly carries an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 4 which enables residents and businesses to enjoy low property insurance premiums.

All Oak Harbor firefighters and fire officers are certified to at least IFSAC Firefighter I. OHFD operates a fire training center adjacent to Fire Station #81, from which the Island County Fire Recruit Academy operates. OHFD firefighters are well trained and dedicated to provide the best possible emergency services to the Oak Harbor community.

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## Special Points of Interest:

- 1,339 Incident Responses (13% more than 2008)
- Overall average response time: 4 minutes, 26 seconds.
- 1,039 Annual Fire & Life Safety Inspections (98%)
- Fire Loss down 27% from 2008
- Annual testing on 29 apparatus\*, 13,000+ feet of hose, 386 feet of ladders, and 45 sets of PPEs and SCBA masks

*\* includes all engines, trucks, vehicles, generators and trailers*



MAYOR

Jim Slowik

MAYOR PRO TEM

Danny Paggao

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rick Almberg

James M. Campbell

Scott Dudley

Beth Munns

Jim Palmer

Robert (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 2: Improve the appearance and livability of the community

Goal 3: Encourage a safe community

Goal 4: Build and enhance community partnerships

Goal 5: Deliver superior quality service to our customers

Goal 6: Protect and enhance capital investment in the City

Goal 7: Promote a healthy work environment and employee excellence

Goal 8: Annual review of the City's overall performance

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 E911, Island County Emergency Dispatch Center; and
- To provide meeting facilities for non-profit organizations.



**Mark Soptich**  
Fire Chief  
Dir. of Emergency Services  
22 years of service

## Message from the Chief...

Reflecting back on 2009, I am reminded about an event that occurred over 80 years ago. On April 29, 1929, the Oak Harbor Fire Department was created. Twenty-two Oak Harbor citizens met to discuss the formation of a fire department. They elected Ben Koetje as Fire Chief and Bert Zylstra as Assistant Chief. It was also decided drills would be held at the Judson Garage.

Then as now, tasks were accomplished, training conducted, and fires extinguished because of the dedication and determination of a small group of individuals. This diverse group pulled together for a common goal; to make their community a safer place to live.

Yes, there are several members who currently make their livelihood as career firefighters. And yes, the remaining members supplement their income as paid on call firefighters. Just as our forefathers, the men and women of today's Oak Harbor Fire Department have the same dedication, determination and passion serving the city and island community as emergency responders. Our personnel are our greatest asset. This is what makes the department what it is today. I appreciate each and every one of these fine men and women and I am grateful and proud to serve with them.

To know several goals were met, projects completed and incident responses made without serious injury or death to civilians or personnel is a great accomplishment.

We achieved three of our four major goals identified in our 2008 annual report:

Emergency preparedness improvements were made with the purchase of communications equipment, computer hardware, and a multi-agency full scale exercise the department helped prepare and participated in. Homeland Security Grants were the major funding source for these improvements. Emergency preparedness is an ongoing process. Additional improvements are planned in 2010.

In December, city council approved a proposal to reorganize the fire department. Working through the process will provide a program that should serve the public and the department well into the future.

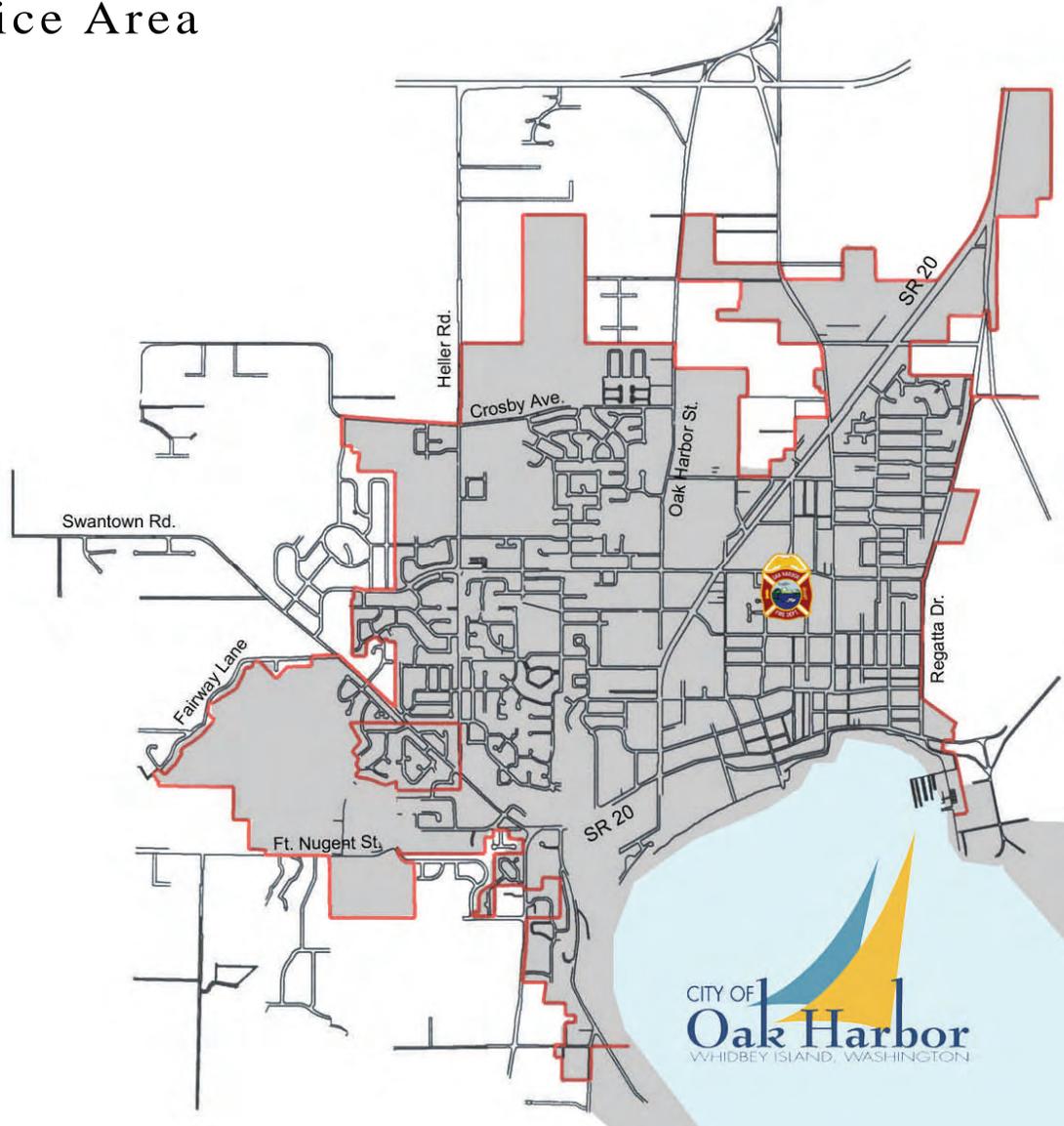
The Crime Scene Fire Investigation Unit was placed into service. The police and fire departments joined together to create a trailer that can be taken to a crime or fire scene to assist with the investigation process.

We were not successful with the replacement of our rescue unit which was taken out of service in 2008. This will be a high priority for 2010.

*(continued on page 40)*

# Oak Harbor Fire Department Service Area

2009 Statistics



## General

Area Served in Square Miles.....	9.48
Miles of city streets.....	68.42
Population (as of 4/2009*).....	23,360
Assessed Valuation.....	\$1,897,999,833
Fire Control Appropriation ....	\$1,857,553
Fire Control Expended.....	\$1,782,750
Engine Bond 230 App.....	\$178,930
Engine Bond 230 Exp.....	\$164,019
Emergency Service App.....	\$12,270
Emergency Service Exp** .....	\$16,082
Department Revenue .....	\$61,561

\*\*includes \$12,373 expenditures,  
Grant: State Homeland Security Program

## Personnel

UNIFORMED FULL TIME .....	10
Number of Shifts.....	2
Full Time FFs per Day Shift.....	3
Full Time FFs per Night Shift.....	0
Average Hours Per Week.....	43
UNIFORMED PAID-ON-CALL.....	36
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) .....	1,339
Fire—(7%).....	100
Medical—(51%).....	665
Fire Loss .....	\$343,750
Injuries.....	1
Fire Service, Full Time .....	0
Fire Service, POC .....	(minor) 1
Casualties, Civilian .....	0

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

**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 (POC) firefighters. Career and POC 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, two full time firefighters, and one POC firefighter are on duty per shift.

## Organizational Chart



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**

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

#### **SUPPRESSION POCFFS**

D Shift, Career Incentive Program, and High School Program  
Emergency Response  
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

#### **TRAINING**

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

#### **MAINTENANCE**

**SUPPORT SERVICES**  
M. Engle, Lieutenant  
Station 81 Facility Maintenance  
Apparatus Maintenance  
Protective Gear  
Radios and Pagers  
Annual Testing:  
Apparatus, Pumpers, Hoses, Hydrants  
Emergency Response

#### **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.

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



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



**Angela Braunstein**  
 Office Assistant  
 4 year of service

## Revenue

Line	Type	Bars Account Code	Break Down	Amount
1	<b>Donations and Contributions</b>	001.55.367.000.0000	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
2	<b>Fire Control Services</b>	001.00.338.022.0000		\$46,218.00
	Prehospital Medical Alarms		\$46,204.00	
	Restitution: Hughes		\$14.00	
3	<b>Fire Facility Rental: Station 81</b>	001.00.362.040.0000		\$5,984.00
	Island County Recruit Training		\$800.00	
	ICOM Back-Up Dispatch Center	001.00.362.050.0000	\$5,184.00	
4	<b>Fire Recruit Training</b>	001.00.341.022.1000	\$2,550.00	\$2,550.00
5	<b>Fire Protection Services: Permit Fees</b>	001.00.338.022.1000	\$3,835.00	\$3,835.00
6	<b>Incident Report Fees</b>	001.00.341.090.0000	\$25.00	\$25.00
7	<b>Judgments and Settlements</b>	001.00.369.040.0000		
8	<b>Other Miscellaneous Revenue</b>			\$949.00
	Taxable	001.00.369.092.0000	\$180.00	
	Non Taxable	001.00.369.090.0000	\$486.00	
	Xerox/Fax - Taxable	001.00.341.034.0000	\$283.00	
<b>Total 2009 Revenue</b>				<b>\$61,561.00</b>

## Grants

Line	Type	Bars Account Code	Break Down	Amount
1	<b>State Homeland Security Grant</b>	001.00.333.097.9700		\$20,141.00
			\$7,768.00	
			\$12,373.00	
2	<b>WA DOH PreHospital Participation Grant</b>	001.00.334.040.9000**	\$1,726.00	\$1,726.00
<b>Total 2009 Grants</b>				<b>\$21,867.00</b>

\*\*Effective 2010: 001.00.334.004.9000

## Fighting Fire with Technology



In 2009, OHFD purchased a wireless, **helmet-mounted camera** for less than \$200 that will be utilized in the production of training videos. The camera is small, about the size of a small flashlight, waterproof, heat resistant (to 912°F) and can record up to 2 hours of data. It also records sound and is equipped with LED lighting. The Training division is excited to have this useful tool to follow firefighters through both training and real emergency situations.

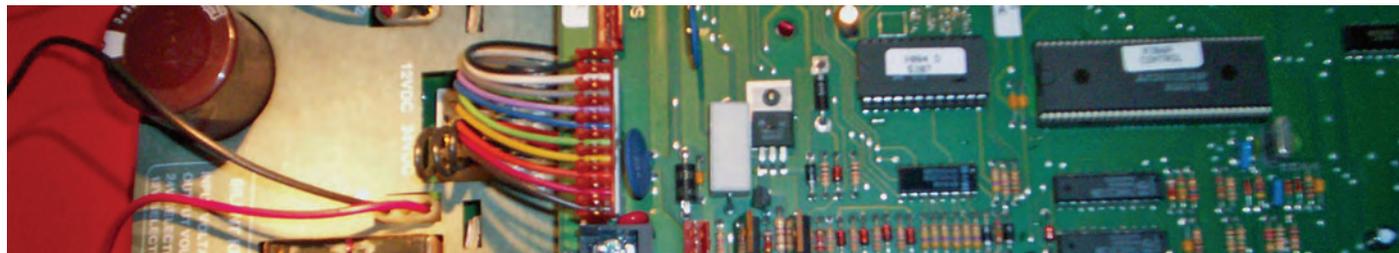


[www.oakharbor.org](http://www.oakharbor.org)

The internet continues to be important to Oak Harbor Fire Department. To the community, our website is a valuable resource for fire safety and emergency preparedness. Within the department, internet is utilized to communicate and train firefighters through online OHFD training videos, department email and schedules.

In 2009, OHFD shut down its independent website and committed fully to the City's website. A City website re-design has been in the works for several years and is currently in the testing and data entry stages. A public launch is expected in early 2010.

*Photos this page: Top left, © www.firecam.com; top right, screen shot of the apparatus page of the newly re-designed www.oakharbor.org. Below, R. Merrill, Silent Night security panel electronic board, Jan 2009.*



*“We would like to express our appreciation for the great CPR/First Aid Class. Everyone came away with an “I can do that” attitude. Thank you for your most generous gesture.*

*- F. Fleming, Senior Services of Island County, September 2009*



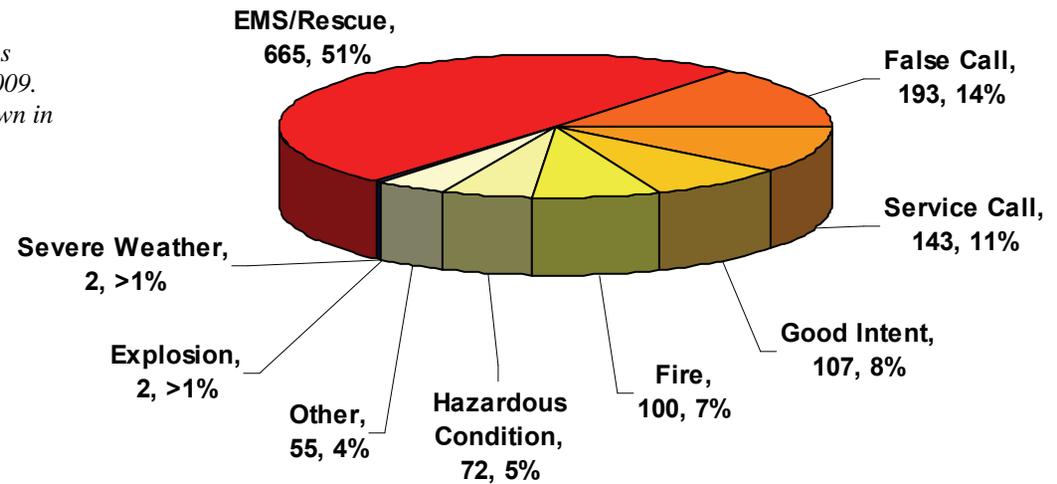
**Corky Bridgeford**  
 Lieutenant  
 A Shift  
 13 years of service  
 FT Member Since 1996



**Mike Buxton**  
 Lieutenant  
 B Shift  
 17 years of service  
 Member Since 1992

## Emergency Incident Response—1,339 calls

*This graph represents the various incident types responded to in 2009. Each type category is broken down in greater detail in the list below.*



<b><u>Fire</u></b>	<b>100</b>
Residential Structure .....	14
Building (non residential) .....	10
Cooking Fire.....	17
Chimney Fire.....	4
Grass/Brush Fire.....	14
Vehicle .....	8
Other .....	33
<b><u>Rupture/Explosion</u></b>	<b>2</b>
<b><u>EMS/Rescue</u></b>	<b>665</b>
Assist EMS Crew .....	470
Motor Vehicle Accident .....	112
EMS Call (not MVA).....	53
Other .....	30

<b><u>Hazardous Condition</u></b>	<b>72</b>
Gasoline or Oil spill.....	21
Natural Gas Leak.....	10
Electrical Problem.....	3
Other .....	38
<b><u>Service Call</u></b>	<b>143</b>
Water Problem/leak .....	29
Public Service .....	20
Unauthorized burning .....	12
Other .....	82
<b><u>Good Intent</u></b>	<b>107</b>
Dispatched & cancelled .....	64
Smoke Scare .....	13
No Incident Found on arrival....	13
Other .....	17

<b><u>False Alarm (No Fire)</u></b>	<b>193</b>
Sys. Activation, Malfunction .....	76
Sys. Activation, Unintentional....	99
System Activation, Malicious....	13
Other .....	5
<b><u>Severe Weather</u></b>	<b>2</b>
<b><u>Other</u></b>	<b>55</b>
No Response/Dispatch Error ....	30
Citizen Complaint .....	25

**OHFD INCIDENT TYPE COUNT**  
3-YEAR REVIEW | 2007—2009

**By Call Type**

	2009	2008	2007
Fire	100	63	80
Rupture/Explosion	2	7	10
EMS/Rescue	665	612	698
Hazardous Condition	72	45	65
Service Call	143	101	100
Good Intent Calls	107	94	115
False Alarms / False Calls	193	193	280
Severe Weather / Natural Disaster	2	6	6
Other	55	62	38
	<b>1339</b>	<b>1183</b>	<b>1392</b>

**Percentage of all calls**

	%	%	%
Fire	7	5	6
Rupture/Explosion	>1	1	1
EMS/Rescue	51	51	50
Hazardous Condition	5	4	5
Service Call	11	9	7
Good Intent Calls	8	8	8
False Alarms / False Calls	14	16	20
Severe Weather / Natural Disaster	>1	1	>1
Other	4	5	3
	100	100	100



**Ron Hancock**  
Captain  
Paid On Call  
36 years of service



**Bob Wallin**  
Captain  
Paid On Call  
23 years of service

**INCIDENT RESPONSE  
AT A GLANCE**

Total Incident Response:  
1339 calls

Number of Fire Calls:  
100 (7%)

Number of EMS Calls:  
665 (51%)

Busiest Month:  
July (144 calls)

Busiest Day of the Week:  
Thursday (228 calls)

Busiest Hour of the Day:  
5pm-6pm (103 calls)

Slowest Month:  
February (82 calls)

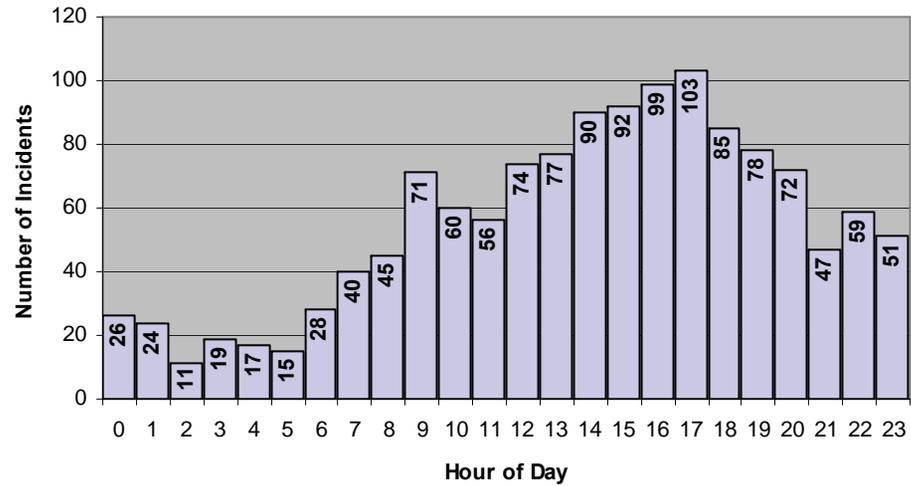
Slowest Day of the Week:  
Sunday (169 calls)

Slowest Hour of the Day:  
2am -3am (11 calls)

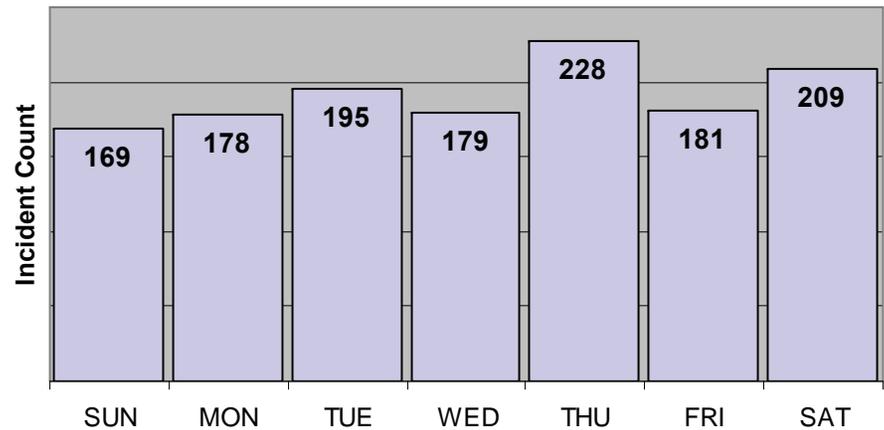
Average calls per week:  
26

Ten Year Trend:  
27% Increase  
1052 calls 10 years ago

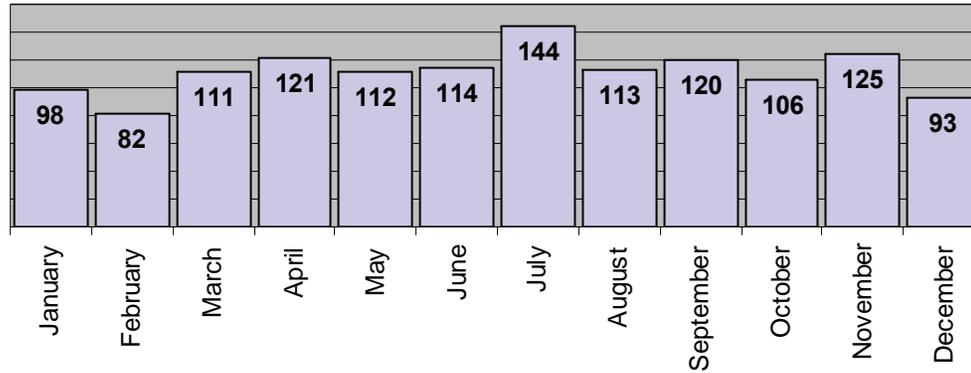
**2009 Incident Count per Hour of Day**



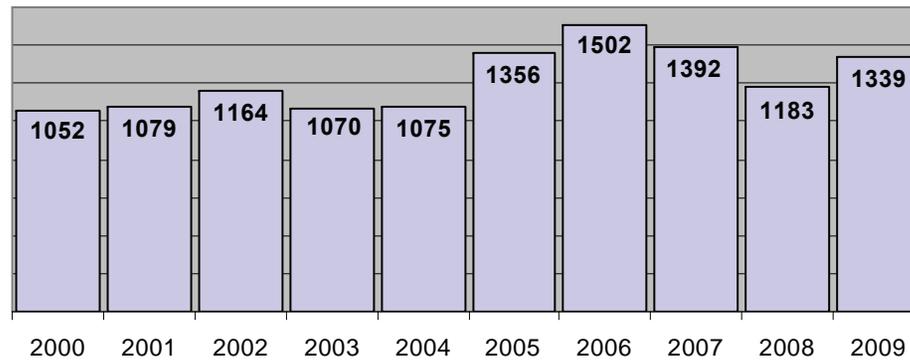
**2009 Incident Count by Day of Week: 1339 total**



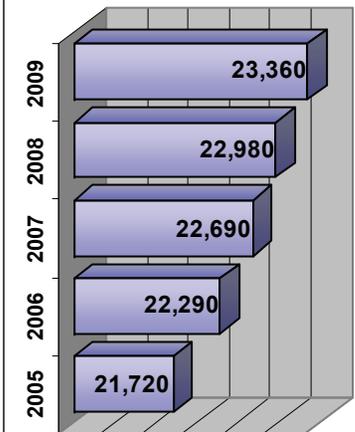
**2009 Incident Count by Month: Total 1339**



**Ten Year Incident Count Trend**

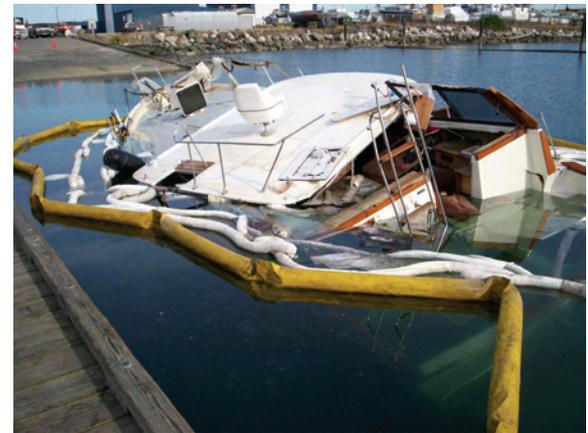


**City of Oak Harbor  
Population  
5 - Year Review**





*Detached garage fire. Mutual Aid with North Whidbey Fire & Rescue.  
Photos by R. Merrill, August 2009.*



*Photos of a sinking vessel towed into Oak Harbor Marina.  
OHFD responded with oil spill containment equipment. Photos  
by OHFD members, September 2009.*

*Sidebar at left (top to bottom): Motor vehicle accident, November 2009, Vehicle fire (photo © WNT, 2009), Landslide into house, Mutual Aid to South Whidbey Fire & Rescue (photo by M. Soptich, April 2009), and car into business (photo © WNT, 2009).*

# Response Time

4 minutes, 26 seconds

The overall average response time for Oak Harbor Fire Department in 2009 (dispatch time not included): **4:26**.

**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

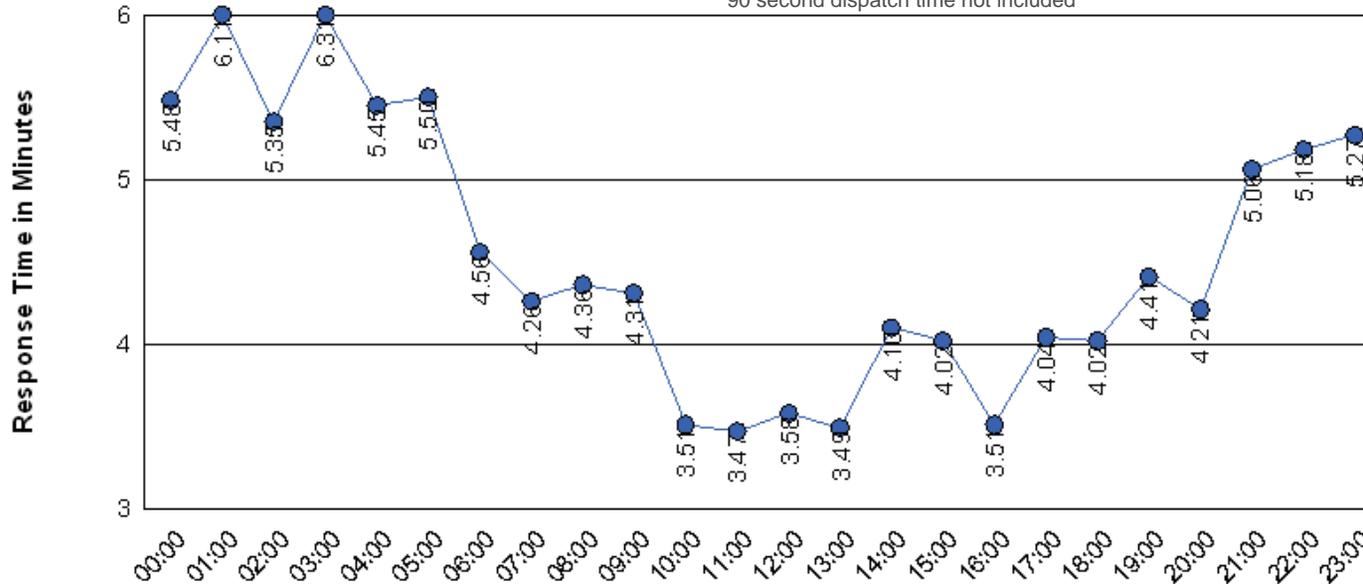
apparatus and driving to the scene. Variables such as location, weather, traffic volume, and other drivers play a large part in response. Technology is helping shorten response time by pin-pointing addresses and relaying information needed to apparatus computers and maps.

*“Thank you for all you do in the community. We truly appreciate the help and support you provide us.*

- Home Place, September 2009

**2009 Average Response Time by Hour of the Day**

90 second dispatch time not included





**Ray Merrill**  
Battalion Chief  
Fire Prevention / Code  
20 years of service

## Fire Prevention Division

### Fire Code Enforcement

The International Family of Codes, adopted by the State of Washington and the City of Oak Harbor, including the Building, Fire, Mechanical, Electrical, and Residential Building Codes, to name a few of the entire family of codes, is the basis for the design and safety features of a building. Due to major fire and life safety incidents, such as the MGM Grand Fire of 1980 (84 lives lost), Happy Land Social Club fire of 1997 (87 lives lost), the Station Nightclub fire of 2003 (100 lives lost), and to underscore the hundreds of lives lost in single and multi-family homes annually, new or improved fire and life safety requirements have been adopted.

During the design phase an occupancy group classification (or the specific use) of the building is determined and the appropriate life safety requirements are applied. The specific use of the building will dictate the level of fire and life safety protection required.

The ultimate goal is to ensure the safest and most hazard free building possible. The Building Code addresses the basic or minimum building requirements and the types of materials which can be utilized in constructing buildings. The Building Code also establishes means of egress, travel distances to exits, building

lighting, size of doors, hallways and exit and emergency lighting.

The greater the life-hazard, the more safety equipment or more restrictive design of the building is required. The safety items may include fire alarm systems, fire sprinkler systems, fire evacuation systems, the protection of the hood and duct cooking areas, or a combination of all of these items. Where the chance of loss of life is high, such as apartment or condominium complexes, assembly areas (meeting rooms, churches, schools, restaurants) and elderly care facilities the greater the need for life safety equipment.

The size, both in total square footage and over-all height of the building, will also play an important role in determining the minimum required safety equipment.

The International Fire Code, as adopted by the City, is the basis for all fire and life safety items enforced by the Fire Department. Additionally the Oak Harbor Municipal Code has a section that provides more restrictive requirements than the International Fire Code. The more restrictive elements include fire alarm systems for most commercial occupancies, water flow requirements, and the remodeling of existing buildings.

The building owner or the tenant is responsible for the on-going safety, upkeep and code compliance requirements for their respective buildings. Some examples of lawful conduct include:

- Not exceeding the maximum occupant load of the building. This occupant load is determined by the total square footage and the proposed building use.
- Maintaining fire exits and all required exit lights and illumination.
- Maintaining all portable fire extinguishers.
- Completing annual confidence testing and certification of fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems.
- Completing semi-annual hood and duct fire suppression system confidence testing.
- Proper storage of flammable and combustible materials.
- And, if required, conducting annual fire drills and on-going staff training.

**In 2009 the fire department conducted 1,039 Annual Fire and Life Safety Inspections.** That equates to a 98% annual inspection ratio to total number of commercial occupancies within the City (including new occupancy inspections). Department personnel conducted 27 new occupancy inspections and 121 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.

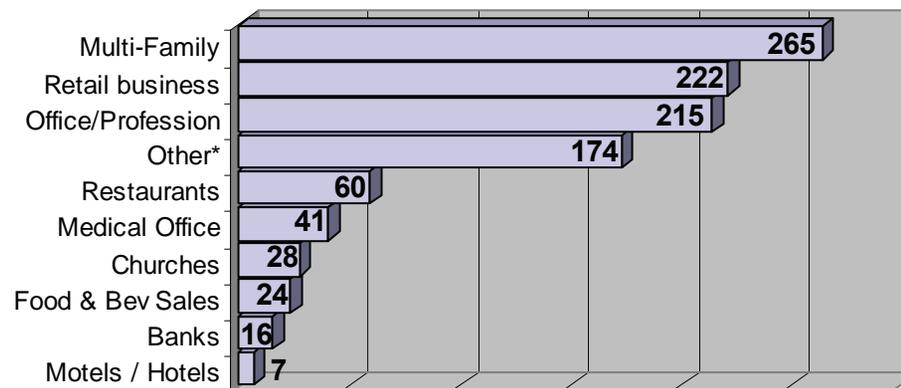


*Safety items examined during a Fire and Life Safety Inspection. Stock photos, free use.*

*“Thank you so much for the use of your potable water tank. The cups of water at the festival were a big hit. We gave out over 400 cups each day. Your generosity helped make many people comfortable and safe! Thank you again!*

T. Gavin, on behalf of the Coupeville Arts Festival., August 2009

#### Types of Commercial Occupancies in Oak Harbor, FY2009



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

## Fire Investigation

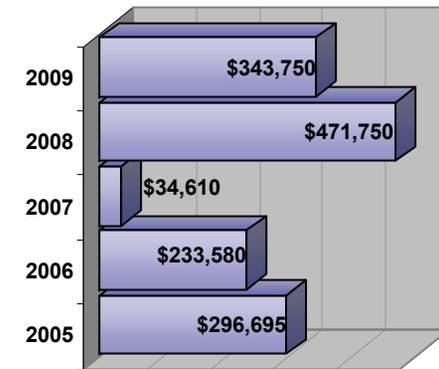
When a fire occurs, the Fire Marshal investigates the fire to determine the origin, cause, and other factors that may have contributed to the ignition and growth of a fire.

Each fire is examined to determine if the fire was intentional or accidental. This provides a basis of fact, which can be used in an after-fire legal process (if needed) and to help prevent a similar fire from happening again. Information gathered is used in fire prevention education and reported to national fire prevention data bases. The fire investigator is also tasked

with determining the monetary value of the damage or property loss.

When investigating a fire, the investigator observes and documents the scene with photographs and/or video, collects evidence and talks with witnesses and firefighters. He is also responsible for securing the scene until the investigation is complete and determining when the property can be returned to the property owner and/or occupied.

### FIRE LOSS IN OAK HARBOR 5-YEAR REVIEW 2005-2009



## Crime Scene & Fire Investigation Trailer

Oak Harbor Fire Department operates a Crime Scene and Fire Investigation Trailer with Oak Harbor Police Department. This special operations trailer assists both agencies in their investigation processes by providing an convenient, on-site lab equipped with equipment necessary to the investigation.

Oak Harbor Fire investigators examine all fires within the City and sometimes assist neighboring agencies with their fire inves-

tigations; but focuses on fires involving injury or death, a high dollar loss, cluster fires and any fire where the cause is not immediately apparent.



Investigation photos from grass/fence fire. R. Merrill, August 2009

## 2009 City of Oak harbor Fire Experience and Loss, by Month

### January

SE Pioneer Way. Fire in nightclub restroom. Cause undetermined. Fire loss \$200.

### February

NE 5th Ave. House fire, started in garage. Failure of equipment or heat source, arching. Fire Loss \$250,000.

### March

N Oak Harbor St. Dumpster Fire. Fire Loss \$500.

NE Goldie St. Residential Structure fire. Caused by smoking materials. Fire loss \$11,000.

### April

NW 1st Ave. Fire outside of garage door. Caused by smoking materials. Fire loss \$500.

State Route 20. Dumpster Fire. Fire loss \$1,000.

### May

SW McCrohan St. Fire in laundry room electrical outlet in an attached garage. Fire loss \$100.

SE Pioneer Way. Commercial fire in laundry room, dryer fire. Fire loss \$550.

### June

N Oak Harbor St. Fire on balcony. Caused by smoking materials. Fire loss \$250.

State Route 20. Vehicle fire in Drive-thru. Fire loss \$500.

SE 4th Ave. Unoccupied kitchen fire. Stove accidentally turned on, not off. Fire loss \$40,000.

E Whidbey & NE Regatta Dr. Vehicle fire. Fire loss \$500.

NW Falls Creek Lp. House fire in crawl space. Caused by smoking materials placed too close to crawl space vents. Fire loss \$20,000.

SW Harrier Cir. Fence/deck fire. Cause undetermined after investigation. Fire loss \$1,000.

### July

State Route 20. Vehicle fire, distributor problem. Fire loss \$1,000.

SE Fidalgo Ave. Commercial fire on deck. Cause under investigation. Fire loss \$250.

### August

SW Sunnyside Ave. Brush/grass fire. Cause undetermined. Fire loss \$100.

### September

NW Atalanta Way. Brush fire. Cause undetermined. Fire loss \$300.

SW Putnam Dr. Vehicle fire, parked next to garage. Arching ignited engine. Fire loss \$4,500.

### October

NW Almond Lp. Kitchen fire. Oil fire on stove. Fire loss \$1,000.

NE Barron Dr. Apartment kitchen fire. Box on stove ignited. Fire loss \$1,000.

S. Oak Harbor St. Kitchen fire. Unattended cooking, oil fire. Fire loss \$9,000.

### November

*No reportable fires.*

### December

SE 8th Ave. House fire in crawl space. Failure of equipment/heat source, arching. Fire loss \$500.

**Total Fire Loss** **\$343,750.00**

*"...I was simply astonished by how wonderful this team of firefighters reacted and went above and beyond my call of help. I would like you all to know that I sincerely appreciated all your help... You truly made an unfortunate incident a very memorable one that showed the kindness and dedication you all have for our community. Job well done!!!"*

- J. Franssen, April 2009

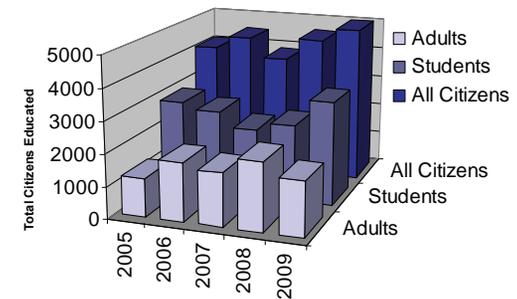
## Public Education



Mock DUI Presentation at Oak Harbor High School, May 29, 2009. Photos by A. Braunstein.  
Above: Inter-agency training, February 2009. Photo by OHFD.



Public Education Five Year Trend



Count of Oak Harbor citizens educated in fire safety in 2009	
Students (2-18 yrs)	3,278
Adults	1,715
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,993</b>



## Station 81 Tour

Fire station tours are an excellent opportunity for public fire education and public relations for Oak Harbor Fire Department. Firefighters are engaged in the business of saving lives, whether it involves a response to a fire after it has occurred or, more importantly, before it happens. The simple truth is that we are far more likely to save a child's life through fire safety education — providing him with knowledge to prevent a fire or the proper action to take during a fire — than by the actual rescue of a child during a fire incident. A station tour is a great opportunity to teach important life safety skills to visitors and for adults and children to learn that firefighters do so much more



*“The simple truth is that we are far more likely to save a child’s life through fire safety education — providing him with knowledge to prevent a fire or the proper action to take during a fire — than by the actual rescue of a child during a fire incident.”*

*Oak Harbor Elementary School students during Station 81 tour, April 2009. Photos by A. Braunstein.*



**FIRE SAFETY / STATION TOUR**

**45.25 hours**

March 4 <sup>th</sup>	His Kids Pre-School	16 Students (3-4 Y/O) 2 Adults	at NW 2 <sup>nd</sup>	0945-1115
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	His Kids Pre-School	16 Students (3-4 Y/O) 2 Adults	at NW 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1315-1445
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	His Kids Pre-School	16 Students (3-4 Y/O) 2 Adults	at NW 2 <sup>nd</sup>	0945-1115
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Harbor Elem. Special Needs	18 Students (5-12 Y/O) 10 Adults	Station 81	1000-1130
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Harbor Elem. Special Needs	30 Students (3-5 Y/O) 15 Adults	Station 81	1400-1530
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Wolf Den – Cub Scouts	10 Students (8 Y/O) 3 Adults	Station 81	1600-1715
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Birthday Group	15 Students (3-5 Y/O) 6 Adults	Station 81	1300-1430
July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Day Care	12 Students (5-12 Y/O) 3 Adults	Station 81	0930-1045
Aug. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Their Place Child Care Center	25 Students (3-5 Y/O) 5 Adults	SW 6 <sup>th</sup>	1000-1115
Aug. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Their Place Child Care Center	30 Students (6-12 Y/O) 5 Adults	Station 81	1300-1500
Aug. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Sno-Isle Library, Oak Harbor Branch	45 Students (2-8 Y/O) 20 Adults	at Library	1000-1115
Aug. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Their Place Child Care Center	30 Students (6-12 Y/O) 5 Adults	Station 81	1300-1430
Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Cub Scouts	21 Students (6-8 Y/O) 10 Adults	Station 81	1900-2015
Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Little Lambs Pre-School	16 Students (3 Y/O) 4 Adults	Station 81	0930-1045
Oct. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Little Lambs Pre-School	16 Students (3 Y/O) 4 Adults	Station 81	1330-1445
Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Little Lambs Pre-School	18 Students (4-5 Y/O) 4 Adults	Station 81	0930-1045
Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Little Lambs Pre-School	18 Students (4-5 Y/O) 4 Adults	Station 81	1330-1445
Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Moving & Grooving	12 Students (3 Y/O) 4 Adults	at M&G	0915-1045
Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Moving & Grooving	14 Students (4-5 Y/O) 4 Adults	Station 81	1245-1400
Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Doodle Bug Academy	20 Students (3-5 Y/O) 5 Adults	Station 81	0930-1030
Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Doodle Bug Academy	20 Students (4-6 Y/O) 5 Adults	Station 81	1300-1400
Oct. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Daisy Troop / Girl Scouts	20 Students (5-12 Y/O) 8 Adults	Station 81	1830-1945
Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Broadview Elementary	54 Students (8-9 Y/O) 16 Adults	Station 81	0920-1120
Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Little Britches Pre-School	15 Students (2-5 Y/O) 3 Adults	Station 81	0915-1045
Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Little Britches Pre-School	15 Students (2-5 Y/O) 3 Adults	Station 81	1245-1400
Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup>	North Whidbey Head Start	18 Students (3-5 Y/O) 6 Adults	at OHSD	1000-1145
Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup>	North Whidbey Head Start	30 Students (3-5 Y/O) 10 Adults	at OHSD	1415-1545
Nov. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Scout Troop 4061	12 Students (8-10 Y/O) 2 Adults	Station 81	1800-1900
Nov. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Home Connection Kindergarten	10 Students (5-6 Y/O) 1 Adult	at OHSD	1045-1130
Nov. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Little Eagles Pre-School (OHCS)	24 Students (4-5 Y/O) 4 Adults	Station 81	1030-1100
Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Harbor Christian School	35 Students (5-6 Y/O) 15 Adults	Station 81	1000-1130

**FIRE SAFETY PRESENTATION**

**15.75 hours**

Aug. 4 <sup>th</sup>	National Night Out	500 Students (2-16 Y/O) 250 Adults	City Beach	1300-2000
Aug. 27 <sup>th</sup>	VAQ-132 Safety Stand Down	250 Adults	at Sky Warrior Theater	1345-1500
Aug. 30 <sup>th</sup>	St. Augustine Church Family Fest	45 Students (2-16 Y/O) 30 Adults	at SAC	1030-1200
Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Wal-Mart Safety Fair	50 Students (2-16 Y/O) 30 Adults	at Wal-Mart	1100-1300
Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Home Depot Safety Fair	45 Students (2-16 Y/O) 30 Adults	at Home Depot	0900-1200
Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Harbor Tower Residents	12 Adults	at Harbor Towers	1430-1530

**FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING**

**13 hours**

April 30 <sup>th</sup>	OHHS Work Based Learning	17 Students (15-21 Y/O) 3 Adults	at OHHS	1215-1430
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	OHHS Work Based Learning	17 Students (15-21 Y/O) 3 Adults	at OHHS	1215-1415
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	OHHS Work Based Learning	12 Students (15-21 Y/O) 2 Adults	at OHHS	1215-1415
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	OHHS Work Based Learning	12 Students (15-21 Y/O) 2 Adults	at OHHS	1215-1415
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	OHHS Work Based Learning	14 Students (15-21 Y/O) 5 Adults	at OHHS	1215-1400
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	OHHS Work Based Learning	10 Students (15-21 Y/O) 4 Adults	at OHHS	1230-1330
Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Coast Guard Auxiliary	60 Adults	OH Yacht Club	1230-1430

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

		<b>23.5 hours</b>	
Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Lunch with a Firefighter	350 Students (5-11 Y/O) 30 Adults	Broadview Elementary ..... 1130-1245
Feb. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch with a Firefighter	350 Students (5-11 Y/O) 25 Adults	Crescent Harbor Ele..... 1115-1245
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick's Day Parade	(Wally)	Pioneer Way..... 1515-1615
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch with a Firefighter	350 Students (5-11 Y/O) 25 Adults	Hillcrest Elementary ..... 1130-1245
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch with a Firefighter	350 Students (5-11 Y/O) 25 Adults	Oak Harbor Elementary ..... 1115-1230
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Day with a Firefighter	1 Adult	at OHFD..... 0900-1700
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch with a Firefighter	400 Students (5-11 Y/O) 25 Adults	Olympic View Ele. .... 1115-1230
Aug. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Fidalgo Block Party	50 Children (2-16 Y/O) 25 Adults	Fidalgo Ave..... 1315-1515
Aug. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Soap Box Derby	25 Children (2-16 Y/O) 15 Adults	Barrington Ave. .... 0930-1230
Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	OHHS Cheerleaders Home Coming	Game Ball	OHHS Stadium ..... 1815-1915
Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Down Town Merchants Santa Delivery (Wally)		Old Town Mall..... 1430-1530
Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Down Town Merchants Santa Delivery (Wally)		Old Town Mall..... 1430-1530

**FIRST AID / CPR / AED TRAINING / BBP**

		<b>41 hours</b>	
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Harbor City Hall	9 Adults	Station 81 ..... 0700-1100
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Harbor City Hall	12 Adults	Station 81 ..... 1330-1630
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Harbor Public Works	22 Adults	City Shops ..... 1330-1500
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Harbor City Hall	12 Adults	Station 81 ..... 0800-1200
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Harbor City Hall	12 Adults	Station 81 ..... 1300-1700
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Harbor Public Works	27 Adults	City Shops ..... 0930-1100
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Home Connection School	10 Students (8-13 Y/O) 1 Adult	OHSD Office ..... 1100-1200
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Home Connection School	10 Students (7-10 Y/O) 1 Adult	OHSD Office ..... 1200-1300
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Home Connection School	10 Students (10-13 Y/O) 1 Adult	OHSD Office ..... 1300-1400
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Harbor Police Department	8 Adults	Station 81 ..... 0900-1200
May 28 <sup>th</sup>	Oak Harbor Police Department	8 Adults	Station 81 ..... 1400-1700
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Oak Harbor Police Department	10 Adults	Station 81 ..... 0900-1200
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Oak Harbor Police Department	2 Adults	Station 81 ..... 1400-1700
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	Pioneer Tree Service	12 Adults	Station 81 ..... 1900-2200
Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Services of Island County	25 Adults	Station 81 ..... 0900-1130
Sept. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Services of Island County	20 Adults	Station 81 ..... 1300-1530

**OTHER**

		<b>5.5 hours</b>	
<b>Holiday Fire Safety</b>			
Nov. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	VAQ 129 Safety Stand down	450 Adults	Sky Warrior Theater ..... 1030-1145
Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Oak Harbor Public Works	12 Adults	City Shops ..... 1130-1215
Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Oak Harbor City Hall	5 Adults	City Hall..... 1145-1245
<b>Stryker Stair Chair</b>			
Jan. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Skagit Valley College	5 Adults	at SVC..... 1230-1330
<b>Disaster Triage</b>			
Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Whidbey General Hospital Emergency Room	20 Adults	at WGH ..... 1600-1730

**Total Number of Citizens Educated in 2009: 4,993**  
 [3,278 Students (ages 2-18) and 1,715 Adults]

**144 Total Hours**





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

## Training Division

Oak Harbor Fire Department's Training division is under the direction of Lieutenant Craig Anderson. The primary responsibility of the division is to provide training to all career and paid-on-call firefighters.

Not only is the Training Division responsible for preparing each firefighter for any emergency situation they may encounter; it is essential that the Division keeps current and accurate records showing that mandatory requirements of Labor and Industries, WAC regulations, Washington State and Island County Departments of Health, and other regulatory agencies are being met.

The Training Division provides orientation and initial training to new career and paid-on-call firefighters. In 2009 OHFD hired one career firefighter and three entry-level paid-on-call firefighters. The Training Division follows their training and testing after the five month academy (for entry-level) and ensures that each firefighter is familiar with Department policies, procedures, and equipment.

In 2009, Oak Harbor Fire Department personnel collectively spent over 5,175 hours training. The department presented and/or sponsored over 1,833 hours of training courses, classes and learning opportunities.

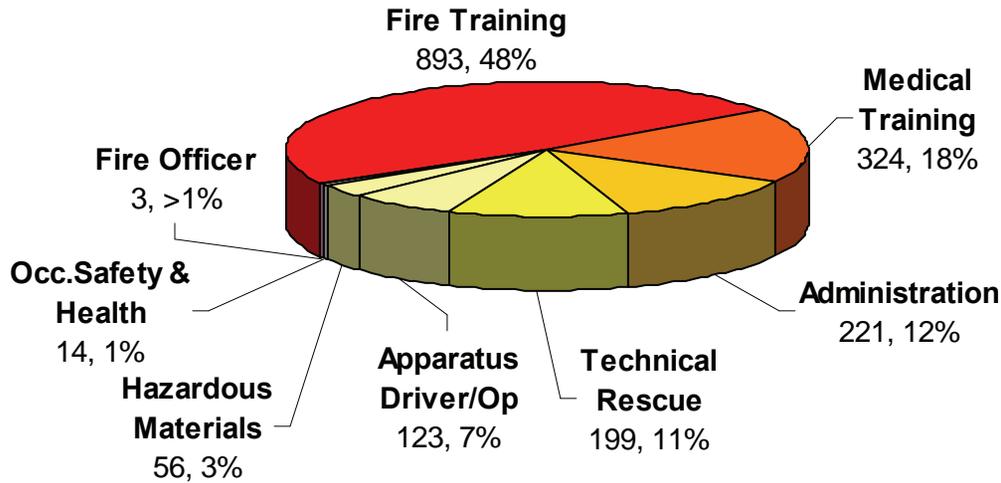
It is vital that OHFD coordinate and work well with neighboring agencies. There are at least eight separate emergency services agencies operating on north Whidbey Island. In an effort to gain consistency in policies and procedures, the Training Division is actively affiliated with these agencies, and the relationships bring new ideas, updates to regulatory mandates and other joint training opportunities.

The training officers from OHFD and NAS-WI Federal Fire Department have established weekly, joint-training sessions and firefighters from both departments have benefited greatly.

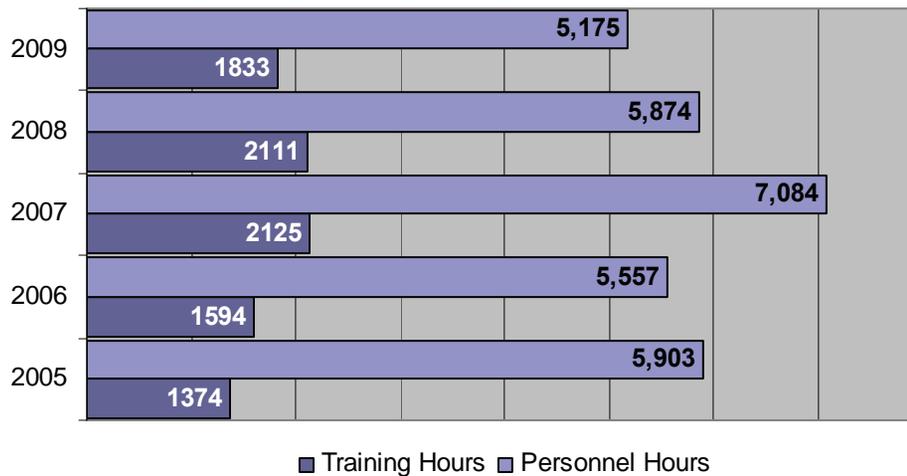
**OHFD Training Hours By Month  
 Three Year Review**

	2009	2008	2007
<b>JAN</b>	170	175	149
<b>FEB</b>	151	250	291
<b>MAR</b>	199	330	277
<b>APR</b>	173	193	359
<b>MAY</b>	276	126	198
<b>JUN</b>	159	215	114
<b>JUL</b>	117	161	119
<b>AUG</b>	153	222	149
<b>SEP</b>	105	106	105
<b>OCT</b>	153	177	201
<b>NOV</b>	96	94	132
<b>DEC</b>	81	62	31
	<b>1833</b>	<b>2111</b>	<b>2125</b>

**OHFD 2009 Hours Training by Activity**  
(1,833 total hours)



**OHFD TRAINING HOURS | 5-YEAR REVIEW**



**Hours Spent in Training**

Collectively, Oak Harbor Fire Department personnel spent 5,175 hours training in 2009. The department presented and/or sponsored over 1,833 hours of training courses, classes and learning opportunities. The chart at left (top) details the major areas of training and hours spent in each area.

*“My thanks to you for so generously donating the ride-along day. I completely enjoyed every aspect of the day. Lt. Mike Buxton and his crew very patiently explained many things regarding the OH emergency response protocol and how things work at Station 81.*

*I learned a lot.*

*Very obviously, Station 81 personnel create goodwill in the community while making it a safer place to live, and one instantly has confidence in these well-trained people!*

*Thanks again.”*

*- C. Wagner, May 2009*

## Certifications

The following OHFD members received certification (or re-certifications) in 2009:

Graduated from IFSAC Accredited Island Recruit Academy:

Brandon Bahr  
Conor Ching  
Ed Hooper

IFSAC Hazardous Materials Operations Level Certification:

Brandon Bahr  
Conor Ching  
Ed Hooper

IFSAC Firefighter 1 Certification:

Brandon Bahr  
Conor Ching  
Ed Hooper

Emergency Medical Technician Certification:

Ryan Lange  
Steven Peck

Emergency Medical Technician Re-Certification:

Corky Bridgeford  
Andrew Carroll  
Tom Cross  
Rich Cuevas  
Dean Faris  
Chris Garden  
Jeremy Goodin  
Ron Hancock  
Jeff Heiserman  
Paul Schroer  
Pedro Velasquez

Medical First Responder Re-Certification:

Dennis Wright

Fire Inspector 1 Re-Certification

Don Baer

Fire Inspector 2 Re-Certification:

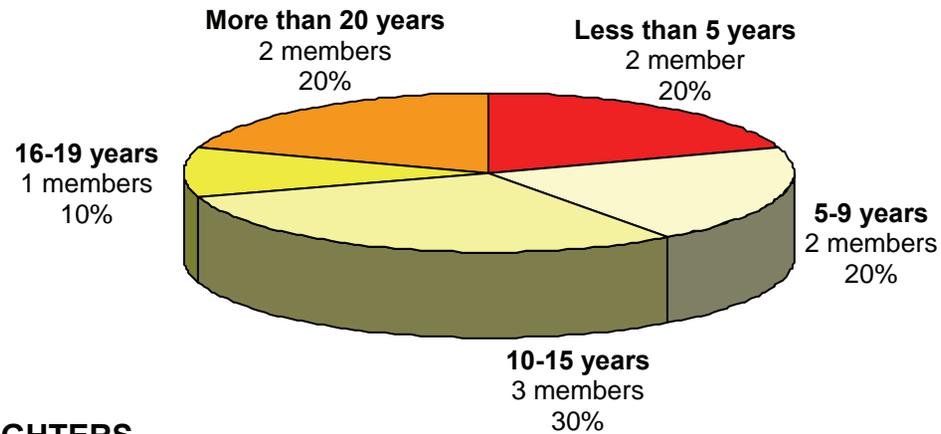
Ray Merrill

# Years of Service

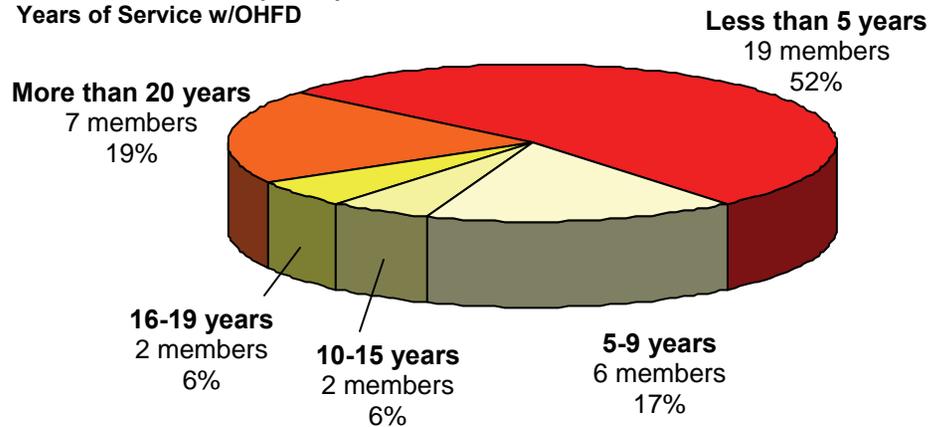
These graphs reflect the number of years served by firefighters with Oak Harbor Fire Department\*. Included are 10 career / full-time firefighters (upper graph) and 36 paid-on-call firefighters (lower graph)

\* 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



*Photos of bus vs. vehicle involving rollover. Multi-agency training drill. February 2009. Photos by OHFD.*





**Mike Engle**  
Lieutenant  
Maintenance  
12 years of service  
Member Since 1997

## Facilities & Fleet Maintenance Division

The Maintenance Division is responsible for all aspects of repair, maintenance and testing of Oak Harbor Fire Department properties, including facilities, vehicles, and equipment. These tasks require coordination in scheduling and many hours of data entry and documentation.

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. OHFD strives to follow these standards to provide the safest equipment, apparatus, training and operating methods for personnel and the community. The maintenance division's share of that goal includes annual testing and preventive maintenance on equipment, ladders, hose, pumps, personal protective equipment (PPE) and SCBAs.

The following items were tested in 2009:

- Fire Hose
  - 1.75" attack hose—75 pieces at 50 ft each. This includes the Marina hose.
  - 2.5" attack hose: 105 pieces of 50 ft each.
  - 5" supply hose: 67 pieces

- Ground Ladders
  - Extension ladders: 2 at 35', 5 at 30',
  - Roof ladders: 5 at 14', 1 at 16', 1 at 20'
  - Captains ladders: 6 at 10'
- Fire Engine Pump Testing:
  - 5 engines (includes E815, surplus 1998 E-one, currently for sale).

The Following apparatus are scheduled for annual preventive maintenance at City shops and maintained regularly at the Fire Department through daily apparatus checks and inspections:

- 4 Fire engines
- 1 Aerial Ladder truck: received major structural repair to stabilization system. Annual third party inspection and testing.
- 1 Aid unit / rescue
- 2 Command Chevy Tahoe SUVs
- 1 Training van
- 1 Fire Marshal van
- 1 utility Chevy pickup

- 1 air trailer for filling breathing air bottles
- 1 Fire Investigation Trailer
- 1 Technical Rescue Trailer
- 1 Spill Containment/Hazmat Trailer
- 2 Special Operations Trailers for Mass Casualty Incidents
- 1 utility trailer
- 1 Forklift
- 2 30KW diesel generators
- 1 60KW diesel generator
- 1 5kw diesel generator
- 2 diesel tractor trucks
- 1 diesel flatbed truck
- 1 40' flatbed trailer
- 1 400 gallon potable water trailer
- 1 light unit trailer



Fire fighting equipment and personal protective gear:

- 30 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) receive annual flow testing and as needed repairs
- 45 sets of assigned PPE receive semi-annual inspection and as needed cleaning and repairs (repair/cleaning by qualified contractors).
- Approximately 45 SCBA masks are fit tested to assigned personnel annually as per NFPA requirements.
- Boots, gloves, helmets, flash hoods are all replaced as needed.
- Equipment such as flashlights, hand tools... axes, shovels, Halligan bars, EK-hooks, pike poles are cleaned and repaired as needed.
- Portable, mobile and base radios receive annual preventive maintenance from Day Wireless and any additional needed repairs.
- Fire fighting nozzles, appliances and large GPM nozzles are inspected regularly and repaired as needed.
- Approximately 55 fire pagers are programmed and repaired as needed.
- All medical equipment is checked daily and replaced as necessary to include Oxygen, Pharmaceuticals,

suction units and AED's.

- Each emergency response unit is equipped with laptop computers (7) for address, prefire planning, hazmat reference, and dispatch information. Each computer requires updates and repairs as necessary.
- Air monitoring equipment receives calibration and repairs as needed.
- 5 Thermal Imaging Cameras are maintained in ready status.
- Technical rescue equipment (ropes, stokes baskets, and hardware) are inspected and maintained.
- Various power tools including corded and cordless are inspected regularly.
- Hazmat absorbent materials
- Salvage tarp repairs

Gas powered equipment is essential to our mission and is inspected and annual serviced which include:

- 10 Stihl chain saws
- 4 positive pressure fans
- 4 electric fans
- 4 Stihl circular saws
- 6 portable Honda gas generators
- 2 power heads for Jaws
- Air powered extrication tools.

Buildings and equipment within:

- Hush breathing air compressor requires annual filter changes, quarterly air samples and necessary repairs.
- Sprinkler confidence tests
- Alarm confidence tests
- HVAC quarterly maintenance
- Irrigation maintenance
- Annual truck bay door preventive maintenance
- Required annual fire extinguisher preventive maintenance
- Annual calibration of test gauges
- Load testing on back up generator, and high wattage generators trailers
- Monthly generator checks on station 81 and ICOM.
- Inventory and purchase of medical supplies
- Relocate fire fighting foam semi annually

Building maintenance ranges from changing light bulbs, L&I hot water tank inspections, painting, cleaning gutters, grounds maintenance to shower door repairs.

## Maintenance at a glance FY2009:

Annual Inspection and Testing on—

- 29 different apparatus / vehicles
- 30 small engine tools
- 386 feet of ladders
- 13,000+ feet of Hose
- 5 engine pumps
- 30 SCBA flow test
- 45 sets of personal protection equipment (PPEs, aka Bunker Gear) - semi-annual
- 45 SCBA masks, fit to assigned personnel

Purchases—

- 6 sets of bunker gear
- 1200 feet of 2.5 inch fire hose
- 600 feet of 1.75" fire hose
- New dish washer
- Major repairs to HVAC compressor
- 9 new fire pagers
- Boots and gloves
- Various small items for Station 81

# Apparatus

## 2009 OHFD APPARATUS RESPONSE

Unit	Incident Count	Percentage of Total
800	720	53.77%
801	10	0.75%
E81	406	30.32%
E812	357	26.66%
E813	127	9.48%
E814	65	4.85%
AID81	372	27.78%
L81	33	2.46%
S81	1	0.07%
U81	4	0.30%
STBY1*	538	40.18%

\*STBY1 represents Station 81—FFs on stand-by. It is used for incidents in which POC Firefighters report to Station 81 in response to an incident page; but do not respond to the incident scene. The firefighters remain at the station, ready to respond if additional apparatus are required on the scene, at another, concurrent incident or until the on-duty crew is cleared from the incident and manpower is released.



**Command 8:** Two 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe SUVs. Driven by Command 8, usually first on scene and carries supplies necessary for incident command as well as medical supplies, thermal imaging and photographic equipment.

**Four Engines:** Two 2007 E-Ones (E81 & E812) and two 1998 Seagraves (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. OHFD also has one surplus 1989 E-One engine that is for sale.

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 retested. All of our engines passed with no problems in 2008.

**Ladder 81** is a 1992 Seagraves 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.

**Spill Containment** trailer, equipped for hazardous material response both in the sound and on the ground.

**Confined Space Rescue** trailer, equipped for rescue from tight quarters or precarious perches where rope rescue is necessary.

**Air/Rehab** trailer houses an air compressor to refill SCBA bottles and equipment to rehab working firefighters.

**Mass Casualty Incident** trailer (OHFD has two) contains supplies and equipment for assisting in large scale incidents.

**Crime Scene and Fire Investigation** trailer, new in 2009 this trailer is a shared trailer with Oak Harbor Police Department and is a mobile unit to assist in fire and crime scene investigation.

**Support and Disaster Vehicles:** fire marshal van, training officer van, utility 81 (pick-up), utility trailer, two tractor trucks, 40' flatbed trailer, diesel flatbed truck, fork lift, bus, four mobile generators, 400gal potable water trailer, and a light unit ready for response. Generators supply power to City Hall and OH Senior Center 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.



*"You're terrific!  
Thank you for your support of our annual Challenge Series Race. The presence of the Fire Truck contributed to the fun and excitement of our racers.*

*- The Sunshine Rotary Club,  
October 2009*

## Station 81 Facility Usage 2009

Organization	Description	Hours
<b>CITY OF OAK HARBOR</b>		
Administration	Meetings	19.0
	First Aid / CPR Training	20.0
	Events	7.5
	TOTAL	<b>46.5</b>
Human Resources	Civil Service Meetings	39.0
	Testing	19.5
	Interviews	27.5
TOTAL	<b>86.0</b>	
OH Police Department	Training	21.0
TOTAL	<b>21.0</b>	
OH Fire Department	Weekly Training Drills	252.5
	Events	16.5
	First Aid / CPR Training	11.0
	Public Education Events	21.5
	Quality Management Meeting	19.5
	Meetings	37.5
	Island County Recruit Academy	153.5
	Recruit Training	21.5
	Oak Harbor Fire Fighters Association	75.0
TOTAL	<b>608.5</b>	
<b>CITY OF OAK HARBOR TOTAL</b>		<b>762 HOURS</b>

COMMUNITY		
Harbor Pride Group	Meetings	13.0
Whidbey Is. Marathon Committee	Meeting	2.5
Oak Harbor School District	Technology Meetings	23.0
Island County Sheriffs Office	Meeting	2.0
Island County DEM	Meeting	4.0
Central Whidbey Fire & Rescue	Training	2.0
North Whidbey Fire & Rescue	Training	2.0
South Whidbey Fire & Rescue	Training	34.0
NAS-WI Fire Department	Training	35.0
NAVY EOD Unit	Training	122.0
	COMMUNITY TOTAL	<b>239.5</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (CITY &amp; COMMUNITY)</b>		<b>1001.5 HOURS</b>

*“Last Sunday you “stuck-your-neck-out” and assisted in changing the battery in my smoke alarm. Your help was very appreciated. Thank You.*

- D. Longland, June 2009



**Mark Soptich**  
Fire Chief  
Dir. of Emergency Services  
22 years of service

## Emergency Management & Preparedness

### How you can prepare for disasters

Some of the things you can do to prepare for the unexpected, are the same for both natural and man-made emergencies. With a little planning and common sense, you can be better prepared for the unexpected. Here are some of the things you can do to become better prepared for a disaster.

#### Emergency Checklist:

Find out which disasters could occur in your area.

- Ask how to prepare for each disaster.
- Ask how you would be warned of an emergency.
- Learn your community's evacuation routes.
- Ask about special assistance for elderly or disabled persons.
- Ask your workplace about emergency plans.
- Learn about emergency plans for your children's school or day care center.

#### Create an Emergency Plan

Meet with household members. Discuss with children the dangers of fire, severe weather, earthquakes, and other emergencies.

- Discuss how to respond to each disaster that could occur.
- Discuss what to do about power outages and personal injuries.
- Draw a floor plan of your home. Mark two escape routes from each room.
- Learn how to turn off the water, gas, and electricity at main switches.

- Post emergency telephone numbers near telephones.
- Teach children how and when to call 911.
- Instruct household members to turn on the radio for emergency information.
- Pick one out-of-state and one local friend or relative for family members to call if separated by disaster (it is often easier to call out-of-state than within the affected area).
- Teach children how to make long distance telephone calls.
- Pick two meeting places.
  - A place near your home in case of a fire.
  - A place outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home after a disaster.
- Take a Basic First Aid and CPR Class
- Keep family records in a water-and fire-proof container.

#### Prepare a Disaster Supplies Kit

Assemble supplies you might need in an evacuation. Store them in an easy-to-carry container, such as a backpack or duffle bag. Include:

- A supply of water (one gallon per person per day). Store water in sealed, unbreakable containers. Identify the storage date and replace every six months.
- A supply of non-perishable packaged or canned food and a non-electric can opener.
- A change of clothing, rain gear, and sturdy shoes.
- Blankets or sleeping bags.
- A first aid kit and prescription medications.
- An extra pair of glasses if used.
- A battery-powered radio, flashlight, and plenty of extra batteries.
- Credit cards and cash.
- An extra set of car keys.
- A list of family physicians.
- A list of important family information; the style and serial number of medical devices, such as pacemakers.
- Special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members.

# Celebrating 80 Years of Service | 1929—2009



Ben Koetje  
1929—1934 and 1937-1944



Bill O'Shaughnessy  
1935



Mel Neil  
1936



Frank Judson  
1945—1948



Walt Koetje  
1948—1958

City of  
Oak Harbor  
Fire Chiefs  
1929 to  
present



Chuck Bos  
1959—1966



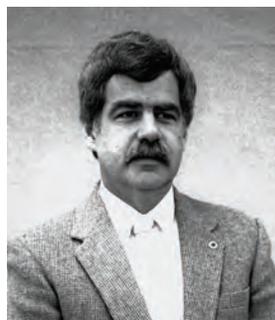
John J. Ronhaar  
1966—1978



Chris Ernst and Norm Dyer  
Interim Chiefs 1978



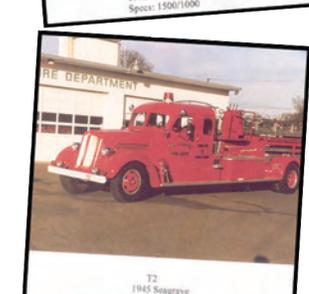
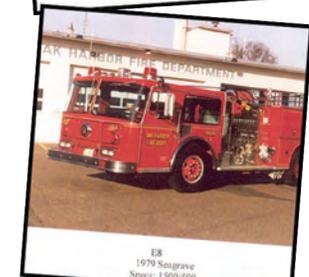
Jay Gunsauls  
1978—1985



Kent DeWitt  
1985—1988



Mark Soptich  
1989—Present



# Year In Review

*I wanted to say THANKS SOOOOO MUCH for letting us borrow your canopy again this year. We really did appreciate it and as you know it started drizzling so it was nice to have somewhere dry to go.”*

- K. Perrine, City of Oak Harbor Relay for Life Team, June 2009

## January

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 98**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 170**
- **ICOM BACKUP DISPATCH CTR AGREEMENT** with OHFD renewed
- **FOUR (4) PAID-ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS (POCFFs)** hired: B.Bahr, C.Blyther, C.Ching, and E.Hooper
- **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) course** (5-month) began for POCFF R. Lange
- **ISLAND CO RECRUIT ACADEMY**, 5-months; began for 3 POCFFs: B.Bahr, C.Ching, and E.Hooper
- **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
- **YEARS OF SERVICE**  
POCFF R.Rodgers - 34 yrs  
Adm Asst R.Velasquez - 19 yrs  
POCFF J.Day, R.Gonzales - 2yrs  
POCFF J.Lebaron - 3 yrs  
POCFFs C.Avance, J.Oleson - 2yr

## February

- **INCIDENT RESPONSESES: 82**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 151**
- **LUNCH WITH A FIREFIGHTER**, monthly through May, public education / mentoring program at OHSD elementary schools
- **YEARS OF SERVICE**  
Lt E.Bridgeford - 13 yrs  
POCFF, D.Martin - 7 yrs  
Office Asst A.Braunstein - 4yrs  
POCFFs S.Carroll and J.Heiserman, - 4 yrs

## March

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 111**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 199**
- **CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY NATIONAL CAMPAIGN**, reminder to change smoke detector batteries
- OHFD also participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Car Wash Fundraiser for Sydney Boyer @ St81
- **YEARS OF SERVICE**  
POCFF D. Wright - 17 yrs  
POCFFs A.Carroll, T.Cross, P.Velasquez, R.Villaflor - 6 yrs  
POCFF S.LEMME - 5yrs  
FF Cuevas - 1 yr

## April

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 121**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 173**
- **WA STATE DEPT OF HEALTH (DOH) PREHOSPITAL PARTICIPATION GRANT 1,726** 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
- **2008 OHFD ANNUAL REPORT:** Condensed Version distributed to City Residents
- Assisted South Whidbey Fire & Rescue with mudslides in Clinton, WA.
- Bowling team participated in Big Brother & Big Sisters Fundraising bowling at Oak Bowl.
- In addition, OHFD participated in the Holland Happening Parade, 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 - 9 yrs

## May

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 112**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 276**
- **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) CERTIFICATION:** POCFF R.Lange
- Citizen Ride-Along, C. Wagner, winner of Big Bros/Big Sis auction item.
- Mock DUI Presentation at Oak Harbor High School
- Department of Natural Resources representative at OHFD to inspect DNR items.
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**  
POCFF D. Faris - 24 yrs  
POCFF R. Mirabal - 3 yrs

## June

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 114**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 159**
- **ISLAND CO RECRUIT ACADEMY GRADUATION. FIREFIGHTER I CERTIFICATION.** 3 POC FF recruits Bahr, Ching and Hooper
- **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

- OHFD also provided generators and lighting towers for Relay for Life
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**  
POCFF J.Hornsby - 31 yrs  
FF D.Baer - 6 yrs

### July

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 144**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 117**
- **POC FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT**, 5 months, began
- In addition, OHFD personnel participated in the Fourth of July Parade, crews were positioned by the fireworks 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 - 14 yrs

### August

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 113**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 153**
- **ANNUAL PHYSICAL AGILITY REQUIREMENT** began for POC Firefighters
- **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.

- In addition, OHFD provided an EMS station at the **RO-TARY ANNUAL CHALLENGE SERIES RACE** and provided generators at the **NORTH WHIDBEY LIONS CLUB ANNUAL CAR SHOW** and the **DOCK STREET BLOCK PARTY**; and participated in Adopt-A-Highway cleanup of SR20 within City Limits and cleanup of Firefighter Park on Midway Blvd and Pioneer Way
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**  
POC Capt R.Hancock - 36 yrs  
POCCapt R.Wallin - 23yrs  
POCFF C.Garden -23 yrs  
Chief M.Soptich - 22 yrs  
POCFF J.Breilein -19 yrs  
Lt M.Engle - 12 yrs

### September

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 120**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 105**
- **FULL TIME FIREFIGHTER HIRED:** E. Klaszky
- **ANNUAL PHYSICAL AGILITY REQUIREMENT** continued for POCFFs
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**  
POCFF D.Jansen - 29 yrs  
Batt.Chief R.Merrill - 20 yrs  
POCFF P.Schroer - 15 yrs

### October

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 106**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 153**

- **NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK:** Be Fire Smart, Don't Get Burned.
- **PUBLIC SAFETY STANDING COMMITTEE (PSSC):** Fire Department Re-Organization Proposal presented to committee
- **LATERAL AND ENTRY LEVEL PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTER**, Oct-November testing began
- OHFD also participated in **HOME DEPOT'S ANNUAL SAFETY FAIR** and the NW Burn Foundation: Give Burns the Boot fund drive, and the testing process began for establishing an eligibility list for POC Firefighters
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**  
Lt M.Buxton - 17 yrs

### November

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 125**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 96**
- **CHANGE YOUR 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 with bomb at Wells Fargo Bank on Midway Blvd. Participants included OHFD, OHPD, Navy Region NW Fire & Emergency Services, N. Whidbey Fire & Rescue, Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue and Whidbey General Hospital.

- **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) CERTIFICATION:** POCFF Peck
- In addition, OHFD personnel participated in cleanup from the **ELK'S LODGE THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR THE COMMUNITY**

### December

- **INCIDENT RESPONSE: 93**
- **TRAINING HOURS: 81**
- **ANNUAL WELLNESS REQUIREMENT** for full time suppression personnel
- **LATERAL POC FIREFIGHTER HIRED:** J. Deater
- **ENTRY LEVEL POC FIREFIGHTER HIRED:** G.Bull, J.Pauley, and G.Zylstra
- **20TH ANNUAL OHFD FAMILY PARTY AND BANQUET** held at Station 81, honored firefighters and their families
- Captain Ron Hancock retired, 36 years of service to OHFD as a POCFF.
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**  
POC FF J.Roberts - 13 yrs

*"A big thanks to everyone who donated to the Police and Fire Department bowling teams for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County. The competition was fierce. We had myself, Dennis Dickinson and Carl Seim on the PD team and Ray Merrill, Dean Faris, Steve McCalmont, John Hornsby, and Steve Peck on the FD team. The competition ended in a split decision. The Fire Department edged out the Police in an "averaged" bowling score, by three pins. The Police Department just edged the Fire Department in money raised, by \$47.*

*The best part is that between us, we raised \$2,064 toward mentorship in Island County. So while the hose monkeys made a great showing this year, let it be known we will crush you next year.*

*Thanks to everyone for your participation"*

- Lt. J. Dyer, Oak Harbor Police Department, April 2009

*“Thank you so much for letting our preschool come to your Fire Station. The children loved it and are practicing stop, drop & roll, the correct time to use 911, their escape route and meeting places. They [firefighters] were great with the children and the parents learned a lot too. Again, thank you so much!”*

- The Little Lambs Preschool,  
November 2009

## Looking forward to 2010

*(Continued from page 6)*

### **2010 GOALS**

Purchase a rescue unit. This is a top priority as the temporary replacement unit is 24 years old and was not designed as a rescue unit.

Relocate the City’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC). It’s relocation in the fire station will enhance our abilities to better manage man-made and natural events and mitigate their impacts. The larger room will be equipped with improved communications and computer capabilities.

Implement the Department Re-Organization plan as approved by City Council in 2009.

This annual report is the product of several department members. Their contributions to this report are a reflection of accurate and thorough accounts of department activities in 2009.

We will continue to provide for the welfare of our community as we strive to meet our vision and mission statements.

*Mark Soptich*

## Retired

**Captain Ron Hancock** first served his country in the U.S. Navy and then his community in the fire service. He joined the fire service in 1966 with Naval Air Station Whidbey Island Fire Department; in 1973 he began his career as a volunteer firefighter with Oak Harbor Fire Department – for a combined total of 43 years in the fire service.

During his distinguished career with OHF and NASWI fire departments he acquired many qualifications, held a range of positions and participated in numerous programs and special projects. He truly is a credit to the firefighting profession and to his community. His thoughtfulness, concern and compassion for all members of the department and the citizens we serve further enhance his strong and positive representation of the profession.

After thirty-six years of paid-on-call service, Captain Hancock retired from Oak Harbor Fire Department in December 2009. We are fortunate that Ron will continue to serve OHFD as a volunteer Fire Chaplain.



*Above: this image was printed in brass and applied to a Maltese cross plaque along with a Captain's badge and bugle lapel pins and presented to Captain Hancock at his retirement. A. Braunstein, December 2009*

Fire Chaplain

An Emergency Service Chaplain is someone to assist management, members (active and retired) and their families in crisis or other important life situations and to help build and maintain respect for the department in the community.

The Chaplain's duties include: Spiritual guidance, counseling, visitation, dedications, availability, support in emergencies, coordinate with hospitals, assist with funerals, weddings, and otherwise provide a listening ear.



2009 Annual Report  
Oak Harbor Fire Department

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Oak Harbor, Washington

Produced by Mark Soptich, Fire Chief  
Editor: Romy Velasquez, Administrative Assistant  
Design and Production: Angela Braunstein, Office Assistant

Division information provided by:  
Battalion Chief Ray Merrill, Fire Prevention Division  
Lieutenant Craig Anderson: Training Division & Public Education  
Lieutenant Mike Engle, Maintenance Division

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and OHFD members.

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