

OAK HARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT

2004

1929—2004 CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



Cover photos: right & left by Katalin Bultman; center/top by Jay Cordary; center/bottom by Angela Braunstein

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 are:

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

CONTENTS

VISION / GOAL / OBJECTIVES 3

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF 4

STATISTICS 5

AREA MAP 7

PERSONNEL 8

PREVENTION 15

EMERGENCY INCIDENTS..... 17

TRAINING 21

PUBLIC EDUCATION 27

MAINTENANCE 34

REVENUE..... 37

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2005 38



Photo by Kat Bultman, May 2004

Message from the Chief



April 14, 2005

April 29, 2004 marked the Oak Harbor Fire Department's 75th Anniversary. It was a year to reflect on those who established the department in 1929, those who have served and those who currently serve. They are honored and shall not be forgotten.

It is my pleasure to present to you our 2004 Annual Report which was prepared with great pride. Although being prideful is not a good trait, the fact that numerous projects, events, and tasks were completed is something to be proud of. Oftentimes, what was not completed or achieved within the year is the focus. Conducting personal and departmental evaluations are good. However, it can be challenging to refrain from dwelling on any negatives. My comments will concentrate on our fire personnel and their accomplishments. Our personnel are our most valuable asset.

Our composite diverse group of talented and trusted individuals pull together to create positive results under a variety of circumstances. Career and Paid-On-Call (POC) personnel, like a family, can get into some heated discussions but generally do so because of the passion they possess for the fire service and their desire to improve. Many combination departments have inquired how their departments can experience the same type of relationship between their Career and POC personnel.

Unlike previous years, our membership is young in experience. Throughout the year, personnel are lost to other departments who also seek well-trained firefighters dedicated to their career and who truly enjoy serving the public. It is becoming increasingly difficult to specifically recruit and retain POC personnel. The demands of training, working shifts, and responding to emergency incidents while maintaining regular full-time employment and devoting quality time to family is difficult at best. Needless to say, strong family support is necessary for each POC member to serve the community and to serve it well.

Career personnel provide numerous tasks which are in support of POC personnel or which are tasks POC personnel cannot conduct. They include administrative functions, training, maintenance, code enforcement and responding to emergency incidents during daytime hours (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.). Due to a temporary full time office position filled in April, our ability to improve services was enhanced. Prior to filling the position, personnel assisted with office services where they could. Once the position was filled, personnel were able to concentrate fully on their

responsibilities. I wholehearted thank them for their assistance and teamwork.

Our extraordinary personnel make it happen!

Required annual maintenance on apparatus and equipment was completed, required training was provided, and public education was conducted. Training and public education play a significant role in what we do. Annual fire and life safety inspections were conducted and plan reviews for new construction completed. Emergency incidents were mitigated effectively. Safety was a high priority and will continue to take precedence. Though injuries were minor, we strive to operate injury free. Preparing and planning for the future is continually a part of the decision making process.

Our goal is simple: Provide excellent customer services as effectively and efficiently as possible. Maintaining our goal will require the continued support of the community, our city officials, and the hard work and dedication of our fire personnel.

Respectfully,

OAK HARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARK H. SOPTICH, CHIEF

**OAK HARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT
2004 STATISTICS**

General

Area Served in Sq. Miles	9.31
Population	20,570
Assessed Valuation	\$1,136,018,352
General Fund Budget	\$10,065,703
Adopted Fire Budget.....	\$1,633,274
Fire Control	\$1,320,006
Capitol Outlay	\$5,780
1998 LTGO Fire Bond	\$275,227
Engine Bond 230.....	\$32,261
Dept. Equipment Rental Fund.....	\$50,000
Dept. Revenues	\$39,190

Personnel

Uniformed Full Time	10
Number of Shifts	2
Full Time Firefighters per Shift.....	2
Average Hours per week	43
Administrative Support.....	1
Administrative Support, Temporary	1
Uniformed Paid-On-Call.....	38
Number of Shifts	2
POC Firefighters per Day Shift	1
POC Firefighters per Night Shift.....	3

Emergency Incident Responses

Fire Insurance Rating.....	4
Incidents Responses (all)	1,075
Fire	24
Medical.....	512
Fire Loss	\$397,700
Injuries	0
Fire Service, Full Time.....	0
Fire Service, POC.....	0
Civilians	0
Casualties	0

CITY OF OAK HARBOR

MAYOR

Patricia A. Cohen

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Paul Brewer

Sheilah Crider

Richard Davis

Larry Eaton

Eric Gerber

Sue M. Karahalios

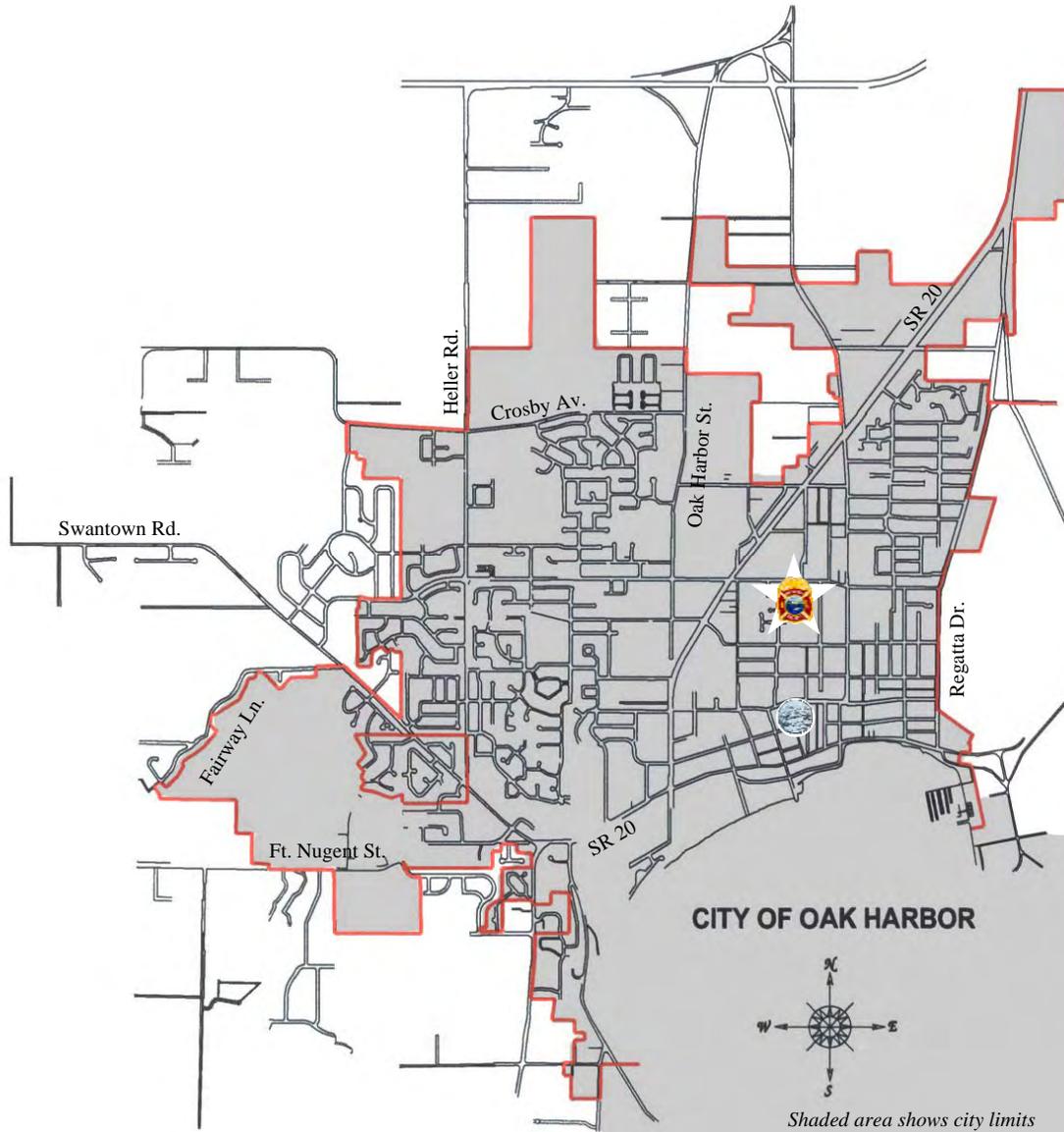
Danny Paggao



THE CITY OF OAK HARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES ALL FIRE FIGHTING AND FIRE INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE CITY. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO PROVIDES EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE, WITH WHIDBEY GENERAL HOSPITAL BEING THE PRIMARY RESPONDER FOR MEDICAL

EMERGENCIES. THE OAK HARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT IS THE LARGEST FIRE DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON TO RELY PRIMARILY ON “VOLUNTEER” FIREFIGHTERS (REFERRED TO AS “PAID-ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS” SINCE THEY ARE PAID FOR RESPONDING TO CALLS). NOTE: AT CURRENT PAY LEVELS, THE WAGES OF ONE FULL-TIME PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTER EQUALS THE PAY OF FOUR PAID-ON-CALL VOLUNTEERS.

ANOTHER MEASURE OF FIRE PROTECTION IS THE CITY’S FIRE PROTECTION RATING. THESE RATINGS DETERMINE FIRE INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR CITIZENS OF OAK HARBOR. THE RATINGS ARE ESTABLISHED BY THE WASHINGTON SURVEY & RATING BUREAU WHO PERIODICALLY ASSESSES SUCH ISSUES AS WATER SUPPLY, EQUIPMENT CONDITION, CAPITAL FACILITIES, TRAINING AND STAFFING. THE CURRENT CITY FIRE RATING IS 4.



OAK HARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT



AREA SERVED: 9.31 SQUARE MILES

POPULATION: 20,570

FIRE INSURANCE RATING: 4

FIRE STATIONS: 1

TYPE OF DEPARTMENT: COMBINATION

FIRE APPARATUS:

- 1 AERIAL LADDER
- 4 ENGINES
- 1 MEDICAL UNIT
- 1 SUPPORT UNIT
- 1 COMMAND UNIT

STAFFING LEVEL:

- 1 FULL TIME FIRE CHIEF
- 1 FULL TIME BATTALION CHIEF
- 4 FULL TIME LIEUTENANTS
- 4 FULL TIME FIREFIGHTERS
- 38 PAID-ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS
- (INCLUDES 1 PART TIME PRE-FIRE PLANS)
- 1 FULL TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
- 1 FULL TIME (TEMP) OFFICE ASSISTANT



Internal/External Training
 Training Committee Chair
 Fire Prevention
 Public Education
 Audio Visual
 Health & Fitness
 Emergency Responses

Station 81 Facility
 Maintenance
 Apparatus Maintenance
 Protective Gear
 Radios and Pagers
 Annual Testing:
 Apparatus, Pumpers,
 Hoses, Hydrants
 Emergency Responses

D Shift
 Career Incentive Program
 High School Program
 Emergency Responses
 Training

Personnel, Payroll
 Accounts Payable/Receivable,
 Policy Review Committee
 POC Interview Board





Our ranks total fifty members, divided into full-time firefighters/support staff and paid-on-call firefighters. Pictured here are our administrative staff, career firefighters, and paid-on-call officers. *See chart on page 12 for all department personnel certification and years of service.*



Mark Soptich, Fire Chief
Director of Emergency Services
17 years of service
Member Since 1987



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



Romy Velasquez
Administrative Assistant
16 years of service
Full Time Member Since 1990
Part Time Member 1988-1989



Craig Anderson, Lieutenant
Training & Public Education
13 years of service
Full Time Member Since 1995
POC Member 1991-1995



Mike Engle, Lieutenant
Maintenance Division
7 years of service
Member Since 1997



Corky Bridgford, Lieutenant
A Shift
20 years of service
Full Time Member Since 1996
POC Member 1984-1996



Mike Buxton, Lieutenant
B Shift
12 years of service
Member Since 1992

Paid-On-Call Officers



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



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



Rich Rodgers
Paid-On-Call D Shift Officer
29 years of service
Member Since 1975



Dean Faris
Paid-On-Call D Shift Officer
19 years of service
Member Since 1985



Chris Garden
Paid-On-Call D Shift Officer
18 years of service
Member Since 1986



Paul Schroer
Paid-On-Call D Shift Officer
10 years of service
Member Since 1994



John Hornsby
Paid-On-Call & Incident Safety Officer
25 years of service
Member Since 1978

Career Firefighters



Jason Lamar, Firefighter
A Shift
7 years of service
Full Time Member Since 1997



Jeremy Jamerson, Firefighter
A Shift
Full Time Member Since 2003
POC Member 1998-2003



Don Baer, Firefighter
B Shift
Full Time Member Since 2003



Steve McCalmont, Firefighter
B Shift
Full Time Member Since 2000
POC Member 1990-2000

**Awards Presented at the
OHFD 2004 Special Award Ceremony**

30 years of Service

Ronald Hancock, POC Cpt

Life-Saving Award

Jeremy Jamerson, FT FF
Pedro Velasquez, POC FF

25 years of Service

John Hornsby, POC ISO

Recruit of the Year (2003)

Thomas Cross, POC FF
Joseph Heilman, POC FF

15 years of Service

Ray Merrill, Battalion Chief

Meritorious Service

Paul Schroer, DS Officer

10 Years of Service

Dennis Wright, POC FF
Paul Schroer, DS Officer



(L to R): Lt. Bridgeford, Lt. Engle, POCFF Heilman, FF Lamar, FF Jameson, POCFF Villaflor, and Lt. Anderson. May 2004 (photo by Kat Bultman)

Personnel

R. Velasquez, Administrative Assistant

FULL TIME

	YRS OF SERVICE	NAME		CERTIFICATIONS
1	17.25	SOPTICH	M	Instructor I & II
2	15.25	MERRILL	R	EMT, Instructor I & II
3	15.00	VELASQUEZ	R *	
		Admin. Asst.		
4	12.00	BUXTON	T	FF1/EMT, Instructor I
5	9.25	ANDERSON	C *	FF1/Paramedic, Instructor I & II
6	8.75	BRIDGEFORD	E *	FF1/EMT, Instructor I
7	7.25	ENGLE	M	FF1/EMT, Instructor 1
8	7.25	LAMAR	J	FF1/EMT, Instructor 1
9	4.75	McCALMONT	S *	FF1/EMT
10	1.50	BAER	D	FF1/EMT
11	1.50	JAMERSON	J *	FF1/EMT, Instructor 1

* Denotes Full Time Years of Service Only

PAID ON CALL

	YRS OF SERVICE	NAME		CERTIFICATIONS
1	31.50	HANCOCK	R	EMT
2	29.75	RODGERS	R	
3	26.50	HORNSBY	J	Inc. Safety
4	24.25	JANSEN	D	
5	19.50	FARIS	D	FF1/EMT
6	18.75	WALLIN	R	EMT
7	18.25	GARDEN	C	EMT
8	14.25	BREILEIN	J	1st Responder
9	11.75	WRIGHT	D	1st Responder
10	10.25	SCHROER	P	FF1/EMT
11	8.00	ROBERTS	J	EMT
12	4.75	GOODIN	J	FF1/EMT
13	4.75	HENSON	J	FF1/EMT
14	4.00	DAVIDSON	A	FF1/EMT
15	2.75	BEBEE	B	FF1/EMT
16	2.75	MARTIN	D	FF1/EMT
17	2.75	MOSER	T	FF1/EMT
18	2.75	SOPTICH	K	FF1/EMT
19	2.50	SOPTICH	D **	

** Includes Prior Years of POCFF Service

PAID ON CALL

	YRS OF SERVICE	NAME		CERTIFICATIONS
20	1.75	BUTTREY	L	FF1
21	1.75	CARROLL	A	FF1
22	1.75	CROSS	T	FF1/1st Responder
23	1.75	DEATER	J	FF1
24	1.75	HEILMAN	J	FF1/EMT
25	1.75	MONROE	S	FF1/EMT
26	1.75	VELASQUEZ	P	FF1
27	1.75	VILLAFLO	R	FF1/1st Responder
28	0.75	FIGGS	A	FF1
29	0.75	HAMILTON	O	FF1
30	0.75	NIMMONS	C	FF1
31	0.75	SOPTICH	J	FF1

PAID ON CALL - RESIGNATIONS

	YRS OF SERVICE	NAME		CERTIFICATIONS
1	17.75	BOYER	J	EMT
2	10.25	GRUCE	K	EMT
3	7.50	CROSSLEY	T	FF1/EMT
4	6.00	WESSEL	M	FF1/EMT
5	5.50	PAGGAO	K	FF1/EMT
6	2.75	BEARDEN	T	FF1/EMT
7	2.75	LEMME	S	
8	0.75	DARCY	M	FF1

SUMMARY OF 2004 CERTIFICATIONS

1 Uniform Fire Code Inspector (Merrill)
 3 Fire Inspector I (Buxton, Anderson, Bridgeford)
 1 Fire Inspector II (Merrill)
 3 Instructor II
 8 Instructor I

1 Incident Safety Officer
 34 Firefighter I
 1 Paramedic
 29 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)
 4 First Responders

COVERAGE TO THE CITY



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

D-Shift DAY: Ten-hour shifts, 7 days a week, 0830-1830 hours. One POC firefighter on DAY shift completes a four-member crew for A/B Shift.



A/B Shift: Fourteen-hour shifts on Mondays, 0700-2100 hours. Twelve-hour shifts Tuesday through Sunday, 0700-1900 hours. Shifts alternate a working schedule of four consecutive days on shift and four consecutive days off. One full time lieutenant and two full time firefighters are on duty per shift.

D-Shift NIGHT: Twelve-hour shifts, 7 days per week, 1900-0700 hours. Maximum of five POC firefighters on NIGHT shift perform various duties. Personnel occupy sleeping quarters in the station while on shift.



POC: Paid-On-Call Firefighters are equipped with pagers and respond from home or work when dispatched to emergency incidents.

CIP: Career Incentive Program participants provide 96 hours per month by working shifts with full time and POC firefighters. A maximum of six CIP firefighters may participate in this program.



Photos by Jay Cordary.





Celebrating 75 Years of Excellence Oak Harbor Fire Department 1929-2004

Following are highlights from OHFD minutes taken during the department's first year, 1929.

April 29 Elected Ben Koetje - Chief, Gert Zylstra - Assistant Chief, and Yorke Dyer - Secretary/Treasurer. Motion made and carried to hold meetings each Monday night at Judson's Garage. Committee appointed by-laws to Judson, Dawson and B. Koetje. Chris McEacheran elected president.

May 8 It was reported the committee had bought 2 fire carts from the Mount Vernon Fire Department for \$35. Moved and carried: (1) a financial statement be published once a month in the paper, (2) initiation fees be \$2, and (3) the by-laws be accepted as read.

May 13 Moved and carried: (1) a committee be appointed to get competitive figures on new and second hand hose, (2) build a box on hose cart #1 to accommodate 500 feet of hose, (3) secretary be instructed to hold \$35 and \$100 sirens sent us on 30-day trial, and (4) Chief to pick his crews and report at next meeting on May 21.

May 21 Committee reported hose at 72 cents per foot, but tabled until the city got a water system. Moved and carried: ask for a \$75 siren to try out with the one on hand. Chief reported he had picked the

following captains: O'Shaunessy, Johnson, and Meeter. Dawson appointed electrician. Twenty-three have shown interest in the department. Moved and carried: (1) captains pick their crews from the list, and (2) charter membership held open until next meeting.

May 28 The following have paid fee of \$2, hereby becoming Charter Members: Ed Anderson, Yorke Dyer, E. Erkes, Ed Forner, Harold Johnson, Ernest Judson, Ben Koetje, Tom Koetje, Walt Koetje, Luke Mars, Howard Maylor, Charles McEacheran, John Nienhuis, Albert Oldenburg, Bill O'Shaunessy, G.M. Pratt, Gerrit VanDyk, Al Whitney, and Gert Zylstra. Moved and carried: (1) money taken in from initiation fees be kept separate as a social fund, (2) a committee be appointed to investigate the feasibility of equipping and using a 2 or 4 wheel trailer for hose and ladder carrier, and (3) officers be instructed to buy 500 feet of hose previously decided upon. By order of the Chief, 2 blasts of siren calls for practice and 1 long blast is a real fire.

June 25

Moved and carried: (1) the department buy a motor driven vehicle for use as a hose and ladder wagon (same committee to find out cost and kind of truck for sale at Sedro Woolley), (2) Oldenburg see Muzzal about having a department baseball game on July 4, and (3) dues be payable July 1 and each month thereafter.

June 26 Moved and carried: (1) applied cash discount on hose, (2) dance committee be discharged with thanks, (3) 2 blasts of siren for practice and 1 long blast for fire, (4) Dawson to investigate cost of installing siren up town, (5) keep \$35 siren, and (6) Fire Chief to put notice in the paper that permit must be had for burning.

November 4 Hill Barrington was voted in as a member (paid \$2 initiation fee and \$2.50 residence donation). Moved and carried: organize a basketball team and buy a basketball out of general funds. Hill Barrington was elected manager of the team.

December 30 Moved and carried: (1) a committee of B. Koetje, Dawson, and Forner appointed to see that the gauge on

the City water truck be repaired, (2) committee of Oldenburg, Zylstra, and Dyer appointed to present a proposed ordinance to City Council regarding electrical and building codes, and (3) invite the Mount Vernon Fire Department to bring over a basketball team for a game and a feed afterward. The following officers were elected for 1930: A. Whitney - President, G. Zylstra - Vice President, A. Oldenburg - Secretary/Treasurer, and Fire Chief B. Koetje.

Financial statement 1929 drawn by C. Yorke Dyer, Treasurer:

Receipts 1929

Donations	\$323.00
Dance	110.90
July 4 th Ball Game	65.14
Basketball Games	61.85

Disbursements 1929

Hose Cart	\$35.00
Rope & Supplies	8.10
500 Ft. Hose	352.80
Siren	35.00
Wrenches	13.00
Basketball	14.00
Baseball/Bats	9.00

Fire Prevention / Code Division

R. Merrill, Battalion Chief

During 2004, the Washington State Building Code Council (WSBCC) adopted the International Family of Codes. This includes the 2003 Edition of the International Fire Code. In July of 2004 the City of Oak Harbor formally adopted the same series of Codes. Prior to 2004 the City utilized the Uniform Fire Code as the basis for Fire and Life Safety Inspection and plan review requirements. The adoption of the International Fire Code redefined Occupancy Classification of some business and residential properties. This Code also refined the require-

ments for fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems.

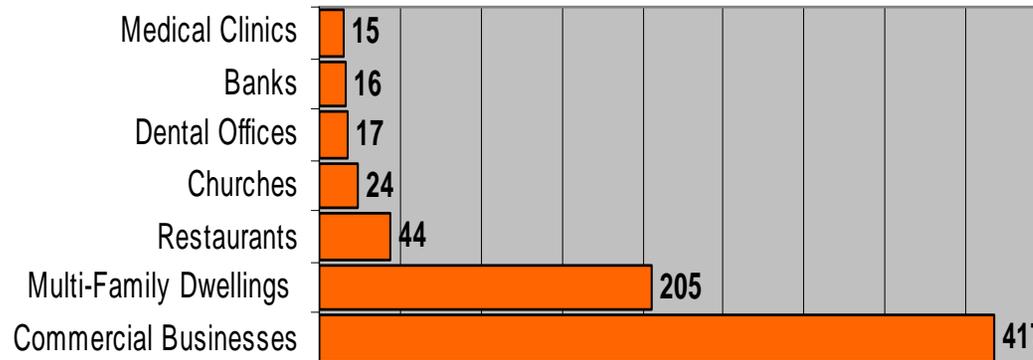
During 2004 the Fire Department conducted 780 Fire and Life Safety Inspections of com-

MOST COMMON FIRE & LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION VIOLATIONS

- The improper use of extension cords,
- The improper use of electrical power taps / power cubes,
- Non-working exit sign lights or emergency exit lighting,
- Fire extinguishers due for annual servicing.

mercial and residential properties. This accounts for a 92% inspection rate of occupied buildings or portions of buildings. At the end of 2004 there were 709 Commercial Occupancies, of that amount there were 60 vacant buildings / portions of buildings. The chart below represents the major use of occupancies. The fire department also inspects all residential occupancies 3-plex or larger. At the end of 2004 there were 205 residential structures (3-plex or larger) within the City limits. The fire department completed 100% inspection of all residential units.

Major Use of Commercial Buildings



Lt. Bridgeford. Photo by Kat Bultman, May

MEET OUR CERTIFIED INSPECTORS

**FIRE INSPECTOR 2 CERTIFICATION
& UNIFORM FIRE CODE INSPECTOR**

Battalion Chief Ray Merrill

FIRE INSPECTOR 1 CERTIFICATION

**Lieutenant Craig Anderson
Lieutenant Corky Bridgeford
Lieutenant Mike Buxton**

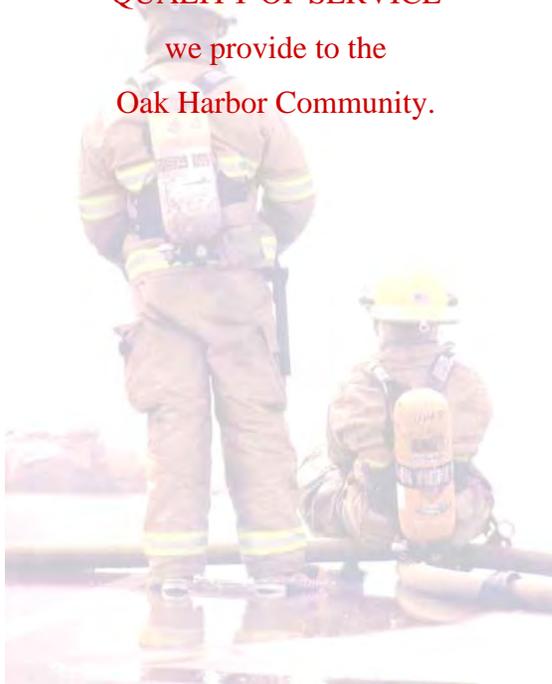
Nationwide,
fire and emergency
medical services have become
increasingly complex.

We welcome the challenge by provid-
ing state of the art training for our per-
sonnel. We take great pride in our peo-

ple, operations, facility, apparatus,
equipment and the

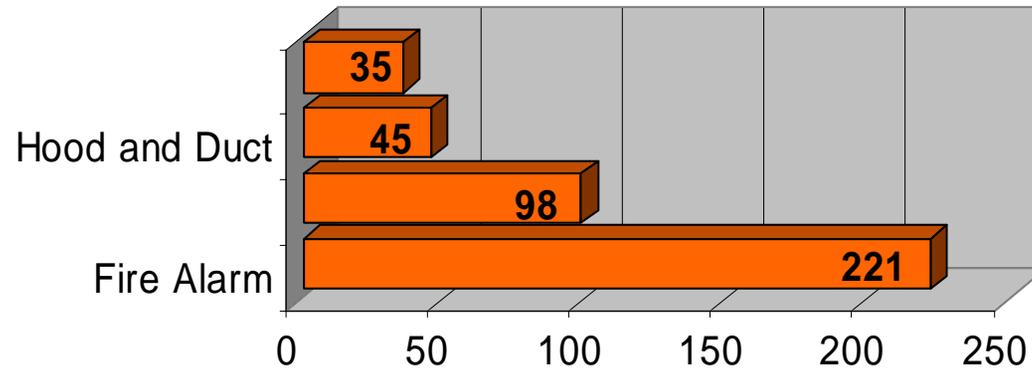
QUALITY OF SERVICE

we provide to the
Oak Harbor Community.



FIRE PROTECTION FEATURES IN COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCIES

Types of Commercial Fire Suppression Systems used in Oak Harbor



In accordance with current code requirements, specific buildings or occupancies are required to have built-in fire protection features. With the continued growth within the City, the number of fire suppression or fire alarm systems has steadily increased. At the end of 2004 there were **221** fire alarm systems, **133** fire sprinkler systems and **45** hood and duct sup-

pression systems. These systems may be stand alone or a combination fire alarm, fire sprinkler or hood and duct suppression systems. There are some buildings that maintain a fire alarm system, a wet and a dry sprinkler system and also have at least one hood and duct fire suppression system.

ALL FIRE ALARM AND FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS REQUIRE ANNUAL TESTING, INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION, WHILE HOOD AND DUCT SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS REQUIRE SEMI-ANNUAL TESTING, INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION.

Photo by Kat Bultman, May 2004

Oak Harbor Fire Department Fire Experience in 2004

During 2004 the City of Oak Harbor lost an estimated combined total of \$397,700 due to fire damage occurring in 24 fires.

Residential structure fires accounted for 14 fires with a combined total loss of \$349,800 (includes value of structure and contents). It has been determined that three of these structure fires were intentionally set and, though investigations continue, no arrests have been made in connection to the fires. The remaining structure fires were determined to be of accidental origin:

- Two fires started with poorly installed woodstove chimney pipes. Combustible wood framing materials were installed too near stovepipes and ignited;
- Two homes caught fire after the occupant of one home

improperly disposed of smoking materials. Realizing the trash bag was smoldering, the occupant removed it to an outdoor area between the two homes; but too near an exterior wall which ignited. The fire then spread to the neighboring home;

- Unattended smoking materials caused a porch fire;
- Unattended barbecue briquettes ignited a home's exterior wall;
- A mobile home fire occurred after an occupant fell asleep while cooking;
- A homemade hot air balloon landed on a home's roof, igniting a small fire;
- Two separate kitchen fires began after cooking oil ignited; and
- A faulty clothes dryer caused a laundry room fire.

There were three commercial structure fires in 2004 with a combined total loss of \$1,500:

- A fire in a motel started in a dryer and caused minor damage to the laundry room;
- Fire was discovered in an elderly care facility, also in a dryer. Minor damages were reported; and
- A second fire at an elderly care facility started on an outdoor deck.

The seven remaining fires occurred in motor vehicles and accounted for \$46,400 in damages. One of those fires involved a truck carrying a camper and sustained \$18,000 in loss. Four of the vehicle fires have been determined as arson fires.

OVERVIEW OF 2004 FIRE EXPERIENCE IN OAK HARBOR

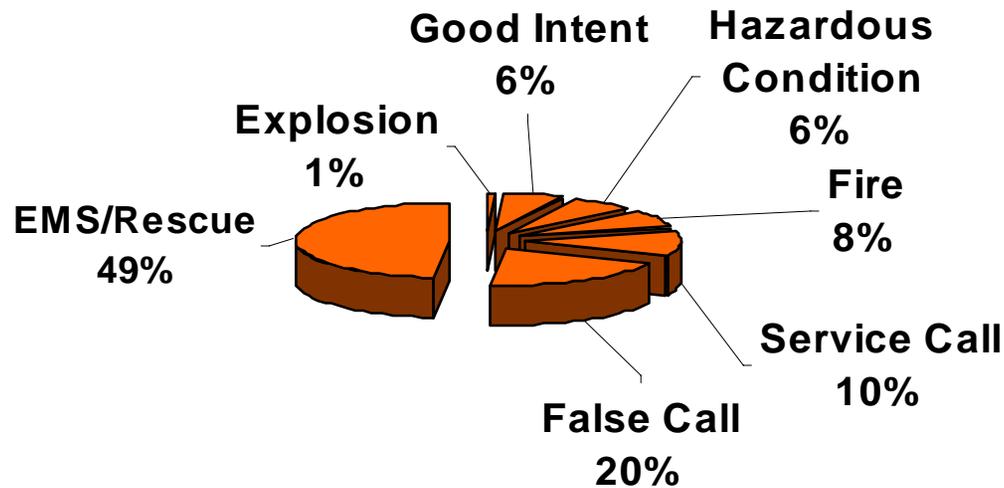
- Fire loss in 2004 totaled \$397,700
- 24 fires were responded by Oak Harbor Fire Department
- 21 fires occurred in structures, a 184% increase over 2003
- 14 fires or 58% occurred in residential structures (homes)
- 3 fires occurred in commercial buildings
- 7 fires occurred in motor vehicles
- 29% of fires (7 total) were caused by arson

ARSON AFFECTS YOU Nationally, deliberately-set fires kill more than **300** people each year, injures thousands and destroys more than **\$1 billion** worth of property. Arson crimes have **increased** more than 400% over the past 10 years. **Arson affects everyone.** Fire-gutted buildings and burned-out businesses create a chain reaction of unemployment, higher insurance costs, and a reduced tax base needed to support schools, local government and other important community services.

Information courtesy of the National Fire Protection Association

All Incident Overview

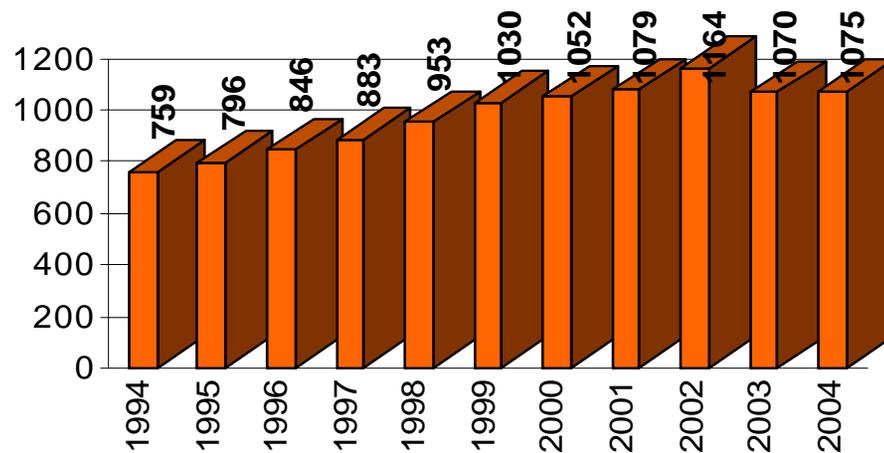
Types of Situations Found



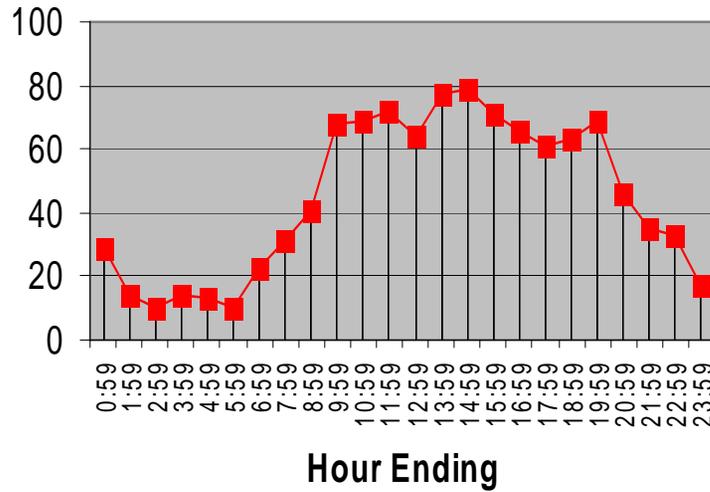
The graphs on the following pages represent specific data related to 2004 fire incidents within the City of Oak Harbor. The Oak Harbor Fire Department responded to **1,075** total incidents

Type of Situation	Incidents	Percent	Average Response Time
Explosion	9	1	4:45
Severe Weather	5	<1	5.22
Good Intent	67	6	6:37
Hazardous Condition	69	6	7:31
Fire	81	8	5:56
Service Call	99	10	6:07
False Call	216	20	4:51
EMS/Rescue	516	49	4:06
Totals	1075	100	5:34

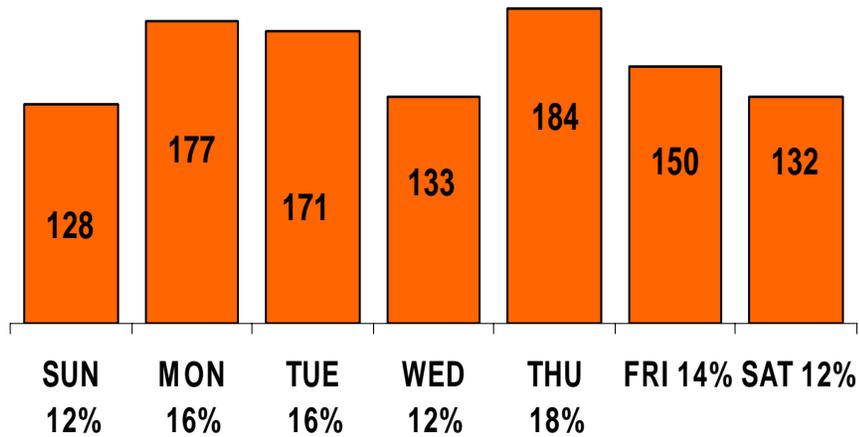
Ten Year Trend in Number of Incidents



Incidents by Time of Day



Incidents by Day of Week



(top right) FF Jamerson, May 2004 Photos by Kat Bullman

Thanks for your prompt response and keeping our residents safe. – L. Burns and Staff, Summer Hill Retirement and Assisted Living Community, November 2004

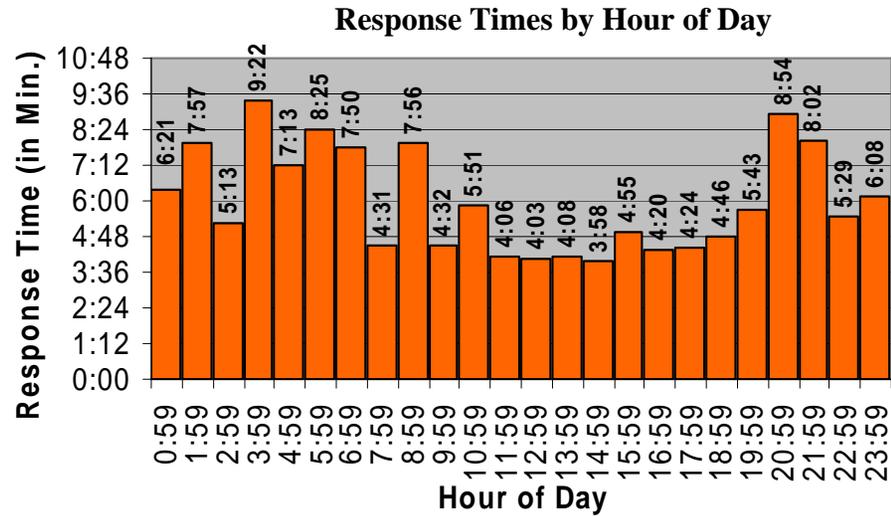
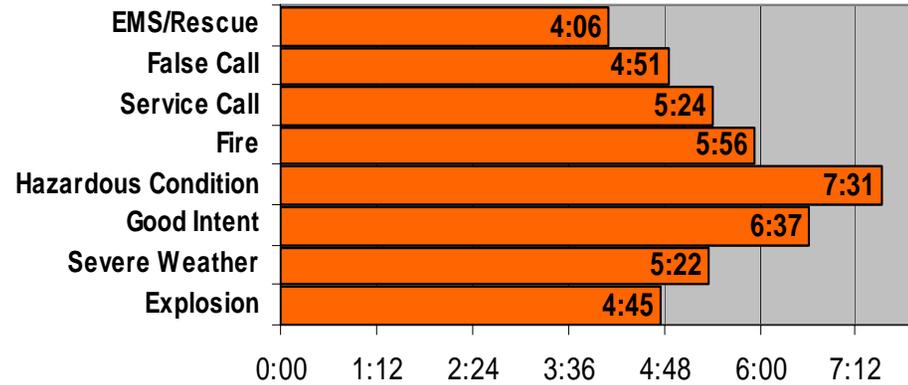
Thank you so much for your professionalism and compassion while responding to our house fire.... While we recognize “it is your job”, you do it very well! Your kindness was sincerely appreciated. – Dotson Family, December 2004



Photo by Kat Bultman, 2004

Oak Harbor Fire Department’s rapid response to the early morning fire ...is greatly appreciated... your ladder truck would have been essential to saving lives on the upper floors... Thank you for this truly outstanding service and protection for the Whidbey Island community. -- Board of Directors, Senior Service of Island County March 2004

Average Response Time (in Minutes) by Incident Type



Training Division Support Service

C. Anderson, Lieutenant

How Does One Train to be A Paid-On-Call Firefighter?

If you had asked the above question twenty-five years ago, the answer would have been, “Show up at the fire station on Monday evening and we will give you turnout gear and a radio-plexon. Stay close to someone with experience and you will get all the training you need.” The same question asked now will get you a very different answer.

Public expectations have come to the forefront of our business – the business of protecting lives and property. When the public dials 911, they expect trained, competent personnel to respond to their emergency.

A recruit firefighter will spend 190 hours obtaining the necessary skills taught in the Island County Recruit Academy – one of only nine internationally accredited academies in Washington State. Basic skills in fire suppression, ventilation, search

and rescue, and salvage are taught in the classroom and on the drill ground. Recruits will give up their week nights and weekends practicing skills until they can perform them in their sleep, for this is when the public

**TRAINING IS A NEVER
ENDING JOURNEY IN A
FIREFIGHTER’S CAREER
OF SERVICE. TO BE
KNOWN AS A FIRE-
FIGHTER IS A TITLE OF
PRIDE, BORN OF
ACCOMPLISHMENT,
TRAINING, AND COMMIT-
MENT TO OTHERS.**

will call and expect the firefighters to demonstrate their competence.

The Academy staff is made up of selected experienced Island

County and Oak Harbor fire personnel who dedicate their time to train recruits while reinforcing their own basic firefighting knowledge. While recruits are paid minimum wage for their time, the department invests approximately \$5,500 per person in training costs and personal protective equipment. The recruit firefighter must complete Academy training, testing and qualify for positions on each apparatus prior to responding to an emergency.

The completion of the Academy is only the beginning of a firefighter’s training. Throughout their career, training will remain a priority. New skills will include training in emergency medicine, emergency vehicle operations, departmental procedures, and advanced firefighting techniques. A firefighter should expect to spend over 350 hours during the first two years in additional training.

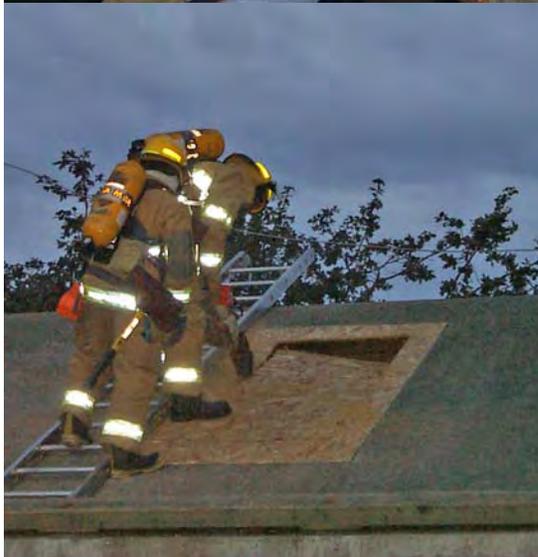


Photos this page by Kat Bultman, May 2004

Training Division



OHFD
Firefighters
spent nearly
7000 hours
TRAINING
in 2004



Firefighters practice using extraction tools to safely access, treat and remove injured passengers from a mini-van during this training drill.

Left: Firefighters use a chainsaw to cut a ventilation hole through the "roof" of the training tower.

Photos by John Hornsby, 2004.



Training Division

The following newspaper article appeared in the Whidbey News Times. We are currently training six firefighter recruits that responded to a similar article. (truncated and emphasis added)



Various stages of a controlled training burn Conducted in October 2004.



Photos by John Hornsby, 2004



Firefighter wearing protective gear and SCBA (self contained breathing apparatus)

Dec 06, 2003

Firefighters Seek Volunteers

By Nathan Whalen

Any day on Whidbey Island, firefighters can be seen pulling a victim from a car wreck or dousing a house fire.

These firefighters are volunteers and the local fire districts are looking for residents willing to go through the volunteer training program next year.

Preliminary training begins in January culminating with a firefighting academy in March that combines the volunteers of all fire districts on the island.

The bulk of the classes are held at Oak Harbor Fire Department.

The process takes about a month to complete. Volunteers who complete the course are then issued their pagers and can respond to emergency calls.

Once volunteers complete the academy, the training doesn't stop. Each fire district holds training sessions every Monday evening that volunteers are expected to attend and hone their skills.

FULL TIME PERSONNEL

NAME	DIVISIONS	1075 INCS		45 TRAIN. DRILLS			NAME	DIVISIONS	1075 INCS		45 TRAIN. DRILLS		
		NO.	%	NO.	%	HRS.			RANK	NO.	%	NO.	%
SOPTICH Chief	Command 8, Administration, Support Services Training and Maintenance Divisions, POC FF, D-Shift, CIP, High School FF Program, Dir. Emergency Ops., Emergency Responses	446	41%	24	53%	86.25	MERRILL Battalion Chief	Command 8, Code Enforcement, Plan Reviews, A / B Shifts, Pre-Fire Plans, Safety Cmte. Chair, Policy Review Cmte., Investigations, POCFF Interview Board, Emergency Responses	400	37%	29	64%	134.25
ANDERSON Lieutenant	Training, Training Committee Chair, Public Education, Emerg. Response	155	14%	42	93%	391.00	BRIDGEFORD Lieutenant	Suppression, A-Shift, Safety Committee	257	24%	20	44%	135
ENGLE Lieutenant	Maintenance, Evaluator: Apparatus Position Quals., Emerg. Responses	124	12%	32	71%	129.50	BUXTON Lieutenant	Suppression, B-Shift, Evaluator: Apparatus Position Quals.	281	26%	20	44%	162.75
LAMAR Firefighter / EMT	Suppression, A Shift, Training Committee	249	23%	26	58%	130.50	McCALMONT Firefighter / EMT	Suppression, B-Shift, Evaluator: Pump Qualifications	266	25%	27	60%	165
JAMERSON Firefighter / EMT	Suppression, A Shift	281	26%	26	58%	155.75	BAER Firefighter / EMT	Suppression, B-Shift	310	29%	29	64%	181.25
VELASQUEZ Admin. Asst.	Administration, Policy Review Cmte., POCFF Interview Board	2	0%	n/a	0%	22.75	McCALMONT Office Asst. temp	Administration: Customer Service	n/a	0%	n/a	0%	4.5

PAID ON CALL CAPTAINS

HANCOCK POC Capt.	Suppression, D-Shift, Safety Committee	201	19%	28	62%	94.00	WALLIN POC Capt.	Suppression, D-Shift, Training Cmte., Policy Review Cmte.	95	9%	29	64%	116
-----------------------------	--	-----	-----	----	-----	-------	----------------------------	---	----	----	----	-----	-----

PAID ON CALL D-SHIFT OFFICERS

FARIS DS Officer	Suppression, D-Shift	96	9%	37	82%	104.75	RODGERS DS Officer	Suppression, D-Shift, Evaluator: Pump Quals.	74	7%	26	58%	76.50
GARDEN DS Officer	Suppression, D-Shift	42	4%	19	42%	70.75	SCHROER DS Officer	Suppression, D-Shift, CIP, Training Cmte., Evaluator: Pump Quals.	228	21%	36	80%	252.25

PAID ON CALL INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER

PAID ON CALL FIREFIGHTERS

NAME RANK	DIVISIONS	1075 INCS		45 TRAIN. DRILLS		
		NO.	%	NO	%	HRS.
BEBEE	Suppression, D-Shift, CIP, Safety Committee.	194	18%	36	80%	255.00
BREILEIN	Suppression, D-Shift	77	7%	17	38%	52.00
CROSS	Suppression, D-Shift	173	16%	44	98%	204.75
GOODIN	Suppression, D-Shift	54	5%	33	73%	111.75
JANSEN	Suppression, Evaluator: Pump Quals.	101	9%	19	42%	50.00
MONROE	Suppression, D-Shift, CIP	114	11%	27	60%	243.00
MOSER	Suppression, D-Shift	59	5%	36	80%	241.50
ROBERTS	Suppression, D-Shift, POCFF Interview Board	12	1%	16	36%	41.50
SOPTICH, K	Suppression, D-Shift, CIP	127	12%	30	67%	209.75
VELASQUEZ	Suppression, D-Shift	164	15%	39	87%	128.75
VILLAFLO	Suppression, D-Shift, CIP	256	24%	40	89%	245.50
WRIGHT	Suppression, D-Shift	90	8%	29	64%	76.00

RESIGNATIONS

PAGGAO, K	Suppression	0	0%	0	0%	0.00
POC FF	01.01.2004 RESIGNATION DUE TO FAMILY AND FULL TIME EMPLOYER					
GRUCE	Suppression, D-Shift	0	0%	0	0%	0.00
POC FF	01.31.2004 RESIGNATION DUE TO FAMILY AND FULL TIME EMPLOYER					
BOYER	Suppression	4	0%	1	2%	2.50
POC FF	05.01.2004 RESIGNATION DUE TO FAMILY					
WESSEL	Suppression, D-Shift	0	0%	0	0%	0.00
POC FF	06.01.2004 RESIGNATION DUE TO FAMILY AND OUT-OF-CITY EMPLOYMENT					

DARCY	Suppression	0	0%	9	20%	203.50
HS Recruit	09.01.2004 RESIGNATION DUE TO FAMILY AND SCHOOL					
CROSSLEY	Suppression	0	0%	6	13%	17.00
POC FF	09.17.2004 RESIGNATION DUE TO FAMILY AND FULL TIME EMPLOYER					
BEARDEN	Suppression, D-Shift, CIP	193	18%	31	69%	318.50
POC FF	11.01.2004 RESIGNATION DUE TO OUT-OF-STATE EMPLOYMENT					
LEMME	Suppression, D-Shift	163	15%	33	73%	110.75
HS POC FF	12.08.2004 RESIGNATION DUE TO OUT-OF-STATE RELOCATION					

NAME RANK	DIVISIONS	1075 INCS		45 TRAIN. DRILLS		
		NO.	%	NO	%	HRS.
DEATER	Suppression, D-Shift - 11 mos. 1 MONTH MEDICAL LEAVE	123	11%	29	64%	103.75
MARTIN	Suppression, D-Shift - 11 mos. 1 MONTH MEDICAL LEAVE	62	6%	34	76%	103.00
CARROLL	Suppression, D-shift - 10 mos. 2 MONTHS MEDICAL LEAVE	204	19%	35	78%	164.50
HEILMAN	Suppression, D-Shift, CIP - 9.50 mos. 2.50 MONTHS LEAVE OF ABSENCE DUE TO OUT-OF-STATE EMPLOYMENT	189	18%	28	62%	296.50
DAVIDSON	Suppression - 9 mos. 3 MONTHS LEAVE OF ABSENCE DUE TO FAMILY AND FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT	7	1%	13	29%	34.25
HENSON	Suppression - 8 mos. 4 MONTHS LOA: 1 MO. MEDICAL, 3MOS. DUE TO FAMILY AND FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT	4	0%	6	13%	24.50
NIMMONS	Start Date 02.17.04 Recruit Suppression Effective June - 7 mos.	48	4%	21	72%	300.50
HAMILTON	Start Date 02.17.04 Recruit Suppression Effective July - 6 mos.	90	8%	23	79%	258.25
SOPTICH, J	Start Date 02.17.04 HS Recruit Suppression Effective Aug. - 5 mos.	45	4%	23	79%	261.75
BUTTREY	Suppression, D-Shift, CIP - 4 mos. 8 MONTHS LEAVE OF ABSENCE DUE TO OUT-OF-CITY EMPLOYMENT	50	5%	7	16%	22.50
FIGGS	Start Date 02.17.04 HS Recruit Suppression Effective Sept. - 4 mos.	41	4%	24	83%	261.50
SOPTICH, D	Start Date 09.01.04 Suppression Effective Dec. - 1 mo.	8	1%	13	87%	57.00

TRAINING HOURS BALANCE FORWARD 2555.50
 TRAINING HOURS PAGE TOTAL 4399.75

TOTAL TRAINING HOURS 6955.25

During the course of a death investigation... I requested assistance from your department and the response was quick, professional and very competent. Lieutenant Bridgeford, FF Velasquez, FF Lamar and FF Jamerson assisted in removing the body from the [coroner's] van at Burley Funeral Chapel. Although it was a most unpleasant situation... your personnel did not hesitate to join in and complete the task. Their comments and dialogue were professional and very respectful. If the decedent's family had been present they would have been very appreciative of the care taken by your department.

Again, I want to thank you and your personnel for the assistance. I am also commending you on having such a professional and competent department.

*Dr. R.W. Bishop,
Island County Coroner
May 25, 2004*

Hazardous Material Training



OHFD Firefighters prepare for all types of emergencies, including handling hazardous material. Here a firefighter is scrubbed clean during a HazMat training exercise.



Public Education

C. Anderson, Lieutenant

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT FIRE SAFETY

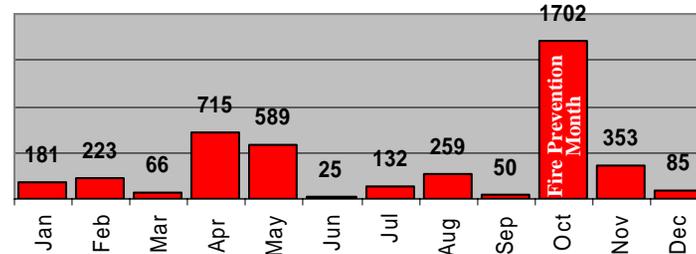
The Oak Harbor Fire Department’s fire prevention/public education program encompasses a variety of activities. In 2004 our department had contact with over 4380 of our local citizens. As in years past, the most popular month was October – Fire Prevention Month. This year we teamed up with local businesses to educate the public about fire safety. We also implemented our “School Lunch with a Firefighter” program which provides an opportunity for our local children to meet our firefighters, tour various apparatus and learn about fire safety. We participated in many special events including National Night Out, Island County Fair, Holland Happening, Fourth of July festivities, OH Middle School Carnival, our 75th Anniversary Open House and more.

One of our most popular children’s programs is our station house tour. This year we had 457 children (ages 3-12) and 215 adults tour Station 81. Each group is greeted by uniformed firefighters and escorted

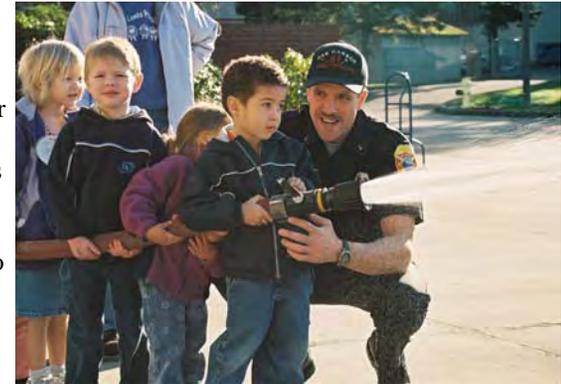
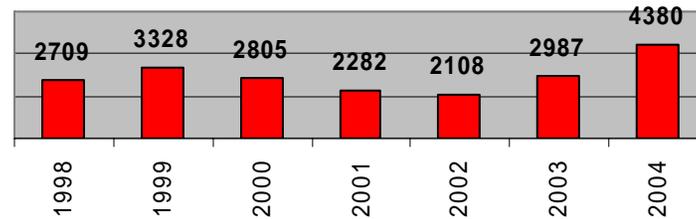
into our classroom where they are shown an age appropriate video about fire safety. A firefighter shares information about calling 9-1-1, fire alarms, setting up a family fire plan, stop-drop-and-roll and answers questions from the children. The children are given an opportunity to use a charged fire hose to shoot “flames” out of our prop-house

windows, try on fire-safe bunker gear, climb on and in the fire engines and see how firefighters receive and respond to calls. At the end of the tour each child is given fire-education materials to take home and share with their families, such as fire-safety coloring books, brochures and stickers.

Citizens Trained in 2004, by Month



Total Citizens Trained by Year



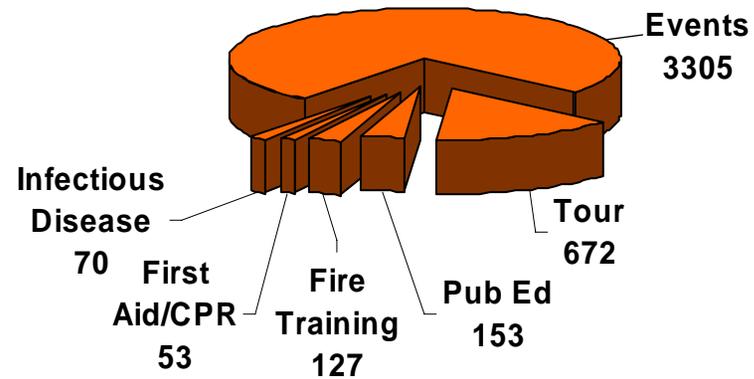
Lt. Anderson assists preschool children during an education tour of Station 81.

Photos by Angela Braunstein, Feb. 2005

*Thank you very much once again for taking time out of your busy schedule to participate as a speaker in the Career Pathway. This event continues to be a very valuable opportunity for students to learn from you about a potential career choice. Your experience is invaluable and more believable than if it comes from someone who has not had your experience. -- Oak Harbor High School
September 2004*

*Thank you for the great tour! Thank You! Thank You! Always a great time!
K. Cantine and the Exchange Students -
August 2004*

Types of Public Education 2004 and Number of Participants



Record of Public Education Events in 2004

FIRE SAFETY / STATION TOUR

Jan 15 th	Home School Group	40 Students (All Ages) 22 Adults	Station 81	1330-1500
Jan 28 th	His Kids Pre-School	16 Students (3-5 y/o) 9 Adults	Station 81	0915-1045
Jan 28 th	His Kids Pre-School	16 Students (3-5 y/o) 12 Adults	Station 81	1245-1400
Jan 29 th	His Kids Pre-School	16 Students (3-5 y/o) 14 Adults	Station 81	0915-1045
Jan 31 st	Tiger Cubs / Daisy Scouts	8 Students (5-6 y/o) 3 Adults	Station 81	1300-1400
Feb. 18 th	Little Lambs Pre-School	20 Students (3-4 y/o) 10 Adults	Station 81	0930-1030
Feb. 18 th	Little Lambs Pre-School	19 Students (4-5 y/o) 7 Adults	Station 81	1330-1430
Feb. 19 th	Little Lambs Pre-School	19 Students (3-4 y/o) 8 Adults	Station 81	1330-1430
Feb. 19 th	Little Lambs Pre-School	17 Students (4-5 y/o) 8 Adults	Station 81	1330-1430
Feb. 25 th	Pre-School Special Ed.	18 Students (3-6 y/o) 15 Adults	Station 81	0930-1030
Feb. 25 th	Pre-School Special Ed.	17 Students (3-6 y/o) 14 Adults	Station 81	1330-1430
March 24 th	Day Care	5 Students (3 y/o) 4 Adults	Station 81	1000-1045
May 12 th	Head Start	8 Students (4 y/o) 4 Adults	Station 81	1330-1410
July 14 th	Their Place	35 Students (8-12y/o) 8 Adults	Station 81	1000-1100
July 21 st	Their Place	25 Students (3-5 y/o) 8 Adults	Station 81	1000-1100
Aug. 4 th	All God's Child Care	9 Students (3-11 y/o) 2 Adults	Station 81	1000-1130
Aug. 18 th	Oak Harbor School Special Needs	8 Students (K-4 th) 7 Adults	Station 81	0945-1045
Aug. 18 th	Oak Harbor School Special Needs	10 Students (K-4 th) 9 Adults	Station 81	1315-1415
Oct. 6 th	3 Day Cares	15 Students (3-4 y/o) 6 Adults	Station 81	0930-1030
Oct. 7 th	Moving & Grooving	12 Students (3-4 y/o) 4 Adults	M & G	1030-1130
Oct. 7 th	Moving & Grooving	12 Students (3-4 y/o) 3 Adults	M & G	1330-1430
Oct. 8 th	K-Safe	11 Students (4-5 y/o) 3 Adults	Station 81	0930-1045
Oct. 8 th	K-Safe	25 Students (5 y/o) 4 Adults	Station 81	1345-1445
Oct. 13 th	Oak Harbor Christian School (K)	25 Students (5-6 y/o) 8 Adults	Station 81	0915-1030
Oct. 13 th	Little Britches Day Care	10 Students (3-5 y/o) 4 Adults	Station 81	1100-1200
Oct. 15 th	Oak Harbor Christian School	20 Students (7-8 y/o) 10 Adults	Station 81	1300-1415
Oct. 20 th	Skagit Valley Learning Center	4 Students (3-5 y/o) 1 Adult	SVLC	1000-1100
Dec. 2 nd	Tiger Den # 62	2 Students (6 y/o) 3 Adults	Station 81	1630-1730
Dec. 5 th	Royal Ranger Troop	15 Students (4-11 y/o) 5 Adults	Station 81	1800-1900
TOTAL: 457 Students / 215 Adults			Total: 33 Hours	

Record of Public Education Events in 2004

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Feb. 19 th	Vietnamese Medical Delegation	5 Adults	Station 81	1500-1600
March 2 nd	Broadview Elem. (Dr. Seuss Reading)	24 Students (6-10 y/o) 2 Adults	BVE Library	1400-1430
March 2 nd	Broadview Elem. (Dr. Seuss Reading)	24 Students (6-10 y/o) 3 Adults	BVE Library	1430-1515
July 22 nd	Work Source Whidbey	20 Students (16-18 y/o) 1 Adult	WSW	1315-1400
July 29 th	Japanese Exchange Students	30 Students (15-18 y/o) 5 Adults	Station 81	1400-1530
Aug. 11 th	C.ville Methodist Church (Hero's)	24 Students (3-14 y/o) 15 Adults	Coupeville MC	1015-1045
TOTAL: 122 Students / 31 Adults			TOTAL: 5 Hours	

FIRE EXTINGUISHER / FIRE EDUCATION TRAINING

April 27 th	Comcast Cable	15 Adults	Comcast	0730-0845
May 11 th	Deception Pass Power Squardon	20 Adults	Dugualla Bay Club	1845-2030
June 16 th	Pony Mailing	8 Adults	Pony Mailing	1830-1930
Sept. 1 st	Wal- Mart	25 Adults	Wal-Mart	0645-0745
Sept. 1 st	Wal- Mart	25 Adults	Wal-Mart	1445-1545
Oct. 26 th	Kasteel's Restaurant	20 Adults	Kasteel's	1400-1530
Nov. 19 th	Whidbey / Fidalgo Dermatology	14 Adults	Station 81	1230-1330
TOTAL: 127 Adults			TOTAL: 8 Hours 30 Min.	

FIRST AID / CPR

Feb. 12 th	O.H. Marina	1 Adult	Station 81	1400-1700
Mar. 17 th	Coupeville Little League	4 Adults	Station 81	1900-2200
May 26 th	Boy Scout Troop 61	13 Students (11-16 y/o) 4 Adults	Station 81	1900-2100
June 2 nd	Boy Scout Troop 61	13 Students (11-16 y/o) 4 Adults	Station 81	1900-2100
Nov. 19 th	Whidbey / Fidalgo Dermatology	14 Adults	Station 81	0830-1230
TOTAL: 26 Students / 27 Adults			TOTAL: 14 Hours	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Jan 29 th	O.H. City Shops	25 Adults	City Shops	1200-1330
Feb. 5 th	O.H. City Shops	25 Adults	City Shops	1200-1400
Feb. 24 th	O.H. City Shops	20 Adults	City Shops	1200-1330
TOTAL: 70 Adults			TOTAL: 5 Hours	

Record of Public Education Events in 2004

		<u>SPECIAL EVENTS</u>			
April 10 th	O.H. Assembly Of God	350 Students (All Ages)	150 Adults	O.H.A.G.	1000-1200
April 29 th	OHFD Open House	100 Students (All Ages)	100 Adults	Station 81	1500-1900
May 20 th	Broadview Elem. Engine Display	400 Students (6-12 y/o)	40 Adults	BVE Hilo Pad	0930-1430
May 22 nd	O.H. Middle School Mid-Evil Carnival	50 Students (All Ages)	50 Adults	O.H.M.S.	1000-1100
Aug. 21 st	Challenge Series Soap Box Derby	75 Students (All Ages)	100 Adults	Barrington Dr.	0930-1200
Oct. 9 th	Wal-Mart Fire Safety Month	600 (All Ages)		Wal-Mart	1000-1400
Oct. 16 th	Wal-Mart Fire Safety Month	500 (All Ages)		Wal-Mart	1000-1400
Oct. 20 th	School Lunch With A Firefighter	250 Students (K – 5 th Grade)	30 Adults	Broadview Elem.	1115-1300
Oct. 20 th	Head Start Pre-School Family Night	75 Students (3-6 y/o)	50 Adults	O.H. Elem.	1800-1900
Nov. 17 th	School Lunch With A Firefighter	300 Students (K – 5 th Grade)	25 Adults	C.H. Elem.	1130-1330
Dec. 4 th	Alaska Mort. (Big Brothers/Sisters)	40 Students (All Ages)	20 Adults	Elks Lodge	0900-1130
		TOTAL: 2740 Students / 565 Adults		TOTAL: 30 Hours	

**TOTAL FOR ALL PUBLIC EDUCATION EVENTS:
3345 Students (3-18 y/o) / 1035 Adults**

TOTAL CITIZENS EDUCATED: 4380

TOTAL HOURS: 120

(includes preparation time)

Dear Firefighters,

Thank you for letting us come to the fire station.

We learned:

- *to feel the door first,*
- *stop, drop and roll if you have fire on your clothes,*
- *remember where your meeting place is,*
- *practice where your meeting place is, get down low.*

*From OHCS Kindergarten
September 2004*

Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to talk to me yesterday. Firefighting may be an interesting field. Thank you for showing me another option.

*– L. Shoulders
October 2004*

Your efforts help make Christmas more special for the hundreds of families that visited Christmas Village this year. Without the continued support and generosity of people like you, our annual gift to the community would not be the same.

*– Soroptimist International
of Oak Harbor
December 2004*

OHFD Apparatus - Meet the Fleet



ENGINE 81
1998 SEAGRAVES



ENGINE 812
1998 SEAGRAVES

OHFD has four Engines, each equipped with 1500 GPM pumps, hose, ladders, fans, tarps, air bottles, tools and enough medical and other equipment to operate alone for a limited period of time.

The National Fire Protection Association requires an annual pump test on each fire engine that responds as a pumper. The test averages 3 hours. If the pump fails the test repairs must be made, then retested.



ENGINE 813
1988 E-ONE



ENGINE 814
1979 SEAGRAVES



LADDER 81
100FT. AERIAL LADDER
1992 SEAGRAVES

Carries volumes of equipment ranging from mass casualty medical supplies to ladders, ventilation fans, saws, lighting, salvage and rescue gear.



MEDIC 81
1989 FORD DIESEL

Designated response vehicle for medical calls. Medic 81 is driven by paramedics and EMTs and carries supplies needed for immediate medical treatment and extraction equipment (necessary at some motor vehicle accident scenes).



PASSENGER VAN
1996 FORD
Training Division



SUPPORT 81
1986 CHEVROLET ONE TON

Supports other apparatus by carrying portable Cascade air system, generator, lights and water vacuums.



COMMAND 800
2004 CHEVROLET TAHOE

Driven by Command 8, usually first on scene and carries supplies necessary to direct the incident, as well as specialty equipment, such as: medical supplies, thermal imaging and photographic equipment.

Maintenance Division

M. Engle, Lieutenant

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,



Mission Statement

To support the mission of Oak Harbor Fire Department by providing and maintaining with a positive, professional attitude, quality gear, equipment, facilities and apparatus in ready status for emergency response and daily use. Without effective equipment "the pride can't ride".

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 1998 Seagraves, one 1988 E-One, one 1979 Seagraves 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.

NFPA 1911 requires an annual pump test on each fire engine that responds as a pumper. The test averages 3 hours. If the pump fails the test repairs must be made, then re-tested.

Ladder 81 is our 1992 Seagraves 100 foot aerial and carries volumes of equipment ranging from mass casualty medical supplies to ladders, ventilation fans, saws, lighting, salvage and rescue gear. The 100-foot aerial ladder is useful in reaching rooftops with limited access and is required by NFPA 1914 to be inspected annually. The inspection takes an average of 5 hours and is conducted by third party inspectors who send a field inspector to complete the testing.



Some repairs to the water piping are required in 2005.

Medic 81 is a 1989 Ford diesel and is the designated response vehicle for medical calls. It also carries our extrication equipment to include the jaws, airbags and various other cutting tools used on motor vehicle accidents.

Support 81 is a 1986 Chevrolet one ton equipped with the portable Cascade air system, a generator, lights and water vacuums.

SUPPORT & DISASTER VEHICLES

There are support vehicles such as the Fire Marshal Van, Training Officer Van, Utility 81 (Chevy pickup), and Command vehicles which are frequently utilized. We also have two tractor trucks, a stake bed truck, two buses, special operations trailers, generators and light units all used for disaster preparedness. Most of this equipment has

been acquired through military surplus, which lowers costs while providing useful equipment. One generator has been arranged to supply power to City Hall when the power goes out.

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 and the training tower. The training tower and grounds have repair work done as needed to include doors, windows, lighting and other miscellaneous items.

The career and paid-on-call members of Oak Harbor Fire Department take great pride in maintaining the lawn, landscaping and parking lot at Station 81. In addition to our firefighters' efforts we also have quarterly preventive maintenance done on the heat/ventilation/air conditioning system along with annual preventive maintenance on the truck doors, a fire inspection, sprinkler and fire alarm confidence tests. The interior of the station receives equal pride in effort by routine cleaning, painting, and minor repairs. We had some plumbing and lighting upkeep and received bids for roof repairs for 2005.

The drill grounds are often used by outside departments on mutual aid drills including EOD units from the base 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. All departments test their own engines.

EQUIPMENT

NFPA 1981 requires semi annual testing and maintenance on self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA's). OHFD has 29 air packs, 53 air bottles and 45 face pieces to maintain. This requires certification and attention to detail to insure reliability in a hazardous environment. In 2004 we purchased a new testing system to ensure breathing apparatus are at their best.

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 2004, 1500 feet of new five inch supply hose were purchased to replace some hose that was nearly 17 years old.

Grant money has trickled down to

Island County in the form of seven new portable radios, and brand new Holmatro rescue jaws, cutters and power unit. These new items will prove useful in most any rescue situation.

Hydrants In order to retain the cities insurance rating, every hydrant in the city must be inspected.

There are nearly 800 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 when responding to fire emergencies. Discrepancies are reported to the water department for repair.

Personal Protective Equipment And Communications

Keeping bunker gear in stock and in good repair is a constant challenge. Each firefighter is equipped and uniformed with NFPA compliant protective clothing. In November 2004, we purchased five new sets of bunker gear and will purchase approximately 12 sets in 2005 to replace worn out and aging gear.

We also strive to keep our radios and pagers in good operating condition. Over the past five years we

have purchased approximately 30 replacement Motorola pagers. We plan on purchasing more in 2005 to coincide with the upgrades to ICOM.

All station maintenance and equipment testing is conducted by career and POC 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.



Lt. M. Engle maintaining engines, hose rack and bunker gear. Photos these pages by Angela Braunstein, 2005

Station 81



Photos this page by Angela Braunstein, 2005

Station 81 is located at 855 East Whidbey Avenue. Our 21,000 square foot facility was dedicated in 1992 and remains in excellent condition due to the dedication of our firefighters who maintain and care for it. The facility is divided into four portions: East Wing, Apparatus Bay, West Wing and Exterior Training Grounds with structure and hose drying tower.

The east wing of the station houses our business offices, public reception area, drafting room and a 1,200 square foot training facility. The training facility is equipped with modern audiovisual equipment, including a rear-projection television screen that provides cable television, video, DVD, and is linked to the station's computer system for training purposes. The classroom can accommodate 73 people and can be divided into two equally sized training rooms. Our training facility is utilized as part of the Island County Fire Academy, one of only nine internationally accredited academies in Washington State.

The east wing houses two additional rooms essential to the city: The Emergency Operations

Center (EOC) and the back-up facilities for I-Com, Island County's main dispatch center. In the event of a citywide emergency or disaster, the EOC is the gathering place for all city departments (administration, police, fire, marina, etc.) and becomes the hub of action to overcome the emergency. It provides a station for each department



with computers, radios, and land and cellular phone lines.

The west wing of Station 81 is home to our firefighters. We have dorm-style sleeping quarters for six Career Incentive Program participants and bunkroom quarters utilized by Paid-On-Call firefighters working overnight shifts. Common areas include: kitchen, dining, lounge, patio, library facilities and fully equipped physical fitness areas.

The apparatus bay provides secure, indoor protection for our engines and other apparatus and houses our maintenance shop which is equipped for the repair and maintenance of small equipment such as Self Contained

Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs), nozzles, portable generators, hand tools, etc. There are automatic doors on both the south and north ends of the bay to allow for quick exit of all apparatus.

The station is equipped with a 60 kw diesel generator with an automatic transfer switch. The computers, apparatus bay doors, SCBA air compressor, base radios, EOC, I-Com, HVAC systems, and kitchen facilities are connected to this emergency power service. The station is protected by a National Fire Protection Association 13 wet-sprinkler system and an automatic fire alarm system. We have stand alone smoke alarms in all sleeping quarters and all personnel are trained in our evacuation plan. The station is secured by code-locked doors 24 hours a day with the added security of key-locked doors during non-business hours.

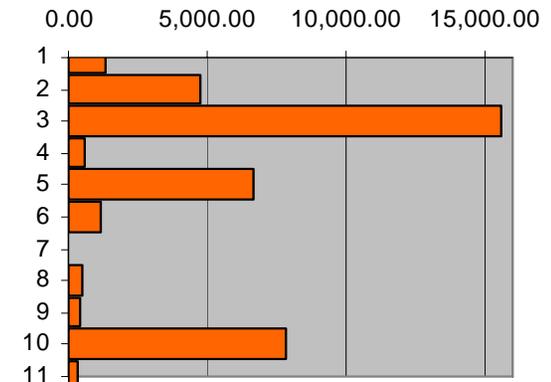


Revenue

R.Velasquez, Administrative Assistant

1	Donations and Contributions		\$ 1,350.00
	Firefighter Training Education Incentive	750.00	
	Dorothy Neil Memorial	600.00	
2	Facility Rental: Fire Station		4,712.00
3	Fire Control Services: Prehospital Medical Alarms		15,543.00
4	Fire Protection Services: Fireworks Permits		550.00
5	Fire Protection Services: General Fire Permits		6,692.00
6	Grant - State: Emergency Medical Services Prehospital Participation		1,200.00
7	Other Miscellaneous Revenue: Non-Taxable		40.00
8	Other Miscellaneous Revenue: Taxable		533.21
	Taxable Amount	491.40	
	Sales Tax	41.81	
9	Restitution: Crown Victoria vehicle damages in 2002		451.57
10	Training Fire Recruits: Reimbursement from WA State		7,800.00
	5 Recruits at Academy 2004	3,000.00	
	8 Recruits at Academy 2003	4,800.00	
11	Xerox Copies		317.82
	Taxable Amount	293.46	
	Sales Tax	24.36	
TOTAL			\$ 39,189.60

Oak Harbor Fire Department Total Revenue 2004



Oak Harbor Fire Department awarded grant from Department of Homeland Security

In 2004 we applied for \$745 million to depart-
the *Assistance to Fire-* ments across the nation
fighters Grant. The to increase the effec-
Department of Home- tiveness of firefighting
land Security (DHS) operations, firefighter
awarded OHFD health and safety pro-
\$193,217 to spend on grams, new fire appa-
ratus (SCBA) gear. We fire prevention and
will be purchasing the safety programs in
new equipment in 2005. local departments.
The DHS awarded over

Looking Ahead to 2005



Photos by Kat Bullman, May 2004

In 2005 we will focus our efforts on maintaining a strong combination department. There are few fire departments, with comparable staffing levels, that have achieved successes such as ours. We attribute our success to our ability to function with a blend of career and paid-on-call personnel; not always an easy task. Making it work takes optimal performance from each member, forgetting biases, assisting one another,

and giving 100% in all that we do. Our ability to maintain that combination is the best formula for providing cost effective services.

There is always a price to do business, however it is not just the financial cost. We owe it to each and every individual in our community to be the best that we can be. It is our responsibility to be available, trained, and able to do what is needed when it is needed. It is our task to

keep our equipment maintained and ready, our knowledge and skills current, and to have available up-to-date programs and technology. It is our mission to use our knowledge and experience to teach our citizens how to be safe and to take action when necessary. We must remember to conduct our Litmus Test and ask, "What is best for the community?"

OUR 2005 MAJOR PROJECTS

Personnel

- Hire full-time Office Assistant;
- Increase night D-Shift positions from three to five;
- Increase Paid-On-Call firefighter pay; and
- Establish a Paid-On-Call firefighter eligibility list.

Purchases

- Safety Equipment: hose, personal protective gear, self-contained breathing apparatus, and fire pagers;
- Computers (desktops and laptops);
- Facility: replace kitchen countertops and carpet.

Projects

- Complete Department Study and present to Mayor Cohen, City Council Members and City Administrator;
- Implement Automatic Aid Response Plan;
- Organize Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and conduct drills;
- Formalize Public Testing Agreement;
- Review and implement state mandates on Fire Codes.

**OAK HARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT
2004 ANNUAL REPORT**

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, Code
Lieutenant Craig Anderson, Training
Lieutenant Mike Engle, Maintenance

CREDITS

The Oak Harbor Fire Department gratefully acknowledges the following for the use of photographs appearing in this report:

- Courtesy of Jay Cordary, © 2004 (cover, 4, 13, 14)
- Courtesy of Kaitlyn “Kat” Bultman, © 2004 (cover, 2,3,11,15,16,19,20,21,39)
- Courtesy of Angela Braunstein, © 2005 (cover, 27,33, 34, 35,36)
- Courtesy of John Hornsby, © 2004 (22, 23, 37)

All images used with permission.

An electronic version of this publication will be available on the Internet at www.oakharborfire.org