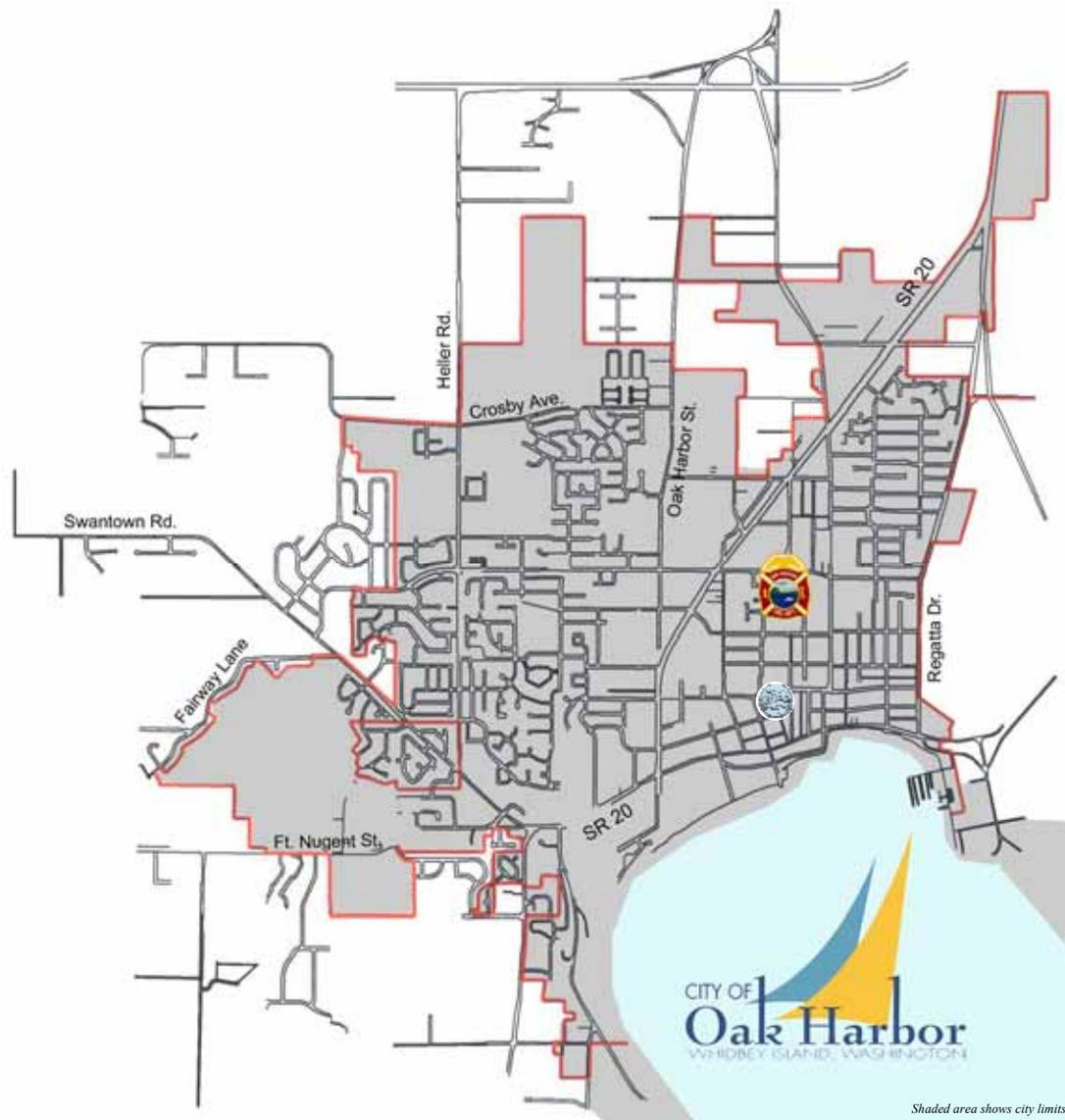


2007
Annual Report
Oak Harbor Fire Department



Cover photo: Firefighter D. Baer during Confined Space Training (reversed), October 2007, photo by A. Braunstein



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Message from the Chief



Unfortunately, for the second year in a row, tragedy struck the department and community with another fire fatality. In December 2006, an adult female received burns from an accidental fire in a multiple family dwelling. In January 2007 she died from her injuries. As with the loss in 2006, our thoughts and prayers go to the family.

Review of 2007 statistical data, projects, and events reflect how active and rewarding the year was for the department. Overall incident response numbers were less than previous years. Fire losses were at an all time low. Hundreds of fire and life safety inspections were conducted. Required annual testing and maintenance of apparatus and equipment were completed. Thousands of hours were spent training personnel honing existing skills and learning new ones. Several thousand citizens received training in fire safety, First Aid, and emergency preparedness.

It is not my intent to provide the specifics of the department's accomplishments in 2007 as I believe the information submitted by each division for this annual report does well doing just that. My message and focus is about the members who made it happen.

Each works hard meeting the goals of the department and the needs of our citizens. Each brings strengths and skills that produce excellent customer service. Each watches over one another as safety is our highest priority. Working together, they make a great team.

As members of the Oak Harbor Firefighters Association, they perform several charitable projects unrelated to department activities. Christmas Shopping with a Firefighter, Santa's Delivery's, Washington State Adopt-A-Highway Clean Up, Community Thanksgiving Dinner, and Lunch With a Firefighter are but a few.

Their devotion to the department is exceeded only by their desire to serve their community. As you can see, our people are our most important asset.

Our 2008 major projects include:

- ✓ Replacing two engines.
- ✓ Implementing a technical rescue program
- ✓ The construction of a technical operations training prop site. This is a collaborative effort with the Public Works Department.
- ✓ Hiring of a Public Educator.

May we meet the needs and expectations of a growing community is our goal.

Mark Soptick

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

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

Our MISSION STATEMENT is:

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



Our OBJECTIVES:

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

2007 Statistics

General

Area Served in Square Miles	9.41
Miles of city streets	67.62
Population (as of 4/2007*).....	22,690
Assessed Valuation.....	\$1,918,845,229
General Fund Budget.....	\$1,892,384
Expended	\$1,868,422
Balance	\$23,962
Fire Control Expended ...	\$1,839,621
Emergency Services Exp...	\$28,801
Capitol Outlay Expended	\$8,298
1998 LTGO Fire Bond	\$177,412
Engine Bond 230	\$32,707
Department Revenue	\$66,484

Personnel

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

Emergency Incident Responses

Fire Insurance Rating	4
Incident Responses (all).....	1392
Fire	80
Medical	698
Fire Loss	\$34,610
Injuries	2
Fire Service, Full Time	1
Fire Service, POC	0
Casualties, Civilian	1

* Source: www.ofm.wa.gov/pop/poptrends/poptrends_07.pdf

Oak Harbor Fire Department

Area Served: 9.41 square Miles

Population: 22,690

Fire Insurance Rating: 4

Fire Stations: 1

Type of Department: Combination

Fire Apparatus

1 Aerial Ladder Truck

4 Engines

1 Medical Unit

1 Support Unit

1 Command Unit

Staffing

1 Full Time Fire Chief

1 Full Time Battalion Chief

4 Full Time Lieutenants

4 Full Time Firefighters

33 Paid-On-Call Firefighters
(includes 1 part time pre-fire plans)

1 Full Time Administrative Assistant

1 Full Time Office Assistant



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



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



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



Angela Braunstein
Office Assistant
2 year of service
Member Since 2005



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



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



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



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

PAID-ON-CALL CAPTAINS

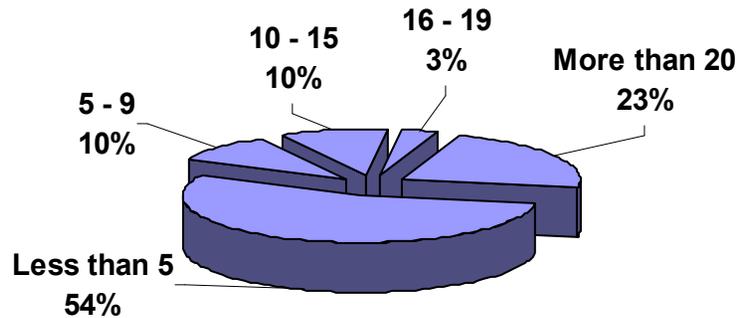


Ron Hancock
 Captain
 Paid On Call
 34 years of service
 Member Since 1973



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

Paid-on-Call Firefighters Year of Service*
 (Average = 9.35 years)



** Reflects service years of Paid-On-Call Firefighters with Oak Harbor Fire Department (does not include career firefighters) and may not reflect all years of fire experience.*

CERTIFICATIONS

obtained by OHFD personnel in 2007

Emergency Medical Technician

- Shannon Carroll
- Justin Day
- Richard Gonzales
- Joe Lebaron
- Robert Lemme
- Ryan Malarkey
- Al Nieboer
- Jonathan Oleson

Officer Development Program

- Don Baer
- Tom Cross
- Jeff Heiserman
- Jason Lamar
- Steve McCalmont
- Paul Schroer
- Pedro Velasquez
- Ramon Villafior

Confined Space Rescue Technician

- Craig Anderson
- Don Baer
- Corky Bridgeford
- Mike Buxton
- Andrew Carroll
- Tom Cross
- Rich Cuevas
- Mike Engle
- Joe Lebaron
- Steve McCalmont
- Paul Schroer
- Dennis Wright

organizational chart



"Words can't begin to tell you how thankful we are to all of you for the kindness and concern you have shown us. The care you gave [my husband] when responding to our 911 calls, honoring him as pallbearers, the beautiful flowers at his service and all of the other things you did at the time of his passing will never be forgotten."

"[my husband] was proud to have been part of the OHFD and thought of many of you as friends. We, his family are proud of his years as a firefighter too." – M. Peterson and family.



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

FIRE ADMINISTRATION

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

CODE

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

SUPPRESSION FIREFIGHTERS

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

SUPPRESSION POCFFS

D Shift
Career Incentive Program
High School Program
Emergency Responses
Training

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

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

MAINTENANCE

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

TRAINING

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



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

revenue



*"Thank you.
For all you do everyday,
for everyone." P. Dyer*

By Angela Braunstein, Office Assistant

<u>Type</u>	<u>Bars Account Code</u>	<u>Break Down</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1 Donations and Contributions Fireman's Fund	001.55.367.000.0000	\$10.00	\$10.00
2 Fire Control Services Prehospital Medical Alarms	001.00.338.022.0000	\$46,617.50	\$46,617.50
3 Fire Facility Rental Fire Station 81	001. 00.362.040.0000		\$3,648.00
4 Fire Recruit Training Four Recruits at Academy 2007 Safety Officer Training	001.00.341.022.1000	\$1,800.00 \$750.00	\$2,550.00
5 Fire Protection Services: Permit Fees	001.00.338.022.1000		\$11,640.00
6 Incident Report Fees	001.00.341.090.0000		\$30.00
7 Judgements and Settlements	001.00.369.040.0000		\$1,290.00
8 Other Micellaneous Revenue			
Taxable	001.00.369.092.0000	\$172.00	\$698.00
Non Taxable	001.00.369.090.0000	\$526.00	

Total 2007 Revenue \$66,483.50

All revenue generated by the Fire Department is deposited into the City of Oak Harbor General Fund with the exception of FEMA grants which are applied to applications specified by the grant award.

grants

By Romy Velasquez, Administrative Assistant

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PREPAREDNESS ASSISTANCE GRANT (EMPAG)

This grant funded a new Cummins generator, transfer switch, 80-gallon fuel tank, startup service, operational and basic maintenance training, and a 5-year comprehensive extended coverage. Backup power is provided to the City's computer network system and phone system during power outages and emergency operations to maintain these vital communication systems.

	GRANT	ADD'L COST
WA State Military Dept. Emergency Management Div.	25,482.99	
Oak Harbor Fire Dept. - equipment rental to lift generator		365.51

OIL SPILL RESPONSE EQUIPMENT GRANT

This grant funded a new 7' x 18' cargo trailer, navigational boom lights, anchor systems, decontamination kit, first aid kit, fire extinguisher, gear bags and operational training. Oil spill response equipment is provided to protect our community and priority resources.

State of WA Dept. of Ecology	20,271.48
------------------------------	-----------

PREHOSPITAL PARTICIPATION GRANT

This grant helped verified prehospital services meet State of WA Department of Health (DOH) requirements to provide prehospital services to the public.

FD TRAINING	791.45		
EMS SUPPLIES	431.70		
FD ADMINISTRATION	<u>215.85</u>		
	1,439.00	State of WA Dept. of Health	1,439.00

STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (SHSGP)

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Grants and Training (G&T) provided funds to enhance the capability of state and local government to prevent, deter, respond to and recover from incidents of terrorism. Funding was provided to 9 Regional Homeland Security Districts (Regions) to address unique equipment, exercise, training, planning and administration needs of local emergency responders.

EQUIPMENT	28,857.00		
FULL SCALE EXERCISE/TRAINING	<u>5,000.00</u>		
	33,857.00	DHS, Office of Grants and Training	
		WA State Military Dept. Emergency Management Div.	33,857.00

GRANTS - 2007 TOTAL 81,050.47 365.51

ISLAND CO DEPT. OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

ALL HAZARDS ALERT BROADCAST (AHAB) WARNING SYSTEM FOR ISLAND CO.

This grant funded 1 AHAB Warning System, which is battery powered to operate regardless of primary power outages. The system provides both tone and voice alert and notification devices for any hazardous situation. This state-of-the-art warning system is the first phase to a system that will notify the populace of the surrounding area of a natural or man-made disaster. Oak Harbor is the first site of, hopefully, multiple sites throughout Island County where AHAB Systems will be installed.

WA State Military Dept. Emergency Management Div.	32,100.00	
Island County Dept. of Emergency Management	15,000.00	
Oak Harbor Fire Dept. - conditional use permit, utility pole installation		655.00

AHAB WARNING SYS. THROUGH IS. CO. DEPT. OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 47,100.00 655.00



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FEMA

On May 17, 2006, a federal disaster was declared for 11 counties in Washington State as a result of severe winter storms which occurred from January 26 through February 4, 2006 and which resulted in damage to coastal infrastructure in western Washington. During the winter storms, the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated. Chief Sopotich, Director of Emergency Services (DES), oversaw the City's emergency response efforts. Information on federal assistance was disseminated to City departments and 4 Project Worksheets (PW), for public assistance totaling \$88,463.34, were compiled by the Fire Department, Parks Department, Water Department and Public Works.

By Romy Velasquez, Administrative Assistant

STATE NO. E06-764

DISASTER NO. 1641-DR-WA

FEMA NO. 029-50360-00

PROJECT WK. (PW) 165

PKG. 20 (1 of 2)

OH Beach Park
and Dock Repairs

	COST	FED 75%	STATE 12.5%	CITY 12.5%
Labor	12,182.09	9,136.57	1,522.76	1,522.76
Equip.	6,265.00	4,698.75	783.13	783.13
Materials	2,621.51	1,966.13	327.69	327.69
Work Est.	689.50	517.13	86.19	86.19
PW165 Eligible	21,758.10	16,318.58	2,719.76	2,719.76

PROJECT WK. (PW) 92

PKG. 20 (2 of 2)

Dike Repairs
(200' existing
rock seawall)

	COST	FED 75%	STATE 12.5%	CITY 12.5%
Labor	7,171.27	5,378.45	896.41	896.41
Equip.	3,579.55	2,684.66	447.44	447.44
Materials	8,365.49	6,274.12	1,045.69	1,045.69
Rent Equipment	1,740.16	1,305.12	217.52	217.52
Filter Fabric	-1,000.00	-750.00	-125.00	-125.00
Dike Repair	35,614.40	26,710.80	4,451.80	4,451.80
Filter Fabric	-2,000.00	-1,500.00	-250.00	-250.00
*HM Proposal	3,000.00	2,250.00	375.00	375.00
PW92 Eligible	56,470.87	42,353.15	7,058.86	7,058.86

PKG. 20 (2PWS)

	COST	FED 75%	STATE 12.5%	CITY 12.5%
2PWS (165, 92)	78,228.97	58,671.73	9,778.62	9,778.62
Admin. Exp.	2,346.87	2,346.87	0.00	0.00
PKG.20 TOTAL	80,575.84	61,018.60	9,778.62	9,778.62

*Filter-Fabric are considered mitigation, so are included in the Hazard Mitigation (HM) Proposal. Project Worksheet cost do not change.

By Romy Velasquez, Administrative Assistant

STATE NO. E06-764

DISASTER NO. 1641-DR-WA

FEMA NO. 029-50360-00

PROJECT WK.151

PKG.14 (1 OF 2)

		COST	FED 75%	STATE 12.5%	CITY 12.5%
Debris Removal	Equip.	3,517.95	2,638.46	439.74	439.74
City Wide	Materials	517.00	387.75	64.63	64.63
	Work Est.	42.91	32.18	5.36	5.36
PW 151 Eligible		4,077.86	3,058.40	509.73	509.73

PROJECT WK.150

PKG.14 (2 OF 2)

		COST	FED 75%	STATE 12.5%	CITY 12.5%
Emerg. Response	Labor ** Fire Dept	628.02	471.02	78.50	78.50
City Wide	Labor PubWorks, Water, Parks	1,496.29	1,122.22	187.04	187.04
	Equip Fire Dept Apparatus	712.40	534.30	89.05	89.05
	Equip PubWorks, Water, Parks	743.20	557.40	92.90	92.90
PW150 Eligible		3,579.91	2,684.93	447.49	447.49

PKG.14 (2PWS)

	COST	FED 75%	STATE 12.5%	CITY 12.5%
2PWS (151, 150)	7,657.77	5,743.33	957.22	957.22
Admin. Exp.	229.73	229.73	0.00	0.00
PKG. 14 TOTAL	7,887.50	5,973.06	957.22	957.22

	COST	FED 75%	STATE 12.5%	CITY 12.5%
2PKGS (20, 14)	85,886.74	64,415.06	10,735.84	10,735.84
Admin. Exp.	2,576.60	2,576.60		
GRAND TOTAL	88,463.34	66,991.65	10,735.84	10,735.84

ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER DIRECT DEPOSIT

	REIMBURSEMENT	AMOUNT	PERCENT	DESCRIPTION
December 2006	64,415.05		75.0%	Federal Share
September 2007	10,735.84		12.5%	WA State Share
*** March 2008	2,576.60		3.0%	Admin. Allowance
TOTAL	77,727.50			

** Jan. 1, 2006-May 31, 2006 POC Firefighters \$7.63/Hr. Minimum Wage

*** Fire Chief / Dir of Emergency Services and FD Administrative Services



FEMA

continued

On February 14, 2007, a federal disaster was declared for 19 counties in Washington State as a result of a severe winter storm, landslides and mudslides which occurred on December 14-15, 2006. During the winter storm, the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated. Chief Sopotich, Director of Emergency Services (DES), oversaw the City's emergency response efforts. Three (3) Project Worksheets (PW), for public assistance totaling \$18,300.23, were compiled by the Fire Department, Water Department and Public Works.

By Romy Velasquez, Administrative Assistant

STATE NO. E07-946

DISASTER NO. 1682-DR-WA

FEMA NO. 029-50360-00

PROJECT WK. 338		COST	FED	STATE	CITY
PKG. 20 (1 of 3)			75%	12.5%	12.5%
Debris Removal	Labor	828.70	621.53	103.59	103.59
City Wide	Equip.	1,296.23	972.17	162.03	162.03
	PW 338 Eligible	2,124.93	1,593.70	265.62	265.62

PROJECT WK. 339		COST	FED	STATE	CITY
PKG. 20 (2 of 3)			75%	12.5%	12.5%
2 Waste Water	Labor	3,853.00	2,889.75	481.63	481.63
Treatment Plants,	Equip.	5,614.70	4,211.03	701.84	701.84
10 Sewage Lift Sta	PW 339 Eligible	9,467.70	7,100.78	1,183.46	1,183.46

PROJECT WK. 362		COST	FED	STATE	CITY
PKG. 20 (3 of 3)			75%	12.5%	12.5%
Operate 4Generators, Clear	Labor Fire Dept	2,759.22	2,069.42	344.90	344.90
Streets f/ Emergency Vehicles	Labor PubWorks, Water	820.36	615.27	102.55	102.55
	Equip Fire Dept Apparatus	1,127.10	845.33	140.89	140.89
	Equip Fire Dept Generators	1,122.20	841.65	140.28	140.28
	Equip PubWorks, Water	345.70	259.28	43.21	43.21
	PW 339 Eligible	6,174.58	4,630.94	771.82	771.82

PKG. 20	(3 PWS)	COST	FED	STATE	CITY
			75%	12.5%	12.5%
	3PWS	17,767.21	13,325.41	2,220.90	2,220.90
	Admin. Exp.	533.02	533.02	0.00	0.00
	PKG. 20 TOTAL	18,300.23	13,858.42	2,220.90	2,220.90

ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER DIRECT DEPOSIT

REIMBURSEMENT	AMOUNT	PERCENT	DESCRIPTION
July 2007	13,325.42	75.0%	Federal Share
October 2007	2,220.90	12.5%	WA State Share
*** January 2008	533.02	3.0%	Admin. Allowance ***
TOTAL	16,079.34		

*** Fire Chief / Dir of Emergency Services and FD Admin Services



*Photos this page, Top: December snow storm, 2006—by R. Velasquez.
Center and bottom: February 2006 wind storm, photos by R. Merrill.*



fire prevention



Top: roof fire—caused by fireworks, center: mattress fire—caused by unattended electrical hair straight iron, and bottom: boat cabin fire—caused by dropped smoking materials. Photos by R. Merrill.

By Ray Merrill, Battalion Chief

2007 was a good year. Fire losses dropped to an all time low of \$34,610, compared to \$199,250 in 2006. There was one civilian fatality (the result of injuries sustained in a December 2006 fire) and one firefighter received minor injuries while on duty.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, during 2006:

- fire departments nationwide responded to 1,642,500 fires.
- Of that amount 524,000 fires were structure fires, the remaining were vehicle fires, wild land, marine, and trash fires.
- Seventy-nine percent (412,500) of the 524,000 structure fires were in residential occupancies.
- 3,245 civilians lost their lives due to fires, additionally
- 16,400 persons were injured.

The Oak Harbor Fire Department responded to a home workshop fire, a fire on the exterior wall of a home, roof fire, a mattress fire, and two kitchen fires. All sustained minor damage. Additionally the department responded to

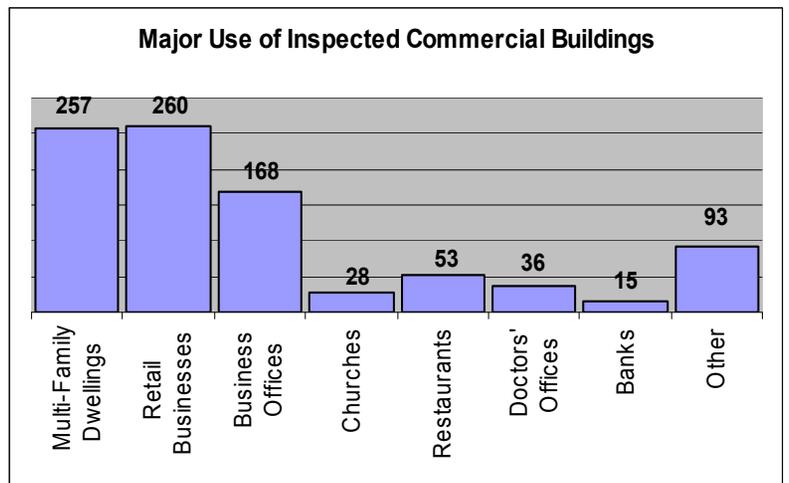
four vehicle fires, two of which were arson. Two suspects were arrested and charged for setting one vehicle on fire. The department also responded to; a boat fire, grass fires, port-a-potty fires, and fire works related incidents.

During 2007 the fire department conducted 910 Annual Fire and Life Safety Inspections. That equates to a 93% annual inspection ratio to total number of commercial occupancies within the City. The department also conducted 32 new occupancy inspections and 75 re-inspections of the annual Fire and Life Safety Inspection. This number has steadily declined over the past five years. The decline is attributed to the property owners or managers either not having as many viola-

tions or correcting the violations in a timely manner.

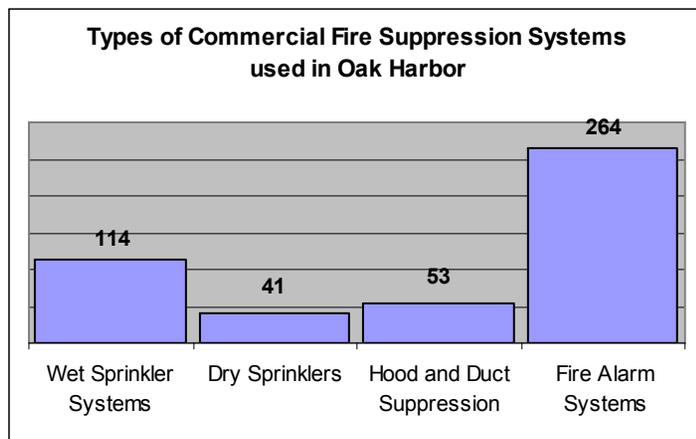
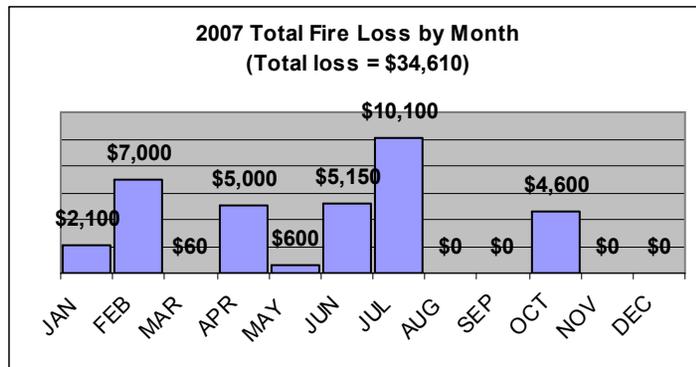
The goal of the Annual Fire and Life Safety Inspection is to provide a safe environment for the residents, the occupants, the employees and the businesses inspected. The most common violations were:

1. extensions cords used in place of permanent wiring,
2. illegal power cubes or power taps,
3. holes in fire resistive walls / ceilings and
4. burnt out or non-functioning exit sign lights or emergency exit lighting.





View from the City's Water tower on Heller Road. Oct 2007. Photo by R. Hancock



New Developments in Oak Harbor

- **Walgreen's Drug Store** (with fire sprinklers),
- **Harbor Station:** five new buildings at SR20 and NE 7th Ave. (two of which have fire sprinklers),
- **Candlewood Suites** (fully sprinkled) a new hotel located on SR20,
- **Wildcats Memorial Stadium** (with fire sprinklers),
- apartment/condo complexes (fully sprinkled),
- townhouses and single family homes,
- and new businesses retro-fitting existing buildings.



Oak Harbor Fire Department responded to 1,392 emergency incidents in 2007. Of those incidents, just over half, 698 incidents, were EMS calls — situations involving a medical emergency.

Examples of incidents type:

False Call: automatic alarm station sounding, smoke detector activation-no fire, bomb scare, etc.

Good Intent: dispatched and cancelled en route, smoke scare-odor of smoke, etc.

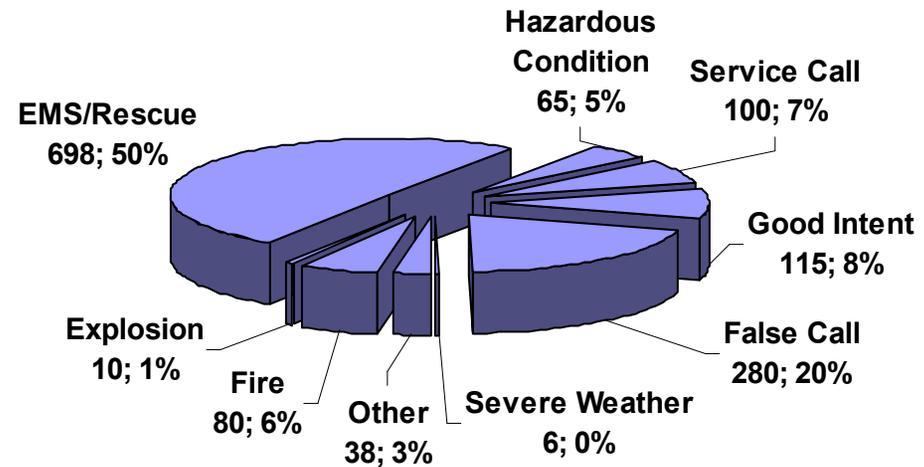
Service Call: Public service, unauthorized burning, water problem, etc.

Hazardous Conditions: gasoline spill, natural gas leak, carbon monoxide incident, etc.

Explosion: air or gas rupture of pressurized vessel, excessive heat or scorch burns with no ignition.

Severe Weather: wind storm, natural disaster.

2007 Incidents by Type (total = 1392)



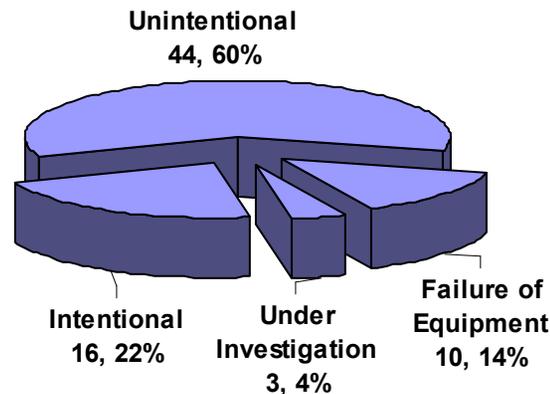
FIRE INCIDENTS: Cause of Ignition

OHFD responded to 80 fire incidents in 2007, 73 fires were investigated and it was determined that 16 fire were intentionally set, 44 fires were unintentional and 10 started after some type of equipment failure. Three fires remain under investigation.



House fire training. Photo by OHFD Staff

2007 Fire Investigation: Cause of Ignition



Unintentional Fires	Count	%
Arcing	1	2%
Chemical	1	2%
Fireworks	2	5%
Other	2	5%
Hot ember or ash	5	11%
Heat from Powered Equipment	6	14%
Smoking materials	13	30%
Radiated Heat from operating equip	14	31%
Total	44	

By Ray Merrill, Battalion Chief

2007 Fire Experience

January

SW Nienhuis—Vehicle fire, arson, exterior damage. Fire loss: \$100.00

N Oak Harbor St. Vehicle fire, electrical problems with charging system, shorted electrical system. Fire loss \$2,000.00

February

NW Harvest Dr—Fire in detached workshop/storage shed. Fire caused by wood stove exhaust pipe being placed too close to wood frame stud walls. Fire loss: \$7,000.00

March

W Whidbey Ave.—Fire on stove top, confined to container. Fire loss: \$60.00

April

NW Hiyu – Fire on exterior wall of single family structure. While home owner was operating a gasoline powered pressure washer, the exhaust was placed too close to the combustible siding. Fire loss \$5,000.00

May

NW Crosby—Fire on a mattress in bedroom of apartment unit. Resident used a straighten / curdling iron, placed iron on the mattress, left the residence. No structural damage, damage contained to mattress. Fire loss \$600.00

June

SE Pioneer Way—Vehicle fire, vehicle parked in parking lot, arson, suspects arrested and charged with arson. Fire loss \$5,100.00

July

SW Klickitat—Roof fire, cedar shake roof. Fire caused by fireworks, minor damage to roof, no structural damage. Fire loss \$2,000.00

SE Catalina Drive—Boat fire. Fire to interior of sailboat, fire caused by hot embers from a pipe falling onto seat cushions. Fire loss \$5,000.00

N Oak Harbor St.—Vehicle fire, vehicle parked in parking lot, next to small bushes, bushes ignited by fireworks, caused fire on exterior of vehicle. Fire loss \$500.00

SW Harrier Circle—Oven fire. Occupant placed frozen pizza into oven, fell asleep, pizza ignited and damaged oven. No structural damage. Fire loss \$500.00

NE Izett St.—Port-a-potty fire. Two juveniles ignited port-a-potty. Both were arrested and charged. Port-a-potty a total loss. Fire loss \$600.00

NE Ernst St.— Kitchen fire in apartment complex. Occupant cooking chicken, grease ignited causing damage to kitchen cabinets. Building has a fire sprinkler system. Fire sprinkler system extinguished fire prior to fire causing extensive damage. Fire loss \$1,500.00

August

September

October

SW London Terrace—Fire in child's play fort. Child playing with lighter, ignited play fort on fire. Fire loss \$2,600.00

N Goldie St—Vehicle fire. Fire contained to engine compartment, fire caused by mechanical malfunction, Fire loss \$2,000.00

November

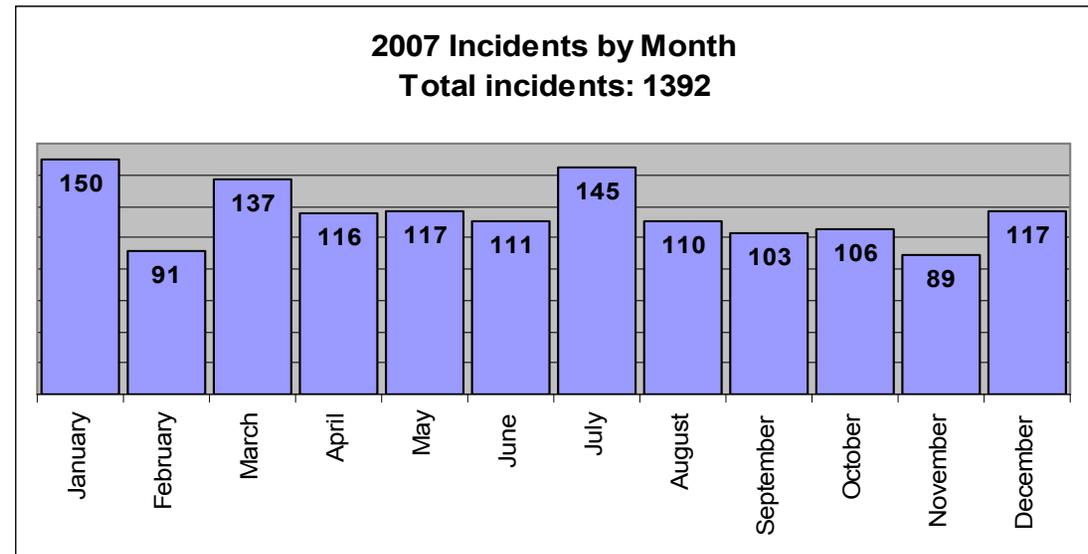
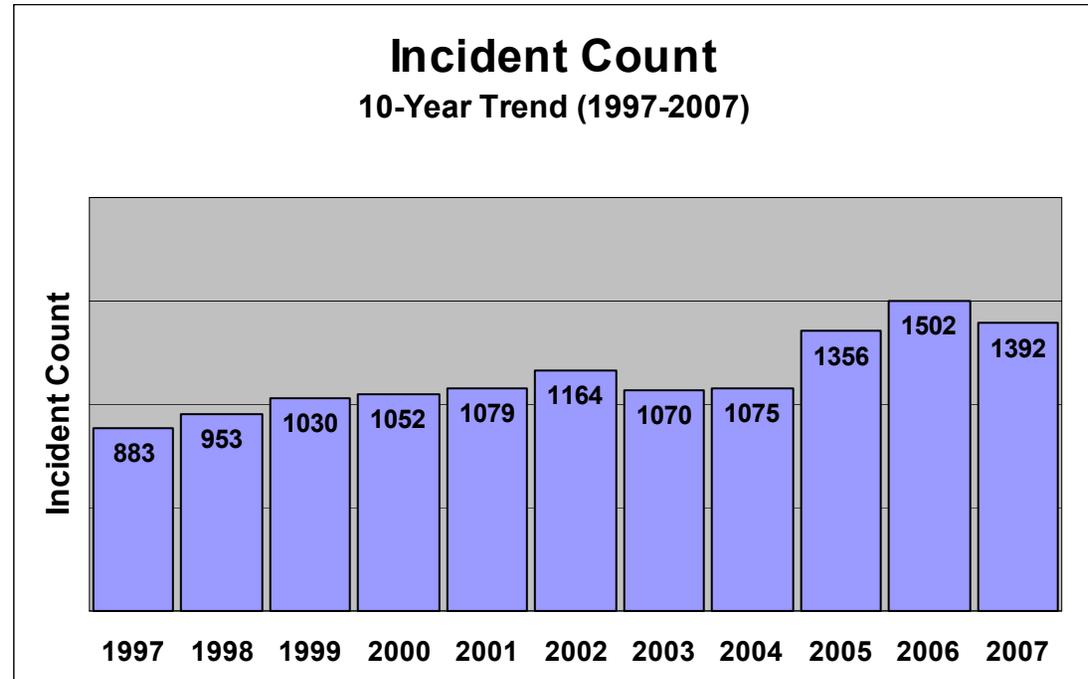
December



suppression

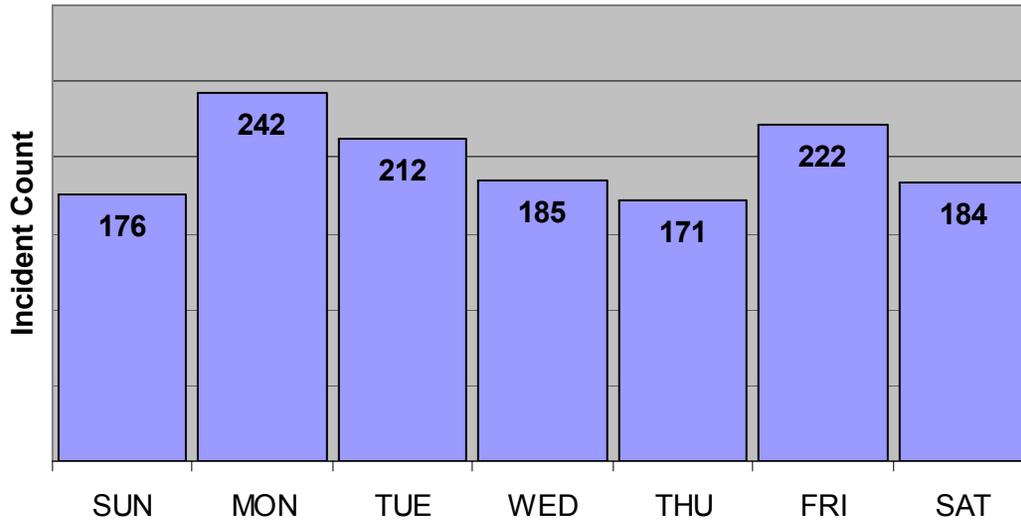


*"...thank you ...
for making us feel like
celebrities with [an] offi-
cial escort into town, it
was one of the best
parts of coming home." —
B. Stanek, OHHS Cheer
Squad Captain*

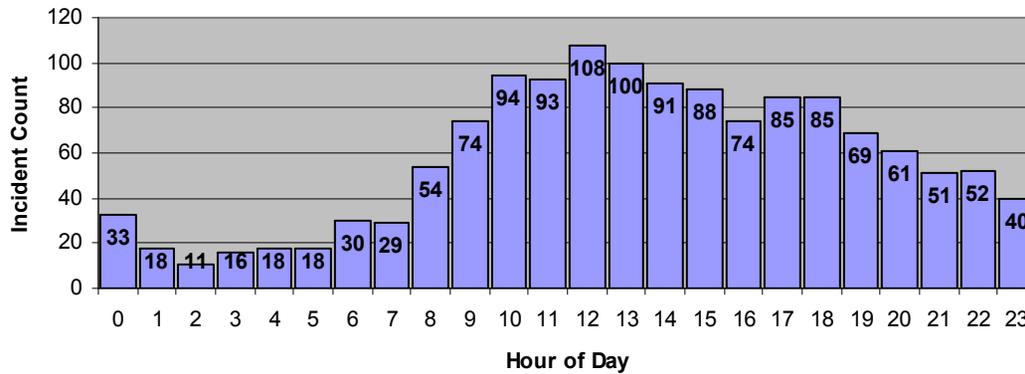




2007 OHFD Incidents by Day of Week: 1392 total



2007 OHFD Incidents by time of day: 1392 total



Non-injury, vehicle through front of 7-11.
Photo by R. Hancock



Non-injury, vehicle into gas pump.
Photo by C. Bridgeford

suppression

Thank You!

"...a special thank you to [Oak Harbor Fire Department] for all the help and care you gave [us] when we needed you most. To have you here so soon was a blessing to us both." – the Shepard Family



POC FF Velasquez (left) and FF Baer (right) during marine hazmat training; May 2007. Photo by R. Velasquez



Agencies training together at the October 2007 MCI Drill. Photo by R. Velasquez

Inter-Agency Aid

2007 Mutual and Automatic Aid Responses

	MUTUAL AID		AUTOMATIC AID		Total
	Received	Given	Received	Given	
North Whidbey Fire & Rescue	5	8	78	47	138
Central Whidbey Fire & Rescue	0	14	0	2	16
South Whidbey Fire & Rescue	0	0	0	1	1
NAS-Whidbey Island	1	2	0	0	3
Whidbey General Hospital	7	505	2	1	515
	13	529	80	51	673

Of Oak Harbor Fire Department's 1,392 calls in 2007, 48% (673 incidents) involved a neighboring agency through Mutual and Automatic Aid agreements.

- Aid was **received** in 7% of calls (93 incidents)
- Aid was **given** in 42% of calls (580 incidents)
- **Mutual Aid** accounted for 39% of calls (542 incidents)
- **Automatic Aid** accounted for 9% of calls (131 incidents)

Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid agreements are contracts between emergency service agencies in Island County to provide assistance to each other in an effort to better serve the community.

What is the difference between mutual aid and automatic aid? Mutual aid is requested by an agency when they determine their needs have exceeded their resource capac-

ity. Automatic aid does not require a formal request, an agency is dispatched to assist another agency automatically following a predetermined plan for specific incident types and locations.

An example of a mutual aid call: Oak Harbor Fire Department is dispatched to an emergency incident. The Incident Commander determines the incident requires additional equipment or personnel and then requests mutual aid to support the on-scene crews to mitigate the incident. Additional mutual aid companies may stand-by at the fire station in the event a second or third emergency response is required.

An example of an Automatic Aid call: in the report of a fire on Main Street in Coupeville, a commercial, two-story building appears to be on fire. ICOM automatically dispatches Central Whidbey Fire & Rescue apparatus and personnel AND Ladder 81 from Oak Harbor Fire Department.

In 2007, Oak Harbor Fire Department responded to **698 Emergency Medical Service (EMS)** calls; **72%** (505 incidents) were in response to mutual aid requests from Whidbey General Hospital.

The only EMS calls to which Oak Harbor Fire *automatically* responds to are calls in which CPR is in progress and to motor vehicle accidents (MVAs). In Oak Harbor, MVAs account for 17% of EMS calls (121 incidents).

It has been estimated that OHFD's call volume would double with automatic response to all EMS calls in the City limits.

response time

The difference between life and death depends largely on response time—the time it takes firefighters to get to the scene. Response time is what a person perceives as the time they finish dialing the last 1 in 911 to the time the fire department gets there and knocks on the door. Seven minutes can feel like an eternity while you are watching your home burn, your loved one gasp for breath or your child in pain.

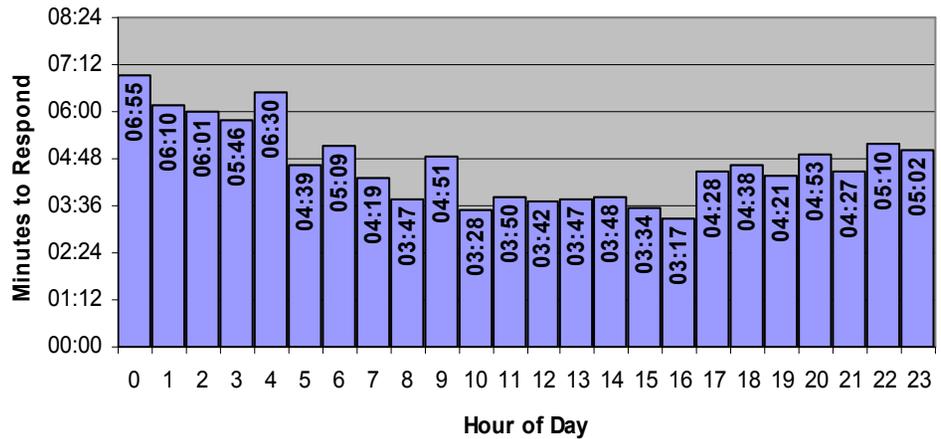
With the City's population rising, the fire department is constantly looking for ways to improve its response time. It takes 90 seconds (average) for the Island County 911 dispatch center, ICOM, to answer an emergency call and dispatch the appropriate agency, apparatus and personnel. The remaining time is consumed by personnel getting into their gear, into the apparatus and driving to the scene.



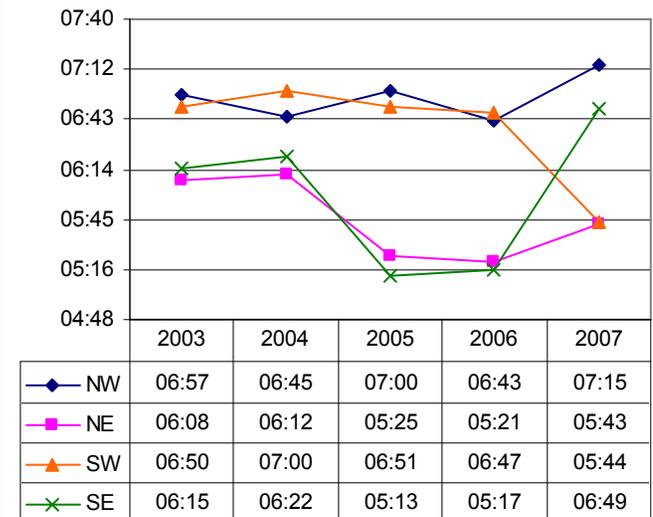
Photo by J. Cordary, 2004.

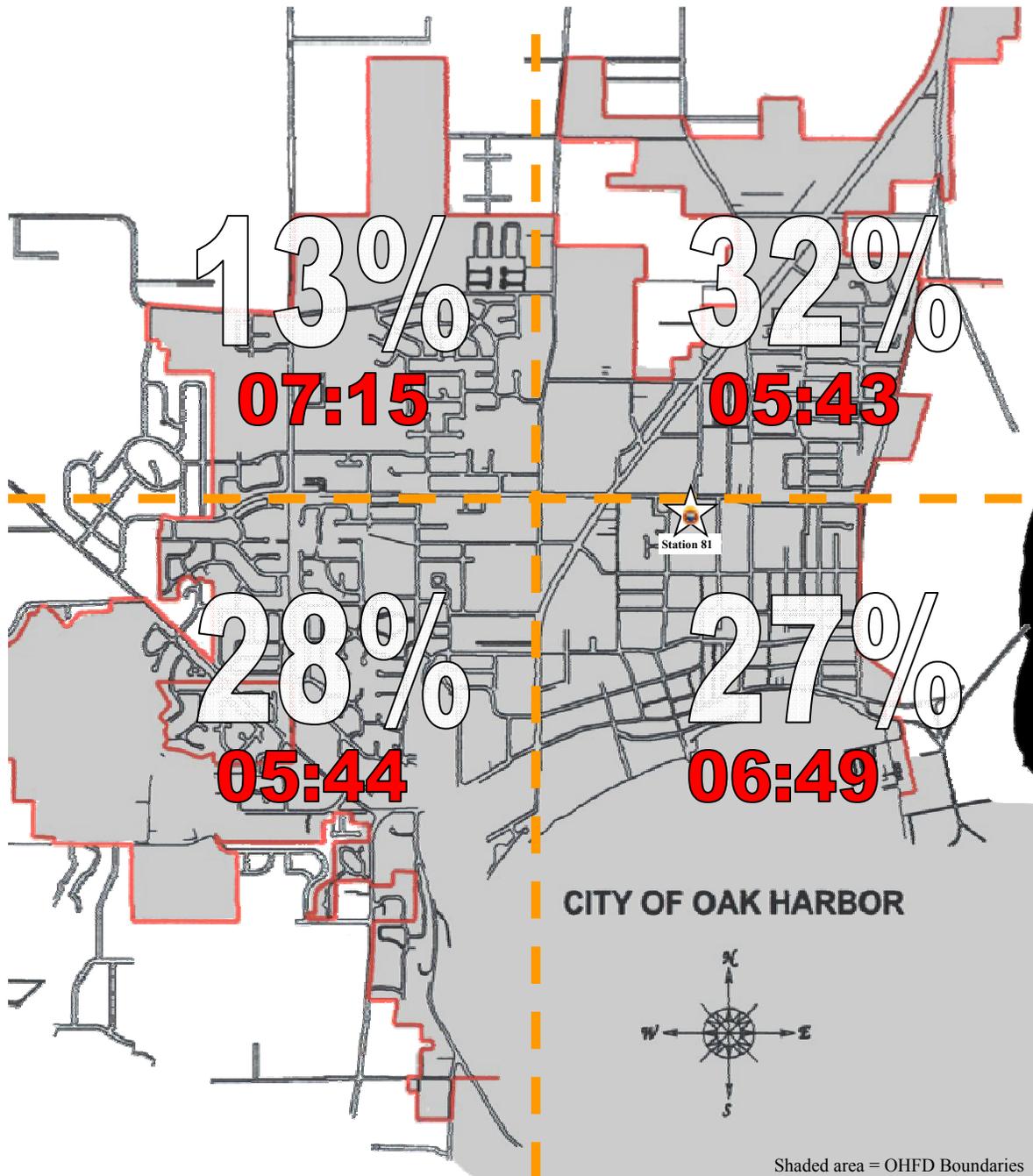
On average it takes 90 seconds for a 9-1-1 call to be dispatched to the appropriate agency, apparatus and personnel. Response times listed here include 90 seconds of dispatch time.

2007 OHFD Average Response Time by Hour
Overall Average Response time: 4:41 minutes
This chart does not include dispatch time



Five Year (2003-2007) Review of Average Response Times by Quadrant





OHFD Incident Count by Quadrant - 2007

NW	13%	174
NE	32%	457
SE	27%	370
SW	28%	391
TOTAL		1392

Overall Average Response Time:

6 minutes, 22 seconds
(includes a 90 second dispatch average)

Notes:

- Incident count includes 130 incidents without specific quadrant information that have been equally divided among the quadrants.
- Station 81 is located in the SE quadrant of the City.
- North Whidbey Fire & Rescue headquarters, Station 25 is located in the NW quadrant of the City.
- Whidbey General Hospital Ambulance Quarters are also located in the City's NW quadrant.
- Much of the City's growth is taking place in the City's SW Quadrant.

training

Our “real world, hands-on” approach to perfecting our skills through training will continue to allow us to deliver results on the emergency scene, which is where the public truly benefits from our dedication in training our best for the possible worst.



Confined space and rope rescue training. Photos by R. Hancock and A. Braunstein.

By Lieutenant Craig Anderson

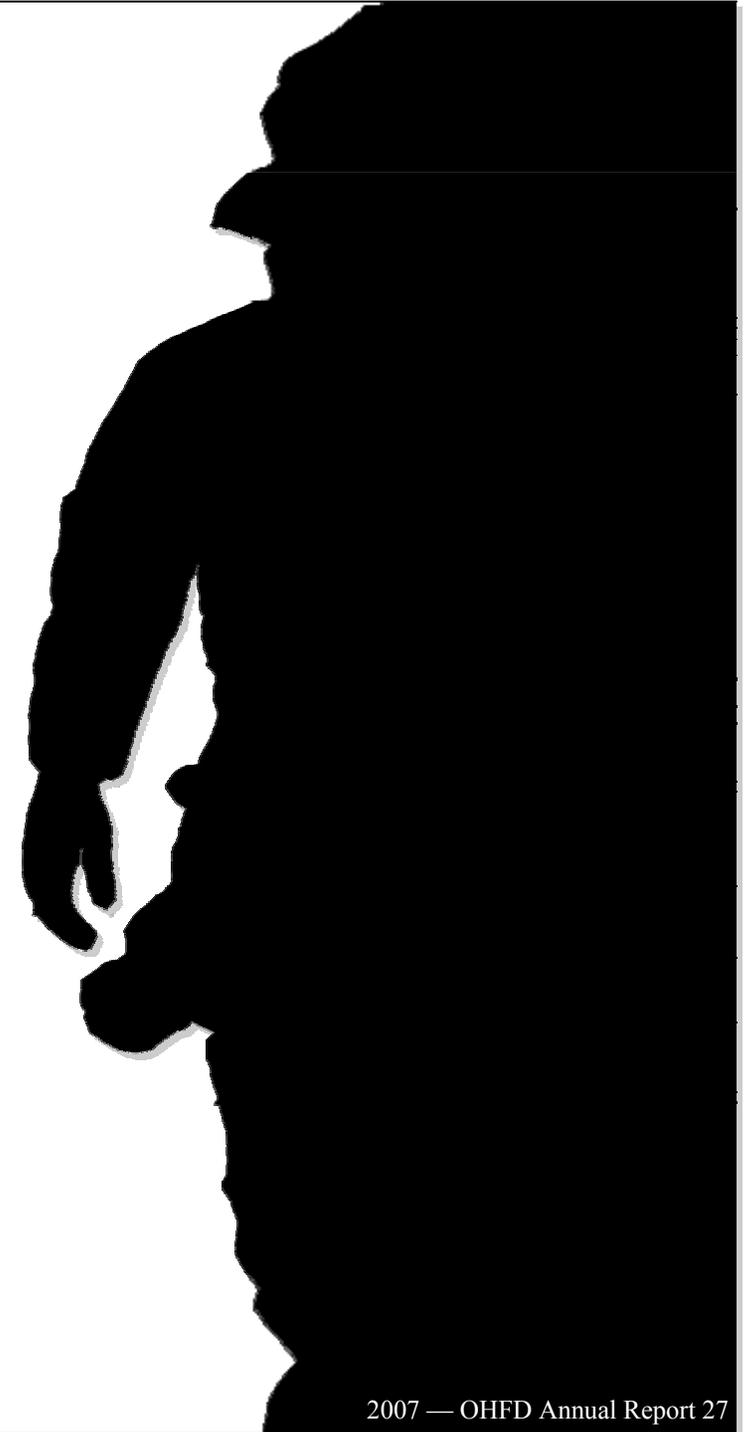
The safety of our community continues to be the driving force behind the Oak Harbor Fire Department's commitment to training. In 2007, the department continued its strong tradition of conducting hands-on, intensive training that allowed us to expand our ever increasing base of knowledge. While maintaining our proficiency in areas of fire suppression and emergency medical care, our department enhanced its capability to respond to emergencies involving confined space and technical rescue operations.

Nationally renowned instructors were brought to our location and provided expert instruc-

tion at a fraction of the cost that it would have taken to send our personnel away to attend comparable training. This specialty training was also attended by three members of Public Works and provided an invaluable opportunity for us to work together and enhance our partnership in providing the highest level of service in response to our community's needs. Our "real world, hands-on" approach to perfecting our skills through training will continue to allow us to deliver results on the emergency scene, which is where the public truly benefits from our dedication in **training our best for the possible worst.**



Top: Repelling training, photo by R. Hancock Center & Bottom: Confined Space & Rope Rescue training, photos by A. Braunstein and R. Hancock

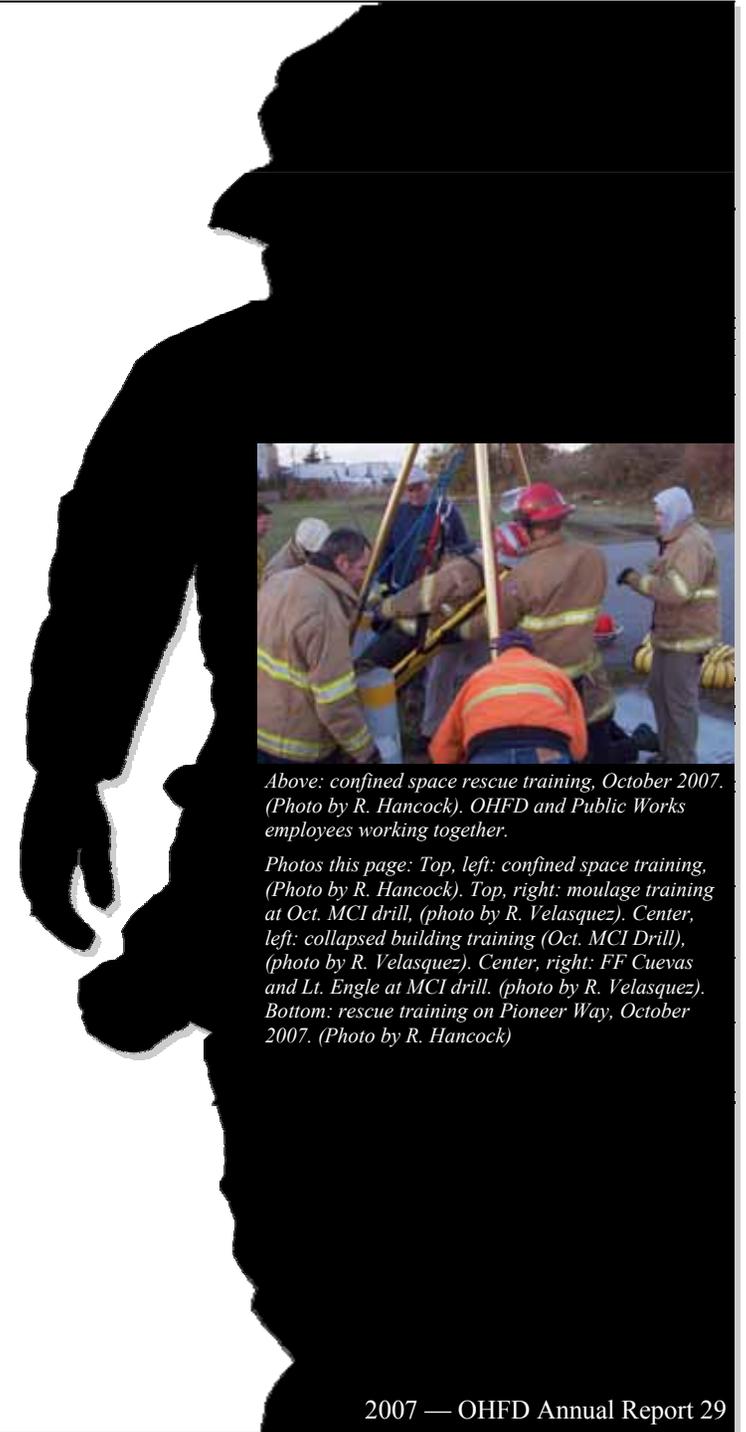


training



Above: volunteer "victims" at the October 2007 Mass Casualties Incident Drill. (Photo by R. Velasquez)

Name	Hours	Name	Hours
ANDERSON, C.	456.40	LEBARON, J.	262.00
AVANCE, C. POC FF Recruit	245.25	LEMME, R.	268.25
BAER, D.	276.60	LEMME, S.	105.25
BEBEE, B. (LOA, Aug-Dec.)	51.85	MALARKEY, R. (Resigned June)	266.00
BREILEIN, J.	22.50	MARTIN, D.	80.25
BRIDGFORD, C.	161.25	McCALMONT, S.	216.35
BUXTON, M.	167.50	MERRILL, R. Battalion Chief	176.75
CARROLL, A.	236.25	MIRABAL, R.	55.75
CARROLL, S.	280.75	NIEBOER, A. (Resigned November)	167.00
CROSS, T.	218.50	OLESON, J. POC FF Recruit	347.50
CUEVAS, R. (Hired March)	195.50	ROBERTS, J.	29.00
DAY, J.	223.00	RODGERS, R.	77.75
ENGLE, M.	191.25	SCHROER, P.	415.00
FARIS, D.	119.40	SOPTICH, M. Fire Chief	144.00
GARDEN, C.	69.00	VELASQUEZ, P.	155.10
GONZALES, R.	250.00	VILLAFLOR, R.	104.60
GOODIN, J.	50.00	WALLIN, R. POC Capt.	83.50
HANCOCK, R. POC Capt.	105.00	WRIGHT, D.	126.00
HEILMAN, J. (Resigned September)	5.00	VELASQUEZ, R. Admin. Asst.	24.50
HEISERMAN, J.	153.85	BRAUNSTEIN, A. Office Asst.	13.50
HORNSBY, J.	185.00	WAGONER, K. Temp. Office Asst.	5.50
JANSEN, D.	54.50		
KUGLER, M. (Resigned November)	36.20		
LAMAR, J.	206.35		
		TOTAL TRAINING HOURS:	7084.45



Above: confined space rescue training, October 2007. (Photo by R. Hancock). OHFD and Public Works employees working together.

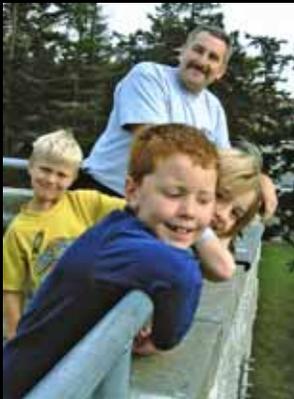
Photos this page: Top, left: confined space training, (Photo by R. Hancock). Top, right: moulage training at Oct. MCI drill, (photo by R. Velasquez). Center, left: collapsed building training (Oct. MCI Drill), (photo by R. Velasquez). Center, right: FF Cuevas and Lt. Engle at MCI drill. (photo by R. Velasquez). Bottom: rescue training on Pioneer Way, October 2007. (Photo by R. Hancock)

public education



"Thank you for the lunch and the tour! My favorite part was the attic. Thanks guys!" –

B. Germano



Dinner with Firefighters and Station Tour, October 2007. Photo by D. Germano

FIRE SAFETY / STATION TOUR

Jan 23 rd	Daisy Girl Scouts	10 Students (6 y/o) 4 Adults	Station 81	1715 – 1845
Jan 24 th	HIS KIDS Pre-School	16 Students (3-5 y/o) 2 Adults	N.W. 2 nd	0945 – 1130
Jan 24 th	HIS KIDS Pre-School	16 Students (3-5 y/o) 2 Adults	N.W. 2 nd	1315 – 1500
Feb 8 th	HIS KIDS Pre-School	16 Students (3-5 y/o) 2 Adults	N.W. 2 nd	0945 – 1130
Mar 21 st	Hillcrest Elem. Special Needs	14 Students (6-10 y/o) 12 Adults	Station 81	0945 – 1100
Apr 26 th	OH Pre-School Special Needs	36 Students (3-5 y/o) 12 Adults	Station 81	0915 – 1045
Apr 26 th	OH Pre-School Special Needs	36 Students (3-5 y/o) 12 Adults	Station 81	1315 – 1445
May 24 th	NW Head Start	75 Students (3-5 y/o) 50 Adults	Oak Harbor St.	1645 – 1800
Jul 21 st	Birthday Group	15 Students (3-7 y/o) 4 Adults	Station 81	0945 – 1130
Aug 23 rd	4 Home Daycares	17 Students (2-5 y/o) 6 Adults	Station 81	0915 – 1045
Sep 13 th	4 Daycare Groups	15 Students (2-5 y/o) 4 Adults	Station 81	0915 – 1045
Oct 3 rd	OH Christian Sch. Kindergarten	35 Students (5-6 y/o) 12 Adults	Station 81	0915 – 1115
Oct 3 rd	Broadview Elem. 3 rd Grade	60 Students (8 y/o) 18 Adults	Station 81	1245 – 1445
Oct 19 th	Promise Daycare & Pre-School	10 Students (3-5 y/o) 4 Adults	at C.H.P.S.	0945 – 1145
Oct 22 nd	Navy Daycare	10 Students (2-4 y/o) 10 Adults	Station 81	0945 – 1115
Nov 8 th	Moving & Grooving	20 Students (4-5 y/o) 12 Adults	Station 81	0915 – 1100
Nov 8 th	Moving & Grooving	22 Students (4-5 y/o) 15 Adults	Station 81	1215 – 1400
Nov 15 th	OH Christian School 1 st Grade	20 Students (6-7 y/o) 2 Adults	Station 81	1015 – 1230
Nov 28 th	Teddy Bear Child Care	10 Students (3-5 y/o) 3 Adults	Station 81	0945 – 1115
Nov 29 th	Tiger Cub Den #1	5 Students (6 y/o) 1 Adult	Station 81	1745 – 1915
Dec 18 th	Tiger Cub Pack 4066	12 Students (6 y/o) 3 Adults	Station 81	1745 – 1915

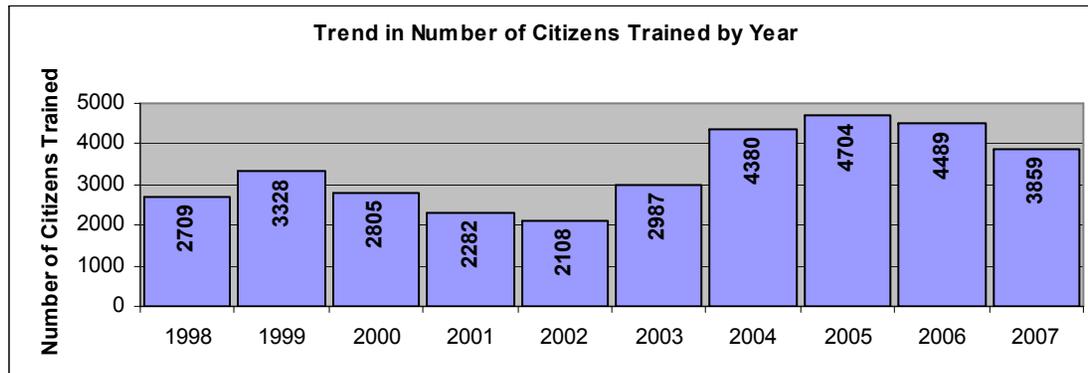
FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

Jan 18 th	OHHS Work Based Learning	10 Students (18-21 y/o) 3 Adults	Station 81	0745 – 0945
Jan 25 th	OHHS Work Based Learning	10 Students (18-21 y/o) 3 Adults	Station 81	0745 – 0945
May 17 th	Ride to School w/ Firefighter	4 Students (5-9 y/o) 2 Adult	to BVE	0800 – 0915
May 18 th	Ride to School w/ Firefighter	2 Students (7 y/o) 1 Adult	to CHE	0800 – 0915
May 19 th	Decept. Pass Power Squadron	5 Adults	At OH Marina	1230 – 1430
May 31 st	DSHS	25 Adults	at DSHS	1330 – 1645
Aug 8 th	Whidbey island Manor	11 Adults	at W.I.M.	0800 – 1000
Aug 8 th	Whidbey island Manor	30 Adults	at W.I.M.	1900 – 2100
Oct 10 th	Oak Harbor City Hall	10 Adults	City Hall	1415 – 1500
Oct 10 th	Oak Harbor City Hall	12 Adults	City Hall	1500 – 1545

<u>HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY</u>				
Dec 18 th	VQ-2 Safety Stand Down	350 Adult Students	NAS Theater	0900 – 1045
May 21 st	VQ-1 Summer Safety Stand Down	250 Adult Students	NAS Theater	0815 – 1000
<u>CPR / FIRST AID</u>				
Jan 10 th	OH City HR & Marina	2 Adult Students	Station 81	1300 –1700
<u>MEDICAL TRAINING</u>				
Mar 24 th	Vanderzicht Memorial Pool	20 Adult Students	at Pool	0945 – 1115
<u>INFECTIOUS DISEASES</u>				
Apr 26 th	Oak Harbor Public Works	25 Adult Students	City Shops	0915 – 1115
Apr 26 th	Oak Harbor Public Works	28 Adult Students	City Shops	1115 – 1315
<u>SPECIAL EVENTS</u>				
Jan 17 th	Lunch with a Firefighter	250 Students (K-5) 25 Adults	at HCE	1115 – 1245
Mar 21 st	Lunch with a Firefighter	300 Students (K-5) 20 Adults	at OVE	1100 – 1315
May 24 th	OHHS Work Based Learning	8 Students 1 Adult	at OHHS	0815 – 1015
Jun 4 th	Home Fire Safety for Disabled	3 Students (4-10 y/o) 1 Adult	at Fall Creek Lp	1545 – 1700
Aug 4 th	Challenge Series Race	75 Students (2-14 y/o) 75 Adults	at Barrington Dr	0845 – 1215
Aug 7 th	National Night Out	250 Students (2-14 y/o) 200 Adults	at City Beach	1330 – 2000
Sep 22 nd	Military Appreciation Picnic	100 Students (2-12 y/o) 200 Adults	at City Beach	0930 – 1600
Oct 2 nd	OHHS Work Base Learning	9 Students (16-21 y/o) 3 Adults	at OHHS	1215 – 1415
Oct 10 th	Wal-Mart Fire Safety	75 Students (2-12 y/o) 75 Adults	at Wal-Mart	0930 – 1300
Oct 27 th	Home Depot Safety Day	70 Students (2-14 y/o) 50 Adults	at Home Depot	0930 – 1430
Oct 31 st	Lunch with a Firefighter	300 Students (K-5) 25 Adults	at BVE	1115 – 1315
Nov 14 th	Lunch with a Firefighter	250 Students (K-5) 30 Adults	at CHE	1115 – 1230

Total Number of Citizens Educated: 3,859
(2186 Students (age 2-18) and 1673 Adults)

Total Number of Hours Spent Educating Citizens: 101.50 hrs



Top: Moulage training, photo by R. Velasquez. Center and bottom: Home Depot Safety Fair, photos by A. Braunstein.

maintenance

OHFD Maintenance Division 2007 Accomplishments:

By Lieutenant C. Bridgeford

- Tested 400 feet of ladders.
- Pump tested for Oak Harbor Fire Department, Central Whidbey Fire and Rescue, Puget Sound Federal Fire & North Whidbey Fire and Rescue conducted here at the training tower.
- Annual Aerial inspection resulted in a major repair to the deck swivel.
- Hydrant maintenance on 813 hydrants conducted by A and B shift personnel.
- Preventative and regular maintenance on vehicles and small gas engines.
- Small repairs as needed on hand tools and salvage equipment.
- Semi annual Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) inspections completed.
- Improved capabilities of the Air Supply Unit.
- 13,250 feet of hose tested by A and B shift personnel.
- Completed semi-annual testing of communications equipment.
- Updated computers in the engines and ladder truck.
- Replaced control units, brain pack, and doors in the apparatus bay.
- Completed preventative maintenance on scheduled equipment.
- Replaced shock and hydraulic struts on E81.
- Replaced power steering pump and several valves on E812.
- Replaced one 5" Steamer port and repaired three more.
- Placed the Oil Spill Containment Trailer into service.
- Revamped the equipment lists between Fire Department and Public Works to coordinate numbering systems.
- Updated the RTA Maintenance system with our License Numbers.
- Licensed all of department's rolling stock, with the exception of two generators.

Special Ops Trailers

OHFD maintains trailers designed to meet the needs of various types of incidents.

The **Air/Rehab Unit** carries air bottles providing the capability to recharge up to 120 SCBAs at the scene of a fire. It also contains materials to provide rehabilitation fatigued personnel.

The **Spill Containment Unit** is specifically designed for marine hazmat containment.

The **Technical Rescue Unit** carries equipment for confined space rescue and materials and tools to shore damaged or collapsed structures.

OHFD maintains two **MCI Trailers** designed for instant deployment in the event of a natural or man made disaster in which there are many injuries occurring simultaneously (Mass Casualty Incident).



emergency preparedness

The likelihood that an individual will survive a house fire depends as much on having a working smoke detector and an exit strategy, as on a well-trained fire department.

The number one thing to know about Emergency Preparedness is that you are responsible for your own preparedness.

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

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

What to have in your HEAD (HOUSEHOLD DISASTER PLAN)

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

What to have in your HAND (PERSONAL GO BAG)

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

What to have in your HOME (72 HOUR EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT)

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



The Washington State Military Department and Department of Health jointly prepared an excellent guide to preparing for emergencies in Washington State. This 44 page booklet outlines simple steps individuals can take to prepare for the types of disasters and emergencies that threaten our area. It discusses:

- Personal Preparedness
- Prevention
- Terrorism
- Biological Agents
- Preparing in the Community
- Preparing in the Home, and
- Natural and weather disasters.

Oak Harbor Fire Department has distributed nearly 600 of

these booklets to the Oak Harbor community in the past year and has the publication available on the department's website.

PREPARE IN A YEAR

Another preparedness resource developed by the Washington State Emergency Management Division is a program designed to help individuals and families be prepared for emergencies in 12 months time. It outlines 12 simple steps that can be completed by spending one hour each month on the task of the month.

The twelve steps are:

- Action Plans—learn what to do in an earthquake, tsunami, volcano and chemical release.
- Out-of-Area Contact—establish who will be called when family members are separated.
- Water—it's essential for survival. Learn how to calculate and store all you'll need.
- 72-hour comfort kit—your supplies in one, grab-n-go container.
- Important Documents—prepare ready access to your insurance, financial, and tax

documents.

- Extended Events—reduce inconvenience and discomfort by preparing.
- Under the Bed—ready to respond, day or night.
- Utility Safety—all household members must know how to shut of gas and electricity.
- Drop, Cover & Hold—conquering the instinct to run during an earthquake.
- Fire Safety—pre-planning is the key to your safety.
- Shelter in Place—create a safe room in your home.
- Home Hazard Hunt—identify potential home hazards.

Learn more about these twelve steps and download fact sheets to guide you at: www.emd.wa.gov/preparedness/prepare_year.shtml.



Building Collapse Training. Photo by R. Hancock

year in review



"Thank you so much for allowing us to use the department's generators at the Military Appreciation Picnic, and for the time volunteered by you and your crew. Your bike helmet tent was a hit, and the ladder truck and flag made such an impressive addition to the picnic. You enabled us to show our local military families how much we truly appreciate the sacrifices they have made for our country. – B. Munns, National Director Navy League of Oak Harbor

JANUARY – Incident Responses 150

- **4 PAID-ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS (POC FFS)** hired: Avance, Malarkey, Nieboer, Oleson
- **FIRE OFFICER** State Accredited course (7-month) began for OHFD
- **FIRE CODE** course (3-month) began for OHFD
- **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)** course (5-month) began for 6 POC FFS: S.Carroll, Day, Gonzales, Lebaron, R.Lemme, Nieboer
- **POC FF RECRUIT PRE-REQUISITE TRAINING** (3-month) began for 3 POC FFS recruits: Avance, Malarkey, Oleson
- **REGIONAL INVESTIGATIVE TEAM** at Heller Road incident (Dec'06) with 1 civilian fatality in January 2007
- **YEARS OF SERVICE**
 - POC FF R. Rodgers - 32 yrs
 - Admin Assistant R. Velasquez - 17 yrs
 - POC FFS J.Day, R.Gonzales, M.Kugler, J.Lebaron - 1 yr

FEBRUARY – Incident Responses 91

- **FEDERAL DISASTER DECLARED** on Feb 14 for 19 WA State counties (includes Island) as a result of Dec 14-15, 2006 severe winter storm, landslides and mudslides. OHFD, Water Dept and Public Works request \$18,300 in public assistance from FEMA
- **WA STATE MILITARY DEPT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PREPAREDNESS ASSISTANCE GRANT (EMPAG) \$26,540** awarded OHFD for a backup generator with 5-yr extended coverage, transfer switch, fuel tank, and operational and basic maintenance training
- **YEARS OF SERVICE**
 - Lt E. Bridgeford - 11 yrs
 - POC FFS B.Beebe, D.Martin - 5 yrs
 - Office Assistant A. Braunstein - 2 yrs
 - POC FFS S.Carroll, J.Heiserman, R.Lemme - 2 yrs
 - POC FF A.Figgs resigned, off-island relocation

MARCH – Incident Responses 137

- **WA STATE DEPT OF ECOLOGY \$25,000 GRANT** awarded OHFD for oil spill response equipment which includes 18' trailer, 800' standard containment boom and training
- **FULL TIME FIREFIGHTER** R.Cuevas hired to fill position vacated in Feb 2006
- **POC FIREFIGHTER** S.Lemme hired (prior OHFD service 2002-2004)
- **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)** course through NAS, began for 2 POC FF recruits: Malarkey, Oleson
- **ISLAND CO RECRUIT ACADEMY**, State Accredited Academy (3-month) began at OHFD
- OHFD also hosted the City Wellness Cmte Luncheon, participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and kicked-off Lunch with a Firefighter public education / mentoring program at OHSD elementary schools
- **YEARS OF SERVICE**
 - POC FF D. Wright - 15 yrs
 - POC FFS A.Carroll, T.Cross, P.Velasquez, R.Villaflor - 4 yrs

APRIL – Incident Responses 116

- **WA STATE DEPT OF HEALTH (DOH) PRE-HOSPITAL PARTICIPATION GRANT \$1,439** awarded OHFD to help meet DOH requirements to provide prehospital services to the public
- **ISLAND CO DEPT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT: ALL HAZARDS ALERT BROADCAST (AHAB) WARNING SYSTEM**, City of Oak Harbor property is the first installation site for Island Co
- **STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (SHSGP) \$33,857** awarded OHFD for equipment, training exercises, planning, and administration needs of local emergency responders
- **CHANGE YOU CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY NATIONAL CAMPAIGN**, reminder to change smoke detector batteries
- In addition, OHFD participated in Earth Day cleanup and cleanup of HWY20 and Firefighter Park, participated in the Holland Happening Parade and public education at NAS Summer Safety Stand Down

- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**

- FF S.McCalmont and POC FF J.Goodin - 7 yrs

MAY – Incident Responses 117

- **EMPAG BACKUP GENERATOR** in-service, tests completed
- **WA STATE SURVEY & RATING BUREAU FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERS REVIEWED/ INSPECTED RECORDS** at OHFD
- **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)** inventoried DNR equipment at OHFD
- **DECEMBER 2006 SEVERE WINTER STORM, LANDSLIDES, MUDSLIDES** finalize Project Worksheets for \$18,300 in public assistance, FEMA representatives meeting with OHFD
- **TEMPORARY FULL TIME OFFICE ASSISTANT** hired (full time Office Assistant on FML)
- **ISLAND CO RECRUIT ACADEMY GRADUATION. FIREFIGHTER I CERTIFICATION**, 3 POC FF recruits Avance, Malarkey, Oleson
- **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) CERTIFICATION**, 8 POC FFS S.Carroll, J.Day, R.Gonzales, J.LeBaron, R.Lemme and POC FF recruits R.Malareky, A.Nieboer, J.Oleson
- **DOE GRANT: OIL SPILL RESPONSE TRAINING**, classroom and Oak Harbor bay waters
- **CONFINED SPACE RESCUE TRAINING**, OHFD and Public Works personnel
- **WA STATE DEPT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES: LOGISTICS WORKSHOP**, OHFD, Public Works, Marina and Senior Ctr personnel
- OHFD personnel also setup the City team site for Relay for Life, provided FD generators for Relay for Life, setup and participated in Honoring Our Military Ceremony at Flintstone Park, and participated in Coupeville's Peace Officer Memorial Ceremony
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**
 - POC FF D. Faris - 22 yrs
 - POC FF R. Mirabal - 1 yr

JUNE – Incident Responses 111

- **SPILL CONTAINMENT TRAILER**, preparations began to place in-service and continued throughout the summer

- **TECHNICAL RESCUE TRAILER**, preparations began to place in-service and continued throughout the summer

- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**

- POC FF J. Hornsby - 29 yrs
 - FF D. Baer - 4 yrs
 - POC FF RECRUIT Malarkey resigned, out-of-country relocation

JULY – Incident Responses 145

- **POC FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT** (5 month) began
- **FIREFIGHTER II CERTIFICATION** test for OHFD personnel
- **HAZARDOUS MATERIAL TRAINING** for OHFD personnel
- **STATION APPARATUS BAY DOORS** replaced, old doors salvaged
- 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.
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**
 - Lt C. Anderson - 12 yrs

AUGUST – Incident Responses 110

- **ANNUAL PHYSICAL AGILITY REQUIREMENT** began for POC FFS
- **ANNUAL CUSTOMER COMMENT CARDS** sent to inspected occupancies and new commercial construction sites
- **FIREFIGHTER I CERTIFICATION** test for OHFD personnel
- OHFD also provided an EMS station at the Annual Challenge Series Race and participated in National Night Out where children were fitted for bicycle helmets, an emergency scenario was played out, and literature was provided on Emergency Resources, Preparing for Pandemic Influenza
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**
 - POC Capt R. Hancock - 34 yrs
 - POC Capt R. Wallin - 21 yrs
 - POC FF C. Garden - 21 yrs
 - Chief M. Soptich - 20 yrs
 - POC FF J. Breilein - 17 yrs
 - Lt M. Engle - 10 years



year in review



FF A. Carroll rappelling during rescue training, October 2007. Photo by R. Hancock.

SEPTEMBER – Incident Responses 103

- **ANNUAL PHYSICAL AGILITY REQUIREMENT** continued for POC FFS
- **ADA COMPLIANT OHFD WEBSITE** project began
- OHFD also hosted an appreciation luncheon for NAS EOD, and participated in the annual Military Appreciation Picnic where children were fitted for bicycle helmets, emergency preparedness information distributed and FD generators provided
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**
 - POC FF D. Jansen - 27 yrs
 - Battalion Chief R. Merrill - 18 yrs
 - POC FF P. Schroer - 13 yrs
 - FF J. Lamar - 10 yrs
 - POC FF J. Heilman resigned, off-island relocation

OCTOBER – Incident Responses 106

- **PUBLIC EDUCATOR/PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PE/PIO)** began testing process for part-time position
- **NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK:** Practice Your Escape Plan
- **MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT / FULL SCALE MULTI-AGENCY EXERCISE** to an airplane crash, a bus into building, and a building collapse. Participants included OHFD, Navy Region NW Fire & Emergency Services, North Whidbey Fire & Rescue, Central Whidbey Fire & Rescue and Whidbey General Hospital.
- **CONFINED SPACE TRAINING:** rope training, repelling and confined space rescue for OHFD personnel
- OHFD also hosted a second appreciation luncheon fro NAS EOD, participated in Home Depot's Annual Safety Fair, and the testing process began for establishing an eligibility list for POC Firefighters
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**
 - Lt M. Buxton - 15 yrs

NOVEMBER – Incident Responses 89

- **CHANGE YOU CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY NATIONAL CAMPAIGN**, reminder to change smoke detector batteries
- **CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT**, OHFD participated in transporting a 20' Douglas Fir to downtown Oak Harbor
- In addition, OHFD personnel participated in cleanup from the Elk's Lodge Thanksgiving Dinner for the community
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**
 - None
 - POC FF M. Kugler resigned, out-of-state relocation
 - POC FF RECRUIT Nieboer resigned

DECEMBER – Incident Responses 117

- **CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 2 NEW FIRE ENGINES** for purchase
- **ANNUAL WELLNESS REQUIREMENT** for full time suppression personnel
- **CPR INSTRUCTOR RECERTIFICATION CLASS** for 4 OHFD personnel: Lt Anderson, Lt Buxton, Lt Engle, POC FF Rodgers
- The 18th Annual OHFD Family Christmas Party & Banquet was held at Station 81 and OHFD participated in the City Wellness Cmte Food Drive benefiting the local Help House
- **YEARS OF SERVICE:**
 - POC FF J. Roberts - 11 yrs

Looking forward to 2008

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

Implement Technical Rescue Operations - 2007 was a busy year training several fire personnel in confined space operations. Public Works personnel also participated in the training. Equipment and a trailer were purchased with funding provided from the Streets, Waste Water, and Water Divisions of Public Works. The unit will respond to technical rescue type calls for service.

Emergency Preparedness - For many years, the department has made improvements to assist the city in responding to major incidents. Communications hardware, computers and networking capability, National Incident Management System training for city personnel, emergency preparedness classes to the community, and conducting our annual full scale exercise are a few of the accomplishments. 2008 will bring additional training for city personnel and our citizens, a technical rescue training prop, additional improvements in the Emergency Operations Center, and our annual full scale exercise.

Hire a Public Educator - This position will enhance our ability to focus and expand the programs we provide to our citizens to better prepare them for emergencies. It will also free up time for our Training Officer to focus on the growing training requirements for department personnel.

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

We look forward to the opportunities and are preparing for the challenges forthcoming in 2008.



*R. Merrill, R. Cuevas and D. Faris during a 2007 Adopt-A-Highway litter clean up day.
Photo by R. Velasquez*

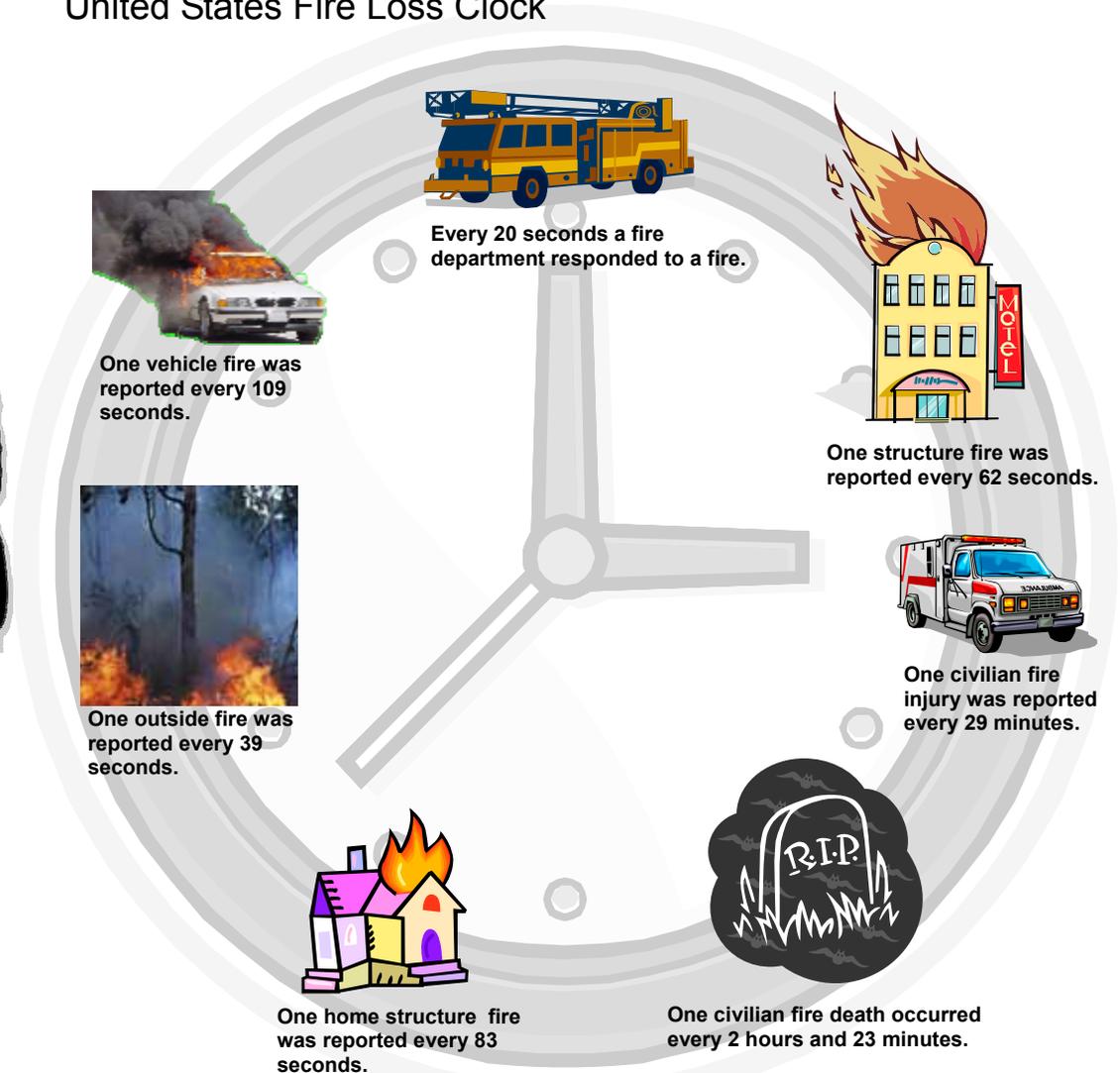
National fire statistics

Fires are no accident and many are predictable and preventable. Through education and knowledge, residents can prevent fires from starting in their homes. The leading causes of fire fatalities are highlighted below:

- **Smoking** is the leading cause of fire fatalities in Washington State. Most often, fires began when upholstered furniture, mattresses, or bedding was ignited. Smoking should be done outside and smoking materials fully extinguished.
- **Home heating** fires are often caused when items that can burn are placed too close to a heat source. Caution should be taken when using fireplaces, space heaters, candles, and wood/pellet stoves. Anything that can catch fire should be 36 inches from a heat source.
- **Electrical** fires are most often started from electrical distribution, wiring, and appliances. Be sure outlets and electrical systems are adequate to prevent overloading. Discontinue using electrical cords that are damaged or frayed. Extension cords are no substitute for permanent wiring.

Source: WA Office of the State Fire Marshal

United States Fire Loss Clock



Source: National Fire Protection Association, represents 2005 National statistics.

2007 Annual Report
Oak Harbor Fire Department

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