

Eau Claire Fire & Rescue



2008



Year in Review



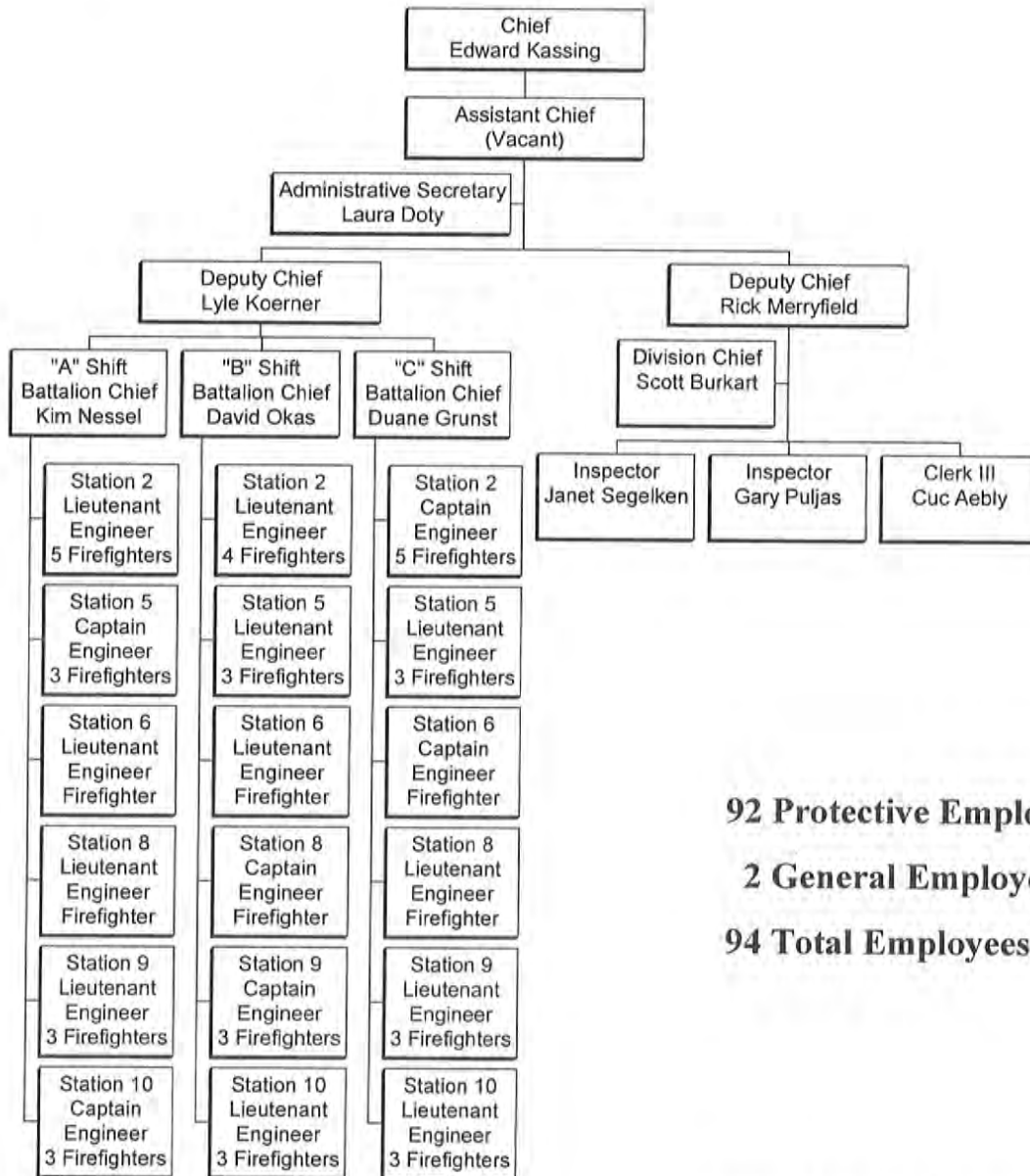
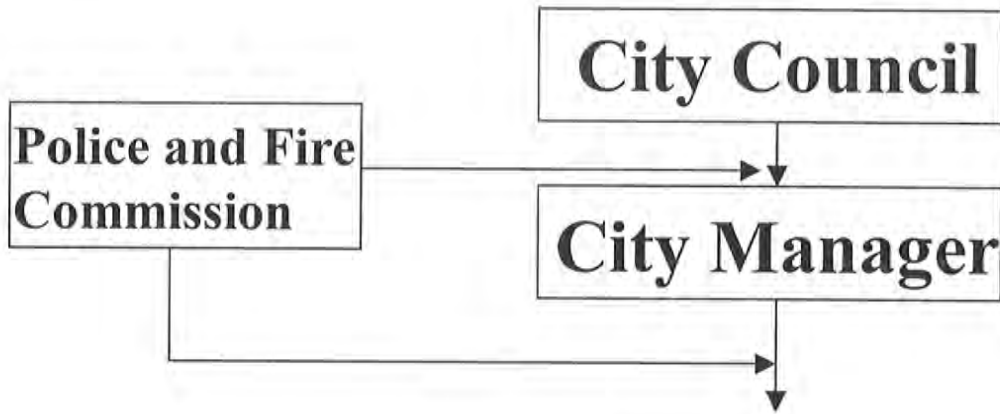
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EAU CLAIRE FIRE AND RESCUE MISSION STATEMENT

OUR COMMITMENT IS TO PUBLIC SAFETY, ACHIEVED THROUGH DEVELOPING, PROMOTING, AND MAINTAINING A COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK OF FIRE PREVENTION, FIRE SUPPRESSION, AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

THROUGH EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND COMMUNICATIONS, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICES.



92 Protective Employees
2 General Employees
94 Total Employees

Stations 5, 9 and 10 are staffed for Paramedic Response

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PREVENTION PERSONNEL

Ed Kassing Fire Chief

(Vacant)..... Assistant Chief

Lyle Koerner Deputy Chief of Operations

Rick Merryfield..... Deputy Chief of Prevention / EMS

Scott Burkart Division Chief of Training / Special Operations

Laura Doty Administrative Secretary

Janet Segelken Fire Inspector

Gary Puljas..... Fire Inspector

Cuc Aebly Clerk III, Prevention

Kim Nessel Battalion Chief, "A" Shift

David Okas..... Battalion Chief, "B" Shift

Duane Grunst..... Battalion Chief, "C" Shift

**EAU CLAIRE FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 487
ELECTED POSITIONS**

PRESIDENT: Lance Hanson

VICE PRESIDENT: Joe Rondeau

SECRETARY: Jeff Dykes

TREASURER: Bill Drath

GUIDE: Dave Lombardo

SGT-AT-ARMS: Joel Pettis

STEWARDS: Steve Secker (A-Shift)
Tom Rebeschke (B-Shift)
Bob Haller (C-Shift)

TRUSTEES: Tom Wallin
Nils Bergquist
Tony Hennings

**WORKING
RELATIONS:** Lance Hanson
Mark Olson
Steve Secker
Joe Rondeau

Personnel



Edward Kassing
Fire Chief



(Vacant)
Assistant Chief



Lyle Koerner
Deputy Chief



Rick Merryfield
Deputy Chief



Scott Burkart
Division Chief



Kim Nessel
Battalion Chief



Duane Grunst
Battalion Chief



David Okas
Battalion Chief



Laura Doty
Admin. Secretary



Cuc Aebly
Prevention Clerk III



**Janet Segelken
Inspector**



**Gary Puljas
Inspector**



**Glen Axness
Captain**



**Wayne Klett
Captain**



**Scott Walby
Captain**



**Bryon Bensen
Captain**



**Greg Stegge
Captain**



**Allyn Bertrang
Captain-Reserve Medic**



**Mark Legge
Lieutenant**



**Steve Hanson
Lieutenant**



**Loren Travis
Lt.-Reserve Medic**



**Joe Snow
Lieutenant**



**Terry Bechel
Lieutenant**



**Bill Mengele
Lieutenant**



**Tim McCaughey
Lieutenant**



**Mark Olson
Lieutenant**



Lance Hanson
Lieutenant



Ben Hays
Lieutenant-Medic



Tim Deziel
Lt.-Reserve Medic



Bruce Buchholz
Lieutenant-Medic



Kevin Frank
Engineer



Joel Pettis
Engineer



Dave Lombardo
Engineer



Dennis Duncan
Engineer



John Biegel
Engineer



Al Klocek
Engineer



Pete Fasching
Engineer



Rob Goodland
Engineer-Medic



Mike Miller
Engineer-Medic



Joe Kelly
Engineer



Bob Pratt
Engineer



Jeff Patrow
Engineer



Mike Laska
Eng.-Reserve Medic



Brian Kranz
Engineer



Jon Schultz
Engineer-Medic



Don Rydzik
Engineer



Kevin McClellan
Engineer-Medic



Chris Dolen
Engineer-Medic



Chao Xiong
Firefighter



Joe Rondeau
Firefighter-Medic



Shawn Abrahamson
Firefighter



Chris Bell
Firefighter



Steve Vargo
Firefighter



Tom Rebischke
Firefighter



Scott Mohr
Firefighter



Drew Dorn
Firefighter



Todd Frank
Firefighter-Medic



Denise Waterman
Firefighter-Medic



**Matt Jagger
Firefighter**



**Dave Whitehouse
Firefighter**



**Jamie Burkhardt
Firefighter-Medic**



**Stephen Secker
Firefighter**



**Frank Leffelman
Firefighter-Medic**



**Jeff Dykes
Firefighter-Medic**



**Bill Jensen
Firefighter**



**Pat Hamler
Firefighter**



**Dave Pekol
Firefighter**



**Greg Johnson
Firefighter**



**Jeremy Stary
FF-Reserve Medic**



**Bill Drath
Firefighter-Medic**



**Brian Toonen
Firefighter-Medic**



**Tim Brantner
Firefighter**



**Brian Phillips
Firefighter-Medic**



**Mark Humphrey
Firefighter-Medic**



Bob Haller
Firefighter-Medic



Stephen Friederichs
Firefighter



Dave Strassman
Firefighter-Medic



Tony Biasi
Firefighter-Medic



Matt Gunderson
Firefighter-Medic



Tom Wagner
Firefighter-Medic



Ryan Hebert
Firefighter-Medic



Tom Wallin
Firefighter



Nils Bergquist
Firefighter-Medic



Jeff Dahl
Firefighter



Tony Hennings
Firefighter-Medic



Ben Gruber
Firefighter-Medic



Christina Henke
Firefighter-Medic



Brian Mero
Firefighter-Medic



Kasondra Atwood
FF-Reserve Medic



Natasha Myre
FF-Reserve Medic



Levi Vlcek
FF-Reserve Medic



Steven Rindt
FF-Reserve Medic



Benji Norberg
FF-Reserve Medic



Perry Kyser
Firefighter



Dan Schroeder
Firefighter

Personnel Related Issues

PERSONNEL ACTIVITIES

New Hires:

Kasondra Atwood
Perry Kyser
Natasha Myre
Benjamin Norberg
Steven Rindt
Daniel Schroeder
Levi Vlcek

Promotions:

Rick Merryfield to Deputy Chief
Rick Merryfield to Division Chief
Scott Burkart to Division Chief
Dave Okas to Battalion Chief
Allyn Bertrang to Captain
Scott Walby to Captain
Bruce Buchholz to Lieutenant
Tim Deziel to Lieutenant
Lance Hanson to Lieutenant
Ben Hays to Lieutenant
Allyn Bertrang to Engineer
Chris Dolen to Engineer
Dave Lombardo to Engineer
Kevin McClellan to Engineer
Bob Pratt to Engineer

Separation:

Craig Fischer (Firefighter)

Retirements:

Dave Gee (Deputy Chief)
Trenton Lawler (Lieutenant)
Mark Mernitz (Lieutenant)
Scott Munden (Lieutenant)

Step Increases:

Firefighter Matt Gunderson to Second Class Firefighter

Firefighter Ryan Hebert to Second Class Firefighter

Firefighter Tom Wagner to Second Class Firefighter

Firefighter Tom Wallin to Third Class Firefighter

Firefighter Nils Bergquist to Fourth Class Firefighter

Firefighter Jeff Dahl to Fourth Class Firefighter

Firefighter Tony Hennings to Fourth Class Firefighter

SENIORITY RECORD

<u>NAME</u>		<u>RANK</u>	<u>DOH</u>
Legge	Mark	Lieutenant	06-19-78
Merryfield	Rickey	Deputy Chief	12-18-78
Kassing	Edward	Chief	01-02-79
Axness	Glen	Captain	03-29-82
Nessel	Kim	Battalion Chief	01-10-83
Koerner	Lyle	Deputy Chief	01-10-83
Hanson	Steven	Lieutenant	07-11-83
Burkart	Scott	Division Chief	02-06-84
Frank	Kevin	Engineer	02-06-84
Travis	Loren	Lieutenant	02-06-84
Snow	Joseph	Lieutenant	02-06-84
Klett	Wayne	Captain	04-02-84
Bechel	Terrance	Lieutenant	07-23-84
Mengele	William	Lieutenant	07-23-84
Segelken	Janet	Inspector	12-10-84
Pettis	Joel	Engineer	12-10-84
Lombardo	David	Engineer	03-04-85
Grunst	Duane	Battalion Chief	03-04-85
Duncan	Dennis	Engineer	03-04-85
McCaughey	Timothy	Lieutenant	07-29-85
Biegel	John	Engineer	12-09-85
Okas	David	Battalion Chief	12-09-85
Walby	Scott	Captain	12-09-85
Klocek	Alan	Engineer	05-12-86
Olson	Mark	Lieutenant	05-12-86
Hanson	Lance	Lieutenant	06-13-88
Dong	Cuc	Fire Prev. Secretary	05-08-89
Hays	Benny	Lieutenant	05-07-90
Deziel	Timothy	Lieutenant	05-07-90
Buchholz	Bruce	Lieutenant	10-01-90
Xiong	Chao	Firefighter	05-13-91
Fasching	Peter	Engineer	09-03-91
Goodland	Robert	Engineer	04-06-92
Miller	Michael	Engineer	04-06-92
Kelly	Joe	Engineer	11-02-92

<u>NAME</u>		<u>RANK</u>	<u>DOH</u>
Pratt	Robert	Engineer	11-02-92
Patrow	Jeffrey	Engineer	10-04-93
Bensen	Bryon	Captain	10-04-93
Stegge	Gregory	Captain	10-04-93
Laska	Michael	Engineer	06-05-95
Kranz	Brian	Engineer	06-05-95
Schultz	Jon	Engineer	06-05-95
Rydzik	Donald	Engineer	02-05-96
Rondeau	Joseph	Firefighter	02-05-96
Bertrang	Allyn	Captain	09-16-96
McClellan	Kevin	Engineer	09-16-96
Dolen	Christopher	Engineer	09-16-96
Abrahamson	Shawn	Firefighter	04-21-97
Bell	Christian	Firefighter	04-21-97
Vargo	Steven	Firefighter	04-21-97
Rebischke	Thomas	Firefighter	04-21-97
Mohr	Scott	Firefighter	10-20-97
Dorn	Andrew	Firefighter	04-20-98
Frank	Todd	Firefighter	04-20-98
Waterman	Denise	Firefighter	04-27-98
Jaggar	Matthew	Firefighter	08-24-98
Whitehouse	David	Firefighter	08-24-98
Burkhardt	Jamie	Firefighter	08-24-98
Secker	Stephen	Firefighter	02-15-99
Leffelman	Frank	Firefighter	02-15-99
Doty	Laura	Admin. Secretary	06-28-99
Dykes	Jeffrey	Firefighter	11-01-99
Jensen	William	Firefighter	11-01-99
Hamler	Patrick	Firefighter	11-01-99
Pekol	David	Firefighter	05-08-00
Johnson	Gregory	Firefighter	05-08-00
Stary	Jeremy	Firefighter	05-08-00
Drath	William	Firefighter	04-09-01
Toonen	Brian	Firefighter	04-09-01
Brantner	Timothy	Firefighter	04-09-01
Phillips	Brian	Firefighter	04-09-01
Humphrey	Mark	Firefighter	10-22-01
Haller	Robert	Firefighter	08-19-02

<u>NAME</u>		<u>RANK</u>	<u>DOH</u>
Friederichs	Stephen	Firefighter	08-19-02
Strassman	David	Firefighter	08-19-02
Biasi	Tony	Firefighter	12-09-02
Gunderson	Matthew	Firefighter	11-29-04
Wagner	Thomas	Firefighter	11-29-04
Hebert	Ryan	Firefighter	11-29-04
Puljas	Gary	Inspector	01-27-06
Wallin	Thomas	Firefighter	01-30-06
Bergquist	Nils	Firefighter	08-07-06
Dahl	Jeffrey	Firefighter	08-07-06
Hennings	Anthony	Firefighter	01-08-07
Gruber	Benjamin	Prob. Firefighter	07-09-07
Henke	Christina	Prob. Firefighter	07-09-07
Mero	Brian	Prob. Firefighter	07-09-07
Atwood	Kasondra	Prob. Firefighter	07-07-08
Myre	Natasha	Prob. Firefighter	07-07-08
Vlcek	Levi	Prob. Firefighter	07-07-08
Rindt	Steven	Prob. Firefighter	07-07-08
Norberg	Benjamin	Prob. Firefighter	07-07-08
Kyser	Perry	Prob. Firefighter	07-07-08
Schroeder	Daniel	Prob. Firefighter	07-07-08

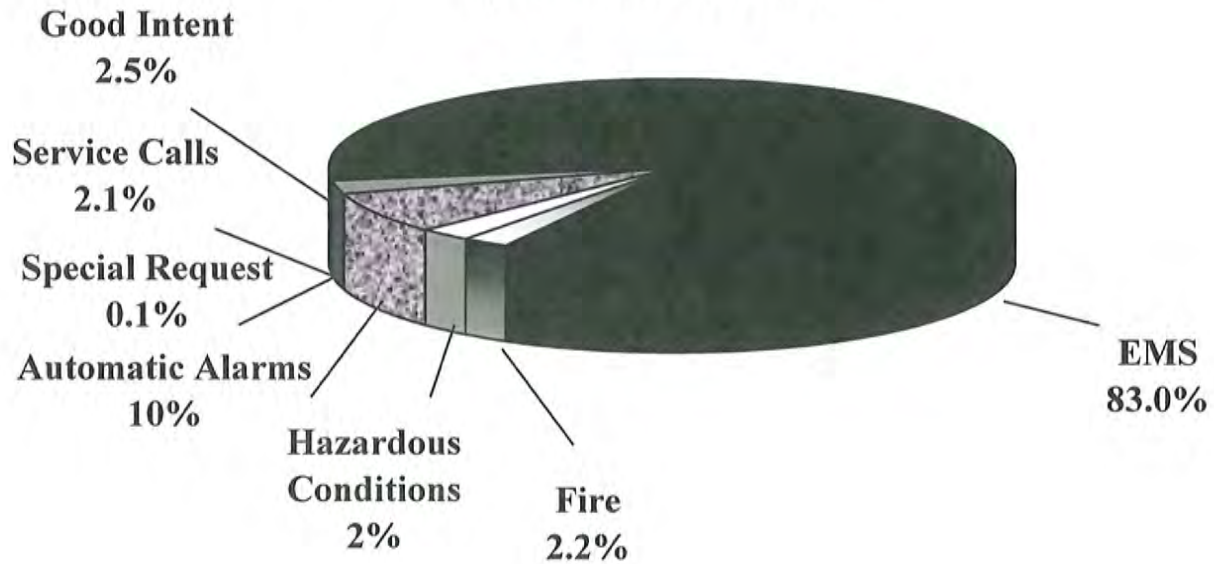
AVERAGE AGE – 40

AVERAGE YEARS OF SERVICE - 13

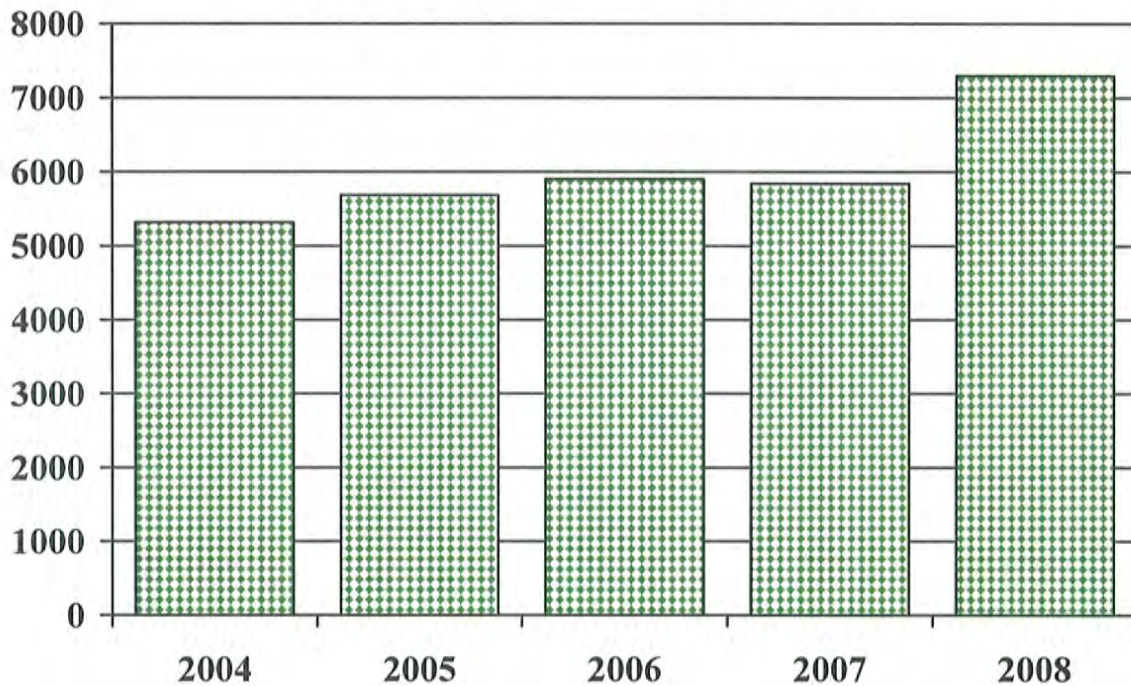
Response Statistics

RESPONSE BREAKDOWN

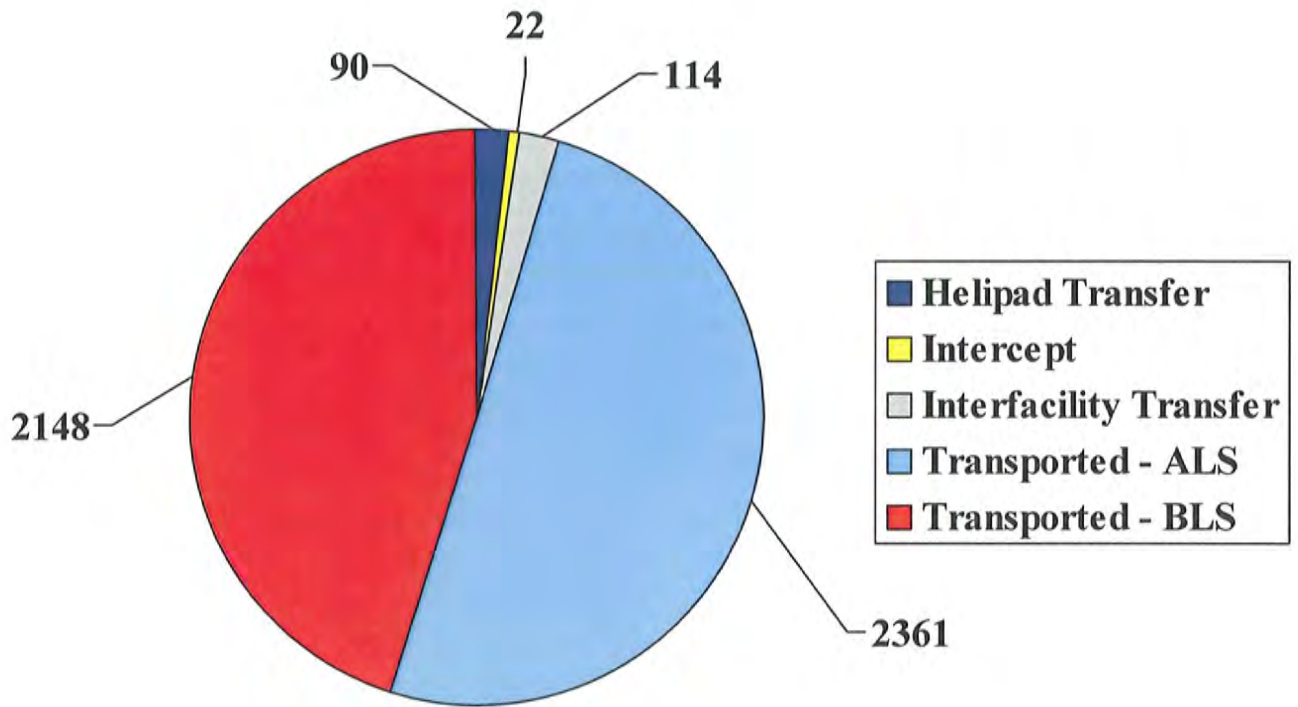
7,299 Incidents



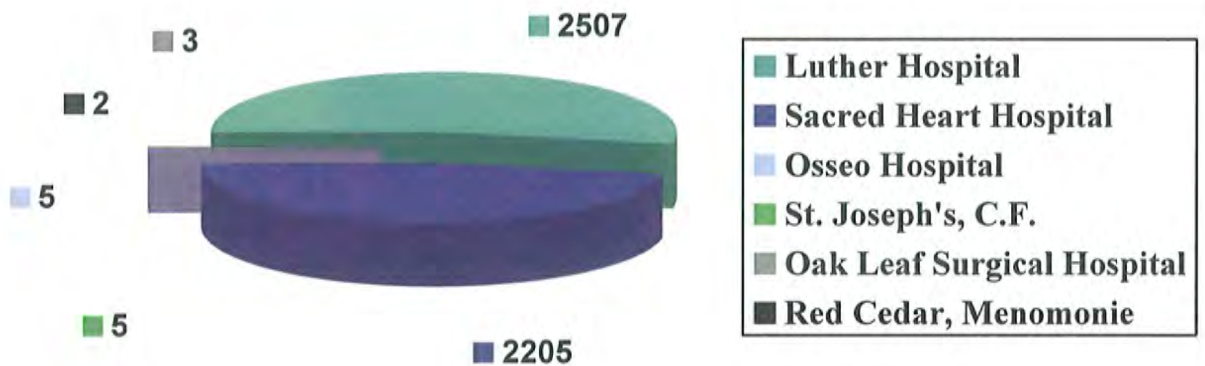
5-Year Total Responses



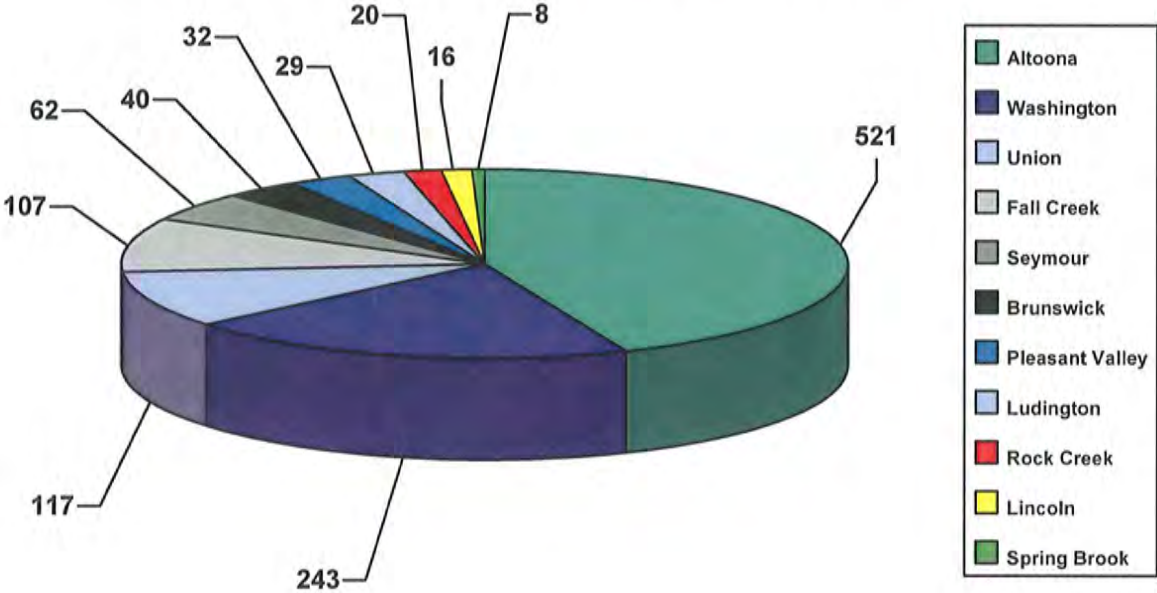
EMS TRANSPORT TYPES



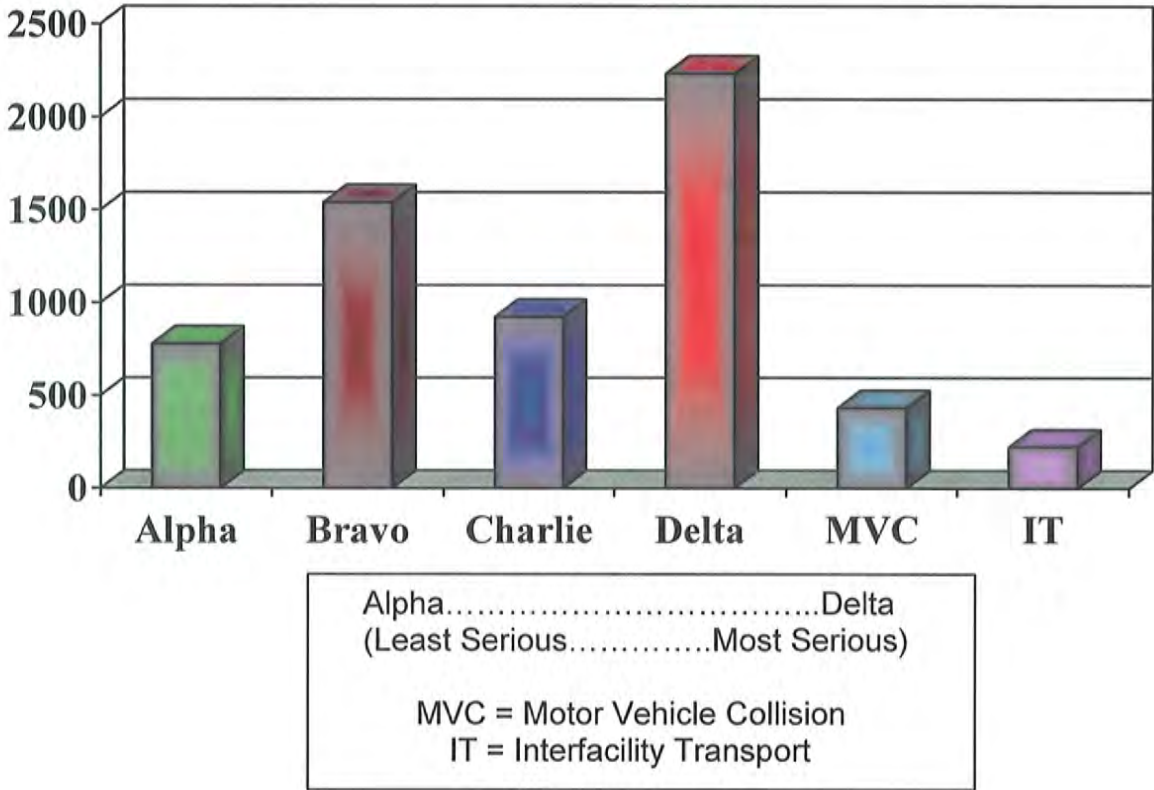
PATIENT TRANSPORT DESTINATIONS



REGIONAL EMS RESPONSES



INCIDENTS BY TRAUMA DESIGNATION

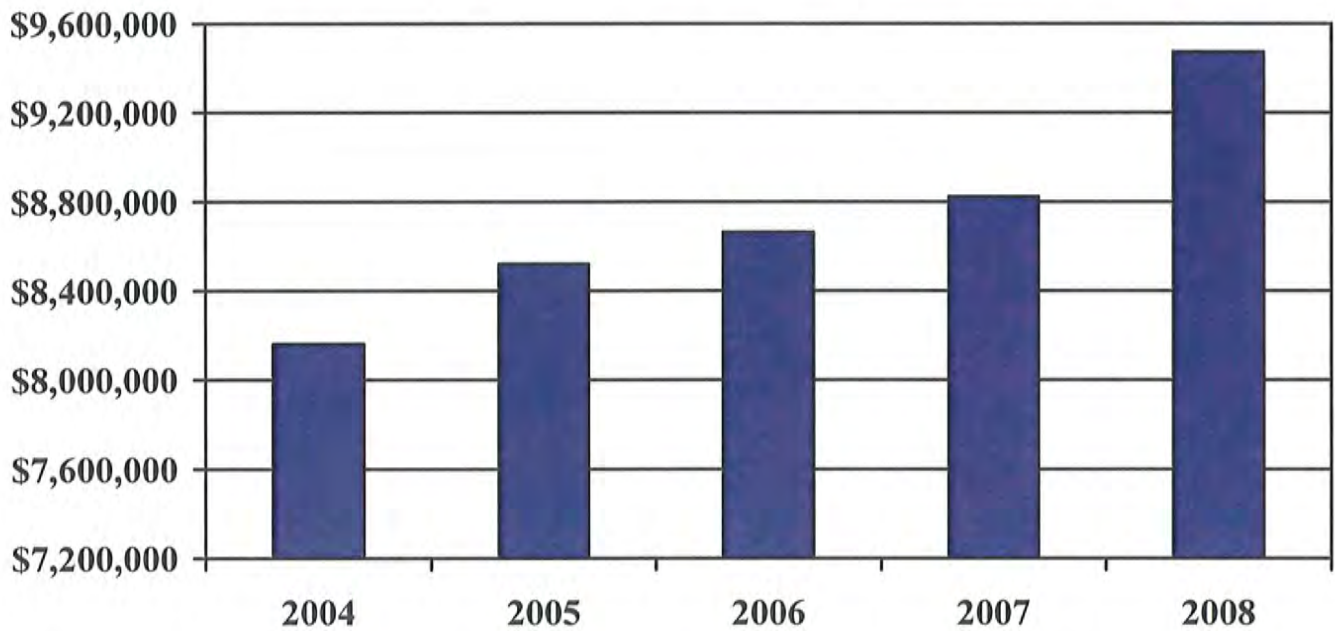


TOP 20 FIRES BY CAUSE AND DOLLAR LOSS

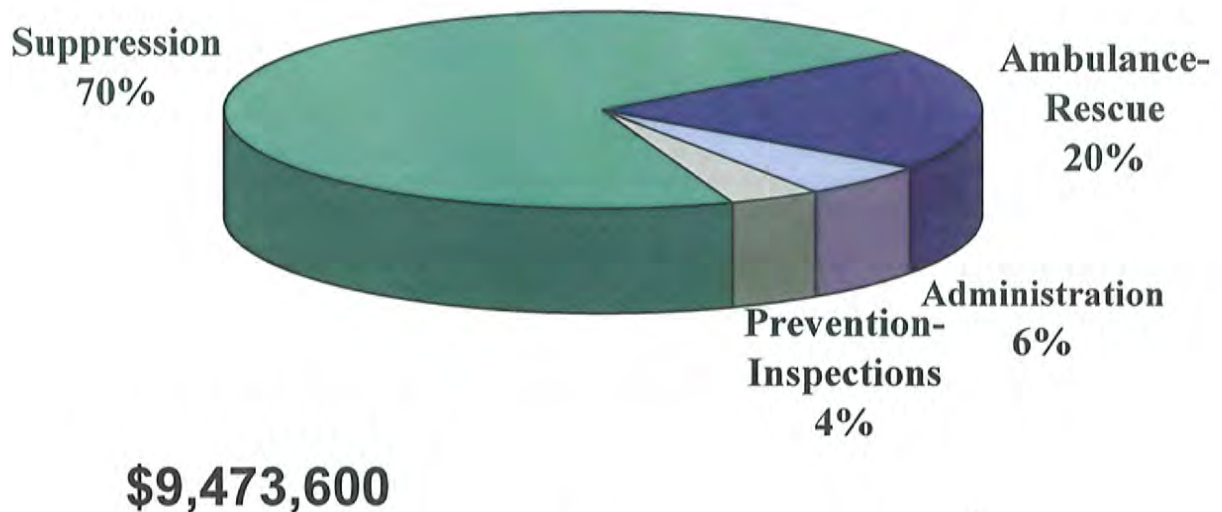
<u>DATE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u>DOLLAR LOSS</u>
08-10-08	809 W. Clairemont	Arson	\$120,000
10-27-08	518 Franklin St.	Possibly Electrical	\$120,000
01-12-08	2525 Sunridge St.	Cooking Fire	\$90,000
11-29-08	1716 Raedel Rd.	Wood Burning Stove	\$ 85,000
11-13-08	445 Garfield Ave.	Vehicle Fire	\$ 65,000
09-01-08	2755 3 rd St.	Possibly Electrical or Improper Discard of Smoking Materials	\$ 45,000
07-03-08	900 E. Grand, #A2	Gas Leak Ignited by Stove Pilot Light	\$ 40,000
06-16-08	1920 Valmont Ave.	Started by Child	\$ 35,000
09-17-08	637 Germania St.	Child Playing with Lighter/Candle	\$ 33,000
10-22-08	3108 Brian St.	Cooking Fire	\$ 25,000
06-09-08	615 Talmadge St.	Undetermined	\$ 22,000
05-07-08	901 S. Farwell, #A845	Electrical	\$ 21,200
01-18-08	824 Cameron St.	Wood Burning Stove	\$ 20,500
01-03-08	415 Congress St.	Thawing Pipes with Torch	\$ 20,000
01-21-08	1923 Arlene Pl.	Cooking Fire	\$ 20,000
10-16-08	2716 Melby St.	Machine Malfunction @ Business	\$ 16,000
11-29-08	1030 Menomonie St.	Heating/Vent Pipes w/Combustibles	\$ 15,000
05-05-08	2713 Shale Ledge Rd.	Cooking Fire	\$ 12,000
08-23-08	Hwy 53/North Crossing	Vehicle Fire	\$ 12,000
12-20-08	2800 Conrad St.	Vehicle Fire	\$ 11,000
TOTAL			\$ 827,700

Budgetary Information

FIVE YEAR BUDGET COMPARISON



OPERATING BUDGET BY DIVISION

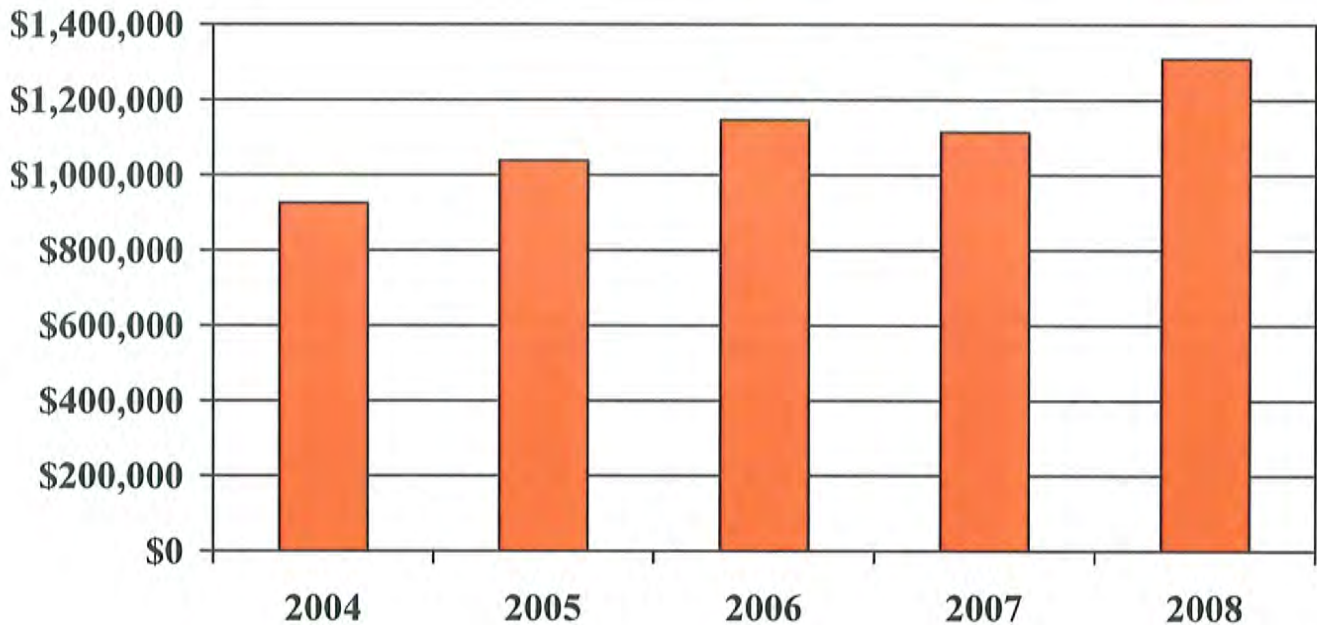


GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET



\$9,473,600

NET AMBULANCE REVENUE



Accomplishment Highlights

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Response Statistics

In 2008, the department responded to 7,299 calls for service, an increase of 25 percent from 2007.

TYPE	2008	2007
EMS/Rescue	6,060	4,622
Fire/Rescue	177	166
Malfunctioning Alarms	525	545
Hazardous Conditions	192	190
Service Calls	153	154
Good Intent Calls	174	143
Special Requests	18	20
Total Fire Loss	\$958,517	\$3,716,199
RUN TOTAL:	7,299	5,840

Incidents with loss exceeding \$50,000 were:

- 809 West Clairemont Avenue – Mercantile/Business (\$120,000)
- 516/518 Franklin Street – Multi-family dwelling (\$120,000)
- 2525 Sunridge Street – Single-family dwelling (\$90,000)
- 1716 Raedel Road – Single-family dwelling (\$85,000)
- 445 Garfield Avenue – Single-family dwelling (\$65,000)

Hirings, Promotions, and Separations

2008 was an active year for personnel movement. In July, the department welcomed the following as probationary firefighters: Kasondra Atwood, Natasha Myre, Benjamin Norberg, Steven Rindt, and Levi Vlcek. Perry Kyser and Daniel Schroeder joined the department in the same capacity on November 3. Retiring this year were Lt. Trent Lawler (1/4), Lt. Scott Munden (6/3), D.C. Dave Gee (6/30), and Lt. Mark Mernitz (8/13). FF Craig Fischer resigned on June 8. The following promotions took place: Al Bertrang, Chris Dolen, Dave Lombardo, Kevin McClellan, and Bob Pratt to Engineer; Bruce Buchholz, Tim Deziel, Lance Hanson, and Ben Hays to Lieutenant; Al Bertrang and Scott Walby to Captain; Dave Okas to Battalion Chief; Scott Burkart to Division Chief of Training-Special Operations; and Rick Merryfield first to Division Chief of Prevention-EMS in March and then to Deputy Chief in July.

Equipment Grants

In 2008, the department applied for a \$173,000 grant through the Department of Homeland Security - FIRE Act grant program. This grant request was for six Advanced Life Support (ALS) Defibrillators and ten Automatic External Defibrillators (AED). The department has not received notification of the status of its request.

With the expansion of the department's Emergency Medical Service (EMS) into areas outside the city of Eau Claire, there was an immediate need for the requested defibrillators. In

discussions with groups and local professionals, the department was able to secure a donation for some of these defibrillators. In May, the department accepted a donation from the Cohen family for the appropriation of six 12-Lead ALS defibrillators in the amount of \$120,000. This donation was in honor of Doctor Kincaid for his years of service as a cardiac care physician. The remaining ten Automatic External Defibrillators were purchased out of existing allocated lines.

New Fire Trucks

In April, the department took delivery of four Pierce fire trucks. Included were two 1,500 gallons-per-minute (gpm) pumpers—replacing a 1976 pumper and a 1979 pumper. We also received one 75-foot 1,500 gpm aerial truck and one 100-foot 1,500 gpm aerial truck. These are replacements for a 1986 55-foot aerial and a 1996 75-foot aerial.

The department also received in late 2008 a new Medtec ambulance, which is now serving the community out of Station 10 (Birch/N. Hastings Way).

Training

As indicated above, the department received two new fire pumpers, and the initial vehicle familiarization training was conducted by the manufacturer. The training division and company officers conducted subsequent training on driving, pumping and fire ground placement of the aerials for rescue, exposure protection, and fire fighting.

All of our Collapse Rescue technicians traveled to Volk Field and completed three-day validation/refresher training. This class covered both heavy and light construction and simulated around the clock operation as if it was an extended deployment of the task force team.

Through a cooperative arrangement with Excel Energy and Miron Construction, department members were given a tour of the construction site at the Dells Hydro Dam and were assigned a simulated rescue drill. The training drills included many technical rescue skills and varied for each shift. The different scenarios included that of a worker injured from a fall on the down-river side of a spillway gate, a construction worker trapped by a collapsed scaffolding in a confined space in the discharge race under the dam, and a worker trapped in the turbine of the generator.

The annual refresher and continuing EMS education for all of the department's EMTs and paramedics has been changed so that the required training is completed internally. All EMTs and paramedics will complete 30 hours of computer-based and hands-on training. The paramedics will have an additional 48 hours of paramedic level training to maintain their State license.

The training division has been working with Information Systems to develop a system to allow lectures and other classroom training sessions via the Internet and/or Intranet. This would allow for greater flexibility and keep the firefighters in their respective response areas during the training.

The preplan program was updated to include all identified target hazards within the city of Eau Claire. Certain buildings are listed as target hazards because of high life hazard or high property loss potential. Other changes included an annual inspection to identify changes and update the

plans on a regular basis. The plans are now more readily accessible to the frontline fire officers on each department vehicle. The commanding officer also has better access to the plans from the computer (MDB) in the battalion chief's car.

State Task Force 4 – Regional Technical Rescue Team

The department was awarded an Office of Justice Assistance (Homeland Security) grant in 2008 in the amount of approximately \$209,000 for procurement of equipment for the further development of a regional technical rescue team. This federal grant required no local match, with all funding for the program coming from the grant. The department is partnered with the cities of Superior and Rhinelander to provide technical rescue team response to the northern third of the state.

Training for team members in the disciplines of Ropes Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Confined Space was completed at CVTC's Emergency Services Education Center. The last portion of the task force training, Collapse Rescue, was completed at Volk Field due to its complex nature. Ongoing training has continued with annual multi-day, intense, hands-on practical skills testing held at the Volk Field REACT center.

The department took delivery of additional highly specialized technical rescue equipment fully funded through the grant dollars that was placed into service. In 2009, personnel will return to Volk Field for validation training. Additional equipment will be received in the coming year to complete our equipment cache. There is ongoing discussion with the State of Wisconsin Emergency Management and the Office of Justice Assistance about a long-term contract for the Task Force concept.

Regional EMS

This year brought significant changes to the delivery of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for Eau Claire County. On March 1, Eau Claire Fire Rescue began regional emergency medical services delivery beyond the borders of the city. This initiative began over two years ago with the concept of shared services with our neighboring communities. The culmination of that effort includes long-term contracts of medical support in the form of grants with Sacred Heart Hospital, Luther-Midelfort Hospital, and Marshfield Clinic. Service contracts for ambulance service delivery were made with the City of Altoona; Village of Fall Creek; and Townships of Washington, Seymour, Pleasant Valley, Brunswick, Union, Ludington, Lincoln, Rock Creek, and Spring Brook.

Department personnel have worked with the First Responder agencies on coordinated joint training that involves the EMS coordinators from both Luther and Sacred Heart Hospitals. This training will allow for interaction among our personnel, the medical directors for our department and for Eau Claire County, both hospitals, and the First Responder agencies. First Responders who are trained to the EMT-Basic level received additional training from our department's medical director that enables them to give advanced EMS treatment to their citizens.

County EMS Council

With the change in the ambulance service delivery model comes the need to reinvigorate and advance the scope of the Eau Claire County Emergency Medical Service Council, which is a subcommittee of the County Board. During the development of this initiative, identifiable gaps

were recognized that clearly could be addressed by the EMS Council. Every effort has been made to establish a first class system of EMS delivery for all citizens of the city and county.

Chief Kassing was elected as the new chair of the County EMS Council with a shared vision to model goals standardizing protocols, procedures and training for all First Responders in the county. Another major initiative was to look at the response districts to allow for a more rapid response of both First Responders and transporting ambulance to medical calls.

Council members worked toward the development of two working groups to assist in the coordination of this regional effort. The first is the area EMS provider alliance, which is comprised of area ambulance services, with the goal of coordinating response districts to maximize response times to the patients and standardize care and procedures across the area. The second is the area EMS consumer group that is made up of representatives from each of the municipalities served. The goal of this group is to build relationships with the political bodies while developing a communications link to the municipalities regarding service delivery. Much was completed in 2008, and we look to 2009 and beyond for even further improvement in how the various EMS members work together to enhance patient care for our citizens.

National Incident Management System (NIMS)

The department remains committed to continued NIMS compliance. This will be an ongoing process due to the different levels of Incident Command System (ICS) training available and promotions within the department. All of our personnel have the required ICS training necessary for their current level. The department will continue to upgrade its personnel in training as necessary and has been assisting Public Works with their NIMS compliance.

Level "A" Haz Mat Team

This year several incidents drew upon the expertise of team members but did not qualify for the issuance of a State incident number. Personnel assisted with three incidents involving chemicals built into a safe's door as a theft deterrent system. These chemicals are extremely hazardous if dropped or broken. In two cases bomb squads were dispatched, and in the other the chemical had to be properly disposed of by the safe's owner. In all cases, these chemicals posed a serious threat to many people.

Another incident involved an unknown chemical reaction that resulted in a fire in a commercial garbage truck in the Prescott, Wisconsin, area. Team members provided vital chemical data and assisted agencies with disposal and reporting information. In the Prescott incident, environmental damage was minimized greatly, and the \$225,000 vehicle was spared a total loss.

In November, the Level A Chemical Assessment Team (CAT) was utilized by the Township Fire Department for advice and metering capabilities. This highlights the type of service the Level A team can provide without the situation calling for a full hazardous materials response.

Other services we provide include outreach programs to emergency responders and related groups in our response area. This year 270 letters were sent out detailing the services we provide to them, and we included highly visible stickers with contact numbers for responders to place in emergency vehicles. Our presentations were made to regional conferences, University of Wisconsin Environmental Engineering students, civic groups, fire departments, emergency medical services, emergency management personnel, and law enforcement groups. In October,

the team put on a demonstration at the American Ice manufacturing facility. This was coordinated with a regional Association of Ice Manufacturers. The chemical research, monitoring, and containment capabilities were demonstrated and explained.

Safety Camp

On June 17 and 18, personnel participated in Safety Camp at Carson Park. This day camp is for children entering the third grade. Fire Inspectors Segelken and Puljas presented a program on summer fire safety, as well as the fire safety house to 90+ participants on the first day of the camp. The Engine 2 crew brought the fire truck to the closing picnic and went over the truck for the kids.

Safety Town

Safety Town was held on June 18 and 25 at Northwoods Elementary School. Both Inspectors Puljas and Segelken, as well as the Engine 10 crew with the Safety House, taught 50 1st grade students about fire safety.

UST/AST Inspections

Insp. Segelken completed 70 site permit inspections – some sites contain multiple tanks to be inspected. There were 13 tank removals and 4 tank installs/upgrades during this period requiring multiple inspections per site. The 2007 State audit was completed on July 21, and found the department met the performance requirements of the State.

Juvenile Fire Setter Program

The Eau Claire Fire Department had five referrals from Human Services for fire education intervention. There were two requests by a parent for intervention.

Fire Prevention Education in the Schools

Inspectors Puljas and Segelken provided instruction to the 4-year-old kindergarten program. There were 17 sites with 37 sessions and a total of 675 children involved in this program. All children were given a Brecker Bunny safety book—a donation from the Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety.

Personnel from the engine and ambulance companies presented programs to 4,100 students in grades K – 4 at 20 schools. All students received coupons from Taco John's with a message reminding parents to change the batteries in their smoke detectors.

Fire Extinguisher Training

Inspectors Puljas and Segelken trained 2,210 individuals at 32 different businesses; some businesses held multiple sessions.

Fire Drills

Department personnel witnessed (a State requirement) 78 fire drills at a variety of businesses.

Property Inspections / Review / Investigations

The City of Eau Claire assesses fees for fire sprinkler plan reviews and inspections; kitchen hood inspections; adult family home and group home inspections; and tent inspections. Listed below are the reviews and inspections that were done in 2008:

- **Sprinkler Plans** – 37 plans were reviewed and inspections completed.
- **Adult Family Homes** – 49 facilities were inspected.
- **Tent Inspections** – 71 tents were inspected.
- **Complaint or Follow-up Inspections** – Fire inspectors reviewed the approximately 6,000 inspection reports completed by the fire crews to ensure that information is correct and violations are being corrected.
- **Fireworks** - The Fire Prevention Bureau inspected 26 sites that sell fireworks. These sites were both inside commercial buildings and in parking lots.
- **Fire Investigations** - The Fire Prevention Bureau conducted 33 fire investigations. Each investigation varies in the amount of time required to bring it to conclusion.
- **Unsafe Living Conditions** - The Fire Prevention Bureau was involved in 6 situations involving unsafe living conditions. These situations are specific to the individual but on average require multiple visits and ongoing contact to resolve.
- **Altoona Fire Prevention** – 500 fire inspections were completed for the year. 825 students from 3 schools participated in the K – 5 fire prevention programs. There also were 6 preschool sites that held 11 sessions involving 190 kids in the 4-year-old kindergarten program. These students also were given a Brecker Bunny safety book to keep. Insp. Puljas met with residents of Oak Gardens and Eastridge Estates for fire drills and a fire safety talk. He also implemented the “Fire File” in the Altoona Star and “Fire Facts” in the Leader-Telegram. Both publish articles on seasonal fire safety and offer fire safety tips.

Insp. Puljas assisted in the investigation of the Altoona School District storage house that was burned. The individuals were apprehended and convicted of arson to a building.

Specialty Captains' Updates

Submitted by:

- W. Klett, Captain of Suppression**
- S. Burkart, Captain of Technical Rescue/Heavy (*until July*)**
- A. Bertrang, Captain of Technical Rescue/Heavy**
- D. Okas, Captain of Emergency Medical Services (*until May*)**
- S. Walby, Captain of Emergency Medical Services**
- G. Stegge, Captain of Technical Rescue/Light**
- G. Axness, Captain of Maintenance**
- B. Bensen, Captain of Hazardous Materials**

Suppression – 1ST Quarter

In January, Capts. Glen Axness and Wayne Klett conducted the annual NFPA-required fit tests for the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus masks. This year the operation was moved to the lower level of station 8.

D.C. Lyle Koerner and Capt. Klett spent many hours time working out the final details on the four new engines purchased from Pierce Manufacturing of Appleton. On February 28, D.C. Koerner; Bernie Brunner and Bob Zawacki from Central Maintenance; and Capt. Klett traveled to the Pierce plant to conduct a mid-build inspection. March 26 was the final inspection date before delivery occurred, and D.C. Koerner, Div. Chief Rick Merryfield, and Capt. Klett once again made the trip to the Pierce plant in Appleton. Personnel found 10 to 15 items per truck that did not meet specs or standards. These items were corrected before final delivery took place on March 31. The goal is to have everyone trained and equipment mounted and ready for service by May 1.

Suppression – 2nd Quarter

On March 31, the department took delivery of two engines and two aerial ladders from Pierce Manufacturing of Appleton. Both engines have 1,500 gallon-per-minute Waterous pumps. Both aerial ladders are Quints—a 75-foot and a 100-foot. Both have 2,000 gallon-per-minute Waterous pumps. In May, Pierce personnel provided instruction on operation and maintenance of the new engines to all of the crews.

City shops personnel also spent considerable hours mounting the additional equipment on the apparatus to prevent the equipment from being dislodged from its rightful location. This equipment includes radios, flashlights, axes, defib. monitors, and extra nozzles. Department personnel also spent many hours aiding in the time-intensive transition process to the new apparatus. During May and June, Capt. Klett worked with Red Power Diesel Service, the service center authorized by Pierce for its warranty work. There have not been any major concerns with the new apparatus.

Also during May hose testing was conducted in-house, as required by NFPA1962. The Eau Claire County Fire Chiefs Association owns and loans the hose tester to any Eau Claire County fire department free of charge.

In mid-May, fire extinguisher maintenance was scheduled with North Star Fire Systems. State law requires that all fire extinguishers on commercial property be inspected annually.

Suppression – 3rd Quarter

On July 8, American Testing from Minnesota performed the NFPA-required ladder testing. The testing was conducted at Station 9, and all of our ground ladders passed. This year we did not test the aerial ladders. We only had to test the ladders on Engines 1, 3, 8, and 10. The four new engines the department received this past March will not need to be tested until July 2009.

Capt. Klett spent many hours this quarter working with Red Power Diesel Service out of Fremont, Wisconsin. They are an authorized Pierce service center that does the warranty work for Pierce.

Capt. Klett also worked with Div. Chief Scott Burkart on additional aerial training. The County allowed us use of the houses on First Avenue. These houses will be demolished to make room for the new County jail. Capt. Klett trained the crews on the aerial operation, and Chief Burkart trained the crews on ladder and aerial techniques. The crews worked on aerial placement, along with working off the aerial with chainsaws and axes by cutting ventilation holes. They also performed aerial ladder rescues through the upper store windows.

Suppression – 4th Quarter

October is fire prevention month, so personnel were involved in presenting prevention programs in the schools to grades K – 4. The department again conducted the Keep the Wreath Green fire safety program during the holiday season. It began on Thanksgiving Day and went through January 4, 2009. This year the department responded to four structure fires during that time period.

Capt. Klett continued working with Red Power Diesel Services, which is the mobile authorized Pierce Service Center. Their personnel are performing all of the warranty work on the four new engines received in March.

Capt. Klett is working on a date to return Engine 2 to Appleton and meet with Pierce engineers about having the speed lays rebuilt. This has been a very time-consuming issue. Pierce representatives have agreed that their engineering of the speed lays is not adequate for removing our triple lay attack lines. The related cost to have this done is covered under warranty. After Engine 2 has been worked on, Engine 5 will have this done, also.

Technical Rescue-Heavy- 1st Quarter

Each member of State Task Force 4 was issued a set of personal protection and safety gear. The gear issued consisted of: a set of t-shirts, tactical pants, rescue helmet, goggles, gloves, and helmet light. The gear is to be used for training and when the team is deployed.

The dates have been set for the refresher/validation sessions at Volk Field for the task force members. Every member from all of the departments that comprise Task Force 4 is scheduled for three days of training. The training includes a 24-hour, round-the-clock scenario simulating an extended deployment and rescue.

A six-passenger, 1-ton pickup truck was added to the department's fleet of trucks. The truck will be used to pull the task force trailers and to support operations for both the task force and hazardous materials teams.

The dive team completed a training session at the YMCA pool on basic skills and equipment review. The pool locale allows for a controlled environment to hone skills. The training sessions were held on March 10, 11, and 13 and included divers from all three shifts. The updated dive logs and checklist were incorporated into the training session.

Technical Rescue-Heavy – 2nd Quarter

Two complete redundant air systems were purchased for the dive team. The redundant air system is comprised of a 19 cubic foot air cylinder, a separate regulator, first stage pressure reducer, pressure gauge, and a harness to attached to the diver's buoyancy compensator.

In April, Div. Chief Merryfield and Capt. Burkart toured the buildings at 1903 Oxford Ave and 3635 Mall Drive to evaluate the use of the building for training purposes. The building at 1903 Oxford will be used for upcoming task force and RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) training in July and August.

Capt. Burkart met with representatives from Xcel Energy and Miron Construction about rescue needs from the Dells Hydro Dam reconstruction project. An evaluation of the construction site revealed several possible rescue scenarios that were practiced in late June and early July. In each training session, the department's task force members toured the dam and completed one of the rescue scenarios. The rest of the shift not involved with the task force toured the dam in the afternoon.

A rope rescue review session was scheduled for each of the shifts on June 3, 4, and 5. The class reviewed basic rope rigging and introduced the use of the Arizona Vortex. The Arizona Vortex is a tripod used as a high anchor point to lift victims over guard rails, from building roof edges, and from confined space openings.

A representative from Interspiro demonstrated to members of the dive team and surrounding dive teams the Divator surface supplied airline system for public safety diving. The system has several advantages and will be further evaluated by the divers.

Technical Rescue-Heavy – 3rd Quarter

Personnel who are members of the State Task Force 4 – Urban Search and Rescue completed validation training at Volk Field. The validation training consisted of three days of refresher training in Collapse Rescue. The training involved practicing previously learned skills, applying new skills such as building triage, and working in teams during collapse scenario situations.

Thirty-one department members have completed the validation training. The Collapse Rescue skills learned through the validation training may be applied through the activation of the Urban Search and Rescue - Task Force 4 or through local needs in and around the City of Eau Claire.

New equipment was put into service during the third quarter. The plasma cutter was installed on Heavy Rescue 2.

Department-wide training was provided during the third quarter in the areas of metal cutting and breaching of masonry brick walls. Div. Chief Burkart conducted the training in a vacant building of varied building construction.

- Personnel practiced techniques and the proper use of the plasma cutter on various types and configurations of materials.

- Personnel practiced skills needed to breach a masonry wall utilizing varied techniques and tools.

Technical Rescue-Heavy – 4th Quarter

Work has continued on the development of operational job sheets for the areas of Trench Rescue and Collapse Rescue. Each job sheet is specific to a particular position that will be filled by the incident commander at the rescue site. The job sheets are being developed in line with what is considered to be the best practices in the industry. Information is gathered from organizations throughout the United States that have maintained urban search and rescue teams for a considerable period of time.

An Urban Search & Rescue Structures Specialist – Field Operations Guide binder has been added to Heavy Rescue 2 as a reference source for operating at collapse rescue incidents. The binder is to be periodically updated with any changes put forth by the Army Corps of Engineers.

A list of most recent changes was added to the Structures Specialist – Field Operations Guide binder that is to be utilized on the scene of structural collapse incidents.

Training areas have been designated for conducting Heavy Technical Rescue training. The training is to be conducted periodically at regular intervals, and a training schedule was set for 2009.

Training lesson plans were developed for multiple company training drills in the areas of:

- Trench Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue
- Structural Collapse Rescue

Emergency Medical Services – 1st Quarter

March 1 was the initiation date for the department's regional EMS program. The reality of such an ambitious expansion of services was only possible through the hard work of many members of both Eau Claire Fire and Rescue and surrounding entities. Coordination of efforts was achieved after much research, many joint meetings, and a variety of trainings involving computer work, communication center coordination, CAD, map review, and general "joining" of regional services outside the City of Eau Claire. This program will continue to improve as all parties involved work together to make the expansion as efficient and effective as possible. The initial results are impressive, and thanks goes out to all for the hard work. It is the members of our communities who will continue to see more benefits from our advanced services.

The State ambulance inspector was in Eau Claire recently to inspect our ambulances and equipment; all ambulances passed the inspection.

Continuing education for paramedics was highlighted by Audit and Review at Sacred Heart Hospital.

EMS Jane, a paramedic computer-based training program continues with new challenging topics. Its user-friendly design is very popular with the paramedics.

Paramedics received additional training at Sacred Heart's Operating Room for intubation skills.

Lt. Mark Mernitz trained the EMTs on Oxy Peep, a CPAP device that will be carried on the engines in the near future.

A new EMS inventory system was implemented in March. This system will track incoming and outgoing inventory. The goal is to make the EMS supply inventory more efficient to maintain, track, and manage in a cost-saving manner.

Capt. Dave Okas set up familiarization tours of the new condos at Waterford Development.

Emergency Medical Service – 2nd Quarter

Since the department's expansion last quarter into providing EMS service to a regional area beyond the city limits, our personnel continue to be kept busy responding to those types of calls, as well as our other areas of focus. Below are other EMS-related activities from the second quarter.

Capt. Okas was promoted to battalion chief, and Lt. Scott Walby was promoted to Captain of Emergency Medical Services.

Additional Oxygen Cascade Systems for refilling oxygen cylinders on the ambulances and fire engines are now available at stations 9 and 10, in addition to station 5. This eliminates the need for personnel from the other stations to go solely to station 5 for refilling oxygen cylinders.

The department is beginning an exchange system for oxygen cylinders with surrounding responders. Oxygen cylinders can be exchanged between ECFD and responders within our regional EMS area.

The medical protocols were updated to reflect the inception of regional EMS.

The department received a donation from the Cohen Family for the purchase of six Phillips heart monitor/defibrillators.

Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) devices were placed on fire engines to better serve patients in respiratory distress.

Regional EMS area responders are licensed through the department, thus allowing them to do more advanced skills, including use of CPAP. This allows better care to patients until department units arrive on-scene.

Department paramedics and EMTs continue to keep their skills sharp and comply with State Licensing requirements including:

- EMT-P Refresher from the National Paramedic Institute program EMS Jane

- Advanced Airway (E.T. tube) placement in operating rooms
- Human Patient Simulation (HPS lab) training at CVTC

The EMS supplies inventory has been updated and upgraded to meet the needs of the growing EMS service.

Training with Mayo One helicopter personnel occurred at the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport.

Department crews tried a Stryker powered ambulance cot. This cot has an electric motor that raises the cot up from floor level to the height required to go in the back of the ambulance.

Emergency Medical Service - 3rd Quarter

The department continues to serve the following cities and townships: Altoona, Brunswick, Clear Creek (portion), Drammen, Fall Creek, Lincoln, Ludington, Pleasant Valley, Rock Creek, Seymour, Springbrook, Union, and Washington.

In July, Rick Merryfield was promoted to Deputy Chief of Prevention-EMS, replacing Dave Gee, who retired in June.

Six new Phillips defibrillator/monitors were purchased for the department with donated money from the Cohen Family. The monitors were placed in service after all members received training. The new monitors are capable of sending 12-lead EKGs to the hospital from the field, thus allowing earlier detection of heart attack and other cardiac problems. The 12-lead EKGs are sent via cell phone to the doctors at the hospital and allow the paramedics to treat patients faster in the field. The hospital can be ready with the cath lab or surgery for the incoming patient. This decreases the amount of time from the door to cath lab or surgery, which in turn increases the chance of a positive outcome for the patient.

Members toured the new Luther Hospital Emergency Room and rooftop Helipad.

Eau Claire Fire Department EMTs completed a defibrillator and combitube (an advanced airway used in unconscious patients) refresher.

Paramedics attended an Audit and Review session in September.

Representatives of ECFD attended several meetings and trained with area First Responders/EMTs.

Emergency Medical Service - 4th Quarter

The fourth quarter was again a busy time for EMS. For the year, personnel responded to 7,299 total calls, of which 6,060 were EMS.

All members of the department were trained in the use of the new Philips AED defibrillators, which replace the old units of a different brand. The new units provide new technology, deliver better patient care, and mesh better with the larger Philips defibrillator/monitors already in place

on the ECFD ambulances. The paramedics and both hospitals are seeing great success with the transmitting of 12-lead EKGs from the monitors to the hospitals via cell phone. This allows the hospitals earlier recognition of heart attacks, so the patients can be taken to the cath lab or surgery when they come through the door. This reduces the time that the patient spends in the ER awaiting needed procedures and thus improves patient outcome.

All members were recertified in CPR.

All EMT-Paramedics were recertified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS).

All EMT-Paramedics attended the November Audit and Review. Speakers were brought in from outside the area to speak on the topics of excited delirium and nasal delivery on drugs. Department paramedics will be giving certain drugs via the nasal cavity starting early next year pending approval from the State of Wisconsin. This delivery system results in a safer situation for both paramedics and patients under certain circumstances.

The ECFD-Paramedics were trained in the use of the EZ-IO. This allows paramedics in the field another option for fluid and medication access in a patient with limited or no IV access site. The EZ-IO is a needle placed through the skin, into the bone of the upper leg, and into the area that contains bone marrow. The ease of use and high success rate make the EZ-IO a better tool than the Bone Injection Gun (BIG) we used previously.

Technical Rescue – Light – 1st Quarter

Boat maintenance and equipment purchases were completed. All department boats were taken to Boater's Choice for full service maintenance on the motors.

On March 1, the department expanded its EMS coverage into the county of Eau Claire. As a result, the department placed into service a four-medic unit. The department purchased water rescue equipment for medic 4 consisting of one carrying bag, two life jackets, and one throw bag.

Technical Rescue – Light – 2nd Quarter

The focus for the second quarter was motor vehicle extrication training. In April, the department conducted online interactive video training using a series of vehicle extrication videos from our extrication equipment vendor. The training consisted of ten videos highlighting the ten most often-used extrication techniques.

In May, the department followed the online extrication training with three days of hands-on extrication training. Each shift had two motor vehicles to dismantle. Company officers chose which extrication techniques to perform and practice based on the experience and needs of their company.

Technical Rescue – Light – 3rd Quarter

In July, the department conducted swift water rescue training. The training incorporated the use of the department's new swift water gear, the new inflatable boat, and the Rapid Deployment Craft.

While outfitted in full swift water rescue gear, members practiced self-rescue techniques, shore-based rescue techniques, and live water rescues on the Chippewa River, in addition to discussing rigging our boats for rescue. A vital and primary skill for swift water rescuers is self-rescue. Members practiced the self-rescue float and how to use the swimmers ferry to maneuver their position within the water. Members also practiced base rescues using the department's throw bags and rescue ropes and several live water rescues using the swift water method of wading into the water. This method uses three to ten members. Personnel use their team to form a single line, a wedge or a circle to divert the power of the river around them as they move out into the river's current to rescue a victim. The first person breaks the current while the other members help to stabilize the first person while all attempting to move in concert out into the river to rescue the victim. Personnel also practiced how to rig the boats for swift water rescue.

Technical Rescue – Light – 4th Quarter

Ice rescue training was the focus in this quarter. In December, the department was to conduct its annual ice rescue training. However, due to below zero temperatures and bitterly cold wind chills in early December the hands-on training was canceled. Instead an instructional video reviewing the methods and techniques of ice rescue training will be distributed through the department's computer network for companies to review. Companies will then be encouraged to practice the methods and techniques of ice rescue at their respective stations.

Maintenance – 1st Quarter

Information Services installed a computer in the lower level of Station 8 to use for fit testing breathing apparatus face pieces for all department personnel. The test is scheduled over a period of three days to fit the schedules of three shifts. Crew members who are absent from shift are tested when available over the next week or two. The Bauer compressor had its annual maintenance work completed. The same service company replaced a sticky valve and a faulty gauge.

Repairs were made to the Co Ray Vac heating system on the apparatus floor. Station members ordered parts for and repaired the blinds system in the living quarters. A leaky seam on the swift water rescue suit was repaired.

Maintenance – 3rd Quarter

The used SCBA masks were reconditioned in preparation for the new recruits. Reconditioning consists of disassembling, ultrasonic cleaning, washing the head mesh straps, and reassembling. Capt. Klett fit tested the new recruits, as Capt. Axness was at Volk Field for State Task Force training. Fit testing is a process that uses a Porta Count fit tester and a computer to ensure the

proper size mask is used by the individual. It measures the contaminants inside the mask compared to the contaminants in the surrounding air.

The new recruits participated in rescue belt training. They were trained how to deploy the belt cord and select and secure to an attachment point, as well as rappelling escape techniques using the belt cord. Safety concerns were discussed. The recruits used the system several times and gained confidence from the hands-on use of the equipment.

Capt. Axness attended Task Force training at Volk Field for three days. It was a refresher class that reviewed and built upon what was taught last year. Attendees trained with equipment in a hands-on, realistic environment. The scenarios were conducted in collapsed buildings and rubble piles. It was hard work and excellent training.

Station 8 was a hub of activity during the Air Show. We gave the station some extra attention with cleaning and painting. The command trailer was set up and wired with communications. Emergency crews assembled and accessed the airport grounds from our station.

Maintenance – 4th Quarter

Rescue belts were prepared for use in training the new recruits. Div. Chief Burkart conducted the training. Several SCBA repairs were completed on masks, bottles, air packs, and the line supply air system. Outdated SCBA equipment was sorted and the outdated equipment disposed of.

The inventories for Engine 8 and Engine 1 inventories were updated. Two new defibrillators were placed on those trucks. Fire Prevention activities were wrapped up, with 65 people touring Station 8 over a two-day period. Research was done for future needs and budgets. Items researched were the Bauer breathing air compressor, a larger electrical generator for operating the station and Bauer compressor in a power outage, and a new fit testing machine for fit testing our SCBA masks and N95 masks. The N95 masks are a disposable filtration mask used on our ambulances.

Hazardous Materials – 1st Quarter

Training:

In January, General Physics Corporation, a subcontractor for the Department of Homeland Security, provided training to members of the Level A Haz Mat team. The course selection was “Advanced Weapons of Mass Destruction”. The topics covered in the syllabus were: Nerve and Blister Agents, Biological and Artificial Toxins, and Radiological Hazards. There also was time set aside for technical assistance and training on two of our current meters: the APD 2000 and the CAM (Chemical Agent Monitor). Both are capable of detecting WMD agents. The training was held over four different days, thus enabling all shifts to attend. The training was a no cost item for the department.

Also this quarter the WAHMR (Wisconsin Association of Hazardous Materials Responders) conference was held in Wausau. Attending this year were Capt. Bryon Bensen, Capt. Burkart,

Capt. Klett, Lt. Walby, and Lt. Mark Olson. Battalion Chief Kim Nessel is a member and was one of the instructors. The format of the conference included an informational speaker, as well as different classes taught by a combination of local instructors and specialists brought in from across the country. Some of the topics included: Radiological Survey Techniques, Chemical Hazard Classification, and Chlorine Emergencies.

Updates and Additions:

B.C. Nessel is updating the Site Safety Plan for the Level A team. This is will be an ongoing process and should be completed during the second quarter of 2008.

There were no major purchases or additions to our equipment inventory this quarter.

Hazardous Materials – 2nd Quarter

Training:

Due to the arrival of four new engines, the scheduled training for April was postponed until a later date.

There was a combined training exercise in Chippewa Falls. Members from Eau Claire Fire, Chippewa Falls Fire, Rice Lake Fire, and Menomonie Fire were in attendance. The training scenario was set up to mimic a full-scale incident: an abandoned barrel that was leaking inside a building. All the functions of the Level A team were reviewed and staffed. This included Command, Research, Decon, Entry, and Safety Officer.

Updates and Additions:

B.C. Nessel continued the process of ordering equipment for the Level A team. The items being considered are purchases to update the Level A suit inventory and ordering a supply of detection tubes for the Drager system.

There were two hazardous materials incidents in the city limits that involved a release of a chemical. The first was a release of nitric acid at the Nestle plant. The second was a chlorine release at the Grand Stay Hotel on Prill Road. In both incidents there was no personal injury, and the situations were contained.

Hazardous Materials- 3rd Quarter

Training:

In September, department-wide Haz Mat training was held. The objective of this training is to review how to send, receive and compile Haz Mat chemical data using department computer-based programs. The information on a selected chemical was retrieved, and the data sheets were faxed to another location. The procedure for making the data sheets into PDF documents was refined and reviewed at Station 2. This now allows the information to be sent as an attachment to an email. The next step of the training was to make a plume dispersion graph and place it on an electronic map. This procedure will enable the incident commander to make the correct

decision concerning what areas would need to be evacuated. The computer programs involved were CAMEO, ALOHA, and MARPLOT.

Updates and Additions:

We received an updated supply of color metric detection tubes for our Drager detection system. These tubes have a limited shelf life and need to be replaced periodically. The outdated tubes will be used for training scenarios in the future. This system pulls contaminated air through a glass tube. The change in color of the chemical in the tube will indicate the presence and concentration of certain chemicals.

The M256A chemical agent kit also was replaced. This kit is designed for the military and is used for the detection of chemical Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) including nerve agents, mustard gas, Phosgene gas, Hydrogen Cyanide, and Lewisite.

Some of the equipment has been removed from the HazMat trailer. It was noticed the tongue weight of the trailer exceeded the design specifications from the manufacturer. This has been an ongoing process deciding what equipment is a priority and what needs to be on the trailer. B.C. Nessel has been researching other options to eliminate this space/weight problem. One possible option is a larger trailer with higher load limits.

Hazardous Materials – 4th Quarter

Training:

In October, the Level A Haz Mat team put on a demonstration at the American Ice manufacturing facility. This was coordinated with the regional Association of Ice Manufacturers. The chemical research, monitoring, and containment capabilities were demonstrated and explained.

Updates and Additions:

B.C. Nessel has been working on replacing the current set of meters, the MSA Orions. They are capable measuring four separate gases simultaneously. The new meters will have the same capability and will be easier to calibrate, which will ensure better quality control.

In November, the Level A Chemical Assessment Team was utilized by the Township Fire Department for advice and metering capabilities. This highlights the type of service the Level A team can provide without the situation calling for a full hazardous materials response.

**2009 Adopted
Program of Services**



City of Eau Claire 2009 Adopted Program of Services

Fire & Rescue Department: Overview

Eau Claire Fire & Rescue is responsible for rendering fire prevention, fire suppression, special rescue, and emergency medical services for the City of Eau Claire. Beginning in March 2008 the department expanded its emergency medical services response area to include surrounding communities consisting of 11 townships, 1 village, and 1 city. The department also manages the Hazardous Materials (Haz Mat) Response program to provide response to a 14-county area of West Central Wisconsin. The department is staffed by 94 full-time employees—92 sworn and 2 civilian. Response is provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year from six stations.



Fire & Rescue Department Overview of Revenues & Expenditures

	2007 Actual	2008 Adopted Budget	2009 Adopted Budget	% Change
Revenues				
Intragovernmental Service	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	0%
Intergovernmental:				
State Aid-Fire Ins. Tax	121,248	120,000	120,000	0%
State Aid-Under. Tanks	11,568	10,000	11,000	10%
State Aid-Mun. Services	356,435	357,500	374,000	5%
State Aid-Ambulance Services	96,800	-	-	N/A
Haz-Mat B Response	34,000	34,000	34,000	0%
Charges for Services:				
Fees	18,307	17,000	22,000	29%
Regional Ambulance Fees	-	250,000	320,000	
Local Ambulance Fees	1,133,833	1,150,000	1,420,000	
Hospital Subsidies	-	150,000	157,500	5%
Altoona-Fire Inspector	20,302	43,200	44,000	2%
Ambulance Fee	-	20,000	39,400	97%
Gen. Purpose (tax) Rev.	7,847,770	7,309,900	7,242,600	(1%)
Total Revenues	\$ 9,650,263	\$ 9,473,600	\$ 9,796,500	3%
Expenditures				
Personnel Services	\$ 8,704,753	\$ 8,529,500	\$ 8,626,700	1%
Contractual Services	551,372	517,700	705,900	36%
Utilities	74,603	80,200	90,700	13%
Fixed Charges	127,049	128,100	128,100	0%
Materials & Supplies	192,486	218,100	245,100	12%
Total Expenditures	\$ 9,650,263	\$ 9,473,600	\$ 9,796,500	3%



City of Eau Claire 2009 Adopted Program of Services

Fire & Rescue Department - Administration Expenditure Summary

	2007 Actual	2008 Adopted	2008 6 Month Actual	2008 Projection	2009 Adopted
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses:					
Personnel Services	\$ 538,009	\$ 300,600	\$ 89,715	\$ 300,600	\$ 195,200
Contractual Services	111,071	119,700	52,163	120,700	263,100
Utilities	74,603	80,200	34,810	80,200	90,700
Fixed Charges	3,200	3,200	1,600	3,200	3,200
Materials & Supplies	27,875	25,300	11,868	24,300	25,100
Total Expenditures & Other Financing Uses:	\$ 754,758	\$ 529,000	\$ 190,156	\$ 529,000	\$ 577,300

Fire & Rescue Department - Operations / EMS Expenditure Summary

	2007 Actual	2008 Adopted	2008 6 Month Actual	2008 Projection	2009 Adopted
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses:					
Personnel Services	\$ 7,827,107	\$ 7,881,000	\$ 3,632,962	\$ 7,892,300	\$ 7,949,900
Contractual Services	437,093	393,900	208,878	393,900	438,600
Fixed Charges	118,249	119,300	59,550	119,300	119,300
Materials & Supplies	157,190	186,700	92,826	188,200	214,400
Total Expenditures & Other Financing Uses:	\$ 8,539,639	\$ 8,580,900	\$ 3,994,216	\$ 8,593,700	\$ 8,722,200

Fire & Rescue Department - Inspections Expenditure Summary

	2007 Actual	2008 Adopted	2008 6 Month Actual	2008 Projection	2009 Adopted
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses:					
Personnel Services	\$ 339,637	\$ 347,900	\$ 197,415	\$ 347,900	\$ 481,600
Contractual Services	3,208	4,100	2,310	4,100	4,200
Fixed Charges	5,600	5,600	2,800	5,600	5,600
Materials & Supplies	7,422	6,100	1,742	6,100	5,600
Total Expenditures & Other Financing Uses:	\$ 355,867	\$ 363,700	\$ 204,267	\$ 363,700	\$ 497,000



City of Eau Claire 2009 Adopted Program of Services

Fire & Rescue Department: Administration

The Administrative Division is located on the second floor of Station 2 at 216 S. Dewey Street. In addition to the Fire Chief and Fire Secretary, both department Deputy Chiefs and its Division Chief maintain offices at this location.

Objectives

- Internalize fire and emergency medical services (EMS) training.
- Advance the process of distance education and deploy into our daily operations.
- Develop an EMS providers' alliance initiative.
- Develop an area EMS consumers' group initiative.
- Implement Select Station Dispatch for the department.
- Increase public presentations on the mission and scope of the department while developing a viable feedback system to evaluate the community's needs.
- Develop CompStat program for operational analysis.

Outputs

- Completed EMS contracts with surrounding communities.
- Took lead role in EMS Council.
- Established training officer position.
- Developed EMS training coalition for area responders.
- Established working committees of ambulance providers in regional area.
- Established a medical control physicians group.
- Upgraded vehicle fleet.

Fire & Rescue Department - Administration Authorized Full-Time

	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Fire Chief	1	1	1
Assistant Fire Chief	1	1	0
Fire Secretary	1	1	1
Total FTE Positions	3	3	2



Fire Station #2 with Administrative Offices
216 South Dewey Street



City of Eau Claire 2009 Adopted Program of Services

Fire & Rescue Department: Operations

The Operations Division assumes the overall planning and management responsibility for fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, water/dive rescue, confined space rescue, high angle rescue, and personnel training for the organization.

Responsibilities are carried out through the efforts of 1 deputy chief, 3 operational (shift) battalion chiefs, 6 captains, 12 lieutenants, 18 equipment engineers, and 47 firefighters. The employees are the department's most valuable assets. Without dedicated and cross-trained people, the department cannot accomplish its mission of protecting the lives and property of the citizens it serves.

Objectives

- Provide fire suppression methods.
- Provide response to hazardous materials incidents.
- Provide special rescue response such as water rescue, confined space, trench rescue, high angle rescue, and vehicle extrication.
- Preserve and protect life, property, and the environment against injury and damage from other incidents occurring within the City of Eau Claire.
- Average a 5-minute or less response time from the time of the call in Eau Claire.
- Enhance communication within the organization using electronic methods and increase the citizens' knowledge of department services.
- Provide company level training through more efficient means by identifying mandated requirements through Wisconsin Comm 30 and NFPA standards.
- Develop Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) and integrate into fire suppression operations.
- Reduce fire loss in the community through aggressive public education and code enforcement.

Outputs

- Averaged a 4.43-minute response time in 2007 from the time call dispatched to first unit on-scene in Eau Claire.

Fire & Rescue Department - Operations Authorized Full-Time

	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Deputy Chief	1	1	1
Battalion Chief	3	3	3
Fire Captain	6	6	6
Fire Lieutenant	12	12	12
Fire Equipment Operator	18	18	18
Firefighter	47	47	47
Total FTE Positions	87	87	87

5,840 Responses in 2007

4,622	Medical Responses	154	Service Call Responses
166	Fire/Rescue Responses	143	Good Intent Responses
545	Automatic Alarm Responses	20	Special Request Responses
190	Hazardous Condition Responses		



City of Eau Claire 2009 Adopted Program of Services



Fire & Rescue Department: Emergency Medical Services

Comprising close to 80 percent of department responses, emergency medical services remains a strong focus of department resources. The department is staffed with 36 certified paramedics and 56 certified emergency medical technicians. There are three front-line paramedic ambulances and three units available as reserves. Personnel are involved in constant training and also participate in community education and special events to increase citizen knowledge about EMS issues.

Objectives

- Establish a 12-Lead EKG quality assurance program with area hospitals.
- Establish a stroke quality assurance program with area hospitals.
- Develop an elderly fall reduction program.
- Continue with enhancement of First Responder response and training.
- On-scene time of less than 20 minutes on trauma incidents for ambulances.
- Revise internal quality assurance program to that which is company-based.
- Revise the Emergency Medical Technician Basic (EMT-B) refresher program to bring training in-house.

Outputs

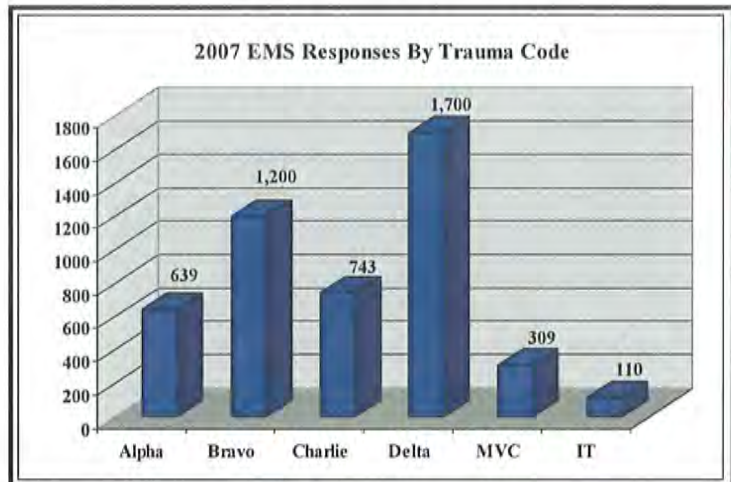
- Implemented the 12-Lead EKG field transmission program to hospitals.
- Expanded Emergency Medical Services (EMS) outside the city limits to include 11 townships, 1 village, and 1 city.
- Reviewed and revised EMS protocols to reflect change to regional operation.
- Upgraded area First Responders skills and equipment levels to allow advanced treatment.

Note – EMS staff are included in the Fire Operations staffing totals.

<i>Net Ambulance Revenue</i>				
2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
\$ 865,352	\$ 925,283	\$ 1,038,743	\$ 1,145,908	\$ 1,114,317

Alpha.....Delta
(Least Serious.....Most Serious)

MVC = Motor Vehicle Collision
IT = Interfacility Transport





City of Eau Claire 2009 Adopted Program of Services

Fire & Rescue Department: Inspections

The Inspection Division is comprised of four full-time staff members—four officers and one clerical. One of the positions is a shared position with the Altoona Fire Department. The main responsibility of this division is to oversee the inspection of commercial properties within the City of Eau Claire. Division personnel are responsible for compliance with follow-up inspections and codes, fire investigations, public education, and underground/aboveground storage tank inspections. Personnel serve as informational contacts for other departments and citizens who have questions regarding National Fire Protection Association and Wisconsin Administrative codes. The division chief is a newly created position that is charged with the training and special operations functions of the department.

Objectives

- Provide fire prevention and education, targeting the young and the elderly.
- Reduce the inspection route and place more emphasis on pre-planning of target hazards.
- Implement an “After the Fire” review program.
- Develop a smoke detector assistance program for low-income citizens.

Outputs

- Over 5,900 inspections completed by the fire inspectors and fire/EMS crews.
- 244 specialty inspections and site permits completed.
- 58 fire investigations conducted.
- 12 unsafe living conditions investigated.
- 10 juveniles referred to the Juvenile Fire Setter Program.
- Fire prevention activities were conducted at 20 schools for all students grades K-4.

Fire & Rescue Department - Inspections Authorized Full-Time

	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Deputy Chief	1	1	1
Division Chief of Training & EMS	0	0	1
Fire Inspector I	1	1	1
Fire Inspector II	1	1	1
Clerk III	1	1	1
Total FTE Positions	4	4	5

<i>Dollar Loss From Fire</i>				
2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
\$ 1,447,280	\$ 1,779,900	\$ 2,775,848	\$ 1,709,903	\$ 3,716,199 *

*The total equalized value of all property in the City of Eau Claire for 2007 was \$3.898 billion. The total dollar loss from fire in 2007 represents .095% of the total equalized value.



City of Eau Claire 2009 Adopted Program of Services

Hazardous Materials

The West Central Regional Response Team is a joint venture between Eau Claire Fire & Rescue and Chippewa Falls Fire & Emergency Services. The team is contracted with the State of Wisconsin to deliver regionalized Level "A" hazardous materials response to a 14-county area in West Central Wisconsin. City of Eau Claire tax dollars are not used to operate the team; the State of Wisconsin provides funding.

In addition, the team then contracts with the Rice Lake Fire Department and the Menomonie Fire Department for their departments to serve as designated CATs (Chemical Assessment Team) as adjuncts of the West Central team.

Objectives

- Respond to hazardous materials incidents within 14-county area to provide mitigation.
- Provide consultation for emergency responders concerning Haz Mat situations they may encounter.
- Provide outreach presentations to law enforcement, emergency medical services, fire departments, and local government personnel throughout response area.
- Conduct training according to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.
- Participate in annual hazardous materials response drill.

Outputs

- Responded to Bruce, Wisconsin, patient having medical reaction from exposure to unknown powder.
- Responded to explosion and fire at environmental services plant in Eau Claire County involving numerous chemicals.
- Responded to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, ammonia hydroxide spill.
- Provided technical advice to local entities on hazardous materials disposal.
- Gave outreach presentations to nine entities within response area.
- Participated in training on topics including decontamination, Level A suit entry, Weapons of Mass Destruction, chemical resources, and detection meters.
- Participated in a drill at the US Postal Service Distribution Center in conjunction with postal inspectors in which activation of the bio-detection system was simulated.

40 Personnel are assigned to the Hazardous Materials Response Team

- 28 Members from Eau Claire Fire Department.
- 12 Members from Chippewa Falls Fire Department.



WRR Fire – Haz Mat team responded & mitigated



City of Eau Claire 2009 Adopted Program of Services

Hazardous Materials Budget Summary Revenues & Expenditures

<u>Operating Budget</u>	2007 Actual	2008 Adopted	2008 6 Month Actual	2008 Projection	2009 Adopted
Revenues & Other Financing Sources:					
Intergovernmental	\$ 209,521	\$ 180,100	\$ -	\$ 180,100	\$ 180,100
Charges For Services	6,307	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Miscellaneous	9,090	1,000	2,910	1,000	1,000
Total Revenues & Other Financing Sources:	224,918	184,100	2,910	184,100	184,100
Expenditures & Other Financing Uses:					
Personnel Services	60,516	49,800	33,420	49,800	61,700
Contractual Services	18,466	23,400	13,239	23,400	25,500
Utilities	1,238	1,000	539	1,000	1,300
Fixed Charges	10,000	12,000	6,000	12,000	12,200
Materials & Supplies	64,388	62,400	7,599	62,400	32,700
Contributions & Other Payments	57,110	77,500	31,477	77,500	77,500
Capital Purchases	-	-	-	-	47,500
Other Financing Uses	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures & Other Financing Uses:	211,718	226,100	92,274	226,100	258,400
Excess (Deficiency) of Funding Sources Over Uses	\$ 13,200	\$ (42,000)	\$ (89,364)	\$ (42,000)	\$ (74,300)
Working Capital/Available Fund Balance:					
Beginning Balance	\$ 206,657	\$ 148,157		\$ 219,857	\$ 177,857
Changes in Available Fund Balance:					
From Operations	13,200	(42,000)		(42,000)	(74,300)
Ending Balance	\$ 219,857	\$ 106,157		\$ 177,857	\$ 103,557