

AURORA
FIRE DEPARTMENT



2004

ANNUAL REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

- *To provide essential fire suppression, special operations, and emergency medical services to the citizens of the City of Aurora with an elevated level of expertise*
- *To provide a unified professional response to life and property incidents affecting the City of Aurora and its citizens*
- *To maintain and enforce an updated and continuing inspections program to enforce adopted codes and to supply quality fire prevention and education programs to the citizens of Aurora*
- *To provide the greatest quality of service to the public through a comprehensive training program that seeks to sharpen existing skills and develop new technologies to meet future demands and to provide a safe and healthy work environment for our employees*

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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**AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT
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Chief Roger Probst

On behalf of the Aurora Fire Department personnel, I respectfully submit for review the 2004 Annual Report, an illustration of the department's most significant accomplishments of the last twelve months. Included within the 2004 Annual Report is statistical data from several divisions, which serve as examples of the department's various and diverse activities.

*In summary, 2004 was an exceptionally challenging year. Despite the uncertainty created by numerous budgetary constraints, Administrative staff and department members strived to expand levels of service to residents of our community, successfully achieving our basic mission and goal: **To provide for the safety and security of our citizens through the use of effective fire prevention and inspection programs, and by furthering the training and education of our firefighters.***

To that end, through the efforts of all the members of our department, I wish to thank the residents of Aurora for the opportunity to serve them, and extend my sincere appreciation to City officials for their continued support in our advancement of life safety initiatives Citywide.

Fire Chief Roger Probst

RP/dg

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Deputy Chief Tim Oelker

As the second largest city in Illinois, the City of Aurora, along with the demand for emergency services, continues to grow. With the support of the City Administration, the Aurora Fire Department has met and will continue to meet the future challenges of expanding responsibilities.

The men and women of the Aurora Fire Department are committed to providing the citizens and guests of the City of Aurora with the highest possible level of emergency service, whatever the need may be.

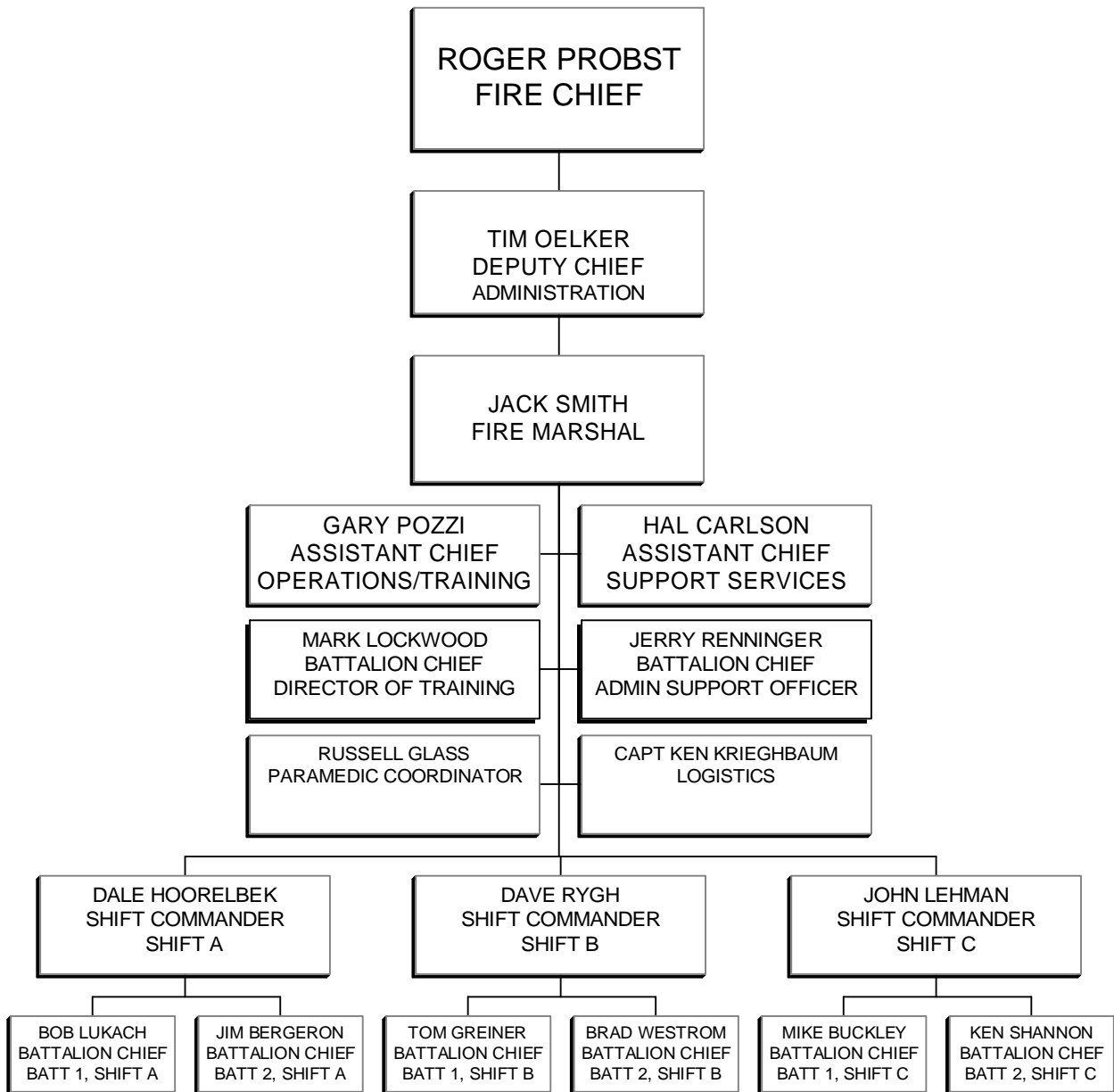
In addition to our basic mission, the Fire Department projects in 2004 included upgrades in computer and EMS reporting technology, the continuation of the protective clothing replacement program, vehicle and equipment replacement, and the work toward a Regional Training Facility with the Southern Kane County Training Association.

*Deputy Chief Tim Oelker
Administrative Assistant*

TO/dg

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AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF PERSONNEL



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FIRE DEPARTMENT INCIDENTS FOR 2004

| | <u>2004 CALLS</u> |
|--|-----------------------|
| EMS - One Medic Unit Response (Advanced Life Support) | 9,778 |
| STILL ALARMS - One Engine Response (Vehicles, Lockouts, Brush, Rubbish, or Other Fire Outside of Structure) | 1,611 |
| FULL STILL ALARMS - Two Engines, One Truck Automatic Fire Alarms; Office, Commercial, Residential) | 1,165 |
| BOX ALARMS - Two Engines, One Truck, One Medic, One Command Officer (Structure Fires; Residential, Commercial, Mercantile) | 353 |
| HAZ-MAT | 268 |
| CARBON MONOXIDE - One Truck or One Engine | 242 |
| EXTRICATIONS - One Engine, One Truck, One Medic, Command Officer | 111 |
| WATER INCIDENTS - Two Engines, One Truck, One Medic Rescue 23, Command Officer | 10 |
| RELEASE - One Truck (Rescue, Lock-Outs, Etc.) | 218 |
| TECHNICAL – Two Engines, One Truck, One Squad, Rescue One, One Medic, Command Officer | 1 |
| TOTAL CALLS DURING 2004 | 13,757 |

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Dispatched Emergency Responses By Fire Station 2004

| | CENTRAL FIRE STATION | FIRE STA 3 | FIRE STA 4 | FIRE STA 5 | FIRE STA 7 | FIRE STA 8 | FIRE STA 9 | FIRE STA 10 | FIRE STA 12 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| STILL ALARMS | 272 | 173 | 154 | 170 | 140 | 250 | 176 | 146 | 273 |
| FULL STILL ALARMS | 575 | 386 | 328 | 211 | 295 | 352 | 221 | 296 | 201 |
| BOX ALARMS | 236 | 179 | 108 | 221 | 86 | 103 | 37 | 96 | 76 |
| HAZ-MAT | 64 | 41 | 35 | 38 | 22 | 40 | 32 | 38 | 29 |
| CARBON MONOXIDE | 72 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 0 | 93 | 25 | 56 | 8 |
| EXTRICATIONS | 79 | 51 | 50 | 66 | 8 | 36 | 29 | 23 | 5 |
| WATER INCIDENTS | 10 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| RELEASE | 59 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 21 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| LOCKOUTS | 28 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 83 | 2 | 20 | 6 |
| TECH RESCUES | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| MEDICAL EMERGS | 2717 | 1727 | 1793 | 1833 | 623 | 1451 | 632 | 1283 | 434 |
| TOTAL | 4113 | 2570 | 2486 | 2558 | 1181 | 2431 | 1155 | 1976 | 1033 |
| TOTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSES = | | | | | | 19,503 | | | |

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CALLS PER UNIT 2004

ENGINE COMPANY RESPONSES

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| ENGINE 1 | 1,187 |
| ENGINE 3 | 865 |
| ENGINE 4 | 928 |
| ENGINE 5 | 751 |
| ENGINE 7 | 1,182 |
| ENGINE 8 | 975 |
| ENGINE 9 | 1,156 |
| ENGINE 10 | 711 |
| ENGINE 12 | 1,034 |

TRUCK COMPANY RESPONSES

| | |
|----------|-------|
| TRUCK 2 | 1,038 |
| TRUCK 6 | 741 |
| TRUCK 11 | 546 |

MEDIC UNIT RESPONSES

| | |
|----------|-------|
| MEDIC 1 | 2,756 |
| MEDIC 3 | 1,826 |
| MEDIC 4 | 1,883 |
| MEDIC 5 | 1,893 |
| MEDIC 8 | 1,456 |
| MEDIC 10 | 1,305 |

BATTALION CHIEF RESPONSES

| | |
|--------|-----|
| BATT 1 | 399 |
| BATT 2 | 387 |

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2004 Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation Notice of Monthly Findings

| MONTH | LESS THAN 10 P.P.M. | 10 OR MORE P.P.M. | 100 P.P.M. OR GREATER | TOTAL |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| JANUARY | 24 | 6 | 1 | 31 |
| FEBRUARY | 16 | 5 | 0 | 21 |
| MARCH | 9 | 10 | 1 | 20 |
| APRIL | 9 | 3 | 0 | 12 |
| MAY | 10 | 4 | 0 | 14 |
| JUNE | 7 | 3 | 0 | 10 |
| JULY | 5 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| AUGUST | 10 | 1 | 1 | 12 |
| SEPTEMBER | 7 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| OCTOBER | 18 | 3 | 0 | 21 |
| NOVEMBER | 17 | 6 | 1 | 24 |
| DECEMBER | 27 | 6 | 0 | 33 |
| 2004 TOTALS | 159 | 49 | 4 | 212 |

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FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU – 2004



FIRE MARSHAL JACK SMITH

2004 INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED

| <u>FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU</u> | | <u>FIRE COMPANIES</u> | |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Routine Inspections | 272 | Routine Inspections | 3,011 |
| Re-Inspections | 250 | Re-Inspections | 594 |
| Special Inspections (Includes referrals, complaints, COA's, hazmat, tanks & misc) | 641 | Complaint Inspections | 26 |
| Construction (Includes construction, tents, trailers, CO's) | 2,118 | | |
| TOTAL | 3,281 | TOTAL | 3,631 |

TOTAL 2004 INSPECTIONS = 6,912

2004 PERMITS ISSUED

| | |
|---|------------|
| Installation of Above- and Below-Ground Fuel Tanks | 34 |
| Building Fire Suppression Systems | 223 |
| Building Fire Alarm Systems | 264 |
| Building Hood Suppression Systems | 47 |
| Operational Permits (Propane, Hazardous Material, Assembly) | 24 |
| Fireworks | 7 |
| Open Burning | 44 |
| Outdoor Fireplaces | 99 |
| TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED | 742 |

(Continued on Page 9)

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FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU – 2004 (continued)

| <u>OTHER ACTIVITIES - 2004</u> | <u>FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU</u> | <u>FIRE COMPANIES</u> |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| FIRE PROTECTION (Includes fire test, fire suppression, evacuation plans) | 441 | |
| PLAN REVIEWS | 433 | |
| FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS | 6 | 344 |
| FIRE DRILLS | 1 | 134 |
| HYDRANT FLOW TESTS | 11 | 2540 |
| LOCK BOXES SOLD | 236 | |
| VIOLATIONS ISSUED (Blocked exits, blocked corridors, failure to comply) | 45 | |
| ALARM RESPONSES BY FIRE COMPANIES | | 1273 |
| FALSE FIRE ALARMS - NO FINE | 501 | |
| FALSE FIRE ALARMS - FINE ISSUED | 273 | |
| CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR ACTIVATIONS | | 214 |



During Fire Prevention Month in October 2004, Aurora Fire Department personnel Presented 249 Fire Prevention Programs to 6,338 children and adults And conducted 43 Tours involving 1,751 citizens

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OPERATIONS - 2004



ASSISTANT CHIEF GARY POZZI, OPERATIONS

The Aurora Fire Department is currently the fourth largest fire department in Illinois. During 2004, our department responded to 3,979 fire calls and 9,778 calls for emergency medical assistance. The 207 sworn members of the department recorded over 70,000 hours of training in 2004, including live fire training in existing structures, SCBA confidence course, and a major city-wide terrorism drill involving numerous State and Federal agencies. The Aurora Fire Department Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue Teams are rated by the State of Illinois at the highest level of expertise in their respective areas. The department's Water Rescue Team again participated in the Lynwood Dive Team Challenge in September and placed as runner up in the team competition.

When not responding to emergency calls and participating in training during 2004, department members conducted inspections of over 3,600 businesses throughout the City. The department also conducted over 2,500 inspections of hydrants throughout the City to remain complaint with the hydrant testing program.

The Aurora Fire Department will continue to prepare for the challenges of a natural disaster or the threat of terrorism in the year ahead.

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ASSISTANT CHIEF HAL CARLSON, SUPPORT SERVICES

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - 2004

In addition to numerous maintenance projects at various fire stations, many of which were completed by on-duty personnel, the following projects were completed:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Station 1 | Kitchen remodeling completed Safety devices and maintenance on all apparatus doors UPS for station Zetron |
| Station 3 | Safety devices and maintenance on all apparatus doors |
| Station 4 | Safety devices and maintenance on all apparatus doors |
| Station 5 | Upgrades to alarm system Safety devices and maintenance on all apparatus doors |
| Station 7 | Safety devices and maintenance on all apparatus doors |
| Station 8 | Safety devices and maintenance on all apparatus doors |
| Station 9 | Upgrades to alarm system Safety devices and maintenance on all apparatus doors |
| Station 10 | Upgrades to alarm system Safety devices and maintenance on all apparatus doors |
| Station 12 | Safety devices and maintenance on all apparatus doors |

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AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT BATTALION CHIEFS / SHIFT COMMANDERS



Battalion Chief Dale Hoorelbek
"A" Shift



Battalion Chief Dave Rygh
"B" Shift



Battalion Chief John Lehman
"C" Shift

The Battalion Chiefs / Shift Commanders' responsibilities are assigned by the Fire Chief. They coordinate and direct all operations for their respective shifts as directed by department policy.

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BATTALION 1 - 2004



Battalion Chief Bob Lukach
Shift A



Battalion Chief Tom Greiner
Shift B



Battalion Chief Mike Buckley
Shift C

BATTALION 2 - 2004



Battalion Chief J. Bergeron
Shift A



Battalion Chief Brad Westrom
Shift B



Battalion Chief Ken Shannon
Shift C

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TRAINING - 2004



BATTALION CHIEF MARK LOCKWOOD

After Battalion Chief Gary Pozzi's appointment to Assistant Chief of Operations, Battalion Chief Mark Lockwood was appointed Director of Training in September 2004.

A great deal of training was accomplished in 2004, with over 70,000 hours of regularly scheduled training recorded. In addition, 90 firefighters participated in various special teams and fire training totaling another 3,120 hours.

Training classes and seminars attended by Aurora firefighters in 2004 included Fire Company Officers class, Smoke Divers, F.A.S.T. Class, Engine and Truck Company classes, Hazardous Materials classes, Fire Investigation classes, the Fire Department Instructors Conference, as well as several live fire training evolutions. The command staff also attended a Unified Command Class as part of a nationally required course.

In August our department hosted a large citywide terrorism drill, which involved several City agencies as well as State and Federal agencies. This drill provided valuable information into our strengths and areas where we need to improve as a department and as a community.

The City of Aurora added 12 new firefighters to the department in August. Our Officers and Firefighters, through the Southern Kane County Training Association, conducted the training for these recruits, as well as two additional recruits from the Hanover Park Fire Department.



Aurora firefighters participated in a training burn in January 2004 at "Happy Homes Farm" on Molitor Road near Fire Station #9. Five generations of the Happes family lived on the farm for approximately 150 years and allowed the Aurora Fire Department to use the property for training exercises.



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ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OFFICER



Battalion Chief Jerry Renninger
Administrative Support Officer

As Administrative Support Officer, Battalion Chief Renninger assists the Support Services Office in the areas of communications, computer systems, building and grounds, and other administrative duties. He directs and supervises the Logistics Officer and works in conjunction with the offices of Operations and Training to develop and implement command level training programs.

The Administrative Support Officer is the department's SCBA/Respiratory administrator and he is responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable regulations.

He works with the Fire Marshal to oversee and coordinate the Department's preplan program. During 2004, he coordinated the conversion of the department's 1 1/2" iron pipe thread to the national standard thread (NST). This conversion makes our department standard with surrounding departments and with the fire industry NST in general. We continue to work with businesses in the community to assure conformity of standpipe connections through our annual fire inspection process.

Under the direction of Battalion Chief Renninger, two reserve engines were upgraded to operational-ready status in 2004.

Battalion Chief Renninger is the department's Grants Coordinator and he is currently the Grievance Officer for the Department.

LOGISTICS OFFICER

As Logistics Officer for the Department, Captain Ken Krieghbaum works under the supervision of the Administrative Support Officer. His primary responsibility is to ensure that minimum daily staffing is maintained. He also makes recommendations for transfers to maintain equal manning levels on each of the three shifts.

Captain Krieghbaum is responsible for the administration of the clothing and protective equipment replacement program, including the inspection, authorization, and disbursement of issued clothing and equipment. As part of the department's program to provide each firefighter with a set of back-up protective gear, approximately 1/2 of the department members were supplied with a second set of gear in 2004.

He coordinates and tracks semi-annual cleaning of protective equipment, maintains uniform and protective equipment inventories, and prepares bid specifications for uniforms and protective equipment contracts. He acts as Records Manager for the department and is in charge of departmental supplies.

The Logistics Officer advises the Fire Chief on operational issues for compliance with Labor Agreements. He assists the Administrative Support Officer to ensure compliance with all Local, State and Federal respiratory protection mandates. He also provides support to the Administrative Staff with payroll/workers' comp issues as required.



Captain Ken Krieghbaum
Logistics Officer

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PARAMEDIC PROGRAM - 2004



RUSSELL GLASS
PARAMEDIC COORDINATOR

The Aurora Fire Department EMS Division was very active at the System, Region, and State levels during 2004. Department Paramedics had 10,804 responses for service in 2004, a 14.75% increase over the previous year. In addition, our three Alternate Response Vehicles (ARVs) responded to 1,689 ambulance calls. 92 Paramedics, 75 EMT-Bs and 36 First Responders served the City at the close of 2003. One Paramedic successfully completed the Paramedic Program at the Southern Fox Valley EMS System and passed the Illinois Department of Public Health exam, one Paramedic stepped down to EMT-B status, one EMT-B was terminated, two Firefighters became EMT-B certified, and six First Responders retired during 2004. 92 Paramedics, 73 EMT-B's and 30 First Responders served the City at the close of 2004.

Ten ambulances and two ARV Engines (Engine 9 and Engine 12) successfully passed inspection by the Illinois Department of Public Health in 2004. In July the EMS Division created a third ARV Engine (Engine 7) to facilitate the growing demands of the EMS operations. The Aurora Fire Department received 36 hours of continuing medical education credit for all EMTs and First Responders in 2004.

The Aurora Fire Department CPR Team certified 331 individuals in 2004.

The new National Standard Curriculum bridge course that began in 2002 was completed in 2004, two years ahead of schedule.

The EMS Division was able to facilitate the distribution of 4 Automated External Defibrillators provided by First Bank of Fox Valley. These devices will continue to help build our citywide AED program started in 2002.

The EMS Division is up and operational with our new data-reporting program (I-EMS) for ambulance operations, allowing our department real time Internet access to each run report as it is completed.

Members of the EMS Division attended numerous school science fairs, community groups, business and career day events and talked to over 2,000 students regarding Fire Department careers in 2004. The EMS Division mentored 9 young adults during 2004, helping guide them in their chosen Fire and EMS career fields.

The EMS Division supported a number of local events in 2004, such as Downtown Alive, Walter Payton "Sweetness Run", Aurora Sports Festival, and Aurora University Pow-Wow, Football and Commencement events.

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TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM – 2004



Battalion Chief Mark Lockwood, Team Leader

The Aurora Fire Department Technical Rescue Team is “up and running”. We are now fine-tuning our skills and operations. Personnel from Fire Departments in Aurora, North Aurora, Batavia, Geneva and St. Charles make up the Illinois MABAS Division 13 Team.

In April 2004, the MABAS Division 13 TRT Team responded with 30 trained personnel and 3 emergency vehicles to Utica, Illinois after a deadly and devastating tornado ripped through their community. Team members were on the scene and working within hours of the tornado's touchdown. Due to the unique makeup of MABAS Division 13, adequate technical rescue personnel and equipment remained in our communities and available to respond to local emergencies despite the number of personnel and vehicles responding to Utica.

Aurora Fire Department Technical Rescue Team members logged 757 hours of training in 2004. We continue to perfect and learn new skills in the areas of Vertical Rescue, Trench Rescue, Confined space Rescue and Structural Collapse Rescue. We continue to train vigorously with the MABAS Division 13 Team on a quarterly basis.



A devastating tornado ripped through Utica, LaSalle County, Illinois on April 20, 2004. Eight civilian deaths occurred, as well as extensive property damage.

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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT TEAM - 2004



Lt. Joe Bartholomew, Haz-Mat Response Team Coordinator

The Aurora Fire Department Haz-Mat Response Team (HMRT) has 33 members with 19 at the Tech B level, 14 at the Tech A level, 10 with chemistry training, and 9 with ICS training. Three of our Team Members also instruct at the Illinois Fire Service Institute Haz-Mat Division. The Aurora Fire Department Haz-Mat Response Team (HMRT) is also the MABAS Division 13 Team, which incorporates Aurora and most of Kane County.

In 2004 the Fire Department responded to 268 hazardous materials response calls, including spills, leaks, and unknowns. 233 calls were Level 1 responses (1-2 Company responses), and 42 of these were multi-unit responses. There were 23 Level II calls, as follows: 5 Powder Releases, 6 Corrosive Spills, 2 Fuel Spills, 1 Tractor Trailer (Box Type) 1 Fire With Multiple Type Chemicals, 1 Radiation Incident, 1 Natural Gas Fire, and 7 miscellaneous Haz-mat Runs.

The Aurora Fire Department HMRT conducts monthly Training Drills including suit training, use of monitors, tabletop drills, and a department-wide decontamination drill. The Aurora Fire Department Haz-Mat Response Team sent 8 personnel to Nevada for Specialized Response Training, bringing to 11 the number of department members who now have this training.



The Aurora Fire Department responded to a request from Oswego for mutual aid as the result of a tanker carrying phosphoric acid overturning, a Level II Haz-Mat Response,

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FIRE INVESTIGATION DIVISION



ASSISTANT CHIEF GARY POZZI, ARSON COORDINATOR

The Aurora Fire Department Investigations Bureau investigated 83 fires during 2004.

First listed as suspicious, undetermined, or incendiary resulted in losses in excess of \$2.7 million dollars.

Four arrests were made in 2004. Law enforcement agencies that assisted were DuPage and Kane County Sheriff's Offices, Aurora Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The DuPage and Kane County Arson Task Force teams were called out numerous times to assist during 2004. The networking of resources, manpower, training, communications and legal expertise has had a major impact on increased arrests and convictions.

Three members of the Aurora Fire Department Investigations Division attended and graduated from the University of Illinois Police Training Institute's Arson Investigator certification class held in Bolingbrook, Illinois over a period of five weeks.



Gary Krienitz
Shift 1 Lead Investigator

SHIFT 1 TEAM MEMBERS:
James Lobbins
Aaron Stawikowski
Steve Wedll



Steve Whitmer
Shift 2 Lead Investigator

SHIFT 2 TEAM MEMBERS:
Lt. Gary Avram
Lt. Steve Weatherly
Matt Anslow



Kevin Wolsfelt
Shift 3 Lead Investigator

SHIFT 3 TEAM MEMBERS:
Jerry Groesch
Craig Mateski
Jason Morthland
Brett Svendsen

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JUVENILE FIRESETTER PROGRAM

During 2004, members of the department who are trained in the area of juvenile firesetting counseled 8 youths who were known to have started fires. This indicates a significant reduction of 38% from the previous year and a drop of over 60% in a two-year period. We believe this is due to a combination of aggressive fire prevention programs and increased public education and awareness. The responsibility of our Juvenile Intervention Specialists is to measure the youths' level of risk in relationship to the probability of setting more fires. We provide an educational program designed for their level of understanding. In some cases, other agencies are asked to assist or intervene. Property damage resulting from juvenile firesetters also dropped 50% from 2003.

There are currently 13 Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Team members.



Captain Ed Oros, Lead Investigator

SHIFT 1 TEAM MEMBERS:

John Jackson
Gary Krienitz
Paul Smith

SHIFT 2 TEAM MEMBERS:

Lt. Gary Avram
Jeff Herrick
Jim Rhodes
Ricardo Torres

SHIFT 3 TEAM MEMBERS:

Aaron Garcia
Chris Kjellesvik
Craig Mateski
David McCabe
Jason Morthland

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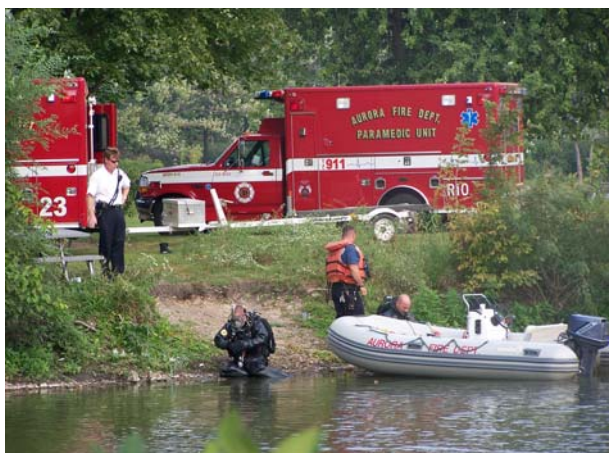
WATER RESCUE - 2004



Lt. John R. Becker
Dive Team Leader

The Aurora Fire Department Water Rescue Team responded to 36 water rescue related emergencies in 2004. The Water Rescue Team maintains an active roster of 27 members. The goal of the Water Rescue Team is to have all members trained to Dive Rescue II certification. The Team trains with on-shift personnel in various bodies of water throughout the City on a monthly basis. Mutual aid agreements allow that the Water Rescue Team travels a considerable distance up and down the Fox River, as well as to the many lakes and ponds in the State.

Three members trained in Indiana for dry suit, ice diving and surface rescue training in January 2004. In September, eight members of the Water Rescue Team participated in the Lynwood 2004 Dive Team Challenge. In addition to water rescue, the Team has helped conduct a search for a weapon, and that evidence is now available for use at trial with the Kane County State's Attorneys Office.



During 2004 the Water Rescue Team assisted the Aurora Preservation Committee in the recovery from the Fox River of several portions of carved limestone. These stones, which weighed over a ton each, originally formed an arched entrance to the Aurora National Bank Building, and plans are underway to display them at a later time.

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TECHNOLOGY - 2004



Assistant Chief Hal Carlson
Support Services

The summer of 2004 saw the retirement of Assistant Chief William Rechenmacher, who was an integral part of the Department's Computer and CAD Systems for many years. Several Aurora Fire Department employees have been working with MIS to keep the department on course and meet our objectives in this area.

In the fall of 2004 one of those objectives was met with ten new computers installed for I-EMS reporting. Each fire station received a top of the line PC for this upgrade. The potential for this program is enormous, in areas such as the tracking of calls, statistic gathering, and assistance in billing, to name a few.

The upgrade in PCs throughout the department continues, with the objective of replacing every PC with a new one as well as a new operating system.

The department had been in the process of updating front line vehicles by replacing Alerts with Cellular Digital Packet Data (CDPD) technology; however, by late fall 2004 that technology was replaced by Code Division Multiple Access/Evolution Data Only, or CDMA/EVDO. New docking stations and antennas were purchased in 2004 to go along with the 23 Panasonic Toughbook laptops purchased earlier. These upgrades, as well as the testing and troubleshooting of this equipment, will continue into 2005.

In 2004 the department began investigating Bluetooth technology, an open standard for wireless technology of voice and data between mobile devices, for use in our ambulances and their planned upgrade in 2005 to 12-lead EKG monitors.

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VEHICLES AND APPARATUS – 2004



Pictured at left:

ENGINE 8, an Emergency One Cyclone II Pumper, was delivered to the Aurora Fire Department on July 6, 2004 by Mid-America Truck & Equipment Company. The new Engine was the first pumper with stainless steel valves to roll off the line for Emergency One.

The old Engine 8 was put into reserve status at Fire Station #9 and replaced Engine 99, which was sold to the Southern Kane County Training Association.

Pictured at right: A **MASS CASUALTY DECONTAMINATION TRAILER** was purchased with funds from the Fire Act Grant and the City of Aurora, and is currently housed at Central Fire Station.



RESERVE VEHICLES

During 2004 equipment was purchased for reserve Engines E-33 and E-55 to fully stock those Engines. They are now equipped to respond as front line vehicles should a massive incident occur. Reserve Medic 10 was also upgraded to ALS (Advanced Life Support) status during 2004.

ARV's (ALTERNATE RESPONSE VEHICLES)

During 2004 Engine 7 became the department's third ARV to facilitate the growing demands of the EMS operations.

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FIRE DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN GERALD RYGH



In May 2004 Pastor Gerald Rygh, former Pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and recently retired from Our Savior Lutheran Church, graciously offered to serve as Chaplain for the Aurora Fire Department. Pastor Rygh was born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa and moved to the Aurora area in 1970. He received a Bachelors degree from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, a Bachelor of Theology degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, and his Doctorate in 1983. Pastor Rygh is father to Battalion Chief Dave Rygh and father-in-law to Battalion Chief John Lehman.



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT HONOR GUARD



47 Aurora Firefighters volunteer their time to serve on the Aurora Fire Department Honor Guard. In addition to standing guard at funeral services of department members and their families, the Honor Guard participated in the City of Aurora Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades. They also present the American flag at events such as the annual Firefighter of the Year Award Ceremony and September 11th memorial services.

Six members of the Aurora Fire Department's Honor Guard have also been inducted into the AFFI (Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois) Honor Guard.

Pictured left to right: Dwayne Love, Will Torres, Randy Leek, Ed Heitz and Clint Rafac at the 2004 Firefighter of the Year Award ceremony.

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

2004 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

On March 23, 2004 the Aurora Exchange Club held the annual Firefighter of the Year award ceremony and luncheon at the Gaslite Manor in Aurora. The featured speaker at the luncheon was Deputy District Chief Ed Enright of the Chicago Fire Department.



Aurora Firefighters nominated for Firefighter of the Year in 2004 included (left to right) Jim Rhodes, Paul Smith, Matt Anslow, Jason Equi, Jason Larson, and Bill Nutter. All of the nominees were congratulated for their outstanding service to the citizens of Aurora.



Firefighter/Paramedic Jim Rhodes and Firefighter Paul Smith were named Aurora's 2004 Firefighters of the Year. They were honored for their actions at a structure fire on January 18, 2003.

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

APPOINTMENTS / PROMOTIONS - 2004



The retirements of Fire Marshal Kent Becker, Battalion Chief Dan Wallis, and Lt. Larry Dixon in February 2004 resulted in the following promotions / appointments:

Left to right: Captain Greg Peters, Lt. Tom Wagner, Lt. Dave Watson, Lt. Don Neubauer, Captain Bob Wirtz, Battalion Chief Brad Westrom, Battalion Chief Mike Buckley, and Fire Marshal Jack Smith.



(Left) The retirement of Lt. Chuck Martin in April 2004 resulted in Greg Frieders' promotion to Lieutenant .

At right, John Moisa was promoted to Lieutenant due to the retirement of Lt. Steve Glass in May 2004.



The retirement of Assistant Chief Bill Rechenmacher in July 2004 resulted in the promotion of (pictured with Chief Roger Probst, from left to right) Steve Weatherly to Lieutenant, Tim Warren to Captain, Mark Lockwood to Battalion Chief, Gary Pozzi to Assistant Chief in charge of Operations, and the appointment of Assistant Chief Hal Carlson to Support Services.

12 Firefighter Recruits joined the department on April 30, 2004. They, along with 2 trainees from the Hanover Park Fire Department, concluded their Firefighter II Academy in October 2004. Pictured at right are:

(Back Row): Dominic SanFilippo (Hanover Park FD), Robin Krantz, Dan Ahasic, Shawn Clements, James DeSomer, Steve Koeberl, Ricardo Ramirez (Hanover Park FD), Dan Stroup
(Front Row): Marcos Coronado, Shawn Hagie, Tim Bergeron, Alan Backhaus, Todd McChurch, Michael Eley



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

PERSONNEL - 2004

Six Firefighters, Assistant Chief Bill Rechenmacher, Fire Marshal Kent Becker, Battalion Chief Dan Wallis, Lt. Larry Dixon, Lt. Chuck Martin, and Lt. Steve Glass, retired on regular pensions in 2004. One Firefighter was terminated from employment.

Twelve new Firefighters were hired in August 2004 to fill vacancies in the department.

- DECEMBER 2004 -

207 Sworn Uniformed Fire Department Members
3 Civilian Fire Inspectors
4 Secretaries

214 Total Fire Department Personnel



Pictured above (left to right): Fire Marshal Kent Becker, Battalion Chief Dan Wallis, and Lt. Larry Dixon all retired in February 2004 after more than 30 years on the department.



Pictured above (left to right): Lt. Chuck Martin retired in April 2004 after 22 years on the department; Lt. Steve Glass retired in May 2004 after 30 years; Asst Chief Bill Rechenmacher retired in July after 27 years of service.

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

EXPLORER POST #99

Aurora Fire Department's Explorer Post #99, which was formed in March 2002 with 8 initial members, maintained a strong membership of 35 throughout 2004.

In 2003, a system was proposed and approved by the City Council to allow Explorer Post #99 members to qualify for preference points to be used in the City of Aurora Firefighter hiring process.

Shawn Hagie, who joined the Post in late spring 2002, successfully completed the requirements to receive preference points towards the testing process and, on August 30, 2004, became the first former Explorer Post #99 member to begin full time employment with the Aurora Fire Department.

Explorer members held three car wash fundraisers in 2004, raising approximately \$3,000. In 2004 they made a generous donation of \$1,000 to a child who was a victim of a near drowning accident.

Members of Explorer Post #99 provided basic first aid at various community safety fairs and participated in a number of community parades and special events. As in previous years, they marched in the City's 4th of July parade, displaying the American flag.

All current Post members attended HIPPA training, and Battalion Chief Jake Sporna received his EMT-B certification. Post members also created virtual training aids for Engine 1 and now maintain their own website (www.afdpost99.com).

The current Post Advisor is Aurora Firefighter/Paramedic Jim Rhodes. Lt. Don Davids and Firefighter/Paramedic Chuck Niemeier serve as Associate Advisors. Assistant Chief Gary Pozzi and Paramedic Coordinator Russ Glass currently serve as co-committee Chairmen.



Members of Aurora Firefighters Explorer Post #99 who were enrolled in the EMT-B Class took their practical the week of March 8-12, 2004

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

Central Fire Station
75 North Broadway
897-7821



SHIFT 1

SHIFT 2

SHIFT 3

ENGINE COMPANY #1

Lieutenant Joe Bartholomew
Pvt. Glen Hasenheyer
Paramedic Mark Matkovich

Lieutenant Steve Malatia
Pvt. Mark Classen
Paramedic Jason Demas

Captain Don Jackson
Pvt. Jim Maynard
Pvt. Bob Dunn

MEDIC #1

Paramedic Bill Nutter
Paramedic Ken Dudley

Paramedic Jim Podbregar
Paramedic Chuck Niemeier

Paramedic Chuck VanHorn
Paramedic Nathan Costner

TRUCK COMPANY #2

Captain Matt Perez
Pvt. Tim Pogue
Pvt. Pete Doyle
Pvt. Steve Buono

Lieutenant Don Davids
Pvt. Eric Calkins
Pvt. Randy Leek
Paramedic Jim Rhodes

Lieutenant Andy Silagyi
Pvt. Chuck Przybylski
Paramedic Bob Kulovitz
Pvt. Carlos Coronado

ROVING PERSONNEL

Captain Greg Peters
Lieutenant John Moisa
Lieutenant Don Neubauer
Paramedic Jason Mosshamer
Paramedic Peter Bray
Pvt. Steve Wedll
Paramedic Dave Heinke
Pvt. Chris Prieboy
Pvt. Shawn Hagie
Pvt. Shawn Clements
Pvt. James DeSomer
Pvt. Marcos Coronado

Captain Bob Wirtz
Lieutenant Dave Watson
Lieutenant Steve Weatherly
Paramedic Joe Bledsoe
Paramedic John Ross
Pvt. Steve Szilage, Jr.
Pvt. Tomas Contreras
Pvt. Chris Temes
Pvt. Steve Koeberl
Pvt. Alan Backhaus
Pvt. Todd McChurch
Pvt. Mike Eley

Captain Tim Warren
Lieutenant Tom Wagner, Jr.
Lieutenant Greg Frieders
Paramedic Kevin Nickel
Pvt. Scott Schuster
Pvt. John Eul
Paramedic Corey Fryer
Paramedic Shawn Toso
Pvt. Tim Bergeron
Pvt. Dan Ahasic
Pvt. Robin Krantz
Pvt. Dan Stroup

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

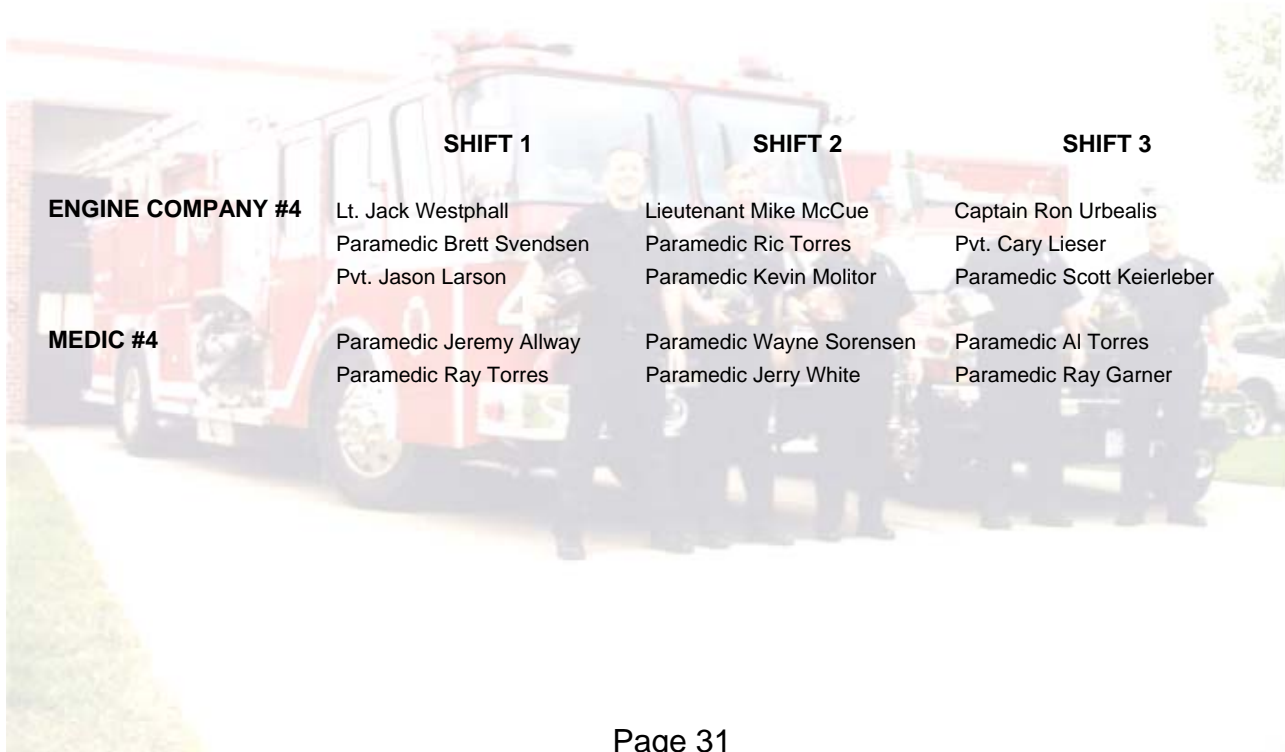
Station 3
600 New Indian Trail
897-7823
BATTALION 2 HEADQUARTERS



| | SHIFT 1 | SHIFT 2 | SHIFT 3 |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| BATTALION 2 | Battalion Chief Jim Bergeron | Battalion Chief Brad Westrom | Battalion Chief Ken Shannon |
| ENGINE COMPANY #3 | Lieutenant Steve Oros, Jr. Pvt. Steve Szilage Paramedic Chris Oros | Lieutenant Joe Franzen Pvt. Daniel Darce Paramedic Kris Tappendorf | Captain Al Judd Pvt. Dennis Schmitz Paramedic Brandon Matson |
| MEDIC #3 | Paramedic Pete Hoffman Paramedic Tim Schomer | Paramedic Bob Chance Paramedic Dwayne Love | Paramedic Jim Rufer Paramedic Dan Kveton |

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 4
800 Michels Avenue
898-3655



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 5
730 Hill Avenue
851-2825
BATTALION 1 HEADQUARTERS



| | SHIFT 1 | SHIFT 2 | SHIFT 3 |
|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| BATTALION 1 | Battalion Chief Bob Lukach | Battalion Chief Tom Greiner | Battalion Chief Mike Buckley |
| ENGINE COMPANY #5 | Lieutenant John Gilbert Pvt. Ed Heitz Paramedic Gary Krienitz | Captain Rich Baxter Pvt. Steve Whitmer Paramedic Dan Osman | Lieutenant Luther McDougale Pvt. Kevin Wolsfelt Paramedic Jeff Smitley |
| MEDIC #5 | Paramedic Al Cinto Paramedic Jerry Knizek | Paramedic Dave Trammell Paramedic Javan Cross | Paramedic Tony Nelson Paramedic Dan Aloisio |



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 7
824 Kenilworth Avenue
897-7831



ENGINE COMPANY #7

SHIFT 1

Lieutenant Don Jackley
Paramedic Randy Kramp
Pvt. Paul Smith

SHIFT 2

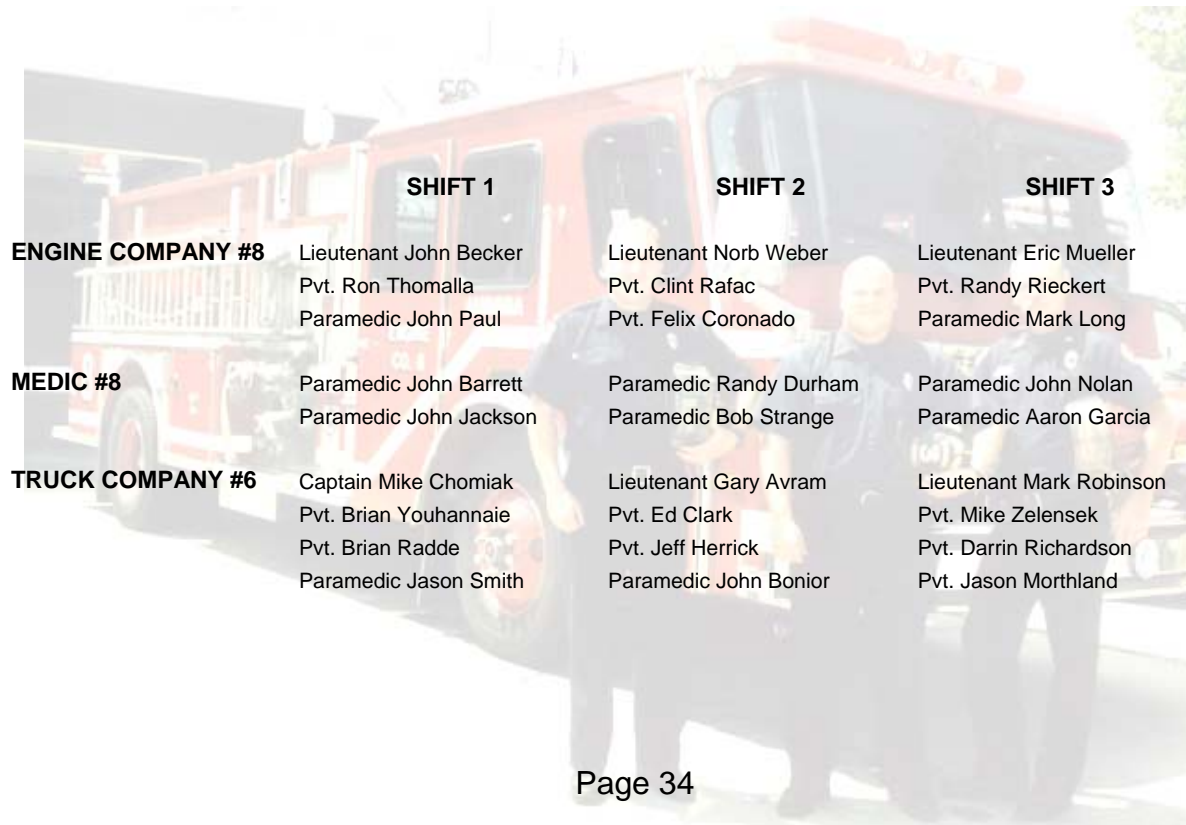
Captain Ray Pfeiffer
Pvt. Kevin Kubisak
Paramedic Larry Nelson

SHIFT 3

Lieutenant Randy Brokaw
Paramedic Greg Jackman
Pvt. Craig Mateski

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 8
100 North Gregory
898-7030



| | SHIFT 1 | SHIFT 2 | SHIFT 3 |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| ENGINE COMPANY #8 | Lieutenant John Becker Pvt. Ron Thomalla Paramedic John Paul | Lieutenant Norb Weber Pvt. Clint Rafac Pvt. Felix Coronado | Lieutenant Eric Mueller Pvt. Randy Rieckert Paramedic Mark Long |
| MEDIC #8 | Paramedic John Barrett Paramedic John Jackson | Paramedic Randy Durham Paramedic Bob Strange | Paramedic John Nolan Paramedic Aaron Garcia |
| TRUCK COMPANY #6 | Captain Mike Chomiak Pvt. Brian Youhannaie Pvt. Brian Radde Paramedic Jason Smith | Lieutenant Gary Avram Pvt. Ed Clark Pvt. Jeff Herrick Paramedic John Bonior | Lieutenant Mark Robinson Pvt. Mike Zelensek Pvt. Darrin Richardson Pvt. Jason Morthland |

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 9
2339 Diehl Road
978-4675



SHIFT 1

ENGINE COMPANY #9

Lieutenant Dave Strobert
Paramedic Jamie Lobbins
Pvt. Matt Lichtenberger

SHIFT 2

Captain Ed Oros
Pvt. Chuck Wonderling
Paramedic Kevin Noble

SHIFT 3

Lieutenant Greg Mewmaw
Pvt. John Hopkins
Paramedic Angelo Minneci

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 10
2390 West Illinois Avenue
897-0443



SHIFT 1

SHIFT 2

SHIFT 3

ENGINE COMPANY #10

Lieutenant Jerry Womack
Pvt. Will Torres
Pvt. Bob Warren

Lieutenant Steve Chivai
Paramedic John Nagy
Pvt. Phil Bergeron

Lt. Cletus Rettenmeier
Pvt. Jerry Groesch
Pvt. Dave Hurd

MEDIC #10

Paramedic Bob Bruns
Paramedic Kevin Becker

Paramedic Dan Konen
Paramedic Luanne Murray

Paramedic Dave McCabe
Paramedic Chris Kjellesvik

TRUCK COMPANY #11

Lieutenant John Schick
Pvt. Steve Kish
Pvt. Rafael Alvarez
Paramedic Aaron Stawikowski

Captain Dan McCue
Pvt. Chuck White
Pvt. Roman Azua
Paramedic Jason Equi

Lieutenant Lou Popp
Pvt. Marty O'Brien
Pvt. Harvey Redmon
Paramedic Matt Anslow

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 12
2424 Haffenrichter Road
499-0183



| | SHIFT 1 | SHIFT 2 | SHIFT 3 |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|
| ENGINE COMPANY #12 | Captain Larry Hankes Pvt. Ed Ward Paramedic Toby Gill | Lieutenant Tim Bradley Paramedic Steve Matthias Pvt. Mark Tate | Lieutenant Rick Lockman Pvt. Bob Campbell Paramedic Steve Milakis |