

CITY OF AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT



**2005
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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2005 ANNUAL REPORT
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Chief Timothy Oelker

On behalf of the Aurora Fire Department personnel, I respectfully submit for review the 2005 Annual Report, an illustration of the department's most significant accomplishments of the last twelve months. Included within the 2005 Annual Report is statistical data from several divisions, which serve as examples of the department's various and diverse activities.

*In summary, 2005 was a year of change. The City has a new Mayor. The Fire Department has a new Chief and Fire Marshal, as well as other command staff personnel. Our new City Administration has embraced the challenge to fund several major capital projects as a foundation for the downtown revitalization effort. The Aurora Fire Department is committed to support these initiatives while continuing to expand services to our community and fulfill 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 Tim Oelker

TO/dg

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Deputy Chief Hal Carlson

The Aurora Fire Department has seen the demand for emergency services continue to climb. In 2005 the department responded to 14,500 calls for fire/rescue and EMS services. The commitment and support by the City Administration has given the Fire Department the resources to meet these demands.

Future challenges prompted the Aurora Fire Department to complete a station location, resource deployment and impact fee study. This study along with an evaluation from I.S.O. (Insurance Services Office) in September has given the department insight on how to meet the needs for future services.

Department priorities in 2005 included station renovations, vehicle and engine replacements, the purchase of 12-lead EKG monitors, installation of new laptops and cell phones in front line vehicles, and the completion of the National Standard hose thread conversion project.

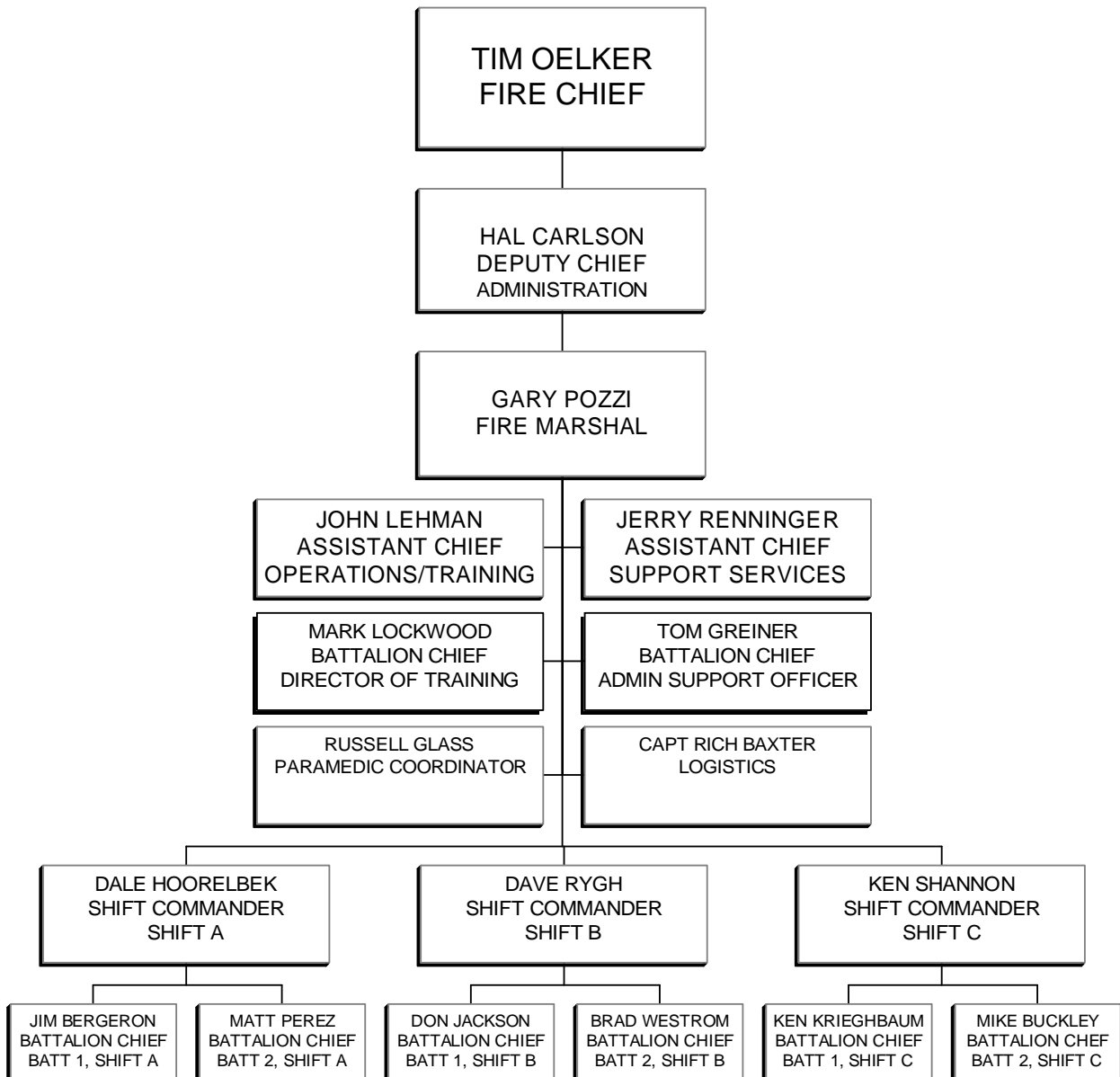
The Fire Department is also looking forward to breaking ground in the spring of 2006 for the new Fire/Police/Customer Resource Center building, which will replace the current Fire Station 8 in the far East side of Aurora. Work will also continue towards a Regional Training Facility with the Southern Kane County Training Association.

Deputy Chief Hal Carlson

HC/dg

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AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF PERSONNEL



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FIRE DEPARTMENT INCIDENTS FOR 2004 / 2005

	2004 CALLS	2005 CALLS	CHANGE
EMS - One Medic Unit Response (Advanced Life Support)	9,778	10,307	+ 5%
STILL ALARMS - One Engine Response (Vehicles, Lockouts, Brush, Rubbish, or Other Fire Outside of Structure)	1,611	1,718	+ 7%
FULL STILL ALARMS - Two Engines, One Truck Automatic Fire Alarms; Office, Commercial, Residential)	1,165	1,177	+ 1%
BOX ALARMS - Two Engines, One Truck, One Medic, One Command Officer (Structure Fires; Residential, Commercial, Mercantile)	353	406	+ 15%
HAZ-MAT	268	299	+ 12%
CARBON MONOXIDE - One Truck or One Engine	242	259	+ 7%
EXTRICATIONS - One Engine, One Truck, One Medic, Command Officer	111	81	- 27%
WATER INCIDENTS - Two Engines, One Truck, One Medic Rescue 23, Command Officer	10	8	- 20%
RELEASE - One Truck (Rescue, Lock-Outs, Etc.)	218	237	+ 9%
TECHNICAL – Two Engines, One Truck, One Squad, Rescue One, One Medic, Command Officer	1	1	N/C
TOTAL CALLS	13,757	14,493	+ 5%
2005 FIREFIGHTER DEATHS	0	2005 CIVILIAN DEATHS	0
2005 FIREFIGHTER INJURIES	49	2005 CIVILIAN INJURIES	4
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROPERTY LOSS IN 2005		\$3,680,944.	
TOTAL ESTIMATED CONTENTS LOSS IN 2005		\$3,303,344.	

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Dispatched Emergency Responses By Fire Station 2005

	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	295	169	176	183	169	287	182	129	297
FULL STILL ALARMS	586	359	328	227	309	364	208	289	162
BOX ALARMS	290	227	154	248	101	112	70	93	71
HAZ-MAT	58	57	31	40	29	54	40	32	34
CARBON MONOXIDE	83	4	4	9	0	116	19	48	6
EXTRICATIONS	50	36	27	46	5	29	12	18	2
WATER INCIDENTS	8	5	4	4	4	4	2	1	2
RELEASE	74	0	0	1	0	29	0	14	0
LOCKOUTS	35	3	0	0	0	69	0	18	5
TECH RESCUES	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
MEDICAL EMERGS	2886	1758	1853	1934	1020	1564	748	1365	513
TOTAL	4385	2623	2589	2701	1641	2631	1282	2012	1093
TOTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSES =						20,957			

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CALLS PER UNIT

		<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
ENGINE COMPANY RESPONSES	ENGINE 1	1,187	1,292	+ 9%
	ENGINE 3	865	851	- 2%
	ENGINE 4	928	978	+ 5%
	ENGINE 5	751	783	+ 4%
	ENGINE 7	1,182	1,641	+ 39%
	ENGINE 8	975	1,032	+ 6%
	ENGINE 9	1,156	1,282	+ 11%
	ENGINE 10	711	693	- 3%
	ENGINE 12	1,034	1,093	+ 6%
TRUCK COMPANY RESPONSES	TRUCK 2	1,038	1,136	+ 9%
	TRUCK 6	741	782	+ 6%
	TRUCK 11	546	542	- 1%
MEDIC UNIT RESPONSES	MEDIC 1	2,756	2,907	+ 5%
	MEDIC 3	1,826	1,864	+ 2%
	MEDIC 4	1,883	1,955	+ 4%
	MEDIC 5	1,893	2,011	+ 6%
	MEDIC 8	1,456	1,598	+ 10%
	MEDIC 10	1,305	1,387	+ 6%
BATTALION CHIEF RESPONSES	BATT 1	399	425	+ 7%
	BATT 2	387	418	+ 8%

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2005 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	21	11	1	32
FEBRUARY	10	5	2	17
MARCH	14	3	0	17
APRIL	4	2	0	6
MAY	5	2	1	8
JUNE	12	3	1	16
JULY	8	1	1	10
AUGUST	12	2	1	15
SEPTEMBER	16	2	1	19
OCTOBER	16	4	1	21
NOVEMBER	13	8	1	22
DECEMBER	27	13	2	42
2005 TOTALS	158	56	11	225

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FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU



FIRE MARSHAL GARY POZZI

2005 INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED

<u>FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU</u>		<u>FIRE COMPANIES</u>	
Routine Inspections	124	Routine Inspections	3,107
Re-Inspections	138	Re-Inspections	508
Special Inspections (Includes referrals, complaints, COA's, hazmat, tanks & misc)	683	Complaint Inspections	22
Construction (Includes construction, tents, trailers, CO's)	1,071		
TOTAL	2,016	TOTAL	3,637

TOTAL 2005 INSPECTIONS = 5,653

2005 PERMITS ISSUED

Installation of Above- and Below-Ground Fuel Tanks	31
Building Fire Suppression Systems	124
Building Fire Alarm Systems	150
Building Hood Suppression Systems	21
Operational Permits (Propane, Hazardous Material, Assembly)	46
Tent	54
Fireworks	9
Open Burning	42
Outdoor Fireplaces	110
TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED	587

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FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU (continued)

<u>OTHER ACTIVITIES - 2005</u>	<u>FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU</u>	<u>FIRE COMPANIES</u>
FIRE PROTECTION (Includes fire test, fire suppression, evacuation plans)	281	
PLAN REVIEWS	425	
FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS	11	246
FIRE DRILLS	9	114
HYDRANT FLOW TESTS		1,282
LOCK BOXES SOLD	115	
VIOLATIONS ISSUED (Blocked exits, blocked corridors, failure to comply)	38	
ALARM RESPONSES BY FIRE COMPANIES		1,221
FALSE FIRE ALARMS - NO FINE	407	
FALSE FIRE ALARMS - FINE ISSUED	247	
CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR ACTIVATIONS		282



During Fire Prevention Month in October 2005, Aurora Fire Department personnel presented 185 Fire Prevention Programs to 6,475 children and adults and conducted 45 tours involving 1,638 citizens.

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OPERATIONS



ASSISTANT CHIEF JOHN LEHMAN, OPERATIONS

The Operations Office oversees the Training Division as well as the fire suppression and rescue operations of the Aurora Fire Department. The Operations Office directs all special teams. In 2005, the Aurora Fire Department responded to over 14,493 calls for emergency service.

The Operations Office is also responsible for the department's involvement in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). This system aids fire departments throughout the State of Illinois who are able to request assistance and support from other member departments in the event of an emergency response. It was just such a request that was made on a Statewide call for help to aid the hurricane effort in Louisiana. The Aurora Fire Department, as a member of MABAS Division 13, deployed eight members over a one-month period to aid Katrina victims, along with other firefighters from across the state. The members were part of a large team tasked with maintaining a firefighting force in the area of destruction. We are proud to have been able to contribute towards this relief effort.

The Aurora Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team worked tirelessly during 2005 in an effort to establish a MABAS 13 Haz-Mat Team, which is expected to be operational in early 2006.

The Aurora Fire Department has a vested interest in the Southern Kane County Training Association. In 2005 this training organization continued to be a leader in the State of Illinois in providing firefighter training. The site itself has also seen great progress in 2005, with the creation of the collapse pile, as well as a residential collapse building. The burn tower construction has begun, with completion expected in early 2006.

The Operations Department continues to provide the resources and training necessary for our firefighters to accomplish their jobs safely and effectively. We look forward to a safe and productive 2006 for the men and women of the Aurora Fire Department.

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ASSISTANT CHIEF JERRY RENNINGER, SUPPORT SERVICES

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

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** Routine maintenance
- Station 3** Routine maintenance
- Station 4** Apparatus doors heightened
Window treatments replaced
- Station 5** Replaced concrete apron
Replaced asphalt parking lot
Exterior trim paint
Sprint Cellular Tower installed on property
- Station 7** Routine maintenance
- Station 8** Necessary maintenance only
- Station 9** Exterior trim paint
- Station 10** Routine maintenance
- Station 12** Routine maintenance

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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 Ken Shannon
"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



Battalion Chief J. Bergeron
Shift A



Battalion Chief Don Jackson
Shift B



Battalion Chief Ken Kriegbaum
Shift C

BATTALION 2



Battalion Chief Matt Perez
Shift A



Battalion Chief Brad Westrom
Shift B



Battalion Chief Mike Buckley
Shift C

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TRAINING DIVISION



BATTALION CHIEF MARK LOCKWOOD

A great deal of training was accomplished during 2005, with over 72,000 hours of regularly scheduled training recorded. In addition, 85 firefighters spent 3,080 hours training for “Special Teams” and Illinois Fire Service Institute Schools, including Fire Officer’s class, Hazardous Materials class, Incident Command class, and the annual Fire Department Instructor’s Conference.

Eight new firefighters were sworn in on September 12, 2005 and underwent training through the Southern Kane County Training Association.

31 training claims for 2004 were submitted to the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, Division of Personnel Standards and Education. These included training for Firefighter II and Firefighter III, as well as specialized training such as Fire Prevention Principles, Tactics & Strategy, Management, Instructor, Fire Apparatus Engineer, and Haz-Mat Technician.

During 2005, the Training Department changed their way of recording training activities using the CertRight software program, which allows for more accurate documentation as well as easy retrieval of information from the database.



Pictured at left: The second graduating class of the Southern Kane County Training Association concluded their recruit training with a burndown exercise held on October 27, 2005. Pictured left to right (back row) are: Jeff Dehler, Rob Sittler, Tom Shore, Mike Kaufman, Dan Bateman and (front row) Abe Sprinkle, Keith O'Donnell, and Mike Hess.

Pictured at right: A graduation ceremony was held November 4, 2005 at the Aurora Regional Fire Museum.



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TRAINING DIVISION (continued)

SOUTHERN KANE COUNTY TRAINING ASSOCIATION

In accordance with a signed Intergovernmental Agreement with the Southern Kane County Training Association and the North Aurora Fire Protection District, the Aurora Fire Department continued its efforts to establish a regional training facility off Butterfield Road in North Aurora. The facility will be used to host Illinois Fire Service Institute classes and communities in the surrounding area will be purchasing Associate Memberships, allowing them to use the facility for their department's training needs.

Infrastructure such as curbs and streets, sewer and water, and hydrants are now in place and construction is underway on a five-story burn tower with attached three-story structure. Construction of this facility is scheduled for completion by the end of February 2006, with training expected to begin in early Spring of 2006.

Special team training has been taking place using props such as railway cars, an extrication area, a collapse simulator house, and a collapse debris pile. Construction is also underway on a five-story sea/land container prop that will be used for hose advancement, rappelling, and SCBA drills.

Tentative plans are underway for the construction of an apparatus / classroom building on the site.

The Southern Kane County Training Association continues to seek funding through grants and other avenues.



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ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OFFICER



Battalion Chief Tom Greiner
Administrative Support Officer

As Administrative Support Officer, Battalion Chief Tom Greiner assists Administration with budget development, internal affairs, and departmental investigations. He 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 Operations Office and Training in the development of command level training programs.

The Administrative Support Officer is the SCBA/Respiratory administrator for the department and 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 2005, he served on a committee to select a consulting firm to analyze fire station locations, response times, future fire service demands, and impact fees. In addition, Battalion Chief Greiner serves on the Northeastern Illinois Communications Consortium, a multi-agency committee formed to plan for future communications requirements.

Battalion Chief Greiner is the department's Grants Coordinator and Grievance Officer for the Department.

LOGISTICS OFFICER

As Logistics Officer for the Department, Captain Rich Baxter 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 Baxter is responsible for the administration of the clothing and protective equipment replacement program, including the 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 50 additional department members were supplied with a second set of gear in 2005.

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 Richard Baxter
Logistics Officer

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CIVILIAN STAFF

CENTRAL FIRE STATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE



Dixie Gump
Administrative Aide



Donna Johnson
Administrative Secretary



Linda Hansen
Administrative Secretary

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU



Marty Wolding
Fire Inspector



Jon Spanu
Fire Inspector



Irene Pelan
Administrative Secretary

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PARAMEDIC PROGRAM



RUSSELL GLASS
PARAMEDIC COORDINATOR

The Aurora Fire Department EMS Division was very active at the System, Region, and State levels during 2005. Department Paramedics responded to 10,207 calls for assistance related to ambulance operations and transported 8,771 people to area hospitals. 92 Paramedics, 73 EMT/Basics, and 30 First Responders served the City of Aurora at the close of 2005.

Three EMT/Basics successfully completed the Paramedic Program at the Southern Fox Valley EMS System and passed the Illinois Department of Public Health exam. Four new recruits successfully completed EMT/Basic Training during the year. Six First Responders retired in 2005.

Eight new recruits (3 Paramedics and 5 EMT/Basics) began employment with the Department in September 2005 and will be certified within the Southern Fox Valley EMS System early in 2006.

The Aurora Fire Department CPR Team certified 977 individuals in 2005.

The EMS Division took delivery of twelve heart monitors from Philips Medical, Inc. in 2005. These heart monitors will greatly improve our ability to treat a wide variety of patients.

Members of the EMS Division attended numerous science fairs at area schools, community groups, business and career day events, and talked with over 2,200 students regarding Fire Department careers in 2005. The EMS Division supported a number of local events during the year, such as Downtown Alive, Walter Payton's "Sweetness Run", the Aurora Sports Festival, and Aurora University's Pow-Wow, football, and commencement events. Aurora Fire Department ambulances and Paramedics covered EMS details at numerous East and West Aurora High School football games throughout the year.

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TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM



Battalion Chief Mark Lockwood, Team Leader

The Aurora Fire Department Technical Rescue Team is comprised of 20 highly trained individuals, dedicated to responding to disasters and serving the citizens of Aurora and the United States. Members receive extensive training in tactics, techniques and specialized equipment dealing with ***Vertical Rescue, Trench Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, and Structural Collapse Rescue.***

Firefighters from the Aurora, North Aurora, Batavia, Geneva, and St. Charles Fire Departments make up the Illinois MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) Division 13 Technical Rescue Team. In June 2005, the Division 13 Team participated in a statewide Technical Rescue Validation Drill, held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute grounds in Champaign, Illinois. Teams responded to the Institute as if they were being deployed to a disaster as a State asset. The teams were evaluated in many areas, including the ability to communicate and work with other teams, team command structure, and ability to be self-sufficient (supply our own food, water, shelter, showers, toilet facilities) for a 36-hour period.



SHIFT 1

Lt. Don Jackley, Shift Leader

Lt. Tim Pogue

Rafael Alvarez
Steve Kish
Chris Oros
Will Torres

SHIFT 2

Lt. Dave Watson, Shift Leader

Batt Chief Tom Greiner

Lt. Cletus Rettenmeier
Lt. Pete Doyle
Jason Demas
Randy Leek
Dwayne Love
Clint Rafac

SHIFT 3

Lt. Randy Brokaw, Shift Leader

Bob Kulovitz

Tony Nelson
Chuck Przybylski
Mike Zelensek

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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT TEAM



Lt. Joe Bartholomew, Haz-Mat Response Team Coordinator

The Aurora Fire Department Haz-Mat Response Team (HMRT) has 32 members with 23 at the Tech B level, 9 at the Tech A level, 10 with chemistry training, and 9 with ICS training. Eleven of our team members instruct at the Southern Kane County Training Association and three of our members teach at the Illinois

The Aurora Fire Department Haz-Mat Response Team (HMRT) is also a member of MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) Division 13, which incorporates most of Kane County. The Aurora Fire Department HMRT and other members of MABAS Division 13, including department members from Batavia, Elburn, Geneva, Montgomery, North Aurora, St. Charles and Sugar Grove, are in the process of forming a Division-wide Team.



In 2005 the Aurora Fire Department responded to 299 hazardous materials response calls, including spills, leaks and unknowns.

258 of these calls were Level I responses (1-2 Company responses), and 29 of these were multi-unit responses, which included 15 large natural gas leaks, 12 multi-company odor investigations, and 2 multi-company fuel spills. The HMRT responded to 12 Level II Hazardous Materials calls, which included five mutual aid calls, three suspicious containers, chemicals in a stream, pesticide spill, two acid spills, one toluene spill and a large diesel fuel spill.

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 11 personnel to Specialized Response Training classes in 2005.

SHIFT 1
Steve Kish, Shift Leader
Capt. Mike McCue
Lt. John Becker
Pete Bray
Dave Heinke
Jason Larson
Jason Mosshamer
Tim Schomer
Paul Smith

SHIFT 2
Capt. Bob Wirtz, Shift Leader
Batt. Chief Dave Rygh
Lt. Gary Avram
Lt. Dave Watson
Lt. Pete Doyle
Phil Bergeron
Jason Demas
Clint Rafac
John Ross
Bob Strange
Todd McChurch

SHIFT 3
Lt. Andy Silagyi, Shift Leader
Batt. Chief Jim Bergeron
Capt. Don Davids
Capt. Tim Warren
Lt. Rick Lockman
Lt. Mark Robinson
Dave Hurd
Marty O'Brien
Harvey Redmon
Scott Schuster
Chuck VanHorn

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FIRE INVESTIGATION DIVISION



FIRE MARSHAL GARY POZZI, ARSON COORDINATOR

The Aurora Fire Department Investigations Bureau investigated 85 fires during 2005. First listed as suspicious, undetermined, or incendiary resulted in losses in excess of \$3.5 million dollars.

Four arrests were made in 2005. Law enforcement agencies that assisted the Aurora Fire Department include the DuPage and Kane County Fire Investigation Task Forces, Aurora Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The Kane and DuPage County States Attorney's Offices also assisted the Aurora Fire Department with legal counsel in some of our arson cases.

The networking of resources, manpower, training, communications and legal expertise has had a major impact on the increased number of arrests and convictions.

The Department appreciates the efforts of all our Fire Investigators for their professionalism and dedication.

SHIFT 1

Gary Krienitz, Lead Investigator

James Lobbins
Aaron Stawikowski
Steve Wedll

SHIFT 2

Steve Whitmer, Lead Investigator

Lt. Gary Avram
Lt. Steve Weatherly
Matt Anslow
Javan Cross

SHIFT 3

Brett Svendsen, Lead Investigator

Jerry Groesch
Craig Mateski
Jason Morthland
Corey Fryer

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JUVENILE FIRESETTER PROGRAM



**Captain Ed Oros
Lead Investigator**

During 2004, members of the department who are trained in the area of Juvenile Firesetting counseled several youths who were known to have started fires, two of which resulted in a monetary loss. For the third consecutive year, there was a significant reduction in the number of fires started by juveniles. We believe this is due a combination of aggressive fire prevention programs in the schools 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 was lower than the previous three years.

There are currently 13 Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Team members.

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 TEAM



Lt. John R. Becker, Dive Team Leader

At the close of 2005, the Aurora Fire Department Water Rescue Team had a roster of 22 active members.

With the low water conditions due to the drought in the summer of 2005, the emergency calls for the Water Rescue Team decreased. Smaller waterways all but dried up, making otherwise dangerous conditions less than in years past. However, the team responded to calls for assistance from many local and outlying law enforcement agencies, primarily for weapon and evidence recovery.



Training was a priority for our Water Rescue Team during 2005. A new quarry at the Southern Kane County Training Association site proved to be invaluable.

Two members attending Dry Suit training, which included ice diving and surface rescue, in Indiana during 2005. One diver received training in tank and bottle inspection, resulting in a cost savings to the City and ensuring that our equipment will be properly maintained and in top shape when needed.

SHIFT 1

Capt. Mike McCue, Shift Leader
Lt. Tim Pogue
Lt. John Gilbert
Steve Kish
Randy Kramp
Mark Matkovich
Aaron Stawikowski
Will Torres

SHIFT 2

Lt. Norb Weber, Shift Leader
Lt. Steve Chivari
Lt. Pete Doyle
Bob Chance
Jason Demas
Kevin Molitor
Jim Rhodes

SHIFT 3

Jim Maynard, Shift Leader
Capt. Don Davids
Bob Kulovitz
Steve Milakis
Chuck Przybylski
Chuck VanHorn

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COMMUNICATIONS



Assistant Chief Jerry Renninger
Support Services

The old saying, *“the only thing in life that is constant is change”*, holds true for technology and how we use that technology in the fire service. The Aurora Fire Department has proven itself to be on the aggressive side of technological advances in the fire service.

Training in the Enroute Mobile and Remote Access software on the vehicle laptops continued throughout 2005. Upgrades, training and improvements will continue throughout the department in the future. AVL (Automatic Vehicle Locator) software is in the planning stages, and will result in changes in the future as to how emergency vehicles are dispatched to calls.

The NICC (Northeastern Illinois Communications Consortium) has been established to address the need to replace the aged analog communications system. The City of Aurora and the Aurora Fire Department have been major participants, along with personnel from Naperville, Plainfield, Elgin, DuComm, Will County and DuPage County. NICC has been evaluating technologies, potential vendors and costs in preparation for building a digital/IP based communications network. The network should meet the needs of the Aurora Fire Department, Aurora Police Department, and other City departments, as well as address the interoperability of neighboring departments. This project will continue throughout 2006.

After much product evaluation and budgetary issues, 12-Lead EKG Monitors, were purchased and placed on all ALS units in the latter part of 2005. These monitors utilize Bluetooth Technology.



Members of the City of Aurora Police Department and MIS Department provide technical support to the Aurora Fire Department. Pictured at left are Ted Beck and Andrew Feuerborn of APD's Technical Services. Pictured at right is Cindy Vlnar of the City's MIS Department.



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

VEHICLES AND APPARATUS



ENGINE 7, an Emergency One Cyclone II Pumper, was delivered to the Aurora Fire Department in September 2005 by Mid-America Truck & Equipment Company.

The old Engine 7 was put into reserve status at Fire Station #3 and replaced Engine 33.



The Fire Marshal took delivery of a 2005 Ford Taurus in November 2005.

Car 25 is one of 48 City of Aurora vehicles using the experimental fuel E85.

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

FIRE DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



Pastor Gerald Rygh, former Pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and recently retired from Our Savior Lutheran Church, serves 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 Assistant Chief John Lehman.



FIRE DEPARTMENT HONOR GUARD



49 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, July 4th, and Veteran's Day parades. They also posted colors at events such as the annual Firefighter of the Year Award Ceremony, the Greater Aurora Chamber of Commerce luncheon on St. Patrick's Day, and the Retired Firefighters Regional Luncheon.

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

At left: Members of the Aurora Fire Department Honor Guard participated in the Firefighter of the Year Award Ceremony hosted by the Aurora Exchange Club and held at the Gaslitre Manor in March 2005. Pictured left to right are: Ed Heitz, Bob Dunn and John Eul (not pictured: Lt. Jack Westphall).

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

On March 29, 2005 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 Battalion Chief Jim Stedman, a 30-year veteran of the Chicago Fire Department.



Aurora Firefighters nominated for Firefighter of the Year in 2005 included (left to right) Chuck VanHorn, Dave Trammell, Al Cinto, Jr., Larry Nelson, Chuck Wonderling and Lt. Mark Robinson. All of the nominees were congratulated for their outstanding service to the citizens of Aurora.

Firefighter/Paramedic Al Cinto, Jr. was named Aurora's 2005 **FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR** for his life saving actions taken off duty at the scene of an accident in August 2004. Al, who retired in February 2005, attended the luncheon with his daughter, Maggie.



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

APPOINTMENTS / PROMOTIONS



Glen Hasenheyer (left) was promoted to Lieutenant in February 2005.

Pictured below, Ron Thomalla was promoted to Lieutenant and Tim Bradley was promoted to Captain in July 2005.



The individuals pictured above (left to right) were appointed / promoted in May and June 2005: (left to right) Lt. Pete Doyle, Battalion Chief Matt Perez, Lt. Tim Pogue, Captain Don Davids, and Captain Mike McCue.



Former Deputy Chief Tim Oelker was sworn in as the City of Aurora's 14th Fire Chief at a ceremony held November 1, 2005 in the City Council Chambers.



At a ceremony held in November 2005, newly appointed Fire Chief Tim Oelker is pictured with (l-r) Assistant Chief Jerry Renninger (Support Services), Assistant Chief John Lehman (Operations), Fire Marshal Gary Pozzi, Deputy Chief Hal Carlson, and Battalion Chief Tom Greiner, the department's new Administrative Support Officer.



Eight firefighter recruits (at right) were sworn in on September 12, 2005. Pictured (l-r) were: Keith O'Donnell, Dan Bateman, Rob Sittler, Tom Shore, Mike Kaufman, Jeff Dehler, Michael Hess & Abe Sprinkle.

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

PERSONNEL

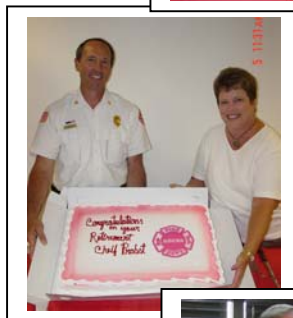
Seven Firefighters, including Fire Chief Roger Probst, Fire Marshal Jack Smith, Battalion Chief Bob Lukach, Captain Ron Urbealis, Lt. John Moisa, and firefighters Al Cinto and Kevin Wolsfelt, retired on regular pensions during 2005. Department members were saddened when Captain Dan McCue, a 24-year veteran, passed away in June 2005.

The Fire Prevention Bureau's long-time Fire Inspector, Ric Olson, retired in February 2005. A second inspector, Gregg Williams, was transferred to the City's Building Department. One new Fire Inspector, Jon Spanu, joined the department in February 2005.

Eight new Firefighters were hired in September 2005 to fill vacancies in the department.

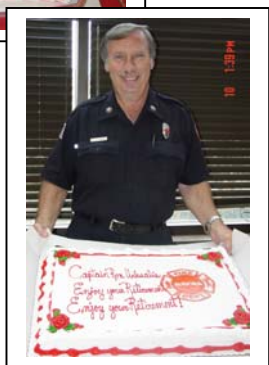
- DECEMBER 2005 -

207 Sworn Uniformed Fire Department Members
2 Civilian Fire Inspectors
4 Secretaries
213 Total Fire Department Personnel



Retirements during 2005 included (clockwise from top):

Lt. John Moisa, Paramedic Al Cinto, Fire Inspector Ric Olson, Battalion Chief Bob Lukach, Pvt. Kevin Wolsfelt, Captain Ron Urbealis, Fire Chief Roger Probst, and Fire Marshal Jack Smith. CONGRATULATIONS !



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

EXPLORER POST #99

The Aurora Fire Department's Explorer Post #99 continued to flourish throughout 2005. The year brought some changes to the Post, with the graduation of Dan Kellogg, Mike Hoffman, Jason Matile, Joe Kavanaugh, Aaron Christenson, Brad Pozzi, Angelo Minneci, Jake Sporna, Blaze Weber and Chris Eby, who all reached the age of 21. They will continue to participate with Post #99 as Associate Advisors and will all be eligible to participate in the upcoming testing process for the Aurora Fire Department.

With the new openings that were created by these graduations, new members were recruited through area high schools and by word of mouth. An orientation was held in July, and six new members joined the Post. With additional memberships throughout the year, by December 2005 the Post reached its capacity of 35 Explorers. Jeremy Getz and Matt Acuff, who were appointed as new Battalion Chiefs, currently lead the Post.

Post #99 continued with their fundraising efforts throughout the year, holding two car washes, which raised a total of \$1,800. Unfortunately, due to the drought, the third car wash had to be cancelled.

Post members Brian Cordes and Ryan Scanlon enrolled in the Kane County EMT-B program, which will last approximately six months. After passing a National Registry Test, they will obtain their EMT-B licenses. Post members Dave Christensen, as well as Associate Advisors Aaron Christensen and Shawn Hagie, are enrolled Paramedic Class through the Southern Fox Valley EMS System.



Post #99 was a main attraction at the City of Aurora's annual Fourth of July Parade with their impressive display of the American Flag.

For more information about Explorer Post #99, visit their website www.afdpost99.com



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

2005 HIGHLIGHTS

HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE

8 Members of the Aurora Fire Department traveled to Louisiana in September 2005 along with other Illinois MABAS Division members to provide relief to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Firefighters Pete Hoffman, Dennis Schmitz and Steve Wedll volunteered to be part of the first MABAS Division 13 contingent dispatched to the area. A second contingent that included Aurora Firefighters Dan Darce, Ed Heitz, Chris Kjellesvik, Steve Milakis and Kevin Molitor followed to relieve them.

While in the New Orleans area, the volunteers worked 24-on and 24-off, with their main duties being fire suppression. They also worked to repair damaged fire stations and homes. Illinois MABAS and the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal to each of these individuals.



HOMETOWN VOICES

WGN radio personality Spike O'Dell broadcast his "Hometown Voices Tour" live from Fire Station #9 on November 10, 2005. Spike, who lost his home in the Stonebridge subdivision to a fire in June 2005 praised firefighters who responded to his personal tragedy for their professionalism and caring.



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Central Fire Station
75 North Broadway
897-7821



	SHIFT 1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT 3
ENGINE COMPANY #1	Lieutenant John Schick Paramedic Mark Matkovich Pvt. Aaron Stawikowski	Lieutenant Steve Malatia Pvt. Mark Classen Paramedic Jim Rhodes	Captain Mike McCue Pvt. Jim Maynard Paramedic Bob Kulovitz
MEDIC #1	Paramedic Bill Nutter Paramedic Jeff Smitley	Paramedic Jim Podbregar Paramedic John Bonior	Paramedic Chuck VanHorn Paramedic Nathan Costner
TRUCK COMPANY #2	Captain Greg Petrs Pvt. Steve Buono Pvt. Paul Smith Paramedic Peter Bray	Lieutenant Steve Chivari Pvt. Steve Kish Pvt. Eric Calkins Pvt. Randy Leek	Lieutenant Andy Silagyi Pvt. Chuck Przybylski Pvt. Carlos Coronado Pvt. Scott Schuster
ROVING PERSONNEL	Lieutenant Glen Hasenhayer Lieutenant Tim Pogue Pvt. Felix Coronado Pvt. Chris Prieboy Paramedic Chris Temes Pvt. Shawn Hagie Paramedic Shawn Clements Paramedic Jim Desomer Pvt. Marcos Coronado Pvt. Abe Sprinkle Pvt. Mike Kaufman Pvt. Keith O'Donnell	Captain Tim Bradley Lieutenant Steve Weatherly Lieutenant Pete Doyle Paramedic Phil Bergeron Paramedic John Ross Pvt. Tomas Contreras Pvt. Steve Koeberl Pvt. Alan Backhaus Paramedic Todd McChurch Pvt. Mike Eley Pvt. Mike Hess Pvt. Rob Sittler Pvt. Dan Bateman	Captain Don Davids Lieutenant Greg Frieders Lieutenant Ron Thomalla Paramedic John Eul Paramedic Corey Fryer Paramedic Shawn Toso Pvt. Tim Bergeron Paramedic Dan Ahasic Pvt. Robin Krantz Paramedic Dan Stroup Pvt. Jeff Dehler Pvt. Tom Shore

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

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



	SHIFT 1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT 3
BATTALION 2	Battalion Chief Matt Perez	Battalion Chief Brad Westrom	Battalion Chief Mike Buckley
ENGINE COMPANY #3	Lieutenant Steve Oros, Jr. Paramedic Tim Schomer Pvt. Steve Szilage	Lieutenant Joe Franzen Pvt. Daniel Darce Paramedic Kris Tappendorf	Captain Al Judd Pvt. Dennis Schmitz Paramedic Brandon Matson
MEDIC #3	Paramedic Pete Hoffman Paramedic John Paul	Paramedic Bob Chance Paramedic Dwayne Love	Paramedic Tony Nelson Paramedic Jim Rufer

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 4
800 Michels Avenue
898-3655



SHIFT 1

SHIFT 2

SHIFT 3

ENGINE COMPANY #4

Lt. Jack Westphall
Paramedic James Lobbins
Pvt. John Barrett

Lt. Don Neubauer
Pvt. Jason Demas
Paramedic Kevin Molitor

Captain Tim Warren
Pvt. Bob Dunn
Paramedic Scott Keierleber

MEDIC #4

Paramedic Jeremy Allway
Paramedic Ray Torres

Paramedic Wayne Sorensen
Paramedic Kevin Noble

Paramedic Al Torres
Paramedic Ray Garner

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 5
730 Hill Avenue
851-2825
BATTALION 1 HEADQUARTERS



	SHIFT 1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT 3
BATTALION 1	Battalion Chief Jim Bergeron	Battalion Chief Don Jackson	Battalion Chief Ken Kriegbaum
ENGINE COMPANY #5	Lieutenant John Gilbert Pvt. Will Torres Paramedic Gary Krienitz	Captain Don Davids Pvt. Steve Whitmer Paramedic Dan Osman	Lieutenant Luther McDougale Paramedic Brett Svendsen Pvt. Jason Morthland
MEDIC #5	Paramedic Jerry Knizek Paramedic Jason Smith	Paramedic Steve Matthias Paramedic Dave Trammell	Paramedic Aaron Garcia Paramedic Dan Aloisio

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 7
824 Kenilworth Avenue
897-7831



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 8
100 North Gregory
898-7030



	SHIFT 1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT 3
ENGINE COMPANY #8	Lieutenant John Becker Paramedic Toby Gill Pvt. Randy Rieckert	Lieutenant Norb Weber Pvt. Clint Rafac Paramedic Javan Cross	Lieutenant Eric Mueller Pvt. Cary Lieser Paramedic Mark Long
MEDIC #8	Paramedic John Jackson Paramedic Randy Durham	Paramedic Jerry White Paramedic Bob Strange	Paramedic John Nolan Paramedic Dan Kveton
TRUCK COMPANY #6	Captain Mike Chomiak Pvt. Brian Youhannaie Pvt. Brian Radde Pvt. Steve Wedll	Lieutenant Gary Avram Pvt. Ed Clark Pvt. Jeff Herrick Paramedic Joe Bledsoe	Lieutenant Mark Robinson Pvt. Mike Zelensek Pvt. Darrin Richardson Paramedic Kevin Nickel

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 9
2339 Diehl Road
978-4675



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 10
2390 West Illinois Avenue
897-0443



	SHIFT 1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT 3
ENGINE COMPANY #10	Lieutenant Jerry Womack Pvt. Bob Warren Paramedic Jason Mosshamer	Lieutenant Dave Watson Pvt. Kevin Kubisak Paramedic John Nagy	Lt. Randy Brokaw Pvt. Jerry Groesch Pvt. Dave Hurd
MEDIC #10	Paramedic Bob Bruns Paramedic Kevin Becker	Paramedic Luanne Murray Paramedic chuck Niemeier	Paramedic Dave McCabe Paramedic Chris Kjellesvik
TRUCK COMPANY #11	Lieutenant Joe Bartholomew Pvt. Ed Heitz Pvt. Rafael Alvarez Paramedic Dave Heinke	Captain Bob Wirtz Pvt. Chuck White Pvt. Roman Azua Paramedic Jason Equi	Lieutenant Lou Popp Pvt. Marty O'Brien Pvt. Harvey Redmon Paramedic Jason Equi

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Station 12
2424 Haffenrichter Road
499-0183



	SHIFT 1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT 3
ENGINE COMPANY #12	Captain Larry Hanks Pvt. Ed Ward Paramedic Chris Oros	Lieutenant Tom Wagner, Jr. Paramedic Dan Konen Pvt. Mark Tate	Lieutenant Rick Lockman Pvt. Bob Campbell Paramedic Steve Milakis

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

IN MEMORIAM



Aurora Fire Department Captain Dan McCue of Fire Station #10 passed away on Sunday, June 19, 2005 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Captain McCue joined the department in October 1981. He served as a Paramedic on the department for 17 years. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1999 and to Captain in 2002. He is survived by his wife, Darlene, daughters Cristin and Alyssa, and sons Joey and Brian. Danny was laid to rest with full firefighter honors on June 22, 2005 at Mt. Olivet Cemetery. The Danny McCue Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in his memory and will continue his legacy of love and generosity.

The department was also saddened at the passing of several retired firefighters during 2005. Captain Tom Glass, who served on the Fire Department from 1964 until his retirement in 1997, passed away on January 12th. Captain Rich Wagner, who joined the department in April 1950 and retired in 1979, passed away on May 7th. Firefighter Tom Schuster, who served the department from 1959 until his retirement in 1982, passed away on July 3rd. Firefighter Bob Moran, who served on the Fire Department from 1982 until 1990, passed away on November 8th.