

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

75 N. BROADWAY
AURORA, IL 60505
www.aurora-il.org/firedepartment

PH: (630) 897-7821 / (630) 801-4300 FAX: (630) 897-4147

E-MAIL ADDRESS: fire@aurora-il.org

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Fire Chief Timothy Oelker

On behalf of the Aurora Fire Department personnel, I respectfully submit for review the 2007 Annual Report, an illustration of the department's most significant accomplishments of the last twelve months. Included within the 2007 Annual Report is statistical data from several divisions, which serve as examples of the department's various and diverse activities.

The Aurora Fire Department continues to embrace the Franklin Covey goal setting process by seeking the input of all members to establish its 2007 goals and, with the dedication and focus of the entire department, the Aurora Fire Department met or exceeded all of them.

On August 6, 2007 Engine 8, Medic 8 and Truck 6 moved into the new Public Safety Facility located at 3770 McCoy Drive. The new building also houses the 264-INFO Call Center and a Community Resource Center. This is a facility the City and its citizens will be proud of for years to come.

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

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Deputy Chief Hal Carlson

With the continued support of City Administration, the Aurora Fire Department responded to over 16,400 calls for fire/rescue and EMS services in 2007.

The long-awaited completion of Fire Station #8 on the East side of Aurora took place on August 6th when firefighters moved into the new facility. A grand opening celebration was held in October 2007. This facility replaces the former Fire Station #8 at McCoy and Gregory and also houses the City's Customer Services Call Center and a Community Center.

The City and the Aurora Fire Department continued to support the Regional Training Facility run by the Southern Kane County Training Association and located on Butterfield Road in North Aurora.

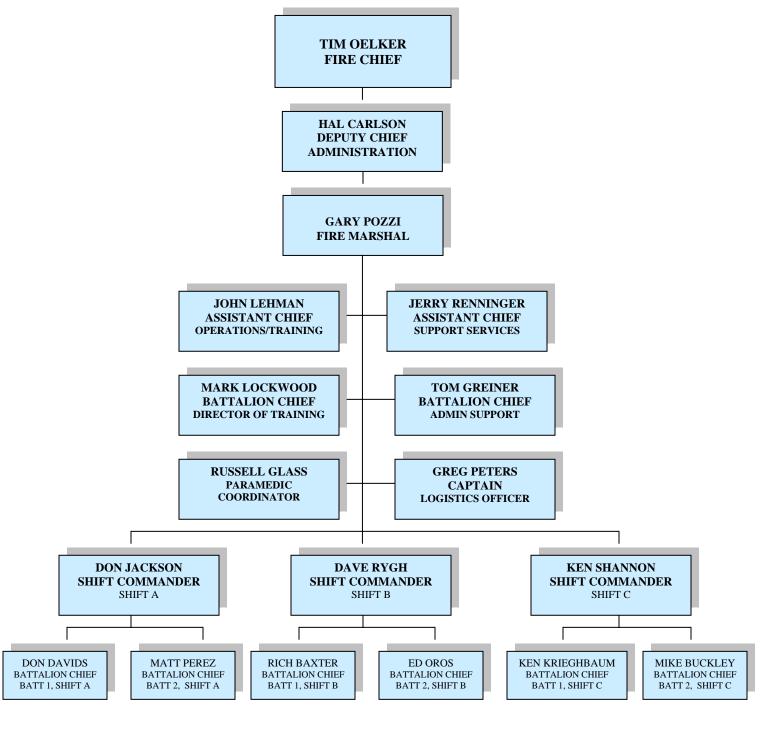
The Aurora Fire Department successfully completed all three of our Wildly Important Goal (WIGs) for 2007, which were enthusiastically supported by our employees. These included goals in the area of Employee Fitness, Professional Growth and Development, and Neighborhood Enhancement in the McCarty Park Area by providing smoke/carbon monoxide detectors.

Five new firefighters began their employment in October 2007, bringing the department's sworn personnel to 207 at the close of the year.

Deputy Chief Hal Carlson

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STAFF PERSONNEL



FIRE DEPARTMENT INCIDENTS

	2006 CALLS	2007 CALLS	CHANGE
EMS - One Medic Unit Response (Advanced Life Support)	10,951	11,835	+ 7%
STILL ALARMS- One Engine Response (Vehicles, Lockouts, Brush, Rubbish, or Other Fire Outside of Structure)	1,747	1,783	+ 2%
FULL STILL ALARMS - Two Engines, One Truck Automatic Fire Alarms; Office, Commercial, Residential)	1,107	1,223	+ 10%
BOX ALARMS - Two Engines, One Truck, One Medic, One Command Officer (Structure Fires; Residential, Commercial, Mercantile)	365	374	+ 2%
HAZ-MAT	308	284	- 7%
CARBON MONOXIDE - One Truck or One Engine	257	534	+ 10%
EXTRICATIONS - One Engine, One Truck, One Medic, Command Officer	101	90	- 10%
WATER INCIDENTS - Two Engines, One Truck, One Medic, Rescue 23, Command Officer	4	5	+25%
RELEASE - One Truck (Rescue, Lock-Outs, Etc.)	277	180	- 35%
TECHNICAL – Two Engines, One Truck, One Squad, Rescue One, One Medic, Command Officer	0	1	+100%
TOTAL CALLS	15,117	15,294	+ 1%
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROPERTY LOSS	\$2,401,178.	\$2,364,603	- 2%
TOTAL ESTIMATED CONTENTS LOSS	\$ 792,660.	\$630,954.	- 20%
FIREFIGHTER DEATHS FIREFIGHTER INJURIES CIVILIAN DEATHS CIVILIAN INJURIES	0 96 1 7	0 51 1 1	

Dispatched Emergency Responses By Fire Station 2007

	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	298	199	187	219	172	278	209	167	270
FULL STILL ALARMS	615	366	335	234	312	377	218	289	218
BOX ALARMS	234	206	122	219	95	111	51	91	76
HAZ-MAT	65	38	36	40	25	44	33	26	28
CARBON MONOXIDE	171	4	12	17	0	214	48	89	32
EXTRICATIONS	64	38	38	55	4	28	20	15	5
WATER INCIDENTS	5	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	1
RELEASE	141	3	0	0	0	22	1	23	3
LOCKOUTS	48	0	2	0	0	88	3	17	10
TECH RESCUES	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
MEDICAL EMERGS	3,155	2,170	2,104	2,401	1,202	1,842	865	1,605	545
TOTAL	4,796	2,927	2,839	3,187	1,813	2,926	1,450	2,325	1,188
TOTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSES IN 2007:					23,451	_			

CALLS PER UNIT

	_	2006	2007	CHANGE
ENGINE COMPANY	ENGINE 1	1,261	1,329	+ 5%
RESPONSES	ENGINE 3	849	922	+ 8%
RESI CIUSES	ENGINE 4	982	1,017	+ 4%
	ENGINE 5	768	865	+ 13%
	ENGINE 7	1,641	1,813	+ 10%
	ENGINE 8	1,045	1,146	+ 10%
	ENGINE 9	1,463	1,450	-1 %
	ENGINE 10	818	831	+ 2%
	ENGINE 11	1,062	1,103	+ 4%
TRUCK COMPANY	TRUCK 2	1,142	1,363	+ 19%
RESPONSES	TRUCK 6	765	963	+ 26%
	TRUCK 11	527	550	+ 4%
MEDIC UNIT	MEDIC 1	3,070	3,154	+ 3%
RESPONSES	MEDIC 3	2,021	2,229	+ 10%
	MEDIC 4	2,096	2,149	+ 3%
	MEDIC 5	2,107	2,428	+ 15%
	MEDIC 8	1,662	1,814	+ 9%
	MEDIC 10	1,521	1,573	+ 3%
BATTALION CHIEF	BATT 1	399	445	+ 11%
RESPONSES	BATT 2	382	389	+ 2%
	CAR 24	72	83	+ 15%

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2007 Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation Notice of Monthly Findings

MONTH	LESS THAN 10 P.P.M.	10 P.P.M. OR MORE	100 P.P.M. OR MORE	TOTAL
JANUARY	31	8	1	40
FEBRUARY	53	16	2	71
MARCH	15	14	0	29
APRIL	14	5	0	19
MAY	14	7	1	22
JUNE	14	9	1	24
JULY	24	9	1	34
AUGUST	27	9	2	38
SEPTEMBER	11	15	1	27
OCTOBER	29	18	0	47
NOVEMBER	31	23	3	57
DECEMBER	50	28	2	80
2007 TOTALS	313	161	14	488

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FIRE MARSHAL GARY POZZI

2007 INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU		FIRE COMPANIES	
Routine Inspections	99	Routine Inspections	3,428
Re-Inspections	34	Re-Inspections	434
Special Inspections (Includes referrals,			
complaints, COA's, hazmat, tanks & misc)	601	Complaint Inspections	32
Construction (Includes construction, tents,			
trailers, CO's)	84		
TOTAL	818	TOTAL	3,894

TOTAL 2007 INSPECTIONS = 4,712

2007 PERMITS ISSUED

Installation of Above- and Below-Ground Fuel Tanks	22
Building Fire Suppression Systems	173
Building Fire Alarm Systems	203
Building Hood Suppression Systems	13
Operational Permits (Propane, Hazardous Material, Assembly)	58
Tent	31
Fireworks	9
Open Burning	38
Outdoor Fireplaces	98
TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED	645



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU - 2007

(continued)

	FIRE PREVENTION	FIRE
OTHER ACTIVITIES - 2007 FIRE PROTECTION (Includes fire test, fire suppression, evacuation plans)	<u>BUREAU</u> 88	COMPANIES
PLAN REVIEWS	6	
FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS	16	350
FIRE DRILLS	16	174
HYDRANT FLOW TESTS	2	1,959
LOCK BOXES SOLD	102	
VIOLATIONS ISSUED (Blocked exits, blocked corridors, failure to comply)	73	
ALARM RESPONSES BY FIRE COMPANIES		1,429
FALSE FIRE ALARM VIOLATIONS:		
Chargeable – No Fine Issued	321	
Chargeable – Fine Issued	276	
Not Chargeable	751	
Cooking Food	81	
CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR ACTIVATIONS		488

During Fire Prevention Month in October 2007, the Aurora Fire Department presented 189 Fire Prevention Programs to 7,318 children and adults and 39 tours to 1,431 citizens.

Members of the Fire Prevention Bureau had several opportunities to provide fire safety information to the public during their 98 hours of volunteer service. They participated in Downtown Alive, the Phillips Park Fall Festival, Team Firestopper, and Bring Your Child to Work Day.



Sparky the Fire Dog entertained youngsters who participated in the City's "Bring Your Child to Work" Day events.



Thanks to the West Galena Wal-Mart store for their generous \$2,000 donation to purchase fire prevention materials for Aurora schools.



Firefighters Javan Cross and Chuck Przybylski gave a tour to students and teachers from Johnson School in Aurora during Fire Prevention Month.

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 2007, the Aurora Fire Department responded to over 16,475 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.

The Aurora Fire Department has teamed with MABAS Division XIII to provide Hazardous Materials coverage to the Division.

The Aurora Fire Department has a vested interest in the Southern Kane County Training Association. In 2007 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 2007, with the creation of the can prop and hundreds of hours of use of the burn tower. The Aurora Fire Department sees this as a valuable training tool for the future of our organization.

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 2008 for the men and women of the Aurora Fire Department.

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BUILDINGS & GROUNDS



ASSISTANT CHIEF JERRY RENNINGER SUPPORT SERVICES

In addition to routine maintenance, various projects were completed by vendors or department personnel at the following stations:

C1 10 1	D C	•
Station I	ROOT rang	1110
Station 1	Roof repa	шъ

South apron concrete replacement

Fire alarm system upgrade

Nederman Exhaust System installations

C1 1 1	•	TZ*, 1	1 1
Station 3	•	K 1tchen	remodel
Dianon .	,	IXICIICII	ICIIIOUCI

Station 4 Routine maintenance

Station 5 Routine maintenance

Station 7 Routine maintenance

Concrete replacement project at Central Fire Station in September 2007 (above)

Station 8 Took occupancy of new building on August 6, 2007

Station 9 Routine maintenance

Station 10 Furnace replacement for living quarters

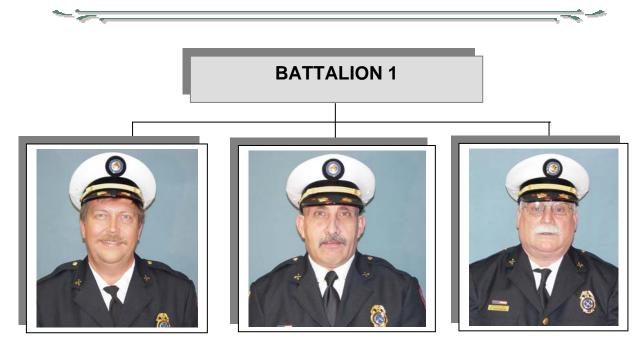
Station 12 Routine maintenance

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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.





Battalion Chief Don Davids Shift A

Battalion Chief Rich Baxter Shift B

Battalion Chief Ken Krieghbaum Shift C



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TRAINING DIVISION



BATTALION CHIEF MARK LOCKWOOD

In October 2007 five new recruits began their careers with the Aurora Fire Department. They completed a seven-week Firefighter II program through the Southern Kane County Training Association, as well as 40 hours of Hazardous Materials Operations training. 2007 was the first year of a pilot "Mentorship" program, in which a veteran Firefighter is matched with a recruit in order to assist the recruit in preparing for the practical skills exam, familiarize them with the department's Orders and SOPs, as well as the culture and traditions of the fire service.

Department members were offered a variety of classes and training opportunities in 2007. Firefighters amassed 74,109 hours of regular quarterly scheduled training, Our department was able to utilize several buildings on River Street, owned by Waubonsee Community College, for training in the areas of forcible entry, ventilation, breeching, and other firefighting skills. A department-wide trench awareness class was held on the future site of the new Aurora Police Department headquarters on East Indian Trail. A representative of Live Line Demo delivered a demonstration and safety talk on utility power lines and transformers.



In connection with the City of Aurora's W.I.G. for personal development training, department members set a goal of completing 812 hours of training above and beyond the department's scheduled

training hours. Firefighters attended classes, courses and seminars *on their own time* to eclipse the 812-hour goal to a total of 2,388 hours within the year.



At left, training was conducted in late June 2007 at the site of the future Waubonsee Community College on River Street in downtown Aurora.



Live fire training was conducted at Indian Trail & Mitchell Road in June 2007 (above)

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 has established a regional training facility at 300 Butterfield Road in North Aurora. This facility is open and is being used by its members and associate members, as well as a host for Illinois Fire Service Institute and Southern Kane County Training Association classes.

2007 was the first full year of our access to the Southern Kane County Training Association's 5-story burn tower, and approximately 1,240 man hours of live burn training was held at the facility. Additional training was conducted at the facility's "Can Prop", used for non-burn training such as laddering, SCBA, and forcible entry.

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





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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 Department 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. 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 Grants Coordinator and Grievance Officer for the Department.

In 2007 the Aurora Fire Department was awarded an equipment grant from the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP). This program is sponsored and funded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the National Preparedness Directorate. The equipment awarded is an Incident Command Kit consisting of a laptop computer, three PDAs, and software. This equipment will support command post operations during an incident involving hazardous materials or weapons of mass destruction.

LOGISTICS OFFICER

As Logistics Officer for the Department, Captain Greg Peters 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 Peters is responsible for the administration of the clothing and protective equipment replacement program, including the authorization and disbursement of issued clothing and equipment.



Captain Greg Peters Logistics Officer

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.

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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 2007. The EMS Strategic Plan, EMT testing, and Tactical EMS rules were just a few of our objectives for the year. Paramedics responded to 12,555 calls for assistance related to ambulance operations and treated 11,041 individuals in 2007. In addition, 3 Alternate Response Vehicles (ARVs) made 2,491 responses to assist the EMS Division in treatment and transport of the sick and injured. 93 Paramedics, 86 EMT/Basics, and 18 First Responders served the City of Aurora at the close of 2007.

In April 2007, the EMS Division placed twelve Rad-57 carbon monoxide monitors into service. In May, Paramedics acquired two new devices and skills involving adult intraosseous infusions, and continuous positive airway pressure (or C-Pap). These new devices will improve our ability to provide state of the art treatments for our citizens.

In October 2007 the department placed a fourth ARV engine into service.

Two EMT/Basics successfully completed the Paramedic Program at the Southern Fox Valley EMS System in August 2007 and passed the Illinois Department of Public Health exam.



Night gone bad at West Aurora High School on May 11, 2007. The event provided students a visual reminder of the dangers of drinking and driving.

The Aurora Fire Department CPR Team certified 608 individuals in 2007. Members of the EMS Division attended numerous school science fairs, community groups, business and career day events, and talked with over 1,300 students regarding Fire Department careers in 2007. The EMS Division supported a number of local events during the year, such as Downtown Alive, the Aurora Sports Festival, and Aurora University's football and commencement events. Aurora Fire Department ambulances and Paramedics covered EMS details at numerous Aurora high school football games throughout the year.

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CIVILIAN STAFF

CENTRAL FIRE STATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE



Dixie Gump Office Coordinator



Linda Hansen Administrative Secretary



Roseann Hernandez Administrative Secretary

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU



Marty Wolding Fire Inspector



Jon Spanu Fire Inspector



Anna Ishmael Fire Inspector



Irene Pelan Administrative Secretary

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TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM



Battalion Chief Mark Lockwood, Team Leader

The Aurora Fire Department Technical Rescue Team is comprised of 21 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*.



Members of the Aurora Fire Department trained in trench rescue at the site of the future Aurora Police Department Headquarters on East Indian Trail.

SHIFT 1

Lt. Don Jackley, Shift Leader

Lt. Tim Pogue Rafael Alvarez Chris Oros Chris Temes Will Torres

SHIFT 2

Lt. Dave Watson, Shift Leader

Batt Chief Tom Greiner Randy Leek Dwayne Love Clint Rafac John Ross

SHIFT 3

Capt. Randy Brokaw, Shift Leader

Lt. Pete Doyle Lt. Cletus Rettenmeier 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 Hazardous Materials Team (HMRT) has 30 members, with 23 at the Tech B level, seven at the Tech A level, ten with chemistry training, and nine with ICS training. Eleven of our team members instruct at the Southern Kane County Training Association and three of our members teach at the Haz-Mat Division of the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Three new members were added to replace personnel who resigned from the team. The Aurora Fire Department 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, have recently formed a Division-wide team that includes 72 members.

In 2007 the Aurora Fire Department responded to 284 hazardous materials response calls, including spills, leaks and unknowns. 234 of these calls were Level 1 responses (one Company response) and 50 were multi-unit responses, which included natural gas leaks and multi-company odor investigations.

The Aurora Fire Department HMRT conducts monthly training drills, including suit training, use of monitors, tabletop drills, and a department-wide decontamination drill. Four mandatory MABAS 13 Haz-Mat drills are held each year for all division personnel.

The MABAS Division 13 team (5 members from the Aurora Fire Department and 7 other members from other division departments) attended a 33-hour Validation Drill in Champaign on June 27th and 28th. Five other teams from Illinois also participated. All the teams attending were tested in their capabilities to respond to Haz-Mat spills and leaks. Independent Evaluators rated the Division 13 Team as above-average.



SHIFT 1 SHIFT 2 SHIFT 3

Batt Chief Don Davids, Shift Leader

Lt. John Becker
Pete Bray
Dave Heinke
Jason Larson
Jason Mosshamer
Tim Schomer
Paul Smith
Todd McChurch

Capt. Andy Silagyi, Shift Leader

Capt. Mark Robinson
Capt. Bob Wirtz
Lt. Gary Avram
Marty O'Brien
Phil Bergeron
Jason Demas
Steve Koeberl
Clint Rafac
John Ross
Bob Strange

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Lt. Steve Kish, Shift Leader

Capt. Mike McCue
Lt. Pete Doyle
Dave Hurd
Harvey Redmon
Scott Schuster
Tom Shore
Chuck VanHorn

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FIRE INVESTIGATION DIVISION



FIRE MARSHAL GARY POZZI, ARSON COORDINATOR

The Aurora Fire Department Investigations Bureau investigated 58 fires during 2007. Fires listed as suspicious, undetermined or incendiary resulted in losses in excess of \$2.4 million dollars.

Five arrests were made in 2007. Law enforcement agencies that assisted the Aurora Fire Department included 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

Dave Heinke James Lobbins Aaron Stawikowski SHIFT 2

Steve Whitmer, Lead Investigator

Lt. Gary Avram Lt. Steve Weatherly Jason Morthland SHIFT 3

Matt Anslow, Lead Investigator

Javan Cross Corey Fryer Steve Wedll

JUVENILE FIRESETTER PROGRAM



Battalion Chief Ed Oros Lead Investigator

During 2007, members of the department who are trained in the area of Juvenile Firesetting counseled nine youths who were known to have started fires, one of which resulted in a small monetary loss. Four cases were responses from fire calls responded to by our department, four cases were referrals from local agencies, and one was court-appointed. Three of these youths were referred for professional counseling at a higher level. For the fifth consecutive year, there was a significant reduction in the number of fires started by juveniles. We believe this is due to 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 fires. We provide an educational program designed for their level of understanding. In some cases, other agencies are asked to assist or intervene.

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
Battalion Chief Ed Oros
Jeff Herrick
Jim Rhodes
Ric Torres
Jason Morthland

SHIFT 3 TEAM MEMBERS

Aaron Garcia Chris Kjellesvik Craig Mateski David McCabe

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WATER RESCUE TEAM



Captain Mike McCue, Dive Team Leader

The Aurora Fire Department Water Rescue Team ended 2007 with a roster of 23 active team members. We salute the service of Lt. John Becker (25 years served), Battalion Chief Dave Rygh (20 years served), and Lt. John Gilbert (10 years served). The dedication and service they provided as members of the Water Rescue Team was invaluable and they will be missed.

In 2007 the services of the Water Rescue Team were once again heavily called upon to assist local and outlying law enforcement agencies for weapons and evidence recovery. The Water Rescue Team also assisted Sugar Grove with the findings of a water recovery involving a drowning victim. The Water Rescue Team also assisted the department's Haz-Mat Team in stopping a chemical resin spill from entering the Fox River.



Members of the Aurora Fire Dept Water Rescue Team participated in the Lynwood Dive Team Challenge on September 15, 2007.

Six new divers were added to the team in 2007. They received training in pool and open water to attain their certifications as Public Safety Divers. They also received training in dry suits, an important piece of equipment during most diver operations. The team once again took runners-up honors at the Lynwood Fire Department Dive Team Challenge held in September.

SHIFT 1

Lt. Tim Pogue, Shift Leader

Capt. Norb Weber Lt. John Gilbert Lt. Jim Maynard Marcos Coronado Randy Kramp Mark Matkovich Todd McChurch Will Torres SHIFT 2

Lt. Steve Chivari, Shift Leader

Alan Backhaus Jason Demas Kevin Molitor Jim Rhodes Rob Sittler SHIFT 3

Capt. Mike McCue, Shift Leader

Lt. Steve Kish Bob Chance Jason Equi Bob Kulovitz Kevin Nickel Chuck Przybylski Chuck VanHorn

COMMUNICATIONS / TECHNICAL SUPPORT



Assistant Chief Jerry Renninger Support Services

The Aurora Fire Department is a big part of the City's fiber optic project. Each fire station, along with many other City of Aurora buildings, has had fiber optics connected into the buildings to establish a Citywide network. The construction of the project was started in 2007 and expected to be operational early- to midyear of 2008. This will have the potential to improve voice and data communications throughout the Fire Department, bring video conferencing a large step closer to becoming a reality, and provide more efficient connections to all other City buildings.

The Northeastern Illinois Communications Consortium (NICC), which includes the Aurora Fire Department, continues to work toward the next generation of the digital communication system.

A program was begun in 2007 to replace aging laptop computers. Ten of the department's 23 laptops have

been replaced to date. Evaluations and improvements in both software and hardware are ongoing throughout the year and they are addressed as needed.

Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) project, which will aid in reducing an emergency response time to our citizens by dispatching the closest unit through the CAD System., resumed in 2007.

The Emergency Vehicle Preemption project continued throughout the year and should be completed within the near future.



Cynthia Malatia, City of Aurora MIS Department, provides technical support to the Aurora Fire Department.

VEHICLES AND APPARATUS

A new Battalion 1 vehicle, a 2007 Ford Expedition, was put into service in 2007.





Car #28, a 2007 Chevrolet Van, was put into service as a Training / Utility van in 2007.



FIRE DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



Pastor Gerald Rygh, former Pastor of St. Mark's 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.

Chaplain Rygh regularly rides along in both battalions and gives spiritual guidance necessary to our diversified department.



FIRE DEPARTMENT HONOR GUARD

50 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 Awards Ceremony and the traveling World Trade Center Memorial. Two members of the AFD Honor Guard have been inducted into the AFFI (Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois) Honor Guard.



2007 APPOINTMENTS / PROMOTIONS



Richard Baxter joined the department in November 1981. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1994 and to Captain in 1999. He was appointed Battalion Chief on February 3, 2007.

Andy Silagyi joined the department in September 1990. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2002. His promotion to Captain was effective January 20, 2007.

Dan Konen joined the department in August 1989. His promotion to Lieutenant was effective January 20, 2007.

Pictured above (left to right) are Battalion Chief Rich Baxter, Fire Chief Tim Oelker, Captain Andy Silagyi and Lt. Dan Konen. They were honored at a reception on February 8, 2007.

Don Davids joined the department in August 1989. He was promoted to Lieutenant in January 2001 and to captain in June 2005. He was appointed to the position of Battalion Chief on April 13, 2007.

Norb Weber joined the department tin April 1983. He was promoted to Lieutenant in April 2003. His promotion to Captain was effective April 13, 2007.

Toby Gill joined the department in April 1994. His promotion to Lieutenant was effective April 13, 2007.



Pictured above (left to right) are Lt. Toby Gill, Captain Norb Weber, Battalion Chief Don Davids and Fire Chief Tim Oelker. They were honored at a reception on April 12, 2007.



2007 RETIREMENTS

Two Firefighters, Battalion Chief Dale Hoorelbek and Battalion Chief Jim Bergeron retired on regular pensions during 2007.



Battalion Chief Dale Hoorelbek (pictured at left) retired on January 19, 2007 after 30 years and 9 months of service. He served as a Paramedic on the department for 8 years (from 1979 until 1987) and was appointed to the rank of Battalion Chief when the Aurora Fire Department adopted the 2- Battalion System in July 2000.

Chief Bergeron (pictured at right) retired on April 12, 2007 after 30 years and one month of service. served as a Paramedic on the department for 26 years (from 1981 until his retirement). He was the department's first Paramedic Coordinator (1989 until 1994) and was appointed to the rank of Battalion Chief in July 2003.



2007 NEW HIRES



Five firefighter recruits began their employment with the Aurora Fire Department on October 8, 2007. Shown (at left) being sworn in by Aurora City Clerk Cheryl Vonhoff, are (I-r), Nicholas Handell, Jason Matile, David Christenson, Michael Chomiak III and Andrew Smith. They completed their training through the Southern Kane County Training Association and were assigned to 24-hour shifts in mid-December 2007.

The Fire Prevention Bureau added a new parttime Fire Inspector, Anna Ishmael, in September 2007. A new part-time Administrative Secretary, Roseann Hernandez, joined the department in March 2007.

- DECEMBER 2007 –

207 Sworn Uniformed Fire Department Members 3 Civilian Fire Inspectors

4 Secretaries

214 Total Fire Department Personnel

2007 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR



On October 30, 2007 the Aurora Exchange Club hosted the annual Firefighter of the Year award ceremony and luncheon at North Island Center in Aurora. Pictured at left are: Bill Nutter, Aaron Stawikowski, Mark Matkovich, Kevin Becker, Captain Tim Bradley, Lt. John Schick and Battalion Chief Don Davids (not pictured: Jeff Smitley)

The featured speaker at the Event was 83rd District State Representative Linda Chapa LaVia.
Pictured at right is Battalion Chief Don Davids.

Nominees for Aurora's 2007 Firefighter of the Year were:

- ➤ Captain Tim Bradley for his actions on August 23, 2007, when he responded from Station #9 while off duty to a call for a young male who was unconscious and not breathing.
- ➤ Kevin Becker for his actions on September 17, 2007 at Fire Station #10 when he revived a choking child.
- ➤ Bill Nutter, Jeff Smitley, Lt. John Schick, Mark Matkovich and Aaron Stawikowski for their life-saving actions on April 2, 2007 when treating the victim of an accidental self-inflicted gunshot wound.
- ➤ Battalion Chief Don Davids for his actions on April 29, 2007 to a runner suffering a heart attack during a 5K race

Battalion Chief Don Davids (pictured at right) was presented with the Exchange Club of Aurora's 2007 Firefighter of the Year Award. Don joined the department in August 1989 and has served as a Paramedic on the department for the past 17 years. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in January 2001 and to Captain in June 2005. He was appointed to the rank of Battalion Chief on April 13, 2007. Battalion Chief Davids is a Certified Firefighter III, Fire Officer I and Instructor I. He is a member of the department's Hazardous Materials Team as well as the Water Rescue Team.

PROVENA MERCY "RUN OF THE YEAR"

Aurora's Provena Mercy Center announced their "Run of the Year" at the 9th Annual Chief's Dinner held May 21, 2007. Paramedics on the April 2, 2007 call were Bill Nutter, Jeff Smitley, Aaron Stawikowski and Mark Matkovich with assistance from Lt. John Schick. The call was for an elderly gentleman who suffered an accidental self-inflicted gunshot wound to the leg. The level of expertise shown by these firefighters resulted in the patient being discharged home in eight days with full mental and physical capabilities. Provena Mercy's Run of the Year Award Dinner acknowledges excellence in pre-hospital care.

Pictured at right are: Lt. John Schick, Aaron Stawikowski, Bill Nutter and Mark Matkovich.

Jeff Smitley was unable to attend.





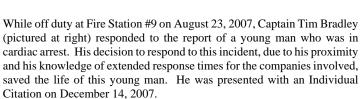
AWARDS & COMMENDATIONS



An Awards Committee was formed in 2007 to honor Aurora Firefighters for their actions above and beyond the call of duty. The following individuals received commendations during 2007:



As a member of Engine Company #7 on August 31, 2007, Pvt. Jason Larson (pictured at left) was dispatched to a report of an elderly female who was choking. After finding her unconscious and not breathing, Pvt. Larson successfully performed the Heimlich Maneuver and freed an obstructed airway. He was presented with a Letter of Recognition on November 28, 2007.





DISTINGUISHED EAGLE SCOUT AWARD





Aurora Fire Chief Tim Oelker was presented with the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award by the Boy Scouts of America at the February 27, 2007 Aurora City Council Meeting. The DESA is awarded to an Eagle Scout who has demonstrated distinguished service in his profession and to the community for a period of at least 25 years after earning Eagle Scout. Since it's introduction in 1969, the DESA has been awarded to fewer than 2,000 Eagle Scouts nationwide. Chief Oelker earned his Eagle Scout in 1965 as a member of Troop 13 at Allen School in Aurora.

EXPLORER POST #99



Firefighter Jim Rhodes, Lead Advisor

The Aurora Fire Department Explorer Post #99 entered its seventh year and welcomed several new members as seven former Explorers graduated and have now become Associate Advisors with the Post. In 2007, members of Explorer Post #99 decided to establish their own Wildly Important Goals (W.I.G.S.) to help keep the Post moving in a positive direction. The W.I.G.S. they created are as follows:

- To raise \$9,000 through fundraising
- > To have 50% of the Post members complete a fitness assessment test with Silver achievement or higher
- ➤ To have 80% of the Post members HIPPA-certified
- To have 60% of the Post members become CPR-certified by the end of the Post year (June 2008)

In June 2007 six Explorers, along with three Advisors, traveled to the Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign to participate in the 2007 National Fire and Emergency Services Exploring Competition. Teams competed in events including CPR, room search, ladder raising, SCBA and bunker gear drills, wildfire shelter deployment, hose loading, written exams, initial size-up and incident command, and Candidate Physical Ability Testing. Post #99 brought home the First Place trophy in the Team Ladder Raise Drill and Battalion Chief Jeff Kerly placed first in Initial Size-Up and Incident Command. There were over 500 participants from Explorer Posts across the United States.

In October 2007 former Explorers Dave Christenson and Jason Matile began their employment with the City of Aurora Fire Department and attended the fire academy at the Southern Kane County Training Association along with three other recruits. This brings to three the number of past Explorers from Post #99 who are now employed as Aurora Firefighters.



Pictured above (I-r) Fire Chief Tim Oelker and Explorer Scouts Eric Rayford, Anthony Williams, Rob Baneck, and Jeff Kerly accept a panoramic aerial photograph of the 2007 National Fire & Emergency Services Exploring Conference held in June at the IFSI in Champaign. Presenting the photograph is Greg Fisher, Cornerstone Program Director. Explorer Scouts who attended but not pictured are Chad Strange and Brian Cordes.

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



Central Fire Station

75 North Broadway (630) 897-7821

SHIFT 2

SHIFT 3

SHIFT 1

Pvt. Keith O'Donnell

ENGINE COMPANY #1	Lieutenant John Schick	Lieutenant Steve Weatherly	Captain Mike McCue
	Paramedic Mark Matkovich	Pvt. Mark Classen	Paramedic Bob Kulovitz
	Pvt. Aaron Stawikowski	Paramedic Jim Rhodes	Pvt. Carlos Coronado
MEDIC #1	Paramedic Bill Nutter	Paramedic Jim Podbregar	Paramedic Chuck VanHorn
	Paramedic Jeff Smitley	Paramedic John Bonior	Paramedic Nathan Costner
TRUCK COMPANY #2	Captain Steve Malatia	Lieutenant Steve Chivari	Lieutenant Glen Hasenheyer
	Pvt. Will Torres	Pvt. Marty O'Brien	Pvt. Chuck Przybylski
	Pvt. Steve Buono	Pvt. Eric Calkins	Paramedic Javan Cross
	Paramedic Paul Smith	Paramedic Phil Bergeron	Pvt. Steve Wedll
ROVING PERSONNEL	Captain Norb Weber	Captain Mike Chomiak	Captain Randy Brokaw
	Lieutenant Kevin Kubisak	Lieutenant Chuck Wonderling	Lieutenant Steve Kish
	Lieutenant Jim Maynard	Lieutenant Toby Gill	Lieutenant Dan Konen
	Pvt. Randy Kramp	Pvt. Steve Koeberl	Paramedic John Eul
	Paramedic Shawn Clements	Pvt. Alan Backhaus	Paramedic Corey Fryer
8 8	Paramedic Todd McChurch	Pvt. Mike Eley	Pvt. Tomas Contreras
	Paramedic Dan Stroup	Pvt. Mike Hess	Pvt. Tim Bergeron
	Pvt. Marcos Coronado	Paramedic Jeff Dehler	Paramedic Dan Ahasic
	Pvt. Abe Sprinkle	Paramedic Rob Sittler	Paramedic Robin Krantz
	Pvt. Mike Kaufman	Pvt. Dan Bateman	Pvt. Tom Shore



Station 3
600 New Indian Trail
(630) 897-7823
Battalion 2 Headquarters

	SHIFT 1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT 3
BATTALION 2	Battalion Chief Matt Perez	Battalion Chief Ed Oros	Battalion Chief Mike Buckley
ENGINE COMPANY #3	Lieutenant Steve Oros, Jr.	Lieutenant Joe Franzen	Captain Al Judd
	Paramedic Tim Schomer	Pvt. Roman Azua	Pvt. Dennis Schmitz
A CHICAGO	Pvt. Steve Szilage	Paramedic Kris Tappendorf	Paramedic Bob Chance
MEDIC #3	Paramedic Pete Hoffman	Paramedic Dwayne Love	Paramedic Jim Rufer
	Paramedic John Paul	Paramedic Brandon Matson	Paramedic Greg Jackman

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



Station 4

800 Michels Avenue (630) 898-3655

	SHIFT 1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT 3
ENGINE COMPANY #4	Lt. Jack Westphall	Lt. Don Neubauer	Captain Tim Warren
	Paramedic James Lobbins	Pvt. Dan Darce	Pvt. Bob Dunn
	Pvt. John Barrett	Paramedic Kevin Molitor	Paramedic Scott Keierleber
MEDIC #4	Paramedic Jeremy Allway	Paramedic Steve Matthias	Paramedic Al Torres
	Paramedic Ray Torres	Paramedic Kevin Noble	Paramedic Kevin Nickel



Station 5
730 Hill Avenue
(630) 851-2825
Battalion 1 Headquarters

		SHIFT 3
Battalion Chief Don Davids	Battalion Chief Rich Baxter	Battalion Chief Ken Krieghbaun
Lieutenant John Gilbert	Captain Andy Silagyi	Lieutenant Luther McDougle
Pvt. Gary Krienitz	Pvt. Steve Whitmer	Pvt. Mark Long
Paramedic Pete Bray	Paramedic Dave Trammell	Paramedic Matt Anslow
Paramedic Jerry Knizek	Paramedic Wayne Sorensen	Paramedic Dan Aloisio
Paramedic Shawn Hagie	Paramedic John Ross	Paramedic Brett Svendsen
5	0	0 5
	Lieutenant John Gilbert Pvt. Gary Krienitz Paramedic Pete Bray Paramedic Jerry Knizek	Lieutenant John Gilbert Pvt. Gary Krienitz Paramedic Pete Bray Paramedic Dave Trammell Paramedic Jerry Knizek Paramedic Shawn Hagie Paramedic John Ross



Station 7 824 Kenilworth Avenue (630) 897-7831





Station 8 3770 McCoy Drive (630) 801-4350

	SHIFT 1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT 3
ENGINE COMPANY #8	Captain Greg Mewmaw	Lieutenant Jerry Groesch	Lieutenant Eric Mueller
	Pvt. Randy Rieckert	Paramedic Clint Rafac	Pvt. Cary Lieser
	Paramedic Dave Heinke	Paramedic Jim DeSomer	Paramedic Tony Nelson
MEDIC #8	Paramedic John Jackson	Paramedic Bob Strange	Paramedic John Nolan
	Paramedic Chris Temes	Paramedic Joe Bledsoe	Paramedic Dan Kveton
TRUCK COMPANY #6	Lt. John Becker	Lieutenant Gary Avram	Lieutenant Ron Thomalla
	Pvt. Ed Heitz	Pvt. Ed Clark	Pvt. Mike Zelensek
	Pvt. Randy Durham	Pvt. Jeff Herrick	Pvt. Darrin Richardson
	Pvt. Brian Radde	Paramedic Jason Morthland	Pvt. Scott Schuster



Station 9 2339 Diehl Road (630) 978-4675





Station 10 2390 West Illinois Avenue (630) 897-0443

	SHIFT 1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT 3
ENGINE COMPANY #10	Lieutenant Tim Pogue	Captain Bob Wirtz	Lt. Pete Doyle
	Pvt. Bob Warren	Paramedic Jerry White	Pvt. Angelo Minneci
	Paramedic Jason Mosshamer	Pvt. Steve Szilage, Sr.	Paramedic Steve Milakis
MEDIC #10	Paramedic Bob Bruns	Paramedic Luanne Murray	Paramedic Dave McCabe
	Paramedic Kevin Becker	Paramedic Chuck Niemeier	Paramedic Chris Kjellesvik
TRUCK COMPANY #11	Lieutenant Joe Bartholomew	Lieutenant Dave Watson	Lieutenant Lou Popp
	Pvt. Brian Youhanaie	Pvt. Chuck White	Pvt. Harvey Redmon
	Pvt. Rafael Alvarez	Pvt. Randy Leek	Pvt. Dave Hurd
	Pvt. Chris Prieboy	Pvt. Felix Coronado	Paramedic Jason Equi



Station 12 2424 Haffenrichter Road (630) 499-0183

