



**AURORA
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**2008
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

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

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Fire Chief Timothy Oelker

On behalf of the Aurora Fire Department personnel, I respectfully submit for review the 2008 Annual Report, an illustration of the department's most significant accomplishments of the last twelve months. Included within the 2008 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 2008 goals and, with the dedication and focus of the entire department, the Aurora Fire Department met or exceeded all of them. One of the Fire Department's 2008 WIGs was the establishment of a Customer Service Survey. Since its implementation in the fall of 2008, we have received 298 responses from members of the public who have used our Fire and/or EMS services. These surveys allow us to identify areas needing improvement and provide positive feedback to our members.

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

The Aurora Fire Department responded to over 16,300 calls for fire/rescue and EMS services in 2008. The approved Fire Department budget of \$33,364,996 for the year 2008 illustrates the commitment and support given by our City leaders. These resources gave the department the ability to provide the highest quality of public service to the citizens of Aurora and it's visitors.

The Aurora Fire Department purchased three new vehicles in 2008, which replaced older front line units. A new command vehicle for Battalion 2, a new ambulance for Medic 10, and a new Arson van (R-20) were all procured with gaming tax funds.

The trend for more EMS services continues with over 70% of the annual calls requiring an ambulance response. The department, therefore, has created the position of EMS Support Officer, from existing manpower, to assist the Paramedic Coordinator.

The City and the Aurora Fire Department were able to continue their support of the Southern Kane County Training Association with SHAPE funds. This regional Training Facility is located on Butterfield Road in North Aurora.

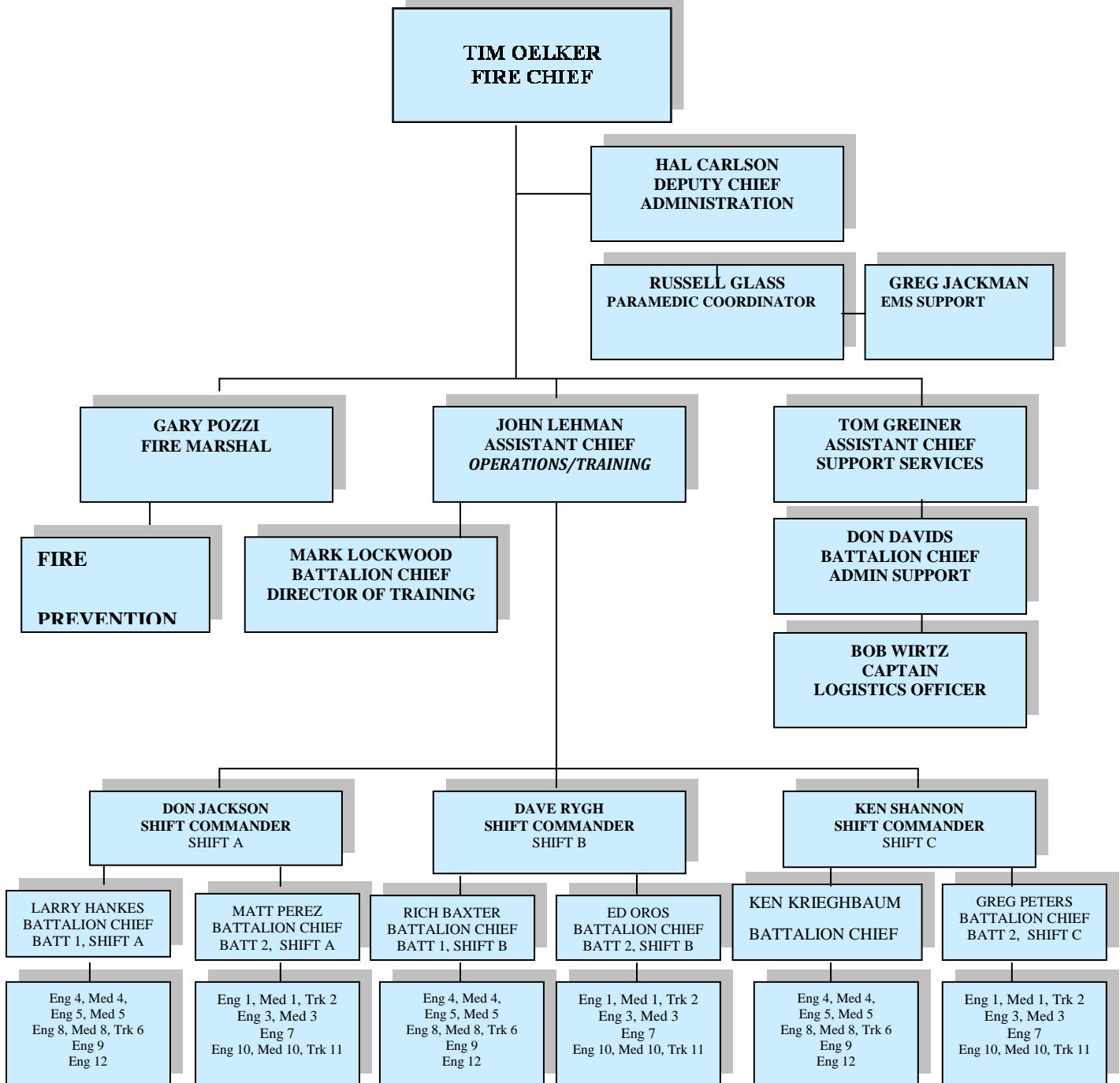
Eight new firefighters began their careers with the Aurora Fire Department in August 2008, bringing the department's sworn personnel to 207 at the close of the year.

Deputy Chief Hal A. Carlson

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STAFF PERSONNEL

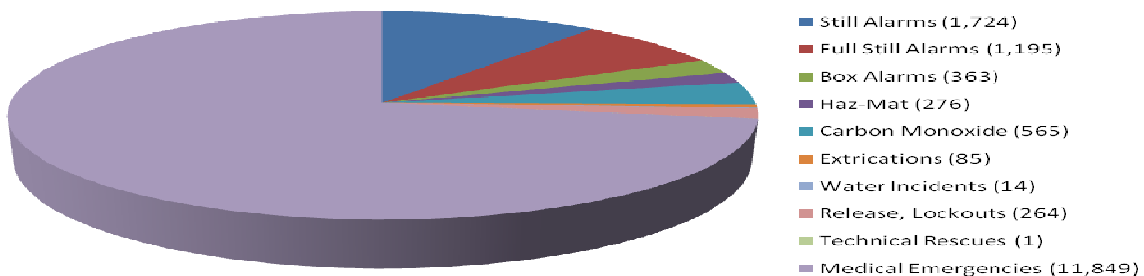


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FIRE DEPARTMENT INCIDENTS

	<u>2007</u> <u>CALLS</u> -	<u>2008</u> <u>CALLS</u> -	<u>CHANGE</u>
EMS - One Medic Unit Response (Advanced Life Support)	11,835	11,849	+.2%
STILL ALARMS - One Engine Response	1,783	1,724	+ 3%
FULL STILL ALARMS - Two Engines, One Truck Automatic Fire Alarms; Office, Commercial, Residential	1,223	1,195	- 2%
BOX ALARMS - Two Engines, One Truck, One Medic, One Command Officer (Structure Fires; Residential Commercial, Mercantile)	374	363	-3%
HAZ-MAT	284	276	- 3%
CARBON MONOXIDE -One Truck or One Engine	534	565	+ 5%
EXTRICATIONS - One Engine, One Truck, One Medic, Command Officer	90	85	- 6%
WATER INCIDENTS - Two Engines, One Truck, One Medic, Rescue 23, Command Officer	5	14	+64%
RELEASE - One Truck (Rescue, Lock-Outs, Etc.)	180	264	+32%
TECHNICAL - Two Engines, One Truck, One Squad, Rescue One, One Medic, Command Officer	1	1	N/C
TOTAL CALLS	16,309	16,336	+ .2%
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROPERTY LOSS	\$2,364,603	\$2,893,831	+18%
TOTAL ESTIMATED CONTENTS LOSS	\$ 630,954	\$846,271	+25%
FIREFIGHTER DEATHS	0	0	
FIREFIGHTER INJURIES	51	61	
CIVILIAN DEATHS	1	0	
CIVILIAN INJURIES	1	2	



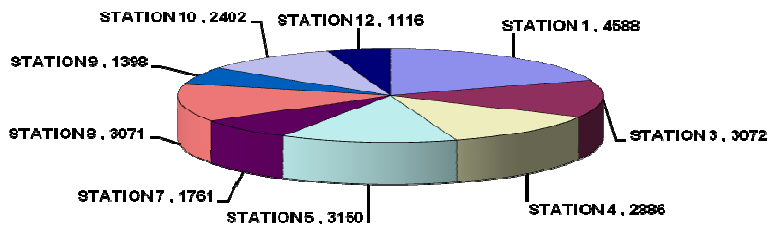
AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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2008 Dispatched Emergency Responses

	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	281	193	182	209	153	318	192	154	255
FULL STILL ALARMS	589	376	322	226	294	383	234	315	168
BOX ALARMS	224	185	139	214	92	91	57	89	59
HAZ-MAT	44	28	25	57	18	49	35	31	32
CARBON MONOXIDE	170	12	9	16	0	276	55	92	8
EXTRICATIONS	55	33	34	53	1	34	22	14	5
WATER INCIDENTS	13	9	4	9	6	5	5	2	3
RELEASE	98	0	0	0	2	17	2	15	0
LOCKOUTS	46	0	0	2	1	83	2	13	6
TECH RESCUES	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
MEDICAL EMERGS	<u>3,067</u>	<u>2,235</u>	<u>2,170</u>	<u>2,364</u>	<u>1,193</u>	<u>1,815</u>	<u>793</u>	<u>1,677</u>	<u>580</u>
TOTAL	4,588	3,072	2,886	3,150	1,761	3,071	1,398	2,402	1,116
TOTAL EMERGENCY RESPONSES IN 2008:	23,444								

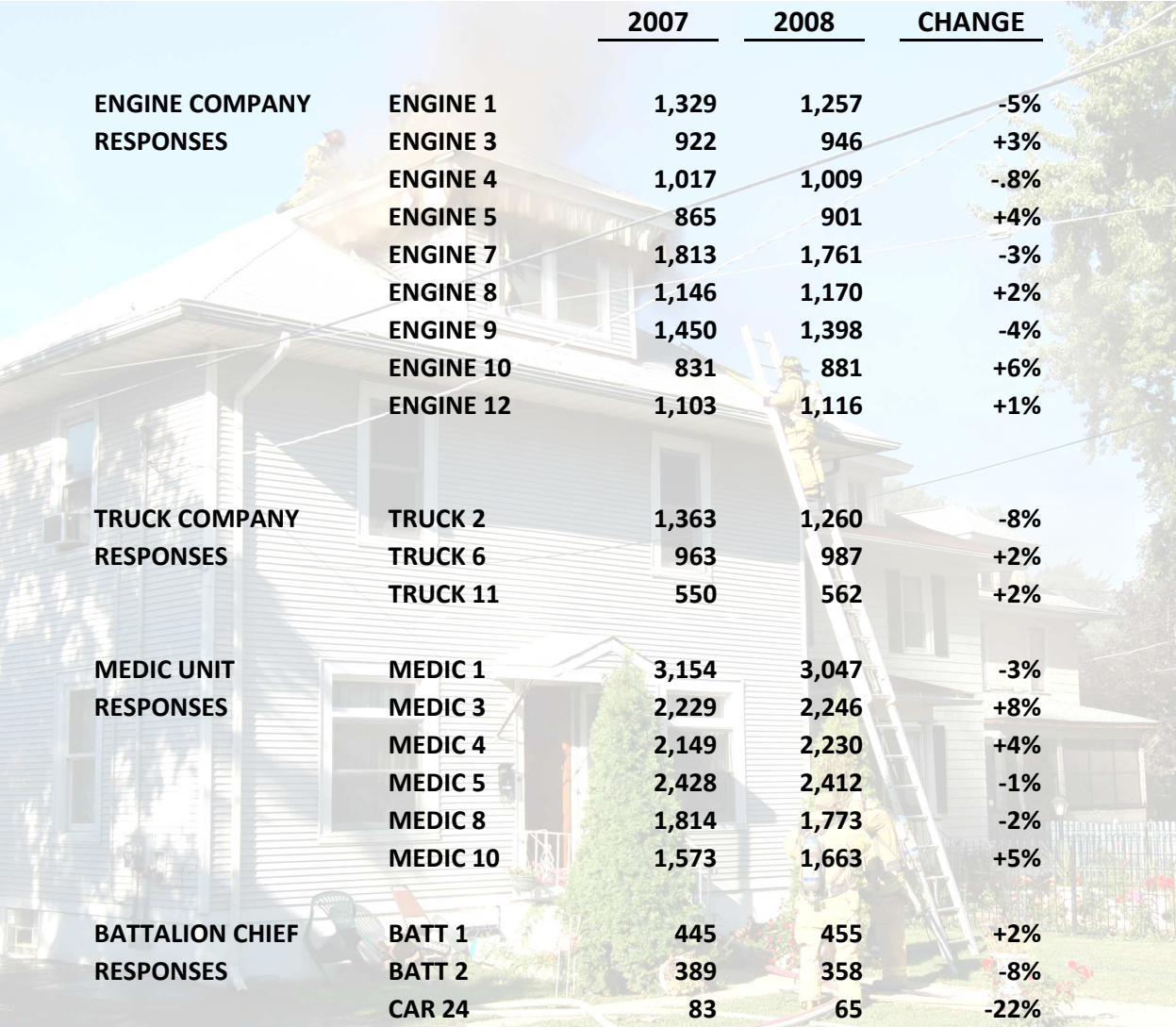
**TOTAL CALLS BY STATION - January thru December
2008**



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CALLS PER UNIT



		<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
ENGINE COMPANY RESPONSES	ENGINE 1	1,329	1,257	-5%
	ENGINE 3	922	946	+3%
	ENGINE 4	1,017	1,009	-8%
	ENGINE 5	865	901	+4%
	ENGINE 7	1,813	1,761	-3%
	ENGINE 8	1,146	1,170	+2%
	ENGINE 9	1,450	1,398	-4%
	ENGINE 10	831	881	+6%
	ENGINE 12	1,103	1,116	+1%
TRUCK COMPANY RESPONSES	TRUCK 2	1,363	1,260	-8%
	TRUCK 6	963	987	+2%
	TRUCK 11	550	562	+2%
MEDIC UNIT RESPONSES	MEDIC 1	3,154	3,047	-3%
	MEDIC 3	2,229	2,246	+8%
	MEDIC 4	2,149	2,230	+4%
	MEDIC 5	2,428	2,412	-1%
	MEDIC 8	1,814	1,773	-2%
	MEDIC 10	1,573	1,663	+5%
BATTALION CHIEF RESPONSES	BATT 1	445	455	+2%
	BATT 2	389	358	-8%
	CAR 24	83	65	-22%

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2008 CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR ACTIVATION NOTICE OF MONTHLY FINDINGS

MONTH	LESS THAN 10 PPM	10 OR MORE PPM	100 PPM OR GREATER	TOTAL
January	41	16	5	62
February	28	14	4	46
March	25	19	3	47
April	25	10	0	35
May	27	10	1	38
June	19	9	1	29
July	16	7	1	24
August	18	8	4	30
September	14	2	0	16
October	28	24	0	52
November	28	19	1	48
December	57	38	2	97
2008 TOTALS	326	176	22	524

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FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU



FIRE MARSHAL GARY POZZI

2008 INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED

<u>FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU</u>		<u>FIRE COMPANIES</u>	
Routine Inspections	209	Routine Inspections	2,932
Re-Inspections	52	Re-Inspections	277
Special Inspection (Includes Referrals, complaints, certificate of acceptance, Hazmat, tanks, fire lanes, posting corridors, & misc.)	728	Complaint Inspections	10
Construction (Includes construction, tents, trailers, certificates of occupancy)	140		
	1,129		3,219
TOTAL 2008 INSPECTIONS = 4,348			

2008 PERMITS ISSUED

Installation of Above- and Below-Ground Fuel Tanks	14
Building Fire Suppression Systems	161
Building Fire Alarm Systems	200
Building Hood Suppression Systems	12
Operational Permits (Propane, Hazardous Material, Assembly)	79
Tent Permits	30
Fireworks	8
Open Burning	69
Outdoor Fireplaces	141
TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED	719

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FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU – 2008 (continued)

<u>OTHER ACTIVITIES - 2008</u>	<u>FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU</u>	<u>FIRE COMPANIES</u>
FIRE PROTECTION - (Includes fire test, fire suppression, evacuation plans)	113	
PLAN REVIEWS -	24	
FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS	26	202
FIRE DRILLS	15	120
HYDRANT FLOW TESTS	6	1,228
LOCK BOXES SOLD	74	
VIOLATIONS ISSUE (Blocked exits, blocked corridors, non-compliance, failure to comply)	20	
ALARM RESPONSES BY FIRE COMPANIES	-	1,397
FALSE FIRE ALARM VIOLATIONS -		
Chargeable - No Fine Issued	383	
Chargeable - Fine Issued	244	
Not Chargeable	659	
Cooking Food	112	
CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR ACTIVATIONS -	-	524



Pictured at left, Aaron Stawikowski of Engine 1 attends a block party on East New York Street.

Pictured at right, Firefighter Kris Tappendorf participates in a fire prevention program at Miss Saul's second grade classroom at Hill Elementary School.



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OPERATIONS



ASSISTANT CHIEF JOHN LEHMAN
OPERATIONS

The Operations Division is responsible for delivering emergency services to those citizens who live in, work in, and visit the City of Aurora. Operations Division members respond to all calls for emergency services, including incidents involving fires, emergency medical services, technical rescue response, release of hazardous materials, and water rescue, to name a few. Mutual Aid responses are provided to surrounding fire departments who are members of MABAS Division 13.

In 2008 the Aurora Fire Department responded to over 16,000 calls for emergency service. The City is divided into two Battalions, with Battalion 1 on the east side of the Fox River and Battalion 2 on the west side. Each battalion operates under the direction of a Battalion Chief assigned to oversee the coordination of 5 Fire Companies. Apparatus assigned to the Operations Division are designed to address the wide spectrum of emergency responses within the City of Aurora, as follows:

- 9 Engine Companies charged with extinguishment and designated as BLS support units. 3 of these Engines are ALS equipped.
- 3 Truck Companies are designated to perform search and rescue, forcible entry, victim rescue, and extrication, to name a few.
- 6 ALS Ambulance Companies

Special Operations capabilities include:

- **Hazardous Materials Response Team:** Investigates and mitigates hazardous materials releases, including decontamination of both victims and responders at both large- and small-scale incidents.
- **Technical Rescue Team:** Provides the expertise necessary to perform specialized rescue operations in collapsed structures, confined space, trenches, and high angle rescue.
- **Water Rescue Team:** Charged with the life safety of all citizens in and around Aurora's waterways.



The Operations Division 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 2009 for the men and women of the Aurora Fire Department.

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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BUILDING & GROUNDS



Assistant Chief Tom Greiner
Support Services

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Station 1 | New air-conditioning unit for living quarters
Fuel tank leak detection upgrade
Living quarters emergency and exit lighting replacement |
| Station 3 | Kitchen remodel
Overhead door column rewrap |
| Station 4 | Shower and vanity replacement |
| Station 5 | Dorm room partition installation |
| Station 7 | Storage shed replacement |
| Station 8 | Routine maintenance |
| Station 9 | Z-brick replacement
Window replacement on east side |
| Station 10 | Routine maintenance |
| Station 12 | Routine maintenance |

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AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT BATTALION CHIEFS / SHIFT COMMANDERS



Battalion Chief Don Jackson
"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 Larry Hanks
Shift A



Battalion Chief Rich Baxter
Shift B



Battalion Chief Ken Kriegbaum
Shift C

BATTALION 2



Battalion Chief Matt Perez
Shift A



Battalion Chief Ed Oros
Shift B



Battalion Chief Greg Peters
Shift C

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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TRAINING DIVISION



Battalion Chief Mark Lockwood
Training Director

In August 2008, eight 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.

Department members were offered a variety of classes and training opportunities in 2008. Firefighters amassed 64,301 hours of regular quarterly scheduled training. All personnel participated in “High Rise Fire Operations” in the spring, at a building on Corporate Boulevard. High rise fires present unique challenges in terms of coordination of duties, communications and dealing with the amount of personnel required to execute rescues, locate, extinguishment, ventilation, etc.



The Department participated in an S.C.B.A. (self-contained breathing apparatus) “consumption” course in which they were asked to complete various physical tasks. Their air consumption was recorded as well as the time it took to complete the course. The initial baseline drill was done in the spring then the course was repeated in the fall. They were asked to work on S.C.B.A. drills to become more comfortable and familiar with the apparatus and to work on their own physical fitness. The goal was to see an improvement in air consumption from the spring session to the fall drill. We saw a nearly 60% department wide improvement of air consumption. The thought behind this was to be comfortable and proficient in the use of one’s S.C.B.A. coupled with improving and individual’s fitness will allow a firefighter more time in a fire to search for and remove victims and fight the fire.

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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 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.

Southern Kane County Training Association's facility offers a 5-story burn tower, "Can Prop" (used for non-burn training such as laddering, SCBA, and forcible entry), Vehicle extrication arena, Building collapse house, Roof simulators, Tanker and passenger train cars as well as Debris piles for search and rescue.

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



Eight Aurora Firefighter Recruits graduated from the Firefighter II Academy at Southern Kane County Training Association in October 2008. Shown above (l-r) are: Shane Cummins, Richard Dahleen, Aaron Calhoun, Dan Polizzi, Del Kriegbaum, Greg Keigher, Clint Thompson and Josh Murray.

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OFFICER



Battalion Chief Don Davids
Administrative Support

As Administrative Support Officer, Battalion Chief Don Davids 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 Davids serves on the MABAS Haz-Mat Steering Committee as the Co-Chairman and is in charge of equipment maintenance.

Battalion Chief Davids is the Grants Coordinator and Grievance Officer for the department.

In 2008, the Aurora Fire Department applied for and was approved for a grant that covered the replacement of lighting fixtures in most fire stations. This will reduce the amount of energy used for lighting by approximately \$43,000 per year. The department is working with the grantor and a vendor to complete the project in 2009.

LOGISTICS OFFICER

As Logistics Officer for the department, Captain Bob Wirtz 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 Wirtz is responsible for the administration of the clothing and protective equipment replacement program, including the authorization and disbursement of issued clothing and equipment.

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 advised 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 Bob Wirtz
Logistics

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION



Russell Glass
Paramedic Coordinator



Greg Jackman
EMS Support Officer

The Aurora Fire Department EMS Department was very active at the System, Region, and State levels during 2008. At the State level, Aurora Fire Department EMS department helped create the final draft of the EMS Strategic plan, as well as the protocols for Tactical EMS.

Aurora Paramedics responded to 13,794 calls for assistance related to ambulance operations. They treated 11,095 individuals. In addition, three Alternate Response Vehicles (ARVs) made 2,600 responses to assist with EMS treatment and transportation of the sick and injured. 93 Paramedics, 91 EMT/Basics, and 22 First Responders served the city at the close of 2008.

In February 2008, all ten ambulances were inspected for the 15th consecutive year by the Illinois Department of Public Health. In September, all four Alternate Response Vehicles successfully passed inspected by the IDPH.

In March 2008, Paramedic Greg Jackman was appointed to assist the daily ambulance operations under the new title of EMS Support Officer. In addition, Senior Paramedic positions were created to oversee operations on the department's three ARV's (Alternate Response Vehicles).

In October 2008, one Firefighter EMT/Basic completed Paramedic training through the Southern Fox Valley EMS System and successfully passed the IDPH Paramedic exam.

In November, the department began the task of changing over to new ESO Solutions software for reporting EMS calls. Training was implemented and the transition to the new reporting format was flawless.

The EMS Support Division worked with administration and the City of Aurora Finance Department to implement a streamlined billing process with a private billing agency.

The Aurora Fire Department CPR Team certified 358 individuals in 2008. Members of EMS Support attended numerous school science fairs, community groups, business and career day events, and talked with over 1,000 area students about fire service careers in 2008. Paramedics attended a number of community events such as Downtown Alive, the Aurora Sports Festival, and Aurora University's football and commencement events. Fire Department ambulances and paramedics covered EMS details at numerous Aurora high school football games throughout the year.

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CIVILIAN STAFF

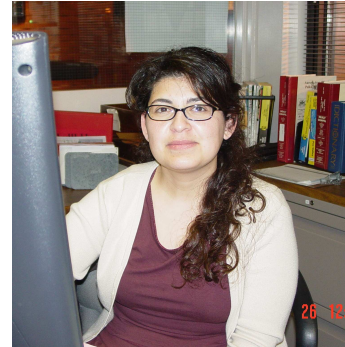
CENTRAL FIRE STATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE



Dixie Gump
Office Coordinator



Linda Hansen
Administrative Secretary



Roseann Hernandez
Administrative Secretary

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU



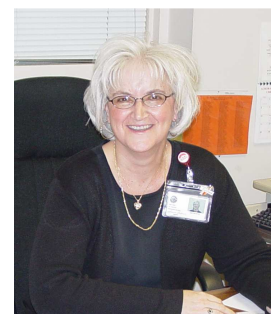
Marty Wolding
Fire Inspector



Jon Spanu
Fire Inspector



Anna Ishmael
Fire Inspector

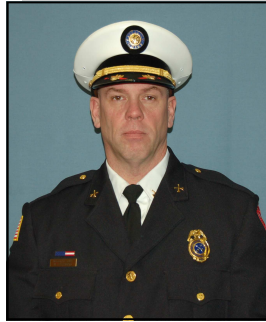


Irene Pelan
Administrative Secretary

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM



Battalion Chief Mark Lockwood
TRT 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.*



SHIFT 1

Lt. Don Jackley, Shift Leader

Rafael Alvarez
Chris Oros
Chris Temes
Will Torres
Dan Stroup

SHIFT 2

Randy Leek, Shift Leader

Assistant Chief Tom Greiner
Captain Tim Pogue
Dwayne Love
Clint Rafac
John Ross

SHIFT 3

Captain Pete Doyle, Team Leader

Lt. Cletus Rettenmeier
Bob Kulovitz
Tony Nelson
Chuck Przybylski
Mike Zelensek
Dan Ahasic

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT TEAM



Battalion Chief Don Davids
Haz-Mat Team Leader

The Aurora Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT) has 28 members, with 21 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 two of our members teach at the Haz-Mat Division of the Illinois Fire Service Institute. 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 worked together for the past several years as a Division-wide team that includes 72 members.

In 2008 the Aurora Fire Department responded to 276 hazardous materials response calls, including spills, leaks and unknowns. 227 of these calls were Level 1 responses (one Company response) and 49 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 Aurora Fire Department HMRT assisted with four Division 13 full team incidents and several other advisory requests. The team also participated in a full scale exercise with the Burlington Northern Railroad that simulated a vapor release in the Eola Rail yard with a victim that needed rescue.

Several team members participated in the 2008 Hazmat team validation, held in Champaign as evaluators.



Aurora Fire Department Haz-Mat Team responded to a Mutual Aid request from the Montgomery Fire Department as the result of a hazardous materials leak at Rochester Drive in Montgomery on June 25, 2008.

SHIFT 1

Lt. John Becker, Shift Leader

Pete Bray
Dave Heinke
Jason Larson
Jason Mosshamer
Tim Schomer
Paul Smith
Todd McChurch
Shawn Clements

SHIFT 2

Capt. Andy Silagyi, Shift Leader

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

SHIFT 3

Lt. Steve Kish, Shift Leader

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

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FIRE INVESTIGATION DIVISION



FIRE MARSHAL GARY POZZI
ARSON COORDINATOR

The Aurora Fire Department Investigations Bureau investigated 67 fires during 2008. Fires listed as suspicious, undetermined or incendiary resulted in losses in excess of \$2.4 million dollars.

Fifteen arrests were made in 2008. 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 State's 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

Lt. Gary Krienitz, Shift Leader

Captain Steve Weatherly
David Heinke
James Lobbins

SHIFT 2

Steve Whitmer, Shift Leader

Lt. Gary Avram
Jason Morthland

SHIFT 3

Matt Anslow, Team Leader

Javan Cross
Corey Fryer
Steve Wedll

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

JUVENILE FIRESETTER PROGRAM



Battalion Chief Ed Oros
Lead Investigator

During 2008 members of the department who are trained in the area of Juvenile Firesetting counseled ten youths who were known to have started fires that resulted in a monetary loss totaling approximately \$150,000. For the fifth consecutive year, there was a significant reduction in the number of fires started by juveniles. We contribute this to a combination of aggressive fire prevention programs in the schools as well as 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.

There are currently 13 Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Team Members.

SHIFT 1

Lt. Gary Krienitz
John Jackson
Aaron Garcia
Paul Smith

SHIFT 2

Lt. Gary Avram
Batt Chief Ed Oros
Jeff Herrick
Jim Rhodes
Ric Torres
Jason Morthland

SHIFT 3

Lt. Craig Mateski
Lt. David McCabe
Chris Kjellesvik

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

WATER RESCUE TEAM



Captain Mike McCue
Dive Team Leader

The Aurora Fire Department Water Rescue Team had a roster of 22 members at the close of 2008. The Team responded to 14 Water Rescue calls in 2008. Two of these involved vehicles with passengers, both of which resulted in Firefighter of the Year nominations.

Our continued training with shift personnel on Water Rescue has proved invaluable and has resulted in numerous lives saved. The Aurora Fire Department Water Rescue Team, along with other surrounding departments, assisted the Oswego Fire Department in the recovery of a young drowning victim. Our department also assisted local and outlying law enforcement agencies in weapons and other evidence recovery.



Members of the AFD Water Rescue Team attended the Lynwood Dive Team Challenge held September 20, 2008 in Lynwood, Illinois

The Team also participated in the Lynwood Dive Team Challenge in September 2008. This event continually proves to be a very beneficial training tool for the department and Aurora once again took runners-up honors at the event.

SHIFT 1

Captain Norb Weber, Shift Leader

Lt. Jim Maynard
Marcos Coronado
Randy Kramp
Todd McChurch
Aaron Stawikowski
Will Torres

SHIFT 2

Lt. Steve Chivari, Team Leader

Captain Tim Pogue
Lt. Mark Matkovich
Lt. Jason Demas
Alan Backhaus
Kevin Molitor
Jim Rhodes
Chuck VanHorn

SHIFT 3

Captain Mike McCue, Shift Leader

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

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Communications/Technical Support



Assistant Chief Tom Greiner
Support Services

As part of the City of Aurora's fiber optic project, all Aurora fire stations are now connected to the Citywide network. Designated areas of the stations have been enhanced to house the equipment necessary for this endeavor. Being connected to the network will give the Aurora Fire Department the ability to improve voice and data communications as well as open up the potential for other technologies, such as video conferencing.



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

A vendor was selected to replace an aging radio communication system. The radio network not only serves the Fire Department, but serves the Police and other City departments as well. The new system is expected to go online at the beginning of 2010.

In 2007 the department began replacing vehicle laptop computers. The final installations have been completed. As the software improved, new computers became a necessity, resulting in greater processing speed and communications in order to obtain a more efficient emergency response.

Emergency Vehicle Preemption continues to be an ongoing project. The City's remaining traffic signals to be equipped with preemption devices are awaiting upgrades or approval from outside governing agencies.

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

VEHICLES AND APPARATUS



Pictured at left, a new Battalion 2 vehicle, a 2008 Ford Expedition, was put into service in mid-2008.

At right, a replacement Medic #10, a 2008 Ford MedTec, was put into service in November 2008.



At left, Rescue 20, the department's Fire Investigation Vehicle, was replaced in the fall of 2008 with a 2008 GMC Fiberglass Reinforced Panel Truck.

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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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. Two members of the AFD Honor Guard have been inducted into the AFFI (Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois) Honor Guard.



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

2008 APPOINTMENTS / PROMOTIONS

A promotional ceremony was held at the Aurora Regional Fire Museum in February 2008 to honor the individuals pictured on the left on their promotions:

- Ray Garner was promoted to Lieutenant on January 21, 2008
- Joe Franzen was promoted to Captain on February 1, 2008
- Tim Pogue was promoted to Captain on January 21, 2008
- Dan Osman was promoted to Lieutenant on January 8, 2008
- Dave McCabe was promoted to Lieutenant on January 16, 2008
- John Barrett was promoted to Lieutenant on February 1, 2008



A promotional ceremony was held at the Aurora Regional Fire Museum on May 7th to honor the individuals pictured at right (with Fire Chief Tim Oelker) who were promoted effective May 5, 2008:

- Pete Doyle was promoted to Captain
 - Craig Mateski was promoted to Lieutenant
- Pictured at left:
- Greg Peters (pictured at left) was appointed to the rank of Battalion Chief



Mark Matkovich (at left) was honored at a ceremony on August 11th for his promotion to Lieutenant effective June 22, 2008.

A promotional ceremony was held September 16th to honor the individuals pictured at right:

- Steve Weatherly promoted to Captain
- Gary Krienitz promoted to Lieutenant
- Jason Demas promoted to Lieutenant
- Larry Hanks appointed to the rank of Battalion Chief
- Tom Greiner appointed to the rank of Assistant Chief



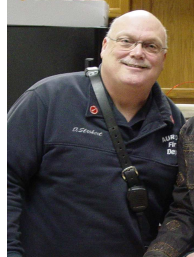
AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

2008 RETIREMENTS



Lt. Dave Watson retired on January 8, 2008 after over 26 years with the department.



Lt. Dave Strobert retired January 16, 2008 after more than 30 years with the department.



Captain Al Judd retired January 21, 2008 after 29-1/2 years with the department.



Senior Paramedic Wayne Sorensen retired on February 1, 2008 after more than 27 years.



Captain Randy Brokaw retired February 1, 2008 after almost 25 years on the department.



Senior Paramedic Pete Hoffman retired April 22, 2008 after 28-1/2 years on the department.



Battalion Chief Mike Buckley retired May 5, 2008 after 30-1/2 years with the department.



Lt. Luther McDougle retired June 22, 2008 after more than 28-1/2 years with the department.



Assistant Chief Jerry Renninger retired September 1, 2008 after almost 28 years with the department.

2008 NEW HIRES



Eight firefighter recruits were sworn in and began their employment with the Aurora Fire Department on August 11, 2008. Shown above (l-r) are: Joshua Murray, Clint Thompson, Dan Polizzi, Shane Cummins, Greg Keigher, Del Krieghbaum, Aaron Calhoun and Richard Dahleen

DECEMBER 2008

207 Sworn Uniformed FD Members
 3 Civilian Fire Inspectors
 4 Clerical

214 Total Fire Dept Personnel

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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2008 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

The Exchange Club of Aurora hosted the 2008 Firefighter of the Year Awards luncheon at the Gaslite Manor on October 28, 2008. 14 firefighters were nominated for the award. The keynote speaker at the event was 49th District State Representative Tim Schmitz, himself a Batavia firefighter.

Pictured at right are nominees (l-r) Lt. Greg Frieders, Battalion Chief Matt Perez, Lt. Steve Oros, Jr., Kevin Noble, Battalion Chief Ed Oros, Steve Matthias, Captain Tim Bradley, Al Torres, Clint Rafac, Roman Azua, and Andrew Smith. Also nominated (but not pictured) were Jim Podbregar and Larry Nelson.



Aurora Firefighters were nominated for the following actions:

- Battalion Chief Ed Oros, Captain Tim Bradley, Steve Matthias, Kevin Noble, Jim Podbregar, Clint Rafac, Larry Nelson and Roman Azua for their lifesaving actions during a vehicle rollover accident on September 6, 2008.
- Lt. Greg Frieders, Al Torres, and Andrew Smith for their actions at the scene of a water rescue on September 28, 2008.
- Battalion Chief Matt Perez and Lt. Steve Oros, Jr. for their actions at the scene of a water rescue on West Sullivan Road on May 23, 2008.

The Exchange Club presented the 2008 Firefighter of the Year Award to Battalion Chief Matt Perez and Lt. Steve Oros, Jr. (pictured at left). Matt joined the Fire Department in July 1987. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1996, to Captain in 2000, and was appointed to the rank of Battalion Chief in 2005. Steve joined the department in 1988 and was promoted to Lieutenant in 2001.

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

AWARDS & COMMENDATIONS



In February 2008 Fire Chief Tim Oelker presented Firefighter Ric Torres (Engine 9) and Ray Torres (Medic 4) with Letters of Recognition for their actions treating a runner suffering cardiac arrest on April 29, 2007. Battalion Chief Don Davids received an Individual Citation for his exceptional skills and dedication to duty. Also receiving Letters of Recognition (but no present) were retired Lt. Dave Strobert and Firefighters Jeremy Allway, and Matt Lichtenberger.

At an awards ceremony held August 11, 2008, firefighters were honored for their actions during a call in May 2008 on West Sullivan Road. Battalion Chief Matt Perez and Lt. Steve Oros were presented the "Medal of Courage" for their actions in rescuing a female trapped in a submerged vehicle. A Unit Citation was awarded to Engine Company #3 personnel (Steve Szilage and Mike Kaufman) and Medic #3 personnel (Paul Smith and Jason Mosshamer) for their assistance on the call.



Pictured at right (l-r) are Battalion Chief Matt Perez, Fire Chief Tim Oelker, Paramedic Paul Smith, Firefighter Steve Szilage, and Paramedic Jason Mosshamer. Firefighter Mike Kaufman and Lt. Steve Oros, Jr., who were unable to attend the ceremony, are pictured below with Chief Oelker.



Pictured at right, Lt. Jack Westphall received a Letter of Recognition from Chief Oelker for performing the Heimlich Maneuver in September 2007.



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

EXPLORER POST #99



Firefighter Jim Rhodes, Lead Advisor

The Aurora fire Department Explorer Post #99 entered its eighth year and welcomed ten new members. Seven former Explorers graduated and have now become Associate Advisors with the Post. Once again, the members of Post #99 decided to establish their own Wildly Important Goals (W.I.G.S.) to help keep the Post moving in a positive direction. All of the W.I.G.S. that were set in 2008 were achieved. They were:

- * To raise \$9,000 through fundraising. The post raised \$12,000.
- * To have 50% of the Post members complete a fitness assessment test with Silver achievement or higher. 60% of members reached this goal.
- * To have 80% of the Post members HIPPA certified. 100% of Post members reached this goal.
- * To have 60% of the Post members become CPR certified. 100% reached this goal.

For the 2009-2010 year, the Post set the following goals:

- * To have all Post members attain a GPA of 93% or higher.
- * To increase Post recruitment by 90%.
- * To complete 450 hours of community service.

In order to ensure the Post fundraising goals were met, the Explorer's hosted a spaghetti dinner at the Prisco Center. The dinner was such a success that they decided to make it an annual event. They also held two raffles and three car washes.

In June 2008, eight Explorers and three Advisors traveled to the Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign to participate in the Annual Explorer's Fire College. The Explorers participated in a weekend filled with drills ranging from live fire scenarios to search and rescue.

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Central Fire Station

75 North Broadway
(630) 897-7821

SHIFT 1

SHIFT 2

SHIFT 3

Engine Company #1

Lieutenant John Schick
Pvt. Aaron Stawikowski
Paramedic Chris Temes

Lieutenant Dan Osman
Firefighter Mark Classen
Paramedic Jim Rhodes

Captain Mike McCue
Paramedic Bob Kulovitz
Pvt. Carlos Coronado

Medic #1

Paramedic Bill Nutter
Paramedic Jeff Smitley

Paramedic Clint Rafac
Paramedic Jim Podbregar

Sr. Paramedic Jim Rufer
Paramedic Bob Chance

Truck Company #2

Captain Steve Malatia
Pvt. Will Torres
Pvt. Steve Buono
Pvt. Chris Prieboy

Lt. Steve Chivari
Pvt. Eric Calkins
Paramedic Phil Bergeron
Pvt. Alan Backhaus

Lt. Glen Hasenheyer
Paramedic Javan Cross
Pvt. Steve Wedll
Pvt. Tim Bergeron

Roving Personnel

Captain Steve Weatherly
Lt. Joe Bartholomew
Lt. John Barrett
Lt. Gary Krienitz
Pvt. Marcos Coronado
Pvt. Abe Sprinkle
Pvt. Mike Kaufman
Pvt. Keith O'Donnell
Pvt. Nick Handell
Pvt. Aaron Calhoun
Pvt. Richard Dahleen
Pvt. Greg Keighter

Captain Joe Franzen
Lt. Mark Matkovich
Lt. Jason Demas
Pvt. Mike Eley
Pvt. Mike Hess
Paramedic Jeff Dehler
Pvt. Rob Sittler
Paramedic Dan Bateman
Pvt. Jason Matile
Pvt. Shane Cummins
Pvt. Del Krieghbaum

Captain Pete Doyle
Lt. Ray Garner
Lt. Craig Mateski
Paramedic Robin Krantz
Pvt. Tom Shore
Paramedic David Christenson
Pvt. Mike Chomiak III
Pvt. Andy Smith
Pvt. Josh Murray
Pvt. Dan Polizzi
Pvt. Clint Thompson

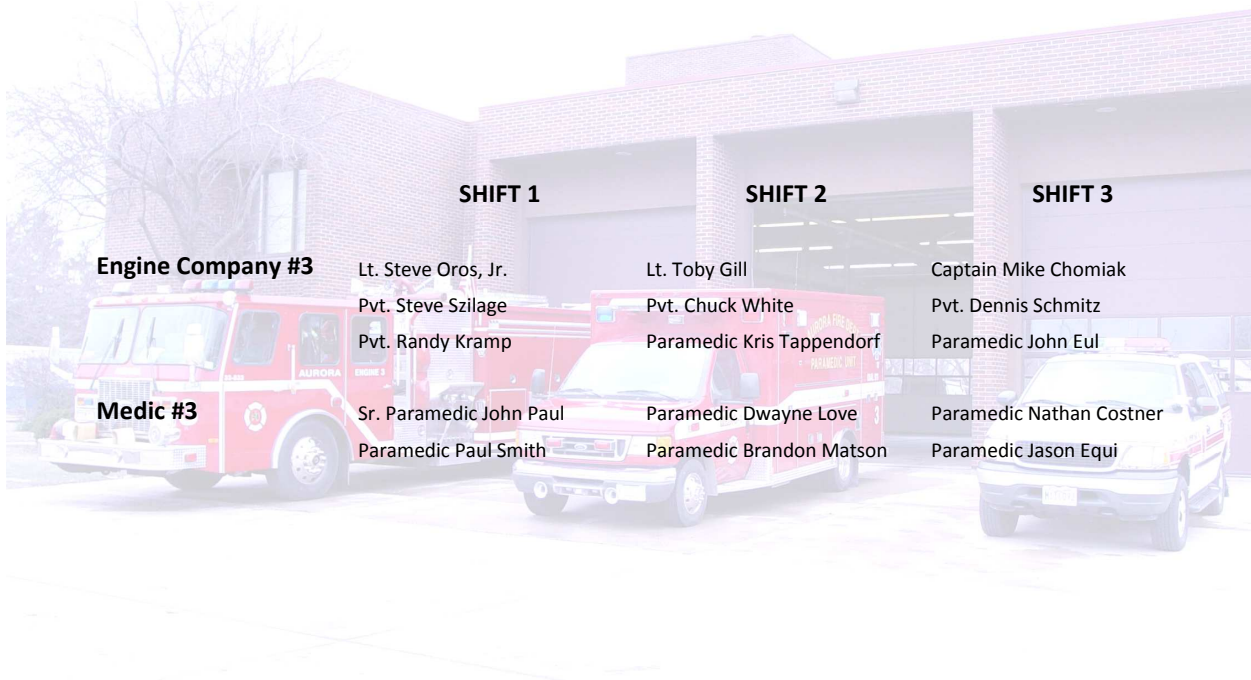
AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Station 3

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



SHIFT 1

SHIFT 2

SHIFT 3

Engine Company #3

Lt. Steve Oros, Jr.
 Pvt. Steve Szilage
 Pvt. Randy Kramp

Lt. Toby Gill
 Pvt. Chuck White
 Paramedic Kris Tappendorf

Captain Mike Chomiak
 Pvt. Dennis Schmitz
 Paramedic John Eul

Medic #3

Sr. Paramedic John Paul
 Paramedic Paul Smith

Paramedic Dwayne Love
 Paramedic Brandon Matson

Paramedic Nathan Costner
 Paramedic Jason Equi

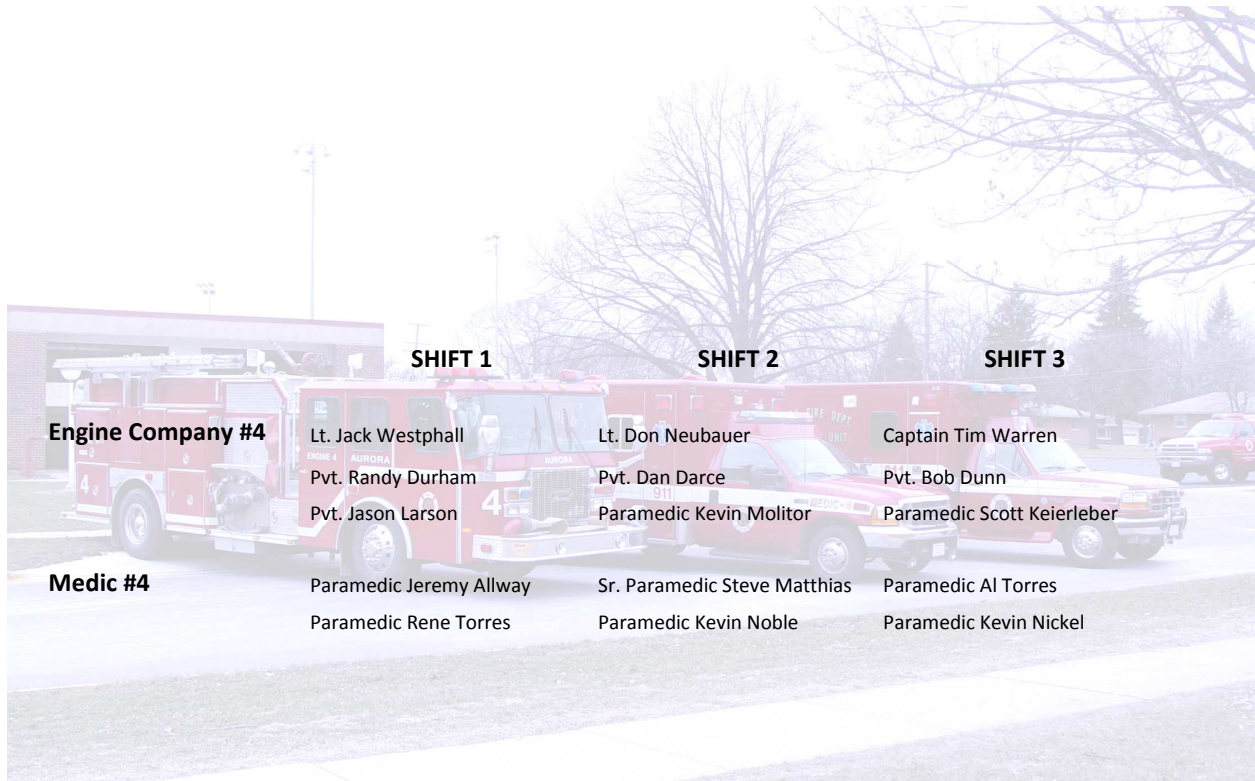
AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Station 4

800 Michels Avenue
(630) 898-3655



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Station 5

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

	SHIFT 1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT 3
Engine Company #5	Lt. John Gilbert Paramedic Jerry Knizek Pvt. Peter Bray	Captain Andy Silagyi Pvt. Steve Whitmer Paramedic John Ross	Lt. Steve Kish Pvt. Mark Long Paramedic Matt Anslow
Medic #5	Paramedic Shawn Hagi Paramedic Dan Stroup	Sr. Paramedic Chuck VanHorn Paramedic Jim DeSomer	Paramedic Dan Aloisio Paramedic Brett Svendsen

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Station 7

824 Kenilworth Avenue
(630) 897-7831



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Station 8

3770 McCoy Drive
(630) 801-4350

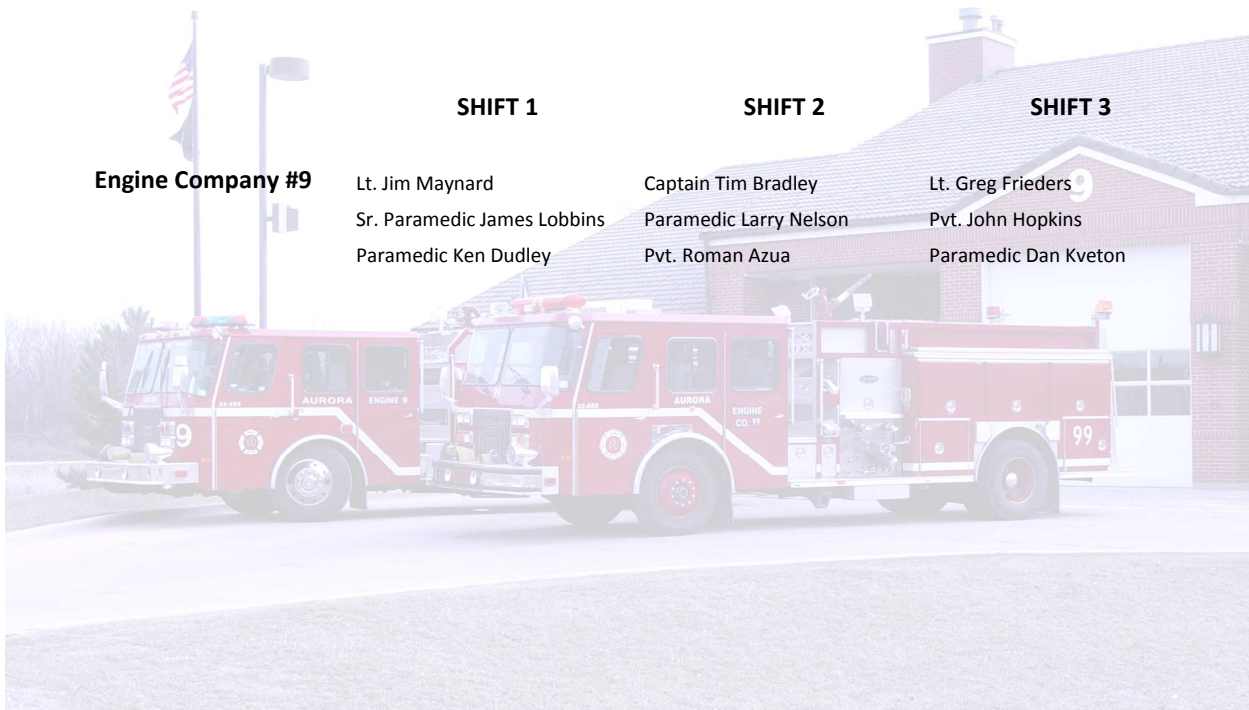
	SHIFT 1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT 3
Engine Company #8	Captain Greg Mewmaw Pvt. Randy Rieckert Pvt. Matt Lichtenberger	Lt. Jerry Groesch Pvt. Marty O'Brien Pvt. Mark Tate	Lt. Eric Mueller Paramedic Tony Nelson Pvt. Dave Hurd
Medic #8	Paramedic Dave Heinke Paramedic Todd McChurch	Paramedic Rob Strange Paramedic Joe Bledsoe	Sr. Paramedic John Nolan Paramedic Steve Milakis
Truck Company #6	Lt. John Becker Pvt. Ed Heitz Pvt. Brian Radde Paramedic Shawn Clements	Lt. Gary Avram Pvt. Ed Clark Pvt. Jeff Herrick Pvt. Felix Coronado	Lt. Ron Thomalla Pvt. Mike Zelensek Pvt. Darrin Richardson Pvt. Scott Schuster

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Station 9
 2339 Diehl Road
 (630) 978-4675



Engine Company #9

SHIFT 1

Lt. Jim Maynard
 Sr. Paramedic James Lobbins
 Paramedic Ken Dudley

SHIFT 2

Captain Tim Bradley
 Paramedic Larry Nelson
 Pvt. Roman Azua

SHIFT 3

Lt. Greg Frieders
 Pvt. John Hopkins
 Paramedic Dan Kveton

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



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

	SHIFT 1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT 3
Engine Company #10	Lt. Dan Konen Pvt. John Jackson Pvt. Bob Warren	Captain Tim Pogue Paramedic Jerry White Pvt. Steve Szilage, Jr.	Lt. Lou Popp Pvt. Angelo Minnici Paramedic Dan Ahasic
Medic #10	Sr.Paramedic Bob Brunns Paramedic Kevin Becker	Paramedic Luanne Whitmer Paramedic John Bonior	Paramedic Chris Kjellesvik Paramedic Corey Fryer
Truck Company #11	Lt. Kevin Kubisak Pvt. Brian Youhanaie Pvt. Rafael Alvarez Paramedic Jason Mosshamer	Lt. Chuck Wonderling Pvt. Randy Leek Pvt. Jason Morthland Pvt. Steve Koeberl	Lt. Dave McCabe Pvt. Cary Lieser Pvt. Harvey Redmon Pvt. Tomas Contreras

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Station 12

2424 Haffenrichter Road
(630) 499-0183

