

2007 Annual Report

CLARK COUNTY
FIRE DISTRICT
FIRE·RESCUE·EMS **6**



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2007 Annual Report

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Mission, Visions, and Values

In 2005, through the hard work of the Board of Commissioners, fire department personnel, and a citizen advisory group, the department adopted a five year strategic plan. The purpose of the plan was to plan and prepare for the changing environment of Fire District 6. The entire 37 page strategic plan was available upon request. Look for the results of our 2008 Master Plan in next year's annual report.

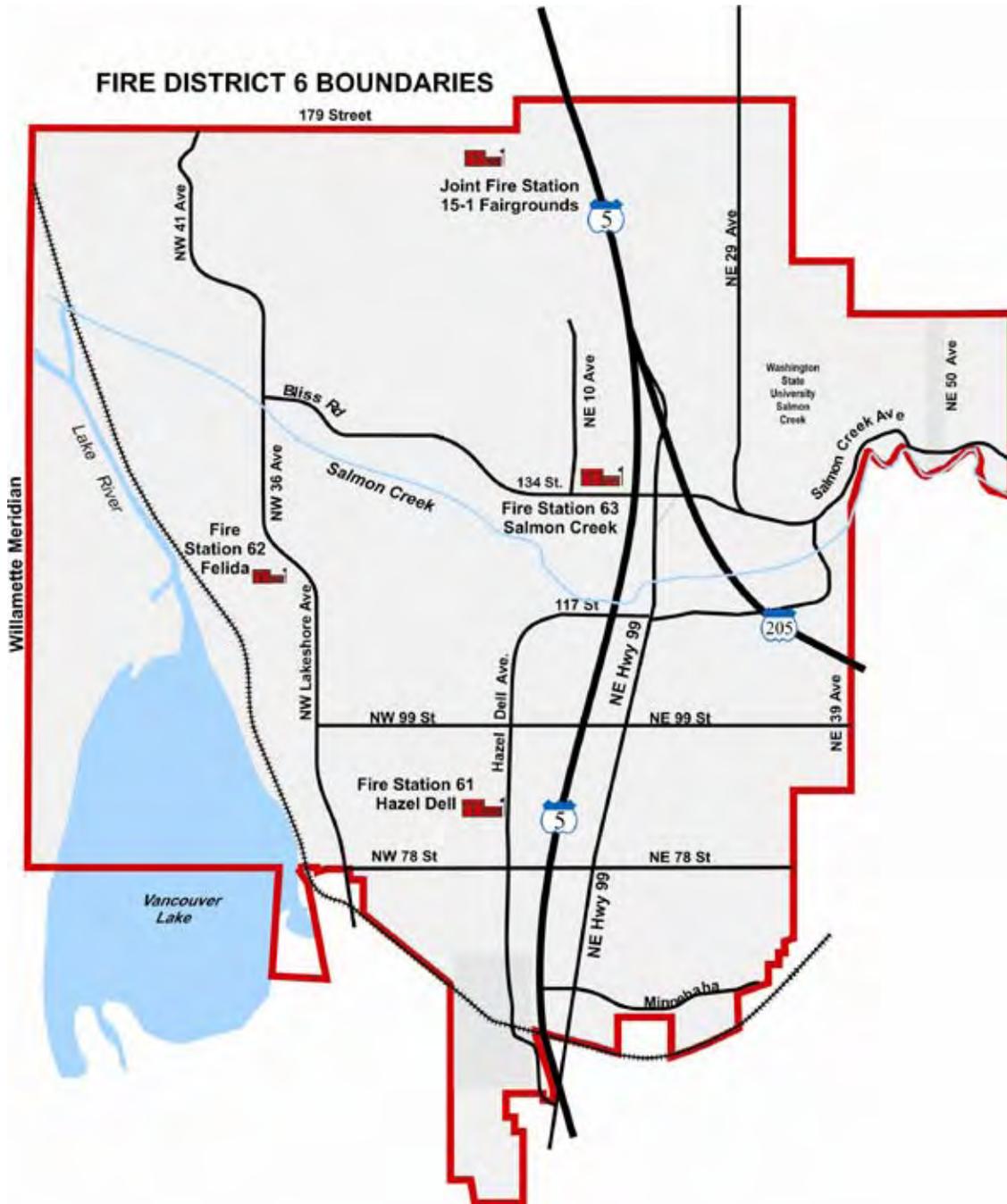
Mission Statement

Dedicated to excellence in protecting and serving our community through innovation in leadership, education, and training

Vision Statement

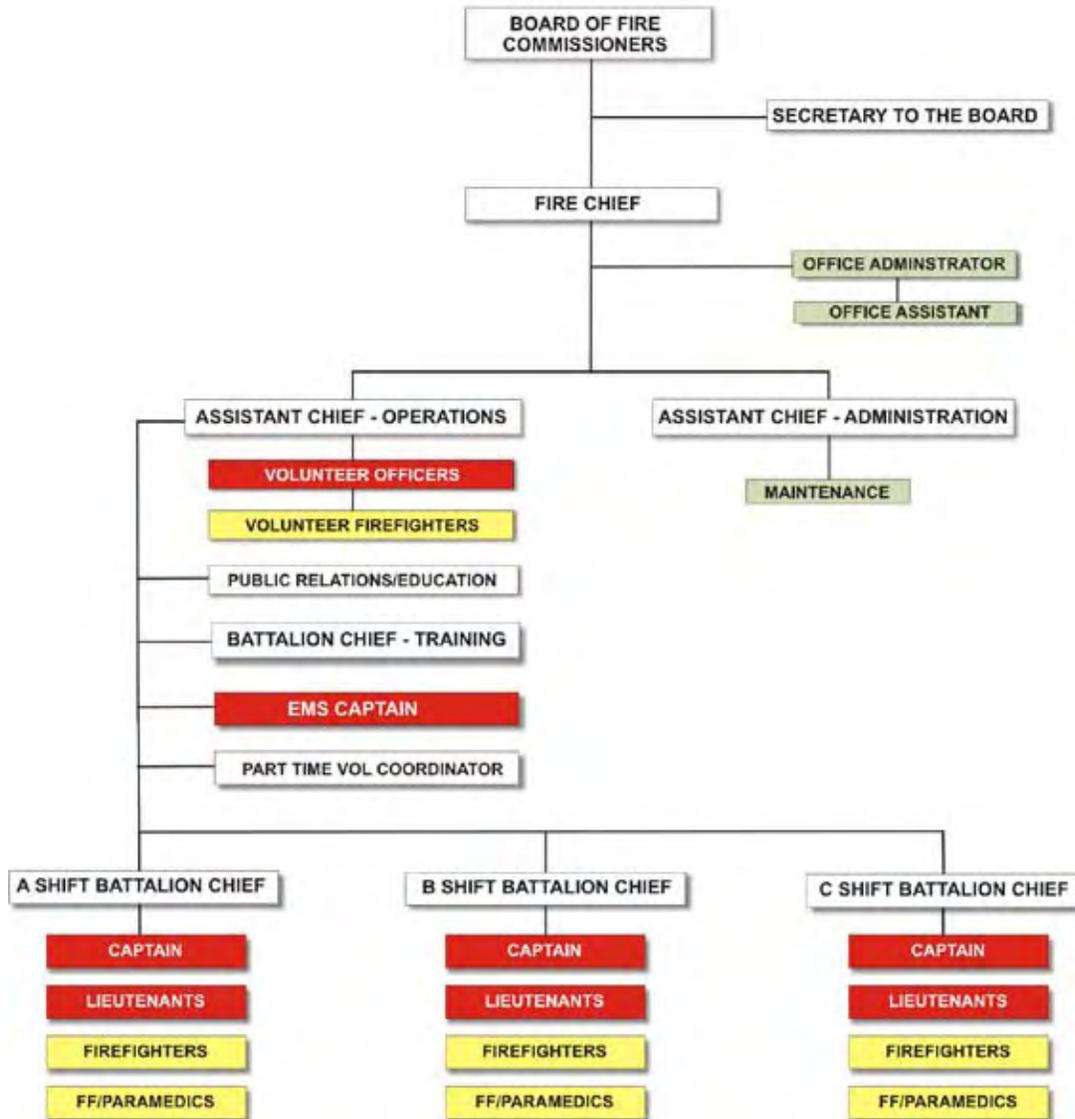
- To be an organization that continually evaluates and is committed to the well-being of our members and community.
- To have a strongly recognized department in our community, that strives to continually exceed all our customer's expectations.
- To be enthusiastically supported by our community which views us with pride, respect, and confidence.
- Promote and encourage a creative, positive, and diverse environment.

Area Served



Organization Chart

CLARK COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 6 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





Commissioner Casey Collins, Chair



Commissioner Dick Spring, Vice Chair



Commissioner Dean Bloemke



Board Secretary, Dick Streissguth

Commissioners' Message

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

The purpose of your elected Board of Commissioners is to provide oversight and to set policy for Fire District 6. The following review is a partial summary of the actions taken by the Board in 2007. For a more detailed account of Board actions, please view the board minutes by visiting our website at www.ccf6.org/about_us/commissioners.php. We appreciate the confidence placed in us to be your representatives to your fire department and encourage your comments, suggestions and ideas.

In January Clark County announced the phased replacement of the Kline Bridge on Highway 99 was no longer an option. The bridge is a major north/south access for the District responding to emergencies. Administrative staff was set to implement an alternative response plan in case of structural failure or closure.

In February the Board entered into an agreement with a regional company to provide entry-level firefighter and firefighter/paramedic testing services. Also in February, the Board conducted its annual workshop which focuses on reviewing policies, contracts and agreements, and planning for the coming year.

In March the Board announced they had made an offer to purchase property adjacent to Station 63 in Salmon Creek.

In April, staff provided the Board with the 2006 Response Time Objective Compliance Report, in accordance with a resolution adopted by the Board early in 2006, and in compliance with State law. A revised, comprehensive discipline policy was adopted.

In May the Board approved the creation of a part-time volunteer coordinator position and authorized the purchase of a parcel of property adjacent to our Salmon Creek station. Commissioner Jim Jakubiak submitted a letter resigning his position on the Board. The Board appointed long-time volunteer Dean Bloemke to the vacant Commissioner position.

In June, the Fire Chief provided the Board a comprehensive report entitled Status and Recommendations for Facilities, Staffing and Apparatus. This report included options for funding the recommended improvements. The Board adopted a resolution to establish an operation reserve fund and a capital reserve fund.



Commissioners' Message

In July the State Auditor began an audit of the District's finances for the years 2005 and 2006. The Board passed a resolution to place a \$1.40 lid lift on the November ballot, with a 6% limit factor for the remaining five years. The lid lift funds were to be used for construction of a new fire station, a new training facility, longer term support/maintenance facility, a station addition, staffing increases, and equipment replacement.

In August the department participated in providing emergency services and public information during the operation of the Clark County Fair.

In September following completion of the audit, the State Auditor provided an initial report. There were no findings and the audit staff was impressed and pleased with District 6's performance. Also in September, the local private ambulance provider announced the possibility of a strike by their employees. The District administrative staff and the EMS District management assured that a contingency plan was in place to provide patient transport if the strike were to result.

In October, an agreement with Vancouver Fire Department was renewed for an additional year to provide a staffed ladder truck response to structure fires in the District.

In November the District voters did not approve the proposed lid lift. The final results of the election were 49.52% Approved; 50.48% Rejected.

In December the Kline Bridge on Highway 99 was permanently closed due to structural instability. District personnel implemented the alternative response plan. Emergency Services Consulting, Inc. made a presentation to the Board on Master & Strategic Planning and internal/external survey services.

We encourage citizen involvement. Please join us at any of our regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at the fire station located at 8800 NE Hazel Dell Avenue and begin at 7:30 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.



David Taylor, Fire Chief



Jerry Green, Assistant Chief of Operations



Bill Cline, Assistant Chief of Administration

Fire Chief's Message

The personnel at Fire District 6 are committed to providing the best possible service to our community. We believe it is important to provide a valuable service for the taxes our citizens provide. That is why we know it is important to plan for the future. It is important to receive input from all of the stakeholders in the community to ensure we are providing the level and quality of service expected of our citizens.

In April 2005, Fire District 6 published a Strategic Plan. The Plan was developed with participation and input from all stakeholders within the organization (fire commissioners, administration, labor union and volunteer) as well as input from our external stakeholders – the citizens of our community.

The strategic planning process included an analysis of the District's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, the services provided by the District and customer (community) priorities, expectations and areas of concern. The planning process resulted in the development of a number of objectives detailed within eight general goals:

- Goal 1: Maintain an effective, productive and accountable organization.
- Goal 2: Deliver quality, customer-focused service.
- Goal 3: Provide an effective community outreach program
- Goal 4: Ensure a highly trained work force.
- Goal 5: Maintain financial stability.
- Goal 6: Human Resources – recruitment, retention, evaluation, safety.
- Goal 7: Capital improvement / replacement.
- Goal 8: Hazard mitigation / disaster planning.

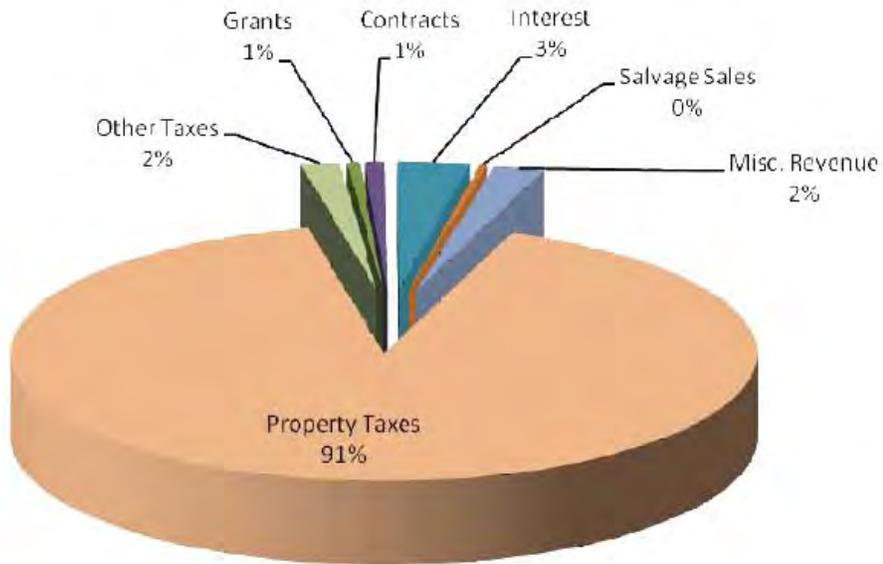
In 2007, Fire District 6 completed all remaining objectives in the 2005 Strategic Plan, one full year ahead of schedule.

Late in 2007, the Board of Fire Commissioners decided to expand our planning processes. The District contracted with Emergency Services Consulting, Inc. to assist the department in developing a Master Plan to guide the District through the next 15 or more years. That process, which includes an in-depth analysis of the department, is underway and should be completed in April. In conjunction with the Master Plan, a new strategic planning process will take place. ESCi will also conduct a survey/questionnaire process to include both internal stakeholders and a randomly-selected group of citizens in our community. The survey results will assist the District in our plans for the future.

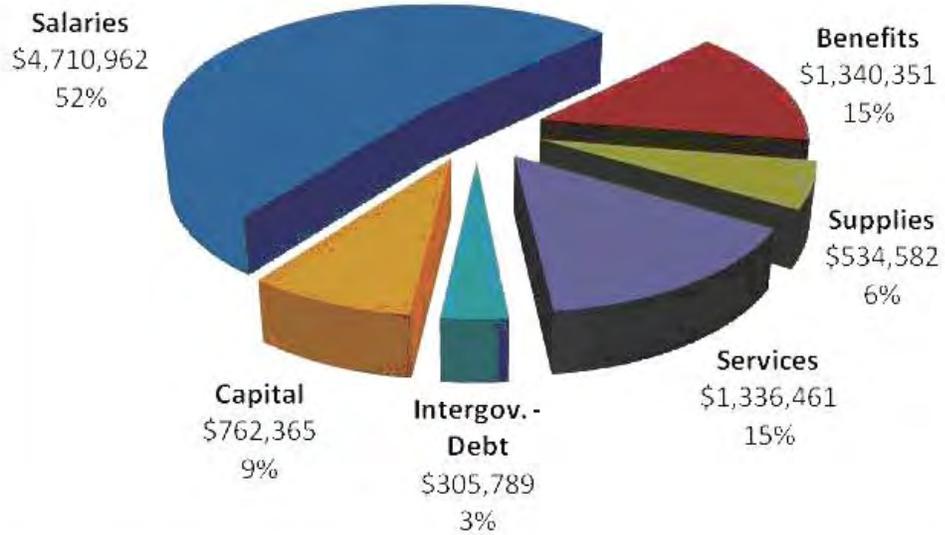
These planning processes offer exciting opportunities to positively impact the Fire District and the community we serve.

2007 REVENUE EMERGENCY MEDICAL & FIRE SUPPRESSION

Total: \$9,530,475



2007 EXPENDITURES FIRE + EMERGENCY MEDICAL BUDGETS



Financial Summary

By Washington State law, the District's preliminary budget must be delivered to Clark County no later than November 30th for the following year. The Board of Fire Commissioners holds public hearing each year, usually early in November, to consider revenue sources for the following budget year. The current budget is available for review on our website: www.ccf6.org.

REVENUE

The primary source of revenue for Fire District 6 is property taxes. The District has two levies: fire suppression and emergency medical services (EMS).

The fire suppression levy was approved by voters in 1995 at the rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of Assessed Value (AV). Tax limiting legislation has caused that rate to decline to \$1.08 in 2007. The emergency medical services levy was renewed by voters in 2004 at a \$0.45 per \$1,000 AV rate, and has similarly declined to its 2007 rate of approximately \$0.35.

The total combined revenue for 2007 was \$9,530,475. Of that, 75% was fire suppression, and 25% emergency medical.

The 2007 combined property tax, interest and miscellaneous revenue for the Fire Suppression and EMS is shown in the chart at the left.

EXPENDITURES

Fire District 6 budgeted expenditures are divided into six general categories: Salaries, Benefits, Supplies, Services, Intergovernmental/Debt and Capital Expenditures. In 2007, the District funded sixty full-time and one part-time positions, including firefighters, firefighter/paramedics, officers, senior management and support staff.

The combined expenditures for Fire Suppression and Emergency Medical totaled \$8,990,510. Of that, 67% or \$6,051,313 was for salary and benefits of employees. The District has one general obligation (non-voted) bond with an outstanding balance of \$750,000. The proceeds of this bond were used to purchase fire engines, related equipment and a support vehicle.



Maintenance

Apparatus

In 2007, the Board of Fire Commissioners authorized the purchase of a new Ford F550 mini-pumper. The District took possession of the apparatus in December of 2007. When the outfitting with radios and equipment is complete, this dual purpose vehicle will replace the 2000 Ford F550 currently responding from Station 61. Both vehicles are equipped with EMS and rescue equipment along with a 250 gallon water tank and 390 gpm pump. The older squad will be moved to Station 62 in Felida to serve as the designated brush fire unit.

Fire District 6 maintains a total of 14 fire apparatus:

Current Assignment	Make and Model	Year	Current Status
Engine 61	Pierce/Dash	2006	Station 61 - 1st out
Engine 611	Pierce/Saber	2001	Station 61 - 2nd out
Engine 612	Pierce/Lance	1992	Station 61 - Reserve
Engine 62	Pierce/Dash	2006	Station 62 - 1st out
Engine 621	Pierce/Saber	1996	Station 62 - 2nd out
Engine 622	Mack CF	1997	Station 62 - Reserve
Engine 63	Pierce/Dash	2006	Station 63 - 1st out
Engine 631	Pierce/Saber	2001	Station 63 - 2nd out
Engine 632	Mack (Mini)	1984	Station 63 - Reserve
Tower 61	Mack (Aerial)	1981	Station 61 - staffed by volunteer/ off-duty
Squad 61	Ford F550	2000	Station 61 - Rescue Squad/Mini- pumper
Air 61	International	1996	Station 61 - staffed by volunteer/ off-duty, compressed breathing air/salvage
Rehab 61	GMC/RTS	1982	Station 61 - staffed only during major incidents
Brush 62	Dodge	1979	Station 62 - staffed only during brush fire incidents *This unit was sold at auction in the Fall of 2007

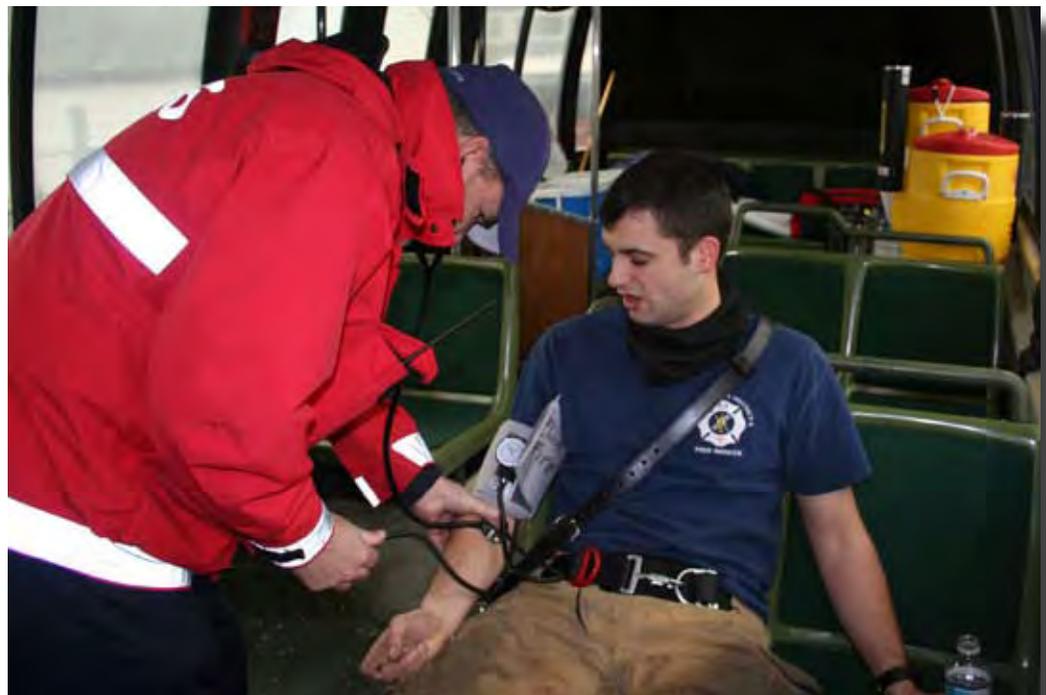
Maintenance

Arnie Kuchta joined District 6 in December of 2007 in the position of Equipment and Facilities Maintenance Specialist. Arnie, who formerly worked for the Vancouver Fire Department in their maintenance section, holds many certifications in emergency vehicle maintenance and repair, as well as a wealth of knowledge and practical experience in facility maintenance.



Firefighters wear their reflective safety vests on a motor vehicle accident scene.

EMS Captain Mike Hollingsworth checks FF/PM Tracy Wood's blood pressure in Rehab 61 after fighting fire



Safety

2007 Summary Safety Report

Health and Safety Symposium – Representatives of the District attended the 2007 Health and Safety Symposium that took place at the IAFC Fire Rescue International Conference and Seminar in Atlanta. Topics included:

- Vulnerability Assessment Modeling
- Situational Awareness Management
- Air Management Best Practices
- Operations Worst Practices
- The Chief Officer and the Culture Crusade
- Sleep Deprivation in the Fire Service (OHSU study)

Reflective Safety Vests

After extensive research, in response to recommendations from the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), reflective safety vests were purchased and distributed to District personnel for use during roadway incidents.

IAFC Safety Stand-down

The District participated in the annual International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Safety Stand-down from June 17 through June 23, 2007. The theme was Ready to Respond, focusing on proper training, preparation and equipment before a call and promoting the idea that all members can respond to, work and return home safely from the emergency they are called to mitigate. Workshops were held with each shift and the Volunteers.

Rehab 61 – Additions

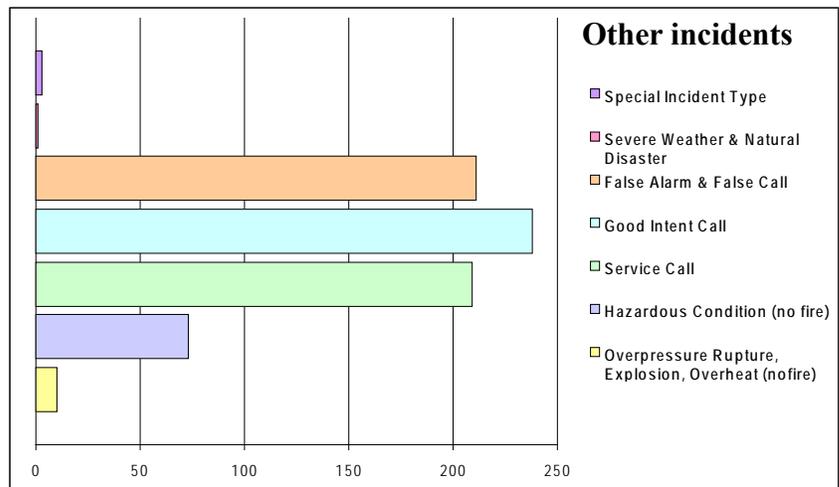
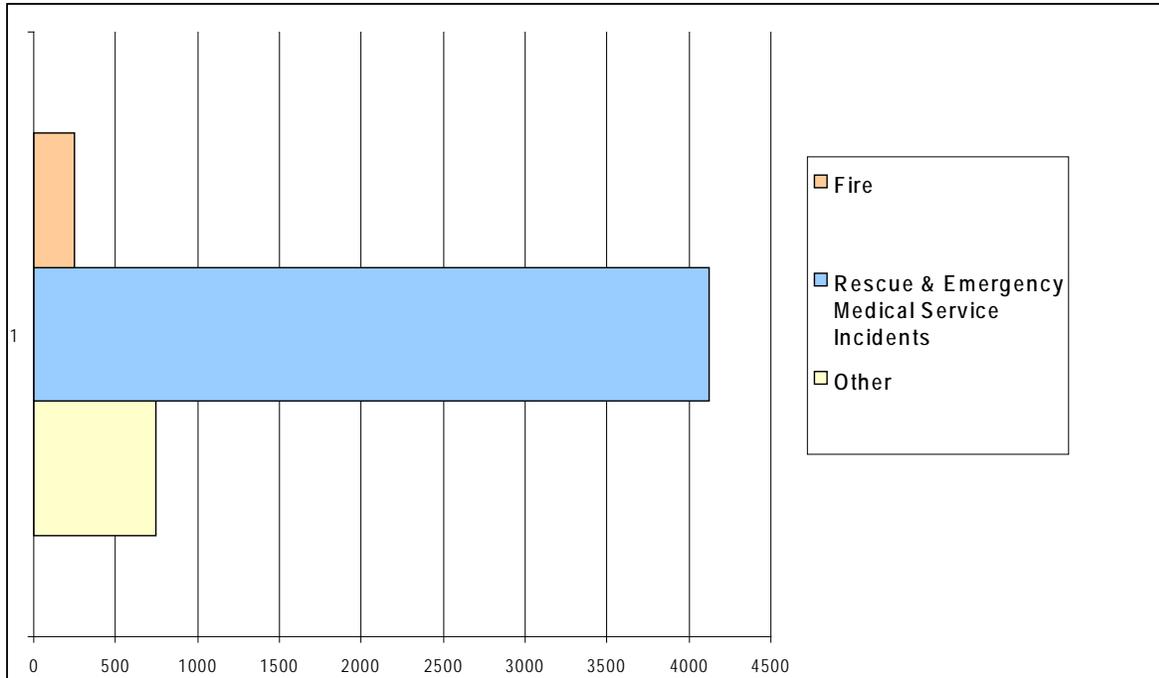
In 2007, Rehab 61, the District's on-scene firefighter rehabilitation unit, was remodeled to include a toilet. We also purchased needed health monitoring equipment for the unit.

Rehab 61 is a converted C-Tran bus. Its primary purpose is to have a dry warm/cool location for firefighters to rehabilitate during an extended fire operation. Firefighter health is extremely important and working conditions at a fire incident can be stressful on the body. Rehab 61 provides a facility to monitor blood pressure, temperature and general health. Rehab 61 proved its value at several training events and at a major structure fire.

Back Injury Trends

In 2007 we identified a trend in back injuries. Along with other strategies, we investigated the feasibility of purchasing and placing on an apparatus a lifting device – the Invacare 6 – Point Hydraulic Lifter. The evaluation process for the lifter is still ongoing.

Summary of Emergency Responses



Summary of Emergency Responses

The department responded to 5,113 total emergency incidents during 2007. Responses increased by 70 incidents from 2006 with a steady increase in total emergency responses (2003 - 4,668), (2004 - 4,866), (2005 - 4,986) and (2006 - 5,043).

Of the 5,113 emergency responses, 22.1 percent of the calls were “back-to-back” (at least two incidents being responded to simultaneously). This back-to-back response concern has increased from 17.95% in 2003 to the 22.1% experienced this past year. This will continue to stress response capabilities of the District. Back-to-back incidents often create longer overall response times since an apparatus from another station location or station area must respond a greater distance to cover the incident in place of the original apparatus.

Emergency Medical emergencies responded to by fire personnel in 2007 totaled 4,121, or 80.6% of the total number of dispatches.

Crews responded to 64 structure fire dispatches – this does not include vehicle fires, wildland fires, or other type fires. Total loss of property from these fires was estimated at \$3.39 million or 1/2 of one percent of the District’s total assessed valuation of \$6.251 billion. Property saved through actions of the fire department was \$8.1 million. Crews responded to 67 grass/brush/vegetation fires dispatched during the year.

The following all inclusive incident types are the main categories/codes used for National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to capture annual statistical requirements across the nation. Included with the categories/codes is the number of incident responses the department made for 2007 with an estimated loss of \$3.5 million.

- ① FIRE (247)
- ② Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (no fire) (10)
- ③ Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incidents (4,121)
- ④ Hazardous Condition (No Fire) (73)
- ⑤ Service Call (water evacuation, smoke or odor removal, animal problem, assist invalid, assist law enforcement, defective elevator, unauthorized burning, assist other fire agency) (209)
- ⑥ Good Intent Call (dispatched & cancelled, no incident found on arrival, authorized controlled burning, steam mistaken for smoke, smoke scare) (238)
- ⑦ False Alarm & False Call (smoke detector or system malfunction, malfunction of sprinkler system, sprinkler activation due to malfunction) (211)
- ⑧ Severe Weather & Natural Disaster (1)
- ⑨ Special Incident Type (3)

continued



February 7, 2007 House Fire



July 10, 2007 Fireworks Fire



July 24, 2007 Smoking Materials Fire

Summary of Emergency Responses

Summary of major fire losses

Fire District 6 responded to 247 fires in 2007. Of those fires, only 6 structures sustained damage over \$50,000.

2802 NW 100th Street, February 7, 2007, 4:38 Response – Career and volunteer response to structure fire which extended into the attic. Estimated structure and contents loss \$100,000. Cause of fire was an overheated power strip.

2726 NW 117th Circle, May 31, 2007, 3:46 Response – Twenty career and volunteer firefighters responded to an exterior fire that extended into the house and attic. Estimated structure and contents loss \$175,000.

8304 NW 17th Ave, July 10, 2007, 6:24 Response – Twenty career and volunteer firefighters responded to a fully involved garden shed fire that had burned the electric meter off the house causing a shower of sparks and electrical arcing. The fire extended up the side of the home and into the attic where it quickly burned throughout the attic. Extensive overhaul was performed to ensure the fire was completely extinguished. Much of the ceiling had to be pulled for safety purposes. Because of the extent of the fire in the attic, the home sustained major interior water and smoke damage. Loss of structure and contents has been valued at \$625,000. Cause of fire was determined to be fireworks.

11521 NE 34th Ave, July 24, 2007, 4:58 Response – Firefighters arrived to a two-story home with smoke coming from the attic eaves. Access to the attic was completed and the fire was extinguished. Cause of fire was determined to be a malfunctioning air conditioning unit in the attic. Fire extension, water damage, and smoke damage added up to \$59,000 damage to structure and contents.

7912 NE 18th Ave, September 21, 2007, 4:50 Response - On September 21, 2007 Fire District 6 responded to possibly one of its most difficult operational fires in the department's history. The fire located at Windsor Estates Apartments on NE 18th Avenue received an estimated \$2 million dollar loss. A second fire in the same complex was also reported during the ongoing operations that were unrelated to the original incident. That fire was quickly handled by on scene personnel. Apartment building fires can be challenging just because of the size of the structure and the number of people involved. However, this apartment building had also experienced several remodels that made fighting this fire very difficult. Add that to an older structure with somewhat outdated building code issues, and this fire brought about challenges that we rarely experienced before.

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September 21, 2007 Windsor Estates Fire



Summary of Emergency Responses

Fortunately no one was hurt at this fire scene and personnel had the opportunity to learn some things that will help them in the future.

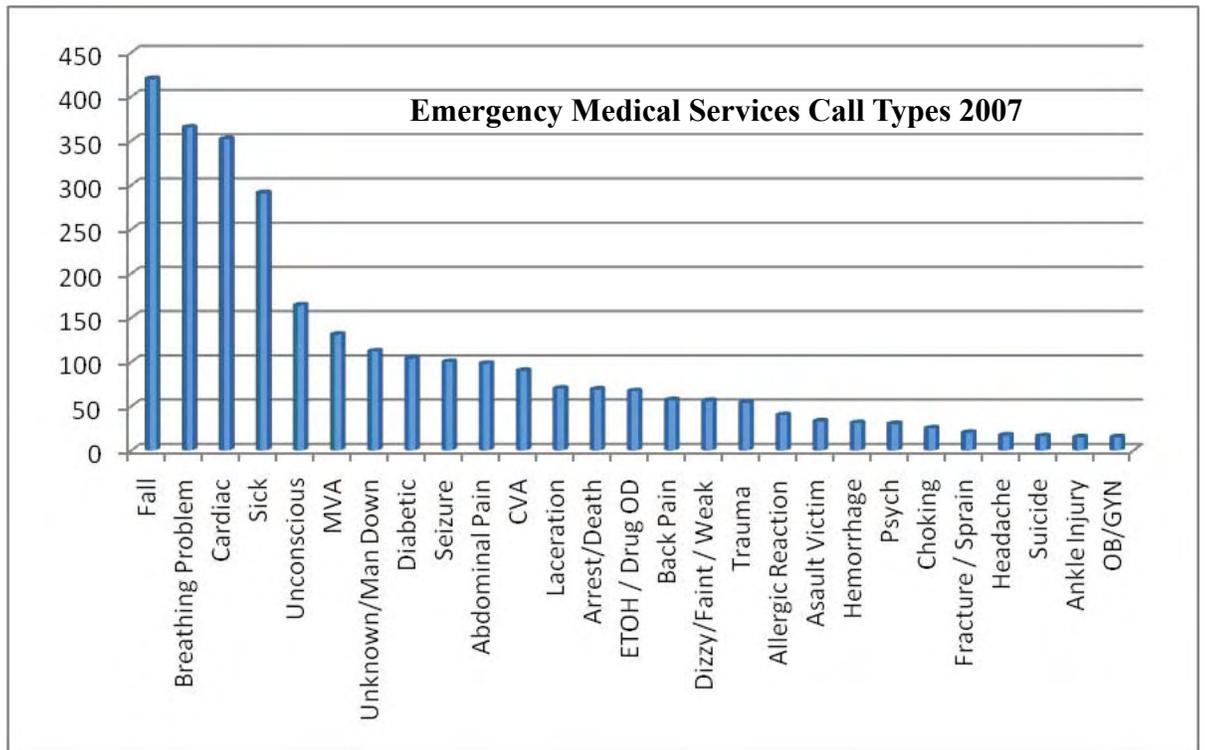
The incident involved personnel from Clark County Fire District 6, 11, 12, Vancouver Fire Department, along with creating multiple move ups of apparatus and personnel to cover the District's stations and other departments who participated in the fire by multiple county fire agencies. Fire District 6 had a total of 33 career (including off-duty personnel) and volunteer firefighters on scene, with 7-engines, 1-squad, 1-rehabilitation unit and 1-air unit, along with 4-command vehicles.

The fire was dispatched from the 911 Center at 8:21 a.m. with the last crew departing the scene at 7:00 p.m. While this fire was going on, two other major fire incidents affected emergency operations in Clark County by pulling overhead staff out of the area that could have assisted. They were both located in the Columbia River Gorge (wildland fire near between Stevenson and White Salmon and the abandoned Stevenson Co-ply Mill).

924 NW 87th Street, October 21, 2007, 3:56 Response – Twenty-four career and volunteer firefighters responded to a fire in the garage of a single story home. The fire was caused by the failure of an electrical outlet in the garage. Fire was contained to the garage and the interior wall of the kitchen going into the garage. There was also extensive smoke damage in the home. The reason this fire loss is valued at \$155,000 is because of the two automobiles and as well as equipment and tools in the garage that were a total loss.



Motor Vehicle Accident November 2007



Emergency Medical Services

Call Types (Actual Patient Contact)

The type of medical received by the district remains relatively the same for the last several years, with falls leading the list. This fall type includes both medical related falls as well as those caused by non-medical reasons. This call type has been a particular challenging one for the department, as this call type is where personnel are developing back injuries or complaints.

Breathing problems, followed closely by cardiac related complaints are the #2 and #3 respectively.

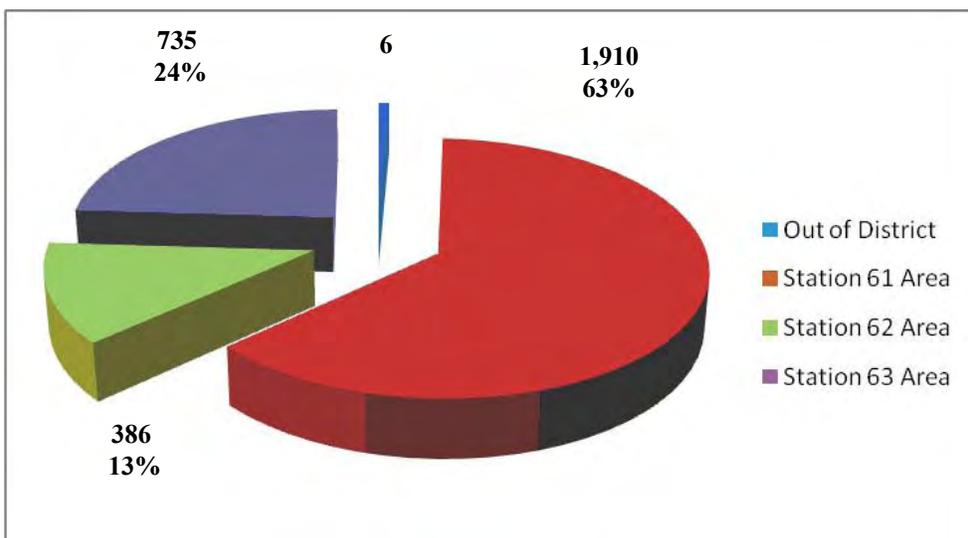
It is interesting to note that even though we have two major freeways traveling through our district, motor vehicle accidents are only the 6th most common call types.

Station Response Volumes (Actual Patient Contact)

It is, and remains no surprise that Station 1 has the largest call volume of the three stations.

Station 1 had just over 60% of the call load, with 1910 medical calls. This divided between the year equates to a little over 5 medical related calls per shift. Station 3 had 735 medical related calls for a yearly average of 2 medical calls per shift, while Station 2 came in with 386 calls, averaging 1 medical related call per shift.

Out of District calls were documented as 6, which reflect response into areas to our North or South boundaries.





Motor Vehicle Accident, June 22, 2007

Emergency Medical Services Training



Emergency Medical Services

EMS Response Times

It is the department's goal to place an ALS crew next to the patient's side within 5 minutes of the call placed to the 911 alarm center. This was achieved 96.52% of the time where we actually saw and had contact with an actual patient.

National Trauma Study

The Portland metropolitan area, including Clack County and its EMS services have been participating in a nationally sponsored study of an intravenous solution. The hopes are, when given, this new solution will improve patient outcomes from either a head injury or from profound shock. The new solution is also being closely watched by the military for its use to help injured soldiers suffering from shock or trauma brain injuries.

New Cardiac Resuscitation Practices

The American Heart Association introduced the new 2005 guidelines for cardiac resuscitation. So far these guidelines have seemed to produce exciting "save" rates for out of hospital cardiac arrests (OOHCA). The emphasis is placed on delivering high quality CPR, no longer delivering "stacked" defibrillation shocks and doing CPR prior to delivering any shocks. The results will be further studied in yet another nationally sponsored resuscitation review. This new study is starting in the spring of 2008, and will probably continue for 1 ½ - 2 years.

The study will look at which is better, 30 seconds of CPR before shocking, or 3 minutes of CPR before shocking a 'quivering' heart.



Volunteer Firefighters at a training burn 2007



Volunteer Firefighters

Introduction

Clark County Fire District 6 was formed in 1954 with 65 volunteers and two used fire engines. While we don't buy used fire engines anymore, the volunteer firefighter program is still an integral part of our daily fire operations.

Fire District 6 is a combination fire department meaning both career and volunteer personnel work to provide emergency services to the community. Our volunteers wear pagers alerting them when the District has been dispatched to an incident. Depending on the size and type of incident, the volunteers are asked to respond back to their assigned station for coverage or dispatch to the scene. This system ensures uninterrupted station coverage, provides maximum manpower availability for incidents and contributes to our remarkable Class 3 rating with the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau. No other fire district in the state has a higher rating and only three others share a Class 3 rating.

In addition to responding back to stations for current emergencies, our volunteers provide a number of other services equally important to the safety and awareness of our citizens. Throughout the year, volunteers teach public safety classes, attend public relations events and participate in extra curricular activities related to the Fire District. Examples are teaching CPR classes, attending parades, hosting open houses and providing fire engine stand by coverage's for local High School football games.

The volunteer firefighter program has been a long standing tradition at Fire District 6. Our citizens have always had the opportunity to volunteer their services and help their community. Sometimes the goal is to become a career firefighter and sometimes the goal is to be mentally or physically challenged while helping people. Whatever the goal, our program meets or exceeds these expectations and provides exceptional emergency services.

Responses, Training and Events

Volunteer Call Back Responses in 2007 (Total) 2667

Volunteer Training Completed in 2007 (Average per individual) 97 hours



Volunteer Firefighters are essential in representing Fire District 6 at community events



Volunteer Firefighters

Events Attended

- Read with Kids Night Chinook Elementary
- Free Flu Shot Clinic Fire District 6
- Health / Fun Night Sarah J Anderson Elementary
- CPR Class Gaiser Middle School
- Smoke Detector Installation Salmon Creek Estates
- Fire Extinguisher Class Fire District 6
- EMS Standby Coverage Kline Fishing Derby
- EMS Standby at track meet Columbia River High School
- Bring your Child to Work Day CRESA
- Engine 0 Rides Lions Club
- EMS Standby Coverage WSU Graduation
- Open House Fire District 6
- Parade of Bands Hazel Dell
- Safety Day Boys and Girls Club
- EMS Standby Coverage Amphitheater
- Engine 0 Rides Vista Park Dedication
- EMS Standby Coverage Skyview High School Graduation
- Fire Engine Ride Home Salmon Creek Elementary
- EMS/Evacuation Coverage Columbia River Graduation
- Children's Safety Day Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital
- Fire Engine Ride Home Chinook Elementary
- Fire Engine Ride Home Sarah J Anderson Elementary
- Engine 0 Rides Felida Children's Parade
- Fire / EMS Coverage Clark County Fair
- Fire Extinguisher Class C-Tran
- Fire / EMS Coverage Tough Trucks (Clark County Fair)
- Fire / EMS Coverage Demolition Derby (Clark County Fair)
- Fire / EMS Coverage Monster Trucks (Clark County Fair)
- 911 Open House CRESA
- EMS Standby Coverage Columbia River H.S. Football Game
- Open House at Station 15-1 Public Safety Complex
- Bike Helmet / Fire Safety WalMart
- Smoke Detector Installation Columbia North
- Stockford Village Health Fair Aero Club
- Santa Visit Salmon Creek Elementary
- Santa's Posse Gift / Food Delivery



Training Burn 2007

Training

The Training Division's primary focus is to develop and provide quality training and education to the members of Clark County Fire District 6 and the public they serve.

Compliance with a multitude of complex federal, state and local standards and regulations is ensured by the actions of this Division. Programs are delivered in the following areas:

- Fire Suppression and Emergency Operations
- Vehicle Extrication
- Hazardous Materials
- Incident Command system
- Firefighter Safety
- Multi-agency Drills

2007 was a very productive live-fire training year for Fire District 6 thanks to some very generous donations of structures from the citizens within our area. Career and volunteer firefighters were able to participate in a total of 10 separate acquired structure burns for a total of 483 hours of live fire training. All training burns were done with cooperation from Vancouver Fire Department and Clark County Fire District 11 and 12.

Thanks to a donation from the C.E. John Company, crews were able to drill on a commercial structure. The "Hollywood Video" building provided several hundred hours of hands-on-training that is hard to emulate outside of acquiring a building. Training included:

- Large area searches
- Masonry wall breaching
- Forcible Entry
- Use of the M.S.A. Computer based Air Management System
- Thermal Imaging Camera use
- R.I.T or Rapid Intervention Team
- Trench Vertical Ventilation

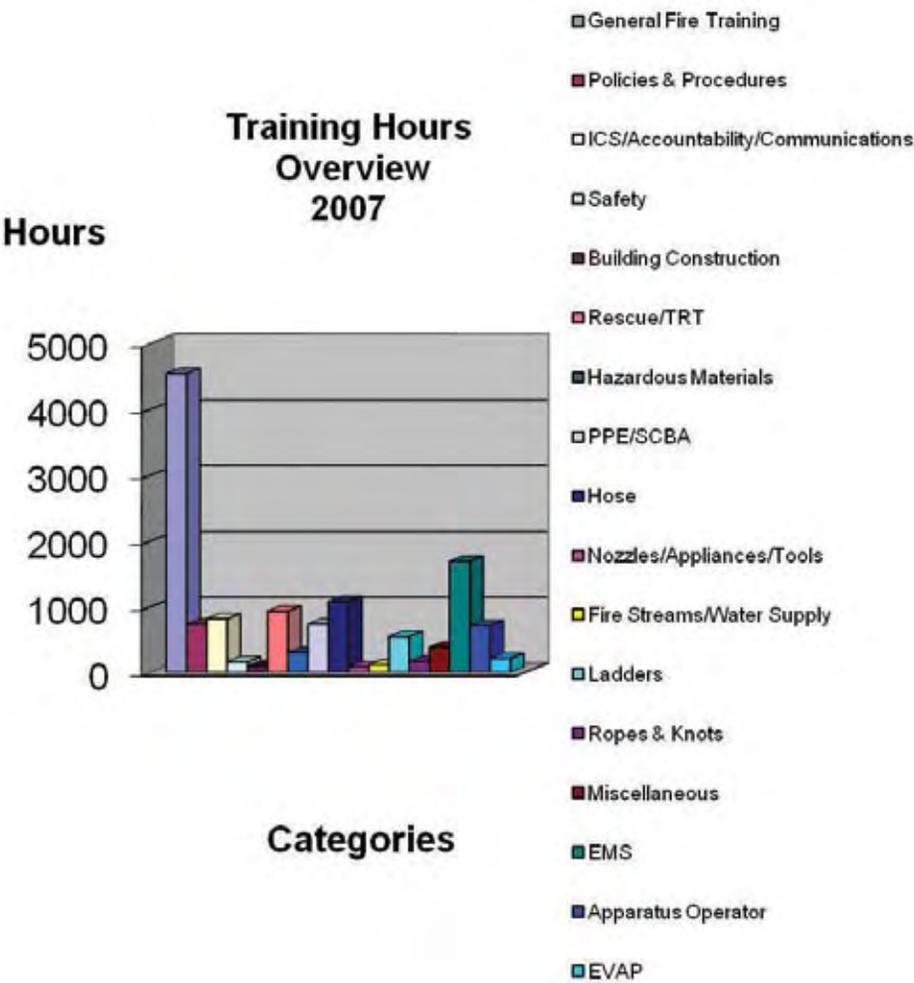


Training Burn January 2007



Training Continued

Career and Volunteer companies from Fire District 6 completed Over 12,849 hours of training in 2007. Below is the summary of training hours:





Technical Rescue La Center 2007

Technical Rescue Team

“Technical rescue” is a special skills area of the fire service that focuses on the application of specific knowledge, skills, and equipment to safely resolve unique and/or complex rescue situations. Examples include: rescues from confined spaces, trench collapse, water emergencies, structural collapse, and rescuing people trapped above or below grade or in other challenging situations.

The formation of a functional, multi-disciplined, technical rescue team requires careful planning, a large time commitment from the team members, equipment research and acquisition, risk analysis, training, and funding. The training demands of such personnel are particularly challenging due to the time commitment that is necessary to develop and maintain the necessary special skills.

The Southwest Washington, Region 4 Technical Rescue Team is a group of personnel having the advanced training and special equipment to safely and efficiently conduct technical rescue operations. The Regional team consists of firefighters from Fire District 6 and Vancouver Fire Department. A Total of 14 firefighters from Fire District 6 are members the regional Technical Rescue Team.

The regional team is available to respond to incidents in Washington state Region 4 including Clark, Skamania, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties. The Southwest Washington team may also respond to the Urban Area Security Initiative area including Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas Counties in Oregon as well as Clark County. The Department of Homeland Security has assisted in funding the specialized equipment seen here. Their expertise has contributed to several recent safe rescues.

continued



Technical Rescue Training 2007

Technical Rescue Team

Equipment

- Purchased equipment to complete water rescue gear bags.
- Assigned personnel specific equipment responsibilities within the team to help strengthen commitment and delegate workload.
- Received permission to purchase and issue TRT uniform gear; T-shirts, Sweat-shirts, shorts, sweats and Carhart pants.
- TRT 61 (Refurbished PUD truck) was taken out of service and put up for surplus.
- Suburban was put in to service as TRT 61.
- USAR trailer was organized, equipped and placed in to service.
- Yamaha motor on Boat 61 seized during a training exercise due to a failure of the oil pump and had to be replaced.
- Honda 4 stroke motor was purchased and placed in service on Boat 61.
- USAR EMS equipment was purchased with a grant that totaled \$24,256.07.
- Water rescue equipment was purchased with a grant that totaled \$10,617.00.

Training

- Requested reinstatement of extra 4 hours of training per month to help maintain competencies.
- A swiftwater rescue technician class was presented by two members of the TRT. This training occurred on the Lewis River at several different locations. All members attended and either received initial certification or re-certification.
- Please see attached chart for attendance and total training hours.

Responses

On 8-12-2007, the TRT responded to Dog Creek Canyon in the Columbia River Gorge as a regional response, at the request of the Volcano Rescue Team to assist with removing three members of the Drug Task Force, who needed assistance after raiding a marijuana grow operation. Three members of the task force had to be removed with multiple rope systems, and one member was extricated in a stokes basket.

On 8-31-2007, the TRT responded to Lockwood Creek Road at the request of Fire District 12, for a child that had fallen down a 150-foot embankment. TRT crews responded from VFD and FD6. On arrival secured the scene and set up rope systems, packaged the patient and extricated him from the situation. Patient was transported to the hospital and recovered from his injuries.

continued



Technical Rescue Team

Responses

On 9-14-2007, the TRT responded at the request of Fire District 12 to a car over the embankment with two victims in need of extrication. Crews from VFD and FD6 arrived and found patients down an 80-foot embankment. Fire District 12 medics were in the process of packaging and treating patients. Our team set up rope systems and sent additional rescuers to assist. Specialized equipment was used to remove both patients in full spinal precautions from the scene. Patient care was transferred to AMR, who transported them to the hospital. Both patients survived their injuries.

On 10-21-2007, the TRT responded at the request of Fire District 12 to a drowning at Tri-Mountain Golf Course. Crews from VFD and FD6 arrived and found Fire District 12 crews attempting to search a water hazard for a man who fell in the water and could not be found. Our crews secured the scene and made entry into the water. After searching the water hazard our crews retrieved the man, who was in about 10 feet of water. Crews attempted to revive the victim, and transported him to Legacy Salmon Creek hospital where he was pronounced dead.

There were several times during the year that the team was requested for structural stabilization after fire damage made overhaul or investigation dangerous. Other times to evaluate the stability of a structure after damage had occurred from other types of accidents.

Public Contact and Events

- CRESA Open house TRT display
- VFD Open house TRT display
- CCFD6 Open house TRT display
- Safety Fair at Station 15-1 TRT display
- Several classes for CERT
- An informational system for TRT was developed that included handouts and a power point presentation on the capabilities and uses of the team. This also included information on how to contact and activate the team. This was presented to Clark County Fire District 12 on December 20th 2007 at station 12-1. The information was well received. Plans to present this to other departments in our region are being made for 2008.

Classroom Fire Prevention



Community Emergency Response Team Training

Community Involvement

Education and Prevention

Senior Falls Prevention – Fire District 6 provides an assessment of senior citizens homes and education at their request to determine action that can be taken to prevent falls. Risk reduction devices are then installed to prevent falls.

Senior Fire Prevention – Groups may request a fire prevention presentation focusing on the special needs associated with senior citizens. Nostalgic trivia keeps the groups involved.

First Aid/CPR Classes – The District provides classes to the public as individuals in our monthly class or as groups at specific requested locations. Classes range from basic CPR to Healthcare Provider level training. First Aid and CPR classes are also taught at the four middle schools within our boundaries to 7th and 8th graders.

Fire Extinguisher Training – Basic fire extinguisher use is taught to groups by a qualified firefighter. Class location is at group's request.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) – CERT training teaches neighbors how to prepare for a disaster and what to do in the event a disaster occurs. Initial instruction takes place one evening per week for six weeks, plus a Saturday disaster simulation. Once certified, team members participate in monthly training sessions.

Disaster Preparedness Presentations – For those who feel more comfortable preparing just for their own family, disaster preparedness presentations are available to neighborhood or faith-based groups upon request.

Junior Firesetter Intervention – A trained individual provides education and support to children and their families in the effort to halt a child's dangerous behavior of playing with fire.

Classroom Fire Prevention/First Aid Instruction: Fire District 6 provides classroom fire prevention and basic first aid presentations to a wide variety of age groups - from preschool to senior citizens. We provide these services on a year-round basis.

Home Safety Evaluations – Firefighters visit homes, and using a checklist, evaluate the resident's home fire escape plan (or help develop a plan) and provide suggestions for making their home a safer place.

Annual Open House



Community Involvement

Public Education and Prevention Events:

Annual Open House – The Open House features fire and injury prevention information and education as well as demonstrations by firefighters and Sheriff’s deputies. A variety of agencies join FD6 in providing over 3,000 people with a fun, educational day. The agencies included the following:

Clark County Sheriffs Office K-9, Marine Patrol, and Public Outreach
Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency
American Red Cross Disaster Services
Legacy Hospital Poison Prevention
Southwest Washington Hospital Trauma Services (bicycle helmets)
Clark Public Utilities (electrical safety)
Clark PUD water services
Clark Regional Wastewater District
Community Cycling Center (bicycle safety)
Fire District 6 volunteer recruitment
Fire District 6 Emergency Medical Services
EDITH – Vancouver Fire Department’s fire safety house
Hazard House – Region 4 tabletop fire safety display
Fire District 6 Technical Rescue display with Truck 61
Fire District 6 new 2006 Pierce fire engine
Fire District 6 – Jr. firefighter challenge
Fire District 6 – Extrication demonstration
Fire District 6 – fire extinguisher demonstration
Life Flight Helicopter
American Medical Response (car seat safety)
Applebee’s Oriental chicken salads
Cold Stone Creamery ice cream
People’s Credit Union popcorn
Fire District 6 cadets – snow cones
Fire District 6 volunteer firefighters – hot dogs, chips, soft drinks
Hazel Dell/Salmon Creek Business Association (balloons)
Juvenile Justice system – Assistance by youths
Dick Streissguth antique apparatus
Engine 0 – fire engine rides
Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Clark County Fair – During the ten-day event, firefighter/paramedics and volunteer firefighters staff a fairgrounds fire station 24/7 to respond to emergencies on site for the 300,000 people who visit the fair annually. Firefighters talk to fair attendees and Freddy the fire engine and Sparky the Fire Dog provide children with safety messages.

Fire Prevention Activities at Chinook Elementary School



2007 Annual Poster Contest Grand Prize Winner Tori Beavin

Community Involvement

Public Safety Complex Open House – The new Public Safety Complex held a grand opening / open house in September 2001 and has continued these events each year. This multi-agency facility provided the local community with information from many county agencies. There were demonstrations being presented all afternoon and free hot dogs, popcorn, pop, and snow cones for those who attend.

Fire District 6 Community Newsletter – The Fire District’s community newsletter began production in September 2001. The newsletter has been successfully published and distributed semi-annually ever since. The community newsletter is distributed to approximately 23,000 households and businesses within Fire District 6. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide information about Fire District 6, its services, and safety information to our community. In the Spring 2006 edition, an article was included by the Fire Commissioners to better inform our public about the purpose and function of their fire commissioners.

Annual Poster Contest – In partnership with the Hazel Dell/Salmon Creek Business Association, the fifteenth annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest took place in October 2005. Local third through fifth grade students are invited to participate. Entries are brought to the station and judged by Business Association members. Winning entries from each grade level are picked up at their school by fire engines and awards are presented at a luncheon at the fire station attended by family members, school officials, fire district personnel and elected officials. The grand prize at the last awards luncheon included a portable DVD player and a donation awarded to the student’s school art program. The grand prizewinner also enjoys the distinction of having his or her poster framed and displayed at the fire station. This program continues to be a very successful public education program that reaches a large number of students in our area.

Fire Prevention Activities – Our Fire Prevention Program activities focus on providing fire safety information to preschool and K-2 graders year-round, and especially during the month of October. Engine crews take fire engines to the schools and provide fire safety messages in a fun environment. We also schedule a large number of station tours during that month. Teacher curriculum focuses on fire prevention education during the month of October and we concentrate our efforts in providing fun, informative and life-saving information. We feel these efforts keep our incidents involving juvenile fire setters extremely low.



**Memory Makers at the
Clark County Fair**



Community Involvement

Other Community Events

We take pride in our commitment to our community. We have requests on a regular basis to attend community events in our area. School carnivals, neighborhood association events, Easter egg hunts, parades, Santa visits, and Christmas tree lighting ceremonies are just a small sampling of events in which we participate. There is always an opportunity to provide information to those with whom we come in contact.

Bicycle Helmets. The District partnered with Wal-Mart to provide free bicycle helmets to hundreds of children. The helmets are distributed at safety fairs, at our open house and on an as-requested basis. District personnel conduct bicycle rodeos on a regular basis to teach safe bicycle operation to children.

Memory Makers at the Clark County Fair Fire District 6 partners with the International Association of Firefighters, Local 1805, the Clark County Fair, People's Community Credit Union, and the Providence Child Center to provide a fun family outing to the Clark County Fair for medically fragile children and their families. With firefighter/paramedics as escorts, these families are able to enjoy and outing normally not possible because of their child's medical condition. 2006 will mark the fourth year with this program.