



# *Cedar Rapids Fire Department 2009 Annual Report*





## ***Cedar Rapids Fire Department Annual Report***

Each year the men and women of the Cedar Rapids Fire Department are faced with challenges and opportunities that make their job unique. The year 2009 proved to be another exciting and rewarding year for our Department.

Listed below are a few of our major accomplishments in 2009. A more complete explanation of these accomplishments can be found as you look through our Annual Report.

- We purchased our first engine that has on-board foam capabilities and acquired a foam trailer to help combat flammable liquid fires.
- We have seven fire apparatus providing Paramedic Specialist response.
- We added more schools that will include our Public Education programming.
- Our Fire Code Division inspected over 5,000 local businesses.
- We partnered with the Police Department to open up a Community Connections Center at 1501 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE.
- The Cedar Rapids Fire Department became one of seven state regional asset Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Response teams in the State of Iowa.
- We recently received the official approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that we can relocate our flood-damaged Central Fire Station to an area outside of the floodplain.

These are just a few examples of how the men and women of this Department take pride in all aspects of the services that they provide. Whether it is firefighting, responding to medical emergencies, addressing Homeland Security issues, or just being a good neighbor, our members are glad to provide services to the citizens of Cedar Rapids and surrounding communities.

We hope that you find the 2009 Annual Report interesting and informative. Thank you for your continued interest and support. We look forward to 2010 and the new challenges ahead.



Stephen C. Havlik  
Fire Chief

*Steve Havlik*

The mission of the Cedar Rapids Fire Department is to mitigate threats to the health and property of our community through emergency response, quality education and prevention programs.

## PROMOTIONS



Mark English  
was promoted from  
Administrative District  
Chief to Assistant  
Fire Chief  
on 02/14/2009



Greg Smith  
was promoted from  
Shift Fire Captain to  
Battalion Chief  
on 02/14/2009



Brian Giachino  
was promoted from  
USAR Officer/Acting  
Battalion Chief to  
USAR Administrative  
District Chief  
on 07/18/2009



Rick Halleran  
was promoted from  
Shift Firefighter to  
Shift Fire Captain  
on 02/14/2009

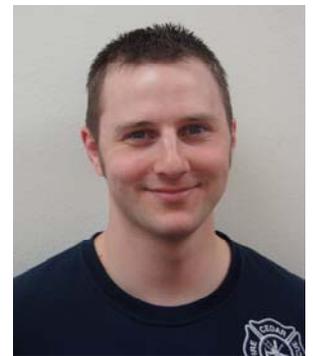


Nicky Stansell  
was promoted from  
Public Education  
Specialist to Public  
Education Manager  
on 01/03/2009

## TRANSFERS

Peter Schmit transferred from Shift Firefighter to Day Firefighter in the Fire Code Division on 07/04/2009

## NEW APPOINTMENTS



Six probationary firefighters were hired on September 28, 2009. Pictured from left-to-right are: Christopher Hinrichs, Patrick Hoyt, Landon Merkle, Kurt Kroemer, Sean Beard, and Brady Hunt.



Eight firefighters celebrated their one-year anniversary in 2009. Pictured left-to-right are: Dustin Takes, Rion Schulze, Luke Henkle, Michael Poch, Amy Kunkle, Brooks Burkhart, Matthew Powers, and Brandon Feddersen. They were hired September 22, 2008.



## RETIREMENTS (Pictured left-to-right)

Assistant Fire Chief Terry Martinson on 01/05/2009  
Firefighter Paul Christenson on 03/10/2009

# FIRE CHIEF HAVLIK RETIREMENT



From being a firefighter during Toxic Tuesday to performing as the Incident Commander during the June 2008 historic flooding, Fire Chief Steve Havlik has spent nearly thirty years of his life serving the Cedar Rapids community as a member of the Cedar Rapids Fire Department. The Fire Department's eleventh paid Fire Chief set his retirement date as March 1, 2010.

Chief Havlik began his firefighter career on October 13, 1980, and was promoted to Lieutenant, Captain, Training Chief, and Assistant Chief before his selection as Fire Chief on November 18, 1998. Chief Havlik served over 11 years as Fire Chief at the time of his retirement.

During his administration, the Cedar Rapids Fire Department became a sponsoring organization of Urban Search and Rescue Iowa Task Force-1, a team capable of responding to terrorist incidents, structural collapses caused by earthquakes, tornados, grain elevator explosions, as well as aircraft accidents, floods and other natural or man-made disasters.

The Fire Department now staffs firefighter/paramedics at the majority of the fire stations, providing advanced emergency medical care to citizens. During Havlik's time as Chief, the public education program expanded and an annual Citizens' Fire Academy was created to promote the public's awareness of the duties of a firefighter. Also, the Fire Department expanded the Honor Guard, a special unit of the Department that performs ceremonial duties at memorials, funerals, and special events, to 20 members. Under Chief Havlik's direction, all fire stations have been equipped with cardio and resistance training fitness equipment, which is an important means of promoting firefighter health and wellness. Furthermore, the Fire Department upgraded its special operations and hazardous materials teams, and is able to perform many different types of special rescue.

A pivotal moment in Chief Havlik's career was the historic flooding of June 2008. For nearly two weeks, Chief Havlik was the Incident Commander, overseeing evacuation and rescue operations from the Emergency Operations Center. The Fire Department performed 423 boat rescues during the flood event. There was no loss of life during the disaster.

There have been 54 firefighters hired during Chief Havlik's leadership. The Fire Chief promoted 32 firefighters to Captain during his nearly twelve years as the head of the Department. Also, Chief Havlik made the promotion of five Administrative District Chiefs, one Fire Marshal, one Assistant Fire Marshal and two Assistant Fire Chiefs.

## CEDAR RAPIDS FIRE CHIEF HISTORY

1893 – 1897	L.M. Ayers
1897 – 1900	John Starman
1900 – 1909	Joseph Cook
1909 – 1921	W.A. Mohrbacher
1921 – 1927	James Kennedy
1927 – 1932	Paul Dolan
1932 – 1953	Emil Kohout
1953 – 1971	Jess Hunter
1971 – 1991	Edsel McMickle
1991 – 1998	Joseph Gorman
1998 – 2010	Stephen Havlik

# MAJOR EVENTS DURING CHIEF HAVLIK'S CAREER

October 13, 1980	Hired as Firefighter under Fire Chief McMickle
December 4, 1984	Ground breaking for Central Fire Station, 222 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street NW
July 15, 1985	Toxic Tuesday (old City sewage treatment plant at A Street SW releases hydrochloric gas)
April 21, 1986	First two female firefighters hired in Department's 92-year history
July 25, 1987	Promoted to Lieutenant
December 31, 1987	All firefighters trained to the Emergency Medical Technician-Ambulance level
July 25, 1990	Promoted to Captain
May 28, 1992	Windsor Apartment Fire, largest fire in 7 years
July 6, 1994	Promoted to Administrative District Chief, Training Division
December 7, 1996	Promoted to Assistant Fire Chief
November 18, 1998	Promoted to Fire Chief
June 2, 1999	First night of inaugural Citizens' Fire Academy to promote public's awareness of the duties of a firefighter
January 1, 2000	Fire Stations 8 and 9 become provisional paramedic level stations, expanding advanced emergency medical care to areas further away from hospitals
June 19, 2000	Pheasant Run Apartments fire, 411 Burdette Drive SW, largest fire in 8 years
September 11, 2001	World Trade Center, Pentagon attacked; Fire stations go into lock down and emergency preparedness
October 8, 2003	Urban Search and Rescue Team, Iowa Task Force-1 approved and created, sponsored by Fire Department
July 14, 2005	Pheasant Run Apartments fire, 5921 Ridgeview Drive SW, largest fire in 5 years

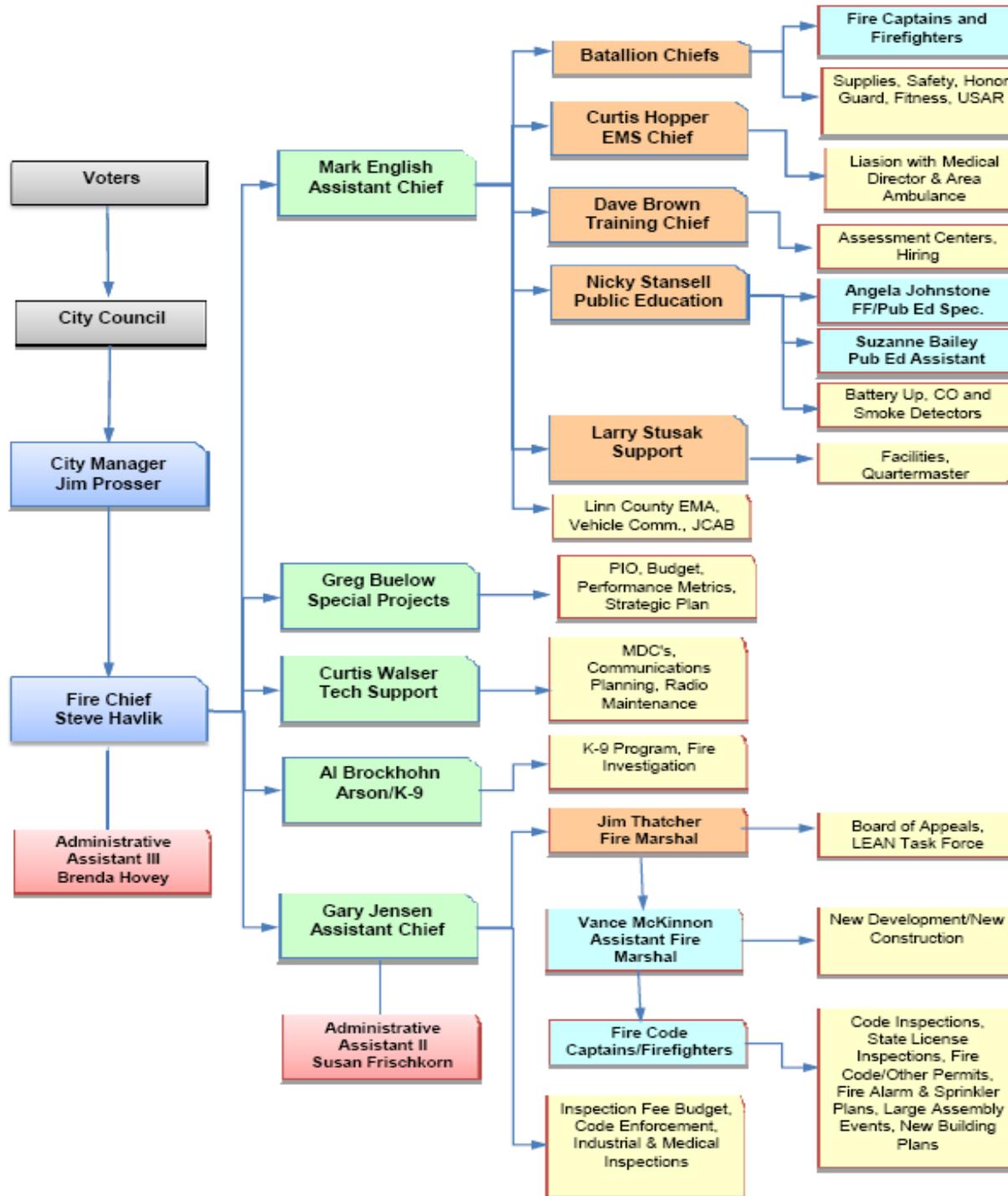
# MAJOR EVENTS DURING CHIEF HAVLIK'S CAREER (CONTINUED)

- June 11-13, 2008 Historic flooding from the Cedar River; Chief serves as incident commander; 423 boat rescues performed; no lives lost; Central Fire Station destroyed.
- December 31, 2008 Fire Department annual report indicates that the Department responded to 9,253 incidents in calendar year 2008, a significant increase from 5,500 incidents in 1998.
- September 4, 2009 State of Iowa and the Federal Emergency Management Agency announce that the Central Fire Station can be replaced
- September 28, 2009 Six firefighters begin Training Academy, bringing total of 54 firefighters hired while Fire Chief
- 32 Captain promotions
  - 5 Administrative District Chief promotions
  - 1 Fire Marshal promotion
  - 1 Assistant Fire Marshal promotion
  - 2 Assistant Fire Chief promotions
- December 15-30, 2009 Sinclair (former Farmstead Foods meat-packing facility) property fire affects 125,000 square feet of interconnected buildings in a smoldering fire that lasts 16 days. Over two million gallons of water was used to extinguish the blaze. A local demolition company assisted with tearing down the buildings to help with fire suppression efforts.



Chief Havlik was the Incident Commander during the historic flood of June 2008. The flood waters impacted ten square miles of the community, nearly 7,200 properties, and much of the City's infrastructure, including the Central Fire Station, City Hall, Public Works and the Police Department. Eighteen rescue boats were in operation for several days and the Emergency Operations Center was activated for two weeks. The Cedar River crested at 31.12 feet. Over 25,000 citizens were evacuated. There was not a single loss of life despite the devastation.

# CEDAR RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# OPERATIONS DIVISION



Mark English  
Assistant Chief

The Operations Division includes Shift Firefighters, Shift Fire Captains, Battalion Chiefs, Training, Special Operations, Hazardous Materials, Safety Operations, and Emergency Medical Services.

The Fire Department has five Battalion Chiefs, three Administrative District Chiefs, 28 Shift Fire Captains, seven Shift Fire Captains/Paramedics, 59 Shift Firefighters and 30 Shift Firefighter/Paramedics. There are ten fire stations, including two temporary fire stations at 1010 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW and 1825 Edgewood Road SW. Fire crews provide emergency coverage to the citizens and businesses of Cedar Rapids twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The Fire Department responded to 9,353 incidents in 2009.

In 2009, the Fire Department hired six new firefighters, who are required to complete a 12-month probationary period in which they learn basic skills and procedures to perform as a member of the Fire Department team.



In July, the Fire Department took delivery of the Department's first fire engine to have an on-board 20-gallon foam cell that enables firefighters to apply foam to a fire. Foam can be an effective tool for smothering "stubborn" fires that would otherwise take copious amounts of water to extinguish. The fire engine is a 2009 Pierce Velocity with a 750-gallon booster tank with 1,500 gallons per minute pumping capacity. The Fire Department also acquired a foam trailer that provides a supply of AR-AFFF (alcohol-resistant aqueous film-forming foam) and a portable delivery system. The trailer carries two 265-gallon totes of the AR-AFFF foam.

## Shift Personnel Activity Log:

Fire Drills	14
Fire Extinguisher Demonstrations	19
Business Inspections	38
Job Shadow	6
Neighborhood Meeting	69
Public Education Events	49
Public Relations	84
Ride-Along	75
Special Events	9
Station Tours	57
Training	243
Truck and Turnout Demonstrations	72



Larry Stusak  
Battalion Chief



George Bockenstedt  
Battalion Chief



Brad Brenneman  
Battalion Chief



John Pulver  
Battalion Chief



Greg Smith  
Battalion Chief



Cedar Rapids firefighters respond to a variety of emergency incidents such as fires, vehicle collisions, rescue situations, hazardous materials spills, carbon monoxide exposures, sudden illness and traumatic injury emergencies. The Fire Department responded to 9,353 incidents in 2009.

The Fire Department was able to put into service a six-wheel drive Polaris Ranger equipped with the ability to fight wild land fires. The Ranger has an onboard water tank and pump. It also has the capacity to transport an injured patient on a backboard from a remote area. Also, the Fire Department acquired a 2009 Ford Explorer that was used as the Battalion Chief's Shift Commander vehicle.

There were several station improvement projects that were coordinated by Battalion Chief Larry Stusak. Stations 5 and 6 had exterior repairs, painting, new gutters and downspouts. Vinyl siding, new ceramic tile kitchen floors and kitchen windows, and gutters were installed at Stations 2, 4, 8 and 9. Carpeting was installed at Station 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9. Heating and air-conditioning units were placed in Station 3, 4 and 9.

In 2009, the Fire Department continued to work on getting the flood-damaged Central Fire Station, 222 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW, approved for repair. The City and Fire Department received notification from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that the damage sustained in the flood was greater than 50 percent of the repair costs and replacement costs of the station. The determination allows the City to rebuild a new fire station of like-function and have 90 percent of the costs reimbursed by FEMA.

At year's end, the City was working with FEMA to determine if the Fire Department could be granted the ability to permanently relocate the fire station out of the flood plain. Once permanent relocation was granted, FEMA assistance would include 90 percent of the building costs for a new fire station and 100 percent of the costs to acquire land for the new site.

### **MAJOR FIRES OF 2009**

- Sinclair property, 1600 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SE  
July 28<sup>th</sup> - \$2,962,800 damage
- Rockwell Collins, 855 35<sup>th</sup> Street NE  
September 15<sup>th</sup> - \$840,000 damage
- Burger King, 3030 Mount Vernon Road SE  
April 24<sup>th</sup> - \$550,000 damage
- Gateway Gardens, 3141 6<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
April 7<sup>th</sup> - \$465,000 damage
- Sinclair property, 1600 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SE  
December 15<sup>th</sup>-December 30<sup>th</sup>



The Burger King fire was caused by a carelessly discarded cigarette.



The July Sinclair fire was considered suspicious.



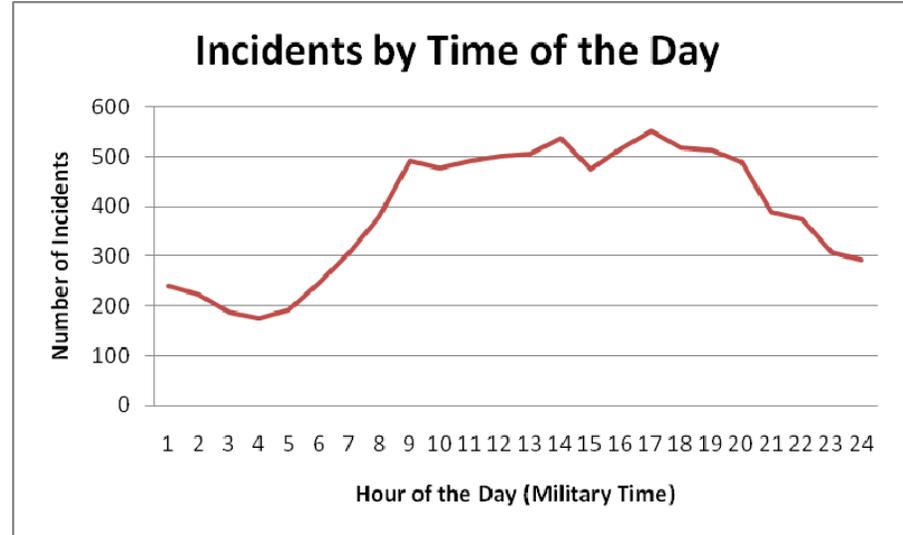
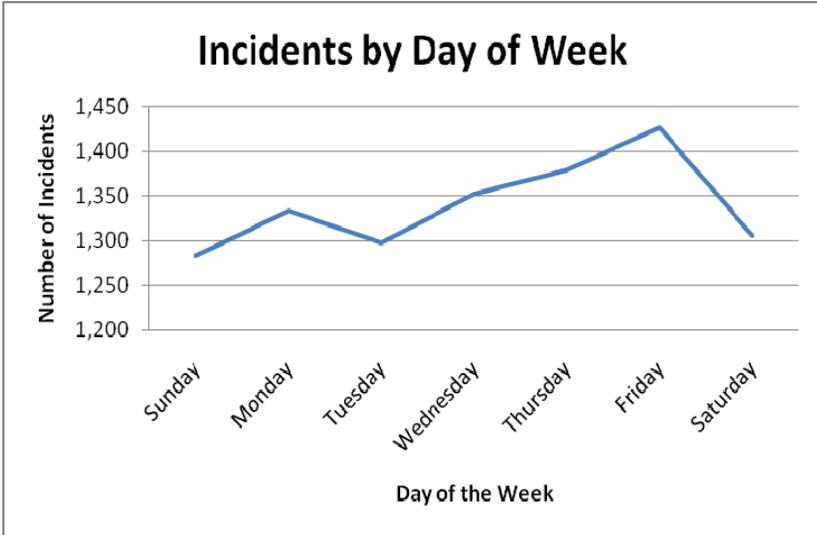
The Gateway Gardens fire displaced six occupants.



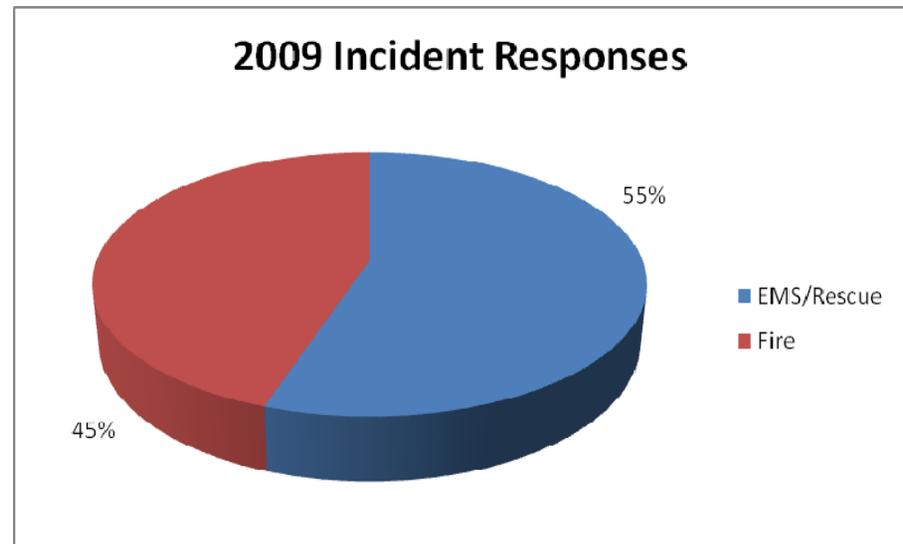
The December Sinclair property fire lasted 16 days.



You are most likely to see a Cedar Rapids Fire Department emergency vehicle responding to an incident on a Friday between 5:00 – 5:59 PM.



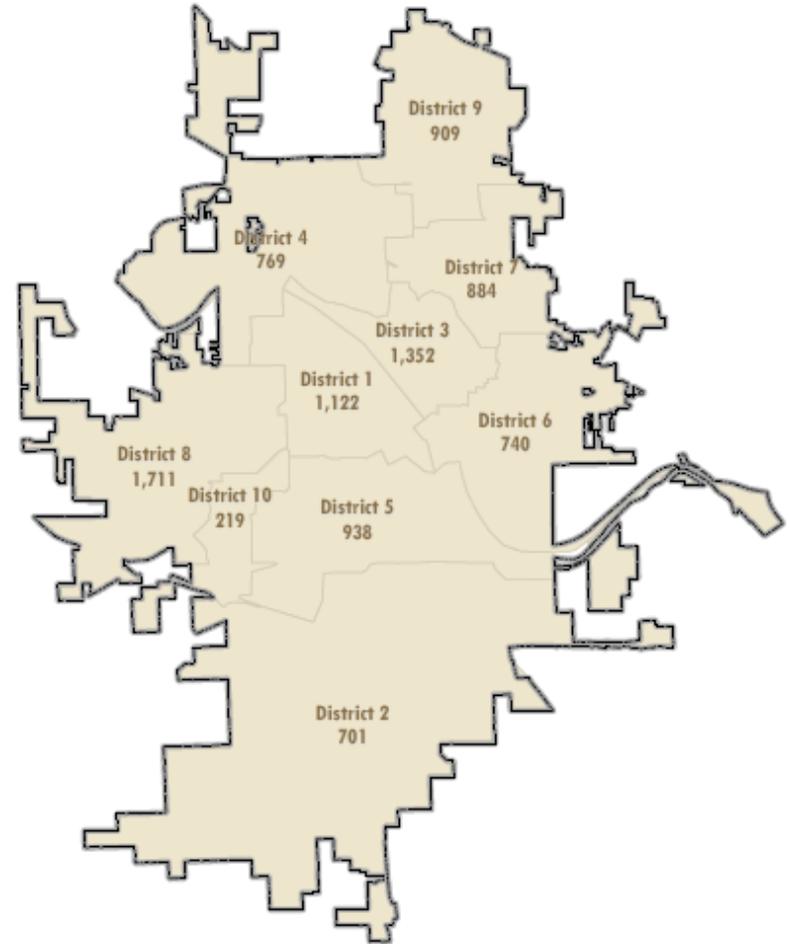
- Firefighters responded to 4,190 fire-related calls and 5,163 emergency medical services/rescue calls in 2009.
- Mutual aid was given to surrounding communities six times, while mutual aid was received by Cedar Rapids eleven times.
- There was one civilian fire fatality in 2009. Pamela Sue Jones died in a house fire at 363 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The cause of the fire was accidental and attributed to smoking materials.
- There were no firefighter deaths in 2009.



## FIRE STATION AND FIRE DISTRICT INFORMATION

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department utilized eight permanent and two temporary fire stations in 2009. The Fire Department offers fire protection and other services to 71.8 square miles.

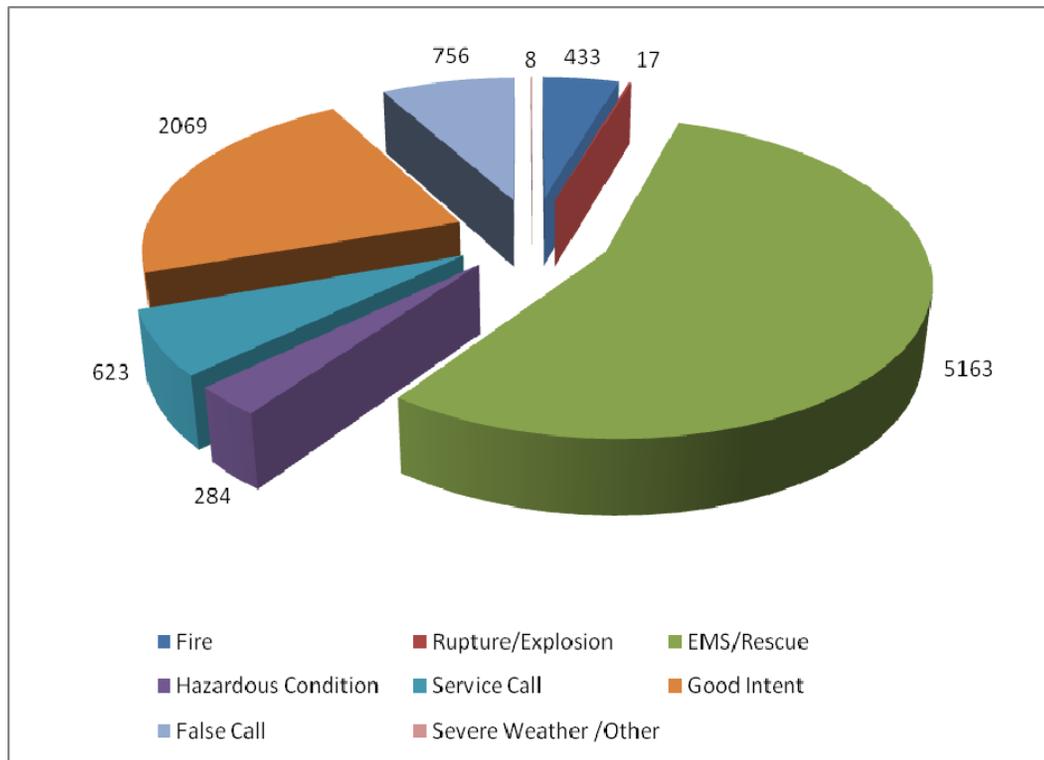
FIRE STATION DISTRICT	LOCATION	SQ. MILES	TOTAL DISTRICT INCIDENTS
1	1010 1 <sup>st</sup> Street NW	4.1	1,122
2	442 50 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Court SW	21.2	701
3	1424 B Avenue NE	2.8	1,352
4	3600 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street NE	9.6	769
5	509 Wilson Avenue SW	7.3	938
6	2416 Mount Vernon Road SE	6.8	740
7	206 29 <sup>th</sup> Street NE	4.1	884
8	100 Wiley Boulevard SW	8.8	1,711
9	415 Broderick Drive NE	5.4	909
10	1825 Edgewood Road SW	1.7	219



Incidents per Fire District graphic courtesy of City of Cedar Rapids GIS Department, Information Technology.

Note: There were six mutual aid calls in 2009 that are not reflected in the map. There were a total of 9,347 incidents within the corporate limits of Cedar Rapids.

## INCIDENT SUMMARY BY INCIDENT TYPE



\* There were a total of 9,353 incidents in 2009.



### Year in Review: A Closer Look

- 109 building fires (house, business, garage)
- 62 passenger vehicle fires
- 33 brush/grass fires
- 245 vehicle accidents with injuries
- 7 water/ice rescues
- 33 gas leaks
- 14 chemical spills/leaks
- 19 carbon monoxide calls (CO present)
- 420 Citizen Assists
- 64 unauthorized burnings

### Definition of Categories

**Fires** – building, grass, passenger vehicle, trash

**Rupture/Explosion** – overpressure rupture, steam, gas, gas pipe, excessive heat

**EMS/Rescue** – medical emergency, motor vehicle accident with or without injury, extrication, high angle rescue, water and ice rescue

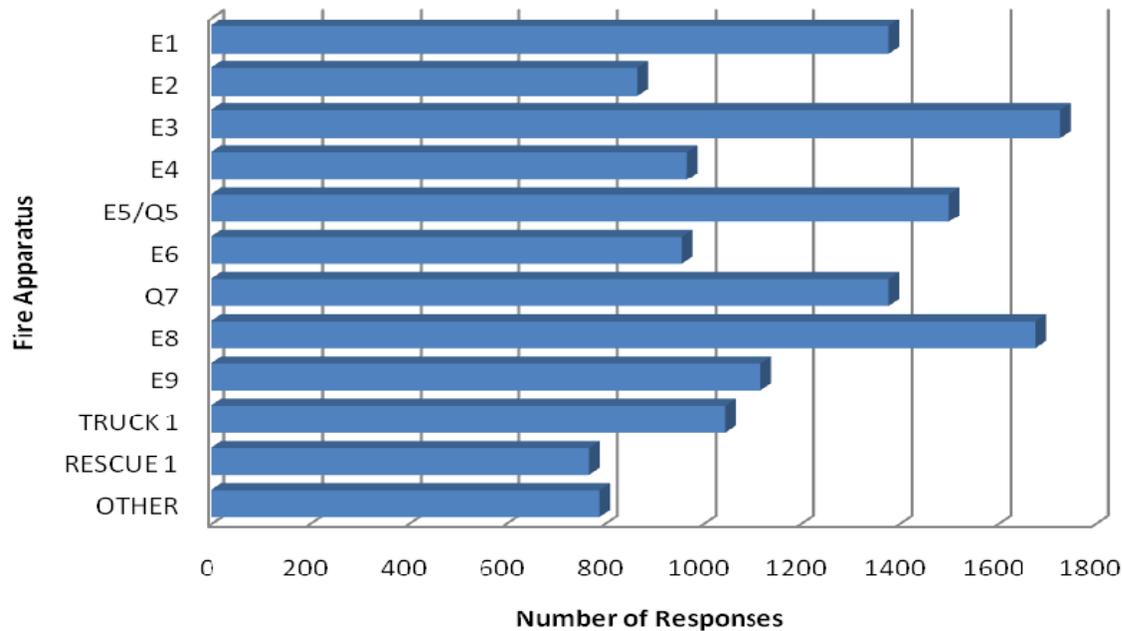
**Hazardous Condition** – gasoline or oil spill, carbon monoxide incident, downed power line, general clean-up of vehicle accident, toxic condition

**Service Call** – Lock-out, public assistance, Citizen Assist, unauthorized burning

**Good Intent** – smoke scare, cancelled on scene, investigation

**False Call** – false alarm, alarm malfunction, unintentional alarm

## Total Responses by Fire Apparatus



The Cedar Rapids Fire Department responded to 9,353 incidents in 2009. Depending upon the type of emergency, more than one apparatus may be required for an incident. For example, a report of a house fire would have an initial dispatch of three engines, a ladder truck, rescue vehicle and Battalion Chief. The chart to the left reflects total responses by all apparatus. The “Other” category includes responses by rescue boats, brush trucks, command vehicles, fire investigators, and hazardous materials/ special operations vehicles.

**The total responses made by all fire department apparatus was 14,193.**

## Fire & Rescue Incidents by Property Use

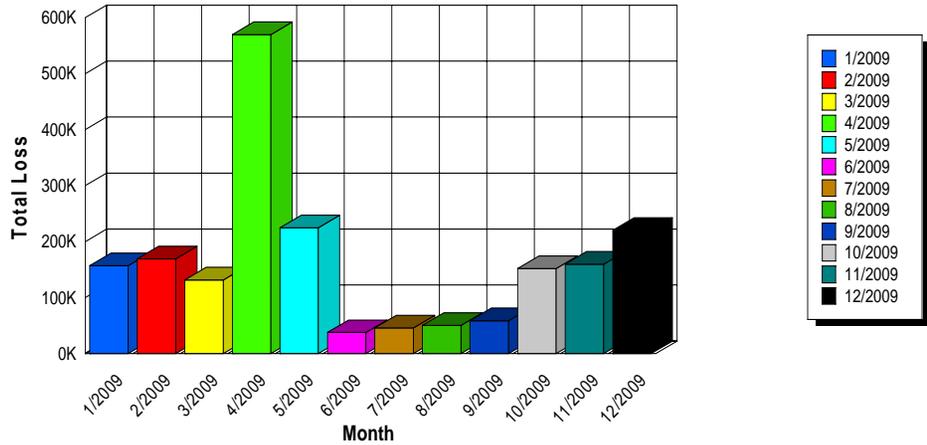
Assembly	227
Educational	121
Healthcare, Detention & Correction	336
Industrial, Utility, Defense, Agriculture	20
Manufacturing, Processing	138
Mercantile, Business	284
None or Undetermined	1
Outside or Special Property	700
Property Use/Other	5
Residential	2,128
Storage	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,992</b>



Firefighters respond to a vehicle collision on U.S. Interstate 380. Firefighters may provide medical care, extrication operations, and fire suppression during this type of incident.

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The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

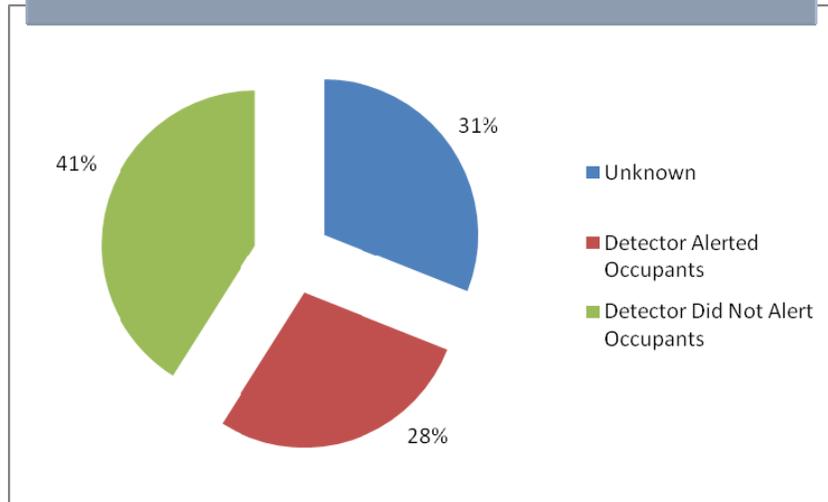
## RESIDENTIAL FIRE LOSS BY MONTH



<u>Month</u>	<u>Fires</u>	<u>Total Loss</u>
January	7	\$157,224.00
February	9	\$169,657.00
March	5	\$131,504.00
April	8	\$569,854.00
May	7	\$224,829.00
June	13	\$37,783.00
July	6	\$45,791.00
August	6	\$50,668.00
September	4	\$59,041.00
October	6	\$151,802.00
November	12	\$160,016.00
December	9	\$220,063.00
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>\$1,978,232.00</b>

\* Cooking fires are not included in fires or total loss.

## RESIDENTIAL SMOKE ALARM NOTIFICATION



## TOTAL RESIDENTIAL FIRES BY INCIDENT TYPE

Building Fire	79
Cooking Fire	62
Chimney Fire	4
Fuel Burner/Boiler Fire	1
Mobile Home Fire	4



41 percent of residential fires started in the kitchen in 2009.

The most cooking fires occurred in September and December.

## SAFETY DIVISION



Brad Brenneman  
Battalion Chief

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department has a Safety Committee established to evaluate standard operating procedures and equipment in an effort to create a safer working environment in all aspects of the firefighter's duties. In 2009, the Committee members included Chief Brad Brenneman, Chief David Brown, Captain Terry McAtee, Firefighter Jim Porter, Firefighter Nathan Goodlove, Firefighter Erik Moen and Firefighter Nick Miller.

Traffic warning lights were installed at Fire Station 5, 509 Wilson Avenue SW, to alert traffic of emergency vehicles and make it safer for crews backing into bays at the fire station. The Safety Committee also recommended traffic warning lights at Fire Station 4, 3600 42<sup>nd</sup> Street NE, in the future.

A City-wide accident and injury group was formed with City safety personnel to meet on a regular basis to discuss accidents involving employees, City vehicles, and equipment. The purpose of the meetings is to garner a broader perspective of accident issues throughout all City departments and discuss methods of reducing accidents.



Safety is the number one priority at all emergency scenes, including incidents like this house fire at 1015 8<sup>th</sup> Street SE.

Safety nets were placed on fire apparatus to keep the hose in the bed of the fire trucks. Several high-profile incidents across the country resulted in injuries to the public when the fire hose fell off of the fire trucks and struck motorists or pedestrians.

The Safety Committee members continue to stress safety in all aspects of the job.

In 2009, there were eight reportable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cases. The injuries resulted in 170 lost work days and 28 restricted duty days. Injuries ranged from sprains and strains to fractures and lacerations, primarily on the fire ground. These statistics are based on a Fire Department with nearly 150 employees that respond to emergency situations in all types of conditions. Firefighters must be able to perform all aspects of the job, such as climbing ladders and moving patients, before returning to unrestricted duty assignment. Sprains and strains are the number one cause of injury and are often the result of lifting and moving patients.

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



Curtis Hopper  
Admn. District Chief

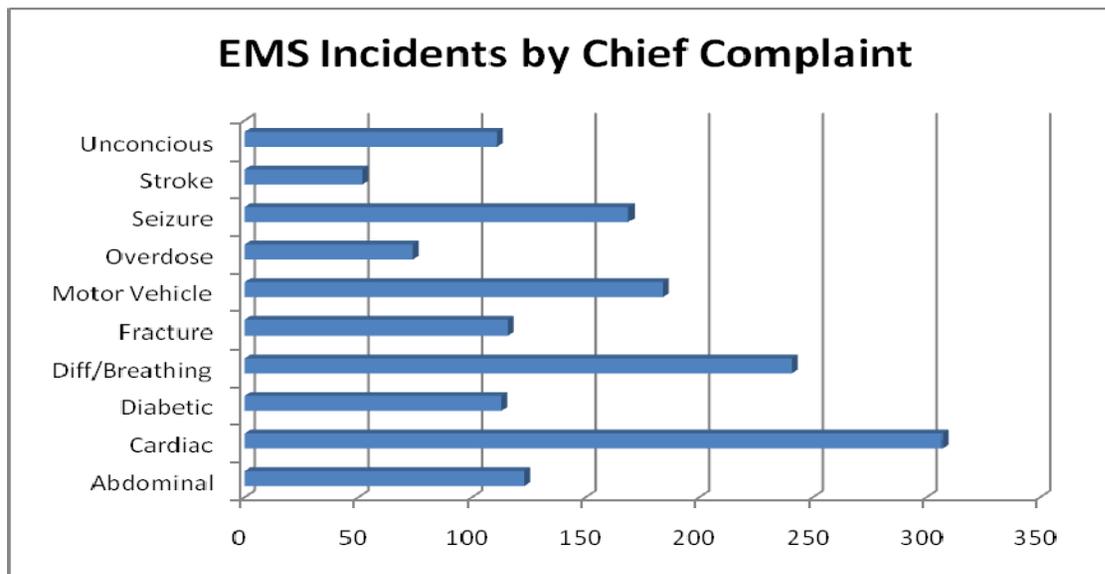
The Cedar Rapids Fire Department provides emergency medical services to the sick and injured. All firefighters are trained, at a minimum, to the Emergency Medical Technician-Basic level. The Fire Department is authorized by the Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of EMS to the Paramedic Specialist level, which essentially allows the Department's 26 Paramedic Specialists to utilize their skills to that level if they are staffing a designated apparatus. The Department has 98 EMT-Basics, seven EMT-Intermediates, 16 Iowa EMT-Paramedics and 26 Paramedic Specialists. Currently, there are seven apparatus equipped to provide Paramedic Specialist response, including Engine 1, Engine 4, Engine 5, Quint 7, Engine 8, Engine 9 and Truck One. Advanced providers are able to initiate intravenous lines and administer medications under the direction of the Fire Department's Medical Director, Brad Wisnousky.

The EMS Division purchased new charging stations and lithium ion batteries for the seven Paramedic Specialist apparatus. The batteries are one-third of the weight of the lead acid batteries used previously, which makes cardiac monitors more manageable to use at incidents. The Division continued to use a cost-effective online training program (National Paramedic Institute/Kaplan University) for continuing education requirements for personnel in addition to the hands-on, classroom training. In 2009, the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Burn Unit provided training to staff over a period of four days at no cost.



Firefighters provide emergency medical care to victims of injury or sudden illness.

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The Gazette, Cedar Rapids, Iowa



The Fire Department responded to 5,163 EMS/rescue calls. The bar graph demonstrates the major categories of chief complaint indicated by patients.

# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS & SPECIAL OPERATIONS



Greg Smith  
Battalion Chief

There were significant accomplishments in the area of Hazardous Materials and Special Operations in 2009. The Cedar Rapids Fire Department became one of seven state regional asset Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Response teams in the State of Iowa. The Department received a Hazardous Materials response trailer and cache of WMD response equipment.

The Fire Department began the process of upgrading the training of all personnel to become compliant to the Operations level of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1670 Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents and the Operations and Technician level of the NFPA 472 Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents. In 2009, there was 2,947 training hours logged for Hazardous Materials and Special Operations by the Fire Department.

Battalion Chief Greg Smith is the Program Manager for Hazardous Materials and Special Operations. A Team Leader aspect was developed to assign responsibility for equipment, training and expertise. The Team Leaders and fire crews periodically meet with facility personnel at industries throughout the community to familiarize themselves with the building layout and maintain awareness of the hazardous materials and confined space challenges.

The Department collaborated with outside training resources to maintain a constant state of readiness, including WMD training delivered by the 71<sup>st</sup> Civil Support Team of the Iowa National Guard, Hazmat IQ training, ethanol spill response training and Hazardous Materials technician training.



A nitric acid leak from Electro-Coatings of Iowa, 911 Shaver Road NE, on July 22, 2009 required Hazardous Materials response.

## Team Leaders:

Boat Operations/Rescue – Captain Brian Hall  
Confined Space - Captain Mike Fredericks  
Hazardous Materials – Captain Andy Olesen  
High Angle/Rope Rescue - Captain Dan Dall  
Trench Rescue - Captain Don Ransford and Captain Terry McAtee  
WMD Response – Firefighter Mike Cheney

## Team Numbers:

Hazardous Materials Technicians – 39  
Hazardous Materials Operations Level – 81  
Special Operations Technicians – 57  
WMD Response Technicians – 19  
Emergency Worker Monitoring and Decontamination Station Workers - 25

## TRAINING DIVISION



David Brown  
Admn. District Chief

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department conducted 2,520 hours of training in 2009. Fire Captains are responsible for conducting several training exercises with their fire crews throughout the year.

Formal training included sessions on ice rescue, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), fire ground operations, knots and ladders. Firefighters also practiced extrication and vertical ventilation.

With the addition of the fire pumper with foam cell and the foam trailer, firefighters held training exercises on use of the foam. There was also pump recertification by all fire crews and a driver's safety program.

Further, Firefighter Curtis Walser conducted a radio communications class for all crews.

Cedar Rapids firefighters conducted fire training June 22nd through June 25th at a City-owned, flood-damaged property at 1021 5th Street NW. Firefighters performed fire "fast attack" drills, which involved extinguishing a room and contents fire within the two-story residential structure. About 130 shift firefighters participated in the training exercise over the four-day period.

Training Chief David Brown coordinated the training by rotating single fire engine companies through the exercise throughout each day. The use of live fire enhanced the training experience and brought realism to the drill. There was a critique of each fire crew's performance after each drill.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources allows fire departments to conduct two training fires on shingle-bearing houses annually.



Firefighters train with a new fire pumper acquired in 2009 that includes a 20-gallon foam cell.

The Training Division acquired new rescue chains to be used in the field for vertical ventilation. The Division also acquired portable emergency flashers that can be used to warn traffic instead of road flares that were used previously.

Six probationary firefighters participated in the department-run training academy. The Academy lasted seven weeks and helped prepare the rookie firefighters for assignment with a Fire Captain.

Periodic testing of the probationary firefighters continues throughout the year to ensure mastery of skills, adherence to departmental standard operating procedures and familiarization with the assigned fire district.

## URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE



Brian Giachino  
Admn. District Chief

Iowa Task Force-1 is sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Fire Department and Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The Task Force is a Type III task force with forty members that provide search, rescue, EMS, logistics, communications and incident support. The team is led by the Task Force Leader and is comprised of five squads consisting of five personnel. The Task Force has personnel that provide incident planning and logistics. Also, the Task Force has a team physician, a technical information officer, communications specialist and various other support personnel and subject matter experts. Since its inception in 2003, Iowa Task Force-1 has been deployed to six incidents.

Seven new Fire Department and civilian recruits were added to the team in 2009. The new recruits traveled to Texas A&M's Disaster City for their eighty-hour initial structural collapse training. Upon their return, Task Force members participated in quarterly training by donating their time. This fact demonstrates the dedication and commitment to protecting Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and the nation.

Six of the new members of the Task Force are Cedar Rapids firefighters, including John Cannon, Josh Jensen, Paul Koenig, Matt McDowell, Nick Miller, and Scott Wolfe. The other recruit was Rob Archibald from the Hiawatha Fire Department. The Task Force is deployable anywhere in the United States through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.



Iowa Task Force-1 may be deployed anywhere in the United States. The program is supported by Iowa's congressional delegation. Pictured from left-to-right are Senator Chuck Grassley, Chief Brian Giachino, Captain Dan Dall and Senator Tom Harkin.



Rescue Manager Rick Halleran organized a class for CITA Fire School at Kirkwood Community College in September. Halleran was assisted by SCT Technicians Erik Moen, Justin Jensen, and Corey Archer.



Task force members travelled to Oelwein, Iowa to perform mock tower rescues and technical rescue evolutions utilizing the RACOM 225-foot guyed communications tower.

Iowa Task Force-1 helped other Emergency Management regions with training and deployment of ACU-T's, which are a "black box" that assists with radio interoperability, thereby allowing a user to connect different radios from different systems so all rescuers can communicate with one another. The Task Force used the system during the Parksburg tornado in 2008.

During the summer of 2009, Urban Search and Rescue members reached out to the Law Enforcement Intelligence Network Region 3 Fusion Center, which is an organization tasked with preventing future acts of terrorism, to facilitate collaboration and interoperability between agencies. Representatives of city, county, state and federal law enforcement showcased their capabilities. An Iowa National Guard Counterdrug Intelligence Division OH-58 helicopter was flown into the Iowa Task Force-1 training facility grounds. Information and resource sharing is essential to preparation for any catastrophic event, whether natural or man-made.

The Task Force acquired a Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking system that works with the team's radios. The system allows group members to monitor specific live locations of all portable radios. The location and specific radio identifier will display on a Google Earth map.



FEMA K-9 Instructors spent two days training Iowa Task Force K-9 handlers at the Iowa Task Force-1 training site.



Task Force Leader Brian Giachino is an Executive Board member of the State Urban Search and Rescue Alliance (SUSAR). Chief Giachino presented "The Response to the 2008 Historic Flooding Event" to a national audience in Baltimore, Maryland. SUSAR is a national group consisting of 33 state Urban Search and Rescue teams. Currently, water rescue is overseen by the United States Coast Guard. However, Urban Search and Rescue teams have made a major impact in past flooding disasters and have been the unofficial water rescue asset for these life-saving events, including the June 2008 Cedar Rapids flood.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Nicky Stansell  
Public Education  
Manager

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department's Public Education Division provides over 20 different fire and life safety programs for the citizens of Cedar Rapids. These programs include a Citizens' Fire Academy, Kids' Fire and Life Safety Camp, Safe Kids Coalition and older adult fire safety presentations.

The annual Kids' Fire and Life Safety Camp returned after a year hiatus because of the flood. It was held at Station 7 due to Central Fire Station being destroyed by the flood of June 2008. There were 36 children who attended the five-day camp. Battery Up, a joint venture with the American Red Cross, helped the residents of 124 homes with installation and maintenance of smoke alarms. The "Be Santa To A Senior" program, performed with Home Instead Senior Care, delivered presents to 91 homes, and firefighters helped replace 32 smoke alarms and change 23 batteries. A child passenger safety seat check-up event at KGAN-TV's Broadcast Park helped 32 parents ensure that their child's safety seat was installed correctly.

The Public Education staff includes Program Manager Nicky Stansell, Firefighter Angela Johnstone, and part-time Public Education Specialist Suzanne Bailey. The staff presents fire safety curriculum five times throughout the school year at 28 elementary schools and 69 classrooms. Two new schools were added this year – Bowman Woods and Westfield. The public educators created and administered a pre-test to help evaluate the effectiveness of the program and will administer a post-test in 2010 to evaluate the results. The five visits include a smoke alarm/home fire escape presentation, a fire truck and firefighter turnout gear presentation, holiday fire safety, 911 simulator/ how to get help in an emergency presentation, and the fire safety trailer (an interactive multi-room house with a smoke machine to simulate a fire escape). Fire crews assist with the truck and turn-out gear presentation and the fire safety house.

### PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITY LOG:

School Children Contacts	9,865
Classroom Fire Safety Visits	420
Fire Safety Presentations (Civic Groups, Senior Citizens, College)	30
Fire Safety Presentation Contacts	805
Video Production Hours	30
Child Safety Seat Installations	93
Residential Smoke Alarm/ Battery Installations (Number of Homes)	42
Juvenile Fire Intervention Program Assessments	26
Fire Drills/Evacuation Planning Sessions	3
Health and Safety Fairs	8



2009 Fire Prevention Week poster winners



Angela Johnstone  
Firefighter/Public  
Education Specialist



Suzanne Bailey  
Public Education  
Specialist



Kids learn first aid and other potentially life-saving skills at Kids' Camp.

Question	Yes	No	N/A or no response
Does a grown-up always stay in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stove?	84%	15%	1%
Are cooking areas free of materials that could catch fire?	90%	9%	1%
Are pot handles turned towards the back of the stove?	88%	11%	1%
Is there a "kid-free" zone of three feet (one meter) around the stove when grown-ups are cooking?	76%	23%	1%
Are portable space heaters always turned off when grown-ups leave the room or go to sleep?	87%	4%	9%
Has your family's heating equipment-chimneys, fireplaces, woodstoves, or furnaces been inspected by a professional this year?	55%	43%	2%
Are candles always blown out when grown-ups leave the room or go to bed?	96%	2%	2%
Are matches and lighters kept in a locked cabinet, out of children's sight and reach?	72%	26%	2%
If there are smokers in your home, do they douse all butts and ashes with water before throwing them away?	55%	9%	36%
Does your home have a working alarm on every floor, and inside or near every sleeping area?	92%	7%	1%
Are the batteries working in every smoke alarm?	95%	3%	2%
Are your smoke alarms less than 10 years old? If so, or if you can't remember, have a grown-up replace them.	80%	17%	3%
Does everyone in your home know the sound of the smoke alarm and know exactly what to do if it goes off?	93%	4%	3%
Does your family have a home fire escape plan that includes two exits (usually a door and a window) out of each room?	84%	13%	3%
Are exits in your home kept free of toys, furniture, and clutter?	92%	5%	3%
If there are infants or other family members with limited mobility, has someone been assigned to assist them in the event of a fire?	57%	15%	28%
Does your family practice the escape plan twice a year?	39%	58%	3%
Has your family picked a safe place to meet outside after you exit the house?	88%	9%	3%
Does everyone in your family know the fire department's emergency number to call once you're safely outside?	95%	2%	3%
Is your home's street number clearly visible from the street?	92%	5%	3%

The Public Education Division surveyed third graders in classrooms throughout Cedar Rapids to ascertain fire safety behavior. The results of the survey, conducted in fall 2009, are shown to the left.

The annual Kids' Fire and Life Safety Camp and the classroom visits throughout the year are examples of how the Public Education Division is promoting fire prevention and reducing the risk of fire loss in the community.



# JUVENILE FIRE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Fire Department's Juvenile Fire Intervention Program provides a cohesive partnership among community agencies, interacting together as a coalition, to reduce the number of fire injuries and deaths, by providing evaluation, education and redirection assistance to children who exhibit fire setting behavior. There is no cost for families to participate. The goal of the program is to bring relevant parties and talents together to identify and fix juvenile fire setting behavior.

Over the past ten years, over 200 children have participated in the Department's program, which includes an interview of the child and the child's parents/guardians to attempt to identify the rationale for the fire play or fire start. Based on the assessment, the Fire Department can determine the likelihood of recidivism and offer fire and life safety instruction for the children and family. Often, counseling is recommended, so the Department partnered with local mental health agencies to offer indigent families the opportunity to receive professional help. The Fire Department also established a strong relationship with the State of Iowa Juvenile Court Office and has become a mandatory component of probation for youth charged with fire-related activities. This effort helps safeguard the community from future criminal arson activity.



Firefighter Brent Smith, who is the program manager of the Juvenile Fire Intervention Program, interviews a child that was involved in fire setting.

In 2009, the Department had 26 children participate in the program. There has not been a case of recidivism in the past five years by a child that has participated. Nicky Stansell and Angela Johnstone took a National Fire Academy certification program that enabled them to become a part of the Program's assessment team. Coalition members, including the ABBE Center, Linn County Department of Human Services, Cedar Rapids Police Department, Linn County Attorney, Mercy Medical Center, Marion Fire Department, Hiawatha Fire Department, Kirkwood Community College, Linn County Juvenile Court, Cedar Rapids Community Schools, Cedar Centre, Four Oaks, University of Iowa Burn Center and St. Luke's Hospital, have quarterly meetings to share resources and information.

The Juvenile Fire Intervention Program was recognized and included in the National Fire Academy's Curriculum of Juvenile Fire Intervention Programs offered at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The Academy is using the Fire Department's program as their Midwest program example. Materials from the Cedar Rapids program will be adopted and used by fire departments throughout the nation.

## FIRE CODE DIVISION



Gary Jensen  
Assistant Chief

The Fire Code Division provides inspections, plan certifications, and fire suppression system testing. Fire Captains and firefighters in the Division inspect businesses, schools, daycares, and hospitals. The Fire Code Division enforces and ensures compliance with all phases of the International Fire Code and directs the Life Safety Code of Iowa, which equates to an enhanced level of fire prevention to people who live, work or visit the community. The Fire Code Division also supports the other inspection services offered by the City of Cedar Rapids, including the building, electrical, housing, mechanical and plumbing divisions.

Code staff annually inspect over 5,000 businesses and operations that may pose a risk or danger to life safety and property. Inspections ensure that all occupants have a safe means of ingress and egress to buildings, apartments and major events. The purpose and intent of the Fire Code Division is to help business occupancies operate in a safe manner and to store and maintain operations accordingly. There is a fee for fire inspections and fire plan review, which helps offset the costs of providing the service.



Jim Thatcher  
Fire Marshal

The administrative staff of the Fire Code Division documents and files all Fire Code programs and inspection information. The staff also provides site assessment information and other public records, including inspection forms and documentation. Staff coordinates updated emergency contact information from field inspectors to the City's Joint Communication Center, ensuring that there is a point of contact for after-hours emergencies at business and industry through the City.

To provide citizens with better accessibility to City resources, the Fire Code Division moved from the Public Works building at 1201 6<sup>th</sup> Street SW to the Community Connections Center at 1501 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue SE. The move has allowed the Police Department and Fire Department to collectively respond to the public on all matters of code information and safety concerns. The collaborative sharing of offices and resources at the Community Connections Center has been successful as a temporary location until the flood-damaged Central Fire Station can be rebuilt.

### FIRE CODE DIVISION MISSION STATEMENT:

**The Mission of the Cedar Rapids Fire Code Division is to build quality relationships with our citizens and the business community, and to provide essential fire prevention programs in an efficient and effective manner.**



Vance McKinnon  
Assistant Fire Marshal

## 2009 FIRE CODE DIVISION ACTIVITY LOG AND INSPECTIONS:

• School Inspections	62	• College Inspections	3
• Hospital (satellite buildings)	24	• Hospital (main facilities)	6
• Manufacturing Operations	6	• Factories and Major Productions	6
• Food-producing Operations	10	• General Production and Storage	10
• Beer & Liquor Permit Inspections	380	• Underground Tanks Inspected/Certified	60
• Daycare Inspections	84	• Certificate of Occupancy Inspections	200
• General Permit Inspections	194	• Special Event Inspections	130
• Pyrotechnic and Blasting Permits	50	• Site Assessments	25
• Citizen Reports	108	• Development/Sprinkler/Alarm Plans Certified	300

\*\* There were 5,250 general inspections performed in addition to the detailed activity log above.



Fire Code Division staff perform fire inspections at over 5,000 businesses and industries in Cedar Rapids. For example, inspectors check the fire alarm and sprinkler systems, and ensure proper storage of flammable or combustible materials. Inspections can reduce fire risk in businesses and help reduce insurance costs.

Pictured in the photographs are Firefighter Steve Dunham and Assistant Fire Marshal Vance McKinnon.



# FIRE INVESTIGATIONS



Al Brockhohn and Ember  
Fire Investigation Team

Captain Al Brockhohn, with the assistance of Captain Scott Saylor, investigated 80 fire scenes in 2009. Investigators analyze and interpret diagnostic signs of fire behavior to accurately determine the cause of a fire to identify and prosecute those responsible. By efficiently and accurately identifying the cause of fires, whether accidental or incendiary, the investigation team reduces fiscal fire losses that have a direct impact on insurance premiums, tax revenues and jobs in the community.

The Department has an arson K-9 program, which enhances fire scene examination. Ember, who is in her fifth year of service, was obtained through a scholarship awarded by State Farm Insurance. Ember is able to detect the presence of trace amounts of ignitable liquids. All of the samples that Ember identified in the field as having the presence of an ignitable liquid were confirmed by the state laboratory.

Captain Brockhohn is also a member of the Bomb Squad. The Bomb Squad mitigates events involving suspicious packages, improvised explosive devices, and examines and reconstructs post-blast scenes.

## Fire Causes

Unintentional	161
Underdetermined After Investigation	49
Radiated, Conducted Heat from Operating Equipment	38
Intentional	31
Heat from Powered Equipment	14
Cigarette	13
Heat Source: Other	11
Spark, ember or flame from Operating Equipment	9

## Training Log Summary Report for Ember

Other (Vehicle) Searches	9
Yard Searches	2
People Searches	3
Basic Imprinting	618
Scent Discrimination	70
Basic Floor Exams	86
Fire Scene Exams	52
Number of Reps	5187
Number of Finds	1006
Demonstrations	3
Number of People at Demos	50
Number of Samples Taken	13
Number of Samples Confirmed	13

## PUBLIC INFORMATION



Greg Buelow  
Special Projects  
Coordinator/Public  
Information Officer

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department serves over 126,000 citizens who reside in Cedar Rapids and provides response services to nearly 200,000 people during the day as commuters work or visit the community. The Fire Department has established performance metrics to measure the success of our service delivery. Performance metrics are shared with firefighters and staff monthly to improve such areas as response time, turnout time (the amount of time from alarm to leaving the fire station), and confinement of fire to the room or object of origin.

The Department sends out customer survey cards on a monthly basis to a random sample of people who utilize our fire suppression, emergency medical services, fire code division or public education/community outreach programs. In 2009, the Fire Department averaged 4.99 on a 5.00 scale with “5” being the highest for customer satisfaction with fire department services. This is a reflection of the efforts of the nearly 150 employees of the Fire Department who provide these services.

There were 104 media releases sent by the Department in 2009. The releases are intended to inform and educate the public of emergency situations, major incidents and fire department events. Greg Buelow is the Department’s Special Projects Coordinator/Public Information Officer, and is assisted by Captain Andy Olesen and the on-duty Battalion Chiefs. The Fire Department spokespersons conduct interviews and provide instant updates to broadcasters and newspaper reporters through Twitter, a modern technological tool for sending instant messages. At year’s end, over 80 members of the media had subscribed to the Department’s Twitter account.



Providing information to the media provides an opportunity to share details about events and educate the public.

Public information is also shared through the weekly Cedar Rapids City Progress newsletters, E-City newsletter, cable television and the City’s Web site. The Fire Department provides online forms and documents to enhance efficiency and make the Department more responsive to customers. Permit applications and employment requests can be conducted through the departmental Web site.

The Fire Department complies with Open Records requests. The Department receives nearly 150 requests annually for copies of reports, documents or other statistical information. Susan Frischkorn, Administrative Assistant, helps provide many of these reports to the public, such as site assessment and incident reports.

The Fire Department Annual Report is a compilation of the accomplishments of the organization over the calendar year. It is an opportunity for the public to see the value of the services that are provided by the Fire Department.

# BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2010

## REVENUES

Special Fire Services	647,750
Protective Inspection Fees	490,170
Misc. Revenue	25,000
Printing & Duplication of Forms	500
Sale of Maps and Publications	330
<b>TOTAL REVENUE:</b>	<b>\$1,163,750</b>

## EXPENDITURES

Personal Services	13,082,655
Discretionary Non-Personal Expenditures	1,156,091
Non-Discretionary Non-Personal Expenditures	590,201
Capital Outlay	105,350
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES:</b>	<b>\$14,934,297</b>

The Fire Department is principally funded by the City's General Fund, which is based on property tax receipts. The Department charges a fee for some services, including false alarms, fire inspections, permits, and gas line breaks. These revenues offset a portion of the costs of providing the service, which reduces the amount of property taxes needed for departmental operations.

Personal Services include regular employee wages, overtime, group insurance, social security and retirement contributions, workers' compensation and other employee benefits.

Discretionary Non-Personal Expenditures include the Fire Department's contribution to the Joint Communications Center (\$764,153) and Health Services (\$55,000) for laboratory work and fitness testing for firefighters. Other expenditures include books, periodicals and subscriptions, office supplies, EMS supplies, personal protective gear, clothing, buildings and grounds repairs, and postage.

Non-Discretionary Non-Personal Expenditures are for City accounting, fleet and Information Technology services. Expenditures also include electricity, liability insurance and gasoline/diesel fuel.

Capital outlay is for the purchase of capital equipment, which includes Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, a Midland Hazardous Materials rail kit and automated external defibrillator monitor upgrades.



The Fire Department provides emergency services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to the citizens and businesses of Cedar Rapids. The Department also provides prevention programs to reduce the risk to lives and property.



**City of Cedar Rapids  
Fire Department  
1010 1<sup>st</sup> Street NW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405**

**Phone: (319) 286-5200**

**Web Site: [www.cedar-rapids.org/fire](http://www.cedar-rapids.org/fire)**



**2009 Fire Department Annual Report**