

2008 Annual Report





Our Mission and Priorities

Our Mission:

“Maximize the Safety and Well Being of Our Community by Reducing Risk to Life and Property.”

Our Essential Priorities:

- Prevention & Education
- Preparedness
- Emergency Response

Our Motto: “QUALITY SERVICE, TIMELY RESPONSE”

Message From the Fire Chief

To the Community of Longview:

Greetings! During 2008, our firefighters and staff continued to serve you, our customers, at the highest level possible given the resources at hand. Longview Fire engaged in strategic planning over the course of the year with the desired outcomes of 1) determining the recommended level of Fire and Emergency Medical Service required to meet the expected demand of the community in comparison with today's capability and 2) designing a road map for meeting anticipated future service demands.

Successes in 2008 included enhancing the Fire Prevention Program with the addition of a fire inspector. Prevention through code enforcement and education is often difficult to measure with hard data. The best measure is realizing a reduction of fires and injuries in following years. Disappointingly, the fire inspector position became a victim of budget reductions for 2009-2010.

Other 2008 accomplishments included the placement of a new Engine in service which will greatly reduce the wear & tear of our Ladder Truck. The ladder is now rarely dispatched to EMS calls. Additionally, the City became signatory to a regional mutual aid agreement which includes sharing of resources during major emergencies (fire, police, public works) throughout Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, and Skamania counties, enhancing our local and regional capabilities to serve you. The best news of 2008 is that the total number of fires was down from 2008, by 7%, and there were no fatalities due to fire! I know from experience that lows and highs are to be expected over a longer period of time, but let's celebrate the low for now!

“Quality Service, Timely Response” continues to be our commitment. “Quality Service” is essential to ensure that the best level of care and proficient performance is provided for all services rendered. “Timely Response” is critical for Firefighter/EMTs to be effective in life saving efforts and minimizing loss of property to fires.

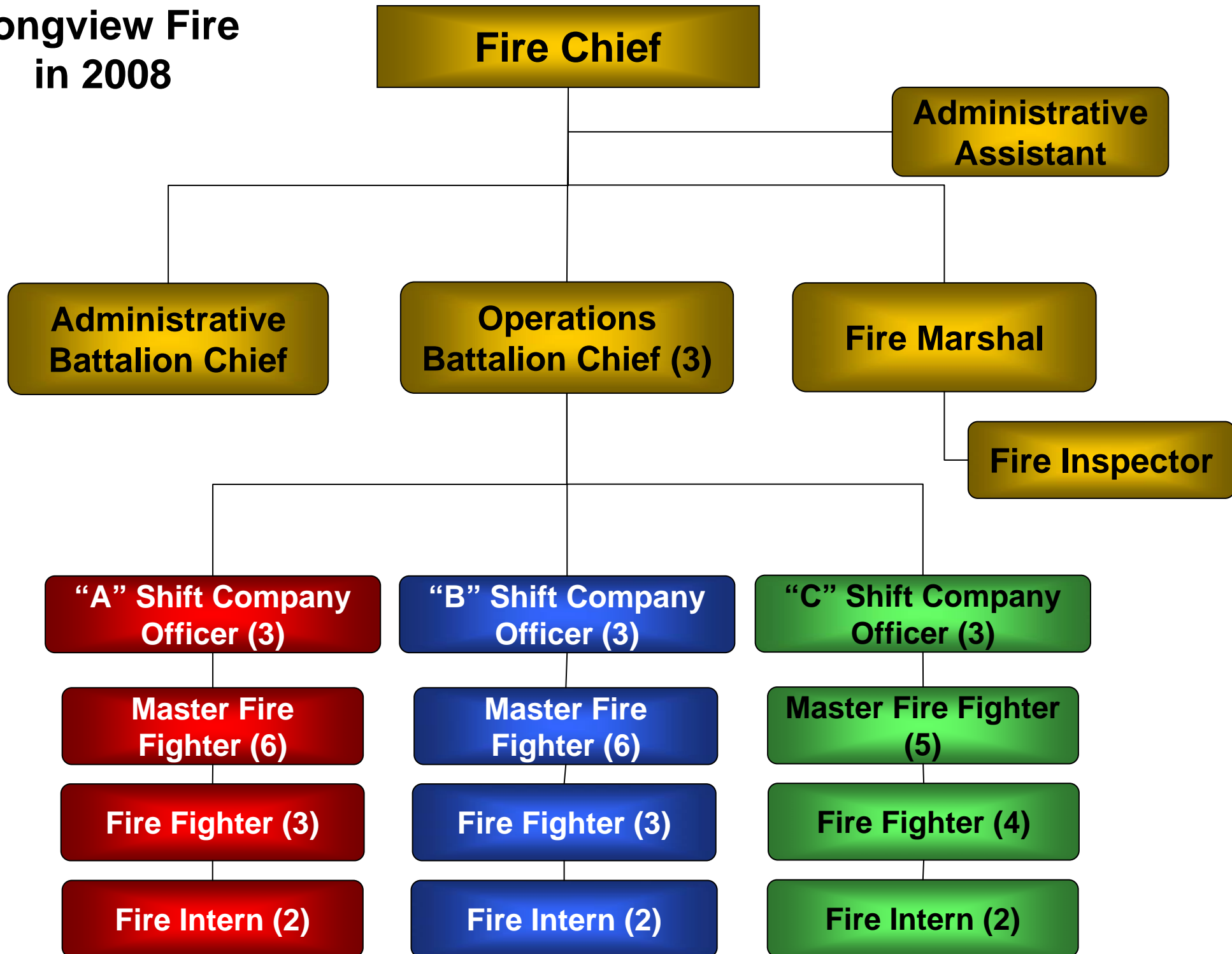
In 2009, the staff of Longview Fire will do our best to be there for you in your time of need. We will strive to engage with you for your input on how we can better serve through Education, Prevention, Preparedness, and Response.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Daryl McDaniel, Fire Chief

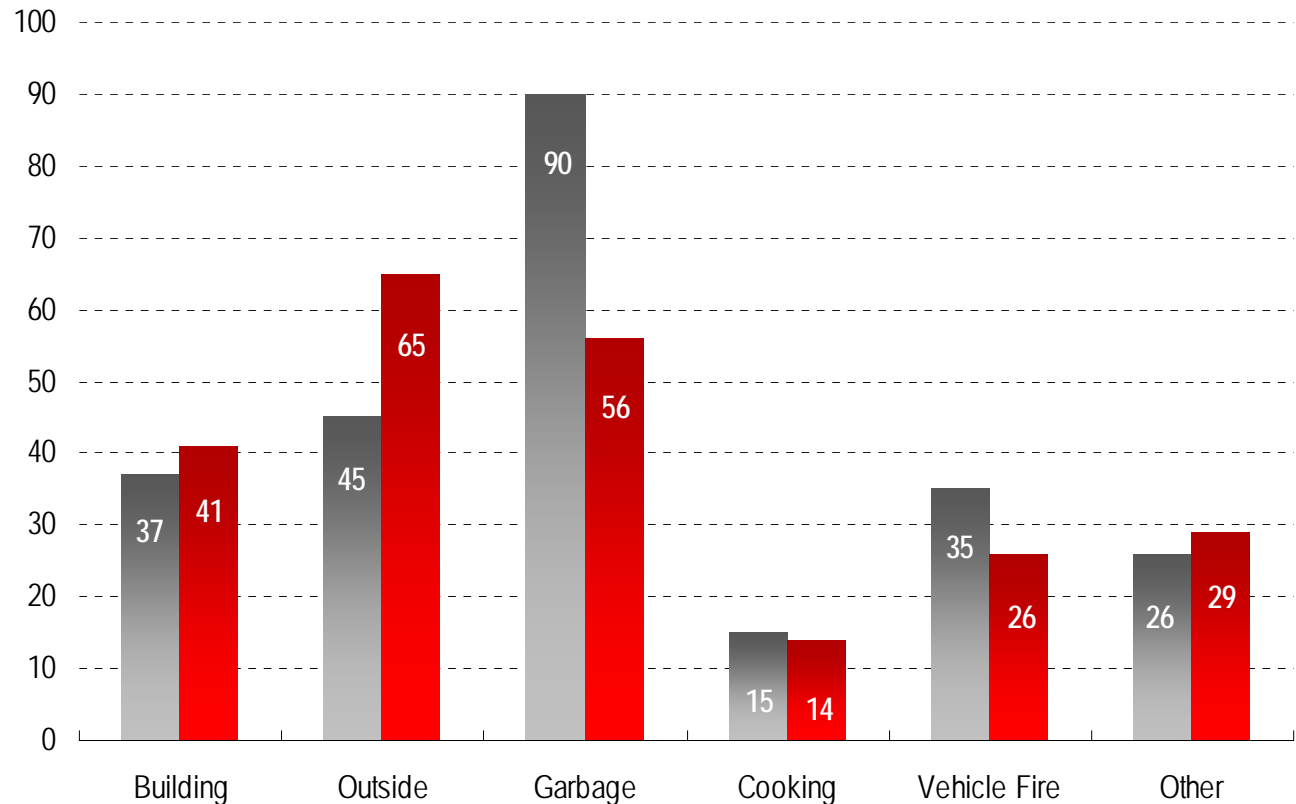


Longview Fire in 2008



Fire Incidents

2007 ■
2008 ■



Fire Suppression Program



California Way Training Burn

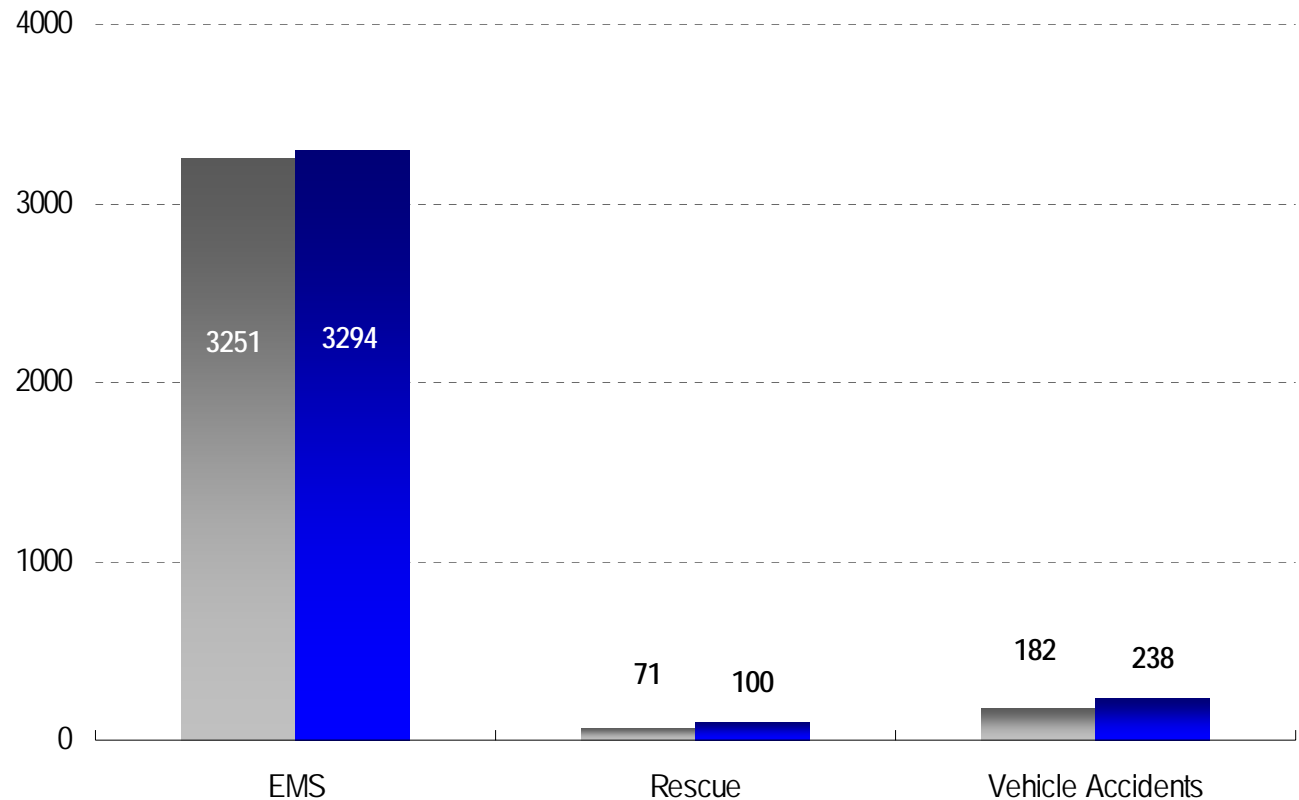
Fire Incidents overall remained approximately the same as 2007. Garbage fires, however, decreased dramatically. This can be attributed to the city's initiative of moving the large garbage containers out of alleys.

On the down side, building fires increased. Building Fire incidents include responses to Contracted Service Areas and Automatic Aid Areas. Cooking fires continue to be one of the biggest causes of fires, and one of the easiest to prevent.

EMS Incidents

2007 ■
2008 ■

*EMS
Program*

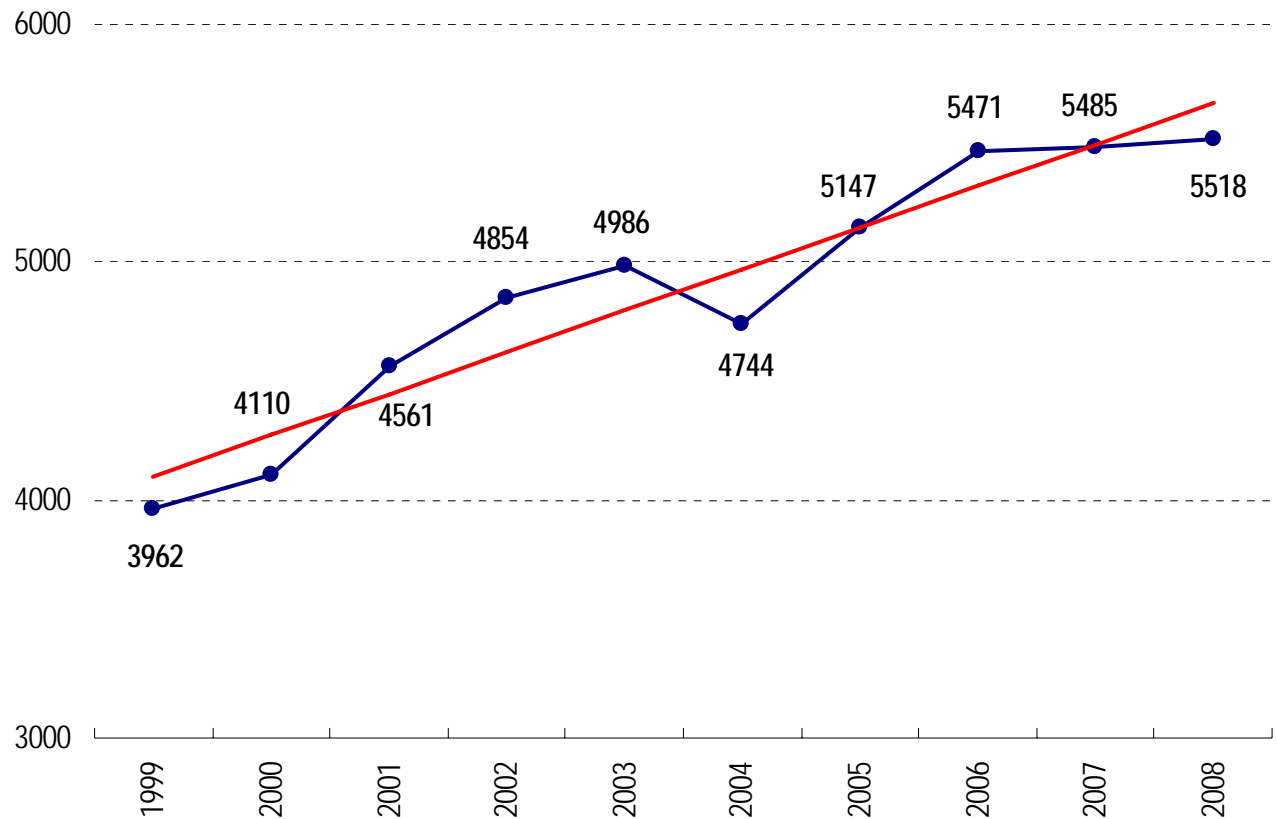


EMS incidents continue to be the greatest demand for service; approximately 80% of our total call volume. EMS incidents include falls, medical emergencies, vehicle collisions, drug overdoses, public assists and the like. EMS incidents is an area that will be a focus of study over the next year.

LFD meets regularly with American Medical Response (AMR), Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue (C2FR) and representatives from St. John Medical Center to ensure quality care and response is provided to the citizens of Longview.

Incident Trends

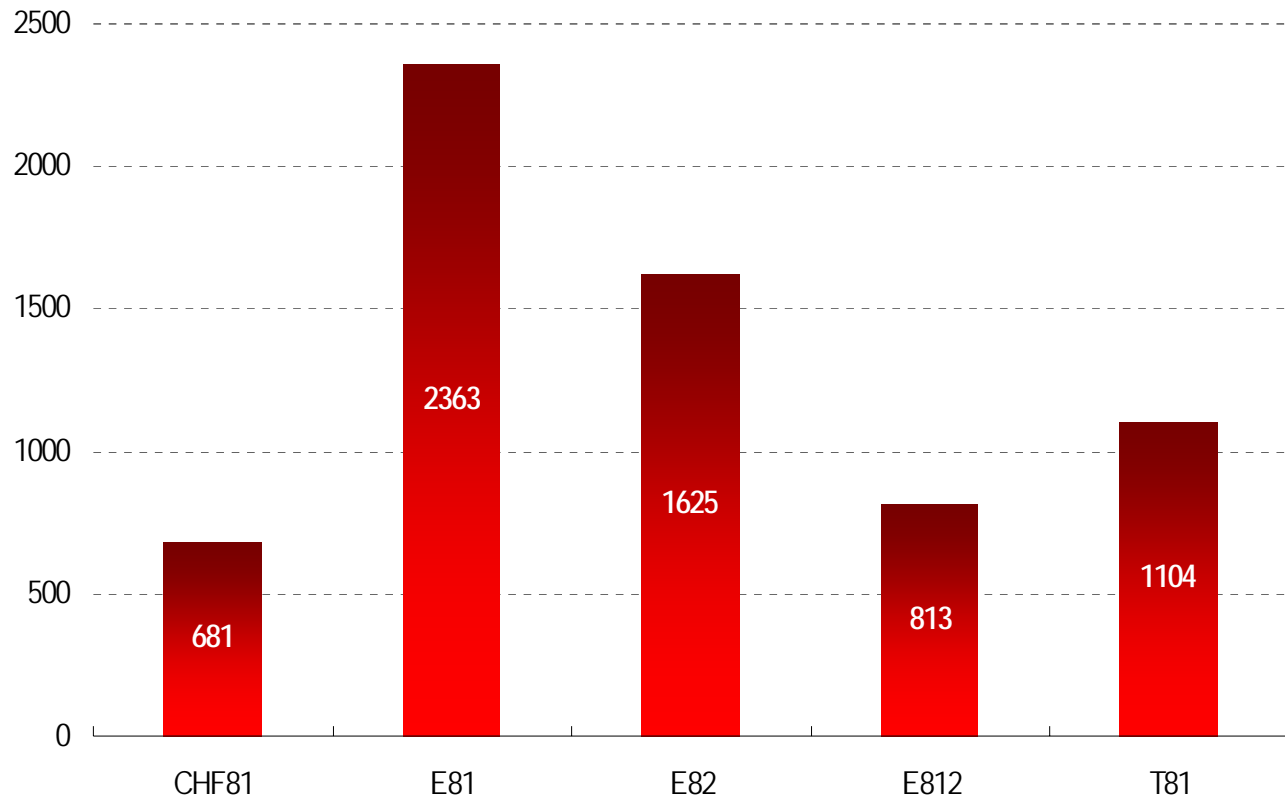
1999 - 2008



Ocean Beach Highway Training Burn

Since 1999 calls for service have increased 39%. Longview Fire has curtailed some responses. For example, we no longer respond to backyard burning complaints that are not a threat. We continue to evaluate all incident responses, and through public education we hope to limit calls for service to critical and life-threatening events.

2008 Response by Unit

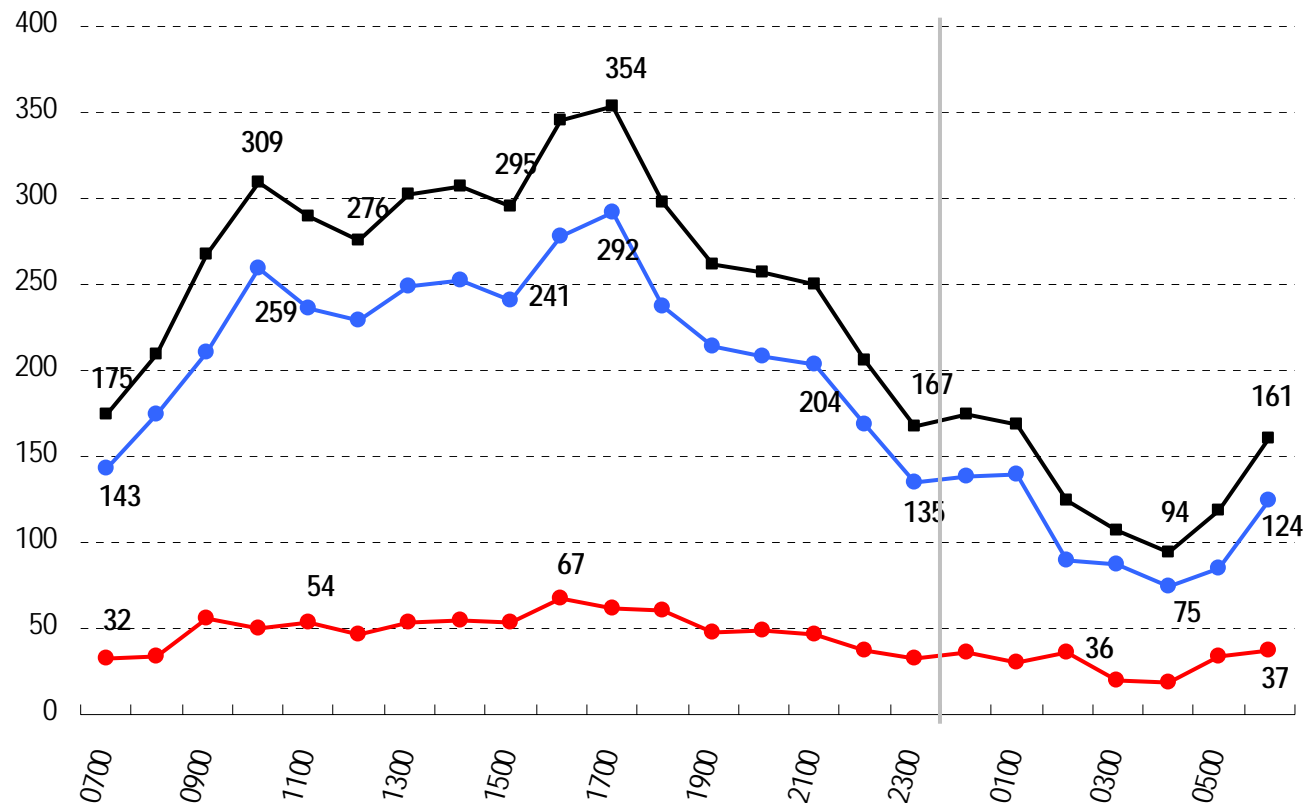


E822, E81 and T81 at Station 81

In 2008, LFD had 6,586 unit responses. E81 continued to lead with 2,363 responses, 43% of the incidents. E812 and T81, as cross-staffed units, responded on a total of 1,917 incidents, 35% of the total incidents. E82 responded on 1625 incidents, 29% of all incidents.

2008 Incidents by Time of Day

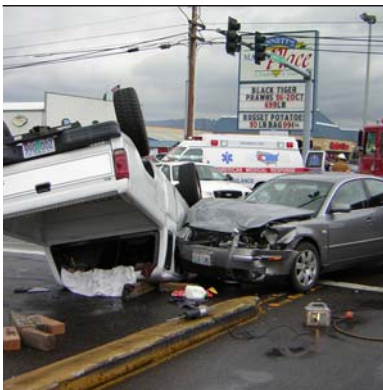
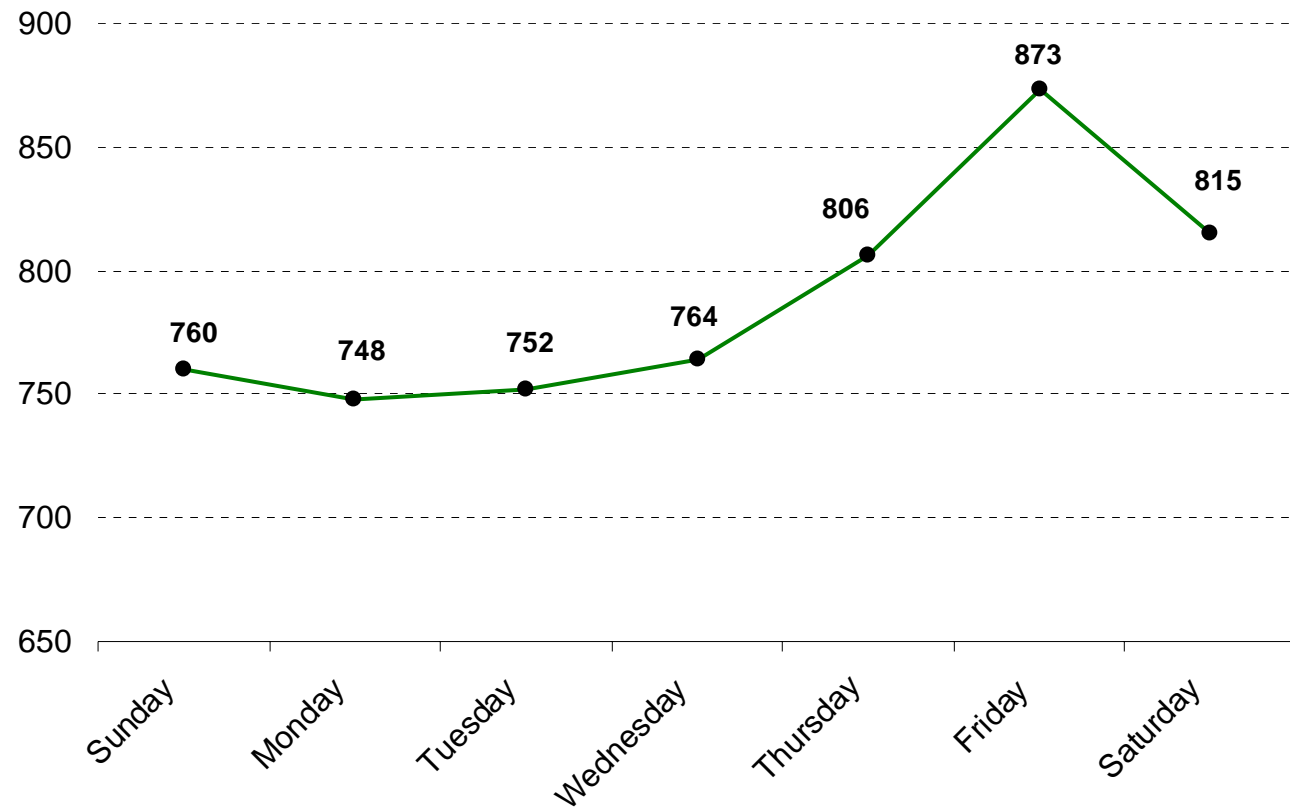
Total ■
EMS ■
Fire ■



Patient Extrication from a Vehicle Rollover

Incident responses peak between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. While incidents during the rest of the day decrease, they tend to have greater risks associated with them as fires are larger in the late evening and early morning hours because of the delay in discovery. Smoke detectors/alarms are the best early warning devices of a fire and every home and building should have them installed properly and working.

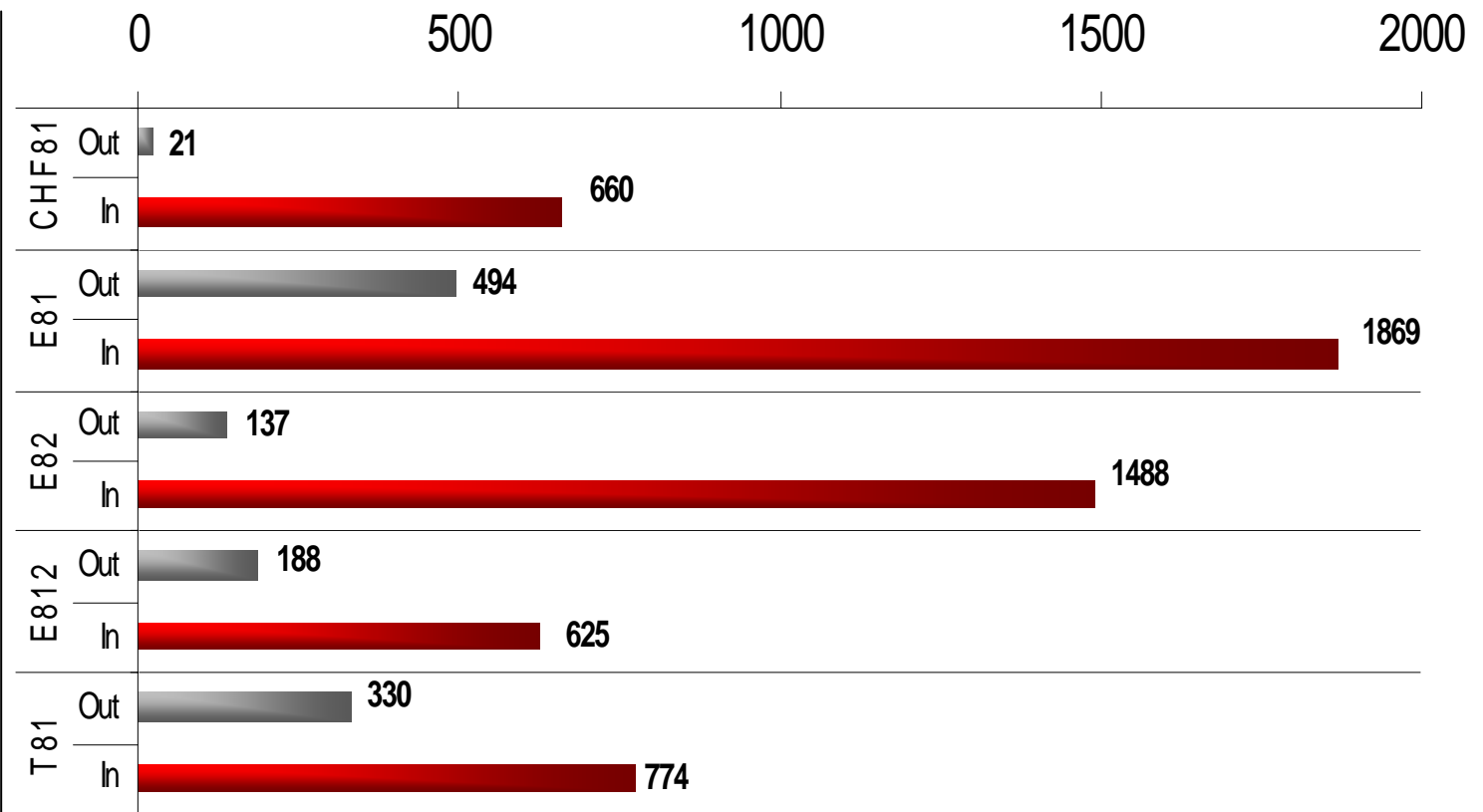
2008 Incidents by Day of Week



Vehicle Accident with Rollover

Thursday, Friday and Saturday are the busiest days of the week for emergency responses.

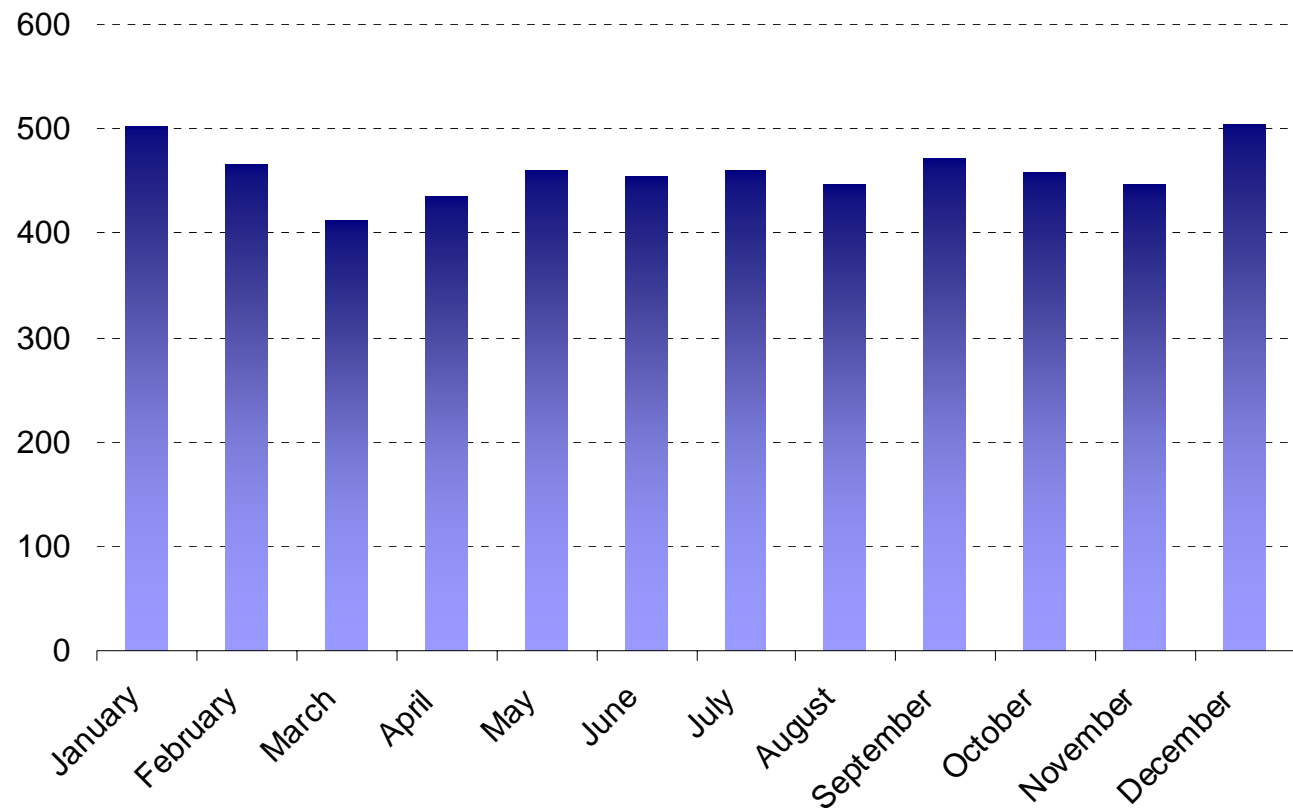
2008 Incidents by Response District



This graph illustrates the number of unit responses to incidents inside and outside of each first-due area. LFD responds approximately 130 times a year to areas outside of Longview's jurisdiction either through mutual aid requests or to contracted subscribers.

Longview Firefighters venting a roof

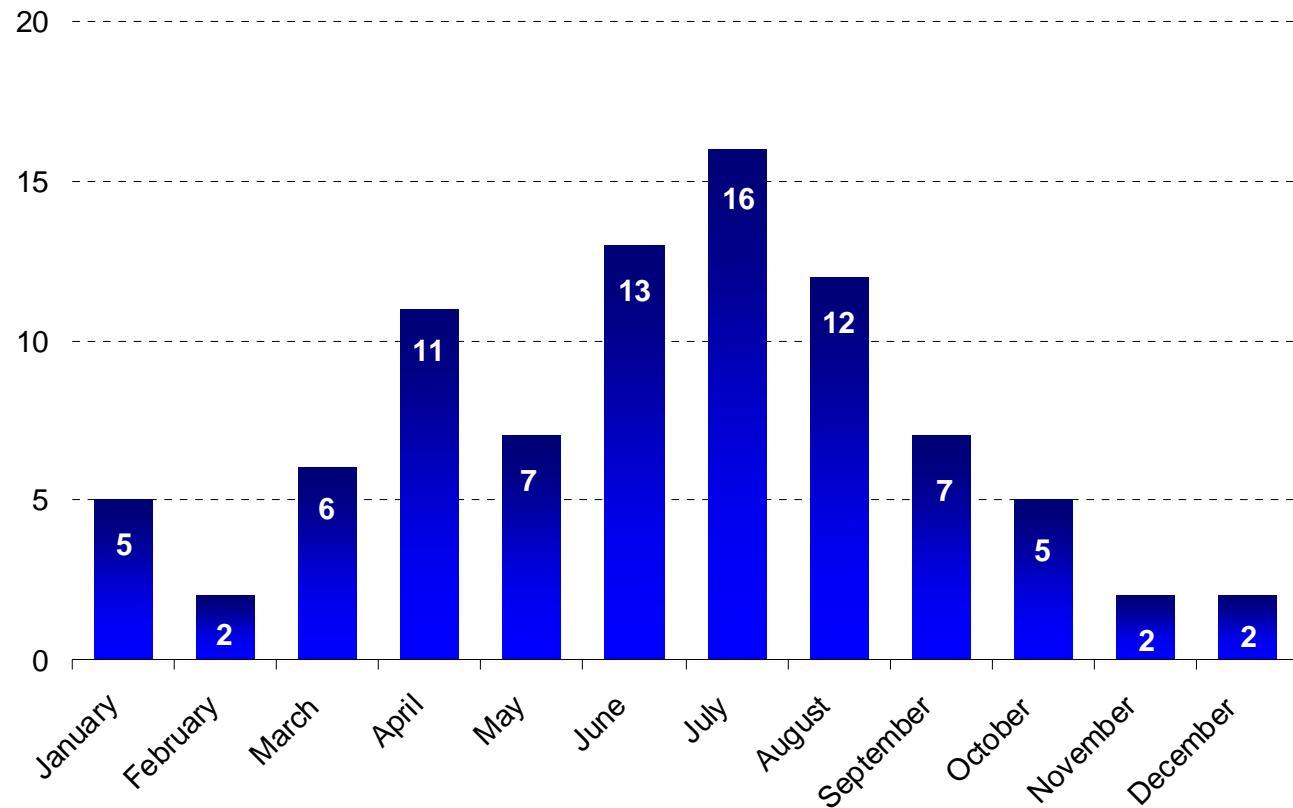
2008 Incidents by Month



Calls for service do not vary much month-to-month. The slowest month continues to be March, the same as has been experienced over previous years.

T81 Flowing Aerial Master Stream

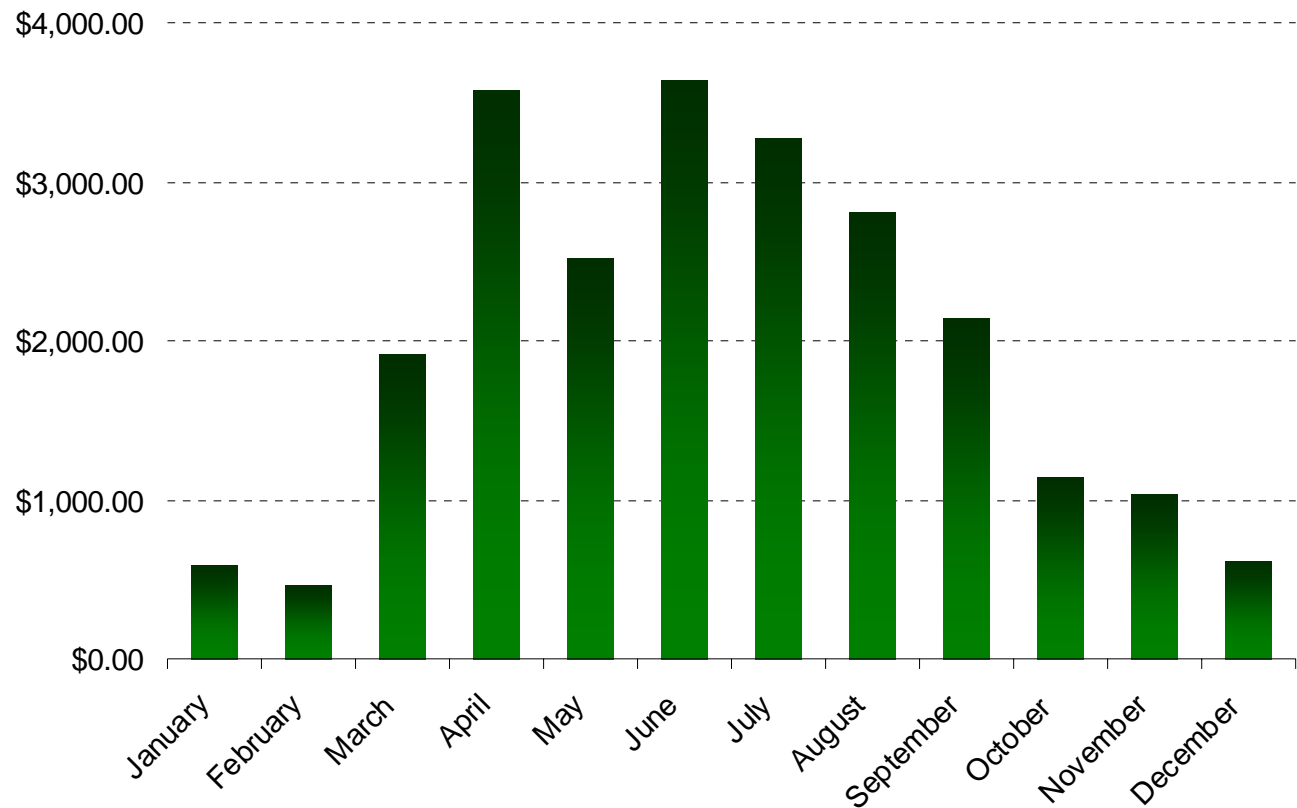
2008 Fire / Life Safety Permits by Month



Fire Extinguisher Training

Building permits and Fire/Life Safety construction permits are obtained through the Department of Community Development. Fire/Life Safety permits include new fire sprinkler systems, fire alarms, hazardous materials and other Fire Code regulations. Each Fire/Life Safety permit is reviewed and inspected by the fire marshal, or his designee, prior to the area being occupied or used.

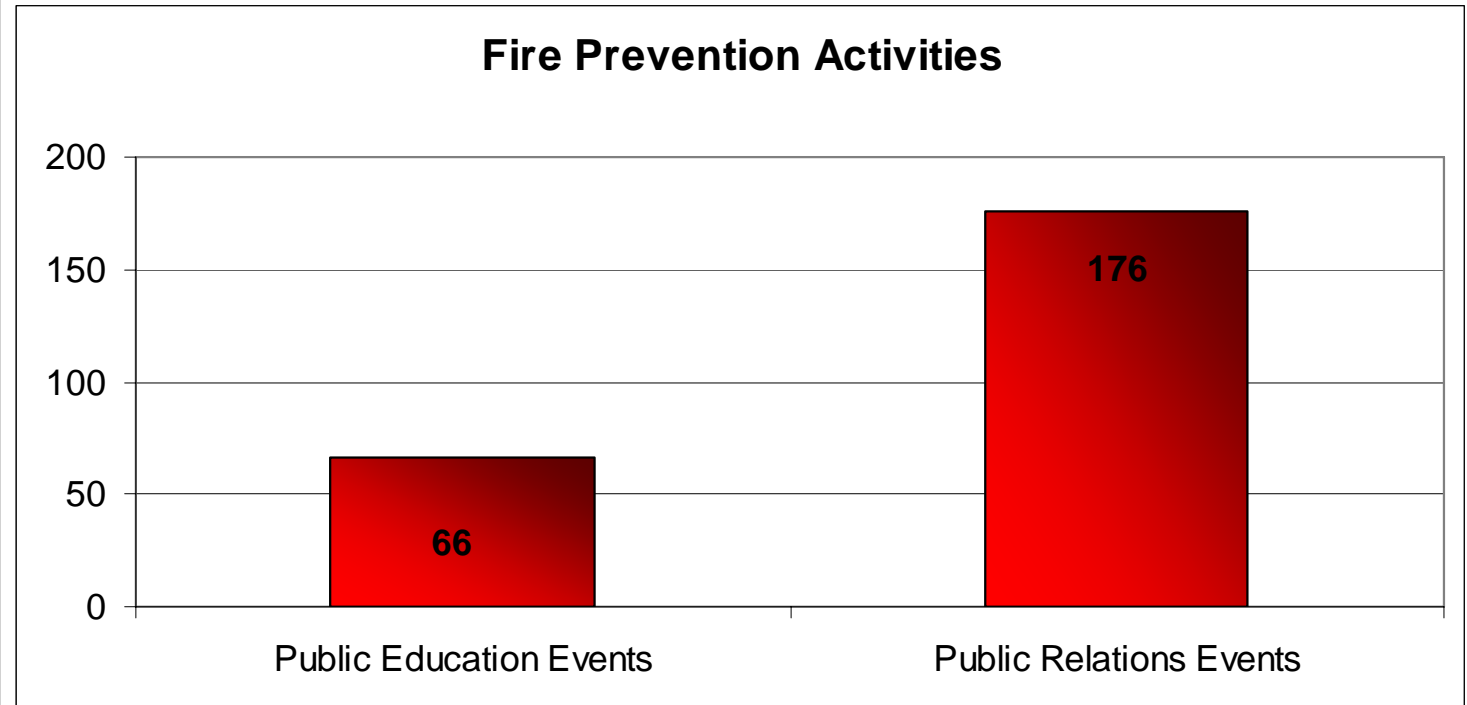
2008 Fire / Life Safety Permit Revenue by Month



Fire/Life Safety permits are one of the few revenue streams of the fire department. \$23,780.00 were collected in 2008. The fees for permits partially compensate for the time the fire marshal spends reviewing and inspecting the venues where permits are required by the Fire Code.

Sparky gets the attention!

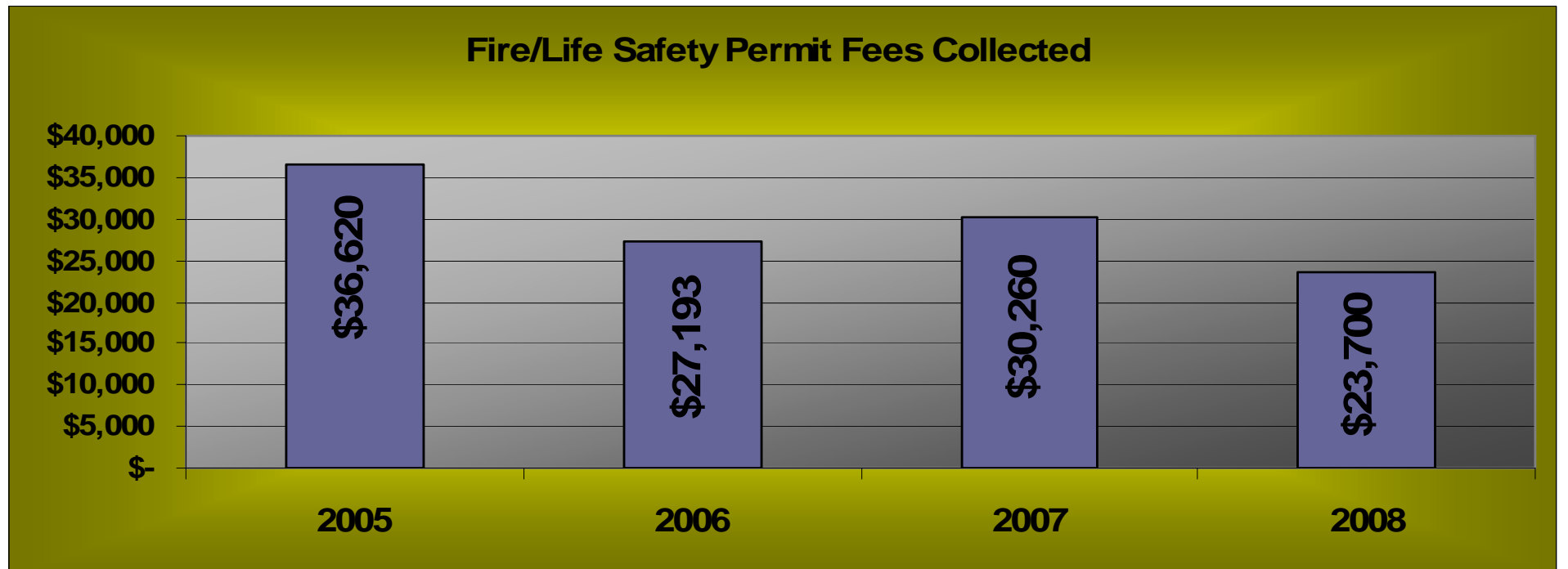
2008 Fire Prevention Activities



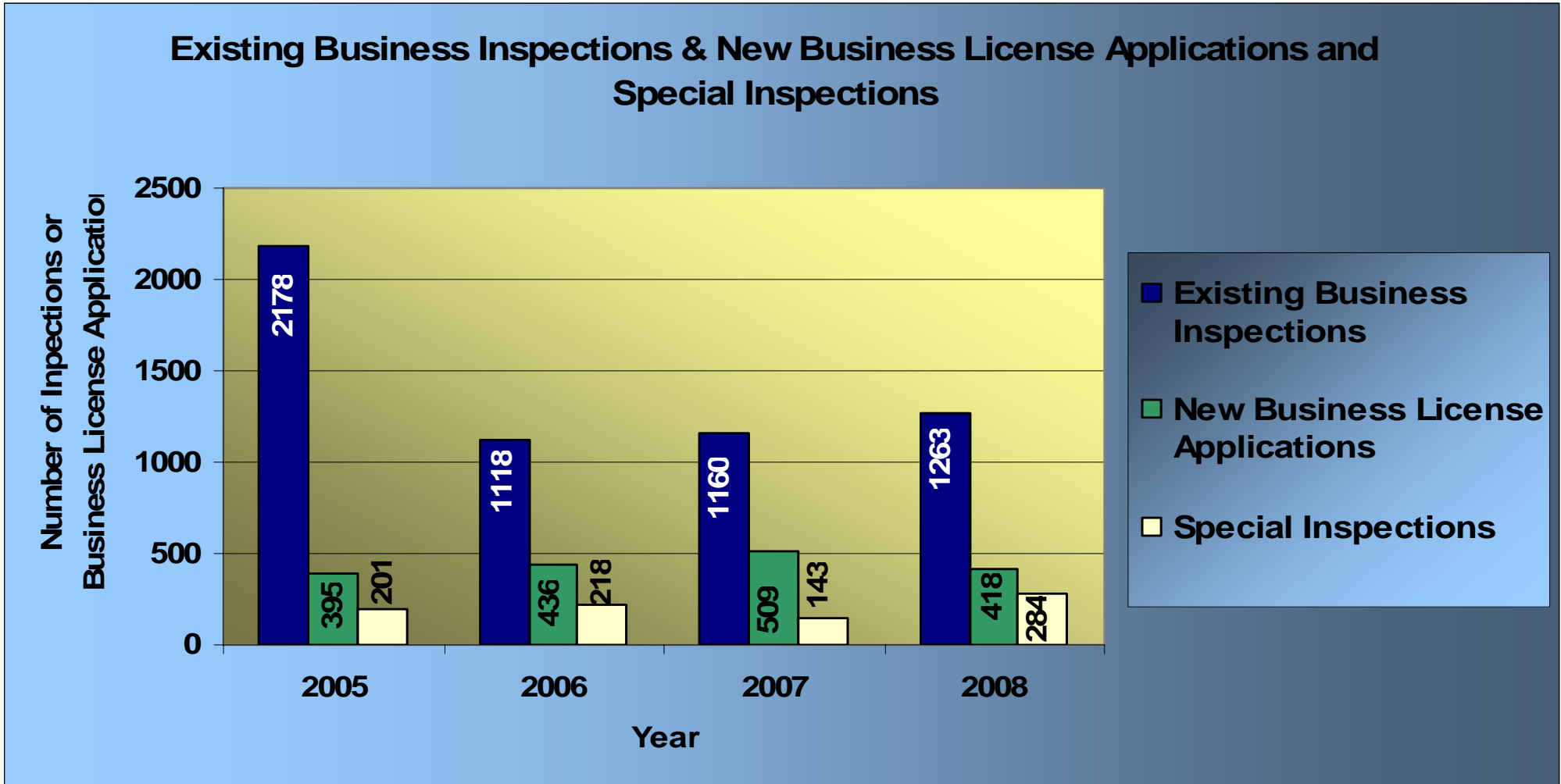
A Longview Firefighter instructs children in the proper technique for "Stop-Drop and Roll"

Public Education activities include fire and life safety education during Fire Prevention Week, public service announcements and safety presentations. Public Relations activities include participation in community events. In the future, our goal is to develop a program that will quantify the results of our public education and prevention efforts.

Fire Prevention Activities

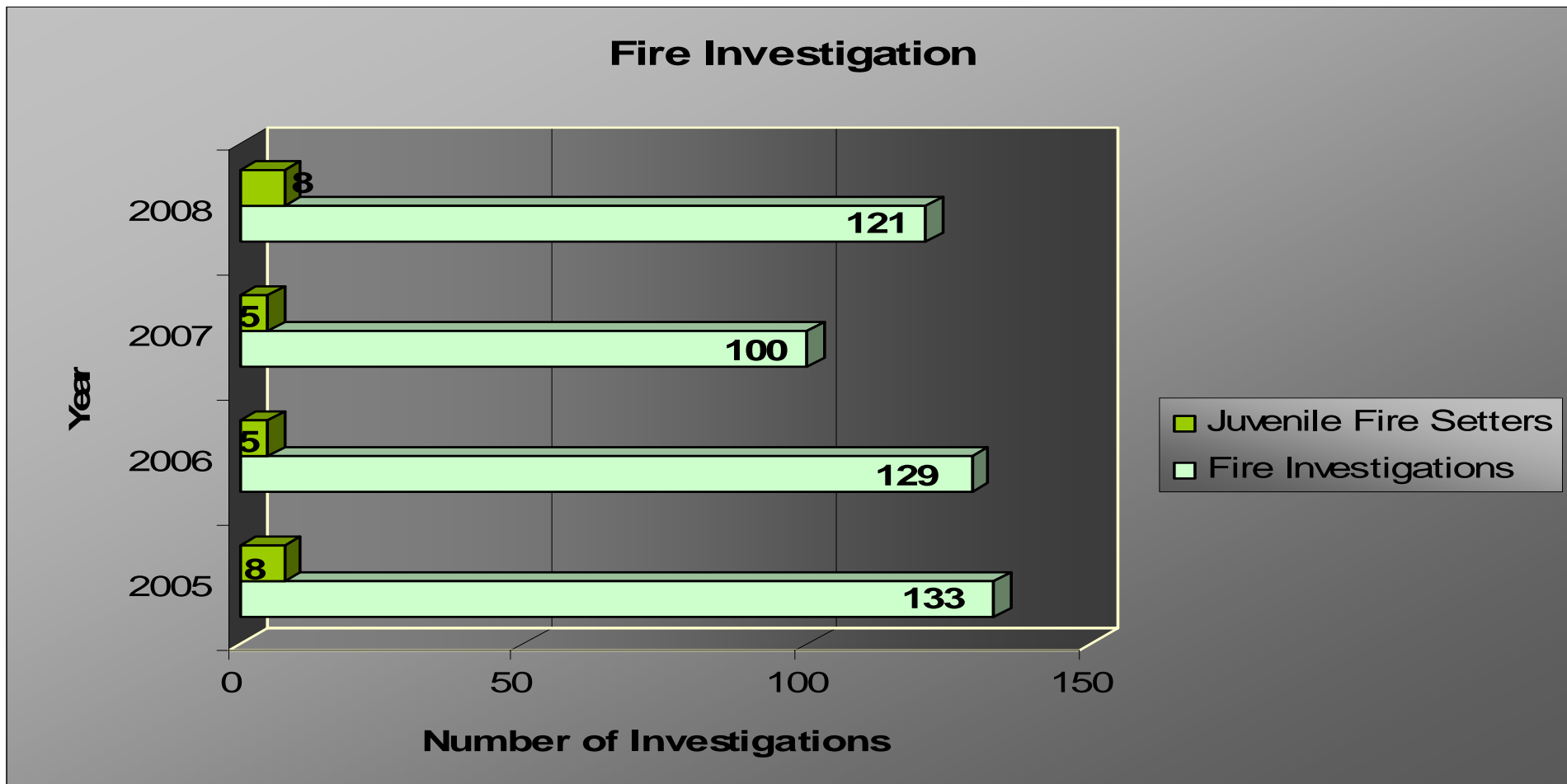


Existing Business and Special Inspections



The business inspection program was revised in 2006 to increase efficiency and meet greater service demands and other essential priorities such as training and preparedness.

Fire Investigations and Juvenile Fire Setter Consults



Every fire is investigated to determine the origin, cause and responsibility. This information helps us focus our Prevention efforts to reduce the causes of fire in the future. Early intervention and education is key to changing juvenile fire setter behavior.

Moving Forward in 2009

In March of 2009, the Longview City Council received a presentation of an Implementation Plan as recommended by the Fire Chief that would improve effectiveness in services, performance measure outcomes and enhance firefighter safety.

Having received support from City Council for the Plan, LFD will move forward through 2009 as funding and resources allow; understanding that addressing the economic plight we as a community face today and for the near future is the highest priority. In light of the economy, we will remain sentries for Fire & EMS Services in public safety.

Longview Fire will continue to partner with others in the community to reach the following strategic outcomes:

- Achieve a fire and life safety educated community
- Develop citizens as partners in fire prevention and preparedness
- Industry and businesses supporting fire & life safety code enforcement efforts to minimize commercial and economic loss due to fires.
- Public safety partners, emergency and health care entities coordination to reduce harm and injury and life loss in our community.
- Fires and other emergencies are quickly mitigated, minimizing serious loss of life and property.

And Remember: **PREVENT FIRES
IT'S YOUR JOB!**