



The City of Aurora Fire Department



2009 Annual Report

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



On behalf of the Civil Service and Career Service members of the Aurora Fire Department (AFD), I proudly present the department's 2009 Annual Report as a reflection of the dedication, professionalism, and commitment to the safety of our citizens, visitors, and firefighters.

As you will see in this year's annual report there were many accomplishments that occurred in each division, but one clearly stands out in 2009:

Vision, Teamwork, and Leadership in Action: The Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) has evaluated our fire department against very high standards set by a "self and peer assessment process" and CFAI unanimously awarded AFD re-accreditation. This was our third accreditation process and I am very proud to say we were the first fire department in Colorado to be accredited, thanks to the vision, teamwork, and leadership of our City Council, Mayor, City Management and the many firefighters who supported and worked diligently to accomplish this prestigious professional achievement.

On hearing the news, Deputy City Manager Thomas P. Nicholas stated, "*Retaining accreditation status demonstrates a commitment to quality improvements within the operations and services, to ongoing evaluating and addressing strengths and weaknesses, and being open to a rigorous external review process - Job Well Done.*"

In closing, a special thanks and sincere gratitude is owed retired City Manager Ron Miller, who served Aurora for thirteen years with dedication to exemplary service and a management style that valued citizens and employees alike. I'd like to also express my sincere appreciation to Mayor Ed Tauer, City Council, and City Management for their continued support for public safety.

Sincerely,

R. Mike Garcia

R. Mike Garcia
Fire Chief

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

2009 SUMMARY

City Population: 314,326 Land: 154.3 Square Miles Fire Stations: 15

Total Personnel	323	Emergency Response Vehicles <i>continued</i>	
Civil Service - Suppression	280	Hazardous Materials	1
Civil Service - Administrative	25	Compressed Air	3
Career Service	18	Emergency Services Unit	1
Expenditures:		EMS Supervisor	3
FY 2009	\$34,680,616	Battalion Chief	3
FY 2008	\$33,657,422	Fire Investigations	3
		Water Tender	1
Fire Dollar LOSS:		Response by Company	
Structural Damage Loss	\$4,154,445	Paramedic Engine 4	3,499
Content Damage Loss	\$ 919,150	Paramedic Engine 1	3,489
Vehicle Damage Loss	\$ 405,210	Paramedic Engine 2	2,975
Total	\$5,478,805	Paramedic Engine 7	2,930
Total Property Value SAVED-	\$48,747,675	Paramedic Engine 8	2,667
Activity:		Paramedic Engine 5	2,500
Total Calls	30,648	Paramedic Engine 6	2,458
EMS Calls	21,013	Paramedic Engine/Squad 11	2,315
Service	2,034	Paramedic Engine/Squad 3	2,054
Fire Alarms	1,422	Paramedic Engine 9	1,959
Good Intent	997	Paramedic Engine/Squad 10	1,817
Fire Calls (other than structure)	548	Paramedic Engine/Squad 13	830
Hazardous Conditions	622	Paramedic Engine/Squad 12	681
False	289	Paramedic Engine 15	257
Weather	6	Tower 8	2,271
Other	3,552	Truck 2	2,163
Fire Victims:		Tower 6	1,820
Civilians		Truck 14	530
	2 Fatalities	Truck 13	N/A
	21 Injuries	Fire Investigations	306
Firefighters		PIO	9
	0 Fatalities	Hazmat 1	6
	14 Injuries*	Heavy Rescue 8	8
	*Emergency Scene injuries only	Brush Truck 8	41
Emergency Response Vehicles		Brush Truck 13	0
ALS Engine Companies	10	Brush Truck 12	19
ALS Squad Companies	4	ESU	1
ALS Rescue Companies	0	Air Truck	24
ALS Truck Companies	4	Tender 5	0
Brush	3	Battalion Chief 2	1,821
Technical Rescue	1	Battalion Chief 1	1,555
		Battalion Chief 3	852



Aurora Fire Department

Mission Statement

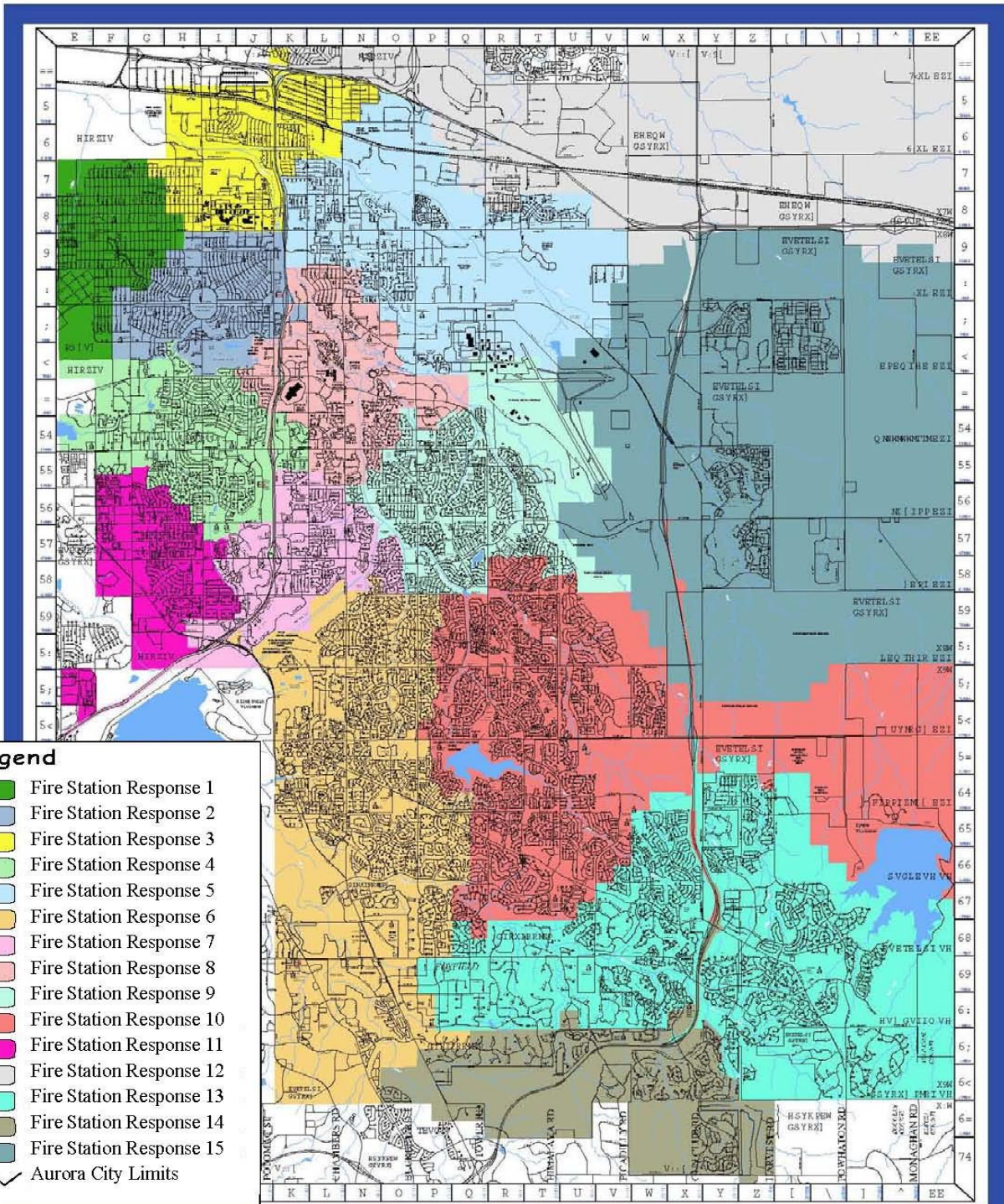
Exceptional service to the community provided by well trained professionals.

Values

Service. We will respond quickly, solve problems safely, and treat people with respect, dignity and courtesy.

Integrity. Our integrity will be paramount. We will deal honestly with everyone, be consistent in our decisions and actions, and hold ourselves accountable to one another and our community.

Professionalism. We will work together with pride, enthusiasm and dedication to each other, the department and the community.

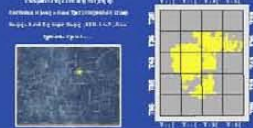


- Legend**
- Fire Station Response 1
 - Fire Station Response 2
 - Fire Station Response 3
 - Fire Station Response 4
 - Fire Station Response 5
 - Fire Station Response 6
 - Fire Station Response 7
 - Fire Station Response 8
 - Fire Station Response 9
 - Fire Station Response 10
 - Fire Station Response 11
 - Fire Station Response 12
 - Fire Station Response 13
 - Fire Station Response 14
 - Fire Station Response 15
 - Aurora City Limits

City of Aurora, Colorado
2009 Fire Department Station/Engine Response Map

City of Aurora
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 www.aurora.gov

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Emergency Services Division



Deputy Chief Dan Martinelli

The firefighters assigned to the Emergency Services Division continued to meet the daily demands of a very active fire department in their usual exceptional manner. During 2009, the Aurora Fire Department responded to 30,648 requests for assistance, which required 40,298 company responses. This was an increase of 2% from 2008. Of those 30,648 alarms, 21,012 were classified as emergency medical related incidents and 714 were classified as fire related incidents. We responded to 166 structure fires. In 113 or 68% of those fires, we confined the fire spread to the room of origin. Our response time objective of 8:00 for the first arriving company was achieved on 91.17% of all emergent response.

The estimated fire loss for the city was 5.5 million. The total property saved was estimated at \$49 million. Sadly, we experienced two fire related civilian deaths and 21 fire-related civilian injuries. There were 14 firefighter injuries as a result of emergency operations. Additional items for 2008 include the following:

During 2009 the fire department appointed 10 new firefighters, promoted 18 firefighters to Firemedic and 3 firefighters to Lieutenant. Six firefighters resigned and/or retired.

Two new engines were received and placed in service at Stations 2 and 6. A new Ladder/Tower Truck was received and placed in-service at Station 8.

A SWAT medic program and process was developed jointly between the Aurora Police and Fire Departments to merge fire department paramedics with SWAT members. This program will provide the Aurora Police Department SWAT members with immediate access to advanced medical life support during SWAT activations. Full implementation of this program is scheduled for May 2010.

2009 was a very exciting year for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Bureau. We made a number of significant enhancements toward the Aurora Fire Department's (AFD) goal of providing the highest level of pre-hospital emergency medical care to our community.

- The Fire Department is only one of the elements in the dynamic and ever-evolving world of emergency medicine. Driven by a spirit of innovation and service AFD has formed strong working relationships with the nationally recognized hospitals in our city and is excited and humbled to be defining the next generation of emergency medical care.
- Weekly educational sessions are offered by our partners at The Medical Center of Aurora (TMCA), University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) and The Children's Hospital (TCH), to ensure Aurora firefighter/paramedics are functioning at the leading edge of emergency medical care and are among the best trained EMS professionals in the region.

- In early 2009, the EMS Bureau trained all Aurora firefighters in a refined method of caring for people who suffer cardiac arrest. Resuscitation Choreography was developed in concert with the Department's Medical Directors Dr. Gilbert Pineda of TMCA and Dr. Fred Severyn of UCH and has made an incredible impact for Aurora citizens.
- Building on the success of Resuscitation Choreography, the Therapeutic Induced Hypothermia (TIH) program was implemented. Based on cutting-edge research which demonstrates increased survival rates can be accomplished by immediately inducing hypothermia in people who have been resuscitated, this new program promises to further increase the number of people who are able to survive cardiac arrest.
- One of the most critical situations paramedics are called for is a person who is not breathing. In 2009, AFD took advantage of advancements in airway management technology and adopted the King Airway. This newly approved device provides a safer and more efficient means of breathing for a critically ill person and has already been used by AFD in several life-saving situations.

We are proud to announce AFD has saved more people from sudden cardiac death in 2009 than in the last 5 years combined. The best practices pre-hospital emergency enhancements listed above resulted in 24 successful CORE-0 saves, meaning that those patients left the hospital neurologically intact.

On June 7, The Aurora Fire Department responded with 6 companies and over 30 firefighters to the report of a severe hail storm and a tornado touchdown at Southlands Mall. Upon arrival crews found significant damage to the mall with debris scattered throughout. There were no serious injuries reported, so crews focused on securing several businesses and utilities lines, one store at a time. The tornado overturned vehicles, removed roof heating and ventilation systems and street poles. Aurora Police, Fire, Xcel and several private catastrophe companies established a Unified Command for the remainder of the evening. In addition, the fire department continued to respond to 43 emergency alarms throughout the remainder of the city during this incident without additional overtime staffing.

On October 9th, while returning from another incident, a member of Truck Company 2 (T2) saw possible smoke from a roof top swamp cooler. T2 stopped to investigate and found smoke and fire showing from a residential trailer. T2 contacted dispatch and requested a full structure fire response to a trailer house at 15900 E. Colfax Avenue, Lot #5. As the officer was completing an initial fire ground size-up she noticed a hand waving out of the front bedroom window. The occupant was told to leave the residence. The occupant stated he was trapped and could not exit. T2 contacted dispatch and informed all incoming crews that T2 would be performing a rescue of the trapped occupant. T2 personnel removed the louvered bedroom window and removed the occupant. After treatment on scene for minor smoke inhalation the occupant was transported non-emergent to University Hospital. As a result of the expert actions of the crew of Truck Company 2, the occupant was quickly released from the hospital with no serious injury.

Hazardous Materials Team

The members of the Aurora Fire Department Hazardous Material Team (HazMat) are pleased to submit this portion of the 2009 Annual Report. The HazMat Team continues to do “double duty” in providing for the protection from chemical emergencies including: abandoned chemicals, accidental releases, storm water protection, illegal dumping, and other exposures to our community. This double duty comes in the form of having firefighters assigned to Fire Station #2, at 12600 Hoffman Blvd., respond to HazMat alarms in addition to the alarms associated with any other fire station.

Although the HazMat Team was started in 1980 with the original mission of protecting our population from the above hazards, we have seen its role grow to include acts of terrorism. Additional training has been delivered to the Team members in weapons of mass destruction, chemical and biological agents, radiological materials, secondary devices, and compatibility of the HazMat equipment.

The Team members present each day at Station #2 are trained to the Hazardous Material Technician level. Supplementing this high level are the balance of the fire department personnel who have received training to the Hazardous Materials Operations level. This level of training allows for any of our personnel to take defensive actions including damming and diking, product identification, and evacuation measures.

Another important part of protecting our community from hazardous materials is our Decon (decontamination) Team at Station #12, 19491 E. 32nd Drive. Their role is to protect our HazMat Team personnel at an emergency as well as immediate decontamination of our population if they are contaminated due to any release or intentional act. Both Teams are well equipped with many supplies and equipment. Much of this inventory has been purchased by our personnel applying for the grant dollars released by the federal government in their war on terror.

Training activities in 2009 included bringing in outside instructors and agencies. These included two classes by an EPA chemist, one class by the Department of Energy, and one class by the Civil Support Team (anti-terrorism team) from Buckley Air Force Base.

Alarm activity in 2009 consisted primarily of accidental releases of hydrocarbons, both liquid and gas. The breakdown is as follows:

<u>Type of Incident</u>	<u># of Incidents</u>
• Gasoline, diesel fuel, or oil spills or leaks	63
• Natural gas leaks or cut lines without evacuation	57
• Natural gas leaks or cut lines with evacuation	26
• Propane leaks	7
• Household or office chemical spills	4
• Paint: spills or abandoned	4

In addition to the above, that were primarily handled by Operations personnel at each station, we also had 6 incidents where the Hazardous Materials Team had to be activated. These alarms included a large diesel fuel spill at the Flying J Truck Stop, an unidentified flammable liquid in the

middle of 10th & Havana, a large mercury spill in a residential neighborhood on E. Bethany Place, and a gas station flooded with gasoline.

Regardless of the type of hazardous material, or its origin, the Aurora Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team and Decon Team stand ready for an immediate response and mitigation.

EMS Department

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Air Team

The team completed calendar year 2009 with a continued high degree of program management and team operational leadership. The Air Team currently has three personnel assigned to each shift with an officer as unit lead for each shift. Assignments and responsibilities are defined and established in the Air Team Organizational Chart.

The Aurora Fire Department Air Team continues its 30 year tradition of maintaining and servicing the 175 SCBA assigned to the Aurora Fire Department. Other duties include annual facepiece “fit testing” for all 300+ firefighters. This insures a safe and dependable facial seal when operating in dangerous atmospheres. The Air Team also flow tests all SCBA for safe operation per NFPA standards.

The Air Team is also responsible for two (2) 64 cylinder “Air Trucks” which provide multiple cylinders on short notice to large scale incidents. These trucks are located at Stations 9 and 11.

The Air Team also maintains and operates a “mobile air supply trailer.” This trailer can set up at extended fire, technical rescue or hazardous material incidents, providing a constant flow of compressed air for operating air lines or cylinder refilling.

2009 was the second year for department wide transition to the new Scott Nexgen 7 SCBA (self contained breathing apparatus). This new pack meets all NFPA and NIOSH safety standards and is considered the “state of the art” breathing apparatus. A priority for this year was 100% compliance for all members with CBRN (chemical, biological, radiation and nuclear) nose cups for the AV3000 facepiece.

The Air Team also began the initial phase of communication voice amplifier distribution to all Fire Officers, Acting Officers and specialty teams. This project will finish in 2010.

2009 also saw all three (3) “walk on reserve” apparatus equipped with the new Nexgen 7 SCBA. This will insure “emergency reserve” equipment is equipped in the same manner as “on line” apparatus.

Wildland Team

The Aurora Fire Department Wildland Response Team continued to prepare for possible deployment with additional equipment and training during 2009. The Wildland Team’s focus is to provide resources in the combating of destructive wildland fires that threaten both natural resources and economic conditions, both locally and as a deployable resource outside the city of Aurora. A battalion chief is assigned as the team coordinator, with a captain assigned as assistant coordinator.

The team is made up of twelve “red card” certified personnel from throughout the department. Team personnel hold certifications from the level of Engine Boss to Firefighter II.

In 2009 the team was able to purchase additional Bendix King programmable radios that allow for interoperability on wildland incidents. These additional radios will allow all deploying members to be radio equipped. The team purchased additional line gear with fire shelters, fire helmets with goggles, helmet shrouds, and Nomex pants for deployment.



The team can respond to incidents with a Type I (Structural) 4X4 interface engine, a Type III tactical tender (1500 gal) or a Type VI 4x4 brush truck (200 gal). The team is listed for deployment through the Pueblo Interagency Dispatch Center for response to the five state region covered by the Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center, which includes Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

During the 2009 season the Wildland Team participated in the Douglas County Wildland Interface Drill which brought together resources from along the Front Range for a practice deployment which included several training skill stations. In addition, the AFD Wildland Team was able to assist South Metro Fire Authority on a controlled burn at Bayou Gulch in Douglas County. Several members also attended the first Front Range Wildfire Symposium at the West Metro Fire Training complex.

The team goals in 2010 are to continue working to improve qualifications, participate in more training events, add additional needed equipment, and evaluate increasing the number of team members.

Technical Rescue Team

2009 was a very eventful year for the Aurora Fire Department Technical Rescue Team. Since the team's inception in 1988 training has been conducted annually in seven disciplines of technical rescue including: ice rescue, swift water rescue, rope rescue, heavy extrication, confined space rescue, trench rescue and emergency shoring. The nature of the training is demanding with inherent risk. Unfortunately in June of 2009, the Team suffered its first training injuries during a rope rescue exercise in Castlewood Canyon State Park. While practicing the raising of a patient in a stretcher tended by a rescuer, the team lost control of the stretcher. Because of a simple miscommunication between the rescuer and the firefighters hauling the stretcher, the rescuer lost his balance and stumbled. Both the rescuer and the patient in the stretcher slid into a large crack in the rock face and two firefighters were injured.

The remaining members of the Technical Rescue Team quickly reorganized and put together a brilliant plan to aid their injured teammates. The actual rescue of the injured firefighters was more complicated than the operation being practiced and was carried out flawlessly. With the aid of the Franktown Fire Protection District crews, both injured firefighters were taken to the trail head and

transported to area hospitals. Both are now fully recovered and back to full duty with the Technical Rescue Team.

Much was learned from this experience. The team has improved critical communication techniques on the emergency scene. Hazard recognition skills remain a high priority with all team members both during practice and on the emergency scene. Because of the low frequency and high risk of technical rescues, a team must routinely practice these skills. The two team members injured in the rope rescue exercise in Castlewood Canyon made this sacrifice so that an injured citizen depending on the team's skills will be well protected. The lessons learned during this stressful event will help insure that Aurora citizens can depend on the Technical Rescue Team in time of need.

Though the above incident was the most dramatic of the year there are many more highlights to relate in this annual report.

In February, ice rescue classes and drills were conducted at the Aurora Reservoir. The Technical



Rescue Team as well as Engine 13, Engine 15, Squad 10, Tower 6 and Truck 14 practiced skills rescuing people that had fallen through thin ice. This year there were several actual rescues of pets on the ice. It is very common that if a pet becomes trapped in the ice, a pet owner will make an ill advised rescue attempt and become a victim themselves. This is why the Aurora Fire Department will make an effort to rescue stranded or trapped animals.

The Aurora Fire Department was able to send three Technical Rescue Team Members to the West Metro Fire Protection District/Red Rocks Community College Technical Rescue Course in May. This is a very intense ten day class that offers instruction in rope rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, and emergency building shoring. Captain Bill Kraus, Lieutenant Jason Pendleton and Fire Medic Dave Cooper are the team members who attended the course. Their added knowledge and enhanced skills will be a valuable asset to the Technical Rescue Team and the Aurora Fire Department.

During the month of June, the Aurora Fire Department Technical Rescue Team went to Golden, Colorado to practice swift water techniques at the white water park on Clear Creek. With the excellent guidance of swift water rescue instructors from the Golden Fire Department, three very productive days of training were had. In 2008, the Aurora Fire Department purchased a new self-bailing white water inflatable boat and this new craft made the practiced boat rescues much more efficient. Though the city of Aurora does not have any swift running streams or rivers within its borders, the Aurora Fire Department must be prepared for the annual threat of flash flooding.

The month of August saw the Technical Rescue Team again practicing rope rescue skills off the 120 foot high grain elevator silos at the Bishop's Warehouse. The team joined by Squad 3 and Truck 2 made simulated rescues of parties trapped on the side of the silos. The skills practiced during these exercises are those that would be needed to rescue a stranded window washer on the side of a building. This year the Technical Rescue Team responded to three rescues in which rope skills were utilized.

Trench rescue and emergency shoring were the subjects of training exercises in October. The Aurora Fire Department is fortunate to have three members who are certified national trainers in emergency building shoring. For the exercises conducted at the Aurora Water Department trench training site, a simulated victim was placed in the bottom of the trench and the Technical Rescue Team was tasked with rendering the excavation safe and extricating the victim. Using both air shores and dimensional lumber team members practiced horizontal shoring and patient packaging. The Aurora Fire Department Technical Rescue Team put emergency shoring skills to use three times this year after vehicles had crashed into structures.

Also in 2009 Aurora Fire Department Technical Rescue Team members organized and conducted a very challenging series of auto extrication exercises designed to challenge the skills of both squad companies and truck companies. With the help of employees of Pull and Save Auto Salvage Company, simulated motor vehicle accidents with a larger vehicle on top of a smaller vehicle were constructed. Fire crews were challenged with stabilizing the scene and safely extricating patients trapped in the wreckage. Auto extrication continues to be the most common demand for technical rescue service for the Technical Rescue Team and adjunct truck companies.

Confined space rescue exercises were also completed by each shift of the Technical Rescue Team using either the Water Department's confined space training prop or storm runoff system piping near Aurora Fire Station 8. Confined space rescue is a very complex discipline that encompasses elements of many other disciplines. When involved in confined space events, rescuers have to be well versed in hazardous materials, atmospheric monitoring, rope rescue techniques and the psychology of claustrophobia.



It must be noted that the Aurora Fire Department Technical Rescue Team is staffed with dedicated volunteers that accept the added challenge and work load of technical rescue in addition to their normal duties as Aurora firefighters at Station 8. Captain William Kraus continues to lead the team supported by Lieutenants Roy Browning, Jeremy Sones, Jason Pendleton, Isadell Posey and Clint Mitchell. The motivated engineers, firemedics and firefighters of the Technical Rescue Team are Rick Slocum, Rob Barnes, Kelly Stewart, Todd Hankins, George Ehalt, Doug Holschbach, Bill Baker, Travis Hurley, Rob Hulse, Kirk Rasmussen, Dominic Benallo, John Spera, Garth Hein, Dave Cooper, Cody McGinnis, Dan Bergman, Jim Smith, Justin Balderston and Rob Hensel.

Throughout 2009, the Aurora Fire Department continued to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency Colorado Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue Team by supplying nine team members. These members are: Battalion Chief Katherine Ridenhour, Battalion Chief Scott Mills, Captain Jim Moon, Lieutenant Clint Mitchell, Lieutenant Mitch Harr, Lieutenant Roy Browning, Engineer Rick Slocum, Engineer Tom Dill, Firefighter Dan Bergman and Firefighter Bill Baker.

Special Services Division

Deputy Chief Mark Ricard



2009 was a significant year for the Bureau of Special Services. The bureau was still responsible for the Training Division, Recruitment, Branding, Research and Development and Accreditation.



Much of the year was spent doing the research and data collection for the department's reaccreditation process for the Commission for Fire Accreditation International (CFAI). The Fire Department Strategic Plan, the Standard of Response Coverage and the Fire and Emergency Services Self Assessment Manual were all rewritten and completed as part of

the reaccreditation. All of the documents were sent to the Commission in September.

Part of the reaccreditation process includes a site visit from a team of assessors, made up of professional firefighters from around the country, who came to Aurora in December and did an in-depth audit of the department. Their report was then sent to the CFAI with specific and strategic recommendations for the Aurora Fire Department. During their visit, the team was impressed with our department and recommended our department for re-accreditation.

Training Bureau

As has been the norm for many years, the Training Bureau continues to be one of the most important parts of the fire department. The decision to make all training relevant and beneficial was adhered to, not only in the recruit academy but for line personnel as well. Some significant accomplishments for the Training Division are as follows:

- Recruitment academy 09-01 successfully graduated 10 new recruits.
- 14 new acting officers were certified.
- 15 new acting engineers were certified.
- 30 participants, in the Officer Development Program, completed the program.
- Firefighter 1 and 2 revisions were completed for the Colorado Metropolitan Certification Board.
- The bureau participated in the promotional testing processes for Engineer, Lieutenant and Captain.



- The Safety and Survival classes were updated to include an EMS component.
- Workshops for Captains, new Officers and Chiefs were completed.

Office of Emergency Management

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) saw another successful year in achieving several goals in accordance with the mission and purpose of the office. The purpose is to protect the infrastructure and people of the city of Aurora by planning for, preventing, responding to, mitigating and recovering from all possible man-made or natural disasters. A large component in the success of these objectives is achieved through the many partnerships Aurora OEM continues to develop and maintain within the city and throughout the region.

The Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council is made up of various city department directors and continues to meet on a quarterly basis in order to provide an ongoing evaluation of the Aurora Emergency and Continuity of Operations Plan. This ensures vital cooperation and mutual understanding regarding events surrounding any particular disaster or emergency that will affect the day-to-day operations of the city government. This past year, the Continuity of Operations Plan was tested by conducting a tabletop exercise involving the department directors internal to the city. This resulted in a better understanding of the implementation of the plan as well as pointing out areas for improvement and revision.

In concordance with the cooperation formed among city personnel, Aurora OEM has also placed a high degree of emphasis on the relationships that have been established with the Aurora citizens, school districts and the surrounding business community. Several classes and exercises are offered through OEM each year for volunteers in the community, and as a result the level of volunteer involvement and interest continues to grow. The various volunteer groups comprise many areas of expertise that could and would be relied upon heavily in the event of a disaster. Increased public education will continue to be an Aurora OEM priority, accomplished through on-going and established classroom and technical training programs.

Regional cooperation is also seen as vital for the protection of the city as well as the metro area. Aurora OEM continues to partner and work with the North Central All-Hazards Region, the Urban Area Security Initiative working group and the Metropolitan Medical Response System. Working relationships among the agencies that comprise this region are essential knowing that in the event of a large scale emergency, there is a pool of resources and partnerships to help resolve the issue as quickly as possible with minimal impact. With this being said, these interagency partnerships were exemplified through one of the largest full-scale emergency exercises in Aurora history. Vigilant Front Range brought together over 40 agencies from all levels of government to interact and support each other in the event of a terrorist attack. This exercise proved successful as well as informative from an implementation and operational standpoint.

Planning for future emergency preparedness exercises continues to take place for future events involving a variety of disciplines and operational focus. Through functional and relevant planning and exercises, Aurora OEM continues to dedicate itself to the mission of protecting, educating and providing security to the city and citizens of Aurora.

Public Information and Recruitment

During much of the year, the Public Information Officer was reassigned to the line and the Administrative Chief was then assigned his duties as the acting PIO. Because of the efforts of both of these individuals the following items and events were accomplished:

- The 2008 Annual Report was published.
- The fire department newsletter (Hotwire) was published.
- The event calendar was maintained.
- The website was continually updated.
- The Pink Heals Tour was coordinated.
- Lateral level applicants were recruited.
- Participation in the recruitment task force took place.
- Numerous job fairs and recruiting venues were attended.



Branding Committee

The Branding Committee was instrumental in reviewing many logo requests and recommending approval or denial of those requests to the Executive Staff. The long awaited job shirts were finally distributed to all personnel and the standardization of the new fire department logo was accomplished.

Research and Development

Research and Development was also a responsibility of the Office of Public Information. Several items were studied and included: Polo shirts of different colors, an electric fan, boots chains and the process was started to review and research 45 minute air bottles.

Life Safety / Fire Marshal

Deputy Chief Robert Leigh



The Life Safety Division is composed of the Community Services and Education Bureau, the Fire Inspection Bureau, the Fire Investigations Bureau and the Health & Safety Office. These four bureaus and offices are tasked with the responsibility of preventing the loss of life and property to both the members of the department and the public we serve. Through the cooperative efforts of 18 individuals assigned responsibilities within the division and 57 emergency response crews, fire codes are enforced, fires are investigated, fire and injury education is presented, and the health and safety of the men and women of the Aurora Fire Department is promoted.

Fire Inspection Bureau

During 2009 fire code inspection activities between both on-line emergency response crews and Fire Inspection Bureau personnel totaled 9041 Primary and Follow-up Inspections. Between Primary and Follow-up Inspections, approximately fifty-seven percent of those inspections were completed by the seven Career Service Fire Inspectors. From those 9041 fire inspections, 6075 fire code violations were found that necessitated a follow-up inspection to correct any code compliance issues.

Violations found during a fire inspection are noted and indicate a deviation from safe practices as identified in the currently adopted International Fire Code. The prevention efforts provided through the fire inspectors, as well as the emergency response crews, have the effect of correcting unsafe situations prior to them becoming a life safety hazard.

In 2009 the Fire Inspection Bureau produced data related to the number of times a re-inspection was necessary to gain compliance in a particular occupancy. The information was provided and approval was granted to begin charging a re-inspection fee of \$35.00 for every re-inspection after the initial inspection and first re-inspection. This action was taken to provide an inducement to businesses in the City to be proactive in their compliance with the adopted fire code. The new charges are to be implemented in April of 2010.

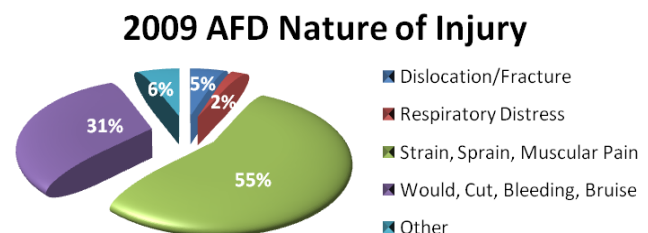
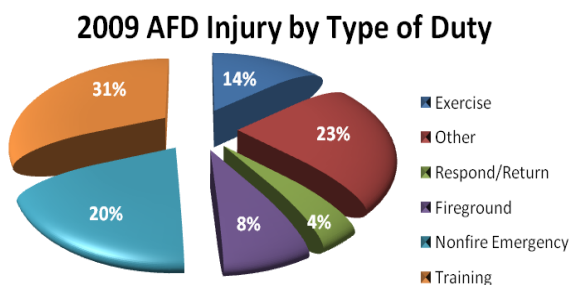
Health & Safety Office

A major initiative in 2009 was the unveiling of the new Aurora Fire Department proprietary “Near Miss” reporting system called “Dangerous Incident Reporting”. This system was created and released through efforts of the Health & Safety Office of the Life Safety Division and with help of the city of Aurora Information Technology Department. The “Dangerous Incident Reporting” System allows members of the Aurora Fire Department to anonymously and immediately report

incidents and/or behaviors that could potentially lead to a serious injury and/or line of duty deaths of fire department members and/or the public they have sworn to protect. This system was released for use during the 2009 Health & Survival Week, June 21-27, 2009. Health & Survival Week is supported in conjunction with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF),

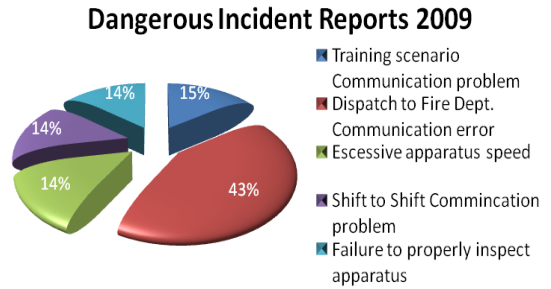
the City of Aurora Fire Department, and the Aurora Professional Firefighter’s Association – IAFF Local 1290. Ironically the Health & Survival Week was postponed for a week due to two line of duty serious injuries that occurred during the training of the Technical Rescue Team.

The Health & Safety Office coordinated Aurora Fire Department specific station visits by the major health insurance carrier - Kaiser Permanente. Representatives from Kaiser Permanente educated interested members of

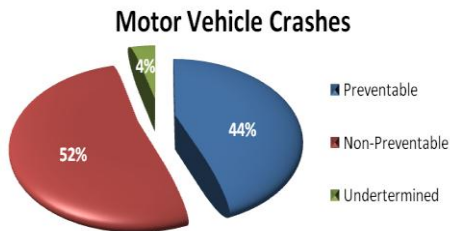


Aurora Fire Department on the multiple tools available for assisting in Health and Wellness offered through Kaiser Permanente and their interactive website.

During 2009 Aurora Fire Department members reported 49 on-the-job injuries. “Training” and “Non-fire Emergencies” accounted for over 50% of the injuries while injuries sustained while “Operating on the Fireground” resulted in less than 10% of the total injuries.



“Strains, Sprains and Muscular Pain” along with “Wounds, Cuts, Bleeding and Bruises” were the nature of injury for 86% of the injuries reported. Fortunately, during 2009 there were no injuries that were related to “Heart Attack/Stroke”, “Smoke/Gas Inhalation” or “Burns”.



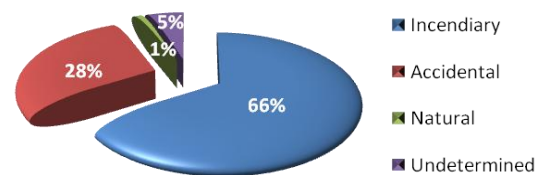
During 2009 the department experienced 23 reported motor vehicle accidents. Of those reported, 10 were deemed as preventable, 12 were determined as non-preventable and one was classified as undetermined.

Fire Investigations

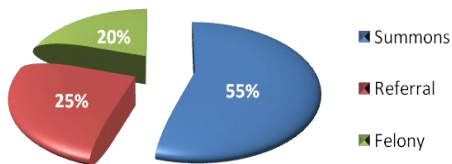
During year 2009, the Fire Investigations Bureau experienced a 20% decrease in fire investigations from 2008. The bureau investigated one hundred fifty-six (156) structure, vehicle, and property damage fires this year.

The bureau’s “Origin and Cause” (O&C) determination rate (finding where and how the fire started) is at 95%. The O&C determination rate is the sum total of all Fire Determination Classifications, less those fires that were classified as “Undetermined.”

2009 Fire Determination Classifications



Type of Arson Case Filings



Additionally, the Fire Investigations Unit has a criminal case clearance rate of 55%, which was an increase from 2008. This means that 60 of the 109 incendiary fires in Aurora were closed with 45 municipal summonses, 16 felony case filings, and 25 juveniles referred to either the Aurora Fire Department juvenile fire setter program or to Children’s Hospital fire setter intervention program.

The unit also processed twenty-three new fire department employee backgrounds in 2009 using per unit payment method. Due to the thorough civil and criminal review of each candidate, one background takes an estimated 15–20 hours to complete.

Community Services & Education Bureau

In 2009 the Aurora Fire Department re-established the Community Services and Education Bureau (CSEB) after the bureau was eliminated for budgetary reasons in 2005. Lt Diane Schroeder was selected and tasked with the responsibility to coordinate all fire safety educational requests throughout the city and to develop education and prevention programs targeted at high risk populations as determined through an annual needs analysis.

During 2009 the CSEB has established or re-established relationships with The University Hospital, The Children's Hospital, Safe Kids, Fire Life Safety Educators, The Original Aurora Community Integration Collaboration, and The Senior Hub. Through these relationships improvement is expected in the development of an Infant Car Seat Installation Program as well as in the Juvenile Fire Setter Program.



The CSEB tracked all contacts from April 2009 through December 2009. The Aurora Fire Department gave prevention messages to just over 20,000 children. The emergency responses from 2003-2008 were analyzed to determine what prevention messages would assist the community in reducing the risk of preventable injuries and fires occurring within jurisdictional boundaries. The results of the response analysis indicated that the department's educational presentations should focus on cooking safety as well as a need to address juvenile fire setters.



Additional accomplishments that were coordinated through the CSEB were:

- National Night Out with APD
- Children's Hospital Pumpkin Patch with APD
- A grant received through Safe Kids from Kidde that included 90 Carbon Monoxide detectors to distribute to citizens
- The department also hosted 2 open houses throughout the city and met with 500 senior citizens to discuss fire and injury prevention

Support Services Division

Deputy Chief Danny Willcox



Support Services is responsible for building and fleet services, business systems development, equipment and warehouse, administrative support, the Station Captain Program and Fire Department Capital Projects.

Building and Fleet Services

The Division is responsible for the construction of new facilities and maintenance of the current structures. This is mirrored for all apparatus. The Division coordinates the maintenance of 16 city buildings and over 90 pieces of apparatus on a daily basis.

Business Systems Development (Radios and Mobile Data Computers, Data Systems)

Support Services is currently responsible for maintaining all equipment, software and hardware used for communication and response to emergency incidents. This includes all incident reporting, mapping, future station projections, and data acquisition. On a larger scope Support Services manages and coordinates many new technological system implementations for other fire divisions.

Equipment and Warehouse

Firefighter Curtis Newell manages all equipment for personnel, apparatus and fire stations through a warehouse facility

Station Captain Program

The Station Captain Program is a plan whereby each station has an assigned captain who is responsible for all operations of that station. The Station Captain manages the maintenance and operations of the station and apparatus as well as acclimating himself or herself to the area in which they serve.

Administrative Support

The Administrative Office Staff, managed by Office Coordinator Deborah Dennis, provides administrative support and performs clerical duties for various divisions of the Fire Department.

Significant Accomplishments for 2009

Preplan Project

Early in the year the Support Services Division took on the task of preparing the preplan aerial pictures of over 5400 businesses in the City. The ultimate goal is to have these aerial pictures be immediately visible to responding crews on their Mobile Data Computers (MDCs). These pictures contain vital response information of the buildings. The documents contain hydrant locations, utility shutoffs, roof access, and any specific information related to the building that will better prepare the officer for efficient actions and indicate items that could endanger the responding personnel. At this time, with the help of light duty individuals, we have completed over 5000 preplan pictures and have already prepared these to be visible on the next mapping update scheduled for early 2010.

Communication Center Zetron Addition

Again due to the recent ISO audit, the Support Services Division was involved in the Zetron project. The Zetron, which includes hardware and software components that will augment our current CAD, is designed to monitor station connectivity, simultaneously tone each station, visually and audibly alert the communications center as to a problem with the dispatching process and meet the NFPA requirement for an improved ISO rating in the communications section. This project was completed with our Information Technology Department in the lead. The Aurora Fire Department is

monitoring turnout times to determine if the increased CAD efficiency will equate to an improved service to the citizens of Aurora. The Zetron addition streamlined the dispatching process for the Communications Center.

Apparatus Inventory Process

Due to the recent Insurance Services Office (ISO) audit, we were tasked with designing and implementing an inventory process where an immediate account of apparatus equipment could be visible to all employees. With a number of light duty employees we were able to prepare detailed inventories of each apparatus and place them on an accessible network drive for all Fire employees. This enables us to immediately access all inventories for accountability and replace pertinent equipment in a more timely manner. All required equipment is specifically identified so that anyone conducting an inventory knows what equipment is essential for our ISO rating.

Emergency Generator Replacement

This year the Support Services Division and Facilities was able to replace the emergency generator at Station 12. It has been the goal to incrementally replace the aging station generators with units that will power the complete building.

