

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a firefighter in silhouette, wearing a helmet and looking towards the right. Behind the firefighter is a large, intense fire with bright orange and yellow flames. The text is overlaid on this image.

City of Aurora
Fire Department

2008
Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the members of the Aurora Fire Department, I proudly present the department's 2008 Annual Report as a reflection of the dedication, professionalism, and commitment to the safety of our citizens and firefighters.

2008 proved to be a challenging year due to the down turn of the economy. I am very proud of how Aurora Fire responded to the fiscal challenges. The department maintained the highest standard of service while providing efficiency and fulfilling our Mission Statement: "Exceptional service to the community provided by well-trained professionals". The men and women of Aurora Fire Department recognize that when times are tough that is when we are needed most. We live our core values of professionalism, integrity and exceptional service!

On another note, 2008 brought together the Denver Metro Area's Fire & Police agencies to plan and provide emergency service for the Democratic National Convention. This joint effort demonstrated to the nation the cooperation between Colorado agencies and how our communities come together when public safety is at risk.

I'd like to express sincere appreciation to Mayor Ed Tauer, City Council, City Manager Ron Miller, and city management for their continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Mike Garcia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

R. Mike Garcia
Fire Chief



Aurora Fire Department

Mission Statement

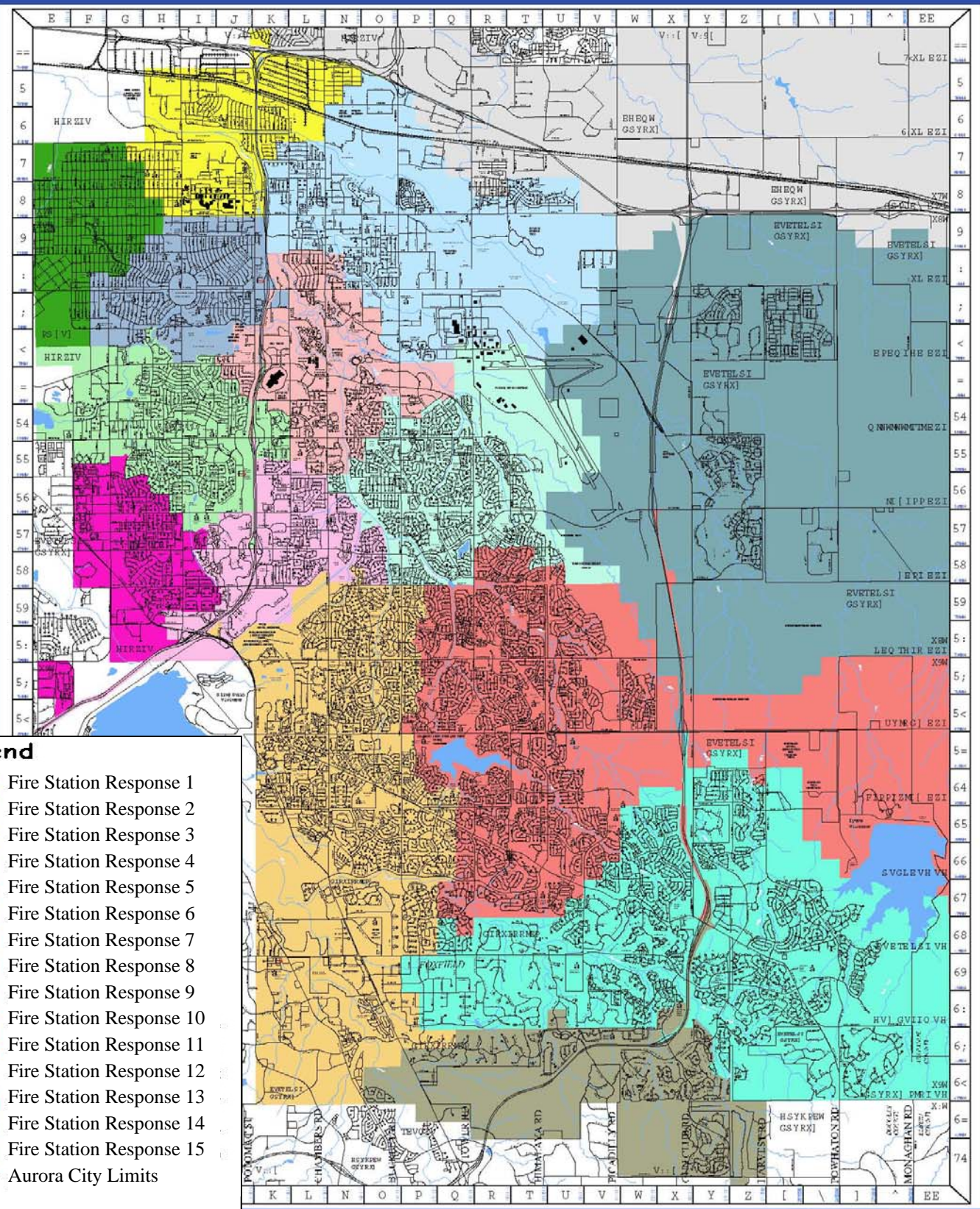
Exceptional service to the community provided by well trained professionals.

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
 2008 Fire Department Station/Engine Response Map

City of Aurora
 Aurora, Colorado
 719-747-2744
 5955 E. Harvard Ave. Suite 400
 Aurora, CO 80017
 www.aurora.gov

Map prepared by the City of Aurora, Colorado, using data provided by the Aurora Fire Department. The City of Aurora, Colorado, is not responsible for any errors or omissions in this map. The City of Aurora, Colorado, is not liable for any damages, including consequential damages, arising from the use of this map. The City of Aurora, Colorado, is not responsible for any changes to the map data after the date of publication.

Scale: 1" = 1/2 Mile

Emergency Services Division

Deputy Chief Dan Martinelli



During 2008, the Aurora Fire Department responded to 30,088 requests for assistance, which required 40,298 company responses. This was an increase of 1% from 2007. Of those 30,088 alarms, 20,375 were classified as emergency medical related incidents and 871 were classified as fire related incidents. The estimated fire loss for the city was \$5.7 million. The total property saved was estimated at \$83 million. We also experienced three fire-related civilian deaths within the city of Aurora. Additional items for 2008 include the following:

- **Heart Monitors**

25 Phillips MRX 12-lead cardiac monitors were purchased and all personnel were trained in their use. This will provide state of the art cardiac care for the community of Aurora.

- **Wildland Fire Response**

Establishment of an Aurora Fire Department Wildland fire response program was completed. The Wildland program not only provides the citizens of Aurora with better trained and equipped wildland response, the fire department team can now be deployed statewide for a Type 1, Type 3 and Type 6 wildland response. All associated costs for statewide response are reimbursed through an agreement with the Colorado State Forestry Service.

- **EMS Educator**

A training officer was reassigned from the Training Bureau to the EMS Bureau to improve EMS education, certification and records management. The Continuing Education tracking system was redesigned to comply with changes made to this process by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. This restructuring also provided greater integration of the EMS Quality Improvement program into continuing education classes.

- **EMS Education / Certification**

The EMS Bureau Collaborated with the Community College of Aurora to provide primary paramedic education to 9 Firefighters and coordinated completion of EMT-Basic certification of 2 firefighters.

- **Truck 14**

Prior to 2008, Station 13 housed a four-person engine company and a four-person truck company. On October 10, the ladder truck was moved from Station 13 to Station 14. This reassignment of crews allowed a four-person engine company to respond from Station 13 and a four-person truck to respond from Station 14. The two-person rescue unit originally assigned to Station 14 was removed from service. This reassignment resulted in on-going annual savings of \$462,000.

- **Paramedic Truck Companies**

All Aurora Fire Department truck companies were staffed with a minimum of one firemedic. With this change, the Aurora Fire Department now has the capability of providing Advanced Life Support (ALS) with all emergency response units. This change will improve our already

exceptional performance of ensuring ALS within an eight-minute total response time on 90% of all emergency response.

- **Democratic National Convention**

The Aurora Fire Department Mass Decontamination Unit was deployed to the Pepsi Center and Invesco Field during the week of the Democratic National Convention (DNC). The Aurora Fire Department Team was assigned to manage and operate an ambulatory decontamination process in the event an incident occurred which required the decontamination of event participants. 27 Aurora firefighters were activated for this event. Fortunately, there were no incidents that required the use of the Aurora Team.

The Aurora Fire Department was also designated as part of the Southeast Area Strike Team to respond metro-wide to any significant incident that may have occurred as a result of the convention. Again, there were no incidents that required activation of this system.

The EMS Bureau worked with area hospitals to monitor Emergency Department capacity and alter patient destinations to accomplish zero hours of Emergency Department closure during the DNC.

All costs associated with the DNC were reimbursed through an agreement with the City and County of Denver

- **Hurricanes Gustav & Ike**

On August 29, 2008, Aurora Firefighters Captain Jim Moon and Engineer Rick Slocum were activated as part of Colorado Task Force One (CO-TF1). Battalion Chief Scott Mills was activated as a member of the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Incident Support Team (IST). All were deployed to Houston, Texas to be staged for Hurricane Gustav. On completion of Gustav missions, all units staged for Gustav were released on midnight, September 5, 2008, and reactivated to stage in the gulf coast region for Hurricane Ike September 6, 2008, at 0001 hrs. Ike made landfall September 13th. CO-TF1 and USAR IST responded to Galveston, Texas, to assist with relief efforts. They were demobilized on September 17th.

All costs associated for this deployment were reimbursed through an agreement Colorado Urban Search and Rescue program.

- **Fire Department Safety**

The Aurora Fire Department established a 100% compliance policy for use of seat belts.

Department policy was revised to require the use of SCBA's from the onset of a structure fire until the structure is returned to the property owner.

- **Medical Director**

All emergency medical technicians in Colorado are required by the Colorado Board of Health and Colorado Board of Medical Examiners to have medical direction. Historically, the Medical Center of Aurora has provided this service to the Aurora Fire Department. With the addition of University Hospital to our community, we developed an agreement that allows the Aurora Fire Department to partner with both of these institutions to continue to meet the emergency medical needs of our citizens.

- **Personnel**

During 2008, 17 firefighters retired or resigned and 13 new firefighters were hired and trained. Additionally, there were 35 promotions, which included 3 battalion chiefs, 5 captains, 9 lieutenants, 14 firemedics and 4 engineers.

Hazardous Materials Team

The Hazardous Materials Team was started in 1980 with four members and a used rescue squad that was slated for sale at an auction. It was only the second team in Colorado at that time and early responses included mutual aid requests from other jurisdictions since there were no State resources available. Since that humble beginning of four members and a worn out apparatus, we have continued to see the usage of chemicals in our society steadily increase. In addition, emerging threats from terrorism, both domestic and international, new warehouses in Aurora with large chemical inventories, and greater commodity flows on our highways and railroads have resulted in an increased demand for an Aurora team and the protection it provides. All personnel now assigned to Aurora Fire Station #2 function in a HazMat capacity with the team. There are usually 6 certified HazMat Technicians on duty each day. In addition, the HazMat vehicle and equipment inventory is state-of-the-art and prepared for these new threats.

- The calendar year 2008 was an important year for the Hazardous Materials Team. Through federal funding for anti-terrorism activities, the team was able to start the process of getting the majority of the members recertified. In addition the team initiated contact with the Community Support Team (anti-terrorism team) at Buckley Air Force base to explore joint training opportunities and to compare equipment and operational procedures. Active involvement during the year with other regional teams allowed for networking and comparison of inventories. This will result in the avoidance of duplicating some expensive pieces of equipment and the quick access to additional personnel and teams if needed at a major incident
- The Democratic National Convention (DNC) held in Denver during 2008 also illustrated one of the newest additions to the HazMat Team; a stand-alone Decontamination Team (Decon). With the advent of federal guidelines and regulations on the number of HazMat Technicians required at an emergency scene, it became important to have an additional group of firefighters trained in Decon. This was due to the fact that very few HazMat Teams in the country have enough personnel assigned to them to handle all the responsibilities of hazardous materials emergency response and mitigation in addition to the added training and staffing requirements for Decon operations. With the possibility of biological or other terrorism agents, the Decon function also has to be prepared to handle large numbers of contaminated people from the civilian population. The personnel at Fire Station #12 handle this important function as well as providing fire and emergency medical coverage (EMS) for the northeast area of Aurora. Their capability was evidenced during the DNC when the Aurora Fire Department Decon Team was responsible for the decon of the public in attendance at both the Pepsi Center and at Invesco Field. Our personnel stood by for the entire event in case a terrorist device was encountered. During the final day almost 90,000 people were dependent upon the Aurora Fire Department for decon, had a terrorist device been deployed.
- During 2008 the HazMat Team was needed 10 times for chemical or hazardous materials spills or releases, 6 times for hydrocarbon spills that threatened our waterways, twice for biological

hazards, and many times for LPG or gas leaks. Within these responses were incidents with tremendous potential. These include an overturned fuel truck on top of active Union Pacific railroad tracks, large quantities of mixed chemicals inside an office building with emergency evacuation, unknown white powder incidents requiring analysis, waste acid illegally stored and accidentally released in a storage unit, and a nursing home inappropriately mixing cleaning products resulting in the production of chlorine gas and endangering the occupants.

All of these threats were mitigated by the men and women of Fire Station #2. This was in addition to their regular duties as firefighters and paramedics at one of the busiest stations in the country. Whether the threat to our community is from chemicals, biological agents, terrorism events, radiological materials, highway and railroad accidents, or abandoned hazardous waste, the HazMat Team is prepared.

EMS Department

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Bureau is responsible for the delivery of pre-hospital emergency medical care to the citizens of Aurora. In 2008 we treated 21,239 patients. 3,000 patients required Advanced Life Support (ALS) care and 17,745 patients were transported to area hospitals.

The Aurora Fire Department completed the first year of the new Ambulance Transport Contract with Rural Metro Ambulance Company to provide ambulance transport services to the City of Aurora. This contract generated over \$550,000.00 for the City of Aurora this year.

Implementation of a new oxygen delivery device, CPAP, allowed the delivery of high concentration oxygen and medications to critically injured patients preventing the need to place a breathing tube in the patient. When implemented early, this procedure decreases the likelihood the patient will need to be treated in the intensive care unit.

The Aurora Firefighter's Shots for Tots Program which provides low / no cost vaccines to Aurora children saw a 22% increase over last year's volume in patients with 1512 children receiving vaccines in 2008.

The new Philips MRX heart monitors were put into service this year. Incorporating this newest generation technology into our Emergency Medical System has allowed the pioneering work we began with the Cardiac Alert program in 2001 to progress. The Cardiac Alert program continues to receive widespread recognition and is fast becoming the national standard of care for people suffering heart attacks.

Five employees completed Emergency Medical Technician – Basic training this year. Eleven employees completed Emergency Medical Technician – Paramedic training enhancing the Department's ability to deliver Advanced Life Support Care to our community.

Air Team

Calendar year 2008 was a busy year for the Aurora Fire Department Air Team. The team saw leadership changes in overall program management and shift coordinators. The team currently has three personnel assigned to each shift with an officer as unit lead for each shift.

The 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 and flow testing of all SCBA for proper operation. This insures a safe and dependable facial seal when operating in dangerous atmospheres.

The Air Team is also responsible for two 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 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.



2008 also saw the 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. The Aurora Fire Department received a \$741,000 UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) grant to upgrade respiratory protection equipment to current standards for interoperability with neighboring municipalities.

157 new SCBA, facepieces, valves, communication amplifiers and other equipment was received in June 2008 and placed in service the last quarter of the year. The Aurora Fire Department Training division, with assistance from the Air Team, conducted extensive training on the use, care, maintenance and operation of the new SCBA before distribution. All front line equipment is now equipped with the new NexGen 7 packs and 2009 will see walk on reserve and specialty team distribution.

Goals for 2009 will include the adoption of an Air Management policy and 100% compliance with facepiece NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical) standards.

Wildland Team

In 2008 the Aurora Fire Department command staff mandated the establishment of a deployable Wildland firefighting team. The Wildland team’s focus is to provide resources in the combating of destructive wildland fires that threaten both natural resources and economic conditions. 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” personnel. Team personnel hold certifications from the level of Engine Boss to Firefighter II.



In 2008 the team was able to purchase two Bendix King programmable radios that allow for interoperability on wildland incidents. The team purchased 4 sets of line gear with fire shelters, fire helmets with goggles, helmet

shrouds, nomex pants for deployment, head lamps, chain saw chaps, and plastic water bottles.

The team will 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.

During the 2008 season the Wildland Team was able to assist West Metro Fire on a controlled burn at Ken Caryl Ranch. The team goals in 2009 are to work to improve qualifications, to participate in more training events, and to add additional needed equipment.

Technical Rescue Team

The year 2008 saw many changes and challenges for the Aurora Fire Department Technical Rescue Team.

The Technical Rescue Team continues to be stationed at Fire Station 8 and consists of the crew members of Truck 8 and Engine 8 on all three shifts. A reserve heavy rescue unit is kept equipped at Station 8 for immediate use if necessary as well as an emergency shoring unit and brush truck. The dedicated volunteer members of the team are prepared to respond to any emergency involving the disciplines of technical rescue including heavy vehicle extrication, ice rescue, swift water rescue, rope rescue, building collapse, trench rescue and confined space rescue. These members willingly take on the added responsibility of the extra work load and training in addition to their normal duties associated with fire department suppression companies.



The biggest event was the retirement of Captain Craig McBreen. Captain McBreen has been a driving force for the Technical Rescue Team for many years. His leadership and common sense approach to technical rescue will be missed, but the team thanks Captain McBreen for his many years of service and congratulates him on his retirement. Happy travels Captain Mc Breen.

Replacing Captain Mc Breen at the helm of the Technical Rescue Team is Captain William Kraus. Captain Kraus comes from the Training Division and brings to the Technical Rescue Team a high level of enthusiasm and a passion for the job.

Also leaving the Technical Rescue Team for new challenges in 2008 was Lieutenant Jim Burton. Lt. Burton took a position on Tower 6 and is also assisting the Staffing Office. In his position as company officer on Tower 6 Lt. Burton's technical rescue skills and training will still be available to the citizens of Aurora. Covering a city with a population of 310,000 and an area of almost 150 square miles, all Aurora Fire Department truck companies are adjuncts to the Technical Rescue Team and past members of the team now assigned to those truck companies bring their valuable skills to all parts of the city.

Replacing Lieutenant Burton on B-shift is Lieutenant Jason Pendleton. Lt. Pendleton has past training in heavy/technical rescue through the California State Fire Service Training System which will be immediately beneficial and is scheduled for further training in 2009.

The Aurora Fire Department Technical Rescue Team is proud to report that two of its members were promoted in 2008. Team member Mitch Harr was promoted to Lieutenant and is now assigned to Squad 3 and Shawn Springer was promoted to Engineer and serves on Engine 7.

In 2008, the Aurora Fire Department was able to recruit and train several Firemedics and came a step closer to a stated goal of two paramedics on every rig by assigning a rescue technician to all truck companies. With this organizational change, the Technical Rescue Team welcomes new



members: Rescue Technician Dave Cooper and Rescue Technician Travis Hurley. Cooper is a graduate of the West Metro Fire Protection District rope rescue course and is certified in ice rescue. Like Lt. Pendleton, Hurley attended the California Fire Service Training System heavy rescue course.

With departmental training focused on hazardous material response, training for all company officers as fire inspectors and an organizational goal of preparing a wildland firefighting team for regional response it was a very challenging year to complete technical rescue training. Even with this competition for time on the training calendar, the Technical Rescue Team was able to deliver a class and training exercise in complex vehicle accident stabilization and extrication for all squad companies. Ice rescue training was completed at the Aurora Reservoir. Crews practiced swift water rescue on Clear Creek near Golden and rope rescue exercises were conducted in Castlewood Canyon and at Children's Hospital.

Four team members attended the West Metro Fire Protection District/Red Rocks Community College technical rescue course. This course is 10 intense days of very physical training in rope rescue, trench rescue, confined space rescue and emergency building shoring. Those attending the class in 2008 were Lieutenant Isadell Posey, Lieutenant Roy Browning, Firefighter Jim Smith and Firefighter Justin Balderston.

Again, the most dominant demand for technical rescue services in 2008 was for vehicle extrication. The A-shift team had a very interesting event where they were challenged to get an injured construction worker off the roof of a building under construction. The team made a successful rope rescue of the injured worker. Aurora Fire Department truck companies responded to over 6,000 emergencies in 2008 and the Aurora Fire Department Technical Rescue Team, supported by all AFD truck companies, stands ready to assist Aurora Citizens out of whatever misfortune may befall them.

Special Services Division

Deputy Chief Mark Ricard



2008 was a significant year for the Bureau of Special Services. Training, Recruitment, Public Information, Branding and Accreditation remained as integral parts of this division, but the Office of Emergency Management was moved to report directly to the Chief of the Department, in the organizational chart.

The recruitment team was very active in the community and many new avenues of recruitment strategies were employed. Over 950 prospective firefighters turned in applications, but to date no test has been given to test the effectiveness of recruitment efforts.

The recruitment team has also developed and implemented a recruitment plan that includes applicant classes on effective test taking, both oral board and written, and physical fitness information useful in taking the entry level combat test.

A new tool (NeoGov) was used to track the efforts of the recruitment process and was instrumental in collecting varied data: ethnicity, gender, how prospective firefighters learned about the fire department, and which recruitment venue was the most productive. In the end, online information, such as the websites for the city and the fire department, were the best.

The Annual Compliance Report, a mandatory part of the accreditation process, was completed in February and accepted by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. Data collection and rewriting of the existing accreditation document continued throughout 2008.

Training Bureau

The desire to improve the training culture in the Aurora Fire Department and the desire to train with clear and tangible objectives became central to the vision of the Training Division in 2008. The training staff was challenged to look critically at our own values, goals and performance as well as those of the department as a whole. Each fire department member has been encouraged and provided an opportunity to participate in reviewing and clarifying the Training Division's direction and purpose.

We support the fire department's goal of a diverse work place by providing each incumbent and recruit the necessary tools to ensure retention and allow them to thrive and be safe throughout their careers.

The following are some of the Training Bureau's 2008 highlights:

- AFD Recruit Class 08-01 graduated, adding twelve well trained professionals to the ranks of our department.
- As a part of our effort to ensure that every firefighter safely returns from every fire, Safety and Survival training was provided department-wide. The training provides firefighters with knowledge and skills to increase their chances of survival in the dangerous situations presented in the line of duty.
- Chief officers' and captains' workshops provided the management of the department the opportunity to review and enhance the goals and direction of the organization.
- 2008 was another successful year for our Officer Development Program which trains our first level supervisors with a holistic approach to management. This class is offered to other departments within the state and nationally, with enrollment usually reaching capacity with a waiting list.



- Use of the new Nexgen Self Contained Breathing Apparatus began, with department wide training being provided through a joint effort between the Training Bureau and the Air Team.
- Successful completion of the Acting Officer Program provided our future leaders with many of the skills they need to begin acting in the role of company officer. This is a prelude to testing for and assuming those positions permanently.
- All department members were trained and tested to the new national standards for hazardous materials certification.
- Members of the Training Bureau were dedicated to the department's and the region's overall efforts at the historical Democratic National Convention held in Denver.

Office of Emergency Management

The City of Aurora Office of Emergency Management saw some changes in 2008. We hired two new employees, Stephanie Hackett as the Emergency Management Specialist and Sonja VonFeldt as the MMRS/EMPG financial coordinator. Both have proven to be exceptional in their respective positions, adding a great deal of professionalism and talent to the OEM and the city of Aurora.



The Office of Emergency Management recognized the need for a candid reflection of the real world possibility of workplace violence and the obligation the city has to its employees and citizens alike to put sensible security protocols in place. A team of diverse departmental representatives was developed to produce a full scale exercise designed to expose weaknesses as well as to validate strengths. The main goals of the exercise were to

safeguard employees and to ensure the continuity of operations for the city. The team included members from the Office of Emergency Management, Police Department, Fire Department, and Facilities Management. The overall process which began in November of 2007, concluding in March 2008 with the full-scale exercise, included the following components:

- Identifying possible threats
- Identifying security weaknesses or gaps
- Developing response actions for employees
- Training & discussing issues with employees
- Conducting a table-top exercise for department managers
- Conducting a full-scale exercise
- Producing an after-action report
- Creating an improvement matrix with action items

This exercise focused on creating a no-failure environment for the city employees to encourage participation and a willingness to experiment with new procedures and techniques. By contrast, the exercise emphasized a higher level of challenge and stress for first responders. The exercise was a success and has provided a platform to further develop our workplace violence program.

The Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee continues to meet on a quarterly basis and is the foundation for ensuring the overall preparedness of the city. Every department is represented and contributes significantly in their area of expertise in the development of disaster policies and procedures.

The OEM is also responsible for the city's outdoor warning system. Two live tests were conducted during 2008. The OEM serves as the city's representative on the North Central Region Board and the Urban Area Security Initiative Working Group.

Administrative Chief

The Administrative Chief was assigned to the Special Services Division and has been instrumental in helping with the accreditation process, is responsible for the research and development process, Civil Service Liaison Assistant, and serves as backup to the PIO.

Other important duties assigned to the Administrative Chief are updating the Policies, Procedures and Guidelines, sending those changes to the department on a regular basis, and preparing special studies and reports as directed by the Deputy Chief of Special Services and Fire Chief.

Public Information Officer

The department's Public Information Office is tasked with the dissemination of information to both internal and external customers. Through extensive media contacts, accurate non-emergency and emergency information is provided through television, print and radio.

- The Public Information Office established and managed a team of 10 recruiters which developed and implemented the "Aurora Fire Department Recruitment Plan" As a team, the recruiters attended job fairs at state colleges and diversity fairs, advertised in local media outlets, movie theaters and community events. The recruiting office continues to recruit entry level and lateral entry firefighters into the workforce. The recruitment team efforts increased the applicant pool of candidates by 33% over the previous application period.
- The Public Information Office coordinated a stop in Aurora of the Pink Ribbon Tour. The Pink Ribbon Tour is a national effort to draw attention and encourage public participation in the "Cares Enough to Wear Pink" Campaign. The project's originators made a cross-country tour pulling a 10' metallic ribbon. Their tour drove 7400 miles and made at least 32 stops promoting the message of early detection and raising funds for breast cancer research. We also invited people with breast cancer and those who have survived it to come out and sign the truck as a national statement of the impact of this devastating disease.

Branding Committee

The branding committee was officially recognized as a committee per PP&G 10.2.2.2. Several items were submitted to the committee for approval including the new logo for all future uniform items.

Several individual stations submitted artwork for logos to be put on shirts and rigs, and for the most part, all were approved and are being used as submitted.

Life Safety / Fire Marshal

Deputy Chief Robert Leigh



• Public Education Activities

- In 2008 the Public Education efforts for the Aurora Fire department continued to be coordinated through the Deputy Chief of Life Safety. Enhancements were made to improve the scheduling and tracking of community service and education requests with the introduction of an electronic request form accessed through the department's web-site. Although the educational efforts continue to be limited due to the elimination of the program in 2005; emergency response personnel coordinated through the Life Safety Division continue to provide a service.
- The 2007 Assistance to Firefighters-Public Education Grant was exhausted in the spring of 2008. The monies received through the grant provided education to children under the age of thirteen and to adults over the age of sixty five. Through this grant award of approximately \$36,400* with an 80/20 match, the fire department was able to compensate off-duty firefighters to provide fire education to 5414 youths in the community as well as 230 seniors.

• Strategic Planning and Development Activities

The Fire Marshal and the Assistant Fire Marshal continue to work closely with the city's development and planning offices to review and coordinate annexations as well as framework development plans. During 2008 the Aurora Public Schools annexed a site located at 6th Avenue Parkway and Harvest. This site was excluded from the Sable-Altura Fire District so that consistent emergency fire and medical service can be provided to Aurora citizens by their fire department.

• Fourth of July Activities

The Life Safety Division continues to play a major role in the city of Aurora's fireworks display. Safety at the shoot site was continued by utilizing four firefighters to staff a brush truck and reserve engine. The fire inspectors provided their expertise both at the shoot site as well as at the Aurora Municipal Center in an effort to provide a safe environment for the citizens as well as those involved in producing the event.

The division was also charged with ensuring the safety of those participating in the Southlands Fireworks Program. Aurora Fire Department personnel assigned to this privately provided event were compensated through monies provided by the management company representing Southlands.

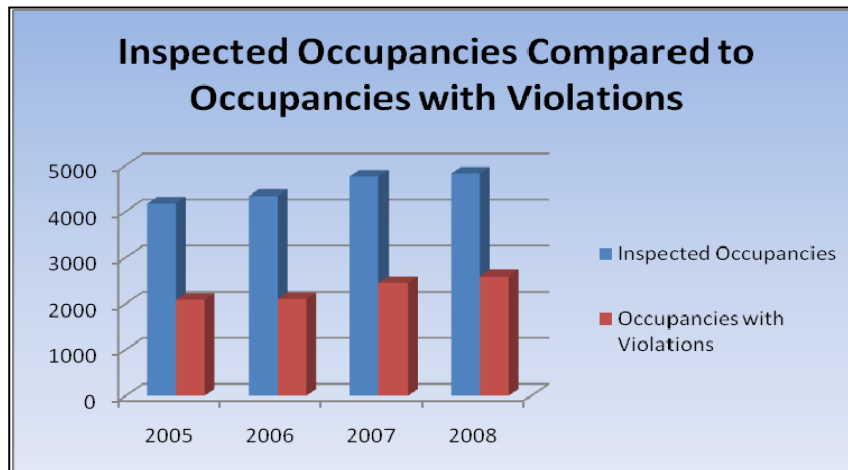
**this figure was incorrectly reported in the 2007 Annual Report*

Fire Inspection Bureau

During 2008 fire code compliance activities between both on-line emergency response crews and Fire Inspection Bureau personnel totaled 4,824 inspections. Of those 4,824 fire inspections, 2,593 (54%) of the occupancies were found to have one or more fire code violations that necessitated a follow-up inspection to correct 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. These prevention efforts, provided through the fire inspectors, have the effect of correcting unsafe situations prior to them becoming a life safety hazard.

The fire inspection data reported in the 2007 Annual Report has been corrected to reflect 4,757 occupancies inspected with 2,451 (52%) of those occupancies having one or more fire code violations.

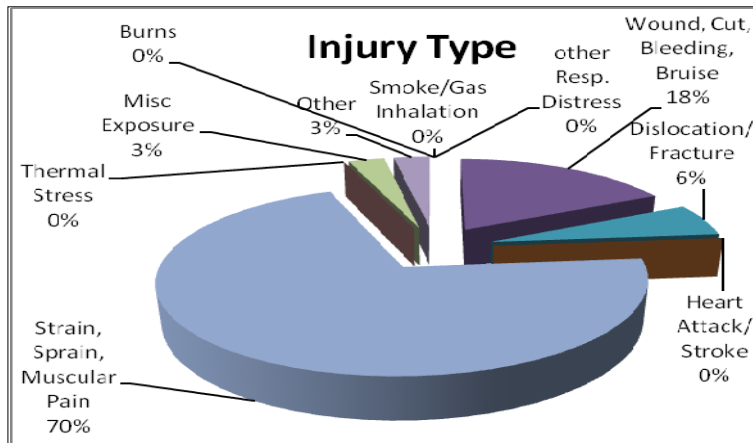


Health & Safety Office

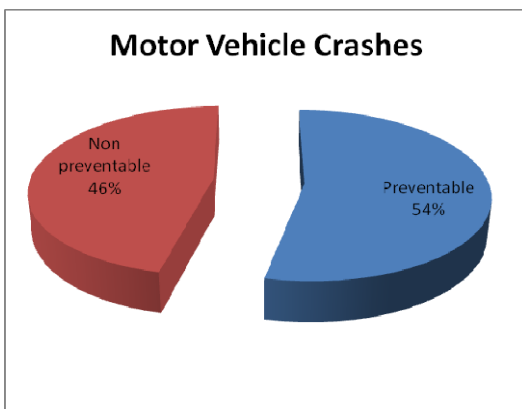
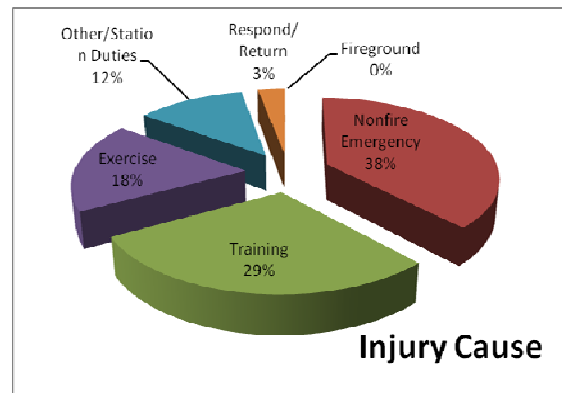
In conjunction with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) the city of Aurora, Colorado Fire Department and the Aurora Professional Firefighter's Association – IAFF Local 1290 participated in and supported the 2008 Health & Survival Week (formerly known as "Safety Stand Down") during the week of June 22-28, 2008. The 2008 theme emphasized familiarization and compliance with the existing "Emergency Vehicle Policy" and how all firefighters and personnel need to be aware of the appropriate AFD Policies, Procedures and Guidelines concerning operating safely in an emergency vehicle/apparatus and the relation to vehicle related incidents accounting for the second leading cause of firefighter line of duty deaths. This emphasis was also in conjunction with Chief Garcia's successful accomplishment and national recognition of having all Aurora Fire Department members sign the seatbelt pledge.

Health & Safety Officer Lieutenant Eric Franks received additional certifications from the *National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications* as a Certified Health and Safety Officer (NFPA 1521-2008) and from the *American College of Sports Medicine* as a Certified Personal Trainer.

During 2008 there were 34 employment related injuries with 70% of those injuries being related to sprains, strains and muscular pain. There were 25 “possible” reported employment related exposures. The following graphs represent some of the statistics tracked annually by the Health & Safety Office concerning injuries, motor vehicle crashes, and exposures.

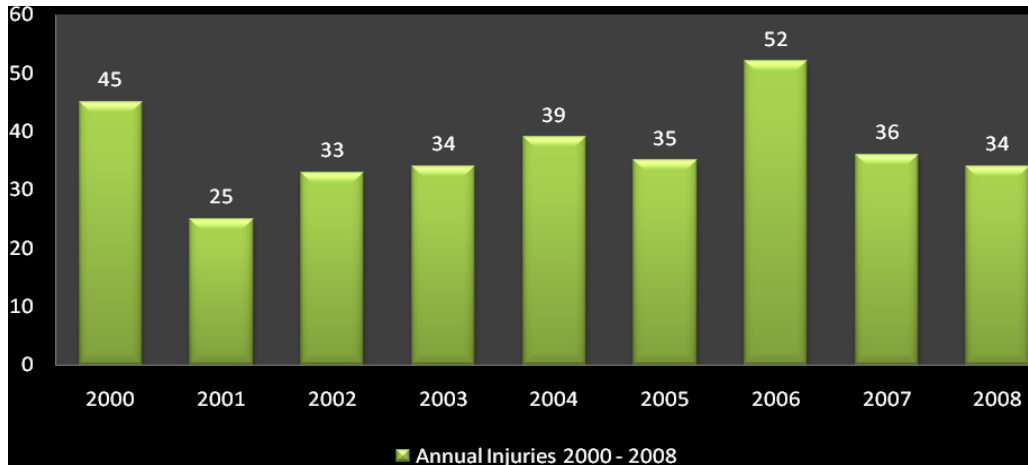


During 2008 the largest percentage of injury causes were related to training (29%) and non-fire emergencies (38%). Injuries related to fire-ground activities were the smallest injury causal factor at 0%.



2008 brought 28 motor vehicle crashes involving department vehicles. Fifteen of those crashes were deemed preventable with thirteen classified as non-preventable.

A comparison of the number of annual employee injuries indicates a slight downward trend since 2006. The Department Health & Safety Office, with the assistance of all employees, will strive to maintain this positive trend in the number of injuries.



Fire Investigations

During 2008 the Fire Investigations Bureau investigated 195 structure, vehicle, and property damage fires, an increase in investigations from 2007.

The Bureau’s “Origin and Cause” determination rate (finding where and how the fire started) improved over 2007 to 95% - the national average is well below 50%. Additionally, the Fire Investigations Unit improved its criminal case clearance rate 1% over 2007 levels to 46%. This means that 51 of the 110 incendiary fires in Aurora were closed with a summons, a felony arrest, or was referred to a fire setter intervention program. From 36 juvenile involved cases, 60 juveniles were referred to either the Aurora Fire Department Juvenile Fire Setter Program or to Children’s Hospital Fire Setter Intervention Program.

The unit also processed fifty-four new fire department employee backgrounds in 2008. Each background takes an estimated 10 – 15 hours to complete due to the thorough civil and criminal review of each candidate.

Support Services Division



Deputy Chief Danny Willcox

The Support Services Division 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. The Administrative Office Staff, managed by Office Coordinator Deborah Dennis, provides administrative support and performs clerical duties for various divisions of the fire department.

- **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.

Aurora Fire Department

