



Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2009-2010



Thank You!

A special thank you to the elected and appointed officials for dedicating time and effort towards making the Zion Fire Rescue Department the best that it can be!



Lane Harrison
Mayor



Lloyd E. DeTienne
Commissioner
Public Safety



Frank Flammini
Commissioner
Public Works



Jim E. Taylor
Commissioner
Accounts & Finance



Shantal Taylor
Commissioner
Building & Public
Property

Fire & Police Commission

Todd Gordon, Chairman
Debbie Lewis
Donna Linder

City Clerk

Judy L. Mackey, MMC



A Message From Fire Chief John Lewis

On behalf of all the members of the Zion Fire Rescue Department, it is with great pride and accomplishment that I present our annual report for fiscal year 2009-2010 to Mayor Lane Harrison, City Commissioners, and, especially, to the citizens and visitors to the City of Zion. This report only highlights some of the activities and achievements reflecting the dedication and professionalism of our personnel in fulfilling their responsibilities to our community over the previous fiscal year. This year's annual report comes at a time when our organization has had to meet continued change and challenges as the City of Zion faces economic hardships, as do many communities across the nation. Having just finished what we felt was a difficult fiscal year financially, we are now faced with the challenge of a new fiscal year with a reduced budget and staffing freezes while continuing to provide the highest quality of emergency and non-emergency life safety services to the City of Zion. Despite the reductions we face, the dedicated staff of the Zion Fire Rescue Department, Mayor Harrison, and the City Commissioners have never lost focus on the need to provide continuing services to the City of Zion.

Pulling together as a team is the challenge of every organization. The Zion Fire Department was faced with one challenge in regard to pending layoffs for fiscal year 2011. Already operating at below minimum staffing due to reductions in previous years, the members of the Zion Fire Rescue Department Local 1999 pulled together and worked with the City of Zion to accomplish the necessary budget reductions. Through the joint cooperation between both the City and the Union, layoffs were averted by the Local 1999 conceding salary increases, giving back time off and reductions in pay. It is my sincere privilege to lead a department willing to work as hard as they did to save the job of another, as well as to be employed by a group of leaders willing to listen and accept suggestions from the labor group. Additional challenges we will continue to face in the upcoming fiscal year will be a continued rise in call volume. Trends show an increasing call volume exceeding 20% every five years. Also increasing is our volume of fire inspections, public education duties, and community involvement. The staff of the Zion Fire Rescue Department makes every attempt to conduct an annual fire inspection on every business and four-unit or greater apartment buildings in the City. We also provide extinguisher training for businesses, CPR classes, car seat inspections, fire prevention and safety talks for community groups, and tours to name but a few of our non-incident related activities. We continue to improve communication by providing updated information on the Zion Fire Rescue Department's portion of the City of Zion website, www.cityofzion.com/departments/fire_and_rescue. We welcome anyone with questions to feel free to stop by or call the fire department. Our goal is to be a respected part of the City of Zion. In fiscal year 2010, we created a Vision Statement to go along with our Mission Statement. The Vision Statement can be found elsewhere in this report, but simply states that we will strive to be the best we can be. We are a respected leader among the Illinois fire departments. We are a trusted agency by our neighboring communities and work closely with them to provide assistance or receive assistance when needed. This respect lies with the dedication of our members.

With the challenges we face, the key question is how do we move forward? We must understand our Mission Statement and Vision Statement and use these in the decisions we make. We owe it to our citizens and the visitors of Zion to be the best we can be, to be available, to be well trained, and always willing and able to do what is needed. It is our responsibility to keep our equipment maintained and ready, to keep our knowledge and skills up to date, and to have the best technology and tools available. It is our responsibility to use our knowledge and experience to teach our citizens safety and to respond quickly when needed. The Zion Fire Rescue Department is able to provide these services because of the support and cooperation of our Mayor, Commissioners, City Departments, and other governmental agencies. I am honored to be the Fire Chief for this organization. The members of the Zion Fire Rescue Department work hard to remain current with new ideas in the fire service, to remain fiscally responsible, and to provide the highest level of public safety to our community. Our accomplishments were only possible through the ongoing dedication of everyone mentioned above and their commitment to the community. It is to each of them I extend my appreciation.



Mission Statement

It shall be the function of the Fire and Rescue Department and the duty personnel thereof; to prevent and extinguish accidental or destructive fires occurring in the city; to provide emergency medical treatment to those persons in need in the city; to transport such persons, when necessary, to a hospital; and to enforce all ordinances relating to fire hazards.

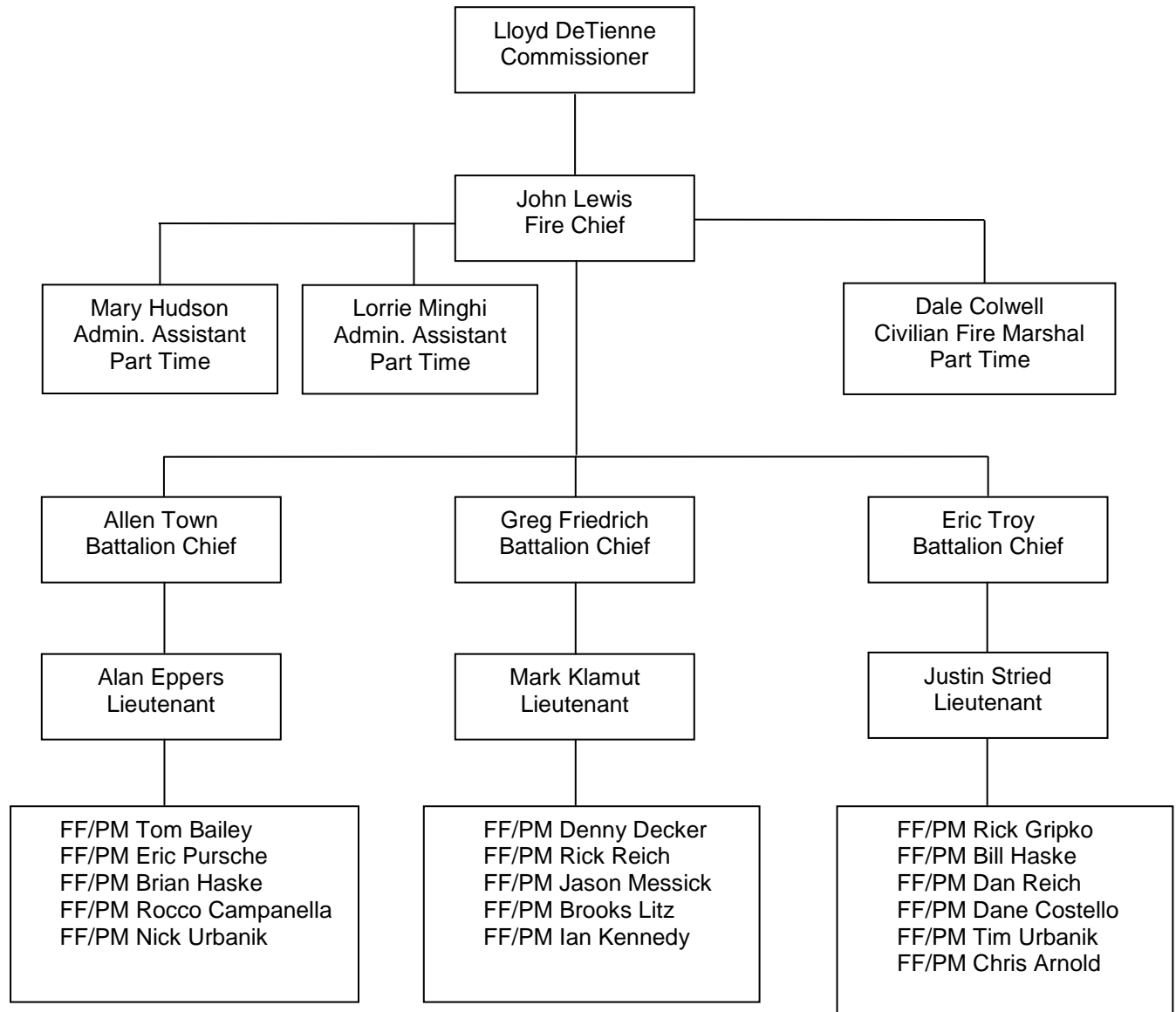


Vision Statement

We, as the Zion Fire Rescue Department, are motivated to become the model of professional and efficient delivery of fire, emergency medical care, and other related services for the City of Zion; it's visitors, and other fire service agencies. We strive to be a dynamic organization by continuing to improve through innovation, education, and teamwork to exceed the expectations of our customers and make Zion the place to live and visit.



Organizational Chart





Administration



John Lewis
Chief



Dale Colwell
Fire Marshal



Mary Hudson
Admin. Assistant



Lorrie Minghi
Admin. Assistant



Personnel Shift 1 - Black Shift



Allen Town
Battalion Chief / Paramedic



Alan Eppers
Lieutenant / Paramedic



Tom Bailey
FF / Paramedic



Eric Pursche
FF / Paramedic



Brian Haske
FF / Paramedic



Rocco Campanella
FF / Paramedic



Nick Urbanik
Ff / Paramedic



Personnel
Shift 2 - Red Shift



Greg Friedrich
Battalion Chief / Paramedic



Mark Klamut
Lieutenant / Paramedic



Dennis Decker
FF / Paramedic



Rick Reich
FF / Paramedic



Jason Messick
FF / Paramedic



Brooks Litz
FF / Paramedic



Ian Kennedy
FF / Paramedic



Personnel Shift 3 - **Gold Shift**



Eric Troy
Battalion Chief / Paramedic



Justin Stried
Lieutenant / Paramedic



Rick Gripko
FF / Paramedic



William Haske, Jr.
FF / Paramedic



Dan Reich
FF / Paramedic



Dane Costello
FF / Paramedic



Tim Urbanik
FF / Paramedic



Chris Arnold
FF / Paramedic



Stations



Fire Station 1
1303 27th Street



Fire Station 2
2016 Lewis Avenue



Apparatus



Engine 1811

2007 Pierce Arrow XT

Station 1

Two-Person Crew

Engine 1822

1992 3D Custom Pumper

Station 1

Reserve



Quint 1832

2000 Pierce PAL-105

Station 2

Two-Person Jump Company



Apparatus



MICU 1841

2004 Horton Ambulance
Station 1
Two-person crew

MICU 1842
2002 Horton Ambulance
Station 2
Two-Person Jump Company



MICU 1843
1996 Marque Ambulance
Station 1
Reserve



Apparatus

Heavy Rescue 1851

1998 Marion Custom
Station 2
Multi Use



ATV 1871

2005 Polaris Ranger
Station 1
Multi Use

Utility Truck 1870

2007 Ford F250
Station 1 & 2
Multi Use





Apparatus



Fire Chief's Car 1800

2009 Ford Expedition
Station 1
Command Vehicle

HAZMAT Trailer

Station 1
Zion and MABAS
Hazardous Materials Response



Fire Prevention – 1891

2004 Ford Explorer
Station 1
Fire Marshal Vehicle



History of EMS in Zion

The delivery of emergency medical services in the Zion area began with basic first aid and transport provided by The Congdon and Studebaker Funeral Homes in Zion. During the phasing out of funeral home based first aid transports in the late 1960's most fire departments took on the responsibility of the ambulance provider. The Zion Fire Department chose not to become a provider, which put the burden on the Zion Civil Defense Department (now ESDA) under the direction of Milt Jensen and Larry Hacker. Ambulance service by the Zion Civil Defense began and covered a territory encompassing the City of Zion, Beach Park, portions of Benton Township, and all of Newport Township. It was a total volunteer organization that used American Red Cross trained personnel staffing The Zion Civil Defense Center in a renovated gas station on Sheridan Road and 24th Street that housed two bays, an office, and bunk room 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The Zion Civil Defense found funding the ambulance service increasingly difficult relying on donations and a small federal budget. A decision was made to create a municipal department supported by a rescue tax. In 1974, with overwhelming support, the department moved to the vacated city water department at 1303 27th Street. During that time volunteers attended EMT-A training at St. Therese Hospital under the instruction of Jim Hested and Paramedic Training at Victory Memorial Hospital under the direction of Dr. John Freeland and Barbara Lyons, the EMS Coordinator.

The South Lake EMS system, which included Condell Hospital, trained additional Zion personnel, and when training was completed and ALS equipment purchased, in 1975, Zion joined The South Lake County EMS with Highland Park Hospital designated the resource hospital. The department was certified to begin Advance Life Support responses following Condell EMS Coordinator Bonnie Quirk's RN daily ride along time to certify the paramedics. Zion contacted medical control for patient treatment under the direction of Dr. Terence Carden and Becky DeLarm the EMS Coordinator. A volunteer Zion Rescue Chief Vern Robinson and fulltime administrative assistant, Sue Robinson, managed the day-to-day operations of the department. Dr. James Solomon was appointed medical director by then Mayor Milt Jensen to handle administrative duties. Zion Rescue initially hired one full time paramedic in 1976 to staff the department during days and Sunday evening with paid on premise personnel filling in other time slots. In time, a second, third, and finally a staff of 6, including a full time Rescue Chief was hired.

Zion Rescue and Zion Fire made attempts to join forces to provide EMS. There was difficulty as expected with loyalties and strong political strongholds on both sides. It was not until 1982 when a need for more personnel, pay equity issues, pension disparities and a municipal budget deficit that demanded fire department layoffs that a merge began. The Zion Rescue Department and Zion Fire Department joined forces under the direction of then Fire Chief Andrew Neargarder and former Zion Rescue Chief Tim Poulsen.

Zion Rescue moved into the fire department at 2828 Sheridan. All department members were cross-trained as paramedics and firefighters. When completed, the department name was modified to include in the title Rescue to honor the EMS contributions made to Zion by the Zion Civil Defense and Rescue Department dedicated group of volunteers, paid on premise, and modest full-time staff.

The new formed Zion Fire Rescue Department changed medical resource and control from Highland Park Hospital to Victory Memorial Hospital and has remained since 1984. Zion has, of this date, provided Advance Life Support to the Citizens of Zion for 35 years.

We have appreciated a strong professional and personal relationship with North Lake County Emergency Medical Services. Under the direction of Dr. Freeland, Brian Sobeck, and Amy Ludford, department personnel serve on various positions as adjunct instructors for EMT-B and EMT-P programs, advanced certification programs including, ACLS, ITLS, PALS, participating on numerous EMS committees such as QA, Education, Standards and Practices, and Medical Officer and Chief's Advisory Committees. We look forward to continue this relationship as we provide EMS in this second decade 2K.

Sincerely,

Greg Friedrich

Battalion Chief / Medical Officer



Training



Zion Firefighter/paramedics consider training to be a very important element in delivering high quality service to the citizens and visitors of our town. Zion personnel are trained as firefighters and also as paramedics. It requires large amounts of training to stay sharp in both disciplines. 2009/2010 was a very busy year for our department members. During the last year Zion Fire Rescue Department personnel spent just under 2,000 man hours training. On a daily basis, they trained on basic firefighting and emergency medical skills

Every month some kind of pumper or ladder truck evolution was completed. In addition to firefighter and paramedic training, Zion firefighters participated in specialty trainings which included, but were not limited to, hazardous materials, ice/water rescue, trench, high angle, building collapse, confined space, nuclear emergencies and vehicle extrication.

As members of the Lake-McHenry County Specialized Response Teams (Hazardous Materials, Trench, High Angle, Confined Space, and Dive Rescue), our department team members participated in training sessions that included working with members from all over Lake, McHenry, and Kenosha counties.

In addition to our regular training, many members also attended various outside training seminars and classes throughout the year. We continue to consider training to be an integral part of delivering superior service to our customers.





Special Teams (TRT)



The Zion Fire Rescue Department, in conjunction with the Lake and McHenry County Technical Response Team, is trained and equipped to handle technical and complex emergencies that may arise. These include trench collapse, high angle rescue, structural collapse, confined space rescue, hazardous materials, and dive rescue emergencies. Our members attend a number of required trainings and incidents throughout the year to maintain good-standing membership on the county team. Team members did respond on numerous TRT emergencies during the past Fiscal Year. Thankfully, none of these occurred in Zion.





Public Education

Interacting and educating the public on fire and medical safety has always been an extremely important area for the Zion Fire Rescue Department. This past year was no different, as department members attended and conducted numerous events, including but not limited to, school visits during Fire Prevention Week, extinguisher trainings, fire station tours, Station 1 Open House, and MDA Fill-the-Boot in conjunction with the Firefighters Union. You can be proud of the members of this department for positively interacting with the public no matter what the event is!





Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention is directly responsible for the reduction of fires and injuries from fires not only in the City of Zion, but also across the nation. Fire Prevention includes the inspection of current businesses and new developments as well as the testing of fire suppression devices throughout the city. Fire Prevention also entails educating business owners on keeping their business and customers "Fire Safe."

Zion Fire Rescue Department is responsible for the annual fire inspection of every business, church, school, 4-unit and greater apartment building, and new construction in the City of Zion. These inspections are part of the daily responsibilities of the on-duty shift personnel supplemented by a part-time fire marshal. Last year 462 annual fire inspections were completed, along with various plan reviews, fire alarm reviews, sprinkler system reviews, fire alarm tests, and hood inspections.

The Fire Department also oversees all elementary school fire drills throughout the city to ensure, in the event of an actual emergency, the staff at each school is able to evacuate the building with all children in a timely and safe manner.





Response Data

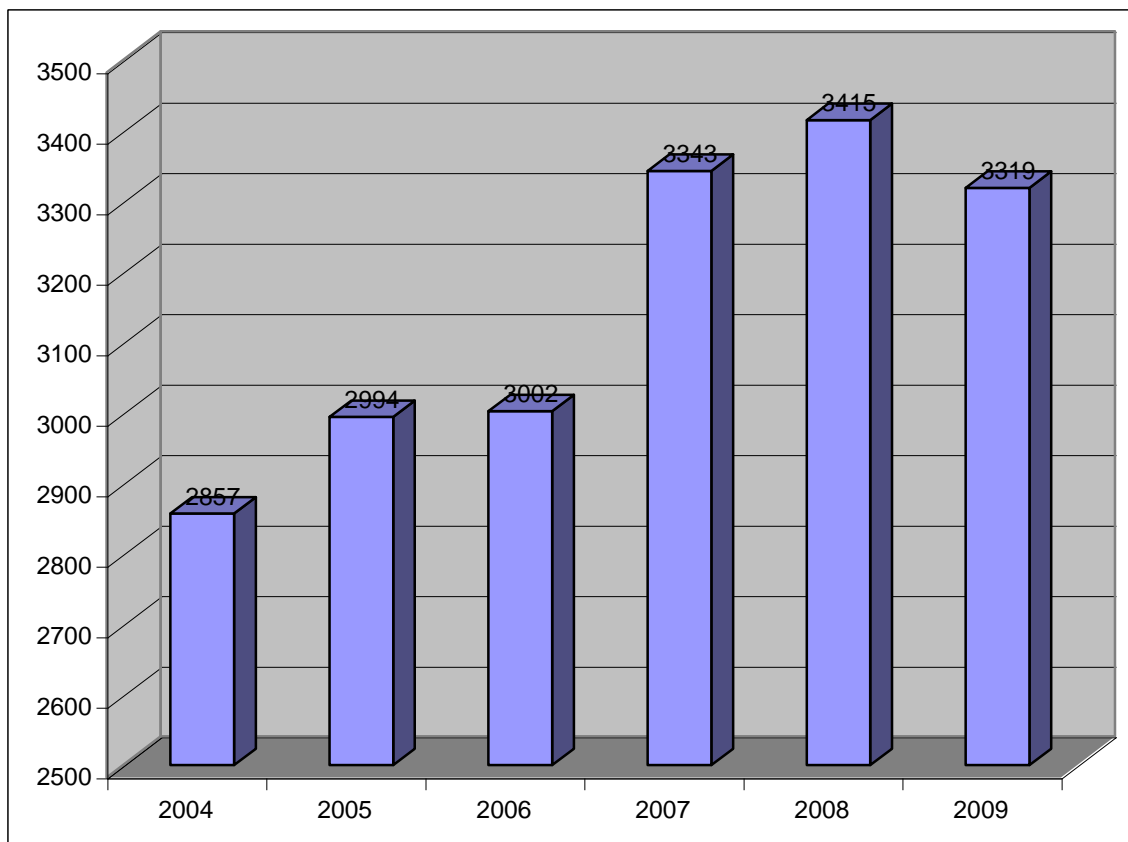
Total Zion Responses FY08-09: 3,415

Total Zion Responses FY09-10 3,319

Station 1 Responses FY09-10: 1,991

Station 2 Responses FY 09-10: 1,328

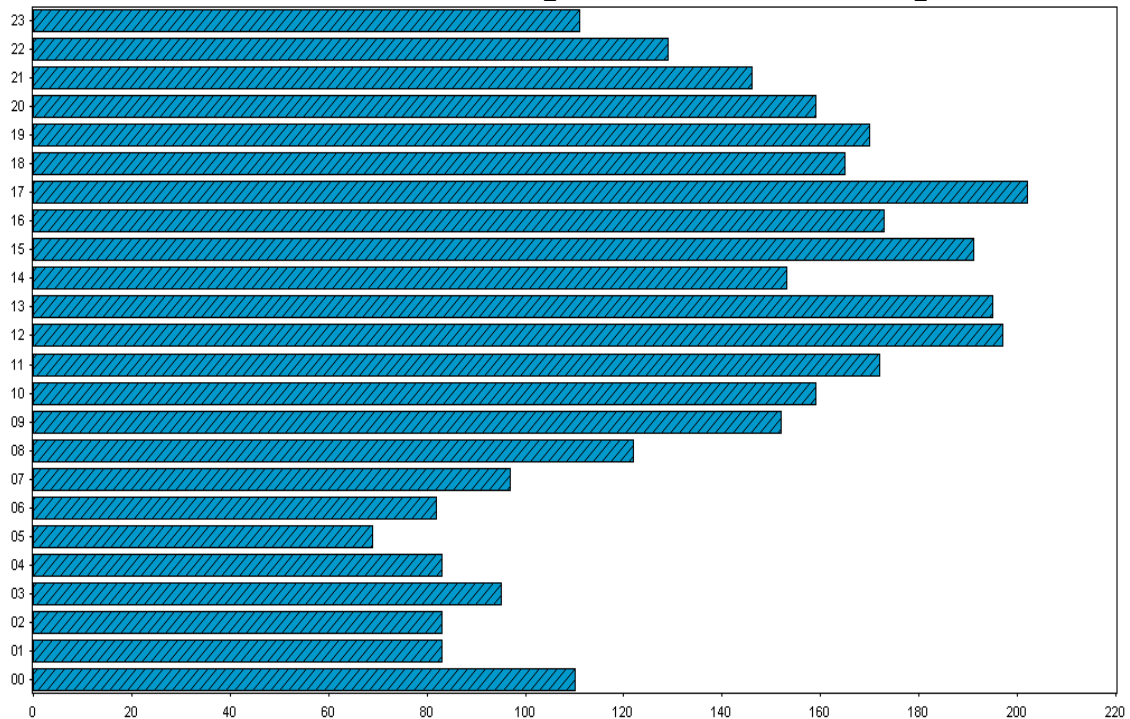
Call Volume Analysis by Calendar Year



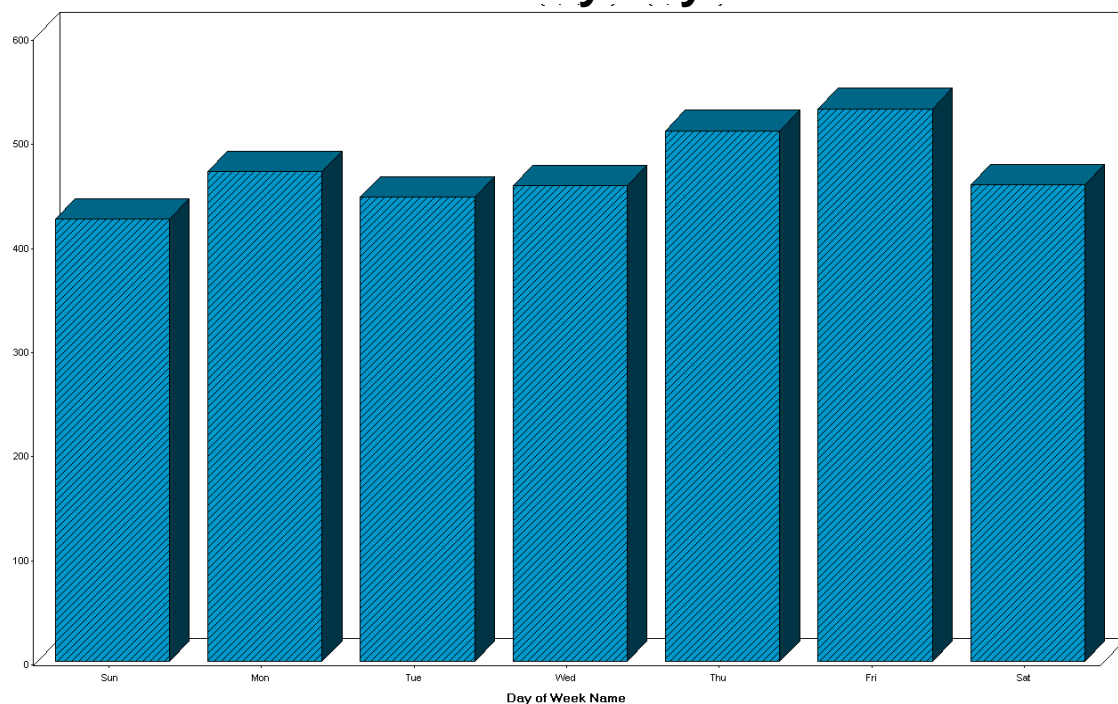


Response Data

Total Incidents by Hour of the Day



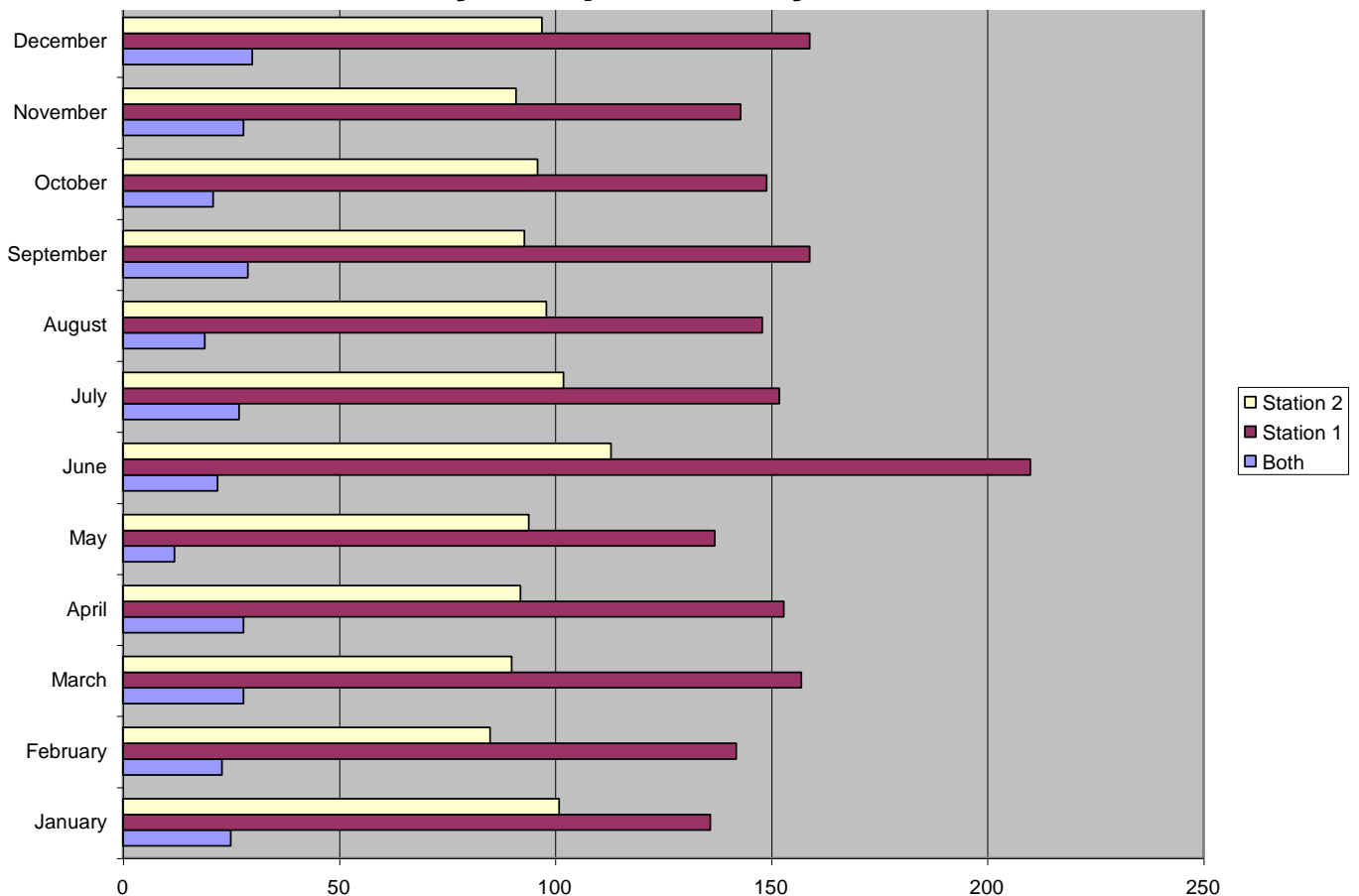
Total Incidents by Day of Week





Response Data

Monthly Responses by Station



In Summary:

- We are slightly busier on Fridays and the busiest hours of our day are between 12 pm and 6 pm.
- Station 1 typically is slightly busier than Station 2, though responses are getting closer as the City continues to expand west.
- Emergency responses were down (less than 3%) for the first time in many years. Data from our current year show responses are ahead of last year's pace.



ZFRD in Action!



ZFRD joined local and national agencies in conducting a Mass Casualty / Weapons of Mass Destruction training exercise at Zion Central Middle School.

Physical fitness is an integral part of our job. In fact, department policy dictates that all shift members shall exercise at least 30 minutes per shift. Here a group of our off-duty firefighters ran in the Labor Day '09 5K races through Zion.

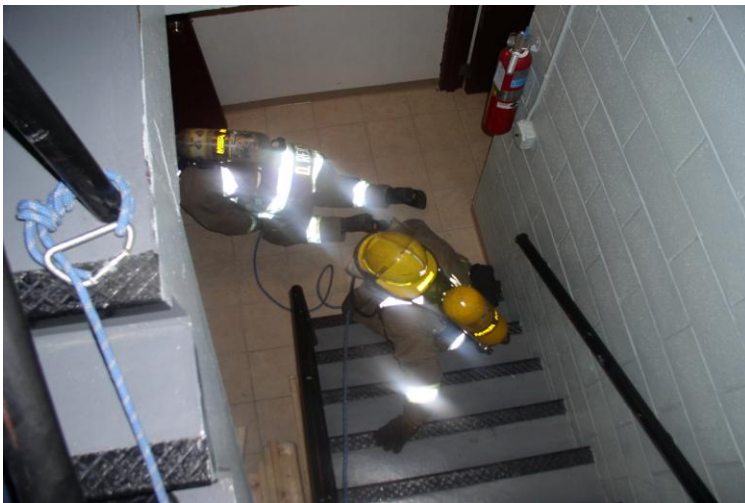


ZFRD, with the help of our neighboring communities, contained this construction crane fire while working on an addition to Midwestern Regional Medical Center.



ZFRD in Action!

Firefighters Rocky and Ian are all smiles as they man the fire pole during our open house to close Fire Prevention Week.



Part of our daily routine is some type of training exercise. Here firefighters are practicing air pack drills and following rope through darkened stairways and basements.

Battalion Chief Friedrich gives remarks during a luncheon hosted by Rolling Hills Place Assisted Living. They have graciously hosted us for lunch each of the past few years; we are happy to attend!





See You Next Year!

On behalf of Chief Lewis, officers, and members of the Zion Fire Rescue Department, we thank the citizens and visitors of Zion for all of your support!



Our looks and uniforms may have changed a bit since the early 1900's...

...but our goal is still the same,
helping you!

