

MORGANTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT *ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009*



Dedicated to those who have served, and continue to serve.

*A tradition of excellence derived from the past,
Employed in the present,
And passed on to those who will follow.*



Message from the Chief:

During the past twelve years, I have prepared the Department's annual report for the city manager, members of council, and the public we all serve. Each year it has been a source of joy and pride for me to do so; but, never more than this year! This year's annual report represents the Department's greatest achievements yet!

First, and foremost, not a single life was lost in Morgantown due to fire again this year, and only one fire-related injury was reported. Although the one fire-related injury was a critical injury, the victim survived, and eventually made a full recovery, due to the heroic efforts of both firefighters and civilians. As a result, five Firefighters and two civilians received various medals of valor along with the undying gratitude of the victim and his family.

The property loss figures, due to fire, are equally impressive. There has been a reduction of \$638,000 in fire-related property losses over last year's figures. This year the total fire-related property losses totaled just \$603,005. When considering the billions of dollars worth of property protected by the Fire Department, this loss figure is miniscule in comparison.

Not only has the Department been extremely successful in protecting the lives and property of the citizenry, but the Department itself has reached a milestone. For over thirty years the need for a new station in the north end of the City has been proposed, discussed, and reviewed. This year that vision became a reality with the opening of the Department's new Northside Fire Station on August 24.

Clearly, this has been an extremely successful year for the Morgantown Fire Department in many ways. The following report provides quantifiable data that will substantiate just how successful the Department has been in a wide variety of both emergency and non-emergency endeavors during 2009.

Current Programs and Services:

In order for any institution to be successful, it must first determine its purpose for being. That purpose must be well-defined and serve as a guidepost for all other ancillary activities. Here, at the Morgantown Fire Department, the purpose is clear and concise. The Department exists to protect the lives and property of the citizens, property owners, businesses, and visitors to the City. All of the Department's activities contribute to that end in either a pro-active non-emergency way, or in a reactive response to an emergency. Those activities and services include the following:

Proactive non-emergency services provided

- **Planning Services for commercial and residential occupancies**
- **Inspection Services**
- **Construction Plan Review Services**
- **Fire Code Compliance**
- **Arson Investigation and Cause/Origin Investigative Services.**
- **Public Education Programs**
- **Public Training Programs**
- **Departmental Training Programs**
- **Equipment Maintenance and Repair**
- **Data Collection, Recordkeeping, and Analysis**
- **Counseling**
- **Physical Fitness Program**
- **Other Non-Emergency Services**

Reactive emergency response services provided

- **Firefighting**
- **Medical First Responder**
- **Confined Space Rescue**
- **Elevated Rescue**
- **High-angle Rescue**
- **Extrication**
- **Hazardous Material Response (Technician Level Trained)**
- **Water Rescue**
- **Underwater Dive Services**
- **Search and Rescue**
- **Mutual Aid Responses with Surrounding Departments**
- **Scene Stabilization and Security**
- **Natural Disaster Responses**
- **Man-made Disaster Responses**
- **Other Emergency Responses not otherwise classified**

The quantity of the services provided by the Morgantown Fire Department is impressive; however, the quality of the services provided is astounding! Again, the subsequent data will attest to both.

Resources:

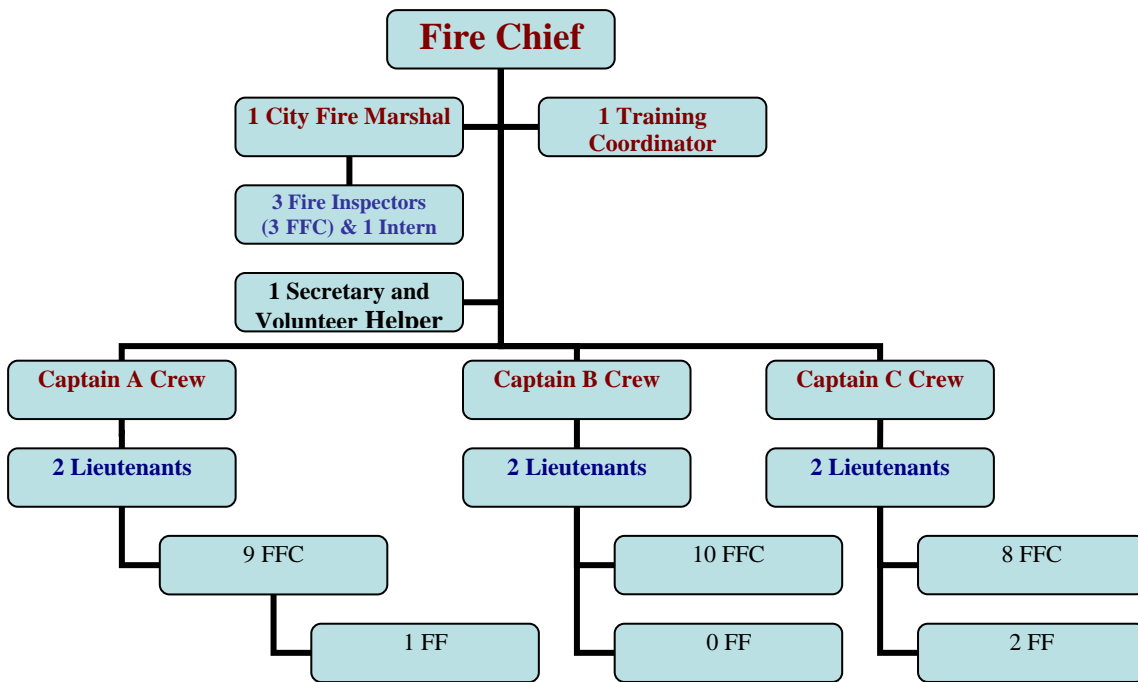
The Department has four classifications of resources. These include facilities, personnel, apparatus, and equipment.

Facility Resources

- City Hall: Offices and storage for two Fire Inspectors
- Public Safety Building: Administrative offices for the Chief, Secretary, Fire Marshal, and one Fire Inspector
- Wharf Parking Garage: Storage for Gator unit, small boat, and equipment
- South Side Fire Station: Houses all manpower, apparatus, and equipment for Engine Company One and Ladder Company One
- Norwood Fire Station: Houses all manpower, apparatus, and equipment for Engine Company Two and special response apparatus and equipment
- Northside Fire Station: Houses all manpower, apparatus, and equipment for Engine Company Three and Ladder Company Three along with special response apparatus, equipment, and Training Captain

Human Resources

The Department is currently budgeted for 48 civil service positions, 1 full-time civilian secretarial position, and 1 part-time intern position. The Department is in the process of compiling a new hire listing in order to replace two civil service positions that are vacant due to a retirement and a resignation. Additionally, another civil service member has been deployed to Iraq for military service. Therefore, the Department is presently three members short of its budgeted manpower level. It is expected that the new hiring list will be completed and two new hires will be added to the roster by March at the latest. The following organizational chart shows the current manning levels and the hierarchy of the organization.



Vehicles and Apparatus

The Department's vehicle and apparatus inventory has remained constant during this year with one exception. The Department has received, and put into service, a new Sutphen engine. This engine replaced an engine that was previously taken out of service due to its age and deteriorating condition early in 2008. The following table shows the inventory and location of all Departmental vehicles and apparatus:

STAFF VEHICLES	STATION ONE	STATION TWO
1999 Ford Expedition	2009 Sutphen Engine	2000 Pierce Engine
2002 Jeep Cherokee	1988 Pierce Engine 4WD	2002 Ford F350 Pickup
2001 Jeep Cherokee	1991 Pierce Minipumper	2002 Boston Whaler Boat
2006 Jeep Liberty	1996 Pierce Ladder Truck	Dive Trailer
2006 Jeep Liberty	1978 American LaFrance Rescue	HazMat Trailer
2002 Dodge Durango	1994 Chevy 1/2 ton Pickup	
STATION THREE	WHARF PARKING GARAGE	
1994 Pierce Engine	2001 John Deere Gator	
Public Education Trailer	1960 Jon Boat	
2000 Pierce Engine		
2008 Sutphen Aerial Platform		
1926 Seagrave Antique		

Equipment Resources

The Department's inventory of equipment is extensive and well-maintained. Each member has been issued two complete sets of turnout gear, SCBA face-piece, and a personal portable radio. Summarily, the equipment inventory is too extensive to list in this report; however, suffice it to say that the Department is well-positioned in this area.

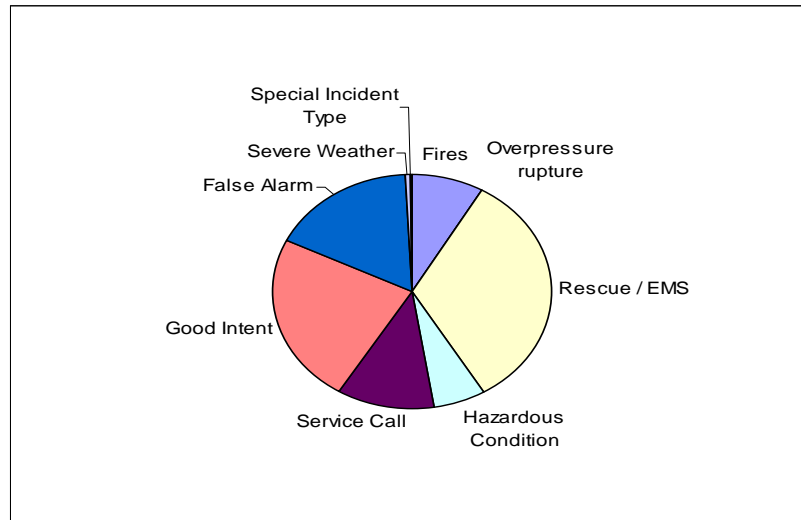
Review of Past Year's Activities:

Emergency Responses

Fortunately, the emergency call load decreased by 3% over the previous year. The total calls for emergency responses for this year was 2,554. As previously stated, there were **no fire-related deaths** and only one fire-related injury included in this year's emergency responses.

Although the emergency call-load decreased by a mere 3%, the fire loss figures for this year decreased by 105% for a total fire loss amount of \$603,005. Many factors may be attributed to this decrease in fire losses but the most important factor is the aggressiveness and professionalism of the firefighting forces on the Department. Again, as previously stated, when you compare the value of the property protected by the Department with the fire loss figures the result is nothing less than amazing!

The following table and graph categorizes the responses by major incident type and response totals:



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	Amount
Fires	210
Overpressure rupture	4
Rescue / EMS	842
Hazardous Condition	155
Service Call	294
Good Intent	595
False Alarm	433
Severe Weather	14
Special Incident Type	7
TOTAL	2554

Code Enforcement, Inspection, and Public Education

A close review of last year's annual report regarding this area of operation clearly shows a decline from the previous year. This decline was due to a scheduling initiative that required the Fire Department to coordinate its inspection scheduling with the Housing Inspection Division. This year's inspection data reveals that much improvement

has been accomplished and the inspection figures have dramatically improved over last year; however, even though they have improved substantially in the last year, they are still far below the figures attained in the Fire Department's 2007 Annual Report. It is obvious that the potential for more improvement can be realized in the future if the current trend continues and other problem areas of coordination are recognized and revised. The following table indicates the improved totals for the year.

Year Totals			
	2008	2009	Difference
<u>TYPE:</u>			
Business Inspections	173	240	67
Apartment Inspections	1293	1540	247
Assembly Inspections	1471	1320	-151
Fraternity/ Sorority	27	69	42
Lodging/Rooming	11	29	18
Partner Requests	13	9	-4
Life Safety			
Notices	30	31	1
Plan Reviews	127	129	2
Follow-ups	230	359	129
Plans Field Inspection	100	113	13
Complaints			
Handled	37	32	-5
Occupant Calculations	16	28	12
Investigations	13	27	14
Certificate of Occupancy	94	141	47
Misdemeanor Citations	93	130	37
Traffic Citations	65	21	-44
Fine Amounts	33,289	45,003	11,714
Court Appearances	81	84	3
<u>Court Dispositions</u>			
Guilty	145	137	
Not Guilty	0	2	
Officer Dismissed	2	0	
Court Dismissed	0	1	
Total Fines	\$33,289.00	\$45,003.00	
<u>RESULTS</u>			
Violations	1579	2059	480
Corrections	1128	2069	941
Correction Rate	71.40%	100.00%	28.6
Notice of Violations	5	18	13
Notice of Orders	14	1	-13
<u>PUBLIC EDUCATION</u>			
Adults	2963	1398	-1565
Children	5504	5819	315
Fire Ext. Training	378	354	-24

The primary goal of any inspection program is to recognize hazards and then get them corrected. It is worthwhile to note that the Department is now recognizing more fire code violations and that the correction rate for those violations has improved by nearly 30%, or to a 100% correction rate. That is one reason why the National Fire

Academy is using the Morgantown Fire Department as a case study on how an inspection program should function.

Because of the emphasis directed towards improving the code enforcement statistics this year, the adult public education figures have reduced relationally. The manpower constraints within this division require that resources be prioritized to achieve the best results with regard to the Department's ultimate mission.

Training

Training continues to be a high priority for the Morgantown Fire Department. New technologies and techniques require continuous training and review by current members and new employees must commit to many thousands of hours training in order to become productive members of the Department. The following data illustrates the Department's commitment to improving performance.

- Departmental personnel participated in 2,697.5 hour of company level training.
- There were 10,741 hours recorded for apprenticeship training.
- Certified training courses, provided by outside institutions, covered 29 different curriculum and totaled 913 training hours.
- One Apprentice Firefighter completed the required West Virginia Department of Labor Firefighter Journeyman Program. This Firefighter logged 7,876 hours of training during his three year apprenticeship program.
- Staff Officers completed 61 hours of training in order to comply with the I.S.O. Fire Officer yearly training requirements.

Forecast for Upcoming Year:

With the completion of the Northside Fire Station and the acquisition of a second aerial truck, there exists the potential to divide the City into two major response areas; North and South. Simply stated, the on-duty resources of the Department could be split into two Battalions; thereby cutting down on effective response times to emergency situations, fuel consumption, and public exposure to the hazards encountered from responding fire apparatus. Currently, the newly purchased second aerial platform unit can only be utilized as a backup to the primary aerial truck, or in addition to that unit, only when a multiple alarm callout is made. The Department intends to complete this operational transition when additional manpower is added to its current on-duty manning level. The addition of manpower is the third critical component of the original growth plan proposal developed in 1999. Now that the first two components (Northside Station and the second aerial truck) of the plan have been completed, the Department is looking forward to the day when available manpower resources allow the entire plan to come to fruition. Only then will a paradigm shift in the operations of the Department occur and allow the Department to be well-positioned for further geographic, demographic, and structural growth within the City.

Summary:

The preceding report offers quantifiable evidence that the Department is exceeding what might realistically be expected, given the resources and responsibilities

placed on it. It is considered, and rightly so, by peer Fire Departments throughout the State to be one of the best, if not the best, Fire Department in West Virginia. In the beginning of this report the Department's mission and purpose was clearly outlined and this Annual Report confirms that the mission has been met for 2009 thanks to the support of Council, City Administration, members of the Department, and especially by the great community that the Department serves.