

# City of Franklin Fire Department



## 2009 Annual Report

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Fire Chief.....	2
Bureau of Emergency Services.....	4
Four Year Budget Comparison.....	6
Five Year Grant Success.....	7
Operations and Training.....	9
Bureau of Maintenance.....	11
Building Maintenance.....	14
Major Incidents.....	16
Confined Space Technical Rescue Team.....	23
Inspection Bureau.....	26



April 1, 2010

Honorable Mayor  
Members of the Common Council  
Police and Fire Commission  
Citizens of the City of Franklin

I am pleased to present the Franklin Fire Department's 2009 Annual Report. This report reflects the activity, daily emergency operations, accomplishments and the future direction of your fire department.

Every year dealing with the delivery of emergency services, many events occur that challenge our ability to manage and administer the responsibly that we are charged with. 2009 was especially difficult due to the economic obstacles we were presented with. I will use this letter to emphasis the positive. For instance no other department has put in place over the years more cost saving efforts than the Franklin Fire Department. We reorganized the management staff in 2008 allowing us to add much needed personnel on the street and upgrading staff positions. At this writing the FFD has secured nearly \$500,000.00 in grants. All funded items were critical to safety and operational needs of the department. If not for the grants these cost would have been passed on to the city. We eliminated the purchases of a new Engine saving the city approximately \$400,000.00. Since the new Emergency Medical Services contract with Milwaukee County in 2006, we have increased revenue for ambulance services to the City of Franklin dramatically. In 2009 we signed a contract with Wheaton Franciscan for non emergency ambulance transports creating an additional source of income. We successfully made these accomplishments, while in the past two years being directed to reduce annual budget amounts significantly.

2009 saw the completion and the staffing of our new Station 3. It was a proud moment for the department as emergency services began from the new building. My hope is that if called upon, many lives and much property will be saved by the personnel working out of those Quarters. In addition, our fire fighters will always

return healthy from their calls and go back to their own homes at the change of shift.

As always the professional skills and compassion of the members of this department must be recognized. Every day with efficiency and dedication they provide the highest level of emergency services that is second to none.

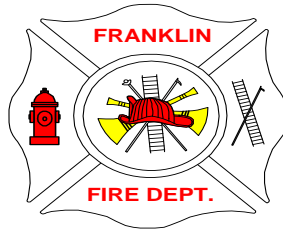
In conclusion, I want to thank the many members of the Franklin Infrastructure that support the fire department. Mayor Tom Taylor, and members of the Common Council, the Police and Fire Commission, the Franklin Police Department and Dispatchers provide the best support imaginable so that we can assist our citizens in need. Sandi and Jodi at the Clerks Office along with DPW and Building Inspection. We appreciate all the time you give us.

I welcome all of you to review the activity of your Franklin Fire Department for the years of 2009. Thank you.

Sincerely,

James Martins  
Fire Chief  
City of Franklin Fire Department

## Bureau of Emergency Medical Services



The City of Franklin Fire Department (FFD) is a full-service fire department providing fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Both the fire and EMS services are delivered by the same cross-trained employees. When a fire call occurs, the crews take a fire truck to the call leaving the ambulance behind and when an ambulance call occurs, the crew members get in the ambulance and leave the fire truck behind. The FFD delivers EMS to the citizens of Franklin at both the Basic Life Support (BLS) level and at the highest training level, Advanced Life Support (ALS). The FFD delivers this high level of service to its citizens at one of the lowest per capita costs in the state.

EMS continues to be the majority of the FFD's responses. In 2009, the FFD responded to 3,121 calls with 2,515 being EMS runs (81 percent). Of the EMS runs, 1,009 of them were ALS with the remaining 1,506 being BLS. In 2009, the FFD conducted a non-light and siren study under the control of its medical director in cooperation with Milwaukee County EMS. The study began on March 2, 2009 and concluded on May 31, 2009. The study used pre-determined dispatch criteria to determine which calls could be responded to without lights and siren. Once it was determined that the call met the non-light and a siren criterion, the caller was informed the unit would come without the lights and siren following all the rules of the road. During the study period, the FFD responded to 144 requests for service without lights and siren. When compared to the calls during this time period that received a light and siren response, the average difference in time was 38 seconds. It was concluded that this was a reasonable practice and allowed to continue as an accepted response policy. From March 2, 2009 on, the FFD responded to 740 requests for service without lights and siren, this is approximately 36% of all EMS calls. The primary purpose of this study was to determine which calls could receive this type of response so a safer response can be made. The goal is to reduce the risks to firefighters and citizens associated with a light and siren response.

The FFD has also strived to increase services to the citizens and facilities of Franklin while increasing the revenue generated by the FFD. In September of 2009, the FFD began providing inter-facility transports for Wheaton Franciscan Hospital Franklin Hospital (WFHF). WFHF needed assistance transferring patients from their facility to a definitive hospital. The FFD wrote an addendum to their State Operational Plan resulting in the FFD being licensed at the state to provide inter-facility transports. The FFD

averages about 12 transports per month from WFHF to other hospitals, primarily St. Francis Hospital Milwaukee and All Saints Racine.

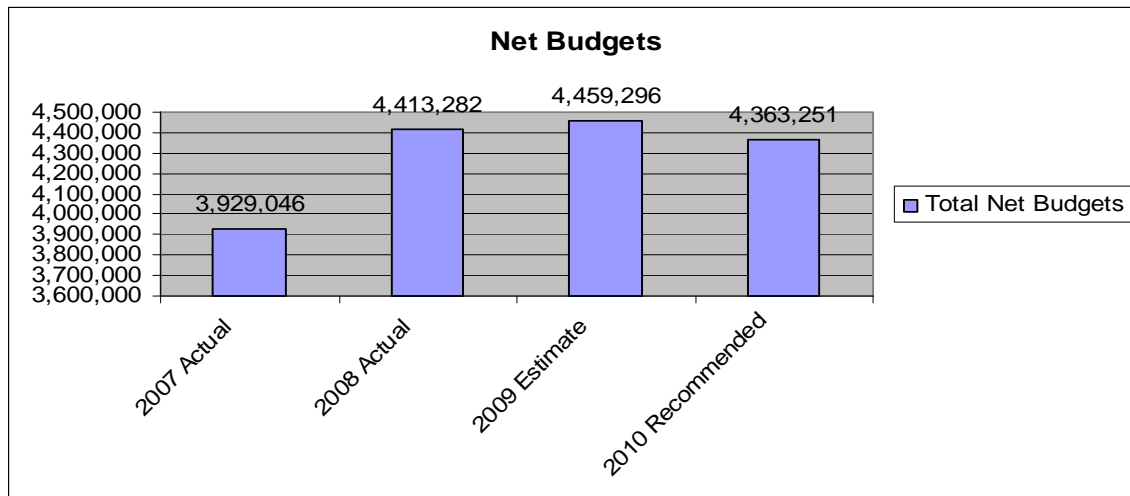
The FFD prides itself on delivering both fire and EMS response to the citizens of Franklin. This service is delivered at a per-capita cost that is well below other fire departments of comparable size. Not only does the FFD provide these services at a lower cost, the level of service exceeds that of most. With the adjustment to provide inter-facility transports, the FFD has once again demonstrated its ability adapt to an ever changing environment, adapting to the economic demands of the community served.

Respectfully,

Lloyd Bertram, Assistant Fire Chief

## Four Year Budget Comparison

Budget Year	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Estimate	2010 Recommended
Operating	4,967,012	5,676,224	5,668,119	5,614,951
Capital	208,317	41,100	81,069	68,300
<b>Total Gross Budget</b>	<b>5,175,329</b>	<b>5,717,324</b>	<b>5,749,188</b>	<b>5,683,251</b>
Less Revenues	-1,346,283	-1,404,042	-1,389,892	-1,420,000
Equipment revolving	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
<b>Total Net Budget</b>	<b>3,929,046</b>	<b>4,413,282</b>	<b>4,459,296</b>	<b>4,363,251</b>



This summary assumes a \$100,000 annual Equipment Revolving contribution because the FFD does not purchase a new piece of equipment every year. The graph shows the fact that the net budget for 2010 is less than the 2009 and 2008 budget. The fire department has been able to do this through increased revenue and improved efficiency through restructuring. The reduction also comes at a cost to citizens. The FFD is not able to maintain the same minimum staffing it did throughout 2008. The result is a reduction of staffing on one paramedic unit and a two person response from two of the three fire stations. According to the 2007 League of Municipalities' "Municipal Facts" the FFD is below the mid range when compared to other cities between 30 and 150 thousand population. The 2007 mid range was from \$145 to \$196. There were six departments below the mid range and the FFD was the only one that delivers ALS level services. The 2009 FFD per capita cost based on a population of 33,700 was \$132. The 2010 per capita cost is \$129.

## FFD Five Year Grant Success



After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Federal Government recognized the importance of well equipped, well trained first responders. In an effort to bolster the readiness of first responders throughout the country, the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program was developed. This competitive grant program requires fire departments across the country to submit funding requests accompanied by supportive information documenting both need and the benefits that will be derived from the grant award. The amount of money appropriated is small when compared to the amount requested. Therefore, the requests are awarded based on merit. Franklin has been very successful in obtaining valuable equipment which otherwise would have needed to be supported by tax dollars. Since 2005 the FFD has obtained over \$446,000 in grant revenue from the AFG program and an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The following is a brief explanation of the grant awards over the past five years.

In 2005, the FFD was awarded an AFG grant totaling \$119,839 to replace all of the FFD's Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Before this grant, the FFD had multiple types of SCBA. Most models were out of compliance with current standards and were in need of replacement. This also presented a safety threat because each model operated differently causing fire personnel to have to adapt to subtle differences in the models when entering a hazardous atmosphere. The grant allowed the FFD to purchase all like units thus providing consistent operation allowing the training on this equipment to be consistent.

Diesel emissions are saturated with known carcinogens and carbon monoxide. When fire vehicles and ambulances are started and run inside the apparatus bay, personnel are exposed to these emissions thus presenting significant health risks. In 2006, the FFD obtained an AFG grant totaling \$152,022 to install exhaust capturing equipment in all three stations. This system called Plymovent, attaches directly to the exhaust of vehicles and uses a fan system to draw the exhaust from the exhaust pipe, through a series of hoses and expels the emissions outside. This system reduces the FFD's personnel and those in the stations from the hazards of exhaust exposure.

The ability to communicate is vital to all emergency responders. As part of a County-wide UASI grant initiative, the FFD obtained over \$120,000 of funding used to purchase 800 megahertz radios for all of the apparatus and the portable radios carried by FFD

personnel on emergencies. Prior to this grant, the FFD was forced to share one VHF frequency with six other south-side fire departments. This system easily became overloaded with talk as it was used to manage nearly 15,000 emergency responses annually. The new system provides local dispatch privacy yet enhances capability allowing every fire department in Milwaukee County to talk to each other and their respective police departments. The interoperability of these radios has been tested and proven successful on multiple occasions including the extremely challenging Patrick Cudahy fire. The UASI grant was also limited and provided enough equipment for Franklin to operate. However, it did not provide enough for a back-up system and there remained a need for a few more portable radios. In 2008, the FFD successfully wrote an AFG grant totaling \$26,282 to complete the radio project providing the needed back-up and the remaining portables.

In late 2009, the FFD found out it was awarded yet another AFG grant. This grant was to provide three new thermal imaging cameras used by firefighters to locate the fire and potential victims in heavy smoke conditions. The FFD had purchased one new thermal imager in 2008 using Capital Budget dollars. This grant allowed the FFD to purchase three more identical thermal imagers to the one purchased in 2008 thus providing one thermal imager on each of the front-line fire apparatus (three engines and one truck). The amount of the award was \$23,474.

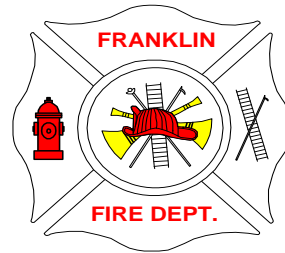
The FFD has also participated in a regional grant designed to provide standard Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) equipment and training. Along with the ten other fire departments in MABAS Division 107, the FFD has obtained nearly \$5,000 in equipment to date and will obtain funding to offset the costs associated with training its personnel on RIT techniques. This training and equipment is a quality example of neighboring fire departments working together to provide each other the needed support and safety at fire incidents while remaining financially responsible.

The FFD is proud of the success it has had in obtaining these competitive grants. The nearly one half million dollars in equipment purchased with these grants would have needed to be purchased using tax dollars if not obtained by the grant. In these tough economic times, every source of funding used to lessen taxes is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Bertram, Assistant Fire Chief

## Operations and Training



The fire service is an ever changing profession. New technology and new construction constantly challenge today's firefighters to adapt. The difficult economic times and the need to constantly become more efficient also impact the operations of the fire service.

The Franklin Fire Department (FFD) strives to provide a minimum of six hours of training per month to all of its firefighters. The training bureau is headed by the assistant fire chief who works with battalion chiefs and lieutenants to establish training needs and goals. Once the needs and goals are established, a training curriculum or evolution is developed and the delivery of the training is primarily done by the lieutenants and battalion chiefs. This system allows the crews to operate more efficiently because the trainings fit into the shifts schedule versus the need for the shift to work around the assistant chief's schedule. This also enables the lieutenants and battalion chiefs to be a primary source of training to the firefighters on their shifts. Examples of trainings delivered in this manner are; pumping evolutions, fire attack, ladder truck operations and search and rescue. The shift officers also provide make-up trainings in the event an employee missed a training originally delivered by the assistant chief or an outside speaker.

As mentioned earlier, the FFD is changing in response to economic conditions. The primary change in 2009 was the elimination of a formal hazardous materials team. The team was established back in the early 1990s; however, because the team was rarely called, the decision was made to eliminate the expense of having 15 members who were specially trained and receiving a monthly incentive. The team was replaced by training the majority of the FFD to "Operations" level hazmat responders which allows crews to perform rescue and defensive activities but limits their ability by law to perform aggressive offensive tactics to stop hazardous materials leaks. The training provided the necessary knowledge and skills to identify different hazardous materials situations and develop appropriate responses up to and including calling in outside resources to mitigate an incident. This training was done as a Zone-D (Franklin, Greendale, Greenfield, Hales Corners) initiative. The training was 24 hours per person with over 90% of the FFD employees completing the training.

A second focus for 2009 was safe driving and response to incidents. During early 2009, the Zone-D fire departments collaboratively completed a nationally recognized ambulance driving safety course. The course was delivered by local training officers using commercially available training materials. The course involved a series of classroom lectures and videos as well as a driving course which all firefighters were required to demonstrate their ability to complete. In addition, the FFD conducted a non-light and siren study which began in March of 2009. This study required all FFD personnel to recognize when it was appropriate to respond to pre-determined EMS calls without light and siren. This study involved training which reinforced the need for driver safety and the need to carefully evaluate the risks associated with emergency response.

As a final major training initiative, the FFD began providing in-house EMT refresher training. In the past, EMTs would report to refresher trainings typically provided through the local vocational school. The problem with this system was that the classes were only offered at certain times requiring the FFD to pay overtime to its employees if they were not working when the class was offered. The State of Wisconsin recently allowed local fire departments to provide their own training thus allowing the trainings to be delivered when it worked for the fire department without incurring overtime. The FFD began this in 2009 with two goals in mind. The first goal was to save overtime and the second was to deliver trainings that were pertinent to Milwaukee County EMS operations while introducing outside speakers and new topics. The training has achieved both of these goals with curriculum being set up by the paramedic lieutenants, Battalion Chief Remington and the assistant chief. The final test and evaluation will be conducted by Milwaukee County EMS in early 2010.

Economic conditions and ever changing technology are forcing the FFD to adapt and change. The primary responsibility of the training bureau is to ensure the members of the FFD are able to meet the demand of this changing environment. The training bureau is committed to provide the best possible training using all of its resources to their fullest.

Respectfully,

Lloyd Bertram, Assistant Fire Chief, Training Officer

# Franklin Fire Department Bureau of Maintenance



The Fire department's bureau of maintenance is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all department vehicles. The department currently has 22 vehicles to maintain. These range from a 1934 Pirsch engine, which is strictly a vintage showpiece to our newest piece, which is a 2008 Ford F-450 McCoy Miller Ambulance. The maintenance, appearance and upkeep of the department's vehicles is a task that requires constant vigilance. Without reliable equipment we cannot be a reliable department.

All of the fire departments pumpers are currently in good shape and none of them are anticipated to be replaced in the next 10 years.

Car 220 is nearing the end of its serviceable life and should be replaced next year. The vehicle that replaces car 220 will then become the command vehicle for the department.

Ambulance 216 was scheduled to be replaced in 2008 but was not due to a delay in placing the order as well as a delay in production. It was replaced by Ambulance 282 in early 2009. Staff car 223 was turned back over to the Franklin Police to be disposed of with the other older squad cars. The fire department at the end of 2009 had 4 staff vehicles outside of the chief's car. It is our intention to decrease this number to 2 staff vehicles in 2010

The Fire Department is on a rotation of replacing ambulances before they become unreliable. With the increasing call volume for ambulance service it is more important now than ever to have dependable front line ambulances as well as a reliable backup for those times when we have multiple runs happening at the same time or when an ambulance is out of service for maintenance. In the current rotation a new ambulance should be purchased every two years. This leaves an ambulance as a front line unit for eight years, as a backup unit for two years and as a reserve unit for two years, for a total of a 12-year life span. It is our intention to eliminate the reserve ambulance next year. This will save on insurance and maintenance costs and if needed a rental ambulance can be obtained within a week and paid for by our current insurance carrier. This rotation will need to be addressed in the near future to purchase ambulances quicker than every 2

years. With the added call volume as well as additional duties there are more miles being put on ambulances. We currently have three ambulances with over 100,000 miles. It should be noted that trade magazines have stated that the number of miles can be tripled to determine the true wear on an ambulances due to the amount of idling required and hard driving they endure.

The Department of Public Works mechanics are being utilized to a greater extent every year. Primarily for routine maintenance such as oil changes, scheduled repairs and repairs that are beyond the limitations of the fire department Lieutenant of Equipment. The ability of Lt. Bastien and the DPW mechanics to perform this work has saved the Fire Department an extraordinary amount of time, money, vehicle down time and future problems.

The new equipment that is being purchased is becoming more complex and sophisticated every year. With the added capabilities of this equipment comes more technical maintenance. Lieutenant of Equipment Richard Bastien is also a firefighter and EMT; he does the vast majority of the maintenance in house. This maintenance is becoming more specialized and done primarily while on shift, when responding to emergency calls and receiving the required trainings is the priority. The need for a dedicated mechanic should be addressed in the near future.

The combined budget lines for vehicle maintenance did end the year above what was budgeted due to a major failure of the transmission on Truck 208.

**Below is an evaluation of our current equipment, estimated date of replacement and 2009 maintenance costs.**

<b>ID#</b>	<b>Years of service</b>	<b>Year and type of vehicle</b>	<b>Model and Mfg.</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Anticipated replacement</b>	<b>2009 Maintenance costs</b>
200	5	2004 Car	Chevy Trail Blazer	Excellent	2014	\$35.22
201	Not in service	1934 - Pumper	Ford / Pirsch	Show piece only	None	\$0.00
M-11	4	2006 -Ambulance	Ford / McCoy Miller	Good	2018	\$1,621.57
203	3	2007 - Pumper	KME Predator	Excellent	2027	\$651.63
204	8	2002 - Pumper	KME Panther	Excellent	2022	\$3,448.38
206	11	1999 – Pumper	Pierce / Freightliner	Good	2019	\$1,648.00
207	12	1996 – Brush	Ford	Good	2011	\$225.12
208	9	2001 - Ladder	KME	Good	2025	\$12,050.64
214	11	1999 -Ambulance	Ford / McCoy Miller	Very Poor	2009	\$0.00
219	9	2001 -Ambulance	Ford / McCoy Miller	Fair	2012	\$445.56
220	11	1999 - PFR	Chevy Suburban	Poor	2009	\$655.20
221	6	2004 – command	GMC Sierra	Excellent	2019	\$1,197.87
222	13	1997 car	Ford Crown Victoria	Poor	2010	\$130.16
224	12	1998- Car	Ford Crown Victoria	Poor	2010	\$17.49

225	6	2004- Inspector	Chevy Silverado	Excellent	2017	\$40.58
226	3	2007 – Car	Ford Crown Victoria	Good	2013	\$747.75
227	12	1998 car	Ford Crown Victoria	Fair	2011	\$0.00
281	8	2002- Ambulance	Ford / McCoy Miller	Poor	2014	\$1,285.43
282	1	2008 -Ambulance	Ford / McCoy Miller	New	2020	\$122.06
283	6	2004- Ambulance	Ford / McCoy Miller	Good	2016	\$1,554.88
295	6	2004 Tender	Peterbuilt /U.S. Tanker	Excellent	2029	\$121.69

## **Fire Department Building Maintenance**

The Fire Department currently operates out of three fire stations, positioned throughout the City to provide the best possible coverage according to call volume. The stations are in varying degrees of condition, based on function and reliability. Maintenance of the stations is primarily handled by fire department personnel. When not responding to emergencies, the firefighters handle all of the janitorial duties, the lawn care, and most of the building maintenance issues. Extensive plumbing repairs, electrical upgrades, roof maintenance, and HVAC repairs are contracted out as needed. The following is a brief history of each station and some recommendations for future upgrades.

### **Fire Station One - 8901 West Drexel Avenue**

Fire Station One is the main station, providing office space for the Fire Chief and staff. It was built in 1980 and remodeled in 1989 to allow for 24 hour staffing. In 2009, the Department started replacing carpet in high traffic areas with low maintenance flooring. The flooring is easier to decontaminate, making for more hygienic conditions.

Station One is structurally sound but it has been used to 100% capacity for over 12 years. All available space is currently utilized and office space is currently cramped with no option for a much needed conference room or record storage. Additional space is required and will need to be addressed in the very near future. This will require an addition and significant remodeling of the current space. The City owns land to the west of Station One that should be re-zoned and dedicated for future expansion. Expansion / remodeling of Station One would correct the following issues.

- Provide office space for currently cramped conditions.
- Provide a conference room for meetings.
- Address current issues with handicap parking / accessibility.
- Provide a dorm area and bathroom for female firefighters.
- Provide a record storage room for building plans, medical reports, fire reports, etc.
- Address current issues with the kitchen and bathrooms.
- Provide adequate storage of training materials / supplies.

- Provide a designated area for Wellness Program equipment.

The building currently requires many capital projects that need to be addressed. If these projects are addressed individually, the total cost will be significantly more than addressing them as a whole.

### **Fire Station Two – 9911 South 60<sup>th</sup> Street**

Fire Station Two is a satellite station capable of housing five personnel that was completed in 2002. It is currently staffed with three personnel during daytime hours and two personnel at night. The personnel are firefighters / paramedics and the station houses a med unit, the ladder truck, an engine, and the Survive Alive house. With the exception of some minor landscaping and improving VHF pager reception, Station Two should not require any capital improvements in the near future.

### **Fire Station Three – 4755 West Drexel Avenue**

In June of 2009, personnel moved into the new Fire Station Three. The original Fire Station Three that was built in 1970 was torn down to make room for the parking lot. The new Station Three is similar in design to Station Two, but with a pitched roof. By utilizing the same architect and similar design as Station Two, the Department was able to save money on design fees and improve on the previous design. The complete project cost was approximately \$1.7 million, which will be offset by impact fees. It is currently staffed with only two firefighter / EMTs and the station houses an ambulance, an engine, the grass fire rig, and the Haz-Mat Trailer. As with Station Two, the new Station Three has the facilities for the staffing of five people and should not require any capital projects in the foreseeable future.

## Major Incidents, 2009

### **Introduction:**

The Franklin Fire Department responded to several working structure fires in 2009. Property loss figures due to major incidents in 2009 reflect the serious nature of these incidents. Two incidents in particular – 3232 W. Central Avenue and 9358 S. Springhill Lane – were near total losses due to advanced fire spread before the 911 system was accessed.

FFD continues to work proactively with neighboring departments to adequately staff major fire, Haz-Mat, and EMS Mass-Casualty Incidents (MCIs). Examples of notable large scale incidents to which FFD personnel responded include the Patrick Cudahy fire, the WE Energies Oak Creek Power Plant explosion and fire, and EMS mass-casualty incidents in Franklin and in neighboring communities.

2009 Major Incident  
Total Property Involvement:  
**\$1,749,100**

2009 Major Incident  
Property Loss:  
**\$860,000 (49%)**

2009 Property Saved:  
**\$889,100 (51%)**

## Major Incidents, 2009

**January 1, 2009**

**12315 W. St. Martin's Rd.**

**21:41 hours**

In the evening of New Year's Day, firefighters were dispatched to 12315 W. St. Martins Rd. for a reported house fire. Police officers arriving on scene confirmed that smoke was showing from the attic of the home and that the occupants were all safe and accounted for. A mutual aid full assignment was requested and companies from Hales Corners and Greendale also responded. The initial attack crew found dense smoke conditions throughout the structure, and heavy fire in the stairway to the second floor. The first-in crew extinguished the majority of the fire before exiting due to low air. A secondary team then entered and was able to completely extinguish the fire. Nearly all of the upstairs contents of the residence were lost due to heavy smoke damage. The stairway suffered structural damage, and much of the first floor contents were also lost due to smoke damage.

Pre-incident value,  
structure and contents:  
\$321,800

Estimated loss,  
structure and contents:  
\$115,000

---

**March 9, 2009**

**5400 W. Franklin Dr**

**20:14 hours**

On the evening of March 9<sup>th</sup>, the FFD responds for a fire alarm in a plastics manufacturing facility in the Franklin Industrial Park. The caller believed that the machine that had been on fire was now out, but stated that there were multiple employees that were having breathing problems due to toxic smoke from burning plastics. At the time of this alarm, all units were out on previous calls, and all stations were empty. Off-duty personnel had been paged in to back-fill stations, but had not yet arrived. A mutual aid engine company was requested from Oak Creek, and BLS and ALS ambulances were requested from Hales Corners and Greenfield, respectively.

Battalion-2 and Franklin Police found smoke in the building, and evacuated remaining employees. The Oak Creek engine crew made entry and confirmed that the fire was out. They then disconnected power to the affected machine and began to ventilate the building. Franklin Ambulance 1 responded directly from another call and was the first EMS unit on scene. Ambulance 1 crew split up to begin treating the two most severe patients, who were both experiencing significant asthma attacks. An off-duty paramedic responded in Car-2, and assumed the triage officer role, providing initial triage for approximately 50 patients. Med-11 and Ambulance 3 responded once free from previous calls, both treated multiple patients. Ambulance 4 responded with off-duty personnel, and treated multiple patients and transported two. In the end, some 50 patients were triaged, eight were treated on scene, and five were transported to area hospitals.

---

**March 25, 2009**

**6308 S. 35<sup>th</sup> St.**

**11:54 hours**

On the morning of March 25<sup>th</sup>, firefighters were dispatched to the 6300 block of S. 35<sup>th</sup> Street, for a reported apartment fire in a multi-family structure. Two units were out of quarters on previous assignments: Med 282 first responded to their quarters to pull Truck 2, Med-11 responded directly to the incident. First due units found moderate smoke showing from a middle apartment in an eight-unit complex. A hoseline was stretched, and the attack crew quickly located and extinguished the seat of the fire, which was confined to the living room of the second story unit by the sprinkler system. The occupant of that unit suffered burns to his head and smoke inhalation, and was treated on scene and later transported to the hospital. Fire damage was limited to the living room area of the apartment of origin, but the entire unit had significant smoke and water damage. The common area adjacent to the unit and the apartment below received significant water damage due to the sprinkler discharge.

Pre-incident value,  
structure and contents:  
\$455,000

Estimated loss,  
structure and contents:  
\$65,000

---

**April 16, 2009;**

**3232 W. Central Ave.**

**00:54 hours**

In the early morning hours of April 16<sup>th</sup>, Firefighters were summoned to a report of a house on fire at the corner of 33<sup>rd</sup> and Central. The neighbor who made the call reported seeing smoke and fire, and police units confirmed that the residence was fully involved. A mutual aid full assignment was requested. Upon arrival, first due crews observed fire showing from multiple windows at the back of the two-story, single family residence, and heavy smoke from the front windows and eaves. Firefighters were unable to make interior attack due to the volume of fire. Multiple high-volume handlines were used in a defensive “surround and drown” tactic. The fire was eventually brought under control and crews began a primary search of the residence, however, interior search and overhaul efforts had to be abandoned due to partial collapse of the second floor and significant bowing of load bearing walls. Search crews recovered a dog had died in the fire, but the occupant was later found to be out of town at the time of the incident. The structure and contents were deemed a total loss, and the homeowner indicated that property was not insured.

Pre-incident value,  
structure and contents:  
\$250,000

Estimated loss,  
structure and contents:  
\$250,000

---

**April 27, 2009**

**W. Puetz Rd. and W. St. Martin’s Rd.**

**22:25 hours**

In the evening of April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Fire Department units were dispatched to the intersection of W. Puetz Rd. and State Highway 100. Upon arrival, crews found two

vehicles, in traffic, both with major front end damage resulting from a head-on collision. (Closing impact speeds for head-on impacts on this stretch of highway may reach more than 100 mph). Rapid triage determined that there was one patient in each vehicle – both critical - and that extrication would be required. Flight for Life was requested, as was a mutual-aid ALS ambulance from Oak Creek. All Franklin units were tied up between extrication operations, and establishing a helicopter landing zone. The most critical patient was unresponsive due to head injuries and was transported by Flight. The second patient was alert, but suffered traumatic chest injuries. That patient was conveyed by Oak Creek Med-183, with Franklin paramedics riding along to assist with patient care. Both patients were transported to the trauma center at Froedtert Memorial Hospital

---

**May 8, 2009**

**12141 W. St. Martin's Rd**

**08:12 hours**

On the morning of May 8<sup>th</sup>, FFD was dispatched for a reported house fire at 12141 W. St. Martins Rd. At that time, all but one station were out on previous rescue calls. A mutual aid Full Assignment was immediately requested, and an all-call was paged out for off-duty personnel to respond. Battalion 2 arrived to find smoke showing, and was met by homeowner who confirmed that residence was evacuated. Engine 1 was staffed with one person, and arrived shortly after Battalion 2. Engine 1 was positioned for attack, and a hoseline was deployed to the front door and charged. A Hales Corners engine company had begun responding when they heard the initial FFD dispatch, and arrived next on scene. HCFD made entry with the hoseline, advancing up the stairs to find heavy smoke conditions. HCFD located the fire using a thermal imaging camera and quickly extinguished it. The fire was determined to have originated in a second-story closet, possibly due to clothing contacting a bare light bulb. Losses were due primarily due to second-story contents damaged by heavy smoke.

Pre-incident value,  
structure and contents:  
\$292,300

Estimated loss,  
structure and contents:  
\$25,000

---

**June 4, 2009**

**9358 S. Springhill Ln.**

**23:21 hours**

Late in the evening on June 4<sup>th</sup>, FFD was dispatched to an attached garage fire at 9358 S. Springhill Ln. As units were responding, dispatch reported that vehicles and the house itself were also involved. At that time a mutual aid Full Assignment was requested. Engine 3 arrived staffed with 2 firefighters, and reported that the house and garage were both fully involved. Engine 3 was unable to make entry due to short staffing and heavy fire conditions, and deployed a hoseline to begin an exterior attack. Battalion 2 and Truck 2 arrived simultaneously. Battalion 2 established command and requested an upgrade to the box alarm level. Upon making contact with the homeowner, the OIC determined that all residents were out of the house, and ordered defensive exterior operations only. Companies from Oak Creek, Greendale, Hales Corners, Greenfield, and South Milwaukee arrived on scene over the following few minutes. A hydrant was secured, and

multiple hand lines were deployed to all four sides of the house. FFD Engine 1 established a master stream with their deck gun, and Truck 2 was eventually positioned to provide an elevated master stream. Vehicles in the driveway and garage were also extinguished as well as a boat that was parked near the building.

The fire was eventually brought under control to the point that crews were eventually able to make entry in order to mop-up spot fires, but the majority of contents were too damaged to salvage. The box alarm was struck out at 01:17 hours, and all units returned, with the exception of Truck 2, which remained on scene through the night to monitor the fire scene and extinguish flare-ups. The fire was determined to have been caused by improper disposal of ashes after smoking a turkey. The house and contents were declared a total loss.

Pre-incident value,  
structure and contents:  
\$430,000

Estimated loss,  
structure and contents:  
\$405,000

**September 9, 2009**

**4625 W. Oakwood Park Dr.**

**17:37 hours**

On the early evening of September 9<sup>th</sup>, Fire Department units were summoned to a snack-food production facility at 4625 W. Oakwood Park Drive in the Franklin Industrial Park. Dispatch reported multiple employees feeling ill from breathing unknown fumes. The first due station was busy on a previous run, so Franklin Police were the first to arrive. Officers began evacuating occupants to an up-wind location. Battalion 2 arrived and established incident command and began investigating. Med 11 arrived shortly after and established EMS command and began patient triage. Employees informed command that industrial ovens were left on during the evacuation, and could start on fire if not shut down quickly. An attack team was assembled, and made entry with a 4-gas meter to investigate and shut down ovens. Power was shut down to the ovens, and the interior crew ventilated the area. The fumes were determined to be caused by a leaking chemical rust inhibitor. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was contacted and advised crews to flush the affected room and drains with water. Crews re-entered in full protective clothing, flushed the area, and continued to ventilate. Multiple mutual aid ambulances were requested, with Greendale Fire transporting two patients, Greenfield Fire transporting two, and West Allis Med 1 transporting the fifth patient.

**Mutual Aid Responses, 2009**

**February 3, 2009**

**10650 S. Chicago Rd., Oak Creek**

**11:57 hours**

On the morning of February 3, 2009, an explosion occurred in a coal dust collection bin at the WE Energies power generating facility on the Oak Creek lakefront. The explosion sparked a subsequent fire, which took over an hour to bring under control.

Several employees were injured in the blast. Franklin Fire Department's Med 283 (now designated 282) was dispatched to the scene as an ALS ambulance as a component of a MABAS "disaster" box alarm requested by the Oak Creek Fire department. The disaster box alarm brings multiple ambulances, in addition to engines, truck companies, and other specialized resources to the scene of a major incident where there are injuries along with fire and/or hazardous conditions present. Upon their arrival, Med 283 assumed care for a patient with serious burns to the head and face, and possible inhalation injuries. Med 283 stabilized the patient, and transported him to the burn unit at St. Mary's Hospital. In total, six patients were transported to the burn center, including two by Flight for Life helicopters.

---

**June 9, 2009**

**3107 E. Layton Ave., Cudahy**

**23:21 hours**

On the evening of June 9th Truck 2 responded to the City of Cudahy on a MABAS box alarm assignment for a working structure fire at 3107 E. Layton Avenue. The former Selen's restaurant was fully involved when Truck 2 arrived on scene, along with companies from South Milwaukee, Oak Creek, St. Francis, Greendale, and Greenfield fire departments. FFD Truck 2 was set up on the Alpha side of the building and used to provide an elevated master stream for a defensive fire attack. Truck 2 operated for approximately four hours, flowing an estimated 200,000 gallons of water. FFD Truck 2's crew also carried out ventilation and salvage and overhaul duties. The restaurant was ultimately a total loss, and the cause remains under investigation.

---

**July 5-10, 2009**

**1 Sweet Applewood Ln., Cudahy**

**22:22 hours**

The massive July 5<sup>th</sup> Patrick Cudahy fire made national news, and was the largest structure fire in Wisconsin history. Franklin's Truck 2 was dispatched within minutes of the first report of fire, as part of a MABAS box alarm. Initially, FFD personnel were assigned to form a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) as crews entered the building to try to locate and fight the fire. Once the fire burned through the roof, the OIC ordered defensive operations, and Truck 2 was set up as a water tower on the Alpha side of the building. As morning dawned on the second day, a crew was sent to relieve the initial response crew that had worked through the night. At that time, Truck 2 was repositioned to the Charlie side of the building in order to better reach the seat of the fire. Truck 2 placed nearly 500,000 gallons of water on the fire over six and a half hours before returning. Later on the evening of July 6<sup>th</sup>, Engine 1 responded to the scene, and worked through the night, also manning a high-volume master stream. FFD crews rotated in and out of service at Patrick Cudahy for the next two days, along with crews from dozens of departments and eight MABAS divisions. In addition to the major week-long incident, fire departments worked together using mutual aid to handle the regular daily call volume throughout the county. FFD units responded to multiple calls in neighboring communities during this event.

---

**November 11, 2009      8600 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis      11:43 hours**

Shortly before noon on November 11, a Franklin BLS ambulance is requested for a mass-casualty incident (MCI) at a bowling alley in West Allis. Within minutes an ALS ambulance is also requested. Multiple victims had been exposed to extremely high levels of Carbon Monoxide, and were showing symptoms of varying severity. Ambulance 1 assumed care for 2 patients upon their arrival. Eventually they were able to turn one patient over to an incoming unit and transport the other. Med-11 also treated and transported a patient showing signs of CO poisoning. In all, 13 patients are transported to the hyperbaric chamber at St. Luke's Hospital for treatment.

During this event, the stricken community - West Allis – was also dealing with a full assignment structure fire in addition to usual call volume. While the CO incident was going on, West Allis requested a third Franklin ambulance for an unrelated incident involving a student at Nathan Hale High School. A BLS unit was dispatched, but was cancelled at the scene by an engine company that was able to free from a previous call.

---

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam J. Remington  
Battalion Chief

# **2009**

## **Confined Space Technical Rescue Team Annual Report**

### **Team Background**

Confined Spaces along with other technical rescues are inherently dangerous. Sadly, statistics show 6 out of 10 deaths are would-be rescuers. In an effort to prevent this danger Franklin Fire Department participates in the Zone-D Confined Space Technical Rescue Team. This is a joint project consisting of members from each of the four Zone-D communities. These members plan and train jointly to meet the special risks and challenges associated with a confined space rescue. Because there are no private or alternate groups who perform this type of high risk rescues, the team continues to be the most economic and efficient way to provide its specialized rescue capabilities to the Zone-D communities. In recent years the suburban departments of Milwaukee County have formed MABAS 107 to facilitate the response of mutual aid between communities. Zone-D confined space team is an integral part of the MABAS 107 system in that multiple jurisdictions could respond to an emergency involving technical rescue. The highly technical training and operations of this team combines rope rescue/rappelling, hazardous atmosphere monitoring, and entering spaces with difficult or restricted means of entry and/or exit, stabilization/removal of victims, operation of a specialized air supply and communication system. This team is prepared to respond to any emergency involving a confined space such as: above and below ground water reservoirs, sewerage lift stations, silos, above and below ground storage tanks, as well as numerous other hazardous spaces.

### **Team Trainings**

- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, March 12, 2009  
The training consisted of a tour of the We Energies Power Plant. The team members met at the Oak Creek Fire Station #2 and took a bus to the power plant. The focus of the tour was to identify confined spaces within the plant and the unique hazards. The team also looked at their rescue equipment and procedures. At all times a Safety Officer was present. In addition all members were required to wear head, eye, ear, and foot protection. A safe training was the number one concern.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, May 7, 2009  
The training consisted of two confined space rescue scenarios at the new MATC South Campus training facility. The team members were in groups to perform a vertical rescue using rigging, communications, metering, and tending of personnel as they entered/exited with a patient. A second rescue took place to perform a horizontal rescue. It was a simulated cave-in with the possibility of a viable rescue versus body recovery. At all times a Safety Officer was present. In addition to the safety officer there was a coordinator at each entrance for the safety of all personnel.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, October 8, 2009  
The training consisted of a confined space rescue scenario at the St. Martin's Lift Station on Forest Home Avenue in Franklin. The team members were assigned roles

to perform a vertical rescue using rigging, communications, and metering. They tended personnel as they entered/exited an approximately 50 ft. shaft with a patient. This scenario involved extensive use of raising, lowering and mechanical advantage systems. At all times a Safety Officer was present.

- 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
The training consisted of three hands-on skills stations and a lecture review of the dangers of confined spaces. The team members were divided in three groups to rotate. The stations consisted of: Meters, 3 to 1 systems, and the teams supplied air breathing system. At all times a Safety Officer was present. In addition to the safety Officer, a separate instructor was present at each station. A safe training was the number one concern.

### Member Attendance

Team Members	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	Additional Related Trainings & Make-ups	Total Trainings
Joseph Strelka (Training coordinator)	1	1	1	1	6	10
Lt. Greg Muth (Co-team leader)		1	1	1	5	8
Dave Newsom	1		1	1	1	4
Jim Valdez		1	1	1	1	4
Jason Trubenbach	1		1	1	1	4
Andy Gould	N/A	N/A	1	1	0	2
Brad Polaske	N/A	1	1	1	0	3
Paul Rynders	1	1	1	1	0	4
Shawn Ganser (Back-up member)				1	0	1
Chris Foley (Back-up member)					0	0

### 2009 Team Accomplishments

- The size of the team was increased from six to eight members to help facilitate the extensive manpower needs for technical rescue responses.
- The two team leaders were sent to a train-the-trainer in Trench Rescue to initiate the training of all department members to an Awareness level of trench rescue. The department will also set up a team of which members will be trained to the Technician level.

### Short Term and Immediate Goals

- To provide a reliable, dedicated and properly equipped Confined Space Technical Rescue Team for the City of Franklin, Zone-D and surrounding communities.

- In an effort to take on the additional responsibilities the Confined Space Team hopes to begin joint trainings with the newly formed Trench Rescue Team and other teams in MABAS 107.

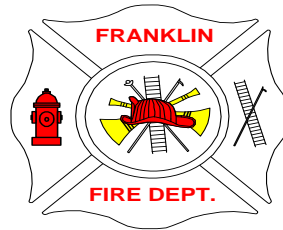
### **Long Term Goals**

- Franklin's goal is to have all members certified to technician level in at least two different facets of technical rescue within three years.
- Maintain funding for continued education courses for team members.
- Team members supplied with \$800 of gear, including helmet, gloves, harness, coverall, gear bag, rappelling hardware and boots.
- Conduct a community risk assessment for other potential rescue incidents that may require the specialized skills and equipment of other facets of technical rescue.
- Consider expanding the types of incidents the Team will respond to.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lt. Joseph P. Strelka, Confined Space Technical Rescue Team Training Coordinator

# FIRE INSPECTION BUREAU



The Fire Inspection Bureau of the Franklin Fire Department is a vital part of Life/Safety, Fire/Safety, and Fire/Prevention. Our number one goal is to protect our citizens, all people working in Franklin, our Firefighters and Rescue personal, and all structures built in our city. Some of the ways we do this is thru education, in our schools, and in the work place. Another way is thru our fire code requiring the installation of a fire alarm system that includes devices like pull stations, horn/strobes, heat detectors, and smoke detectors that can detect a fire in its early stages. These fire alarm systems are monitored, which means that the fire department will be notified 3 to 4 minutes prior to sprinkler head activation. With the fire alarm system sounding, evacuation of the building will be in progress. If it is an actual fire the sprinkler system will allow for safe egress of the building, and keep the fire in check until the fire department arrives. The City of Franklin Fire Prevention, Protection and Control Code chapter 133 requires these live safety measures in all new multi-family, and commercial construction.

As you can see the Fire Inspection Bureau has a responsibility to help improve the quality of life safety thru better fire prevention in the City of Franklin. In doing routine fire inspections we are able to identify unsafe conditions and deficiencies everyday in buildings we inspect. With tools like our local fire code, State of Wisconsin Department of Commerce Codes, and our National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Codes, we strive to provide a reliable means to reduce the loss of life and property in the City of Franklin. Working together with businesses, and multi-family buildings will help reduce violations, and have a safer environment for all.

Respectfully Submitted

Gordon Jepsen Fire Inspector

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Inspections	1493	1499	1770	2034	2147	2210	2364	2578	2611
Plan Review	100	134	159	229	258	271	302	356	274

