

# NIXA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



## 2008 YEAR END REPORT

## **ADMINISTRATION DIVISION, Chief Sebree**

I am proud to present an overview of the accomplishments for the Nixa Fire Protection District for 2008. These accomplishments reveal the hard work and efforts of the entire fire district staff. The report is broken down into five areas; Administration, Operations, Training, Support and Fire Prevention.

The Nixa Fire Protection District was established in 1986 and is controlled under Missouri State Statute Chapter 321. The District is governed by a five member board elected by the constituents of the District.

The board, staff, and personnel of the fire district have adopted the following vision, mission, and value statements, which guide us in our daily activities.

### **VISION**

The Nixa Fire Protection District will continue to honor the heritage of the fire service by striving to be recognized by our community and peers as a model of excellence in providing services through education, prevention, mitigation, and efficiently utilizing all of the necessary resources to provide the service that is expected by the citizens of our district.

### **MISSION**

The Nixa Fire Protection District shall protect the quality of life and the property of those who live, work, invest, or visit our community.

### **VALUES**

The Nixa Fire Protection District believes that our human resources are the most important ingredient to our success. Further, the District expects that every employee and constituent should be treated with the utmost; honesty, objectivity, consistency, understanding, fairness, compassion, respect, discreetly, professionally, personally, and in a timely manner without patronization by confronting the problem not the individual that fosters unwavering trust.

The Nixa Fire Protection District that we will accomplish our objectives through sound beliefs.

### **BELIEFS**

We will establish and maintain a relationship with outside entities and agencies.

We will promote personal development within the department in an, accountable, manner while utilizing effective principles and practices of modern fire and life safety technology.

We will maintain adequate emergency preparedness to handle a variety of potential life or property threatening situations in order to provide safety for the citizens of our district.

The District received a \$1,000 grant from the Community Foundation to install rural addressing signs. These reflective signs will improve our ability to locate addresses in the rural remote areas in a more timely fashion.

In December, the District became the recipient of a Federal SAFER Grant. This grant will allow the District to hire six additional firefighters. The funding for the project is spread over a five year period, which allows the additional personnel without fully impacting the budget until the fifth year. These additional firefighters bring our staffing levels to four personnel per station, which falls under the NFPA 1710 Standards for Firefighter Deployment. The District is excited and continues to strive to meet recognized standards.

The District continues to participate in working groups, civic organizations, and the political process to maintain a voice and working knowledge of the community. The District is very proud to be a part of a great community, the working relationship and fostering of community spirit.

As you review this report please feel free to contact the department or myself if you have any questions, concerns or comments for the District. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the personnel of the district thank you for your continued support.

## **OPERATIONS DIVISION, Battalion Chiefs; Weaver, Walles, and Barnes**

**Overview** - The yearend report for the Operations division for 2008 of the Nixa Fire Protection District is provided below. As the operations division is the largest and most visible division by being charged with the actual delivery of equipment and personnel to mitigate the situation we have to be able to provide the citizens with the most reliable equipment and the best personnel available.

In 2008 we maintained the previous year's staffing level in the operations division, which maximized our ability to provide services demanded by the remarkable growth of this district. The Operations Division has the following full-time employees allowing us to staff stations with three personnel each and one supervisor on duty around the clock.

Firefighters – 12  
Inspectors - 2  
Company Officers – 6  
Battalion Chiefs – 3  
Administrative Assistant – 1  
IT/Communications Support – 1  
Fire Chaplain – 1  
Assistant Chiefs – 3  
Fire Chief – 1

Specific areas of interest are provided that were attained this year.

**Pump Tests** – Pump testing was performed on all applicable apparatus this year. All apparatus tested passed and this will be a function that is performed every year.

**Ladder Tests** – Ground ladders testing was performed this year on all ground ladders. All ladders passed certification.

**Emergency Medical updates** –Our EMS requests went up 1.5% this year with 1425 medical responses, and our response time average to EMS requests have dropped from 5.42 minutes in

2007 to 5.03 minutes in 2008. In 2008 we have maintained our ALS (Advanced Life Support) staffing with four paramedics and have provided advanced life support 86 times this year.

**Pre-Fire plans, Smoke alarm canvassing and Hydrant flow tests-** Under the guidance of the Prevention Bureau, Operations personnel conducted pre-incident fire plans for every business that was inspected in 2008. Considering public education is also a high priority for Nixa Fire the operation division also attended 22 school events. Hydrant maintenance is a year round issue and the crews completed 273 flow tests, and maintained 810 hydrants. These tests and inspections assist personnel with operational readiness and the general safety of our firefighters and patrons of the district. Continued from last year we have been conducting Smoke Alarm canvasses after any home fire. In 2008 Operations conducted 15 smoke alarm canvasses, 71 smoke alarm checks/installations, and 33 Carbon Monoxide checks.

## **SUPPORT DIVISION, Assistant Chief Duffy**

**Overview** – This division is still developing its roles and responsibilities with the organization since its inception last year. Overall objective of the division is to help to alleviate the work load on the other divisions as well as responsibilities of its own. This division has taken on many projects for the district to accomplish some of the more important ones are described below.

**Back-Up Communications** – With the completed installation of the back-up communications center we had three significant enhancements that we made this year to support that project. First of those being since this facility is designed to be the backup communications for the county it needed to have the ability to take transfer calls from the two existing 911 centers. This is important in the event that if we needed to staff this center as a separate dispatch either in an emergency situation or for some future addition to the county system as a whole. The 911 call transfer was a difficult measure to complete with the age of the Nixa 911 equipment and the location of the County 911 system being in another phone company service area. But it has been completed and working well. The second enhancement was the installation of a new station generator to support not only the station but the communications center with reliable power. The existing generator was operating but it was purchased used when the station was built and sized to the power requirements at that time. Another burden the existing generator was used extensively during the ice storm and after that event it was recommended to the Board of Directors that it needed to be replaced before it failed. The board allocated funds in the 2008 capital improvements budget to have it replaced. The new generator has been installed and is working great. The third improvement made to the facility was heating and air conditioning. When the building was built that system was not designed to accommodate what is currently there along with having personnel in the dispatch room from time to time. There were several measures presented to fix this problem we choose the least impact on the building and budget to see if that fixed the problem, so far that has proven to work. We will continue to monitor that situation for further upgrades as necessary.

**911 Funding** – The division continues to be heavily involved in the shortfall in 911 funding and overall system performances. This project had some significant milestones this year in support of the funding issue. We have continued the collaboration of several public safety and other government agencies in the county coming together with a common goal to eliminate the shortfall and properly fund the centers. This year we made a significant advancement in that goal, we teamed up with our local legislators and proposed a change to the state statute reference the board makeup of the 911 system. The collaboration of agencies had run into a stumbling

block related to the board makeup of the 911 system. It was mutually agreed that we wanted to pass a new funding mechanism but the board makeup of existing law did not meet our group of agencies goal with respect to the 911 system as a whole. During this year's legislative session in Jefferson City we were successful in changing state statute to meet that goal. The other milestone once the law was changed and the agencies were once again in agreement with the direction, we needed the county commissioners to place the issue on the ballot. The group of agencies met with the commissioners presented the 911 system plan and funding request. The commissioners agreed to and accepted our proposal and committed to place the initiative to a county wide vote in April 2009. In the mean time leading up to new funding being passed we still have to overcome current shortfalls within the system. In 2008 the Nixa E911Center was projected to be \$170,000 short in making the budget. That shortfall was covered by an agreement between the Fire District and the City of Nixa. Similarly, the Christian County Center is projecting a shortfall of \$250,000 and that was covered by the Christian County Government.

**Station 1 Parking Lot** – This year we also completed another important capital improvements project. We were able to allocate funds and upgrade the parking lot at Station 1. This has been one of the long to come projects with the price of materials fluctuating and the ability to get funding allocated but this year it was made a reality. The old lot was removed and new, improved concrete lot was put into its place. This addition added much needed space and enhanced the look of the station immensely.

**Summary** – This is a short summary of the more significant things that occurred within the Support Division. Those items listed are just part of the many other things that support has performed for the district over the year. Those projects obviously are very extensive and have been drawn out for a long period of time and some are still not complete. But those projects along with the minor ones are very important to meeting the districts mission and vision.

## **TRAINING DIVISION, Assistant Chief Trent**

**Overview**-There were 276 in house training classes for personnel within the organization. District personnel attended 50 classes that were offered by outside organizations. The total contact hours spent training for 2008 was 5,010. This would be a slight increase from 2007 in total hours.

The Training Division was instrumental in implementing the return of the Greene County Regional Fire School in 2008 with 110 firefighters from area departments attending courses. Chief Trent currently serves as the Treasurer of the organization which represents the collective training of 26 departments in the local area. The organization is growing and reflects record number of member departments, classes delivered and students enrolled. The Greene County Regional Fire School was the largest single weekend delivery of courses in the Southwest Region of Missouri for 2008.

A large scale Mutual Aid night drill was conducted in 2008 where 10 area departments participated in a field exercise conducted to test the ability of the district resources to deliver a large volume water shuttle.

There were 3 MUFRTI courses, 1 VFIS and 2 MDFS certified/sponsored classes delivered in District in 2008, surpassing the goals set out for the Training Division for in-house certified courses.

**Continuing Education**-The Fire District took a large step in EMS CEU classes this past year, hosting an International Trauma Life Support class, providing 16 hours of core curriculum for our EMT-B and EMT-P personnel.

**Public Education**-There was 55 educational classes conducted for businesses or organizations in the Fire District ranging from 8 to 2 hours. A tremendous growth area was in the CPR/First Aid program. There were 25 classes delivered in 2008 an increase of 40% over previous years.

The Fire District conducted or attended 30 events/classes in support of the Nixa Public Schools. These events included Fall Festivals, Health Fairs, Career Days, Open House, Water Fun Days and the Adopt-A-Class program.

The area of Fire Safety Education in the School District saw a decline this year as the extra-curricular activities are being cut or limited. For the first time in the history of our public education program we were not given the opportunity to visit each school in the K-4 buildings to deliver fire safety education.

**Station Tours and Use of Facilities**-There were 20 formal tours and 23 birthday parties that our station crews conducted this year. There were 15 different civic or not for profit groups that used the meeting rooms, not including the long term contract with the DMV. Although the number of groups using the meeting rooms was down slightly, there average use of the facilities in hours was double previous years.

**Special Events**- There were 30 events that were recorded as special events. These would be events such as the Halloween Party, National Night Out, Sky High 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Aldersgate 5K/10K run, numerous parades and open houses. The Training Division defines special events as events where more than 300 persons were in attendance. As we identified in years past, these events pose a significant challenge in required planning, coordination and scheduling time.

**Summary**-The requests from the community we serve are ever changing in character or nature. Clearly, the Training Division will need to be flexible and innovative in adapting to the needs of our community. Regardless of changing needs, one constant has remained within the Training Division throughout the years. The training/education needs of the coming year in our community will surpass the previous year; as it has in each previous year. As we look to expand our workforce in 2009, we additionally anticipate an exponential growth in training needs for our personnel.

## **FIRE PREVENTION, Assistant Chief Newberry**

### *Vision Fire Prevention Bureau*

*The Prevention Bureau will embed the mission of the District to emphasize fire prevention, safety and education as an integral part of preventing fire and emergencies, minimizing loss and engender appropriate reaction should an emergency occur. Through the Bureau, the District will provide quality customer service, community recognition and excellence fostering a proactive and positive climate through standardization of codes, enforcement, public relations, public education and emergency planning.*

This year has been another record breaking year for the Prevention Bureau and the District. The Bureau focused on code compliance, education and planning to assist in reaching the vision established in 2006. Not only have new projects been developed and implemented but the District has fine tuned and produced quality results in several key prevention areas. Once again this year the station crews put forth a tremendous effort in completing inspections, pre-incident plans and hydrant maintenance and testing. The addition of two full-time fire inspectors significantly increased the capability of the Prevention Bureau ensuring quality code enforcement, inspections and follow up.

This year we also received \$605,000.00 in grants from federal, state and local levels with two large grants still pending. With cooperation between the City of Nixa and Christian County governments we have been able to monitor growth in our jurisdiction. Statistics are provided for clarification personnel effort and time spent. Additionally, station crews devoted several hours to code enforcement, inspections and pre-incident planning to allow for safer, informed emergency response and mitigation to incidents.

**Open Burning** – For calendar year 2008 the Prevention Bureau received 195 requests for permitted burning. This includes recreational burning, development burning, and yard waste disposal. The City has an ordinance that open burning within the city is only permitted for land clearing for development. All permits were site surveyed for compliance and issued for either land development in the City of Nixa or vegetative waste burning in the County. Four out of 195 permits were denied or revoked.

**Web Site** – The web site continues to be a great asset for the dissemination of District information.

### **Investigations –**

1. In 2008 the Prevention Bureau conducted 15 fire investigations.
  - a. Causes of Fire
    - i. Misuse of material 1
    - ii. Abandoned material/product 1
    - iii. Heat source too close 4
    - iv. Mechanical Failure 1
    - v. Short Circuit 1
    - vi. Failure to clean 1
    - vii. High wind 1
    - viii. Exposure fire 1
    - ix. None 1
    - x. Undetermined 3
  2. Number of Civilian Injuries as result of Fire = 0
  3. Number of Civilian Deaths as result of Fire = 0
  4. Number of Fire Service Injuries as result of Fire = 0
  5. Number of Fire Service Deaths as result of Fire = 0

**Plans Review** – In 2008 the Prevention Bureau received 17 sets of plans to review. With an average of 3 plans submitted a month a current turn-around time of 8 days or less.

## **Planning –**

1. Christian County Planning and Zoning – We have been present at 20% of all Christian County Planning and Zoning Commission meetings and participated in the Development Code review process. Our involvement in planning and zoning has decreased with the incorporation the Christian County Building Inspections Department. The County is expected to transition to traditional planning and zoning over the next year.
2. The City of Nixa Planning and Zoning Commission – We have been present at 15% of the Nixa Planning and Zoning Commission meetings and participated in several development and code issues throughout the city. This number is significantly lower than previous years. The involvement during the planning process with the City and public works meetings allow for planning to take place before each meeting. With the public works meeting being held and working with City planners and building code officials the need to attend the meetings are significantly reduced.
3. The Prevention Bureau currently administers and tracks along with the City of Nixa and the County area projects under development for significant fire code violations.

## **Inspections –**

1. 168 company inspections were conducted along with Pre-Incident Plans.
2. 11 firework stands were inspected 2008.
3. Fire hydrant flows were conducted with a total of 273 hydrants being tested by station crews.
4. Along with hydrant flows crews marked the hydrants indicating their water flow amounts as dictated by the National Fire Protection Association.
5. There were 989 inspections conducted by the Fire Marshal's Office including, Certificates of Occupancy issued in businesses and building in-fills within the City of Nixa for 2008. The Prevention Bureau participated in checking these occupancies for fire code compliance.
6. All of the Nixa School District buildings were inspected for fire and life safety issues along with conducting fire drills in each school to meet timed evacuation guidelines.
7. The Prevention Bureau also regulates blasting inside District boundaries. Two permits were issued during 2008.

## **Prevention and Preparedness –**

1. All 2,394 incidents for 2008 in the computer reporting system were quality assured to check completeness and correctness at the Battalion Chief level or higher.
2. This year two grants were received. We received \$605,000 from the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) to hire 6 firefighters. Locally, we received a \$1,000 grant from the Nixa Community Foundation to install address markers in rural areas not easily found by emergency responders.
3. A total of 28 requests for records or reports were processed by the Prevention Bureau in 2008.
4. The Knox Rapid Entry program that was initiated and developed in 2003 is currently progressing at a rapid rate. Every new building and development is screened for installation of a Knox Entry system and feasibility.

5. A minimum additional 28 hours of meetings a month for Prevention Bureau/Inter-Governmental Meetings and Inner-Organizational meetings.

**Public Relations –**

1. In 2008, 10 press releases have been distributed for public safety and organizational events. We continuously release interviews and articles. There are various amounts of information being exchanged with risk management as the main focus.
  - i. Fire Prevention Week 2008 we partnered with Springfield Fire Department and Safe Kids Springfield to release a public service announcement focusing on “Home Fires.” The announcement was released to print, radio and television sources.
2. Public information contacts with several news media, community organizations and public service organizations have been established. A few are listed below:
  - i. Springfield Safe Kids Coalition
  - ii. Local News-Papers (Nixa News, Christian County Headliner, News-Leader)
  - iii. Local Television Stations
  - iv. Local Radio Stations
  - v. American Red Cross
  - vi. Wal-Mart
3. Smoke Alarms – In 2008, the Nixa Fire District provided 71 smoke alarms to residents. The smoke alarms are purchased through the Prevention Bureau budget. Crews also performed smoke alarm canvasses checking for working smoke alarms and replacing batteries.
  - i. Canvass Results:

Homes Visited	Contacts	Batteries	Alarms
403	351	63	16
4. Carbon Monoxide Alarms – In 2008 the Nixa Fire District provided 8 carbon monoxide alarms to residents.

**Information Systems and Technology –** The last four years the District has instituted a server based system for technology support. This success can be attributed to the grant for a communications center located in Station 2. The completion of a fiber optic line between Station 1 and Station 2 has reduced the cost of internet service and integrated information into one network. Allowing both stations access to the information system and integrating daily operations into one server. The replacement of outdated computer equipment is continuing with the addition of several new units each year. All technology equipment is locked into a three to four year rotation for replacement.

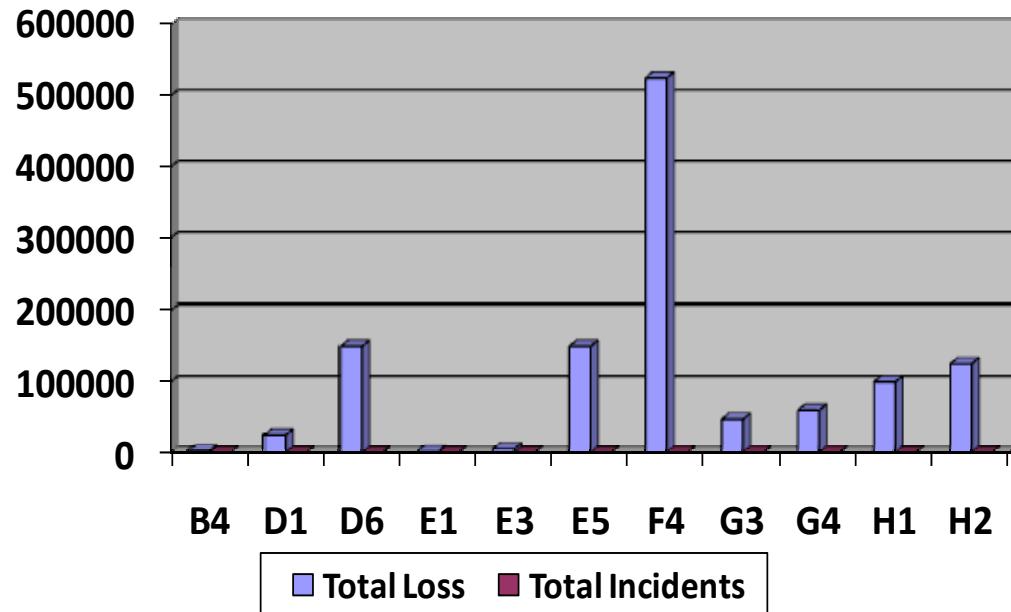
Further expansion of the system will include the integration of mobile data into the apparatus into allowing for real time information to travel to emergency units. This was only the third year the District assigned a budget line item for (IS&T). The dedication of the District to keep computer equipment and infrastructure is a top priority.

**Important Statistics –**

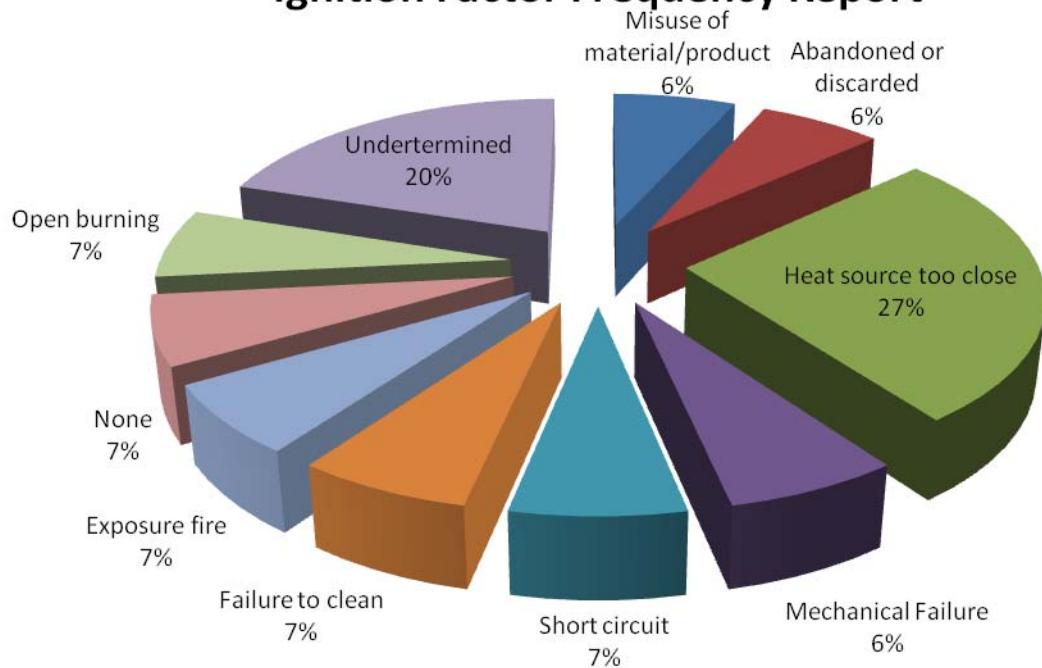
1. Dollar Loss by Property Type
  - a. 1 or 2 family dwelling \$636,500
  - b. Specialty shop \$15,000

- c. Motor vehicle \$502,000
  - d. Business office \$30,000
  - e. Outbuilding or shed \$1,000
  - f. Parking garage \$5,000
  - g. Open land or field \$400
  - h. Vehicle parking area \$1,000
2. Total Dollar Loss/Property Type \$1,190,000
3. *Property /Contents Value Saved* \$2,959,850
4. Breakdown of False Alarm Responses
- a. Malicious, Mischievous, False Call 7
  - b. System Malfunctions 33
  - c. Unintentional 35
  - d. Other 2
5. 1 Large Loss Fire in 2008 totaling \$500,000.
6. Zero (0) dollar loss in Sprinkled Buildings.

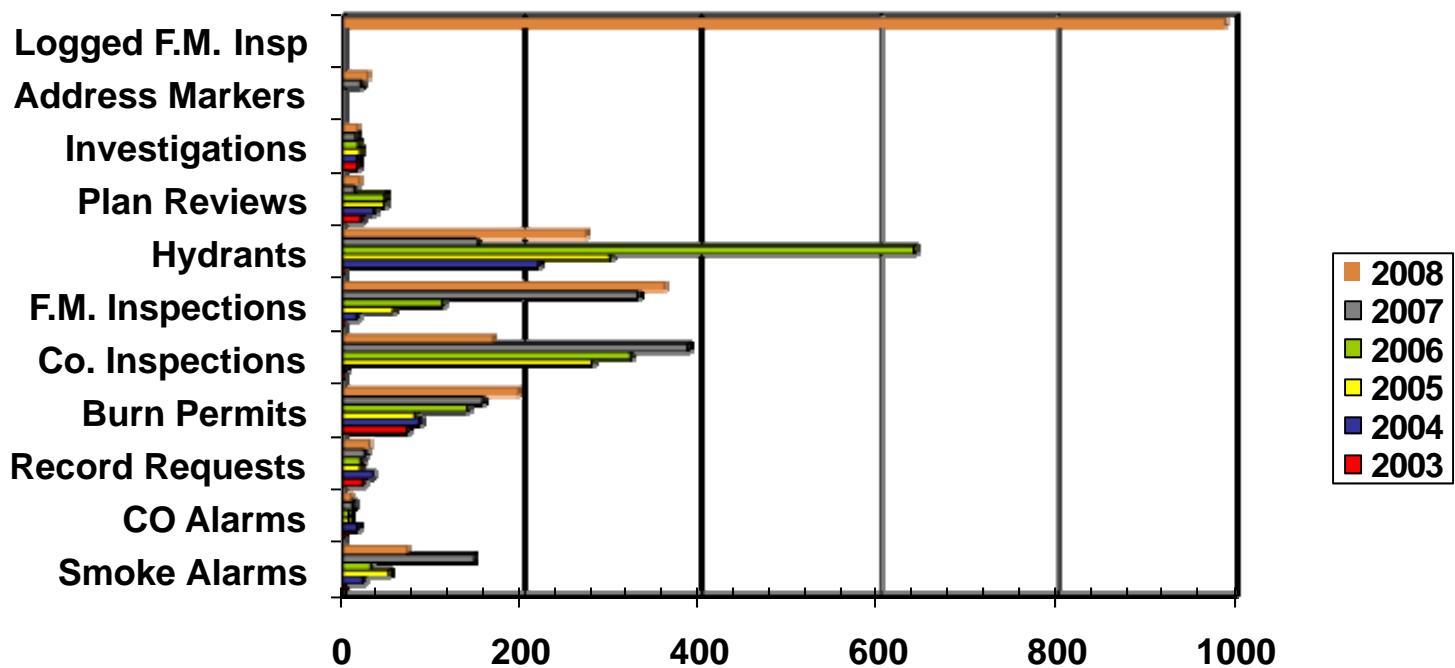
## Dollar Loss by District



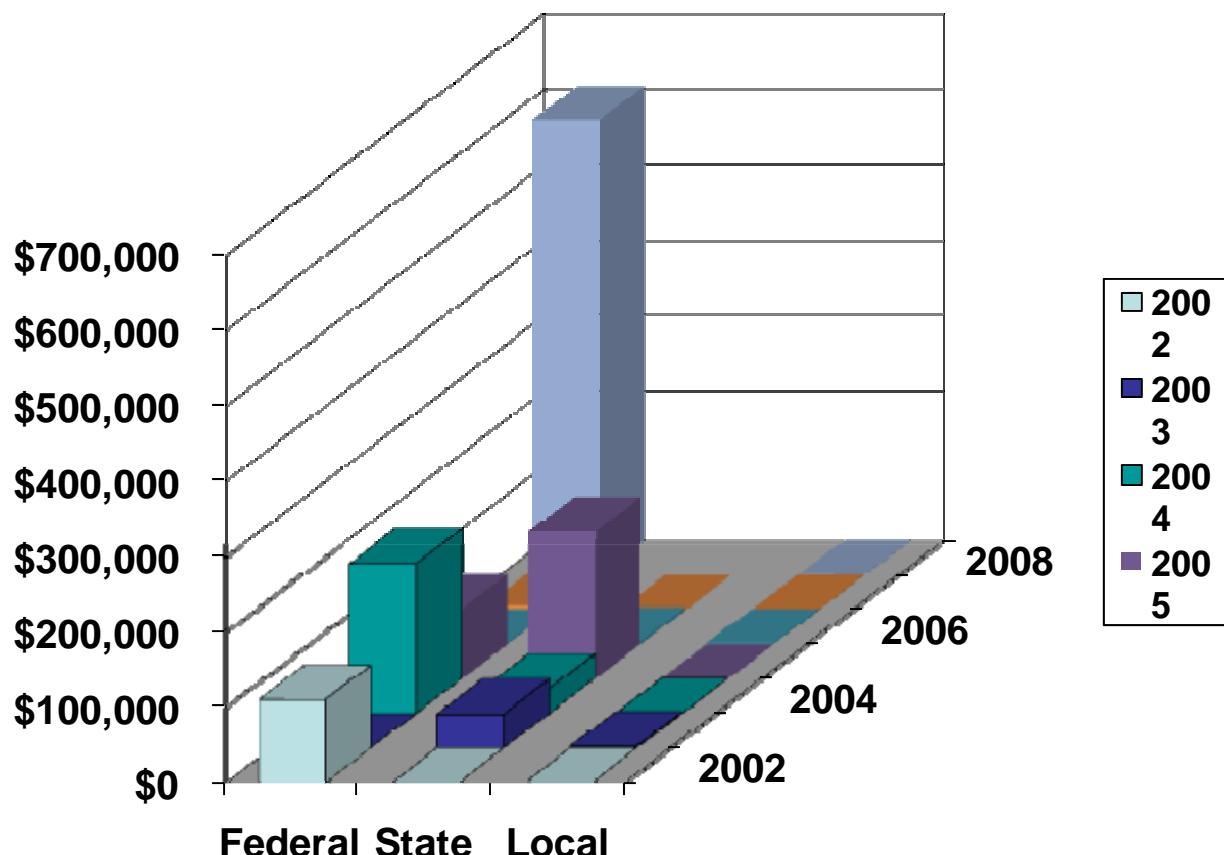
## Ignition Factor Frequency Report



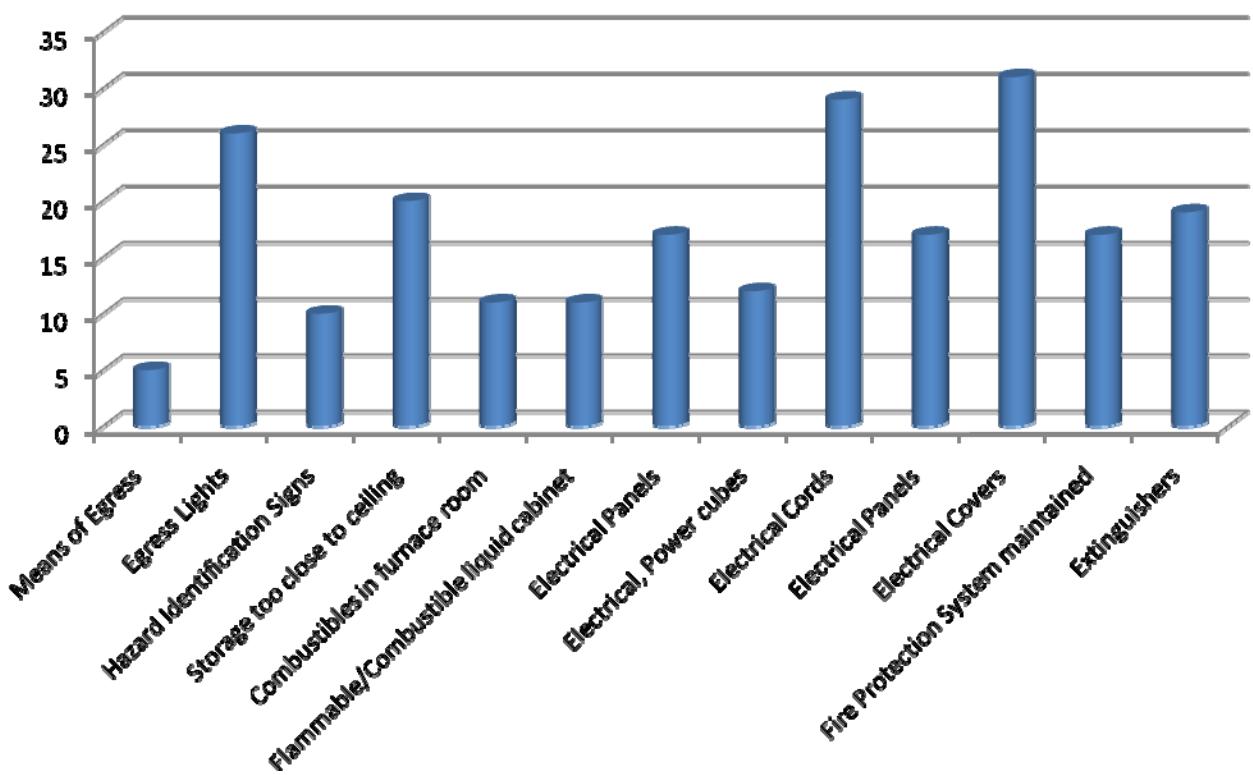
## 6 - Year Trend Analysis



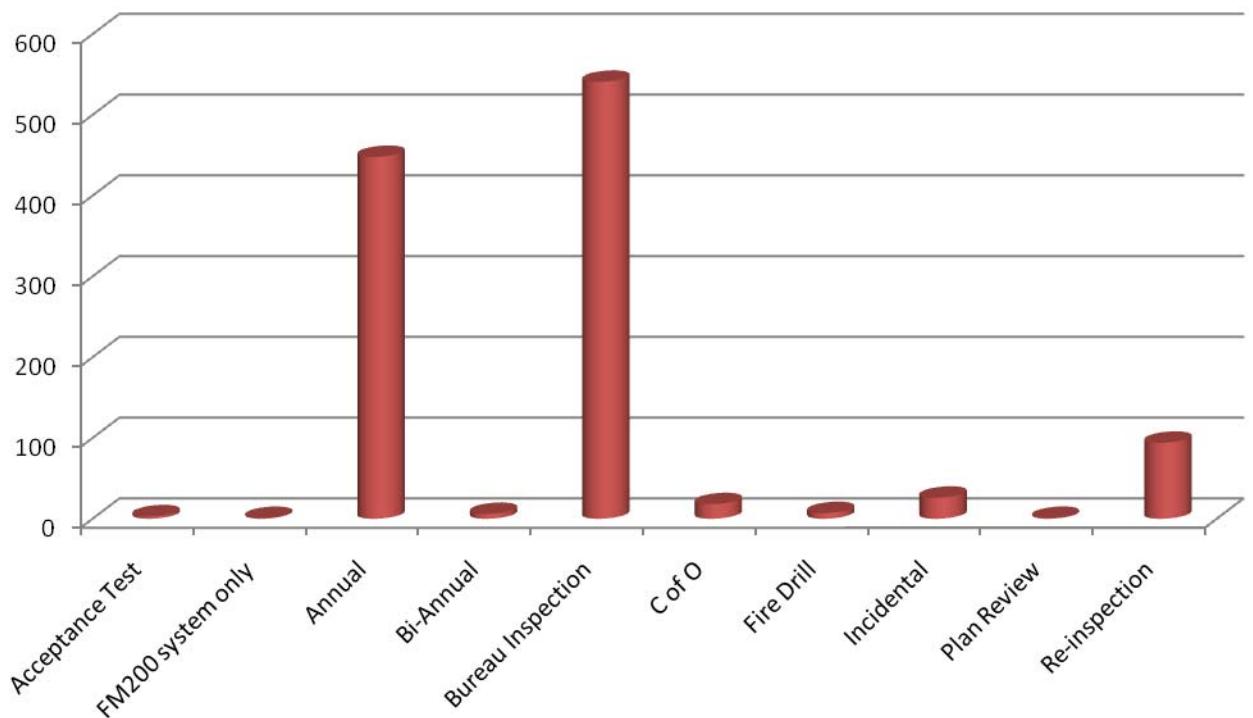
## Grant Analysis



## Type of Violation / Frequency



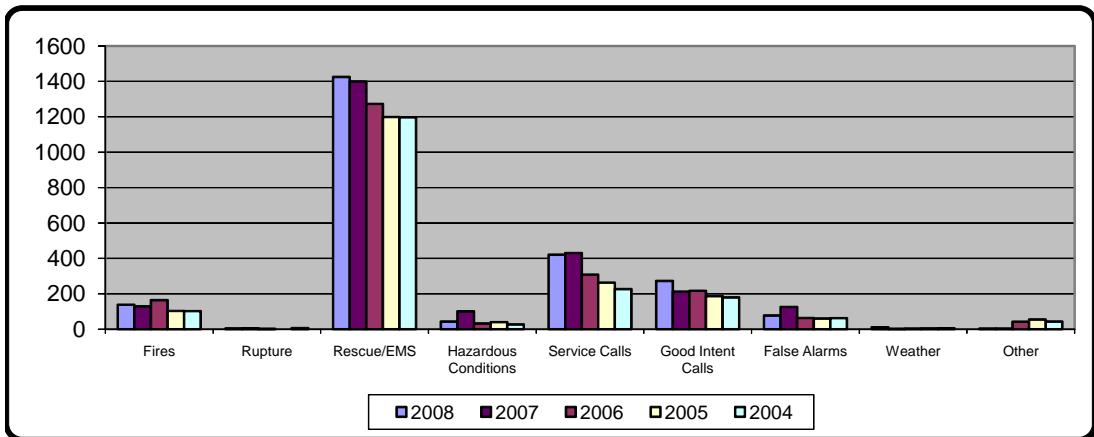
## Inspections by Type





## Operations Overview 2008

### Type of Calls Per Year

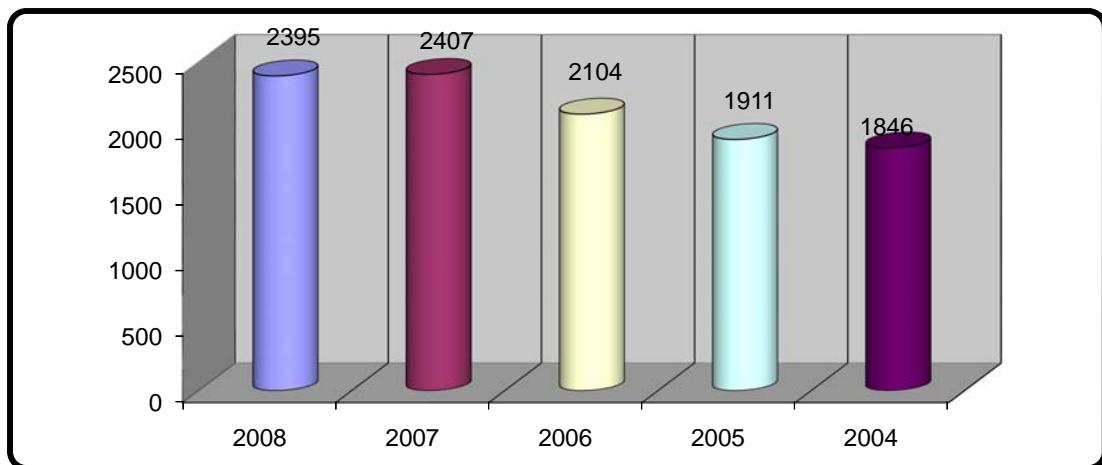


Type	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Fires	138	129	164	103	102
Rupture	4	5	2	0	6
Rescue/EMS	1425	1399	1273	1199	1196
Hazardous Conditions	43	101	32	40	27
Service Calls	421	430	308	263	226
Good Intent Calls	273	212	217	187	179
False Alarms	77	126	63	60	62
Weather	11	2	3	4	5
Other	3	3	42	55	43



## Operations Overview 2008

### Number of Calls per Year

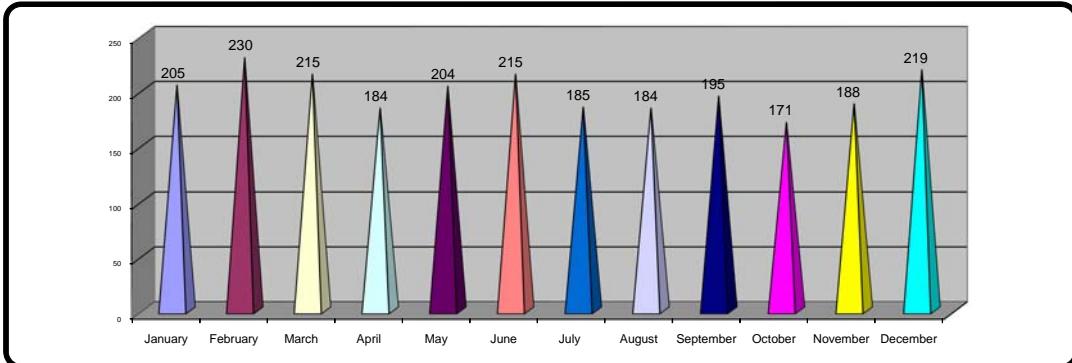


Year	# of calls
2008	2395
2007	2407
2006	2104
2005	1911
2004	1846



## Operations Overview 2008

Number of Calls per Month

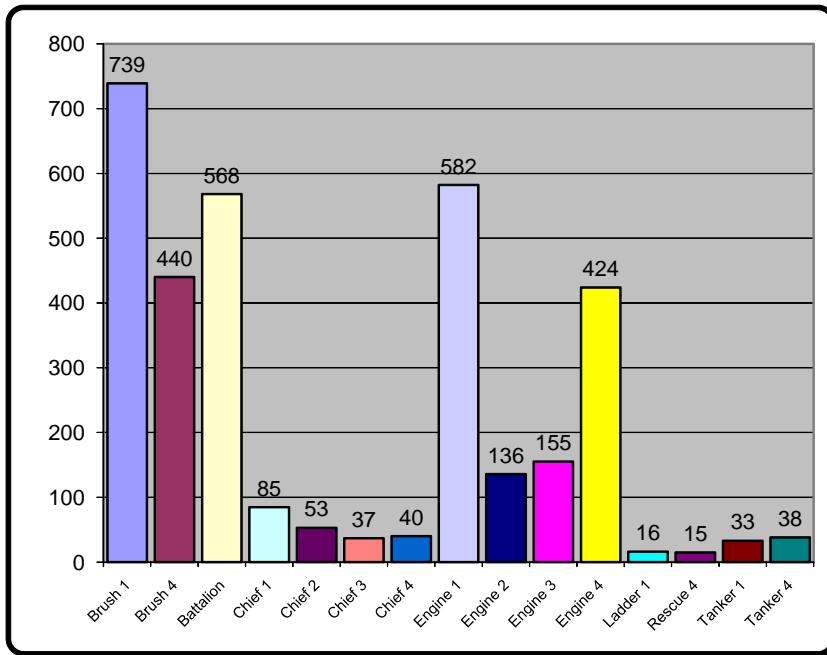


Month	# of calls
January	205
February	230
March	215
April	184
May	204
June	215
July	185
August	184
September	195
October	171
November	188
December	219



## Operations Overview 2008

Number of Calls per Apparatus

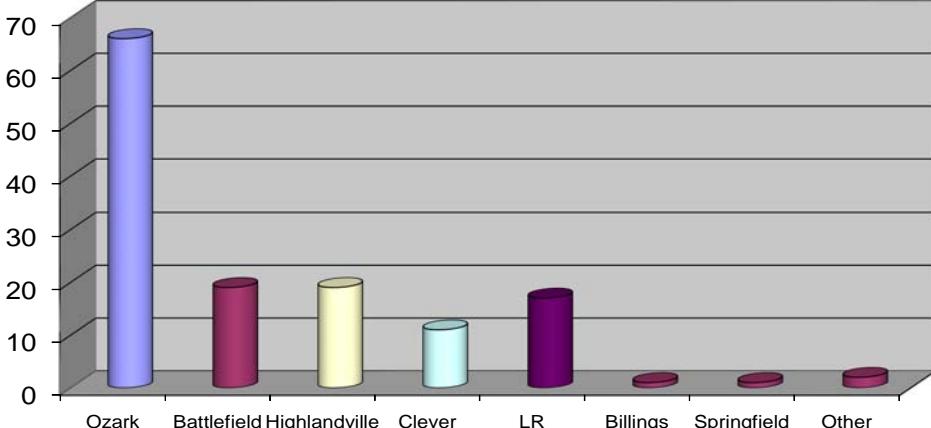


Unit	# of calls
Brush 1	739
Brush 4	440
Battalion	568
Chief 1	85
Chief 2	53
Chief 3	37
Chief 4	40
Engine 1	582
Engine 2	136
Engine 3	155
Engine 4	424
Ladder 1	16
Rescue 4	15
Tanker 1	33
Tanker 4	38



## Operations Overview 2008

Number of Calls in which Mutual Aid was Provided to:

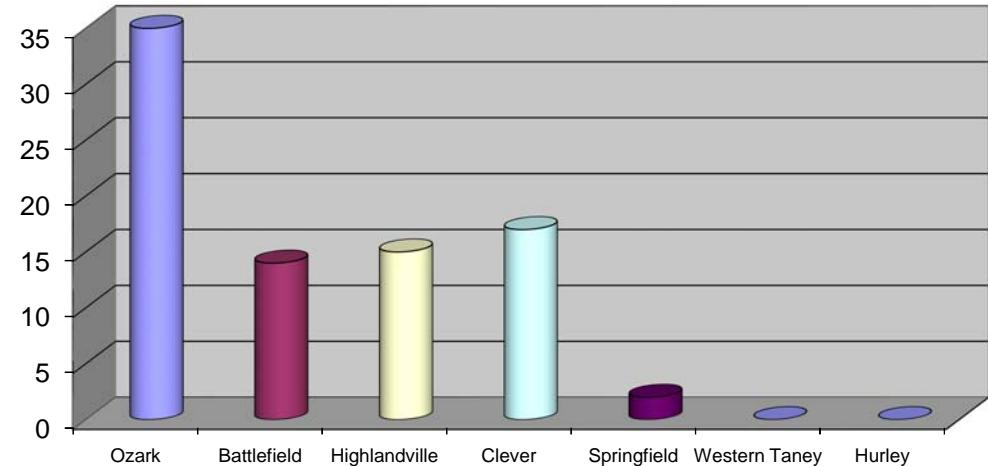


Dallas Co 911, Neosho FD



## Operations Overview 2008

Number of Calls in which Mutual Aid was Received from:



Department	# of calls
Ozark	35
Battlefield	14
Highlandville	15
Clever	17
Springfield	2
Western Taney	0
Hurley	0