

HOQUIAM FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT - 2006



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Honorable Mayor Jack Durney
Hoquiam City Council Members
Citizens of Hoquiam

The Annual Report for the Hoquiam Fire Department contains information on the many activities that our members have been involved in during the year. It will show that 2006 was another busy and successful year for our department.

All of our members deserve recognition for their hard work and dedication. Many of our programs would not be possible without the support of our off-duty members. This is especially true of our school programs and participation in City events.

I would like to thank the Mayor, City Administrator, City Council and Citizens of Hoquiam for your support and cooperation. With your help we were able to maintain staffing levels and upgrade apparatus, equipment and facilities. These improvements will allow us to continue the high level of service that our citizens have come to expect. Our department looks forward to 2007 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Ray Pumphrey

Ray Pumphrey, Fire Chief
City of Hoquiam

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our members responded to a record number of calls in 2006, yet still managed to accomplish the many tasks that are required to keep our department running efficiently.

State and federal agencies such as the Washington Survey and Rating bureau, Department of Labor & Industries, the Department of Homeland Security and the Washington State Department of Health dictate many of the things we do. Outlined below are some of the things we accomplished in 2006 to meet these requirements and to ensure a safe and efficient department.

➤ **Training:**

Each firefighter received a minimum of ten (10) hours of training per month on basic fire fighting subjects. These included pump operations, ladder drills, hose evolutions, ventilation techniques, driver's training, jaws of life, building tours and the use and maintenance of SCBAs (self contained breathing apparatus) etc.

Each Paramedic and EMT met the continuing education requirements of the Washington State Department of Health.

We instituted a new online training program through Target Safety.com. As the official Safety Training Partner of the NFPA, TargetSafety offers the NFPA 1500 series of courses online. These courses are designed specifically to meet the occupational health and safety training needs for fire departments. Listed below are some of the classes our members completed.

- Hazard Communication
- Advanced Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response
- HAZ-MAT Spill Prevention & Control
- Compressed Gas Safety
- Materials Handling, Storage, Use, & Disposal
- Confined-Space Entry
- Combustible & Flammable Liquids
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Respiratory Protection
- Driving Safety
- Bloodborne Pathogens Safety

➤ **Equipment testing:**

As required by the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau, we completed the annual testing of all fire hose, pumps, ladders and SCBA equipment. This testing was done

to NFPA standards. The boom on our aerial apparatus is required to be tested every five years and will be due in 2007. Testing and documentation plays a large role in maintaining our Class 4 ISO rating.

➤ **Purchase of a new ambulance:**

Our Ambulance Committee members put in many hours compiling the specifications for a new Braun Ambulance. When we take delivery in the spring, we will have a custom Type III ambulance, designed specifically to meet the needs of our paramedics and EMTS.

➤ **Maintenance:**

Apparatus and equipment:

In 2006, fire department members were responsible for maintaining our fleet of emergency vehicles, fire fighting, and rescue equipment.

The department currently maintains 2 first line pumpers, 1 reserve pumper, 1 aerial apparatus, 4 ambulances, 1 rescue truck, 1 rescue boat, one 100 kw generator and many smaller pieces of motorized equipment and hand tools.

Hydrants:

In addition to flowing and recording performance data, we performed the exterior maintenance of over 300 hydrants. This included cutting brush and grass, applying weed killer and scraping and painting as needed.

➤ **Business Inspections:**

Our crews conducted almost 300 company inspections. These include businesses, commercial buildings, churches, schools, daycare centers, senior citizen living facilities and other multi-unit apartment buildings.

➤ **Fire Prevention:**

Our Fire Prevention Team taught fire safety to over 1000 school kids from pre-school to middle school. We also provided fire safety and accident prevention to approximately 150 senior citizens. These programs were given by a combination of on-duty and off-duty personnel.

➤ **CPR Training:**

We provided CPR training to all Freshman Health Students.

➤ **Plan Reviews and Abatements:**

The Assistant Chief worked closely with the Building Department to review fire alarm and sprinkler plans for new construction and remodels. He was also an important member of the team that inspected dangerous or dilapidated buildings so they could be corrected through the abatement process.

We met with representatives from Imperium Renewables on several occasions to discuss fire response plans, fire fighting equipment, secondary tank containment and water supply for the bio-diesel refinery.

➤ **Emergency Preparedness:**

Tsunami warning siren:

The City of Hoquiam laid the groundwork for it's first AHAB Warning Siren. This was done with the assistance of the Hoquiam Fire, Police and Electrical Departments working together with the County and State Departments of Emergency Management. The Siren is in place and operational. Testing will start in May.

Disaster Preparedness education:

Volunteer Mary Davis assisted the Fire and Police Departments in creating an Emergency Preparedness program that was first given to City of Hoquiam Employees. It has been modified several times since then and will be a good program to give to citizen groups and students etc.

Alternate Emergency Operations Center:

A committee consisting of fire department members Jim Heikel, Rich Beeman and Chief Pumphrey, along with Mary Davis and local HAM radio operator Gil Brule, have been meeting each month to create an alternate EOC at the Hoquiam Cemetery. We have created a partial list of items needed and made contacts with vendors for HAM radio equipment, storage containers, and miscellaneous equipment. Chief Myers has also been a part of this team.

➤ **Testing and Hiring:**

We continued to use Public Safety Testing in 2006 and have been very satisfied with the results. Every six months we receive an updated list of qualified firefighter and paramedic candidates. We hired Brandon Ray as a firefighter and paramedic and he has been a great addition to our department.

➤ **Fire Districts:**

Besides providing ambulance service to our own residents, we also respond to an area of approximately 400 square miles of unincorporated county area. This area includes Fire districts 6, 10, 16 & 17. We have signed service agreements with these districts and charge an additional fee for most calls to these areas. We responded to these areas 125 times in 2006, which brought in an additional \$33,616 for the ambulance budget.

➤ **Out of town ambulance transports:**

We transported 207 patients to out of area medical facilities. This is a service that contributes to quality health care on Grays Harbor. Without the participation of our off-duty personnel, this service would not be possible.

These accomplishments could not have taken place without the teamwork of our entire department. Special recognition goes to each of our Captains who willingly accepted additional responsibilities to help raise the level of service that we provide our

citizens

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TOTAL CALLS AND FIRE LOSS

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Fire Calls	268	230	206	224	268
EMS Calls	2,255	2,333	2,235	2,543	2,574
Total Calls	2,532	2,563	2,441	2,767	2,842

We've seen a 14% increase in ambulance runs since 2002.

Total Fire & EMS Calls
2001—2005

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Fire Loss	\$145,050	\$187,160	\$180,160	\$116,500	\$241,800

Total Yearly Fire Losses
2002—2006

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FIRE RESPONSES

Private Dwellings	25	➤ Includes single family homes and duplexes
Apartments	3	
Industrial	3	➤ Includes commercial businesses and properties
Vehicles	8	
Brush	22	
Rubbish	21	
Service Calls	33	
Rescue	3	
Haz-Mat	13	➤ Oil, gas, and diesel spills are the most common
Mutual Aid	41	➤ Most of these responses are to Aberdeen
False	34	
False (system malfunction)	14	
False (unintentional)	17	
Misc.	31	
Total	268	

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AMBULANCE RESPONSES

Transport Destinations

Community Hospital	1485	
Out of Area Hospitals	213	Includes all out of town facilities
Local Nursing Homes	242	
Air Lift N.W. Crew	31	
Private Residence	42	
Non Transports	601	
Total	2574	

Reasons for Transport

Cardiac related	382
Trauma	324
Shortness of Breath	232
Stroke	69
Altered level of consciousness	88
Abdominal Pain, Disease Related	203
Alcohol/Drug Related	80
Psychological disorders	38
Obstetrics	53
Non or Patient Refused Transport	12
Other	601
Total	2574

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GOALS FOR 2007

As reflected in our Mission Statement, our primary goal is to provide our citizens with the highest degree of life safety and protection of property. We will strive to accomplish this through innovative fire prevention programs, aggressive fire suppression methods and advanced Emergency Medical Services.

In 2007 it will be our goal to meet or exceed the requirements placed on us by the various state and federal agencies mentioned earlier in the report. To satisfy these requirements we must meet certain standards in many different areas. These include training, health and immunizations, testing and maintenance of apparatus and equipment, hydrant flowing, business inspections and record keeping.

Outlined below are some specific goals for 2007:

- To finish the Radio system upgrade that was started in 2006
- To complete the Eastside Fire Station ramp project that was earmarked for 2006
- To remodel the alarm room and training room at the Head Quarters Station.
- To apply masonry sealer/waterproofing to Head Quarter's station
- To update computers at both stations.
- To continue our community education programs and to improve on them as new members are introduced and integrated into these programs.
- To work with city staff and citizen volunteers to expand our disaster preparedness program.
- To finish the Emergency Plan for the City of Hoquiam.
- To continue our efforts to establish a Mobile Command Center at the cemetery site.
- To pursue grant opportunities as they become available.
- To work with and encourage businesses that are considering locating in Hoquiam.
- To establish and maintain a list of qualified candidates to fill vacant positions, as they become open.
- To continue to work closely with other departments and districts. This includes training and mutual aid.
- To continue to upgrade our SCBA equipment and replace air tanks as they reach the end of their service life.

We look forward to another successful year and are excited to be part of the good things that are happening in the City of Hoquiam.