

*HFD*

*HOQUIAM FIRE DEPARTMENT*

*SERVING SINCE 1890*

# Annual Report



2009



# Chief's Message

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 2009 was another busy year for our department with a record 3,031 calls for service

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. These include out of town ambulance transfers, 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 increase staffing levels and upgrade apparatus, equipment and facilities. These improvements will allow us to continue the level of service that our citizens have come to expect. Our department looks forward to 2010 and beyond.

Sincerely,

*Ray Pumphrey*

Ray Pumphrey, Fire Chief  
City of Hoquiam

# Total Calls and Fire Loss

## Total Fire & EMS Calls 2005—2009

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Fire Calls	224	269	268	204	206
EMS Calls	2,543	2,573	2,618	2,741	2,825
Total Calls	2,767	2,842	2,886	2,945	3,031

We've seen an 11% increase in ambulance calls in the last four years.

## Total Yearly Fire Losses 2005—2009

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Fire Loss	\$136,300	\$241,800	\$125,000	\$516,000	\$259,000

Our lowest fire loss in recent years.

Our highest fire loss in recent years.

# Fire Responses

Includes single family homes and duplexes

Private Dwellings 18

Apartments 2

Industrial 2

Vehicles 7

Brush/Wildland 3

Rubbish 5

Service Calls 23

Rescue 2

Haz-Mat 23

Most of these are responses to Aberdeen

Mutual Aid 26

False Alarms 50

Misc. 45

**Total 206**

Includes commercial businesses and properties

Oil, gas and diesel spills are most common

# Ambulance Responses

## Transport Destinations

Community Hospital	1,640
Out of Area Hospitals	223
Local Nursing Homes	212
Bowerman field/Air Lift N.W.	21
Local Imaging & Special Services	84
Non Transports	645
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,825</b>

This includes all out of area facilities!

## Reasons for Transport

Includes Falls, Fractures and Motor Vehicle Accidents.

Includes Cancer, Diabetic Emergencies and Renal Failure.

Cardiac related	325
Trauma	361
Difficulty Breathing	277
Stroke	109
Altered level of consciousness	31
Abdominal Pain,	166
Disease Related	185
Alcohol/Drug Related	45
Psychological disorders	71
Seizures	65
Non or Patient Refused Transport	443
Other	747
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,825</b>



# Accomplishments

Our members responded to a record number of calls in 2009, 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 2009 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.

Our two newest paramedic/firefighters completed the regional fire academy. This consisted of approximately 200 hours of fire training, spanning a 14 week period. They received their State Firefighter I certification by successfully completing this training.

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

We continue to use the online training program through Target Safety.com. As the official Safety Training Partner of the NFPA, Target Safety 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
- Blood borne 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 was tested successfully in 2008. Testing and documentation plays a large role in maintaining our Class 4 ISO rating.



# Accomplishments, continued

- ◆ Maintenance:

- ◇ Apparatus and equipment:

- In 2009, 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 foam tender, one 100 KW generator and many smaller pieces of motorized equipment and hand tools.

- ◇ Hydrants:

- Besides 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. Some of this work was completed by temporary summer workers provided by Express Personnel.

- ◆ 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 both 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 sprinkler and fire alarm 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.

- ◆ New Foam Tender and Flammable Liquid Fire training.

- After the completion of the new Westway Terminals bulk liquid storage facility, the company supplied our department with a new foam tender and comprehensive training for flammable liquid fires. The company also sent one of our members to Texas for additional hands-on training and in 2010 Westway Terminals will send another Hoquiam Firefighter and an Aberdeen firefighter to Texas for training.



# Accomplishments, continued

- ◆ **New Generator:**  
The department replaced a 1960's vintage diesel generator with a new 100 KW Diesel Generator. This will help ensure that we will be able to provide uninterrupted services during extended Power outages.
- ◆ **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 190 times in 2009. These calls brought in an additional \$66,500 in revenue for the ambulance budget.
- ◆ **Out of town ambulance transports:**  
We transported 223 patients to out of area medical facilities when they needed medical care or procedures that were not available locally. 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.
- ◆ **Grants:**  
We continue to apply for grants for both fire and EMS. In 2009, we were able to hire an additional Paramedic/firefighter due to a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant award. This grant will provide \$108,000 over a four year period toward the salary and benefits of the new position.

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



# Emergency Medical Services

With a total of 2,825 ambulance runs, this was our busiest year to date. Of our 22 fire fighters, 14 are Paramedics and the remaining 8 are EMTs or EMT/IV Techs. In September we will have an additional paramedic, as one of our EMTs will have completed an accelerated Paramedic class.

When we receive a call for an ambulance, we may send two or four people depending on the type of call. Calls such as chest pain, breathing difficulties, man down, seizures, diabetic problems, drug overdoses and serious trauma will result in a four man response. Additional manpower is needed on these types of calls, as there are many things to do. A typical call will require an exam, which includes a patient assessment and medical history. While this is being done other personnel are taking vital signs, attaching the heart monitor and oxygen equipment, starting IV's and administering medications. During all of this the patient is placed on the gurney and prepared for transport. The hospital is contacted from the location of the call or from the ambulance while en-route to the hospital.

We are often asked why we send a fire truck to an ambulance call. We do this on those types of calls that require additional help. This allows our personnel to return if they are not needed, or to respond to the next fire or four-man ambulance call with out having to return to the station to exchange apparatus.

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. These districts are charged a per run fee for each call. This is in addition to billing the patient or their insurance company, Medicare or Medicaid if applicable.

We also average almost 20 ambulance transports each month to hospitals and facilities in the Olympia, Seattle, Tacoma and Portland areas. Off-duty personnel usually staff these out of area transports. Occasionally we will send an on-duty crew if the call is of a very urgent nature.

It is our intent to provide the best possible service to our residents and I hope this gives you a better understanding of how we operate.



# Department Chaplin

We are currently enjoying our third year with Fire Department Chaplin, Sean Hollen. Sean provides a variety of faith based services for our department as well as the Hoquiam Police Department. These include voluntary counseling for our members when they have a need and also responding to emergency calls when requested. On scene he is able to provide comfort and counseling to citizens who are experiencing emotional stress. Sean is trained to help people deal with the grief that is often present at the scene of a fire, accident or death of a loved one. It is not unusual for Sean to spend many hours helping victims to ensure that they have a place to stay or that relatives or friends have been contacted. This helps our personnel so they can focus on the emergency at hand, while knowing that family members impacted by the emergency are being taken care of.

It is not unusual to find Sean at the station in the evening or on weekends, hanging out with the guys and making himself available. An added bonus is that we occasionally get fresh home made bread, baked earlier that day by his wife Erica.

When not helping the fire or police departments, Sean is kept extremely busy as the Pastor of Harbor Calvary Chapel. He is also very involved in the activities of his three sons, Seth, Drew and Micah.

We are extremely fortunate to have the services of Pastor Sean.



# Goals for 2010

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 2010 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, testing and maintenance of apparatus and equipment, hydrant flowing, business inspections, record keeping and health and immunizations.

Outlined below are some specific goals for 2010:

- To continue our community education programs and to improve on them as new members are introduced and integrated into these programs.
- 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 maintain our facilities, apparatus and equipment. This includes the remodeling of the alarm and dorm rooms by our members, with the assistance of the City's Electrician.

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.