



City of Akron  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**



**2008  
ANNUAL REPORT**



*Photos —*

*Courtesy of the Akron Beacon Journal, Dennis Stoneman,  
Tim Smith, Mike McDonald and Bruce Ford*



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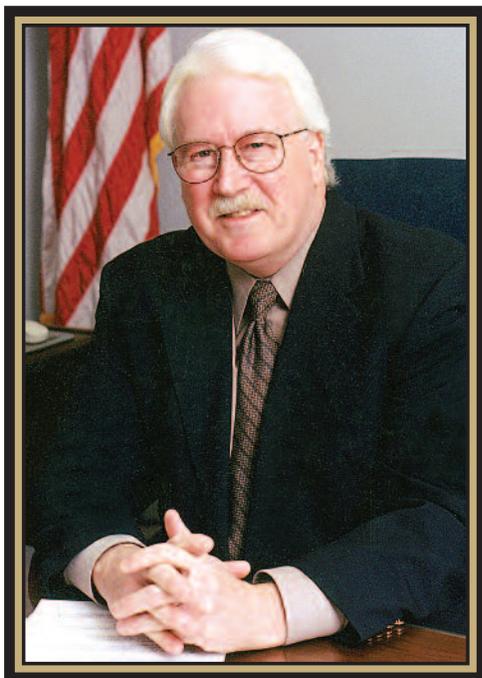
## AKRON FIRE DEPARTMENT **MISSION STATEMENT**

**O**ur mission is to improve the quality of life within the community by providing a high quality emergency medical service, by providing an excellent fire prevention program, including public education and arson investigation, by providing a firefighting force capable of handling emergencies, which may include structural firefighting, hazardous materials mitigation, all types of rescues and miscellaneous emergencies and catastrophes.

We will accomplish this mission while maintaining a high regard for the safety and health of our personnel. We will maintain a high standard of training, a quality occupational and health program, and a superior communication system. We will receive superb backing from our fire and hydrant maintenance programs.



**Donald L. Plusquellic**  
Mayor



**George Romanoski**  
Deputy Mayor



**Larry A. Bunner**  
Chief



## Akron Fire Department

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

As Chief of the Akron Fire Department and on behalf of the dedicated men and women who serve tirelessly everyday to maintain the safety of our city, it brings me great pleasure to present to the honorable Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic, his cabinet, members of Akron City Council, and most importantly the Citizens of Akron, the 2008 Akron Fire Department Annual Report.

The second year of my tenure as Chief of the Akron Fire Department ended with the swearing in of 38 new Fire/Medics, which was discovered to be the largest single hiring class in the history of the Department. These 38 cadets blazed a new trail for the Akron Fire Department, becoming the first class to include members under the age of 21. These 37 young men and one young lady infused our department with unprecedented youth and enthusiasm which will be the life blood that we will draw on to lead us into the future. Also, in 2008 we placed into service a new pumper for Station Nine (Highland Square) and a new Battalion Command vehicle for Station Two (Exchange & Market). Additionally, we were able to place into service a new snow plow pickup truck and a new support cargo van.

Globally, the fire service has evolved into a profession filled with a very diverse, highly skilled and well educated group of individuals who are more valuable and upwardly mobile than at any point in our history. As a group we are now being faced with a new challenge, that being an economy that has required tough choices to be made throughout the country and locally. In today's economic environment it can be difficult to continue providing premium services while maintaining fiscal responsibility, but with the support and ingenuity of the men and women of the Akron Fire Department we can and will meet this challenge.

Each member of the Akron Fire Department has sworn to protect and serve the citizens of Akron, so it is my job to ensure they have the requisite education, training and equipment to bring their pledge to fruition. I pledge as the proud Chief of this extremely dedicated department, that we will continue to provide the premier emergency services our city expects, deserves and have benefited from in the past.

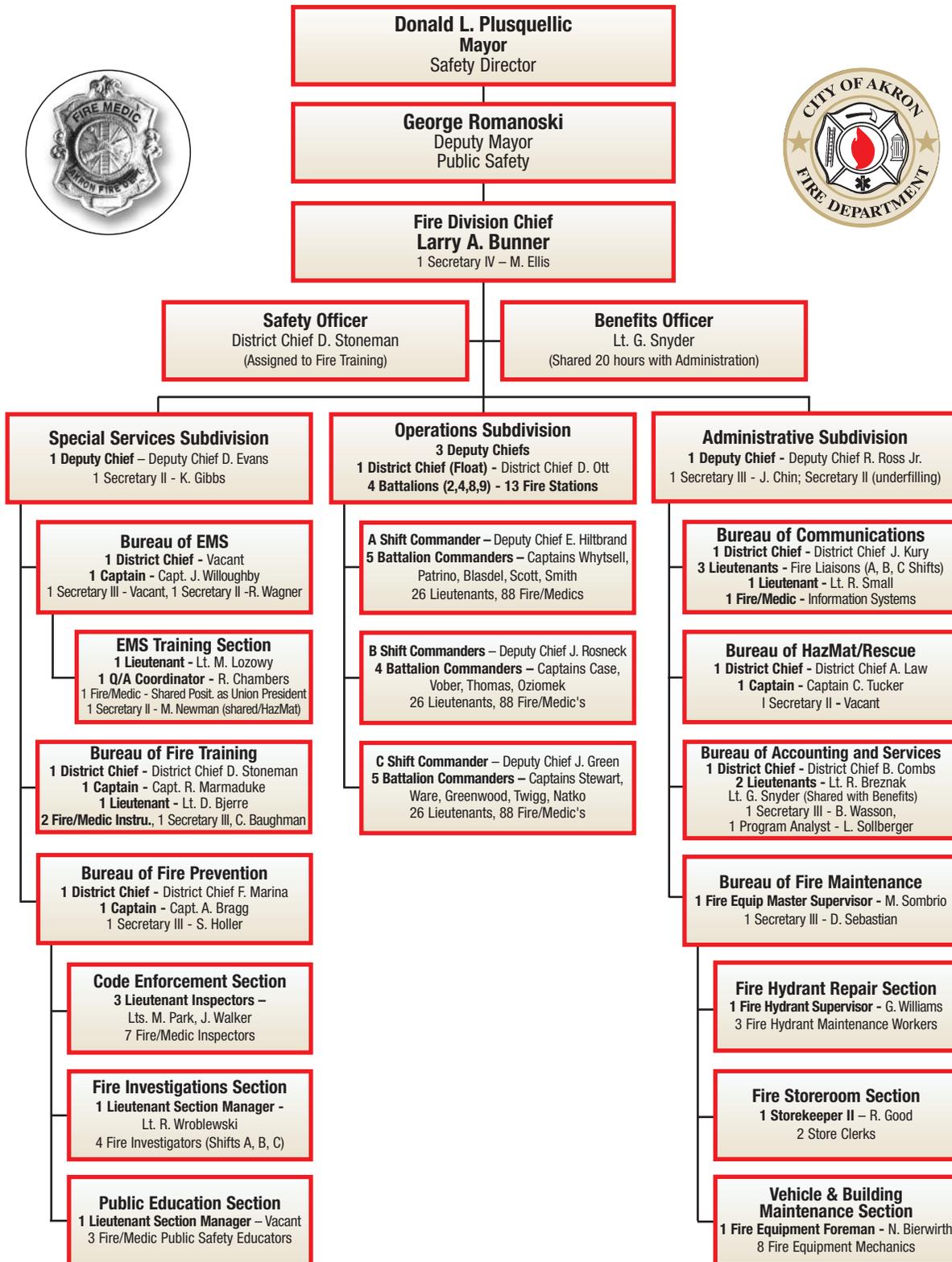
On behalf on the men and women of the Akron Fire Department I would like to offer our sincere appreciation to Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic and his cabinet, the City Administration, City Council, and the citizens of Akron for their support and assistance and I vow that we will continue our commitment to uphold the safety of the citizens of Akron.

Sincerely

*Larry A Bunner*

Fire Chief

# ORGANIZATION OF THE AKRON FIRE DEPARTMENT



# 2008 DEPUTY CHIEFS



**Edward Hiltbrand**  
Deputy Chief



**James Green**  
Deputy Chief



**Dale Evans**  
Deputy Chief



**Robert Ross Jr.**  
Deputy Chief



**John Rosneck**  
Deputy Chief

# 2008 DISTRICT CHIEFS



**Dennis Stoneman**  
District Chief



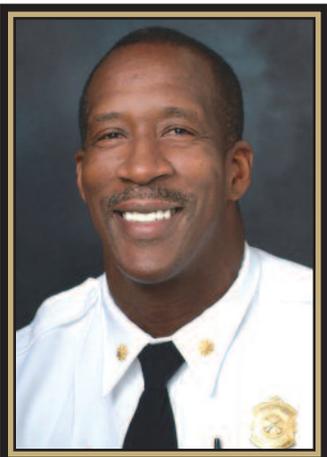
**Douglas Ott**  
District Chief



**Brent Combs**  
District Chief



**Frank Marina**  
District Chief



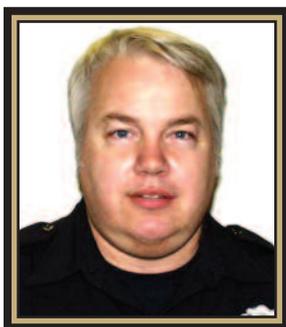
**Anthony Law**  
District Chief



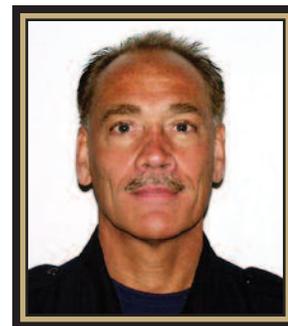
**Joseph Kury**  
District Chief

# 2008

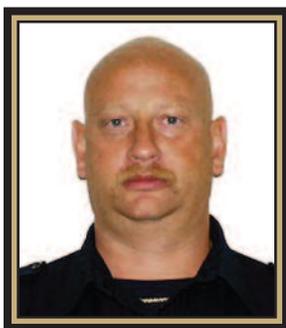
## RETIREES



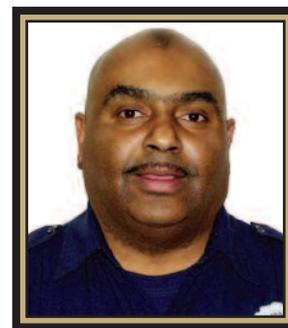
**Richard A. Leidel**  
*Retired 03-03-08*



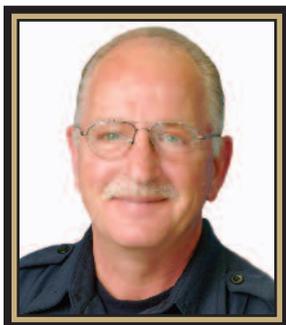
**Richard T. Jeffries**  
*Retired 05-16-08*



**Roger W. Fendenheim**  
*Retired 04-1-08*



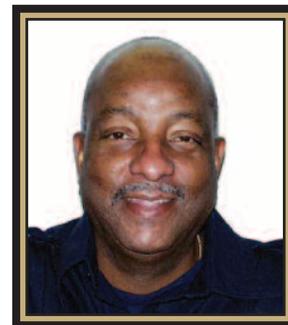
**Jibril Abdullah**  
*Retired 06-1-08*



**Michael Lozowy**  
*Retired 04-30-08*



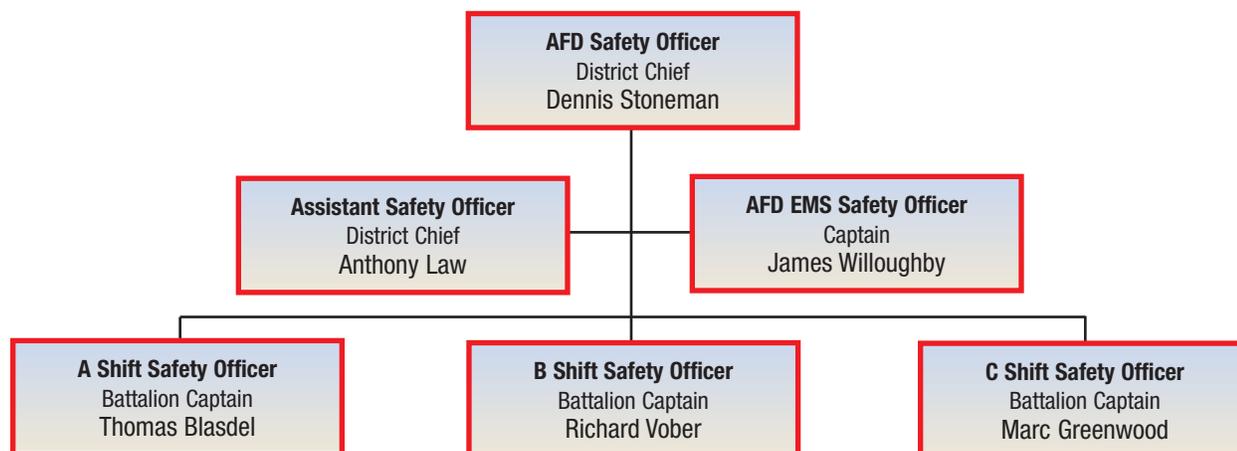
**Jerome K. Crawford**  
*Retired 08-25-08*



**William A. Gladman**  
*Retired 07-03-08*

# SAFETY OFFICER

District Chief Dennis Stoneman, in addition to being the Chief of Fire Training, functions as the Akron Fire Department Safety Officer. Captain James Willoughby handles most EMS safety issues including needle sticks, TB testing and exposure reports. A Battalion Captain on each of the 3 shifts has been assigned to serve as Akron Fire Department Shift Safety Officer to allow for a better flow of information and documentation.



In 2008, the Akron Fire Department administered TB testing to all personnel and flu shots were made available to the Akron Police Department, Communication Center and the Akron Fire Department.

The Fit for Fire performance evaluations were administered by the Akron Fire Training Bureau with all Akron Firefighters participating. In 2008, the total number of injuries and exposures dropped to the lowest level in over 8 years with the greatest reduction occurring in area of exposures to hazardous materials. The total number of work days lost as a result of injuries had a significant increase from 2007 and was at the highest level in years.

Fit for Fire performance evaluations were administered by the Akron Fire Training Bureau with 334 Akron firefighters participating. There were 246 who performed the Drill Field Test, 86 who chose the In-House evaluation, and 2 who participated in the OPOTA testing.

## COMPARISON OF INJURIES FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS

TYPE OF DATA	2006	2007	2008
Back Injuries	21	25	27
Burns	6	5	2
Days lost/Injuries	28	151	338
Exposures to Hazardous Material	209	186	24
Exposures to Infectious Disease	58	27	25
Fractures	2	1	2
Injuries sustained at EMS Incidents	5	33	33
Injuries sustained at structural Fires	26	38	30
Respond/Return Fire & EMS	4	4	3
Sprain/Strains	45	55	55
<b>Total Number of Injuries/Exposures</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>157</b>

## OPERATIONS SUBDIVISION



**John Rosneck**  
*Deputy Chief – A Shift*



**James Green**  
*Deputy Chief – B Shift*



**Edward Hiltbrand**  
*Deputy Chief – C Shift*

The majority of the personnel who work in the Fire Division are assigned to the Operations Subdivision. Operations is where the Fire Division organization is broken down into the individual firefighting and EMS companies which perform the day-to-day public safety activities of the Akron Fire Department.

Operations is divided into three shifts (the A, B, and C shifts), which work a 24-hour on / 48-hour off shift. A Deputy or District Chief fulfills the role of Shift Commander and supervises each shift. The Shift Commanders handle the daily staffing issues and the scheduling of training and other activities for their shift. They also act as the interface between their shift and Fire Administration. The Shift Commanders will assume command of larger (second-alarm or greater) incidents that occur on their shift. The Shift Commander's office is located at Station 3. The telephone number is (330) 375-2219.

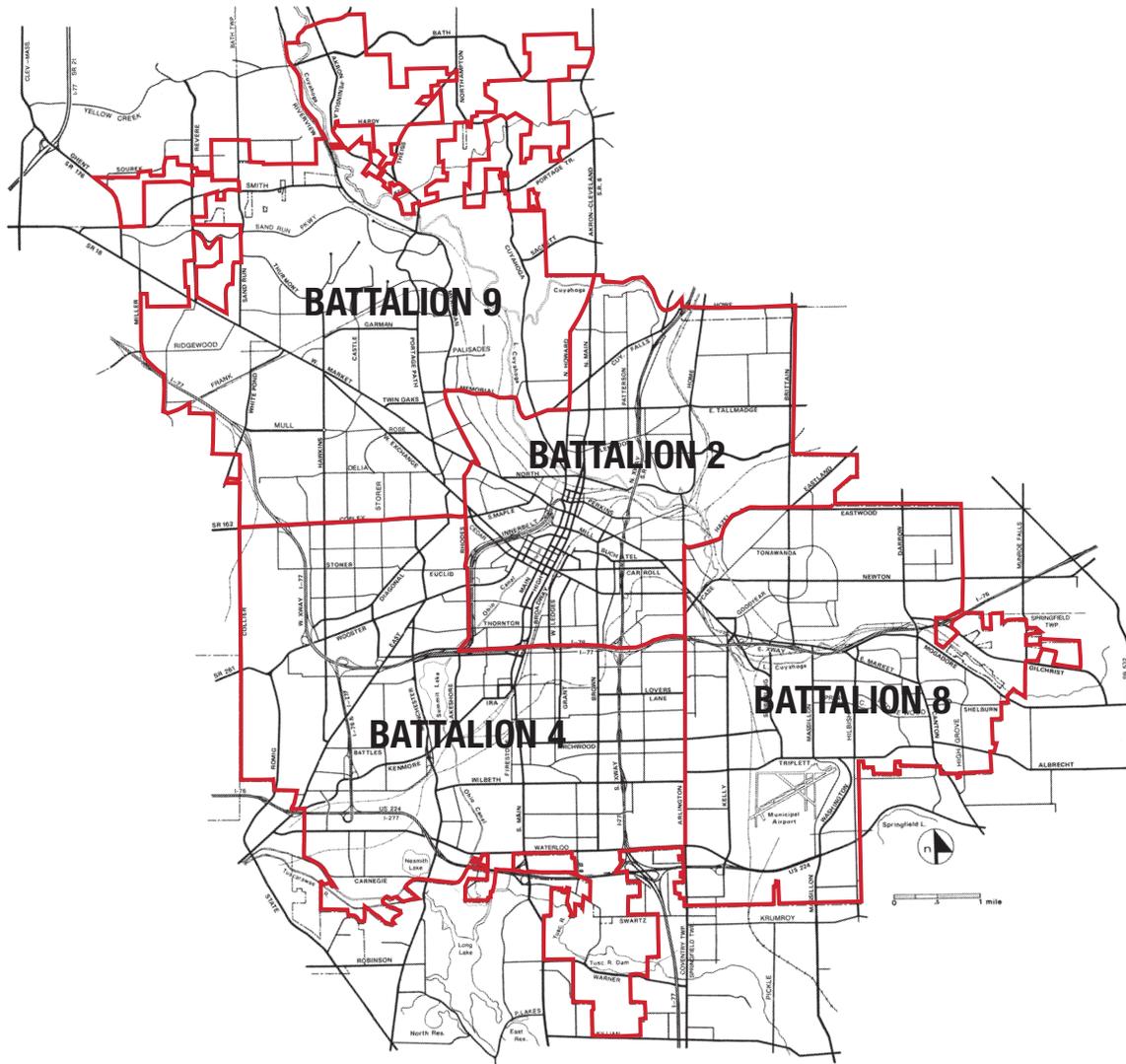
The City of Akron is geographically divided into four sections, known as Battalions. Each Battalion has several stations within its boundaries. Each shift has four Battalion Commanders (Battalions 2, 4, 8, and 9) that are

responsible for command and control of most emergency incidents in the City. The Battalion Commanders supervise the individual companies in their respective Battalions.

Each individual fire company is made up of a Company Officer (usually a Lieutenant) who supervises two to three Firefighter/Medics. The Company Officer is responsible for the supervision and safety of the company members assigned to him or her at all times. The Company Officer is responsible for all reports and communications relating to the operation of their company.

Akron Fire EMS units may be staffed in one of two ways. EMS units may be combined with a fire unit and therefore have a four-person crew. These "Combo" companies respond with their entire crew to either fire or EMS incidents with the appropriate vehicle. In addition, other EMS units are staffed with a two-person crew, supervised by the fire officer in the station where they are housed. All Akron Fire paramedics are also firefighters and rotate duty assignments between fire and EMS companies on a regular basis.

# BATTALION DISTRICTS



<b>BATTALION 2</b>	<b>BATTALION 4</b>	<b>BATTALION 8</b>	<b>BATTALION 9</b>
A-Captain Whytsell	A-Captain Patrino	A-Captain Smith	A-Captain Blasdel
B-Captain Case	B-Captain Vober	B-Captain Thomas	B-Captain Oziomek
C-Captain Stewart	C-Captain Ware	C-Captain Greenwood	C-Captain Twigg



# FIRE STATISTICS

## INDIVIDUAL FIRE UNIT RESPONSES & GRAND TOTAL – 16,571



Engines	
Engine 2	1113
Engine 3	932
Engine 4	933
Engine 5	325
Engine 6	476
Engine 7	780
Engine 8	459
Engine 9	709
Engine 10	702
Engine 11	209
Engine 12	392
Engine 13	445
Engine 14	348
<b>Total</b>	<b>7823</b>

Ladders	
Ladder 4	851
Ladder 7	526
Ladder 8	661
Ladder 9	1008
Ladder 10	270
<b>Total</b>	<b>3316</b>

Battalions	
Battalion 2	1374
Battalion 4	1630
Battalion 8	374
Battalion 9	1256
<b>Total</b>	<b>4634</b>

HazMat, Rescue	
HazMat 4	61
Rescue 4	117
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>



Other Fire Units	
<b>Total</b>	<b>620</b>

Alarms	
Times	A.M.
A.M.	2619
P.M.	4903
<b>Total</b>	<b>7522</b>

Causes For	
Fire	1012
False	618
Accidental	497
Other Emergencies	1304
Miscellaneous	4091
<b>Total</b>	<b>7522</b>

Types of Fires	
Buildings	523
Motor Vehicles	194
Grass, Rubbish & Dumps	253
Miscellaneous	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>1012</b>

Occupancy of Building Fires	
Public Assemblies	7
Educational	2
Institutional	1
Residential	418
Store & Office	10
Basic Industries	1
Manufacturing	9
Storage	50
Special	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>523</b>

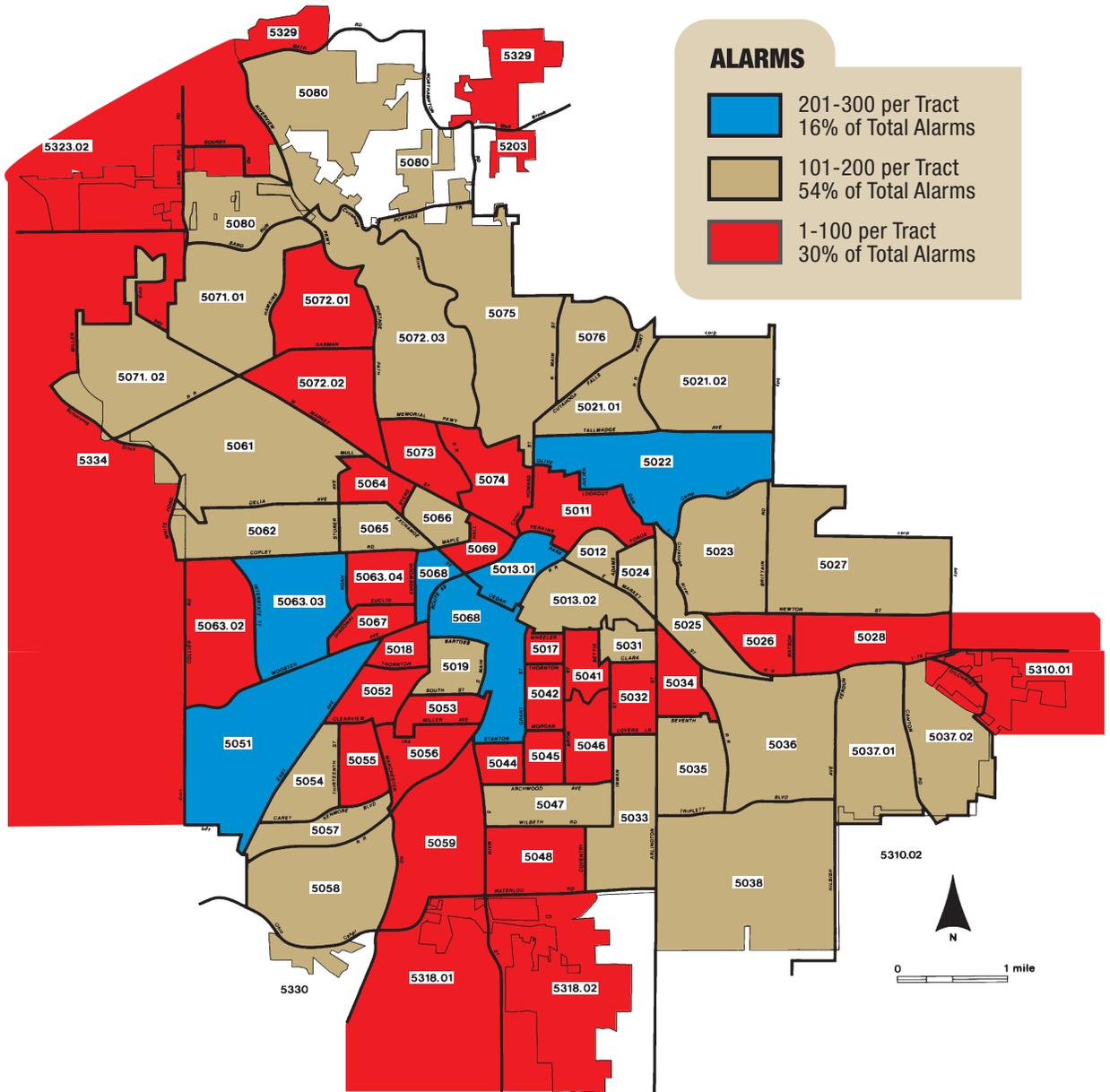
Casualties to Citizens	
Injuries	27
Fatalities	2

Casualties to Firefighters	
Injuries	105
Fatalities	0

In Services	
Engine Companies	13
Ladder Companies	5
Medics & Medic Combos	13
Personnel	352
Alarm Boxes	215

# ALARM RESPONSES BY THE AKRON FIRE DEPARTMENT PER CENSUS TRACT

TOTAL ALARMS – 7,522



## BUILDING FIRES

	Public Assembly Property	Educational Property	Institutional Property	Residential Property	Store & Office Property	Basic Industry, Utility, Defense	Manufacturing Property	Storage Property	Special Property	Total
Careless Smoking		1	1	20	1		3	1		27
Children Playing with Matches/Lighters				9			2	1		12
Unattended/ Overheated Food on Stove	1			127	3	2	7	2		142
Defective Wiring, Transformers/Short Circuit	2			45	1	1	3	3		55
Defective Electrical Appliances/ Overheated				7						7
Open Flames, Lights, Candles, Matches				9			1	1		11
Design/Construction	1			36	1		14	4		56
Overheated Furnaces, Stoves & Heaters										0
Combustibles near Heaters, Stoves, Furnaces				25		2	2	1		30
Incendiary & Set		1		53		2	10	5		71
Careless Use of Flammable Liquids							1			1
Defective Heating & Cooling				5						5
Leaking Gas Pipes and Appliances				4			1			5
Automotive Fires in Buildings				1			1			2
Lightning										0
Spontaneous Ignition				1						1
Sparks from Welding, Cutting Torches				2	1					3
Hot Ashes near Combustibles				7						7
Overheated Clothing/Lint in Dryer				15		1	1			17
Sparks from Chimneys, Incinerators	1			7						8
Static or Friction Sparks										0
Mental/Physical Impairment										0
Fireworks/Sparklers				1	1			1		3
Kerosene Heater Fires				1						1
Miscellaneous				18	1	2	1	2		24
Undetermined & Suspicious	2			25	1		3	4		35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>523</b>

## FIRE LOSSES AT \$50,000 AND OVER

DATE	ADDRESS	FIXED PROPERTY USE	BUILDING	CONTENTS	TOTAL
1/6/08	170 University Avenue	Adult Education Center	\$90,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$100,000.00
2/3/08	50 W York Street	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
2/6/08	2677 Gilchrist Road	Bar, Nightclub	\$500,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$700,000.00
2/8/08	1138 Bellows Street	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$45,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$63,000.00
2/10/08	546 Rocky Hollow Drive	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$100,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$150,000.00
2/12/08	1270 Magnolia Avenue	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$50,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$65,000.00
2/20/08	852 Copley Road	Restaurant	\$50,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$125,000.00
3/1/08	1131 East Avenue	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$36,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$54,000.00
3/10/08	1055 Home Avenue	Parking Garage	\$20,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$55,000.00
3/19/08	1256 Romayne Drive	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$100,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$120,000.00
3/30/08	117 Lake Street	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$50,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$51,000.00
4/2/08	211 Russell Avenue	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$65,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$105,000.00
4/30/08	1495 Alphada Avenue	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$45,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$75,000.00
5/13/08	401 Stanton Avenue	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$60,000.00
6/18/08	700 Ina Avenue	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$20,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$70,000.00
6/18/08	501 E Exchange Street	Multifamily Dwelling	\$50,000.00	\$100.00	\$50,100.00
6/27/08	950 S Rhodes Avenue	Manufacturer	\$80,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$580,000.00

## FIRE LOSSES AT \$50,000 AND OVER

DATE	ADDRESS	FIXED PROPERTY USE	BUILDING	CONTENTS	TOTAL
7/7/08	561 Fillmore Avenue	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$60,000.00
7/29/08	1189 Weiser Avenue	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$36,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$51,000.00
8/3/08	263 S Main Street	Multifamily Dwelling	\$100,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$120,000.00
8/22/08	984 Cole Avenue	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$45,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$60,000.00
8/30/08	765 Mercer Avenue	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$40,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$65,000.00
9/11/08	1660 Hampton Road	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$45,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$63,000.00
9/19/08	583 Millway Road	Motor Vehicle Repair	\$25,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$60,000.00
9/28/08	337 Wheeler Street	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,000.00
10/16/08	463 Patterson Avenue	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$50,000.00
10/17/08	649 Garfield Street	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$50,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$70,000.00
11/14/08	2146 E Market Street	Restaurant	\$75,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$175,000.00
11/17/08	885 Coventry Street	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00
11/22/08	Harlem Road	Office Trailer	\$60,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$65,000.00
11/29/08	1700 E Waterloo Road	Bar, Nightclub	\$25,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$65,000.00
12/15/08	73 N Arlington Street	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$75,000.00
12/26/08	750 Euclid Avenue	One or Two Family Dwelling	\$50,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$60,000.00

## LOSS CLASSIFICATION OF BUILDING FIRES

	Number of Fires	Percentage of Fires	Estimated Loss	Percentage of Loss
Under \$5000	328	62.57	\$306,284	4.25
\$5000-9999	37	7.1	\$233,700	3.24
\$10000-19999	48	9.21	\$628,260	8.7
\$20000-29999	33	6.34	\$778,250	10.79
\$30000-39999	25	4.8	\$818,600	11.35
\$40000-49999	19	3.64	\$811,600	11.25
\$50000+	33	6.34	\$3,637,100	50.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>523</b>		<b>\$7,213,794</b>	



## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Following is a summary of the activities of the Division of Fire for the year 2008 including a comparison with the activities of the year 2007.

	2008	2007	Up	Down
<b>Total Response</b>	<b>16,571</b>	<b>18,182</b>		<b>1,611</b>
<b>Alarm Total</b>	<b>7,522</b>	<b>7,930</b>		<b>408</b>
<b>Types of Incidents:</b>				
Building Fires	523	617		94
Vehicles Fires	194	254		60
Grass, Rubbish Fires	253	288		35
Miscellaneous Fires	42	18	24	
False Alarms	618	706		88
Accidental Alarms	497	608		111
Emergency Alarms	1,304	1,737		433
Misc. Calls (No fires involved)	4,091	3,702	389	
<b>Fire Loss:</b>				
Total	8,416,837	10,152,311		
Per Capita	40.65	43.02		
Population of Akron	212,000	212,000		

## FIRE STATISTICS

Building	Valuation	Loss
Public Assembly	\$6,941,730	\$1,133,520
Educational	\$510,350,000	\$102,175
Institutional	\$1,550,000	\$21,000
Residential	\$87,117,920	\$4,740,086
Store and Office	\$7,380,000	\$120,700
Basic Industry	\$1,000,000	\$20,000
Manufacturing	\$915,180,000	\$616,300
Storage	\$4,720,570	\$354,723
Special	\$216,315	\$105,290
<b>Building &amp; Contents Total</b>	<b>\$1,534,456,535</b>	<b>\$7,213,794</b>
Motor Vehicles	\$2,242,671	\$991,267
Miscellaneous	\$2,915,307	\$211,776
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$1,539,614,513</b>	<b>\$8,416,837</b>

## ALARMS WHERE NO FIRE WAS INVOLVED

<b>Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat (No Fire)</b>	
Overpressure rupture from steam (no ensuing fire)	1
Overpressure rupture from air or gas (no ensuing fire)	0
Explosion (no fire)	5
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	14
<b>Rescue and Emergency Medical Service Incident</b>	
Medical Assist	1217
Lock-in	6
Search for lost person	1
Extrication, rescue	79
Water and ice-related rescue	1
<b>Hazardous Condition (No Fire)</b>	
Combustible/flammable spills and leaks	216
Chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition	72
Radioactive condition	0
Electrical wiring/equipment problem	672
Biological hazard	2
Accident, potential accident	23
Explosive, bomb removal	4
Attempted burning, illegal action	5
Hazardous condition (no fire), other	0
<b>Service Call</b>	
Person in distress	66
Water problem	124
Smoke, odor problem	240
Animal problem or rescue	167
Public service assistance	323
Unauthorized burning	452
Cover assignment, standby at fire station, move-up	0
Service call, other	3
<b>Good Intent Call</b>	
Dispatched and cancelled en route	362
Wrong location, no emergency found	345
Controlled burning	139
Vicinity alarm	2
Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke	253
EMS call where party has been transported	3
HazMat release investigation with no HazMat found	158
Good intent call, other	6
<b>False Alarm and False Call</b>	
Malicious, mischievous false alarm	197
Bomb scare (no bomb)	12
System or detector malfunction	408
Unintentional system or detector operation (no fire)	497
False alarm and false call, other	1
<b>Severe Weather and Natural Disaster</b>	
Severe Weather and Natural Disaster	425
<b>Special Incident Type</b>	
Citizen Complaint	9
Special type of incident, other	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6510</b>

## SPECIAL SERVICES SUBDIVISION



**Dale Evans**  
*Deputy Chief*

The Special Services Subdivision is made up of the Emergency Medical Services Bureau, and the Fire Training Bureau. The Fire Prevention Bureau and the Haz-Mat/Rescue Bureau are jointly administered by the Special Services and the Administrative Subdivisions.

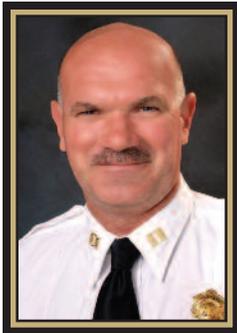
The **Emergency Medical Services Bureau** is the most visible component of the Akron Fire Department. The largest percentage of all calls to the Fire Department today are EMS calls. The Akron Fire Department initiated a municipal emergency medical system in 1978 with just 3 ambulances and a handful of paramedics. We now serve the community with 13 ambulances and over 150 paramedics. The goal of our EMS system is to continue the tradition of competent, compassionate and timely service to those individuals who live in, work in and visit the City of Akron. The Emergency Medical Services Bureau offices are located at Fire Administration and was managed in 2008 by Captain James Willoughby. The EMS Bureau telephone number is (330) 375-2071.

The **Haz-Mat/Rescue Bureau** supervises the specialized teams of the Akron Fire Department which provide emergency services outside of the realm of "normal" fire or emergency medical incidents. These teams are the Dive Rescue Team, the Technical Rescue Operations Team (TROT), and the Hazardous Materials/Rescue Team (Haz-Mat/Rescue). The Dive Rescue Team based at Station 10 responds to all water related situations in the city, including swift-water rescue, ice diving and evidence recovery diving. The Technical Rescue Operations Team based at Station 7 mitigates emergencies requiring

expertise in high-angle and rope rescue, trench rescue and confined space entry. The Hazardous Materials-Rescue Team based at Station 4 handles emergencies involving hazardous chemicals and materials and also deals with rescue situations requiring vehicular extrication and heavy rescue incidents. All of these groups supplement the county teams when necessary due to large incidents that occur outside of the City of Akron. All team members have received considerable training in their specific disciplines and attend continuing education on a regular basis in order to provide the highest level of service. The Haz-Mat/Rescue Bureau office is located at 25 E. Thornton St. (Fire Station 4) and was managed in 2008 by District Chief Anthony Law. The Haz-Mat/Rescue Bureau telephone number is (330) 375-2164.

The **Fire Training Bureau** has responsibility for the oversight and coordination of all training conducted by the Department. Instruction begins on a Fire/Medic's first day as a member of the Akron Fire Department and continues until that person retires from the fire service. Fire Training researches, develops, implements and tests on the wide variety of knowledge and skill based topics in which expertise is essential in today's fire service. Fire Training also administers the Apprenticeship program that assists in developing new recruits into Journeyman Fire/Medics. The goal of all of our training is to further develop our personnel and deliver excellent emergency services in a safe, efficient manner. The Fire Training Bureau offices are located at the Akron Fire Department Training Center located at 1636 Armory Road and the bureau is managed by District Chief Dennis Stoneman. The Fire Training Bureau telephone number is (330) 375-2635.

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BUREAU



**James Willoughby**  
*Captain*

I am pleased on behalf of the Akron Fire Department Emergency Medical Services Bureau to present a summary of the activities for 2008. The Akron Fire Department has a team of dedicated professional men and women who provide continuous compassionate emergency medical care to our community. The City of Akron and Fire Administration support our paramedics with quality ambulances, equipment, and training to provide medical care and to protect the community in the event of a disaster. Our medical advisor continually reviews and updates our paramedic protocol as new standards and procedures are developed. Our performance is under continual review by a comprehensive Quality Assurance Program administered by Rita Chambers.

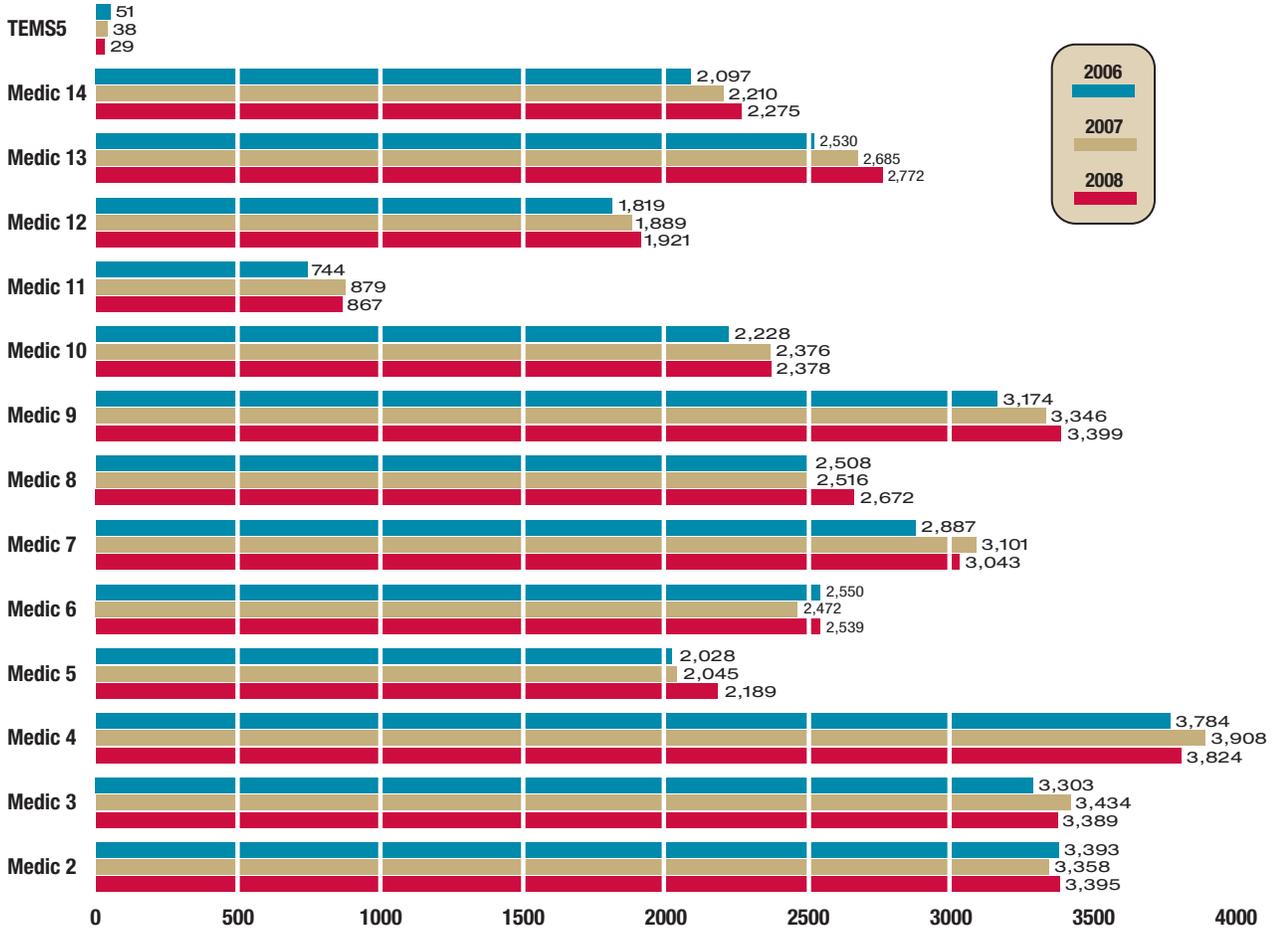
Akron Fire Department Paramedics had another busy year for 2008. Our thirteen medical units responded to 32,941 request for emergency medical service, transported 6,699 code 3 patients to the appropriate emergency

departments, and our Tactical Paramedics assisted the Akron Police Department on 29 SWAT Incidents. A Bariatric Unit was added to our fleet to assist in compassionate medical care and transportation to the bariatric population. Akron Fire Department Paramedics, along with Summa Health Systems, Akron General Medical Center (AGMC), and American Medical Response (AMR) also provided EMS coverage for the special events the City of Akron sponsored in 2008, such as the Lebron James Bikeathon, Bridgestone Invitational Golf Tournament, 4th of July Family Barbecue, State High School Soft Ball Tournament, Soap Box Derby, Akron Roadrunner Marathon, Akron Fulton Airport "Wings over Akron", Hamburger Festival, First Night Celebration, and the numerous Lock 3 Events.

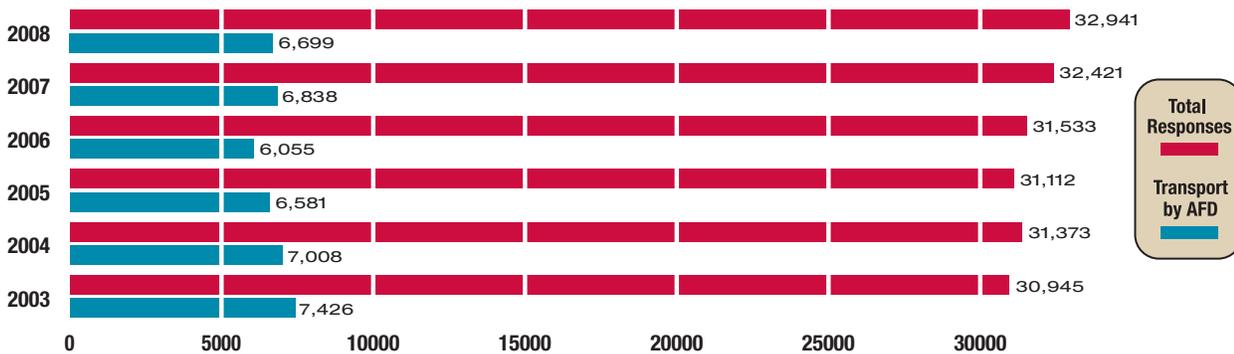
The Akron Fire EMS Bureau would also like to gratefully acknowledge the support we receive from City Administration: Mayor Don Plusquellic, Akron City Council, EMS Advisory Board (chaired by Dr. Michael Moser), our medical advisor Dr. Richard Gradisek, and to the Citizens of Akron. Finally I would like to personally thank the dedicated team of professional Fire/Paramedics who make up the ranks of the Akron Fire Department which I so proudly serve.



# TOTAL RESPONSES BY MEDICAL UNIT



# TOTAL SYSTEM REVIEW





## EMS TRAINING & QUALITY ASSURANCE



**Michael Lozowy**  
Lieutenant

EMS Training and Quality Assurance (QA) are two interrelated positions that are an integral part of the EMS Bureau. Under the guidance of Ray Minnich and Rita Chambers the basic EMS training needs of the Fire Department are met this includes Emergency Medical Technician-Basic initial and refresher training, various cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes for healthcare providers and the lay public. Many city departments turn to EMS training to provide them with ongoing CPR and Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) training as there are AED's located in every city building.

Emergency medical care for special events held in the City are coordinated under the EMS Bureau and EMS Training has a very active role. Activities include but are not limited to scheduling of staff to cover the events, equipment procurement and on site supervision and coordination with event staff. Some of the events that coverage was provided for in 2008 include the Road Runner Marathon, PGA Golf Tournament, Lebron James Bike-a-Thon, All-American Soap Box Derby and the 4th of July downtown festival.

Under the guidance of our Quality Assurance Coordinator Rita Chambers, the continuing education of all AFD paramedics is administered. This includes monthly run reviews, optional continuing education classes and specialty certification classes such as Advanced Cardiac Life Support, International Trauma Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Geriatric Education for EMS, Special Children's Outreach for Prehospital Education and Pediatric

International Life Support. Akron Fire EMS is a Community Training Center for ACLS and BLS under the American Heart Association and a State of Ohio Continuing Education Site. Maintenance of those training sites allows AFD EMS to provide on site training for all certifications necessary for paramedics to fulfill their continuing education requirements for the State. All of the training could not be accomplished if it were not for the numerous paramedics who have taken on the added responsibility of becoming instructors in the various specialties. The knowledge and experience of the AFD instructors greatly enhances and maintains the high standards of the quality educational programs that are offered.

In 2006, initial accreditation for an EMT-Basic education program was applied for and granted by the Ohio EMS Board. This process involved a self study document which was completed during the summer of 2006. A site review was completed in October by a representative from the state EMS office and approval was granted by the Ohio EMS Board in November 2006. Akron Fire EMS can now educate EMT-Basics for their initial training and does not have to utilize an outside agency for certification purposes. The High School Scholarship and inter-departmental initial EMT-B training program is administered under this accreditation. In 2008 First Responder accreditation was applied for and granted by the Ohio EMS Board. The First Responder program is offered in conjunction with the University of Akron at Buchtel High School.

The paramedic apprenticeship program is administered by the QA Coordinator. New paramedics complete a six-month training program, which orients them to the AFD protocol and EMS system. After completion of the didactic portion they

# EMS TRAINING & QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICE

are tested with written and practical skills exam and finally, evaluated in the field. The apprenticeship program was developed in conjunction with the EMS Committee from Local #330 and has proven to be extremely beneficial to entry level paramedics.

Additionally, everyone involved with EMS training evaluates equipment with input from field personnel. As technology continues to evolve we strive to stay on the “cutting edge” by providing personnel with the opportunity to work with the best equipment to provide excellent patient care.

As with any large organization involved with EMS, committee work is an integral part of our

community involvement. Some of the committees that we are involved with are the Regional Physician’s Advisory Board, Domestic Preparedness Task Force, SUMMA EMS, Akron General Medical Center Chest Pain, Tuff-Stuff, EMS Advisory Board to the Mayor, and Ohio ITLS Advisory Board.

EMS is a vital component and integral part of the Akron Fire Department and continues to evolve and provide outstanding services to the citizens of Akron. This has been accomplished by dedicated well-trained personnel who are committed to maintaining the highest standard of care the citizens of Akron have come to expect.

## Akron Fire Department Mandatory Courses

I am responsible for the coordination, planning, implementation, and instruction of AFD Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), International Trauma Life Support (ITLS), Basic Life Support (BLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and Pediatric International Trauma Life Support (PITLS) courses. This includes schedule development, enlisting and training instructors, assignment of lectures, and ongoing evaluation of teaching and testing stations.

Number certified as BLS Instructor: .....	13
Number recertified as BLS Instructor: .....	40
Number certified as ACLS Instructor: .....	3
Number recertified as ACLS Provider: .....	5
Number recertified as an ITLS Provider: .....	95
Number recertified as an ITLS Instructor:.....	44
Number certified as a PALS Instructor: .....	3
Number recertified as PALS Provider:.....	83

# FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU



**Frank Marina**  
*District Chief*

The mission of the Akron Fire Prevention Bureau is to safeguard life and property, while preserving the public welfare of those who visit or reside in the City of Akron. We do this by continuing to aggressively inspect businesses for the hazards of fire and explosion arising from the storage, handling, or use of substances, materials, or devices found on the premises. Our inspections include but are not limited to the following occupancies/structures; buildings, sheds, tents, lots, and residential properties.

The Akron Fire Department works hard to keep fires from occurring by providing code enforcement, fire safety public education, and fire investigation.

## CODE ENFORCEMENT SECTION

The Akron Fire Prevention Bureau performs annual inspections on businesses and multi-family dwellings in the city of Akron. The Akron Fire Prevention Bureau uses the Ohio Fire Code 2007 edition (OFC) adopted by the State of Ohio and the City of Akron Municipal Code Chapter 93 adopted by the city as law to protect the community from the dangers of fire. Businesses and multi-family dwellings are inspected to ensure these codes and regulations are being followed. Performing these inspections minimizes the chance of the loss of life in the city of Akron due to fires.

In the city of Akron the Fire Department shares the responsibility for plans review and acceptance test of Fire Protection Systems with the Akron Building Department. This includes new systems and/or modifications / alterations to



existing systems. Fire protection systems include but, are not limited to sprinkler systems, dry pipe systems, standpipe systems and Ansul systems.

In 2008, the Code Enforcement section performed plans reviews of 807 sets of building plans. These plans were reviewed for egress, fire



suppression, and fire alarm systems. A couple examples of some of the larger buildings where plans reviews were performed in 2008 were the Akron Urban League, Helen Arnold and David Hill Schools.

In 2008, fire companies performed over 1600 inspections on small mercantile and business occupancies, freeing up fire safety inspectors for inspections on more complex and larger occupancies.

In 2008 all inspectors attended a fireworks update given by the State Fire Marshal's office and we monitored forty-three fireworks displays, as required by the State Fire Marshal's Office. We

## FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

performed fire safety evacuation drills on all 58 Akron Public Schools and thirty private schools located in Akron, as required by the State Fire Marshal's Office. The bureau issued thirty-five Tent Permits to community groups and special events. The bureau provided site reviews and environmental information requested by city departments (Zoning, Health, Building) and other private or public agencies, to check for fire safety violations and other issues that may affect the Fire Department.

In 2008, the bureau worked with twelve interns from the University of Akron's Fire

Science Program, in an effort to allow the students to gain firsthand knowledge of the different functions of the fire service.

In 2008, lieutenants who were previously assigned a high rise were charged with the task of updating the building information and this information was entered into the database by Captain R. Vober.

In 2008, the Fire Prevention Bureau received a \$5,000 grant from The Heritage Fund to purchase digital cameras. The cameras will be used to help document code violations and to help educate the public.



SUMMIT COUNTY

# Guns-N-Hoses

Helping Those Who Help Us!

**Mission Statement:** To help the children of our Summit County Safety Forces. We help children whose Medical needs surpass the normal coverage made available to their families. All proceeds are used to help the children and all fund members are volunteers.

*WWW.GUNSANDHOSES.LEK.NET*



# Guns-N-Hoses





## CODE ENFORCEMENT SECTION

ASSEMBLIES	INSPECTIONS	RECALL REINSPECTIONS	VIOLATIONS
Church	58	10	61
Night Clubs/ Bars	63	38	242
Restaurants	212	105	518
Recreation Centers	18	4	35
Miscellaneous Assemblies	82	15	102
<b>BUSINESS</b>			
Professional Offices	374	139	607
Medical Offices	176	37	206
Barber / Beauty Shop	0	0	0
Banks	48	11	52
Miscellaneous Business	308	67	379
<b>EDUCATIONAL</b>			
Daycare	117	13	81
School Elementary	102	5	35
School Jr. High	19	1	6
School High	22	2	4
Miscellaneous Educational	24	9	32
<b>FACTORY / INDUSTRIAL</b>			
Plastic Manufacture	8	0	33
Dry Cleaning	14	3	19
Machine Shop	41	1	19
Print Commercial	24	4	39
Miscellaneous Factory / Industrial	58	18	107
<b>HAZARDOUS</b>			
Miscellaneous Hazardous	0	0	0
<b>INSTITUTIONAL</b>			
Hospitals	49	5	68
Jails	8	1	2
Miscellaneous Institutional	13	2	26
<b>MERCANTILE</b>			
Department Stores	61	13	118
Grocery Store	88	18	157
Furniture Store	23	2	37
Miscellaneous Mercantile	460	88	589
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>			
Foster Homes	130	17	98
Apartments	84	45	188
Hotel / Motel	6	1	39
Boarding House	47	8	36
Miscellaneous Residential	38	2	32
<b>STORAGE</b>			
Auto Repair	108	10	71
Miscellaneous Storage	98	23	112
<b>UTILITY</b>			
Miscellaneous Utility	42	22	64
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
Vacant / Secure	768	45	253
Miscellaneous	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3788</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>4467</b>
<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>			
Plans Review	807	0	0
Site Visits	100	0	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>4695</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>4467</b>

# PUBLIC EDUCATION SECTION

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of the Public Education Section is to create a positive change in the Life Safety behaviors of the Citizens of Akron through various educational strategies, thus reducing the incidence of injuries, death, and property loss as a result of avoidable behavior*

## Goals

Enhance public safety and reduce property loss through education and public awareness.

Provide clear and consistent information to the public and business community. Prevent injury and loss of life through changing behavior. Identify segments of the community whose lives are "at risk". To develop, present, and review life safety and injury prevention education programs.



## 2008 Accomplishments

In 2008, the Akron Fire Department Public Education Section partnered with several community organizations (Akron Children's

Hospital, Summit County Safe Kids Coalition, the American Red Cross, the Akron Health Department's Safety Seekers Program, and the American Cancer Society) to provide comprehensive public safety education and fire prevention programs. These programs provide the knowledge, skills, and education necessary to prevent the loss of life and/or property due to the ravages of fire in the City of Akron.

The following is an example of the services and programs we provide:

-  Home inspection service
-  General fire safety classes
-  Portable fire extinguisher training
-  Juvenile Fire Stoppers Program
-  Smoke Alarm awareness, distribution and installation
-  Child car seat check ups
-  Fire preparedness plans for businesses
-  Fire Safety House visits to festivals and schools



## PUBLIC INFORMATION SECTION

The Public Information Officer (PIO) develops, prepares, and coordinates distribution of news releases and public information relevant to Akron Fire Department issues. Special efforts are made to enhance citizen awareness and understanding of the Fire Department services, programs, and policies.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

Assist news personnel at the scene of incidents. Assist the news media on an on-call basis. Prepare and distribute news releases. Arrange news conferences.

Coordinate the release of authorized information. The PIO is responsible for providing timely, accurate information to the news media at the scene of emergencies. The PIO is also responsible for news releases distributed to the media concerning special events, such as Fire Prevention Week.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2008**

In 2008 the Public Information Officers continued to work with the local media to provide up-to-date information to the public.



*Public Information Officers: J. Gordon, J. Player and E. Sturkey pose for the media in front of the American Flag*

## AKRON FIRE DEPARTMENT HONOR GUARD

The Honor Guard's primary responsibility is to represent the Akron Fire Department at funerals of both active and retired members. This includes offering any assistance needed to the family of the deceased, providing pallbearers, standing Honor Guard watch at the casket, posting colors, and coordinating any logistical plans with the funeral home. The Honor Guard also participates in various civic functions when requested, such as flag raising ceremonies, Firefighter Memorial service, and community parades. Participation in the Honor Guard is voluntary and we utilize personnel both on-duty and off-duty.

In 2008, the Honor Guard participated in various events, including funerals for Charles Gladman (Retired Fire Chief), Ronnie Rodgers, William Sugget and Jerome Crawford, nine parades St Patrick's day, Firestone Park, Annual Community Outreach, Super Kids Classic, Ellet Amateur Baseball, Kenmore Community, East Akron Parade Labor Day, Super Kids Derby, West Akron Parade and several other ceremonies including Police Memorial Service, Blue Coats Dinner Meeting, 911 Remembrance Ceremony, Firefighter Memorial, and Firefighter Challenge.



*Akron Fire Department Honor Guards participate in one of Akron's Community Parades*  
**2008 Members: Albert Bragg, Christopher Boccia, David Dilauro, Jerry Elie, John Gordon, Mark Harper, Leon Henderson, William Horner, Jason Hudgens, Marcellus Johnson, Kenneth Meyn, William Romano, Andrew Tomcask**

## BENEFITS OFFICER



**Gregory Snyder**  
*Lieutenant*

The responsibilities of the Benefits Officer include assisting members of the Akron Fire Department in obtaining and submitting the necessary forms to obtain benefits when ill or injured, when contemplating retirement, or in any other matter relating to employee benefits.

The Benefits Officer assists members in matters concerning claims filed with the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation. Members of the Akron Fire Department generated 105 Supervisor's Reports of Injury in 2008 resulting in 60 claims being processed through the Bureau of Worker's Compensation. All injured personnel missed a combined total of 322 workdays.

The Benefits Officer assists members of the department in obtaining the health care and employee benefits to which they and their family members are entitled. The Benefits Officer serves as a liaison with Employee Benefits, Medical Mutual of Ohio, Ohio Deferred Compensation, the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, and the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. There were almost 800 such encounters in 2008 serving the families of active and retired firefighters.

Members of the Akron Fire Department desiring a Service or Disability retirement can receive assistance from the Benefits Officer. All inquiries with the Benefits Officer are considered confidential.

### The following seven members of the Akron Fire Department retired in 2008:

Lieutenant <b>Richard A. Leidel</b> . . . . .	Retired 03-03-2008
Firefighter <b>Roger W. Fendenheim</b> . . . . .	Retired 04-01-2008
Lieutenant <b>Michael Lozowy</b> . . . . .	Retired 04-30-2008
Firefighter <b>Richard T. Jeffries</b> . . . . .	Retired 05-16-2008
Lieutenant <b>Jibril Abdullah</b> . . . . .	Retired 06-01-2008
Firefighter <b>William A. Gladman</b> . . . . .	Retired 07-03-2008
Lieutenant <b>Jerome K. Crawford</b> . . . . .	Retired 08-25-2008

## FIRE INVESTIGATION SECTION



**Robert Wroblewski**  
*Lieutenant*

The Fire Investigation Unit conducts several types of investigations for the Akron Fire Department. The primary responsibility is to assist fire officers and com-manders make an accurate fire cause determination. Fires determined to be of Incendiary Cause are then investigated as crimes, with identification, apprehension, and successful prosecution of the responsible person(s) as the goal. Other responsibilities include Internal Investigations of Akron Fire personnel at the direction of Fire Administration, and Pre-Employment Background Investigations of all potential fire recruit candidates. The Akron Police Department provides additional assistance in any of the above investigations when requested.

In 2008 the Fire Investigation Unit received 238 referrals: 164 were residential structure fires; including 69 vacant structures, 32 exposures to other fires, and 20 residential garages. Also referred were 12 commercial structure fires, 1 of which was vacant, 42 vehicle fires, and 20 other miscellaneous fire incidents. Of these 238 referrals, 128 were determined to be incendiary fires: 86 were residential structure fires, including 39 vacant structures, 12 were exposures to other set fires, 4 were commercial structure fires, 33 were vehicle fires, 12 of which were stolen autos, and 5 other miscellaneous fire incidents, including exploding fireworks damaging a public pay phone.

Incident investigations resulted in 7 arrests with 5 convictions, 1 grand jury no-bill, and 1 case pending. The Fire Investigation Unit also conducted 2 investigations involving 2 civilian fire fatalities during 2008. Both fatal fires were determined to be Unintentional.

In 2008 the Fire Investigation Unit, assisted by Akron Police personnel, conducted a total of 80 comprehensive Pre-Employment Background Investigations prior to the selection of a class of 38 new Firefighter/Paramedic recruits, who began the Fire Training Academy in early September. The Akron Fire Department hopes to hire an additional class in 2009. Additionally, the Fire Investigation Unit conducted several Internal Investigations for Fire Administration, and Fire Investigation Unit members also attended several training conferences throughout the year.

The Fire Investigation Unit continued to be the regional reporting location for fire/burn injuries during 2008. As required by law, information re: suspicious fire/burn injuries is forwarded from area hospitals to our office where it is retained for potential investigative purposes.

The Fire Investigation Unit also provided assistance to other local communities and law enforcement agencies when requested throughout the year. We would like to thank the Ohio State Fire Marshal's Office, their Forensic Laboratory, and other County, State, and Federal agencies, with special thanks to the Akron Police Department for their continued assistance and support throughout 2008.

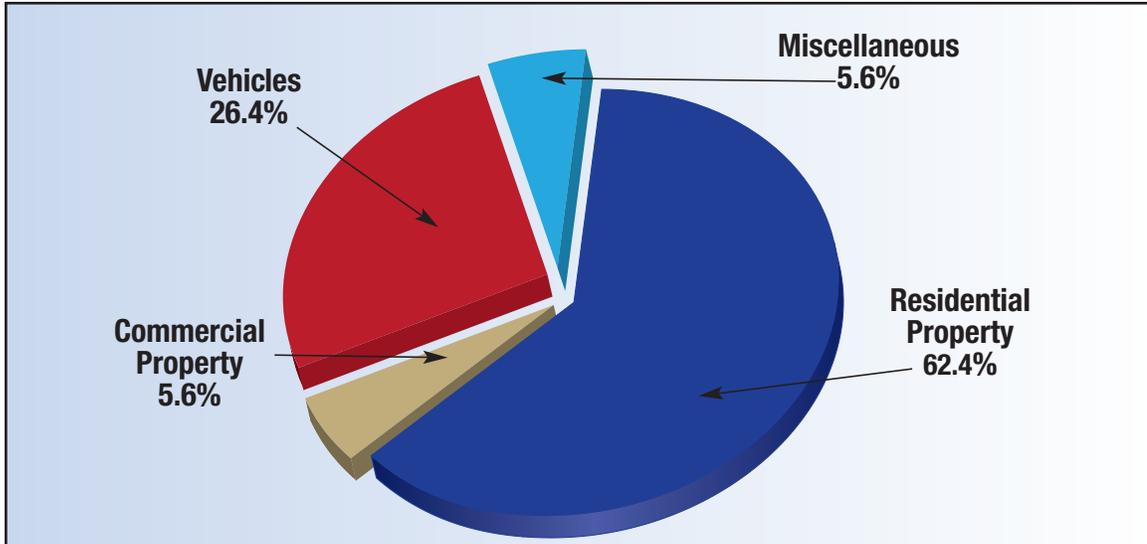
### FIRE INVESTIGATORS

**Robert Wroblewski**, Lieutenant  
**Bradley McKittrick**, Lieutenant

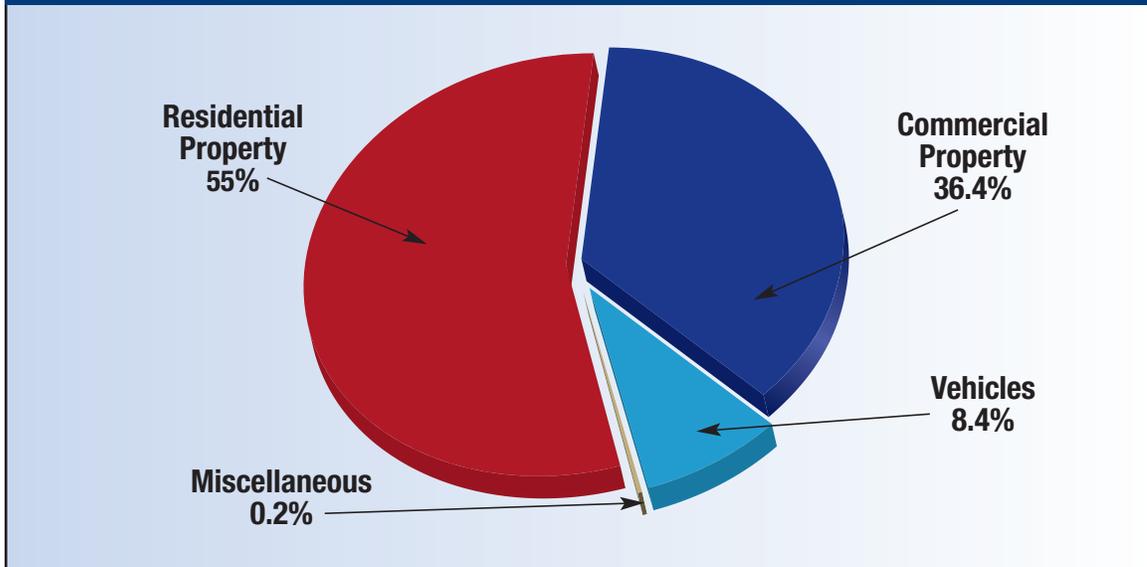
**Matt D'avello**, Investigator  
**Ellis Polk**, Investigator

**Todd Webb**, Investigator

# FIRE INVESTIGATION SECTION



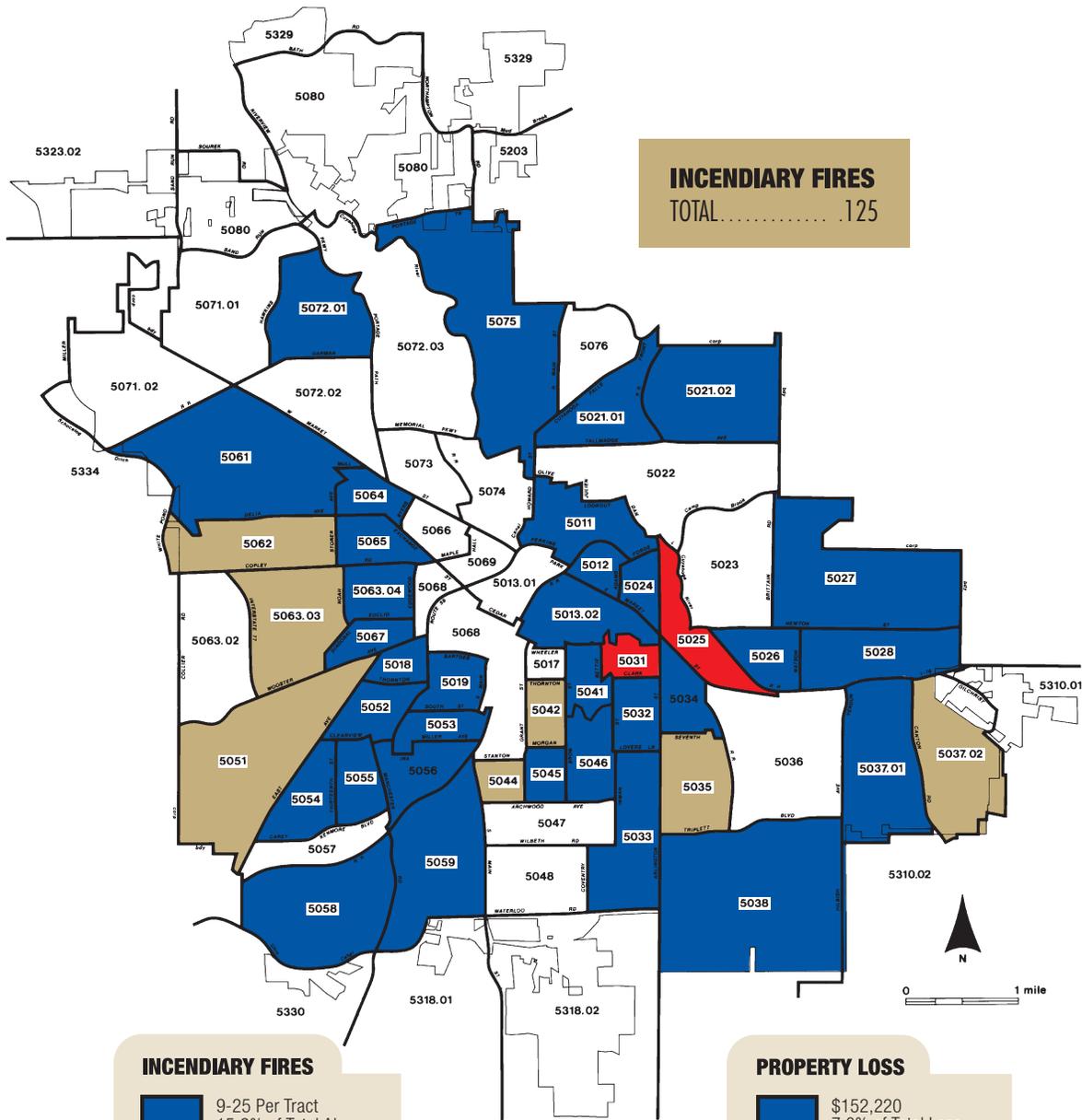
## 2008 INCENDIARY INCIDENTS



## 2008 INCENDIARY DOLLAR LOSS – \$2,182,686

# INCENDIARY FIRES PER CENSUS TRACT

## AKRON, OHIO



**INCENDIARY FIRES**  
TOTAL..... 125

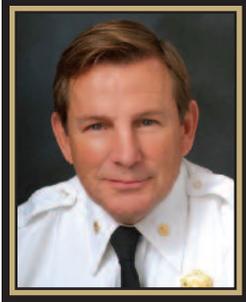
**INCENDIARY FIRES**

- 9-25 Per Tract  
15.2% of Total Alarms
- 5-8 Per Tract  
32% of Total Alarms
- 1-4 Per Tract  
52.8% of Total Alarms

**PROPERTY LOSS**

- \$152,220  
7.0% of Total Loss
- \$1,246,290 Per Tract  
57.1% of Total Loss
- \$784,176 Per Tract  
35.9% of Total Loss

## BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING



**Dennis Stoneman**  
*District Chief*

The Training Bureau is charged with organizing, developing and scheduling training for all department members. This training must comply with federal, state and local requirements and standards. Our goal is to provide and maintain the most highly trained and competent department possible for the citizens of Akron. Calendar year 2008 has provided us with many significant changes and challenges in pursuit of this goal.

Many thanks to the Akron Fire Training Staff composed of Captain Marmaduke, Lt. Bjerre, Lt. Heape, Johnnie Player, Brenda Chapman, Mike McDonald and Carol Baughman who all have worked extra to make many the changes possible in 2008.

### **Firefighter Recertification and C.E.**

As of 1/24/08 anyone who possesses an Ohio firefighter certificate was required to submit an application for renewal of the certificate. Under the direction of Captain Marmaduke, this renewal/recertification process was completed for all members. The renewal process includes a mandatory continuing education component of 54 hours each 3 years. The Akron Fire Department presently well exceeds this requirement through the collective efforts of the training academy, specialty training, and company level training.

### **New Training Facility**

In anticipation of the 2008 recruit class, the department went in search of a facility large enough to accommodate it. The end result was the relocation of the Training Academy from

Station 14 to the former Woodford Army Reserve Center at 1635 Armory Rd. The facility had been vacant and somewhat neglected for several years when the City acquired it, but with a great deal of help it was up and running in time for the new class.

Many thanks to Chief Bunner, Chief Ross, Mike Sombrio, Neil Bierwirth, Steve Wallace, Rich Good, Jerry Wright, the fire companies and everyone else who helped get us here.

### **2008 Recruit Class**

This class of 38 recruits was the largest class in AFD history. From the time the hiring list was posted until their graduation, this class posed challenges at every step of the hiring and training process. Background investigations, clothing issues, rigs, equipment, instructor levels, training sites and the logistics of training were just some of the areas which strained the resources of the department and the Training Academy. But once again, with the help of many individuals, we were able to graduate all 38 members of the class. Many thanks to Rich Good for his patience, to Mike Hoard for his efforts and instruction, to all the instructors who pitched in, to Station 6 for their help with air bottles, to the many companies who assisted with training, and again to Fire Maintenance, it couldn't have happened without you. Special thanks to the Training 19s - Jim Case, Dave Fuller, Marc Marcinkoski and especially Jim Knafel for their considerable contributions.

### **Apprenticeship Program /Monthly Training**

The apprenticeship program has been completely revised by Brenda Chapman. The training will now be completed in quarterly modules rather than monthly. This change is designed to allow more flexibility on the part of the officers conducting this training.

# BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING

A new program of monthly company training (to begin in January 2009) has been developed to introduce the new department training textbook – Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills 2nd edition. This training will parallel the apprenticeship program and provide company officers with pertinent training material.

## Electronic Training Documentation & Resources

This year we have begun a process designed to improve record keeping and information dissemination. A new series of electronic reporting forms and training resources are being developed to document training activities, provide reference materials, and record required company activities. It is our goal to make these materials user friendly, up to date, pertinent, and accessible.

## On Going Training

While the majority of 2008 was devoted to preparation for and training of the new recruit class, the Training Academy still was responsible for and conducted ongoing and mandatory training for our members and additional duties.

-  Fit for Fire Testing
-  SCBA Fit Testing
-  Pump Testing
-  Sexual Harassment Training
-  Drug Testing Policy
-  Channel 1911 video production
-  Video production by Mike McDonald (Video One)

## Personnel Changes

After many years of service at the Training Academy, Johnnie Player transferred to the Inspection Bureau - many thanks to him for his service and dedication.

Lt. Andy Heape, a 2008 addition to the Training Academy will retire early in 2009 and has been a tremendous asset and will be sorely missed.



# BUREAU OF FIRE TRAINING



## ADMINISTRATIVE SUBDIVISION



**Robert C. Ross Jr.**  
*Deputy Chief*

Through the diligent efforts of the many employees that comprise the Administrative Subdivision, I am pleased to report that in 2008 we continued to fulfill our mission of providing the equipment, tools, supplies, and support necessary for the smooth operation of the

Division of Fire. I also wish to thank all of the employees of the subdivision for their individual and collective contributions in support of the ongoing mission to protect the lives and property of the citizens and visitors here in the City of Akron. The Administrative Subdivision oversees the day-to-day activities of the administrative and clerical staff, the Accounting and Services Bureau, the Communications Bureau, and (in conjunction with the Special Services Subdivision) the Fire Prevention Bureau and Haz-Mat/Rescue Bureau.

The **Administrative and Clerical Staff** provide the essential services necessary to allow our division to operate continuously and smoothly. Purchasing, payroll, incident record management, personnel records, public reception/inquiries, and injury/exposure tracking are just some of the many duties carried out by the administrative and clerical staff.

The **Accounting and Services Bureau** is responsible for many "behind-the-scenes" activities necessary for the continued operation of the division. These include the preparation and oversight of the annual budgets utilized by the Akron Fire Department; the development of specifications used to purchase vehicles, tools, equipment, and supplies; the maintenance of buildings, vehicles, and equipment; and the acquisition, storage and distribution of materials and supplies necessary for operations. The Fire

Maintenance Section, Hydrant Maintenance Section, and the Fire and EMS Storeroom Section report to the Accounting and Services Bureau and work diligently to ensure the needs of the firefighting and EMS companies are met on a continuous basis.

The **Communications Bureau** provides the important task of providing fire and EMS supervision at the City's Safety Communications Division (9-1-1 center). They also work closely with the Akron Communications Division to insure all means of communication used by our division remain functional and reliable. It also provides oversight to the Fire employees assigned to the Safety Forces Information Technology Section, which is a joint operation between police and fire providing support for various Information Technology systems such as our computer-aided dispatching system, SafetyNet network, and records management systems.

The **Fire Prevention Bureau** (co-managed by the Special Services Subdivision) provides critical safety support services on a daily basis. The Code Enforcement Section provides plans review and fire inspections which help to reduce fire loss and insure the safety of both the citizens and the firefighters. Our code enforcement inspections are conducted by certified inspectors assigned to the both the section itself and also assigned to firefighting companies. The Public Education Section provides important life safety education to a wide cross-section of the community including schools, businesses, senior residences, government agencies, and other entities as required. The Fire Investigation Section provides cause and origin determinations for all fire incidents, along with internal and new-hire background investigations as required. All personnel assigned to the Fire Investigations Section are not only experienced firefighters but also hold Ohio Peace Officer commissions and are Akron Police Department reserve officers.

## ACCOUNTING AND SERVICES BUREAU



**Brent Combs**  
*District Chief*

The Accounting and Services Bureau, located within the Fire Division's main administrative offices, provides a broad range of vital services to the Fire Department. While our work is largely behind the scenes, there is not an area of the

Department that could function without the efforts of our Bureau. In addition to our downtown offices, the Bureau encompasses several other separate sections responsible for their particular specialties, including Fire Maintenance, Hydrant Maintenance, and the Fire Storeroom, all located within our Triplett Blvd. facility.

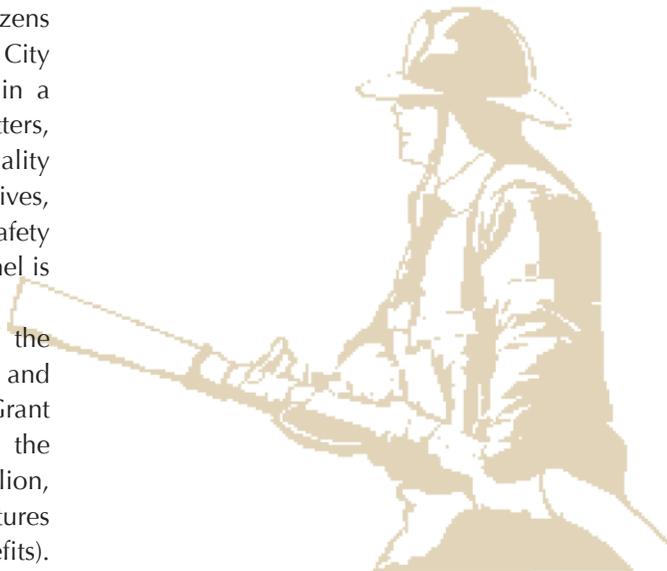
The primary mission of the Accounting and Services Bureau is to support the efforts of all of the other components of the Fire Department. Our main goal is to efficiently utilize the generous funding provided to us by the citizens of Akron, Akron City Council, and the City Administration. Our focus is to operate in a fiscally responsible manner in all matters, while at the same time provide for high quality service delivery to every person that lives, works, or visits in our city. Obviously, the safety and security of the public and our personnel is always the top priority.

One of the major responsibilities of the Bureau is to prepare, submit, administer, and oversee the Operating, Capital, and Grant Fund budgets of the division. In 2008, the combined budgets totaled about \$38 million, although more than 90% of the expenditures were for personnel costs (salaries and benefits).

The remainder of the budget funded the day-to-day operations of the Fire Division.

Maintaining the City's investment in our facilities continues to be another responsibility of the Bureau, including items such as fire station roofs, HVAC systems, electrical systems and our information technology infrastructure.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the personnel of the Accounting and Services Bureau for their dedication, hard work, and cooperative effort, without which we would be unable to accomplish our mission. I also would like to thank City Council and the City Administration for their support throughout the year. Most importantly, I would like to thank the citizens of Akron for the opportunity to serve and help safeguard them and all that they hold dear – it is truly a privilege.



## SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS



**Joseph J. Kury**  
*District Chief*

The Safety Communications Division is responsible for transmitting the emergency needs of the public to emergency responders. Calls are received from the public via 9-1-1 phone lines, alarm boxes, TDD (Communication for the deaf), referrals from police, walk-ins at fire stations and other means.

Calltakers (Tech 1s) enter information for incidents and code the call using the CAD (Computer Aided Dispatching) and Plant /CML 911 equipment. This equipment with the VESTA and MaGIC software, allows us to get ANI (Automatic Number Identification) and ALI (Automatic Location Information) from wired, wireless and Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phones. This technology allows the plotting of the caller's location and displays it on a map to provide first responders the location of the emergency. Computer software determines whom the dispatcher will send, based on location and specialized need. The dispatchers (Tech 2s) alert the responding units, confirm their response and document the arrival and in-service times. Fire Lieutenants and Police Sergeants monitor the process. Their duties include assuring proper response and adjusting it when appropriate, providing for the needs of responders, and notification to proper authority of significant incidents.

The Communications training officers were active in training new employees, promotional candidates and maintaining all required certifications for the technicians. Four candidates were hired as Communication Trainees and successfully graduated to become Communications Technician 1. Technicians Alescia Harr and Jacqueline Hudgens were promoted to Technician 2 and were trained as dispatchers.

In 2008, Service Awards were presented to Dion Browder, Kathy Ennis, Lorie Fuller, Gloria McHargh-Beard, Vickie Millender, Phyllis Poulson, Wanda Steiner and Lorie Witchey for twenty years of dedicated service. All these women started at Fire Dispatch in 1988. Nancy Rundle, who started at Police Dispatch, received a thirty-year award.

Our Information Systems (IS) personnel continue to work tirelessly to integrate the new Vesta 911 software with our CAD by evaluating and adjusting the interface to achieve better user control and NFIRS 5 reporting compliance. The (IS) specialists have been active in the process of the development of our own Fire reporting system. During the year, all the Fire Department response codes were evaluated and changes were made to make more efficient use of Department resources. They continue to update the Fire Department Web Site with increased capabilities for training, information and resource sharing.

Through the conscientious, professional efforts of our secretaries, call takers, dispatchers, tech 3s, police sergeants, fire officers, and information systems personnel, the emergency needs of the City of Akron are recognized and efficiently addressed.

## MONTHLY ALARM DATA 2008

Month	FIRES				NON-FIRES				Total Alarms
	Buildings	Grass/ Rubbish	Motor Vehicles	Misc	False	Accidental	Emergency First Aid	Misc	
January	39	7	17	0	63	33	119	251	529
February	46	4	11	2	44	42	127	245	521
March	49	10	15	18	42	38	107	335	614
April	37	37	16	1	49	49	102	321	612
May	42	24	15	2	46	31	114	324	598
June	56	28	16	7	57	35	91	359	649
July	36	41	20	5	53	47	110	321	633
August	54	41	19	2	51	51	115	345	678
September	46	23	18	4	68	52	127	732	1070
October	40	24	17	0	51	37	93	299	561
November	39	10	18	1	41	33	97	268	507
December	39	4	12	0	53	49	102	291	550
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>1304</b>	<b>4091</b>	<b>7522</b>

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/RESCUE BUREAU



**Anthony R. Law**  
District Chief

The Hazardous Materials/Rescue Bureau Manager is District Chief Anthony R. Law; telephone 375-2164.

The Hazardous Materials/Rescue Bureau and associated teams responded to 161 emergency responses in 2008. The Haz-Mat Rescue Bureau oversees

the activities of the Haz-Mat Team, the Dive Team and the Technical Rescue Team. All three teams have members who serve in leadership positions for the Summit County Special Operations Teams as well as on the State Technical Advisory Committees. This year we conducted site visits and Risk and Hazard Analysis on 31 Extremely Hazardous Substance (EHS) facilities in the City of Akron. This information is made available to all engines and

ladders. We also keep files on all 130 SARA Title III (Superfund Amendment & Reauthorization Act) facilities in Akron.

### HAZMAT

In 2008 we placed a large importance on training. We trained new firefighters to the Hazmat Technician Level. Our Hazmat technicians were able to train extensively on duty as well as with the Summit County Hazmat Team. We also sent team members to the following conferences: The Continuing Challenge in Sacramento CA, The Hazmat Explo in Las Vegas NV, and the Baltimore MD Hazmat Conference.

In keeping with our commitment to work with the emergency response teams of Summit County, we continue to have members work in key positions such as Zone Coordinators, Asst. Director of Operations, SCSORT Executive Board and the LEPC. Thanks to all team members for their dedication and professionalism.



## WATER RESCUE TEAM

The year 2008 saw the Water Rescue Team add eleven new divers to the roster, as they began their training for Public Safety Diving. This bolstered our ranks to 30 divers across the three shifts. Each of the candidates successfully passed their fitness swim and completed the 12 week introductory course. The new divers made their Open Water checkout dives throughout the summer, completing the first leg of their education. They were then integrated into the monthly training sessions so they could begin to familiarize themselves with team operations and to gain experience diving prior to beginning the Advanced and Rescue Dive courses.

We also had four of our established team members qualify for and begin to learn the position of Dive Master. As dive masters, they will be eligible to attend an instructor training course and step in to replace our current instructors as they retire or are promoted. The dive master candidates have been giving dive briefings and de-briefings, preparing and overseeing the dives for monthly training, and assisting the instructors with the new class of divers. The team tallied more than 250 dives during the year including training and emergency responses.

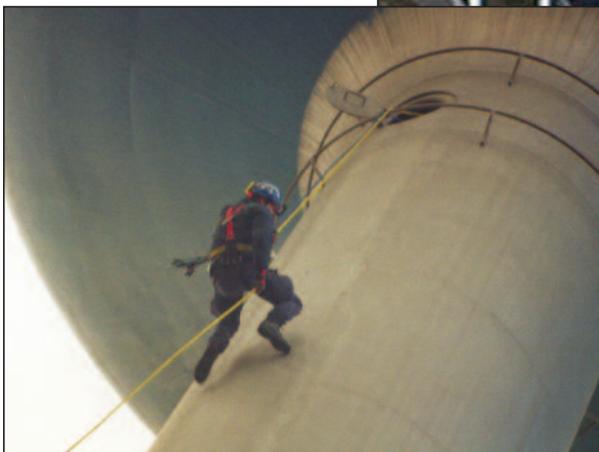


## TECHNICAL RESCUE OPERATIONS TEAM

During the past year the Technical Rescue Operations Team advanced all of their 38 personnel to the level of Technician in all disciplines of Trench Collapse, Building Collapse, High Angle Rope Rescue, and Confined Space Rescue.

The monthly training that is mandatory for the team is conducted over three days each month. The training is based on NFPA 1670 standards that keep all of the team members at their peak performance.

The team has continued its practice of training annually with the Summit County Technical Rescue Team. This in turn keeps the team committed towards the Region 5 deployment that now exists within the State of Ohio.



# PERSONNEL

## Number of Employees for each Classified Position

TITLE	Actual	Authorized
<b>Uniform</b>		
Fire Chief	1	1
Fire Deputy Chief	5	5
Fire District Chief	6	7
Fire Captain	18	17
Fire Lieutenant	83	90
Firefighter	269	281
<b>Total Uniformed Personnel</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>401</b>
<b>Support</b>		
Fire Equipment Supervisor	1	1
Fire Equipment Foreman	1	1
Fire Equipment Mechanic	8	9
Fire Hydrant Repair Supervisor	1	1
Fire Hydrant Maintenance Worker	3	3
Secretary IV	1	1
Secretary III	4	6
Secretary II	4	3
Secretary II (Temp)	1	2
Secretary I	0	0
Storekeeper II	1	1
Stores Clerk	2	2
Programmer Analyst I	1	1
Quality Assurance Coordinator	1	1
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Total Division</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>433</b>

### Personnel Data For

Appointments .....	40	Separated (Temporary - COE) .....	0
Retirements .....	7	Demotions .....	0
Resignations .....	2	Promotions .....	1
Reinstated .....	0	Positions not filled .....	22
Dismissal .....	1	Deceased (Active) .....	0
Transfers to other Departments .....	1	Deceased (Retired) .....	12

# FIRE MAINTENANCE BUREAU



**Michael Sombrio**  
*Fire Equipment  
 Supervisor*

The Equipment Maintenance Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of Fire Department vehicles and equipment as well as the maintenance of thirteen Fire Stations.

The following is a summary of the activities of this Division for the year ending December 31, 2008:

JOBS	
<b>VEHICLE REPAIRS - MAJOR</b> .....	<b>3 6 3</b>
Includes engines, drive trains, fire pumps, transmissions, clutches, collisions and rust damage, etc.	
<b>VEHICLE REPAIRS - MINOR</b> .....	<b>9,736</b>
Includes tune-up, ignition and wiring, lights, brakes, steering, etc.	
<b>PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE</b> .....	<b>406</b>
Includes general inspection, lubrication and road tests.	
<b>BUILDING REPAIRS</b> .....	<b>2,014</b>
Includes heating & cooling, plumbing, elevators, gas pumps, electrical, structural, appliances, and lawn & garden equipment.	
<b>SCBA REPAIR - MAJOR</b> .....	<b>91</b>
Includes complete overhaul of breathing air equipment.	
<b>SCBA REPAIR - MINOR</b> .....	<b>2,083</b>
Includes maintenance and repair of all self-contained breathing apparatus and medical equipment	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE</b> .....	<b>691</b>
Includes driver training, Underwriter tests (pump, hose, and aerial), response to multiple alarms and support services pertinent to the Fire Department.	

# FIRE MAINTENANCE BUREAU

## In 2008, Fire Maintenance placed the following vehicles into service

- 2008 Pierce 2000 GPM Pumper assigned to E-9.
- 2008 Ford Expedition assigned to B-2.
- 2008 Chevrolet Van assigned as Hydrant 1.

## The following vehicles were reassigned within the Department:

- 060900 was reassigned as a spare pumper.
- 065203 was reassigned to Training.
- 060207 was reassigned to Training.

## The following vehicles were removed from service and turned in to Motor Equipment for auction or reassignment

065103

068409

068508



# FIRE STATIONS AND EQUIPMENT



## **Station No. 2 - 952 E. Exchange St.**

2001 Sutphen, 2000 GPM Pumper  
2006 Ford, Emergency Medical Vehicle  
2008 Ford, Battalion Commander Vehicle

## **Station No. 3 - 59 S. Maple St.**

2003 Pierce, 2000 GPM Pumper  
2007 Ford, Emergency Medical Vehicle  
2003 Ford, Shift Commander Vehicle

## **Station No. 4 - 25 E. Thornton St.**

2005 Sutphen, 2000 GPM Pumper  
2001 Sutphen, 2500 GPM Quint Ladder  
2006 Ford, Emergency Medical Vehicle  
1993 Pemfab, Haz-Mat/Heavy Rescue  
2007 Ford, Battalion Commander Vehicle

## **Station No. 5 - 2460 E. Market St.**

1991 Sutphen, 1500 GPM Mini Tower  
2006 Ford, Emergency Medical Vehicle  
1996 Pierce, Foam Truck

## **Station No. 6 - 1685 S. Hawkins Ave.**

1991 Sutphen, 1500 GPM Mini Tower  
2006 Ford, Emergency Medical Vehicle  
1995 Chevrolet, Air Source Truck

## **Station No. 7 - 541 E. Tallmadge Ave.**

1994 Sutphen, 1500 GPM Pumper  
1997 Pierce, 75' Aerial  
2002 Ford, Emergency Medical Vehicle  
1992 Chevrolet, Technical Rescue Truck  
2006 United, Technical Rescue Trailer  
2004 John Deere - 2004 Triton  
Trailer Technical Rescue Gator and trailer,

## **Station No. 8 - 1277 E. Archwood Ave.**

1991 Pierce, 500 GPM Pumper  
1995 Pierce, 75' Aerial  
2003 Ford, Emergency Medical Vehicle  
2003 Ford, Battalion Commander Vehicle  
1989 Haulmark, Haz-Mat Decon Trailer

## **Station No. 9 - 98 Dodge Ave.**

2008 Pierce, 2000 GPM Pumper  
2007 Pierce, 75' Aerial  
2004 Ford, Emergency Medical Vehicle  
2006 Ford, Battalion Commander Vehicle

## **Station No. 10 - 2225 4th St. SW**

2007 Pierce, 2000 GPM Pumper  
2003 Pierce, 75' Aerial  
2002 Ford, Emergency Medical Vehicle  
1984 B & M, Boat Trailer  
1980 Myers, 14' Boat  
1998 Chevrolet, Dive Team Truck

## **Station No. 11 - 1688 Akron Peninsula Rd.**

1991 Sutphen, 1500 GPM Pumper  
2000 Ford, Emergency Medical Vehicle

## **Station No. 12 - 1852 W. Market St.**

1991 Sutphen, 1500 GPM Pumper  
2006 Ford, Emergency Medical Vehicle

## **Station No. 13 - 1544 Brown St.**

1991 Sutphen, 1500 GPM pumper  
2007 Ford, Emergency Medical vehicle

## **Station No. 14 - 766 Brittain Rd**

1991 Sutphen, 1500 GPM pumper/Mini-Tower  
2000 Ford, Emergency Medical vehicle

# HYDRANT MAINTENANCE SECTION



**Gailon Williams**  
Fire Hydrant Repair  
Supervisor

The following is a summary of activities of Hydrant Maintenance for the year ending December 31, 2008:

Hydrants Inspected .....	5,850
Follow-up Inspections after Use by Fire Companies .....	375
Alarms Responded to .....	9
Additional Hydrants installed .....	17
New Hydrants Turned .....	83
Hydrants Rebuilt .....	250
Hydrants Winterized .....	0
Hydrants Repacked .....	240
Hydrants Serviced .....	5,720
Hydrants Painted .....	2,500
Flow Tests Conducted by Fire Underwriters .....	0
Hydrants Broken .....	535
Hydrants Flushed .....	12,365
Hydrants Elevated Above Grade .....	42

## Hydrant coding specifications:

- White:** 1,500 gallons per minute and above
- Green:** 1,000 – 1,499 gallons per minute
- Orange:** 500 – 999 gallons per minute
- Red:** Less than 500 gallons per minute

**Matching color on steamer cap and dome indicates last hydrant on the main.**



# HISTORICAL STOP

Akron History Trails wind through time

## PROGRAM STARTED IN 2006

Established the Akron Station No. 2 Fire Museum which became the number one stop on the Historic Downtown Akron Passport Program in 2006. Station No. 2 is now an official stop of the City of Akron History Trails Program (2007)

At Akron Fire Station No. 2, photos of firefighters from 1926 line the wall, above, and an 1883 fountain stands outside. The station, which is something of a firefighter museum, is among central Akron sites the city is encouraging families to visit this summer.

Dennis Stoneman's love for the history of the Akron Fire department has turned into 20 years of collecting, from soot-stained uniforms and a safety net to old hose equipment and ancient metal fire helmets. Framed old newspaper clippings tell stories of past fires, alarms and emergencies.

Now, District Chief Dennis Stoneman's hobby can be viewed by the public at:

**Akron Fire Station #2**  
952 East Exchange Street  
Akron, Ohio 44302  
Hours: Daily 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.



**Akron Fire History Exhibit:**  
The fountain at Akron Fire Station #2

## IN RECOGNITION

This award has been presented to a prehospital care provider for his or her exemplary leadership and significant contributions to trauma education on behalf of ITLS Ohio.

The American College of Emergency Physicians  
**TRAUMA SERVICE AWARD**



*Rita Chambers, NREMT-P*

## IN RECOGNITION

*While every man and woman of the Akron-Fire Department deserves recognition for their service to the community, the following individuals were singled out during 2008.*

### The Optimist Club of Akron **FIRE/MEDIC OF THE YEAR**



***Robert Langston***

Robert Langston began his career with the City of Akron Fire Department as a Firefighter/Medic in October 1992. In 1995 he graduated from the Paramedic Education program at Akron General Medical Center and was recognized by his peers in class with the designation of "Class Leader". The same year he was assigned to fire station #4 and he continues to work there today as a firefighter, paramedic and specialist on the Hazardous Materials Response team. He also acts as a preceptor in the paramedic training program.

When not working Robert enjoys spending time with his wife Malinthea and 3 children Allan (19), Kyle (5) and Colin (3). He also enjoys playing an occasional round of golf. Robert is a life long resident of Akron, and he graduated from Buchtel High School.

# IN MEMORIAM



*To those faithful firefighters who have answered their last alarm, but whose loyalty and devotion to duty will ever remain paramount in the annals of the City of Akron and its Fire Department. The following firefighters are members of the Local Chapter 7 Firefighters Hall of Fame.*

## **JOSEPH A. BUZZELLI**

BORN.....5/15/1927  
APPOINTED.....3/31/1955  
RETIRED .....4/5/1981  
DIED .....12/22/2007

## **JEROME K. CRAWFORD**

BORN.....1/17/1954  
APPOINTED.....4/3/1978  
RETIRED .....8/26/2008  
DIED .....9/4/2008

## **ROBERT E. GARDNER**

BORN.....3/8/1929  
APPOINTED.....3/3/1960  
RETIRED .....4/6/1983  
DIED .....8/20/2008

## **HARRY E. GROSS**

BORN.....12/15/1928  
APPOINTED.....12/23/1954  
RETIRED .....2/17/1984  
DIED .....7/13/2008

## **GEORGE R. KLEIN**

BORN.....4/23/1927  
APPOINTED.....7/22/1954  
RETIRED .....4/26/1986  
DIED .....6/9/2008

## **RONALD T. RODGERS**

BORN.....5/28/1950  
APPOINTED.....10/9/1980  
RETIRED .....5/4/2006  
DIED .....3/1/2008

## **FREDERICK J. ZIRUOLO**

BORN.....3/15/1917  
APPOINTED.....10/1/1947  
RETIRED .....1/17/1978  
DIED .....7/17/2008

## **EARL W. CASTON**

BORN.....6/24/1918  
APPOINTED.....5/18/1950  
RETIRED .....7/1/1972  
DIED .....12/21/2008

## **FRED DELLAPA**

BORN .....5/23/1916  
APPOINTED .....9/16/1941  
RETIRED .....6/8/1975  
DIED .....6/10/2008

## **CHARLES R. GLADMAN JR.**

BORN.....1/6/1948  
APPOINTED.....7/5/1973  
RETIRED .....3/3/2007  
DIED .....1/26/2008

## **ROBERT C. HARRIS**

BORN.....11/17/1924  
APPOINTED.....3/16/1949  
RETIRED .....5/2/1979  
DIED .....6/29/2008

## **HAROLD R. REYNOLDS**

BORN.....8/17/1924  
APPOINTED.....7/16/1948  
RETIRED .....1/1/1982  
DIED .....8/27/2008

## **WILLIAM P. SUGGETT**

BORN.....3/3/1941  
APPOINTED.....1/5/1967  
RETIRED .....1/11/1992  
DIED .....1/11/2008

# IN MEMORIAM



***Jerome K. Crawford***

BORN ..... 1/17/1954  
APPOINTED..... 4/03/1978  
RETIRED ..... 8/26/2008  
DIED ..... 9/04/2008



# A FIREFIGHTER'S PRAYER

## **GIVE ME CONCERN FOR OTHERS**

*A willingness to seek out those in need ...*

## **GIVE ME COURAGE**

*The boldness of spirit to face  
and conquer fear,  
to share and endure the ordeal  
of one who needs me ...*

## **GIVE ME STRENGTH**

*Strength of heart to bear whatever  
burden might be placed upon me ...  
and strength of body to deliver to safety  
all those placed within my care ...*

## **GIVE ME WISDOM TO LEAD**

*the compassion to comfort, and the love  
to serve unselfishly wherever  
You take me ...*

**AND PLEASE, THROUGH IT ALL, BE AT MY SIDE**





950 S. Rhodes Avenue, Akron      June 27, 2008



Donald L. Plusquellic  
Mayor