

# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue



## Annual Report 2008



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



Gary J. Mayerhofer, City Manager  
City of Crystal Lake

Dear Mr. Mayerhofer,

It is my honor to present the accomplishments of the proud men and women of the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department through our 2008 Annual Report. The accomplishments contained within are a direct result of each Crystal Lake Firefighters commitment to "Serving with Professionalism, Readiness, Innovation, Dedication and Empowerment." The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department has been providing dedicated service to our community for over ninety years. In order for an organization to enjoy long-term success, it must continually evaluate its services and performance in order to evolve with the community's needs and expectations. Over the past several years we have made a concerted effort to focus on personal, professional and organizational development where we have enjoyed great success thanks to the commitment of many.

While our success cannot be traced to one single factor, as successful emergency services delivery is dependent on many interrelated factors, we could not have advanced this past year without the support of our Mayor, City Council, yourself, the Trustees of the Crystal Lake Rural Fire Protection District and our community. We are thankful to everyone for his or her support.

Listed below you will find a highlight of our accomplishments for 2008:

- Continued Officer Development on a monthly basis.
- Continued to focus on training and professional development of all personnel.
- Pandemic Flu Continuity of Operation Plan was completed, town hall meeting conducted and operational supplies secured.
- Emergency Radio System upgraded through replacement of 25 year old receivers and public works migration to a separate frequency.
- Thermal Imaging Cameras placed on all frontline fire suppression apparatus. The purchase was supported through the federal FIRE Act Grant program.
- Transition to Navaline Fire Reporting system for integration with our Computer-Aided Dispatching Program.
- Safety Grants obtained for a "Back Safe" program and procurement of "Patient Lifting Straps."
- City-wide Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Training.
- Completion of the mandated National Incident Management System Capability Self Assessment Tool (NIMSCAST)
- Adoption of the 2006 International Fire Code (IFC) with essential sprinkler amendments of zero square feet for town homes through commercial structures in the City and Rural Fire Protection District.
- Conducted over 745 Life Safety Inspections of occupancies in our community.
- Placed Lake/McHenry County Specialized Rescue Truck/Container 5 in-service for countywide response.



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- Development of a comprehensive Policy and Procedure Manual to provide consistent direction to our emergency response personnel.
- Developed an Observed Behavior Safety Training Program to place an increased focus on the safety of our personnel.
- Obtained exercise equipment for each fire station with the support of the Foreign Fire Tax Insurance Board.
- Replaced Ambulance 354 with the support of the Crystal Lake Rural Fire Protection District.
- Development of mapping program to provide updated maps in coordination with our Engineering Department that correlates with data in our Computer-Aided Dispatching program.
- Conducted a Strategic Distribution Drill for first response personnel in cooperation with the McHenry County Department of Health.
- Replaced our large diameter hose to optimize critical fire flows through our pumping apparatus.
- Conducted a promotional exam for 15 fire lieutenant candidates.
- Commenced hiring of personnel to staff our fourth frontline ambulance.
- Community support through active participation and donations to the Salvation Army, Crystal Lake Food Pantry and Muscular Dystrophy Association.
- Conducted a sold-out seminar (over 200 firefighters) on Fireground Safety and Operations with author Deputy Chief Vincent Dunn.
- Conducted City-wide National Incident Management System compliant training for all City supervisors and Department Heads.

Contained within this report are the details of our many accomplishments and a review of our statistics.

I am confident as you read this report, that you will find the 2008 achievements of the men and women of the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department are nothing short of impressive.

Sincerely,

James P. Moore  
Fire Rescue Chief



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## Department Overview

The City of Crystal Lake is located in Illinois approximately 45 miles northwest of the City of Chicago, in McHenry County. The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department provides service for the City of Crystal Lake, the Crystal Lake Rural Fire Protection District and portions of Lake in the Hills. The area served is approximately 46.2 square miles, with a resident population of over 56,000 according to the 2000 census. Estimated current population is 60,000. Services provided include fire protection, emergency medical care (Advanced Life Support), fire inspections, public education, hazardous material response, water rescue, and special team responses such as trench, confined space, rope, and dive rescue. The City of Crystal Lake is the largest city in McHenry County, and our service area includes three U.S. highways, a railroad (Union Pacific), two large lakes (Crystal Lake and Vulcan Lake), and McHenry County College. The Department also provides automatic aid to the Nunda Rural Fire Protection District, McHenry Township Fire Protection District and the Algonquin / Lake in the Hills Fire Protection District. Mutual Aid is provided to communities in McHenry, Lake and Kane Counties frequently through our Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS).

The Fire Rescue Department provides 24-hour emergency response, operating out of three stations with 76 personnel. Staffing is provided by three shifts of full-time firefighters on a 24/48-hour schedule, and is supplemented with paid-on-premise firefighters. Approved full-time positions include 3 Battalion Chiefs, 9 Lieutenants, and 20 firefighters per shift. Full-time firefighters and Lieutenants are members of the Crystal Lake Professional Firefighters Association, Local 3926, of the International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO. Minimum manning for emergency response is at 13 firefighters per shift. Approved day positions (40-hour week), include Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, Bureau Chief of Training, Bureau Chief of Fire Prevention, Fire Inspector, Office Coordinator, and Administrative Assistant. In 2008, the Department responded to over 5,000 incidents. 63% of the incidents involved emergency medical care.



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## 2008 Year in Review

### Deputy Fire Rescue Chief – Paul DeRaedt

2008 proved to be another year filled with change and progress for our Department. The members of our Department have worked to become the benchmark organization in emergency services. Our member's dedication and professionalism are reflected in the accomplishments of the past year.

#### Thermal Imaging Cameras

The Fire Rescue Department was able to purchase four Bullard Thermal Imaging Cameras through Assistance to Firefighters Grant award in late 2007. Thanks to a cooperative effort between the City and our Foreign Fire Insurance Board, we were able to purchase supplemental equipment for the cameras that was not available as part of the grant award. These cameras were placed in on-board chargers in each front line engine and our call back engine. The cameras were placed into service in February.

#### Community Fundraising

Fire Rescue personnel participated in two fundraising events this year.

- The annual Muscular Dystrophy Association's Fill-the-Boot campaign coordinated by the Crystal Lake Professional Firefighters, Local 3926. The event took place during the second week of November. Through our personnel's efforts, we were able to raise over \$1,500 for this worthwhile cause.
- Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. The three shifts, administrative staff and paid-on-premise (POP) personnel competed against one another to see who could raise the most money. This was the third year the Department participated in this fundraising campaign. For the second year in a row, Crystal Lake Fire Rescue was the winner of the Public Safety award as the public safety agency that raised the most money in McHenry County (\$10,148.44).
- In lieu of holiday gifts, the Officers of the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department donated \$ 470.00 to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry's Holiday Harvest campaign.

#### Radio System Upgrade

The installation of new radio receivers and mobile radios in our apparatus was completed in July. Four radio receivers (repeaters) were hard wired via phone lines to our dispatch center in order to cut down on radio interference and improve signal strength and clarity. In addition to new radios, the Public Works Division has transitioned to their own frequency.



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## **Officer Development**

Our Officers participated in two seminars conducted by two nationally renowned speakers:

- Gordon Graham presented a highly informative Risk Management seminar.
- Deputy Chief Vincent Dunn (Ret.) FDNY presented Fire Ground Tactics, Building Collapse and Fire Ground Survival.

Further information regarding officer development is presented in Bureau Chief Kohley's training report. The Officer Development program is intended to develop all leaders in our evolving organization.

## **Fire Code Changes**

On June 17, 2008, our City Council approved the adoption of the 2006 International Fire Code (IFC). Included in this code change is the amendment requiring automatic fire sprinklers at zero square foot for town homes through commercial structures.

Our City Council's approval of the 2006 IFC along with the sprinkler amendment will save the lives of citizens and firefighters for years to come.

## **Policy and Procedure Manual**

In April, the process to create a policy and procedure manual that will guide our Department into the future was kicked into high gear. Administrative and Operational Updates that the Department had been functioning under were added into the new manual along with several new policies. This policy manual is a living document that will undergo regular review, revision and training. Implementation of new policies is introduced through Administrative and Operational Updates throughout the year which is added into the policy manual twice per year.

## **Observed Behavior Safety Program**

In an effort to continually protect our personnel, we have instituted an Observed Behavior Program where our officers develop and present safety training based upon safety related issues observed within our operation. Along with the safety training, our officers attend Fire Rescue Department Safety Committee meetings to ensure that all aspects of safety are addressed.





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## **Mapping**

The development of a detailed road map and index for the Fire Rescue Department was a project that had never before been attempted by this Department. This leap into mapping technology will provide our personnel with a greatly improved mapping system. The short term goals of this project are to provide wall maps and map books that are referenced to the "CAD zones" that are associated with each address and response plan.

This is an ambitious and on-going project that will assist all of us in our routing for responses.

## **Strategic Distribution Drill**

On July 24, 2008, we conducted a strategic distribution drill in conjunction with the McHenry County Department of Health. This drill gave us the opportunity to evaluate our plan to distribute medications to first responders and their families in accordance with the National Strategic Distribution Plan. The drill was a great success as we distributed over 160 medication doses in less than three hours.

## **Large Diameter Hose Replacement**

In October, we successfully transitioned from 4 inch to 5 inch large diameter hose. This change will allow us to maximize our critical fire flow through our 1,500 gallon per minute pumps. The project was no small feat. Numbering, testing and installing of the hose and associated fittings was coordinated and completed by numerous personnel.

## **Applicant Testing**

On June 28, 2008, 79 potential firefighters participated in our firefighter exam (full-time and POP). Our goal is to staff Ambulance 352 as our fourth front-line ambulance by the first quarter of 2009.

## **Promotional Process – Fire Lieutenant**

Our fire lieutenant promotional exam process concluded with the written exam on October 27, 2008. Over a three month period, our 15 candidates participated in numerous assessments. Each candidate should be congratulated for their willingness to step forward and participate in the promotional process.

## **ISO Review**

The Fire Rescue Department submitted application to ISO in June to have our fire insurance rating for the City and Fire Protection District evaluated for an improved insurance rating which means lower insurance rates for our citizens. We are awaiting for the results of the review and are confident a lower rate will be achieved.



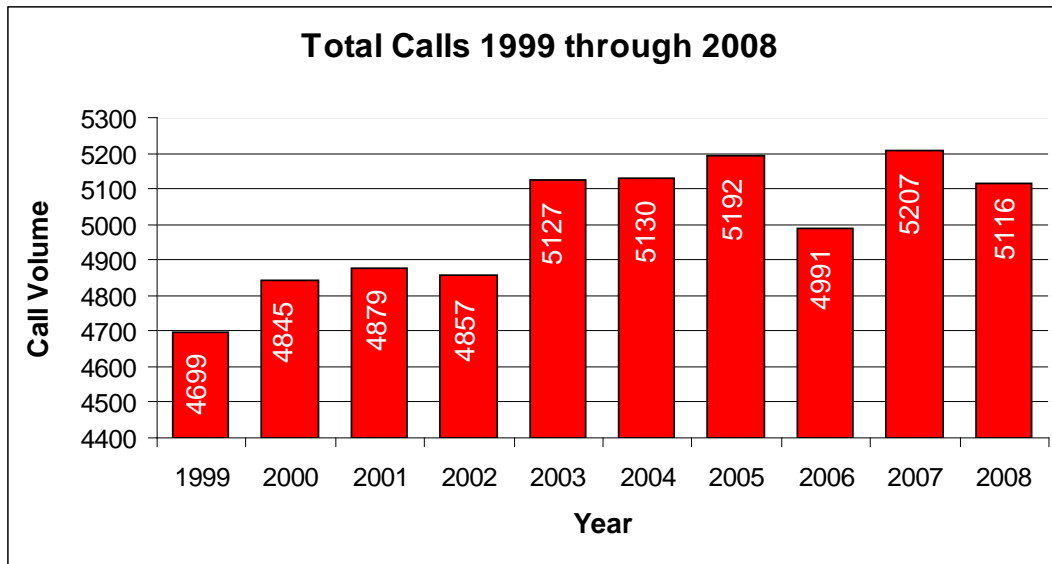
# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



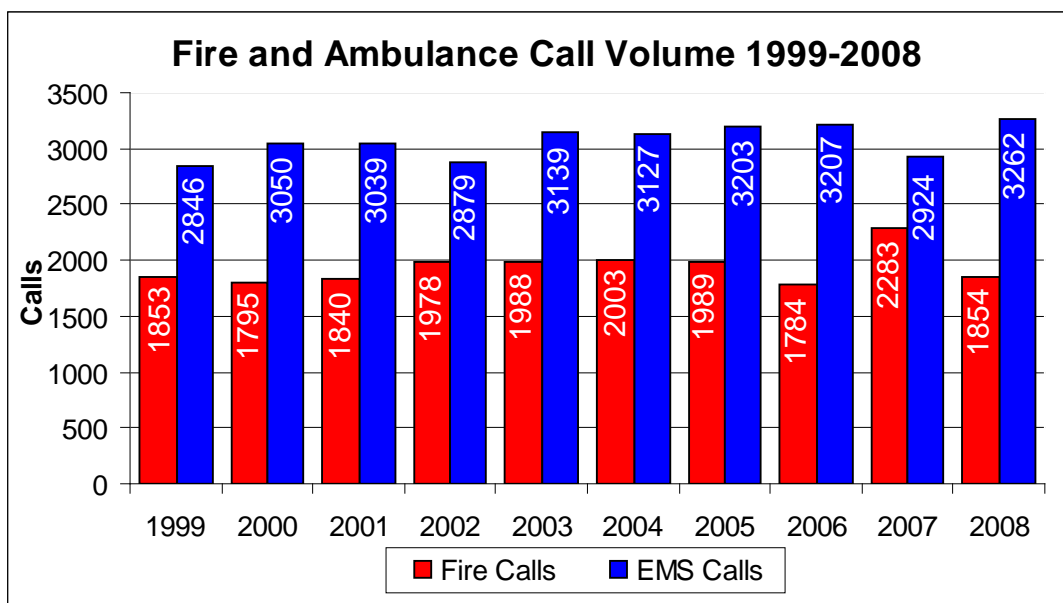
## Incident Statistics – 2008

**Battalion Chief – John Lardino**

The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department responded to over 5000 calls in 2008 with a total of 5116 incident responses.



### 10-Year Incident Trend







# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



Over the last 12 years, total call volume has increased approximately 15%. Fire calls have increased at a rate of 8% and EMS calls increased at a rate of 19%. This is an average increase of 2.25% each year. Based upon these figures, the call volume will increase to approximately 6000 calls within the next 8 years.

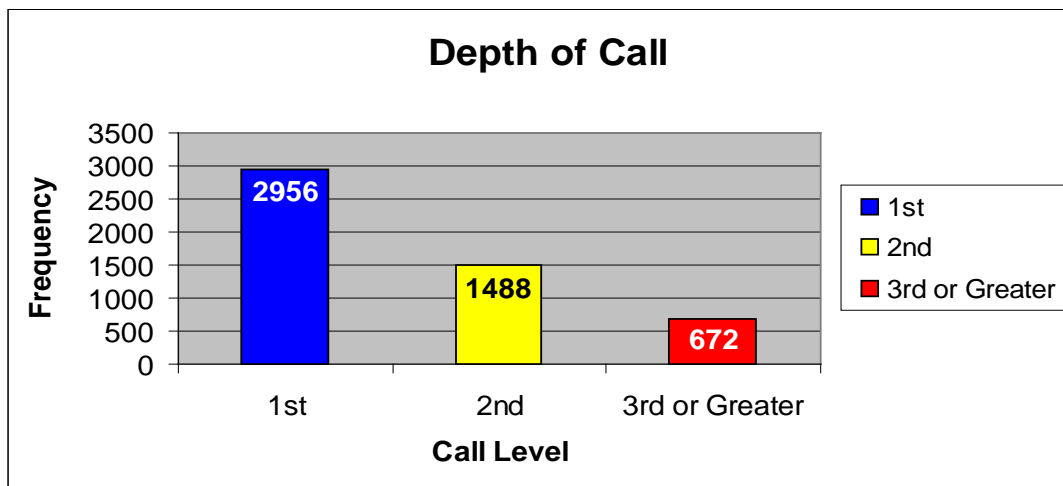
## Fire Rescue Department Calls for Service 2006-2008

Incident Type	# 2006		# 2007		# 2008	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Fire	135	2.70%	95	1.82%	67	1.31%
Rescue and EMS Incidents	3248	65.08%	3344	64.22%	3262	63.76%
Hazardous Conditions (No Fire)	297	5.95%	341	6.55%	265	5.18%
Service Call	406	8.13%	509	9.78%	558	10.91%
Good Intent Call	139	2.79%	181	3.48%	295	5.77%
Fire Alarms	766	15.35%	737	14.15%	669	13.08%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4991</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>5207</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>5116</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Jurisdiction	# 2006	% 2006	# 2007	% 2007	# 2008	% 2008
City of Crystal Lake	4037	80.89%	4379	84.10%	4402	86.04%
CL Rural FPD	644	12.90%	665	12.77%	545	10.65%
Out of District	310	6.21%	163	3.13%	169	3.30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4991</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>5207</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>5116</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Depth of Call

In 2008, the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department went to a third call or higher over 600 times. At the third call level, most on-duty resources are not available for incident response and additional resources are needed from other communities. Additional resources are requested at the first and second call level during structure fires or during other major incidents.



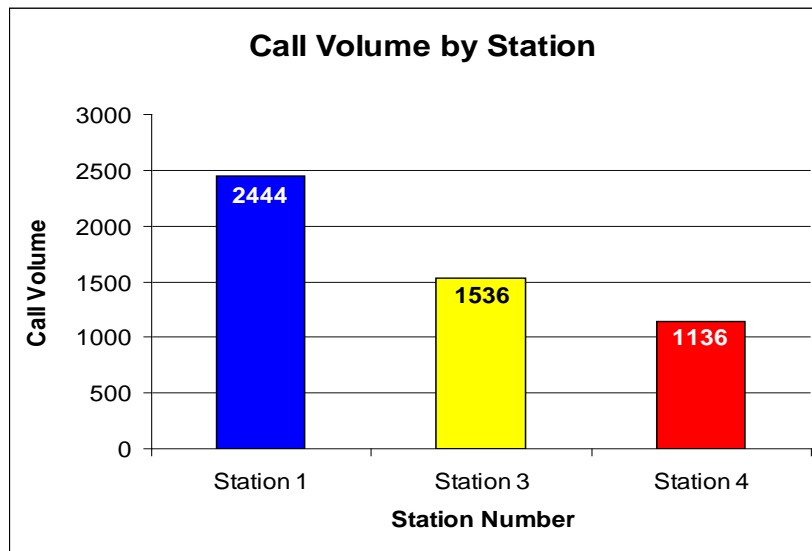


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## Call Volume by Station

Station 1 continues to be the busiest response area for call volume with 48% of all calls. Station 1 covers all areas North of Route 14. In 2007, the Station 3 response area handled 30% of all calls. Station 3 covers the areas South of Route 14 and East of McHenry Ave. Station 4 covers the area South of Route 14 and West of McHenry Ave. The Station 4 response area handled 22% of all calls.



## Emergency Response Times

Response time is an important goal of Crystal Lake Fire Rescue. In 2008, turn-out times were reduced by 30 seconds for all three stations. This is a tremendous change from the previous year. Response time goals for EMS calls are based upon data that shows brain death beginning in 4-6 minutes after someone stops breathing. Response time goals for fire calls are based on NFPA 1710 - Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Career Fire Departments. The following is a breakdown of response times for each station:

- Alarm Processing Time is calculated from the time the dispatch center answers the 911 call, until the call is dispatched to the fire department.
- Turn out Time is from the time of dispatch, to the time the first unit goes enroute.
- Travel Time is from the time the unit went enroute, to the time the first unit arrives on the scene.



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## Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department Fire Suppression Response Times Within Each Response District

	Station 1	Station 3	Station 4
Average Alarm Processing Time	1:53	1:48	2:02
Average Turn Out Time	1:04	1:04	1:01
Average Travel Time of First Due Engine	4:22	3:47	4:53
<b>Total</b>	7:19	6:39	7:56

## Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department EMS Response Times Within Each Response District

	Station 1	Station 3	Station 4
Average Alarm Processing Time	1:50	1:49	1:51
Average Turn Out Time	0:45	0:44	0:52
Average Travel Time of First Due Ambulance	3:55	3:44	4:36
<b>Total</b>	6:30	6:17	7:19

## Public Education – 2008

### Lieutenant Joyce Stevenson – Public Education Coordinator

As the City of Crystal Lake has grown, the requests for public education have increased. This year, approximately 23,400 people attended our programs. Almost daily, our office staff receives requests to schedule some public education event or answer questions about the various events offered. Most of the events are handled by on-duty crews, but with a very large group or an event lasting four or more hours, the Department commits off-duty personnel to assure an uninterrupted event.

Our fire safety programs for school age children are in the most demand. The majority of safety talks and tours are in the fall. Each fall we conduct school evacuation drills to observe how quickly and orderly the staff and children exit their school. The number of staff and children participating in the drills in 2008 was 14,567.



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Each year, we visit the preschools with an engine or ambulance to teach children about fire safety and injury prevention. This year we varied the instruction according to the age group.

- 3 year olds, we instructed about staying away from things that get hot, STOP DROP and ROLL, and recognizing a firefighter in full turnout gear.
- 4 year olds, we send an ambulance to the school and present about accident prevention and how we treat breathing difficulties and injured children. We want to help familiarize children, in a non-threatening way, about treatment they may receive as a patient.
- 5 year olds visit the fire station to learn about fire prevention, exiting to escape a fire, and to see the fire trucks and equipment.
- Second grade children, we transport the Safety House to the participating schools. The children see a video on exiting a burning building and then go to the Safety House to practice their escape with firefighters reinforcing the skills taught.



During 2008, the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department participated in many fire educational presentations both at the stations and at various locations in the City. Activities included:

- Fire extinguisher demonstrations for businesses and residential living facilities
- Fire Drills for the schools
- Fire Safety tours for school groups, scouts, and other civic organizations
- Safety House classes at the schools and events such as the McHenry County Health Fair and Johnny Appleseed Festival
- Special events at the Crystal Lake Library and opening day events for youth baseball and Truck or Treat.
- Blood pressure checks
- Block parties



Annually, we hold an Open House during Fire Prevention Week for the community to talk with our personnel, see our equipment, and take part in a wide variety of activities. The culmination of this year's event was a live burn cell showing a fire with and without a residential sprinkler system in use.



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The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department also disseminates information on the City's website [www.crystallake.org](http://www.crystallake.org), Government Access Channel 17, and with brochures available at City Hall.

## Lieutenant Joyce Stevenson – CPR Coordinator

With increased awareness on the effectiveness of Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and quick use of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) in saving lives, the demand for CPR by the community has greatly increased this year.

This life saving skill has shown to provide the greatest chance of survival for someone who is not breathing and has no pulse when no advanced medical care is available. Changes by the American Heart Association (AHA) for fast and hard compressions done as soon as possible have improved survival rates. The AHA is now advocating doing compression only CPR for rescuers that have no barrier protection to perform ventilations.

Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department teaches four types of classes:

- Healthcare Provider – certification for healthcare professionals
- Heartsaver AED – certification for CPR with AED
- Friends and Family- CPR without certification
- Heartsaver First Aid – First-aid certification



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## Fire Prevention Bureau– 2008

### Bureau Chief of Fire Prevention - Jerry Larsen

Fire prevention programs focus on the three E's of Fire Prevention; Education, Enforcement, and Engineering.

- Education for our business owners and their employees, building designers and contractors about safe practices can reduce the chance of a fire occurring in their buildings.
- Enforcement is aimed at reducing fire hazards, as well as mandating the proper installation and maintenance of a building's fire and life safety features.
- Engineering is about designing buildings properly with respect to fire and life safety. Plan review is part of this process.

The Crystal Lake Fire Prevention Bureau works at improving in all three of these areas for a safer Crystal Lake.

#### **New Fire Code**

In 2008, the City of Crystal Lake took a big step to ensure that buildings are engineered for fire safety by adopting the International Fire Code, 2006 edition, with the amendment of requiring sprinklers in all new buildings except single and two family structures.

Shortly after the City of Crystal Lake adopted the new code, the Crystal Lake Rural Fire Protection District also adopted the same fire code and amendments. This is the first time the Fire District formally adopted a fire code. The mirrored adoption ensures that all occupancies under the protection of our Department are equally protected.

The Life Safety Inspection Program, which was started in 2007, has continued with great success this year. Life Safety Inspections are completed by our in-service fire companies. This allows our personnel to identify life safety problems in the building and provides the opportunity to educate our building owners or tenants about fire safety and code requirements. In 2008, 749 Life Safety Inspections were conducted.

#### **Fire Prevention Bureau Personnel**

The Fire Prevention Bureau has seen significant changes in the area of personnel during 2008. The largest change was the retirement of Bureau Chief Raymond Dominick on August 21, 2008. Lieutenant Jerry Larsen was promoted to the position of Bureau Chief of Fire Prevention. Bureau Chief Larsen had worked with Bureau Chief Dominick for several months prior to his retirement to ensure a smooth transition.

The Fire Prevention Bureau consists of two personnel, Bureau Chief Jerry Larsen and Fire Inspector Art Lutherus.





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Art began his career with the Bureau on December 8, 2008. Prior to starting with the Crystal Lake Fire Prevention Bureau, Art was the Fire Prevention Supervisor for the Village of Glenview. Art had also worked for the Village of Glenview as a Firefighter/Paramedic. Art is a life-long resident of Crystal Lake and returns to employment with the City where he began his career in the Fire Service as a part-time Firefighter Paramedic. Art brings a vast amount of knowledge, education, and experience to the Fire Prevention Bureau that will assist in providing excellent customer service.

## Major Projects in 2008

Listed below are some of the developments started or completed in 2008:

Name	Location
Autumn Leaves	495 Alexandra Blvd
Lauth Property Group Medical Offices	525 Congress Parkway
Bickford Cottage Assisted Living	717 McHenry Ave.
MJK Reality	5005 Northwest Hwy.
Cross Roads	1295 Randall Rd.
Curran Building	286 Memorial Ct.

Listed below are some buildings that went through or are receiving major remodeling in 2008:

Regal Cinema	5000 Northwest Hwy.
Harvest Bible Chapel	584 Tracy Tr.
Dominick's	5340 Northwest Hwy.
Hobby Lobby	5650 Northwest Hwy.
Public House	83 N. Williams

## Plan Reviews

Plan reviews are conducted for a variety of projects. Suppression systems, fire alarm systems, and building plan reviews are examples of plans that are reviewed for code compliance. The Fire Prevention Bureau completed the following plan reviews for the calendar year 2008:

- 13 Wet Chemical Systems – Kitchen Hood Suppression
- 74 Fire alarm systems or alterations
- 55 Sprinkler systems or alterations
- 3 Emergency action plans
- 176 Building plan reviews
- 25 Cursory reviews
- 12 Planned unit development reviews
- 19 Special use permits
- 42 Temporary use permits
- 3 variations



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## Specialized Rescue Teams – 2008

### Lieutenant Kirk Kiermas – Dive Master

The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Dive Rescue Team (DRT) is a highly trained and well equipped team of professionals who are ready to respond at any time and will provide the best service during a water related incident. Continued training is necessary in order to maintain the high standards required of this type of specialized service. As demands in our service expand, our Department will meet those challenges in order to best serve the citizens of Crystal Lake.

#### Training

During this last year, the DRT has continued to be active in training and responses. DRT members participated in 16 training exercises and call-outs. DRT personnel continued to train on basic and advanced dive techniques. This ongoing team training is essential for the safe and efficient performance of all DRT members. Additionally, Fire Rescue Department personnel have been trained to assist in dive operations and communications.

Dive Training during the 2008 year focused on several areas. These specific areas, as well as other specialized training are part of an ongoing program designed to build and maintain team efficiency. Training areas the DRT focused on during the year are as follows:

- Annual basic skills refresher
- Boat operations
- Compass navigation
- Dead reckoning navigation
- Underwater hardwire communication
- Underwater wireless communication
- Rope signal communication
- Search and recovery techniques
- Ice diving
- Night diving

Crystal Lake Fire Rescue DRT members participated in combined training on Crystal Lake with the Crystal Lake Park District lifeguards again this year. This dual training has become an annual exercise for these two organizations. New and improved techniques that have been developed by each organization over the last year were demonstrated resulting in a greater distribution of knowledge and a more efficient response in case of an emergency.



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Training exercises for the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue DRT within the bodies of water located in the City help to familiarize divers to the unique properties of each location. In the event of an actual emergency, DRT members will have a better knowledge of a specific body of water and the areas surrounding it. Crystal Lake and Vulcan Lakes are the two most notable bodies of water within the City. Repetitive training in these locations is essential for proper preparedness in the event of an emergency or evidence/property recovery.

In addition to the well known locations of Crystal Lake and Vulcan Lakes, there are numerous smaller bodies of water throughout the City. Retention ponds and private lakes are located in neighborhoods and wooded areas not to mention ponds located within several parks around town. All of these bodies of water have a potential for disaster.

Swift Water Rescue training was added to the list of specialties this year. Although no flowing rivers are located in Crystal Lake, flood conditions can and have presented special difficulties for the Fire Rescue Department. Safe operation and evacuation in the event of floods has become a nation wide concern. We as a Department will rise to fill the needs of any potential emergency.

## **Equipment**

"Vulcanized Rubber" dry suits have been added to the DRT inventory of special equipment. These suits protect divers from cold or contaminated water and are now required for standard use according to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Intensive training has been scheduled for divers in order to effectively utilize the benefits offered by these suits. Protection and safety for all divers working in these dangerous environments is paramount.

## **Lieutenant Dan Grischow – Specialized Rescue Team Coordinator**

The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Specialized Response Team (SRT) is also a part of the larger Lake/McHenry Counties SRT which prepares for high risk, low frequency events. As no one department can have all the equipment and personnel to handle these events, the combined manpower and specialized equipment from Lake and McHenry Counties are able to handle these infrequent calls for service.

## **Training**

Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Specialized Rescue Team (SRT) was very active in training in 2008. Team members train in four major specialties:

- Structural Collapse
- Trench Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue
- Vertical Rescue



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SRT members are required to attend at least two drills per specialty, per year. Along with hosting structural collapse drills in September and providing manpower and equipment for several other drills around the County, our technicians attended drills throughout Lake and McHenry Counties. Training included:

- Water Tower Rescue
- Slope Evacuation
- Trench Rescue
- Confined Space Scenarios.

In June, Chris Williams, a Crystal Lake SRT member, participated in a validation drill with other members of the Lake/McHenry Counties team held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign, IL. This drill was an exercise held over 2 days to test the abilities of Illinois SRT Teams. Twelve technicians per team, worked to complete problems in different specialty areas. This enabled evaluators to judge the efficiency of different teams and to give feedback to the different teams on their strengths and areas for improvement. This drill gave the team direction and confirms that our team is one of the best in the State.



Structural Collapse Scenario



Lake/McHenry Team  
(Chris Williams pictured third from right)

## Equipment

In December 2007, Crystal Lake Fire Rescue began housing Lake/McHenry Counties Truck 6956 with container SRT 5. SRT members spent the first few months of 2008 assembling the necessary equipment and tools to outfit the container. The USAR container can be hoisted onto the Lake/McHenry Counties 6956 truck in 30 seconds, deploy and be dropped wherever the emergency is. This USAR container responds with tools and equipment to be able to handle almost any type of specialized incident.



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## **Lieutenant Dan Grischow – HazMat Team Coordinator**

Crystal Lake Hazardous Materials Team Members like the SRT members are part of the larger Lake / McHenry Counties Hazardous Materials Team. Crystal Lake has six team members who are certified to the Technician B level. Technicians drill with specialized monitors, fully encapsulated suits and a host of specialized equipment.

### **Training**

In 2008, two team members became certified at the Technician B level. These members had to undergo two intensive training classes to become certified at the Technician B level. The members received training in the basics of monitor reading, scene evaluation, suit selection and drill scenarios. Although these classes are thorough, the real training begins when they are integrated into the Hazardous Materials Team at monthly drills and incidents.

### **Incidents**

The Lake / McHenry Counties team responded to several incidents this year. Early in 2008, a tornado derailed a freight train and damaged several houses just northwest of Harvard, IL. This was a large incident involving many fire departments and the expertise of the Lake / McHenry Counties Hazardous Materials Team. The team was instrumental in evaluating and inspecting the freight cars for leaks and the possibility of environmental hazards. Although most of the train cars had significant damage, no lives were lost or properties contaminated.

During the summer of 2008, the Hazardous Materials team was dispatched to a factory in Richmond, IL. Several factory workers were feeling ill from escaping ammonia fumes inside the building. It took only a short time to determine the cause of the leak and shut down the source of the ammonia. The plant was able to resume production the next day without any major inconveniences to the community. Although the calls for service for our technicians does occur everyday, the knowledge and skills they provide pay dividends when an incident occurs.

## **Lieutenant Chris Olsen – Fire Investigation Team Leader**

This year Crystal Lake Fire Rescue was able to institute a formal fire investigations team. We were able to send four personnel to the State's Fire/Arson Investigator class. The class consists of three modules conducted over three weeks.

This is the first year that the Office of the State Fire Marshal has instituted guidelines for the recertification of fire investigators within the State of Illinois. Through our investigations and other training, our members have been able to begin accumulating hours towards their recertification. Our members have also been able to work with members of other departments on fire scene investigations in a cooperative effort.





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In 2008, our Department investigated a total of 19 fires. Of those fires, two were arson cases with the remaining being either undetermined pending further investigation or accidental in nature. The arson cases were investigated in cooperation with detectives from the Crystal Lake Police Department, which ultimately led to the obtaining of a confession and arrest of the subjects responsible for setting these fires.

## **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) – 2008**

### **Battalion Chief Robert Olszewski – EMS Coordinator**

2008 identified more changes in regards to EMS within the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department.

#### **Equipment**

The McHenry / Western Lake County EMS System added cutting edge tools to the required list of equipment that is carried on all Advanced Life Support (ALS) units. The addition of the mucosal aerosol device (MAD) and the EZ-IO device (intraosseous access tool) increased the ability of emergency personnel to perform their skills at a greater capacity and with more efficiency. These devices assist in providing a route for our personnel to administer medications more rapidly, thus providing better patient outcomes.

A new ambulance provided by the Crystal Lake Rural Fire Protection District was obtained in fiscal 2008. This state of the art unit will provide valuable service for many years to come. Additionally, a sixth Lifepak 12 was obtained which now equips all ALS ambulances with an identical monitor/defibrillator.

The Department is continuing its preventative maintenance program on the cardiac monitors, cots, and patient moving equipment, which will minimize the likelihood of mechanical failures and increases service to our customers. This maintenance covers all of the required components that are identified by the manufacturer. This program ensures that the equipment will function properly when called upon.

#### **Policy Development**

Policies provide direction and safety to Crystal Lake personnel. One such policy that was developed in 2008 was the Red Lights policy, which outlines that all basic life support (BLS) transports will be undertaken with no lights or sirens used. This policy will reduce the likelihood for personnel to be involved in an automobile accident with a patient that is not critically injured. This policy coincides with state law that communicates the use of red lights and sirens on an emergent transport to a hospital.

The Abandoned Infant Policy was also enacted in 2008. State law requires that certain steps be undertaken by fire departments in accepting newborn infants that are unwanted by their respective birth parent. The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department is now fully compliant with the requirements put forth by the State.





# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## **Communications**

The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department continued holding monthly meetings with the administration of the McHenry / Western Lake County EMS System, which is the medical system that the Department practices under. The purpose of these meetings is to keep communications open and to identify problems and deficiencies in operations between the two entities.

## **Training**

In an attempt to increase departmental education, Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department had begun monthly trainings with Northern Illinois Medical Center. These training sessions will include all aspects of medical care that increase the knowledge base for all personnel. The focus of the education covers many topics from cardiac care to report writing.

## **Training Bureau - 2008**

### **Bureau Chief of Training – Robert Kohley**

The year of 2008 was a year of continued change and development in the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department Training Bureau. Training requirements are outlined by several organizations such as Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) and NFPA. Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department (CLFRD) personnel participated in over 17,000 hours of training in order to remain proficient in all areas of emergency operations.

In 2008, the Training Bureau had established goals of:

- Establishing an agreement with the Huntley Fire Protection District for live fire training at their burn tower.
- Develop a Provisional Fire Officer I program for development and grooming of new or future officers.
- Develop a Provisional Fire Officer II program for development and grooming of new or future command officers.
- Work with Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) for a re-evaluation of the City and Rural ISO rating.
- Prepare and present a Fire Officer Development seminar with a qualified and well-known fire service speaker at McHenry County College.
- Institute fire apparatus pump operator's annual training for all State certified pump operators.

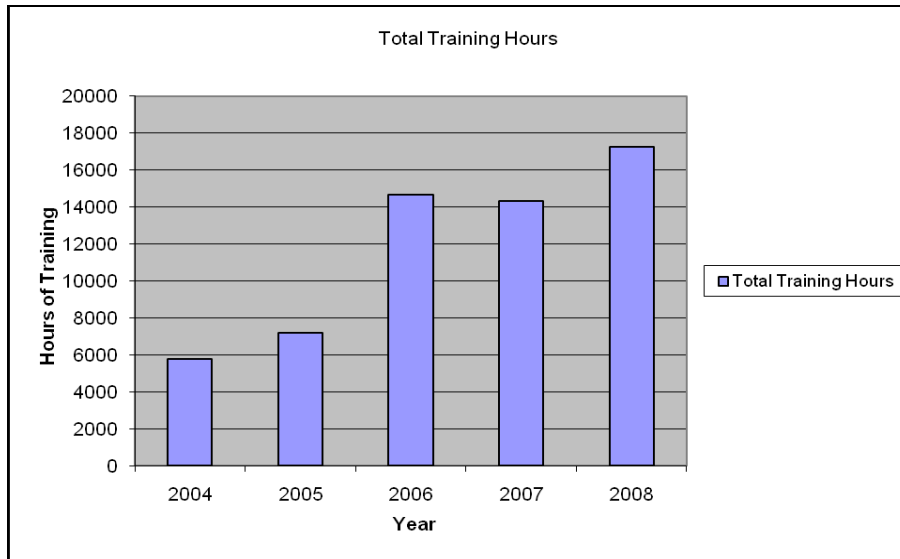
These goals were able to be accomplished through the commitment, hard work, and support from Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department personnel.



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## 2008 Training Bureau Statistics



In 2008, Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department personnel logged 17,282 hours of training. On an average, each firefighter/paramedic participated in over 280 hours of training annually, or 24 hours of training monthly. The six major training categories for Fire Rescue personnel are:

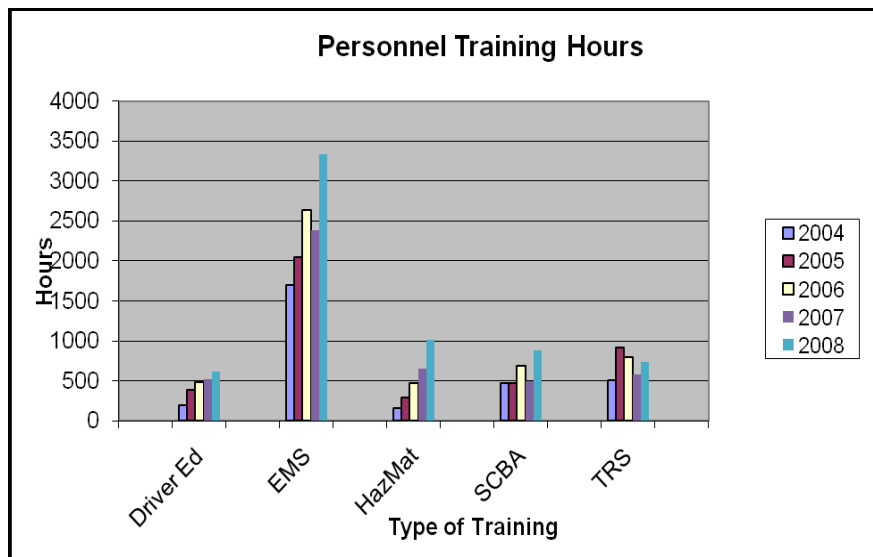
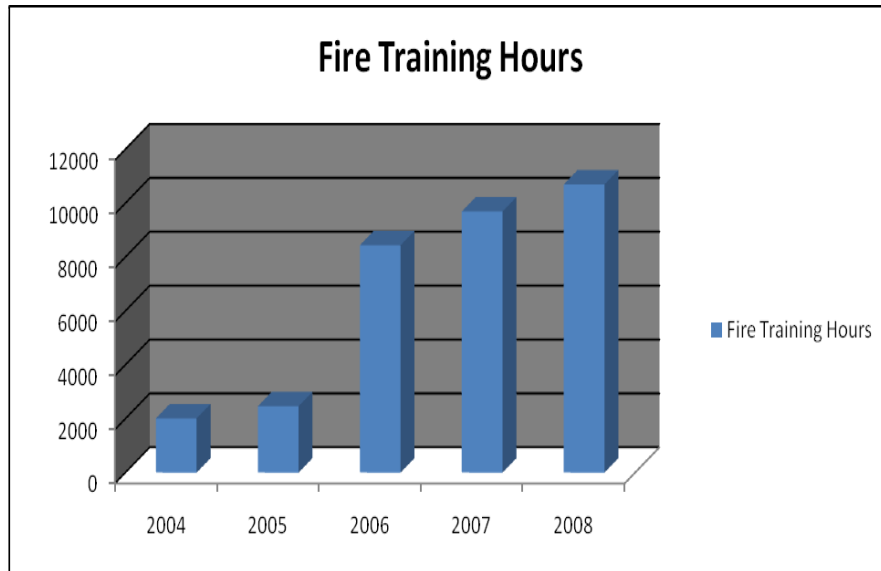
Category	Hours
Driver Education	617
Fire Training	10,695
Emergency Medical Services	3,341
Hazardous Materials	1,013
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus	878
Technical Rescue Services	740

Fire related training topics account for the bulk of the training a firefighter/paramedic participates in throughout the year. Training topics that fall under the Fire Training category are:

- Live fire suppression drills
- Water supply drills
- Forcible entry/exit drills
- Ventilation drills
- Building tours
- Building construction training
- Auto-aid training with neighboring departments
- Aerial operations drills
- Ladder drills
- Incident command training



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report





# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## Professional Development Courses Attended

The following is a list of professional development courses attended by CLFRD personnel in 2008:

Course	Number of Personnel Attended
Emergency Response to Terrorism	6
CPR Instructor Update	4
Fire Officer I Courses	16
Fire Officer II Courses	9
Fire Officer III Courses	1
Fire Investigator	1
Fire Prevention Bureau	1
Incident Safety Officer	8
Hazardous Materials	10
Specialized Rescue	6
Fire Apparatus Engineer	2
Firefighter II	2
Firefighter III	4
Fireground Company Officer	1
Command & Control of Multiple Alarm Incidents	1
Light-em' and Fight-em' Training	12
Risk Management Seminar	15
Tactics and Strategy Seminar	28
Fire Officer Training	11
Training Officer	2

## Certifications

The following is a list of certifications that were obtained by CLFRD personnel in 2008:

Certification	Number of Personnel
Firefighter II	3
Firefighter III	5
Provisional Fire Officer I	3
Fire Officer II	1
Fire Apparatus Engineer	2
Fire Instructor I	4
Fire Investigator	3
Hazardous Materials Incident Command	3
Hazardous Materials Operations	4
Hazardous Materials Awareness	3
Hazardous Materials Technician	2
Fire Service Vehicle Operator	5
Technical Rescue Awareness	1
Technical Rope Operations	1
Trench Rescue Technician	1



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## Auto-Aid Training

In 2008, the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department, Huntley Fire Protection District, and Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Fire Protection District continued conducting quarterly auto-aid training. Auto-aid training allows personnel from all three departments to train together and develop common practices utilized at each department.

Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department conducted 85 training hours of auto-aid training in 2008. The training included hose operations, aerial apparatus operations, and live fire evolutions.



Members of Gold Shift work to advance a hose line into the training tower.



Probationary CLFRD members train on search and rescue techniques.



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## Incident Safety Officer Course

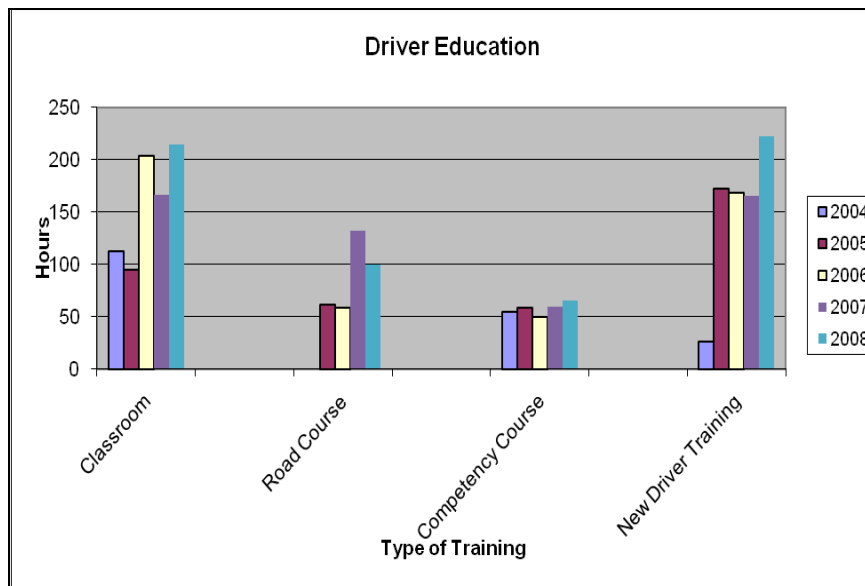
During November 2008, eight Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department command personnel participated in the Incident Safety Officer course through the Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors and the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

The course was presented in a week-long learning format and focused on:

- The importance of the Safety Officer within the Incident Management System.
- The minimum requirements and responsibilities of the Safety Officer.
- The safety and health of response personnel.
- Incident hazard analysis and risk management practices.

## Driver Education

Driver education continues to be a focus for the Training Bureau. All personnel are required to show proficiency in driving approved apparatus annually. In 2008, Crystal Lake Fire Rescue personnel logged over 600 hours of driver training.



In 2008, an emphasis for driver education was also placed on learning to drive and operate the Department's aerial ladder truck. Monthly ladder truck driver training was instituted to allow personnel the opportunity to become familiar with the operational aspects of the largest piece of equipment that the Fire Rescue Department operates. In 2009, personnel will begin staffing a fourth ambulance / jump company, which will enable the ladder truck to respond to fire calls as part of the initial response.





# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



Quarterly driver training was continued this year for all personnel and new driver non-emergency training was emphasized during orientation to improve driving proficiency with apparatus.



## **Fire Officer Training**

Officer Development continues to be a priority for the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department. Each officer is required to attend outside training classes that will educate, enhance, or supplement their own knowledge and experience levels. In 2008, Fire Rescue Department officers logged over 5,100 hours of Officer Development training.

In addition to attending Fire Officer I, II, or III courses, other courses or seminars attended by Fire Rescue officers included:

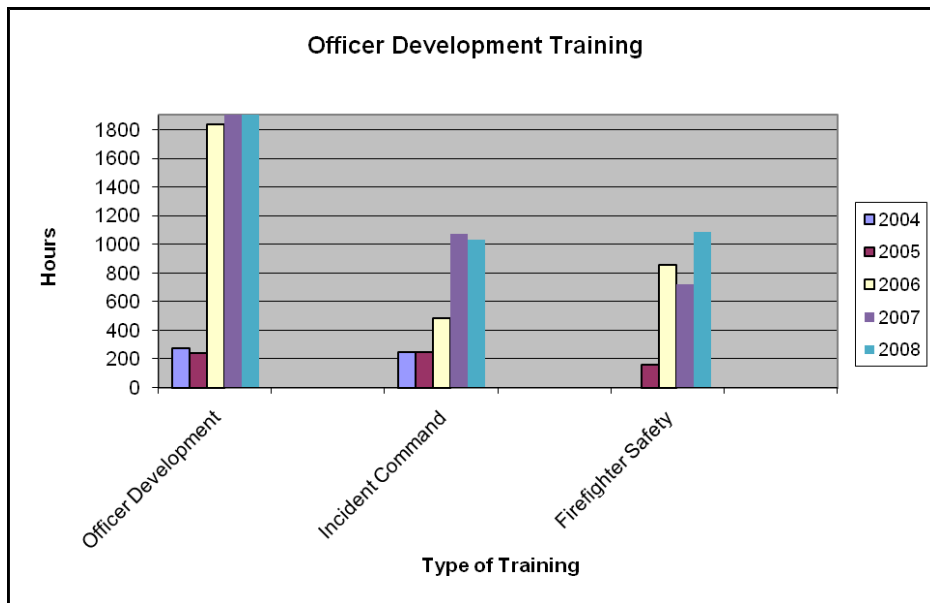
- Risk Management seminar with Gordon Graham
- Tactics and Strategy seminar with Vince Dunn



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



- Fireground Company Officer at the Illinois Fire Service Institute
- Command and Control of Multiple Alarm Incidents
- Company Officer Responsibilities seminar
- Duties and Responsibilities of a Company Officer
- Fire Engineering Weekend
- Firehouse Tactics and Strategy Conference
- Senior Officer for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Weekend
- Incident Safety Officer
- IS 300/400
- IMAT Development



## Deputy Chief (Ret. FDNY) Vince Dunn Seminar

On February 21, 2008, the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department, in a cooperative effort with the Crystal Lake Firefighter's Association, hosted Deputy Chief Vince Dunn as he presented his 8-hour Fireground Tactics, Building Collapse, and Fireground Survival seminar to over 200 firefighters (including 28 Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department personnel) from over 50 area fire departments at McHenry County College.





# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



Chief Vincent Dunn, FDNY (Ret.), shared his over forty years of firefighting experiences in this well-attended seminar. Chief Dunn's lecture examined the dangers of firefighting, wall collapse, and truss roof and floor failure.

Chief Dunn is a Firehouse magazine contributing editor and a 42-year veteran of the FDNY and served as a division commander for Manhattan and the Bronx. A nationally renowned lecturer, he is the author of a new "Fire Engineering" text book, *Strategy of Firefighting- How to Extinguish Fires* and bestselling books:

- *Collapse of Burning Buildings*
- *Safety and Survival on the Fireground*
- *Command Control of Fires and Emergencies.*

## **Firefighter/Paramedic Testing**

On June 28, 2008, 79 potential firefighter/paramedics participated in the firefighter exam at McHenry County College. Prospective candidates had to successfully complete a written exam and physical ability test in order to move on to the oral interview process. Following all testing, an eligibility list of 37 prospective employees was established and the hiring process of new firefighters began.

## **Probationary Employee Program**

The Probationary Employee Program was utilized quite extensively in 2008 with the hiring of sixteen new probationary firefighter/paramedics (3 new personnel for FY 2007/2008, 4 replacement personnel, and 9 new personnel for FY 2008/2009). The first 8-12 weeks, the probationary employees complete an orientation program that includes:

- Administrative issues
- Bloodborne pathogens
- Driver education
- HazMat refresher
- Essential skills assessment
- EMS skills assessment
- EMS system entry
- EMS field Internship

An enhancement to the probationary employee program was the addition of Field Instructors. A group of experienced Department personnel was assembled to assist with the practical training evolutions that all probationary employees are put through. The field instructors are able to work with the group of probationary personnel uninterrupted to ensure the completion of the practical exercise.



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



The Probationary Employee Program consists of four modules that cover the main objectives and essential job knowledge of a firefighter/paramedic. Each probationary employee rotates to a different station to allow them to work with other shift personnel during their probationary period and to become familiar with the entire response area served by the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department.

## **Acquired Structure Training**

In 2008, the Training Bureau was able to sign agreements with local property owners to allow fire training in structures that were scheduled for demolition. Acquired structures provide an invaluable training opportunity for the Fire Rescue Department personnel. These structures allow Fire Rescue personnel to practice:

- Roof ventilation
- Rapid Intervention Team rescues
- Wall breaches
- Charged hose evolutions
- Search and Rescue operations in real smoke





# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



Fire Rescue crew prepares to enter a smoke filled structure during a training exercise.



Fire Rescue crews work to ventilate a roof during a training exercise.

## **SCBA Training Trailer**

The Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) trailer is owned by CLFRD and is utilized by five McHenry County fire departments through a cooperative agreement. The departments are:

- Huntley Fire Protection District
- McHenry Township Fire Protection District
- Richmond Fire Protection District
- Woodstock Fire Rescue District
- Cary Fire Protection District



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



The trailer provides valuable training to Department personnel, as well as to personnel from other neighboring departments because of its mobility. Firefighters are able to practice many different types of training inside the trailer, such as:

- Wire entanglement
- Confined space
- Firefighter rescue
- SCBA confidence training



CLFRD members practice moving through the multi-level portion of the trailer.



Probationary FF/PM Dane Szatkowski maneuvers through a restricted opening in the trailer.

## **Live Fire Training**

All Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department personnel were given the opportunity to participate in live fire training from May 12-14. All participants demonstrated improvement and skill development throughout this training. The training was focused on:

- Communications between incident commanders and working companies
- Practical hose advancement training
- Search and rescue operations at a multi-story facility
- Roof ventilation operations





# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



Members of Black Shift pose for a group photo after completing an intense day at the training tower.

## Basic Aerial Apparatus Operations Training

The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department partnered with the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute to bring the Basic Aerial Apparatus Operations course to Crystal Lake personnel. The course was held on three consecutive Fridays: September 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

45 CLFRD personnel and 12 Woodstock Fire Rescue District personnel attended the informative course about aerial apparatus positioning, job assignments, and aerial apparatus capabilities. Thanks go out to the Crystal Lake Holiday Inn, Covidien Inc., and Skyridge Condominium Association for allowing the course participants to practice positioning and deployment of the aerial apparatus at their buildings.



CLFRD members work to position the ladder truck for aerial operations training at the Skyridge Apartment Complex



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## Safety Committee – 2008

**Bureau Chief Robert Kohley– Fire Rescue Safety Officer**

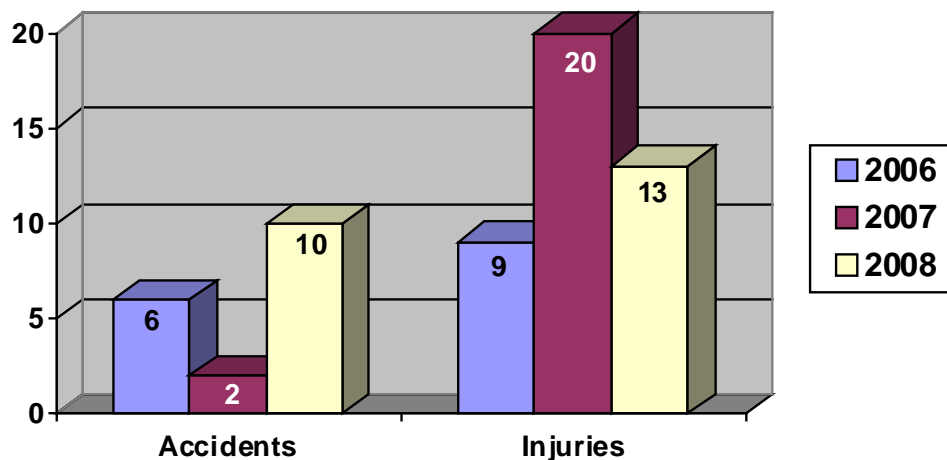
The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department Safety Committee continues to be an integral part of the City of Crystal Lake's overall risk management plan and program. Through the Safety Committee, management and employees can communicate safety concerns and ideas to promote a safe work environment for Department employees.

The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department Safety Committee developed goals and objectives for 2008 to help provide direction for the Committee. Some of the 2008 goals and objectives were:

- Develop a hearing protection policy
- Conduct Incident Safety Officer training for all command officers
- Conduct live fire training for all shift personnel
- Maintain quarterly driver education training
- Research safety equipment purchases
- Implement a Department Behavior Observation Program
- Institute the Emergency Roadway Operations policy.
- Promote a raised awareness among all personnel when operating or backing Department vehicles.
- Promote a raised awareness among all personnel when lifting any objects.

### Accident/Injury Investigations

The Fire Rescue Department Safety Committee conducted a total of 23 accident/injury investigations for the year 2008. The following graph shows a comparison between previous year's accident/injury investigations:

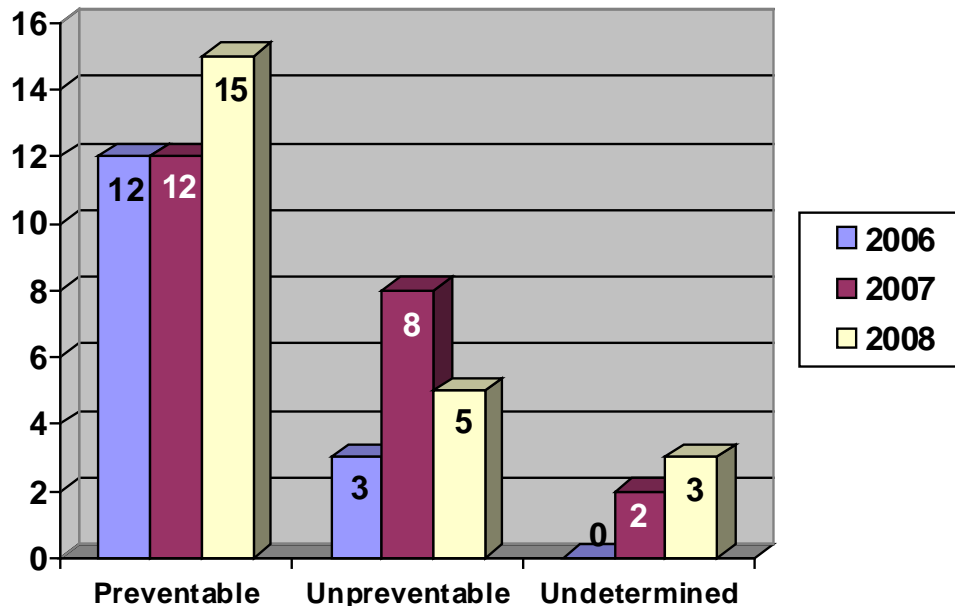




# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



Reducing the number of preventable accidents is a major focus for the Safety Committee during the next year. CLFRD is confident that we will have a reduction in the number of preventable injuries for 2009 by utilizing our Observed Behavior Program, additional training that focuses on common accident themes, and shift goals. The following graph shows a comparison between preventable, unpreventable, and undetermined accident/injury investigations from 2006 to 2008:



## Roadway Traffic Control Policy

The Roadway Traffic Control policy is the result of a joint operational agreement between Fire Rescue, Police, and Public Works Departments of the City, recognizing as first responders that we must work with unity and safety in mind.

Training on the policy was conducted in January 2008 for all Fire Rescue and Police command personnel to promote a Unified Command System for handling traffic crashes within the City limits.

Key components of the policy are:

- Usage of roadway traffic safety vests by all emergency responders
- Usage of roadway traffic diversion/notification equipment (cones, barricades, signage) for all intermediate and major incidents
- Usage of quick clearance procedures for minor incidents.

This policy identifies roadway traffic control practices based on the United States Department of Transportation – Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices that will aid in providing protection and safety for emergency response personnel operating in or near moving vehicle traffic.



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



Emergency responders should understand the high risk that personnel are exposed to when operating in or near moving vehicle traffic. Responders should always operate within a protected environment at any vehicle-related roadway incident. Nighttime incidents requiring personnel to work in or near moving traffic are particularly hazardous because visibility is reduced and driver reaction time to hazards in the roadway is slowed.



## **Lock-out/Tag-out Policy**

In January, the Fire Rescue Department implemented a Lock-out/Tag-out policy. Training was conducted with shift personnel for the use of lock-out/tag-out kits that were purchased for the stations and apparatus.

This policy helps to ensure that machinery or equipment is isolated from all potentially hazardous energy sources. Lock-out/tag-out procedures are intended to ensure a zero mechanical state of all energy systems, mechanical devices, and equipment that has the potential for causing injury or death to firefighters performing their assigned duties.

## **Fitness Instruction**

In the months of August and September, the Fire Rescue Department took delivery of fitness equipment purchased by the Foreign Fire Insurance Board. Three complete sets of equipment were purchased for each fire station. The fitness equipment supplier, Matrix Inc, provided in-service training for Fire Rescue personnel.







# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



Additional training and fitness instruction was provided by Centegra Healthbridge fitness instructors on October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. This training emphasized:

- Stretching
- Strength training
- Equipment use

## **Safety Equipment Purchases**

The Fire Rescue Department was the recipient of a \$435.00 grant from the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency. The grant was used to purchase six new carry/lifting straps for each ambulance. These straps will aid Fire Rescue personnel with the lifting of patients found in awkward or unusual positions.

In 2008, the Fire Rescue Department was able to purchase fit testing equipment for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus masks, Chemical Biological Radiation Nuclear gas masks, and N-95 masks. This testing equipment is also shared by the Police and Public Works Departments who along with Fire Rescue, are required to conduct annual fit testing.

## **Observed Behavior Program**

The safety of all Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department personnel and a safe work environment are priorities for the entire staff of the Fire Rescue Department. In an effort to enhance the safety awareness of all Department personnel and to further promote safe work practices, a Behavior Observation Program was developed.

The program includes the development of a monthly safety message by company officers to be shared with their entire shift. Areas of operational risk are identified by the company officer from previous claims or observed behaviors for expanded awareness training. Specific observed behaviors are identified (good and poor) and additional research is conducted to further the educational aspect of the safety topic.

The second part of the program consists of the participation at the monthly Fire Rescue Safety Committee meeting. This participation is intended to enhance each officer's knowledge of risk management as it pertains to the Fire Rescue Department and to provide the officer with a better perspective on safety within the Department.



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## Facilities Report – 2008

### Lieutenant Kirk Kiermas– Fire Station One Manager

Fire Station One is located within the Municipal Complex. It is home to our administrative staff, Shift Commander and our personnel who are assigned to Engine 341 and Ambulance 351.

In 2008, we made some changes to room locations. A physical fitness equipment room was added. This required the workshop and EMS equipment rooms to be relocated. Additional projects completed this year were:

- Pandemic Flu supply storage cage was erected in the Municipal Complex.
- Shelves were added to the Watch Office to store books and binders associated with daily operations.
- Additional workstation added in the Fire Prevention Bureau.
- New fitness equipment installed in physical fitness room.
- File storage for Fire Prevention Bureau and apparatus records moved to new room.
- Area map and mapping book added to apparatus floor.
- Garbage disposal added to kitchen sink.

### Lieutenant Chris Olsen– Fire Station Three Manager

This year, our personnel experienced one major change within Fire Station Three. The change was the addition of new physical fitness equipment within the station. Our personnel assigned to Station Three have utilized this equipment to increase their personal fitness levels and hopefully reduce injuries. Other changes within the station are as follows:

- Moving our air compressor to a new location inside the station to reduce the effects of the compressor noise on the hearing of our members.
- Re-painting of the dayroom
- Implement and install new station wall maps to expedite our response to emergency calls.





# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## Lieutenant Tim Butler– Fire Station Four Manager

Crystal Lake Fire Station Four is home to Ambulance 354, Engine 344, Ambulance 350, Dive Rescue Truck 391 and Utility Car 336. Listed are some of the projects that have been completed for Fire Station Four during the past year:

- Fresh mulch has been laid around all trees and shrubs.
- All shrubs have been trimmed and black dirt has been laid in the low areas around the grounds of the fire station property.
- New garbage disposal installed in the kitchen sink.
- Both air conditioning compressors have been repaired during the summer months.
- Complete and accurate Facility Safety Inspections have been conducted monthly with supporting documentation.
- Overhead garage doors were serviced and repaired.
- New air compressor installed.
- New bulletin board installed.
- Frame for the new mapping system has been installed.
- Completed painting of all window frames.

## Lieutenant Robert Lutherus– Airport Liaison

The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department is responsible for providing emergency services to the Lake In The Hills Airport. The airport is classified as a “General Aviation Airport”. Aircraft that fall within this category range from single engine pleasure aircraft to charter/corporate jets holding up to 12 passengers. The airport handles 50,000 takeoffs and landings annually.

### Incidents

During 2008, the Fire Rescue Department responded to only one incident involving a crash landing. Several times we responded to standby when a pilot has radioed a potential accident.

### Training

The Department has two fire officers certified as “Airport/Aircraft Rescue Firefighters”. Part of this intense training involved live fire and rescue exercises at Chicago’s O’Hare Airport. During this past year all members of the Department participated in airport orientation training at the Lake In the Hills airport. The airport also revised and updated the “Emergency Response Plan” this past summer. Copies of this plan are accessible on our vehicles to provide us with a quick reference in the event of an incident. Future training goals would include aircraft orientation and hands on training. The Fire Department and Airport management will continue its working relationship at providing the highest level of service.



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## Juvenile Firesetter Program - 2008

**Battalion Chief Thomas Pollnow – Juvenile Firesetter Coordinator**

The Juvenile Firesetters Program is a voluntary educational program aimed to educate juveniles in the dangers of fire play. The program has also assisted the McHenry County Juvenile Court System in the education of fire play for the juveniles as part of a court decision.

2008 Juvenile Firesetter statistics:

<u>Case #</u>	<u>M/F</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>\$ Loss</u>	<u>Ignition source</u>	<u>Injuries/Deaths</u>
08-001	Male	9	None	Lighter	0/0
08-002	Male	15	None	Lighter	0/0
08-003	Males	5, 13, 15	None	Lighter	0/0
08-004	Male	10	None	Matches	0/0

## Apparatus Report – 2008

**Lieutenant James Kalisik – Apparatus Coordinator**

2008 began with Lieutenant Jerry Larsen as the Apparatus Coordinator. During the year, Lieutenant Larsen was promoted to Bureau Chief of Fire Prevention and Lieutenant James Kalisik was assigned the position of Apparatus Coordinator. Assisting the Apparatus Coordinator are FF/PM Dave Kaltenbach and FF/EMT Chris Williams. These individuals along with the members of the City’s Fleet Services Division keep the Fire Rescue Department apparatus in a well maintained status.

The Fire Rescue Department apparatus consists of:

- 5 Engines (3 Frontline, 1 Callback, 1 Reserve)
- 6 Ambulances (3 Frontline, 1 Callback, 2 Reserve)
- 1 Aerial Ladder Truck
- 1 Squad
- 1 Tender
- 1 Brush Truck
- 2 Chief Officer Cars
- 3 Bureau Cars
- 3 Support Vehicles



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



- 1 Dive Rescue Truck
- 2 Boats
- 1 Fire Safety House Trailer
- 1 Specialty Response Truck and Canister
- 1 Foam Trailer
- 1 SCBA Training Trailer

Trained professionals from the City's Fleet Services Division, who specialize in emergency vehicle work, maintain each of these highly specialized pieces of equipment. In 2008, our Fleet Division once again conducted the preventative maintenance work on all our apparatus. With the Fleet Services Division handling the maintenance, it was completed in a well organized and timely manner.

## **Pump Testing and Aerial/Ground Ladder Inspection**

All apparatus with a pump received their annual pump test according to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) guidelines. Underwriters Laboratories performed the yearly aerial ladder testing on Truck 381 and on all the Department's ground ladders.

## **Safety Lane Testing**

The Department's licensed vehicles receive a safety lane inspection every 6 months. These vehicles include the 6 Ambulances, Squad 359, Dive 391, Support 333, Brush Truck 361, SRT 5, and the Department's SCBA Trailer.

## **New Apparatus**

Thanks to the Crystal Lake Rural Fire Protection District, the Department placed one new vehicle in service this year. That vehicle is a Ford E-450, Type III, Medtec Ambulance purchased from Foster Coach.



## **Specifications for New Apparatus**

FF/PM Dave Kaltenbach has worked hard on the development of specifications for a new ambulance, which has been ordered from Foster Coach Sales. The new ambulance is a 450, Type III, Medtec Ambulance and delivery is expected in the first quarter of 2009.



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## **Equipment Changes**

During the past year we have been able to improve some of the equipment on our vehicles. Below is a list of the changes:

- Changed 4 inch supply hose to 5 inch supply hose on all pumping apparatus.
- Standardize the equipment on all engines.
- New hydrant bags placed on pumping apparatus.
- Extrication equipment added to Engine 340.
- Mauls added to the engines and the ladder truck.
- 15/16" smooth bore nozzles added to an 1 3/4" pre-connect of each engine.

## **Lieutenant Tim Butler – Ladder Coordinator**

Each ground ladder on the front line fire apparatus are inspected daily by the assigned fire apparatus engineer. All other fire apparatus ground ladders are inspected weekly. FF/PM Brian Menzimer serves as the coordinator support for ground ladders. He assists in the process of maintaining and repairing the ground ladders, as well as expanding and enhancing the present programs, such as standardizing all halyards, cleaning schedules and labeling of each ladder.

Annually each ground ladder is tested and inspected by Underwriters Laboratories. On May 13, 2008 Underwriters Laboratories conducted the testing and inspection of all the ground ladders within the Department.

## **Lieutenant Tim Butler – Fire Extinguisher Coordinator**

Portable fire extinguishers are carried on every Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department apparatus. FF/PM Rick Kaiser assists in coordinating the scheduling of recharging used fire extinguishers, as well as the annual inspection and testing of all fire extinguishers by our fire extinguisher contractor.

## **Public Education**

Research is being conducted in the area of purchasing a reusable fire extinguisher training system. It allows students to use pressurized water type extinguishers to put out liquid propane gas fires, controlled by the instructor. This system is much safer and environmentally cleaner compared to our present training system of discharging dry chemical extinguishers to put out flammable liquid mixture fires. In 2008, five requests were fulfilled to conduct public fire extinguisher training classes.



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## **Lieutenant Tim Butler – MABAS Coordinator**

MABAS stands for Mutual Aid Box Alarm System. As coordinator for MABAS, my main duties this past year have been to ensure that all of the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department MABAS books are in good condition, complete and accurate. Every vehicle within the Fire Rescue Department carries a copy of our MABAS cards.

Additionally, the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, Safety Officer, Shift Commander's and Fire Stations 1, 3 and 4 carry a set of MABAS cards from other fire departments in which Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department is due on. FF/PM Brian Tamason serves as coordinator support and assists in maintaining and updating of the MABAS books.



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## Milestones - 2008

2008 was a milestone year for one of our members. Paid-on-Call Firefighter Jim Behrens celebrated 40 years of service to the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department. Jim has seen many changes in our community and Department over the course of his 4 decades with the Department.

In November, the Fire Rescue Department held its annual Awards and Appreciation Night. Jim's family was in attendance when he received plaques from the Department and the City that honored him for his 40 years of dedicated service. Congratulations Jim!







# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## Retired Members – 2008

2008 saw the retirement of Bureau Chief Ray Dominick after 27 years of dedicated service to the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department. Bureau Chief Dominick left his mark in many areas within the Department during his climb through the ranks. Bureau Chief Dominick held the positions of Firefighter/Paramedic, Lieutenant, Shift Commander, Training Officer and Bureau Chief of Fire Prevention before retiring on August 21, 2008.

Before Bureau Chief Dominick's retirement, he was most notably known for his development of our City's current Fire Code. The results of his work and commitment will last for many years to come.





# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## APPENDIX A

### Station Locations

#### Station Information:

Fire Station One  
100 W. Woodstock St.



Fire Station Three  
844 Virginia Rd.

Fire Station Four  
8705 Bard Rd.





# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



## APPENDIX B Department Roster

### Officers

James Moore	Fire Rescue Chief
Paul DeRaedt	Deputy Fire Chief
Ray Dominick	Bureau Chief of Fire Prevention
Jerry Larsen	Lieutenant/Bureau Chief of Fire Prevention
Robert Kohley	Bureau Chief of Training
Tom Pollnow	Battalion Chief
Robert Olszewski	Battalion Chief
John Lardino	Battalion Chief
Robert Martel	Lieutenant
Kirk Kiermas	Lieutenant
Casey Cork	Lieutenant
William Whyte	Lieutenant
Tim Butler	Lieutenant
Dan Grischow	Lieutenant
James Kalisik	Lieutenant
Robert Lutherus	Lieutenant
Chris Olsen	Lieutenant
Joyce Stevenson	Lieutenant

### Member

Aiello, Mike	Hurley, Mike	Palumbo, Matt
Angelo, Chris	Jakubowicz, Ray	Perenchio, Marty
Bedore, Chris	Kaiser, Rick	Pierce, Rebecca
Behrens, Jim	Kaltenbach, Dave	Pireh, Martin
Beyer, Tracy	Kauke, Bryan	Rozhon, Patrick
Bonney, Jim	Kerley, Tim	Ryan, John
Borst, Nick	Kopera, Chris	Schmitt, Kim
Brechbiel, Bob	Kownacki, Kevin	Shiple, Carolyn
Bucheger, Adam	Kreher, Rich	Spivey, Jim
Buterbaugh, John	Laufer, Lloyd	Stoddard, Rick
Cook, Darrell	LeClercq, Dave	Sustek, Jim
Colucci, Gino	Landwer, Mark	Sypura, Andrew
Dusek, Justin	Leuck, Matt	Svejcar, Gary
Forsberg, Joe	Linneman, Tom	Szatkowski, Dane
Fowles, Adam	Ling, David	Tamason, Brian
Gabrielson, Toby	Lucas, Mike	Thuma, Matt
Geyman, Michael	Lukas, Mike	Volenec, John
Gundlach, Amanda	Marino, Brian	Williams, Chris
Hagen, Scott	Menzimer, Brian	Williams, Dan
Hardin, Tom	Odishoo, Tim	Wisiz, Rob
Havemann, Ed	Olsen, Heidi	
Howell, Todd	Olszak, Linda	



# Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department 2008 Annual Report



Notes: