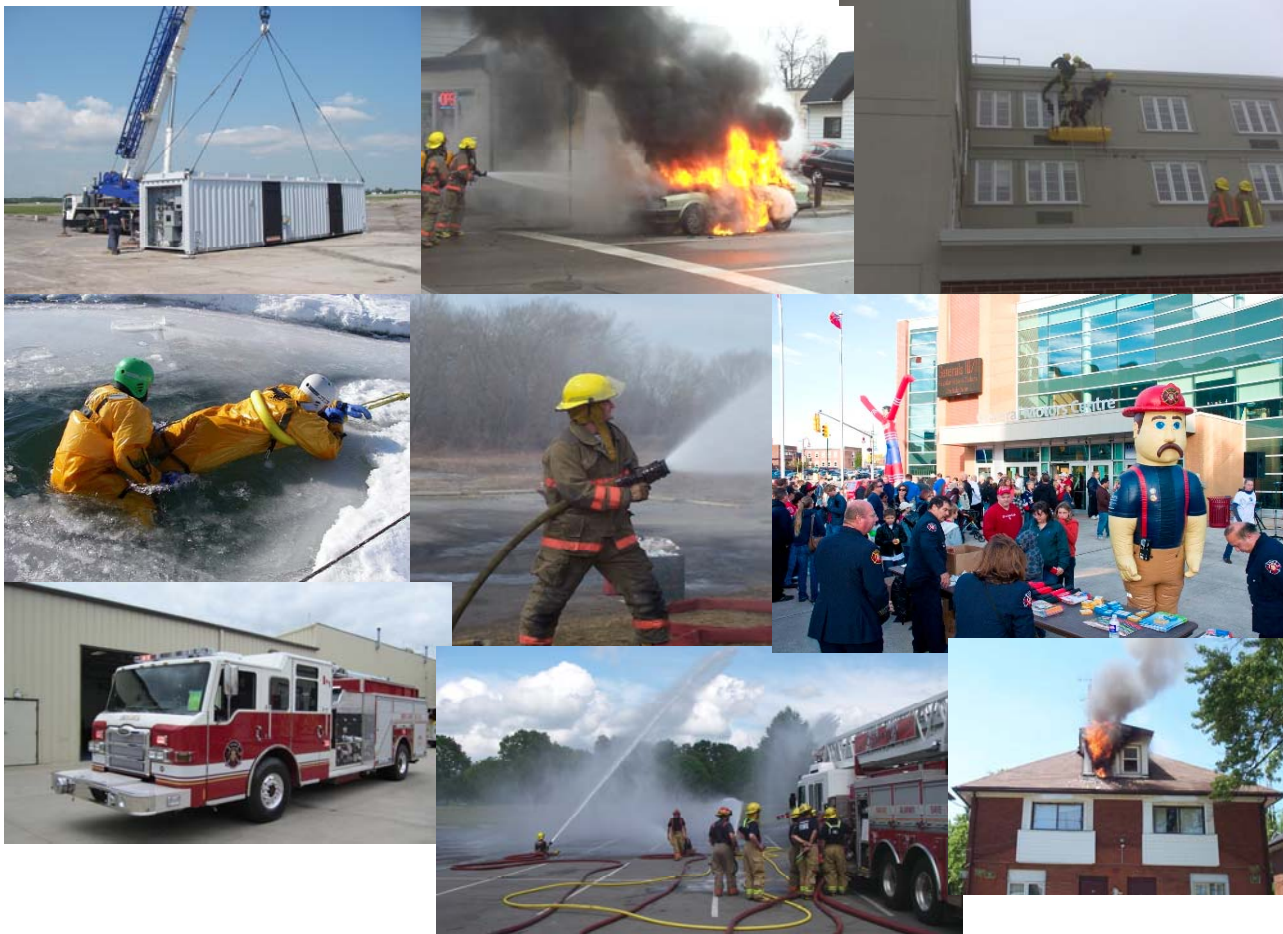




# Oshawa Fire Services

## 2010 Annual Report



## **Message from Fire Chief Steve Meringer**



Your Worship Mayor J. Henry and Members of Council

The statistical information contained in this report is a summary of the activities of Oshawa Fire Services for the year ending December 31, 2010.

The Department responded to 4,920 calls during the year, a decrease of 200 calls over 2009.

The estimated total fire loss for the year was \$3,337,873 a decrease of \$1,120,118 compared to 2009 figures. We continue to investigate the cause of all fires to determine a specific cause, in order to implement the most appropriate prevention and education programs.

There were 15 civilian and 1 firefighter fire related injuries and no fatalities in 2010.

I'm pleased to report that calls for service continued to decline. Although the medical response calls have shown the greatest decline, it's important to note that fire responses are down considerably. Cooking and careless smoking continue to be the leading causes. Although these fires created a substantial dollar loss, fire crews did a remarkable job each time in limiting the damage and stopping the fire spread. As a result of the reduction in calls, staff have additional time to undertake other activities such as training and public education initiatives. Fire Suppression staff are taking on more public education initiatives throughout the city which has been well received by the public.

Staff continues to be diligent in their respective training regimes. All legislated training has been completed for the year as well as many other training subjects including specialized training protocols. Through the hard work of the Training Division, suppression staff had the opportunity to conduct training in "real" environments throughout the city using homes designated for demolition as well as the new propane fueled live training trailer. As the incidences of fires continue to decrease, it is vital that staff train in these environments to maintain their competency. This unit provides a safe environment in which to review existing evolutions as well as develop new skills for both firefighters and Officers.

Fire Prevention staff continue to inspect properties throughout the city for fire code compliancy. All requested and legislated inspections were completed. Staff continue to complete proactive inspections as well in residential, commercial and industrial occupancies. Public education staff provide a wide variety of programs to all age groups. Past fire causes are examined and programs are targeted accordingly. The Ontario Fire Marshal's office has identified public education as the first line of defense against fires and these programs together with fire code enforcement strategies are surely one of the reasons for the continued decline of fires in Oshawa.

Fire Services Mechanical Division has completed all required certifications for the year on the vehicle fleet. In house ground ladder testing was introduced this year. All ground ladders were inspected and tested with repairs completed in a timely manner. This change in process is cost effective and ensures reliability of testing and repairs. The increase in vehicle maintenance programs continues to show great results. Both heavy and light vehicles have fewer breakdowns during the year and annual inspections take less time to complete.

City staff continued to take part in Emergency Management training and exercises in 2010. The focus of the training and exercise for the year was on weather related emergency recovery operations. Based on changes in weather patterns, this type of training is considered very timely and responsive. This training prepares staff to provide public assistance in the event of a large scale emergency. The City's emergency plan continues to be updated from year to year and the Emergency Operation Centre undergoes technological updates as well.

I congratulate the Oshawa Firefighters Association for their continued hard work in the community, raising funds and providing assistance for a number of charities and groups.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank the men and women of Fire Services for their dedication and hard work in keeping our community safe. Your commitment to the well being of our community is commendable as you respond to all types of requests for assistance in a professional manner. Congratulations to those who received promotions in 2010 as well as those who have retired. I would also like to thank Council and staff within other Divisions of the City for their assistance in helping Fire Services achieve our goals.

Respectfully submitted



Steve Meringer  
Fire Chief/Community Emergency Management Coordinator

## MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and protect the health and well-being of the community through adaptable and progressive education, prevention and emergency services.

### VISION

To continually pursue and advance a level of professional excellence recognized as a model for the fire service.

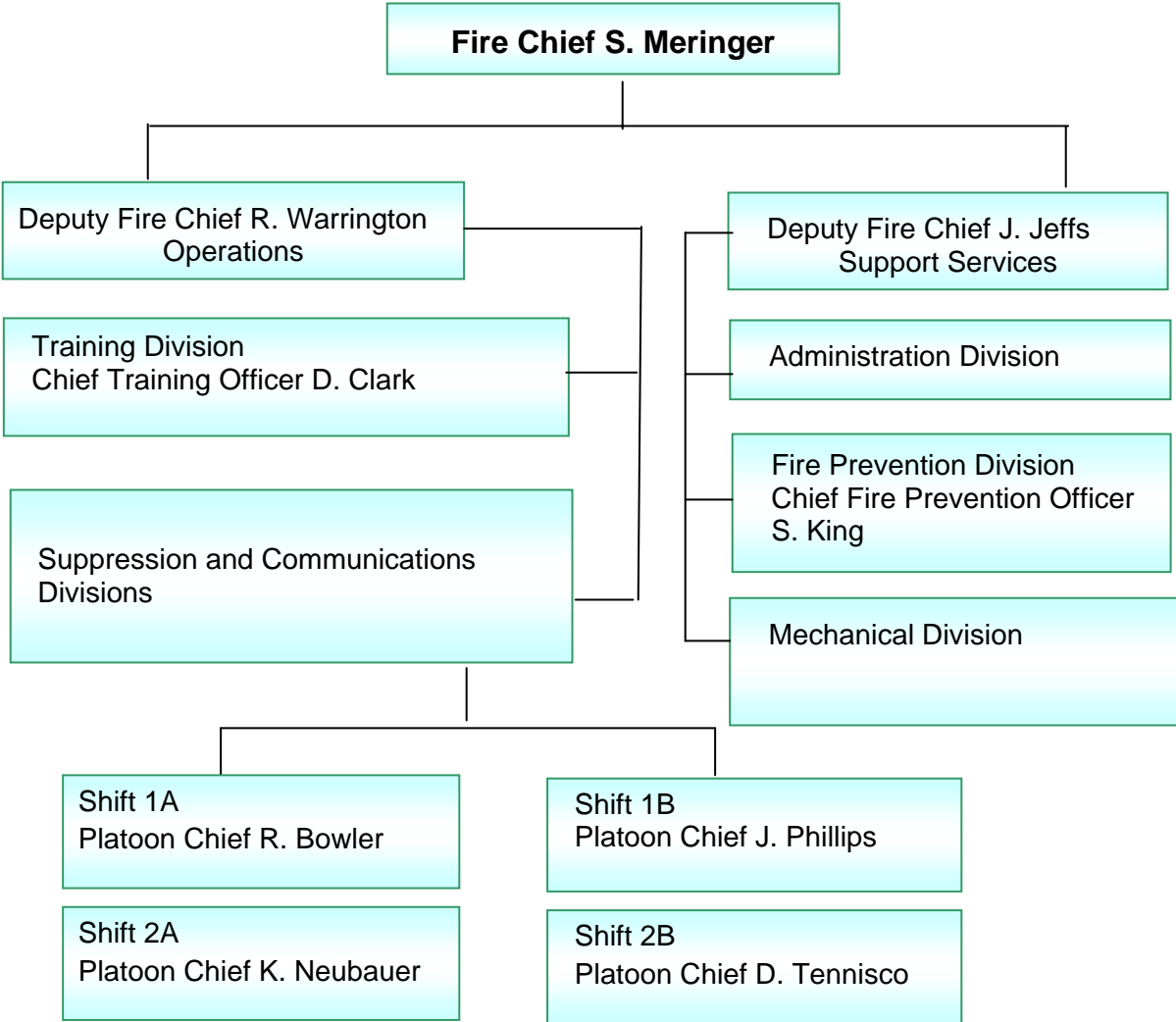
#### Contact numbers for Oshawa Fire Services

Fire Prevention, Inspections & Public Education Division  
1550 Harmony Road North  
905-433-1237

Fire Chief, Administration & Training Division  
199 Adelaide Avenue West  
905-433-1238

Website  
[www.oshawa.ca/fire](http://www.oshawa.ca/fire)

# OSHAWA FIRE SERVICES ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## OPERATIONS



**Bob Warrington,  
Deputy Chief,  
Operations**

The 2010 calendar year reflected requests to Oshawa Fire Services for fire emergency responses both in and outside our city boundaries. The same proved true for Technical Rescue response services where our crews responded to an incident that occurred in one of our neighbouring communities.

I'm proud to say that staff of the Operational Division have demonstrated once again their commitment to serving the citizens of Oshawa and the Region, through the professional manner in which they carry out not only the day to day activities and routines, but also the care and attention to details when faced with adversity on emergency scenes throughout the year.

In order to maintain the professional level of service afforded to our citizens, Oshawa Fire Services is fortunate to have one of the most proactive and knowledgeable Training Divisions within the Region. Congratulations to Chief Training Officer Clark in achieving and maintaining the department at the high standard of excellence we enjoy today.

2010 marked the first full year of operation for the Propane Live Fire Training Unit. This unit was purchased through a partnership with the Town of Whitby, Municipality of Clarington and Durham College. The Training Division scheduled all staff through the unit in its first year of operation. It's hoped that this model of partnership will prove successful and provide future similar opportunities for the sharing of facilities. Fire Services has also been provided the opportunity to train in real environments with the generous donation of the use of homes designated for demolition. Staff are able to practice and develop new skills using these homes.

In reviewing the 2010 significant events of the year, the residential occupancies continue to present the highest threat to human life safety and survivability during a fire situation. Having occupants evacuate safely out of their residence because of the successful activation of smoke alarms is one of the few positive outcomes of a serious situation for our staff.

I thank all citizens whose homes we visited during our 2010 Alarm for Life program. We appreciate you taking the time to not only discuss fire safety but ensuring smoke alarms are present and maintained in your homes. Fire Suppression staff installed many new smoke alarms and batteries throughout the City as well as providing fire safety information. Although the true success of the program cannot be measured, it is our belief that the installation of early detection devices and occupant intervention in containing a small fire is most likely an unreported success story. We at Oshawa Fire Services hope that lessons learned in near misses are put into lifetime practices in maintaining fire safe homes. For these instances, we are grateful to have had the opportunities to intervene.

## TRAINING DIVISION



**Derrick Clark**  
Chief Training Officer

The Training Division has completed another successful year. This is reflected in the day to day operations of Fire Services staff. Oshawa Fire Services continues to strive forward in efficiency and safety both on and off the fire ground, due to the dedication and professionalism of all staff. The Training Division is pleased to welcome Training Officer Steve Boyd to the training division. Steve comes to the training division with over 24 years of experience as a fire fighter and Captain. As an officer Steve comes to the training division with a wealth of knowledge and skills. Welcome aboard.

Some of the major accomplishments from the Training Division were:

- Live Fire Training
- Auto Extrication Training
- Firefighter Survival Training
- Hazardous Material Training
- Technical Rope Rescue Training
- Confined Space Training
- Trench Rescue Training
- Accountability and Entry Control Training

2010 was not a promotional exam year; however, Firefighter candidates successfully completed progression exams in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Class. Congratulations to the following candidates.

### **FF 1<sup>st</sup> Class**

Michael Barlow, Cory Hesson, Nicholas Laffin, Justin Squires, Timothy Sutton

### **FF 3<sup>rd</sup> Class**

Chris Anton, Matthew Baca, Ryan Grech, Christopher Leslie, Mike Meringer, Robert Monroe, Glen Schmeichel, Ken Whetham

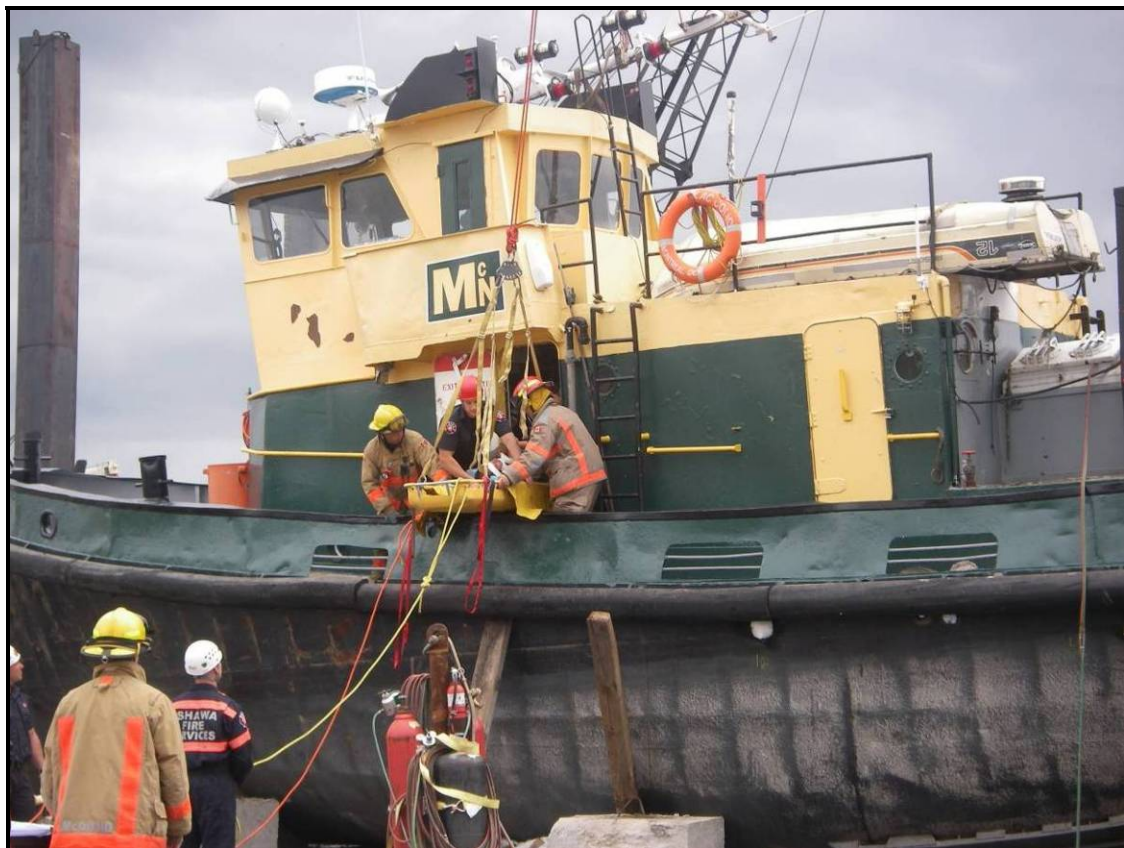
It would be impossible to effectively complete all the hours of training throughout the year without the dedicated assistance of our valued shift trainers. I extend my thanks to all members of the Oshawa Fire Service who support our vision and help deliver training.

Rope Rescue	Craig Baird, Mike Barlow, Dave Corner, Dave Craven, Nathan Langille, Scott MacInally, Gary Pascoe, Daniel Suke, Jamie Taylor, Greg Watson, Scott Wood
Trench Rescue	Brian Brough, Mike Griffin, Bill Passfield, Joe Therrien
Confined Space	Steve Barkwell, Mike Kozak, Jim Lee, Brian MacDonell
Water Rescue	Scott Calder, Adam Inkpen, Shawn Melanson, Ryan Williamson
Auto Extrication	Steve Barkwell, Brett Cooper, Kevin Dickinson, Scott Gordon, Grant Hooper, John Logeman, Jeff Smith, Andy Taylor, Gord Vincent, Glen Wood

Pump Ops	Brian Brough, Cory Devereaux, Mike Dingman, Ralph Engel, Lance Fass, Jessie Martell, Jim Moss, Justin Squires, John Vanderven
EMR Medical	Kevin Dickinson, Mark Kolobutin, Jessie Martell, Chris Nesbitt, Ken Whetham, Todd Wood
FF Survival	Jessie Martell, Mike Meringer, Mike Savelli, Mike Savoie, Scott Wood
Health & Wellness	Ken Whetham
Live Fire Training	Steve Barkwell, Jim Lee, Troy Mayall, Glen Wood, Scott Wood
Hazardous Material	Steve Barkwell, Peter Dyson, Jim Moss, Jim Stoddart
Forcible Entry	Matthew Baca
Shift Coordinators	Tim Fogal, Brian Hoard, Rick Kurelo, Paul Richard

The Training Division oversees training and education for the department. Monthly training is conducted in Suppression, Communications and Fire Prevention. Other areas where the Training Division takes an active role are legislation interpretation, policies & procedures, implementation of new and existing equipment and research & resource management at major incidents.

In 2010, 165 Suppression personnel, 9 Fire Prevention personnel and 16 Communications personnel participated in 23,737.4 of individual hours of Fire Services Training. In addition to regular training, our Technical Rescue Teams comprised of Rope, Trench, Confined Space and Hazardous Materials completed 2,323 hours for a total 26,060.40 hours of training and education.



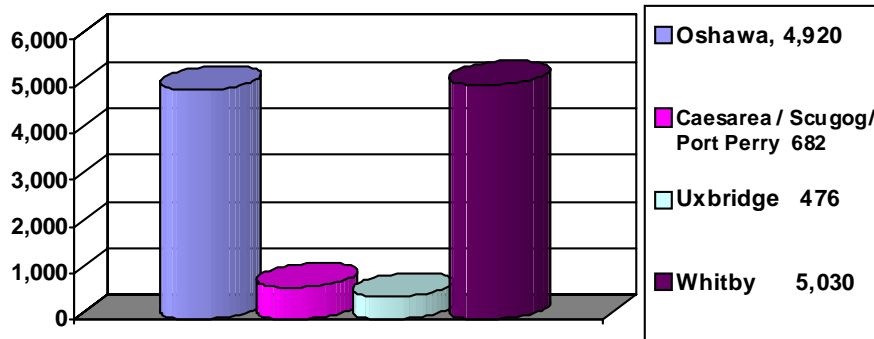
Below are the areas and disciplines Fire Services Training Division administer or facilitate annually:



## COMMUNICATIONS

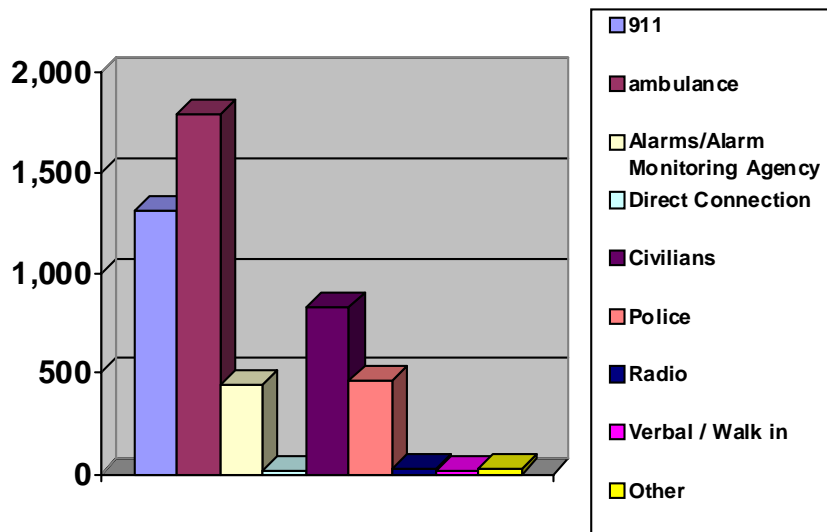
### EMERGENCY CALLS DISPATCHED FROM OSHAWA FIRE SERVICES HEADQUARTERS

Oshawa .....	4,920
Caesarea/ Scugog/Port Perry .....	682
Uxbridge .....	476
Whitby .....	<u>5,030</u>
<b>Total Calls .....</b>	<b><u>11,108</u></b>



### ALARMS

9-1-1 .....	1,308
Telephone from Ambulance .....	1,789
Alarms/Alarm Monitoring Agency .....	443
Direct Connection .....	21
Telephone from Civilian (other than 9-1-1) .....	830
Telephone from Police Services .....	459
Radio .....	27
Verbal/Walk-In .....	20
Other .....	<u>23</u>
<b>Total Alarms .....</b>	<b><u>4,920</u></b>



**SUPPRESSION DIVISION  
PLATOON CHIEFS**



**Shift 1A Platoon Chief R. Bowler**



**Shift 1B Platoon Chief J. Phillips**



**Shift 2A Platoon Chief K. Neubauer**

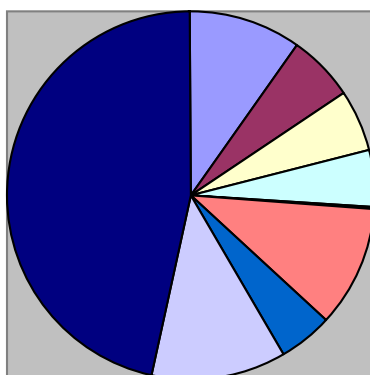


**Shift 2B Platoon Chief D. Tennisco**

## RESPONSE STATISTICS

<b><u>Non-Fire Emergency Incidents</u></b>	
▪ Pre-Fire Conditions: Overheat / Pot on Stove etc.	568
▪ Malicious False Alarms	104
▪ Other False Alarms	800
▪ Public Hazard / Hazardous Materials Incident	179
▪ Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation	465
▪ Rescues	35
▪ Vehicle Accidents & Extrication	797
▪ Medical Aid	1,147
▪ Other Responses	<u>685</u>
<b>Total Non-Fire Responses</b>	<b>4,780</b>

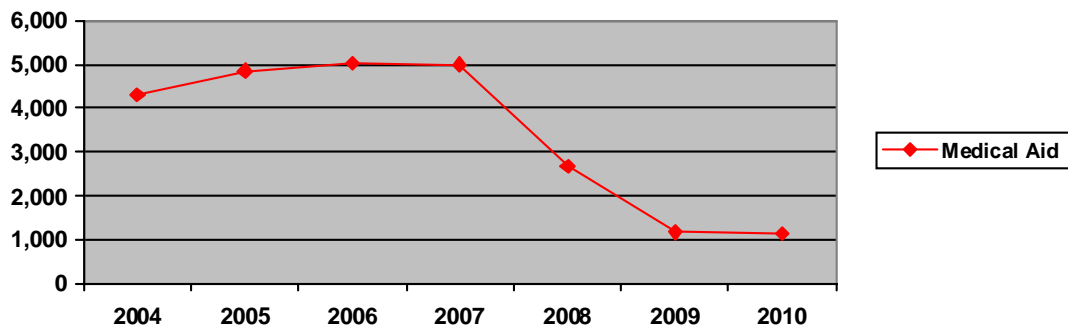
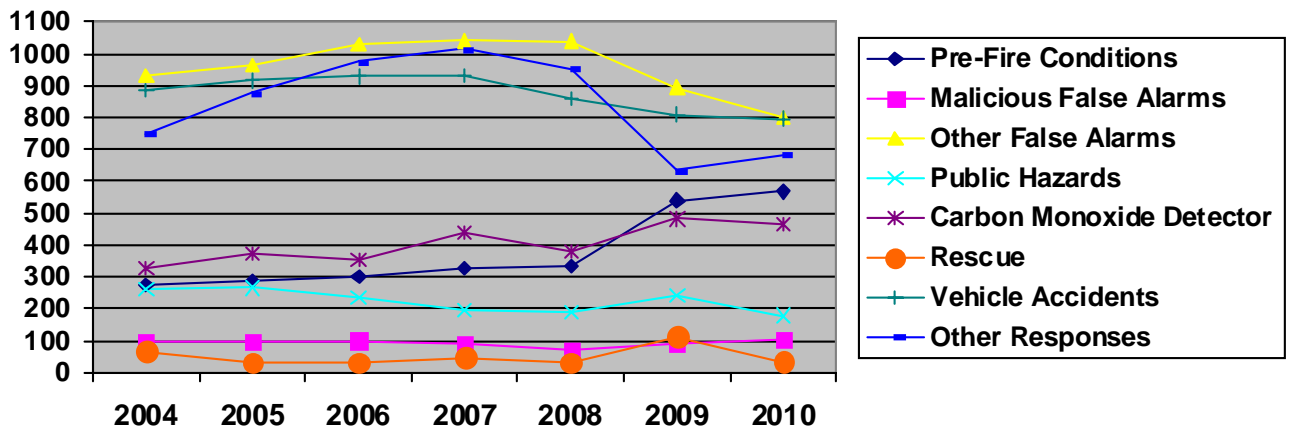
<b><u>Fire Incidents</u></b>		<u>Estimated Loss \$</u>
▪ Cooking Equipment	20	\$334,863
▪ Electrical Distribution Equipment	6	\$ 192,150
▪ Heating Equipment	5	\$180,000
▪ Appliances / Home Entertainment Items	8	\$164,100
▪ Lighting Equipment	4	\$ 7,527
▪ Processing Equipment (Painting, Incinerator, Chemical)	0	0
▪ Open Flame Tools, Smokers' Articles	15	\$ 353,441
▪ Vehicle / Other Electrical or Fire / Other Mechanical	17	\$157,600
▪ Miscellaneous / Undetermined / Under Investigation	21	\$392,901
▪ Exposures	<u>44</u>	<u>\$1,555,291</u>
<b>Total Fire Incidents</b>	<b>140</b>	
<b>Total All Responses 2010</b>	<b>4,920</b>	<b><u>\$ 3,337,873</u></b>



■ Cooking Equipment	■ Electrical Distribution Equipment
■ Heating Equipment	■ Appliances / Home Entertainment Items
■ Lighting Equipment	■ Open Flame Tools, Smokers' Articles
■ Vehicle Electrical or Mechanical	■ Miscellaneous / Undetermined
■ Exposures	

## FIRE SERVICES RESPONSE STATISTICS NON FIRE EMERGENCY/INCIDENTS (7 YEAR COMPARISON)

Non Fire Emergency/Incidents:	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Pre-Fire Conditions: Overheat/Pot on Stove etc.	274	289	299	327	334	540	568
Malicious False Alarms	95	99	100	89	70	90	104
Other False Alarms	932	965	1028	1,041	1,039	895	800
Public Hazard/Hazardous Materials Incident	262	266	234	196	189	243	179
Carbon Monoxide Detector Activation	329	374	353	439	380	482	465
Rescues	67	31	31	46	31	112	35
Vehicle Accidents & Extrication	887	916	929	933	859	810	797
Other Responses	751	876	976	1,016	953	635	685
Medical Aid	<u>4,319</u>	<u>4,854</u>	<u>5,017</u>	<u>4,998</u>	<u>2,681</u>	<u>1,168</u>	<u>1,147</u>
<b>Total Non Fire Responses</b>	<b>7,916</b>	<b>8,670</b>	<b>8,967</b>	<b>9,085</b>	<b>6,536</b>	<b>4,975</b>	<b>4,780</b>



**FIRE SERVICES RESPONSE STATISTICS**  
**FIRE INCIDENTS/IGNITION SOURCE**  
**(7 YEAR COMPARISON)**

Fire Incidents/Ignition Source:	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Cooking Equipment	33	39	29	24	27	18	20
Electrical Distribution Equipment	15	16	15	14	8	10	6
Heating Equipment	13	16	9	7	12	2	5
Appliances / Home Entertainment Items	9	5	3	5	4	6	8
Lighting Equipment	5	12	6	1	5	6	4
Processing Equipment (Painting, Incinerator, Chemical)	1	3	1	1	0	0	0
Open Flame Tools, Smokers' Articles	59	80	53	83	36	19	15
Vehicle/ Electrical or Mechanical Items	30	22	13	15	21	17	17
Miscellaneous/Undetermined/Under Invest.	168	235	187	276	143	29	21
Exposures						39	44
<b>Total Fire Responses</b>	<u>333</u>	<u>428</u>	<u>316</u>	<u>427</u>	<u>256</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>140</u>
<b>Total All Responses</b>	8,249	9,098	9,283	9,512	6,792	5,120	4,920

## 2010 FIRE RESPONSE STATISTICS

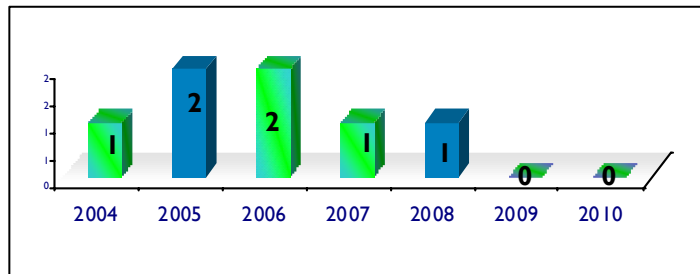
**Fire Services responded to 140 fires during the year.**

### **FIRE CAUSE:**

Incendiary (includes arson, vandalism and youth vandalism 12-17 yrs)	<b>22</b>
Accidental (children playing, vehicle accident)	<b>4</b>
Design, construction, installation, or maintenance deficiency	<b>3</b>
Misuse of source of ignition	<b>34</b>
Misuse of material first ignited	<b>16</b>
Mechanical or electrical failure	<b>09</b>
Other or undetermined / under investigation	<b><u>52</u></b>
	<b>140</b>



## FIRE SERVICES 2004 – 2010 FIRE FATALITIES STATISTICS



## SUPPORT SERVICES



**John Jeffs, Deputy Fire Chief,  
Support Services**

2010 was an exciting year for Oshawa Fire Services. All five fire stations participated in “Energy Ernie’s” Energy Conservation Challenge. The fire stations were able to reduce the overall energy consumption by 14% by simply changing some habits. This reduction resulted in an overall cost avoidance of over \$2,200. Fire Services were the champions of the 3 R’s, reducing their consumption, reducing green house gas emissions and costs. My thanks to Ernie Davies, Manager of the Office of the Energy Management and Suzanne Elston, Senior Environmental Co-ordinator for managing this energy challenge.



Oshawa Fire Services teamed up with the Oshawa Generals to promote Fire Safety and kick off Fire Prevention Week for 2010. This initial “Fire and Ice” campaign had Fire Services Technical Rescue members repel from the roof to the ice surface of the GM Centre, prior to the Oshawa-Kingston hockey game. Prevention staff also organized the “Junior Fire Fighter” obstacle course on the ice between periods. Firefighters and Fire Service vehicles were also in attendance to provide fire safety pamphlets to promote fire safety.

Fire Services staff within all Divisions participated in the inaugural City of Oshawa employee engagement survey within an overall participation rate of 92%.

## MECHANICAL DIVISION

The Mechanical Division maintains and repairs all fire service vehicles and equipment. The fleet consists of three aerial devices, eight pumpers, one heavy rescue, one tanker, and one hazmat trailer. This Division also looks after light and medium duty vehicles which consist of thirteen cars and trucks.

Fire Services took delivery of our newest pumper/rescue and our first Pierce manufactured truck. This 6,000 litre pumper went into service on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.



In 2010, Oshawa Fire Services, Mechanical Division, completed our very first “in house” ground ladder testing. There were over 50 ground ladders tested to NFPA 1932 standards. This program is anticipated to save considerable costs and provide quality service.

In closing, I take this opportunity to thank our four administration staff located at Station #1 and Station #5 who continue to maintain an efficient and effectively run office which aids all the Divisions and all Fire Services personnel.

## FIRE PREVENTION



**Sue King,  
Chief Fire Prevention Officer**

The year 2010 was very productive for the Fire Prevention Division. Activities in education, inspection and prosecution made for a busy year.

Ashlynn MacKinnon was named the first “Junior Fire Chief for a Year”. Her essay outlining fire safety was the best among more than one hundred entries received. One of the prizes Ashlynn received was a week at Oshawa’s Junior Firefighter Camp and a new bicycle compliments of Canadian Tire, Gibb St. Store.

Congratulations Ashlynn!



A new educational program was launched in Oshawa in 2010 – “What’s Cooking for Teens”. This worthwhile program promotes safe cooking practices to teens. Seven high school classes participated in 2010, and with excellent feedback from both students and educators, this program will continue.

Oshawa Fire Services partnered with Enbridge Gas in 2010 and as a result “Project Zero” was born. Enbridge donated \$15,000 worth of CO Detectors which were distributed within our community. The Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres throughout the city was the setting for a series of educational seminars geared to seniors. At the end of the session, a CO alarm was presented to participants. This program was well received by all who attended. This partnership allowed Oshawa Fire Services to reach over 200 seniors within our community.

The annual Community Fire Safety Day was expanded to include not only a day of fun and educational activities at Oshawa Fire Hall #5 on Saturday, but a partnership with the Oshawa Generals Hockey Club which promoted fire safety at the General Motors Centre during an Oshawa Generals Junior ‘A’ hockey game the following day. This weekend event afforded Oshawa Fire Services the opportunity to reach thousands of people within our community to help spread the word about fire safety. A fund raising component of the weekend raised \$5,000 for Camp Bucko.



Along with many educational components in 2010, staff was diligent with fire code inspections and enforcement activities. Efforts through inspections to bring more and more buildings into compliance with the Ontario Fire Code are ongoing.

Staff from Oshawa Fire Prevention Division continues to be a driving force in educating the public on the importance of fire safety and enforcing the Ontario Fire Code in Oshawa.

Congratulations to Fire Prevention Inspector, Carmelo Reitano for his success in graduating from the Ontario Fire College in 2010.

Together with community partners, we make every effort to make Oshawa a safe community.

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>NUMBER OF OCCURENCES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PEOPLE TRAINED</b>
<b>INSPECTIONS</b>		
Residential Inspections	711	
Residential Rental Bylaw Inspections	224	
Assembly Inspections	126	
Complaint Inspections	371	
Industrial Inspections	57	
New Construction Inspections	415	
Occupancy/LCBO	15	
School Inspections	64	
Fire Investigations	40	
Business Licenses	410	
Plans Review/Approval	172	
Re-inspections (various occupancies)	1,023	
<b>PUBLIC EDUCATION</b>		
Elementary/Secondary School Presentations	66	2,750
UOIT/Durham College Presentations	1	50
Seniors Presentations	11	295
Public Support Worker (PSW) Presentations	10	381
Fire Extinguisher Training Sessions	43	940
Other (Presentations)	20	440
TAPP-C Participants	19	
<b>LEGAL PROCEEDINGS</b>		
Court Charges	39	
Total Fine Amounts ( including Victim Fine Surcharge)	\$46,840	
<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>		
Freedom of Information Requests	14	

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act requires all municipalities to plan and prepare for emergencies. A number of senior staff within the Corporation form the Emergency Control Group. This group convenes in the Emergency Operations Centre located at Northview Community Centre in the event of an emergency and makes the high level decisions necessary in order to support the on-scene operations and/or mitigate further effects wherever possible. In order to comply with the Act, a number of activities must be completed annually. This includes training of staff and conducting an emergency exercise.

In 2010, the training and exercise program focused on recovery operations after a weather related emergency. This type of situation has been identified as a risk in the City's hazard identification and risk assessment process. A special thanks to the Durham Emergency Management office for their assistance in providing ongoing training and exercise development throughout the region.

Information Technology Services is to be commended for the technological advancements within the Emergency Operations Centre. An in-house developed electronic dashboard program on the individual computers allows staff to not only communicate but also access all necessary materials within the emergency centre.



## **FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

### **Bill Passfield**

Firefighter Bill Passfield started with Fire Services in October of 2003. In his 7 years of service, Bill has progressed through the ranks to firefighter first class and has made a significant impact on the department.

Bill grew up and played many sports in Oshawa over the years. He was a member of the Minto Cup Champion Whitby Warriors team in 1985 and the Mann Cup Champion Brooklyn Redman team in 1990.

Bill is actively involved with the Oshawa Professional Firefighters Association as a shift steward and also attends various charity functions hosted by the Association.

Oshawa Fire Services responds to various types of emergency incidents. Included in these incidents are specialized rescue calls such as High Angle, Confined Space, Trench Rescue, Hazmat and Water and Ice Rescue. In order to respond effectively to these types of events staff must train to a higher level in each respective area. Bill is involved within the specialized rescue program and is also the Trench Rescue instructor for his shift. This proficiency requires many additional hours of training in order to stay current. Bill is always diligent in both his training as well as instructing others.

Many times a firefighter is the natural choice for a sports team's trainer or the 'go to' person in the neighbourhood when someone gets hurt. Occasionally, staff will come upon a motor vehicle accident while off duty and they generally jump in to help. This was the occasion on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 when Bill witnessed an accident at the corner of Mary St. N. and Rossland Road. There was a significant crash and a vehicle ended up on its side with the occupant trapped inside. Motor vehicle accident scenes can be very dangerous with fluids present, other traffic still moving and sharp objects everywhere.

Bill pulled over right away and immediately assessed the situation, called for EMS, Police and Fire vehicles and began providing emergency first aid to the trapped victim. Upon arrival of emergency responders, Bill stayed with the occupant and maintained stabilization of the neck. The victim was removed from the vehicle and transported to hospital. The victim survived this accident and Bill's actions on that day played a large part in that survival.

