

2008 Annual Report

Dear Patrons,

As we move into another year we reflect on all the accomplishments and changes over the past year. We hope to provide you a snap-shot of these in this annual report.

One of the most important accomplishments was the patrons of the fire district provided us the support for renewal of a 2.5 million dollar bond issue. I can assure you that we will be responsible in the expenditure of these funds in our capital purchases and make every attempt to keep you informed of the progress. A couple of the articles within this newsletter address where we are in the process of accomplishing these projects.

The district continues to work hard on providing a level of staffing to answer the calls for assistance. Although our call load was only slightly higher from the previous year we have to continue to evaluate those calls for assistance that are received before units are back in-service. We look at these simultaneous calls very seriously because it reduces the number of personnel that are available to provide the assistance.

We “Thank You” for your continued support and please do not hesitate to call for our emergency services or for assistance from our fire prevention and customer services divisions.

Respectfully,
Greg A. Pottberg, CFO, EFO
Fire Chief

Fort Osage Fire Protection District Board of Directors

Larry Deaton-Chairman
Jerry Shrout-Treasurer
Charley Graham-Secretary

www.fortosagefire.org

FIRE AND EMS OPERATIONS

In 2008 we responded to 1,511 calls for our assistance. Responses for medical care were 1,154 and out of them we transported 717 patients to local hospitals. Over the past year we responded to 16 fires located within a structure of some type and 21 mobile property fires. Our staffing levels each 24 hour period when at full staffing are 4 personnel at Station 3 in Salem East and 6 personnel at Station 1 in Buckner. We also have 4 administrative chiefs and an administrative secretary at Station 1.

With the Bond that passed this last year we are in the process of replacing trucks in our fleet. In the next year we will order the following: Fire Engine, Water Tanker and 2 Ambulances. This will let us replace older apparatus with trucks that meet current safety standards for the protection of our fire fighters and provide more reliable service to the patrons.

In November of 2008 we received notice that the District was a recipient of a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. This was for vehicle exhaust system in the current stations. The projected costs are \$96,000 with the Federal share being 95% and the Fire Districts cost being 5%.

The District currently has been rated as a Class 5 through Insurance Service Office for all property within 5 miles of a station. This rating is based on a scale from 1 to 10 with 1 being the best rating a department can get. This rating provides for a reduced rate in your homeowners and business insurance policy.

When citizens need assistance please call 9-1-1. If you call directly to a station or stop by a station our personnel could be out of the station on various activities in the community. Our dispatch is located in Lee Summit and that is where the 9-1-1 call is answered and then they dispatch the appropriate resources.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The year 2008 proved to be a safer year than years past for the Fire District. Employee injuries and apparatus accidents were at an all time low. The District had a total of four vehicle accidents and six employee injuries in 2008. All of the vehicle accidents occurred on or during emergency operations. Four of the employee injuries occurred on emergency scenes and two during day to day operations around the fire stations.

An objective of the Health and Safety Committee in 2008 was to review all of the District's General Operating Guidelines, Procedures, and Policies per National Standards. The National Standard used was the National Fire Protection Association 1500 - Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Programs. This standard defines how each fire department should implement safety and occupational programs throughout their department. The committee revised and developed new guidelines, procedures, and policies per the national standard. This ensures that our personnel have the knowledge and ability to operate as safely and efficiently as possible during emergency and non-emergency operations for the patrons of our district.

TRAINING DIVISION

The Training Division continually strives to challenge our personnel in the areas of Fire and Emergency Medical services training. Our personnel attend training through many avenues including hands-on, lecture/classroom, internet based, and guest instructors. The passing of the bond renewal last November will allow us to utilize a portion of the bond money for the development of a centralized training station and training grounds for our personnel. It takes a large area of space to conduct fire fighter, apparatus, and driver training. With the development of the new training grounds this will allow us ample space to complete the necessary training for our personnel.

The Training Division continually works towards providing the continuing education that our personnel need to maintain certifications. Some of the certifications that require continuing education credits are Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic, Basic Life Support Instructors, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Fire Service Instructor, Fire Investigators, and Weapons of Mass Destruction & Hazardous Materials Operations. Our personnel attended over 4,000 hours of local, state, and national training in 2008.

Jeremy Young, Division Chief of Training

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The last year period offered several severe weather watches and warnings. In April 2008 fire district personnel tracked a rotating wall cloud across the southern area of the District. Then in the second week of September a warning was put out for northern Jackson County with us activating the outdoor warning sirens. The Levasy area again had some minor high water, but only affecting the eastern area.

At the 2008 Emergency Managers Conference, we were introduced to the state online resource and reporting system. This was a major topic at the conference and its expected compatibility with our regional system.

Also during the year we had two personnel become Missouri Structural Assessment Evaluators. In events of catastrophic destructive emergencies, we are available to deem buildings safe for occupancy according to a scale of damage.

Richard Alexander, Assistant Chief

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM

During 2008 the Tri-District Hazmat team personnel trained in several different areas, to include Hazmat safety and survival, scene rescue using the LAST (large area search team) technique, chemical identification, radiological monitoring, mass decontamination and chlorine leak response. This include using Chlorine A,B, and C kits. Which are leak control kits for the different sizes of containers used for storage and shipping of chlorine, which is prevalent on commercial sites and on the railroads within the district. Each of the Kansas City regional teams performed hazmat technician level skills competency testing at the Overland Park Fire Training center during the year.

The Tri-District Hazmat Team consists of Fort Osage, Central Jackson County, and Sni Valley Fire Districts. Each of the 3 Districts contribute funds to support the operations of the team. The Hazmat team had 5 full-team activations during the year to handle an overturned chemical tanker truck, meth lab, two responses for chemical identification, and possible explosives.

Keith Vollrath, Assistant Chief

CONSTRUCTION PERMITS FOR 2008

Buckner:

Miscellaneous Permits:	32
Residential:	1
Commercial:	4
Duplex:	<u>2</u>

Total **39**

Jackson County:

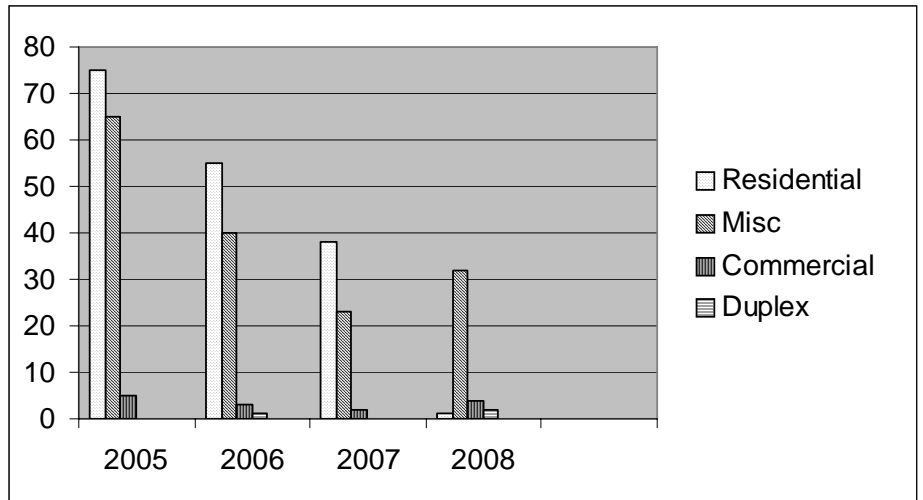
Room Additions:	5
Residential	<u>18</u>

Total **23**

Levasy:

Miscellaneous:	<u>1</u>
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Total Permits for 2008: **63**



Total construction permits are down from previous years. There are several large projects that are currently under construction in the City of Buckner. There is a new Dollar General Store being constructed at the corner of Central & 24 Highway. Proposed opening is February of 2009. Two new apartment complexes are under construction on North Hudson. The first complex will be opened at the end of January 2009 with the second complex to open in spring of 2009. The City of Buckner and the Park Board are having a concession stand with restrooms constructed in Heisler Park. All of these projects will be nice additions for the City of Buckner.

The Fire District conducts annual fire and life safety inspections for the Fort Osage School District facilities and on the commercial facilities in the Fire District. During the inspection, fire companies are looking for a variety of fire & life safety hazards. Listed below are some of those hazards:

1. Exits in the building are not blocked
2. Emergency lights & signs are in working order
3. Fire extinguishers, sprinkler & hood systems (if applicable) are up to date
4. Combustibles are not stored by the heating system
5. Flammable liquids are stored in a proper container
6. No broken wires or overloaded circuits on electrical devices
7. General housekeeping of the business

This is only a partial list of the hazards that fire crews are looking for and then they inform the owner of the business of the hazards found.

The fire companies spent approximately 84 hours on inspections in 2008.

Don Landers, Division Chief of Inspections

FORT OSAGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 287
BUCKNER, MO. 64016

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BUCKNER, MO
PERMIT NO. 06

POSTAL PATRON

FIRE PREVENTION/PUBLIC EDUCATION

During 2008 we participated in 72 prevention activities throughout the district that include, station tours, apparatus demonstrations, CPR training, kitchen safety classes and fire extinguisher training to a number of different community organizations and groups. Some of these groups include Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, school groups and civic organizations.

We also participated in a number of campaigns such as Fill the Helmet to raise money for the Burns Recovered Support Group who during the year provide prevention materials to fire departments and also hold a week long camp for adolescents who are burn survivors. Other activities we participated in are Fire Prevention & EMS week and the “Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery” campaigns and once a month we provide blood pressure screening at the senior citizens center in Buckner. In addition to that, we have patrons stopping by the fire stations for weekly blood pressure checks.

File of Life files are provided free of charge to residents who have extended medical history. These forms help emergency personnel with quick and easy access to medical information when they arrive on scene. The form is filled out and placed in a magnetic holder and attached to the front of your refrigerator, so when personnel arrive they simply take the file and immediately have a list of medical information to include medications. When available we also provide and install smoke detectors to low income families to provide for early warning of a fire.

In addition to the above we also provide Juvenile Fire setter interventions and had the Fire Safety trailer to 13 events with in the Kansas City Metro area. We also have 2 personnel who currently mentor’s in the Youth Friends program at local schools.

Greg Daugherty, Assistant Chief