

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief's Overview of 2008

In 2008 we responded to 1,539 EMS and 401 fire calls. These numbers represent an increase of 19 EMS calls and a decrease of 42 fire calls from the previous year. The decline in fire calls can be attributed several things. Rain in the spring and early summer reduced the number of grass fires in half. Assistant Chief Schmader has worked with area businesses to assure fire safety in the work place and that alarm systems are properly working and serviced according to standards. When alarm systems go into trouble or send false alarms he has diligently followed up with the responsible party to return that system to working order. A.C. Schmader and other certified inspectors' routine inspections of business and industry. Lt. McBirney taught numerous fire extinguisher classes to businesses to help employees keep small fires from getting out of control.

Fire loss this year was \$92,527 from which was mostly accumulated from four incidents. An industrial fire at Mantaline Corporation which resulted in approximately \$5,000 in fire loss, a house fire causing \$21,177 in damage, an exterior house fire in July yielded another \$5,000 in loss and a house fire in December totaled \$60,000 in estimated damages.

Our big project this year was an extreme makeover for the Ladder Truck. This 1986 vehicle is undergoing major mechanical, functional, and body updates to extend its service life. Although the cost of these updates is over \$200,000, the replacement cost would be over \$900,000 for a new vehicle. We expect it to be back in service by April.

New exercise equipment purchased through a fitness grant was delivered in November and members are finishing up their physicals, stress tests, and strength and flexibility testing. The testing identified four members who required further testing with one requiring treatment. Firefighters experience rapid increases in their heart rate while performing their job functions and cardiac arrest is the leading cause of firefighter deaths.

Updated Department Rules, Regulations, SOG's and Protocols were distributed to all members at the January staff meeting. Dr. Marc Allen updated all of our Pre-Hospital Protocols and added some to cover the addition of new drugs added to our drug license. Dr. Allen continues to serve the city as our Medical Director and provide monthly medical education for our members at no cost.



Live Burn Training at 485 N. Aurora Road