



EVERGREEN FIRE RESCUE

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Statement

The overall philosophy of Evergreen Fire/Rescue is to provide our customers (the residents, business people and visitors of Evergreen) with the highest level of protection against loss of life and property. We recognize that we are an integral part of the community and are sensitive and responsive to the community's needs and priorities.

We are "Dedicated to Service" as highly trained professionals in all aspects of rescue, emergency medical services, fire prevention and suppression, control of hazardous situations, and public education. We uphold this commitment by providing quality service in a cost-effective manner in order to minimize deaths, injuries, and loss as a result of fire and other emergency situations

From the Chief

2008 was a productive year for Evergreen Fire Rescue. While our call numbers were down slightly from 2007, our service improved and increased in other areas.

Our department has over 70 volunteers serving as firefighters making us one of the largest volunteer firefighting forces in the state of Colorado. In addition, we have nearly 35 paid employees serving in roles from dispatchers to administrative staff to paramedics. All of this allows us to serve you in ways that were not possible years ago and we continue to look in improving our services.

Evergreen Fire Rescue has a long and proud history in this community and I hope that in the years to come this only continues to better.

Sincerely,

Garry DeJong
Fire Chief

Evergreen Fire Protection District Board of Directors

Evergreen Fire Rescue is classified as a Special District and has a Board of Directors. This past year saw two new members added to our Board. George Kling was elected in May to serve a four year term while Jeff DeDisse and George Goldbach were re-elected to two year terms. In the fall, Jaine Hamilton had moved to Silt, CO and therefore stepped down from the Board. Charles Simons was appointed to fill her seat for the remainder of her term. Ms. Hamilton has served as a volunteer firefighter as well on our Board for a number of years and we are grateful for her dedication to the Evergreen community.

2008 Board of Directors

Charles "Chick" Dykeman, President
George Kling, Vice-President
Jeff DeDisse, Secretary
George Goldbach, Treasurer
Charles Simons, Director

Financial Report

Utilizing its 7.680 mil levy to the fullest, Evergreen Fire/ Rescue had a fiscally sound year in 2008. While total General Fund revenues were slightly below projections (\$9,055, or .2%), General Fund expenditures were well below budget (\$257,735, or 9%). The General Fund transferred \$379,000 to the Strategic Capital Fund, and \$421,000 to the Apparatus Replacement Fund.

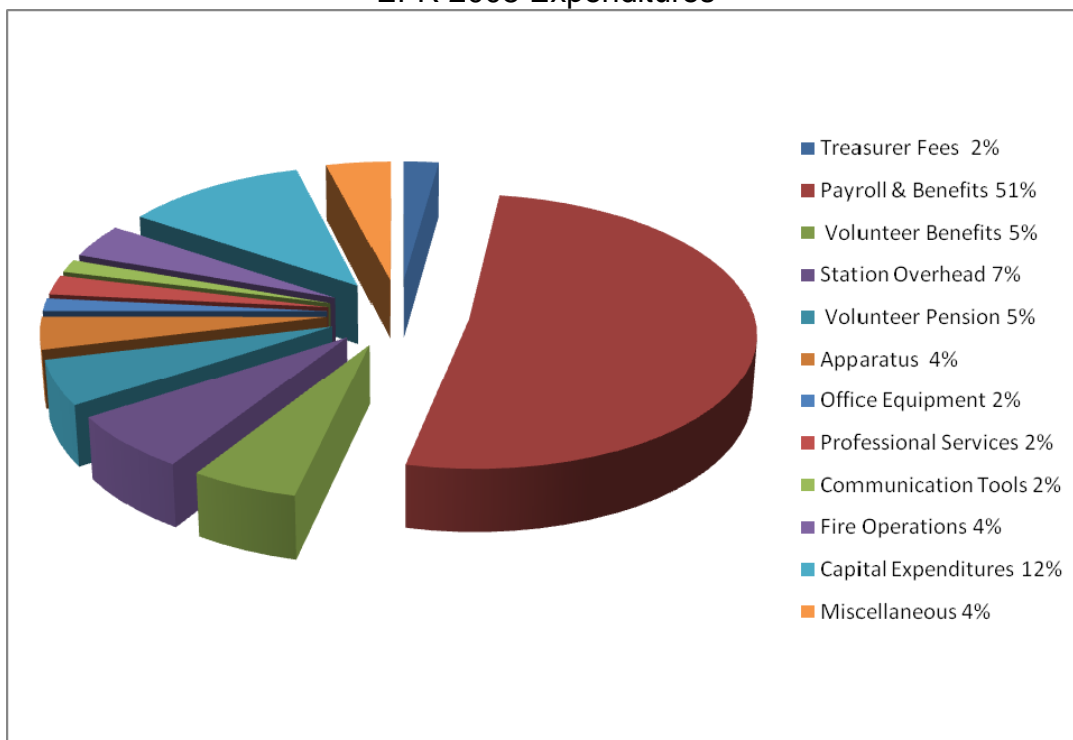
The benefits provided to the volunteer firefighters totaled \$305,000 or 10% of the total operating budget. These benefits consist of: the Volunteer Firefighter Pension Plan; Length of Service Award (457(e) (11) (a)); and credit at our internal store, where firefighters can purchase clothing and equipment beyond the basics needed for safety, which is provided to them at no cost.

The benefits for our full-time staff totaled \$205,702 or 7% of the total operating budget. These benefits include a 401(a) pension, medical insurance, a flexible spending plan, and life insurance.

In the EMS Fund, operating revenues exceeded projections by \$33,060 (or 3.3%). EMS expenditures were \$116,353 (or 7.2%) under budget.

In 2008, the Board of Directors approved formalized District Financial Policies and the District's Investment Policy. This is evidence of the organization's ongoing commitment, from individual personnel to Division Managers and the Board of Directors, to continually improve the financial tools, transparency, and accountability essential ensure fiscal soundness.

EFR 2008 Expenditures



Communications Division

The Communications Center is the “first” first responder on fire and medical emergencies. This team provides assistance and information to citizens, both on emergency 911 calls and to routine requests 24 hours every day. When and if needed communication specialists assist with pre-arrival instructions over the phone such as bleeding control and CPR until paramedics or firefighters arrive at a scene. Evergreen Fire/Rescue recognizes the vital role that the communication center plays in the operational efficiency and delivery of the first link to getting help in an emergency. The communications team is made up of nine well trained full-time members and three part time members working 12-hour shifts rotating every four months. Each of our team members has earned certification in Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD), which enables each communication specialist to provide treatment instructions to callers in advance of paramedics and firefighters arriving. This is a service that we also provide for other dispatch centers as well, providing our neighbors a needed life-safety service while allowing our dispatchers to enhance these skills.

In 2008, the main operating systems that are used on a regular basis were evaluated for efficiency and the ability to take us into the immediate future:

- Phones - The Jefferson County E-911 Authority Board funded a new 911 phone system that will replace the current outdated system. This was slated to be installed at the beginning of 2009 and should make our dispatchers more efficient in answering and dispatching emergency calls.
- Radio – equipment was also evaluated as we look to the year 2013 as the Federal Government mandates narrow banding. Narrow-banding will allow more public safety agencies to utilize frequencies with less interference from private radio users. We have signed a new maintenance agreement with Frontier Communications and look forward to working with them.
- CAD – (computer aided dispatch) improvements have been made to expand its capabilities and resourcefulness.

Emergency Medical Services Division

2008 was another busy year for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division of Evergreen Fire Rescue. With over 1470 responses, the EMS division transported over 900 patients to local hospitals. EMS accounted for over 71% of the total call volume for the year and as the community continues to grow we expect our calls for service to rise as well. The EMS Division staffs two full-time Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances. The staff consists of 12 paramedics and one emergency medical technician on a full-time basis supplemented by 5 part-time paramedics. With the assistance of the firefighters in the Rescue Division under the neighborhood response program, we are able to have someone to a caller’s door in minimal time.

While 2008 was a busy year for our call responses, it was also busy in other ways. This past year, we saw one of our paramedics named Paramedic of the Year. David Montesi was honored jointly by the Emergency Medical Service Association of Colorado (EMSAC) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. David has been with Evergreen Fire Rescue for over 10 years and his commitment to both our department and community is well known and respected.

In June we had a free CPR class open to all members of our community to help celebrate EMS Week. We filled up both classes and certified over 100 people. This was in addition to the regular CPR classes given at our Training facility on a monthly basis.

From a personnel standpoint, we welcomed two new part-time paramedics. Eddie Feeley and Patrick Winters joined our ranks. Both bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our organization and community. Part-time paramedics serve in an on-call capacity to minimize overtime.

We also received a brand new ambulance, Medic 43, to add to our fleet. This was partially paid for via a state grant. The grant covered just over 42% of the total cost. This is one of the many ways we look to minimize costs to the community. The new ambulance features improved safety measures to minimize the risk our paramedics face when caring for patients.

Below is a brief summary of some of our statistics for FY 2008:

Total number of patient contacts by station:

- Station 2 (Bergen Park) 612
- Station 4 (Skyline) 547

Total number of patients transported by station:

- Station 2 (Bergen Park) 471
- Station 4 (Skyline) 433

Most common call type:

- Chest pain 115
- Extremity pain 89
- Bleeding 87

Maintenance Division

The past year was very productive following the conclusion of multiple major projects. Also, existing programs and contracts were reviewed to ensure efficiency and competitiveness. New equipment and tooling has been added to the inventory available in maintenance to improve safety and efficiency. Traffic safety systems have been audited and modified as required to insure the highest standard for commuters.

Many major projects were successfully concluded in 2008. Evergreen Fire Rescue purchased two new vehicles: A new ambulance and replacement pool vehicle. Both of these vehicles have been outfitted with safety to both the community and members of EFR in mind. In addition, all of our existing vehicles have been outfitted with reflective striping to ensure road safety.

As part of our commitment to maintaining our existing systems, we provided quality checks and maintenance on an ongoing basis. These systems include hose and nozzle testing and the Opticom systems, which provides green lights to emergency vehicles for ongoing safety.

A cyclical system of comparative bidding has been established for significant reoccurring purchases. For example, lubricants, consumable paper goods, cleaning products and many of the parts used in the repair of the vehicle inventory are now competitively shopped regularly. The lubricant comparison revealed the existing supplier to be the most economic. Another benefit is higher than expected customer service, lubrication experts are

available for training and to help resolve related issues. Comparative bidding is employed on all other significant purchases such as tools, instruments chemicals etc.

New vehicles lifts are now available to the technicians in maintenance. The lifts that are in place have a 60,000 pound capability total and can lift the entire EFR apparatus inventory with the exception of the aerial. They will make difficult tasks safer and more efficient and are utilized regularly.

Stations 1 and 4 received much needed rehabilitation during the summer. Both stations were painted inside and out, new flooring installed and minor repairs were completed. Station One's roof was repaired, kitchen updated with new counter tops and the old office space upstairs was converted into a living space for firefighters to enjoy with donated furnishings. Station Four's ambulance bay received new Fiberglass reinforced wall panels to help keep the bays cleaner and minimize maintenance needs in the station bays.

A 100 kilowatt generator was commissioned to replace an undersized 45 kilowatt unit. The new generator is in place to supply power to station 2. The 45kw generator will be relocated near the Administration/Training building and connected to the facility temporarily until a replacement can be provided. Dispatch equipment rooms received new air conditioning units in a partnership with the E-911 Authority Board. The new A/C units were installed as part of equipment upgrade to provide stable temperature control that will extend the life of the equipment.

The underground water cisterns were completed at Stations Five and Eight in the early spring. The addition of 40,000 gallons of water storage at each station has already proven to be an asset during a structure fire in the Forest Estates subdivision near Station Eight.

Our recycling program continues to be a success as we've added cardboard recycling to the program. We recycle about 1 1/3 cubic yards of cardboard every two weeks.

The objective of the Maintenance Division is clear; provide safe, reliable assets while extending their useful lifecycle economically. Maintenance technicians are in the process of expanding their qualifications which will increase the scope of work that can be accomplished with EFR staff. The maintenance staff is encouraged to identify inefficiency and develop methods to improve these issues. One goal is to incorporate bar coding into the maintenance and inventory process. This technology will immediately reduce the labor tracking inventory, be fundamental completing work orders and greatly improve accuracy.

Fire Operations

The Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department, whose members provide neighborhood response to your emergency, staffs fire operations. All firefighters are highly trained in fire suppression, rescue, and emergency medical services. State and national standards guide our highly regarded training programs that train new recruits in an academy class atmosphere each January.

"What is all the excitement about" leads many to our door where membership opens the door to adventure and service not found anywhere else. Yes, the "action" is the icing but the bigger reward for the individual is immense pride in oneself and the organization. Accepting the duty to be a part of the professional delivery of emergency services separates

this from the hobby category. Here we find a unique opportunity for personal growth behind and beyond the flashing lights.

Countless hours of training and administration keep this dynamic organization strong. This constant and necessary interaction bonds the organization into a well-rounded and respected institution. In 2008, there were nearly 6,000 man-hours dedicated to training. The nature of our community has historically provided an incredibly diverse source of volunteer firefighters. Training, call response, and meetings are commitments that become a large component of each firefighter's life. Understandably, lives change and not many can claim a place on our plaque listing those who have served the community for twenty or more years.

Four such individuals who dedicated more than 100 years of combined service retired from active duty in 2008. The Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department is forever indebted to Pete Anderson, Mark Davidson, Kenny Erhardt, and Jay Jackson. The countless hours these fire officers have generously shared with this community have inspired many to follow them in service. Their dynamic contributions to the development and execution of all aspects of fire and rescue operations far exceeded the duty.

Recruiting and training is our constant duty so that we may best meet the challenges of preservation and protection of life and property indigenous to our unique Evergreen environment. In 2008, the department had 97% of its members with a minimum of first responder training which is the basic level of medical training. From a Fire Operations aspect, 94% had a minimum of Fire Fighter I certification and 86% had a minimum of the Awareness level for Hazard Materials training.

STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING

Seven pumper trucks (engines) uniquely built to serve our challenging terrain and one 85' aerial platform ladder grace our eight stations. Fires within buildings are certainly not a daily or even a weekly occurrence. One month may require multiple structural responses another possibly none. Structures may be homes, businesses, or perhaps storage, all equally important and capable of creating a larger conflagration. With the knowledge that structures contain your life, your treasures, and loved ones we make great efforts to minimize your loss. Vigilant training minimizes our risk of such an undertaking.

As you travel south and west through Evergreen you may note the absence of red fire hydrants. Hydrants are supplied by public water systems that simply do not exist in a large portion of our service area. Supplying fire scenes with water in areas served by individual wells is accomplished by six tanker/tender apparatus that ferry water between source and scene. A labor-intensive process indeed and another aspect of our training we take very seriously. Firefighters undergo extensive training to safely pilot apparatus ranging from three to forty tons between the fire station and the incident. Once on scene the driver becomes the engineer who orchestrates the delivery of water to the firefighters on the nozzles.

In 2008, EFR responded to 66 calls for fires of which 26 were reported structure fires.

WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING

All Evergreen Firefighters are cross-trained to effectively suppress fires both on and off the pavement. An Evergreen firefighter's personal vehicle is packed with specialized Wildland equipment in addition to the traditional red suspender bunker gear. Fire knows no political boundaries and therefore training with neighboring fire districts allows the integration of resources for efficient and expedient suppression.

As we continue to develop our formerly remote areas, Smokey's "forest fires" have evolved into Wildland-Urban Interface Incidents. Victory is minimizing the ominous potential of such incidents. Firefighters spend many additional hours training to federal standards as proficient engine task forces and hand crews. A fleet of ten specialized 4 x 4 fire apparatus stands ready to meet the needs of our challenging dual fire environment.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

The fire is out and the firefighters are looking forward to returning to their homes and careers. But only after cleaning, inspecting, and putting all equipment and apparatus back into service ready for the next call. Meanwhile, some have volunteered to master yet another set of specialized skills and are getting ready for what may be a very long night. Determining the cause of a fire is true detective work and has led to arson convictions. Methodical excavation and reconstruction enabled by keen observance of the known and unknown helps to prevent future unfortunate occurrences.

RESCUE

Response to medical emergencies and accident scenes is a significant portion of the firefighter experience. All firefighters maintain basic life saving skills and many ascend to emergency medical technician certification. Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services personnel work together to provide front-line assessment, treatment, and transport of medical and traumatic emergencies. Firefighters also apply specialized rescue skills and operate an array of specialized tools that are carried on two heavy rescue apparatus. Accident scenes are stabilized and victims are extricated utilizing these advanced techniques and equipment.

Fire Prevention

2008 was a busy year for Fire Prevention. Fire Inspector Shelley Hunter, with the help of EMS, conducted all of our annual fire inspections. Starting on January 5th, Jeff DiPaolo will be the new Community Educator/Fire Inspector.

In cooperation with the other local Fire Marshals, we have been working with Jefferson County Planning/Zoning and Building Departments for their approval on hammerhead and pull-out on design and sign increase. The local Fire Marshals are currently working with Jefferson County on emergency access roads, gates, review driveways when they are under 150 feet to make sure address numbers are posted, driveway width and tree clearance over driveway and bridges to residential properties.

Nearly 500 pre-plans have been completed and are in use by the Fire Operations division. This is part of a larger project which saw the migration of information into a new system available to all dispatchers and field personnel.

We held our 1st Fire Extinguisher Inspection Day at Stations 2 and 3 under the direction of Shelley Hunter. Local businesses and homeowners brought by their fire extinguishers to have them inspected by local fire extinguisher companies for a nominal fee. This event also provided hands on fire extinguisher training. The program was also done during our annual Fire Safety day event at Station 2 in October.

The annual Safety Day & Pancake Breakfast was held in October at Station 2 and was a huge success with more than 2000 residents attending. Other events held in 2008 were the Electronics Recycling Day, a fire and injury prevention training for Cultural Care Au Pairs-

live in childcare providers that help with tasks such as cooking and transporting kids. There were also events like the Mock Crash exercise at Evergreen High School, fire extinguisher training to Evergreen Middle School kids and our annual Christmas with Firefighters program, thanks to a grant from Wal-Mart, to help families with kids receive a present at Christmas.

For 2008, construction projects completed include the 1st Bank on the east side of El Rancho Restaurant, a new Evergreen Country Day School complex east side of Home Depot, a Walgreens-where the Woodpecker building was-east side of the Bryant Drive and Evergreen Parkway intersection and a new two-story office building on Plettner Lane are some of the new buildings in Evergreen. The major construction project for me in 2008 was the addition of a new gym and classroom on 1st and 2nd floor and renovation of the existing 1st and part of the 2nd floor of the Evergreen Middle School with a total of 104 man hours on this project.

The Fire Prevention staff is continually being recognized for their excellence from various organizations in assisting our community.

Administration

While it is easy to recognize the hard work of our many volunteers and the paid division employees, it is sometimes difficult to recognize the hard work of our administration staff. These employees provide valuable work behind the scenes to ensure that both our internal and external customer needs are met in a timely and professional manner.

Evergreen Fire Rescue currently employs two administrative staff positions, a Training Coordinator, a part-time IT Coordinator, a part-time Finance Director and a part-time Human Resources Manager. As part of their regular duties, they assist with the distribution of permits, EMS billing questions, assisting groups with the rental of our facility, staff benefits and many other services that support the organization.

Responses 2008:

Total Incidents by Category

