



4-1-2010 Woodlake Circle House Fire



**Oconomowoc Fire Department**  
2010  
Annual Report

## Letter From The Deputy Chief.....

2010 was a year of continuing operational challenges along with several high-profile incidents that were mitigated by the Oconomowoc Fire Department.

The Fire Department responded to 10 large loss structure fires in our area and provided Mutual Aid 11 times to neighboring Departments for large loss structure fires. Two of these calls were in multi-family apartment buildings where the chance of multiple injuries is greatest. At the 204 West Wisconsin Avenue fire, a 16 unit two story building, two residents were rescued by ladders from the upper floors of the building. The occupant of the apartment of origin had minor smoke inhalation. All other occupants were safely evacuated to the adjacent City Recreation Department. Along with the number of people involved, sub-freezing temperatures and the early morning (0427 hours) time frame made this response particularly difficult for members working on the scene. The second apartment building fire was at 241 Fowler Street. This is an un-sprinklered, three-story, 54 unit apartment building. The initial report was of smoke in the first floor hallways and apartments on the northeast side of the building. Most residents were either already out, or on their way out by the time the Fire Department arrived on scene. However two residents with mobility limitations had to be assisted from the building by Fire Department personnel. The fire was determined to have started from a discarded cigarette dropped in a crack behind the rear concrete exit stairway, which ignited trash and wooden frame work in the void space under the stairs. Smoke spread into the building through existing openings in the adjacent wall. Damage was limited to smoke damage in the adjacent apartments. All but one resident was able to return to their apartment after the fire was extinguished.

A serious industrial fire occurred at Bruno Independent Living Aids in early March. Welding sparks ignited filter elements inside a ventilation hood in the plant welding area. This filled the production area with heavy smoke. Due to the location of the equipment on the ceiling and the heavy smoke, extinguishment and ventilation were difficult. Our personnel along with our Mutual Aid Fire Departments contained the fire and ventilated the structure so that production was able to resume the next day. It may be an over simplification, but after the life safety of our citizens, "our business is to keep your business in operation" has never been more true than in today's difficult economic times. Businesses large or small may not survive after even a relatively small fire if their operations are interrupted.

The Fire Department responded to two, fully involved residential structure fires. The first was on Woodlake Circle in our contract fire protection area in the Town of Oconomowoc and the other on Summer Creek Road in the City. Both structures suffered heavy fire loss although there were no injuries to residents or firefighters working on the scene. The Woodlake Circle fire was negatively impacted by the distance of the building from the Fire Station, lack of fire hydrants in the area and sustained 20 plus mile-per-hour winds coming from the upwind side of where the fire originated. An additional structure fire was avoided by our second unit on scene that extinguished burning shrubbery, ignited by flying burning embers, adjacent to the home across the street from the fire building. The fire on Summer Creek Road was worsened by delayed notification of the event and again sustained high winds from the upwind side of the fire contributing to rapid fire spread throughout the building. The neighbor to the

north was not home, the home to the south was for sale and vacant. The sustained high wind was blowing the smoke low and across the marsh located behind the building. No one noticed the fire until they heard the flames literally exploded through the windows on the back side of the building. In both cases, while the buildings were a total loss, significant personal property was salvaged or saved by crews working on the scene.

Three other structure fires, one on Majestic View Lane, the second on Valley Road and the third on Summit Avenue were quickly extinguished with minimal damage due to the quick and efficient actions of the Fire Department personnel. The first was a chimney fire that extended into the concealed spaces around the chimney and inside the adjacent wall structure, extending down into the lower level and up into the attic. Aggressive interior firefighting limited the spread of the fire to the room of origin and resulted in a much more rapid return to normal for the homeowner. The second was a "room and contents" fire in a detached workshop and storage shed. Again, quick and efficient action resulted in the fire damage being confined to the room of origin and kept the fire from spreading to an adjacent attached barn. The third situation was an outside rear porch fire at an unoccupied home on Summit Avenue. Quick discovery by the Police Department and rapid response by a passing Department member and the Fire Department resulted in minimal structural damage.

Natural gas leaks continued to be a major concern. 50 separate natural gas odor or actual leak calls occurred. Prior to the Church explosion in April of 2008, we averaged 26 – 28 natural gas calls per year. In the year following there were 67 natural gas complaints. Increased public awareness, construction projects and aging natural gas distribution infrastructure have contributed to the increase in gas related calls. In all but two of this year's situations, problems were identified and corrected that if left uncorrected would have developed into more serious situations. Two incidents, one near Mary Lane and West Wisconsin Avenue and the other in the 1100 block of West Wisconsin Avenue resulted in street closures and evacuation of several businesses and residences until the flow of natural gas could be controlled. The City Police, DPW, Engineering and Fire Departments all worked in concert to mitigate these serious calls with no injuries or property damage occurring.

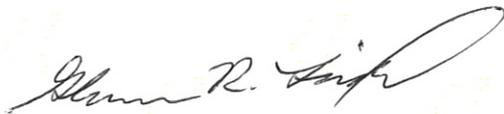
Another call generator is Carbon Monoxide responses of which we had 17 in 2010. While many were the result of a faulty detector, three of the situations again if left uncorrected, would have resulted in much more serious life safety threats. We cannot underestimate the value of our strong relationships with the Mutual Aid Fire Departments in our area. While it may seem that we provide a great deal of Mutual Aid, we receive an even greater share in return when needed, both for fire and EMS incidents. It is truly a win-win situation, with all the municipalities involved benefiting from the close cooperation and working relationships that have been developed by our Department.

The continuing challenges of day time staffing, planning for the construction of Fire Station #2 , shared services operations and merger consideration with Summit Fire District, fire inspection deadlines, along with maintaining day to day operations was a challenge professionally met by our three full time, one part-time and 47 Volunteer / paid-on-call staff. A Department milestone was achieved when three additional full time staff were hired on December 15, 2010. All three are licensed Paramedics as well as Firefighters. Working with Lake Country Fire and Rescue, this is the first step in laying the groundwork for our Department's Ambulance Service to become a self-supporting Paramedic level service in the next five years.

The Oconomowoc Fire Department has a proud tradition of service to our community dating back to 1880. Each year since has seen increased requests for service in both the Fire and Emergency Medical Service venues. This year however, we experienced an overall 1% decrease in total fire and EMS responses. We protect 15,805 people in the City of Oconomowoc and an additional 10,770 persons in our two Fire and five EMS Contract protection areas. EMS is provided at the Emergency Medical Technician – Intermediate Technician level. We also work closely with the Lake Country Fire Department Paramedics who performed “Paramedic Intercept” services for our residents 136 times in 2010. A Paramedic Intercept is requested for known cardiac, seizure and serious trauma and pain management cases.

The backbone of our Department continues to be our dedicated, volunteer / paid-on-call staff, backed up by our now six fulltime personnel. I want to thank them for their long hours spent in training, being on call with no remuneration and responding to emergencies in a very professional manner. Without them, their personal dedication and the support of their families, our Department would not be able to function. It is my distinct honor to present this record of their work in 2010 for your review.

Respectfully submitted,



Glenn R. Leidel  
Deputy Fire Chief



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# City of Oconomowoc Fire Department

**Fire Station #1**  
212 S Concord Rd.  
262-569-3223

**Fire Station #2**  
1400 Oconomowoc Parkway  
262-569-6428

## City Officials

Mayor  
City Administrator

James Daley  
Diane Gard

### **Aldermanic Representative**

1<sup>st</sup> District

Jim Hall  
James Larsen  
Gary Kohlenberg  
Lora Mae Cochran  
Cathleen Slattery  
Michael Miller  
Robert Morgan  
David Nold

2<sup>nd</sup> District

3<sup>rd</sup> District

4<sup>th</sup> District

### **Police and Fire Commission**

Chair  
Secretary

James Schumacher  
David Kejwan  
Richard Mercier  
Margie Krause  
Barbara LeDuc  
Jim Hall

Alderman

### Commanding Officers

#### **Public Safety Director**

David Beguhn

#### **Deputy Chief**

Glenn Leidel

[gleidel@oconomowoc-wi.gov](mailto:gleidel@oconomowoc-wi.gov)

#### **Lieutenant**

Michael LaVenture

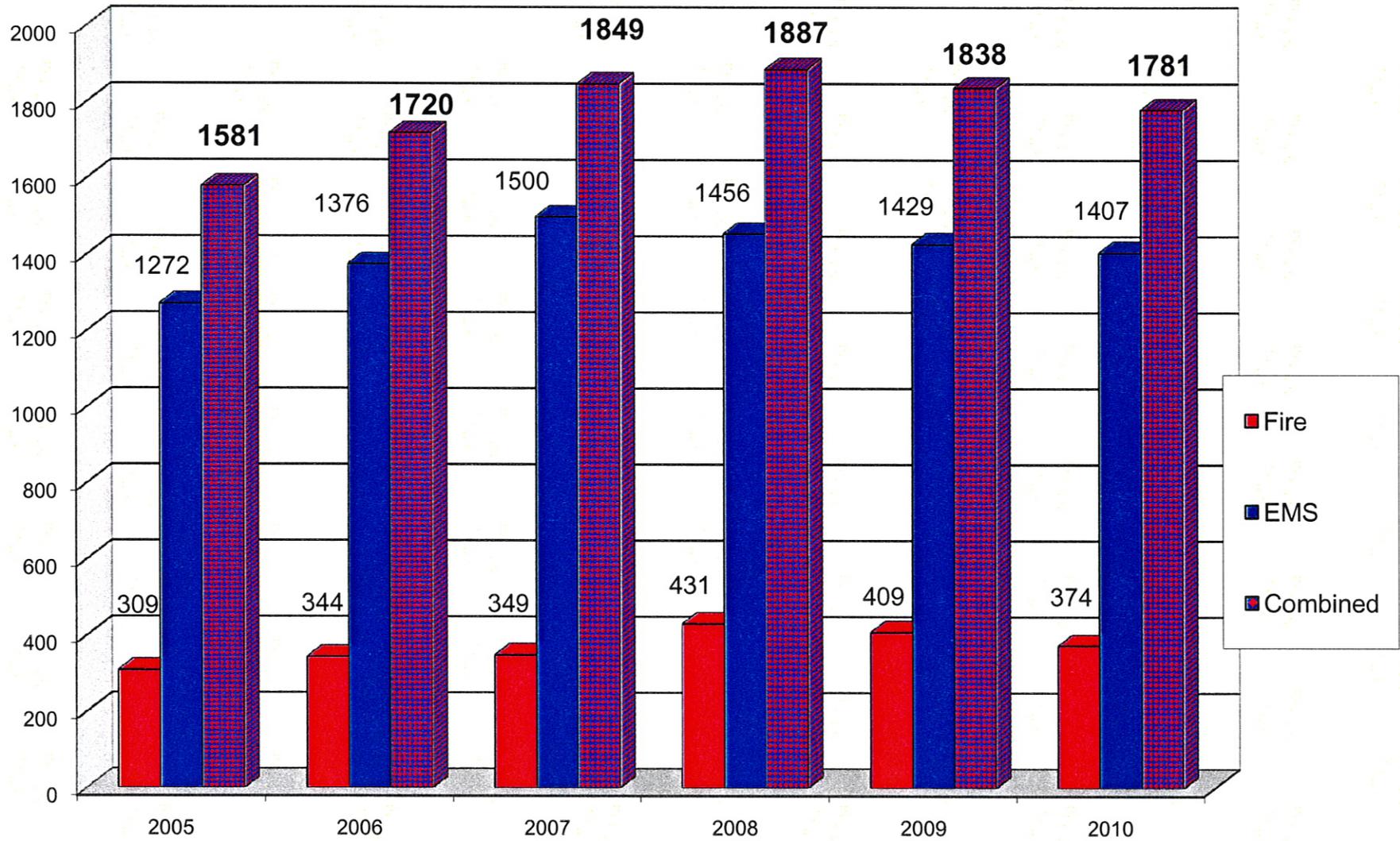
[mlaventure@oconomowoc-wi.gov](mailto:mlaventure@oconomowoc-wi.gov)

Lieutenant Jay Peartree  
Lieutenant Tim Kassens  
Lieutenant Jim Scaff

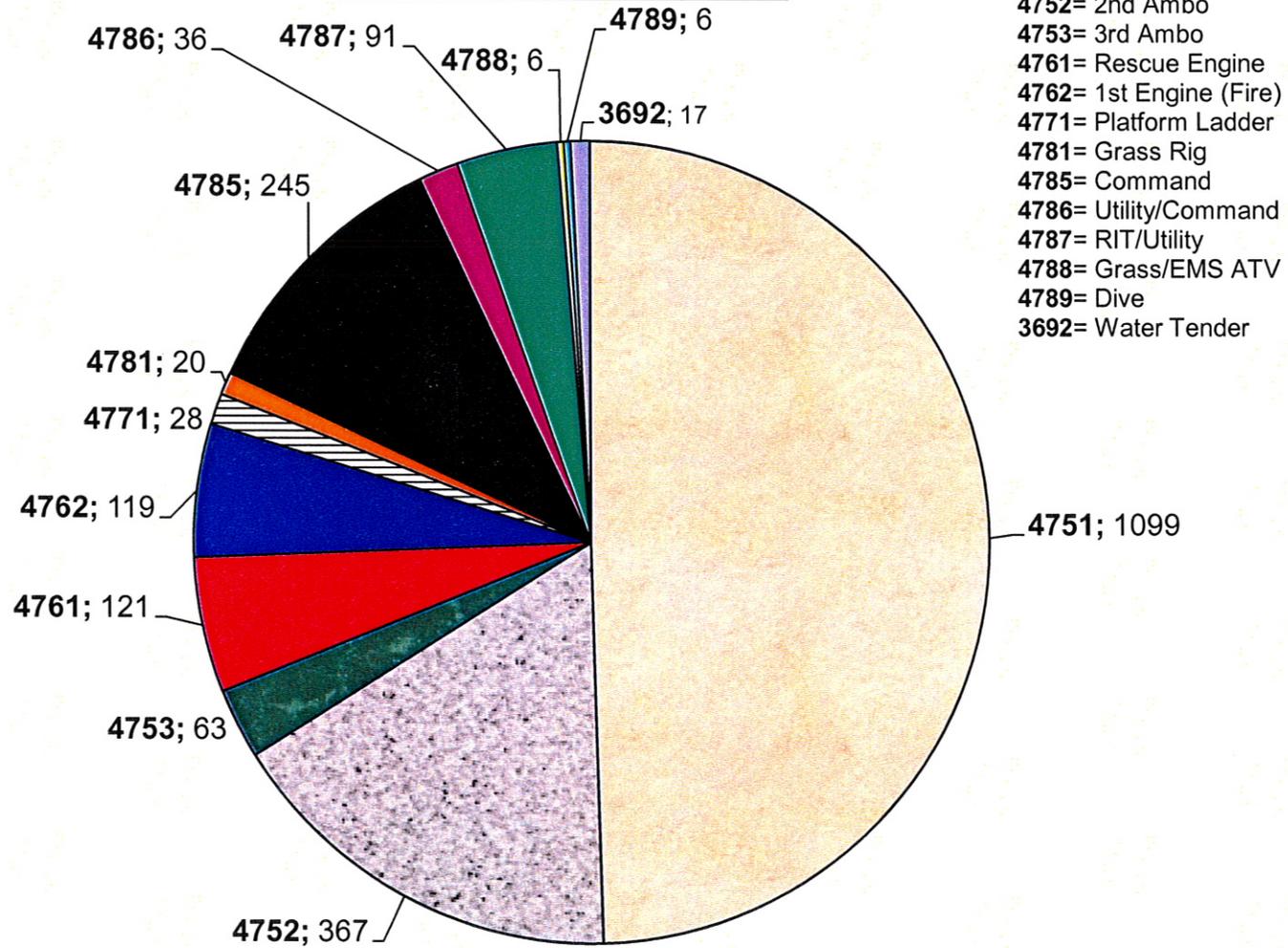
Lieutenant Rik Krahn  
Lieutenant Michael Gartzke  
Lieutenant Don Murray

## Total # of Incidents

246 of the 1781 calls were simultaneous



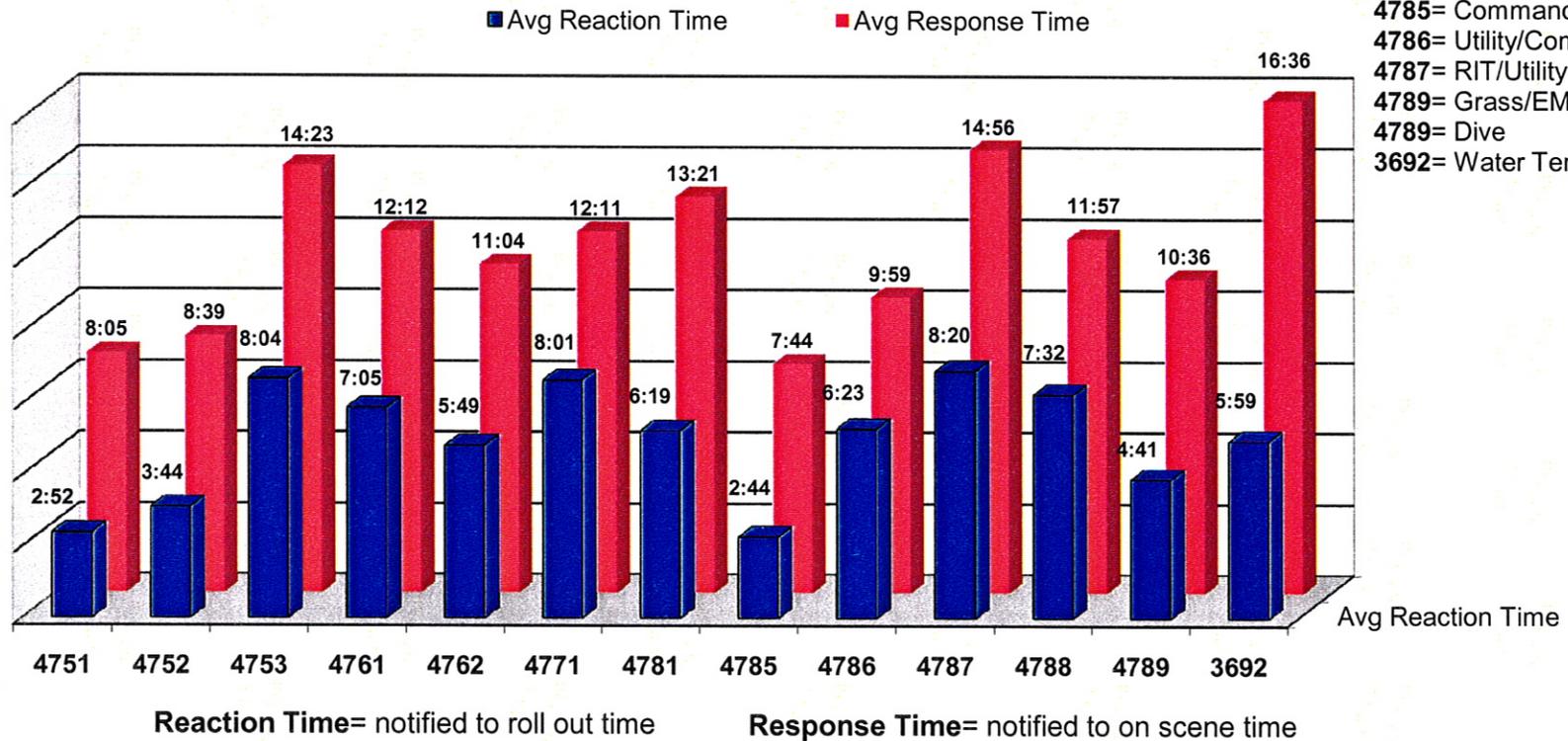
### # of Responses by Unit



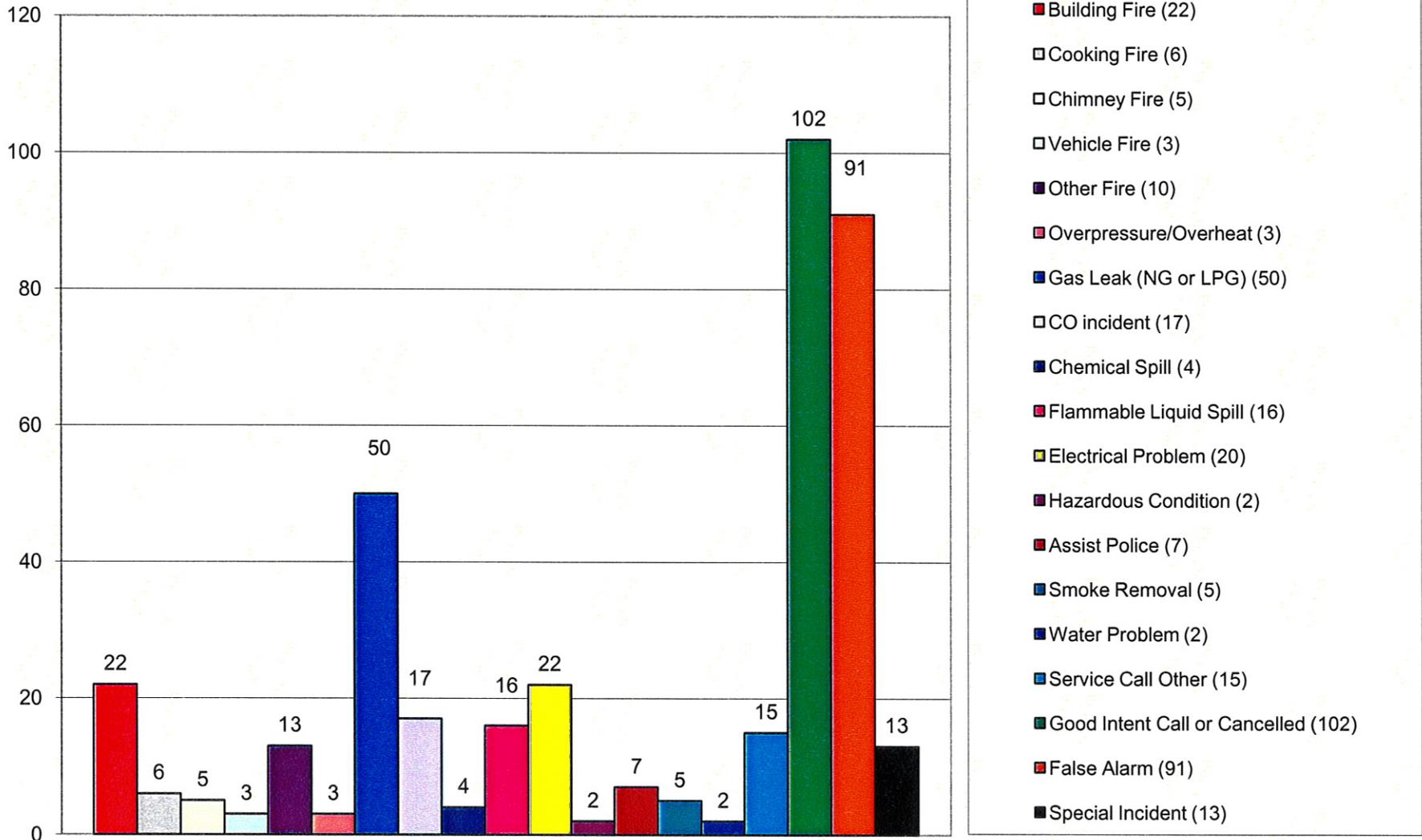
- 4751= 1st Ambo
- 4752= 2nd Ambo
- 4753= 3rd Ambo
- 4761= Rescue Engine
- 4762= 1st Engine (Fire)
- 4771= Platform Ladder
- 4781= Grass Rig
- 4785= Command
- 4786= Utility/Command
- 4787= RIT/Utility
- 4788= Grass/EMS ATV
- 4789= Dive
- 3692= Water Tender

## Reaction and Response Time by Unit

- 4751= 1st Ambo
- 4752= 2nd Ambo
- 4753= 3rd Ambo
- 4761= Rescue Engine
- 4762= 1st Engine (Fire)
- 4771= Platform Ladder
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## Type of Fire Incident

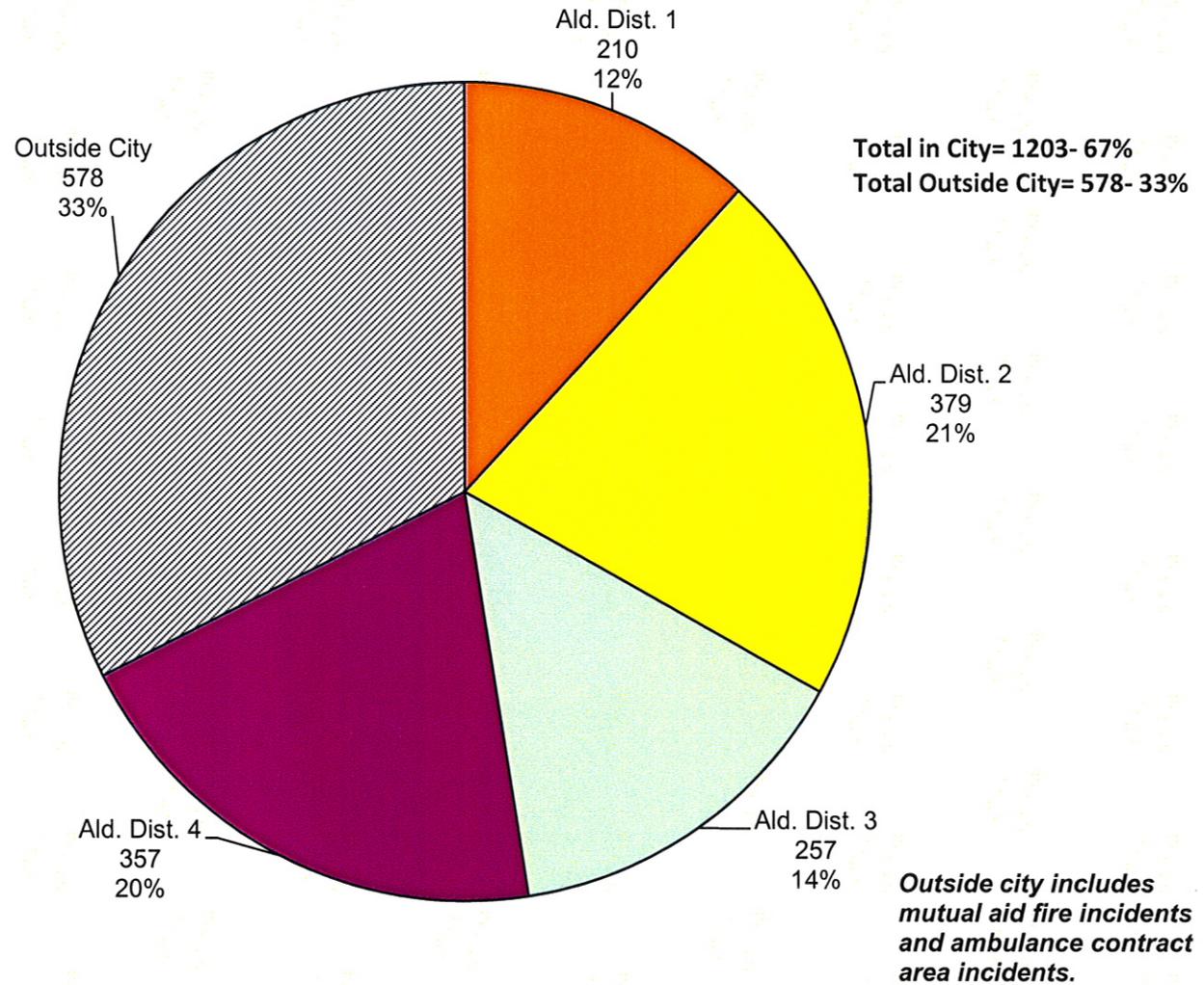


Type of EMS Call	Number of patients
Abdominal Pain/Problems	55
Airway Obstruction	3
Allergic Reaction	8
Altered Level of Consciousness	112
Behavioral / Psychiatric Disorder	25
Cardiac Arrest	18
Cardiac Rhythm Disturbance	35
Chest Pain / Discomfort	100
Diabetic Symptoms	40
Epistaxis	5
G.I. Bleed	4
Generalized Weakness	143
Hemorrhage	12
Hypertension	8
Hyperthermia	2
Hypovolemia / Shock	1
No Complaints or Injury/Illness Noted	137
Obvious Death	7
Other	70
Pain (Non-Traumatic)	72
Poisoning / Drug Ingestion	17
Pregnancy / OB Delivery	3
Respiratory Arrest	3
Respiratory Distress	99
Seizure	35
Stroke / CVA	20
Syncope / Fainting	31
Traumatic injury	308
Vaginal Hemorrhage	2

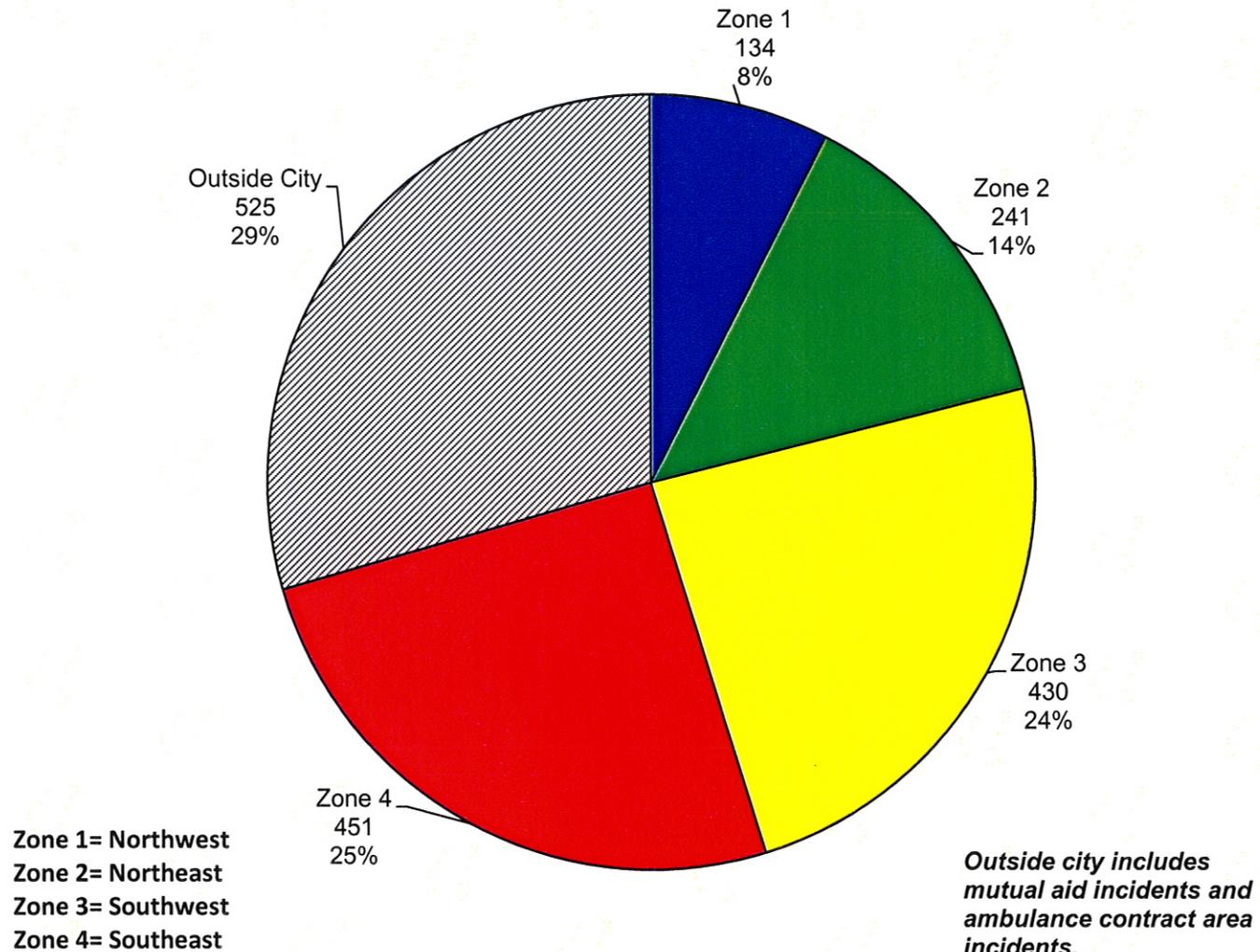
Total # of Patients.

1375

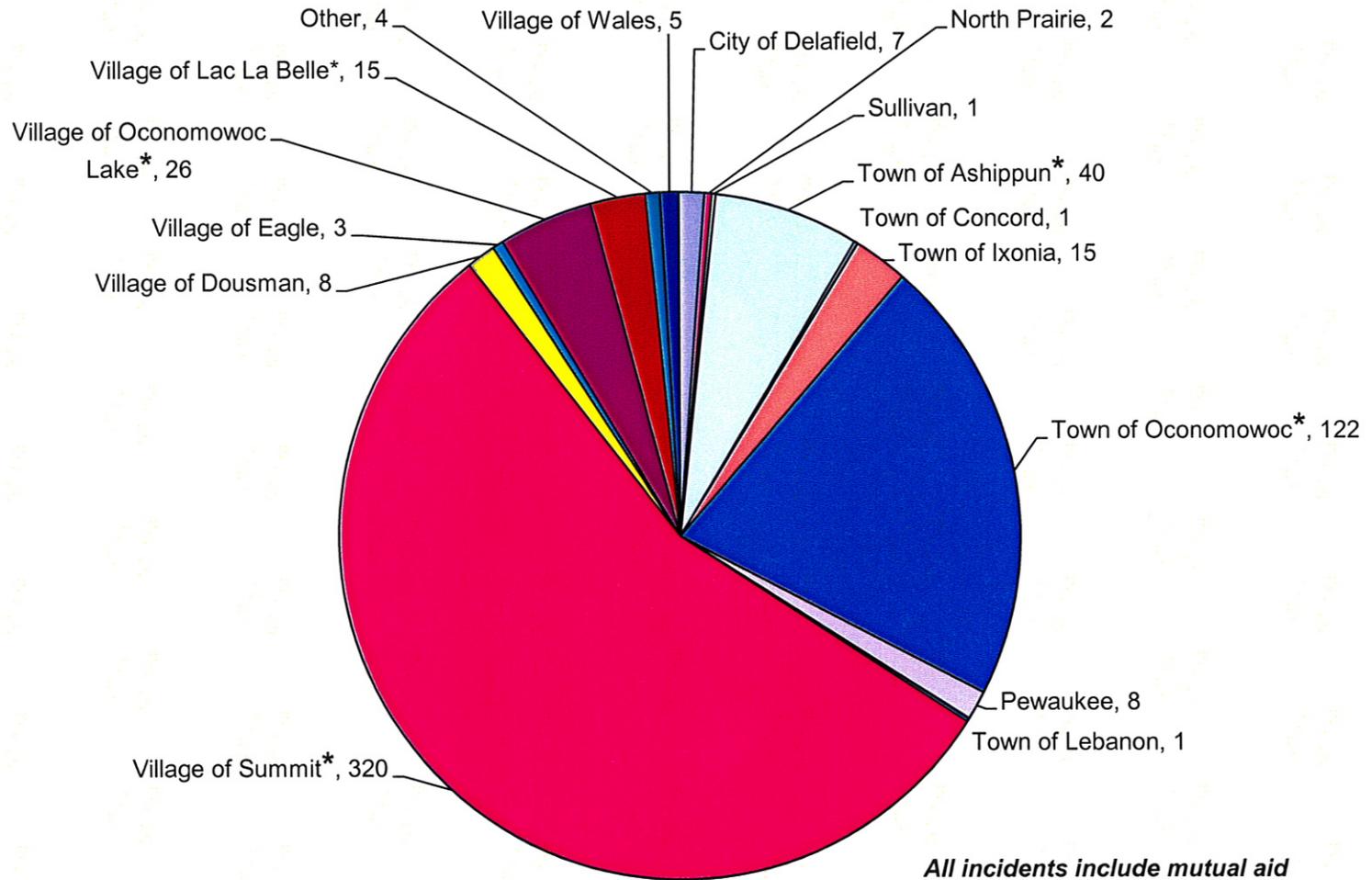
## # of Incidents by Aldermanic District



## # of Incidents by Fire Zone



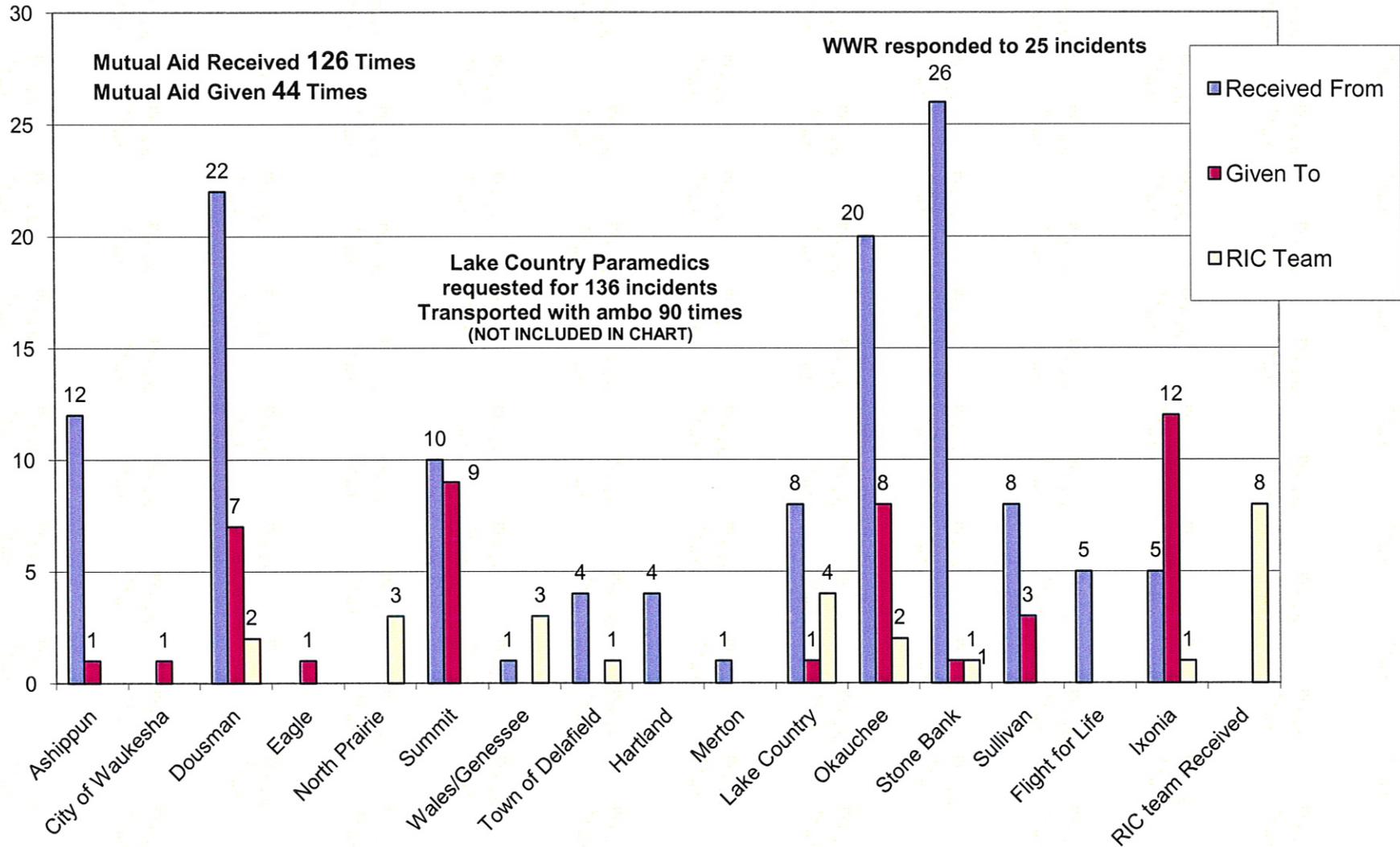
## # of Responses Outside City Limits



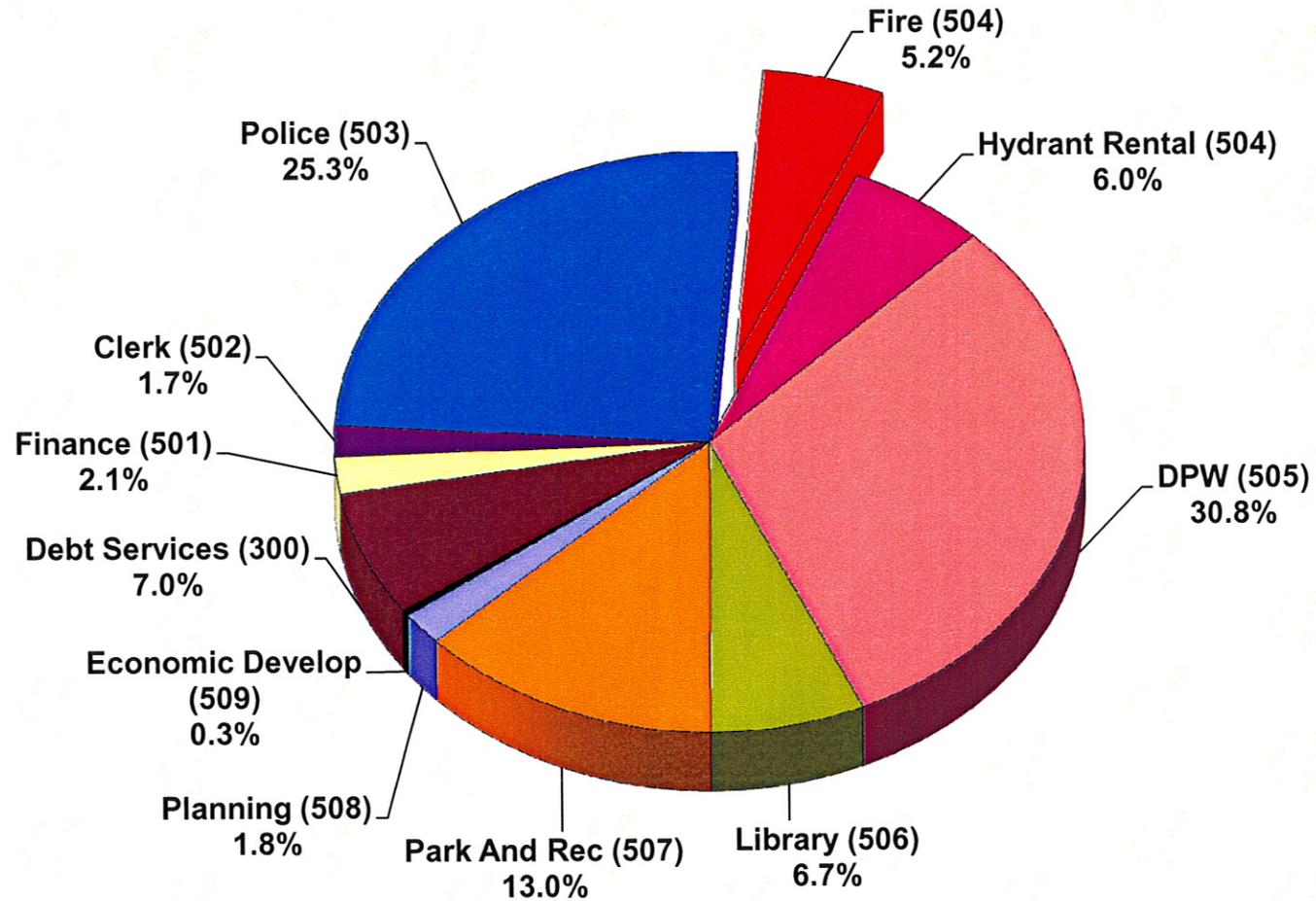
*All incidents include mutual aid calls and ambulance contract areas.*

*\* Indicates contract area*

## # of Mutual Aid Incidents Received and Given by Fire Dept.



## % of Taxes used on Government Services Based on a \$250,000 House



On an average \$250,000 house, **\$77.48** goes to the fire department yearly. This equals \$6.46 per month or \$0.21 per day for fire protection.

<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	
Fire	398,263	403,994	434,479	505,791	588,199	706,338	Total operating expend.-hydrant fee
Ambulance Fund	512,873	509,225	537,078	651,743	635,123	661,452	Total fund expend.-total capital outlay
Hydrant Fee	499,199	545,399	559,770	591,641	597,241	606,200	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,410,335</b>	<b>1,458,618</b>	<b>1,531,327</b>	<b>1,749,175</b>	<b>1,820,563</b>	<b>1,973,990</b>	
<b>Actual Revenues</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	
Fire Contract	168,033	163,516	161,810	156,708	153,416	170,520	
2% Dues Fire Insurance	47,735	57,874	57,177	57,988	58,621	60,653	
EMS Billing	597,631	718,135	748,868	724,837	776,576	733,160	
<b>Total</b>	<b>813,399</b>	<b>939,525</b>	<b>967,855</b>	<b>939,533</b>	<b>988,613</b>	<b>964,333</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>596,936</b>	<b>519,093</b>	<b>563,472</b>	<b>809,643</b>	<b>831,950</b>	<b>1,009,657</b>	Exp. minus Rev.
<b>Net Fire Costs excluding hydrant</b>	<b>182,495</b>	<b>182,604</b>	<b>215,492</b>	<b>291,095</b>	<b>376,162</b>	<b>475,165</b>	Exp. minus Rev.
<b>Net EMS Cost/(Surplus)</b>	<b>(84,758)</b>	<b>(208,910)</b>	<b>(211,790)</b>	<b>(73,093)</b>	<b>(141,453)</b>	<b>(71,708)</b>	Exp. minus Rev.
<b>Grand Total Expense Minus Hydrant Fee</b>	<b>97,737</b>	<b>(26,306)</b>	<b>3,702</b>	<b>218,002</b>	<b>234,709</b>	<b>403,457</b>	Fire Cost plus EMS Cost

( ) means surplus

## Inspection Bureau

The Oconomowoc Fire Dept conducted 811 fire inspections between January 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30th 2010. Another 550 inspection were completed for the second round of inspections between July 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010. These inspections were conducted in between emergency responses, station maintenance, and administrative duties by full and part time staff.

## Public Education

Members of the Oconomowoc Fire Department participated in many public events including parades, Kidsfest, the Powderpuff Football game, station tours, the Fire Prevention week apparatus display and fire extinguisher training for local businesses. Safety talks were given to grade schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Lions, Golden Kiwanis, special needs citizens, senior citizens, and private industries. The members have given over 130 hours, the majority of which were donated on a volunteer basis.



## Fire/EMS Training

The Oconomowoc Fire Dept. members conducted over 1296 hours of fire training and 1139 hours of EMS training. This included several joint trainings with our mutual aid departments of Summit and Okauchee. This training covered all aspects of firefighting and EMS including fire evolutions, ventilation, rescue, water supply, pumping, Mutual Aid operations and all aspects of Emergency Medical Services.



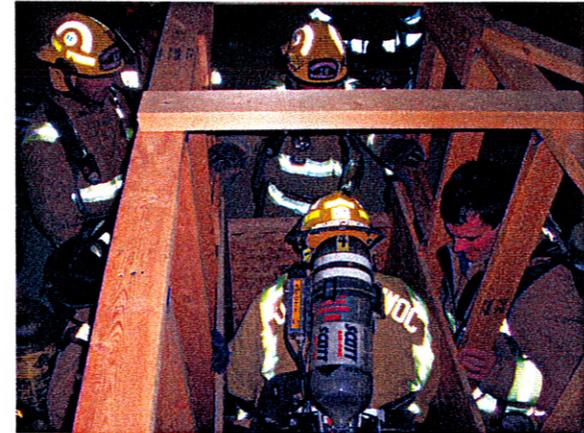
Mass Casualty Training (Lake Country Landing)



Table Top Joint Exercise

## RIC Team

The Western Waukesha Rapid Intervention Crew (WWR) is a group of specially trained firefighters from Lake Country, Dousman and Oconomowoc Fire Departments. The Oconomowoc portion of the team consists of 12 members. RIC Team members train together once a month and operate as one unit at the fire scene. They train and provide specialized techniques to remove incapacitated or unconscious firefighters from a burning building. Last year the (WWR) RIC Team responded to 12 working structure fires across the county.



## Dive Team

The Western Lakes Dive Team is a group of divers from Dousman and Oconomowoc Fire Departments. Divers train once a month on the search, rescue, and recovery of patients from the water. The team responds to both open water and ice covered lakes for emergency responses. The dive team also trains with the city lifeguards. Oconomowoc contributes 12 members to the team. Last year the Western Lakes Dive Team responded to 6 calls for service.



# Apparatus

**4752**  
2004 International 4300  
Ambulance  
Planned Replacement:  
**2019**



**4751**  
2008 International 4300  
Ambulance  
Planned Replacement:  
**2023**



**4753**  
2000 Ford E-450  
Ambulance  
Planned Replacement:  
**2015**





**4771**  
1997 Pierce Lance  
100ft Aerial Platform  
300 gallon tank  
1500 gpm. pump  
Planned Replacement: **2022**



**4762**  
1996 Pierce Freightliner  
1000 gallon tank  
1250 gpm. pump  
Planned Replacement: **2021**



**4761**  
2005 Pierce Enforcer  
750 gallon tank  
1500 gpm. pump  
TNT Rescue Tools  
Planned Replacement: **2030**

**4781**  
1993 Ford F350  
175 gallon skid unit  
Planned Replacement: **2012**



**4786**  
1997 Ford Explorer  
Utility Vehicle  
Planned Replacement: **2011**

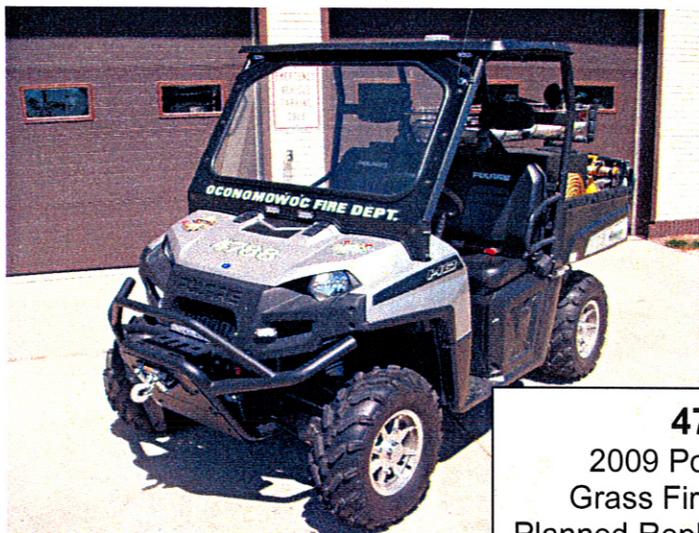


**4787**  
2003 GMC Sierra  
Utility Vehicle  
Planned Replacement: **2013**



**4785**  
2009 Ford Expedition  
Command Vehicle  
Planned Replacement : **2019**





**4788**  
2009 Polaris ATV  
Grass Fire and EMS  
Planned Replacement: **2019**



**4789**  
2003 Ford E-450  
Dive Truck  
Planned Replacement: **2023**



**4799**  
1980 Dive Boat  
20 ft, 140 hp.  
Planned Replacement: **2012**  
**Rotated from Police Boat**



**3692**  
1990 Ford L8000 Tender  
2500 Gallon Tank  
Planned replacement : **2015**  
**Shared with Summit FD**

3-3-2010 Bruno Dust Collector Fire



10-16-2010 Summer Creek



4-1-2010 Woodlake Circle Fire

