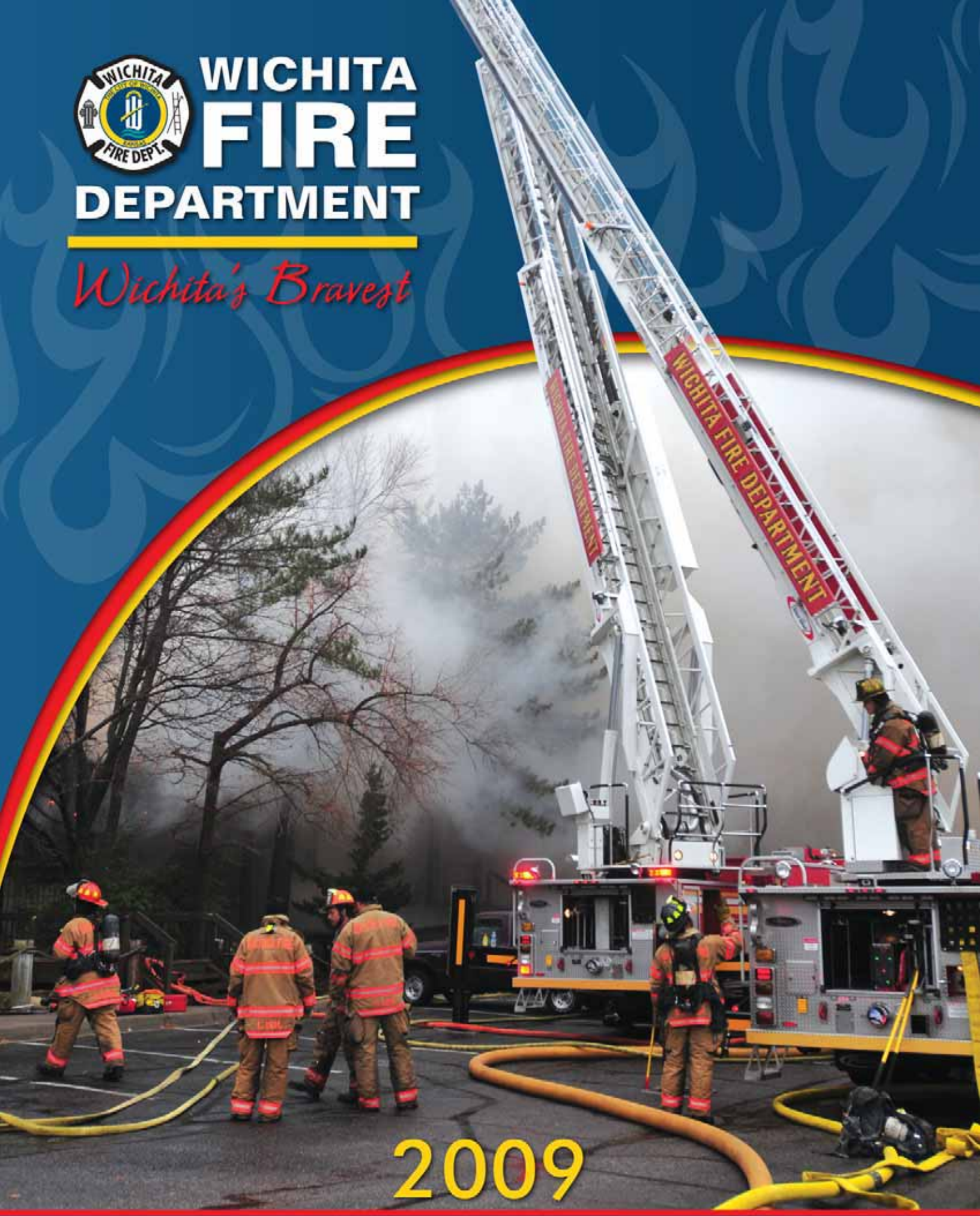
WICHITA FIRE DEPARTMENT

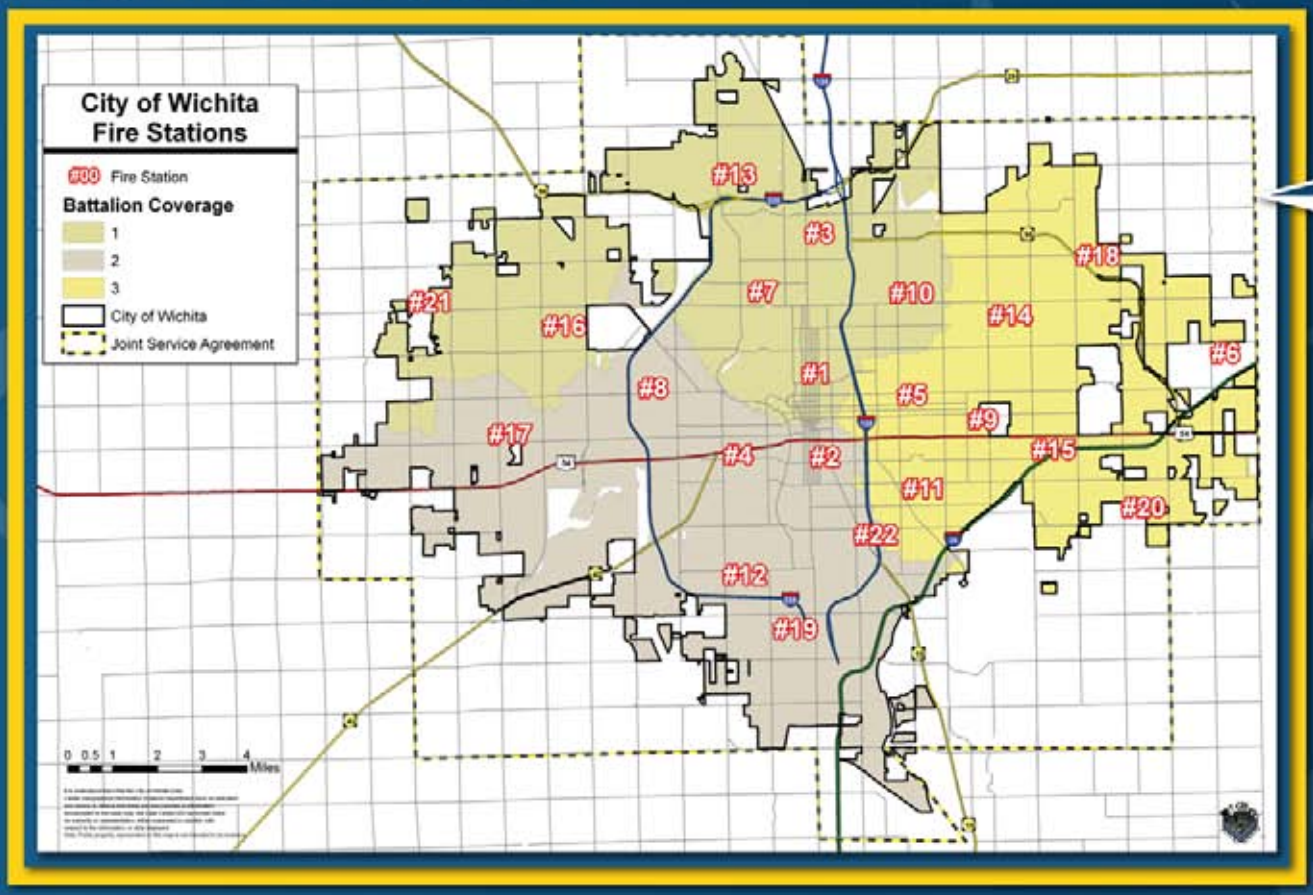
Wichita's Bravest



2009

CITY OF WICHITA FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

WICHITA FIRE STATIONS MAP



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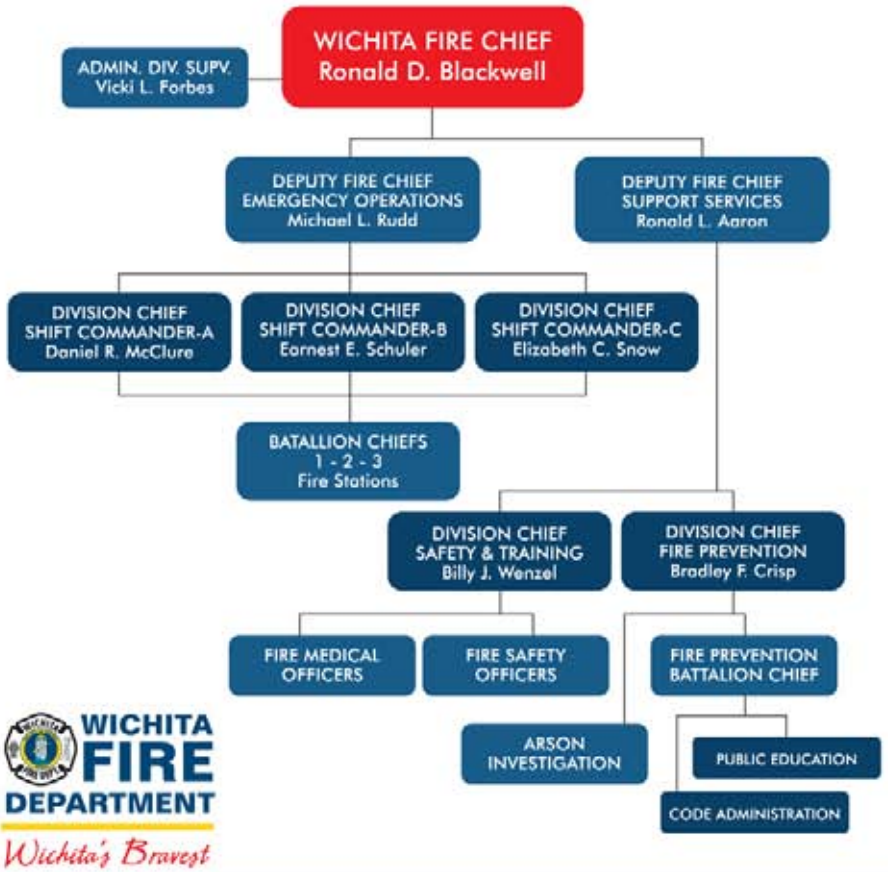
WICHITA FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION



WICHITA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Wichita's Bravest

WICHITA RESIDENTS,

The year 2009 was an exciting time for the Wichita Fire Department. While celebrating our 124th year serving you, a number of Wichita's Bravest were recognized on the local, state and national levels. The Fire Department opened three very important fire stations to better serve the community for years to come. Stations 20, 21 and 22 were strategically located throughout the city to provide for all of Wichita's fire protection and first responders' needs. The Department also initiated plans for construction of a long desired, state-of-the art, Regional Training Center to serve Wichita and partners throughout the Midwest. In addition, the Department has begun the implementation of a strategic plan to help chart a direction and identify ways to improve customer service, enhance firefighter safety, augment community risk reduction and make the best use of new and existing resources.

WICHITA FIRE CHIEF
Ronald D. Blackwell

A plethora of community risk reduction activities were held across the City. Members of the Department were present at a host of community and neighborhood events providing fire safety information, connecting with kids, as well as addressing other issues of community concern. We made great strides in our effort to provide an all-hazards approach to emergency response and even returned to the scene of emergencies to educate neighborhoods on how to keep their families, homes and businesses safe.

Training was provided in record numbers. Multiple recruit classes graduated and the newest of Wichita's Bravest were assigned at locations throughout the City. A renewed interest was placed on partnerships at the local and state level. Those efforts were highlighted by a new four year curriculum at Northeast Magnet High School. The program is designed to expose high school students to emergency service careers.

The Wichita Fire Department has a rich tradition of outstanding public service. Our future is very bright and our commitment to you and your safety is unwavering. We are very appreciative of your support and that of the Mayor and City Council. It is indeed, a privilege to serve you!

Ronald D. Blackwell
Wichita Fire Chief

WICHITA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Wichita's Bravest

2009 FIRE CHIEF OF THE YEAR

The Fire Chief of Wichita's Bravest has been awarded the distinct honor of being named the 2009 Fire Chief of the Year at the State Fire Chiefs' conference. Chief Blackwell was recognized by his peers as an outstanding and proven leader worthy of this award. Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer also congratulated Chief Blackwell on this recognition during a Wichita City Council meeting.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Division aggressively and efficiently supports the mission of the Fire Department by minimizing the loss of life and property resulting from fires, medical emergencies and other disasters. The Division is also engaged in community risk reduction efforts.

*Congratulations Deputy Fire Chief **Mike Rudd** on 40 Years of Dedicated Service!*

Deputy Fire Chief
Emergency Operations
Michael L. Rudd

Operations Overview

Every day Wichita's Bravest travel the streets working to maintain a safe and secure community. The Operations Division responds to both emergency and non-emergency incidents. During the average day, fire units provide nearly 200 responses across the City. Those calls may require assistance from the specialized technical rescue and hazardous materials teams.

Fire Operations is divided into three sections based on 24-hour work schedules: A-Shift, B-Shift and C-Shift. Each shift is managed by a Shift Commander.

In addition, Operations personnel are also involved in community outreach programs, blood pressure screenings, station tours, as well as other fire prevention activities. They welcome visitors into the neighborhood fire stations and actively participate in Neighborhood Associations and District Advisory Board meetings.

The WFD also added three new fire stations in 2009 to improve citywide service: Station 20 (2255 S. Greenwich), Station 21 (2110 N. 135th W.) and Station 22 (2659 S. Hydraulic). *See page 9 for more details.*

A-Shift
Daniel R. McClure

B-Shift
Earnest E. Schuler

C-Shift
Elizabeth C. Snow

IN 2009 OPERATIONS PERSONNEL MITIGATED

Emergency Incidents
43,711
Includes fire, medical, hazardous materials incidents and citizen assistance calls

Fire Incidents Increased
4.19%*

Medical Calls Increased
2.8%*
*(Increase from 2008)

Photo: Craig Hacker

Medical Calls

Like many other fire departments across the country, service has evolved from the original purpose of fighting fires to providing a much broader level of emergency services. In 2009, nearly 60% of the WFD responses related to emergency medical calls. All Wichita Firefighters are State certified emergency medical care providers. Fire personnel work closely with Sedgwick County Emergency Medical Service ambulance units to provide prompt emergency medical service and patient care.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Technical Rescue Team

The WFD Technical Rescue Team operates out of Station 4, located at 2423 W. Irving. The 45 member team has approximately 15 members on duty per shift. They are certified in water rescue, structural collapse, confined space/trench rescue and heavy extrication. Station 4 houses Q4, Sq4, Heavy Rescue 4, Boat 4, Truck 4 and Shoring Trailer 4.

Hazardous Materials Team

The WFD Hazardous Materials Team operates out of Fire Station 10 at 21st Street North and Chautauqua. The core team is comprised of 35 members with approximately 12 working each shift. They handle a wide array of duties ranging from air monitoring to train derailments. The team has also developed partnerships with local businesses, contractors and other local government agencies to help in the mitigation of hazmat incidents. They use specially equipped vehicles including the Hazardous Materials Response Vehicle and Decontamination Trailer.

Truck Company Operations

In 2009, the WFD reintroduced Truck Company Operations and began a new way to work together as a team during emergencies.Truck Company Operations include forcible entry, search and rescue, and ventilation. Those functions are critical when fires are most dangerous and on the verge of being out of control. The highly trained personnel work aggressively and precisely as a team to control the direction of heat, smoke and flames in order to protect themselves and residents. Firefighters utilize the aerial platform, the largest apparatus in the fleet, as their primary response vehicle.

Photo: Craig Hacker

Deputy Fire Chief
Support Services Division
Ronald L. Aaron

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Fire Prevention • Safety/Training • Records and Technology

Providing emergency services efficiently and effectively involves several factors. Responders must be properly trained, equipped, and deployed. Response activities must be performed safely, accurately recorded, and continually evaluated for efficiency and effectiveness. Prevention is the most effective strategy for risk avoidance and maintaining a safe community. Technology improvements provide an opportunity to evaluate service in a manner never before possible.

SUPPORT PERSONNEL | Commissioned Officers **24** | Civilian Support Staff **5**

Fire Department Records

The WFD uses an automated record management system to manage critical information. Each year nearly 70,000 unit response records are created with benchmarks directly from the 911 Center. Once created, personnel enter activities associated with each emergency incident. Staff check records for accuracy and completeness. Reports are sent monthly to the State Fire Marshal's Office. Other information including; training activities, code administration, equipment inventories, as well as other administrative information, is maintained in the record system.

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION IMPROVES

- Occupational Health & Safety
- Fire & Medical Service Training
- Code Administration
- Community Risk Reduction
- Fire Investigation
- Record Management
- Data Analysis
- Performance Measurement & Review
- Quality Assurance & Quality Improvement
- Technology Development
- Communication Improvement
- Budget Development
- Strategic Planning

Wichita Fire Department Strategic Plan

The Wichita Fire Department completed its strategic plan in June of 2009 with the assistance of Wichita State University's Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs. Stakeholders and members of the WFD provided input on a wide range of policy, personnel and program issues.

Six critical policy areas were defined which resulted in goal statements, strategies and implementation steps.

1. Firefighter Safety and Wellness: Develop proactive and reactive procedures to ensure firefighter safety.

2. Communication: Improve internal communication to ensure effective and efficient use of department resources.

3. Coordination: Enhance coordination among the Wichita Fire Department and organizations in the broader emergency management system to improve public service delivery.

4. Human Resources: Invest in human resources to capitalize on talents and ensure the organization is prepared for the future.

5. Planning: Improve system efficiencies through improved planning, prioritization and policies to ensure best use of resources.

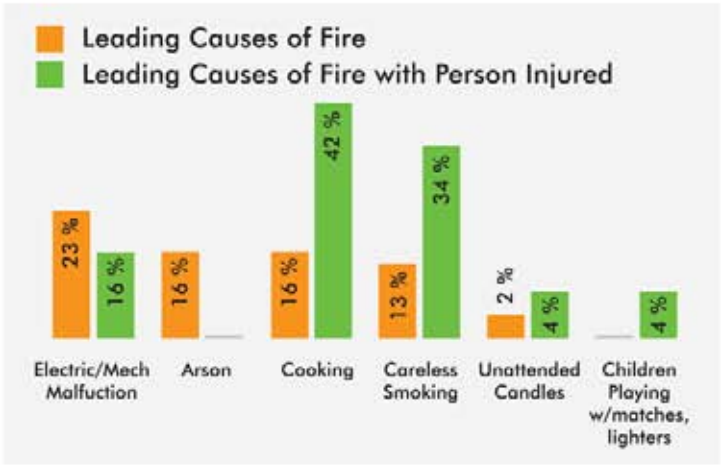
6. Community Risk Reduction: Reduce the number of human fatalities and injuries and the amount of property damage in the community through proactive services.

Public Education Section

The Public Education Section provided more than 500 programs in 2009. The programs included safety talks, puppet programs, fire extinguisher training, fire drills, static displays at public events, and other life safety programs.

The Public Education Section works jointly with the Operations Division to accomplish these initiatives. During Fire Prevention Week in October, Wichita Firefighters delivered 4 community risk reduction programs reaching more than 6,500 children and adults.

Fire Marshal
Fire Prevention
Bradley F. Crisp



Fire Loss Awareness for Safer Homes

F.L.A.S.H.

In 2009, the Wichita Fire Department continued the F.L.A.S.H. campaign in neighborhoods educating citizens about fire safety and addressing potential neighborhood concerns. F.L.A.S.H. allows firefighters to become friendly faces beyond the red trucks.They also provide fire prevention literature and perform home inspections.

Code Administration

Code Administration is a vital function of the Fire Department with the mission of reducing the number of fire deaths, injuries, and loss of property due to fires. Fire Inspectors carry out this mission through proactive code enforcement designed around compliance rather than punitive action.

INSPECTION ACTIVITIES

- Commercial/Industrial Inspections
- Sprinkler System Plan Reviews
- Care Home Inspections
- School Inspections
- Hospital Inspections
- Childcare Facility Inspections
- Daycare Inspections
- Citizen Complaints

Fire Investigation Unit

The Wichita Fire Department Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) responds to all significant structure fires.

The WFD's arson arrest rate of 37.5% has exceeded the national average of 28% for the past 3 years.

ASHLEY
1994-2000

JODIE
2001-2008

BELLA
2008-2010

SPORTY
2010-present

Accelerant Detection K-9 Program

The Accelerant Detection K-9 Program of the Wichita Fire Department continues to be a vital tool in the efforts to combat the crime of arson. Since the program's inception in 1994, the K-9s have been utilized at numerous fires. They have also been instrumental in felony arrests and have participated in community risk reduction programs.

FIRE MEDICAL OFFICERS | FIRE SAFETY OFFICERS

Safety & Training Mission

Continue to provide improved safety and efficiency for members of the Wichita Fire Department

Research and develop best practice models
Solicit input from the rank and file
Engage WFD members to assist with continuing education
Provide a sound learning environment which encourages participation
Utilize technology to the WFD's advantage

Division Fire Chief
Safety & Training
Billy J. Wenzel

2009 Overview

2009 was a busy year with numerous classes taught by the Safety/Training Division. Topics were diverse but carried the main theme of firefighter safety through training. Early in the year the WFD adopted a ventilation policy that improves conditions for interior firefighting. The Department provides quality trained emergency medical technicians and continues to make an unprecedented commitment to firefighter safety.

New Members

In 2009, the Department added new members who graduated from the Wichita Fire Department Recruit Training Academy. The 12 weeks of intense academy training prepares them for the challenges of being a firefighter with the Wichita Fire Department.

TRAINING PROVIDED

Hi-Rise Operations
Fire Operations
Engine/Truck Operations
EMT Recertification
National Fire Protection Association Performance Standards

Wichita Hands on Training (HoT)

In September of every year, hundreds of firefighters come to Wichita for training with the WFD and the Fraternal Order of Leatherheads (FOOLS of Oz). Wichita HoT features both classroom sessions as well as intensive hands on training opportunities covering everything from Engine Company Operations to Rapid Intervention Techniques. Wichita HoT had more than 250 students in attendance in during the 2009 session. Wichita HoT continues to be an outstanding, affordable training solution.

Enhancing the safety and efficiency of the Department through training and support activities

FIRE STATION 20

2255 S. Greenwich Road

This Station, in City Council District II, opened on April 18, 2009. This location improves service in southeast Wichita and citywide response performance.

The Station is home to Engine 20. It includes a community meeting room/Department Operations Center.

FIRE STATION 21

2110 N. 135th W.

This Station, in City Council District V, opened on June 27, 2009. This location improves service in northwest Wichita and citywide response performance.

The Station is home to Quint 21. It includes a community meeting room/Department Operations Center.

FIRE STATION 22

2659 S. Hydraulic

This Station, in City Council District III, opened on August 8, 2009. This location improves service in south Wichita and citywide response performance.

The Station is home to Engine 22 and the Fire Department Medical Officer.

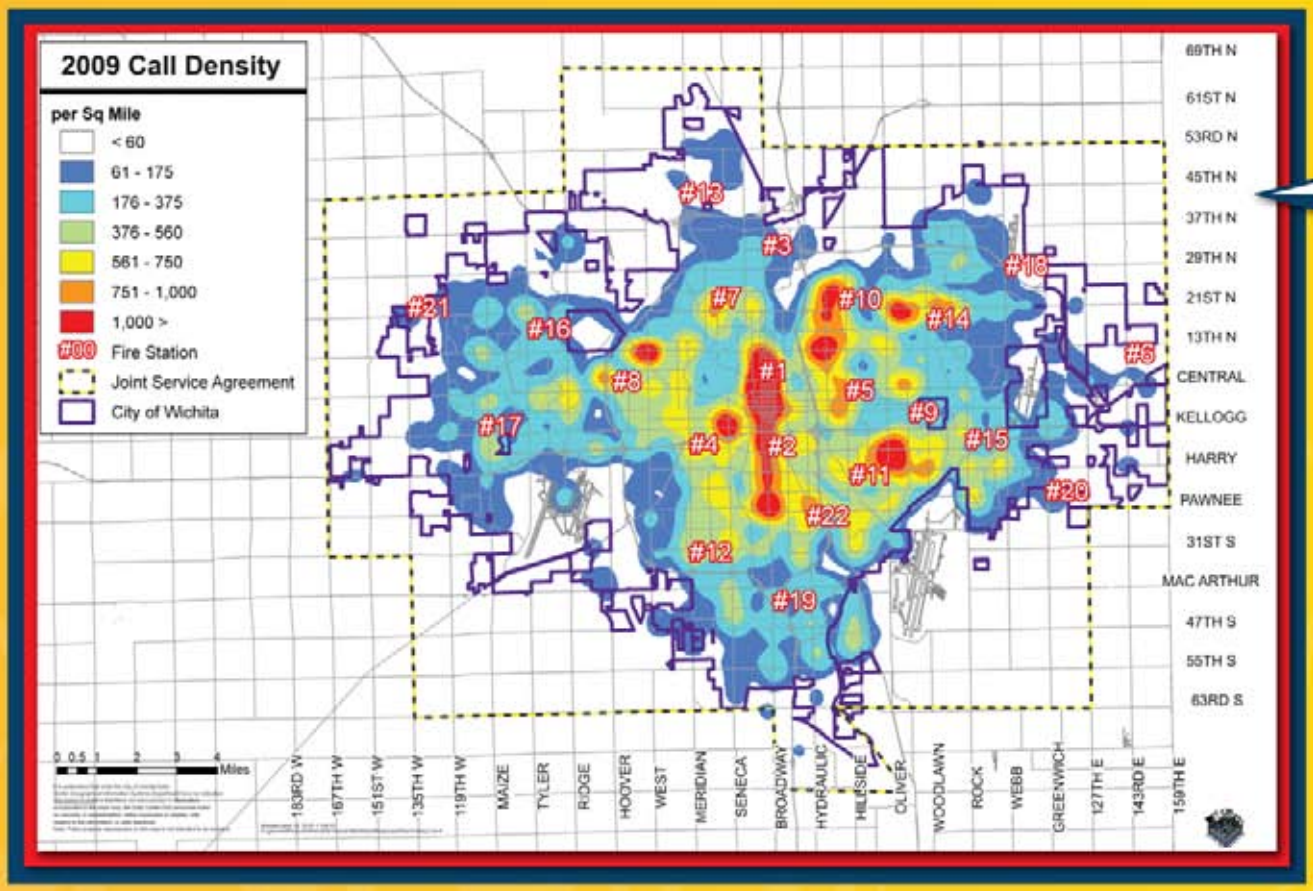
Firehouse Magazine for the second consecutive year has recognized Wichita's Bravest for heroism. Twelve members of the Fire Department rescued a fire victim overcome by heat and smoke at an apartment fire on September 24, 2009. The following members of the WFD received a unit citation for bravery and their names appeared in the April 2010 edition of the magazine.

Awards

Fire Station #15
Lieutenant M.D. Sawyer
Firefighter J. Williams-Bey
Firefighter M.D. White

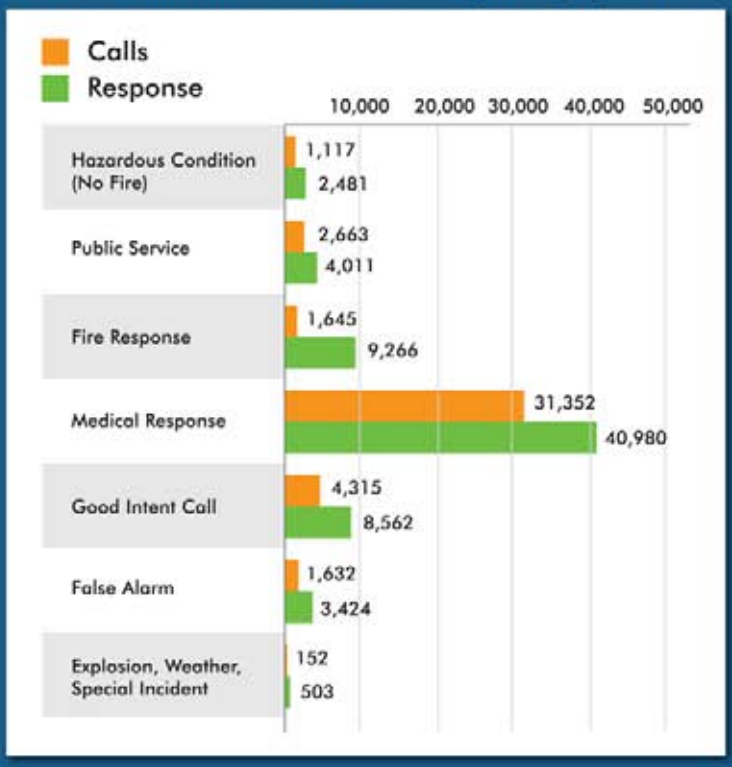
Fire Station #20
Captain L.C. Cole
Firefighter T.W. Newlin
Firefighter T. Franklin Jr.
Firefighter M.L. Powell

Fire Station #11
Captain C.A. Rodriguez
Lieutenant P.A. Ridder
Firefighter M.P. Tice
Firefighter B.R. Kennard
Firefighter J.L. Christy

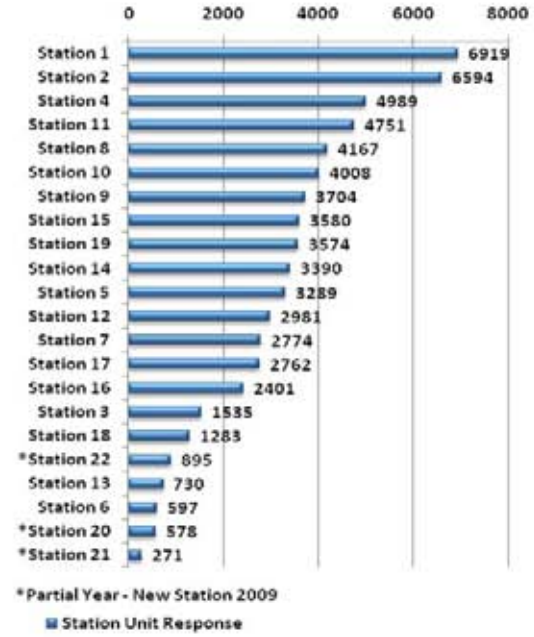


2009 Calls & Responses

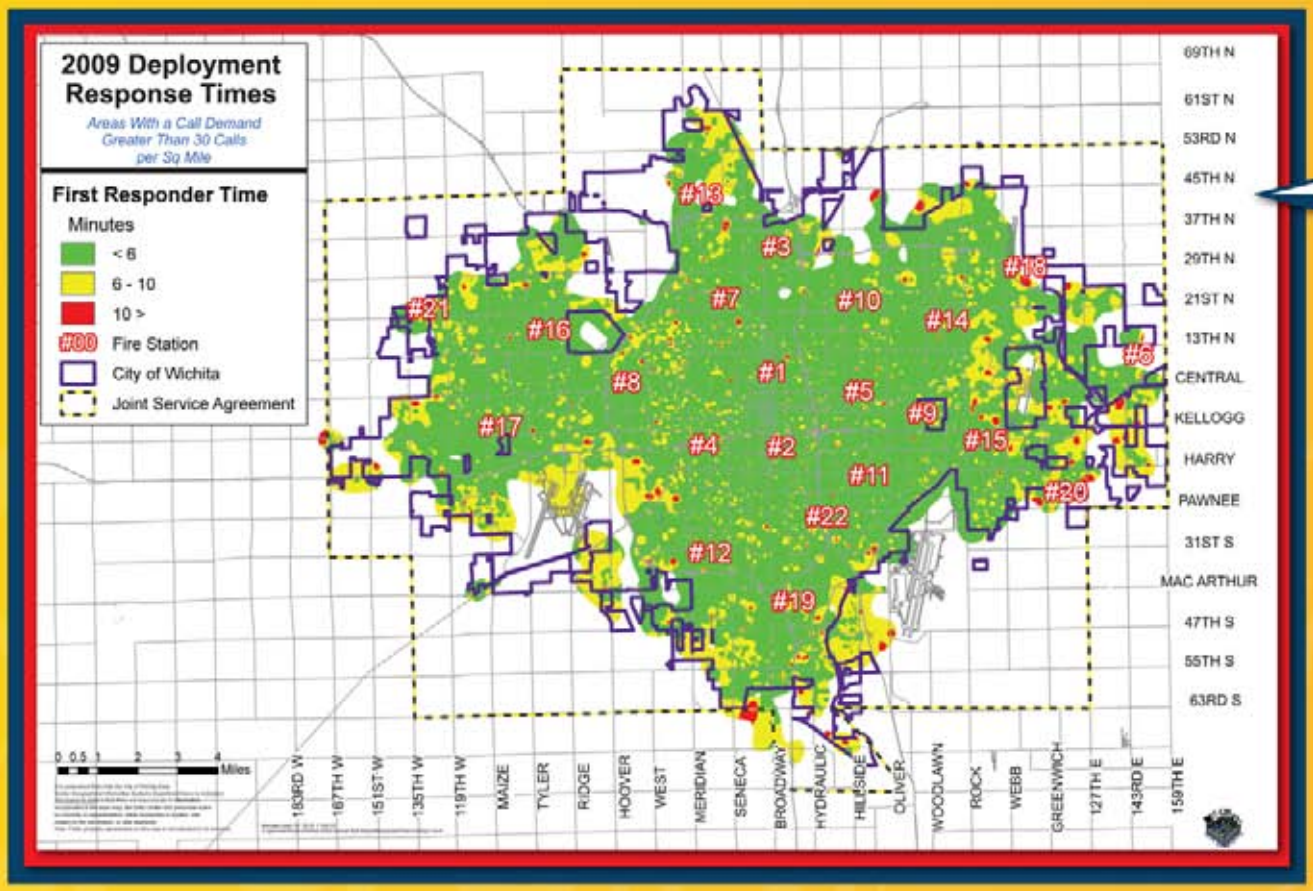
2009 National Fire Incident Reporting System



ANNUAL UNIT RESPONSE 2009 BY FIRE STATION



The chart on the left shows the type of calls creating WFD response. All calls require a one unit response, while others may require two or more units. The chart on the right shows the distribution of response for each fire station.

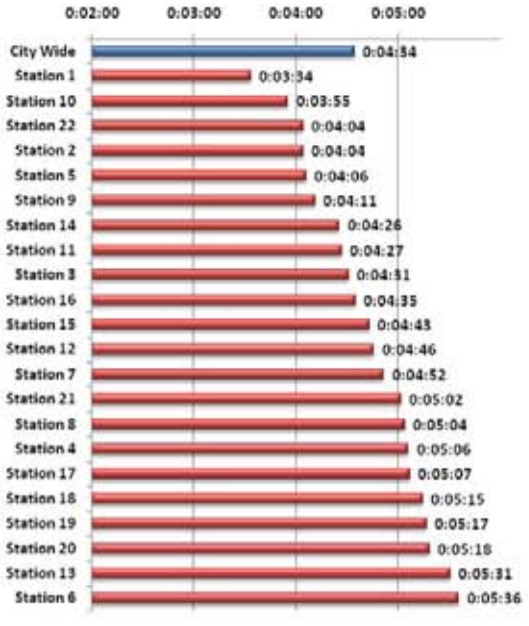


SELECTED HISTORICAL FIRE STATISTICS

Category	2009	2008	2007
Total Number of Fires	1,647	1,679	1,600
Total Actual Fire Loss*	$12,431,074	$16,545,837	$18,271,798
Number Residential Fires	533	389	508
Residential Fire Loss*	$7,095,462	$7,942,809	$9,049,396
Number Vehicle Fires	314	336	314
Vehicle Fire Loss*	$1,162,367	$1,378,501	$1,092,156
Average Fire Loss*	$7,548	$9,855	$11,420
Total Number of Alarms	43,711	42,931	41,834
Flame Damage Confined to Room of Origin	286	365	309
Flame Damage Beyond Room of Origin	137	90	139
Number of Civilian Injuries	23	29	37
Number of Civilian Deaths	2	6	8
Number of Firefighter Injuries	21	48	30
Number of Firefighter Deaths	1	0	0

*not adjusted for inflation

2009 AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME BY EACH PRIMARY SERVICE AREA



2009 Statistics & Response Times

The table on the left shows historical response information. The chart on the right shows response performance in each station's primary service area.

In Memory of CAPTAIN URBAN A. ECK

The 2009 Wichita Fire Department annual report is dedicated to Captain Urban A. Eck, a 27-year veteran of the Wichita Fire Department.

On December 13, 2009, Captain Eck responded to a two alarm building fire at Cedar Lakes Apartments, in the 8200 block of E. Harry. Captain Eck was admitted to the hospital as a result of extreme physical exertion at the fire. He died January 2, 2010. He is survived by his wife and eight children.

Captain Eck was recognized as a leader by members of the WFD. He was posthumously named Wichita Fire Department Firefighter of the Year for his years of dedication to the fire service and the community.

The Honor Guard posted the U.S. Honor Flag at Fire Station 11, 1845 George Washington Blvd., in a tribute to Captain Eck's service.

Honor Guard

The Wichita Fire Department Honor Guard is comprised of 17 members. The Honor Guard provides formal recognition at local, state and national events for active and retired public safety personnel.

U.S. Honor Flag

The U.S. Honor Flag first flew over Ground Zero after the September 11th terrorists attacks. It now travels across the country to honor the fire, police and military heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

WICHITA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Wichita's Bravest

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