

HOLLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT





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ANNUAL REPORT—2008

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the
Holland Fire Department
is to Provide Excellent Life and
Property Safety to
the Community through:

Aggressive Enforcement,

♦
Education,

♦
Safe and Efficient Suppression, and

♦
Emergency Medical, Hazardous
Materials, Fire Investigation, and Other
Services Consistent with
Modern Fire Protection.

March 2, 2009

Honorable Albert H. McGeehan, Mayor
Members of the Holland City Council
Mr. Soren Wolff, City Manager

The attached report is a brief summary of fire department activity for 2008. As this report is read please keep the word commitment in mind. The Webster dictionary defines commitment as an agreement or pledge to do something in the future. It further identifies it as the state or an instance of being obligated or emotionally impelled to a cause. Commitment is the word I best use to describe the spirit with which the men and women of our department provide fire protection services to our community.

Although our country, state and city are facing economic challenges not seen since the great depression, our personnel continue to adapt and build efficiency into the delivery of the fire protection package. One example of this efficiency is the shift based pre-planning and inspection program that was promoted and is supported by fire fighters in the department. As of the writing of this document, training is being provided to our personnel so that fire safety inspections can be conducted while gathering pre-incident planning information on businesses and structures in the city.

Programs like this not only enhance our fire prevention efforts, they provide familiarity with buildings and structures in the city to fire fighters. This translates in to enhanced safety for fire fighters and better strategy and tactics for fire incidents in the inspected facilities. Paired with education, fire inspections are the best way to educate and encourage behavior modification that prevents fires.

As 2008 came to a close we saw the retirement of our Fire Chief, Dan Henderson. Chief Henderson provided 20 years of service and commitment to the department and the community. His efforts built the level of professionalism and competency we see in the department today. This has prepared personnel to deliver a complete fire protection package. As I have stated on previous occasions this package consists of fire suppression, fire code enforcement, public education and fire investigation. By providing balanced amounts of all four of these items we provide a pro-active fire protection strategy that saves lives and property.

As we closed 2008 and began 2009, the police and fire departments began being evaluated as part of the public safety study to objectively determine our current capabilities and identify options for providing the services in a more efficient manner. With the current economy this is a must and regardless of the outcomes and changes that will be implemented, the men and women of the Holland Fire Department will continue to deliver fire protection with care and commitment to our community.

Respectfully,

Christopher M. Tinney
Interim Fire Chief



A "Size-Up" of the Holland Fire Department

A fire department was established in Holland on October 11, 1848 when a meeting of all adult males of the community was held to discuss fire dangers such as wooden buildings, underbrush and spring fires. On February 8, 1849 a fire commission consisting of 8 members and the President were elected to make plans for fire protection. This commission recommended that a fire bell be placed at the corner of Tenth Street and River Avenue; that 3 pails and a 20 foot ladder be kept by each householder; and that 3 cisterns be dug at different places in the village and a log pole be kept at each one.

When Holland became a City in 1867, two fire departments were established. They were called the Eagle Hose Company #1 and the Star Hook and Ladder Company on the west end of the City, and the Columbia Hose Company #2 on East 8th Street. From this small group of dedicated volunteers, the Holland Fire Department emerged. New equipment was obtained over the years, and in 1916 Holland purchased its first motorized apparatus.

The Holland Fire Department of today is known as a combination department, meaning that it employs a mixture of career and volunteer or "part-paid" firefighters. The Fiscal Year 2009 budget authorizes 26 full-time and 30 part-paid members in the department. The full-time positions include the Fire Chief, a Fire Marshal, and a Department Assistant working 40-hour workweeks; along with 3 Captains, 6 Lieutenants, and 15 Firefighters who work 56-hour weeks. The 30 part-paid members carry pagers and are on call around the clock to respond primarily to structure fire incidents. The total FY-2009 budget for fire department personnel, operations and capital outlay is \$3,043,954.

The department provides fire protection from 3 stations located on Waverly Road, Kollen Park Drive, and 160th Avenue. The Waverly and Kollen Park stations are staffed around the clock with full-time members, and a complement of part-paid members is assigned to each station. The 160th Avenue station, which is jointly owned and used by the City of Holland and Park Township, is staffed solely by part-paid members. Housed in the stations are 2 front-line fire pumpers, 1 pumper-rescue vehicle, 1 reserve pumper, 1 aerial tower truck, 2 EMS squad vehicles, a brush fire unit, rescue watercraft, and 2 staff autos.



A "Size-Up" of the Holland Fire Department (continued)

The department responded to 2,994 incidents in 2008, the highest number on record and 11.34% above the 10-year average of 2,689. As is typical with fire departments across the country, about 70% of those responses were medically-related. In addition to false alarms, hazardous conditions and service calls, the department responded to 89 fires in 2008. Those fires exposed \$56.4 million worth of property, and resulted in a direct fire loss of \$409,000; with a property saved/property exposed ratio of 99.27%.

The personnel, training, equipment, prevention, education and other aspects of the Holland Fire Department, combined with the City's excellent water supply system, provides a fire protection delivery system resulting in one of the few combination fire departments in Michigan with a Class 4 rating from the Insurance Service Office, providing an excellent return on the investment of tax dollars to the residents of the City.



Fire Apparatus & Equipment Section by Captain Tom Scholten and Team Members



When one thinks of a fire department, the iconic figures that come to mind might be the big red trucks, or the fire station in your town, or maybe the “guys” that comprise the crew. But what often gets lost is all the equipment that a modern department must own in order to accomplish its task.

The technical revolution has overwhelmed the fire service as it has all other aspects of our lives. Consequently our cost of doing business has increased.

Safety mandates, required equipment retirements, and the reliability of being new are all factors in what is needed to budget for. An example of a technologic upgrade would be our SCBA (or air packs). Five years ago a new SCBA went for \$4500, now with the inclusion of safety electronics on the new units, the cost has shot up to more than \$7000 per unit. Ten years ago if one would have said, “firefighters would be using infrared imagers to search for victims of a fire” we would have said “what’s that”. Now it is almost a requirement to own one on every truck, at \$15,000 each.

However, even though we are in an electronic revolution, we still need to keep all the old technology; fire is an old adversary that still responds to the basics. Car crashes still need the brute force of the “jaws”. And most medical calls still need just a few things; like a BP cuff and Oxygen. I am pleased to report that HFD is slowly upgrading its equipment but challenges are ahead to keep up with the requirements, needs, and expectations.



An estimated \$145,000 of equipment is on the red tarp. This is most of the equipment that the Holland Fire Department carries on each pump truck; we have 4 trucks as well as a ladder truck.



Buildings and Grounds by Captain Tim Fisher and Team Members

In 2008 we have seen some of our needed improvements. The two biggest were:- a new boiler at Station 2 and a new driveway in the rear of Station 1. The new boiler was installed in November but has prompted an investigation as to why a boiler that should be lasting 30 years is only lasting 10 years. The two solutions that we believe will fix this are bigger pumps on the boilers and treatment of our water. This will be at a cost of about \$1,500 - \$2,000 and will be done this spring.

The new driveway at Station 1 has been needed for a long time and is now complete. This was a cosmetic improvement but also makes maneuvering our trucks much safer for people, trucks and the facility.

There have also been some other improvements. A new, more modern office has been created at Station 1, a new desk, file cabinets, lighting and paint. This came at a cost of only approximately \$200 with all the work being done by fire personnel. At Station 1 the restroom has also been in need of major work, needing about \$3,000 - \$15,000 in repairs. Fire personnel did a temporary fix on some of the tile work at a cost of \$17.00. There is still work to do in this area but I believe it can still be done with a cheap match job until economic times allow us to do a complete update.

Now for the bad news. At Station 1 we are experiencing some major structural issues that need to be addressed soon. We are having some major settling of the building which we are currently working on with GMB to identify the problems and cost. One of the problems that has been identified is a pipe under the building has deteriorated and has been eroding away the ground under the building. We are still waiting on a complete report from GMB on soil borings.

Station 2 has had little to no improvements. If anything it is getting further behind. Due to the cost of the boiler and snow plowing costs being more than normal, Station 2 improvements will be evaluated more after winter bills come in.

For the next year we plan to continue to keep a close eye on the buildings and grounds budget. The personnel have been very willing to do as much work on their own instead of contracting it out to save money. One major area I plan to address is our energy conservation. We have made some small improvements but at this time some of this will be on hold until the energy study with GMB is complete. At that time we will sit down and reprioritize spending to accommodate some of this.

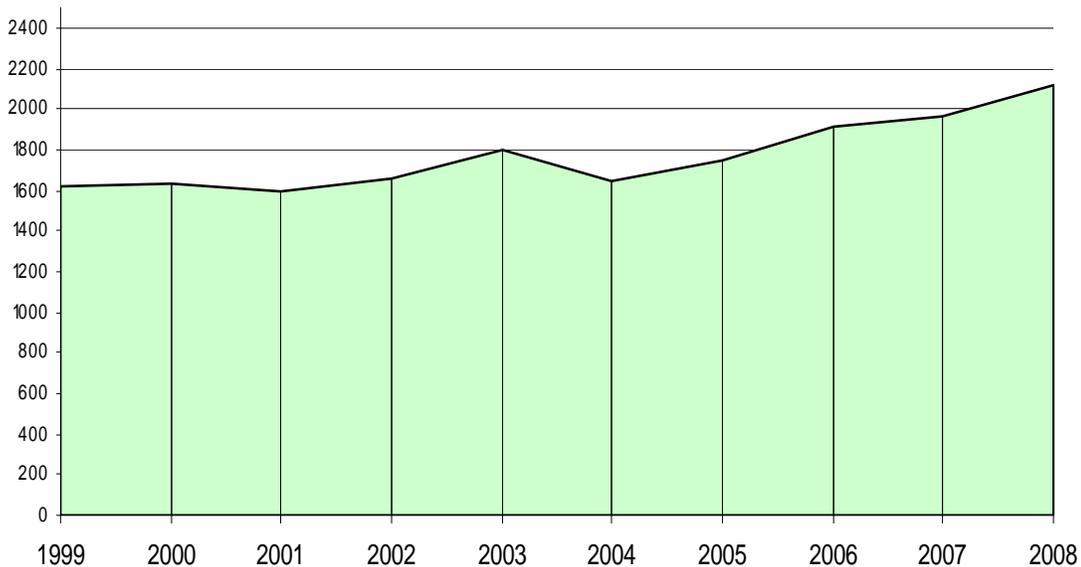
Finally, it is easy to recognize, by touring our facilities, that we definitely have some issues all over. It is also easy to understand the economic issues that we face all over. We will just continue to plug along and try to get creative in the way we do business and continue to take on additional responsibilities to manage our budget and maintain our facilities.



Emergency Medical Services by Captain Scott Gamby and Team Members

The Holland Fire Department and American Medical Response (AMR) continues to team up and deliver a two-tier medical service for the citizens of Holland, The Holland Fire Department (HFD) has 4 Basic Life Support (BLS) equipped vehicles. To license these units as a BLS vehicle, it has to carry portable oxygen, a suction device, splinting material, backboards, AED and other equipment to provide medical care. Medical incidents include vehicle accidents with injuries, falls, sprains, broken bones, heart attacks, diabetics, CVA's (strokes) and seizures to mention a few of the medical incidents the department responds to. This year we responded to 2012 medical incidents. This set a ten year high for the department (see graph below). This increase for emergency care follows the national trend for the Fire Service.

10-YEAR INCIDENT SUMMARY



On June 18th, 2008, five Holland City Firefighters and three Holland Police Officers along with four civilians received the City of Holland "Life Safety Award" presented by Chief John Kruithoff (HPD) and Chief Dan Henderson (HFD) in front of the Holland City Council. This award was in recognition of quick action and selfless character by initiating emergency medical treatment which resulted in saving a life. Holland Firefighters recorded three more saves to complete 2008. We contribute our success to early



Emergency Medical Services (continued)

Notification (911), Quick Response (avg. 4-6 min.), Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), Training and Advanced Life Support (AMR).

The State of Michigan has set a target date of April 1st, 2009 for EMS providers to electronically file pre hospital medical reports. This information will be able to provide a base line for statistical data on pre hospital care. Over the last six months the Fire Department along with technology services have worked on the pilot program developing, implementing, quality auditing and electronically filing these reports to Ottawa County Medical Control. This information on the process of electronic filing will be shared and used thru out the State.



Fire Prevention by Fire Marshall Todd Szakacs



Several of the goals and objectives for the position have been met or significant progress continues to be made toward their completion. A major accomplishment was the delivery of a new vehicle assigned to the Fire Marshal's office. This truck allows for the storage of fire investigation tools and equipment, and also allows mobilizing of the fire inspection program helping to reduce the amount of time spent in the office completing associated paperwork. This year's fire prevention week activities took place without

any difficulties and included an increase of involvement from other area departments. The annual parade and open house continues to be coordinated by the Holland area Fire Prevention Council which is a group comprised of representatives of the Graafschap, Holland, Holland Twp., and Park Twp. Fire departments. The group meets on a monthly basis to plan the activities of fire prevention week as well as other programs and services to continue the promotion of fire prevention to the area community.

The City of Holland Fire Prevention Code has been updated to the 2006 International Fire Code. Adopting a new fire code takes several hours of planning and research to identify the impact that new requirements have on new development as well as existing occupancies. With the adoption of the new code, the Fire Marshal's office will be enforcing modern day fire safety prevention practices and regulations.

In the area of fire inspections, a new department wide inspection/pre plan program is currently underway. This program has been well received by career staff and will be very helpful to the department and community allowing for an increase in commercial occupancy inspections as well as familiarizing crews with the potential hazards within our response area.

Since the last report, a number of changes have taken place with regard to pre-planning and our dispatch software that is utilized via MCT computer terminals in our apparatus. The department purchased First Look Pro pre-plan software from the Oregon based company Cad Zone. This software allows us to electronically streamline all of our business pre-plan information which can be reviewed by officers while responding to an emergency resulting in safer more efficient responses. The Fire Marshal and Preplan Lieutenants have been working to streamline the process of updating all information deemed essential to our operations.



Fire Prevention (continued)

When last year's report was being completed a grant request from the Federal Assistance to Fire Prevention was awarded to the department. With this \$75,000 grant, the department was able to provide a hard-wired, interconnected smoke detection system to over 100-single family residents. A 31-foot fire prevention education trailer, as well as a residential fire sprinkler simulator, has also been purchased with the funds. This equipment will help the department develop a sound fire safety educational program that will be mobilized, allowing for an increased population of citizens the education regarding important safety measures.



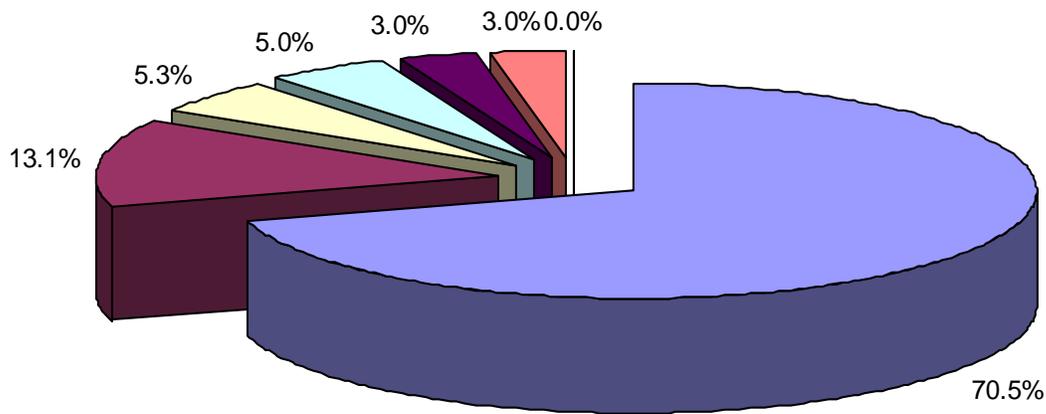


FIRE PREVENTION

	TOTAL ACTIVITY
Inspections	96
Compliance Verification	28
Complaints/Referrals from Others	18
Referrals to Others	6
Educational Programs Delivered	32
(audience numbers referred to CI)	
Fire Investigations	8
Plan Review	57
Site Plans	21
Water Based Fire Protection	13
Fire Alarm Systems	10
Construction Plans	13
Meetings with others	52
Educational /Continuing Ed Programs Attended	18
Special Assignments	5
Departmental Training Attended	10



TYPES OF SITUATIONS FOUND FIRE DEPARTMENT



- Medical Emergencies
- False Alarms
- Hazardous Conditions
- Service Calls
- Good Intent Calls
- Fires
- Others

Type of Situation	Incidents	Percent
Medical Emergencies	2112	70.5%
False Alarms	393	13.1%
Hazardous Conditions	159	5.3%
Service Calls	149	5.0%
Good Intent Calls	91	3.0%
Fires	89	3.0%
Others	1	0.0%
	2994	100.0%

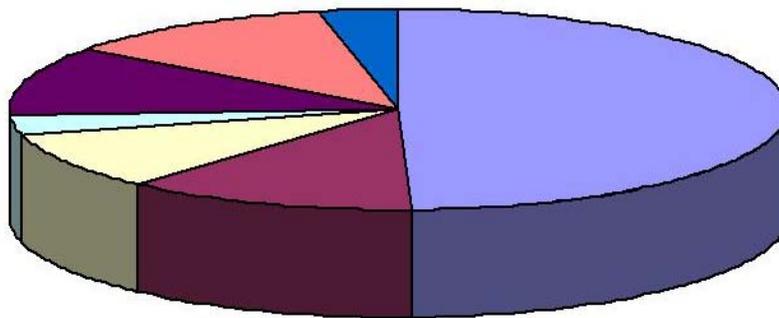


FIRE INCIDENTS

Classified by Property Types

Property Type	Incidents	Percent
Structures	44	49.4%
Vehicles	11	12.4%
Refuse	8	9.0%
Vegetation	3	3.4%
Fires/Explosion Not Classified	10	11.2%
Explosion/No Fire	10	11.2%
Outside of Structure	3	3.4%
	<u>89</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

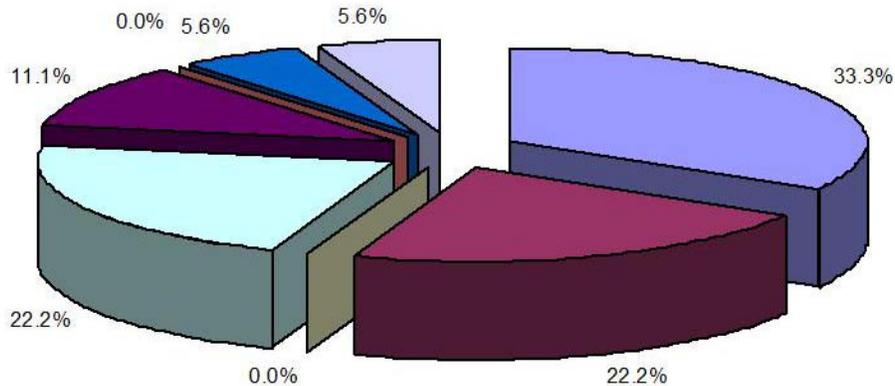
- Structures
- Vehicles
- Refuse
- Vegetation
- Fires/Explosion Not Classified
- Explosion/No Fire
- Outside of Structure





SUMMARY OF FIRE CAUSES

- Mechanical Failure
- Operational Deficiency
- Incendiary/Suspicious
- Misuse of Heat Source
- Design Deficiencies
- Other
- Misuse of Fuel Supply
- Natural Causes



Type of Situation	Incidents	Percent
Mechanical Failure	6	33.3%
Operational Deficiency	4	22.2%
Incendiary/Suspicious	0	0.0%
Misuse of Heat Source	4	22.2%
Design Deficiencies	2	11.1%
Other	0	0.0%
Misuse of Fuel Supply	1	5.6%
Natural Causes	1	5.6%
	18	100.0%

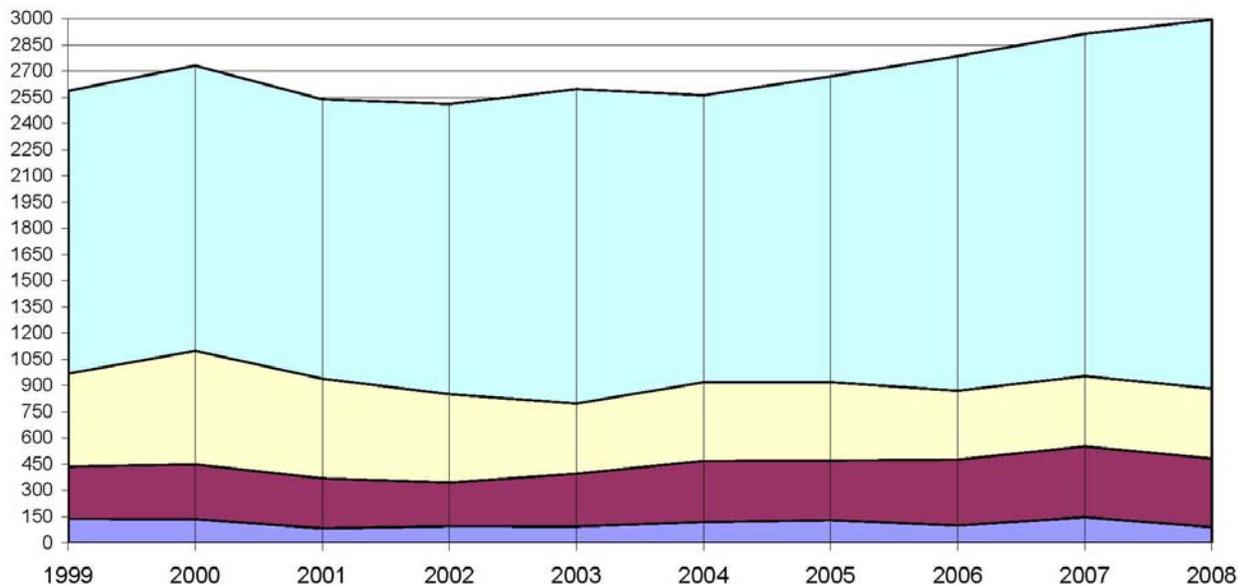


10 YEAR INCIDENT SUMMARY

Situation	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Fires	137	135	82	94	93	118	129	98	146	89
False Alarms	299	313	286	250	302	350	342	378	405	393
Others	532	650	571	506	402	450	447	394	403	400
Medicals	1619	1633	1599	1661	1800	1644	1752	1916	1959	2112
Total	2587	2731	2538	2511	2597	2562	2670	2786	2913	2994

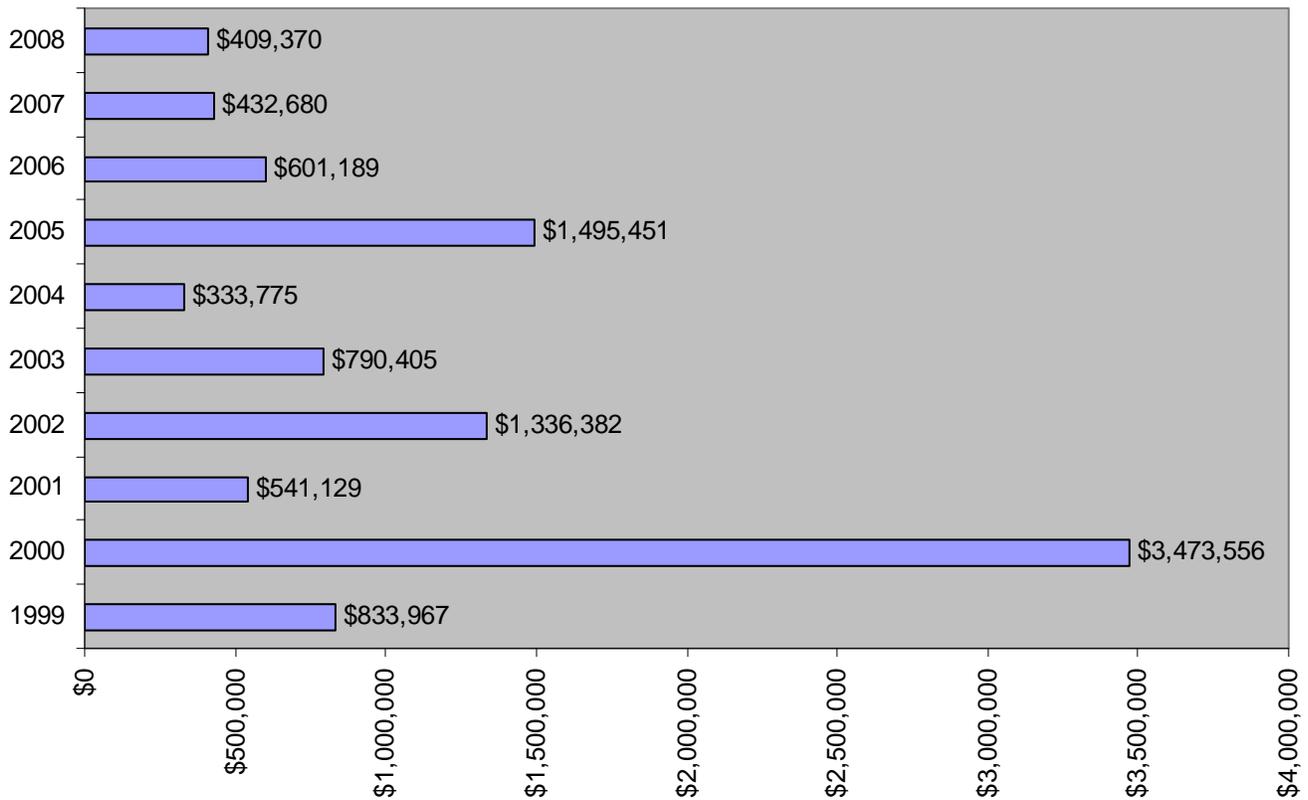
10-YEAR INCIDENT SUMMARY FIRE DEPARTMENT

■ Fires ■ False Alarms ■ Others ■ Medicals





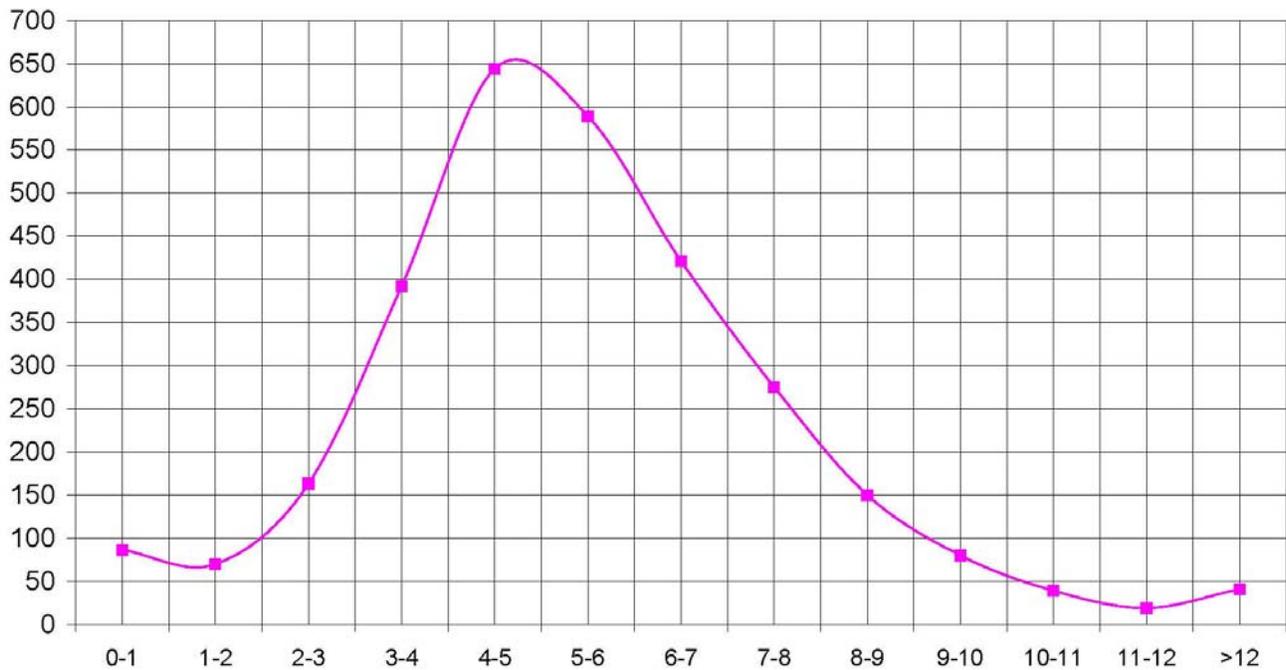
PROPERTY LOSS SUMMARY FIRE DEPARTMENT





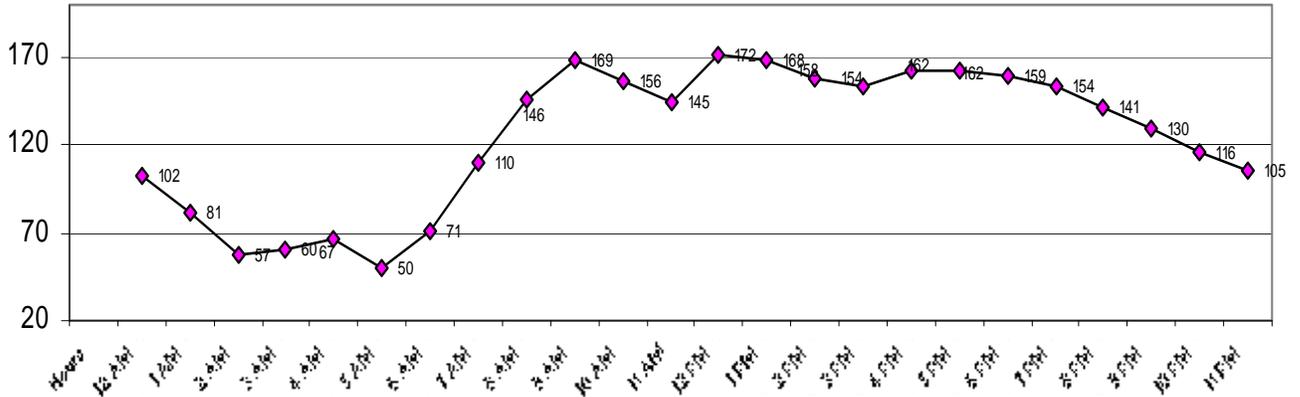
TIMES FROM CALL RECEIVED TO FIRST UNIT ON SCENE

MINUTES	INCIDENTS	PERCENT
0-1	86	2.9%
1-2	70	2.3%
2-3	163	5.4%
3-4	392	13.1%
4-5	644	21.5%
5-6	589	19.7%
6-7	421	14.1%
7-8	275	9.2%
8-9	150	5.0%
9-10	80	2.7%
10-11	39	1.3%
11-12	19	0.6%
>12	41	1.4%
2969		

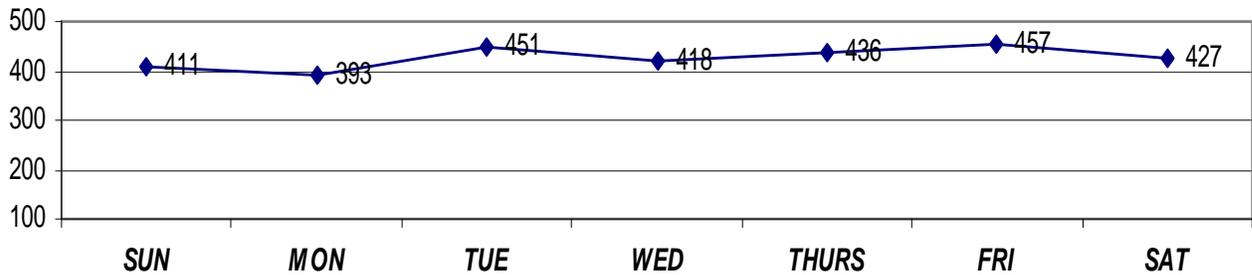




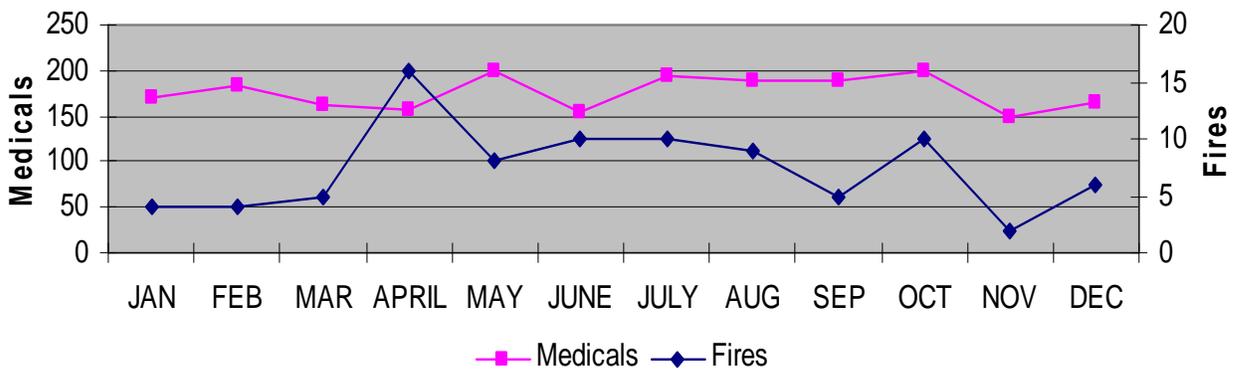
INCIDENTS BY HOUR OF DAY



INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK

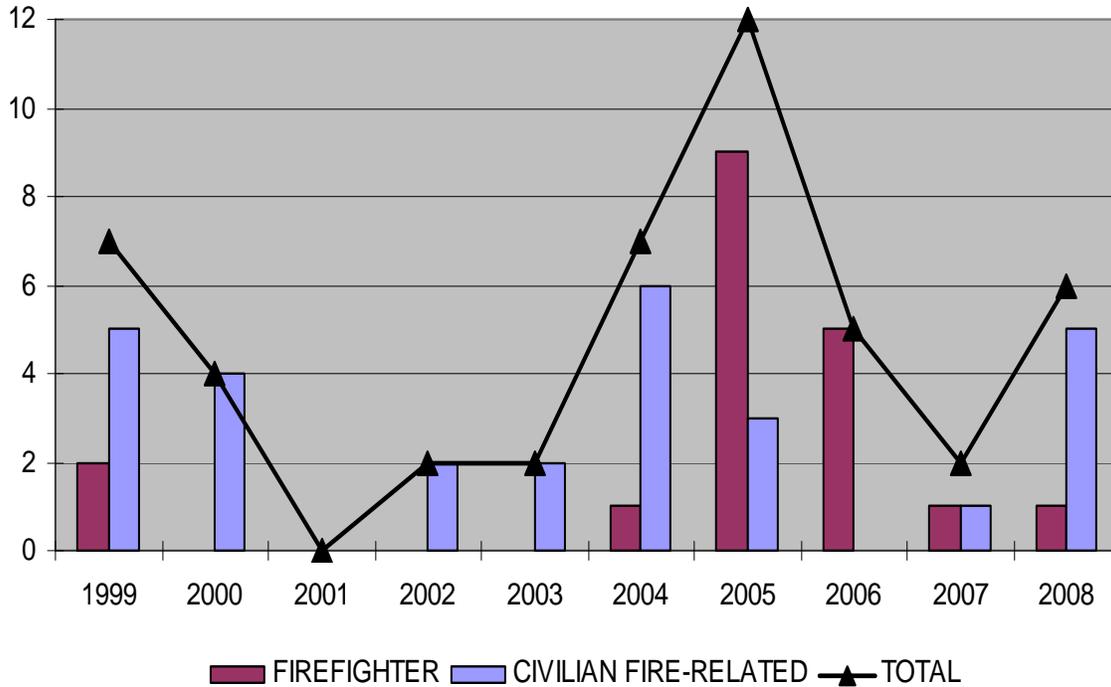


INCIDENTS BY MONTH OF YEAR





INJURIES SUMMARY

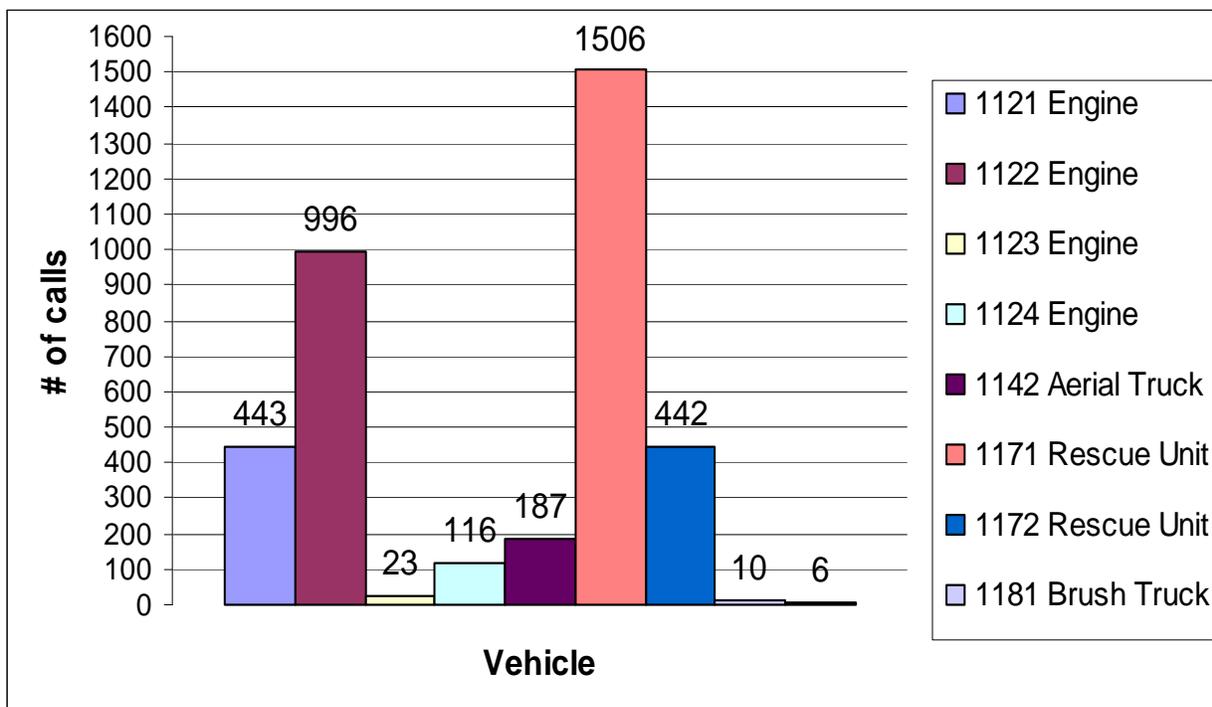


YEAR	FIREFIGHTER INJURIES	CIVILIAN FIRE-RELATED INJURIES	TOTAL INJURIES
1999	2	5	7
2000	0	4	4
2001	0	0	0
2002	0	2	2
2003	0	2	2
2004	1	6	7
2005	9	3	12
2006	5	0	5
2007	1	1	2
2008	1	5	6



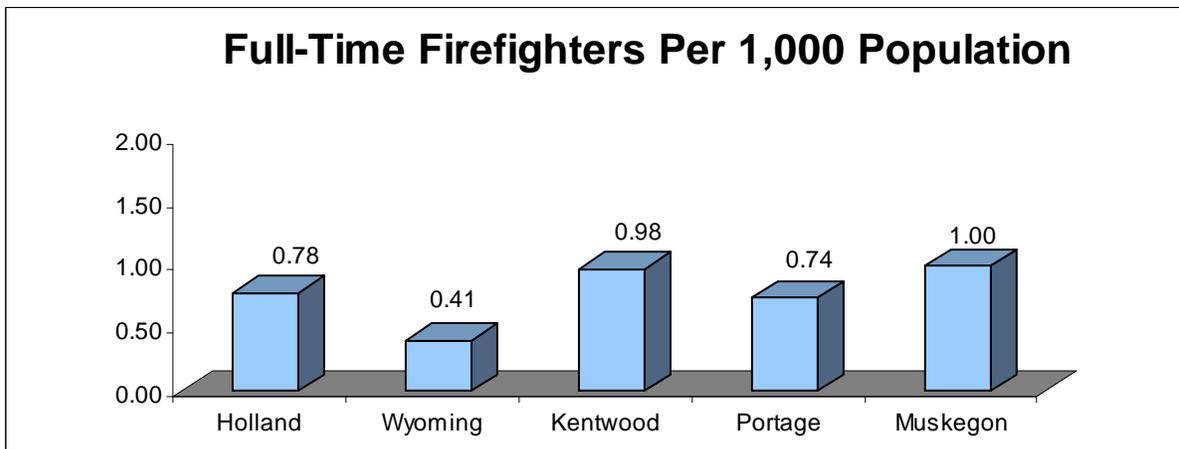
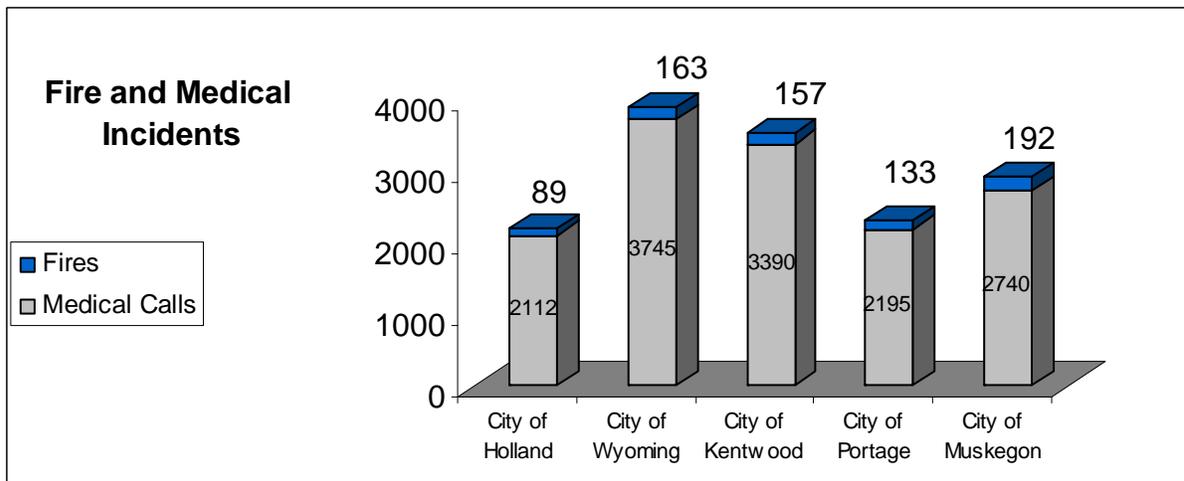
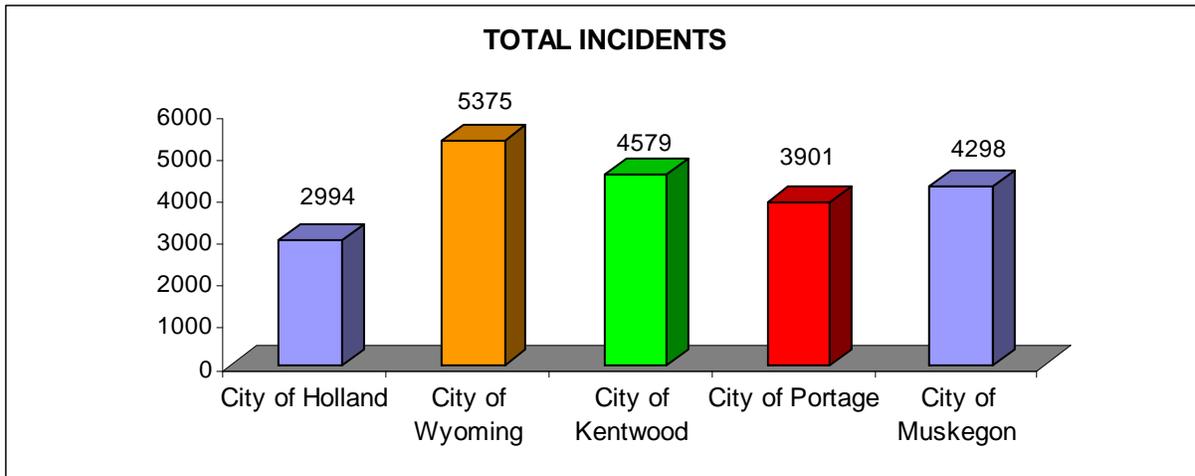
APPARATUS RESPONSES

RESPONSE DATA BY RESPONDING UNITS	YEAR TO DATE 2008
1121 Engine	443
1122 Engine	996
1123 Engine	23
1124 Engine	116
1142 Aerial Truck	187
1171 Rescue Unit	1506
1172 Rescue Unit	442
1181 Brush Truck	10
1182 Water Rescue	6
TOTAL RESPONSES	3729



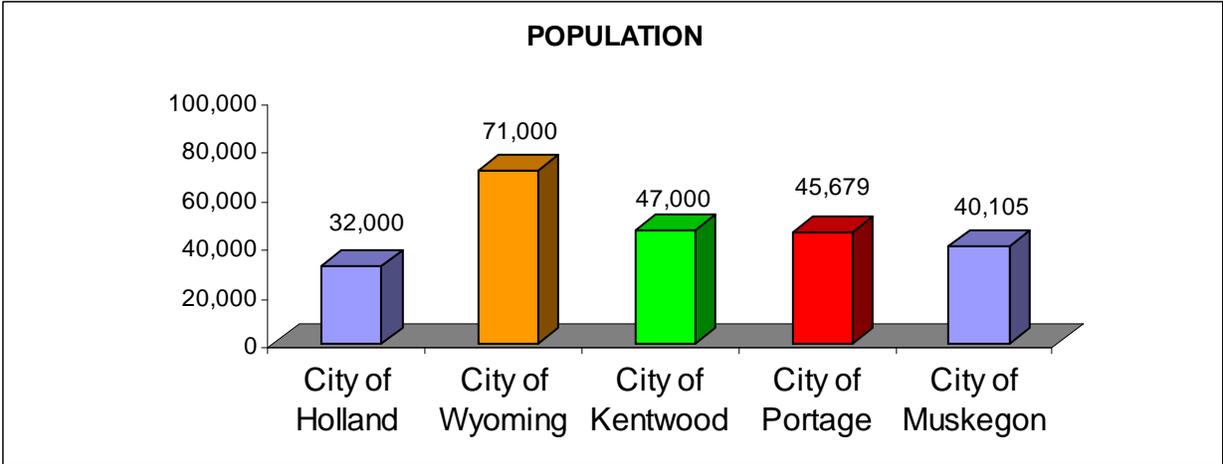
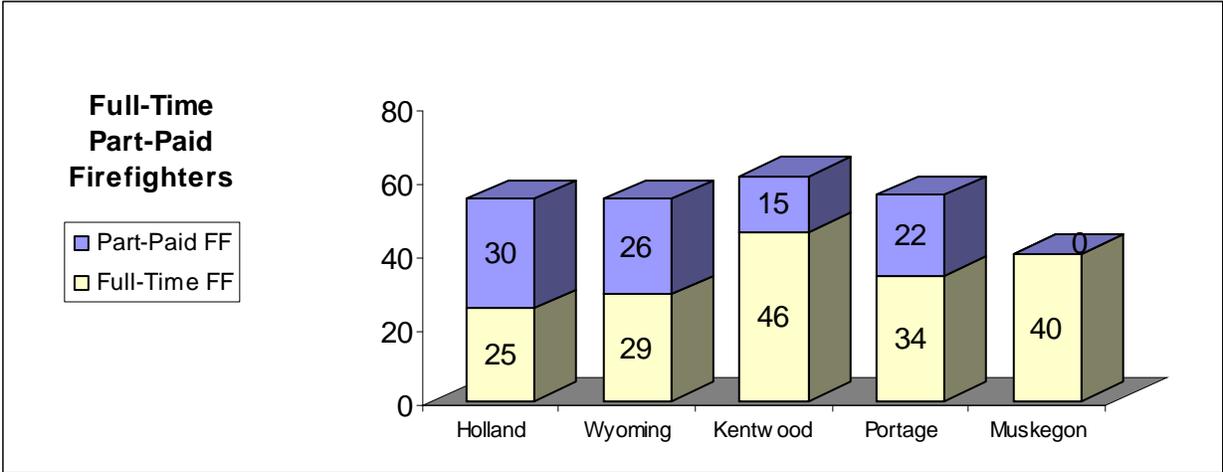


COMPARISON OF SELECTED STATISTICS WITH OTHER WEST MICHIGAN CITIES





COMPARISON OF SELECTED STATISTICS WITH OTHER WEST MICHIGAN CITIES (continued)



**PART-PAID ATTENDANCE—2008**

	Average over past 12 months
STATION 1	
ALLEN, A.	88%
DREHER	88%
ESSENBERG	100%
GENZINK	83%
NYHOFF	83%
POTTER	80%
TAYLOR	63%
TIMMER	98%
WILLIAMS	92%
STATION 2	
ALLEN, K.	71%
BRONKHORST	71%
HIGHSTREET	79%
HULST	91%
LEKAN	67%
McDONALD	82%
TOOLE	83%
VERA	83%
VOSS	93%
STATION 3	
ARNOLDINK	84%
BOULLOSA	81%
BRIGGS	82%
CUSACK	134%
DEFEYTER	63%
GAMBY	89%
GOHLKE	90%
HOCKING	96%
LAWRENCE	80%
STRINGHAM	100%
SYBESMA	77%
WOODALL	87%