



Village of Sussex Fire Department

2011 Annual Report



Chief's Report by Fire Chief Colin Curtis

Dear Village Board:

Sussex Fire Department responded to a total of 638 calls for service in 2011. For the second time in four years, calls for service decreased. In 2008, SFD responded to 694 calls for service. In 2009, we responded to 607 calls, a reduction of 87 calls. In 2010, we responded to 724 calls and this year we had a reduction of 86 calls.



Our members continue to provide value in the manner we serve our residents through safe and effective emergency problem solving. We truly appreciate the support we receive from the community, elected officials, and Village staff. This report highlights some of the significant events throughout a very interesting and challenging year.



We continue to meet with neighboring Fire Departments to see how we can create a combined effort, reduce costs and improve service delivery. These challenges are met by all area communities and we look for new and creative ideas from both within the department and outside the community. We look at these challenges in hopes of keeping the paid on call membership and only the minimum full-time staff. We're looking forward to the work involved in bringing the recommendations to reality.

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Mission

The Sussex Fire Department is dedicated to the protection of life and property for the citizens of the community. The Department will provide a professional level of service through highly motivated, well trained, and dedicated personnel. The department will strive to use the best possible techniques, equipment, and safe methods of responding to emergency incidents in a rapid, compassionate, and cost-effective manner. The department will be proactive in the community through prevention and public education programs.

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We enjoyed many success stories in 2011. We received a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS), grant for \$29,554 in late 2009 for a Defibrillator. Much of the spring was spent getting these units in service and all personnel trained. In December 2011 we were again notified we received a FEMA and DHS grant for \$87,920.00. With the 5% village matching, the total is \$83,524.00. This grant is to replace our old and soon to be obsolete portable hand held radios.

Training is ongoing for all personnel with continued changes to the curriculum imposed by the state with no state funding added for the completion of the training. Education is our highest priority. Through education comes a safer work environment. We sent four personnel to Firefighter I, two, to EMT-Basic and both of these classes meet twice a week for the entire semester. There were 6 who started paramedic class, 5 enrolled in the two semester class that meet twice a week not including the clinical time spent in the field. One enrolled and completed the 1 semester paramedic class that meets daily for one semester covering both theory and clinical hours. five personnel attended EMT IV Tech, two attended Driver/Operator, six attended Driver/Operator Aerial, and four attending Firefighter II. National Incident Management System (NIMS) training (IS 100, 200 & 700) is completed by our new personnel. We will conduct (NIMS) 300 & 400 in 2012 for all staff and others who want to enroll. The Unified Command approach at emergency scenes is beneficial to Police, Fire, and the clients we're jointly serving. We absolutely need to prepare our members for the responsibilities that they will face in leading the fire department. We must broaden our training opportunities and find ways to maximize our investment in our future leaders.

We again finished the year within budget with a minimum to return to the contingency fund. All of our members deserve credit for this continued accomplishment.

Grant:

Grant Received:

Homeland Security, Firefighter Assistance Grant - (Firefighter Equipment) \$87,920.00

This grant will be used to replace all 35 handheld portable radios. These radios are used on all calls for communications between dispatch and the scene and on the scene between the different group and division assignments. They provide us with numerous different talk-groups (channels) to communicate between the different agencies on the scene i.e., Mutual Aid Fire Departments, Police Agencies, Emergency Government, and departments with in our own community.

These radios will be purchased in early 2012, programmed, personnel trained in there use, and put into service. Without this grant, we would have been strapped for replacement costs in 2014.

- The SFD expresses sincere thanks to the many community members who have offered their support throughout the year.

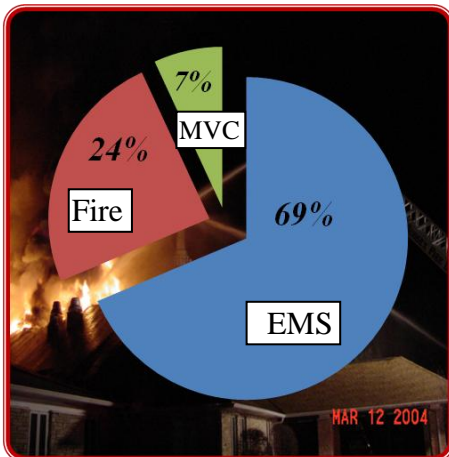
2011 Statistics

Response Data For 2011

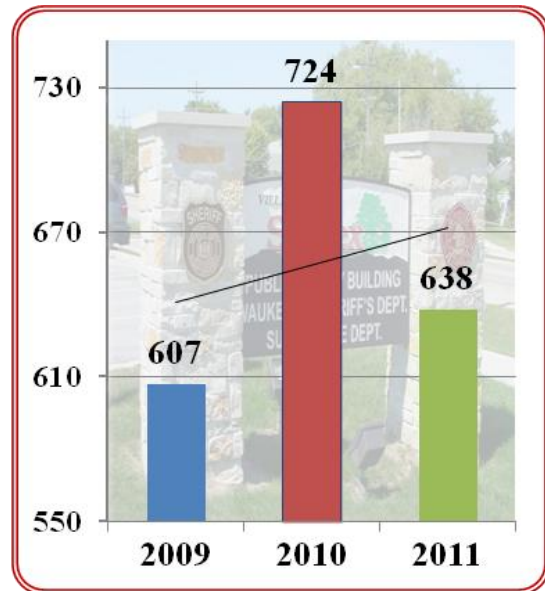
The SFD responds to many different types of calls each year. In 2011, the department responded to 156 calls that would be categorized as fire calls. In addition to actual fires, these could be calls for alarms, carbon monoxide or natural gas leaks, wires down or service calls. There were another 44 car accidents (some requiring extrication, some fluid cleanup, etc.).

- Most communities respond to 20-25% non-EMS calls (fire, service, alarm, accidents)
- In 2011 the SFD ran 24% non-EMS
- Most communities run 30% Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance calls
- The SFD/LCFD ran 22% ALS calls

SFD responded to 482 EMS calls. Lake Country Fire Department was toned with SFD for 129 of these calls based on information obtained by dispatch. 106 of these calls required paramedics.



Call Volume Increase 2009 - 2011



Call volume decreased 12% in 2011
Call volume increased 16% in 2010.

- The SFD responded to **638** calls in 2011.
- **438** EMS Calls (non accident)
- **44** Car Accidents
- **156** calls for fires, hazardous conditions, alarms, and other services.
- The average number of calls per day was **1.75**
- There were **54** times when there were two or more simultaneous calls.
- We provided Mutual Aid to surrounding communities **36** times.
- We received Mutual Aid from surrounding communities **26** times.



Notable Incidents

- On January 16, 2011 at 6:03PM, units responded to Quad Graphics for a machine fire causing an estimated \$10,000 in damage to the machine.
- Crews responded to seven calls over the course of two days on February 1 and 2. These calls were related to the blizzard where we received 12.5 inches of snow with strong winds.
- On February 2, 2011 crews responded to W222 N5900 Miller Way for a semi on fire in the building. On arrival the majority of the fire was extinguished by workers on scene who used thirteen portable fire extinguishers prior to our arrival. The remaining fire was extinguished and ventilation of the building completed, estimated loss was \$20,000.
- March 24, 2011 crews from Sussex, Lisbon and Merton responded to Pembroke St for a residential structure fire that was intentionally set. Crews made an aggressive interior attack and held the majority of the fire to the kitchen and attic area. Heat, smoke and fire damage was estimated at \$75,000. Although the fire was confined to an area, smoke and heat damage was throughout.
- An early morning fire called in at 2:44 AM at W246 N6475 Pewaukee Rd., (Bristol Ct Apartments) was discovered on the second floor balcony, extending up the exterior near the attic. Cause of the fire was determined to be careless use of smoking material with the damage estimates listed at \$10,000.
- On June 8, 2011, crews responded to six storm related calls for service.
- On July 29, 2011, firefighters from Sussex, Lisbon, and Merton responded to a machine fire at W225 N6328 Village Dr. Damage was estimated at \$50,000 after the fire was extinguished and the building was ventilated.
- On August 19, 2011 crews responded to The Seasons Apartments, N67 W24937 Stonegate Ct for a second floor balcony fire. The fire was caused by careless use of smoking materials and extended into the eave where firefighters had to remove ceiling drywall checking for extension. Estimated damage is listed at \$60,000.
- On August 21, 2011 at 3:44 AM SFD was called to investigate an extinguished fire on the second floor balcony at the Clover Downs Apartments. Crews found a smoldering fire that had burnt through the balcony supports. The fire was caused by careless use of smoking materials with damage estimated at \$6,000.
- Crews were called to W232 N7962 Nesting Ct on September 5, 2011 for a motor vehicle vs. house crash. On arrival crews found a vehicle with the front end in the kitchen of the home. The car left Plainview Rd and went down the embankment into the home. The car did extensive damage to the kitchen and cracked drywall at the opposite side of the house. Structural damage was estimated at \$60,000.
- On September 21, 2011 crews responded to Lisbon Rd and Highway 164 at 5:54 AM for a motor vehicle accident. One patient required extrication and was transported to Waukesha Memorial Hospital.
- At 2:44 AM on November 30, 2011, Sussex, Lisbon, and Merton firefighters responded to N58 W24489 Clover Dr for a residential structure fire. On arrival crews found fire extending up the exterior of the home, extending into the attic. A rapid interior attack was switched to a defensive mode due to the extent of fire in the truss-constructed structure. After the fire was darkened and it was determined the crews could re-enter, extinguishment and salvage operations commenced. The fire remains under investigation and the loss was estimated at \$240,000.
- December 9, 2011 crews responded to a motor vehicle crash at Highway 164 and Main St where three patients were transported to Waukesha Memorial Hospital and one needed to be extricated from their vehicle.

Fire Inspection Summary

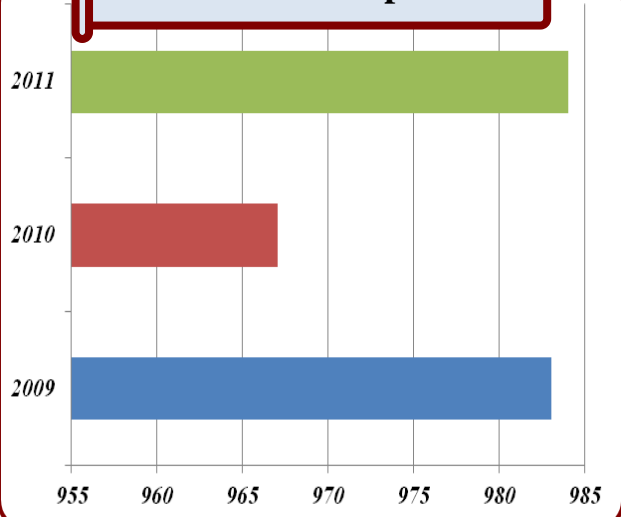
The Fire Inspection Bureau, under the Direction of **Fire Inspector/Deputy Fire Chief Greg Zoellick** is responsible for inspecting all commercial properties, enforcing fire codes, reviewing fire protection applications, conducting occupancy inspections, suppression system advocacy, and assists the Building Inspector. The Fire Inspector inspects all public buildings within the village limits twice per year as described in the state law. Buildings with a complete sprinkler system can be inspected once per year if they meet the criteria described in the code. This year, Greg conducted 539 regular fire inspections. He needed to return to 202 places to verify the violations were corrected. The majority of violations were blocked Exits, Exit lights burnt out, pressure cylinders not chained, and Fire Extinguishers and Fire Suppression systems not serviced.



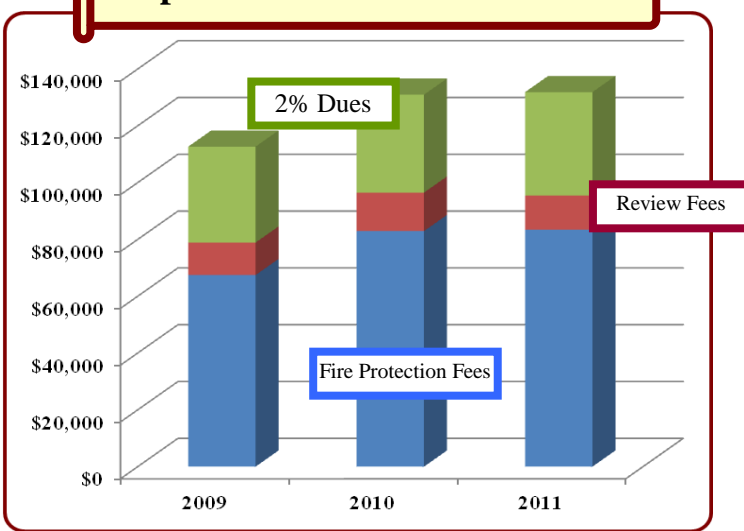
Advanced suppression systems, like sprinklers, help to reduce fire loss and improve firefighter safety. Fires in sprinkled buildings often require fewer personnel to extinguish the fire. In the Village of Sussex, 286 public occupancies are sprinkled either fully or partially.

	2009	2010	2011
Number of Fire Inspections bi annually	441	430	445
Number of Occupancy Inspections annually	101	107	94
Private Fire Protection Fee	\$67,445	\$82,936	\$83,423
Sprinkler Review/Inspection Fee	\$11,453	\$13,549	\$12,033
2% Dues	<u>\$33,770</u>	<u>\$34,470</u>	<u>\$36,395</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$112,668</u>	<u>\$130,955</u>	<u>\$131,851</u>

Total Annual Inspections



Inspection Revenue Breakdown



Public Education

Below: Pablo Ramirez demonstrates how to feel a door using the back of your hand before opening it when exiting a building during a fire.



Above: Paramedic Jodi Wiesneski teaches children about smoke and why it is so important to stay low during your exit if caught in a structure fire.

The Sussex Fire Department in conjunction with the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department celebrated the fifth Anniversary of the National Night Out. This gives many of our citizens the opportunity to enjoy many of the demonstrations, music and ask questions of the many organizations who display booths at the event.

Public Education is the cornerstone of SFD and we also are busy with community outreach. We witness Fire Drills at all public and private schools, help businesses with evacuation plans, give safety talks to students in our schools, instruct both boy scouts and girl scouts for merit badges, attend block parties, recognize National EMS week, do blood pressure checks, conduct station tours and participate in parades.

The Village of Sussex Fire Department continues to distribute smoke detector batteries to Senior Citizens or people in need.

**2011 Protect
Your Family
From Fire**



**Residential
Sprinklers save
lives!!**

2011 Accomplishments

In 2011

- A new 2010 fire engine was placed in service to replace a 1990 engine. The old engine was put up for sale.
- Strengthened our succession planning.
- All new crew members completed the National Incident Management System Training (NIMS 100 and NIMS 200).
- Continued working on consolidation possibilities with neighboring fire departments.



In 2011, a new Pierce Engine was ordered and placed in service to replace a 1990 Pierce Lance.

- Completed required EMT Basic and Paramedic refresher classes including ACLS (advanced cardiac life support) and PALS (pediatric advanced life support) for those members who expire in an odd year.
- Four new members completed State Certification FF I Training at WCTC or MATC. This is a required course prior to members doing structural fire fighting.
- Four members completed State Certification FF II Training at WCTC. This is required prior to members attending Driver Operator Training.
- Two members completed EMT-Basic, and five members completed EMT-IV Tech Training.
- Two members attended and completed State Certification Driver Operator and six completed the State Driver Operator Aerial Course. Both are required prior to driving an engine or operating an aerial device.
- Other Special training conducted throughout the year in addition to our normal fire/EMS training was; Harassment training, HIPPA annual training, MABAS training, WE Energies course, Red Flag Training (identity thief), Special Teams Operations Lecture and Concealed Carry Training.
- Three members received their EMT-Paramedic Licenses. Six members signed up for Paramedic Class in 2011 and one graduated in December and the other five will graduate in June of 2012.
- Wrote and received a grant to replace our obsolete hand-held portable radios.
- Added twelve personnel on the department.

Distinguished Service Award

Firefighter Jerry Trepanier was the recipient of the Firefighter of the Year Award for 2011. Jerry was selected by his peers for this award. Jerry is a 3 year member who has taken on several training responsibilities since joining our department. Jerry has completed all training requirements required by our department and has continued on with further education and has now taken on some training responsibilities. He does an exceptional job of organizing all fire training to ensure our personnel get the best training. Jerry holds a full-time engineering position with GE Medical in Pewaukee. Congratulations Jerry Trepanier.

Length of Service Awards went to:

Deputy Chief Greg Zoellick 25 Years

FF/Paramedic Christy Kiekenbush 5 Years

FF/EMT Josh Tyrrell 5 years

FF/EMT Steve Pualkner 5 years

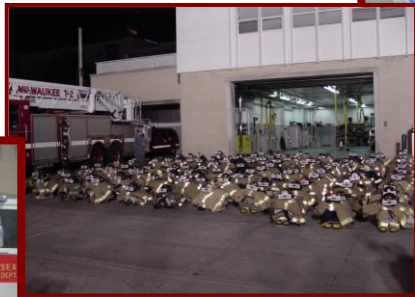
Deputy Chief Cathy Selerski Retires From SFD



Pictured: Deputy Chief Cathy Selerski retired from Sussex Fire Department after more than 29 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the village. Cathy joined the department on April 19, 1982. She was one of the first women put on the department. Cathy went through all the ranks to achieve Deputy Chief of EMS. Cathy's primary responsibilities were All EMS duties, including training and entering all personnel in the EMS State license data bank. In addition Cathy attended all required fire trainings and even went to numerous other fire trainings and seminars.

The members of the Sussex Fire Department would like to thank Deputy Chief Cathy Selerski and her husband Ted, for their years of service to the Village of Sussex Fire Department and the Community. Cathy served for more than 29 years and was Deputy Chief since March 1997. Cathy leaves with the highest respect from all members of the department and the community. I wish Cathy and Ted the very best in their retirement.

2011



It's critical to remember that fire departments provides emergency services that are extremely time sensitive and manpower intensive. We operate within a very narrow window of opportunity. We deploy our resources to achieve a true problem-solving capability. We focus on safe, effective solutions to our customer problems.