

City of Rochelle
Fire Department
2010
Annual Report



Submitted by
Brian Johnson,
Fire Chief
February 2011



The Rochelle Fire Department experienced another busy year in 2010. Not in volume of emergency responses, but in number of changes executed to improve service to the community.

The past year was the first full year of four personnel staffing. The station was at full staffing of four firefighters at all times. This has allowed the engine or aerial truck to respond with a full company. In the cases of automatic alarms, vehicle fires and other small scale emergencies, the situation was handled with the duty crew, limiting the need for callbacks.

On the other side of the coin, budgeting for this system was difficult with the necessary fill-in for vacationing firefighters. The POC salary and Fulltime Overtime line items are being stretched as the year went on.

The Rochelle Police Department became the fire department's primary radio dispatch center this year, allowing for the fourth firefighter to "roll" immediately on an apparatus instead of assuming radio dispatch. This permitted the full company to respond with no delays or callbacks.

The volume of calls in 2010 actually equaled the number for 2009 at 1756. Fire related responses were up in 2010 at 280, compared to 208 in 2009. Ambulance calls numbered 1476, down from 1546 in the previous year. This drop in EMS responses can be attributed to a period of approximately seven weeks where we experienced ambulance breakdowns. Because the city operates the only ambulance service in Rochelle, no out-of-town patient transfers are done when one ambulance is out of service. These transfers were handled by private ambulance services from other cities. The ambulance which suffered the bulk of the malfunctions was replaced at the end of the year, so this situation should not occur in 2011.

Fire losses totaled \$ 265,950 in 2010, down from 2009. Considering the values of the properties saved, savings realized by the fire departments efforts totaled \$ 857,400. This figure includes structure fires and vehicle fires.

The fire department had one work injury which resulted in time lost. FF Jason Fore

suffered a hernia and underwent surgery to correct the problem. He was off duty for a period of 5 weeks during parts of June and July, coming back at 100%. This did negatively impact POC salaries and fulltime overtime salary line items on the budget.

Emergency Response Summary 2010	Fire Related	EMS	Total Calls
January	25	119	144
February	26	112	138
March	21	147	168
April	27	92	119
May	28	103	131
June	35	130	165
July	20	122	142
August	12	132	144
September	21	143	164
October	21	98	119
November	18	132	150
December	26	146	172
TOTALS	280	1476	1756

JANUARY



Firefighters begin weekly duty training

Under the guidance of Training Officer Lt. Jason Underwood, the firefighters have begun weekly duty training. Each week, the fulltime firefighters are given topics, study materials and guides to complete that week's subjects. Some weeks include tabletop training; other weeks the firefighters are doing hands-on drills. Though working on different shifts, the firefighters are all training on the same subjects during that given week. The subjects are then expanded upon during the monthly practices attended by all firefighters. This translates to an additional 260 hours each firefighter completes annually.



Jeff Huizenga named new fulltime firefighter

With the New Year came a new employee. Jeff Huizenga's first day was January 4th. Jeff graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology from the University of Illinois at Champaign and has since taught the subject. He has already completed his Paramedic coursework and is currently working on his clinical requirements. Previously he worked as a paid-on-call firefighter for the Cherry Valley FPD. In his spare time Jeff enjoys running, demonstrating his commitment to the sport by completing the Chicago Marathon twice.



New Year starts with mobile home fire

Our first "working fire" came on January 5th of the New Year. The Rochelle Fire Department responded with Ogle-Lee Fire crews to a mobile home fire in the Shangri-La Mobile Home Park, the home of Josey Losoya. The fire began in the living room, caused by an overloaded circuit. Crews rescued a dog from the residence, as the owner was not at home at the time. An electric heater was being used as a primary heat source during a cold spell. As usual, RMU assisted with utilities on scene; Red Cross was on scene for the resident.



House fire stopped quickly; Residents belongings saved

It wasn't too many days before fire crews responded to another working fire. At 9:35 a.m. on the morning of January 26th, the fire department made a quick stop of a fire that began in the back room at 1325 W. 2nd Avenue. The blaze started near the circuit box, where an overloaded circuit was found. Though there was approximately \$20,000 in damage to the home, the residents' belongings were mostly salvageable. The work of the department saved the majority of the personal property.



Firefighters give to Canine Campaign

The RFD Social Organization elected to give \$1000 to the Rochelle Police Department for the new canine program. Dan Miller is shown giving the donation to Police Chief Eric Higby. The police department needed \$8000 for the dog and training program.



90th Annual Firemen's Ball

The Rochelle Fire Department Social Organization (RFDSO) continued a long tradition by holding its 90th Annual Fireman's Ball on January 23. It was held in the Stillman Room of the Hickory Grove Civic Center. An estimated 400 guests came to dance and enjoy a break from the cold weather. Though not truly "annual", as it was not held for two years during wartime, it can be traced back to the 1800's. It may be the longest running event in the community.

Leadership Class held

Forty-two Rochelle, Ogle-Lee and area firefighters attended the "Followership to Leadership" class, presented by the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Instructors included Rochelle firefighters Tom Richter and Tom McDermott. The class was held January 23-24 and 30-31.

New Paid-On-Call Personnel Hired

Eight new paid-on-call firefighters were hired and an orientation was held on January 26th. Six of the candidates are new to the fire service and three are somewhat experienced. Justin Neale, Kenneth Dougherty, Austin Stolte, Aaron Harms, Anthony Reed and Emanuel Escatel will begin basic firefighting and EMS classes. Curt Helgren and Andrew Good are

Firefighter II and EMT-Basic certified and will join the "Sleeper List" in 90 days to fill-in for vacationing fulltime firefighters.



FEBRUARY

Chief McDermott re-joins department

Retired Fire Chief Tom McDermott re-joined the fire department as a paid-on-call firefighter. Firefighter McDermott has assumed photographer duties and will assist in investigations and training. He has extensive Incident Command training and experience and will be an asset in the case of a large scale disaster occurring in the Rochelle area. We welcome Tom back to the fire department ranks.

Kitchen fire in Hillcrest



On February 15th, Rochelle firefighters assisted Hillcrest personnel in saving a home at 336 Rosalind Road in Hillcrest. A fire had started in the kitchen area and was contained to the area

of origin by firefighters. Damage was estimated at \$17,000 and there were no injuries.



Lieutenant Eligibility Test held

Testing for a lieutenant's eligibility list was held on February 20th at the Fire Department. A written exam and oral interview by the Rochelle Fire and Police Commission was conducted and a list was created from the results. The list in order of total scores is as follows:

1. Daniel Miller
2. Brian Edwards
3. Robert Workman

This list will expire on March 20, 2013.

MARCH



Firefighters participate in St. Baldrick's event

Seven firefighters agreed to allow their heads to be shaved for a great charity. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer-driven charity committed to funding the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and give survivors long and healthy lives. Lt. Sawlsville, who has worn a mustache since high school, agreed to shave it off if \$500

was raised. The firefighters quickly raised the funds and Dave was good on his promise. Above, Jeremy Good, Zach Prewett, Jody Willis, Jason Fore, Jason Underwood, Dave Sawlsville, Chris Sawlsville and Tom McDermott posed after the event.

Father Lange becomes Fire Chaplain



On March 17th, Father Steven Lange of St. Patrick's Catholic Church was appointed Rochelle Fire's newest Fire Department Chaplain. Father Lange will support the area firefighters and those served by the fire department. Father will be working with Chaplain Judy Williams, the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District chaplain.



Large scale drill held in Rochelle

On the evening of March 19th, firefighters from Rochelle and Ogle-Lee participated in a prescribed burn of city property along the new Jack Dame Drive in preparation for hydro seeding. This was done in cooperation with Sam Tesreau, Engineering Department and Kathy Cooper of the Water/Water Reclamation Department. Tom Richter and Tom McDermott, Rochelle firefighters and field instructors for the Illinois Fire Service Institute oversaw the exercise. Mr. Tesreau is pictured supervising the fire scene.



Firefighter LaFleur lost to cancer

Both Rochelle and Ogle-Lee firefighters left a great loss with the passing of Firefighter William LaFleur. Bill, a retired Chicago Police Commander, joined the fire service after moving to the Rochelle area from Chicago. Bill joined the Flagg Center Fire Department in 1998 and served as volunteer firefighter and training officer. He also served as a paid-on-call firefighter/EMT for the Rochelle Fire Department for 7 years. He, his wife Chrissy and daughter Elizabeth made their home in the Rochelle area. Bill lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on March 28.



ambulance as their primary patient transfer service. There had been reports that Superior Ambulance of Elmhurst had been contacted for this use. Nurse Supervisor Betty Mortensen and ED Supervisor Jennifer Montgomery met with Chief Johnson and EMS Coordinator Lt. Sawlsville to reaffirm their commitment to a good working relationship. A regular quarterly meeting has been established to better the emergency medical service provided to the community.

Rochelle begins Paramedic Upgrade

Seven fulltime firefighters have embarked on a new Paramedic “Bridge” course in efforts to upgrade the present level of emergency medical service. At the present we are an Intermediate EMS level. With the upgrade, new drugs and procedures will be available to our patients. Future plans include an “Expanded Scope”, that is, the new Paramedics will learn procedures specific to the needs of Rochelle Hospital transfer patients, therefore speeding the hospital-to-hospital transfer process. This process required firefighters to use time off the job without pay to complete, showing their commitment to the upgrade.



Rochelle Police and Ogle Co. 911 assists Rochelle Fire

Rochelle Fire has entered into a no-cost agreement with Rochelle Police 911 and Ogle County 911 to direct dispatch by radio, thus cutting dispatch time and allowing for more expedient response. Each dispatch center will “handle” all radio traffic for Rochelle and Ogle-Lee fire agencies. Pictured are FF Prewett, Dispatcher Roger Johanning and Lt. Underwood, reviewing software used in dispatching.

APRIL



Rochelle Fire to continue Patient Transfers

Rochelle Community Hospital and the Rochelle Fire Department have verbally agreed that RCH will continue to use the fire department’s

Budget comes in lower than previous year

The Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget was approved, with fire department’s share portion actually slightly lower than the previous year’s budget. This year’s figure of \$1,262,082 is \$6,822 less than fiscal year 2009-2010.



Firefighters complete Rescue Diver Training

April was the month nine firefighters began dive training to fill the need of qualified dive rescue/recovery personnel. The following firefighters completed Open Water Diver, Advanced Open Water Diver, and Rescue Diver courses during the following months. This training was completely funded by the Rochelle Fire Department Social Organization.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Jason Underwood | Jeremy Good |
| Brian Edwards | Zach Prewett |
| Jason Fore | Jody Willis |
| Josh Lewis | Ben Johnson |
| Josh Valdivieso | |

They will continue to train with the Winnebago Dive Rescue Team/MABAS Division 8 on a regular basis to hone their skills.

MAY



Rochelle Fire & Ogle-Lee Fire continue relationship

An Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Rochelle and Ogle Lee Fire

Protection District was approved by City Council for the period May 1, 2010 through April 30, 2015. The base amount for the period May 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011 has been increased to \$45,000 and will be paid monthly at the rate of \$3,750. Each subsequent year the fee will be adjusted annually based upon the increase or decrease of the equalized assessed value (EAV) of the Ogle Lee Fire Protection District. Through this agreement the City of Rochelle provides fire protection, rescue and ambulance services to the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District. This agreement dates back to the beginning of the fire district in 1973.



Multiple homes affected by Electrical Lines Down

On May 24th at 9:04 p.m., the fire department was called for trees down on the 900 block of North 8th and 9th streets. The branches fell across power lines serving many homes, cause outages and smoke in several homes on both streets. Three houses had visible damage. All homes were checked and crews were on scene until midnight as power was restored quickly by RMU Line Crew members.

JUNE



Firefighters run in the Hospital Hustle

Thirteen Rochelle firefighters and significant others participated in The Rochelle Community Hospital's 5K run, the "Hospital Hustle" held June 16th at Atwood Park. The group won "Most Spirited Group". They were sponsored by the Rochelle Fire Department Social Organization.

Pictured, from left to right, are Firefighters Manny Escatel, Jeremy Good, Andrew Good and Zach Prewett.



Storm causes major damage near Country Club

On June 18 at 3:00 p.m., the fire department was called to the area of 600 block of S. 7th for a "possible explosion". Personnel found the majority of a roof add-on had blown off of the building at 636 S. 7th Street and onto S. 7th Street and the golf course. Fortunately, no injuries or fire occurred and no rescue was needed.



Veteran firefighter lost to cancer

The Rochelle Fire Department suffered another tragic loss with the passing of POC Firefighter/EMT Mike Cushing. Mike joined the Rochelle Fire Department in 1993 as a paid-on-call firefighter, serving for over 17 years. Mike reached the level of Emergency Medical Technician - Intermediate, which was above the level required as a "POC" firefighter. He enjoyed woodworking and remodeling. He and his wife, Pam, made their home in Rochelle. Mike passed away from lung cancer on June 27, 2010.



Lightning Strikes Historic Home

On June 28 at 9:49 p.m. a fire was reported at the home of Arlyn and Debby Van

Dyke at 622 N. 7th Street. Lightning struck the west gable of the 115 year old home, causing fire in the attic and second floor bedrooms. The entire electrical system was compromised, as well. After extinguishing flames in their bedroom, the Van Dykes exited and called 911. The lightning caused fire to start in multiple areas. Firefighters quickly gained access through heavy fire to the attic and the second floor to prevent fire spread beyond the areas of origin.

JULY



Another great July 4th show

Though the great growing season was good for farmers, it wreaked havoc on the firefighters preparing for the annual fireworks show. After Street Department Operator Roger Ahlensdorf cut down the seven foot high corn, fire crews braved the wet fields and spent many hours setting up and “shooting” the fireworks, entertaining the large crowd gathered at Atwood Park.

New Ambulance Ordered

The 2010-11 Ambulance Fund Capital Budget included \$150,000 for the replacement of a 2005 Wheeled Coach ambulance unit. An image of the proposed unit appears on page 6. The Wheeled Coach unit has the highest mileage of the three ambulances currently in operation. Due to an extensive repair history and multiple accessories requiring replacement, it is no longer cost effective to maintain the 2005 unit. Subsequent to the required public notice, bids for a new ambulance were opened on June 9, 2010, with two dealers submitting bids. Fire Chief Brian Johnson reviewed the bids and recommended the acceptance of the apparent low bidder, Foster Coach Sales, with a bid of \$152,202 minus the trade-in of the 2005 unit for a total of \$139,702. There will be some other small expenses to transfer this rig into service; these costs will still keep the total under the budgeted \$150,000. The City has purchased Medtec Ambulances in the past and the Fire Department has found them to be reliable.



Five firefighters receive Paramedic License; Level of EMS Upgraded

Five fulltime firefighters received their paramedic licenses after completing coursework and in-hospital training this spring and summer. Those receiving their certificates were Lt. Jason Underwood, FF Daniel Miller, FF Brian Edwards,

FF Jason Fore and FF Rob Workman. This allowed the City of Rochelle to begin delivering a higher level of emergency medical service to its citizens. It is important to note the “bridge” program described earlier in this report was a pilot program designed by Lt. Underwood. It is the first of its kind in the State of Illinois.

AUGUST



Man drowns in Lake Sule

Tragedy struck when a man was reported missing after swimming into Lake Sule and going under. Rochelle firefighters were able to recover the patient and initiate resuscitating efforts within 73 minutes. The Winnebago Dive Team was called for mutual aid and arrived as Rochelle personnel were attending to the patient. Unfortunately the man did not survive.



Firefighters co-host Blood Drive

Rochelle Firefighters teamed with the Rochelle Rotary Club and the Masonic Lodge to co-host their annual Blood Drive to benefit the Rock River Valley Blood Center. The drive was held at the Firefighter’s Hall.



Firefighters participate in LHHF

Firefighters participated in this year’s Lincoln Highway Heritage Festival activities by preparing and selling their famous pork chop sandwiches in the food court in downtown Rochelle. The antique fire engine, “Ol’ Gertie”, was entered in Saturday’s car show and received the Glen Reints Memorial Award for best original equipment. Fire personnel participated in the parade on Sunday afternoon. The department’s large American Flag was displayed downtown on Saturday and then for the Annual Fly-In at Koritz Field on Sunday.





Rope Rescue Operations class held

Eight firefighters completed course work for Certified Rope Rescue Operations held locally, in conjunction with the Ogle-Lee FPD. The course was taught by the Illinois Fire Service Institute. This is the first in many Technical Rescue courses available from IFSI. It can be utilized in high angle rescue, grain rescue/recovery and other operations. The following Rochelle firefighters participated and the training was completed on the firefighters' own time.

Tyler Carls	Emmanuel Escatel
Andrew Good	Curt Helgren
Jeff Huizenga	Josh Lewis
Jason Underwood	Josh Valdivieso

RFD hosts Rock Valley College interns

The firefighters at Rochelle Fire welcomed two young interns to the fire station for training. The two, Emanuel Escatel and Dan Jennings, "shadowed" the duty firefighters, studying the fire service up-close and getting the experience of life at the firehouse. Each spent eight-hour days weekly for 12 weeks. They kept journals and completed basic firefighter training.

SEPTEMBER



Firefighters sell Pork Chops for charity

After being approached by FF Kathy Pignato, the Rochelle Fire Department Social Organization held another Pork Chop Dinner Drive-Thru to benefit the Susan G. Komen 3-Day Walk for the Cure.

The firefighters also sponsored t-shirts to be sold with the profits going to this cause. The pink shirts boasted a fire department Maltese cross with the slogan "Heroes for Hope" across the back.

OCTOBER



Tactical EMS program begins

FF Josh Lewis attended a Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) class in October. This class trains the paramedic in the tactics used by Law Enforcement Emergency Response teams in order to supply medical support during their operations. There are plans to expand this training to include more Rochelle paramedics. Training with the Rochelle Police ERT (pictured above) will begin soon.

**FILL THE
BOOT!**

MDA



RFD gives to MDA

Firefighters nationwide have had a long standing relationship with the Muscular Dystrophy Association. In October, Rochelle firefighters held one of their Pork Chop Drive-Thru dinners to benefit the local MDA chapter in Rockford. Monies raised will be used in Ogle County to help those stricken with muscular disorders. A total of \$1264.00 was collected.

Firefighters participate in DRA Trick-Or-Treat

The Downtown Rochelle Association organized a Trick-or-Treat event for the downtown merchants and the firefighters gave treats to the costumed youngsters on October 29.

NOVEMBER



Firefighters co-host Blood Drive

Rochelle Firefighters teamed with the Rochelle Rotary Club to co-host their annual Blood Drive to benefit the Rock River Valley Blood Center. The drive was held at the Firefighter's Hall. Twenty-six pints of blood was

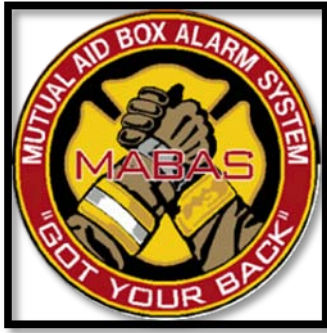
collected including four new donors. This event was co-chaired by FF Jeremy Good and FF Brian Edwards.



New Respiratory Intervention added to Ambulance Service

In November, the Rochelle Fire Department Social Organization purchased a Continuous Positive Air Pressure Port-o-vent for use with some patients experiencing severe respiratory distress. This CPAP device enables the paramedic to gently "force" air into the patients' lungs without causing stomach distension. This is a non-invasive method of ventilating a patient, therefore sometimes avoiding the need to place an endotracheal tube in the throat.

The intervention is part of the ambulance service upgrade and the paramedic's expanded scope. Funds were used from the RFDSO's Memorial Ambulance Fund.



Rochelle Fire joins MABAS Division 6

Rochelle Fire joined MABAS Division 6, the mutual aid group based in DeKalb County. Rochelle is an associate member, as we hold primary membership with Division 18 based in Ogle County. Geographically, it makes sense to be involved in both groups. Belonging to Division 6 allows for Rochelle firefighters to belong to their Technical Rescue Team and Hazardous Materials Team and receive training reimbursed by the Illinois Terrorist Task Force.



Fire guts First Avenue home

Early in the morning of November 24th fire broke out at 921 First Avenue in Rochelle. The fire was reported at 2:14 a.m. Working smoke detectors warned the residents and all were safe. The fire had started as electrical in a kitchen wall. Though the attic and kitchen were extensively damaged, the residents' belongings were mostly saved. Firefighters from the Ogle- Lee district assisted Rochelle on the scene.



Paid-On-Call Training Sessions Begin

In November, Chief Johnson initiated regular paid-on-call firefighter meetings to evaluate the needs and concerns of the volunteer personnel. During the first such meeting, the idea for "extra" training sessions geared for the volunteers was introduced. It was the concern of many of the POC's they are not able to obtain the needed skills and knowledge with one monthly fire related practice. These sessions will begin in January of 2011, being held on the fourth Thursday of each month.



Chief Johnson named Emergency Management Director

In keeping with the City's Municipal Code, City Manager Ken Alberts appointed Chief Johnson as the City's Emergency Management Director on November 22nd. This position was previously held by Chief Tom McDermott.

Primary duties include review and revising the Emergency Operations Plan, making recommendations for an Emergency Operations Center and to create a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Chief Johnson will be meeting with other City staff and local industry leaders to accomplish these tasks.

DECEMBER

Pork Chop Drive-Thru benefits Christmas Walk

For years, Rochelle Firefighters have supported the Community Action Network Children's Christmas Walk. This year was no different as the firefighters held yet another Pork Chop Drive-Thru event. C.A.N. Chairperson Pat Burch brought help from C.A.N., the Focus House, Wal-Mart and the Golden K making this a cooperative event. Over \$1900.00 was raised for this worthy charity.



Two more Paramedics certified.

Jeff Huizenga and Ben Johnson received EMT-Paramedic certifications earlier this year. FF Huizenga was licensed in August and FF Johnson, in October. That brings the total number of paramedics to thirteen. Above, FF Johnson tends to a firefighter during a training exercise.



Firefighters win 1st Annual Bed Races

A new event was added to Rochelle Annual Downtown Christmas Walk. Four teams squared off in the 1st Annual Bed Races. The Firefighters defeated three other teams to take the trophy. Later, firefighters participated in the Lighted Parade, decorating Ladder 1 and Old Gertie. Pork chop sandwiches were sold in front of the fire station for a warm snack during the festivities.



Needy Families Food & Toy Drive

For over twenty years the fire department has hosted the Needy Families Food & Toy Drive at the fire station. This year was no exception. Toy and food donations were accepted and stored at the station. Over 120 families received gifts from this event chaired by Rochelle residents Jean Tess, David Waltrip, Lois Hultgren and Missy King. Firefighters and family members cooked and fed the 75 high school volunteers on delivery day. The cook crew is pictured above.

Full-Time Firefighters



***Brian Johnson
Fire Chief/EMT-I***



***Jason Underwood
Lieutenant/Paramedic
Training Officer***



***David Sawlsville
Lieutenant/Paramedic
EMS Coordinator***



***Adlai Schaefer
Lieutenant/EMT-I
Mechanical Officer***



Dan Miller
Firefighter/Paramedic
Scheduling



Rob Workman
Firefighter/Paramedic



Brian Edwards
Firefighter/Paramedic
POC Trainer



Zach Prewett
Firefighter/Paramedic
Public Education Officer



Jason Fore
Firefighter/Paramedic



Jeremy Good
Firefighter/Paramedic



Josh Lewis
Firefighter/Paramedic
Dive Team Coordinator



Jeff Huizenga
Firefighter/Paramedic

Paid-On-Call Firefighters



Dan McDermott
Firefighter/EMT-Basic



Tim Leahey
Firefighter



Tom Richter
Firefighter



Curt Ward
Firefighter/EMT-Basic



Ryan Daugherty
Firefighter



Lanet Erickson
Firefighter/EMT-Basic



Kathy Pignato
Firefighter/Paramedic



Brian Bakker
Firefighter



David Simmons
Firefighter



Josh Valdivieso
Firefighter



Chris Sawlsville
Firefighter



Ryan Brown
Firefighter



Ben Johnson
Firefighter/Paramedic



Dave Hudson
Firefighter/EMT-Basic



Anthony Reed
Probationary



Emanuel Escatel
Probationary



Ken Dougherty
Firefighter/EMT-Basic



Jason Shull
Firefighter/EMT-Basic



Justin Neale
Firefighter