



City of Rochelle Fire Department  
Semi-Annual Report

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January-June 2011

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## **January**

January 2

Rochelle MazMat Technicians were called by DeKalb County MABAS Division Six for a hazardous materials spill at Custom Aluminum in Genoa. Crews responded, but not needed for operations at the scene. The city received reimbursement for the response.

January 3

Rochelle Firefighters lose a good friend with the passing of Retired Fire Chief Bill Lower. Bill attended fire department social functions right up until his death at age 95. On this date, firefighters assembled an honor guard and used the antique engine, Old Gertie, to carry Bill to his graveside where he received the Firefighters Bell Service. Chief Lower served the city from 1951 until his retirement in 1980, 22 of those years as chief.

January 21

The fire department takes possession of a new ambulance, a 2011 MedTec Type I on a Ford Super Duty chassis from Foster Coach Sales in Sterling. It replaces a 2005 Wheeled Coach ambulance that had a bad track record for reliability and service.

January 22

The Rochelle Firefighters host the 91st Annual Firemen's Ball at Hickory Grove Civic Center with Joe's Midnight Band as the headliners. Approximately 350 people enjoyed the evening out with our local firefighters.

Fire Related Calls	15
EMS Calls	161

## **February**

February 2

During one of the fiercest blizzards in recent history, Rochelle firefighters were called for structure fire at 420 S 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Upon arrival at the former Oaks Restaurant, crews found the rear of the building fully involved. The building was thought to be occupied, so firefighters mounted a full attack of the fire. Rochelle Police did account for all family members; no one was at the building this night. Response was severely hampered

by the weather, only a few off duty firefighters were able to respond to help. Two additional personnel and Chief Johnson spent the night at the station, allowing for a seven personnel response if needed.

## February 12

Ten Rochelle firefighters began a 32 hour Water Rescue Operations class. The course centers around operations at an ice rescue, swift water or still water rescue/recovery with the emphasis on safety. The Flagg-Rochelle Park District allowed the use of the indoor pool for this class, at no cost to the city.

Fire Related Calls	34
EMS Calls	135

## **March**

### March 2

The City of Rochelle entered a cooperative purchase with the Ogle-Lee Fire Protection District, buying a 16 foot rescue/recovery boat for use by both entities. The city and the district have within their boundaries, over 100 bodies of water. The fire department plans to preplan some of the quarries and stone pits for possible rescues or recoveries. Ogle-Lee FPD trustee Rick Kasmar delivered the boat to the Rochelle Fire Department on this date.

### March 19-26

Chief Johnson attended a Command and Control course at the National Fire Academy in Emmetsburg, Maryland. The course was geared towards large scale incidents and the method in coordinating mutual aid companies. Preplanning, target hazards, incident action plans and use of mutual aid personnel was discussed in the six day class.

Fire Related Calls	24
EMS Calls	145

## April

April 4

The fire department rented a building at 770 Wood Street to accommodate response to the south side of Rochelle during the period in which the overpass is closed. The fire department will house an engine and an ambulance with 2 personnel at "Station 2". At times, the trains will sit or move very slowly tying traffic up for long periods, many times up to 30 minutes. (Note: At the time of this report there have been 5 confirmed calls where a train would have delayed response from Station 1.)

April 7

The fire department took possession of 32 foot enclosed trailer from the Ryder/TLC Company. The company had used this trailer as a hazardous materials response trailer dealing with, in particular, ammonia events at their facility. The trailer was available for use at other cold storage facilities within Rochelle. The company had decided to donate it to the city as they were no longer staffing trained hazardous materials technicians. The trailer held two large ventilation fans, a number of "HazMat" entry suits and an onboard generator. The firefighters quickly began outfitting the trailer for our "HazMat" needs. The trailer will also be used as a remote Incident Command Post for any disaster or long incident. The fire department has already planned training at the Ryder facility, using the new acquisition.

April 16

Ten firefighters attend a 5 day Tactic EMS Class. The course allows paramedics to accompany police personnel when doing special tactics operations. Studies have shown that if a "medic" is on scene when an officer is wounded, the outcome is much more positive. This is a cooperative effort between the Rochelle Police Department, Ogle County Sheriff's Department and the Rochelle Fire Department.

Fire Related Calls     16

EMS Calls                88

## **May**

May 9

Mike Pierce, of FBC, Inc., offered and delivered a large poly storage tank from his plant to firefighters for training purposes. The tank was thoroughly cleaned and brought to the temporary fire location at Wood Street. Firefighters used the tank for confined space rescue practice.

May 12

Fire crews assisted police detectives John Kaltenbach and Terry Inman in a search for a gun that may have been disposed of in the Kyte River, near Treatment Plant Road. Three firefighters searched the creek bottom by hand and with metal detectors for approximately 90 minutes with no results.

Fire Related Calls      22

EMS Calls                114

## **June**

June 1

Fire personnel volunteered to meet the Ringling Brothers/Barnum and Bailey Circus Train at Global III Intermodal Hub to supply water for the circus animals and for cleaning. The train crews were very pleased with the fire department's help and stated that they would stop in Rochelle again next year. The circus was traveling from Chicago to Omaha, Nebraska.

June 24

Full-time firefighter Jody Willis and paid-on-call firefighter Tyler Carls completed EMT-Paramedic training and successfully challenged the state exam. FF Willis scored one of Rochelle Fire's highest state scores. The department now boasts 14 paramedics.

June 26

At 4:26 p.m. on this date, firefighters responded to a working apartment fire at 1255 Short Court. Crews entered the building, evacuating all the residents in the first few minutes. Shortly after the evacuation, the fire-involved apartment was entered and the fire was contained to the room of origin. The source was narrowed to a malfunctioning

refrigerator compressor motor, igniting a paper bag of recyclables stacked against it in the kitchen area. The loss of the property and contents was estimated at \$5000.00.

Fire Related Responses        24

EMS Responses                    106