

FARMINGTON HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT



Farmington Hills Fire Department on the cover of leading trade magazine—Muirwood Apartments

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION

It is my honor as the Fire Chief of the Farmington Hills Fire Department to present this summary of our activities for the year 2011. The men and women of this Department responded to 7,696 calls for service, a record number of incidents.

As in previous years, the majority of the incidents we respond to are medical emergencies. Known for excellent delivery of Advanced Life Support (ALS) techniques, the Farmington Hills Fire Department remains a leader in the highest tradition of the fire service.

Due to budget limitations, for many years we were unable to conduct fire safety programs that the public had come to know and appreciate. However, this year we were able to host a scaled-down version of our Fire Prevention Open House in October. Typically held on a Sunday, we opened our doors to the public on a Friday, thus significantly reducing the costs. We met, entertained, and educated over 600 people who braved the cool temperatures and a little rain to visit us. Throughout the year, we conducted numerous fire station tours and are continually looking for innovative ways to reach the public with our fire safety messages.

Our Fire Prevention Division continues to inspect businesses for code compliancy, and leads all fire investigations to determine their origin and cause. We assist businesses in reviewing their emergency preparedness plans and critique their actual "live fire drills" when requested. Additionally, our members offer portable fire extinguisher training to local businesses and civic groups.

The Department provides a liaison to the national and state award winning Emergency Preparedness Commission. After many ongoing discussions with the Farmington Public Schools, we are proud to team up and offer CPR training to our high school students for the first time.

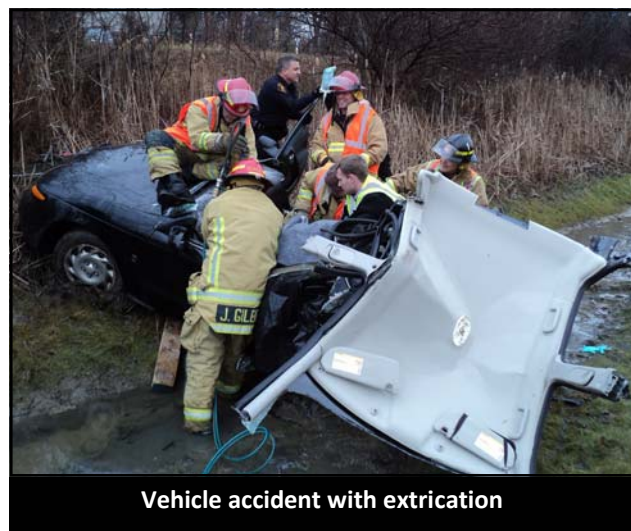
Training has always been one of our top priorities and we still have one of the most comprehensive, ongoing training programs in the State of Michigan. Our members can be found training almost daily on topics such as EMS, hazardous materials, specialized training, and fire sciences.

With financial deficits and reduced staffing throughout the area, we continue to participate in numerous mutual aid associations not only in Oakland County, but in Wayne County as well. Through these mutual aid associations, specialized response is shared by all involved communities. Participating members are involved in technical training and special responses such as search and rescue, trench rescue, high angle rescue, hazardous material response, confined space, structural collapse, and incident management. The entire region benefits by sharing personnel, resources, and other associated costs.

With the support of the Mayor, City Council, our City Manager and his staff, as well as the other City Departments and supporting governmental agencies, we continue to be an exemplary organization that prides itself on being proactive, efficient, and exceptionally effective in our delivery of services.

Thank you to all of the members of this fine organization for your dedication and continued commitment to excellence.

Corey J. Bartsch, Fire Chief



Vehicle accident with extrication

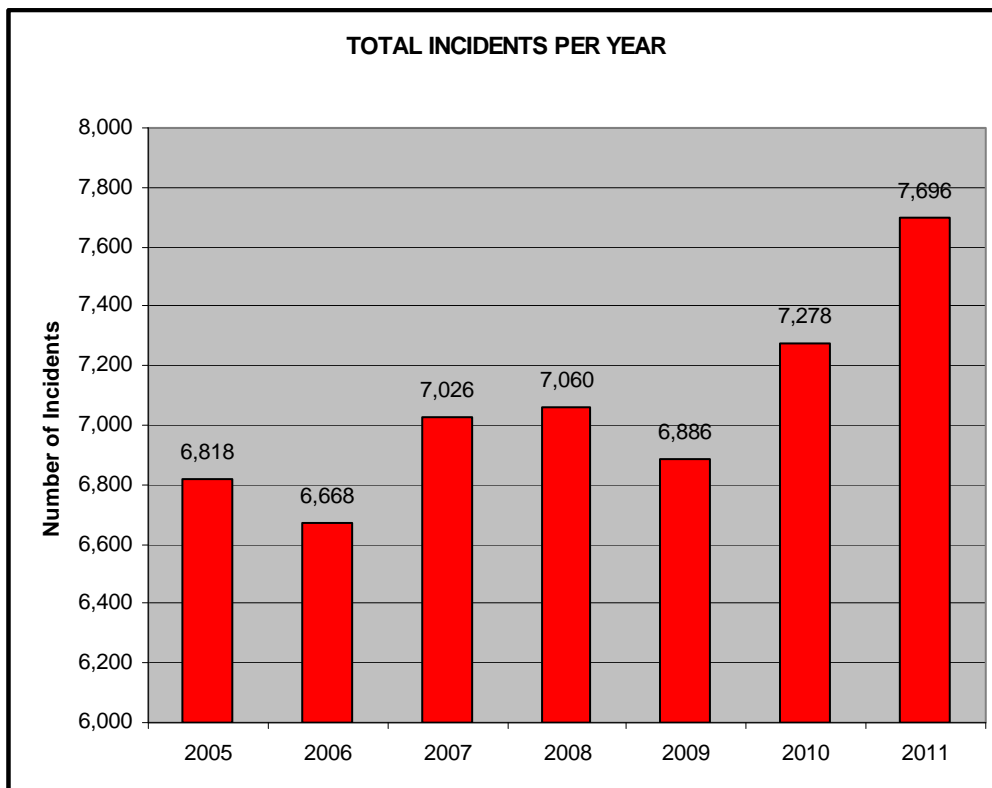


EMERGENCY ACTIVITY

Farmington Hills fire fighters responded to more calls for emergency incidents and service than in any other year in the history of the Fire Department. These incidents include the extinguishment of fires, treatment and extrication at vehicular accidents, hazardous materials responses, fire alarms, weather related incidents and providing Advanced Life Support (paramedics) techniques and hospital transport at medical emergencies. The Department also provides mutual aid response to neighboring Departments in accordance with numerous agreements throughout Oakland and Western Wayne Counties.

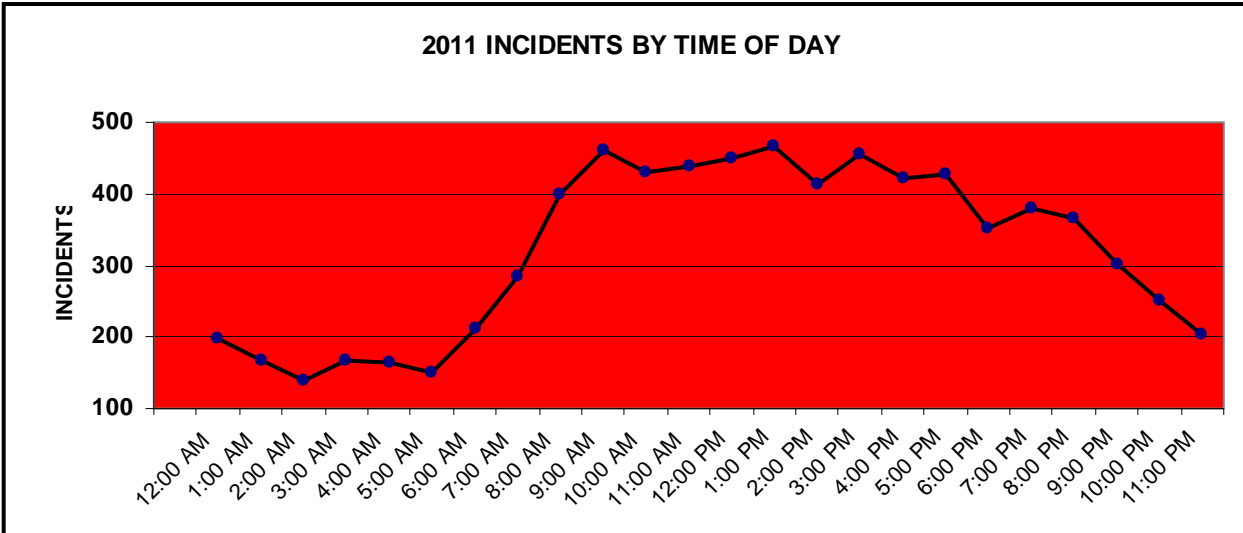
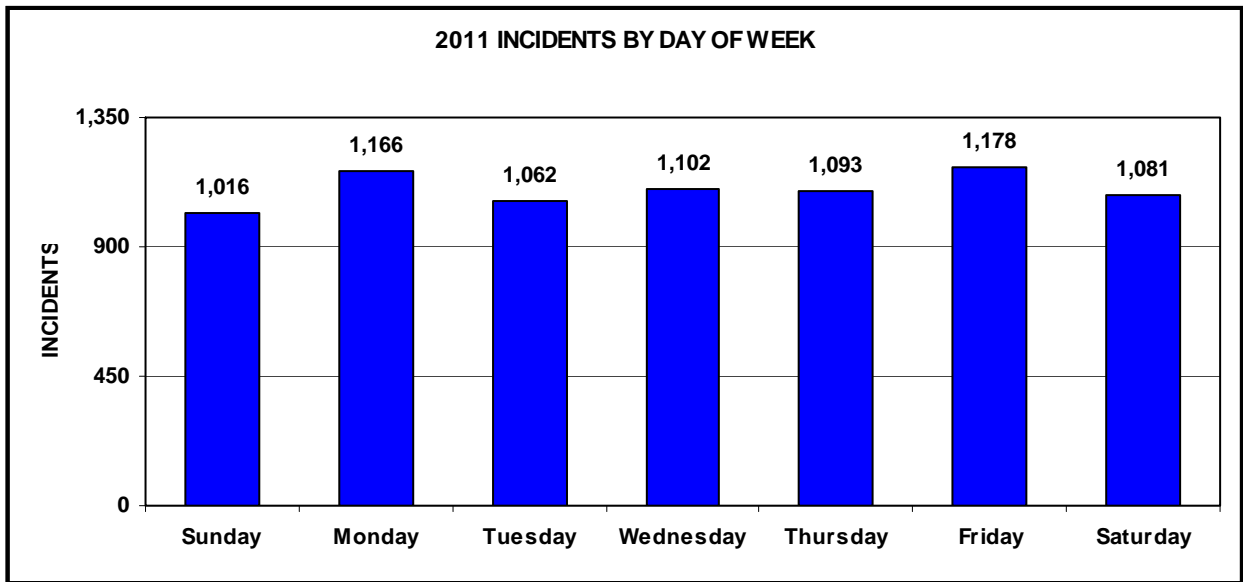
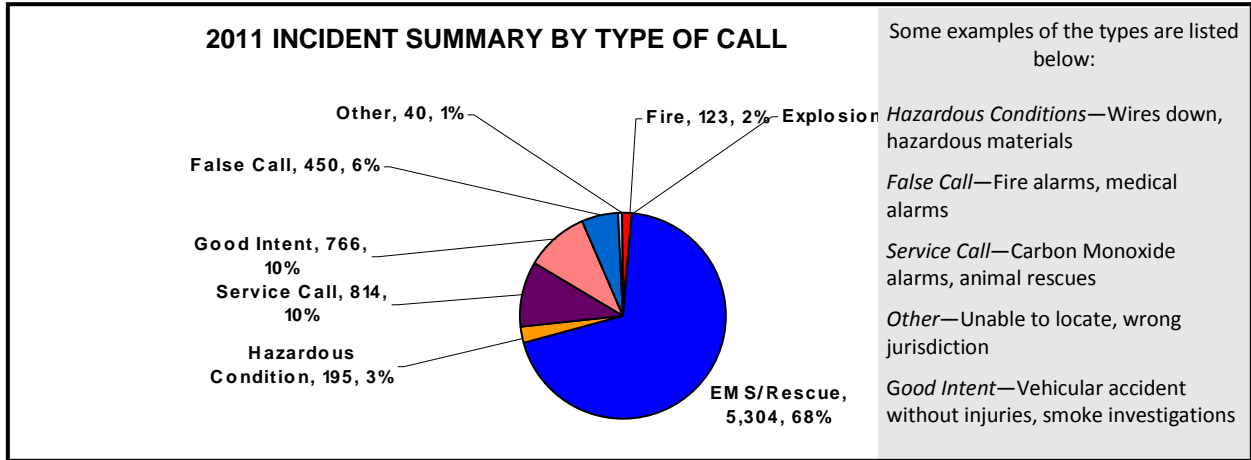
Our five strategically located fire stations utilize a combination of career and paid-on-call fire fighters. Career fire fighter/paramedics staff all five stations during weekday business hours, while our paid-on-call fire fighters provide service at night, on weekends, and holidays. Fire Station 5 continues to provide 24-hour fire fighter/paramedic staffing throughout the year. Currently, there are 40 career personnel and 91 paid-on-call fire fighters, in addition to four civilian positions assigned to Fire Headquarters.

10 YEAR COMPARISON OF TOTAL DOLLAR LOSS DUE TO FIRE	
2011	\$2,172,105
2010	\$4,837,303
2009	\$4,909,621
2008	\$4,469,795
2007	\$9,026,874
2006	\$3,401,006
2005	\$2,490,598
2004	\$3,427,891
2003	\$5,735,652
2002	\$5,967,485
10 YEAR AVERAGE—\$4,643,833	





EMERGENCY ACTIVITY





FIRE PREVENTION

The Department responded to 123 fires in 2011. Total fire loss for 2011 was \$2,172,105. As a result of fire during 2011, there were two civilian injuries, one fire fighter injury, and no fire deaths. There were 64 structure fires and 29 vehicle fires in 2011. The Department conducted 56 fire investigations in 2011; 39 were determined to be accidental, 11 were intentionally set and six were undetermined.

A total of 618 fire inspections were conducted in 2011. The Department participated in many fire safety education programs and appearances, which impacted 7,013 individuals.



FHFD Honor Guard at Comerica Park



Reading Month at local schools



2011 FHFD Open House



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

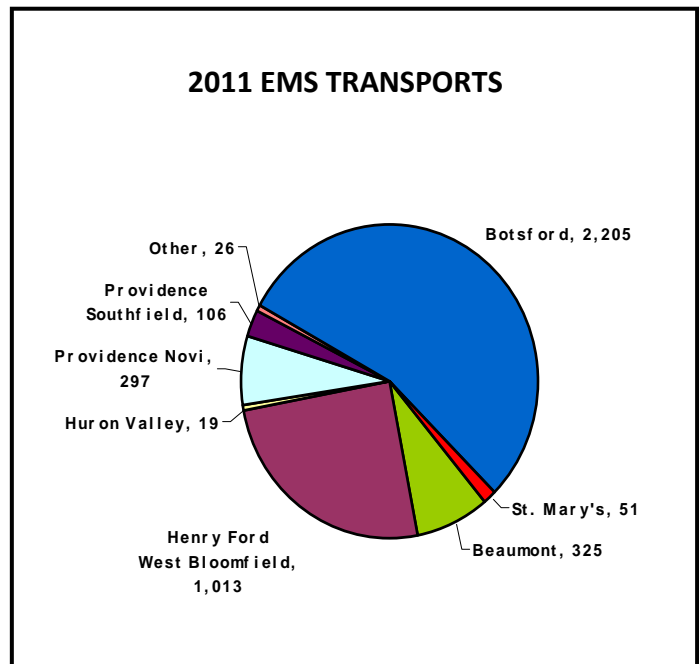
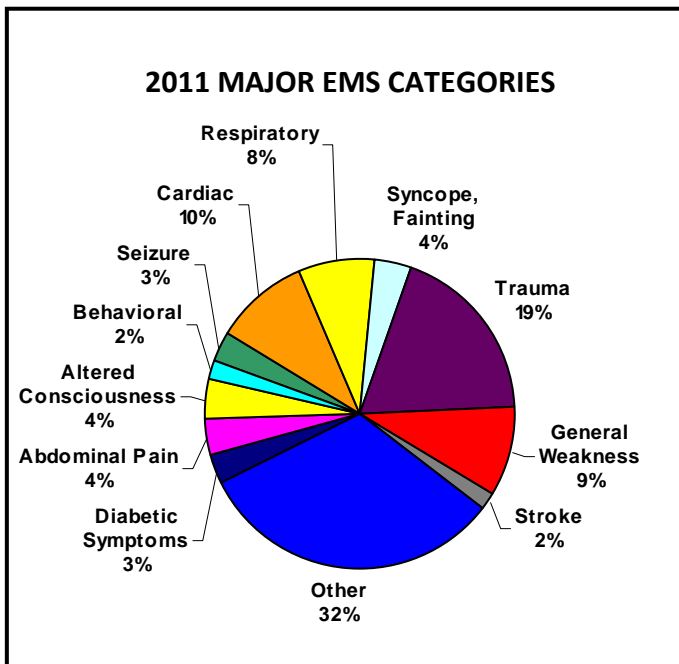
The Fire Department provides first response Advanced Life Support (ALS) transporting service for our community. This equates to faster access to advanced care from paramedics including advanced airway control, intravenous (IV) access, medication administration, cardiac monitoring, interpretation, and treatment/defibrillation. These highly trained career and part-time paramedics work together with our Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to transport the patients to area hospitals. All of the career members assigned to stations are paramedics and a total of 18 paid-on-call members have been certified as paramedics. Approximately ten additional paid-on-call members are completing the process to upgrade from an EMT license to that of a paramedic.

When someone calls 9-1-1, the call is received by our communications center. The dispatcher immediately sends the appropriate ALS unit to the call. Once this is done, our dispatchers (all of whom are trained as Emergency Medical Dispatchers) provide instructions over the phone to assist the caller in starting some care for the patient's condition. The result is care that begins immediately, and continues when the Fire Department arrives, and ultimately continues until the patient is transported to an appropriate hospital facility.

The Farmington Hills Fire Department continues to be a leader and innovator in out-of-hospital care. These include 12-lead EKG's, CPAP (an advanced airway care procedure), capnographic monitoring, and the like. The Department continues to be recognized by the Oakland County Medical Control Authority (OCMCA) for outstanding care and EMS program management. The OCMCA is tasked with regulating all EMS and hospital activity in the County.

Aside from excellent care, one of the requirements of an EMS program is to have a quality assurance program (QA/QI). Our model for QA is founded in concert with Botsford Hospital, our base hospital. Working with them has enabled our QA program to be a model for other agencies looking for answers in a QA/QI rubric.

We are happy to report that we continue to receive dividends from our efforts to maximize "economies of scale." Working with the City's Central Services Department, we helped found a regional purchasing consortium for medical supplies that allows us to purchase our supplies at dramatically reduced prices that would otherwise be unobtainable. What started with a few agencies has grown to 176 (more than twice last year's figure), and now is being offered across the country.





TRAINING

The year 2011 presented the fire department with another economically challenging year. Hitting all of the required training topics, accentuating with other needed training subjects, is an ongoing adversity we continue to meet and overcome. We continue to look for cost-effective ways of accomplishing the training mission without losing the benefits training provides. Taking advantage of any and all opportunities, such as buildings scheduled to be demolished, enables us to work on many of the required and needed topics. All of the training we conduct can be divided into three segments: medical training (including initial and required ongoing education), fire and technical rescue skills (including fire fighting, technical rescue, extrication, etc.), and personal and leadership development (including officer and supervisor training).

The 2011 training highlight was the training conducted at two Farmington Public Schools which were slated for demolition. Over the course of six months, every member of our Department trained at Fairview Elementary and/or William Grace Elementary. The fire fighters trained hard in many different scenarios designed to improve their response to various types of emergencies in buildings constructed in a manner similar to these. These training opportunities not only included responding to and mitigating disasters, but posed different circumstances which may cause them harm. Sometimes, helping others includes putting yourself at great risk. If the unfortunate happens, fire fighters have to train to help themselves. It goes without saying that fire fighting is a dangerous profession, and while we cannot train for every single circumstance, we continue to train for the widest application of our skill sets. These two points were the focus of the training at the school buildings. Fire fighters trained in search and rescue, search and rescue following a collapse, self-rescue following collapse and entrapment, large area search and rescue, breaching different types of obstacles and walls, and increasing the problem solving capabilities they bring to bear to ensure their safety as well as that of others.

The Department conducted over 25,000 staff hours of training spanning almost 300 classes. This past year, these classes included the start of our latest recruit school. Our Department is comprised of about 68% paid-on-call staff. In order to properly train and equip these dedicated citizens, we conduct a recruit school which provides them with the training they will need to respond to emergencies. While some new members come to us already trained, many do not. The class started last fall; 28 members are still training and will continue with their recruit training until July 2012.

We have continued to seek new and innovative ways to save money and trim the budget for training in these difficult economic times. Rather than send many people out to a

particular training program, we send one or two members and then require them to bring the information back to the membership. This helps minimize costs as well as achieve buy-in to the training goals. We continue to save wear and tear on the apparatus by conducting a lot of driver's training using the grant funded driving simulator. In fact, several other communities have also taken advantage of the opportunity. We use the regional grant funded video conferencing system to conduct briefings and train with our members and members from other departments. This has enabled us to keep crews in district rather than bring them to a central location every time training is required.

Other highlights of the year include:

- Two members completed Pediatric Advanced Cardiac Life Support Train-the-Trainer certification. This will enable the training of all Department paramedics to this level of certification.
- Three members achieved Company Officer Awareness Level training.
- Six members achieved Company Officer Operations Level training.
- Inspector Larry Gauthier received NFPA Inspector Level 2 certification and ICC Inspector Levels 1 and 2.
- Shift Lieutenant Jason Olszewski and Inspector Michael Kish graduated from the Eastern Michigan University School of Fire Staff and Command. Inspector Kish was elected the President of his class. The Department has had five members successfully complete this program.
- One member completed a Bachelor's degree.
- Two members completed All Hazards IMT Liaison Officer certification.
- One member completed All Hazards Public Information Officer certification.
- Six members received Paramedic certification and are now helping provide ALS care to the community.



Dog rescue at a house fire



MUTUAL AID

Like most fire departments, we too are faced with increased budget cuts and reduced staffing levels. With the complexity of the emergency calls received today, the Farmington Hills Fire Department, along with numerous fire departments throughout Southeastern Michigan, recognize the need to consolidate specialized teams and equipment to reduce costs to individual fire departments.

Mutual aid agreements have been in place for many years but there has never been more of a need to train and respond with other agencies than now. At the same time we are able to continue to provide an outstanding response and mitigate emergencies not only in Farmington Hills but in other communities as well.

Farmington Hills has long been an active member of the Western Wayne County Mutual Aid Association. This Association formed a Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT) in 1988, which is comprised of fire fighters from 21 different communities in an effort to consolidate personnel and efficiently share resources and costs associated with specialized incidents.

Farmington Hills fire fighters additionally train and respond with another specialized response team. The Western Wayne County Urban Search and Rescue team (USAR) is equipped to respond to incidents such as trench rescues, rope rescues, confined space rescues, and high angle and structural collapse rescues.

The Department is also a member of the Oakland County Mutual Aid Association (OCMAA) which has joined with the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). This system pre-designates fire apparatus from various departments within Oakland County to respond to large incidents in a given community.

With the numerous mutual aid organizations, there is also a need to manage these complex, large scale incidents. The Oakland County Incident Management Team (IMT) was formed to respond to such incidents and provide necessary on-scene support to incident commanders. The team, which includes a Farmington Hills member, offers technical command support at large scale, long duration incidents.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Fire Department is responsible for the coordination of emergency management activities within the City. This involves serving on numerous committees and working closely with the Michigan State Police Department of Homeland Security. Emergency preparedness and planning continues to be an important priority and is accomplished by working with the Farmington/Farmington Hills Emergency Preparedness Commission (EPC) and the Local Planning Team (LPT) which consists of representatives from various City departments. Some highlights from 2011 include:

- In conjunction with Oakland County, the Fire Department has been working to update the Hazardous Mitigation Plan.
- The Fire Department continued to serve on the Farmington Public School District Safe Schools Committee. This includes participation with the Farmington Hills Police and Farmington Department

of Public Safety Officers for “lock down-take cover” exercises and evacuation procedures at schools.

- Met with private businesses to assist in the development and adoption of emergency and evacuation procedures, and often assisted with the testing and observation of employee evacuation drills.
- The implementation of a new and comprehensive NIMS compliant Emergency Action Guideline was written and placed into operation.

In 2011, the Farmington/Farmington Hills Emergency Preparedness Commission again received honors recognizing them as one of the most pro-active and progressive commissions in the state and country. The EPC meets monthly and members of our Department attend each meeting and serve as Fire Department liaisons to the Commission. At EPC sponsored events, fire fighters participate and provide instruction and/or expertise.



RECOGNITION



Bridge to Bridge Walk participants—10 year anniversary



Jason J. Olszewski
DEPARTMENT
FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR



Ryan B. Munsell
OPTIMIST AND AMERICAN LEGION - FIRE FIGHTERS OF THE YEAR



Bryan R. Hewitt



Jason J. Olszewski
CAREER
FIRE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR



James S. Donovan
STATION 1
MEMBER OF THE YEAR



Matthew C. Stempin
STATION 2
MEMBER OF THE YEAR



Matthew J. Schiffman
STATION 3
MEMBER OF THE YEAR



Aaron W. Berwick
STATION 4
MEMBER OF THE YEAR



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Corey J. Bartsch, Fire Chief
 Kevin S. Bersche, Deputy Fire Chief
 Stephen F. Hume, Fire Marshal
 J. David Feichtner, Staff Lieutenant
 Dennis J. Hughes, Staff Lieutenant
 Robert E. Rebtoy, Assistant to the Fire Chief
 Jean P. Coil, Secretary to the Fire Chief
 Amira R. Fulton, Administrative Secretary
 Diane M. O'Connell, Secretary

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

Michael J. Kish, Inspector/Hazardous Materials Specialist
 Larry M. Gauthier, Inspector/Plan Review

STATION 1

CAREER MEMBERS

Inspector James Neufeld
 FF Steven Hatch

PAID-ON-CALL MEMBERS

District Chief David Moriarty
 Sergeant James Donovan
 Sergeant Jeffrey Darby
 Sergeant James Pearen
 Sergeant John Vesey
 FF E. Clay Pennington
 FF Michael Lane
 FF Joseph Smith
 FF Chad Seigle
 FF Daniel Curmi
 PFF Matthew Glogowski
 FF Karl Brichford
 FF Christopher Audette
 FF Justin Parker
 PFF Jonathan Pearn
 PFF Stephen Vierk
 PFF Peter Breuhan
 PFF Stephen McMahon
 PFF Andrew Staub
 PFF Jeffrey Swanson
 PFF Adam Grunkemeyer
 PFF Eric Forge
 PFF Timothy Madison
 PFF Todd Maki

STATION 2

CAREER MEMBERS

Inspector Donald Alati
 Inspector Stanley Barnes

PAID-ON-CALL MEMBERS

District Chief Denis Nicole
 Sergeant Raymond Pudlik
 Sergeant Gary Reid
 Sergeant David Aird
 FF Michael Haase
 FF Chris Kozlowski
 FF Colin Brennan
 FF David Smith
 FF Brent Lewis
 FF Jeffrey Forbes
 FF Kevin Steen
 FF Michael Kasaba
 FF Michael Obermiller
 FF Stephen Reynolds
 FF Matthew Stempin
 PFF Aerial Ferguson
 PFF Samuel Morelli
 PFF Timothy Persichino
 PFF Dustin Perugi
 PFF Aaron Dennard
 PFF Jonathan Misner
 PFF Bradley Goralski
 PFF Adam Kovalenko

STATION 3

CAREER MEMBERS

FF George Baker
 FF Jarod Foshag

PAID-ON-CALL MEMBERS

District Chief Robert Rebtoy
 Captain Matthew Green
 Lieutenant Matthew Schiffman
 Sergeant Edward Heidelbach
 Sergeant Gary Kenneweg
 FF Manndez Blanch
 FF Jon Krajewski
 FF Patrick Lucente
 FF Jason Patterson
 FF Benjamin Romine
 FF Brian Pankow
 FF Kevin Spoutz
 FF Matthew Patra
 FF Bryan Stephens
 PFF Ian Skotak
 PFF Stanley Bailey
 PFF Andrew Bartal
 PFF Patrick Palise
 PFF Donald Sleep
 PFF James Smith
 PFF Daniel Williams
 PFF Phillip Wolfe

STATION 4

CAREER MEMBERS

Inspector Lynn McDaniel
 Inspector Enrique Alonzo

PAID-ON-CALL MEMBERS

District Chief David Chrisco
 Captain Timothy Siegrist
 Lieutenant Ronald Tejero
 Sergeant Daniel Wecker
 Sergeant Todd Kolchinsky
 FF Kelly Kish
 FF John Gaynett
 FF John Schertel
 FF Marc Tejero
 FF Aaron Berwick
 FF David Baughman
 FF Jeremy Morse
 FF Richard Dege
 FF Mark Jweda
 FF Ronald Perian
 PFF Ryan Edwards
 PFF Robin Chevrette
 PFF Nicholas Larson
 PFF Jacob Bittle
 PFF John Harshbarger
 PFF Jeffrey Talarek
 PFF Kevin Zerbo

STATION 5

CAREER MEMBERS

Battalion Chief Donald St. Clair
 Battalion Chief Lee Panoushek
 Battalion Chief John Wells
 Battalion Chief Bruce Belsky
 Shift Lieutenant Gary Delp
 Shift Lieutenant Stephen Biebel
 Shift Lieutenant Brian Gallison
 Shift Lieutenant Jason Olszewski
 Inspector John Kastran
 Inspector Richelle Gilbert
 Inspector Gerard Antoniotti
 Inspector Daniel Przeworski
 Inspector Derick Smith
 Inspector Jason Gilbert
 Inspector MacDonald Goode
 Inspector André Gardenhire
 Inspector Jeremy Dougherty
 Inspector Donald Schinske
 Inspector Ryan Munsell
 Inspector Bryan Hewitt
 Inspector Matthew Migliore (Resigned)
 Inspector Nicholas Hippler
 Inspector Dennis Firment
 Inspector Jason Baloga
 FF James Etzin
 FF Daniel Rickard

PAID-ON-CALL MEMBER RESIGNATIONS

FF Sean Skinner (6/8/98—7/26/11) - FF Brian Baker (9/13/99—6/21/11) - FF Linda Counsel (6/19/00—6/21/11) - FF Jeffrey Zarb (4/8/02—5/5/11)
 FF Kenneth McDonald (12/22/03—12/23/11) - FF Michael Olson (8/10/04—6/1/11) - FF Matthew Sweeney (1/9/06—11/30/11) - FF Austin Cullins (1/9/06—5/24/11)
 FF Michael Zuidema (1/9/06—5/15/11) - FF Timothy Stefanson (1/9/06—5/1/11) - FF Alexander Cowen (1/7/08—7/10/11) - FF Scott Trejchel (1/7/08—2/16/11)
 FF Mark Keeley (2/21/09—9/14/11) - FF Ryan Gatny (1/6/09—6/1/11) - FF Joshua Yaroch (9/14/09—2/18/11) - PFF Mark Salvatori (3/21/11—12/22/11)
 PFF Christopher Leese (3/21/11—5/4/11) - PFF Daniel Myatt (9/7/11—9/14/11) - PFF James Geoffrey (9/7/11—9/12/11)