

River Falls Fire Department

TO: Police and Fire Commissioners, Mayor, City Councilors, and River Falls Rural Fire Association members

FROM: Chris Cernohous, Fire Chief

DATE: January 30, 2010

RE: 2009 Fire Department Annual Report

MEMBERSHIP: There are currently 43 active members, 2 members on leave of absence, and 1 member on military leave of absence on the department. Page 4 includes the complete roster of members.

CALLS FOR 2009: Please review the attached breakdown sheet for the 2009 calls on pages 6-8. The department's investigation of each call does not include follow-up time to obtain the actual monetary loss. Total calls for the past four years are as follows:

2009 – 260, 2008 – 297, 2007 – 314, 2006 – 298



INVENTORY AND CONDITION OF EQUIPMENT

River Falls Fire Department:

- Model A Ford, used for department promotions.
- 1939 Ford, used for department promotions.
- Fire Safety House trailer, used for Fire Safe Education.
- Engine 6 - 1984 Ford, 1,250 GPM pumper.
- Wildfire - 1985 Ford 250 GPM grass/brush truck.
- Engine 4 - 2001 Freightliner, 1,500 GPM pumper.
- 2003 Haz-Mat enclosed trailer.
- 2004 Haz-Mat enclosed trailer.
- Ladder #1 - 2004 Pierce 100' aerial/2,000 GPM pump.

CONDITION OF EQUIPMENT: All Fire Department trucks are in good running/working order with the exception of the 1985 Ford grass/brush truck. It is currently 28 years old and it is showing its age. An outside contractor has tested all of our ground ladders and pumps and they meet all NFPA requirements.

River Falls Rural Fire Association:

- Engine 8 - 1976 Ford, 750 GPM pumper.
- Brush 1 - 2001 Ford, 250 GPM grass/brush truck.
- Engine 7 - 2001 Ford, 1,250 GPM pumper.
- Tanker 2 - 1995 Freightliner, 2,000-gallon tanker/personnel carrier.
- Tanker 1 - 1994 Freightliner, 2,000-gallon tanker/personnel carrier.
- Ranger - 2003 Polaris Ranger.

CONDITION: All trucks are in good running/working order except Engine 8. An outside contractor has tested all of our ground ladders and pumps and they meet all NFPA requirements. Engine 8 is in need of body repairs, pump work, engine work, and transmission work.

INVENTORY AND AGE OF SCBA AND RELATED EQUIPMENT

We have been applying for grants to replace our Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses but we have been unsuccessful to this point. Replacement costs currently are over \$200,000. See attached Inventory and Age of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

We currently have 30 SCBA's:

- 2 of them are ISI Vikings that are 7 years old.
- 4 of them are ISI Vikings that are 8 years old.
- Of the 43 remaining, 24 are ISI Magnums that are over 10 years old.

We have an air bottle inventory of 60 bottles:

Of those, 3 of them are composites that are over 10 years old. They will need to be discarded next year because of the maximum 15-year life span.

Of the 57 aluminum air bottles:

- 14 are over 30 years old.
- 10 are over 20 years old.
- 23 are over 10 years old.
- 10 are less than 10 years old.

This last year 35 of our air bottles had to be taken out of service for either failure of hydro testing or needing repairs.

We have a total of 57 facemasks. Each firefighter is assigned their own mask and the rest are spares. None of our SCBA's or facemasks meet the current NFPA standard requiring visible display of air supply in the facemask nor are they able to be upgraded to that standard.

TRAINING: The department members meet every Monday night for various forms of training. The total training hours for 2009 were 8,609. The total firefighting hours for 2009 were 3,790 hours. See page 5 for a complete list of 2009 training.

FIRE SAFE EDUCATION: Fire Safety Week was October 10 through October 16. Seventeen firefighters (271 hours) participated in the 27 presentations, 14 Kindergarten rides. Those two activities involved 1,656 children. Also, 425 children experienced the fire safety house.

We loaned the fire safety house to our neighbors in Hudson, Spring Valley, Lund, and Prescott.

Fire Safety Education Summary 2009

1-17-09	Troy Burne Homeowners Association
1-22-09	Faith Lutheran Church - Fire Hall Tour
4-16-09	Jacob's Ladder - Fire Hall Tour
4-17-09	Jacob's Ladder - Fire Hall Tour
4-28-09	Fire Safety House to Hudson
5-04-09	Park and Rec. Preschool Party - Presentation
6-13-09	Fire Safety House to Spring Valley
7-01-09	Little Adventures Daycare - Presentation
7-21-09	Fire Truck at Park & Rec. Water Week
8-11-09	Kid's Club Fire Hall Tour
9-28-09	Career Force Young Adult Fire Hall Tour
10-05-09	Fire Safety House to Prescott
10-05-09	Kindergarten Rides
10-08-09	Kindergarten Rides
10-10-09	Fire Safety House to Lund
10-22-09	YMCA Preschool Presentation
	Faith Lutheran Church Preschool Presentation
10-23-09	YMCA Preschool Presentation
	Faith Lutheran Church Preschool Presentation



RIVER FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

2010

- Increase staffing levels minimally
- Finish and move into the new remodeled Public Safety Building
- Waiting on the grant award for the purchase of a new engine for the Rural Fire Association to replace Engine 8, which is a 1976 model
- Plan and participate in Farm Technology Days
- Work with City Administration to ensure a smooth transition to a full-time Fire Chief position

2011

- Keep staffing levels the same
- Work with new Fire Chief to maintain the organization and training in the department



Years of Service as of December 31, 2009

Carl Gaulke	37 years 4 months	Matt Cernohous	8 years
Paul Whiteside	37 years 3 months	Dean Grisar	8 years
Frank Holter	36 years	Evan Larsen	8 years
Gene McKahan	35 years 6 months	Greg Nelson *	8 years
Gary Eloranta	35 years 6 months	Ryan Pace	8 years
Paul Cudd	28 years 10 months	Keith Peterson	8 years
Tom Schwalen	26 years 9 months	Ed Vlack	8 years
Tom Foley	25 years 4 months	Andrea Ellefson	6 years
Robert Schwalen	24 years 6 months	Scott Gavin	6 years
Douglas Rudesill	23 years 10 months	Matt Johnson	6 years
Keith Bruesewitz	22 years 2 months	Adam Larson	6 years
Bill Cernohous	20 years 2 months	Sean Slaikeu	6 years
Bill Lubich	20 years 2 months	John Jensen	3 years 9 months
Troy Malmer	20 years 2 months	Jacob Ross *	2 year 8 months
Mike Moody	20 years 2 months	Michael Fecht	2 year 8 months
Ed Nicholson	20 years 2 months	Nathaniel Baar	2 year 7 months
Pauline Williams	17 years 5 months	Jonathan Gaulke	2 year 7 months
Dan Moe	17 years 10 months	Shane Hanson *	2 year 7 months
Chris Cernohous	14 years 3 months	Danny Nicholson	2 year 7 months
Ryan Purfeerst	14 years 1 month	Mike Nicholson	2 year 7 months
Jason Sammon	14 years 1 month	Bryan Peskar	2 year 7 months
Molly McLagan	14 years 1 month	Benjamin Quayle	2 year 7 months
Craig Gienau	12 years 1 month	James Rimmer	2 year 7 months

Total Years of Service 653 years 5 months
 Active Members 43 Average of 14.20 years
 Leave of Absence 3 *

RFFD 2009 Training Records

Date	Topic
5-Jan	Vehicle Maintenance, Officer Development, Business Meeting
12-Jan	Wildland Fire Structural Protection
19-Jan	SCAB Face Seal, Ladders, Ropes & Knots
26-Jan	Maintenance, Clean Up
2-Feb	Oyster Stew, All Company Training, Business Meeting
9-Feb	Search & Rescue, Thermal Imaging Training
16-Feb	Haz-Mat Review
23-Feb	Pre Plan BioDiagnostics, City Hall, Maintenance
2-Mar	Vehicle Clean up, Pumps, Business Meeting
9-Mar	Ice Water Rescue
16-Mar	Search & Rescue, Incident Commend, Patient Packaging (1st Responders)
23-Mar	Wildland Fire Review, Radio Communications
30-Mar	Vehicle Maintenance, Entry Level Fire Officer
6-Apr	Ladder Maintenance, Clean Vehicles, All Company Training, Business Meeting
13-Apr	Truck Inventory, Entry Level Fire Officer
20-Apr	Pump Operations, Tender Operations, Entry Level Fire Officer
27-Apr	Ladder Training, Hose Advancement, Entry Level Fire Officer
4-May	Ladder Training, Ranger Training, Entry Level Fire Officer
11-May	Maintenance, All Company Training, Business Meeting
18-May	Ladder Training, Pump Operations (E4), Dry Hydrant
25-May	No Meeting
1-Jun	Vehicle Maintenance, All Company Training, Business Meeting
8-Jun	Hose Testing
15-Jun	All Company Special Business Meeting
22-Jun	Hose Testing
29-Jun	Hose Testing, Maintenance
6-Jul	Maintenance
13-Jul	Vehicle Maintenance, All Company Training, Business Meeting
20-Jul	Relay Pumping, Ladder 1 Operations, Starbrite E 6 & E7
27-Jul	Pre Plan RF Best Western Inn & Suites, St. Croix Substation
3-Aug	Maintenance
10-Aug	Maintenance, All Company Training, Business Meeting
17-Aug	Water Rescue
24-Aug	Air Bag & Hybrid Vehicle Training
31-Aug	Maintenance, Officer Development, All Company Training, Business Meeting
7-Sep	No Meeting
14-Sep	Joint Training w/ EMS @ Kinnickinnic State Park, First Responder Refresher
21-Sep	Active Shooter Drill @ UW-RF
28-Sep	Open House, All Company Training, Business Meeting
5-Oct	Vehicle Maintenance, First Responder Refresher
12-Oct	CPR Refresher, First Responder Refresher
19-Oct	Pump Conditioning E4 & E7, First Responder Refresher
26-Oct	Maintenance & Pump Additives, First Responder Refresher
2-Nov	Vehicle Maintenance, Officer Development, All Company Training, Business Meeting
9-Nov	Pump Review, E8 Clean out, First Responder
16-Nov	Wildland Fire Review
23-Nov	Wash & Wax Vehicle, Walk Thru of Public Safety Building
30-Nov	Vehicle Maintenance
7-Dec	Vehicle Maintenance, Officer Development, All Company Training, Business Meeting
14-Dec	Water Rescue
21-Dec	Extrication Review, Tender Drop Tank Review
28-Dec	Vehicle Maintenance

2009 Fire Calls

Type	Occurrence
Vehicle	41
Grass Fire	16
Car Fires	8
Dumpster / Garbage Cans	7
House Structure Fires	3
Dryer Fire	2
Snowmobile Accident	1
Airplane Crash	1
Tractor Fire	1
Chimney Fire	1
Power Pole Fire	1
Tree Fire	1
Corn Dryer Fire	1
Snowmobile Fire	1
Electric Box Fire	1
Lightning Strike	1
Smoke from Light Ballast	1
Camp Fire Pit on Deck	1
Smoke Coming from Refrigerator	1
Retaining Wall Fire	1
Gas Leak	4
Structure Fire Called in (No Fire)	2
Possible Structure Fire	1
Leaky Fuel Tank	1
Vehicle Leaking Fluids	1
Fallen Tree Branch on Person	1
Person Stuck in Elevator	2
Smell of Smoke	2
Smell of Gas	2
Chemical Smell	1
Complaint of Toxic Haze of Smoke	1
Unusual Odor	1
Residential Alarm	23
Commercial Alarm	23
UW River Falls Alarms	58
School District of River Falls Alarm	14
C O 2 Detectors	13
Ellsworth Mutual Aid	1
Hudson Mutual Aid	5
Roberts Mutual Aid	1
River Falls Police Dept Mutual Aid	2
River Falls EMS Mutual Aid	9
<u>Lower St Croix Valley Mutual Aid</u>	<u>1</u>
Total Calls	260

2009 Fire Calls- City

<u>Type</u>	<u>Occurrence</u>
Vehicle	17
Grass Fires	1
Car Fires	4
Commercial Fire Alarm	20
Residential Fire Alarm	18
UW River Falls Alarm	58
River Falls Schools Alarm	14
C O 2 Detectors	9
House Structure Fire	2
Dumpster / Garbage Cans	5
Power Pole Fire	1
Gas Leak	2
Smell of Gas	2
Smell of Smoke	2
Possible Structure Fire	1
Electrical Box Fire	1
Lightning Strike	1
Dryer Fire	1
Smoke from Light Ballast	1
Camp Fire Pit on Deck	1
Smoke coming from Refrigerator	1
Retaining Wall Fire	1
Leaky Fuel Tank	1
Fallen Tree Branch on Person	1
Person Stuck in Elevator	2
Vehicle Leaking Fluids	1
<u>Mutual Aid</u>	<u>19</u>
TOTAL	187

2009 Fire Calls – Rural

<u>Type</u>	<u>Occurrences</u>
Vehicle	24
Snowmobile Accident	1
Airplane Crash	1
Grass Fires / Brush	15
Car Fires	4
Tractor Fire	1
Commercial Alarm	3
Residential Alarm	5
C O 2 Detectors	4
House Structure Fire	1
Chimney Fire	1
Tree Fire	1
Dryer Fire	1
Corn Dryer Fire	1
Snowmobile Fire	1
Dumpster / Garbage Can	2
Structure Fire called in (No Fire)	2
Gas Leak	2
Chemical Smell	1
Complaint of Toxic Haze of smoke	1
Unusual Odor	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	73

2009 Fire Calls – by City/Town

City of River Falls	168
Town of Clifton	7
Town of Kinnickinnic	15
Town of Pleasant Valley	3
Town of River Falls	22
Town of Troy	26
Mutual Aid	<u>19</u>
TOTAL	260