

2009 Annual Report of the Deer Creek
Fire Department



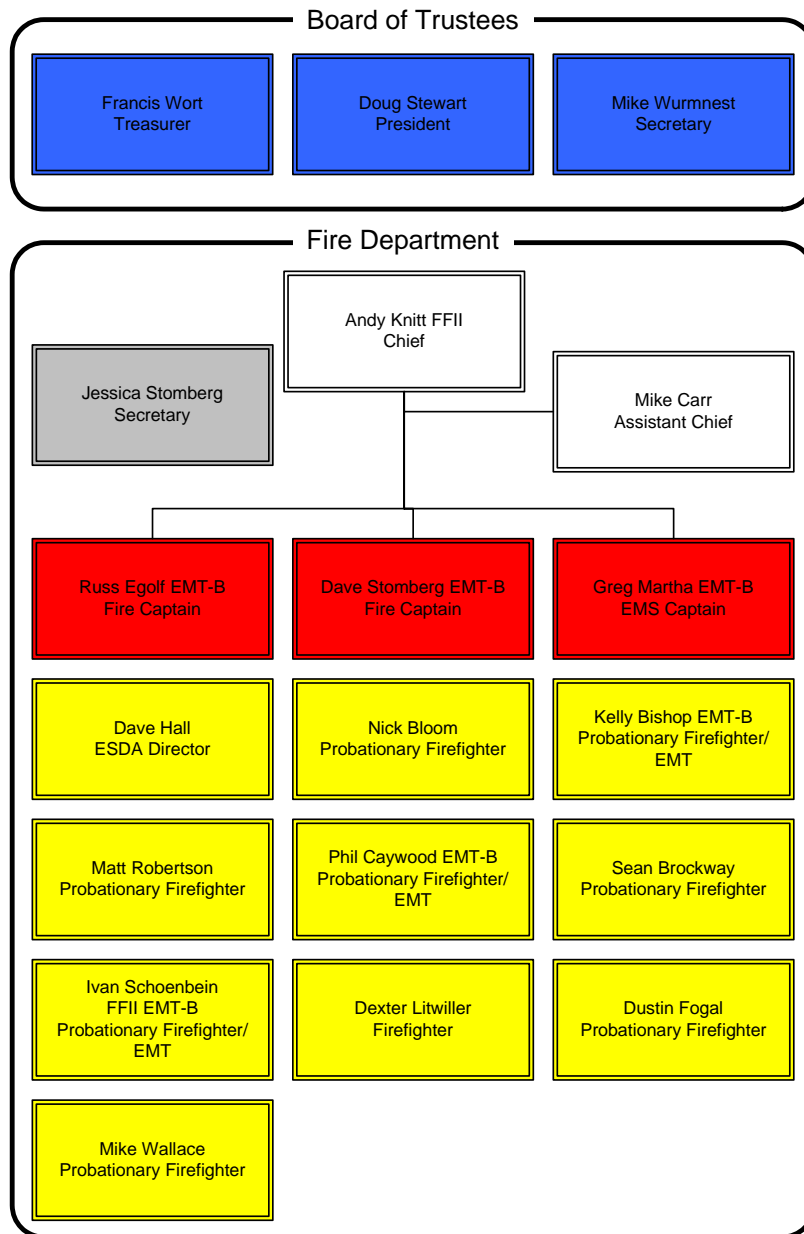
January, 2010

www.deercreekfire.org

Introduction

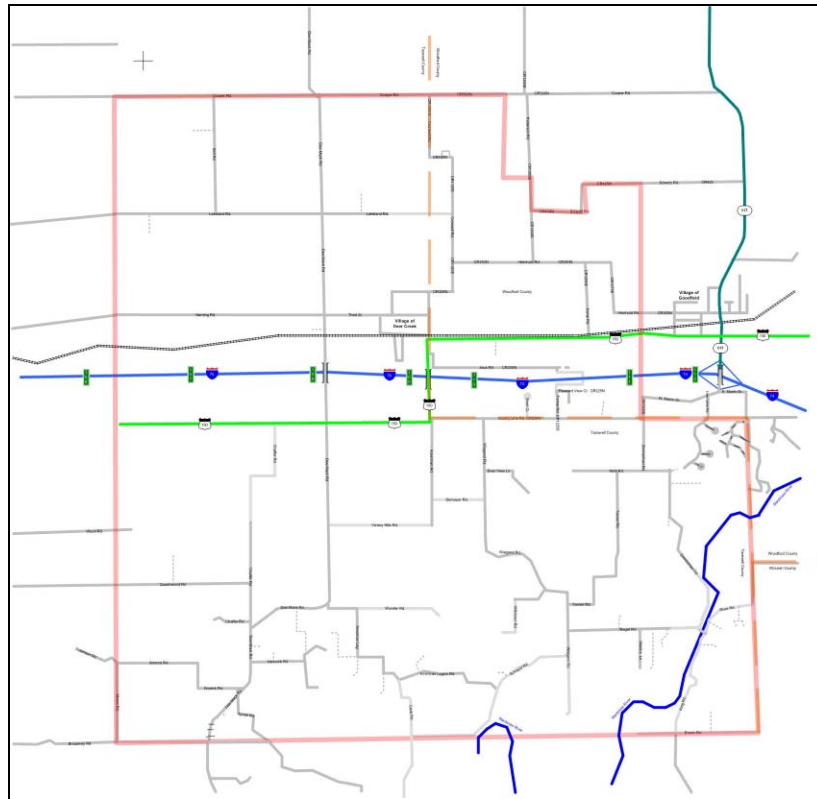
2009 was a year of many changes for the Deer Creek Fire Department. New leadership, new equipment, and new services that will be provided have created both challenges and opportunities for the department. The firefighters, EMTs, and other volunteers of the department have taken these changes in stride as they continue to serve the community twenty-four hours a day, three hundred sixty-five days a year.

Department Organization



Services Provided

The Deer Creek Fire Department is an all-volunteer fire and EMS department that provides fire suppression, light rescue, and non-transport emergency medical services to the Village of Deer Creek and the 32 surrounding square miles of the Deer Creek Fire Protection District. The population of the District is approximately 1300 people and includes 5.5 miles of Interstate 74, 5.5 miles of railroad track, 6.5 miles of natural gas pipeline, and various agricultural and industrial businesses in both Tazewell and Woodford counties. The department also provides and receives mutual aid from departments throughout the area through membership in the Illinois Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). Ambulance service in the District is provided by the Morton Fire Department paramedic units.



Deer Creek Fire Protection District (Border in Red)

Late in 2009 the department initiated steps to increase the level of EMS service provided from the current basic life support (BLS) to basic life support with medications (BLS-Med). This will allow the department's EMTs to administer certain basic medications ahead of the arrival of a paramedic ambulance. This additional level of service should be in place in early 2010.

Personnel

The Deer Creek Fire Department is fortunate to have excellent human resources, which are the most valuable asset in the department's arsenal. Structured as an all volunteer department, the district currently has firefighters who come from all walks of life including welders, equipment operators, engineering and sales professionals, municipal workers, and many more. These include newer members who have less than a year's experience and others who have served this district for many years.

Recruiting and retaining trained volunteer members continues to be one of the primary challenges for the Department. At the end of 2009, the department membership consisted of fifteen responding members and one non-responding member. Four members were lost during 2009 and three were gained. Losses this year included the retirements of Chief Doug Stewart and Assistant Chief Gordon Robertson in October. The Department and community thank them for their many years of dedicated service, and wish them the best in their retirement.

In addition to these retirements, additional personnel were lost due to job changes, relocations, or increases in time commitments outside the department.

In order to increase the number of responders who are available to respond to emergencies during the daytime working hours, the department adopted new bylaws this year that allow membership to those who work but do not live in the District, provided that their employer is willing to allow them to leave work to respond to emergency calls. Previously all members were required to live in the District. The Department would like to thank the following local employers who are supporting their community by allowing their employees to respond from work:

- Central Illinois Truss
- Village of Deer Creek
- Case New Holland
- Caterpillar, Inc.

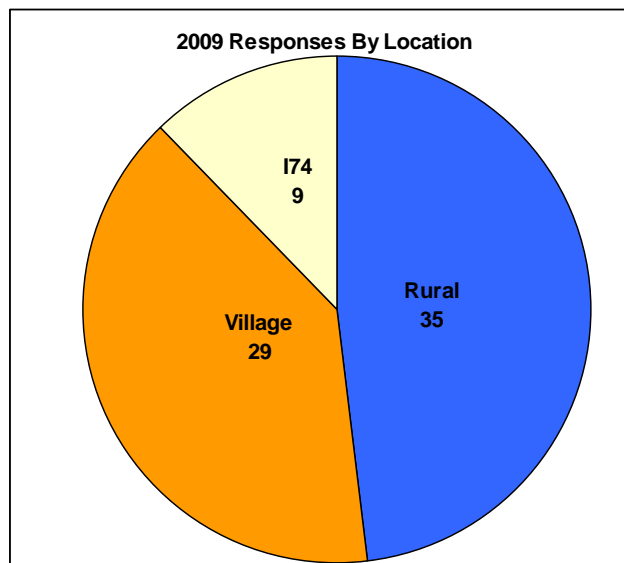
In 2010 one of the primary goals of the department will be to recruit and train additional members. This includes both responding and non-responding/support members. A long-term goal of at least twenty responding members has been set for the department.

Emergency Responses

In 2009, the Deer Creek Fire Department responded to eighty-three requests for assistance, categorized as follows:

Structure Fires	2
Vehicle Fires	4
Grass/Brush Fires	8
Other Fires	3
EMS	40
EMS Vehicle	8
EMS Other	0
Good Intent	6
Mutual Aid	2
HazMat	0
False Calls	2
Weather Watch	8
Total	83

This represents a decrease of sixteen calls from 2008, which was the busiest year on record for the department. Of the 2009 calls, thirty-five were in rural portions of the District, twenty-nine were in the Village of Deer Creek, nine were on Interstate 74, and two were to neighboring districts as mutual aid calls.



The 2009 average response times by call location are shown in the table below.

Average Response Times		
Rural	Village	I-74
10.5 min	5.5 min	11.4 min

These response times are calculated from the time that the department is paged by the dispatch center until the time the first unit arrives on scene. This includes the time it takes for department members to respond from home or work to the fire station, but does not include the processing time at the 911 dispatch center before the department is paged.

Training

The members of the Deer Creek Fire Department continued to invest a significant amount of their personal free time to drill and train in 2009. The average department member invested over seventy hours this year in training activities, which does not include department business meetings or work days. Many department members accumulated well over one hundred fifty hours of training activities over the course of the year. In total, department members completed over one thousand four hundred person-hours of training in 2009. This includes both in-house department training and outside courses, training events, and fire schools.

Three members finished State of Illinois Firefighter II training this year and are in the process of testing to receive certification. Three more members are currently enrolled in the same Firefighter II training and are on track to finish and receive certification in 2010. One member completed EMT-B training this year and was successfully certified. One member completed State of Illinois Fire Instructor I training in 2009 and is on track to receive certification in 2010. Finally, one member received certification as a CPR instructor in 2009.

New bylaws adopted this year require more training from department members than in previous years. This was necessary in order to fulfill various federal, state, and local requirements. The amount of training required of volunteer responders continues to increase over time. It is a credit to the commitment of the department members that they are willing to continually train and improve their skills so that they are ready to respond in the case of an emergency.

Funding

The Deer Creek Fire Department is funded primarily by a property tax levy administered by the Deer Creek Fire Protection District. Excluding funds from grants, roughly 80-90% of the Department's annual income is generated by the tax levy. The remaining 10-20%

comes from donations, memorials, and fundraisers. The Deer Creek Fire Department does not charge for services. In 2009, the following businesses and individuals made donations or memorials to the department:

2nd Cinema Video
Allen Family
Bell Enterprises
Busy Corner Restaurant
Camp Good News
Carlene Mathis-Kull
Cracker Barrel of Morton
DC Diner
Earlybird
Freedom Lawn Care
Garden Gate Floral
Gary Cook Jr.
Hofmann Autobody
Jacki Traw
Janet Winkler

Mackinaw Hardware
Main Street Mercantile
Marilyn Egolf
Martin Equipment
Mike Murphy Ford
Monicals Pizza of Morton
Morton Building
Steve & Bea Roosevelt
"Toots"
The Village Tap
WalMart of Morton
Wiegand Family
Wurmnest Family

Equipment & Facilities

The department was able to upgrade or improve several pieces of equipment this year thanks to state and federal grants and loans that were received.

A twenty-year no interest loan from the Office of the State Fire Marshal facilitated the purchase of a rescue truck to replace a 1984 converted ambulance that had been used for rescue and EMS calls. The 2004 Ford truck was purchased used from the Choconut Center Volunteer Fire Company in Binghamton, NY. The new Rescue 1 seats five personnel and has an abundance of compartment space to hold hydraulic rescue tools, medical equipment, a mobile cascade system, generator, and other rescue equipment. This vehicle is used to respond to a variety of incidents ranging from medical emergencies to vehicle accidents and house fires.



New Rescue 1



Retired Rescue 1

A Small Equipment Grant from the Office of the State Fire Marshal and an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from FEMA allowed the purchase of thirteen new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) this year. The new air packs incorporate many new safety features including integrated PASS devices, heads up displays, and emergency buddy breathing connections. This is the first time in the history of the department that it's been possible to buy brand new air packs that aren't hand me downs from other departments. These SCBA represent a significant improvement in the safety of our firefighters. Due to the two grants that were received, less than 5% of the cost of these air packs was paid for from department funds.



New SCBA



New Cascade System

In addition to the SCBA, these grants also helped purchase a mobile breathing air cascade system to refill the air bottles, and a rapid intervention team (RIT) pack to supply air to trapped victims or firefighters.

Finally a Volunteer Fire Assistance federal grant administered through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources allowed the purchase of ten new portable radios,

twenty new pagers, and a new radio repeater system to improve the department's radio communications.



New Radios and Pagers

Community Involvement

The Deer Creek Fire Department receives strong support from the local community, and tries to be involved in area events whenever possible. In 2009 the department participated in the annual 4th of July activities, Dee-Mack High School homecoming events, the Deer Creek Halloween Parade, and did a demonstration at the Intermediate School in Deer Creek as part of Fire Prevention Week in October. In addition, the department provided cost-free fire extinguisher training for the staff of the Deer Creek Library.

Another annual event that the department conducts is the Chili Supper. This is a fundraising event for the department, but also allows an opportunity for interaction with the community and a chance to see our neighbors in a non-emergency setting.

Looking Ahead

In 2010, the Department plans to update our preplan manuals for businesses throughout the district to ensure that we have current information for emergency response needs. We also hope to upgrade our water supply capabilities by purchasing a portable pump and large diameter hose using federal grant funding. Recruiting and training new firefighters will also be a top priority. We look forward to serving the citizens of the District in the year ahead.