

2010 Annual Report of the Deer Creek Fire Department



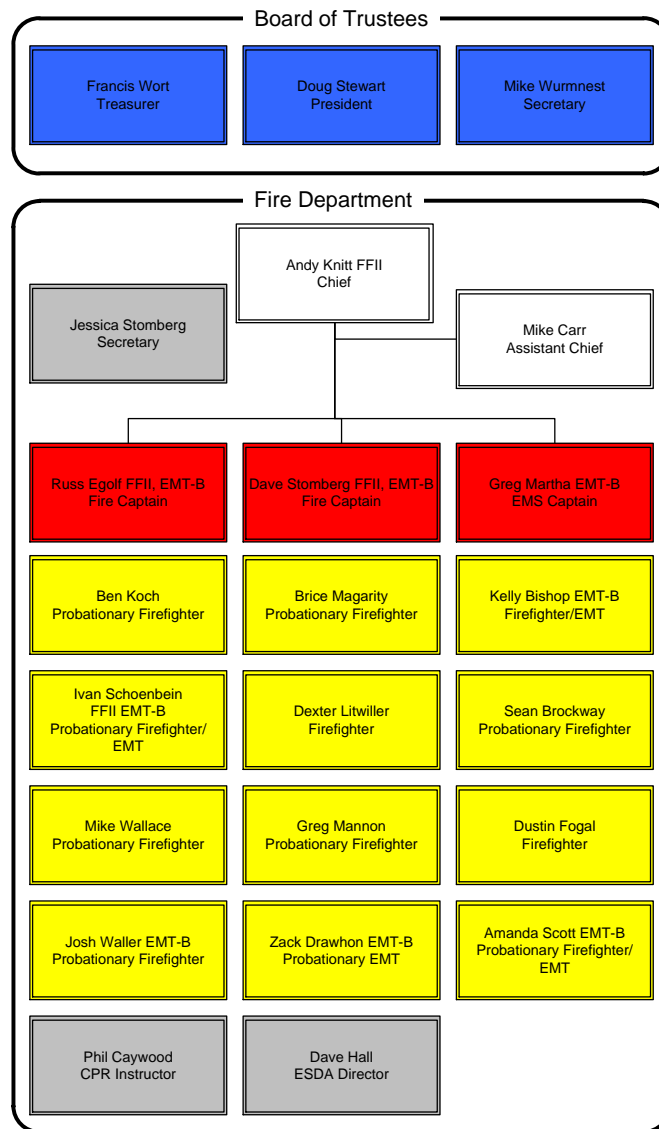
January, 2011

www.deercreekfire.org

Introduction

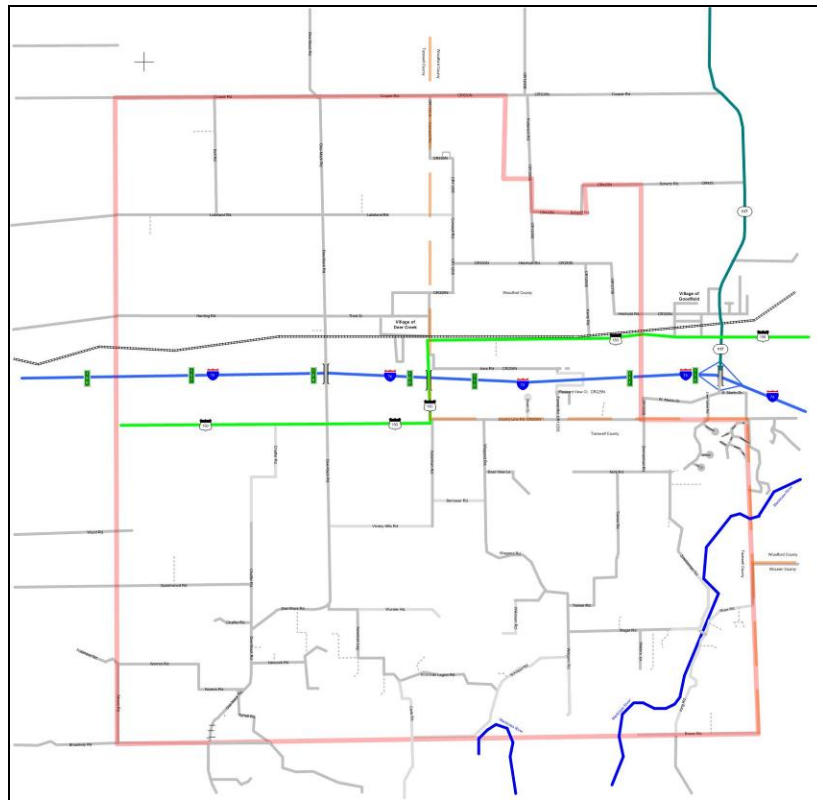
The members of the Deer Creek Fire Department continued to make great strides in improving their services to the community in 2010, particularly in the area of training. Nearly all responding members have now either started or completed State of Illinois Firefighter 2 certification training, which is a significant change from just a few years ago when only one member had completed this course. In addition to these advancements in training, the department has been fortunate to be able to upgrade its water supply capabilities with funds from a federal grant. Department members continued to invest significant amounts of their time to serve their community in 200 and look forward to continuing that service in 2011.

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 additional level of service was attained in 2010, and allows the department's EMTs to administer certain basic medications ahead of the arrival of a paramedic ambulance.

Another new development in 2010 was the forming of an automatic aid agreement with the Eureka-Goodfield Fire Protection District. Through this agreement, each District will automatically send certain fire apparatus and personnel to certain types of calls in the other District, most notably confirmed structure fires. This automatic aid improves the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters

by reducing response times and increasing the number of personnel available on scenes that have large manpower requirements.

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 2010, the department membership consisted of sixteen responding members and one three non-responding members. During the course of the year one member was lost, two members switched from responding to non-responding roles, and four new responding members were added.

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.
- Wurmnest Farms

While the department did have a small net increase in membership in 2010, one of the continuing primary goals of the department in 2011 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



August 2010 Garage Fire

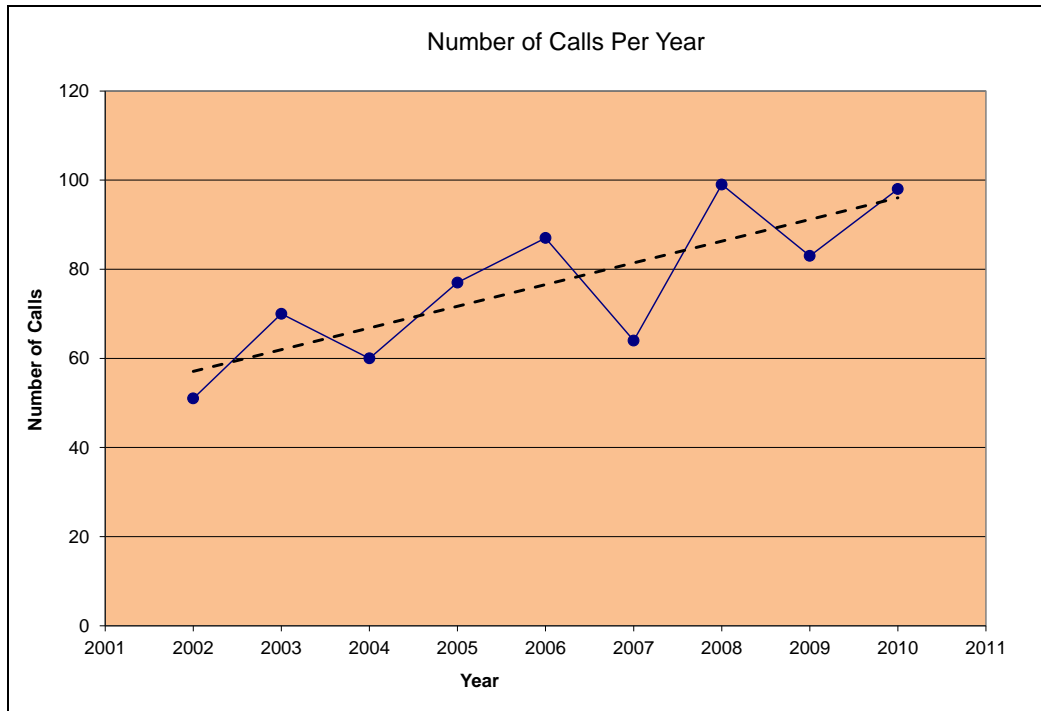


August 2010 Car Fire

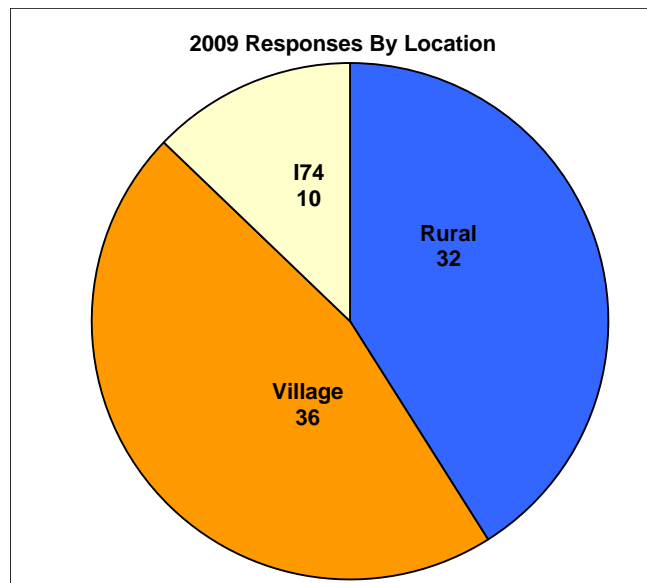
In 2010, the Deer Creek Fire Department responded to ninety-eight requests for assistance, categorized as follows:

Structure Fires	2
Vehicle Fires	2
Grass/Brush Fires	4
Other Fires	9
EMS	45
EMS Vehicle	9
EMS Other	
Good Intent	12
Mutual Aid	4
HazMat	
False Calls	2
Weather Watch	9
Total	98

This represents an increase of fifteen calls from 2009. Long term trends continue to show an increase in the number of emergency responses per year.



Of the 2010 calls, thirty-two were in rural portions of the District, thirty-six were in the Village of Deer Creek, ten were on Interstate 74, and four were to neighboring districts as mutual aid calls.



The 2010 average response times by call location are shown in the table below.

Average Response Times		
Rural	Village	I-74
11.0 min	6.4 min	12.0 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.



October 2010 Brush Fire



December 2010 Mutual Aid Structure Fire

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 2010. The average department member invested over one hundred hours this year in training activities, which does not include emergency responses, department business meetings, or work details. In total, department members completed just over two thousand person-hours of training in 2010. 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 two have received their state certification. Eight more members are currently enrolled in the same Firefighter II training and are on track to finish and receive certification in 2011. One member completed medical first responder training this year and was successfully certified. One member received State of Illinois Fire Instructor I certification and another has completed Instructor I training and is on track to become state certified in 2011. Finally one member completed a week-long Fire Inspector course at Illinois Fire Service Institute in Champaign.

The department hosted or organized a number of classes in 2010 that were taught by outside instructors from the Illinois Fire Service Institute, the Emergency Services Insurance Program and Big Water Associates LLC. These courses included training on Basic Pumps, Rural Water Supply, Fireground Communications, and Emergency Vehicle Operations. Many other area fire departments participated in these joint training courses.



Basic Pumps Training June 2010



Water Shuttle Training August 2010

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 2010, the following businesses and individuals made donations or memorials to the department:

- Ken Hoffman Estate
- Norman Musselman Estate

Equipment & Facilities

The Department was able to purchase several new or upgraded pieces of equipment this year through a variety of funding methods. Garage door openers were installed in the fire station. Before these were installed firefighters had to manually lift the heavy doors, which sometimes took two people and was impossible after winter ice storms when ice loaded the doors down. The new garage door openers make our operations safer and more efficient.

A regional Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) allowed our Department and five other surrounding departments to purchase 5" large diameter water supply hose along with a portable pump and a variety of adapters, fittings, and hose appliances. This equipment will significantly improve our water supply capabilities in both hydranted and non-hydranted areas of our District. This new 5" hose allows us to take the full flow capacity of a fire hydrant up to 1000 feet from the hydrant without needing a

second engine to pump water from the hydrant to the fire. This will reduce the manpower needed to obtain water and result in safer and more effective firefighting operations. As part of the same regional grant, the Department was able to obtain a digital fire extinguisher training system to complement our existing live-fire training system. This new digital system allows us to provide realistic mess-free fire extinguisher training in an indoor environment. In total the department received about \$45,000 of equipment through this grant for only the cost of the 10% matching funds requirement.



Sampling of New Water Supply Equipment

Finally, the Department was able to purchase a new Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) in 2010. This new AED has a heart-monitoring capability that our old unit did not have, and now gives the department two AEDs to ensure that one is always available even if the primary unit is on a different call.

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 2010 the department participated in the Dee-Mack High School homecoming events, the Deer Creek Halloween Parade, did a demonstration at the Intermediate School in Deer Creek as part of Fire Prevention Week in October, and held an Open house at the fire station, which was very well attended. Because of the positive feedback that was received after this event, we hope to make it an annual occurrence.



Rescue 1 and Engine 1 in the Halloween Parade



October 2010 Fire Station Open House



Fire Prevention Week Assembly at School



October 2010 Fire Station Open House

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. While the Chili Supper was not held in 2010 because of scheduling and manpower concerns, the 2011 Chili Supper will be held March 26, 2011.

In addition to these community events, the department works to keep the public informed of ongoing activities by maintaining a website (www.deercreekfire.org) and a page on Facebook.

Looking Ahead

As we move into 2011 the department will continue to work to improve its services. Preplanning, fire inspections, and recruiting will be key activities in 2011. In addition, the Insurance Service Organization (ISO) will be conducting a review of the department sometime in the summer. The department's ISO rating can impact property insurance rates in the District, so department members will be working to complete tasks that can help improve our rating. We look forward to serving the community in 2011.