

Borough of Chatham

Annual Report

2007

Fire Department

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Peter S. Glogolich, Chief

February 2, 2008

Mayor Nelson Vaughan
Chatham Borough Council Members

Dear Mayor and Council,

The following is a report of activities of the Chatham Borough Fire Department for the calendar year 2007.

During the year, the fire department responded to a total of two hundred eighty-five (285) incidents, which was a decrease of just fifteen (15) over last year. Unfortunately in 2007, there were several significant fires which caused reportable fire loss. During the year, there were four (4) house fires, three (3) furnace fires, and five (5) vehicle fires which made up the bulk of the fire loss. Actual loss was reported for eight (8) months during the year totaling \$450,000. This was an increase of \$166,900 over last year in which a loss of \$283,100 was posted.

The members of the Chatham Fire Department contributed seven thousand one hundred eighty seven (7187) man-hours of service to the community in 2007. Incident responses accounted for one thousand seven hundred and one (1701) man-hours while the remaining five thousand four hundred eighty-six (5486) man-hours were logged for training, work details, and fire duties to facilitate the many programs sponsored by the department throughout the year. Being a very active year, the total of 7187 hours is 1706 hours more than those logged for 2006, with only fifteen (15) fewer incidents.

As in the past, the use of mutual aid and shared services continues to grow and expand. Neighboring towns rely more on each other every year to fill the void of available manpower, especially during the daytime hours. In 2007, mutual aid was used a total of 25 times. Aid was given 12 times, and received 13 times. A respective breakdown is as follows:

Given:

Chatham Township: One (1) request for station coverage and one (1) request for F.A.S.T. Team for a structure fire totaling two (2) incidents.

New Vernon: Two (2) requests for Truck 1 for applying and removing lights from their holiday tree.

Green Village: Two (2) requests for Truck 1 for applying and removing lights from their holiday tree.

Florham Park: One (1) request for station coverage and two (2) Route 24 responses for a vehicle fire and an accident totaling three (3) incidents.

East Hanover: One (1) request for an Engine Company for a large scale Hazardous Materials Incident.

Lincoln Park: One (1) request for Rescue 1 as part of a Morris County task force for station coverage during a severe flooding in their town.

Morristown: One (1) request by Morris County for Truck 1 as part of a suppression task force to cover a region during a large scale rally in their town.

Mutual Aid was received as follows:

Received:

Chatham Township: Four (4) requests for F.A.S.T. Team and manpower during structure fires, two (2) requests for station coverage, and one (1) request for manpower and apparatus to assist during the July 4th fireworks, totaling seven (7) requests.

Florham Park: Three (3) requests for station coverage while operating at structure fires.

New Vernon: One (1) request for their brush truck and tender for water supply for a large brush fire at the mulch area, and one (1) request for manpower and apparatus to assist during the July 4th fireworks totaling two (2) requests.

Green Village: One (1) request for manpower and apparatus to assist during the July 4th fireworks.

In addition to the responsibilities handled on the local level, I along with thirty-eight (38) other Chiefs in Morris County, attend meetings once a month at the Public Safety Training Academy to address issues at the County level through the Morris County Alliance of Active Fire Chiefs (MCAAFC). This group shares ideas and strategies and discusses pertinent issues within the fire service that effect us on local, state, and federal levels, As in the past, being part of a UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) region, we continue to research plans, purchase and implement specialized equipment that will not only benefit our immediate areas, but surrounding areas as well. Much of this year's specialized equipment was again focused on radio interoperability. All departments in Morris County would have MIRS (Morris Interoperable Radio System) radios installed in first responder vehicles before the end of the year, and grant funding for portable radios was being finalized for purchase and distribution early in 2008. Additionally, more training was being planned in the area of gross and technical decontamination. This will also begin early in 2008 as the schedules and objectives are finalized.

Once again, through this organization, several initiatives were able to be implemented which allowed us to save quite a bit of money for the municipalities using group rate discounts for certain services. The initiatives included ladder and pump testing, and progress is still being made on the same type of pricing for hose testing and fit testing for SCBA use. There are all mandatory annual tests, so whatever savings that can be negotiating through this organization can be very beneficial to each department and municipality using these services.

Also in 2007, I had the pleasure of serving as President of the Black Meadows Mutual Aid Association. This is a group of fifteen (15) area departments who meet nine (9) times during the year to discuss and implement improved policies and procedures relating to our departments. I had previously served as Secretary/Treasurer for the two prior years. This mutual aid group makes up the Southeast Morris corner, or Region I of Morris County from which the task forces for specialized operations are devised.

Each year, it seems that there is more to accomplish, whether it be training (basic, specialized, and mandatory), attending meetings, administrative responsibilities, or responding to emergencies and incidents. This year was certainly no exception, and as you will see, the year got off to an unbelievable start. A summary of the highlights and major events of 2007 is as follows:

January started the New Year off with a bang. The department was kept extremely busy with a wide variety of calls and events this month. A summary of the highlights are as follows:

- On 1/2, a smoky fire was reported at Kings Supermarkets, coming in as a fire on the roof on the building. Upon arrival, it was determined that an electrical fire in a sign on the

corner of the building had ignited a bird's nest and the smoke was traveling under the soffit and across Main Street, giving the appearance of a much larger problem. Power to the sign was shut off and the fire extinguished by firefighters. No damage to the building took place, and no smoke entered the building at any time.

- Also on 1/2, all of the new department officers for 2007 were sworn in at the Borough's Reorganizational Meeting. This year we welcomed several new officers to the ranks. We are proud to announce Paul Carroll as 3rd Deputy Chief, Don Almgren as Lieutenant of Engine 1, Jeff Fricke as Lieutenant of Rescue Company, and Bob Clark as Lieutenant of Engine 2.
- The annual Christmas tree pickup took place on January 7th, with thirty-seven (37) members donating over one hundred sixty-six (166) man-hours to get the job done. A special thank you to Bob Venezia for providing several Borough dump trucks and the loader, and also to Chatham Main for providing three tandem dump trucks to get the job done efficiently. Later that night, the annual ceremonial bonfire was held behind Milton Avenue School, providing quite a sight for all those in attendance. The turnout was great this year due to the temperatures being much milder than usual. In total, two hundred fifty and a half (250 ½) man-hours were donated for this event.
- A series of fires and smoke conditions kept the department very active this month. On January 11th, a bedroom fire was reported on the second floor of a Weston Avenue home. Due to quick thinking by the upstairs tenant, the door to the fire room was closed before exiting the building and the fire was contained to the room of origin. Damage was held to the bed, bedding, and some of the carpeting in the room. The cause was determined to be electrical, starting in an overhead light fixture sparking onto the bedding and carpeting, causing the fire.
- On 1/17, a smoke condition was caused by a heater motor in the basement of a Rose Terrace home. The unit was shut down and the basement was ventilated by firefighters. A short time later, a smoke condition was reported in the hallway and several classrooms at Washington Avenue School. The school was evacuated and the cause was determined to be from construction, where smoke created from cutting wood was recirculated through the heating system in the classrooms. Extensive ventilation was needed, and kids were allowed back inside and into the gym until the operation was completed.
- On 1/29, a furnace fire caused a very heavy smoke condition on Van Doren Avenue. A faulty switch in the unit caused it to run continuously without cycling off and on, causing extensive heat build-up in the boiler, triggering a fire within the duct work near the furnace. Several plastic elements of the system were melted contributing to the smoke condition. The furnace was determined to be beyond repair, and the home sustained severe smoke damage on the upper levels. All walls were checked with the thermal imaging camera to determine that no extension had occurred beyond the duct work. Later that evening, a gas leak was reported in the basement of an Inwood Road residence. Upon investigation, it was determined that the cause was a loose valve on a newly installed gas line for the dryer earlier that day. The valve was tightened, checked for leaks, and gas levels checked in the basement with the meter. While out at this call, the department was also dispatched to Stanley Church for an active alarm, which turned out to be a malfunction.

Several special programs were also conducted this month. On 1/6 firefighters stood by at the firehouse where the annual rabies clinic was held again this year. On 1/10, a tour and review of communication capabilities on Rescue 1 was given to the RACES members at the firehouse. On 1/29, a program was presented at St. Patrick's School for their Career Day. Thanks to Don Almgren for giving his "volunteer" presentation to the group. This program explained what we do, and how important it is to be a volunteer in the community.

The month of February was extremely active, not only with a wide variety of emergencies, but also with extra training (both mandatory and elective). Although February is the shortest month, there were several points of interest to report for the month, which are as follows:

- 2/2- Two (2) motor vehicle accidents with fluid leaks and airbag deployment.
- 2/6-Multiple activation of the fire alarm system at Chatham Moving and Storage. The source was a smoke condition on the second floor which took ½ an hour to locate. The source was a heating unit with an electrical short.
- 2/9-Mandatory Right-To-Know training was attended by twenty-one (21) members at the River Road firehouse in Chatham Township.
- 2/12-A house fire was reported on Hillside Avenue. A lower level fire in the furnace room occurred when an aerosol spray paint can was accidentally punctured in front of the furnace after being dropped. With the furnace running a flash fire was ignited, which spread to the contents of the utility room and adjacent bedroom.
- 2/13-A gas line was hit behind the middle school by construction workers. No evacuation was necessary this time, and the gas line was shut off within a few minutes.
- 2/19-Mandatory Bloodborne Pathogens training was held at the firehouse with twenty-three (23) active members attending. A second session was scheduled to accommodate the remainder of the membership.
- 2/23-A firehouse tour was given to eight (8) cub scouts from pack 6. Also included was a DVD program and discussion on fire safety and fire prevention.
- 2/27-3/1-Four (4) members attended a three day training class for Intermediate Incident Command (ICS-300) at the Morris County Firefighter and Police Training Academy. Certified in this area of training were P. Glogolich, B. Parcels, C. D'Ambrosio, and G. Sweetin logging a total of ninety-six (96) man-hours.
- 2/27-An orientation session was held for new probationary member G.H. Sweetin II for Firefighter I which began in early March at the Fire Academy.
- 2/28-An overheated computer component caused an electrical smell in a Main Street business. The source was located using a thermal imaging camera, and de-energized.
- 2/28-Another smoke condition reported on Lum Avenue which was caused by burnt popcorn in the microwave. Two fans were used to clear the smoke and the alarm was reset.

Much like the weather adage with March coming in like a lion and going out like a lamb, so went the activities of the fire department this month. Along with a very active start, much of the mandatory training was accomplished this month as well as several additional training classes. A summary of the significant events for March is as follows:

- 3/2- A house fire on Washington Ave. destroyed the kitchen and caused significant smoke, heat, and water damage throughout the house just after 3 am. The fire was deemed to be electrical, which began in an outlet under the kitchen counter. Due to the

properly operating smoke detectors, the lives of the four residents were saved due to the early warning which allowed them to escape just in time, before the stairway was blocked by heavy smoke and fire. Once again, the CAFS (Compressed Air Foam System) proved to be invaluable, as the fire was contained mainly to the kitchen and a few extending hot spots, with a very quick knockdown. Just before 8 am on the same morning, the department was requested to provide station coverage for Florham Park while they were out with a heating unit fire which caused a heavy smoke condition in a building. Florham Park had provided station coverage for the Borough during our house fire, and was released just a short time before their own emergency. Later that night, just after 8 pm, the department was dispatched to a rollover motor vehicle accident on Route 24 East with a vehicle off the roadway and into the woods. Upon arrival, all occupants were out of the vehicle with only minor injuries. Fire apparatus stood by for safety until the victims were transported by the squad and the vehicle was removed by tow truck.

- On 3/5, the department assisted with a three car MVA on Main Street. Although there was no entrapment, undeployed airbags needed to be secured, and fluids had to be contained with speedy-dry. The department also assisted the squad with man-power to get the victims into the ambulances.
- On 3/10, eleven (11) members attended a seminar on “Firefighter Close Calls and Lessons Learned” given by Ohio Deputy Chief Billy Goldfedder, which was sponsored by the Chatham Township Fire Department.
- On 3/11, the department, along with the Township F.D. provided an escort back into town and to the high school for the basketball team who had just won the Division 2 State Championship game at Rutgers University. Once again, it was both an honor and a pleasure to show our support for our high school athletes and their accomplishments.
- On 3/12 and 3/14, mandatory annual fit testing was held for SCBA use. This year, thirty four (34) members were fit tested which is a main requirement for all interior firefighters.
- On 3/16, the department was requested for extrication at a van vs. pole accident on River Road. This accident was a result of poor road conditions from a snow and ice storm. Within an hour, another accident took place at Kings and Division, but this time it was only for undeployed airbags and no entrapment.
- On 3/17, another rollover MVA took place on Route 24 east. The driver removed himself from the vehicle prior to arrival with only minor injuries. The department acted as safety and assisted the squad with moving the victim into the rig for transport.
- 3/20, the department responded to an oven fire on Lafayette Ave. On arrival the small grease fire which was contained to the oven was extinguished and the smoke removed using one ventilation fan.
- On 3/25, an electrical fire in a light fixture was reported on Center Avenue. The fire was confined to the immediate area of the fixture with no extension. The surrounding area was checked with the thermal image camera, the isolated circuit secured, and the smoke cleared with a ventilation fan.

Also this month, education and classes accounted for fourteen (14) events logging 192 $\frac{3}{4}$ man-hours, which are broken down as follows:

- Probationary Firefighter G. Sweetin II logged forty-eight (48) hours at the Morris County Fire Academy for Firefighter I training.

- Past Deputy Chief Chris D'Ambrosio, Deputy Chief Bal Parcels, Lieutenant George Sweetin, and Chief Pete Glogolich completed the third phase of I-300 training and Deputy Chief George R. Traver completed the I-300 modules as well, logging fifty six (56) hours at the academy.
- Lieutenant Don Almgren completed part 2 of the F.A.S.T. training at the academy logging three and a half hours (3 ½) hours and receiving F.A.S.T. operations and certification.
- Lastly, eleven members attended an all day seminar on firefighter safety and lessons learned logging an additional eighty five and one quarter (85 ¼) man hours.

In April, the department logged multiple man-hours for several long term calls as well as special details. A summary of events for the month is as follows:

- 4/9-A paint spill on Garden Avenue was reported, partly due to a broken pipe, where the homeowner inadvertently put white paint (approx. ½ gallon) into the storm drain which emptied into the brook. The department was able to contain all of the material within the storm drain, and the incident was turned over to the D.E.P. and County Hazmat unit for cleanup options, which were discussed with the homeowner/spiller. The DPW, OEM, PD, and a representative from the Joint Meeting also responded to the scene.
- 4/12-A furnace fire on Oliver Street caused a smoke condition and high heat in the basement. The heating unit was shut down on arrival, and several fans were used to ventilate the smoke from the residence.
- 4/15-The heavy rainfall from a storm that dropped over seven inches of rain caused several serious water conditions in residences which were threatening utilities and required the use of our pumps to bring the water level down to a safe level. The most serious water problem occurred on Dellwood Avenue where more than six feet of water in the back yard began to threaten the home's foundation. Two gas pumps were put in place and ran almost non-stop for more than ten hours to keep the rising water away from the house. The homeowner estimated that more than 350,000 gallons of water were pumped out of his yard during the operation.
- 4/18-A request for Rescue 1 to at as part of a fire/Rescue task force to be deployed to cover Lincoln Park for an eight hour period during their town wide flood operations and evacuations.
- 4/23-A special training session was held at fire headquarters to demonstrate and discuss the dangers of new light weight construction materials in relation to the fire service and how they most often fail causing injury and death. This program was given by Deputy Chief Bob Young of the Florham Park Fire Department, which included a PowerPoint presentation and lecture, DVDs and many samples of the materials used in today's construction.
- 4/25-A suspicious fire was reported in the pedestrian tunnel at the end of Red Road. Upon arrival, moderate smoke was coming from the tunnel, and a pile of brush and wooden materials, which had apparently been dragged into the underpass, was burning freely. The fire was extinguished quickly and the debris removed with no visible damage done to the tunnel. It was alleged that several juveniles may have started the fire, and the matter was being investigated by the PD.

- 4/28-4/29-The annual Small Fry Fishing Derby sponsored by the fire department was held at Milton Pond. Because of the nice weather, an outstanding turnout was noted for both days. This highly anticipated event is one that requires a lot of time and dedication. This year, the event from the planning phase to cleanup accounted for five hundred sixty-eight and three quarters (568 $\frac{3}{4}$) man-hours. A special thanks to chairman Don Kidd and co-chairman Pete Heimrich for another outstanding job.

During the month of May, mulch and brush fires kept the department the busiest. On 5/5, a small mulch fire was reported on Main Street caused by a spot light that tipped over on the front lawn. On 5/17 a tree fire was reported behind Milton Avenue School near the pond. On 5/25 a mulch fire was reported at River Road and Lackawanna which was caused by a discarded cigarette, and on 5/29, a large working brush fire was reported at the mulch area behind Milton Avenue School. The fully involved pile of brush was hit with two 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch lines with compressed air foam on the initial attack. This enabled us to contain the fire and keep it from spreading into the woods. Public Works provided a loader to pull the pile apart and New Vernon responded with their 4500 gallon tanker to supply water for the duration of the fire operations. The Emergency Squad also stood by due to the warm temperature of the day, and the NJ State Forest Fire Service also stopped by to see if they could be of any assistance.

Other points of interest for the month of May are as follows:

- 5/16- Smoke from food in a toaster oven set off alarms at 1 Main Street causing the temporary evacuation of the building.
- 5/19- A reported gas leak in a residence on Chatham Street which was caused by a faulty part in a gas stove in the kitchen.
- 5/22- An electrical fire in a wall socket caused by a humidifier dripping water into the outlet. The surrounding areas were checked with the thermal image camera for extension, none was found.
- 5/24- A motor vehicle accident on Route 24 West at the Triborough Bridge. This was the first time the new “blocking” protocol was initiated with the emergency squad since it was put into effect several weeks ago.
- 5/28- A car fire was reported on Route 24 East near the Minisink gate. The fire was out on arrival and was caused by a faulty alternator in the vehicle.
- 5/30- A request to assist a resident on John Street for a house lockout. The family’s two year old child apparently closed the door behind them, locking them out.

May was a relatively quiet month compared to the earlier months of the year. The department Fund Drive was held on May 6th. Many thanks to all those who donated.

Much of June’s activities were dedicated to parades, firematics and extra training. Some of the highlights of the month are as follows:

- On June 2nd, the department hosted the Tri-County Firematics competition, which was held at the Middle School. The competition included a single hose lay, double hose lay and ladder event in which the nine other departments were challenged to establish the fastest time for completing these tasks. The Green Village FD was the overall winner of this year’s event. Just less than two hundred (200) man hours were logged by the CFD for this event.
- On June 4th, a mutual aid request to assist at a house fire in Chatham Township.

- On June 5th, the department responded to a pool heater fire on N. Hillside Avenue around midnight. Fortunately, the homeowner was awake, and noticed the glow outside a kitchen window before it could spread to the structure.
- On June 9th, five (5) members, along with Engine 1, participated in Millburn's 150th Anniversary Parade.
- On June 12th, probationary firefighter George H. Sweetin II completed his Firefighter I training at the Morris County Firefighter & Police Training Academy. Over one hundred and fifty (150) hours were logged for this training.
- On June 18th, a training drill was held at 242 Washington Avenue in a house donated to the department to use prior to its demolition. A second drill was held at this location on 6/25, utilizing assistance from both the Chatham Township Fire Department and the Chatham Emergency Squad. Thank you to Chris and Lisa Tagnola for their overwhelming support and desire to help train our firefighters and emergency responders.
- On June 19th, the department was requested by the squad to assist on Route 24 as a blocker during a medical emergency. While on scene, a four car pile up took place adjacent to the original location, causing back to back incidents on the highway. The department was complimented by the State Police for handling both incidents in a "professional manner", which is always nice to hear.
- On June 23rd, the department participated in the Morris Plains 100th Anniversary Parade. Twenty one (21) members along with Engine 1, Car 2, and Engine 3 attended the celebration. Coverage for the day was provided by the Township FD until our apparatus returned to town.
- On June 29th, the department responded to a residence on Hillside Avenue for a report of smoke throughout the first floor with alarms sounding. Upon investigation, it was determined that the cause was a plastic knife handle which was in contact with a lit burner on the kitchen stove. The hazard was removed, and the residence was cleared of smoke utilizing two ventilation fans.

July began with all efforts focused on the annual July 4th celebration. Preparation and setup accounted for roughly three hundred sixty (360) man-hours this year. Although the parade went off without a hitch, Mother Nature dealt us a terminal blow at night causing a virtual washout for the fireworks display. Hopefully next year we'll have better weather.

July of 2007 was much quieter in comparison to 2006. Last July was one of the busiest months in years, logging forty-two (42) incidents compared to only twenty five (25) this year. As we pass the half year mark, ladder testing has been completed with no failures or problems and hose testing took place this month. Upon completion, almost ten thousand (10,000) feet of hose was tested, with only one (1) fifty foot length of three inch hose failing due to a small tear. Pump tests will take place by the middle of next month.

The month of July seemed to have its share of electrical problems, noting multiple power line troubles with burning wires and transformer overloads. Some of the highlights for the month are as follows:

- On 7/7 an electrical fire was reported in a Woodland Road home causing a smoke condition on the second floor. The area was checked for extension with the TIC, but none was found. This was the result of home wiring for a new ceiling fan. A licensed electrician was recommended for any future projects.

- On 7/14, a crew visited a party being held on Red Road for a fire prevention safety talk along with a demonstration of the equipment. This is always a favorite of the neighborhood kids.
- On 7/19, a car fire was reported in a driveway on Bowers Lane. The fire was out upon arrival, and the battery was disconnected as a precaution to prevent any further problems. No major damage was done to the vehicle, with fire damage being confined to the starter motor and adjacent wiring.
- On 7/14, the department responded to a two car accident with a rollover at Washington Avenue and Chatham Street. Upon arrival, all occupants were out of the vehicles and no rescue was necessary. Fluids were contained, and batteries were disconnected as a safety precaution. The vehicles were also stabilized.
- On 7/26, a response was made for the report of a struck gas main on Main Street related to the Streetscape project. Apparently, an unknown service line was missed during the mark out procedure, and even the gas company was unaware of the existence of the line. Fortunately, this was just a small service line and not the 16-inch gas main which was located just three feet away.
- On 7/28, Truck 1 was requested into Morristown as part of a suppression task force to stand by during a rally being held on South Street. This crowd got so large at one point that South Street became impassable, thus mobilizing the task force, which had been arranged several days earlier in case it was needed.

In 2007, the month of August proved to be one of the quietest months in recent history. Although nineteen (19) calls were answered, sixteen (16) of those were for alarm malfunctions and unintentional activations. Some of the highlights for the month are as follows:

- On 8/13 and 8/14, the department, on the invitation of the Green Village FD, took part in a vacant house drill on Overlook Road in the Township. During the two (2) days, training in the areas of hose advancement through smoke, ventilation and a rescue evolution from a windowless basement took place.
- On 8/18, arcing power lines and a small fire caused the closure of Broadview Terrace for a short time. The affected area was sealed off with caution tape, establishing a safety zone until JCP&L could repair the problem.
- On 8/26, a heavy smoke condition in an apartment on N. Passaic Avenue was reported. Upon investigation, it was determined that the smoke was caused by an electrical problem with an air exchanger in the basement. The smoke was cleared from the upper floors using several fans, and the basement unit was locked out and isolated on the electrical panel.
- On 8/29, the annual pump test was conducted by Technical Fire Services at fire headquarters. The mandatory testing includes draft and vacuum tests as well as flow tests for the rated capacities of the pumps. Preliminary results indicated that Engine 2, Engine 3 and Truck 1 all passed with no problem. Engine 1 however, failed to meet the requirements of its rated pump capacity, pumping just about half of what it should be. When the final report is received, we will have a better idea of what the problem might be, and what it will take to repair the problem.

Although September kept the department active, there were no significant incidents to report. Some of the highlights are as follows:

- On September 1st, six (6) delegates attended the Exempt Fireman's Convention, which was held in Montville this year. Also on this date, nine (9) members attended Boonton's Labor Day Parade.
- On September 6th and September 19th, members attended the annual Harassment Training sessions held in the Commons Room. So far, twenty (20) active members have completed the training.
- On September 7th, smoke was caused by a plastic lid coming in contact with the heating element in a dishwasher on Watchung Avenue. This same scenario occurred on September 20th in a residence on N. Passaic Avenue. Fans were used to clear the air in both cases, and no real damage was reported. Later that evening came the request into E. Hanover. During the response, Engine3 developed mechanical trouble and had to stop due to an alarm requiring shut down. The apparatus had to be towed back to the Borough, but after a diagnostic test, proved to be only a faulty sensor in the computer system, indicating no oil pressure. Even though the engine was forced to return to town, the crew teamed up with a Whippany engine and completed the operation as a combined effort.
- On September 11th, a smoke condition was caused by spilled food residue which was left on the oven bottom in a residence on Fuller Avenue. This exact scenario repeated itself on September 19th at a residence on Weston Avenue. In both incidents, fans were used to remove the smoke and no damage was reported.
- An electrical problem with some computer equipment caused a burning smell on September 14th in the Townsquare complex on Roosevelt Avenue. The thermal imaging camera was used to help locate the source of the smell.
- Lastly, gas leaks and odor investigations rounded out the responses for the month. On September 21st a gas leak & the smell of gas near the meter was reported in the basement of a home on Summit Avenue. No levels were detected with the gas meter, but PSE&G was notified to respond to check the connections. On September 29th, a Coleman Avenue resident reported an outside odor of what was thought to be a natural gas leak. Upon investigation, it was determined to be sewer gas, but no source could be located at the time.

Unlike the past several months, October can be summarized in just one word...active. The month began with all efforts focused on Fire Prevention Week, which took place between October 7th and 13th (see separate Fire Prevention report). The department was kept busy with a wide variety of responses for the remainder of the month with thirty-six (36) in 31 days. A summary of the October highlights are as follows:

- 10/2-Assisted with the Saint Barnabas Fire Safety House at Milton Avenue School for all third grade students.
- 10/3-MVA on Hillside Avenue with a parked vehicle being struck and rolling into a driveway, striking a central air conditioning unit on the side of the house, and coming to rest in the backyard of the house that it was parked in front of to begin with. Power to the A/C unit was shut off and the vehicle was checked for leaks, where none were found.
- 10/11-Four (4) calls within half an hour due to a bizarre lightning strike in the center of town near the library. Responses included two activated alarms, an elevator entrapment at the library, and a smell of smoke of the second floor of a Main Street business near the

library. The smell was traced back to a phone which had apparently been fried by the nearby lightning strike.

- Spills and Containment: 10/12-small diesel fuel spill in the road on Main Street with no source found. 10/15-Truck hits Railroad Bridge on Watchung Avenue spilling 250 gallons of electronic insulating oil (transformer oil), causing a multiple agency response. In addition to Borough Fire and Police, DEP, Morris County Hazmat, OEM, and a cleanup contractor all responded. Watchung Avenue remained closed from 8:30am until 5:00pm. 10/18-Six (6) gallons of transmission fluid released in roadway from a broken line on a truck. Fluid covered an area from Lafayette Avenue near Woodland Road to Lafayette Avenue at Watchung Avenue. No other agencies were needed to respond. 10/31-A small gasoline leak from a car as a result of a motor vehicle accident. The spill involved containment of less than 2 gallons.
- 10/17-Motor vehicle accident on Route 24-no entrapment-disconnected batteries on vehicles and checked for fluid leaks with negative results.
- 10/19-Carbon Monoxide alarm with moderate readings on Minton Avenue. The problem was traced to units in a basement laundry room. Residence was ventilated, and PSE&G was notified to respond.
- 10/19 and 10/20-A special detail on River Road at the Westy Storage Center, who sponsored a very successful fund raiser (Haunted House) to benefit both the Chatham Borough and Chatham Township Fire Departments. Thanks to all who supported this event.
- 10/20-Carbon Monoxide alarm on Tallmadge Avenue with moderate readings found. Problem traced to a malfunction in the gas stove in the kitchen. Home was vented and PSE&G was notified to respond.
- 10/23-Report of a vehicle into the building at Coldstone Creamery. No injuries were reported, and after a lengthy investigation, determined damage to be cosmetic and not structural. The adjoining wall to CVS was also damaged in the accident.
- 10/27-Report of an oven fire in a residence on University Avenue. The fire was out upon arrival and was contained to the oven. Two fans were used to clear the moderate smoke condition.
- 10/28-Smoke from an unattended candle left burning in the bathroom triggered the alarm at a commercial establishment on River Road. Luckily, the plate that was under the candle fell into the toilet when it cracked from the heat, and there was no fire spread.
- 10/28-Report of a kitchen fire on River Road caused by a problem with a gas stove. The gas was shut off until proper repairs could be made, and no damage was reported from the fire. Several fans were used to ventilate the smoke and natural gas fumes.
- 10/30-Assist the Police Department in conducting an evacuation drill at the Middle School.

Although incident volume was low, the month of November kept everyone on their toes. The more significant events for the month are as follows:

- 11/2-In the morning, Fire Prevention conducted a post-fire prevention week tour of the firehouse for several ECLC students and instructed them on some key fire safety points, as well as letting them see and touch the firefighter's gear. In the evening, three (3) firefighters (P. Glogolich, P. Carroll, G.B. Traver) took part in a special live fire training session at Morristown Municipal Airport. This was an aircraft rescue firefighting (ARFF)

class for structural firefighters. During this hands-on training, each of the participants became proficient in extinguishing pit fires (to simulate a fuel spill and fire), wheel and brake fires, engine fires, and interior cabin fires, as well as a cockpit rescue, working in teams of two. All area departments sent crews to the airport at one point for a training session over a ten day period of the simulator being available. The jet aircraft simulator is a training tool from the University of West Virginia, and was made possible by funding from the management of Morristown Airport, the Morristown Fire Department, the Black Meadows Mutual Aid Association, and Suburban Propane. This specialized training is only available every three to four years.

- 11/18-A house fire (which was originally dispatched as a chimney fire) was reported on Tallmadge Avenue just after midnight. The fire, which apparently began in the fireplace and chimney, spread to the adjacent walls and into the void space above the ceiling, burning undetected for more than two hours until the smoke detectors were activated and 9-1-1 was called. This was a difficult fire to fight due to the fact that it was all in an enclosed area, and had to be opened up and extinguished. Although the fire burned through the roof at the rear of the house, much of the front portion was spared from the direct fire damage. Unfortunately, 60-65% of the building was badly damaged and the couple residing there was not able to return. Although the residents were not hurt, minor injuries to three (3) firefighters were reported.
- 11/20-Five (5) additional firefighters completed their annual harassment training, bringing the completion rate for all active firefighters close to 100% for the year.
- 11/24-An investigation on a CO alarm in a residence on Washington Avenue led to the discovery of a small amount of wood from a fire in the fireplace earlier in the day, that had not been completely extinguished and the damper had been closed. The slow smoldering of the remaining wood, although not very smoky, gave off enough CO over a period of several hours to set off the detector. The fireplace damper was opened, and the house was ventilated with a fan, and cleared in a few minutes. Always make sure to leave the damper open if the fireplace ashes have not been completely extinguished.
- 11/27-The department responded to Rt. 24 Westbound for a car off the road and into the cable divider in the median. The car was badly damaged and smoking from a smoldering fire in the engine compartment. A hose line was deployed and the small fire was extinguished. The driver had no reported injuries and was out of the vehicle on arrival.
- 11/29-A car fire was reported on Fairmount Avenue at Main Street. A fire in the engine compartment near the starter motor was observed by patrol on arrival. Rapid response by the officer (#121) with a dry chemical extinguisher knocked down the majority of the fire by the time the FD arrived, and finished the job with an overhaul and disconnecting of the battery.
- 11/30-The department was requested for another motor vehicle accident on Main Street for fluids in the roadway and an undeployed and unstable airbag. Again, all victims were out of the vehicles on arrival and although no injuries were reported, they were evaluated by CES on site.

December was an unusually quiet month for emergency responses with call volume dropping to only nineteen (19) incidents. This was partially due to the milder weather this month, which usually contributes to heating system related problems and calls for December. The highlights for the more significant events for the month are as follows:

- 12/5- A gas leak in a residence from a recently installed kitchen stove was reported on Vincent Street. The gas line to the range was shut down and the residence was checked with the gas meter for any residual readings- none were found.
- 12/8- The Department regretfully announces the passing of former Fire Chief Harold “Dewey” Sheats.
- 12/12- The funeral was held for Ex-Chief Sheats with full FD Honors. Later in the day, the department responded to a chimney fire on Hedges Avenue. The blockage was removed and the residence was ventilated. The thermal imaging camera was used to check for any signs of heat in the walls near the chimney on the 1st and 2nd floors, but none were found.
- 12/15 & 12/16- I (Pete Glogolich) attended a two-day class for Advanced Incident Management (ICS-400) which was sponsored by the Morris Township F.D. at the Mt Kemble firehouse. This level of training is suggested for all chief officers and was successfully completed, resulting in certification at this level by the N.J. Division of Fire & Safety.
- 12/17- Line officers for 2008 were elected at the department’s Annual Meeting, with Commissioner Rich Crater presiding over the elections.
- 12/20- A vehicle struck several parked cars on Kings Road causing a large debris field and fluids in the roadway. The department responded to stabilize the vehicles involved, and contained and absorbed the leaking fluids with speedy-dri.
- 12/24- Santa arrived at the firehouse via the North Pole Express (Engine 1) to hear all the last minute requests from the area children. The turnout this year was again better than anticipated, partially due to the mild weather for December.
- 12/27- An electrical fire in outdoor Christmas lights was reported at a residence on Watchung Avenue. Multiple electrical extension cords were observed being used incorrectly. Water from melting snow got inside the plugs causing a short circuit and subsequent fire. Luckily, this was only outside, with the homeowner being advised of proper use of extension cords for the future.
- 12/28- A smoke condition from an extinguished oven fire was reported in a residence on Washington Avenue. Ironically, this was the same location as that of a major house fire which started in the kitchen earlier this year. This time, there were no problems, and the residence was simply cleared of smoke and the alarm system was reset.
- 12/29- The Department regretfully announces the passing of former Fire Chief William R. Kelley Jr. making him the second past Chief to be lost this month.

December brought us great sadness with the loss of two past Fire Chiefs whose contributions to the Borough and the fire department will not soon be forgotten. Also, Ken Heater, a former Deputy Chief, passed away in the beginning of the year in January. Additionally, two other members formally resigned this month, depleting the ranks even further. Firefighter Robert Clark regretfully resigned citing the lack of time to properly participate in the necessary activities of the department. A letter of resignation was also received from former Rescue Company Lieutenant Jim Borriotti, as he and his family have relocated to South Jersey, and no longer resides in the Borough.

As you can see, the Chatham Fire Department had another very active year. It takes a very dedicated and motivated group of individuals to volunteer their time to make this organization function as it does today. Mandatory and specialized training is now more time consuming than ever and I am very proud to be in command of a group with this kind of commitment. Preventing fires and raising awareness levels in all age groups remains a top priority of the upcoming year. It is our mission to provide the community with the annual events that they have come to enjoy so much, as well as providing the fire protection that they expect. It is again my goal to inform and train our firefighters so that they may safely and professionally serve the Borough of Chatham.

Other goals and objectives that I hope to accomplish within the next calendar year for 2008 are a continuation of last year's goals, which are as follows:

- 1) **RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**- My goal is to keep a balance within the membership of the department and encourage all interested parties who can fulfill the mandatory requirements to join. As the average age increases every year, it is imperative to actively recruit younger members to become qualified and active.
- 2) **UPDATING SOP'S & SOG'S**- Bring the standard operating procedures and guidelines up to date and specific so that all members both new and old can fully understand how procedures are to be implemented and followed within the department. These documents are to be updated, printed and distributed to the membership by April, 2008.
- 3) **FIREHOUSE GENERATOR**- Replace the old firehouse generator with a new efficient unit capable of powering the entire firehouse using already approved capital funds. By the end of this project, the firehouse will be self sufficient for power and may then be used as an emergency shelter under the guidelines of the OEM. Project completion target date is October, 2008.
- 4) **NIMS COMPLIANT TRAINING**- Under the new standards, all fire officers (anyone who may be in command of an incident) must receive Incident Management Training. Mandatory training includes I-200 (for all active members), I-300 (for officers). All active members are to have I-200 completed by June, 2008. All officers will have training classes completed by December, 2008.

In closing, I would like to thank the Mayor and all Council members for the continuing guidance and support which you have demonstrated throughout the years, and as always, look forward to a safe and productive future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter S. Glogolich

Peter S. Glogolich
Chief, Chatham Borough Fire Department

Chatham Fire department

Incident Type Report (Summary)

Alarm Date >= {01/01/2007} and Alarm Date <=
{12/31/2007}

Incident Type	Count	Pct of Incidents	Total Est Loss	Pct of Losses
1 Fire				
111 Building fire	4	1.40%	\$0	0.00%
113 Cooking fire, confined to container	3	1.05%	\$0	0.00%
114 Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney	1	0.35%	\$0	0.00%
116 Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire	3	1.05%	\$0	0.00%
131 Passenger vehicle fire	4	1.40%	\$0	0.00%
142 Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	6	2.10%	\$0	0.00%
151 Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	1	0.35%	\$0	0.00%
160 Special outside fire, Other	1	0.35%	\$0	0.00%
162 Outside equipment fire	1	0.35%	\$0	0.00%
	24	8.42%	\$0	0.00%
2 Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat(no fire)				
210 Overpressure rupture from steam, Other	1	0.35%	\$0	0.00%
211 Overpressure rupture of steam pipe or	1	0.35%	\$0	0.00%
251 Excessive heat, scorch burns with no	1	0.35%	\$0	0.00%
	3	1.05%	\$0	0.00%
3 Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident				
322 Motor vehicle accident with injuries	3	1.05%	\$0	0.00%
331 Lock-in (if lock out , use 511)	1	0.35%	\$0	0.00%
352 Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	1	0.35%	\$0	0.00%
353 Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	1	0.35%	\$0	0.00%
	6	2.10%	\$0	0.00%
4 Hazardous Condition (No Fire)				
400 Hazardous condition, Other	3	1.05%	\$0	0.00%
412 Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	7	2.45%	\$0	0.00%
413 Oil or other combustible liquid spill	2	0.70%	\$0	0.00%
424 Carbon monoxide incident	4	1.40%	\$0	0.00%
441 Heat from short circuit (wiring),	2	0.70%	\$0	0.00%
442 Overheated motor	4	1.40%	\$0	0.00%
444 Power line down	2	0.70%	\$0	0.00%
445 Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	5	1.75%	\$0	0.00%
463 Vehicle accident, general cleanup	14	4.91%	\$0	0.00%
	43	15.08%	\$0	0.00%

Chatham Fire department

Incident Type Report (Summary)

Alarm Date >= {01/01/2007} and Alarm Date <= {12/31/2007}

Incident Type	Count	Pct of Incidents	Total Est Loss	Pct of Losses
5 Service Call				
500 Service Call, other	3	1.05%	\$0	0.00%
521 Water evacuation	1	0.35%	\$0	0.00%
531 Smoke or odor removal	15	5.26%	\$0	0.00%
551 Assist police or other governmental agency	8	2.80%	\$0	0.00%
553 Public service	2	0.70%	\$0	0.00%
571 Cover assignment, standby, moveup	3	1.05%	\$0	0.00%
	32	11.22%	\$0	0.00%
6 Good Intent Call				
600 Good intent call, Other	2	0.70%	\$0	0.00%
611 Dispatched & cancelled en route	3	1.05%	\$0	0.00%
651 Smoke scare, odor of smoke	9	3.15%	\$0	0.00%
652 Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be	2	0.70%	\$0	0.00%
671 HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	3	1.05%	\$0	0.00%
	19	6.66%	\$0	0.00%
7 False Alarm & False Call				
700 False alarm or false call, Other	3	1.05%	\$0	0.00%
730 System malfunction, Other	1	0.35%	\$0	0.00%
731 Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	1	0.35%	\$0	0.00%
733 Smoke detector activation due to	10	3.50%	\$0	0.00%
735 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	51	17.89%	\$0	0.00%
736 CO detector activation due to malfunction	14	4.91%	\$0	0.00%
741 Sprinkler activation, no fire -	4	1.40%	\$0	0.00%
743 Smoke detector activation, no fire -	3	1.05%	\$0	0.00%
744 Detector activation, no fire -	26	9.12%	\$0	0.00%
745 Alarm system activation, no fire -	40	14.03%	\$0	0.00%
746 Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	2	0.70%	\$0	0.00%
	155	54.38%	\$0	0.00%
8 Severe Weather & Natural Disaster				
812 Flood assessment	2	0.70%	\$0	0.00%
	2	0.70%	\$0	0.00%
9 Special Incident Type				
900 Special type of incident, Other	1	0.35%	\$0	0.00%

Chatham Fire department

Incident Type Report (Summary)

Alarm Date >= (01/01/2007) and Alarm Date <=
(12/31/2007)

Incident Type	Count	Pct of Incidents	Total Est Loss	Pct of Losses
	1	0.35%	\$0	0.00%

Total Incident Count: 285

Total Est Loss:

\$450,000

Fire Prevention Week Report- October, 2007

Tours/Fire Prevention & Safety Programs October 8-12, 2007

Totals:

Milton Ave. School	73 Children	8 Adults
Little Friends Day School	60 Children	4 Adults
Washington Ave. School	103 Children	25 Adults
St. Patrick's School	47 Children	8 Adults
Montessori Children's Academy	120 Children	20 Adults
St. Pat's Pre-school Classes	15 Children	2 Adults

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS THIS YEAR:

Milton Ave. School - Grade 3: St Barnabas Fire Safety House 10/02/07	83 Children	6 Adults
Montessori Children's Academy 10/19/07	(Millburn Campus- Ages 2-5) 65 Children	8 Adults

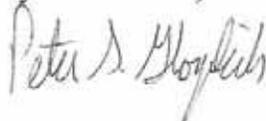
Total: 566 Children 81Adults

This year, Fire Prevention Week again turned out to be a two week program. With so many requests from schools and groups, it was impossible to fit all classes into one week. A special Thank You to: Don Almgren, Bernie Conlan, Jim Musselman, Herb Cannon, Joe Marts, and George Sweetin for helping with the firehouse programs & demos. In addition to the in- house programs, a special presentation was given to the Pre-school kids at St. Patrick's School on 10/12/07 by Don Almgren and George Sweetin. This was a talk on the benefits of volunteering, and what the Chatham Fire Department does, not only for the Borough, but for the surrounding towns as well. Another special thank you goes to Greg Henrich, Jim Musselman, and Ian Horowitz, who provided a program and demonstration for the Montessori Children's Academy in Millburn on October 19th.

The Open House was held on October 13th at fire headquarters. Assistance this year was provided by Coldwell Bankers. Coordinated by Marc Boisclair, the hosts gave out cider & donuts, and handed out informational pamphlets.

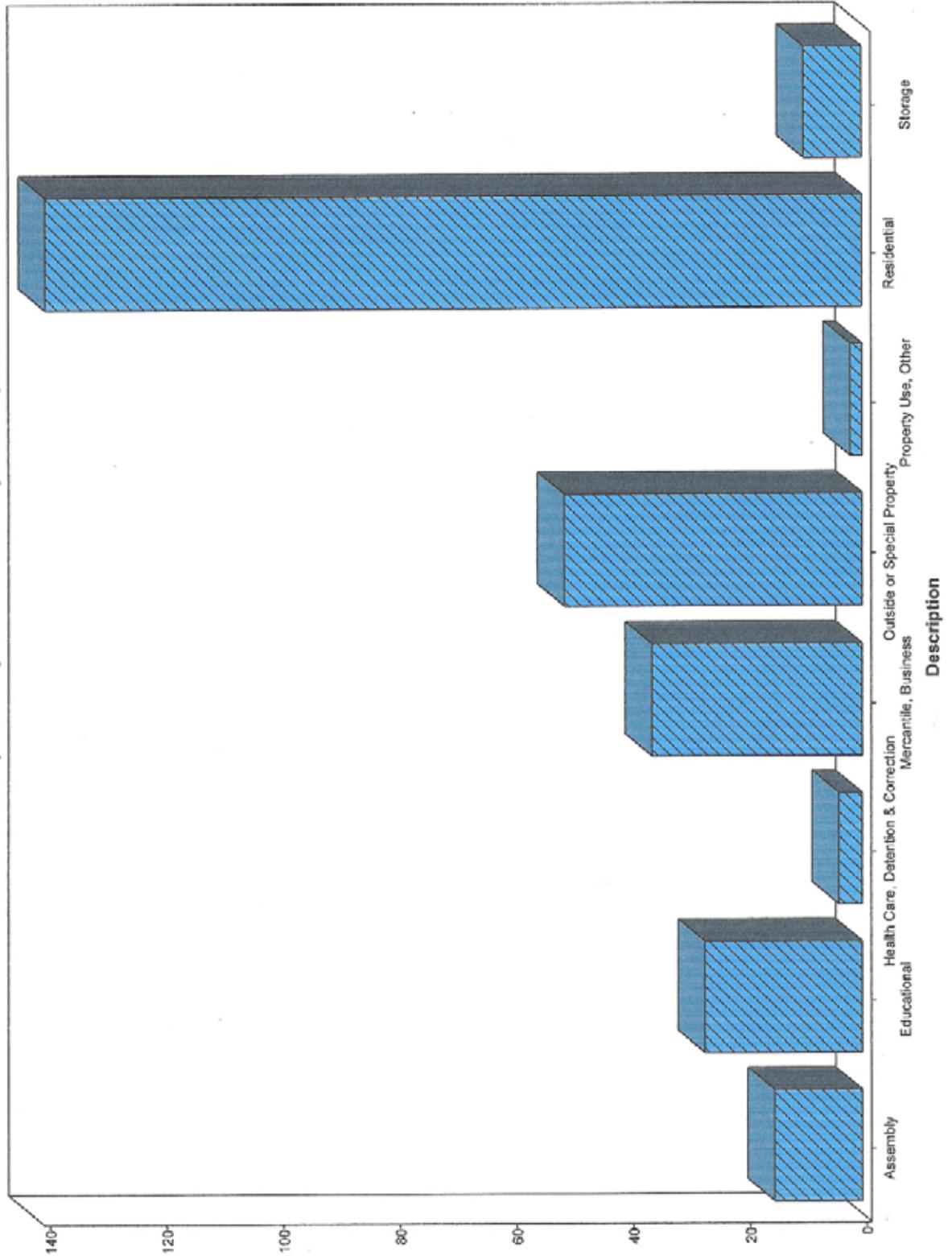
An estimated 450 people came to the firehouse during the Open House, making a grand total of 1097 people to interact with the fire department this year. This was a gain of more than 300 people over last year. Another big success! Thanks also to the 15 members who helped at this year's Open House, for fielding resident's questions, providing information on the equipment, and doing demonstrations for the kids.

Respectfully Submitted,

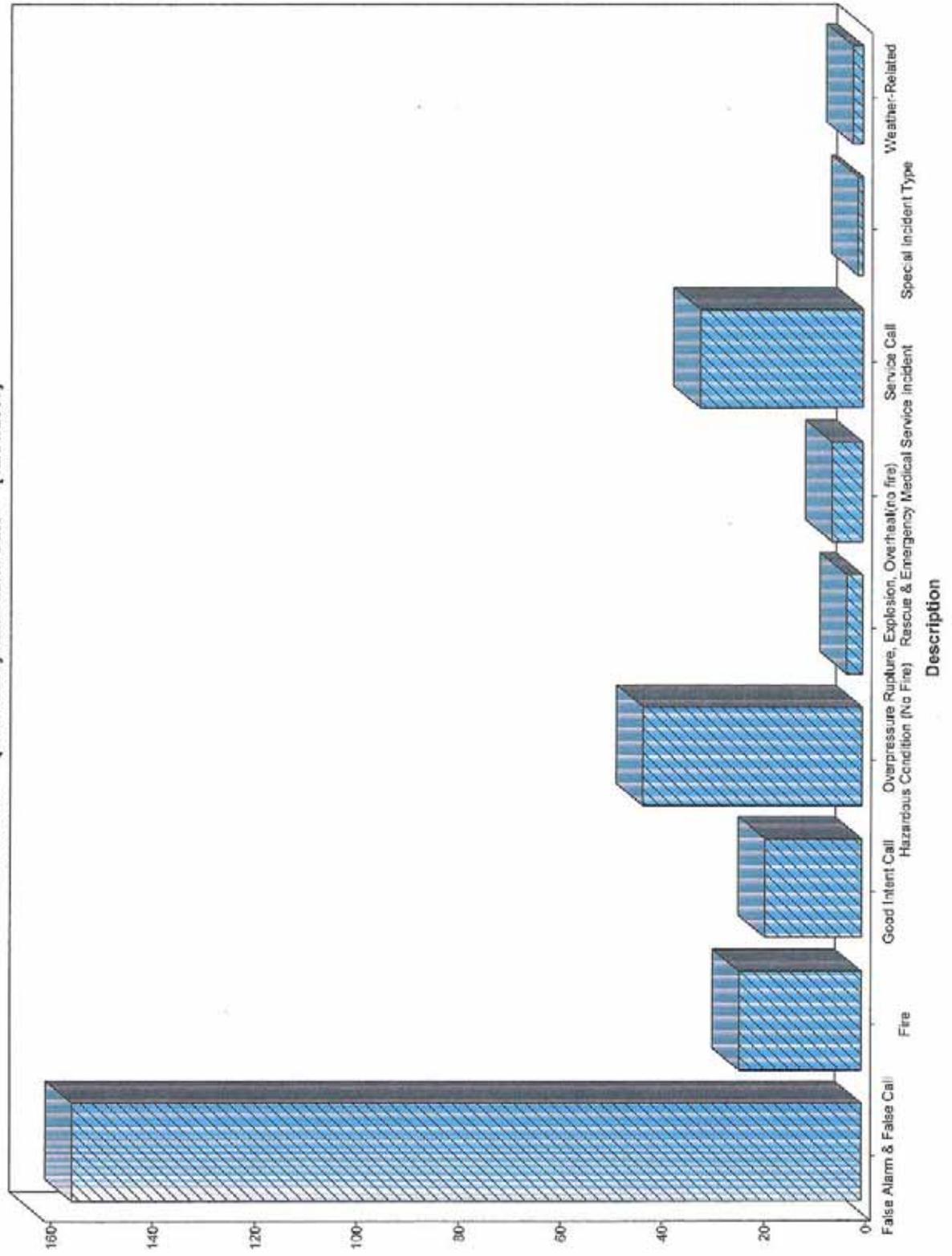
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter S. Glogolich".

Peter S. Glogolich, Fire Prevention Chairman

Property Use Summary
Alarm Date >= {01/01/2007} and Alarm Date <= {12/31/2007}



Incident Type Summary (Modified)
 Alarm Date >= (01/01/2007) and Alarm Date <= (12/31/2007)



Total Staff Hours by Activity Code
 Date >= (01/01/2007) and Date <= (12/31/2007)

