





Haz-Mat Special Team members participate in Hazardous Materials Technician training.

Responders Trained in Basic Trauma Life Support and Hazardous Materials Handling

All Lawrence-Douglas County Fire & Medical Department members became certified as Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS) providers at either Basic or Advanced level in 2003. The course included 16 hours of lecture and practical skills training. Participants demonstrated their proficiency in trauma patient assessment and treatment skills including C-spine immobilization, patient assessment, extremity immobilization, burns and scene safety. Upon the program's conclusion, each participant was required to pass a nationally recognized written and practical exam. The skills acquired will be used on a daily basis for greater responder safety and patient care.

Members of our Hazardous Materials Special Team received Haz-Mat Technician training in a joint effort between the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) and the City of Lawrence. This course followed the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 472 and 473 Standards. Each member completed Hazardous Materials National Certification-IFSAC through the Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute.

The department continues to excel in Hazardous Materials response, ensuring that each member assigned to the Hazardous Materials Special Team is trained at or above the nationally recognized standards for Hazardous Materials technicians.

Department Provides Career Insight for Youth

Fire and Medical Service Exploring is a worksite-based program for young men and women who have completed the eighth grade and are 14 years of age. They can remain in the program until their 21st birthday. Explorer posts help youth gain insight into a variety of programs offering hands-on career activities. For young men and women who are interested in careers in the field of fire service, Exploring offers experiential learning with lots of fun-filled, hands-on activities that promote their own growth and development.

Members of Explorer Post 2555, based at Lawrence-Douglas County Fire & Medical, meet weekly to engage in all facets of the fire service — from dragging hose, raising ladders, flowing water, search and rescue evolutions with air packs, and fire extinguisher training, to EMS response to cardiac arrest scenarios and motor vehicle accidents, as well as other EMS-related skills. Members also participate in various community activities such as parades, festivals and other projects.

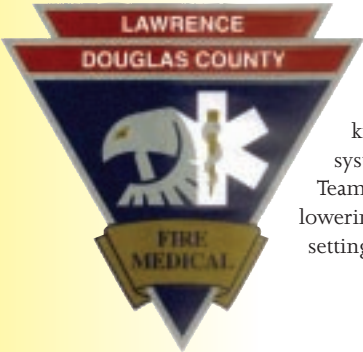
Young people interested in joining our Explorer post may call our administrative offices at 785-832-7600 for more information.

High-Angle Rope Rescue Team Offers Special Expertise



The Vertical Rescue Team, housed at Station No. 1, responds to both high-angle and low-angle calls. These team members assist when it's necessary to construct rope systems to remove victims safely, or when their expertise can support the work of other specialized department teams.

Techniques include mechanical advantage raising and lowering systems, rappelling and litter evacuations. A number of specialized knots are used to construct these systems. Most of the Rope Rescue Team Training consists of raising and lowering rescuers/victims in the urban setting.



Honor Guard Celebrates Anniversary



The International Associations of Firefighters Local 1596 Honor Guard celebrated its one-year anniversary in 2003. The Honor Guard is sponsored by the Local Firefighters Union with support from the department.

Ten members represent their brothers and sisters of the fire service year-round in parades, memorial services, funerals and other firefighter-related events. Honor Guard members take pride in their hard work, dedication, excellence and loyalty.

Mark Thomas Named 2003 Firefighter of the Year



Firefighter/EMT Mark Thomas began his firefighting career as a volunteer for the Mission, Kan. Township Fire Department. He completed firefighter and driver/operator certification and joined Lawrence-Douglas County Fire & Medical in 1982.

Mark is one of six fire investigators within the department. He has attended numerous classes to maintain his credentials, including one at the National Fire Academy. In addition to time in class, investigators spend hours researching to determine the cause, origin and effect of each fire incident.

Additionally, as clothing supply clerk, Mark is responsible for maintaining the department's supply of uniforms and bunker gear.

One of Mark's other achievements in 2003 was organizing a community fund-raising campaign for the benefit of Lucas Mehl. The son of fellow department member Lt. Joe Mehl, Lucas has escalating medical bills for treating his muscular dystrophy. Mark initiated the idea of a benefit to help raise money to make the Mehls' house wheelchair accessible. Approximately \$12,000 has been raised with the community's help — and thanks in large part to Mark.

Mark also was selected as Firefighter of the Year in 1992. Although it was an honor then, he says the 2003 award is even more special because now he can share it with his family. Mark is the first member of the department to have received this award twice.

Keeping Us on a Roll: The Vehicle Maintenance Division

The Vehicle Maintenance Division supports the department's ability to meet the needs of the community. Based at the Training and Maintenance Facility at 1941 Haskell Avenue, its staff also provides mobile services when needed in the field.



The Vehicle Maintenance Division is responsible for troubleshooting mechanical issues regarding equipment and vehicles. Additionally, its personnel inspect and test apparatus, and conduct scheduled

maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized equipment and vehicles. The staff also assists in the primary research, design and specification writing for mechanized equipment, and they recommend modifications needed to improve performance.

Mike Wallis, fire apparatus coordinator, and Terry Eaton, mechanic, both are dedicated to evaluating, coordinating, administering and performing a wide array of repair services on the vehicles and equipment that response personnel and staff use in carrying out the department's missions.

Department Offers Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program

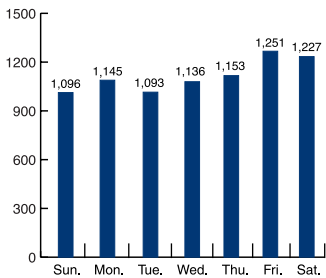
In Kansas during the last five years, youth-set fires have caused 10 deaths, 147 injuries and more than \$12 million in property damage. In Lawrence, we have experienced two injuries and \$39,900 in property damage from youth-set fires during that same time period.

Since the mid 1980s, the department has conducted educational programs for children and adolescents involved in firesetting behaviors. Our program was designed to provide education and feedback for the children, their parents and other social service agencies in an effort to stop the behavior.

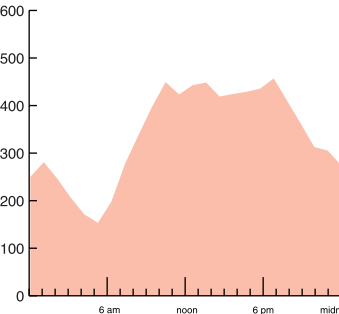
The department's six public education specialists contact the families or referring agencies, schedule the program and provide education for the family. Captain Doug Green at Station No. 1 maintains the program's records and coordinates referrals and response by the public education specialists.

Recently, the department became one of the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Y-Fire Coalitions. This designation not only will allow us to enhance the education provided by our public education specialists but also will help us improve communication among the various referring agencies with whom we work.

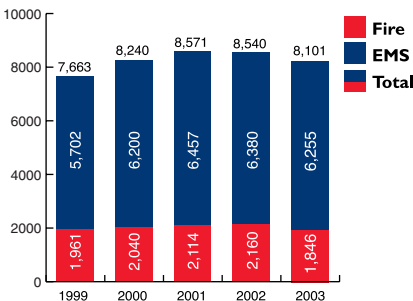
Incidents by Day of the Week



Incidents by Hour of the Day

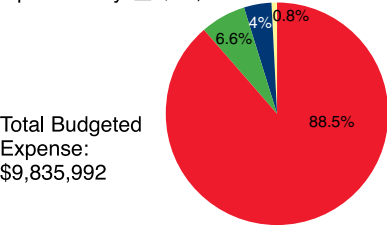


Incidents in Past Five Years



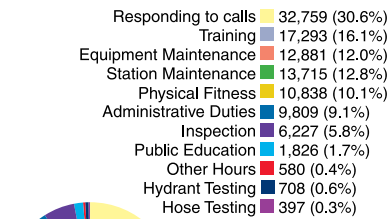
Budgeted Expense Report

Personnel \$8,708,414
Contractual \$653,248
Commodities \$395,830
Capital Outlay \$78,500



Total Budgeted Expense: \$9,835,992

Allocation of Work Hours



Captain Hoelscher Earns LEAP Award Recognition

Congratulations to Captain Joe Hoelscher who was honored in March 2003 by the Lawrence Excellence Awards Program (LEAP) for his work to improve our training facility at 1941 Haskell Avenue.

Improvements — including an underground conduit, an underground corridor and a “reusable” trench — were necessary to enhance our



Captain Joe Hoelscher, left, receives the LEAP award.

training programs for confined space and trench collapse rescues. A “practice manhole” existed previously, but it often would fill with water and be impractical to use. The department had some discretionary funds available, but not enough to complete the envisioned project.

Joe spent a significant amount of time designing the dimensions and shape of the under-

ground training facility. The existing manhole was tied into the new structure and now is usable for training since it can be drained. Joe recognized that this facility would be of use for the Utilities Department’s safety training program, and gave Utilities staff the opportunity to provide design input. He secured a commitment from the Utilities Department to excavate and install 80 feet of pipe to drain the new facility, as well as a commitment from the Public Works Department to provide the final grading and gravel spreading.

Such interdepartmental cooperation resulted in significant cost savings, and the final result is an excellent underground/confined space training facility that can be used by several city departments.



www.lawrencefiremed.org

Lt. Mark Grinstead Retires

Lieutenant Mark Grinstead, the city’s fire inspector, retired from the Lawrence-Douglas County Fire & Medical Department on December 12, 2003 after 26 years of service with the City of Lawrence. Chief James A. McSwain presented Mark with a plaque at a reception in his honor at Station No. 1.

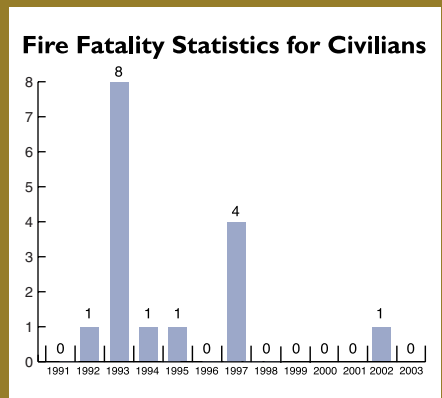
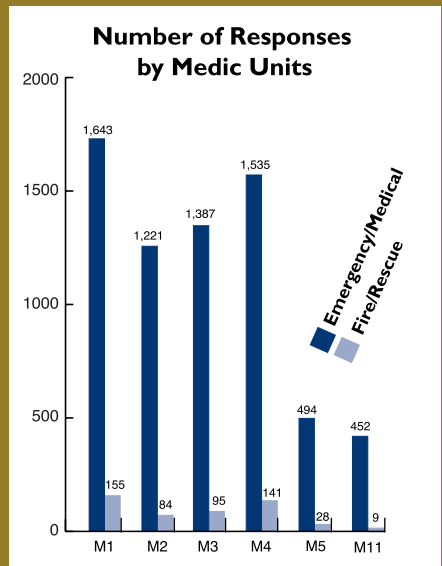
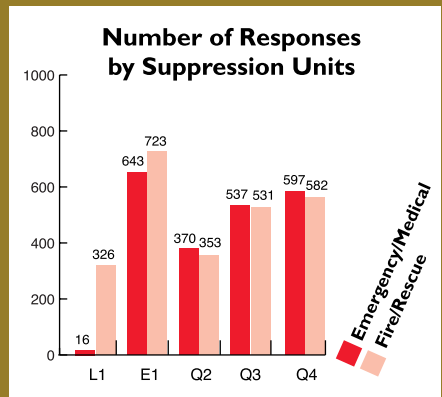
Mark joined the department in 1978 after seven years in the U.S. Army leaving as a sergeant/artillery section chief. He progressed to serve as apparatus driver in 1980 and acting officer in 1981. In 1985, Mark



Chief James McSwain, right, honors Lieutenant Mark Grinstead.

was promoted to lieutenant/fire inspector and since has served in that capacity. In that role, his responsibilities included reviewing building and site plans for fire code compliance, interpreting fire codes, and serving as a resource and point of contact for fire company inspectors and routine fire safety inspections. During his tenure, Mark attained certification as a fire inspector through the International Conference of Building Officials and the Western Fire Chiefs Association. He received National Fire Academy training in reviewing plans for the fire service. Mark was selected by department managers as Lawrence Firefighter of the Year in 1991.

Mark has shared his expertise in fire safety not only with department personnel doing routine inspections, but also with numerous architects, builders, business owners and citizens of Lawrence. He will be deeply missed, and all of us wish him a long and happy retirement.



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