

DOWAGIAC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Police Division



**2009
Annual Report**



Fire Division



***“Working for the People.....
With the People “***

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To: Honorable Donald Lyons, Mayor
Dowagiac City Council
Kevin Anderson, City Manager

Mayor Lyons and City Councilmen:

I am pleased to present the 2009 Annual Report, which summarizes the activity for the Dowagiac Department of Public Safety, as well as programs and services we provide within our community.

For Public Safety, 2009 was a year of changes. Despite these changes, the departments continued to move forward in positive ways to meet the needs of our community.

In December of 2008, the Police and Fire Departments merged into the Department of Public Safety. Each Department maintained its own identity and specific function. The only changes were in the administrative duties, now under the direction of Thomas Atkinson as Director of Public Safety, Steven Grinnwald as Deputy Police Chief and Dale Hutchings as Deputy Fire Chief.

In 2009, the Fire Division moved from the Depot Street Station to the newly renovated Wolff Street Station. During this time, a new Rescue-Pumper truck was ordered and our volunteer fire fighters grew from a group of nine (9) in January to 20 by December. The status of the volunteer fire fighters changed from paid on-call volunteers to part-time city employees.

On January 1st, 2010 Lt. Don Coy passed away. Don served our community for 33 years as a full-time fire fighter before retiring. He returned in 2009 as a volunteer fire fighter and was active until the time of his death.

In 2009, the Law Enforcement Division conducted a comprehensive evaluation of police services to see if we could identify ways to reduce spending without adversely impacting services. We are using this information to help reduce our operational cost by staffing changes and the way we make purchases.

To: Honorable Donald Lyons, Mayor
Dowagiac City Council
Kevin Anderson, City Manager

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The patrol division focused on traffic safety, with the emphasis being the young driver. Officers working with high school staff presented several driving awareness programs at the Dowagiac Union High School. This initiative led to the Dowagiac Police Department winning \$6,000 from the Office of Highway Safety Planning and AAA.

After an extensive investigation officers from the Dowagiac Police Department and FBI arrested Leon Brown who was a resident of Tennessee for the June robbery of the Bank of America on Commercial Street in Dowagiac. Mr. Brown is still in Tennessee awaiting transfer to Michigan to face federal bank robbery charges.

The Dowagiac Police and Fire Departments look forward to serving our community in 2010, and pledge to deliver this service with diligence, professionalism and pride, while striving to maintain a safe community in which to live, work and play.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A Atkinson
Director of Public Safety

Working for the People



with the People



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Dedicated to Service & Community Involvement

Safety Corner

Safety Corner is a community safety educational partnership with the Dowagiac Daily News launched with the formulation of the Dowagiac Department of Public Safety. Safety Corner appears weekly in the Daily News and covers a variety of topics ranging from scams, identity theft, home & travel safety, emergency kit guidelines for home & travel, seasonal safety, and fire safety. A total of 52 Safety Corner articles and additional public safety announcements were published during 2009. Safety Corner is a proactive approach to crime prevention by providing educational tools that community members can utilize to enhance the security of their home, family, and themselves.

Pedestrian / School Crossing Guard Program

The Department of Public Safety supervises 3 school crossing guards for the elementary schools in the Dowagiac Union School District, to assist children in crossing busy streets on their way to and from school.

Ice Time Festival

Dowagiac Police, Fire, and CERT staff and volunteers participated in the Dowagiac Ice Time Festival 2009 by creating *The Hot Spot*. We kept the FIRE stoked in our campfire pits for visitors to warm up from all the ICE carving activities while toasting free s'mores and chatting with Dowagiac Police and Fire personnel, as well as CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) members. The Hot Spot was easy to find, marked by a Dowagiac fire truck & police car, and the CERT trailer. The Police, Fire, and CERT staff and volunteers appreciated the opportunity to share some time with community members over the campfire while toasting over 350 s'mores!

Easter Egg'stravaganza

Dowagiac Police Officers and Fire fighters donated their time to participate as Safety Characters in the annual Easter Egg'stravaganza at Beckwith Park. The Easter Bunny's friends included Ashes the Fire Safety Dog, McGruff and Safety Pup, Eddie Eagle, and Smoky Bear. These are all safety characters that participate throughout the year in our

schools and at community events helping to teach our young people safety awareness and techniques.

Supermarket Sweeps

Dowagiac Fire Department and the City of Dowagiac competed in Martins Supermarket's "Supermarket Sweeps" to raise funds for domestic violence shelters. The Dowagiac Fire Crew used their "quick response skills" to come in 1st place and received MVP in the "creative cart" category.

Halloween Trunk or Treat

Volunteers from the Dowagiac Police and Fire Departments and local CERT members participated in the community Halloween Trunk or Treat activity held in October. This event is coordinated by the Dowagiac United Methodist Church and provides a safe environment for families to participate in Halloween fun and games and "trunk or treat" around the church parking lot. A Dowagiac Police squad car and various fire trucks were there to share sweet goodies with the children. This is another opportunity for young people to interact with law enforcement and fire fighting professionals in a family-friendly activity.

Pulled Pork Fundraiser

The Dowagiac VFW Post 1855, Dowagiac Pamida, and Dowagiac Department of Public Safety (Police & Fire Departments) joined together to bring a little added holiday cheer to some local families.

The Dowagiac VFW Post 1855 hosted a delicious dinner on Thursday, December 17th from 4-8 p.m. Dowagiac Police, Fire fighters, and VFW members donated their time and talents to this project.

Donations of non-perishable food items and new toys were accepted. All proceeds and donations to this event benefitted the Dowagiac Shop with a Cop/Fire Fighter/Veteran and holiday food basket programs for Dowagiac families. The fundraiser netted approximately \$800 to be used for these projects to benefit the Dowagiac community.

Emergency Preparedness Exercise



The City of Dowagiac, Dowagiac Department of Public Safety (Police & Fire Departments), Coloma Emergency Medical Services, Mennel Milling, Borgess-Lee Memorial Hospital, Cass County Emergency Management, Cass County Sheriff's Office & Cass County E-911 Dispatch coordinated and facilitated an emergency preparedness exercise on September 10th at Mennel Milling.

The exercise simulated a leak in a bulk chlorine (1,000 gallon) tank creating a hazardous environment for staff, visitors, surrounding community and responders. Mennel Milling staff and Community Emergency Response Team simulated "victims" in the exercise and were attended by EMS responders. The Dowagiac Emergency Operations Center was activated at City Hall with administration and staff simulating response activities.

This collaborative exercise provided the opportunity for all participants to evaluate the effectiveness of current plans and procedures. Response times, communications, responder safety, community safety, evacuation considerations, EOC activation, containment of tank breach, use of National Incident Management System, decontamination ability, hospital response procedures, and knowledge of individual responsibilities were all evaluated. Debriefing as a follow up to the exercise allowed participants to plan for enhancement of current plans and procedures and determine areas for testing in future exercises.

Dowagiac Department of Public Safety

Grants Application & Status

Fire Division

Granting agency: Wal-Mart Super Stores

Grant program: Assistance to Public Safety

Description: Grant application was made to purchase a washer and dryer for the Departments daily laundry. Any excess funds are to be used for public education.

Project cost: \$1,000.00

Date applied: September of 2009

Amount requested: \$1,000.00

Local match: 0

Status: Approved,

Granting agency: Department of Homeland Security

Grant program: AFG – Operation & Safety

Description: Funding for turnout gear, gear washer & extractor, hose racks, and vehicle exhaust system.

Project cost: \$136,109

Date applied: 5/15/09

Amount requested: \$129,109

Local match: \$6,805

Status: Under review

Granting agency: Department of Homeland Security

Grant program: AFG- Safer

Description: The grant will pay the wages of a new full-time fire fighter for 2 years.

Project Cost: \$145,785

Date applied: 12/18/09

Amount requested: \$145,785

Local Match: 0

Status: Under review

Grants Application & Status, Continued

Law Enforcement Division

Granting agency: St Deny's Foundation

Grant program: Public Safety

Description: Membership at the SMC Fitness Center for fulltime police and fire fighters.

Project cost: \$3,000

Date applied: July 2009

Amount requested: \$3,000

Local match: 0

Status: Approved in October 2009

Granting agency: Department of Justice

Grant program: Secure our Schools

Description: Instant emergency alert system for the schools

Project cost: \$8,000

Date applied: July 2009

Amount requested: \$8,000

Local match: 0

Status: Not approved, notified in December 2009.

Granting agency: Department of Justice

Grant program: COPS

Description: Three uniform officers, each one would be assigned to provide police presence and coverage on the SMC Campus, Dowagiac Schools and the patrol schedule.

Project cost: \$591,030

Date applied: April 2009

Amount requested: \$591,030

Local match: 0 requires funding the positions on the 4th year

Status: Under review – If COPS office receives additional funding in 2010

Grants Application & Status, Continued

Law Enforcement Division

Granting agency: MMRMA

Grant program: RAP

Description: Decision based firearms training.

Project cost: \$600

Date applied: March 09

Amount requested: \$200

Local match: 0

Status: Approved.

Granting agency: Department of Justice

Grant program: Recovery Act – justice Assistance Grant

Description: Purchase lap-top computers, portable radios, mobile radios and projectors.

Project cost: \$16,782

Date applied: May 09

Amount requested: \$16,782

Local match: 0

Status: Approved

Granting agency: OHSP

Grant program: Highway Safety

Description: Provides equipment and programming for traffic safety

Project cost: \$3,000

Date applied: 12/09

Amount requested: \$3,000

Local match: 0

Status: Under review

CAMP 911 *Safe Kids Day*



On June 15, 2009 the Dowagiac Police and Fire Departments, Cass County Sheriff's Office and the Cass County Council on Aging teamed up to present a one-day Camp 911 *Safe Kids Day* at the COA.

Twenty-eight children ranging in age from 9 to 11 participated in the activities of the day. The five outdoor demonstrations included a smoke house, K9 units, water safety, fire safety, and bike safety. CPR, first aid, internet safety, tobacco and abduction prevention lessons were also delivered using hands-on activities throughout the day. Students, instructors, and volunteers enjoyed a cookout for lunch.

Camp 911 *Safe Kids Day* provided an intergenerational opportunity for service providers, COA staff, volunteers, and children to share this educational experience. Students left at the day with heightened awareness of *their* responsibility toward safety in their everyday routines, a basic knowledge of local safety services, and a deepened appreciation for the dedication community 1st responders have in protecting their homes, families, friends, and neighborhoods.

CSI ACADEMY



The 5th Annual *Crime Scene Investigation Academy* was held August 17th through the 21st on the Dowagiac campus of Southwestern Michigan College. The academy was sponsored by the Dowagiac Police Department, Cass County Sheriff's Office, Educational Talent Search, Cass County Council on Aging, and Cass County Family Court.

The five-day academy gave students the opportunity to learn crime scene techniques and experience searching for evidence and clues at a mock crime scene. The students worked with an attorney to prepare their case for trial. On the last day, the students presented their case to a jury under the direction of a defense attorney and prosecutor. The trial took place in Cass County Family Court.

The program provided hands-on experience and gave the students a broad overview of the criminal justice system from the initial call of a crime to adjudication of the case in court. The program was offered free of charge and lunch was provided each day.

SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNING



Special Event Plans continue to be an important safety tool in planning for community events such as the annual Memorial Day parade, Steve's Run, Dowagiac Summer in the City Festival, Candle Light Christmas parade and emergency preparedness exercises.

Meetings were held in the development of these plans that represented a collaborative effort of the Dowagiac Police and Fire Departments, Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce/DDA, Dowagiac Department of Public Service, CERT, Southwestern Michigan College, and Dowagiac Union Schools. Additional collaborations with Mennel Milling and Borgess Lee-Memorial Hospital provided the opportunity to plan for, respond to, and evaluate response in an emergency preparedness exercise.

Advanced planning is a vital part of emergency preparedness, particularly when events such as these bring large groups of visitors to a concentrated population center of the City, such as the downtown area.

Following the events, debriefings were held seeking input for plan revisions to be implemented in 2010 and beyond. Emergency preparedness training teaches us that it is not “if” an event will strike any given area, but “when”. The process of local organizations working collectively on the planning, execution, and evaluation of these event plans enhances the ability of the City to *mitigate against, respond to, and recover successfully from* disaster events when they do occur.

A secondary location for continuity of City business operations has been established as a result of the exercise. This location would be activated in the event that operations were interrupted at City Hall by a disaster.

Additional exercises will be held in 2010 with our community “partners” in an effort to continually improve response to emergency situations in the Dowagiac community.



SHOP with a COP/Fire Fighter/Veteran



Dowagiac Department of Public Safety (Police & Fire Departments), Dowagiac Pamida, and Dowagiac VFW teamed up to sponsor 12 families for the Shop with a Cop/Fire Fighter/Veteran Program this year.

Volunteers from the organizations helped the children select special gifts for their family members at Pamida on Saturday, December 19th. Employees from Pamida and Cass County Courts helped the children wrap the gifts at a festive wrapping station set up at the store specifically for this purpose. The morning wrapped up with pizza lunch at the VFW.

Plans for this annual program begin months prior to the actual shopping event. Pamida and the Dowagiac VFW each donated \$1,000 toward the event. Additional funds for Shop with A Cop/Fire Fighter/Veteran and local food basket programs were raised with the Pulled Pork Dinner held on December 17th.

The ability to make some community families' Christmas holiday a little brighter is only possible through this collaboration and the generous support of the community.



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a nationwide program that teaches community members how to assist police, fire and EMS in the event of a large-scale disaster. Participating volunteers learn basic skills in 1st aid, fire suppression, emergency preparedness, search and rescue, disaster psychology, and more. In addition to classroom instruction, students also participate in hands-on training activities.

CERT (and Teen SERT) members are a valuable resource in the Dowagiac community, lending assistance during Dowagiac's special events such as the Ice Time Festival, Easter Eggstravaganza, Memorial Day parade, Summer in the City Festival, Steve's Run, Cass County Fair, emergency preparedness exercises, and Candlelight Christmas parade

Dowagiac hosted a Teen SERT training course in collaboration with Dowagiac Union High School. The SERT program was offered as a class elective during the spring semester. Continuing education for CERT members in the areas of damage assessment, weather monitoring, emergency operations center activation, and continued practice of skills through participation in emergency preparedness exercises. The CERT, SERT and RACES members provide a vital trained, volunteer base for community events in addition to emergency situations.

Continuing in 2009 was the collaborative participation of the local ham radio operators' group (RACES) for Dowagiac events. RACES members and their personal radio equipment provide supplemental communication capability. This is extremely valuable in situations in which traditional dispatch radio equipment is inoperable due to weather/emergency conditions. In addition to their radio skills and willingness to utilize their personal equipment and time during special events, many RACES

members are also cross-trained CERT members, CPR/AED/1st Aid Certified, and trained damage assessment volunteers. The RACES group continues to devote time, talent, and resources to the Dowagiac Department of Public Safety and are an important partner in protecting our community.

DOWAGIAC POLICE DEPARTMENT

Law Enforcement Division



“Committed to Excellence”

MISSION

***The mission of the Dowagiac
Police Department is to enforce
the law and create an environment
of safety and security for all of
the people who live, work and
visit in the City of Dowagiac***

DOWAGIAC POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sworn Personnel

Director of Public Safety

Thomas A. Atkinson

Deputy Chief

Steven Grinnwald

Shift Sergeants

Michael Heidenreich
Robert Barney
Eric Gizzi

Detective Sergeant – Cass County Drug Enforcement Team

David Toxopeus

Narcotics Detectives – Cass County Drug Enforcement Team

Jarrid Bradford
David Davis

Patrol Officers

James Kusa
Jerid Ostrom
Ryan Murray
Dan Wiggins
Stacey Bazan
Andrew Erickson

K-9 Officer

David Davis (K-9 Cessy)

DOWAGIAC POLICE DEPARTMENT

Non-Sworn Personnel

Clerical

Patricia (Carlisle) Klug

School Crossing Guards

Sally Bridges
Sandra Greenman
Mary Mellinger

SPECIAL EVENTS

Public Safety Booth at Summer In The City

The police department sponsored a booth which was placed in the public safety area during the 2009 *Summer in the City* celebration. During this time officers provided child identification kits for parents including taking fingerprints from kids that approached the booth. Officers also had several styles of child car seats at the event to provide demonstrations to parents and answer questions about child car seats, laws pertained to child safety, and other information requested by citizens.

Officers passed out stickers, plastic badges, coloring books, and department information such as phone numbers for the police department as well as CCDET. Officers partnered with the Pokagon Tribal Police Department at the booth to get the message of public safety out to the community.

Cass County Safe Kids Car Seat Event

In May of 2009 the Dowagiac Police Department partnered with the Cass County Safe Kids chapter and participated in a child car seat event at the Marathon gas station at Five Mile Corner. This event was attended by Car Seat technicians from the Dowagiac Police Department, Cass County Sheriffs Department, Pokagon Tribal Police Department, and the Michigan State Police. A total of 42 children attended this event with 38 car seats being checked. A total of 22 car seats were passed out to parents whose seats were either in poor condition, past their usable life, or recalled. Due to the collaborative efforts of the departments involved 42 kids are now safe and secure when riding in a vehicle.

Traffic Safety Program

Over the past several years the Dowagiac Police Department has provided a traffic safety program to get the word out to the community about traffic safety. The year 2009 was no exception. The police department provided several educational opportunities to the community which was backed up by enforcement of seat belt violations and drunken driving incidents.

In March of 2009 the police department partnered with the Dowagiac Union High School and sponsored a seat belt contest pitting the senior and junior classes against each other. The contest was announced to the students during daily announcements at the school and posters about seat belt use were placed throughout the school as well. The police department conducted three unannounced observations of the students as they arrived to and departed from school. After these observations a winner was determined by the highest percentage of students wearing seat belts. The senior class won the contest this year and was awarded \$150 for their winning effort. The junior class was awarded \$50 for their hard work as well. All of the prize money for this event was donated by the officers and civilian staff of the Dowagiac Police Department showing the officer's commitment to keeping our citizens safe. No outside money was solicited.

In April of 2009 the police department again partnered with the Dowagiac Union High School and provided a presentation on the dangers of drunken driving to the senior class. The department brought in Scott Keeler who was a victim of a drunken driving crash and received a closed head injury. Mr. Keeler is confined to a wheelchair and has trouble speaking, however filled in the senior class on how someone driving drunk changed his life forever. During Mr. Keeler's presentation more than one student was witnessed shedding a tear listening to him. Mr. Keeler was followed by his wife Stephanie who gave the seniors good information on how alcohol affects a young person's system and brain development. A third speaker, Greg Carson, gave a different perspective to the students, one of an offender. Mr. Carson was arrested for drunk driving and told of the shame and humiliation of having to walk home from the jail without his shoe laces that had been taken by the jail staff. The speakers were followed by a driving course using golf carts donated by the Elks Golf Course. The students wore *Fatal Vision*

Goggles which simulate being intoxicated and drove a course set up in the parking lot of the school. This exercise showed the seniors how just a small amount of alcohol can affect their ability to drive and to think twice before getting behind the wheel of a car after drinking or riding with someone who has been drinking. The overall feedback from the presentation was very positive. Several of the students felt it was beneficial to them and advised that they learned a great deal from it.

The department also participated in the annual Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) traffic safety campaigns for seat belt use and drunken driving detection titled *Click it or ticket* and *You drink, you drive, you lose*. During these campaigns officers committed themselves to be vigilant in detection of these offenses and to issue citations for them or make arrests when necessary. Dowagiac officers partnered with other agencies in the county and across the State of Michigan to enforce these important traffic safety campaigns.

The police department also partnered with the Cass County Sheriffs Department and participated in a grant that was received by the sheriffs department from OHSP. The grant was administered throughout Cass County and provided money to pay officers for extra patrols for drunken driving detection and seat belt zones. A total of five seat belt zones were set up at locations in the City of Dowagiac throughout 2009 that Dowagiac officers participated in. Dowagiac officers also participated in five separate drunken driving patrols in the city. The grant also provided for officers to participate in a new program from OHSP titled, "Cop in a shop". This program places officers in liquor stores posing as a new trainee with the store clerk. When and if someone comes in to purchase alcohol underage or for an underage person, the officer will take action at that time. Due to the fact that officers of the Dowagiac Police Department would be immediately recognized in a store in Dowagiac, the department swapped officers with the Cass County Sheriffs Department who provided officers for the "Cop in a Shop" program at the Manor Mini-Mart on W. Railroad St. Dowagiac officers worked at Cranky Hank's on Marcellus Hwy. in return.

Traffic Safety Award

In February of 2009, the department was made aware that it won an award for Excellence in Traffic Safety from OHSP, the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police (MACP), and AAA of Michigan. This is the fifth consecutive year that the police department has won this award. The award is a competitive grant opportunity that provides \$5,000 worth of prize money to the department to purchase traffic safety equipment. The department purchased a new hand-held radar unit, digital cameras for each patrol vehicle, a new digital camera and accessories for crime scene investigation, a solar panel for the departments speed display box, micro-video cameras to be worn by patrol officers, and flashlights for all patrol officers.

Also, the department was recently advised that it has won the award again this year. This will make the sixth consecutive year that the Dowagiac Police Department has won the award. During this time the department has been awarded approximately \$21,000 in grant money that has been used to purchase traffic safety equipment such as new radar units for each patrol vehicle, over head lights for patrol vehicles, a speed display box, and several other traffic safety related items. Each year the award is presented to the department at the mid-winter conference of the MACP.

Major Cases 2009

During 2009 the Dowagiac Police Department handled several thousand calls for service with the utmost professionalism and dedication to public safety. However during the last year the department has also been involved in several high profile cases as well. These cases are listed below.

1. Attempted Murder, February 7, 2009, 305 Thickstun St.

At approximately 11:00 P.M. Kevin Williams was involved in a dispute over drugs with Robert Kirkland and Clara Peters while at this residence. Mr. Williams became enraged and stabbed both Kirkland and Peters several times and fled the scene. Mr. Williams stole a car from his brother and fled the state of Michigan to be captured in Missouri by police there. He was charged with two counts of attempted murder and one count of auto theft. Mr. Williams was convicted of all counts at a trial in December of 2009.

2. Bank Robbery, June 8, 2009, Bank of America, 114 Commercial St.

At 9:55 A.M., a man entered the Bank of America and robbed it at gunpoint. The suspect fled the scene in a vehicle that was parked just outside of the bank. Officers conducted an initial investigation and later received several tips about a possible suspect. Officers were able to work jointly with the FBI out of St. Joseph, MI, and located a suspect currently residing near Nashville, TN. Officers went to Nashville and conducted further investigation which led to a federal indictment on Leon Brown, a subject who had just been released from serving a prison term for bank robbery. The suspect is currently awaiting extradition back to Michigan to stand trial in federal court.

3. Home Invasion/Car Larcenies, August/September 2009.

During late August and early September officers took several complaints of one home invasion and several car larcenies occurring in the southwest section of the city. While assisting the Cass County Sheriffs Office with a reported home invasion just

outside of the City of Dowagiac, officers were able to link the 3 suspects to crimes that occurred in Dowagiac. Due to a lengthy investigation officers were able to arrest the suspects for approximately 15 vehicle larcenies and a home invasion that occurred in Dowagiac, as well as 10 home invasions that occurred just outside of the City of Dowagiac. All suspects have since pled guilty to charges from this incident.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT TEAM

The Cass County Drug Enforcement team, or CCDET, is staffed by three officers from the Dowagiac Police Department and 4 deputies from the Cass County Sheriffs Department. The team is supervised by a Dowagiac Police Department sergeant and consists of six detectives and one uniformed officer.

This is the fifth year that CCDET has been in operation and is funded through a countywide narcotics millage approved by voters. The team has been very active in the City of Dowagiac as well as Cass County. The unit's primary focus is the investigation of narcotics related offenses however the unit also assists with major cases that occur within the City of Dowagiac and Cass County.

In 2009 the Cass County Drug Enforcement Team conducted the following activity:

Cases Opened:	168
Cases Opened in Dowagiac:	44
Search Warrants:	27
Meth Labs/Components:	32
Felony Arrests/Charges:	113
Misd. Arrests/Charges:	84
Federal Cases:	1
Weapons Seized:	56
Trainings Attended:	28

In 2009 the Cass County Drug Enforcement Team forfeited the following values of both cash and property:

Forfeiture Awarded Cash/Property:	\$82,468.36
Forfeiture Pending Cash/Property:	\$33,671.00

In 2009 the Cass County Drug Enforcement Team seized the following amounts of narcotics:

Marijuana	8,821 grams
Cocaine	4.4 grams
Heroin	.10 grams
Methamphetamine	7.6 grams
Prescription Drugs	620 pills
Marijuana plants	177 plants

Street Value of Narcotics Seized: \$272,695.21

POLICE K9 TEAM



This year marked the fourth year of operation for our K9 team. As with past years, this year provided us with new challenges and exciting opportunities. In May of 2009 the K9 team of Officer Davis and K9 Cessy were reassigned to the Cass County Drug Enforcement Team on a full-time basis.

Being assigned to the Cass County Drug Enforcement Team full-time has meant that the K9 team's usage has been redirected as well. The K9 team is still available for service requests by Dowagiac officers as well as neighboring jurisdictions that may need our assistance as well. However, the primary concentration of the team is now specifically focused on narcotics investigations and enforcement. We are finding that this assignment is a very successful compliment to a drug team that has been very active in our City.

Overall this year our actual calls for service were reduced from previous years. This was due primarily to our re-assignment and primary focus on narcotics investigations. We handled 43 calls for service. We made five assistance calls to neighboring law enforcement agencies including the Cass County Sheriff's Office, Pokagon Tribal Police, and the St Joseph County, Michigan, Sheriff's office.

Our community commitment continues to stay strong as well. During the course of the year we conducted four separate, random and unannounced locker searches at the Dowagiac Union High School and the Dowagiac Middle School. The K9 team also conducted four different canine demonstrations this year. All four of the demonstrations were devoted to youth oriented organizations including two pre-school classes, a 4-H club, and a Girl Scout troop.

As in past years, commitment to training has stayed strong. A specialized team such as a K9 team needs consistent and constant training in order to stay successful. Our team has worked hard to maintain that success. We have continued our cooperative training efforts with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office and, to a lesser degree, the Grand Rapids Police Department.

This commitment to training has allowed us to maintain two nationally recognized training certifications. The K9 team has been consistently certified for the last three years on a yearly basis through the International Police Work Dog Association and the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers.

WARRANT SERVICE TEAM



Three members of the Dowagiac Police Department are currently part of the Cass County Warrant Service Team. The warrant service team is a tactical team made up of three Dowagiac officers and nine deputies from the Cass County Sheriffs Department. The team is utilized for high risk search warrants and tactical operations that occur within Cass County.

During 2009 the team was used to execute two search warrants and held six separate training exercises.

SEARCH WARRANTS:

March 4, 2009, 107 Grand Blvd., Dowagiac
Warrant service team assisted detectives from the Cass County Drug Enforcement Team in securing the residence and assisting in searching for any possible threats in the residence.

June 6, 2009, 58555 Rumsey Rd., Newberg Township (Marcellus)
Warrant service team assisted the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms in searching for a suspect with illegal weapons and ATF violations. Officers were also assisted by a Michigan National Guard ground support unit out of Lansing, MI.

TRAINING SESSIONS:

1. April 22, 2009, Old Cass County Courthouse, Cassopolis
Building searches, room clearing, and use of pole camera.
2. August 30, 2009, Lowe Foundation, Cassopolis
Small unit tactics, building searches, room clearing, and use of infrared and sound system on pole camera.
3. September 23, 2009, Private residence, Cassopolis
Small unit tactics, building entries, and room clearing.
4. November 9, 2009, Cass County Sheriffs Dept., Cassopolis
Shooting range/weapons qualification, weapons practice.
5. November 30, 2009, ICG building, Dowagiac
Trained with hostage negotiators delivering phone, communications, and tactics.
6. December 29/30, 2009, Dowagiac Union High School, Dowagiac
Trained on active shooter using simmunition.

Total training hours logged for 2009: 314 Hours

SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE CONTRACT



August of 2009 marked the culmination of the eleventh year of our police service to Southwestern Michigan College. The contract provides a positive impact on the department with the expansion of service to the citizens of Dowagiac. The *partnership of the city and the college* has solidified and grown as a result of this contractual relationship.

The police department conducted 1,644 property inspections and responded to a total of 29 complaints on college property. The complaints were as follows:

Suspicious Persons/Vehicles	13
Non-Criminal Assists	5
Private Property Accidents	4
Traffic Complaints	2
Vehicle Lock-Outs	2
Larceny	1
Damage to Property	1
Handicap Parking Citation	1

The year 2009 saw a big step for Southwestern Michigan College with the addition of a student dorm building being constructed and occupied in the fall of 2009. The police and fire departments assisted college staff with inspections of the new buildings, crime prevention information, fire prevention information, and provided officers and fire fighters to be on hand for resident and student orientations.

The Dowagiac Police and Fire Departments continue to work closely with SMC administration and staff in preparation of both the college and student safety concerns. Both departments are currently working with college staff to provide further education in crime prevention such as drunken driving presentations, self defense classes, and fire prevention and emergency preparedness.

DEPARTMENT TRAINING

During 2009 the Dowagiac Police Department continued its commitment to providing the highest trained officers to the community. Officers of the Dowagiac Police Department were trained in the following areas in 2009:

- Basic LEIN Operator
- LEIN Terminal Agency Coordinator
- Michigan Freedom of Information Act
- CPR
- Basic Hostage Negotiation
- Blood Borne Pathogens
- Tazer recertification
- Sudden Death In-Custody
- Internal Affairs Investigations
- Michigan Police Executive Development Seminar
- PPCT Instructor Recertification (defensive tactics)
- Alternative Vehicles
- Abandoned Vehicles
- Legal Update (Michigan Laws)
- MAGLOLEN Annual Conference
- Glock Armorer
- Less Lethal Projectiles, Flash Sound Diversionary Device, Chemical Agent Instructor
- Video Shooting Range Simulator
- 3 Weapons Qualifications (2 handgun, 1 shotgun/rifle)
- Bomb Threat Assessment
- Medical Marijuana
- Firearms Proficiency Workshop
- MACP Mid-Winter Conference

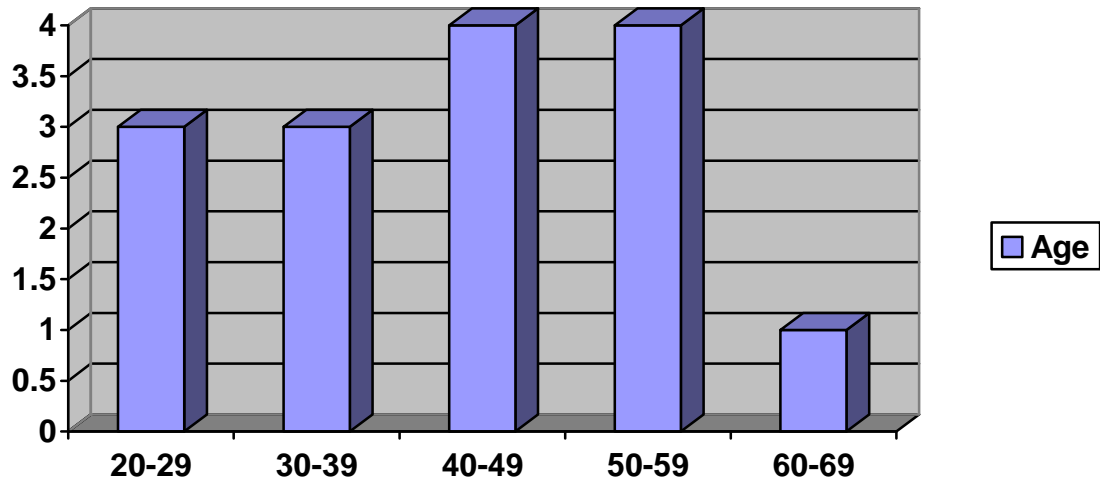
The Dowagiac Police Department hosted and instructed a training that was held at the Dowagiac Union High School on “Active Shooters” (a person actively shooting within a building). A deputy from the Cass County Sheriffs Department assisted in instructing this training as well.

Officers utilized simmunition weapons and ammunition which allows officers to train in a “live fire” scenario by using wax bullets. This training was held over 2 days in December of 2009 and was attended by several departments within Cass County. Officers were taught several tactical

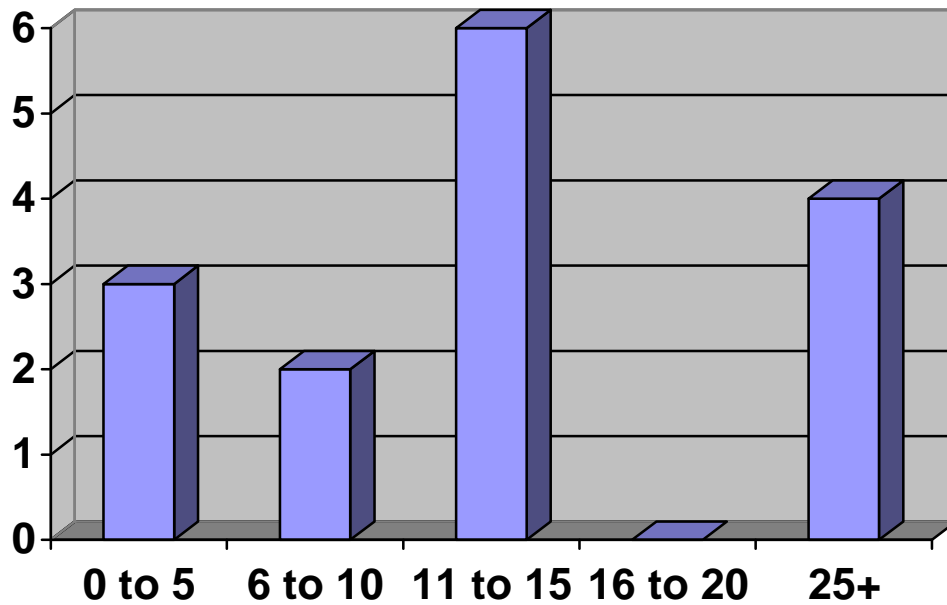
approaches to active shooter incidents and then placed in actual scenarios and forced to react. Officers were able to observed their strengths and weaknesses during real life situations and given a chance to improve their skills.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

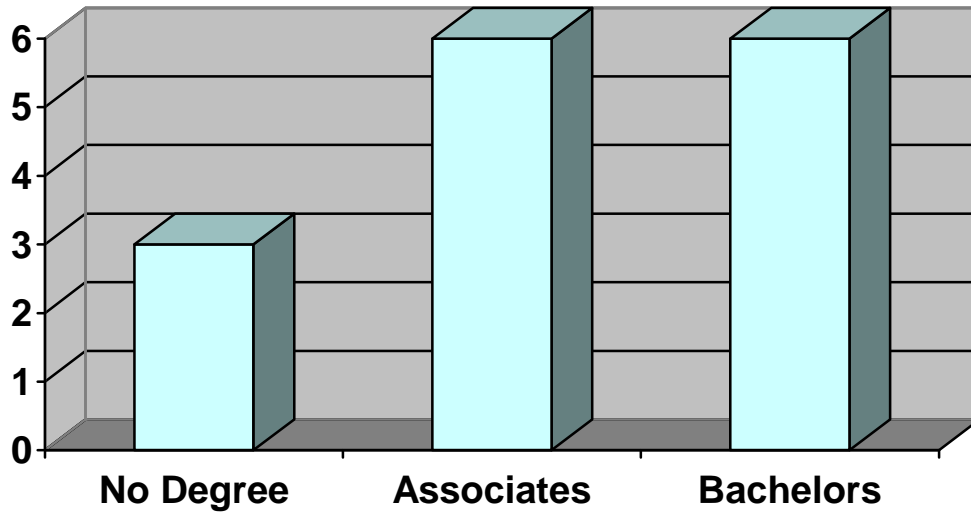
Age of Personnel



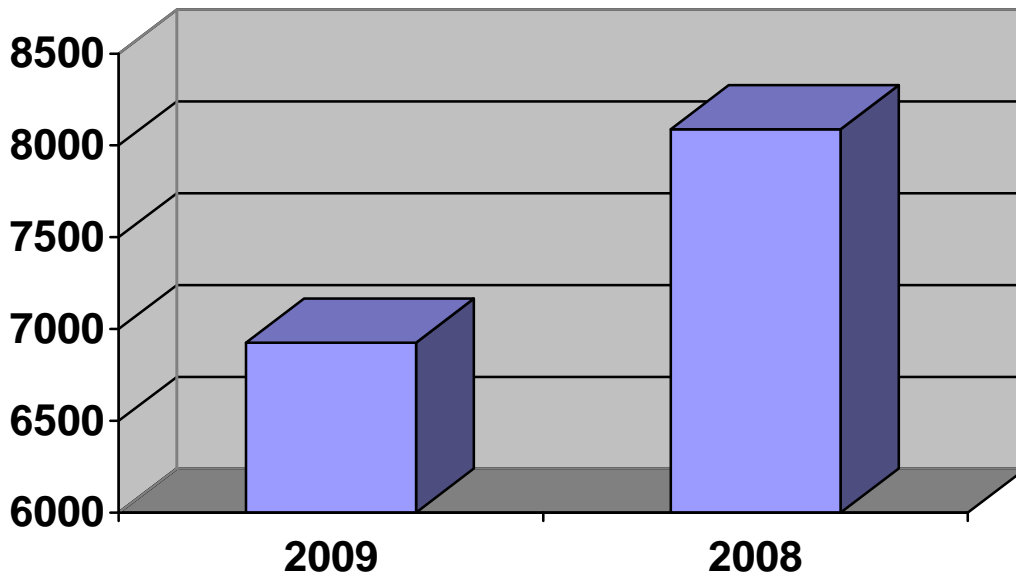
Years of Service



Education Level



Calls For Service

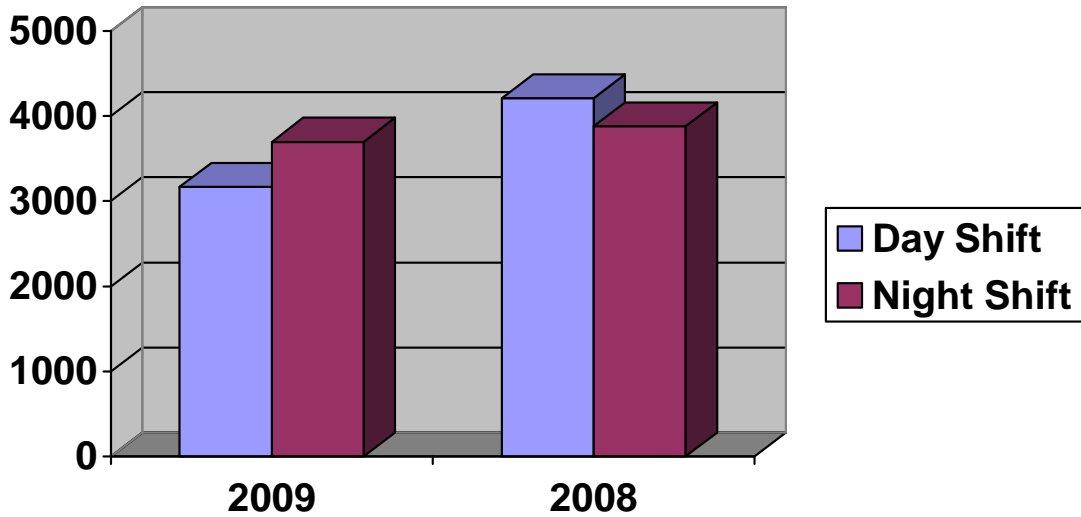


	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
CALLS FOR SERVICE	6,926	8,088

Complaint Activity by Day of Week

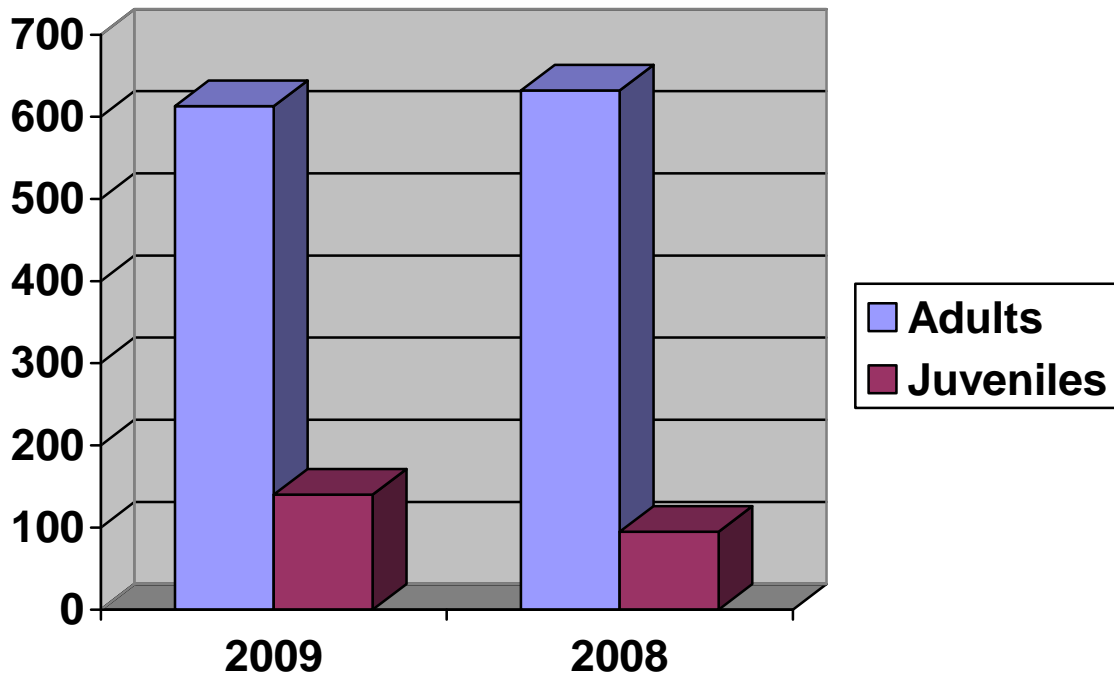
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
SUNDAY	877	1054
MONDAY	958	1137
TUESDAY	969	1136
WEDNESDAY	1001	1192
THURSDAY	987	1160
FRIDAY	1039	1270
SATURDAY	1033	1140

Complaints By Shift



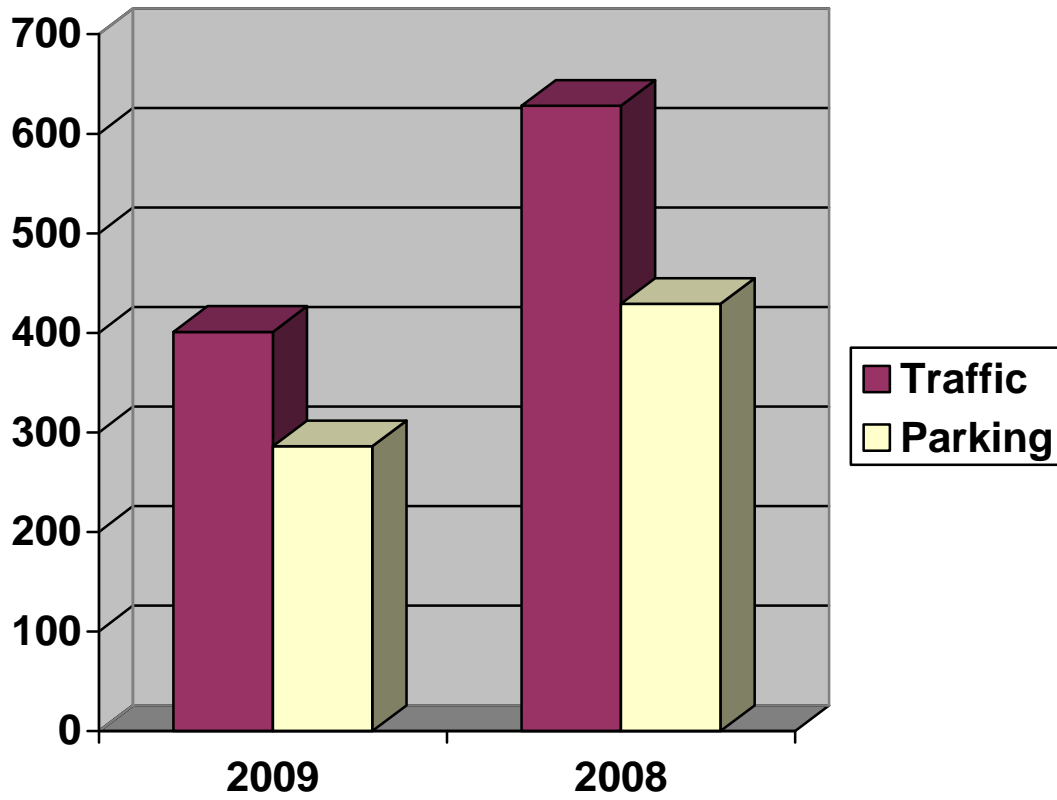
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
DAY SHIFT 7A-7P	3166	4211
NIGHT SHIFT 7P-7A	3698	3877

Arrests/Juvenile Petitions



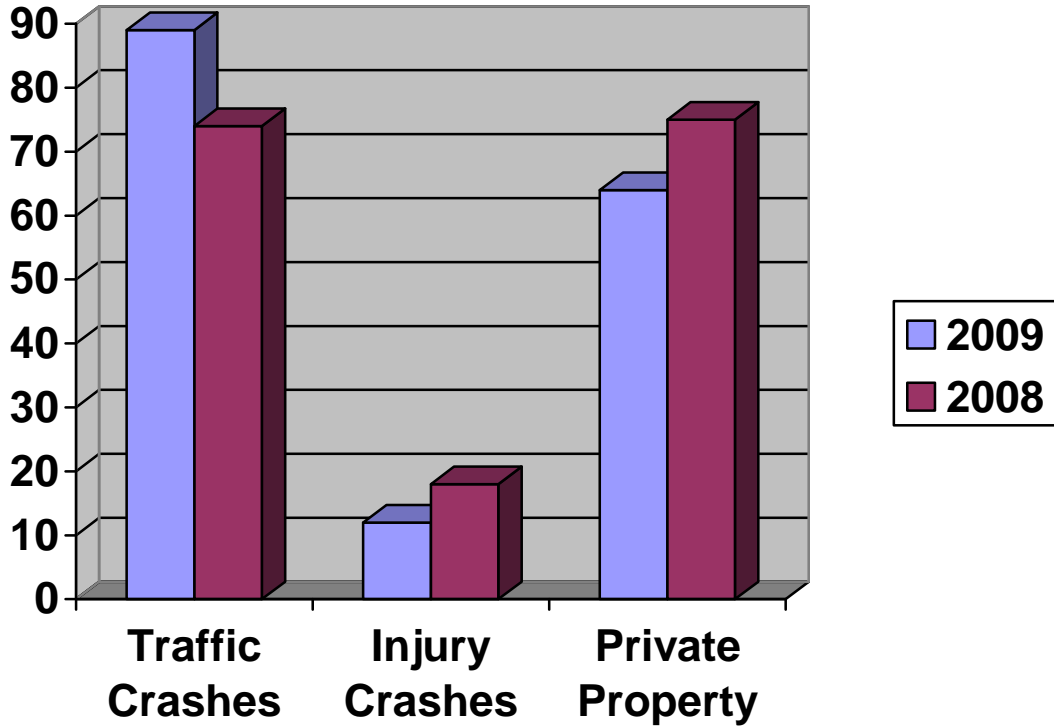
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
ADULTS (Over 17)	613	632
JUVENILES (16 & Under)	140	95

Tickets Issued



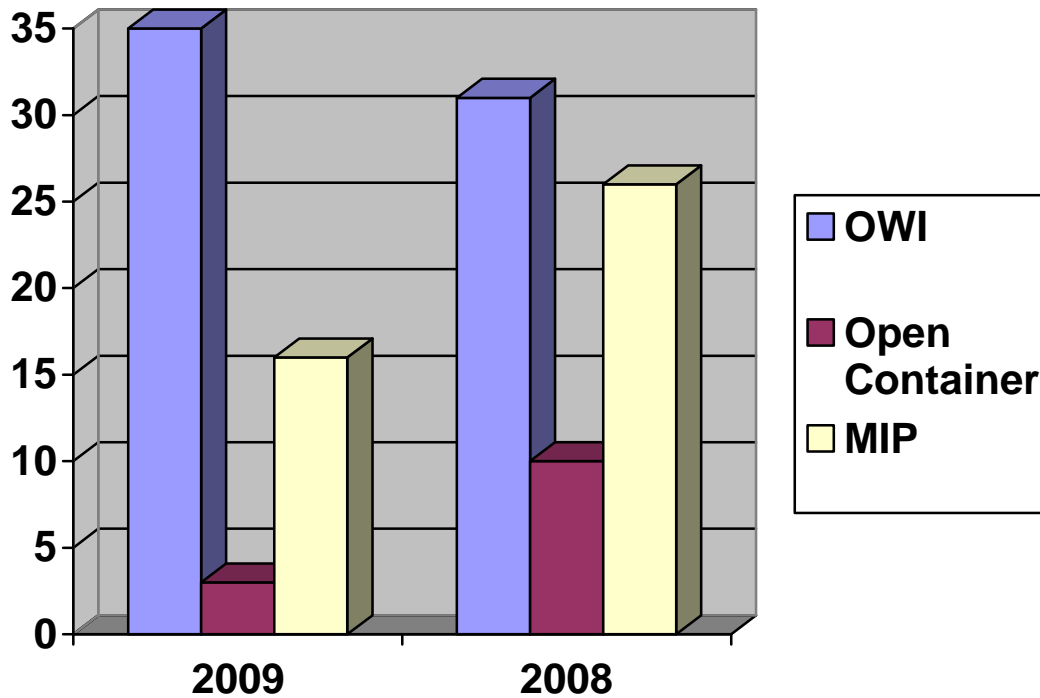
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
TRAFFIC/MISDEMEANORS	401	628
PARKING TICKETS	286	429

Traffic Crashes



	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
TRAFFIC CRASHES	89	92
INJURY CRASHES	10	18
PRIVATE PROPERTY CRASHES	64	75

Alcohol Violations



CRIMINAL ACTIVITY REPORT

INDEX CRIMES

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Murder	0	1	0	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	18	18	17	16
Armed Robbery	1	1	4	3
Aggravated Assault	5	9	24	7
Domestic Violence	67	86	25	40
Burglary	62	53	63	54
Larceny	312	241	247	267
Motor Vehicle Theft	17	11	16	9
Arson	4	1	2	1
Total Index Crimes	486	421	398	397

NON-INDEX CRIMES

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Forgery	11	5	7	3
Embezzlement	6	2	4	3
Fraud	56	50	52	50
Retail Fraud	16	32	30	44
Weapons Offenses	38	29	31	26
Delinquent Minors/Incorrigible	52	48	43	40
Drug Law	36	45	31	23
Disorderly Conduct	596	473	556	381
Assault	134	115	209	139
MDOP	207	154	166	173
Alarms	189	232	216	126
<i>Total Non-Index Crimes</i>	<i>1,341</i>	<i>1,185</i>	<i>1,345</i>	<i>1,008</i>

DOWAGIAC FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE Division



“Committed to Excellence”

MISSION

The mission of the Dowagiac Fire Department is to provide programs and services to protect the property of the citizens of the City of Dowagiac from the adverse effects of fire, medical emergencies, and exposure to hazardous conditions

DOWAGIAC FIRE DEPARTMENT

Director of Public Safety

Thomas A. Atkinson

Assistant Chief

Dale Hutchings

Shift Captain

Michael Mattix

Guy Evans

Lieutenant

Jeffrey Gollnick

Bill Nelson

Terry Dodd

Part-Time Division

Jim Carpenter

Burton Dodd

Terry Dodd

Jay Greenman

Mark Johnson

James Keys

Royce Kuriata

Doug Michels

Robert Nelson

Markie Rutter

Brian Schultz

Shawn Sirk

Tony Stewart

Brian Townsend

Kevin Waldschmidt

Tommy Walker

Ronnie West

A TRIBUTE TO OUR FRIEND



Dowagiac Department of Public Safety Director Thomas A. Atkinson joins the Dowagiac Police and Fire Department personnel in offering a special tribute to a special friend who passed from this life on January 1, 2010.

Donald Monroe Coy, Sr. was dedicated to his country, his family and his entire community – the City of Dowagiac and Cass County.

“Don” as we all know him... served as a fire fighter for the City of Dowagiac for 33 years. He retired in 1998, but in true Don spirit returned in 2007 as a volunteer fireman. He gave tirelessly of his time and talents to the Dowagiac Fire Department and dedicated many hours of hard work to the recent fire station relocation project.

In addition to his dedication to the fire department, Don served throughout the years as Boy Scout Commissioner, member of the Cass County Parks Board, the American Legion Phoenix Post #309 member in Decatur, and as a member of the Dowagiac Conservation Club. Don was an avid outdoorsman and his dedication to the Conservation Club will continue with the legacy that he chose... not only as an inspiration through his hard work, but through his family’s request that those wishing to make donations, direct them to the Dowagiac Conservation Club Youth Program.

While we mourn the loss of this comrade, we also draw great inspiration from his spirit of volunteerism. We will honor him this Thursday with a Fireman Funeral complete with honor guards, ringing of the bell, last alarm, and bagpipes at Riverside Cemetery. We will all continue to treasure those memories of a man who gave selflessly of his life to

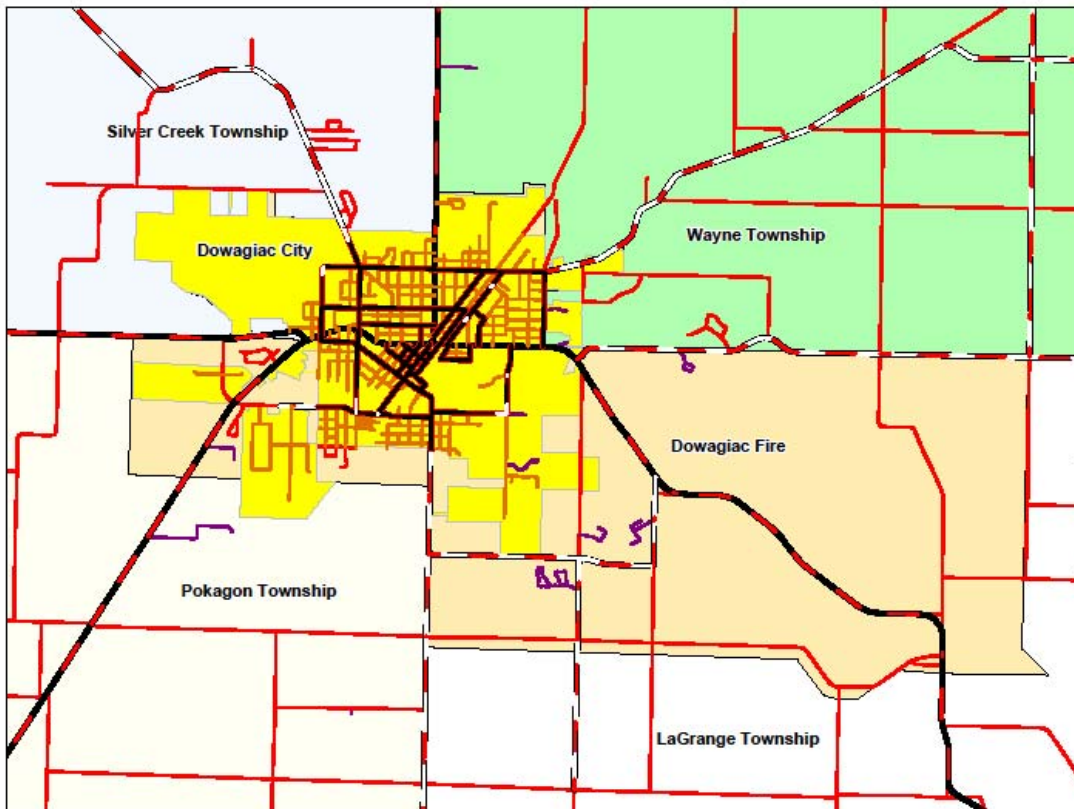
enhance the quality of life for those who live or visit Dowagiac and Cass County.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and extend our “safety family” care and support to them during this challenging time.

Donald Monroe Coy, Sr.....a life truly lived as an inspiration to all....well, done our faithful friend....well done!



MAP OF DOWAGIAC FIRE DEPARTMENT COVERAGE AREA



The Dowagiac Fire Department coverage area is highlighted in bright yellow and beige. Yellow indicates the area that falls within the City of Dowagiac and annexed areas. The beige outlines the areas that fall outside of the City, but within Dowagiac Fire Department coverage area.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROJECTS



FIRE DEPARTMENT DEDICATION

On October 10, 2009, the Dowagiac Fire Department dedicated the Wolf Street Fire Station. Instead of spending 2.5 million dollars to build a new fire station the City renovated the State Highway building, which was owned by the city and being used for storage. With the help of volunteer and full-time firefighters the renovation was completed at a fraction of the cost. Working along side private contractors the firefighters and their families donated over 2,740 volunteer hours, as well as equipment, supplies and furnishings for the station living quarters.

The floor space of the Wolf Street Station has given the Fire Department the ability to buy a Rescue-Pumper that meets the need of our community. When the Fire Department was located on Depot Drive Fire Trucks and equipment had to be custom designed to fit into the buildings limited floor space.

The Wolff Street Station is located on 8 acres of land which gives the Fire Department the ability to be the county-wide training center. The Wolff Street Station will be a long term solution for a greatly needed fire station.

Many local residents attended the dedication ceremony. City Manager Kevin Anderson acted as the MC, with State Representative Sharon Tyler as key note speaker. Also in attendance was State Representative John Proos, Andrea Grabemyer Pries who represented Congressman Fred Upton, Bob Wagel representing the Cass County Board of Commissioners and State Senator Ron Jelinek, as well as Mayor Don Lyons and several City Councilman.



2009 Fire Academy

The 1st Fire Academy was held on August 10th through the 14th on the campus of Southwestern Michigan College. The academy was sponsored by the Dowagiac Fire Department and Educational Talent. The program was open to High School aged students.

The five day academy focused on what it takes to be a fire fighter. The students learned about the history of fire and fire behavior, equipment, equipment handling, search and rescue, and arson investigation.

On the last day of class students had the opportunity to extinguish a car fire and then investigate to see if it was arson, all under the watchful eyes of the instructors.

The academy was presented for the purpose of sparking the interest of high school students in careers in the Fire Service, either as a volunteer or full-time fire fighters.

The Fire Department and Educational Talent Search plan on presenting the Academy once again during the summer of 2010.

SPECIAL SKILLS

The Dowagiac Fire Department provides a diverse and wide array of professional services for our community.

The firefighters continue the long-standing tradition of serving the City of Dowagiac and surrounding areas with professionalism and leadership.

The list of skills and specialized certifications held by this group is enviable. A total of three firefighters have obtained the level of Fire Officer III, two are trained to Firefighter 240 level, an impressive 14 are Firefighter II, and two have achieved Firefighter I status.

The Department also aspires to a level of excellence in public service under the administrative lead of the Director of Public Safety, Assistant Fire Chief, and Lieutenant.

One firefighter is an MSP Certified Arson Investigator, one is a NFPA Certified Fire Inspector, three are Michigan State Certified Instructors, two have obtained the distinction of National Fire Academy Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialists, 14 carry Confined Space Rescue Certification, one holds certification as an Advanced Level Incident Command Mgmt. as an instructor from ICS 300 & 400 programs, and two are Community Emergency Response Team Instructors.

JUVENILE FIRESETTERS PROGRAM

Why Children Set Fires

Most experts agree that the best way to understand fire setting behavior is to look at where and why children set fires. They believe that there are two basic types of children who start fires.

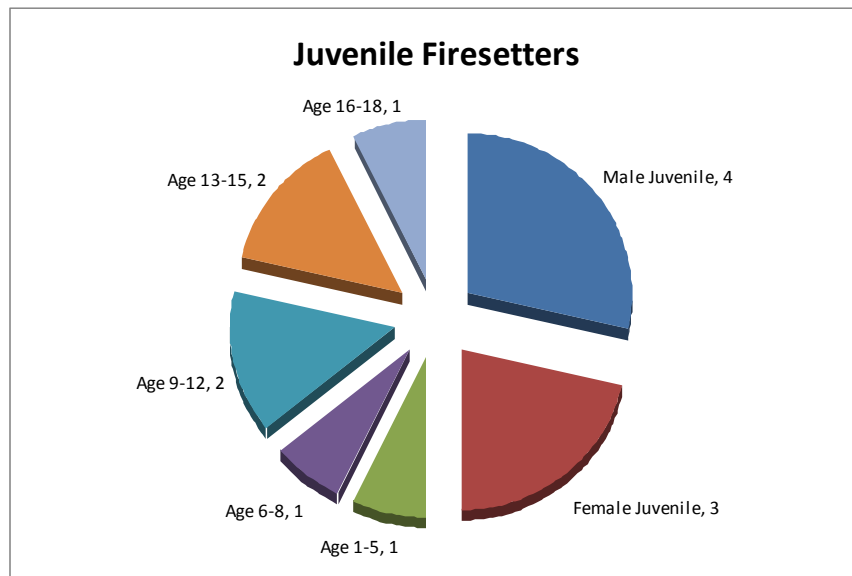
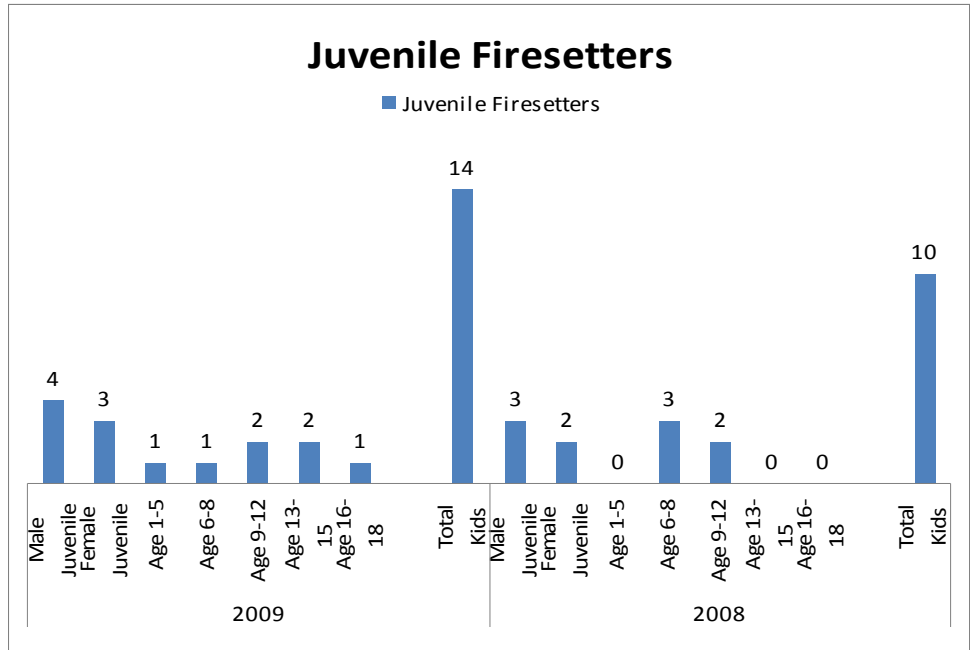
Curiosity Firesetters usually are 2-7 years old whose fascination with fire leads them to "play" with it to find out how it feels, how it burns, and what it does. They do not understand fire's destructive potential.

Although curiosity is a normal part of children's growth and development, parents and other adults who discover that a child is playing with fire should take it very seriously.

Problem Firesetters can also be very young, but generally are 5-17 years old. In contrast to the curious firesetter, these youngsters light fires because of emotional or mental disturbances ranging from mild to severe. A crisis in the child's life, such as moving to a new area, a divorce or death could trigger firesetting behavior. A more serious disturbance could also be the cause. Chronic behaviors such as a poor relationship with other children, cruelty to animals, and extreme mood changes are a few of the traits that data on juvenile firesetters has revealed.

Parents and guardians who feel their child may be developing a dangerous interest in fire should contact our intervention specialist at the website <http://www.cityofdowagiac.com> or call the Dowagiac Fire Department at 269-782-9563.

REFERRALS TO DOWAGIAC JUVENILE FIRESETTER PROGRAM



Personnel/Recruitment

Since the reorganization of the Police and Fire Department, we have grown from a staff of nine (9) On-Call firefighters and 4 full-time officers to 20 On-Call firefighters. This was accomplished within the first month of the reorganization. We now have a waiting list for members to join the department, and have recently taken these 20 On-Calls and hired them as part-time City employees. All personnel are highly trained and provide a professional service to our community.

Both departments are now called The Department of Public Safety. They both maintain their own identity, but are run by one Administrative Director, Thomas A. Atkinson. The Deputy Chief positions have been filled by Dale Hutchings, Fire Division, and Steve Grinnwald, Police Division. They provide help in the administrative day-to-day duties of the departments. Both departments share one clerical staff member, Patty Klug.

Recruitment to expand the Dowagiac Fire Department part-time base of personnel was a priority in 2009 and this effort will continue throughout 2010.

FIRE TRAINING 2009



January

- Apparatus Driving
- Bloodborn Pathogen/Right to Know

February

- New Fire Station Presentation
- Clandestine Drug Labs

March

- Pump Operations
- TOC Procedures
- SCBA Fit Test

April

- Aerial Operations
- Fire Streams
- Bus Extrication

May

- Apparatus Driving
- Borgess-Lee Tour

June

- Pumper Operations
- Work on New Station

July

- Engine Co. Operations
- Fire Ground Operations
- Enclosed Building Hazards

FIRE TRAINING 2009, Continued

August

- Hydrant Flushing
- Hydrant Flows/Metering

September

- Work Detail – New Station
- Work Detail – New Station
- 240 Aerial Inspection
- Pump Operations
- Relay Pump

October

- Accountability
- Work Detail New Station
- Structure Fire Operations

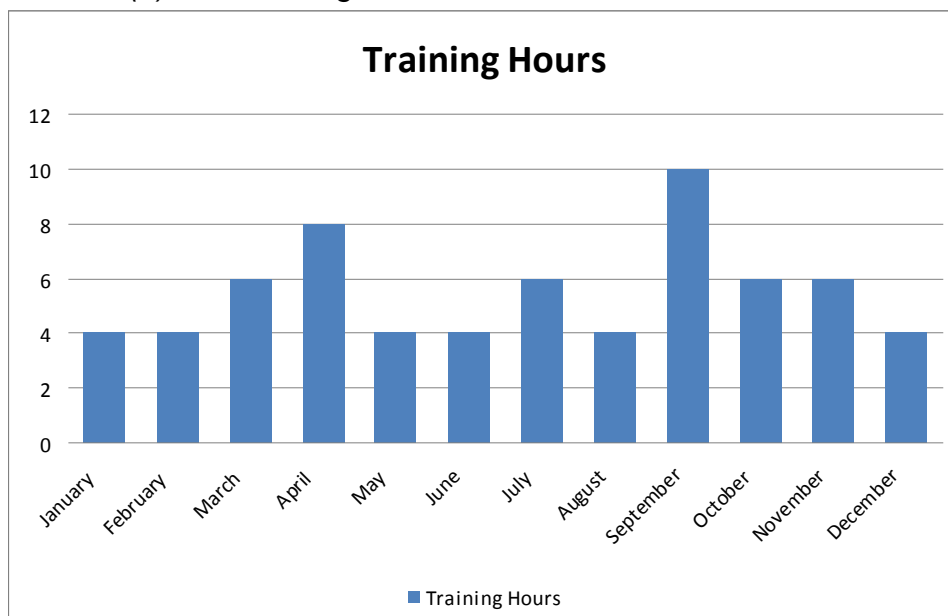
November

- City Aps
- General Training
- Truck Checks

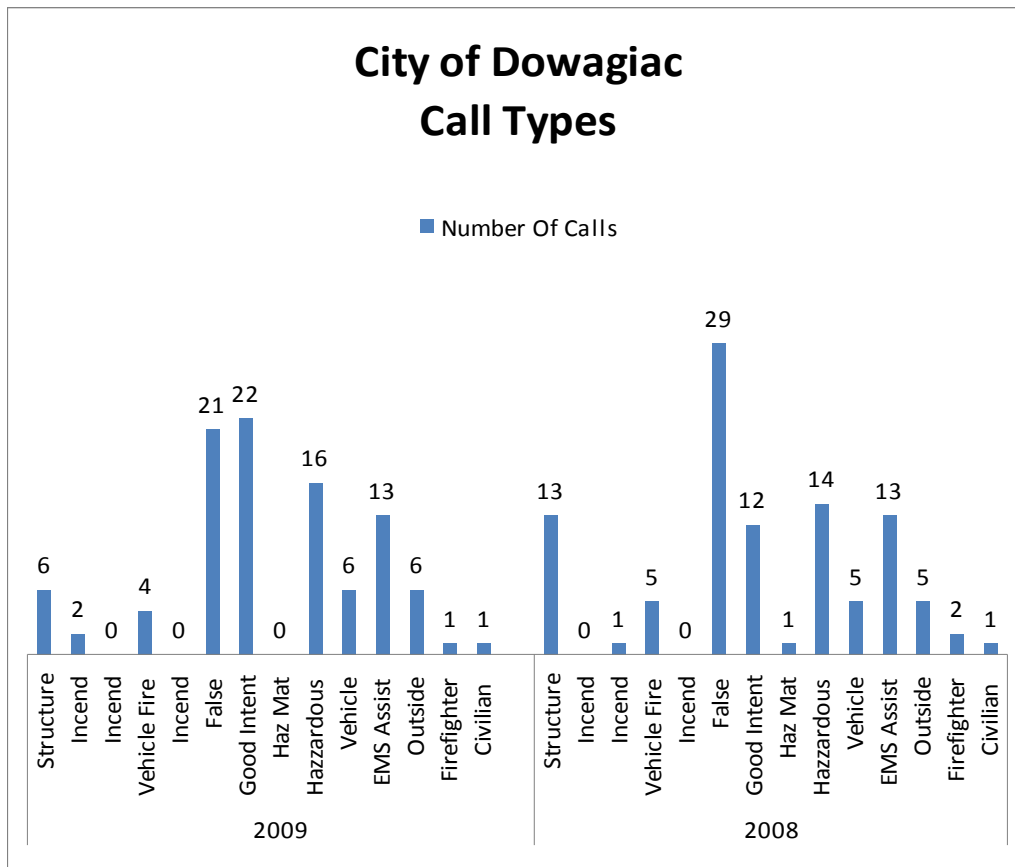
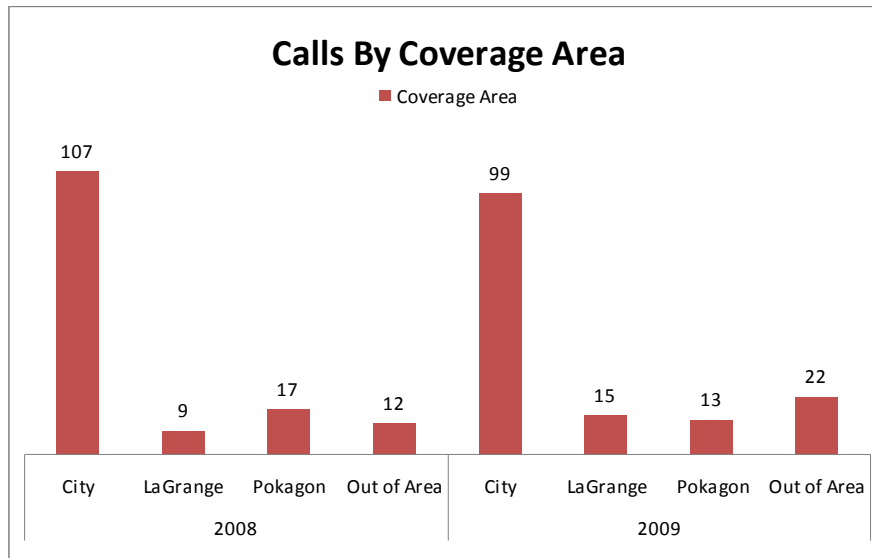
December

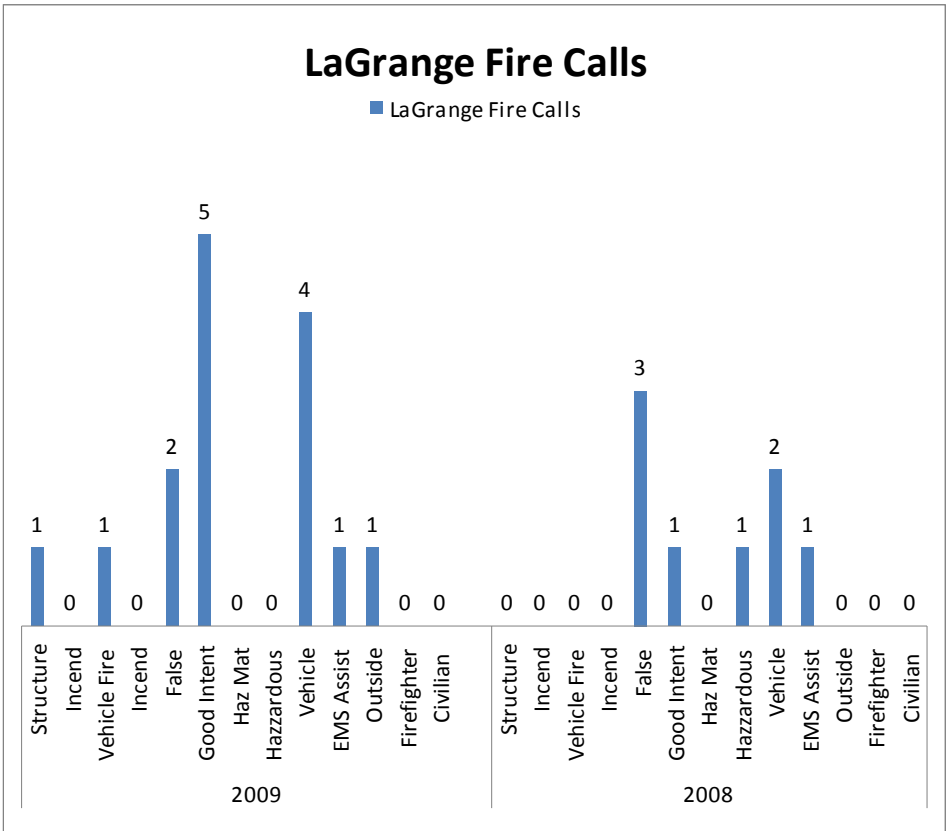
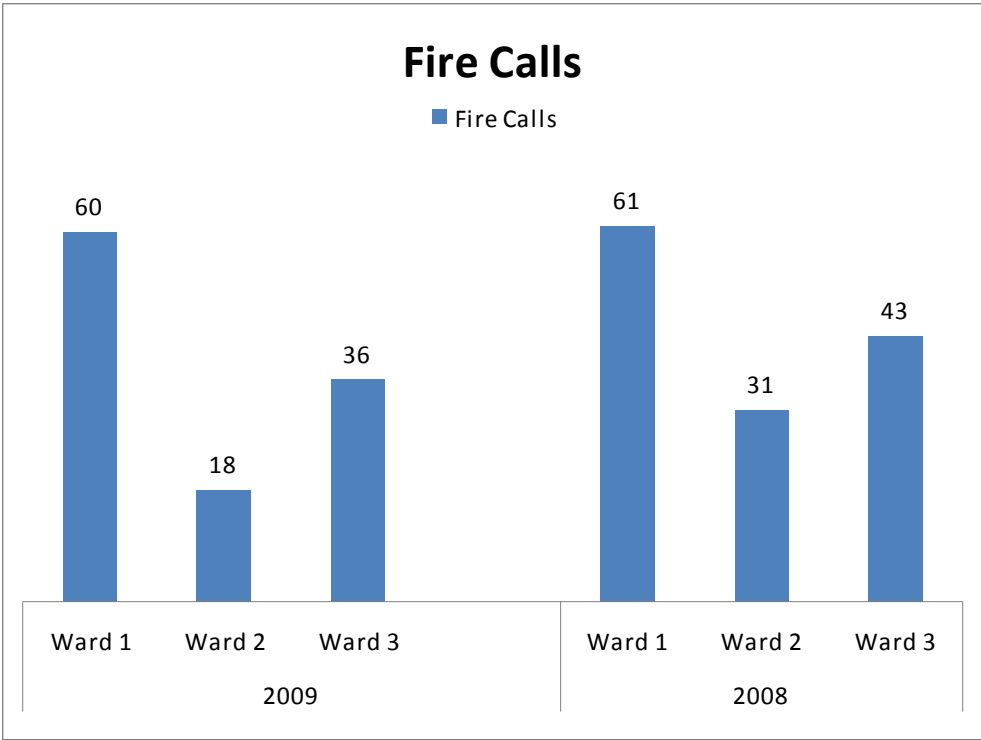
- Auto Cam Tour
- 2010 Training Plans

Note: All training sessions were two (2) hours with the exception of Bus Extrication which was a four (4) hour training session.



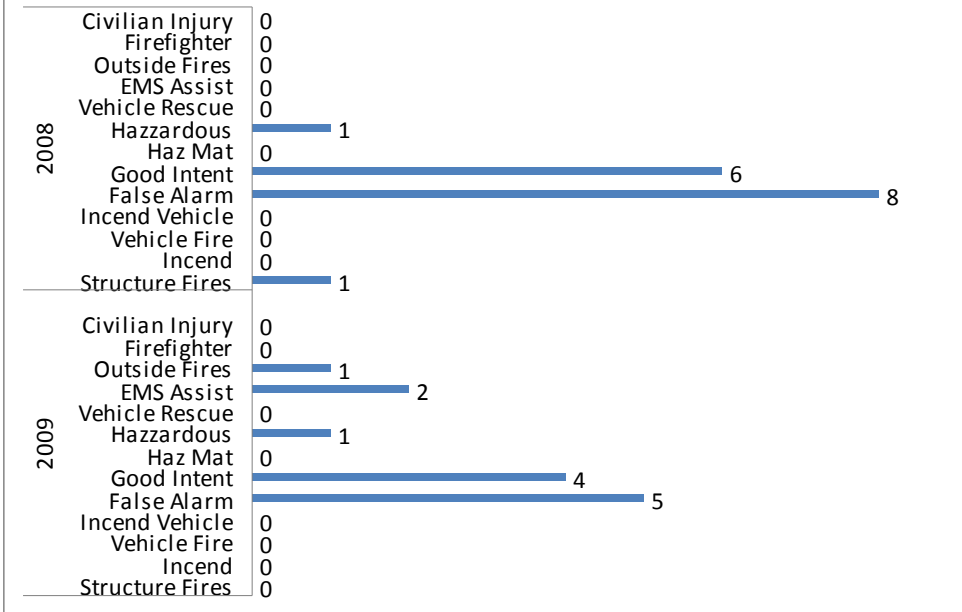
TYPES OF FIRE CALLS BY SERVICE AREA





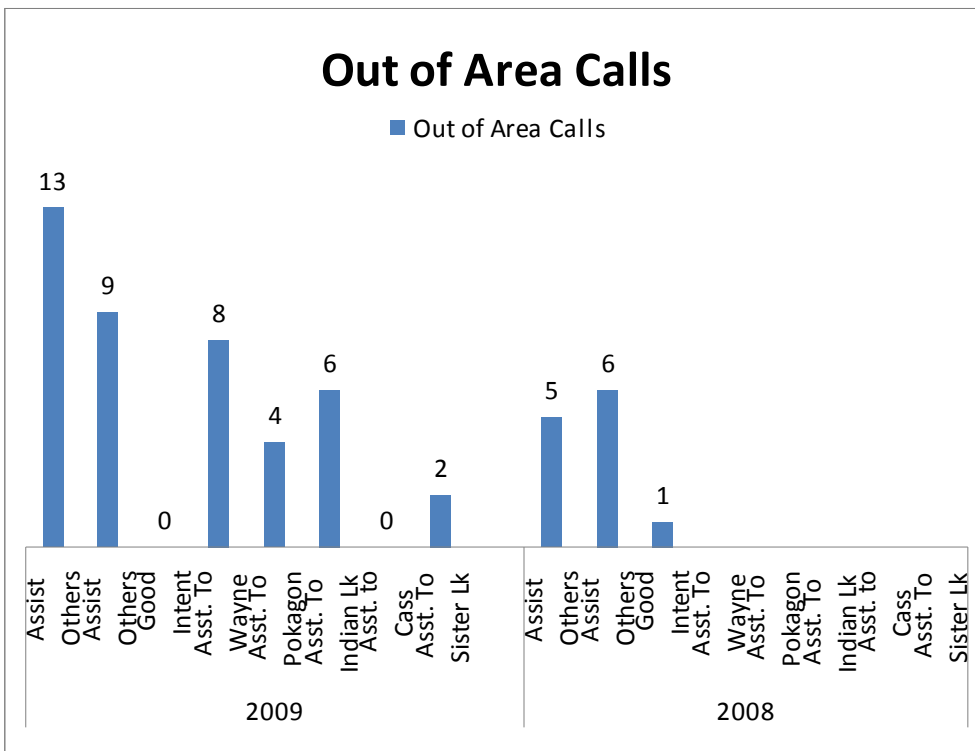
Pokagon Fire Calls

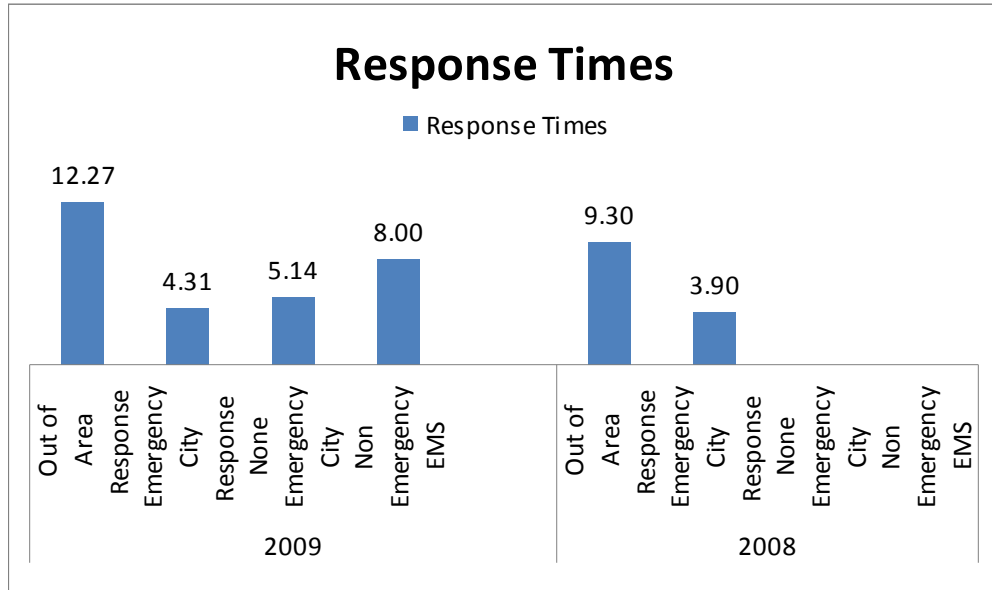
■ Pokagon Fire Calls



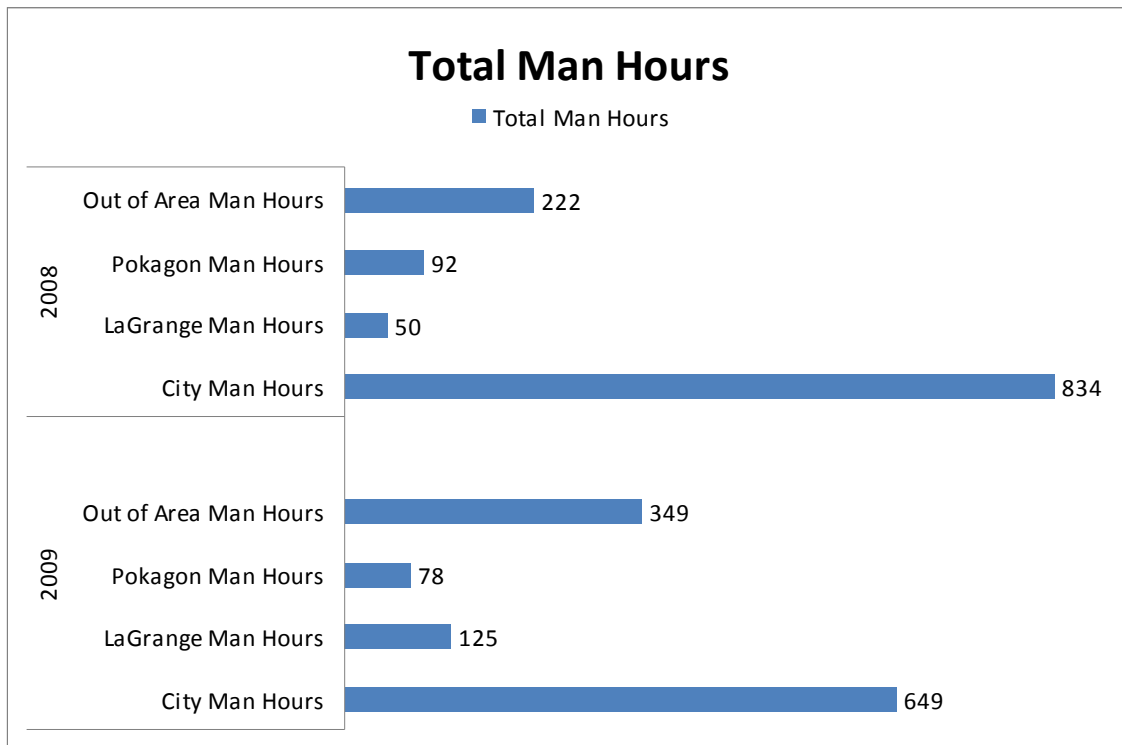
Out of Area Calls

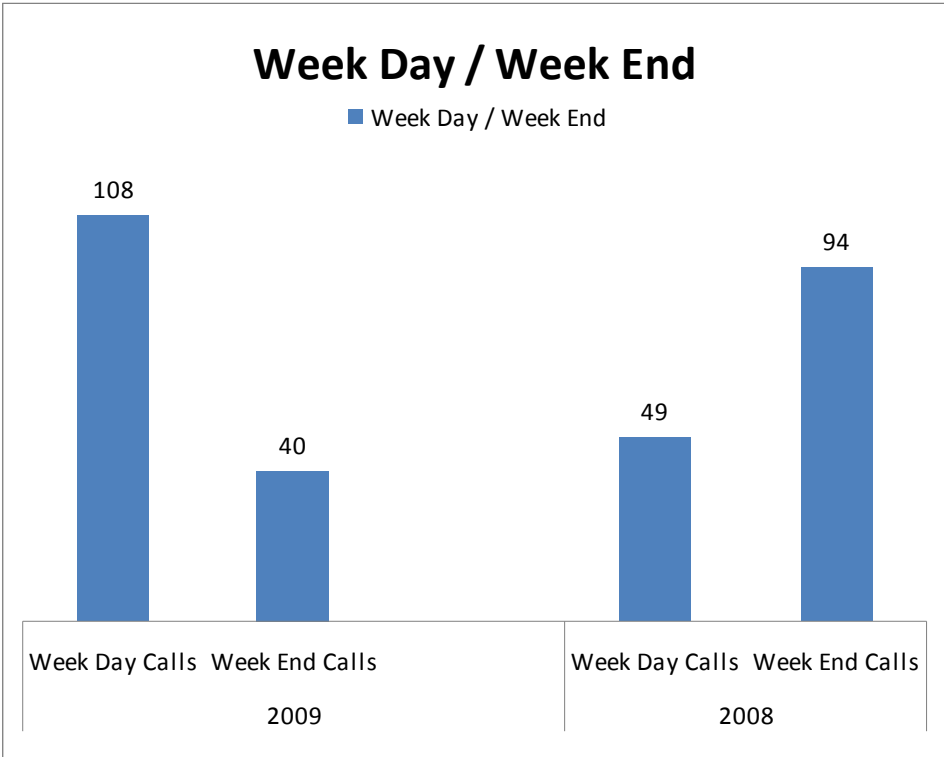
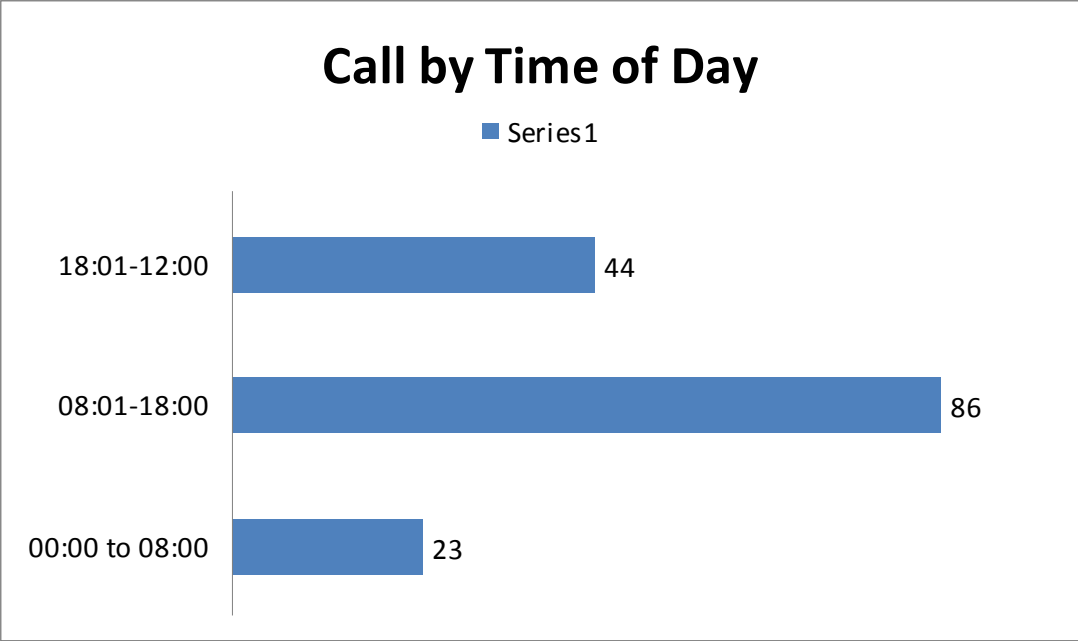
■ Out of Area Calls





You will note that the call types were divided into additional categories in the 2009 stats.





\$\$ VALUE LOSS BY SERVICE AREA

City Value	\$68,145,418.00
City Loss	\$24,800.00
Percentage of Loss	0.04%
LaGrange Value	\$1,330,550.00
LaGrange Loss	\$40,550.00
Percentage of Loss	3.05
Pokagon Value	\$5,836,000.00
Pokagon Loss	\$1,000.00
Percentage of Loss	0.02%
Out of Area Value	
Out of Area Loss	
Percentage of Loss	0.00%

***Indicates Pre-Incident Property Value of Structures
Sustaining Fire Damage***