

# North Shore Fire Department



## 2008 Annual Report

*The North Shore Fire Department proudly serves the City of Glendale and the Villages of Bayside, Brown Deer, Fox Point, River Hills, Shorewood & Whitefish Bay*

## MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF DAVID J. BEROUSEK



Residents of the North Shore,

The North Shore Fire Department's thirteenth year of service to the seven North Shore Communities once again proved the benefit of consolidating the fire departments of the seven communities. The value of a unified command structure, operational model, training program and fire prevention program continues to be demonstrated in our Department's day-to-day operations.

The year 2008 brought several major changes to our Department, both from an operational and personnel standpoint. A reorganization of administrative staff occurred mid-year resulting in the appointment of an additional Deputy Chief position and the elimination of the Battalion Chief of Training/EMS position. The Fire Commission appointed Battalion Chiefs Robert Whitaker and Andrew Harris to the two Deputy Chief positions. Deputy Chief Whitaker now oversees Administration/Support Services and Deputy Chief Harris manages the Department's operations. The mid-year departure of Deputy Chief Charlie Myers resulted in the vacancy in the Deputy Chief of Operations position. Chief Myers left the Department to take a position as Fire Chief in the City of Brookfield. We wish Charlie well and look forward to working with him in the future. The promotion of the Deputy Chiefs resulted in a vacancy in the Battalion Chief ranks also. Lieutenant Steven Brennan was promoted to Battalion Chief in the Operations Division and now commands Green Shift. Six additional retirements resulted in several changes in ranks in the Department and a loss of one hundred ninety-two years of combined experience in the ranks. The six members that retired in 2008 provided many valuable years of service to the citizens of the North Shore and support to their fellow firefighters in our organization. For that, we are grateful. We wish them well in their retirement.

Operationally, the Department completed its first full year under a new operational plan. The Department put two Rescue Engines in service at Station 1 and 4, which changed how we respond to vehicle accidents, technical rescue responses and automatic fire alarms. This change was implemented to quicken the response of a second arriving fire suppression company to incidents and to reduce the number of calls that our ladder companies were responding to. Ladder trucks are costly vehicles, and as with any vehicle, additional miles on the vehicle lead to a shorter life span. In order to ensure our ladder trucks meet their expected fifteen-year life span, the Department realized a need to reduce their call volume and implemented the Rescue Engine concept. Our review of end of year data has provided reassurance that our operational changes have accomplished what we set out to do.

Moving forward, our professional staff continues to provide excellent service each and every day. Please know that we are ready to serve twenty-four hours per day, seven days a week. Don't hesitate to call upon us.

## Board of Directors

The North Shore Fire Department Board of Directors is responsible for performing the following functions:

- Sets policies
- Approves annual budgets
- Long range planning
- Negotiates union contract

The Board of Directors meets monthly to conduct business as outlined above. Meetings rotate between the member communities' City and Village Halls.

### **2008 Board of Directors**

Village of Bayside:	Sam Dickman
Village of Brown Deer:	Carl Krueger
Village of Fox Point:	Michael West
City of Glendale:	Jerome Tepper
Village of River Hills :	Robert Brunner
Village of Shorewood:	Guy Johnson
Village of Whitefish Bay:	Katie Pritchard

# Fire Commission

The North Shore Fire Commission is responsible for performing the following functions:

- New employee hiring
- Promotions
- Discipline
- Terminations

The Fire Commission met nine times in 2008. Activities of the Commission included:

- Appointment of two Deputy Chiefs & a Battalion Chief
- Promotion of four Fire Lieutenants
- Promotion of five Heavy Equipment Operators
- Appointment of seven Firefighters
- Creation of a Heavy Equipment Operator & Firefighter Eligibility List

## 2008 Fire Commission

Village of Bayside:	Phil Santacroce
Village of Brown Deer:	John Raffensperger
Village of Fox Point:	Robert Fetherston
City of Glendale:	Robert Whitaker II
Village of River Hills :	M. Nicol Padway
Village of Shorewood:	Timothy Cotter
Village of Whitefish Bay:	Kenneth Berg

## Administrative Staff

### Administration:

Fire Chief:	David J. Berousek
Deputy Fire Chief:	Andrew J. Harris
Deputy Fire Chief:	Robert C. Whitaker III

Business Manager:	Lynn Burton
Payroll Administrator:	Kerry Wenzel
Administrative Assistant:	Donna Flint

Mechanic:	Scott Bell
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### Fire Prevention Bureau:

Fire Marshall:	David Lind
Fire Inspector:	Matt Mertens
Public Education Specialist:	Jill Glanz

### Operations Chiefs:

Battalion Chief:	Steven Brennan
Battalion Chief:	Richard Boehlke
Battalion Chief:	Jeff Weigand

## Mission Statement

The primary mission of the North Shore Fire Department is to provide a range of programs designed to educate and protect the lives and property of all North Shore residents from adverse affects of fires, sudden medical emergencies or exposure to dangerous conditions created by either man or nature.



Firefighter Jeremy Boehlke shows his turnout gear to two children at the Whitefish Bay Fourth of July Parade in the picture above.

Fire Prevention and Public Education efforts are an integral part of meeting the Department's Mission. In 2008, the Department educated over 11,000 citizens of all ages, conducted fire inspections of approximately 2,500 multi-family residential, commercial and industrial occupancies in an effort to identify life safety concerns and installed nearly 100 car seats for residents of the North Shore.

## 2008 Financial Information

The North Shore Fire Department is organized through an Intergovernmental Agreement that calls for the Department to be funded through contributions from each member community. Additional funding to supplement contributions from the member communities is received through:

- Grants
- 2% Insurance Dues
- Fees for Service
- Permit Fees

### 2008 Budget Statistics:

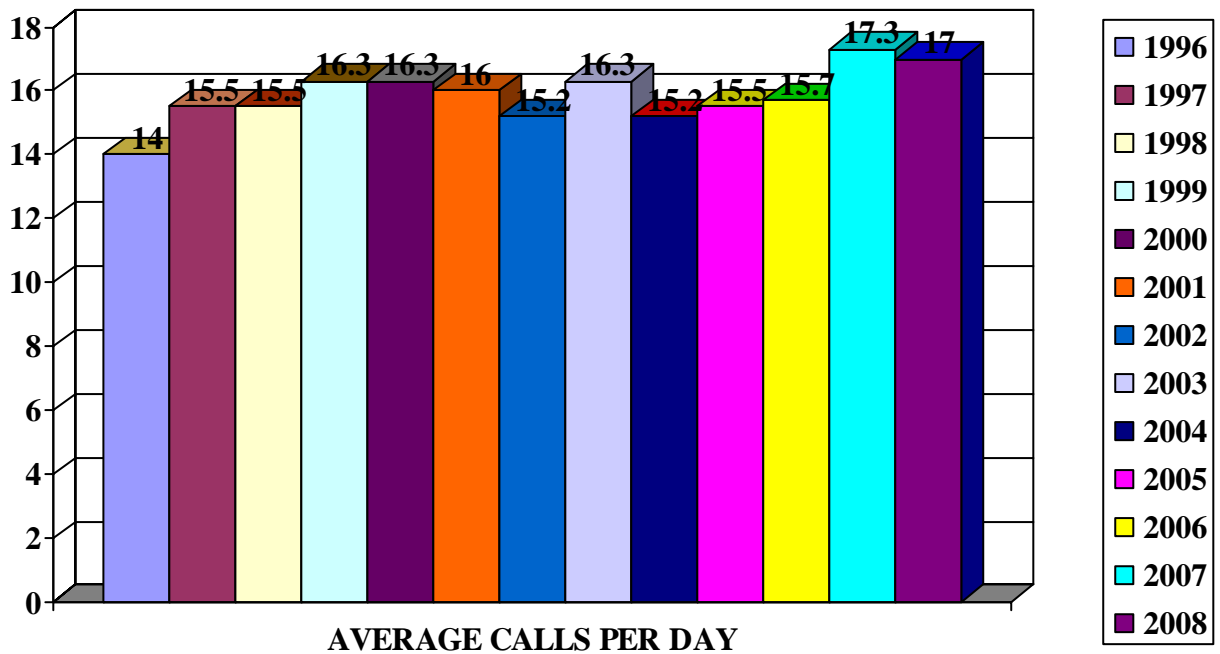
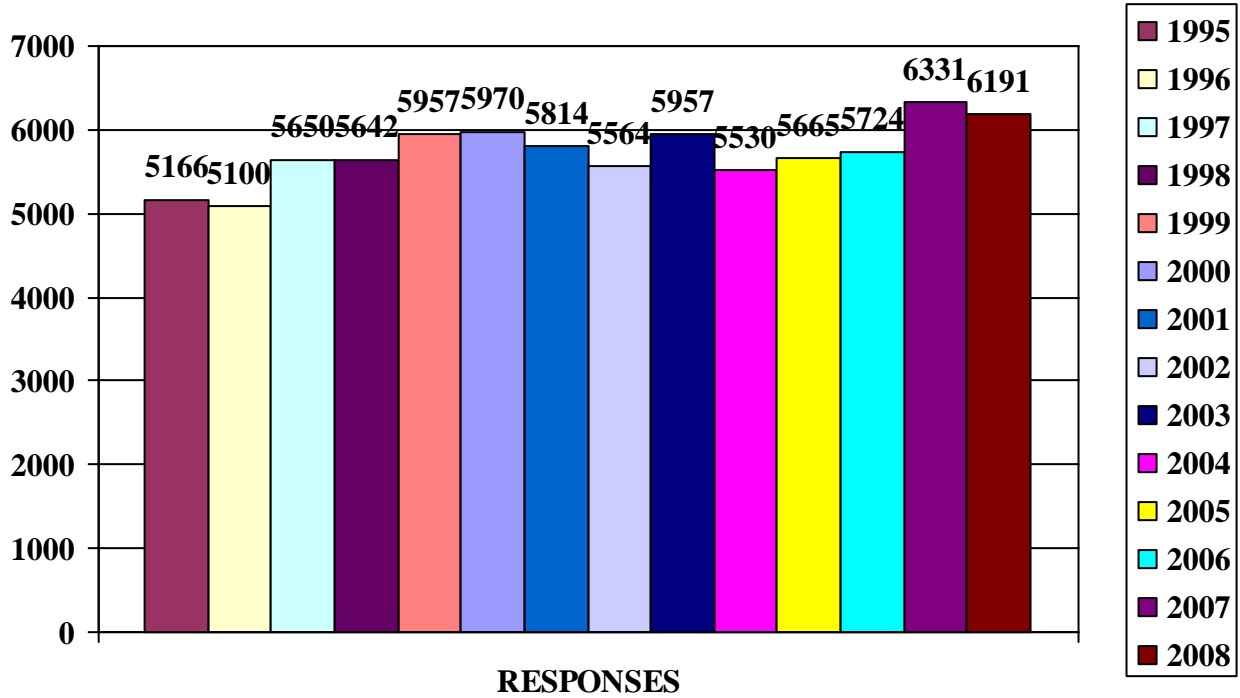
- 2008 Budget: \$12,664,710.00
- Member community contributions: \$11,049,465.00
- Public charges (fees for service): \$1,732,900.00
- 2% Dues/State Grants: \$260,000.00
- Other Revenue: \$156,000.00

The Intergovernmental Agreement called for the following breakdown of contributions towards the \$11,049,465.00 required of the seven member communities in 2008:

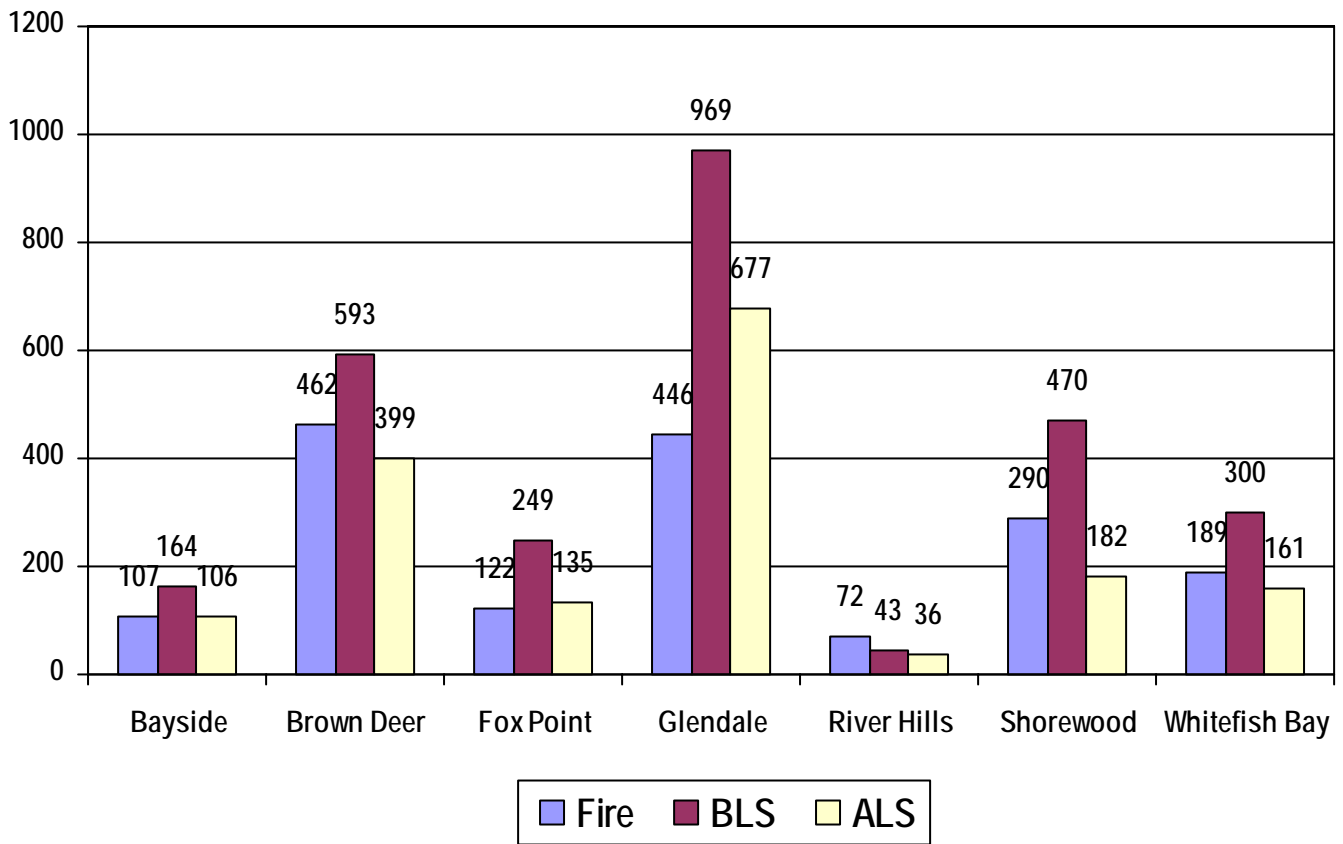
- Village of Bayside: 6.24%
- Village of Brown Deer: 17.81%
- Village of Fox Point: 10.38%
- City of Glendale: 27.67%
- Village of River Hills: 2.96%
- Village of Shorewood: 17.57%
- Village of Whitefish Bay: 17.37%

# 2008 Statistical Data

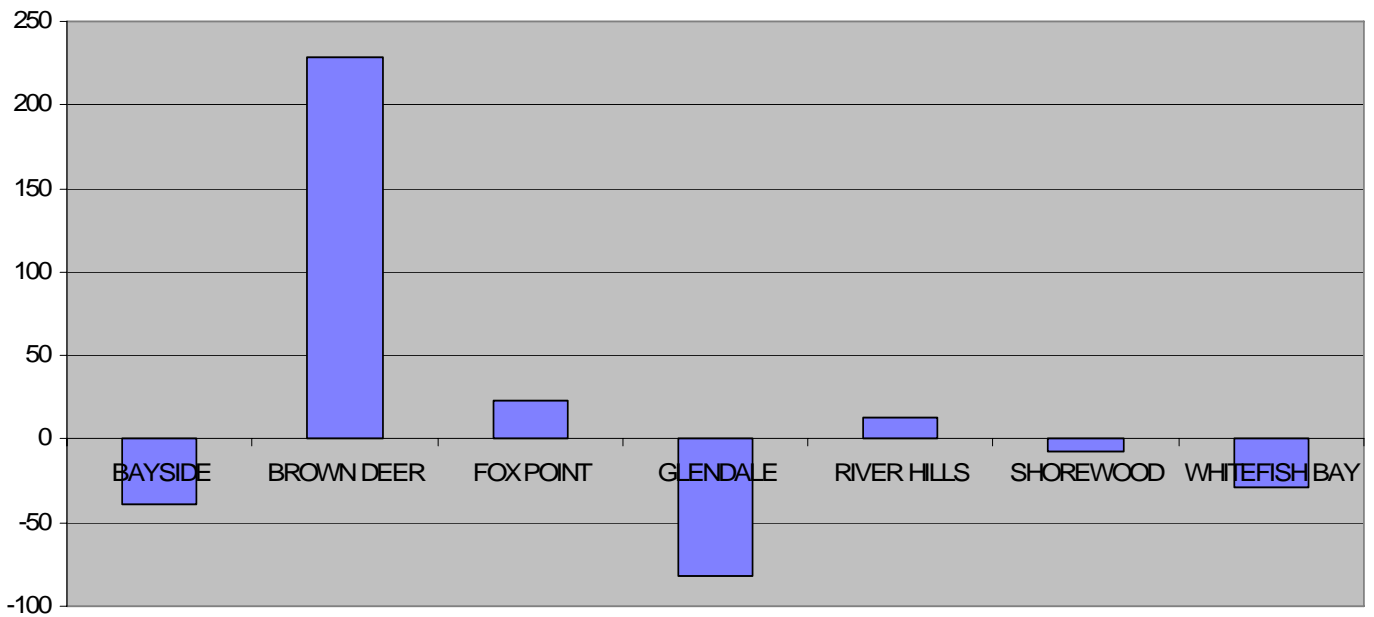
## RESPONSE INFORMATION



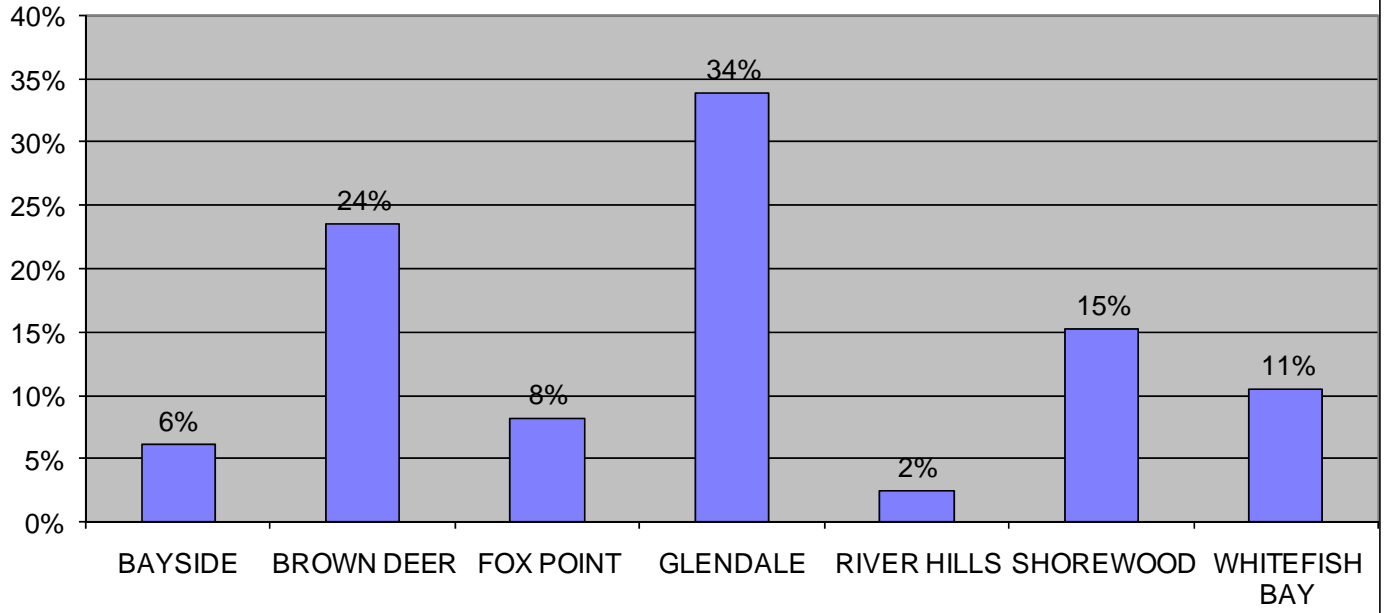
### 2008 Responses By Community



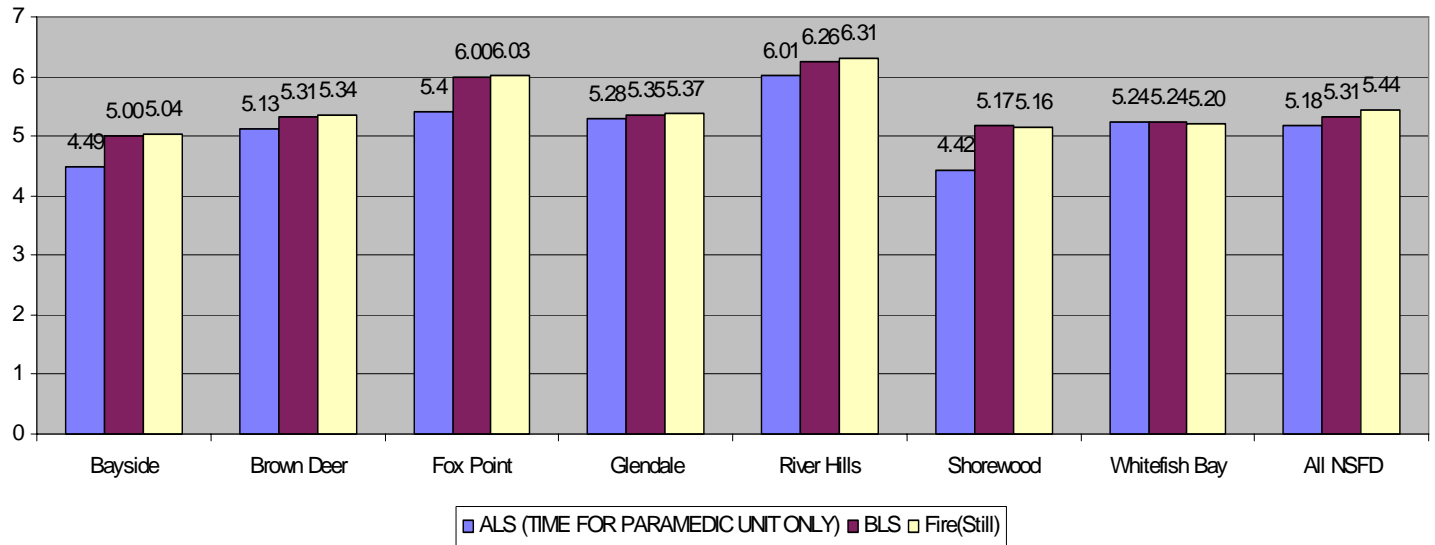
### Response Change 2008 VS 2007



2008 Calls By Percentage



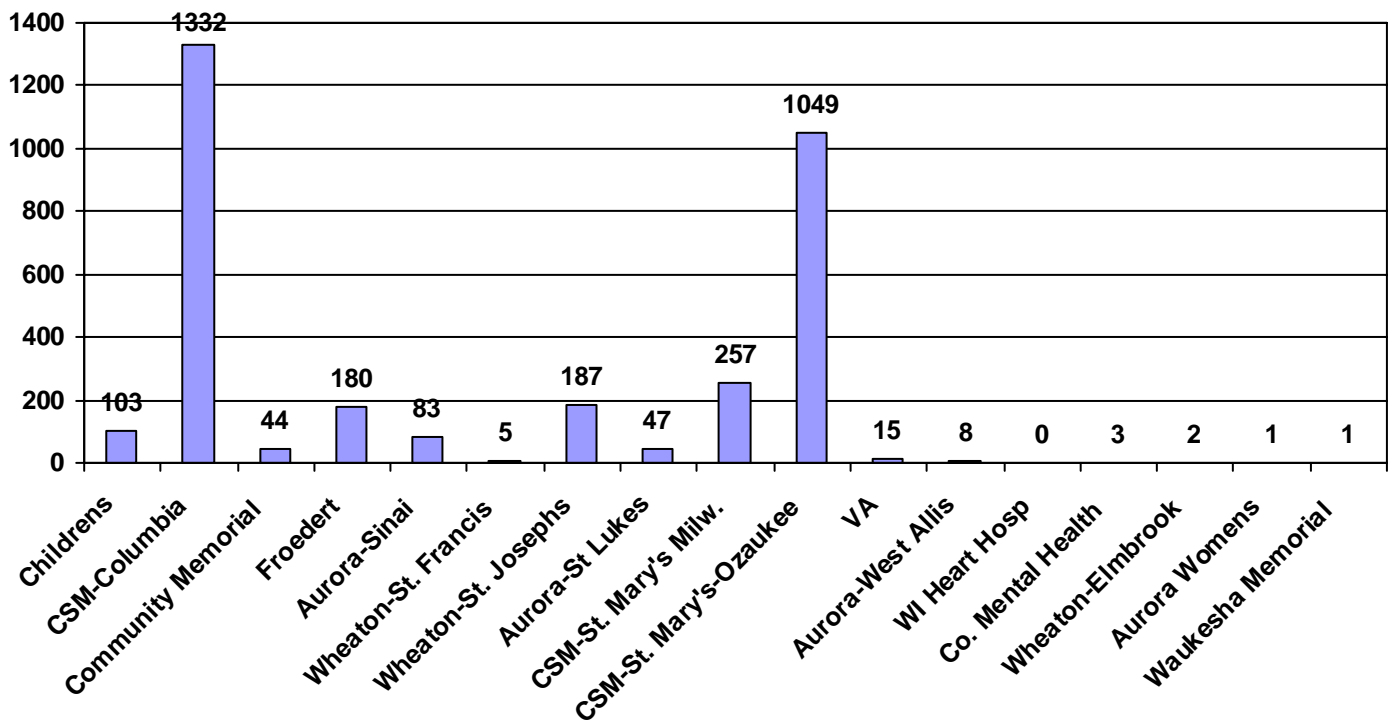
**2008 Total Response Time [Includes Dispatch, Fire Department Turn Out Time and Drive Time] (Does not Include Police Department Call Transfer Time for Bayside, Fox Point, River Hills and Brown Deer)**



The North Shore Fire Department strives to meet the response time standards of the National Fire Protection Association. These standards call for a total response time for the first unit to arrive at a fire or emergency medical response scene within six minutes for 90% of the incidents the department responds to. These standards also call for a paramedic licensed provider to arrive on the scene of an emergency medical response requiring paramedic care within ten minutes of the time of call for 90% of incidents.



### Hospital Destinations – 2008- All Transports



2008 Firefighter Recruit Class

Top Row: FF Regan Roehl, FF Paul Taleck, FF Robert Jones, Lead Instructor Lt. Peter Busalacchi  
 Front Row: FF David Keckeisen, FF Dustin Chacon, FF Jason Katz, FF Robert Krauss

## 2008 Year In Review

### January:

- Two new rescue engines were placed into service as Engine 1 and Engine 4. The two new engines were part of a redeployment of auto extrication and other technical rescue equipment from our ladder trucks to the new rescue engines. One of the goals of redeployment was to reduce the number of calls that our ladder companies were taking while maintaining our ability to respond to auto extrications and other technical rescue responses. A ladder truck is the most expensive vehicle the Department owns and the need to ensure those vehicles are able to meet their expected lifespan is imperative.

Upon review of year-end statistics, the goal of reducing the number of responses for our ladder trucks was met. Truck 2 responses were reduced by 622 calls from 2007 to 2008. This represents a 40% reduction in responses over 2007, while total calls for the Department were down only 2% over 2007.

Feedback about these new engines from the end-users, our firefighters in the field, has been great.



- The Department implemented a new Records Management System that has allowed the Department to consolidate three databases that were previously used. Access to data for analysis has become much more efficient.
- Lt. Randall Baures retired from the Department after twenty-eight years of service.

## **February:**

- On February 16, 2008 at 10:36 AM crews responded to Dunwood School located at 217 W. Dunwood Road in the Village of Fox Point for a report of fire in a class room. First arriving units found the fire located in a classroom that was under renovation. One hundred-fifty children ages five weeks to sixteen years old, along with several senior citizens were evacuated. All children and teachers were transported by a Milwaukee County Transit bus to the Village of Fox Point's Skating Shelter located nearby where they were reunited with parents. The investigation determined the fire started when a contractor replacing windows placed a hot torch down on a drop cloth and then left the area.
- Lt. David Kraemer and FF John Held retired from the Department after thirty years and twenty-eight years of service respectively.

## **March:**

- On March 9th at 3:35 p.m. firefighters responded to an automatic alarm at 9445 N Fairway Court in Bayside. Bayside Police reported smoke coming from the rear of the home and this call was upgraded to a Working Incident adding additional firefighting resources. First in crews found the entire home charged with smoke and were able to quickly extinguish the fire that was in the kitchen.
- On March 18th at 7:48 p.m., crews responded to natural gas leaks at 4475 & 4363 W. Dean Rd in Brown Deer that involved more than 100 apartments. Natural gas odor was found throughout both buildings, but fortunately was not in an explosive range. Crews shut the gas supply to these two buildings and proceeded to ventilate the gas. WE energies arrived and reported that a general contractor had done work to a 4" line in the basement of one of the buildings, and would need to come back out to correct the problem. After the buildings were deemed safe, they were turned back over to building management for follow through.
- The Department received a grant from Fireman's Fund Insurance for \$5,289.00 that is being used for purchase of a fifth Power Pro EMS Cot. This grant allows us to deploy a Power Pro Cot on all front-line ambulances. These cots are designed to reduce the lifting our EMTs and Paramedics are required to do, thus reducing the number of back injuries to our employees, one of the leading causes of lost-time injuries.
- Lt. Roger Goecks retired from the Department with thirty years of service.
- HEO Jim Christensen and HEO William Krauss retired from the Department after twenty-nine years of service.
- HEO Brian Wisniewski, FF Scott Grahn and FF Scott Kreuzer were promoted to the rank of Fire Lieutenant.
- FF Mark Hoffman, FF/PM Chris Kadow, FF Marc Formolo and FF Kevin Eggert were promoted to the rank of Heavy Equipment Operator.

## **April:**

- Heavy Equipment Operator Kevin Seyferth and Firefighter Dan Tyk graduated from Milwaukee County EMS Paramedic Training April 16. Both members successfully passed their National Registry Licensing Exam later in the month.
- Seven newly hired firefighters successfully completed their four week Fire Academy Training and were assigned to a company. Lieutenant Peter Busalacchi once again served as the Lead Instructor under the direction of Battalion Chief Robert Whitaker and did a fine job with the program.

## **May:**

- The Department participated in Bayshore Safety Days with displays of apparatus and the mobile Safety House. This year's event theme for the Fire Department was all hazards fire and life safety.
- On May 27, 2008, crews were dispatched to 4000 N Lake Drive in Shorewood for a report of a vehicle that went over the bluff and was possibly in the water at Atwater Park. On arrival crews found a car that drove over the bluff and came to rest on the base of the bluff hill on a concrete walkway slab. The driver was ejected at some point during the crash. Crews rapidly packaged the patient and expeditiously brought him to the top of the bluff. The patient was transported by a paramedic unit to the Flight for Life Helicopter that had landed at Atwater Elementary School to provide transport to Froedtert Hospital.

## **June:**

- Deputy Chief Charlie Myers resigned from the Department to take a position as Fire Chief in the City of Brookfield.
- The Department responded to forty calls within twenty-four hours on June 7. Many calls were as a result of heavy rains and flooding in the area. On average, the Department responded to seventeen calls every twenty-four hours.
- The Department extinguished a fire in a third floor apartment at 8901 N. Park Plaza Ct. in the Village of Brown Deer on June 21. Firefighters were called to the scene and found an apartment fully involved. Firefighters, with the assistance of the Brown Deer Police Department, evacuated the entire sixty-six unit building while they extinguished the fire. The fire was contained to a single unit. No injuries were reported to occupants or firefighters. Damage is estimated at \$40,000.00.
- Crews responded to a vehicle accident in the 6800 block of Green Bay Road in Glendale on June 26. Upon arrival crews found that an automobile had struck the front of a strip mall causing an estimated \$10,000.00 dollars damage to the structure and totaled the auto. Other agencies were contacted to insure the structure was safe for occupancy. No

one was injured inside the building while the driver was treated and released at the scene.

- Three new cardiac monitors/defibrillators were placed in service in June on ALS Ambulances. These units were purchased by Milwaukee County for use on ALS Ambulances under the current EMS Contract with Milwaukee County. All personnel received training in the units with assistance of the vendor.

### **July:**

- The value of smoke detectors was obvious when the Department responded at 11:15 am to a report of an alarm sounding at 4229 W Rivers Edge Circle in Brown Deer. Crews arrived to an apartment fire and quickly located a 44 year-old fire victim. The fire was quickly overhauled, and the occupant was transported to Columbia-St. Mary's Hospital for smoke inhalation. Had smoke detectors not been present in the apartment, all believed the outcome would have been significantly different.
- A contract was awarded to Reliant Fire Apparatus for the purchase of a Pierce Fire Engine.
- The Department was awarded a FY 2007 Homeland Security Program Grant Award for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) upgrades. The amount of the award was \$24,990.00. This money was utilized to upgrade our SCBAs with a Universal Rapid Intervention Team Connection. This upgrade will assist in the rescue of any downed firefighter, regardless of the type/manufacturer of the SCBA being utilized. This upgrade is integral to the success of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System.
- The Department responded to a fire in a single-family dwelling located on W. Good Hope Road in the Village of River Hills on July 9. Firefighters were called to the scene and found smoke coming from the roof of the structure. Firefighters quickly extinguished the stubborn fire. The fire was contained to the attic area. No injuries were reported to occupants. Damage was estimated at \$15,000.00.
- Crews responded to an automobile accident at 130 W. Silver Spring Drive in Whitefish Bay on July 14. Upon arrival crews found that an automobile had struck the front side of an Office building causing estimated \$15,000.00 dollars damage to the structure. Firefighters secured gas and electrical services until repairs could be made. Three occupants were inside the vehicle; driver and two small children in car seats. The driver was treated and transported to Columbia hospital. The children did not suffer any injuries.

## **September:**

- Battalion Chief Robert Whitaker and Andrew Harris were promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief. Chief Whitaker will oversee administrative functions, training and the emergency medical services programs. Deputy Chief Harris will oversee department operations.
- Lieutenant Steven Brennan was promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief and assigned to the Operations Division.
- Heavy Equipment Operator Toby Carlson was promoted to the rank of Fire Lieutenant.
- The Fire Prevention Bureau and several in-service companies participated in National Night Out Events in Brown Deer and Shorewood.
- A physical performance exam was held for firefighter candidates as the second step in the initial hiring process. Approximately one hundred candidates participated in this process over a two day period.

## **October:**

- The Department conducted its annual Fire Prevention Month events. In-service companies and Fire Prevention Bureau Staff made presentations to various school age children and groups in every community the Department serves. Over 5,000 children were contacted during the month by our Staff.
- The department participated in a Milwaukee County Emergency Management Mega-Table Top Exercise on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The exercise was designed to tax the resources of EMS/Fire and Police within the County. The exercise involved a possible terrorist event at a mall. Deputy Chief Whitaker was a facilitator to the program. We were allocated two seats at the exercise. The department was represented by Battalion Chief Brennan and Lieutenant Race.
- The following department members competed in the Firefighter Combat Challenge: Firefighter Tim Keller, Lieutenant Toby Carlson, Heavy Equipment Operator Arlen Spicer, Firefighter Peter Ziegelbauer, Firefighter Dan Muller, Firefighter Chad Semrow, Lieutenant Greg Sikora, Firefighter Joshua Dibb, Lieutenant Brian Wisniewski, Lieutenant Steven Tucker, Heavy Equipment Operator Steven Toppel, Lieutenant Scott Gonwa, Heavy Equipment Operator Chris Kadow and Firefighter Andy Ashley. The Challenge seeks to encourage firefighter fitness and demonstrate the profession's rigors to the public. Wearing "full bunker gear" and an SCBA breathing apparatus, pairs of competitors race head-to-head as they simulate the physical demands of real-life firefighting by performing a linked series of five tasks including climbing the 5-story tower, hoisting, chopping, dragging hoses and rescuing a life-sized, 175 lb. "victim" as they race against themselves, their opponent and the clock. The North Shore Fire Department Members competed in individual and team events.

- On October 1, 2008 the Department extinguished a fire in the River Place Apartment complex at 4224 W. Hawthorne Trace Road, in the Village of Brown Deer. The fire, which started on the first floor, extended to the second floor and attic, was reported at 8:46 a.m. The incident was upgraded to a second alarm due to the size of the structure and number of residents evacuated. Brookfield, Cedarburg, Menomonee Falls, Mequon, St. Francis, Thiensville, West Allis and Wauwatosa Fire Departments provided mutual aid assistance with on scene operations and coverage at other fire stations. There were three minor non-fire related injuries to apartment residents and one injury to a firefighter that required hospital attention.

#### **November:**

- On November 28th, at 0134 hours, the Department received a report of a handicap van in the ditch at 8280 North 67th Street in Brown Deer. Engine 1 arrived on scene to find that the handicap transport van had struck one or two parked cars in a resident's driveway and then ended in a ditch. There were a total of six occupants of the van. Some minor extricating was done and five patients were transported to two area hospitals, fortunately with minor injuries. A nursing home advisor reported that five of her residents were taken to family homes on Thanksgiving Day and the driver was to have brought them back before 11:00 pm. After the accident, the driver sent one of his occupants to walk to the nursing home for help, which was over two miles away. This resulted in a two hour delay for the occupants to receive care.

#### **December:**

- FF/PM Dan Kral retired from the Department after eighteen years of service.
- FF Richard Rutley was promoted to the rank of Heavy Equipment Operator.
- On December 16, 2008, the Department responded to 8850 North Port Washington Road in Bayside for a report of a gasoline smell in the building. Upon arrival crews searched the building finding an overwhelming odor coming from a locked room in the basement. Crews found twenty to twenty-five gallons of gasoline in the basement's sump pump well. The ten occupants were evacuated; power and gas to the building were shut off. The regional hazardous materials team along with Veolia Environmental Services responded to the scene to assist the Department. It was determined that a customer inadvertently filled his diesel truck with unleaded gas at the adjacent gas station and dumped the gasoline. Crews remained on scene for over six hours. The building was turned back over to Bayside Police and Veolia Environmental.