

## **COHOES FIRE DEPARTMENT 2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

In 2010 members of the Cohoes Fire Department attended training sessions in various subjects throughout the Capital Region and also participated in county-wide drills. In particular, the department has and will continue participate in Regional Wide Haz –Mat exercises as part of the Albany County Hazardous Material Team. In February of 2010, members attended a tabletop exercise along with members of Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga and Rensselear counties fire departments. Members also attended a meet and greet event for Haz-Mat Teams from Albany, Schenectady, Rensselear and Saratoga counties. The meeting was held at Building 7A of the NYS office campus in Albany.

Public Education and Fire Safety Programs were conducted at all of the Cohoes School District elementary schools. The department also hosted numerous daycare and preschools in the stations during fire prevention week and periodically throughout the year. The department renewed it's commitment with the National Fire Safety Council to continue to provide a structured fire prevention program for 2011.

In 2010 all members of the department were trained in swift water rescue and in 2011 the department will conduct state certified courses in building collapse, trench rescue and permit required confined space rescue. This course will lead us into a confined space rescue program for businesses in our city as well as our Department of Public Works. The department also established an apparatus committee consisting of union members to develop a set of plans for a new engine. We hoped to bid for this apparatus in 2010, and although the committee finished its work, nothing has been purchased to date.

In 2009 the Cohoes Fire Department received a grant from the New York State Department of State to study the feasibility of the City of Cohoes and the City of Watervliet consolidating or sharing fire and emergency medical services. Although the grant was proposed to be completed by the end of 2010, it is expected to be completed in early 2011. The Cohoes Fire Department reapplied for the 2010 FEMA Safer Grant after the submission of the 2009 FEMA Safer Grant was denied. The department was awarded the 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grant and purchased the ERT accountability system which was placed in service in May of this year.

Dr. Bruce Uskhow continues to monitor our EMS program and conducts monthly quality assurance meetings. He has responded to numerous calls to observe our members in action. The development of an EMS response guide for incidents involving large numbers of patients, specifically seniors housed in our larger facilities as well as a rehab plan for the members of the department for not only cold weather but also the extreme heat of summer are on going. In 2011 we hope to institute an electronic PCR system to further enhance our ability to analyze our EMS data. This program will be needed as the state will stop providing PCR's to agencies.

In 2010, 20 firefighters were certified as Emergency Medical Technicians with another four firefighters to be certified in 2011. Possible pilot/research program and field study for the use of BLS CPAP devices for respiratory distress is still being considered.

In the coming year the department will continue to implement new SOPs and further standardize the way we do business.

In 2010 the total number of calls was down from 2009 from 3,141 to 3,035. Fire calls increased from 89 in 2009 to 105 in 2010, Rescue and EMS calls increased from 2,182 in 2009 to 2,240 in 2010. We had six general alarm fires in the city in 2010 and responded on mutual aid outside the city a total of 11 times.

**Incidents 1/01/2010 thru 12/31/2010**

FIRE CALLS	105
EXPLOSIONS, OVERHEATING	3
RESCUE AND EMS	2,240
HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS	153
SERVICE CALLS	167
GOOD INTENT CALLS	106
SYSTEM MALFUNCTION & DETECTOR ACTIVATIONS	259
SPECIAL TYPE INCIDENTS	2
SEVER WEATHER/NATURAL DISASTERS	
TOTAL CALLS FOR 2010	3,035