

**2011  
Cohoes Fire Department  
Annual Report**

During 2011 members of the department attended training in various subjects around the capital district and participated in county- wide drills. In particular, the department has and will continue to participate in Regional Haz-Mat exercises as part of the Albany County Hazardous Material team.

There was a table top drill conducted at the South Schenectady Fire Department in February and was attended by eight of our members along with members of departments from Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga and Rensselear counties.

Public Education and Fire Safety programs were conducted in all City elementary schools. The department hosted numerous daycare providers and preschools in the stations during fire prevention week and throughout the year. The department renewed it's commitment with National Fire Safety Council to continue to provide a structured fire prevention program in 2011.

In 2011 all members of the department were trained in 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 within the city as well as our Department of Public Works.

The department established an apparatus committee consisting of union members to develop a set of plans for a new engine. We went to bid for this apparatus in mid 2011 with delivery of a new E-1 pumper scheduled for April of 2012.

In 2009 we received a grant from New York State Department of State to study the feasibility of the City of Cohoes and the City of Watervliet consolidating or sharing services. This study was completed in 2011 and a final report was issued by the consultants.

Dr Bruce Uskhov continues to monitor our EMS program and conducts monthly quality assurance meetings. He has responded to numerous calls to observe our members in action.

In the coming year the department will continue to implement new SOPs and to further standardize the way we do business. During the year 2011 we recertified 4 firefighters as Emergency Medical Technicians. Possible pilot/research program and field study for the use of BLS CPAP devices for respiratory distress is still being considered.

Development of EMS response guides for incidents involving a large number of patients, specifically those seniors housed in our larger facilities and a rehab plan for the members of the department for not only cold weather but also the extreme heat of summer are on going.

We have again applied for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and, if awarded, will be used to purchase new turn out equipment for all members of the department. The amount requested in the grant is \$85,000.00.

In 2011 we have instituted an electronic PCR system, EMS Charts, and will go online with this in January of 2012. This program took many hours of work by staff and our IT department to have this program come to fruition.

On Sunday, August 28 2011 Hurricane Irene roared into the City of Cohoes creating one of the most trying times for not only the fire department but all other city departments as well. In the

course of the 48 hours following to impact the department responded to more than 75 calls for assistance ranging from wire arching to flooded basements and trees down.

Residents from Cohoes, Green Island and the Town of Colonie were forced to leave their homes due to flooding conditions throughout the area. The fire department assisted the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Cohoes City School District and the Cohoes Police Department in opening a shelter at the Cohoes High School for the residents who were displaced by flooding. Over the course of the next three days, the American Red Cross, with the help from the other agencies, provided food and shelter to more than 80 families. This was a first for all of the city departments. All involved worked extremely well to make this a successful operation.

**Incidents 1/01/2011 thru 12/31/2011**

FIRE CALLS	91
RESCUE AND EMS	2,436
HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS	182
SERVICE CALLS	222
GOOD INTENT CALLS	64
SYSTEM MALFUNCTION & DETECTOR ACTIVATIONS	263
SPECIAL TYPE INCIDENTS	2
SEVER WEATHER/NATURAL DISASTERS	2
TOTAL CALLS FOR 2011	3,262

We had five general alarm fires in the city in 2011 and responded on mutual aid outside the city a total of six times.

In 2011, the department responded to a total of 3,262 calls which was an increase from 2010 with a total of 3,035 calls. Fire calls decreased from 105 in 2010 to 91 in 2011, rescue and EMS calls increased from 2,240 in 2010 to 2,436 in 2011. The other categories listed increased in most incidents with the exception of good intent calls which decreased.