

REPORT OF THE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

In your lifetime, have you ever had to call for a fire or medical emergency? Think back about it. Was it recently or perhaps years ago? Was it for you or your family or perhaps were you the first one to see a car accident? And after you made the call for help, a thousand thoughts must have raced through your head.

This happens every day. The emergency response is a fundamental community government service, and that call sets a substantial resource mobilization into action. It is a source of no small amount of pride for many of us to help in times of trouble, do the job well, and return home safely, day or night. See, we know some things others don't because we've been trained. The training we all have is modern, professional and regional, so it isn't necessarily big city solutions to rural Fremont issues.

Those of us that are on the other side - your neighbors who are first responders and volunteer professionals - are dedicated and highly trained. When we hear the calls, we have a similar rush of thoughts and possible solutions each time. Our motto is this: "Prepared to Serve". One thing is starting to change though from years gone by. It is critical, and it is something we need to act on now.

We need more help – we need YOU to help. The pool of volunteer staff is dwindling in availability – especially when it comes to answering week day calls. This story isn't about how we can't meet your needs - we have backup plans in place to meet our community needs. This is a report about how we need help in our staffing levels to avoid using those backup services or hiring full time paid employees some day down the road. Today's members of the Fremont Fire Rescue Department can be eligible to get compensation for their service – there is a program set up like a 401 plan – we call it LOSAP – length of service and awards program – and members can be eligible for points compensation. This can range from a couple of hundred dollars a year, to maybe nine hundred, plus the LOSAP. That is funded by property taxes, and the membership greatly appreciates this support of our Town. Payment is made once a year usually in December. That tax burden pales in comparison to what would be required for a full time staff compensation package.

The membership drive that this letter kicks off is just one aspect and example of how we need your help. We need people to be the emergency responders, people to participate in vehicle and equipment maintenance. We need people who can be administrative – like organizing a membership drive and answering the many calls we hope to receive; preparing the reports to State and Federal Government agencies, we need anyone who is willing to join our ranks and directly or indirectly help their neighbors and take pride doing it. This will require a commitment in training, performance, service, and dedication – just like our membership has done for years in preparation to serve.

If you can help in any of this, please call the Safety Complex- chances are you'll have to leave a message – at 895-9634 or try an email to fremontfiredept@comcast.net

or better yet, attend our meeting on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Safety Complex.

If you live in another town and you are reading this, chances are your community needs help too. Contact your local station or call 1-800 FIRELINE to explore volunteer opportunities.

As I sit writing the 2007 annual report and looking out at all the snow, it makes me think about the changes that have come about in the Fire Department.

When I came on the Fire Department back in 1954, the cabs were open on most of the equipment. The 1915 Model T Fire Truck and the 1936 Lincoln homemade fire truck were examples of this and also they had no heaters. Firefighters had to put chains on before every storm and take them off when the roads cleared. This went on until the inventions of snow tires and 4x4 trucks. Now we don't even have chains at all and nice heated crew cabs. Also, we have warm bunker gear instead of cold rubber coats for our personnel.

It also brings to mind that you as homeowners, could help Fire and Rescue by clearing all doors, decks, bulkheads and paths of snow and ice. A path to the back of house would be very helpful also. Remember that you may need to get out of your home in a hurry, and the door you generally use may be inaccessible due to fire. Always have a second means of escape.

The Department has faced many new challenges in the last few years. One is the addition of ethanol to gasoline. It is much harder to extinguish this type of fire. Another problem is the manufacturing of Hybrid Cars. It is more difficult for Rescue to extricate due to the high voltage of over 700 volts. Air bags also presents a problem with the time it takes to disable them and locate what propels them.

In the home we have the dangers of roof and floor joists collapses, especially the laminated trusses. They collapse very fast, letting floors drop into the basement. One has to be very careful of inside fire attacks.

We are seeing many false carbon monoxide calls. Please buy a good detector that reads in parts per million. If you start your car in a basement, a CO detector will go off a short time later. Non-vented heaters and fire places (gas) will also cause a detector to alarm. NOTE: One of the largest makers of non-vented heaters and fireplaces, has pulled these devices off the market. Power vents also continue to be a problem. You see more and more black marks on outside walls of homes with this type of venting furnace. Hazardous Materials updates and techniques and training continue to be very time consuming as well.

The year 2007 was the first year of the combined Fire/Rescue joint operation. All has gone well, but as with anything new there have been a few bumps in the road. Both budgets stayed about the same as last year, but are now shown as combined.

Remember to always call DISPATCH in RAYMOND at 895-4222 for BURNING PERMITS. If there is snow on the ground, we STILL like to know you are burning so the Department doesn't respond to a reported "smoke in the area." You do need a written permit for outdoor burning at all times, except for when the ground is fully covered with snow. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

I would again thank all the other Town Agencies and people for their help and support. We must not forget their wives and significant others for putting up with all the time spent making Fremont Fire/Rescue the great organization that we have here in Fremont. Also, my thanks to Betty for all the things she does for me and supporting me. Never a meal in the trash when I am late for dinner. Just a little complaint about the scanners going off at 3AM. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Heselton
Fire Chief

2007 Calls for Service

Medical Aid / Rescue Incident	203	Vehicle fire	1
Service Calls / Inspections	13	Chimney Fire	2
Structure Fire	4	Assist Rescue and Ambulance	8
Motor Vehicle Crash	13	CO Detector Activation	10
Mutual Aid Given / Fire	17	Hazardous Condition	1
Unpermitted Fire	6	Brush / Woods Fire	5
Smoke / Fire Alarm Activation	13	Search	1
Good Intent	2	Water Rescue	1
Storm Related Call	1	Mutual Aid Drills	2
False Alarm	7	Electrical Storm related	8
Burning Permits Issued	301	Total Responses	318

Fremont Fire Rescue ~ Fire Prevention Day Open House
October 2007



Photo Courtesy of Betty Stanley