Brownstown Fire Department

2010 Annual Summary Report

Introduction

I am pleased to report the following fire department activity summary for 2010. The department responded to a total of 2,692 incidents, 333 more than the previous year of 2009 which was a increase of 14%, this appears to be contributed to more auto accidents, medical emergencies and good intent calls in 2010 similar to 2009. There were 132 fires (38 building & Vehicles, 68 careless cook fires, 25 Field, rubbish fires), 1,890 medical Emergencies, attended to 1,966 patient encounters (904 advanced life support, 794 basic life support, 192 treat & Release patients) . our department transported 1,698 of these patients to area hospitals, (19% Henry ford Brownstown, 3.7% Heritage, 62% south shore, 11% Henry Ford Wyandotte, .4% children's Hospital, 1% Oakwood Main, 2.9% other), 214 auto vehicle accidents with injuries, 54 hazardous Conditions, 146 service calls, 37 illegal burns, 94 good intent calls, 117 false alarms (all types), Remainder were of miscellaneous types.

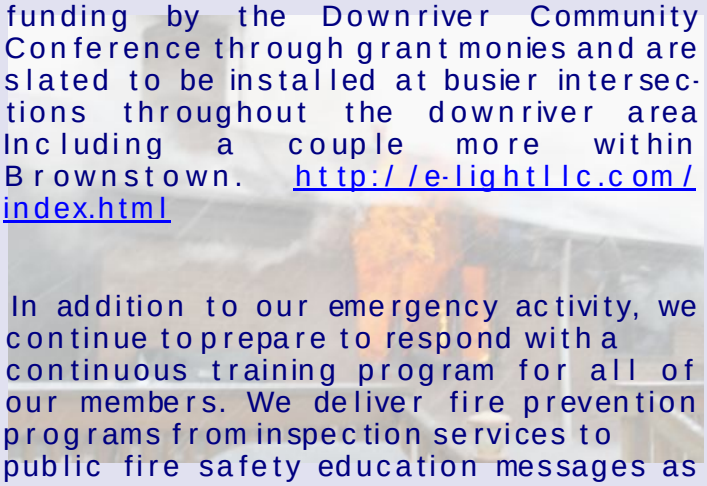
In addition to fire and EMS calls,it is once again becoming more apparent that the public relies on the fire department to help them when they have a problem. fourteen percent of the calls were classified as either public service or a good intent calls. These are classified as open burns, carbon monoxide alarms/investigations, assist invalids, smoke & steam scares, smoke odors.

28% of the call volume was for multiply calls for service within a 30 minute time frame. this increased call volume has stretched our daily available on duty resources. Even with this demand the department has been able to provide als first response to all calls for service.

In late December our fire units were equipped with on board computers which are connected to the dispatch center using computer aided dispatch (CAD) software which enables the fire units to receive real time call dispatch information as well as a visually mapped call location. The unit is also able to interact with this information. The on board computers also allow for fire personnel to retrieve vital site information and allows for real time retrieval of hazardous materials mitigation software and enhanced communications software.

In December we welcomed four new firefighter/medics (Robert Campeau, Brandon Craft, Mark Sanfilippo, Shane Wilde) Three of these new firefighters filled vacant positions from the late Andy Orme who unexpectedly passed away in May 2009, Kim Pilarski who took a job out of state, and Kevin Miller who resigned due to medical conditions and one new position was added.

The E-Light Program which began in 2009 continues to provide additional safety for both the motoring public and emergency responding vehicles. These lights were installed at the intersection of allen/sibley and Telegraph/Sibley as a pilot program. A traffic study has shown an improved awareness by motorized who are approaching these intersections at the time emergency responding equipment is approaching on their way to emergency scenes. This program has been such a success that additional E-Lights are being funding by the Downriver Community Conference through grant monies and are slated to be installed at busier intersections throughout the downriver area Including a couple more within Brownstown. http://e-lightllc.com/index.html



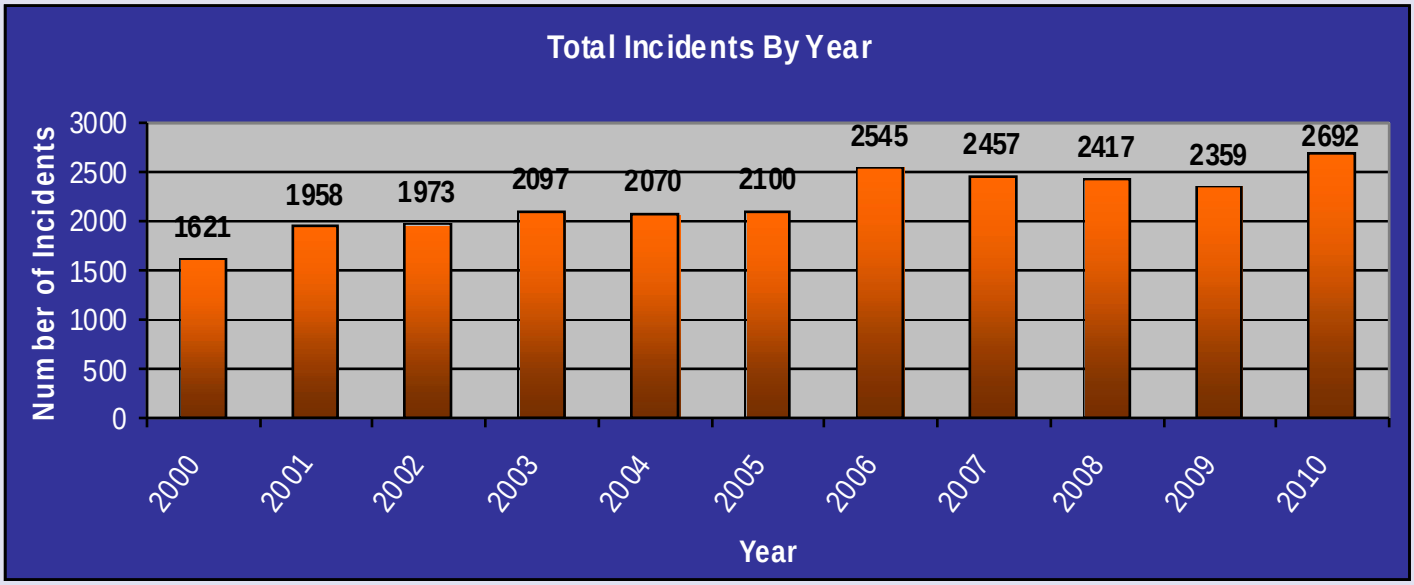
In addition to our emergency activity, we continue to prepare to respond with a continuous training program for all of our members. We deliver fire prevention programs from inspection services to public fire safety education messages as well as fire investigations. We also continue to participate in Fermi exercise drills coming under the auspices of the Wayne County Emergency Management program.

Chief Jeff E. Drouillard

Emergency activities

Emergency response is provided from two fire districts; one district covering the north end of the township and one covering the center and south sections. One station in each district is staffed 24/7 with a minimum of four firefighter/paramedics.

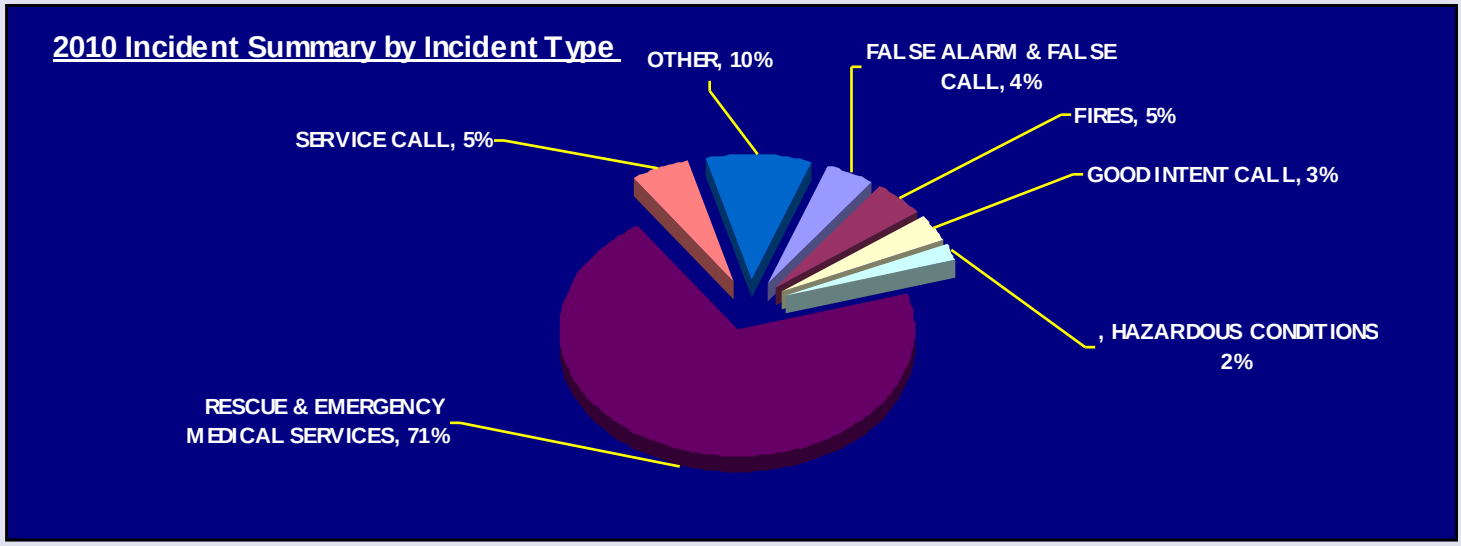
Each station responds with a state licensed Advanced life support transport ambulance and/or an advanced life support fire engine. There were 78% responses to the north end, 13% to the center section and 8% to the south end. Average response time township wide 5.1, north end 5.66, center 4.2, south end 6.8 minutes.

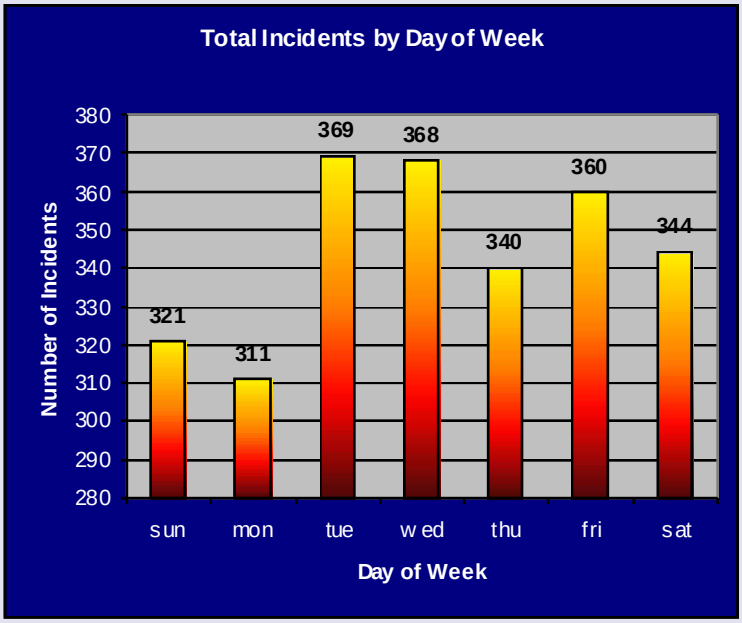


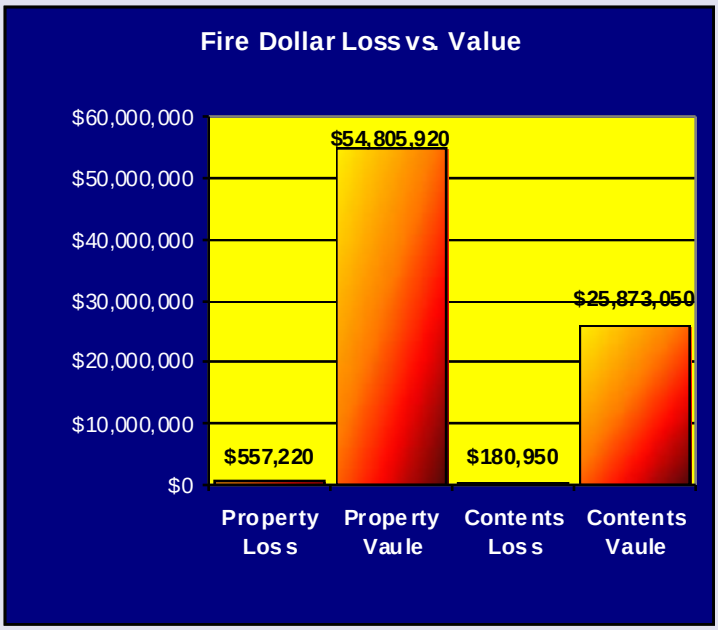
Mutual Aid

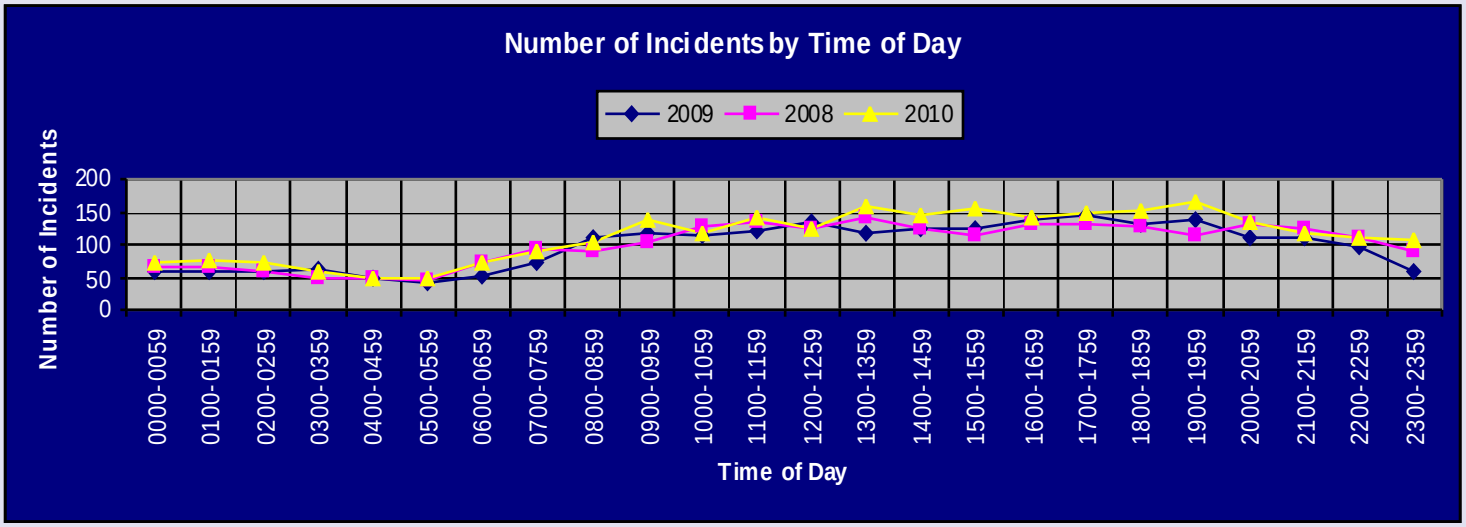
The department is an active member with the Downriver Mutual Aid Group. The department provided mutual aid to other communities a total of 91 times, and received mutual aid assistance 77 times. In 2010, the department provided mutual aid to our bordering neighbors as follows: (Trenton 2 responses, Woodhaven 4, Flat rock 10, Gibraltar 23, Huron Twp. 8, Rockwood 3, Romulus 2, Taylor 38).

Emergency activity









Fire Prevention / Public Education / Investigation

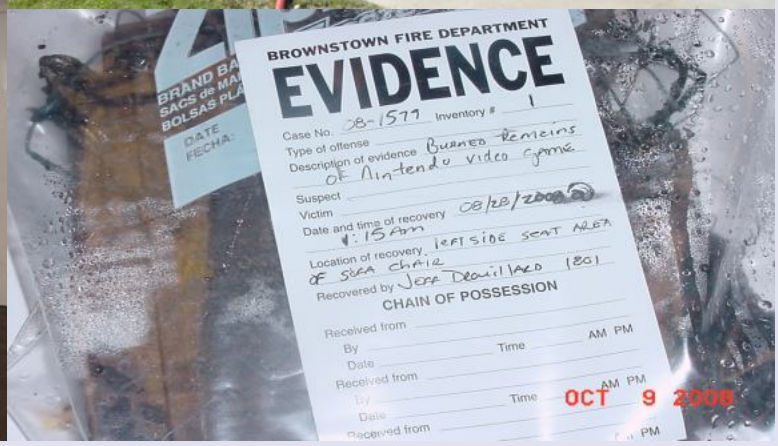
The department responded to 132 fires last year. Seventy Seven of these fires were investigated for cause & origin. Five were found to be arson, 32 accidental, 5 suspicious, 35 undetermined.

A total of 784 new and existing commercial business & multi Family Dwelling inspections were conducted which included the following types: annual, complaint, code compliance, licensing, suppression system, haz-mat, specialty inspections and reinspections. inspected 44 new residential homes for smoke detector installation approval. Conducted 2 site plan reviews, 4 construction plan reviews, 1 fire alarm reviews, 1 fire suppression reviews, 6 commercial hood suppression systems, 2 water main projects, issued 26 burn permits and investigated several fire code complaints generating approx $6,300 in revenue, significantly lower than the previous years.

Some of the top 10 inspection code violations found are as follows: missing smoke alarms, missing batteries in smoke alarms, improper placement of smoke alarms, extension cord use, unreadable addresses, non functional fire doors, unapproved storage conditions, unsafe portable heating appliances, unsafe conditions, inoperative emergency lighting units.

The department participated in 47 fire safety education programs and public relation appearances, which included local schools, cub scout groups, citizen groups, company

picnics, metro park special events, ems standby details, senior citizen pancake breakfasts, subdivision block parties and fire station tours & open houses. These activities impacted approximately 3,500 people.

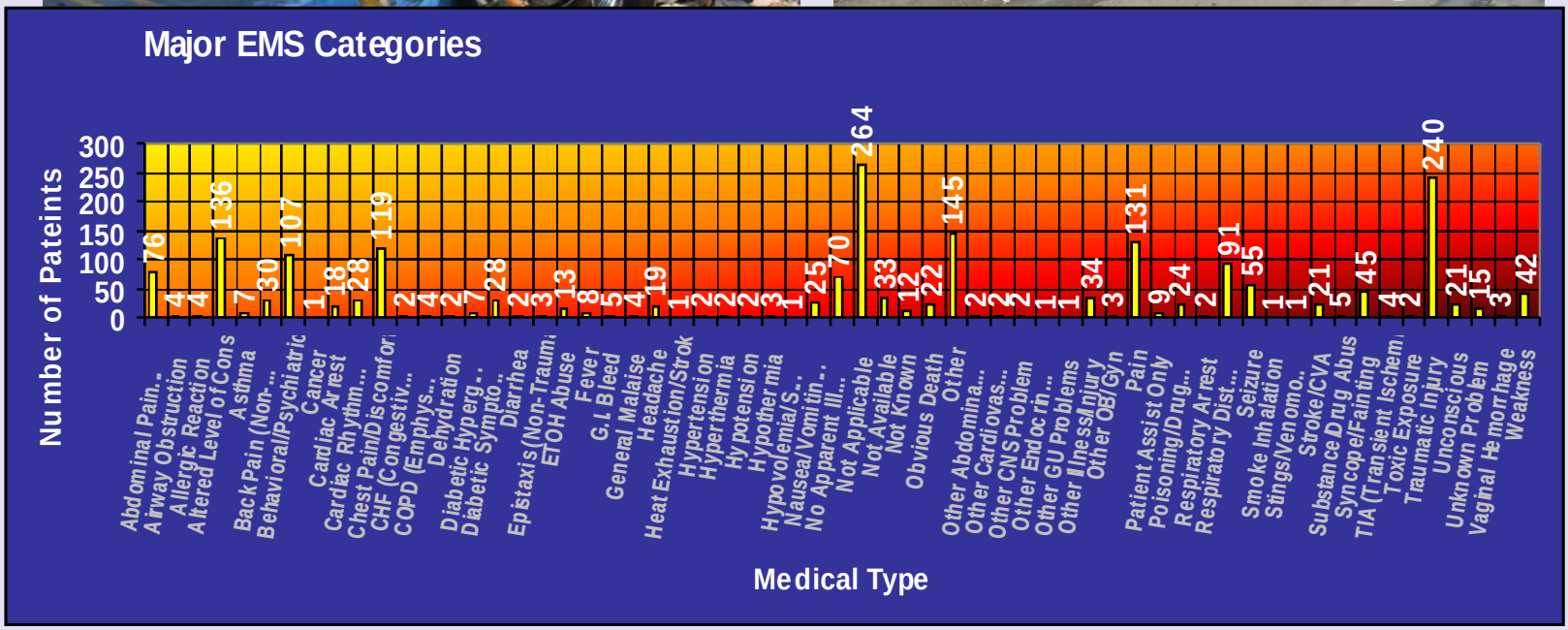


Emergency Medical Services

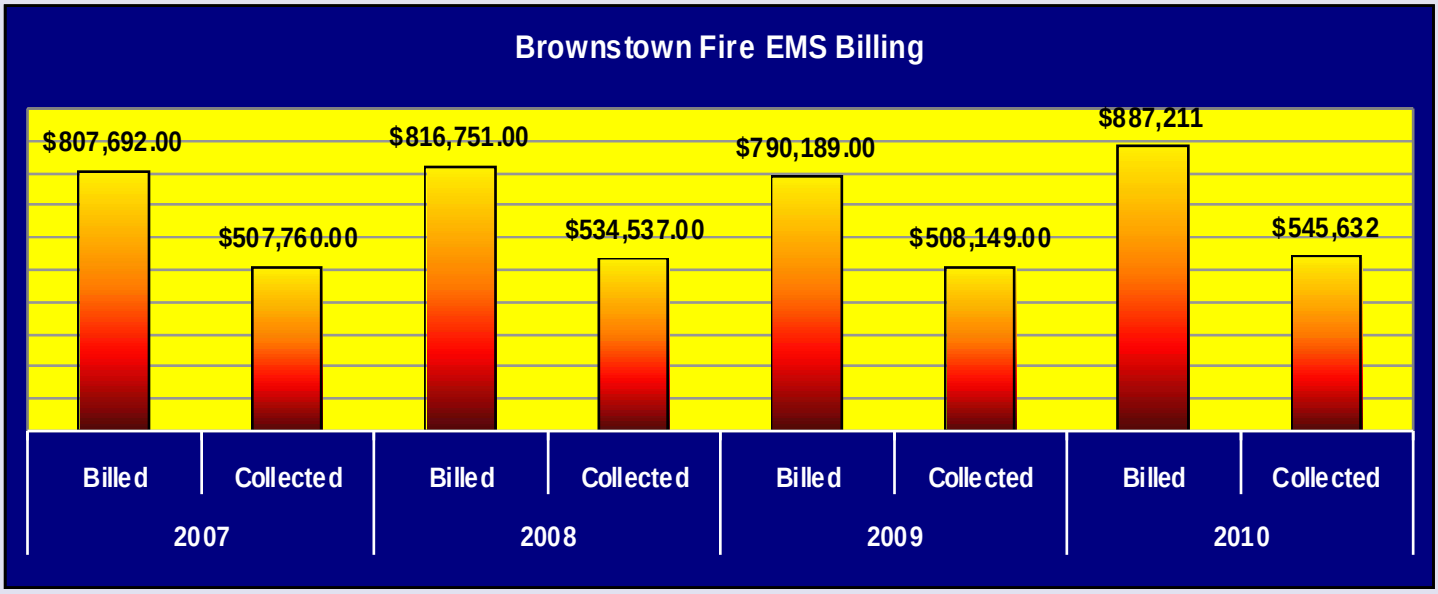
The Brownstown fire department provides the highest level of emergency medical services to the community which is advanced life support (paramedic) service on all medical emergencies. All of our 32 career staff assigned to operational duties are trained and state licensed to this highest level possible in the pre hospital emergency medical services.

When a medical emergency is received by the 9-1-1 communications center, The call is sent to the appropriate fire department units who respond to the call.
This approach in starting critical care has been beneficial in providing continual care for our citizens who are transported to the hospital.

- A gross amount of $545,632 up 7% compared to last year, was collected for advanced and basic life support transports and $8, 255 on auto accident cost recovery.
- The department transported 1,698 patients to area hospitals.
- Continued to work with county resources to develop rules and policies for Emergency medical services in Wayne county.
- Continued to develop our standard of care and provided transportation to patients with symptoms of a stroke, major trauma, or cardiac symptoms to most appropriate medical facility.
- In the upcoming year our department will begin 12 lead field ekg interpretation and telemetry to the local hospital. In the event of a cardiac related issue, we will be able to determine the exact area of the heart muscle being affected and send that image to the local e.r. doctor where the determination can be made prior to our hospital arrival to take that patient directly to the cauterization o,r, rather than stopping in the e.r. and causing further heart muscle damage.



Although we bill a much higher amount as in accordance with regional insurance standards, not all of the amount billed is paid by the various insurance carriers and/or Medicare and Medicaid. Some amounts are not collectable due to no insurance coverage.



Beginning January 2010 our department Now collects EMS incident field data Reports electronically using paperless Computer software on portable Computer tablets. This was not only a state mandate, but was also a Department objective in which to Improve Data accuracy and quality , which will Improve billing abilities and collectibles.

Since the change to electronic data collection we have been able to improve overall total billables and have shown a remarkable improvement in reporting Information legibility and accuracy.

Training

The Brownstown Fire Department trains throughout the year. Our training consists of ongoing education to satisfy our many licensure requirements in both fire and ems as well as new training to enhance the knowledge base of our members. These lead to higher certifications and better service to our citizens and those who pass through our Community.

The Department participated in or conducted 171 hours of collective training through 111 classes plus several on-line firefighting and ems courses.

These Training sessions are of both classroom and practical evolutions which allows for the firefighters to enhance both their knowledge and skills as well as learning new knowledge and skills.

A few of those classes included:

- Electric Hybrid auto familiarization and extrication techniques
- Fire inspection certification updates
- Fire investigation certification updates
- Firefighter Safety & Survival
- Computer Aided Dispatch
- Haz Mat Properties
- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus & Pack Tracker Location for Downed Firefighter
- Emergency driving skills
- Paramedic continuing education courses
- Aerial Truck Operations

Department Personnel

Chief
Jeff E. Drouillard

Temp Admin. Secretary
Phil Frank
March 2010 – Current

Inspector
James Katona

Inspector
Mark McLain

Lt. Bob Cunningham

Lt. John Horvath

Lt. Ryan McMenemy

Lt. Mark Robbins

Lt. Dave VanWallaghen

Lt. Dave Zurawski

FF / Medic
Phil Parent

FF / Medic
Scott Proudlock

FF / Medic
Scott Hamilton

FF / Medic
Frank Bianchi

FF / Medic
Rodney Roberts

FF / Medic
Larry McCray

FF / Medic
Don Melow

FF / Medic
James Lauer

FF / Medic
Tom Cox

FF / Medic
Bob Barclay

FF / Medic
Corey Mates

FF / Medic
Brian McNeil

FF / Medic
Nick Sanfilippo

FF / Medic
Phil Brock

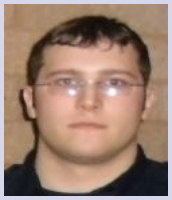
FF / Medic
Heidi Wachtel

FF / Medic
Dan Easton

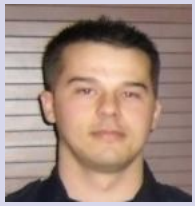
FF / Medic
Brian Nichols

FF / Medic
Chris Russo

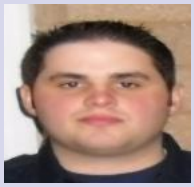
FF / Medic
Shane Wilde



FF / Medic
Brandon Craft



FF / Medic
Robert Campeau



FF / Medic
Mark Sanfilippo