Brownstown Fire Department

2012 Annual Summary Report

Introduction

I am pleased to report the following fire department activity summary for 2012. The department responded to a total of 2,747 incidents, 118 Less than the previous year of 2011. This decrease of 4.3% appears to be contributed to less medical emergencies in 2012 . There were 121 fires (49 building & Vehicles, 44 careless cook fires, 28 Field, rubbish fires), 1,878 medical Emergencies, attended to 2072 patient encounters (1313 advanced life support, 405 basic life support, 354 treat & Release patients) . our department transported 1,698 of these patients to area hospitals, (14% Henry ford Brownstown, 4.25% Heritage, 42.4% south shore, 7.5% Henry Ford Wyandotte, .29% children's Hospital, 1% Oakwood Main, .12% other, 30.2% non transport), 210 auto vehicle accidents with injuries, 69 hazardous Conditions, 158 service calls, 32 illegal burns, 119 good intent calls, 124 false alarms (all types), Remainder were of miscellaneous types.

The public relies on the fire department to help them when they have a problem in more than just fire and EMS responses. Sixteen 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.

32% of the call volume was for multiply calls for service within a 30 minute time frame. This is up 4 % from the previous year. This increased call volume has stretched our daily available on duty resources. Even with this increased demand, the department has been able to provide a.l.s first response to all calls for service, as well as fire protection response with on duty personnel.

Our on board computers within our fire units (which where installed in December of 2010) are connected to the dispatch center. using computer aided dispatch (CAD) software has shown to be very beneficial to our firefighters by enabling the fire units to receive real time call dispatch information as well as a visually mapped call locations. The units are also able to interact with this information. The on board computers continue to allow fire personnel to retrieve vital site information and allows for real time retrieval of hazardous materials mitigation software and enhanced communications software.

In June, we welcomed three new firefighter/medics (William Carroll, Chad Behrik, and Greg Mangan) one of these new firefighters filled a vacant position who resigned to seek other interests and Two new position were added. With this newly added staff we have been able to, based on the daily staffing levels and available apparatus units, staff the west Jefferson fire station with an A.L.S ambulance unit for increased first response within this area of the township.

In July, we entered into an auto aid agreement with the city of Trenton. This auto aid allows for both communities to respond automatically to either municipalities' building fires and to building's automatic fire alarm notifications, There by adding additional fire personnel and equipment to these types of incidents. This automatic aid makes it much quicker to have a sufficient amount of firefighters at the fire ground scene allowing safer and more efficient operations for both firefighters and the public.

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 motorists 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

Introduction Cont...

slated to be installed at busier intersections throughout the downriver area, including a couple more within Brownstown. To learn more about this program visit http://e-lightllc.com/index.html

The department is always on the cutting edge of technology and has recently added another technological tool to enhance our life saving abilities. A video laryngoscope has been added to our first response a.l.s ambulances. This device allows for much quicker access for intubation of patients who need advanced airways and/or those patients that have an obstruction within their airways. The video laryngoscope allows the medics to visualize the upper airway with a small 2 inch portable video screen attached to the device. Prior to this new device, medics had to open the airway and get down level with the patients mouth so that they could look inside the upper airway to visualize the trachea opening making it much slower to finding the correct entry for the endotracheal tube.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?ature=player_detailpage&v=Djy10C4uLA8

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 Department of Home Land Security Emergency Management program.

We strive to stay at the leading edge with the latest innovative and technological equipment and techniques to help better serve the public in the quickest and most efficient ways within the fire and EMS services.

Chief Jeff E. Drouillard

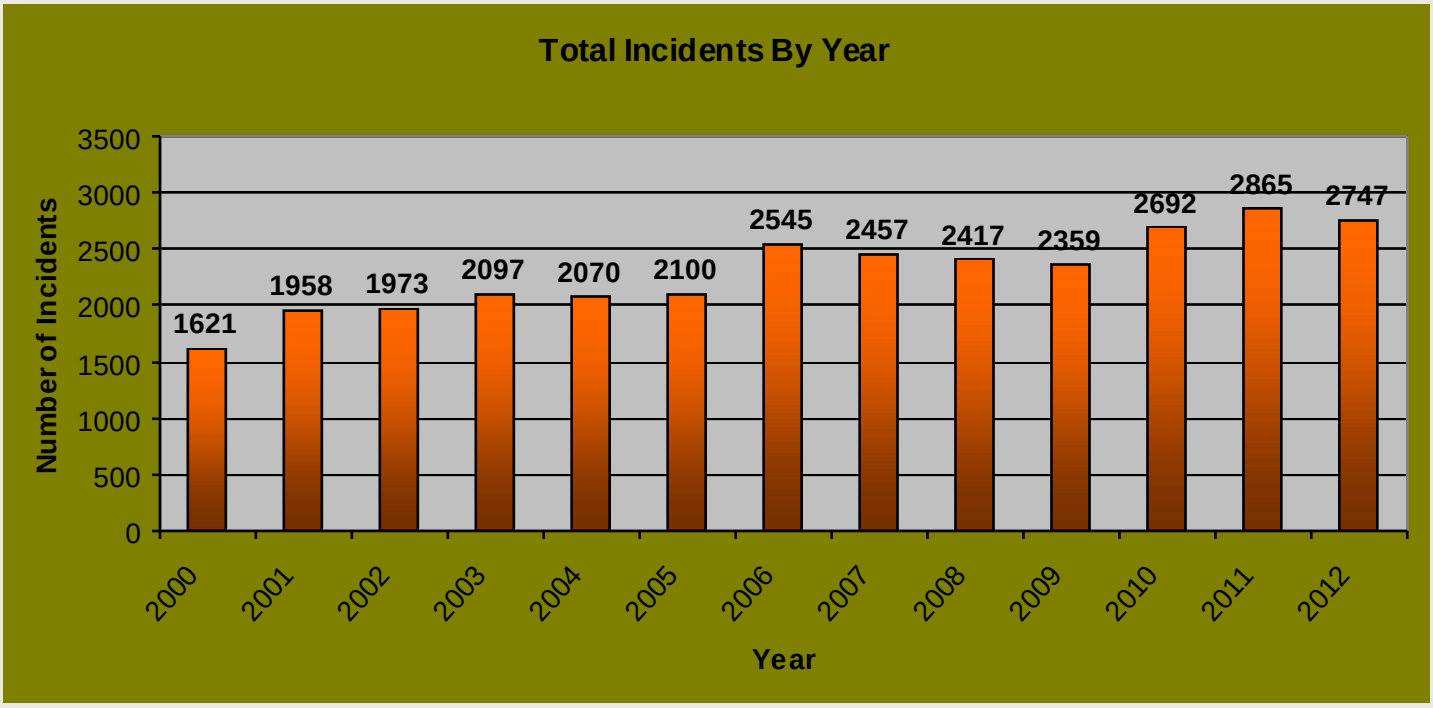
Emergency activities

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.

In July, due to the additional personnel that were hired, we began part time staffing the west Jefferson station located in the south end with an A.L.S transport ambulance.

There were 78% responses to the north end, 14% to the center section and 7% to the south end. Average response time: township wide 4.7, north end 4.77, center 3.6, south end 5.96 minutes.

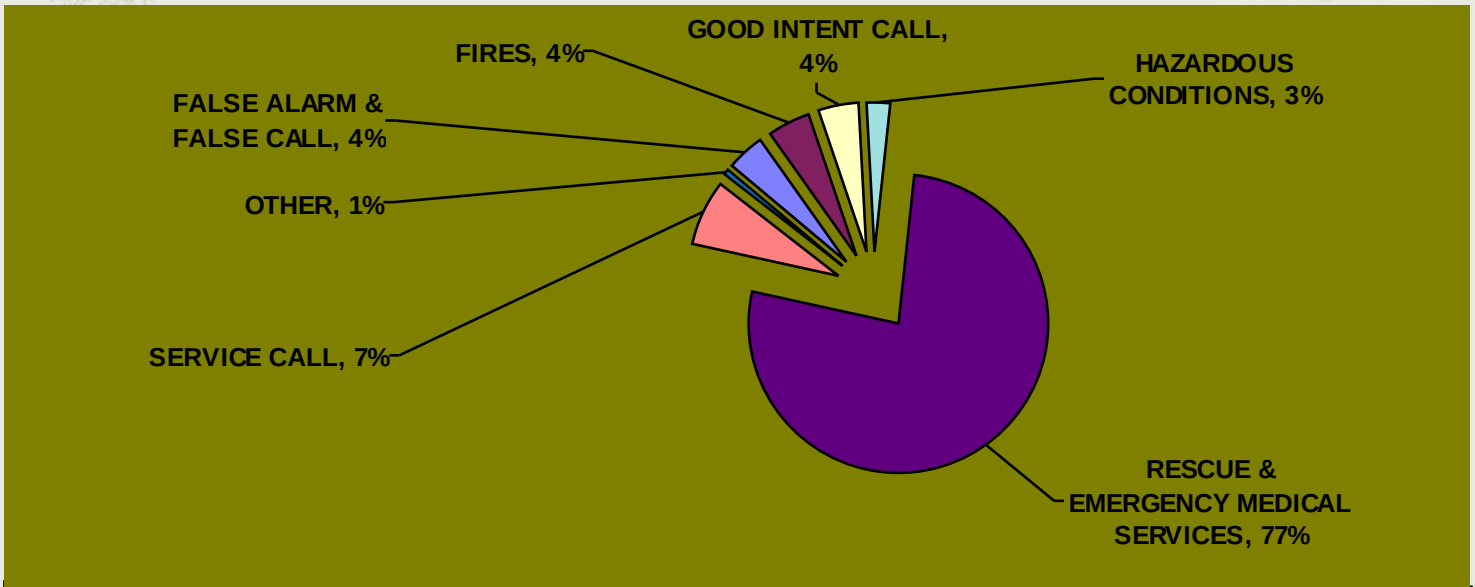


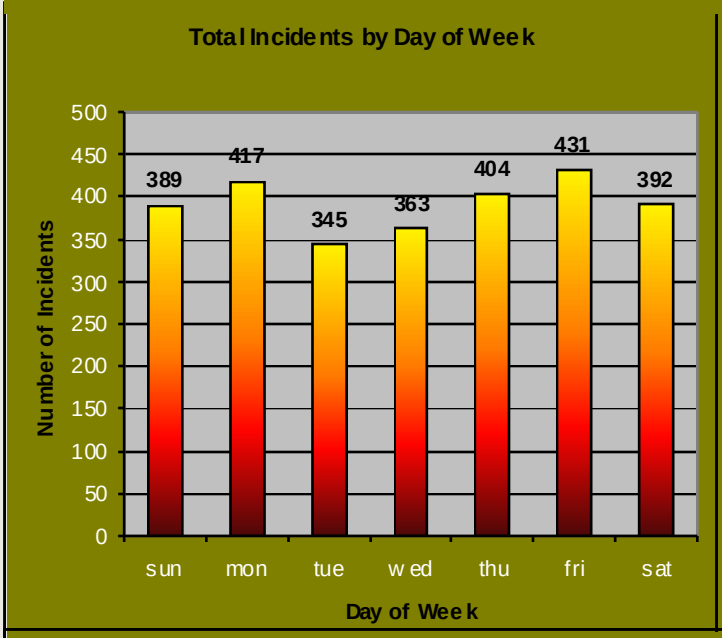
Mutual Aid

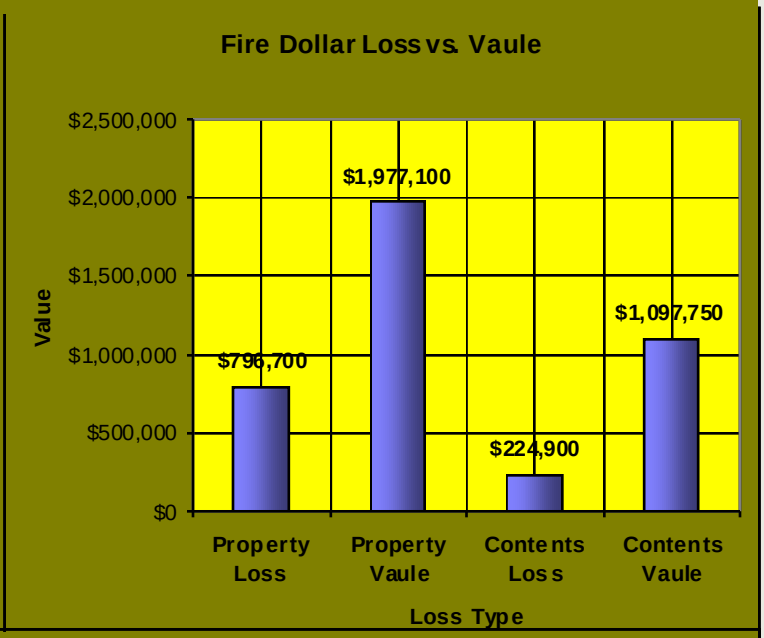
The department is an active member with the Downriver Mutual Aid Group. The department provided mutual aid to other communities a total of 112 times, and received mutual aid assistance 91 times.

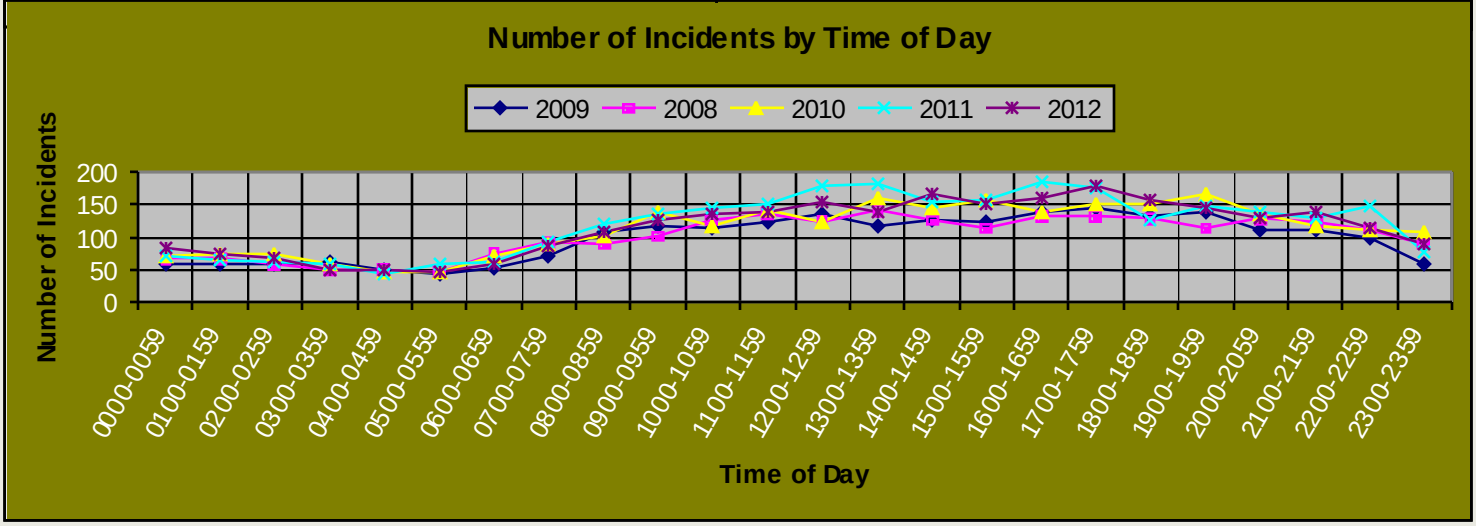
In 2012, the department provided mutual aid to our bordering neighbors as follows: (Trenton auto aid 15, regular 5 responses, Woodhaven 4, Flat rock 12, Gibraltar 26, Huron Twp. 6, Rockwood 2, Taylor 36, Berlin Twp 1, Wyandotte 1).

Emergency activity









Fire Prevention/Public Education/Investigation

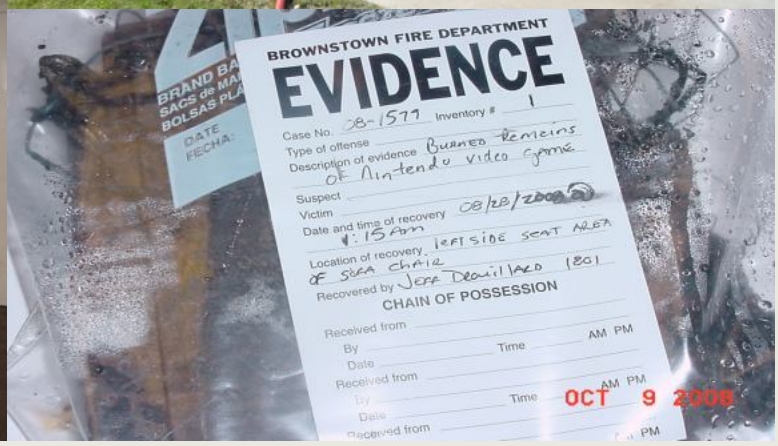
The department responded to 121 fires last year. Seventy two of these fires were investigated for cause & origin. Three were found to be arson, 100 accidental, 10 suspicious, 8 undetermined.

A total of 758 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. We inspected 84 new residential homes for smoke detector installation approval. Conducted 1 site plan reviews, 16 construction plan reviews, 5 fire alarm reviews, 3 fire suppression reviews, 1 commercial hood suppression systems, 6 water main projects, issued 32 burn permits and investigated several fire code complaints generating approx $10,220 in revenue, slightly higher than last year.

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, missing or not serviced fire extinguishers, missing exit signs, unreadable addresses, non functional fire doors, unapproved storage conditions, unsafe conditions, inoperative emergency lighting units.

The department participated in 63 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 4,500 people.

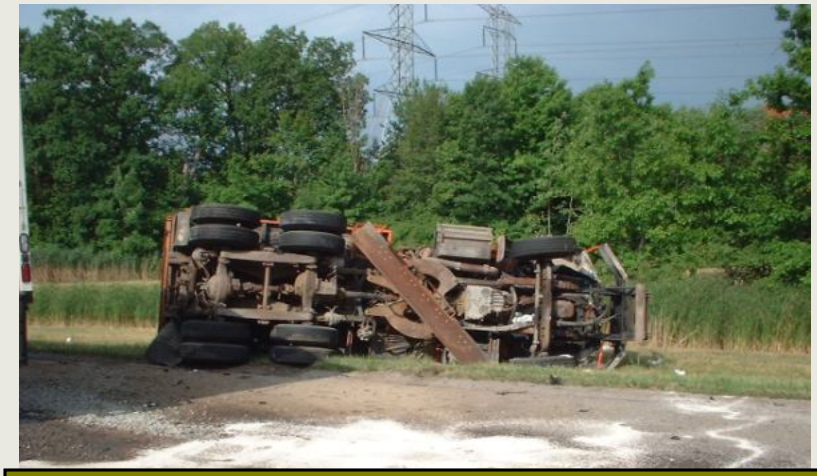


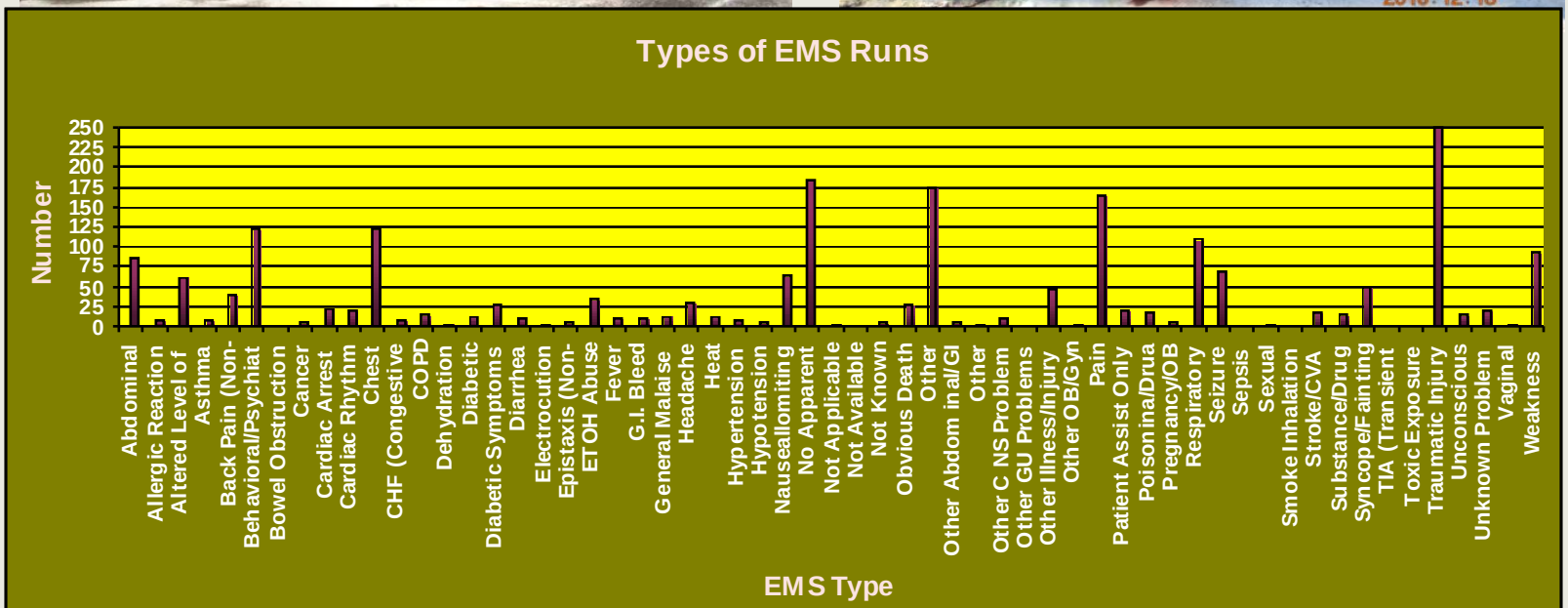
Emergency Medical Services

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 33 career staff assigned to operational duties are trained and state licensed to this highest level possible in the pre hospital emergency medical services.

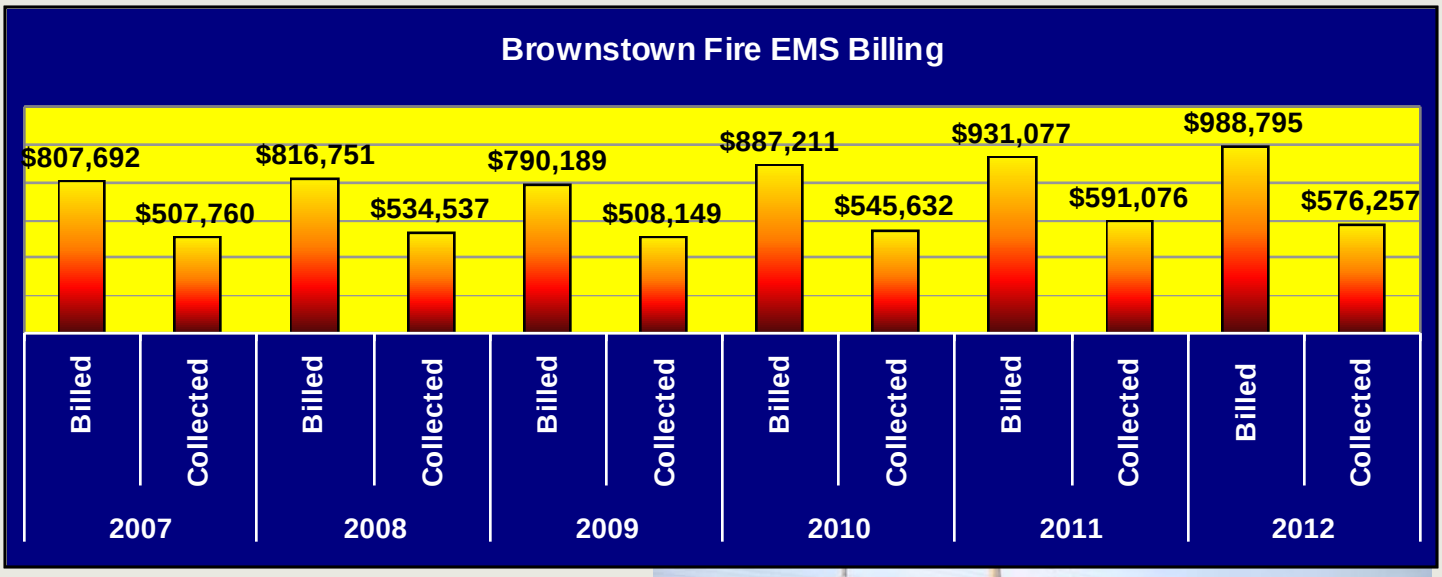
When a medical emergency is received by the 9-1-1 communications center, The call is sent to the appropriate fire department units who respond to the call.
This approach in starting critical care has been beneficial in providing continual care for our citizens who are transported to the hospital.

- A gross amount of $576,256 (down 2.5% compared to last year), was collected for advanced and basic life support transports and $23,753 on auto accident cost recovery (up 45%).
- The department transported 1,698 patients to area hospitals.
- We continued to work with county resources to develop rules and policies for Emergency medical services in Wayne county.
- We 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 2011 our department began 12 lead field ekg interpretation and telemetry to the local hospitals. In the event of a cardiac related issue, we are 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 thus allowing us to take that patient directly to the cauterization lab, rather than stopping in the e.r. and causing further heart muscle damage. This program has shown several successful events since its inception.





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 began collecting 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, improving 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 256 hours of collective training through 95 classes plus several on-line firefighting and EMS courses.

These Training sessions are of both class-room 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:

- Ropes and Knots
- Fire Stream Techniques
- Ladders
- Forcible Entry
- Search and Rescue
- Fire Control
- 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

Department Personnel

Chief
Jeff E. Drouillard

Admin. Assistant
Phil Frank

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
Scott Proudlock

FF/Medic
Phil Parent

FF/Medic
Scott Hamilton

FF/Medic
Frank Bianchi

FF/Medic
Rodney Roberts

FF/Medic
Larry McCray

FF/Medic
Phil Brock

FF/Medic
James Lauer

FF/Medic
Tom Cox

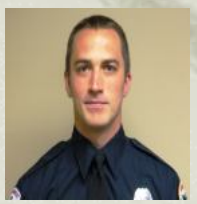
FF/Medic
Bob Barclay

FF/Medic
Corey Mates

FF/Medic
Brian McNeil

FF/Medic
Heidi Wachtel

FF/Medic
Nick Sanfilippo



FF/Medic
Shane Wilde

FF/Medic
Don Melow

FF/Medic
Brian Nichols

FF/Medic
Chris Russo

FF/Medic
Brandon Craft

FF/Medic
Chad Behrik

FF/Medic
Greg Mangan

FF/Medic
Will Carroll

FF/Medic
Robert Campeau

FF/Medic
Mark Sanfilippo