



2009 Annual Report

Emergency & Fire Services



INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS
IT'S THE LAW

Clarington

Leading the Way
EMERGENCY & FIRE SERVICES



OUR VISION

We are DEDICATED to a FIRE SAFE COMMUNITY

OUR MISSION

To ensure we deliver SERVICE EXCELLENCE through public education, prevention, training and emergency response

OUR VALUES

Every member of Clarington Emergency & Fire Services upholds the tradition of a composite department and with their skill and knowledge
RESPOND WITHOUT BOUNDARY

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This Smoke Alarm Worked and Saved Lives

Message from the Director of Emergency & Fire Services/Fire Chief



Your Worship Mayor J. Abernethy and Members of Council:

The information contained in this report is a summary of the activities of Clarington Emergency and Fire Services for the year ending December 31, 2009.

The number of incidents reported to the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office in 2009 was 3,324, a reduction of 6.2% from 2008. January was the busiest month with 349 calls and we experienced the fewest in November with 250 calls.

Fires were 5.3% of the Department's total calls with the top three property class fires being Vehicle Fires #1 followed by Residential Fires #2 and Miscellaneous Structures/ Properties #3. Residential Property Fires attributed to the largest total dollar loss totaling \$1,454,700.

Clarington firefighters completed the third year of a three-year "Back to Basics" training program that was intertwined with specialized skills and technical rescue training.

As a result of the restaurant fires in 2008, a thorough sweep of all restaurants in Clarington was completed in 2009. Restaurant owners were required to comply with the Ontario Fire Code and were further educated in fire prevention best practices.

Due to four civilian injuries from fire in 2009, reducing this number through the delivery of key public education programs will be a focus of Fire Prevention Staff this year.

The Ontario Fire Code requires every 'dwelling unit' in Ontario to have working smoke alarms in key areas. The term 'dwelling unit' includes seasonal homes such as park model trailers, cabins and cottages as well as trailer homes, motor homes and boats. The 2010 the Alarm for Life Program will focus on seasonal homes.

In closing, I ask you to join me in working together for a "Fire Safe Community" and once again remind you that working smoke alarms on every story and outside all sleeping areas of all dwelling units is the law.

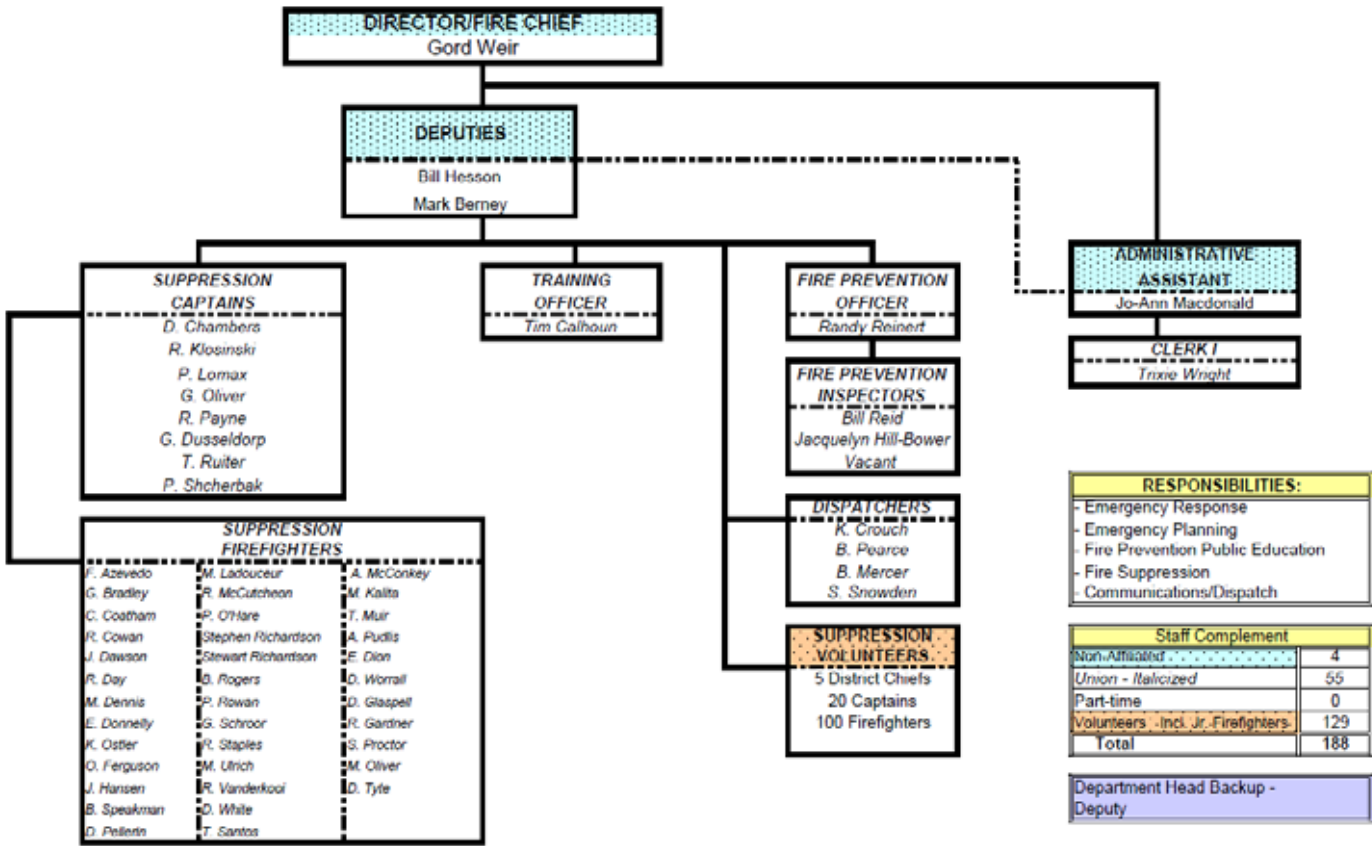
Thank you.

Gord Weir
Director of Emergency & Fire Services/Fire Chief



Emergency & Fire Services Organizational Chart

EMERGENCY AND FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION CHART 2010



Fire Station Locations

Five fire stations are strategically located throughout the Municipality:

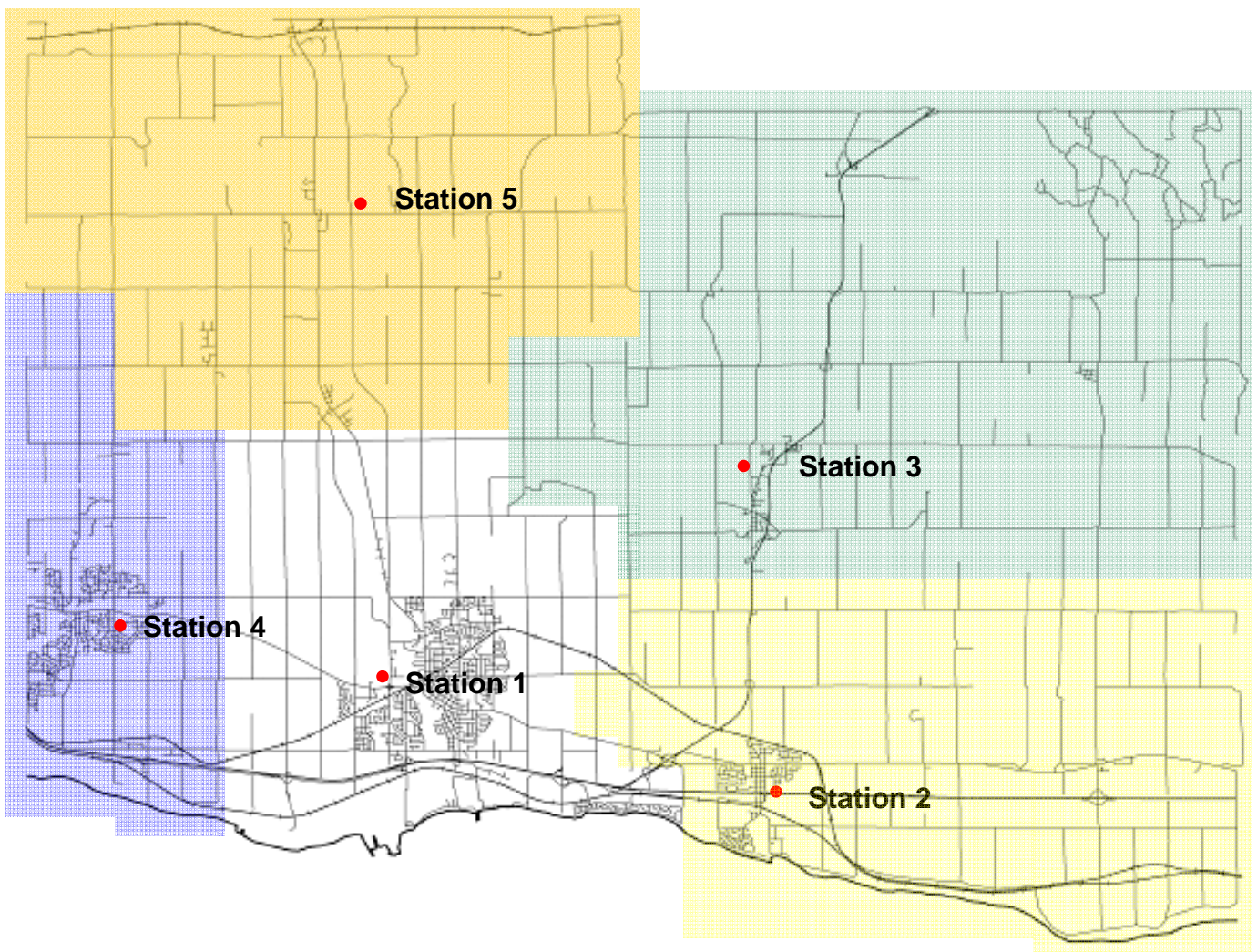
Station 1 – 2430 Hwy 2, Bowmanville

Station 2 – 247 King Avenue East, Newcastle

Station 3 – 5708 Main Street, Orono

Station 4 – 2611 Trulls Road, Courtice

Station 5 – 2354 Concession Road 8, Enniskillen



Response Types

Suppression staff respond to a variety of calls. The calls are reported to Council on a monthly basis, under the following Response Type headings:

Fires and Explosions: Instance of destructive and uncontrolled burning involving structures, vehicles and open area fires, including explosion of combustible solids, liquids or gases which may or may not have resulted in a dollar loss.

Pre Fire Conditions: Incidents with no fire that involve heat or potential pre fire conditions e.g. pot on stove, cooking – smoke or steam, lightning, fireworks.

Burning (controlled): Complaint call related to outdoor controlled burning, authorized or unauthorized. Fire Department did not take suppression action.

Overpressure Rupture/Explosion: An explosion or rupture as a result of pressure, no fire.

False Fire Calls: Alarm activation or fire call that when investigated, is determined to be as a result of equipment failure, malicious/prank, perceived emergency, accidental activation of alarm by person

CO (carbon monoxide) False Calls: A call where it is determined that the detection equipment malfunctioned or there was a perceived emergency – no CO leak

Public Hazard Calls: Includes a response for spills and leaks of a hazardous product such as Natural Gas, Propane, Refrigerant, Miscellaneous/Unknown, Gasoline or Fuel, Toxic Chemical, Radio-active Material, Power Lines Down, Arcing, Bomb, Explosive Removal, Standby, CO (carbon monoxide) or Other Public Hazard.

Rescue Calls: A call for a person in danger due to their proximity to the occurrence and who is unable to self evacuate and is assisted by Fire Department personnel i.e. Vehicle Accident, Building Collapse, Commercial/Industrial Accident, Home/Residential Accident, Persons Trapped in Elevator, Water Rescue, or Water/Ice Rescue.

Medical/Resuscitator Call: Includes a response to a patient suffering from Asphyxia, Respiratory Condition, Convulsions, Epileptic Seizure, Diabetic Seizure, Electric Shock, Traumatic Shock, Heart Attack, Stroke, Drug Related, Alcohol Related, Cuts, Abrasions, Fracture, Burns, Fainting, Nausea and Pre-Hospital Care such as Administering Oxygen, CPR, Defibrillation, or First Aid

Other Response: Assistance to other Fire Departments, call cancelled on route, non- fire incidents where an illegal grow operation or drug operation was discovered



Response Statistics

The following chart illustrates the 3-year trend in Call Types and Number of Unit Responses:

Call Type	2009	2008	2007
Property Fires/Explosions	176	147	173
Pre Fire Conditions	60	46	36
Burning Complaints	98	107	124
Overpressure Rupture/Explosion (no fire)	3	0	1
False Fire Calls	374	425	445
CO False Calls	236	259	243
Public Hazard Calls	144	130	132
Rescue Calls	382	478	486
Medical Calls	1,644	1,658	1,648
Other Responses	207	278	319
Total Number of Calls	3,324	3,528	3,607
% Change	- 6.2%	- 2.2%	8.3%
Number of Unit Responses	5,567	6,036	6,341
% Change	- 8.4%	- 4.8%	21.1%



Pumper 1 was the busiest truck in the fleet, responding to 1,621 calls in 2009.



Response Statistics

The year end audit of calls reveals the following statistics:

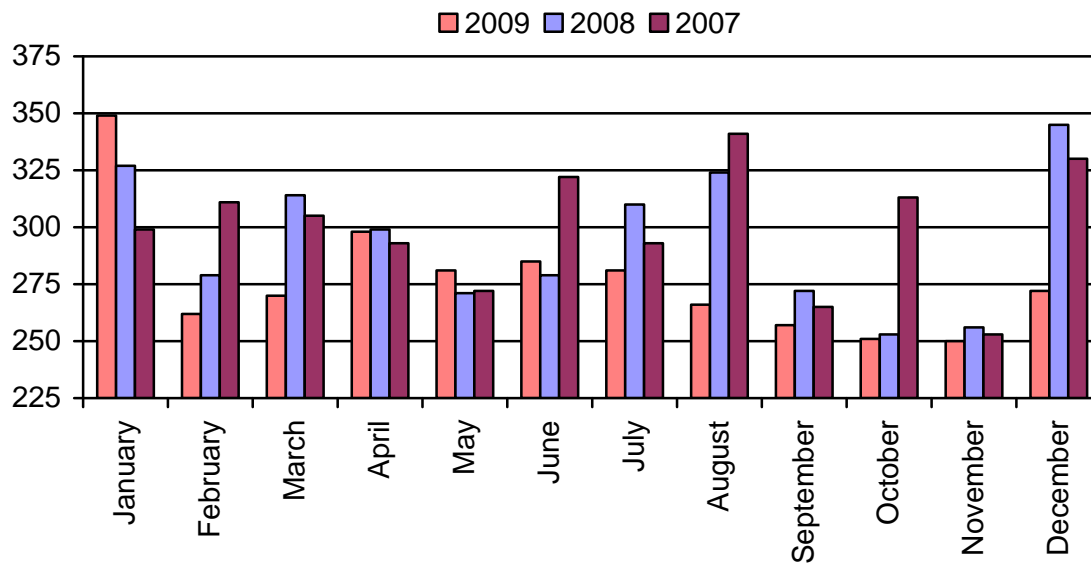
	Total Calls	Firefighter Injuries	Civilian Injuries	Rescues	Fatalities	Estimated Loss
2009	3,324	1	4	18	0	\$2,841,100
January	349	1	0	3	0	\$57,700
Fire	11	1	0	0	0	\$57,700
Outdoor, No loss fire	0	0	0	0		
Non fire calls	338	0	0	3		
February	262	0	1	2	0	\$237,100
Fire	6	0	1	0	0	\$237,100
Outdoor, No loss fire	2	0	0	0		
Non fire calls	254	0	0	2		
March	270	0	0	1	0	\$1,013,000
Fire	9	0	0	0	0	\$1,013,000
Outdoor, No loss fire	8	0	0	0		
Non fire calls	253	0	0	1		
April	298	0	0	5	0	\$17,500
Fire	8	0	0	0	0	\$17,500
Outdoor, No loss fire	21	0	0	0		
Non fire calls	269	0	0	5		
May	281	0	1	0	0	\$48,500
Fire	8	0	1	0	0	\$48,500
Outdoor, No loss fire	11	0	0	0		
Non fire calls	262	0	0	0		
June	285	0	0	1	0	\$131,350
Fire	10	0	0	0	0	\$131,350
Outdoor, No loss fire	8	0	0	0		
Non fire calls	267	0	0	1		
July	281	0	0	4	0	\$119,500
Fire	10	0	0	0	0	\$119,500
Outdoor, No loss fire	7	0	0	0		
Non fire calls	264	0	0	4		
August	267	0	0	0	0	\$547,200
Fire	12	0	0	0	0	\$547,200
Outdoor, No loss fire	2	0	0	0		
Non fire calls	253	0	0	0		



Response Statistics

September	258	0	1	1	0	\$98,350
Fire	13	0	1	1	0	\$98,350
Outdoor, No loss fire	3	0	0	0		
Non fire calls	242	0	0	0		
October	251	0	1	1	0	\$4,200
Fire	4	0	1	0	0	\$4,200
Outdoor, No loss fire	3	0	0	0		
Non fire calls	244	0	0	1		
November	250	0	0	0	0	\$81,900
Fire	5	0	0	0	0	\$81,900
Outdoor, No loss fire	4	0	0	0		
Non fire calls	241	0	0	0		
December	272	0	0	0	0	\$484,800
Fire	10	0	0	0	0	\$484,800
Outdoor, No loss fire	1	0	0	0		
Non fire calls	261	0	0	0		

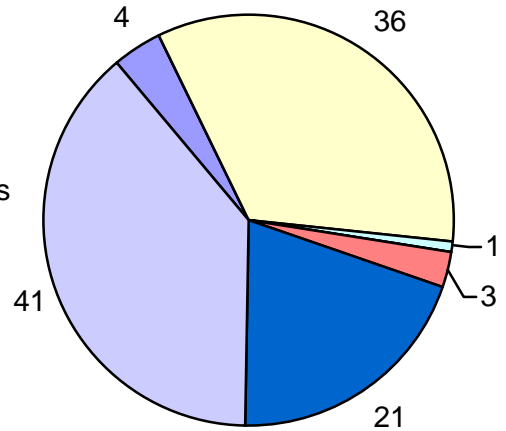
The graph below illustrates the 3-year trend in Monthly Call Volume:



Fire Loss Statistics

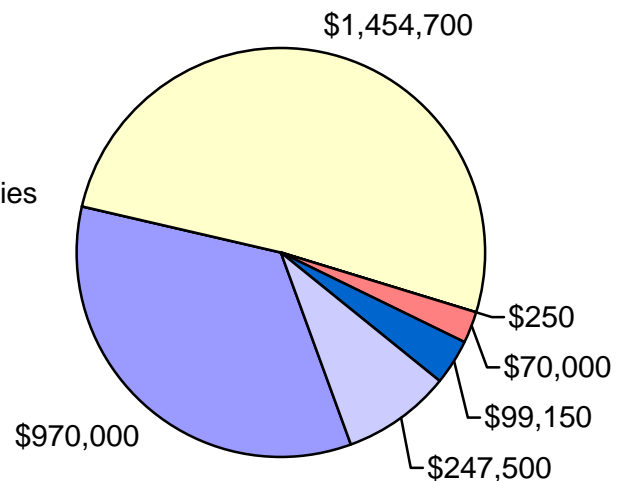
The number of property fires in 2009 was 176, an increase of 19.7% over 2008. Of the 176 fires, 106 were dollar loss fires and 70 were no loss fires. The largest number of fires occurred in the Vehicles category, followed by Group C – Residential and the Miscellaneous Structures/Property category. No fires were recorded for Group B – Institutional Occupancies or Group E - Mercantile.

- Group A - Assembly Occupancies
- Group B - Institutional Occupancies
- Group C - Residential
- Group D - Business & Personal Services Occupancies
- Group E - Mercantile
- Group F - Industrial Occupancies
- Miscellaneous Structures/Property
- Vehicles



The estimated dollar loss is the cost of actual damage to property and contents. This amount includes direct losses resulting from fire, explosion, smoke, water or other damages associated with firefighting operations. The estimated dollar loss in 2009 was \$2,841,100.

- Group A - Assembly Occupancies
- Group B - Institutional Occupancies
- Group C - Residential
- Group D - Business & Personal Services Occupancies
- Group E - Mercantile
- Group F - Industrial Occupancies
- Miscellaneous Structures/Property
- Vehicles



Major Fires Over \$50,000 – 2009

Listed below is a summary of all major fires occurring in the Municipality of Clarington in 2009. For the purpose of this report, major fires are identified as those where fire loss exceeds \$50,000.

Feb. 17, 2009	16:53:00	Detached Dwelling	\$175,000
Mar. 28, 2009	5:33:51	School - Post Secondary (College)	\$870,000
Mar. 28, 2009	5:33:51	Indoor Swimming Facility	\$100,000
Jun. 29, 2009	21:09:43	Attached Dwelling (e.g. row house, townhouse, etc.)	\$98,000
Jul. 18, 2009	15:04:17	Mfg:Rubber Goods	\$50,000
Aug. 7, 2009	20:19:37	Barn - containing equipment or produce only	\$60,000
Sept. 20, 2009	13:27:14	Detached Dwelling	\$70,000
Nov. 6, 2009	18:54:58	Detached Dwelling	\$70,000
Dec. 25, 2009	17:15:57	Detached Dwelling	\$320,000
Aug. 6, 2009	2:31:42	Detached Dwelling	\$400,000
Dec. 2, 2009	22:25:25	Detached Dwelling	\$50,000
Dec. 20 2009	7:15:40	Detached Dwelling	\$50,000
Dec. 23, 2009	9:51:22	Detached Dwelling	\$50,000



Fire Cause Statistics – 2009

An incident is the result of a set of conditions and a sequence of events that lead to the ignition of a material by an ignition source. This sequence of events is usually initiated by human acts (something which is done) or human omissions (something which has not been done). These acts or omissions are the cause of the fire because they trigger the events which lead to ignition of the fire. Determining fire cause is the foundation to reducing the loss of life and property as a result of fire. The chart below identifies possible fire causes, the number of incidents and the associated dollar loss.

Fire Cause	Number of Incidents	Dollar Loss
Intentional		
Suspected Arson	11	\$1,579,200
Riot/Civil Commotion		
Suspected Vandalism	4	\$1,500
Suspected Youth Vandalism (ages 12 – 17)	10	\$2,150
Unintentional		
Children Playing (ages 11 and under)	0	
Vehicle Collision	0	
Design/Construction/Maintenance Deficiency		
Design/Construction/Installation/Maintenance Deficiency	3	\$25,000
Routine Maintenance Deficiency	4	\$500
Misuse of Ignition Source/Material Ignited		
Unattended	3	\$12,000
Improperly discarded	3	\$100,100
Used or placed too close to combustibles	4	\$158,000
Improper handling of ignition source or ignited material	1	\$1,000
Used for the purpose not intended	0	
Improper storage	0	
Other misuse of ignition source/material ignited	4	\$107,500
Mechanical/Electrical Failure		
Mechanical Failure	6	\$16,900
Electrical Failure	14	\$211,300
Other Unintentional		
Other unintentional cause, not classified	9	\$48,800
Other		
Rekindle	0	
Natural Cause	0	
Exposure Fire	1	\$2,000
Undetermined		
Unintentional, cause undetermined	3	\$82,500
Undetermined	26	\$492,650
	106	\$2,841,000



Fire Prevention & Public Education

The duties of Fire Prevention staff include inspections arising from complaints, requests, retrofits, or self-initiated inspections in accordance with the Fire Prevention and Protection Act and Department policies.

New construction inspections and plans review of buildings under construction in matters respective of fire protection systems and life safety within buildings are conducted in accordance with the Building Code, Ontario Fire Code and applicable by-laws.

'Zero tolerance' remains our motto for offenders of the Ontario Fire Code, safety legislation, acts, regulations and Municipal by-laws relative to fire and life safety and offenders will be charged. Staff issued a total of 9 charges in 2009.

Providing suppression staff with technical support and training in fire prevention disciplines enhances the knowledge of responders and provides for efficient and effective resolutions to emergency situations.

Examining and investigating fire scenes and interviewing witnesses in an effort to determine cause and origin of fires and provide the foundation for public educational programs in Clarington is a key role of fire prevention staff. Of the 176 fires extinguished, fire cause was determined in 87 cases and 29 fires remain undetermined.

Activity	Event
Fire Inspections	473
Complaint Inspections	246
Fire Safety Plan Review	30
Fire Investigations	11
New Construction/Plans Review	234
Part 1- Smoke Alarm Tickets	6
Part 3 – Fire Code Charges	3
In House Training Sessions	1
Homes Visited Alarmed for Life	720

Public fire safety education is achieved through the distribution of fire and life safety information and public education programs in accordance with the Fire Prevention and Protection Act and Department policies. The Department's residential smoke alarm awareness program entitled "Alarm for Life" is ongoing.

Implementing effective public education programs in an effort to reduce the number of fires, lives and property affected by fire is paramount. In 2009, the 88 public education events reached an estimated 14,800 residents and visitors to Clarington. Family Safety Day, Orono Fair and Canada Day celebrations are typical public events staff attended.

Public Education/Relations	Events	Participants
Station Tours	35	1,025
School Visits	9	1,800
Fire Safety House Visits	10	3,448
Public Events	17	7,705
Safety Lectures	9	379
Fire Extinguisher Demonstrations	4	80
Fire Truck Visits	4	385



Fire Prevention & Public Education



September 26, 2009 was Family Safety Day in Clarington. Although the weather conditions were less than ideal, an estimated 3,500 visitors attended the event. This year's event will take place on Saturday, September 25, 2010 and will again feature community-minded safety organizations providing awareness to everyone on personal safety and emergency preparedness.



Junior Firefighter Program

2009 marked the 15th anniversary of this program. Students in the week long camp learn valuable skills in firefighting, personal safety, police and emergency medical services. The program now provides opportunities for 200 children which is a testament to the program's popularity.



Fire Chief for a Day

The 2009 Fire Chief for a Day contestant winner was 9 year old Greg Gibson from Dr. Emily Stowe Public School in Courtice.

Congratulations Greg!



Training and Professional Development

Training and professional development of the Department's career and volunteer firefighters is the responsibility of the Training Officer. Developing personnel to the Ontario Fire Service Standards, industry best practices, Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, and the expectations of Council requires an extraordinary commitment.

Firefighters completed the third year of a three-year "Back to Basics" training program that was intertwined with specialized skills and technical rescue abilities such as:

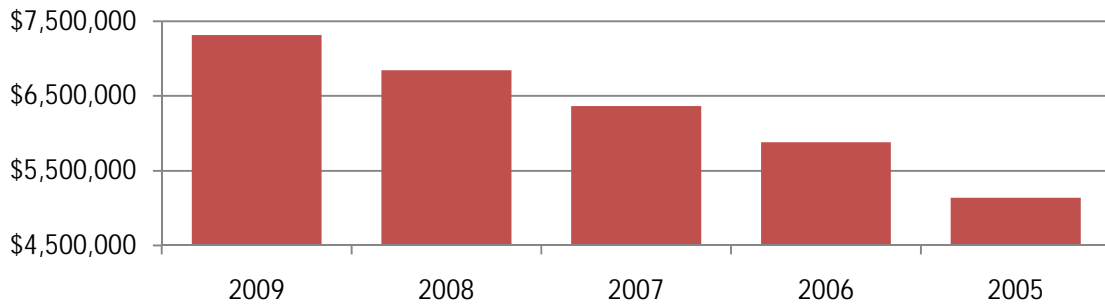
- Auto extrication skills
- Pumper operations certification pilot program
- Live fire training
- Emergency medical responder training
- Confined space awareness
- Farm propane operations
- Fire behaviour
- Pal pak hi-rise kit
- Lock out and tag-out procedures and equipment
- Draegar propane simulator train-the-trainer training
- Firefighter survival part II
- Basic rope rescue training from heights at St. Mary's Cement and Veltri building
- Water/Ice rescue training
- Incident management training
- Building construction
- Ladders
- Dispatch sign-offs
- Accessibility training



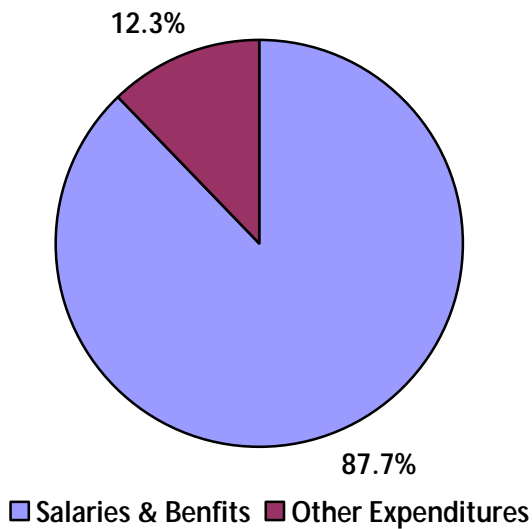
Emergency & Fire Services Budget – 2009

In 2009, Clarington Emergency & Fire Services operating budget totaled approximately \$7,467,269.

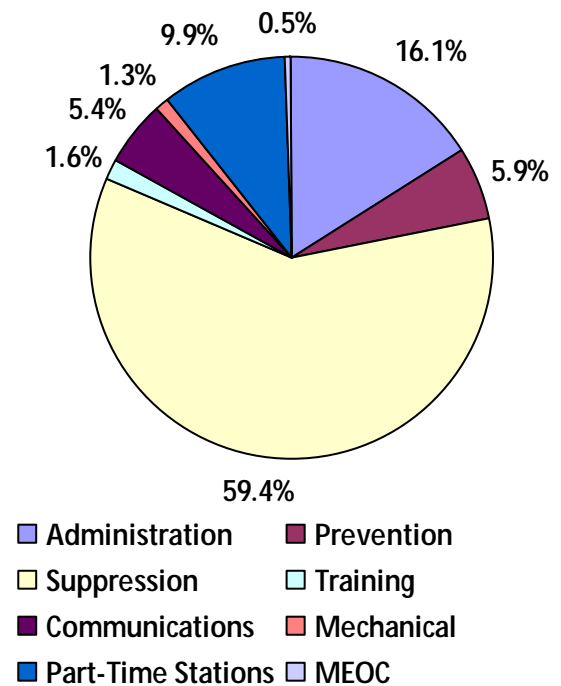
This graph illustrates the Department's operating budgets over the past five years:



Emergency & Fire Services
2009 Budget Allocation



Emergency & Fire Services
2009 Operating Budget by Division



Service Medals

Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal



The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal program, created on August 29, 1985, honours members of a recognized Canadian fire service who have completed 20 years of service, ten years of which have been served in the performance of duties involving potential risks, and were employed on or after the date of creation of the Medal. Exemplary service is characterized by good conduct, industry and efficiency. The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal was awarded to the following individuals in 2009:

- Captain Ron Klosinski
- Captain Randy Reinert
- Volunteer Captain Harry Koerssen
- Firefighter Mark Ulrich
- Firefighter Randy Cowan
- Volunteer Firefighter Jamie Cowan
- Firefighter Owen Ferguson
- Firefighter Ken Ostler
- Volunteer District Chief John Pittens received his 30 year Federal Bar



Ontario Fire Services Long Service Medal

First awarded in 1971, the Ontario Fire Services Long Service Medal is an expression of appreciation and recognition of uniformed staff for 25 years of dedication and hard work within the Ontario fire service. At 30 years of service and every 5 years thereafter, a service bar may be requested and added to the medal's ribbon. Spouses of medal recipients receive a companion brooch. The Ontario Fire Services Long Service Medal was awarded to the following in 2009:



- Inspector Bill Reid
- Inspector Jacquie Hill-Bower
- Volunteer Firefighter Robert Wood

The dedication and commitment these firefighters have given to our Municipality is truly appreciated.



Acknowledgements / Announcements

Clarington Emergency & Fire Services would like to acknowledge the following:

- Quarry Lake Golf Course, who open their gates for the Department to facilitate ice/water rescue training and annual fire pump testing.
- Ontario Power Generation, for their continued support of the Junior Firefighter Program and for the training and professional development of this Department's front line staff.
- Volunteer Captain Don Morrison and Volunteer Captain Tim Noble for achieving Certification as Firefighters
- Firefighter Ken Ostler for graduating from the Company Officer program
- Inspector Steven Valk for graduating from the Fire Prevention Officer Program

- Firefighter Randy Cowan, Firefighter Ken Ostler, Firefighter Stephen Proctor who received Letters of Commendation for rescuing a 94-year old female from the second floor of a burning house.



- Volunteer Captain Harry Koerssen, Volunteer Captain Justin Rogers, Volunteer Firefighter Don Wright received Letters of Commendation for assisting police in apprehending and detaining a disorderly individual.

