

Walled Lake Fire Rescue



Message from the Fire Chief

A guiding tenet of The Walled Lake Fire Department (WLFD) is that our commitment to the community is unmatched. Through our commitment to response, customer care, and training, our firefighters have continued to improve the reputation of this department, and the reputation of the community. It is with great pride that we provide professionalism on a daily basis in taking care of our customers. Nothing less will do. Being customer-oriented requires more than words. It requires a means for our citizens to get in touch with their government, and not only for emergencies.

My first thoughts go to the dedicated men and women that make up the Walled Lake Fire Department. Their commitment to this community is often overlooked, but they have improved the reputation of this department, and thereby the community through their professionalism on a daily basis in taking care of our customers. I am also pleased to announce the new 3-year contracts between both bargaining units and the City.

In 2005, our department responded to 935 calls for emergency service. I am happy to report that once again the community of Walled Lake did not have a fire fatality, or serious firefighter injury. This achievement is possible through our strong commitment to prevention, measurable training, hard work and community involvement. The dedicated membership of our Department continues to strive for excellence in the delivery of service to our customers by placing their lives on the line, to extinguish fires and to care for the sick and injured in our community. I salute the dedication, tenacity and courage of our employees and congratulate them on another year of outstanding public service. We also welcome our six new dedicated firefighters and expect great contributions from them in the coming years.

In closing, I would like to extend a heart-felt thanks to the men and women of this Department who place their lives on the line every day for our City. It is only through their personal efforts and sacrifice that we are able to achieve our stated goals. It is my honor to be a part of this team.

In the interest of promoting a safe community, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Van Sparrentak".

Kenneth J. Van Sparrentak
Fire Chief

Annual Report

2005

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The Walled Lake Fire Department Mission

The members of the Walled Lake Fire Department are committed to departmental readiness with a focus on customer service in providing fire suppression and emergency medical services.

Our Mission is accomplished through the promotion of training and prevention...

- ★ Training that is ongoing and measurable better protects the community and firefighters.**
- ★ Prevention efforts that are innovative and strategic that strive to prevent ignition and reduce impact.**

Vision

To maintain the public trust and prevent harm in our community



Firefighter of the Year **2005**

Each year the Walled Lake Fire Department reviews the actions of Department members who have performed outstanding acts or deeds. This year's recipient is **Fire Marshal Jim Coomer**

WALLED LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT **SPECIAL ORDER**

Each year the Walled Lake Fire Department reviews the actions of Department members who have performed outstanding acts or deeds. This year's recipient is

Fire Marshal **James Coomer**

Fire Marshal James Coomer has been with the Walled Lake Fire Department since 1980. He started as an Explorer, and in 1983 became a paid-on-call firefighter. He was promoted to full-time Fire Officer in 1987 and promoted to his current position of Fire Marshal in 2001.



Jim has exhibited professionalism throughout his career and has put the safety of Walled Lake residents above all else. His commitment to community is exemplified in his roles with the Walled Lake School District Safety Committee, the MDA Boot Drive, the FISH Charity Food Program and his involvement with the Masonic Lodge Fundraiser for the Shriner Burn Care Center. He also attends the Michigan State Firemen's association Memorial service annually that recognizes deceased members of our department on the firefighters memorial wall, and he prepares our Did You Check Program.

As the City's Fire Marshal charged with code enforcement, it is imperative that he maintains a commitment to higher learning. In that respect he has excelled by attending the National Fire Academy; becoming a State of Michigan certified Fire Investigator, attending the Incident Response to Terrorist Bombing course in New Mexico and completed Trench Rescue Training-Awareness.

During the response of four firefighters to the Hurricane Katrina disaster, Jim was in charge of fire department operations. His professionalism and his commitment allowed him to coordinate the majority of work necessary in the hiring process of seven firefighters. Jim is a firefighter that is dependable and does what is needed to get the job done. It is my pleasure to present this well-deserved award to James Coomer.

WALLED LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Fire Prevention Division consist of the following areas of responsibilities:

- **Code Enforcement Inspections**
- **Plan Review**
- **Public Education**
- **Fire Investigations**

Fire Marshal James Coomer is a 40-year resident of Walled Lake and a 23-year veteran of our fire department. He is a nationally certified fire inspector. He attended the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland and Incident Response to Terrorist Bombing in New Mexico this year to further his skills in fire protection and investigation. His certifications include firefighter II, fire officer III, licensed emergency medical technician, certified hazardous material operations, provisional state fire instructor, fire investigator and has an associate degree in fire service technology. His primary responsibility is emergency preparedness and response.

- **Code Enforcement Inspections:**

Fire suppression activities are not the only way to combat fires; a well-planned and executed fire prevention and inspection program is a less expensive and more effective way to accomplish the goal of the fire service. Fire prevention is the Fire Marshal's secondary responsibility. New and existing buildings are inspected on a regular basis. In 2005 he performed 35 new inspections, 60 re-inspections, issuing 137 violations and continues to inspect businesses. These types of inspections include but aren't limited to educating occupants in ways to control hazards, in proper methods of evacuation, and in overall fire safety practices. Common violations may include: blocked exits, emergency lights not working, lack of exit signs, outdated fire extinguishers, outdated fire sprinkler systems, and improper storage of hazardous materials.

Total inspection this year	35
Total re-inspections this year	60
Violations noted this year	137
Violations corrected this year	149

- **Plan Review**

Fire Department plan review is essential Life Safety component of the overall pre-construction process. Pointing out discrepancies before construction starts improves the

efficiency and cost effectiveness of the project. How the building is constructed and what it is used for determines the proper code requirements. The Fire Marshal reviews new and existing construction plans. These plans consist of Site plans, Sprinkler systems, Special Agent Systems and Fire detection and alarm systems. Fire Truck access, Hydrant locations, Occupant load and egress issues are a few of many concerns that have a significant impact on life safety.

Public Education:

Year round member of the department are educating the public about fire safety awareness. The Did you Check Program was accepted well by business owners and the public. Melvin's ACO Hardware donated the smoke detectors and Jets donated the Pizzas. One night a week for six weeks, fire fighter joined Jets on their delivery and checked Walled Lake resident's smoke detectors. If their smoke detectors worked the pizza was free. If it didn't, fire fighter installed a smoke detector for free. We instructed 1562 children from different area groups on fire safety. Our annual open house attracted hundreds of residents.

TOTAL PUBLIC EDUCATION EVENTS THIS YEAR	36
TOTAL ATTENDANCE TO DATE	1562

Fire Investigations:

State law mandates that all fires must be investigated. Fire Marshal Coomer this year completed the Michigan State Police Vehicle Fire Investigation Academy in Tustin, Michigan. He will use this education as a member of the Lakes Areas Fire Investigation Task Force and assist Oakland County Sheriff Fire Investigation Unit on fire investigations within our jurisdiction.



WLFD TRAINING DIVISION 2005 REPORT

FIRE OFFICER JASON R. GONZALEZ

"In the heat of battle you don't remember very much. You don't think very fast. You act by instinct, which is really training. So you've got to be trained for battle so that you will react exactly the way you did in training."

Admiral Arleigh Burke, U.S. Navy

MISSION STATEMENT

We must prepare for the unexpected and train for the inevitable.

The Training Division is responsible for the design, delivery, and documentation of all educational programs involving department personnel. These programs are intended to improve the firefighting, emergency medical, rescue, and hazardous materials response capabilities available to the citizens of Walled Lake as well as meet the requirements and objectives of federal and state agencies.

Department Training

Our regular training schedule is the first and third Thursday Morning and evening and the fourth Sunday morning each month. The morning Thursday class is the same as the evening for our members that work nights. In addition we also schedule special training sessions when structures or unique educational opportunities become available. In order to ensure our personnel were provided sufficient training opportunities we provided over 60 training sessions in 2005 and Walled Lake Firefighters spent 180 hours and over 1600 man-hours in training. Certain mandatory subject areas continue to consume much of our limited training time. These areas include medical continuing education, blood borne pathogens, firefighter and employee right-to-know, emergency vehicle driving and operations, and hazardous materials. Over 30 hours of medical training was offered in 2004 with 14 continuing education credits available.

New Members

Walled Lake Fire hired 7 new members in 2005.

All new members of the Fire Department are required to attend basic level firefighter training through the state of Michigan Firefighters Training Council.

Field Training Program

The Field Training Program is a Mentor type system that teams senior firefighters (Field Training Officers FTO) knowledgeable in the working of all facets of the department and who look positively toward the future and newly hired firefighters. The probationary firefighters will pair up with their FTO on incident scenes, while covering the station and

during training sessions. The FTO may hold additional training drills. The FTO provides one on one instruction for the probationary firefighter.

Additional Training

Firefighters participated in over 120 hours of additional training such as:

- Rapid Intervention Training (firefighter rescue)
- Firefighter Safety and survival
- CPR instructor
- Arson Investigation
- Weapons of mass destruction
- Trench rescue awareness
- Trench rescue operations

Conclusion

There is much to accomplish each year just to maintain our ability to effectively perform a variety of firefighting and rescue skills and techniques, and we still have to find time to introduce new firefighting and rescue information and technology. It is important that we point out that our personnel accomplish this in addition to their responses to emergencies, while still working fulltime jobs and fulfilling their family obligations.

Most of what a firefighter does, whether fulltime or paid-on-call is “high risk/low frequency” but the public’s expectation is that the situation will be handled safely, effectively and professionally. Training is our only method of being prepared for any emergency.

Train real, train hard, stay safe.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

**Presented by
Captain Matt Salow**

This is to convey to you for the informational purposes only, the 2005 Year-End Report for Automatic Mutual Aid, Building Maintenance, and Future Considerations.

AUTOMATIC MUTUAL AID

In March of 2005 the Walled Lake and Commerce Township Fire Departments implemented an Automatic Mutual Aid Policy. This was started after a 7-month study between both departments. A committee was formed made up of several firefighters and the chiefs of both departments. The committee met once a month to go over such topics as Incident Command, Response Procedures, Personnel, and Communication. One of the biggest concerns was Communication between both departments. To correct this situation it was determined that the easiest and cheapest solution was for the Walled Lake Fire Department to move its primary dispatch fire frequency to the Commerce Township frequency. This was completed over a 3-month period. All the department radios had to be reprogrammed and at this time we decided to upgrade our fire pagers. On February 6, 2005 the Walled Lake Fire Department moved to the Commerce Frequency.

On March 1, 2005 the Automatic Mutual Aid Policy went into effect. Shared incident responses are Structure Fires, Smoke Investigations inside of a structure, CPR or Respiratory Arrest, Motor Vehicle Accidents with entrapments or serious, and Multiple Patient incidents-3 or more. Since March 1st the Walled Lake Fire Department has given Automatic Aid to Commerce 18 times, and Walled Lake has received Automatic Aid 20 times.

The committee meets quarterly to review responses and procedures. Both departments train together approximately 4 times a year for AMA responses and routinely share training for EMS credits.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

2005 saw more improvements to the Fire Station. Some of the improvements include continuing upgrades to the Training Room. Added this year was a wireless microphone system, an overhead data projector, a new desktop computer, and new shoe moldings. A new automatic door opener for the public entrance to make it handicap accessible. One of the biggest improvements was the Duty Firefighters Office. The office was redone to give each Officer his own workstation and to better utilize the available space. Several firefighters cleaned out the office, ripped up the carpeting, and repainted it. New carpeting and moldings were installed. And finally, a countertop was installed around the room with file cabinets between each workstation.

The building and grounds required several repairs in 2005. Some of the repairs are: Roof repair from storm damage, outside sprinkler system, station air compressor, and ceiling vacuumed for spiders, Plymovent system for air leaks, station generator, and apparatus overhead doors.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a list of items that should be taken into consideration for future repair and/or replacement. Some of the items are: Replacement of front and rear fire station driveways, upgrades made to both public restrooms, apparatus bay floor, station roof, hot water heater, repairs made to the fire station generator (clock), move apparatus bay lights between the trucks, and replace the living quarters stove and refrigerator.

Captain Ryan Potter

Incident Breakdown Report

For Date Range: From 1/1/2005 To 12/31/2005

Station(s) Selected: All

Fire Incidents	1/1/2005- 12/31/2005	Year to Date 2005	Year to Month 2004	Percent Change
Structure Fires	23	23	15	53.33
Outside Structure Fires	1	1	0	100.00
Vehicles	3	3	2	50.00
Grass	0	0	2	-100.00
Refuse	4	4	1	300.00
Other Fires	3	3	4	-25.00
Total Fire Incidents	34	34	24	41.67

Non Fire Incidents	1/1/2005- 12/31/2005	Year to Date 2005	Year to Month 2004	Percent Change
Overpressure/Explosior	1	1	2	-50.00
Rescues/Extrications	477	477	373	27.88
Hazardous Conditions (1)	103	103	40	157.50
Public Service	175	175	135	29.63
Good Intent (2)	70	70	71	-1.41
False Alarms	47	47	40	17.50
System Malfunctions	21	21	30	-30.00
Weather Emergencies	1	1	1	0.00
Other Non-Fires	18	18	11	63.64
Total Non Fire Incidents	913	913	703	29.87

1- Includes Spills or leaks with no fire; excess heat; arcing wires; and chemical emergenc

2- Includes smoke scares; wrong locations; steam mistaken for smoke; and controlled burn

Category	1/1/2005- 12/31/2005	Year to Date 2005	Year to Month 2004	Percent Change
Total Fires	34	34	24	41.67
Total Non Fire Incidents	913	913	703	29.87
Total Alarms	947	947	727	30.26

Where Fires are Occurring	1/1/2005- 12/31/2005	Year to Date 2005	Year to Month 2004	Percent Change
Public Assembly	5	5	1	400.00
Educational	0	0	0	0.00
Institutional	0	0	0	0.00
Single Family Dwelling	12	12	6	100.00
Apartments	4	4	5	-20.00
Motel/Hotel	0	0	0	0.00
Stores/Sales	0	0	0	0.00
Office	0	0	0	0.00
Industrial	0	0	1	-100.00
Storage	0	0	0	0.00
Construction/Other	2	2	2	0.00

Apparatus /Maitenance Report

Captain Ryan Potter

I am pleased to report this year the apparatus division had no major purchases for repairs or replacement parts. The new Ford F150 (U-1) was a welcomed addition to the WLFD fleet.

Smullen Fire Apparatus performed all annual maintenance on the vehicles. This annual maintenance includes; oil changes, tire rotation, full chassis lube and miscellaneous checks and inspections. All duty Captains performed daily and weekly readiness checks to insure all equipment was in full operational status.

Annual ending mileage is as follows:

R-1 15,156

E-23 12,489

L-1 12,185

E-22 50,314

U-1 2,548

U-3 91,200