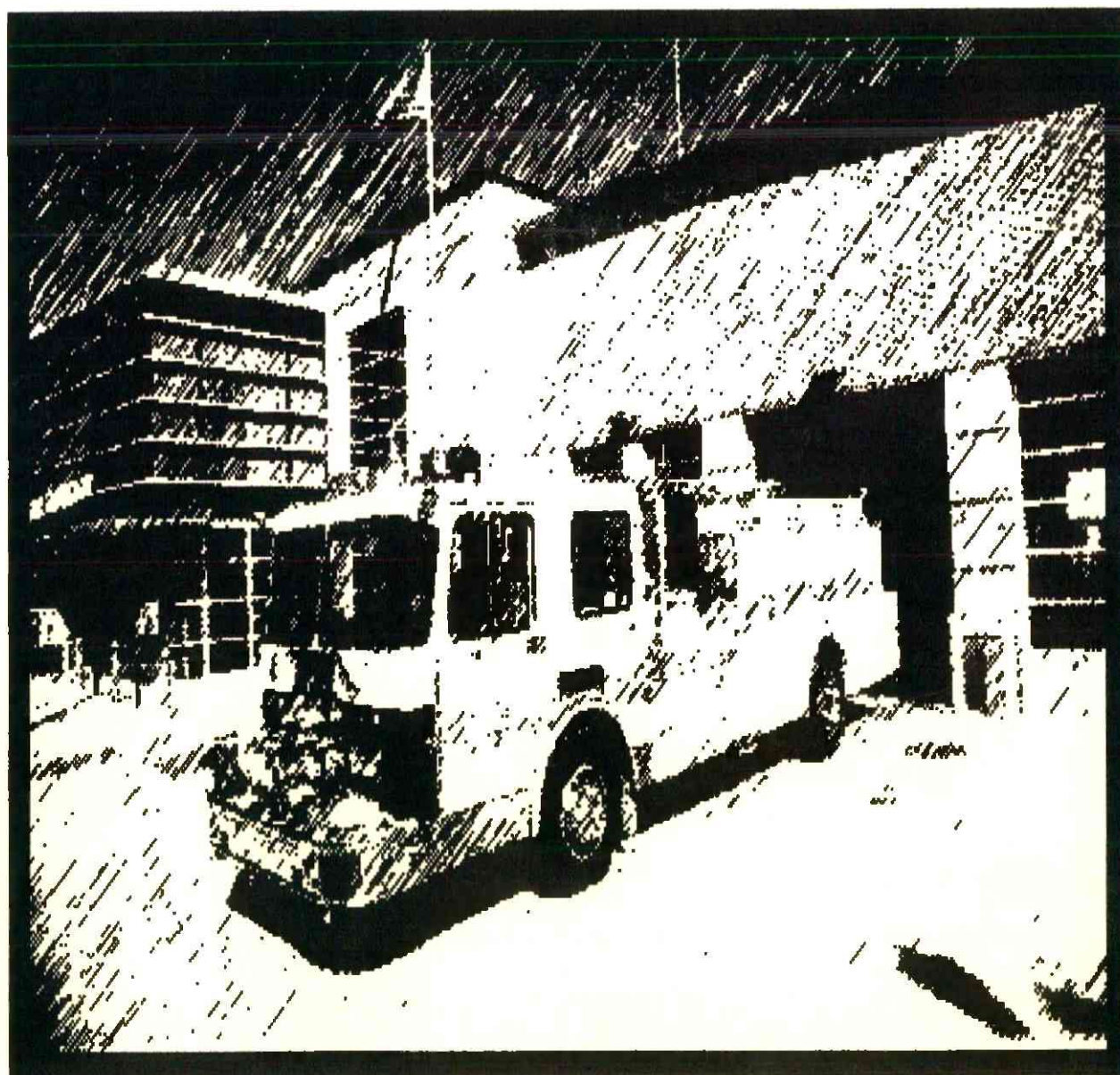


City of Hillsboro Fire Department



Annual Report Fiscal 2001-2002



FROM THE CHIEF

To the Honorable Mayor, Council and Citizens,

In the aftermath of the World Trade center attacks on September 11, 2001 many have speculated that everything has changed, and in the fire service that phrase rings a familiar note as well. Watching the World Trade Towers collapse that day brought about an epiphany to those of us in the fire service - while in the past we have experienced major fires in high rise structures, never before have we experienced such a catastrophic collapse with such a loss of life. Life in America is now complicated with the daily awareness that we may be at risk of attack in our homeland and the way we now think about freedom and personal security has been altered forever. Fire Chiefs throughout the country are now confronted with geopolitical issues as well as local issues when making decisions regarding the use and deployment of scarce public resources.

While our view of the world may be forever altered a paradox exists in the way we have responded: not much has really changed in the way we go about our daily lives. We understand there may a risk to our homeland, but we still fail to think of ourselves as at risk as we go about our daily activities. In the fire service, we continue to go about serving the public much the same as we have in the past. This is true but few exceptions and throughout fiscal 2001/2002 the Hillsboro Fire Department has taken several steps in addressing our domestic preparedness.

A Federal funding initiative consisting of pre September 11 appropriations requested that State and local governments evaluate threats and capabilities with respect to weapons of mass destruction. The Hillsboro Fire Department along with members from the Hillsboro Police and Public Works worked collaboratively to request this funding and were ultimately successful in receiving grants for programs to develop our capability to respond effectively if terrorism reaches our community. In November 2002, the Congress passed the Homeland Security Act setting into motion the most significant reorganization our government has experienced. Since then, Federal funds for homeland security have been frozen and yet the Federal government's initiative and the associated media attention to terrorist events continue to apply pressure to local government to redirect its resources toward domestic preparedness. As we move into to the future of domestic preparedness, the Hillsboro Fire Department will continue to advance by making rational and deliberate decisions based on all the facts at our disposal and to ensure efficiency we will continue to take advantage of all opportunities available including leveraging local funds with alternative sources and further developing partnerships with our stakeholders in domestic preparedness.

Dennis Ross
Interim Fire Chief

Summary of Services and Activities

Services

Operations – Hillsboro Fire Department, with 57 career firefighters and 20 volunteers, provides comprehensive emergency response:

- Suppression – 24 hour staffing at 3 strategically located stations
 1. 3 engine companies – 4 person staffing
 2. 2 truck companies – “flexed” 2-4 person staffing
 3. Capabilities – structural fire fighting, wildland fire fighting, aircraft protection and fire fighting, , and
- Specials Operations – 24 hour staffing delivered from 3 stations
 1. Technical rescue
 2. Hazardous materials response
 3. Confined space, trench, and water rescue
- EMS – 24 hour staffing from 3 stations
 1. 2 Advanced Life Support Rescue Units – 2 person staffing
 2. EMS equipped and staffed engines and trucks
 3. Capabilities – Advanced Life Support response, and fire fighting.

Fire Prevention – an office of 10 professionals provides coordinated delivery of fire and life safety services:

- Inspections – the nine personnel in this area work cooperatively with the Hillsboro Building Department to ensure the fire and life safety of the community through review of plans, inspections during construction, and compliance throughout the life and changing uses of all commercial buildings in Hillsboro. Last year inspectors completed over 1,055 inspections and plan reviews.
 - Plan Reviews ~ pre-construction review of building plans
 - New Construction ~ inspections conducted during construction
 - Maintenance ~ inspections conducted regularly throughout the life and change of use
- Investigations – Fire cause is determined by a team of trained and certified investigators who are inspectors working on a rotating on-call-schedule for investigations. In the last year Hillsboro investigators determined the cause of over 190 fires.
- Community Education and Training – one person staffs this function providing fire and life safety education and training to all age groups through bi-lingual programming to schools, seniors, civic, social/fraternal, religious, youth, business and industry, and special events. Special programs include smoke alarm inspections/installations, fire extinguisher training, and evacuation planning.

Emergency Management – this office provides disaster preparedness training and disaster response

- Preparedness presentations to groups upon request.
- Emergency Operations Center to coordinate city response during disasters.
- Community Emergency Response Team training for residents.
- Volunteer coordination and training for Amateur Radio Emergency Services.
- Affiliated with the Office of Consolidated Emergency Management.

SERVICE STATISTICS

Service Area 22.5 square miles

Population Served 72,630

Operational Responses

▪ EMS	3,447
▪ Fire	193
▪ Mutual Aid	627
▪ Hazardous Responses	723
▪ Other	1,567
▪ TOTAL	6,557

Fire Prevention

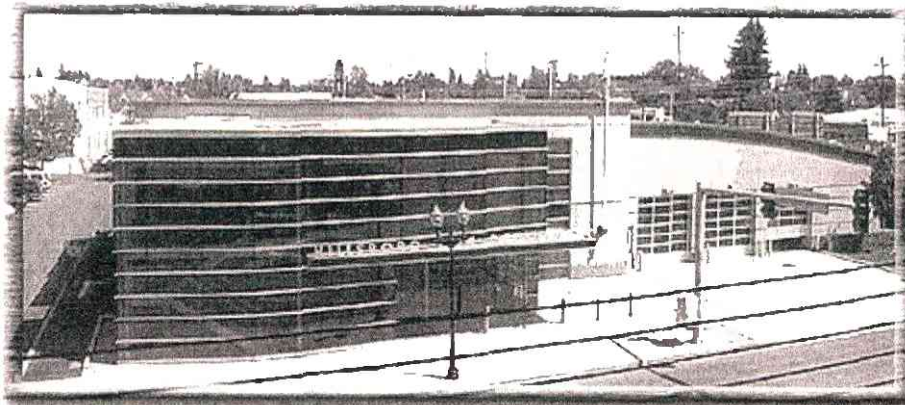
▪ Inspections	2,453
▪ Investigations	190

Public Education

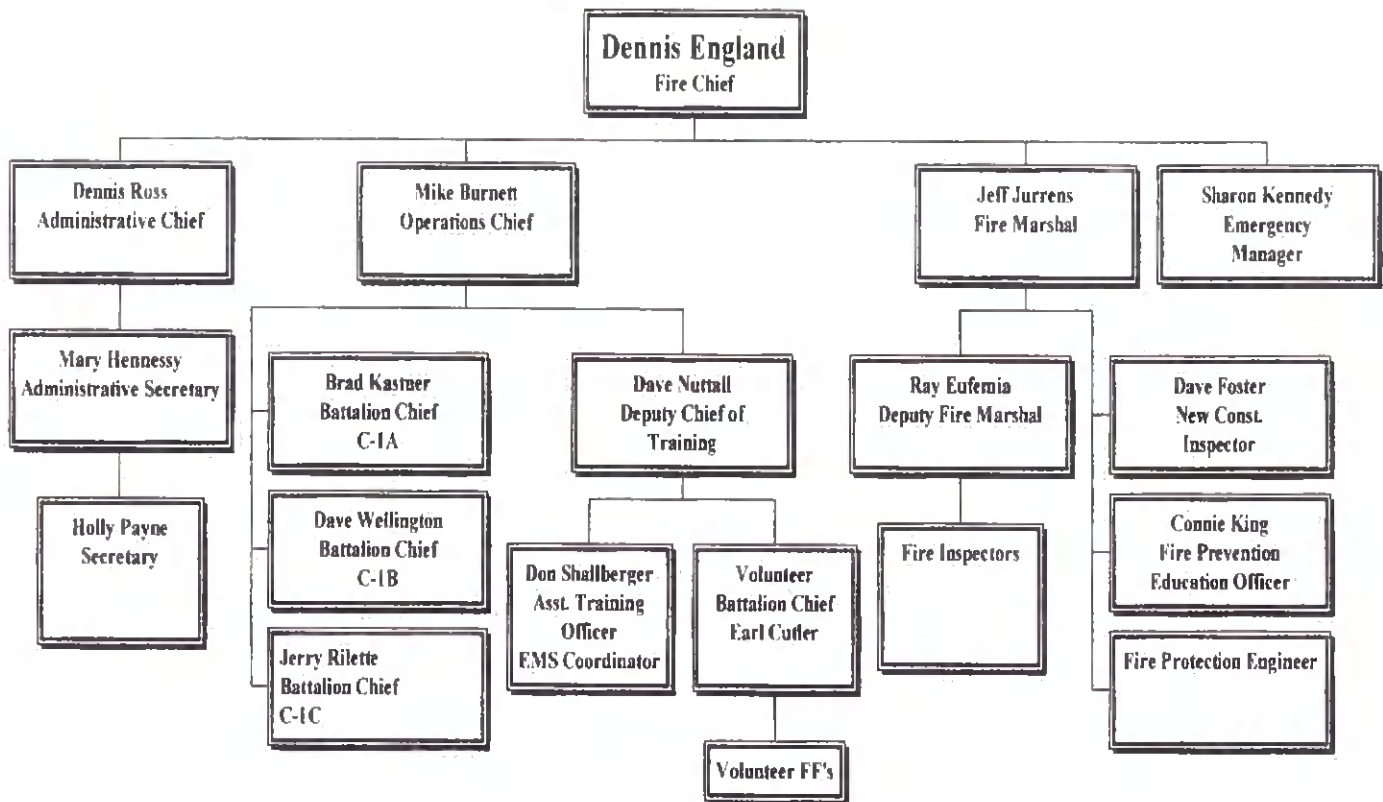
▪ Presentations	178
▪ People	31,640

OUR MISSION:

***'TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY WITH PROFESSIONALISM
AND EXCELLENCE IN EVERY ASPECT OF OUR FIRE SERVICE DELIVERY
SYSTEM'***



THE ORGANIZATION



During the fiscal year 2001/2002, the Hillsboro Fire department employed staff of 74, with our new construction inspector budgeted for in the in the Building Department. Since voter approval of the City's local option tax in 1998, 13 employees have been added through local option tax funding raising our employee to 1,000 citizens' ratio from .92 to our current level of .99 employees per 1,000 citizens. This compares to an average ratio of employees to 1,000 citizens of 1.15 measured over the previous sixteen years and illustrates that the Department has worked diligently to increase efficiency in the delivery of our services.

The fiscal year brought about changes in the way we manage our business as well. A recent watershed event in the fire service has been the adoption of Fire Department Deployment Standards by the National Fire Protection Association. Our Department has responded by developing a working draft of Department goals and service level objectives aimed at identifying performance standards for our activities. Throughout this report you will find data supporting our performance against these objectives. The result of this effort will enhance communication to Department stakeholders regarding levels of service and performance. This work will also enable the Department to set strategic priorities based upon clearly defined performance objectives to ensure we accomplish our stated goals.



EMPLOYEES BY CLASSIFICATION AND DIVISION

FUNDING SOURCE:		General Fund	LOT	Other	Total
ADMINISTRATION					
Fire Chief	1				1
Operations Chief	1				1
Administrative Chief	1				1
Administrative Coordinator	1				1
Administrative Assistant		1			1
Sub Total	4				5
PREVENTION					
Fire Marshal	1				
Dep. Fire Marshal	1				
Fire Prevention & Education	1				
Inspectors	6				
Bldg. Dept. Inspector				1	
Sub Total	8	1	1		10
TRAINING					
Deputy Chief of Training	1				
Ass't Training Officer/EMS Coordinator	1				
Sub Total	2				2
SUPPRESSION					
Battalion Chiefs	3				3
Lieutenants	12				12
Engineers	12				12
Senior Fire Medics	3				3
Firefighters	15	12			27
Sub Total	45	12			57
SUPPRESSION STAFFING BY COMPANY	<i>E-107s</i>	<i>E-102s</i>	<i>E-103s</i>	<i>T-103/ R-3</i>	<i>B/C's</i>
On Shift	4	4	4	4	1
Sub Total	12	12	12	12	3
TOTAL SUPPRESSION	57				
Total on line/shift	19				
Total In Budget Employees	73				
Total Employees In Fire Department:					74

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

During the fiscal year, the Department responded to 394 fires of which 139 involved properties outside of the City. Fire investigations may range from a simple fire cause determination by the company officer responding to the incident to a full scale investigation conducted by personnel from multiple agencies and possibly taking several days to complete. Approximately 158 formal fire investigations were conducted by prevention personnel for fire incidents during the period.

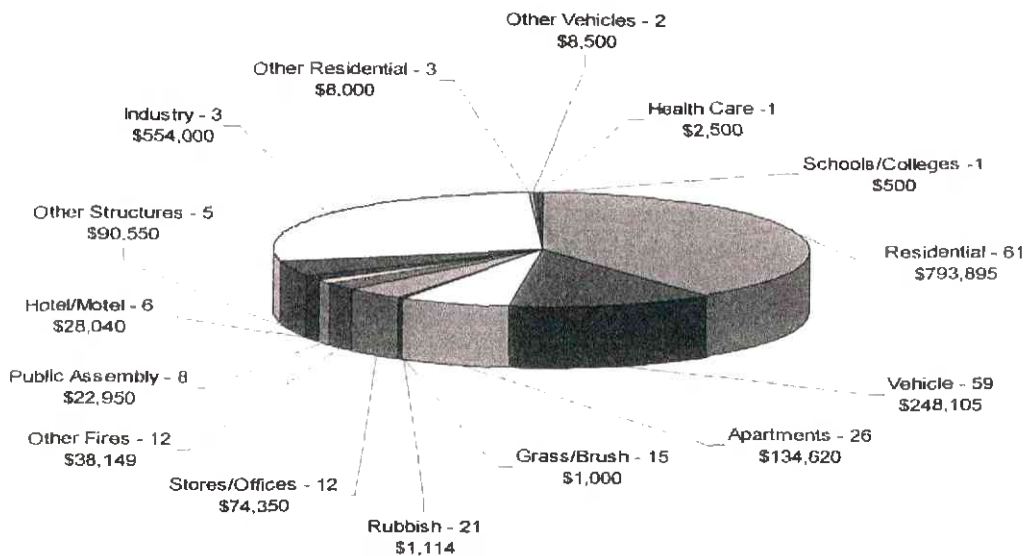
Investigation activity for the year also includes follow up investigations on all automatic fire alarm activation. These follow up investigations range from the fire company officer responding to the incident and determining the cause of the activation to a formal follow up by a fire investigator from the fire prevention division. During fiscal year 2001/2002, the Department responded to 678 false alarms, of which 23 were responses to property outside of the City. The Department conducted 154 formal investigations of false alarms for the period.

FIRE LOSS

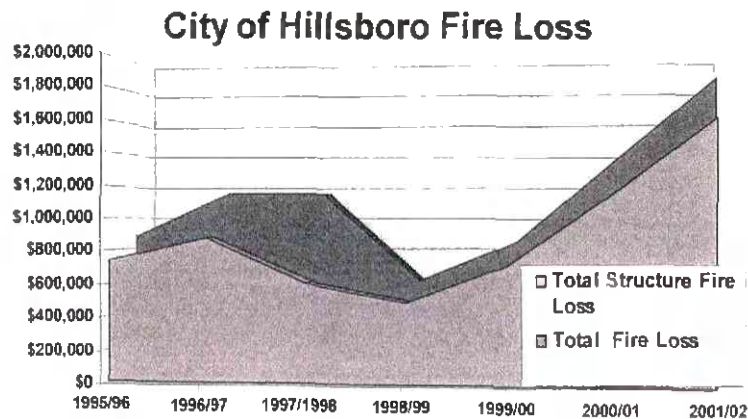
For the fiscal year 2001/2002, the total fire loss within the City was \$1,877,378.00. Over 85 percent of this loss was attributable to structure fires of which 54 percent was experienced in

residential properties. The chart on the following page illustrates fire loss and number of incidents by type of property use.

**Fire Loss Based on
Type of Fire and Number of Incidents**

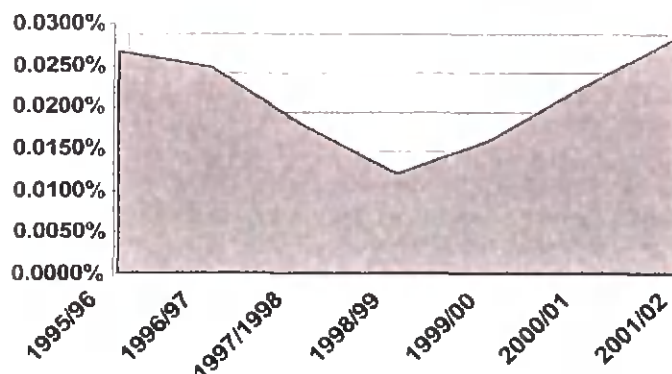


Over the last seven year period, fire loss overall has grown by a rate of 11.6 percent and structure fire loss has grown at a rate of 12.1 percent. Over the same 7 year period assessed value has grown 12.5 percent. The graph at right illustrates fire loss trends over this period.



The chart below shows the annual structure fire loss as a percent of assessed value in

Structure Fire Loss as a Percent of Assessed Value



millions. The average loss as a percent of A/V in millions over the 7 year period was .02 percent.

In the spring of 2002, the Division established its service level objective to limit the annual fire loss to a percent of assessed real property value. This objective helps quantify performance with respect to a measurable objective. The objective specifically states that "the Hillsboro Fire Department will limit fire loss to no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of one tenth of a percent (.025%) of the assessed value in

the City of Hillsboro, averaged over the preceding five-year period."

For fiscal year 2001/2002, total structure fire loss was \$1,601,210.00 and based upon the assessed property value of \$ 5,552,556,638.00, this property loss was .0288 percent of the total property value. The five year floating average for the reporting period shows fire loss at 0.020 percent of assessed value meeting the stated performance objectives.

FIRE PREVENTION MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS

The Fire Prevention Bureau also established objectives this year which establish performance objectives for annual maintenance inspection activities. These service level objectives require annual fire and life safety code inspections for 100% of the targeted occupancies as follows:

- ❖ The targeted downtown central business area (i.e., 10 sq. blocks)
- ❖ Hillsboro Public Schools
- ❖ State Licensing Facilities
- ❖ Forwarded City Business License Inspections
- ❖ Ronler Acres Intel Campus

Inspection records are currently maintained based upon the address of the occupancy and the type of inspection conducted. The Hillsboro Fire Department currently records inspection activity either as a "Regular Inspections" or "New Construction Inspections".

Regular Inspections are re-occurring inspections of existing structures to maintain fire and life safety compliance of fire and building codes. They are divided into three main categories; Maintenance Inspections; Business License Inspections; Special Inspection.

- ***Maintenance Inspections*** are regular inspections scheduled on a reoccurring basis.
- ***Business Inspections*** are the regular inspections conducted as a result of an application for a new business license inside the city.
- ***Special Inspections*** are regular inspections that involve special or unique criteria. (i.e. state licensed facilities that require annual inspection for state certification.)
- ***Re-inspections*** are follow-up inspections as a result of identified code deficiencies from previous inspection.

Current Year Activity

For fiscal year 2002, regular inspections required 1003 man-hours that accomplished a total of 823 inspections, of which 351 were re-inspections. Approximately 3.5 FTE were assigned to accomplish these regular inspections. The regular inspections identified 1607 fire and life safety hazards, of which 1138 were abated.

Examples of Regular Inspection Activity:

- **Assembly** – Required a total of 82 man-hours to complete 74 inspections which included 38 re-inspections

- **Schools** – Required a total of 160 man-hours to complete 86 inspections which included 24 re-inspections.
- **Business** – Required a total of 421 man-hours to complete 421 inspections which included 200 re-inspections.

The Prevention Division's objectives continue to be a target and information regarding performance is sketchy due to the way inspection records are currently maintained. The current record system does not correlate well with the stated performance objectives and will be revised to reflect these new objectives as resources become available. Based upon available information, performance related to the divisions stated objectives is as follows:

- ***The targeted downtown central business area (i.e., 10 sq. blocks)***
The inspection objective for the targeted downtown area was not completed due primarily to the six-month vacancy of an Inspector position, plus a large number of business license applications assigned to that zone. While business licenses are considered to be a form of maintenance inspection, reports that summarize this information are not currently available.
- ***Hillsboro Public Schools***
Currently inspection reports for schools are based upon occupancy type and data has not been collected for public schools alone. Information regarding all schools both public and private shows that a total of 160 man-hours to complete 86 inspections which included 24 re-inspections.
- ***State Licensing Facilities***
The Fire Prevention Division conducted 99 special inspection over the period for various occupancy types within the City – see table.
- ***Forwarded City Business License Inspections***
The Fire Prevention Division conducted 285 Business License inspections over the period.
- ***Ronler Acres Intel Campus***
The Fire Prevention Division maintains an ongoing presence at the Intel Ronler campus providing services for construction activities and ongoing routine maintenance inspections. During the reporting period two Fire Inspectors were assigned full-time to the Intel Ronler Acres site as part of a High-Tech Projects Team (including Building, Plumbing, Electrical, and Erosion Control Inspectors) that performed more than 18,000 inspections of the new D1D semiconductor manufacturing facility, along with continuing inspections of existing buildings on the site. Fire Department inspections included all sprinkler and alarm systems, gas monitoring and other hazardous material systems, aboveground hazardous material storage tanks, underground fire water service, process piping of hazardous materials and manufacturing equipment using hazardous materials.

FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

From 07/01/2001 to 06/30/2002

Regular Inspections Conducted

Maintenance Inspections; Business License Inspections; Special Inspections; Re-inspections

Occupancy

Description	Types	Maint Insp.	Business Lic. Insp.	Special Reinspect	# of (all)	Total Noted	Hazards Abated	Hazards Total	Hours
ASSEMBLY	A1-A4	16	10	10	38	74	95	95	82.2
BUSINESS	B	17	185	19	200	421	521	444	421.4
SCHOOLS	E1-E3	35	2	26	24	87	485	266	159.3
FACTORIES	F1-F2	6	21	5	25	57	137	107	144.8
HAZARDOUS	H1-H7	2	7	3	9	21	66	35	21.8
INSTITUTIONS	I1-I3	2	2	0	3	7	12	13	8
MERCANTILE	M	3	28	13	35	79	136	77	81.8
RESIDENTIAL	R1-R3	4	5	16	3	28	41	21	30.1
STORAGE	S1-S5	3	19	1	12	35	73	38	34.8
MISC BLDG's	U1-U2	0	6	6	2	14	41	42	18.5
		88	285	99	351	823	1607	1138	1002.7
Sub Totals				472	351	823	1607	1138	1002.7

FIRE PREVENTION NEW CONSTRUCTION

A large percentage of Fire Prevention's time is spent in the application of code requirements to new construction as opposed to the maintenance inspections of existing occupancies described above. Hillsboro Fire performs reviews of proposed projects, underground utilities

that involve any water supply for fire service, any and all fire protection systems (fire sprinklers, alarms, and other specialized systems), storage tanks for hazardous materials, and manufacturing equipment that uses hazardous materials. The Fire Marshal

and one Fire Inspector perform the bulk of these reviews and all documents submitted were completed. They included:

- 199 fire protection systems
- 80 on-site utility permits
- 27 aboveground hazardous material storage tanks
- 138 proposed commercial/industrial developments, subdivision and land partitions.
- 114 process equipment permits

Inspections are conducted to ensure compliance with reviewed submittals.

417 inspections, performed by one Fire Inspector, were completed for all non-Intel Ronler Acres new construction projects.

In addition, two Fire Inspectors were assigned full-time to the Intel Ronler Acres site as part of a High-Tech Projects Team and conducted 1,200 inspections for the period – see Intel Ronler service level objective.

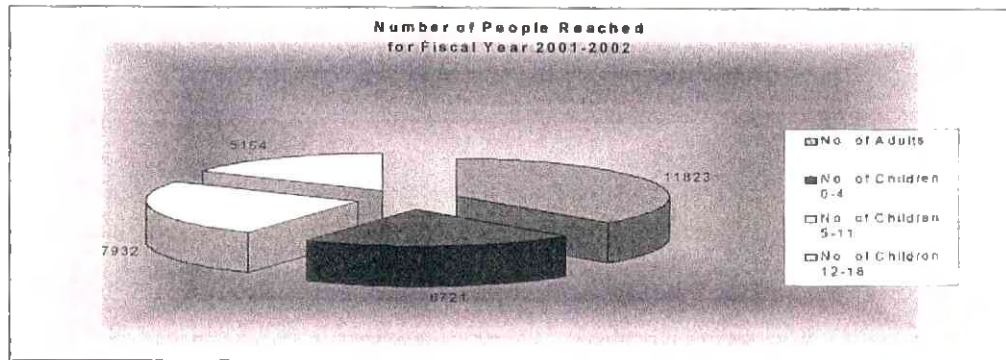
Fire Prevention continues to work in close cooperation with Hillsboro Building, Planning, and Engineering Departments to coordinate efficient review and inspection across a wide spectrum of projects.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

"Collaboration ~ Key to Public Safety"

Working with partners in public safety drove the efforts in the Community Education and Safety division in this past fiscal year; increasing our ability to reach out to all populations in Hillsboro, the young, the old, those at risk, civic, fraternal, and work- and living-related

groups. The Fire Department worked with many City departments to promote public safety, to increase domestic preparedness, and to develop stronger public safety initiatives.



All personnel in the Department were involved in the delivery of fire prevention and life safety education. Firefighters and the Fire Prevention Education Officer provided 178 presentations, reaching an estimated 20,000 children and 12,000 adults. A perennial favorite with the community is a station tour; residents of all ages are welcome into the three stations, receiving valuable fire and life safety information along with an informative tour of the days and lives in a fire station. The FPEO in conjunction with firefighters also provided fire and life safety talks to pre-school, elementary, middle and high school students. Additionally, department personnel participated in numerous public displays in all sectors of the community, from work site safety fairs, to the County Fair and Air Show, to Tuesday Marketplace. Since the tragic day of 9-11, firefighters

have also participated in a number of memorials, campaigns and tributes to those who have fallen in service to others. We are proud to be chosen to serve.

Cooperation with Washington County Health Division, Department of Aging and Veterans' Services, and the Senior Center have given us access to difficult-to-reach audiences, our seniors, the disabled and the non-English speaking. The most successful of the collaborative programs is the smoke alarm inspection/installation program; the Department installed nearly 50 smoke alarms into high-risk homes through these efforts. Because of the skills of the Department's Administrative Assistant II, Holly Payne, materials on smoke alarms have been translated into Spanish, increasing the effectiveness of the smoke alarm program.

Together with the Police Department and Emergency Management, the Fire Department provides weekly articles to the Argus under the title of "Safety Net." Partnering with city departments and the Argus allows us to reach not only the residents of Hillsboro but also the business community and greater Washington County. Topics have included child safety, disaster preparedness and wildland fire safety.

Child safety was another key area of accomplishment. In September 2001, the Fire Department became the lead organization in establishing a chapter of SAFE KIDS. SAFE KIDS was founded by former Surgeon General C. Everett

Coop; it is a national coalition of public and private sector organizations whose goal it is to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities from injuries in children from birth to 14 years old. The chapter has held two successful events reaching out to children, families, and caregivers; more than 1,000 people received safety information and assistance in the past year from Safe Kids in Washington County.

Collaboration enhanced the programs already offered by Hillsboro Fire Department while also reaching greater numbers of people at risk to suffer from fire and other life threatening emergencies.

Community Education and Safety Service Level Objectives

1. The Department shall strive to bring fire and life safety awareness and education to all community members of Hillsboro.
2. The Community Education and Safety Group shall develop, implement, and maintain fire and other life safety programs for high-risk populations.
3. In coordination with the Training Division and Emergency Management, the Community Safety and Education Group shall provide business and industry within the City of Hillsboro with fire and life safety programs.

JUVENILE FIRESETTER INTERVENTION

Nationally, children misusing fire account for approximately 55% of all arsons; the July 2002 Oregon State Fire Marshal's report "Juveniles with Fire in Oregon" states that from 1997-2001 their records show that the percentage of juveniles arrested for arson ranged from 42% to 62% of the total arson arrests reported in Oregon each year. This percentage is much underestimated, since not only do many fire incidents go unreported and uninvestigated, but the OSFM Juvenile Fire database is a voluntary program, with only 52% of the

state's fire departments currently reporting.

Hillsboro does report our juvenile fire misuse to the State; department members were instrumental in proposing the implementation of the database during the mid-1990's and served on some of the committees that recommended, lobbied and testified to the State Legislature, which ultimately enacted laws to permit the database beginning in 1997.

Children misusing fire in Hillsboro and Washington County Fire District 2 are identified in several different ways:

- Reported fires that are investigated by fire and police.
- Parents, relatives & neighbors contacting the fire department, voluntarily requesting help in dealing with a child who is misusing fire.
- Referrals from other fire departments, the Washington County Juvenile Department and from Oregon Family Services & Health Departments.
- Requests for assistance from school administrators and counselors.
- Referrals from private mental health practitioners and pediatricians.

During Fiscal 2001-2002, 46 children were referred to Inspector Foster in addition to his regular duties. The fire activities varied, including curiosity match/lighter play; home and vehicle arsons; public property, school and church arsons (both during school and after-hours); as well as public park, agricultural and wild-land arsons. Another common factor during the summer was illegal fireworks use, and modification of legal fireworks, that caused property fires. Most of the 46

referrals generated at least 4 hours of direct contact, including initial personal or telephone conversations, home visits for intervention interviews with the child and parents, and in-home safety education. Several more hours are spent per family with report writing, data keeping and file maintenance, as well as review of student projects, when called-for, to demonstrate the child's personal awareness of the impact of his/her actions on others. After interventions, our experience is that recidivism is low.

In addition to personal interventions, for the past three years Hillsboro has been a participant and supporter with the Juvenile Department and Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue with the Washington County Fire Academy; a project funded by a grant from the Juvenile Department's Violence Reduction Program.

Every other month, Inspector Foster and other JFS interventionists teach six 90-minute sessions, two evenings a week for three weeks, to children 8-13 years old from all over the Metro area who have been referred by parents, juvenile departments or other agencies to receive fire safety instruction and learn about personal responsibility and the consequences of their actions. While the children receive instruction from Inspectors, parents attend parenting classes from psychologists with Firesetter counseling expertise.

The Washington County Juvenile Department has endorsed this project by renewing the annual grant twice; the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office has recognized it as a model program to

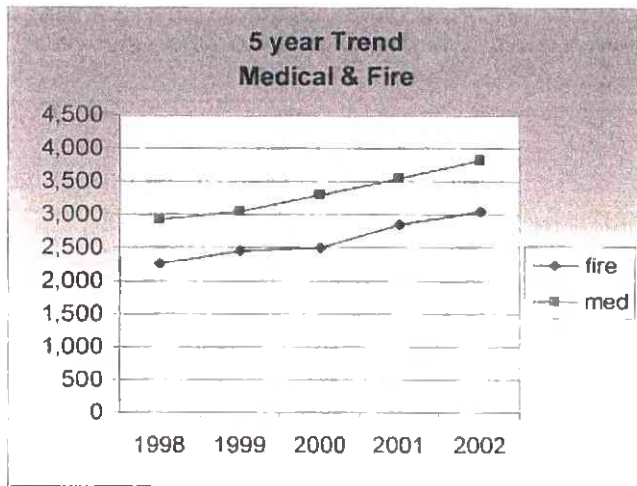
endorse to other states. In the last year we've expanded the program to offer four-session, bi-lingual Spanish fire safety academies to Hispanic families four times a year. These Hispanic academies are not targeted at juvenile firesetters, but to any family that wishes to increase their general fire safety awareness.

It should also be noted that since the 1980's, Hillsboro Fire employees served on committees that developed treatment strategies, student fire-safety curricula and professional interventionist standards. Hillsboro Inspectors have been OSFM adjunct instructors and have trained firefighters, teachers and mental health professionals from other departments, states & countries in JFS intervention & treatment strategies. These adjunct instructors have received state awards from the International Association of Arson Investigators for their arson-reduction efforts. Our teamwork with the State Fire Marshal's Office has placed Oregon, along with Massachusetts and Rhode Island, as the national leaders in Juvenile Firesetter Intervention.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

"Responding with Pride"

Hillsboro Fire Department responded to 6,557 calls for emergency services during the 2001-2002 fiscal year. This was a 4.51% increase over the previous year and follows closely with our average of 5.5% increase in calls per year over the last 10 years. These calls included fires, medical emergencies, natural disasters, technical rescues, hazardous material incidents, transportation emergencies (motor vehicle crashes, Light Rail and aircraft incidents) as well as "Public Service" calls (child locked in a car, etc...).



Where many of our calls may only generate a single apparatus response (a rescue going to a medical call), other calls for service generate a multiple apparatus response (a house fire), this variation in needs for equipment and personnel, accounted for over 9,000 apparatus responses this year.

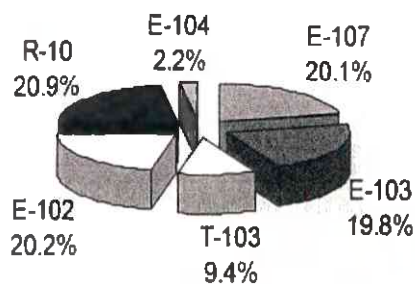
Increased demand on our services, accompanied by the continued growth of our community in areas of population, new and larger buildings,

and more businesses, has precipitated changes in the deployment of our personnel from our four facilities.

Career firefighters are housed in three stations; Ronler Acres, Brookwood and the Main Station. The Main houses Administrative, new construction inspection, and plans review staff.

Fire Prevention, including maintenance inspection and fire investigation personnel operate from Ronler Acres, while the Parkwood station houses the Training Bureau and our Volunteer force.

9016 Total Apparatus Responses in 2001 - 2002



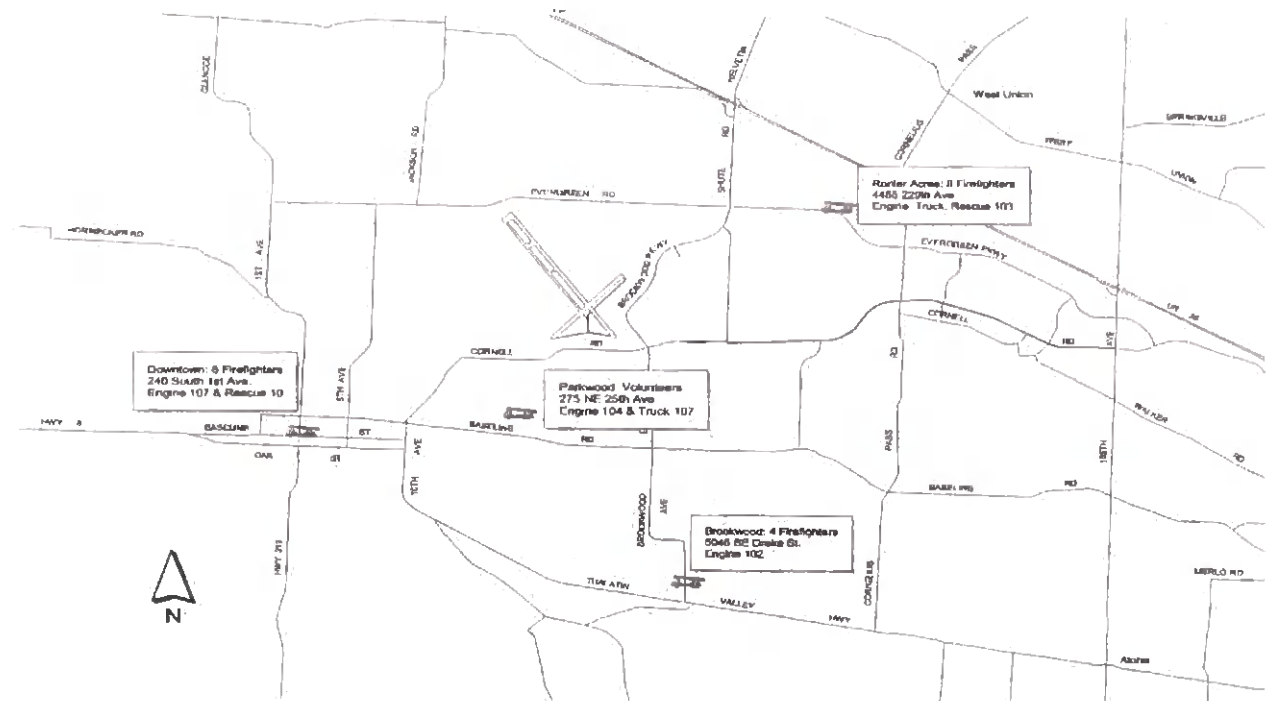
We respond to incidents with career-staffed apparatus – Engines 107, 102, 103, Rescues 10 and 103, and Truck 103; while volunteers staff Engine 104, Truck 10, BR 104 and

Tender 104. This year Hillsboro Fire Department added a second Rescue unit (R-103) assigned to the Ronler Acres Station and moved Rescue 10 to the Hillsboro Main Station.

Number of Responses by Type of Call		
1	Rescue Emergency Medical Responses	3447
2	Illegal burns/ smoke scare, lock out, others	913
3	False Alarms	654
4	Mutual Aid with other Departments	627
5	Hazardous Responses including Haz Mat Release	477
6	Injury Accidents	246
7	Residential Fires	76
8	Transportation Fires including auto's, planes, light rail	46
9	Rubbish, dumpster, trash other Fires	33
10	Commercial Fires	23
11	Wildland Fires	15

This move facilitated easier and quicker deployment of our Volunteers and allowed them to remain more "central" as a back-up for our on-duty personnel in the event of a multiple apparatus response or during times of high call volumes.

Shown below, is the current staffing configuration of the department.



New to Hillsboro Fire Department this year is our Fire Chaplaincy Program. Currently we have two Chaplains that volunteer hundreds of hours per month. Their presence on emergency scenes has greatly improved our customer service by providing emotional support for those we assist and their families, which in-turn allows our crews to respond to the next emergency without a complete and sudden departure of all fire personnel. The Fire Chaplains also offer continual support to our firefighters and their families.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

"When Seconds Count"

The Emergency Medical Services Division actively collaborates with other EMS agencies throughout the Metro area. A close working relationship insures a seamless patient treatment protocol across county lines, which incorporates the basis for a standard of care that leads the State.

The EMS Division has been an active participant in the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) in Portland as well as the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Committee (A-TAC) in Washington County to prepare for a potential

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) incident.

The department has added eight (8) new EMT Intermediates that upgraded their skills from the EMT Basic level, bringing our total to 57 shift EMT's (15 paramedics, 20 EMT Intermediates, and 22 EMT Basics).

Responses this year rose 13.3% to 3,810 requests for medical treatment. Calls ranged from medical related (i.e., heart problems, strokes, seizures) to trauma related (i.e., falls, injury motor vehicle accidents and shooting/stabbing).

With the number of requests for medical treatments increasing each year, the department added its second rescue in 28 years. In addition to Advanced Life Support (ALS) equipment, the new rescue carries the latest in hydraulic extrication equipment. With the addition of the second rescue and its new equipment, the department continues to "respond to the needs of the community" by offering quick medical responses throughout the City of Hillsboro while providing quality patient care.

Providing safety to the citizens of Hillsboro and its visitors during special events has continued to be a component of the department's medical capability. These special events represent flexibility and coordination with corporate and governmental partners who have chosen the City of Hillsboro to produce quality recreational events. The EMS Division



coordinates medical coverage at a variety of events as listed below:

- Fred Meyer Challenge
- Rose Festival AirShow
- Washington County Fair
- High School Football at Hare Field and Hillsboro Stadium

TRAINING DIVISION

Hillsboro firefighters maintain a readiness to respond to most any emergency that has the potential to threaten life, property or the environment. Having such a broad mission requires a progressive and active training program to maintain quality emergency services. Department personnel logged over 15,000 training hours to sharpen our knowledge and skill in topics such as fire suppression, fire apparatus operations, emergency medical response,

hazardous materials, technical rescue, aircraft firefighting, and domestic terrorism. Hillsboro firefighters averaged more than 250 hours of training individually during the year and prevention personnel attended more than 500 hours of training in the areas of fire and arson investigation, public relations and education, evidence collection and domestic terrorism.

The Department conducted several training exercises with the support of business and industry. Cooperation with businesses allowed the Department to sponsor three days of high rise firefighting exercises that involved every fire department in the county. Access to corporate aircraft for training was provided by another local business.

The Department trained with the Public Works Department and the Police Department in hazardous material response, confined space emergencies, and domestic terrorism events. This type of training is essential to be prepared for these emergencies.



location to support the 20-25 students that attend each training session.

Total Training Hours



The Training Division also coordinates the efforts of Department personnel to provide fire extinguisher training, medical first responder training, fire safety training and hazardous materials training to businesses and other departments in the City.

Toward the end of this fiscal year, the training office moved to the Parkwood Station. The Division shares this facility with the Department's volunteer companies, Engine and Truck 104. The central location, and additional office and storage space, makes this facility ideal for the Training Division. Work is currently being done to add a modular classroom at this

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

This was a productive year for Emergency Management's disaster preparedness activities. As well as partnering with several different organizations to do regional events, we completed a number of our own successful programs. Our two major partners are the Office of Consolidated Emergency Management (OCEM) for Washington County; and the Portland metro area's Regional Emergency Management Group.

- **Preparedness Presentations:** Presented disaster preparedness information to various neighborhood associations, Neighborhood Watch groups, employee safety meetings, and church groups. Emphasis is on all-hazard planning and 72-hour preparedness kits for home, school, work, and travel. We also began covering procedures for sheltering in-place, which would be necessary in the unlikely event of a hazardous materials incident that generated a toxic plume. (Sheltering indoors is often the preferred alternative to evacuation, depending upon the nature of the incident and surrounding circumstances.)

- **Information Mailings:** Inserted an information flyer on 72-hour family preparedness kits in the November/December water bills, and a flyer on sheltering in-place in the January/February bills. These bi-monthly bills reach approximately 20,000 Hillsboro households.

- **The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT):** Conducted four CERT "basic training" sessions – two for adults who live or work in Hillsboro, one for

Glencoe High School seniors as part of their Certificate of Advanced Mastery, and one for a combination of Hillsboro High School students and administration. We also conducted eight sessions of follow-on training for our CERT members. Many of these activities also included members of the Washington County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, which provides CERT's communications support.

- **USA Citizens' Corps:** This is President Bush's program to promote volunteerism and homeland security within our communities. Several of our existing programs are included under this umbrella, including the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Neighborhood Watch. We have received several additional volunteers by referral through the Citizens' Corps web page at <http://www.citizencorps.gov/>.

- **Terrorism Threat Alerts and Recommended Protective Measures:** Working with the Washington County Anti-Terrorism Advisory Committee and modeled after the National Homeland Security "rainbow system," we developed a system of threat alert levels and recommended response measures for city departments. Each of the five colors of the rainbow correlates to a set of recommended anti-terrorism protective measures. We also emphasize that the same 72-hour family preparedness kit recommended for all-hazard emergencies, with added emphasis on the CERT and Neighborhood Watch programs, works well as neighborhood anti-terrorism measures.

SUMMARY OF 2002/2003 Activities

- 2002 fire season – HFD participates in five(5) mobilizations to State conflagrations
- The Fire Department in coordination with other public safety partners and Emergency Management applied for four grants and received funding for domestic preparedness programs, public safety and educations programs and the City's Hazard Mitigation Planning to occur over the next year
- Four retirements throughout the year: Chief Dennis England, Battalion Chief David Wellington, Battalion Chief & Acting Operations Chief Jerry Rilette, and Lieutenant Bob Giun
- Three internal promotions, Steven Klaus promoted to Lieutenant, Greg Nelson promoted to Battalion Chief, Mark Nees promoted to Lieutenant
- Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations begin in November with fire management playing a key role for the first time
- Countywide Law enforcement/Fire ICS training in December strengthens the working relationship between these two public safety partners
- The Department conducts a situational analysis identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and applies this information to a short-term work program.
- In January the ISO evaluation of Hillsboro's Public Protection Classification begins
- New firefighter recruitment process is completed in December and in February 3 FF recruits hired and training academy begins
- April: Quarterly company evaluations begin to assess skills and knowledge and to begin the validation process of our standards
- Quake X rocks City; two exercises conducted in coordination with this statewide effort: Hillsboro staff participates in response and recovery tabletops
- 2002 Calls for Service: 6,694