Marshall Fire Department
2009 Annual Report

Introduction: The following report is a synopsis of activities the Marshall Fire Department was involved in during the 2009 calendar year. This report also contains a brief description of the department's makeup, including personnel and general equipment.

Fire Run Statistics: There were a total of 464 runs in 2009, compared to 616 in 2008. During the year fire was reported at eight dwellings/apartments and three vehicles. This was a decrease from the previous year, which had a total of 18 structure and vehicle fires. The citizens we serve have enjoyed an average response time of 4.04 minutes.

- During 2009, there was a total loss of property valued at $58,500 which was a decrease over 2008's loss of $102,050. We saved property and contents valued at $1,098,080

Fire Injuries: During 2009, no citizens received injuries that were reported to us.

Personnel: The Fire Department consists of eight career (full time), twenty five part-paid (on-call), and four auxiliary Firefighters. The career personnel include a Chief, three Assistant Fire Chiefs and four Lieutenants. The Assistant Chiefs are shift commanders and are responsible for all activities on their shifts. The career personnel also receive permanent assignments making them responsible for certain special duties, such as hazardous materials specialist, fire prevention officer, fire inspection specialist,

equipment maintenance, records management, etc. The average career firefighter has 23.5 years of firefighting experience.

The part-paid division consists of four fire sergeants who are unit commanders, twenty-one Firefighters, and four auxiliary Firefighters who are awaiting permanent appointments after completing the Fire Academy.

Training/Certification: Part-paid Firefighters must possess a minimum of level I certification, which requires 152 hours of basic training. The majority of Marshall Firefighters possess Firefighter I and II, which requires 227 hours of classroom and practical training. The four auxiliary Firefighters are in training to reach level I and II certification and will become members of the part-paid service when their training is complete and an opening occurs.

There is also a number of paid-on-call Firefighters who possess Fire Officer I certification. In addition, one Assistant Chief is a State Certified Fire Instructor, which allows him the opportunity to teach fellow Firefighters, as well those from outside the department who are seeking Firefighter certifications.

All career Firefighters are at the Firefighter level II certification. All Lieutenants have earned Fire Officer I certification, One of the Lieutenants has earned Fire Officer II. One Lieutenant, all three Assistant Chiefs and Chief Kiessling have earned Fire Officer III. One Assistant Chief graduated last fall from Eastern Michigan University's School of Fire Staff and Command.

Lieutenant Ed Costine obtained his Fire Inspector I license. Ed attends annual conferences to keep up with 50+ hours of continuing education credits that are required to keep his license current.

Assistant Chief Jeff Rhodes and Lieutenant Dusty Nash partner to head up the training division. To have a successful training program, many hours are contributed into researching, planning, implementing, and record keeping. To meet NFPA requirements and our department's expectations, three to four hours per shift are spent doing just that.

All department personnel are required to attend monthly training sessions, which expand their firefighting technical skills. The Marshall Firefighters training is scheduled twice monthly consisting of three hours per training session. The state and federal government requires that firefighters train on certain subjects annually.

This includes:

- ✓ Blood borne pathogen awareness
- ✓ 8 hours of hazardous materials
- ✓ CPR
- ✓ Confined space
- ✓ Drivers training
- ✓ Self contained breathing apparatus
- ✓ Fit testing for self contained breathing apparatus
- ✓ Terrorism

There is a makeup training for anyone who missed the scheduled trainings on the last Saturday at 8:00 a.m. All trainings consist of subjects such as:

- ✓ Tours of buildings in Marshall for familiarization
- ✓ Severe weather training
- ✓ Emergency scene safety
- ✓ Hoseline supply and attack

- ✓ Vehicle extrication (Practical and classroom)
- ✓ Heavy stream appliances
- ✓ Ice rescue
- ✓ River rescue
- ✓ Rappelling
- ✓ Low angle rescue
- ✓ Fire attack
- ✓ Live house burn (When available)
- ✓ Ventilation
- ✓ Salvage and overhaul
- ✓ Fire behavior
- ✓ Fire extinguishers
- ✓ Engine company operations
- ✓ Foam operations
- ✓ Sprinkler systems and fire alarms
- ✓ Forcible entry
- ✓ Ladders
- ✓ Ropes and knots
- ✓ Search and rescue
- ✓ Ladder truck operations

The training is usually conducted by the training officers or a firefighter with experience in the area covered. We have received junk cars from area salvage yards in the past and performed extrication and rescue techniques in our quest to be more efficient. 2009 was unique in that we had a school bus at our disposal. We were able to cut into the bus, exposing reinforcement locations, and determine the best options to extricate children.

Due to a limited number of off duty career personnel available, Marshall Firefighters realized we have a need for interested Firefighters to operate the fire engines. We started the driver training program, teaching part-paid personnel everything from safe driving techniques, to operating the pumps and the jaws of life.

Fire Prevention: The City of Marshall Fire Department's Fire Prevention Division coordinates and operates educational safety programs within the City of Marshall as well as having representation on the Calhoun County Fire Prevention Week Committee.

The following items are fire prevention activities that are ongoing annually:

- Attend monthly meetings for the county FP committee. Starting in August of each year, meetings are held bi-weekly or every 3 weeks and in September, meetings are weekly.

- Organize and participate in fund raising events for the county committee. This committee is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. It is completely funded through donations and fundraisers.

- Lt. McCain in the past has written grants to supplement funds for the City of Marshall Fire Prevention Program. The funds are used for educational materials for elementary school age children K - 4th grades as well as for the purchase of plastic fire helmets and badge stickers.

- The Fire Prevention Division, in past years, has mailed out letters to all local businesses asking for support for the prevention program. With the current difficult economic times that all businesses are facing, this letter has not been sent out since 2008.

- The Marshall Fire Department has long standing and ongoing smoke detector program. The funding for this program is from the fire prevention account. Anyone within the city limits of Marshall who contacts the fire department advising that they do not have smoke detectors can obtain smoke detectors free of charge. We prefer to install them ourselves, assuring proper placement and location. Furthermore, if a citizen is in need of batteries for their smoke detector, we will also respond and install new batteries as well as test their detector(s) for functionality. This is especially beneficial for the elderly people of our community.

- Marshall Firefighters conduct fire safety programs annually at each elementary school, teaching children grades 1-4 about fire safety and burn prevention. We also go into classrooms upon request of any teacher for extra visits as well as teaching pre-school age kids in small groups.

- The kindergarten students of our community, along with all kindergarten students from around Calhoun County, are sent by bus to Kellogg Arena for a half day long program where they learn many aspects of fire safety. The Marshall Fire Department has one member who has been active since 1996 in this program, which operates for one week in October.

- Chief Kiessling spends one week per summer and a weekend in the winter at the Great Lakes Burn Camp where over 90 children who were burn victims become burn survivors.

- Marshall Area third grade students participate annually in a poster coloring contest. This contest is completely based on fire safety in their home. One winner from each elementary school is chosen and they are invited to have lunch with the Fire Chief. Chief Kiessling is active in this program.

- Every year, the Calhoun County Fire Prevention Committee, holds a "Family Education Night" event at different locations throughout the county. The Marshall Firefighters are very active in this, as well as having hosted the event.

- Every year the Marshall Fire Department goes to all schools in the city and tests the fire alarm systems. Pull stations and smoke detectors are tested for functionality and the response time of the alarm company is recorded for timeliness. This is done prior to the beginning of the school year to allow for any system repairs to be made.

- The Marshall Firefighters conduct fire inspections at local businesses. During these inspections, we look for any fire safety violations, egress path blockages, and general layout of buildings. Not only do we familiarize ourselves with the buildings, but we also educate the building owners and occupants.

- The firefighters annually inspect the Marshall House Apartments. This is done to primarily test the functionality of the building's alarm system and make sure it is sufficiently audible. Each apartment is equipped with emergency pull cords and those are tested as well. Smoke detectors are tested and replaced as needed.

- Seeing a rising trend in web based cultures, the Marshall Fire Department started a Facebook page for personnel, and a Facebook fan page and Twitter for the public. The use of Facebook and Twitter allows us to reach a large number of people in a short amount of time. We are able to improve our communication with the public with

topics ranging from chili cook-off fundraising to severe weather announcements and road closures.

A Day with the Fire Department. Our shift change begins at 7:30am and ends at 7:30am the following day. We arrive early to get any important information from the previous shift's commander, such as any equipment that is out of service or in need of repair, appointments, or anything else the on-duty shift commander needs to be aware of. Shift change occurs at 7:30am, time for apparatus/equipment check. We go through each fire apparatus and make sure everything is in place and ready for operation such as water in the tank, SCBA's (31 self contained breathing apparatus) are filled with air and ready for an emergency, radios in place and working etc. During inclement weather (snow) we clean off the sidewalks around city hall, the Crary Condos across the street, around the fountain, and in front of the Honolulu House. This could take anywhere from 30 minutes to several hours. Now we gather for a few minutes and catch up on today's events such as tours coming in for visits, appointments, keeping up to date with and maintaining compliance with NFPA and MIOSHA, and training with on-call personnel who stop in occasionally.

Once we are caught up on today's events we continue with our daily fire activities such as laundry, general house keeping, wash apparatus if needed, follow up with reports, prepare for training, and conduct company inspections of city and local business buildings. Repair and send out anything that might need fixing and add/change fluids for all emergency equipment when needed. We take phone calls from citizens needing information or answers to just about anything you can think of, from "When does the parade start?" to "My house is on fire." We assist the ambulance service with information regarding ambulance transfers etc. We have

administrative duties, such as fire/EMS reports, monthly and annual reports, citizens complaints and concerns, updates to training records, follow up on any messages in voice mail, take apparatus in for service, get mail, visit schools / senior homes / local businesses / preschools / cub scouts / boy scouts / girl scouts for fire prevention, and more training.

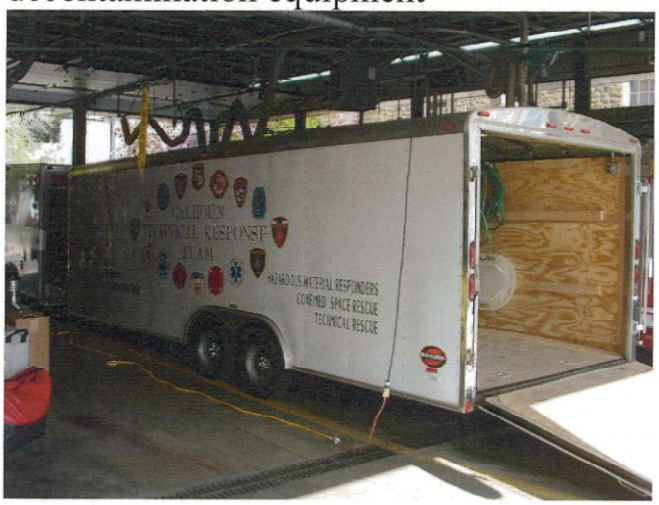
After hours 5:00pm to 7:30 am is our down time, if we are not responding to emergency incidents, then we are training, keeping up with medical continuing education etc. Add in any fire/rescue/medical calls and we have a complete day.

Department Equipment. The department's equipment consists of a 2004 Crimson 1,500 gpm pumper

A 1990 Pierce 1,500 gpm pumper

A 1980 Pierce 85 foot snorkel platform with a 1,500 gpm pump

A 1994 Ford Ambulance hauling a 24' trailer with hazardous materials decontamination equipment



A 1999 Luverne Rescue truck

A 2000 Dodge 4x4 pick-up truck that is set up for entry into the parking ramp and for grass fires off road.

Extra duties carried out:

- Assist city hall on a daily basis with moving heavy paper boxes under the staircase
- Maintain all light fixtures
- Maintain city hall grounds by mowing, weeding, raking, edging sidewalks, watering etc
- Storing and ordering toiletries, cleaning supplies etc
- Vacuum, mop city hall floors when needed
- Adjust air vents in summer and winter
- Hang holiday decorations for front office
- Cover windows in plastic during winter months
- Replaced solenoids and lights in the bell tower
- Program the bells and time for the clock tower
- Raise and lower American flag during special events and upon a Michigan's Soldiers death notice
- Upkeep on vacuum parts/filters etc
- Clean roof drain over police department garage and the duralast roof over fire station offices
- Check and tag all fire extinguishers throughout city hall monthly
- Replace furnace filters at city hall
- Replace ballasts in fluorescent lights
- Video record and broadcast live council meetings
- Transport tables and chairs to county building and Cronin building for meetings

- Assist in City Hall renovations as needed by hanging pictures, bookshelves, calendars, signage, move office furniture around as needed for city offices, and recently we installed door sweeps on 2nd floor doors for city offices
- Order ice-melt for city hall and Marshall House
- Run and test city hall's generator
- Maintain MSDS for city hall
- Provide and schedule fire coverage at the Calhoun County Fair and provide the fair with fire safety inspections
- Inspect downtown district businesses twice annually and all others annually. We review fire media for new techniques and training
- Assist Police Department with Traffic control during major events
- Assist Street Dept with planned and post-storm tree trimming
- We have been successful in writing grants totaling over $819,000
- Participate in several County wide agencies such as Local Emergency Planning Committee, Emergency Management Operations Committee etc
- Activate civil defense and weather siren
- Wash the city pool vehicle weekly
- Remove ice dams from city hall roof and buildings downtown when they become a danger
- Maintain the public rest rooms during special holiday events
- Perform light maintenance and repairs to apparatus
- EMS continuing education classes which are held at the PSB the third Monday of each month to keep our medical licenses current
- Retrieve ducklings from drains (but we don't do cats)
- Maintain "fire dept" common areas, and answer phone calls for all questions from A-Z

- Fill SCBA bottles for surrounding area fire departments and CCSD dive team
- Perform basic weekly and thorough monthly inspections of SCBA's
- Calibrate fire department gas meters on a monthly basis
- Help Marshall Public Schools by providing aerial support to replace High School parking lot and football field lights and last winter helped place a radio mast behind the football press box
- Assist the airport with the light tower
- Inspect Marshall House apartments annually