

City of Woodland

REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: October 20, 2009

SUBJECT: Fire Department Monthly Report for August 2009

Report in Brief

The Woodland Fire Department's Monthly Status Report includes a wide variety of information in an effort to better inform the public and the City Council. This report summarizes four specific areas of the Fire Department's operation: Overtime, Incident Response, Fire Prevention and Training. This year, the Fire Department updated its Monthly Status Report format to include a wider variety of information. The report is formatted by division (Administration, Operations, Fire Prevention and Training) and covers the key projects and/or activities for the month.

Attached for the City Council's review is the Fire Department's Monthly Report for October 2009.

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Woodland Fire Department Monthly Status Report Summary –August 2009



(The Woodland Fire Department Monthly Status Report includes a wide variety of information in an effort to better inform the public and the City Council.)

	Previous Month	Current Month	Difference (+ increase/- decrease)
Cost of Overtime			
	\$47,753.07	\$43,320.70	\$4,432.37
Total Incident Responses			
Fire	36	16	-20
EMS/Rescue	259	274	+15
Mutual Aid/Auto Aid/Strike Tm	12	5	-7
Hazardous Cond.	43	9	-3
Public Service	43	45	+2
Good Intentions	49	51	+2
False Alarms	16	11	-5
Concurrent Incidents	126	117	-9
Fire Prevention			
Commercial Inspections	18	15	-3
Plan Reviews	17	13	-4
Business License Inspections	2	0	-2
Permitted Inspections	133	217	+84
Residential Inspections	37	41	+4
Resale Inspections	8	7	-1
Engine Company Inspections	159	128	-31
Weed Abatement	13.75 hours	2 hours	-11.75 hours
Arson Investigations	8.25 hours	5.75 hours	-2.5 hours
Pub Ed Events	2	0	-2
Training	765.5	722.5	-43

MAJOR DIVISIONS - SUMMARY

Administration:

Chief Reddish lifted the ban on strike team participation on August 17, 2009. Despite the \$36,000 IOU from the State of California from 2008, the assurance from the State Controller that California was solvent enough to start reimbursing the IOUs in September rather than October was evidence enough to place Woodland back in the queue for out-of-county strike team responses.

Fire Prevention:

The Fire Prevention Division, along with the Engine Companies continued their annual inspections of the businesses within the City. This program has allowed the department to determine the exact types of activities that are performed within our City, which is important in preparing and possibly mitigating any potential hazards that could affect emergency responders and the community as a whole.

Training:

The Woodland Fire Department Training Division hosted the Incident Command System (ICS) 300 and 400 classes for City staff and other local agencies. ICS 300 is designed for mid-level management personnel and ICS-400 is specific to personnel who will be serving in EOC. These classes were funded through a Homeland Security grant administered through the Yolo County Office of Emergency Services.

Planning efforts continued for a live-fire training exercise at an acquired structure on Kentucky Ave. This training exercise is scheduled for October or November.

Operations:

Overtime costs are paid from our Operations budget and will be reported here beginning this month. Our biggest overtime costs are incurred maintaining minimum staffing. Despite this, our overtime costs reduced slightly in August.

Reduced staffing continues to be a challenge for us in maintaining our minimum staffing levels. Just like June and July, August is another peak month for vacation usage. In addition, furloughs were implemented in the 3rd week of August for shift personnel. We will be watching this closely to see how they impact our overtime costs.

The Woodland Fire Department returned to strike team participation on August 29th with a response to the Station Fire in the Angeles National Forest in Los Angeles County. Battalion Chief Ken Bechthold, as the Strike Team Leader, led a strike team to Los Angeles made up of a WFD fire engine and 4 other engines from departments throughout Yolo County. This was the first strike team WFD participated in this fire season.

MAJOR DIVISIONS - DETAIL

ADMINISTRATION -

Budget Issues

Beginning this month Overtime expenses will be reported under Operations because that is the division impacted by minimum staffing, and the division that we pay the overtime out of. This change makes for more accurate reporting from each of our divisions.

Policy Coordination

The following Operations and Procedures were under review in the month of August, 2009:

- Section 315 07142009 – Work Schedules;
- Section 340 06282009 – Uniform Allowance; and
- Section 531 07142009 – Strike Team Procedures

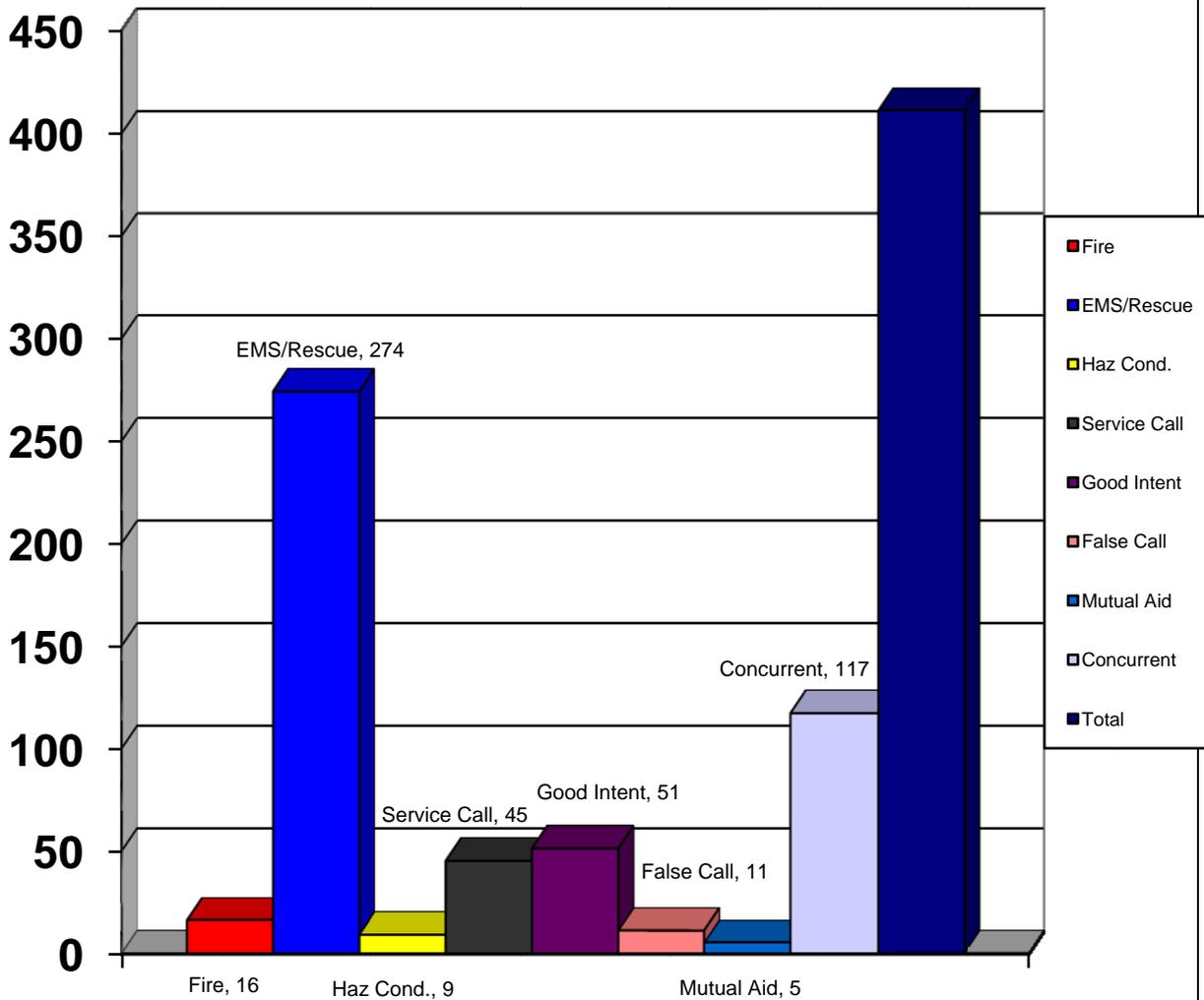
Web Page

There was no new activity to report in this area.

OPERATIONS

Incident Activity

Current Month By Incident Type



The graph above is a visual summary of the number of incidents that the Fire Department responded to during the weeks August 1, through August 31, 2009. This is in comparison to the annual totals of each type of incident.

OPERATIONS (CONT'D)**INCIDENT ACTIVITY DETAIL**

The WFD responded to a total of 406 **Incidents** in August. They included:

- **16 Fires** that took place in the month of August, for a current annual total of **128**. The **16 fires** included:
 - **2- building/cooking fire, fire other**
 - **4-passenger or road freight vehicle fires**
 - **4-dumpster, outside equipment fires**
 - **6-grass fires**
- **274 EMS/Rescues** took place in the month of August, for a current annual total of **2,078**. The EMS/Rescues included:
 - **82-Calls requiring medical assistance**
 - **160-EMS Calls for people with injuries**
 - **11-vehicle accidents with injuries**
 - **20-motor vehicle accidents with or without injuries**
 - **1-extrication, rescue, other**
- There were **9** responses that involved **Hazardous Conditions**, bringing the current annual total to **82**. The Hazardous Conditions included:
 - **3-gasoline, oil or chemical spills**
 - **5- electrical wiring, arcing, power line down**
 - **1-hazardous conditions, other**
- There were **45 Public Service Calls** handled in the month of August, for a current annual total of **302**. The Public Services Calls included:
 - **10-Calls to assist police or other governmental agencies**
 - **10-calls for public service**
 - **5-invalid public assistance calls**
 - **11-cover assignment, standby, move up**
 - **1-unauthorized burning**
 - **8-lock outs, person in distress, service calls, other**
- **51 Good Intentions** calls were responded to in the month of August, for a current annual total of **383**. The calls included:
 - **20-calls that were cancelled en route or CAD error**
 - **19-no incident found on arrivals**
 - **8-Steam, smoke, odor of smoke, barbeque, authorized burning**
 - **4-Good intent call, other**
- There were **11 False Alarm Calls** made in the month of August, for a current annual total of **115**.

Total Calls for Service - **406**

Included in the categories above are **5 Mutual Aid Calls** that were responded to in the month of August, for a current annual total of **57**. The calls included aid to:

- **1-Davis Fire Department**
- **3-Willow Oak Fire Protection District**
- **1-Yolo Fire Protection District**

Also included in the categories above are **117 Concurrent Incidents** in the month of August, for a current annual total of **638**.

Total Incidents to Date for 2009 - 3,419 Average Response Time for First Due Units: Fire: 5:51 Minutes EMS: 5:08

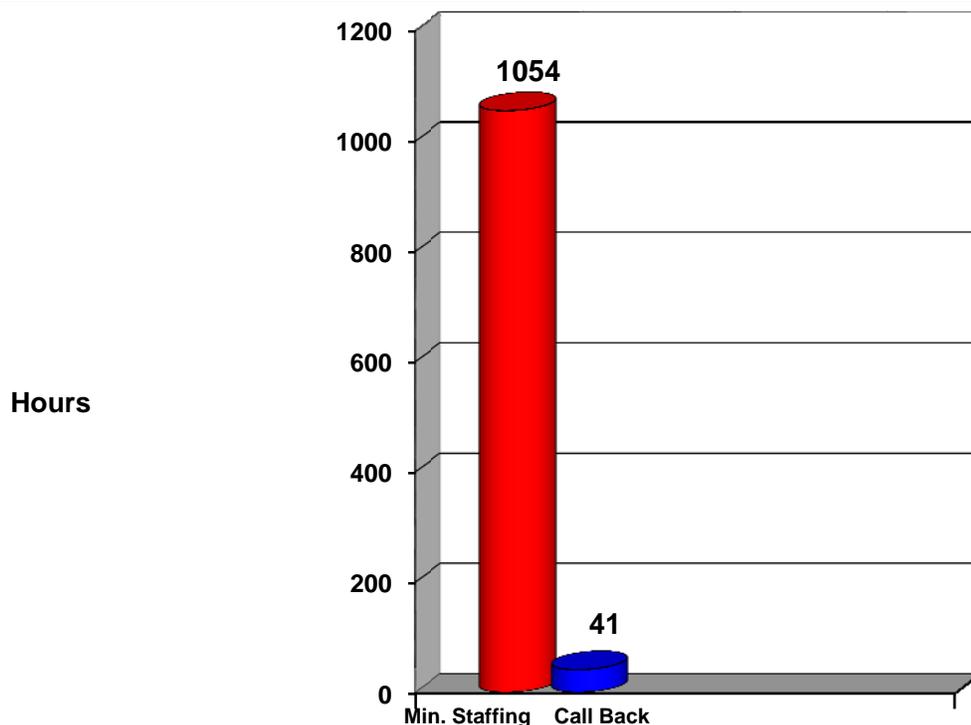
OPERATIONS *(CONT'D)*

OVERTIME SUMMARY

There were a total of **1095**-overtime hours worked during the month of August for a total cost of **\$43,320.70** (.519 FTE of an entry level Firefighter, wages and benefits). They include:

- **1054**-hours of **Minimum Staffing** at a total cost of **\$41,673.79** for the month of August 2009. (*In the City of Woodland, a minimum of 3 Firefighters (Captain, Engineer and Firefighter) have to be available per company at all times to respond to incidents.*)
 - The average hours of overtime used for the period August 2008 to August 2009 was **847.29** hours at a cost of **\$32,102.25** due to increased staffing levels.
- **41**-hours were needed for **Call Back Staffing** at a total cost of **\$1,646.91** for the month of August 2009. (*Call Back Staffing is necessary to backfill the stations when a major incident occurs that depletes the minimum staffing levels.*)
 - There was an average of **108** hours used to provide Call Back Staffing at a cost of **\$4,233.84** for the period August 2008 to August 2009.

The graph below is a visual summary of the overtime staffing needs for the Fire Department during the weeks of August 1, through August 31, 2009.



Note: Trends analysis projections derived from actual hours and costs during the period: August 2008 –August 2009.

OPERATIONS (CONT'D)

Concurrent Incidents:

These are incidents that come in simultaneously or at approximately the same time, or where apparatus and crews are committed to separate incidents at the same time. The significance of Concurrent Incidents is that we then have inadequate staffing and resources to respond to a structure fire or other major incident that would be heavily dependent on firefighters at the scene to accomplish required tasks. We must then rely on staffing recalls and allied agencies to assist us and none of those options are rapid. In the meantime our strategy and tactics must change to maximize firefighter safety first at the risk of public safety and property conservation.

Concurrent incidents occur as **single-engine calls**, (i.e., medical aids, investigation of a fire alarm sounding, lift assists, etc) or as **multi-company calls** where more than one engine is committed to the same incident (i.e., higher hazard calls such as structure fires, vegetation fires, highway incidents, rescues, hazardous materials releases, traffic accidents requiring extrication, or mass casualty incidents).

The breakdown of **concurrent incidents** for August is:

2 Engines committed simultaneously	=	72 times
3 Engines committed simultaneously	=	25 times
4 Engines committed simultaneously	=	18 times
5 Engines committed simultaneously	=	2 times

The Woodland FD received **406** calls for service in August with 117 being Concurrent Alarms = **28.9%** of the time. There have been **638** concurrent alarms so far in 2009,

Automatic or Mutual Aid:

The Woodland Fire Department is a signatory to the Yolo County Fire Mutual Aid Agreement whereby we provide help to agencies in need in Yolo County, upon request, with the expectation that they will reciprocate and provide us aid if we need it.

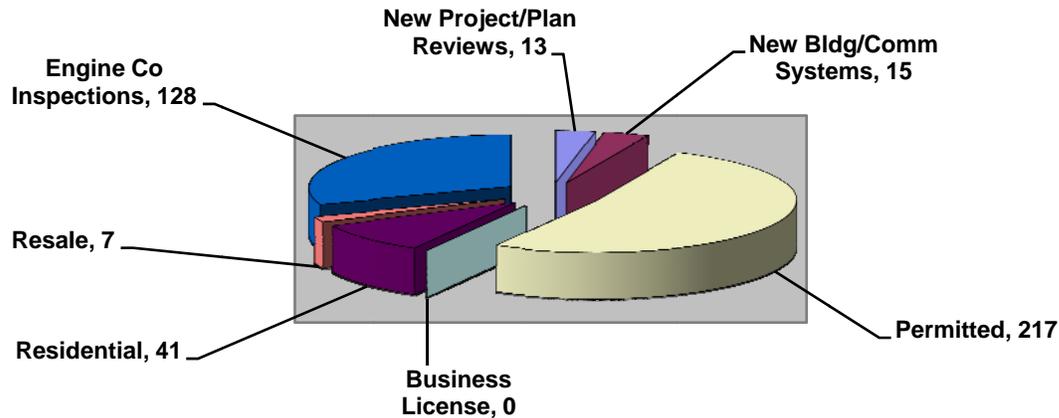
The WFD is also a participant in automatic aid with the career fire departments in Davis, Dixon, UC Davis, West Sacramento, and Rumsey Rancheria and the volunteer fire departments of Willow Oak, Yolo, and West Plainfield. We provide and receive assistance automatically as if we were all members of the same agency.

Aid Given: 4
Aid Received: 1 time

Note: *Our automatic aid agreements with neighboring fire departments have strengthened so that we now automatically receive a Davis FD engine to cover our southern-most station (Station 2 on West St) whenever we have a working 1st Alarm structure fire ("Working" refers to an actual fire requiring firefighters to extinguish the fire, and "1st Alarm" means the units that respond upon the "first" report of a fire). If the Incident Commander decides he/she needs more resources, he/she then requests a "2nd Alarm" through our Dispatch Center and more resources are summoned to the scene. At this point we draw the Davis FD, the Willow Oak FD, and the UC Davis FD to the actual fire scene to help us. 3rd and 4th Alarm fires draw even more resources to the fire from our neighboring departments.*

FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Prevention Bureau conducts several types of inspections and plan reviews. The Bureau concentrates on New Project Development, Civil Drawing Plan Reviews, Building Inspections, On Site Water Systems, Commercial Fire Sprinklers, Residential Fire Sprinklers, Fire Alarm Inspections, Specialized Fire Protection Systems, Fire Permits, Licensed Care Facilities, Business License Inspections, Resale Inspections, Fire Investigation and Code Enforcement, Public Education and Weed Abatement.



For the month of August 2009 the Fire Prevention Specialists conducted the following inspections and plan reviews:

Commercial	
0	New Project Development Reviews
13	Plan Reviews
8	New Building Inspections
7	Commercial Fire Protection Systems
Permit	
217	Fire Permitted Annual Inspections
Business License	
0	Business License Inspections
Residential	
0	Residential Automatic Sprinkler System Plan Reviews
41	Residential Automatic Sprinkler System Inspections
7	Resale Residential Sprinkler Inspections
Engine Company	
128	Business and Mercantile Inspections

The Fire Prevention Division inspects new businesses and changes of ownership for occupancy usage and compliance of the Fire Codes. **Plan reviews** are what generate initial commercial and residential inspections. The fees for these inspections are included in the plan review fees. Inspections for commercial projects include the initial plan review, 4 inspections & 1 re-submittal of plans at a cost of **\$717.00/riser + \$2.00/sprinkler head**. Commercial Tenant Improvements are **\$421.00/riser + \$2.00/sprinkler head**. Residential plan review inspections include the initial plan review, 2 inspections & 1 re-submittal of plans at a cost of **\$354.00/riser**. Residential Tenant Improvement plan reviews are **\$284.00/riser**.

Permitted inspections occur when any occupancy has activities that are either hazardous or considered special. (An example of a hazardous activity is a business that houses or manufactures chemicals, or combustibles such as repair shops, chemical warehouses, or airport hangers. Special activities include places of assembly, tents, and high-pile storage facilities.) The average permitted inspection is **\$150.00/ea**.

Lastly, the Fire Prevention Division handles **Business License Inspection**, which carries a fee of **\$165.00/ea** for all new businesses. However, this fee is presently under review. The current amount being collected for Business License Inspections is **\$13.00/ea**.

FIRE PREVENTION (CONT'D)

Weed Abatement

- Staff spent a total of **2** hours on weed abatement activities in the month of August.

Note: Funding for weed abatement has been eliminated in FY09/10, which pays for hiring a contractor to abate property in the event the property owner fails to comply with a weed abatement notice.

Arson Investigation

- **5.75 hours** of investigation were performed in the month of August.

Public Education

There is no new activity to report in this area.

Note: Funding for public education has been eliminated in FY09/10 thereby cancelling our 1st Grade school program. The WFD will still visit schools and classrooms upon request, conduct station tours upon request, and attend public events upon request.

TRAINING

The following is a summary of training activities conducted in the Fire Training Division during the weeks of August 1, through August 31st, 2009. During the month of August the following activities occurred at the Woodland Fire Department Training Division:

Training conducted at the Training Center including:

- 12 hours of Chainsaw Training
- 12 hours of EMS / Bleeding / Shock
- 10 + hours Engine Company Inspections
- 12 hours of Map System
- 12 hours Haz Mat / Railcar Incident Procedures
- 40 + hours of Outside Training / Classes

During the month of August, career staff reported a total of **583.5** hours of training, resulting in an average of **14.2** hours of training per person.

The reserve staff reported a total of **53.5** hours of training for an average of **5.94** hours of training per person. The reserve staff completed training Policy & Procedures, EMS, and Fire Hydrants.

There were **81.5** total hours of training for the Battalion Chiefs, and **4** hours of training for Fire Prevention Staff.

Highlights for the month of August: WFD hosted ICS 300/400 classes for city staff and other local agencies, paid for by an Office of Emergency Services grant.

August ~ 2009 Training Hour(s):

Line staff	583.5
Battalion Chiefs	81.5
Fire Prevention	4
Reserves	53.5