

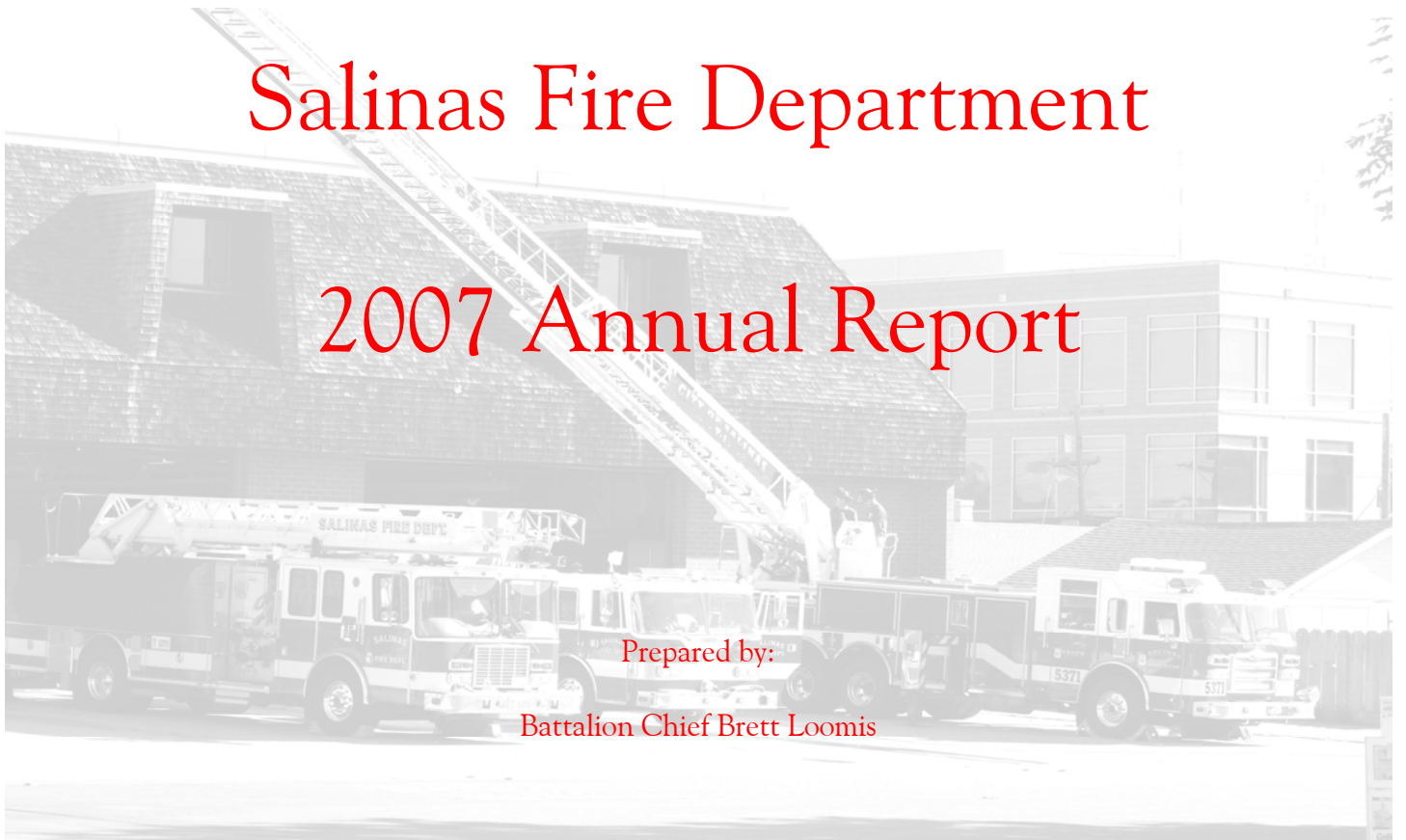
SALINAS FIRE DEPARTMENT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT





Salinas Fire Department

2007 Annual Report



Prepared by:

Battalion Chief Brett Loomis



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March 2008

Honorable Mayor, members of the Salinas City Council, and residents of the City of Salinas,

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2007 Salinas Fire Department Annual Report. Once again, your fire department has made tremendous strides in the areas of emergency response, training, disaster preparedness, fire and life safety. As you will see in this document, the men and women of the Salinas Fire Department have one goal in mind...providing you the best levels of customer service possible.

We entered 2008 setting another standard in the Salinas Fire Department. The Department responded to 10,987 emergencies during the 2007 calendar year. This is an increase of 246 calls over the previous year. The following pages will categorize these responses. The number of responses has consistently grown over the past ten years. As these requests for service increase, the need for more personnel within the department will become more crucial.

Thanks to Measure V Funding, we were able to hire a full-time fire marshal for the city. This position had been vacant for three years. Battalion Chief Mark Latham was hired in July. Battalion Chief Latham started his fire service career with the Salinas Fire Department. He left Salinas to be the fire marshal in the City of Atascadero and most recently with the City of Santa Cruz. He brings an extraordinary knowledge base to the fire marshal position and will be a positive asset to the community. Battalion Chief Latham's additional responsibilities will include managing the disaster preparedness program for the City of Salinas.

The City purchased two new fire department pumpers in 2007 which helped to upgrade our aging fleet. The Department also received delivery of a wildland firefighting engine which significantly increases our brush firefighting capabilities within the city. The new 105-foot aerial ladder truck was placed into service in January 2007 and has performed beyond expectations. It has played a pivotal role in many fires; both in the City of Salinas and on mutual aid responses. As the call volume indicates, the demand on our fleet is increasing. Additional apparatus purchases will be necessary in the coming years to maintain our levels of service to the community.

The emergency medical services in Monterey County have been at the forefront of our operational concern. Widely covered in the media is the private ambulance provider's inability to meet contractual requirements. Thanks again to Measure V Funding, we have been able to increase our paramedic staffing numbers and ensure that a firefighter-paramedic responds to every medical emergency in the City of Salinas. We have also participated in discussions and put in place contingency plans in the event the ambulance provider is unable to meet their obligations. These plans ensure that the residents of Salinas will continue to receive the highest level of pre-hospital care available in Monterey County.

2008 promises to bring more changes to the organization. We will continue our focus on customer service and training. We are pleased to be a participating city department in the Community Safety Alliance. One major goal of the organization is the implementation of a company-based inspection program. This program would include neighborhood fire engines performing fire and life safety inspections at hotels, motels, apartments, and business occupancies. In addition, the department will be commencing with an Adopt-a-School program. This program will focus on neighborhood fire apparatus working with an assigned school to provide public education to the students and faculty of the school. These are excellent opportunities for the community to interact with the firefighters while allowing the firefighters to become more familiar with the buildings in the city. Most importantly, these inspections will attempt to eliminate potential hazards that can cause fires or injuries.

It is my pleasure to serve this community as fire chief. If you have any questions regarding your fire department, please contact me at (831) 758-7261 or via e-mail at fire@ci.salinass.ca.us.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward R. Montez
Fire Chief

Fire Department History

The Salinas Fire Department was established in 1874. The Alisal Hose Company #1 was formed under the direction of M.H. Grossmayers. The name of the company was later changed to the Excelsior Hose Company #1. Within 10 years, there were four fire companies in the City of Salinas.

J.J. Conner was the first paid firefighter in the City of Salinas. Appointed by the Mayor and Common Council on March 5, 1894, his pay was \$25 per month on a part-time basis. He was appointed full time on June 28 of the same year with a salary of \$80 per month.

After much internal and external political strife (which included the disbanding of the department) the Salinas City Fire Department was officially organized October 4, 1897. In it's 133 year history, the Salinas Fire Department has had 13 fire chiefs, the 13th being our current fire chief, Edward R. Montez.



Fire Station 1 – 22 West Gabilan – Circa 1900

SFD Today

The Salinas Fire Department proudly serves the estimated 150,000 residents of the City of Salinas. The city covers approximately 20 square miles with an estimated daytime population well over 180,000 persons.

The Department has six engines, one ladder truck, and one paramedic rescue staffed 24 hours per day, seven days per week. With a minimum daily staffing of 23 personnel and an on duty battalion chief, the Salinas Fire Department answered **10,987 calls for service in 2007**. This is the highest number of calls answered by the department in it's 133 year history.

SFD FACT

THE SALINAS FIRE DEPARTMENT
IS THE LARGEST CAREER FIRE
DEPARTMENT BETWEEN SAN JOSE
AND OXNARD.

Mission Statement

Dedicated to Our Residents and Our Profession

THE SALINAS FIRE DEPARTMENT is dedicated to the safety and well being of our residents and our members. Our commitment is to provide this service by showing care and compassion to all those in need. We are determined to be a progressive, service-oriented organization that exhibits exceptional leadership. By working together we will become a recognized leader within the fire service and will participate, at all levels, in developing innovative concepts that advance our profession and provide outstanding service to our residents.

Values

“Respect”

“Trust”

“Support”

Guiding Principle

“Leaders in training, enhanced emergency medical services, and professionalism”

Personnel

There are 96 budgeted positions within the Salinas Fire Department. These positions include:

- 1 – Fire Chief
- 1 – Deputy Fire Chief
- 3 – Battalion Chiefs
- 1 – Battalion Chief (EMS & Training)
- 1 – Battalion Chief (Fire Marshal)
- 24 – Fire Captains
- 24 – Fire Engineers
- 35 – Firefighters
- 1 – Senior Fire Inspector
- 3 – Fire Inspectors
- 1 – Administrative Secretary
- 1 – Office Technician

Included in the 96 budgeted positions are 27 paramedic positions. There are 11 Captain-Paramedics, two (2) Engineer-Paramedics, and 14 Firefighter-Paramedics.

Eighteen Hazardous Materials Technicians and Specialists are also included in the 96 budgeted positions. There are six assigned to each platoon.

Six mechanic positions are included in the budget, two assigned to each platoon.

Management Team

Fire Chief Edward R. Montez

Deputy Fire Chief Jesse Pinon

Battalion Chief Scott Myhre

Battalion Chief Brett Loomis

Battalion Chief Sid Turner

Battalion Chief Scott Tyler

Battalion Chief Mark Latham

Facilities

The Salinas Fire Department operates out of six strategically placed fire stations and an administrative office. The fire stations are positioned to maintain a four to six minute average response time to any incident occurring within the city.

Each fire station houses one staffed engine company with three personnel (Fire Captain, Fire Engineer, Firefighter). Fire Station One also includes a 105' aerial ladder truck and a paramedic rescue unit. The ladder truck maintains the same staffing level as the engine companies, while the rescue has two personnel; one Fire Captain and one Firefighter (one of whom is a paramedic).

SFD FACT

IN 2007, THE AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME IN THE CITY OF SALINAS WAS 4 MINUTES AND 16 SECONDS.

Fire department facilities are located as follows:

- Fire Station One – 216 West Alisal Street
- Fire Station Two – 10 West Laurel Drive
- Fire Station Three – 827 Abbott Place
- Fire Station Four – 308 Williams Road
- Fire Station Five – 1400 Rider Avenue
- Fire Station Six – 45 East Bolivar Street
- Fire Administration – 65 West Alisal Street

The Future Growth Area north of Salinas includes a location for Fire Station Seven. The proposed location is just north of the intersection of El Dorado Drive & East Boronda Road. Once staffed, this station will reduce responses times in the north-east corner of the city. Currently, response times to this area average six minutes or more.



Medic Engine 5311 stands by where a vehicle struck a fire hydrant.

Budget

The budget for the Salinas Fire Department is separated into seven major programs: Administration, Suppression, Emergency Medical Services, Training/Disaster Preparedness, Prevention, Maintenance, Hazardous Materials, and Reserve Firefighters.

Total expenditures by the fire department for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 (ending June 30, 2007) was \$14,852,323. This was an increase of 3.2 % over the previous fiscal year. Approximately \$185,000 of this figure represents Measure V Funds.

The current budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 is \$15,469,975. This is an increase of 4.2% over the FY 2006-2007 budget. Approximately \$191,900 of this figure represents Measure V Funds.

SFD FACT

FIRE DEPARTMENT PER CAPITA
SPENDING FOR FY 2006-2007
WAS \$101.32

Grant Funding

The Salinas Fire Department has successfully acquired several grants to assist with funding key programs within our organization.

The department has benefited from several awards from the **Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program** through the Department of Homeland Security. In recent years we have received grant funding totaling nearly \$400,000 to replace mobile and portable radios and enhance firefighter physical fitness.

The department has twice been awarded grants from the **Office of Traffic Safety** for vehicle extrication equipment and training at no cost to the city. Receiving close to \$100,000 worth of equipment over the last two years, the department has drastically increased our ability to address vehicle extrication emergencies when they occur. Recent media stories have reported that firefighters nationwide are unable to access newer vehicles because of the new construction methods. The acquisition of these tools through the Office of Traffic Safety has allowed the organization to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to new vehicle construction and rescue techniques.



Captain-Paramedic Keith Emery trains with a new hydraulic rescue tool obtained through the OTS grant.

The Monterey County Grant Approval Authority awarded \$375,000 for the first phase of construction of a regional communications and command vehicle. The funding is made available through a grant from the **Department of Homeland Security**. This vehicle, once completed, will be available for deployment statewide in the event of a disaster. This vehicle will be equipped with telephone, radio, and computer equipment that will allow it to serve as a back-up 9-1-1 system for Monterey County.

The Salinas Police Department was awarded a **COPS Grant** in late 2007 to assist with the Next

Generation Radio Project. A portion of the grant includes \$400,000 for mobile data computers for the Salinas Fire Department as well as surrounding fire jurisdictions. Once deployed, these computers will greatly enhance the fire departments ability to share information with neighboring jurisdictions and streamline communications with our dispatchers.

The department continues to research and pursue new grant opportunities as they become available.

SFD FACT

THERE WAS AN AVERAGE OF 30.1 CALLS FOR SERVICE PER DAY IN 2007. THIS EQUATES TO ONE CALL FOR SERVICE EVERY 47 MINUTES.

Countywide Participation

Many members of the management and suppression staff participate in county, regional, and statewide programs to ensure that our department stays on the cutting edge of technology, funding, and trends in the fire service.

- Chief Montez and Chief Turner participate on the Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association EMS Operations Committee.
- Chief Pinon and Chief Loomis attend the Monterey County Operations and Dedicated Fire Dispatch meetings.
- Chief Turner and the platoon training coordinators attend the Monterey County Fire Training Officers Association meetings.
- Chief Latham attends the Monterey County Fire Prevention Officers and Monterey County Fire Investigators meetings.
- Chief Loomis and Captain Klemek represent Salinas Fire at the Next Generation Radio Task Force Meetings.

- Chief Turner represents the Salinas Fire Department at the Monterey County Training and Education Committee.
- Chief Loomis is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Monterey County Fire Chiefs Association.
- Chief Loomis and Chief Turner are both branch directors at the Monterey County Wildland Fire School. Captain O'Connell is a primary instructor at the school.
- The Salinas Fire Department is a proud sponsor of the NIST Ammonia Safety Day. Captain Rick Williams represents the organization at these meetings.
- Chief Turner and Chief Tyler represent the department's Hazardous Materials Response Team at regular meetings of the Monterey County Environmental Health Division.
- Chief Pinon and Chief Turner are team members at the Monterey County Emergency Operations Center.
- Chief Latham represents the fire department at meetings of the building and planning department.
- Many members of the organization use their skills to instruct fire service personnel in a variety of fire and rescue training throughout the county and state.



Firefighter Jonathan Barnes and Jeb the search dog practice hoisting techniques via helicopter.

Suppression Division

The Suppression Division is the most visible part of the fire department. This division is comprised of 87 personnel assigned to one of three platoons. These personnel provide around the clock service to the residents, visitors, and businesses in Salinas.

SFD FACT

THE SUPPRESSION DIVISION
RESPONDED TO 484 FIRE
INCIDENTS IN 2007 REQUIRING
APPROXIMATELY 5000 STAFF
HOURS TO CONTROL.

Fire Statistics:

Structure Fires	101
Vehicle Fires	110
Vegetation Fires	92
Rubbish Fires	130
Excessive Heat	51



Fire Captain Herb Shoemaker attacks a vehicle fire on San Juan Grade Road near Boronda.

Fire Loss (in millions of dollars)

- Estimated Property Value \$140.5
- Estimated Property Loss \$ 7.2
- Estimated Property Saved \$133.3



This was one of 92 vegetation fires occurring in the City of Salinas in 2007. This particular fire was ignited by children playing with fireworks.

Fire Casualties

Civilian Injuries.....	11
Civilian Fatalities.....	0
Firefighter Injuries.....	57**
Firefighter Fatalities.....	0

** These statistics include injuries incurred during emergency and non-emergency operations.

SFD FACT

THE SALINAS FIRE DEPARTMENT
ANSWERED 98.5% OF ALL CALLS
FOR SERVICE IN THE CITY IN EIGHT
MINUTES OR LESS.



This shed was consumed by fire after the occupant fell asleep with a candle burning. The occupant received minor injuries.

Emergency Medical Services

The emergency medical services division provides service in conjunction with the suppression division. Firefighter/Paramedics and Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technicians assigned to each apparatus responded to **7,857 emergency medical and rescue incidents in 2007**. This represents 71.4% of the total call volume for 2007 (an increase of 290 emergency medical responses over 2006).

The department has 27 paramedics on staff evenly distributed across the three platoons. Each engine is staffed with three personnel, one of which is a paramedic. The rescue at Fire Station 1 is staffed with two personnel, one of whom is a paramedic. Battalion Chief Sid Turner and Battalion Chief Scott Myhre are also state licensed paramedics and respond with on duty personnel when necessary to assist with patient care.



Firefighter-Paramedic Cindy Yang provides care to an elderly patient in North Salinas.

EMS Statistics (primary complaint based on field paramedic impression):

Trauma	21.7%
Altered/Seizure	17.4%
General Illness	13.7%
Cardiac/Chest Pain	9.3%
Respiratory	8.8%
Stroke	1.8%
All other EMS	27.3%

SFD FACT

THERE WERE 72 MEDICAL INCIDENTS IN 2007 WHERE FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDICS UTILIZED AN AIR AMBULANCE TO TRANSPORT THE PATIENT TO A SPECIALTY CARE FACILITY.



This incident on Los Palos Drive was one of 1,066 traffic collisions responded to by the fire department in 2007.

Program Funding

The 2007-2008 operating and capital budget for the paramedic program is \$790,500. The following mechanisms are used to fund this programs:

General Fund	\$325,000
Westmed Contract	\$300,000
Measure V	\$147,500
CSA 74	\$ 18,000

EMS responses totaled 11,109 staff hours in 2007. This equates to \$71.16 per staff hour to provide these vital services to our residents.

SFD FACT

SALINAS FIRE DEPARTMENT PARAMEDICS AND FIREFIGHTERS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR 9 FIELD SAVES IN 2007.

Training Division

The training division is managed by the battalion chief in charge of training and EMS. Three platoon training coordinators, one assigned to each platoon, assist the training chief with the daily management & administration of the training division.

SFD FACT

SALINAS FIRE PERSONNEL
LOGGED 11,299 TRAINING HOURS
IN 2007.

The Salinas Fire Department division of training hosted three regional Truck Company Academies. Attended by firefighters from as far away as Oregon and Nevada, these academies provided instruction in the areas of ventilation, forcible entry, and large area searching. The training division plans to host one truck academy per year from this point forward.



Salinas firefighters practice vertical ventilation operations at Fire Station 3.

Mandated Training

Several members of the department, in conjunction with the training division, continue to provide training to agencies throughout Monterey County. This training includes hazardous materials awareness, emergency medical services, the incident command system, and the National Incident Management System. More than 2,500 hours of training was provided in 2007.



Crews from Station 1 conduct a drill at the two-story garage on Lincoln Avenue.

Probationary Firefighters

Seven probationary firefighters successfully completed their probation in 2007. This was the culmination of nearly 16 months of training which included a 14-week recruit academy and 12 months of on the job training.

Monterey Peninsula College Academy

The Monterey Peninsula College offers a highly successful state certified Firefighter I Academy. In partnership with the Salinas Fire Department, the academy hosts classes at Fire Station 3. These classes include hazardous materials control, fire control, search and rescue, high angle rope rescue, ventilation tactics, and rapid intervention crew tactics. We look forward to continuing and strengthening this partnership for the betterment of fire training throughout the region.



The Salinas Fire Department continues to be very active in the Monterey County Wildland Fire Training School committing chief officers, engines, and instructors to the 3-day event.

Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fire Prevention Bureau is commanded by Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal Mark Latham. Mark was hired in July 2007 with the support of Measure V funding. Battalion Chief Latham began his fire service career with the City of Salinas as a firefighter. He promoted through the ranks to Fire Captain and in 1991 left Salinas to become the Fire Marshal in the City of Atascadero. Mark then assumed the role of Fire Marshal for the City of Santa Cruz.

The following personnel are assigned to the Fire Prevention Bureau:

Senior Fire Inspector Larry Steiber
Fire Inspector Rony Musones
Fire Inspector Mark Laine
Fire Inspector James Goulart

SFD FACT

THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
COMPLETED 1,732 CODE
ENFORCEMENT AND PERMIT
INSPECTIONS IN 2007.

Fire Investigations

There were 369 fire investigations in 2007. Investigations include determining the origin and cause of a fire. Investigations include follow-up with private investigators, law enforcement investigators, and insurance companies to ensure timely and accurate reporting of fire cause. The following is a breakdown of fire cause and dollar loss estimates:

<u>Cause</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Dollar Loss</u>
Intentional	54	\$ 165,975
Unintentional	86	\$ 762,731
Equipment Failure	40	\$ 401,610
Act of Nature	1	\$ 400
Under Investigation	14	\$1,666,000
Undetermined	150	\$ 809,970
Other	24	\$1,818,250

Public Education

The public education programs of the fire department are managed by the Fire Prevention Bureau. Facilitated by the suppression division, some of the more popular programs include high school mentorship, the ride along program, fire station tours, and fire department demonstrations.

Station Tours	80
Public Education Demonstrations	51
Ride Along	35
High School Mentorship	12**

The mentorship program originates with Everett Alvarez High School. Senior students are required to log a minimum of 10 hours with a professional in the community. Some of the activities they perform include interviews, a ride-along, and research papers to complete their hours.



This future firefighter had a hard time reaching the pedals on Medic Engine 5311.

Open House

A very successful open house was held at Fire Station 1 in October supporting Fire Prevention Week. Demonstrations on cooking safety, fire extinguishers, exit drills, and stop, drop, and roll were all well attended. Fire department apparatus were on display and Sparky the Fire Dog was on hand to hand out information to the kids. West Alisal Street in front of the station was closed while a CalStar helicopter landed to participate in the open house.

Maintenance Division

The maintenance division is staffed by six firefighter-mechanics. These personnel are assigned two per platoon. In addition to their primary responsibility of responding to emergencies, training, and public education, these firefighters are also charged with maintaining the entire fire department fleet.

The fire department fleet includes ten fire engines, two ladder trucks, one aircraft rescue firefighting vehicle, one rescue unit, two wildland patrol units, one dry-chemical unit, one hazardous materials unit, five utility vehicles, three command vehicles, and eight sedans.



Members of the mechanical staff, assisted by other on duty personnel, conduct annual maintenance on T5371.

The maintenance division budget for FY 2007-2008 is \$237,475. This budget has supported over 1600 maintenance hours in 2007. This number, coupled with daily, weekly, and monthly apparatus checks by all engineers in the department, totals more than 5600 staff hours dedicated to maintaining the apparatus and equipment of the Salinas Fire Department.

SFD FACT

SALINAS FIRE DEPARTMENT
ENGINES LOG AN AVERAGE OF
7,349 MILES ANNUALLY.

Unit #	Manufacturer	Miles
E-1	1993 Pierce	95,331
E-2	2007 Pierce	6,979
E-3	1993 Pierce	105,690
E-4	2007 Pierce	5,636
E-14	2001 HME	53,810
E-15	2001 HME	71,000
E-16	2001 HME	55,611
E-17	2001 HME Aerial	35,561
E-18	2002 HME	56,888
E-19	2002 HME	57,030
E-20	1991 Amertek	1,611
E-21	2007 Pierce Type III	4,359
R-2	1997 Ford Rescue	72,064
T-1	2005 Pierce Aerial	7,879
P-1	1997 GMC Patrol	18,357
P-3	1993 Ford F150	49,155
P-4	1994 Ford F250	35,751
P-6	1998 Ford Patrol	10,542
P-8	1979 Chevrolet	9,745
P-10	2008 Ford F250	9,610
P-11	2008 Ford F250	5,832
P-12	2008 Ford F250	2,163
HM1	2004 Ford F550	3,125
BC-1	2007 Ford Expedition	3,210
BC-2	2007 Ford Expedition	4,569
BC-3	2007 Ford Expedition	3,980
C-2	2007 Ford Crown Victoria	10,210
C-3	1995 Ford Crown Victoria	34,584
C-4	1995 Ford Crown Victoria	48,700
C-8	1996 Ford Crown Victoria	60,150
C-12	1997 Ford Crown Victoria	17,694
C-14	2001 Ford Crown Victoria	9,632
SW-3	1999 Chevrolet Tahoe	28,165
SW-2	2002 Chevrolet Tahoe	48,258



Engineer/Mechanic Skylar Thornton works to repair pump plumbing on an out of service engine.

Hazardous Materials Division

The hazardous materials division is staffed by 18 captains, engineer, and firefighters who are cross trained as hazardous materials specialists. These 18 personnel are assigned evenly across the three platoons. A minimum of two hazardous materials specialists are on duty at any given time.

The budget for the hazardous materials program in fiscal year 2007-2008 is \$125,300. This amount was formerly funded by the City's general fund. With the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding dated July 7, 2004, this cost is now funded by the Monterey County Hazardous Materials permit fees.

SFD FACT

SALINAS FIRE DEPARTMENT UNITS
RESPONDED TO 182 HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS RELATED INCIDENTS IN
2007.

The Salinas Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team is a member of the Monterey County Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team. This team consists of teams from Salinas Fire, Seaside Fire, and the Monterey County Health Department. Together, all three agencies respond to hazardous materials incidents throughout Monterey County.



Members of the hazardous materials team participate in a drill at Fire Station 3.

Disaster Preparedness Division

The City of Salinas Multi-Hazard Functional Plan was adopted by the City Council in 2007. Formerly known as the City of Salinas Emergency Operations Center Plan, the current plan enables the City of Salinas to be eligible for funding under the California Natural Disaster Assistance Act and various FEMA disaster assistance programs.

Battalion Chief Mark Latham is responsible for administering this division of the fire department. With the adoption of the multi-hazard functional plan, work will now begin on preparation of mitigation plans for the City of Salinas. These plans will identify specific threats to the community and identify measures needed to minimize the impact of a specific emergency. Various grant opportunities exist once these plans are developed to secure funding to begin mitigation efforts.

The department has been able to secure \$183,500 in grant funds from the Department of Homeland Security. These grants have been used for hazardous materials, urban search and rescue, weapons of mass destruction, and emergency operations center training. Fire department staff continues to pursue grant opportunities to offset costs of mandated training for department and city personnel.

The department has also secured the first of several grants to build a regional command and communications vehicle. The initial grant, totaling \$375,000, will be used for the design and building of the vehicle chassis. Additional grants totaling close to \$1 million will be applied to the installation of radio communications equipment as well as a computer aided dispatch system. Once complete, this vehicle will serve as a back-up 9-1-1 emergency communications center for Monterey County. This vehicle will also be used as a model for regional command and communication vehicles to be distributed throughout the state by the State of California Homeland Security Office.

APPARATUS ACQUISITIONS



Engine 5335, a Type III wildland firefighting engine, was acquired with Measure V funds and delivered to the department in September 2007.



The department received two Pierce Quantum pumpers with 1500 gallon per minute pumps and 700 gallons of water each.



Two 2007 Ford Expeditions were acquired and outfitted for use as command vehicles for the city.

CAPSTONE AREA RESPONSES

There were a total of 497 responses into the CAPSTONE area in 2007. Fire losses totaled approximately \$81,500.

Fire Responses	22
EMS/Rescue	351
Hazardous Condition	10
Service Calls	91
False Alarm	23

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

The Firefighter of the Year award was presented to Fire Engineer David Hernandez. Dave has dedicated 24 years of service to the City of Salinas as a firefighter and engineer. Prior to coming to Salinas, he was a firefighter in his hometown of Hollister, California. Dave is a consistent role model for new and veteran firefighters alike.

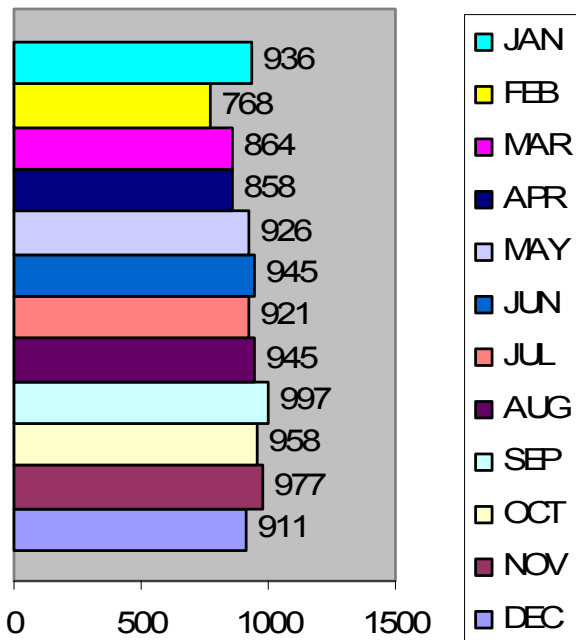
2007 WILDLAND FIRE SEASON

The fire department committed engines and personnel "out of county" as part of the state wide fire mutual aid plan. In September, a Type I fire engine with four personnel was assigned with a Monterey County strike team to the Butler II fire in San Bernardino County. This engine was committed for five days engaged in firefighting and structure protection assignments.

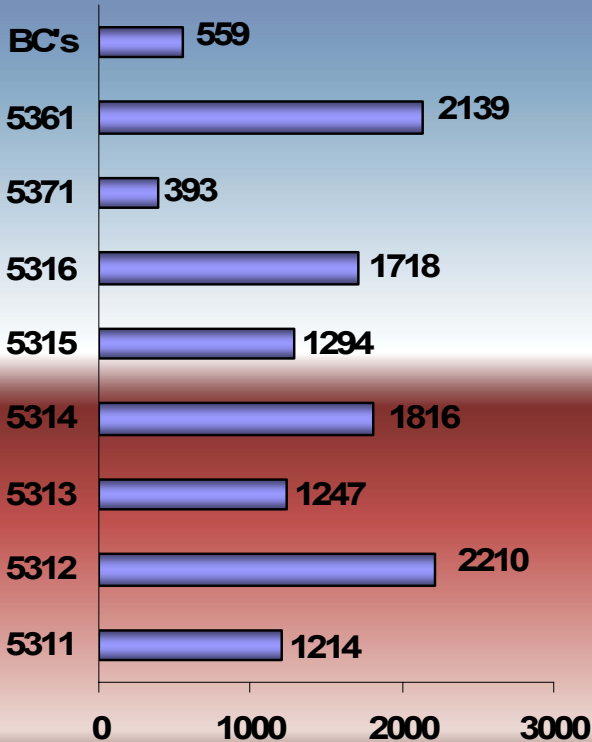
During the "2007 Fire Siege" in October, Monterey County sent a Type III engine strike team and our department provided the strike team leader. This team was assigned to the Witch Fire in San Diego County and was committed for 11 days. Also during that time, a separate Type I engine strike team from Monterey County was sent to the Witch Fire and the fire department provided one Type I engine to respond and assist. That engine was committed for seven days.

GENERAL STATISTICS

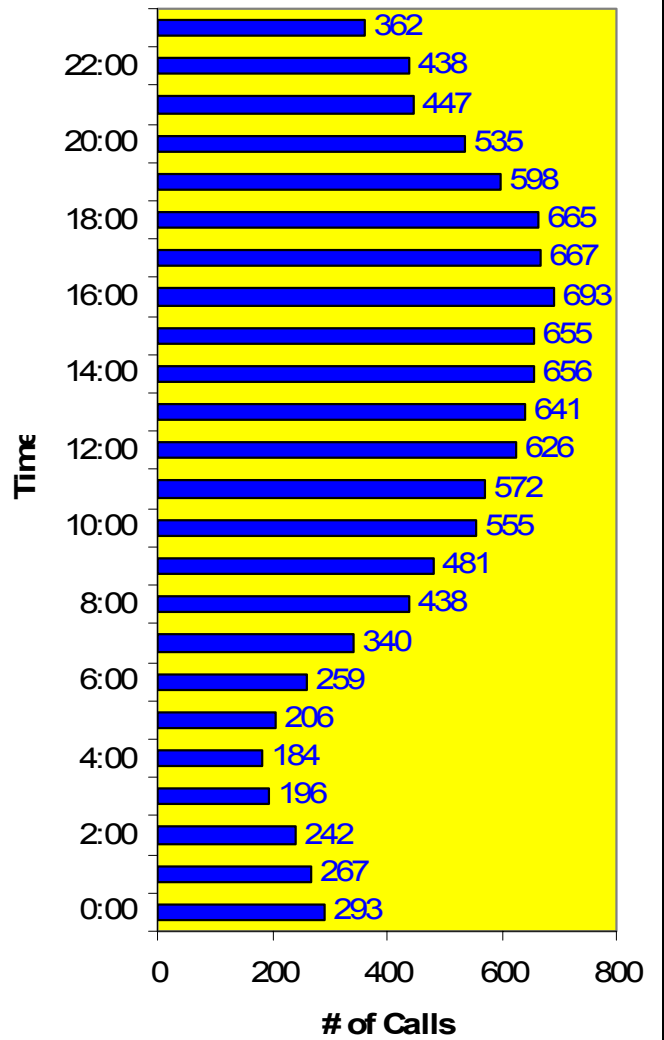
SFD Responses by Month



2007 Apparatus Responses



Calls for Service by Hour



Day of the Week	Incidents	% of Total Calls
Sunday	1559	14.16%
Monday	1600	14.53%
Tuesday	1550	14.08%
Wednesday	1498	13.61%
Thursday	1618	14.70%
Friday	1552	14.10%
Saturday	1629	14.80%

OVERLAPPING CALLS

40% of all emergency responses in 2007 were overlapping incidents. This means that, 4397 times in 2007, when an emergency response occurred, at least one other emergency call was happening somewhere in the Salinas Fire Department response area. The following table is provided for reference:

2 Incidents	3,753
3 Incidents	417
4 Incidents	115
5 Incidents	47
6 Incidents	37
7 or more Incidents	28

MUTUAL AID STATION COVERAGE

During calendar year 2007, the Salinas Fire Department requested mutual aid for fire station coverage approximately 100 times. The trigger point for this type of mutual aid request is when the department has less than three apparatus available in the city.

The primary agencies responding to cover the city are the Salinas Rural Fire Protection District and North Monterey County Fire Protection District. During larger incidents we have had apparatus from Monterey Airport, City of Monterey, Seaside, Pacific Grove, Presidio of Monterey, and Marina Fire Departments responding to emergencies in the City of Salinas.



The crew from Medic Engine 5314 prepares to attack a vehicle fire on Vandenberg Street.

2007 SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

- January 1 -** Four members of a family were sickened when they used a charcoal barbecue as a heating device inside their home. All were transported to area hospitals.
- January 20 -** Fire consumes a single family dwelling in North Salinas causing an estimated \$250,000 in damage.
- April 22 -** A Peterbuilt® diesel truck was destroyed by fire. The estimated loss was \$150,000.
- May 18 -** A four-alarm fire destroyed a manufacturing business on Dayton Avenue. Estimated property losses topped \$500,000.
- June 9 -** An intentionally set fire caused over \$300,000 in damage to a six-unit apartment building in South Salinas. Multiple families were displaced by the fire. No injuries were reported.
- July 13 -** Two alarms and mutual aid water tenders were required to extinguish a fire at the Leisure West Company on Hwy 101. Property and content losses totaled nearly \$800,000.
- Labor - Day Weekend** Ten people were injured in three separate gun related incidents requiring multiple SFD resources. Several patients were flown to bay area trauma centers.
- September 11-**A Greyhound ® bus was severely damaged by fire at the bus station in downtown Salinas. No injuries were reported.
- September 17-**A two-alarm house fire in South Salinas displaced a family of four and caused an estimated \$400,000 in damage.
- November 23-**\$350,000 damages were estimated at a fire that severely damaged the community building at the Dartmouth Community Apartments in North Salinas. A delayed 9-1-1 call contributed to the damage.

Conclusion

The men and women of the Salinas Fire Department continue to provide professional fire and emergency medical services to the residents and visitors of Salinas. As the city grows in both population and complexity, so does the demand on the fire department. The 10-year trend in call volume has shown an increase of 46.3%, from 7,651 in 1997 to the 2007 number of 10,987. The average increase in calls for service from year to year is approximately 2.5%. The number one priority of the department is to respond to emergencies and protect life, property, and the environment. As emergency calls continue to rise, other services provided by the department suffer.

Emergency responses limit the availability of crews to participate in public education. Fire protection in any community is a partnership between the community and the fire department. The fire department provides education to the residents and business people to make sound decisions regarding fire and life safety. There is a correlation between effective public education programs and emergency responses. We are currently working to establish an Adopt a School program with the intent of starting the program in the fall of 2008. This is an exciting proactive strategy that we are hoping will influence many school children in our community.

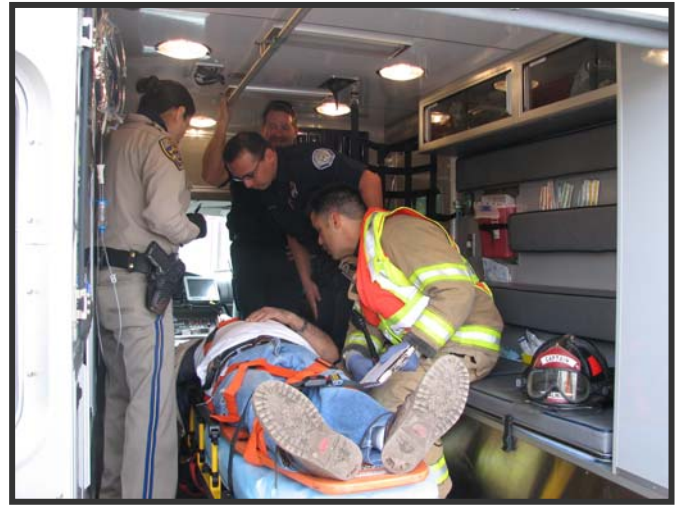
Our ability to provide training for our personnel is also affected by emergency responses. This report has identified approximately 11,000 fire service training hours logged in 2007. This is a reduction by more than half from the previous year. This is partially due to the continued increase in emergency responses. Studies published by the National Fire Protection Association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the International Association of Firefighters have all indicated that there is a direct relationship between firefighter injuries and training. The department continues to provide mandated training hours; however, often times these trainings are interrupted for emergency responses.

Fire department apparatus maintenance continues to be a high priority. Each maintenance staff member is also a firefighter assigned to an active piece of equipment. Reserve fire apparatus are often times out of service for several weeks for preventive maintenance. This is due to the maintenance staff also responding to emergencies as part of an engine or truck company. Continued apparatus breakdowns within the aging fleet will put additional workload on the already saturated maintenance division. The addition of two new structural firefighting engines and the ladder truck in 2007 was an excellent first step updating our fleet. Additional apparatus will need to be acquired in the coming years to ensure we can maintain our service levels to the community.

Once again, the protection of life, property, and environment is our number one priority. We do this through proactive public education programs, an active prevention and inspection program, as well as dynamic emergency response. To support all of these programs we must ensure an adequate training division for our employees, a fully functional apparatus maintenance program, and adequate staffing on the emergency scene when an incident occurs. In the coming years, it is imperative that the fire department expand to meet these growing demands. This growth will help to ensure a consistent level of service to the community.

Salinas Fire Department in Action





OPEN HOUSE AT FIRE STATION 1



