



# CLEARWATER FIRE & RESCUE 2006 *Annual Report*



*Photos:*

*Betsy Clement, Elizabeth Daly, Richard Riley,  
and William Wargin*

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## OUR MISSION

To ensure the health, safety, & well-being of our community by providing a wide range of innovative services.

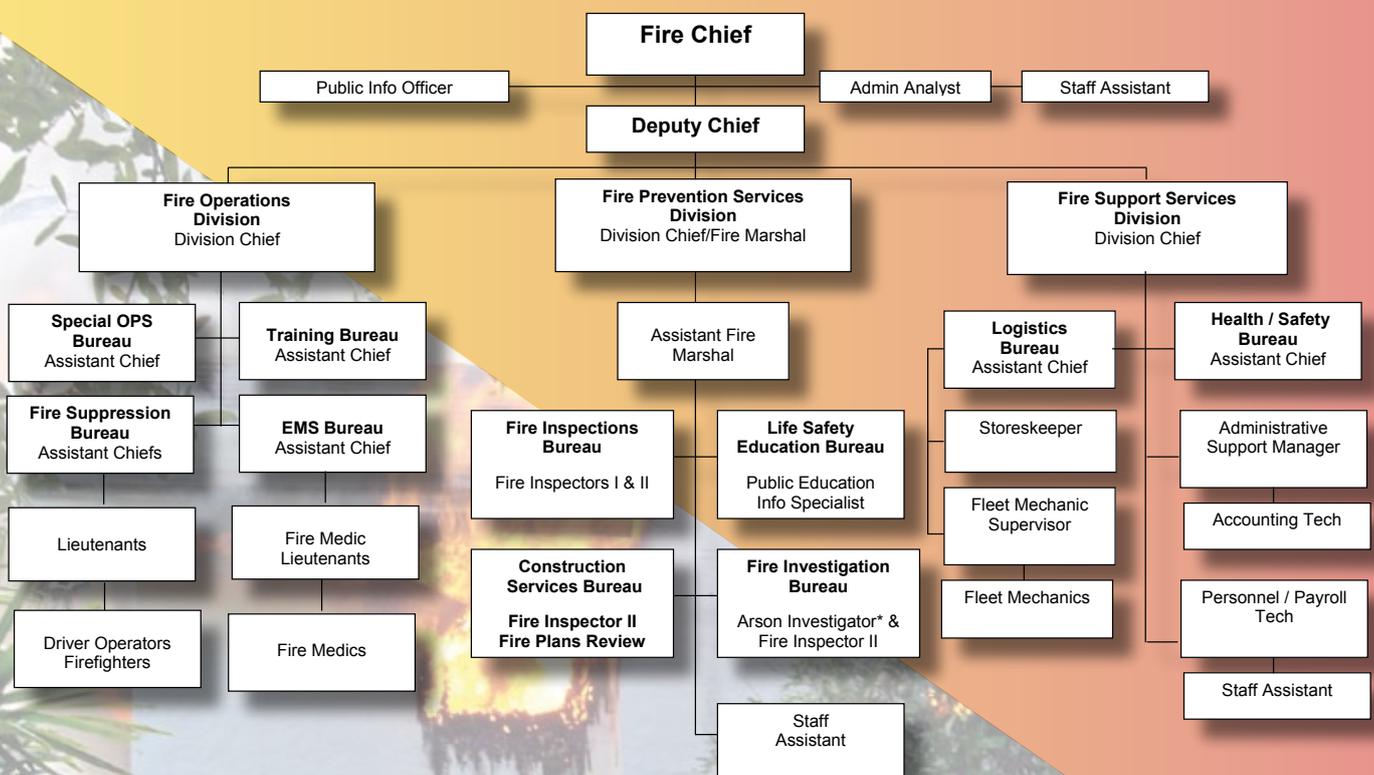
## OUR VISION

To set the standard for excellence and innovation in public safety.

## OUR VALUES

We are guided by the values of ethics, tradition, loyalty, fairness, mutual respect, teamwork, and professionalism. Honesty and integrity will not be compromised. It is the responsibility of every member to support our mission by commitment to our values.

# CLEARWATER FIRE & RESCUE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



\*Fire Investigators funded in Fire are shown on the Police organizational chart and on this chart.

# DEMOGRAPHICS & SERVICE

Clearwater Fire & Rescue serves a fire protection district of 40.7 square miles with a population of approximately 133,000 permanent residents, plus an additional 25,000 tourists and seasonal residents. We are currently staffed with 221 line personnel and administrative staff. Line personnel work three shifts on 24 hour shifts. In August 2003, the Department became one of only 89 fire agencies worldwide to attain fire service Accreditation.

In 2006 we responded to 24,808 calls. Each of our eight fire stations is strategically located to provide four- to six-minute response times throughout the City. We are a full-service Department providing non-emergency and emergency response services including Fire Prevention, Fire and Life Safety Education, Advanced Life Support Rescue, Fire Suppression, Heavy Rescue and Extrication, and Marine Response.

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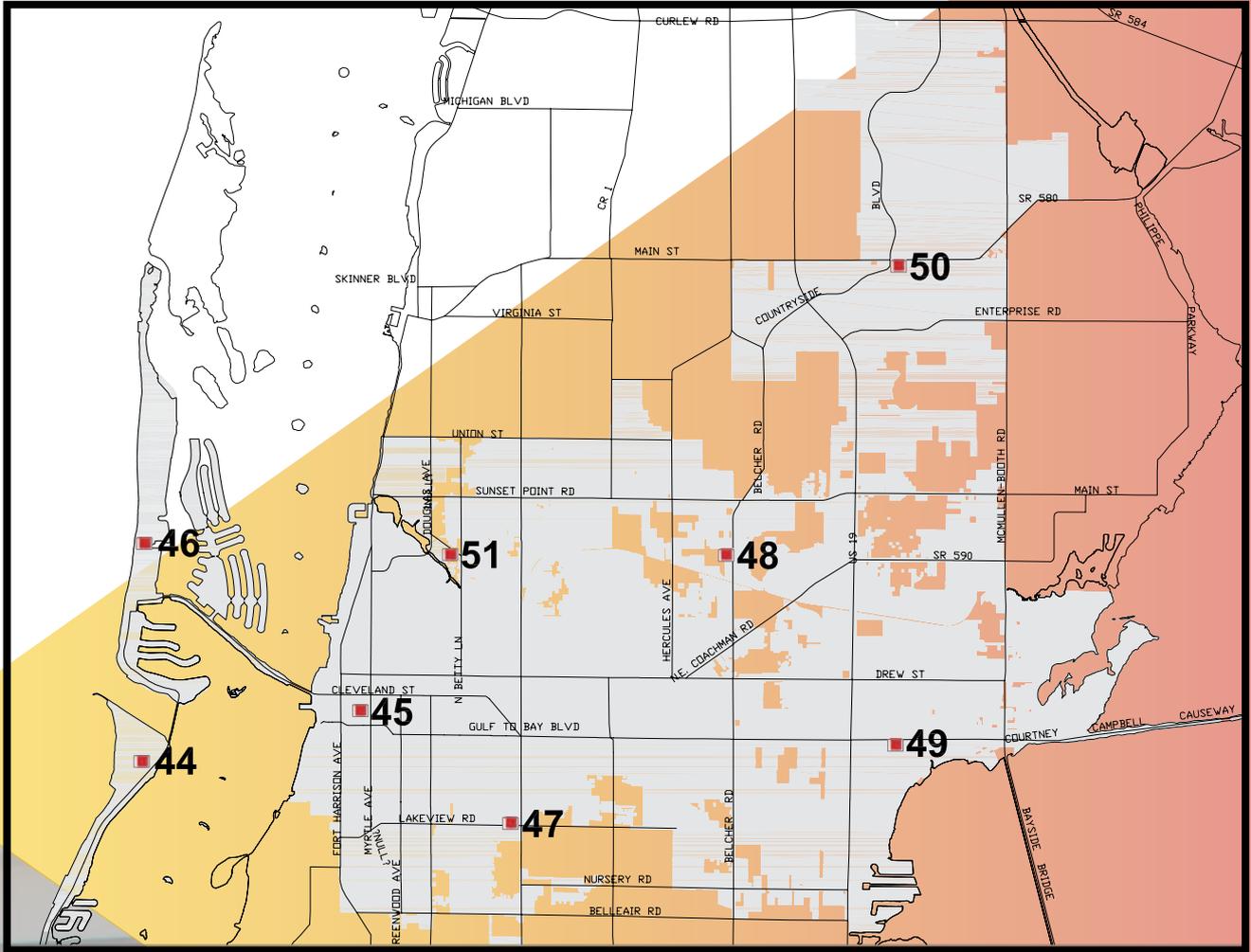


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# STATION LOCATIONS



**44** 950 Gulf Blvd.

**45** 610 Franklin Street

**46** 534 Mandalay Ave.

**47** 1460 Lakeview Rd.

**48** 1700 N. Belcher Rd.

**49** 565 Sky Harbor Dr.

**50** 2681 Countryside Blvd.

**51** 1720 Overbrook Ave.

# OPERATIONS DIVISION

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## **Fire Suppression Bureau**

It is the men and women of the Operations Division who are responsible when the citizens of the City of Clearwater call for help. They are professional career firefighters who answer calls for service ranging from medical emergencies, auto accidents and building fires. Meeting the needs of our citizens is our number one priority.

## **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Bureau**

The EMS Bureau is responsible for maintaining the high level of medical care that our citizens expect. The EMS effort consists of staffing six Advanced Life Support (ALS) Rescue units and four ALS Engine companies to provide pre-hospital care. The continuing education and quality control of our paramedics is a shared effort between the Department and the Pinellas County Medical Director.

## **Special Operations Bureau**

This Bureau consists of four highly trained teams: Marine Response, Technical Rescue, Special Operations Rescue Team (SORT) and Special Events. Each team must undergo extensive training in their field and must maintain these skills by attending monthly exercises. Detailed descriptions of each team and its function is located on page 8.

## **Training Bureau**

The Training Bureau is responsible for ensuring that the Department is fully prepared to handle emergency situations that may arise in the city. They instruct and maintain certifications on all firefighters and paramedics. This results in thousands of

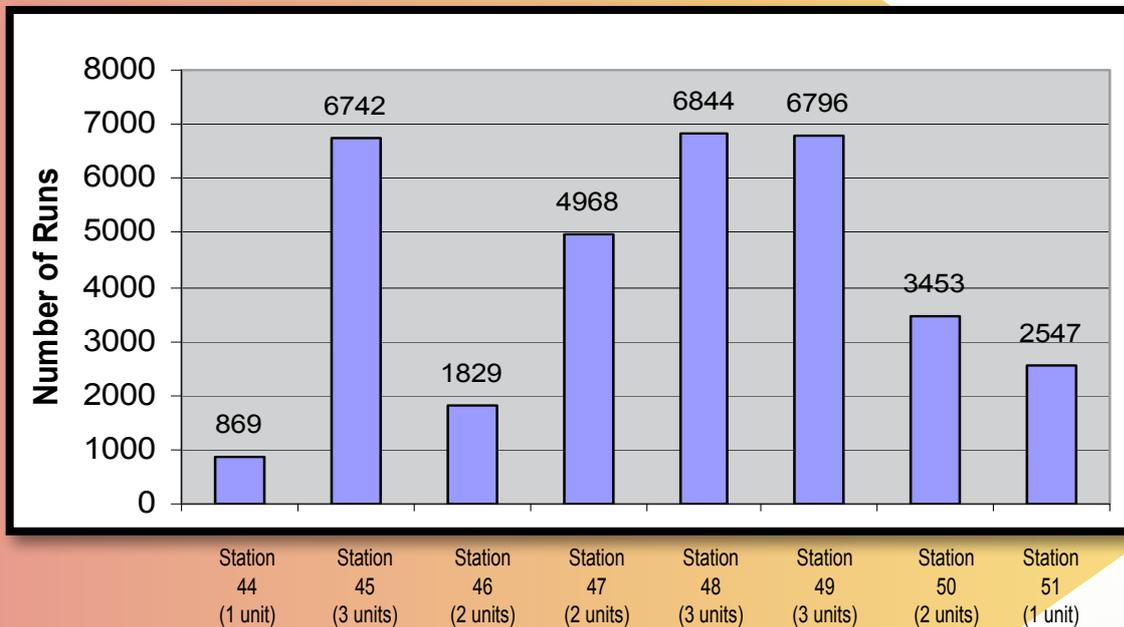
## **2006 Division Achievements**

- ▶ Implemented an Incident Safety Officer Program to provide safety at emergency scenes.
- ▶ Revised and implemented fire ground operating procedures at building fires, including high-rises.
- ▶ Established an After Action Report for significant incidents, including those that involve firefighter injury.
- ▶ Outfitted two grant funded Special Operations trailers to assist in structural collapses and to provide a portable command center.
- ▶ Placed a new underwater dive apparatus into service.
- ▶ Replaced Squad 49.
- ▶ Placed two new aerial trucks into service. They are fitted with the latest state of the art equipment.
- ▶ Updated and purchased automatic external defibrillators and Lifepak 12 heart monitors.
- ▶ Created a Standard Evolutions manual outlining firefighter performance expectations.
- ▶ Upgraded firefighter's personal protective gear, including Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).
- ▶ Outfitted on-duty Assistant Chief vehicles with Command and Control tools to enhance control of incidents.

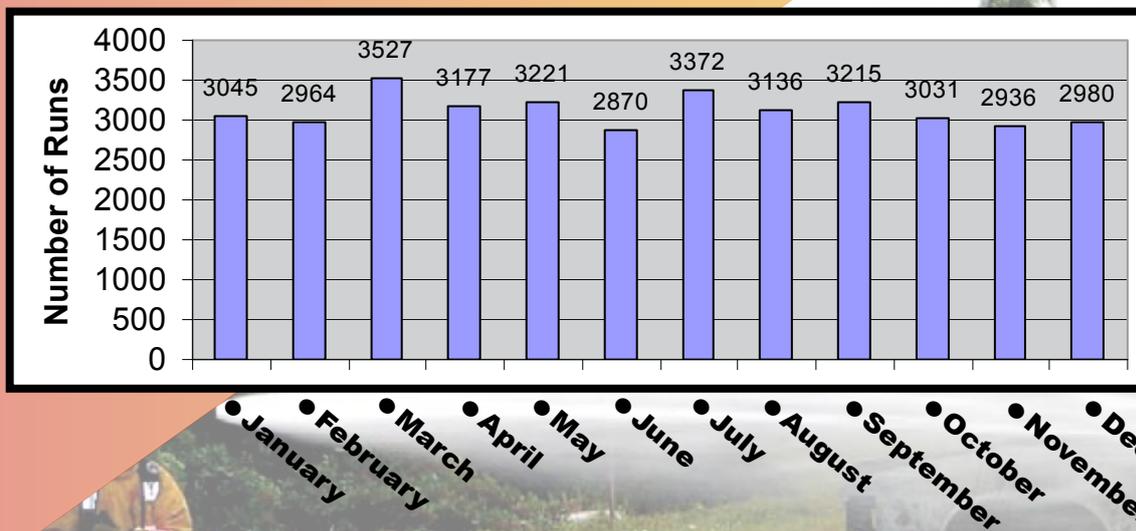
## Summary of Activities

EMS Calls	17,895
Vehicle Accidents	2,799
Structure Fires (reported)	820
Other Fire Related Incidents	2,489
All Other Incidents	805
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>24,808</b>

## 2006 Run Totals by Station



## 2006 Run Totals by Month



## 2006 Significant Events

- March 21:** Structure fire at single-story duplex on Amber Lane: residents displaced.
- April 14:** Downtown units responded to two serious structure fires (Myrtle Ave. & Ottawa St.) within 12 hours.
- April 28:** Downtown units responded to a commercial building fire that had spread to two other structures.
- July 10:** Marine Response Team assisted Pasco County with search for missing diver 12 miles offshore in the Gulf.
- July 13:** A fatal automobile accident into a retention pond at Belcher Rd. & Gulf to Bay Blvd. required the activation of the Dive Team.
- July 25:** Firefighter seriously injured (two others with minor injuries) at a structure fire on Belleview Blvd.
- August 6:** Assisted with transport of 600 lb. patient using specialized stretcher.
- Sept. 7:** Technical Rescue Team responded to a vehicle into a building on Drew St. and stabilized the structure after the vehicle was removed.
- October 6:** Structure fire on Bethany Place: civilian assisted rescue, substantial damage to the home.
- October 27:** Structure fire at the Sand Key Marriott Hotel; pool building evacuated.



## Specialized Teams

The **Marine Response Team** provides rescue capabilities for many of our waterways. They complete this operation by the deployment of our fireboat and jet-skis. The Rescue and Recovery Dive Team conducts underwater operations.

The **Technical Rescue Team** is responsible for high angle rope rescues, confined space rescues, structural collapse rescue, and structural stabilization.

The **Special Operations Response Team (SORT)** works in conjunction with the City's Police Department to provide protection and medical treatment to City police officers and citizens.

The **Special Events Team** provides medical standby at city events.

# MARINE RESPONSE



# .. SORT TEAM

# TECHNICAL RESCUE



# Training

Training is essential in our efforts to serve the community. In 2006, Clearwater Fire & Rescue personnel spent more than 43,500 hours in training. New members of the Department are instructed in an eight week school conducted by the Training Bureau prior to being placed in stations. Other schools conducted by Training consist of Driver/ Operator schools and mandated quarterly training for all Department officers. All members are required to attend monthly refresher training on specific topics at the facility on North Belcher Road.

## Quarterly Officer Training

### ► February

Incident Safety Officer: All class participants received certifications through the National Fire Academy as an Incident Safety Officer. This session also focused on the National Fallen Firefighter's Foundation Life Safety Initiatives.

### ► May

High-Rise Operations: This class reviewed the Department standard operating procedure for high-rise operations and included a practical evolution in a high-rise hotel.

### ► August

Size Up: This class focused on giving a proper on-scene size up and included a "table -top" session using pictures of actual buildings within the city.

### ► November

Leadership: This class focused on leadership at the company officer level, including handling employee grievances, performance behavior and management, station issues and ethics.



●●  
OFFICER  
TRAINING

COMPANY OPS  
TRAINING





A Standard Evolution manual was adopted. It outlines specific jobs and tasks each firefighter is expected to perform. *Left: this firefighter is demonstrating his ability to raise and lower the ladder effectively.*

*Right: Live fire training was conducted in several buildings around the city.*



*Left: A Driver Operator School was conducted over a two-week period in May.*

CFR hosted a national three day program on firefighter safety and survival. The Firefighter Rescue & Survival School Conference utilized hands-on techniques and fire ground tactics. *Right: A firefighter practices the basic self-help survival strategy.*



*Below: The Training Bureau conducted three recruit schools*



# FIRE PREVENTION SERVICES

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## **Fire Inspections Bureau**

This Bureau supports fire and life safety inspections for over 15,000 structures, plus any re-inspections and presentations to the Code Enforcement Board or courts, if needed, to ensure statutory compliance.

## **Fire Investigation Bureau**

This Bureau investigates fires for determination of origin and cause.

## **Construction Services Bureau**

This Bureau reviews construction plans and inspections for new/renovated structures and addresses complaints or questions raised by the public and City officials.

## **Life Safety Education Bureau**

This Bureau provides safety and prevention training to citizens and children of the community. We schedule, maintain, and coordinate all Public Education activities, including the children's Safety Village, fire extinguisher training, and fire safety programs at local schools.

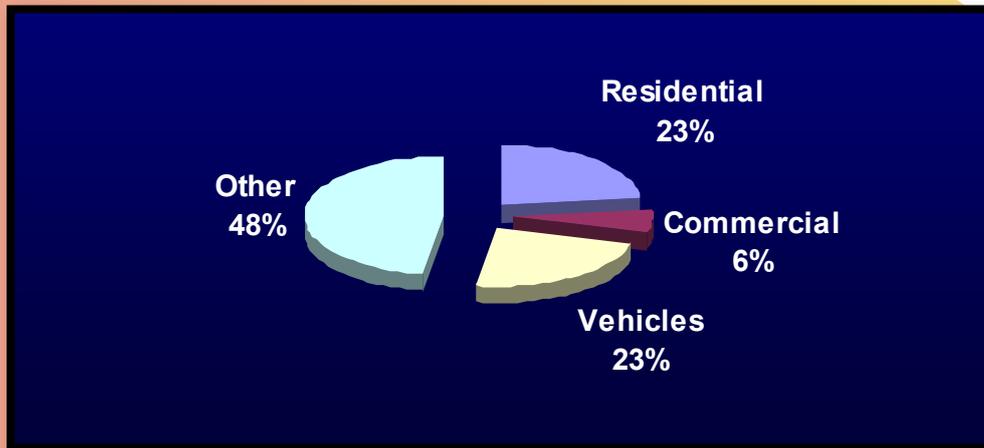
## **2006 Division Achievements**

- ▶ Reorganization of the division to create four bureaus to maximize the efficiency of personnel: inspections, fire investigation, construction services, and life safety education.
- ▶ Implemented a 24-month tactical plan for city-wide fire inspections using a grid system.
- ▶ Significantly increased both fire inspections and plan reviews from 2005 to 2006.
- ▶ Reduced a 16-18 week backlog of plans reviews, which are now completed within 24 hours.
- ▶ Implemented a new false alarm tracking system with the help of Pinellas County Emergency Communications. The system documents addresses and dates.
- ▶ Incorporated a personal safety initiative for fire investigators to wear TyVek suits and air respirators, conduct air monitoring, and ensure proper ventilation during the investigative process.
- ▶ The Life Safety Education Bureau contacted 34.2% of Clearwater citizens, surpassing the 20% goal.
- ▶ Facilitated the first annual Open House at all eight fire stations during Fire Prevention Week 2006.
- ▶ Hosted Fire Prevention Week 2006 Expo activities and presented a safety message about the dangers of cooking fires to citizens.

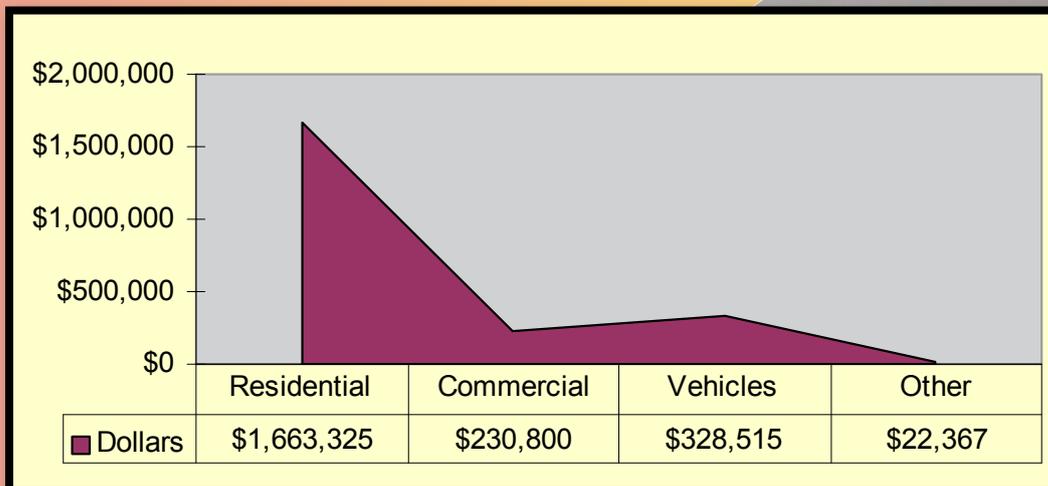
## Summary of Activities

Inspections	2,334
Plans Reviews	3,255
Construction/Renovation Inspections	1,373
Investigations	136
Special Events	43
Public Education Contacts	37,757

## 2006 Fire Incidents



## 2006 Fire Dollar Loss \$2,245,007



# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Open House

October 14, 2006





**Success!** Our first annual Open House included over 1,000 visitors from the community and a couple of celebrities. In the picture *above*, former Lightning Captain Dave Andreychuk autographs a young fan's cast and to the *left* ThunderBug checks out the Jaws of Life and other life-saving equipment on Squad 49. All eight fire stations hosted different learning stations and activities for children of all ages. The personnel worked hard to create their displays and interact with visitors. The Open House was held in conjunction with 2006 Fire Prevention Week.



# SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

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## **Health & Safety Bureau**

This Bureau provides for the health and safety of our line and staff personnel. The Incident Safety Officer program provides for safety on the emergency scene. Health and wellness initiatives include managing the Department's Physical Fitness Program, Occupational Health and Safety program, risk management plan and annual physicals.

## **Logistics Bureau**

Logistics oversees the Department's research and purchasing including equipment and vehicles, administrative supplies, and facilities needs. The bureau maintains apparatus, equipment, vehicles, and communication devices.

## **Administrative Support Bureau**

Provides payroll, personnel, budget and accounts payable support for the Department. This office plans and administers all facets of the \$22.7 million Department Operating Budget (2006/07) and oversees the \$7.5 million six year Capital Improvement budget for new facilities, vehicles, and equipment.

## **2006 Division Achievements**

- ▶ Finalized the design of the new Fire Maintenance Facility, Fire Stores Facility, and Training Facility, which includes a new burn tower and classroom expansion.
- ▶ Purchased three new ladder trucks, including a tiller to improve maneuverability through new construction and congested streets.
- ▶ Purchased three new Thermal Imaging Cameras (TIC) and two remote viewing screens to enhance our search and rescue capabilities.
- ▶ Purchased a new Pulse OX to monitor firefighter exposure to carbon monoxide.
- ▶ Secured a grant to fund 19 DriveCams to improve driving safety.
- ▶ Formed an Occupational Health & Safety Committee to formulate and update policies ensuring a healthy and safe work environment.
- ▶ Adopted the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) as the standard for all new firefighters.
- ▶ Administered Hepatitis A & B vaccine to protect firefighters and reduce worker compensation claims associated with Hepatitis.
- ▶ Began the process of replacing personal protective equipment for firefighters.
- ▶ Issued alpha-numeric pagers to all personnel for better communication in the event of a declared emergency.

## Incidental Summary

Accidents/Damages	32
Reported Injuries	70

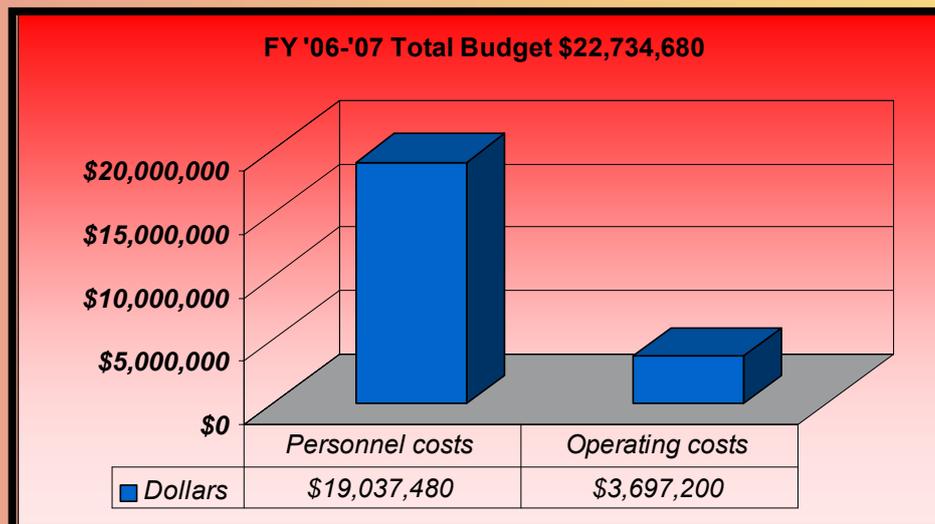
## Personnel Changes

New Hires	45
Promotions/Reclassifications/Transfers	42
Retirements/Resignations	23

## Budget

The 2006/2007 fiscal year budget for Clearwater Fire & Rescue increased by 17% or \$3 million. The majority of the increase was dedicated to 13 new full-time firefighter positions. Six of those positions enabled the Department to add a fourth person on both Truck (Aerial) companies and another six positions reduced the work week for line personnel from 56 hours to 53 hours. The remaining position was used to create the Assistant Fire Marshal position.

Operating expenditures increased with the replacement of personal protective equipment and firefighting equipment. Capital improvement projects included the purchase of two new aerial units and a tiller truck. We have also replaced half of the Department's Lifepak 12 cardiac units. We began the design and engineering of a new fire training facility, including a burn building and a new supplies storage facility, as well as Fire Station 45, 48, and Headquarters.



Personnel Costs	\$19,037,480
Operating Costs	\$3,697,200
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$22,734,680</b>

## New Apparatus in 2006



### THREE AERIALS ••

**Pierce 100' Aerial Ladder (Tiller)**  
*(far left in the top & middle pictures)*

**Pierce 100' Aerial Platforms**  
*(far right and left in the bottom picture)*





# •• MARINE RESPONSE UNIT

## Features

- ▶ Decontamination shower
- ▶ Surface to diver air and communication gear
- ▶ New side scan sonar unit

\*Funded by Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)



# SQUAD 49 ••

## Features

- ▶ Hurst Jaws of Life System
- ▶ Latest technology for air, light, and power
- ▶ Mobile Air Compressor

# ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT

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## Local Community

- ▶ Pinellas County Fire Chiefs Association
- ▶ United Way Day of Caring: participation in volunteer community service
- ▶ Citizen's Academy & Leadership Pinellas: presentations and demonstrations
- ▶ Honor Guard participation in September 11th memorials and other events
- ▶ Holiday Food Basket: delivered food baskets to more than 100 families
- ▶ Shelter Care Christmas: donated toys for almost 100 children in state custody
- ▶ Fire Prevention Week Expo 2006 at Countryside Mall: informational giveaway
- ▶ Boo Bash Halloween Carnival: candy and informational giveaway
- ▶ Safe Kids Walk this Way Program: helping educate children about walking to school safely

## State Level

- ▶ Florida Fire Chiefs Association
- ▶ Florida Emergency Preparedness Association
- ▶ Florida State Fire College: several CFR personnel serve as instructors
- ▶ State Honor Guard involvement and activities
- ▶ State LODD (Line of Duty Death) Committee: a CFR Lieutenant serves as chairman

## National Level

- ▶ International Association of Fire Chiefs  
Safety, Health & Survival (SHS)
- ▶ National Fire Protection Association
- ▶ National Fire Academy
- ▶ Annual National Fire Department Instructors Conference
- ▶ National Honor Guard
  - Fallen Firefighters Weekend at National Fire Academy
  - National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend
  - Funerals for fallen firefighters in California
  - National Honor Guard Commander's Association
- ▶ Participated in 2006 Stand Down For Safety
- ▶ Hosted the 2006 Vehicle Extrication Competition

# AWARDS & HONORS

## FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR ..

Lieutenant **Brent Bronson** was named the 2006 Firefighter of the Year. Lt. Bronson served as the interim Assistant Chief of EMS for several months until the open position was filled. He has shown exemplary performance as a fire officer and a paramedic. Lt. Bronson has been with Clearwater Fire & Rescue since 2000.



## ..TURNER AWARD

The 2006 Paramedic Team Excellence Award goes to Driver/Operator **Michael Faulkner**, Fire Medic **Stephen Colbert**, and Fire Lieutenant/Paramedic **Gary Spence** for treating a worker after he was exposed to hazardous chemical gas. They revived the patient and saved his life.

## HONOR GUARD ..

The Clearwater Fire & Rescue Honor Guard represents the Department in memorial services and other venues. This 17 member unit has been very active in the community since it formed in 2002. As noted on the previous page, the Honor Guard's involvement on the local, state, and national level is profound and has gained national recognition.



# 2006 *Employee Recognition* Ceremonies



***“When the bell rings, we go!”***



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