

**RICHMOND HEIGHTS FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

2011

ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by: Acting Fire Chief John Gray

Date: March 17, 2012

Introduction

The year 2011 was a year that could best be summed up with one word: "dynamic." This word, synonymous with the word "changing," reflects the entire operation of the Richmond Heights Fire Department. This process of changing began at the end of 2009 with the retirement of former Fire Chief Mike Cek and proceeded through 2010 and 2011 under the direction of Acting Fire Chief Robert Armstrong. The year 2012 will bring about even more changes, as the Fire Chief's position is in the process of being filled by the Civil Service Commission.

The Fire Department set a new record for emergency call volume in 2011, going on 1495 calls for assistance (1088 EMS calls and 407 fire runs). Fire runs increased by 102 runs from 2010. MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) calls are increasing, both in receiving and giving assistance to/from our neighboring City fire departments. This use of mutual aid can only be viewed as a dynamic change, as cities all over the region are dealing with less individual resources and relying on help to protect their cities. Indeed regionalism is already taking place in the area, by the fire departments themselves. In 2011, a federal grant was secured that brought a standardized training program to Richmond Heights, as well as seven other Hillcrest area cities. The federally mandated move of the radio frequencies has forced the area to work together on programming these new radios. This will also continue to happen in 2012, as yet another federal mandate on radios takes effect. At the time of this writing, our Fire Department was just notified that we are the recipient of a Federal Grant for \$99,500. This grant will go toward replacing our firefighting turn-out gear, special turn-out gear washer and dryer, and to replace two thermal imaging devices that can no longer be serviced. Special thanks to our grant writer – FF Jason Buss. Jason has been very successful in getting grants for items that the budget would not let us afford otherwise. With shrinking revenues and increased costs, working together will be the new norm for operations.

When all the elements that have to work and fit together to have an excellent fire department come in place, the citizens that live, work, or pass through Richmond Heights, and our neighbors that may call upon us at a time of their need, can rest assured that we will give the best protection that we can provide. With that thought, I would like to thank Mayor Ursu, all of City Council, all the other Directors and employees of the City of Richmond Heights for their assistance throughout the year. But mostly, I would like to thank the members of the Fire Department for a job well done. And special recognition to Acting Fire Chief Robert Armstrong for his leadership for the past two years, handling both the Acting Chief position and his Lieutenant position on "A" Shift on the department. His leadership not only kept the department on a steady course, but allowed us to participate proactively through these dynamic times. Thank you Bob!

Submitted by: Acting Chief John Gray

RICHMOND HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

Consistent with the laws of the State of Ohio and the Charter of the City of Richmond Heights, the primary mission of the Richmond Heights Fire Department is to:

- Protect life, health, and property
- Extinguish all fires within the City of Richmond Heights
- Investigate the cause of all fires within the City of Richmond Heights
- Answer all calls for emergency medical assistance within the City of Richmond Heights

Each firefighter is charged with the duty and privilege of providing all citizens of this community with protection from the ravages of fire and with any and all necessary emergency medical assistance, whenever the need may arise.

The primary goal of every member of the Richmond Heights Fire Department must be to promote and achieve honorable and dedicated service to this community. If life and property are protected...if destructive fires are prevented...if public security and tranquility are sustained through the efforts of highly motivated firefighters...the mission of the Richmond Heights Fire Department shall be fulfilled.

Michael Cek
Former Chief, Division of Fire

Robert Armstrong
Former Acting Chief, Div.of Fire

John Gray
Current Acting Chief, Div.of Fire

RICHMOND HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2011 ROSTER

Safety Director Dan Ursu

Acting Fire Chief Robert Armstrong

“A Shift”

Robert Armstrong – Lt.
Ken Ratkosky – FF
John Boos – FF
Peter Mannarino – FF
Damon Rahz - FF

“B Shift”

Michael Libens – Lt.
Michael Sustar – FF
Kenrick Pinter – FF
Bernard Schweter – FF
Donald Loiselle - FF
Michael Kocmit - FF

“C Shift”

John Gray – Lt.
B. James Byrne – FF
Phillip Salvia – FF
Dominic Silvestro - FF
Jason Buss – FF

Transitional Duty (following medical procedure) – Frank Dworning – FF

RICHMOND HEIGHTS PART-TIME FIREFIGHTERS

Peter Pucella
Mike DiDomenico
Tim Serazin
Matt Radke
Tom Burke
Seth Robinson

Rocky Bennardo
Russ Lamacchia
Jim Solymosi
Pedro Garcia
Mike Iacobucci
Jeffrey Regets

Special thanks and best wishes to two former RHFD part-time firefighters who retired in 2011 – Mike Burke and David Sikon.

I would like to personally thank all of the personnel of the fire department for their dedication to duty and their hard work. It is truly a pleasure working with all of them.

John Gray – Acting Chief

RICHMOND HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2011 RESPONSE HISTORY

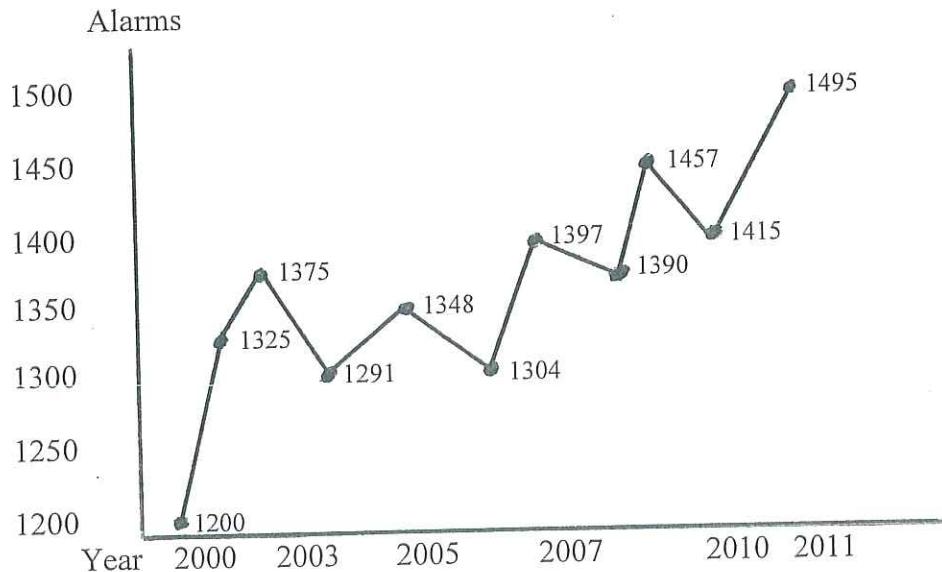
The year 2011 saw the RHFD set a record for the number of responses that we were called for – 1495. This broke the previous record of 1457 set in 2009. Here are some benchmarks from previous years:

- Year 2000 – 1200 calls
- Year 1990 – 624 calls
- Year 1980- 581 calls
- Year 1970 - 121 calls

In 2011, the total call volume of 1495 can be broken into the following categories:

- EMS calls: Total – 1088. For further breakdown, see the EMS Report page.
- Fire calls: Total – 407. Fire calls not only include structure fires, or fire alarms, but also many miscellaneous calls such as CO alarms, odor investigations, hazardous wires down, stuck elevators, and all other calls that are not EMS related. For further breakdown, see the Fire Department Response page.

TOTAL CALL VOLUME BY YEAR



RICHMOND HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2011 RESPONSE PAGE

Below is a breakdown of responses made to various commercial/apartment/ and assisted living complexes within Richmond Heights for 2011.

- Grande Pointe Facility: 56 EMS + 6 Fire = 62 Total Calls
- The Waterford: 90 EMS + 7 Fire = 97 Total Calls
- Homewood Residence: 87 EMS + 3 Fire = 90 Total Calls
- Brookdale Skilled Facility: 19 EMS + 0 Fire = 19 Total Calls
- Richmond Town Square: 54 EMS + 14 Fire = 68 Total Calls
- Dorchester/Loganberry Ridge: 132 EMS + 14 Fire = 146 Total Calls
- Richmond Park Apts.: 67 EMS + 33 Fire = 100 Total Calls

These occupancies accounted for 582 responses (38%) of the total volume of calls.

SIMULTANEOUS ALARMS IN 2011

Simultaneous alarms are emergency calls that are dispatched to the Fire Department while the department is busy handling at least one other call at the same time. This is an important statistic to keep track of, as it relates to the ability of the Fire Department to provide services when called upon. Staffing for the second alarm will range from no more than three personnel, to the more common two person response. There were nine times when a call came in that there was no help available from Richmond Heights, and the mutual aid departments were on their own.

- Total Simultaneous calls for 2011 = 139 calls (9% of total call volume).

MUTUAL AID ALARMS IN 2011

Use of mutual aid and MABAS Alarm Boxes have been growing in recent years. It is the answer communities use when increased call volume and shrinking revenues meet. Most Cities in the area, including Richmond Heights, are in this dilemma. There is a positive that has come from this however. With the increase in mutual aid, more departments are now used to working together, which is leading to training together, which is leading to regional grant applications, and ultimately sets the foundation for regionalism.

- Mutual Aid (from neighboring communities) to Richmond Heights: 37 times
- Mutual Aid (from Richmond Heights to other communities) : 43 times

RICHMOND HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

- FIREFIGHTING TRAINING:

Beginning in 2010, the State of Ohio mandated that fire departments across the state implement a training program that must meet the requirements of a State Certified Training Institute (Richmond Heights Fire Department and our Instructors are under the Cuyahoga Community College Fire Academy's guidance) and/or training requirements of the Fire Chief. While our department, as well as every other department had their own version of a training program, the new requirements mandate record keeping by the department and re-certification requirements placed on the individual fire fighter. To that end, the Hillcrest area fire departments received a grant in late 2010, early 2011, which gave each participating community approximately \$70,000 worth of training programs, equipment, and record-keeping abilities. This is yet another step taken for regionalism, as each of the Hillcrest area fire departments now have the same base-training program. Our departments program from the grant started approximately April 15, 2011. This training program addresses the topics that a fire department needs to have knowledge of. But we also need practical training to make sure our skills stay sharp, as well as making sure our vehicles and equipment are operating properly. Practical exercises can be seen taking place on the apron of the fire station, inside the station, at various commercial buildings in the City, and water pumping drills that usually take place in the vicinity of the Kiwanis Lodge or rear parking lot of Richmond Park Apartments.

**2011 Firefighting Training: 56 Individual Classes for 208 total hours (classroom).
36 Practical Evolutions for 149 total hours (practicals)**

- EMS TRAINING

The State of Ohio requires Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians to have on-going continuing education in order to recertify their licensing. The State also mandates that each EMS service have a Medical Control hospital and a Medical Control Physician that have the responsibility of providing up-to-date training, evaluations of performance, and protocols to allow the EMS service under their control the ability to function to their highest abilities. The Richmond Heights Fire Department is proud to be under the Medical Control of University Hospital-Richmond Medical Center and Dr. Larry Glaude. Dr. Glaude provides the department with monthly run reviews and current topics, as well as a friendly mentor during complex calls. Thank you Dr. Glaude.. Also, the University Hospital EMS Institute, under the control of Dan Ellenberger, is responsible to provide EMS training, providing the hospital system protocols, arranging for special demonstrations of equipment, studies, and tracking the many EMS personnel under the University Hospital umbrella. Thanks to Dan and his staff. The following page is the requirements to re-certify.

2011 EMS Training: 52 Individual Topics for 104 hours of instruction.

| |
|---|
| ADMINISTRATION/OPERATIONS |
| EMS RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS |

| EMT-BASIC REFRESHER COURSE | EMT INTERMEDIATE | EMT PARAMEDIC |
|---|---|---|
| <p>40 hours of CE which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 hours of pediatric education • 2 hours of geriatric education • 8 hours of trauma training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours of local trauma triage protocol/Issues training (2 of the 8 hours must be dedicated to local protocol/Issues training) <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Thirty (30) hours state approved Refresher Course (including pediatric, geriatric and trauma requirements)</p> <p>Current NREMT Renewal Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current registration as an EMT Basic with the NREMT on the expiration date of your Ohio certification will be recognized as having met the CE requirements for renewal <p>If opting for National Registry Renewal, all that is required is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours of local trauma/triage/Issues training <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Exam in Lieu of CE (for all levels)</p> <p>This exam is similar to the exam for initial certification and can be taken during the last six months of your certification cycle.</p> <p>Contact the Division of EMS to obtain information on registering for this exam</p> | <p>60 hours of CE which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 hours of pediatric education • 4 hours of geriatric education • 8 hours of trauma training • 2 hours of local trauma triage protocol/Issues training (2 of the 8 hrs must be dedicated to local/Issues training) <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Current NREMT Renewal Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current registration as an EMT intermediate with the NREMT on the expiration date of your Ohio certification will be recognized as having met the CE requirements for renewal <p>If opting for National Registry Renewal, all that is required is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours of local trauma/triage issues training | <p>92 hours of CE which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 hours of pediatric education • 4 hours of geriatric education • 8 hours of trauma training • 2 hours of local trauma triage protocol/Issues training (2 of the 8 hrs must be dedicated to local protocols/Issues training) <p style="text-align: center;">PLUS</p> <p>12 hours on emergency card ACLS certification or equivalent course approved by EMS Board</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Forty-eight (48) hours EMT-Paramedic Refresher Course</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLUS</p> <p>Forty-four (44) additional hours of CE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PLUS</p> <p>ACLS certification or equivalent course approved by the EMS Board</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Current NREMT-P Renewal Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current registration as a Paramedic with the NREMT on the expiration date of your Ohio certification will be recognized as having met the CE requirements for renewal <p>If opting for National Registry Renewal, all that is required is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hours of local trauma/triage/ issues training |

RICHMOND HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT

EMS RESPONSE PAGE

It is not surprising that EMS activity accounts for over 70% of total call volume. It is like that in most cities. Our paramedics are trained to handle any medical emergency that a person could possibly face. The scope of paramedic care has increased tremendously over the past decade. In 1991, there were 18-20 drugs that paramedics were allowed to administer. Today, that number is up to 48-50 potentially life-saving medication that is given in our houses, stores, or the back of the squad. The direction of care from our Medical Control to our proper handling of cardiac emergencies directly allowed UH-Richmond to achieve accreditation for heart care. We have participated in studies on stroke care and sepsis shock care. What this means to our residents or visitors that may need the squad is that they will be getting excellent care from the moment they call 911 until they arrive at the hospital by well-trained and well-respected Richmond Heights Firefighters/paramedics.

EMS RESPONSES BY LOCATION

| | |
|---|---------------|
| • Dorchester & Loganberry Ridge Apartments: | 132 EMS calls |
| • Homewood Residence & Brookdale Skilled Facility | 106 EMS calls |
| • The Waterford | 90 EMS calls |
| • Richmond Park Apartments | 67 EMS calls |
| • Grande Pointe | 56 EMS calls |
| • Richmond Town Square | 54 EMS calls |

HOSPITALS TRANSPORTED TO

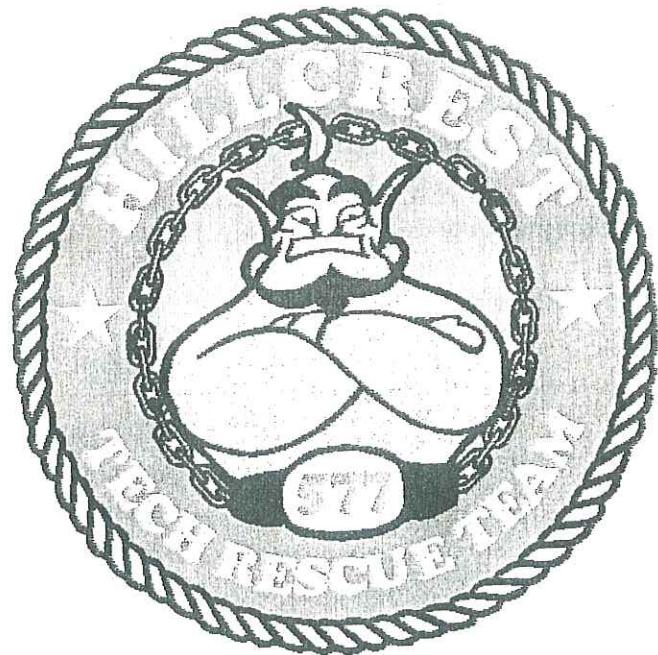
Many people wish to be transported to the hospital of their choice. While we try to comply with patient or family wishes, there are times when patient care and State of Ohio EMS Care laws will govern where we take our patients. For example, trauma cases MUST be transported to the nearest trauma center (Hillcrest Hospital or Metro). We have the option to call in a helicopter or we may have to transport them ourselves. Critical care patients need to go to the nearest appropriate hospital, and sometimes that is not the hospital of choice that the patient or family desires. We try to accommodate transport to other hospitals if we can safely do so. Here is the breakdown of transports to area hospitals by our squads.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| • <u>UH-Richmond:</u> | 642 |
| • <u>No transport at all:</u> | 286 |
| • <u>Hillcrest Hospital:</u> | 129 |
| • <u>Euclid Hospital:</u> | 12 |
| • <u>UH – Case</u> | 7 |
| • <u>UH- RB &C</u> | 6 |

Richmond Hts.

2011

Annual Report



Administration

During the past year the team has worked to implement the goals stated in the 2011 budget requests. This past year the team focused a considerable amount of time and energy working on the feasibility meetings regarding a team merger with HASRT. After several meetings, no final decision has occurred, but progress has been made. A complete set of protocols for team operations was developed and agreed upon by both teams as well as the steps toward utilizing the same dispatch software. The redesign of the team's website is ongoing and should be completed during the first quarter of 2012.

Trench Rescue

The trench division conducted trainings this year totaling 224 man hours. Topics covered included the refreshing of the basic skills set involved in trench rescue as well as the new system designed by the team to expedite the shoring of a trench. The team will continue to conduct trench rescue training in conjunction with other rescue teams to ensure a unified approach to trench emergencies. Our plan for 2012 is to purchase four shores to allow for "pre-rigged" applications of our system.

Rope Rescue

During the 2010 calendar year, the rope rescue division conducted 368 man hours of training. These hours do not encompass the amount of time spent utilizing rope rescue skills while conducting training in other disciplines. These drills included combined drills with the HASRT team.

Water/Dive Rescue

The water rescue division of the team conducted 307 man hours of training during 2010. These drills included swift water training, ice rescue training and a dive/boat operations drill. Also in 2011 the team added our new sonar unit to the cache of water rescue equipment. The Hillcrest team remains very active in the state's water TAC committee and has 5 state certified swift water instructors on the team.

During 2012, the team will participate in a region 2 sponsored swiftwater technician class. And continue to stay involved with the state water TAC and the region 2 water rescue committee.

Collapse Rescue

The collapse division conducted 173 man hours of structural collapse training. The team participated in a Region 2 drill consisting of a deployment exercise at the Brookpark Ford plant. In 2012 the team will conduct our training in conjunction with the new Region 2 training format utilizing the drill dates to review the modules taught for the operations class.

Confined Space Rescue

Training for confined space in 2011 totaled 256.5 man hours. This training was conducted during 2 drills. All of the teams confined space drills have been conducted in conjunction with HASRT and allow for a unified approach to confined space incidents.

Additional Training

In Addition to the training listed above, 89 man hours of additional training was conducted in tool labs and inventory.

Training

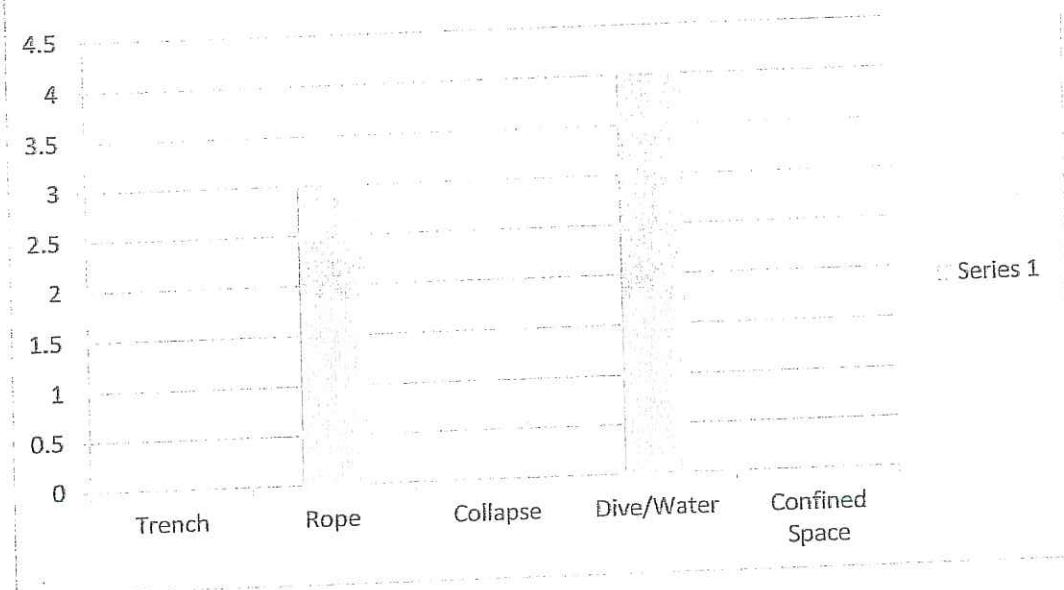
During the 2011 year the team conducted a total of 1417.5 man hours of training. This training comprised of the scheduled monthly drills lasting 5.84 hours on average. The average attendance for team members was 44.3 hours. This average is a decrease of 11 hours per member from 2010. Please remember the ideal team member should attend at least 2/3 of the scheduled trainings.

Callouts

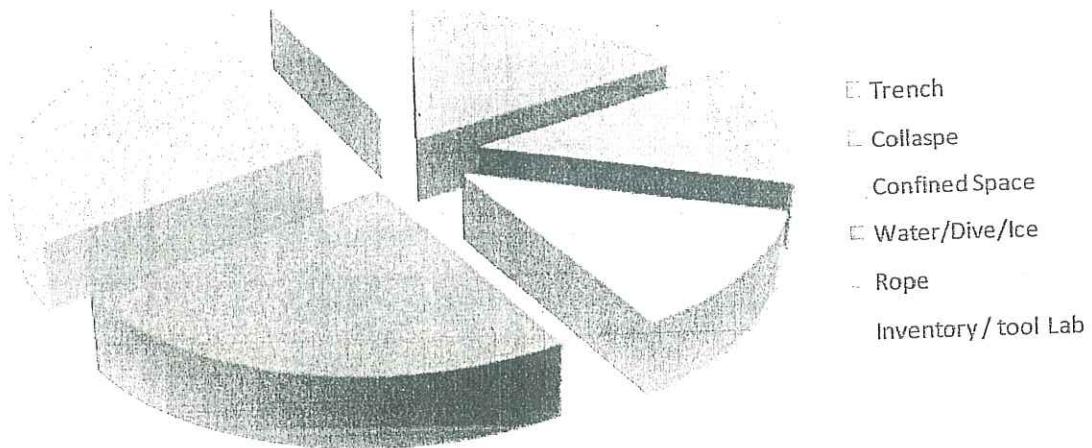
During 2011 HTRT responded to seven incidents. These incidents are listed below.

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------|---|
| 1. Willoughby Hills | Swift Water | Evaluate and preplan flood areas following dam collapse |
| 2. Munson Twp. | Rope Rescue | Persons trapped on ski lift |
| 3. Bedford | Swiftwater | Male stuck in river |
| 4. Bedford | Swift Water | Kayaker trapped in river |
| 5. Bedford | Swiftwater | Child stuck in river |
| 6. Gates Mills | Rope Rescue | Male stuck in ravine |
| 7. Walton Hills | Rope Rescue | Male injured in creek bed |

Callouts by Discipline



2011 Training Hours by Discipline



Budget Totals:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Balance beginning 2011 | \$122373.66 |
| 2011 revenue | \$ 45000.00 |
| 2011 expenditures | \$ 19141.47 |
| <u>Ending Balance from 2011</u> | <u>\$148232.19</u> |

2012 Goals and Objectives

During 2012 the team hopes to open continue discussions regarding the feasibility of a merger with the HASRT team. Our budgetary focus will be to continue building up our water rescue equipment to optimal levels. In addition the team will continue to train new members and try to secure grant funding for education and equipment purchases.

