

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2011 SOUTH SHORE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

BACKGROUND: The South Shore Fire Department would like to present our 2011 Annual Report to both Village Boards and the citizens of Mt. Pleasant & Sturtevant.

It starts with an attractive cover, our department patch, with our Mission Statement, "Emergency Services...Above and Beyond". Page 2 describes what we collectively value. Please note that each of these statements refer to the **PEOPLE** who makeup this organization and do the everyday work.

Page 3 thru 6 is the Chief's Corner. This is where I describe our past year's experiences: Our move into our new Headquarters Fire Station, Open House on May 14th, Joint Dispatch at Ives Grove, Emergency Medical Dispatching, renumbering of our fire stations East of I-94, staffing/overtime difficulties, the deaths of our Village Administrator Mike Andreasen and Fire Department Charter Member Donald Harmann, and the un-precedent setting give back of over \$200,000 by Local Union and fire department management to help the Village with their budget crisis.

Page 7 and 8 gives a picture and address of each our fire stations along with a list of the equipment at that station. It should be remembered that we cross-staff vehicles at each fire station dependent upon the nature of the call and that when one company goes on a call it then leaves that fire station vacant, with the exception of Fire Station 9 when it is fully staffed with two companies.

Page 9 describes our Public Relations and Education Program. The firefighters recognizing the important of Public Education and often the inability to get these types of things done through the normal work day, with everything else that has to be done, volunteered their own time and without pay to help educate the public and our children in the community. If you talk with the area schools who received this education you will find that those hours were well received and worthwhile. In addition, Lori Swenson, the Fire Department Administrative Assistant, installed over 40 Child Car Seats for the public. She continues to be the best trained Car Seat installer in

Mt. Pleasant and Sturtevant and is saving lives of our most precious children. This is hard work and above and beyond her normal duties but she believes in helping where she can and enjoys talking and meeting the public.

Page 10 - 11, Buildings and Grounds, describes problems with Fire Stations that continue to age and will require future work and remodeling to stop them from failing.

Page 11 -12 lists permits and the number of fire inspections done throughout the year. It is getting harder and harder to do all of the things that need to be done and still handle the calls as they come in.

Page 13- 16, Vehicle and Equipment Summary of Activity details the retirement of Battalion Chief Gary Kaminskis and the appointment of Battalion Chief Dale Izydorek to that vacant position. It also gives a hint of the many and varied tasks that need to be performed by Dale in his new position.

Page 17 – 20, Training Division Summary of Activity by Battalion Chief and Training Officer Steve Salvo highlights the many different classes and training evolutions that are done throughout the year to keep up certifications and to make us better at our jobs. With the closing of the Caledonia Training Grounds we are now left with no local training facilities East of I-94 and our inability to travel distances and to remain on duty when emergencies happen will degrade our skills. He mentions that the Village should look to build facilities locally where we can train as still handle calls that happen in our area of responsibility without having to use overtime to do so. We had originally designed the Training/Hose Tower at our new fire station to accommodate that training but it was cut due to the downsizing of our project.

Page 21 – 23, Local 2939 Summary of Activity is presented Local Union President Bill Miller. It describes how the union and management helped the Village to meet its budget crises in 2011 and also the Public Education Initiative voluntarily undertaken by its members to fill what they saw as a void in educating our young in hopes to make them and their homes safer. He also mentions the successes of their Firefighter Combat Challenge Team that shattered the State of Wisconsin's previous team record at the World Championships in Myrtle Beach, S.C..

Page 24 – 25, shows pictures from our Open House on May 14th.

Page 26, shows a bar graph of how our responses have grown since 2008.

Page 27, shows the entire fleet of vehicles and their age. As you should be able to see, the fleet is getting older and will not last forever. There will be a need for replacement of vehicles soon and 5 and 10 year CIP plans for the future needs to be re-established for vehicles and all other Capital Improvements.

Page 28 – 29, South Shore Fire Department Commemorative Brick Fundraiser is a way that citizens and businesses in the community can help the fire department and that commitment always to be recognized. The profits from this fundraiser will help support unbudgeted expenses, such as physical fitness, public education and fire safety materials for the department. The 1st bricks have been ordered and later this week ground will be broken around our flagpole at Headquarters Fire Station 8 and the bricks will be on display for all of our visitors to see. The Fire Department may also soon launch an effort to help support buying dive tanks and suits for our department divers. Stay tuned for more on that effort!

RECOMMENDATION: The South Shore Fire Department staff recommends that the villages accept our annual report and place it on their websites for all to see.

Prepared By: Fire Chief, Wm. R. Bouma 5/30/2012