

# Drexel Heights Fire District



Annual Report  
2006





# MISSION STATEMENT:

To minimize the threat to life and property  
due to fire, medical or other emergencies  
through education, prevention, preparedness,  
prompt response, and effective customer service

Administration & Station 1 5030 S. Camino Verde

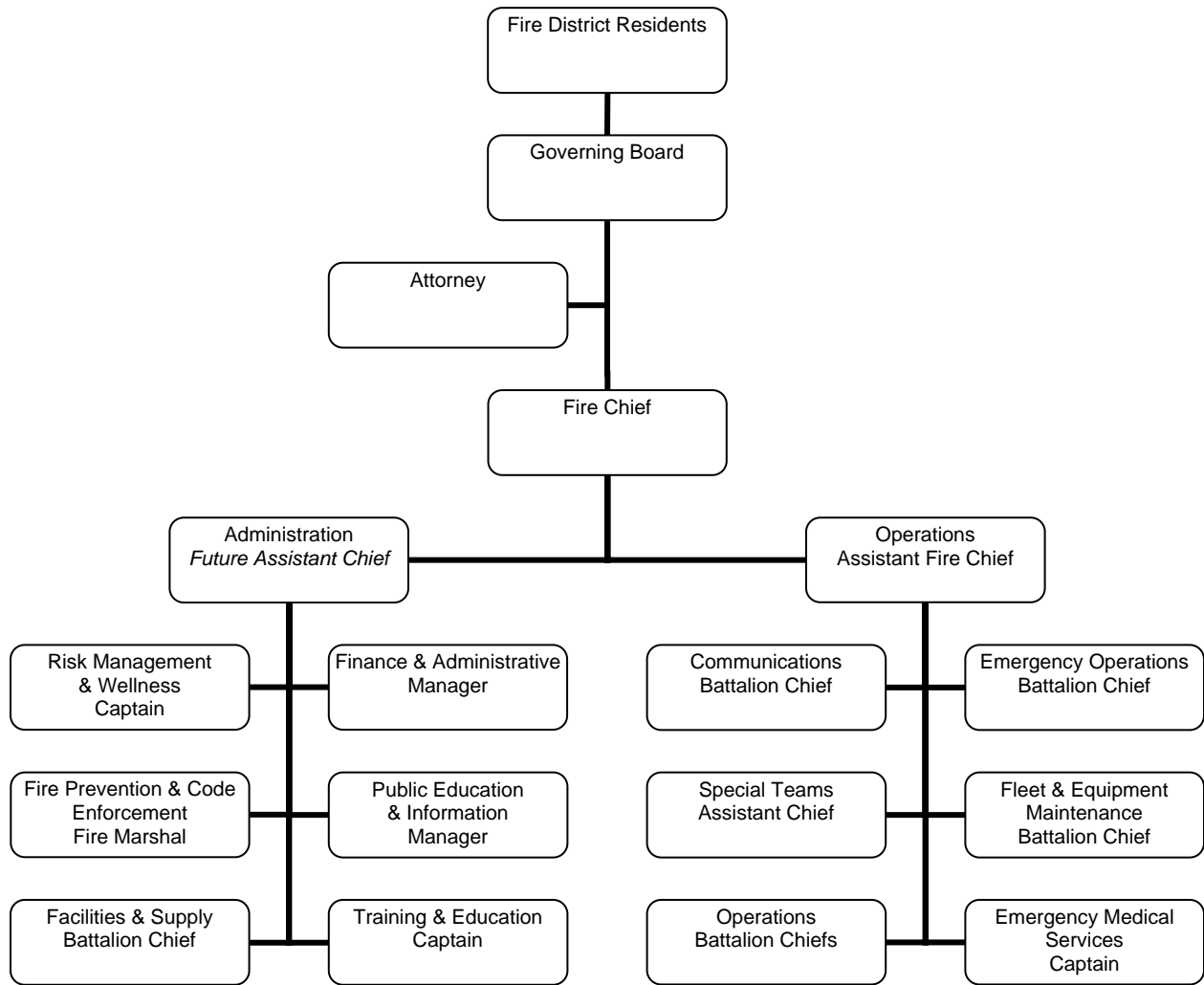
Communications 6950 S. Beehive

Station 2 6340 S. Mark Rd • Station 3 5960 S. Cardinal Ave • Station 4 3195 S. Kinney Rd

[www.drexelfire.net](http://www.drexelfire.net)



## Drexel Heights Fire District Organizational Chart



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## A message from Fire Chief Douglas Chappell

Change was the hallmark word around the Drexel Heights Fire District in 2006. Most of the changes were positive, and change affected all facets of the District and its people.

New residential construction continued at an amazing rate. More than 1,000 new homes were occupied in 2006. The District grew in land size with a number of annexations including two major subdivisions along Valencia. The District began discussions with the developer of the Star Valley project to secure land for a fire station. The District has also participated in the plan development for a new Wal-Mart Super Center which is to be built at Ajo Highway and Kinney in 2007. All of the growth in the District has resulted in a corresponding 3% increase in service demands. In all, the District responded to over 6500 emergency incidents in 2006.

The District completed a number of capital projects during 2006. The District placed a new ambulance unit in service, replacing an old unit which was suffering from extended down time due to mechanical failures. The District also replaced a pumper in 2006. The new unit replaced a 1992 pumper which was beyond its expected service life. In the fall, the District also placed a new Special Services Squad unit in service replacing the old County Hazardous Materials truck and an old light rescue truck. The new unit is equipped to respond to Hazardous Materials, technical rescue and extrication calls. In addition it carries a variety of equipment to support other operations including medical calls and fire related responses.

In 2006, the District placed in service the final phase of the Computer Aided Dispatch system. This phase provided on-board computers in our response vehicles and automatic vehicle location systems for those same vehicles. The on-board computers allow our Telecommunicators to provide data, maps and other information to responding units. The automatic vehicle location system allows our Telecommunicators to track our units all over the Tucson region whether they are at one of the local hospitals or moving around in the Fire District.

The major capital project not completed during 2006 was the construction of a new fire station at the Cardinal Ave location. The plans have been completed but until building permits are issued, building construction cannot start. We expect that the construction will be completed in 2007.

During 2006 the District rolled out an improved web site home page and distributed a first ever services brochure. The Communications Center added a new customer when we began dispatching Arizona Ambulance Transport. At the same time, the Communications Center underwent a downsizing of its operations when Green Valley Fire District was forced to relocate their dispatch operations as part of their takeover of fire operations in Sahuarita.

The District personnel base grew with the addition of three additional Firefighter positions. Based on national standards the District still needs to add about 15 more positions, but that process must be phased in over several years. In December, the first paramedic class program concluded. Drexel Heights became the first Fire District in the region to conduct its own paramedic training class. In the past, all paramedic classes had been conducted through Pima Community College or through one of the local hospitals. The District went



# Administration

through a very rigorous Certificate of Necessity review by the Department of Health Services. A Certificate of Necessity is required for an agency to provide emergency medical services in Arizona. The District's Certificate was renewed for another three year period.

The District received several grants in 2006. Community Development Block Grant funds received through Pima County allowed the District to install five fire hydrants in areas where none existed before and those funds allowed us to continue to conduct the Family Safety Program. The Family Safety Program includes community based CPR and First Aid classes. In addition, the grant provides funding for the Car Safety Seat Program, smoke detector and fire extinguisher installation programs and general safety training classes. The District also received grant funding to purchase radiological detection/monitoring equipment for the Hazardous Materials Response Team. Those grant funds came through state homeland security grant programs.

2007 will bring additional change and challenges for the District. The District will need to continue to add additional firefighters to keep pace with the District's growth and the resulting increase in service demand. The District will need to complete the construction of the new fire station on Cardinal and finalize plans for the construction of a new fire station in the Star Valley area. Building a new station in Star Valley will also require the hiring of additional personnel and the purchase of additional equipment. The employees and the Governing Board will meet these challenges and take the necessary steps to keep our community fire safe and insure proper customer service.

## Highlights from Governing Board Meetings

The Governing Board which consists of five elected representatives, serving four year terms, meet monthly to set the policy and provide direction to the Fire Chief. During 2006, the Board made a number of significant decisions that have insured the future of the fire district and improved protection for our residents. Actions taken at Board Meetings included:

- The Board adopted a balanced budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007 that totaled \$11,286,965 and added three additional Firefighters positions.
- Public Education/Information Manager Tracy Koslowski was recognized as the Fire Safety Public Educator for 2005 in the State of Arizona. Manager Koslowski received her award at the annual Arizona Fire and Burn Educators Conference.
- Adopted a revised Personnel Policy Manual which had been more than a year in the making.
- Two employees were recognized for their promotions. Captain Dane Crouse to the position of Battalion Chief and Firefighter Jeremy Beatty to Captain.
- October was designated as Fire Prevention Month. During October, the District's personnel made special safety related presentations at all of the schools in the District.
- Authorization of the issuance of \$1,370,000 in bonds for the construction of a fire station in the Star Valley area.
- Certified the election results to fill vacancies on the Governing Board. Elected to four year terms starting December 1, 2006 were Laura Dailey and R. M. Bishman.



## 2006 Fire Board

Ron Greil, Chair

Robert Bishman, Clerk

James Bertrand

Laura Dailey

Jayne Stepnoski

*The Drexel Heights Fire District Board conducts public meetings on the second Friday of each month at 9:00 AM, in the classroom at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired.*

## 2006 Employee Awards Recognition



*Fire Chief Doug Chappell and Board Chair Ron Greil present Firefighter John McGinn with "Outstanding District Employee of the Year"*



*2006 Supervisor of the Year goes to Captain Andre Matus*

### Service Pins

#### 5 years

Beau Bicknese  
LuAnne Callahan  
Doug Chappell  
Stacey Contreras  
Fred Escalante  
Ian Robinson  
Beverly Shields  
Jim Werts

#### 10 years

Jeremy Beatty  
Dave Wilson

#### 15 years

Hugh McCrystal  
David Stone

#### 20 years

Steve Campbell  
Dane Crouse  
Alex Dunn  
Dave Shafer

### Recognitions

#### Rookie of the Year

Firefighter Jeremy Curtis

#### Professionalism Award

Firefighter Eddie Arevalo

Firefighter Maria Hawkes

#### Safety Award

Captain Alex Dunn

#### Supervisor of the Year

Captain Andre Matus

#### Telecommunicator of the Year

Telecommunicator LuAnne Callahan

#### Administrative

#### Employee of the Year

Manager Laurie Dunham

#### Firefighter of the Year "A" Shift

Eddie Riesgo

#### Firefighter of the Year "B" Shift

Raul Rodriguez

#### Firefighter of the Year "C" Shift

Dave Cole

#### Outstanding District

#### Employee of the Year

Firefighter John McGinn

### 2006 New Hires

Manny Valencia	Firefighter	Jan
Jeremy Smith	Firefighter	Jan
JP Zuniga	Firefighter	Feb
Anthony Granillo	Firefighter	July
Raul Caballero	Firefighter	July
Steve Maddux	Firefighter	Oct
Scotti McKenzie	Firefighter	Oct
Vitor Ribeiro da Cruz	Firefighter	Oct
Rudy Aguilera	Firefighter	Oct
Rennie Lopez	Firefighter	Oct
Carl Brown	Firefighter	Nov
Cindy Bailey	Telecommunicator	Nov

### 2006 Promotions

Dane Crouse	Battalion Chief
Jeremy Beatty	Captain
Shannon Johnson	FT Telecommunicator

### 2006 Retirements

Pete Moreno	5 years
Patty Pruitt	12 years
Mike Droban	18 years

### 2006 New Training Certifications

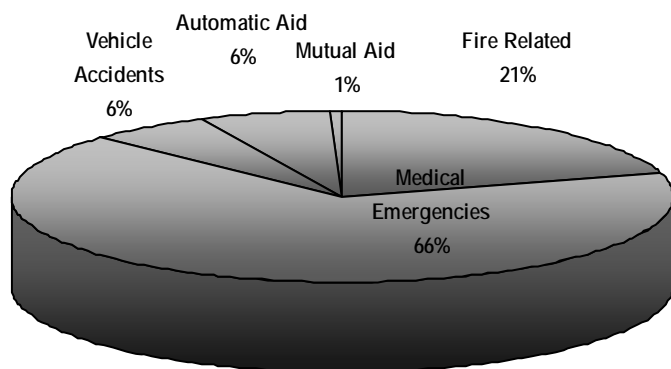
Chad Bailey	Car Seat Technician
Regina McCain	Car Seat Technician
Jonathan Deyo	Technical Rescue
Jim Wertz	Haz Mat Technician

# Emergency Services

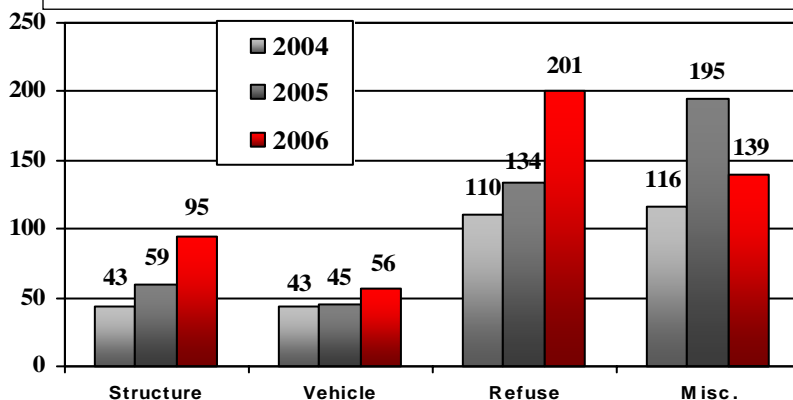
Drexel Height's firefighters are state certified as either Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) or as Paramedics. Every engine and ambulance is staffed with at least one paramedic. When someone calls 911 for a medical emergency, EMT's and Paramedics will respond to provide basic and advanced life support. As you can see by the data, there are more emergency medical incidents than fire calls. This is why firefighters are trained in both medical and fire emergencies.



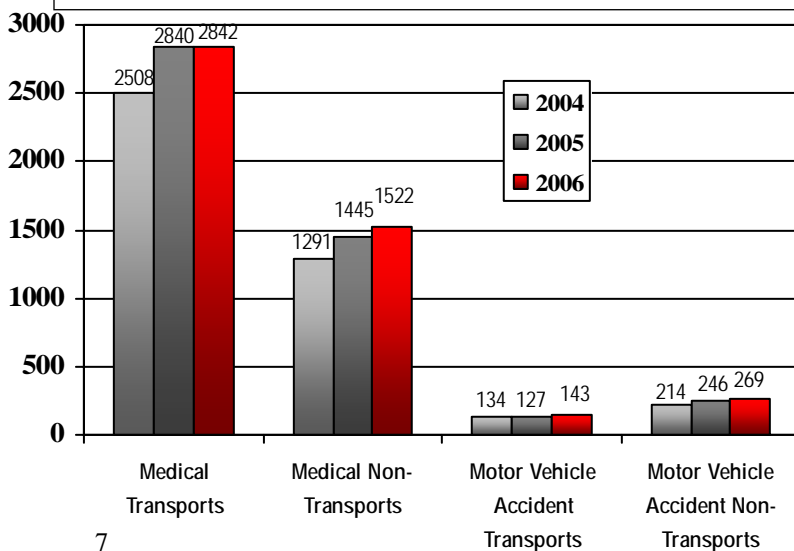
## 2006 Response By Nature



## Fire Related Responses



## EMS Related Responses





# Special Operations



## Wildland Firefighting

### Responses

Drexel Heights responded to several wildland fires in Billings, Montana this year. Three Wildland Team members were sent to the fires for a total of 14 days. This response included 5 fires in the Billings area and they ranged from a smaller 10 acre fire to the Pine Ridge fire which was over 100,000 acres.

### Training

Training continued for wildland firefighters throughout the year to maintain skills which are necessary to battle wildland fires.

## Hazardous Materials Team

### Equipment

Through a grant, Drexel Heights Fire District received modern Radiological monitoring equipment which was placed in service at the same time the new Squad truck was placed in service. The new truck has capabilities to perform hazardous materials research.



*Haz Mat Technician Dave Shafer shows one interested youngster the equipment they use to protect themselves during a Haz Mat incident*

### Training

Training this year included four drills with the entire team covering tank car incidents, pressure line leaks, liquid spills, and chlorine releases. An additional eight drills of varying situations were conducted in conjunction with Green Valley Fire District's Haz Mat Team. This year's classroom training sessions included covering topics such as chemistry reviews and the documentation of hazardous materials incidents. Computer training for the different hazardous materials programs was also covered in this year's training program.

### Responses

In 2006, the Haz Mat Team responded to a couple of small waste spills in the desert and some small residential based problems such as odors and CO detector sounding. General calls related to Hazardous Materials for the year



# Special Operations

also included natural gas leaks and propane leaks which are common during the summer months and several gasoline spills at service stations. The Haz Mat Team also responded to Northwest Fire District's area to assist them with two major hazardous materials incidents.

## Technical Rescue Team

### Equipment

This year's equipment purchases expanded the Team's capabilities in confined space, structure collapse, water rescue and various rope rescue related activities. Some of the equipment included confined space communications equipment, vehicle stabilization equipment, and various water rescue items. The equipment was purchased using Terrorism Grant funding.

### Responses

Over the past year the Technical Rescue Team has responded to several rope rescue incidents on Gates Pass and in other mountainous areas near Station 3. They were also busy with regular swift water rescue scenarios during the monsoon season.

### Training

Training opportunities for the Technical Rescue Team during 2006 included: Mine Shaft, Confined Space, Swift Water Rescue, High Angle Rescue, Shoring, and Steep Rescue incidents. Additionally, one of the Technical Rescue Team members attended a 200-hour certification course. Firefighter Jonathan Deyo was successful in the Technician course put on by the Phoenix Fire Department and the Arizona State Fire Marshal's Office.



*The Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue Teams both have state-of-the-art equipment on the new rescue truck.*



*Technical Rescue Team conducting a High Angle Rescue*

# Fire Prevention

## 2006 Fire Prevention Activities

Commercial Plan Reviews	8
Residential Plan Reviews	39
Subdivision Plan Review	38
Commercial Inspections	154
Commercial Re-Inspections	58
New Construction Inspections	180
Residential Inspections	85
Residential Hazard Complaint	53
New Hydrant Flow Test	24
Cause & Origin Investigation	30

### New Construction Projects

The long awaited development of a large commercial project has come closer to breaking ground. Recently, Pima County Board of Supervisors approved the development known as, Mountain Vista Shopping Center. Construction will begin in early 2007 with completion in the first quarter of 2008. Wal-Mart is the anchor store with several additional pads to include; restaurants, shops, and two banks. The location of this new project is on the northwest corner of Ajo Highway and Kinney Road. The owner/developer also has agreed to build the necessary roads and infrastructure into and around the project. In 2006, the Fire Prevention Division spent time reviewing the plans for this project.

### Annual Testing of Fire Hydrants

The Fire Prevention Division and the Communications' Division developed and implemented a new hydrant testing form and mapping program of all District hydrants. The hydrants are in a Computer Aided Dispatch System. This allows responding emergency crews the ability to see a map on their vehicle computer of where the closest hydrant is located to the fire scene. This new system simplifies the way hydrants are tested and documented. The program resulted in the ability to know where all hydrants are located in the District.



*Fire Investigators conducting an investigation after a house fire. They will use their skills and expertise to determine where and how the fire started.*

### 2006 /2007 CDBG Grant

The Fire District was successful in acquiring a CDBG Grant for the installation of five new hydrants. These new hydrants were installed in areas of the District in need of hydrants to have readily available water supply in case of a structure fire.

### Growth in the District

In 2006 the District experienced a continued increase in the construction of new homes. With all the new homes, the District will see an increase in the community population. The Fire Prevention Division has been very busy reviewing construction plans for new development projects as shown in 2006 Fire Prevention Activities chart.

# Public Education

## Drowning Awareness Campaign

In 2006, the District conducted its first drowning awareness campaign called Safe Splash. Partnering with Pima County Parks and Recreation, the event was held at Manzanita Pool. Safe Splash offered several safety stations where children learned about different drowning prevention skills. The highlight of the event was having Olympic Gold Medallist Amanda Beard there, supporting Safe Splash.



*Lifeguards and Firefighters with Olympic Goldmedalist Amanda Beard at the first Safe Splash event.*

## Community Safety Day

The third annual "Community Safety Day" event took place this year. This safety fair was held at the Manzanita Plaza. Families were able to explore fire engines, rescue vehicles, ambulances and a helicopter. They also were able to take home various safety information about preventing fires and promoting injury prevention. United Pima Firefighters Local 3504 partnered with the event and offered a salsa contest to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

## Fire Prevention Month

In October, firefighters performed characterization programs for the elementary schools celebrating fire prevention month. This year's program was called "The Wizard of Cause". One character, Hector the Smoke Detector, needed a battery much like the movie's Tin Man who needed a heart. By using characters, music and even flying monkey puppets, the kids were engaged in the program and took the messages to heart. This year's safety messages included checking smoke detectors, buckling up, wearing helmets and calling 911.

## Safety Education Team's Vehicle

When the District received new apparatus for special responses, the old Haz Mat truck became available and was transformed into a public education vehicle. The Safety Education Team uses the vehicle for the characterization, mini-muster, car seat and many other programs that they take out into the community.

## Grant

2006 marked the fourth year of Community Development Block Grant funding for the Family Safety program. The program offers classes in CPR, First Aid, Car Seats, Home Safety, and Fire Safety. This year the program received an award from the National Housing & Redevelopment Officials.



*Crash, Dorothy, Flame, Hector the Smoke Detector and the Lion are seen here in front of the new Safety Education Team truck.*



# Communications



*Telecommunicators play a critical role in providing information to the emergency responders.*

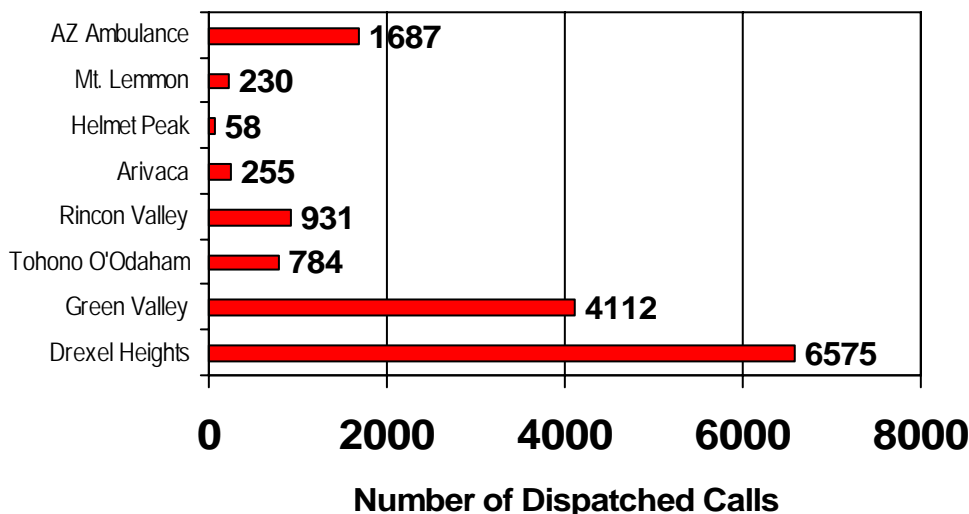
## Personnel

The Communications Center employees includes 3 shift supervisors, 3 full-time telecommunicators, and 10 part-time telecommunicators. The employees rotate shifts so that the communications facility is staffed 24 hours a day and seven days per week. In 2006, the Communication Center was responsible for dispatch services for 8 different agencies. These agencies included: Drexel Heights, Arivaca, Green Valley, Helmet Peak, Mt. Lemmon, Rincon Valley, Tohono O'Odham - San Xavier, and Arizona Ambulance.

## Training

In 2006, a new training system was developed which has improved the time for new hires to become operational within the center. Every staff member spent time this past year reviewing the new District training manuals which has created a consistent and accurate measure for dispatching practices. Additionally, the Communication Center personnel have assisted with the development and implementation of a dispatching protocol for Arizona Ambulance. This ambulance provider is a new account this year for the Communication Center and the transition into dispatching services for this provider has been very successful.

## 2006 Dispatch Activities



## Projects

The Communications Center was involved with several different projects in 2006. They began implementing an Automatic Vehicle Location system which allows electronic tracking of all emergency response units in the field so they can dispatch the closest unit. They also put into operation a fire hydrant data base system which provides fire crews with hydrant mapping and location information.

# Training

## Paramedic Class

In December, Drexel completed an eleven month Paramedic training program. The program easily passed routine audits conducted by Pima Community College and the Arizona Department of Health Services - Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. All of the students were agency sponsored and will begin providing paramedic level care as soon as state certifications are issued.

## CPR & First Aid

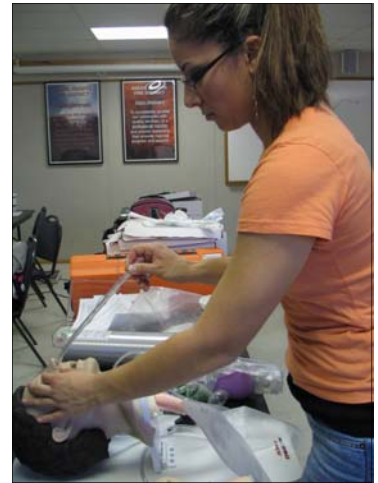
During 2006, the American Heart Association introduced sweeping changes in CPR and Emergency Cardiac Care. These programs were able to offer a new standard of CPR and First Aid. Drexel Heights is an American Heart Association Training Site and in 2006, we delivered First Aid and Emergency Cardiac Care instruction to over 900 Professional Healthcare Providers and the lay public.

## Firefighter Academy

This year has seen the continuation of the Fire Fighter I & II Recruit Training Academy. Most of our new full and part-time new hires are Drexel Academy graduates. Participants continue to receive full recognition of their education from Pima Community College. Graduates from this program enjoy a 90% placement rate with Drexel and other agencies in Pima County.

## Other Projects

Other training projects completed in 2006 included an Operational Safety and Health Administration training in the area of infectious control and reporting, Federal Emergency Management's National Incident Management System training and a Defensive Driving for Emergency Vehicle Operations course.



*Paramedicine Training*



*April 9, 2006  
Chief Chappell congratulates the  
Academy Graduates.*

## **FACILITIES**

### **Planning for a new Station 3**

In 2006, the District focused on the planning for a new Fire Station 3 to be located adjacent to the existing Station 3. The station will be built next to the present site so operations will continue without interruption. The station's design is similar to Station 4 on Kinney Road. The plans have been submitted and construction is expected sometime in 2007.

### **Parking Lot Repairs**

Facilities located at 5030 S. Camino Verde, including the Administration, Station 1, and Training classroom, received parking lot repairs and increased amounts of parking spaces. The new parking lot is being used regularly by employees and visitors to our training classroom.



## **FLEET**

### **Squad Truck**

In 2006, Drexel Heights Fire District received a new rescue and special equipment truck called Squad 160. The Squad is a 2006 Spartan Diamond chassis and cab. It seats four firefighters in seats that have air packs built in so they can be ready to step off the truck and fight fire. It is a combined Hazardous Materials and Technical Rescue truck that also serves to refill air packs and provide extrication equipment. It carries various tools and equipment not found on most fire engines including specialized air



# Facilities/Fleet

monitors for the detection of weapons of mass destruction, radiological monitors, air sampling kits and decontamination items in the event someone has been exposed to something hazardous. The Squad truck provides the firefighters with resources to begin a confined space rescue, swift water rescue, vehicle stabilization, or high angle rescue. It has a generator which runs a multitude of electrical items that run on 110V or 220V. The Squad's light tower has 6 – 900 watt lights that are able to turn in any direction to light up anywhere around the truck. It also has a winch mounted in the front bumper that can be removed and placed in one of four hitch receivers on the truck allowing firefighters to winch or stabilize from any direction. The hydraulic extrication equipment runs off of the generator and has tools for cutting, spreading and pushing. The truck has four airbags which uses cylinder air power and is capable of lifting over 15 tons. Some of the specialized tools on the Squad include a cutting torch that cuts at over 8000° F, cordless drills and saws, hand and air cuttings tools. It has a work station built into the cab for hazardous materials research or command functions.

## **Pumper**

Also in 2006, the District received a brand new pumper. The pumper replaced an older version at Station 4. The new Engine 4 is a 2006 Enforcer chassis, built by Pierce in Wisconsin. It has the same engine as the squad truck, but holds 1000 gallons of water with a 1250 gallon per minute pump. It has an electronic “push button” pump panel that makes engineering during fire operations much simpler than the older pumpers. It has an 11K generator to run two light towers and supplies power to hydraulic extrication tools. The new Engine and the new Squad compliment each other in their abilities to provide electrical power to appliances, lights, and hand tools. The engine also holds 4 firefighters with air packs built into the seats. The newest change in this engine for Drexel Heights Fire District is the roll up doors all the way around it. These doors makes it safer for firefighters operating near traffic or in confined areas where full size swing out doors can be a hindrance.



Drexel Heights Fire District  
5030 S. Camino Verde  
Tucson, AZ 85735

### **2006 Customer Service Questionnaire Responses**

(When residents were randomly asked to provide comments about Drexel Heights Fire District, here is what they had to say)

Much appreciation for the interaction of firefighters in our community.  
We are very fortunate to have you in our neighborhood.  
Keep up the "excellent" work. Thanks!  
All of Mountainside Village residents find it hard to improve on perfection.  
The fireman and ambulance crew all worked together and were nice.  
Very nice and was not in a hurry to leave.  
Great group of helpful people.  
It is a comforting feeling when they appear at the door.  
We appreciate everything that was done to help  
They were such a comforting group of men at 2:30am. They knew just what to do and took good care of my husband. Thank you so much.  
Happy to be located in this District.

*Thank you on behalf of the Drexel Heights Fire District for all of the support we receive daily from our community. It is a pleasure to serve you.*