

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Chief David Fetty

INTRODUCTION:

If there is a single word that describes Morgantown, West Virginia it is **DYNAMIC!** The City continues to grow at a phenomenal rate. Once again, West Virginia University has attracted a record number of students. Numerous new businesses continue to open their doors for commerce. In almost every area of the City there are cranes and construction equipment excavating new building lots and constructing new buildings for a wide variety of purposes. Older existing buildings and areas of the City are undergoing revitalization and refurbishing! A major entry artery leading into the Sabraton section of the City is being reconstructed to handle the large influx of additional traffic bringing consumers and service providers into the City. The Ruby Hospital health care complex is growing by leaps and bounds. New hotels and cultural centers are under construction or have just opened to accommodate the thousands of new visitors to the City! Recreational facilities are being added and upgraded. All of this growth is providing the City with a record economic base, and that economic prosperity is providing stability and growth for the City itself. Clearly, **DYNAMIC** is the word!

If there is a single word that describes the Morgantown Fire Department, it is **CONSISTENT.** The consistency of the Department is reflected in the stability of its mission and those that contribute to that mission. The officers and members of the Morgantown Fire Department are very proud of their heritage and the commitment of those that have served on the Department during the last one-hundred plus years. Although the services provided by the Department have increased proportionate to the growth of the City, the dedication and professionalism established by the Department's predecessors continues. Many years ago, the primary responsibility of the Department was to control and mitigate the damages caused by fire. Consequently, the mission statement at that time was "We fight fire and save lives". Today, however, that mission statement is no longer entirely applicable. The Department has substantially broadened its purpose and the Department's current mission statement reflects the new philosophy:

WE WILL CONTINUALLY PREPARE OUR MINDS, OUR BODIES, AND OUR EQUIPMENT FOR OUR RESPONSE TO ALL EMERGENCIES REQUIRING OUR SERVICE. WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO IMPROVE OUR SERVICE THROUGHOUT OUR CAREERS, AND WE WILL NEVER FAIL IN OUR OBLIGATION TO DO SO.

Current Programs and Services:

Each member of the Morgantown Fire Department is primarily dedicated to one purpose and that is to respond to any emergency in which his or her expertise can help to prevent, control, or mitigate the adverse consequences of that incident. The Department fully understands that emergencies are subjective. What may not be an emergency for one person, may very well be an extremely traumatic event for another person. Therefore, the Department's philosophy is that when it is called for a response, it will assume that the event is an emergency situation for those requesting services and it will respond and do whatever can be done to minimize that emergency. This philosophy is based upon the golden rule of treating others as you would like to be treated. The wisdom of this philosophy can be appreciated by anyone who has ever had an emergency and received a prompt, effective response by a trained professional emergency service provider. Likewise, the wisdom of this philosophy is experienced by the Department's own members through the sincere appreciation conveyed by those who have received such service.

As might be expected, the scope of the Department's mission statement and philosophy is very challenging. It encompasses many emergency response services as well as many non-emergency services. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

Emergency Services Provided
Provided

Firefighting
Medical First Responder
Confined Space Rescue
Elevated Rescue
High Angle Rescue
Extrication
Hazardous Material Response
Water Rescue
Underwater Dive Response
Search and Rescue
Mutual Aid Responses
Scene Stabilization and Security
Flooding
Natural Disasters
Other General Emergency Responses

Non-emergency Services

Planning
Inspections
Plan Review
Code Enforcement
Arson Investigation
Public Education
Public Training
Public Appearance Services
Data and records
Counseling
Other Non-emergency Assists

Resources:

There are four resource types that contribute to the efficacy of the Department. They are facilities, apparatus, equipment, and personnel. The **facilities** are three stations, administrative offices, and storage. They include the following:

- Public Safety Building- Houses the administrative offices including the Fire Chief, Training Coordinator, Fire Marshal, and Department Secretary.
- Company 1 – Built in 1956, and serves as the main fire station. It is located on South High Street.
- Company 2 – Also built in 1956, this station provides first due engine response to the Sabraton area of the city.
- Company 3 – Built in 1949, this station provides first due engine response to the entire north end of the city.
- Wharf District Parking Garage – This storage area houses the Department’s rail/trail gator unit and other river response equipment.

The backbone of the Department’s response capability is the apparatus used to carry the necessary personnel and equipment to an emergency scene. The **apparatus** inventory includes the following:

STAFF VEHICLES	STATION ONE	STATION TWO
1999 Ford Expedition	2000 Pierce Engine	2000 Pierce Engine
2002 Jeep Cherokee	1988 Pierce Engine 4WD	1977 American LaFrance
2001 Jeep Cherokee	1991 Pierce Minipumper	1926 Seagrave Antique
	1996 Pierce Ladder Truck	2002 Ford F350 Pickup
	1978 American LaFrance Rescue	2002 Boston Whaler Boat
STATION THREE	WHARF PARKING GARAGE	
1994 Pierce Engine	2001 John Deere Gator	
1994 Chevy 1/2 ton Pickup	1960 Jon Boat	

The Department’s equipment inventory is extensive. It is fair to say that proportionate to its size, the Morgantown Fire Department is extremely well equipped and meets most of the ISO requirements for the listed apparatus. In addition, the Department has a well-equipped dive team and a hazardous material response team. Summarily, the amount of **equipment** utilized at the Department is far too great to include in this report.

Finally, the most important resource in the Department is its **personnel**. The Department continues to have a roster of 45 sworn members, one civilian secretary, and one very special volunteer clerical worker. This most valuable resource is distributed as follows:

Staff Personnel
 Chief David W. Fetty
 Capt. Humphreys (Fire Marshal)
 Capt. Graham (Training Coordinator)
 Debbie Tennant Secretary
 Toni Polentes Volunteer Assistant

A Crew
 Capt. Hill
 Lt. Custer
 Lt. Laskody
 FFC Dudley
 FFC Caravasos
 FFC Mellie
 FFC Sovastion
 FFC Jones
 FFC Jenkins
 FFC Lipscomb
 FFC Trentini
 FFC Tucker
 FF Quinn
 FF Fye

B Crew
 Capt. Caravasos
 Lt. Trevillian
 Lt. M. Rinehart
 FFC Cover
 FFC Blosser
 FFC Deem
 FFC Brandstetter
 FFC Tennant
 FFC Lemley
 FFC Blaker
 FFC Kennison
 FF Thalman
 FF Nicewarner
 FF Gano

C Crew
 Capt. Dzurnak
 Lt. T. Rinehart
 Lt. Bolyard
 FFC Campbell
 FFC Speicher
 FFC Bean
 FFC Murphy
 FFC Sharpe
 FFC Tolka
 FFC Pickenpaugh
 FFC Hunter
 FFC King
 FF Summers
 FF Zaroda

Review of Past Year's Activities:

It has been a fortunate year for Morgantown. The Fire Department responded to 2,387 emergency calls and no deaths attributed to fire were reported. Property loss, due to fire, is down as well from the previous year. In 2003, the property loss due to fire was \$1,361,500. This year, the property loss figure from fires is reported to be \$859,240 or a drop of approximately 37% over the previous year.

Fire related emergencies, however, comprised 35% of the Department's overall emergency responses. A breakdown of the entire **emergency responses** is as follows:

- Fire related responses = 847 or 35%
- Hazardous material responses = 45 or 2%
- Rescue/Medical responses = 707 or 30%
- Other emergency responses = 788 or 33%
- **TOTAL RESPONSES = 2,387 OR 100%**

The decrease in fire related property losses may be largely attributed to the Department's aggressive code enforcement activities. It is well known that the best way to control fire losses is to prevent fires from occurring. The following **Inspection/Code Enforcement** statistics demonstrate that premise:

- Total Inspections = 647
- # of Violations found = 632
- # of Corrections made = 480 or 76% of the violations found
- # of Citations issued = 25
- # of Life Safety Notices posted = 41
- # of Follow-up inspections required = 85
- # of Plans Reviewed for Fire Code compliance = 93
- Fire Lane warning citations issued = 103

The second most important step to take in order to prevent fires and the subsequent losses from fires is **Public Education**. The Morgantown Fire Department is equally aggressive in this area as well.

- Fire Safety Programs = 2,547 children and adults
- Fire Extinguisher Training = 57 people
- Other Public Relations events = 350 people
- Station Tours = 33
- Other public relations activities for which no numeric values can be assessed include: Veterans Day at METC, Special Olympics, 911 Observance, Morgantown AM Holiday Show, Funerals, Fire Drills at Ruby Hospital, Mon General Hospital, and WVU.

It has been said that exemplary results are the product of exemplary preparation. The Morgantown Fire Department is a true subscriber to this principle. The Department's Training program is unequalled in West Virginia.

- Total training hours for this year = 14,322 (up by 1,483 over last year)
- The average firefighter now receives 318 hours of training per year as opposed to the 285 hours per firefighter reported last year.
- This training encompasses 50 separate training categories
- Multi-company training = 357 hours (A crew = 111, B crew = 124, and C crew = 122)
- Certified training received from outside agencies = 2,202 hours. This certified training included 29 different courses.
- The Morgantown Fire Department instructors provided training to 10 other agencies. Included in these 10 agencies were 211 people.

Every new recruit firefighter is required to complete an Apprenticeship Program outlined by the West Virginia Department of Labor. This program includes 6,000 hours of training, instruction, and testing. Upon completion, and prior to becoming a Journeyman Firefighter, each candidate must pass a written examination given by the Department of Labor. This year, the Department had three firefighters complete the program and receive their Journeyman Certificate.

In addition to all of the other described training, some of the Department's members continue to pursue advanced degrees from West Virginia University and other learning institutions. One member will complete his Master's Degree in Safety Management in December of this year. Per capita, Morgantown Fire Department is one of the more highly educated Fire Departments in the State.

Opportunities and Plans:

In 1999, the Department offered to Council a growth plan proposal. Since then, Council has studied the merits of the plan. A special committee has also been appointed by the City Manager to study this issue. Common areas of concern are: a new North Side Fire Station, additional manning, and a second aerial truck in the City. Remaining questions concern time frames for implementation, number of stations, location of those stations, and manning levels.

The year of 2005 could be a pivotal year for the Fire Department. Answers to the above questions could have a dramatic effect upon the operations of the Department as well as the future planning for the Department. It is important that a definitive plan for the Fire Department be approved in the near future.

Summary:

Morgantown is indeed a fortunate City. It has experienced sustained growth in the last several years with much more on the horizon. This growth is producing substantial economic prosperity now and a sustained economic tax base for the future. This is a tribute to the leadership of the City.

This 2004 Annual Report demonstrates the efforts put forth by those serving on the Morgantown Fire Department, and the results that they have been able to achieve. It is the Department's hope that the 2005 Annual Report will continue to describe the City as being **DYNAMIC!** Equally important, it is the hope of the Department that the 2005 Annual Report will describe the Fire Department as continuing to be **CONSISTENT** in its mission.