

# Glasgow Fire Department 2010 Review

Our total number of responses for 2010 was 852. In comparison, for 2009, our total responses was 796, 2008 was 741, 2007 was 774, and 2006 was 845. This shows an increase of 56 runs from our previous year, or an increase of about 7%.

Breakdowns of the responses categories are as follows:

Fire responses: this includes building fire or structure fires, machinery fires, motor vehicles fire, and grass or brush fires

2010 – 77 responses versus 85 responses in 2009

Rescue and emergency medical service incidents: this would include EMS calls and motor vehicle accidents

2010 – 278 responses versus 251 responses in 2009

Service calls: this would include persons in distress, home lockouts, water situations, and assist police department

2010 – 201 responses versus 196 responses in 2009

False alarm and false calls: this would include fire alarm system malfunctions, alarm activations with no fire, unintentional activation, and malicious false calls

2010 – 139 responses versus 119 responses in 2009

Hazardous condition with no fire: this would include any type of flammable liquid spill, natural gas leak, and carbon monoxide incidents

2010 – 23 responses versus 40 responses in 2009

Good intent calls: this would include dispatched and cancelled en route, smoke scare, or Haz Mat investigations

2010 – 129 responses versus 94 responses in 2009

In comparing our building fires, in 2010 we responded to 19 fires with a loss of \$278,000 versus 16 fires in 2009 with a loss of \$217,000. We are showing a decrease in actual fire runs, down 8 runs, the decrease appears in our outside rubbish and dumpster fires.

Our biggest increase in responses is our rescue and emergency medical incidents. We are up 27 responses in this category. The biggest increase is in the area of assist EMS. This area increased from 124 in 2009, to 157 in 2010.

Our reports show that there were seven (7) civilian casualties with minor injuries. Five (5) of these injuries occurred due to exposure to fire products, and two (2) minor injuries were reported due to a chemical spill.

There was no firefighter injuries listed for 2010.

An analysis of our responses for 2010, showed that Friday is the busiest day for the department, and Monday and Wednesday, tied for the second busiest day. Saturday was our slowest day in 2010.

It also showed that our response time overall for a reported structure fire was 3 minutes and 28 seconds.

The department continues to provide general fire inspections to the cities businesses and industries. It appears that our Inspectors performed about 150 general fire inspections within the city. Our numbers are down from previous years, due to minimum staffing issues that occurred during the year. Our reports indicate about 51 violations were noted during the inspections. These would include exit signs and emergency lighting not working, means of egress not clear of obstructions, and hood or sprinkler systems not inspected.

Our Inspection Program does make a difference in our community, and is one of our best tools in working with our local industries and businesses. When we perform a general fire inspection, we are not only citing violations, but we are able to educate the building managers on fire prevention information that they can use to protect their employees and facility.

The department has made good use of the fire training center located at 121 Beaver Trail. For 2010, the training center was utilized about 180 days. The center was used by not only the fire department, but the Glasgow Police Department, Glasgow/Barren County LEPC, Barren-Metcalf County EMS, Glasgow Water Company, State Fire-Rescue Training, Barren County CERT, Barren County VFD's, and WKU-Paramedic Class.

The department was able to complete the third phase of the training centers burn room at Beaver Trail. All of the funding, approximately \$215,000, was provided by the Kentucky State Fire Commission, for the project. The burn liner for the 2 story burn room was installed, and has now been used by all 3 shifts at the department. We are working with our area volunteer fire department's to expand their involvement in using the training center to better utilize the facility.

The department continues to provide fire prevention programs throughout the community. This includes fire extinguisher classes for facilities, and usually involves a classroom presentation, followed by the class participants extinguishing an actual fire. Since 2009, the department conducted station tours, fire extinguisher classes, and fire related programs, with approximately 4614 participants. One of our annual events is conducted with the Safe Kids/Safe Communities Coalition, where we partner with Papa Johns Pizza for one night in October, and when a pizza is ordered within the city limits, one of our fire engines goes to the residence with the Papa Johns delivery, and if they have a working

smoke detector, they receive a coupon for a free pizza. If they do not have a working smoke detector, then the firefighters install a smoke detector, or change the batteries in their existing detectors. We continue to annually support the Farm Safety Days held at the Temple Hill Lions Club Fairgrounds, and provide fire safety programs to over 400 students by using our fire safety house.

The department must provide 100 hours of training for our firefighters to be eligible for the state training incentive. Battalion Chief Atwood co-ordinates the department's training program, and in 2010, our firefighters averaged 150 hours of training. This past fall, Glasgow partnered with the Bowling Green Fire Department on our annual trench rescue training. This has been an ongoing joint training initiative, and this year the Bowling Green Fire Department attended all 3 days of training, and were able to bring their trench rescue equipment to Glasgow for the training. Also participating was the Bowling Green Municipal Utilities, and the Glasgow Water Company.

In 2010, the department was awarded a Kentucky Homeland Security Grant for almost \$46,000. This funding was used to replace all of the department's mobile and portable radios. This project was initiated to allow the department to utilize a digital radio frequency, with the efforts concentrating on improving communications with our firefighters. We were also able to purchase enough portable radios to assign personnel for our 2 reserve fire engines. This allows everyone on a response to have a portable radio. Although, we have seen improvements in being able to communicate in building that before we were unable to talk with our dispatch center, we are still working to clear up some of the clarity involved in the radio speech. We were able to work with the vendor, and have secured enough funding to replace the existing antenna and cabling kit.

Also, the new fire engine that was purchased by the city was placed in-service in November. The new engine has greatly improved the safety for our firefighters, by allowing us to move a 1990 model fire engine to a reserve status. We are also able to carry 1000 gallons of water on the new truck, versus only 500 gallons of water that was carried on the 1990 truck. We are able to, if you would, find a home for all the equipment that is now carried on the trucks. We were able to double the amount of compartment space on the new truck.

With the new truck in service, we moved the Ladder from the first out apparatus for medical, vehicle accidents, and all fire responses, to the second out piece of apparatus. This move has greatly limited the number of runs the Ladder is required to make a response, in an effort to extend the service life of the Ladder. We have also moved the Station 2 officer to the new truck to provide for a supervisor to be on the majority of the responses made by Station 2.

The main goal for 2011 is to provide the First Responder training for the entire department. We have been working closely with State Fire Rescue Training, and the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, to develop a teaching and

testing strategy to properly train all of the firefighters. We are seeing an increase in the number of runs in which we are called to back up the ambulance service, and also an increase in the runs, where our engines are dispatched to an EMS call and no ambulance is available until they complete their assigned response. As this is a national certified testing process, there is a fee involved in the classroom presentation, and testing process.

Our dispatch center continues to see an increase in the number of 911 calls they receive. The number of fire related calls has gone up from 3384 calls in 2008, to over 3900 calls in 2010. Our dispatchers are seeing an increase in the number of cell phone calls used to report an incident, versus the use of a hard line. This appears to be increasing the amount of time a dispatcher has to keep the caller on the line to obtain the needed information to pinpoint the caller's location in order to dispatch the proper responding agency. Director Harbison is to be commended for the efficiency and professionalism displayed daily at our 911 Center.

In closing, I must commend each firefighter of the Glasgow Fire Department. Each day they are challenged to respond to a situation where we are asked to make a difference or change an outcome affecting someone's life. They serve the public each day in a sincere and professional manner. We are indeed blessed to live in a community where our entire emergency services agencies work together to serve the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobby Bunnell, Chief  
Glasgow Fire Department