

## Emergency Management



Coordinator Rita Hoffman said that Emergency Management was busy as it developed a special needs registry; coordinated the Community Emergency Response Team Program; continued Safe Neighborhood disaster planning, preparedness and survival approach for homes and businesses; created a City employee illness tracking mechanism for public health emergencies; maintained Olathe's outdoor warning system and its

34 sirens; and updated the City's emergency operations plan. Other notables:

- Implemented an agreement with First Student, Inc. (transportation solutions) about disaster planning and response.
- Continued local and regional preparedness initiatives including special partnerships.
- Completed a disaster damage assessment exercise between City and County government.

## Our mission



More than 300 people prepared themselves and their families for disaster by attending new or refresher CERT courses.



To continuously protect and preserve life and property through excellence in training, community risk management, disaster preparedness and rapid emergency services response.

## Retirees

Fire Chief George Bentley, 25 years  
 Captain Terry Wood, 31 years  
 Firefighter Carl Frohmberg, 24 years  
 Office Manager Effie Long, 11 years



## Total fire loss

Olathe's per capita fire property loss is \$40.35 per square foot as compared to \$56.90 for the midwest region.



## Retired Fire Chief George F. Bentley

Chief Bentley retired in late 2009 after nearly 40 years in the fire service. He arrived in Olathe in 1985 as a battalion chief and worked through the ranks to become fire chief in 1994. Bentley's dedication and vision were instrumental to Olathe's emergency services.

## Phone and web

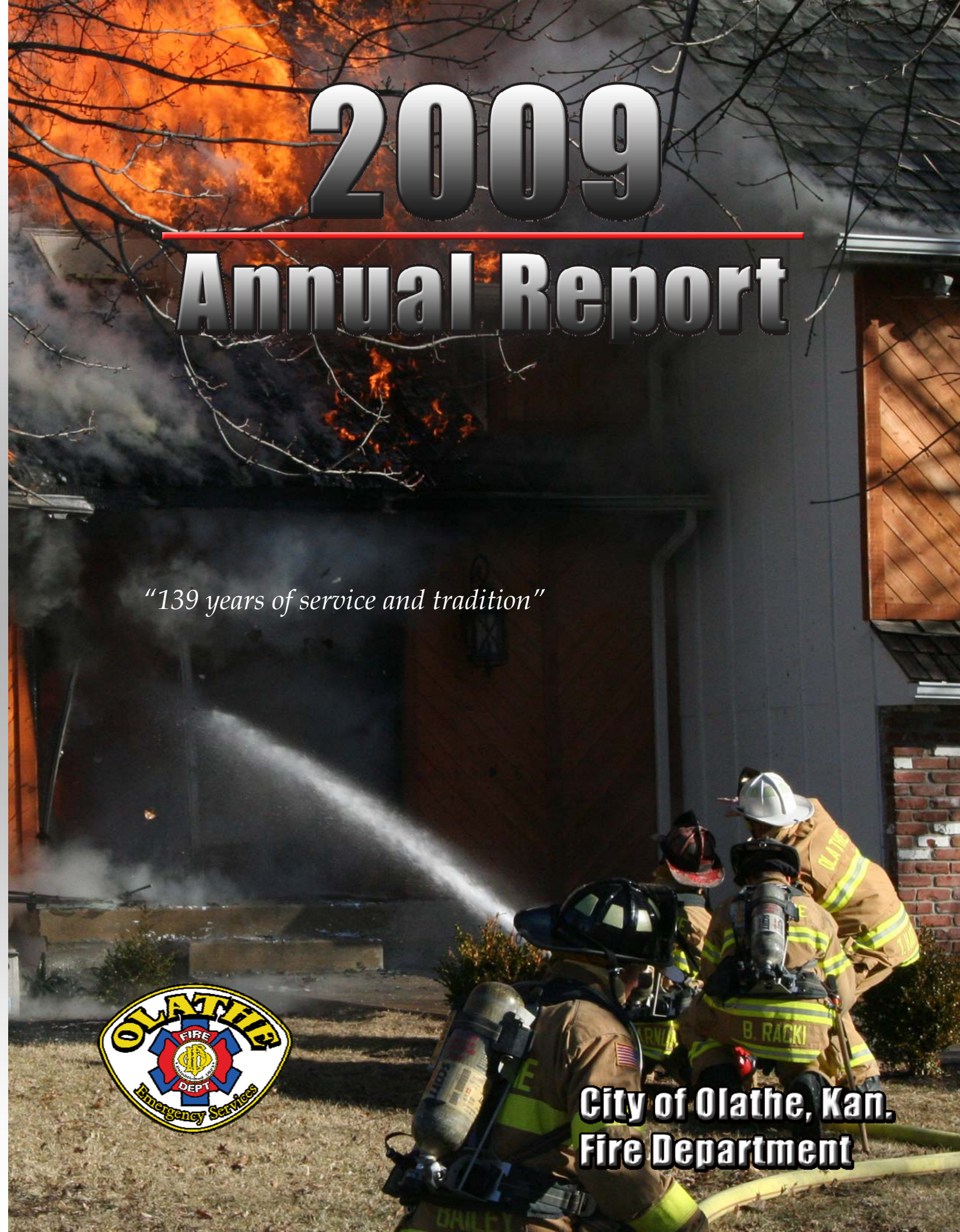
Emergency ..... 911  
 Emergency ..... 911  
 Emergency TDD/TTY..... 911  
 Non-Emergency ..... (913) 971-6333  
 Emergency Management..... (913) 971-7943  
 Visit us at: [www.OlatheKS.org/Fire](http://www.OlatheKS.org/Fire)  
 Kids can see us at: [www.OlatheKids.org](http://www.OlatheKids.org)  
 Find us on: [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com)

# 2009 Annual Report

*"139 years of service and tradition"*



**City of Olathe, Kan.  
Fire Department**



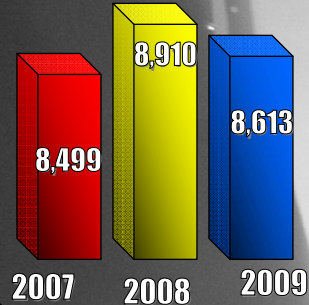
# About us

Established in 1871, we provide an array of emergency and non-emergency services. Each day, at least 28 firefighters, working from eight fire trucks, serve Olathe from seven fire stations. Firefighters work 24-hour shifts on three different, rotating shifts. Firefighters are on-duty at all times, even holidays.

All Olathe firefighters are emergency medical technicians or paramedics. Members also deliver professional services such as public education, logistics, emergency management, fire inspections, fire investigations, explosive ordnance disposal and more.

The 2009 DirectionFinder Survey shows the quality of police, fire and ambulance services as one of our resident's top priorities. It also indicated a 92% overall satisfaction with those services.

## Alarms: calls for service

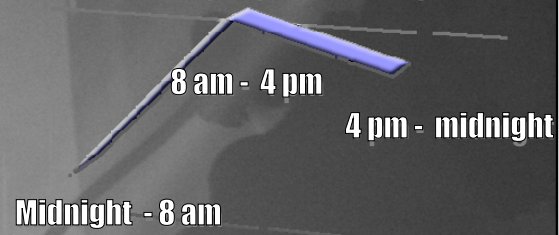


## EVERY

**22 seconds**  
a fire department  
responds to a fire  
in the U.S.

Our two most common alarms/calls for service are **emergency medical** and **fire**.

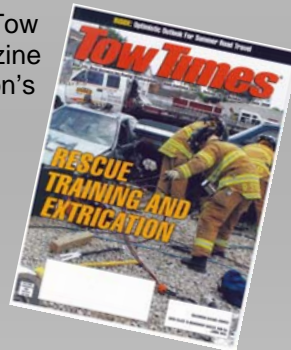
## Alarms: When people need help



October 16, 2009 marked the five year anniversary of the tragic Orr fire that claimed the lives of Matthew, Rebecca, Benjamin, Jeremiah and Kyle. Community donations funded a memorial with smoke alarm reminder at Haven Park in honor of the fallen family. Daughter and sister, Kameron (Kami) Orr, stands next to the memorial.



Featured in Tow Times magazine alongside Don's Body Shop.



## Training



Battalion Chief of Training and Safety Ed Reschke said Department members completed more than 15,000 clock hours of training and established a safety officer program to help make emergency operations safer.

Firefighters trained on fire suppression (home, business, high-rise, etc.); emergency medical services; ropes and knots; extrication; utilities; water and ice emergencies; search and rescue; aircraft emergencies; hazardous materials; public education; mutual aid training with other emergency agencies; and much more.

Other noteworthy training initiatives were the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program; NFA and Emergency Management Institute courses; University of Kansas' Emerging Leaders Academy; Mid-America Regional Council offerings; Leadership Olathe; specialized classes such as trench rescue, and others.

Fire Marshal Brad Henson said prevention staff:

- Completed 3,519 fire and life safety inspections/plan reviews.
- Performed 456 "no smoking" sign installations and four smoking consultations; and issued one citation.
- Received 205 reports of illegal fireworks activity.
- Investigated 150 fires.
- Presented the five-visit, Third Grade Fire & Life Safety Program to 2,096 third graders – that's 25,159 kids since 1994.
- Coordinated the six-visit, Adopt-A-School Program to 33 schools.
- Taught 2,083 second graders safety using the Fire Safety House.
- Protected about 500 children with free bike helmets.
- Helped coordinate the Mahaffie House fire sprinkler installation project: funded by the Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund and Board of County commissioners.



About 70% of fire and life safety inspections are in commercial occupancies.

"Also, (smoke alarm) battery check revealed five dead batteries – thank you for the reminder!!!"  
Parent on the Third Grade Fire & Life Safety Program

Established in 1999, our Special Operations Group provides professional response to three disciplines: technical rescue, hazardous materials and explosive ordnance disposal (bomb squad). SOG is made up of 36 specially trained firefighters.

Our technical rescue services include confined space, trench, high angle, swift water, breaking and breaching of heavy objects and structural collapse. We are also one of four metropolitan fire departments who make up the Kansas City region's heavy rescue team.

In 2009, SOG:

- Completed nationally recognized rescue "technician" level training in five skill areas.
- Trained with other specialists from the Kansas City metropolitan area and across Kansas.
- Completed 3,410 hours of special rescue training.
- Received funding from the Urban Area Securities Initiative through the Mid-America Regional Council.



"Bomb techs" worked 57 explosive ordnance incidents.



The "haz-mat" team works from Station 2 and uses a specialized truck called "Haz-Mat 52."

## Technical rescue services

rope	confined space	extrication	trench	building collapse	water	boat handling