

2006 Annual Report



Strength

Honor

Compassion

Message from the Fire Chief

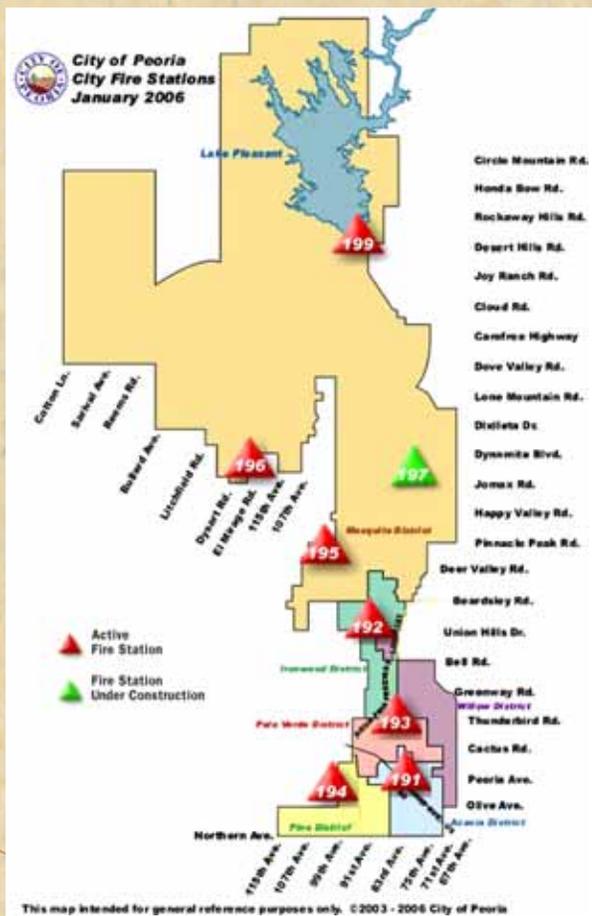
Over the last several years the Peoria Fire Department has come to expect that managing growth will be a critical part of what we do. 2006 proved to be one of the most significant growth years to date. We started off the year with the grand opening of our sixth fire station, a three-bay neighborhood station serving the north-west portion of our city. By fall we had sent sixteen new firefighter recruits to the fire academy in preparation for adding our seventh station – a station we both designed and began construction of in 2006. By the end of the year we had also added three battalion chiefs and three battalion support officers in order to deploy a second full-time battalion in the city; and we began making preparations to stand up a second ladder company, and hire an additional 13 personnel for that unit. We have been fortunate to be afforded the resources to expand our fire and life safety service provision to meet the city's demands. As a result, Peoria continues to be one of the safest communities in the Valley.



Robert McKibben

Robert McKibben
Peoria Fire Chief

Emergency management was the other focus area in which we made significant progress in 2006. Potential threats to our community including terrorism, pandemic illnesses, and natural disasters have been recognized as bona fide risks to the wellbeing of our city. The Fire Department has taken the lead in preparing the city and its citizens to respond effectively to these potential dangers. For instance, the department added three terrorism liaison officers (TLO) through a partnership with the Arizona Department of Emergency Management. These firefighters will spend approximately 40 hours per month working on Arizona counter terrorism activities. The department also provided emergency operations training for all city directors and managers and hosted a pandemic tabletop exercise in conjunction with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health. It is clear that our emergency management program will continue to grow to meet ever increasing needs in this area.



All of this growth and expansion, especially into relatively new territory, has been exciting for the department. Our labor/management relations have remained strong and have been integral to effectively managing all of the new and expanded activities. Further, the support we receive from the citizens of Peoria, the Mayor and City Council, and the executive management team allow us to continue to provide the highest level of service possible. We look forward to 2007 and the new challenges ahead.

We hope you find the 2006 annual report interesting and informative. Thank you for your continued interest and support.



Statistics

City Information

Land Area – 185 square miles
Population – 139,000
Firefighters Per 1000 Population – .91
Sworn Personnel – 133
Civilian Personnel – 24

Fire Community Services

Community Events Held – 31
Elementary Students Instructed on Fire and Life Safety Related Topics – 8,375
Existing Occupancies Inspected – 2052
New Construction Inspections – 3360
Permits Issued – 327
Fire Investigations Conducted – 41
Two Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) Trained

Fire Operations

Total Calls – 12700
Fire Calls – 1182
EMS Calls – 10900
Service and Other Calls – 618
Average Response Time – 4:41

Budget

2006-2007 Operating – \$17.5 million
2006-2007 Capital – \$7.3 million

Equipment & Facilities

Stations – 6 Full-time
1 Part-time

- 1 Fire Administration Building
- 6 Fire Engines (front-line)
- 2 Fire Engines (reserve)
- 1 Ladder Truck
- 1 Ladder Tender
- 1 Technical Rescue Support Truck
- 2 Brush Trucks
- 1 Fire Boat
- 2 Battalion Command Vehicles

Award Recipients

JOHN VALENTINE AWARD

:: *Dino Piazza*

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

:: *John Davirro*

ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

:: *David Lopez*

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

:: *Mandy Garner*

EMT OF THE YEAR

:: *Gregory Serrano Jr.*

PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR

:: *Joe Manning*

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

:: *Bill Bjerke*

COMPANY OF THE YEAR : L191B

:: *Danny Comella* :: *Tony Neely*

:: *Shane Burdick* :: *Cyrus Joy*

UNIT CITATIONS : E194C

:: *Ken Wier* :: *Chris Blundon*

:: *Marty Burdsal* :: *Rick Scaife*

UNIT CITATIONS : E191B

:: *Gary Bernard* :: *Vinny Ciulla*

:: *Saul Salinas* :: *Scott McAllister*

INDIVIDUAL CITATION

:: *Bob Groholski*

FIRE MEDAL

:: *Doug Corrie*

MEDAL OF VALOR

:: *Darin Moran*

LABOR MANAGEMENT COINS

:: *Mark Nichols* :: *Billy Morris*

CHIEF'S AWARDS

:: *George Weston* :: *Kim Drabik*

:: *Larry Rooney*



Services

The following describes the breadth of programs and services provided by each of the four divisions of the Peoria Fire Department:

The Fire Administration Division provides leadership, long-range planning, budget development, financial management, personnel, payroll, and contracts administration, interdepartmental coordination, grants and project management, information technology coordination, and general customer service, in order to ensure the efficient daily operations of the Fire Department.

The Fire Community Services Division provides inspection services, plan review, issuance of permits, fire code enforcement, fire cause investigations, internal safety investigations, citizen safety awareness programs, public fire education, public information services, and fire department community relations events.

The Fire Support Services Division is responsible for computer aided dispatch coordination and database maintenance; capital construction; facility and equipment maintenance and repair, including fleet; EMS administration including supply acquisition, EMS training and certification, ambulance transportation coordination, and emergency preparedness/homeland security programming.

The Fire Operations Division provides fire protection, emergency medical services, and technical rescue; as well as the delivery of continuing education in fire suppression and rescue, and supervisory and managerial development. The Operations Division currently staffs six pumper trucks with paramedic capabilities and one ladder truck with fire support and technical rescue capabilities (i.e. swift water, trench, confined space and high angle rescue).



Peoria Fire Department *Mission*

We are committed to protecting and caring for our neighbors, our guests, and each other while maintaining the community's trust and respect through superior life safety services.

Accomplishments

:: The Peoria Fire Department presented Centex Homes with a Golden Sprinkler Safety Award in August 2006 for voluntarily including residential fire sprinklers as a standard feature in all of their homes in the Sweetwater Heights subdivision located in the heart of Peoria.

:: Governor Janet Napolitano visited Fire Station 191 and presented the department with a special recognition award.



:: During the Peoria Firefighter Charities 2006 Holiday Programs, toys were given away to 265 children; a BBQ dinner, hot chocolate and entertainment were provided to 83 families; and gifts and breakfast were provided to 53 senior citizens of the Rosa Linda Apartments in Peoria.

:: Completed remodel of the kitchen and bathrooms at Fire Station #3.

:: The Peoria Fire Department and Peoria Firefighters Charities won an honorable mention award at the 14th Annual Best of the West Awards for their collaborative customer service efforts.

:: In 2006, the Peoria Fire Department's wildland teams were deployed to 25 wildland fires throughout the State of Arizona, and as far as Utah and Montana. The deployments were assigned through the Central Arizona Wildland Response Team (CAWRT), a multi-jurisdictional partnership formed to assist the State Land Department with firefighting efforts.



:: Three captains were promoted into new battalion chief positions, establishing the Peoria Fire Department's second battalion.

:: In February 2006, the Peoria Fire Department held a graduation ceremony for 102 3rd grade students at Santa Fe Elementary School who successfully completed the Fill the Boot with Books Program. The Fill the Boot with Books Program was started to encourage children to read and provide positive role models in their lives and for each child to read 25 books in a two month time frame.

:: The Peoria Firefighter's Charities and the Peoria Fire Department hosted a free swim and safety day at the Centennial High School pool on Memorial Day. The kids were shown a mock drowning demonstration by the Peoria Fire Department, Southwest Ambulance, and Peoria lifeguards.

:: Peoria Firefighters raised four thousand dollars for the Phoenix Children's Hospital in the name of twelve year old Josh Munoz, son of a Peoria Fire Department Battalion Chief. Soon after Josh was diagnosed with Burkitt Lymphoma members of the Peoria Fire Department banded together to hold fund raisers in the name of Josh and shaved their heads to support the Munoz family. After some rigorous treatment Josh was declared cancer free in time for his thirteenth Birthday in December.



:: The Peoria Fire Department provided an opportunity to tour the inside of a home that was involved on a fire in April 2006. This gave the public a unique opportunity to experience the devastation caused by a house fire through sight, smell, and touch, and provided a great opportunity to reinforce fire safety in the community.

:: In May the Peoria Fire Department and the Peoria Firefighters Charities honored 77 sixth graders from Peoria Elementary School with a BBQ luncheon and presented them with certificates for completing the CPR in the Schools Program. Each student spent eight hours learning CPR and what actions to take if a medical emergency took place in their home.

:: The Fire Department broke ground on Peoria Fire Station #7 on October 13, 2006. The 10700 sq.ft. three bay neighborhood fire station will also house a police office and community room. It is anticipated that the station will be completed in late summer 2007.



:: During the month of May, Peoria firefighters visited local schools to read *Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim* and share important water safety information with the children. Following their visit the firefighters donated the book to the school library.

:: On February 10th and 11th the Peoria Fire Department hosted the 3rd annual Lake Pleasant Wildland Fire Exercise in preparation for the 2006 fire season. The drill has become a staple of west valley training, due to the unique overnight format which simulates wild fire conditions, and the dynamic training modules ranging from sand table simulations to actually using fire as a defensive tool.

:: The Training Division conducted the 5th Annual Peoria Regional Battalion Chief Academy which focuses on the development of chief executive fire officers. The keynote speaker was Jerry Colangelo, CEO of the Phoenix Suns.



:: Purchased a new 2006 American La France Engine; a 1250 GPM pump with compressed air foam. It will be put into service at Fire Station #1.



:: The department added three terrorism liaison officers (TLO) through a partnership with the Arizona Department of Emergency Management.

:: An EOC 101 Presentation was given during the Director's Staff Meeting in May. Follow up Emergency Operation's Training was conducted in August for all Directors and Managers. This training included an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) walk through and Q&A session.

:: On August 30, 2006, a Pandemic Tabletop Exercise was hosted by the City of Peoria in conjunction with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health. There were over 120 participants in attendance. This exercise was developed to evaluate our response to a potential pandemic within the City of Peoria.



:: The Peoria Fire Department joined thousands of fire departments across the United States and Canada for the 2006 International Fire Fighter Safety Stand Down. For several days in June Peoria Fire Department members suspended all non-emergency activity to focus on fire fighter safety, responding to all emergency calls as normal, but between calls, they conducted safety training and drills; reviewed safety-related standard operating procedures; discussed accident reports and had an open conversation about fire fighter safety in the department.

:: 16 new recruits graduated from the fire academy in 2006.

