

# Ashmont Fire Department

## 2010 Annual Report

Written By: Deputy Chief James Preston

### Equipment

A project started in 2009 was completed at the beginning of 2010. This project being the purchase of a new off-road firefighting unit for our department. Work on planning for the unit had begun in 2009, when after a trial use of a unit similar in concept was tested with great success. With help from the County of St. Paul, Province, local community groups, and fund raising by our department members, funds were raised to purchase the unit. The new unit is a Polaris Ranger 6x6 with a high pressure foam system in the box capable of knocking down fires very quickly. The firefighting skid in the back is easily removed to make this unit also capable of performing rescues in remote areas where ambulances cannot get close enough to the patient. This unit will be extremely beneficial to the residents, and visitors to the County of St. Paul. Other new equipment received in 2010 included a replacement for our Unit # 42. Unit 42 was a old ambulance used to transport medical equipment, MVC equipment, and also spare SCBA's and extra breathing air for firefighters. In the spring of 2010 the county replaced one of the ambulances it owns, that is used by the St. Paul and District Ambulance. They now had a old ambulance which they did not use. It was decided by the county to donate the ambulance to our fire department, which would replace our aging unit. Beginning in 2010 we also started a bunker gear replacement program, that will see us purchase two new sets of bunker gear every year. Through this we hope that all gear will be circulated and all older gear will be replaced before it has reached the end of its life use.



### New Members

Two new members joined this year; Jimmy McGonigal, and Chris Gratton.

### Members Leaving

In the same year that he joined Jimmy left and joined the St. Paul Fire Dept.

### Officers

There were no changes to officers this year.

## Dept. Functions

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - held at the Ashmont Agri-Plex, tickets were sold for the event, a supper, dance and silent auction were also held to raise money for our new unit.

Summer Party - a BBQ was held at the Ashmont Seniors Stillwater Retreat

Christmas Party - festivities were held at the fire hall before Christmas

## Community Involvement

Community involvement in 2010 kept us very busy. We held a number of tours of the fire hall, which included the Mom's and Tot's, kindergarten classes, and also the Grade 1 classes from Ashmont Elementary for Fire Prevention Week. In March we bar-tended the Ashmont Mom's and Tot's Ladies Night Out. Some of our members were also auctioned off at the event to help raise money for the group. At Heritage Days this year we cooked and served a pancake breakfast in the morning, and participated in the Parade following. Hose-laying was held in the afternoon, with 12 teams participating including some from as far away as Glendon. In fall time we opened up the fire hall for trick or treaters at Halloween with over forty ghouls and goblins stopping by for a visit. We also bar tended another community event in October, and also participated in the Remembrance Day ceremonies on November 11.



## Training

Regular in-house training continued in 2010 for the department, held every 4th Monday of the month. This training includes hose handling, pump operator training, ladders, rescues, first-aid, MVC, and also classroom, and map-reading. Starting this year we also began learning, and practicing the new address system being implemented by the County of St. Paul. This new address system has made it much easier to find a incident location, especially in non-fire situations. Accredited training received by our members included a S-1000 course held in Bonnyville. This course was attended by three of our members, and included training in fire extinguisher's, fire cause and origin, and incident pre-planning.





## Calls for 2010

In 2010 we responded to 37 calls. These calls are as follows:

- 10 - MVC
- 7 - Structure Fire
- 9 - Outside Fire
- 1 - Vehicle Fire
- 5 - Other
- 3 - Mutual Aid
- 2 - Medical

**Average Response Time:** 19.69 minutes (Avg. distance traveled 15.8km)

### Notables:

- 2 structure fires in Ashmont were attempted arson and both fires caused minimal damage to properties (arsonist was caught by RCMP but could not be charged due to his age)
- responded to St.Paul twice for mutual aid, first was because St.Paul was on multiple calls, and second was for Hansen Hotel fire
- number of false alarms increased this year
- Mallaig tanker responded 5 times, and placed on standby another 3
- had to borrow a member's boat to perform a water rescue as there is currently no water rescue available in our area

## Looking Ahead

The biggest story for us in 2010 was the increase in calls over the last few years. It has begun to become a pattern that the number of calls we respond to continue to increase, not only in volume but complexity. These calls could range from a regular fire, MVC, water rescue, medical aid, or even a dangerous goods response. Having to respond to different types of calls has meant the equipment and training we have has become more diverse. Largely we have kept up to these changes, but it places added strain on everything in the system. Due to the fact that we must house a large variety of equipment and train for endless types of emergency scenarios, a weakness was identified. This weakness was the size of our current firehall. Currently our firehall cannot fit all the equipment we have and facilitate a safe training environment. Some of our current equipment cannot even be housed in our hall (ie: Polaris 6x6). The cramped quarters has also made it very unsafe and impractical to perform some training that needs to be done in the winter months. Seeing that this was a issue not only for us but for Mallaig also, the county staff has decided to begin to research into building new halls in Ashmont, and Mallaig. Their is currently no time line but it is anticipated that this will take place sometime in the next three years.

Recruitment and retention continues to be a ongoing issue for not only us, but many volunteer fire departments. Our most effective way is still by building relationships

with members of the community, and explaining the importance of the services we provide. Many longtime community residents still do not understand how we operate, or the services we perform. It is usually not until they have a emergency happen to them that they realize what we actually do, and how helpful we can be. This is partly why we try to be as visible as possible to the community and participate in as many community events as possible. Through this we hope to be able to interest people in the benefit of serving their community, and their neighbor's and family that reside within it.





Date	Type	Time	On Scene	Location	Guys	Total Hours	Comments/Dept. Attending
01/09/10	Other	11:28 am	11:43 am	15 Lottie Lake	5	8.5	EMS responded as owner was on oxygen
01/23/10	Structure Fire	01:31 pm	01:42 pm	11 Ashmont	8	18	Mallaig responded along with RCMP and EMS
01/24/10	Structure Fire	12:49 am	12:56 am	7 Ashmont	6	18	Flare-up of previous structure fire
01/30/10	Medical assist	06:30 pm	06:35 pm	5 Ashmont	4	2	Lift assist Radios not working called land line
02/03/10	MVC	03:00 pm	N/A	Hwy 36	6	6	
03/08/10	Outside Fire	09:54 pm	10:23 pm	9 Lakes Ranch	6	6	Brush Piles Burning
03/09/10	Outside Fire	06:02 am	06:15 am	13 Lakes Ranch	3	1.5	Same location
03/18/10	MVC	07:36 am	07:52 am	16 Hwy 28	7	7	
04/03/10	Mutual Aid	05:04 pm	05:31 pm	27 St. Paul	7	10.5	Town of St. Paul, St. Paul out on other call
04/07/10	Medical assist	09:52 am	10:19 am	27 Mcloed Beach	4	4	Cardiac Arrest Bad directions delayed response
04/09/10	MVC	12:31 pm	12:53 pm	22 Hwy 28	5	10	Bad April storm
04/19/10	Outside Fire	12:02 pm	12:33 pm	31 Micky Murray	7	28	Brush Piles got away had permit
04/20/10	Outside Fire	02:57 pm	N/A	Saddle Lake	4	4	Fire in saddle lake did nothing Vilna also there
04/22/10	Outside Fire	09:06 pm	N/A	Hwy 28	9	9	
05/01/10	Mutual Aid	10:39 pm	11:03 pm	24 St. Paul	7	38.5	Hanson Hotel
05/09/10	MVC	07:02 am	07:30 am	28 McRae	7	10.5	
05/15/10	Outside Fire	02:35 pm	03:08 pm	33 Tchirs	6	36	Mallaig also
05/24/10	Structure Fire	03:14 pm	03:28 pm	14 Ashmont	6	9	Fire started in basement of abandoned building
06/21/10	Structure Fire	05:13 pm	05:26 pm	13 Ashmont	7	10.5	another abandoned house fire
06/27/10	Other	09:35 am	09:44 am	9 Hwy 28	6	18	Gas from ruptured fuel tank on hiway
07/17/10	Vehicle Fire	09:24 pm	N/A	Cork Hall	3	3	
07/25/10	Outside Fire	12:44 am	N/A	Mann Lake	4	4	could not locate fire
07/29/10	Outside Fire	02:40 am	N/A	Hwy 28	6	6	could not locate fire
08/29/10	MVC	12:03 pm	12:15 pm	12 Hwy 28 & 36	4	22	
09/10/10	Other	12:21 pm	N/A	Ashmont	2	1	Alarms at Ashmont school stood down
09/12/10	MVC	05:21 am	05:46 am	25 Twp 594	7	10.5	
10/01/10	Mutual Aid	02:30 pm	N/A	Sloan's	5	18	
10/09/10	MVC	11:09 am	11:23 am	14 RR 115	4	4	
10/16/10	Other	04:20 pm	04:29 pm	9 Mann Lake	7	14	water rescue @ mann Lake HARD TO FIND BOAT
10/23/10	MVC	09:49 pm	10:09 pm	20 RR 120	6	9	

11/11/10	Outside Fire	03:00 pm	03:18 pm	18	Cork Hall	5	5	Small ditch fire south of cork hall
11/19/10	Structure Fire	04:19 am	N/A		Goodfish			Did not Respond out of our area Viina responded
11/25/10	Structure Fire	08:09 am	09:02 am	53	St.Lina	5	17.5	Bad road conditions building had already burnt
12/04/10	MVC	09:00 pm	09:10 pm	10	Hwy 36,28	5	5	Single Vehicle hit deer
12/08/10	Other	05:00 pm	05:13 pm	13		3	3	Alarms at house outside Ashmont nothing found
12/29/10	Structure Fire	07:57 pm	08:22 pm	25	Boyne Lake	6	27	Mallaig also responded
12/31/10	MVC	06:00 pm	06:09 pm	9	Hwy 36,28	7	7	Head on, side swipe
				19.69		5.53	411	

MVC-10  
 Structure Fire- 7  
 Outside Fire- 9  
 Medical Assist- 2  
 Mutual Aid- 3  
 Vehicle Fire- 1  
 Other- 5  
**Total = 37**

Time	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
00:00-01:00							2
01:00-2:00							0
02:00-3:00				1			1
03:00-4:00							0
04:00-05:00					1		1
05:00-06:00							1
06:00-07:00		1					1
07:00-08:00				1			2
08:00-09:00				1			1
09:00-10:00			1				2
10:00-11:00							0
11:00-12:00						2	2
12:00-13:00	1				2		4
13:00-14:00						1	1
14:00-15:00		1			1		3
15:00-16:00	1		1	1			3
16:00-17:00						1	1
17:00-18:00	1		1			1	3
18:00-19:00					1		2
19:00-20:00				1			1
20:00-21:00							0
21:00-22:00	1				1	3	5
22:00-23:00						1	1
23:00-24:00							0
	4	2	2	4	5	11	37

**Calls By Time of Day**  
**Weekday (07:00-17:00)**  
 11

**Nights & Weekends**  
 26

**Avg. Response Times**  
**Weekday (07:00-17:00)**

27.7 minutes (20.5 km)  
 \*7 calls/11

**Weekend and Nights**

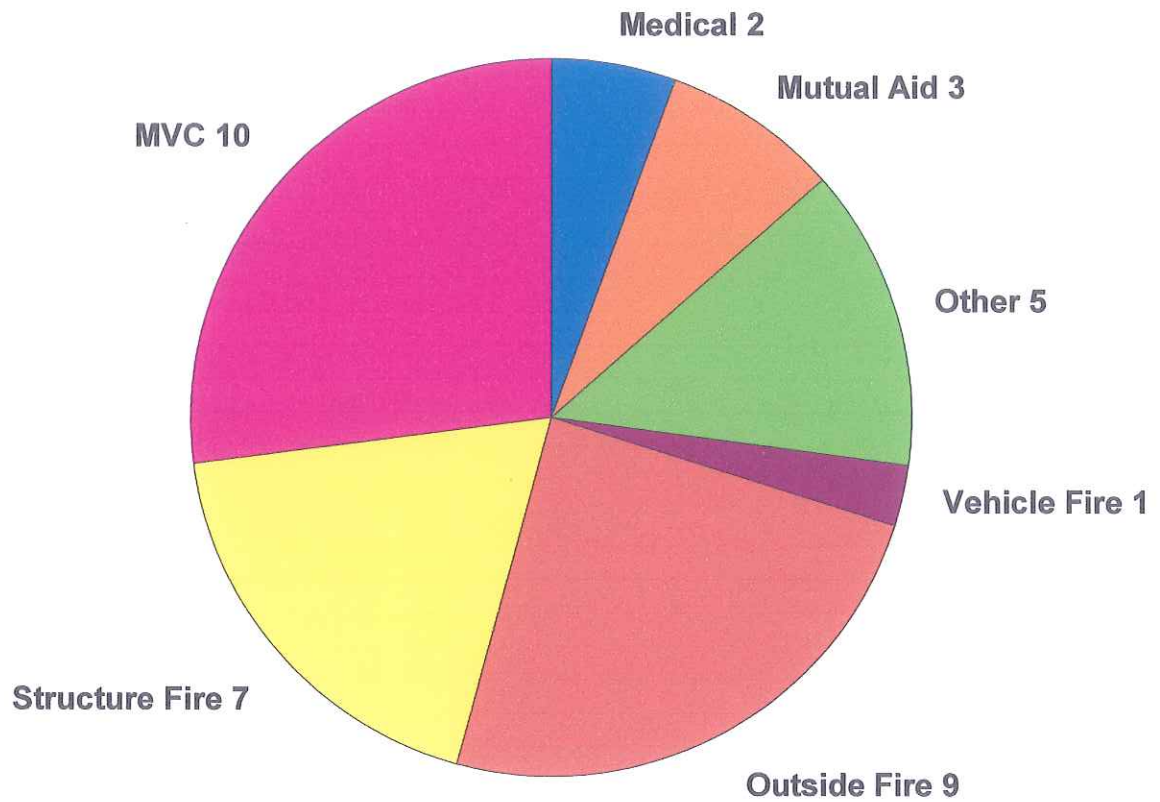
15.9 minutes (14.95 km)  
 \*20 calls/26

**Avg. Response Time**  
 19.69 minutes

**Avg Distance Traveled**  
 15.8 km

	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
MVC	10		1	1	1	1	1			1	1	2	2
Structure Fire	7	2				1	1	1				2	1
Outside Fire	9			2	3	1		2				1	
Vehicle Fire	1								1				
Other	5	1						1		1	1		1
Mutual Aid	3				1	1					1		
Medical	2	1			1								
	37	4	4	1	3	6	4	2	3	1	2	4	3

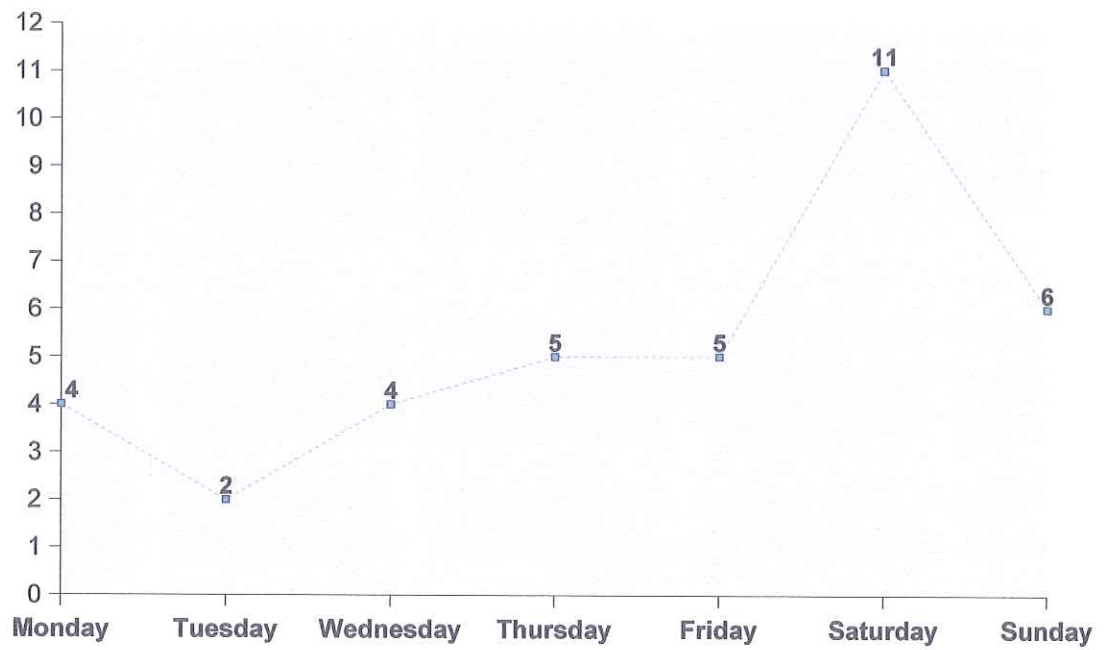
# Calls By Type



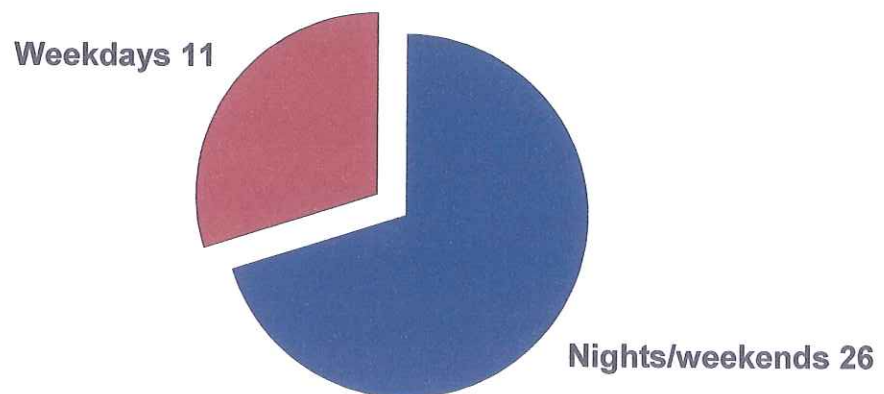
**Total Calls = 37**



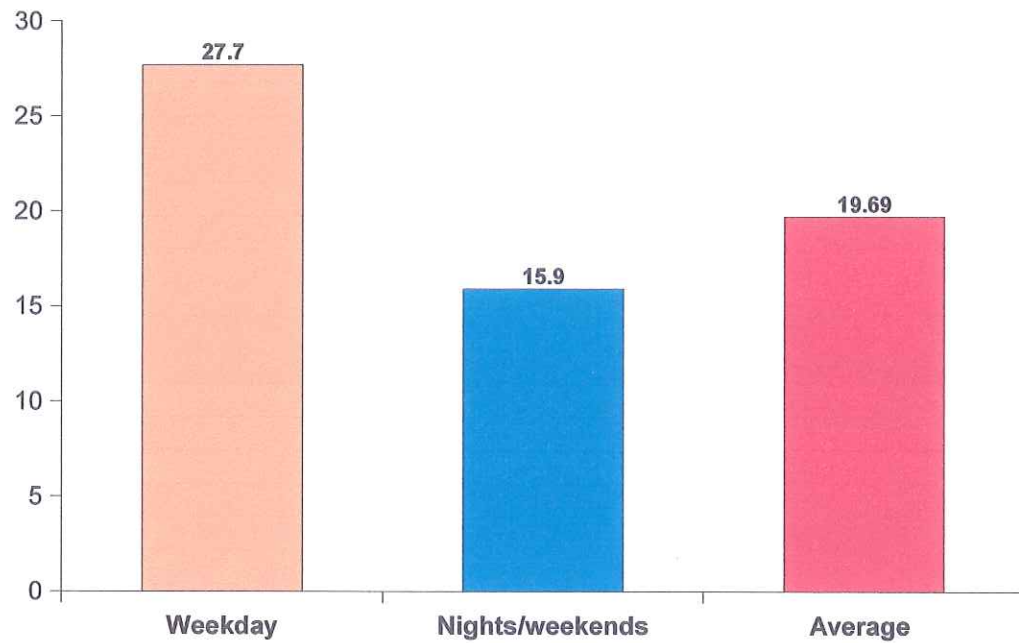
## Calls By Day of the Week



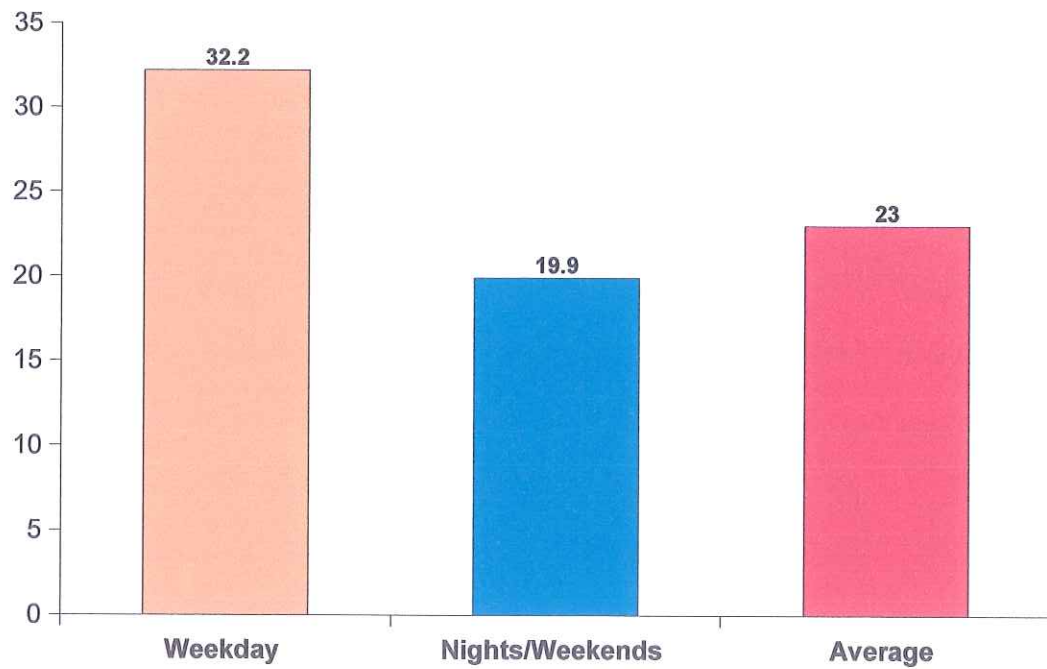
## Calls By Time of Day



## 2010 Response Times



## 3 Year Average Response Times



\* time in minutes