

May 15,2010

Folly Beach Fire Department Staff Report

To date, 2010 has started off as a time of significant change for the Folly Beach Fire Department. Of course activities for the last month and a half were largely centered on moving the fire department to temporary quarters at the corner of East Ashley and Second Street. I'm pleased to report that the move went well and the temporary facilities are meeting our needs. A special thanks goes out to our part-time and volunteer firefighters who were instrumental in building the structure to house the fire trucks. They worked many long, hot hours in the sun saving the city thousands of dollars that it would have cost to hire someone to build it for us. I must also recognize Paul Lauer for his assistance with site preparation. Paul contributed many hours of equipment and manpower to help us make the move on schedule.

As we head into the busy season, we look back at a very busy off-season for our personnel. Last fall Folly Beach hosted SC State Fire Academy classes in emergency vehicle driver training, pump operations and aerial operations. Each of these classes offered our personnel an opportunity to receive advanced fire apparatus training on our equipment without leaving the beach. We look forward to hosting additional classes here once our new facility is open in 2011. This spring we sent two of our PSO's and one volunteer to the City of Charleston Fire Academy. PSO's Andreas and Jackson as well as volunteer firefighter Levine completed the academy with over 400 hours of training during the eleven weeks that they attended. I am very proud of their hard work and commitment to this endeavor. I want to thank the Charleston Fire Department for allowing our personnel to attend their academy at no cost to Folly Beach. As we look forward, we continue to seek out training opportunities that advance our skills and abilities while providing value to our taxpayers.

As far as emergency response is concerned, 2009 was our busiest year ever with 486 emergency calls for service. This represents a 40% increase over the 350 calls for service in 2008 and a 70% increase over 2006. The majority of that increase was attributed to an increase in emergency medical calls and auto accident calls. 2010 is picking up where 2009 left off. As of the end of April we had responded to 109 emergency calls for service compared to 106 during the same period last year. These numbers do not include the walk-up calls such as jellyfish stings that are ongoing during the summer.

Our new fire apparatus continues to serve us well with our new ladder truck being instrumental in attacking the recent house fire on East Hudson. The aerial stream capabilities allowed for a faster knockdown of the fire thereby reducing the threat to adjacent properties. In addition we continue to work closely with our neighbors on James Island and Charleston to coordinate regional response plans to ensure that sufficient resources respond to all emergency calls.

I am proud of our firefighters and the work that they do. We will continue to use all of our resources to provide the citizens of Folly Beach with the best possible emergency response. If you have any questions, I can always be reached at 843-609-8808.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brad Wade