

Wooster Division of Fire 2011 Annual Report

Robert N. Eyler, Fire Chief

January 31, 2011

The Honorable Robert Breneman
Mayor, City of Wooster
538 North Market Street
Wooster, Ohio 44691

Mayor Breneman:

I respectfully submit the 2011 Annual Report for the Wooster Division of Fire. I trust that the information herein pertaining to fire suppression and prevention, emergency medical service, training and public relation activities shall prove informative and useful.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the City of Wooster Administration, to all of the personnel in all the City of Wooster departments and divisions, to the members of the Wooster City Council, and to the citizens of the City of Wooster for their support and assistance in the past year.

Robert N. Eyler, Fire Chief
Wooster Division of Fire

RNE/dcm

◀ 2011 PERSONNEL ROSTER ▶

Administration:

Robert N. Eyler, Fire Chief

Roger Brenneman, Assistant Fire Chief

Vacant, Fire Inspector

Douglas C. Myers, Records Officer

“A” Shift:

Ted Elder, Captain

Thomas E. Etter, Lieutenant

Michael A. Maag, Lieutenant

Jeffrey D. Aukerman, Firefighter

Ronald J. Balas, Firefighter

Michael D. Berry, Firefighter

Scott E. Bertsch, Firefighter

Patrick H. Christie, Firefighter

Matthew R. Cudlip, Firefighter

Christopher M. Hawkins, Firefighter

Patrick J. Kermode, Firefighter

Keith R. Rickett, Firefighter

Michael A. Springer, Firefighter

“B” Shift:

Thomas M. Graf, Captain

Stanley A. Brown, Lieutenant

Joseph L. Linz, Lieutenant

Jeffrey L. Buzzard, Firefighter

Eddie J. Edgell, Firefighter

Brandon J. Hewitt, Firefighter

R. Scott Iannarelli, Firefighter

Joseph M. Kiefer, Firefighter

Mark A. Lindsay, Firefighter

David P. Shaffer, Firefighter

John B. Sherrick, Firefighter

Bradley T. Stull, Firefighter

Brad D. Welty, Firefighter

“C” Shift:

Rhodes Walter, Captain

Christopher F. Green, Lieutenant

Wm. J. Whitmore Jr., Lieutenant

Joshua L. Brownson, Firefighter

John H. Cutlip, Firefighter

Donald J. Keller, Firefighter

Scott R. Kiper, Firefighter

Scott M. Meshew, Firefighter

Nathan A. Murphy, Firefighter

Michael D. Priest, Firefighter

Michael D. Sherrick, Firefighter

Leslie E. Teichmer, Firefighter

Greg T. Thompson, Firefighter

As of 12/31/11: 41 sworn personnel and 1 civilian employee.

The Wooster Division of Fire is composed of 2 administrative personnel and 39 shift members.

Administrative offices are located in the #1 Fire Station at 510 N. Market St.; regular business hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief alternate being on 24-hour call for emergency incidents.

Shift personnel respond from both the #1 Fire Station and the #2 Fire Station located at 433 E. Highland Ave. Each shift operates on a 24-hour work shift with a new tour of duty beginning at 7:00 a.m. each day – the equivalent of 51.7 hour work week. The minimum on-duty shift strength is 10 members (5 at each station). Both stations provide fire suppression and emergency medical services.



◀ 2011 HIGHLIGHTS ▶

ADMINISTRATIVE:

2011 Special Projects Review

Personnel:

- Hired Patrick Kermode to replace retired Captain Charles Monaghan
- Promoted Fire Inspector Roger Brenneman to Assistant Chief to replace retired Assistant Chief Frank Kuntz
- Firefighter Mike Berry promoted to Fire Inspector to replace Inspector Brenneman. Inspectors position left on shift
- Fire Inspector position left on shift and not placed on 40 hour week due to the inability to fill the vacant Fire/Medic position
- In the absence of a fulltime HR manager and city administrator during 2011, the Fire Division's administration also handled personnel issue related to workers compensation and insurance issues

Revenue:

- Negotiated decrease in squad billing administrative fees with MBI Solution to Decrease our service costs from 10% to 6%
- Worked with WCH and MBI Solutions to share electronic information
- Completed Dispatch Feasibility Study with the result of decreasing costs and increasing services

Grants:

- Received 2 FEMA Grants in 2011 totaling \$193,000 which the City pays 10%
 1. Health and Wellness Grant – Which allows the divisions to provide fire specific physicals for the members.
 2. Equipment Grant
 - A. Fire Officer Training
 - B. SCBA Air Compressor Fill Station
 - C. Accountability System
 - D. 2 Squad Power Cots
 - E. 2 Thermal Imaging Cameras

General:

- Labor Management Education
- Complete City of Wooster COOP Plan
- Completed Study of Weather Siren System and applied for grant to update
- PPE inspection and repair for safety and extend life of gear
- SCBA Masks purchased for each member
- Windows replaced at station #2
- Replaced base radio at station #1 due to age of equipment

Fire Suppression:

In 2011 the Wooster Division of Fire responded to a total of 648 fire calls within the City; of these 648 fire calls, 37 sustained a reported fire loss. The Fire Division responded to 101 calls into Wooster Twp. for automatic aid. Total for 2011 648 responses. Total calls have been reduced from 2010 of 699 calls. Most notable in the false alarm type.

The total value of properties that sustained a fire loss in 2011 was \$4,218,680. The total fire loss in 2011 was \$425,350.

The fire loss ratio [a loss-to-value percentage] for 2011 was 1.0%, an increase from that of 2010. The fire loss ratio formula indicates what percentage of each property involved in a fire incident was destroyed or not destroyed.

2010		2011	
Total fire calls	668	Total fire calls	547
Fire calls w/ dollar loss	23	Fire calls w/ dollar loss	37
Total property value	\$3,213,136	Total property value	\$4,218,680
Total fire loss	\$284,846	Total fire loss	\$425,350
Fire loss ratio	0.81%	Fire loss ratio	1.00%

The total property value [above] is only for those properties involved in a fire incident where a fire loss was sustained.

The Wooster Division of Fire uses the estimated total dollar value of properties [of structure and contents] and the estimated total dollar loss [to structure and contents] as a statistical base.

Numerous variables affect fire loss: pre-existing structural conditions which facilitate the spread of fire; lack of internal fire protection [sprinkler systems]; available water supply; poor housekeeping; alarm delay by occupants; fire division response time. Factoring one or more of these variables into a firefighting operation creates the potential for a greatly increased fire loss.

Major Fire Losses:

The Wooster Division of Fire defines a major fire loss as being a loss of \$100,000 or more. There were no major fire losses in 2011.

Fire Calls By Type:

Fire Call Type	Incident by Type	
	2010	2011
Fire	89	92
Overpressure, Explosion	8	4
Rescue and Medical Incident	65	85
Hazardous Condition	47	60
Service Calls	82	66
Good Intent	80	47
False Alarm Activation	208	185
Severe Weather and Special	8	8
Wooster Twp Response	112	101

Fire Deaths:

There was no fire-related death in the City of Wooster in 2011.

There were 6 civilian injuries in 2011 in 4 separate fires. All residential fires.

These injuries were classified as:

- 1- Life Threatening
- 3- Moderate
- 1- Minor

Emergency Medical Service:

The Fire Division has three (3) Advanced Life Support units staffed by 34 EMT-Paramedics and 5 EMT-Basics. All fire department personnel are cross-trained as Firefighters and EMT's. In 2011 the Wooster Fire Division responded to 3107 patient needs.

The Fire Division is seeing not only an increase in EMS related calls over the past years, but we are also seeing a growing number of multiple calls. These are calls in which 2 or more squads are on concurrent calls. This leaves a void in the members available to respond to other calls as they are received. This is also evident in the amount of times that other departments respond in the city to handle the EMS calls. In 2010 we charted multiple calls at 23% of the total calls for service. In 2011 the duplicate calls were 30.8%. Assistance from Wooster Twp. Fire Department has grown from a five-year average of 27.4 calls (2000-2005) to 53.7 calls (2005-2010). In 2011 they responded to 57 calls within the city.

As in the past the division continues to do exceptional work in the care and treatment of patients. The division members constantly train on an annual basis and have received recognition for their treatment in areas of stroke and 12 lead cardiac assessment and treatment.

Supplies, materials and equipment are purchased out of the general fund. The city has also been very fortunate over the past 20 plus years by receiving reimbursement funds from the Beaverson fund. His fund has contributed numerous dollars towards the purchasing of medial related equipment and has assist us in keeping our costs down.

The EMS personnel are required to complete 92 hours of continuing education over a three year period for their State certifications as Paramedics. The EMT-Basics are required to have 40 hours of continuing education for their certifications. This is accomplished by have annual refresher and training that is consistent with the state mandates for training. They are also required to have certification in Trauma, Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Basic Life Support as well as required hours in the treatment of Geriatrics and Pediatric patients.

The EMS bureau is working toward incorporating EMS reporting in the field electronically with the goal of providing immediate patient information and the reduction of administrative time. Federal and State grants have also been received and have allowed the squads to have power cots in the front line squads as well as supplies and materials that would have not otherwise been funded.

The Fire Division EMS responded to 3107 patient needs in 2011 and the reason for call is as follows:

Provider Impression	2010	2011
General Illness	484	490
Allergic Reaction	18	26
CVA/Circulatory	276	297
Cerebral/Neurovascular	480	204
OB/GYN	13	24
Cancer	14	10
Digestive	103	99
Emotional/Mental	168	188
Renal	11	8
Hematological	1	0
Infectious Disease	1	3
Metabolic	78	71
Musculoskeletal	301	288
Respiratory	222	256
Environmental	3	10
Injury	374	407
Poisoning	2	17
Arrest	28	29
Other	427	680
Total	3004	3107

Squad Billing Revenue:

The City of Wooster began charging for squad calls based on Medicare/Medicaid rates. Below is the revenue collected between the years 2007 and 2011:

2007 - \$547,863	2008 - \$533,998
2009 - \$616,571	2010 - \$623,792
2011 - \$811,004	

Fire Prevention and Public Education

The Fire Prevention Bureau mission is ... "To save lives and protect property through fire prevention education, inspection and engineering efforts." The bureau takes a pro-active role in educating the community in fire prevention in public schools and in private businesses. The bureau conducts fire safety inspections of all commercial and industrial buildings in the City of Wooster, making every effort to work with property managers to create a safe environment for their employees and customers. The Fire Marshal works closely with the City's Building Official, as well as with architects and contractors, to ensure that all new structures meet the Ohio Fire Code.

Assistant Chief Roger Brenneman serves as the Fire Marshal for the City of Wooster. The duties of the Fire Marshal include but are not limited to: fire code development and enforcement; building construction plan reviews and on-site inspections; supervising of all fire prevention activities.

Mike Berry serves as the Fire Inspector of the Wooster Division of Fire. The Fire Inspector performs all fire safety inspections and also provides fire safety education programs to the community, such as: home fire safety; fire extinguisher use; industrial fire safety. Since 2010 the Fire Inspector has been an on-shift inspector due to budget cuts and is only available 2 days a week.

2011 Fire Prevention Bureau Activities	
Shift Inspections	26
Re-Inspections	20
Acceptance Tests/Plan Review	81
Complaint Inspections	8
Miscellaneous Inspections	3
License Inspections	43
Business Inspections	9
Public Assembly Inspections	7
Education Inspections	3
Factory Inspections	1
Institutional Inspections	0
Residential Inspections	7
Mercantile Inspections	2
Storage Facility Inspections	1
Utility Inspections	1
State Inspections/Misc.	20
Total =	232
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Total Violations Noted =	73
Violations Cleared =	10

Plans were reviewed for compliance with the Ohio Fire Code and the Codified Fire Prevention Code of the City of Wooster. The total number of plans submitted for review in 2011 was 51.

In 2011 prevention assistant various public facilities and private businesses with mandated fire extinguisher classes.

Public relations activities in 2011 included fire station tours, appearances at "safety days" sponsored by area businesses, and Fire Prevention Week programs at all elementary schools in Wooster.

Training:

As mentioned in the EMS Bureau information, the State of Ohio requires a mandated number of hours to keep state certification to work as an EMT. This is also true on the fire side as well the State of Ohio has recently implemented mandated training hours on the member's fire certifications. This not only includes the firefighter certification but those of members who have Firer Safety Inspector, Fire and EMS Instructors.

A certified Career Firefighter is required to have 54 hours of continuous education over a 3 year period. Fire Inspectors and Instructors are required to have those hours plus additional hours during that time span. The division also has annual Hazardous Materials, Confined Space Rescue and are looking toward the possibility of forming a division wide Rapid Intervention Team, which in the future would require at least annual training. Also in 2011 all fire division officers completed NFPA Certification for Fire Officer I and II.

At the Current time the Wooster Fire Division has 3 Certified Fire Instructors and 1 EMS Instructor. Lt. Mike Maag completed his Fire Instructor Certification this year. We currently have 6 members in the process or will be trained as and or fire instructors by the end of 2012.

In 2011 3,049 hours of continuous education was provided in house by division instructors and out of department instructors.

Apparatus & Equipment:

In 2011 no new vehicles where replaced or added to the department. At the current time we have the need to replace a squad that is 13 years old and will place that on Capital request for 2012.

At the current time we have taken great care in our vehicles and equipment, but with the reduction of personnel at the City Garage devoted to vehicle repair I am planning for not only an increase in cost but a longer period of time to complete repairs on our emergency vehicles. With would include the necessity of finding new private vendors to service the vehicles and due to the special nature of the vehicles, our ability to stay close to Wooster. This reality will also increase the cost of maintenance and testing of our vehicles.

All emergency response vehicles have completed their required annual maintenance and Testing as required by NFPA pertaining to there, pumps, ladders and aerial devices.

In 2011 we received and incorporated a \$127,000 FEMA grant to purchase new equipment for Fire and EMS. This included, Air Compressor, Thermal Imaging Cameras, Power Cots and an Accountability System.

Special Units

The following special units were created to assure the continued efficiency of the various operations within the Wooster Division of Fire. All unit members perform firefighting and emergency medical service duties in addition to their special unit assignments.

Air Pack Maintenance Unit

This unit ensures that all self-contained breathing apparatus [air packs] are maintained and fully operational at all times. This is accomplished by conducting monthly inspections and annual bench tests on all of the Fire Division's air packs. Routine repairs and part replacements are completed by unit personnel. Major repairs are done by certified professionals due to liability constraints.

Unit members: Lt. S. Brown, Officer-In-Charge; Firefighters J. Brownson, M. Cudlip and S. Iannarelli.

Building Supply Procurement Unit

This unit is responsible for the inventory and ordering of daily station supplies and materials.

Unit Member: FF J. Brownson

Communication Unit

This unit keeps track of all communications-related equipment within the Fire Division – inventories of base, vehicle and portable radios as well as the routine maintenance and repair of same.

Unit members: Ff. J. Cutlip, Officer-In-Charge; and M. Springer.

Computer Information Unit

This unit was created to assist all WFD personnel in working with and becoming proficient in all computer software used in the Fire Division. This unit was created in January 2007 and training of all personnel centered on the new Fire House software for fire and emergency medical service reports.

Unit members: Lt. S. Brown, Officer-In-Charge; Firefighters R. Balas, M. Berry, S. Kiper, M. Sherrick and B. Welty.

Confined Space Rescue Unit

This unit was developed in response to the need for local industry to become OSHA compliant. The Wooster Division of Fire has personnel that are trained and equipped to mitigate emergencies in confined spaces; this unit is comprised of a member from each of the three shifts who may be called upon to participate in extra training and who may be called upon to take a leadership role in the event of an actual emergency. The Wooster Division of Fire is the only fire department in the county that provides this service and therefore could be called to respond to an emergency incident anywhere in the county.

Unit members: Lt. M. Maag, Officer-In-Charge; Capt. R. Walter; Lt. J. Linz, Firefighters S. Bertsch, J. Buzzard, E. Edgell, T. Elder, N. Murphy and M. Sherrick.

EMS Equipment Procurement Unit

This unit is responsible for inventory control, equipment inspection, stock re-supply and proposed new supply, equipment assessment and evaluation, and training on emergency medical service equipment. This is done on a continuing basis to ensure that all Fire Division equipment and supplies are readily available and in the best condition.

Unit member: Ff. J. Buzzard, Officer-In-Charge

EMS Training & Rectification Unit

Unit Members: Capt. R. Walter, FF S. Bertsch, FF. J. Sherrick

Fire Investigation Unit

This unit is responsible for the cause and origin of each fire under a threshold and to provide assistance with the State Fire Marshall and the Wooster Police Department in the case of incendiary fires.

Unit Members: Lt. Tom Etter OIC, FF C. Hawkins, FF J. Sherrick, FF. J. Kiefer, FF. J. Cutlip, FF Brownson

Fire Investigation Photography Unit

This unit provides photographic support to the Fire Investigation Unit and is active at fire investigations and at all other incidents requiring photo-documentation utilizing digital photography. This unit is also active in the preparation of training programs and documentary photography for pre-plans.

Unit members: Ff. M. Sherrick, Officer-In-Charge; Firefighters R. Balas, J. Buzzard, M. Cudlip, E. Edgell, M. Priest, J. Sherrick and M. Springer.

Fuel Powered Equipment Maintenance Unit

This unit maintains all fuel powered equipment to ensure their best possible condition for immediate use during emergency tactical operations as well as for the daily use of non-tactical appliances.

Unit members: Ff. B. Stull, Officer-In-Charge; Firefighters J. Cutlip and K. Rickett.

Hazardous Materials Unit

The Hazmat Unit is responsible for maintaining records of hazardous materials located in facilities within the City of Wooster, filing SARA reports from local businesses, updating resources and assisting with policies and procedures pertaining to hazmat responses.

Unit members: Lt. M. Maag, Officer-In-Charge; Firefighters K. Rickett, J. Kiefer and S. Meshew.

Map Information and Emergency Entry Unit

This unit is responsible for updating the divisional maps that are on board each response unit as well as the collection and monitoring of keys and or knox box locations within the city.

Unit Members: FF J. Aukerman, OIC, FF P.Christie, FF B. Welty, FF S. Meshew

Quartermaster Unit

This unit was established in 2006 and assigned the responsibility of clothing all Fire Division personnel with regular uniforms, dress uniforms and protective turnout uniforms and gear. The unit inspects and orders all new clothing items as well as safety gear worn and/or carried by personnel at emergency scenes.

Unit members: Lt. J. Linz, Officer-In-Charge; Firefighters C. Hawkins, M. Lindsay and L. Teichmer.

Training Unit

This unit is responsible for overseeing both fire and emergency medical service training for all personnel.

Unit members: Asst, Chief R.Brenneman, Capt. Rhodes Walter, Capt. Ted Elder, Lt. Mike Maag, Lt. Berry Saley

CPR Unit

This unit is responsible for the recertification of all division members in CPR.

Unit Members: FF. Mike Priest, OIC, Capt. R. Walter, Lt. B. Saley, FF M. Berry, FF S. Bertsch, FF M. Springer, Capt. T. Elder, Lt. Etter

Vehicle Information Unit

This unit is responsible for the design and purchase of new vehicles and fire apparatus for the Wooster Division of Fire. This unit also tracks the maintenance and repair of existing Fire Division vehicles.

Unit members: Capt. T. Graf, Officer-In-Charge; Firefighters M. Priest and Matt Cudlip.

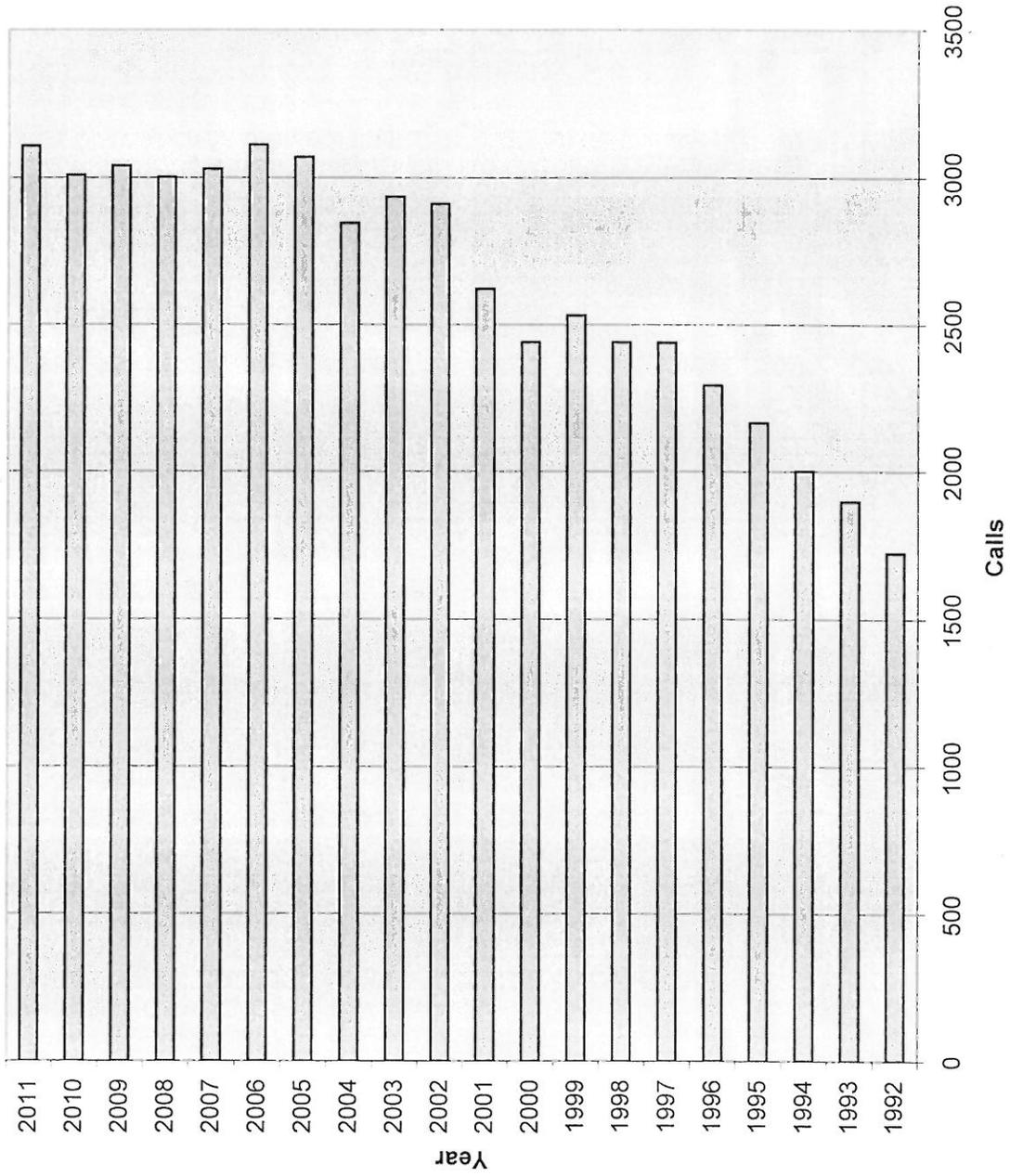
Wooster Fire Division Minimum Manning History

Year	Chief	A/C	Captain	Lt.	Insp.	FF	R/O	Total
1987	1	2	3	6	0	21	1	34
1988	1	2	3	6	1	21	1	35
1989	1	1	3	6	1	24	1	37
1990	1	1	3	6	1	24	1	37
1991	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
1992	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
1993	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
1994	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
1995	1	1	3	6	1	29	1	42
1996	1	1	3	6	1	29	1	42
1997	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
1998	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
1999	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
2000	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
2001	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
2002	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
2003	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
2004	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
2005	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
2006	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
2007	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
2008	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
2009	1	1	3	6	1	30	1	43
2010	1	1	3	6	0	30	1	42
2011	1	1	3	6	0	30	1	42

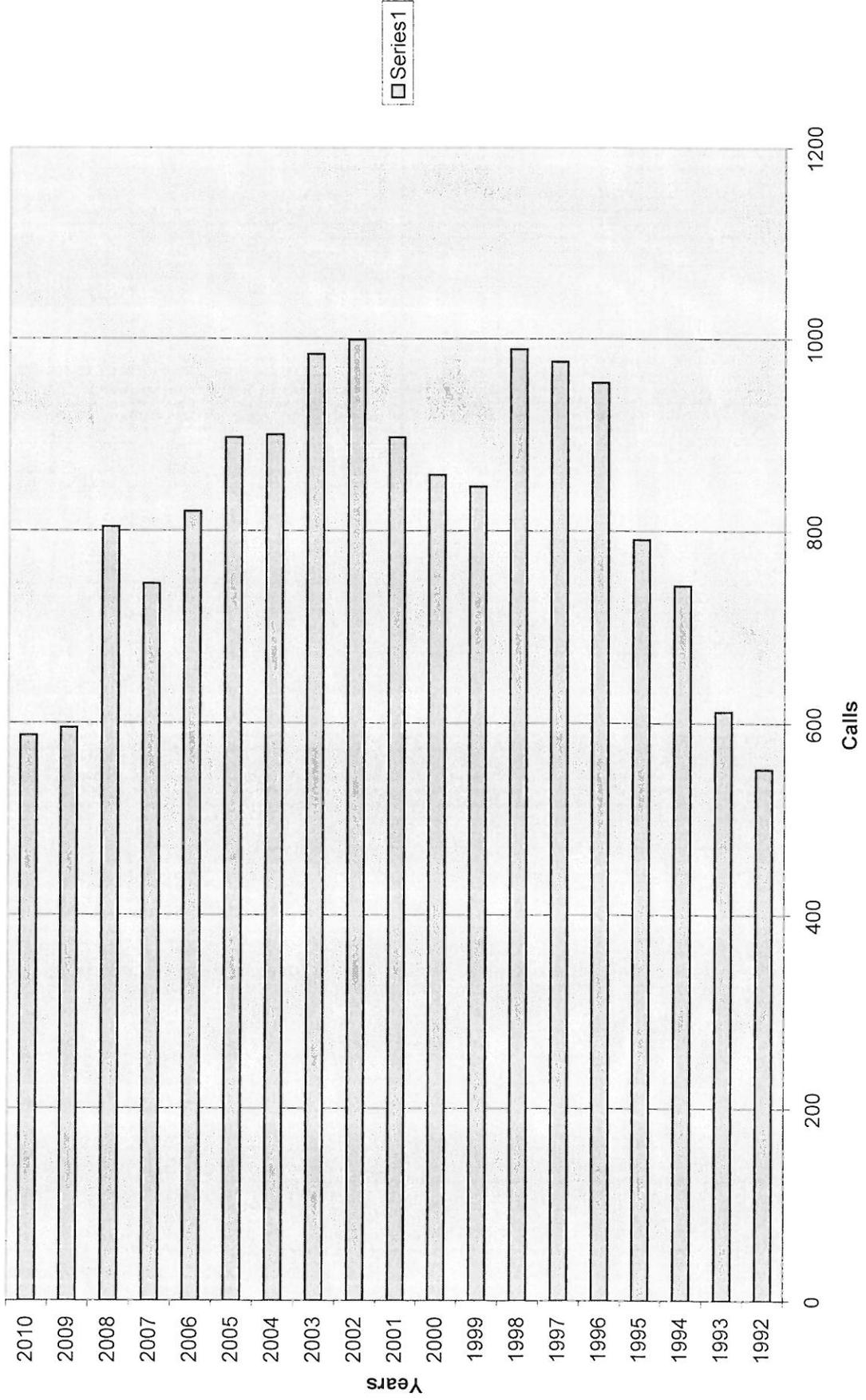
Minimum Manning History

1/1/1961 (3 FF) Station # 1 (2 FF) Station # 2 (5) Total FF
 6/1/1969 (5 FF) Station # 1 (2 FF) Station # 2 (7) Total FF
 12/10/1980 (6 FF) Station # 1 (2 FF) Station # 2 (8) Total FF
 8/14/1989 (6 FF) Station # 1 (3 FF) Station # 2 (9) Total FF
 1/15/1992 (6 FF) Station # 1 (5 FF) Station # 2 (11) Total FF
 11/14/1994 (5 FF) Station # 1 (5 FF) Station # 2 (10) Total FF
 12/31/2011 (5FF) Station #1 (5FF) Station #2 (10) Total FF

EMS Calls For Service 1992 to 2011



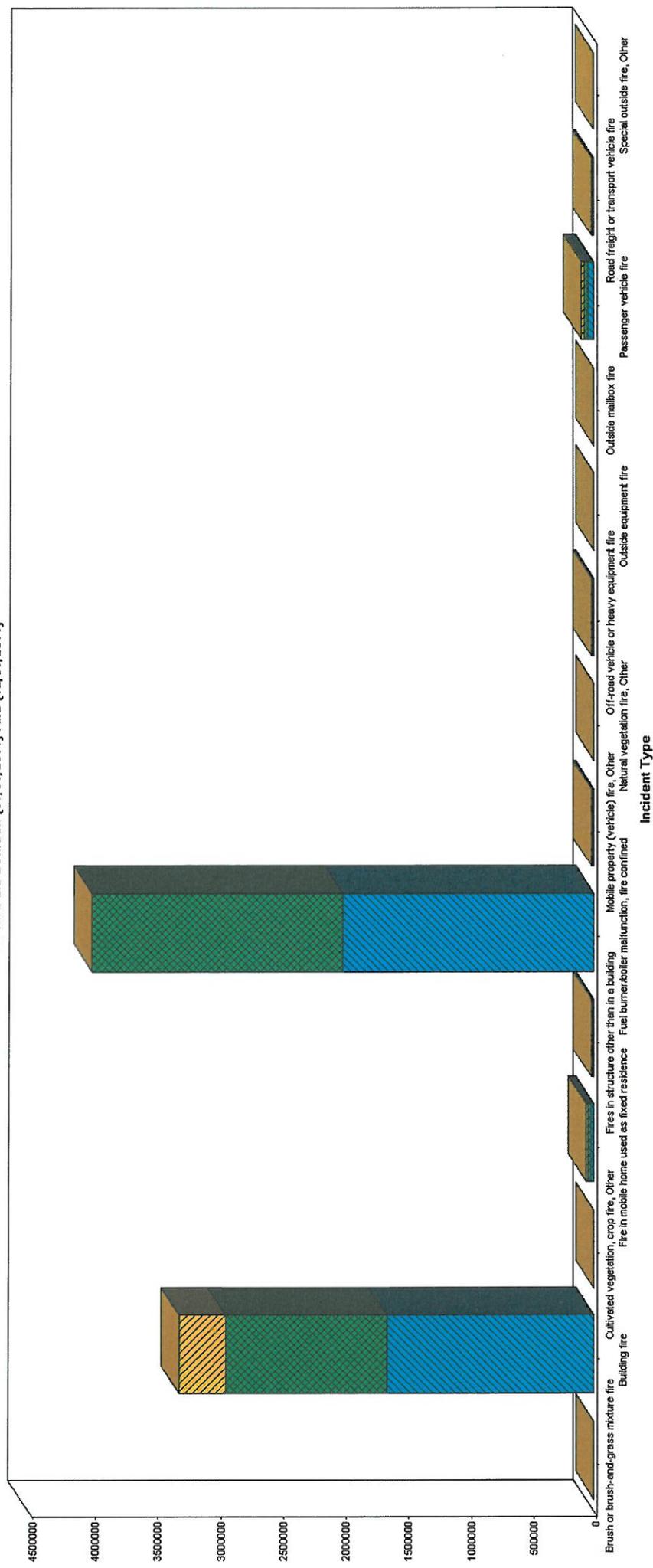
20 Year Fire Calls



Wooster Division of Fire 2011 Annual Report

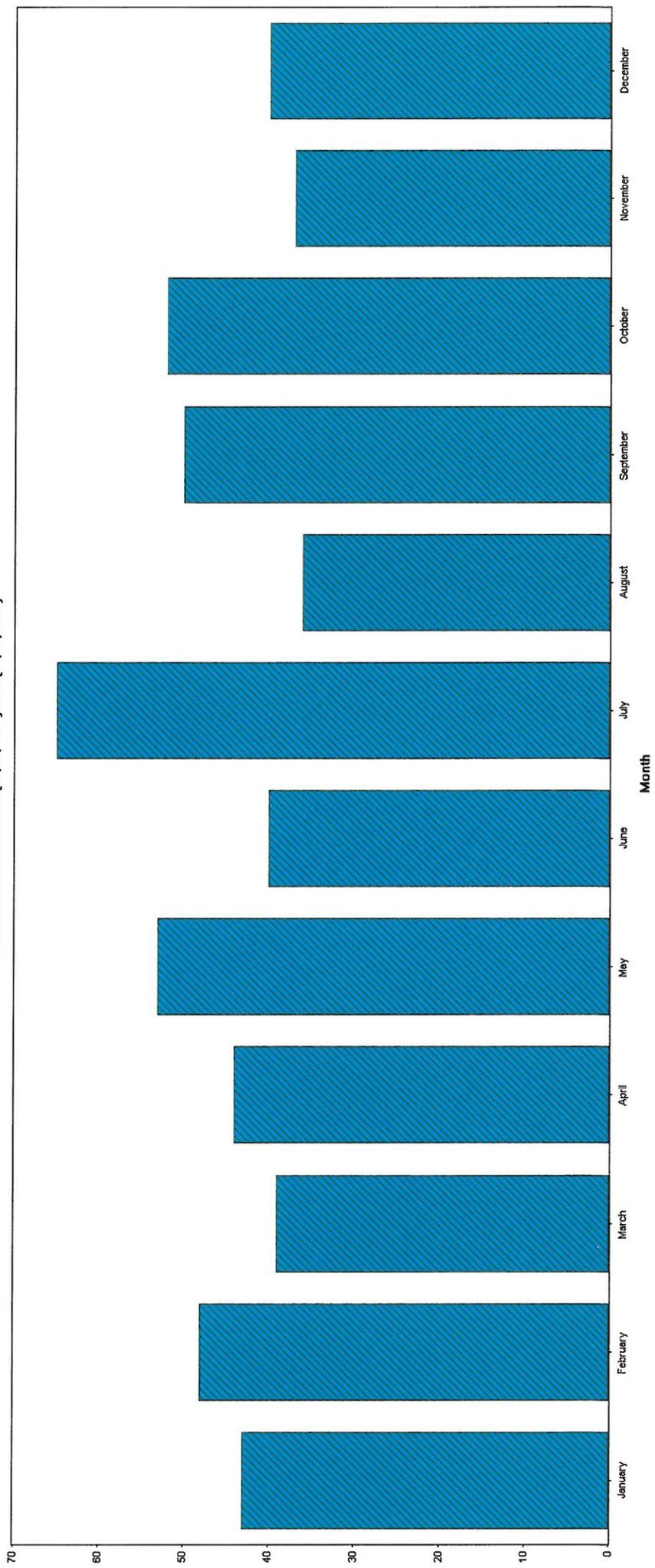
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Fire Loss Analysis
 Alarm Date Between {01/01/2011} And {12/31/2011}



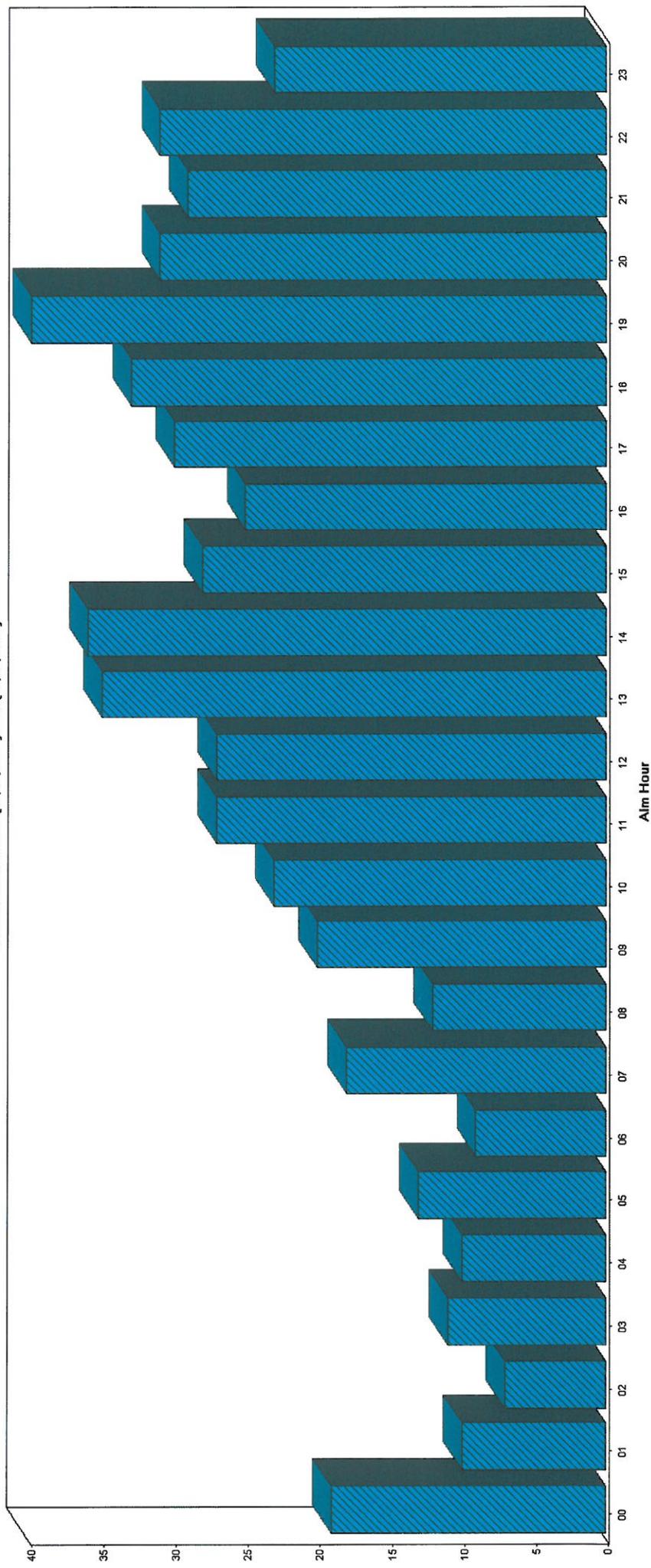
Value Saved
 Value Lost
 Loss

Incidents By Month
Fire Alarm Date Between {01/01/2011} And {12/31/2011}



Fire Count

Count of Incidents by Alarm Hour
Alarm Date Between {01/01/2011} And {12/31/2011}



Alarm Time

Alarm Times
Alarm Date Between {01/01/2011} And {12/31/2011}

