

Holland Fire Department 2007 Annual Report





Holland Fire Department Annual Report - 2007

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the
Holland Fire Department
is to Provide Excellent Life and
Property Safety to
the Community through:

Aggressive Enforcement,

•
Education,

•
Safe and Efficient Suppression, and

•
Emergency Medical, Hazardous
Materials, Fire Investigation, and Other
Services Consistent with
Modern Fire Protection.



A "Size-Up" of the Holland Fire Department

A fire department was established in Holland on October 11, 1848 when a meeting of all adult males of the community was held to discuss fire dangers such as wooden buildings, underbrush and spring fires. On February 8, 1849 a fire commission consisting of 8 members and the President were elected to make plans for fire protection. This commission recommended that a fire bell be placed at the corner of Tenth Street and River Avenue; that 3 pails and a 20 foot ladder be kept by each householder; and that 3 cisterns be dug at different places in the village and a log pole be kept at each one.

When Holland became a City in 1867, two fire departments were established. They were called the Eagle Hose Company #1 and the Star Hook and Ladder Company on the west end of the City, and the Columbia Hose Company #2 on East 8th Street. From this small group of dedicated volunteers, the Holland Fire Department emerged. New equipment was obtained over the years, and in 1916 Holland purchased its first motorized apparatus.

The Holland Fire Department of today is known as a combination department, meaning that it employs a mixture of career and volunteer or "part-paid" firefighters. The Fiscal Year 2008 budget authorizes 28 full-time and 30 part-paid members in the department. The full-time positions include the Chief, a Fire Marshal, a Training and Safety Officer and an Department Assistant working 40-hour workweeks; along with 3 Captains, 6 Lieutenants, and 15 Firefighters who work 56-hour weeks. The 30 part-paid members carry pagers and are on call around the clock to respond primarily to structure fire incidents. The total FY-2008 budget for fire department personnel, operations and capital outlay is \$2,955,734.

The department provides fire protection from 3 stations located on Waverly Road, Kollen Park Drive, and 160th Avenue. The Waverly and Kollen Park stations are staffed around the clock with full-time members, and a complement of part-paid members is assigned to each station. The 160th Avenue station, which is jointly owned and used by the City of Holland and Park Township, is staffed solely by part-paid members. Housed in the stations are 2 front-line fire pumpers, 1 pumper-rescue vehicle, 1 reserve pumper, 1 aerial tower truck, 2 EMS squad vehicles, a brush fire unit, rescue watercraft, and 2 staff autos.



A "Size-Up" of the Holland Fire Department (continued)

The department responded to 2,913 incidents in 2007, the highest number on record and 10% above the 10-year average of 2,650. As is typical with fire departments across the country, about 68% of those responses were medically-related. In addition to false alarms, hazardous conditions and service calls, the department responded to 146 fires in 2007. Those fires exposed \$15.7 million worth of property, and resulted in a direct fire loss of \$433,000; with a property saved/property exposed ratio of 97.26%.

The personnel, training, equipment, prevention, education and other aspects of the Holland Fire Department, combined with the City's excellent water supply system, provides a fire protection delivery system resulting in one of the few combination fire departments in Michigan with a Class 4 rating from the Insurance Service Office, providing an excellent return on the investment of tax dollars to the residents of the City.



Fire Apparatus & Equipment Section by Captain Tom Scholten and Team Members

It is my pleasure to report that the state of the apparatus at the Holland Fire Department is excellent. Our trucks are in the best shape our collective memories can recall. The centerpiece of any fire department is its trucks, with staffing to run them makes for an efficient and effective fire department.. We have worked hard the past eight years through strategic purchases to target the oldest parts of the fleet for replacement. We also embarked on a new approach on how calls are run which has saved a significant amount of money in truck replacement costs.



These two new trucks were put into service at the Waverly Station early spring 2007. The pickup, a Ford F350 HD and the pumper, a Spartan / Spencer 1750 gpm pumper/rescue combination

We had an opportunity at our Waverly Station recently where both trucks could be replaced at the same time; this caused the command staff to examine the calls being run there and how to best provide the vehicles needed, at a cost that our limited truck replacement funds could afford. The decision was made to move extrication equipment from a large rescue truck to the pumper truck turning it into a combination Pumper/Rescue unit. The pickup truck targets the simple medical calls, by far the majority of calls at Waverly which only needs to deliver medical equipment and EMTs, providing significant savings in capital and ongoing expenses.

The remainder of the fleet includes pumpers 1122, a 1995 Spencer; 1123, a 1994 Spencer; and 1124, a 1990 E-one - our reserve truck. Our big beast, a 2003 E-one Bronto 118' tower continues to reach high above all the building in Holland. Our next truck slated for replacement is our 1998 Tahoe medical unit 1172 used at our Kollen Park Station. Looking at this list we anticipate our next major purchase would likely be a pumper truck in the next 5-6 years.



Buildings and Grounds by Captain Tim Fisher and Team Members

This year we have not seen any major improvements in our facilities, however, there are a few things in progress.

We have started upgrades to our training room with new electronics and paint. This project was taken on to make our facility more user friendly for our day to day training and community involvement events. Also this will allow us to start hosting training events that may bring in some revenue to the city by bringing in outside departments from the West Michigan area. We anticipate these classes to include Fire Officer, Fire Investigation, Fire Inspection and hopefully many others. This project will not be completed this year but we do have a good start on it and it is ready to be used at any time.

At Kollen Park and Waverly stations we also started reviewing some safety concerns around the facilities. Although these have been minor and relatively inexpensive, they do address a few O.S.H.A. issues. I believe we are mostly compliant but this is an area that we need to continue to monitor.

There have also been some improvements with energy savings ideas. Lighting has been one that we have changed. We have changed some of our emergency lighting. We have had 8 fluorescent lights which consist of 32 light bulbs on for 24 hours a day probably since the building at Kollen Park station was built. These lights have been changed to run on generator power only. Another lighting change has been from the old light bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs throughout the 2 stations. We are working on or investigating other energy savings ideas such as the use of motion detectors, shutting off heat in hose towers, and insulating the buildings to mention a few. Some of the ideas we are looking into unfortunately come at a high cost.

Now for the not so good news. With the addition of a new larger engine at the Waverly station, improvements to the rear driveway are critical. The turn to enter the truck bay is a lot harder with the wider turning radius of the new truck and the driveway is in such bad shape that it is no longer being utilized. I believe it is only a matter of time before the new truck and the building will be damaged.

The restrooms at both Kollen Park and Waverly station are both in need of major repair. Waverly is to the point where tiles are falling off the walls and coming off the floors. These are public restrooms and are issues that should be addressed soon.

Throughout the next year we will continue to prioritize our needs as issues arise. I believe it is clear that with the age of our facilities we are not keeping up with our needs. We will continue to do our best to stay afloat until better times.



Fire Prevention by Fire Marshall Todd Szakacs

Since the last report, several of the goals and objectives for the position have been met or significant progress continues to be made toward their completion. This year's fire prevention week activities took place without any difficulties and included an increase of involvement from other area departments. The annual parade and open house continues to be coordinated by the Holland area Fire Prevention Council which is a group comprised of representatives of the Graafschap, Holland, Holland Twp., and Park Twp. Fire departments. The group meets on a monthly basis to plan the activities of fire prevention week as well as other programs and services to continue the promotion of fire prevention to the area community.

The City of Holland Fire Prevention Code is in the process of being updated. Adopting a new fire code takes several hours of planning and research to identify the impact that new requirements have on new development as well as existing occupancies. With 27 years separating the old code and the proposed new code as you can imagine most of all of the requirements will change. It is hoped that this document will be adopted in the first quarter of 2008.

In the area of fire inspections, opportunities are being provided to include shift personnel in the inspection process. This has been well received by career staff and will be very helpful to the department and community allowing for an increase in commercial occupancy inspections as well as familiarizing crews with the potential hazards within our response area.

Since September a number of changes have taken place with regard to pre-planning and our dispatch software that is utilized via MCT computer terminals in our apparatus. The department purchased 1st Look Pro per-plan software from the Oregon based company Cad Zone. This software allows us to electronically streamline all of our business pre-plan information which can be reviewed by officers while responding to an emergency resulting in safer more efficient responses. Another new feature that the software offers is the mobile mapping dispatch information. This function allows crews to visually identify the exact address of the emergency caller by mapping the location on the computer supported by GPS technology.

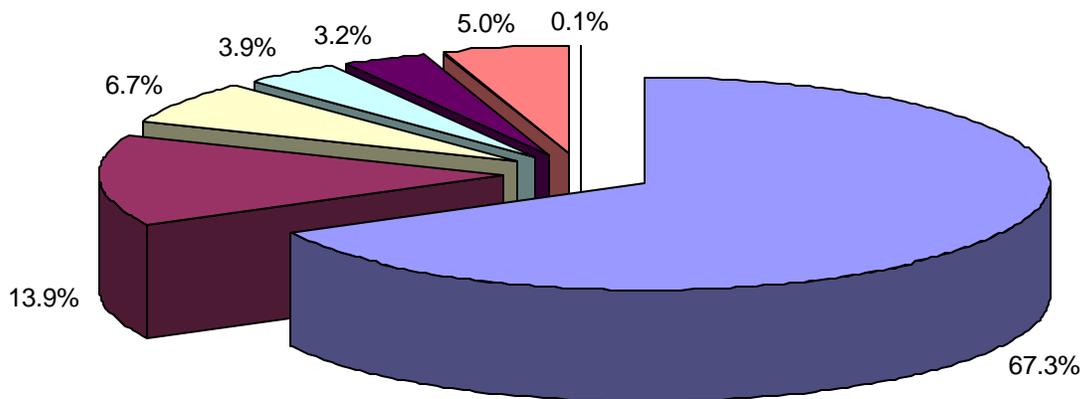


FIRE PREVENTION

	TOTAL ACTIVITY
Inspections	109
Compliance Verification	40
Complaints/Referrals from Others	17
Referrals to Others	3
Educational Programs Delivered	11
(audience numbers referred to CI)	
Fire Investigations	12
Plan Review	67
Site Plans	19
Water Based Fire Protection	22
Fire Alarm Systems	12
Construction Plans	14
Total	67
Meetings with others	49
Educational /Continuing Ed Programs Attended	23
Special Assignments	3
Departmental Training Attended	14
Community Involvement Activities	124
Fire Station Tours	45
Fire Safety Education Programs presented	29
First Aid/CPR Programs presented	2
Other CI Programs & Activities	48
Total	124



TYPES OF SITUATIONS FOUND FIRE DEPARTMENT



- Medical Emergencies
- False Alarms
- Hazardous Conditions
- Service Calls
- Good Intent Calls
- Fires
- Others

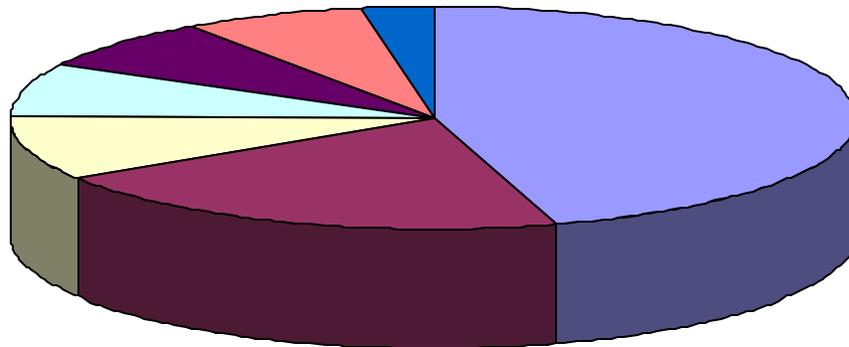
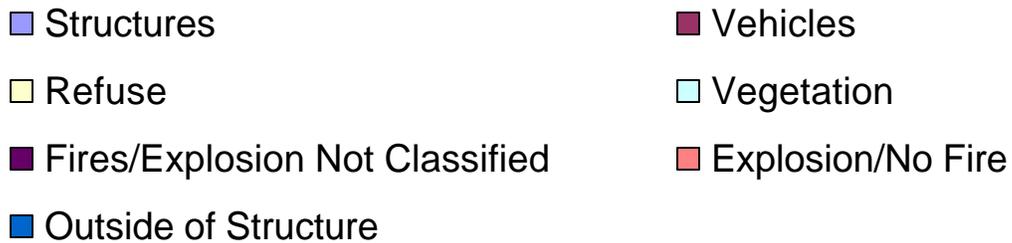
Type of Situation	Incidents	Percent
Medical Emergencies	1959	67.3%
False Alarms	405	13.9%
Hazardous Conditions	194	6.7%
Service Calls	114	3.9%
Good Intent Calls	92	3.2%
Fires	146	5.0%
Others	3	0.1%
	2913	100.0%



FIRE INCIDENTS

Classified by Property Types

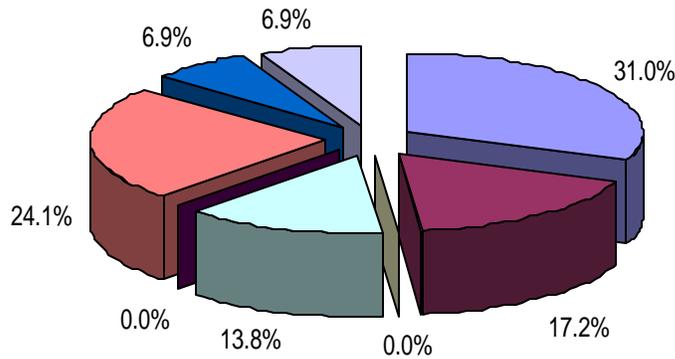
Property Type	Incidents	Percent
Structures	66	45.2%
Vehicles	30	20.5%
Refuse	14	9.6%
Vegetation	11	7.5%
Fires/Explosion Not Classified	11	7.5%
Explosion/No Fire	10	6.8%
Outside of Structure	4	2.7%
	<u>146</u>	<u>100.0%</u>





SUMMARY OF FIRE CAUSES

- Mechanical Failure ■ Operational Deficiency
- Incendiary/Suspicious ■ Misuse of Heat Source
- Design Deficiencies ■ Other
- Misuse of Fuel Supply ■ Natural Causes



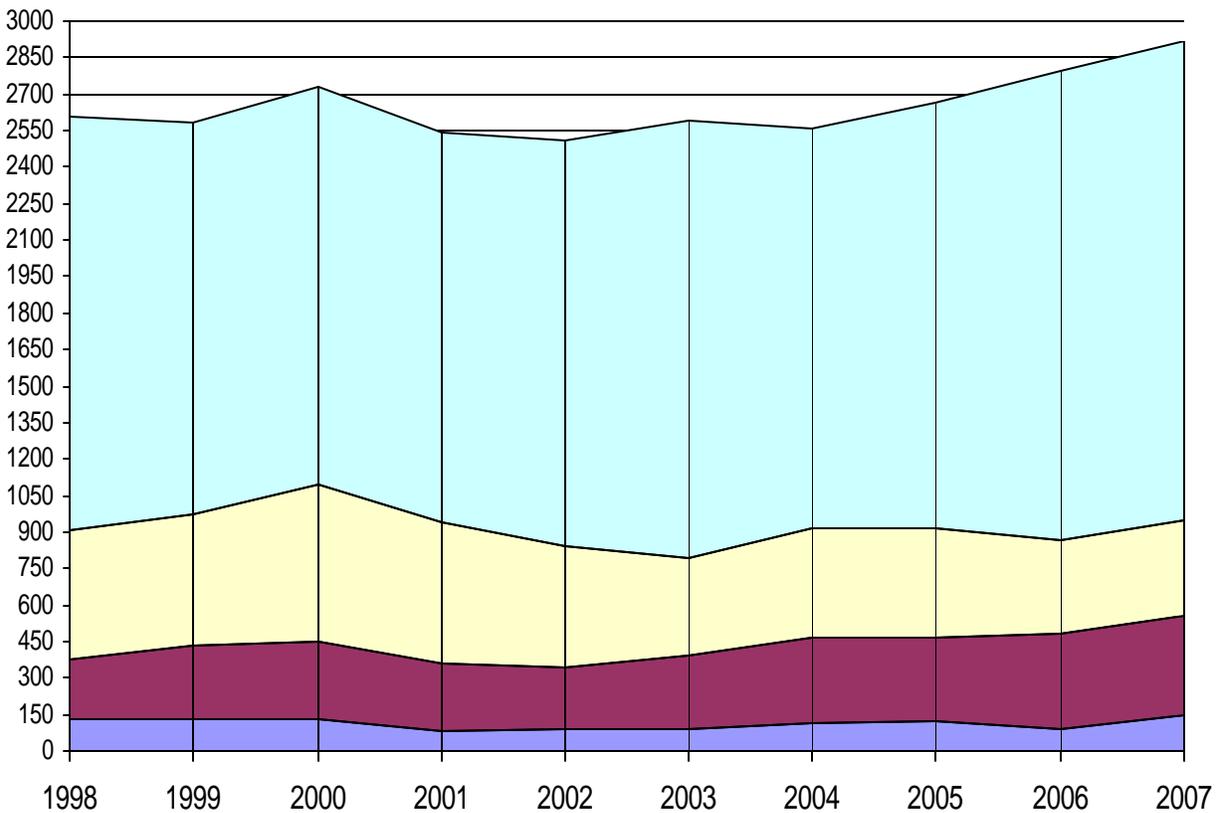
Type of Situation	Incidents	Percent
Mechanical Failure	9	31.0%
Operational Deficiency	5	17.2%
Incendiary/Suspicious	0	0.0%
Misuse of Heat Source	4	13.8%
Design Deficiencies	0	0.0%
Other	7	24.1%
Misuse of Fuel Supply	2	6.9%
Natural Causes	2	6.9%
	29	100.0%



10 YEAR INCIDENT SUMMARY

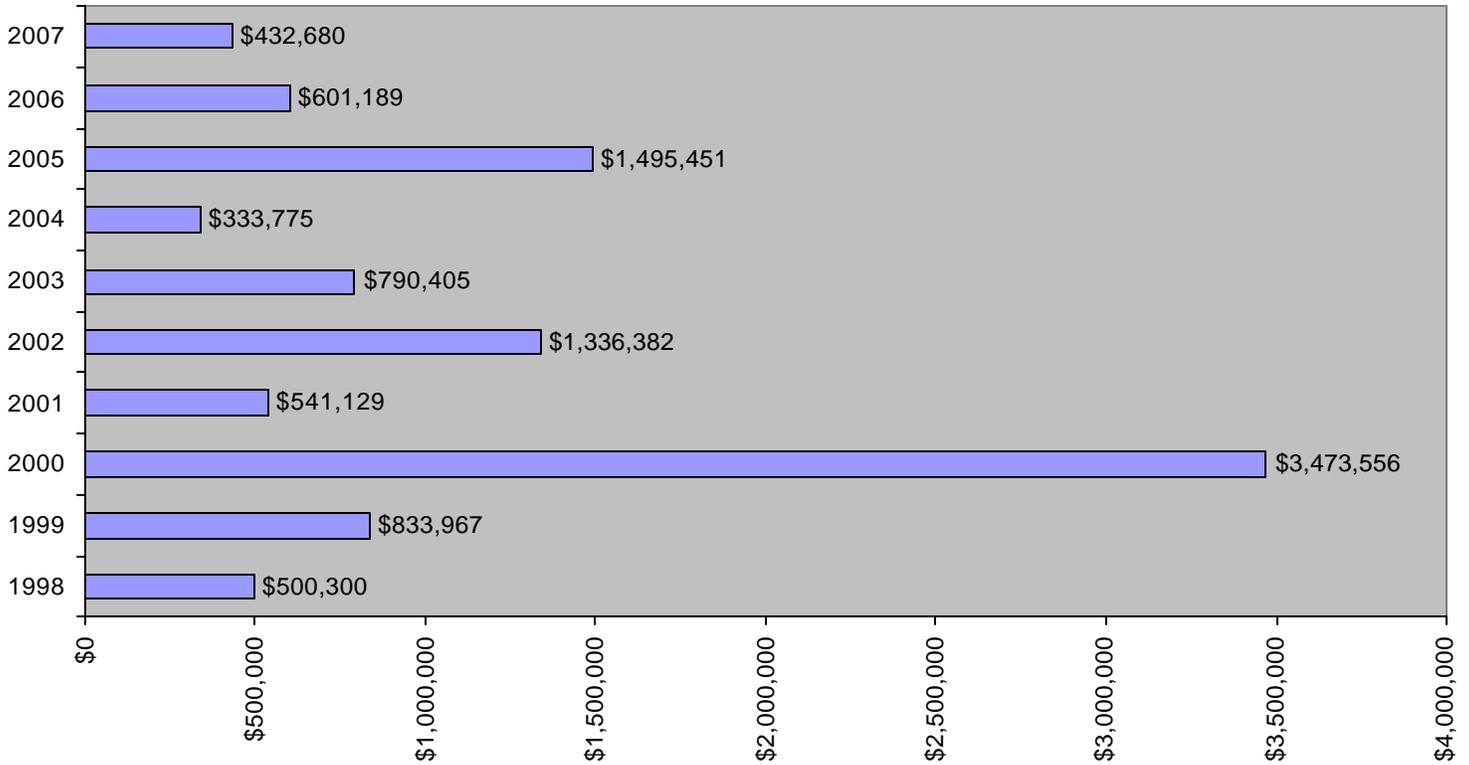
Situation	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Fires	132	137	135	82	94	93	118	129	98	146
False Alarms	246	299	313	286	250	302	350	342	378	405
Others	531	532	650	571	506	402	450	447	394	403
Medicals	1692	1619	1633	1599	1661	1800	1644	1752	1916	1959
Total	2601	2587	2731	2538	2511	2597	2562	2670	2786	2913

■ Fires ■ False Alarms ■ Others ■ Medicals





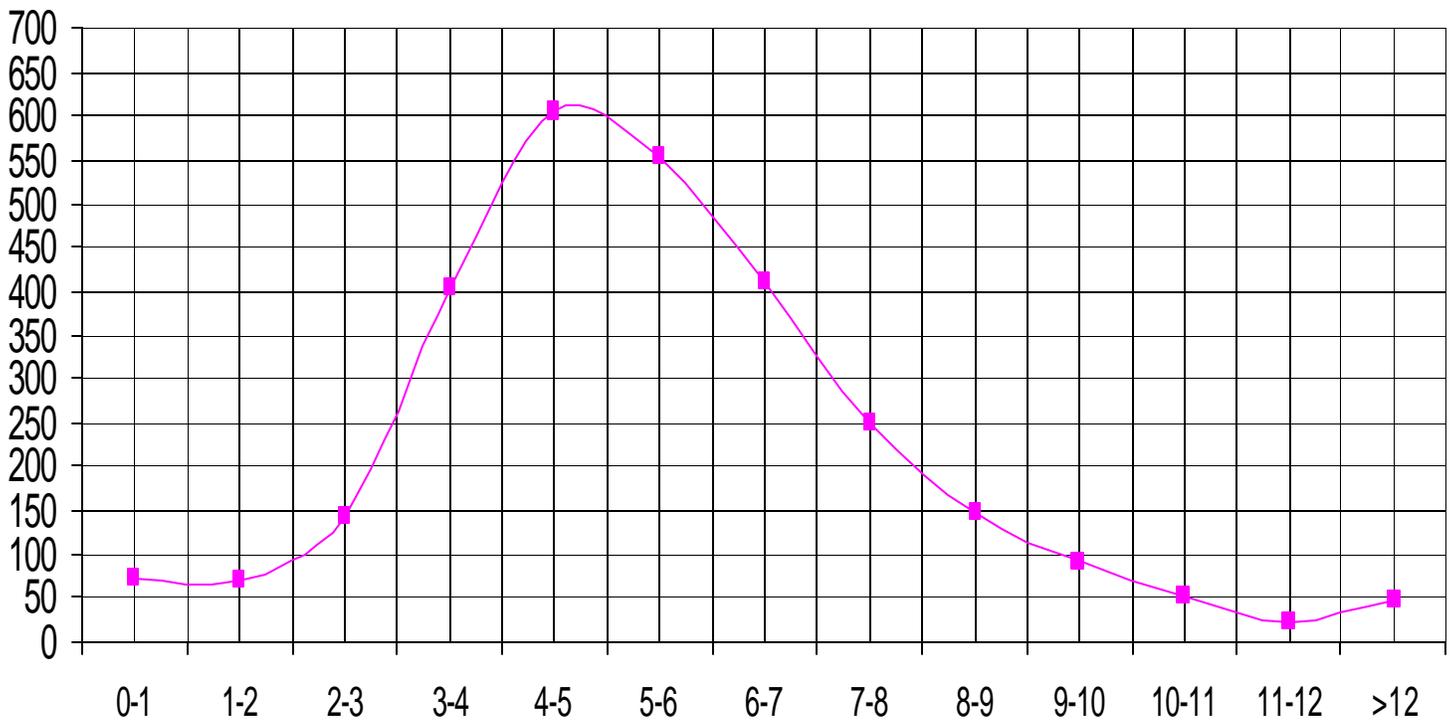
PROPERTY LOSS SUMMARY





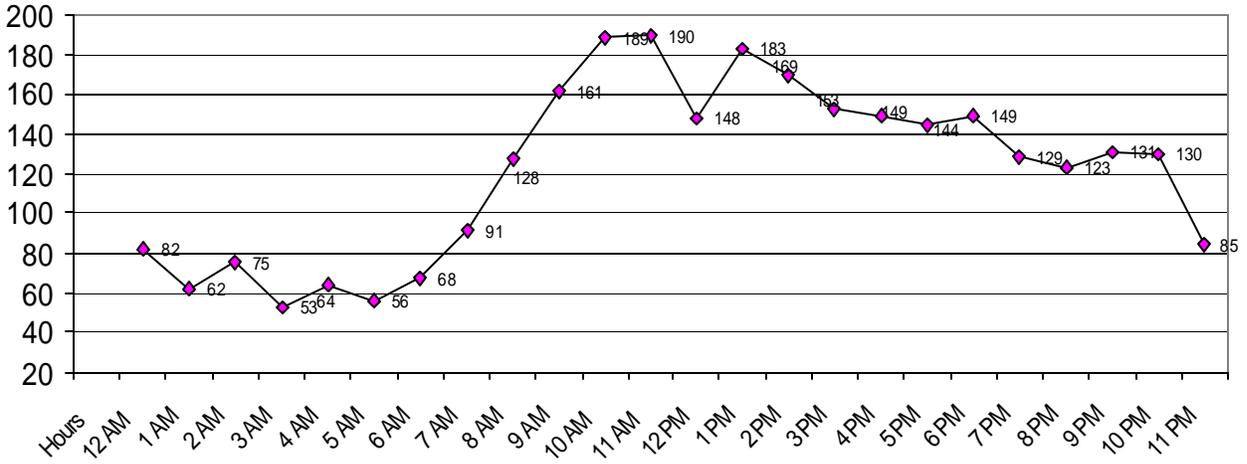
TIMES FROM CALL RECEIVED TO FIRST UNIT ON SCENE

MINUTES	INCIDENTS	PERCENT
0-1	72	2.5%
1-2	71	2.4%
2-3	142	4.9%
3-4	402	13.8%
4-5	605	20.8%
5-6	552	18.9%
6-7	412	14.1%
7-8	250	8.6%
8-9	146	5.0%
9-10	93	3.2%
10-11	50	1.7%
11-12	23	0.8%
>12	48	1.6%
2866		

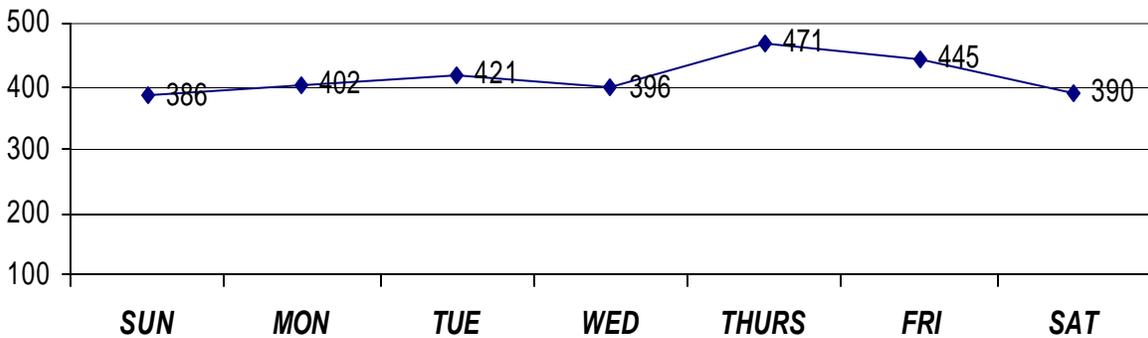




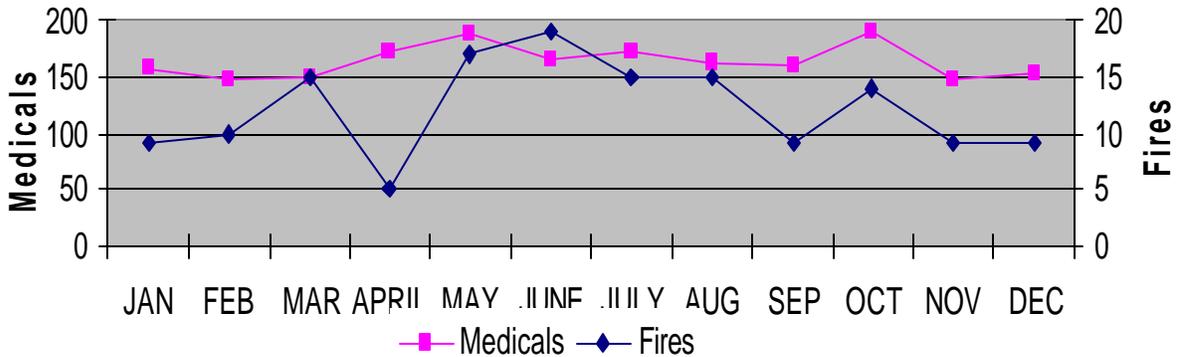
INCIDENTS BY HOUR OF DAY



INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK

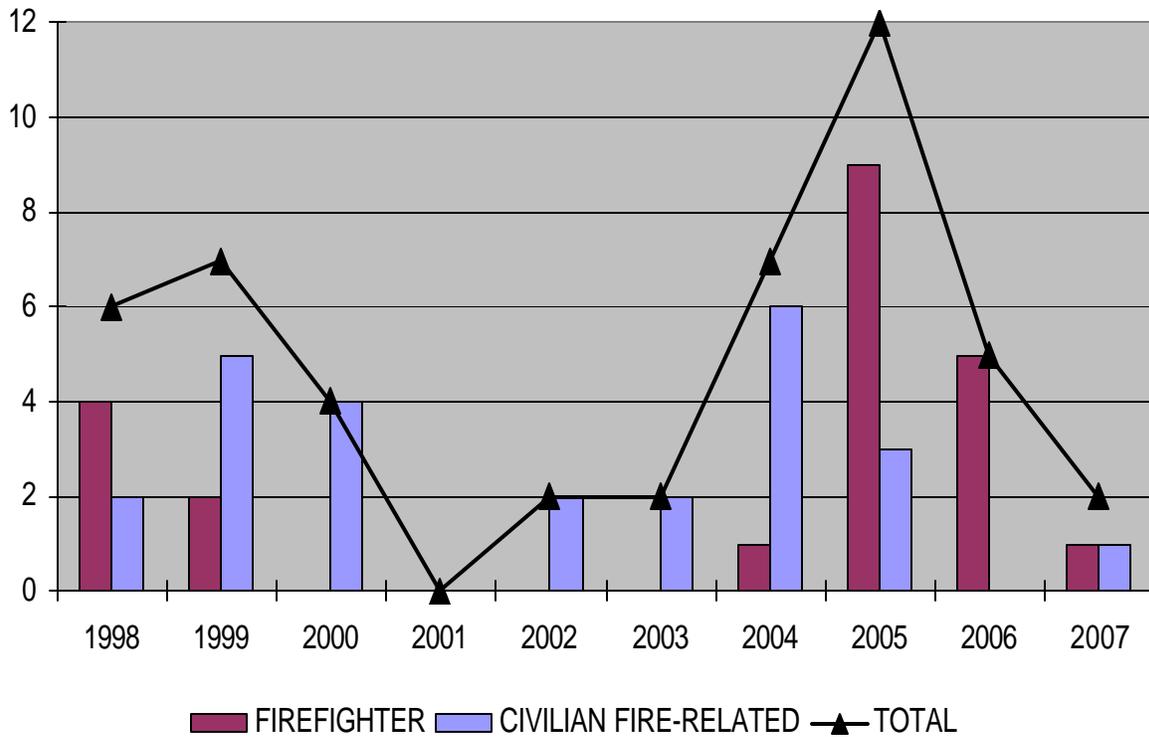


INCIDENTS BY MONTH OF YEAR





INJURIES SUMMARY

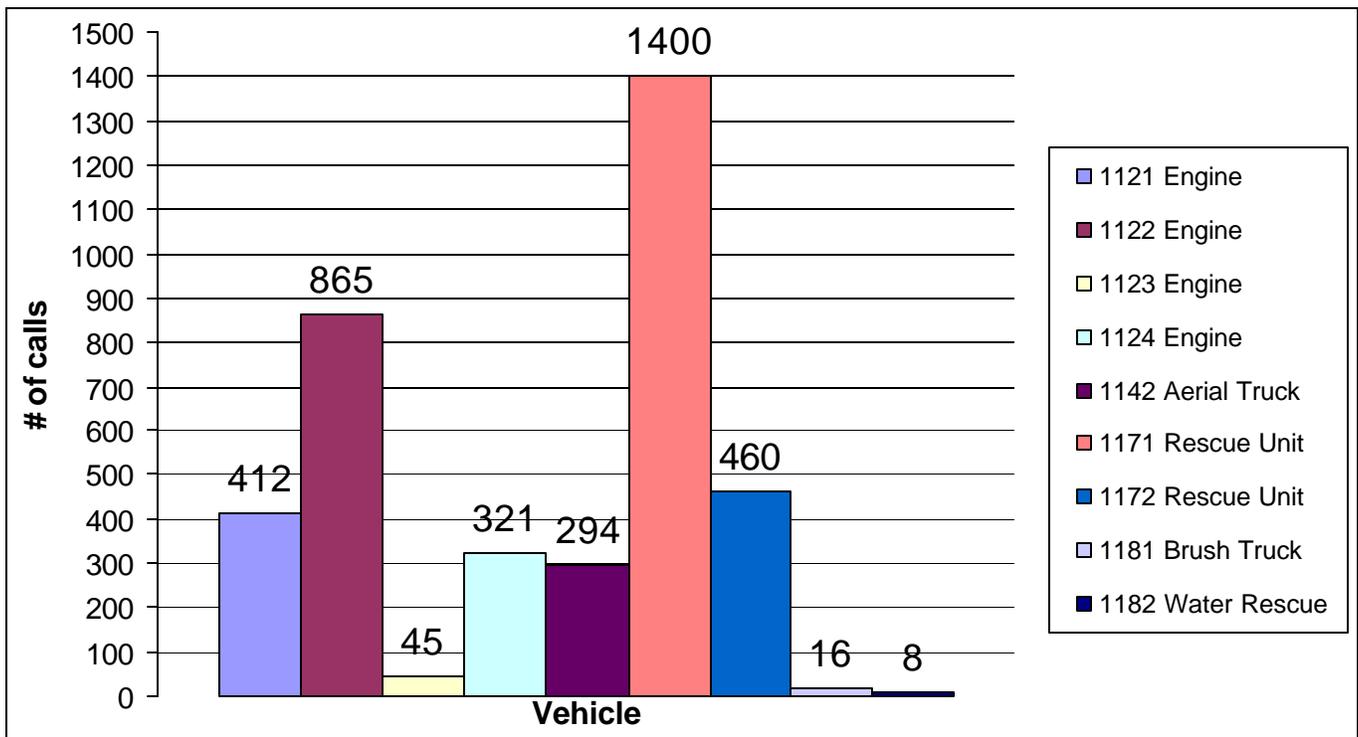


YEAR	FIREFIGHTER INJURIES	CIVILIAN FIRE-RELATED INJURIES	TOTAL INJURIES
1998	4	2	6
1999	2	5	7
2000	0	4	4
2001	0	0	0
2002	0	2	2
2003	0	2	2
2004	1	6	7
2005	9	3	12
2006	5	0	5
2007	1	1	2



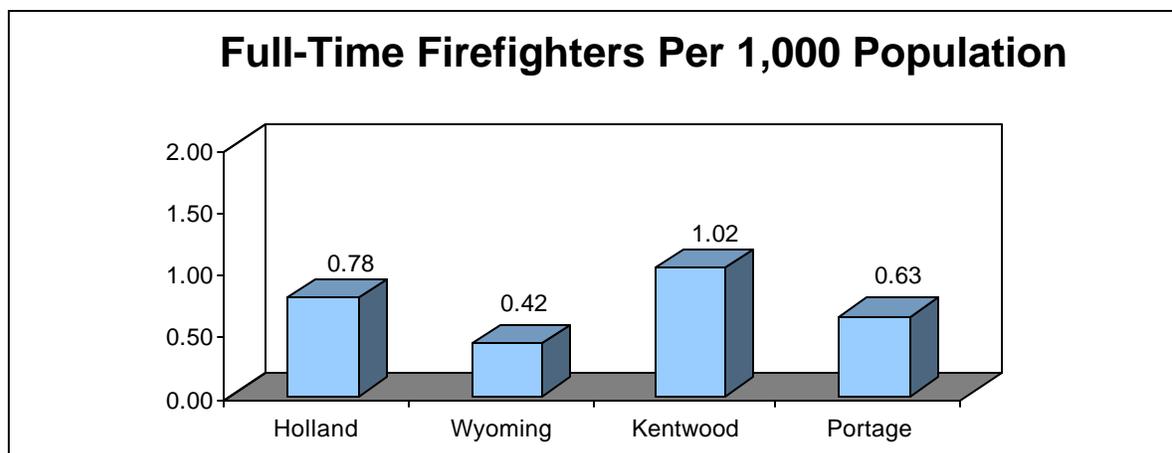
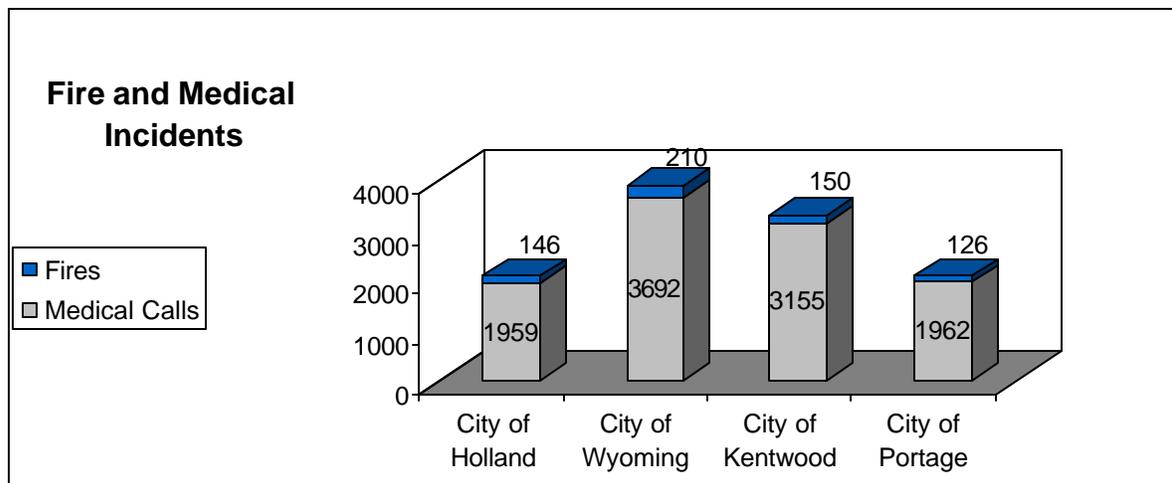
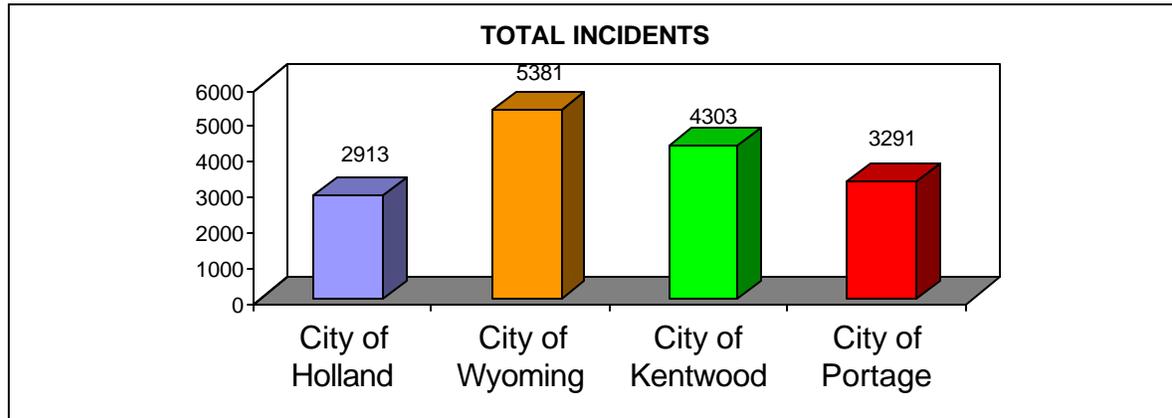
APPARATUS RESPONSES

RESPONSE DATA BY RESPONDING UNITS	THIS MONTH 2007	YEAR TO DATE 2007
1121 Engine	43	412
1122 Engine	87	865
1123 Engine	3	45
1124 Engine	0	321
1142 Aerial Truck	27	294
1171 Rescue Unit	96	1400
1172 Rescue Unit	50	460
1181 Brush Truck	0	16
1182 Water Rescue	0	8
TOTAL RESPONSES	306	3821



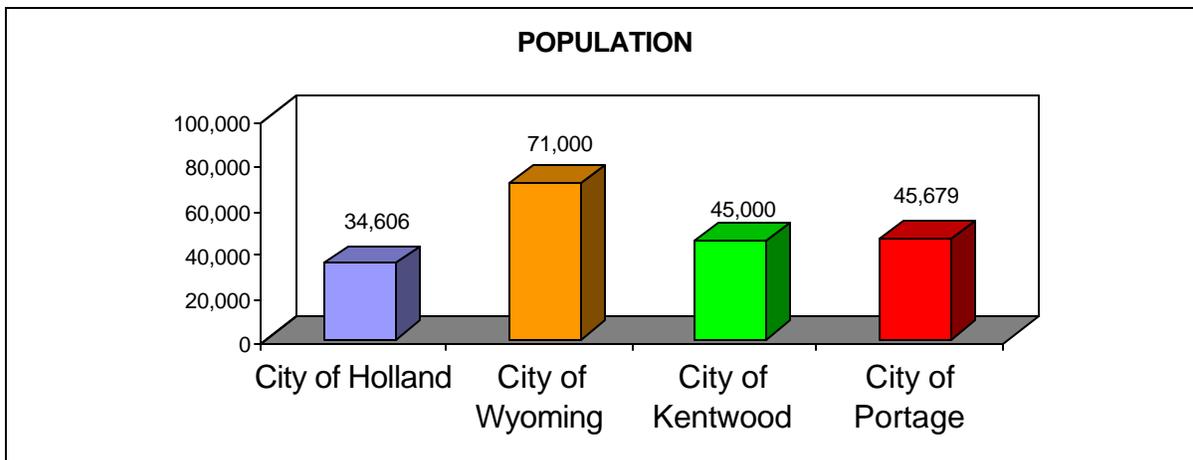
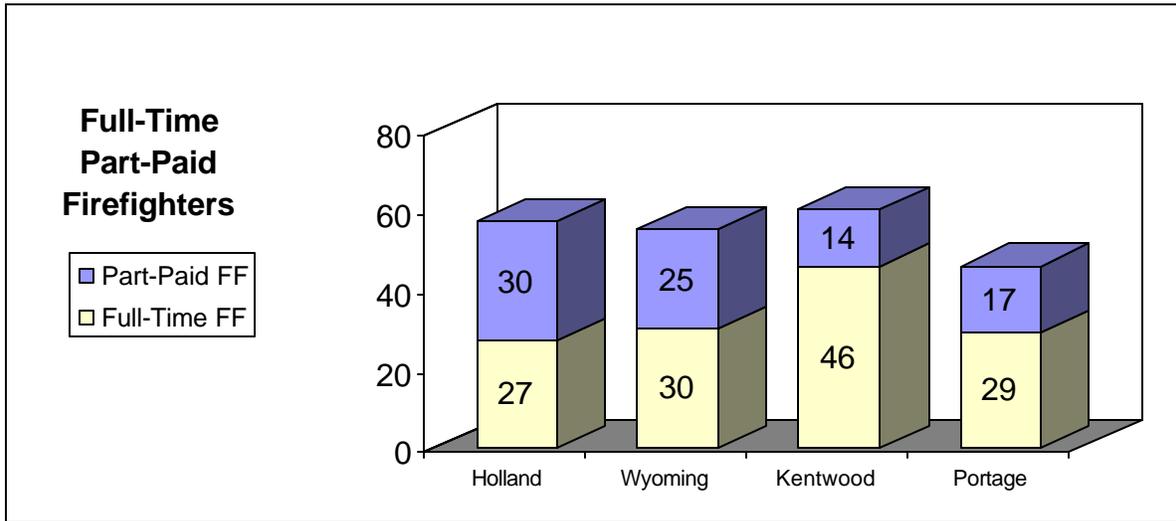


COMPARISON OF SELECTED STATISTICS WITH OTHER WEST MICHIGAN CITIES





COMPARISON OF SELECTED STATISTICS WITH OTHER WEST MICHIGAN CITIES (continued)





PART-PAID ATTENDANCE—2007

	<i>Avg. over past 12 months</i>
STATION 1	
ALLEN, A.	72%
DRYER	55%
GRAMS	100%
HELDER	1%
POTTER	71%
TIEN	96%
TIMMER	100%

	<i>Avg. over past 12 months</i>
STATION 3	
ARNOLDINK	86%
BOULLOSA	82%
BRIGGS	68%
CUSACK	97%
DEFEYTER	59%
GAMBY	75%
GOHLKE	87%
HOCKING	99%
LAWRENCE	66%
SYBESMA	77%
VOSS	95%
WOODALL	84%

	<i>Avg. over past 12 months</i>
STATION 2	
ALICEA	60%
ALLEN, K.	70%
BRONKHORST	69%
CLARK	66%
HIGHSTREET	80%
HULST	94%
LEKAN	75%
TOOLE	81%
VERA	66%