

DeForest Area Fire and EMS 2012 Annual Report



DeForest Area Fire and EMS District
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Message from Fire Chief Paul E. Nelson

To the DeForest Area Fire District Board of Directors, citizens of the Village of DeForest, Townships of Windsor, Vienna, Leeds and Hampden, and to the members of the DeForest Area Fire and EMS District, I am honored and proud to present to you my first Annual Report as your Fire Chief.

When I started in this position last February, I came to you with great excitement and humbleness that you had chosen me to be your first full time Fire Chief. I knew when I started that there would be demands of my time to understand the DeForest Fire and EMS system and the Dane County system. Through this learning process, the members of the department continually provided me with help and assistance. I am truly grateful for all of the help and support they have provided me along the way.

This past year we experienced several significant incidents, from numerous motor vehicle accidents, ambulance calls for service and several large structure fires. Unfortunately, several of these events resulted in fatalities of the victims involved.

We also experienced a significantly dry summer which led to banning of any personal fireworks and burn permits for several weeks. Fortunately with the help of the membership, we were able to still hold the 4th of July fireworks in Fireman's Park, by wetting of the grass and standing by in case of a fire.

Some of the additional highlights of 2012 included a new ambulance and command vehicle, upgrading of administrative computers and software, and purchasing of needed equipment and tools to ensure safe and professional response. We have also begun the process of obtaining accreditation with the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.

I am extremely proud of this department and the dedication that continually is shown by the members. I am blessed and truly honored to be here as your chief and I look forward to a safe and successful 2013.



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2012 At a Glance

- Chief Paul Nelson is sworn in on February 11, 2012.
- New ambulance Rescue 52 was received and put into service in July.
- 15th Annual Car Show was held on June 2, with the Remembrance Rescue Project and Rescue 4 from FDNY (restored memorial) here and donating \$1500 to the family of Lt. Jamison Kampmeyer of Colby who died in the line of duty in March.
- Fourth of July fireworks were still held, even though there were fire restrictions throughout Wisconsin. Department wet the grass and had equipment standing by so that the community could still enjoy the fireworks.
- A department family picnic was held August, to provide members with an opportunity to enjoy a family day together with fellow members and their families.
- Annual open house was held October 13th and provided the opportunity for the community to come and see what the fire department is doing, observe fire sprinkler demonstrations, extrication demonstrations and electrical safety demonstrations. Rides were also given to those who wanted to ride in a fire truck.
- Major upgrade was made to financial management software and a complete change of the chart of accounts for ease of account tracking.
- Various equipment upgrades were accomplished over the course of the year these include:
 - Upgraded computers and financial software
 - Replaced copier
 - Replaced several sets of turn-out gear
 - Upgraded defibrillators to Life-Pak 15's
 - Purchased additional pagers
 - Purchased a hose washer to extend the service life of our hoses
 - Purchased SCBA filling station cabinet to increase safety
 - Purchased needed training props
 - Purchased GMC pickup for new command vehicle
- Participated in DeForest Yahara River Fest activities in September.
- Hosted a Fire Instructor and Fire Officer class for MATC, several of our members attending.



- Participated in a tabletop/educational exercise with the Village of DeForest and its Emergency Operations Center. This is a new initiative and there will be continuing training and participation over the next several years.
- Staffed up and maintained crews during the blizzard in late December. Personnel stayed at the station ready to go at a moment's notice.
- Held several additional fund raisers, such as annual drive through brat bust and Fill the Boot for Muscular Dystrophy Association, MDA donation collected was over \$3000.
- Updated department patch was approved by the membership.

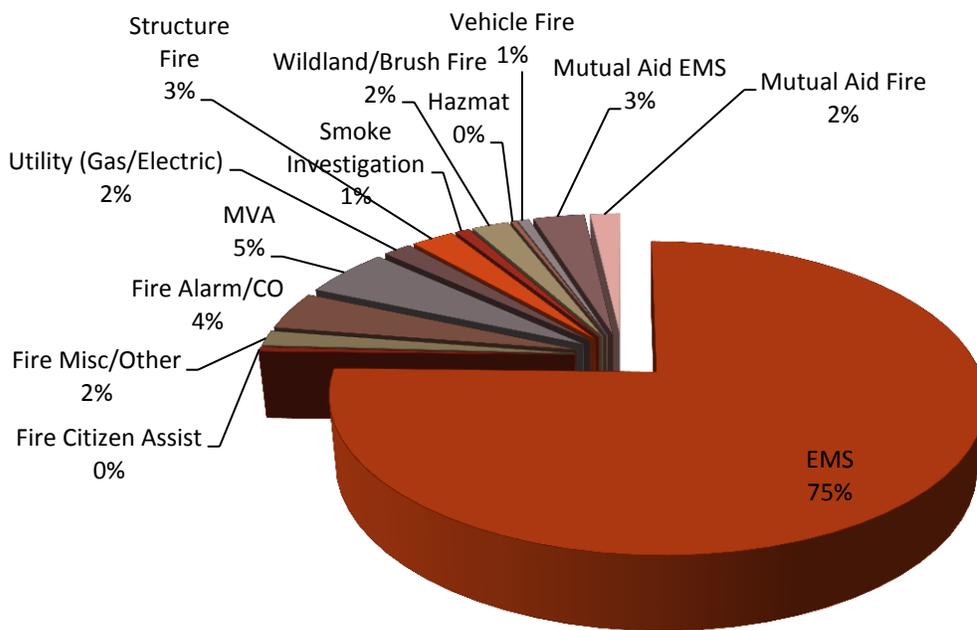
Incident Information and Statistics

In 2012, the majority of our calls were Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls. This is the most common request for services not only in our district, but nationwide. Over the course of the year, we responded to a total of 1153 calls for service, of which, 885 were EMS.

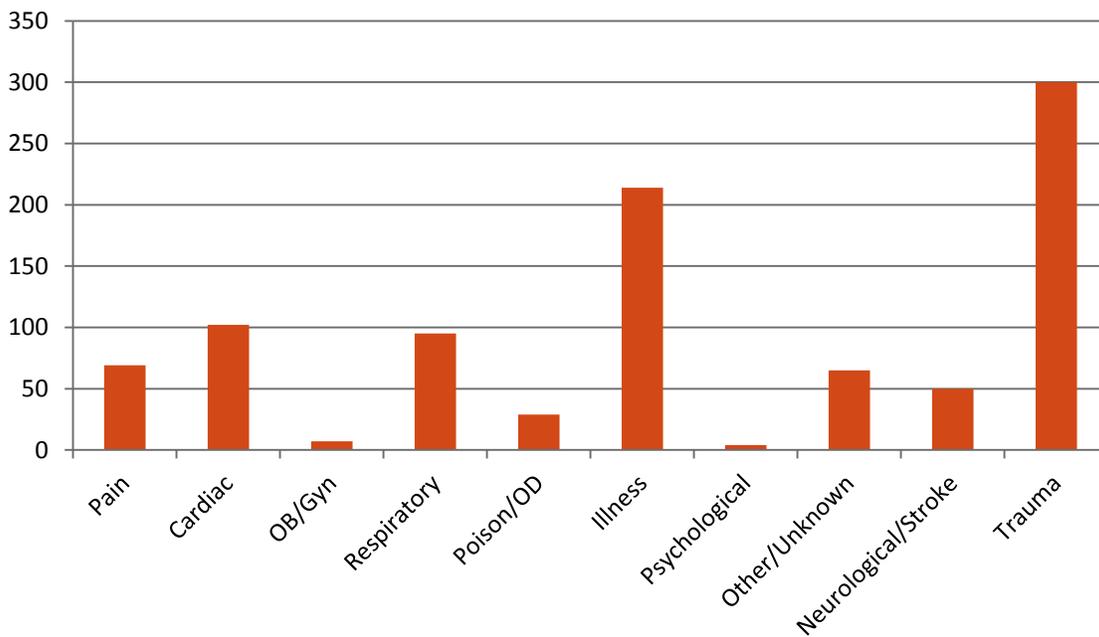
Our members are comprised of mostly volunteers and 5 full time employees. In 2012, the full time staff provided service from 6 am to 10 pm, Monday to Friday. The additional hours (nights and weekends) are covered by the volunteer members. As a result of this staffing model, full time covered 47% (4160 hours) and volunteers covered 53% (4600 hours).

The one area where we saw a significant increase from 2011 was to structure fire calls. In 2012, there were 30 calls in the district, several of these being significant fires. Unfortunately, one of these was a fatal fire. As a result to these structure fires, an estimated \$1.1 million fire loss was experienced in the district. This increase was also experienced by our neighboring departments as our mutual aid requests went up 36% in 2012. There was an additional estimate of \$25,000 in loss due to vehicle fires.



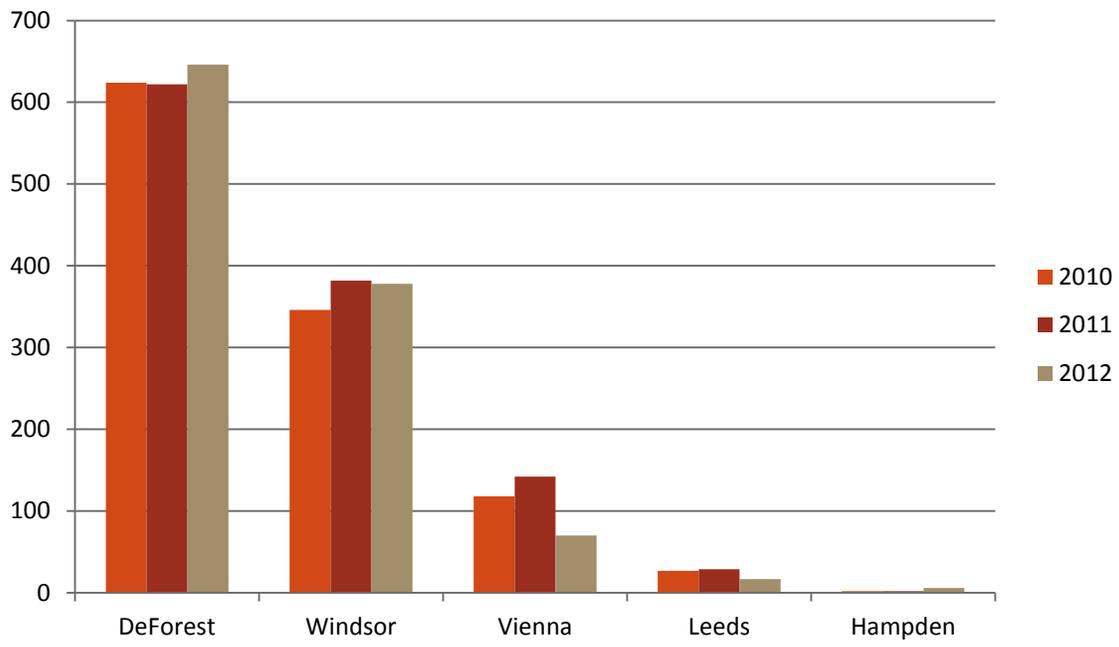


2012 Calls for Service by Type

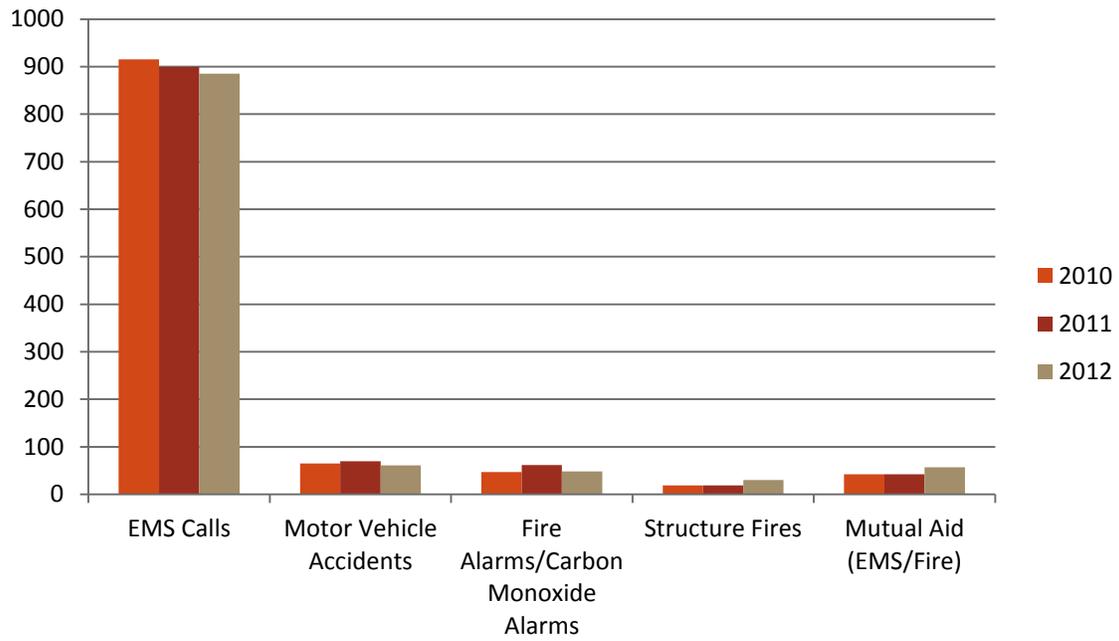


2012 EMS Calls by Category



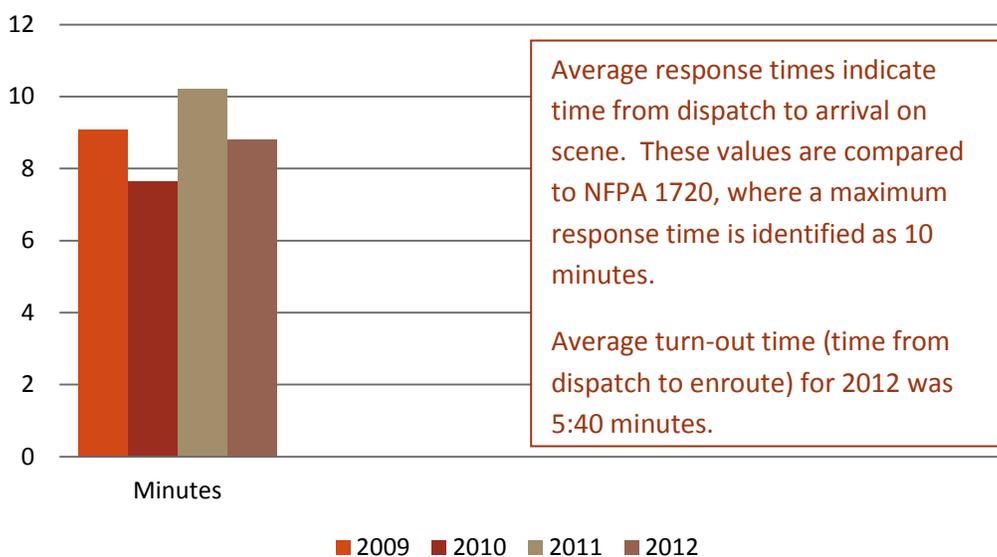


Calls by Municipality



Top 5 Types of Calls





Average Response Times

Training

Each year, members are required to maintain their level of training to ensure we provide professional, effective and safe response to all incidents. This training is split into two categories depending on what part of the department members are operating in. These categories are fire and EMS training. The majority of these hours are done truly on a volunteer basis, where there is no pay associated with the hours spent.

Our training in 2012 saw the following courses and drill hours from the firefighting members:

Course/Activity	Hours
2 Probationary Firefighter Courses (9 members)	1080
Fire Instructor Class (4 members)	180
Fire Officer Class (7 members)	315
Fire Apparatus/Driver Operator (4 members)	240
Fire Fighter 1 (2 members)	90
Monthly Drills (all fire members)	4333
Monthly Drills - Instructors	551
Total	6789

In addition to these hours, we held two house burns and invited five neighboring departments to participate with us. There were more than 25 firefighters at each of these events. Events such as these types of trainings are invaluable in creating lasting partnerships and relationships that directly benefit the district on the accident scene.

The departments that participated were: Arlington, Maple Bluff, Sun Prairie, Waunakee, Dane and the Army National Guard.

Members also attended offsite trainings and continuing education. Many of these were not accounted for in time spent. These will be tracked much better in 2013.



Fire Prevention and Inspection Report

Approximately 1200 routine life safety fire inspections were conducted from January 1, 2012 thru December 31, 2012, to include the Village of DeForest, Town of Windsor, Town of Vienna, Town of Hampden, and Town of Leeds. Out of the approximately 1200 fire inspections, 220 facilities needed a re- inspection due to fire code violations found on the initial fire inspection. Of the 220 facilities that needed a re-inspection, 6 required a 2nd re-inspection. All businesses were in compliance with state and local codes for 2012 and no citations were issued.

Municipality	No. of Inspections (yr.)
DeForest	730
Windsor	372
Vienna	78
Leeds	30
Hampden	4

Aside from routine fire inspections, a few new businesses moved into the DeForest Area and many existing company's remodeled or added an addition to their existing facility. One of the larger, plan approval projects, was the Neesvig's Fulfillment Center who purchased and moved into the old Burton Rubber building on Burton Boulevard. The amount of cleaning it took and the amount of upgrades to the existing building lead to some challenges, but the owner and contractor pulled through and everything was code compliant by the occupancy date.

A few new businesses moved in unannounced in the Town of Windsor. When driving past several tenant spaces, it was noticed that they were occupied, when previously

they had been vacant. One business in particular is an auto repair shop that had set up a makeshift, non-UL Listed paint booth and had been painting cars. An inspection of the facility was conducted immediately, only to find that the Town of Windsor doesn't require a permit for a business to occupy a space in a multi-tenant building. The owner was instructed to stop all painting of vehicles immediately until he purchased and properly installed a UL Listed paint booth with an approved fire suppression system protecting the booth and mixer room.

In order to provide more cost effect and expedient inspection services, research began in the fall to look into a paperless, web-based documentation and reporting system. This system is anticipated to be in service in early 2013.

As part of this process, discussions have been re-introduced to look into the possibility of common district wide ordinances that will address the fire prevention needs and concerns. These ordinances are targeted at increasing the level of safety for the residents, business owners and ultimately the members of the department.

Public Education

The DeForest Area Fire & EMS Department provides fire and life safety education and training to members of the public throughout the year. The education and training we provide are a proactive method of reducing emergencies in our community and the damage caused by them.

In 2012, we were able to provide education and training to over 1,800 individuals in our fire district. As with previous years, a large portion of these individuals were children (about 1,100).

Reaching out to all of these people requires a lot of dedication on the part of our membership. Members do not receive compensation for their time at public education events; they simply do it for the benefit of our community. This year, over 300 hours of providing fire and life safety education were logged by the members of DeForest Area Fire & EMS.

CPR Training

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a crucial component of saving someone whose heart has ceased to function. Brain injury is likely to occur within five minutes of cardiac arrest if circulation is not returned. The circulation of blood to the vital organs can be maintained by performing chest compressions, and the best part is that anyone who has been trained can perform CPR! This is not something that needs to wait for an



ambulance crew. In fact, because the time of arrest to EMS arrival can vary greatly, a citizen beginning CPR prior to EMS arrival can mean the difference between life and death.

In 2012, 80 citizens were trained to perform CPR on adults and children. They were also instructed on how to properly perform the Heimlich Maneuver if someone is choking. By learning these techniques, these citizens made our community a safer place to live and work in.

Mock Crash

Each spring, the district assists and participates with the DeForest Police Department in two mock crash demonstrations. This event is provided first for the graduating senior class and then the second time it is provided for the public.

The goal of this event is to provide the students and the public with a glimpse of what a real motor vehicle accident can be like. By using actors to simulate victims and several smashed vehicles, emergency responders show what it takes to safely respond and to take care of the victims. But, as was the case in 2012's scenario, not all the victims survive. This life and death reality is one of the goals for the training, hoping to influence students and the public about the dangers and ultimate risks from drinking, texting and speeding when driving.



The event is followed up by all those observing, sitting in an assembly and several presenters who have had personal experiences with these types of events. These individuals share their stories and the on-going pain, suffering and grief that they experience every day.

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week is always one of our biggest efforts for fire safety education. The month was filled with visits to local elementary schools, preschools, and station tours. Over 450 children in the district benefitted from the staff's fire prevention presentations. This year we focused on creating and practicing exit drills in the home.

The highlight of Fire Prevention Week is always our annual Open House. This year's event was a hit with the crowd. Kids and adults made their way through the fire station for fire truck rides, exit drill planning, visits with Sparky the fire dog and more.

One popular demonstration was the side by side burn rooms. This was intended to show the power and speed of fire and to indicate the benefit of smoke detectors and

sprinklers in the home. For the demonstration, two fully furnished 8'x8' living rooms were set on fire. One was sprinklered, the other was not. After the fires were extinguished, it was clear that fire is extremely dangerous and sprinklers really do make your home safer from fire. Many citizens indicated that this was an eye opener for them. Despite the weather, Open House 2012 was a success, and fun was had by all.

Future Plans

In 2013, the department plans to have more of a presence within the schools. We want kids to be comfortable coming to us for help or consulting us about things such as considering protective services as a career option. If you see us out and about, stop over and say hello!

DeForest Area Fire and EMS Extrication Team



With the Highway 51 construction schedule being moved up due to local pressure, the safety of motorists and local residents was recently brought to the forefront of discussions. Simply put, vehicle crashes are still a big concern for anyone traveling through the DeForest area. DeForest Area Fire & EMS strives to provide safe and timely responses to any incidents we are called to. Because of the dedication of our members and quality of our training, we are well known throughout the rescue field as one of the best in the state when it comes to freeing victims of vehicle crashes.

The DeForest Area Fire and EMS has a team that competes locally, regionally and nationally to hone their extrication skills.

In May of 2012, the DeForest Fire & EMS Extrication Team took second place in the Midwest Regional Extrication Competition held in Cherry Valley, Illinois, beating out teams from Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota.

Extrication competitions simulate severe and often imaginative car crashes to test the rescue team's ability to safely rescue or extricate the victim inside. Teams are judged on size-up, control, scene and vehicle stabilization, tool use, and patient care. Teams face two different scenarios. One allows the use of hydraulic rescue equipment such as the "Jaws of Life", and the other limits the team's use to only air and electric powered tools along with simple hand tools. This allows the teams to practice their skills in case of a hydraulic tool failure. In addition to normal training and on call responsibilities, members of the extrication team trained on numerous extra nights to prepare for the competition.

With this second place regional victory, the Extrication Team secured a spot at the World Rescue Competition in Clearwater, Florida in October and November 2013.

In the end, the DeForest Area Fire & EMS Department is not the real winner. It's the citizens we serve and the thousands of motorists who travel through our response district daily that are safer because of the men and women of the department who strive to be the best at saving lives in a vehicle crash.

The members of the current Extrication Team are Scott Samuel, Brian Payne, Brent Fryk, Stephanie Klock, Trevor Klock, Andrew Servais and Steve Gamez.

Plans and Initiatives for 2013

As we move into 2013, there are several projects and initiatives that the DeForest Area Fire and EMS District will be looking at. The majority of these will be focusing on long term issues aimed at improving the level of service for the district.

The first of these initiatives is conducting a self-assessment of the department over the next two years. This self-assessment is a significant part of the accreditation process that the department has started. In addition to the self-assessment, long term strategic planning and evaluating how we provide service (standard of cover) will be done in order to strengthen and improve the department for the benefit of the citizens that we serve.

Several of the district agreements will also be coming due in 2016, so these agreements will begin to be reviewed in 2013. Among these include the municipality intergovernmental agreement and station lease with the Village of DeForest.

The chart of accounts was revised in 2012, but the process of cleaning up the financial management will continue in 2013. The plan is to have the system streamlined to make managing the funds and developing budgets much easier in the future.

On-going discussions regarding district wide fire prevention ordinances will continue. There are some changes that may be coming down from the State that will make having district wide ordinances a necessity.

The membership portion of the department is also undergoing some changes. In 2012, a committee was formed to look at the by-laws and organizational structure for the volunteer component. This process and organizational changes will be completed and put into place in early 2013.

Dane County is looking to go live with upgrades to the radio system. This includes all dispatch information available on computers. As this process with the county continues,

the department will be looking at the most cost effective way to integrate into the changes that the County will be going to.

The department will also be holding a town hall meeting as part of the upgrade in EMS service to the Advanced EMT level (IV Tech). Currently the application materials are being prepared to be sent to the State EMS office for approval. Anticipated change in service would be by summer of 2013.

Support Committee

The Support Committee is made up of volunteers that support district operations, such as providing meals for the members after monthly business meetings, meals for long term incidents, help with all of the various fund raising functions that are held throughout the year. They have been instrumental in the annual car show and the food stand.

Current members include: Nancy Brokmeier, Carl Goepfert, Barb and Larry Atkinson, Beth and Randy Krey and Kathy Hesse.

The district members want to thank the support committee for all of the dedicated and tireless support they provide throughout the year.

In Recognition

In 2012, Roger Bjorge was honored with 30 years of service to the department and to Dane County and its citizens. Many thanks go to Roger for his dedicated years of service. Roger was presented with a plaque at our annual open house in October.



In Memoriam

On June 16, 2012, we lost our brother James “Jim” Anderson. Jim was a member in good standing for over 3 years. He was an integral part to the annual car show and the 100 year celebration. His dedication and commitment to the department and the community will be greatly missed.



Current Membership Roster

DeForest Area Fire Board Members: Paul Blount, Chairman (Village of DeForest)
 Robert Wipperfurth (Town of Windsor)
 Jonathan Marquardt (Town of Vienna)
 Jim Foley (Town of Leeds)
 Dave Tuschen (Town of Hampden)

Chief Paul Nelson
 Deputy Chief of Fire – Brent Foss
 Deputy Chief of EMS – Shannon Sullivan
 Assistant Chief of Fire Training – Steve LaFeber
 Assistant Chief of EMS Training and Safety – Scott Samuel
 Captain Eric Fairfield
 Lieutenant Rydell McGovern
 Lieutenant Roger Atkinson
 Lieutenant Andy Schmitz
 Medical Director-Dr. David Ringdahl

Devin Abshere
 Terry Anderson
 Roger Bjorge
 Adam Burke
 Troy Coogan
 Angie Danielski
 Eric Doleman
 Ryan Dostalek
 Ryan Endres
 Taylor Engelhart
 Philip Espenes
 Kelli Fall
 Tammy Fairfield
 Roland Fayen
 Erik Finkelson
 Robert Flores
 Cody Flury
 Tabitha Fried
 Brent Fryk
 Steven Gamez
 Justin Garcia
 Denise Gratz
 Janet Haag
 Cody Hamilton
 Stacey Hanson

Jonathon Henney
 Hunter Hill
 Karen Hinickle
 Jalen Houghton
 Chris Jauch
 Patrick Killian
 Stephanie Klock
 Trevor Klock
 Anthony Leikip
 Jason Loucks
 Scott Maier
 Dean Mancheski
 Julie McHugh
 Alyssa Motiff
 Renee Noltemeyer
 Brian Payne
 Zach Polachek
 David Powell
 Travis Reigstad
 Brandon Reisinger
 Andrew Servais
 Larry Smith
 Brian Vaughn
 John Wagner
 Ben Waldera
 Kevin West

