FORT WAYNE FIRE DEPARTMENT
annual REPORT 2010
FORT WAYNE FIRE DEPARTMENT
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OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the Fort Wayne fire Department to prevent the loss of life and to control or reduce the loss of property by applying all of our professional knowledge and resources to become the “Safest City of our Size.” It is our number one priority to provide the best fire service to all citizens and visitors to our City. The mission is accomplished through the services provided in the areas of Administration, Operations, Fire Prevention, Public Affairs, Safety Education, Training and Developement, Logistics, and Investigations. In 2004 the Department’s mission added the following:

- Firefighters may risk their lives to save a life.
- Firefighters may put themselves at moderate risk to save property.
- Firefighters will risk nothing to save life or property that is already lost or destroyed.

OUR VISION

Promote positive attitude, keep things in perspective and always “do the right thing.”
As Fire Chief of the Fort Wayne Fire Department, I want to welcome everyone to Fort Wayne Fire Department’s 2010 Annual Report. The Annual Report provides for a brief description of the City of Fort Wayne, its Fire Department and a snapshot of the Fire Department’s different Divisions along with related data information and initiatives for 2010.

The 375 uniformed officers/firefighters along with 10 civilian employees of the Fort Wayne Fire Department are directly responsible for serving Fort Wayne’s 253,691 residents over a 110 square mile area. Fort Wayne is the second largest city in Indiana and is the county seat of Allen County, the largest county in the state with an estimated population of 350,000 residents. The Fort Wayne Fire Department through mutual aid agreements assists other Fire Departments in Allen County upon request and is also available throughout Northeast Indiana to provide additional support for Hazardous Material, Water Rescue and other special operational emergencies.

2010 was another year of providing outstanding fire service to the City of Fort Wayne and its visitors. Dedicated firefighters through proper staffing and quality equipment continued to deliver emergency response in a timely and professional manner. The Department has been able to maintain an average response time of just under 4 ½ minutes, despite an increase in training hours, expansion of our Wellness Fitness Initiative, the hydrant program and continuing to provide community outreach programs such as smoke detector installation. Safety remained paramount through the support and leadership of the department’s Health and Safety Officer, Quartermaster, the International Association of Firefighters Local 124 and other initiatives on the part of the command staff.

The Training Division, in addition to their normal EMS and firefighter training, expanded the officer leadership program through formal classroom presentations and discussions. The Command Training Center continued to be a success offering more realistic Incident Management training for the FWFD command and other northeast Indiana agencies command personnel. Included in the training were dispatchers from both Allen County and City of Fort Wayne in preparation for implementation of the newly consolidated 911 Center. The Consolidated Communications Partnership (CCP) was formed to oversee consolidated dispatch center between the County and City that expects to promote more efficient and safe emergency responses between FWFD and other Allen County fire departments and public safety agencies.
Fire Prevention and Education continued to reach out to thousands of businesses and individuals to promote safety. The implementation of an inspection program continues to utilize new computer hardware and software in the field to increase the efficiency of inspections. Our Safety Education officers continued to reach thousands of school age children through school visits and activities at the Safety Village complex including the Survive Alive House. The Department's Arson Investigators continued to utilize their full police powers that has allowed them to more effectively investigate, arrest and assist in the prosecution of arson related cases. All of these efforts contribute to maintaining the lower number of structure fires Fort Wayne experiences each year compared to the national average.

As we move beyond 2010, the members of FWFD will continue to provide the level of fire service the citizens of Fort Wayne have come to expect. Not unlike the last three years, where the Fire Department budgets stayed relatively flat, the financial challenges are expected to continue. Members of the Fort Wayne Fire Department through a strong partnership between the administration and the union's executive board must remain open to exploring cost-efficient means of delivering the high-quality fire service to the citizens of Fort Wayne. However, that same partnership has a responsibility to inform and educate the citizens and their representatives that at some point providing the same level of service with continued diminishing resources becomes unlikely.

Sincerely,
Fire Chief Peter X. Kelly
The Administration Division, working out of the administration offices and maintenance shop is primarily responsible for the areas of budget management, purchasing, personnel, human relations, customer service, building and vehicle/equipment maintenance, information technology and health and safety. The greatest responsibility lies in providing all Divisions with the best resources and equipment to ensure the safety of firefighters and provide the highest level of fire service to the City of Fort Wayne.

**Finance and Facilities**

Angela Erpelding is Director of Finance and Facilities and is assisted by three other office personnel who primarily oversee the areas of budget management, purchasing, data entry, payroll and customer service.

The 2010 budget saw a small increase over 2009 budget, but was consistent and in-line with 2008 fiscal year budget. The 2010 budget reflects FWFD’s commitment to maintaining the highest level of service to the community, ensuring firefighter safety and support to the department in a cost efficient manner.

- **2006** $ 30.7 million
- **2007** $ 32.7 million
- **2008** $ 34.6 million
- **2009** $ 33.9 million
- **2010** $ 34.2 million
Led by Building Maintenance Manager, Steve Powell, the Building Maintenance team is comprised of three employees who supply, service and maintain 18 fire stations, an administrative building, a fire shop, arson investigations, fire prevention, Safety Village and a training academy. In 2010, the Maintenance department completed 1693 service and supply requests. In addition, the Building maintenance Department also performs preventative maintenance on HVAC, electrical, plumbing, emergency backup systems, and performs maintenance on extrication equipment and small hand tools.

![Graph showing Building Maintenance by Station](image1)

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![Graph showing Outsourced Repairs](image2)

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![Pie Chart showing Request by Component](image3)

- Appliance/Extractor: 70%
- Generator/Electrical/ HVAC: 16%
- Misc.: 5%
- Plumbing/Roof/Door: 3%
- Supply: 2%
- Technology: 4%
Human Relations is under the direction of Assistant Chief Amy Biggs and is dedicated to providing exemplary customer service. This Division is responsible for administering personnel records, risk management of sick and injured personnel, policies and procedures, and internal investigations. The goal is to ensure that all services provided to employees of the Department and to the community are professional, effective and delivered in timely manner. Initiatives in 2010 included:

- Compliance with city-wide Harassment and Workplace Violence Trainings.
- Research and program implementation of Employee Assistance Programs.
- Negotiation and quick settlement of the collective bargaining agreement with Professional Firefighters Union Local 124.
- Utilization of alternative duty personnel to reduce apparatus out of service time and accomplish non-emergency tasks.
- Collaborated to create and refine policies with the assistance of Union Policy and Procedure Committee.
- Routinely met with Union Committees to discuss and improve communications and services.
- Participated in several city-wide improvement teams to enhance customer service and employee performance.
- Community outreach development with local high school to facilitate mock disasters with drinking and driving.
- Collaborated with Heath and Safety Division on development of policies, orchestrated meeting with physicians and oversaw annual physicals and vaccinations.
- Processed disability requests through local and state boards.
- Assisted in officer development training through Training and Development Division.
District Chief Jim Noll serves as the Health and Safety Officer and coordinates the activities relating to the field of health and safety for the Fort Wayne Fire Department. The Department’s Quartermaster, Captain Mark Young, also assists the Department’s safety efforts by providing, inspection and repairing of personal protective gear, self-contained breathing apparatus fit testing, equipment acquisition, nozzle repair and other safety support functions. In addition to ensuring that best practices are performed on the fire ground, during training and at the department facilities, other key initiatives in 2010 included:

- Completion of a protective clothing field test that resulted in collective changes to the specifications that improved the PPE while reducing costs.

- Completion of the first year of Work Performance Evaluations.

- Upgraded the specifications of firefighting gear (coats and pants) to improve overall performance.

- Developed and implemented Unit Identification on all self contained breathing apparatus to improve firefighter accountability at incidents.

- Facilitate Peer Fitness Trainers assistance with firefighters returning to work from injury or illness.
District Chief Jeff Stemen oversees the Department’s information and technology systems and performs data analysis, computer problem solving, computer training, fire incident reporting, web site management, web based training, software implementation and serves as the Department’s liaison with other city departments and outside contractors. In 2010 the Department continued to utilize software modules that promote efficiencies and better data management. Amongst other key initiatives for 2010 in the IT related field:

- Assisted the Training and Development Division in the configuration and implementation of the Command Training Center at the Public Safety Academy.
- Continued the Department’s video conferencing system upgrades that will include further expansion to other outside training partners such as the Allen County Health Department.
- Assisted with the installation of the Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) upgrade to the Spillman Mobile software system.
- Continued the Building Preplan program in cooperation with the Fire Prevention Bureau which affords firefighters critical building information that is available through their Mobile Data Computers while responding to an incident.
- Assisted with the upgrade to the Department’s new website.

The Public Information Officer (PIO) coordinates correspondence and information between the Fire Department, other governmental agencies and the public. The PIO works with the news media to provide updates on emergency incidents, as well as safety information for the citizens of Fort Wayne. Currently, the position is vacant but administration is planning to hire in 2011. Until then, the PIO duties will be shared by several team members in addition to their normal day-to-day duties.
The Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) is a federally funded grant program that prepares first responders and public and private health workers for mass casualty situations related to natural disasters, hazardous materials, public health emergencies, and/or acts of terrorism. Administered and managed through the Fort Wayne Fire Department, local MMRS dollars assist the community of Fort Wayne / Allen County, and at times, the 10 surrounding counties in Northeast Indiana by developing plans, acquiring equipment and pharmaceuticals, and providing necessary training and education.

In 2010, a portion of the Fort Wayne MMRS funds helped establish the Command Training Center (CTC), where virtual training scenarios dealing with fire, hazmat, and other mass casualty situations are created for first responder and health agencies. Trainees are able to view training scenarios on computers, as well as interact with their responses. A majority of the technical and physical components of the training center were purchased with MMRS grant dollars. The CTC is located at the Northeast Indiana Public Safety Academy in Ft. Wayne and provides regional training programs on a regular basis.

Another major focus in 2010 included two separate workshop/training series for both public and private health leaders, as well as county emergency managers and public safety leaders in the 11 county region of Northeast Indiana (District III). The four-day session for public and private health leaders discussed leadership competencies needed in order to better collaborate and achieve a shared vision. The sessions helped leaders build high-trust, high performance partnerships. The four-day session for county emergency managers and public safety leaders provided an understanding of leadership fundamentals necessary for meeting challenges and achieving success. The sessions helped establish shared motivation and values that produce high-trust and high performance relationships.

Additionally, Fort Wayne MMRS purchased the following:

- Medical training mannequins (water rescue, full body CPR, extrication training).
- DuoDotes (anti-nerve agent) for fire, law enforcement, and EMS in Fort Wayne, Allen County and the District III counties.
- Points of Distribution boxes for Ft. Wayne-Allen County Department of Health to be utilized during public health emergencies and training scenarios.
- Triage Tags for fire and EMS departments in Ft. Wayne / Allen County.
The Operations Division is under the direction of Deputy Chief Eric Lahey and is responsible for minimizing the loss of life, personal injury and property damage from fires, other disasters and EMS emergencies. This is accomplished through extensive training on the basic firefighting and EMS skills as well as working in partnership with the Training and Development Division to identify and implement new techniques. Additionally the Operations Division is actively involved in giving back to the community by providing safety demonstrations, smoke alarm installations, fire station tours, free hypertension screenings, annual Muscular Dystrophy Association fundraising along with a variety of other customer service activities.

The Operations Division has 334 personnel distributed between three shifts and 18 stations. Each shift works 24 hours on duty and 48 hours off duty. Each shift has 1 Shift Commander and 4 Battalion Chief Supervisors with each Battalion Chief overseeing 4 to 5 fire stations. The Department has 17 Engines, 4 Trucks, 1 Quint, 1 Rescue, 5 reserve apparatus and a host of other ancillary vehicles. Each Engine and the Rescue Unit is assigned a Captain who also oversees the day-to-day operations of a fire station. Lieutenants are assigned to the Ladder Trucks and assist the Captains in managing the activities of the firefighters.
One of the ongoing goals of the Operations Division is to deliver prompt emergency response in a safe manner. Battalion Chiefs continually provide temporary apparatus re-assignment to adjust for large incidents, training sessions and other activities to ensure proper response.

### First Unit Fractile Response Times

For 2010, the average *first* unit response time (from notification to arrival on-scene) was 4 minutes and 30 seconds. The Department's first unit on the scene arrived within 5 minutes and 30 seconds 78% of the time (see graph to right). The ultimate goal would be for the first unit to arrive on the scene within the 5 minutes 30 second time frame 90% of the time consistent with NFPA Standard 1710.

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The Department’s *full* assignment as defined by NFPA 1710 arrived on scene within 8 minutes and 30 seconds 72% of the time (no graph available). Again, the goal would be to meet this response time 90% of the time. However, due in large part to inclement weather, suburban demographics, geographical obstacles and fiscal constraints, meeting the 90% fractile goal will be difficult. Nonetheless, efforts will continue to find other means to close the full assignment response gap.
Fire and Response Breakdowns

The graphs to the right reflect the types of incidents and types of fires.

The graph below illustrates the 2009-2010 average response times, from notification to arrival on-scene, for emergency types of incidents.
As efforts are ongoing to improve response times for both EMS and other emergency related incidents in the safest manner possible, other initiatives for 2010 included:

- Continued a Preplan program where firefighters conduct an on-site visit to apartment/commercial buildings in their territories, enter the information electronically into a software program so it’s available to be viewed via in-vehicle mobile data terminal by the Incident Commander at the scenes of an incident.

- Continued to maintain excellent emergency response times by employing methods to minimize the occurrences and length of time emergency apparatus were out of service including increase usage of video conference training.

- Continued to seek out and implement more innovative and safe firefighting methods including the implementation of a Quint fire apparatus.

- Continued the implementation of a hydrant inspections program which takes a proactive approach to identifying hydrants that need immediate attention by the Water Maintenance Department.
Within the Operations Division, the Special Operations teams train and respond to incidents involving hazardous materials, water rescue, high and low angle rope rescue, trench cave in, confined space, structural collapse and tower rescue and are led by District Chief James McIntosh. The teams include the Hazardous Material team, the Water Rescue/Recovery team and the Special Operations Rescue Team (SORT) each led by a team leader.

Training requirements for team members are nearly 100 hours per year. These requirements are in addition to the team member’s regular training assignments and duties in the Operations Division. To apply for team membership, firefighters must have a minimum of three years on the job, complete a rigorous training schedule, and successfully complete an end-of-year evaluation and interview for the available openings on the team they are seeking to join.

The Hazardous Materials team consists of 39 members who are certified as Hazardous Materials Technicians through the State of Indiana. The team responds to hazardous materials incidents within the City of Fort Wayne and Allen County and has mutual aid agreements with eleven other counties in Northeast Indiana. In 2002, the Fort Wayne Fire Department Hazardous Materials team was designated as a render safe team to cover North East Indiana in the event of a major hazardous material release terrorist type event.

Fort Wayne Fire Department Water Rescue/Recovery Team consists of 30 members who provide both surface and subsurface rescue response. Divers are initially trained to recreational dive standards, and then begin a one year training program geared for public safety divers. Extensive ongoing training include, amongst others, full face mask diving, black water diving, night diving and cold water/ice diving.

The SORT team consists of 30 team members trained in high and low angle rope rescue, trench cave in, confined space, structural collapse and tower rescue. In order to become certified through the State, each member must attend eleven classes totaling over 190 hours of class room instruction and hands on skills. Once these classes have been completed, team members participate in weekly training drills to refine and maintain their skills.
In addition to their ongoing activities and training, the following is a list of initiatives for 2010:

**Hazardous Materials Team**
- Multiple Team members attended classes in Anniston, Alabama working with live VX nerve agent, also learned how to work with terrorist type incidents.
- Multiple Team members attended classes in Las Vegas, Nevada, working with radioactive elements and received instruction on working with radioactive materials and mitigation techniques in these type events.
- Work toward all members becoming proficient with computer modeling and plume projection.

**SORT**
- Received grant money through Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) to provide Vehicle and Machinery Technician and Trench Technician training classes which resulted in 15 member certifications as well as equipment purchases.
- Began training and preparing to deploy to Southern Indiana for National Level Exercise 2011.

**Scuba Team**
- Trained and certified one member as Public Safety Dive Instructor through Dive Rescue International.
- Trained and certified one member as Dive Rescue I Instructor through Dive Rescue International.
- Begin training new members in house with on staff instructor 2011.
The Division of Training and Development is responsible for ensuring the proficiency of the department ranging from basic fire ground operations and EMS skills, to decision making at the Command level. The Division of Training and Development is located at the Northeast Indiana Regional Public Safety Academy. This facility is designed primarily for cognitive learning with some hands-on props available. The Division of Training and Development also has a hands-on training grounds at their Dwenger Avenue facility that includes a 5-story concrete tower, SCBA confidence course, saving your own / firefighter survival props, flashover chambers, haz-mat simulator, building collapse rubble pile and auto extrication area. The staff is led by Assistant Chief Michael Miller and consists of three Captain/Instructors and an EMS Director.

A close partnership between the Division of Training and Development and the Operations Division’s Deputy Chief and Battalion Chiefs is essential to ensure training needs are identified, created and met to ensure the safety and proficiency of the firefighters. Additionally, the Division of Training and Development oversees the hiring and training of new recruits, promotional processes and leadership development.
The following is a list of accomplishments for 2010:

- Completed the following State Certification requirements for a total of 46 National and State Fire Certifications issued to members of FWFD:
  - Strategy and Tactics – 8 Certifications
  - Safety Officer – 6 Certifications
  - Fire Investigator – 1 Certification
  - Fire Officer I – 10 Certifications
  - Fire Officer II – 1 Certifications
  - NFA Leadership I, II, III – 20 Certifications
- The following EMS certifications were renewed in 2010:
  - First Responder – 130
  - EMT Basic – 103
  - EMT Basic Advanced – 5
  - Paramedic - 8
- Completed 6 hours of in-service training for 78 Company Officers.
- Implemented the Northeast Indiana Command Training Center.
- Certified 22 Battalion Chiefs, District Chiefs and Command Staff as Incident Commanders utilizing the 75 hour Blue Card Command Certification Program.
- Certified 20 FWFD Company Officers and 27 Fire Officers from departments around the region as Incident Commanders utilizing the Blue Card Command Certification Program. These programs were funded by State and Federal grant money.
- Promoted seven firefighters to Lieutenant.
- Promoted two Lieutenants to Captain with nine others on an eligibility list waiting for vacancies.
- Assessed three Captains to an eligibility list for promotion to Battalion Chief upon vacancies.
- Increase the number of training hours by 10% from 2009 totaling 116,495 total training hours.
- Total of 12,106 EMS training hours.
- Refurbished the five story drill tower on Dwenger Avenue.
- Completed a propane car fire and dumpster prop on Dwenger Avenue.
Code Enforcement Division

The Code Enforcement Division is dedicated to reducing fires through prevention by enforcing the Indiana Fire Code. Fire Code compliance is the key to minimizing the risk of life and property loss to our community as well as its visitors. The Code Enforcement Department has six Captains/Inspectors that ensure compliance of the fire code of the city's many buildings and events that occur within them. The Department also has a plan review process that ensures new buildings are meeting today's fire safety standards, responds to complaints such as blocked exiting, over capacity and the city's smoking ordinance. Some of the ongoing accomplishments for 2010 include:

- A 2% decrease in the number of fires in 2010 compared to 2009.
- Fort Wayne fire statistics continually reflect the national trend illustrating a decrease in the number of structure fires.
- Distributed and installed smoke detectors to lower income households, paid for by a federal grant.
- Improved the plan review process to ensure fire code compliance in new construction.

The following charts show the activities of the Code Enforcement Division. Focus has shifted to a greater emphasis on high occupancy, high hazard and industrial sites that offer the greatest opportunity for reduction in property damage and loss of life.
Public Education Division

The Public Education Division is tasked with educating all ages of our community, the very young to our seniors through fire safety education that reduces the risk of fires and fire injuries to the public. Public education focuses on home fire safety and fire safety for children because a majority of fire deaths occur in single and multi-family dwellings.

The Public Education Division consists of three Captains/Educators who oversee several programs such as the School Fire Safety programs which have been a part of the schools systems curriculum reaching many of our elementary students in the community.

The Division’s fire safety program at the city’s Safety Village include not only classroom education but a hands-on approach to fire safety by teaching evacuation procedures and the proper way of calling 911. Much of the Safety Village has been built and maintained through grant and private donations led in large part by the efforts of the Captains Dave Meadows, Carlos Gomes-Espinos and Mark Claus.

The “Clearing the Smoke” program teaches fire safety as well by educating the community about the various divisions of the fire department and their responsibilities to the community.

Number of Individuals Served

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<td>Survive Alive House</td>
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<td>Private Preschools/Daycares</td>
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<td>Fire Safety Career Talks</td>
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<td>Fire Extinguisher</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL SERVED</strong></td>
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Additionally, the Juvenile Firesetter Program is designed to educate our youth about fire and its consequences. The program assists parents, the school systems, law enforcement and other agencies through intervention.

And finally, fire safety programs designed for the many different cultures in the city that may require the assistance of interpreters.
**Arson and Fire Investigation Division**

The Fire/Arson Investigation Division is responsible for investigating fires and other fire department related incidents to determine the origin, cause and circumstance, which involve loss of life, serious injury or damage to property or the environment.

District Chief Greg Jeffries oversees a team of 5 Captains/Investigators as well as an accelerant canine to assist in fire investigations. In addition to their firefighting and EMS skills, the Investigators, including the District Chief are sworn law enforcement officers and have the authority to carry out all aspects of criminal investigations including the arrest and conviction of arsonists. The Investigators are also active in the education of the community along with training other public safety personnel in fire related activities and work alongside the public educators in the Juvenile Firesetters Program.

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**FIRES by Ignition**

- **Cause, Other**: 3%
- **Intentional**: 10%
- **Unintentional**: 30%
- **Failure of Equipment or Heat Source**: 5%
- **Act of Nature**: 14%
- **Cause Under Investigation**: 1%
- **Cause Undetermined**: 37%
To help establish appropriate fire insurance premiums for residential and commercial properties, insurance companies need reliable, up-to-date information about a community’s fire-protection services. ISO provides information through the Public Protection Classification (PPCTM) program.

What is the PPC program?

ISO collects information on municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes the relevant data using a Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) and then assigns a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area’s fire suppression program doesn’t meet ISO’s minimum criteria.

By classifying communities’ ability to suppress fires, ISO helps the communities evaluate their public fire-protection services. The program provides an objective, nationwide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment and training. Securing lower fire insurance premiums for communities with better public protection, the PPC program provides incentives and rewards for communities that choose to improve their firefighting services.

ISO has extensive information on more than 44,000 fire-response jurisdictions. The City of Fort Wayne maintains a Class 3 ISO rating.
Established on September 9, 1918, the Fort Wayne Professional Firefighters Local 124, has a long and proud tradition of representing its members as they serve the citizens of the city. The 363 actively serving members and 189 retirees make up this Local. Through events such as the 20-Year Club Dinner, Picnics, a monthly Retiree breakfast, monthly union meetings, and community initiatives, members are able to stay connected with one another and maintain a cohesive force.

Partnerships with various local charities has the support of the members and creates additional avenues to help the citizens of Ft Wayne. L-124 has been the leading IAFF Local in the 8th District for Muscular Dystrophy Association Collection for the past five years.

Local 124 hosts the only family friendly St. Patrick’s Day celebration in the area - GET GREEN. Complete with a 5Kilt run/walk, a Lucky Charms eating contest, and the traditional River Greening, GET GREEN provides fun for all ages. Proceeds of GET GREEN benefit the Local 124 Scholarship Fund.

The Honor Guard and Bagpipe Corps are well known throughout the region and have performed admirably, providing a professional and solemn service at the passing of our members.

IAFF Local 124 works with the Fire Administration and Staff to maintain a healthy productive relationship. This results in increased and more effective communications and creates a Department that can concentrate on the protection of the lives and property of our citizens throughout Ft Wayne.

2010 Retirees’ - Richard Dolsen, Sr., Timothy Johnson, Joseph Justice, and Edward Smith.
