



City of
Columbia Heights
Minnesota



COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

2011 Annual Report



Mission Statement

The Columbia Heights Fire Department strives to maintain and improve the quality of life of all whom live, work, visit, or invest in the communities in which it responds. Our primary mission is to provide a full range of programs and services designed to protect the lives and property of the people we serve. These services include fire prevention and education, fire and maintenance code enforcement, fire suppression and investigation, emergency medical services, and initial response to natural and man-made catastrophes.

Introduction

The Columbia Heights Fire Department 2011 Annual Report is a reflection of the commitment to the community we serve. It is filled with statistics and information that identifies ways in which we continue to successfully meet our mission. Our successes are due to the dedication of all the members of the Fire Department and the support we receive from the Mayor, City Council Members, and City Administration and staff. We couldn't meet our mission without this dedication and support.

The fire department responded to a total of 2,468 calls for service this past year. Of this total, 764 were calls were fire related and of them 23 were structure fires. Fortunately, there were no deaths attributable to fire in the City of Columbia Heights this past year.

The fire department also provides emergency medical services at the Emergency Medical Technician Basic level. The greatest number of fire department responses is due to medical emergencies, of which the department responded to 1722 medical calls in 2011.

The department also responds to and provides a variety of services intended to meet the specific needs of our community. The fire department trains and responds to incidents involving hazardous materials, water rescue, ice rescue, confined space rescue and weapons of mass destruction. In addition, the department members conduct fire prevention education and participate in numerous citywide events such as National Night Out and the Jamboree. A joint event with the police department was held in April. Entitled "Arrest and Extinguish Hunger", the event was a fundraiser for the Southern Anoka County Assistance food shelf.

While emergency services response continues to be an essential service, the fire department expends considerable time and resources on inspection and enforcement services for the Minnesota Fire Code and the City's Property Maintenance Code.

As we move forward into the new year, the Columbia Heights Fire Department will continue to evaluate the services we provide to the community to determine quality and effectiveness. Firefighter education, training, and development will continue to remain a priority.

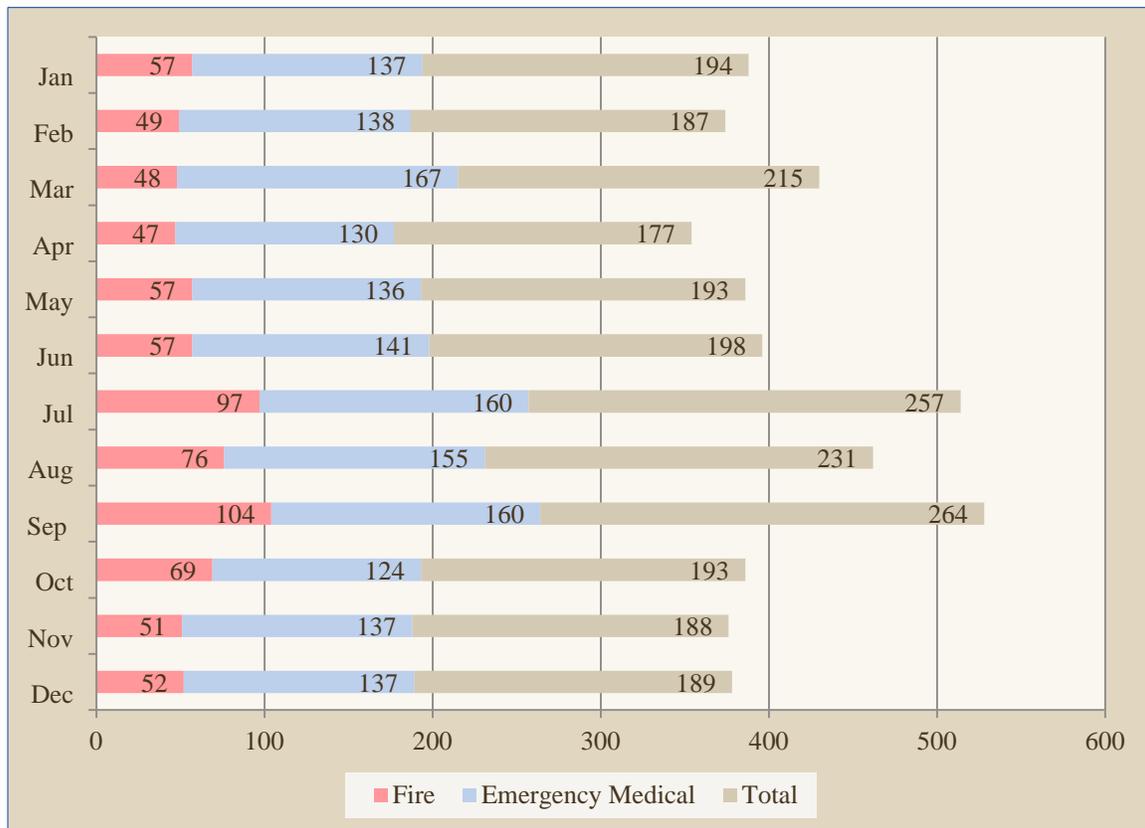
The Columbia Heights Fire Department, as always, is committed to preserving the life and property of our citizens and to serve the community with honor and loyalty.

Incident Reports

The Fire Department responded to 2,486 calls in 2011. The number of calls we respond to remains significantly high for a community of our size. We continue to see an increase in calls at night, calls relating to alcohol and drug use, assaults, and psychological problems. The number of calls for our elderly population remains high but has been slowly shrinking over the past few years. The average incident response time for the first arriving apparatus was approximately 5 minutes 22 seconds.

The Columbia Heights Fire Department uses the Minnesota Fire Incident Reporting System (MNFIRS) to report each emergency incident. MNFIRS is a member of the National Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Our incident response statistics are compiled with all other Fire Departments at the state and national level. These statistics are utilized to focus on current trends and problems and to predict future ones within the fire service.

2011 Fire and Emergency Medical Calls by Month



*2011 Total
Fire Calls*

764

*2011 Total
Medical Calls*

1722

*Total calls
for 2011*

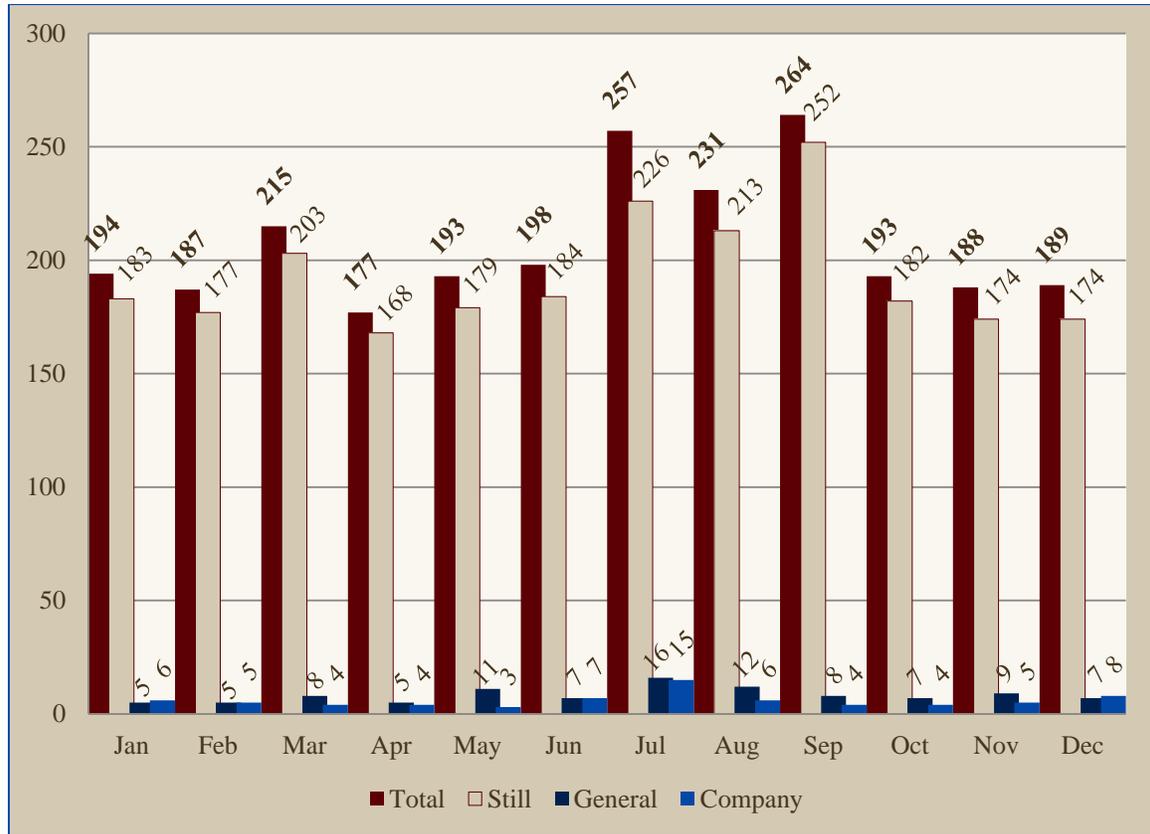
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2011 Type of Alarms by Month

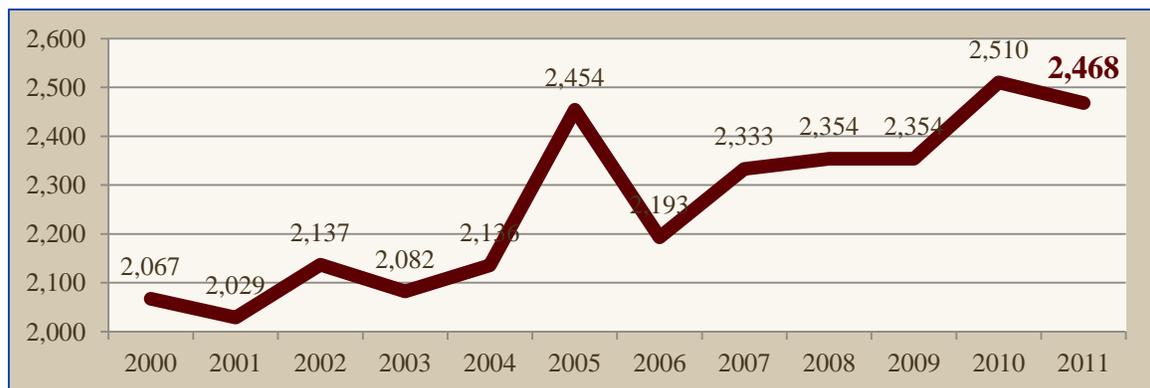
Still Alarms are handled by on-duty personnel without calling for additional help.

Company Alarms are handled by call-back of available off-duty paid personnel and approximately 1/2 of available volunteer membership.

General Alarms are used when the situation calls for the services of all available members.



Ten-Year Comparison of Total Incidents



2011 Classification of Alarms

Rescue/Medical Alarms		Service Calls	
Medical Assist	202	Misc. Service Call	3
Assault	51	Person in distress	5
Breathing Problems	217	Ring removal	2
CVA/Stroke	33	Water evacuation	3
Diabetic	60	Water/Steam leak	4
Flu Symptoms	98	Smoke/odor removal	4
Fall/Fracture	221	Assist Police/Government Agency	37
Chest Pain/Heart	166	Police Matter	40
Choking	6	Public Service	17
DK/ETOH	41	Assist Invalid	75
Laceration/Bleeding	58	Malfunctioning Elevator	1
Overdose/Suicide Attempt	41	Unauthorized Burn	26
Pregnancy/OB	21	Standby/Cover Other Agency	3
Cardiac Arrest	11	Good Intent Calls	
Seizure	54	Good Intent, other	1
Abdominal Pain	62	Dispatched/Cancelled en route	146
Allergic Reaction	12	Wrong Location	1
Back Pain	39	No Incident Found Upon Arrival	81
DOA	17	Authorized Controlled Burning	8
Behavioral/Psych	38	Smoke Scare/Steam/Fog	18
Burn	4	Hazmat Investigation/No Hazmat	1
Misc. EMS Call/General Illness	236	False Alarm & Calls	
MV Accident w/injuries	17	Malicious False Call, other	9
MV Pedestrian Accident	6	Bomb Scare	1
MV Accident no injuries	2	Sprinkler Activation, Malfunction	1
Removal from elevator	2	Smoke Detector Malfunction	12
Extrication from machinery	2	Alarm System Malfunction	27
Electrocution	1	CO Detector Malfunction	17
Rescue/EMS Standby	1	Sprinkler Activation/No Fire	1
GunShot/Stabbing	3	Smoke Detector Activation/No Fire	14
Ruptures/Explosion/No Fire		Detector Activation/No Fire	2
Rupture from steam	1	Alarm Activation/No Fire	24
Excessive heat/burn/no burn	2	CO Activation/No Fire	12
Hazardous Condition/No Fire		Fire	
Flammable liquid spill	5	Building Fire	13
Gas leak	4	Cooking Fire, Confined	10
CO Incident	15	Trash/Rubbish Fire	3
Heat From Short Circuit Wiring	4	Fire in Portable Building/Dumpster	3
Power Line Down	12	Vehicle Fire	14
Arcing/Shorted Equipment	12	Grass/Brush Fire	6
Misc. Condition	3		

Mutual Aid Report

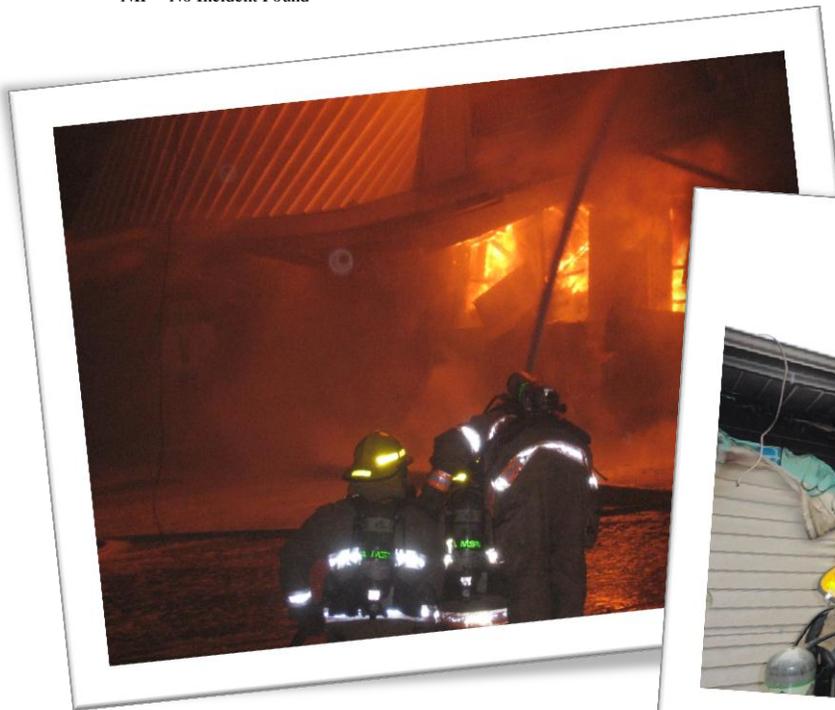
Mutual aid is an agreement between fire departments to assist each other when called for emergencies by responding with available staffing and apparatus. The Columbia Heights Fire Department works closely with surrounding departments and has an “automatic” mutual aid agreement with the cities of Fridley and St. Anthony to be dispatched simultaneously for fires during the weekday hours when staffing is at its lowest.

2011 Mutual Aid Received – (6 Times)

(A=Dispatched as Auto Aid, M=Mutual Aid requested)

Date	Call #	Address	Type of Assistance	Type	Department
3-1	11-0397	201 – 40 th	Building Fire	M	Fridley/St. Anthony
4-29	11-0765	3905 Van Buren	Building Fire	A	Fridley/St. Anthony
5-22	11-0902	Main St/51st Ave	Assist Police	A	St. Anthony
5-22	11-0903	215 – 44 th	*NIF	A	St. Anthony
10-20	11-2081	1315 Buchanan	Cardiac Arrest	M	Fridley
12-13	11-2383	3827 Bakken	Chest Pain	M	St. Anthony

*NIF – No Incident Found





2011 Mutual Aid Given – (26 Times)

(A=Dispatched as Auto Aid, M=Mutual Aid requested O=Other Aid)

Date	Call #	Address	Type of Assistance	Type	Department
1-14	11-0078	6805 Channel	Smoke scare	A	Fridley
1-28	11-175	5529 - 6 th	House Fire	A	Fridley
2-8	11-246	6100 Moore Lake	Ring Removal	M	Fridley
3-18	11-520	5400 Central	EMS	O	Fridley
5-9	11-820	University Ave/57 th	MVA w/injuries	O	Fridley
5-10	11-828	6431 University Ave	Hazardous Standby	M	Fridley
5-10	11-830	Roosevelt/30 th	Gas Line Break	M	St. Anthony
5-19	11-889	6431 University Ave	Station Coverage	M	Fridley
5-22	11-902	51 st Ave/Main	Tornado Damage	M	Fridley
7-1	11-1165	5330 Industrial	Business Fire	M	Fridley
7-13	11-1310	590 Kimball	Garage Fire	A	Fridley
7-16	11-1324	37 th Ave/Coolidge	Flood Assistance	M	St. Anthony
7-16	11-1327	201 Rice Creek	Station Standby	M	Fridley
7-16	11-1329	6431 University Ave	Station Standby	M	Fridley
8-1	11-1466	St. Anthony	Lightning Strike	A	St. Anthony
8-18	11-1596	7478 West Circle	Trailer Fire	A	Fridley
9-16	11-1809	Fridley	Cancelled En Route	A	Fridley
9-22	11-1861	550 Osborne	Dispatched/Cancelled	A	Fridley
9-23	11-1871	5851 East River Road	Building Fire	M	Fridley
9-30	11-1945	425 - 45 th Ave	Hazmat Release	M	Fridley
10-11	11-2035	Fridley	Fall/Fracture	O	Fridley
10-24	11-2101	6545 Monroe	Structure Fire	O	Fridley
10-24	11-2102	5190 Buchanan	Flu Symptoms	O	Fridley
11-3	11-1278	7437 West Circle	Mobile Home Fire	A	Fridley
11-19	11-2225	East River Road/44 th Ave	MVA w/injuries	O	Fridley
11-21	11-2240	161 - 83 rd Ave	Medical	M	Fridley

*NIF – No Incident Found

Fire Loss Report

2011 Structure Fire Incidents with Property Loss

Date	Call #	Address	Occupancy Type	Cause of Fire	Prop Loss
3-1-11	11-0397	201 – 40 th Ave	Single Family	Undetermined	75,000
3-7-11	11-0441	907 – 46 ½ Ave	Apartment	Stove Element	27,000
4-29-11	11-0765	3905 Van Buren St	Single Family	Unattended Candle	100,000
8-19-11	11-1598	4317 – 3 rd St	Rental	Melted Brown Sugar & Debris on Freezer Compressor	20,000
8-27-11	11-1667	3910 McKinley St	Porta Potty	Undetermined	1,000
9-4-11	11-1724	1735 Fairway Dr	Single Family	Unattended Candles	1,000
9-23-11	11-1865	4540 Tyler St	Rental	Child playing with Lighter	200
9-27-11	11-1889	1515 – 44 th Ave	Assisted Living	Cigarette	600
12-13-11	11-2382	4001 University Ave	Gas Station	Undetermined	357,000
Total 2011 Structure Fire Property Loss (9 incidents) - estimated figures					\$581,800



2011 Vehicle Fire Property Loss Summary

Total 2011 Vehicle Fire Property Loss
(4 incidents) - estimated figures

\$21,000

Casualty Report

2011 Fire Service Casualties

Date	Call #	Name	Injury	Cause
11-4-11	11-1289	Paid-on-Call Firefighter	Needle stick	Needle not in Sharps Container
12-19-11	Training	Fulltime Firefighter	Shoulder	Defensive execution

2011 Civilian Casualties

Date	Call #	Name	Injury	Cause
4-18-11	11-0698	Adult Female	Smoke Inhalation	Unattended Stove Fire
9-27-11	11-1889	Adult Female	Smoke Inhalation	Careless Smoking Materials

Hilltop Report

The Columbia Heights Fire Department has an agreement to provide full fire suppression, emergency medical services, and fire inspection services for the City of Hilltop. A three-year Joint Agreement and Contract was signed in 2009, which covers the years 2010-2012. A 10-Year comparison of the number of calls to the City of Hilltop is reflected in the chart below.

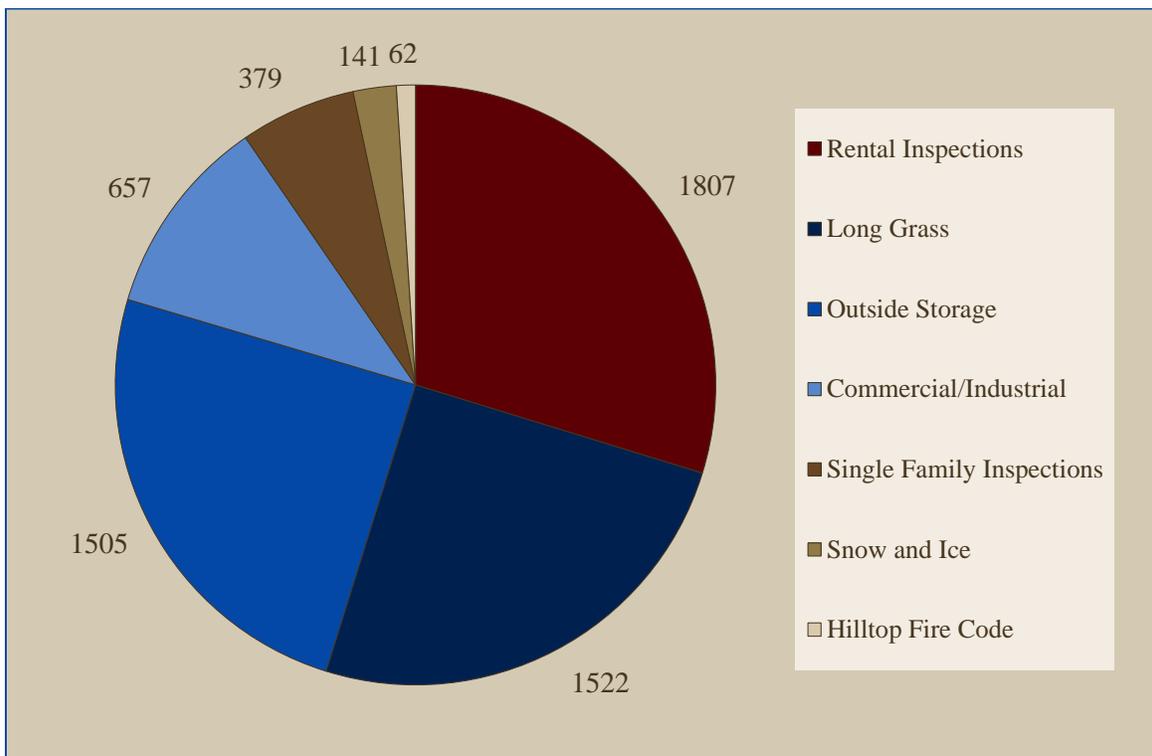


Inspection Report

The Fire Department Inspection Program is supervised by the Assistant Fire Chief and involves the six full time firefighters as inspectors. All inspectors are cross trained for both fire and property maintenance inspections, allowing for flexibility in scheduling.

The fire department conducted a total of **6,073** inspection and license activities during 2011 and staff entered 8,170 inspection-related data entries. This report summarizes inspections which are broken into categories including commercial/industrial inspections, rental property inspections, single-family home inspections, and other actions performed by the inspection office.

2011 Number/Type Inspection Summary

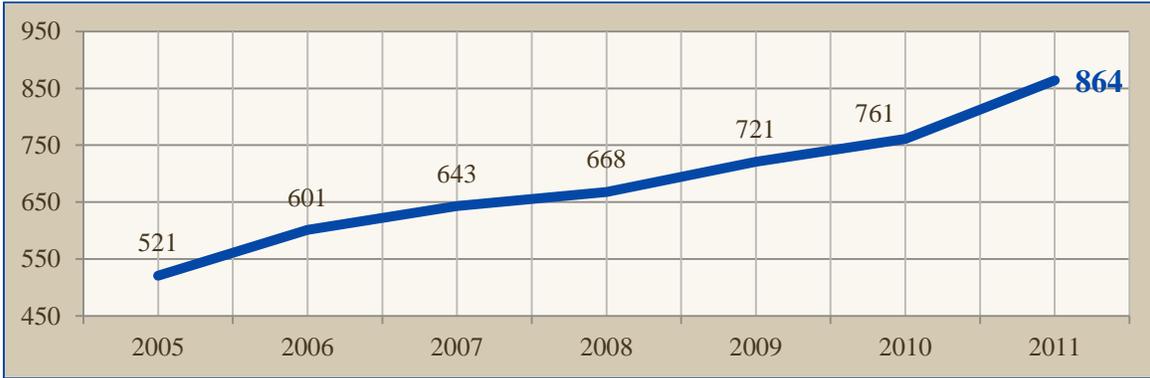


Total Inspections by the Year

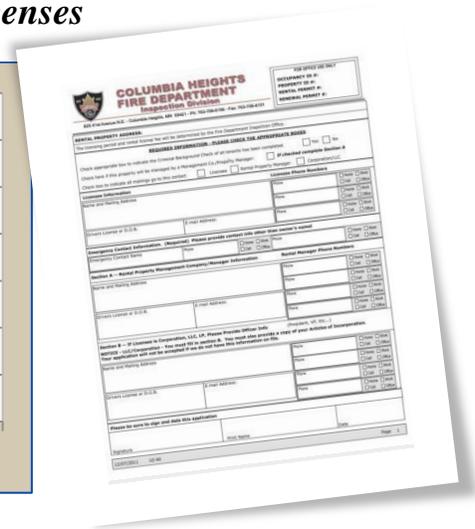
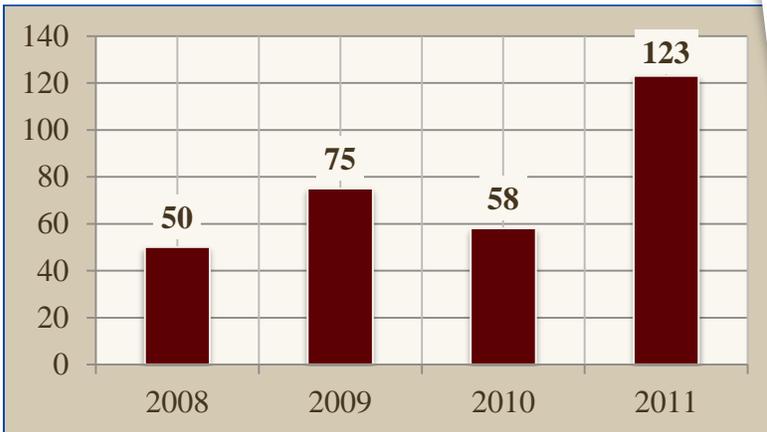


The amount of rental properties continues to increase as many of the foreclosed properties are being purchased as investment properties. In 2011, there were 123 new rental licenses. Interiors of rental properties are on a cycle to be inspected every two years and exteriors and common areas are inspected on an annual basis. Complaint inspections are inspected in a timely manner.

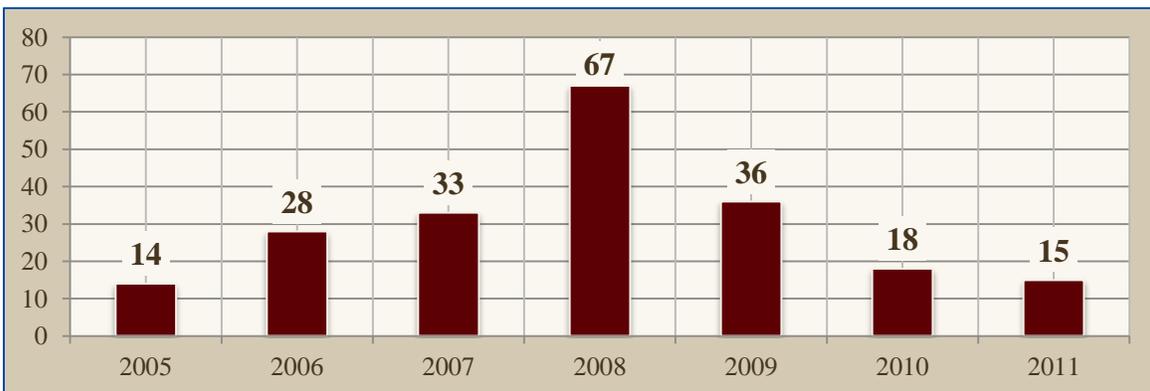
Number of Rental Licenses



Number of New Rental Licenses

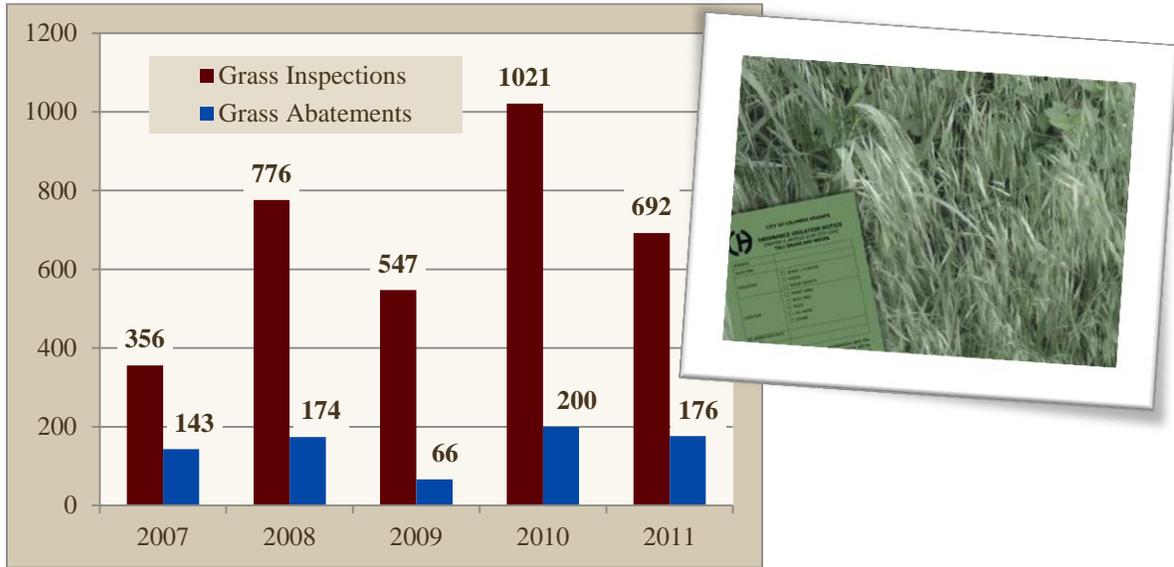


Number of Rental License Revocations



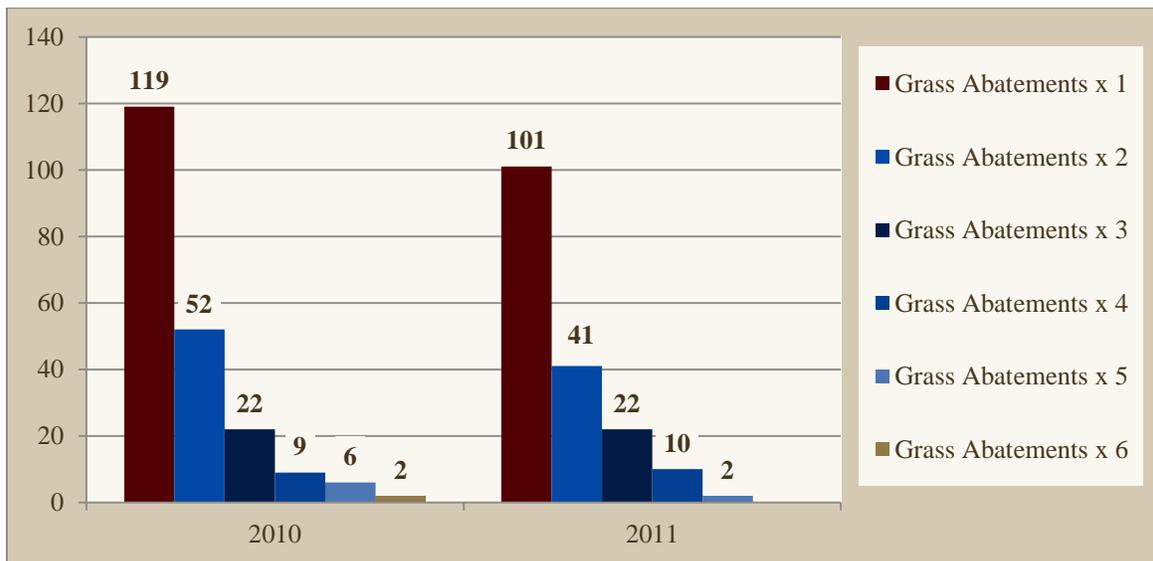
The Fire Department enforces the City Codes that do not allow the growth of long grass, weeds, and scrub growth over nine inches tall on any property. If a violation is found, a notice is placed on the property, a follow up inspection is performed, and any outstanding violations are abated. The graph below shows the total number of grass inspections and the total number of times a contractor was assigned to abate a long grass violation for the particular year listed.

Number of Grass Inspections and Total Abatements



The graph below breaks down the total number of grass abatements into the number of times a contractor was assigned to abate a long grass violation at the same property multiple times for the particular year listed. For example, in 2010 there were two properties that a contractor had to cut the grass six times at.

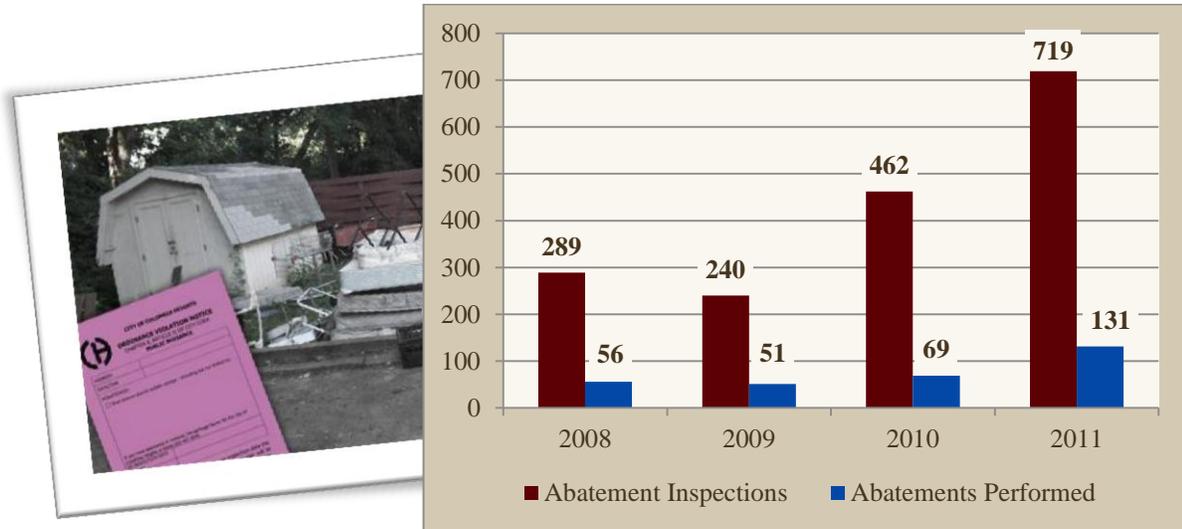
Number of single and multiple abatement breakdown



The fire department also enforces the portions of City Code that does not allow for the accumulation of unacceptable exterior storage on any property and for the accumulation of ice and snow on all sidewalks, walkways, stairs, driveways, parking spaces, and similar areas of any property.

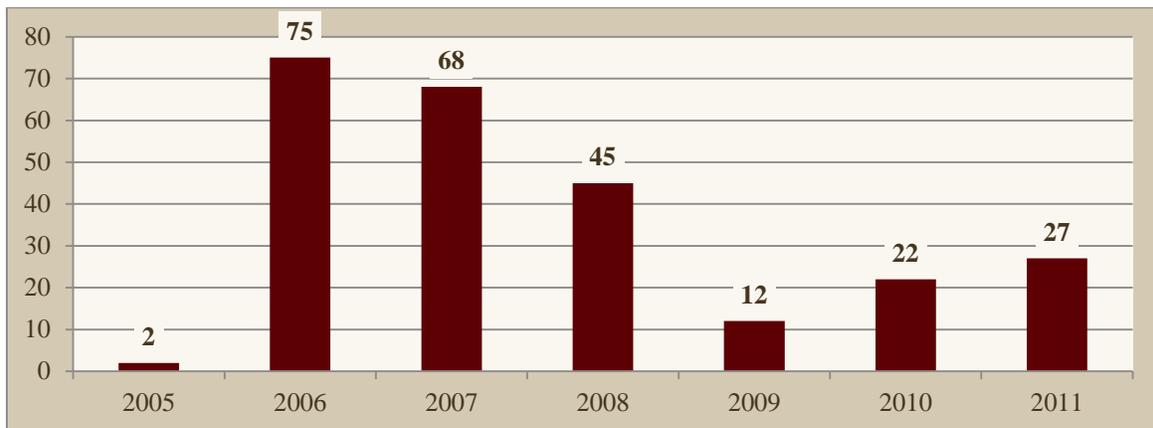
If a violation is found, a notice is placed on the property, a follow up inspection is performed, and any outstanding violations are corrected by a contractor. These corrections are called “Immediate Abatements”. The graph below shows the total number of times a contractor was assigned to abate an outside storage or snow and ice accumulation violation for the particular year listed.

Immediate Abatements



Since 2005 abatements have been used as a successful enforcement tool to correct outstanding public nuisance violations. Abatements have been used to clean up garbage houses, correct outstanding Property Maintenance Code violations on properties with such things as painting, siding, broken doors, windows, and unsecured vacant properties and the like.

Council Approved Abatements



Foreclosed and vacant properties continued to be a problem in 2011. The Fire Department continued its periodical inspections of known vacant properties to check for occupancy and security. These added vacant property inspections were beneficial to the appearance and security to our neighborhoods.

Public Education and Fire Prevention



The department took an active role in the National Night Out and hosted our annual Open House to reach as many citizens as possible with our fire prevention message.

The Open House in October had beautiful weather and had a crowd of approximately 400 people in attendance. The Open House presented a stronger focus on education activities to engage people with our fire prevention messages.

The Fire department continues to provide blood pressures free of charge to the public seven days a week. Once a month on a Friday morning, the fire department provides blood pressure checks for the seniors at Murzyn Hall and in 2011 the fire department took 148 blood pressures with this program.



In addition to these activities, the firefighters conducted station tours for preschool groups, scouting troops, and for the occasional walk-in group.



In 2011, numerous requests for firefighters to speak to outside organizations were arranged. In 2011 the Columbia Heights Fire Department had 111 fire prevention contacts which allowed them to speak to approximately 1,270 people about fire prevention.

The fire department also provided first aid and/or CPR training to City employees, the Police Reserves and taught first aid to the Summer Recreation Program Attendants.

Explorer Division Program

In 2011, the Explorer Division consisted of 12 explorers and five advisors, who volunteered their time to train the participants. The cadet/Explorer division prepares its own Annual Report, a copy of which can be obtained from the Fire Department office.



Training Program

The Fire Department members train regularly to ensure they are prepared to safely handle the variety of incidents to which the fire department responds and to meet OSHA, NFPA, FEMA, HSEM and state certification and licensure standards. The number of standards and training hour requirements continue to rise to meet the growing needs of our area. Fire departments no longer train just for their own communities, but train for the needs of our metropolitan area. During 2011, our members spent over 2,516 hours in training sessions. Regular training is provided on three Monday evenings each month. One of the Mondays is designated to EMS training to maintain our emergency medical technician certifications. Members also have numerous opportunities to attend schooling, special outside classes, and seminars around the metro area.



Station Duty Program

The station duty program provides our paid-on-call firefighters the opportunity to work shifts alongside our full time firefighters. This gives the paid-on-call firefighter a much better understanding of how the station functions on a daily basis. This program is not only a learning tool but allows firefighters to gain valuable experience dealing with emergencies, which benefits the firefighter, the fire department, and our customers as well. Budgetary restrictions in the past few years have left only 24 hours of scheduled shift time on Saturdays available for the station duty program. The program previously had an additional 24 hours of scheduled shift time and one of the goals for 2012 is to reinstate part of that time to make more shifts available for the paid-on-call firefighters to work.



Paid-on-Call firefighters also fill open shifts when Full Time firefighters are out sick or on vacation, to meet minimum staffing. The program continues to be a very beneficial educational program and we hope to continue it in the future.

Anoka County Peer Support

Anoka County has a peer-support group available to all public safety workers. Public Safety workers are involved in many tragic events. These events can affect us in many different ways. There is a need for these individuals to talk to someone who has been through these types of events and to help them with feelings. The group is made up of firefighters, police officers, members of the sheriff's department, and dispatchers. These dedicated professionals attend many meetings and training sessions during the year to prepare for peer support events. The Columbia Heights Fire Department has one member who is part of this team. In 2011, he was involved in five (5) peer support activities.

Apparatus/Equipment - Fire Department Fleet



FIRE CHIEF

2001 Ford Expedition – Cost \$44,270

ASST. FIRE CHIEF

2000 Ford Crown Victoria – Cost \$20,358



BOAT 1

1999 Zodiac Rescue Boat – Cost \$2,650

1999 Spartan Trailer – Cost \$1,000

1999 Mercury 15 hp Motor – Cost \$1,649

FIRE INVESTIGATION TRAILER

1998 Haulmark 5' x 8'



AERIAL 15

2004 General Safety Quint – 109 foot RK Ladder
Cost \$591,988



ENGINE 1

1995 General Safety Type I Engine
Cost \$239,810

ENGINE 4

1985 General Safety Type I Engine – Cost \$122,049
Refurbished 2004 – Cost \$54,303





RESCUE 1

1990 Road Rescue Heavy Rescue/Mobile Air
Cost \$97,613
Refurbished 2004 – Cost \$36,388



RESCUE 2

2002 Braun Type III Ambulance
Cost \$70,591



RESCUE 3

2007 Ford F-350 Light Rescue/Utility
Cost \$47,048

2011 Staffing Changes

Paid-On-Call Division, Leave Of Absence

Guislain K. Muvundamina	January 16, 2011 to May 13, 2011
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Guislain K. Muvundamina	August 18, 2011 to December 14, 2011
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Paid-On-Call Division, Appointments

Cody A. Cavett	August 1, 2011
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Emily L. Cramble	May 1, 2011
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Jacob W. Gillespie	May 1, 2011
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Zachary D. Hollingsworth	August 1, 2011
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Alexander M. St. Martin	August 1, 2011
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Jeffrey T. St. Martin	August 1, 2011
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The Columbia Heights Fire Department had one firefighter retire after 23 years of service in the past year. Two firefighters resigned because they moved out of the city or because of job and family commitments.

Their commitment and their time of service to the Columbia Heights Fire Department are greatly appreciated.

Retirement

Steven D. Hall	Served from April 1, 1988 to June 1, 2011
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Resignations

Timothy K. Ryan	Served from November 7, 1994 to November 21, 2011
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Zachary D. Hollingsworth	Served from August 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011
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Roster of Members

Columbia Heights Fire Department

December 31, 2011

Full Time Division

	Position	Serving Since
Gary C. Gorman	Fire Chief	6/2/81
John K. Larkin	Assistant Fire Chief	11/13/90
Stephen F. Kolosky	Captain/EMT/FMO	11/3/78
Matthew D. Field	Captain/EMT/FMO	8/20/80
Daniel L. O'Brien	Captain/EMT/FMO	10/1/95
Richard J. Hinrichs	FF/EMT/FMO	7/2/86
Thomas A. Mattson	FF/EMT/FMO	1/1/99
Anthony G. Cuzzupe	FF/EMT/FMO	7/1/03
Kelly M. Schmidt	Fire Secretary	12/28/09
Joel T. Ostmo	Fire Clerk	11/13/84

Paid-on-Call Division

Shannon E. Abbott	FF/EMT	8/1/09
Cody A. Cavett	FF/EMT	8/1/11
Emily L. Cramble	FF/EMT	5/1/11
Jesse D. Dittbenner	FF/EMT	7/24/09
Thomas K. Flermoen	FF/EMT	7/1/05
Jacob W. Gillespie	FF/EMT	5/1/11
Andrew S. Hall	FF/EMT	3/1/04
Kyle A. Hall	FF/EMT	8/1/09
Zachary D. Hollingsworth	FF/EMT	9/1/11
Donald W. Kostohryz	FF/EMT/FMO	2/1/06
Cory L. Mattson	FF/EMT	9/1/09
Robert A. Miller	FF/EMT/FMO	1/1/09
Guislain K. Muvundamina	FF/EMT*	11/1/07
Troy D. Neurauter	FF/EMT/FMO	10/1/02
Robert J. Niznik	FF/EMT/FMO	1/1/99
Brian J. Polski	FF/EMT	5/1/10
William T. Shutte	FF/EMT	3/1/10
David S. Sims	FF/EMT/FMO	10/1/02
Alexander M. St. Martin	FF/EMT	8/1/11
Jeffrey T. St. Martin	FF/EMT	8/1/11
Benjamin E. Uden	FF/EMT	6/1/07
Tou Vang	FF/EMT	9/1/09

FF - Firefighter

EMT - Emergency Medical Technician

FMO - Fire Motor Operator

* - Leave of Absence