

Sedgwick County Fire District No. 1

Sedgwick County, Kansas

Celebrating 50 years of excellence

SEDGWICK COUNTY
FIRE STATION NO. 1
BOARD OF COUNTY
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Calendar year 2005



*Sedgwick County...
working for you*

www.sedgwickcounty.org

The Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners and Citizens:

The year 2005 culminated with many positive and productive areas of the Sedgwick County Fire District No. 1. County Manager Bill Buchanan and the Board of County Commissioners approved a program to relocate five fire stations. Current plans call for groundbreaking in June 2006 at new locations for Station 32 near 77th Street North and I-135, and Station 33 near 53rd Street North and Maize Road.

The second annual accreditation report was approved by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International. This project was coordinated by Division Chief Chuck Thomas. Additionally, a fleet assessment identified the need for two new quints and an engine to be ordered in March 2006.

Training in the Emergency Medical Service System (EMSS) continued under the watchful eye of Dr. Catherine Young, the medical director for both the city and county fire departments, and EMS.

Over 700 emergency responders began their first training module.

In July 2005, a formal Career Development Program was put into the department's professional development



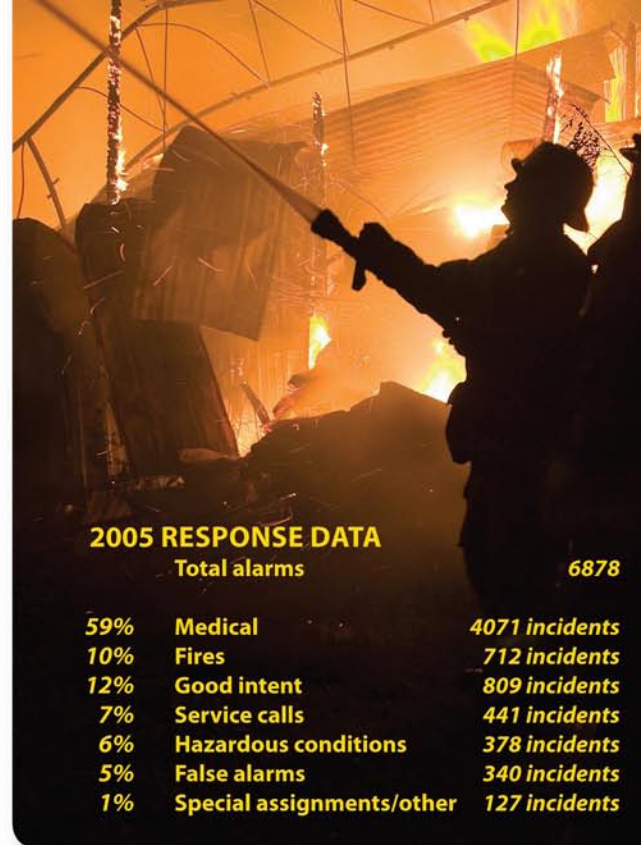
growth path. An employee can now see the requirements for each rank, and he/she can make a decision early in their career as to what areas of development, experience, and education are needed to achieve their career goal. This program has been discussed for several years and it became an official document in 2005.

The administration completed its first business plan. It allows officials and citizens to review the fire department—its history, current status, and vision for the future.

Customer service is critical in our department and is something I am very proud of. Our most important asset is our people. They handle emergency and non-emergency responses in an exemplary manner. In the past year we graduated two rookie classes. They are the best trained since my tenure began in 1995.

I want to thank the BOCC, the county manager and his staff, the other county employees, and especially our citizens.

Fire Chief Gary E. Curmode, CFO



2005 RESPONSE DATA

	Total alarms	6878
59%	Medical	4071 incidents
10%	Fires	712 incidents
12%	Good intent	809 incidents
7%	Service calls	441 incidents
6%	Hazardous conditions	378 incidents
5%	False alarms	340 incidents
1%	Special assignments/other	127 incidents

The mission of Sedgwick County Fire District No. 1 is to serve the public by protecting life and property, minimizing the impact of fire, and rapidly responding to medical emergencies, potential disasters, or uncontrolled events that adversely affect the community and environment.

Firefighters become more organized and purchase a new Ford F-7 fire truck. Calls continue to increase and another truck, a 1949 Ford F-8, is purchased.

A third truck is added to the fleet, a 1950 Ford F-8 1750-gallon tanker.

Calls increase to the point that firefighters are forced to discontinue all protection except that for county bridges. Radios are installed in all front-line equipment.

Kansas legislature passes legislation allowing counties to create fire departments and levy taxes to support them.



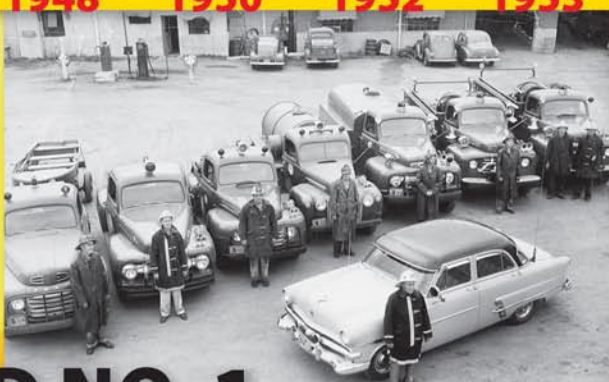
County fire department begins service with 36 firefighters and officers working 24-on/24-off shifts. **Raymond Davis is first fire chief.**

First fire dispatchers are hired. They work out of the sheriff's office dispatch radio room in the courthouse.

Fire and explosions at Andale Co-op.



<p>1947</p> <p>Volunteers use the pumper and other makeshift equipment to put out bridge fires. Citizens learn of this practice and begin calling the county yards to report fires.</p>	<p>1948</p>	<p>1950</p>	<p>1952</p>	<p>1953</p>	<p>1954</p> <p>Sedgwick County authorizes a full-time paid county fire department—the first of its kind in Kansas. Five Ford F-8 pumpers and three Ford F-8 tankers are bought. First firefighters hired; training begins late in the year.</p>	<p>1955</p> <p>Stations 1 through 4 are opened.</p>	<p>1956</p>	<p>1957</p> <p>Seven firemen are overcome with heat exhaustion while fighting the blaze.</p>	<p>1960</p> <p>Fire destroys popular Blue Note Ballroom near 31st Street South and Oliver—where Bob Hope had just performed. Missouri Pacific Railroad diesel shop near 25th Street North and Cleveland is also destroyed by fire. Loss is \$1,000,000.</p>
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SCFD NO. 1
Over 50 years of public service



The **OPERATIONS DIVISION** of Sedgwick County Fire District No. 1 saw progress in many areas during 2005.

One of the biggest changes of the year was the continued development of the fire station relocation plan approved in 2004. This year, land was purchased and plans were developed for the relocation of Station 32 from near 53rd Street North and I-135 to the new location near 77th Street North and I-135, and for Station 33 to move from near 53rd Street North and 151st Street West to a new location near 53rd Street North and Maize Road. Relocations of the remaining three facilities—Stations 36, 37, and 38—are pending at this time.

A \$186,000 grant was also received this year to fund the addition of emergency power generators to all stations in the District. The ice storm of January 2005 reinforced the need for emergency power after several District stations were left without electrical service for extended periods following the storm.

During September and October, Hurricane Katrina kept District personnel busy both at home and away. Five firefighters were deployed in Louisiana for two-week stints to help aid in the Katrina recovery; others assisted in preparations when it was thought Wichita would house up to 1,000 storm refugees from Louisiana and Mississippi.

A commitment to standardize the auto extrication equipment carried on all District squads saw reality this year with the purchase of two more sets of Holmatro "Jaws of Life" rescue tools. This standardization will help ensure interoperability and aid in operator familiarity.

The installation of Automatic Vehicle Location equipment on all District apparatus was

begun in 2005. The AVL system will aid dispatchers in quickly locating the equipment closest to each emergency. The apparatus committee also finished bid specifications for three new pieces of equipment to be purchased in the coming year—a pumper and two aerial trucks.

These and other achievements by SCFD No. 1 in 2005 will soon help ensure lower insurance rates for citizens within the District thanks to an even lower rating from the ISO.



Approximately 60 percent of Sedgwick County Fire District No. 1's calls involve a need for **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**. Subsequently, all response personnel are trained to a minimum of Emergency Medical Technician Basic level as well as trained to drive Sedgwick County ambulances—thus allowing both paramedics to provide patient care in critical situations.

Created in 2004, the Sedgwick County Emergency Medical Services System placed all local response agencies and 911 dispatch under a single medical director. The District has strongly supported this system and is actively participating in its development by training personnel according to the SCSEMSS standards. In 2005, one module of training was completed in this process.



Stations 5 and 6 are opened. Administrative offices move from Station 1 to the courthouse.

Station 7 is opened. Administrative offices move from courthouse to basement of Station 7. Gerald Loyd dies in the line of duty.



IAFF Local Number 2612 is formed after Local 1474 disbands in the early '70s.

SCFD joins with Wichita Fire Department to form joint Haz-Mat team.

New Stations 3 and 4 open, replacing aging buildings. State-of-the-art 100-foot aerial platform goes online.

1961	1963	1966	1971	1973	1975	1976	1978	1979	1980
Fireman's Relief Association of Fire District 1 is formed.	International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local Number 1474 is formed.	Five new engines are purchased to update aging apparatus.			First Fire Chief Raymond A. Davis and Assistant Chief L.E. McCabe retire. Sedgwick County begins first EMS—fire department provides drivers for EMS units that run out of SCFD Stations 1, 2, 3 and 5.	Fire Marshal Gary Nichols is promoted to Fire Chief. Three-platoon system begins giving firefighters 48 hours off between shifts. All department personnel become certified EMTs. SCFD Honor guard is created.	Centralized dispatching begins for all emergency services in Wichita and Sedgwick County.	County-wide fireworks ban goes into effect drastically decreasing the number of fires.	Crews respond to Clearwater Trucking fire on North Broadway. Devonshire apartment fire prompts mutual-aid discussions between county and city.

\$200,000 Blaze Levels Ballroom; 2 Workers Flee
 Fire destroyed the Blue Note Ballroom, 3401 S. Oliver, early Saturday. Loss was set at between \$200,000 and \$250,000. Two men at work in the building at the time barely escaped with their lives. Hollywood stars Bob Hope, Debbie Reynolds, Connie Haines and Gene Barry had left the club only a few hours before flames completely destroyed the building.
 Sedgwick County Fire Chief As Green and Sime led out St. A. Davis had not determined the front door an explosion the cause of the fire by re-entranced the building and cause afternoon. [unclear] called out the door which then



A full-time training position was also created this year to help fulfill instructional requirements and assist with course development. The District also utilizes twenty line personnel instructors to assist in teaching EMSS modules, CPR, first aid and other continuing educational requirements.

The **SAFETY/TRAINING DIVISION** of SCFD No. 1 strives to provide a safe working environment for personnel through the continual availability of a safety officer, a health and safety committee and an accident review board.

In 2005, the District averaged over 300 hours of training per employee including joint exercises with neighboring departments, major disaster drills, hazardous materials training, and state and national training courses.

A major accomplishment of the division was the completion of the District's first-ever training academies for newly-hired personnel. Ten new recruits completed the two academies—the first ending in February, the second in September. Another goal realized in 2005 was the start of multi-unit training sessions each Friday.

The **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TASK FORCE** is a joint effort between Sedgwick County Emergency Management, SCFD No. 1, and the Wichita Fire Dept to provide a specialized team of firefighters who respond to hazardous material emergencies anywhere in Sedgwick County.

The HazMat team handles not only chemical spills, but—in cooperation with the Wichita Police Department Bomb Squad—is responsible for weapons of mass destruction incidents involving homeland security. Sedgwick County HazMat also continued to be part of the State of Kansas regional response team during 2005. The task force responds to approximately 100 alarms annually and conducts many hours of

MAJOR INDUSTRIAL SITES IN THE DISTRICT

- Air Capitol Delivery**
- Air Products**
- Boeing Company**
- Buckley Industries**
- Case New Holland**
- Cessna Aircraft Company**
- Coleman Company**
- DeBruce Grain**
- Dillons Stores**
- The Hayes Company**
- Kice Industries**
- Norland Plastics**
- Optima Bus Corporation**
- Raytheon Aircraft Company**
- Roberts Trucking**
- Thayer Aerospace**
- T.W. Metals**
- United Warehouse**
- Vulcan Chemicals**
- Westar Energy**
- Wild West World**

specialized training to stay abreast of the ever-changing chemical industry and the increased use of chemicals by consumers.

In November 2005, SCFD personnel assisted in hosting the 14th Annual Kansas HazMat Symposium. With over 400 attendees, the symposium has become one of the largest training events of the year in Kansas.

Personnel also participated in and chaired the Metropolitan Medical Response System's radiological working group which began operating at the first of the year. The group met monthly to develop a radiological response plan, purchase equipment and plan training. At least ten members of the task force attended the 40-hour Comprehensive Monitoring Class in support of new equipment purchased during the year.

A final highlight of the year was the completion of the 80-hour National Fire Academy's Hazardous Materials Chemistry I class by seven SCFD members. The task force continues its periodic cross-training with the WPD Bomb Squad and SWAT team.

The **TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM** is a specialized team of firefighters that responds to emergency calls involving confined space, high-

angle, swift water, trench cave-ins, collapse or SCUBA rescues. The team responds jointly with its counterpart from the Wichita Fire Department to provide the highest level of expertise available in the Sedgwick County area.

In addition to weekly training in 2005, many rescue team personnel obtained the "Advanced Diver" certification in preparation for meeting the 2006 goal of "Certified Public Safety Diver." Additionally, an interview

process was completed to establish a new list of backup team members. Joint SCFD/WFD Training and Equipment committees were formed this year to evaluate specific needs of the team in future training classes and equipment procurement. The committees will make recommendations based on those needs to both the city and county rescue team coordinators that compliment the entire team.



City of Wichita and Sedgwick County sign their initial first-responder agreement. SCFD adds division chief positions.

Construction is completed on new Station 8.



New Station 2 opens. County Fire Chief Gary Nichols retires.

1981 1982 1983 1986 1987 1988 1990 1991 1994



City of Wichita and Sedgwick County sign first-responder operation agreement. Station 1 and Mini-Station 8 are closed.

Founding Chief Raymond A. Davis passes away.

Mini-station 9 is closed. Todd Colton dies in the line of duty.

SCFD assists with Andover tornado rescues.

City and county sign an enhanced first-responder agreement.



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Critical incident stress management team

Assists with defusing/debriefing personnel involved in critical incidents in Sedgwick County and surrounding communities.

Self-contained breathing apparatus maintenance program

Technicians perform annual SCBA maintenance tests, fit-testing of all personnel, routine repairs, maintaining an inventory of parts, and quarterly breathing air quality tests.

REACH hypertension screening Free blood pressure checks available on a walk-in basis at all eight District stations.

Adopt-a-school program Personnel volunteer in the classrooms of "adopted" schools to assist faculty and administrators in a variety of classroom functions.

Research and development team To keep abreast of new developments and technologies, the R and D team researches new equipment and strategies, and assists with grants and accreditation.

SWAT tactical medic team Specially-trained paramedics are available to assist the Wichita Police Department SWAT team in critical situations.

Assist-a-citizen program District personnel may assist citizens in distress due—from making a phone call to changing a flat tire.

Vaccine/immunization program SCFD paramedics assist the Sedgwick County Health Department with the administration of immunizations at various locations.

Senior management response team Personnel from the rank of division chief and above may assist other Kansas agencies in the handling of a major event or disaster.

Y-Fire task force The District, along with other community partners, conducts a special program for youth who have shown an interest in playing with fire or who have set fires.

French student ride-along program Students from Bordeaux University in Talence, France, are sponsored in a ten-week training program that allows them to observe and gain knowledge about the fire service.

Arson task force Cooperates with eighteen other member organizations from the local to federal level in assisting with the investigation of complicated fire scenes in south central Kansas.

Hydrant testing/inspection In addition to testing 1440 fire hydrants, a database now gives units information on flow data, main size, etc. during emergencies.

Grant-writing committee Routinely researches and applies for available grants to assist with the cost of new equipment and programs. Helped the District receive nearly \$600,000 in 2004.

The **FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION** began 2005 with multiple house fire investigations largely due to the ice storm that struck Sedgwick County in January. Investigations of 98 fires occurred in 2005—a 22 percent increase since the year 2001—35 of those being arson fires—a 35 percent increase since 2001. The District recorded two civilian fire deaths in 2005. With an increasing fire hazard in Sedgwick County, the Fire Prevention Division has set short- and long-term goals to reduce fires, fire injuries, and fire deaths through education, inspection, enforcement, and investigation.

District personnel performed 1,796 inspections of commercial buildings and residential day cares. Plan reviews were done on 98 building plans—a 44 percent increase since the year 2000 with the total value of building plans reviewed being \$88 million—a 29 percent increase since 2000. A projected \$100 million worth of building plans will be reviewed in 2006.



The Public Education section of the Division targets children and senior citizens, the parts of our population most at risk to fires, by reaching them through programs at schools and local senior citizens organizations. Public Education activities in 2005 including the Adopt-A-School program and station tours that involved over 35,000 children and 25,000 adults. The ninth annual Fire Prevention Week Adventure at the Sedgwick County Zoo attracted over 2,000 students and teachers. Fire Prevention continues to be heavily involved in the Y-Fire (Youth Fire Intervention and Education) program that deals with juveniles referred due to fire-setting behavior.

Firefighters respond to major flooding in the county.

Staffing is increased at Stations 33 and 35. Research and Development team is formed.



Department receives its first thermal imaging cameras.

SCFD becomes an accredited agency through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.

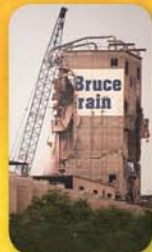
Rescue team receives new state-of-the-art Pierce Heavy Rescue.



Gary Curmode becomes third SCFD Chief.

1995 Technical Rescue Team begins operating—a joint effort with the WFD.

1997 Station 31 opens, serving the Andale area. **1998** Crews fight fires caused by an explosion at DeBruce Grain.

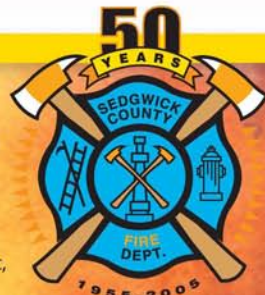


SCFD assists in the rescue of young Jesse Kraus from a Mulvane well and responds to Haysville tornado.

Photo by Lieutenant Patricia Peterson

1999 SCFD No. 1 celebrates its 50th anniversary.

2003 Construction plans are underway for new Station 32 at 77th Street North and Hydraulic, and new Station 33 at 53rd Street North and Maize Road.



Timeline photography courtesy of the Wichita Eagle, Elmer Noordhoek, Rick Brazill, Janis Pauly and Craig Hacker

Photography and production by Craig Hacker, hackerphoto@earthlink.net
Design and layout by Dave Webb, comanchepress@mac.com



SCFD No. 1 PERSONNEL

6 Administrative Staff	2 Medical/Safety/Training Chief
6 Division Chiefs	117 Operations Division
6 Fire Prevention Division	2 Vehicle Maintenance

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The administrative offices are located on the lower level of Station 37 and can be reached between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. by calling 316-660-3473. After hours, a voice mail system notifies staff members of messages waiting. Administration can also be contacted at the following:

Sedgwick County Fire District No. 1
4343 North Woodlawn
Bel Aire, Kansas 67220-3837

316-660-3473
316-744-0944 fax

scfd@sedgwick.gov
www.sedgwickcounty.org

STATION LOCATIONS

Station 31
5848 N 247th St W

Station 35
651 S 247th St W

Station 32
501 E 53rd St N

Station 36
6400 S Rock Rd

Station 33
5728 N 151st St W

Station 37
4343 N Woodlawn

Station 34
3914 W 71st St S

Station 38
1010 N 143rd St E



EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

- 8 Fire Stations staffed 24 hours a day
- EMT Emergency Medical First Responder
- Firefighter I and II
- Hazardous Materials Team
- Technical Rescue Team
- Carbon Monoxide Response Program
- Motorist Assistance Program
- Rapid Intervention Crew 2-In/2-Out
- Senior Management Response Team
- Arson Task Force
- Regional Hazmat Response Team (17 counties)

In 2005, the **FIRE MAINTENANCE DIVISION** continued to operate from the new Sedgwick County Fleet Management facility. With the exception of salaries, Sedgwick County Fleet Management provides all support to fire maintenance including use of facilities, stockroom support, use of fleet software, and administrative services.

This year all front-line equipment continued on a four-month preventive maintenance inspection and service cycle, and all staff vehicles were placed on a 4,000-mile preventive maintenance and inspection cycle. Reserve equipment is scheduled for a preventive maintenance and inspection cycle every six months. Results of these efforts are reflected in the overall equipment availability rate of 96 percent for the year—one percent above the District's goal.

This year fire technicians created 421 work orders for 152 road calls, 131 preventive maintenance inspections, three vendor warranties, 37 vendor repairs and the remainder for general maintenance. To support these work orders, over \$6,900 worth of stocked parts were issued and nearly \$35,500 worth of non-stocked parts

were issued. Repairs not feasible for in-shop technicians were sublet to outside vendors for just over \$13,100. Fire technicians were kept busy this year with a 68 percent direct labor utilization rate exceeding the fleet goal by one percent.

Overall, fire maintenance continues to search for improvement areas and solicits comments from the users by survey, email, telephone and face-to-face with operators. One new front-line vehicle was placed into service this year—a 2005 Pierce 2,200 gallon tender based at Station 32.



2005 ACCREDITATION/FUNDING

Compliance with standards of the Commission on Fire Accreditation International is proceeding on schedule.

This year, an objective was implemented to conform strategic planning to CFAI criteria. Goals and objectives were approved and compliance responsibilities were assigned to senior staff. A CFAI review committee monitors accreditation status through meetings with Chief Curmode. A compliance review flowchart has been developed to help ensure the District will be ready for its 2008 re-accreditation review.

In 2005, the Fire District was funded by a special assessment tax mill levy of 18.565. This is an increase of 1.87 over 2004. The additional tax mill levy will allow the Fire District to relocate five of its stations to maximize response times and reduce residential insurance rates.

The total budget for 2005 was \$12,906,749. This figure maintains staffing and operations of administration, safety/training, fire prevention, and eight permanent fire stations. Revenue sources include ad valorem taxes, other taxes, inspection fees, building rentals, hazardous materials response fees, and other charges for service.