

HELENA FIRE DEPARTMENT

1989 ANNUAL REPORT

AS SUBMITTED TO
THE HONORABLE MAYOR, THE CITY COMMISSIONERS,
AND BILL VERWOLF, CITY MANAGER

Helena's burning train:

- More photos, dramatic accounts from evacuees/1B
- How the blast stole our heat in the frigid cold/1B



Helena INDEPENDENT RECORD

THURSDAY AFTERNOON: February 2, 1989

From Montana's capital city

Vol. 45, No. 73

35

Heat we didn't need



Smashed train continues to burn scary-looking smoke at 12:30 p.m. today. Photo is looking west, with smoke drifting south toward downtown Helena. (Staff photos by Gene Fischer)

- Dangerous train still on fire
- Major evacuation in Helena
- Bad fumes, more blasts possible

By GRANT SASEK
IR Staff Writer

A square-mile area of Helena was evacuated early this morning after a runaway freight train slammed into a work train causing an explosion that knocked out power to much of Helena, shattered windows a mile away, threw debris for blocks and raised concerns of toxic gases spreading through the community.

At 2 p.m. today, fires were still burning under derailed tank and box cars, officials were leaving the possibility of more explosions as evacuations continued, and a black cloud of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and smoke particles hovered over the city.

Although no one was injured by the explosion, one emergency services person has been admitted to St. Peter's Hospital after breathing fumes at the accident site and rescue efforts.

Train axle lands in living room



FEBRUARY 2, 1989

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Commissioners
Russell J. Ritter, Mayor
Margaret A. Crennen
Tom Huddleston
Mike Murray
Blake J. Wordal



City-County
Administration Building
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Helena, MT 59623

Phone: 406/442-9920

William J. Verwolf
City Manager

City of Helena

May 15, 1990

Mr. Bill Verwolf
City Manager
316 N. Park
Helena, MT 59623

Dear Mr. Verwolf,

I am pleased to submit to you the Annual Report of the Fire and Rescue Department for the year 1989. This report exhibits the relentless activities and efforts put forth by ever-changing challenges of emergency service.

"A Day In The Life" reflects the fire protection and emergency medical service provided each day during 1989 for the more than 42,000 people who live, work or visit in Helena. During the past year, the Fire and Rescue Department responded to more than 1110 calls to provide fire suppression, emergency medical treatment or public service assistance.

In addition to the dedicated men who directly fight fire and care for medical emergencies, a day in the life of our department involves a flurry of "behind the scenes activity." My pride in this department extends to all of our professionals who prevent fire through building inspections, plans reviews, and untiring public education efforts, as well as those who must strive daily to keep our personnel, apparatus, and equipment in top-notch condition.

Memo - Bill Verwolf
May 15, 1990
page 2

None of the accomplishments of the Fire and Rescue Department would have been possible without the strong support of the City Commission, City Manager, and the citizens of Helena, Montana. It is your encouragement that enables us to stand out in the fire service as a model of what can be done in this dynamic field. We look forward to another year of increased demand for emergency service, and are actively planning to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Hurni

Chief Don Hurni
Helena Fire Department

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City Manager



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MAYOR
RUSS RITTER

COMMISSION
TOM HUDDLESTON
BLAKE WORDAL
MIKE MURRAY
MARGARET CRENNEN

CITY MANAGER
BILL VERWOLF

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HELENA FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE CHIEF
Don Hurni

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF
Rich Coe

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
FM - Bob Knudson
DFM - Harry Crawford
INS.II - Fritz Zettel

COMBAT

SHIFT #1

BATT.CHIEF----Dennis Sorrels
CAPT.-----Ted Simpson
LT.EMT-D-----Jim Skinner
ENG.-----Norb Roth
FF 1/C-----Doug Duncan
FF1/C EMT-D---Warren Ziegler
FF1/C EMT-D---Pat Clinch
FF III EMT-D--Larry Ross
PFF EMT-----Randy McClain

SHIFT #2

BATT.CHIEF--Joe Cross
CAPT.-----Ron Morris
LT.EMT-D----Jay Moore
ENG.-----Mike Spotorno
FF1/C EMT-D-Ed Flies
FF1/C EMT-D-Steve Larson
FF1/C EMT-D-Jim Feucht
FFIII EMT-D-Bob Fearon
FFIII EMT-D-Jim Mitchell

SHIFT #3

BATT.CHIEF----Bob Pare
CAPT.-----Bob Olson
LT.EMS DIR.---Mike Foster
ENG.-----Dale Klugman
FF1/C-MECH.---Don Gage
FF1/C EMT-D---Joel King
FFIII EMT-D---Roy Swanby
FFIII EMT-D---Kevin Kelly
CFF EMT-----Brad Hampton

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Bernie Martian

Helena Fire Department Staff
page 2

RETIRED: Norm Gray - Fire Chief

PROMOTED: Don Hurni - Fire Chief
Bob Olson - Captain
Jay Moore - Lt.
Dale Klugman - Engineer
Mike Foster - EMS Director
Fritz Zettel - Inspector II
Don Gage - Mechanic
Pat Clinch - FF 1/C
Joel King - FF 1/C
Bob Fearon - FF III
Larry Ross - FF III
Jim Mitchell - FF III
Roy Swanby - FF III
Kevin Kelly - FF III



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FIRE APPARATUS

<u>APPARATUS #</u>	<u>STATION</u>	<u>TYPE OF APPARATUS</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Engine 1	1	1250 Pumper	Sutphen	1986
Engine 2	2	1250 Pumper	Hahn	1980
Engine 3	1	1250 pumper	Seagrave	1975
Truck 1	1	85' Tower	Sutphen	1976
Truck 2	2	75' Ladder	Pirsch	1946
Squad 1	1	Mini/Rescue	Ford	1986
Squad 2	2	Mini/Rescue	Chevrolet	1979
#127	1	Staff	Ford 2 dr.	1980
#128	1	Staff	Ford 4 dr.	1980
#129	1	Staff Pickup	Ford Pickup	1981
#130	1	Staff Pickup	Ford Pickup	1985
#131	1	Staff Van	Ford Van	1986

SOURCE OF ALARM

	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Fire Department telephone.....	10	24
Dispatch Center.....	1049	921
Alarm Board.....	49	75
Radio.....	1	16
Direct report.....	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>
Total.....	1109	1044

TYPE OF SITUATION FOUND

	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Fire, explosion, etc.....	109	160
Smoke scare.....	64	58
Rescue, crash emergency.....	638	584
Hazardous condition.....	34	36
Public service.....	21	17
Alarm - (no fire).....	128	113
False alarm (malicious).....	17	29
Electrical problem.....	15	27
Miscellaneous.....	<u>83</u>	<u>20</u>
Total.....	1109	1044

	<u>This year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
In City.....	1085	992
Fire District.....	21	40
Contract.....	1	6
Mutual Aid.....	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>
Total.....	1109	1044

FIRE LOCATION

	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
In building.....	44	55
Wildland.....	8	35
Rubbish near building.....	2	4
Rubbish in vacant lot.....	3	9
Trash can.....	0	2
Vehicles.....	22	20
Dumpsters.....	22	21
Miscellaneous.....	8	13
Total.....	109	159

FIRE CONTROL METHOD

	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
By Fire Department.....	84	128
By occupants.....	3	5
Sprinkler system.....	0	0
Fire out on arrival.....	19	23
Other.....	0	4
Total.....	106	160

FIRE CAUSES (IN BUILDING)

	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Chimneys and wood burning appliances....	12	19
Combustibles near heaters.....	3	9
Careless use of open flame.....	3	1
Careless use of smoking material.....	6	3
Children with matches.....	2	2
Defective electrical.....	8	10
Flammable liquids.....	1	0
Fireworks.....	0	0
Natural conditions.....	0	0
Incendiary.....	2	3
Suspicious.....	0	4
Unknown.....	6	9
Miscellaneous.....	10	6
Total.....	53	66

FIRE LOSS ANALYSIS

	<u>This Year</u>		<u>Last Year</u>	
	<u>Fires</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Fires</u>	<u>Loss</u>
Public buildings.....	0	\$ -0-	2	\$ 25
Dwellings.....	40	\$97,975	12	\$417,279
Mercantile.....	1	\$ 300	6	\$ 780
Manufacturing.....	0	\$ -0-	4	\$ 100
Miscellaneous.....	1	\$ 3,000	3	\$ -0-
Outdoor (vehicles).....	44	\$45,770	39	\$ 9,494

TOTAL FIRE LOSS

	<u>This Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Outdoor fires (vehicles & dumpsters)...	\$ 45,770	\$ 9,494
Building fires.....	\$101,275	\$418,184
TOTAL ESTIMATED FIRE LOSS.....	\$147,045	\$427,678

DEATH AND INJURY

	<u>This year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Civilians injured.....	7	0
Firefighters injured.....	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL.....	9	4
Civilians killed.....	0	0
Firefighters killed.....	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL.....	0	0

NOTE: Not included in the figures above, is the loss that occurred on February 2, 1989. Although, an exact amount would be hard to determine, it is safe to say that the loss incurred on that day is well in excess of \$10,000,000 from the resulting fire and explosion.



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William J. Verwolf
City Manager

City of Helena

TO: Don Hurni, Fire Chief
FROM: Bob Knudson, Fire Marshal
DATE: April 30, 1990
SUBJECT: Annual Report from the Fire Prevention Bureau
for the Year 1989

COMMENTARY:

As we are all aware, the most important non-firefighting aspect associated with the fire service, is in the field of Public Education and Fire Prevention. More often than not, this is an area that is often overlooked and many times forgotten altogether. Without a Fire Prevention Bureau, the City of Helena would suffer greatly.

Although the number of runs from 1983 to 1989 have increased 22.5%, the actual number of fires has decreased 53%. Even though there is no concrete evidence that the reduction in actual fires can be attributed solely to the efforts of the Fire Prevention Bureau, I strongly believe that through our efforts in Public Education, Fire Prevention Week, and routine inspections, the Bureau has made a contribution in the reduction of these percentages.

The functions of the Fire Prevention Bureau are many. The Bureau is responsible for conducting routine, as well as technical fire inspections, complaint investigations, fire and arson investigations, plan reviews for commercial construction and remodeling, consultation with architects, contractors, and property owners concerning all aspects of fire protection and prevention.

Annual Report from the Fire Prevention Bureau
page 2

The Bureau also has the task of informing the public about its fire safety problem and how it concerns each and everyone of them, such as, woodstove installation and maintenance. In order to reach the people in our community, it takes a constant on-going public education program. In order to accomplish this, the Bureau uses several different programs, including the use of the news media, talks at meetings, two (2) seasonal programs, fire prevention week, spring clean up, and various other programs for educating children, baby sitters, employees and employers in many of the different businesses throughout our community.

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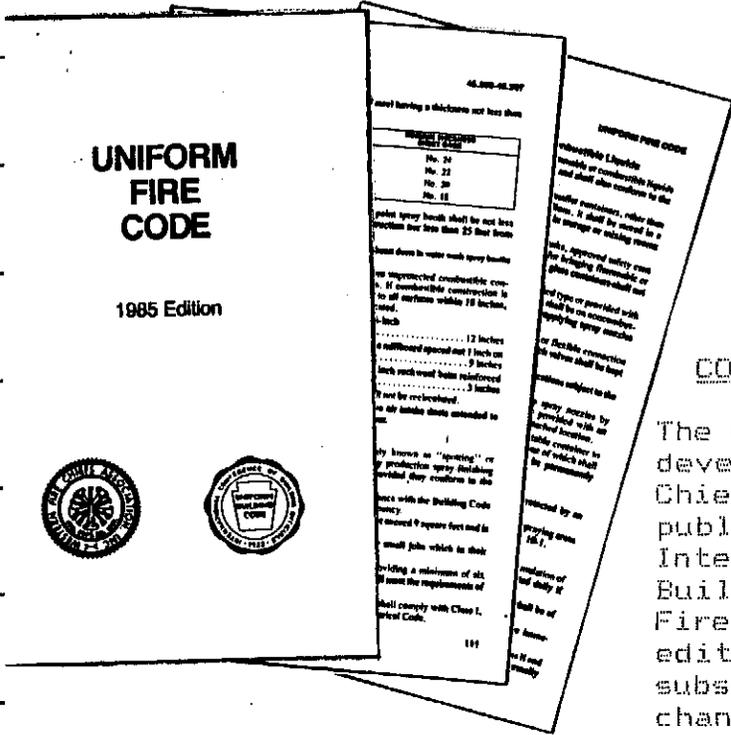
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William J. Verwolf
City Manager

City of Helena

A look back at the events that took place on February 2, 1989, the busiest day in the history of the Helena Fire Department.

- 0500 - Explosion, Elk River Concrete - call-out system activated, 22 off-duty personnel responded - two (2) firemen injured. People evacuated, several million dollars in damage
- 0743 - 1129 Knight Street - gas smell
- 0754 - 924 Peosta - emergency medical call
- 0845 - Civic Center - emergency medical call
- 0855 - 1525 Waukesha - gas smell
- 1003 - 1321 Boulder - emergency medical call
- 1035 - Allison & Hauser - false alarm
- 1041 - 715 Fee, Eagles Manor - false alarm
- 1055 - 630 West Main - structure fire, nine (9) firefighters responded - \$15,000 damage
- 1217 - 918 Peosta - gas smell
- 1522 - 1730 Hollins - heating pipe came apart
- 1533 - 608 N. Davis - vehicle fire
- 1545 - 1531 Lyndale - steam coming from attic
- 1606 - 600 Block Helena Avenue, Steamboat Block - broken water pipes
- 1608 - 1721 Euclid #104 - gas smell
- 1732 - 508 8th Avenue - chimney fire, eight (8) firefighters responded
- 1753 - 1908 Lockey - wall overheated from furnace
- 1903 - 208 Breckenridge - emergency medical call
- 2131 - Associated Foods - false alarm



CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Uniform Fire Code was initially developed by the California Fire Chiefs Association and was first published in 1971 by the International Conference of Building Officials and the Western Fire Chiefs Association. A revised edition was published in 1973 and subsequent editions incorporate changes approved at annual meetings of the Western Fire Chiefs Association.

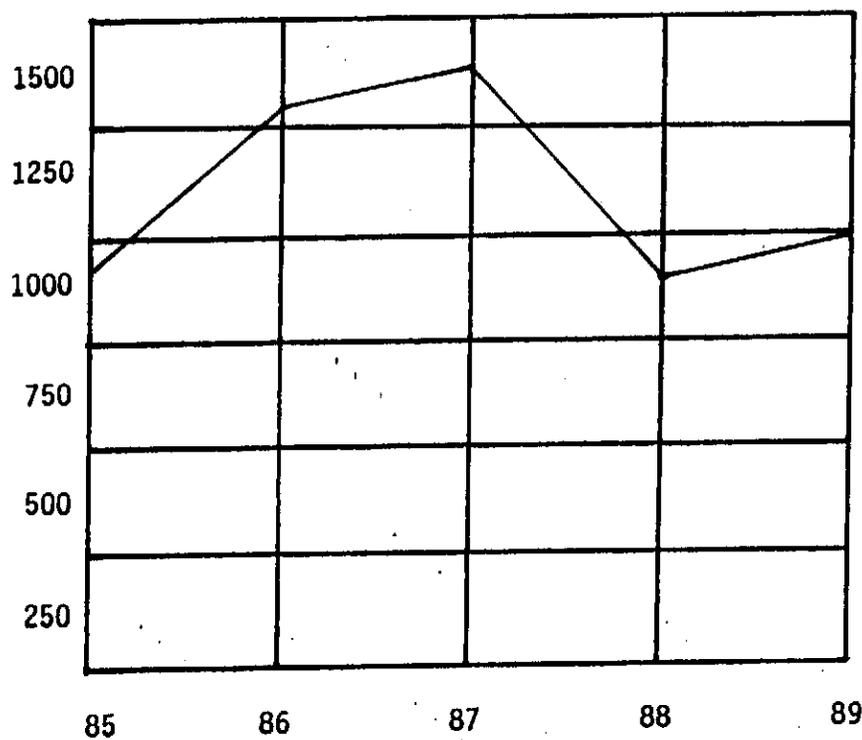
It is the intent of the International Conference of Building Officials and the Western Fire Chiefs Association to correlate the provisions of the Uniform Fire Code and the Uniform Building Code so that there is no conflict between them. Neither code is intended to stand alone; rather, the total package, i.e., the Uniform Fire Code, the Uniform Building Code, the Uniform Mechanical Code, the Uniform Plumbing Code and the National Electrical Code, give cities and counties a complete and comprehensive program of model codes that are compatible with each other.

Both the State of Montana, and the City of Helena adopt the Uniform Fire Code. The Fire Prevention Bureau is required to inspect, as often as may be necessary, all buildings and premises, including such other hazards or appliances as the chief may designate for the purpose of ascertaining and causing to be corrected any conditions which would reasonable tend to cause fire or contribute to its spread, or any violation of the purpose or provisions of the Fire Code and of any other law or standard affecting fire safety.

INSPECTIONS

<u>OCCUPANCY TYPE</u>	<u>NO. OF INSP. 1989</u>	<u>NO. OF INSP. 1988</u>
Mercantile.....	140.....	92
Educational.....	35.....	33
Public Assembly.....	82.....	57
Residential.....	64.....	68
Business.....	104.....	131
Industrial.....	176.....	167
Miscellaneous.....	4.....	3
Sub-Total.....	605.....	551
Re-Inspections conducted...	376.....	266
TOTAL INSPECTIONS.....	981.....	817

TOTAL INSPECTIONS - FIVE YEAR COMPARISON



NOTICES, ORDERS AND CITATIONS:

Notices are issued for the correction of routine code violations, orders are issued for the correction of more hazardous violations, and to gain code compliance, after all other measures have failed, a citation is issued.

During 1989, the Bureau issued 468 notices, 10 orders, and 2 citations.

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS:

The Fire Prevention Bureau conducts investigations of complaints received from local businesses and the citizens of Helena, concerning code violations, hazardous conditions, and public safety. During 1989 the Bureau received and investigated 33 complaints. Some of the complaints received concerned:

- Toxic vapors in the Federal Building
- No smoke detectors in apartment buildings
- Intentional release of propane
- Unlawful sales of fire extinguishers

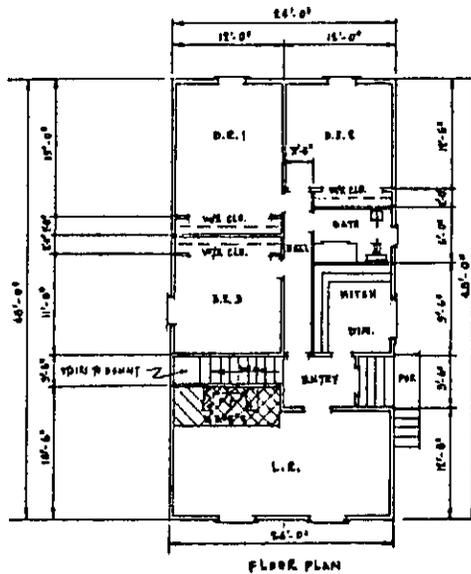


Figure 1-3

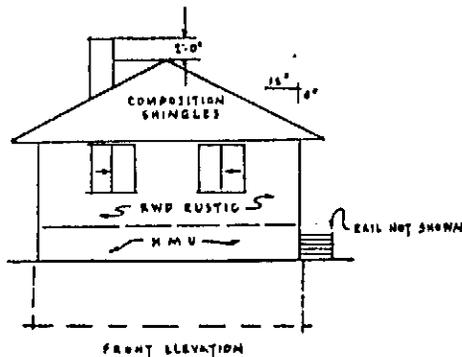


Figure 1-4

PLAN REVIEWS

Traditionally, the activity of the Building Department has involved the design, construction, and final occupancy inspection of the building. The Fire Department's role has usually begun upon occupancy of the building and has concerned the maintenance of life safety conditions and the handling of contents.

Today, the Fire Department's role in the building construction process is changing. The participation of the Fire Marshal in the review of building plans and specifications and the construction process, has become an increasingly important fire prevention function. The plan review

process is conducted in close cooperation with the Building and Safety Department, and provides the Fire Department with its best opportunity to see that fire protection standards are met prior to the completion of construction and occupancy of the building.

If questions and issues concerning the effect of construction on fire safety are discussed during the plan review process with the architect, engineers, contractors and other code officials, misunderstandings and conflicts that may arise during the construction or final finish phase can be prevented, if not eliminated. Design professionals benefit from this process as well because problems which would otherwise cost them time and money are eliminated before construction begins.

Most recently the Bureau has been working closely with the City's Building and Safety Department to streamline the plan review process to provide better and efficient service to the citizens of Helena. During 1989, the Fire Prevention Bureau devoted 89.5 hours to plan reviews.



FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

As required by State law, the Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for investigating all fires within its jurisdiction. The term "fire investigation", describes a broad range of activities dealing with post-fire data gathering and analysis to document fire ignition scenarios, fire development, material identification, human behavior, and important fire safety lessons learned.

Investigations of this type are usually concerned with ignition scenario and area of origin determination, with particular emphasis on the investigation of incendiary and suspicious or fatal fires. Fire incidents are also investigated for loss analysis and prevention purposes. These investigations are usually conducted to determine what can be learned from a particular fire incident. Investigations conducted for loss analysis purposes focus on the reasons for fire spread, performance of fire protection features, and those factors contributing to life loss or property damage in addition to the fire cause and origin details.

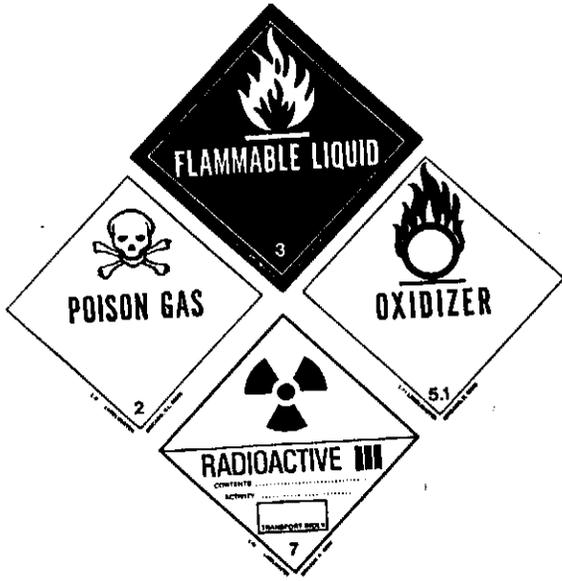
At the present time all Fire Prevention Bureau personnel have completed the State Fire Marshal Bureau's basic and advanced arson investigation programs and are members of the International Association of Arson investigators.

In 1989, the Bureau investigated a total of 18 fires, 13 were determined accidental, and 5 incendiary.

FIVE YEAR COMPARISON

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NO. INVESTIGATED</u>	<u>INCENDIARY</u>	<u>ARRESTS</u>	<u>CONVICTIONS</u>
1989	18	5	2	2
1988	20	10	2	2
1987	34	7	1	0
1986	16	6	1	0
1985	24	8	0	0

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



Hazardous materials are regulated under a number of provisions of the Uniform Fire Code. In addition to which the Fire Prevention Bureau participates in a number of programs in conjunction with the National Fire Protection Agency, and the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences. The Bureau is also responsible for compliance with certain provisions of the Employee/Community Hazardous Chemical Information Act.

The Bureau conducts an on-going hazard assessment and risk analysis of all facilities involved in the transportation, storage, handling and use of hazardous materials within the city. This is done as part of the Bureau's uniform inspection procedure. A summary of some of the programs dealing with hazardous materials is included in this section.

Methane Gas Monitoring

The City of Helena Landfill is listed on the Environmental Protection Agency's Comprehensive Environmental Resource Compensation and Liability Information system (CERCLIS) list. The site was included on the original list primarily because of the potential for methane gas problems associated with the landfill and also because of the potential of groundwater contamination from landfill leachate.

The Fire Prevention Bureau conducts periodic sampling and monitoring of methane gas levels at various test sites on and around the landfill and in adjoining buildings. Results of sampling and monitoring are measured in terms of percent L.E.L. (lower explosive level) and percent gas present and serve to readily identify any problems.

Hazardous Materials
page 2

PCB Monitoring Program

In 1976, Congress passed the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and specifically directed the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

More recently EPA has adopted regulations for the manufacturing, processing, distribution in commerce, and use prohibitions for PCBs under the Toxic Substances Control Act. Under these regulations and effective on December 1, 1985, notification was required to be provided to the Fire Department in whose jurisdiction, all PCB transformers (including PCB transformers in storage) are located.

Thousands flee toxic fumes

Derailed train spills phosphorus; needs 10

30,000 flee chemical fire

3 die in chemical plant blast

Hazardous waste found near Spring Meadow Lake

Spilled chemical called 'Bhopal gas'

School lab's old chemicals: a 'time bomb'

Chemical plant blast burns four critically

Chemical spill on train car causes temporary evacuation of Thompson Falls families

Tanker overturns, spilling chemical cocktail

Spilled chemical called 'Bhopal gas'

School lab's old chemicals: a 'time bomb'

Chemical plant blast burns four critically

Chemical fire prompts evacuation of 30,000 people in Helena, Mont. The fire broke out at a night shift at the plant, which is owned by the city and operated by a private contractor. The fire is believed to have started in the boiler room.

Chemical spill on train car causes temporary evacuation of Thompson Falls families

Thompson Falls, Mont. (AP) - A chemical spill from a derailed train car in Thompson Falls, Mont., caused a temporary evacuation of families in the town.

The spill occurred on Tuesday night when a train carrying hazardous materials derailed near the town. The spill caused a cloud of toxic fumes to drift over the town.

Officials said the spill was contained, but the evacuation was necessary to protect the health of the town's residents.

Tanker overturns, spilling chemical cocktail

Washington, D.C. (AP) - A tanker truck overturned on a highway near Washington, D.C., spilling a hazardous chemical cocktail.

The accident occurred on Tuesday afternoon when the tanker lost control and rolled over on its side. The spill caused a large cloud of toxic fumes to rise into the air.

Officials said the spill was contained, but the evacuation was necessary to protect the health of the surrounding community.

Spilled chemical called 'Bhopal gas'

Washington (AP) - Hydrogen cyanide, a chemical known as "Bhopal gas," was spilled from a tanker truck on a highway near Washington, D.C.

The spill occurred on Tuesday afternoon when the tanker lost control and rolled over on its side. The spill caused a large cloud of toxic fumes to rise into the air.

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Splosion sprays toxic chemicals in Helena, Mont. (AP) - A chemical explosion at a plant in Helena, Mont., caused a plume of toxic chemicals to be sprayed into the air.

The explosion occurred on Tuesday afternoon when a tank containing hazardous materials ruptured. The plume of chemicals caused a temporary evacuation of the surrounding area.

Officials said the spill was contained, but the evacuation was necessary to protect the health of the surrounding community.

School lab's old chemicals: a 'time bomb'

Helena, Mont. (AP) - Old chemicals in a school laboratory in Helena, Mont., are being described as a "time bomb" because of their potential for explosion.

The chemicals, which have been in the lab for many years, are being stored in a building that is in poor condition. Officials are concerned that the chemicals could explode at any time.

Officials said the chemicals should be removed from the lab as soon as possible to prevent a disaster.

Chemical plant blast burns four critically

Helena, Mont. (AP) - A chemical fire at a plant in Helena, Mont., caused four people to be burned critically.

The fire broke out at a night shift at the plant, which is owned by the city and operated by a private contractor. The fire is believed to have started in the boiler room.

Officials said the fire was contained, but the evacuation was necessary to protect the health of the surrounding community.

Chemical spill on train car causes temporary evacuation of Thompson Falls families

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Chemical spill on train car causes temporary evacuation of Thompson Falls families

Thompson Falls, Mont. (AP) - A chemical spill from a derailed train car in Thompson Falls, Mont., caused a temporary evacuation of families in the town.

The spill occurred on Tuesday night when a train carrying hazardous materials derailed near the town. The spill caused a cloud of toxic fumes to drift over the town.

Officials said the spill was contained, but the evacuation was necessary to protect the health of the town's residents.

Tanker overturns, spilling chemical cocktail

Washington, D.C. (AP) - A tanker truck overturned on a highway near Washington, D.C., spilling a hazardous chemical cocktail.

The accident occurred on Tuesday afternoon when the tanker lost control and rolled over on its side. The spill caused a large cloud of toxic fumes to rise into the air.

Officials said the spill was contained, but the evacuation was necessary to protect the health of the surrounding community.

Spilled chemical called 'Bhopal gas'

Washington (AP) - Hydrogen cyanide, a chemical known as "Bhopal gas," was spilled from a tanker truck on a highway near Washington, D.C.

The spill occurred on Tuesday afternoon when the tanker lost control and rolled over on its side. The spill caused a large cloud of toxic fumes to rise into the air.

Officials said the spill was contained, but the evacuation was necessary to protect the health of the surrounding community.

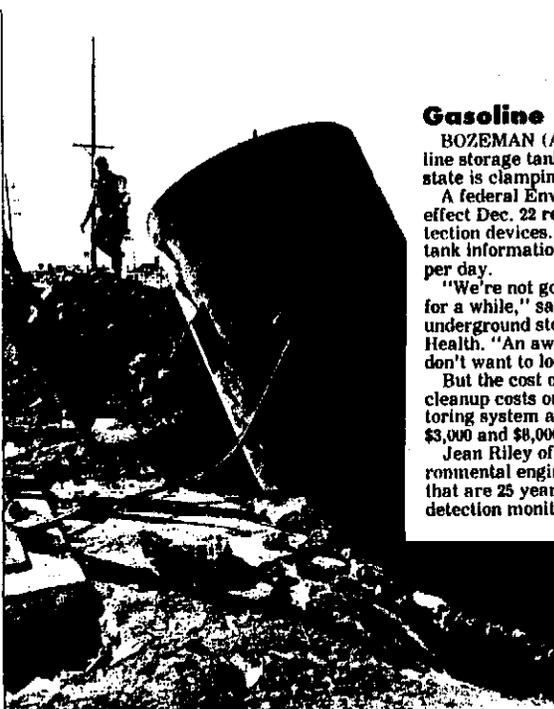
CHEMICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

In June of 1985, the Environmental Protection Agency began a program to assure that communities are prepared to deal effectively with possible accidental releases of acutely toxic chemicals.

The Environmental Protection Agency has developed criteria to identify acutely toxic chemicals, and a list of such chemicals. These acutely toxic chemicals can cause death or injury in the event of an accidental release into the air. The extent of harm will depend on the chemical involved, its physical state, how it is handled at the site, the amount released, the prevailing weather conditions at the time of release, the population potentially affected, the emergency preparedness measures in place in the community, and the actual response actions taken.

The EPA's criteria has been incorporated into the Helena Fire Department's hazard assessment and risk analysis for hazardous materials. In addition to which many of the programs criteria are covered under the Bureau's permit system and the requirements of the Uniform Fire Code.

At the present time there remains quite a bit of work to be completed, however, the Bureau feels that the City of Helena is ahead of many other communities in the state in accomplishing this task.



Gasoline leaks called common ■

BOZEMAN (AP) — A state hazardous waste official says gasoline storage tanks are leaking in every town in Montana and the state is clamping down on the problem.

A federal Environmental Protection Agency mandate goes into effect Dec. 22 requiring gas station owners to install gas leak detection devices. Civil fines for not providing required storage tank information in accordance with EPA regulations are \$10,000 per day.

"We're not going to be able to get the situation under control for a while," said Larry Mitchell of Helena, coordinator of the underground storage tank program for the state Department of Health. "An awful lot of tank owners are playing ostrich. They don't want to look."

But the cost of installing monitors is nominal compared to cleanup costs or a lawsuit, he said. The average cost of a monitoring system at a typical three-tank service station is between \$3,000 and \$8,000.

Jean Riley of Helena, the state storage tank program's environmental engineer, said storage tanks with pressurized pipes that are 25 years old or older by Dec. 22, 1989 must install a leak detection monitor by December 1990.

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAM

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that three to five million underground tanks in the United States contain petroleum or "hazardous substances". It has been estimated that thousands of these tanks are currently leaking, and many more are expected to leak within the next five years.

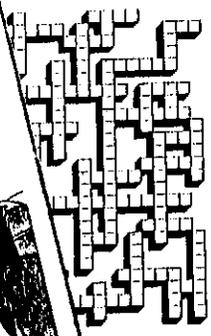
In addition to the fire and explosion potential, growing evidence indicates that such tanks are a major cause of groundwater contamination. Because half the population of the United States depends on groundwater as a source of drinking water, the underground-storage-tank problem has been recognized as one of national significance requiring federal legislation.

Congress responded to the problem by incorporating a new subtitle in the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, which President Reagan signed on November 8, 1984. This subtitle I provides for the development and implementation of a comprehensive regulatory program for underground storage tanks.

The installation, operation and use of underground storage tanks, piping and related fuel handling equipment is regulated under the provisions of Article 79 of the Uniform Fire Code, and as such the Fire Prevention Bureau has the primary responsibility for conducting inspections of underground storage tanks, piping and equipment to insure compliance with the Fire Code and other applicable regulations.



Firesafety Crossword



- Across**
2. Sparky catches the fire and rolls
 4. Ignored to smoke out of the town
 7. Used to look down toward them
 8. Used to get the water from here in there
 9. Learn that to
 11. Don't run out of them in the city
 12. Stop, Drop, and
 13. It's the fire department
 14. A sign that that destroys many buildings
 15. ... the fire department
 16. Get out of a public building
 17. Improperly stored gasoline can
 18. If you have a fire, do not know
 19. Use in report construction
 20. Stop
 21. Possible gas that can explode or catch fire
 22. ... paper with paper
 23. Stop with broken door
 24. Lightweight cotton dress for Paper
 25. Most like them come to people
 26. Look for this label in the house
 27. If you want smoke don't open the door, it out
 28. If it's a sign to
 29. Every house needs an extinguisher
 30. It's a sign to
 31. Can that you in a fire before you might
 32. Look, it's a sign to
 33. In an emergency, whatever you do, don't
 34. Application can become hazardous when
 35. Stop
 36. Stop

During Fire Prevention Week and throughout the year, the Helena Fire Department distributes a number of different fire safety materials, ranging from coloring and comic books to crossword puzzles. These materials designed to teach fire safety to the children of Helena serve a valuable purpose.

Each year throughout the nation many young children are burned and injured by the ignition of their clothing. Clothing fires cause more severe burns than burns on an unclothed area. Injury from clothing fires can be greatly reduced if a child will immediately stop, drop and roll.

This action protects the face, neck and breathing passages. Heat and flame rise, so that when a child is standing up they go straight into the face, nose and mouth. This is aggravated if the child runs and fans the flame. When the child drops and becomes horizontal, the heat and flame still go up, but away from sensitive areas. Rolling smothers the fire to extinguish it.

Various other aspects of fire safety are also covered in these materials, such as preventing fires in and around the home, and what to do if a fire strikes.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Among the many measures that can be taken to reduce fire losses, perhaps none is more important than educating people about fire.

Americans must be made aware of the magnitude of fire's toll and its threat to them personally. They must know how to minimize the risk of fire in their daily surroundings. They must know how to cope with fire, quickly and effectively, once it has started.

The prevention of fires due to human carelessness is not all that fire safety education can hope to accomplish. Many fires caused by faulty equipment rather than carelessness could be prevented if people were trained to recognize hazards. And, many injuries and deaths could be prevented if people knew how to react to a fire, whatever its cause.

Each year through the use of Public Service Announcements, conducted with the cooperation and assistance of the local news media, the Fire Prevention Bureau strives to make the public aware of various fire hazards.

Some of the subjects covered by these PSA's include spring clean-up week, fireworks safety, fire prevention week, and holiday and Christmas safety.

During 1989, the Bureau conducted 9 Public Service Announcements.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

During the year of 1989, the Fire Prevention Bureau conducted both demonstrations and lectures to the general public upon request.

Demonstrations.....	31
Number of adults.....	303
Number of students...	697
Lectures.....	29
Number of adults.....	769
Number of students...	387



COUNSELING JUVENILE FIRE SETTERS

Learning about fire is a part of every child's growth process. A passing interest in fire is quite normal from the ages of approximately 2 to 7 years. This interest is often exhibited when children light small fires or play with matches, lighters, or candles. Children are great imitators. They mimic the adults they see lighting cigarettes, candles, and fireplaces. To most children under seven there is little understanding of fire and its destructive consequences. To them fire has a magical quality. Small children can strike a match and start a small fire. They can then touch the lighted match to a small pile of papers and create a large, warm, bright fire, all through the magic of their match.

If the fire rapidly spreads beyond the initial pile of papers, the curious fire players will usually attempt to extinguish the fire or run for help. This fire play, however innocent, is dangerous and must be controlled. Each year the Fire Prevention Bureau receives requests from parents of children playing with fire for counseling. As part of the Bureau's public education program the Fire Marshal works with the parents and child involved to channel this curiosity about fire into protective and non-destructive areas. During 1989, the Fire Prevention Bureau counseled seven (7) juvenile fire setters.

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City of Helena

TO: Don Hurni, Fire Chief
FROM: Rich Coe, Assistant Fire Chief
DATE: April 24, 1990
SUBJECT: Fire Department Training

During 1989 Fire Department personnel participated in training as listed below:

- 01) Twenty two (22) men took a 24 hour salvage and overhaul class.
- 02) A hazardous materials incident management class (16 hours) was given and 18 men attended.
- 03) Three (3) men attended an incident command system course (12 hours).
- 04) A chlorine gas safety seminar, presented by Great Western Chemical was taken by ten (10) men (3 hours).
- 05) A three hour class by the Association of American Railroads involving "The Transportation Haz-Mat Response", was attended by fourteen (14) City Fire Department personnel.
- 06) Ten (10) Fire Department members went to an earthquake seminar that was presented by Disaster and Emergency Services (2 hours).
- 07) Tactical operations by Company Officers, six (6) Fire Department personnel attended (16 hours).

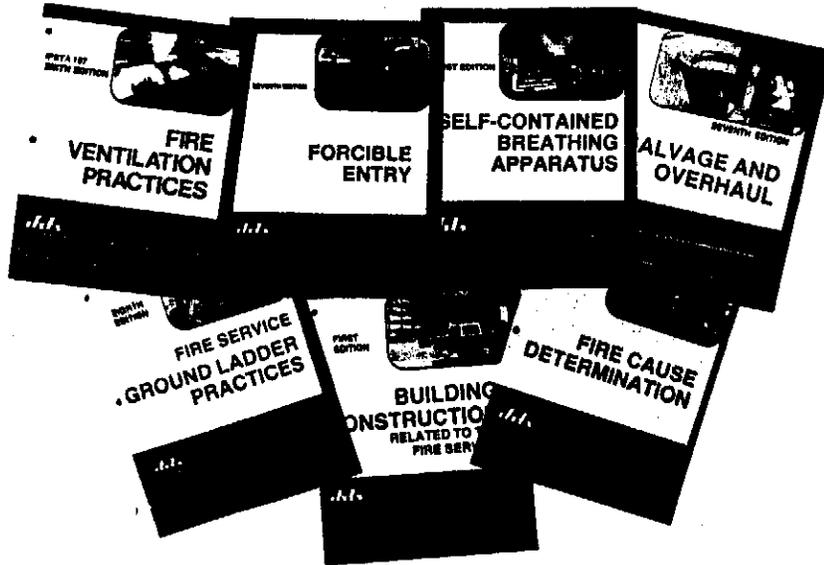
Fire Department Training
page 2

- 08) One (1) man took each of the following courses:
-Fundamental Course - Radiological Response Team (30 hours)
-Hazardous Materials Identification (3 hours)
-Advanced Driver Training Techniques (16 hours)
-Class A Foam (12 hours)
- 09) Two (2) men took the Orientation and Indoctrination test, one (1) man took the FF II test, three (3) men took the FF III test and one (1) man took the FF 1/C test, these test were necessary for promotions.
- 10) Emergency Medical Service training included:
-One (1) man - First Responder Instructor (16 hours)
-Nine (9) men - E.M.T. and E.M.T.-D Recertification (20 hours)
-Two (2) men - First Responder Recertification (16 hours)
-One (1) man - E.M.T.-I Certification (170 hours)

During 1989, two (2) men made the trip to Emmitsburg, Maryland to attend classes at the National Fire Academy. One (1) man took an 80 hour course dealing with "Fire Science Instruction Methods," and the other "Management of Emergency Medical Services" (72 hours).

The above is in addition to the regular ongoing training and maintenance of equipment:

- These include the annual testing of all hose
- The flushing and checking of approximately 500 hydrants
- Company inspections or preplans



INTERNATIONAL FIRE SERVICE TRAINING ASSOCIATION COURSES

The International Fire Service Training Association was formed in November 1934, when the Western Actuarial Bureau sponsored a conference in Kansas City, Missouri, to determine how all agencies that were interested in publishing fire service training material could coordinate their efforts.

The publications of the International Fire Service Training Association are compatible with the National Fire Protection Association's Standard 1001, "Firefighter Professional Qualifications (1974)," and the International Association of Firefighters International Association of Fire Chiefs "National Apprenticeship and Training Standards for the Firefighter." The standards are an effort to attain professional status through progressive training. The NFPA and IAFF/IAFC Standards were prepared in cooperation with the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations of which IFSTA is a member.

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City of Helena

TO: Don Hurni, Fire Chief

FROM: Mike Foster, Medical Director

DATE: April 16, 1990

SUBJECT: 1989 Emergency Medical Services Annual Report

During the past year the Helena Fire Department has taken many steps to not only maintain, but upgrade the services we provide, to both the city and the public. This has been accomplished in large because of the dedication and enthusiasm shown by our personnel.

In 1989 we responded to 638 emergency medical requests, for an increase of over 9% from the previous year. This trend of increased demand on EMS providers is holding true nationwide and is expected to continue. In addition, with the arrival of the "911" emergency dispatch system it is anticipated that emergency medical requests will increase even more. To a great extent, this will be due to the easier accessibility of the system by the public.

After reviewing the type and nature of calls to which we respond, it is apparent that the fire department should continue to provide this service to the citizens of Helena. In addition to rescue and more technical patient care, it was found that on over 50% of the calls to which we responded, the fire department was first on the scene. Although the fire department and ambulance usually arrive within seconds of one another, at times there are extended delays. This is due to many reasons, but the greatest are the increased demand on the ambulance service and the vast area which they cover. However, to the critical patient it matters not why the delay, only that it may mean the difference between life or death. Nationwide it has been shown that, in small cities, neither the ambulance service nor the fire department can adequately provide this service. But together, working as a team, they can deliver the best possible care at the least cost to the taxpayer.

Emergency Medical Services Annual Report
page 2

Training during 1989 was at an all time high. Our 17 EMT's spent in excess of 1735 "off duty" hours, training to improve their skills as emergency medical professionals. This was in addition to their time spent while on shift. Included in this are 3 new EMT's who completed the 110 hour National Registry EMT course. We also had 10 recertify as EMT's, 5 certify as EMT-Intermediates, 1 certify as an EMT-Defibrillation, and 9 recertify in EMT-Defibrillation. In addition, this year we were able to send someone to the National Fire Academy in Maryland to attend the "Management of Emergency Medical Services" course.

In November of this year the fire department established the new position of "Medical Director". This is a position that has long been awaited and needed within the department. With it we now have a base from which improvements in service, training and organization can be directed. It has also enabled us to more effectively coordinate our resources with other agencies as well as within the fire department itself.

It is with much enthusiasm and excitement that we are looking toward the challenges of the 1990's. For us it has been and will continue to be a privilege and honor to serve the city and the citizens of Helena.



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City of Helena

TO: Don Hurni, Fire Chief
 FROM: Don Gage, Mechanic
 DATE: April 19, 1990
 SUBJECT: 1989 Truck and Equipment Maintenance

Major work on apparatus and equipment is performed by the Fire Department mechanic, and most minor work and preventative maintenance is performed by shift members.

Following is a breakdown of costs of repair parts by vehicle:

Engine 1 (1986 Sutphen).....	\$1,744.24
Engine 2 (1980 Hahn).....	\$ 507.64
Engine 3 (1975 Seagrave).....	\$ 300.44
Truck 1 (1976 Sutphen).....	\$ 992.88
Truck 2 (1946 Pirsch).....	\$ 120.46
Squad 1 (1987 Ford).....	\$ 36.38
Squad 2 (1980 Chevrolet).....	\$ 870.60
#127 (1980 Sedan).....	\$ 331.74
#128 (1980 Ford Sedan).....	\$ 577.54
#129 (1980 Ford Pickup).....	\$ 62.65
#130 (1985 Ford Pickup).....	\$ 80.63
#133 (1987 Ford Van).....	\$ 103.27

-continued on next page

1989 Truck and Equipment Maintenance
page 2

City Shop service charge.....	\$ 1,879.93
Total vehicle repair parts.....	\$ 5,728.47
Total equipment repairs.....	\$ 2,851.66
Total vehicle & equipment repair 1989...	\$10,460.06
Total man hours for mechanic.....	750 hrs
Total man hours shift personnel.....	3882 hrs

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HELENA FIRE DEPARTMENT

YEARLY FUEL REPORT

(January 1, 1989 to December 31, 1989)

<u>VEHICLE</u>	<u>FUEL TYPE</u>	<u>FUEL GAL</u>	<u>MILES YTD</u>	<u>MILES ODO</u>	<u>MPG</u>
#135 Engine #1	Diesel	539	2075	10457	3.8
#137 Engine #2	Diesel	432	2045	19911	4.7
#132 Engine #3	Diesel	123	144	15079	1.1
#139 Squad #1	Gasoline	516	1754	4020	3.4
#131 Squad #2	Gasoline	382	1600	12890	4.1
#134 Truck #1	Diesel	368	835	12175	2.2
#138 Truck #2	Gasoline	75	217	2111	2.8
#127 Gray Ford	Non-lead	282	3698	38161	13.1
#128 Red Ford	Non-lead	233	2558	37896	10.9
#129 Ford Pickup	Non-lead	400	3827	41034	9.5
#130 Ford Pickup	Non-lead	346	3946	26529	11.4
#133 Ford Van	Non-lead	453	6070	16458	13.3
TOTAL GALLONS OF GASOLINE (NON-LEAD)				1,714	
TOTAL GALLONS OF GASOLINE (REGULAR)				973	
TOTAL GALLONS OF DIESEL				1,462	
TOTAL GALLONS OF FUEL				4,149	
TOTAL MILES (ALL VEHICLES)				28,769	
AVERAGE MPG (ALL VEHICLES)				6.7	
TOTAL ODO (ALL VEHICLES)				236,721	

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BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Members of the Helena Fire Department devote many hours each year to building maintenance. This includes all janitorial work and most minor repairs. Members of the Helena Fire Department take pride in keeping their quarters clean and in good repair.

Following is a breakdown of building maintenance costs and utility costs for both stations from January 1, 1989 to December 31, 1989.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE COSTS:

Station 1.....	\$ 909.58
Station 2.....	<u>937.33</u>
Total.....	\$ 1,846.91

UTILITY COSTS: (1989)

Station 1	
Gas.....	\$ 4,380.69
Water & Sewer.....	508.45
Sanitation.....	254.97

Station 2	
Electric.....	\$ 2,906.76
Gas.....	2,236.04
Water & Sewer.....	974.94
Sanitation.....	<u>246.84</u>
Total.....	\$11,508.69

JANITORIAL COST: (1989)

Station 1 & Station 2....\$ 1,378.77

MAN-HOURS SPENT IN BUILDING MAINTENANCE - 3,162

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HELENA FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE

IN-CITY ALARMS:

Small fires: Grass, brush, cars, dumpsters, garbage,
etc.

Two (2) men - either squad or 1250 pumper
East of Montana - Eastside Station
West of Montana - Main Station

Small structure fire: (Initial attack)

East of Montana - Engine 2 and three (3) men
Engine 1 and two (2) men

West of Montana - Engine 1 and three (3) men
Engine 2 and two (2) men

Extra man - Truck 1

Large structure fire: (Initial attack)

East of Montana - Engine 1 and three (3) men
Engine 1 and two (2) men
Truck 1 and one (1) man

West of Montana - Engine 1 and two (2) men
Truck 1 and one (1) man
Engine 2 and three (3) men

MUTUAL AID:

East Helena: Engine 2 and two (2) men (call in two (2)
men to standby)

West Valley: Engine 2 and two (2) men (call in two (2)
men to standby)

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE:

Fire District #3: Engine 1 and three (3) men (Squad 2 and Engine 2 move to Main Station if working fire)

(Call in three (3) men to standby if working fire)

V.A. Hospital: Engine 1 and three (3) men (Squad 2 and Engine 2 move to Main Station if working fire)

(Call in three (3) men to standby if working fire)

Highway Shops: Engine 1 and three (3) men (Squad 2 and Engine 2 move to Main Station if working fire)

(Call in three (3) men to standby if working fire)

Fairgrounds: Engine 1 and three (3) men (Squad 2 and Engine 2 move to Main Station if working fire)

(Call in three (3) men to standby if working fire)

If additional help is needed call police desk and instruct dispatcher how many men will be needed. If only one shift is needed call in shift which was relieved.

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FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACTS

At the present time the City of Helena has several Fire Protection contracts with areas outside the city limits. These include the Veteran's Administration Hospital, the State Highway Shops, and the area west of the City which is Fire District #3. We cover these areas with one (1) pumper and three (3) men. The cost of the fire protection for these areas is computed by mill levy necessary for operating the Helena Fire Department. The cost for taxpayers in the fire district is computed on the same basis as the people who live in the city limits. The private protection contracts are re-negotiated each year after it is determined what the operational budget for the Helena Fire Department is.

Following is a breakdown of the money received by the City of Helena from these contracts:

VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL.....	\$23,192.70
FAIRGROUNDS.....	\$ 2,972.35
HIGHWAY SHOPS.....	\$ 1,670.62
FIRE DISTRICT #3.....	<u>\$26,571.33</u>
TOTAL.....	\$54,407.00

The Helena Fire Department also has two (2) Mutual Aid contracts. These contracts are with the West Helena Valley Volunteer Fire Department and the East Helena Volunteer Fire Department. These contracts state that in the event of a large fire, the Helena Fire Department would receive one (1) pumper and ten (10) men from each fire department for a total of two (2) pumpers and twenty (20) men. If either of the volunteer fire departments should need our help, we are obligated to send one (1) pumper and two (2) men.

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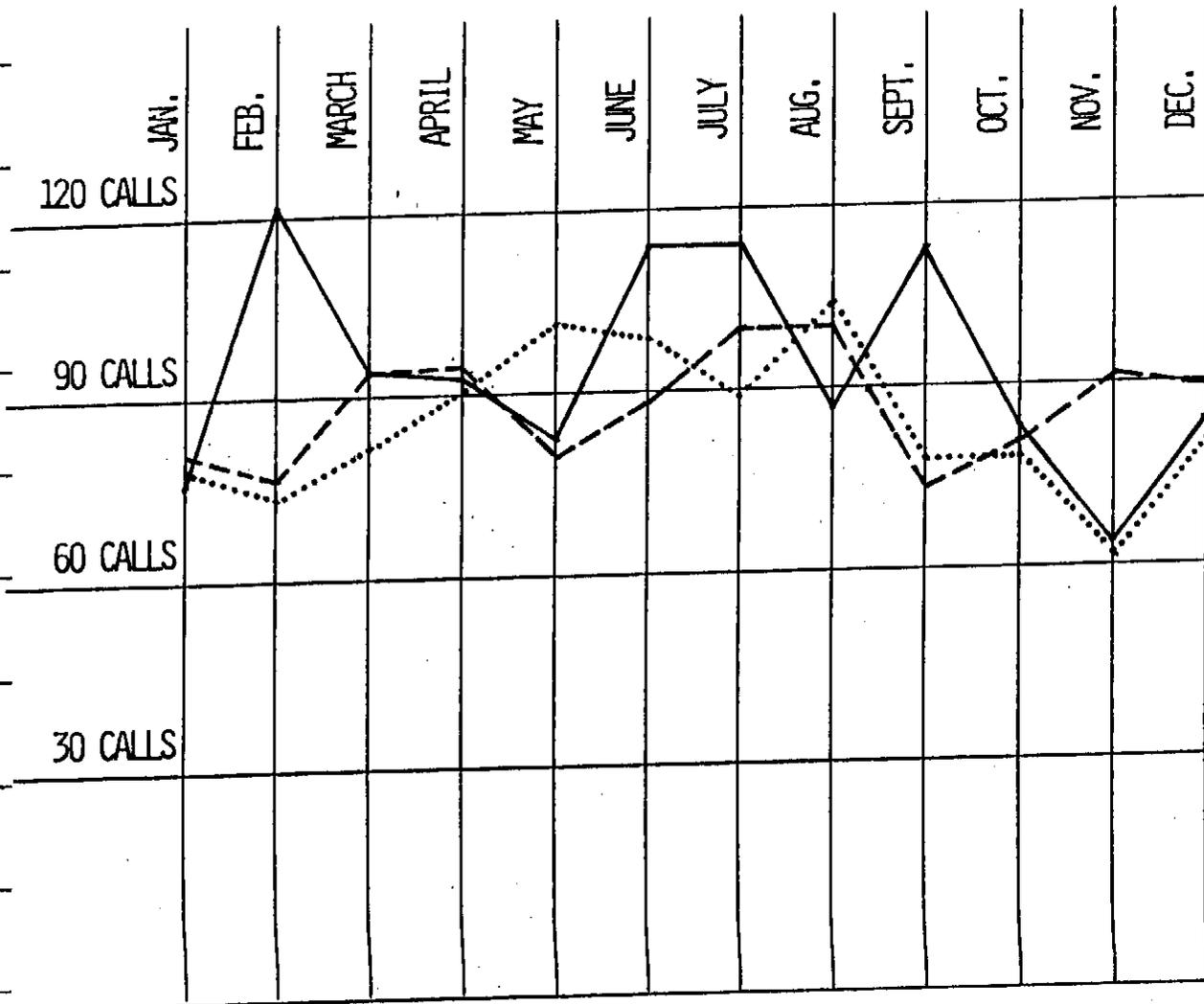


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CALLS PER MONTH OF YEAR - 1989 
 CALLS PER MONTH OF YEAR - 1988 
 CALLS PER MONTH OF YEAR - 1987 

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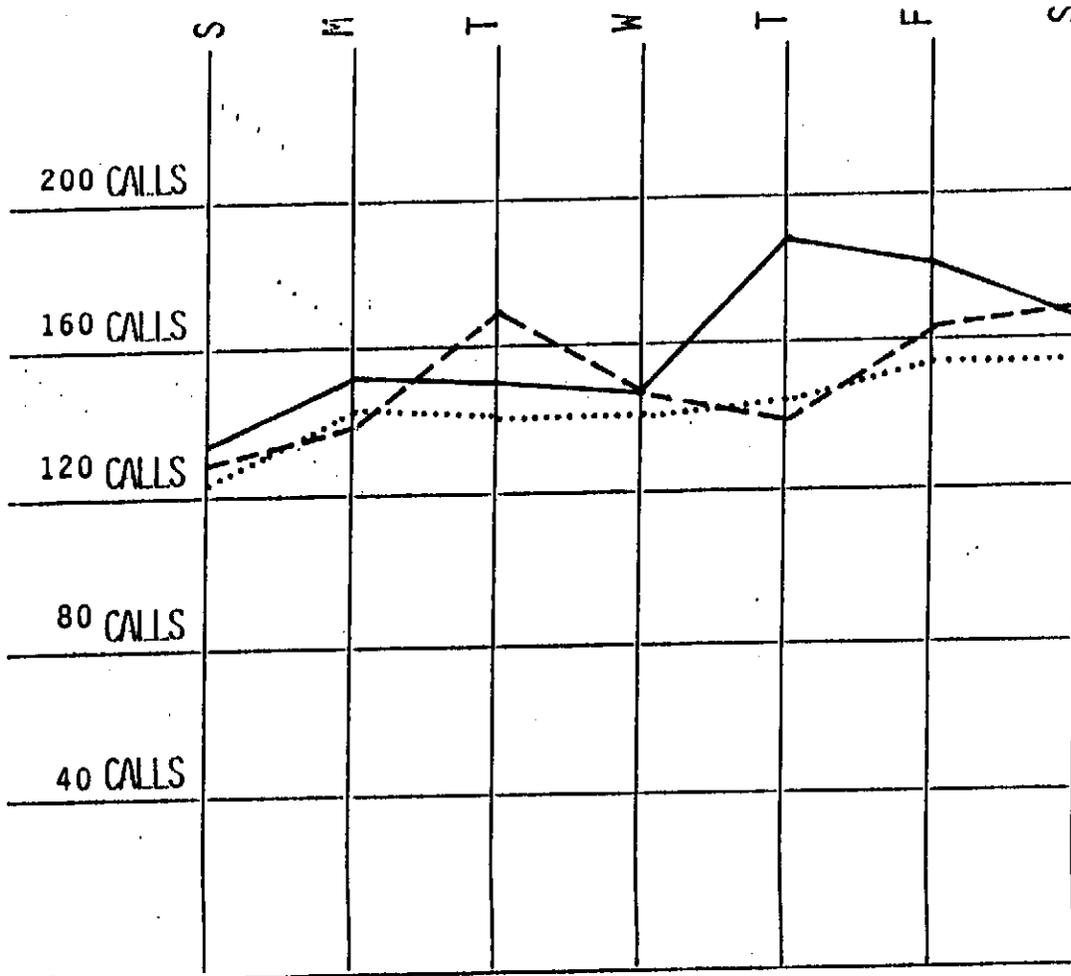


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CALLS PER DAY OF WEEK - 1989 —————
 CALLS PER DAY OF WEEK - 1988 -----
 CALLS PER DAY OF WEEK - 1987

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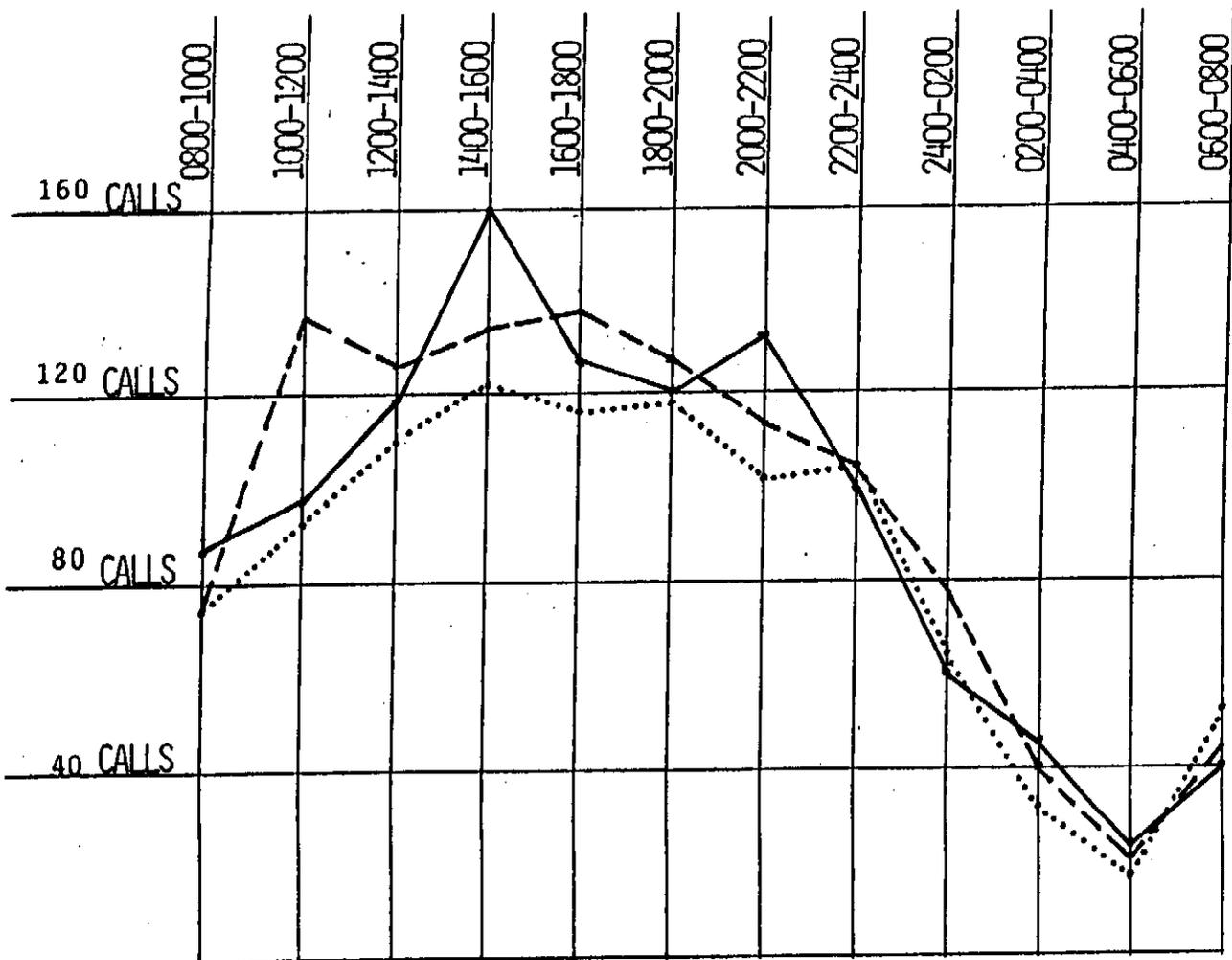


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CALLS PER HOUR OF DAY - 1989 —————
 CALLS PER HOUR OF DAY - 1988 -----
 CALLS PER HOUR OF DAY - 1987