

HELENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
1992 ANNUAL REPORT



IN REMEMBRANCE

Robert D. Killeen

Hired: 11/10/58

Retired: 09/07/79



As a young man in the spring of 1966, I began my career with the Helena Fire Department. One of the most fortunate days of my life was when I was placed on shift with a young Lieutenant named Bob Killeen.

Although Bob was on vacation for the first couple of weeks, not a shift went by that his name was not mentioned in the highest regard by all members of the Department. Upon his scheduled return, I waited in anticipation for Bob to be delivered to work upon a chariot pulled by a team of white horses. Instead, I was introduced to a lanky young man in grey pants and sweatshirt, driving a blue and white Studebaker pickup. God, Bob, where did you ever find that color blue?

I was fortunate enough to work with Bob through the remainder of his combat career, and his rise to Fire Chief. During this 13 year period, until his retirement, Bob was our mentor, confidant, department trend-setter, but most of all, **a friend**. Regardless of the subject being discussed with Bob, it was never boss to employee, but instead, man to man. Bob had compassion, respect and a management ability touched by few men.

We wonder, but will never know why Bob was called to his final fire so early, but we do know, and can say to you, "Rest in peace for you were a Firefighters Fire Chief."

Dennis Sorrels

IN REMEMBRANCE



Norman E. Gray

Hired: 01/01/60
Retired: 01/21/89

Throughout the history of the Helena Fire Department, those men who have occupied the position of Fire Chief have always displayed exemplary courage, honor and an unselfish devotion to duty. Chief Norm Gray was a fine example of this tradition and those of us who were fortunate enough to have had the opportunity of working with Norm, were deeply saddened by the news of his passing.

Norm will not only be remembered for his commitment to the Fire Department and his accomplishments as Chief, but for his caring, understanding and compassion for his fellow man.

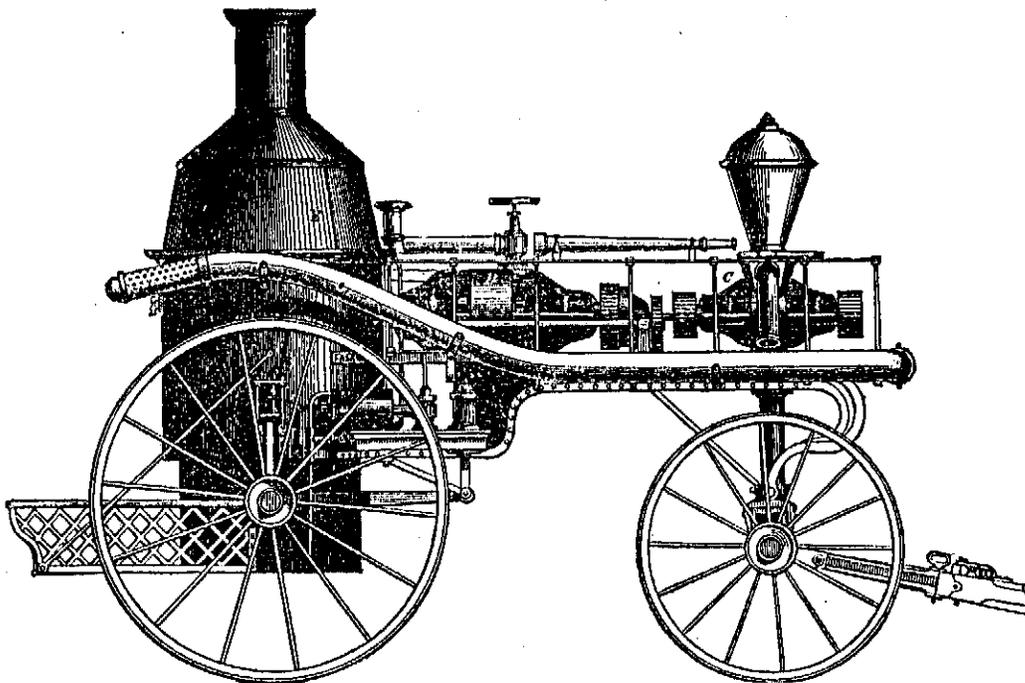
I will miss the stories that Norm used to tell concerning the exploits of the fire department, his positive spirit that always seemed to push us forward and most of all, I will miss his friendship.

The opportunity to have worked under Chief Gray's leadership has taught me many valuable lessons and given me a practical wisdom, which I hope to be able to carry with me and pass on in my career to my fellow members of the fire service.

Fritz R. Zettel

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A Silsby rotary steam fire pump of the 1860s. (Smithsonian Institution Photo.)

Commissioners
Kay McKenna, Mayor
Margaret Crennen
Tom Huddleston
Colleen McCarthy
Mike Murray



City-County
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Phone: 406/447-8000

William J. Verwolf
City Manager

City of Helena

April 15, 1993

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

Dear Mr. Verwolf,

It is my pleasure to submit to you the Annual Report of the Helena Fire Department for the year ending December 31, 1992. This report is a presentation of the operations and undertakings made by the members of this department, in an ever-changing emergency service environment.

This report is a reflection of the fire protection, hazardous condition mitigation and emergency medical services which were provided on a daily basis during 1992. The population of Helena is 24,569 people, but it is estimated that during a normal work day there are approximately 45,000 people who live, work or visit here. Considering the number of people served by our department, it is not surprising that our call load increased by almost 10% to 1,541 calls for the year.

The obvious, emergency medical services and firefighting, are only a portion of the services that we provide. There is also a remarkable amount of "behind the scenes activity" that takes place. As professionals, the members prevent fires, through building inspections; keep buildings safe before they are built, through plan reviews; and provide countless hours of public education, for which the benefits can not be measured. Last, but by no means least, are those who strive to keep our personnel, apparatus, and equipment in the best condition possible, through daily maintenance and training. Thus, it is with pride that I present to you this annual report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Hurni".

Don Hurni, Fire Chief
Helena Fire Department

HELENA FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE CHIEF
Don Hurni

ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF
Mike Foster

DEPUTY ASSISTANT CHIEF/TRAINING OFFICER
Steve Larson

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
FIRE MARSHAL - Bob Knudson
INSPECTOR I - Fritz Zettel
CF PREVENTION OFFICER - Craig Trapp

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Bernie Martian - Resigned 9/92
Nanette Buffington - Hired 10/92

COMBAT

SHIFT #1

BATT.CHIEF----Dennis Sorrels
CAPT.-----Ron Morris
LT.-----Norb Roth
ENG.EMT-D----Warren Ziegler
FF III EMT-D--Ed Flies
FF III EMT-D--Pat Clinch
FF III EMT-I--Larry Ross
CFF EMT-D-----Brian Roberts
CFF EMT-D-----Rick Justice

SHIFT #2

BATT.CHIEF-----Bob Olson
CAPT.EMT-I-----Jim Skinner
LT.-----Mike Spotorno
ENG.EMT-I-----James Feucht
FF III-----Doug Duncan
FF III EMT-I---Bob Fearon
FF III EMT-D---Kevin Kelly
CFF EMT-D-----Scott Bockman
CFF EMT-D-----David Harvey

SHIFT #3

BATT.CHIEF/MECHANIC----Bob Pare
CAPT.EMT-D-----Jay Moore
LT.-----Dale Klugman
ENG.-----Don Gage
FF III EMT-D Med.Dir.--Joel King
FF III EMT-I-----Roy Swanby
FF III EMT-D-----Jim Mitchell
FF II EMT-D-----Brad Hampton
CFF EMT-D-----Jim Vonada

PROMOTED:

Jim Vonada-----CFF
Brian Roberts----CFF
Craig Trapp-----CF Prev. Officer
David Harvey-----CFF
Rick Justice-----CFF
Brad Hampton-----FF II

NEW HIRE:

Nanette Buffington

DECEASED:

Norm Gray-----Chief/Retired
Bob Killeen-----Chief/Retired

SELECTED STATISTICAL DATA - FIRE SUPPRESSION DIVISION

1.	TOTAL NUMBER OF ALARMS		1,541	
2.	TYPE OF SITUATION FOUND			
	a. Fire/Explosion		155	
	b. EMS		1,064	
	c. Hazardous Condition		46	
	d. Public Service		9	
	e. Alarm Malfunction		76	
	f. False Alarm		7	
	g. Miscellaneous		184	
	TOTAL		1,541	
3.	ALARMS BY MONTH OF THE YEAR			
	a. January		133	
	b. February		103	
	c. March		135	
	d. April		118	
	e. May		117	
	f. June		120	
	g. July		122	
	h. August		108	
	i. September		143	
	j. October		136	
	k. November		155	
	l. December		151	
	TOTAL		1,541	
4.	ALARMS BY DAY OF THE WEEK			
	a. Sunday		217	
	b. Monday		206	
	c. Tuesday		193	
	d. Wednesday		242	
	e. Thursday		235	
	f. Friday		242	
	g. Saturday		206	
	TOTAL		1,541	
5.	INJURIES/CASUALTIES			
		FF	Civ	
	a. Injuries	1	1	
	b. Casualties	0	1	

6.	FIRE LOCATION AND DOLLAR LOSS		
	a. Structure	42	\$ 999,201
	b. Vehicle	36	29,010
	c. Other	77	11,080
	TOTAL	<u>155</u>	<u>\$1,039,291</u>
7.	FIRE BY MONTH OF THE YEAR		
	a. January	10	
	b. February	11	
	c. March	24	
	d. April	12	
	e. May	10	
	f. June	10	
	g. July	9	
	h. August	10	
	i. September	10	
	j. October	14	
	k. November	17	
	l. December	18	
	TOTAL	<u>155</u>	
8.	FIRE BY DAY OF THE WEEK		
	a. Sunday	28	
	b. Monday	23	
	c. Tuesday	21	
	d. Wednesday	22	
	e. Thursday	19	
	f. Friday	18	
	g. Saturday	24	
	TOTAL	<u>155</u>	
9.	FIRE CONTROL METHODS		
	a. Extinguish	114	
	b. Investigation	35	
	c. Remove Hazard	4	
	d. Other	2	
	TOTAL	<u>155</u>	
10.	STRUCTURE FIRE CAUSES		
	a. Incendiary	3	
	b. Misuse of Heat	12	
	c. Misuse of Material	4	
	d. Mechanical Failure	13	
	e. Design Deficiency	1	
	f. Operator Deficiency	5	
	g. Natural Condition	1	
	h. Other	3	
	TOTAL	<u>42</u>	

Commissioners
Kay McKenna, Mayor
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William J. Verwolf
City Manager

City of Helena

TO: DON HURNI, FIRE CHIEF
FROM: ROBERT A. KNUDSON, FIRE MARSHAL
DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 1993
SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU FOR THE YEAR 1992.

Fire has destroyed uncounted thousands of human lives, and has injured or otherwise affected millions of people during our two centuries as a self-governing nation.

In review, we can identify the periods of change, the improvements in our knowledge, our technical advances, and our solutions of the fire problem. Here are some of them:

*The first legislation in Colonial times; volunteer firefighting action with buckets and hooks; to the establishment of paid fire departments with authority to inspect properties and otherwise extend fire prevention.

*Improvement in the means of applying water on the fireground, from hand buckets to modern centrifugal pumps.

*Improvement of water systems; from wells to hydrant systems that serve our modern cities and towns.

*Changes in the kind of materials used for buildings, from the grass and thatched roof dwelling, to our present fire-resistant structures having modern fire detection, alarm and extinguishing systems.

*Development of extinguishing agents, from dirt to water; to chemicals; to portable extinguishers; to fixed extinguishing systems.

*Development of our means of analyzing fire causes, of educating the public and specific groups who can take responsible actions; the establishment of fire protection associations; and nation standards of fire protection.

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.

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

With this in mind, I am submitting the following activities for the Fire Prevention Bureau for the year 1992.

Inspections	659	Plan Review	62 hours
Reinspections	435	Code Review	6 hours
Complaint Inv.	79	Order of Compl.	14
False Alarm Inv.	1	PSA	8
Fire Inv.	64	Permits	30
Arson Inv.	5	Subpoenas	10
Fuel Inv.	1	Juvenile Counseling	10
Lectures & Demonstrations	63	Arson Arrests	3
Adults	562	Convictions	1
Children	1,250		

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City of Helena

**TO: DON HURNI
FIRE CHIEF**

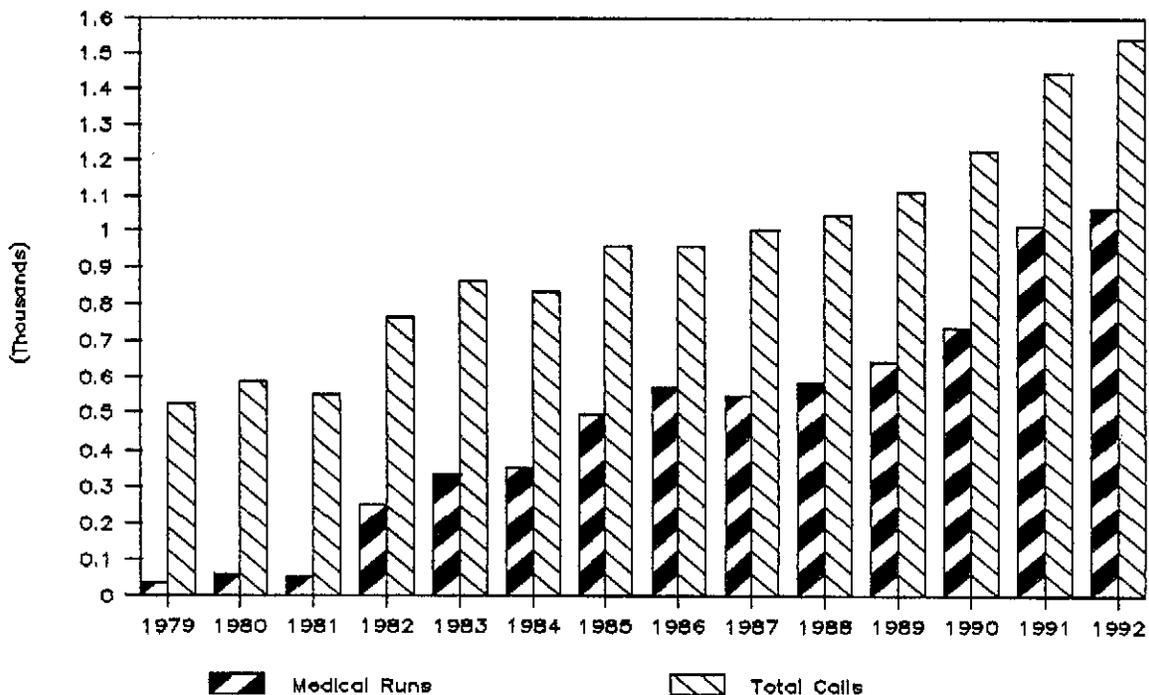
**FROM: JOEL KING
MEDICAL DIRECTOR**

DATE: MARCH 23, 1993

SUBJECT: ANNUAL MEDICAL REPORT FOR 1992

In 1992, the number of requests for pre-hospital care increased in the city and resulted in greater medical run activity by this department. This increase in this demographic has been evident for the past 12 years. However, the growth rate appears to be slowing in comparison to that of previous years. In 1992, we responded to 1064 medical calls which is an increase of only 52 calls over our total in 1991; whereas the growth in the runs between 1990 and 1991 was by some 280 calls. So the rate of increase in the number of medical runs each year may be leveling off.

Total Calls Compared to Medical Runs



Matching a nationwide trend in the fire service, our department continues to see emergency medical assistance requests making up roughly 70% of the departments response activity. While a steady increase in medical assistance requests have placed increasing demands on fire equipment and personnel, it has also boosted the departments productivity.

Similar to the 1991 Medical Report, a summary of the "nature of the emergency" to which this department was dispatched was generated for the 1992 response year. This information is summarized in the table below.

MEDICAL CALLS HELENA FIRE DEPARTMENT 1992						1991
TYPE OF CALL AND/OR PATIENT PROBLEM	STATION #1	STATION #2	1992 TOTAL	% OF TOTAL	TOTALS	
Assaults & fights.....	35	10	45	4.29%	40	
Abdominal.....	22	5	27	2.57%	33	
Breathing Difficulty..	46	10	56	5.34%	62	
Cardiac Arrest.....	0	0	0	0.00%	17	
Chest Pain.....	39	15	54	5.15%	43	
Cancelled in Route....	15	4	19	1.81%	15	
Cancelled at Scene....	31	12	43	4.10%	32	
Deaths.....	5	5	10	0.95%	13	
CPR.....	2	3	5	0.48%	16	
Difibrillator Use.....	1	0	1	0.10%	8	
Diabetic.....	18	12	30	2.86%	30	
Alcohol/Drug Abuse....	69	21	90	8.58%	128	
Falls.....	83	49	132	12.58%	119	
Fainting.....	19	4	23	2.19%	14	
Heart problems.....	21	7	28	2.67%	58	
Stroke (CVA).....	10	7	17	1.62%	20	
Seizures.....	47	17	64	6.10%	54	
SIDS.....	1	0	1	0.10%	1	
Attempted Suicides....	12	4	16	1.53%	24	
Minor Trauma.....	23	10	33	3.15%	61	
Motor Vehicle Accident	75	48	123	11.73%	110	
Unknown Problem.....	47	20	67	6.39%	25	
Other.....	97	31	128	12.20%	63	
Sports Injury.....	3	1	4	0.38%	N/A	
Back Injury/Pain.....	13	4	17	1.62%	N/A	
COPD.....	0	14	14	1.33%	N/A	
Burns.....	2	0	2	0.19%	N/A	
TOTAL CALLS	736	313	1049		986	
PERCENT OF TOTAL	70.16%	29.84%				

TRAINING FOR MEDICAL RESPONSE CALLS

To provide the quality program that we have in Helena, requires continuous training for response personnel. In 1992, this department sponsored a basic EMT refresher course which saw 24 area EMTs attend, of which 20 were city employees. Another new area of training that we engaged in 1992, was the "Comfort One" program. This program was mandated during the 1991 legislature to address pre-hospital response to the 1989 Living Will Act. The State of Montana leads the nation in the design and implementation of this innovative program that permits pre-hospital care providers the ability to immediately recognize and honor a patient's *Do Not Resuscitate* orders in the out-of-hospital setting.

Training was also provided relative to the infectious disease control plan implemented by this department in 1992. Additionally EMT-Ds are required to recertify bi-monthly in the use of cardiovascular defibrilators. Lastly, during the 1992 calendar year, the medical director was able to attend the National Fire Academy's two week course entitled Management of Emergency Medical Services. Training will continue to be an integral component of our EMS program.

INFECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

A large project undertaken this year was the development of an Infection Control Program for the Helena Fire Department. Communicable diseases such as Hepatitis B and AIDS can be transmitted during any aspect of the emergency response. As such, a comprehensive program was designed and implemented in order to provide all members with the best available protection from this occupational hazard.

The program outlines responsible persons, location of copies of the plan, updating procedures and methods of compliance. Personal protective equipment, universal precautions, engineering controls and housekeeping procedures are all used to limit potential exposures. Training was provided in how to comply with the plan and how to protect oneself on the job. If an exposure to a potentially infectious material does occur, the plan outlines mitigation procedures to follow for the employee. The program has been in use since September 1992 and appears to be adequately addressing exposure control in our working environment.

SIMULTANEOUS EMERGENCY CALLS

One important statistic that has risen considerably from last year is the number of simultaneous medical calls. In 1991, we documented only 10 occasions where concurrent medical calls were on-going. In 1992, simultaneous medical calls jumped to 57. Additionally, on 24 occasions, simultaneous fire and medical or fire and fire calls occurred. These events that require commitment to two scenes simultaneously greatly tax the capability of our service.

Since the Helena area does not have enough medical calls to justify staffing two ambulances at St. Peter's, the "second-call" ambulance is crewed by standby personnel. Often this requires department personnel to wait upwards of 10 to 15 minutes for the second ambulance to arrive at the emergency scene. This not only delays patient transport to in-hospital medical care, but it also ties up two shift personnel until the patient can be transported. Simultaneous in-town medical calls are undoubtedly the weakest link in Helena's emergency medical system and the greatest area in which we provide service.



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William J. Verwolf
City Manager

City of Helena

TO: CHIEF DON HURNI

FROM: DEPUTY ASST. CHIEF STEVE LARSON

SUBJECT: 1992 ANNUAL TRAINING DIVISION REPORT

DATE: MARCH 22, 1993

This being the first year for a separate training division, considerable time has been spent identifying and developing our training mission. With the development of the mission statement, goals and objectives, a clear direction for the Helena Fire Department training division has been established.

One of our primary goals is to deliver the required training to all of our firefighters in a concise, standard method. Listed below are the courses completed by all combat firefighters throughout 1992.

- 1) IFSTA-Water Supplies
- 2) Bloodborne Pathogens
- 3) Positive Pressure Ventilation
- 4) Operations Level Hazardous Material Response Training *
- 5) Sexual Harassment on the Job
- 6) Aids In The Workplace
- 7) Single and Multiple Fire Engine Evolutions
- 8) Fire Pump Testing
- 9) Comfort - One (EMS)
- 10) New Motorola Radio System
- 11) Emergency Medical Technician Recertification Course

* notes first half of course

Other courses firefighters voluntarily attended throughout 1992 were:

- 1) Vehicle Extrication Course
- 2) Aircraft Familiarization Course
- 3) Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- 4) Quick-Access Pre-Incident Planning
- 5) Basic Fire Investigation
- 6) Electrical Fire Investigation
- 7) Probationary Fire Fighter Standards

The list of courses shows the wide range of technical expertise required by fire fighters to perform their duties.

Five Helena Fire Department probationary fire fighters completed and successfully passed the national and state certification for basic emergency medical technician, along with completing the state requirements for the defibrillation course. These firefighters are:

Jim Vonada, Craig Trapp, Dave Harvey, Rick Justice, Brian Roberts

Another notable event this year has been the opening of our training to non-Fire Department personnel. The opening of this training has allowed fresh, alternate ideas and viewpoints to come forward and be evaluated. When developing a training method or procedure, several differing viewpoints are critical in forming operational procedures. In 1992, personnel from these departments or services participated in training courses with the Helena Fire Department:

St. Peter's Ambulance Service,
Helena Regional Airport
West Valley Volunteer Fire Department
Helena Police Department
Lewis and Clark Search and Rescue
Asarco Corp.
Whitehall Quick Response Unit
Public Works
Lincoln Ambulance Service.

At this time I would like to express my appreciation to all of our combat firefighters. They have accepted this new direction in training with great enthusiasm. It is a joy to train and develop leaders when they exhibit the desire, openness and acceptance needed to learn new procedures. Once again thanks to the firefighters.

With this, I submit the 1992 training division annual report.

Commissioners
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William J. Verwolf
City Manager

City of Helena

TO: DON HURNI, FIRE CHIEF
FROM: BOB PARE, MECHANIC
DATE: MARCH 18, 1993
SUBJECT: 1992 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).....	\$ 786.43
Engine 2 (1980 Hahn).....	\$ 581.76
Engine 3 (1975 Seagrave).....	\$ 583.46
Truck 1 (1976 Sutphen).....	\$ 1,174.65
Truck 2 (1946 Pirsch).....	\$ 0.00
Squad 1 (1987 Ford).....	\$ 82.37
Squad 2 (1980 Chevrolet).....	\$ 153.02
#127 (1980 Sedan).....	\$ 341.09
#128 (1980 Ford Sedan).....	\$ 25.21
#129 (1980 Ford Pickup).....	\$ 329.33
#130 (1985 Ford Pickup).....	\$ 73.48
#133 (1987 Ford Van).....	\$ 0.00
#136 (1989 Ford Bronco).....	\$ 417.18
Total vehicle repair parts.....	\$ 4,547.98
City Shop Service Charge.....	\$ 1,774.27
Total equipment repairs.....	\$ 2,789.65
Total vehicle & equipment repair.....	\$ 9,111.90
Total man hours for mechanic.....	375 hrs
Total man hours shift personnel.....	3,912 hrs

HELENA FIRE DEPARTMENT

YEARLY FUEL REPORT

(January 1, 1992 to December 31, 1992)

Vehicle	Fuel Type		YTD	Miles		MPG
	Diesel	Gasoline Non-Lead		ODO		
#135 Engine #1	563.8		2,821.9	18,195.0	5.01	
#137 Engine #2	385.5		1,799.0	26,264.0	4.67	
#132 Engine #3	203.0		661.0	16,474.0	3.26	
#134 Truck #1	411.5		1,172.0	14,996.0	2.85	
#138 Truck #2		9.3	25.0	2,252.0	2.69	
#139 Squad #1		529.3	2075.0	10518.0	3.92	
#131 Squad #2		540.4	2599.0	19652.0	4.81	
#127 Gray Ford			235.0	3,160.0	46,350.0	13.45
#128 Red Ford			111.8		0.00	
#129 Ford Pickup			525.7	4,243.0	56,598.0	8.07
#130 Ford Pickup			359.5	4,635.1	37,637.1	12.89
#133 Ford Van			426.7	6,101.0	30,800.0	14.30
#136 Ford Bronco			259.6	4,131.0	49,066.0	15.91
misc.			11.2			
TOTALS	1,563.8	1,079.0	1,929.5	33,423.0	328,802.1	7.31

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
#136	1	Staff Bronco	Ford Bronco	1989

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 Fairgrounds, 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:

FAIRGROUNDS.....	\$ 2,972.35
HIGHWAY SHOPS.....	\$ 1,670.62
WESTSIDE FIRE SERVICE AREA.....	<u>\$64,872.00</u>
TOTAL.....	\$69,514.97

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.