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**SARATOGA SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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60 Lake Avenue  
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866

## **ORGANIZATION**

### **Profile**

The Saratoga Springs Fire Department (SSFD) was formed in 1884 and is a fulltime paid Fire Department within the City of Saratoga Springs, New York. The Fire Department serves the City Of Saratoga Springs, which encompasses 29.07 square miles of residential, commercial, parks and recreation. Services provided by the Saratoga Springs Fire Department include: Fire suppression and investigation, paramedic level emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, specialized rescue, fire inspections, code enforcement, community fire education and prevention and community CPR instruction. The Fire Department also operates under the Saratoga County Mutual Aid plan which when requested, units will respond outside the City to assist in which ever manner that is requested.

## **CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS**

Square miles – land 28.42

Square miles – water .63

Total square miles – 29.07

Population projected – 28,664<sup>1</sup>

### **2009 Housing Unit Estimate by Structure<sup>2</sup>**

Total Units 13,826

Single Family 8,341

Two Family 1,117

Three to Four Family 1,499

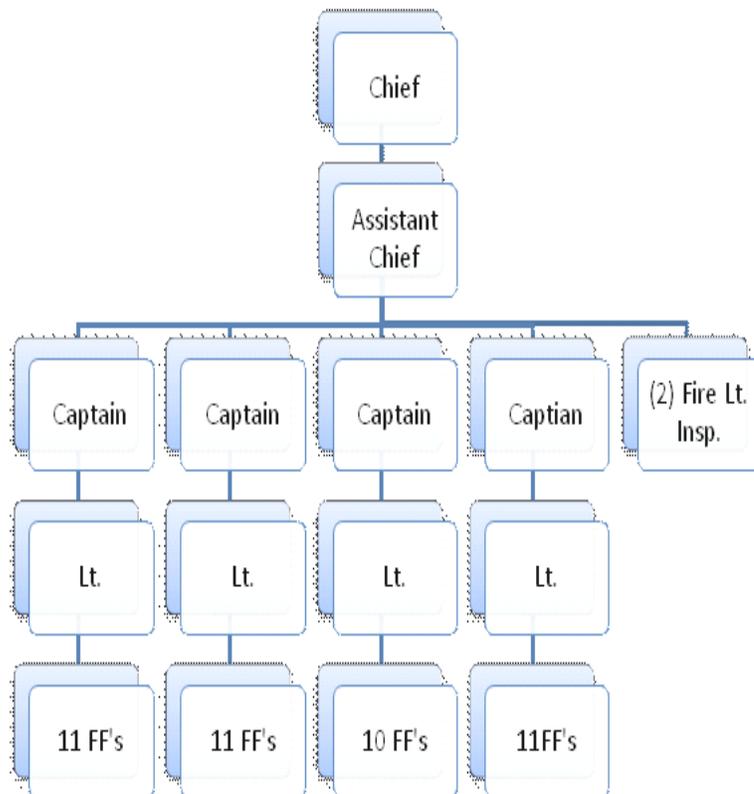
Five or More Family 2,600

Mobile Homes & Other 262

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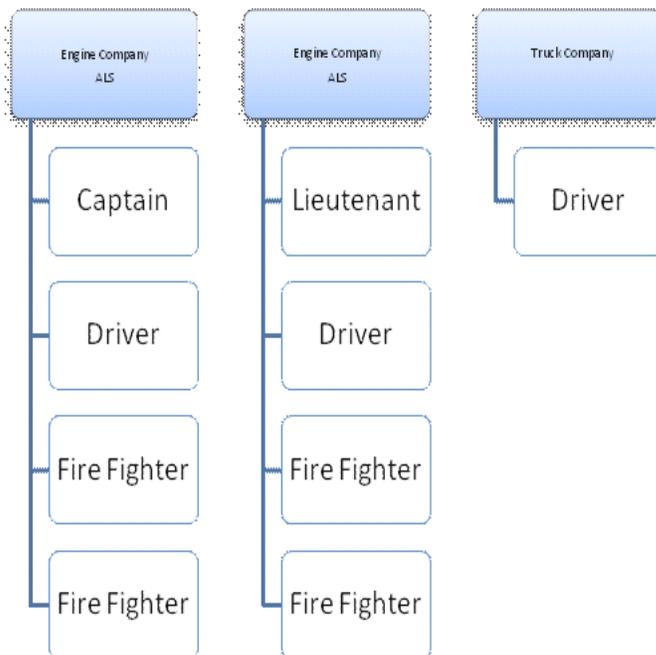
<sup>1</sup> Sources: 2010 *Census* & CDRPC Estimates

<sup>2</sup> Sources: 2010 *Census* & CDRPC Estimates



2011 Organization

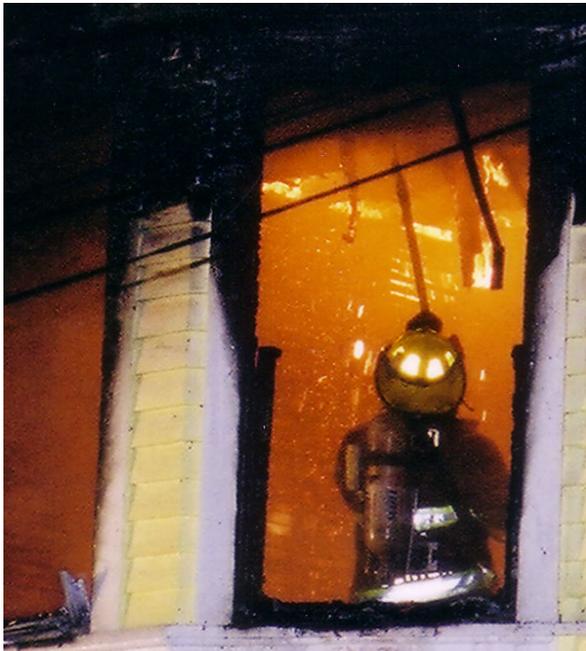
Apparatus Configuration

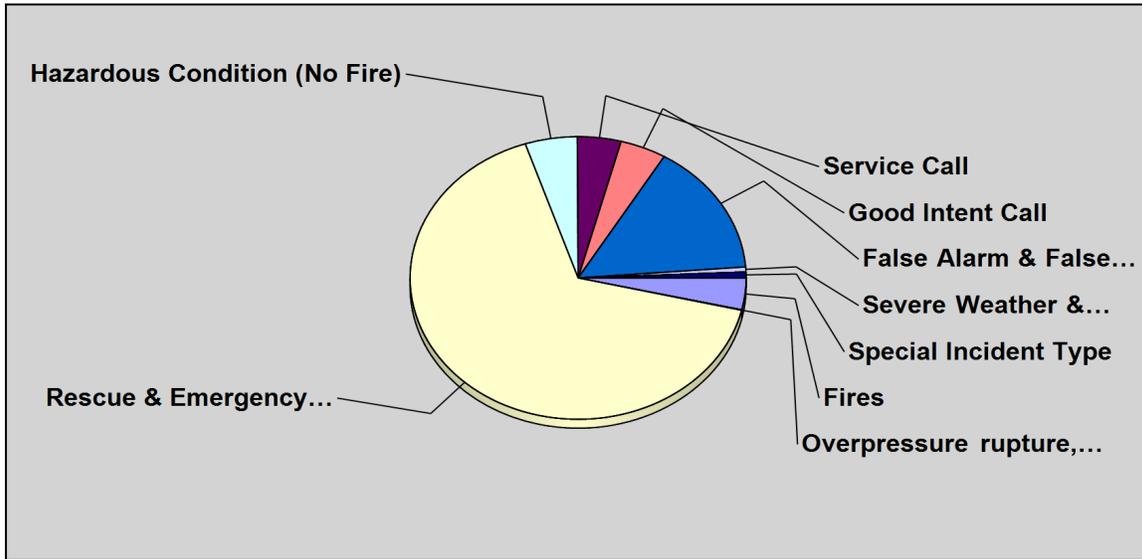


## RESPONSE DATA – CALLS FOR SERVICE

In 2011 the Saratoga Springs Fire Department responded to **3402** calls for service. This represents a 2.6% decrease in calls for service over 2010. Of those calls:

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Emergency Medical Responses			<b>2221</b>	<b>2253</b>
➤ Advanced Life Support	221	427		
➤ Motor Vehicle Crashes	107	101		
Alarm Activations			495	517
Good Intent and Other			189	151
Hazardous Conditions			161	171
➤ Gas Leaks	23	38		
➤ Carbon Monoxide	46	34		
➤ Spills / Releases	24	18		
Service Calls	261	143		
Fires			141	123
➤ Structure			32	26
➤ Vehicle			11	14





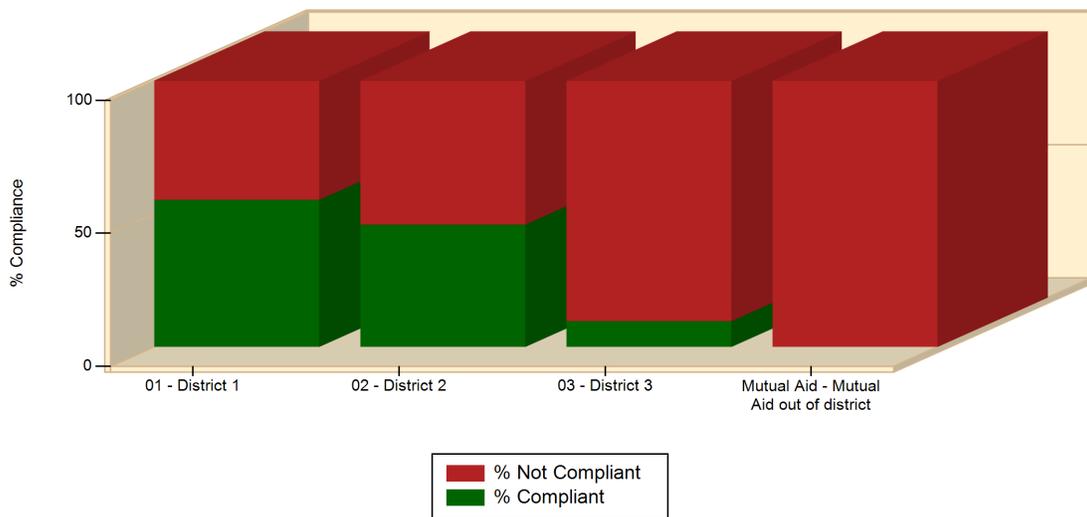
Call Breakdown by Type

**RESPONSE DATA – RESPONSE TIMES**

National Association of Fire Protection (NFPA) standard 1710 recommends a response time of 4 minutes, with 1 minute added for donning protective clothing or less for the arrival of the first fire apparatus and a response time of 8 minutes or less for the arrival of a full compliment of fire suppression personnel. The Saratoga Springs Fire Department strives to meet all minimum standards as set forth by recognized organizations. In 2011 the Department published its first performance standard for emergency response in an effort to help meet NFPA1710. We also instituted an all-hands response policy where all on duty personnel immediately respond to reports of a structure fire. This adds up to 4 additional personnel to the scene, however it is only activated during normal business hours M-F 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

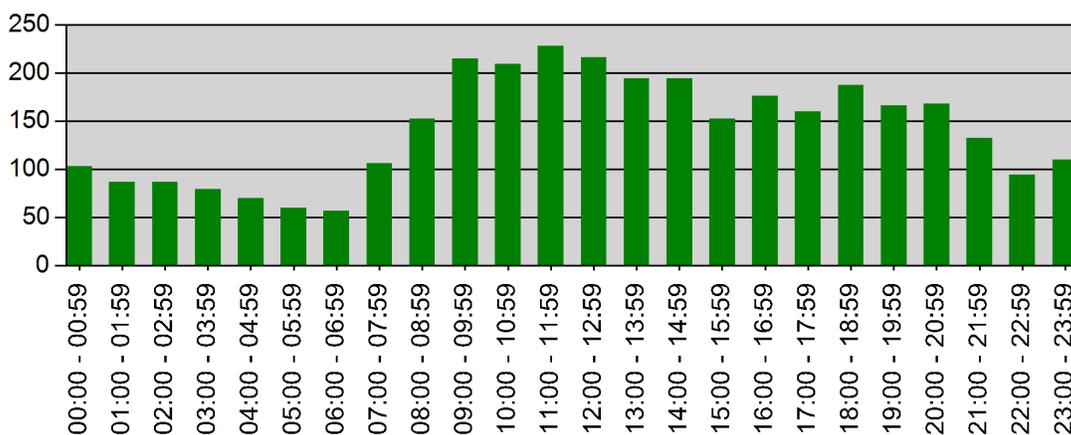
Given the size of the City and the location of fire stations, it is impossible to arrive at areas within the 5 minute standard. An example of this is District 3, known as the Eastern Plateau or East of the Northway. For many years the Department of Public Safety has recommended the construction of a third fire station to help in achieving the NFPA 1710 standards as well as American Heart Association standards for medical emergencies.

District	AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME (Dispatch to Arrival)
District 1	4.33
District 2	4.63
District 3	8.21
Mutual Aid out of City	16.02

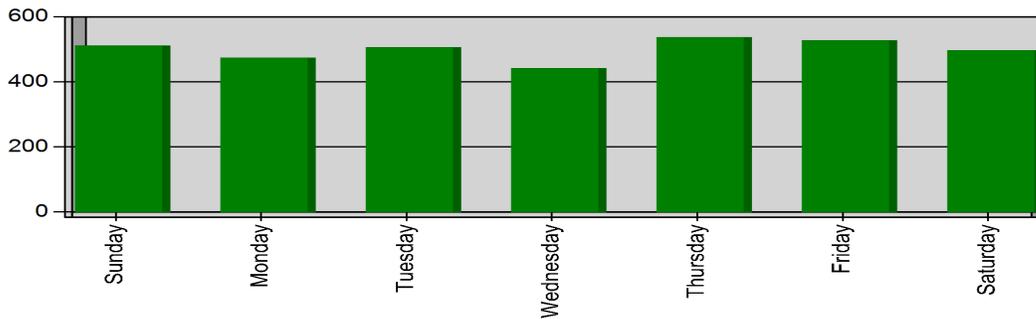


Percent Complaint at 4 Minute Arrival Time – includes all call types

<b><u>Calls by District:</u></b>	2010	2011
<b>District 1</b>	<b>1956</b>	<b>1959</b> Calls for Service District 1
<b>District 2</b>	<b>1396</b>	<b>1262</b> Calls for Service District 2
<b>District 3</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>162</b> Calls for Service District 3



Call Volume by Hour of Day:



Call Volume by Day of Week:

## FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAINING



In 2011, the department provided 1292.5 hours of Fire/EMS instruction. We continue to make every effort to improve our instruction, methodology and knowledge in firefighting and EMS operations. The Fire Department continues to offer opportunities to train municipal fire instructor (MFI) under Part 438 of the NEW YORK STATE FIRE TRAINING PROGRAM - MINIMUM STANDARDS. Having New York State qualified fire instructors as part of the fire department's training staff advances the quality of the fire instruction; and fire officers who participate, guarantees quality of instruction, reduces the

department's exposure to liability and improves the overall operation. Other not so obvious benefits include; greater safety awareness, thus reducing injury and/or injury potential, a greater level of preparedness through our building familiarization and pre-planning lessons, and standard operation through our SOG development.

Training breakdown:

Single Company Training: Encompassed most of the annual training in 2011 and is conducted by the Company Officer and focused mostly on skill retention.

Multi-Company Training: Fire training conducted by the Shift Commander or MFI and would focus on tactics and strategies associated with fire suppression, EMS, rescue and hazmat at a multi-company level.

Officer Development: Conducted by a Chief or MFI and focuses on leadership, command and management, report writing, policies and procedures, tactics and strategies.

Subject Matter and Hours Provided

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b># CLASSES</b>	<b>TOTAL HRS</b>
Aerial Ladders and Elevated Devices	7	17
Basic Fire Fighter Training (229)	3	687
Building Construction	6	13
Communications	5	14
Continued Medical Education	56	123
Detection, Notification and Suppression Systems	1	2
Emergency Vehicle Operations - Care and Maintenance	12	20.5
Emergency Vehicle Operations - Driving	6	13.5
Extinguishers	2	2
Fire Behavior	6	14.5
Fire Cause and Origin Determination	1	80
Fire Fighter Development	11	18
Fire Hose Practices	5	11.5
Fire Officer Development	7	34
Fire Prevention	6	13
Fire Protection and Organization	3	6
Fire Pumps	3	8
Fire Suppression Practices	2	4.5
Forcible Entry	1	1
Ground Ladders	1	2
Hazardous Materials	20	46
Live Fire Evolutions	3	12
Natural Cover and Wildland Fires	1	3
Operational Critique	5	7
Operations - Drill	4	12
Personal Safety and Protective Equipment	23	61
Rescue Operations	10	17
Ropes and Knots	4	7
Salvage and Overhaul	1	1
Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	10	20
Tools and Equipment	7	18.5
Ventilation	1	2
Water Rescue	1	1.5

## **STAFFING**

Saratoga Springs Fire Department has 55 full time career fire officers and firefighters. Of this number they include:

1 – Fire Chief

1 – Assistant Fire Chief

- 4 – Fire Captains
- 6 – Fire Lieutenants
- 43 – Firefighters
  - 34 – Paramedics
    - 4 – New York State Certified Fire Instructors
    - 7 – AHA CPR Instructors
    - 10 – Code Enforcement Officials

The fire department maintains a daily operational minimum of 9 firefighters. We typically respond to calls for service with 2 engines with 4 personnel and a ladder truck with a driver to fire related emergencies, and 1 engine with 4 personnel to emergency medical incidents.

**2011 Retirements:**

On March 31, 2011 Assistant Chief John Betor retired after 22 years of service. John began his career on February 14, 1989. He was promoted to Lieutenant and served as the departments Fire Inspector until his promotion to Assistant Chief on July 6, 2006.

**Injury Report:**

Each year fire personnel are trained in safety awareness and injury prevention as part of their ongoing training. Not only does the department provide training, it also encourages physical fitness through a number of management/labor initiatives. All of these efforts help to reduce the number and severity of personal injuries

**GRANTS**

In 2011 the department submitted for a total of \$ **112,100.00** in grants for personnel Safety and equipment. We received a \$1,000 grant for the purchase of equipment from the Department of Environmental Conservation. The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is still pending.

**FIRE PREVENTION AND INSPECTION**

The Fire Departments fire prevention and inspection office was eliminated in 2010 as a result of budget cuts. The department adjusted to the elimination by instituting a program called “Company Fire Inspection Program”. This program utilized fire engine crews to conduct inspections during morning hours. Inspections were prioritized to accommodate business’ needs and pressing life safety issues.

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Total Inspections:	292	553
Total Violations:	739	1803

Total Active Occupancies:                   **1505**                   **1576**  
Total Multi-family dwellings registered:   426 Structures with 4000 Apartment units  
Total Multi-family Dwellings inspected:   83 Structures with 500+ Apartment units

Fire Education

As in previous years, the fire department conducted fire prevention and education tours and drills throughout 2011. Along with fire house tours and classroom lessons, members of the fire department helped in educating the public in fire prevention, with particular emphasis on our youngest population. We estimate that nearly 700 children toured Fire Station 1 in 2011.



**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ENACTED**

In an effort to replace a mostly out dated and antiquated Rules and Regulations, the Fire Department initiated a comprehensive review and development of new Fire Department Policy and Procedures manual. The following were published in 2011:

Volume 1

- Sect 101.02 – Turnout Time Standard
- Sect 102.09 – Municipal Fire Instructor
- Sect 103.03 – Workplace Violence
- Sect 103.06 – Telephone Use
- Sect 103.09 – Photography and Electronic Imaging
- Sect 104.11 – Special Events Operation
- Sect 105.02 – Sick Leave
- Sect 105.03 – Personal Leave
- Sect 107.01 – Awards and Recognitions

Volume 2

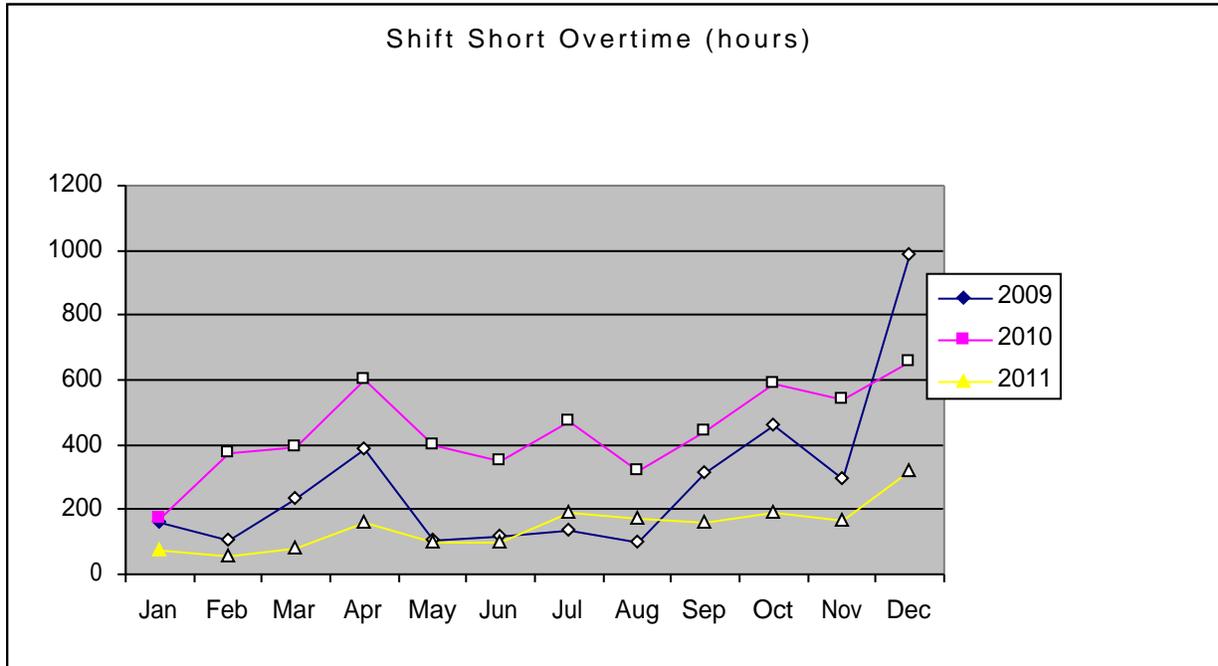
- Sect 205.14 – Locomotive Engine Fires

Volume 4

- Sect 403.00 – Apparatus Driving Guidelines

## OVERTIME

This graph represents a three year comparison of overtime to cover shift shortages.



This pie chart represents the causes of all fire department overtime.

