





The Role of Emergency Services

Responding to Emergencies – Large and Small

- Medical Emergencies
- Fires
- Traffic Emergencies
- Rescue/Extrication
- Hazardous Materials Incidents
- Severe Weather/Natural Disasters
- Terrorist/Manmade Emergencies



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Coordination & Interoperability with Other Agencies

Federal

- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- Drug Enforcement Agency
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Environmental Protection Agency
- National Transportation Safety Board
- Department of Homeland Security
- United States Coast Guard





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Coordination & Interoperability with Other Agencies

State

- Tennessee Emergency Management Agency
- Tennessee Department of Homeland Security
- Tennessee Department of Transportation
- Tennessee Highway Patrol
- Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation
- Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
- Tennessee Department of Occupational Safety and Health
- Tennessee National Guard Civil Support Team
- Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office



The TN National Guard's 45th Civil Support Team participates in regular training exercises with the Chattanooga Fire Department.

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Coordination with Hamilton County Agencies

- American Red Cross
- Emergency Medical Services
- Emergency Management
- Erlanger Medical Center
- Health Department
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)
- Rescue Services
 - Chattanooga-Hamilton Co. Rescue
 - Special Tactics and Rescue Services (STARS)
 - Volunteer State Water Rescue



Erlanger's Life Force air medical ambulance

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Our Response to Emergencies in Chattanooga

The 911 Center – Where It All Starts

- In 2004...
 - Received 750,784 calls
 - 246,223 Were 911 calls
 - Averages 40,500 calls per month
- Provides eight Public Service Answering Points (PSAPs)
- High rating expected from recent ISO inspection
- City dispatchers are supervised by CPD



The 911 Center at 3300 Annicola Highway

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Our Response - Fires

Responded to 1,474 Fires

- 26% residential structures
- 29% commercial structures
- 45% cars, brush, outbuildings, etc.
- 9 injuries
- 9 fatalities



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Our Response – Fire Operations

- 17 fire stations
- 24 response units
- Firefighters work 24-hour shifts
- Average 50 hours a week
- Approximately 95% of firefighters are in Operations Division
- Response times are down



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Our Response - Fires

- Fire Investigations – 187 Fires
 - 34% accidental
 - 20% arson
 - 28% undetermined
 - 18% "other" e.g. vandalism, bomb threats
 - 34 arrests
 - 20 convictions
 - 13 pending in court
 - 1 case dismissed



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Our Response – Traffic Accidents

- Chattanooga Police respond to 1,200 traffic accidents per month (on average)
- Chattanooga firefighters respond to serious wrecks involving injuries and/or extrication
- Public Works will respond if there is a large spill of contaminants that could adversely affect the environment



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Our Response – Hazardous Materials Incidents

- Haz-Mat Team responded to 785 incidents
- Chattanooga Police assist with evacuations, perimeter security
- Public Works
 - Stormwater Management
 - City Wide Services



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Our Response – Flash Flooding

Public Works – City Wide Services

- High water signs
- Barricades
- Sandbagging
- Emergency pumps
- Debris removal



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Our Response – Severe Wind Damage

Public Works – City Wide Services

- Clears downed trees on city rights-of-ways
- Debris removal
- Coordinates work with E.P.B. and tree trimming services
- Building inspectors and engineers check structural integrity of damaged buildings



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Our Response – Widespread Weather Emergencies

Tornado Touchdown on March 29, 1997

- F-3 tornado (winds 158-206 mph)
- Worst destruction on Hickory Valley Road and East Brainerd
- Hundreds of homes damaged or destroyed
- 44 people injured, no fatalities



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Our Response – Widespread Weather Emergencies

Flood of May 2003

- Flooding included Tennessee River and tributaries
- Forced evacuation of hundreds of residents
- Damages to public and private property estimated at \$20 million



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Our Response – Police Tactical Operations

CPD Bomb Squad

- Six highly trained officers
- Equipped with protection suits, a robot, x-ray machines
- Response radius of 100 miles
- Federally accredited
- Extensive training for WMD incidents



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Our Response – Police Tactical Operations

CPD SWAT Team

- 25 highly trained officers
- Responds to hostage situations, rescues, armed incursions, terrorist events
- Equipped with light armored vehicle, a raid van, a mobile command post, and an assortment of weapons



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Preventing Emergencies and Training for Them

Fire Prevention Bureau

- Code Inspections
- Plans Review
- Smoke Detector Initiatives
- Fire Safety Training
- Public Education



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CHATTANOOGA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Preventing Emergencies and Training for Them

Medical Training for Firefighters

- New Recruits EMT-IV Certified
- New Equipment
 - Combi-Tube
 - Pulse Oximeters
 - AEDs



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CHATTANOOGA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Preventing Emergencies and Training for Them

Hazardous Materials Training

- 165 firefighters trained at the Technician Level
- Natural Gas training facility at Moccasin Bend
- LEPC Exercises
- Airport Disaster Exercises



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CHATTANOOGA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Preventing Emergencies and Training for Them

Homeland Security Training

- May 2, 2003 – Full-Scale Exercise at Finley Stadium
- Involved numerous emergency response agencies at the local, state, federal levels
- Received very positive evaluation from Department of Justice



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New Equipment

- Thermal Imaging Cameras
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
- 800 MHz Radios



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Special Initiatives

Transforming the Fire Department – The Quint Concept

- Multi-function fire apparatus
- Can serve as pumper or ladder truck
- Adds versatility on fire scenes
- Costs less than pumper and ladder truck combined



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Special Initiatives

- 311 Call Center
- MMRS
- Bio-Terrorism Task Force
- DMAT
- Joint Terrorism Task Force



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Advances in Technology

- Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Interface
- Fire Data Management (FDM) Software
- PD Field-Based Reporting
- Motorola CSR Software
- Satellite Capability – Haz-Mat and Police Vehicles
- Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) Project



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Looking to the Future

The First Six Months

- Fire Academy
- Budget Decisions
- ISO Grading
- Fire Department Homeland Security Regional Response




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Challenges and Opportunities for the Future

The Importance of Staffing

- Five firefighters assigned to each apparatus
- Two In – Two Out (NFPA 1500)
- Improves Firefighter Safety
- Improves firefighter effectiveness in saving lives and protecting property



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Challenges and Opportunities for the Future

Capital Needs – Fire Stations and Equipment

- More apparatus needed to complete Quint Concept
- Continue Capital Investment Program to replace older fire stations
- Annexation in Urban Growth Plan



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Challenges and Opportunities for the Future

911 Center – Challenges for City and County

- 911 Call Takers and Dispatchers share same room, but represent separate municipalities
- Joint staffing may be more cost-effective and could increase efficiency
- Improved coordination between agencies should be studied



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