



Annual Report
2002 - 2003



serving
the City of Vista and
Vista Fire Protection District

message from the Fire Chief



The 2002-2003 fiscal year included many changes for the Vista Fire Department, including my departure rather suddenly in May, 2003. The whole organization has demonstrated their commitment to effective and efficient service to the public, as the guiding principle of the department; and I would like to commend the staff for

their exceptional dedication and service.

The vehicle and equipment improvements include the replacement of two fire engines, each with a set of rescue tools designed to permit rapid extrication of persons trapped in vehicles. Two ambulances were replaced with larger units, capable of transporting multiple patients. Several members of the staff were involved in obtaining five Automatic External Defibrillators, and providing the training so they could be placed in city facilities.

Operational issues included responding to over 8,000 incidents in a 12 month period for the first time, and working out the details of operating with a total of five fire crews from April, 2002, on. The addition of a Training/Health/Safety Chief position, filled by the promotion of Don Shellhammer, has helped organize and improve these important areas, throughout this year. Better and more reliable service to the public has been made possible through continued cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions; including consolidated dispatching, a North Zone Operations and Training Manual, and an expanded Automatic Aid Agreement that includes ambulance services.

While I am no longer with you in person, I continue to be very proud of the Vista Fire Department and what we have accomplished together for the City of Vista and the Vista Fire Protection District. The cooperation of the staff of the fire department, and the support of the City Manager and City Council, made it all possible. We hope you will find this Annual Report to be an informative summary of the continuing efforts to provide exceptional service to the citizens of Vista.

Dwight B. Van Zanen, Fire Chief



incidents
in the spotlight

statistics

city & district information

Land Area – 19 square miles city
Land Area – 19 square miles district
Population – 92,100 estimate, 2002 city
Population – 22,900 estimate, 2002 district

budget

2002-2003 Operating – \$10,520,562

operations

Fire Calls315
Rupture/Exposition Calls5
EMS/Rescue Calls5,362
Hazardous Condition Calls436
Service and Other Calls1,952
Total Calls8,070
Ave. Response Time – ?::?? (enroute to onscene)

Total Fire Loss – \$1,329,355
Total Fire Loss Value – \$10,139,765.00

fire prevention

Occupancies Inspected – ?????
Permits Issued – ?????
Fire Investigations – ?????

equipment & facilities

Stations – 4 Full-time
4 Fire Engines (front-line)
2 Fire Engines (reserve)
1 Ladder Truck
3 Brush Engines
3 Paramedic Units (front-line)
3 Paramedic Units (reserve)
1 Rescue Vehicle
1 Incident Support Vehicle
1 Breathing Air Support Trailer
1 Battalion Command Vehicle

personnel

Safety Personnel – 69
Non-Safety Personnel – 7
Civilian Personnel – 4

mission

The mission of the Vista Fire Department is to minimize deaths, injuries and property loss by taking all feasible action to prevent fires and, if they occur, to extinguish them promptly, and to provide advanced life-support and emergency medical transportation for the community.

To serve without prejudice or favoritism, all citizens within the City of Vista and the Vista Fire Protection District, by safeguarding collectively and individually, their lives against injurious effects of fire, explosion, other related hazards and provide emergency medical care.

To safeguard the general economy and welfare of the community by preventing major conflagrations and the destruction by fire of economically essential industries and businesses.

To protect all the community's citizens and property owners, their individual material wealth and economic well-being, against the destructive effects of fire and explosions. All property deserves to have an equivalent degree of protection, commensurate with the actual property hazard involved regardless of geographic location or monetary value.



highlights of the year

❖ Took delivery of several new vehicles including;

- 2 new KME fire engines (E1211 and E1214)
- 2 new Braun heavy-duty ambulances



- 2 new brush engines by Masterbody (BR1262 and BR1263) purchased by the Vista Fire Protection District
- 1 new Chevrolet Tahoe for Deputy Chief (C1202 - back-up for Battalion Chief)
- 1 new Ford F-250 4-door pickup for Training Chief (C1206)
- 1 used Chevrolet - Penske truck for Incident Support Unit. This vehicle will also tow the Breathing Air Support trailer

The purchase of these new vehicles created the need for reassigning and re-numbering several department vehicles

❖ In October, 12 members of the department and 2 retired members traveled to New York, at their own expense, for the IAFF's



Memorial service. This was the largest gathering of firefighter's in history. They marched in a parade, in the rain and carried the U.S. and State flags from City Hall

❖ The flags taken to New York were returned to the City Council Chambers in a November presentation.

❖ Two new hire academies were run in Fiscal year 02-03. The first was in October 2002 when the department hired 4 employees and the second was in May 2003 when the department hired an additional 4 employees. These personnel were hired to replace department members who had left employment with the city for a variety reasons.