

## **2009 MERRILLAN FIRE & EMS REPORT**

In 2009 Merrillan Fire Department and First Responders answered 118 pages (94) First Responder incidents and (34) Fire Department incidents. Ten of the calls were dual calls for both First Responders and Fire making for 128 incidents. That is a record number of incidents for our department. Our only property loss fire was the 135 year old "BUE " home at 106 W. Pearl St.

The members have again put in numerous hours of training as First Responders and Firefighters. Our First Responders are one of only five groups in the state that are trained in all four First Responder advanced skills, (the other four are also from Jackson Co.) Fire and EMS personnel have started training with the Bruce Mound Ski Patrol on ski-lift rescue. We also participated with surrounding fire departments and personnel from dark and Jackson County in a tabletop exercise involving a Hazmat situation in Merrillan.

Our two fund raisers. Labor Day and Ice Fishing were very successful thanks to all the Fire Department members and the Lions club members. We had another great fire prevention program thanks to volunteers from Merrillan, Alma Center and Humbird Fire Departments. This was a three day event to help educate elementary students about the need for fire safety.

We have done a lot of updating to our Tanker this past year including remounting the tank, new LED emergency lights and new steer tires. A new pump was purchased and installed with the help of a DNR fire grant.

We had a good turnout for our open house in October and would like to thank everyone for coming and for the generous donations. We had a lot of kids trying on our turnout gear and touring our trucks, possible future Firefighters. For Halloween we handed out candy to (97) Ghosts and Goblins.

The Department is down to (16) active members and with the New Year we are hoping to recruit new members. Firefighters and First Responders will continue to upgrade their training to meet the growing demands for emergency services in our Fire District. With the help of local governments, grants and fund raisers we were able to maintain and upgrade our equipment over the past year.

Have a Safe Year  
Al Lunderville  
Merrillan Fire Chief