

# DISTRICT PROFILE



## Coal City Fire Protection District

The Coal City Fire Protection District, founded in 1967, lies in eastern Grundy County approximately 60 miles southwest of Chicago. The district consists of 54 square miles with an approximate population of 9200 citizens. Although the district is primarily rural it is responsible for protecting chemical and nuclear facilities as well as a large area of very remote residential. Services provided by the district include: Fire, EMS, Technical Rescue, Water Rescue/Dive and HazMat. Prior to 1992, Emergency Medical Services were provided by the Coal City Emergency Squad which was a not for profit organization operating on donations. In 1992, due to insufficient funding, the district trustees decided to absorb the Emergency Medical Services, going to the voters and successfully passing a referendum to support the service.

The district is a long time member of MABAS 15 and Chief Shabbona Fire Fighter Association and a supporter of Chief Shabbona Fire Academy. District personnel are heavily involved with the instruction and operation of the annual Fire Fighter II academy. Additionally, the district is a member of the Orange C.A.R.T. (Combined Area Response Team) and MABAS 15 West HazMat Team. When the district was founded, the trustees decided to consider high visibility colors for safety reasons and Orange was decided to be the color of choice for Coal City FPD equipment. In 1992 black stripes were added to meet the reflective requirements of NFPA thus becoming district tradition.

The district staff consists of 5 trustees, 2 full time employees (Deputy Chief & Administrative Assistant) and a part time chief. The balance of the district's workforce consists of 14 fire fighters, 30 fire fighter/EMS, 11 EMS, 6 part-time EMS from outside the district and 2 strictly hazmat. Coal City FPD responded to 1123 requests in 2008 consisting of: EMS 813, Fire 121 and other 189. EMS personnel are part-time employees with the remainder being paid on call. The P.O.C.'s are and will continue to be the backbone of the district. Due to the number of responses, the district will be hiring three full time career fire fighter/paramedics, one per shift, with a start date of 3/30/09. Grundy County Dispatch Center is responsible for dispatching the district.

The Coal City FPD has a fleet of equipment consisting of: 3 ALS Ambulances, 3 Engines, 2 Squads, 1 Aerial Platform, 1 Tender, 2 Brush Trucks with an ATV, 1 Technical Rescue with trailer, and 3 officer/misc. vehicles.

The district trustees have approved plans for a second station and will be out for bid very soon. Coal City FPD is dissected by the BNSF railroad which has daily activity of as many as 80 trains passing through the district resulting in delayed emergency responses. The decision to construct a second station on the opposite side of the railroad is the most reasonable method to eliminate or greatly reduce emergency response delays.

During Fire Prevention Week members of the district conduct training for school age children within the school district. In addition to participating in the schools many station tours are hosted throughout the year.

Members work with the local library on Senior Services, initiated the Vial of Life Program within the district, provide CPR training, car seat installation etc. The district also works closely with villages within the district assisting them with fire prevention issues.

The Coal City FPD has the respect of district citizens, as well as surrounding districts and will continue to work extremely hard to maintain that respect and commitment to the residents of our community. District members are committed to meet the emergency services challenges of today by the continuation of training in all aspect of emergency services. ■

#### Trustees:

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David Wills	Vice President
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Randy Alderson	Trustee
Jean Lissy	District Treasurer

#### Chief Officers:

Harold Holsinger	Fire Chief
Dale Watson	Deputy Chief
Greg DeGroot	Deputy Chief

**Editor's Note:** If you would like to have your district featured in *The Fire Call*, please contact us at 800-524-6620 for more information or visit [www.iafpd.org](http://www.iafpd.org).