

# Fire training filmed as future teaching tool



A camera was mounted in the bucket on the end of this 85-foot aerial tower, which offered a sweeping view of the training burn on Orchard Lake Road.



As firefighters worked at the scene to set and extinguish fires in the house visible in the background, the operation was videotaped by a company hoping to use the tape in a nationally televised cable TV show for firefighters.

# Robbery up in Farmington, but other crimes decrease

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Major crime inched up 5.8 percent in the city of Farmington in 1989, mostly because of increased thefts and larcenies.

But looking over nearly a decade of statistics, public safety director Frank Lauboff said he is pleased with the overall trend, which includes decreases in other major areas.

"Across the nation, there's been an increase in serious crimes. That's not the case in the city of Farmington," he said. "We have a lower crime rate, per capita, than we had in 1980."

The city logged 522 major crime incidents in 1989, compared with 629 in 1980 and a 10-year average shows 546 incidents per year.

The city released its annual public safety report this month, detailing activities of the combined police and fire department for the year, and highlighting trends and statistics.

In addition to crime numbers, the report shows the department placing an emphasis on fire and medical emergency training, addition of computer aided dispatch and other high tech trends, and continued attention to liquor violations and illegal drug activity.

FROM 1988 to 1989, larceny incidents jumped from 353 to 396, with the largest increase noted in thefts from cars and other vehicles. Robberies also increased last year with eight incidents reported, compared with four. Criminal sexual conduct cases, which can range from rape to sexual touching, increased from two to three incidents.

But several areas of major crime also decreased. Aggravated assaults, arson fires and burglaries were down. A significant decrease of 39 percent showed in the number of auto thefts, as has been the trend the past several years. There were no murders, nor have there been any in the city since 1981.

Lauboff attributes the decrease in burglaries, something the city has seen over five years now, to residents getting involved in their neighborhoods.

"That has a direct correlation to the number of calls we receive from residents," he said. "That's one of the

## Farmington crime

Offense	1988	1989	%
Murder	0	0	-
Criminal Sexual Conduct	2	3	+50
Robbery	4	8	+100
Aggravated Assault	9	8	-11
Arson	2	0	-200
Burglary	69	61	-11
Larceny	363	396	+9
Auto Theft	33	20	-39
Total	493	522	+5.8

things we talk about — it's the biggest burden to cross and biggest benefit from Neighborhood Watch."

During the past year, activity among the public safety department was up, as well. Though juvenile arrests have remained stable year-to-year, adult arrests increase every year, up 153 in 1989 and more than double from 1980. "The attention is there," Lauboff said. "Adult arrests reflect activity. The department and the city is much more active."

IN THE area of firefighting, also handled through the public safety department, 1989 brought a decrease in actual fires of all types. The city handled 50 fires, compared with 70 in 1988, Lauboff said.

But medical runs continue to increase annually. Where the department logged 180 such calls in 1980, in 1989 they were responding to 500. Overall, non-criminal calls for the department are up 44 percent over last year, as well, keeping officers busy.

The year 1989 also brought three deaths in the city due to driving accidents to the city, in two unrelated accidents that occurred within a 10-day period. One of the accidents was alcohol related, Lauboff added.

# State studies local intersection

The Michigan Department of Transportation has reviewed the intersection of Grand River and Farmington Road in an effort to determine what could be done to improve the efficiency of northbound Farmington Road.

MDOT recommends that left turns from southbound Farmington Road to eastbound Grand River be prohibited.

During the survey, MDOT found that northbound Farmington Road is stacking up through several light cycles during peak traffic periods. MDOT also found that during

these same periods, southbound Farmington Road traffic is not moving efficiently through the intersection to provide more gaps to northbound Farmington Road left-turn movement.

To provide additional gaps for northbound Farmington Road, MDOT recommends the restriping of southbound Farmington Road to provide two full southbound lanes. Currently, the southbound road is divided into one and one-half lanes.

Traffic studies indicated that during an eight-hour peak period, 1,131 vehicles on northbound Farmington Road turned left on Grand River and

only 153 vehicles on southbound Farmington Road turned left.

Similarly, 1,104 vehicles on westbound Grand River turned left on Farmington Road and 179 vehicles on eastbound Grand River turned left.

MDOT recommends that to free up this intersection, left turns from southbound Farmington Road be prohibited. This will allow the intersection to clear faster, allowing more northbound Farmington Road vehicles to turn west on Grand River, thereby reducing the stacking problem.



Fire Chief Richard Marinucci directs his stand during the burn.

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