

UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP

POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 Annual Report



Thomas J. Nestel III
Chief of Police

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INTRODUCTION

The Upper Moreland Township Police Department is pleased to present its 2009 Annual Report. This document provides information about the department's personnel, reported crime, and the efforts to make our community safer.

The personnel section notes the assignments of the members within the department and recognizes the police officers and sergeants who chose to retire during 2009.

The department's activities section provides a summary of the call types and arrests made during 2009. Comparative data, statistical information and descriptive charts are used to clearly display the reported crime and the arrests countering that criminal activity. Descriptions of various specialized enforcement programs and specialized units are also included.

Upper Moreland Township is roughly 7.5 square miles with approximately 24,000 residents. The police department patrols ninety miles of roadway which accumulated 368,053 miles on its patrol vehicles during 2009.

In 2009, the department's dispatch center received approximately 20,780 phone calls. The department also received 6,067 transferred 9-1-1 calls from the Montgomery County Communications Center. In the past year, more than 1100 citizens came to the station to file police reports or seek guidance on a myriad of issues.

The goal of this report is to provide the citizens of Upper Moreland Township with an understanding of the police department's productivity, training and accomplishments.



Chief Thomas J. Nestel, III

The Upper Moreland Police Department has spent the last year improving the service provided to our community. By evaluating criminal activity and crash data, resources were strategically deployed to address the problems that affect public safety. Due to the efforts of a dedicated cadre of police officers, reported crime is decreasing and vehicle crashes have declined.

After 25 years of service, police officers are eligible for retirement. During 2009, several veteran members of the department decided to exercise the opportunity to retire. While it is always sad to see longtime employees move on, it is also exciting to see new faces and hear new ideas. In the coming year, the department will have the chance to recruit the most talented law enforcement professionals to join us in our efforts to serve the community better.

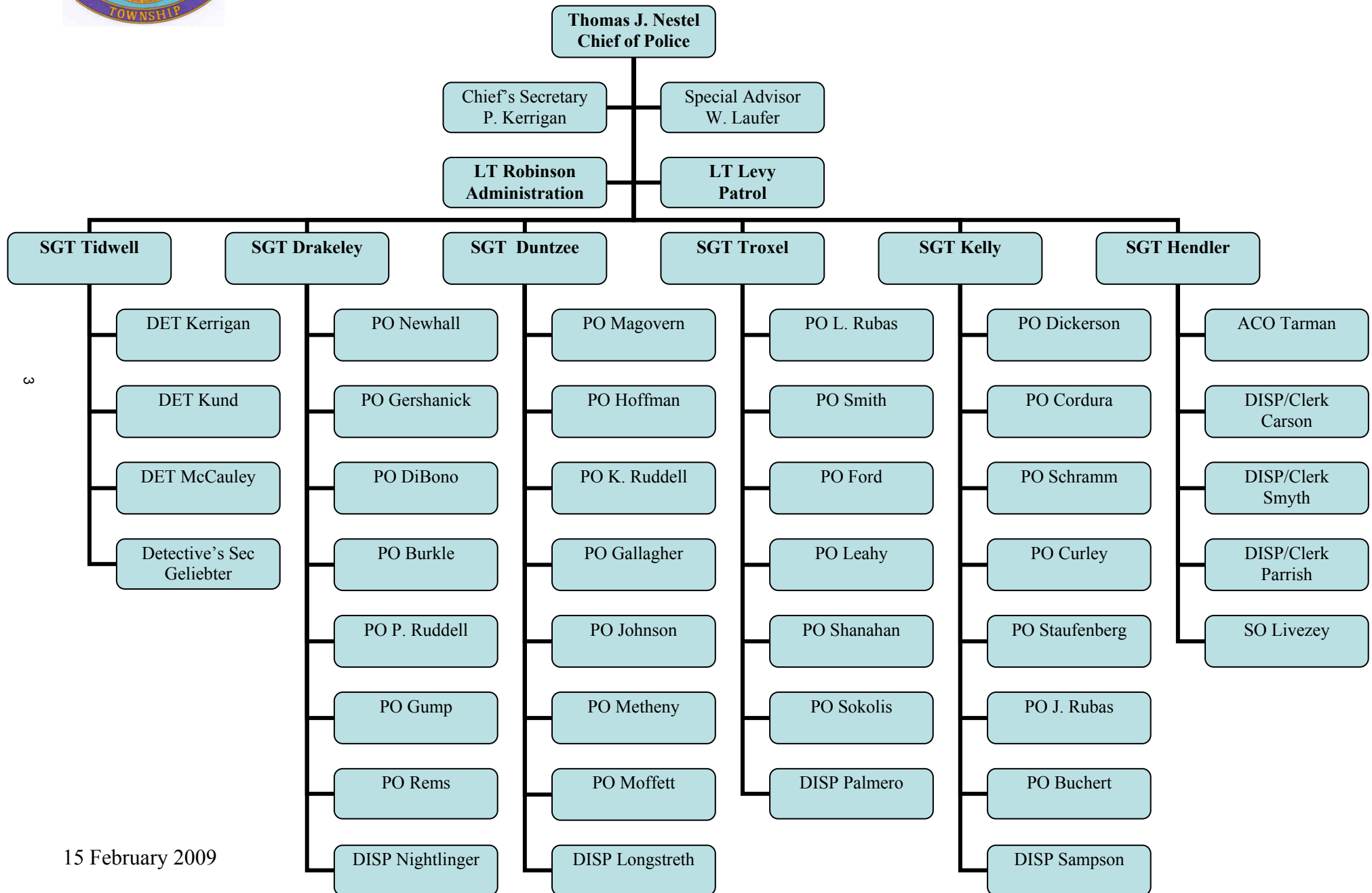
The department continues to introduce the latest technologies to assist the officers in making Upper Moreland a safe place to live and work. A grant was obtained from Senator Greenleaf to purchase a license plate reader. The LPR is attached to one of the police cars and is capable of reading thousands of license tags every day. Due to the LPR, the department recovered multiple stolen autos and solved several crimes much faster than it was able to do prior to possessing the technology.

The officers are not just improving the safety of the community. They are improving their own skill sets through a variety of specialized training programs and by pursuing undergraduate and graduate college degrees. By becoming better educated, the officers are more creative in their solution-building and problem-solving strategies. Several officers are pursuing Master's degrees, and many officers are taking advantage of training opportunities that will establish them as experts in those particular fields.

In the coming year, the department will examine the value of speed humps; introduce mapping technologies; and institute the impoundment of vehicles driven though Upper Moreland by motorists without valid licenses and registrations. I remain committed to providing you with the highest level of service available and am always willing to discuss ways to do our job more effectively and efficiently.



POLICE DEPARTMENT 2009 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2009 POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Chief Thomas J. Nestel, III
Lt. Carl Robinson
Lt. Alex Levy

Platoon A

Sgt. Mark Drakeley
PO Pete Ruddell
PO Dave Burkle
PO Deb Dibono
PO Bill Gershanick
PO Rich Gump
PO Brian Newhall

Platoon C

Sgt. Tim Troxel
PO Todd Smith
PO Tom Leahy
PO Rich Shanahan
PO Jeff Ford
PO Tom Sokolis
PO Larry Rubas
PO John Buchert*

Detective Division

Det. Sgt. Rick Tidwell*
Det. Rick Kerrigan
Det. Maureen Kund
Det. Bryan McCauley

Special Services

Sgt. Dave Hendler

Civilian Support

Melissa Livezey, Services Officer
Shawn Tarman, Animal Control Officer
Patti Kerrigan, Chief's Secretary

Platoon B

Sgt. Mike Duntzee*
PO Bill Hoffman
PO Ken Johnson
PO John Magovern
PO Scott Metheny
PO Kelly Ruddell
PO Frank Gallagher
PO Kevin Moffett

Platoon D

Sgt. Jim Kelly
PO Jason Dickerson
PO Joe Staufenberg
PO Pam Cordura
PO Stephen P. Curley
PO Brian Rems
PO John Schramm
PO Jerry Rubas

Dispatchers/Clerks

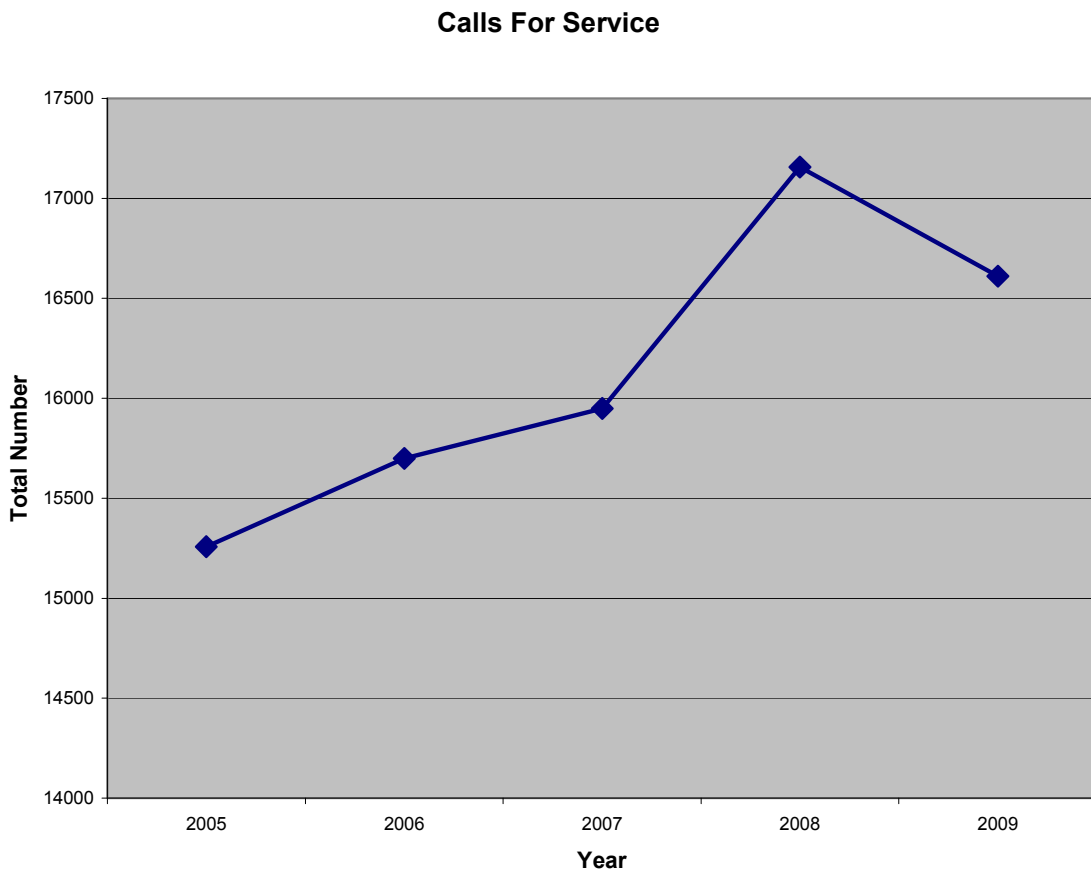
Joanna Nightlinger
Brian Palmero
Peg Carson
Barb Sampson
Karen Smyth
Tara Parrish
Tina McGuckin
Alice Longstreth

Michelle Perkins, Crossing Guard
Joe Reilly, Crossing Guard
Lynne Geliebter, Detective's Secretary

* Retired during 2009

CALLS FOR SERVICE

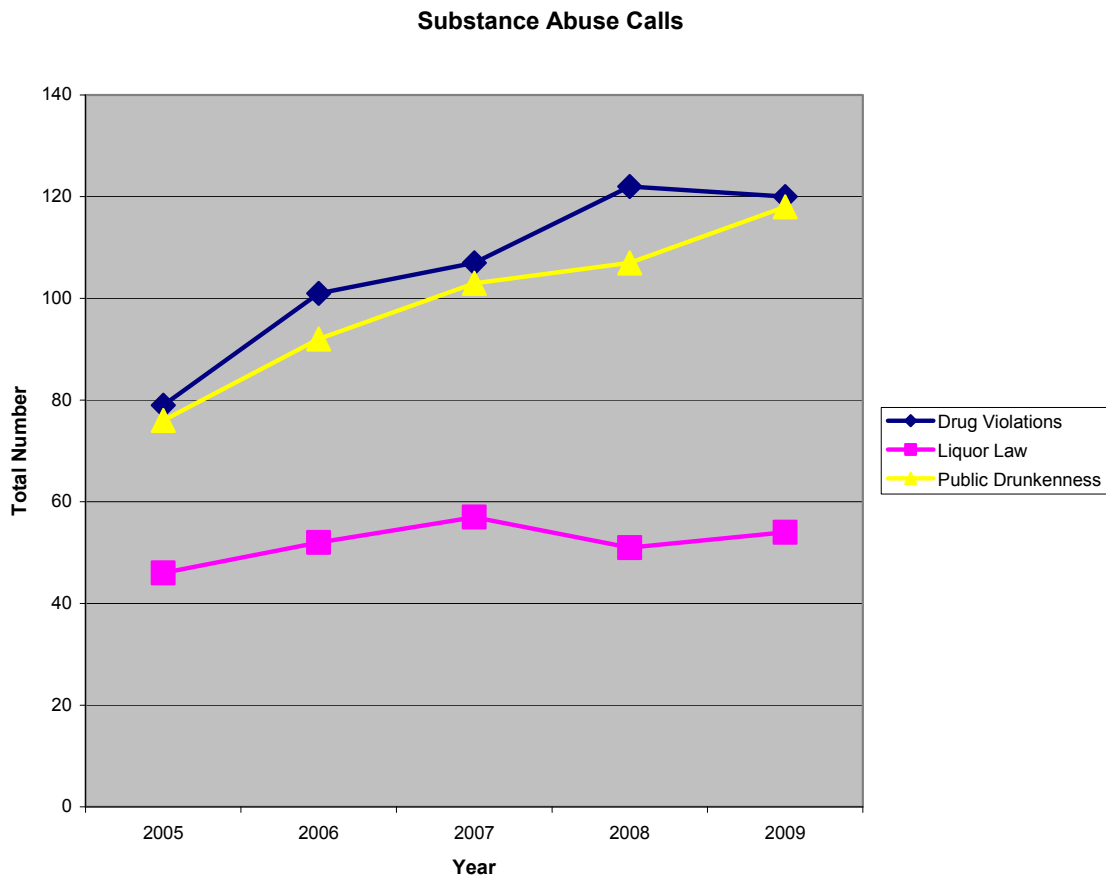
Since 2005, there has been a steady increase in the number of calls for service initiated by citizens who contacted either 9-1-1 or the Upper Moreland Police Department's non-emergency number. Between 2007 and 2008, a dramatic increase occurred which may have been related to the opening of the Super Wal-Mart store on Blair Mill Road. In 2009, the calls for service decreased slightly from the prior year to a total of 16,610.



SUBSTANCE ABUSE CALLS

The Upper Moreland Police Department has seen a marked increase in the number of calls for alcohol and drug intoxication. During 2009, there were 118 public drunkenness reports, 54 liquor law violations and 120 drug violations. The totals for the substance abuse call category do not reflect the number of arrests for these offenses.

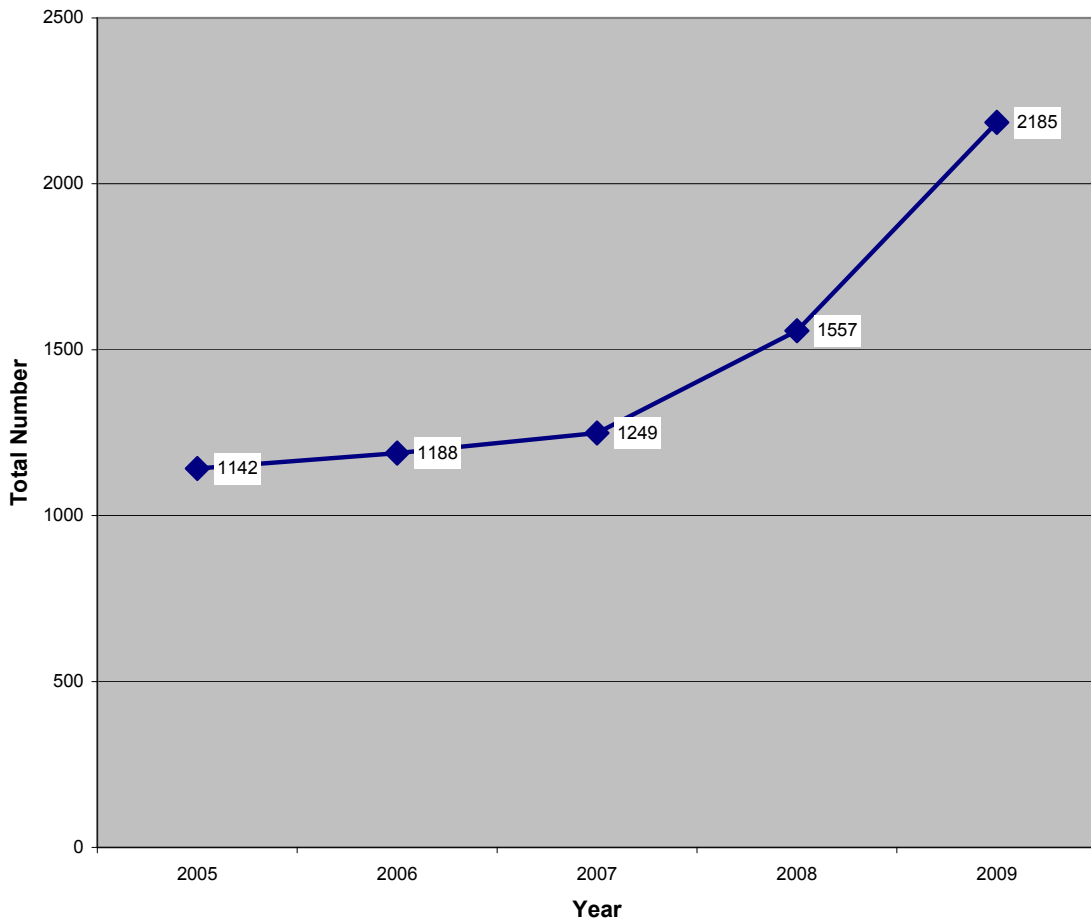
In 2009, the Upper Moreland Police Department joined the Second Alarmers Rescue Squad in responding to 17 incidents of suspected drug overdose. The average age of the persons seeking medical assistance for this problem was 46. None of the victims was under 20 years of age. Four residents died in their homes from drug overdoses.



The Wal-Mart Phenomenon

In May 2008, the Super Wal-Mart opened at 2101 Blair Mill Road. Prior to the opening of the Wal-Mart, that geographic area averaged 1,193 calls for service per year. In 2009, the calls for service increased to 2,185. Prior to the opening of the Wal-Mart, that geographic area averaged four retail theft calls per year. In 2009, the number of retail thefts increased to 68. Prior to the opening of the Wal-Mart, that geographic area averaged 166 vehicle crashes. In 2009, vehicle crashes increased to 214. There is no denying that the Super Wal-Mart has had a substantial effect on the Upper Moreland Police Department workload.

Wal-mart Area Calls For Service



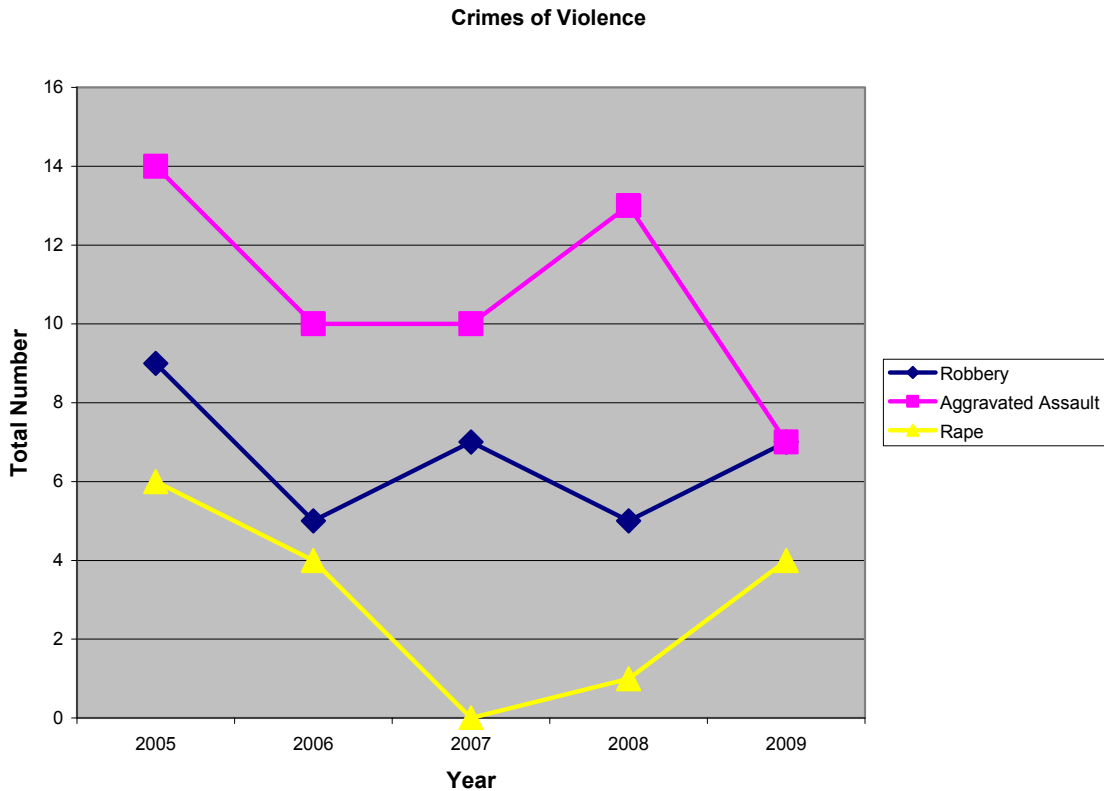
CRIMES OF VIOLENCE

In 2009, there was a decrease in the number of aggravated assaults and an increase in the number of robberies and rapes. Comparing 2009 to 2008, there were seven fewer aggravated assaults; two more robberies; and three more rapes. The total number of violent crimes committed in Upper Moreland Township remains low and is a constant focus of the police.

During 2009, the Upper Moreland Police Department responded to and investigated:

- 0 murders
- 4 rapes*
- 7 robberies
- 7 aggravated assaults

* The four rapes reported during 2009 have been solved and involved domestic partners.



PROPERTY CRIMES

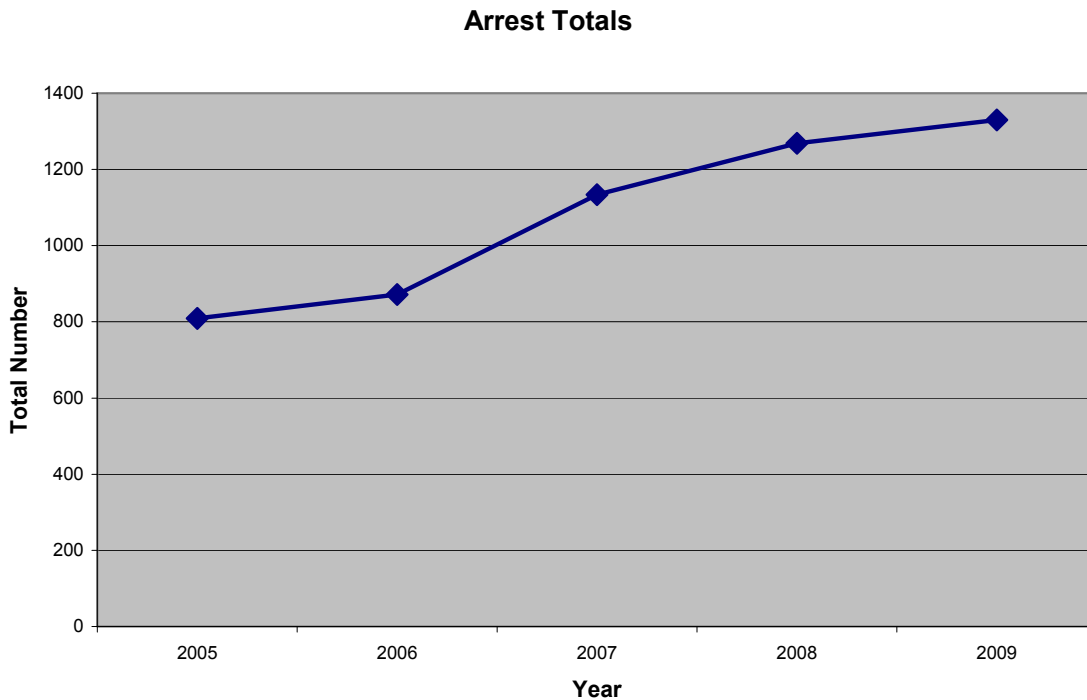
Property crimes include the offenses of burglary and theft. During 2009, the Upper Moreland Police Department responded to and investigated 69 burglaries, 105 thefts from vehicles, 12 vehicle thefts and 150 other types of theft.

Seventy-one percent of the persons arrested for burglaries committed in the township are Upper Moreland Township residents.



ARREST TOTALS

When a person violates the law in Upper Moreland Township, the community expects the police to take the appropriate action to deter the violator from re-offending. To prevent crime and harden the potential targets of criminals, the police attempt to be omnipresent. Proactive policing involves officers addressing problems at their earliest stage. Strict enforcement of nuisance crime sends a message to the criminal element that inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. Additionally, involvement of the community in identifying suspicious persons assists the police in focusing their attention where it is most needed. In the past five years, the Upper Moreland Police Department has continuously increased the number of arrests made each year. In 2009, 1,330 individuals were arrested for criminal offenses.



CRIME CLEARANCES

Comparing Upper Moreland with Other Jurisdictions

	Violent Crime Clearances		Property Crime Clearances	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Northeast US	50.4%	Not Available	20.5%	Not Available
Surrounding Depts	63.7%	Not Available	18.5%	Not Available
Upper Moreland	69.6%	82.3%	18.9%	25.2%

Every jurisdiction in the United States submits crime and clearance data to the United States Department of Justice. The information is included in a yearly national Uniform Crime Report (UCR). The report tracks the total number of Part 1 offenses occurring in each jurisdiction and the total number of offenses cleared. Part 1 offenses are the most serious crimes and include: Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary and Theft.

Clearing crime is a labor intensive effort that requires tenacity, persistence and sound investigative practices. In 2009, the Upper Moreland Police Department experienced a significantly higher rate of crime clearance from the previous year. In 2008, the UMPD cleared 69.6% of its reported violent crime; in 2009, the clearance rate increased to 82.3%. In 2008, the UMPD cleared 18.9% of its reported property crime; in 2009, the clearance rate increased to 25.2%.

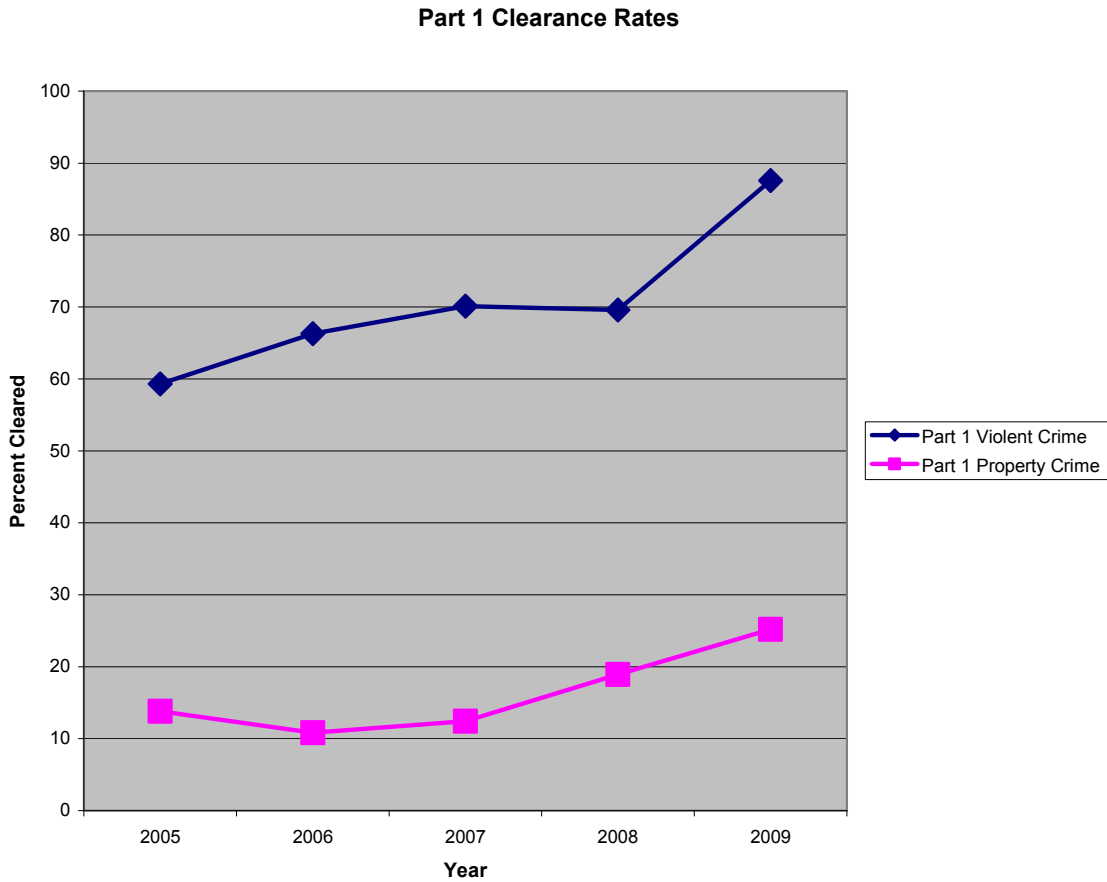
The Upper Moreland Police Department has a significantly higher clearance rate for violent crime when comparing the average clearance rate of jurisdictions in the Northeast Region of the United States. When comparing the UMPD violent crime clearance rate with its surrounding departments, the rate is slightly higher.

The Upper Moreland Police Department has a slightly lower clearance rate for property crime when comparing the average clearance rate of jurisdictions in the Northeast Region of the United States; however, compared to the property crime clearance rate of the surrounding departments, the UMPD rate is slightly higher.

The clearance rate data for the Northeast Region of the United States and the departments surrounding Upper Moreland Township is not yet available for 2009.

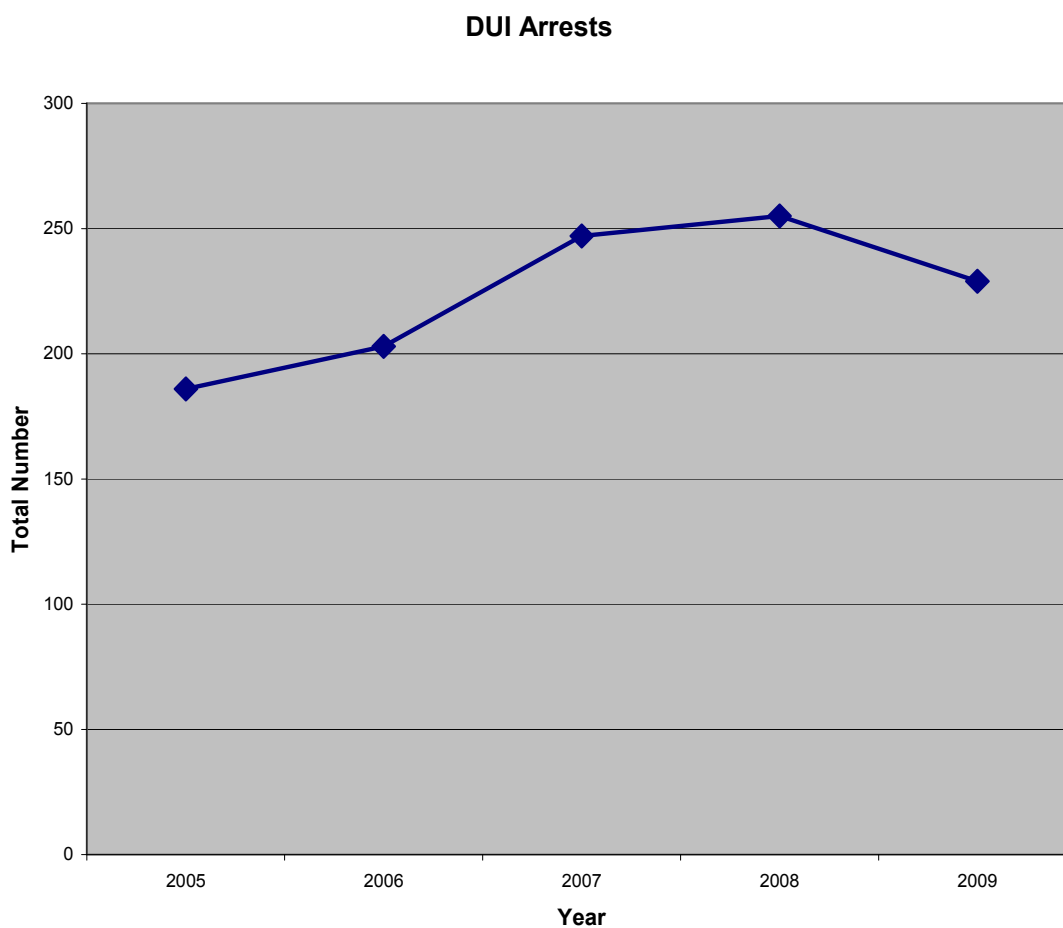
Comparing Upper Moreland Township's Clearance Rate 2005-2009

Since 2005, the clearance rate for violent crime in Upper Moreland Township has continued to improve, with the most dramatic increase occurring in 2009. Since 2007, the clearance rate for property crime in Upper Moreland Township has continued to increase.



DUI ARRESTS

The Upper Moreland Police Department engages in aggressive enforcement of DUI violations. In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the department consistently ranks very high for total number of DUI arrests. Comparison data from other police departments in the state is not yet available for 2009, but using 2008 numbers, the Upper Moreland Police Department had the most arrests in Montgomery County and ranked 11th out of the 1100 police departments in the state for total number of DUI arrests. The department's ranking is significant since the Upper Moreland Police Department is the 10th largest law enforcement agency in Montgomery County. In 2009, the department arrested 229 individuals for DUI violations.

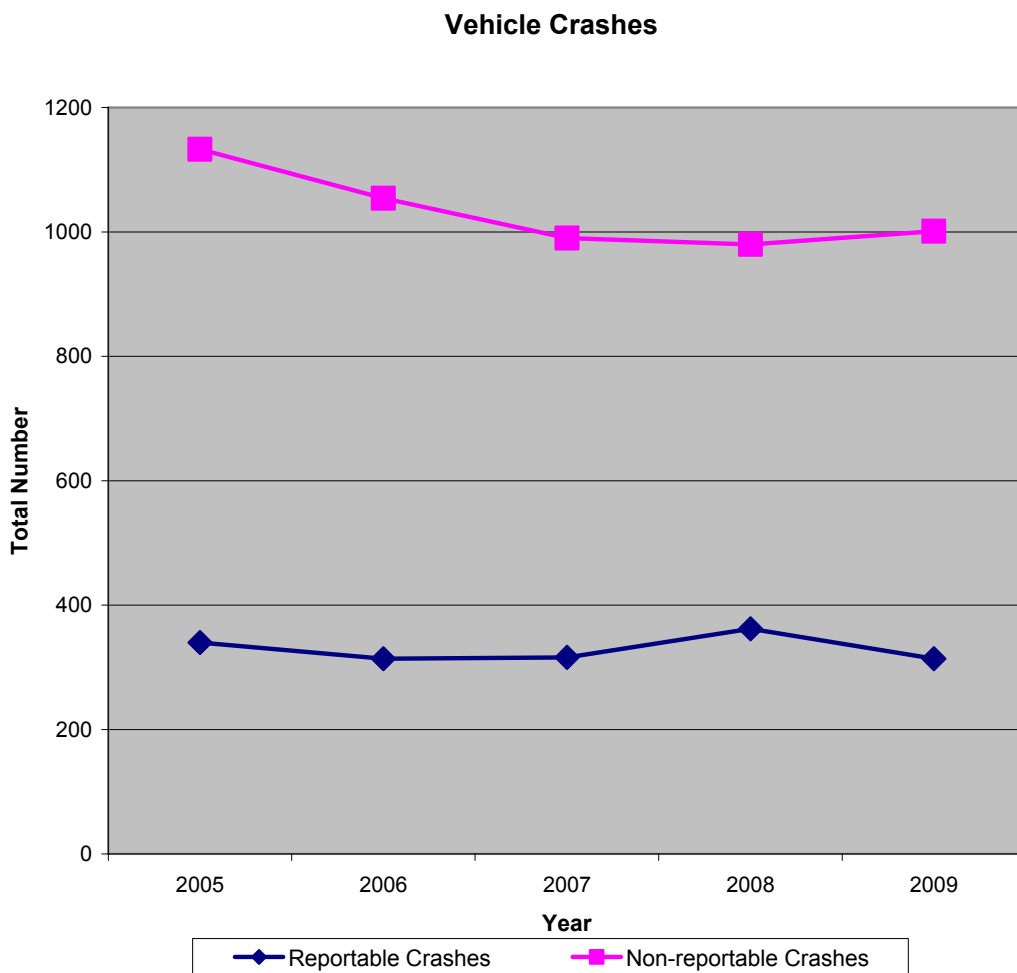


VEHICLE CRASHES

The Upper Moreland Police Department responded to 1,315 vehicle crashes during 2009. The number of crashes that were investigated and deemed to be reportable (injuries or towing) by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was 314. The number of crashes that were deemed to be non-reportable (all other crashes) was 1,001.

During 2009, traffic enforcement focused on areas most likely to have crashes resulting in injury or towing. Even with the Wal-Mart phenomenon, there was a 13% reduction in reportable crashes.

During 2009, the Upper Moreland Police Department became one of the first law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to begin submitting crash reports electronically to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

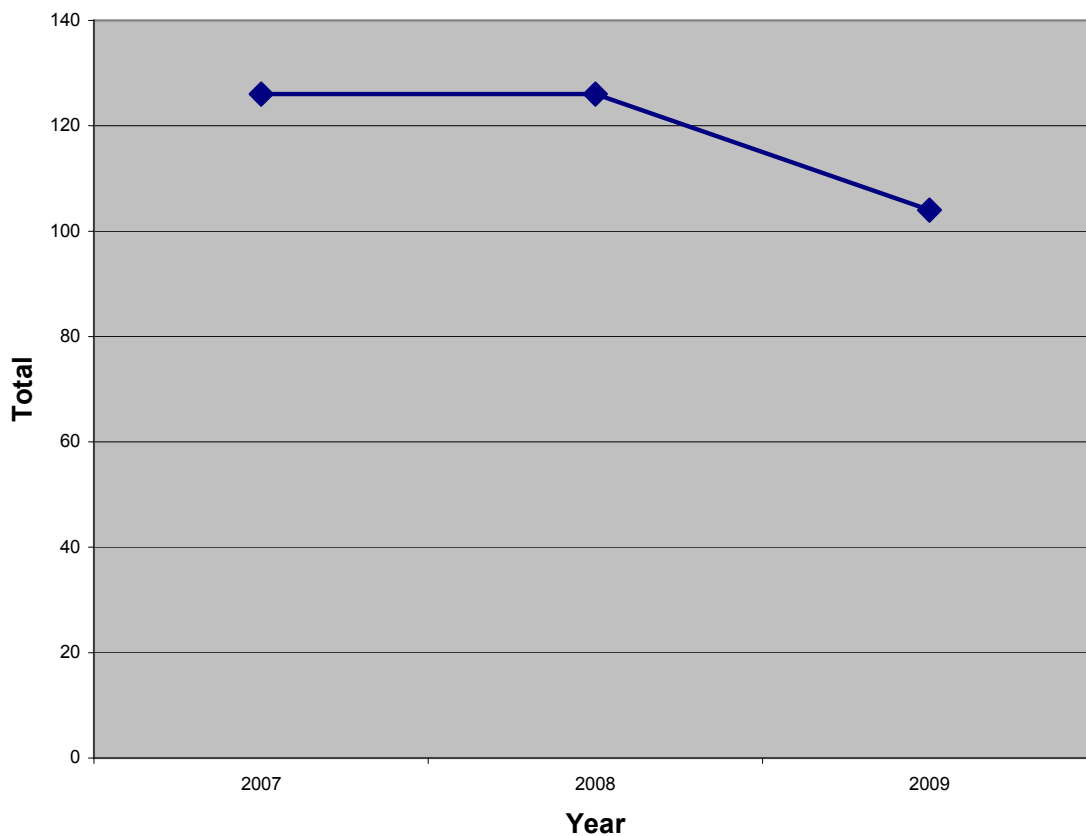


TARGETED ENFORCEMENT ZONES

A systematic review of data related to crashes in the Township assisted in identifying particular roadways and timeframes during which the likelihood was higher that a crash would occur. Based on that analysis, officers were specifically assigned to those targeted enforcement zones. While visibility was the most important element of the plan, interrupting offenses known to be the underlying causation factors for crashes served as the second most important function of the effort.

During 2009, police officers, supervisors and detectives were deployed on a daily basis to the targeted enforcement zones during the morning and afternoon rush hours. Additionally, grant funding was used to bolster staffing levels during high crash times. As a result of the additional staffing and focused enforcement, the Upper Moreland Police Department succeeded in reducing crashes in the targeted enforcement zones by 18%.

Targeted Enforcement Zone Crashes



TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Chief Nestel introduced evidence-based policing to the Upper Moreland Police Department. After an analysis of vehicle crashes in the township, targeted enforcement was directed to specific roadways during specific timeframes. The year 2009 was the first full year that the targeted enforcement program was in place. The targeted enforcement program successfully reduced crashes by 18% in the high crash areas during the high crash times. An emphasis was placed on visibility and disrupting dangerous driving in the target areas.

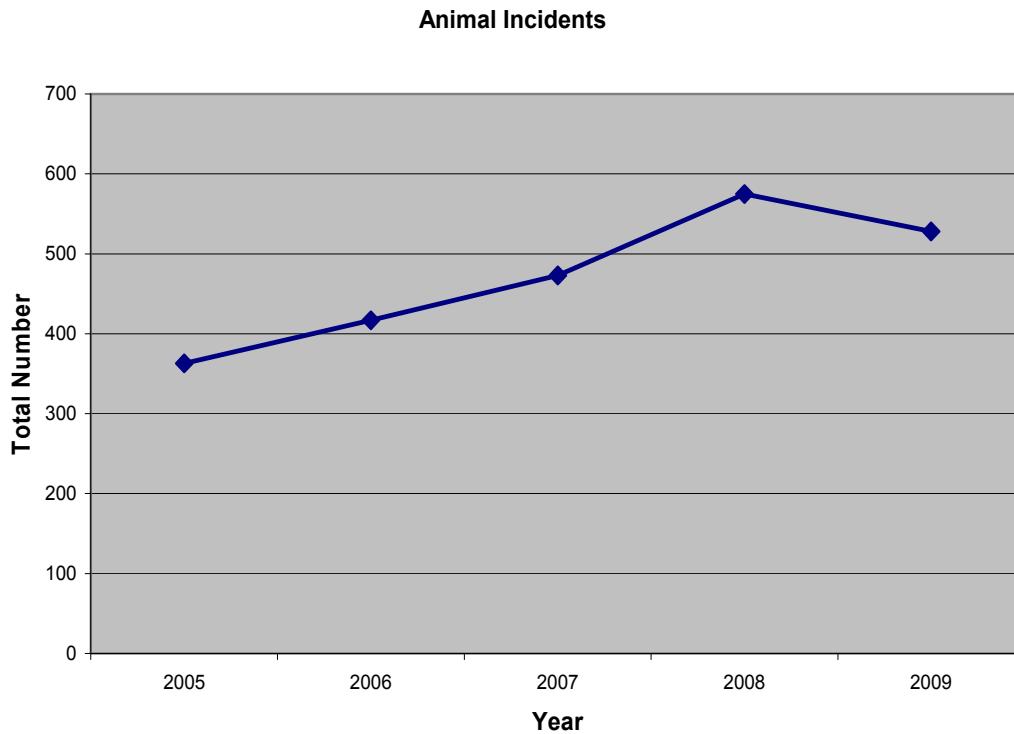
When an officer engages in traffic enforcement, s/he possesses the final decision regarding whether to issue a citation. The results highlighted in the below table provide an interesting finding. Although a historical theory exists which claims that an increase in citations results in a decrease in crashes, the Upper Moreland Police Department disproved that hypothesis. During 2009, a decrease in citations issued by the Upper Moreland Police Department resulted in a decrease in crashes.

In the below table, the various traffic enforcement actions are noted with the % change from 2008. Hazardous violations are reckless offenses that result in the assessment of points to a driver's history. Non-hazardous violations are frequently equipment, registration and licensing offenses that do not result in the assessment of points.

Type of Action	Number	% change from 2008
Hazardous Citations	2729	6.6% decrease
Non Hazardous Citations	1881	11% decrease
Warnings Given	2606	13.3% decrease
Parking Violations	334	8.5% decrease

ANIMAL INCIDENTS

The Upper Moreland Police Department has a full time Animal Control Officer (ACO) as a member of its staff. The ACO investigates reports of vicious and dangerous animals and nuisance animal complaints and conducts limited trapping of destructive wild animals. She engages in extensive education of the public on domestic and wild animal issues. In 2009, the department handled 528 animal incidents.



SPECIALIZED UNITS AND PROGRAMS

The Upper Moreland Police Department has several specialized units consisting of police officers, detectives and supervisors who possess unique skill sets. The officers who volunteer to serve in these specialized functions train on a regular basis and are expected to be available for emergency recall.

MAJOR INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM (MIRT)

MIRT is a countywide element consisting of 125 officers from 40 different police departments in Montgomery County. The Police Chiefs in Montgomery County created the team, and it routinely trains and mobilizes with MIRT teams from Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester and Delaware Counties. This regional force multiplier is specially trained and equipped to respond to events requiring a large-scale police response. Lieutenant Alex Levy of the Upper Moreland Police Department is the Team Commander.

In addition to Lieutenant Levy, seven other members of the Upper Moreland Police Department serve on the MIRT team. In September 2009, the MIRT team responded to the G20 Summit to assist the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Police Department. Montgomery County MIRT officers were deployed during the Summit as an Immediate Reaction Team to quell disturbances throughout the city. The Upper Moreland Police Department was represented in Pittsburgh by Lieutenant Alex Levy, Police Officer R. Kenneth Johnson and Police Officer John Schramm.

BIKE UNIT

The Upper Moreland Police Department has six members who are trained and certified by the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) to function as a law enforcement bike patrol. The use of mountain bicycles provides the department with the ability to patrol areas of the township that are difficult to access. Additional benefits of bike patrol are that it enhances contacts with the community and, in some cases, adds a higher degree of stealth to patrol.

During the year, the police department used the bikes extensively in the shopping centers during the crowded holiday shopping periods, the parks during the summer months and also at the June Fete.

TRUCK UNIT

In 2008, the Upper Moreland Police Department initiated a Truck Enforcement Unit. The fourth largest traffic volume on the Pennsylvania Turnpike passes through the Willow Grove Interchange. In 2006, more than 1.5 million trucks and buses entered or exited the turnpike at the Willow Grove Interchange. A total of 12 state highways traverse Upper Moreland Township. State highways are the most frequently used roadways by commercial vehicle traffic.

Police Officer Peter Ruddell serves as the primary officer on the Truck Enforcement Unit. He has successfully completed training that enables him to weigh commercial vehicles for excessive loads. He has also obtained a Commercial Driver's License and is certified to conduct state inspections on all types of vehicles. Police Officer Ruddell has completed a training program for criminal interdiction of commercial vehicles and investigations involving commercial vehicles. He has successfully attained the specialized Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program certification and has assisted a variety of other departments and agencies due to his expertise.

Police officers serving in the Truck Enforcement Unit have normal patrol duties as their primary function. In 2009, the Truck Enforcement Unit issued 213 citations with fines totaling \$55,752.

POLICE HONOR GUARD

The Upper Moreland Police Department possesses its own Honor Guard. Nine members of the department serve in this military-like function. The Honor Guard performs at various events and functions throughout the year. During 2009, the group appeared at the Second Alarmers vs. Phillies Ball Girls charity softball game and also did an opening ceremony for the Philadelphia Phillies at Citizen's Bank Park. The Honor Guard routinely appears as the department's representatives at high-profile funerals.

K9 UNIT

The Upper Moreland Police Department proudly possesses one of the most successful K9 units in the region. During 2009, the department's K9 Unit consisted of: Police Officer Stephen P. Curley and Zeus, Police Officer Dave Burkle and Skooch, Police Officer Larry Rubas and Eraz and Police Officer Rich Shanahan and Ozzy. Every year, the Upper Moreland Police Department K9 Unit earns awards during the USPCA Regional competition.

The Upper Moreland Police Department suffered a devastating blow in 2009. Police Officer Dave Burkle's canine partner, Skooch, passed away in March. Skooch was a highly regarded bomb detection K9 and frequently responded to bomb threats at the region's schools. Another sad moment for the K9 Unit occurred in October when Police Officer Shanahan's retired canine partner, Toby, passed away. Toby was an award-winning K9 who had served the township for six years before retiring.

The Upper Moreland Police K9 unit is a valuable supplement to the patrol division. The canines help patrol officers locate offenders, articles from crime scenes, subdue and control violent uncooperative offenders and assist with crowd control.

During 2009, the Upper Moreland Police K9 unit was deployed 86 times. Due to the outstanding reputation of the Upper Moreland Police K9 Unit, other agencies in the region frequently request the officers for help. Some of the notable incidents that the Upper Moreland Police K9 Unit was involved in during 2009 include:

- 1) In April, Police Officer Shanahan and Ozzy responded to assist Norristown PD with an armed carjacker. The subject had crashed the stolen vehicle and fled on foot. Although the suspect was not located, the Upper Moreland Police K9 successfully located the firearm discarded by the offender.
- 2) In April, Police Officer Shanahan and Ozzy responded to the Best Western Hotel in Upper Dublin Township to assist with a disturbance involving more than 100 disorderly persons. The Upper Moreland Police K9 and an Abington Police K9 were successful in dispersing the group.
- 3) In May, Police Officer Curley and Zeus responded to assist the Warminster Police Department after a subject crashed his vehicle and then fled on foot. The Upper Moreland Police K9 was successful in locating the offender.
- 4) In July, Police Officer Shanahan and Ozzy responded to assist the Abington Police Department. An Abington officer had spotted a vehicle that matched the description of a vehicle wanted in a burglary. There was a vehicle pursuit which ended in a crash and the offender fleeing on foot. The Upper Moreland Police K9 successfully located the offender.
- 5) In August, Police Officer Shanahan and Ozzy responded to assist the Horsham Police Department. A person who was observed breaking into cars fled from the police. During the search, the Upper Moreland Police K9 successfully located the suspect.
- 6) In September, Police Officer Curley and Police Officer Shanahan responded with their K9 partners to assist the Lower Moreland Police Department in locating an armed suspect. The Upper Moreland Police K9 Unit successfully located the suspect and the firearm.
- 7) In October, Police Officer Curley and Zeus responded to assist the Upper Gwynedd Police Department. A person who was observed breaking into cars fled from the police. During the search, the Upper Moreland Police K9 successfully located the suspect.

MORELAND AREA EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (MAERT)

The Moreland Area Emergency Response Team (MAERT) was formed in the late 1980s to respond to high risk situations involving suspects armed with firearms. The team represents the municipalities of Bryn Athyn, Hatboro, Horsham, Jenkintown, Lower Moreland, Rockledge, Upper Dublin and Upper Moreland. Forty-two members on the team include entry operators, snipers and crisis negotiators. The Upper Moreland Police Department has twelve officers participating in various capacities on the team, including the Team Commander, the Crisis Negotiation Unit Team Leader, an Entry Team Leader and an Assistant Entry Team Leader. The team trains monthly and travels to Fort Indiantown Gap every year for three consecutive days of advanced scenario-based training. In addition, the MAERT is the designated Hazardous Materials SWAT Team for Montgomery County. Sixteen MAERT officers are specially trained and equipped to handle SWAT operations in a contaminated environment. The team participated in a large scale drill on October 18, 2009. This drill was designed to refine the working relationship between SWAT and the Montgomery County Hazardous Materials Team, which is made up of specially trained and equipped firefighters from the region. The MAERT responded to eight situations in 2009 that required the use of a SWAT team.

YOUTH AID PANEL

The Upper Moreland Police Department utilizes an alternative prosecution program known as the Youth Aid Panel. This program is a way for communities to raise community awareness and responsibility for their youth. YAP is a combined effort of law enforcement, social services and trained citizens who help eligible first-time offenders and their families recognize inappropriate behavior and determine a suitable course of action to correct criminal activity. Community service, education programs and restitution are samples of the possible responses delivered by the YAP.

The Montgomery County District Attorney's Office lists the following six benefits of the Youth Aid Panel:

- 1) Juvenile offenders who complete the resolution contract successfully will not have an official court record, thus affording them a "second chance".
- 2) The panel system provides a means for victim input.
- 3) The juvenile becomes more connected to the community and learns personal responsibility.
- 4) The panel system is less costly to the public, saving taxpayers court-related costs.
- 5) The juvenile and his/her family will understand that they live in a community that cares and expects responsible resolutions for criminal behavior.
- 6) The panel system increases awareness of local community resources.

In 2009, the Upper Moreland Police Department referred 111 youths to YAP. During 2009, 93% of the participants successfully completed the mandated program.

AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION (ALPR)

In September 2009, the Upper Moreland Police Department purchased an ALPR unit with grant funding. ALPR is a camera unit mounted on a marked patrol unit. The system reads every license plate that passes the patrol car and automatically checks the plate through a national database. The ALPR assists in identifying stolen vehicles and wanted persons that otherwise would not have been noticed by the patrolling officer. The officer can also manually enter plates in order to determine if the patrol car has observed that vehicle in the last month. Several stolen vehicles have been recovered and wanted persons apprehended as a direct result of this technology.

DI RECTED ENFORCEMENT GRANT PROGRAMS

The police department participates in enforcement programs funded by grants from the United States Department of Transportation and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The supplemental funding assists the department in delivering focused enforcement in areas most likely to have vehicle crashes and dangerous driving.

DUI Checkpoints

During 2009, Upper Moreland Township conducted two DUI Checkpoints. The checkpoints were staffed by officers from several local agencies, along with numerous citizen volunteers. The checkpoint task force rotates from municipality to municipality.

The checkpoints were initiated to educate the public about the dangers of drunk driving. Officers engage in brief contacts with motorists during which observations are made to detect intoxicated drivers. If a motorist is suspected of being intoxicated, he or she is subjected to a battery of field sobriety tests.

The officers working the two checkpoints this year in Upper Moreland stopped 1,670 vehicles. These stops found 34 people who required further testing. As a result of the checkpoints, the Upper Moreland Police arrested 18 drunk drivers, four drug offenders and one underage drinker.

In addition to the checkpoint operations, the grant provides for the assignment of roving patrols with the specific goal of detecting drunk drivers. The Upper Moreland Police Department took advantage of this opportunity to deploy additional officers on the roadways of the township and succeeded in arresting several people for liquor law violations.

PA Aggressive Driving

The PA Aggressive Driving Program is a federally funded program targeting behaviors that increase the probability of crashes. Police enforcement is directed along specific highways where aggressive driving has resulted in crashes. Route 611 and Route 63 were the identified highways in 2009. The most common aggressive driving offenses are speeding, following too closely, unsafe lane changes, disregarding red lights and stops signs, passing improperly and failing to yield the right of way. The Upper Moreland Police Department remains vigilant in identifying drivers who endanger the safety of other motorists. The grant funded 452 patrol hours during which 1,133 aggressive drivers were detected and 1,128 traffic citations issued.

Buckle Up PA

Buckle Up PA is a project funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to increase seatbelt use through enforcement, public awareness and education. A variety of techniques are utilized to encourage the use of seatbelts. Officers are deployed to distribute educational flyers; engage in face-to-face contacts; or direct enforcement. During 2009, the grant funded 204 patrol hours during which 3,523 motorist contacts occurred and 549 traffic citations were issued.

2009 AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS

Top Gun Award

Police officers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who arrest 50 or more drunk drivers during the course of the calendar year are officially recognized with the very prestigious Top Gun Award. **Officer Stephen Curley** has consistently led the Upper Moreland Police Department in arrests of drunk drivers. In 2009, he received his 6th Top Gun Award. During 2009, Curley arrested 76 drunk drivers and had a 100% conviction rate. This is a phenomenal accomplishment!

Regional Canine Trials

Every year, police canine units from the region engage in a competition to identify the best dog and handler. **Officer Richard Shanahan and his partner, Ozzy**, were the representatives from Upper Moreland Township in 2009. Shanahan and Ozzy earned a third place trophy for the overall team category and a second place trophy for the decoy category.

Merit Award

On March 2, 2009, at approximately 9:04 PM, a drunk driver initiated every motorist's worst nightmare. He began intentionally ramming vehicles driving in Upper Moreland Township. As the police department mobilized an intense effort to find this dangerous person, **Officer Joseph Staufenberg** saw the suspect vehicle at Easton Road and Fitzwatertown Road. When Officer Staufenberg approached the suspect, he smashed into the car in front of him, pushing it forward so that he could escape. As the suspect did this, Staufenberg reached into the vehicle and began a violent struggle for control of the vehicle. After a very physical battle, Staufenberg was successful in disabling the vehicle and taking the suspect into custody. The motorist who was struck during the struggle between Staufenberg and the suspect required hospitalization. Staufenberg's swift intervention prevented this dangerous subject from injuring anyone else that night.

Merit Award

On April 18, 2009, **Officer Scott Metheny** was patrolling the Giant Supermarket lot and noticed a group of juveniles standing around an adult male in Veterans Memorial Park. Metheny investigated and discovered that this male had been dealing marijuana to the juveniles. When Metheny told the drug dealer he was under arrest, the offender resisted and attempted to flee. Metheny engaged in a physical struggle with the drug dealer and upon the arrival of other officers successfully placed him under arrest. During a search incident to the offender's arrest, Metheny found 18 packages of marijuana in the suspect's possession.

Merit Award

On April 19, 2009, **Officer Ken Johnson** was patrolling and noticed two vehicles that were parked in the far corner of a parking lot located along Davisville Road. Johnson knew that the vehicles were not at this location the day before. He investigated and found that both were stolen vehicles out of New Jersey. A subsequent investigation was initiated and the persons responsible for the thefts were identified and brought to justice.

C R I M I N A L I N V E S T I G A T I O N D I V I S I O N

The Upper Moreland Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division consists of a Detective Sergeant and three Detectives. During 2009, CID investigated 289 cases.

Juvenile Residential Burglary Ring

In May 2009, several residential burglaries occurred in the same section of the township. CID conducted surveillances, undercover operations, and tenacious interrogation to solve the cases, recover a stolen firearm and successfully prosecute the responsible offenders.

Drug Trafficking Investigations

CID has initiated many drug investigations within the confines of the township. The Patrol Division routinely develops confidential informants and information used by the department's Detectives to target specific persons and places for investigation. Examples of successful investigations include the arrest of an individual operating in Montgomery and Bucks Counties and the seizure of nearly 100 pills; the arrest of a local resident dealing crack cocaine; and the arrest of an individual in possession of 6.5 pounds of marijuana.

Sears Hardware Thefts

CID initiated an investigation of a person known to the department to be a common thief. As part of the investigation, the Detectives reviewed records of pawned items and discovered information regarding the suspect's possession of stolen items. As a result of the investigative work completed by CID, the offender was arrested and committed to drug rehabilitation.

Topsfield Burglary Arrest

CID routinely conducts follow-up interviews whenever a felony crime is reported. The additional investigative attention resulted in the discovery of a witness to a burglary. Due to this information, further developments enabled CID to recover a substantial amount of the stolen items. An arrest was made and that person was held responsible for the burglary and theft.

East Coast Fraud Ring

CID launched an investigation into a simple retail theft that subsequently resulted in three persons being arrested for engaging in retail frauds amounting to the loss of thousands of dollars in Upper Moreland Township. The investigation terminated a very profitable east coast crime spree.

RETI REMENTS

Officer John Buchert



On January 6, 2009, Officer John Buchert retired after more than 39 years of honorable service. John Buchert joined the Upper Moreland Police Department on December 27, 1969, and served in the patrol division his entire career. John served as a squad Officer-In-Charge and was also one of the original canine unit members.

John Buchert had multiple contacts with dangerous criminals throughout his career. In October of 1995, he apprehended two drug traffickers suspected of committing a murder. That same year, in December, Officer Buchert convinced an armed suicidal woman to surrender her firearm and seek mental health assistance. In December of 2004, Officer Buchert discovered a burglary in progress and after a foot pursuit, caught the offender. A few months later in February of 2005, Officer Buchert helped to rescue several people from an apartment fire at the Blair Mill Village East Apartments. Officer Buchert received numerous letters of praise from citizens who came in contact with him during his decades of service.

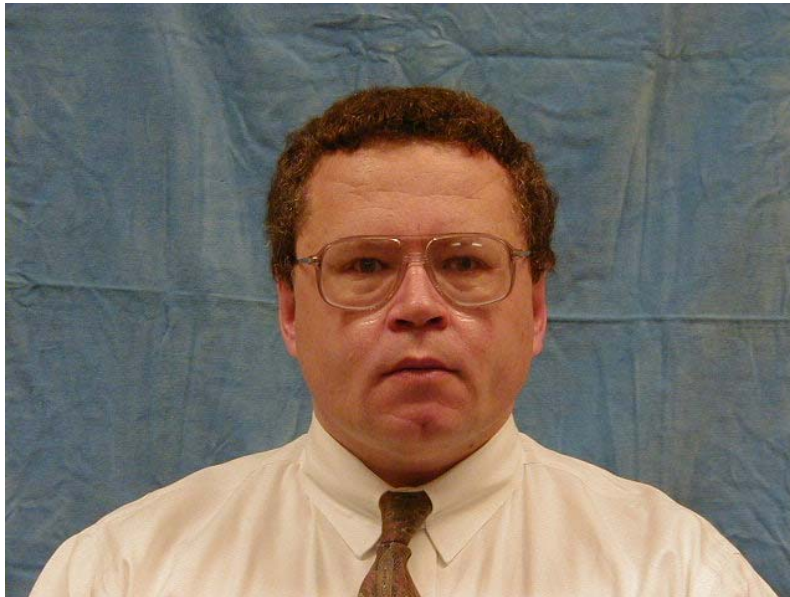
Sergeant Mike Duntzee



On July 26, 2009, Sergeant Mike Duntzee retired after more than 29 years of honorable service. Mike Duntzee became a member of the Upper Moreland Police Department on March 12, 1980, and served in the patrol and detective divisions. After being assigned to the patrol division for two years, Mike Duntzee was appointed to the rank of detective. After conducting investigations for 15 years, he was promoted to sergeant and returned to the patrol division.

Mike Duntzee received numerous awards for exceptional acts of police work. In 1988, he spearheaded an investigation that resulted in the arrest of a suspect who had committed numerous burglaries and auto thefts throughout the region. During the same year, he conducted an investigation after a drug lab exploded in the township. As a result of that investigation, 18 defendants were prosecuted by federal authorities for manufacturing and distributing more than 1,000 pounds of methamphetamine. In 1991, Sergeant Duntzee assisted in the investigation and arrest of a serial burglar who had committed numerous burglaries in multiple jurisdictions. In 1995, Sergeant Duntzee assisted in the arrest of two men who were wanted for several drug related homicides. In 2002, Sergeant Duntzee was a member of an Eastern Montgomery County Burglary Task Force that successfully arrested five people for committing more than 50 burglaries.

Detective Sergeant Rick Tidwell



On August 2, 2009, Sergeant Rick Tidwell retired after more than 32 years of honorable service. Rick Tidwell joined the Upper Moreland Police Department on March 14, 1977, and served in the patrol and detective divisions. After being assigned to the patrol division for two years, Rick Tidwell was appointed to the rank of detective. After conducting investigations for 17 years, he was promoted to sergeant and became the detective division supervisor.

Detective Sergeant Tidwell was the department's Youth Aid Panel liaison. He was a member of the Montgomery County Children and Youth Citizens Advisory Committee and a member of the Montgomery County Interdisciplinary Child Abuse Investigation Team. Rick Tidwell received numerous awards for his involvement in a variety of criminal incidents. In 1987, Detective Sergeant Tidwell solved an armed robbery that occurred in Upper Dublin Township. In 1988, Detective Sergeant Tidwell received the VFW John Radko award for Police Officer-of-the-Year in Pennsylvania. This award was given to him for his "continuing education and his cooperative effort with fellow officers." In 1990, Detective Sergeant Tidwell was commended for his investigative work following a shooting at the Willow Grove Motor Lodge. In 1999, the FBI presented Detective Sergeant Tidwell with an award for his work on a joint task force that broke apart a large east coast prostitution ring. In 2002, Detective Sergeant Tidwell received recognition for his work on the Eastern Montgomery County Burglary Task Force which arrested five people for committing more than 50 burglaries. In 2004, Detective Sergeant Tidwell was recognized by the Bensalem Police Department for his participation in solving a homicide in their jurisdiction.

NEW HIRES

Dispatcher Tina McGuckin



The Upper Moreland Township Police Department hired Tina McGuckin as a police dispatcher on June 3, 2009. She grew up in Hatboro and graduated from Hatboro Horsham High School. Tina is married and has two children. Prior to working with the police department, Tina spent ten years at a home medical equipment company. After she became a mother, she worked part time for an auto repair shop. Tina is currently assigned as one of our night shift dispatchers.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The department participates in a variety of training opportunities. Although some training is required as a part of yearly certification regimens, many officers routinely volunteer to attend training developed to enhance policing skill sets. The department's members received 3,372 hours of training during 2009. The Upper Moreland Police Department conducts yearly training seminars to better equip its members to address the most up-to-date issues facing law enforcement.

The department's K9 unit and emergency response team engage in monthly training to maintain these specialized skills at peak levels. K9 was responsible for 218 hours of training and emergency response team accumulated more than 820 hours of training in 2009. Several members also possess certifications in other specializations such as commercial vehicle enforcement, mental health crisis intervention, accident investigation and emergency medical services.

While the department has been responsible for arranging a variety of training opportunities for its members, the officers and supervisors have also engaged in self-improvement. Nearly the entire department has earned bachelor's degrees and several have earned master's degrees.