

Aberdeen Fire Department Year End Report



2013



CITY OF ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tom Hubbard, Fire Chief Rich Malizia, Assistant Chief

April 28, 2014

Mayor Simpson,

I respectfully submit to you and the City Council the Aberdeen Fire Department's annual report for 2013. This report provides an overview of department operations and delivery of service.

The City of Aberdeen provides fire protection within the city boundaries servicing 16,890 residents over 10.5 square miles. In addition, we provide fire and/or EMS protection to Fire Districts 10 and 15, Cosmopolis, Bigelow Drive and Stafford Creek Corrections. Fire and EMS are provided through two fire stations staffed 24/7 at each facility.

In 2013 the Aberdeen Fire Department responded to a total of 4696 calls for service. Structure fire losses for the year totaled \$1.5 million vs. \$436,925 in property saved. There were ten fire incidents during the year that required a second alarm or greater in which resources beyond the daily staffing were needed to manage the incident. Total call volumes for fire, emergency medical, and medical calls requiring a fire engine to respond with an ambulance for additional manpower are shown below.

453 Fire Responses
967 Engine Medical Assists
4243 Emergency Medical Responses

The department's average response time from dispatch to arrival on scene for structure fires within the city limits was 5 minutes 42 seconds. This includes an average two minutes of "turnout time" or the time it takes from initial dispatch to the first unit responding. This falls within the National Fire Protection Agency's goal for a fire department to arrive within six minutes to an incident 90% of the time.

Keeping in line with the national fire service trend, the majority of the department's call volume was for emergency medical calls. A detailed analysis of our medical responses is included later in this report; however, we are pleased to report that in 2013 the department had 135 documented medical saves. These are patients who most likely would not have survived before arriving at Grays Harbor Community Hospital

without medical intervention by our staff. EMS response time averaged 5 minutes within the city from time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

We are pleased to report that we continued our grade school fire and injury prevention education programs. Our public education team was also active throughout the year addressing various civic, educational, and industrial groups with the goal of improving worksite and personal safety. A report from the Public Education Team is included in this report.

I would like to thank the various team leaders and staff members who helped compile the material for this annual report. I would also like to thank the City Council and the Public Safety Committee for the support they have given the department. Together we have made important contributions towards providing for the safety and welfare of our citizens.

Respectfully,

Tom Hubbard, EFO
Fire Chief
City of Aberdeen

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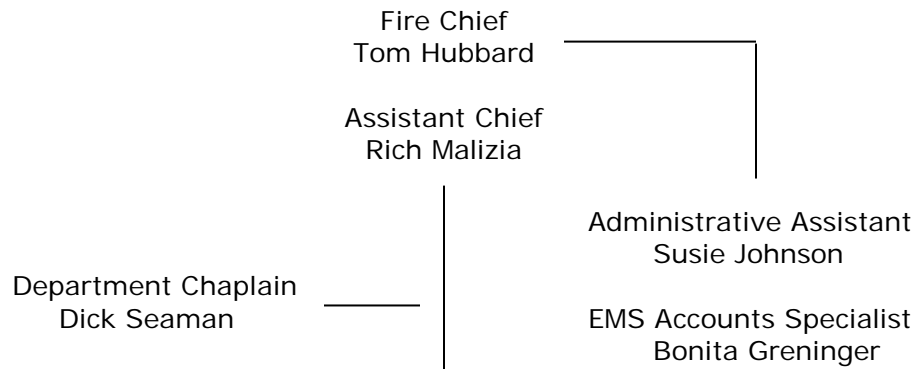
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Cover Design by FF/P Dave Swinhart – December 12, 2012 – 2nd Alarm Residential Fire at 708 W. 4th St, Aberdeen, WA. *(Photo by Daily World)*

ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

* Effective 2/14

Administration



Operations

SHIFT 1	SHIFT 2	SHIFT 3
Battalion Chief Damon Lillybridge S.O.	Battalion Chief Bill Mayne	Battalion Chief/P Troy Palmer
Captain JR Streifel Captain/P Dave Golding T.O.	Captain/P Wally Montz T.O. Captain Kelly Niemi T.O.	Captain Mark Dulin Captain Sam Baretich
Eng/P Steve Pratt Eng Jeremy Laier	Eng/P Todd Bradshaw Eng Chris Eisele	Eng/P Chad Mittleider Eng/P Ryan Knodel EMC
FF Mike Kolodzie FF/P Brian Peterson FF/P Brian Newbill FF/P Mike Huber FF Ryee Cline FF/P Monica Myers	FF/P Dave Swinhart FF/P Trevor Wheeler FF/P Brad Frafjord FF Wayne Fournier FF/P Adam Catterlin FF/P Ryan Cline	FF/P Chris Raffelson FF Kevin Craig FF/P Isaac Gustafson FF/P David Schreier FF/P Mike Hughes FF/P Clay Farrer

EMC - Emergency Medical Coordinator
 T.O. - Department Training Officer
 S.O. - Department Safety Officer

2013 New Employee

FF/P Clay Farrer

2014 New Employee

FF/P Ryan Cline

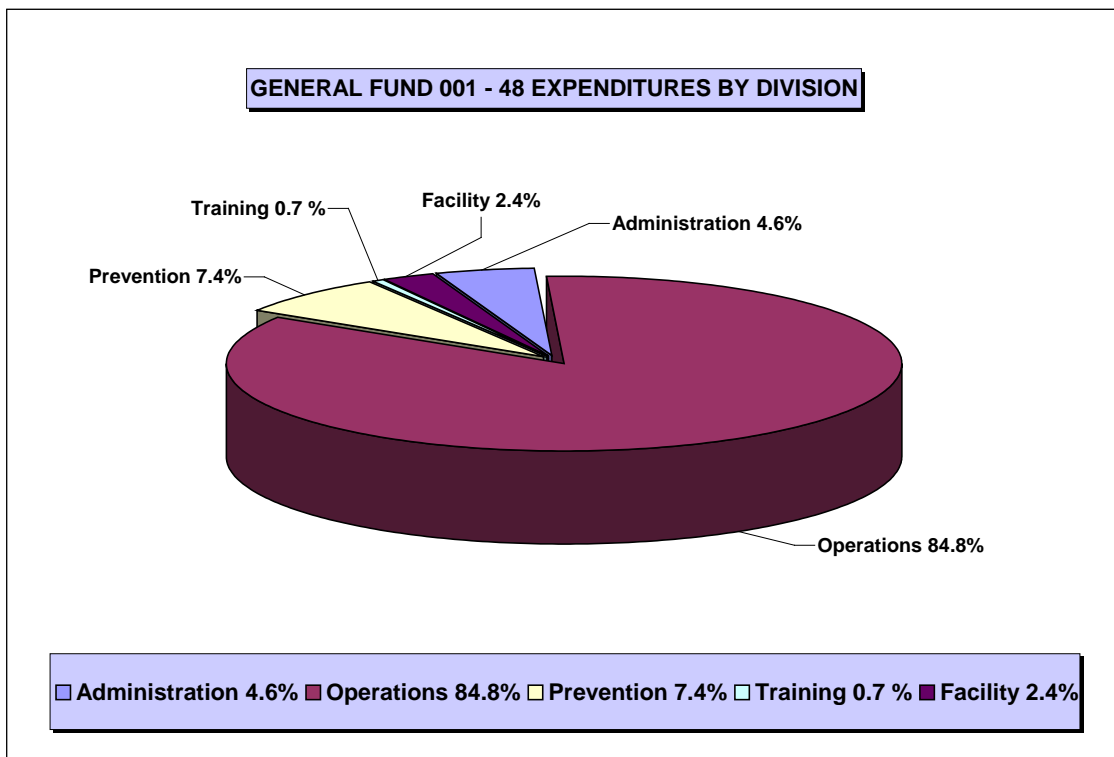
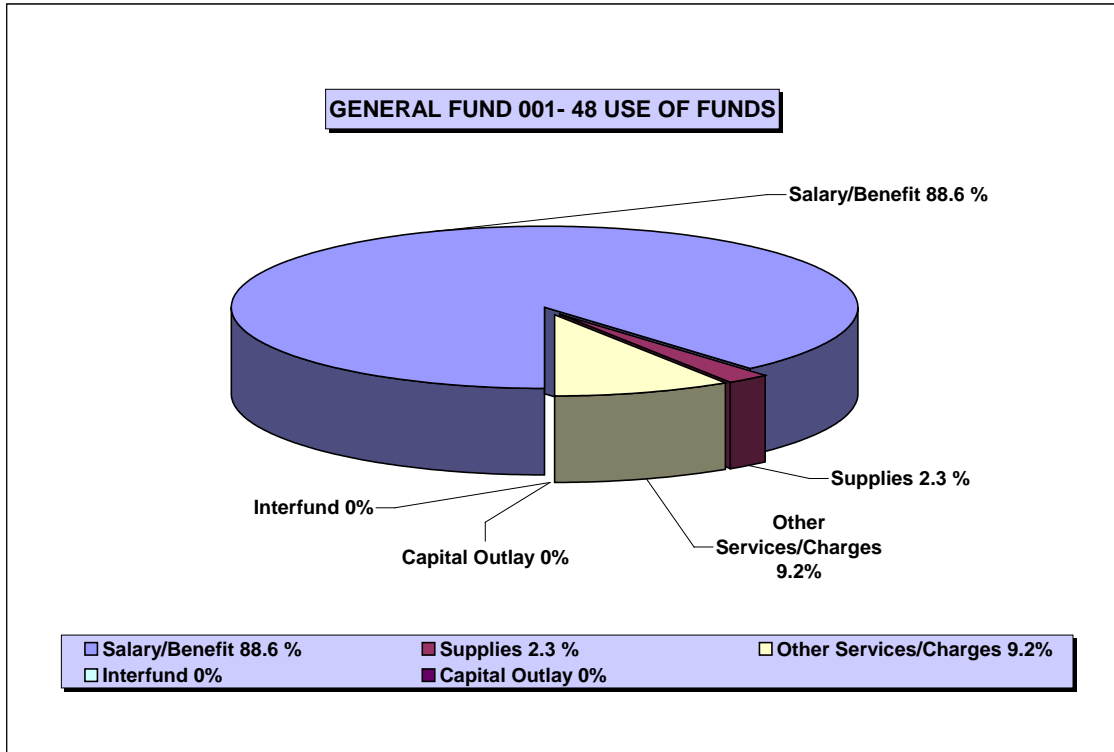


ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

To prevent harm to the public, and to protect property and the environment through fire suppression, fire prevention and emergency medical services 24 hours a day.

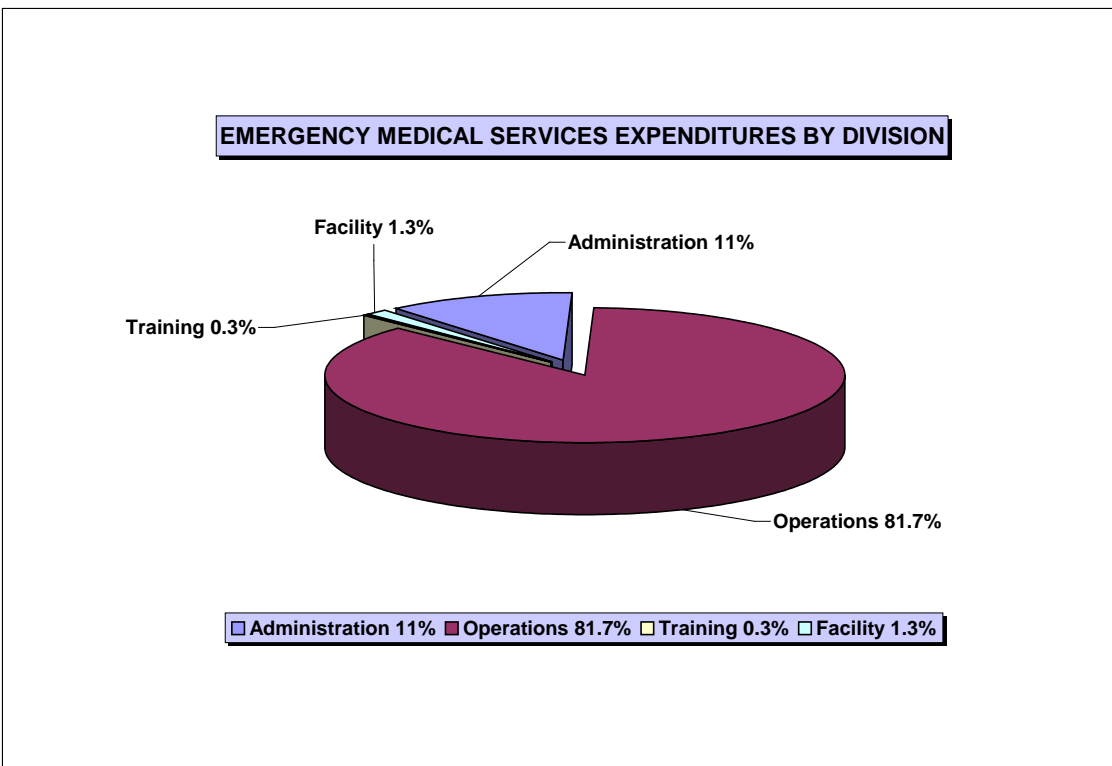
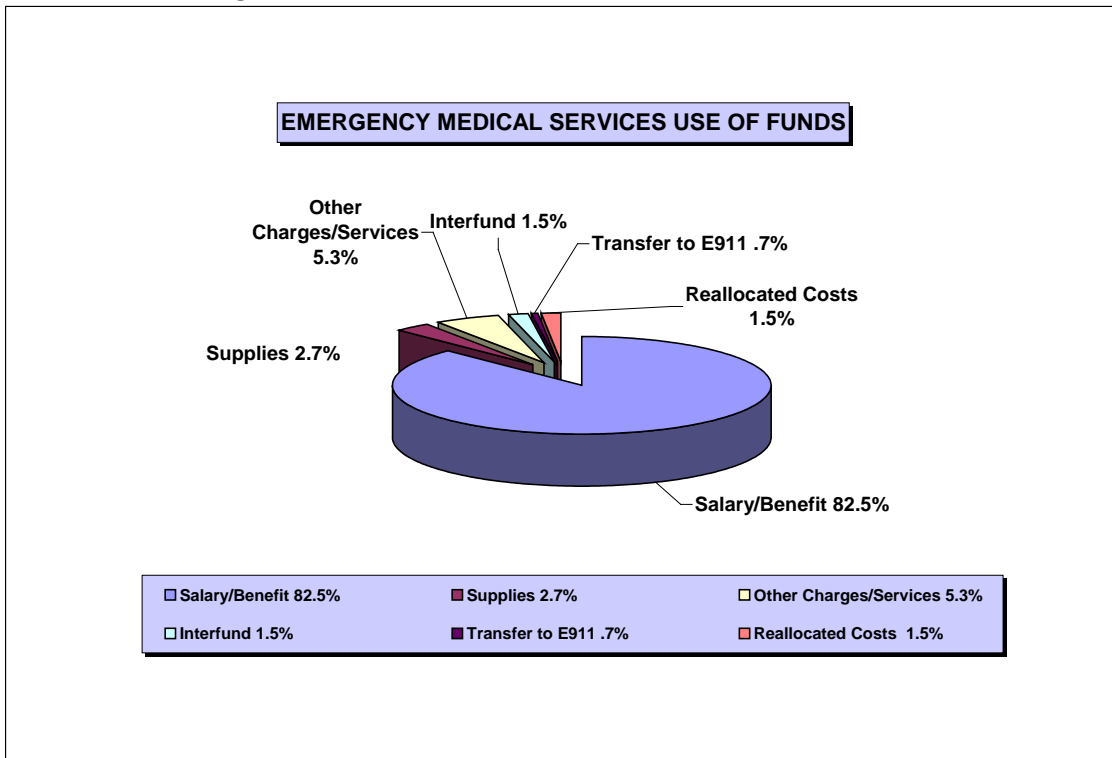
Fire Department Operating Costs - 001-48

In 2013, the cost of operating fire protection services totaled \$1,754,599. Salary and Benefit compensation accounts for the largest portion of the budget dollar (88.6%).



2012 EMS Operating Costs - 120-00

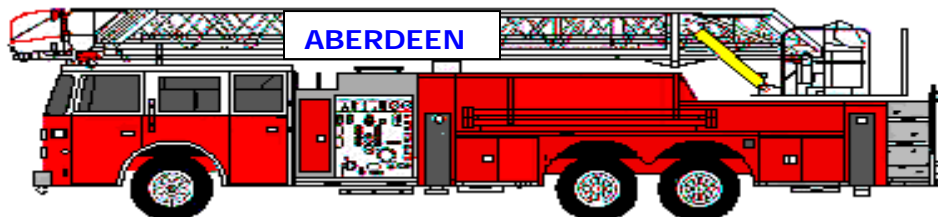
In 2013 the cost of operating emergency medical services totaled \$3,318,449. Salary and Benefit compensation accounts for the largest portion of the budget dollar (82.5%).

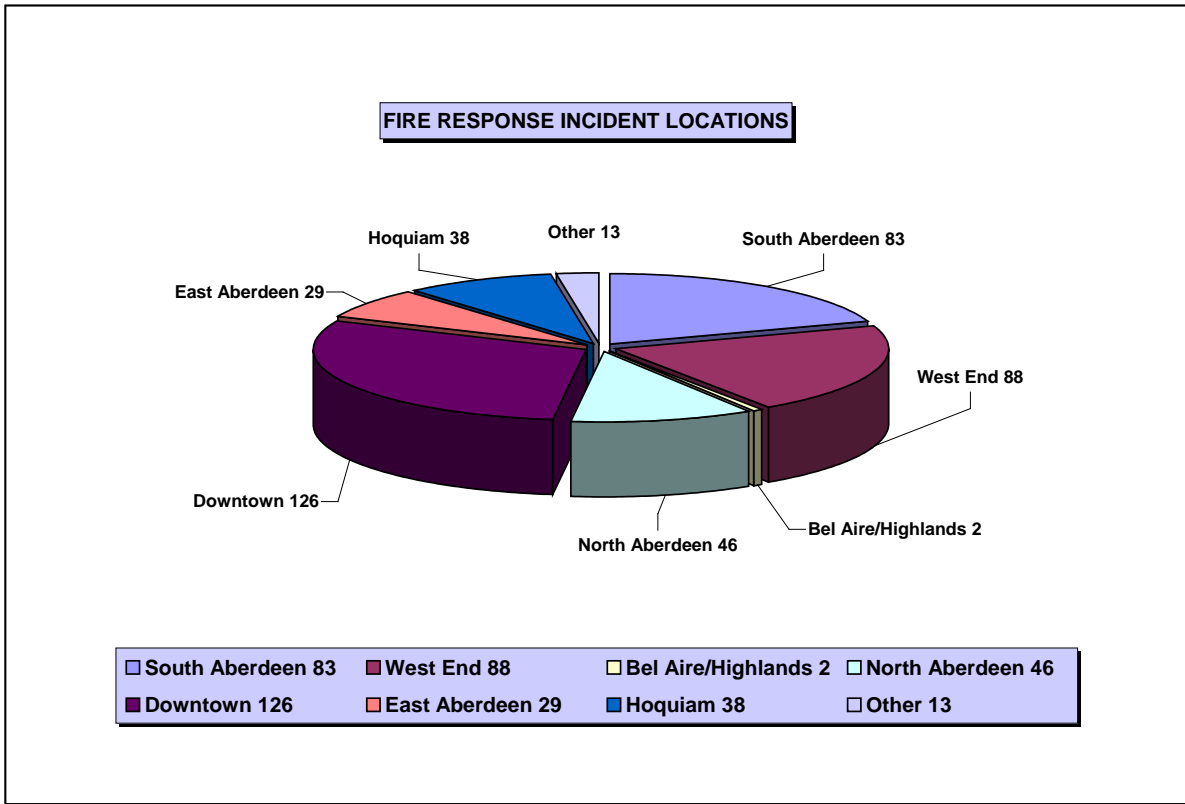


2013 FIRE INCIDENT RESPONSE DATA

The fire department operates from the north side headquarters station and one sub station located in south Aberdeen. All personnel are cross-trained as firefighters and either emergency medical technicians or paramedics.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
• Bridge Openings	211	224
• Building Fires	27	22
• Structure fires, (second alarm or greater)	11	10
• Hazardous Materials	18	21
• Vehicle Fire	12	6
• Natural Vegetation Fire	10	13
• Chimney Fire	12	10
• Trash Fire/Dumpster Fire	34	23
• False Alarm	175	164
• Rescue	21	6
• Intentional Caused Fires	6	4
• Undetermined Caused Fires	19	17
• Mutual Aid Given	6	10
• Mutual Aid Received	6	7
• Automatic Response to HFD Given	25	25
• Automatic Response from HFD Received	19	27
• EMS Engine Assists	967	817
• Total EMS Call Volume	4,243	4,345
• Total FIRE Call Volume	453	422
• Civilian Fire Related Fatalities	1	0
• Civilian Fire Related Injuries	1	2
• Firefighter Injuries during fire ground operations	1	7
• TOTAL FIRE LOSS	\$1,502,636	\$1,961,354
• TOTAL PROPERTY SAVED	\$436,925	\$2,055,203

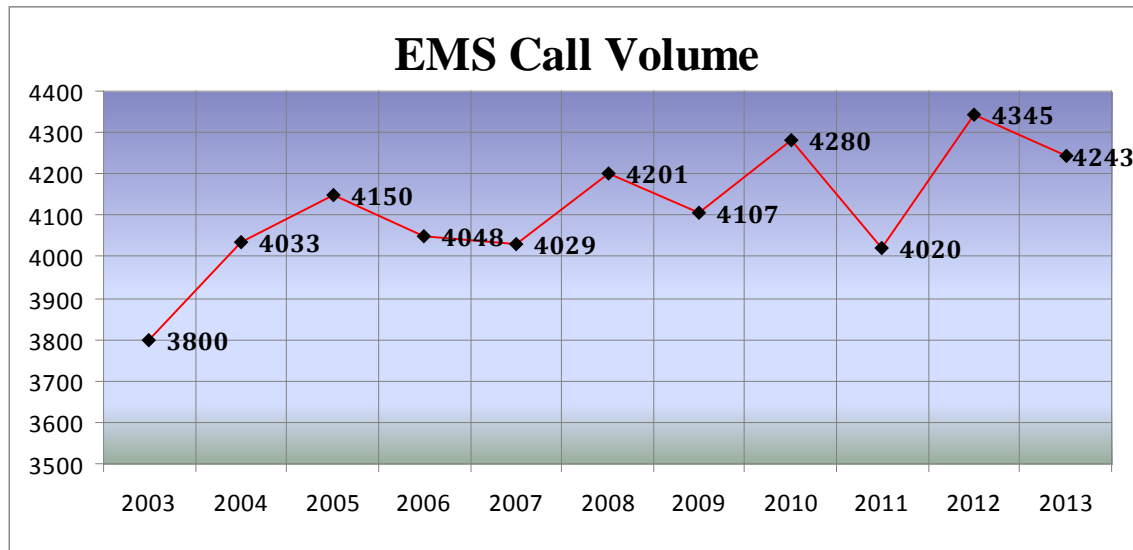




The fire department tracks fire response locations within the city. This chart shows the locations and number of fire calls per response zone.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Aberdeen Fire Department is responsible for providing emergency medical care to the citizens of the City of Aberdeen. We also provide emergency medical transport for the City of Cosmopolis, Fire District 10, Fire District 15, and SCCF. The graph below illustrates the Aberdeen Fire Department's emergency medical call volume over the past ten years.

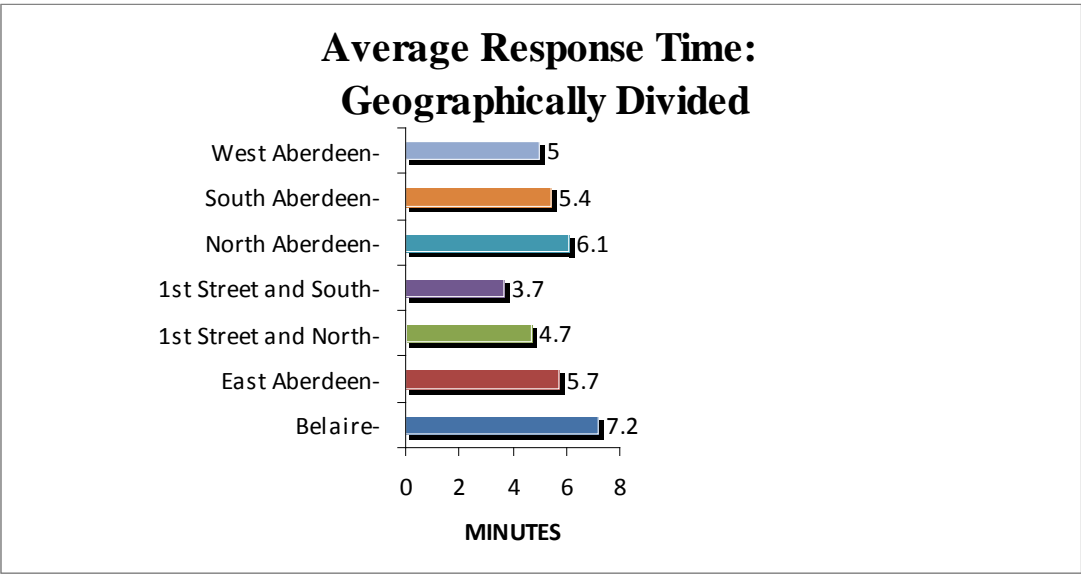


Over the 10 years represented in this graph we had an 11.6% increase in call volume over that time period. From 2012 we saw a 2.4% decrease in call volume.

RESPONSE CATEGORIES:

Medical responses are grouped into four categories: Emergent, Local transfers, Long Distance transfers, and Non-emergent responses. These response categories are based on their dispatch urgency and destination. The first category is emergent responses, which totaled 3,334 and accounted for 79% of our total EMS call volume. Emergent responses are calls that are dispatched through the Grays Harbor E911 center to our department. Our average response time from time of dispatch to arrival on scene within the city limits of Aberdeen was slightly less than 5 minutes. The geographical layout of the city can account for our response times being a bit higher than the national average of 4 minutes.

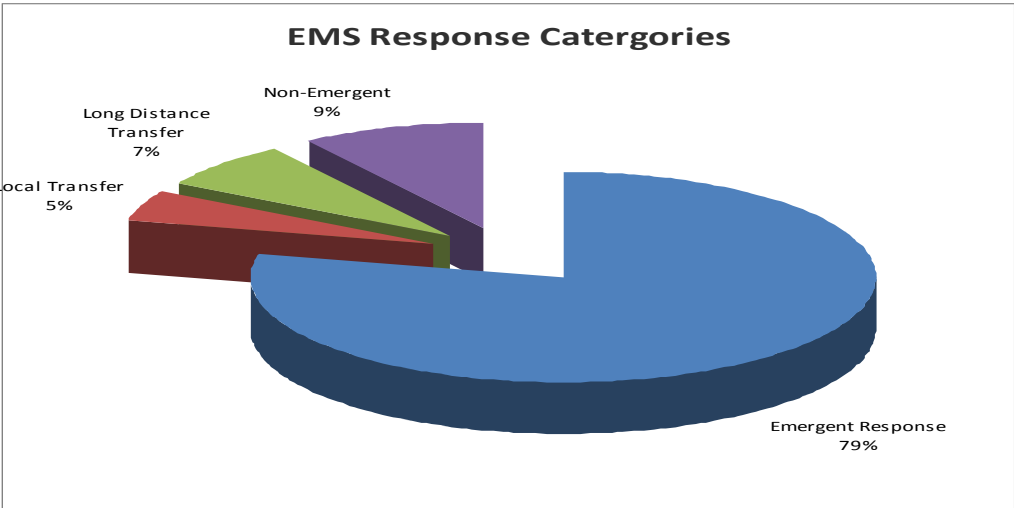
The following graph illustrates our average response times to the different geographical areas in the City of Aberdeen.



The second category is local transfers, which totaled 199 and accounted for 5% of our total EMS call volume. Local transfers consist of transporting patients between Grays Harbor Community Hospital and skilled nursing facilities, home residences, and diagnostic testing facilities within the city limits of Aberdeen.

The third category is long distance or out of town transfers from Grays Harbor Community Hospital to hospitals in Olympia, Tacoma, and Seattle. Off duty personnel are utilized to accomplish these transfers and we did 199 of them for 7% of the total call volume.

The fourth category is non-emergent, which we did 403 for 9% of the total. Non-emergent responses consist of welfare checks, lift assists, falls without injuries or general assistance to our customers who did not require an emergent response from an ambulance. The EMS response categories are shown below.

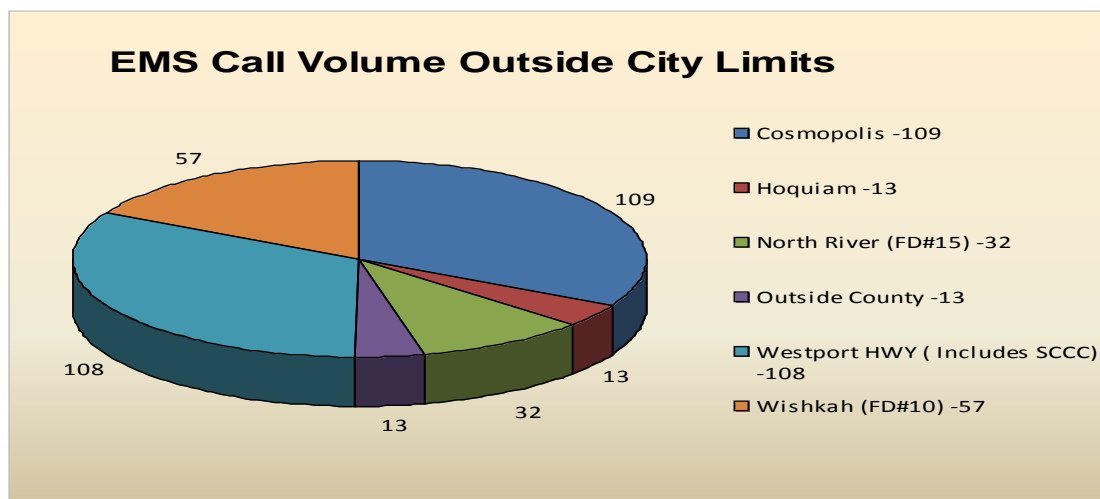


Included in our emergent responses statistics is our mutual aid responses. The follow agencies responded within our response area last year to assist us:

The City of Hoquiam: 12 times

We also responded mutual aid to the following agencies to assist them:

The City of Hoquiam: 13 times
Lake Quinault: 1 time
South Beach Ambulance: 3 times

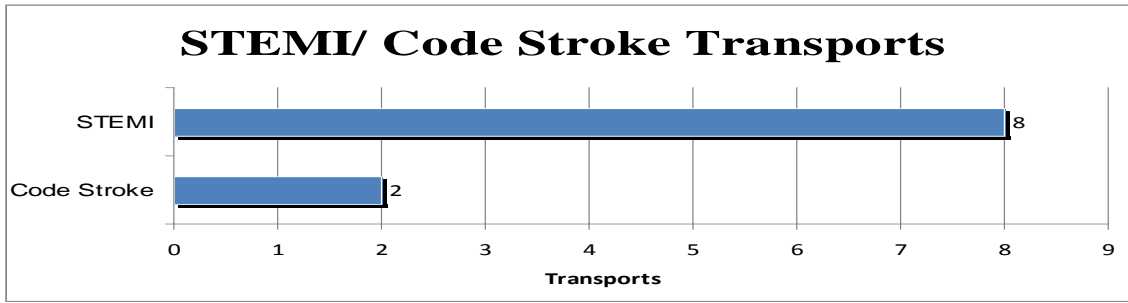


This is a representation of our call volume outside the City of Aberdeen, it is important to note the number of these responses because they take our on-duty staff out of service for an extended amount of time.

STEMI /STROKE TRANSPORTS:

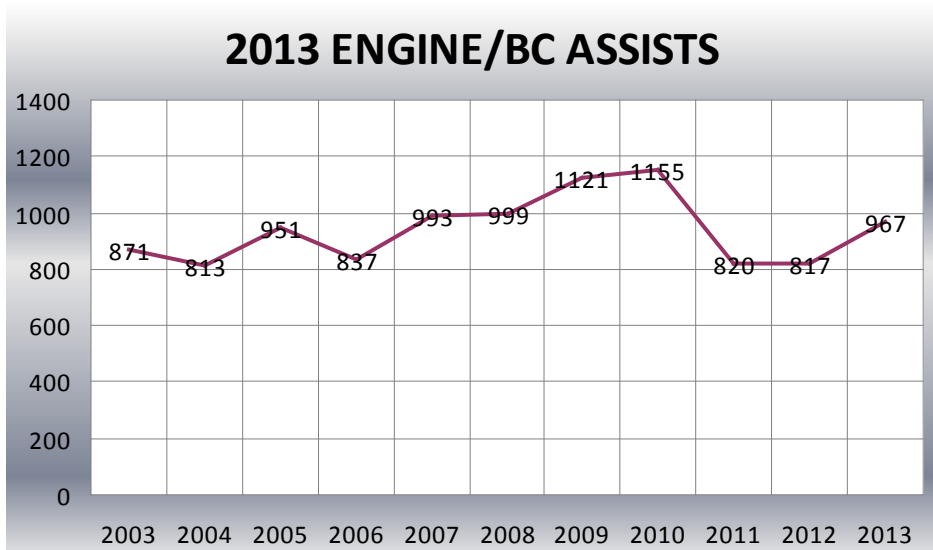
Two years ago the State of Washington implemented a new system to treat and rapidly transport patients who were having a heart attack or stroke. This system, called STEMI/Code Stroke, required us, along with the rest of the Grays Harbor County, to change the way we treat and transport these types of patients. The time constraints imposed by the State require on-duty staff to transport these patients to facilities out of town which creates a staffing shortage until we can have off-duty personnel backfill their positions.

The following graph depicts the 10 STEMI/Code Stroke transports performed during 2013 which represent approximately 61 man hours.



RESPONSE STATISTICS:

The Aberdeen Fire Department collects data annually to assist us in maintaining an efficient operation that is responsive to the needs of our customers. One of our data collection points is Engine/BC Assists of which we did 967. An Engine/BC assist occurs when a fire apparatus or a Battalion Chief responds with the headquarters or South Side ambulance on medical calls. The EMS calls that the fire apparatus and Battalion Chief respond on require additional man-power to meet the needs of the patient. These calls range from cardiac arrests, respiratory problems, strokes, motor vehicle accidents with injuries, and severe trauma calls. It is important to note that while the fire apparatus and Battalion Chief are engaged on the medical call they are out of service for a fire response until they have cleared from the previous call. This cross-staffing of personnel is what allows the Aberdeen Fire Department to manage such a high call volume with minimum staffing; the trade off being our ability to manage a fire incident is at times significantly impacted.



GRANTS:

Each year the Grays Harbor EMS Council award grants through their EMS transit grant program, which is funded through GH Transit. Last year we were awarded \$440 to purchase four equipment bags to outfit our apparatus with our active shooter supplies. These vital pieces of equipment will better prepare us for such an unfortunate event.

Also, last year we received \$1,534 from the Washington State Pre-Hospital Trauma Participation Grant which is designed to help offset the high cost of providing trauma care.

MEDICAL SAVES:

During the past year the Aberdeen Fire Department documented 135 medical saves. We qualify a patient as a medical save if the patient arrives alive at Grays Harbor Community Hospital and the patient's condition most likely would have resulted in their death in the field had our crews not intervened.

OUTLOOK FOR 2014:

We are excited that this coming year we will be placing a new Stryker Power Load System in our lead out medic unit. The Stryker Power Load System is a system that hydraulically lifts and loads patients into and out of the ambulance with the touch of a button. The Stryker Power Load System will improve safety when lifting patients by reducing the spinal load and the risk of cumulative trauma injuries to our employees.

We at the Aberdeen Fire Department will continue to provide our citizens/customers with the highest quality emergency medical care available while conveying our core values of professionalism and compassion. We will also strive to provide the highest level of care while being good stewards of the tax dollars which we receive.

Ryan Knodel
Emergency Medical Coordinator

2013 FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Fire

2013 was a year with \$1,502,636 in fire losses. This represents a decrease when compared to \$1,961,354 in 2012. The value of property saved in these events represents \$436,925. This fire loss represents 73 fires with significant damage to Residential / Commercial property, Motor Vehicles, Recreation Vehicles, Dumpsters or uncontrolled outdoor burning.

All fires in our community are investigated by the fire department. Many causes of fires are determined by a simple interview or an obvious situation caused the fire. Last year 52 incidents required more than a simple investigation of the fire. Formal investigations are implemented when the cause or origin is not readily apparent. Often the Aberdeen Police Detectives are called to assist with a formal investigation.

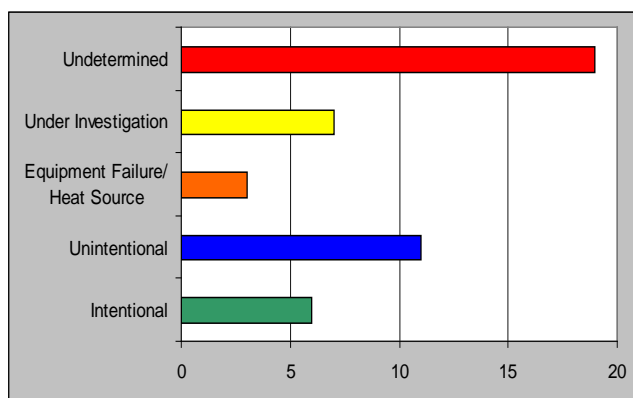
Fire Prevention

Commercial business inspections are done throughout the community in compliance with the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau and requirements of the International Fire Code. Each shift at the Fire Department is assigned approximately 50 to 60 business inspections to complete during the year. Approximately 175 inspections were completed in 2013 including the annual inspections of the Aberdeen School District and Grays Harbor College buildings.

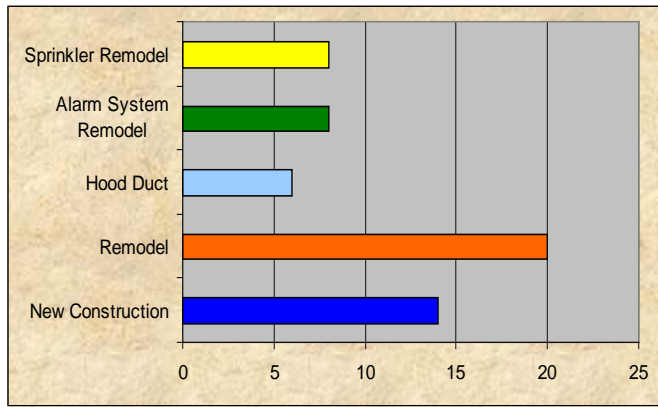
Plan Review

The Fire Marshal works with the Planning and Building Departments of the City of Aberdeen. Plan Review comments on new developments and submitted building permits. Requirements for compliance with the International Fire Code are identified in the process. Plan review is followed with final inspections, which are done during and near completion of a project. The final inspections confirm that public safety components are installed and working as the plans intended.

A Certificate of Occupancy may be issued after the permit process is completed and the permits are signed, meeting the compliance of the International Fire Code, NFPA, and other building code requirements.



Fire Cause Investigation



Plan Review

Rich Malizia
Assistant Chief/Fire Marshall

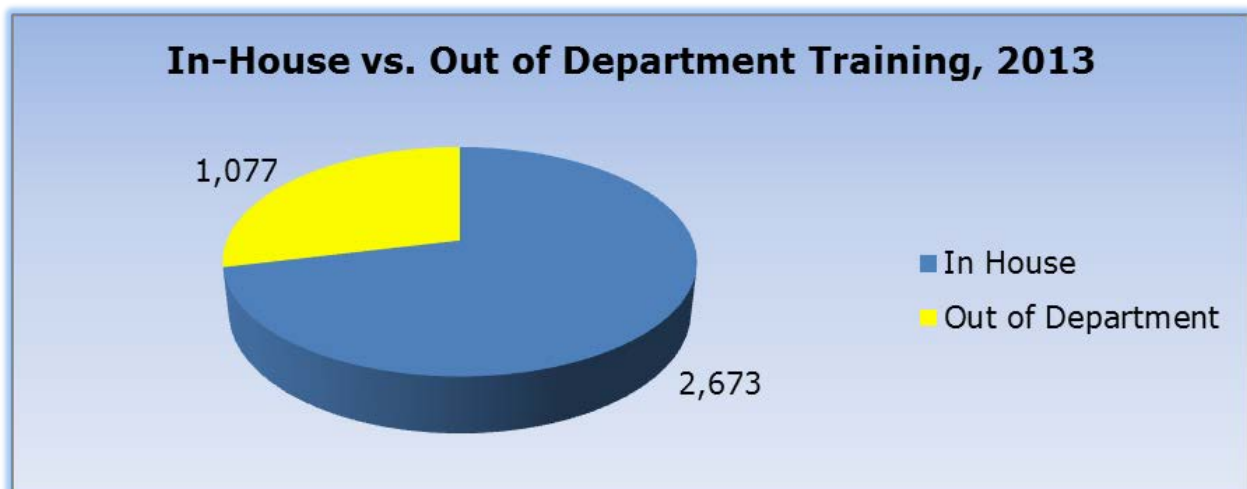
2013 TRAINING REPORT

MONTHLY TRAINING

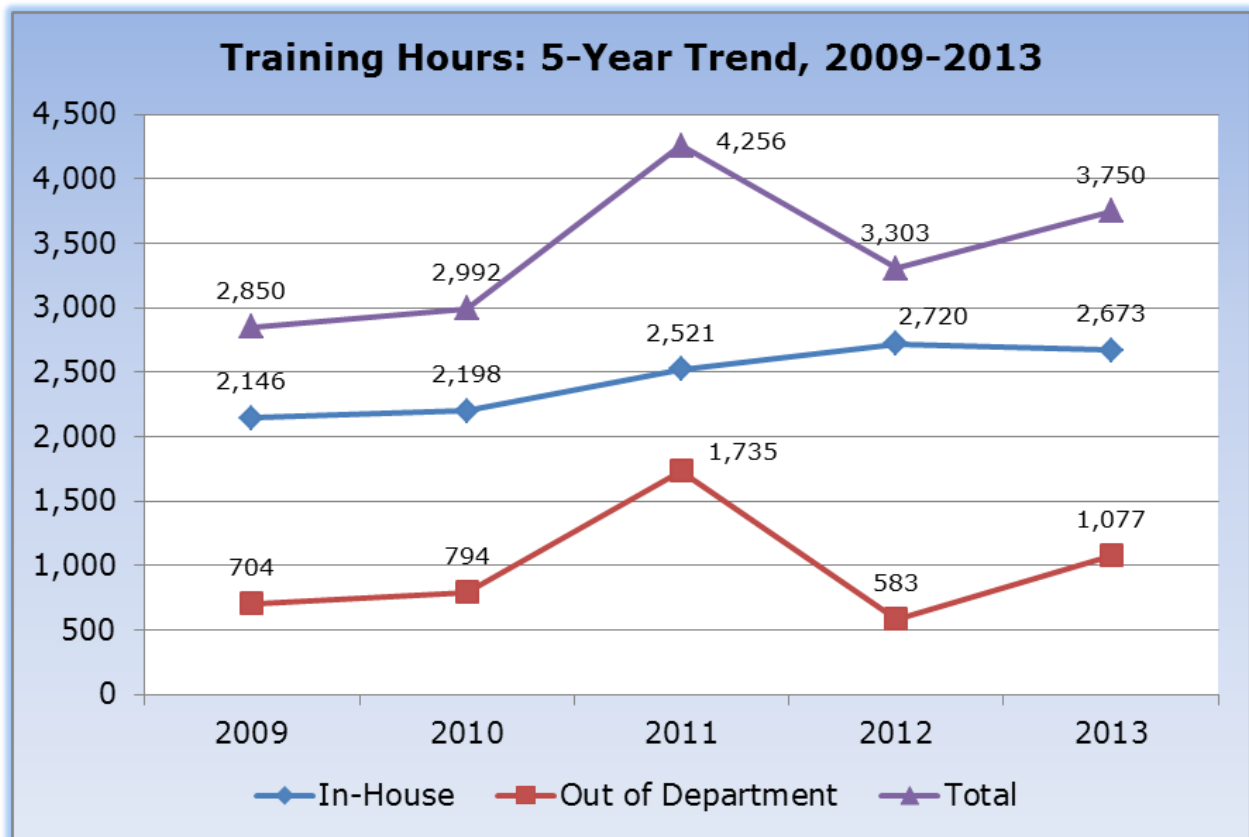
It was another busy year for the training division of the Aberdeen Fire Department as we continued to meet our goal of providing training mandated by the State of Washington as well the provision of valuable training in the latest fire and emergency medical service practices. Highlights of the Aberdeen Fire Department's monthly training include...

- Quarterly Safety Training,
- Quarterly Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Training,
- Policy and Procedure/Operational Reviews
- Incident Command System/Incident Management,
- Multi-Company Training with Hoquiam Fire Department,
- Fire Apparatus Training
- Live Fire Evolutions
- Hazardous Materials Operations and Decontamination,
- Emergency Vehicle Incident Prevention,
- Basic and Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Training.

The monthly in-house training program is designed by the Department's training team and is administered by the Department's Fire Captains. The Captains are responsible for ensuring the delivery of all training to the members under their supervision. In 2013, members of the Aberdeen Fire Department performed a total of 2,673 hours of In-House training. Department members also attended an additional 1,077 hours of out-of-



department training, for a total of 3,751 hours total. All of this was done while keeping up with the Fire Department's ever increasing demands for service.

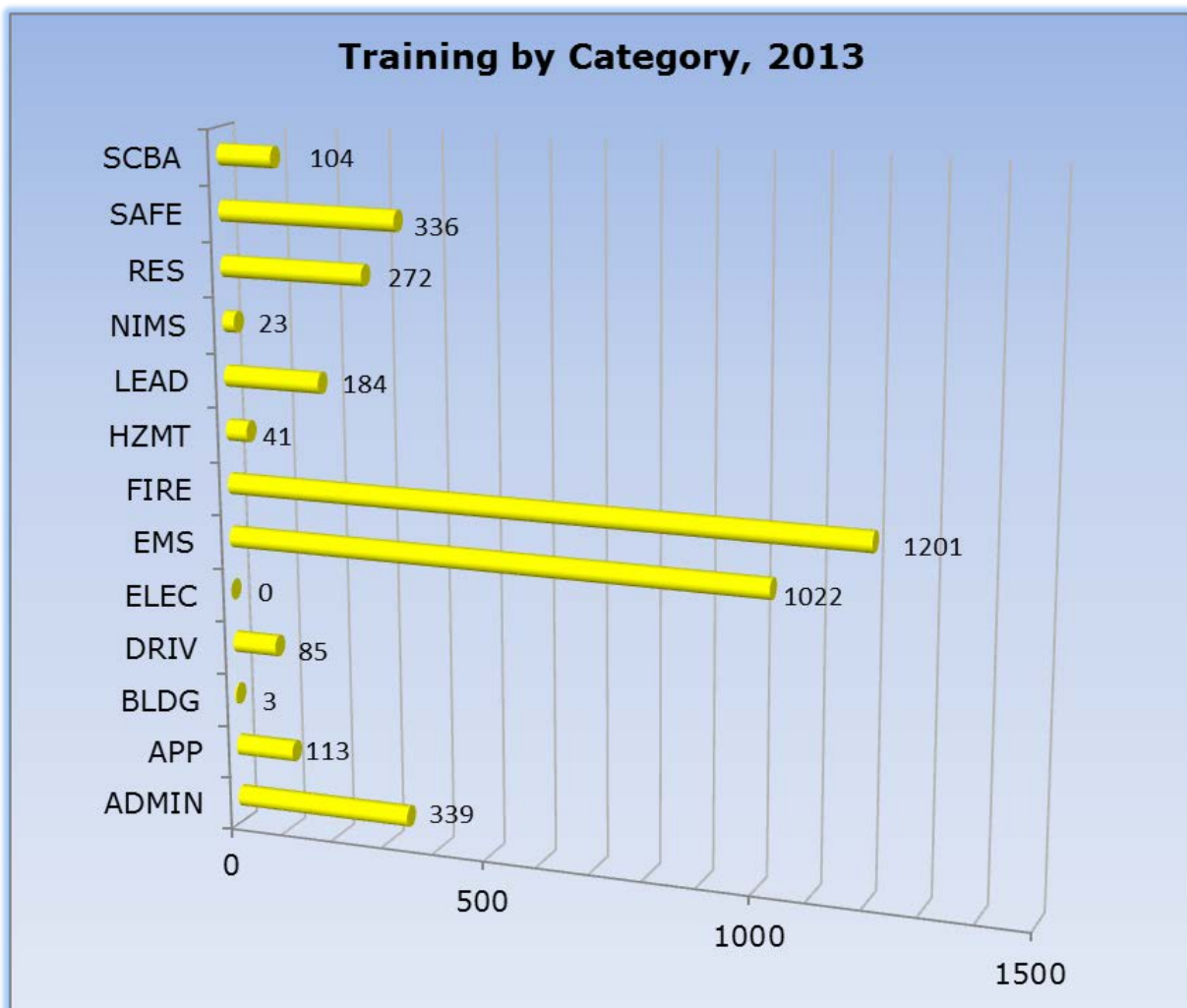


Training conducted by the firefighters of the Aberdeen Fire Department represents an average of 1,250 hours among each of the Department's three shifts, or 114 hours per firefighter for 2013. This represents an increase of 20 hours (21%) per month as compared to 2012.

The training performed covered a wide range of topics. Training is grouped into the following categories with their corresponding hours for record keeping purposes:

1. Administrative – **359 Hours** – This is training that deals with departmental organization, policies and executive management.
2. Apparatus – **113 Hours** – Training that covers the operating the various aspects of the department's firefighting vehicles.
3. Building – **3 Hours** – This training covers the area of building construction and the effects on firefighting efforts.
4. Driver – **85 Hours** – Training, both in a classroom setting and out in the field that entails the actual driving of department apparatus.
5. Electric – **0 Hours** – This type of training covers general electrical safety as it pertains to the firefighter.
6. EMS – **1,022 Hours** – Any training that covers items related to Emergency Medical Services.
7. Fire – **1,201 Hours** – Classes that covers the various aspects of firefighting.

8. Haz-Mat – **41 Hours** – Training that covers the firefighter’s role in responding to incidents that involve Hazardous Materials.
9. Leadership – **184 Hours** – Any training that deals with the development of the leadership skills of the members of our department.
10. NIMS – **23 Hours** – Mandated training in the area of the National Incident Management System.
11. Rescue – **272 Hours** – Topics that cover the training in dealing with rescue situations, such as auto extrication.
12. Safety – **335 Hours** – General safety related training.
13. SCBA – **104 Hours** – This includes any training that has to deal with a firefighter’s Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.



2013 BENCHMARKS

- Firefighter II Certifications: A major benchmark for the Aberdeen Fire Department in 2013 was the successful training and certification testing of many of our members to become certified as “Firefighter II” by the Washington State Patrol/Fire Protection Services and the

International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). IFSAC is a peer driven, self-governing system that accredits public fire service certification programs. This was done on the heels of the Firefighter I training that was completed by the Department in 2012. Seventeen individuals took part in this process, bringing the total number of Department members certified at the Firefighter II level to twenty-four.

- Training Grounds: In 2013 the City and the Historical Seaport formed an agreement to allow the Department to utilize part of the Seaport's newly acquired land on Curtis Street to be utilized for Fire Department Training. This agreement will ensure an adequate area for the Department to train on many of the hands-on aspects of firefighting.

2014 GOALS

In 2014 the Training Teams will strive to continue to provide pertinent and worthwhile training, with an emphasis on hands-on evolutions utilizing our newly acquired training grounds. We will also be working towards improving our training program to maintain compliance with the Washington State Insurance Rating Board requirements to ensure the best possible fire insurance rating for the property owners within the City of Aberdeen.

Aberdeen Fire Department Training
Battalion Chief Lillybridge
Captain Dave Golding
Captain Wallace Montz
Captain Kelly Niemi

Aberdeen Fire Department Safety & Health Program

Year End Report 2013

The Aberdeen Fire Department Safety Committee uses continuous improvement processes to work towards eliminating the number and severity of injuries and illnesses to fire personnel during routine operations, training and emergency response. The Safety Committee utilizes safety and situational awareness, training, standard operating procedures, and implementing procedures and lessons learned through accident investigation.

Members of the Safety Committee include Battalion Chief Damon Lillybridge (Department Health and Safety Officer), Captain Dave Golding, Firefighter Jeremy Laier and Assistant Fire Chief Rich Malizia.

In 2013, the Department's Safety Officer processed **10** injury reports involving department personnel. Both the injuries and exposures resulted in **22 shifts** of missed work. Examples of injuries include back sprain/strain from lifting and moving patients, shoulder injuries during fire overhaul, knee injuries during fire scene operations, and blood borne exposures on EMS scenes.

Firefighters respond to incidents in all types of environmental conditions at any time of the day or night. Personal protective clothing and continuous training minimizes the risks of a firefighter being injured on the job; however, firefighting and EMS duties are often high hazard tasks with the potential for injury or exposure.

As usual, 2013 was very busy, and through all of this I would like to take this opportunity to commend all personnel for their efforts and participation in helping to maintain an effective and progressive safety program. It goes without saying that training and safety are considered two of the most important aspects of our profession. It takes the cooperation and participation of all individuals involved to make the goals and objectives, established through training and safety, relevant to our Department needs, as well as the needs of our community.

Overview of Safety Program involvement for 2013 includes:

- Rapid Intervention Crew Awareness Training for all personnel
- Trench Rescue Awareness Training for all personnel
- Continued NIOSH case study reviews
- Annual Hearing Tests for all personnel

- June 2013 Safety Stand Down focusing on “Health and Survival”
- Assistance to Firefighter Grant received for 26 sets of Structural Firefighter bunker gear
- Acknowledgement of all USFA Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths for lessons learned

Future goals for the Safety and Health Program for 2014 will include:

- Compliance with existing as well as new L&I 305 Standards that have been implemented.
- Continued Safety Training.
- Building repair and modification to promote healthy work environment to include:
 - Replace rear apron concrete at HQ station
 - Remodel completion for the HQ downstairs administrative area to accommodate a functional training area.
 - Modification to the hose tower to address safety concerns
- Participation in the development of new Standard Operating Procedures that coincide with the existing Accident Prevention Program.

In conclusion, the goal of the Aberdeen Fire Department Safety Program is to provide a safe and healthy workplace environment by meeting and, in many cases, exceeding the recognized standards set forth by various government and private organizations to include OSHA, Labor & Industries, and the National Fire Protection Agency. To accomplish this goal, the Aberdeen Fire Department recognizes the need to utilize and apply risk analysis to day-to-day activities and emergency incident operations. Training also plays a vital role in an individual’s ability to understand and perform his/her duties with safety as a priority. Effective management and consistency contribute to the continued development of individual safety awareness. The success of a Safety and Health Program can be measured through the attitudes and actions portrayed at both an individual level and a department as a whole. The Aberdeen Fire Department takes safety and health very serious. We are committed to providing all individuals the mental and physical tools necessary to safely and effectively perform their duties and still walk away after each shift to enjoy the benefits of a normal and healthy quality of life.

Damon Lillybridge
 Battalion Chief
 Safety Officer

2013 PUBLIC EDUCATION

In 2013 the City of Aberdeen Fire Department Public Education Division continued to provide fire and injury prevention programs for our residents and those who attend the public and private schools in the Aberdeen School District. The education of the citizens of Aberdeen about potential fire and life safety hazards and how to take action to avoid such hazards is extremely important. Our education efforts are intended to target all ages from early childhood to adults.

During National Fire Prevention Week firefighters visit all of the grade schools in Aberdeen. While at the schools children from kindergarten through third grade are taught about fire safety, home escape plans, smoke detectors, disaster awareness, injury prevention, just to name a few. This year was a great success and as always the firefighters were received warmly by the Aberdeen School District and St. Mary's School.

As always we were able to provide the following public education services as part of our daily operations:

- Fire Extinguisher Classes
- Pre-School visits
- Smoke Detector Installations
- Bicycle Helmet Fitting
- Aberdeen School District Career Days
- Station Tours
- Blood Pressure checks
- Safety Fairs
- Public Presentations

We look forward to the coming year and the opportunity to once again share our important message of fire safety and injury prevention.

Captain Kelly Niemi
Public Education

2013 APPARATUS INVENTORY

Station 1 (Headquarters) 700 W. Market Street

UNIT	SHOP #	TYPE
Battalion 7232	93	2002 Ford Excursion 4X4 Command Unit
Truck 7221	91	2001 Pierce 105'HD Aerial-1500 GPM
Engine 7205	89	1994 Pierce 50'Telesquirt W/-1500 GPM
Engine 7204	87	1994 Pierce 1500 GPM Pumper
Medic Unit	161	2013 Dodge/Braun Medic
Medic Unit	152	2010 Ford/Horton/Braun Medic Unit
Medic Unit	151	2009 Ford/Horton Medic Unit
Medic Unit	144	2004 Ford/Horton Medic Unit
Chief 7251	140	2007 Ford F 150 Staff Vehicle
Chief 7200	149	2005 Crown Victoria Staff Vehicle
Fire Prevention	510	1998 Chevrolet Astro Van 2005 Cargo Mate – Decon. /MCI Trailer

Station 2 (South Aberdeen) 700 W. Curtis Street

UNIT	SHOP #	TYPE
Engine 7206	90	2001 Pierce 1500 GPM C.A.F.S. Pumper
Medic Unit	151	2009 Ford/Braun North Star Medic Unit

All fire apparatus meet or exceed NFPA 1901 requirements for equipment, hose loads, and pumping capacity.

All ambulances meet or exceed Washington Department of Health requirements for Advanced Life Support transport ambulances.