



2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Cedar Rapids Fire Department





Cedar Rapids Fire Department Annual Report

Honorable Mayor Ron J. Corbett, Members of the City Council, and City Manager Jeffrey A. Pomeranz:

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department is pleased to present the 2011 Annual Report. As you will see in this Report, the Fire Department has a rich tradition of serving the community. The Fire Department provides around-the-clock emergency response to all types of incidents including fires, sudden illness, traumatic injury, and hazardous materials releases. At the same time, fire personnel are engaged in the community. Firefighters made the wishes of two children come true by collecting \$16,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation through a fund-raising flag football tournament. The Department also held a Citizens' Fire Academy for the tenth time to show citizens some of the inner-workings of the firefighting profession. Labor and management worked together to raise more money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association than any other fire department in Iowa and administrative staff donated enough money to provide a holiday meal to five families.

While there was \$5,045,684 in property damage from fires in 2011, the total value of the properties was \$28,030,622, which means that firefighting efforts preserved nearly \$23 million in property value. More importantly, there were no lives lost in Cedar Rapids due to fire – the first time since 2007. This underscores the importance of fire prevention. Still, almost one out of three fires is due to unattended cooking. Only one-third of the time are we able to verify that a smoke alarm was installed and working inside a home that had a fire, so we have more work to do.

The Fire Department continues to work on rebuilding a Central Fire Station. All levels of the organization have been involved in the fire station design and engineering in order to make the new building conducive to response needs and modern safety and efficiency standards. The Central Fire Station will be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum Certified, one of only a handful of fire stations that meet that standard in the United States. Simultaneously, firefighters and a Citizens Fire Station Relocation Committee have selected a site and design is completed on a new west side fire station that will replace Fire Station #3 at 1424 B Avenue NE. The west side fire station will increase the number of homes that are within 1.5 miles of a fire station by 12.5 percent. The Fire Department will be in a better position to meet the growing needs of the community with the two new fire stations and fire district realignments.

It has been an honor to have been selected as the Fire Chief of this dynamic organization. As a resident of Cedar Rapids for over 26 years, I am committed to working with each member of the Fire Department to help them grow professionally and ensure that they have proper training and equipment to provide effective service to anyone that lives or works in our City.

Fire Chief, City of Cedar Rapids

The mission of the Cedar Rapids Fire Department is to mitigate threats to the health and property of our community through emergency response, quality education and prevention programs.

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department was established on February 12, 1869 by City Council Ordinance Number 78. According to the Ordinance, signed by Cedar Rapids Mayor J.P. Coulter, the Fire Department would consist of a Chief Engineer, one or more Assistant Engineers, two or more Fire Policemen, with as many Firemen as the number of Engines and the number and quantity of other Fire Apparatus belonging to the City may from time to time require, not exceeding forty men to each Engine Company or thirty men for each Hose, Hook and Ladder or Bucket Company, including officers.

A few days prior, on February 1, 1869, the City Council voted to issue bonds in the amount of \$10,000 for “the purpose of purchasing a Steam Fire Engine with hose, and equipment and for the building of an Engine House in which to keep the same for use of the City.” The loan required a vote by the majority of the citizens on December 9, 1867, which was approved with 150 in favor of the Loan and 25 against said Loan.

The first Central Fire Station was located on First Street West between 2nd and 3rd Avenues. In February 1895, the Fire Department consisted of 14 firefighters, two Captains and a Chief. Firefighters were paid \$50 a month, \$55 for the Captains and \$110 for the Chief. The first motorized fire apparatus was stationed at Fire Station #6 on May 8th, 1912. Six years later the entire Cedar Rapids fleet would be motorized.

The Fire Department has a rich tradition of serving the community. The Fire Department became a paid department on June 23, 1894. Firefighters joined the International Association of Fire Fighters on February 28, 1918 and were listed as Fire Fighters Local #11. Current Fire Station #3 at 1424 B Avenue NE opened on October 17, 1925. Thirty-two years later to the day, in 1957, Fire Station #5 at 509 Wilson Avenue SW and Fire Station #6 at 2416 Mount Vernon Road SE opened.



The Douglas Starch Works explosion caused the most fire fatalities of any fire in Iowa history.

Other significant events in Cedar Rapids fire history include:

- The first African-American firefighter, Michael W. Henson, was hired on August 3, 1974.
- The first female firefighters were hired on April 21, 1986. The firefighters were Tonya Ross and Natalie Kleis.
- The first firefighter to die in the line-of-duty was Charles Smith, who died on August 31, 1890, at the BCR&N Railroad Roundhouse. Five other firefighters have died in the line-of-duty since 1890.
- An explosion at Douglas Starch Works on May 22, 1919, claimed 43 lives, making it the worst multiple fire fatality incident in Iowa history.

PROMOTIONS



Steven Dunham was promoted from Day Firefighter to Day Fire Captain on 06/01/2011 (Fire Marshal's Office)



Gregory Smith was promoted from Battalion Chief to Assistant Fire Chief on 07/02/2011 (Operations Division)



Mark English was promoted from Assistant Fire Chief to Fire Chief on 07/26/2011



Curtis Hopper was promoted from Admn. District Chief to Assistant Fire Chief on 07/30/2011 (Support Division)



Michael Fredericks was promoted from Day Fire Captain to Admn. District Chief on 07/30/2011 (Training Chief)



Brian Gibson was promoted from Shift Fire Captain to Battalion Chief on 07/30/2011 (Operations Division)



Jason Andrews was promoted from Shift Firefighter to Shift Fire Captain on 07/30/2011 (Operations Division)



Michael Cheney was promoted from Shift Firefighter to Shift Fire Captain on 07/30/2011 (Operations Division)



Glen Heims was promoted from Shift Firefighter to Shift Fire Captain on 09/12/2011 (Operations Division)



Daniel Dall was promoted from Shift Fire Captain to Battalion Chief on 09/13/2011 (Operations Division)

APPOINTMENTS



Shift Firefighters (all appointed on 03/28/11 unless otherwise noted):

Top Row: Matthew Weldin, Austin Hershberger, Justin Renner, Lucas Maas, and Gregory Hankins

Second Row: Daniel Haas, Benjamin Kurka, Adam Kramer, Shane Mell, and Chad Smothers

Third Row: Jason Unruh, Mark McCormick, and Travis Foster (Unruh and McCormick appointed on 09/19/11 and Foster appointed on 10/03/11)

TRANSFERS

Angela Johnstone transferred from Day Firefighter in Public Education to Shift Firefighter on 01/01/2011

Brian Giachino transferred from Day Administrative District Chief in Urban Search and Rescue to Battalion Chief on 01/01/2011

David Brown transferred from Day Administrative District Chief in the Training Division to Battalion Chief on 01/01/2011

Michael Fredericks transferred from Shift Fire Captain to Day Fire Captain in the Training Division on 01/01/2011

Clarence Hillebrand transferred from Shift Firefighter to Day Firefighter in the Fire Marshal's Office on 07/02/2011

Donald Ransford transferred from Shift Fire Captain to Day Captain in the Training Division on 10/01/2011

RESIGNATIONS



Stephen Reid resigned as Fire Chief on February 16, 2011.

Suzanne Bailey resigned as Public Education Specialist (Part-time) on June 8, 2011.

Matthew Powers resigned as Shift Firefighter on September 22, 2011.

RECLASSIFICATIONS

Stacy Mason was reclassified from Administrative Assistant I to Administrative Assistant II on March 26, 2011.

TERMINATIONS

Christopher Slaughter – Shift Firefighter
January 5, 2011

Brady Hunt – Shift Firefighter
February 4, 2011

RETIREMENTS



Craig Streeter
retired as
Day Fire Captain
on January 7, 2011



Richard Van Zile
retired as
Shift Firefighter
on January 31, 2011



Terry Smejkal
retired as
Shift Firefighter
on May 11, 2011



Gary Jensen
retired as
Assistant Fire Chief
on June 8, 2011



Brad Brenneman
retired as
Battalion Chief
on September 10, 2011

FIRE CHIEF MARK ENGLISH APPOINTED



Mark English was sworn-in as the thirteenth Fire Chief in Cedar Rapids Fire Department history on July 27, 2011.

43 applicants representing two countries, 23 states and the District of Columbia initially applied during the 30-day open application period in May 2011. The group was narrowed down using Civil Service minimum standards, a metric score based on qualifications, and a written exercise.

The process then moved on for review and approval by City Manager Jeff Pomeranz. The further review resulted in a final list of five candidates, consisting of two internal candidates from the Cedar Rapids Fire Department and three external candidates.

On July 11th, the candidates participated in interviews throughout the day and the process culminated with a public Open House in the evening. Interviews were conducted by the City Manager, who led the hiring committee and spent individual time with each candidate. Additional feedback was provided to the City Manager from firefighters and City Department Directors.

Mark English has served Cedar Rapids for over 25 years, working his way through the ranks from Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, Chief Training Officer, Special Operations/Hazardous Materials/Technical Rescue Chief, Battalion Chief/Shift Commander, Chief of Operations and Assistant Fire Chief.

Chief English was a Fire Department representative to the Emergency Operations Center during the Flood of 2008 while serving as a Shift Commander.

Chief English has been the Vice-Chair of the Linn County Emergency Management Commission for several years. He was the first Task Force Leader of the Cedar Rapids division of the State Rescue Team and Weapons of Mass Destruction Team.

Chief English has led flood recovery efforts for the Fire Department and is the Project Manager for the new fire station projects. He graduated with honors from Upper Iowa University with a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration (with an emphasis in Fire Science).

CEDAR RAPIDS FIRE CHIEF HISTORY

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1893 – 1897 | L.M. Ayers |
| 1897 – 1900 | John Starman |
| 1900 – 1909 | Joseph Cook |
| 1909 – 1921 | W.A. Mohrbacher |
| 1921 – 1927 | James Kennedy |
| 1927 – 1932 | Paul Dolan |
| 1932 – 1953 | Emil Kohout |
| 1953 – 1971 | Jess Hunter |
| 1971 – 1991 | Edsel McMickle |
| 1991 – 1998 | Joseph Gorman |
| 1998 – 2010 | Stephen Havlik |
| 2010 – 2011 | Stephen Reid |
| 2011 – Present | Mark English |

BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2012 (JULY 1, 2011 – JUNE 30, 2012)

REVENUES

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Special Fire Services | 472,750 |
| Protective Inspection Fees | 480,000 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | 25,000 |
| Operating Transfer-In | 1,394,941 |
| Printing & Duplication of Forms | 500 |
| Sale of Maps and Publications | 330 |
| TOTAL REVENUE: | \$2,373,521 |

EXPENDITURES

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Personal Services | 14,308,811 |
| Discretionary Non-Personal Expenditures | 411,138 |
| Non-Discretionary Non-Personal Expenditures | 1,452,786 |
| Capital Outlay | 312,540 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES: | \$16,485,275 |

The Fire Department is principally funded by the City's General Fund, which is based on property tax receipts. The Fire Department comprises 16.86 percent of the City's General Fund Expenditure Budget. The Department charges a fee for some services, including false alarms, fire inspections, permits, gas line breaks, Tier II and confined space agreements. These revenues offset a portion of the costs of providing the service, which reduces the amount of property taxes needed for departmental operations.

Personal Services include regular employee wages, overtime, group insurance, social security and retirement contributions, workers' compensation and other employee benefits.

Discretionary Non-Personal Expenditures include the Fire Department's contribution to Health Services (\$55,000) for laboratory work and fitness testing for firefighters. Other expenditures include books, periodicals and subscriptions, office supplies, EMS supplies, personal protective gear, clothing, buildings and grounds repairs, and postage.

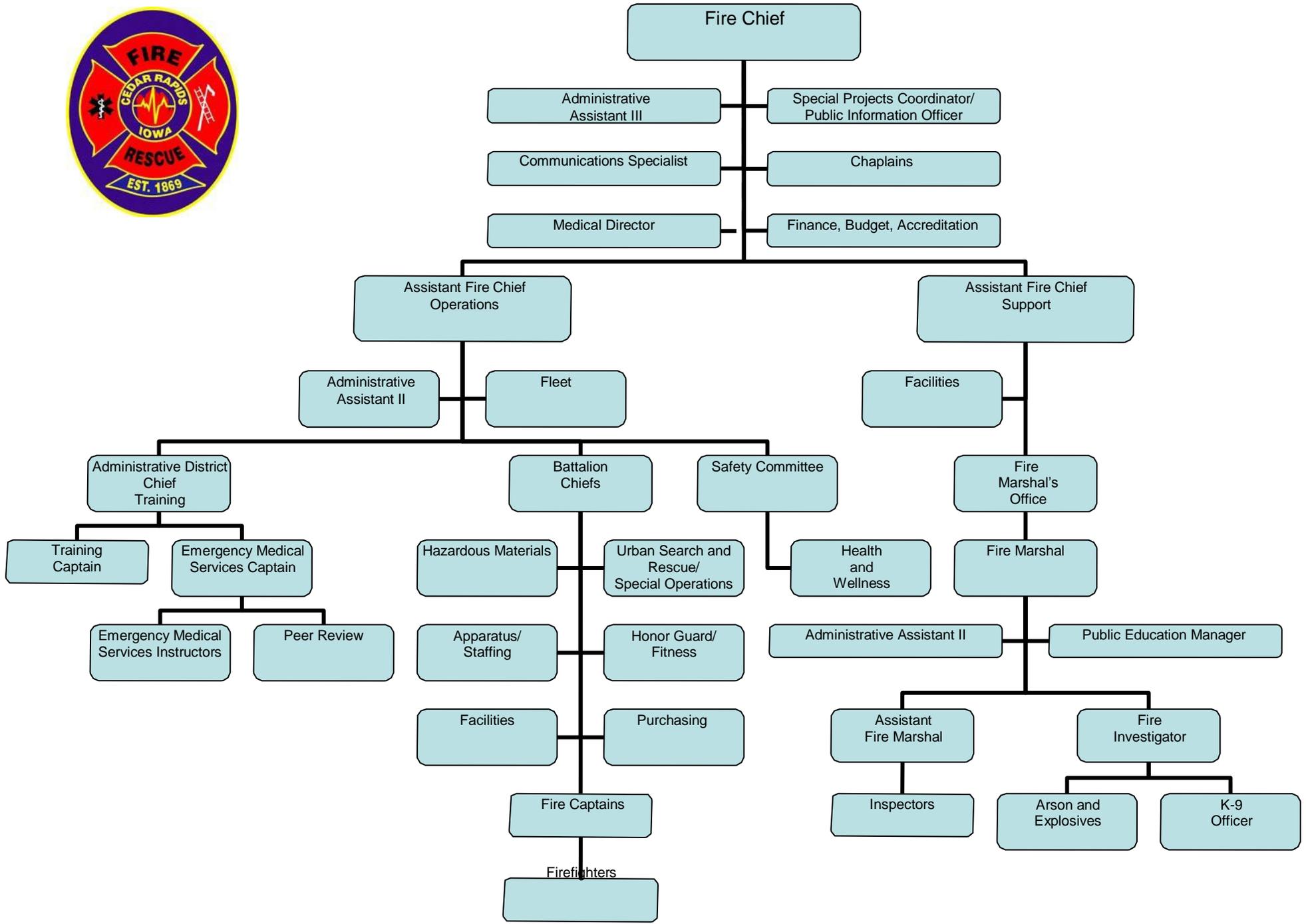
Non-Discretionary Non-Personal Expenditures are for City Accounting, Fleet Services, Information Technology, and the Fire Department's contribution to the Joint Communications Center (\$791,790). Expenditures also include electricity, liability insurance and gasoline/diesel fuel.

Capital outlay is for the purchase of capital equipment, which includes Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, firefighter turnout gear, thermal imaging cameras, wireless headset communication system for fire apparatus, and chain saws for rescue operations.



The Fire Department provides emergency services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to the citizens and businesses of Cedar Rapids. The Department also provides prevention programs to reduce the risk to lives and property.

CEDAR RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



OPERATIONS DIVISION



Battalion Chiefs are responsible for incident scene management at fires and other major emergencies.

The Operations Division includes fire suppression, Emergency Medical Services, training, hazardous materials, special operations, Urban Search and Rescue, Honor Guard, fitness, and fleet. The Division, which is managed by Assistant Chief Greg Smith, includes six Battalion Chiefs, a Training Chief, two Training Captains, 33 Shift Fire Captains, and 91 Shift Firefighters.

Emergency services are provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In 2011, the Fire Department responded to 9,886 incidents. The Fire Department responds from ten fire stations located throughout the City, including two temporary fire stations at 1010 1st Street NW (Central Fire Station – Engine 1) and at 1825 Edgewood Road SW (Fire Station #10 – Truck 1 and Battalion 2). Following the completion of the new Central Fire Station in August 2013, the two temporary facilities will no longer be used.

In 2011, minimum staffing was upgraded to four firefighters on Truck 1 to enhance safety and accountability on the fire ground. Further, commander staffing was increased to two Battalion Chiefs per shift to improve accountability and communications on daily shifts. Lastly, thirteen new firefighters were hired to fill vacancies and bring the Fire Department to fully-authorized strength.

Battalion Chiefs were assigned specific programs in addition to daily shift responsibilities, including Special Operations and Urban Search and Rescue (Chief Dan Dall), Hazardous Materials (Chief Brian Giachino), Facilities (Chief David Brown), Apparatus and Staff (Chief Brian Gibson), Honor Guard and Fitness (Chief John Pulver), and Purchasing (Chief George Bockenstedt).

Shift Personnel Activity Log:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Fire Drills | 11 |
| Fire Extinguisher Demonstrations | 19 |
| Business Inspections | 13 |
| Job Shadow | 2 |
| Neighborhood Meeting | 1 |
| Public Education Events | 36 |
| Public Relations | 81 |
| Ride-Along | 59 |
| Special Events | 9 |
| Station Tours | 49 |
| Training | 163 |
| Truck and Turnout Demonstrations | 68 |



George Bockenstedt
Battalion Chief



John Pulver
Battalion Chief



Brian Giachino
Battalion Chief



David Brown
Battalion Chief



Brian Gibson
Battalion Chief



Dan Dall
Battalion Chief

The Fire Department received \$357,125 in funding from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for a direct source capture diesel exhaust removal system for nine fire stations, 20 sets of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), 130 face pieces, 130 clear command voice amplifiers, and new fire hose. The diesel exhaust removal system provided a safer and healthier work environment for firefighters by directly removing diesel from the tailpipes of fire apparatus through a hose to the outside of the buildings. The purchase of additional sections of fire hose assured that the Fire Department met National Fire Protection Association and Insurance Services Office recommendations for the appropriate number and size of hose on all fire apparatus.



Pictured to the right: Diesel exhaust extraction system on Truck 1 installed at Fire Station #10 and a hose rack for hose repair at Fire Station #2.



SIGNIFICANT FIRES OF 2011

- The Villages, 1113 6th Street SE
July 30th - \$1,300,000 damage
- Muirfield Condominiums, 5805 Muirfield Drive SW
August 20th - \$600,000 damage
- The Sixth Gear Bar and Grill, 4617 J Street SW
April 10th - \$350,000 damage
- Tommy's Restaurant, 393 Edgewood Road SW
July 9th - \$200,000 damage
- Single-family residence, 1602 13th Avenue SE
January 18th - \$168,000 damage
- Two-story apartment, 433 4th Avenue SW
January 4th - \$99,190 damage



Flames were showing through the roof as firefighters arrived at The Villages.



An explosion blew out the back half of Sixth Gear Bar and Grill.



Tommy's Restaurant fire started in a storeroom where a dryer was left running.

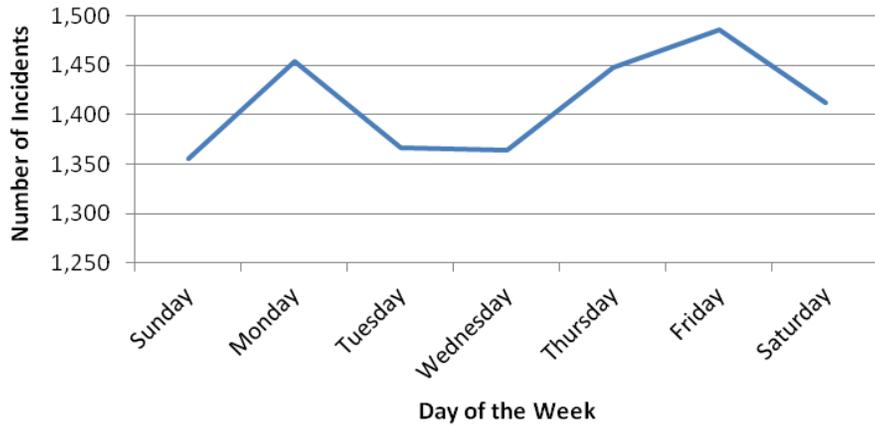


Eight occupants were displaced from a two-story apartment complex at 433 4th Avenue SW.

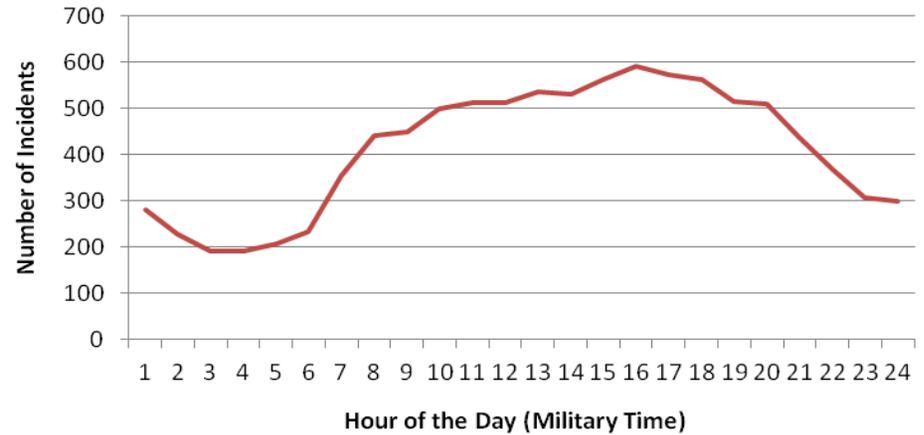


You are most likely to see a Cedar Rapids Fire Department emergency vehicle responding to an incident on a Friday between 4:00 – 4:59 PM.

Incidents by Day of the Week

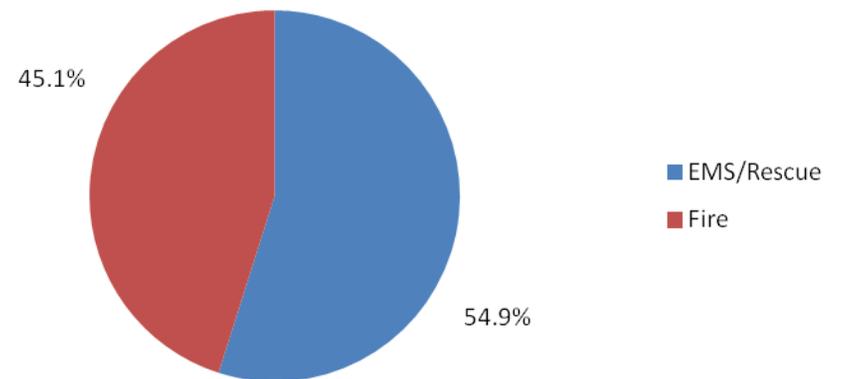


Incidents by Time of the Day



- Firefighters responded to 4,459 fire-related calls and 5,427 emergency medical services/rescue calls in 2011.
- Mutual aid was given to surrounding communities 16 times, while mutual aid was received by Cedar Rapids seven times.
- There were no civilian fire fatalities in 2011. This is the first time since 2007 that there have been no fatal fires in Cedar Rapids.
- There were no firefighter deaths in 2011.

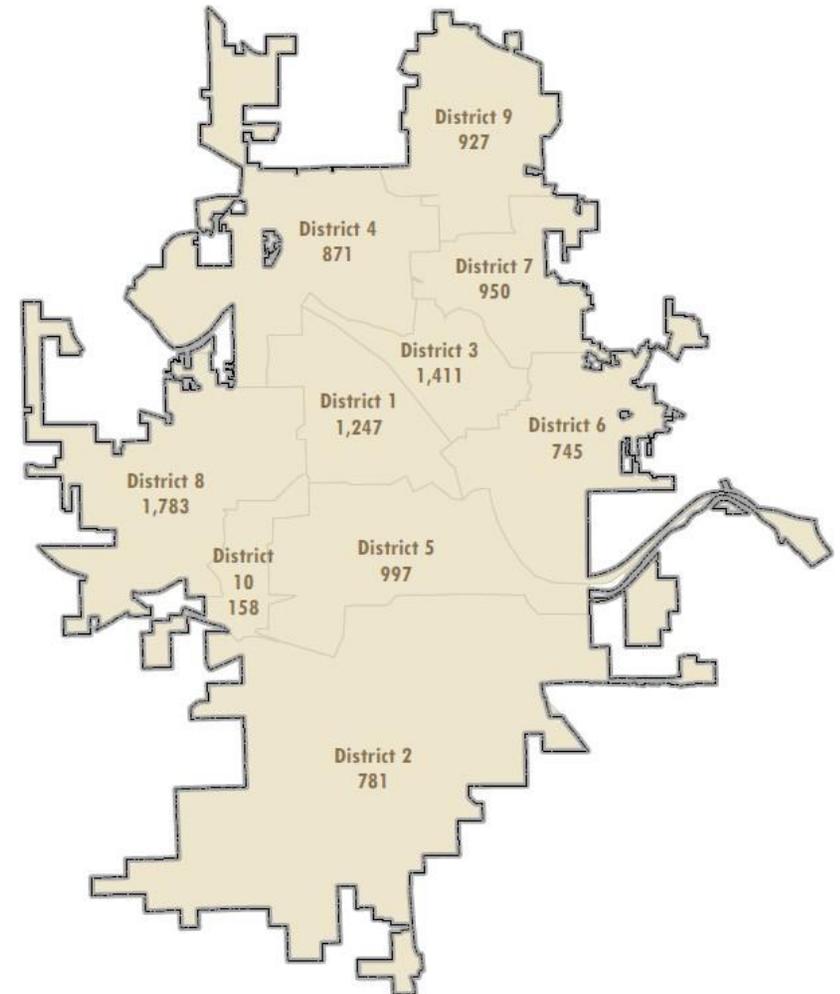
2011 Incident Responses



FIRE STATION AND FIRE DISTRICT INFORMATION

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department utilized eight permanent and two temporary fire stations in 2011. The Fire Department offers fire protection and other services to 71.8 square miles.

| FIRE STATION DISTRICT | LOCATION | SQ. MILES | TOTAL DISTRICT INCIDENTS |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 1010 1 st Street NW | 4.1 | 1,247 |
| 2 | 442 50 th Avenue Court SW | 21.2 | 781 |
| 3 | 1424 B Avenue NE | 2.8 | 1,411 |
| 4 | 3600 42 nd Street NE | 9.6 | 871 |
| 5 | 509 Wilson Avenue SW | 7.3 | 997 |
| 6 | 2416 Mount Vernon Road SE | 6.8 | 745 |
| 7 | 206 29 th Street NE | 4.1 | 950 |
| 8 | 100 Wiley Boulevard SW | 8.8 | 1,783 |
| 9 | 415 Broderick Drive NE | 5.4 | 927 |
| 10 | 1825 Edgewood Road SW | 1.7 | 158 |

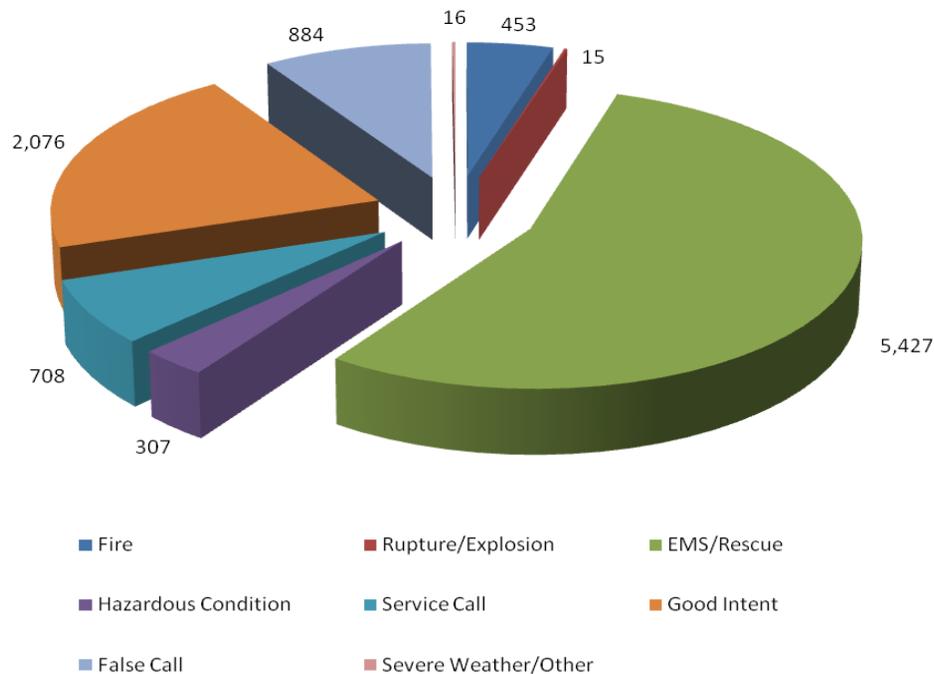


Firefighters battle a fully-involved condominium fire at 5805 Muirfield Drive SW on August 20, 2011. The Muirfield Condominium fire was the second most costly property damage incident in 2011, resulting in \$600,000 building loss. There were four families displaced by the fire. Including content loss, the total fire loss may have exceeded one million dollars.

Incidents per Fire District graphic courtesy of City of Cedar Rapids GIS Department, Information Technology.

Note: There were 16 mutual aid calls in 2011 that are not reflected in the map. There were a total of 9,870 incidents within the corporate limits of Cedar Rapids.

Incident Summary by Incident Type



Definition of Categories

Fires – building, grass, passenger vehicle, trash

Rupture/Explosion – overpressure rupture, steam, gas, gas pipe, excessive heat

EMS/Rescue – medical emergency, motor vehicle accident with or without injury, extrication, high angle rescue, water and ice rescue

Hazardous Condition – gasoline or oil spill, carbon monoxide incident, downed power line, general clean-up of vehicle accident, toxic condition

Service Call – Lock-out, public assistance, Citizen Assist, unauthorized burning

Good Intent – smoke scare, cancelled on scene, investigation

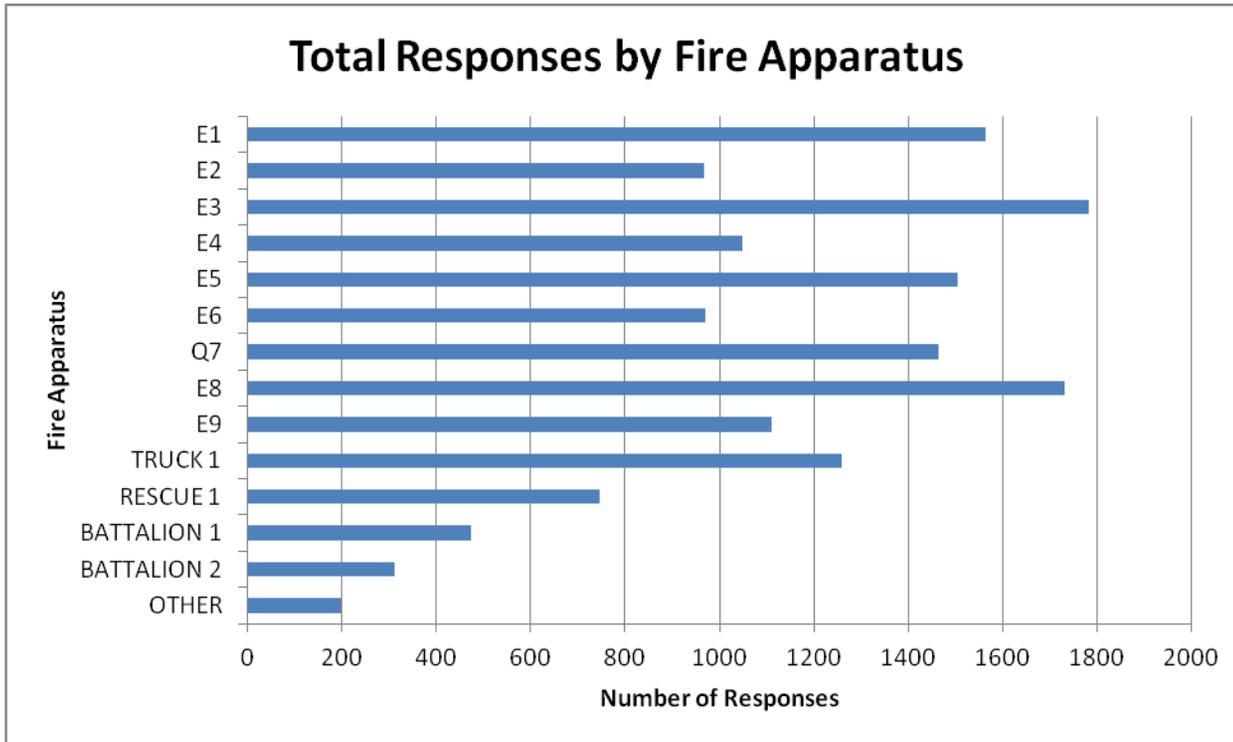
False Call – false alarm, alarm malfunction, unintentional alarm

Incident Highlights



- 191 structure fires
- 76 passenger vehicle fires
- 38 brush/grass fires
- 219 vehicle accidents with injuries
- 20 extrications
- 6 water/ice rescues
- 51 gas leaks
- 32 chemical release, reaction, or toxic condition
- 23 carbon monoxide calls (CO present)
- 476 citizen assists
- 73 unauthorized burnings





The Cedar Rapids Fire Department responded to 9,886 incidents in 2011. Depending upon the type of emergency, more than one apparatus may be required for an incident. For example, a report of a house fire would have an initial dispatch of three engines, a ladder truck, rescue vehicle and Battalion Chief. The chart to the left reflects total responses by all apparatus. The “Other” category includes responses by rescue boats, brush trucks, command vehicles, fire investigators, and hazardous materials/ special operations vehicles.

The total responses made by all fire department apparatus was 15,125.



Performance metrics become the building blocks of any good fire service lesson plan. Performance metrics are also part of the Cedar Rapids Fire Department's quality assurance process.

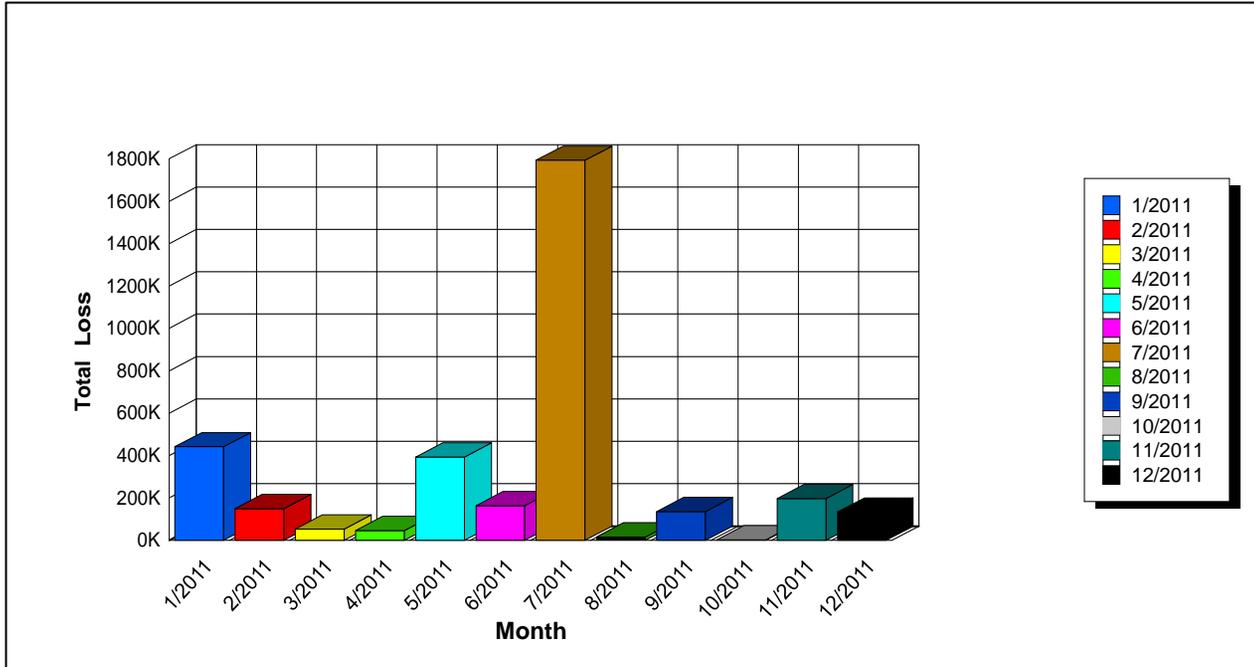
Essentially, a performance metric describes what the Fire Department will be doing when demonstrating mastery of an objective. For example, the Fire Department strives to arrive on scene of an emergency within five minutes of receiving the 911 call. Monthly results are posted on the Fire Department's Web site at www.cedar-rapids.org/fire.

Performance metrics highlights of 2011 include:

- The busiest month for fires was September (48 fires).
- The best average response time to fires (dispatch to arrival) was in October (4 minutes, 46 seconds) and the best month for percentage of response times that were less than five minutes was August (64.4 percent).
- The best percentage for fires contained to the room or object of origin was February (87.5 percent). The National Fire Protection Association recommendation is greater than 40 percent, which the Fire Department surpassed each month.

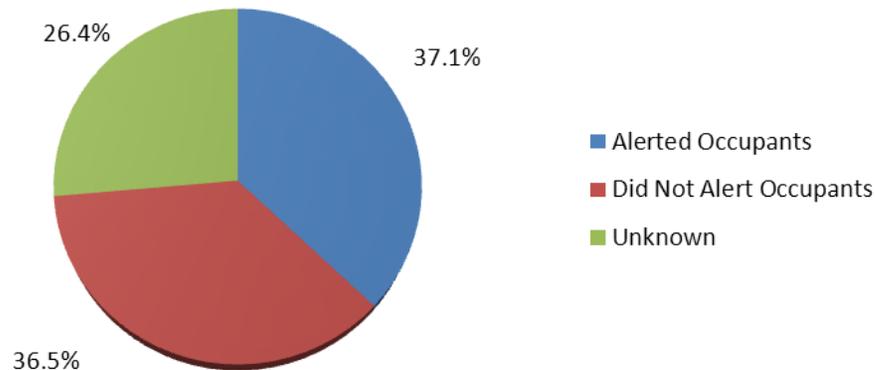


RESIDENTIAL FIRE LOSS BY MONTH



| <u>Month</u> | <u>Fires</u> | <u>Total Loss</u> |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| January | 10 | \$411,313.00 |
| February | 5 | \$149,528.00 |
| March | 11 | \$53,825.00 |
| April | 7 | \$46,374.00 |
| May | 11 | \$393,533.00 |
| June | 12 | \$163,080.00 |
| July | 13 | \$1,793,155.00 |
| August | 10 | \$15,638.00 |
| September | 15 | \$136,354.00 |
| October | 9 | \$2,064.00 |
| November | 6 | \$197,505.00 |
| December | 8 | \$133,792.00 |
| TOTALS: | 117 | \$3,496,161.00 |

Smoke Alarm Status for Structure Fires



30.4 percent of all residential fires were cooking fires.



Unattended cooking is one of the leading causes of residential fires in Cedar Rapids. In fact, cooking fires account for nearly one-third of all house fires.

SAFETY DIVISION



Firefighter safety is a key aspect of incident response. Fire crews are prepared with a Rapid Intervention Crew to assist firefighters who are inside a working structure fire, such as this manufactured home fire on March 29, 2011.

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department Safety Committee uses continuous improvement processes to work towards eliminating the number and severity of injuries and illnesses to fire personnel, both during routine operations and during 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 Captain Rick Halleran, Captain Scott Wolfe, Firefighter Landon Merkle, Firefighter Nick Miller, Firefighter Erik Moen, and Firefighter Jim Porter. Assistant Fire Chief Greg Smith is the lead for the Safety Committee.

In 2011, the City's Safety Officer processed 33 injury reports involving Fire Department personnel.

In 2011, there were ten reportable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) cases. The injuries resulted in 32 missed work days and 137 light duty days. Examples of the causes of injury included lifting and moving patients, lacerations from gaining entry through a window, restraint of patients, and dog bites. 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 duties are often high hazard tasks with the potential for injury.

Fire Captains and several Battalion Chiefs participated in Incident Safety Officer training. The Incident Safety Officer program was a two-day program and was designed by the United States Fire Administration to enhance safety at the fire ground or other emergency scenes. The Captains and Battalion Chiefs that participated learned how to prepare a site-specific Safety and Health plan; identify and cause correction of occupational safety and health hazards; continuously monitor firefighters for exposure to safety or health hazardous conditions; take appropriate action to mitigate or eliminate unsafe conditions, operations, or hazards; and perform assessment of engineering controls and personal protective equipment.

A Personal Accountability System was implemented to identify a system of incident scene firefighter accountability. The purpose of the policy was to be able to quickly account for all firefighters, at any given time, within a small geographic area. Use of the system provided enhanced personal safety for the individual firefighter and provided the Incident Commander an improved means to track and account for all personnel working at an incident.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)



Curtis Hopper
Assistant Chief

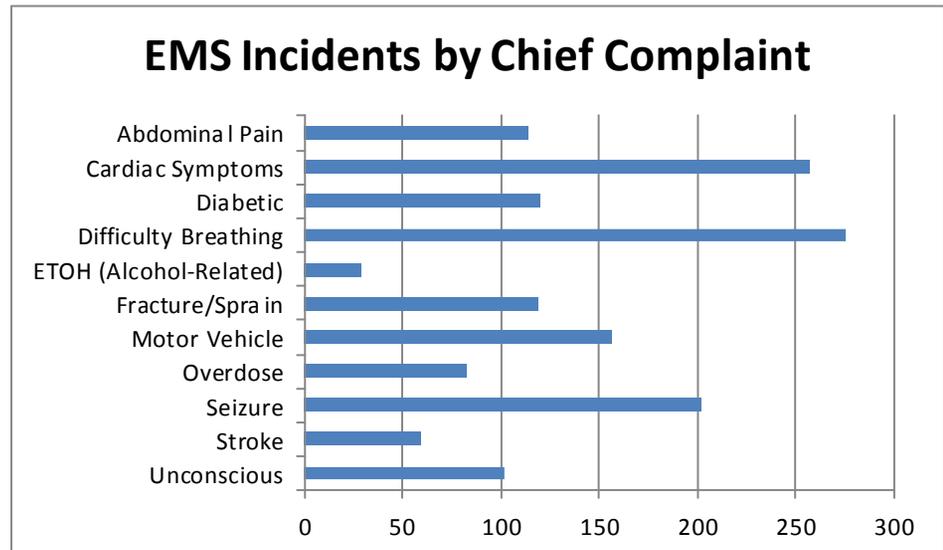
The Cedar Rapids Fire Department, with fire stations located throughout the community, provides timely response to medical emergencies, including sudden illness and traumatic injury. Eight of the ten fire stations in Cedar Rapids have firefighters who can provide advanced life support, including initiation of intravenous lines and medication administration. The eight apparatus equipped to provide Paramedic Specialist response are Engine 1, Engine 2, Engine 4, Engine 5, Quint 7, Engine 8, Engine 9 and Truck 1. The Department has 95 EMT-Basics, five EMT-Intermediates, 17 Iowa EMT-Paramedics and 30 Paramedic Specialists. Emergency providers follow medical protocols under the direction of the Fire Department's Medical Director, Dr. Brad Wisnousky.

The Fire Department has four peer reviewers who provide quality assurance of all medical incidents to ensure compliance with patient care standards. The reviewers are Captain Jason Andrews, Firefighter Paul Bagby, Firefighter Cheme Fairlie, and Firefighter Brandon Feddersen.

The Fire Department has twelve Emergency Medical Services instructors to help deliver basic and advanced life support training in-house. The Department also uses an on-line training program through Kaplan University. Beginning in 2012, the Department will be transitioning to four levels of EMS providers (Emergency Medical Responder, Emergency Medical Technician, Advanced EMT, and Paramedic).



Firefighters provide emergency medical care to victims of injury or sudden illness. The Fire Department has a tiered response with the Police Department and Area Ambulance Service to improve patient care.



The Fire Department responded to 5,427 EMS/rescue calls. The bar graph demonstrates the major categories of chief complaint indicated by patients.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS & SPECIAL OPERATIONS



Greg Smith
Assistant Chief

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department invested 2,545 training hours towards enhancing hazardous materials and special operations responses. The Fire Department continues the process of upgrading and maintaining the training of all firefighters to become compliant to the Operations level of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1670: *Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents* and NFPA 472: *Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents*. All personnel are either compliant with these standards or are in the process of compliance through departmental training.

The various subdivisions have a Team Leader (see below) who coordinates with fire crews to tour industries throughout the community to increase familiarization with systems and processes, and to more effectively respond to hazardous materials and confined space challenges. The Boat Operations/Rescue Team has a Team Leader, as well as a committee consisting of Captain John Panek, Firefighter Nathan Goodlove, Firefighter Justin Jensen, Firefighter Josh Jensen, and Firefighter Brad Cowdin.

There are 109 businesses that are required by the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act to submit an Emergency and Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form to the Local Emergency Planning Committee, the State Emergency Response Commission, and the Cedar Rapids Fire Department. The Fire Department saves these industries thousands of dollars by being their designated emergency responder. Without the Fire Department, industries would have to create and train their own emergency responders to handle confined space entries, for example.



Firefighters responded to a hydrochloric acid leak at Cargill, 1710 16th Street SE, on August 9, 2011.

Team Leaders:

Boat Operations/Rescue – Captain Brian Hall
Confined Space - Chief Mike Fredericks
Hazardous Materials – Captain Andy Olesen
High Angle/Rope Rescue - Chief Dan Dall
Trench Rescue - Captain Don Ransford and Captain Terry McAtee
WMD Response – Captain Mike Cheney

Team Numbers:

Hazardous Materials Technicians – 36
Hazardous Materials Operations Level – 84
Special Operations Technicians – 57
WMD Response Technicians – 19
Emergency Worker Monitoring and Decontamination Station Workers - 23



Firefighters investigated an ammonia smell in the Police Department's evidence storage garage on February 15, 2011.

Training throughout the year included a Weapons of Mass Destruction exercise with the Iowa National Guard's 71st Civil Support Team, rope rescue skills training, water rescue, a high angle drill at Cargill's northeast plant, ice rescue, and a Hazardous Materials refresher.

Confined space drills were held at Quaker Oats, Archer Daniels Midland, Red Star Yeast, Cargill's southwest plant, City of Cedar Rapids Public Works and Penford Products.

On May 4th, Cedar Rapids firefighters participated in an anhydrous ammonia training at Hawkeye Downs in southwest Cedar Rapids. The training was through **TRANSCAER (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response)**, which is a voluntary national outreach effort that focuses on assisting communities to prepare for and to respond to a possible hazardous material transportation incident.

The training focused on possible anhydrous ammonia incidents involving railcars, highway tankers and nurse tanks. The training had three major objectives: 1) Promote safe transportation and handling of hazardous materials, 2) Educate and assist communities near major transportation routes about hazardous materials, and 3) Aid community emergency response planning for hazardous material transportation incidents.



Firefighters participated in anhydrous ammonia training at Hawkeye Downs.



Firefighters responded to the City's Building Services Division at Public Works on May 25, 2011, for a potential hazardous materials incident when an envelope containing powder was opened in a code inspector's office cubicle. Firefighters later determined that the suspicious substance was actually sugar.

TRAINING DIVISION



Michael Fredericks
Admn. District Chief

Cedar Rapids firefighters received 6,305 hours of fire-related training in 2011. The Cedar Rapids Fire Department continued on the path of increasing the certification levels of its personnel. At the same time, the Training Division offered a wide variety of training subjects throughout the year.

By the end of 2011, all Fire Department personnel had completed mandatory Incident Command System and National Incident Management System courses established by the Department in 2010. Upper level classes in these areas were offered to all Company Officers, Fire Code Officers, and Command Staff members. In addition, all Shift Fire Captains, Acting Fire Captains, and Battalion Chiefs completed a 16-hour Incident Safety Officer course which will assist in improving overall scene safety during an emergency response.

Additional classes and hands-on monthly training delivered during 2011 included topics such as “Mayday” procedures and the use of a Rapid Intervention Crew, Company Inspections, fire ground ventilation, the use of firefighting foam, Information Technology and communications training, hybrid vehicles, public life safety education, thermal imaging cameras, search and rescue techniques, and building construction. Two of the aforementioned classes were conducted by industry representatives, while a significant number of the training topics were prepared and presented by members of the Fire Department Training Committee. Fire crews also completed the required Apparatus Driving and Pumping recertification in October.

2011 also saw the hiring of 13 probationary firefighters, resulting in two Rookie Fire Academies being conducted – one in the spring and one in the fall. Upon completing the Academy and being assigned to a Captain on shift, the probationers continued to train on specific topics throughout their first year on the job, with written assignments administered at the end of each month.



Firefighters practice vertical ventilation techniques on a flood-damaged home.

Numerous firefighters and fire officers were able to attend a variety of outside training sessions, including the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis, Central Iowa Training Institute Fire School in Cedar Rapids, a two-day Engine/Truck Operations class in Johnston, and the Tri-State Firefighters Conference in Dubuque. The availability of flood-damaged structures slated for demolition in Cedar Rapids allowed firefighters to practice hands-on fire ground skills and the opportunity to amass hundreds of additional hours of practical training.

On October 1st, Captain Don Ransford was transferred to the Training Division and will coordinate training exercises for firefighters and assist Chief Fredericks.

The total number of formal training hours, including department-wide and the outside sessions offered throughout the year, resulted in a total of 6,305 firefighter training hours.

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE



Dan Dall
Battalion Chief

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) has worked with government and private-sector partners to develop statewide capabilities that may be used for the benefit of all Iowans. Homeland security and emergency response teams are recognized under Code of Iowa Chapter 29C, and are deployed as a resource to supplement and enhance disrupted and overburdened local emergency and disaster operations. These teams may also be deployed to provide assistance to other states under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

Iowa Task Force 1 (IA-TF1) is Iowa's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team. IA-TF1 team members have been trained and equipped to locate, rescue and provide initial medical stabilization to victims in confined spaces, including collapsed structures, transportation accidents, and mines and collapsed trenches. The team was built on existing capabilities and resources, is comprised of the Sioux City and Cedar Rapids fire departments, and draws additional membership from fire and rescue professionals from across Iowa.



Members of the USAR team construct a supporting shore to reinforce an exterior wall.

There are 43 members of IA-TF1, including 34 members of the Cedar Rapids Fire Department. The City's Fleet Services Division is represented by Mike Pint. The Fire Department's Medical Director, Brad Wisnousky, is also a member of the Task Force.

The Task Force provides rescue, Emergency Medical Services, logistics, communications and incident support. The team is led by Task Force Leader, Battalion Chief Dan Dall. Personnel provide incident planning and logistics. The Task Force has a team physician, a technical information officer, communications specialist, amongst several support personnel and subject matter experts.

Since 2003, IA-TF1 has been deployed six times: Middletown (assisted Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms with reconnaissance of bomb detonation incident), Parkersburg (tornado), Cedar Rapids (flood), Columbus Junction (flood), Oakville (flood), and Oelwein (assisted State Fire Marshal in fire investigation by shoring up a damaged building).

The Task Force can be deployed anywhere in the United States through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. Urban Search and Rescue teams have made a significant impact in the country, helping locate and save victims of natural disasters or other emergencies.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Nicky Stansell
Public Education
Manager

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department's Public Education Division provides twenty fire and life safety programs throughout the year, including a Kids' Fire and Life Safety Camp, Citizens' Fire Academy, Battery Up, and pre-school fire safety.

In 2011, the Public Education Division was restructured after part-time Public Education Specialist Suzanne Bailey resigned on June 8th. In a concerted effort to maintain the same quality and quantity of programs, the "Adopt a Firefighter" program was created to administer fire safety curriculum to area schools. Shift firefighters were recruited to "adopt" a local elementary school and serve as the fire safety liaison for the school year. The firefighters, along with two other fire department employees, received training and the curriculum materials in August. Participating in the "Adopt a Firefighter" program were Captain Ron VanHoeck, Firefighter Cory Burkle, Firefighter Nick Miller, Firefighter Julie Popelka, Special Projects Coordinator Greg Buelow, and Administrative Assistant Stacy Mason. Public Education Manager Nicky Stansell oversees the program.

The core of the Public Education program is the five visits to the third grade classrooms at 28 elementary schools. The curriculum includes a smoke alarm/home fire escape presentation, a fire truck and firefighter turnout gear presentation, winter fire safety, 911 simulator/ how to get help in an emergency presentation, and the fire safety trailer (an interactive multi-room house with several fire hazards that children need to identify and a smoke machine that activates, requiring the students to use a home fire escape plan). Fire crews assist with the fire truck and turn-out gear presentation and the fire safety house visit.

Firefighters also reached 7,893 citizens with fire truck and firefighter turnout gear presentations at community events and through fire station tours throughout the year. Fire crews also delivered 19 fire extinguisher demonstrations to area businesses, which included 498 participants.

PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITY LOG:

| | |
|--|-------|
| School Children Contacts | 8,683 |
| Classroom Fire Safety Visits | 413 |
| Fire Safety Presentations (Civic Groups, Senior Citizens, College) | 35 |
| Fire Safety Presentation Contacts (including Health Fairs) | 2,800 |
| Video Production Hours | 50 |
| Child Safety Seat Installations | 67 |
| Residential Smoke Alarm/ Battery Installations (Number of Homes) | 40 |
| Juvenile Fire Intervention Program Assessments | 15 |
| Fire Drills/Evacuation Planning Sessions | 8 |
| Health and Safety Fairs | 9 |



Firefighters put on their firefighting protective turnout gear as part of the school fire safety curriculum.

The Public Education Division helped coordinate several community outreach programs in 2011, including:



Toys for Tots – all ten fire stations and 11 other City buildings had toy collection boxes for the Toys for Tots campaign that ran from November 7th through December 9th. The “Toys for Tots” campaign provided toys for the holidays for low-income families in the Cedar Rapids area. When all the toys were collected, the City of Cedar Rapids collected 16 full boxes of toys and raised \$265 for Toys for Tots.



Be Santa To a Senior – Firefighters delivered gifts and tested smoke alarms in 85 homes throughout the community, replacing 12 smoke alarms and 24 batteries. This was the sixth year that the Fire Department has partnered with Home Instead Senior Care.

Battery Up – The Fire Department partners with the Grant Wood Chapter of the American Red Cross to replace batteries in smoke alarms during the weekend in which Daylight Savings Time begins. This program, which is held in conjunction with the national “Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery” smoke alarm campaign, has grown every year since its inception over 10 years ago. In 2011, there were 151 homes that firefighters and Red Cross volunteers visited. The number of homes visited has grown from 90 to 151 in just the past four years.

Delivering Fire Prevention – The Fire Department received a grant from Iowa Safe Kids and State Farm Insurance, and partnered with Papa John’s Pizza to follow pizza delivery drivers to residential homes. If the residents had working smoke alarms, they received a coupon for a free pizza. If they did not have working smoke alarms, the Fire Department installed new ones or replaced the batteries.



The Cedar Rapids Fire Department and Cedar Rapids Police Department are co-lead agencies for the Linn County Safe Kids Coalition, under the direction of Public Education Manager Nicky Stansell and Police Officer Shannon Stokesberry. The Coalition is made up of 25 members from various Linn County safety and health organizations. The goal of the Coalition is to reduce the number of unintentional injuries and deaths in children ages 14 and under. The Coalition is funded solely on grants and donations, and the money raised is used to purchase life-saving materials such as bicycle helmets, child safety seats, and educational brochures. In 2011, the Coalition received a \$1,500 grant from the Iowa Department of Public Health to purchase 450 bicycle helmets that were distributed to Wilkins Elementary School students. Additionally, the Coalition provided 200 free helmets at “Safe Kids Day” at the Cedar Rapids Downtown Farmers Market.

On the second Thursday of each month, a child passenger safety seat fit station is held at McGrath Buick GMC Cadillac, where parents can bring their vehicle, child and child safety seat for installation instructions. 91 percent of the seats that are checked are found to be incorrectly installed. Linn County Safe Kids held four other child safety seat checkup events throughout the year and provided nearly 20 free seats to low-income families.

JUVENILE FIRE INTERVENTION PROGRAM



Brent Smith
Firefighter

The Fire Department's Juvenile Fire Intervention Program is a regional program that provides a cohesive partnership amongst community agencies. These agencies interact as a coalition with the collective goal to reduce the number of fire injuries and deaths by providing evaluation, education, and redirection assistance to children that exhibit fire-setting behavior. There is no cost for a family or child to participate in the program.

Managed by Firefighter Brent Smith, and assisted by the Public Education Division Manager Nicky Stansell, the program had six Juvenile Court Services referrals, four parental referrals, three State Fire Marshal cases, one Cedar Rapids Police Department case, and one Mental Health referral for a total of 15 families and children assisted in 2011.

The Juvenile Fire Intervention Program expanded its services in 2011 to assist multiple jurisdictions, including Anamosa, Cedar Rapids, Hiawatha, Morley, North Liberty, Tama, Traer, and Vinton. Children who participated in the program ranged from 6 to 17 years of age. The program has gained notoriety over the past few years with recognition from the United States Fire Administration's National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland, as their Midwest Regional example for a juvenile fire setter program.

In 2010, the Fire Department's Juvenile Fire Intervention Program teamed up with the Iowa State Fire Marshal's Office to create the Iowa Fire Safety Task Force. Collectively, the Cedar Rapids Fire Department and State Fire Marshal partnered with the Ankeny Fire Department, Coralville Fire Department, Iowa City Fire Department, Iowa Department of Public Safety, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics Burn Unit, University of Iowa's Department of Social Services, and West Des Moines Fire Department to create a framework for a standard of care for all juvenile fire setters throughout the state of Iowa. The Iowa Fire Safety Task Force plans to complete program development and present the standard of care to all 99 of Iowa's counties and Iowa Fire Chiefs in April 2012.

The new statewide program will ensure that all Iowa families have access to juvenile fire intervention resources. The Iowa Fire Safety Task Force believes that the partnership will further reduce the number of child fire injuries and deaths, and also reduce the amount of property damage caused by children setting fires.



Did you know?

Fires involving children are tragic and often preventable.

70 percent of child fire fatalities (ages 1-4) are caused by children playing with fire-starting materials.

Parents and guardians should make sure that matches and lighters are stored up high, out of the reach and sight of children.

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE



Curtis Hopper
Assistant Chief

The Fire Marshal's Office is made up of nine personnel, including Fire Marshal Jim Thatcher, Assistant Fire Marshal Vance McKinnon, Fire Plan Reviewer Captain Steve Dunham, East Side Inspector Captain Peter Schmit, West Side Inspector Captain Scott Saylor, Inspector At Large Firefighter Clarence Hillebrand, Fire Investigator Al Brockhohn, Public Education Manager Nicky Stansell, and Administrative Assistant Susan Frischkorn. Assistant Fire Chief Curtis Hopper oversees the entire Division.

Fire Marshal's Office staff conducts over 6,000 inspection activities each year. Fire Marshal's Office staff is involved in several aspects of fire prevention and code enforcement, including inspecting new and existing buildings, issuing permits, supervising fire crew inspections, and conducting plan reviews.

Fire inspectors are involved in sprinkler system and smoke detection plans, hazardous materials site assessments, hydrant flow test information, and state licenses in daycare and healthcare.



Jim Thatcher
Fire Marshal

The administrative staff of the Fire Marshal's Office documents and files all program and inspection information. The staff also provides site assessment information and other public records, including inspection forms and documentation. Staff coordinates updated emergency contact information from field inspectors to the City's Joint Communication Center, ensuring that there is a point of contact for after-hours emergencies at business and industry through the City. Administrative Assistant Susan Frischkorn is assisted by volunteer Donna Blin of Marion.

The Fire Marshal's Office is located at the Police Substation at 1501 1st Avenue SE.

Fire Marshal Jim Thatcher was assigned as the interim Building Services Director on August 23, 2011, by Fire Chief Mark English. Fire Marshal Thatcher is responsible for supervision of building, electrical, housing, mechanical, plumbing and zoning inspections, as well as building plan review and permits.

Donna Blin of Marion was honored by Fire Chief Mark English and Cedar Rapids Mayor Ron Corbett for her countless hours of volunteer work for the Fire Marshal's Office. The Mayor issued a Proclamation recognizing all volunteers for their significant contributions to the City by declaring April 25, 2011, as "Volunteer Donna Blin Day." Blin volunteered 490 hours for the Fire Marshal's Office in 2011, which averages approximately 9.5 hours per week.



Vance McKinnon
Assistant Fire Marshal



Fire Chief Mark English recognizes Donna Blin for her volunteer work with the Fire Marshal's Office.

2011 FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE ACTIVITY LOG AND INSPECTIONS:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|---|-----|
| • Beer and Liquor Permits | 291 | • Outdoor Place of Assembly | 7 |
| • Certificate of Occupancy | 220 | • Open Burning | 3 |
| • Change of Business | 149 | • Open Flames or Candles | 5 |
| • College/School/Daycare | 378 | • Pyrotechnic Permits | 20 |
| • Events/Trade Shows | 10 | • Site Assessments | 113 |
| • Fire Alarm Systems | 46 | • Special Events Permits | 226 |
| • Fire Plan Review | 291 | • Spray Booths | 30 |
| • Hazardous Materials | 91 | • Sprinkler System Inspections | 50 |
| • Hazardous Materials/Industry | 452 | • Temporary Liquid Propane Tanks | 25 |
| • Hydrant Flow Tests | 10 | • Tents | 7 |
| • Initial Company Inspections | 1,406 | • Underground/Aboveground Storage Tanks | 300 |

In addition to inspections and issuance of permits, the Fire Marshal's Office responded to 205 complaints and/or citizen inquiries about potential fire hazards.

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE MISSION STATEMENT:

The Mission of the Cedar Rapids Fire Marshal's Office is to establish minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practice for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures and premises, and to provide safety to firefighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS



Al Brockhohn and Ember
Fire Investigation Team

Fire investigators determine the cause and origin of fires. Their duties include collecting evidence, interviewing witnesses, and compiling detailed reports of their findings. Fire investigators determine whether or not particular fires occurred as the result of arson or criminal negligence.

The lead investigator for the Cedar Rapids Fire Department is Captain Al Brockhohn, who investigated 72 fire scenes in 2011. Captain Brockhohn is assisted by Captain Scott Saylor, who investigated 14 fire scenes. In addition to fire investigations, Captain Brockhohn is a member of the Bomb Squad.

Ember, the Fire Department's arson canine, is in her seventh year of service. Ember is able to detect the presence of trace amounts of ignitable liquids and was obtained through a scholarship from State Farm Insurance. Highlighting Ember's keen sense of smell is the fact that all of the samples that Ember identified in the field as having the presence of an ignitable liquid were confirmed by the state crime laboratory.

Fire Causes

| | |
|---|-----|
| Unintentional | 146 |
| Undetermined | 109 |
| Undetermined After Investigation | 27 |
| Intentional | 43 |
| Radiated, Conducted Heat from Operating Equipment | 31 |
| Heat from Powered Equipment | 31 |
| Heat Source: Other | 22 |
| Heat From Other Open Flame or Smoking Materials | 17 |
| Cigarette | 14 |
| Hot Ember or Ash | 10 |
| Spark, ember or flame from Operating Equipment | 10 |
| Radiated Heat from Another Fire | 8 |
| Arcing | 8 |
| Cigarette Lighter | 5 |
| Candle | 3 |

Training Log Summary Report for Ember

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Other (Vehicle) Searches | 16 |
| Yard Searches | 1 |
| People Searches | 0 |
| Basic Imprinting | 607 |
| Scent Discrimination | 42 |
| Basic Floor Exams | 90 |
| Fire Scene Exams | 58 |
| Number of Reps | 5,340 |
| Number of Finds | 1,034 |
| Demonstrations | 2 |
| Number of People at Demos | 6 |
| Number of Samples Taken | 14 |
| Number of Samples Confirmed | 14 |

PUBLIC INFORMATION



Greg Buelow
Special Projects
Coordinator/Public
Information Officer

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department provides various communications to inform the community about emergency incidents, fire prevention and the value of the fire service. Public Information Officer Greg Buelow was paged out to 55 incidents in 2011 to provide information to broadcast and print media. There were 102 media releases sent by the Fire Department. All media releases are also posted on the City's Web site.

In addition, the Fire Department provides information through the weekly City of Cedar Rapids Employee Connection, the quarterly "Our CR" news magazine, the monthly Mediacom Newsleader's video program (also shown on www.mc22.net), and the City of Cedar Rapids Web site (www.cedar-rapids.org/fire).

The Fire Department is also responsible for the Citywide Emergency Communication Plan that is used in the event of a major incident or disaster, such as the Flood of 2008.

Monthly performance metrics and customer service survey cards are an integral part of the Fire Department's quality assurance process. A performance metric describes what the Fire Department will be doing when demonstrating mastery of an objective. For example, the Fire Department strives to arrive on scene of an emergency within five minutes of receiving the 911 call. Monthly performance metrics are disseminated to fire department employees and published monthly on the Fire Department Web site. Customer service survey cards are sent to a random sampling of citizens that use Fire Department fire suppression, emergency medical services, fire safety education, and fire prevention services.



Providing information to the media provides an opportunity to share details about events and educate the public.

Throughout the year, the Fire Department receives numerous requests for fire incident reports, run statistics, financial information, site assessments and other public records. Susan Frischkorn and Stacy Mason, administrative assistants, assist with fulfilling these requests in a timely manner. In 2011, there were nearly 175 requests for information.

There are special projects throughout the year that are also coordinated through the Public Information Office. An example of a project in 2011 was the installation of smoke alarms in the homes of children that are hard of hearing. With a grant from the State Fire Marshal's Office and the volunteer labor provided by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 405, the Fire Department was able to install specialized strobe sensor smoke alarms designed to wake persons hard of hearing. Other projects throughout the year included grant writing; administration of the \$6.6 million I-JOBS grant; quarterly flood project worksheet reports; budget preparation and coding; and administration of an Assistance to Firefighters Grant for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, diesel exhaust system and fire hose.

FIRE CHAPLAINS



Phil Saunders



Rick Gail

Chaplains are volunteer members of the Cedar Rapids Fire Department and provide emotional and spiritual support to fire department personnel and their families, as well as support for fire victims and the community.

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department Chaplains are active throughout the year, including responding to stressful incidents, providing the invocation at City Council meetings, and participating in ceremonies such as the annual Recognition Ceremony and Fire Chief swearing-in ceremony.

The Chaplains are on-call and respond to fire or other traumatic emergencies involving serious injury or death. The Chaplains provide comfort to families and are able to assist firefighters with any personal issues.

In 2011, the Fire Department merged its Chaplain program with the Cedar Rapids Police Department's clergy to provide a more diverse, cohesive community response. The merge allows both public safety agencies to have ten religious and spiritual leaders to respond to incidents.

The members of the Fire Department and Police Department Chaplain Program include:

- Reverend Clyde Bailey, The People's Church
- Reverend Timothy Carter, First Church of the Nazarene
- Reverend Brian Fink, River of Life Ministries
- Reverend Rick Gail, First Assembly of God
- Reverend Ken Glandorf, Mercy Hospital Chaplain, Pastoral Care
- Reverend William Graham, Grace Baptist Church
- Reverend Dan Hoeger, St. Patrick's Catholic Church
- Reverend Pat Rieck, New Covenant Bible Church
- Deacon Phil Saunders, St. Matthew's Church
- Imam Taha Tawil, The Mother Mosque of America

The Fire Department and Police Department Chaplains act with respect and do not infringe upon the ministry of others. Chaplains provide immediate support at the incident and work with members of the religious community to network victims with their own clergy or other professionals that can provide for the victim's emotional needs.

HONOR GUARD



The Cedar Rapids Fire Department Honor Guard is a twenty-member special unit of the department that performs ceremonial duties at memorials, funerals, and special events. In 2011, the Honor Guard contributed 383 hours of service, including 199 ¼ off-duty hours.

The Honor Guard participated in twenty events throughout the year, including five visitations and funerals, six ceremonies and memorials, seven training sessions and two administrative meetings. The ceremonies and memorials included the SaPaDaPaSo Parade, Iowa Firefighters Association Memorial Service, Cedar Rapids Roughriders Opening Ceremony, 9/11 Ceremony, Iowa Emergency Medical Services Association Memorial Service, and the Cedar Rapids Fire Department Recognition Ceremony. The visitations and funerals that the Honor Guard was a part of included former Mayor Don Canney's visitation and funeral, retired Firefighter Virgil Johnson's visitation and graveside service, and a Des Moines Firefighter Line-Of-Duty Death.



Three members with a combined 38 years of service to the Honor Guard left in good standing in 2011, including Chief David Brown, Chief Michael Fredericks, and Captain Craig Dirks. Chief Fredericks and Captain Dirks were founding members of the Honor Guard. Chief Brown left as an Assistant Commander.

With three vacancies on the Honor Guard, the membership accepted applications from the Fire Department body. After applicants were interviewed, four new members were accepted (three existing openings and one pending opening). The Honor Guard's members are Firefighter Brandon Feddersen, Firefighter Kurt Kroemer, Firefighter Justin Jensen, and Firefighter Matt McDowell.

The Honor Guard participated in the Remember, Reflect and Respect service at Veteran's Memorial Stadium on September 11, 2011. Sponsored by the Inter-Religious Council, the event honored the memory of the brave men and women who perished in the line of duty on September 11, 2001. The Honor Guard displayed a piece of steel from the World Trade Center.



**The Honor Guard
Remembers the
Following Retired
Firefighter Who Died
in 2011:**

Virgil Johnson

RECOGNITION CEREMONY

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department held a Recognition Ceremony to recognize nine retirements, eight appointments, nine promotions and several awards to both firefighters and citizens. The Recognition Ceremony, which was held on December 13th at Kirkwood Community College, began with a Presentation of Colors by the Cedar Rapids Fire Department Honor Guard. Next, Fire Department Chaplain Rick Gail presented the Invocation. Guest speaker was Barry Boyer, President and Chief Executive Officer of Van Meter Inc., who was Chairperson of the Citizens' Fire Station Relocation Advisory Committee. After the awards were presented, Chaplain Phil Saunders delivered the Benediction, and the Honor Guard retired the Colors.

Fire Chief Mark English presented the following awards:



Award for Distinguished Action – Captain Phillip Nejdli, Firefighter Justin Jensen, and Firefighter Joshua Jensen for rescuing three individuals from a two-story apartment fire on June 19, 2011, at 226 27th Street NW.

Award for Distinguished Action – Julie Kane of Cedar Rapids who successfully performed rescue breathing and chest compressions on a four-year old drowning victim on August 2, 2011, at the Red Roof Inn at 3243 South Ridge Drive SW.

Award for Distinguished Service – Firefighter James Porter for assisting a stranded motorist along Highway 30 on July 7, 2011.

Award for Distinguished Service – Firefighter Michael Poch for creating a brick wall at Fire Station 5, located at 509 Wilson Avenue SW, that incorporates recovered stone from the “Hose House No. 5” sign that was at the old Fire Station 5 (1910-1957) at 1115 C Street SW.



Distinguished Action recipients: Top Row (left-to-right): Phillip Nejdli, Justin Jensen, and Joshua Jensen; Distinguished Service recipients: Bottom Row (left-to-right): James Porter and Michael Poch.



Restored “Hose House No. 5” brick wall that is displayed in front of Fire Station #5 at 509 Wilson Avenue SW.

Letter of Commendation – Fire Marshal James Thatcher, Assistant Fire Marshal Vance McKinnon III, and Robert R. Swain, Jr. of Cedar Rapids, for de-escalating a situation when an angry and aggressive man who had an arrest warrant entered the Police Substation at 1501 1st Avenue SE.

Letter of Commendation – Firefighter Amy Kunkle for her patient care at a medical emergency on January 26, 2011, which prompted a call from the victim’s family who was pleased with Firefighter Kunkle’s “caring nature and calming voice that made a bad situation easier.”

Letter of Commendation – Firefighter Marcus Burns for using satellite photo technology and creating new response maps at Fire Station 9, which is located at 415 Broderick Drive NE.

Letter of Commendation – Firefighter Randy Macku for providing assistance at a medical emergency in which the patient was pulseless and breathless. Firefighter Macku, who had arrived earlier than his assigned shift, responded with the on-duty firefighter crew to provide extra assistance.

Letter of Commendation – Captain Daniel Ripley, Firefighter Bryan Johnson, and Firefighter Rion Schulze, working with Area Ambulance Service, successfully revived a 53-year old man in full cardiac arrest on November 7, 2010, at Soapy Waters Laundromat, 808 6th Street SW.

Fire Chief’s Award – Firefighter Sean Beard, Firefighter Landon Merkle, and Firefighter Kurt Kroemer for their efforts in conceptualization and coordination of the Fire Bowl, a community outreach effort that raised \$16,400 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.



Commendation
Recipients:

(Left to Right)

Top Row: James
Thatcher, Vance
McKinnon, Amy
Kunkle, and Marcus
Burns

Bottom Row: Dan
Ripley, Bryan
Johnson, Rion
Schulze, and Randy
Macku



Fire Chief’s Award Recipients (left to right):
Sean Beard, Landon Merkle, and Kurt Kroemer

FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY



The men and women of the Cedar Rapids Fire Department are dedicated to serving people in need. Firefighters participate in philanthropic events both on and off-duty to raise both money and awareness of issues.

Cedar Rapids firefighters raised more money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) than any other fire department in Iowa over a three-month period that culminated with firefighters and their families holding fire boots at various intersections throughout the community over Labor Day weekend. The International Association of Fire Firefighters Local #11 and the Fire Department have had a 27-year tradition of supporting MDA. The total raised in 2011 was \$32,350.

The 11th Annual Cedar Rapids Fire Department Memorial 5K Walk/Run was held on Saturday, May 28th. All proceeds from the event went into the Cedar Rapids Fire Department Fallen Firefighter Fund. The 5K Walk/Run is held in memory of District Chief Kevin Sterenchuk who died unexpectedly on-duty in 2000 and Firefighter Joseph Brakel who died from cancer in 1999.

The 2nd Annual Fire Bowl was held on October 9th at Coe College's Clark Field. The Fire Bowl is a flag football tournament with teams composed of different public safety entities. Each year the Fire Bowl committee chooses a charity that will receive net proceeds from the event. In 2011, the Fire Bowl raised \$16,400 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which will cover the costs of a wish for two Eastern Iowa children with serious, life-threatening conditions.



FIRE STATION UPDATES



Groundbreaking for the new Central Fire Station is scheduled for June 13, 2012 at 10:15 a.m. to coincide with the four-year anniversary of the date and time that the Cedar River flood waters peaked at 31.12 feet, setting a record high and overcoming the previous record of 20 feet set on March 18, 1929.

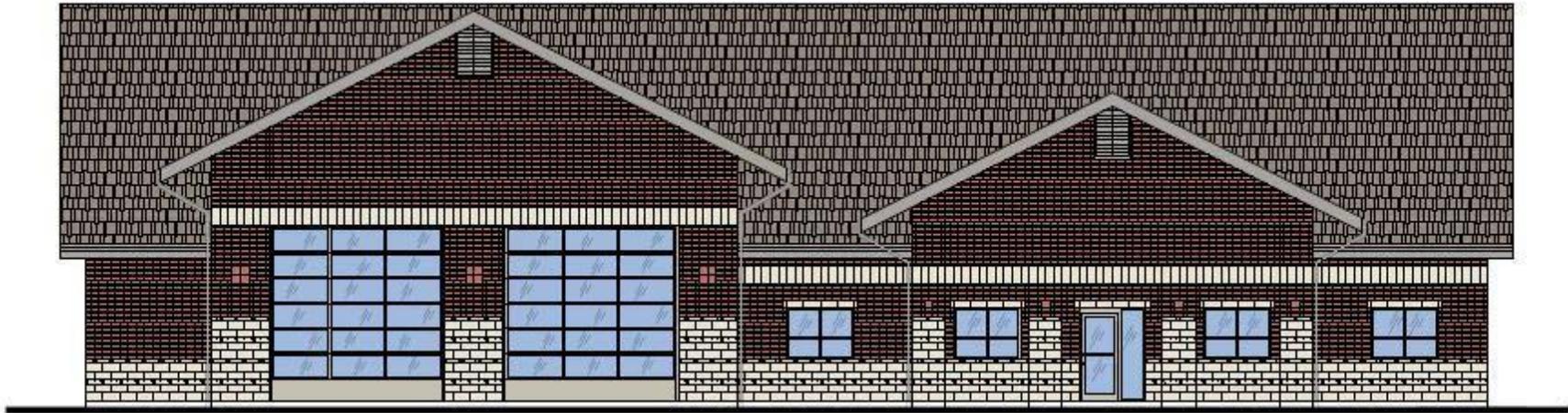
In 2011, the Fire Department completed design development and expects to award a general contractor contract by June 2012. Construction is scheduled to commence in July 2012 and the Central Fire Station will be open for business on August 15, 2013. The address of the Central Fire Station will be 713 1st Avenue SE.

When completed, the Central Fire Station will have an Engine Company, Truck Company, Rescue Company and Battalion Chiefs that will respond to emergency incidents.

Traffic preemption devices will be installed to minimize traffic disruption and provide safer response from the fire station. In addition to shift firefighters, the Fire Department's administrative offices, including the Fire Marshal's Office, will be located at the Central Fire Station. There will be a City Emergency Operations Center at the fire station as well.

The Central Fire Station is being designed to embrace sustainability with the goal to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification, which has been achieved by only a few fire stations across the nation. Further, the Central Fire Station is an example of responsible growth, building only what is needed and where it is needed to serve the community. The ready access to U.S. Interstate 380 and First Avenue will allow efficient response to all areas of the City. The community will find that the Central Fire Station embraces the history and image of the original central fire station (formerly Science Station).

The project is funded by \$14,359,324 from FEMA repair funds and \$5 million from a state I-JOBS grant. The overall project budget totals \$19,359,324.



A new Fire Station #3, which will be located near Edgewood Road and Crestwood Drive NW, is scheduled to open on March 28, 2013. The construction of the Central Fire Station at 713 1st Avenue SE will allow the Fire Department to relocate the existing Fire Station #3 from 1424 B Avenue NE.

The realignment of fire stations in Cedar Rapids will vastly improve response coverage and increase the area of the City that is within 1.5 miles of a fire station by 8.93 square miles, or 12.5 percent. By the same token, there will be 2,151 additional residential and 61 commercial and exempt parcels that will be within the 1.5 mile coverage of a fire station. This improvement in service coverage positively affects the City's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating, which has a direct effect on the insurance premiums that individuals pay on their homes and especially on commercial buildings.

The need for an additional west side fire station has existed for at least 15 years in an area that has grown by nearly 20,000 citizens. The same area is projected to grow by up to 40,000 citizens over the next 30 years. The strategic location of all fire stations is a key factor in the flood and economic recovery efforts of the City. Fire stations are located to support future growth in their respective areas.

The new Fire Station #3 will be 8,120 square feet and have two double-deep fire apparatus bays. There will be four firefighter dormitories, a Captain's Office, exercise room, kitchen and living room.

The City intends to award the general contractor contract in July 2012 and commence construction in August.

The total project cost for the new Fire Station #3 is \$2.8 million, with \$1.6 million from a state I-JOBS grant and \$1.2 million from City funds.



**City of Cedar Rapids
Fire Department
1010 1st Street NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405**

Phone: (319) 286-5200

Web Site: www.cedar-rapids.org/fire

