



2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Cedar Rapids Fire Department





Cedar Rapids Fire Department Annual Report

Mr. Mayor, City Council, City Manager, and people of Cedar Rapids:

It has been my pleasure and distinct honor to be the Fire Chief of the City of Cedar Rapids for 2012. Our dynamic organization has had a productive year in the areas of increased levels of service delivery as well as recovery from the flood of 2008.

I am pleased to present the Fire Department's Annual Report on behalf of our personnel. As you will see in this Report, the Fire Department has a firm belief in preserving the rich tradition of serving the community.

The Fire Department provides 24 hours a day, 7 days a week emergency response to all types of incidents, including fires, sudden illness, traumatic injury and hazardous materials releases. For the first time since its inception in 1869, the Cedar Rapids Fire Department responded to over 10,000 incidents. Out of 10,277 incidents, there were only two fire-related fatalities.

In addition, fire prevention efforts were continued by the Fire Marshal's Office through fire and life safety inspections, fire safety education, visits to schools, interviews with juvenile fire setters, fire safety presentations for civic groups, and investigations of fire causes.

This year two fire stations, Fire Station 3 and Fire Station 6, upgraded emergency medical response capabilities, which means all ten fire stations now have access to advanced life support equipment and personnel. Such capabilities increase a victim's probability of surviving a heart attack or any other life-threatening injuries. Nearly 22 percent of Fire Department calls have required advanced medical skills, and due to these efforts, 12 cardiac arrest patients were able to survive after resuscitation by rescue personnel.

In addition to emergency response, fire personnel remain active in the community. Philanthropic efforts by the firefighters raised over \$60,000 for various charitable organizations throughout 2012. The Fire Department continued its tradition of supporting the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) by giving \$26,237 to the organization. The Cedar Rapids Fire Department raised more money for MDA than any other fire department in Iowa. The Annual CRFD Memorial 5K Walk/Run raised \$1,750 for the families of Iowa firefighters who died performing their duties. The Department also held the Third Annual Fire Bowl in September. The Fire Bowl partnered up with the Folds of Honor Foundation in order to provide the children of fallen and wounded Iowa soldiers with post-secondary scholarships. Firefighters donated \$33,454 to the Folds of Honor Foundation.



**Mark A. English
Fire Chief**

The Fire Department continues to work on rebuilding a new Central Fire Station and a new west side fire station. Construction on the new Central Fire Station commenced in late July and it is scheduled to open in September 2013. The new Central Fire Station will also be one of only a few fire stations in the nation to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification as testimony to our commitment to sustainability. After both fire stations are completed, 12.5 percent more of the City will be within one and one-half miles of a fire station, alleviating a coverage gap on the City's west side.

We hope that that you find the Cedar Rapids Fire Department Annual Report to be informative. You will find that firefighters are employing new technology and advanced training to better serve the community. The Fire Department wants to show you the value of the services that we are able to provide with your support.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. English
Fire Chief, City of Cedar Rapids

EARLY HISTORY OF THE CEDAR RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT



On February 4, 1869, the City of Cedar Rapids began organizing its first volunteer fire department. On March 1, 1869, the City's first Silsby Steamer Engine and 500 feet of hose arrived at a cost of \$6,000. By March 11, 1869, the fire department became fully organized with J.J. Snouffer as the foreman.

In 1882, the Bohemian-American Hose Company was formed. The firehouse was located in the rear of the C.S.P.S. Hall at 11th Avenue and 3rd Street SE.

The first paid Fire Chief was L.M. Ayers, who served from 1893 to 1897. The fire equipment of that day included nine two-wheeled carts, one four-wheeled cart, two large hook and ladder trucks, and one supply wagon.

On June 23, 1894, the Cedar Rapids Fire Department became a paid department. Cedar Rapids would now be covered by a unified fire department as opposed to a collection of individual volunteer companies. These companies would compete with each other in order to get to the fire first and put it out. To this day, Cedar Rapids uses its own special thread style on its hoses – the tradition dates back to the volunteer fire department days when the special thread prevented other volunteer companies to be able to connect to the fire hydrants.

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 City's first Central Fire Station was located in City Hall at what would today be 219-221 2nd Street SE. Prior to becoming a paid fire department on May 21, 1894, the Cedar Rapids Fire Department was actually several independent fire companies located throughout the community. The address of City Hall in 1894 was 51-53 South Second Street (changed to 219-211 2nd Street SE in 1895).

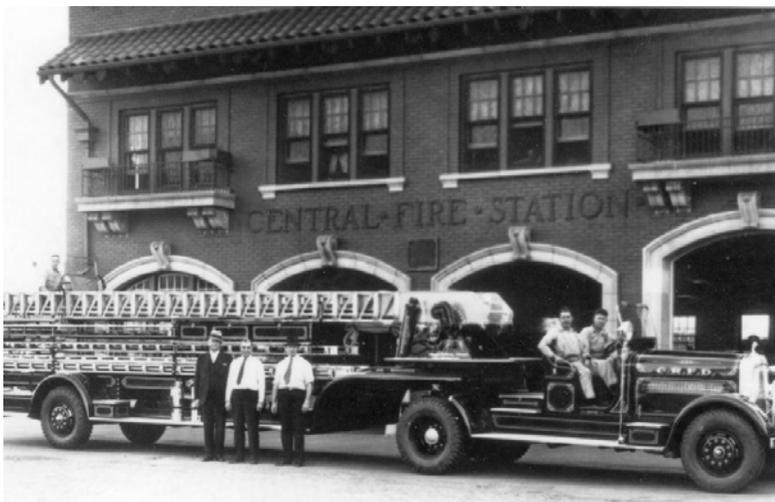
The new department began with a single station staffed by nine men, with one piece of apparatus and a team of horses. Prior to 1894, 2 of the 12 old fire companies worked out of the City Hall site in 1893:

- Steamer Hose Company, led by foreman Josh W. Frish (22 members)
- Relief Hook and Ladder Company, led by foreman C. Morehead (17 members)

In 1899, land was acquired and new Central Fire Station was constructed in the vicinity of B Avenue and 3rd Street NE (currently Quaker Oats grain silos are found where this station was located). According to historical records, the address was 214 3rd Street NE.

The third Central Fire Station was opened on June 20, 1917, and was located at 427 1st Street SE. During the transition, the old Haskill Garage between Fourth and Fifth Streets on Fifth Avenue SE (site of Pepsi Cola Bottling Company) was used as a temporary fire station. The 427 1st Street SE site (converted into The Science Station after firefighters vacated the building) would serve the City until December 1985, when Central Fire Station was moved to a new building at 222 3rd Street NW.

The 222 3rd Street NW location would be used until the Flood of 2008 (June 11-13, 2008). The flood displaced the Fire Administrative Offices, firefighters' quarters, Engine 1, Truck 1, Rescue 1, and hazardous materials and special operations vehicles.



The Fire Department Administrative Offices and Engine 1 are temporarily housed at 1010 1st Street NW from January 2009 through today. Truck 1 and some specialty response vehicles are at a temporary fire station, known as Fire Station #10, at 1825 Edgewood Road NW.

The new Central Fire Station will be located at 713 1st Avenue SE and is scheduled to open mid-September 2013.

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

PROMOTIONS



Roy Becker, Jr.
was promoted from
Shift Firefighter to Shift Fire Captain
on 05/19/2012



Andrew Olesen
was promoted from
Shift Fire Captain to Battalion Chief
on 06/30/2012



Brent Smith
was promoted from
Shift Firefighter to Shift Fire Captain
on 06/30/2012



Cheme Fairlie
was promoted from
Shift Firefighter to Shift Fire Captain
on 07/14/2012



Vance McKinnon III
was promoted from
Asst. Fire Marshal to Fire Marshal
on 11/03/2012



Doug LeClere
was promoted from
Shift Firefighter to Shift Fire Captain
on 12/01/2012

APPOINTMENTS



Shift Firefighters Appointed November 5, 2012:

Top Row: Jason Longbine, Theodore Wieland, and Neil Gerot

Second Row: Dustin Fordice and Jeremy LaRoche

TRANSFERS

Jason Andrews transferred from Shift Fire Captain to Day Fire Captain in the EMS Division on 01/14/2012

RETIREMENTS



Robert "Scott" Bemer
retired as
Shift Fire Captain
on May 6, 2012



George Bockenstedt
retired as
Shift Battalion Chief
on June 30, 2012



Emma Pulver
retired as
Shift Fire Captain
on July 12, 2012



James Thatcher
retired as
Fire Marshal
on November 1, 2012



Ronald Luckeroth
retired as
Shift Fire Captain
on November 30, 2012

BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2013 (JULY 1, 2012 – JUNE 30, 2013)

REVENUES

Special Fire Services	420,750
Protective Inspection Fees	480,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	25,000
Operating Transfer-In	1,697,670
Printing & Duplication of Forms	500
Sale of Maps and Publications	330
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$2,624,250

EXPENDITURES

Personal Services	15,110,713
Discretionary Non-Personal Expenditures	431,138
Non-Discretionary Non-Personal Expenditures	1,479,311
Capital Outlay	220,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$17,241,162



The Cedar Rapids Fire Department provides fire suppression, emergency medical services, and hazardous materials responses. Firefighters are ready to respond 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In 2012, the Fire Department responded to 10,277 incidents – the first time in the Fire Department's history that firefighters responded to more than 10,000 incidents.

The Fire Department's primary funding source is the taxpayer-funded City General Fund. The Fire Department receives 17 percent of the General Fund's expenditure budget. The Department charges a fee for fire inspections and permits, gas line breaks, and false alarms. It also collects revenue for Tier II and confined space agreements. These revenues are designed to reduce the amount of property taxes needed for the Department's operations.

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

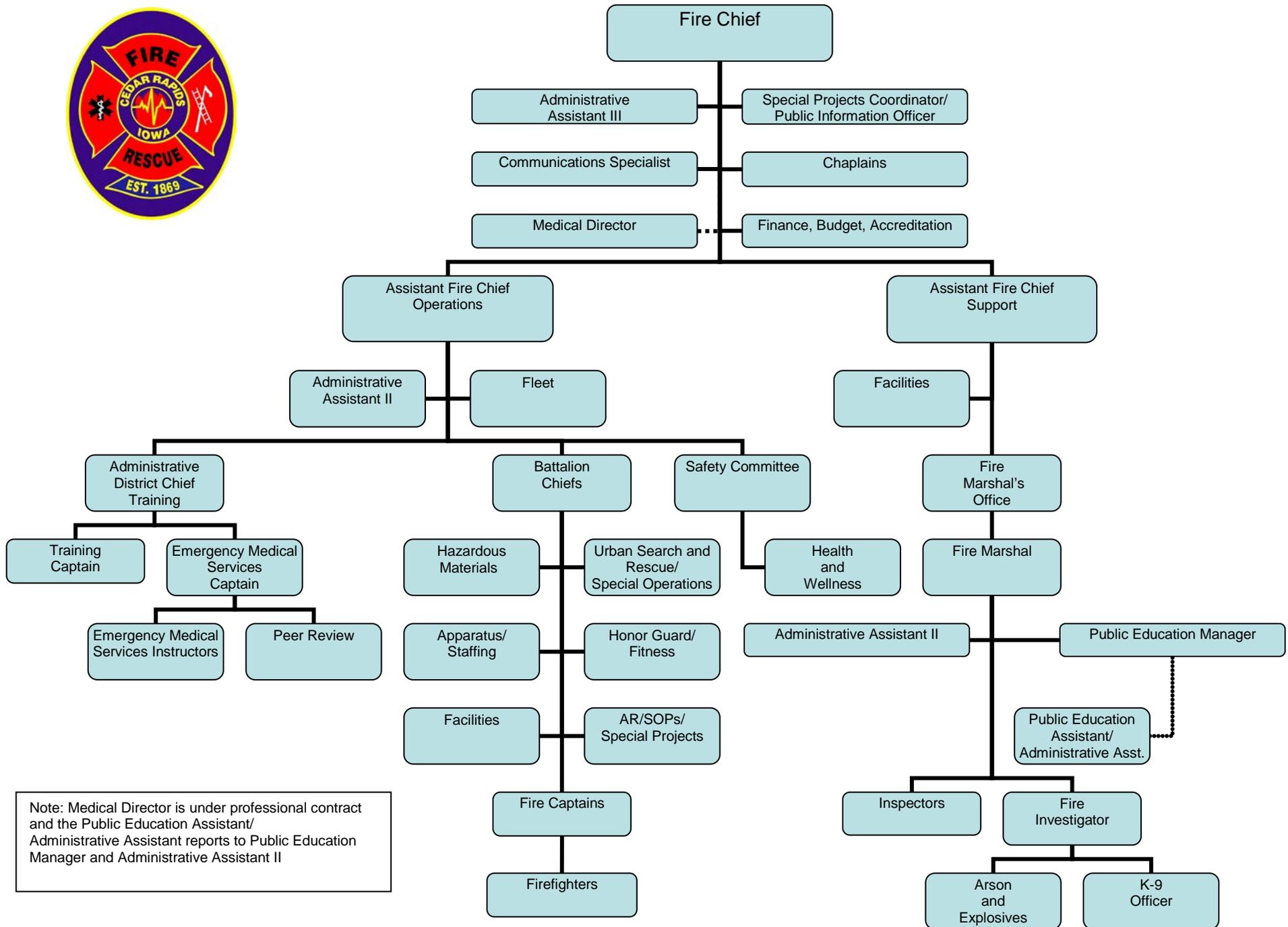
Property tax revenue allocated to the Fire Department from the Police and Fire property tax levy is \$1.6 million. Personal services account for 88 percent of the Department's entire budget.

Discretionary Non-Personal Expenditures include the Fire Department's contribution to Health Services (\$55,000), books, periodicals and subscriptions, office supplies, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) supplies, personal protective gear, clothing, buildings and grounds repairs, and postage. The training budget was increased by \$20,000 this fiscal year.

Non-Discretionary Non-Personal Expenditures are for City Accounting, Fleet Services, Information Technology, and the Fire Department's contribution to the Joint Communications Center (\$702,606). 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 (SCBA), firefighter turnout gear, firefighting tools and equipment, Fox Fury Command 20 Headlamps, and carbon monoxide patient monitors.

CEDAR RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Note: Medical Director is under professional contract and the Public Education Assistant/
Administrative Assistant reports to Public Education Manager and Administrative Assistant II

OPERATIONS DIVISION



Gregory Smith
Assistant Fire Chief

The Operations Division, under the leadership of Assistant Fire Chief Greg Smith, includes Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Services, Training Division, Urban Search and Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Special Operations, Fitness Committee, Fleet, and the Honor Guard. There are six Battalion Chiefs, a Training Chief, two Training Captains, 33 Shift Fire Captains, and 92 Shift Firefighters.

Emergency services are provided around-the-clock. In 2012, the Fire Department responded to 10,277 incidents. The Fire Department used 10 fire stations to provide emergency response. There are 8 permanent stations, along with 2 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).

Fire suppression efforts in 2012 preserved over \$36 million in property value. There was a total property dollar loss of \$2,947,008 due to fires; however, the total value of properties involved with a fire was \$39,402,068.

Shift Personnel Activity Log:

Fire Drills	7
Fire Extinguisher Demonstrations	22
Business Inspections	6
Job Shadow	3
Neighborhood Meeting	2
Public Education Events	19
Public Relations	105
Ride-Along	65
Special Events	5
Station Tours	39
Training	274
Truck and Turnout Demonstrations	65



David Brown
Battalion Chief



Dan Dall
Battalion Chief



Brian Giachino
Battalion Chief



Brian Gibson
Battalion Chief



Andrew Olesen
Battalion Chief



John Pulver
Battalion Chief

The Department has six Battalion Chiefs (two for each 24-hour shift) who oversee the east and west sides of Cedar Rapids. The Battalion Chiefs provide incident command at major incidents and manage daily shift activities and personnel assignments. Firefighters work 24-hour shifts with 48 hours off-duty before their next shift assignment. Every 18th work shift, firefighters receive a shift day off called a “Kelly Day.” Over the course of a year, firefighters average 53 hours per week.

The Department’s Battalion Chiefs have specific program management areas including: Facility Maintenance (Chief David Brown), Urban Search and Rescue/Special Operations (Chief Dan Dall), Hazardous Materials Response (Chief Brian Giachino), Apparatus and Fire Equipment (Chief Brian Gibson), Special Projects (Chief Andrew Olesen), and Fitness Committee/Honor Guard (Chief John Pulver).

Throughout 2012, the Fire Department updated and replaced equipment like thermal imaging cameras, fire hose, and other tools and fire appliances (couplings, nozzles, etc.) to comply with National Fire Protection Association and Insurance Services Office standards.

SIGNIFICANT FIRES OF 2012

- Two-story four-unit apartment, 1638 3rd Avenue SE
January 30th - \$320,000 damage
- Two-story single-family residence, 2944 Oakland Road NE
August 22nd - \$275,000 damage
- Split-foyer single family residence, 6706 Arbor Lane NE
January 3rd - \$140,000 damage
- Two-story single family residence, 3631 Western Pine Drive NE
July 16th - \$135,305 damage (one fire fatality)
- One-story single-family residence, 1606 Sierra Drive NE
March 9th - \$125,000 damage
- Two-story apartment, 433 4th Avenue SW
January 4th - \$99,190 damage



Firefighters battle an apartment fire at 1638 3rd Avenue SE on January 30th.



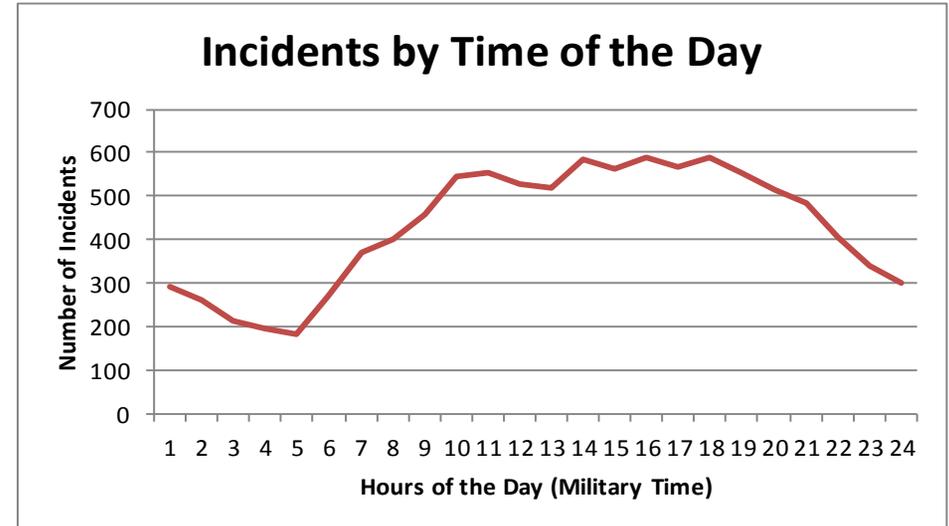
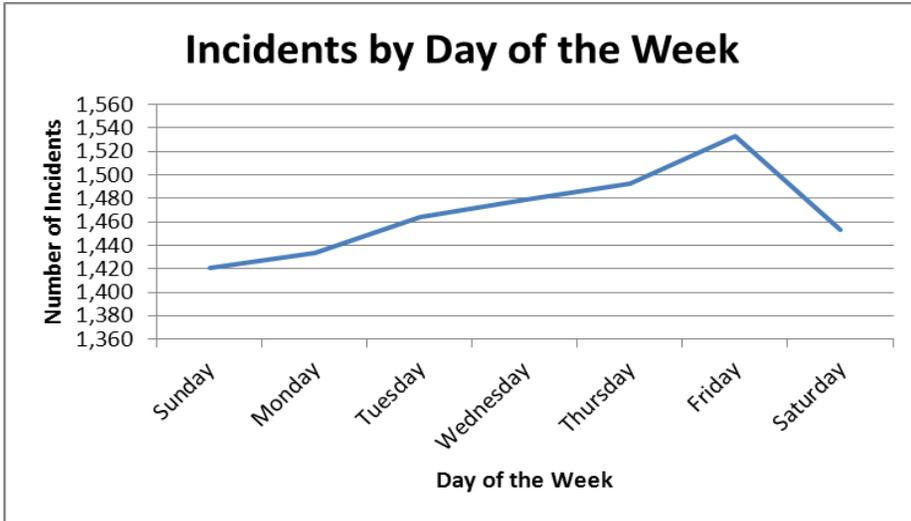
Extensive fire damage is evident to the bedroom of a fatal fire at 3631 Western Pine Drive NE on July 16th, and fire breaches the roof of a residence at 2944 Oakland Road NE on August 22nd.

The photograph of Quint 7 at the top of the following page on the left was taken outside of a residential fire at 6706 Arbor Lane NE on January 3rd.

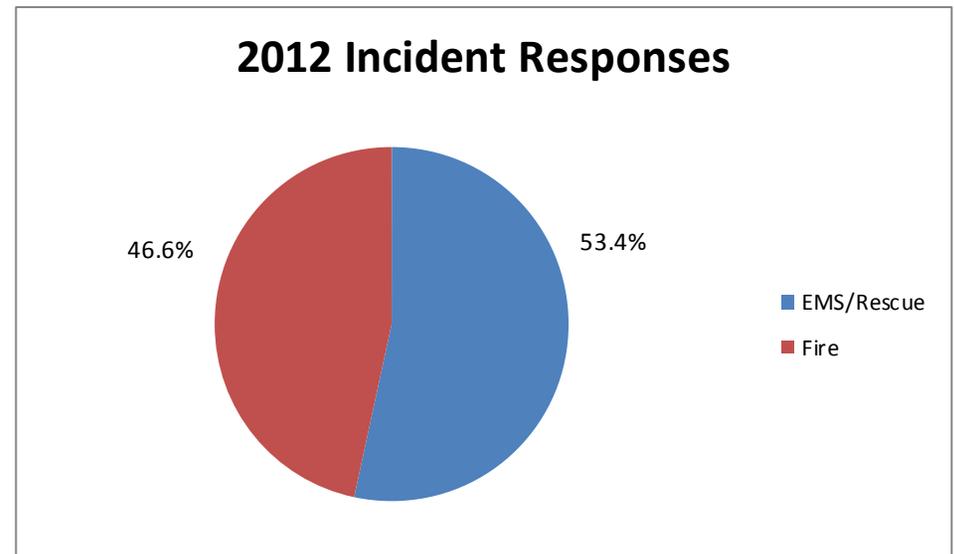
The photograph at the top of the following page on the right is a firefighter battling a fire on 931 16th Avenue SE on June 6th.



You are most likely to see a Cedar Rapids Fire Department emergency vehicle responding to an incident on a Friday between 6:00 – 6:59 PM.



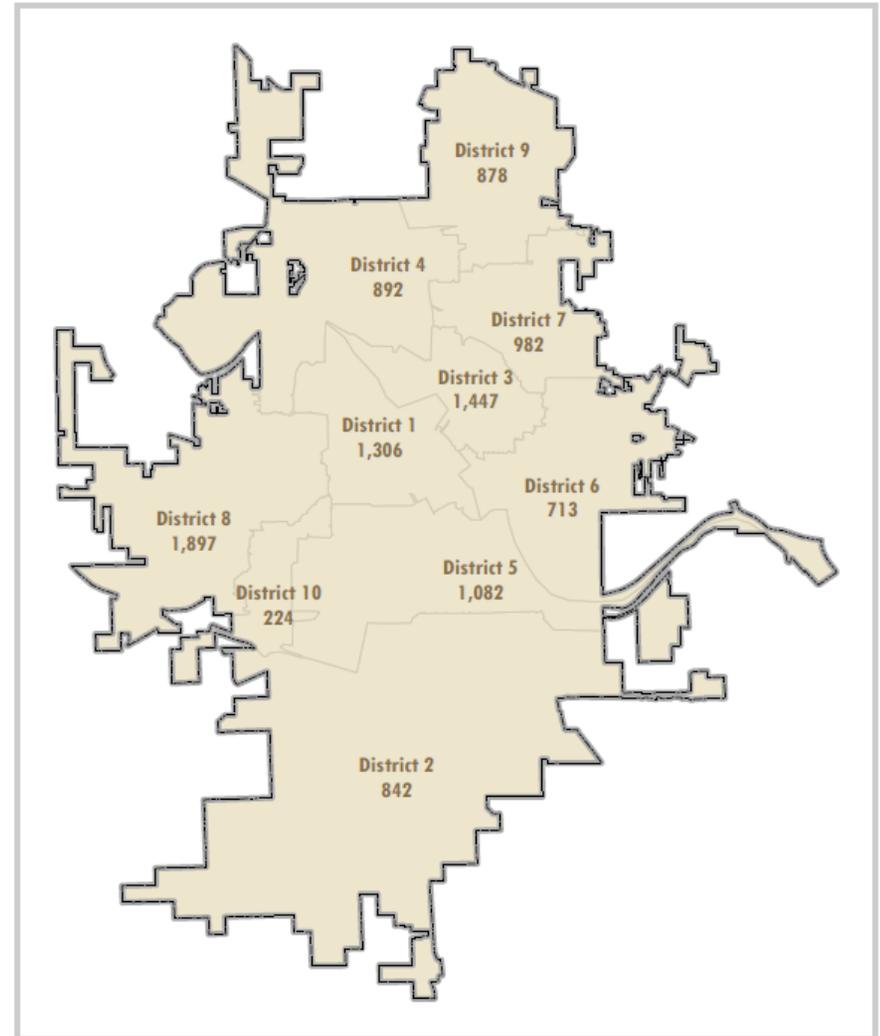
- Firefighters responded to 4,786 fire-related calls and 5,491 emergency medical services/rescue calls in 2012.
- Mutual aid was given to surrounding communities 14 times, while mutual aid was received by Cedar Rapids nine times.
- There were two civilian fire fatalities in 2012:
 - On February 26, 2012, Kerry M. Bye, age 43, of 215 22nd St. NW died in a house fire that originated near an entertainment center in the living room.
 - On July 16, 2012, Ronald J. Gillen, age 81, of 3631 Western Pine Drive NE died in a house fire caused by smoking materials in bed.



FIRE STATION AND FIRE DISTRICT INFORMATION

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department utilized eight permanent and two temporary fire stations in 2012. The Fire Department offers fire protection and other services to 72.1 square miles.

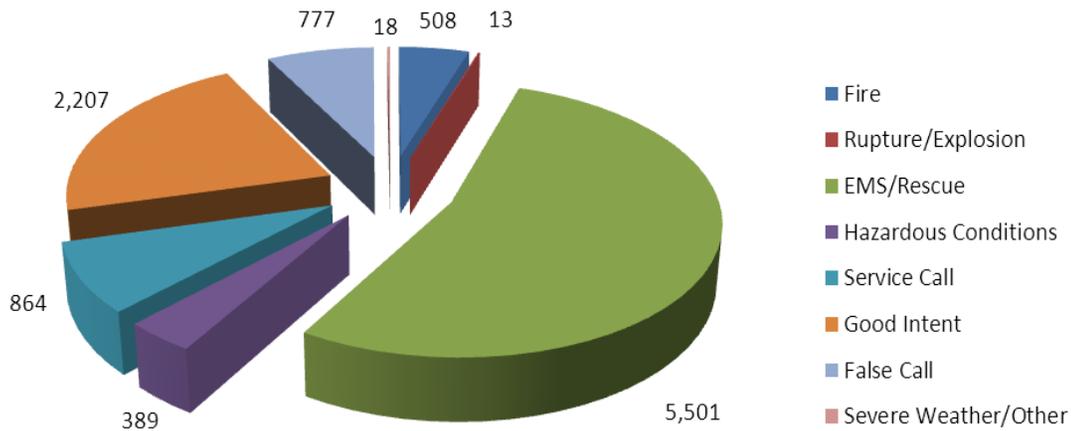
FIRE STATION DISTRICT	LOCATION	SQ. MILES	TOTAL DISTRICT INCIDENTS
1	1010 1 st Street NW	4.0	1,306
2	442 50 th Avenue Court SW	21.2	842
3	1424 B Avenue NE	2.9	1,447
4	3600 42 nd Street NE	9.4	892
5	509 Wilson Avenue SW	7.4	1,082
6	2416 Mount Vernon Road SE	6.8	713
7	206 29 th Street NE	4.1	982
8	100 Wiley Boulevard SW	9.0	1,897
9	415 Broderick Drive NE	5.5	878
10	1825 Edgewood Road SW	1.8	224



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

Note: There were 14 mutual aid calls in 2012 whose addresses are not reflected in the map. There were a total of 10,263 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

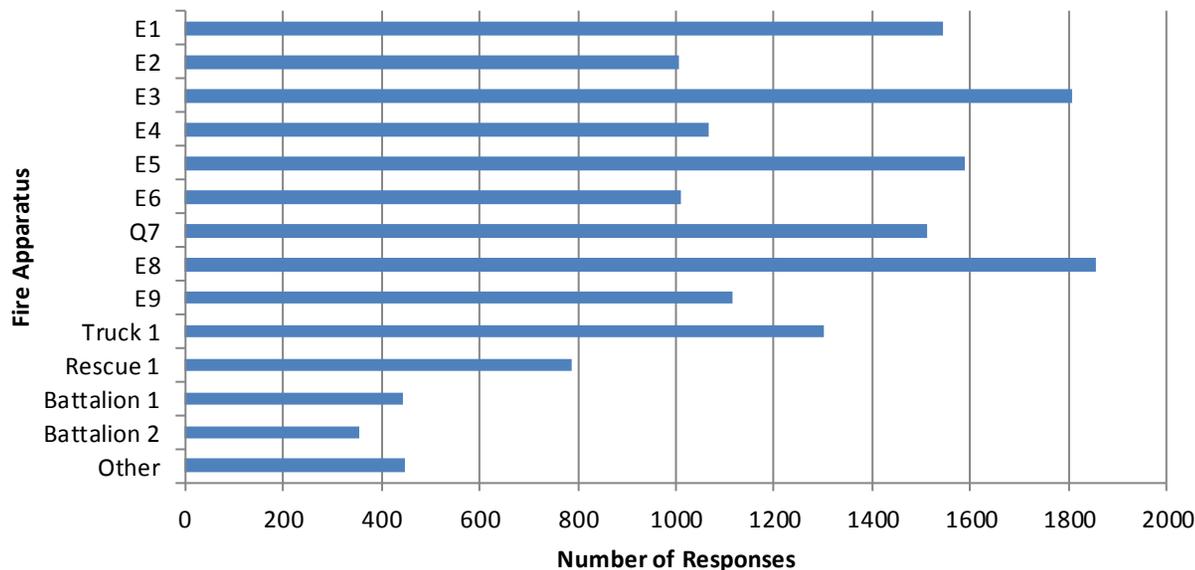
Incident Highlights



- 206 structure fires
- 76 passenger vehicle fires
- 72 brush, grass, or natural vegetation fires
- 233 vehicle accidents with injuries
- 6 extrications
- 7 water/ice rescues
- 60 gas leaks
- 133 hazardous materials (spills, leaks)
- 21 carbon monoxide calls (CO present)
- 586 citizen assists
- 134 unauthorized burnings



Total Responses by Fire Apparatus



The Cedar Rapids Fire Department responded to 10,277 incidents in 2012. 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 number of responses made by all fire department apparatus was 15,844.



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.

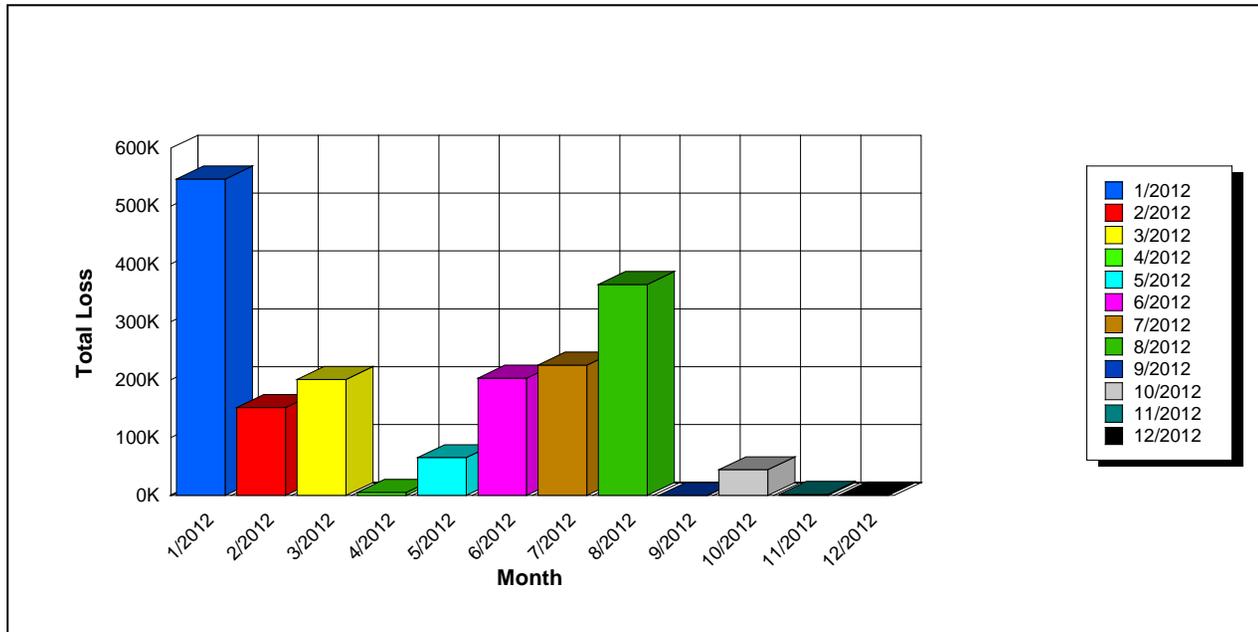
Essentially, a performance metric describes what the Fire Department will be doing when demonstrating mastery of an objective. For example, the Fire Department strives to arrive on scene of an emergency within five minutes of receiving the 911 call. Monthly results are posted on the Fire Department's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

Highlights of 2012's Performance Metrics were:

- The busiest month for fires was June (51 fires).
- The best average response time to fires (dispatch to arrival) was both April and December (4 minutes, 18 seconds) and the best month for percentage of response times that were less than five minutes was July (63.6 percent).
- The best percentage for fires contained to the room or object of origin was May (88.9 percent). The National Fire Protection Association recommendation is greater than 40 percent, which the Fire Department surpassed each month.

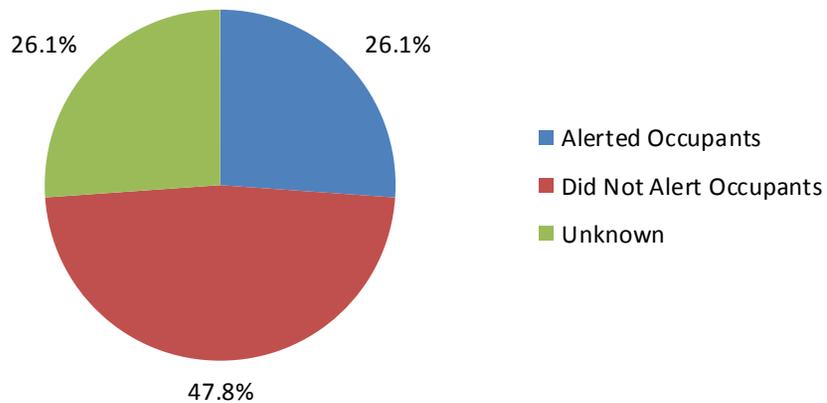


RESIDENTIAL FIRE LOSS BY MONTH



<u>Month</u>	<u>Fires</u>	<u>Total Loss</u>
January	11	\$546,506.00
February	10	\$152,010.00
March	17	\$200,617.00
April	7	\$5,508.00
May	13	\$65,417.00
June	11	\$202,639.00
July	13	\$225,147.00
August	10	\$364,434.00
September	4	\$20,800.00
October	12	\$44,563.00
November	9	\$2,159.00
December	7	\$5,728.00
TOTALS:	124	\$1,860,528.00

Smoke Alarm Status for Structure Fires



24.3 percent of all residential fires were cooking fires



Unattended cooking fires are one of the leading causes of residential fires in Cedar Rapids, accounting for nearly one-fourth of all house fires.

Fires in Structures by Fixed Property Use

One or two-family Dwellings	93
Apartments	51
Other Residential (dormitories, boarding houses, tents)	4
Public Assembly (church, restaurant, clubs)	5
Schools and Colleges	1
Health Care Facilities	1
Stores and Offices	10
Industry, Utility, Laboratories, Manufacturing	16
Storage in Structures	20
Other Structures (Vacant, Under Construction, Outbuildings)	5



Most of the fires in Cedar Rapids occur in residential properties. Further, most fire fatalities and injuries occur in the home, which underscores the importance of fire prevention, by installing and maintaining smoke alarms and having a home fire escape plan.



Smoke pours from a flood-damaged abandoned house at 421 C Avenue NW on February 24th.

In June of 2008, Cedar Rapids was severely flooded when heavy rains coupled with melting snow created a 500-year flood. The swollen Cedar River waters inundated 14 percent of the City and, in fact, flooded areas of the community beyond the 500-year flood plain.

Other jurisdictions throughout the United States that had experienced similar disasters warned Cedar Rapids that fires would likely occur in unoccupied, vacant or abandoned properties.

By the end of 2012, there had been 40 known structure fires in the flood zone. At the same time, the City had removed over 1,100 homes, lessening the risk of deliberately set fires. Further, there were at least seven people arrested for arson.

Those arrested for setting fires included juveniles and adults with motivation ranging from vandalism to attempts to salvage copper and aluminum.

Most of the homes that have been destroyed by fire have been privately owned structures in which the owner has abandoned or failed to mitigate and secure the damaged structure. Others have been City-owned properties that were awaiting demolition.

The exact cause of several of the fires is unknown; however, none of the structures had working utilities (gas and electric).

Fortunately, there have been no injuries to civilians or firefighters due to these fires in the flood zone.

Fires in the Flood Zone by Year:

2008	-	5
2009	-	8
2010	-	7
2011	-	6
2012	-	14

TRAINING DIVISION



Michael Fredericks
Admn. District Chief

Under the direction of Administrative District Chief Michael Fredericks, 2012 brought some important changes to the structure and operations of the Training Division and a significant increase in the amount of training completed by Cedar Rapids firefighters. In all, the department recorded 14,760 training hours in the areas of fire suppression, firefighter safety, vehicle accidents, technical rescue, high-rise firefighting, health and fitness, and probationary firefighter training. This is in addition to any EMS training and the required citywide training sessions of all personnel by Human Resources.

Jason Andrews joined the Training Division on January 14th as the department's EMS Training Captain. Captain Andrews and Fire Training Captain Don Ransford developed a comprehensive training record program that allowed all departmental and outside training events to be precisely tracked and recorded. This program aided in the implementation of a Company-Level training program that engaged fire crews in independent training activities throughout the year.

Monthly department-wide fire training classes were conducted throughout the year, offering instruction in such topics as large area search techniques, hose line management, traffic vehicle incident hazards and management, firefighter control of elevators in multi-story buildings, SCBA skills, health and fitness issues, and the operation of the department's new Mobile Data Computer system. Some of the training sessions mentioned here utilized several of the flood-damaged commercial and residential properties in Cedar Rapids to provide realistic working conditions for the crews.



Firefighters performed interior fire attack skills on a house that was donated for a practice burn at 2653 Fruitland Boulevard SW. Training was held on May 30th and May 31st.

A major training event was conducted in September, when all crews attended a day-long class on high-rise firefighting strategies and tactics, presented by Battalion Chief Mike Prete of Montgomery County, Maryland. This class was custom-designed to meet the demands of the types of situations which could be encountered in Cedar Rapids. Techniques and concepts gained from this class will be expanded upon in 2013 as there will be training sessions on the specific firefighting duties of crews responding to a high-rise incident.

Another training opportunity presented twice to the department in 2012 by an outside instructing agency was the "Engine Academy," a three-day course which emphasized the best practices for both Engine Company officers and firefighters. This class presented an aggressive approach to interior fire operations and consisted of classroom sessions and numerous hands-on drills focusing on water supply and hose line deployment.



Cedar Rapids firefighters recorded 14,760 hours of training in 2012.

Additional training highlights in 2012 included a Rapid Intervention exercise, a first-hand account of dealing with a Line of Duty Death, and instruction in forcible entry techniques. The multi-company Rapid Intervention drill was conducted early in the year at Station 10 and realistically simulated a situation in which two firefighters became lost in a structure, with one entrapped beneath a collapsed beam. In March, Captain Ryan Pyle of the Shawnee (KS) Fire Department shared his experience in losing a crew member during the primary search of a burning structure. And in the fall, a custom-made forcible entry training prop, fabricated by Captain Craig Dirks, was utilized in crew training sessions to practice this important skill.

An acquired residential structure on the SW side of Cedar Rapids provided a very beneficial training opportunity in late May, as fire crews practiced skills such as ventilation, interior search, fire suppression, and overhaul. The training culminated in burning the structure down on the third day of training, with many of the newer firefighters getting the opportunity to hone their response skills under actual fire conditions.

In October, three members of the department received certification as Live Fire Instructors, enhancing the department's capability in offering live-fire training.

Training received outside of the department included sending personnel to the State Winter Fire School in Ames, the Fire Department Instructor's Conference (FDIC) in Indianapolis, Central Iowa Training Association (CITA) – Kirkwood Community College Fire School in Cedar Rapids, and the Tri-State Responders Conference in Dubuque. Several conferences offering advanced Incident Command and Management training were attended by Chief-level officers as well. In many cases, information gained from these events was brought back by the attendees and shared with the department as a whole.

In early April, the first of the two 2011 Probationer classes (10 Probationary Firefighters) was honored at a graduation ceremony at Kirkwood College. These new firefighters received their yellow helmets, badges, and name bars in the presence of their families, Company Officers, Fire Chaplains, Fire Chiefs, City Officials, and fellow firefighters to conclude their first year on the job. In September, the ceremony was repeated for the second 2011 group (three Probationary Firefighters). Five additional probationers were hired on November 5, 2012, and went on shift in mid-December after a six-week Training Academy, ensuring that shift staffing would be at full capacity going into the winter months.

Goals for 2013 were introduced to the crews as the year came to an end. These goals include the establishment of Minimum Fire Training Requirements for the department, Driver/Operator certification for all shift personnel, continued high-rise operations training, and initiation of an Officer Development Program.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)



Jason Andrews
Captain

On May 19, 2012, the Cedar Rapids Fire Department upgraded the emergency medical response capabilities of two fire stations: 1424 B Avenue NE (#3) and 2416 Mount Vernon Road SE (#6), so that all ten fire stations in the community had advanced life support equipment and personnel. The advanced life support capabilities include initiation of intravenous lines, medication administration, advanced airway placement, and heart rhythm interpretation and treatment such as cardio version. All Cedar Rapids firefighters are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and nearly one-third have Paramedic level training. The Fire Department schedules at least one paramedic per shift at each of the ten fire stations.

In 2012, 21.7 percent of medical calls required advanced life support skills, while 78.3 percent included basic life support. Highlighting the improved standard of care, the cardiac arrest save rate in Cedar Rapids was 17 percent – a patient with no breathing and no pulse was revived and released from the hospital without any neurological deficit.

The Fire Department has 136 emergency medical providers, including 93 EMT-Basics, 7 EMT-Intermediate/Advanced EMTs, 14 Iowa Paramedics, and 32 Paramedic Specialists. Throughout the year, Captain Jason Andrews, who was assigned as the EMS Program Director in January, facilitated EMS transition training for 14 Iowa Paramedics and 2 EMT-Intermediates. The Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of EMS, is requiring all out-of-hospital emergency care providers to transition to one of four distinct training levels: Emergency Medical Responder, EMT, Advanced EMT or Paramedic.

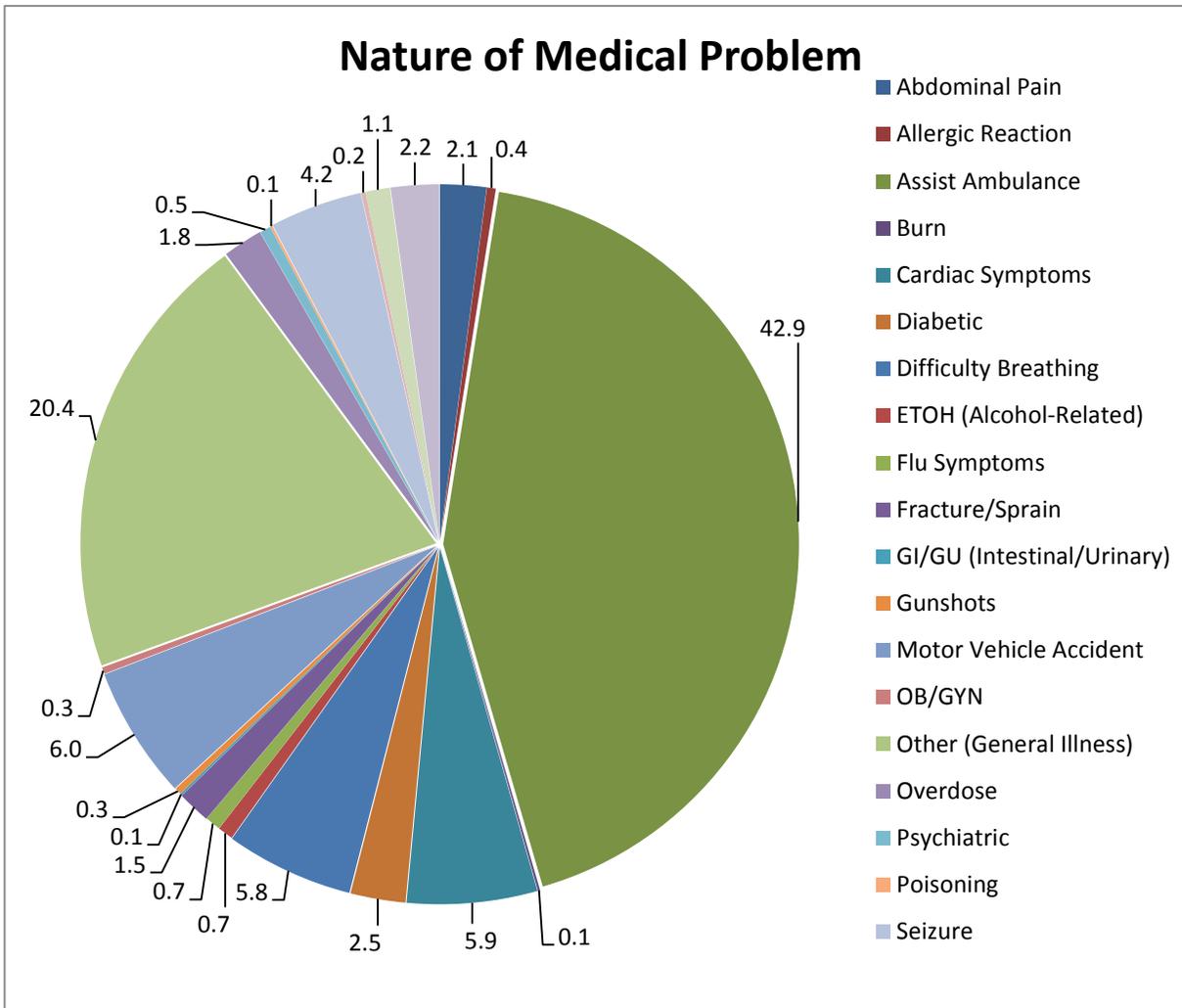
There were over 100 EMS training sessions offered in 2012 resulting in 4,911 EMS training hours.



Firefighters prepare a bicycle accident victim for transport to a local hospital.

EMS Program Director Andrews works with six shift EMS Coordinators: Captain Joel Miles, Firefighter Matt Kunkle, Firefighter Amy Kunkle, Firefighter Brandon Feddersen, Firefighter Chris Hinrichs, and Firefighter Lucas Maas. Captain Andrews also works with five EMS Instructors: Captain Joel Miles, Firefighter Matt Kunkle, Firefighter Janeen Justice, Firefighter Steve Mast and Firefighter Sean Beard. All coordinators and instructors deliver EMS training and quality assurance. In addition, the Department has 24 Basic Life Support and 6 Advanced Cardiac Life Support Instructors that are managed by the EMS Program Director.

Dr. Brad Wisnousky is the Fire Department's Medical Director, providing physician oversight and responsibility for standard operating procedures.



The Fire Department responded to 5,491 EMS/rescue calls. The bar graph demonstrates the major categories of medical problem as described by patients when firefighter/paramedics arrived on scene.

Note: Due to rounding, the percentages do not add up to 100 percent.

A Brief History of Fire Department EMS

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department started training all firefighters as Emergency Medical Technicians in September 1987. All firefighters were certified as EMTs by the end of 1987. Automatic defibrillators were put into service in February 1988. The fire stations at 100 Wiley Boulevard SW (# 8) and 415 Broderick Drive NE (#9) were the first two fire stations to become provisional paramedic level stations in January 2000, because their response districts were furthest from local hospitals. The Fire Department provides emergency medical care as part of tiered response with Area Ambulance Service.





Over 20,000 bicyclists participated in the overnight stay in Cedar Rapids on July 26, 2012.



Firefighters extricate a victim from a simulated motor vehicle accident that was part of a full-scale operational exercise conducted in October.

From Thursday, July 26th at 6:00 a.m. until Friday, July 27th at noon, the Fire Department and Cedar Rapids Police Department operated an event management center to support RAGBRAI XL (Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa) as nearly 20,000 bicyclists converged on an overnight stay in Cedar Rapids. The Fire Department and Area Ambulance Service provided first-aid tents in three RAGBRAI campground sites (Cherry Hill Park, Ellis Park, and Kingston Stadium), at a downtown concert venue, and in the Czech Village/New Bohemia area. There were 102 patient contacts with bicyclists who required some first-aid treatment. For the duration of the RAGBRAI event in the City, a total of three patients were transported to local hospitals for further treatment (two bicyclists with dehydration symptoms and one concert staff worker with a hand injury).

The RAGBRAI event involved over four months of preparation. Public safety personnel developed an Incident Action Plan and utilized an Incident Command System model to coordinate emergency response resources.

On October 16th, the Fire Department and Area Ambulance Service conducted a full-scale operational exercise involving a multiple motor vehicle accident. The purpose of the drill was to test the ability of both agencies to utilize the Incident Command System to manage multiple patients and two simultaneous extrications.

The exercise had three passenger vehicles involved in a collision at M Avenue and 4th Street NW. The simulation involved two vehicles T-boned by another vehicle that ran a stop sign. Patients had injuries ranging from non-life threatening to critical.

Medical equipment upgrades in 2012 included the purchase of video laryngoscopes for all front-line emergency apparatus to help firefighters visually locate the trachea for endotracheal tube placement for an unconscious victim needing a patent airway. The Department also purchased two Zoll E-Series Cardiac Monitors and three RAD-57 handheld carbon monoxide monitors.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS & SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Throughout the year, the Cedar Rapids Fire Department responds to hazardous materials incidents and unique types of rescues that require specialty training and equipment. The Fire Department has several teams that are trained and prepared to respond to incidents such as confined space entrapment, drowning, or chemical spills.

In 2012, the Fire Department responded to 133 hazardous materials incidents, including spills and leaks. In addition, there were 255 other hazardous responses such as arcing wires, bomb removal, and power lines down. Hazardous materials courses conducted throughout the year included HazMat 360 ID training, which uses a laser instrument to help identify unknown substances; AHURA Scientific First Defender training that utilizes an instrument to identify unknowns including explosives; and RAE Systems training, which utilizes four-gas monitors to detect and measure toxic or flammable gas vapors.

All firefighters are trained to the operations level, and 36 firefighters have additional training and are hazardous materials technicians. By year's end, Hazardous Materials Team Leader Battalion Chief Brian Giachino had begun the process of assessing the department's current hazardous materials response capabilities and capacities. Deployment density training and the addition of key personnel with more sophisticated training were being identified.

Special Operations Program Managers:

Battalion Chief Dan Dall
Captain Brian Hall

Team Leaders:

Boat Operations/Rescue – Captain Brian Hall
Confined Space – Captain Rick Halleran
Hazardous Materials – Battalion Chief Brian Giachino
High Angle/Rope Rescue – Firefighter Marc Michael
Trench Rescue – Captain Roy Becker
Weapons of Mass Destruction (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

Fire Department Saves Industries Thousands of Dollars

Did you know that the Cedar Rapids Fire Department saves industries thousands of dollars each year by being their designated emergency responder?

If the Fire Department was not their designated responder, then industries would have to equip and build their own teams.

To help offset training and equipment expenses for special response teams, the Fire Department collects Tier II fees. There are 109 businesses in Cedar Rapids 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.



Bomb Squad technicians responded to the Human Services Campus, 317 7th Avenue SE, on September 9th after a report of suspicious suitcases was made.



Firefighters conducted water rescue training on the Cedar River in May. The objective of the training was to garner further familiarity with the rescue boats and review proper personal protective equipment to affect rescue.

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department is a partner with the Cedar Rapids Police Department comprising the Cedar Rapids Hazardous Devices Unit (HDU). The team has eight members and participates in the State of Iowa Special Teams deployment concept. Several municipal and county bomb squads are available to assist a single team if needed. The HDU is also available to help local and regional jurisdiction with subject matter expertise. The Hazardous Devices Unit responded to 30 incidents in 2012.

Fire department members are certified bomb technicians and also offer expertise in hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Hazardous Devices Unit members participate in 16 hours of internal training as required by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Members attended training in Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Basic Electronics, National Investigative Narcotics Forensics Course, and IED Advanced Electronics. The unit took possession of two AHURA meters that offer the bomb squad handheld chemical and explosives identification, verification, and threat screening.

Fire Department representatives in HDU include Captain Al Brockhohn, Battalion Chief Brian Giachino, and Firefighter Paul Koenig. Captain Brockhohn has responded to numerous incidents and conducted investigations of post-blast scenes since 1985. In November, Firefighter Koenig was selected by the joint bomb squad to fill a vacancy created by Captain Brockhohn's voluntary resignation. Members of the bomb squad will continue to rely on Captain Brockhohn as a subject matter expert until his retirement.

In addition to the hazardous materials response capabilities, the Fire Department conducted several other special operations trainings.

The Fire Department held a water rescue training at the Stoney Point YMCA in southwest Cedar Rapids in February where firefighters performed neutral buoyancy exercises that showed firefighters how to maneuver in turnout gear. Firefighters also practiced using a throw bag and inflatable hose to rescue simulated water victims. In May, firefighters conducted training on the Cedar River that simulated a boat-based rescue.

Throughout the year, firefighters conducted a rescue boat knowledge and familiarization program. Further, training was held on the use of sonar equipment.



Firefighters practice low angle techniques at Shawnee Park in northwest Cedar Rapids in early April.



Fire crews assess a simulated victim inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City during a disaster exercise.

Firefighters used a portion of Shawnee Park in northwest Cedar Rapids to practice low angle techniques. Firefighters received instruction on tying knots, utilizing a safety harness, using a picket system, and practicing low angle rescue techniques.

Low angle rescue is considered to be terrain that has a slope angle from 15 to 35 degrees. These techniques are usually used by fire departments and rescue teams over an embankment or steep slope rescue situation.

Several members of the Fire Department participated in a tabletop exercise and an in-field exercise on May 15th and May 16th in which a simulated malicious chemical agent was released during an event at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City. The exercise was spearheaded by the State of Iowa Weapons of Mass Destruction Team to assess readiness to potential acts of terror. The Cedar Rapids Fire Department joined members of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa National Guard, state and local HazMat and emergency response crews, law enforcement, and volunteer victims in the emergency preparedness exercise.



Pictured on the left: The Fire Department's Hazardous Materials team was dispatched to Harding Middle School on January 30th when several students became ill in the cafeteria area.

Pictured on the right: River rescue personnel worked south of the Roller Dam in southwest Cedar Rapids to recover a drowning victim. The victim went under water on May 19th and was recovered on May 22nd after a several-day search.



URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (USAR)



Dan Dall
Battalion Chief

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department is a sponsoring organization of Iowa Task Force 1 (IA-TF1), which is an urban search and rescue team that is recognized under Iowa Code Chapter 29C to supplement and enhance disrupted or overburdened local emergency and disaster operations. In addition, the team may be deployed to provide assistance to other states under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. The team includes Cedar Rapids firefighters, Sioux City firefighters, and other fire and rescue professionals from throughout the state. There are two divisions – one located in Cedar Rapids and the other located in Sioux City. When both divisions are deployed together as a team, IA-TF1 is capable of operating 24 hours as a Federal Emergency Management Agency Type 1 USAR team (70-person team consisting of task force leaders, safety officers, structural engineers, doctors, medical team managers, canine search managers, rescue engineers, communications specialists and more).

IA-TF1 is equipped with heavy rescue equipment designed to cut through steel and concrete, as well as spreading, drilling, and shoring equipment. IA-TF1's search equipment includes acoustic detection equipment designed to hear faint voices under large volumes of debris, video search cameras designed to access small areas, thermal imaging devices, GPS (Global Positioning System) equipment, high angle rope rescue gear, SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus), generators, area lighting equipment, air monitoring equipment, and its own communication equipment.

There are 27 Cedar Rapids firefighters, 10 civilians and 1 City Fleet Services employee that are a part of the Cedar Rapids Division of IA-TF1. There are 5 canine handlers and 6 dogs. The handlers and the dogs are certified in disaster live find, wilderness, and human remains.

Members of the team participated in 883 hours of internal training, including interior/exterior shoring, high angle rope skills, trench rescue, land navigation/United States Grid Search/Map and compass, sloped flooring with Paratech and cribbing, operational readiness exercise, and petrogen, oxyacetylene and exothermic torch training. USAR members attended 656 hours of external training, including confined space, high angle rope rescue, structural collapse, managing lost persons, medical specialist, and USAR operations in a contaminated environment.

In 2012, the Cedar Rapids Division of IA-TF1 placed into service a new Freightliner flatbed truck and a Princeton ATV forklift into service to improve response and haul equipment.



Members of both the Cedar Rapids and Sioux City Divisions of Iowa Task Force 1 participated in land navigation training at Lakeview OHV Park near Solon in June.



Firefighter Justin Jensen surveying the last tunnel used to reach the man lodged in Wye Cave.

Twenty members of the Cedar Rapids Division of Iowa Task Force 1 helped rescue an Illinois man from a cave at Maquoketa Caves State Park. Logan Eliassen, 20, of Port Byron, IL, was freed from the cave around 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 19, after being stuck in a narrow passage of the cave for more than 20 hours. Rescue workers from a number of different agencies throughout northeast Iowa worked continuously to free Eliassen, including chiseling rock to widen the passage. He was given oxygen and intravenous therapy while in the cave to prevent dehydration. Eliassen had become stuck while crawling through a narrow part of Wye Cave. The 323-acre state park is northwest of Maquoketa, about halfway between Des Moines and Chicago. It features more than a dozen caves that visitors can explore on their own, either by walking or crawling, based on their own ability and comfort level.

Cedar Rapids firefighters and other civilian specialists were deployed and arrived on scene around 10 a.m. on May 19 to assist local responders. The rescue involved getting multiple technicians at a time into the cave to aid the victim. Oxygen levels in the cave were measured at 13 percent. Normal oxygen levels are 20.9 percent. The decreased oxygen levels made it difficult for rescuers to exert themselves as they wedged their way through the narrow openings. IA-TF1, alongside other response agencies, worked in shifts and utilized pneumatic chisels in efforts to free Eliassen.

The Iowa/Minnesota/Wisconsin Tri-State Group conducted a Cross-Border Full-Scale Communications Exercise in Dubuque, IA; Winona, MN; and La Crosse, WI, on April 26, 2012. The exercise gave participating agencies an opportunity to evaluate current plans and capabilities in response to a multi-state terrorist attack. The Tri-State Group Cross-Border full-scale exercise focused on the communication and incident command tasks collectively carried out by regional, state, and local officials as well as support from amateur radio operators. Each task performed had associated standards and performance measures based on standard operating procedures, best practices, and Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program guidance and methodology. Approximately 79 players, observers, controllers, and evaluators participated in the exercise. The overall objective was to evaluate the regional, state, and local communications capabilities during a simulated terrorist incident requiring use of a command structure.



Captain Curtis Walser, a member of Iowa Task Force 1, participated in the Cross-Border Full-Scale Communications Exercise in April. Walser is pictured in the Task Force's communications trailer.

USAR team members conduct an operational readiness exercise at a rubble pile in southwest Cedar Rapids in November 2012.



SAFETY DIVISION



Safety is a primary concern at every incident. Fire Captain Mick Langguth and Captain Glen Heims use a thermal imaging camera at a house fire at 421 C Avenue NW on February 24, 2012.

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department Safety Committee's goal is to provide education, training and resources to achieve safer working conditions during both routine and emergency operations. While the Fire Department had nine Occupational and Health Administration (OSHA) reportable incidents, the 6.22 Incident Rate average is well below the national 13.5 OSHA Recordable Incident Rate average within the fire service. .

Safety Committee members are Assistant Chief Greg Smith, Captain Rick Halleran, Captain Scott Wolfe, Firefighter Jim Porter, Firefighter Landon Merkle, Firefighter Josh Jensen, and Firefighter Lucas Maas.

The Committee recommends safety procedures based on investigations of all accidents that occur on the fire ground, at emergency medical incidents, during training, or in the performance of other on-the-job activities.

In 2012, the City's Safety Officer processed 42 injury reports involving Fire Department employees.

There were 2 lost time accidents – 1 for dehydration and 1 involving a firefighter falling through a platform during training. Three of the other 7 recordable injuries were the result of direct lifting, including 2 injuries from lifting patients and 1 injury during a mandatory exercise session. There were 2 recordable injuries which involved firefighters stepping off of fire apparatus and twisting a knee or ankle. Another recordable injury involved back pain and an additional recordable injury involved a fractured hand on the fire ground. In total, there were 3 missed work days and 164 light-duty days.

It is important to note that firefighters work in all different types of environmental conditions regardless of the time of day or season, in all types of terrains, and often under stressful conditions. These are all factors that increase the risk of on-the-job injury.

The Fire Department promoted a fitness and wellness initiative that began with a core strength and conditioning training course in June. A physical therapist developed a training regimen program that was presented to all firefighters. The program was conceptualized with the dual purpose of injury prevention and firefighter performance. This program was followed by a class in December that discussed the importance of certain nutrients in firefighters' diet. Heart disease is one of the leading causes of death for on-duty firefighters; in fact, over the past 30 years, heart attacks accounted for 45 percent of firefighter on-duty fatalities.

SUPPORT DIVISION



Curtis Hopper
Assistant Fire Chief

The Support Division, under the leadership of Assistant Fire Chief Curtis Hopper, includes Facilities and the Fire Marshal's Office. Chief Hopper manages the Fire Department facilities which include eight permanent fire stations and two temporary fire stations (Central Fire Station and Fire Station #10).

With facilities, Chief Hopper has worked closely with the City's Facility Maintenance Service for repairs and improvements to the fire stations. Throughout the year, Facility Maintenance Services have kept facilities in working order, from plumbing issues like plugged drains to replacing heating and air conditioning units.

In 2012, the central air conditioning unit was replaced at Fire Station #2, 442 50th Avenue Court SW. At Fire Station #3 at 1424 B Avenue NE, a plumbing and heating and air conditioning issue was resolved by sealing off duct work in the floor and rerouting the heating system. Living room window coverings were replaced at Fire Station #9, 415 Broderick Drive NE.

Chief Hopper is a member of the Fire Department's Fire Station Management Team that has been working with Ryan Companies (construction manager) and Solum-Lang Architects (architecture-engineering firm based in Cedar Rapids) to construct the new Central Fire Station at 713 1st Avenue SE and the new Fire Station #3 at 3520 Crestwood Drive NW. Fire Chief Mark English, Assistant Fire Chief Greg Smith and Special Projects Coordinator Greg Buelow are also members of the Fire Station Management Team that has met several times a month to finalize building plans and complete specifications for new buildings. Chief Hopper and Chief Smith, working in collaboration with fire company officers and other fire department members, produced a fire station contents list to procure furniture and equipment that will be needed in the new facilities.

Garling Construction (based out of Cedar Rapids and Belle Plaine) was awarded the bid for the construction of Fire Station #3 and is expected to begin work in March 2013.

Work will continue throughout 2013 to manage the new fire stations according to the City's and the Fire Department's top three priorities:

- 1) Ensure safety regulations and best practices are utilized and maintained in all phases of the project.
- 2) Maintain thorough communication and working relationships among Fire Department, Construction Manager, and General Contractor representatives to ensure that the project is completed on schedule and within budget.
- 3) Deliver a sustainable, state-of-the-art facility which adds value and character to the community and serves as a cornerstone for improved emergency response to residents, business and industry, and visitors.

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE



Vance B. McKinnon III
Fire Marshal

The Fire Marshal's Office, managed by Fire Marshal Vance B. McKinnon III, consists of three divisions: Inspections, Public Education, and Fire Investigations. There are nine personnel assigned to the Fire Marshal's Office: Fire Marshal Vance B. McKinnon III, Fire Plans Reviewer Captain Steve Durham, 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, Administrative Assistant Susan Frischkorn, and Public Education Specialist/Administrative Assistant Donna Blin. The entire Fire Marshal's Office is overseen by Assistant Fire Chief Curtis Hopper.

The Inspection Division provides building plan review; enforces the Fire and Life Safety Code; and conducts fire safety inspections of schools, stores, factories, and industries, with over 6,000 inspection activities conducted annually.

The Fire Marshal's Office Inspection Division is involved in several aspects of fire prevention and Fire Code enforcement, including inspecting new and existing buildings, issuing permits, supervising fire crew inspections, and conducting plan reviews.

Field Inspectors conduct fire inspections and provide inspection and permit data to the administrative staff who manage the inspection records and issue required permits. In addition, Inspectors obtain current emergency contact information of businesses which is then used by the 911 Joint Communications Center in cases of after-hours fire or police emergencies.

The Inspection Division also completes site assessment requests received from environmental companies inquiring about a specific site, requesting information on the most recent fire inspection, any emergency responses for hazardous materials spills or incidents, and any fire permits issued for installation or removal of underground or aboveground storage tanks.

Fire Marshal Jim Thatcher retired after 33 years of service with the Cedar Rapids Fire Department on November 2, 2012. Fire Marshal Thatcher played a critical role in many new initiatives within the Fire Marshal's Office and the Building Services Division.

Vance B. McKinnon III was appointed Fire Marshal on November 3, 2012. Fire Marshal McKinnon was promoted to Day Fire Captain on February 6, 2002, and Assistant Fire Marshal on September 27, 2008.

Donna Blin was appointed to a seasonal position as a Public Education Specialist/Administrative Assistant within the Fire Marshal's Office on September 10, 2012. Blin assisted the Public Education Division with the delivery of fire education to third grade classrooms throughout the community and supported various administrative duties in the Fire Marshal's Office.



The Fire Marshal's Office provides over 6,000 inspection activities annually.

FIRE MARSHAL THATCHER RETIREMENT AND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Fire Marshal Jim Thatcher received the Hawkeye State Fire Safety Association Lifetime Achievement Award on October 17, 2012, at the Association's annual banquet in Ankeny. This was only the third lifetime achievement award in the Association's history.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding dedication, professionalism, and extraordinary service to fire and life safety in their community and their department. Over the years, the award recipient has shown leadership and has been an advocate or an ambassador for the Hawkeye State Fire Safety Association. Additionally, the individual has promoted education for self-improvement, for the good of the organization and the state.

Jim Thatcher started his career with the Cedar Rapids Fire Department on July 16, 1979. He was promoted to Lieutenant on July 25, 1987, and was appointed Fire Marshal on February 24, 2001. Fire Marshal Thatcher supervised the Fire Marshal's Office, which included fire inspections, arson investigation, and public education. In 2007, Thatcher was asked to accept the Code Enforcement Division (now Building Services) Director position and lead 38 additional building, electrical, housing, mechanical, plumbing and zoning staff. During the Flood of 2008, Thatcher directed the emergency inspections of over 5,000 flooded properties. Thatcher worked with local trades unions and utility companies to ensure volunteers and contractors were properly certified and repairs to damaged structures were conducted safely. This helped avoid any loss of life during the recovery efforts of one of the nation's largest natural disasters. Thatcher continued to work with Building Services to update housing and trade codes, and completed the task prior to his retirement on November 2, 2012.

Fire Marshal Jim Thatcher also received the first ever Public Service Award from the Greater Cedar Rapids Area Home Builders Association (HBA) on November 28, 2012. The organization recognized Fire Marshal Thatcher for his tireless efforts in fire code adaptation and building services issues.

HBA members were recruited by Thatcher during the Flood of 2008 to assist with emergency inspections of over 5,000 flood-damaged homes and businesses. Throughout the years, Thatcher developed a professional relationship with HBA members to collaborate on International Code Council updates and to write local amendments.



Photographs: Jim Thatcher receiving HBA Public Service Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award. Pictured left to right: Jim Thatcher family (Chris, Brad, Jane and Jim), Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, and State Fire Marshal Ray Reynolds.

2012 FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE ACTIVITY LOG AND INSPECTIONS:

• Beer and Liquor Permits/Inspections	288	• Hazardous Materials/Industry	450
• Care Centers	24	• Hydrant Flows	8
• Certificate of Occupancies	200	• Iowa Department of Public Health Facilities	2
• Correctional Facilities	6	• Special Events	254
• Daycare Centers and Pre-Schools	73	• Temporary Liquid Propane Tanks	31
• Group Homes	8	• Underground/Aboveground Storage Tanks	275

Notes:

- * Care Centers include residential care, skilled nursing, and assisted living centers.
- * Correctional facilities include corrections centers, work release centers, and jails.
- * Daycare and Pre-School inspections included 25 centers located within school buildings.
- * Iowa Department of Public Health Facilities included the Area Substance Abuse Council facilities.

The Fire Marshal's Office is located at the Police Substation, 1501 1st Avenue SE. Once construction of the new Central Fire Station is completed in Fall 2013, the Fire Marshal's Office will move to the second floor of the new station.

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

Captain Al Brockhohn is the primary investigator for the Cedar Rapids Fire Department, and is responsible for determining cause and origin of fires. Captain Brockhohn's partner, Ember, is a canine that is able to detect trace amounts of ignitable liquids. Ember, in her eighth year of service, has a perfect record of identifying the presence of ignitable liquids – every sample that Ember has detected has been confirmed by the state crime laboratory.

Captain Brockhohn investigated 91 fires scenes in 2012. He also served as a member of the Bomb Squad until voluntarily resigning in November. Captain Brockhohn had served as a member of the Bomb Squad since 1985. He will continue to provide assistance as needed to the squad until his retirement.

The primary investigator is assisted by Captain Scott Saylor, who investigated 11 fire scenes.

Also, Firefighter Steve Mast has been assisting Captain Brockhohn with some fire scenes in 2012.

Fire Causes

Unintentional	160
Undetermined	137
Intentional	48
Radiated, conducted heat from operating equipment	45
Undetermined After Investigation	37
Heat from Powered Equipment	37
Cigarette	16
Spark, ember or flame from Operating Equipment	15
Arcing	12
Radiated Heat from Another Fire	12
Heat from Open Flame or Smoking Materials	11
Heat Source: Other	10
Hot Ember or Ash	8
Cigarette Lighter	5
Heat from Direct Flame, Convection Currents	5

Training Log Summary Report for Ember

Other (Vehicle) Searches	13
Yard Searches	4
People Searches	201
Basic Imprinting	590
Scent Discrimination	40
Basic Floor Exams	111
Fire Scene Exams	69
Number of Reps	5,510
Number of Finds	1,095
Demonstrations	2
Number of People at Demos	25
Number of Samples Taken	34
Number of Samples Confirmed	34

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Nicky Stansell
Public Education Manager

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department's Public Education and Community Relations Division provides the community with 20 programs throughout the year, including a Kids' Fire and Life Safety Camp, Citizens' Fire Academy, Battery Up and pre-school fire safety. In 2012, 169 homes were visited in our annual Battery Up program in which firefighters assist senior citizens and physically-challenged members of the community change batteries in their smoke alarms. The number of senior citizens participating in the program has increased each year and will likely continue to grow in need and demand as the older adult demographic increases.

The Public Education Division created a new part-time temporary staff position to assist both Public Education and Fire Code Administration. Donna Blin was hired in September for a seven-month position and has been assisting with fire safety visits in the schools and other various projects. The Adopt a Firefighter program continued into its second year. Three firefighters including Captain Ron Van Hoeck, Cory Burkle and Julie Popelka, and two other department members, including Greg Buelow and Stacy Mason, are assisting with the Learn Not to Burn fire safety program in the schools.

The Public Education program focuses on five visits to 65 third-grade classrooms at 27 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 presentation (how to get help in an emergency), and the fire safety house. The fire safety house is an interactive multi-room trailer with several fire hazards that children need to identify. There is a smoke machine that activates and pumps simulated smoke into the house that requires students to use a home fire escape plan. Firefighter crews assist with the fire truck and turnout gear presentation and the fire safety house visit. During the year, a pre-test and post-test were administered in order to help the Division evaluate the effectiveness of the curriculum.

PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITY LOG:

School Children Contacts	9,121
Classroom Fire Safety Visits	424
Fire Safety Presentations (Civic Groups, Senior Citizens, Colleges)	24
Fire Safety Presentation Contacts (including Health Fairs)	2,223
Video Production Hours	15
Child Safety Seat Installations	42
Residential Smoke Alarm/ Battery Installations (Number of Homes)	30
Juvenile Fire Intervention Program Assessments	7
Fire Drills/Evacuation Planning Sessions	4
Health and Safety Fairs	5



The Public Education Division also helped coordinate several community outreach programs in 2012 including:

Toys for Tots: All 10 fire stations and 13 other City buildings had collection boxes for the Toys for Tots campaign. Firefighters helped to deliver 18 full boxes of toys for low-income families in the Cedar Rapids area and raised \$200 towards KGAN's Fill-the-Truck event.

The Giving Tree: This was the first year for the "Giving Tree" located at the Cedar Rapids Police Substation. An artificial tree that was donated by Fire Marshal Vance McKinnon was decorated with hats, scarfs, and mittens that were donated to local homeless shelters. Through the program, 14 hats, six pairs of gloves, two scarves and one pair of ear muffs were collected.

America Reads Day: Five Cedar Rapids Fire Department Personnel participated in America Reads Day in 11 classrooms at 10 different schools.

**Firefighter Presentations/Events –
Number of Participants**

Truck and Turnout Gear Presentations	3,292
Station Tours	637
Fire Extinguisher Demonstrations	1,279



The Cedar Rapids Fire Department and Cedar Rapids Police Department are co-lead agencies for the Linn County Safe Kids Coalition. The department coordinators are Public Education Manager Nicky Stansell and Police Officer Shannon Stokesberry. The goal of the Linn County Safe Kids Coalition is to reduce the number of unintentional injury and death in children 14 years of age and younger. The Coalition is made up of 25 members from various Linn County safety and health organizations including: Hiawatha Fire Department, Marion Fire Department, Marion Police Department, St. Luke's Hospital, Linn County Sheriff's Office, Linn County Public Health, Havertape Chiropractic and Area Ambulance. The Coalition is completely funded by grants and donations. Contributions are used to purchase life-saving materials such as bicycle helmets, child safety seats and educational brochures. In 2012, the Coalition received a grant from Variety - The Children's Charity for \$3,605, which resulted in the purchase of 500 bike helmets and 40 child safety seats.

Additionally in 2012, the Coalition partnered with St. Luke's Rehabilitation on two projects at Springville and Harrison Elementary Schools. The Coalition was able to properly fit and give away a total of 410 bicycle helmets to students. An additional 175 helmets were given away at Safe Kids Day at the Cedar Rapids Downtown Farmers Market, and 35 more were given away during an event at RAGBRAI.

The Coalition holds a monthly Child Safety Seat Fit Station at McGrath Buick GMC Cadillac on the second Thursday of each month where parents are invited to bring their vehicle, child and child safety seat for installation instructions. It was found that 91 percent of the seats that were checked were installed incorrectly. Linn County Safe Kids held three other child safety seat checkup events through the year and provided nearly 20 free seats to low-income families.

JUVENILE FIRE INTERVENTION PROGRAM



Brent Smith
Captain

The Fire Department's Juvenile Fire Intervention Program (JFIP) is now a free statewide program that partners with community agencies to reduce the number of fire injuries and deaths by providing evaluation, education and redirection assistance to children that exhibit fire-setting behavior. The new JFIP system ensures that every child and family referred to the JFIP will receive assistance.

During 2012 the new statewide Iowa JFIP was developed under the direction of the Iowa State Fire Marshal's Office and was led by Captain Brent Smith. The goal of the JFIP is to reduce the number of child fire casualties and injuries, and to reduce the amount of property damage created by children who set multiple fires. The statewide program was implemented through various interventions including fire safety, fire science, fire prevention education and mental health counseling. The new JFIP system is now available to all counties and fire stations in Iowa so that every child and family referred to the JFIP will get needed help.

Additionally in 2012, the Cedar Rapids Fire Department was transformed into the Regional Coordination Center for the JFIP for 23 Southeast Iowa counties including the following departments: Marion, Grinnell, Coralville, Iowa City, Camanche, Bettendorf, Muscatine, Burlington and Ottumwa.

In addition to managing various departments, Captain Smith began teaching the framework of the program to newly trained arson investigators during the state's Annual Arson Investigation School in Ames.

In 2012, the JFIP received juvenile firesetter referrals through both Juvenile Court Services and directly from parents and guardians. There were a total of 10 local families assisted with intervention methods.

In addition to local referrals, the program helped manage 26 regional referrals from 15 counties.

The children who participated in the JFIP were between 8-17 years old.

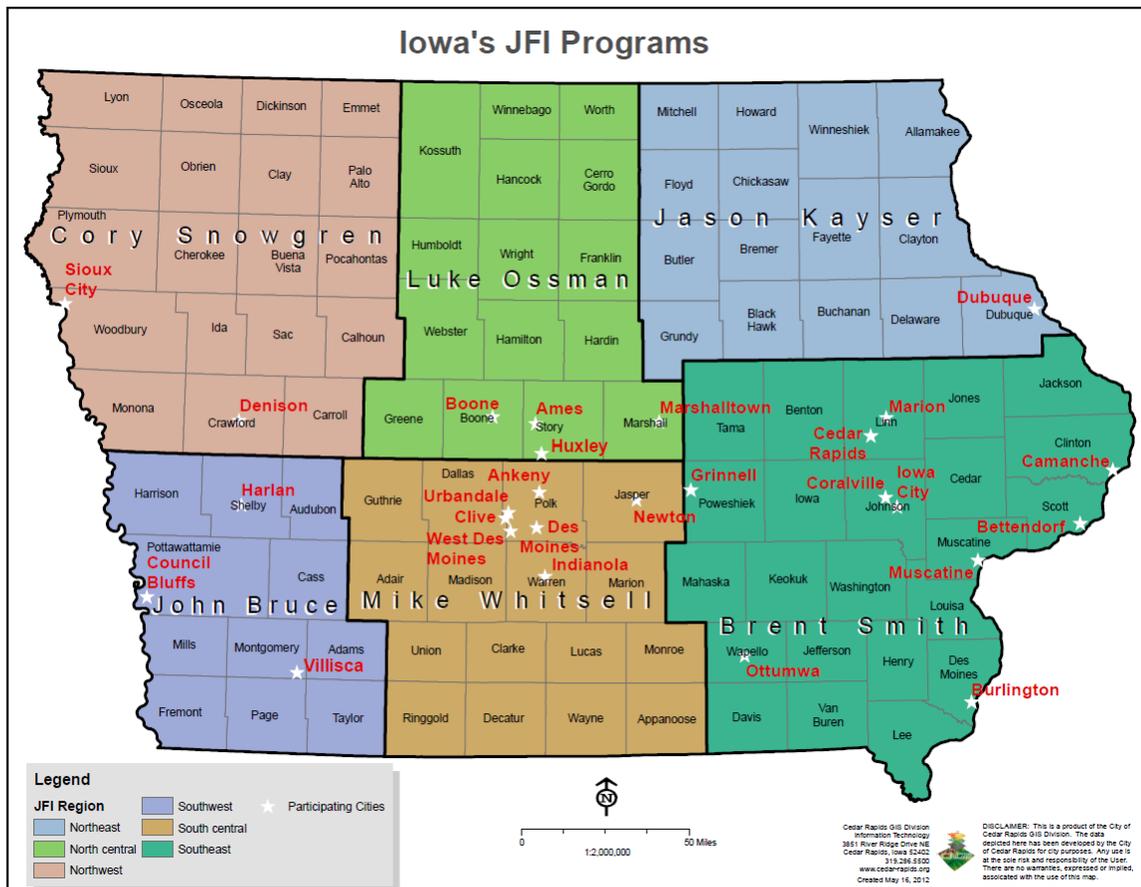
Did you know?



Juvenile fire setting is a serious community problem.

Children set 50 percent of all fires. Over 40 percent of juvenile fire setters are under age 5, and 70 percent are under age 10.

Fire setting is the largest cause of home deaths among children, and 34 percent of the victims of child-set fires are the children themselves.



Juvenile Fire Intervention Program District Coordinator by Region

Northeast	Jason Kayser
North Central	Luke Ossman
Northwest	Cory Snowgren
Southwest	John Bruce
South Central	Mike Witsell
Southeast	Brent Smith

Participating Cities by County include:

Northeast: Dubuque

North Central: Ames, Boone, Huxley, Marshalltown

Northwest: Denison, Sioux City

Southwest: Council Bluffs, Harlan, Villisca

South Central: Ankeny, Clive, Des Moines, Indianola, Newtown, Urbandale, West Des Moines

Southeast: Bettendorf, Burlington, Camanche, Cedar Rapids, Coralville, Grinnell, Iowa City, Marion, Muscatine, Ottumwa

All 99 Iowa counties now have a JFI (Juvenile Fire Intervention) Program ensuring that every child and family that is referred to the Program will receive free assistance.

The state's JFI Program is divided into six districts with one district coordinator selected for each.

A juvenile fire intervention specialist is assigned to one geographic area of the state to provide fire departments with the appropriate referral resources for juveniles that set fires.

Specialized 2-1-1 call centers, managed by the United Way, are utilized throughout the state to dispatch resources to both fire service personnel and families of juvenile fire setters.

PUBLIC INFORMATION/SPECIAL PROJECTS



Greg Buelow
Special Projects
Coordinator/Public
Information Officer

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department employs several means of disseminating information about fire department activities such as radio and television interviews, magazine articles, Mediacom Newsleaders program, City Website postings, Facebook and Twitter. Public Information Officer Greg Buelow responded to 72 incidents in 2012 to collect information about emergency scenes to release to the public through media outlets. Including public education and community relations information, there were a total of 119 media releases sent.

Throughout the year, special projects are managed by the Public Information Office. These activities include the administration of the \$6.6 million I-JOBS grant, quarterly flood project worksheet reports, budget preparation and coding, and grant writing.

The Fire Department was awarded a \$1,000 stipend from the national non-profit Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition to help dispel Hollywood myths about home fire sprinkler technology. The stipend was used to place sprinkler public service announcements on local television and cable channels.

Each month, the Special Projects Coordinator provides performance metrics data to fire employees and the public. Examples of monthly performance metrics reported include firefighter turnout time, dollar loss from residential and commercial structures, fractile response time, and the number of fires per 1,000 residents.

Furthermore, customer survey cards are mailed out on a monthly basis to citizens who are provided with a fire department service like fire suppression, emergency medical services, fire inspection, or public education presentation. Citizens rate their level of satisfaction with the service on a scale of 1-5, with "5" being the highest possible score. The results are posted monthly in the performance metrics.



The Public Information Officer provides basic facts and circumstances with the media at a structure fire at 131 14th Avenue SE.

As a community outreach effort to keep citizens informed about fire safety information and fire department updates, the Fire Department created a Facebook page located at www.facebook.com/cedarrapidsfiredepartment. The Facebook page includes videos of the History of the Fire Department, the 1947 Coe College Sinclair Chapel fire, the 1985 Toxic Tuesday massive evacuation in which the City was closed down for a day, and a news segment about firefighters working on holidays.

With photographs and videos, plus timely announcements, the Fire Department's Facebook page is another way that the Department can demonstrate the value of the services that it provides.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY



Curtis Walser
Captain

Throughout 2012, the Fire Department installed 18 Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) in frontline fire apparatus to improve response times.

One of the primary goals of the MDCs was to improve the accuracy and efficiency of fire and medical responses. In Fall 2012, the department has an average response time of 4 minutes, 35 seconds to fire and medical emergencies.

Using 4G LTE technology through pre-installed air cards, the MDCs provide address verification, cross streets and a map of the fire district. A Global Positioning System is built-in, providing firefighters with the ability to use street maps as a suggested route is calculated. Hydrant locations are layered on the map, which is particularly helpful when a fire hydrant is buried by snow or obstructed by a motor vehicle.

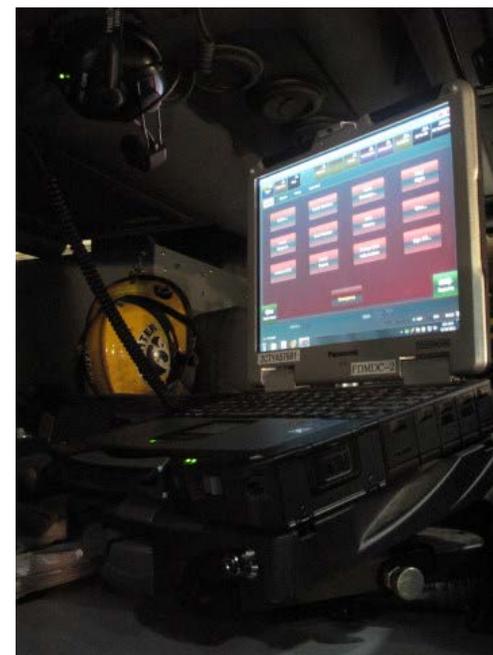
Other applications included mapping that shows the position and status of other fire apparatus and live notes from the fire dispatcher. The latter could be helpful if further information develops on a working fire, such as the occupants have safely exited the structure or there is confirmation that a victim is still trapped. The Department of Transportation Emergency Response Handbook is available electronically to lookup hazardous materials data, evacuation zones, and medical treatment.

Future applications may include pictometry (aerial imagery), pre-planning software that will show floor plans of businesses, hazardous materials stored on site, access points to a business or industry, and after-hours emergency contact information.

Captain Curtis Walser, the Fire Department's Communications and Technology Manager, oversaw procurement and deployment of the MDC project. The project's total cost was approximately \$150,000.

The City's Information Technology department assisted with imaging the MDCs.

The project was initiated in 2009 under retired Fire Chief Steve Havlik and was deployed in 2012. The multi-year project involved computer-aided dispatch upgrades.



Mobile data computers, like the one pictured in the cab of Engine 1, were installed on 18 frontline fire apparatus.

FIRE CHAPLAINS



Phil Saunders



Rick Gail

Chaplains provide aid, comfort and help to firefighters and their families, and those suffering from the ravages of fire or other crisis happenings. The Fire Department Chaplains work towards the betterment of all areas of the fire and emergency service.

Besides responding to emergency incidents, Chaplains provided the invocation or benediction during City Council meetings, the Central Fire Station Ground Breaking, Recognition Ceremony, and One-Year Firefighter Service Ceremonies.

The Chaplains offer non-denominational, non-sectarian emotional support. The Fire Department and Police Department Chaplains work as a united group to provide 24-hour a day on-call access for traumatic incidents or other events that benefit from the Chaplain's service.

Members of the Fire Department and Police Department Chaplain Program include:

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

The Fire Department lost a valuable member of our family on July 3, 2012, when Reverend Gail's wife, Janet, died. The Cedar Rapids Fire Department paid its tribute to the Gail family by having the Fire Department Honor Guard present at the visitation and funeral at First Assembly of God Church. Many members of the fire service paid their respects as an outpouring of support for all that Reverend Gail had contributed to the Cedar Rapids Fire Department and the community.

Shortly after his wife's death, Reverend Gail was providing emotional support at a fatal house fire on July 16th. With the assistance of Chaplain Saunders, Reverend Gail met with family and healthcare workers at the scene of the fire. This epitomized the compassion and dedication of all members of the Fire Department's Chaplain program.

HONOR GUARD



Members of the Honor Guard prepare to present the Colors at a Firefighter One-Year of Service Ceremony held on October 3, 2012.

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department Honor Guard pays tribute to firefighters who have answered their final alarm. The 21-member special division of the Fire Department is also present at official Fire Department functions such as the Central Fire Station Ground-Breaking, Recognition Ceremony, and Firefighter One-Year of Service Ceremonies.

In fact, in 2012, Honor Guard members contributed 572 ¼ hours of service by participating in 28 events. This included 167 ¼ on-duty hours, 273 ½ off-duty hours, and 131 ½ hours of overtime.

The 28 events throughout the year included 2 administrative meetings, 6 training sessions, 7 ceremonies/memorials (Cedar Rapids Roughriders Guns and Hoses Charity Night, 2 Firefighter One-Year of Service Ceremonies, Central Fire Ground-Breaking, Fire Bowl, Recognition Ceremony, and the Iowa Firefighter's Association Memorial Service), and 13 visitations and funerals.

Two Honor Guard members retired in good standing in 2012. Captain Emma Pulver and Captain Ron Luckeroth retired with a combined 29 years of service to the Honor Guard. Captain Pulver was a founding member of the Honor Guard, and Captain Luckeroth joined in the Honor Guard's second year. Captain Pulver served for a number of years as an Assistant Commander. Captain Luckeroth was the Honor Guard's designated Bell Master.

The Honor Guard pre-filled a vacant position in 2011 and had one vacancy at year's end, which meant that no new members joined the Honor Guard in 2012.



Battalion Chief John Pulver with a young fan at the Guns and Hoses Charity event.



The Cedar Rapids Fire Department wishes to remember the following retired Cedar Rapids firefighters who died in 2012:

- Manuel "Manny" Wise
- Dave Clark
- Richard Kretschmar
- Meryl "Junior" Bowers
- James "Jim" Usher

RECOGNITION CEREMONY

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department held a Recognition Ceremony to honor 5 retirements, 10 promotions, and several awards to both firefighters and citizens. The Recognition Ceremony, which was held on December 11^h 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 Cedar Rapids City Manager Jeff Pomeranz. 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 – Rick Brown of Cedar Rapids who extinguished a sport-utility vehicle that was on fire with the driver trapped inside at a collision at the 6th Street Southwest overpass pillar off of U.S. Highway 30 eastbound.



Award for Distinguished Service – Captain Dennis Langguth for his coordination of the Eastern Iowa Honor Flight, which flies veterans to Washington, D.C. in honor of their military service.

Letter of Commendation – Captain Dennis Langguth, while off-duty, for providing medical care for a motor vehicle accident victim on December 15, 2011, at the intersection of 29th Avenue and Wiley Boulevard Southwest.



Letter of Commendation – Hiawatha Fire Chief Mike Nesslage for assisting the Cedar Rapids Fire Department with a scene size-up and ensuring occupants had safely escaped a house fire at 6706 Arbor Lane NE on January 3, 2012.

Letter of Commendation – Captain Craig Dirks for constructing a forcible entry prop for the Training Division that saved the Fire Department thousands of dollars.

Letter of Commendation – Captain Cheme Fairlie for providing medical care for a motor vehicle accident victim on December 1, 2011, near a small town in the St. Louis area.

Letter of Commendation – Captain Jason Andrews for providing logistics, planning and multi-agency coordination of the Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services response to RAGBRAI's overnight stop in Cedar Rapids on July 26, 2012.

Letter of Commendation – Captain Brent Smith for collaborating with the University of Iowa's Burn Treatment Center and University of Iowa Athletics to produce a public service announcement to promote scald prevention strategies.

Letter of Commendation – Battalion Chief John Pulver for the conceptualization and continued growth of the Fire Department's Honor Guard. Chief Pulver has served as the Commander of the Honor Guard and has trained other fire departments throughout the region.

Letter of Commendation – Firefighter Matt Kunkle for helping resuscitate a 21-year old male who was in cardiac arrest. Firefighter Kunkle, who was off-duty, responded with the on-duty fire crew that did not have a paramedic working.

Letter of Commendation – Captain Rick Halleran for getting the Fire Department certified as a member of the Candidate Physical Agility Test consortium. Captain Halleran coordinated the training of Cedar Rapids firefighters to become test proctors and worked with area departments to establish orientation, practice and testing dates.



Letter of Commendation Recipients (left to right):

Captain Craig Dirks, Captain Cheme Fairlie, Captain Jason Andrews, Captain Brent Smith, Battalion Chief John Pulver, Firefighter Matt Kunkle, and Captain Richard Halleran

Life Saving Awards – A patient in cardiac arrest has no breathing and no pulse. When such emergencies occur in our community, the fire department is ready to respond as part of a system designed to save lives. Nationwide, only 9.6 percent of patients who suffer an out of hospital cardiac arrest survive to be discharged from the hospital. Through training and teamwork, the EMS system in Cedar Rapids has been able to increase that average to 17 percent locally.

The following citizens and firefighters were involved in a cardiac resuscitation which resulted in the patient being discharged from the hospital with the same level of functioning as before the cardiac arrest incident:

January 7, 2012 – 82-year old male, southeast side residence:

Captain John Panek, Firefighter Brandon Elvidge, and Firefighter Bradley Cowdin

February 9, 2012 – 63-year old female, BHFO (Discount Designer Apparel Store), 5285 Rockwell Drive NE:

Captain Curtis Walser, Captain Jason Andrews, Captain Phillip NejdI, Captain Daniel Ripley, Firefighter Cory Burkle, Firefighter Marcus Burns, Firefighter Brooks Burkhardt, and civilian Brent Klemm

February 13, 2012 – 82-year old male, southeast side residence:

Captain Scott Wolfe, Firefighter Paul Ritscher, and Firefighter Christopher Hinrichs

February 23, 2012 – 66-year old female, southeast side residence:

Captain Brian Hall, Firefighter Rob Labs, and Firefighter Dustin Takes

Life Saving Awards (continued):

April 26, 2012 – 60-year old male, U.S. Highway 30/Bowling Street SW:

Captain Roy Becker, Jr., Captain Jason Andrews, Firefighter Thomas Clearman, and Firefighter Austin Hershberger

May 20, 2012 – 45-year old female, northeast side residence:

Captain James Siebels, Firefighter Brandon Feddersen, and Firefighter Adam Kramer

July 25, 2012 – 80-year old female, northeast side residence:

Firefighter Cory Burkle, Firefighter Angela Johnstone, and Firefighter Austin Hershberger

August 13, 2012 – 54-year old female, Eastern Iowa Airport:

Captain Scot Davidson, Firefighter Brian Hibbs, and Firefighter Rion Schulze

August 31, 2012 – 55-year old male, northeast side residence:

Captain Roy Becker, Jr., Firefighter Todd Hagen, and Firefighter Daniel Haas

September 3, 2012 – 66-year old female, southwest side residence:

Captain Doug LeClere, Firefighter Daniel Haas, and Firefighter Amy Kunkle



Bell used by the Cedar Rapids
Fire Department Honor Guard

Life Saving Awards (continued):

October 16, 2012 – 53-year old male, Quaker Oats, 418 2nd Street NE

Captain Brent Smith, Firefighter Matt Humphrey, Firefighter Mark McCormick, and Quaker Oats employees: Tim Kauffman, Cody Wyborny, Jim Bliley, Kathy Alvarez-Purcell, Denise Sieck, Barb Satkamp, and Kevin Hessing

October 26, 2012 – 51-year old female, Van Meter Inc., 847 32nd Avenue SW

Firefighter Landon Merkle, Firefighter Shane Mell, Firefighter Chad Smothers, Captain Jason Andrews, and civilian Chris Weininger

Fire Chief's Award – Training Chief Michael Fredericks, Captain Donald Ransford, and Captain Jason Andrews received the Fire Chief's Award for their efforts in the Training Division.

The Division was recognized for developing firefighter training curriculum and hands-on sessions that have improved the skills level of personnel. Cedar Rapids firefighters received over 6,300 hours of fire-related training in the past year. Chief Fredericks and Captain Ransford administer the firefighter recruitment process and Rookie Fire Academy. There were 18 probationary firefighters who were a part of the Academy in 2012.

Training also provides emergency medical services didactic and practical sessions. Throughout 2012, Captain Andrews managed transition training to existing Emergency Medical Technicians-Intermediates and Paramedics to the State of Iowa's new Advanced EMT or Paramedic levels. All 10 fire stations in Cedar Rapids now have firefighters who can provide advanced life support, including initiation of intravenous lines and medication administration.



Fire Chief's Award Recipients (left to right):
Training Chief Michael Fredericks, Captain Donald Ransford, and Captain Jason Andrews

FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE COMMUNITY



Philanthropic efforts by firefighters have provided over \$60,000 for charitable organizations over the past several months. The men and women of the Fire Department are dedicated to raising both money and awareness of issues in the community.

The 3rd Annual Fire Bowl, a flag football tournament composed of public safety teams, was held on September 9th. The Fire Bowl partnered with the Folds of Honor Foundation to provide post-secondary scholarships to the children of fallen and wounded Iowa soldiers. Through good-will donations, raffle tickets, T-shirt sales, and generous donations, the Cedar Rapids Firefighters Foundation was able to donate \$33,454 to the Folds of Honor Foundation.

The Fire Department continued a 28-year tradition of supporting the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) by contributing \$26,237 to the organization. The International Association of Fire Fighters Local #11 and the Cedar Rapids Fire Department partnered to “Fill-the-Boot” for MDA. Cedar Rapids Fire Department raised more money for MDA than any other fire department in the state of Iowa.

The 12th Annual Cedar Rapids Fire Department Memorial 5K Walk/Run was held on Saturday, May 26th. First organized by firefighters in 2000, this annual race is designed to raise money for a memorial fund for fallen firefighters and their families. Nearly 400 participants were a part of the 5K Walk/Run, Wheelchair Race, or Junior Firefighter Half-Mile Fun Run.





Photographs of the front and back of the pink T-shirts that firefighters wore during October for breast cancer awareness. The IAFF Local #11 logo is on the upper left side of the front of the T-shirt. The red ribbon fills the majority of the back side of the T-shirt.

Two events throughout the year helped raise awareness about cancer.

Cedar Rapids firefighters wore pink uniform shirts throughout the month of October for breast cancer awareness and to support cancer survivors. The International Association of Fire Fighters Local #11 came up with the idea and the design for the pink shirts. There was 100 percent participation amongst the firefighters who plan to make this an annual event during October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Firefighters purchased the T-shirts for \$15, with \$9 of each T-shirt sold that was donated to Mercy Medical Center's Especially for You fund. There were 300 shirts produced.

Local #11 Executive Board President Justin Jensen said, "Cedar Rapids firefighters are proud to support the Especially for You fund, which has saved lives by providing free mammograms and other breast-care services for those that have not been able to afford the services themselves. Cedar Rapids firefighters are part of this community and we hope that the pink T-shirts get people's attention and increase awareness about breast cancer."

IAFF Local #11 is planning on having pink T-shirts available for the public to purchase in 2013.



The Cedar Rapids Fire Department and Pink Heals Tour delivered a bouquet of flowers to two local cancer survivors on August 13th.

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department and Mercy Medical Center's Hall-Perrine Cancer Center hosted the Pink Heals Tour "Cares Enough to Wear Pink" event on August 13th. Founded by former professional baseball player and retired firefighter, Dave Graybill, the Pink Heals Tour travels the country each year in a pink fire truck to increase awareness and provide support for women battling cancer.

There were three pink fire trucks at the Hall-Perrine Cancer Center, 701 10th Street SE. Cancer survivors, patients currently in treatment, or individuals that wanted to honor a family member were able to sign the pink fire trucks. Also, two cancer survivors were given a dozen pink roses by the organization.

FIRE STATION UPDATES



Groundbreaking for the new Central Fire Station was held at 713 1st Avenue SE on 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 crested at 31.12 feet.

The Groundbreaking Ceremony included speeches by representatives of Iowa's congressional delegation, Cedar Rapids Mayor Ron Corbett, City Manager Jeff Pomeranz, and Fire Chief Mark English. A large American flag was hoisted by two aerial ladders to mark a pivotal moment in fire department history and the City's flood recovery efforts.

The new Central Fire Station is scheduled for completion in mid-September 2013. A Grand Opening for the public is planned during Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12, 2013.

The Central Fire Station will be 67,140 square feet and will utilize underground parking. It will staff an Engine Company, Truck Company and Rescue Company. The Battalion Chiefs will be based out of Central Fire Station. In addition, emergency support vehicles like boats, special operations and hazardous materials apparatus, will respond from the Central Fire Station. The Administrative Offices and Fire Marshal's Office will be on the second floor of the building. There will be conference rooms and a City Emergency Operations Center on the second floor as well.

The Fire Department is seeking LEED Platinum certification for the building, which has been achieved by few fire stations in the nation.

The project is funded by \$15,144,531 from FEMA repair funds and \$5 million from a state I-JOBS grant. The overall project budget totals \$20,144,531.



A new west side fire station will be constructed at 3520 Crestwood Drive NW and will serve as Fire Station #3. The neighborhood fire station is scheduled to open in October 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.

The new fire station 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 additional fire station on the west side of the City will improve the goal of emergency crews arriving at the scene of an incident within five minutes by nearly 20 percent. The Fire Station 3 district will include sections of the City west of the Cedar River and growth areas towards the western outskirts of the City limits that have grown by nearly 20,000 citizens over the past 15 years.

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.

The existing Fire Station #3 was constructed in 1925. At year's end, the City was in the process of selling the property to a responsible bidder who would maintain the historic aspects of the building and continue its presence in the neighborhood.



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