

Aberdeen Fire Department Year End Report



Chief Tamblyn and Prince – Fire Chief 1911 to 1934



2014



CITY OF ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tom Hubbard, Fire Chief Rich Malizia, Assistant Chief

March 16, 2015

Mayor Simpson,

I respectfully submit the Aberdeen Fire Department's annual report for 2014. This report provides an overview of department operations and delivery of service.

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

In 2014 the Aberdeen Fire Department responded to a total of 5028 calls for service. Structure fire losses for the year totaled \$678,330 vs. \$2,633,878 in property saved. There were ten fire incidents during the year that required a second alarm or greater in which resources beyond the daily staffing were needed to manage the incident. Total call volume for fire and EMS is shown below

435 Fire Responses

4593 Emergency Medical Responses

The department's average response time from dispatch to arrival on scene for structure fires within the city limits was 5 minutes 32 seconds. This includes an average two minutes of "turnout time" or the time it takes from initial dispatch to the first unit responding. This falls within the National Fire Protection Agency's goal for a fire department to arrive within six minutes to an incident 90% of the time.

In line with the national fire service trend, the majority of the department's call volume was for emergency medical calls. A detailed analysis of our medical responses is included later in this report; however, we are pleased to report that in 2014 the department had 100 documented medical saves. These are patients who most likely would not have survived before arriving at Grays Harbor Community Hospital without medical intervention by our staff. EMS response time averaged less than 5 minutes within the city from time of dispatch to arrival on scene.

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

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

Respectfully,

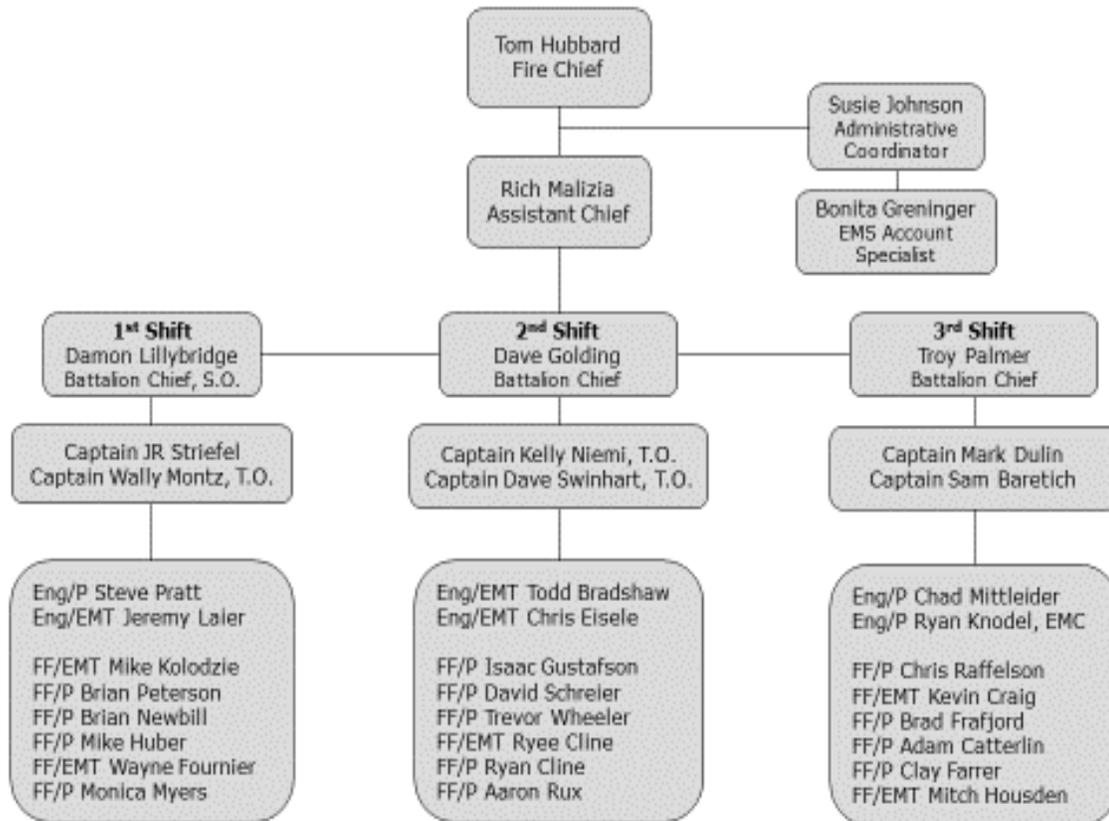
Tom Hubbard, EFO
Fire Chief
City of Aberdeen

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Organizational Chart	4
Mission Statement	5
Fire & EMS Budget	6
2013 Fire Incident Response Data	8
Emergency Medical Services	10
Fire Investigation/Code Enforcement	16
Training	17
Safety/Health	21
Public Education	23
Apparatus	24

ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

* Effective 1/15



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

New Employees hired in 2014

FF/Medic Ryan Cline
 FF/Medic Aaron Rux
 FF/EMT Mitchel Housden

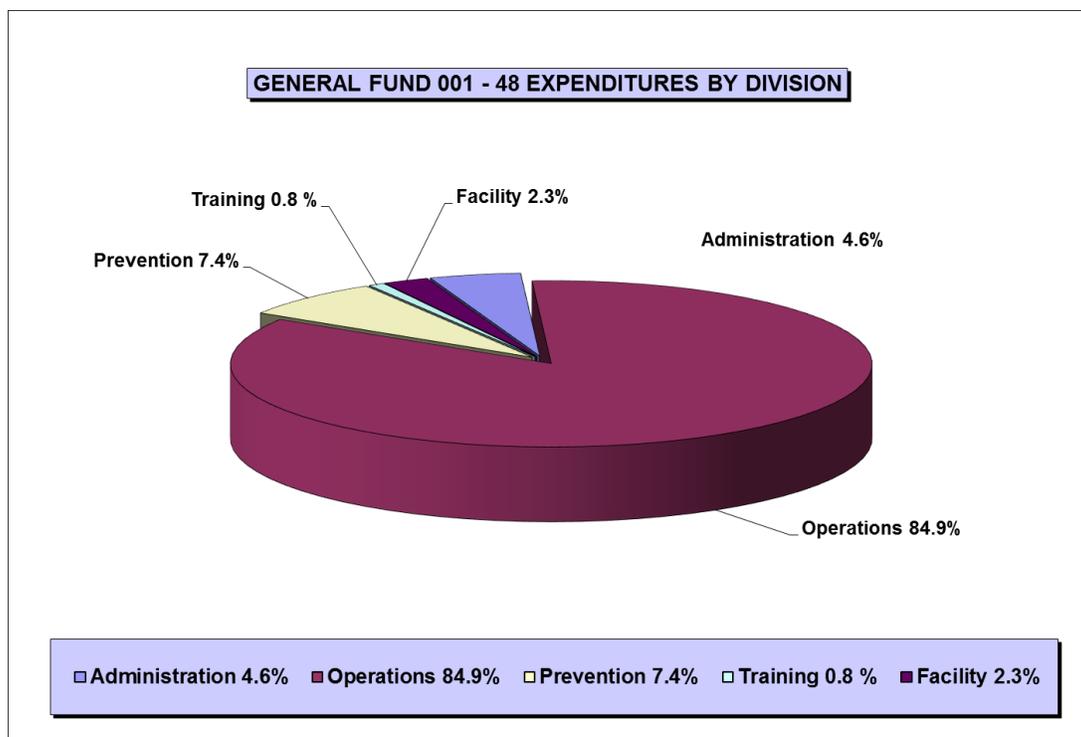
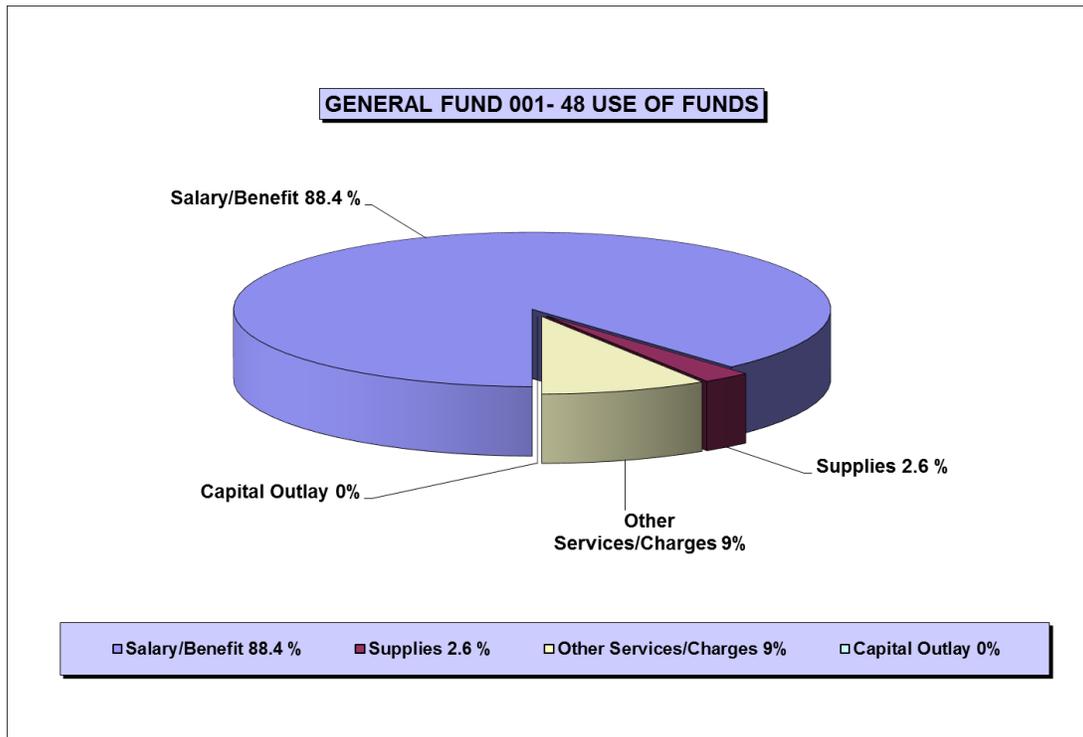


ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

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

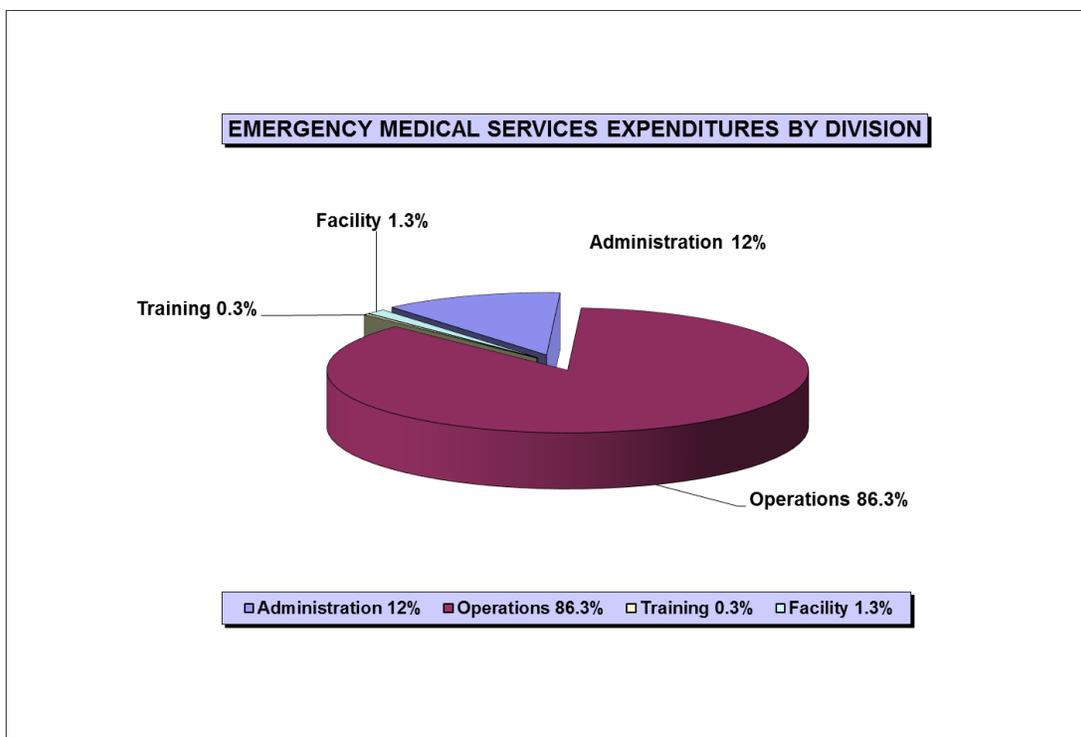
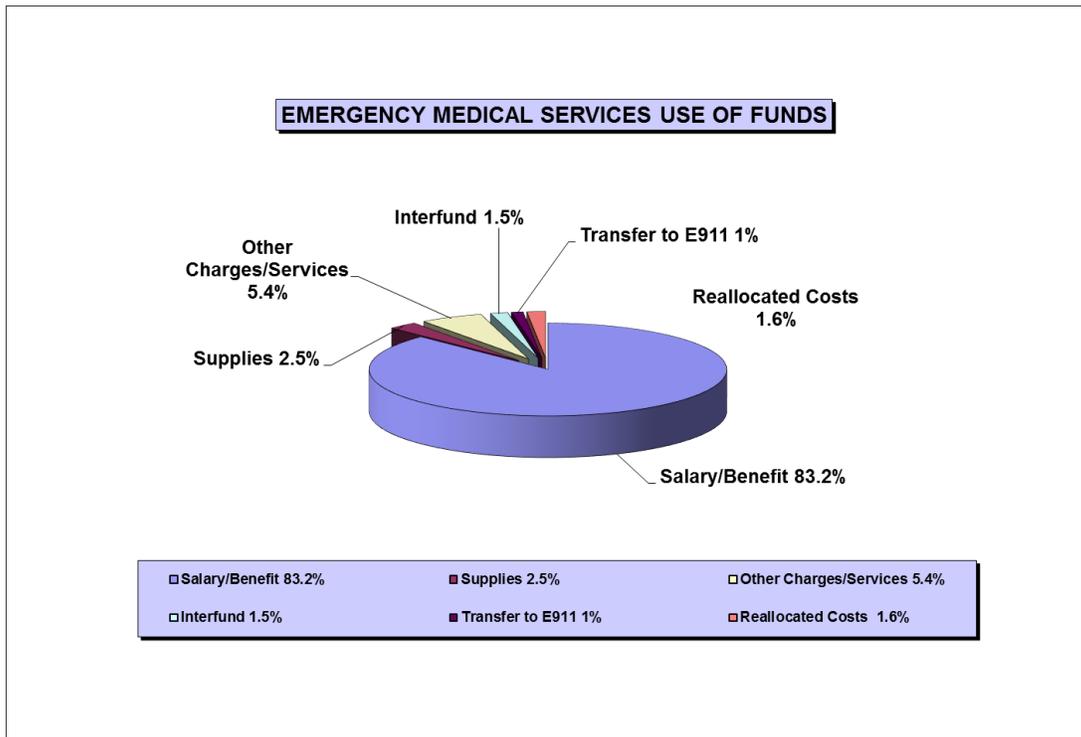
Fire Department Operating Costs - 001-48

The 2014 budget for fire protection services totaled \$1,779,607. Salary and Benefits accounted for the largest portion of the budget (88.4%). This budget supports a portion of the administrative staff, 12 fire department personnel, operation and maintenance of fire apparatus, and fire department facilities.



2014 EMS Operating Costs - 120-00

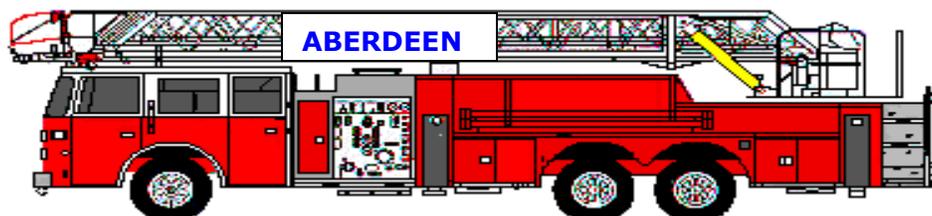
The cost of operating emergency medical services totaled \$3,360,449. Salary and Benefit compensation accounted for the largest portion of the budget dollar (83.2%). This budget supports a portion of the administrative staff, 21 fire department personnel, operation and maintenance of 5 ambulances, and medical supplies.

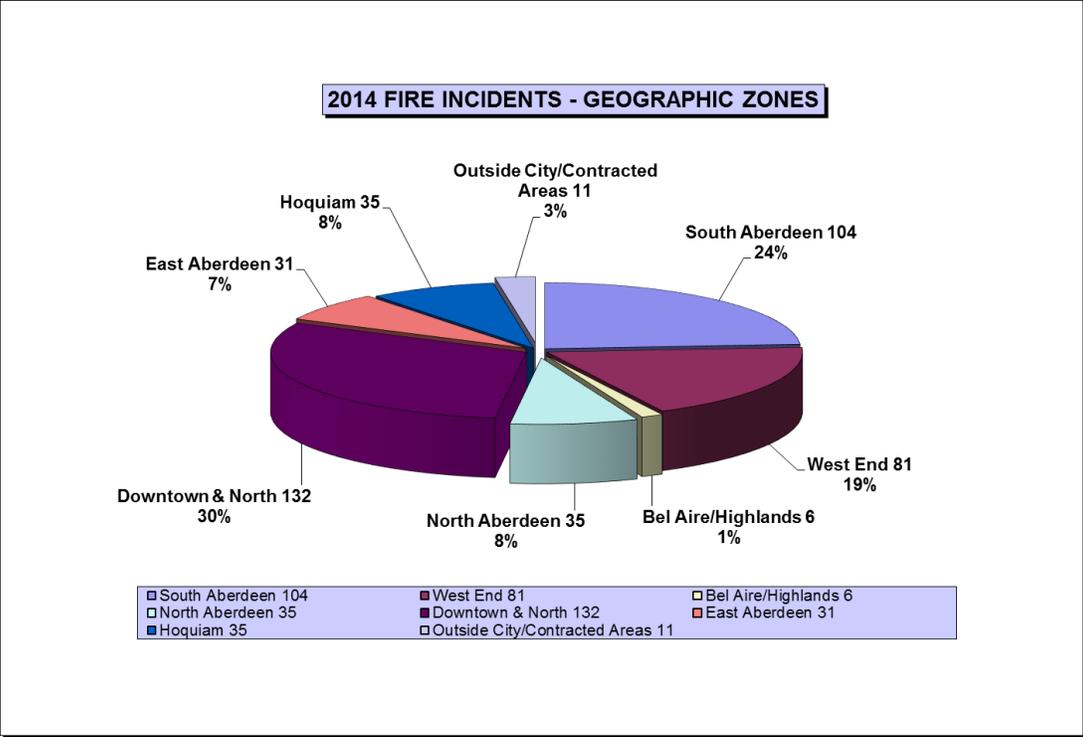


2014 FIRE INCIDENT RESPONSE DATA

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

	2014	2013
Building Fires	25	27
Structure fires, (2nd Alarm or greater)	10	11
Cooking Fire - Contained to Stove Top	10	8
Vehicle Fire	4	12
Chimney Fire	8	12
Hazardous Materials	19	18
Natural Vegetation Fire	18	10
Trash Fire/Dumpster Fire	33	34
False Alarm	152	175
Rescue	19	21
Service Calls	90	71
Bridge Openings	206	211
Mutual Aid Given	4	6
Mutual Aid Received	2	6
Automatic Response to HFD Given	28	25
Automatic Response from HFD Received	27	19
EMS Engine Assists	1060	967
Total EMS Call Volume	4593	4243
Total FIRE Call Volume	435	453
Civilian Fire Related Fatalities	2	1
Civilian Fire Related Injuries	2	1
Firefighter Injuries during fire ground operations	1	1

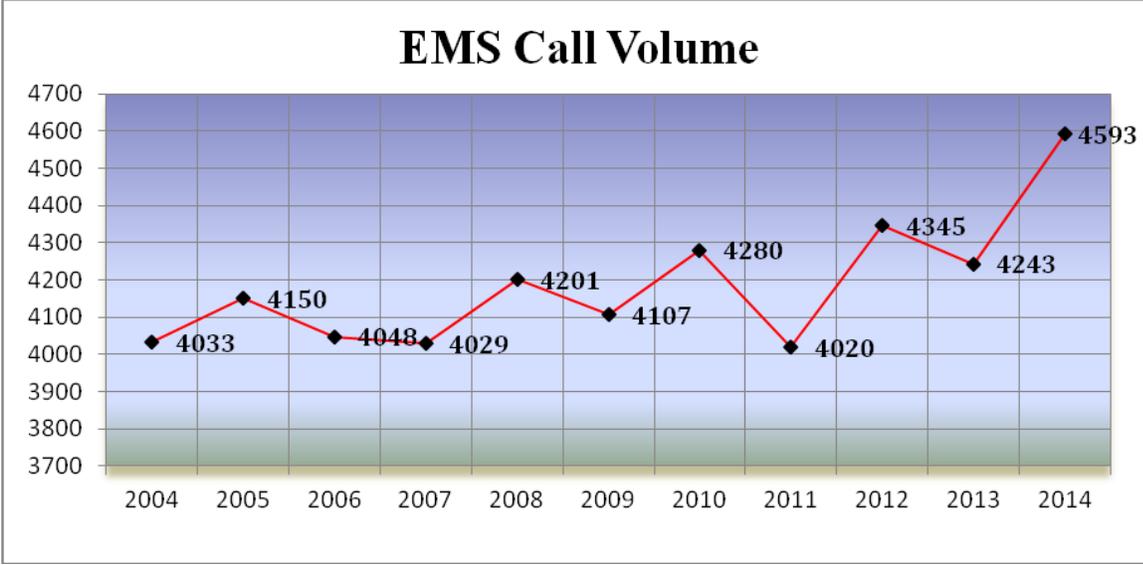




The fire department tracks fire response locations within the city. This chart shows the locations and number of fire calls per response zone.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

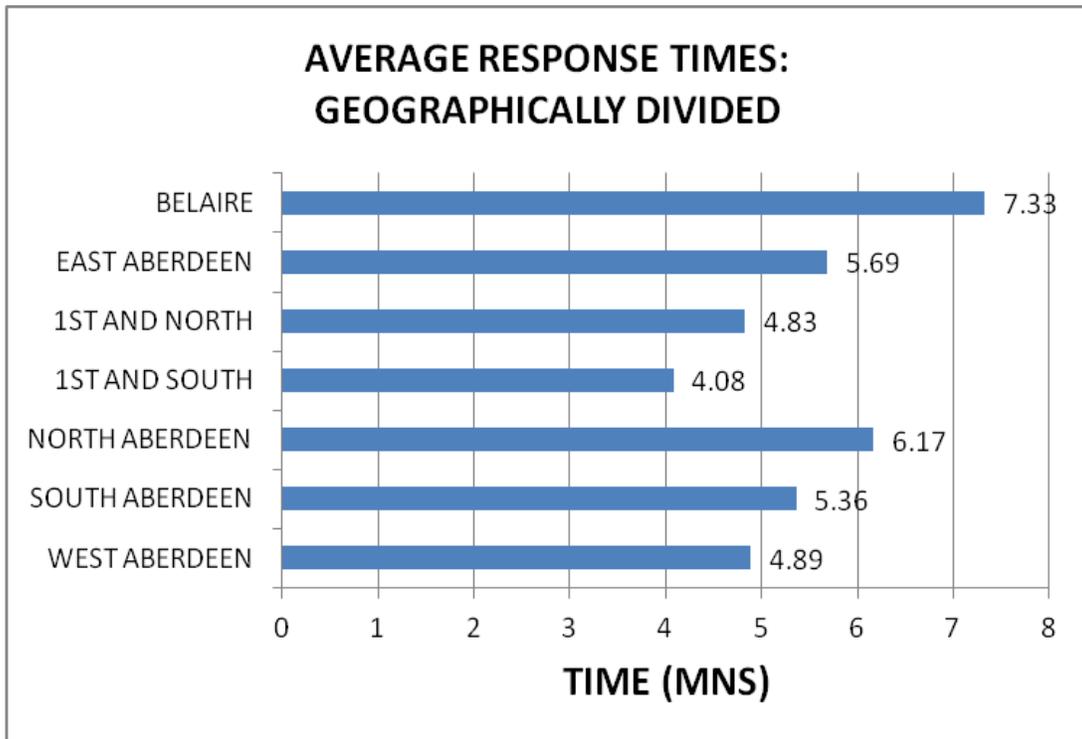
The Aberdeen Fire Department is responsible for providing emergency medical care to the citizens of the City of Aberdeen. We also provide emergency medical transport for the areas of Cosmopolis, Fire District 10 and Fire District 15. The graph below illustrates the Aberdeen Fire Department's emergency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



Over the 10 years represented in this graph we had a 13.9% increase in call volume over that time period. For 2014 alone, we saw our call volume increase by 350 calls which is an 8.25% from the year before.

RESPONSE CATEGORIES:

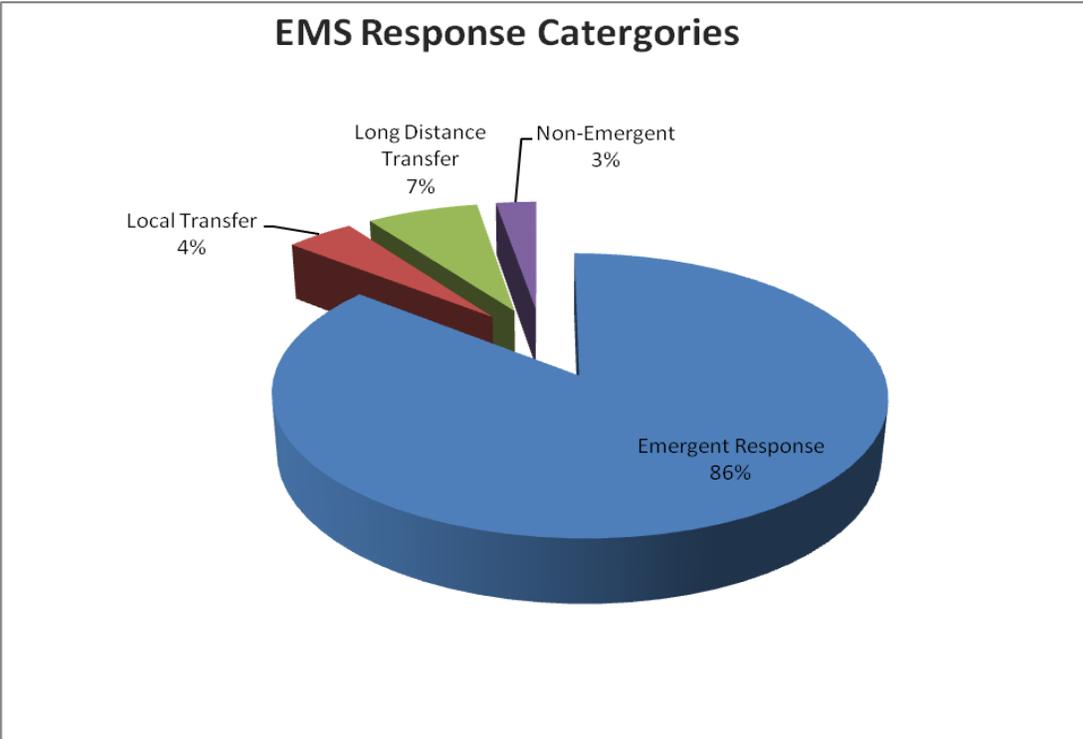
Medical responses are grouped into four categories: Emergent, Local transfers, Long Distance transfers, and Non-emergent responses. These response categories are based on their dispatch urgency and destination. The first category is emergent responses, which totaled 3,947 and accounted for 86% of our total EMS call volume. Emergent responses are calls that are dispatched through the Grays Harbor E911 center to our department. Our average response time from time of dispatch to arrival on scene within the city limits of Aberdeen was just under 5 minutes. The national standard as defined by the NFPA for medical responses is: Basic Life Support (BLS) crew on scene within 4 minutes or an Advanced Life Support (ALS) crew on scene within 8 minutes. The NFPA standard provides us with a 60 second window to respond that is not calculated into the total response, making the actual response times 5 minutes for BLS and 9 minutes for ALS. Our average response time of slightly less than 5 minutes falls well within the NFPA national standard which is impressive with the number medical responses we respond to each year.



The second category is local transfers, which totaled 200 and accounted for 4% of our total EMS call volume. Local transfers consist of transporting patients between Grays Harbor Community Hospital and skilled nursing facilities, home residences and diagnostic testing facilities within the city limits of Aberdeen.

The third category is long distance or out of town transfers from Grays Harbor Community Hospital to hospitals in Olympia, Tacoma and Seattle. Off duty personnel are utilized to accomplish these transfers and we did 328 of them for 7% of the total call volume.

The fourth category is non-emergent, which we did 118 for 3% of the total. Non-emergent responses consist of welfare checks, lift assists, falls without injuries or general assistance to our customers who did not require an emergent response from an ambulance. The EMS response categories are shown below.



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

The City of Hoquiam: 11 times

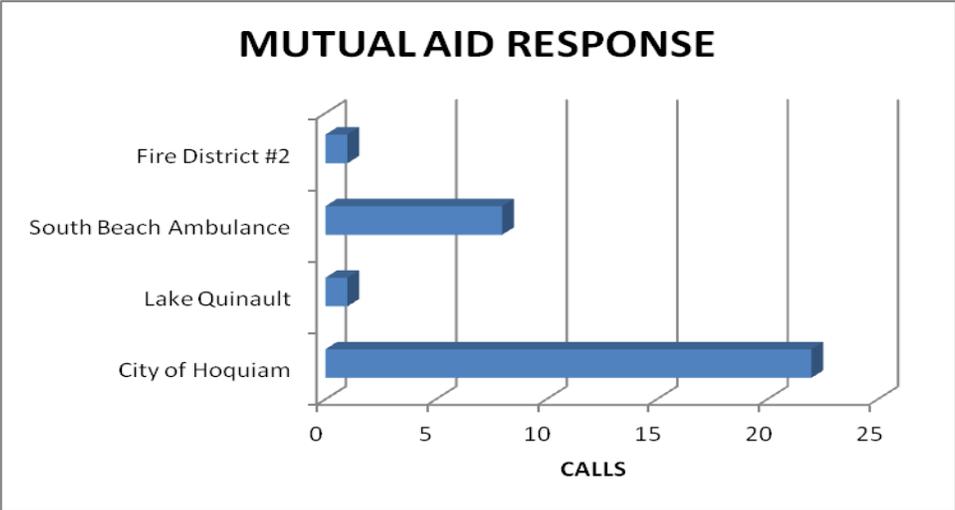
We also responded mutual aid to the following agencies to assist them:

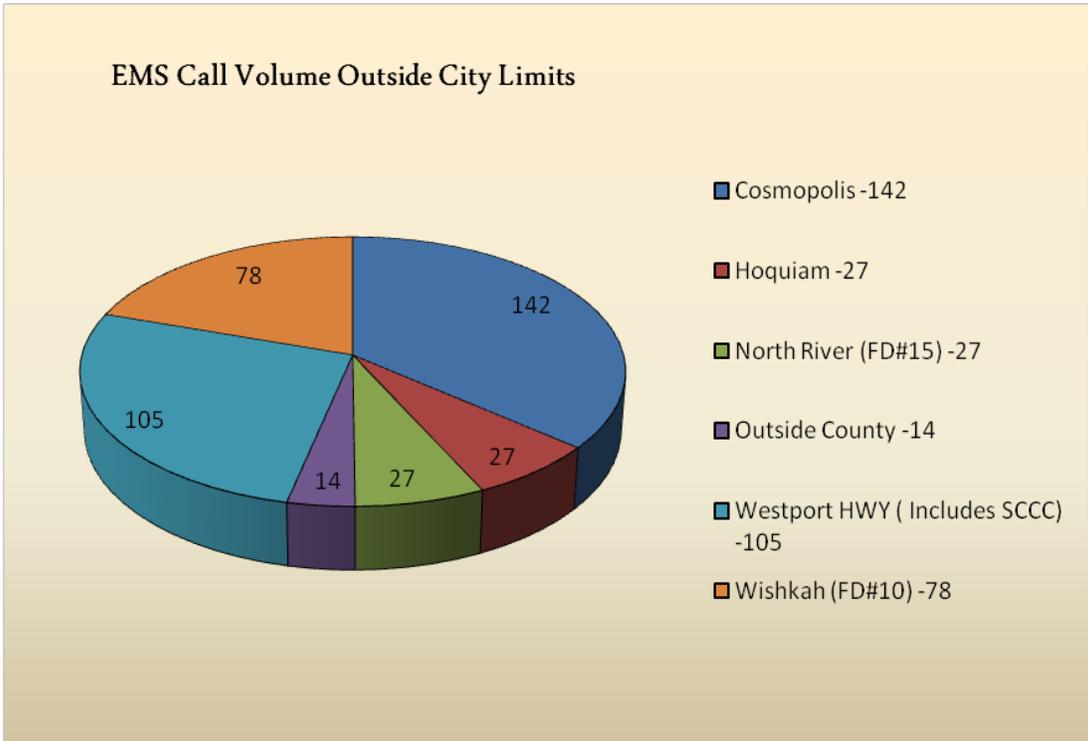
The City of Hoquiam: 22 times

Lake Quinault: 1 time

South Beach Ambulance: 8 times

Fire District #2: 1 time

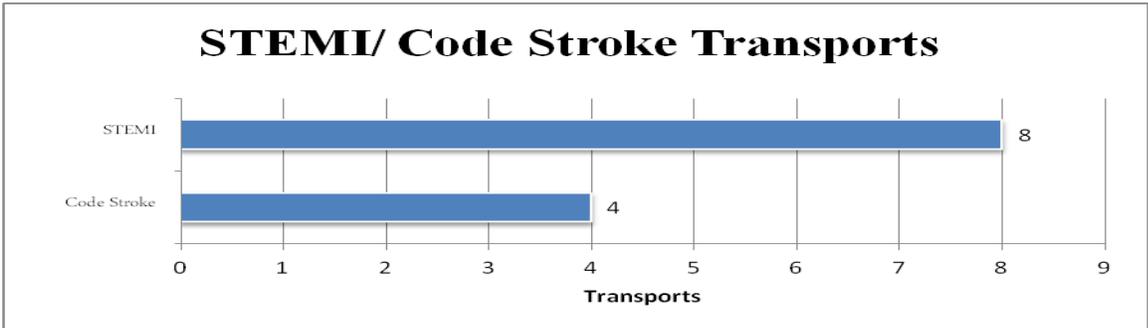




This is a representation of our call volume outside the City of Aberdeen, it is important to note the number of these responses because they take our on-duty staff out of service for an extended amount of time.

STEMI/STROKE TRANSPORTS:

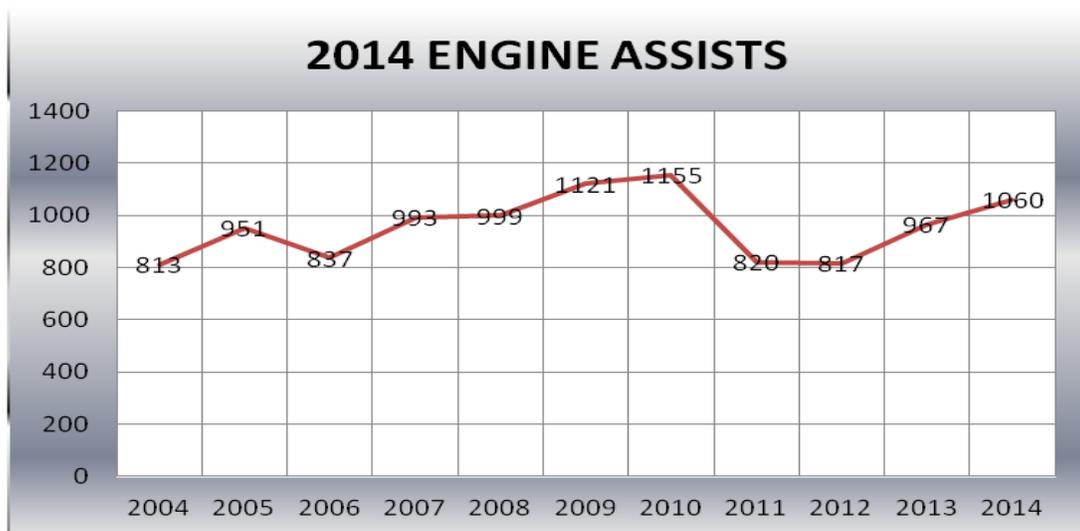
The STEMI/Code Stroke system the State of Washington implemented a couple years ago is a system we use to rapidly transport patients to an out of town hospital who are having either a heart attack or a stroke and are in need of medical treatment that is not available at our local hospital. We use on-duty staff to do these transports and back-fill their positions with off-duty personnel. This system provides these patients with the immediate advanced medical care they need which greatly improves their chance of survival.



STEMI/Code Stroke transports totaled 12 emergent transports last year for approximately 72 man hours.

RESPONSE STATISTICS:

One of our data collection points is Engine/BC Assists of which we did 1,060. An Engine/BC assist occurs when a fire apparatus or a Battalion Chief responds with the headquarters or Station 2 south side ambulance on medical calls. The EMS calls that the fire apparatus and Battalion Chief respond to can range from cardiac arrests, respiratory problems, strokes, motor vehicle accidents, or severe trauma calls. It is important to note that while the fire apparatus and Battalion Chief are engaged on the medical call they are out of service for a fire response until they have cleared from the previous call. This cross-staffing of personnel is what allows the Aberdeen Fire Department to manage such a high call volume with minimum staffing; the tradeoff being our ability to manage a fire incident is at times significantly impacted.



GRANTS:

Each year the Grays Harbor EMS Council awards grants through their EMS transit grant program which is funded through GH transit. Last year we were awarded \$3,584 to purchase four portable suction units to replace our older units. Our older portable suction units were outdated making it difficult to find replacement parts when they needed repair. Also, last year we received \$1,534 from the Washington State Pre-Hospital Trauma Participation Grant which is designed to help offset the high cost of providing trauma care.

MEDICAL SAVES:

During the past year the Aberdeen Fire Department documented 100 medical saves. We qualify a patient as a medical save if the patient arrives alive at Grays Harbor Community Hospital and the patient's condition most likely would have resulted in their death in the field had our crews not intervened.

OUTLOOK FOR 2015:

The Stryker Power Load System that was placed into service in 2014 has been a great investment for our personnel; the system hydraulically lifts and loads patients into and out of the ambulance with the touch of a button reducing the amount of stress placed on our personnel. For 2015, we will be purchasing the Stryker XPS system to retrofit one of our gurneys. The Stryker XPS (expandable patient surface) system replaces our current gurney rails with new ones that have 7 different locking positions and includes a wider mattress that will reduce stress on our patients when we transfer them from our gurney to the hospital bed. We hope to eventually retrofit all of our gurneys with the Stryker XPS system and continue to make improvements to the care we provide to our patients.

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

Ryan Knodel
Emergency Medical Coordinator

2014 FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

Fire Loss

Assistant Chief Rich Malizia

2014 was a year with \$678,330 in fire losses. This represents a decrease when compared to \$1,502,636 in 2013. The value of property saved in these events represents \$2,633,878. This fire loss represents 59 fires with significant damage to Residential / Commercial property, Motor Vehicles, Recreation Vehicles, Dumpsters or uncontrolled outdoor burning.

All fires in our community are investigated by the fire department. Many causes of fires are determined by a simple interview or an obvious situation caused the fire. Last year 50 incidents required more than a simple investigation of the fire. Formal investigations are implemented when the cause or origin is not readily apparent. Often the Aberdeen Police Detectives are called to assist with a formal investigation.

Fire Prevention

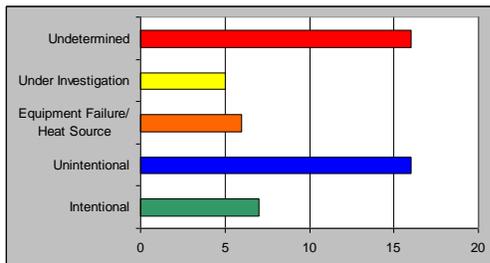
Commercial business inspections are done throughout the community in compliance with the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau and requirements of the International Fire Code. Each shift at the Fire Department is assigned approximately 50 to 60 business inspections to complete during the year. Approximately 114 inspections were completed in 2014 including the annual inspections of the Aberdeen School District and Grays Harbor College buildings.

Plan Review

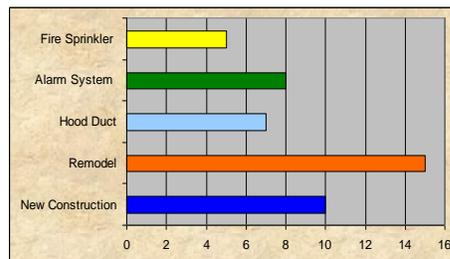
The Fire Marshal works with the Planning and Building Departments of the City of Aberdeen. Plan Review comments on new developments and submitted building permits. Requirements for compliance with the International Fire Code are identified in the process. Plan review is followed with final inspections,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

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

Fire Investigation



Plan Review



2014 TRAINING REPORT

MANDATED TRAINING

The Aberdeen Fire Department's training program has been designed to comply with the requirements set forth by the State of Washington WAC's, Washington State Insurance Rating Board, and Washington State Department of Health. Attempting to meet the requirement set forth by these entities translates into a busy year in relationship to training.

WASHINGTON STATE WAC 305-296 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The State of Washington requires that firefighters receive training in a wide range of topics. These topics include, but are not limited to:

- Ongoing Development,
- Quarterly Safety Training,
- Quarterly Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Training,
- Hazardous Materials Operations and Decontamination,
- Fire Apparatus/Driver Training,
- Live Fire Evolutions,
- Technical Rescue, and
- Overhaul Operations,

WASHINGTON STATE INSURANCE RATING BOARD TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the Washington State WAC mandated training, firefighters are also required to perform training to satisfy the requirements to maintain the Department's insurance rating. Areas of training required include:

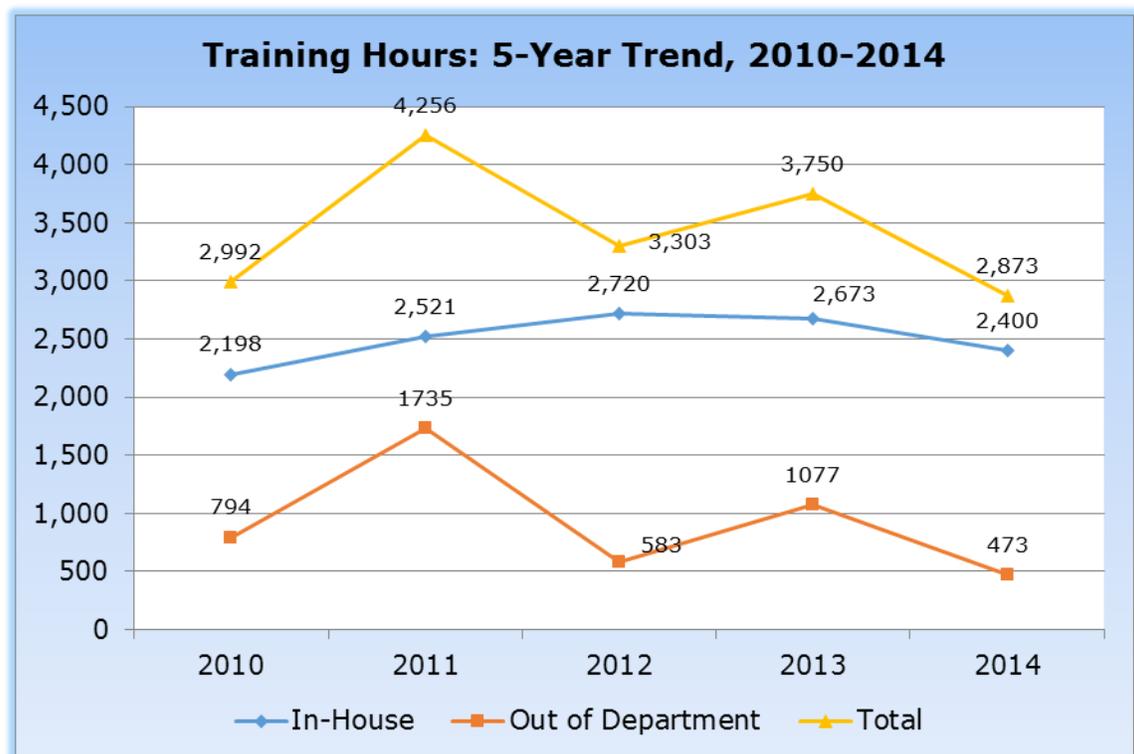
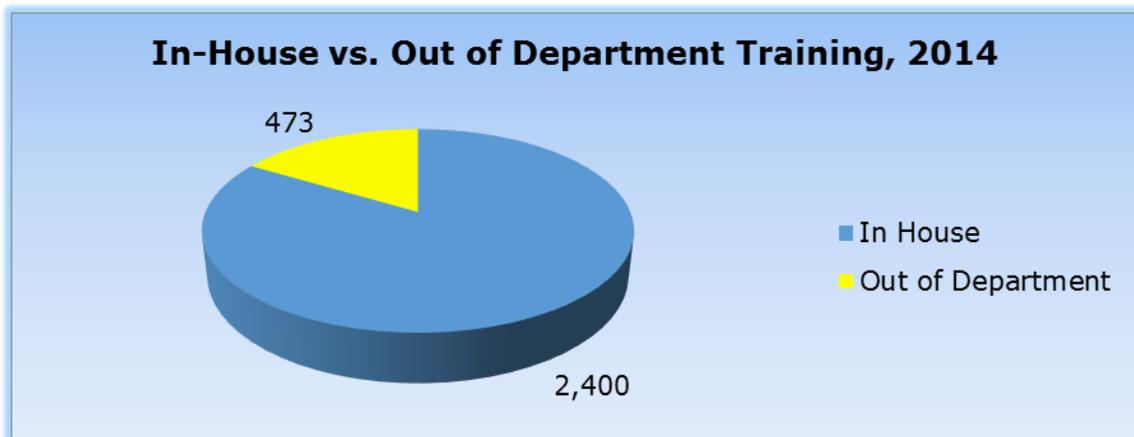
- Firefighter Training,
- Driver Training,
- Officer Training,
- Recruit Training,
- Multi-Company Drills,
- Night Drills,
- Drill Ground Use,
- Automatic Aid Training (HFD)
- Hazardous Material Training.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- Basic Life Support Ongoing Emergency Medical Training,
- Advanced Life Support Ongoing Emergency Medical Training,
- CPR, and
- Other Grays Harbor Medical Program Director Mandated Training.

TRAINING SUMMARY

The monthly in-house training program is designed by the Department's training team in an effort to meet these various mandates. The training is administered by the Department's Fire Captains. The Captains are responsible in ensuring the delivery of all training to the members under their supervision. In 2014, members of the Aberdeen Fire Department performed a total of **2,873** hours of training. Of this number, **473** hours were done outside of the department while the remaining **2,400** hours were done in-house. These training hours were achieved while balancing other duties as well as an ever increasing demand for the services provided by the Department.



The training conducted by the shift firefighters of the Aberdeen Fire Department represents an average of 958 among each of the Department's three shifts, or 87 hours per firefighter for 2014. This training is grouped into the following categories with their corresponding hours for record keeping purposes:

1. Administrative – **143 Hours** – This is training that deals with departmental organization, policies, and executive management.
2. Apparatus – **161 Hours** – Training that covers the operating the various aspects of the department's firefighting vehicles.
3. Building – **14 Hours** – This training covers the area of building construction and the effects on firefighting efforts.
4. Driver – **10 Hours** – Training, both in a classroom setting and out in the field that entails the actual driving of department apparatus.
5. Electric – **8 Hours** – This type of training covers general electrical safety as it pertains to the firefighter.
6. EMS – **886 Hours** – Any training that covers items related to Emergency Medical Services.
7. Fire – **5745 Hours** – Classes that covers the various aspects of firefighting.
8. Haz-Mat – **168 Hours** – Training that covers the firefighter's role in responding to incidents that involve Hazardous Materials.
9. Leadership – **33 Hours** – Any training that deals with the development of the leadership skills of the members of our department.
10. NIMS – **14 Hours** – Mandated training in the area of the National Incident Management System.
11. Rescue – **394 Hours** – Topics that cover the training in dealing with rescue situations, such as auto extrication.
12. Safety – **273 Hours** – General safety related training.
13. SCBA – **194 Hours** – This includes any training that has to deal with a firefighter's Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.

2014 BENCHMARKS

EXPANDED USE OF SEAPORT TRAINING GROUNDS

In 2014, the Aberdeen Fire Department expanded its use of the drill ground located next to Station 2, at the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport. Crew utilized this area for a wide range of training, including the use of the Department's live fire trailer, apparatus training as well hose evolutions. The addition of this area for our use has been invaluable in allowing the Department to have a safe and dedicated area to perform training.

WASHINGTON STATE INSURANCE RATING TRAINING DOCUMENTATION

At the beginning of 2014, the Department began to track training in the various categories that are reviewed by the Insurance Rating Board. This

new process will better allow the fire department to provide needed information for future review

2015 GOALS

The following items have been identified by the Aberdeen Fire Department Training Team as goals for 2015:

TRAINING PROPS

The team has identified a need to add props for use at the drill ground to improve our training delivery. For 2015 the team will be looking at adding props to help satisfy training needs in the areas of ventilation, forcible entry as well as firefighter self-rescue.

ENGINEER PROFICIENCY PROGRAM

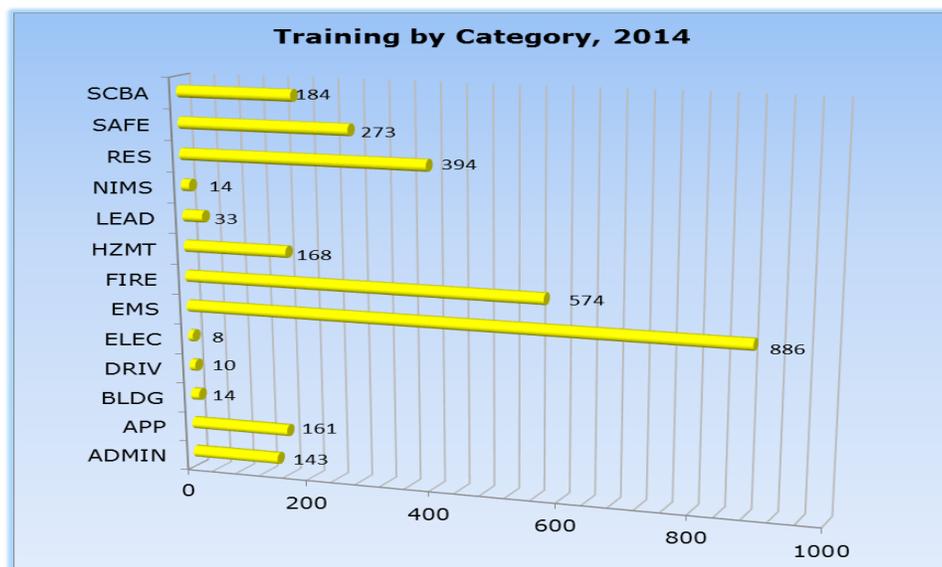
We plan to finalize the development of an apparatus operator training program. This program is being designed to assist firefighters with a systematic training program to increase their knowledge in operation of the Department's fire apparatus.

HOQUIAM FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING

In an effort to improve inter-operability between the Aberdeen and Hoquiam Fire Departments, the training team has been working with the Hoquiam Fire Department's training committee in scheduling joint training evolutions. While we currently do this now, it has been on a limited basis. The goal is to schedule these evolutions on a quarterly basis, if not more frequently.

Aberdeen Fire Department Training

Battalion Chief Dave Golding
Captain Wallace Montz
Captain Kelly Niemi
Captain Dave Swinhart



Aberdeen Fire Department Safety & Health Program Year End Report 2014

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

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

In 2014, the Department's Safety Officer processed **9** injury reports involving department personnel. Both the injuries and exposures resulted in **10 shifts** of missed work. Examples of injuries include back sprain/strain from lifting and moving patients, ankle injuries during fire overhaul, knee injuries during fire scene operations, and bloodborne exposures on EMS scenes.

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

Once again, 2014 was very busy, and through all of this I would like to take this opportunity to commend all personnel for their efforts and participation in helping to maintain an effective and progressive safety program. It goes without saying that training and safety are considered two of the most important aspects of our profession. It takes the cooperation and participation of all individuals involved to make the goals and objectives, established through training and safety, relevant to our Department needs, as well as the needs of our community.

Overview of Safety Program involvement for 2014 includes:

- Emergency Incident REHAB overview Training for all personnel
- Continued NIOSH case study reviews
- Annual Hearing Tests for all personnel
- June 2014 Safety Stand Down focusing on "Risk Management"
- Continued efforts to review and update department operations to comply with newly implemented L&I 305 Standards

Future goals for the Safety and Health Program for 2015 will include:

- Purchase of personal flotation devices for individuals operating near water.
- Continued Safety Training.
- Updating current Department Safety forms to be more consistent with the City's Safety Program
- Building repair and modification to promote healthy work environment to include:
 - Replace rear apron concrete at HQ station
 - Modification to the hose tower to address safety concerns
- Participation in the development of new Standard Operating Procedures that coincide with the existing Accident Prevention Program.

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

Damon Lillybridge
Battalion Chief
Safety Officer

2014 PUBLIC EDUCATION

In 2014 the City of Aberdeen Fire Department Public Education Division continued to provide fire and injury prevention programs for our residents and those who attend both public and private schools in Aberdeen. The education of the citizens of Aberdeen about potential fire and life safety hazards and how to take action to avoid such hazards is extremely important. Our education efforts are intended to target all ages from early childhood to adults.

During National Fire Prevention Week firefighters visit all of the grade schools in Aberdeen. While at the schools children from kindergarten through third grade are taught about fire safety, home escape plans, smoke detectors, disaster awareness, injury prevention, just to name a few. This year the Public Education team was able to promote fire and life safety to approximately 1,000 grade schools students in Aberdeen.

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

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

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

Kelly Niemi, Captain
Public Education

2014 APPARATUS INVENTORY

Station 1 (Headquarters) 700 W. Market Street

UNIT	SHOP #	TYPE
Battalion 7232	162	2013 Dodge 4X4 Command Unit
Truck 7221	91	2001 Pierce 105'HD Aerial-1500 GPM
Engine 7205	89	1994 Pierce 50'Telesquirt W/-1500 GPM
Engine 7204	87	1994 Pierce 1500 GPM Pumper
Medic Unit	161	2013 Dodge/Braun Medic
Medic Unit	152	2011 Ford/Horton/Braun Medic Unit
Medic Unit	142	2007 Ford/Horton Medic Unit (Reserve)
Medic Unit	144	2004 Ford/Horton Medic Unit
Chief 7251	140	2007 Ford F 150 Staff Vehicle
Chief 7200	93	2002 Ford Excursion Staff Vehicle
Fire Prevention	149	2005 Crown Victoria

Station 2 (South Aberdeen) 700 W. Curtis Street

UNIT	SHOP #	TYPE
Engine 7206	90	2001 Pierce 1500 GPM C.A.F.S. Pumper
Medic Unit	151	2009 Ford/Braun North Star Medic Unit 2005 Cargo Mate - Decon. /MCI Trailer

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

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