City of Wichita
FIRE DEPARTMENT
Annual Report

INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY
FEARLESS
HEROIC
HELPFUL
BRAVE
READY TO SERVE

WICHITA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Wichita’s Bravest

2012
WICHITA RESIDENTS:
In 2012, the Wichita Fire Department continued to provide a high level of service to the residents and those who visit our community. We proudly exceeded or met a number of benchmarks when compared to cities of similar size in the annual International City/County Management Association fire service survey. The department, as part of the Wichita/Sedgwick Emergency Medical Service System, also launched new protocols specifically to improve save rates for heart attack victims. The early data is promising and helps us improve the outcomes for those who receive emergency medical care.

Fatal fires in residential properties continue to impact our community. There were eight fire related deaths in 2011 and five deaths in 2012. However one fire fatality is one too many. In response, the department’s community risk reduction efforts were accelerated. A mobile fire safety classroom was acquired and is now a major part of the efforts to reduce the number of residential fires, fire related injuries and fatalities. The Mobile Fire Prevention Unit allows people of all ages the chance to experience the dangers of fire during simulations and to learn more about the importance of planning for escape. It is proudly displayed at neighborhood meetings, community events and other venues. Wichita’s Bravest will also continue to use public education as an important tool to prevent fires and deaths. The ongoing Fire Loss Awareness for Safer Homes (FLASH) allows firefighters to return to the scene of fires in neighborhoods where they conduct door-to-door campaigns. They share information with residents about fires and provide important fire prevention tips. 2012 also marked the third year of the very popular Citizens Fire Academy (CFA). Many of our CFA graduated have spread the word about this valuable opportunity and are becoming ambassadors and advocates for the department.

I’m very proud of the many contributions of the men and women of the Wichita Fire Department. Our Bravest have accomplished many significant things. We will continue to strive to meet the needs of this great community.

RONALD D. BLACKWELL / Wichita Fire Chief
RECRUITS
The Wichita Fire Department welcomed 17 new members in 2012. They completed 12 weeks of comprehensive classroom and hands-on training activities. The academy instruction includes engine company operations, truck company operations, medical training, hazardous materials training and technical rescue training.

SMOKE ALARM & BATTERY REPLACEMENT CAMPAIGN
The Wichita Fire Department continued its second year of the Smoke Alarm campaign in partnership with Schoffield Automobile Dealerships, Interstate All-Pak Battery Center and Safe Kids. The campaign offered 182 free smoke alarms and 200 smoke alarm battery replacements to residents in need. Firefighters also assisted with the installations upon request and conducted fire safety inspections at no cost to the residents. The campaign is an important part of the department’s fire prevention efforts. Please contact the WFD to receive more information.

IGNITE YOUR FUTURE
Consider a career and ignite your future with the Wichita Fire Department. The WFD is recruiting men and women to join the ranks of Wichita’s bravest. The department actively participates in many local community events where firefighters provide information about a rewarding career as a firefighter. Interested applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have emergency medical technician certification. To learn more about obtaining a job with the Wichita Fire Department, please contact the City of Wichita Human Resources Department.

CITIZENS ACADEMY
In 2012, the Wichita Fire Department conducted the fifth annual Citizens Fire Academy course for interested members of the community. As part of the course, participants are exposed to many of the day to day activities that Wichita’s Bravest encounter. Citizens Academies run a total of 10 weeks and a different topic is taught each week by a department member assigned to the Operations or Support Service Division. The classes include everything from communications to vehicle extrication. The goal is to provide participants with an understanding of what firefighters do on a daily basis and to encourage them to carry the safety message when they graduate from the academy. The class meets weekly at the Wichita Fire Department Regional Training Center.

HIGH SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP
Wichita Firefighters continued the department’s award winning educational program with Northeast Magnet High School in 2012. The program is designed to provide students with an opportunity to learn more about the fire service so they can prepare for a potential career with the Wichita Fire Department. It’s a unique opportunity for a high school student to receive hands-on training and classroom instruction from the men and women who work in the fire service every day.
The Emergency Operations Division’s mission is to minimize the loss of life and property resulting from fires, medical emergencies and other disasters. The Division is also engaged in community risk reduction activities. It is comprised of more than 400 members.

Medical Calls

The Wichita Fire Department’s core services have evolved to include responses to medical emergencies. All Wichita firefighters are state certified emergency medical care providers. In 2012, medical calls accounted for about 75% of the total calls for service.

Special Operations

BATTALION 1

Fire Station 1 is the Special Operations Battalion Headquarters. The Battalion is home to the Rescue Team, Haz-Mat Team and the Rehab team.

TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

The Technical Rescue Team operates out of Station 4, located at 2423 W. Irving. Team members are certified in water rescue, structural collapse, confined space/trench rescue, and heavy extrication.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

The Hazardous Material Team operates out of Station 10, located at 2950 East 21st North. Team members handle a wide array of duties from air monitoring to train derailments. They also partner with local businesses and government agencies.
Research, record keeping and providing technological support are key responsibilities associated with accomplishing the mission of this division. Support Services also ensures that firefighters are properly trained, equipped and deployed.

Fire Prevention

PUBLIC EDUCATION
Staff provides 2,500 programs annually which include safety talks, puppet programs, fire extinguisher training and fire drills. They also participate in numerous community events.

CODE ADMINISTRATION
Fire Inspectors provide proactive code enforcement through inspections and plan reviews. They performed 529 plan reviews for new construction and 11,512 building inspections in 2012.

FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT (FIU)
The Unit investigates all significant structure fires to determine the cause and origin of the fire. The FIU includes Sporty, a canine that undergoes hundreds of hours of training annually to be able to detect ignitable liquids at fire scenes.

Safety/Training

SAFETY
All members work to ensure safe practices at fire scenes. This division oversees department training and tracks all accidents and injuries. A safety officer is assigned to all major incidents throughout the City.

MEDICAL TRAINING
Personnel are required to complete in-service medical training and EMT recertification. Medical training staff work closely with the Emergency Medical Service System and Sedgwick County Emergency Medical Service training personnel.

FIRE AND RECRUIT TRAINING
Staff provides in-service training and recertification of WFD personnel on subjects such as fire operations, engine/truck operations, hi-rise operations and others. Topics are covered based on incidents that have occurred and national trends in the fire service.

The Support Services Division is responsible for ensuring the safety of firefighters and educating the community about fire prevention. Members include officers, firefighters and civilian support staff.
2012 Deployment Response Times

Areas With a Call Demand Greater Than 10 Calls per Sq Mile

First Responder Time
Minutes
< 7
> 7

Fire Stations

Boundaries
Small Cities
Sedgwick County
Wichita
Joint Service Agreement

1,127
2,253
10,000
20,000
30,000
40,000
2,408
3,742
1,846
10,267
34,338
43,722
5,545
9,707
1,401
3,157
185
535
HAZARDOUS CONDITION
(NO FIRE)
PUBLIC SERVICE
FIRE RESPONSE
MEDICAL RESPONSE
GOOD INTENT CALL
FALSE ALARM
EXPLOSION, WEATHER,
SPECIAL INCIDENT

Calls
Response

In 2012, these were the types of calls that created a response from WFD.

AVG RESPONSE TIME
Citywide Response Time
04:32

CALLS & UNIT RESPONSE

Calls
Response

In 2012, these were the types of calls that created a response from WFD.

NFIRS
National Fire Incident Reporting System
SELECTED HISTORICAL STATS

THREE YEARS IN A ROW:
FIREFIGHTER DEATHS = 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Fires</td>
<td>1,849</td>
<td>1,839</td>
<td>1,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Actual Fire Loss*</td>
<td>$14,904,571</td>
<td>$20,204,175</td>
<td>$12,181,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number Residential Fires</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residential Fire Loss*</td>
<td>$8,260,050</td>
<td>$12,014,760</td>
<td>$6,703,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number Vehicle Fires</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Fire Loss*</td>
<td>$1,424,810</td>
<td>$1,084,800</td>
<td>$1,691,153</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Fire Loss*</td>
<td>$8,061</td>
<td>$10,987</td>
<td>$7,594</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Number of Alarms</td>
<td>47,949</td>
<td>44,820</td>
<td>44,988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number Times Mutual Aid Given</td>
<td>1,770</td>
<td>1,754</td>
<td>1,477</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number Times Mutual Aid Received</td>
<td>1,314</td>
<td>1,267</td>
<td>1,205</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flame Damage Confined to Room of Origin</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flame Damage Beyond Room of Origin</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Civilian Injuries</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Civilian Deaths</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Firefighter Injuries</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Firefighter Deaths</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

*not adjusted for inflation

ANNUAL UNIT RESPONSE

All calls require a one unit response, while others may require two or more.

**# Fire Station Number**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Station Number</th>
<th>7,316</th>
<th>7,667</th>
<th>5,177</th>
<th>4,035</th>
<th>4,044</th>
<th>4,173</th>
<th>4,310</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># OF RESPONSES BY STATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>2,975</td>
<td>2,978</td>
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# OF RESPONSES BY STATION
The Wichita Fire Department debuted its Mobile Prevention Experience Unit (MPEU) in 2012. The Unit is designed to take children and adults through a fun, safe simulation of common situations that often lead to hazardous conditions.

The MPEU is equipped with a weather smart program that demonstrates a full storm simulation. The Unit also includes a sprinkler system burn room where an actual fire can be started until the sprinkler system puts it out. The demonstration highlights the effectiveness of sprinkler systems. Additional programs can be held outside the trailer with the Unit’s audio equipment and flat screen television.

It’s estimated that approximately 25,000 people experienced the MPEU during its first year of operation.