



INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY

City of Wichita FIRE DEPARTMENT Annual Report



HEROIC



FEARLESS

WICHITA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Wichita's  *Bravest*



HELPFUL

2012



READY TO SERVE



BRAVE

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 graduates 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



**WICHITA
FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

Wichita's Bravest

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www.wichita.gov [Click on Fire Department]

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www.facebook.com/wichitafiredepartment



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.

*Don't Forget!
Change batteries
in spring + fall

SMOKE ALARM & BATTERY REPLACEMENT CAMPAIGN

The Wichita Fire Department continued its second year of the Smoke Alarm campaign in partnership with Scholfield 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.

(316) 268-4531
www.wichita.gov

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.



A recruit practices an emergency exit from a building.

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.

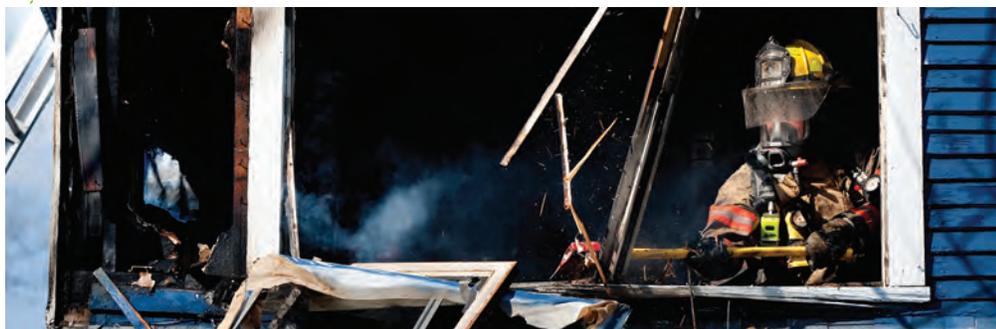


ELIZABETH C. SNOW / Deputy Fire Chief Operations

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.

Wichita Fire Companies continue to respond to more calls for service than ever before. In a typical day, fire units provide nearly 200 responses in Wichita and neighboring areas from 22 fire station locations. The call types range from medical alarms, vehicle accidents, hazardous material investigations and fire responses.

Fire Operations is divided into three shifts based on 24-hour work schedules: A-Shift, B-Shift, and C-Shift. The city is divided into four geographical battalions whose primary responsibility is to respond to calls within their selected area. Each battalion has engine companies, a truck company and squad companies that perform different duties. Depending on the type of call, one apparatus may be dispatched or a number of different apparatus will respond to the scene.



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.

F.L.A.S.H.

FIRE LOSS AWARENESS FOR SAFER HOMES

After a fire occurs, firefighters will return to the neighborhood to educate residents about fire prevention. They go door to door to discuss the importance of smoke detectors and address any questions residents may have. In 2012, the department conducted 210 F.L.A.S.H. programs.

FIRE PREVENTION



SAFETY / TRAINING



**RESEARCH,
RECORDS &
TECHNOLOGY**



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.



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.

Fire Prevention

PUBLIC EDUCATION

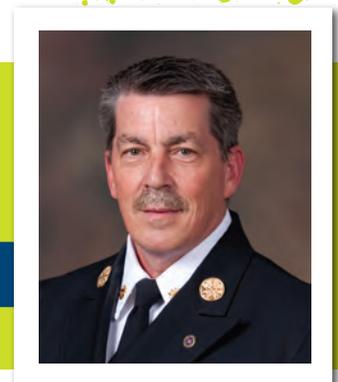
Staff provides 2,500 programs annually which include safety talks, puppet programs, fire extinguisher training and fire drills. They also participate in numerous community events.

CODE ADMINISTRATION

Fire Inspectors provide proactive code

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.

RONALD L. AARON / Deputy Fire Chief Support Services



2012 Deployment Response Times

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

First Responder Time

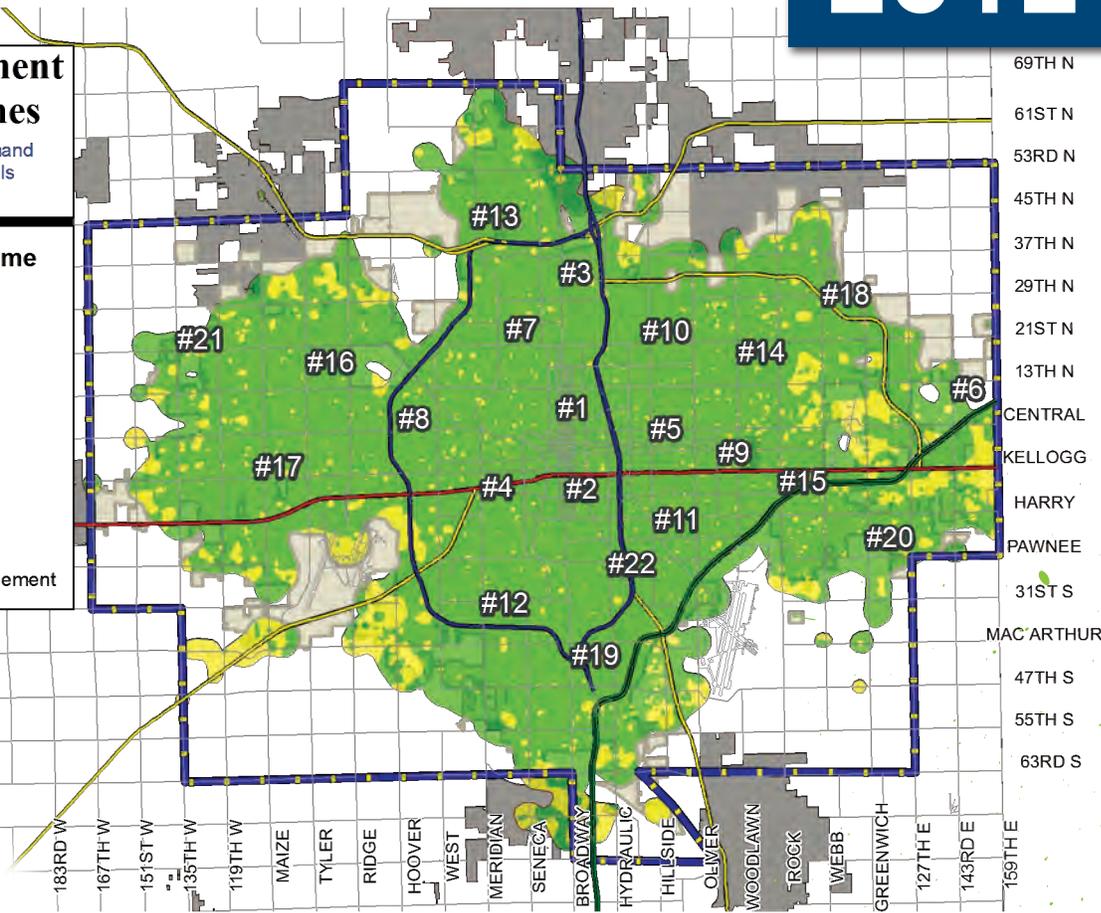
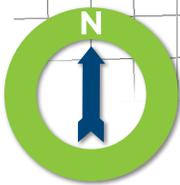
Minutes



#00 Fire Stations

Boundaries

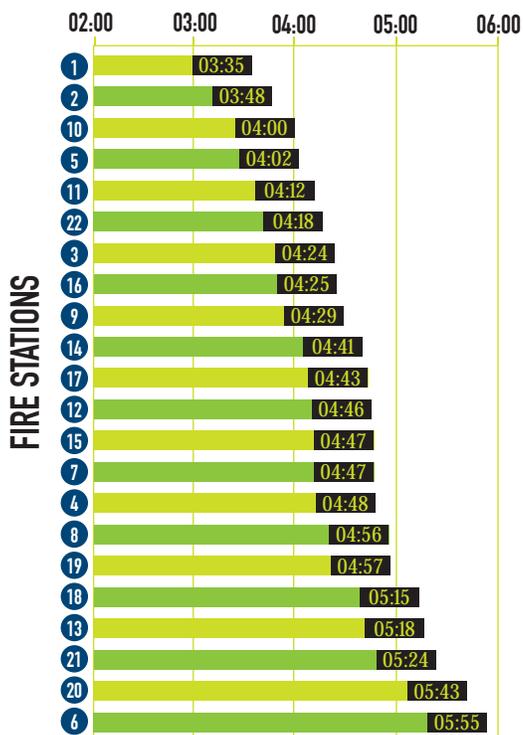
- Small Cities
- Sedgwick County
- Wichita
- Joint Service Agreement



AVG RESPONSE TIME

Citywide Response Time

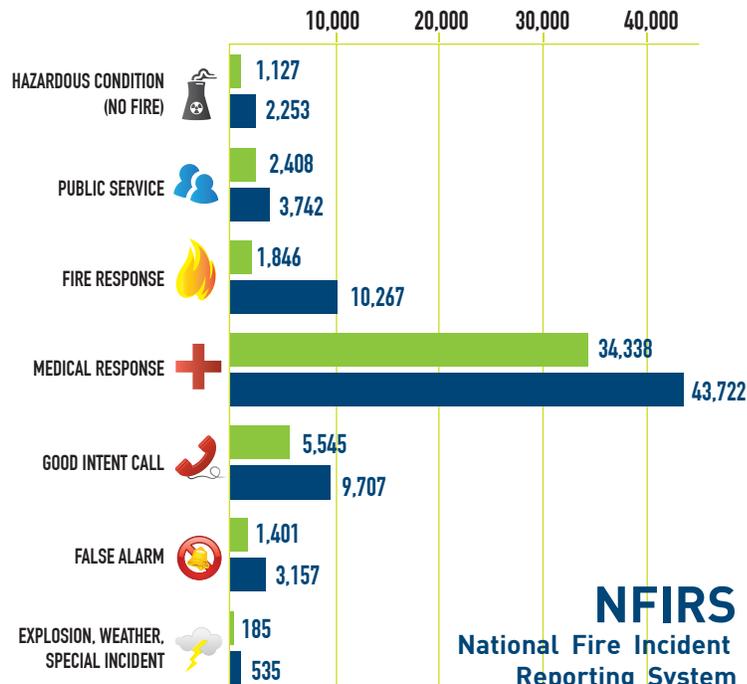
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CALLS & UNIT RESPONSE

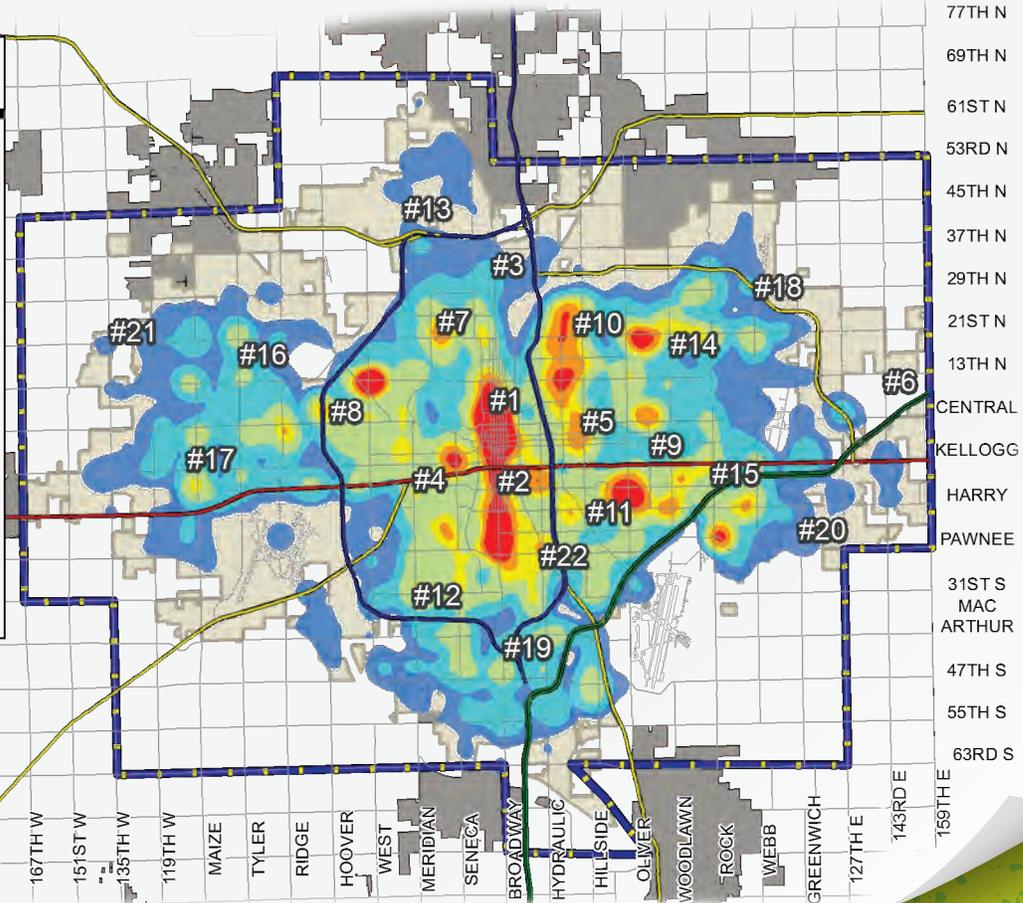
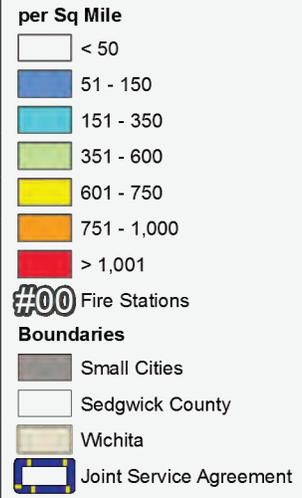
■ Calls ■ Response

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



NFIRS
National Fire Incident Reporting System

2012 Call Density



SELECTED HISTORICAL STATS

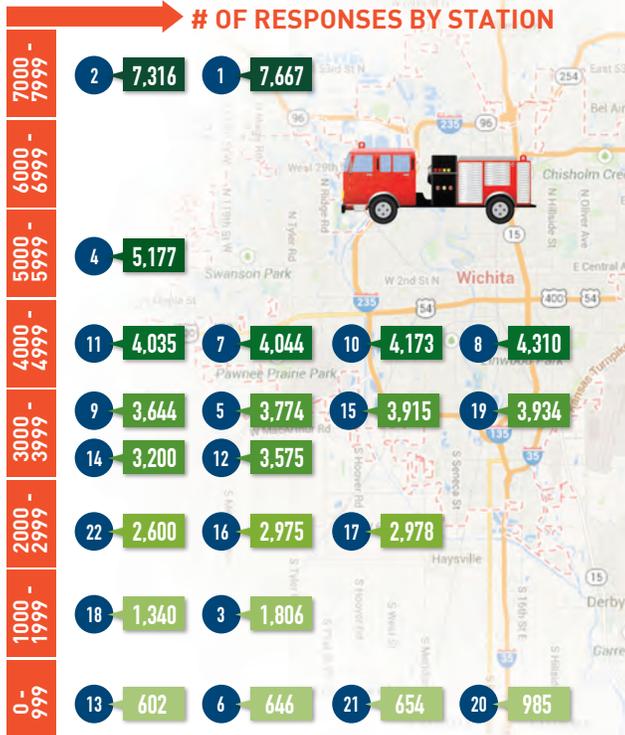
THREE YEARS IN A ROW:
FIREFIGHTER DEATHS = 0

Category	2012	2011	2010
Total Number of Fires	1,849	1,839	1,604
Total Actual Fire Loss*	\$14,904,571	\$20,204,175	\$12,181,158
Number Residential Fires	585	566	500
Residential Fire Loss*	\$8,260,050	\$12,014,760	\$6,703,900
Number Vehicle Fires	285	270	299
Vehicle Fire Loss*	\$1,424,810	\$1,084,800	\$1,691,153
Average Fire Loss*	\$8,061	\$10,987	\$7,594
Total Number of Alarms	47,949	46,820	44,988
Number Times Mutual Aid Given	1,770	1,754	1,477
Number Times Mutual Aid Received	1,314	1,267	1,205
Flame Damage Confined to Room of Origin	295	295	276
Flame Damage Beyond Room of Origin	182	189	152
Number of Civilian Injuries	50	51	37
Number of Civilian Deaths	4	8	4
Number of Firefighter Injuries	31	71	57
Number of Firefighter Deaths	0	0	0

*not adjusted for inflation

ANNUAL UNIT RESPONSE

All calls require a one unit response, while others may require two or more. { # Fire Station Number }



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NEW!

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.

MOBILE PREVENTION EXPERIENCE UNIT

