

**WICHITA  
FIRE  
DEPARTMENT**

*Wichita's Bravest*

**2011**



# WICHITA FIRE DEPARTMENT

*Wichita's Bravest*

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### WICHITA FIRE DEPARTMENT

455 North Main, 11th Floor  
 Wichita, Kansas 67202  
 (316) 268-4510

[www.wichita.gov](http://www.wichita.gov) [ *Click on Fire Department* ]

# 2011

## facebook



The Wichita Fire Department launched its Facebook page in 2011 as a way to connect with residents. Follow the WFD on Facebook to see the latest photos and receive updates on recruitment, fire prevention, emergency incidents and sweepstakes!

[www.facebook.com/wichitafiredepartment](http://www.facebook.com/wichitafiredepartment)

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

### WICHITA RESIDENTS -

The year 2011 was a great year for the Wichita Fire Department and a number of Wichita's Bravest were recognized at the local, state and national levels. Members of the department served the community in many different ways. We were present at a host of community and neighborhood events providing fire safety information, connecting with children, as well as addressing other issues of community concern. We responded to fire, medical, hazardous materials, technical rescue and other types of emergency calls. Wichita's Bravest also returned to the scene of emergencies in the days following the incidents to educate residents about ways to keep their families, homes and businesses safe.

Training was provided in record numbers not only for Wichita firefighters, but other emergency service partners in the region. Two recruit classes graduated and the newest of Wichita's Bravest were assigned to fire houses across the City.

Partnerships at the state and local levels were utilized to educate and recruit the next generation of firefighters. The Northeast Magnet High School program continues to be a success as it introduces high school students to emergency service careers.

The Wichita Fire Department has 126 years of rich tradition of outstanding public service. Our commitment to you and your safety is unwavering. We are very appreciative of your support and that of the Mayor and City Council. It is indeed, a privilege to serve you!

Ronald D. Blackwell  
*Wichita Fire Chief*



# IGNITE YOUR FUTURE

The Wichita Fire Department actively recruits men and women by participating in job fairs at local high schools and universities. During these events, firefighters provide detailed information about the job and offer insight about a career in the fire service. Interested applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification. If you're interested in a career with the Wichita Fire Department contact the City of Wichita Human Resources Department:

**(316) 268-4531 | [wichita.gov/cityoffices/HR/](http://wichita.gov/cityoffices/HR/)**

## RECRUITS

In 2011, twenty six recruits graduated from the Wichita Fire Department's Training Academy. They completed twelve weeks of intensive classroom and hands on training activities. The course work included training in the following fields: engine company operations, truck company operations, hazardous materials, technical rescue and medical incidents.



## CITIZENS ACADEMY

The WFD's 4th annual Citizens Fire Academy featured a class of twelve students who received a behind the scenes look at what it takes to be a Wichita Firefighter. The classes were held at the Department's Regional Training Center and helped them become familiar with fire equipment and fire tactics. Throughout the session students were challenged to always consider personal safety and the safety of their firefighting team.



## HIGH SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

The Wichita Fire Department is reaching the next generation of Wichita's Bravest through a continued award winning partnership with Northeast Magnet High School. This partnership offers students a unique instructional program to prepare them for a career in the field of fire service. The curriculum features hands on training and classroom development activities. Captain Steven Schowalter and Station 10 firefighters received the coveted USD 259 Good Apple Award for their guidance with this program.

## SMOKE ALARM CAMPAIGN

Through a community partnership with Schofield Automobile Dealerships, Interstate All-Battery Center and Safe Kids, the Wichita Fire Department launched a free smoke alarm and battery replacement campaign. During the 2011 campaign, the WFD received 246 requests for smoke alarm services. The campaign made it possible for the WFD to provide free working smoke alarms to residents who would not otherwise have one. Residents also received free batteries for existing smoke alarms. In addition, firefighters installed the new smoke alarms and provided fire safety inspections upon request at no cost to residents. Call the WFD for more information about how to participate.



Elizabeth C. Snow  
Deputy Fire Chief Operations

# EMERGENCY OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Division supports the City of Wichita's goal to provide a safe and secure community as well as the Fire Department's mission 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.

## OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

Every day Wichita's Bravest travel the streets responding to both emergency and non-emergency incidents. In a typical day, fire units provide nearly 200 responses in Wichita and neighboring areas from 22 fire station locations. Operations also provides specialized expertise with hazardous materials mitigation and technical rescue incidents.

Fire Operations is divided into three sections based on 24-hour work schedules: A-Shift, B-Shift, and C-Shift. Each shift is managed by a shift commander. Each shift is organized into three battalions. Each battalion is managed by a Battalion Chief.

## 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 2011, medical calls accounted for about 70% of the total response.

## 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:** Operates out of Station 4, located at 2423 W. Irving. The team members are certified in water rescue, structural collapse, confined space/trench rescue, and heavy extrication.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIAL TEAM:** Operates out of Station 10, located at 2950 E. 21st N. The team members handle a wide array of duties from air monitoring to train derailments. They also partner with local businesses and government agencies.



## FIRE LOSS AWARENESS FOR SAFER HOMES

As an on-going community risk reduction strategy the fire department continues to provide its Fire Loss Awareness for Safer Homes (F.L.A.S.H.) program. The program returns firefighters back to a neighborhood that recently experienced a house fire. Firefighters go door to door to discuss fire safety with residents and provide fire prevention literature. In 2011, the department conducted 166 "F.L.A.S.H." programs.

# SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION



Ronald L. Aaron  
*Deputy Fire Chief Support Services*

Support Services helps achieve the City of Wichita's goal to provide a safe and secure community by providing proactive life safety services including prevention, education, research & development and record keeping.

## FIRE PREVENTION

**PUBLIC EDUCATION:** Provides more than 2,400 programs each year at schools, businesses, senior centers and homes. The programs include safety talks, puppet programs, fire extinguisher training, fire drills and static displays at public events.

**CODE ADMINISTRATION:** Reviews building codes for new and existing structures in order to reduce the number of fire deaths, injuries and loss of property due to fires. Fire Inspectors provide proactive code enforcement intended to work toward compliance rather than punitive action.

**FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT (FIU):** Investigates all significant structure fires to determine the origin and cause. FIU members must train continually to meet national standards. The FIU includes one of 50 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) nationally certified accelerant detection teams in the United States. Sporty, the WFD's canine, is trained to detect ignitable liquids such as gasoline which helps fire investigators in determining if a fire was intentionally set.

## SAFETY & TRAINING

**SAFETY:** Monitors fire scenes to ensure firefighters are operating safely and provides training over a variety of subjects for on duty companies. The Safety Officer responds to major incidents throughout the City.

**MEDICAL TRAINING:** Provides in-service medical training and EMT recertification for the 450 member department. Medical training staff works closely with Emergency Medical Service System (EMSS) and Sedgwick County EMS training personnel.

**FIRE & RECRUIT TRAINING:** Trains and recertifies WFD personnel on subjects such as fire operations, engine/truck operations, hi-rise operations and others. Staff provides research to develop best practice models as well as works with the department's subject matter experts for training delivery.

## SUPPORT OVERVIEW

Support Services staff members play a significant role in ensuring firefighter safety. They provide hands on training, classroom work and testing. They help ensure activities are performed safely, are accurately recorded and continuously evaluated for efficiency and effectiveness.

## AREAS OF SERVICE :

**Occupational Health and Safety**

**Fire and Medical Training**

**Community Risk Reduction**

**Fire Investigation**

**Performance Measurement**

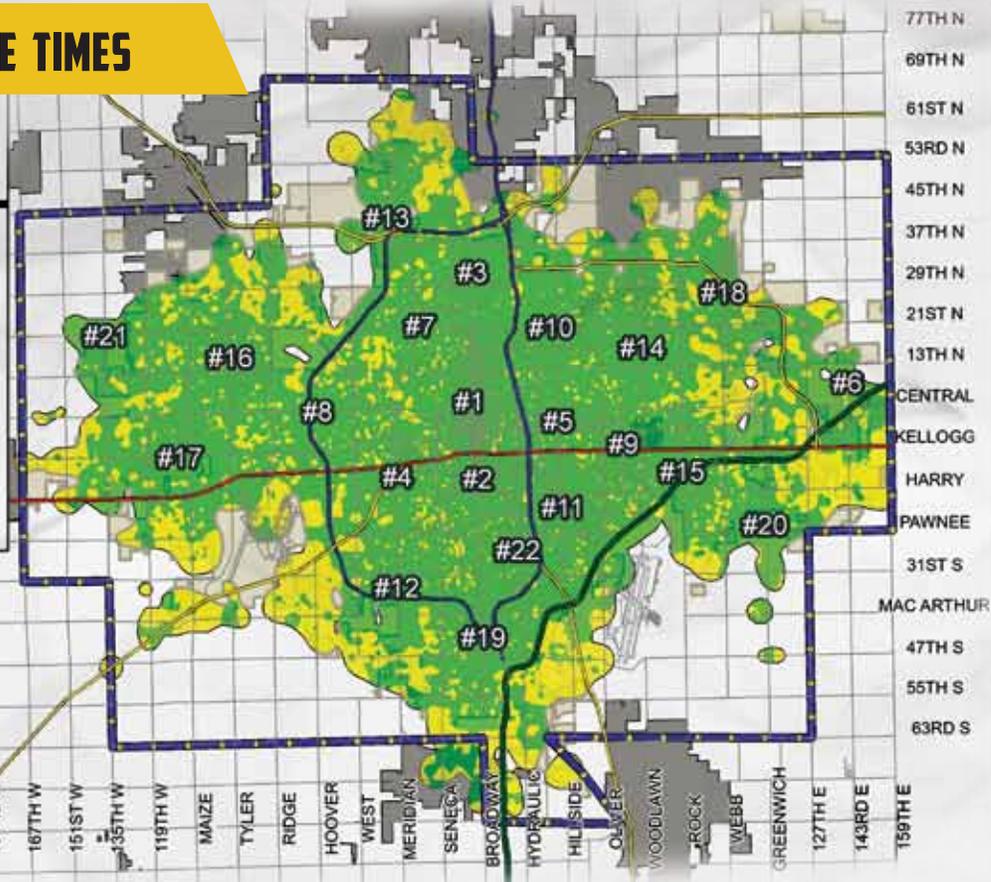
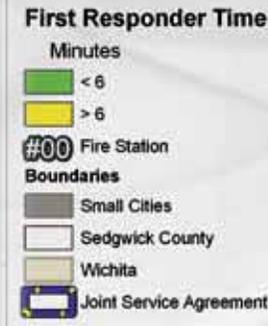
**Quality Assurance and  
Quality Improvement**

**Technology Development**

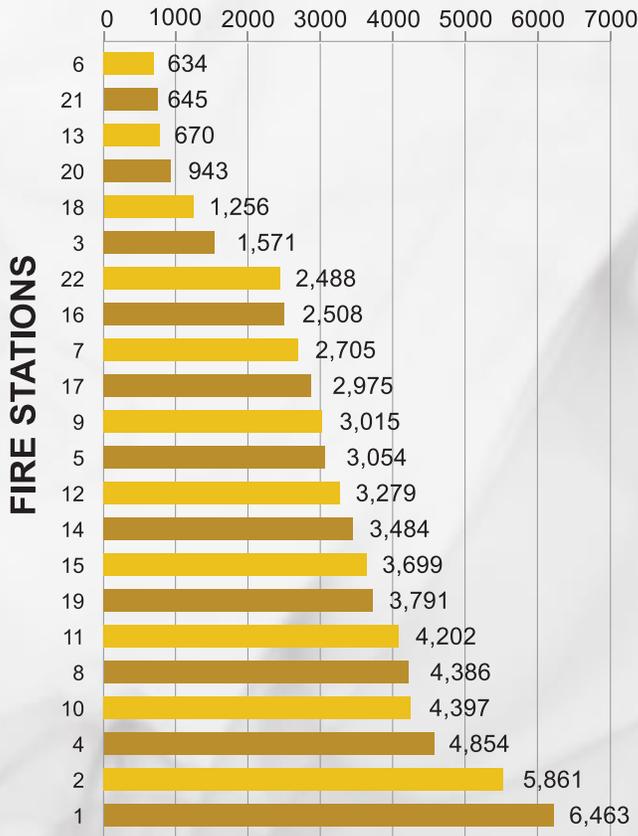
**Budget Development and  
Strategic Planning**

## DEPLOYMENT RESPONSE TIMES

Areas with a call demand greater than 10 calls per square mile

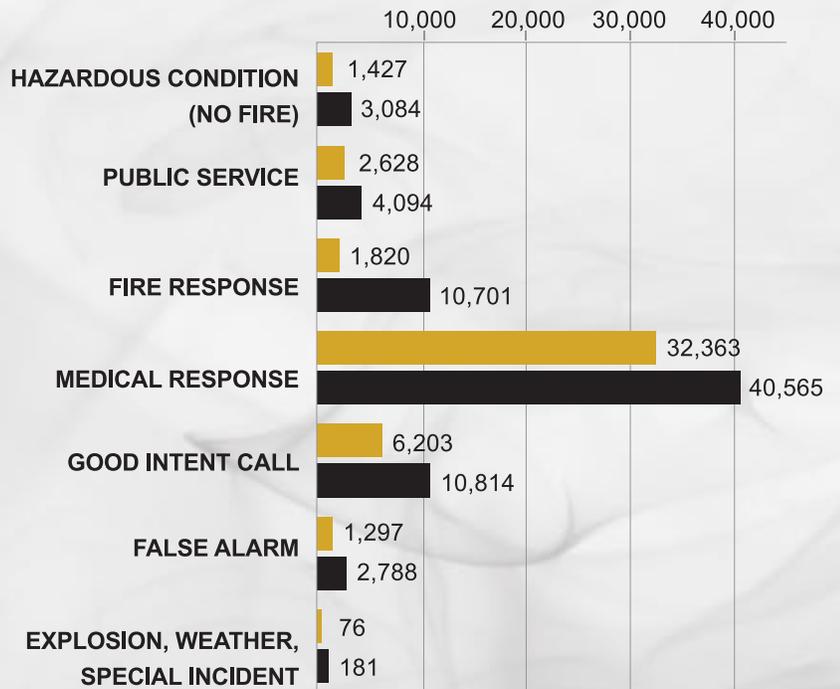


## ANNUAL UNIT RESPONSE BY STATION



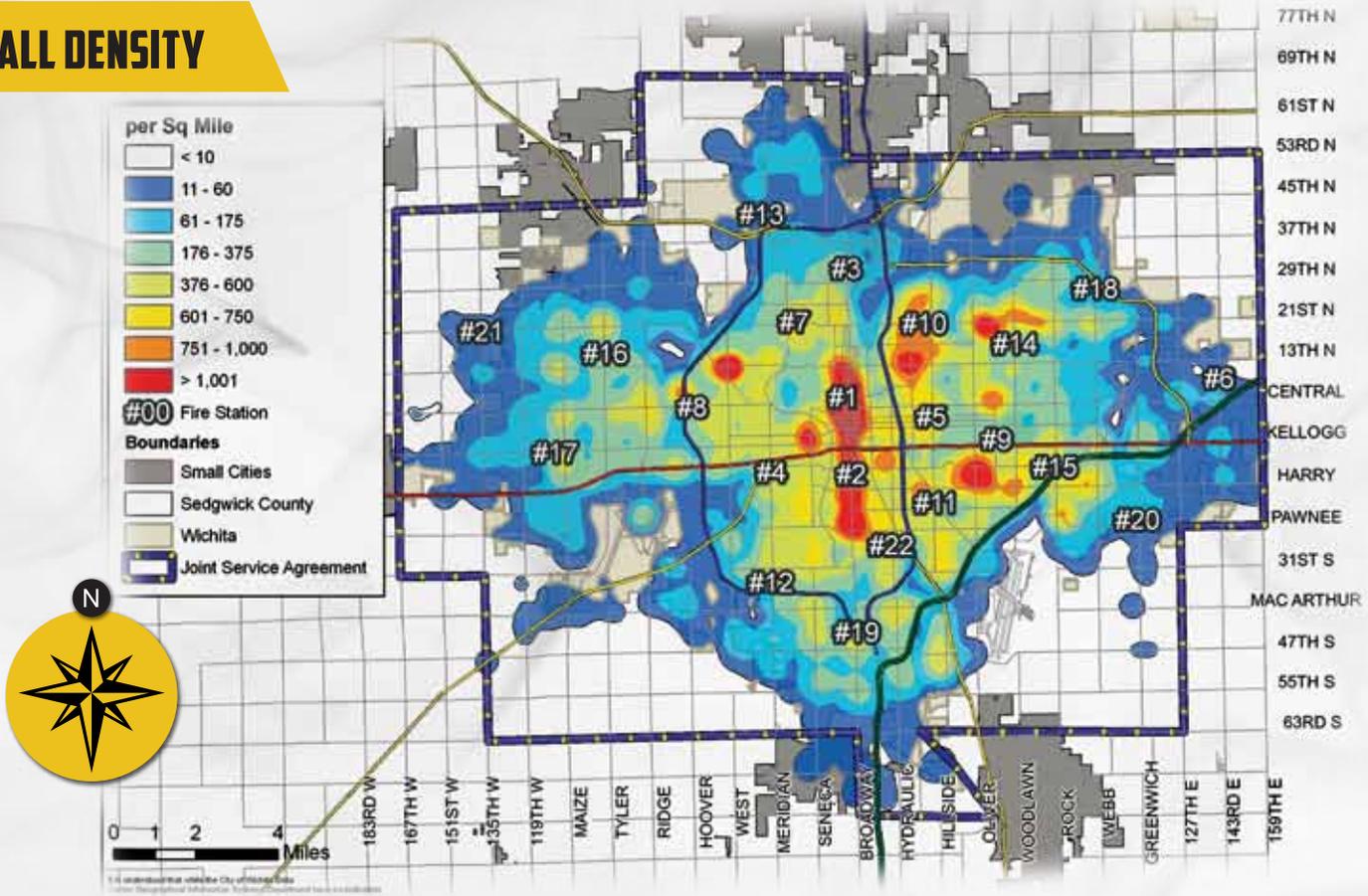
## NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM (NFIRS)

In 2011, these were the types of calls that created a response from WFD.



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

## CALL DENSITY

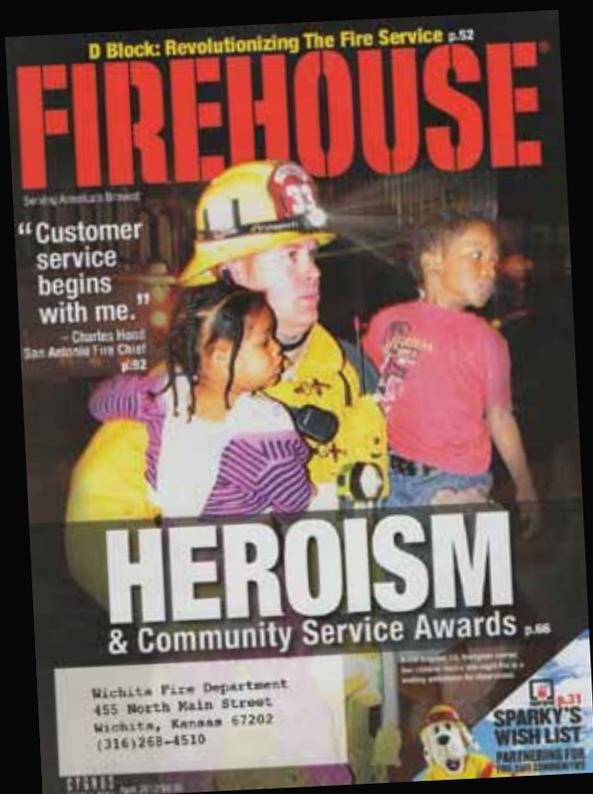


## SELECTED HISTORICAL STATISTICS

CATEGORIES	2011	2010	2009	2008
Total # of Fires	1,839	1,604	1,647	1,679
Total Actual Fire Loss	\$20,204,175	\$12,181,158	\$12,431,074	\$16,545,837
# Residential Fires	566	500	533	389
\$ Residential Fire Loss	\$12,014,760	\$6,703,900	\$7,095,462	\$7,942,809
# Vehicle Fires	270	299	314	336
\$ Vehicle Fire Loss	\$1,084,80	\$1,691,153	\$1,162,367	\$1,378,501
\$ Average Fire Loss	\$10,987	\$7,594	\$7,548	\$9,855
Total # of Alarms	46,820	44,988	43,711	42,931
# Times Mutual Aid Given	1,754	1,477	1,668	1,542
# Times Mutual Aid Received	1,267	1,205	995	701
Flame Damage Confined to Room of Origin	295	276	286	365
Flame Damage Beyond Room of Origin	189	152	137	90
# of Civilian Injuries	51	37	23	29
# of Civilian Deaths	8	4	2	6
# of Firefighter Injuries	71	57	21	48
# of Firefighter Deaths	0	0	1	0

\*not adjusted for inflation

## AWARDS



Firehouse Magazine, a national publication, recognizes firefighters across the country who demonstrate extraordinary acts of courage and heroism. For the third consecutive year, members of the Wichita Fire Department have been recognized. The stories of their acts of bravery are below.

**On January 10, 2011** Firefighter Preston Gonsalves was off duty when he noticed a rollover accident with a victim inside the vehicle. Acting quickly, Gonsalves called for help and discovered the victim had stopped breathing. He repositioned the airway and the victim began breathing again.

**On April 2, 2011** Firefighter Jerrod Byrne, while off duty, responded to a neighbor's cry for help. Byrne found a four-year-old child trapped under a garage door. He lifted and secured the garage door and administered CPR until EMS arrived.

**On April 17th, 2011** fire companies responded to an apartment building fire with people trapped on the third floor. Firefighters encountered heavy fire as they located and freed the residents. In total, 17 residents either managed to escape on their own or were rescued by members of the Wichita Fire Department. For their heroic actions, the following members and companies were recognized: Captain Richard Bahr, Lieutenant Michael North, Lieutenant Troy Gerken, Firefighters Benjamin Kersting, Ryan Gadbury, Jeremiah Toothaker and Matthew White.

**On August 24, 2011** Captain Frank Buck was off duty when he encountered someone who had collapsed at a gym. Frank administered AED shocks and assisted with CPR.

**On July 22, 2011** Lt. Sam Hittle and Firefighter Josh Forbes were dispatched to a house fire with a small child trapped inside a bedroom. Under Lt. Hittle's guidance, both members entered the bedroom, quickly located the child and escaped through the window. Life saving efforts followed in the front yard.

Additional firefighters who responded to this incident also received honorable mentions.