

2013

City of Burlington Fire Department

Annual Report





Honorable Mayor Miller,
Aldermen,
Citizens of the City, and
Members of the Fire Department,

It is with great pleasure that we have the ability to present the 2013 Fire Department Annual Report. Many things happened in our City this year that has impacted both the City and the Fire Department. The Echo Lake Foods fire in January 2013 required the State of Wisconsin's largest use of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, MABAS. The Echo Lake Foods fire included a fifth alarm box and seven special alarms that brought fire companies in from as far away as South Milwaukee, Middleton & Watertown, WI and Waukegan, Long Grove & Marengo, Ill. This included over 100 departments and over 400 firefighters. Just as this report is being completed, Echo Lake Foods is initiating the plan reviews for the rebuilding of their lost portion of structures.

Also in 2013 the department had broken a few milestones. The first female firefighter joined the ranks and long-time volunteer Fire Chief Richard Lodle stepped down, as the first full time Fire Chief was hired. The McGrath study that was just an idea in late 2012 became a reality with a presentation in November 2013. The report outlined better working relationships and opportunities between the City of Burlington Fire Department, the Town of Burlington Fire Department and Burlington Rescue Squad Inc. In an effort to improve working relationships among the three entities, we participated in more joint trainings (extrication, large area search, water rescue) and developed a joint training initiative that involved multiple local emergency service groups (Kansasville Fire, Rochester Fire, Waterford Fire, Lyons Fire, Gateway Technical College, City and Town of Burlington Fire departments and Burlington Area Rescue).

Several changes took place in 2013 that was geared towards improving safety

and operational components of the fire department. Fire Command procedures were enhanced to include communications training, radio operations training, radio designations for officers, creation of a duty officer program and enhanced accountability procedures.

Safety improvements included removing fire personnel from directing traffic in the roadway, implementing a tower ladder driver program, improving dispatching procedures for quicker responses, establishing a vehicle backing policy, training personnel on roadway safety procedures, establishing reflective chevrons on the rear facing portion of our frontline vehicles and establishing rehabilitation services at all extended fire and emergency scenes.

Our highly dedicated members include five full time members and 45 volunteers. Collectively the fire department members have worked cohesively to provide exceptional service throughout our community in many different facets.

Our personnel have participated in public education opportunities throughout the community at local schools, safety town, block parties, burn camp, Burlington Airport's Fly-in, Fire Prevention week activities, Burlington High School's opportunity day (career day), the community block party held at Devor Park and at their first ever pancake breakfast.

Five of our members also completed Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation, (CPR) instructors training to provide in-service training and certification to our fire department volunteers and staff in addition to offering CPR training classes to the citizens and businesses within our community for upcoming 2014.



Perry S. Howard
Fire Chief
M.B.A., EFO, CFO

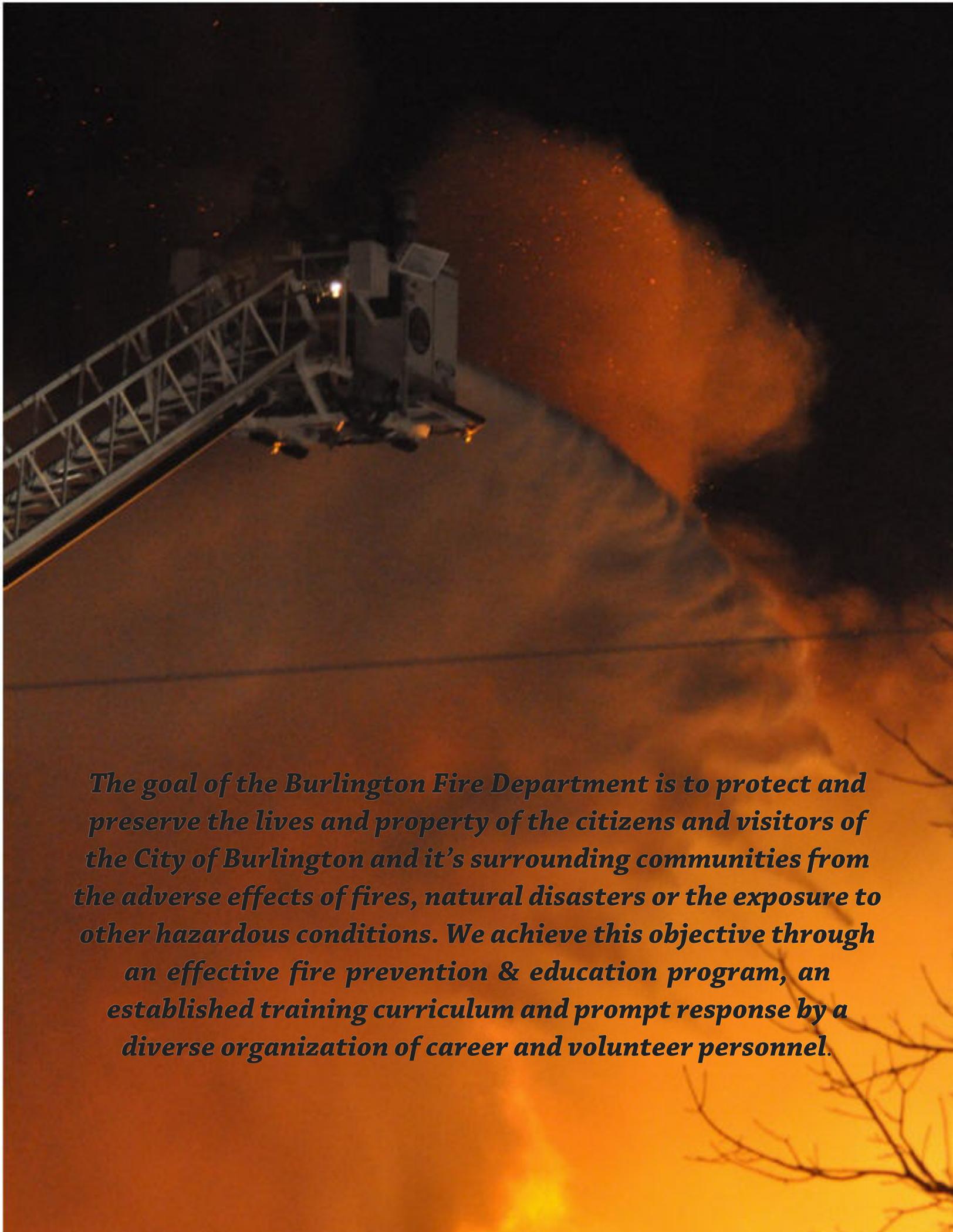
The Fire Department members participated in more training in 2013 than any previous year, accumulating 3,760 hours in 482 different classes to be proficient and prepared to serve our community in many different disciplines. Several of the members have completed Emergency Medical Technician, (EMT) training and have obtained State of Wisconsin Certification as licensed EMT's. Other members have participated in specialized rescue training, officer training and advanced firefighting training classes throughout the year.

We were very active in 2013 developing and enhancing the training and skills of our officers and firefighters in an effort to be better prepared for unexpected emergencies in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perry S. Howard".

Perry S. Howard
Fire Chief

A photograph of a fire truck ladder extended towards a large fire at night. The ladder is on the left, and the fire is on the right, with a large plume of smoke rising from it. The scene is illuminated by the fire's glow.

The goal of the Burlington Fire Department is to protect and preserve the lives and property of the citizens and visitors of the City of Burlington and it's surrounding communities from the adverse effects of fires, natural disasters or the exposure to other hazardous conditions. We achieve this objective through an effective fire prevention & education program, an established training curriculum and prompt response by a diverse organization of career and volunteer personnel.



2013 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Fire Department 2013	
Fire Chief Report	3
Personnel	
Department Administration	5
Police & Fire Commission	6
Membership Roster	6
Department Organization	8
Retired Personnel	9
Training & Certifications	
Member Certifications	10
Staff Initiatives	11
Department Training Program	12
Incident Responses	
Incident Response Times	14
Incident Response Types	15
Department	
Budget and Appropriations	17
Public Protection Classification	18
Fire Prevention	
Public Education	20
Fire Inspection	21
Department Fleet	
Fleet	22-26



2013 Career Personnel

Fire Chief

Perry S. Howard

Fire Inspector

John R. Niederer

Fire Engineers

Todd W. Hefty (Retired July 7, 2013)

Daniel M. Fallon

Wesley W. Miner

Joshua Szentes (Hired November 4, 2013)



The City of Burlington employs five full-time members at the fire department. There are three full time members working a 24/48 rotating schedule. They each work 24 hours on duty, followed by 48 hours off duty. Additionally, the Fire Department has a full-time Inspector that works 40 hours each week from 8-5 Monday through Friday. The Fire Chief works weekdays from 8-5 overseeing the entire operations of the fire department. The work schedules of our career personnel in addition to duty coverage from the volunteer firefighters are coordinated to ensure that there is 24 hour coverage for fire and EMS responses.



2013 Department Officers

Fire Chief

Perry S. Howard (hired June 3, 2013)
Richard A. Lodle (January 1, to June 2013)

Deputy Chief

Richard L. Peterson

Assistant Chief

Daniel E. Rueter

Assistant Chief

William C. McCourt

Safety Officer

Todd A. Campbell

General Secretary

Eric N. Jones

General Treasurer

Michael J. Bauman



City of Burlington Police & Fire Commission

President
John Hotvedt

Vice-President
Joe Busch

Secretary
William Smitz

Commission Member
Jeff Erickson

Commission Member
Lori Hintz

Fire Department Membership

Hose Company #1

Capt. Brian R. Zwiebel

Lt. John D. Lind

Michael Bauman

Larry Berndt

Rynan Caulkins

Todd Campbell

Kevin Garrett

David Hall

Scott Koski

Eric Marema

Kevin Morrow

Adam Mueller

Timothy Nelson

Bryan Spankowski

Kylara Horton

Hose Company #2

Capt. Erich J. Kurth

Lt. Eric N. Jones

Jaremy Lazenby

Jason Martin

John McCourt

William McCourt

Chris Miller

Brian Onstad

Jared Owen

Dainel Rueter

James Peterson

Richard Peterson

Kevin Spencer

Mark Strasser

Joel Gomez

Hose Company #3

Capt. Josh J. Spencer

Lt. Frank J. Solofra

Jeff Block

John Hanson

David Kerkhoff

Ed Koch

Mat LeDuc

Mathew Leizke

Richard Lodle

Aaron Nelson

Joseph Schenk

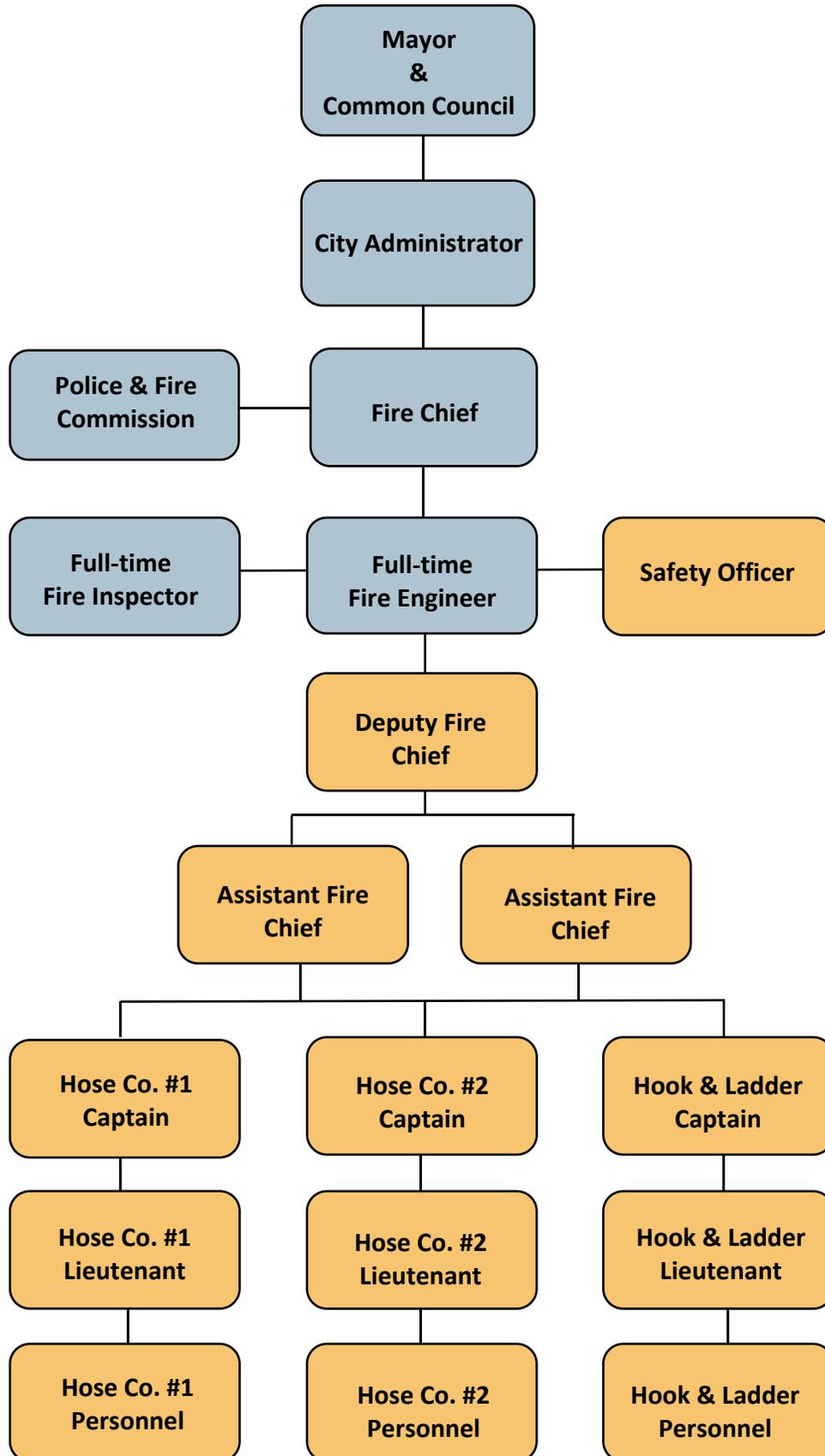
David Milatz



Pierce



City of Burlington Fire Department Organizational Chart





2013 Career Member Retirees



*Todd Hefty
Retired July 7, 2013
29+ Years of Service*

Todd Hefty was a dedicated employee, serving as a full time Fire Engineer for close to 30 years. Todd was also a Burlington Rescue member volunteering his time to the community for several years on his days off. Todd will be severely missed as he was responsible for keeping all of our equipment in top condition.



2013 Volunteer Member Retirees



*Dave Milatz
Retired June 5, 2013
27+ Years of Service*

Dave Milatz served the department for over 27 years as a firefighter.



*Todd Campbell
Retired December 30, 2013
16+ Years of Service*

Todd Campbell served as the department's Safety Officer and as a firefighter. His valuable knowledge, skill and education of safety issues was helpful in developing safety initiatives for the department.



*Jeff Block
Retired September 10 2013
31+ Years of Service*

Jeff Block was an outstanding firefighter who was skilled at working on and cutting roofs for ventilation purposes.

Thank you to all of our volunteers that have provided outstanding service to our community!



Member Certifications

WI State Certified Firefighter II

Kevin Garratt

WI State Certified Instructor I

John Niederer

WI State Certified Instructor II

Perry Howard

WI State Certified Driver/Operator-Pumper

Joshua Spencer

WI State Certified Fire Inspector

Joshua Szentes

National Registry of EMTs & WI Department of Health Services – Emergency Medical Technician

Dan Fallon

John Lind

Joshua Spencer

Eric Jones

WI State Certified Driver/Operator-Aerial

Joshua Szentes

Brian Zwiebel





2013 Staff Initiatives

There were several changes that took place during 2013. In an effort to become more efficient and effective as a workforce, the department members participated in several initiatives that promoted health, safety, and training improvements throughout the department.

Trainings

Fire Department members participated in 3,760 hours of company drills, general drills, MPO trainings, state certified fire classes and other miscellaneous elective drills. This is an increase of 1,703 hours over the previous year. The career members now strive to complete 20+ hours of training each month in fire related subjects. Both our career and several of our volunteer members have taken on additional training and responsibilities as Emergency Medical Technician trained first responders.

Fire Calls

Fire Department members spent a total of 4,303 hours at fire and emergency incidents or during clean-up after fire calls. Types of incidents included are fires, general fire alarms, mutual aid alarms, company #4 alarms and non-emergency alarms.

Fire Prevention

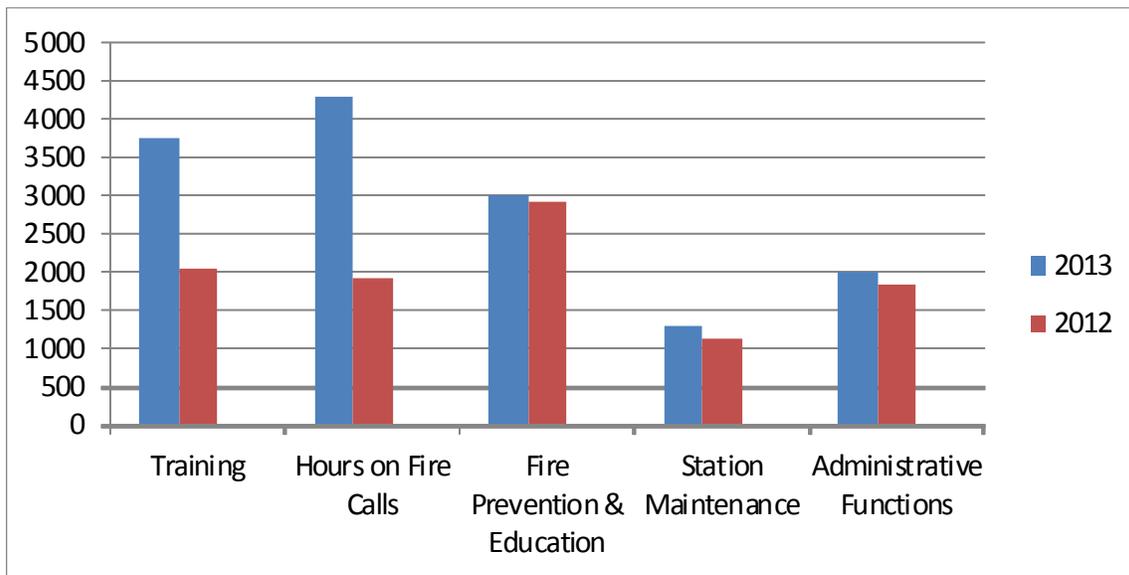
Fire Department personnel spent 3,022 hours on fire prevention. This category includes fire inspection and code enforcement, public education, public relations and fire investigations.

Station/truck maintenance

Hours spent on apparatus and firehouse maintenance totals 1,280 hours.

Administrative Duties/Responsibilities

2,015 hours were spent on the day-to-day activities in the office or using computers. The duties include but are not limited to data entry, plan reviews, pre-incident planning operations and telephone/radio communications.



The substantial increase in the number of training hours from 2012 to 2013 are due to the increased training initiatives and the desire of our personnel to participate in the education required for a new First Responder Program. The dramatic increase in the number of hours on fire calls is directly related to two significant fires in the City of Burlington during 2013.



Department Training Program

The City of Burlington Fire Department training program is designed to prepare our personnel for any number of emergencies in our community that may include firefighting, emergency medical services (EMS), specialized technical rescue techniques, hazardous materials mitigation, building inspections and pre-incident planning of businesses in our community.

The career personnel train Monday through Saturday each week, while working toward a goal of 20+ hours of fire related training each month. Additionally the career personnel participate in regularly scheduled training drills with the volunteer firefighters. The volunteer firefighters train on four separate evenings each month. Collectively, the career and volunteers work cohesively in training drills and at the scene of emergencies to provide the highest level of service and commitment to our community.

- In anticipation of establishing a first responder EMS program within the City, several of our members enrolled and passed advanced EMS trainings that included Emergency Medical Technician certification in 2013.
- Five members completed the Fire Officer I course with Gateway Technical College
- Three members completing Motor Pump Operator coursework
- Two members fully met the requirements for Aerial Operator certification.
- Six members completed the course work towards Instructor I or Instructor II certification in an effort to continually deliver quality training to our members.
- Two members completed all of the required teaching assignments for Instructor certification, and the remaining four are in the process of completing their teaching and instructional intern periods toward certification.

In 2013, new training initiatives were implemented that include working more closely with our neighboring departments and a joint training initiative with all surrounding agencies. A joint training cooperative was established to enhance existing training skills and opportunities for all agencies. Fire Departments from the City of Burlington, Town of Burlington, Lyons, Kansasville, Rochester and Waterford have agreed to participate while Burlington Rescue Squad and Gateway Technical College have signed on as partners. The joint training initiative helps to increase opportunities and skills for each agency while also offering ISO (Insurance Services Organization) credit to those agencies that track it.

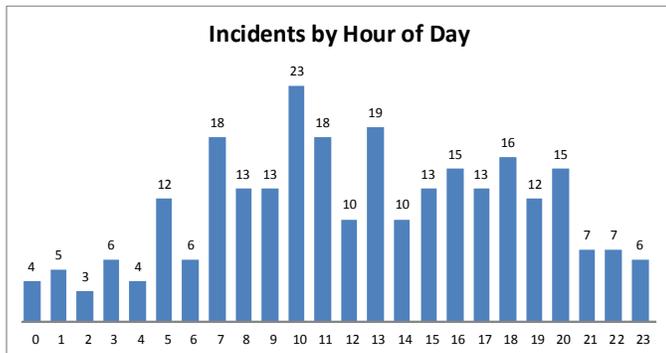




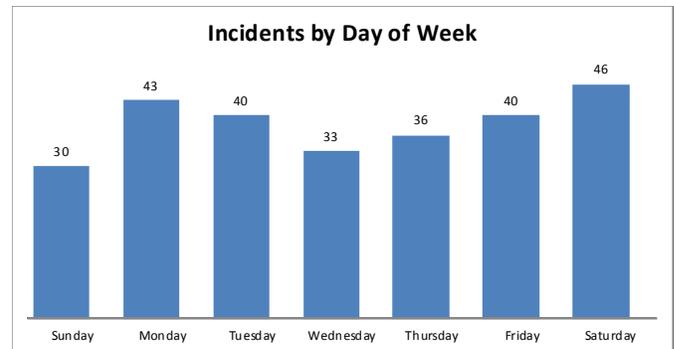


2013 Incident Responses

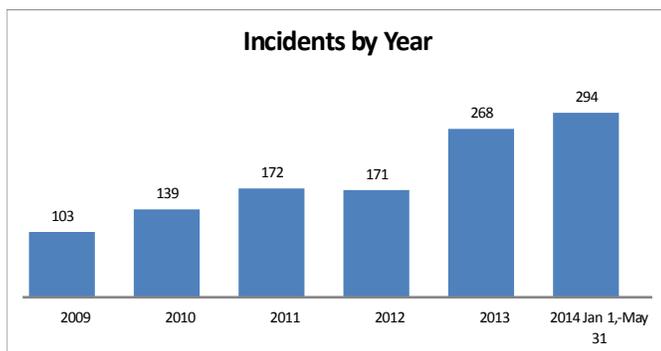
The City of Burlington Fire Department responds to many different types of emergency incidents. In an effort to determine staffing levels and coverage for calls within the City, we track call volume by the hour of the day, day of the week, and by the year. As the following graphs indicate, there is a rise in call volume and we anticipate that to continue over the following years as the department continues to strive towards providing enhanced service to the community.



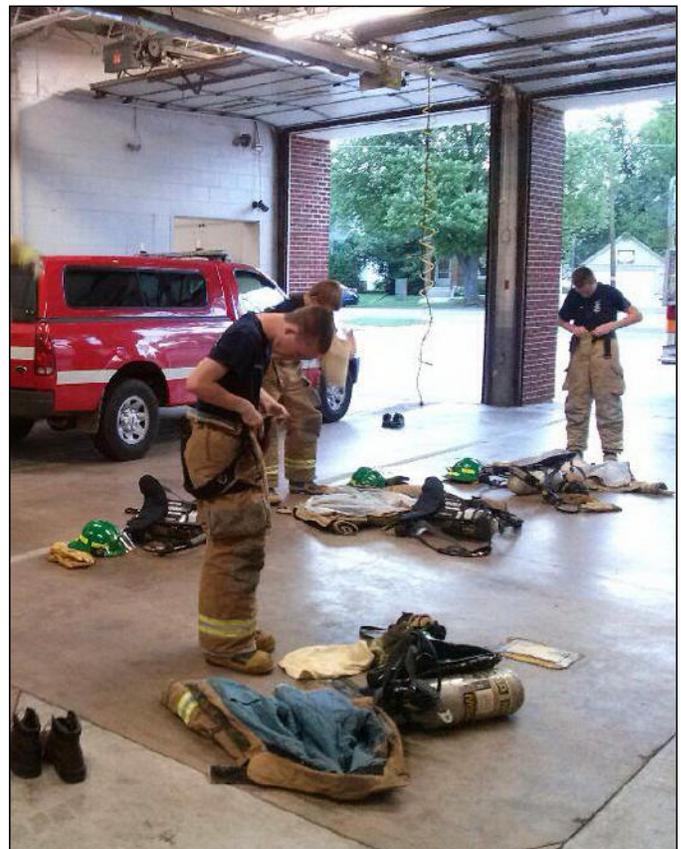
Incidents are tracked by the specific hour of the day and daytime responses have a tremendous impact on our community as many of the volunteer firefighters and first responders work their primary jobs and are out of town during that time period. The City of Burlington Fire Department has several volunteer firefighters that work other shifts or work in the community thereby providing service to our City during these critical daytime responses. The Incidents by day of week indicate the highest call volumes are on Saturdays and Mondays.



The incidents by year are tracked to provide a historical perspective on the emergency call volume in the City. Additionally, tracking the annual call volume over time provides a basis for future planning, staffing and equipment needs for the fire department and the community.



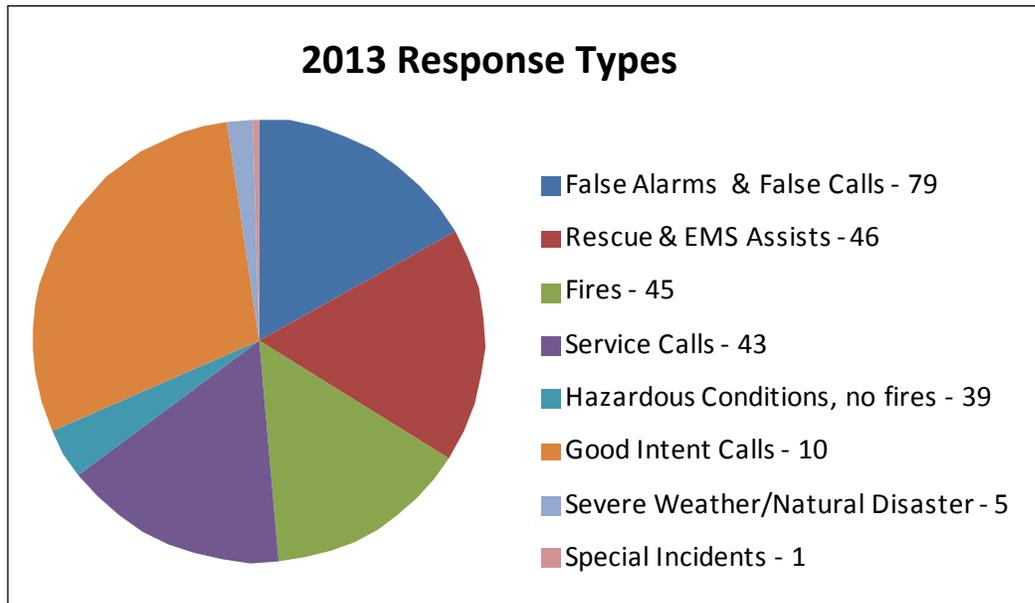
There has been an increase in the trend of calls per year. The Department anticipates seeing a substantial increase in call volume for 2014 with call volume stabilizing in future years. The increase in 2014 will be due to the volume of emergency medical calls that our first responders are going on.





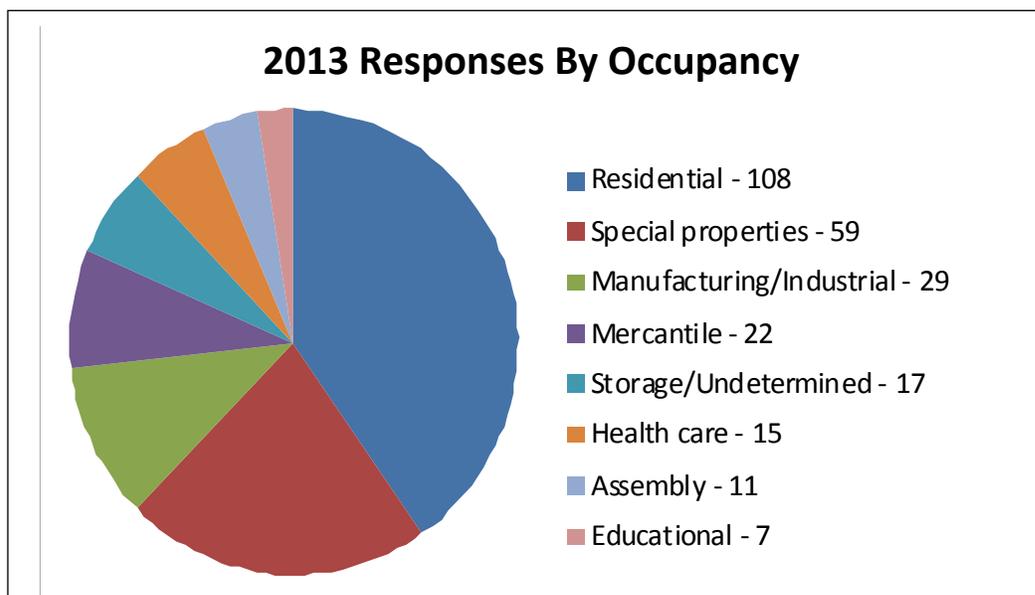
2013 Incident Responses

The City of Burlington Fire Department responded to 268 calls for service in 2013. This is an increase of 97 calls over the previous year. Many of these calls were categorized as fires, rescues, emergency medical services to assist, hazardous conditions with no fires, service type calls and false alarms.



2013 Incident Responses by Occupancy

The 2013 incidents required personnel to respond to a multitude of properties that included single family residences, multi-family dwellings, businesses, commercial structures, manufacturing occupancies, educational and assembly type occupancies.





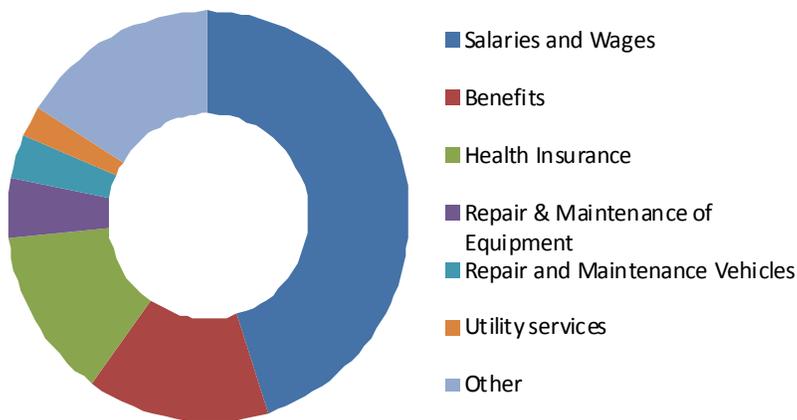
SPRINGINGTON



Budget and Appropriations

In 2013 the most significant budgetary challenges included staffing issues during the Echo Lake Foods Fire, the retirement of long-time Fire Engineer Todd Hefty and the need to cover duty shifts in his absence while testing for a new employee. The Fire Department also created the new position of full-time fire chief. With these changes came some additional costs in staffing and benefits. The department continues to maintain an outstanding fleet of vehicles in top condition. In 2013, Ladder Tower 924 went out for a scheduled 5 year Aerial ladder test, and the recommendation was to make some additional repairs to bring it up to full response status.

2013 Budget and Appropriations



Salaries & Wages	\$330,634
Benefits	\$106,479
Health Insurance	\$98,709
Repair & Maintenance of Equipment	\$34,000
Repair & Maintenance of Vehicles	\$25,000
Utility Services	\$17,500
Other	\$118,278
Total Budgeted Expenses for 2013	\$730,600

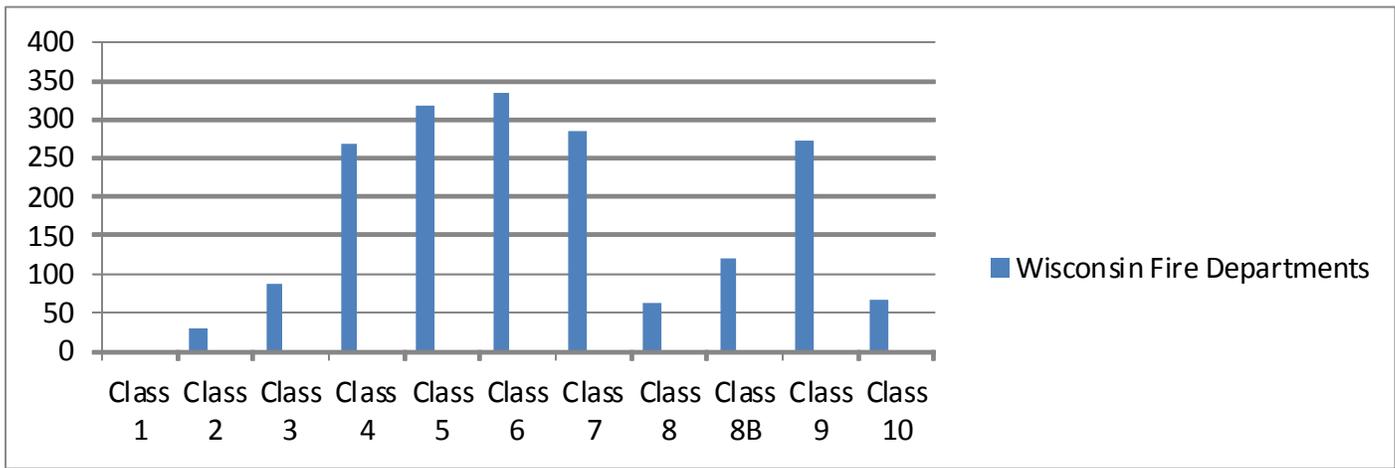




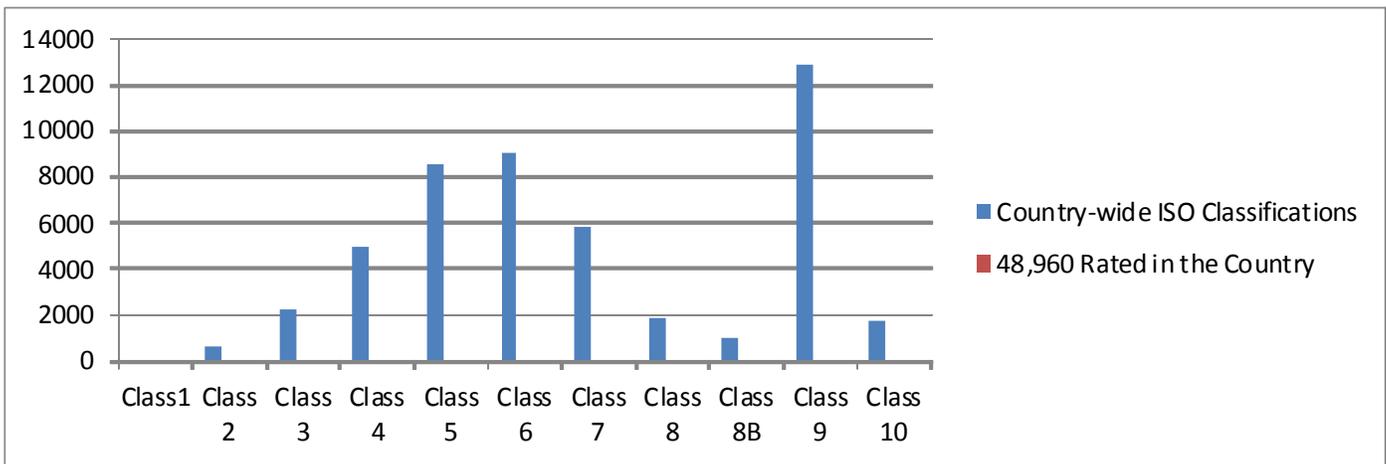
Public Protection Classification, (PPC) Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO)

The City of Burlington maintains an Insurance Service Office, (ISO) classification of 3. ISO utilizes three categories to score fire department that include fire department operations (50 percent of the total points); water supply (40 percent); and emergency communications (10 percent). There are 10 categories that each fire department is graded on. Each category accounts for approximately 10 points. The total number of points possible is 100.

Fire Departments are rated from 1-10. Class 1 is the highest and class 10 is the lowest. The City of Burlington enjoys a class 3 rating due to the exceptional equipment and fire department operations in place (50 percent), the large volume and quality of water we have available (40 percent) and the radio dispatch and communication procedures that are in place (10 percent).



The City of Burlington’s Class 3 rating is one of the highest ratings in the State of Wisconsin. In 2012, there were 1,847 Communities classified by ISO in Wisconsin. Of that number, only 30 departments in Wisconsin had a better rating.



This lower classification may help property and business owners obtain lower fire insurance premiums.



BURLINGTON

BURLINGTON
FIRE DEPT.

BURLINGTON
FIRE DEPT.

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FIRE SAFETY



Fire Prevention & Public Education Bureau

The City of Burlington Fire Department utilizes an exceptional program for the prevention of fire and other emergencies. This goal is accomplished by three major components; public education/public relations, fire inspection/code enforcement and post-fire investigation.

Public Education/Public Relations is a critical component in the overall goal of the fire service. Throughout the year we attend Public events offering educational pamphlets, displaying our Fire Apparatus and Equipment, and providing Adult Fire Extinguisher training. During The National Fire Prevention Week we visit the schools featuring an "In the Classroom" approach; this provides the students an opportunity to be one on one with a Firefighter. During 2013, on 74 different occasions department personnel spent 800 hours educating the public about the importance of fire safety.





Fire Prevention

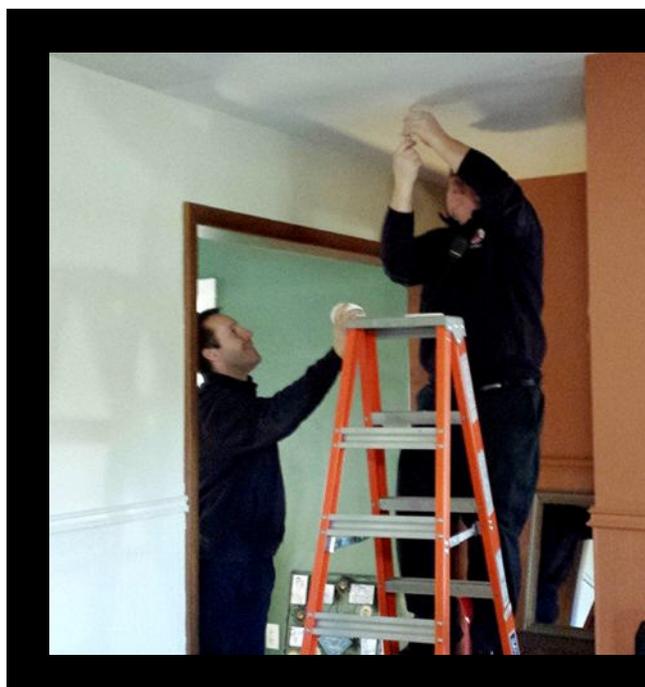
Fire inspection and fire code enforcement is at the forefront of the Fire Department. Through education we provide businesses, apartments, and health care facilities the tools they need to comply with State and Local fire Codes and to keep their clients and residents safe. 656 fire inspections were completed last year with a sum of 1,500 hours dedicated to those inspections.



Through Fire Investigation we determine cause and origin of a fire which gives the Fire Department the tools needed to educate the community and determine if a criminal act was committed. A monetary value of what is saved and lost is also determined by investigations.

A total of fifty hours were spent on fifteen different fire investigations in 2013. The combined value of all properties investigated totaled \$55,993,000. Seventy-two percent of the total value was lost by fire while twenty eight percent was saved by the fire department. The City has a total assessed property value of \$822,893,700 which does not include the value of contents within all properties. When comparing the dollar loss with the assessed value keep in mind that fire loss is calculated with the property values, the value of contents within the property, and any other properties (exposures) affected by smoke, heat, or direct fire damage.

A total of fifty hours were spent on fifteen different fire investigations in 2013. The combined value of all properties investigated totaled \$55,993,000. Seventy-two percent of the total value was lost by fire while twenty eight percent was saved by the fire department. The City has a total assessed property value of \$822,893,700 which does not include the value of contents within all properties. When comparing the dollar loss with the assessed value keep in mind that fire loss is calculated with the property values, the value of contents within the property, and any other properties (exposures) affected by smoke, heat, or direct fire damage.



Grants For Smoke Detectors

The City of Burlington Fire Department received a Grant for the installation of smoke detectors in homes without detectors or homes with detectors that reached their life expectancy of seven years. Homes with small children under the age of five and homes with adults over the age of sixty five years old were the highest priority set by the grant program. The grant program started in late November and by the end of 2013 the department installed 60 detectors. Plans are being made to apply for the grant in 2014. The total public education contacts for 2013 were 8,778 Children and 4,253 Adults.



Department Fleet

The City of Burlington maintains a fleet of fire apparatus that includes three pumper/engines, two aerial trucks (a 75 foot ladder and a 100 foot aerial tower), a utility vehicle (pickup truck) and an incident command SUV. All of the department's apparatus are in exceptional condition and are maintained regularly by our in-house fire engineers through daily, weekly and monthly checkouts in addition to annual testing of pumps, ladders and equipment.



Unit 990 Command SUV

Our most recent addition to the City of Burlington Fire Department's fleet is a 2014 Ford Explorer powered by a 3.5 Liter V-6 engine. The SUV has a Ruby Red paint finish. This unit is labeled for use as unit 990 and is utilized for general incident command purposes and is also one of our first response units.

990 carries an assortment of emergency medical equipment for our first responder program and has the ability to communicate with multiple agencies on any of the four separate radios installed in the vehicle. For larger incidents, it is critical for our incident commanders to communicate with both local and regional agencies. On fire or emergency scenes, the multiple radio system provides the incident commanders with the ability to communicate directly with outside agencies that utilize other frequencies on a regular basis.

Additionally, 990 has water rescue equipment, forcible entry tools and search and rescue equipment. This



versatile vehicle can be seen performing a number of assignments in the City.

The command unit is regularly used by the Fire Chief or his designee for operations at emergency scenes or for use in the newly implemented First Responder program.



Engine 925

Engine 925 is our front-line engine/pumper. It carries 1000 gallons of water and can pump 1500 Gallons of water per minute, (GPM). Engine 925 carries additional equipment for specialized rescue, extrications and search & rescues. Additionally, 925 also carries water rescue equipment designed for quick deployment for emergencies in our area waterways. Engine/pumper 925 is our primary first response vehicle used for first out fire and emergency medical calls.



Engine 920

Engine 920 is the City of Burlington's second out engine and it carries 1000 gallons of water and has a 1250 gallon per minute pump (GPM). Engine 920 is a 2001 Pierce Enforcer that is regularly used for training and second out engine/pumper use at emergency scenes.





Quint 921

Aerial Ladder 921 is the first out ladder truck for residential type fires and emergencies.

921 is a 2006 Pierce Enforcer that carries 500 gallons of water and a 1500 GPM pump. Additionally, Quint 921 carries a multitude of special equipment for special operations. Quint 921 is also an EMS first response vehicle.



Tower 924

Tower Ladder 924 is a 1996 Pierce Lance. 924 is the pride of our fleet and carries 300 gallons of water, operates with a 1500 GPM pump and has a 100' aerial ladder platform. 924 is the first out Aerial for commercial and business type fires and emergencies.





Engine 923

Engine 923 is the City's third line pumper. It is used as a reserve engine-pumper on large fires and for establishing a water source for other agencies that request assistance for water during a crisis.

923 is a 1997 International 4X4 Engine/Pumper with 500 gallons of water and a 750 GPM pump.



Utility 922

Utility 922 is used as a multi-purpose vehicle. In 2013 it had a rear cap installed so we could protect the additional equipment we carry for emergencies. 922 was also outfitted with updated emergency lighting and communications to better facilitate command operations. This vehicle is also one of our primary first response vehicles for our first responder program.





Chevrons

In an effort to increase the visibility of our frontline vehicles and enhance the safety of our personnel working at emergency scenes and accidents, we have upgraded our initial response vehicles with NFPA recommended Chevrons. The Chevrons are reflective material that can be seen during bright sunny days and is enhanced in low light or night conditions when a vehicles head lights are reflected off of it.





372

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