

2014

City of Burlington Fire Department

Annual Report





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

The past year was a tremendous year of growth in the fire department. Our members embraced a rapidly changing environment to deliver exceptional fire and emergency medical services to our community. There were several accomplishments this year that enhanced the safety of our members and the public that we serve. We completed the chevron markings on our reserve fire apparatus, initiated a first responder program, and started an internship program for college aged adults and an explorer program for high school students.

Our members participated in over 4400 hours of training in several disciplines that included firefighting, emergency medical training, specialized rescue techniques and enhanced officer training. In an effort to improve service to the community, the fire department initiated a first responder program in March 2014 where medically trained firefighters respond to calls for medical services. Our firefighters and emergency medical technicians worked in conjunction with the local rescue squad on medical calls, accident scenes and fires.

We had the opportunity to host regional trainings and classes here in Burlington in an effort to train our personnel while also developing enhanced relations with neighboring departments. The department hosted a 40 hour technical rescue-Rope Operations class and a 60 hour Emergency Medical Responder/First Responder class in partnership with Gateway Technical College. Bringing the classes to the City fire station offers convenient and efficient training for our personnel.

All of our full time members completed fire inspections throughout the year in a new program developed to gain access to occupancies for all required fire inspections. The members completed 1156 fire inspections in 2014. This is the first year

since modern record keeping (1993) that all inspect-able occupancies have been inspected.

A large loss fire occurred in April 2014 at the Schuette-Daniels Furniture store in downtown Burlington. Not quite as large as the Echo Lake Foods Fire in 2013, the April fire brought over 25 different communities together for assistance at the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, (MABAS) 5th alarm fire. Through effective and efficient tactics and strategies, our members saved the adjoining buildings in the historic downtown area without any injuries to firefighters or civilians.

In 2014 our members participated in more joint trainings with neighboring agencies and participated in a quarterly joint training initiative that involved multiple local emergency service agencies (Kansasville Fire, Rochester Fire, Waterford Fire, Lyons Fire, Gateway Technical College, City and Town of Burlington fire departments and Burlington Area Rescue).

Our department applied for multiple grants in 2014 while also completing the smoke detector grant award from 2013-2014. In November of 2013, the City Fire Department was awarded a grant from the Focus on Fire Prevention Foundation for up to 500 smoke detectors. The grant period ran from November 2013 to April 2014 and our members placed and installed 330 smoke detectors in residential occupancies in the City. The estimated value of the grant was \$14,300 for the training, detector costs and installation of the detectors with ten-year lithium batteries.

Additionally, in December 2014, a federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) was applied for in four different areas for a total sum of \$539,798.00. The federal AFG grants to be awarded in 2015 require matching City funds of five percent of each award.



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

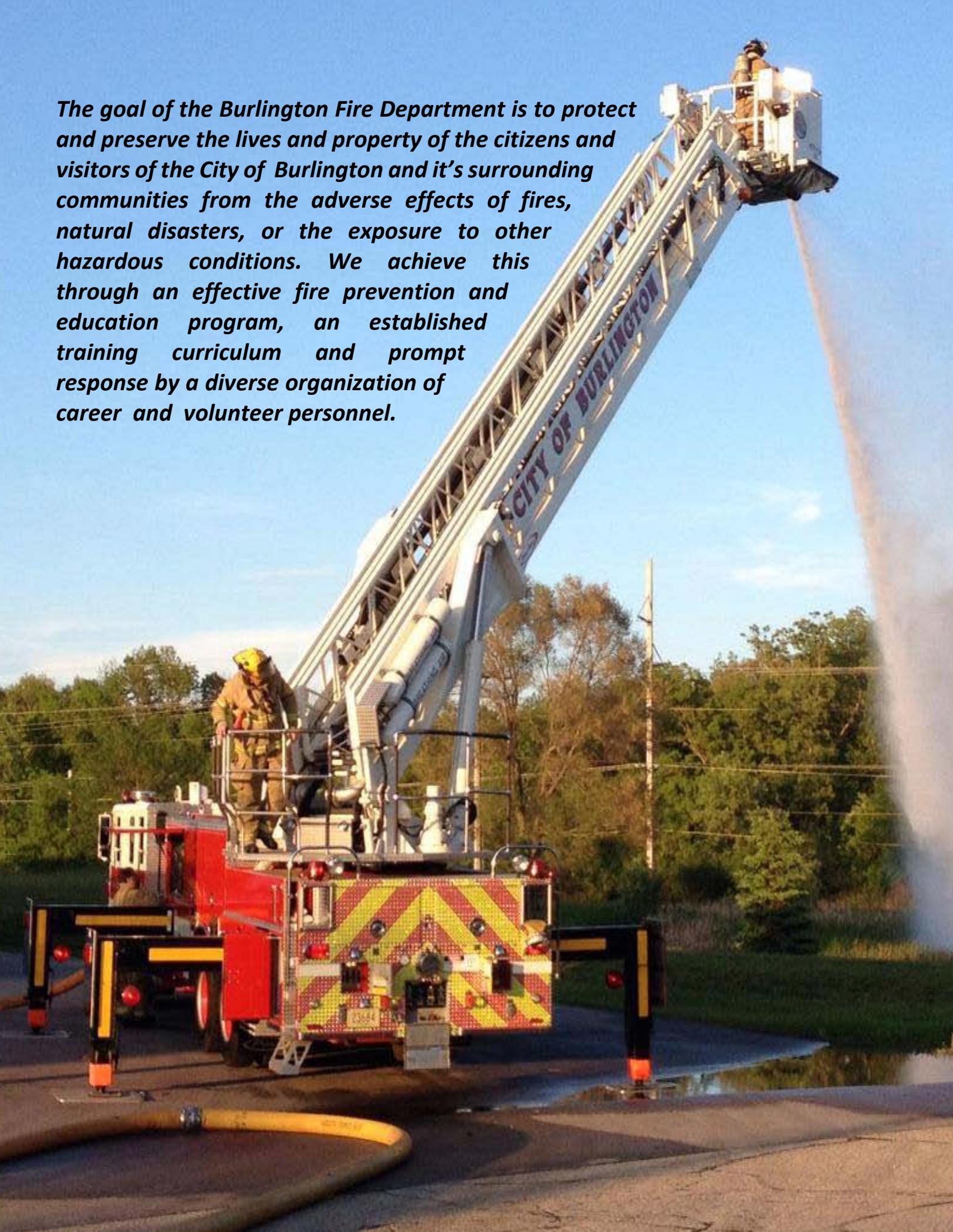
Our highly dedicated members include five full time members, 45 volunteers, four interns, five explorers and four public works employees that bravely completed a first responder/emergency medical responder course. Collectively the fire department members have worked cohesively to provide exceptional service throughout our community in many different facets while responding to 874 calls for service, a new high for emergency responses in a calendar year.

One of the topics we are most proud of is our department's opportunity to provide public education to the residents and visitors to our community. In 2014 our personnel participated in public education throughout the community at local schools, safety town, block parties, burn camp, torch run, Chocolate-Fest, Burlington Airport's Fly-in, Fire Prevention week activities, Read Across America Week, Burlington High School's opportunity day (career day), the community block party and the department's second annual pancake breakfast.

Sincerely,

Perry S. Howard
Fire Chief

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 through an effective fire prevention and education program, an established training curriculum and prompt response by a diverse organization of career and volunteer personnel.





2014 Annual Report

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2014 Career Personnel

- Fire Chief:** Perry Howard
- Fire Engineers:** Daniel Fallon
Wesley Miner
Joshua Spencer (hired August 11, 2014)
- Fire Inspector:** John Niederer



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.



2014 Department Officers

Fire Chief

Perry S. Howard

Deputy Chief

Mark Strasser

Assistant Chief

John Lind

Assistant Chief

William C. McCourt

Safety Officer

Jared Owen

General Secretary

Eric N. Jones

General Treasurer

Michael 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

Captain John Lind
Lt. Adam Mueller
Mike Bauman
Larry Berndt
Ryan Calkins
Kevin Garrett
David Hall
Mike Jessen
Scott Koski
Wesley Miner
Bernard Milroy
Zachary Robinson
Kevin Rook
Matt Sondej
Daniel Thomas
Paul Usher

Hose Company #2

Captain Erich Kurth
Lt. Eric Jones
Jaremy Lazenby
Dalton McCourt
John McCourt
William McCourt
John Niederer
Kyle Oldenburg
Brian Onstad
Jared Owen
Griffin Reed
Joseph Schenk
Avonlea Sorenson
Brent Stettner

Hook and Ladder Company

Captain Josh Spencer
Lt. Frank Solofra
Brad Eckola
Daniel Fallon
John Hanson
Chris Keefer
Ed Koch
Matt Leduc
Matt Leitzke
Ron Mason
Aaron Nelson
Alex Pernice
James Peterson
Richard Peterson
Kevin Spencer
Mark Strasser

City of Burlington Interns

Justin Benko

Mandalyn Herring

Megan Rasmussen

Paul Price

City of Burlington Public Works First Responders

Brian Lois

Dan Jensen

Christopher Keefer

Craig Workman

City of Burlington Fire Explorer Post 355

Hegeman Tiedt - President

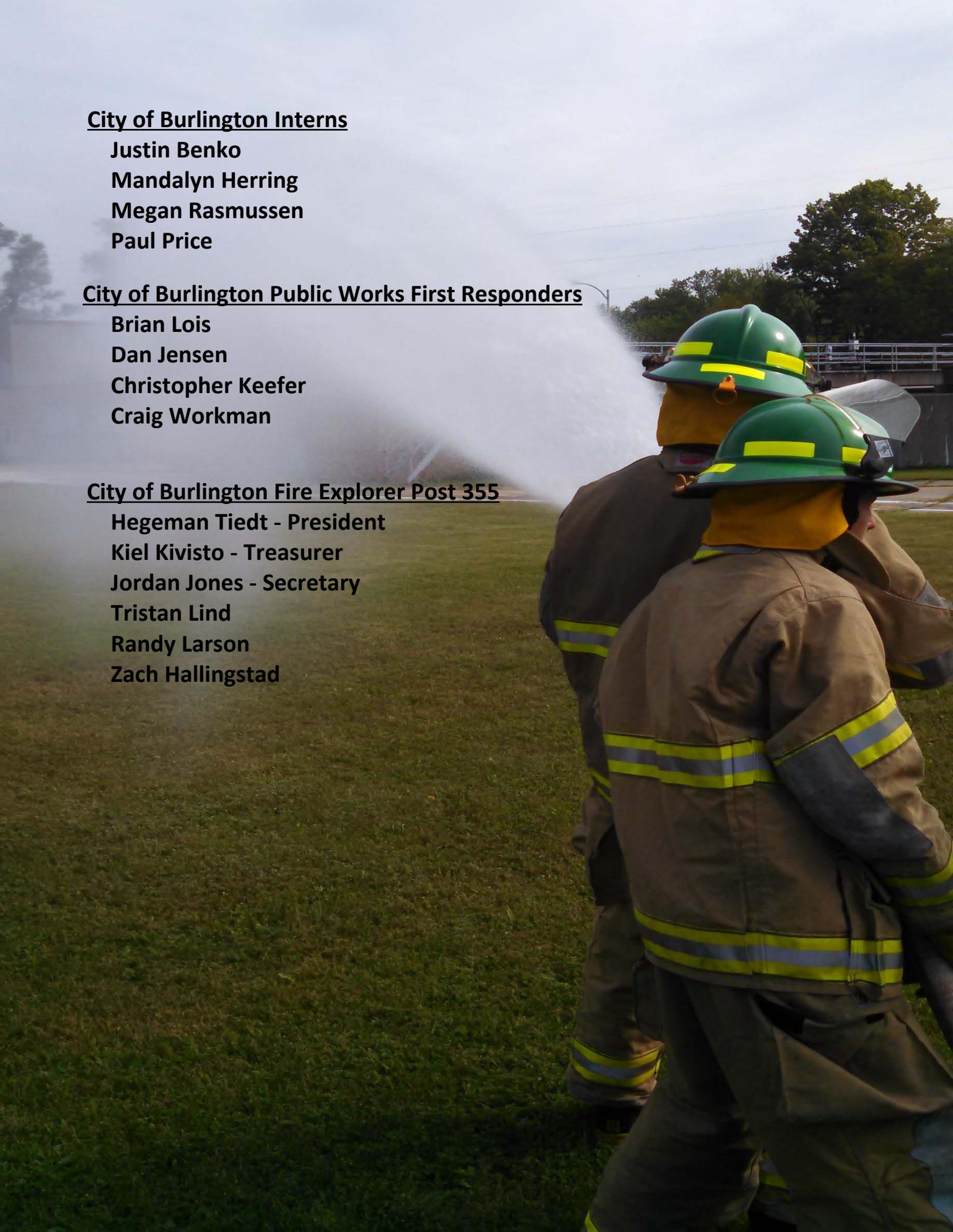
Kiel Kivisto - Treasurer

Jordan Jones - Secretary

Tristan Lind

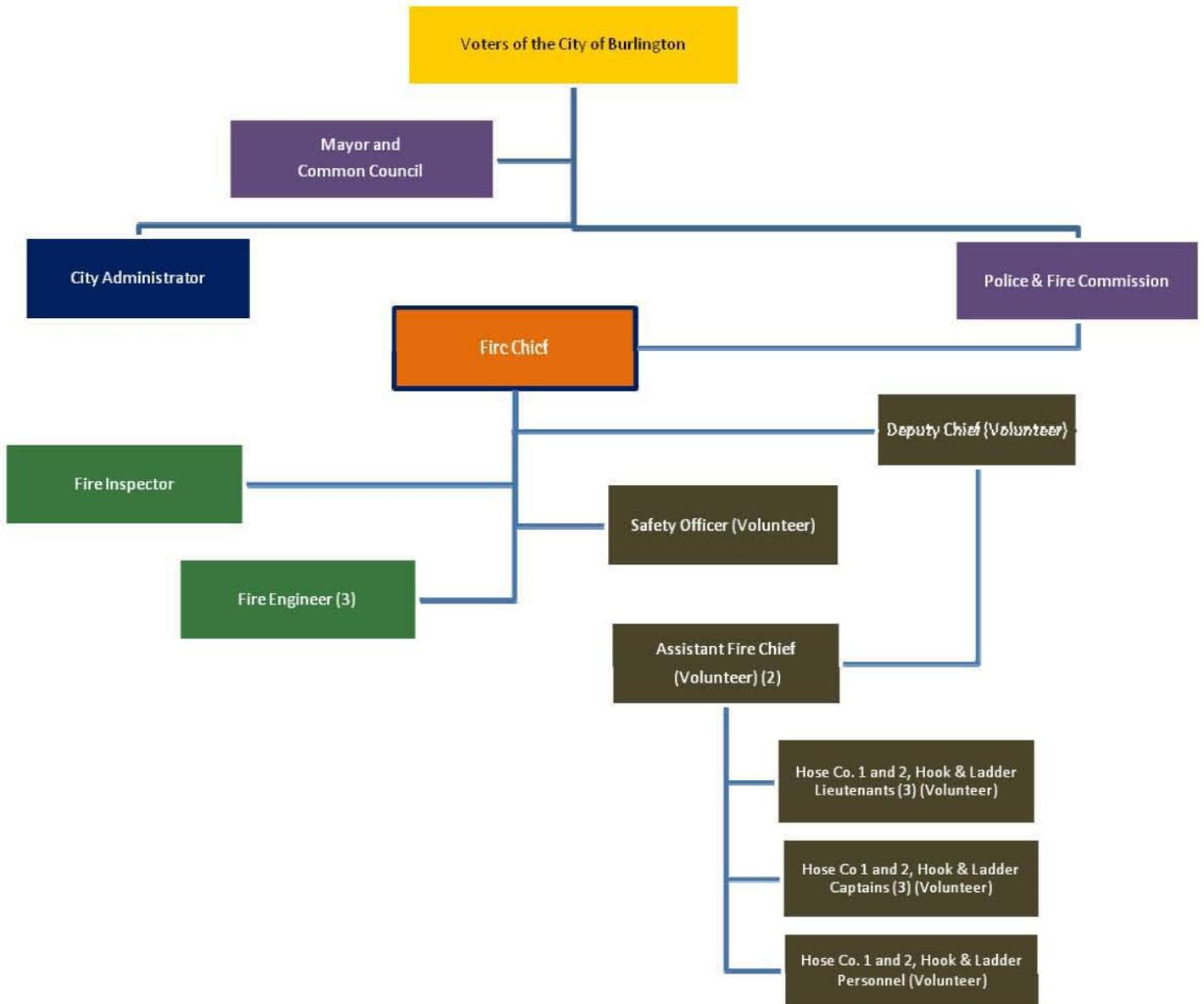
Randy Larson

Zach Hallingstad





Fire Department Organizational Chart





Member Certifications and Training in 2014

WI State Firefighter I

Brad Eckola	Dalton McCourt	Alex Pernice
Ronnie Mason	Kyle Oldenberg	Zach Robinson
Avonlea Sorenson	Paul Usher	Kevin Rook

WI State Firefighter II

Alex Pernice
Ronnie Mason

WI State Certified Fire Officer I

Adam Mueller	Frank Solofra	Michael Bauman
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WI State Certified Fire Instructor I

Wesley Miner

WI State Certified Fire Inspector

Daniel Fallon	Wesley Miner	Ronnie Mason
John Lind	Perry Howard	

Technical Rescue Awareness

Mike Bauman	Dan Fallon	Kevin Garrett
John Hanson	Adam Mueller	Jared Owen
Joseph Schenk	Mark Strasser	Joshua Szentes

Technical Rescue Rope-Operations

Erich Kurth	Kevin Garrett	Adam Mueller
Joshua Szentes		

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

Frank Solofra	Alex Pernice
Adam Mueller	Megan Rasmussen
Ronnie Mason	Paul Usher
Mandalynn Herring	Perry Howard

National Registry of EMTs & WI Department of Health Services Emergency Medical Responder

Craig Workman	Dan Jensen	Mathew Leitzke
Brian Lois	Christopher Keefer	



2014 Staff Initiatives and Department Initiatives

Improvements and enhancements in department training, safety and response initiatives were implemented in 2014. These included initiating the first responder and duty chief programs, completing the safety initiatives for marking our reserve vehicles, enhanced specialty training in technical rescue and emergency medical services while also working with all neighboring fire and rescue organizations on a joint annual training plan.

We applied for four separate grants worth a total amount of \$539,798.00 through the Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) Program. We also finished our grant for smoke detector installations at a value of \$14,300.00 to our community from the Focus on Fire Prevention Foundation. Additionally, we enhanced our fire inspection program and looked for ways to be more efficient in an effort to conserve funds and resources. All of the upgrades and improvements in 2014 were completed within the current budget without any additional funding from tax payers.

- Applied for \$539,798.00 in Federal grants
- Awarded \$1,000.00 grant from Walmart
- Upgraded/replaced a third of our obsolete pagers
- Purchased ten P-25 compatible portable radios
- Enhanced our fire inspection program to cover all occupancies
- Initiated a Duty Chief position for coverage
- Fully implemented accountability procedures at large scale emergencies
- Held Technical Rescue Awareness (8 hour) and Rope Operations (40 hour) classes
- Participated in four joint quarterly trainings with six surrounding agencies
- Completed the smoke detector installation grant program (estimated value of \$14,300)
- Added Extrication capabilities (spreader and cutter) for use at accident scenes
- Met with key businesses with critical hazards to design a joint mitigation plan
- Remodeled the front office and entrance area to the fire station

There were several advancements in 2014 that included equipment, safety, training, inspections, public education and emergency response criteria. Many of these improvements were made through cohesive working arrangements by our members in conjunction with internal and external partners.



The installation of Reserve engine 920's reflective chevron in 2014 completes our safety initiative to retrofit our critical response vehicles with recommended safety items.



Training

Fire Department members participated in 4,407 hours of company drills, general drills, driver trainings, state certified fire classes, technical rescue training and other miscellaneous elective drills. This is an increase of 1,703 hours over the previous year. The career members work toward completing a minimum of 20 hours of training each month in fire related subjects. Both our career and Volunteer members have taken on additional training and responsibilities as Emergency Medical Technicians, Emergency Medical Responders and as technical rescue team members.

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.

Regional Training Initiatives

In 2014 our department launched a joint quarterly training program with seven surrounding agencies. The Rochester Fire Department, Lyons Fire Department, Kansasville Fire Department, City of Burlington, Town of Burlington and Waterford Fire Departments in addition to the Burlington Rescue Squad and representatives from Gateway Technical College participated in the training.



Extrication drill hosted by Lyons Fire Department at Redmer Recycling, City of Burlington

The 2014 joint trainings were geared toward getting all neighboring agencies working together on the training ground which translated to a better working relationship on the emergency scene. The topics for the year included Ice Rescue, an Airport drill at Burlington airport, tactical considerations for rural water supply and a joint extrication drill.



Water/ice rescue drill hosted by the Town of Burlington and Burlington Rescue



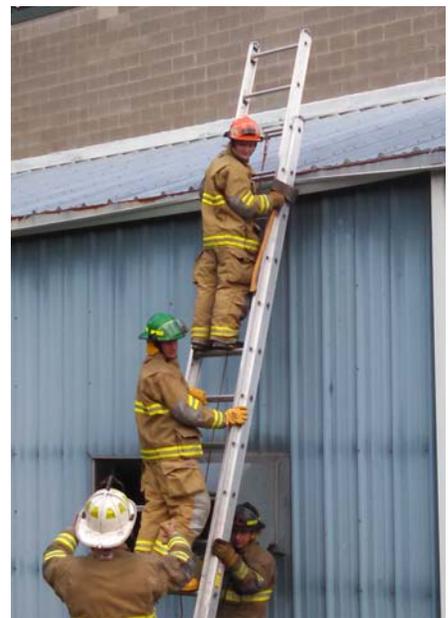
Airport drill hosted by City of Burlington



Training

Several of our members completed an 8-hour technical rescue awareness training that covers eight different disciplines (General rescue, structural collapse, ropes, confined space, vehicle & machinery operations, water rescue, wilderness search & rescue and trench & excavation rescues). Advancing their training to the next level, the department now has seven members trained in technical rescue rope-operations.

Our technical rescue members trained with the Kenosha County Division 101 Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) team and members of the Lake Geneva Fire Department Technical Rescue Team in an effort to familiarize with modern techniques, equipment and our regional partners.



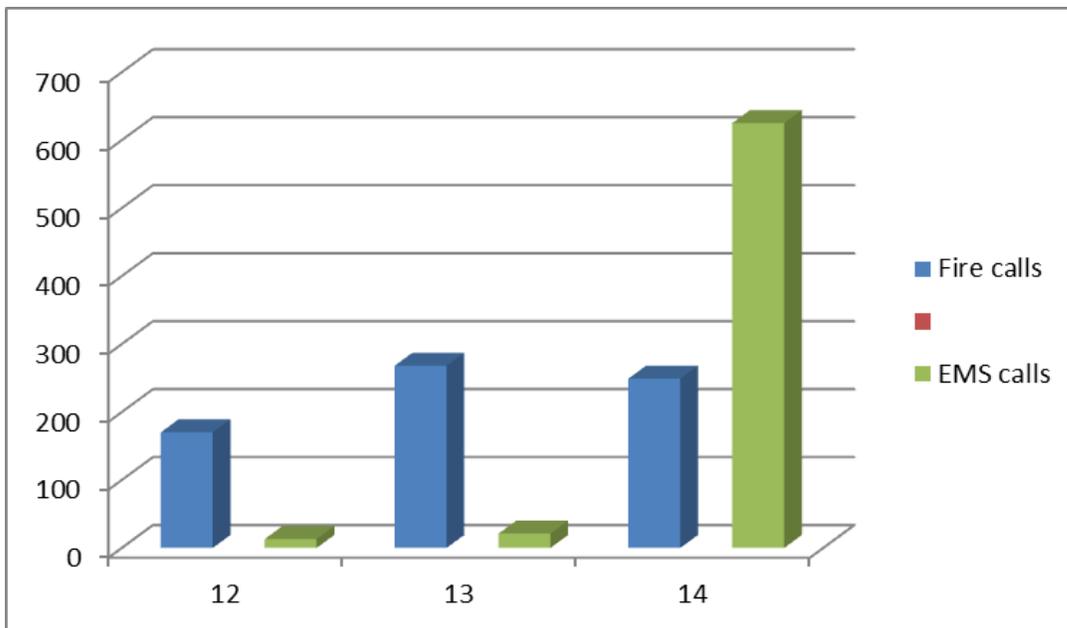
Emergency Calls

Fire Department members spent a total of 1,097 hours at fire calls and 848 hours at emergency medical incidents. Fire calls included structure fires, rubbish/dumpster fires, general fire alarms, mutual aid alarms, company #4 alarms and non-emergency type alarms such as carbon monoxide alarm activations or checking activated smoke detectors with no smoke or fire indicated.

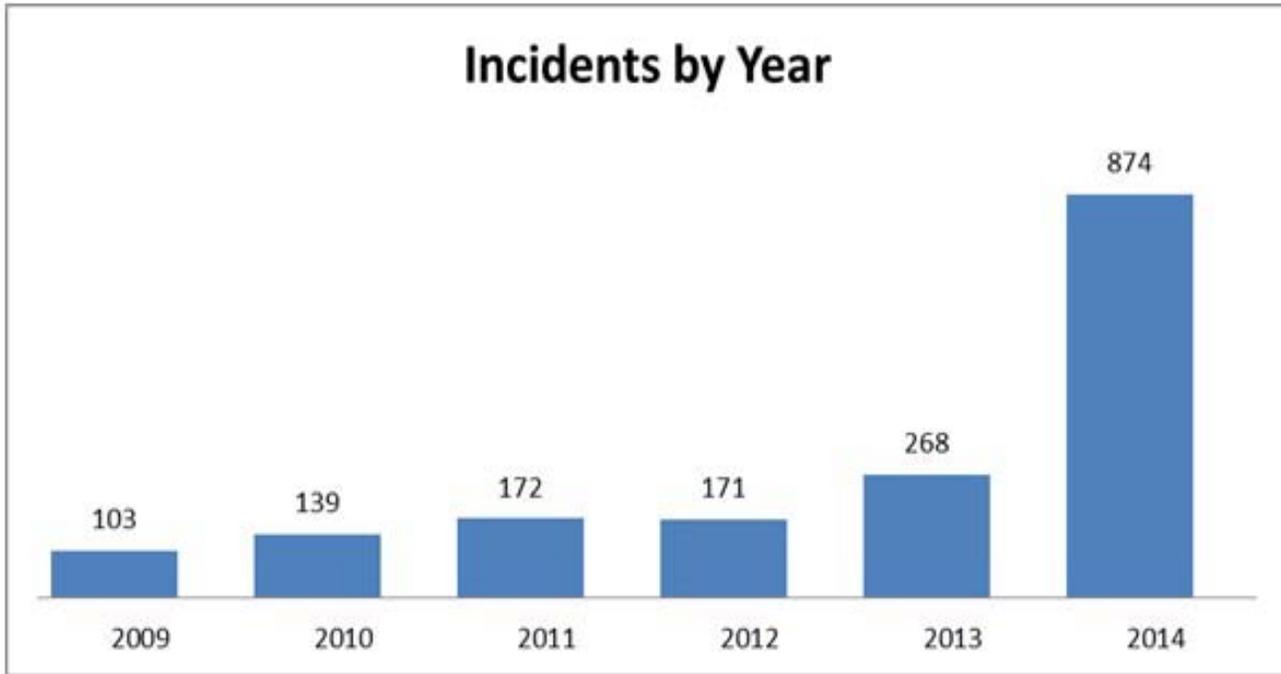
The 848 hours spent on emergency medical calls included responding to medical emergencies as first responders, assisting at car accidents, lift assists and occasionally to check the well-being of a patient. On March 1, 2014 the City of Burlington entered new territory when we initiated a first responder program. We have members trained to many different certification levels that include Emergency Medical Responder, Emergency Medical Technician, Advanced-Emergency Medical Technician, EMT-199 and EMT-Paramedic.



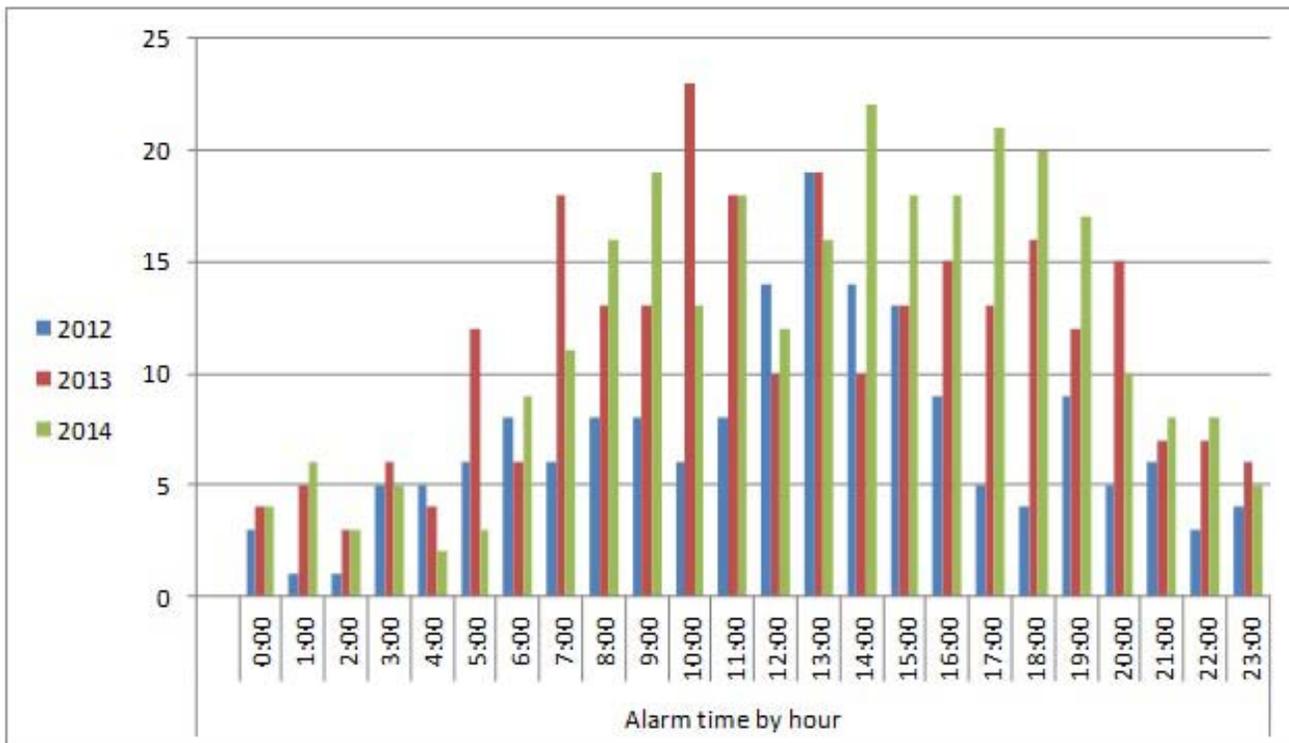
The City's medically trained team members respond to medical calls or accidents within the City and assess patients, take and maintain vital signs, treat patients based on local protocols, deliver approved medications and assist the local rescue squad with patient care or transport when needed. In 2014 the department responded to 625 medical calls for assistance.



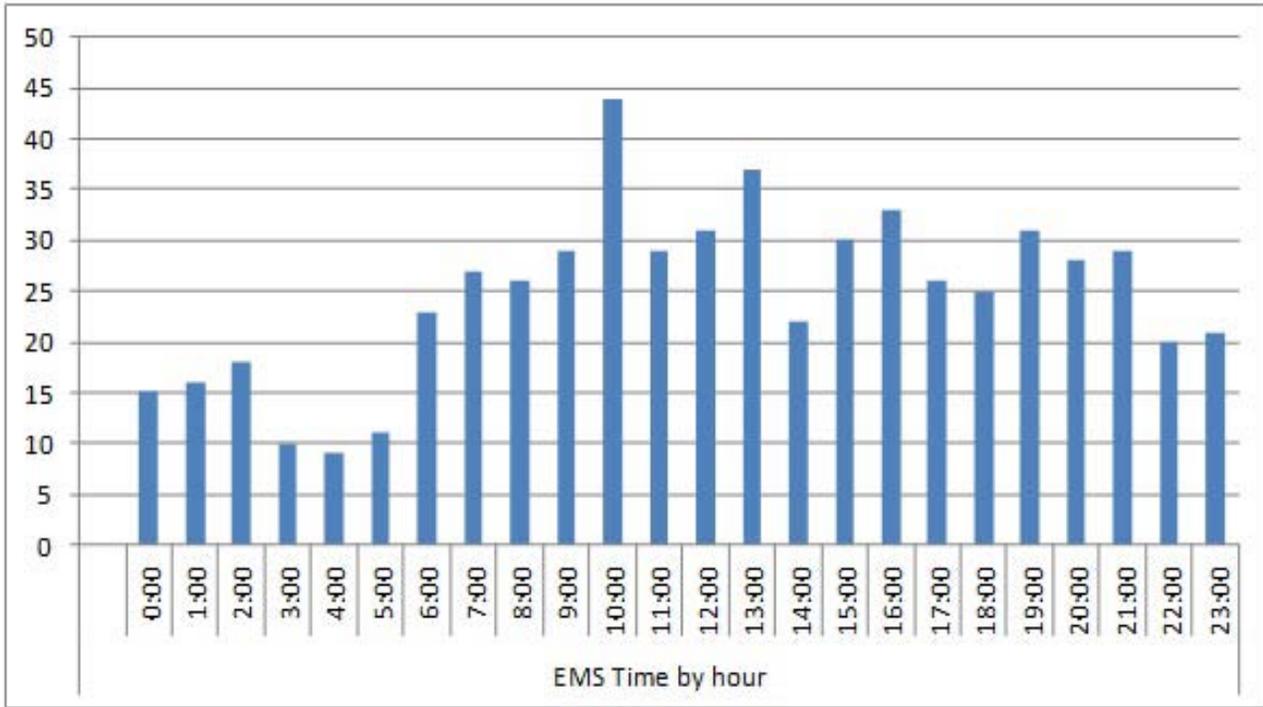
The fire department tracks calls by the time of day, day of the week and by month in an effort to identify trends and key times for staffing. Typically we would expect to see a larger proportion of EMS calls in the warmer, summer months due to people being more active in the community. Conversely it is not unusual to see more occurrences of fires related to heating issues in the colder winter months. Our peak call time for all calls is between 9:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.



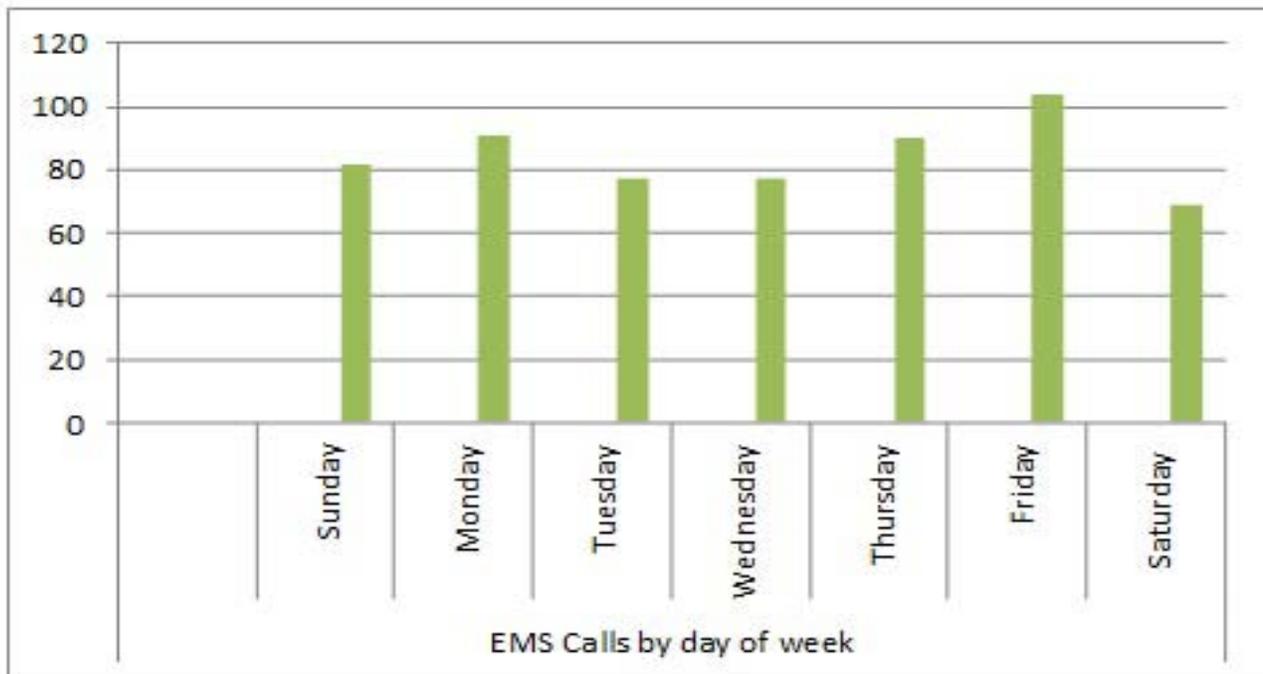
The substantial increase in total call volume for 2014 was anticipated due to the new first responder program. City Fire personnel responded to 249 fire-related calls and 625 medical calls for assistance.



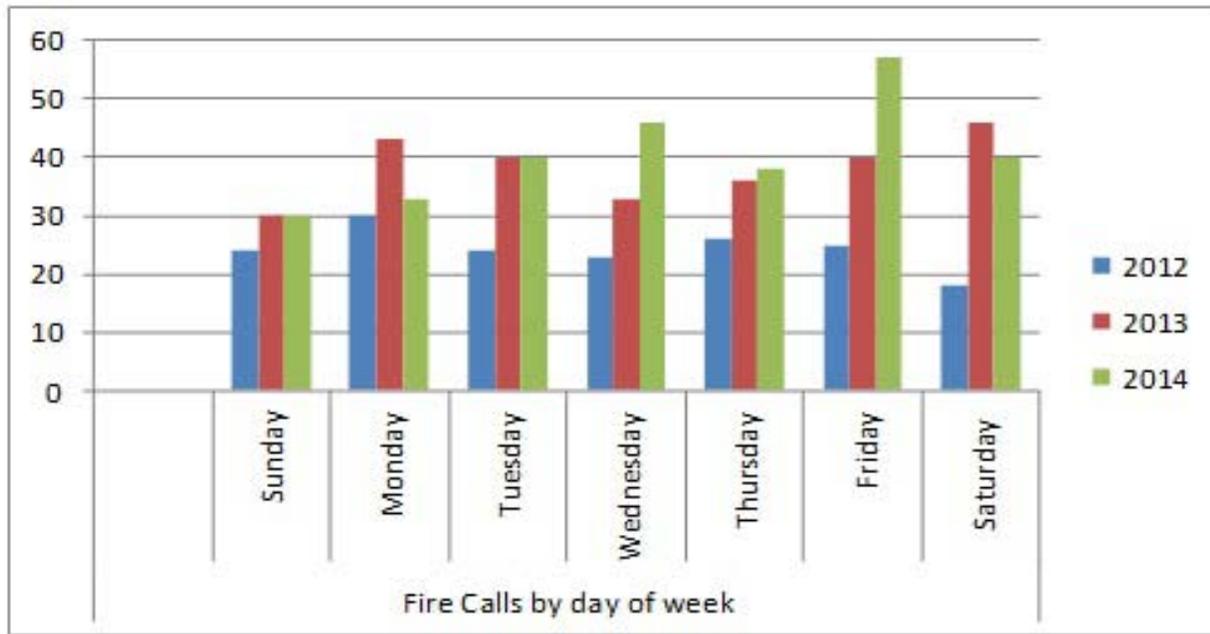
In 2014 there was an increase in calls mainly due to the changes in response criteria and the addition of the fire department first responder program. We responded to 625 medical emergency calls from March 1, 2014 through December 2014. In 2015 it is anticipated that the City of Burlington Fire Department will respond to over 1000 calls for service.



Critical times throughout the day require additional staffing measures and identification of needs for additional resources. The peak time of day for emergency medical calls is between 9:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M., this is a critical time period when many of our volunteers are out of the area working their regular jobs.



Calls occur regularly throughout each day of the week, however Friday and Monday's have traditionally been busier days for emergencies.



There has been an increase in fire related calls by the day of the week throughout the past three years. This is an indication that on average, the department is responding to more fire related calls.





Fire Prevention

Fire prevention and education is a top priority of the fire department and our members are committed to deliver quality programs to the students, adults and visitors of our community. Members delivered public education at all levels that included the local grade, intermediate and high schools, at public events, block parties, community events and the volunteer firefighter's fund raisers.





Fire Prevention

We accomplish our public education initiatives through three major components; public education/public relations, fire inspection/code enforcement and post-fire investigation. Working in conjunction with modern principles and historic patterns, our department uses these three long standing principles (education, enforcement and engineering) to meet our intended objectives.

In addition to these three principles, we also work closely with business owners and developers to provide safe, economical solutions and when needed, respond to emergencies for those that need assistance. These additional principles round out the five E's of community risk reduction, (economic issues and emergency response) as recommended by the National Fire Academy.

In 2013 the Fire department members took on a new initiative that continued in 2014. A visible effort was initiated to deliver public education opportunities at the annual Chocolate-Festival. Through this effort, our members made contact with the largest possible number of children and adults.

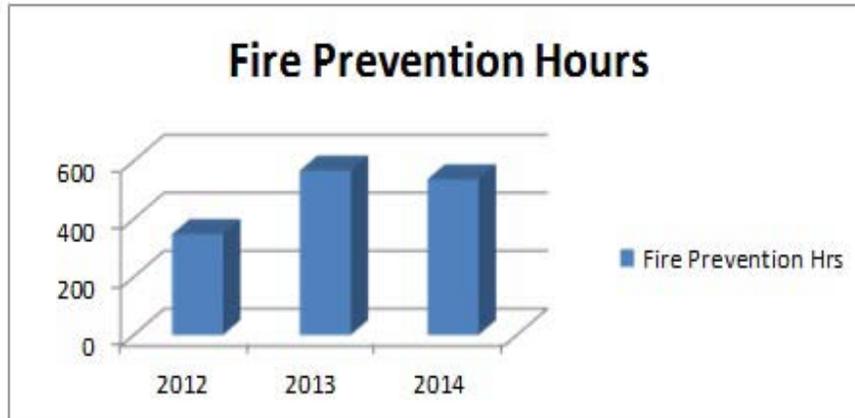


Fire extinguisher training at a local City of Burlington business

The Fire Department works closely with all businesses to deliver quality fire safety, inspectional and educational programs in an effort to provide a safer city and a more educated public on environmental and industrial hazards.



Fire Prevention



Throughout the year we attend Public events offering educational pamphlets, displaying our Fire Apparatus and Equipment, and providing Fire Extinguisher training to businesses in the community. During 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.



The fire department has spent more time the past two years being active in the community supplying public education. The average hours of public education is up due to advanced opportunities to deliver public education in our community. Public Education/Public Relations is a critical component in our overall goal in delivering quality programs to the community.





Fire Prevention



Fire personnel reading to the first graders at Waller School

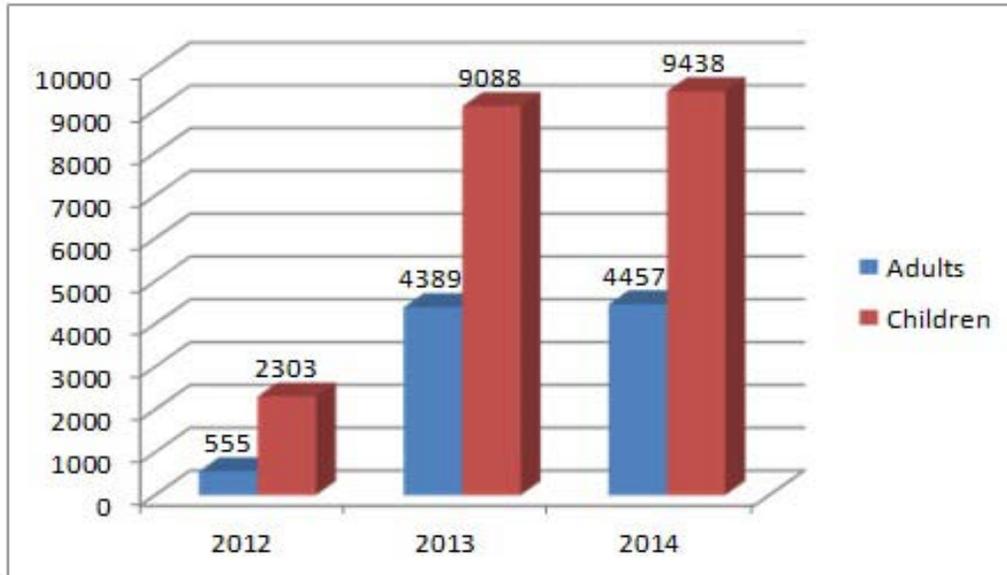
Another opportunity to deliver public education that started in 2013 was the Read Across America program. Our fire personnel have the opportunity to read fire related safety books to first and second graders at Waller School. This has proved to be an exceptional way to reach our young students to deliver fire safe messages and safety training that includes; designing an exit/escape plan in the home, stop, drop and roll and teaching children to avoid hot devices (stoves, fires, matches, lighters, etc).



Randy Larson, Alex Pernice, Kiel Kivisto, Wes Miner, Jacob Smith 2015 MDA Ambassador, Mike Jessen, Eric Jones, John Niederer



Our public education contacts are up substantially in the past two years. In 2014, our department members reached a new high for public education contacts for adults and children in our community by interacting with 4,457 adults and 9,438 school aged children.

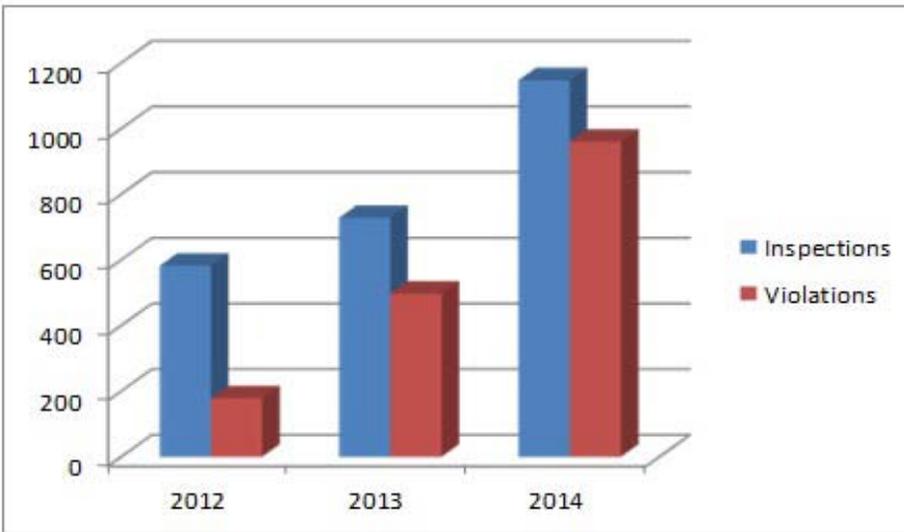


The large increase the past two years is predominantly due to members taking on the initiatives to provide a public education booth at the annual Chocolate Festival and increased safety and educational opportunities with local businesses and schools.





Inspection Division



While inspections have increased substantially, as expected, we have seen an increase in the number of violations. Our inspectors work closely with the local business owners to assist them in proactive efforts towards compliance.

In late 2013, all full-time fire personnel were trained and certified as Wisconsin State Fire Inspectors. In 2014 an enhanced inspection program was implemented to assure all inspect-able buildings and occupancies were completed based on City and State requirements for inspectional standards. In 2014, all required occupancies were inspected at least once. The goal is to deliver a quality inspection program while working with the local business owners in an effort to make our city and their businesses safer for the community.





2014 Incident Responses

The City of Burlington Fire Department responded to 874 calls for service in 2014. Many of these calls were categorized as fires, rescues, medical emergencies, hazardous conditions with no fires, service type calls and false alarms.

False Alarms & False Calls: (77) Malicious or Mischievous false alarms, Fire protection system malfunctions and Unintentional alarm transmissions.

Rescue, MVA's / EMS Assists: (625) Motor vehicle accidents (MVA), Medical call assistance and Victim removal from stalled elevators.

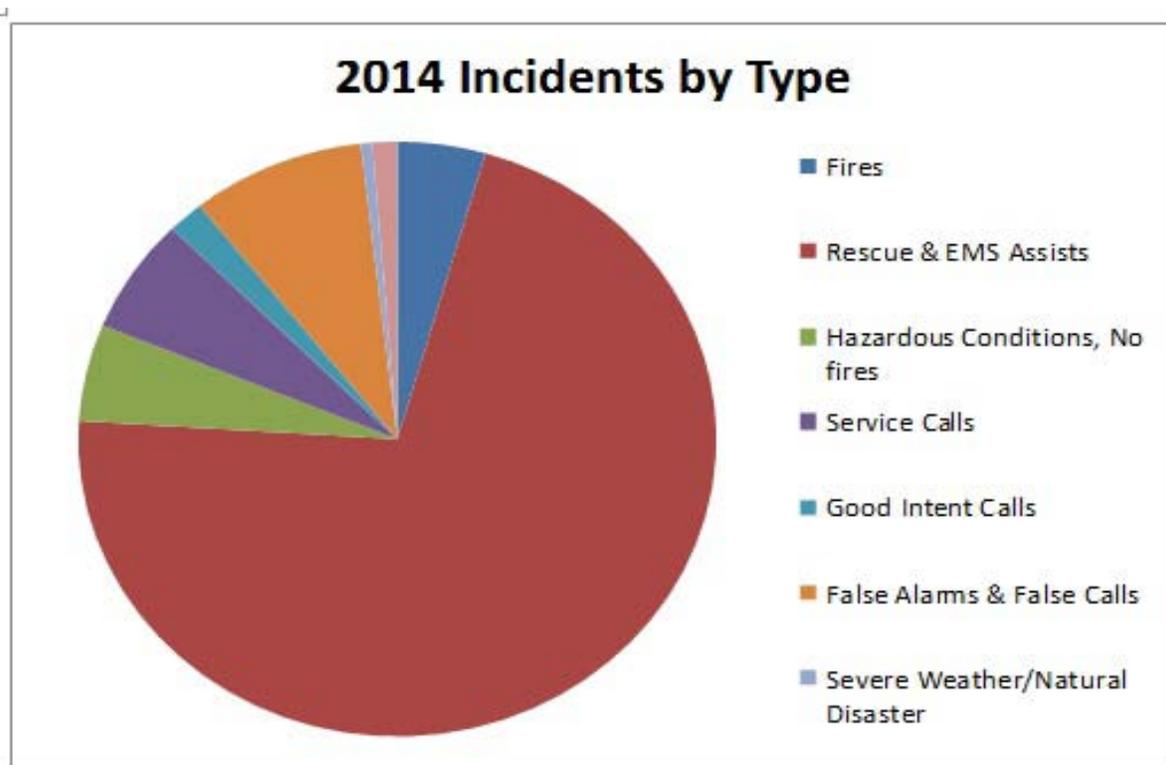
Fire Incidents: (39) Building fires, Cooking fires, Chimney fires, Trash fires, Vehicle fires and Brush fires.

Service Call: (55) Requests for service that may include leaking water, lock out, person in distress, smoke or odor removal, public service assistance, unauthorized burning, assist police or other agency.

Hazardous Conditions: (46) Flammable or hazardous liquid spills, Gas leaks, Carbon monoxide incidents, Electrical wiring/equipment problems and Downed power lines.

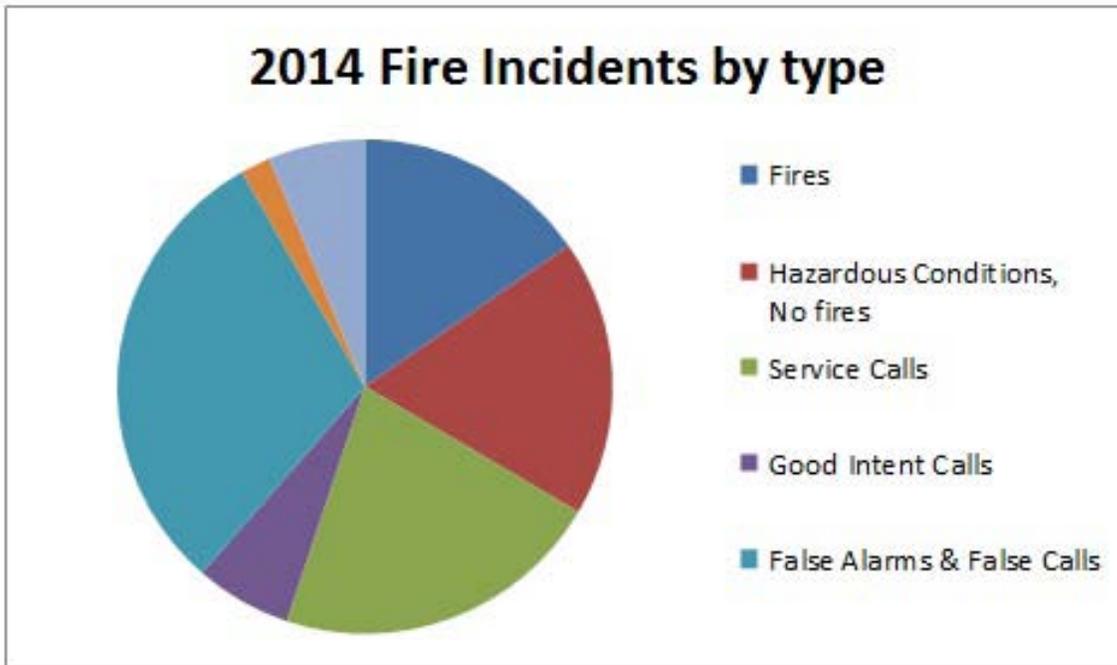
Good Intent Call: (16) Smoke scare, odor of smoke, authorized burning, good intent-other.

Other: (16) anything not categorized above.



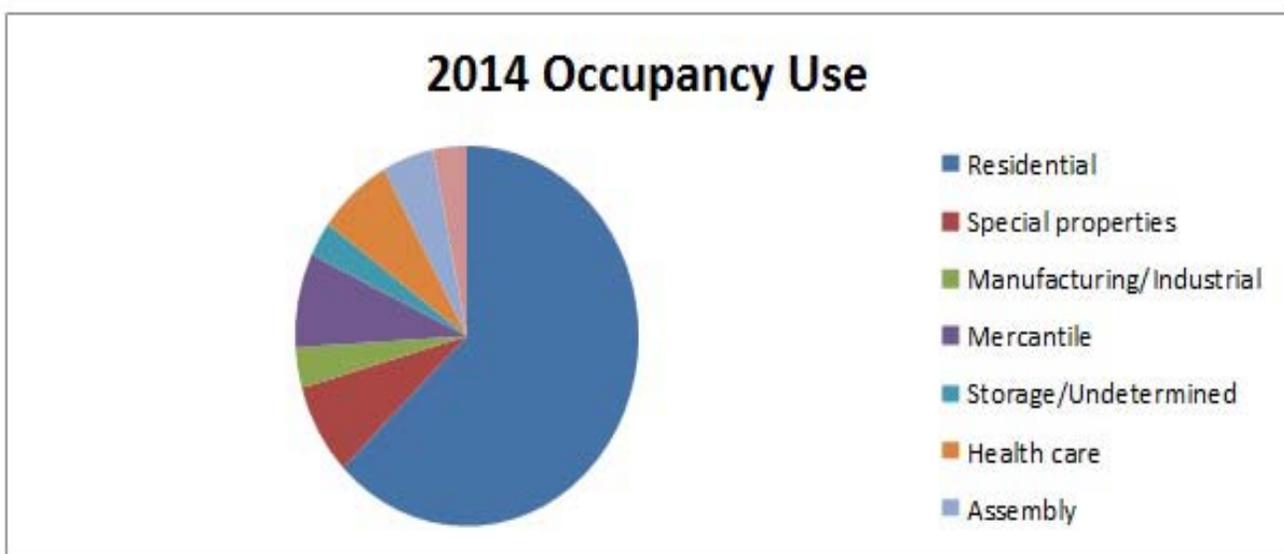


2014 Incident Responses by Type



Once the emergency medical responses are removed from the incidents by type, it is easier to see the comparisons of the different types of fire related calls we respond to. The largest type is false alarms (77), followed by service call (55), hazardous conditions (46), and fire incidents (39).

2014 Incident Responses by Occupancy



The 2014 emergency response to 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.



2014 Incident Responses by Occupancy

The large majority of responses were to residential and special occupancies. Residential occupancies include single family homes, condominiums, attached homes and duplexes, apartment buildings, hotels/motels and senior living buildings.

Special occupancy uses include roadway, highway, streets and parking lot locations. In many of these cases the fire department is responding to either an accident scene or fire in a specific location

Residential: (549) 1 or 2 family dwellings, multifamily dwellings, apartment buildings and commercial hotel/motels.

Special Properties: (68) Highways, residential streets, railroad right-of-ways and vehicle parking areas.

Health Care: (61) Hospitals, clinics, doctor offices and nursing homes.

Mercantile/Business: (70) Grocery stores, gas stations vehicle sales, services or repair, general retail and business offices.

Manufacturing/Processing/Industrial: (30) Mostly refers to any business that manufactures and/or processes something. Generally these properties are found in the industrial parks.

Educational: (28) High school, junior high school, middle school and Adult education center or college.

Assembly: (42) Bowling establishments, swimming facilities, convention centers, restaurants and bars.

Storage/Undetermined: (26) Refers to properties where storage or warehousing of materials or equipment are the main component of the business.



Photo credit: Ed Nadolski

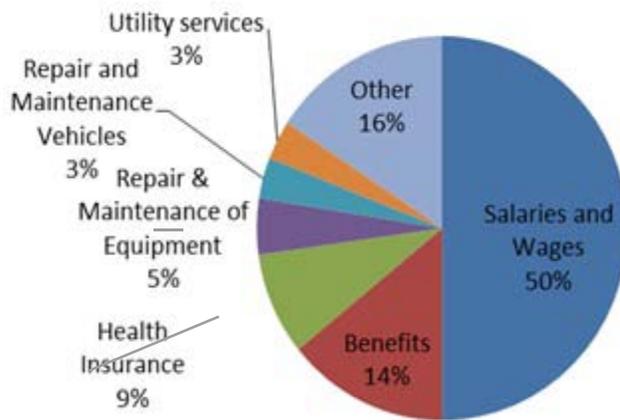


Budget and Appropriations

In 2014 there were no significant fires in magnitude like the 2013 Echo Lake Foods fire that created budgetary challenges, staffing issues or prolonged use of fire department resources. The 2014 budget was approved by council at \$748,480.00 and the final budget figures for 2014 came in at \$686,432.00. The fire department implemented cost saving measures in 2014 to provide effective and efficient service that included adding new programs to the community while also being fiscally responsible with the funding provided. The cost saving measures included waiting to purchase SCBA bottles or upgrading specific radio equipment scheduled for 2014 while applying for potential grants that could fill those gaps. This was part of the total savings to the City of \$62,048.00 over the proposed 2014 budget.

In 2014 the fire department revenue increased \$11,712.00 from the previous year (2013 \$39,515, 2014 \$51,227). With the increased construction in the City from the previous year and fire service alarm, repair and installation fees received, there was a 29.6% increase in revenue for the year. We anticipate an increase in revenue in the coming years as the fire department has initiated a few programs (CPR, Industrial training and business education programs) that will be offered to local businesses for a nominal fee.

2014 BUDGET



Salaries/wages,	\$343,128
Benefits	\$97,155
Health Insurance/physicals	\$59,346
Repair/maintenance Equipment	\$32,494
Repair/maintenance Vehicles	\$23,453
Utilities	\$22,877
Other	\$107,979
Total funds expended in 2014	\$686,432



Grants

We had the distinct opportunity to complete one of our grants from 2013-2014 while applying for several Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG). Additionally, we had the opportunity to work with our neighboring and regional departments to qualify for a radio grant. The AFG grant program requires a municipal funds match of five percent of each award.

- Completed the 2013-2014 Focus on Fire Prevention Grant for the installation of 330 smoke detectors with 10 year lithium batteries. The value of this grant is estimated at \$14,300.00
- Awarded a \$1,000.00 grant from Walmart to fund our bike patrol (bikes, equipment and accessories) and a 60" monitor/television for our training program
- Applied for \$539,798.00 in Federal Grants through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG).
 - \$216,240.00 to replace 31 aging Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
 - \$47,500.00 to replace a 20+ year old air compressor to fill SCBA bottles
 - \$97,758.00 to install an exhaust removal system in the current fire station for all gasoline or diesel fire and rescue vehicles
 - \$178,300 for Training props and components
- Worked with our neighboring and regional fire departments to participate in a joint grant application for emergency communications to include 31 P-25 compliant portable radios. Estimated value of the grant and savings to the City of Burlington if awarded is \$30,100.00, (Grant by regional partner Waterford Fire Department on behalf of the Racine County Fire Departments)

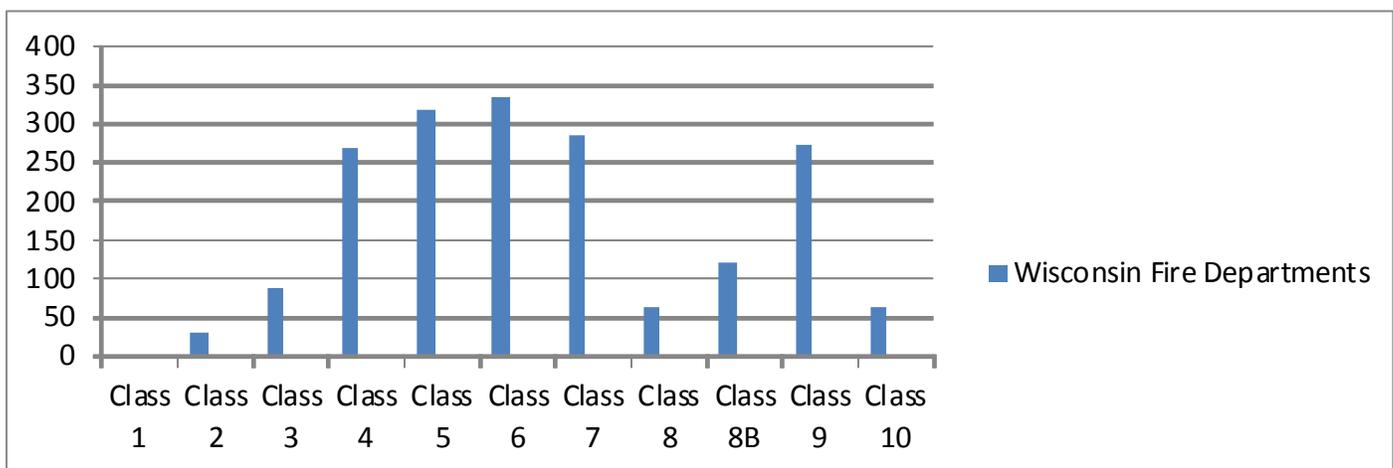




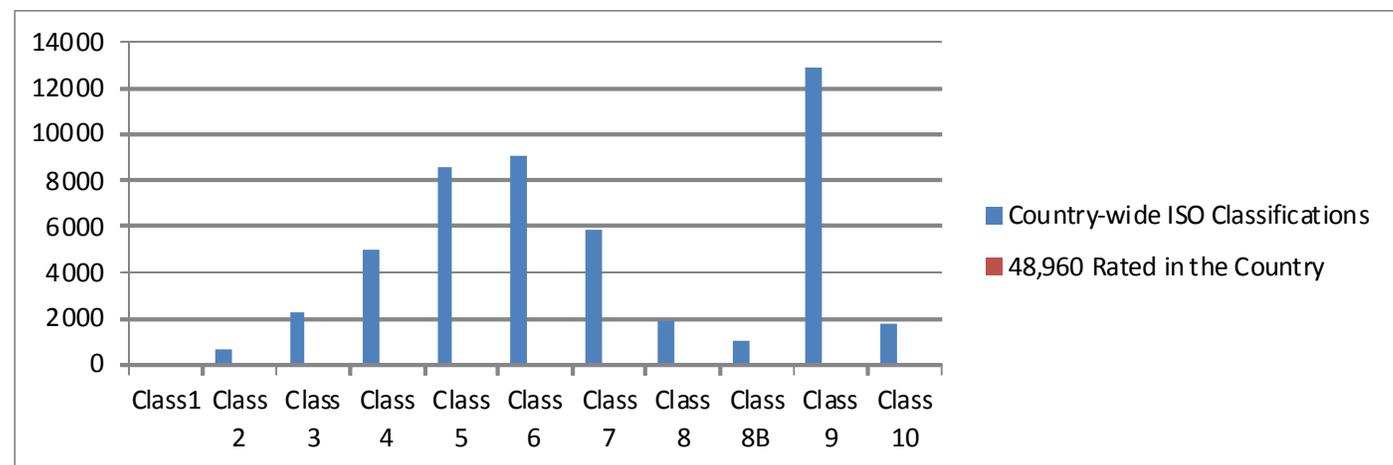
Public Protection Classification, (PPC) Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO)

In 2014 the City of Burlington maintained an Insurance Service Office, (ISO) classification rating of 3. ISO utilizes three categories to score fire departments 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.



