

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT

2014 FISCAL YEAR REPORT



OCTOBER 1, 2014

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The City of Excelsior Springs was incorporated in 1881 and a fire department was established soon after. There are no records that indicate when the fire department was actually organized. It is believed that it became organized in the early 1890's. The fire department has grown along with its surroundings. The department is known as a "combination" department with both full and part-time personnel. We provide services such as an Advanced Life Support ambulance, fire suppression, rescue, hazardous material mitigation, fire investigation, fire inspections, public education, and training.

The Excelsior Springs Fire Department today consist of twenty-one full-time personnel (Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, 3-Assistant Fire Chiefs, 3-Captains, 6-Firefighter/Paramedics, 6-Firefighter/EMT, and an Administrative Assistant). It also includes nineteen part-time personnel (Assistant Chief, Chaplain, 3-Captains, 10-Firefighter/EMTs, and 4-Firefighter/Paramedics) and three volunteer firefighters.

The 2014 Fiscal Year (FY) budget was split into two divisions, fire & E.M.S. The fire budget consisted of \$646,216 and an EMS budget of \$1,521,615 for a combined budget of \$2,167,831. The main objectives of the 2014 FY budget was to maintain current staffing levels (89%), maintenance programs for both fire and E.M.S. apparatus (2%), training (less than 1%), minor equipment (less than 1%), utilities (1%), miscellaneous [office equipment, building, contracts, etc.] (6%).

Half way through the FY2014 budget, we did not anticipate the retirement of Fire Chief Kent Cantrell, the resignation of Sherry Marcell, and the staffing changes that would occur. However, these changes brought on four promotions and two new additions to the full-time staff.

Nor, did we anticipate the impact of the Medicare & Medicaid laws on EMS billing. This prompted the department to begin to look at outsourcing the billing of E.M.S. In August, a Request For Proposal was sent to various billing services.



May 15, 2014, four generations of Fire Chiefs, R-L, Chief Larry Glunt, Chief Bill Stewart, Chief Kent Cantrell, Chief Paul Tribble.



Chief Cantrell served on the department from October 1985 until his retirement on May 16, 2014, the last 6 1/2 years as Fire Chief.

RETIREMENT OF FIRE CHIEF KENT CANTRELL

The most impact to the administration of the Excelsior Springs Fire Department was the retirement of Fire Chief Kent Cantrell. Chief Cantrell had served as the chief of the department since November of 2008. His retirement prompted the City Manager, David Haugland to begin a search for his replacement.

On May 15th the City of Excelsior Springs and the fire department hosted a retirement reception for Chief Cantrell. This included fire chiefs from neighboring departments, representatives of MARCER, Division of Fire Safety, Northland Fire Chiefs Council, Western Missouri Fire Chiefs Council, and Heart of America Fire Chiefs Council, to name a few. Chief Cantrell was instrumental in keeping the department up and growing in the EMS community; his leadership will be missed.



Chief Tribble has served the department since June of 1986, the last 5 1/2 years as the Deputy Fire Chief.

PROMOTION OF PAUL V. TRIBBLE TO THE RANK OF FIRE CHIEF

City Manager David Haugland began his search for a new Fire Chief, he didn't have to look far. On April 2nd, City Manager David Haugland announced the promotion of Paul V. Tribble, Jr., to the rank of Fire Chief effective April 16.

Chief Tribble began his career in August of 1983 when he joined the Holt Volunteer Fire Department at the age of 18. Chief Tribble then took a position as an Emergency Medical Technician with the Smithville Community Ambulance in February of 1984. Former Fire Chief Larry Glunt brought Chief Tribble on in June of 1986 as a Firefighter/EMT. Chief Tribble went on to become a Firefighter/Paramedic in November of 1994. He was promoted to Captain in 1997, and then promoted to Assistant Chief in October of 1997. Chief Tribble holds an Associates of Applied Science in Fire Science and a Bachelor of Arts in Management and Human Relations.

ADMINISTRATION



PROMOTION OF P. SCOTT O'DELL TO THE RANK OF DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

In his search to replace the Deputy Fire Chief position, Fire Chief Paul Tribble only had to look within the department to find a suitable candidate. On May 16th, Fire Chief Paul Tribble promoted then Assistant Chief Scott O'Dell to the rank of Deputy Fire Chief in charge of Fire Operations/Fire Prevention.

Chief O'Dell began his career with the Excelsior Springs Fire Department in 1985 as a member of the Excelsior Springs Fire Department Cadet Corp. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 1993 and put in charge of the Fire Prevention activities under Fire Chief Bill Stewart. In 1997, he was promoted to the rank of Captain, second in charge of C-Shift. On February 1, 1998, then Captain O'Dell was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief (B-Shift Supervisor) and resumed the supervision of the Fire Prevention activities. Chief O'Dell holds certifications in Fire Inspection and Investigation, and has been instrumental over the years in apparatus acquisition and fire operations.



PROMOTION OF N. CAMRON WHITE TO THE RANK OF ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF

With the recent promotion Chief O'Dell, Chief Tribble was now tasked with finding his replacement. Through a very competitive field of candidates and a very rigorous examination process, Captain White was the man to fill the job of B-Shift Supervisor. On June 16th, Captain N. Camron White was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief over Communications.

Chief White began his career at Excelsior Springs Fire Department in 1996 as a member of the Cadet Corps. In 2000, Camron was added to the part-time staff as a Firefighter, in 2001 he was promoted to a full-time FF/EMT. Chief Cantrell promoted Camron to the rank of Captain in May of 2008. Chief White has taken on the role of the Communications Officer with great enthusiasm and drive.



PROMOTION OF ZACHARY T. ST. JOHN TO THE RANK OF CAPTAIN

With the recent promotion Chief White, Chief Tribble had his final chore of replacing Chief White's former position of Captain on C-Shift. After a series of assessments and extreme competition of 11 candidates, Chief Tribble determined that FF/Paramedic Zac St. John was his choice to fill the vacancy on C-Shift. On July 1st, Chief Tribble promoted Zac St. John to the rank of Captain to assist with Emergency Preparedness.

Zac St. John was added to the part-time staff as a Firefighter in 2006, in November he was promoted to a full-time FF/EMT. He went on to obtain his paramedic license and was promoted by Chief Cantrell to Firefighter/Paramedic in 2008. Captain St. John has taken on the Assistant Emergency Preparedness Director with an open mind and an eagerness to learn.

FIRE DIVISION

“In May, Deputy Chief O’Dell took over the Fire Division on a more “day to day” approach. Throughout May, June, July, August, and September, Chief O’Dell began to notice specific operational deficiencies among the three shifts”...Chief Tribble

“The best thing that occurred in my division this year is that everyone went home the next day. We suffered no serious on the job injuries. Another thing that occurred in my division this year is being able to oversee the division on a daily basis; I have better control of all aspects of my division and I am able evaluate the short-falls.

We purchased a new four gas detector this year allowing us to provide better services to the public. A negative impact on customer service is our low manpower; we are responding to more multiple calls at one time draining our manpower.

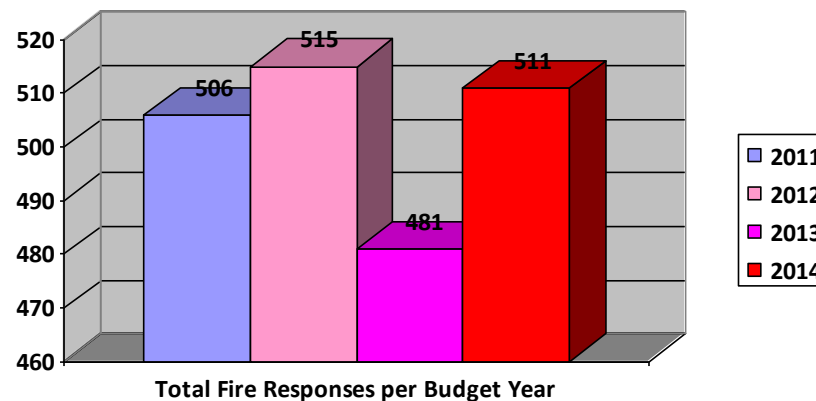
A few things that were done in my division this year that have not been done in the past are: We have formed an apparatus committee to develop specifications of a new aerial truck; this is very exciting for the whole department. We purchased a new tractor to take care of our field so we do not have to rely on Public Works or Parks and Rec. to mow for us. We began gear replacement, all full-time personnel with the exception of the Chief Officers have been replaced.

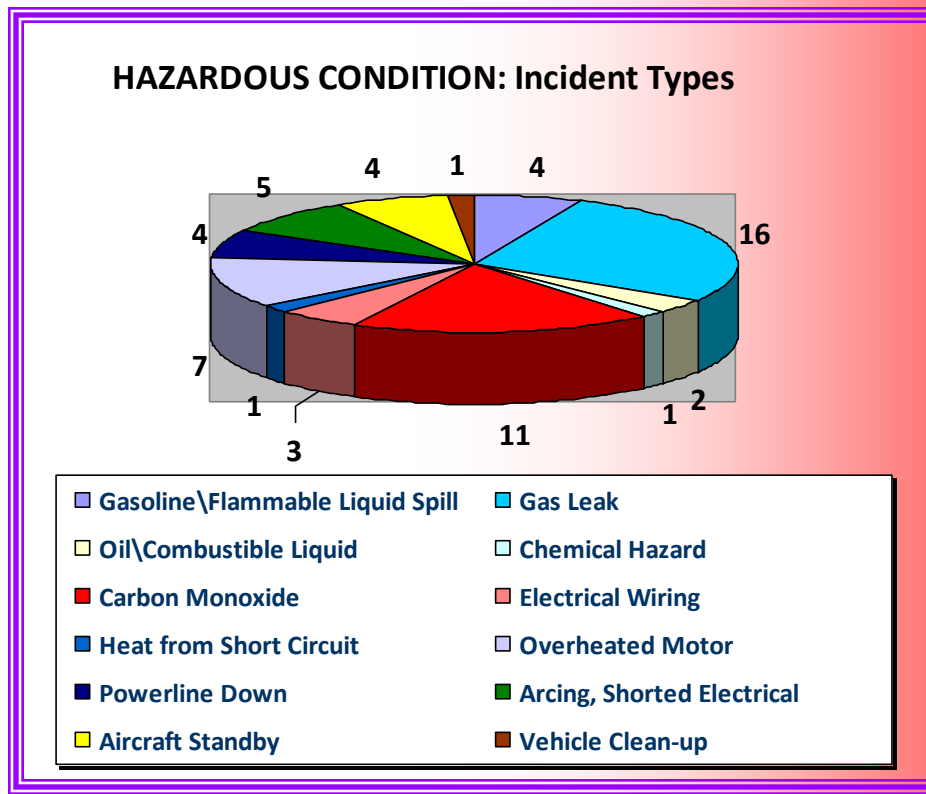
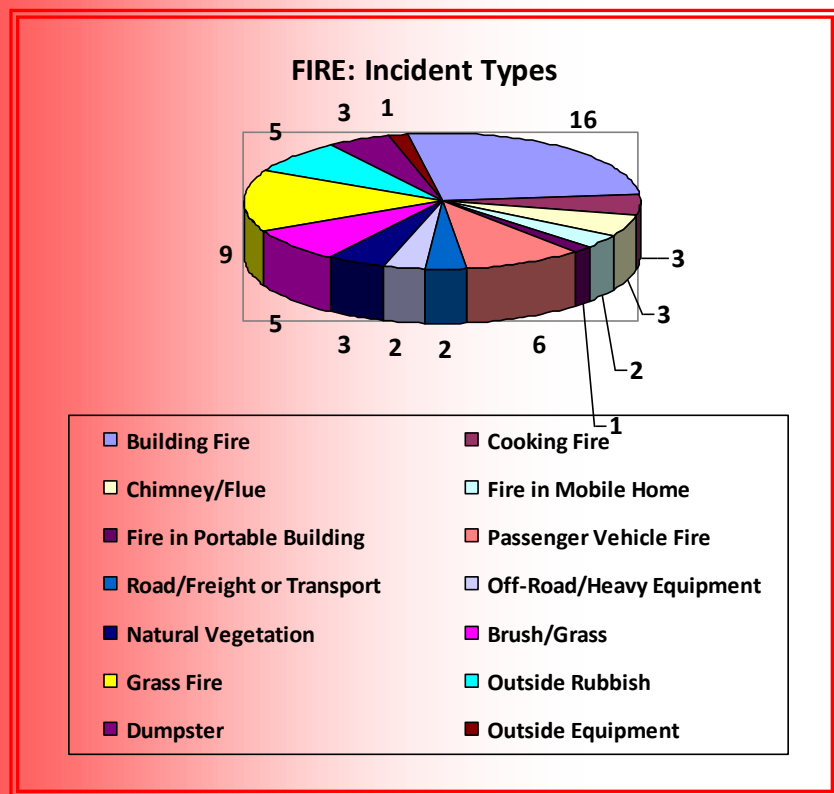
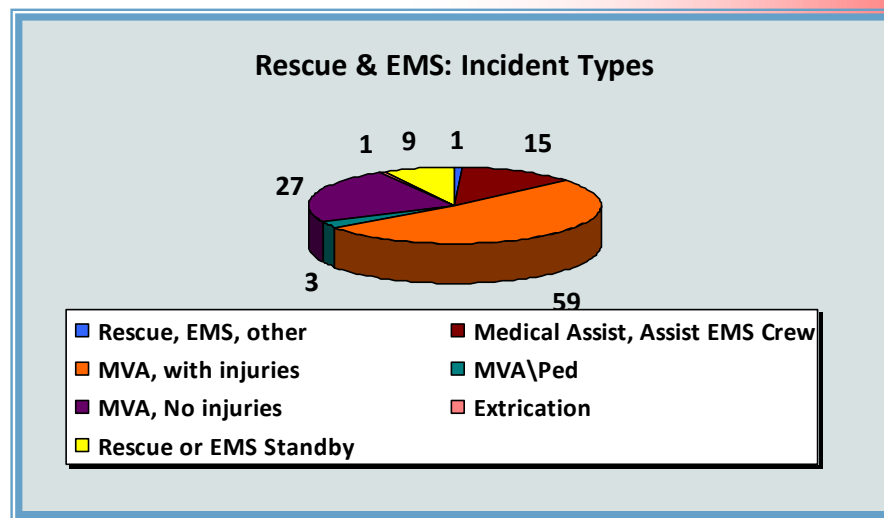
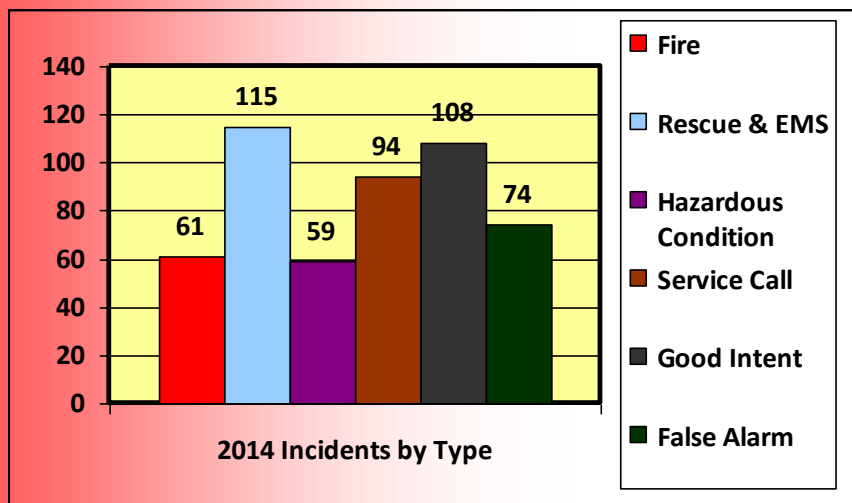
In FY2015, I would like to see an operational uniformity between the three shifts. All shifts should operate the same way, this will lead to less confusion on the line employee. Monetary items for the budget year; complete the gear replacement, purchase the remainder of the beds for the bunk room, outsource routine maintenance for the fire apparatus, repair the roof, new flooring for the hallways, install new garage doors, and add personnel.

A change in leadership has brought about a new way of thinking and new energy”...Deputy Chief Scott O’Dell

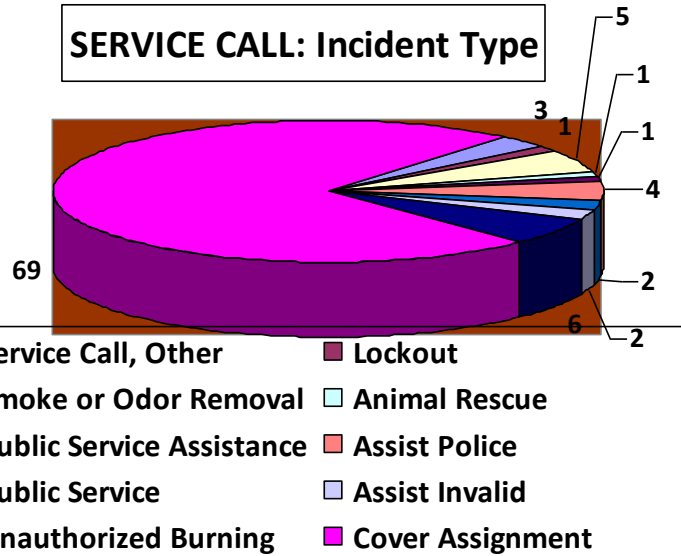


*P. Scott O'Dell, Deputy Fire Chief
Fire Division*

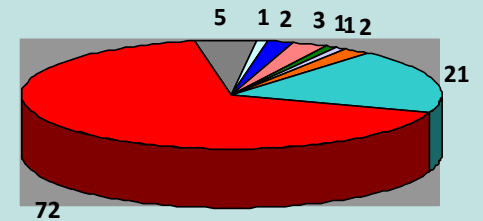




SERVICE CALL: Incident Type



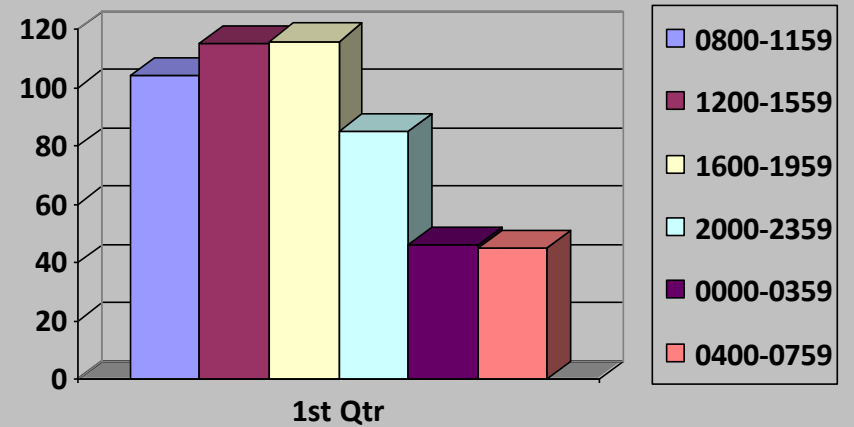
GOOD INTENT CALL: Incident Type



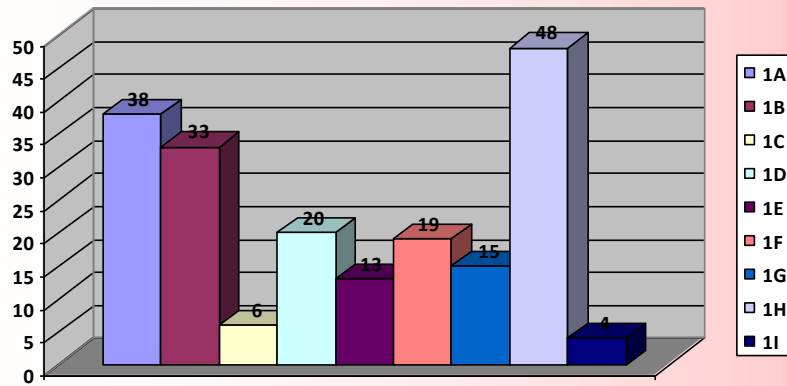
- Good Intent Call, Other
- Dispatched and Cancelled Enroute
- No Incident Found
- Authorized Burning
- Steam, Other Gas
- Smoke Scare
- Steam, Vapor, Fog, Dust
- EMS Call, Transported by Non-Fire
- Haz-mat Release, No Haz-mat

- False Alarm, Other
- Bomb Scare
- System Malfunct.
- Smoke Detector, Malfunct.
- Alarm System, Malfunct.
- CO Detector, Malfunct.
- Unintentional
- Extinguishing System Active
- Smoke Detector, No Fire
- Alarm System, No Fire
- CO Detector, No CO
- Detector Activation, No Fire

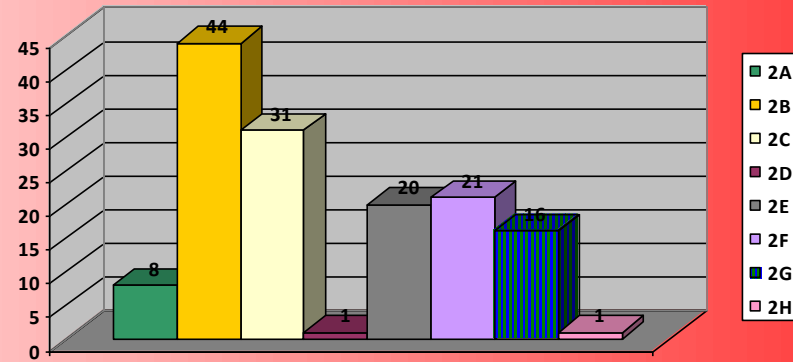
Alarm Time Analysis



Incidents by Districts- 1



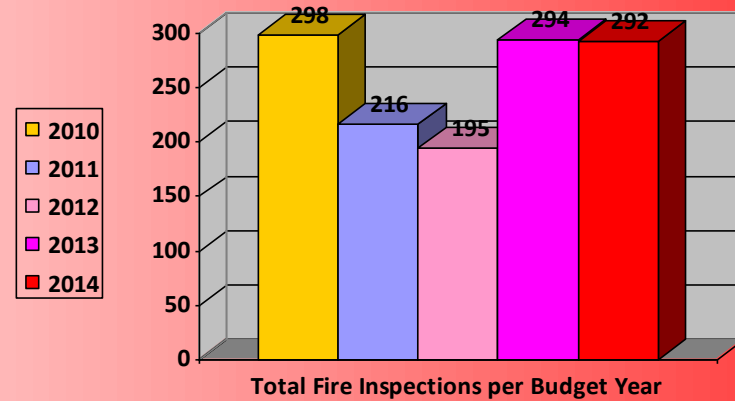
Incidents by Districts- 2



Dollar Value Saved & Loss Analysis

Incident Type	Count	Total Values	Total Losses	Total Saved	% Lost
Building Fire	12	\$1,193,192	\$446,692	\$746,500	37.44%
Cooking Fire	1	\$150	\$150	\$0	100.00%
Fire in Mobile home	1	\$10,000	\$7,000	\$3,000	70.00%
Passenger Vehicle	5	\$35,600	\$20,600	\$15,000	57.87%
Off-Road vehicle	2	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$0	100.00%
Grand Totals	21	\$1,280,942	\$516,442	\$764,500	
Total Percent Lost: 40.32% Total Percent Saved: 59.68%					

Fire Inspections



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

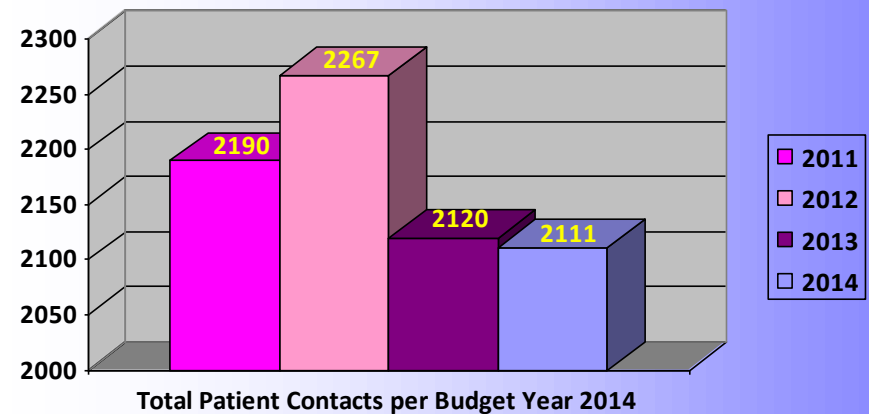
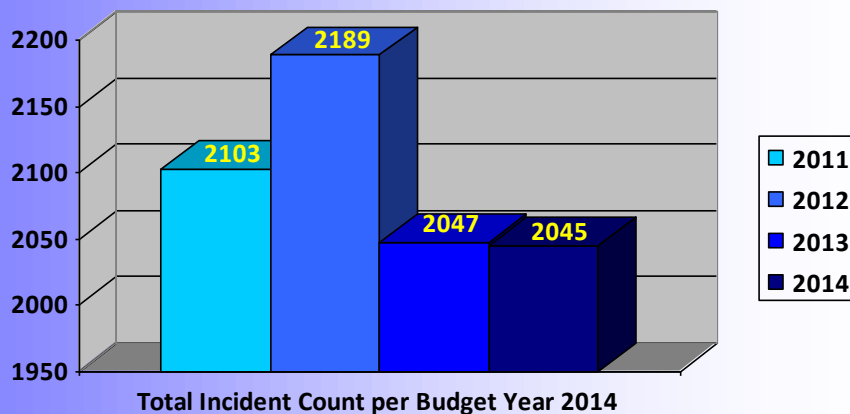


*Joe Maddick, Assistant Chief
E.M.S. Division*

"I believe the biggest thing to occur in the EMS Division is just getting our equipment updated as much as possible and we have been able to continually accomplish this, even with sparse funds. I think the biggest impact to the EMS Division was our new paramedics becoming more experienced paramedics thereby providing better patient care.

I don't think anything impacted our ability to provide customer service. Maintenance did a good job keeping the ambulances on the road running and I think that was a huge benefit. We were able to keep at least two ambulances in house all year, I believe, therefore lowering the need for mutual aid. If I had to name one thing, it would be the difficulty in getting supplies, which is out of our control; many medicines and fluids are and have been back ordered for quite some time now. In FY2014, I would have liked to have purchased some items such as King airways, Perch-tracs and some quality thermometers.

In 2015, I hope that we can purchase a new ambulance, power cots and some other small equipment to make the paramedics and EMTs more efficient and effective; upgrade the security at the fire station, (I know some of this lies with the personnel but right now at any given time night or day anyone can gain access to the building and that bothers me); quite possibly a new direction, new thoughts and more input from the department as a whole; I would like to see a raise in our Lagers system; out-sourcing our billing (I believe an outside company could do far better than we are)"...Assistant Chief Joe Maddick



Enroute (Dispatched-Unit Notified)		
Minutes	# of Runs	% of Runs
0-1	1866	91.24%
2-3	155	7.53%
4-5	20	0.98%
> 5	4	0.25%
Unknown	0	0.00%

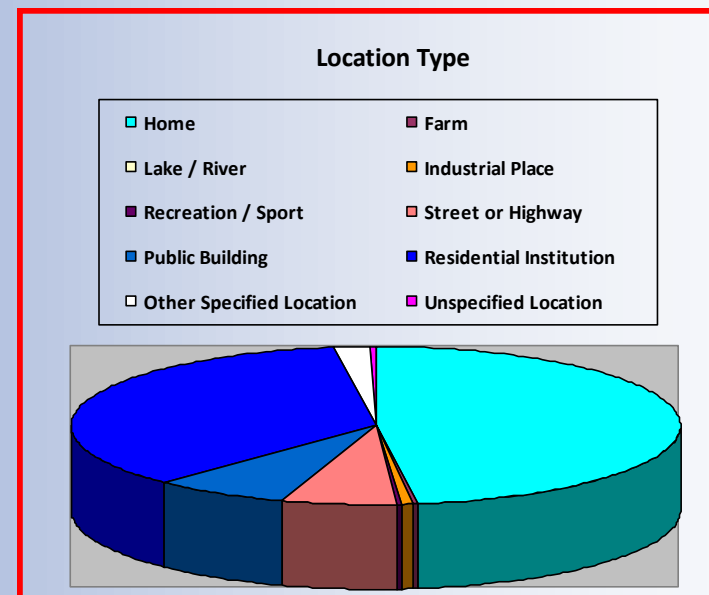
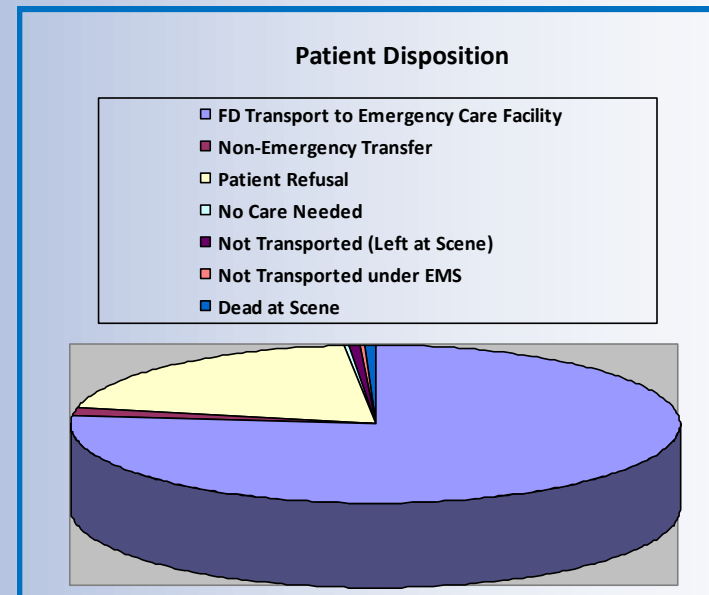
Response Time (Enroute - Arrive Scene)		
Minutes	# of Runs	% of Runs
0-5	1172	57.31%
6-10	731	35.75%
11-15	94	4.60%
>15	44	2.15%
Unknown	4	0.20%

Scene Time (Arrive scene - Depart scene)		
Minutes	# of Runs	% of Runs
0-5	895	43.77%
6-10	920	44.99%
11-15	150	7.33%
>15	52	2.54%
Unknown	26	1.27%

Transport Time (Depart Scene - Arrive Hospital)		
Minutes	# of Runs	% of Runs
0-5	589	28.80%
6-10	203	9.93%
11-15	196	9.58%
>15	1035	50.61%
Unknown	22	1.08%

Cause of Injury		
Cause of Injury	Count	%
Assault	29	1.42%
Bicycle Accident	1	0.05%
Bicycle Related	1	0.05%
Bites and Stings	1	0.05%
Bites, includes Animal Bites	2	0.10%
Cause, Other	1213	59.32%
Chemical Exposure	2	0.10%
Child Battering	1	0.05%
Drug Poisoning	4	0.20%
Excessive Cold	1	0.05%
Fall	254	12.42%
Fire and Flames	2	0.10%
Firearm Assault	1	0.05%
Firearm Self-Inflicted	1	0.05%
Machinery	3	0.15%
Motor Vehicle Accident (MVC)	117	5.72%
MVC, Pedestrian	3	0.15%
MVC, Rear Passenger	7	0.34%
Motorcycle Accident	8	0.39%
Non-Motorized Vehicle Accident	1	0.05%
Not Applicable	421	20.59%
Physical Assault/Abuse	8	0.39%
Stabbing Assault	1	0.05%
Stabbing/Cutting Accidental	3	0.15%
Struck by Blunt/Thrown Object	3	0.15%
Unknown	23	1.12%

Provider Impression (Patient Contacts = 2111)		
Provider Impression	Count	%
Abdominal Pain / Problems	150	7.11%
Airway Obstruction	7	0.33%
Allergic Reaction	8	0.38%
Altered Level of Consciousness	58	2.75%
Behavioral / Psychiatric	104	4.93%
Cardiac Arrest	14	0.66%
Cardiac Rhythm Disturbance	37	1.75%
Chest Pain / Discomfort	192	9.10%
Diabetic Symptoms (Hypoglycemia)	26	1.23%
Hemorrhaging / Bleeding	27	1.28%
Hyperthermia	2	0.09%
Hypothermia	1	0.05%
Impression / Assessment, Other	695	32.92%
None / No Patient or Refused	237	11.23%
Obvious Death	6	0.28%
Poisoning / Drug Ingestion	17	0.81%
Pregnancy / OB Delivery	5	0.24%
Respiratory Distress	168	7.96%
Respiratory Arrest	3	0.14%
Seizure	67	3.17%
Sexual Assault / Rape	1	0.05%
Stings / Venomous Bites	1	0.05%
Stroke / CVA	25	1.18%
Syncope / Fainting	35	1.66%
Traumatic Injury	225	10.66%



Transports by Final Destination		
Destination	Count	Percent
Cameron Regional Medical Center	2	0.09%
Center for Behavioral Medicine	1	0.05%
Center Point (Independence)	3	0.14%
Children's Mercy Hospital	16	0.76%
Children's Mercy Hospital-South	1	0.05%
Crittenton Behavioral Health	4	0.19%
Cushings Memorial Hospital	2	0.09%
Excelsior Nursing & Rehab	9	0.43%
Excelsior Springs Hospital	349	16.53%
Heartland Regional Medical Center	1	0.05%
Kansas University Medical Center	21	0.99%
Lafayette Regional Health Center	1	0.05%
Lawson / Smithview Manor	6	0.28%
Liberty Hospital	937	44.39%
North Kansas City Hospital	207	9.81%
Not Transported	463	21.93%
Not Reported	2	0.09%
Out of State	2	0.09%
Ray County Memorial Hospital	1	0.05%
Research Medical Center	5	0.24%
Research Psychiatric Center	6	0.28%
Residence (Patients)	3	0.14%
St. Luke's East Hospital	2	0.09%
St. Luke's Hospital of Kansas City	18	0.85%
St. Luke's Northland Hospital	15	0.71%
St. Luke's Northland Hospital - Smithville	12	0.57%
Truman Medical Center- Hospital Hill	3	0.14%
Truman Medical Center- Lakewood	2	0.09%
Two Rivers Behavioral Hospital	6	0.28%
U.S. Veterans Medical Center	7	0.33%
Valley Manor and Rehabilitation	4	0.19%

Responses by District				
District	Incidents	Incident %	Patients	Patient %
1A	575	28.12%	575	27.24%
1B	181	8.85%	181	8.57%
1C	27	1.32%	28	1.33%
1D	69	3.37%	72	3.41%
1E	45	2.20%	48	2.27%
1F	45	2.20%	48	2.27%
1G	30	1.47%	41	1.94%
1H	124	6.06%	143	6.77%
1I	13	0.64%	12	0.57%
2A	57	2.79%	60	2.84%
2B	291	14.23%	293	13.88%
2C	200	9.78%	203	9.62%
2D	3	0.15%	3	0.14%
2E	66	3.23%	67	3.17%
2F	62	3.03%	71	3.36%
2G	95	4.65%	96	4.55%
2H	5	0.24%	5	0.24%
Kearney Fire District	7	0.34%	4	0.19%
Lawson Fire District	1	0.05%	1	0.05%
Orrick Fire District	1	0.05%	2	0.09%
Wood Heights District	2	0.10%	2	0.09%
Rural Clay County District 1	6	0.29%	6	0.28%
Rural Clay County District 2	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Rural Clay County District 3	1	0.05%	1	0.05%
Rural Clay County District 4	19	0.93%	19	0.90%
Rural Clay County District 5	4	0.20%	6	0.28%
Rural Clay County District 6	4	0.20%	3	0.14%
Rural Clay County District 7	4	0.20%	4	0.19%
Rural	106	5.18%	115	5.45%

TRAINING DIVISION

The Excelsior Springs Fire Department's Training Division had some very positive and some negative things occur.

With the possibility of Chief Cantrell retiring, personnel looked to advance within the department so they took it upon themselves to improve their own status and education. These employees drive and self-improvement not only affected them on a personal level but also bettered the department. Having the younger members of the department becoming more involved in the administrative areas has long term benefits as we look into the future. This year brought about our re-accreditation as a Training Facility, this allows us to conduct EMS continuing education classes. We finished 2014 by implementing a "pre-plan" component to our Command Staff meetings, this aids the officers in knowing specific target hazard facilities before the emergency occurs.



*Brad Smith, Assistant Chief
Training Division*

The funds for training comes from the General Fund budget, with a total FY14 Fire & EMS budget for Development & Training at \$16,550 only \$8,771 was used. The department as a whole (combined fire & EMS training) documented 355 hours of training. The inability to use more than 50% of our training budget made a significant impact on the FY 2015 budget.

Looking into FY 2015, we are developing a Training Committee made up of department certified instructors to assist in organizing, teaching, and evaluating the Training Division. The training committee will be looking at Insurance Services Office (ISO) training requirements, certification requirements, and driver's training requirements; the FY 2015 training schedule will follow those requirements. The Training Committee will look at handing out monthly EMS and fire training assignments. We are looking to send personnel to Winter & Summer Fire Schools, regional conferences, and specialized EMS/fire training courses. We are looking at utilizing the Excelsior Springs Area Career Center's training facility, rather than Southern Platte Fire Protection District's for our annual "interior structural firefighting" training.

In the future, a training tower and a hydrant in the rear of the station would be very helpful!

"In 2014, the change of personnel was big for us; from the top down we have had change, and I believe that change is usually a good thing. From the equipment to apparatus to the building maintenance we have had a lot going on, and it has all been for the better. We have had more members want to become involved in training, which significantly helps me as the Training Officer"...Assistant Chief Brad Smith

COMMUNICATION DIVISION

“In June, Captain Camron White was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief. Chief White had been responsible for the departments public relations for several years and with that being “communications with the public”, he was also handed the responsibility of the computer and radio technology and with that the “Communication Division” was begun. Chief White began working on the installation of “tuff books” into the fire apparatus, re-designing ID cards, and overseeing the Breast Cancer Awareness campaign. Chief White was given the directive to “get the fire department more community involved”; since being promoted, Chief White has done just that.



*Camron White, Assistant Chief
Communication Division*

The fire department is more active in the community through its public relations than ever before. Personnel continue to man the “Rescue #1” (John Deere Gator) during WaterFest, BBQ on the River, IROK 5K, and home football games. Personnel participated in After Prom, Career Day, and Safety Day in cooperation with the Excelsior Springs School District. During the FY2014 E.S.F.D. participated in forty-eight (48) Public Relations Events, nine (9) station tours, two (2) athletic stand-by, and four (4) CPR classes.

Personnel raised \$2,470 for Muscular Dystrophy by participating in the “boot block”; \$750 for Breast Cancer Awareness that went to a local woman fighting breast cancer.

Two (2) department computers were replaced, as scheduled by the computer replacement schedule.

Personnel participated in the Clay County Central Dispatch Consolidation Consortium, this is members from Gladstone, North Kansas City, Kearney, Liberty, Pleasant Valley, and Clay County Sheriff's Department to discuss combining 9-1-1 dispatch centers. With the failing of the 9-1-1 bill that taxed cell phones, this consortium is tabled for now.

Looking into FY2015, we will be replacing two computers (as scheduled), replacing a few portable radios, improving communication within the fire station, improving communication on the fire ground with the use of the National Incident Command System, getting the “tough books” installed in the fire apparatus, and working together to creating an environment that welcomes communication at all ranks.

MAINTENANCE DIVISION

With the promotion of Chief O'Dell, the Maintenance Division responsibility was handed off to Captain Shawn Kelly. The Maintenance Division includes; ambulances, automotive fleet, fire apparatus, facility & grounds, and small equipment.

A big impact on the division this year was SCBA failures; we had an excessive amount of SCBA failures this year, (mainly due to the age of the units), this drained the maintenance budget for minor equipment not allowing us to complete other things. The Maintenance Division suffered no significant apparatus, ambulance, or fleet repairs. The Maintenance Division was able to oversee the NFPA pressure testing of 11,000 feet of fire hose; annual pump testing; and annual ladder testing...which despite some minor repairs, all passed certification.



*Shawn Kelly, Captain
Maintenance Division*

The Maintenance Division began looking into the leaking roof of the fire station, areas of concern were the “day room” and the “tower”. These areas were assessed and it was determined that the existing roof had a 10 year life expectancy when it was applied in 2004. These issues were addressed in the last month of the FY2014 and will need to be addressed in FY2015. In addition to the roof, the siding that was placed on the front of the station in 2009 was found to have the paint peeling from the “hardie board”, the manufacturer was contacted and will also need to be addressed in FY2015.

For FY2015, the Maintenance Division is looking to outsource some if not most of the maintenance and testing issues to other private companies. The repairs to the roof, tower, and siding will need to be addressed along with plans to replace the tiled floors, carpet, garage doors, and other small repairs to Station #1.

“One thing I wish we could have done this year was outsource the routine maintenance of the fire apparatus”...Chief O'Dell

CADET CORP

Firefighter/Paramedic Kenny Slavens has taken over the Excelsior Springs Fire Department-Cadet Corp as the Cadet Commissioner. He had this to say about the Cadet Corp program:

"I think the best thing was putting on a new group of eager Cadets that seem to be very interested in learning the career of firefighting. The biggest impact would have to be putting on 8 new members and implementing an orientation program to insure the Cadets can provide a supportive role to the other members of the department to help serve the community to the best of our ability.

The things that mainly come to mind as I took over as Cadet Commissioner, I had some learning curves as well as my desire to try and have everything ready and perfect prior to putting on new cadets slowed the process down quite a bit. I came to realize no matter how prepared I tried to be there were going to be things that would come up that would need corrected or amended.

I am very excited for what 2015 will bring for our cadet program. The new cadets will be experiencing the career we all love as well as learning what our career entails. I am excited to use these group of young eager cadets for a supporting role with the fire department as well as doing some community work to assist the community we serve.

As the Cadet Commissioner, I added an orientation period that a cadet must complete in order to ride on calls. In years past there had been some frustration about cadets being a hindrance occasionally, it is my goal to not only prevent this but be able to provide as much support as possible with their roles.

I do wish that I had a small budget to buy minor things such as uniforms and occasionally replace a helmet or gloves for the Cadets. I do, however, realize that our budget is very tight as a department and its hard to get our firefighters equipped in these things. I do want to thank Chief O'Dell for working with me to outfit our cadets as best we possibly could and providing us with equipment.

I personally think that the best thing that happened in the department was the refocusing on training and the future of how we will fight fire as well as attempting to get the entire department on the same page for operations.

I would like to see the department continue to improve and focus on our training needs to insure everyone's safety and that everyone goes home."



Kenny Slavens, Firefighter/ Paramedic
Cadet Commissioner

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Under current city ordinances, the Fire Chief serves as the Emergency Management Director as appointed by the City Manager. In July, upon the promotion of Zac St. John to the rank of Captain, Chief Tribble appointed him to assist with the Emergency Preparedness. Captain St. John was delegated the task of reviewing the Emergency Operations Plan. It was discovered that the Emergency Operations plan was already 10 years old with several discrepancies in the plan. Questions came up regarding whether Excelsior Springs is ready in the event of a significant event. The plan is in place, however it needs updated and training needs to occur at all levels of the city staff.



*Zac St. John, Captain
Emergency Preparedness Division*

The city has seven (7) storm warning sirens strategically positioned throughout the city, each of these sirens are tested electronically daily at 1200 hours. A signal is sent from the control box located at the fire station, the signal is received at the site and then a reply is sent back to the control box identifying if there are any issues with any of the siren sites. Every month the state does a state-wide storm warning siren test (the first Wednesday at 1100 hours), this test is conducted unless there is inclement weather or freezing temperatures. In the event of a severe weather occurrence the severe weather sirens can be activated from the police station by dispatchers or at the fire station by department staff. The decision to activate the sirens lies with the City Manager, Fire Chief (Emergency Management Director), Deputy Fire Chief, or on-duty Assistant Fire Chief.

The City of Excelsior Springs also has a Memorandum of Understanding with the cities of Wood Heights and Crystal Lakes (these are old Excelsior Springs storm warning sirens), where in the event of a severe weather occurrence their sirens are activated when the City of Excelsior Springs' sirens are activated. However, they are not tested electronically daily and rely upon the monthly test to visually and audibly determine that they are functioning. The City of Excelsior Springs, nor the fire department, receives any monies to preform these tasks, and are not held to ensuring that they are functioning properly.

The goal in FY2015 is to get the plan updated, share it with city staff, and train on the plan. In addition, funds were allocated to conduct preventative maintenance (on all seven (7) sites) and replace the back-up batteries in five (5) of the seven (7) sites.

Emergency preparedness is something that is always in background, however every day that passes without a significant occurrence is one day closer to having a significant occurrence. As a city and as the Emergency Management Director we will be ready for mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

FY 2015

In fiscal year 2015, we are looking forward to new changes within the department. Some of those changes include;

- ◆ Focus on personnel, developing a uniform professional environment with a family type environment through department picnics, dinners, and banquets. Developing a uniform committee.
- ◆ Focus on building maintenance by repairing a leaking roof and tower, restoring siding on the front of the building, improving living conditions within the station, adding pictures on the walls to help develop purpose by knowing where we came from and who got us here, honoring the fallen, adding the department monogram on doors and windows, and replacing flooring and fixtures.
- ◆ Focus on training to meet ISO guidelines in an effort to improve our rating, training for all personnel, developing future leaders, improving and developing our supervisors, continuing our annual burn tower day, extrication, and drivers' training. Developing and establishing a training committee.
- ◆ Focus on replacing a 12 year old quint, by developing specifications for its replacement with the development of an apparatus replacement committee. In addition, replacing the Chief's vehicle, purchasing power cots, and an ambulance with Public Safety Sales Tax funds.
- ◆ Focus on improving public relations by participation (by all ranks) in community events. Continuing to raise funds to fight breast cancer and muscular dystrophy.
- ◆ Focus on developing future personnel through the volunteer and cadet programs.
- ◆ Focus on communication (at all levels), responsibility through accountability, and reinforcement of good moral and ethics.
- ◆ Focus on continual improvement of fire suppression and emergency medical services by developing a unified direction.
- ◆ Focus on improving our emergency preparedness through review of the Emergency Operations Plan, training, and education at all levels including Council and department heads.
- ◆ Focus on operating within the General Fund budget of \$655,024 Fire, and \$1,448,071 EMS for a combined total budget of \$2,103,095; this is a 1.41% decrease from FY2014 budget. In FY2014...the department was approximately 6% under budget.



Park & Recreation's "Touch-A-Truck"



210 & "N" Highways



Christmas 2013



Excelsior Springs Fire Department
May 2014







EXCELSIOR SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT
1120 TRACY
EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MO 64024

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