

Annual Report of the Quincy Fire Department



**Fiscal Year
2013-2014**

Introduction

To the Citizens Of Quincy:

The Quincy Fire Department is proud to present the annual report for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. The year proved to be a very good one in terms of fire prevention. The department saw a decrease in the number of structure fires responded to, as well as a significant decrease in the value of property lost to fire.

The Newcomb fire on the evening of September 6th, 2013 significantly challenged the members of the department. Despite windy conditions, and a significant “head start,” the members of the department were able to contain the fire to the building of origin. These efforts prevented the potential loss of many other significant downtown properties. It is through the constant training and preparedness efforts of the firefighters that the department was able to achieve this result.

The members of the department continue to realize the need to be good stewards of the tax payer’s dollar. The department strives to try and discover ways to create efficiencies that will allow for savings over the previous year’s efforts. This year saw the implementation of technologies that have had a significant impact on the dollars spent for technology related hardware and software. We will continue to look for methods to increase these savings while providing an overall better product for our citizens.

Significant challenges lie ahead in the coming years. The department will make every effort to rise to these challenges. This will require “out of the box” thinking and a willingness to embrace change. While this can be difficult, I remain confident that we will be able to meet the challenges head-on.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about information contained within this report.

Sincerely,



Joe Henning
Fire Chief



*The Quincy Fire Department
Committed to the protection of lives, homes and properties*

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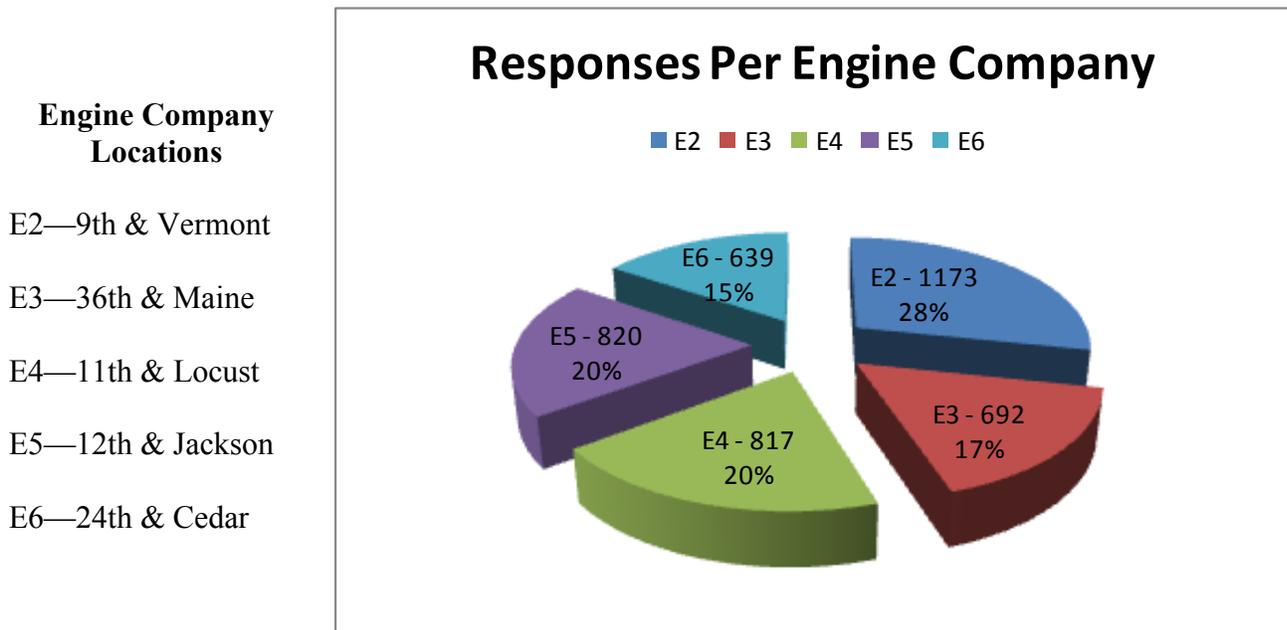
Fire Department Response

The Quincy Fire Department responded to 129 more incidents in this fiscal year compared to the last. One notable difference in this year's report is the significant decrease in the number of structure fires responded to. There are many things that can contribute to this decrease. However, it is likely that fire prevention and public education efforts played a significant role.

Response Totals

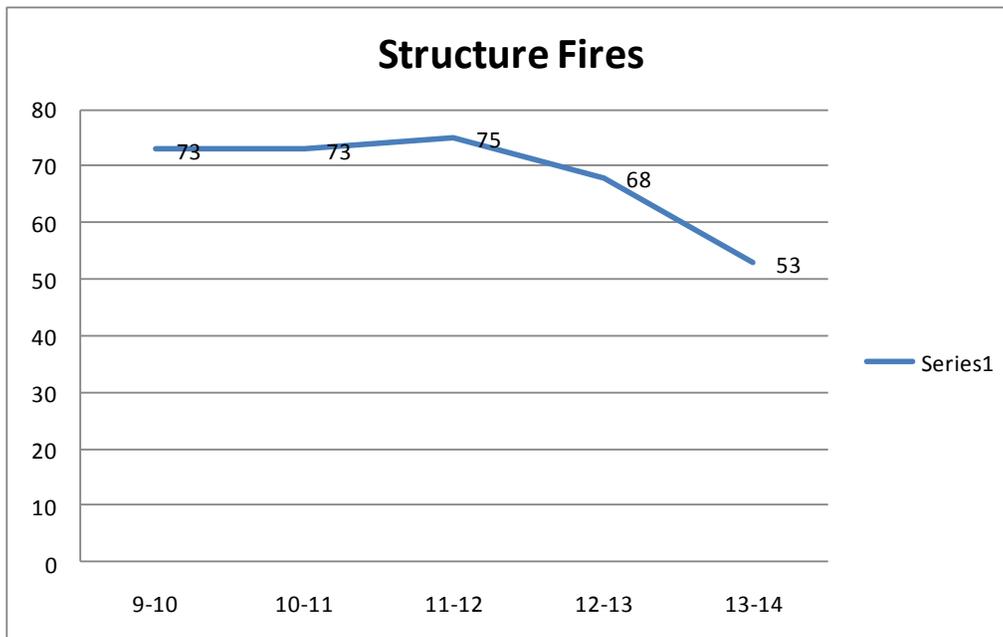
Situation Found	Last FY Year	This FY Year	% of Total Response
Structure Fires	68	53	1.5%
Vehicle Fires	19	20	0.50%
Other Fires	87	77	22.2%
EMS/Rescue	2,014	2,007	56.4%
Hazardous Materials	60	61	1.7%
Dangerous Conditions	141	164	4.6%
Miscellaneous	1,041	1,177	33.1%
Totals	3,430	3,559	100.00%

Engine Company #2 continues to see the largest number of responses of the five engine companies. This is due to two reasons. One, District #2 encompasses one of the oldest sections of town (more prone to fires) and two, Engine Company #2 responds to general alarm assignments on a city-wide basis. This is directly related to the important capabilities that Engine #2 has that no other frontline apparatus can provide.

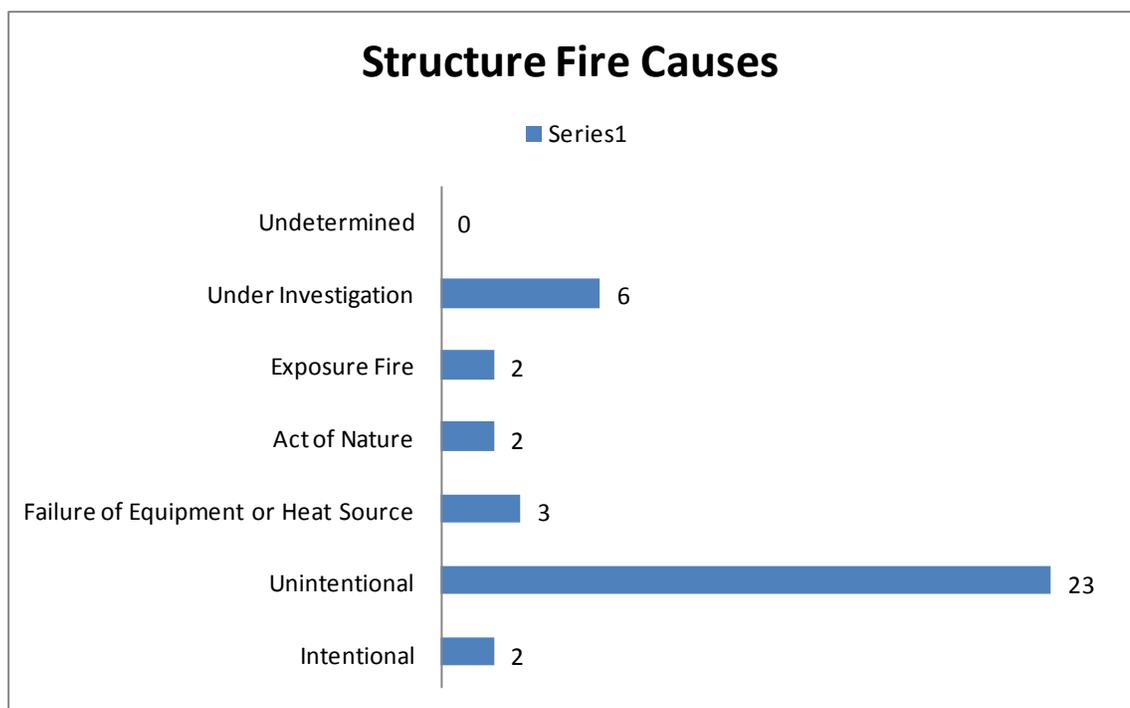


Structure Fires

This past year again saw a significant decrease in the number of structure fires within the City. A structure fire is specifically defined as a fire that takes place inside of a building of some type. Due to the types of firefighting tactics utilized by the Quincy Fire Department these types of fires are the most resource intensive of all responses in terms of firefighters and equipment.



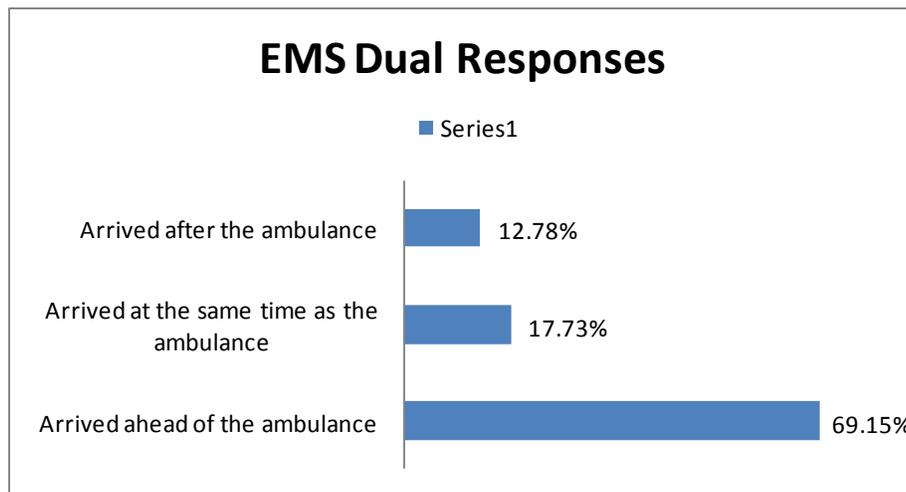
The chart below provides the causes for the structure fires that occurred within the fiscal year. The majority of the fires were unintentional in nature.



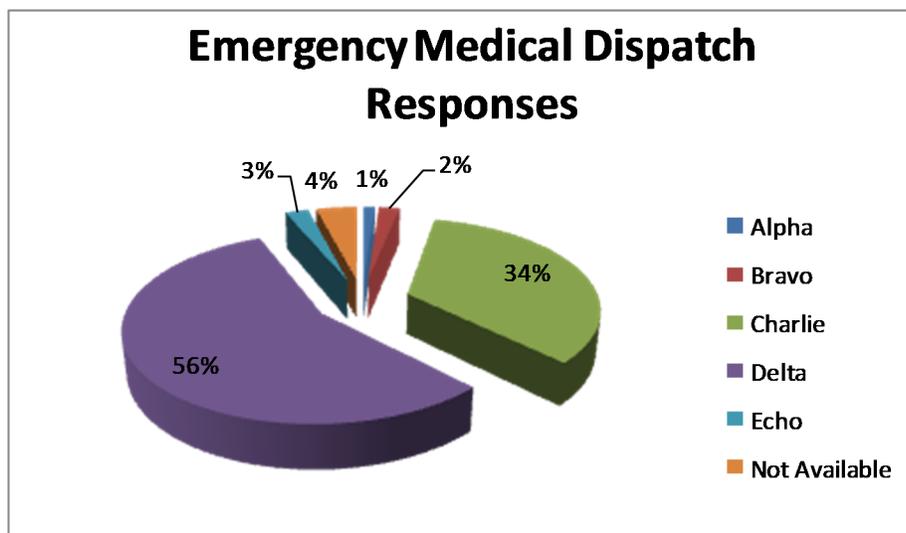
Emergency Medical Services

Emergency medical responses are again our highest percentage of responses. While this is typically the case, it is interesting to note that the percentage of calls that are EMS related are actually down 2.3% from last year.

The EMS Dual Response program continues to prove its' worth in terms of value added service for the citizens of Quincy. In 86.88% of all emergency medical calls the department responds to crews arrive either ahead of, or at the same time as, the ambulance crews. This allows for citizens to receive timely, professional care in their times of greatest need.



The following chart details how the responses for the past year were broken down. By policy, the department is dispatched on any incident that is deemed to be a “Charlie” level of response or greater. Sometimes it is later determined that the response did not warrant as high a level of response and said response is reclassified. This is why there are “Alpha” and “Bravo” level calls indicated below.



Incident Related Casualties

In an unfortunate series of events, the City of Quincy saw two civilian fire casualties this past year. A father and son lost their lives in a house fire on South 17th street this past spring. Thanks to the quick thinking and actions of Quincy police officers who were on scene prior to QFD arrival, the mother was rescued from the home.

On a positive note, the number of incident related firefighter injuries was down for the past year.

Fire Casualty Report

Injury Type	2012-2013	2013-2014
Civilian Fire Deaths	1	2
Civilian Fire Injuries	2 (1 minor, 1 moderate)	3 (1 minor, 2 moderate)
Firefighter Injuries (incident related)	22 (19 minor, 2 moderate, 1 severe)	19 (15 minor, 3 moderate, 1 severe)

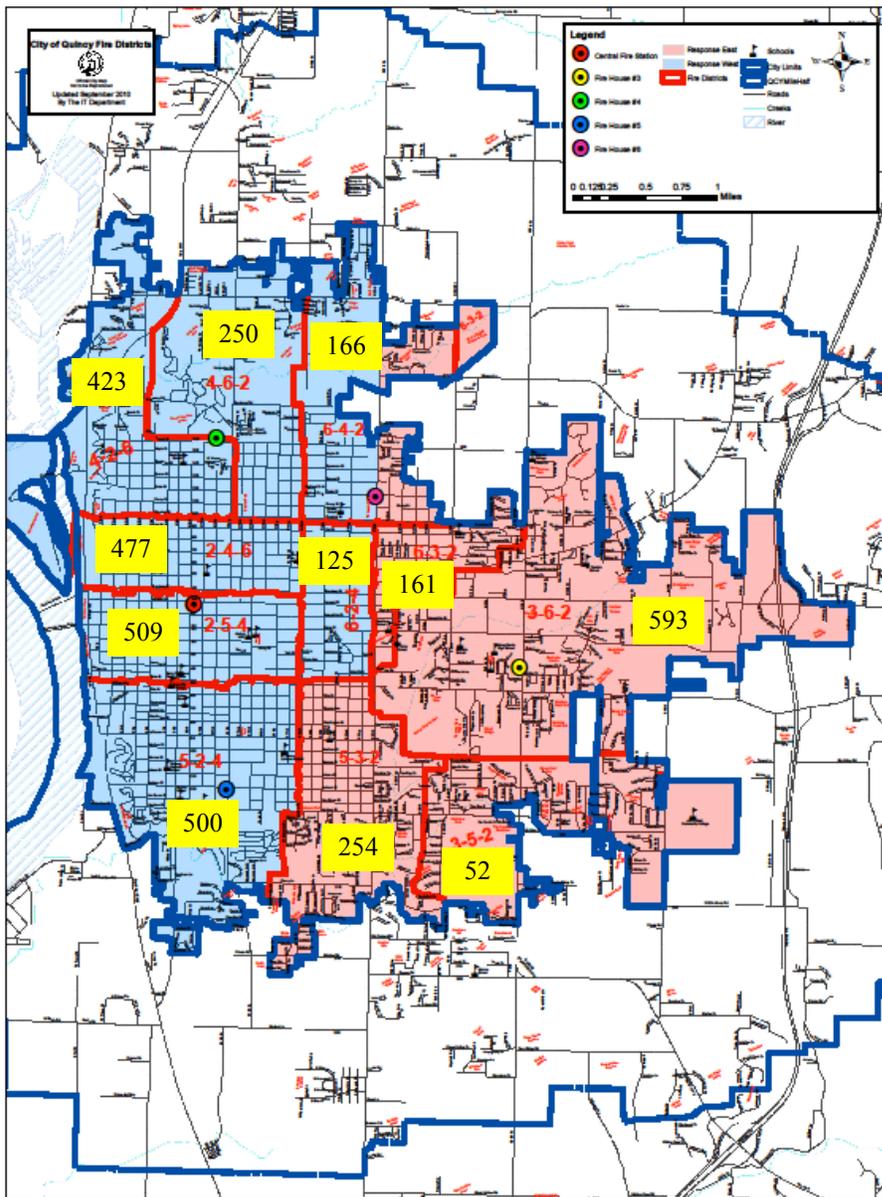
Dollars Responded To, Saved and Lost

The chart below details how the dollars that are spent on fire protection and suppression translate into dollars saved or lost. This past year saw a significant decrease in all areas measured. Compared to the previous fiscal year, where there were three five alarm fires in the summer months, this year's figures are more in line with what would be expected on an annual basis. In all, 86.16% of all property responded to was saved from fire damage. It should be noted that 36.8% of the total loss for this year was directly related to the Newcomb fire that took place on September 6, 2013.

	2012-2013	2013-2014	Change
Value of Property Responded To	\$37,310,220	\$17,746,715	(\$19,563,505)
Property Lost	\$5,636,847	\$2,456,586	(\$3,179,787)
		\$15,290,129	
Property Saved	\$31,673,847		(\$16,383,718)



Responses by District



Response Times by District

District	Average
2-4-6	3:51
2-5-4	3:49
3-5-2	4:45
3-6-2	4:06
4-2-6	4:10
4-6-2	4:01
5-2-4	3:39
5-3-2	4:27
6-2-4	3:45
6-3-2	3:42
6-4-2	3:13

On this page are the response totals and average response times by district. The City of Quincy is divided into eleven response districts. These are separated by the red lines on the map and the district number is indicated in red lettering. The first digit of the district number indicates the primary engine company to respond. The succeeding two digits represent the additional engine companies that would respond on general alarm assignments. The numbers in the yellow boxes represent the total number of alarms responded to within each response district.

The response times by district are an average of all responses for the year in each particular response district. As the City sees additional housing built in outlying areas we are also seeing response times increase.



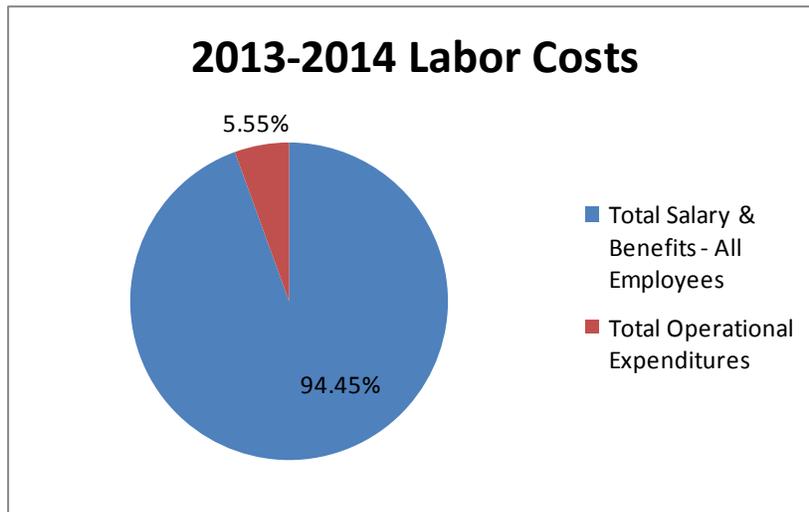
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2013-2014 Budget

Last year the Quincy Fire Department ended up spending \$8,701,633 out of the approved 2013-2014 budget of \$8,924,898. This represents the use of 97.5% of the funds allocated for the year.

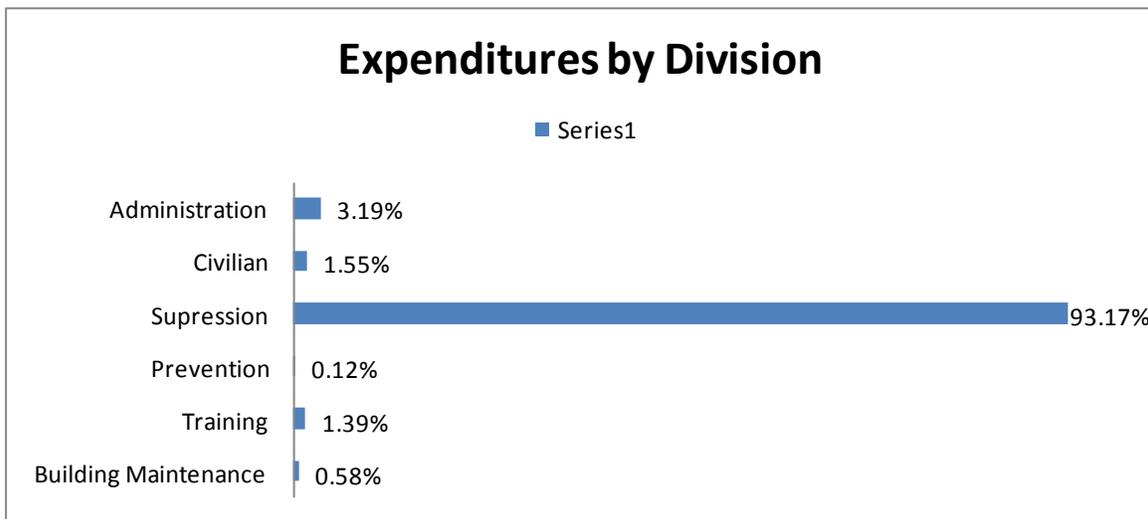
Some significant projects were undertaken during the past year in an effort to continue to bring stations into good repair. Station #6 and Station #3 both were reroofed. Additionally, some tuck-pointing was completed on Station #5 and the Traffic Preemption Systems throughout the City were brought up to working condition.

The department maintained staffing at the 63 firefighter level, 3 less firefighters than the authorized level of 66. A greater portion of the budget was dedicated to operational costs versus personnel as we have maintained the reduced level of staffing.



Major Purchases Affecting the Fire Department

Bunker Gear—\$9,930
Hose—\$6,537
Traffic Pre-emption \$17,160
Roof Station #3 \$9,950
Roof Station #6 \$22,425



Public Education

The Risk Watch Program continues to be the primary source for delivery of safety information to school aged children. The program is offered in both public and parochial grade schools. This past year, students were given pre-tests to gauge their level of understanding related to eight risk areas. The areas are fire safety, water safety, gun safety, motor vehicle & bus safety, choking and CPR, drug prevention and child abduction prevention, and animal safety.

The average test score on the pre-tests was 81%. The average test score on the post-tests was a 93%. This is a phenomenal 12% educational gain achieved over the course of the year!



The Quincy Fire Department continues to provide multiple opportunities for public education both within the classroom, and in the public. The chart below details the various events that the fire department participated in over the last year in an effort to take the message of fire safety to the residents it protects.

Public Education Totals

	Events	Adults	Children
Car Seat Check Event	13		228
Children's Safety House	15	30	870
Fire Extinguisher Demonstrations	19	419	
Fire Safety Presentations	6	62	15
Fire Truck Visits	42	211	580
Health/Safety Fairs	5		
Station Tours	32	93	162
Risk Watch			2,290
Citizen's Fire Academy	20	25	
CERTClass	1	15	
Totals	154	855	4,145

Inspection and Code Enforcement

The Quincy Fire Department remains committed to the belief that the most efficient way to fight a fire is to prevent it from happening to begin with. The in-service inspection program allows on-duty firefighters to perform walk-through inspections of businesses in an effort to keep the businesses more safe. An added benefit is that the inspections allow firefighters to become more familiar with the properties which is beneficial should they have to respond for an emergency in the future.

This year the Quincy Fire Department implemented a computerized program that allowed for data to be collected with Ipad's and uploaded via the "cloud." This effort has saved countless hours of data entry and has improved the quality of the information that is collected during the inspections.

Activities	2012-2013	2013-2014
Number of Inspections	905	1333
Number of Violations	377	1121
Burn Permits Issued	29	35
Demolition Sites Inspected	29	18
Liquor License Inspections	103	121
Live Entertainment Licenses	38	37
Special Inspections	20	15

Volunteer Services

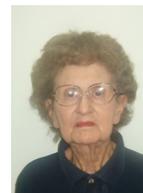
The department continues to benefit from the work of three devout volunteers. Marge McMullen provides assistance in the office 1-2 days per week through her relationship with RSVP. Brother Ed Arambasich continues to serve as the fire department chaplain. Additionally, he has taken on responsibilities with the Illinois State Police. Lastly, Wes Beitel continues to volunteer his time as a safety consultant for the department, as well as serve as the leader of our rehabilitation team. He has donated a total of 172.75 hours this year and the consulting portion of his time is valued at \$7,263.



Brother Ed



Wes



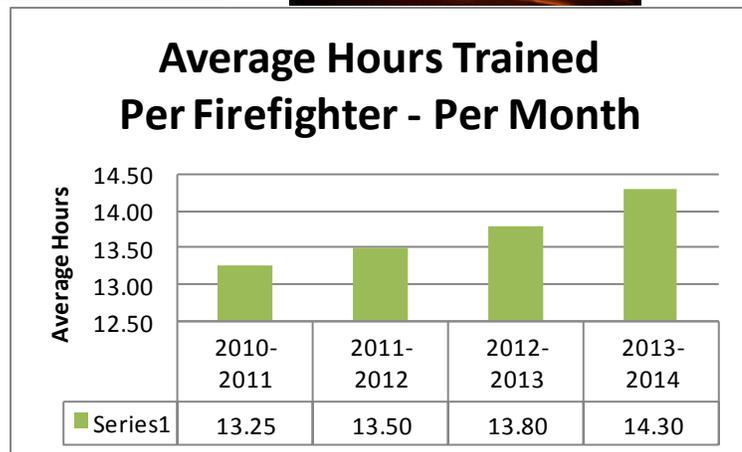
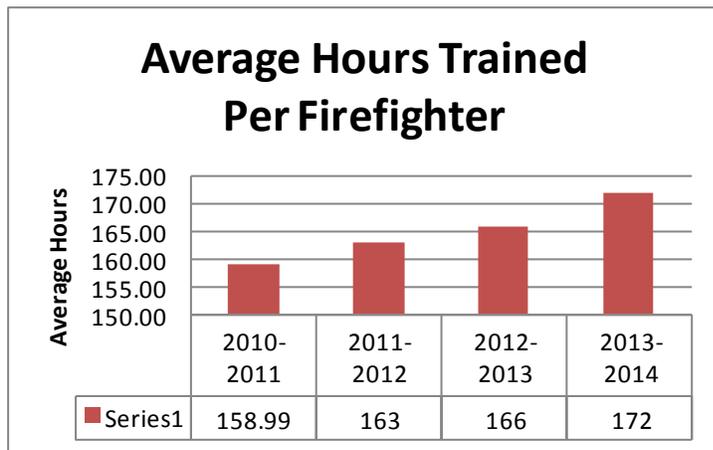
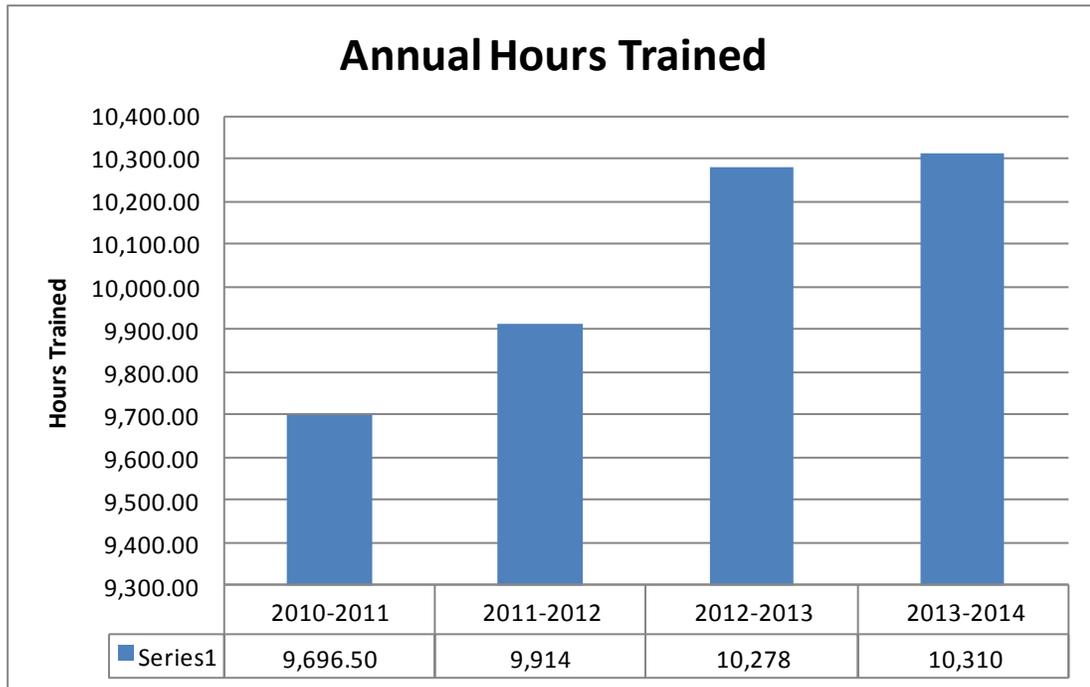
Marge

Arson Investigation

In the past year the department investigated 26 fires that were not of obvious origin. Through the efforts of QFD investigators, and partnerships with the Quincy Police Department we have been able to determine causes for most fires as indicated in the chart on the right.

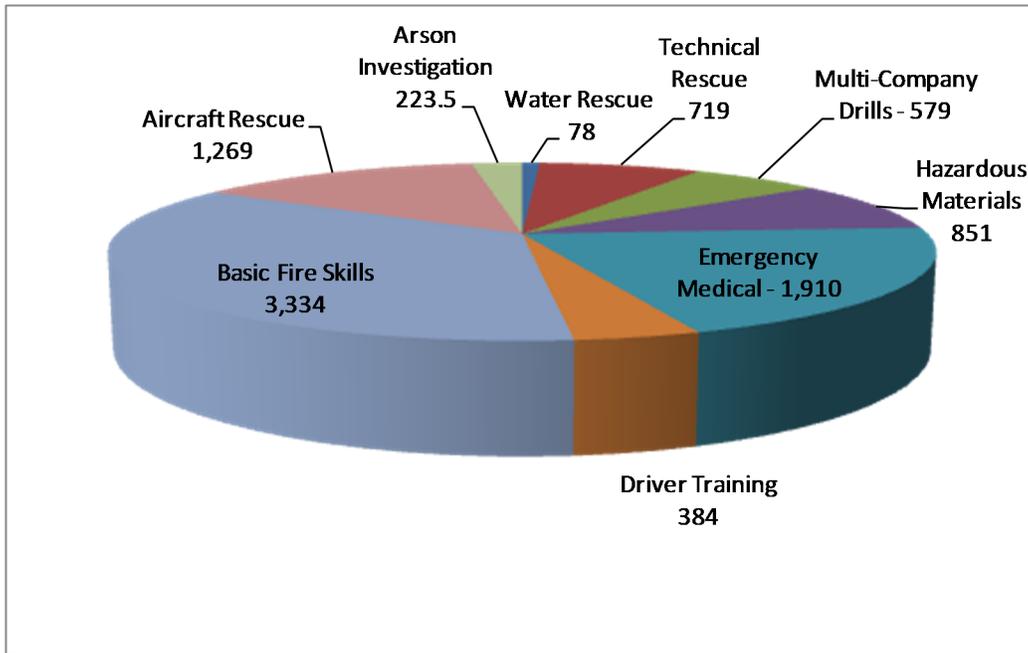
Responses	12/13	13/14
Investigations	30	26
Arson	6	
Incendiary	1	3
Accidental	10	11
Electrical	7	6
Juvenile	0	1
Undetermined	6	5

Training Division



Training Division Continued

Training Hours by Category 2013/2014



Educational Achievements

Basic Operations Firefighter

Deon Baker
Lee Carpenter

Technical Rescue Awareness

Kevin Hickey

Hazardous Materials Operations

Kevin Hickey
Chris Patterson
Steven Peters

Hazardous Materials Technician B

Zelton Crose

Hazardous Materials IMS

Zelton Crose
Ryan Kamphaus

Courtroom Preparation & Testimony for First Responders (National Fire Academy)

Ralph Boden, Greg Dreyer, Joe Henning, Alan Munger, James Pioch, Rob Tipton, Bernie Vahlkamp, Steve Pezzella, Rich Peters, Chris Patterson, Brad Kendrick, Zelton Crose, Mark Bigelow, Chris Bichsel, Eric Becks.

Fire Service Vehicle Operator

Steven Peters

Airport Firefighter

Zelton Crose
Stephen Wiewel

Hazardous Materials Technician A

Zelton Crose
Ryan Kamphaus

Hazardous Materials ICS

Zelton Crose
Ryan Kamphaus

Chief Fire Officer

Joe Henning



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Awards and Achievements



*Captain Mark Bigelow
Quincy Fire Department
2014 Leadership Award*



*Assistant Chief James Pioch
Quincy Exchange Club
2013 Firefighter of the Year*



*Firefighter Jerry Mast
Quincy Fire Department
2014 Firefighter of the Year*

Employee of the Month Recipients



May 2013
Firefighter
Mike Dade



June 2013
Firefighter
Steve Pezzella



July 2013
Firefighter
Greg Hay



October 2013
Firefighter
Jerry Mast



November 2013
Lieutenant
Dave White



December 2013
Lieutenant
Chris Bichsel



January 2014
Assistant Chief
James Pioch



February 2014
Firefighter
Nate Pool



February 2014
Lieutenant
Jim Bruce



March 2014
Firefighter
Dave Horman



March 2014
Firefighter
Mick Crist

