



FIRE DEPARTMENT CY 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The Wichita Falls Fire Department has a long, proud history of providing emergency services to the citizens of our city. Founded in December 1892, our department responds to and provides service at fire emergencies, rescue emergencies, medical emergencies, hazardous materials emergencies, and salvage emergencies. In addition, we provide Fire Prevention and Education Services, Criminal Arson Investigation, and Fire Investigation Services. The department also provides Emergency & Disaster Management, Mitigation, and Education services to our citizens. The department operates out of eight strategically located fire stations and has a total force of 161 Members.

The Wichita Falls Fire Department is the only fully paid civilian department in a sixty-mile radius. The Fire Department is staffed by one hundred fifty-seven operations personnel including the Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Safety Officer, and Training Officer. The Department has one Fire Marshal and three Assistant Fire Marshals, and One Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. The Wichita Falls Fire Department provides regional mutual aid to an area nine thousand four hundred sixty one square miles with a population of two hundred four thousand three hundred and thirty six. This regional area encompasses eleven counties and thirty-three cities which were established by the Councils of Government as set forth by the Governor's Office for the State of Texas. The Wichita Falls Fire Department and Sheppard Air Force Base Fire Department have a direct mutual aid agreement and work closely on a daily basis.

In addition, the Wichita Falls Fire Department is part of the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) with an All-Hazard Task Force (TIFMAS Task Force 3) that is an organized rapid response team that provides emergency state-wide and interstate response through the Emergency Mutual Aid Compact.

Also, Wichita Falls Fire Department is the AHJ for the Wichita Falls Area Type 3 All-Hazard Incident Management Team (WFA IMT). This is a state and national Type 3 Incident Management Team providing incident management personnel and resources to large-scale incidents.

HISTORY 1892 – 1960's

The first meeting and organization of the Wichita Falls Fire Department was November, 1892. The first department members were all volunteer and were mainly city business owners. There were around two dozen men at the first meeting.

The W.F.F.D. grew from a bucket brigade to a twenty -four member paid Fire Department by 1920. The first paid fireman was fireman J.L. McClure who was a driver at that point and went on to become the first paid Fire Chief of the W.F.F.D. in 1908. The first Volunteer Fire Chief was Vic Stampfli in 1892. He owned the bakery and was responsible for bringing the first fire alarm system to the city. He personally purchased it from the same company that brought the telegraph to the Railroad.

The City's first Fire Station was ran out of a barn/blacksmith shop at 7th and Scott with a large bell on top to alert the fireman. The first City of Wichita Falls Fire Station was built in 1909 at the corner of 9th/Ohio. It housed both motorized and horse drawn fire apparatus. Fire Station #2 was built in 1916 at the corner of 10th/Van Buren and was moved to Ave H. and Buchanan in 1921. Fire Station #3 was located at Seventeenth and Holliday and built in 1920. Fire Station #4 was built at the present location of Memorial Auditorium on 7th street the same year but was moved to the 7th and Warford location at a later date.

Wichita Falls has always tried to purchase modern firefighting equipment. The city was recognized as having the first motorized Fire Truck west of the Mississippi , a Robinson Fire Engine in the year 1909 . Her name was "Bubbles" as given by the firemen, as she had a chrome ball on top of the pump in the middle of the engine to pressure up the water.



In 1915 the City of Wichita Falls purchased a motorized Ladder Truck and that was the end of the horse drawn equipment.



Through the years, Wichita Falls Firemen have worked a variety of hours. Up until 1925, the men worked four 24-hour days and one 24 hour day off. Then with expansion of the stations in 1926 , the City's first double platoon system gave the city its first full time around the clock fire protection and divided the men into two shifts, 24 hour on and 24 hours off. This schedule continued until September, 1959, when the department was again reorganized into three platoon system, shortening the hours from 72 hours to 62 hours per week.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Division is commanded by Assistant Chief Donald Hughes who oversees three Battalions of Fire Officers, Fire Equipment Operators and Firefighters. Each shift is commanded by a Battalion Chief, and has 50 members assigned to the eight stations.

During CY 2014, The Wichita Falls Fire Department responded to **8,568** incidents for a total loss from fires of **\$3,966,390**, with a total value of property saved of **\$18,651,564**.



A breakdown of the total incidents include:

- **459 Fires (Structure, Vehicle, Brush, etc.)**
- **4 Rupture/Explosions**
- **5,703 Emergency Medical/Rescue Calls**
- **328 Hazardous Material Calls**
- **758 Public Assist Calls**
- **726 Good Intent Calls**
- **590 False Alarms**

Average Response Time to Structure Fire calls was 3:39 (3 minutes, 39 seconds).

SAFETY & TRAINING DIVISION

The Safety and Training Division is commanded by Battalion Chief Mudd with three Captains assigned to the three Operations Shifts. Captain's Hillner, Miser and Duncan serve as both shift Training Officers and Safety Officers. In addition, the Training Division teaches Fire Recruit Academies, In-Service Training, Special Op's Training, and EMS Training.

In CY 2014:

12,822 hours of FIRE Training completed by the members

3,144 hours of EMS/RESCUE Training completed by the members

1,207 hours of HAZARDOUS MATERIAL Training completed by the members

693 hours of SAFETY Training completed by the members

1,635 hours of DISTRICT Training completed by the members

19,503 TOTAL TRAINING HOURS



FIRE PREVENTION, EDUCATION, AND INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Fire Prevention, Education, and Investigation Division is commanded by Fire Marshal David Collins, with three Assistant Fire Marshals who are assigned to each of the three Operations Shifts. This Division is responsible for Fire Education and Prevention, Investigation of both Arson and Accidental Fires, and Life Safety Construction Plans Review. This year, we worked with Sheppard Air Force Base Fire Department Prevention Division to present the school-age program jointly using their state-of-the-art Fire Safety House.

In CY 2014:

- 725 Technical Fire Inspections Completed.
- 2,570 Commercial Fire Inspections completed by Operations Division.
- 241 Construction Plans Review by the Fire Marshal.
- Fire Education Programs delivered to over 10,127 participants.
- 42 Arson Fires that were investigated by the Fire Marshal's Office.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DIVISION

The Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) is staffed by John Henderson, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Dave Goodrich, Emergency Preparedness Aide. The primary function of the Emergency Preparedness Office is planning for response to a disaster or large event. The OEP works on mitigation projects and recovery efforts after a disaster or major event. This division spends a great deal of time in educational and public outreach. The OEP coordinates and maintains relationships with local response agencies and local jurisdictions in the NORTEX region. The OEP applies for and justifies Homeland Security Grant Funding for Wichita Falls. Since 2002, the City of Wichita Falls, through the Emergency Preparedness Office, has received approximately \$2.3 million dollars in Homeland Security Grant Funding. The OEP oversees the maintenance, upkeep and record keeping of all assets purchased with funding from the Department of Homeland Security.

In CY2014:

- Developed and equipped an “around the clock” Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located within Fire Station #1. This supplements the main City of Wichita Falls Emergency Operation Center located at the Public Safety Training Center.
- Obtained \$70,988 in Homeland Security grant funding for Emergency Preparedness equipment and activities in Wichita Falls.
- Provided educational and public outreach programs for more than 30,000 people.
- Taught Incident Command Courses to over 100 Responders and Students.
- Responded to, or aided in, 15 large events or incidents with the Mobile Command Unit.
- Participated in 3 tabletop exercises, 1 functional exercise and 1 full scale exercise.
- Major Disasters – Drought.

FIREFIGHTER PHILANTHROPY

The proud tradition of firefighting in America goes back to colonial days, and a big part of this tradition is that of giving. Giving back to our community has been a part of every firefighter's career from the beginning of our department. We are proud of our achievements in helping those in need and some of our ongoing charity work including the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Fill the Boot, Operation Santa Claus, and the Pink T-Shirt Campaign.

The MDA **"Fill the Boot"** raises millions of dollars each year across America through its spirited Fill the Boot campaign, in which fire fighters greet motorists, shoppers and others, on the street and outside stores, and ask them to donate money to MDA. The Fill the Boot concept was inspired by a door-to-door campaign firefighters held for MDA support in 1953. Locally, your firefighters have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in the last half century with 2014 totals reaching well over \$65,000! Each year, there are approximately 600 on and off-duty man-hours committed to this fundraiser.

"Operation Santa Claus" was originally called "Toys for Tots" when it started in 1968 here locally in conjunction with the U.S. Marine Corp. Over the years, the firefighters have raised close to a half million dollars that stay right here in our community to make a child's Christmas wishes come true. We provide toys and bicycles to almost 800 children each year. The project takes approximately 1,600 man-hours each season.

"Pink T-Shirt Campaign" was a local project started in 2009 to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Firefighters sell the signature pink shirts to members in our community with all proceeds benefitting the Komen Foundation and American Cancer Society. Firefighters have raised over \$87,000 since 2009 that goes towards cancer research and treatment. This project is done mainly on-duty, but organizers will spend approximately 500 man-hours off-duty.

Community. In addition to the three big campaigns we do each year, our members are involved in countless charitable and community events and organizations. Our firefighters are Little League Coaches, Mentors, Big Brothers, At-Risk Volunteers, Church Volunteers, Members of Fraternal Organizations that are Charity Oriented (Elks, Shriners), and most importantly, they serve as role models for today's young children.