



Chief's Message

It is with pride that I present the 2013 Grand Junction Fire Department Annual Report. Looking back on our many accomplishments for the year, they would not have been possible without the help and support of City Council, our City Manager, fellow City departments, our partnering agencies and department staff. We are grateful for this support and the opportunity to work with some incredible people with a mission to serve our community. Following is a snapshot of the past year.

The multi-year Public Safety Project was completed with a celebration in September. The final phase, including the complete remodel of the former Grand Junction Police building into a modern, fire department administration building was welcomed by staff moving back downtown after two years in temporary quarters at the City Municipal Services Campus. Fire Station 2 also received a remodel and addition to provide space for additional response staff. The remodel of Fire Station 1 was an earlier part of this project, and the design team was awarded silver recognition for a renovated facility from the 2013 Fire Chief magazine Station Style Awards.

The department committed to partnering with law enforcement and Colorado Mesa University to build an emergency services training center on Whitewater Hill. The first phase opened in August with a high speed pursuit driving track. Future phases will include classrooms, live burn training areas, fire training tower, simulated city block area, firearms training and off-road driver training area.

The Pink October Cancer Awareness campaign expanded to all Mesa County Fire Departments and had every firefighter in Mesa County wearing pink for the month of October. Central Orchard Mesa Fire Department donated an engine and with the help of many businesses and individuals, it was converted into a pink fire engine to help raise funds for cancer victims and support cancer survivors.

The Pear Park Fire and EMS Steering Committee formed to explore solutions for a needed fire station in the Pear Park area. The committee is made up of members of City Council, the Clifton Fire District Board, the Grand Junction Rural Fire Protection District Board and citizens.

Department leadership embarked on an organizational culture and development program dubbed "Good to Great" to create leadership alignment, enhance teamwork, and improve accountability throughout the organization.

Individual achievements were celebrated with Firefighter Ryan Jordan receiving the department medal of honor and being recognized as an American Red Cross hero for his part in saving a hunter at an ice rescue incident on the Colorado River. The year ended with Administrative Assistant Jennifer Langevin being selected as the fire department employee of the year.

I hope you find this report to be informative and a positive reflection on the value of the services that we provide to the community. Through the dedication and commitment of the men and women of this department, we have accomplished much and deliver these services with great pride and professionalism.

In Service,

Ken Watkins

Fire Chief

Operations

The most significant incident of 2013 was the March 19th natural gas explosion. The Fire Department responded along with multiple City departments, private companies, and outside agencies. This incident had the potential to escalate beyond local capability and began when utility workers, using a boring machine, ruptured a six inch intermediate pressure natural gas line at a busy intersection. The pressurized gas was initially contained underground until it migrated into the sewer system. From the sewer system, gas ventilated from manholes and into surrounding structures and resulted in an explosion and fire as well as the evacuation of approximately 187 homes in an eight to ten block area. Eight victims (three had burn and soft tissue injuries and five were uninjured) were displaced from two homes that were destroyed and a third home incurred exterior fire damage. The evacuation area also included 29 businesses, three schools, two churches, and one daycare. The incident grew quickly and all personnel involved worked closely under the Incident Command System to bring the situation under control as quickly and safely as possible.

An in-depth after-action report was completed to review the City's response to the 7th Street incident and make recommendations for handling similar events in the future. Overall, this event brought the community together in amazing ways to support those affected.

A fire station alerting system installation was completed in all fire stations. It is anticipated the program will go live early in 2014 once training and interface-related operations are resolved. The automated system will improve response times while increasing firefighter safety and reducing firefighter stress.

The department converted a seldom used Mass Casualty Vehicle into an Incident Support Vehicle, that can now serve in a variety of modes: assisting fire investigators with lighting and equipment, serving as a rehabilitation unit during extended emergency scenes, and refilling self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs).

Five new firefighters and four part-time emergency medical technicians attended the Firefighter Recruit Academy that was part of an internal recruitment program. The Department also held internal assessment centers for future engineers and captains.

The wildland team was deployed to 7 different incidents during the 2013 season. The team assisted communities across the State, including response for the floods that occurred on the front range. The department is a cooperator with the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control who provides reimbursement for these services.

Reported Incident Types: 12,747

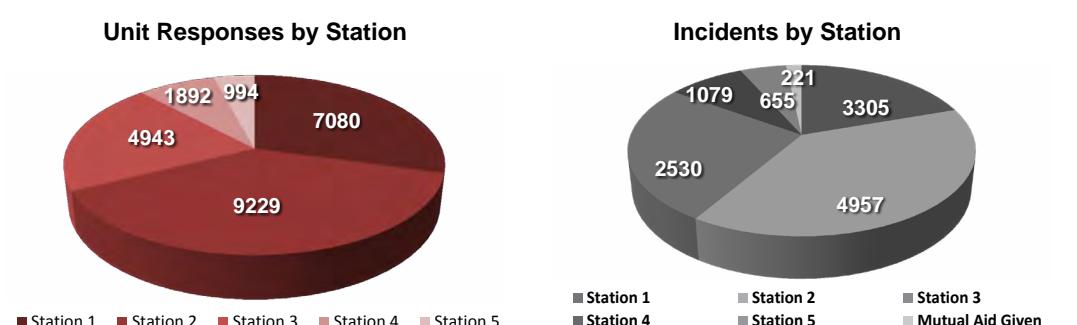
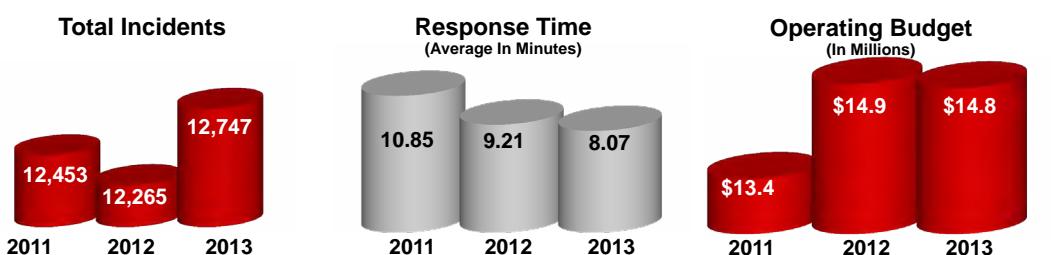
Structure Fire: 107
Non Structure Fire: 144
Fire Mutual Aid Given: 17

EMS Calls: 9810
EMS Mutual Aid Given: 119
Hazardous Condition: 193

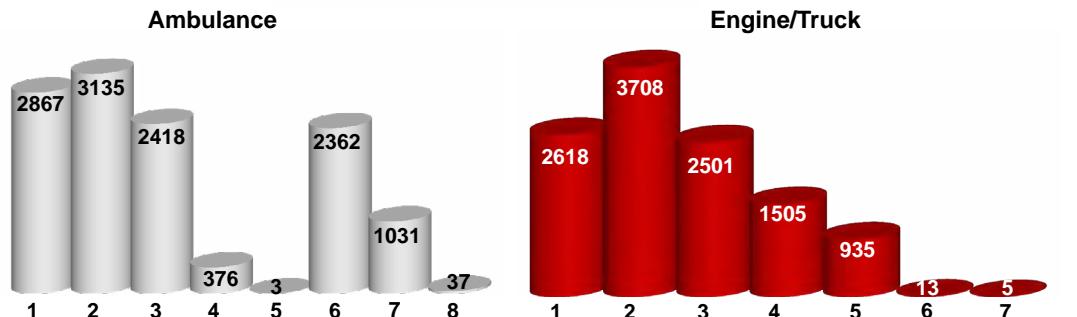
False Alarm: 499
Public Assist: 663
All Other: 1195



Statistics at a Glance



Who's the Busiest



GRAND JUNCTION FIRE DEPARTMENT

625 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501
 office: 970.549.5800 fax: 970.549.5810 email: fire@gjcity.org
 website: gjcity.org/FireDepartment.aspx

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Photography: Jonathan Hobbs



Ambulance Services

Emergency Medical Service requests averaged 23 incidents per day, resulting in 5,699 emergency transports and 2,402 inter-facility transports.

The Colorado Department of Health and Environment, Emergency Medical and Trauma Section provided a matching grant to re-chassis our last Ford ambulance. The department was also awarded a matching grant for computers and to retro fit four stretchers to accommodate the growing size of patients.

A paramedic refresher course was offered with a special presentation by Zoll on our cardiac monitors and end tidal carbon dioxide monitoring of patients. The Pit Crew CPR process was rolled out to the line personnel and has proven to increase the save rate of cardiac arrest patients. The process is similar to race car pit crews in that each responder has a specific role.

Firefighter Brandi Manuppella completed the EMT-I to Paramedic transition course at Colorado Mountain College and is now a National Registered and State of Colorado certified Paramedic.

Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention Bureau completed plan reviews and inspections on several large projects including 33 new alarm systems, 57 sprinkler system permits, 194 permits for remodels/new buildings and 296 development projects.

Large Scale Projects: Canyon View medical facility, Juniper Ridge charter school, Loves truck stop, CMU residence halls, General Surgeons of Western Colorado, Home Depot multi-tenant building, and Mesa County Workforce Center were either completed or in active construction during 2013.

Total Inspections: 3,957

	Prevention Office	Fire Crews
Fire Safety Inspections:	313	2357
Violation Inspections:	74	74
Construction Inspections:	548	N/A
Construction Plan Reviews:	591	N/A

Investigations

Firefighter Scott Myers joined the team and began the training to become a certified fire investigator. The team is working with area law enforcement and other fire department investigators to form an Arson Task Force to combine resources and more efficiently and effectively investigate and prosecute fires within the County.

Total Property Damage: \$1,725,000.00

23 advanced level investigation results:

Accidental:	10	Injuries:	0
Undetermined/Suspicious:	8	Fatalities:	0
Incendiary (Arson):	5	Arrested:	2



Training

Highlights:

- Twelve week recruit academy and graduation of nine firefighters
- Three captains completed Blue Card Command Certification Program in Vail, CO
- 33 personnel completed 50 hour online portion of Blue Card Command training
- Quarterly Officer Development classes
- CAFS (Compressed Air Foam System) strategy and tactics classes for officers
- Live Burn including CAFS review in an acquired structure
- Three day water rescue class for 10 firefighters
- Multi-company/multi-agency night drills at Alpine Bank and Mesa County Courthouse
- Active shooter drill with Police Department at Mesa Mall

Total Training Hours: 14,563

Fire:	10514	Explosive Technician:	144
EMS:	1882	Specialized Rescue:	766
Hazardous Materials:	1120	Investigations:	137

Public Information/Education

A significant event for the PIO office was the completion celebration for the Public Safety Project. Besides the actual event, we honored our history by collecting contents for time capsules scheduled to be opened in 2063.

During the year, 34 press releases were issued through the media to inform the public of emergency incidents and fire and safety issues. A media guide was created and distributed to local media agencies to provide them department contact and information for all Mesa County Fire Departments. The guide also provided information on how the media interfaces with the Incident Command System on emergency scenes.

The office continued to be involved in the Mesa County Communication Officer meeting and the Joint Information Center. The "JIC" was the key resource in providing information to the public during the 7th Street Natural Gas Incident.

Total Contacts: 20,840

86 special events:	11988	38 Fire Extinguisher Classes:	950
44 Station Tours:	1342	231 School Programs:	6560

Bomb Squad

The squad responded to 33 incidents throughout several of the 13 counties it serves. Each technician trains 16 hours per month and annually a 40 hour regional training. They provided coverage for the World Cup ski race in Vail, Aspen's X-Games, US Pro Cycling Challenge, and performed multiple days of explosive and hazardous waste disposal.

In addition, the squad provided multiple trainings covering explosive recognition for several agencies such as Vail PD/FD, GJFD Recruit Academy and the Public Safety Citizens Academy. The squad continues working with Vail public safety officials preparing for several large events coming up in 2015.