



Annual Report
GRAND JUNCTION
FIRE DEPARTMENT
2014

Taking Care of People and Property

Vision

To be role models for our visitors, the community, and the profession through character-driven leadership in our daily pursuit to uphold the integrity of the fire service, create new and innovative traditions, and leave a legacy for future generations.

Content

• CHIEF'S MESSAGE	03
• FIRE OPERATIONS	05
• SPECIALTY TEAMS	08
• EMS OPERATIONS	09
• TRAINING	11
• PUBLIC INFORMATION	13
• FIRE PREVENTION	15
• INVESTIGATIONS	15
• STATISTICS	17



A photograph of a red Grand Junction Fire Department fire truck at night. The truck is illuminated by its own lights, and the words "GRAND JUNCTION FIRE DEPARTMENT" are visible on its side. The background is dark, suggesting a nighttime setting.

A word from Fire Chief Ken Watkins

“

*125 years of service ...
Watkins*

It was a year to remember as the Grand Junction Fire Department celebrated 125 years of service in 2014 and marked the milestone with a City Council proclamation and BBQ. Originally formed in 1889 as the Cameron Hose Company, the Department has come a long way from the days of a horse drawn fire wagon to today's five fire stations, housing high tech response equipment and over 130 highly

trained employees. The services we provide have changed dramatically over the years but our purpose of "taking care of people and property" has stood the test of time. While our mission has likely changed some over the years, our current mission statement of Excellence in Service Through Integrity, Dedication, Efficiency and Unity embodies how your firefighters provide the service that you expect.

CONTINUED...

Service levels continued to increase as crews responded to over 500 additional incidents in 2014 and nearly 1,000 more than in 2012. During this same two-year period crews responded on average nearly one minute quicker to assist those in need.

Two major capital projects moved forward this year. The relocation of Fire Station 4 to 29 Road and B ½ Road started coming together as we purchased property, selected Chamberlin Architects for design services, and FCI Constructors as our general contractor. Progress was also made at the regional public safety training center as Colorado Mesa University moved three residential structures to the site and City engineering partnered with the Clifton Water District to design a water system for the site. This infrastructure is a critical first step in order to be able to conduct fire training in the future. Support from City Council and City Administration helped secure over \$2 million in grant funding to assist with the construction of these projects in 2015.

A number of personnel changes occurred, including the retirement of long-tenured employees Deputy Chief Jim Bright, Captain Tom Chapman, PIO Mike Page and Fire Prevention Officer Ronnie Edwards. We appreciate the many years of service from these employees and wish them luck for the future.

Opportunity knocked for others as Chuck Mathis was selected as the Fire Marshal, Shawn Montgomery

as the Information Coordinator and Gus Hendricks as the Training Officer. Eric Moyer and Ethan Cloutier were promoted to Fire Captain and a number of Firefighter-Paramedics participated in the EMS Officer Pilot Program.

The changing healthcare environment and staffing challenges caused us to take a hard look at our ambulance billing operation and make the difficult decision to outsource the service to a private firm. A key part of selecting the vendor was maintaining the excellent customer service that our billing staff has provided the last four years. This level of service will be maintained because of the vendor selected and more importantly, because we will continue to have an employee dedicated locally to assist walk-in or telephone customers.

In 2015, three EMS Officers will be promoted and a new Emergency Manager/Training Chief position will come on board. This position will work across all City departments to provide management, planning and training for large scale incidents.

Thank you for your interest in your Grand Junction Fire Department. We are grateful for the support of our community, City Council and City Administration in helping us fulfill our mission. It is indeed our privilege to serve, and we look forward to the next 125 years.

Fire Operations

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE THROUGH
INTEGRITY • DEDICATION • EFFICIENCY • UNITY



*Taking Care of
People and Property*

As you look over this year's Annual Report and analyze the general statistics and read the divisional summaries, one thing is pretty clear, your Grand Junction Fire Department is very busy. From the emergent side of operations,

3.8%

increase in total incidents from
2013 to 2014

STRUCTURE FIRES

Decreased by 2.1% from 2013
while fire mutual aid given
increased by 4.8%

take a look at the number of calls the department responded to. It's impressive: 13,255 incidents, nearly 4% above 2013. On the non-emergent side, look over the training hours, the time our personnel spent increasing their skill level, and

CONTINUED...

INCIDENT TYPES	TOTAL
STRUCTURE FIRES	84
NON-STRUCTURE FIRES	109
FIRE MUTUAL AID GIVEN	33
EMS	10,367
EMS MUTUAL AID GIVEN	107
HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS	178
FALSE ALARMS	549
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	639
ALL OTHER	1,189
TOTAL INCIDENTS	13,255

preparing themselves for future incidents. When the crews are not handling calls or conducting training operations, their time is spent performing fire safety inspections, station tours, assisting in school programs and fire extinguisher classes.

One of the most exciting operational events in 2014 occurred in April where local, regional, state and federal agencies converged in Grand Junction to participate in a national training exercise as part of the National Preparedness System. Specifically, the GJFD was a lead agency in a Nuclear Weapon Accident/Incident Exercise (NUWAIX). NUWAIX tested the ability to handle an incident involving a secure transportation convoy of nuclear weapons in the continental United States. The exercise itself occurred over a period of three days.

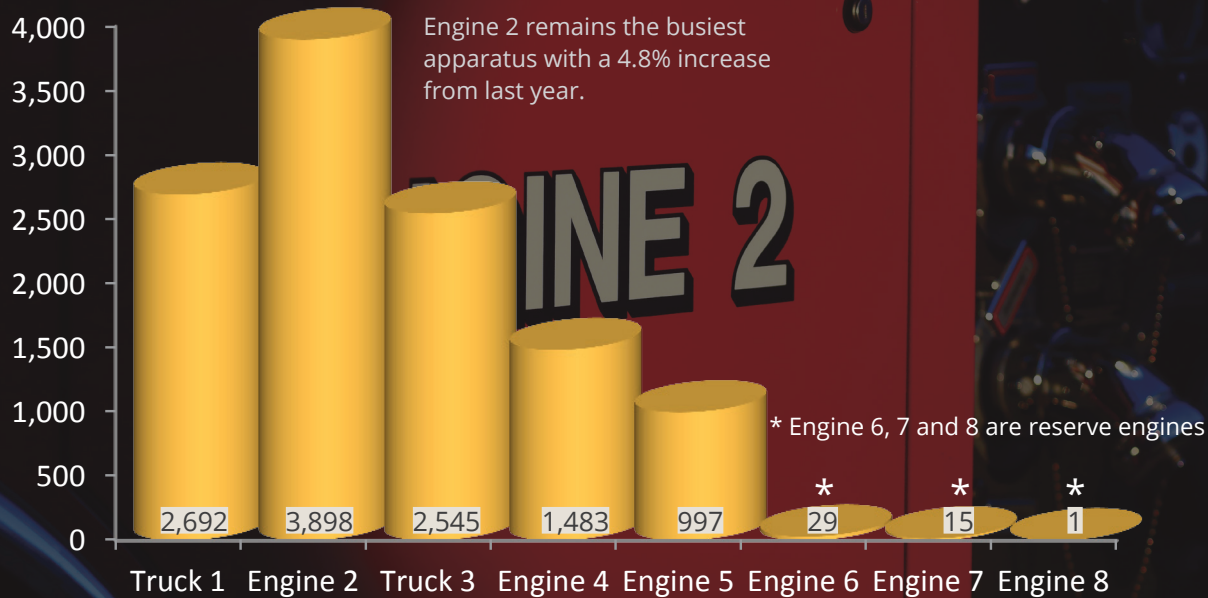
An internal operational assessment was conducted by members of the Service Delivery Task Force to determine if any functional changes were needed in order to provide a more effective and efficient delivery of services. As a result, we began transitioning ambulance personnel from a traditionally fire-emphasized and fire-based background into an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) emphasized role. This service delivery enhancement will improve patient care, provide a synergized staffing pattern and increase employee satisfaction.

The Department continued to replace aging fire apparatus with the acquisition of a new engine and ladder truck from Smeal Fire Apparatus. Other capital equipment replacements included: hydraulic extrication equipment, thermal imaging cameras and gas monitors.

Who's the Busiest in Fire Operations?

4.8 % Increase

Engine 2 remains the busiest apparatus with a 4.8% increase from last year.



Specialty Teams



WILDLAND TEAM



HAZMAT TEAM



TECHNICAL
RESCUE TEAM

Your fire department has several specialty teams with specific training and equipment to respond to a variety of unique situations and incidents. The slow wildland season in the Colorado region kept the Wildland Team at home with minimal deployments. The Hazmat Team also had limited responses (ten responses) and continued to focus on training and equipment.

Bomb Squad:

The Grand Junction Bomb Squad (partnership between police and fire) responded to 40 calls for service throughout Western Colorado last year. These calls ranged from hoax devices, and improvised explosive devices (IED's), to recovered commercial explosives. The Bomb Squad also provided coverage for numerous sporting events, such as X Games, the US Pro Cycling Challenge, and the "Birds of Prey" championship ski race in Vail. For these events, bomb technicians taught numerous "Explosives Recognition" classes for security personnel in the Aspen and Vail areas. The Squad also performed hazardous waste and explosives disposal throughout the year. In addition to these operations, each bomb technician is required to train 16 hours a month and attend a 40-hour training class annually.

Most notably, after 13 years of dedicated service Captain Matt Carson resigned from the Bomb Squad. He was a valuable asset and will be greatly missed! The Bomb Squad welcomed two new members Firefighter Michael Cox and Firefighter Gareth Parks.

Emergency Medical Operations

Emergency Medical Services continued as our highest demand for service as crews responded to 10,474 medical incidents, resulting in an average 29 medical incidents per day. For heart attack victims a new technique called "Pit Crew CPR" was instituted. Just like a pit stop in a car race each EMT has a specific role to accomplish. This new technique of treating cardiac arrest patients resulted in seven patients being successfully resuscitated in 2014.

The Department's excellent medical services did not go unnoticed as the Children's Hospital Colorado Award for "Commitment to Pediatric Emergency Care" was awarded at the annual Colorado EMS Awards Ceremony.

The Colorado Department of Health and Environment, Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Section awarded the Northwest Regional Emergency Trauma Advisory Council a consolidated grant for Zoll cardiac monitors. The Department purchased ten new cardiac monitors through this grant at a 50% cost reduction.

Firefighters JD Sheffield and Mike Whittle, along with EMTs Kurt Winger and Ginger Oviatt, completed paramedic training and are now nationally and state of Colorado certified Paramedics. Congratulations to all!

As healthcare continues to evolve the Department is also evolving. A pilot program was started to evaluate the need for EMS supervision and oversight on each shift. These EMS Officers are tasked with completing the quality assurance of every patient care report and serving as the liaison between medical facilities, outside agencies and the Department. They work closely with the Battalion Chiefs and Captains to provide the highest level of medical care to our community.

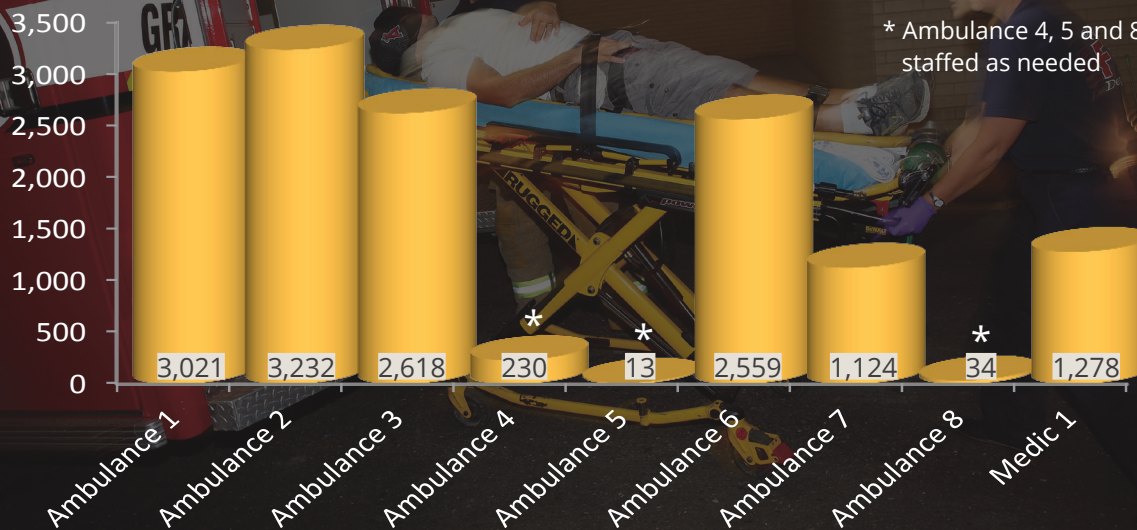
5.2%

Increase in EMS incidents
from 2013



79% of our incidents in
2014 were EMS

Who's the Busiest in EMS Operations?



* Ambulance 4, 5 and 8 are
staffed as needed

Training

600

individual certifications maintained! To ensure a better service to our community.

The training office provides training to the Fire Department according to federal, state, county, and city mandates. This is accomplished through training classes and activities scheduled for all personnel throughout the year. Current personnel hold more than 600 individual certifications demonstrating competencies in the following areas of expertise: Emergency Medical Technician, Firefighter I and II, Driver/Operator, Fire Service Instructor, Fire Officer I, Hazardous Materials Awareness, Operations and Technician. Members are required to maintain these certifications throughout their career, requiring a number of continuing education hours in each discipline in order to renew their certifications.

We expanded our training by hosting training that drew students from around the state and the nation. A week-long National Fire Academy regional delivery was held at Two Rivers Convention Center and was attended by over 100 firefighters from throughout the

Western Slope and Colorado. In addition, a Fire Accreditation Workshop brought students and the instructor from out of state.

Highlights of 2014:

- Reading Smoke
- Blue Card Command Continuing Education and Review for Company Officers
- NUWAIX Exercise
- Emergency Medical Services Academy
- Underwriters Laboratory/National Institute of Standards & Technology Fire Flow Training
- Airport Drills
- Three Live Burns in Acquired Structures
- Fire Instructor I Class

Training Hours

* Year	2013	2014
* Fire	10,514	8,413
* Emergency Medical	1,882	2,999
* Hazardous Materials	1,120	1,131
* Explosive Technician	144	185
* Specialized Rescue	766	1,202
* Investigations	137	102
* Total	14,563	14,032

Public Information/Education



Sidewalk CPR

Hands-only CPR in the park



Station Tours

Japanese student tour



Safety Fair

Mesa Mall Safety Fair

The Public Information Office said goodbye to longtime PIO Mike Page as he retired in March. Firefighter/Paramedic Shawn Montgomery was promoted to the Fire Information Coordinator position in August.

The community joined us for some new events. These included the 125th Anniversary celebration along with the 1st Annual 9/11 Memorial Farmer's Market night which was comprised of several Mesa County public safety agencies. Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Clark implemented the Department's new "Sidewalk CPR" program to educate the public on compression only Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

The development of an information website for the media and our community changed the way the Department communicates. The website fire.gjcity.org allows the Department to provide fast and accurate information to the media and the public. The Information Coordinator also began sending information through Twitter (@GJFDPIO) and increased the use of Facebook to assist in keeping our community informed during real-time emergencies and community events/education. Internally, YouTube is being used to communicate important information to personnel. "Our Public Safety Programs provide our community with the tools to help identify situations that are not safe and enable them to react appropriately." – Shawn Montgomery



125 Years of Service

The Department celebrated a proud legacy of “Taking Care of People and Property” for 125 years. A proclamation was made by the Grand Junction City Council on July 16th, 2014 commemorating the Department’s milestone.

Fire Prevention Bureau

A Year of Expansion and Change

In January, the creation of a formal fire marshal position formalized the Fire Prevention Bureau to coordinate code enforcement, building projects and fire investigations. Chuck Mathis was selected as the Fire Marshal and has spent the year organizing the Bureau and revamping the Fire Investigation Program. Mike Gazdak transferred from Training into Fire Prevention and Jonathan Hobbs transferred from City Engineering to fill our vacancies. The Bureau assisted with the planning and inspection of a number of major construction projects to include Colorado Mesa University, St. Mary's Hospital, West Star Aviation, Federal Express, and other major remodels.

A focus on revamping the Fire Investigation Program started with a multi-agency partnership and the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between Clifton, Lower Valley, Palisade, and Grand Junction Fire Departments as well as Fruita, Palisade, and Grand Junction Police Departments and the Mesa County Sheriff's Office. This MOA establishes guidelines and policies for fire investigations throughout Mesa County.

An International Association of Arson Investigation class on Fundamentals of Fire Investigation was brought to Grand Junction in August to train approximately forty participants. The class was primarily attended by new and existing investigators in an effort to partner with other police and fire agencies throughout the valley.

Four new shift investigators: Brian Gies, Kirk Hallam, Adam Martinez, and Brian Clark, were added from the ranks to join existing investigators Rick McKissen, Mark McIntire and Scott Myers. Jonathan Hobbs from the Fire Prevention Bureau was also trained as an investigator to assist with day-to-day operations. The team conducted 22 fire investigations resulting in two arrests/convictions.

Fire Prevention Bureau Stats

* Year	2013	2014
* Crew Fire Inspections	2,394	2,355
* Bureau Fire Inspections	389	460
* Building Permit Clearances	195	209
* Operational Permits	172	193
* Construction Inspections	545	613
* Development Reviews	206	292
* Burn Permits	1,574	1,693
* Total Property Damage	\$1,725,000	\$1,703,086

Statistics at a Glance

* Response Time (Average in Minutes)

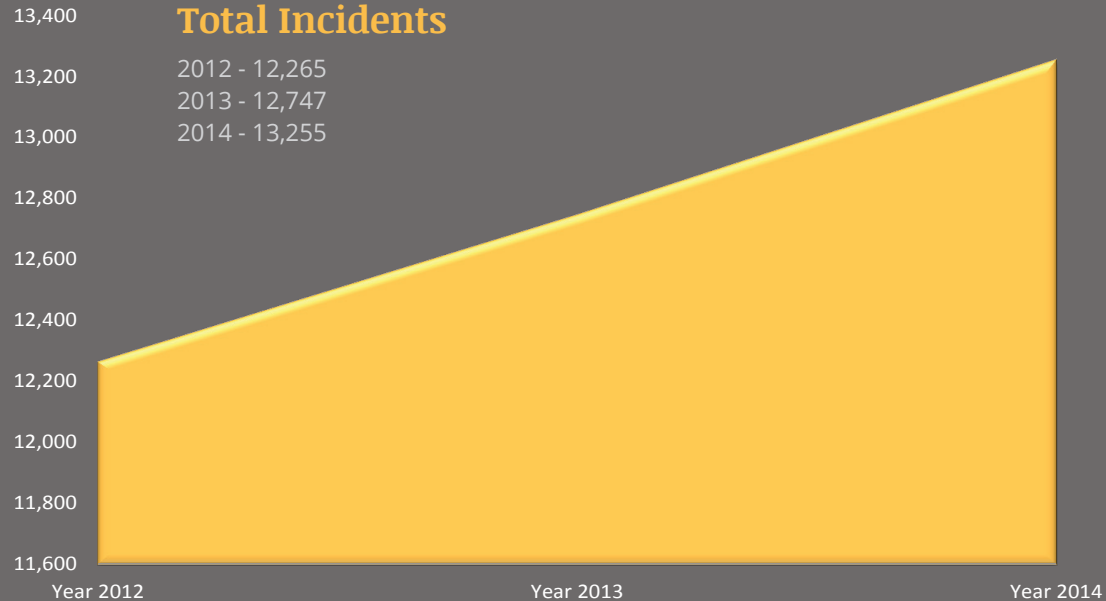
*	2014	7.66
*	2013	8.04
*	2012	8.54

* Operating Budget (In Millions)

*	2014	15.7
*	2013	14.8
*	2012	14.9

Total Incidents

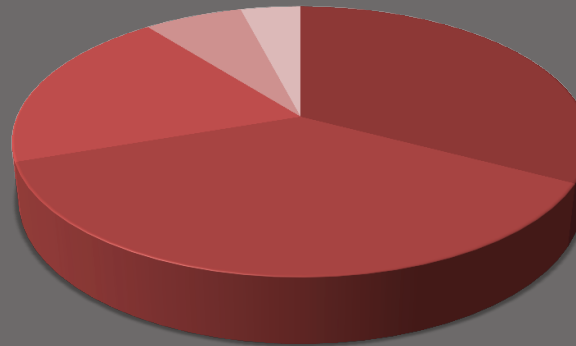
2012 - 12,265
2013 - 12,747
2014 - 13,255



CONTINUED...

Unit Responses by Station:

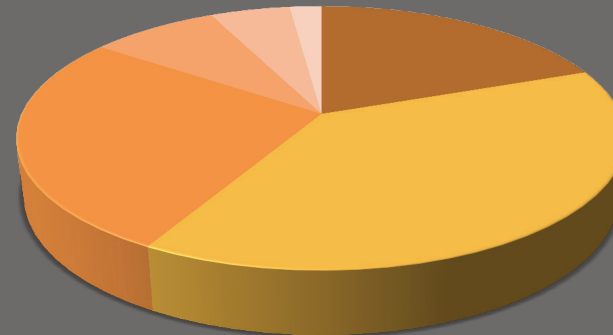
Station 1 - 8,635
Station 2 - 9,751
Station 3 - 5,192
Station 4 - 1,735
Station 5 - 1,060



■ Station 1 ■ Station 2 ■ Station 3 ■ Station 4 ■ Station 5

Incidents by Station:

Station 1 - 2,567
Station 2 - 5,133
Station 3 - 3,544
Station 4 - 1,074
Station 5 - 670
Mutual Aid Given - 267



■ Station 1 ■ Station 2 ■ Station 3
■ Station 4 ■ Station 5 ■ Mutual Aid Given

Annual Report *2014*

Grand Junction Fire Department
625 Ute Avenue, Grand Junction CO 81501
P 970.549.5800 **F** 970.549.5810 **E** fire@gjcity.org
W gjcity.org/FireDepartment or fire.gjcity.org

Layout & Design: Harmony Ward
Photography: Jonathan Hobbs