



Camas - Washougal Fire Department

2013 Annual Report



Mayors, Council, and citizens of Camas Washougal:

It is my pleasure to present to you the Camas-Washougal Fire Department Annual Report for 2013. While the publication of an annual report is required by ordinance, the effort we put in to this document is less about filling a statutory requirement than it is about keeping our leaders and citizens informed on the services we provide. The public's expectations on transparency and having a clear understanding on how their tax dollars are being spent are high, as they should be. We hope this report serves to educate and inform our community on the state of fire and emergency medical services in Camas and Washougal.

As 2013 started to wind down in early December, the department was focused on finalizing the nearly 3-year long trial merger arrangement between the Camas and Washougal Fire Departments. While the agencies were all but fully consolidated since July of 2011, the partnership depended on a temporary interlocal agreement that had to be renewed twice since its inception. This made long range planning for the organiza-

tion nearly impossible. In December, however, both cities decided to take a leap of faith in agreeing to a 10 year contract for service that helps solidify the consolidation and assures that the many benefits both communities have experienced will continue in to the future. This would not have been possible without our dedicated staff, elected officials, and the citizens of Camas and Washougal.

During the economic crisis CWFD has experienced over the past few years, saving staffing positions understandably became a priority. As a result, replacement of equipment and funding of some programs had to be cut. This put the department in the position of deploying very outdated equipment that was expensive to keep operational. With the improved financial condition of the city in 2013, the department was finally able to start replacing an aging ambulance fleet. A new Braun ambulance was approved and delivered in late 2013, with another scheduled for purchase in 2014. A uniform article like coats may seem like a minor issue, but they not only protect our staff from the elements

Message from Chief Swinhart, Continued

but also increase their safety by making them more visible in low lighting situations. Unfortunately coats like these are very expensive and it had been 10 years since the department could afford to buy new ones. Due to the better financial environment in 2013, and with help from city administration and our finance department, we were finally able to order our staff new coats.

Who We Are

The Camas-Washougal Fire Department covers 20 square miles and over 33,000 citizens for fire protection and approximately 80 square miles containing 65,000 citizens for paramedic services.

There are currently forty four career firefighters, one chief, two division chiefs, one deputy fire marshal, three battalion chiefs, and two administrative assistants at CWFD. The department is also supported by an authorized number of 30 highly trained volunteer firefighters. All line firefighters are either EMT/IV Technicians or EMT/Paramedics and have high levels of training in fire suppression.

We have three fire stations, Station 41 in downtown Camas, Station 42 in the Prune Hill area, and Station 171 in downtown Washougal. These stations have 24 hour full time staffing and at least one paramedic unit at each station. Camas-Washougal Fire Department is the only fire department in Clark County that provides ambulance services. This added responsibility requires our firefighters to be highly skilled in emergency services along with fire suppression techniques.

Budget Discussion

Readers who have seen our previous annual reports know that what follows this heading is usually a detailed breakdown of our previous year's budget, along with a look at what has been budgeted for the department in the current year. We are eliminating this detailed review for this annual report because within a few short weeks, an entirely new budget must be created as part of the merger. Thus, there is no way to accurately compare the 2013 budget to the 2014 budget when that budget hasn't been established yet. In summary, however, suffice it to say that 2013 was a good year for the department in terms of budget capacity and usage. Throughout 2013, the Camas and Washougal Fire Departments were still funded out of separate municipal budgets. We were pleased to note that, while generally coming in under budget, the overtime expenditures were significantly lower than expected. We attribute this to a healthier staff in 2013, as well as the benefits of the merger. I would be remiss not to point out that a good deal of that savings came from cooperation from our bargaining unit as well. They collaborated with administration on innovative assignments like a floater position, which helped the city save money. Those savings went straight back in to the department to help buy much needed new equipment.

Ambulance Billing

Ambulance billing is handled in-house at the city's finance department by Ameer Rasmussen. Nationally, ambulance revenues have varied drastically over the years due to changes in federal Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. When call volume and trans-



**Deputy Fire Marshal
Randy Miller**



**Station 42 crew prepares for
annual open house**



Training Session



**Helping stranded motorists
during snowstorm**

Message from Chief Swinhart, Continued

ports go up, the reasonable inference is that revenues should go up as well. While revenues will often trend upwards with increasing call volumes, write offs increase at an even more substantial rate. One question we get frequently is, "why not just be more aggressive with collections?" Unfortunately we are forbidden by federal law, as are all ambulance providers, to bill a patient above and beyond what Medicare or Medicaid determine is their allowable rate. Since the majority of our patients are covered by one of these federal programs, over 90% of our write offs signify money we simply cannot recover. This is the reason why there are such stark differences between the "invoiced" amount and the "collected" amount in the table below. Any collection rate approaching 60% is considered excellent in the ambulance billing industry.

Looking ahead to 2014, CWFD has established goals of preparing for replacement of further outdated vehicles, improving par-

ticipation in our volunteer program, and filling vacant positions as budget conditions allow. Our agency is also actively involved in the county radio replacement project, which has the potential to be very expensive if grant assistance is not received. Multiple opportunities exist for improvement of CWFD in 2014, to include exploration of public/private partnerships, as well as harnessing further efficiencies from our consolidation effort. I very much look forward to facing these challenges along with the dedicated staff of CWFD. It is my sincere hope that you will find this annual report on fire department activities informative. It has been my pleasure serving the citizens of Camas and Washougal in 2013.



Sincerely,
Nick Swinhart
 Fire Chief
 Camas-Washougal Fire Department

Ambulance Revenue	Invoiced	Collected	Percentage
2010	\$1,566,701	\$873,302	56%
2011	\$1,721,978	\$941,508	55%
2012	\$1,776,823	\$977,997	55%
2013	\$1,764,714	\$964,693	55%

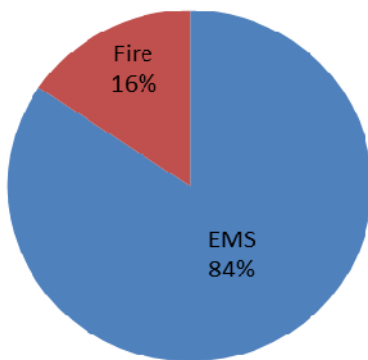


2013 Emergency Medical Services Report

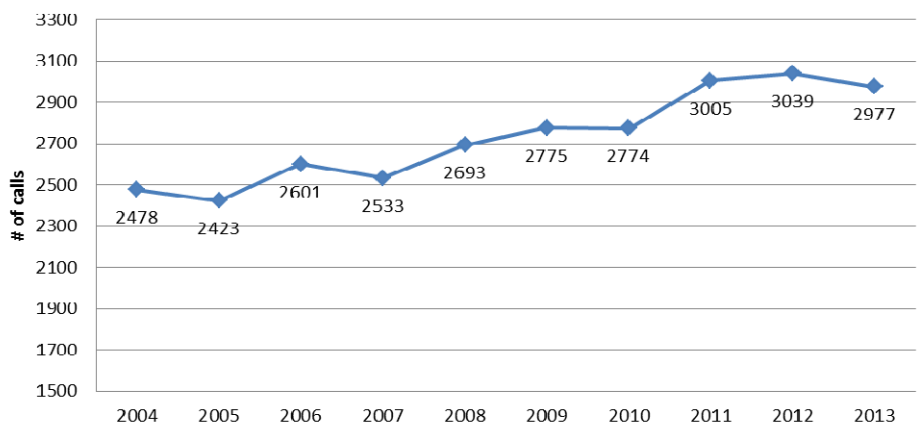
2013 Call Volume and Composition:

EMS requests for service account for the lions share of fire department response. 84% of calls generated through the 911 system for the Camas-Washougal Fire Department were for medical response. In terms of EMS calls, 2013 demonstrated a 2.1% decrease in EMS call volume over the prior year, yet a 16.7% increase over the prior 10 years.

2013 Calls by Type

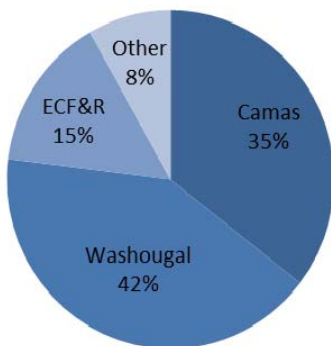


EMS Call Volume

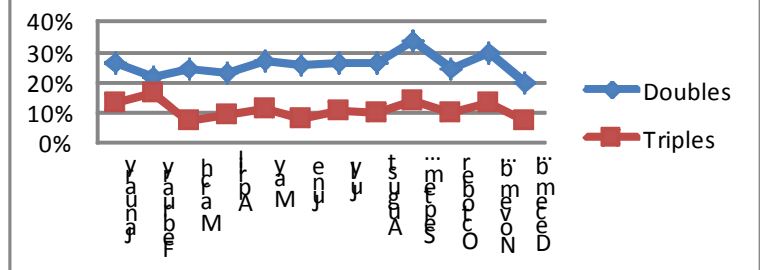


CWFD services ambulance transport primarily for the cities of Camas and Washougal and the fire district of East County Fire & Rescue. This is facilitated through a three party agreement between the stated entities. EMS services are also provided to EMS District 2, NCEMS and Skamania County through mutual aid agreements. 92% of EMS calls were within our primary service area and 8% of calls were mutual aid calls outside of our service area.

EMS Calls by District

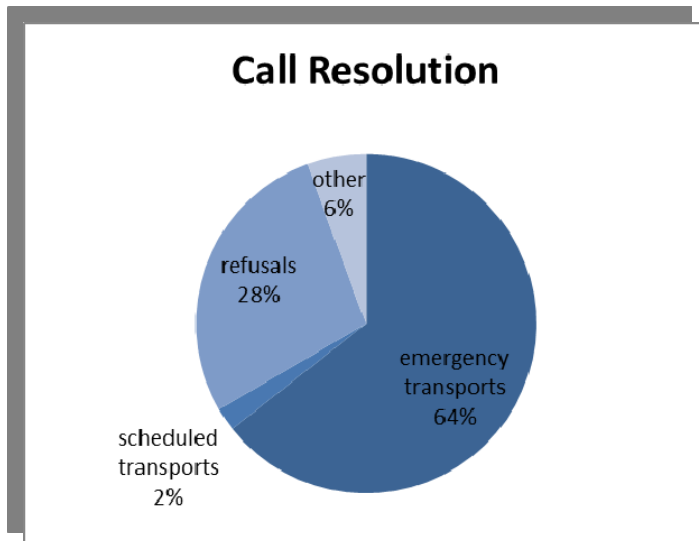


Concurrent EMS Calls as % of total calls



2013 Emergency Medical Services Report, Continued

Throughout 2013, CWFD maintained constant staffing of 2 ambulances, and cross staffed 2 additional ambulances. Concurrent EMS calls were constantly monitored to assess adequate ambulance availability and distribution for our service area and call volume. In 2013, two ambulances ran concurrent calls on an average of 26% of our call volume. Three ambulances ran concurrent calls on an average of 13% of our call volume. Four ambulances (not depicted in chart) ran concurrent calls on an average of 8% of our call volume. In summary, 47% of our call volume required more than one ambulance to respond concurrently to separate calls.



In terms of call resolution, 64% of our calls terminated in ambulance transport to the hospital. 28% were patient refusals and 2% were non-emergency scheduled transports either to a hospital, clinic or hospice facility. The remaining 6% were treat and releases, no medical necessity, public assists, or transport through private means.

2013 in Review:

In 2013, the EMS fund began with another roll-over, flat budget, as it has for the last three years. Medical equipment supply costs rose by an average of 15%, pharmaceutical supplies rose by an average 20%. We were able to stay within budget through constant vigilance in inventory control and management, and minimizing waste. Through an MOU with the Union, we established a

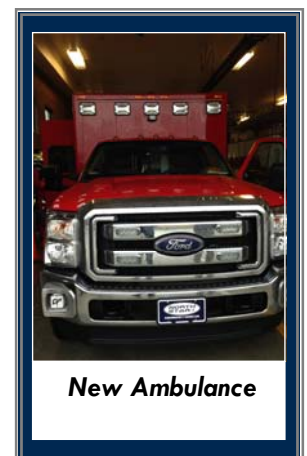
float position which allowed for filling many minimum staffing vacancies throughout the year without incurring overtime. Paramedic continuing education training costs were reduced by replacing mandatory fixed hour off-shift training (OTEP), with on-shift training. Several costly ambulance maintenance repairs were deferred and ultimately avoided through the replacement of one of our older ambulances, which was in dire need of mechanical attention. A pre-hospital EMS grant was also utilized to defray some of the rising costs seen by the EMS fund.

CWFD continued its participation in a cardiac arrest research study funded through the Resuscitation Outcome Consortium (ROC) and the National Institute of Health (NIH). The study began in June of 2012 and is expected to continue through 2014. The goal of the study is to correlate pre-hospital cardiac arrest management, strategies and protocols with hospital survival outcome data. Though the specific results of the study are blinded until the completion of the study, for the third consecutive year we have seen a rise in the percent of patients surviving cardiac arrest in our response area.

A study on the pre-hospital treatment of traumatic shock (through ROC and the NIH) concluded mid-year in 2013. The results demonstrated that the progressive protocols currently in place in Clark County significantly improved patient outcomes over the traditional protocols in place over much of the country.

Participation in pre-hospital EMS studies is an ongoing priority for CWFD. It is through these studies that we are able to determine which medical interventions are the most advantageous to our patients and CWFD stays on the forefront of medical innovation and 'best practices'.

As mentioned, 2013 brought us a much needed new ambulance, and the first four wheel drive ambulance to our fleet. The ambulance was designed primarily by the line personnel in an effort to make it more amenable to the needs of the providers who work out of it. The ambulance will serve as the template for future ambulances with the intent of creating a fleet of like apparatus.



New Ambulance

2013 Emergency Medical Services Report, Continued

Outlook for 2014:

In 2014, we will have a much needed, yet modest, increase to the EMS Budget. This will help defray ever rising equipment and pharmaceutical costs, and allow us to replace or replenish present equipment that is worn out. A few of the earmarked additional expenditures include: supplying our fourth ambulance with a Nitronox Unit, hosting an Advanced Airway course, replacement of many of our existing battery systems with rechargeable batteries, and increasing public education in CPR and elderly fall risk reduction.

A new ambulance is projected to be delivered at the end of 2014, replacing an ambulance that was built in 1992, rebuilt in 2001 and has been in service ever since.

We will be researching a new fire/ems reporting software system that can support our growing EMS system, provide electronic Medical Incident Reporting to area hospitals, better integrate with CRESA, and allow us to mine data points necessary for determining efficient resource deployment, call volumes, call locations, call types, call times, and equipment and drug use to streamline inventory control. Implementation and funding is tentatively scheduled for early 2015.



Respectfully Submitted,
Cliff Free, Division Chief of EMS



2013 Ambulance Revenue	INVOICED	COLLECTED	% COLLECTED
JANUARY	\$ 157,442.70	\$ 75,165.20	48%
FEBRUARY	\$ 119,697.22	\$ 75,856.78	63%
MARCH	\$ 136,362.12	\$ 83,497.77	61%
APRIL	\$ 128,034.06	\$ 78,164.60	61%
MAY	\$ 148,286.72	\$ 83,678.62	56%
JUNE	\$ 153,323.20	\$ 67,759.59	44%
JULY	\$ 126,809.66	\$ 66,853.45	53%
AUGUST	\$ 168,459.44	\$ 87,553.30	52%
SEPTEMBER	\$ 177,481.82	\$ 88,403.84	50%
OCTOBER	\$ 150,202.22	\$ 90,349.45	60%
NOVEMBER	\$ 145,501.08	\$ 81,971.68	56%
DECEMBER	\$ 153,114.12	\$ 85,439.37	56%
TOTAL	\$ 1,764,714.36	\$ 964,693.65	55%
Average 2013	\$ 147,059.53	\$ 80,391.14	

Our Mission:

“To provide the highest quality service to our community through the protection and preservation of life and property”

Camas-Washougal Fire Marshal's Office 2013 Year End Report

Chief Swinhart,

December was historic for the Camas-Washougal Fire Department. Councils for both cities unanimously agreed to formally merge the two departments by an Interlocal Agreement. Now with this Agreement in place the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) can begin the process of short and long term planning. Decisions on records maintenance, personnel deployment, and office staffing can commence.

One of the more interesting and time consuming events to occur during 2013 was the re-rating of the consolidated fire department by the Washington Survey and Ratings Bureau (WSRB). In August the department was notified by WSRB that they would be conducting a rerate and their agent would need two full days in early October to evaluate the department. Additionally, WSRB requested volumes of data in various areas prior to their on-site evaluation. Without help from many of our staff, the lengthy and arduous process would not have been completed on time. WSRB is an independent agency that has been around for over 100 years and evaluates fire departments on their service delivery. An overall rating is established by the WSRB and fire insurance premiums for home owners and businesses are sometimes based on that rating. There are four categories that WSRB evaluates and each category is valued differently as a percentage of the whole. These are: Water Supply 35%, Fire Department 40%, Emergency Communications 9%, and Fire Safety Control 16%. Water supply evaluation looks at the size, age, maintenance, and distribution of water mains and fire hydrants. Evaluation of the Fire Department takes into account staffing levels, number of responses, training and training facilities, apparatus and equipment. The evaluation of Emergency Communications focuses on how dispatching is handled in Clark County. Finally, evaluating Fire Safety Control looks at how well the Fire Marshal's Office handles fire and life safety inspections, fire investigations, public education, and plans review.

The FMO is responsible for what I call the three E's: Education, Enforcement, and Engineering. Education takes many disciplines: students pre-school through fifth grade are taught about first aid and fire safety, adults obtain fire extinguisher training and learn other emergency procedures. Enforcement is enforcing the fire code through routine fire and life safety inspections, hazardous materials inspections, and fire investigations. The last E, engineering, is working with architects, civil engineers, builders, and developers to create a safer community. During the pre-application process meetings are held with potential

developers to ensure that not only there is plenty of fire flow available to fight a fire, but fire apparatus access roads are constructed to any new development. Once building permits are issued the FMO issues their own permits and conducts plan reviews and inspections for Fire Code compliance, be it new construction, alterations or change in use, and installation or alteration of fire and life safety systems. Permits are also issued to maintain, store, use or handle materials, or to conduct processes which produce conditions hazardous to life or property, or to install equipment used in connection with such activities.

Education

Public education occurs throughout the year and is a combination of events conducted by the FMO and our fire crews. Fire crews perform station tours with show and tell presentations that include fire safety and EMS safety subjects. Our crews also have scheduled times to visit various younger age classrooms in Camas-Washougal performing safety talks. This year we had our 12th annual Fire Department open house that invites the community to station 42 for a "Carnival Like" atmosphere that includes Fire Prevention information, live fire demonstrations, safety and health vendors, and of course FUN and FOOD. One such live fire presentation conducted was a side by side residential fire sprinkler demonstration. Two furnished single room units, one with a residential sprinkler system and one without, were set on fire. The sprinkler system in the one unit activated and put out the fire with very little damage, while the fire in the other unit raged until the suppression crews arrived and extinguished the fire and caused considerable smoke and fire damage. The display really drives home the point as to the effectiveness of fire sprinklers. Throughout the year the FMO also provides safety discussions for various groups, fire extinguisher training, lecture presentations, and home fire safety inspections.

Enforcement

One of the goals of the FMO was to resurrect fire and life safety inspections within the city of Camas. With schools being the biggest life target hazard, our office began conducting inspections of all the public and private schools within the city limits of Camas. I'm proud to say that all the schools inspections were finalized in early 2013.

The FMO utilized personnel this year that were on light



Fire Marshal's Office Report, Continued

duty to assist in conducting routine Fire and Life Safety Inspections. For 2013, 325 of these inspections were finalized. This number does not include re-inspections, which sometimes can add one to two additional inspections per occupancy. The number of inspections finalized is nearly double the amount of completed inspections in 2012.

Fire Investigation

Camas-Washougal Fire Department handled a wide array of fires in 2013 and it is the function of the FMO to investigate these fires. Upon arrival, the investigator immediately begins fire scene investigation procedures by interviewing occupants and bystanders. Assistance is also provided at the scene to the fire victims, helping them to connect with the Red Cross and other emergency agencies. Of further importance, assistance is provided to initiate contact and facilitate the rehabilitation process with insurance and building security companies.

In 2013 the fire department experienced a sizeable increase in significant residential fires. In addition, three individuals were convicted of setting numerous fires to portable toilets and also setting fire to a maintenance shop adjacent to a nursing facility. Total fire loss for Camas and Washougal was over \$1.3 million.

Significant Fires in 2013

Type of fire	Address	Loss	Cause
Maintenance Shop	740 NE Dallas St., Camas	\$46,800	Incendiary
Residential	233 NE Joy St., Camas	\$30,000	Undetermined
Residential	1524 SE 7 th Ave., Camas	\$110,000	Most probable cause, unattended candle
Residential	3627 NW Sierra Dr., Camas	\$710,000	Reckless Burning
Residential	203 NW 22 nd Ave., Camas	\$231,000	Electrical
Building Fire	505 NE 4 th Ave., Camas	\$10,000	Light Ballast
Car Fire	2556 NW 22 nd Ave., Camas	\$43,000	Incendiary

Engineering

This past year has been extremely busy with new construction in both cities. Our office experienced an increase in both commercial and single family residential permits. Many of the new buildings and tenant improvements required the installation of fire alarms and fire sprinklers. Of the 231 homes built last year, 126 of them were constructed with a NFPA 13D Life Safety Residential Fire Sprinkler System - 125 of these homes were in the city of Camas alone. These sprinklers are protecting our citizens' lives, as well as our firefighters. Just from the new construction alone, sprinklers are helping to protect an additional 38 million dollars of residential structural assets. Throughout Camas and Washougal there are over 1,400 homes that are equipped with Life Safety Residential Sprinkler Systems.

Within the city limits of Camas we also saw the conclusion of building construction that was funded by a 90 million dollar Camas School District bond. This bond funded construction of several new schools, remodels, a new football stadium, and other projects. 2013 saw the completion and opening of the new Woodburn Elementary School.

**“These sprinklers
are protecting
our citizens’
lives, as well
as our
firefighters.”**

Fire Marshal's Office Report, Continued

Fire Code Permits & Inspections: In 2013 the FMO processed 215 fire code permits and performed over 500 new construction or International Fire Code/Camas-Washougal Municipal Code related inspections.

Revenue generated: Plan Review, Inspection, and Fire Impact Fees collected for 2013 was \$13,308 in the City of Camas; in 2013 the City of Washougal initiated a Permit Fee Holiday for those businesses that would create new economic activity during 2013, thus few funds were generated for the City of Washougal.

Other Projects of Note

The Port of Camas-Washougal began construction of their first building in the newly developed Steigerwald Industrial Park. In addition, the Port is replacing their head walks at the Marina and installing a new standpipe system. The standpipe is constructed of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe, a recently approved plastic pipe for marinas. The HDPE pipe being plastic is lighter and the joints are welded together making them appear seamless. The fewer joints in the standpipe the less things that can go wrong in the event of an emergency.

The City of Camas also started construction of a new community center on Lacamas Lake. Named the Lacamas Lake Lodge, the building will host meetings, weddings, and other community activities.

C.A.R.O.L Program

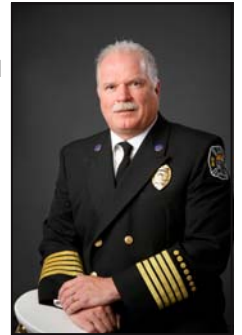
For over 50 years, the C.A.R.O.L. program has helped to provide a happier holiday for the less fortunate in our area. Members of the Camas-Washougal Fire Department and East County Fire & Rescue (including retirees) coordinate donations and delivery of boxes full of food and gifts. The C.A.R.O.L. program has grown significantly in the past several years, with the addition of families in the Washougal School District area. 79 families were helped in 2007 and for the 2013 holiday season we were able to help 180 families in Camas & Washougal by providing food boxes and Goodwill vouchers. Each family received a turkey, potatoes, milk, bread, fresh fruit, and non-perishable food items. Gifts were provided for 449 children ranging in age from 0 to 16 years old. This is a large scale program that is made possible with the support the program receives from the community.

Public Contact

The FMO receives and logs a high volume of phone calls each year. In 2013, the FMO received well over 1200 phone calls and provided information on permits, code violations, outdoor burning, life safety issues, hazard conditions, code development & legislation, residential sprinklers, extinguishers, smoke detection, carbon monoxide, and the list goes on.

Goals for 2014

The FMO has many goals set for 2014. Finding office space that is centrally located for the new consolidated department is high on the list. In addition, the Interlocal Agreement between the two cities requires a unified fire code within three years. It is my plan to work with both City Councils and have that completed by the end of 2014.



Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Schumacher
Division Chief/Fire Marshal
Camas-Washougal Fire Department





Rescue training



Cleaning up after a fire



*Rope rescue of patient
Injured in fall*



Vehicle fire



Honoring two WPD officers for life saving



Forcible entry training



Training



Training



Training Captain Greg Payne instructing crews at Station 42

Fire Operations Report

Fire operations continued to evolve in the newly merged Camas-Washougal Fire Department in 2013. Personnel continued to be rotated through stations and immersed in both departments' operations so that responses in both cities remained consistent and expedient. We have been reviewing operational policies and procedures for both cities and combining those that currently exist to avoid conflicting language. We have been producing new operational policies and procedures as they are identified and implementing them in an effort to insure operations remain seamless between the two merging departments.

Operationally it has been a busy fire year as we had several significant house fires. As the data in the Fire Marshal's report

will show, we had an abnormally high fire loss year in comparison to the last several years. Operationally, it is challenging to run significant fire operations while continuing to provide ambulance service to all of East County. Only through the efforts of all personnel and our neighboring departments are we able to provide the quality care and response that our citizens deserve.

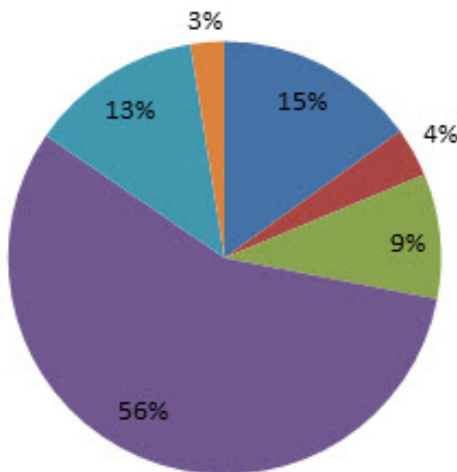
Below is a breakdown of the types of fire responses that the combined department responded to in 2013. Being this is the first year that we have combined response data there is not comparable data from previous years. Using our deployment standard and response times we will be able to track both cities' calls and better determine how to improve turnout and response times.



Looking forward to 2014, we hope to complete the merger and move forward with specifications for a new fire engine in 2015. Our plan is to spec an engine that will be consistent with our current fleet, as well as, look to retire older reserve engines to reduce our maintenance and equipment costs.

Fire Incident Counts 2013

■ Fire ■ Hazardous Condition ■ Service call ■ Good intent ■ False Call ■ Other



Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Ervin
Battalion Chief

COMMUNICATIONS

The most significant communications issue currently faced by the department is the mandatory replacement of all the radios due to new federal laws. Many Clark County fire agencies and CRESA are discussing the purchase of new radios. A regional grant has been applied for to fund the radio replacement and we are awaiting a decision. If this grant is not successful alternative funding will need to be considered.

CWFD is currently concentrating on blending our communications procedures and equipment now that the merger is nearing completion. This includes renumbering apparatus, renumbering mobile and portable radios, and redrawing response boundary lines. Pagers will also be reprogrammed to accommodate the needs of the volunteers, and allow them to respond to the appropriate calls. Camas computers and phones will be installed and upgraded at the Washougal station. All mobile computers are in the process of being updated to Windows 7 in order to comply with Clark County security requirements.

These are some of the many communications challenges that CWFD faces in 2014 and beyond.



Allen Wolk
Battalion Chief

2013 VOLUNTEERS

The Camas-Washougal Fire Department has over 90 years of proud volunteer history. Since 1923, volunteer firefighters in the Camas-Washougal area have given their time, resources, and on some occasions even their lives serving the citizens of their community.

The volunteer corps is comprised of community members from all walks of life. All CWFD volunteers have completed a fire academy, and the majority of them are licensed as EMT's in the State of Washington. They respond to emergencies throughout the department, no matter the time or circumstances. Volunteers might respond to calls from their homes and work to assist at the scene of an emergency. Just as often though, you will find volunteers working alongside career firefighters on fire engines and ambulances helping to provide the excellent service and patient care that CWFD has become so well known for.

With the merger of Camas and Washougal Fire Departments nearly complete, the CWFD volunteers are undergoing a great deal of change. They are expanding their training regime to meet the ever-changing environment of emergency services as well as working to find ways to serve a response area that has more than doubled in size. Volunteers train alongside the CWFD career staff and perform every function of a firefighter on an emergency scene. Currently, there are 20 active volunteers serving in the CWFD and 6 new recruits have just been accepted to the 2014 recruit academy with more recruitment planned in the coming years to meet the needs of our cities.

As the CWFD continues to grow, its volunteers will continue their work of spending nights and weekends rendering aid to their friends and neighbors as members of this great community.



Jordan Boldt
President
Camas-Washougal
Fire Department Volunteers

Four longtime staff members left CWFD in 2013. From Left: Captain Larry Saari retired in June after a 25+ year career that included stints as interim fire chief. Volunteer Association President Tim Kutchera left the department after 8 years to focus on his career as an airline pilot. Administrative assistant Aireanna Baldwin left us in September to take a similar position with the Washougal Police Department. Finally, longtime firefighter Larry Osentowski retired from the department at the end of December. We wish all of these dedicated individuals the best of luck in their future endeavors and thank them for their many years of service!

Grants Activity Report

This year proved to be difficult for hopeful grant applicants in the fire service nationwide. Fewer dollars were allocated by the federal government for grant applicants than in recent times and competition for those remaining funds was at an all-time high.

On the heels of a 2012 SAFER grant, which provided nearly a half-million dollars for staffing in Camas and Washougal in 2012, 2013, and 2014, our committee applied for funding a second time, to avoid layoffs in 2014. Our application was once again selected for funding, but at this point we have not yet received word that there are enough funds for all the applicants selected. If chosen for funding, the grant will provide another \$500,000 and prevent the layoff of personnel for at least two years. It is an honor to be selected a second time for funding and we are anxious to hear if there will be funds available for our agency.

Additionally in 2013, our committee applied for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant through FEMA. We considered many needs of the department and the community, but ultimately decided to request funding for a new ambulance to replace our aging fleet. We have not heard as to the results of that application at the date of this report.

2014 will again be a competitive year for grant writing. In recent weeks we have become aware of a private organization committed to providing grant resources to fire departments in the communities they are based. We are excited to pursue this and any other opportunities in 2014.



Kevin Bergstrom
Fire Captain



CWFD crew deployed to Eastern Washington fires



Camas Days Parade



Preparing for annual open house



Open house sprinkler demonstration

Training Division Report

2013 started with Captain Larry Saari going back on line to finish off his career. The Training Captain position was taken over by Captain Greg Payne. Captain Payne has been with Camas Fire since 1989 and has been involved in training for much of his career. Assisting Captain Payne is Firefighter/Paramedic Kevin Wilson. Firefighter Wilson remains on shift, but has been vital in the information technology side of our training. He has created an internet based "Camas - Washougal Fire Department training website". Much of our training is done from this site and Firefighter Wilson is constantly updating and enhancing the site.

The Department's training program is broken down into several areas: annual mandated classes and training, ongoing fire training for career and volunteer firefighters, fire academies for new career and volunteer firefighters, and emergency medical training specific to certification levels.

Our mandated training is a combination of classroom and hands on training. This is divided down to annual, quarterly and monthly requirements. The CWFD training website has been invaluable for a means of delivering some of this training and can be accessed at any time from all the fire stations.

Our ongoing fire training is similarly broken down to annual, quarterly, etc. 2013 was a year of "back to basics" style and focus. Much of this training is done on shift from the crew's respective station area and is run by the Captain of that crew. This year saw a renewed focus to Multi-Company Operations (MCO) training. MCOs are done with two to four engine companies drilling together on focused topics. Much of this training was done at Station 42 at the drill tower, as well as some specific target locations throughout our community. This type of training was done with a combination of our career and volunteer crews, as well as with our neighboring departments that we work with on significant incidents. We held 38 sections of these MCO type trainings in 2013.

In the spring, the Training Division held a basic firefighter academy for our new volunteer firefighters. This academy was instructed by several members from each department, and included some of our volunteer crews. The academy ran for three months on Wednesday evenings and all day classes and drills on Saturdays. We also held some mini academies for the new additions to our career staff. These academies were done on a Monday through Friday schedule and lasted up to three weeks, depending on the previous experience of the new firefighters.



2013 included the opportunity for a full day of live fire training for many of our volunteer crews and newer career staff on a house off of 38th Avenue. Live fire training is infrequent for the Department, but is highly beneficial to all firefighters, especially those at the beginning of their careers at CWFD. In addition to this live fire training, each shift had access to a home off of Lake Road for a full day of hands on training in basic fire ground operations. The Department also brought in instructors from local fire departments for a full day of forcible entry training which was attended by about twenty-five of our members, both career and volunteer firefighters. Throughout the year, several firefighters attended training classes outside the Department and brought back the information they had learned to share with the department.

Medical training for the Department is mandated and specific to each member's certification levels. All members of the Department go through some degree of classes and drills to maintain their certifications and training is done on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis, depending on certification needs. Training for our volunteer crew is led primarily by Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Richardson. This training is done monthly for both the CWFD volunteers, as well as the crews at East County Fire & Rescue.

Overall we had a successful year in training. Our volunteer force averaged over 50 hours each of fire and medical training. Our career staff averaged nearly 100 hours each of fire and basic medical training, in addition to their required medical certification training. We look forward to continuing to enhance our training program each year to ultimately provide our highest level of service to our community.



Greg Payne
Fire Captain

Honoring our distinct histories...

On January 1, 2014, the Camas and Washougal Fire Departments formally became the Camas-Washougal Fire Department after a nearly three year trial merger. While we move forward as one agency, creating our own unique identity, it is important we recognize our distinct histories and the people who came before us. These are the many fire chiefs of the Camas and Washougal Fire Departments:



Ed Reed
1924-1931
Camas



Frank Province
1931-1936
Camas



Dick Huycke
1936-1948
Camas



Lawrence Beauchamp
1948-1961
Camas



Willard McCoy
1961-1972
Camas



Darrell Alder
1966-1993
Washougal



Deloy Little
1972-1981
Camas



Maynard Erickson
1981-1989
Camas



William Hillgaertner
1989-1992
Camas



Dave Artz
1992-2004
Camas



Basil Taylor
1993-1997
Washougal



Ron Caster
1998-2006
Washougal



Leo Leon
2005-2011
Camas

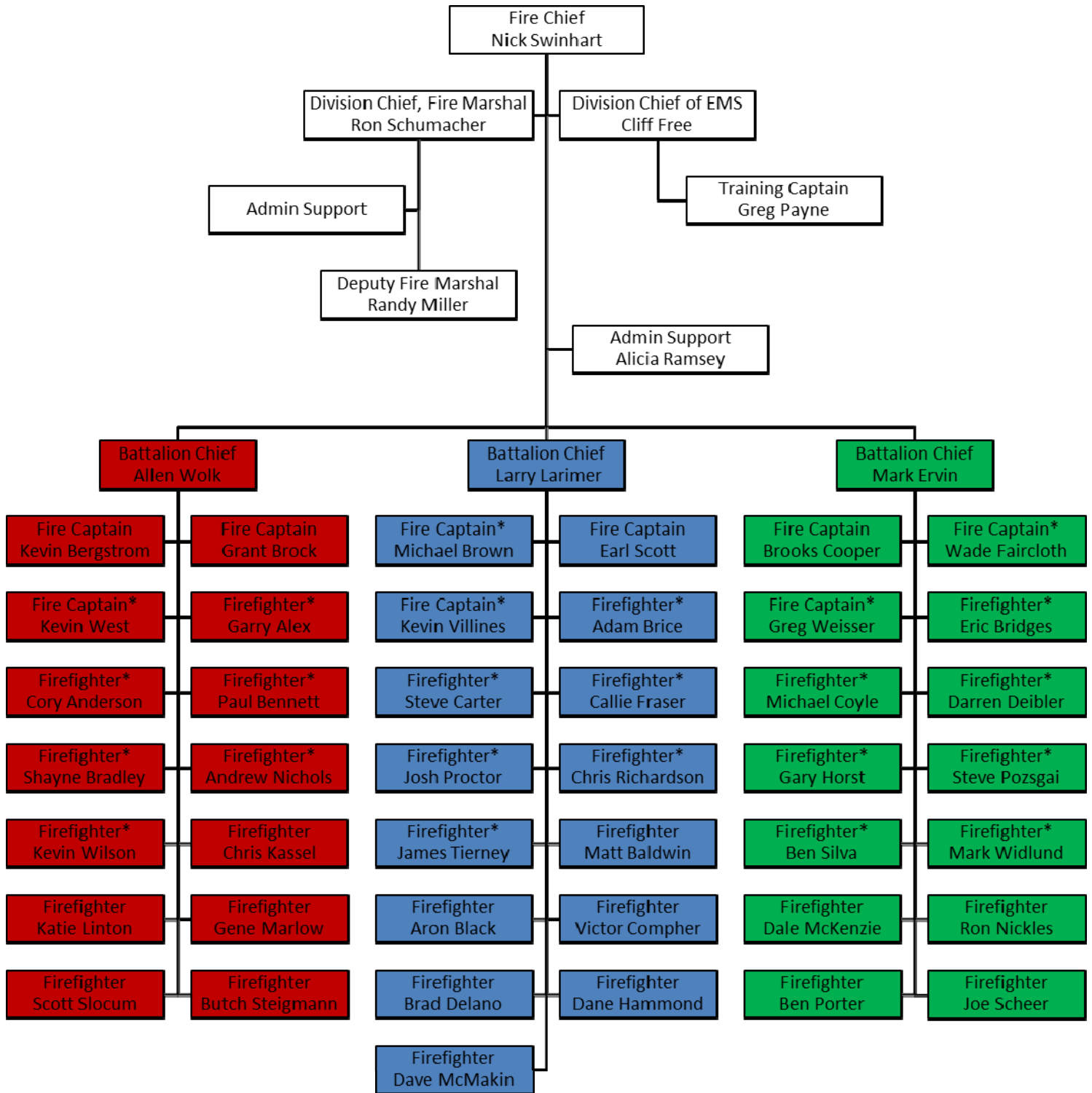


Cam Hershaw
2006-2008
Washougal



Ron Schumacher
2008-2012
Washougal

Organizational Chart



* denotes paramedic



Giving the parade truck a little boost



Mayor Higgins, Chief Lackey and Chief Swinhart



CAROL packing



Captain Greg Weisser



Waste Connections donates bicycles for CAROL



Major fire on Sierra



Fire on December 26



CWFD participates in Portland Stair Climb