



# **YAKIMA FIRE DEPARTMENT**



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2013**

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Cover Photos: Firefighters open a wall at a fire in a metal structure. Firefighter on Engine-91. YFD engines at a night incident.

2013 Annual Report designed by Rita Mantey, Department Secretary.

Administration  
Fire Suppression  
Fire Investigation  
& Education  
Training  
Communications



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March 18, 2014

To the Mayor and members of the Yakima City Council,

As we wrap up the year 2013, there are several areas of triumph that are worthy of sharing with you. First and foremost, every one of the dedicated men and women responders of YFD went home safely. Perhaps some of them went home with a bruise, a strained muscle or an abrasion, but each one went home – and for that we are thankful.

Always alert for methods to improve the level of service and operational economy, while at the same time providing improved safety for citizens and responders, YFD changed the method in which we deploy fire apparatus for structure fires. To more effectively manage this risk, together with our partners at SunComm, we developed a triage system that allows for more specific control measures for fire apparatus response. In the instance of smoke or fire in a building, a multi-apparatus response is utilized, but incidents such as overheated appliances, electrical problems or burned food (confined) on the stove, they now consist of a single-apparatus response. This system of triage has significantly reduced the exposure risk to our citizens as a direct result of reducing the number of responding fire apparatus for incidents that don't warrant such a heavy response.

Similarly, we applied that concept to EMS responses by implementing a Criteria-Based Dispatching model. Today, 911 call-takers and dispatchers at SunComm utilize a dispatching protocol based upon a model that deploys resources corresponding to the actual need rather than a one-size-fits-all model. For example, incidents that are relatively minor in nature receive an EMS response from the closest private ambulance only, whereas an incident where the patient is complaining of chest pain or breathing difficulty will trigger a dual, fire apparatus/private ambulance response. This system has resulted in an approximately 30% reduction in fire apparatus responses to EMS incidents which in turn keeps resources in a state of readiness for a concurrent fire or EMS incident.

As we move into 2014, we thank you for your support as we continue our forward momentum that focuses upon safety, stewardship, and customer service.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Stewart".

Bob Stewart, Acting Fire Chief

***"The Yakima Fire Department is dedicated to providing  
quality public safety services to our community."***

# **ADMINISTRATION**

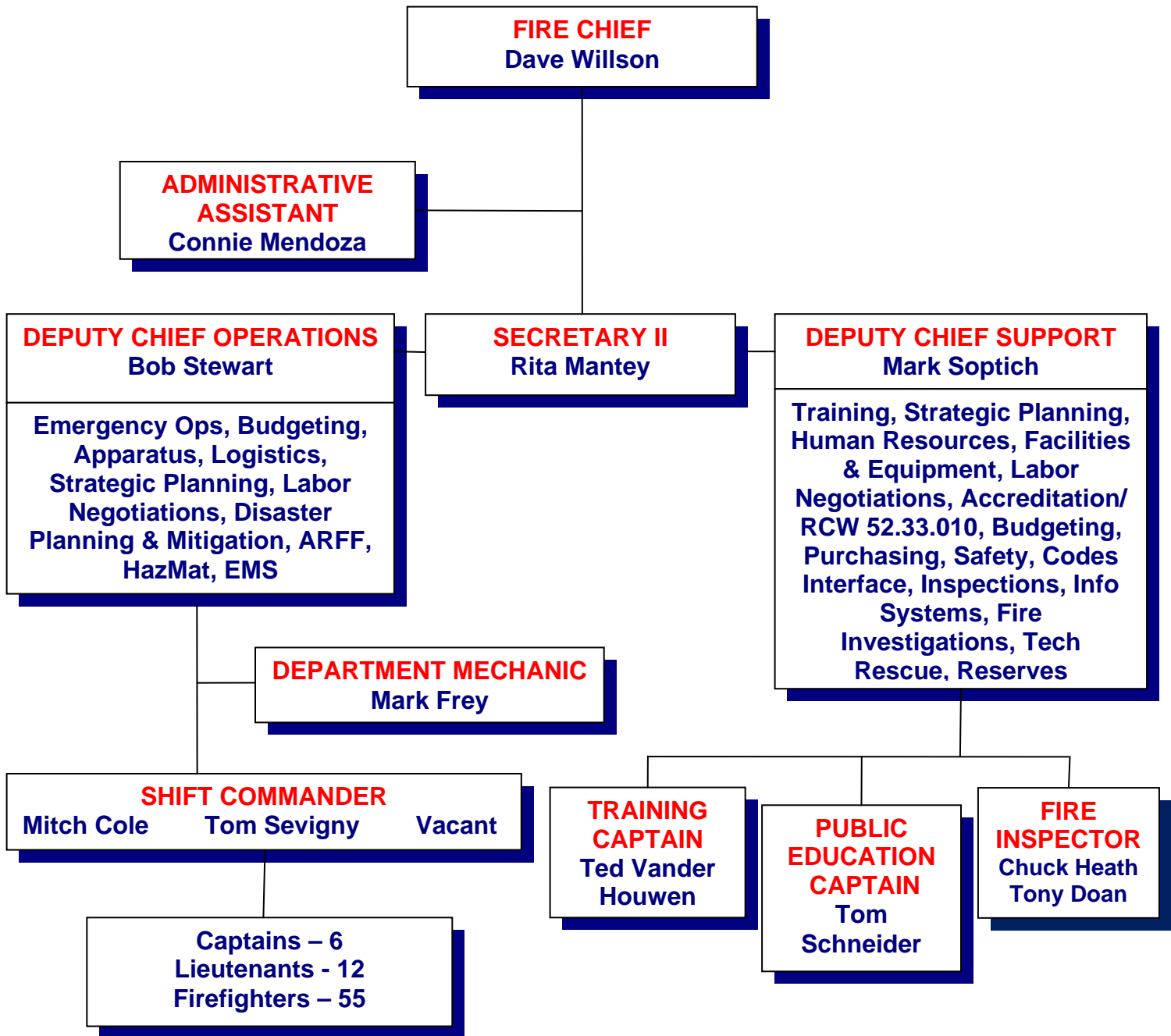
The administrative staff and their respective functions remained generally unchanged from the 2012 organizational structure.

The Fire Chief has the overarching responsibility for the department's operations, and serves as the interface for council, city manager and city staff communication and collaboration. Two Deputy Chief officers directly oversee the emergency and non-emergency response operations as well as ancillary supporting functions and infrastructure needs. New for 2013 is a Fire and Life Safety Inspection program that includes two inspectors – who report directly to the Support Deputy Chief.

Rounding out the administrative staff are one Administrative Assistant to the Fire Chief and one Secretary II. These two positions provide multi-faceted support to the three chief officers, and play a key role in the overall success of the department's mission.

# City of Yakima Fire Department

## Organizational Chart – 2013



# YAKIMA FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

## Administration

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Chief of the Department .....	Dave Willson - 1984
Deputy Chief - Operations .....	Bob Stewart – 1988
Deputy Chief – Support Services .....	Mark Soptich - 2012
Administrative Assistant .....	Connie Mendoza - 2007
Secretary II .....	Rita Mantey – 1987

Battalion Chiefs	Captains	Lieutenants
Mitch Cole – 1988	Bruce Drollinger – 1990	Greg Ahmann – 1990
Tom Sevigny – 1984	Brandon Dorenbush – 1998	Joe Chinco – 1993
Vacant Position	Jennifer Norton – 1993	Charlie Derrick - 2000
	Joe Riel – 1985	Don Dexter – 1985
	Rocky Willette – 1985	Gary Gefre - 1992
	Don Wolterstorff – 1996	Alex Langbell – 1995
		Bruce Newell – 1983
		Jeff Pfaff – 1995
		Jason Ray - 2001
		Jeremy Rodriguez – 1996
		Hans Solie – 1986
		David Stark – 1996

## Day Positions

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Tom Schneider – Public Education Captain - 1988	Mark Frey – Department Mechanic – 1989
Ted Vander Houwen – Training Captain – 1992	Chuck Heath – Fire Inspector - 2013
	Tony Doan – Fire Inspector - 2013

## Firefighters

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JoAnna Albrecht - 1992	Tim Gese - 2005	Harlan Petersen – 1988
Mark Ancira – 1998	Travis Hellewell - 2004	Randy Raschko - 1999
Dan Apodaca – 1996	Jonathan Hood - 2006	Brian Robertson - 2006
Joe Armstrong - 2004	Brad Hopkins - 2005	John Shahan - 2004
Brent Bauer – 1996	Jason Horton - 2012	Kory Simmons – 1993
Andrey Belza - 2007	Marcus Hudson - 1996	Nick Sloan - 2006
Bob Benner – 1998	Dan Jensen - 2004	Brian Smillie - 2009
Kari Brown – 1994	Jeff Jones - 2000	Kris Stark- 1989
Ty Brown – 2002	Tim Kerns - 2004	Jeremiah Stilley - 2005
Joe Burbank - 1998	Brian Kneisler - 2001	Jeff Stone - 2004
Cody Burton - 2007	Bill Kotzin – 1997	Mike Trujillo - 2003
Chris Casey - 1992	Bil Lealos - 2006	Mike Wagner - 2004
Ryan Croffut - 2011	Steve Lockwood - 2006	Brian Williams - 2002
Pete Day - 2006	Chris Manion – 1997	Chad Williams – 2004
Adrian de Mestre - 2007	Dan Mansfield – 1996	Rob Williams - 2005
Travis Dexter - 2007	Ed Moore - 2002	Jason Wilson - 2008
Pete Duthie - 2001	Andrew Morales - 2011	2 Vacant Positions
Jay Elmo – 1988	Shannon Needham - 1997	
Jeff Feen - 2002	Kai Nishida - 2003	

## Reserve Support Members

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Eferon Betancourt	Robert Kransberger	Caroline Rowe
Stephanie Black	Delbert Miles	Laurel Sherman
Scott Eier	Cynthia Parsons	Cody Tusler
Leisa Garrett	Kamy Patten	Susan Whitman
	Francis Razey	

## **NEW EMPLOYEES - FIRE CODE INSPECTORS**

As a part of the 2013 budget City Council approved the addition of two Fire Code Inspectors to the staffing of the Yakima Fire Department.

Chuck Heath joined the department in May as one of the Fire Code Inspectors. Chuck was formerly a Captain on the Yakima Fire Department, retiring in 2000 after 30 years of service. He later became a Fire Code Inspector with the City of Yakima Code Administration Office.

Tony Doan was hired in August as the second Fire Code Inspector. Tony was formerly employed by a local fire protection equipment company.

By the end of the year the Fire Code Inspectors had conducted 2,669 inspections and re-inspections of local businesses. A major emphasis was placed on the North First Street corridor.



*Chuck Heath and Tony Doan*

## BADGE CEREMONY



*The Wolterstorff Family*

Lieutenant Don Wolterstorff was promoted to the rank of Fire Captain on June 1, 2013. Captain Wolterstorff began his career as a Firefighter with Yakima Fire Department on October 1, 1996. He was promoted to Fire Lieutenant on July 1, 2008.



*The Derrick Family*

Firefighter Charlie Derrick was promoted to the rank of Fire Lieutenant on June 1, 2013. Lieutenant Derrick began his Firefighter career on December 18, 2000.



*The Horton Family*

Firefighter Jason Horton completed his one-year probation on May 31, 2013 and received his badge and a certificate of achievement.

## RETIREMENTS



Captain Rod Vetsch retired from YFD on February 28, 2013 after 33 years, 4 months of service. He began his career as a probationary Firefighter on August 7, 1978. Following the loss of several positions due to budget cuts in December 1979, Rod was rehired on February 20, 1981. On January 1, 1990 he was promoted to Fire Lieutenant and on July 1, 2006 to Fire Captain.

Battalion Chief Abel Castilleja retired from service on June 30, 2013 after 30 years, 6 months with the Yakima Fire Department. He was hired as a probationary Firefighter on December 20, 1982. He was promoted to Fire Lieutenant on April 1, 1990. He served as Drill Captain in 1992. On November 1, 1997 he was promoted to Fire Captain and on October 1, 1998 to Battalion Chief assigned to Training Division where he served two years. On August 1, 2000 he was assigned as Shift Battalion Chief. He acted as temporary Deputy Fire Chief during parts of 2000 and 2002.



## **RUSTY HAUBER MEMORIAL OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The Rusty Hauber Memorial Outstanding Achievement Award for 2013 was presented to Firefighter Nick Sloan.

Firefighter Sloan has been a member of the Yakima Fire Department since September 2006. He is a member of the Technical Rescue Team and has attended specialized rescue training. His special assignment is drawing prefire plans utilizing a computerized drawing program. He continues to gain knowledge about the program and improve upon the drawings, making sure they are completed in a timely manner.

Firefighter Sloan took charge of the 2013 Firehouse Spaghetti Feed to benefit the local chapter of American Red Cross, spending a lot of his off-duty time to ensure that the event was a success.

He is known by his officers and peers as a Firefighter who performs his duties with professionalism and dedication.



*Firefighter Nick Sloan accepts his  
award from Chief Bob Stewart and  
Lieutenant Jeremy Rodriguez*



*The Sloan Family*

# OPERATIONS

Activities of the Operations Division comprise the overwhelming majority of what the general public associates with their fire department's mission. These activities include emergency response for fires, Emergency Medical Response (EMS), motor vehicle accidents, and a multitude of non-emergency responses for customer service-related incidents. In addition to these more conventional responses, YFD maintains several "Special Teams" – with members who train and prepare for responses to low frequency/high risk incidents. These special teams respond to incidents that involve Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF), Hazardous Materials (HazMat), Technical Rescue and Fire Investigation.

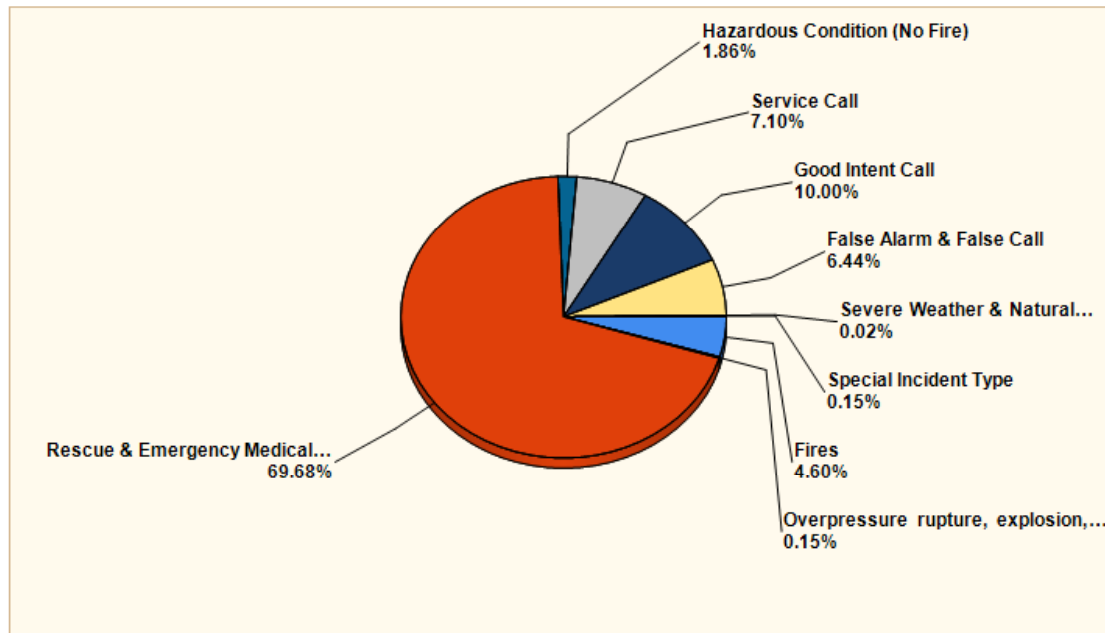
Effective May 31, 2013, YFD - in conjunction with SunComm - implemented a Criteria-Based EMS Dispatch protocol. This system employs a pre-defined triage system that provides 911 call-takers and dispatchers with the tools to dispatch fire and private ambulance units corresponding to the actual emergency medical need. Prior to implementation of this system, EMS incidents were dispatched in a one-size-fits-all fashion that included both a fire engine and private ambulance to every incident - without consideration to the severity of the emergency medical need. During the 7 months since implementation, fire apparatus response to EMS incidents has been effectively reduced from 76% of the total annual call volume in 2012 to 69% in 2013. Benefits of this system include accuracy in matching resource deployment with the EMS need, reduced wear and fuel consumption on expensive fire apparatus, and keeping fire apparatus in a ready-to-respond status for concurrent incidents.



*New Rosenbauer fire engine under construction for YFD.*

In December 2013 YFD took delivery of a new fire engine. This new engine is part of an ongoing replacement cycle for fire apparatus that have reached the end of their useful and reliable lifespan. This engine was funded through the support of the city council utilizing a 10-year, low-interest loan with a manageable annual debt service.

# TOTAL ALARMS 2013



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	379	4.60%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheating - no fire	12	0.15%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	5737	69.68%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	153	1.86%
Service Call	584	7.10%
Good Intent Call	823	10.00%
False Alarm & False Call	530	6.44%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	2	0.02%
Special Incident Type	12	0.15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8232</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# RESPONSE TIME STANDARDS

Response time involves several components that affect the overall time it takes to arrive at an emergency scene. The standards that were chosen by Yakima are industry standard across the nation. Each municipality in Washington sets their own standards of response times and must report these standards each year. Below is an explanation of each component.

CALL PROCESSING TIME: This time is not a function of the Fire Department and is not listed as part of the HB-1756 report. Call processing is a function of the dispatch and 911 call taking center. Call processing time starts at the time the 911 call taker receives the emergency call and ends after the dispatcher notifies the proper responder of the call.

TURNOUT TIME: Turnout time is measured from the time the station alarm sounds until the apparatus begins to respond. Turnout time is affected by the type of call (a fire requires full donning of firefighting gear before apparatus begins to respond.) Medical call turnout time is generally less because fire gear is not donned.

TRAVEL TIME: Travel time is the time measured from the time the dispatched apparatus begins to respond (wheels begin to roll) to the time the apparatus arrives at the scene. Travel time is affected by distance between stations or travel distance, an apparatus responding into the area of another station due to simultaneous calls, road conditions, traffic and topography.

INITIAL FIRST ALARM ASSIGNMENT: At emergencies such as structure fires where multiple apparatus are dispatched, it is important that secondary apparatus arrive in a timely manner to facilitate important simultaneous tasks. These tasks include securing a fire hydrant water supply, forcible entry, securing utilities, search and rescue, ventilation and extinguishment. The FIRST ALARM ASSIGNMENT is the time it takes the last apparatus to arrive at the scene from time of dispatch. Factors that affect this time are distances away from the emergency by all apparatus, simultaneous alarms, and all other travel conditions.

# HB 1756

## ADOPTED STANDARDS

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“Every fire jurisdiction shall adopt service delivery objectives in a written statement for all services that are provided in an emergency mode.” These include the following, if appropriate:

### FIRE SUPPRESSION

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#### **Turnout Time:**

The Yakima Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of 120 seconds (2:00) for a structure fire incident, which the department should meet 90% of the time.

- 2013 Average.....177 seconds (2:57) met standard 57%

#### **Travel Time:**

The Yakima Fire Department has adopted a travel time standard of 240 seconds (4:00) for the arrival of the first engine company to a fire suppression incident, which the department should meet 90% of the time.

- 2013 Average.....289seconds (4:49) met standard 79%

#### **Initial First Alarm Assignment:**

The Yakima Fire Department has adopted a response/travel time standard of 480 seconds (8:00) for the arrival of the full complement of a first alarm response to a fire suppression incident, which the department should meet 90% of the time.

- 2013 Average.....586 seconds (9:46) met standard 80%

### EMS

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#### **Turnout Time:**

The Yakima Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of 90 seconds (1:30) for an EMS incident, which the department should meet 90% of the time.

- 2013 Average.....128 seconds (2:08) met standard 67%

#### **Travel Time:**

The Yakima Fire Department has adopted a travel time standard of 240 seconds (4:00) for a BLS unit, which the department should meet 90% of the time.

- 2013 Average.....284 seconds (4:44) met standard 79%

## SPECIAL OPERATIONS (Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue)

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### **Turnout Time:**

The Yakima Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of 120 seconds (2:00) for a Hazmat incident, which the department should meet 90% of the time.

- 2013 Average.....149 seconds (2:29)      met standard 76%

### **Travel Time:**

The Yakima Fire Department has adopted a travel time standard for “Operations” level personnel on scene in 240 seconds (4:00), which the department should meet 90% of the time.

- 2013 Average.....338 seconds (5:38)      met standard 65%

## AIRCRAFT RESCUE & FIREFIGHTING

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### **Turnout Time:**

The Yakima Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of 120 seconds (2:00) for an aircraft incident at the airport, which the department should meet 90% of the time.

*FAA Requirement = 180 seconds (3:00)*

- 2013 Average.....1 seconds (0:01)      met standard 100%

### **Travel Time:**

The Yakima Fire Department has adopted a travel time standard of 240 seconds (4:00) for an aircraft incident at the airport, which the department should meet 90% of the time.

- 2013 Average.....2 seconds (0:02)      met standard 100%

## WILDLAND

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### **Turnout Time:**

The Yakima Fire Department has adopted a turnout time standard of 120 seconds (2:00) for a wildland fire incident, which the department should meet 90% of the time.

- 2013 Average.....176 seconds (2:56)      met standard 45%

### **Travel Time:**

The Yakima Fire Department has adopted a travel time standard of 240 seconds (4:00) for a wildland fire incident, which the department should meet 90% of the time.

- 2013 Average.....423 seconds (7:03)      met standard 56%

# TRAINING DIVISION

The goal of the Training Division is to develop and deliver ongoing training to Fire Fighters and Officers, promoting a work force that is confident in the skills and knowledge needed to deliver services for every type of emergency.

In 2013 an Officer Development program was implemented with the intention to create personnel ready for the succession of their supervisors' positions. The program is still in process and should be completed within the next year.

In 2013, approximately 15,000 hours of training were completed by our personnel. The number of disciplines needed for today's emergency service providers is growing every year. Our staff is committed to excellence in knowledge, commitment to skills, and to personal growth.

Other duties of the Training Division include: Wednesday Drill Day, Medical Exposure Control Officer, training facility management, Emergency Vehicle Operator Training, Wildland fire training, EMS agency supervisor, and Emergency Medical Equipment Officer.



The Training Division will continue development of materials for our training program and improve training opportunities with neighboring departments.

*Aerial drill at Yakima Fire Training Center*

## INVESTIGATION DIVISION

In 2013 the Yakima Fire Department Investigation Division conducted a total of 68 fire investigations in the city. 26 of the fires were determined to be accidental, 18 of the fires were determined to have been incendiary and in 24 of the fires the cause was undetermined.

In 2013 the city had a total of 4 civilian fire deaths in 3 separate fires.

An accidental fire in a vacant house on February 1, 2013 resulted in the death of two adult males. The house was being used by transients for shelter. Fire Fighters were able to get both men out of the structure and they were taken to Harborview Hospital in Seattle where they later died.

On October 14, 2013 an adult male died in a fire on Browne Avenue in a second floor apartment. The cause of that fire is undetermined.

On December 7, 2013 an adult female died in an arson fire from smoke inhalation. This case is open and is a joint investigation with YPD detectives who are investigating it as a homicide.

Fireworks caused several fires in July and August including a fire on August 8 that caused \$265,000 estimated damage to a home on Scenic Drive. The fire started when fireworks landed on a dry cedar roof and strong winds aided the fire, enabling it to spread into the structure.



The largest fire loss in 2013 was on July 27 at 1717 Monroe when a brush fire burning in very dry vegetation spread into two occupied apartments. Fire Fighters rescued two males from one of the units during the fire. The estimated loss for this fire was \$500,000. The cause of this incident is under investigation.

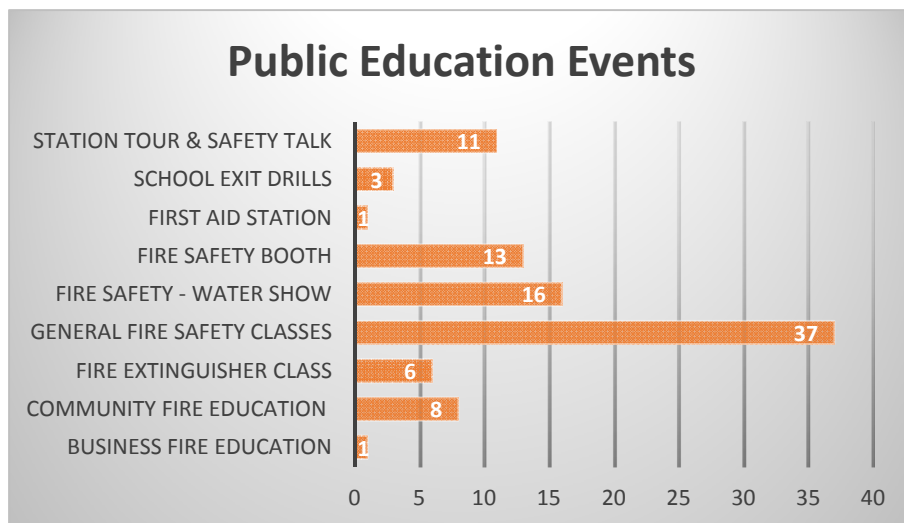
*1717 Monroe Avenue fire July 27, 2013*

## PUBLIC EDUCATION & SAFETY

Public Education has been a very exciting and challenging venture for this organization during 2013. Our department successfully provided a vast array of public education events to our community in an attempt to meet the needs of those we serve. As we move forward, it has been established that the Yakima community very much wants to us to be a part of their daily lives – beyond responding to the emergency event. In 2013 the following facts and figures were produced.

Public Education Events	96
Total Adult outreach	31,147
Total K – 12 kids	28,635
Total Firefighters Hours	646

The Yakima Fire Department participated in approximately 96 separate events in the city of Yakima from March to December. A breakdown of these events is posted in the chart below. One particular group we plan to expand our operations into is the business community, assisting them with free educational classes in matters dealing with Emergency Evacuation and Preparedness, Fire Extinguisher use and using Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

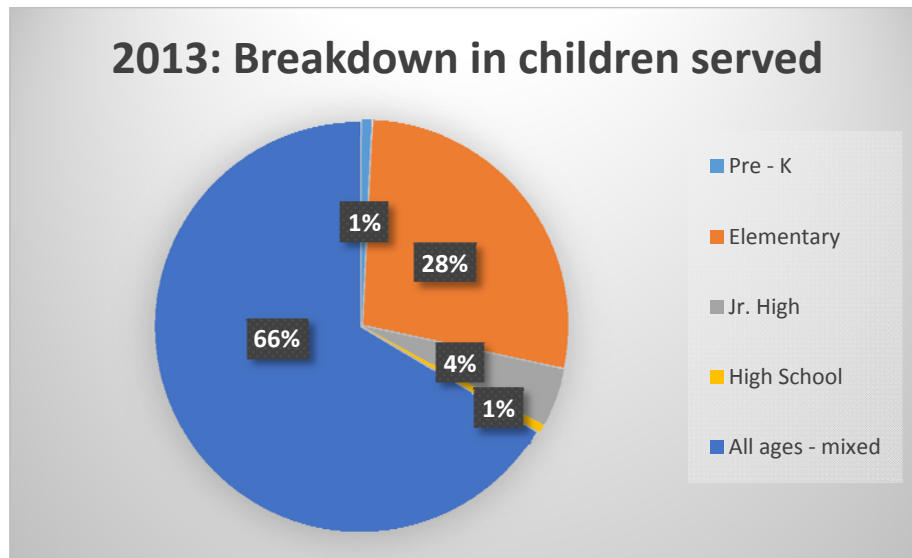


One other area where we will provide a concentrated Fire Prevention effort is in the education of our children using the 911 Emergency System. Each year we provide Fire Safety Education to all second grade children in the City of Yakima via the EDITH house (Exit Drills in the Home). We have found that nearly 75% percent of all second graders do not know how to call 911. Furthermore, they do not know their address or telephone number. The Yakima Fire Department and the SUNCOMM Dispatch Center, along with faculty and staff of the Yakima School District, are in the process of developing a program to educate kids on how to use the 911 Emergency System. We hope to have a pilot program in place for the 2014-15 school year that reaches out to our kids in the K thru 3rd grade levels. This sort of program is new to both our

organizations and will not be without challenges. However, we are optimistic that we can move forward with this project with a progressive strategy to impact this knowledge deficit.



*Firefighter Pete Duthie presents a fire safety talk to a kindergarten class*



In the chart above you will see a rough breakdown of the children we came in contact with throughout the year. The area of most concern is the elementary grade levels of Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Those grade levels are of key interest to the Fire Service due to the students' age of development and our ability to effectively influence their behaviors with real impact. The Public Education division is exploring what we can do annually to make contact with all students during those formative years so that we can address problems early, before adolescent and adult

stages are reached. This too is a challenge which we are trying to find creative solutions to secure resources to fund an education position to focus on our youth fire and injury prevention initiatives.

Here are just a few of the topics we cover when public event opportunities present themselves:

- ✓ Smoke Detectors in the home
- ✓ Cooking Fire Prevention
- ✓ Carbon Monoxide Detectors in the home
- ✓ Responsible cigarette smoking
- ✓ Anti-Fireworks Campaign
- ✓ Fire Extinguisher Classes
- ✓ Monitored Fire Exit Drills
- ✓ Home Fire Evacuation Planning
- ✓ Stop, Drop and Roll

*Apparatus Presentation at  
First Presbyterian Vacation  
Bible School*



In 2013 the Yakima Fire Department had the opportunity to provide educational outreach to several thousand persons in our Yakima community. We made contact with nearly 60,000 adults and children in various public events. These public events allow us to engage all age groups and cultural backgrounds in an effort to address significant issues regarding Yakima's fire problem. Our fire problem, like many communities, can be affected by further advancing our efforts in Community Risk Reduction or Fire Education and Prevention.



The Public Education Division aspires to reach more people in 2014. We want to significantly expand our efforts in smoke detector presence in homes as well as lower the number of fires in our community. At the same time we must provide more awareness, through education, on the dangers of fires to everyone in our Yakima Community. These efforts will require constant attention and vigilance in order for the contributing negative behaviors to be transformed. With solid public Fire Education and Prevention we can move forward to make change happen. The men and women of the Yakima Fire Department are committed to making Yakima a safer community and we look forward to challenges that we face in the future.



*Firefighter Kris Stark demonstrates firefighting turnout gear*



# RESERVES

The Yakima Fire Department Reserve Program has a long standing history with the City of Yakima. Reserve personnel come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. Most are employed by companies in closely related fields.



*Rehab-90 Mobile Rehab Unit*

Reserve personnel are vital to our daily operations by supporting various functions within the department such as Operational Response, Fire Prevention, and Community Relations. Reserve members volunteered a total of 494 hours in 2013.

In addition to emergency responses with Air Support and Rehab units, some of the department activities in which Reserves participated in 2013 include EDITH Fire Safety House, Polar Plunge, Cinco de Mayo, Firehouse Spaghetti Feed, Sunfair Parade, Central Washington State Fair, and numerous public education presentations.



*Air Support-90 Mobile Cascade System*



*Inflatable Rehab Tent used at large emergency scenes*

Our goals in 2014 are to continue strengthening the numbers of the Reserve core members, enhancement of apparatus appearance and equipment, and to continue to provide the best possible service to our community and department through prompt response, education, and high level training.