

CALIFORNIA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

MISSION

To preserve the quality of life, property, and the environment within our Community, State, and Nation through education and the professional delivery of emergency medical, fire and rescue services.



VISION

Our Vision Is:

- That we are widely recognized as a department which demonstrates excellence in the delivery of its services.
- That we honor our community's trust by demonstrating our commitment to duty.
- That we strive to continually improve services and programs to the community, ensuring they are made available and are clearly understood by our stakeholders.
- That we proactively identify and analyze our community's risks, thereby maintaining an efficient response model.
- That we build strong relationships and consistent collaboration with our regional partners and support agencies.
- That our internal culture reflects a diverse, respectful and professional atmosphere, nurtured by a cooperative and evolving internal communication processes.
- That comprehensive training, employee development and succession planning will ensure the future success of our fire department.
- That we effectively manage our resources and utilize technology and progressive tactics to continually improve our programs.
- That our leadership and workforce will hold one another accountable for honoring our mission and values, while continuously striving to reach our goals.
- That the California City Fire Department will consistently exceed the expectations of our community.





I am pleased to offer you this annual report of the California City Fire Department for the calendar year of 2013. This is a working document that addresses the current state of your Fire Department, significant accomplishments and future goals of current Leadership. It is our desire to continue the tradition of the California City Fire Department of providing the highest level of service to our residents and visitors while maintaining a good relationship with the community and taking direction from the City Council and City Manager.

The Fire Department has endured a lot of change over the last year beginning with the hiring of a new Fire Chief. Subsequently, policies were updated, programs developed and a focus placed on community based services and relationships supporting them. Through this time, Department leadership has been committed to holding to our traditions and upholding our mission and values. I would like to thank the staff of the Department for their support and for standing tall during this last year.

I would like to thank the City Council and City Manager for their support of the Fire Department. Without their support we would not be able to continue in our mission. I would also like to thank the Community for its overwhelming support of the Department and for the relationships I have built in my first year. It is with great pleasure I serve as your Fire Chief and I do not take this responsibility lightly. I look forward to the future and opportunities that exist.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Armstrong

Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT HISTORY

The California City Fire Department began as a part of the Kern County Fire Department, in 1959. The fire station was staffed with volunteers and was established over the unincorporated part of Kern County that was later to become California City. In 1965 the City was incorporated and the need for increased fire protection was identified. The City hired paid firefighters consisting of 4 employees, one firefighter per 24 hour shift and a Chief. In 1969 the Fire Station on Hacienda Boulevard was constructed. The department continued to serve the community well setting the trend with a number of “firsts”.

The 1970's and 80's saw much volunteer activity, but little change in growth with the newly formed California City Fire Department (CCFD). The City was the first in Kern County to require its members be trained to First Responder level, followed by an EMT requirement a few years later.

The 1990's saw significant growth in the city and subsequently the fire department as well. An additional 3 firefighters were hired, giving each 24 hour shift 2 on duty at a time. This change further increased the capability of the department to provide service to the community. In 1994, CCFD began the first structured reserve firefighter program in Kern County. This program continues to this day, with reserves getting the opportunity to receive the on-the-job training portion of their California State Firefighter I Certificate.

An automatic aid agreement was established with Kern County Fire Department and Kern County Emergency Communications Center (ECC) began dispatching all emergency calls for the city. This provided an increase in service to the community and began a strong relationship with the Kern County Fire Department that remains in place to this day.

In 1996, three additional firefighters were added bringing the total number of personnel to three per shift. The need for these additional personnel was put on display during the Silver Saddle Resort Fire as teams of firefighters fought to extinguish the multi-alarm fire; one of the largest in East Kern County's history.



The mid-90's and subsequent years became years of medical advancement for CCFD. This was a period of time where Fire Departments all across the State and Nation were experiencing a change in culture with regard to medical responses and faced a higher demand for service. CCFD kept its traditions of “firsts” and embraced this change with increased customer service. The department became the first fire department to provide Combi-tube(advanced airways) and AED service on medical aid calls. In 1999 the Department raised the level of service again by adding Paramedic Response to its services; becoming the first in the County to do so. By 2002, the city had started a partnership with a private helicopter company, another first for a municipal governmental agency, to provide Air Medical transport service within the city and surrounding areas. Though short lived, California City's helicopter program saved many lives and became the catalyst for other helicopter providers to begin service or increase service, within in Kern County.

As the fire department continues to pioneer new and progressive services for the citizens of California City it plans on continuing to build its history by providing the best service afforded its citizens. In 2012 the voters of California City passed a special tax supporting Fire and Police Services in the City. This overwhelming support from the citizens reaffirmed its pride and commitment to its Fire Department. In turn, the Fire Department committed to higher level of service by hiring a fourth firefighter for each shift. This staffing level allows the department to meet OSHA standards and aggressively attack a fire without having to wait for mutual aid support to begin interior structure firefighting activities. The special tax also funded a “second-in-command” position to support the Fire Chief and his duties. With the adding of this position the Department is able to maintain a Chief Officer on duty in the City 24/7.

The Department will continue in its dedication to superior customer service and its trend in “firsts”. We will stay abreast of changes in State and Federal laws regarding firefighting and healthcare to remain on the cutting edge while providing superior customer service to its citizens and visitors.



DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE

Administrative Division

The Administrative Division of the Fire Department is charged with the overall support and management of the organization. The Fire Administrative Division consists of a Fire Chief, Battalion Chief and a Administrative Technician. This Division ensures the integrity of the Department's finances by keeping expenditures within the boundaries set forth by the governing body. The Administrative Division maintains records for training and inspections ensuring State and Federal mandates are met. Staff members of this Division have offices at the City Police facility. The Chief Officers work in Operations as well, responding to incidents to provide direction to crews and Incident Command.

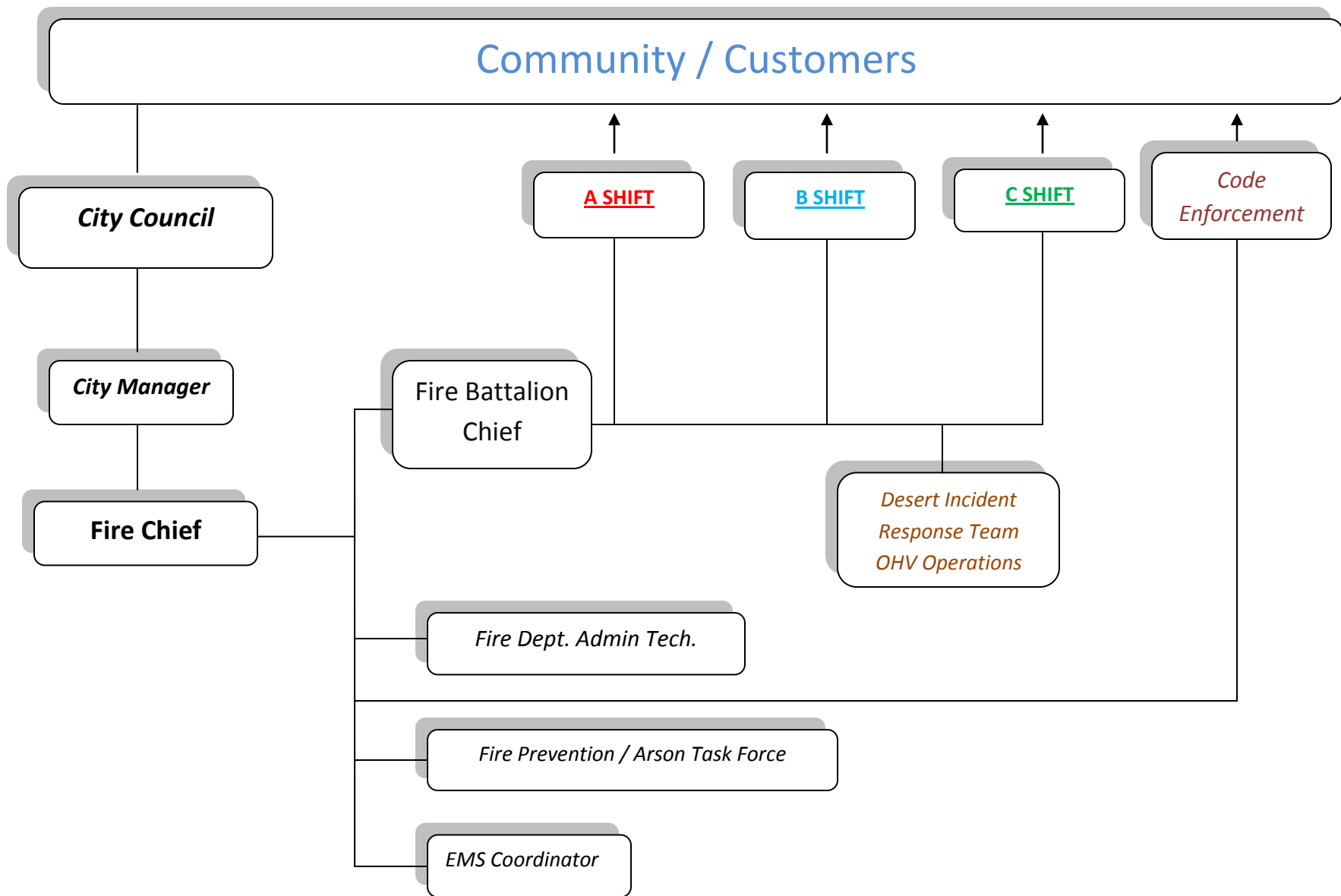
Operations Division

The Operations Division of the Fire Department has the primary responsibility of responding to calls for service within the community and surrounding area and reports to the Battalion Chief. The City limits encompass 203 square miles and the community is served from one staffed Fire Station. The target staffing level is 4 Firefighters, 1 Reserve and 1 Duty Chief. The Reserve Firefighters are students and cannot perform all the duties associated with a full-time Firefighter and require close supervision. The Fire Department provides "all-risk" response and is in a state of readiness to respond to any need of the community. The Fire Department provides Advanced Life Support Services for Medical emergencies by staffing our apparatus with Licensed Paramedics who augment the response from the Ambulance Service. Staff is trained for the response to structure fires, wildland fires, medical emergencies, special rescues, vehicle accidents hazardous materials incidents and a variety of public service calls. The Department response is augmented through an automatic aid agreement that exists with the Kern County Fire Department. Members of this Division assist the Administrative Division with Pre-Fire Planning, Fire and Life Safety Inspections and Hydrant Maintenance. A Fire Engineer is tasked with maintenance of the fleet and keeping all vehicles in a state of readiness and in excellent working condition.

Code Enforcement

In late 2013, the City Council moved to place the Code Enforcement Division under the Fire Department and the direction of the Fire Chief. This division consists of 2 Code Enforcement Officer Positions and is staffed 7 days a week. The primary responsibility and mission of this Division is the enforcement of the California Municipal Code. The Officers at times can assist with enforcement of the California Fire Code and Building Code; working closely with the Building Department and Fire Department Administration.





DESERT INCIDENT RESPONSE TEAM

The Desert Incident Response Team (D.I.R.T) is the partnership of the California City Fire Department and the California City Police Department with a mission to provide the highest level of enforcement, search and rescue, medical care, fire suppression and public education to OHV enthusiasts and riders in nearly 200,000 acres of riding area.

The State of California makes this effort possible by providing grant funding for staffing and equipment for D.I.R.T. With this assistance our goal is to create a safe and friendly environment in both rural and recreational area throughout California City and the surrounding areas. This program is financially self-sufficient and no City General Fund or Special Tax Fund revenue is used for OHV operations.



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The City of California City Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.) is designed to help families, communities, schools and businesses prepare for effective disaster and emergency response through training and pre planning. Training classes cover basic skills that are important to know when emergency services are not immediately available. Emergency responders, emergency management personnel and emergency trained volunteers provide training to community members who are part of the program.



DEPARTMENT FOCUS



DEPARTMENT STAFFING

Fire Chief: Jeffrey Armstrong

Fire Battalion Chief: Jared Renshaw

Fire Department Administrative Technician: Amy Hurtado

A Shift

Fire Captain Vaccaro

Fire Engineer Marx

Firefighter Roach

Firefighter (vacant)

B Shift

Fire Captain Martinov

Fire Engineer Kosick

Firefighter Orr

Firefighter Guerrero

C Shift

Fire Captain Walters

Fire Engineer Rich

Firefighter Weaver

Firefighter Cunningham

Code Enforcement

Officer Kristy Hightower

Officer Don Bowker



APPARATUS

Engine 190



Engine 190 is used as the primary “front-line” apparatus. It is a 2007 Pierce and is equipped for Medical, Fire and Rescue response.

Patrol 190



Patrol 190 is used for a variety of purposes including medical aid response and vegetation fires. It is a 2009 Ford chassis with a Pierce build-up. It is staffed during fire season and when staffing levels permit. It is partially funded from a State grant and is used in the OHV park for staffing and incident response



Engine 290



Engine 290 is a 1999 Seagrave and is used as a reserve apparatus when Engine 190 is out of service for repairs or committed to a strike team assignment. It can also be used for additional staffing when needed. Due to its mileage and age, this apparatus is scheduled for replacement in 2015.

Engine 390



Engine 390 is a 2005 International 4x4 apparatus and its primary use is Wildland or Brush fires. On duty crews will cross-staff this apparatus when needed or when called for by another Agency. This Engine is made available to other areas of the State through the California Master Mutual Aid program for Strike Team Assignments.



Rescue 190



Rescue 190 (shown here towing the Department OHV) is a 2012 F150 4x4 that was purchased and outfitted through a State grant and is used for off-road and special rescue. It is equipped with a full complement of rope rescue and specialized equipment. The OHV, a Can-Am Commander, is used to gain access to patients and victims in limited access areas. This vehicle is also used for the Departments' Fire Line Paramedic program.

Utility 190



Utility 190 is a 1999 Ford with a Utility bed. At one time this vehicle served as Patrol 190. When the new Patrol was purchased this vehicle was kept and is used for a variety of purposes including towing the Breathing Support trailer.



Breathing Support 190



Breathing Support 190 is a 2005 Maaco Air Compressor Trailer. It is used to fill the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus' (SCBA) used by firefighters.

Command Vehicles



These vehicles used by the Fire Chief (Command 190) and the Battalion Chief (Battalion 190) for incident response and routine City business. They are 2012 and 2006 Ford Expeditions.

A-Unit 190 (not shown)

A-Unit 190 is the Fire/Arson investigation vehicle and is only staffed when needed by qualified Fire Department members.



DEPARTMENT FACILITIES

Station 190



The Current Fire Station (Station 190) sits at 20890 Hacienda Blvd. It was built in the late 60's and is currently not occupied and on duty staff is being housed at the City Police Station just north of this location. This move took place in late 2013 when mold was discovered in the building during a kitchen remodel project.

The Fire Station is old and has many issues that need to be addressed in addition to the mold. The floor plan and layout of the building does not support the current staffing levels and was not built with future growth in mind. Currently the Administrative staff along with the support from other City Departments; including the City Manager's Office, Public Works and the Building Department, are working to mitigate the mold then finalize options for remodeling or relocating the City Fire Station.

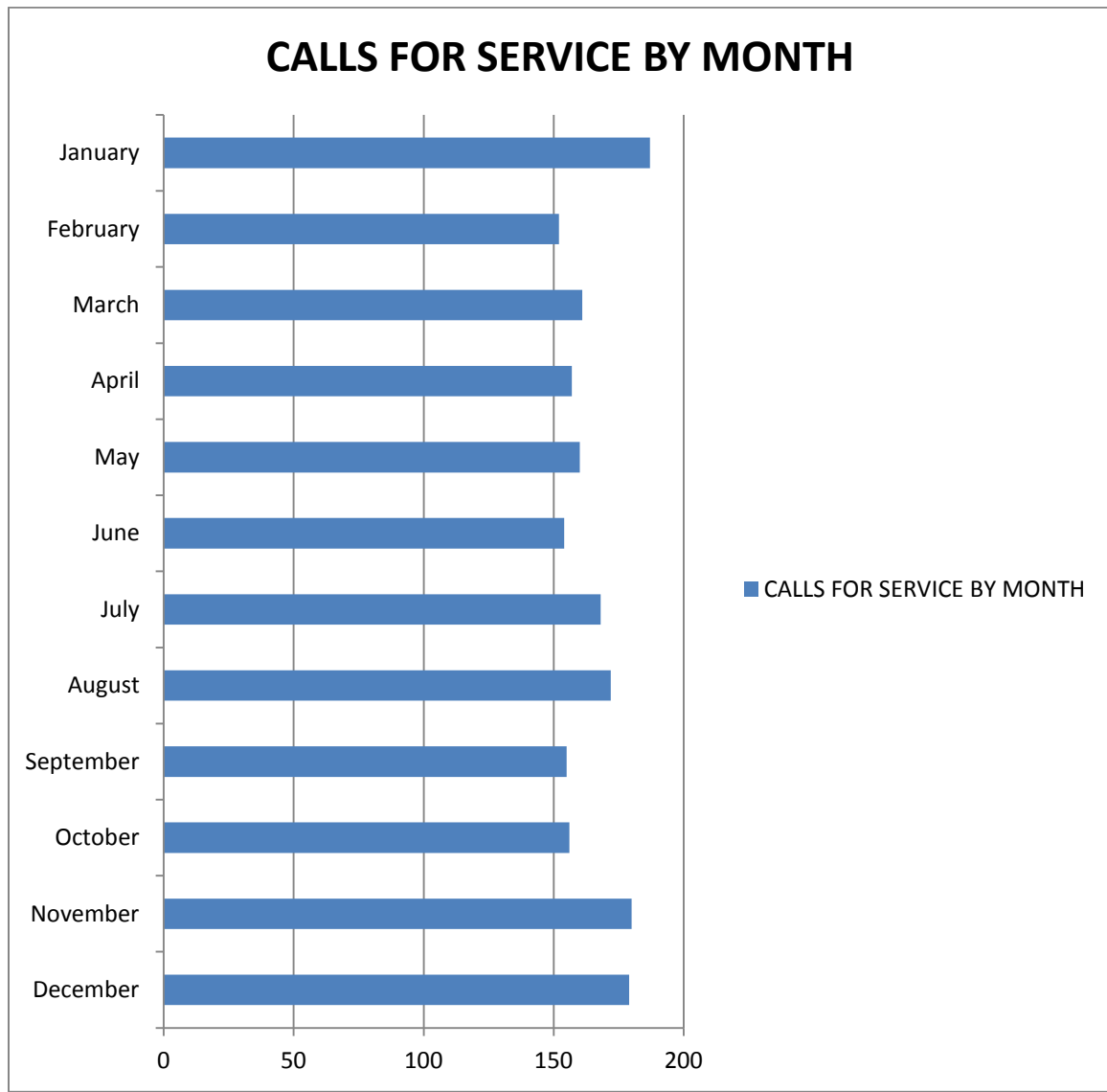
Borax Bill Station (Station 192)

This facility was funded through State Grant funds and is used for seasonal staffing during peak activity in the City OHV riding area. The facility is shared with the Police Department and is able to support operations 24 hours a day. Housing for staffing funded by the Grant as well as a public lobby and permit area is contained on the property.

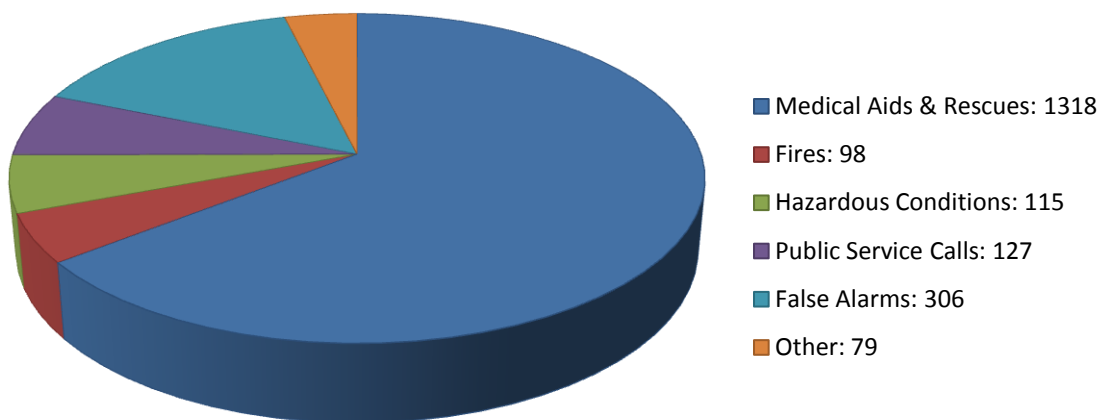


DEPARTMENT CALL STATISTICS

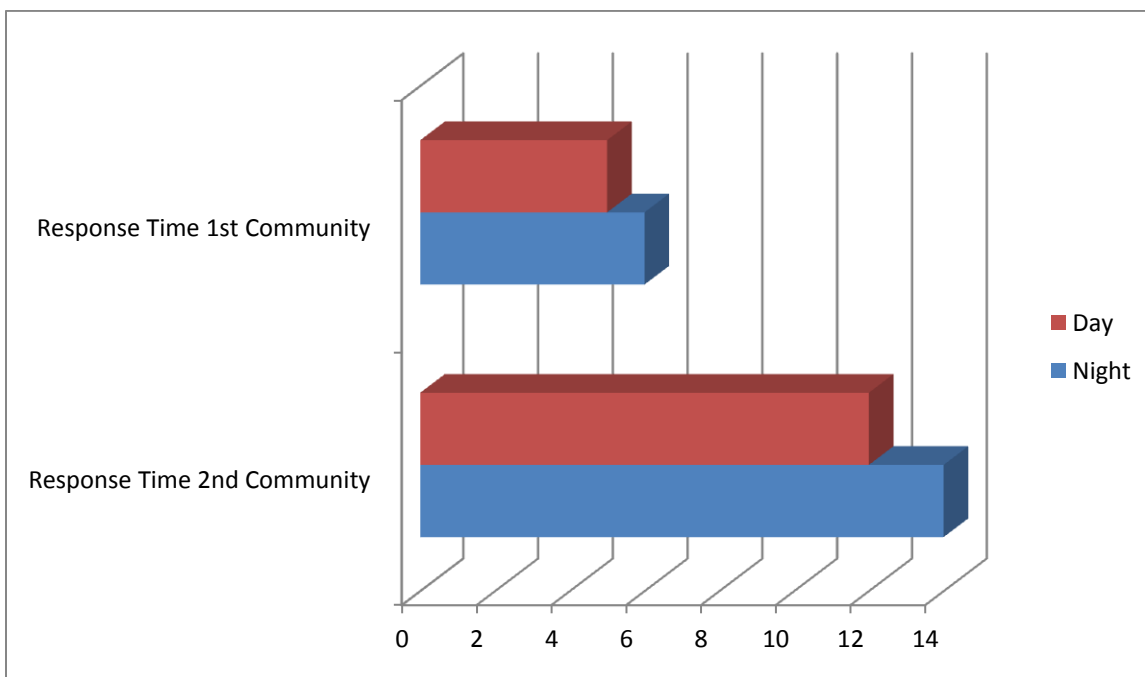
Total Incidents for 2013: 2,043



2013 CALLS BY TYPE



AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES IN MINUTES



2013 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Implemented a formal Fire and Life Safety Inspection Program
- Finalized a Department Policy Manual
- Increased Department Staffing to 4 firefighters daily
- Added to the Administrative Staff with the hiring of a Battalion Chief
- Reintroduced the Reserve Firefighter Program
- Implemented a formal Training Schedule that meets State and Federal Mandates
- Implemented a Fire-Ground Accountability system (Passport)
- Implemented a new VHF alerting system (Minitor V Pagers)
- Completed a comprehensive study of dispatch services
- Purchased new hand held radios for front line staff to enhance firefighter safety
- Updated and created Training Record keeping systems
- Purchased Specialized Rescue Equipment for Rescue 190 with Grant funds
- Hosted Grant Funded Rope Rescue Training
- Formalized and updated the Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program
- Gained NIMS compliance
- Approved by Kern County EMS to operate a Fire-Line Paramedic Program
- Received a State Grant for OHV Education and Safety
- Receive DHS Grant for additional radio purchase for Command Staff



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Working to create Department SOG's (Standard Operating Guidelines)
- Hydrant Flow testing and color coding
- GIS mapping and maintenance of all hydrants in the City (first community)
- Fire and Life Safety Inspections
- Commercial Building and Community Fire Pre-planning
- Weed abatement program
- Continuing to seek grant funding for Training and Apparatus
- Update EOC (Emergency Operations Center) Policies and procedures
- Create a Capital Replacement Plan
- Begin a Department Strategic Planning process
- Develop a Standard of Cover
- Exploring the opportunity for Agency Accreditation through CPSE
- Options for the implementation of a "Paid-Call" Firefighter Company
- Examine staffing model and options for a second staffed apparatus
- Vacant Structure Identification program
- Enhancement and integration of the Code Enforcement Division
- Explore options and benefits of a future Fire Station in Wonder Acres
- Continue to enhance staff training and education
- Continue to monitor changes in Healthcare as it relates to First Responders



HISTORIC PICTURES



AIR 19 – California City Fire Department's retired Medical / Rescue Helicopter



The California City Fire Department in April 2010





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With Contributions by:

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Jared Renshaw, Fire Battalion Chief

Rob Marx, Fire Engineer / Fleet Manager



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