Hinckley Township Fire Department

2014 Annual Report

Submitted: February 23, 2015

Timothy Potts, Chief

INTRODUCTION

Hinckley Fire Department provides fire protection and emergency medical care to a community of 7,656 residents residing in 26.9 square miles. Approximately 9 square miles of this area is part of the Metro Parks recreational area. Emergency responses totaled 651 in 2014 representing a ten percent increase over the previous year's total. The dedicated employees of this Department continue to operate primarily as on – call, responding to many emergencies, regardless of the time of day, from their homes, businesses or activities. Despite the increase in emergency responses, the Department personnel handle slightly more than 95% of the initial calls relying on mutual aid only when multiple calls or larger incidents have overwhelmed in – house resources.

The efforts of the entire Department resulted in a significant reduction in the ISO rating for the community. As a result of the changes in response, the additional of the fire education programs, increased inspections, attainment of certifications and the use of a preplanned Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, Hinckley is now classified as a 4 in hydrant areas up from a 6 and the areas without water have gone from unclassified to an 8B status. This last change in classification has lowered rates to all the residents in the designated area.

The Department would like to extend our gratitude to the Hinckley Police Department Officers for their assistance at many incidents throughout the year and to the Dispatchers for their expertise in initiating and directing each emergency response. Our appreciation as well to the Hinckley Service Department for responding to the many requests in supporting emergency operations where a piece of equipment, load of salt or a few extra hands provide a greater level of safety to everyone involved.

PERSONNEL

Hinckley Fire Department still faces the challenge of attracting new employees to fulfill the responsibilities associated with being a Firefighter and EMS provider. This is not unique to our Township or County. Studies dating back to 1989, the problem of attracting community members for public safety positions either in a paid-on-call or volunteer positions.

The decline in staffing is attributed to multiple causes. The number of hours required of each individual to acquire and maintain certification in both Fire and EMS is often listed as the primary reason. Financial concerns including out of pocket expenses, training that is not compensated, and fundraising requirements add to the reasons for retention and recruitment of new employees. Families often require two incomes or at least one parent to assume the full time responsibilities associated with raising children while the other works a primary and secondary job to make ends meet.

Volunteer Fire Departments are no different in their responsibilities to the community. Fires may not be as frequent in a small community but they still require an adequate personnel resources to manage and extinguish. The increasing demand on EMS is dictating more training, higher levels of education and shortened response times to improve the outcome of the patients.

In order to better understand this growing problem, Hinckley Township sent three (3) Officers to a Recruitment and Retention program offered by the Ohio Fire Chiefs and funded by the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program. The comments shared by all participants echoed that which has been seen across the Country. The causes are well known but the cures are few. Hinckley must begin to discuss methods to improve the recruitment and retention of employees. There are a number of ideas that have been discussed but it will take the cooperation of all employees and the Administration to find an appropriate solution.

Personnel continue to be encouraged to obtain a nationally recognized level of certification at all levels. Seven (7) employees committed to attending a Firefighter I course that was to be conducted by Cuyahoga Community College and fully funded by the State Fire Marshall through a grant program. Unfortunately, the funding for this class was not obtained as planned and the program had to be rescheduled for January, 2015.

In the interim, four (4) employees did attend a 36 Hour Volunteer Firefighting Course that would minimize the hazards risk to them should they need to assist on a fire scene. This program is not nationally recognized but was an excellent means to prepare them for the Firefighter I course in 2015. Lt. Grossenbaugh and Chief Potts worked with the students over a six week period to cover the necessary material and skills.

An emphasis has been placed on educating all the Officers in their responsibilities as outlined NFPA 1021, *Fire Officer Professional Qualifications*. All of the Lieutenants completed the Fire Officer II course in 2014 through an on-line training program associated with Cuyahoga Community College. There is still a great deal of on-the-job education that lies ahead both in dealing with personnel issues and managing incidents but the Officers have shown a willingness to accept the many challenges facing them.

We are also very pleased with the success of several of the employees receiving their Paramedic certification. Shawn Barrett and Matt Benigni spent a year attending classes and working in a clinical environment in order to complete this demanding training.

Staffing Certifications

EMT Basic	1
VFF - EMT Basic	5
VFF - EMT Advanced	1
VF - Paramedic	3
FF I	1
FF I - EMT Basic	8
FF I - EMT Advanced	2
FF II - Paramedic	10
Probationary	1
	32

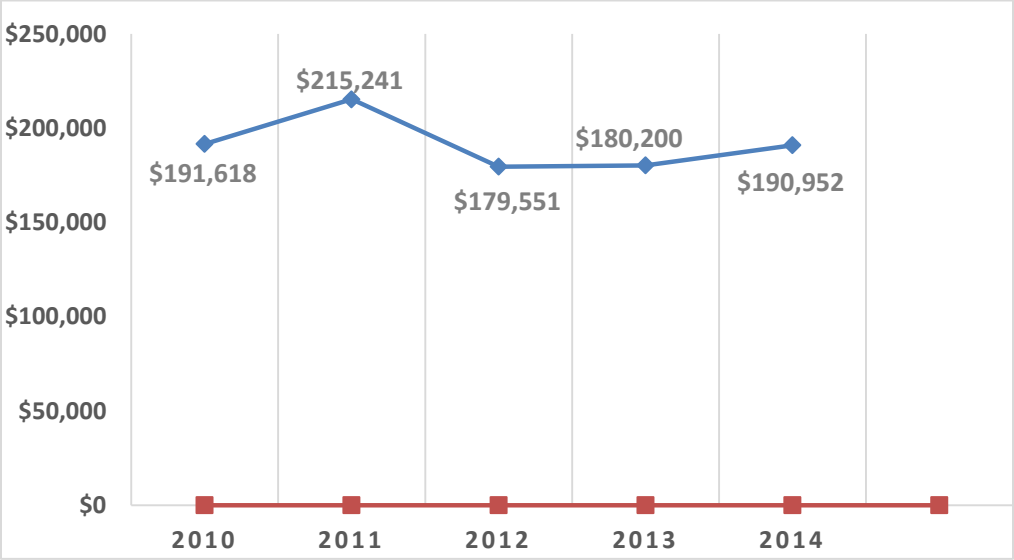
All of the employees embrace the need for additional training. In 2014, there were 239 educational opportunities presented and 2,358 hours logged in Fire, Rescue and EMS training.

Many individual hours have not been recorded of a firefighter or EMS provider spending time at the station with others, practicing a skill or reviewing a technique to improve their abilities or the individual who attends a class outside of the Department for which they were not compensated for. This also does not include the hundreds of hours logged by the Paramedic and Advanced EMT students

The Department has begun to implement several changes designed to improve overall response time to emergencies, provide additional training and improve on the maintenance of the vehicles.

The Department initiated station staffing in January on a five day per week, eight hour schedule. Typically, the Chief and Administrative Lieutenant are in the office each morning for a four hour period. Now, beginning at noon, two additional employees are scheduled to work an additional eight hours which provides a total of twelve hours of coverage.

Five Year Salary Comparison



Duties schedules are prepared by Lt. Landis and a schedule of assignments for each shift has been developed that covers vehicle and building maintenance, training and special assignments. An in-charge individual is designated to complete reports and insure that all work is completed. An Officer is also available by phone to address any matters that may develop.

This staffing is long overdue given the number of emergency responses each year and the lack of available personnel resources during the work day. Many other municipalities across the County have implemented this plan resulting in significantly decreased response times. Lacking sufficient financial resources at this time to move towards 24/7/365 coverage, the plan is to look towards staffing at least eight hours, seven days a week in the future when expenses stabilize.

FIRE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

LYDIA WOCHNA, LIFE AND FIRE SAFETY EDUCATOR I

After several years of adding classes to the Fire Safety Education program, this year classes had to be curtailed due to the increasing educational requirements at the school. In the past, the programs were presented to all of the grades on a monthly basis but the new schedule now alternates classes each month. The new Principal did add the kindergarten classes into the program which allows us to reach those most vulnerable during emergencies early on.

Unique to the Hinckley Fire Education programs is the inclusion of Lydia's dog, Kodak. While he has been mentioned in past reports, Kodak has not received the praise due him. One of the most passive and obedient canines, Kodak comes alive when asked to role play for the children. He has become a big part of their lives and is often mobbed as he is introduced. We are very grateful that Lydia has shared him with the children.

Sharon, Granger and Hinckley Township Fire Departments continue to work together to utilize and maintain the Fire Safety Trailer. Multiple repairs were made this year with the cost shared by all communities. The Fire Chief's and the Fire Safety Educator's are building on a functional approach to regionalized services, having blended the curriculum of the National Fire Protection Association that is so well presented by Lydia and her team, into a program that is now present in all elementary facilities of the District.

Lydia attended the Ohio Fire Academy in March to take a class on Juvenile Fire Setters and then returned to the Academy again in November to complete the requirements for the Fire and Life Safety Educator, Level 1. This program is compliant to NFPA 1035, *Standard on Fire and Life Safety Educator Professional Qualifications*. Lydia is already scheduled to attend the Level II certification program in early 2015.

Lydia's devotion to the safety of children in the community is endless. She lives each day developing, writing and preparing for the many classes she teaches. She has written books, developed and shared her techniques with others and seeks new methods to expand the message of fire safety. This year she also went to Dublin, Ohio to work with a group of other educators from across the State of Ohio who are in the early stages of forming an organization of educators to broaden their efforts. This year, her compassion and training were clearly demonstrated as she worked with a first grader who was having difficulty sleeping due to the fear of fire and his perception of the smell of smoke. Her innovative approach of using a personal smoke detector he checked daily along with a calendar and stickers resolved the issue in just two weeks.

Fire Education Monthly Activity

Month	Description of activity
January	Pond and Ice Safety including not trying to rescue an animal on the ice, calling 911 for help, and viewed videos of ice rescues of animals. Students were also taught to keep a phone in a plastic bag on shore.
February	First and Second graders watched a Disney video "Safety Smart about Fire" stressing the importance of not playing with matches, crawling through smoke, escape plans and the need for smoke detectors. Grades 3 and 4 learned how to map their bedrooms and plan their escape routes.
March	Using the Disney video titled "Safety Smart in the Water", Grades 3, 4, and 5 learned about carbon monoxide detectors.
April	Grades 1 and 2 had a lesson about fire safety using the story "Kodak, Teddy and the Big Fire", a story Lydia wrote that teaches children to escape a burning house. Grades 3, 4 and 5 viewed the Disney video "Bill Nye the Science Guy, The Science of Fire"
May	The Safety Trailer was used for all grades to teach Tornado Safety and preparedness including going to the basement and not panicking. Students were also taught the difference between a watch and a warning and how to pick a safe location in the basement.
June	June focused on Safety Town to the pre-school children and the Safety Services Day at Medina Meadows in Medina.
September	Grades Kindergarten and 2nd hear the story "Stop, Drop and Roll". Grades 3 and 4 had a review of the science of fire and the first grade classes had a tour of the fire station
October	K – 4th were in the Safety Trailer for their lesson on smoke detectors, how to exit a smoke filled dwelling and going to their meeting place. The Safety Trailer was at the Home Depot Safety Day and the lessons on tornado Safety were very popular. The trailer also went to Kmart for their Trick or Treat Safety event.
November	Grades K, 1 and 2 watched a Disney video titled "Safety Smart at Home". The Lion King characters teach children about keeping stairways clear, space heaters, smoke detectors and general fire safety related to candles and fireplaces
December	First Aid course for Girl Scouts

The Ted and Mary Ann Gaj Residential Fire Safety Program which was established in January, 2013 continues to provide an increased level of safety to the residents of the community. Residential lock boxes are in over 50 homes allowing Fire/EMS/Police to enter the locked home quickly when the resident is disabled and unable to enter the home.

The monies provided by the Gaj family allow the Department to have smoke detectors and stove top extinguishers available for distribution when the need arises. There are several situations where responding personnel have noted that a resident does not have the appropriate alarm devices. Within hours the staff has returned and installed multiple smoke detectors, CO alarms, stove top extinguishers and a lock box that considerably improves the level of safety for these residents.

MEDINA COUNTY ALL HAZARDS TEAM

LT. JESS GROSSENBAUGH

One of the best examples of regional collaboration is the Medina County All Hazards Team. This specialized unit provides Medina Fire Departments the needed equipment, personnel and additional resources to mitigate specific hazardous situations. The cost to participate in this cooperative venture pales in comparison to the cost of purchasing the equipment, training each member of the Department and acquiring the needed vehicles to transport these resources to an emergency.

Unfortunately, the interest in the development of a Medina County Council of Governments that could provide oversight and legislative authority to the All Hazards Team waned in 2014. As previously noted, the formation of this team was accomplished with little more than an idea and a handshake approximately 12 years ago. The lack of a formal structure must be addressed in a manner that provides accountability, addresses insurance and liability issues as well as plans for future growth.

Firefighter Jared Grossenbaugh has been Hinckley's representative to the Fire Investigation unit. He has been active in responses to fires and in developing his abilities as an investigator. Unfortunately, Jared has resigned his position with the Department and relocated to Florida. His departure has left a position open with the Fire Investigation Unit that we will attempt to fill in 2015.

Training Report per Team Member

PERSONNEL	ROPE TRAINING	TRENCH TRAINING	TRENCH RESCUE COURSE	TEAM TRAINING	CALL OUTS
Lt. Grossenbaugh	37.5	35 hours	27.5	7.5	4.5
FF Ryan Colegrove	4	0	0	0	4.5
FF Dave Vance	8.5	8	41.5	0	0
FF J. Grossenbaugh, FIU				12	3
Totals	50	43	69	19	12

This year Dave Vance was added to the rooster for the Medina County All Hazards Team. He has completed his OSHA mandated Competent Person Training as well as the Trench Rescue Course.

The weather of 2014 presented several challenges to the team as well. Lt. Grossenbaugh and FF. Colegrove responded with the team to assist with stabilizing a house damaged in Brunswick by the tornado that touched down. During the flooding of May 23rd, Departments across the region were called upon to make multiple water rescues, some of which were exceedingly dangerous.

The Chief's had already begun to discuss the need for a regional water rescue team but had hoped to secure additional funding to support this discipline. Water rescue, both surface and subsurface is very costly both for training and equipment.

The Medina County All Hazards Team also worked with Hinckley fire in pre - planning Whipps Ledges should a person becomes trapped on top of one of the rock formations. The teamed has been working on this pre - plan for over a year. In 2014 the Team spent several evening with Department personnel demonstrating their preferred techniques and what responsibilities first responding crews will have in setting up the needed equipment. This will allow members of the team arriving on the scene to start the rescue process as soon as team members arrive.

FIRE INSPECTION BUREAU

ELLIOT SZERENSCI, INSPECTOR

This year a Fire Inspection Matrix was created for the ease of tracking inspection activity and observing the progress throughout the year. The inspection matrix includes business names, business or facility owners and contact information, last inspection dates and any special building requirements. This matrix allows for a quick assessment of the buildings that need to be inspected or re-inspected. The fire inspection bureau files have also been reorganized to color coordinate with our MABAS system.

A coordinated effort was made to get updated station maps and street guide maps for the Station and apparatus. The Medina County Sanitary Engineer's office was able to produce a 25 page map book that provides a guide to each street, address plot and hydrant within the Township. Copies of these maps were placed in binders for each piece of apparatus. Large station wall maps were also created by the MSCE office that include an index to easily locate each street. Once again, all maps that were created integrate with the MABAS zones and the Fire Inspection Matrix.

An effort was made to obtain emergency contact information from each business owner while conducting fire inspections. This information was shared with the Hinckley Police and Dispatch. The ability to have current owner and key – holder information is helpful when an emergency situation arises.

In 2014, a large effort was made to complete the majority of fire inspections while on shift. By doing this, other members of the Department were able to participate in the fire inspections and become familiar with the buildings in the community.

The table below lists the types of inspections completed in 2014. The total number is an increase of 67% over the previous year. These inspections resulted in a total of 117 code compliance issues being addressed in 51 different occupancies. Most of these issues were related to exit problems, signage and electrical but a few were of a more serious nature. Most importantly, the business owners were willing to address the problems in a timely manner. Their cooperation is critical to creating a hazard free work environment.

2014 Inspections

Type of Inspection	Inspections Completed
General	105
Fire Protection	14
Fire Alarm Systems	1
Sprinkler Systems	1
Consultations	2
Permit	1
Other	1
Total	125

Emergency Medical Services

Hinckley Fire Department began the year under the Medical Direction of Medina Hospital, Cleveland Clinic with Dr. Matt Vrobel providing the oversight. This changeover required all personnel to spend additional time learning new protocols that are more expansive and allows for additional interventions at all provider levels. Rick Moskalski, the EMS Facilitator for the Medina region and who also is an employee of the Fire Department worked with the staff to address any issues and provide the necessary training.

The Cleveland Clinic opened a new, full service Emergency Department in Brunswick in July, 2014. Staffed appropriately with skilled emergency room personnel including on site lab, CAT scan and helipad, this facility has allowed the Department to take acutely ill or injured patients to a unit that is not only close but is the most appropriate for treatment. This also allows the EMS crew to return to service is a shorter period of time making them available for additional responses.

2014 EMS RUNS BY PROVIDER IMPRESSION

Purpose of Call	Total Responses
Abdominal Pain	24
Allergic Reaction	6
Altered Level of Consciousness	24
Behavioral/Psychiatric Disorder	15
Cardiac Arrest	2
Cardiac Rhythm Disturbance	6
Chest Pain/Discomfort	26
Diabetic Symptoms/Hypoglycemia	9
Hyperthermia	1
Obvious Death	8
General Medical	151
Poisoning	7
Pregnancy Related	1
Respiratory Distress	17
Respiratory Arrest	1
Seizure	10
Stings/Venomous Bites	3
Stroke/CVA	9
Syncope/Fainting	19
Traumatic Injury	74
Non-Traumatic Bleeding	18
Rescue/Other	22
Total Patient Contacts	453

The pre-hospital providers from the Hinckley Fire Department had 453 patient contacts in 2014 and transported 310 individuals who were either injured or acutely ill. Nearly half of all patients require advanced levels of care by Paramedics or Intermediate EMS providers. While the average age of patients treated by EMS is 57 years of age, the largest age category of patients treated lies in the 70 – 89 years of age

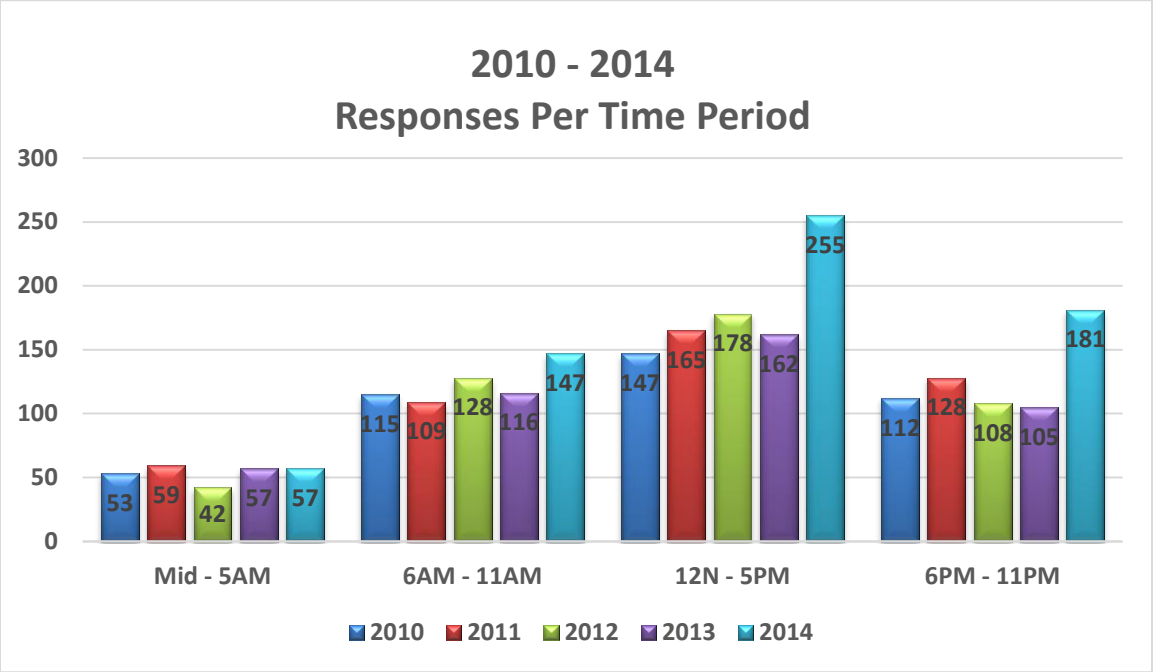
Multiple vehicle MVA with injuries

The Department responded to over 140 requests for services this year where the patient(s) were not transported. A small number of these are from motor vehicle accidents (MVA) where there were no injuries. The greatest number continues to be the elderly residents who fall and require assistance in getting back up. Many live in a home with their spouse who is unable to provide the assistance needed to place the individual back in their chair or bed. The vulnerability of these individuals cannot be overstated. EMS providers work with family in an attempt to get on site assistance by a home health aide or to provide a residential lock box to insure that help can gain access when needed.

The staffing of the station has helped to further reduce response time for emergency medical requests. Response time to requests for emergency medical care has dropped to slightly more than 5 minutes from arrival at station to on scene time. This does not include the average of 8 minutes from receipt of call to arrival at the station or a total average of 13 minutes.

The Department continues to monitor the time emergency services requests are received throughout the day. Trending these responses will help to determine future staffing needs. Time of day alone however does not determine the acuity of a call, only the frequency of events. This year, there was significant changes in alarm time for the afternoon and evening hours.

Although we attempt to staff according to peak runt times, we also recognize that environmental conditions can have an effect on the ability of personnel to respond from home. Weather warnings and predicted storms are evaluated for their potential impact on the community and, if it is determined that conditions would impede response capabilities, additional personnel will be called upon to staff the station including night shifts.



A change in the State EMS Grant now prohibits the purchase of disposable equipment for use in the squads. This is due to the fact that most disposable items are restocked through the Emergency Department and therefore not reimbursable through the EMS Grant. This however does not take into consideration the need for EMS units to stock pile disposable personal protective equipment that is needed for the protection form pathogens associated with pandemics that are now more frequent than in the past. We have expressed our concerns with the State of Ohio, Division of EMS and hope that an amendment to this new regulation can be implemented.

Funding from the grant in 2014 totaled $4,500 and allowed the Department to purchase replacement backboards, sensors for the pulse oximetry and Lifepak units. The remaining funds will be used to purchase an AED for the new fire station.

2014 TRANSPORTS BY FINAL DESTINATION

Destination	Number
No Transport/Rescue/Other	143
Parma Community Hospital	19
Southwest General – Main Campus	100
University Hospital/Rainbow Children's	1
Fairview Hospital	1
Metro Health Medical Center	4
Medina Hospital – Cleveland Clinic	74
Akron General	1
Akron Children's	2
Cleveland Clinic – Brunswick	58
SWG – Brunswick	46
Kaiser	1
Akron General – North	1
Summa Lake Medina	2
Total	453

FIRE EMERGENCIES

Emergency services provided by a small township such as Hinckley are no less threatening to the residents and businesses than those provided in larger metropolitan areas nor are they less dangerous for those responsible for mitigating these events. Low frequency, high risk incidents such as a residential fires are extremely perilous.

Research by Underwriters Laboratories, the National Fire Protection Association and other agencies have, in the past several years, conducted full scale simulations of fires to determine why so many firefighters are getting seriously injured or killed despite the fact that the number of fires have significantly decreased.

Personnel participated in flashover training at the Brunswick Hills Fire Department. Flashovers are a frequent occurrence in today's fires creating a deadly hazard to firefighters.

These studies show that the synthetic materials found in nearly all household furnishings, composed of hydrocarbons, have a very rapid acceleration rate increasing room temperatures within seconds above 1500F. The material is not fully consumed but instead becomes a super-heated particulate in the smoke that when provided an adequate flow path of oxygen, reignites in a process called flashover.

Too often this flow path is created as firefighters attempt to enter the building to extinguish the fire. This intense heat, especially when occurring in modern lightweight wood construction, allows the building to degrade quickly leading to structural failures. Training firefighters in these dangers will require a change in techniques and behavior modification in order to reduce injuries. There were a total of 160 fire related incidents in 2014 representing nine percent increase over the previous year. Fire and emergency losses total $276,450 in 2014.

The Department personnel were challenged by several weather events including major flooding and a tornado. A severe cold spell in January, the result of a "polar vortex", saw temperatures plunge into the negative numbers and wind chills approaching -50 F. Despite the additional difficulties encountered during these events, crews responded to structure fires, motor vehicle accident and requests for emergency medical service and worked through the challenges.

The Department continues to evaluate the response, tactics and operations used at all fire scenes. The stated approach to all fire incidents is to overwhelm the fire with resources, possess the building in order to affect rescue, confine and extinguish the fire quickly to limit damage and save lives. This approach is supported in the training programs that have been offered locally and regionally as well as the use of a coordinated response of resources through the Mutual Aid Box Alarm (MABAS) system. The Department has also refined the ability to deliver an adequate water supply to an incident in a shorter period of time.

2014 FIRE INCIDENTS PER NFPA CATEGORY

Category	Number of Incidents
Structure Fires	19
Vehicle Fires	2
Vegetation/Rubbish Fires	21
Equipment Fires	6
MVA/Extrication	9
Water/Ice Rescue	1
Medical Assist	8
Rescues	8
Gas Leaks	15
Carbon Monoxide	8
Electrical Incidents	6
Service Calls	21
Smoke Detector Activation – No Fire	5
False Alarm or False Call	15
Severe Weather Related	16
Total Calls	160

APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT

The sale of Rescue 38 allowed the Department to reconsider the location of many pieces of equipment as well as change the response to certain emergencies. Engine 31 has always been the designated vehicle for motor vehicle accidents. The hydraulic rescue tools and associated equipment were relocated to this vehicle. Sensible Products from Richfield offered suggestions to the design of the cabinetry and for a cost of $1350 the Engine functions as a rescue/pumper.

Repair costs will continue to be tracked and modification to the vehicle inventory will be considered should the costs be excessive. Apparatus must be designed and purchased after careful consideration of the needs of the community. The past practice of just replacing a vehicle with a similar vehicle has severely hindered this Department operationally and financially.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE SERVICE AND COST, 2014

Vehicle	Reason	Cost
Engine 31-2	Transmission Control Model	$2,200.00
	Flash Update ECM – Diagnostics	$475.70
	Pump Test	$200.00
	Pump Valve Repair	$1,715.52
	Schedule B Service	$922.36
	Repair Exhaust and Tank Gauge	$1,558.50
Engine 31	Schedule B Service	$928.97
	Pump Test	$200.00
	Pump Valve Repair	$1,365.71
	Repair Brakes	$572.00
	Diagnose and repair multiplex system	$887.01
	Repair treadle valve	$213.72
	Repair heater valve	$759.21
Tender 32	Mechanical Refurbishment	
	Schedule B Service and Pump Test	$45,144.41
Squad 37	Batteries	$267.17
	Alignment Check	$25.00
Squad 37 – 2	Preventive Maintenance	$103.70
Utility 34	Annual service	$32.95
	Total Cost	**$57,571.93**

Self - Contained Breathing Apparatus - Lt. Carl Kuhn

At the end of 2013, a cost saving decision was made to decrease the number of air packs in service as well as the number of spare bottles. The Department has ten air packs that are compliant to the NFPA 2003 standards and ten that are NFPA 1997 compliant. The older devices would require four upgrades to bring them into compliance with the present NFPA standards. The cost of these upgrades would far exceed the cost of a new pack. In order to reduce annual maintenance and repair costs as well as mandated annual testing, the decision was made to reduce the number of in service 1997 packs. The other units will remain in storage as spares if needed until funding is available to replace all air packs. This brings the usable inventory of breathing apparatus to fourteen (14) units.

Ten new AV3000 air masks with voice amps were purchased in 2014, NFPA has identified a significant risk to firefighters due to the material previously used to construct the mask, failing at the high temperatures encountered in modern day fires.
The new masks have a higher level of heat resistance and improved visibility. The voice amplifiers improve communication amongst team members.

NFPA standards also require that bottles be replaced after 15 years of service life. At the end of 2014, the Department will be operating with thirty nine (39) 30 minute bottles and four (4) one hour rate bottles. As of March, 2015, we will need to remove seventeen (17) thirty minute bottles from service. As previously noted, our goal is to reduce inventory to twenty eight (28) forty five minute bottles by purchasing seven new units each year beginning in 2015. This incremental replacement will alleviate budget pressures at a time where other critical items must be replaced. The replacement cost per bottle is $963 each.

Hydrants and Hoses – Firefighter K. Richter

Hinckley now has a total of 375 hydrants between the Medina and Cleveland systems that require annual maintenance and testing. Additional hydrants have been added along Ridge Road, Mattingly Road and Boston Road this year but have not been approved for use by the Medina County Sanitary Engineers.

Firefighter Richter has maintains a database in the Firehouse Management System that describes each hydrant, annual maintenance information as well as recording all repairs. Requests for hydrant repairs are made to the water companies after the annual maintenance program is completed or, when a hydrant is identified as in need of repairs. The repairs are usually completed within a 7 to 10 day time period.

As noted in previous reports, the hose inventory has been a concern due to age and inadequate test records. This year, the Department contracted with Waterway Inc. out of Pennsylvania to conduct the testing according to strict NFPA standards and inventory review. This process reduced the costs for this process by approximately $500 and provided an accurate assessment of the present inventory. As a result of the findings, twenty one sections of hose dating to 1986 were removed from service and another seven sections of hose will be taken out of service next year. The Department than evaluated the amount needed for each hose load and in – station reserve amounts before developing a replacement program that should address the previously identified concerns.

FACILITIES

Perspectus Architecture began working with the Department in January on the first phase of the station project. Situating the building on the site in order to provide the access needed created several challenges but one the location was determined, the staff began to work on floor plan and exterior design.

Peter Bohan, the project architect, considered the requests made by the Township and the Department while working through a floor plan that required dozens of changes before exterior design could be started. We are confident that the spaces created will provide a very functional facility for the Department for the twenty five years.

The exterior elevations and design came together quickly since the first model presented to the Department was well received. Minor changes to the exterior finishes, roof structures and doorways resulted in a unique building that is also very attractive and cost effective.

Initial design concept for the new fire station showing the north entrance,

Bids were received that were slightly over the original estimate for the building so, in accordance with State law, the project was rebid. Prior to seeking a second bid, minor changes to the project were made and, as a result, the project came in within estimates. The additional costs associated with the building are a result of the lack of public utilities in the area. The cost of the septic system and the drilling of a public service well greatly increased the cost of the project.

The project price is $1.52 million dollars and does not include several items that are to be purchased outside the project in order to save costs. The emergency generator, flooring, lockers and all signage will be additional project building costs. Flooring is being let as a separate contractor at a substantially lower cost as well.

The employees of the Department are working hard to identify other costs that they may be able to handle through multiple fundraisers. Fundraising activities for 2015 include the Buzzard Day activities, sausage sale, golf outing and direct mailings that we hope will raise enough funds to furnish the building and reduce other project costs.