



DREXEL HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

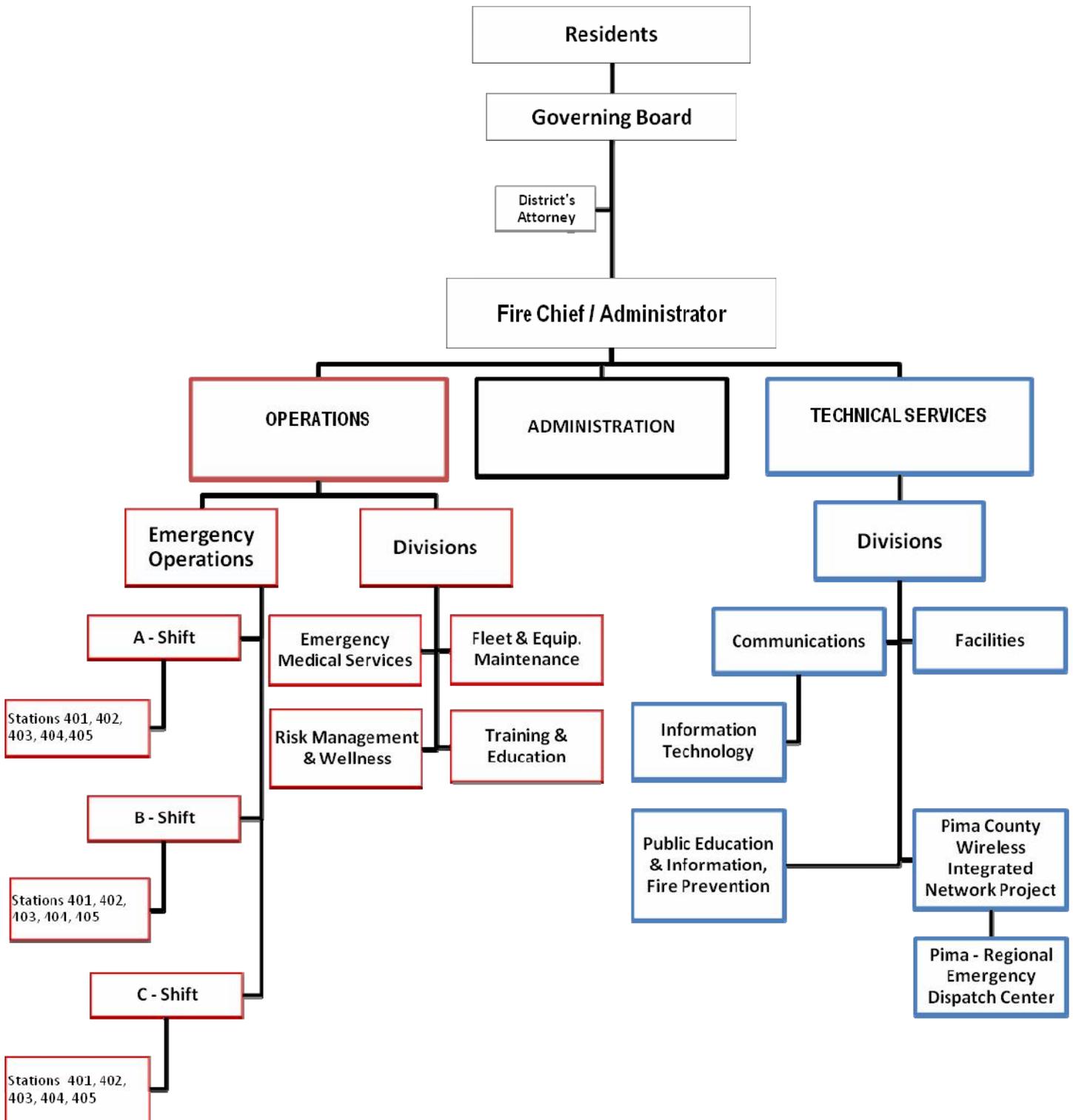
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*Front cover photo courtesy of Roni Ziembra
www.ziembaphoto.com*

Organizational Chart



Mission Statement

To minimize the threat to life and property due to fire, medical or other emergencies through education, prevention, preparedness, prompt response, and effective customer service.

Fire Board

2012 Fire Board

- James Bertrand, Chair
- Cheryl Cecil, Clerk
- Laura Dailey
- Charles Mendonca
- Dave Tornbom

The Drexel Heights Fire District Board conducts public meetings on the third Friday of each month at 9:00 AM, in the DHFD classroom at 5030 S. Camino Verde. The public is encouraged to attend. All meetings are handicap accessible and with 10 days written notice, arrangements can be made for the hearing impaired.

Contact Information

Administration, Fire Prevention, Training &
Station 401

5030 S. Camino Verde
(520) 883-4341

Station 402

6340 S. Mark Rd

Station 403

5960 S. Cardinal Ave

Station 404

3255 S. Kinney Rd

Station 405

7200 S. Wade Rd

Communications

6950 S. Beehive Ave

WWW.drexelfire.NET



Administration



A message from Fire Chief Douglas Chappell

The Drexel Heights Fire District continues to provide an outstanding level of service to our residents and those who have the opportunity to visit the area each and every day. Our services include emergency medical care and transport, fire suppression, code enforcement and fire prevention education, 9-1-1 dispatch services on a regional basis, hazardous materials and technical rescue services. On an internal basis we provide fleet maintenance, facility services and education and training programs for our employees.

Like most of America, the District continues to struggle in a difficult economic climate. The District has witnessed its revenues shrink while the demands on service have not. This is not something that only the Fire District is experiencing, but it has taken its toll community wide over the last 4 years.

The employees of the District along with the Governing Board have done an outstanding job of cutting expenditures while employee wages have remained status quo. Our costs for some things like utilities, pensions, fuel, and other essential items continue to increase. We are working hard not to pass any additional financial burden on to our residents who we know are struggling as well. We continue to pursue grants and other opportunities to help balance the budget.

The 2012 audit conducted by the accounting firm of Heinfeld Meech, P.C. of Tucson found that the District was properly managing the tax monies received and that our financial controls and policies were working properly.

During 2012, the District made some progress:

- The District ended the fiscal year in June with a balanced budget.
- Work continued with our partnership in a large regional communications network known as the Pima County Wireless Integrated Network (PCWIN) which is a County Bond Issue Project.
- The District received grant awards from Pima County to allow for five additional fire hydrants to be installed in non-watered areas and funding for continuation of the District's Family Safety Programs.
- The District continued to utilize a group of committed volunteers for various public education programs who gifted over 1,000 hours.
- The District's adopted budget for fiscal 2013 was nearly \$100,000.00 less than the fiscal 2012 budget. Most of that reduction was possible due to reduced spending in general, specifically less capital purchases. One way capital expenditures were reduced was the decision to rehabilitate our 1999 pumpers rather than replacing them. The District saved about \$300,000 for each rehabilitated unit.
- The District refinanced the bonds sold in 2003 at a much lower interest rate and reduced maturity time which will save taxpayers more than \$275,000 over the next 3 years.
- The District was able to renew our Certificate of Necessity with the Arizona Department of Health Services which allows us to continue to provide emergency ambulance transport services.
- The Governing Board authorized the purchase, equipping and rehabilitation of a used pumper which will serve as a reserve unit and replacement for the 1977 water tender.

2013 is expected to look a lot like 2012, with small pieces of progress while attempting to manage the economy. The District is committed to maintaining services at the current staffing levels. Our employees are committed to serving our residents and that effort will continue. I encourage our residents to let the Fire District know how we are doing. Visit our website at www.drexelfire.net and provide feedback and also keep up to date on current District activities.

Douglas E. Chappell, MPA, CFO
Fire Chief / Administrator

Employee Recognitions

Awards

Captain Alex Dunn, *Award of Service from Sons of the American Revolution*
Firefighter Eddie Arevalo, *Award of Service from Sons of the American Revolution*
Captain Hugh McCrystal, *First Responder Recognition from Optimist Club & Governor*

New Hires

Firefighter Fernando Rodriguez
Firefighter Achilles Leon
Firefighter Nathan Wilson
Firefighter Daniel Cramblit
Telecommunicator William Chapman
Telecommunicator Felicia Montano
Telecommunicator Carla Reece
Firefighter/CEP Andrew Feehs
Firefighter Shay O'Neill

New Training Certifications

Firefighter Samuel McKenzie, Hazardous Materials Technician
Firefighter David Fox, Hazardous Materials Technician

Promotions

Captain Jonathan Deyo
Captain Tom Doubrava
Paramedic Jason Lowe

Retirements

Division Chief Gary Bynum, 31 years of service
Firefighter Eddie Arevalo, 30 years of service
Captain Alex Dunn, 29 years of service

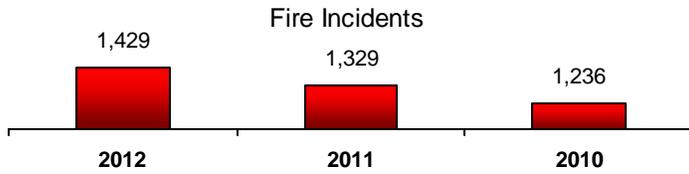
Service Pins

5 Years: Sam Criner, Stephen Maddux, Vitor Ribeiro De Cruz, Rolando Rivera, Rudy Aguilera, Carl Brown, Raul Caballero, Samuel McKenzie, Mark Walker
10 Years: Beverly Shields, Beau Bicknese, Fredrick Escalante, James Werts, Douglas Chappell
15 Years: David Wilson
20 Years: Hugh McCrystal
25 Years: Dane Crouse, Alex Dunn, David Shafer, Steve Campbell

(Pictures from left to right) 1) Firefighter Arevalo and Captain Dunn, Award of Service, 2) Captain McCrystal, First Responder Recognition, 3) Division Chief Bynum, farewell salute, 4) Fire Board plaque presentation for retirees.



Emergency Operations



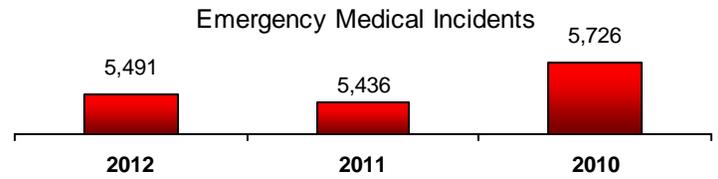
The Insurance Service Office (ISO) collected information about the District to use to set property insurance rates by the many insurance carriers. The ISO grading system looks at specific parts of the organization including communications, training, staffing and response times. A large part of the grade is based on the water system, which is outside the control of the District. The District expects to have the results from the ISO analysis in early 2013.

One of the District's fire engines received significant rehab work this year, including the mechanical systems, body work and new paint. This refurbishment is expected to extend the service length by approximately 10 years.

In 2012, DHFD was actively involved in a Standard Operating Guidelines committee with representatives from numerous organizations in the Tucson area including Tucson Fire Department, Northwest Fire/Rescue District, Green Valley Fire District, Golder Ranch Fire District among others. This committee is charged with developing guidelines for responses that will be utilized by all regional partners. This allows for standardization of responses, strategies and tactics when different agencies respond simultaneously to an incident.



Medical Services



The District sponsored several medical related "Trainer" courses this year. These courses certified several of our Paramedics to become instructors. By having these instructors in-house, it keeps the training consistent and cost effective to the District.

District staff continues to actively participate in several groups and committees that concentrate on improving the delivery of medical care to our residents and visitors. These committees are comprised of physicians, nurses, paramedics and hospital administrators. Using the most recent data and recommendations from nationally recognized medical peer groups, these committees develop and distribute the treatment protocols used by paramedics in Southeastern Arizona.

The District has kept on track with the ambulance replacement and rotation plan by taking possession of a 2012 McCoy Miller Ambulance.



Training & Education



DHFD sponsored a regional workshop this year called “Staying out of the Eagle’s Claw”. It was presented by Assistant Chief John Valenzuela of the Tempe Fire Department. The workshop was held at the Casino Del Sol Conference Center and it gave a great overview of the legal system as it relates to emergency responders.

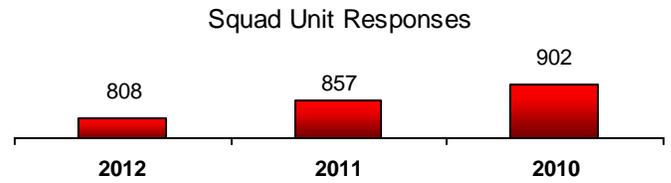
The multi-agency burn trailer returned to the District twice in 2012. Training sessions included night drills to meet ISO & NFPA requirements for night training.

The District participated in a multi-agency drill at the Casino Del Sol Resort in April while the resort was closed. The drill simulated a fire in the hotel tower during the evening. Agencies practiced with the emergency response systems in the facility and worked together on this large scale incident.

Partnering with Jorgenson Brooks, the District’s EAP program provider, officer development training sessions were set up on a monthly basis. The short format classes are open to current and prospective officers from DHFD and neighboring fire agencies.



Special Teams

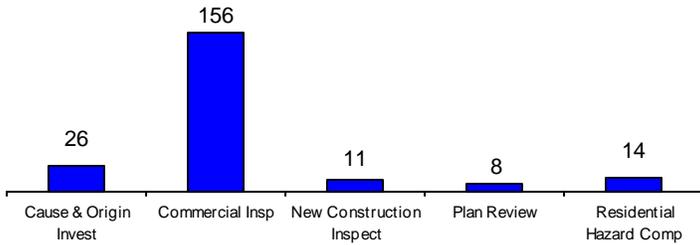


The District’s Metropolitan Medical Response System Task Force (MMRS-TF) team participated in a full scale exercise called “Operation Copycat” in November. The exercise simulated a potential real world scenario which produced over 100 casualties. The drill was a continuation of an exercise the District participated in last year and concentrated on treating patients and transporting them to area medical facilities. The patients were outfitted with movie make-up and injuries to add realism. Several agencies that constitute the Task Force included Tucson Fire Department, Green Valley Fire District, Drexel Heights Fire District, Golder Ranch Fire District along with Sierra Vista Fire Department.

DHFD comprises one fourth of the Pima Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team and is an integral part of the training committee that develops, plans and delivers training for the Team. In 2012, the District delivered several training sessions that concentrated on Hazardous Materials identification, containment and mitigation planning. The Team also participated in a training session provided by Southern Pacific Railroad concentrating on containment of a leaking rail car.



Fire Prevention

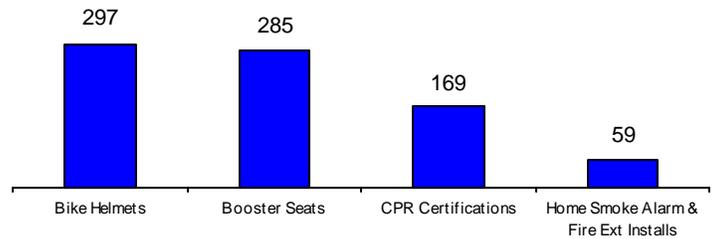


In 2012, the Fire Prevention Division sent a Firefighter to begin the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) training program. The program is sponsored by the Arizona chapter of the IAAI and is a two-year intensive training program. Upon successful completion, this Firefighter will be part of the District's Shift Investigator program.

Drexel Heights Fire District received a grant from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The grant was for the District's Fire Hydrant project. This grant allowed for the installation of new fire hydrants. The location for these fire hydrants was carefully selected in areas where the distance between existing fire hydrants was greater than 1,000 feet. The improved infrastructure will lower homeowners' insurance rates for residents in those areas. In all, the grant funded the installation of five new fire hydrants through Tucson Water. This brings the new fire hydrant installation numbers up to 105 over the past 16 years.



Public Education



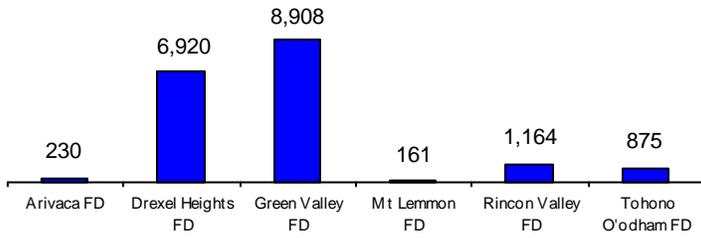
The Public Education Division continued to have a strong presence in the community this year with the assistance of grant funds. Providing fire and life safety programs such as ATV safety, babysitting programs, bike rodeos, bike helmet fittings and give-aways, booster seat distribution, CPR and first aid training, drowning prevention, fire safety trailer, home safety checks (including installation of a smoke alarm and fire extinguisher), juvenile firesetter intervention, school safety visits, and senior citizen fire academies.

The District utilizes a volunteer force of senior citizens to assist with most public education programs. The volunteers love being a part of and giving back to the community. In 2012 they donated 1,106 hours and at the AZ volunteer rate of \$19.71/hour they gifted the District \$22,863.60 in services.

For Fire Prevention Month in October, characterization programs were performed at area schools. This year's program had a super hero theme and included the return of a long-time favorite character "Flame". During the program 4,000 children learned about "two-ways out", knowing their address, and dialing 9-1-1-CALL when there's an emergency.



Communications

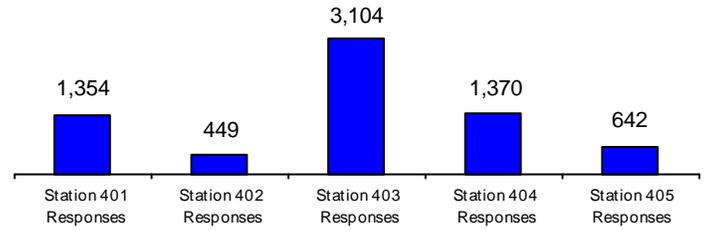


The Communications Division has been busy this year working to improve our quality of service. Staff has set a goal to become Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials certified as Basic Telecommunicators and Communications Training Officers. This standard requires stringent operational, training and policy requirements be met by the communications center.

Pima County Wireless Integrated Network or PCWIN is a state-of-the-art digital trunked radio communications system designed to provide public safety grade radio communications throughout Pima County. Included in the PCWIN project is a new 9-1-1 dispatch facility. Located at 3434 East 22nd Street, the facility will provide complete dispatch infrastructure for many different public service disciplines including Pima County Sheriff, the Office of Emergency Management and Regional Emergency Dispatch of fire agencies. Drexel Heights Fire District is the lead agency taking on the responsibility of coordination and implementation of the Regional Emergency Dispatch for fire.



Facilities



The Facilities Division is responsible for the maintenance of all District properties. We are also responsible for the replacement of all appliances and fixtures within those properties. We maintain the backup power, the sprinkler and fire alarm systems. Another duty assigned to our division is ordering and maintaining tools and supplies used by personnel for routine station activities. Most of our focus is on maintaining the existing facilities to create a safe and comfortable working environment.

This year Facilities Division has split up and delegated its areas of responsibility to selfless capable district employees. These employees are using their talents to help improve the programs within these areas and do so with no extra compensation. The programs areas they are responsible for are station supplies, generator maintenance and kitchen hood, sprinkler and extinguisher maintenance.

2012 projects included roof repairs at Station 401, engineering work to resolve drainage issues at Station 405, winterization of the pipes at all stations, and relocation design of the water pump supplying the communication facility.



2012 Customer Service Feedback & Questionnaire Responses

Through feedback and our questionnaires here's what the public had to say...

The skills of the responders has saved my husband's life—there is no way to adequately express my gratitude. (resident)

Thank you for helping our girl scout troop with first aid training. (Girl Scout Troop #645)

Drexel Heights emergency responders are professional, calm and patient. (resident)

Thanks for all you do, all year long, to prevent child drownings. (Phoenix Children's Hospital)

They are the best, and we feel blessed to be in Drexel Heights Fire District. (resident)

It was great to have Drexel at our school career day. Thank you for fighting fires to keep people safe. (Banks Elementary student)

Thank you from the Drexel Heights Fire District for all of the support we receive daily from our community. It is a pleasure to serve you!

