

City of  
**Sycamore**



**Fire Department**

**FY 2014 Annual Report**

## Table of Contents

<b>Department overview .....</b>	2
<b>Year in review emergency response activity.....</b>	4
<b>Administrative Division activities .....</b>	5
<b>Operations Division activities .....</b>	12
<b>Operations Division response statistics.....</b>	16
Emergency service call history  FY05-14 .....	17
Multiple call incidents history  FY05-14 .....	17
Emergency response by Fire Station location .....	18
Emergency response by Fire Station history FY 08-14 .....	18
Emergency Medical/Fire/non-fire response history FY 05-14...	19
Emergency Medical Service activity FY 14.....	20
Emergency Medical Service activity history FY 05-14.....	20
Fire and non-fire incidents FY 14.....	21
Fire and non-fire incident history FY 05-14.....	21
Fire suppression responses FY 14 .....	22
Fire suppression response history FY 05-14 .....	22
Non - fire responses FY 14 .....	23
Non - fire responses history FY 05-14 .....	23
Fire loss history FY 14 .....	24
Fire loss history FY 05-14 .....	24
Training hours FY 14 .....	25
<b>Special activities/events .....</b>	26
<b>Fire Department organizational chart .....</b>	30
<b>Fire Department roster of personnel .....</b>	31

# Department Overview

The City of Sycamore is located approximately 60 miles west of the City of Chicago in the center of DeKalb County. The Sycamore Fire Department provides Fire Suppression, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, Hazardous Materials First Responder, Fire Prevention, and Public Education services to approximately 20,000 citizens. This service area includes the City of Sycamore (17,519) and the Sycamore Fire Protection District (approximately 2,500). Overall, we service an area of approximately 62 ½ square miles (City of Sycamore - 5.57 square miles).

The Sycamore Fire Department is a combination Fire Department providing 24 - hour emergency response, operating out of two fire stations with 40 sworn and 1 civilian employees. The Department is divided into two divisions; an administrative division and an operations division. The Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating for the City of Sycamore is a Class 4 and the ISO rating for the Sycamore Fire Protection District (unincorporated area outside the city) is a Class 8B.

## **Fire Department newly revised Mission and Value Statements**

In 2013, during the Strategic Planning process, the Planning Committee revised and updated the Department's mission and value statements to accurately describe the organizational mission.

### **The Sycamore Fire Department Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Sycamore Fire Department is to selflessly serve our community with the highest quality professional fire and emergency medical services.

### **Our value statements:**

#### **Preparedness**

*Our members strive to be best prepared through physical fitness, continued training, and equipment readiness in order to operate in the safest way possible*

#### **Dedication**

*Our members take great pride and honor proving a loyal service to the community, while respecting the traditions of our profession*

#### **Honesty/Integrity**

*Our members perform their duties honestly and ethically striving to maintain the trust given to us by the community*

#### **Teamwork**

*Our members work together to achieve a common goal through mutual trust, respect, and loyalty*

#### **Selflessness**

*Our members are bravely willing to sacrifice our needs to serve the needs of the community In the course of performing our duties*

## **Fire Department budget and authorized strength**

The Fire Department budget for FY 14 was \$2,769,515. Personnel account for 95% of the budget (\$2,637,415). Commodities, contractual services, other services, and equipment accounted for \$132,100.00 (5%). The Department's authorized personnel strength is as follows: Fire Chief -1, Assistant Fire Chief - 2, Fire Lieutenant - 7, Firefighter/Paramedic - 19, Paid - on -call Firefighter - 18, and Fire Secretary - 1.

## **Overview of emergency activity**

For the 4th year in a row, requests for emergency service increased. In FY 14, requests for emergency services increased a modest .4% (+8 incidents) from the previous year. We have been tracking an upward trend since 2005. Over the course of the past 9 years, we have seen emergency calls increase at a rate, of just under 1.4% per year.

In FY14, we experienced a slight downturn in emergency medical service incidents. Emergency medical service requests decreased slightly at 2.45% (-40) with a slight increase in fire (+6) and a significant increase in non-fire (+72) incidents. Emergency medical responses continue to dominate much of the Fire Department activity. Emergency medical responses account for 79% and fire/non-fire responses account for 21% of all Fire Department emergency activity.

The Fire Department responded to 1,598 ambulance requests, treated 1,799 patients, and transported 1,159 patients to the hospital. The total number of patients seen by the Fire Department decreased slightly (-33 patients) and number of patients transported to the hospital also decreased by 6% (-70). For those patients (1,159) transported to the hospital, the Fire Department provided Advanced Life Support (ALS) care in 69% (798 patients) to 31% (361) Basic Life Support (BLS) care.

The Fire Department responded to 85 fire suppression responses and 368 non-fire responses. In FY14, the fire suppression responses have shown a slight decrease in structure fire responses (-5). The overall this activity level has remained fairly constant for the past five fiscal years. In FY14, the annual fire loss was \$704,950.00 which is significantly higher than FY13 (\$225,410) and is slightly below the ten year average fire loss of just under a million dollars (\$975,924). The baseline average of fire loss for the past 9 years (without the large dollar loss in 2010) is \$628,694.

## **Year in review emergency response activity**

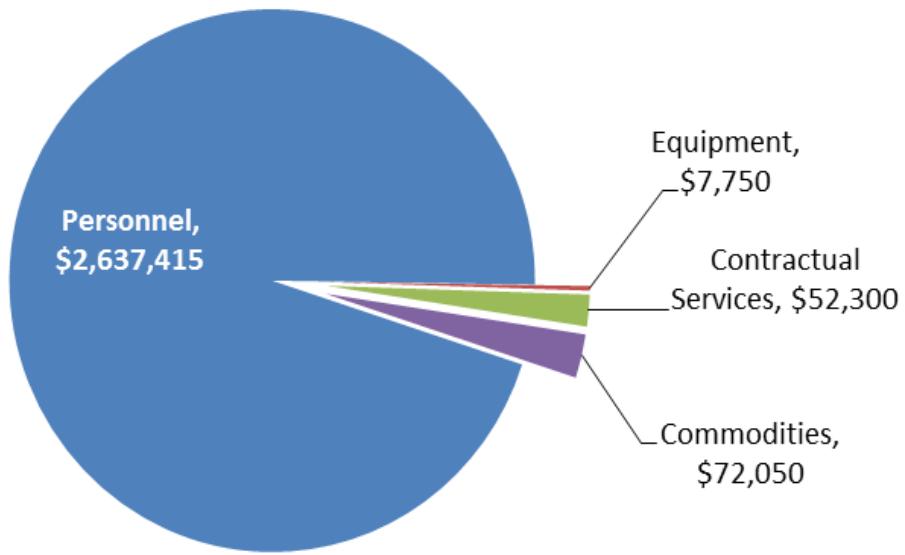
### **Fiscal Year 2013 – 2014**

<b>Requests for Emergency Services</b>	<b>2,021</b>
<b>Total Emergency Medical Service Responses</b>	<b>1,598</b>
<b>Total Fire and Non-fire Responses</b>	<b>453</b>
<hr/>	
<b>EMS Responses</b>	<b>1,598</b>
Patients seen	1,799
Patients Transported	1,159
BLS Transports	361
ALS Transports	798
<u>Patients not transported</u>	<u>640</u>
Care given	32
Refused care	607
Advanced life support provided to neighboring jurisdiction	1
<hr/>	
<b>Fire Suppression Responses</b>	<b>85</b>
Structure Fire	38
Vehicle / Motor home	8
Cooking (confined to container)	12
Outside (rubbish & equipment)	16
Refuse (dumpster, trash contained)	2
Brush Fire	7
Chimney	2
<hr/>	
<b>Non-fire Responses</b>	<b>368</b>
False / Malicious Alarms	175
Good Intent	77
Burning Complaints	10
Hazardous Conditions	77
Service Calls	29
<hr/>	
<b>Additional response information</b>	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	179
Extrications	9
Mutual Aid & Automatic Aid Given	78
Mutual Aid & Automatic Aid Received	42
<hr/>	
Total Fire Dollar Loss = \$704,950	

# Administrative Division activities



## Fire Department Budget FY14 \$2,769,515



# Administrative Division activities

## Administrative Division - overview

The Administration Division consists of the Fire Chief, two Assistant Fire Chiefs, and one Administrative Secretary. The Administration Division provides the support for the Operations Division activities which includes: facility repairs and maintenance, vehicle and equipment repair and maintenance, computer system and related software support, fire prevention program including public fire education, grant application and administration, special event planning, and fire and emergency medical service continuing training.

## Personnel changes - new hires

In FY14, the Fire Department welcomed some new faces:

- David Zern and Evan Rhule started as a POC Firefighter/Interns on May 1, 2013.
- Christian Conlon and Scott Miller started as a POC Firefighters on February 4, 2014.

## Personnel changes - reassessments

- POC Firefighter/Intern Vinnie Laudicina was reclassified as a POC Firefighter with his acceptance of a fulltime EMS position on January 10, 2014.
- POC Firefighter/Intern Zach Wright was reclassified as a POC Firefighter with his acceptance of a fulltime EMS position on January 10, 2014.

## Personnel changes - resignation

- POC Firefighter/Intern Dan Franklin resigned to take fulltime employment as a career Firefighter/Paramedic on October 8, 2013. Dan served from July 8, 2011 to October 8, 2013.
- POC Firefighter Joe Jacober resigned to take fulltime employment as a career Firefighter/Paramedic on September 24, 2013. Joe served from February 1, 2012 to September 24, 2013.
- POC Firefighter Wes Kairis resigned for personal reasons March 31, 2014.

## Career firefighter deployed to Afghanistan

Career Fire Lieutenant Shaun Penn was called to active duty with the US Army in early January 2013. He is expected to be deployed for 12 months and is currently serving in Afghanistan.

## Years of service awards

Annual service awards were presented to City employees at the December 2, 2013 City Council Meeting. The following Fire Department personnel were recognized:

• Assistant Fire Chief Art Zern	1 year
• Firefighter/Paramedic Eric Saxton	1 year
• POC Firefighter Vinnie Laudicina	1 year
• POC Firefighter Michael Lorence	1 year
• POC Firefighter Sarie Turner	1 year
• POC Firefighter Zach Wright	1 year
• Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Gustafson	10 years
• Firefighter/Paramedic John Pink	10 years
• Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Honiotes	10 years

- Firefighter/Paramedic Pat Dulzo 10 years
- Firefighter/Paramedic Bob Maciejewski 15 years
- Assistant Fire Chief Marc Doty 20 years
- Fire Lieutenant Tal Hickey 25 years
- Fire Lieutenant Kurt Mathey 25 years
- POC Firefighter Steve Carlson 25 years

### **Grant applications**

The Fire Department applied for five grants during FY14:

- One grant was submitted to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for a blood gas carbon monoxide monitor (\$5,000), which was subsequently denied.
- Two grants were submitted through the Assistance to Fire Fighter Grant (AFG) program. One was for a replacement fire engine (\$430,000) which we were awarded \$384,750 on July 25, 2014 and the other was for 40 firefighter personal escape systems (\$25,000) which is still pending.
- A grant was submitted to the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) for \$24,605 (\$25,000) for the purchase of self contained breathing apparatus adjunct and personal escape systems which was subsequently denied.
- A grant was submitted to Monsanto Corporation for replacement structural fire gear (\$20,000) which was subsequently denied.

### **Replacement emergency vehicle - new command vehicle**

The Fire Department maintains three command vehicles as part of the emergency response fleet. The oldest command vehicle is a 2001 model. This vehicle has been slated to be replaced for the past few years, but budget limitations have delayed the replacement. In May 2013, bids were solicited for a Ford Expedition replacement command vehicle. Veto Enterprises, Inc, Sycamore, IL was the low bidder. The new command vehicle was placed into emergency service in October 2013.

### **Replacement emergency equipment - cardiac monitor - defibrillator**

The Fire Department maintains four Advance Life Support (ALS) ambulances. One of the key pieces of emergency equipment is the cardiac monitor/defibrillators. This is the first year of a multi-year cardiac monitor/defibrillator replacement plan. In early May, 2013, bids were solicited for a replacement Physio Control Life Pak 15 cardiac monitor/defibrillator and the low bid was Midwest Pre-Hospital Sales, Chicago, Illinois. The new cardiac monitor/defibrillator was placed into service in July, 2013.

### **Fire Department Strategic Planning**

In early March, 2013, the Fire Department began the process of developing a 5-7 year Strategic Plan. The last Strategic Plan was completed in January, 2001. A Strategic Planning Committee was formed consisting of three chief officers, a company officer and a firefighter from each shift, and a member of the Firefighter's Union Executive Board. The Committee has been reviewing our service delivery as it relates to existing apparatus, equipment and facilities as well as forecasting what the future may hold based on potential changes to local demographics. The committee has met many times over the last 14 months. It is anticipated that the final document will be presented to the City Council in the summer of 2014.

## **Upgrade emergency medical response capability - addition of a 4<sup>th</sup> Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance**

In late FY 13, the Sycamore Fire Protection District and City of Sycamore collaborated on the purchase of a replacement ambulance. The new ambulance was placed into emergency service in mid - March 2013. It was decided that the oldest ambulance slated for replacement (1999 Model) had enough service life left that the unit would be kept in emergency service to increase the ambulance response fleet to four. The ambulance was initially equipped to the Basic Life Support (BLS) level and in early FY 14, with the help of a grant received from the Sycamore Lions Club along with city capital funding; the 4<sup>th</sup> Fire Department ambulance was upgraded to the ALS level. In July, 2013, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) certified the Departments ambulance as ALS capable.

## **Upgrade emergency medical response capability - upgrade two fire engines to Advanced Life Support (ALS) capability**

As a result of a generous grant from both the Sycamore Lions Club and Sycamore Fire Protection District, those dollars were coupled with city capital funding which funded required medical equipment and medicine which were purchased and placed on the two front line fire engines. In July, 2013, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) certified the two fire engines as ALS capable. This designation give the fire department versatility in being able to provide ALS medical care in the event the fire engine is out of quarters due to the crew returning from a prior incident or were out of quarters training.

## **Ambulance user fee changes**

In late FY14, the Fire Department conducted a study of ambulance transport user fees to determine if the Sycamore user fees were current given some substantial increases in ambulance medical supplies costs. The study showed that Sycamore was below the average in almost all of the pricing charges for seven nearby and/or similar population dense communities. On April 21, 2014, the Sycamore City Council approved the recommendations of the Fire Chief to increase the user fees therefore placing Sycamore within the current average of the communities studied.

## **Quartermaster program**

Lt. Darrin Hepker serves as the Department's Quartermaster. He facilitates the procurement of Department issued uniforms and structural fire gear for new and existing employees. In FY14, we replaced one set of structural turnout gear.

## **Vehicle maintenance program**

The Fire Department currently has a fleet of four fire engines, three ambulances, two brush fire vehicles, one rescue squad, three Chief cars, one semi-rigid inflatable boat, and one reserve pool vehicle. In addition, the Fire Department also stores the MABAS Division #6 Decontamination unit. Assistant Fire Chief Art Zern oversees the Department's vehicle maintenance program. Lt. Dan Marcinkowski serves as the Department's Mechanic Coordinator and Firefighter/Paramedic Brad Belanger serves as the Mechanic Assistant. In FY14, we performed periodic preventive maintenance in-house on all Fire Department vehicles and performed or facilitated repairs as needed to various vehicles in the fleet. The most noteworthy activities were:

- Annual fire pump testing of all fire engines (4)
- Repaired brakes on Engine #2
- Replaced tires on Engine #3

- Repaired Medic #2 turbo repair and fuel leak
- Repaired the motor on Engine #1

### **Tools and equipment maintenance program**

Assistant Fire Chief Art Zern oversees the Department's tool and equipment maintenance program. Lt. Dan Marcinkowski serves as the Department's Mechanic Coordinator and Firefighter/Paramedic Brad Belanger serves as the Mechanic Assistant. In FY14, we performed periodic preventive maintenance and repair on all Fire Department tools and equipment. The most noteworthy activities were:

- Annual ground ladder testing of all ground ladders
- Annual service on the hydraulic rescue tools
- Annual service on the cardiac monitors

In an effort to maintain the inventory of required tools and equipment on emergency vehicles, we replaced the following:

- Purchased the first phase of the firefighting nozzles replacement plan
- Purchased 1 ½" foam educators for Engine #1 and #2
- Purchased a helicopter landing kit for Engine #3

### **Fire Station - facility maintenance**

Assistant Fire Chief Art Zern oversees the Department's facility maintenance and repair program. Maintenance and repair of the fire station buildings are performed by the Mechanic Coordinator, the Mechanic Assistant, Public Works personnel, and outside contractors. The most noteworthy repairs during FY14 were:

- Replaced building heating system boiler ignition system at Fire Station #1
- Replaced one boiler circulating pump at Fire Station #1

### **Fire Station - facility improvements**

- Fire Station #1 - paint outside panels
- Fire Station #1 - remove front awning
- Fire Station #1 - replaced main entry doors
- Fire Station #1 and #2 - install MABAS Knox boxes

### **Computer system improvement**

Fire Chief Peter Polarek oversees the Department's computer system including software and hardware. In FY14, the City's IT contractor facilitated the upgrading of memory in two of the training computers used specifically for video and webinar training activities and we purchased one additional Thin Client computer to maintain our electronic report writing capability.

### **Fire Prevention Program**

Assistant Fire Chief Art Zern oversees the Department's Fire Prevention program which includes public fire education. Throughout the year, various fire prevention needs are addressed which include: review of building plans for new construction for fire prevention code compliance; the management of the Knox Box (secure key box) program, dealing with code enforcement/fire safety issues as they arise, monitoring third party fire alarm, sprinkler system, and hood/duct inspections for compliance and follow up, if needed. In order to be more efficient in the monitoring of required sprinkler, fire alarm, and hood/duct annual or semi-annual testing requirements, we have employed the servicers of the Compliance Engine. The Compliance Engine is a web-based service for Fire Prevention Bureau's to track and drive code compliance, reduce false

alarm activity, and provide safer communities through third party inspection reporting and maintenance. The Compliance Engine collects, organizes and categorizes from third party contractors who inspect, test, and maintain fire protection systems at no cost to the City.

The City of Sycamore Knox Box program is nearing twenty years old. With the maturity of the program, we felt it was time to make sure that existing Knox Box clients had keys that were current for the occupancy. In late March 2014, we initiated the first phase of an effort to update the current occupancy keys for those occupancies participating in the Knox Box program. The first phase of the update was to issue a press release encouraging occupancy/business owners to evaluate their current key access to their building. To date, we have had modest response to the press release. Subsequent phases may include a direct mailing to all Sycamore Knox Box clients and/or site visits to each Knox location.

### **Fire Prevention - public education activities**

Firefighter/Paramedic Jim Ward serves as the Department's Fire Prevention Education Coordinator. He coordinates all public fire education activities and oversees the four members performing various presentations. Throughout the year, the Public Education group of six firefighters provides presentations to various age groups at outside locations and at each of the fire stations. A significant portion of the public fire education effort is Fire Prevention Week. October 6-12, 2013 was designated as the national Fire Prevention Week. With the heavy demand for fire prevention presentations during this five day window, our local fire prevention week has expanded to almost the entire month of October. We use the national Fire Prevention Week theme as the foundation for the month long activities. This year's theme was "Prevent kitchen fires". For a better part of three weeks, the Fire Prevention Team members made presentations to children from pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. They visited every grade school. During the month of October, we estimate that we make contact with over 3,000 school children. In addition to the presentations, a fire drill was conducted and successfully completed in every elementary school. The group emphasized four key points during the presentations: 1) Test, and if necessary, replace batteries in smoke detectors; 2) Test, and if necessary, replace batteries in carbon monoxide detectors; 3) Talk to parents about an escape plan in case of fire; and 4) What would you do if your friends wanted you to play with fire. In addition to presentations at schools for children, the public education group did over 30 fire station tours/safety presentations for pre-school and special needs children.

Members of the public education group participated in the following:

- Continued the monthly fire prevention press release to the local media with various fire safety and seasonal safety messages to the public.
- Provided over 10 senior and adult fire safety presentations which included fire extinguisher training, senior fire safety, and senior health safety.
- Provide fire safety presentations for special needs individuals.
- Provided fire safety presentation for residents of the Sycamore Civic Apartments.
- Participated in the Target National Night Out.
- Participated in Tuesdays on the Town - Touch a Truck event.
- Participated in Sycamore Park District - Touch a Truck event.
- Facilitated over 30 CPR and First Aid courses for members of the community.

## **Fire Prevention - Juvenile Firesetter Program**

Fire Prevention Education Coordinator Jim Ward continues to lead a coalition of eight agencies concerned with juvenile fire setters. Firefighter/Paramedic Ward chairs the quarterly meetings as the coalition works together to deal with this growing issue. The Juvenile Fire Setter Coalition is comprised of members of the Sycamore and DeKalb Fire and Police Departments, the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department, the DeKalb County State's Attorney's office, local mental health agencies, Sycamore School District staff, local chapter of the Red Cross, and the Youth Services Bureau. During FY 14, three individuals were processed through the Juvenile Fire Setter program through various sources of referral. In addition, Sycamore Fire Department hosted the Juvenile Fire Setter Interventionist course which trained several Sycamore Fire Department and DeKalb County fire service members to serve as juvenile fire setter interventionists.

## **Special event permit review**

The City of Sycamore permits approximately 60 special events a year ranging from the temporary closure of a downtown city street to catered events on private property. Assistant Chief Zern provides the Fire Department safety review of all special event permit requests as part of a overall city review during the special event season (May-November).

## **Firefighter behavioral health presentations**

In early January 2014, a small group of Illinois firefighters and mental health professional unveiled a peer driven support network for firefighters. The Illinois Fire Fighter Peer Support Team concept was formally introduced to the Illinois fire service community. The team's mission is to serve the fire service family by providing trained peer supporters who can give confidential, appropriate and supportive assistance. As part of the spreading of the word of this important initiative, the Sycamore Fire Department hosted the chair of the Peer Support Team for three days of orientation training in late April 2014. In addition, two of our Fire Department members participated in the inaugural class of instructing firefighters about how to provide peer support.

# Operation Division activities

## Fire Station #1 - 535 DeKalb Avenue



## Fire Station #2 - 2100 Frantum Road



# **Operation Division activities**

## **Emergency operations overview**

Emergency responses continue to trend up over the past four fiscal years from a low in 2010. Emergency medical responses continue to make up the large portion of the increase in activity, while fire and non-fire responses have remained relatively flat.

## **Emergency medical services**

The Fire Department operates four Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances. The Sycamore Fire Department participates with the Kishwaukee Hospital Emergency Medical Services System and operates under the medical direction of the emergency room physicians at Kishwaukee Hospital. Assistant Fire Chief Marc Doty oversees the Emergency Medical Services program with the assistance of Firefighter/Paramedic Bill Reynolds who serves as the Department's Paramedic Coordinator.

## **Emergency Medical services continuing training**

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) requires all certified paramedics to successfully complete 25 hours of continuing education each year and emergency medical technicians - basic to complete 15 continuing education hours per year . The required continuing medical education is provided to both Fire Department Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technician -Basic level by Kishwaukee Hospital EMS System staff.

In January, 2013, all Fire Department certified paramedics successfully completed the Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) recertification course.

## **Fire basic and continuing training**

Assistant Fire Chief Marc Doty oversees the Department's fire training program which includes both in-house and outside training schools. While most of the training is performed in-house, a small amount of the training is provided through recognized fire training academies. For in-house training, Assistant Chief Doty assigns various monthly continuing fire education training topics, provides supporting training information, and the required training is delivered through the company officers to shift personnel. For outside training, we sent 6 firefighters to two outside required basic training courses (Vehicle and Machinery Operations, Instructor I). In FY14, we documented almost 3,750 hours of in-house training. Much of this documented training provides reinforcement and refresher (continuing education) training of achieved fire service certifications. Training hours are divided into four categories: Fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Special Teams, and other training. As a result of the training activities, a number of fire department personnel attained fire certifications through the Illinois State Fire Marshal's office. The newly achieved certifications (41) were for Basic Operations Firefighter (firefighter II), Advanced Firefighter (Firefighter III), Fire Apparatus Engineer, Vehicle and Machinery Operations, Hazardous Materials Operations, Technical Rescue Awareness, Fire Department Health and Safety Officer, Fire Investigator, and Juvenile Fire Setter Interventionist.

In April 2013, as part of their required basic training, career Lieutenant Todd Turner and career Firefighter/Paramedics Andy Powers, Dustin Ruby, Mike Hardesty, Nick Young, and Matt Anderson successfully completed the Vehicle and Machinery Operations course. The Sycamore Fire Department hosted the Instructor I course at Fire Station #1

in late January, 2014. Career Lieutenant Todd Turner and Paul Rubeck along with career Firefighter/Paramedics Jim, Ward, Ian Wheeler, Ryan Gustafson, Eric Saxton, and POC Firefighters Michael Lorence and Sarie Turner successfully completed the Instructor I course.

### **Hands on training**

As part of the review of existing ice rescue response procedures, the Fire Department facilitated ice rescue response practice on the pond in the Sycamore Park in mid-February 2014. Much of the new revised procedures were practiced.

### **Training scholarship award winners**

In May, 2013, the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association Educational and Research Foundation announced that four Sycamore firefighters were awarded scholarships through the Educational and Research Foundation. Career Firefighter/Paramedics Brad Belanger (\$500), Bill Reynolds (\$1,000), Jim Ward (\$1,000), and Brian Thompson (\$500) were awarded scholarships. Firefighter/Paramedics Ward and Reynolds successfully complete the Fire Investigator series. Firefighter/Paramedics Belanger and Thompson successfully completed the Fire Department Health and Safety Officer course.

### **Personnel - POC Firefighter program**

The Paid on call (POC) Firefighter program is designed to supplement the career staffing of the Fire Department. In FY 2014, we advertised and hired two new POC Firefighters in February, 2014. Paid on call firefighters are required to meet minimum training requirements, minimum activity requirements, and required ride time. Under the improved program, The Fire Department currently employs twelve POC Firefighters (including two Chaplains classified as POC Firefighters and two POC Firefighter/Interns)

### **Personnel - POC Firefighter/Intern program**

The Intern program is a three year term where POC Firefighter/Interns agree to work four - 24 hour shifts per month with an assigned firefighting shift in addition to attending a full college course load. Over the course of three years, Firefighter/Interns are required to successfully achieve Firefighter II, Emergency Medical Technician - Basic, and Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic certifications. In FY 2013, we advertised and hired two new POC Firefighter/Interns in May 2013. While the Fire Department is authorized up to six college interns, we currently employ two POC Firefighter/Interns.

In September, 2013, POC Firefighter/Intern Vinnie Laudicina and Zach Wright successfully passed the State of Illinois Paramedic examination. In addition, they completed the required hours (500) of clinical time and are now licensed paramedics.

Newly appointed POC Firefighter/Interns Evan Rhule and David Zern started paramedic training in September 2013. They will participate in an 11 month intensive training program. They are scheduled to take the State of Illinois Paramedic examination in September 2014.

### **Special Teams**

The Sycamore Fire Department participates with the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division #6 Special Teams. Working cooperatively with the firefighter's collective bargaining group, a fire investigation team was formed and new members were added to both the technical rescue team and the newly formed fire investigation team. Specialty team member continuing training requirements were defined and new

member training is planned for FY 15 and 16 through Illinois Terrorism Task Force grant funding.

### **Fire Station and emergency vehicle maps**

Lt. Darrin Hepker maintains all of the Fire Department map books and response maps for both fire stations and fire department emergency vehicles.

### **SCBA maintenance and repair**

Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Flatter oversees the maintenance and repair of all of the Department's self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). This effort includes the required flow test of all SCBA air packs (24), RIT packs (3), the required annual SCBA face piece testing with each firefighter (37), and the required quarterly breathing air quality testing of the breathing air compressor.

### **Atmospheric monitoring instruments/thermal imaging camera maintenance and repair**

Firefighter/Paramedic Eric Carlson oversees the maintenance and repair of all of the Department's atmospheric monitoring instruments and thermal imaging cameras. He calibrates the atmospheric monitoring instruments quarterly to ensure of dependable and accurate response.

### **Firefighters wear pink in October**

For the entire month of October, all on-duty City of Sycamore Firefighters wore a special navy/pink Fire Department uniform t-shirt to show support for Breast Cancer Awareness. The t-shirts featured the traditional pink ribbon and pink lettering of the Breast Cancer Awareness Foundation entwined with the Sycamore firefighters' motto of Pride and Honor. Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Honiotes facilitated the design and purchase of the t-shirts.

### **Special events - Sycamore Car Show**

The Fire Department actively participated in the safety review of the Annual Car Show layout as well as the implementation of an event first responder emergency response. On July 29, 2013, the Fire Department provided two fire personnel strategically placed in the middle of the downtown area, which provided an event first aid station along with ability to provide first response within the car show area. It is estimated that the Car Show attracts approximately 10,000 visitors to this event.

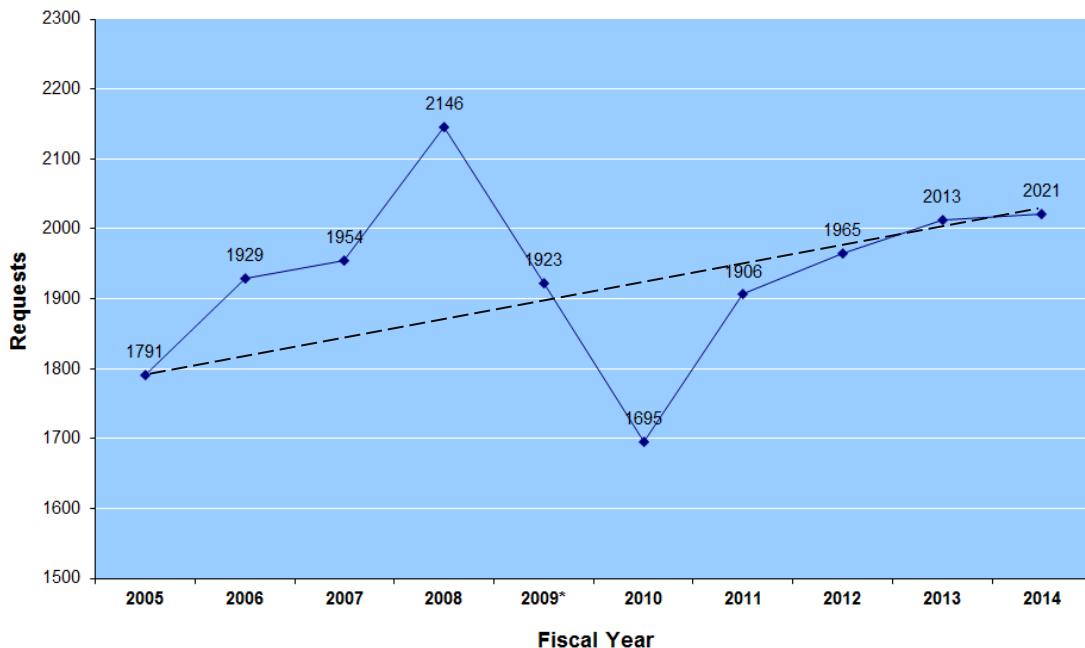
### **Special events - Sycamore Pumpkin Fest**

The Fire Department actively participated in the planning and implementation of the emergency response to the annual Sycamore Pumpkin Fest special event. On October 27, 2013, ten Fire Department emergency personnel, staffing two staff vehicles, and the all terrain vehicle (ATV) provided emergency response for the Pumpkin Run which drew almost over 1,800 participants. For the Pumpkin Parade, twenty-seven personnel staffing 3 Chief vehicles, 3 fire engines, 3 ambulances, a rescue squad, brush truck, ATV, and the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office Mobile Command Post provided emergency response capability from three strategically placed staging sites just off of the Pumpkin Parade route. The Fire Department was prepared to respond to any issues during the weeklong Festival including the Pumpkin Parade. It is estimated that the five day Pumpkin Festival event attracts approximately 150,000 visitors to Sycamore.

# Operations - emergency response statistics

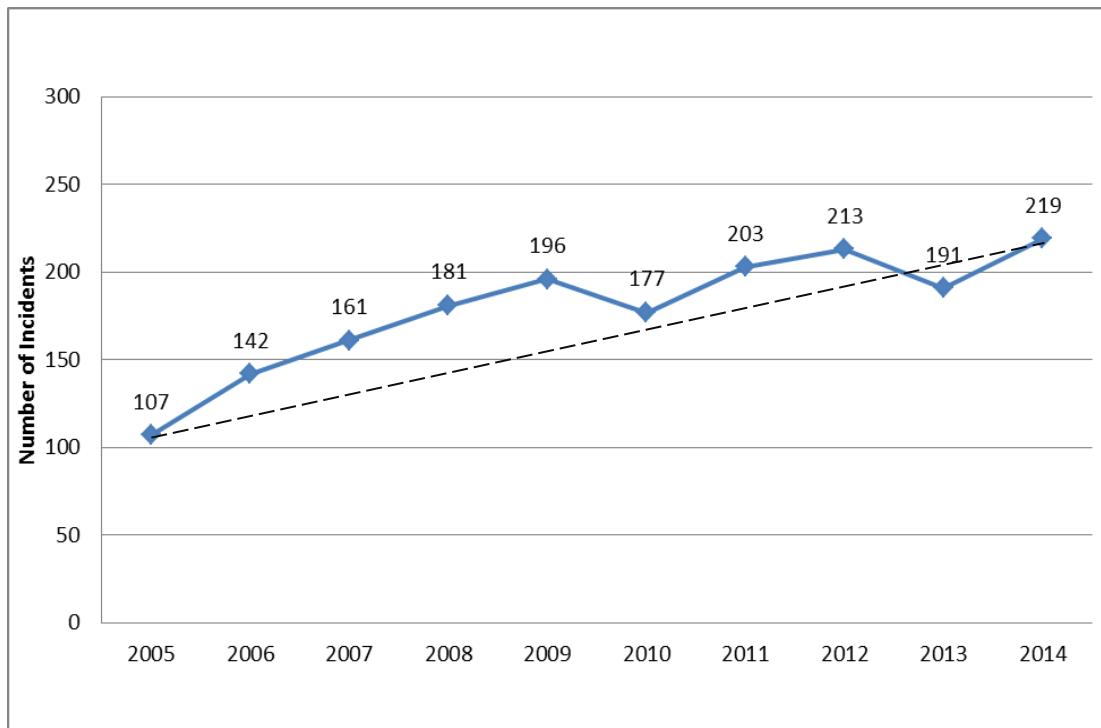


## Requests for Emergency Service FY05 – FY14



In FY13, we received 2,013 requests for emergency service. This was a 2.41% (+48 incidents) from the previous fiscal year.

## Multiple call incidents FY05 - FY14



In FY14, we had 219 occasions where we experienced simultaneous calls for emergency service (both fire stations out on one or separate emergency responses)

2009 \* On January 1, 2009, the Fire Department changed its Dispatch Guidelines. This change was made to conform to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Prior to 2009, we would give separate incident numbers for a fire and EMS unit dispatched to an emergency. In FY09, this change reduced our incident numbering by 153. This means that we responded to 70 fewer emergency calls in FY 2009 than in FY 2008.

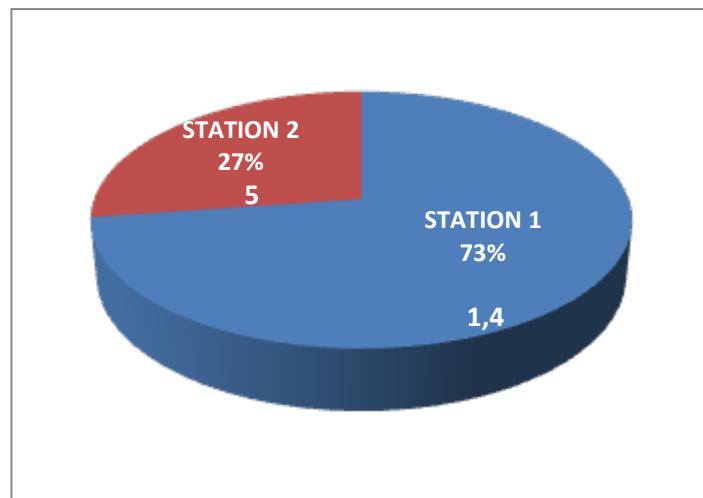
## Emergency calls by Fire Station location

Seventy-three percent of our initial responses were from Station 1, with a call volume of 1,470. This station response area is the most populated, and this station is dispatched for Automatic Aid and Mutual Aid fire calls.

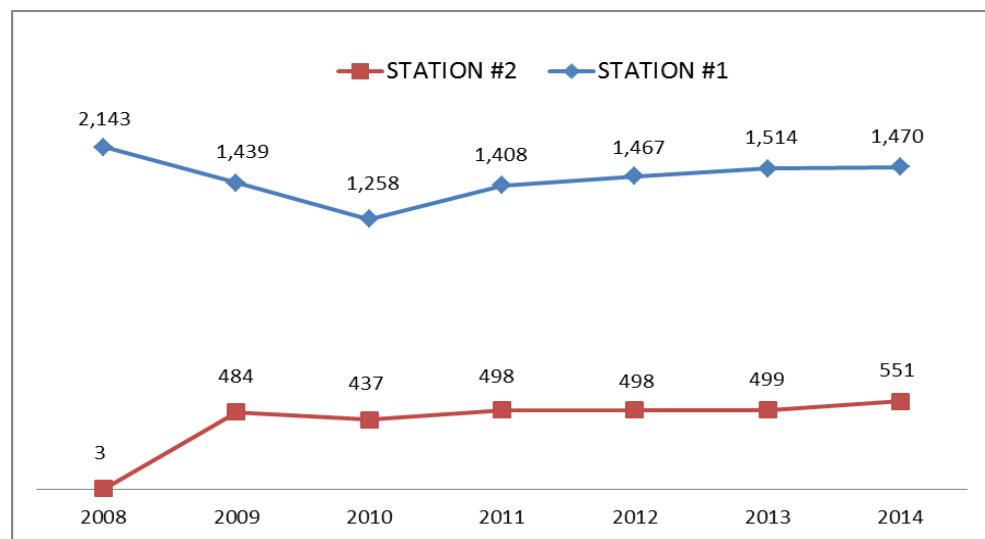
The dividing line between Station #1 and #2 runs east and west. From the west heading east - all land north of and including Route 64, including the intersection of Route 64 and Peace Road, Peace Road north of Rt. 64 to the South Branch of the Kishwaukee River. The Kishwaukee River east to a point north of the Stone Prairie subdivision and then the line moving east to County Line Road south of Mt. Hunger Road.

Station 2 responded to 551 calls as the initial response station. This number does not reflect all incident responses from this station, only the calls originally dispatched to this station.

## Emergency responses by Fire Station district FY 14

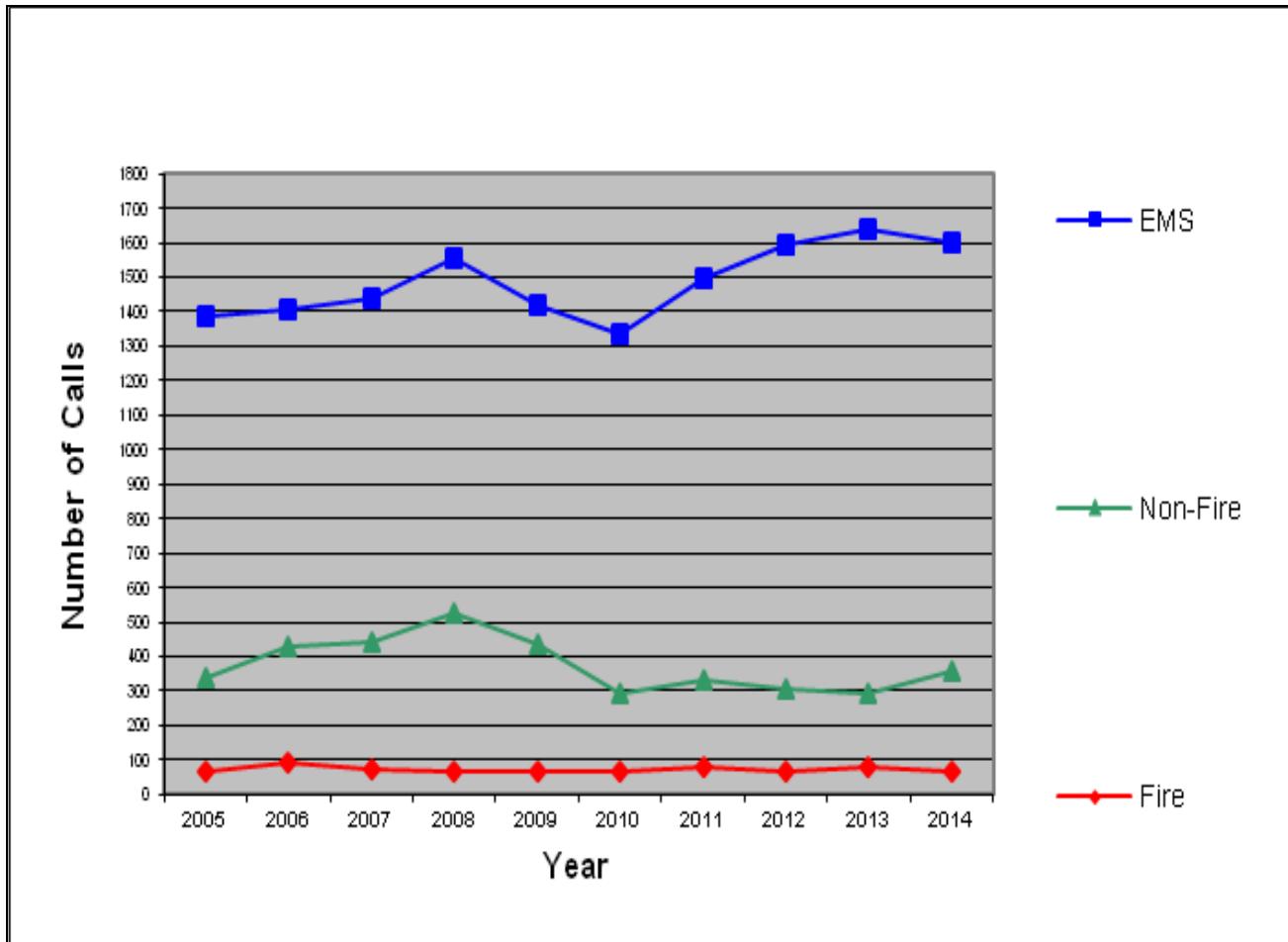


## Emergency responses by Fire Station history FY 08-14



\*Fire Station #2 opened on June 2, 2008

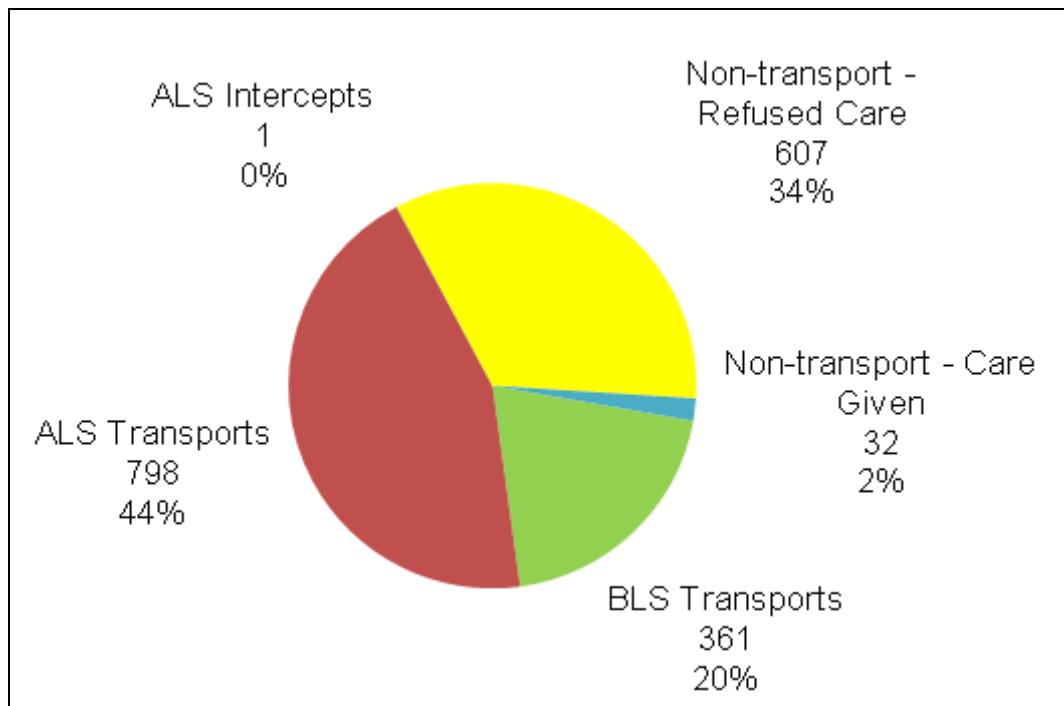
## **Emergency Medical/ Fire/ non-fire response history FY 05-14**



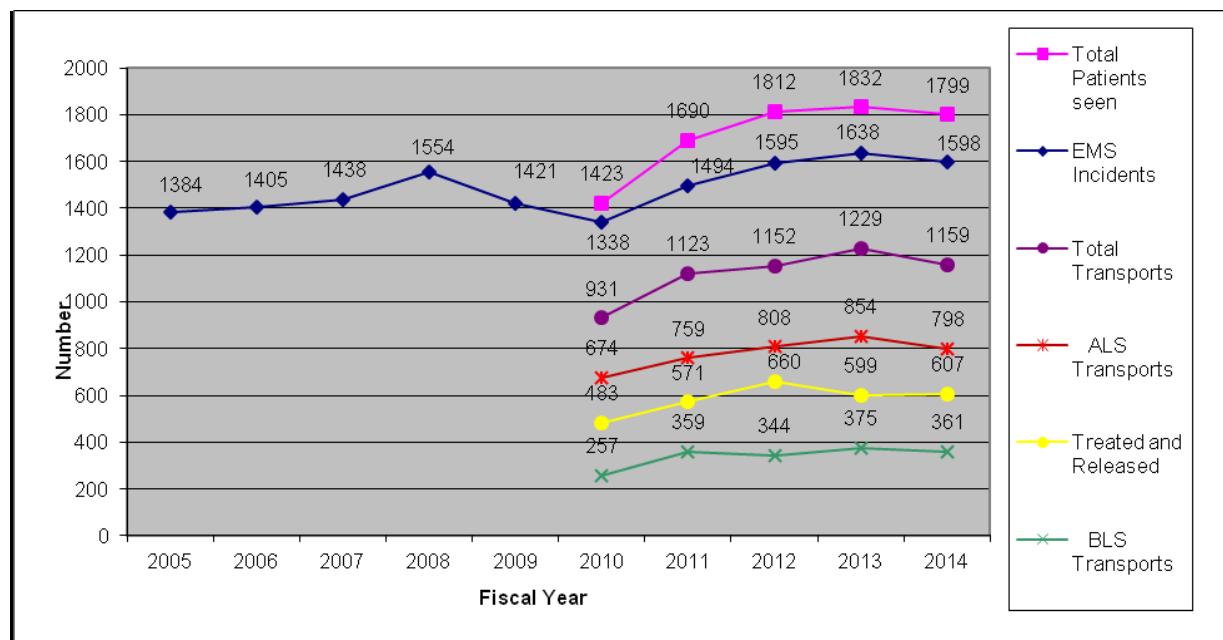
YEAR	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Fire Suppression	68	95	74	68	64	66	79	64	79	85
Non-Fire	339	429	442	524	438	291	333	306	296	368
<b>Total Fire and Non-Fire</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>453</b>

Since FY10, we have seen a 100 incident per year increase in EMS incidents, while fire and non-fire calls this past fiscal year remained relatively flat for the past 6 fiscal years.

## Emergency Medical Services activity FY 14



## Emergency Medical Services activity FY 05-14



Generally, emergency medical activity is trending upward. However, In FY14 we saw a slight decrease in emergency medical activity. Overall, we saw 33 fewer patients and transported 70 less patients to the hospital than last year. We responded to 1,598 ambulance requests and 1,799 patients in FY 14. We transported 1,159 patients to the hospital.

We began tracking the level of service given for ambulance transports, treat and no transports, and patient counts in fiscal year 2010.

## Fire and Non-Fire Incidents FY 14

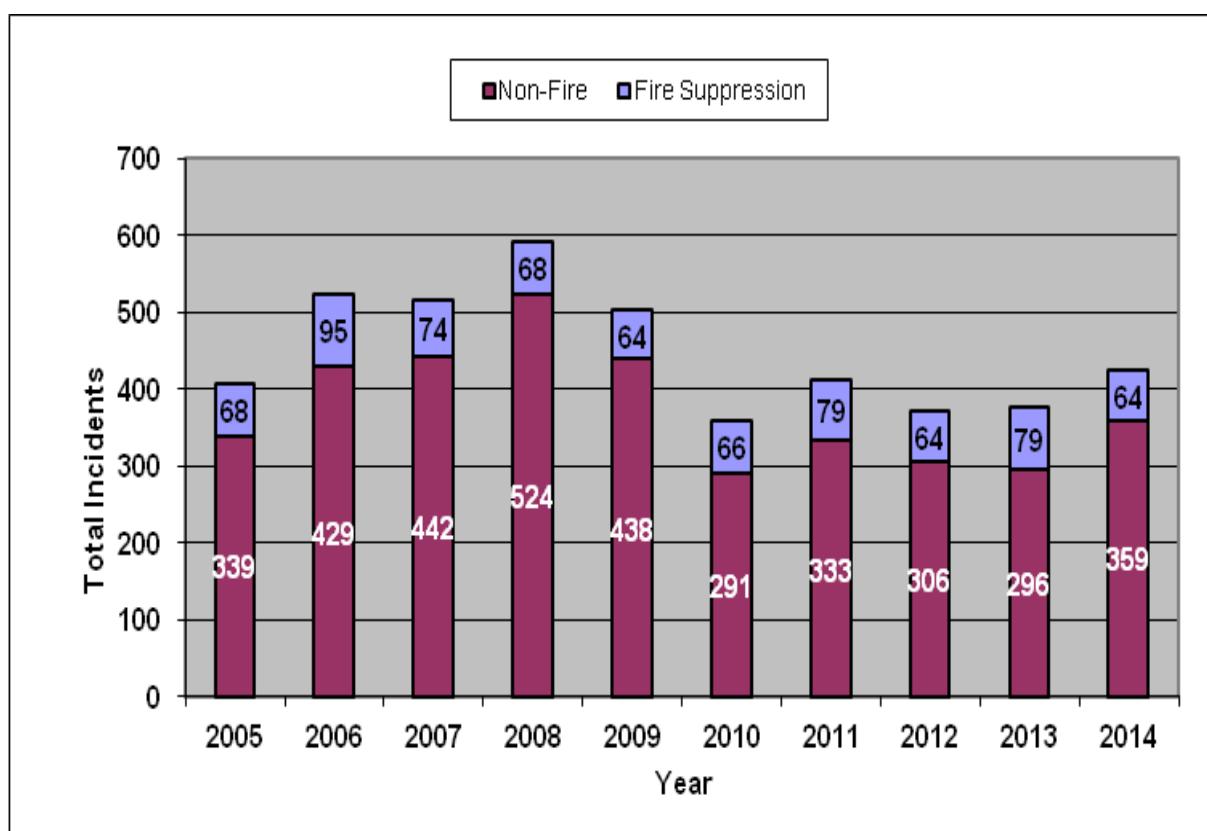
<b>Fire Suppression Responses</b>		<b>85</b>
Structure Fire	38	
Vehicle / Motor home	8	
Cooking (confined to container)	12	
Outside (rubbish & equipment)	16	
Refuse (dumpster, trash contained)	2	
Brush Fire	7	
Chimney	2	

---

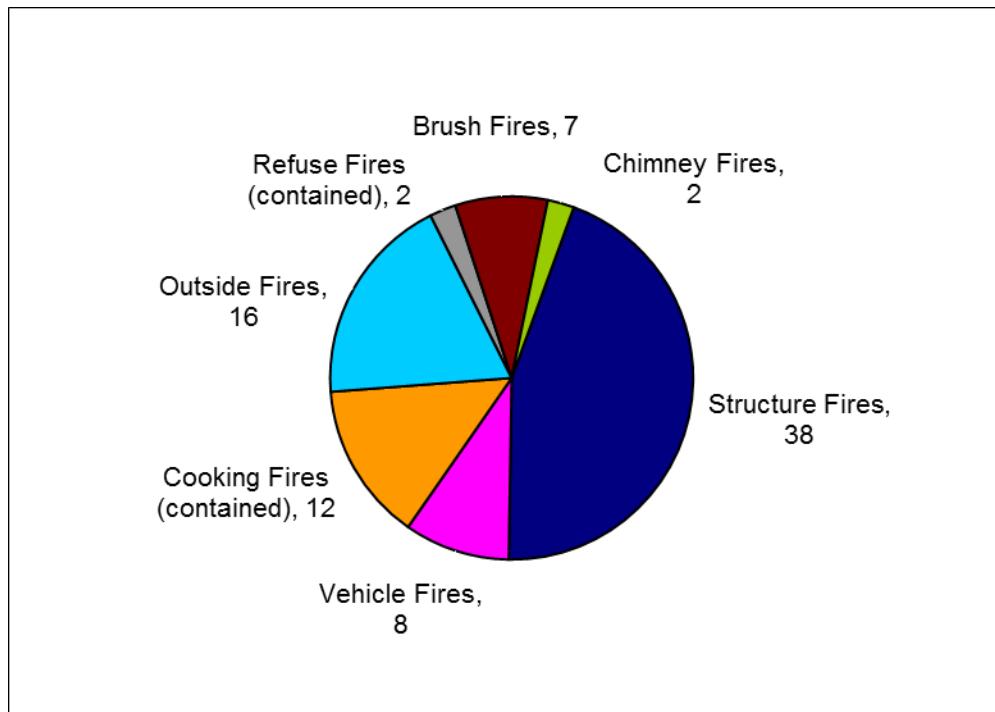
<b>Non-fire Responses</b>		<b>368</b>
False / Malicious Alarms	175	
Good Intent	77	
Burning Complaints	10	
Hazardous Conditions	77	
Service Calls	29	

---

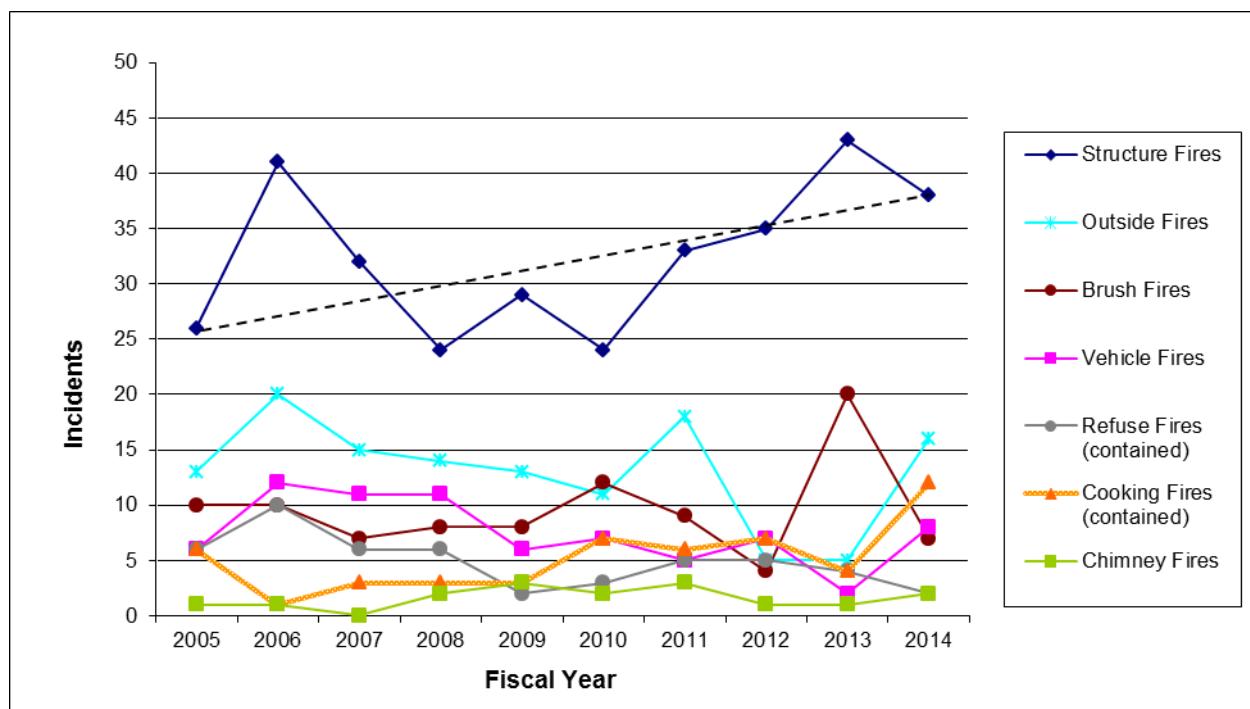
## Fire and Non-Fire Incidents FY05-14



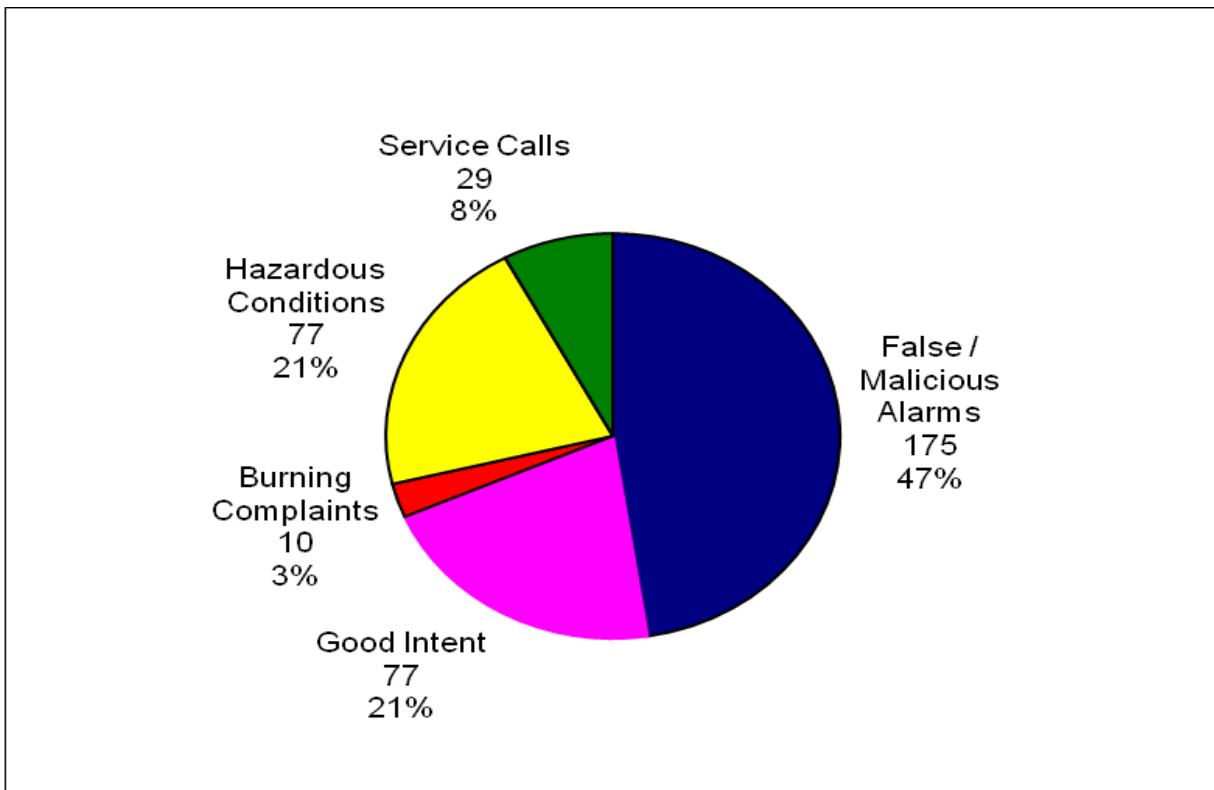
## Fire suppression responses FY 14



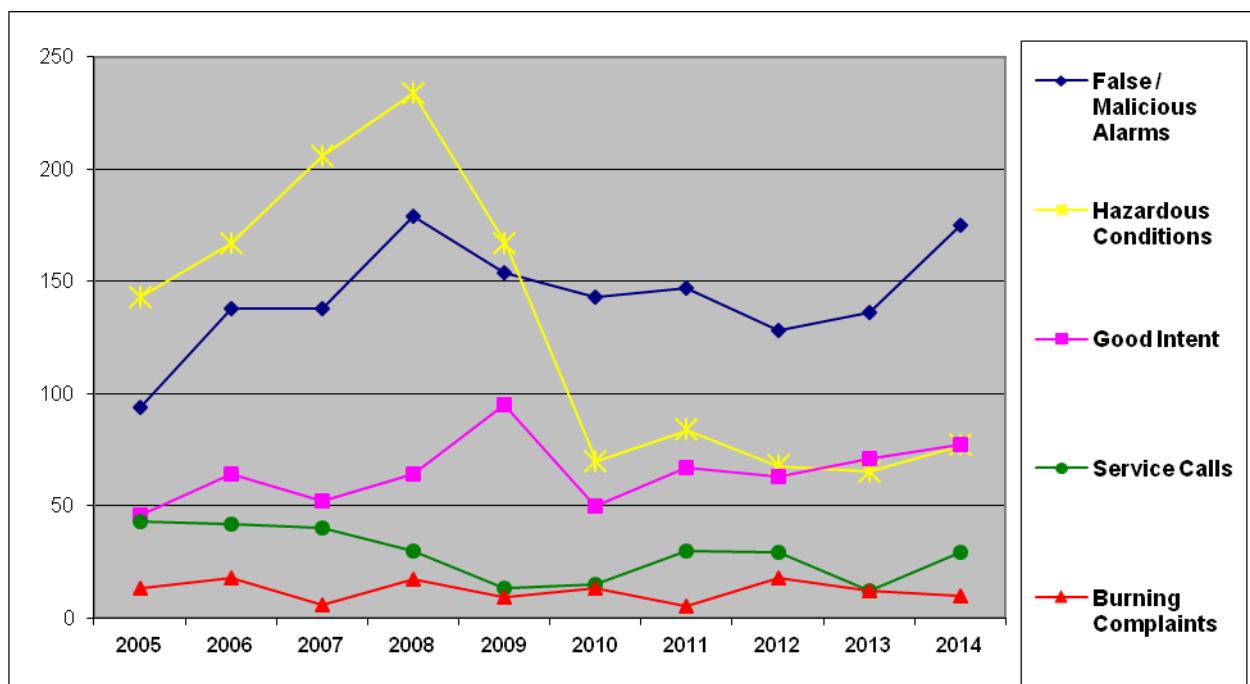
## Fire suppression responses FY 05-14



## Non - fire responses FY 14



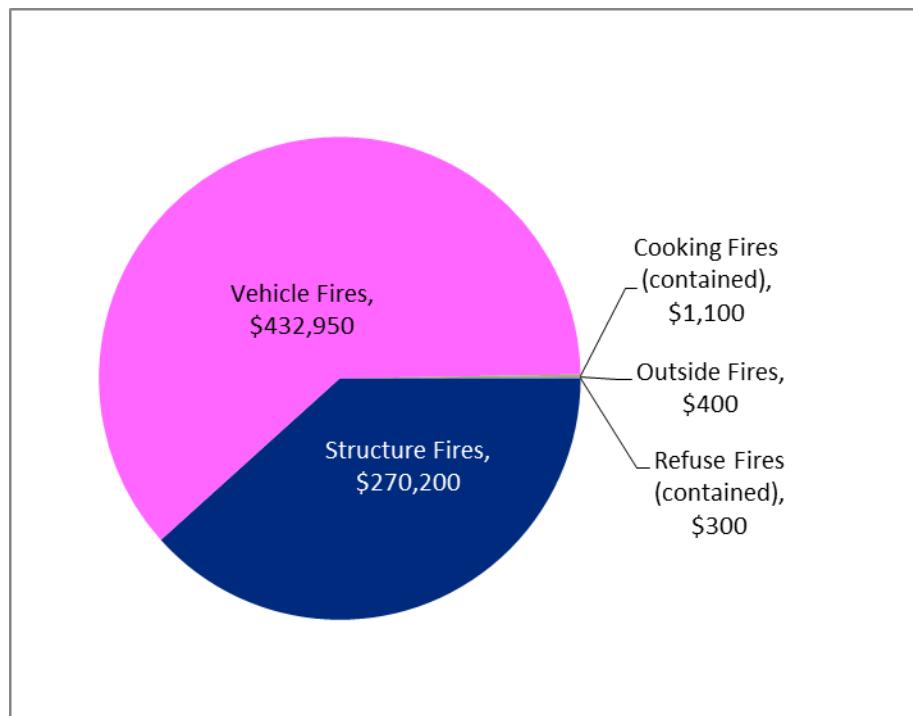
## Non - fire responses FY 05-14



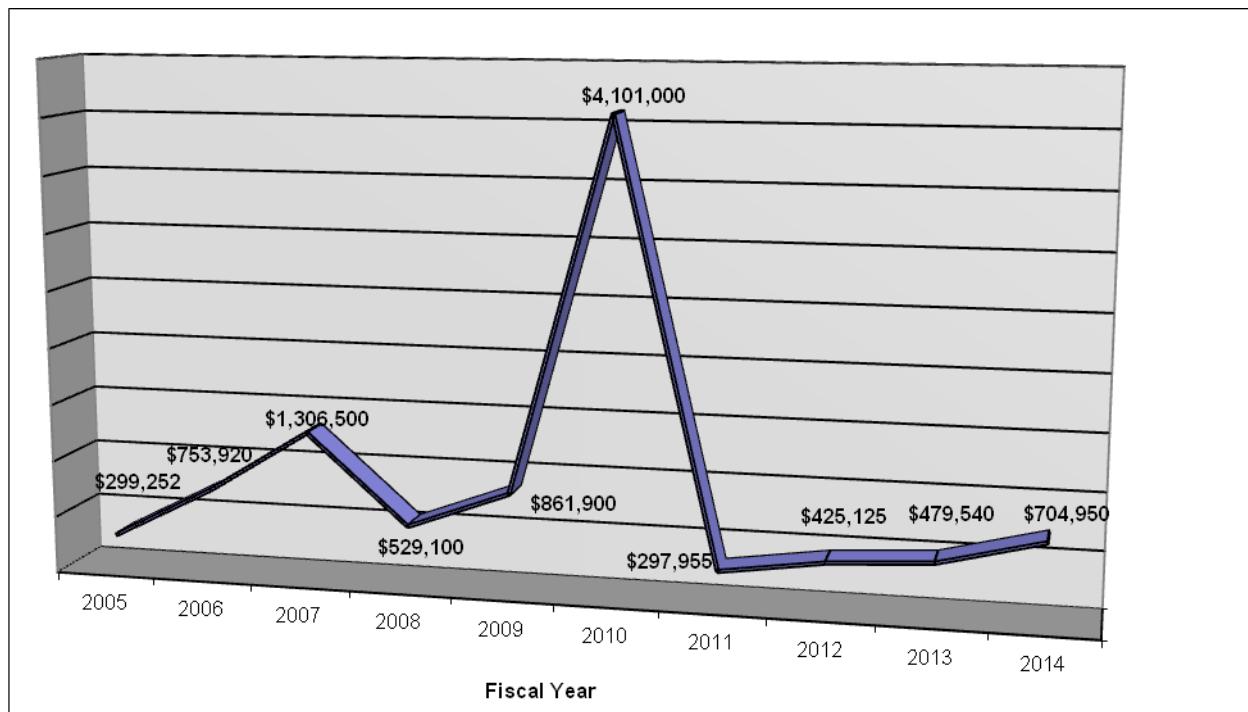
Hazardous condition related responses were better defined in 2010, which resulted in an appearance of a significant drop in these type of responses.

## Fire loss FY14

In FY14, we had \$704,950 dollar loss attributed to 18 of the 85 reported fires



## Fire loss history FY05 – FY14

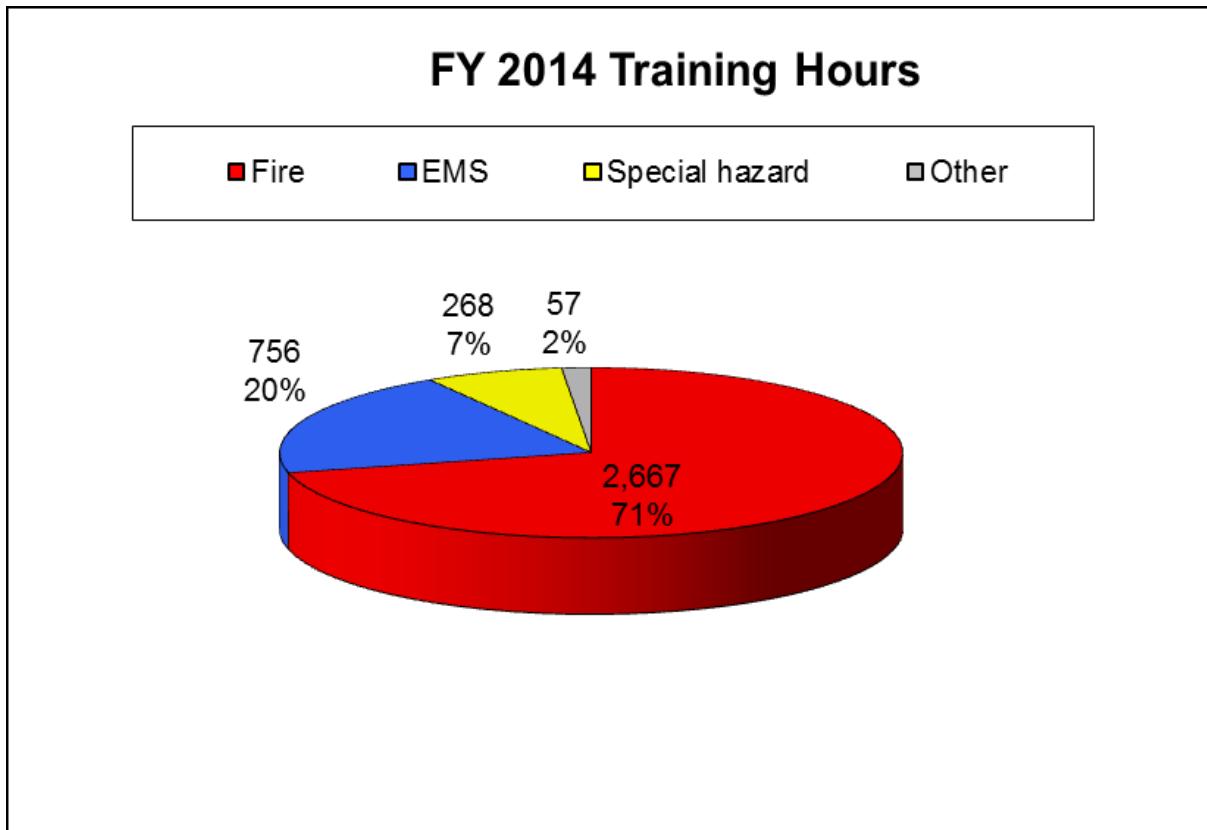


The nine year average fire loss is just under a million dollars (\$975,924). The baseline average of fire loss for the past 9 years (without the large dollar loss in 2010) is \$628,694.

## Training hours FY 14

Our fire department members attained 41 fire certifications in this fiscal year. The newly achieved certifications (41) were for Basic Operations Firefighter (Firefighter II), Advanced Firefighter (Firefighter III), Fire Apparatus Engineer, Vehicle and Machinery Operations, Hazardous Materials Operations, Technical Rescue Awareness, Fire Department Health and Safety Officer, Fire Investigator, and Juvenile Fire Setter Interventionist.

3,748 training hours were performed by Fire Department personnel. Training hours are divided into four categories: Fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Special hazard, and Other training.



**Fire training** - includes fire equipment, fire apparatus, building construction, electric vehicle response, driver's training, fire operations review, fire investigation, and various fire drills.

**Emergency Medical Service (EMS) training** - includes required continuing monthly medical training in various areas which enable the paramedics to meet the hourly requirements by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

**Special hazards training** - included hazardous materials and technical rescue response training.

**Other training** – this category includes the review of SOG's, Policy, and Procedures, review of streets, required NIMS training, firefighter and officer orientation, and safety training.

# Special activities/events



## **Special activities/events**

### **Community activities - Operation Prom**

On May 15, 2013, Fire Department personnel participated in mock motor vehicle accident event held at Sycamore High School. This event is intended to create awareness on the dangers of driving while intoxicated. Students are exposed to a mock motor vehicle accident scene caused by a high school age intoxicated driver. As part of a larger program, the Fire Department provided a responding fire engine, ambulance, and command officer and demonstrated the extrication of patients from severely damaged vehicles.

### **Community activities - Hot dog lunch for elementary school children**

On one of the last school days of the year, Sycamore Firefighter's Local 3046 members traditionally sponsor and deliver a hot dog lunch for one or more Sycamore elementary schools. This year firefighters served over 500 children and teachers at North Grove Elementary School.

### **Community activities - Breast cancer awareness fundraising**

On June 6, 2013, Sycamore Firefighter's Local 3046 supported Breast Cancer Awareness by selling pink firefighter breast cancer t-shirts and staffing the popular Sycamore Chamber of Commerce "Hug a Hunk" booth at the Sycamore Ladies Night Out event. A week later, on June 14, 2013, Sycamore Firefighter's Local 3046 participated with the DeKalb County Relay for Life by staffing a 1<sup>st</sup> Aid booth and selling pink firefighter breast cancer t-shirts at the 24 hour event. Both of these efforts led by Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Honiotes raised over \$1,200 for the American Cancer Society.

### **Community activities - Wounded Warrior Program**

Sycamore Firefighter's Local 3046 members partnered with DeKalb Firefighter's Local #1236 on a fund raising campaign for the Associated Firefighters of Illinois (AFFI) Wounded Warrior Program. Custom t-shirts were sold and donations were accepted in support of local wounded veterans. Between t-shirt sales and direct donations, more than \$30,000 were raised. On November 13, 2013, a brand new 2013 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck was presented to Army veteran Charles "Chaz" Ligon during the half time ceremony at NIU Huskie Stadium. Additional funds not used for the purchase of the vehicle were used to take local soldier's children Christmas shopping.

### **Community activities - MDA fill the boot.**

On August 23 and 24, 2013, Sycamore Firefighter's Local 3046 members took to the streets to collect money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Firefighters armed with fire boots were located at various intersections in Sycamore and collected over \$3,000.

### **Community activities - Sycamore High School Home Coming Powder Puff Football game**

On October 16, 2013, as part of the Sycamore High School Homecoming celebration, Sycamore Firefighter's Local 3046 members Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Thompson, Lt. Tal Hickey, and Firefighter/Paramedic Eric Saxton organized and coached the senior girls for a football game versus the Police Department coached junior girls. The Police Department junior girls won the challenge by beating the Fire Department senior girls 15-8.

### **Community activities - Meals On Wheels**

During the entire month of November, 2013, a number of Sycamore Fire personnel volunteered to deliver the Voluntary Action Center Meals On Wheels to Sycamore residents.

### **Community activities - Family Service Agency support**

In November, three teams of Sycamore Firefighter's Local 3046 members participated in Bowl for Kids Sake fund raiser. At Christmas time, Local 3046 members donated complete turkey dinners to 30 local families.

### **Community activities - Welcome home escorts to returning military veterans**

Periodically throughout the year, the Fire Department participated in the escort of returning military veterans to their home in Sycamore. The Patriot Guard Riders and Warrior Watch Riders organized a number of Welcome Home Veteran events with the returning veteran escorted in a Sycamore fire engine along with a Fire Department staff vehicle. Off duty Sycamore firefighters volunteered to provide this important service to honor our returning military veterans.

### **Community activities - Assistance to City of Detroit firefighters**

Sycamore Firefighters Local #3046 hosted a motorcycle ride and pig roast to raise money in support of the City of Detroit firefighters. The two events raised \$1,700 to help with fire station maintenance needs no longer funded by the City of Detroit.

### **Community activities - support of youth baseball**

Sycamore Firefighters Local #3046 continue to support both a youth baseball and youth softball teams. In addition, many Local 3046 members continue to serve as coaches.

### **Firefighter's Honor Guard**

The Sycamore Firefighter's Local 3046 Honor Guard is a dedicated group of firefighters that volunteer to help to provide dignified and honorable funeral and memorial services to active and retired firefighters and their families.

### **Foreign Fire Insurance Fund**

The Foreign Fire Insurance Fund is set by state law for the benefit and maintenance of all members of the Fire Department. The Sycamore Foreign Fire Insurance Board (commonly known as the 2% Fund) administers tax proceeds collected from insurance companies doing business within the State of Illinois, but the insurance company is located outside the State of Illinois. The Sycamore Foreign Fire Board is comprised of 7 (six are elected) members who represent all of the membership of the Fire Department. The board administers approximately \$25,000 per year. Listed below is a highlight of some of the larger purchases made in FY 13:

- Replaced 6 worn out recliner chairs for both Station #1 and #2
- Provided \$500 donation to the restoration of the 1923 Stutz fire engine
- Shared cost of replacing large ice maker at Fire Station #1
- Purchased 6 office chairs
- Purchased 80 folding chairs and 10 folding tables with storage racks

### **Kishwaukee Education Consortium (KEC) Fire Science program**

The Sycamore Fire Department actively participates with the Kishwaukee Education Consortium (KEC) Fire Science program. The KEC Fire Science program is a vocational training program for High School students interested in the fire service as a possible career. The Sycamore Fire Department provides classroom use during the school year, provides garage storage space for the KEC Fire Science trailer and training equipment, and allows the student use of the facility and access to the fire apparatus. FF/P Scott Flatter serves as the Sycamore Program Coordinator and the following Sycamore Fire personnel serve as instructors:

- Lt. Tal Hickey
- Firefighter/Paramedic Jim Ward
- Firefighter/Paramedic Bill Reynolds
- Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Gustafson
- Firefighter/Paramedic Nick Young

### **Sycamore Firefighter's Pension Fund**

The Sycamore Firefighter's Pension Fund Board oversees and manages all of the assets contributed by the firefighter employee and the City of Sycamore. This Fund covers the sworn active and retired career personnel of the Fire Department. The board consists of six members: President Eric Walker, Secretary Marc Doty, Trustee Cary Niewold, Trustee Jeff Rolczynski, and Trustee Peter Polarek.

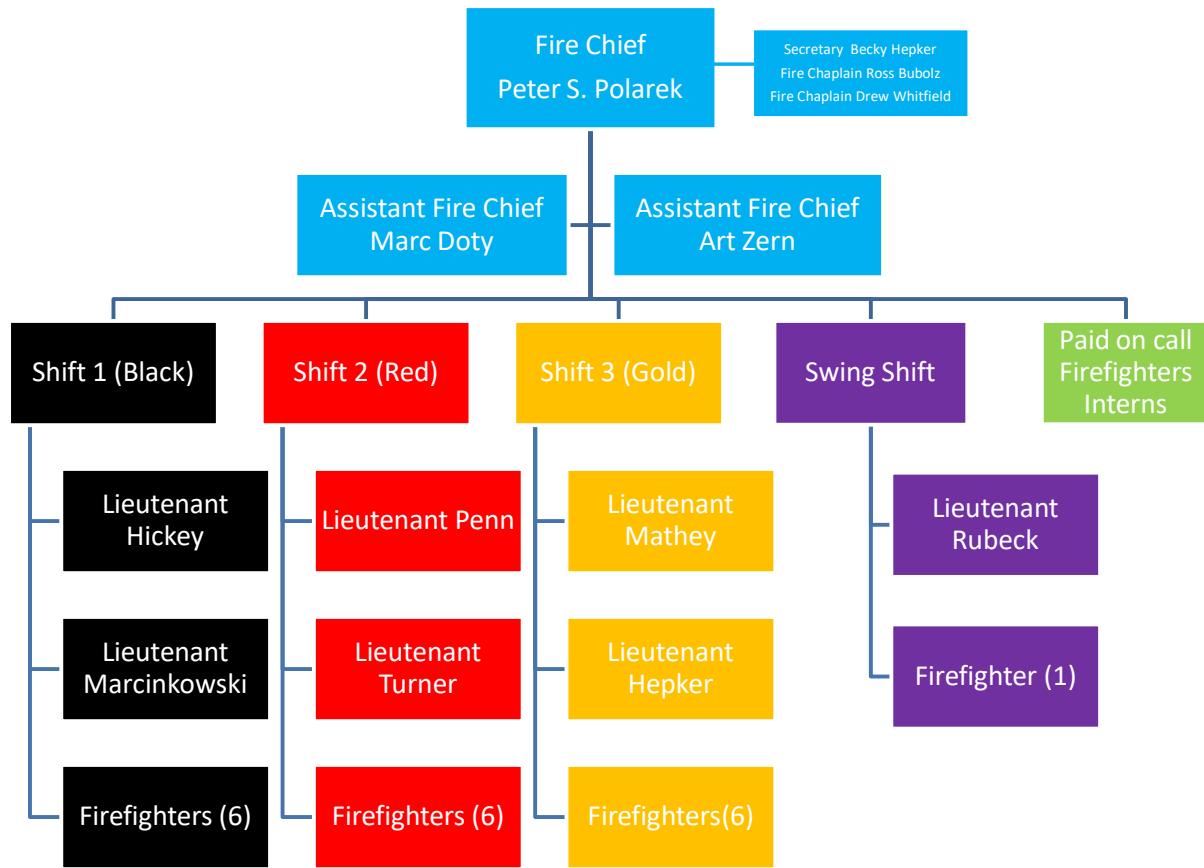
### **Sycamore Fire Preservation Company**

The Sycamore Fire Preservation Company was established in 2001 for the purpose of preserving the history of the Sycamore Fire Department. The Preservation Company is made up of active and retired Sycamore firefighters along with private donors. The Preservation Company's primary mission was to procure and preserve a retired Sycamore Fire Department 1923 Stutz fire engine. Retired Fire Chief Gene Ege continues the lead a group of active and retired Sycamore firefighters in the effort to raise funds to preserve the fire engine. In FY13, the committee met a number of times and developed plans for a fund raising campaign.

### **September 11 memorial service**

This past year marked the twelfth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. On September 11, 2013, Fire Chief Pete Polarek coordinated a short program at the Red Johnson Junction. The small gathering included many active and retired members of the Sycamore Fire Department, members of the Sycamore Police Department, members of the Cortland Fire Department, and citizens from the community.

# Sycamore Fire Department



# Sycamore Fire Department personnel roster

## **Administration**

Fire Chief	P Peter S. Polarek
Asst Fire Chief	P Marc Doty
Asst Fire Chief	B Art Zern
Secretary	Becky Hepker
POC Lieutenant	Gene Listy
Chaplain	Ross Bubolz
Chaplain	J. Drew Whitfield

## **Shift 1 (Black)**

Lieutenant	B Tal Hickey
Lieutenant	P Dan Marcinckowski
Firefighter	P Brad Belanger
Firefighter	P Scott Flatter
Firefighter	P Erik Carlson
Firefighter	P Nick Young
Firefighter	P Matt Anderson
Firefighter	P Eric Saxton
POC Firefighter	P Vincent Laudicina
POC Firefighter	P Zachary Wright
POC Firefighter	B Scott Miller
Firefighter/Intern	B David Zern

## **Shift 2 (Red)**

Lieutenant	P D. Shaun Penn
Lieutenant	P Todd Turner
Firefighter	P Bill Reynolds
Firefighter	P Pat Dulzo
Firefighter	P Jim Ward
Firefighter	P Adam Honiotes
Firefighter	P Dustin Ruby
Firefighter	P Mike Hardesty
POC Firefighter	Steve Carlson
POC Firefighter	P Michael Lorence
POC Firefighter	B Christian Conlon
Firefighter/Intern	Micheal Tomsovic

## **Shift 3 (Gold)**

Lieutenant	P Kurt Mathey
Lieutenant	P Darrin Hepker
Firefighter	P Bob Maciejewski
Firefighter	P Brian Thompson
Firefighter	P John Pink
Firefighter	P Eric Walker
Firefighter	P Ryan Gustafson
Firefighter	P Andy Powers
POC Firefighter	P Sarie Turner
Firefighter/Intern	B Evan Rhule
Firefighter/Intern	Jacob Turner

## **Swing shift**

Lieutenant	P Paul Rubeck
Firefighter	P Ian Wheeler