



Goshen Fire Department
2013
Activity Report

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Message from the Chief



GFD is to promote the health and safety of the citizens we serve and provide a quality work environment for our staff. This report cannot capture every individual's effort but I do hope that it will provide you with an overview of your fire department's activities for 2013.

The Goshen Fire Department eclipsed the 4,000 calls for service mark in 2013 and I am pleased to report that while our calls for service increased our emergency response time decreased. Our EMS Division placed a new ambulance into service; thanks in part to donations from the Greencroft Foundation. The new ambulance is housed at Central Fire Station and we replaced our ageing AED's (automated external defibrillators) with new units that when used will work directly with the 12 lead EKG monitors on each ambulance; providing for seamless continuity of care for our citizens. Dr. Glenn Brookshire has decided to step away from the Medical Director of EMS position he has held for 11 years. Dr. Brookshire is a great supporter of our pre-hospital medicine practice and was key reason for our progressive care in the community. Dr. Jason Bailey is our new Medical Director of EMS and we look forward to his participation in continuing the high quality of medical service our community has come to expect from GFD. The EMS Division will be transitioning from the Chief Paramedic being on shift to becoming an Assistant Chief position on an 8 hour day in 2014. Paramedic Chief Kit Castetter has decided to remain on shift and resigned his Paramedic Chief's position after 14 years of service. I would like to thank Chief Castetter for his many years of dedicated service and stewardship of the EMS division. Merv Miller has been appointed as the new Assistant Chief and assuming the EMS Division's leadership duties.

Chief Inspector Mike Happer has had a busy year working through our large manufacturing community providing inspections and fire safety consultations for employee safety.

On a regional level; we continue to participate in the Indiana Department of Homeland Security District 2 Disaster Management team and in 2013 there were no deployments of our staff for disaster assistance. We have joined other fire departments in Elkhart County in MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System). MABAS is a mutual aid system that is being adopted across Indiana for assistance in events that go beyond our daily scope of practice and resources.

As for the Goshen Fire Department infrastructure we will continue to look for opportunities to pursue funding for a new Central Fire Station. In 2013 we acquired the property adjacent to our College Avenue Fire Station for future use. Our opportunities for improvement are endless and restricted primarily by time. As with most municipal agencies in Indiana our largest challenge in 2014 will be property tax changes that continue impact local government funding.

In summary, I believe that with our dedicated staff, your fire department has met and exceeded the challenges of 2013. Credit for this report should go to our division heads Paramedic Chief Kit Castetter, Chief Inspector Mike Happer, Captain Steffen Schrock, and Office Manager Kimberly Whitehead and especially to Asst. Chief Jim Ramer who coordinates all of the reporting groups. He has done an outstanding job of bringing our productivity into focus for you to review. In meeting these new challenges, we will persistently and professionally work at all phases of care and protection for the citizens of Goshen with **PRIDE, HONOR and INTEGRITY.**

Dan Sink

Chief of the Department



Goshen Fire Department Mission Statement

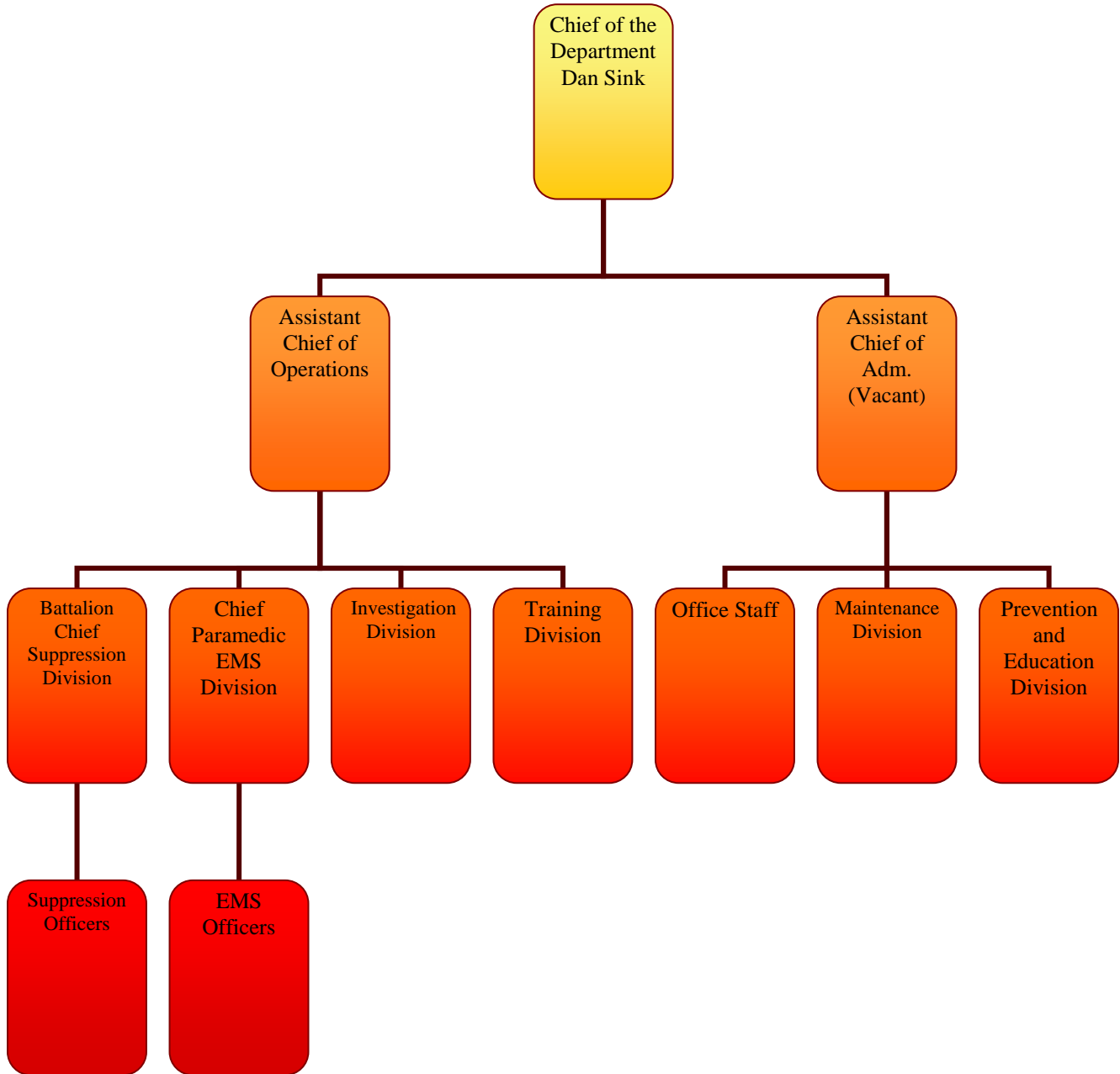
Our mission is to provide a positive workplace with continual training and adequate equipment so that we may give our customers the very best service possible. The importance of our service; fire suppression, rescue, prevention and investigation, paramedic ambulance service, and public education: compels us to perform our duties in a sincere, skillful, dedicated and professional manner.

Goshen Firefighter Oath of Office

I do solemnly affirm that I will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the State of Indiana and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge my duties as firefighter on the Goshen Fire Department according to the law and to the best of my ability, so help me God.



Goshen Fire Department Organization Chart



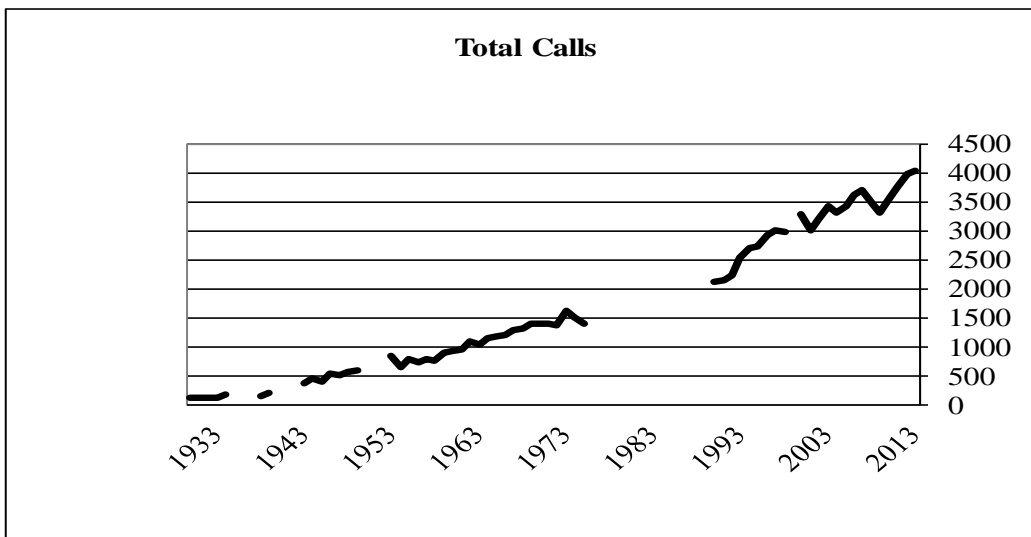


Overview:

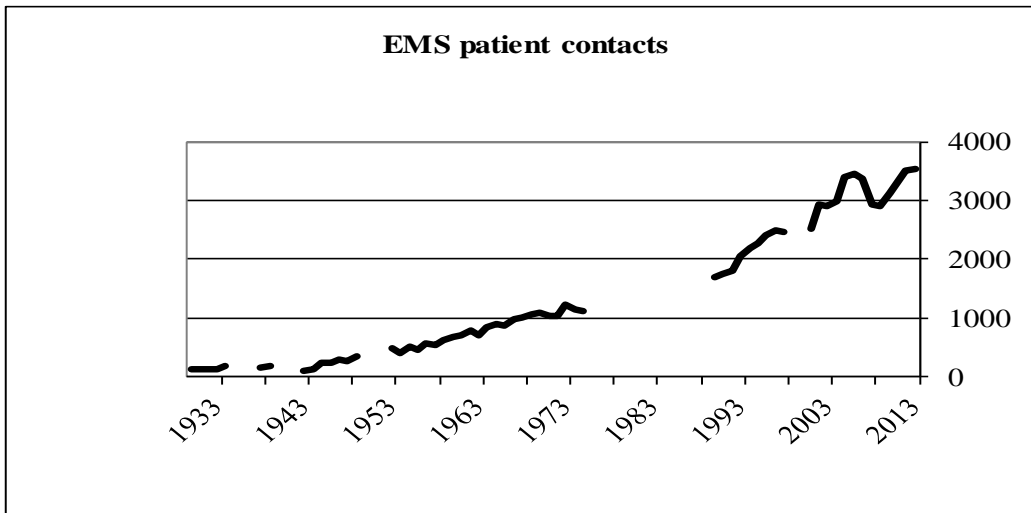
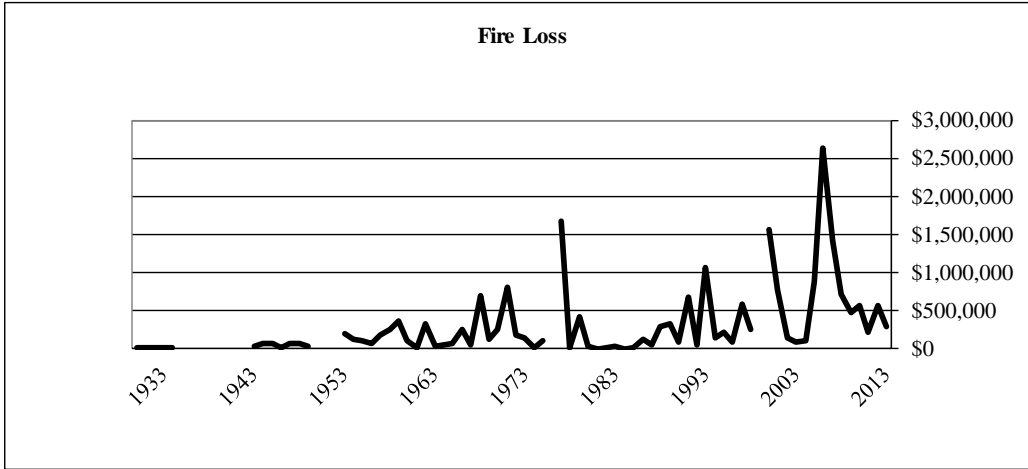
The Goshen Fire Department responded to 4,043 calls for service in 2013, a 1.7% increase from 2012. Average response time for the first arriving unit on emergency calls in the city was 4:27 minutes down from 4:29 in 2012.

The annual dollar loss from investigated fires was estimated at \$294,325, down from \$568,813 in 2012. The percent of property value saved in structures fires during 2013 was 93% compared to 92% in 2012.

The following charts show requests for services and dollar loss dating back to 1930.¹



¹ Data missing from several years



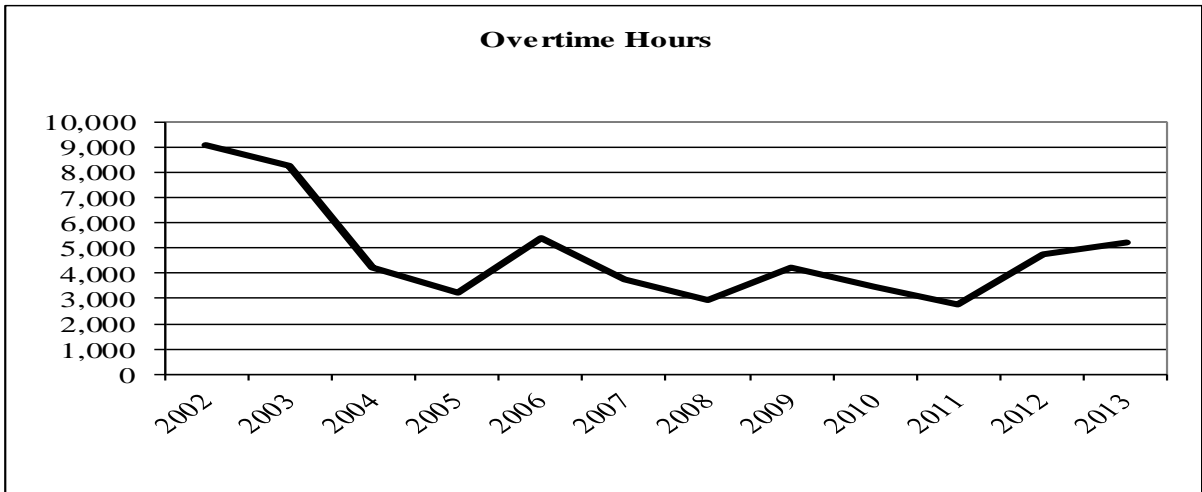
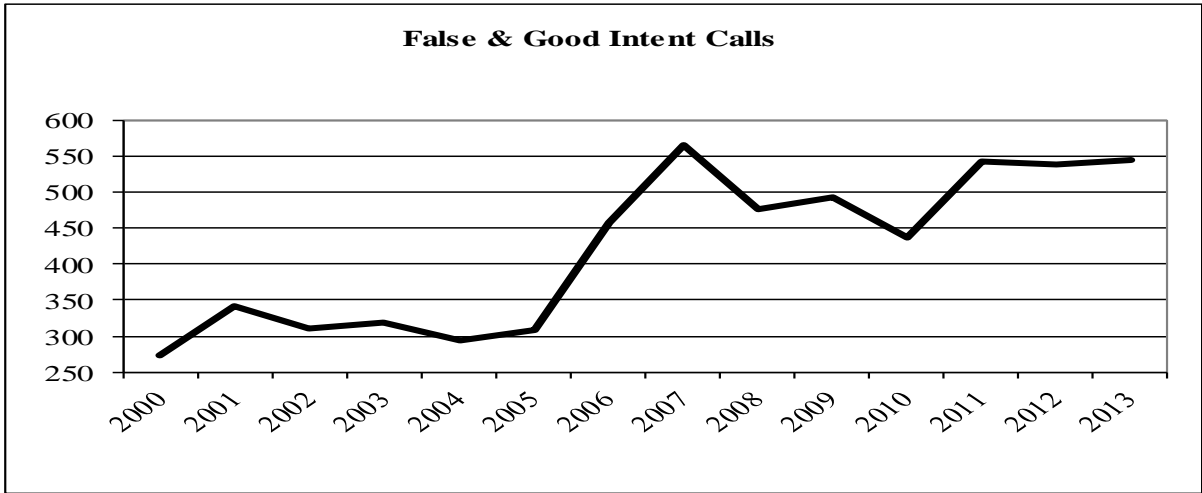
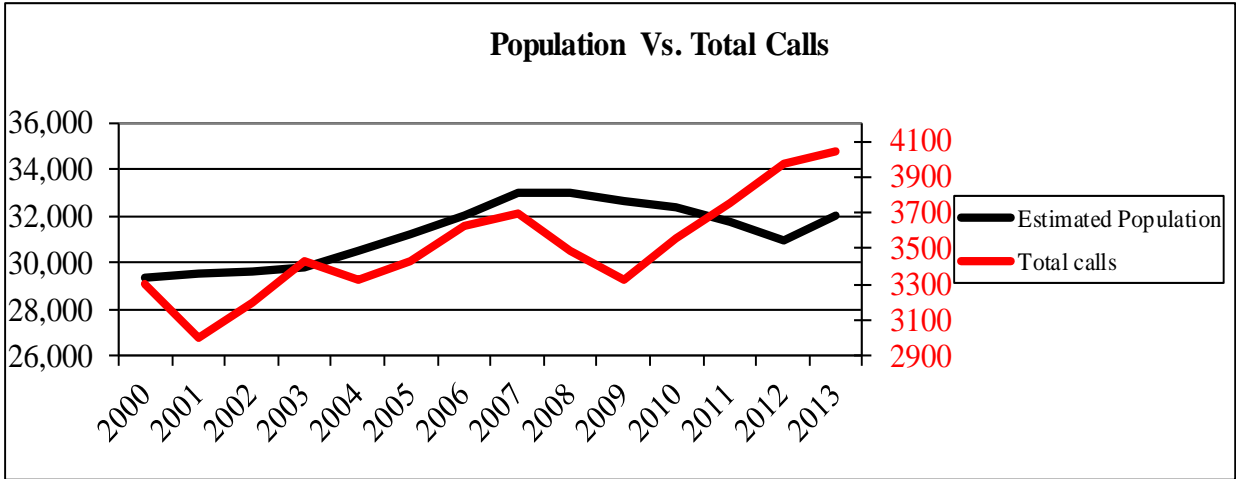


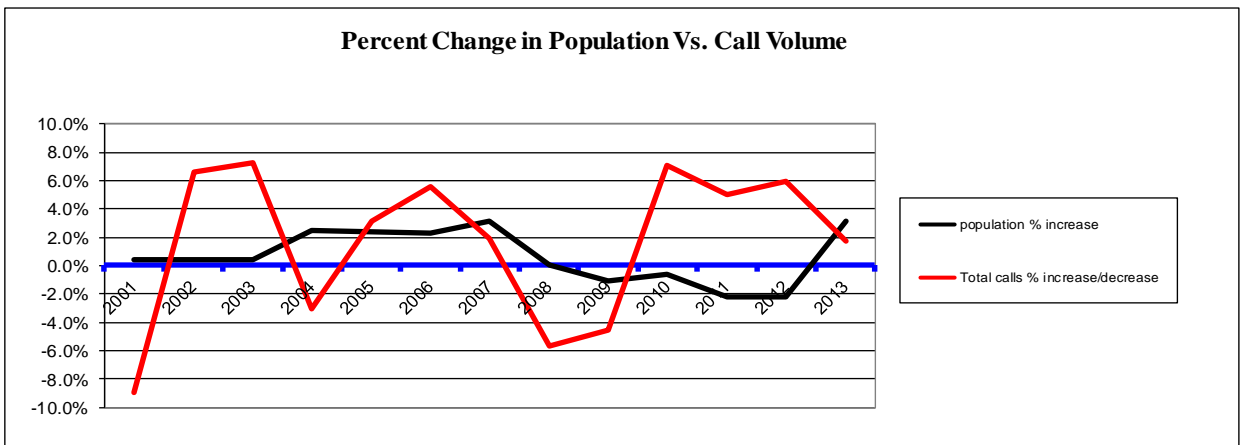
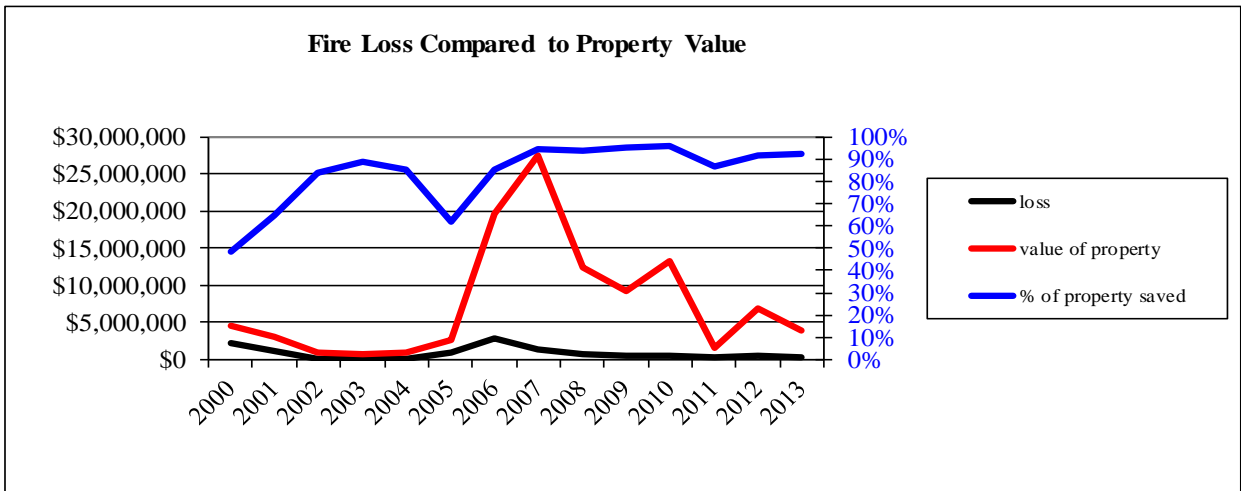
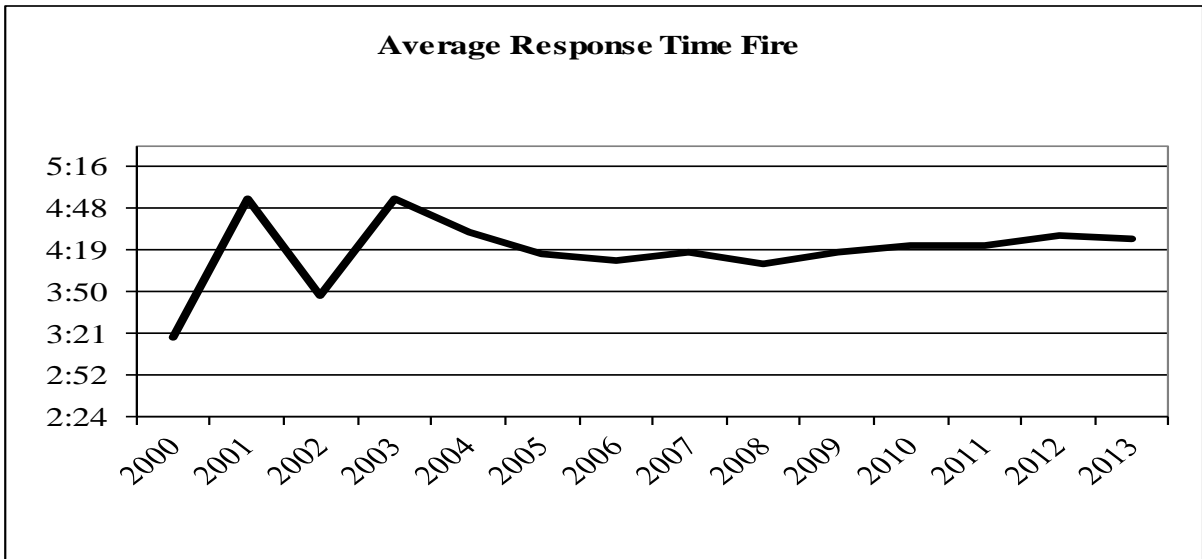
Operations

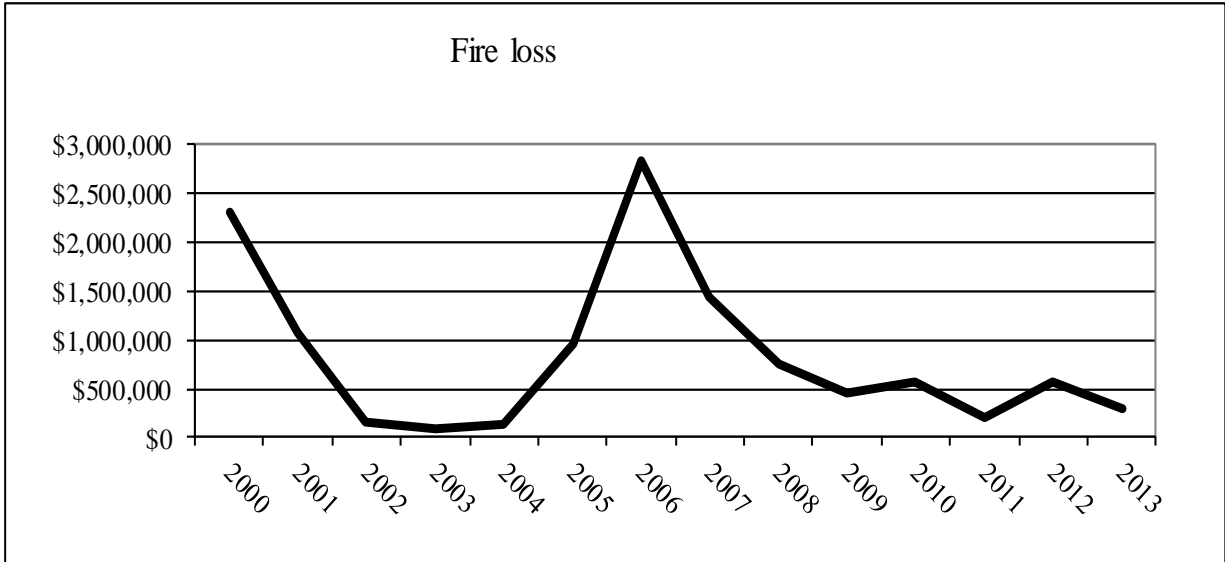
➤ **Suppression** – *Assistant Chief of Operations James Ramer*

The table below shows the types of calls for service, overtime hours, average response times, estimated fire loss/property value, percent of property saved and average calls per day.

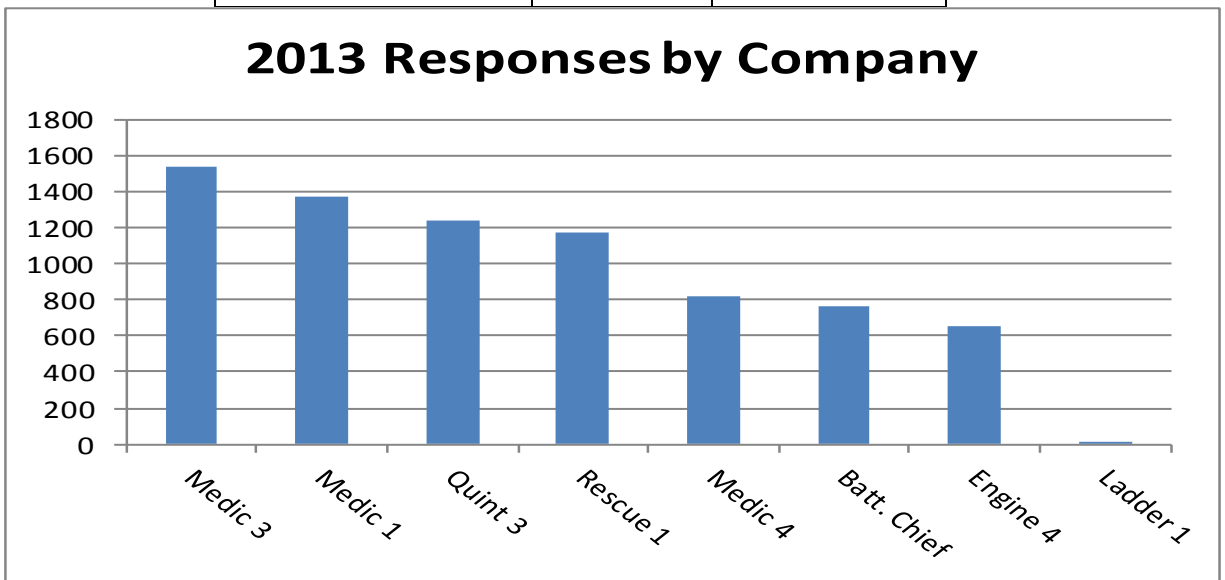
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Estimated Pop.	33,000	33,000	32,630	32,426	31,719	31,000	32,000
Total Calls	3694	3485	3326	3,562	3,751	3,975	4,043
EMS Patients	3366	2934	2914	3121	3,314	3,516	3545
EMS Assists	1662	1645	1564	1,741	1,968	2,112	2,211
Fire/Haz Conditions	208	214	184	210	169	191	165
Vehicle Fires	19	19	22	21	15	16	14
False Calls	565	476	492	438	543	538	544
Overtime Hours	3769	2965	4222	3,469	2,747	4,763	5,202
Avg. Response Time	4:18	4:09	4:18	4:22	4:22	4:29	4:27
Loss	\$1,448,187	\$755,465	\$465,857	\$567,816	\$209,697	\$568,813	\$ 294,225
Value of Property	\$27,569,144	\$12,437,895	\$9,251,157	\$13,335,820	\$1,621,575	\$6,809,993	\$ 3,937,454
% of Property Saved	95%	94%	95%	96%	87%	92%	93%
Calls/Day	10.1	9.5	9.1	9.8	10.3	10.9	11.1







2013	Responses	Responses/Day
Medic 3	1541	4.2
Medic 1	1375	3.8
Engine 3 / Quint 3	1233	3.4
Rescue 1	1177	3.2
Medic 4	821	2.2
Battalion Chief	760	2.1
Engine 4	652	1.8
Ladder 1	18	0.0





➤ **Emergency Medical Services** - *Chief Paramedic Kit Castetter*

Many goals were accomplished by the EMS Division of Goshen Fire Department in the 2013 calendar year. New Philips Heartstart FRx Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) were purchased to replace our Welch Allyn AED 10 units. The replacement units will provide our department with up to date American Heart Association algorithms for managing out of hospital cardiac arrest patients. These units will also allow for a seamless interface with the Philips MRx monitors currently in use on our Advanced Life Support ambulances. A new service agreement for these AED units will ensure years of low maintenance function and stability.

2013 marked a major shift in ambulance design for our department. A new ambulance was delivered in April that featured a forward facing attendant seat with concomitant work area that facilitates the attendant remaining in three point restraints while retaining the ability to effectively care for a sick or injured patient. Head and body strike areas in the patient care area were also minimized as part of the overall design. Exterior lighting and reflective markings were addressed to ensure optimal visibility while responding to emergency calls. The unit was displayed at the Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) and received many positive comments from other fire departments and ambulance manufacturers.

The health and wellness of our firefighters was addressed this past year with the implementation of a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) compliant physical

exam process. Yearly physicals provided by Public Safety Medical were tailored to meet current NFPA 1582 Health and Wellness Initiative standards. Age based physicals are provided to all members of Goshen Fire Department. The goal in providing enhanced physicals for department members is prevention. A baseline chest x-ray, age appropriate stress testing, comprehensive blood analysis, and a thorough physical exam are administered annually to identify medical conditions or maladies which may contribute to premature firefighter death or disability. The program has been well received by rank and file members of the department.

All fire department members were outfitted with new Gerber 3 in 1 Response parkas. The parkas comply with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and NFPA 1999 requirements for high visibility outerwear. This is an important feature as our goal was to provide members with a multiuse parka that was compliant with nationally recognized safety standards and provided Goshen Fire Department members with a uniform look when out in the public. The parkas are waterproof, high visibility, and feature a removable fleece liner that can be worn when the heavier parka combination is not needed.

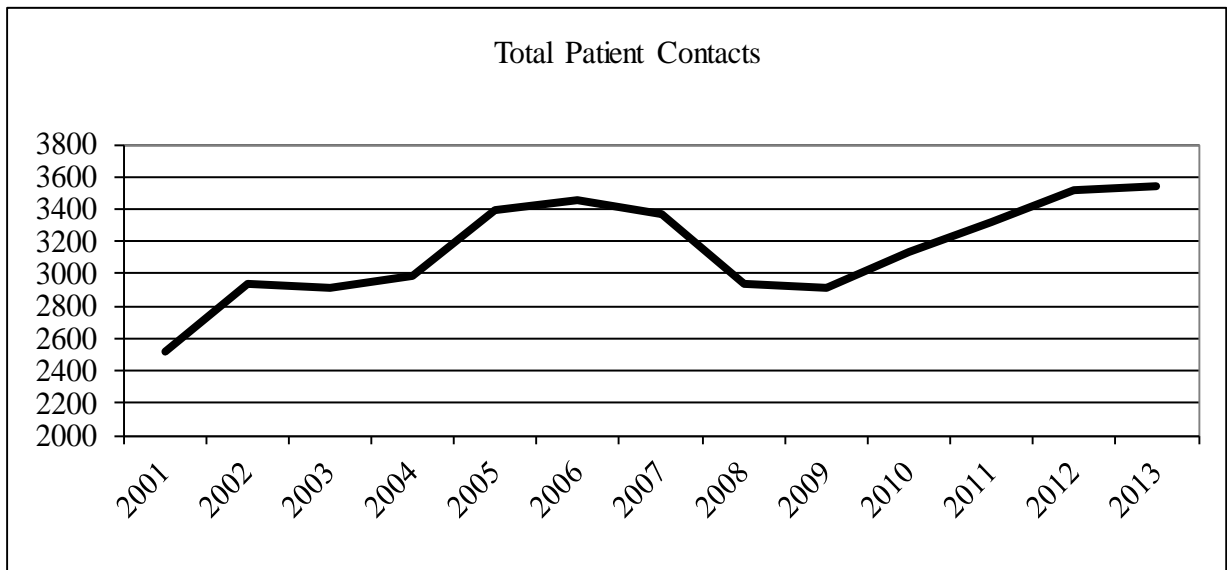
Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) District 2 EMS element continued to evolve in 2013. There were no deployments for the element but regular meetings were held to fine tune the organizations policies and practices. Meetings will continue in 2014 to ensure the element is ready to deploy and participate where needed.

Replacing our aging Panasonic Toughbooks® is on the goal list for 2014. Integrating dispatch information, monitor to software exchange, 12 lead ECG transmissions fire reporting, and records management will make choosing a replacement and process a formidable task. Our Philips MRx monitors are in need of a hardware upgrade and are on the list of goals for the upcoming year. Paramedic replacement and retention will need to be addressed in 2014. Training new paramedics and keeping seasoned paramedics in the paramedic program has become a challenge over the past several years. Policies and processes need to be created to facilitate this as well as allowing those paramedics who have served admirably during their time on the department to drop their paramedic status. New protocols and medical direction are scheduled to occur in 2014. This will be a big

change as Dr. Glen Brookshire has been our medical director for the past 11 years and also presents a new opportunity for our department as we welcome Dr. Jason Bailey as our new medical director. The EMS Division of Goshen Fire Department will work diligently to accomplish these objectives and I look forward to reporting their completion in the 2014 year-end report.

In 2013, the department had 3,545 patient contacts, which were essentially the same as 2012. The table below shows total patient contacts and contacts per station for 2004 -2011. *Data is unavailable for 2010 and 2013.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Central	1169	1202	1092	1049	*	*	*	*
College Ave.	1114	1124	1056	1104	*	*	*	*
Reliance Rd.	471	505	462	458	*	*	*	*
Townships	699	534	324	303	422	491	499	558
Total Patient Contacts	3,453	3,366	2,934	2,914	3,132	3,314	3,516	3,545





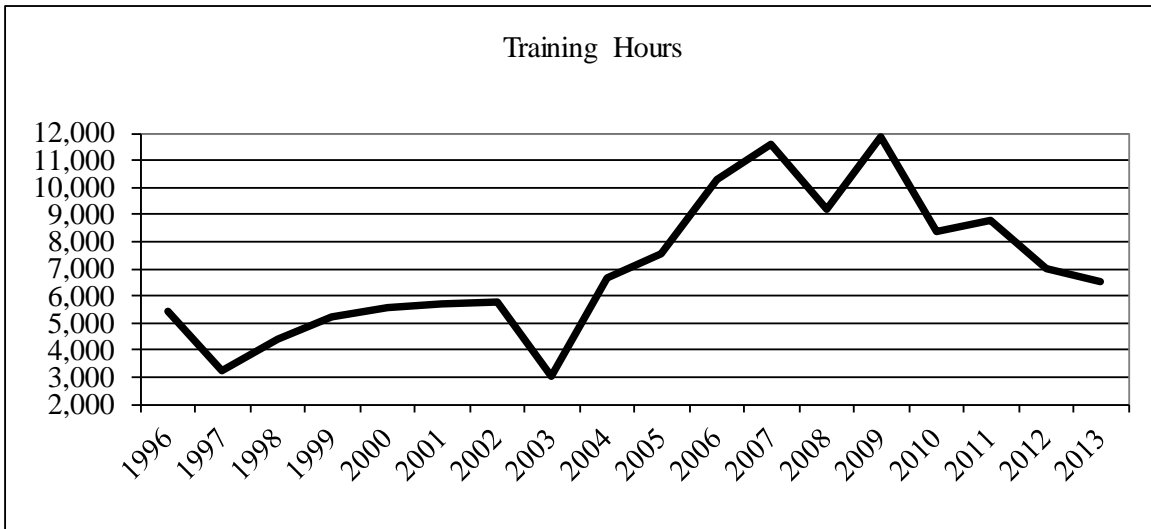
➤ **Training** – *Captain Steffen Schrock, Fire Training Coordinator*

In 2013, Goshen Fire Department personnel trained hard to be ready. A total of 7,395 training hours were completed during the year. Out of that total, Goshen Fire Department provided 5,924 hours. Due to budgetary constraints, the participation in extracurricular training and classes were low. Personnel were able to attend FDIC in Indianapolis and the Nozzle Forward class in Auburn, Indiana. The training division was able to purchase a water rescue dummy and a one hundred eighty pound rescue dummy.

While the philosophy of the training division has focused on providing programs to help personnel prepare, we are beginning to ask questions such as, “Are the programs working, are we prepared?” And “What factors influence our ability to prepare?” The fact is that we have a lot of training disciplines to cover in a year and a limited time to devote to any one topic. Having a diverse skill set is good. It does, however, require patience and time to build proficiency and confidence. Confidence is the focus for 2014. The training division not only wants to research and develop training programs, we also want to produce a confident firefighter who feels prepared to handle any problem presented to him.

To accomplish the goal of building confidence, a positive attitude is needed. Arriving at the start of shift with a “Let’s get to work” mindset is essential, and a willingness to prepare and become better is important. Coach Bobby Knight is credited with saying “The will to succeed is important, but what’s more important is the will to prepare.”

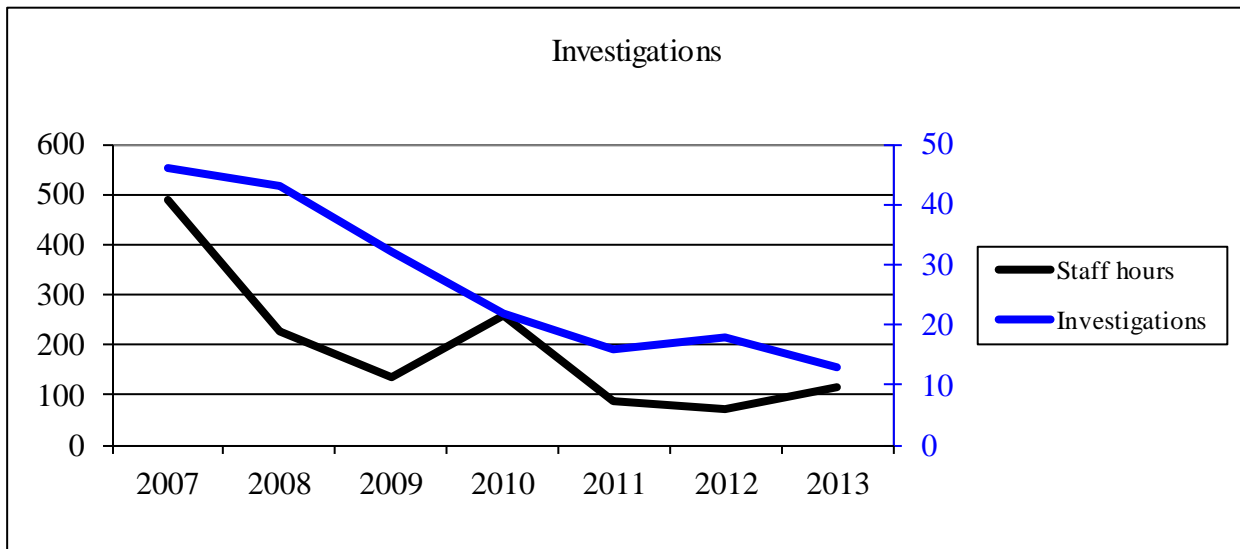
The training division is excited about the possibilities of 2014. We have training goals that are already being met. We are looking forward to a productive year.





Investigation - *Assistant Chief of Operations James Ramer*

In 2013, the division investigated 13 fires, a 28% decrease from 2012, and recorded 114 hours for an average of 8.7 hours per investigation. Beginning January 1, 2014 Chief Inspector Mike Happer has been assigned supervision of the Investigation Division.



➤ **Inspections/Fire Prevention/Education**

Chief Fire Inspector Mike Happer

This year has been very busy; I have completed the new State Inspector I & II course and the International Association of Arson Investigator`s Fire Investigation Technician course.

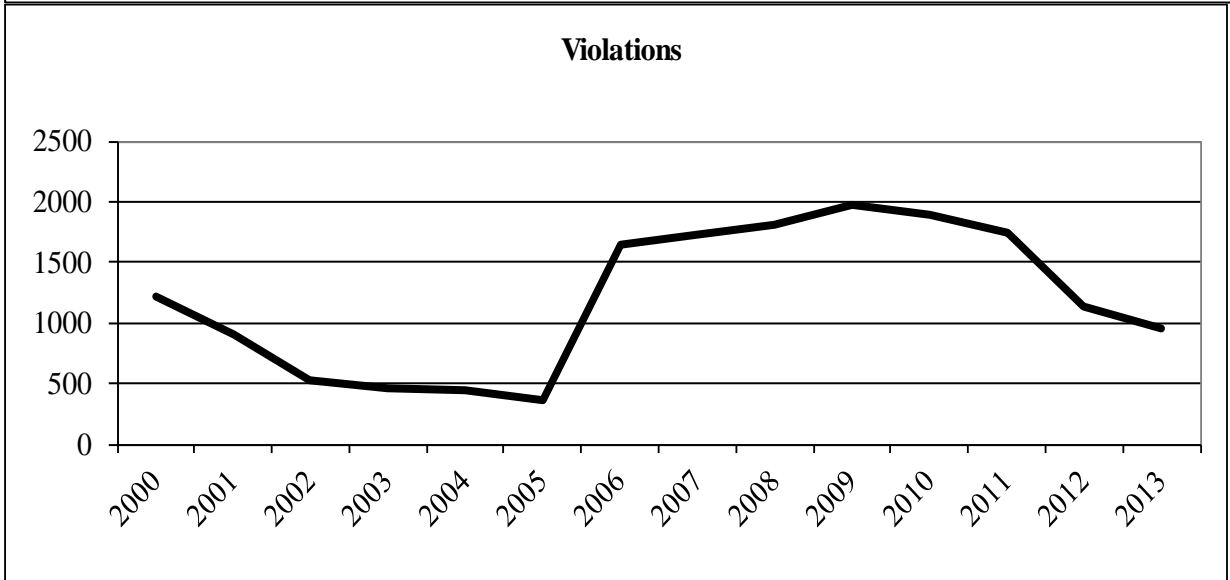
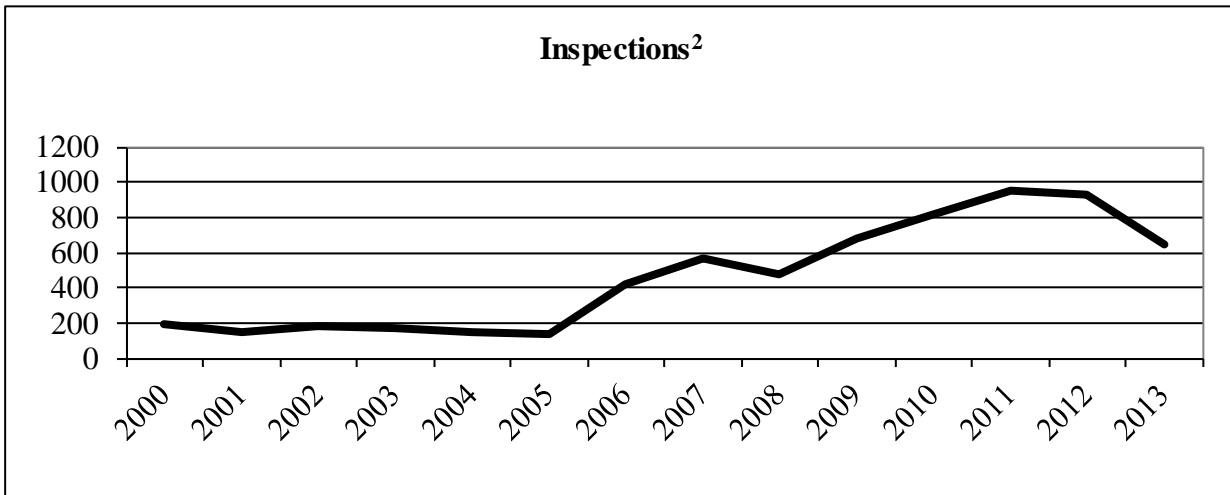
I have started to inspect the large industrial buildings on the south side of our city. These buildings are a challenge due to the vast amount of flammable and combustible materials that are used, and stored, and also for the special techniques used to apply them. I also have noticed the majority of large buildings have not kept up with their annual sprinkler inspection, testing and maintenance. I have found some buildings equipped with sprinkler systems, are in need of minor repairs or they do not work. Most of the sprinkler systems that I inspect are not protected from tampering, nor have a signaling system to let someone know when there is water flowing. There are sprinkled buildings that have offices and large mezzanines built inside that prevent the sprinkler systems from functioning correctly. There also are large buildings with exit doors that are blocked or they have been removed or welded shut. And there are rolling fire doors that fail their drop test due to not being tested or serviced annually.

After discussion with the business owners about the importance of maintaining the building properly, most were very grateful. Most owners never realized how important fire safety is, and that how much savings it would be if everything worked properly in the event of a fire.

My Goal this year is to finish inspecting every business in Goshen, and to keep making a good working relationship with as many business owners as possible, so that they will continue to make corrections as needed for fire and life safety violations.

Inspections	358
Re-inspections	286
Violations Found	962
Corrections Made	524
Consultations	167
Complaint on Businesses	6

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Inspections	146	141	423 ²	569 ²	479 ²	678 ²	815 ²	955 ²	925 ²	644 ²
Violations	447	360	1640	1731	1805	1971	1887	1738	1131	962
Violations per inspection	3.1	2.6	3.9	3	3.7	2.9	2.3	1.8	1.2	2.6
Avg. inspections per month	12.2	11.8	35.3	47.4	53.2	56.5	67.9	79.6	77.1	53.6



² 2006-2013 inspection totals includes re-inspections, previous years do not.

➤ **Human Resources**

As of December 31, 2013, the department is staffed with 51 sworn personnel and 1 civilian.

Promotions

Weishaupt, Jon	Pvt.	March 19
McKerchie, Shane	Pvt.	May 14
Wogoman, Brian	Pvt.	June 18
Erb, Jerod	Sgt.	Sept. 19
Miller, Jason	Captain	Oct. 7
Whitford, Matt	Sgt.	Oct.7



Perfect Attendance

Kit Castetter
Trevor Kercher
Shane Heeter
Bill Phillips
Patrick Linn
Jason Miller
Corey Wortinger
Jeremy Johnson



Separations

Pvt. Tim Harmon	Jan.29
Sgt. Jeremy Mast	Sept.19
Pvt. Steve Taft	Nov. 21

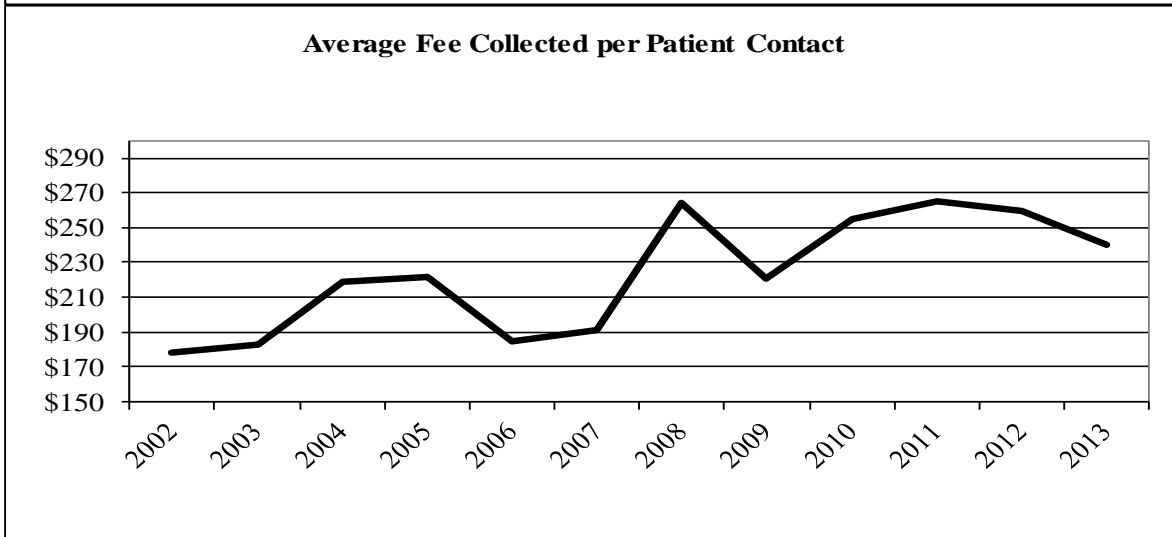


Appointments

Martin, Patrick	April 29
Sheline, Garrett	Oct. 29

➤ **Budget**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Budget	\$3,269,420	\$3,390,029	\$3,574,199	\$3,529,033	\$3,540,120	\$3,488,459	\$3,727,639
Ambulance Fees Collected	\$644,274	\$775,165	\$644,547	\$798,658	\$877,562	\$911,040	\$852,146
Fire Budget (minus) Amb. fees	\$2,625,146	\$2,614,864	\$2,929,652	\$2,730,375	\$2,662,558	\$2,577,419	\$2,875,493
Avg. Amb. Fee collected per patient contact	\$191	\$264	\$221	\$255	\$265	\$259	\$240
Cost per incident	\$711	\$750	\$881	\$767	\$710	\$648	\$711



➤ **Summary**

This report conveys the activities of the department for 2013. Additional data may be available upon request.

Dan Sink

Chief of the Department