



Winnetka Fire Department 2013 Annual Report

“An All Hazards Response Department”

Winnetka Fire Department 2013 Annual Report

Alan J. Berkowsky, Fire Chief



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Village of Winnetka

Winnetka Fire Department 428 Green Bay Road Winnetka, IL 60093 (847)501-6029

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Dear Residents,

Thank you for taking the time to review the 2013 Winnetka Fire Department Annual Report. As an "All Hazards Response Department", we take pride in our ability to provide assistance wherever and whenever it is needed to Winnetka residents, Kenilworth residents, and the residents of unincorporated Cook County.

The year 2013 allowed us achieve a number of goals and accomplishments that would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our fire suppression, fire prevention, and administrative staff. A few of our significant accomplishments are:

- An upgraded ISO rating from 4 to 3. This rating is a standardized risk score with a higher number indicating a better risk management profile.
- Completion of the Village of Winnetka's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). This plan is now on-file with the Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.
- Trained all Department paramedics in Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) to provide the highest possible standard of care to young ones in need.
- Placed a new ambulance in service, replacing a 12 year-old model.
- Co-hosted a School Safety Summit with the Winnetka Police Department in March, 2013. During the summit, Village Officials, along with school administrators, discussed various ways to promote safety in our educational institutions.

These are just a few accomplishments in what has been a remarkable year. I hope that the remainder of this report illustrates the capability of our Department to provide a high level of service to those in need. I thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns about your Fire Department.

Sincerely,



Alan J. Berkowsky
Fire Chief



Service Area Information

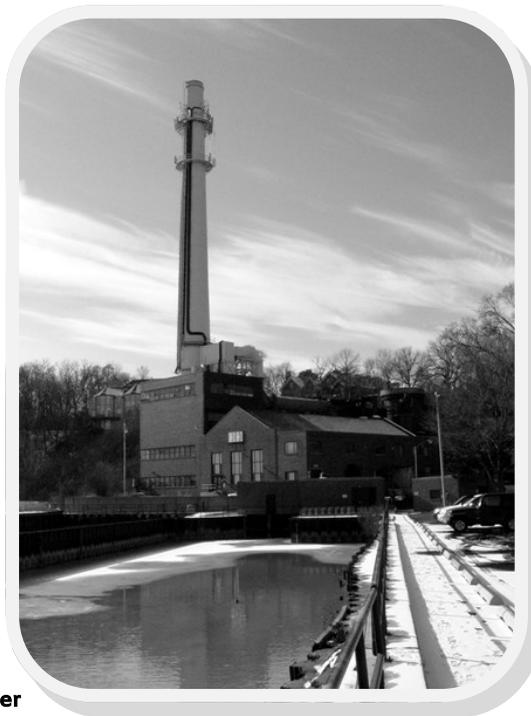
- Square Mileage: **4.5**
- Population: **15,526**
- Number of Households: **5,133**

Department Information

- Sworn Members: **25**
- Non-Sworn Members: **3**
- Daily Staffing Level: **6**
- ISO Rating: **3**

Staff Information

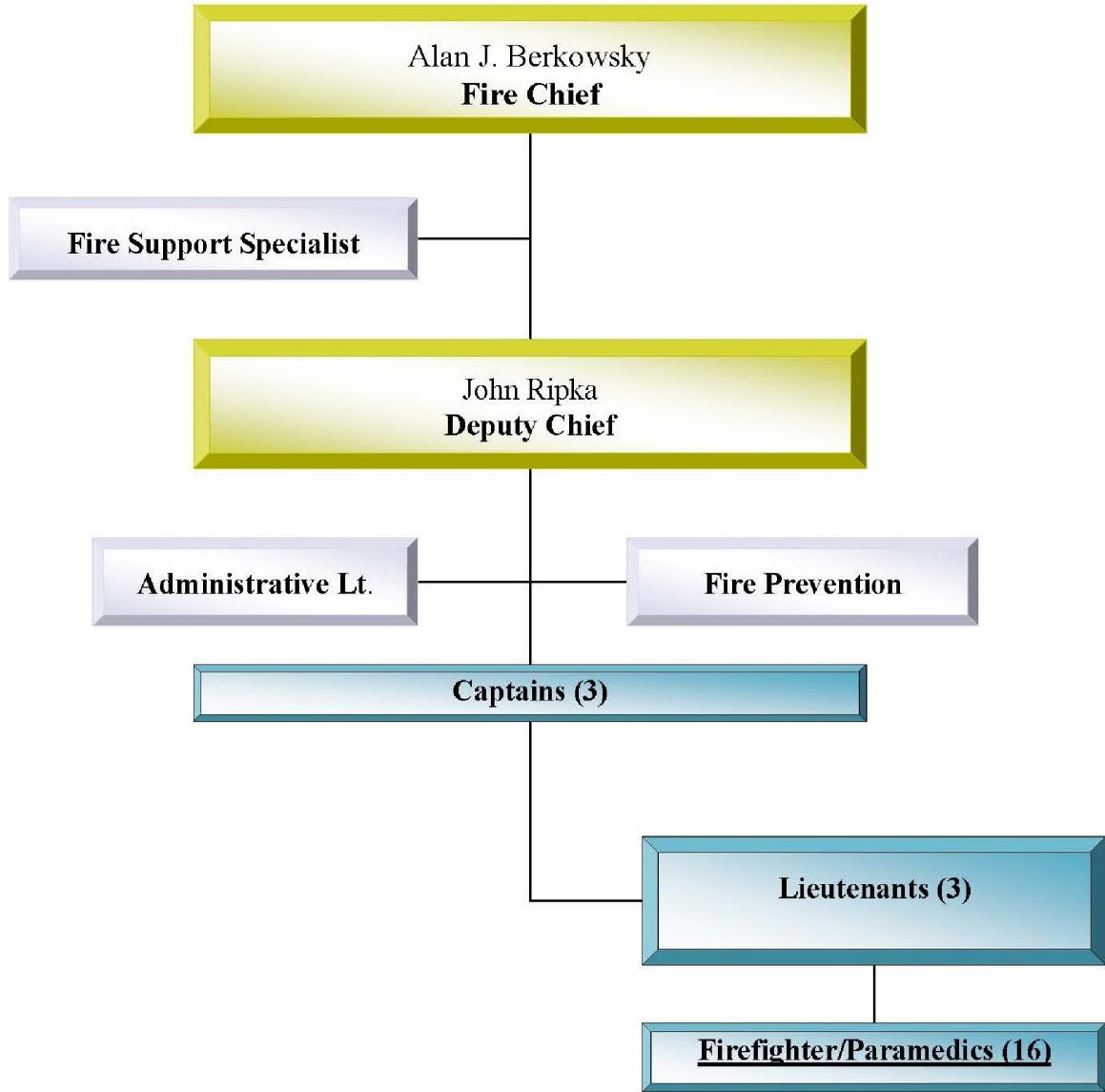
- Total Department Training Hours: **7,329**
- Average Training Hours per Staff Member: **300**
- Fire Prevention Inspections: **790**
- Duty Injuries with Lost Time: **1**
- Start Date of Most Senior Sworn Department Member: **October 16th, 1984**
- Start Date of Most Junior Sworn Department Member: **January 30th, 2012**
- Combined Department Years of Firefighting Experience: **336**



Response Information

- Total Calls for Service: **2,155**
- Total Vehicle Responses: **4,077**
- Fire Calls: **1516**
- EMS Calls: **639**
- Structure Fires: **19**
- Hazardous Condition Calls: **92**
- Service Calls: **305**
- Good Intent Calls: **457**
- False Alarm Calls: **608**
- Severe Weather Calls: **35**
- Total Fire-Related Loss: **\$1,038,500**
- Average Emergency Response Time: **04:02**
- Average Overall Response Time: **04:40**
- Automatic Aid Calls: **532**
- Mutual Aid Calls: **47**
- Box Alarm Calls Within Service Area: **3**
- Box Alarm Calls Outside Service Area: **20**

Winnetka Fire Department – 2013



The Winnetka Fire Department is led by the Fire Chief who is appointed by the Village Manager. The Fire Chief in turn appoints the Deputy Fire Chief and hires the civilian Fire Support Specialist. Both of these individuals support the Chief and help to execute his vision for the Department.

Fire Department staffing consists of three, 24-hour rotating shifts. Each shift is led by a Captain who is assisted by a Lieutenant. Generally, shifts include a minimum of six individuals capable of providing fire suppression and emergency medical duties. An additional Lieutenant position is responsible for providing administrative support during the business week.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is an administrative division of the Department that is responsible for ensuring compliance with all statutory fire prevention measures within the Village.

Administrative Duties



Captain Ryan Banks

- EMS Officer
- EMS Computers
- EMS System Liaison



Captain Rob Bowne

- Breathing Apparatus
- Water Rescue Team
- Medical Physicals
- Quartermaster System



Captain Tom Hutchison

- Training Officer
- Training Tower
- Technical Rescue Team



Lieutenant Lee Doyle

- Facilities/Grounds
- ESDA Coordinator
- Communications
- Safety



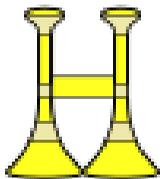
Lieutenant Dennis Legan

- Apparatus
- Small Tools
- Hazmat
- Fire Investigations



Lieutenant Andy MacArthur

- Public Education
- Preplans
- Fire Prevention

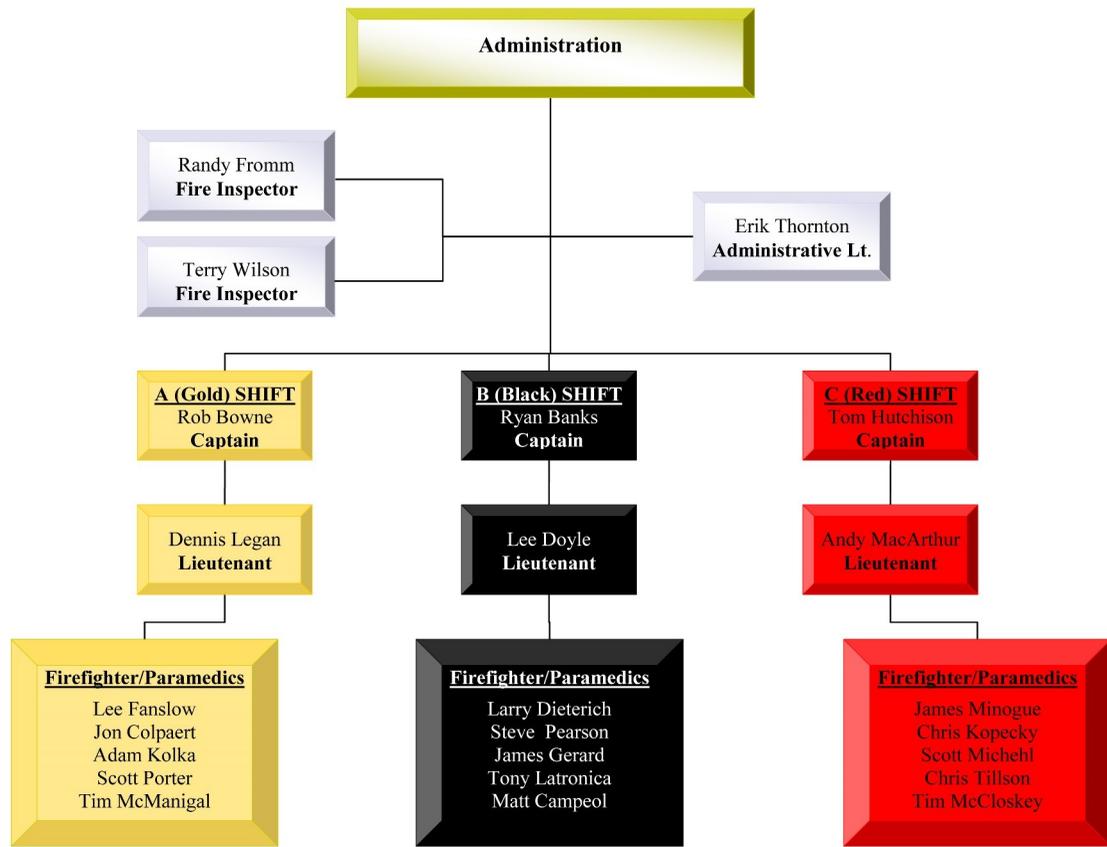


Lieutenant Erik Thornton

- Water Supply/Hydrant Testing
- Hoses and Appliances
- CPR Class Coordinator
- MABAS Box Cards



Personnel and Shift Breakdown



The fire suppression personnel within the Department work rotating twenty-hour (24) hour shift schedules. The typical schedule for a member of the fire suppression personnel is one day on, two days off. From time to time, a shift member may be called back to work in the event of a major emergency or event in the community.

Shift assignments are generally static for one year, after which time staff members are rotated to a different shift. This process allows adequate division of the unique special skill sets each staff member possesses.





Fire Station 28—428 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, IL 60093



Battalion 28 (Incident Command)—2012 Ford Expedition



Ambulance 28—2012 Freightliner/Medtec

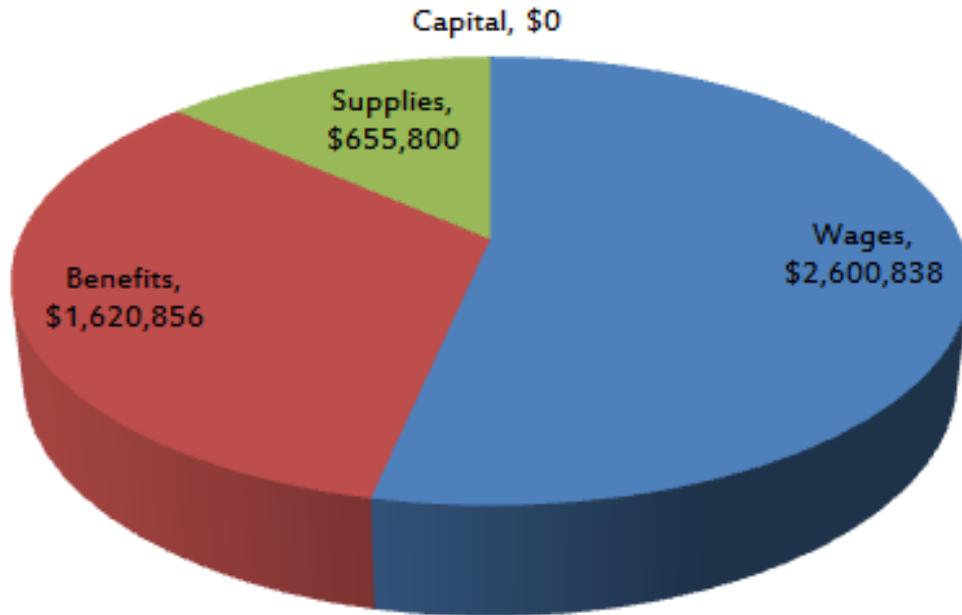


Engine 28—2000 Pierce Saber



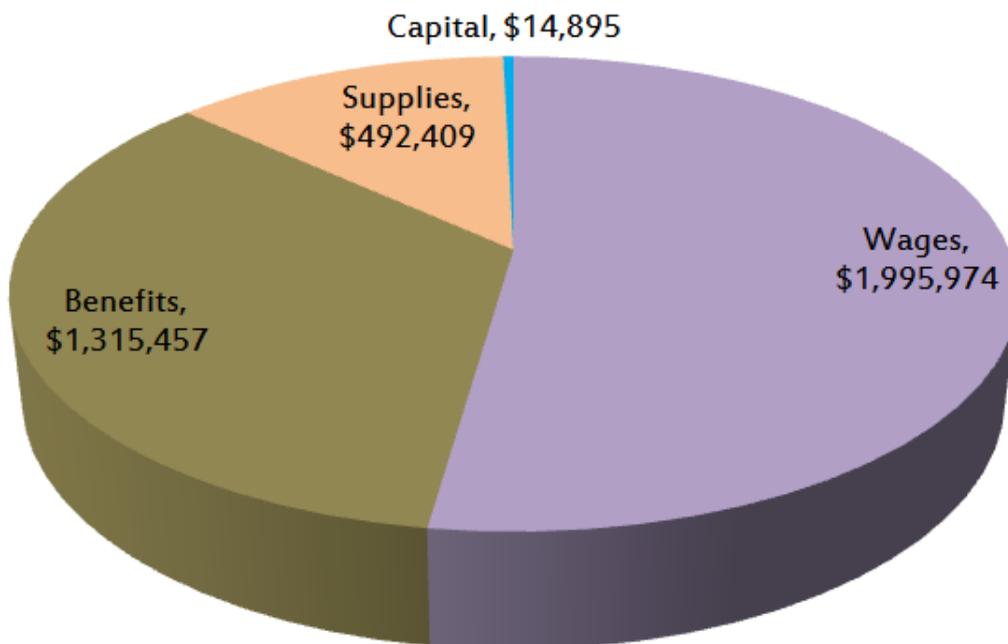
Truck 28—2010 Smeal

Twelve Month Budget by Category



Total Twelve Month Budget: \$4,877,494

Nine-Month Budget Expenditures by Category*

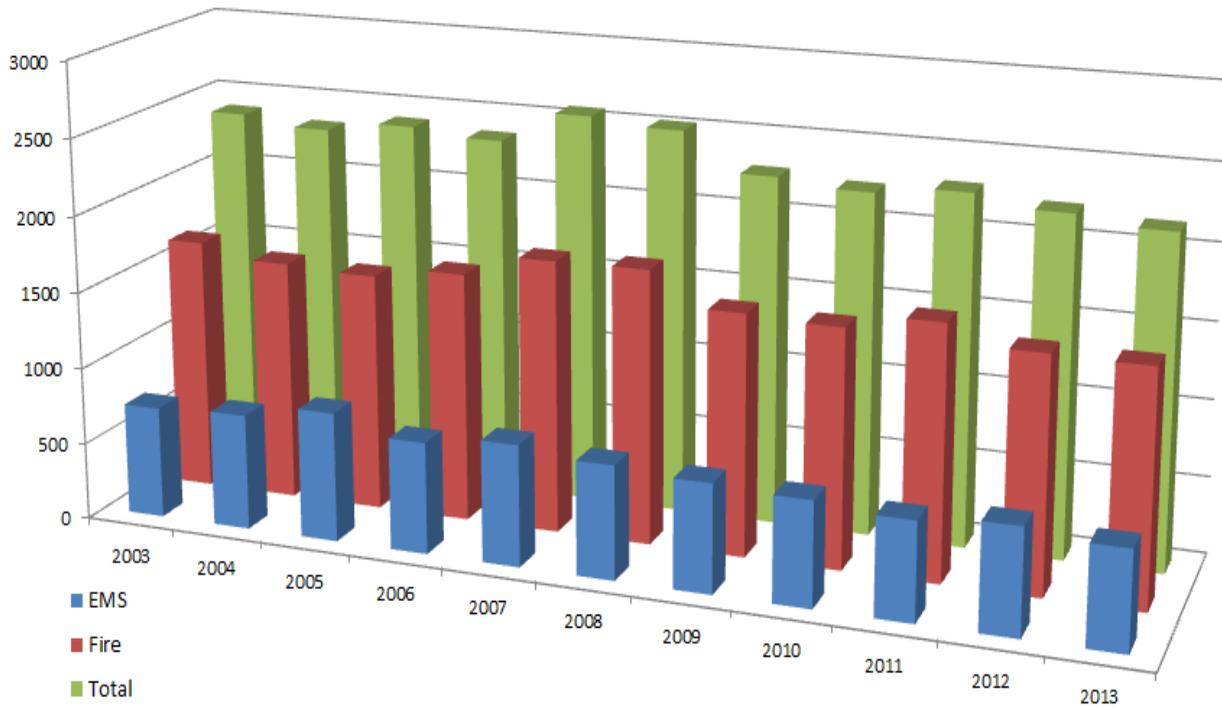


Total Nine Month Budget Expenditures \$3,818,735

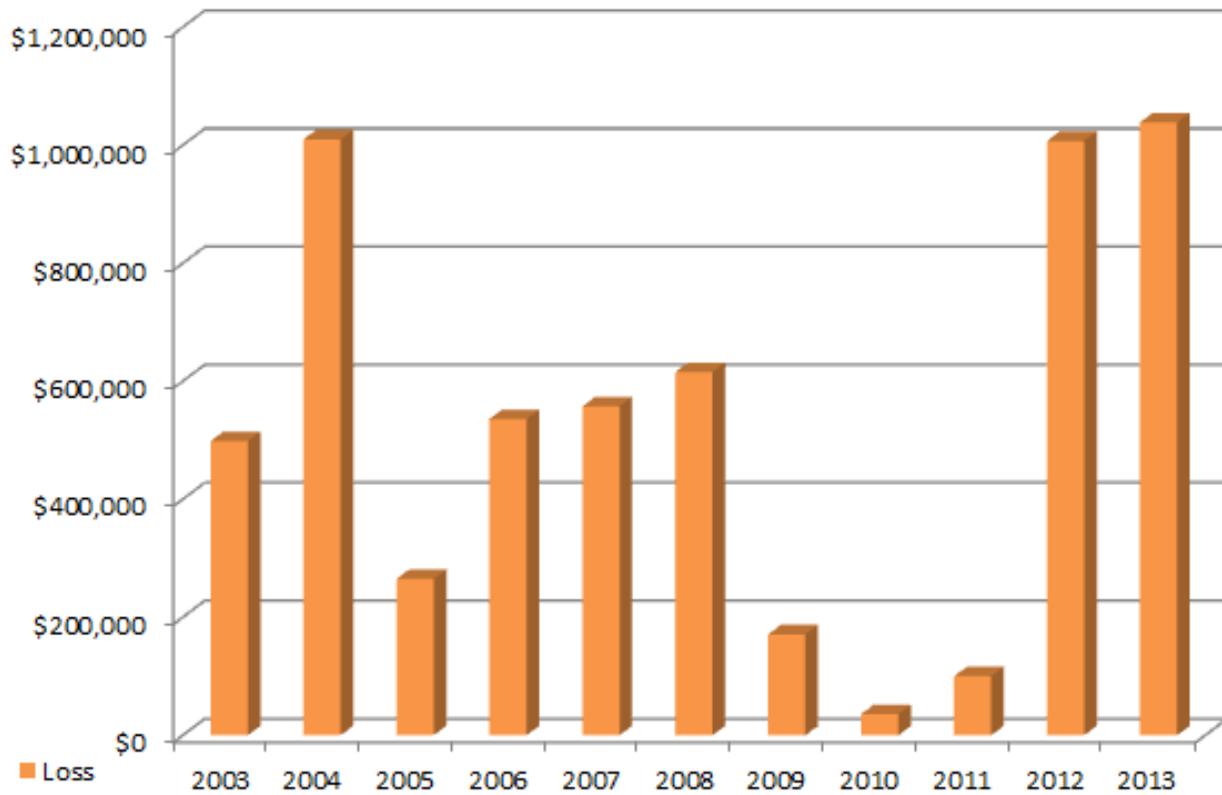
Note: A nine-month budget is displayed due to a change in the Village of Winnetka's fiscal year, approved in 2013.

*Unaudited

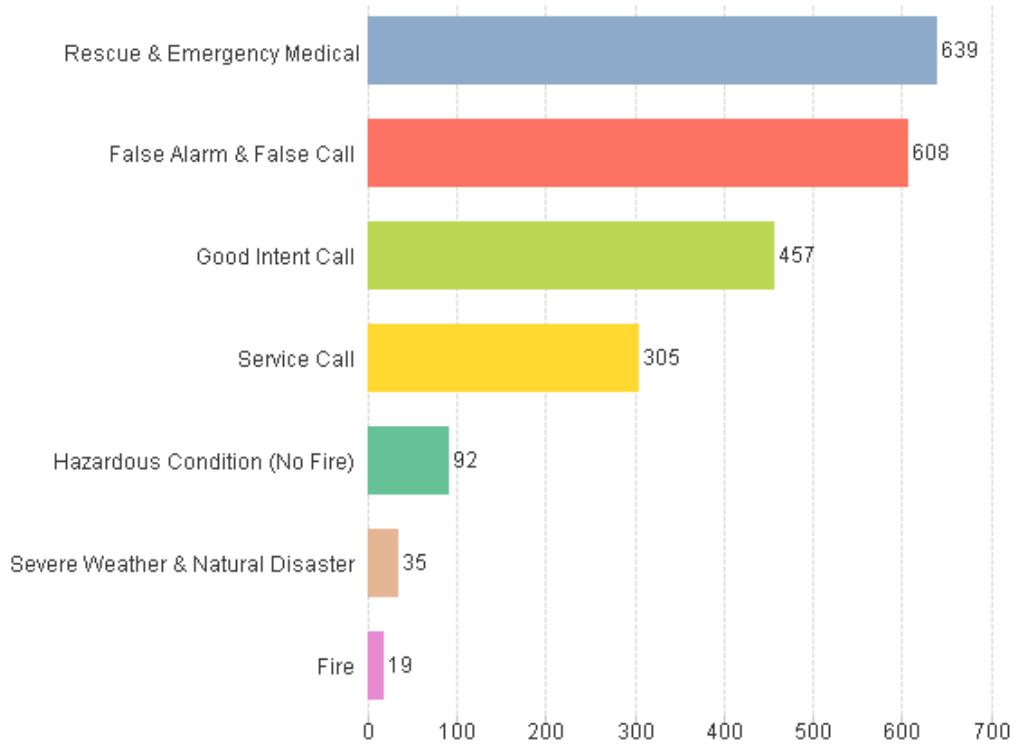
Incidents by Year



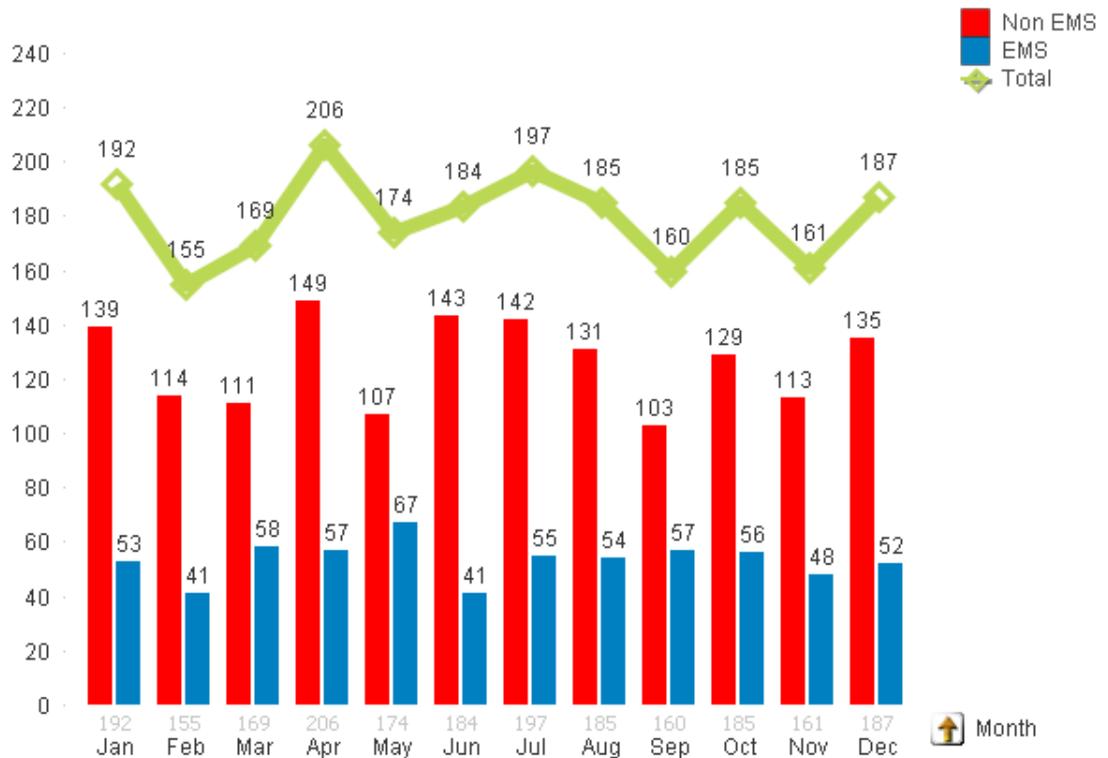
Total Estimated Loss by Year



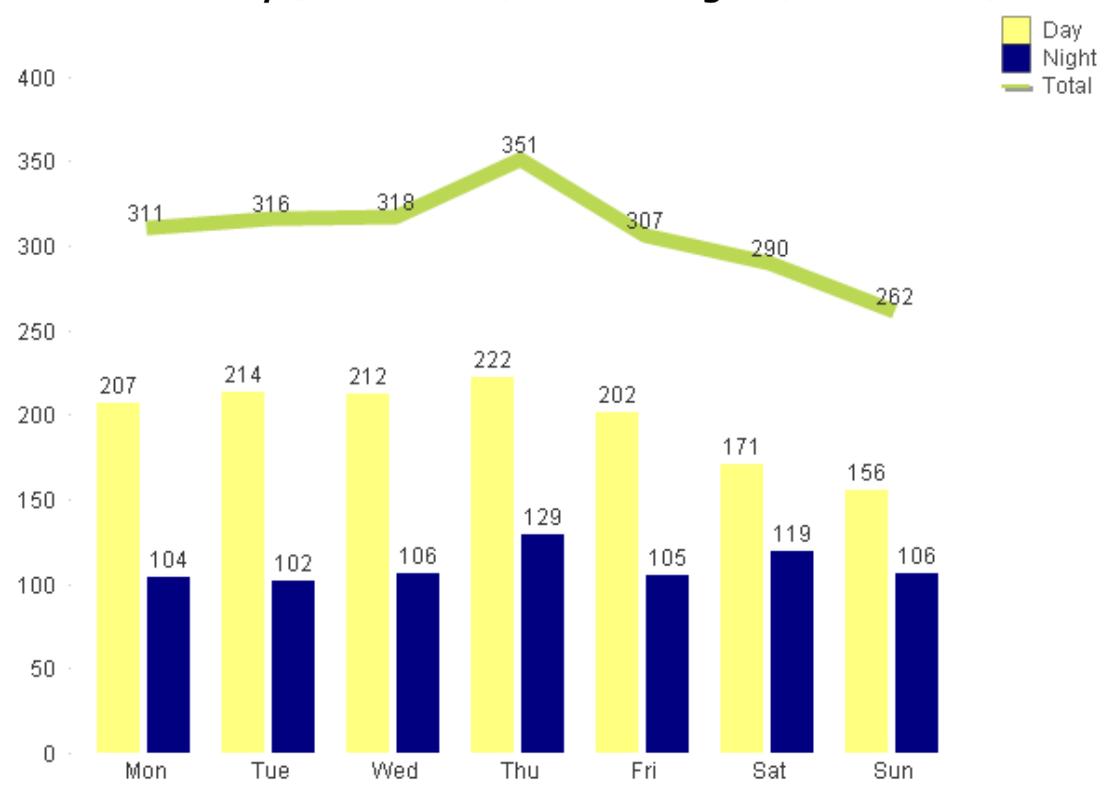
Incidents by Response Type



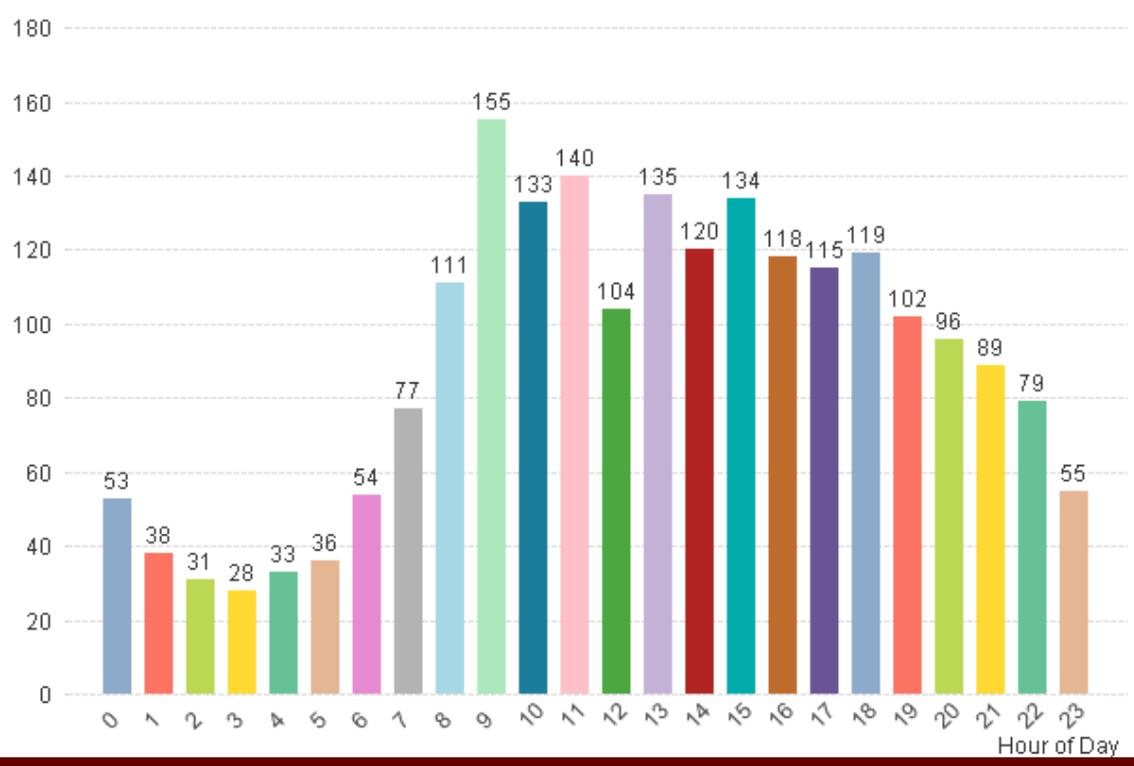
Incidents EMS versus Non-EMS (By Month)



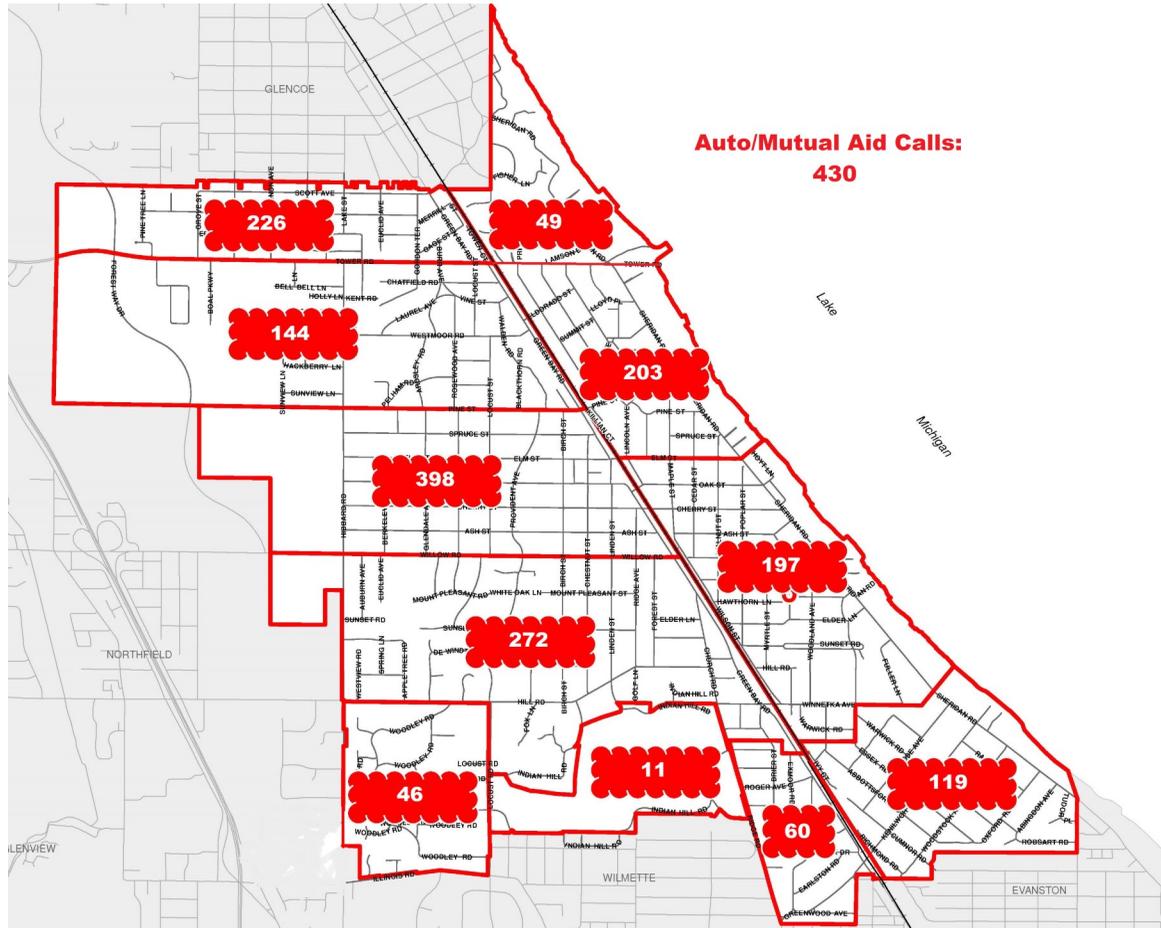
Incidents Day (8AM-6PM) versus Night (6PM-8AM)



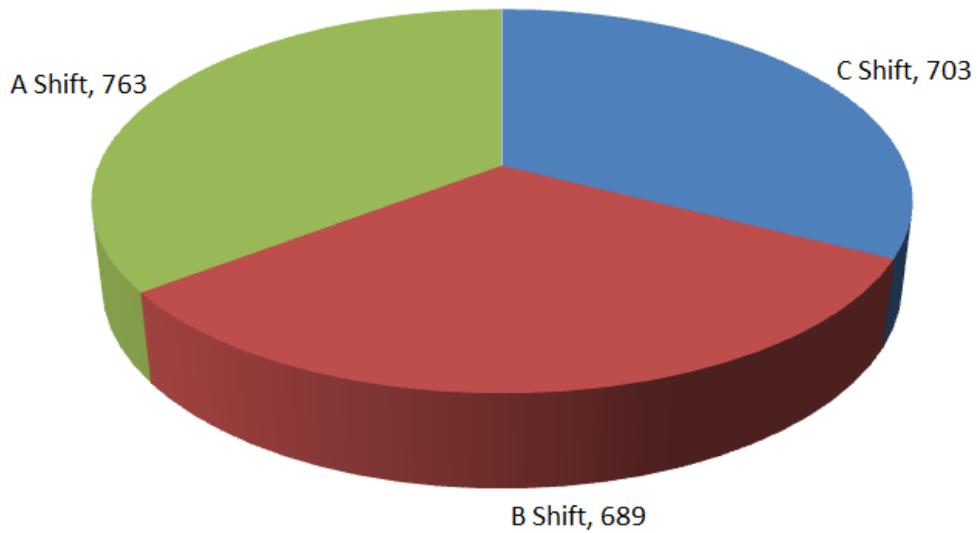
Incidents by Hour of Day



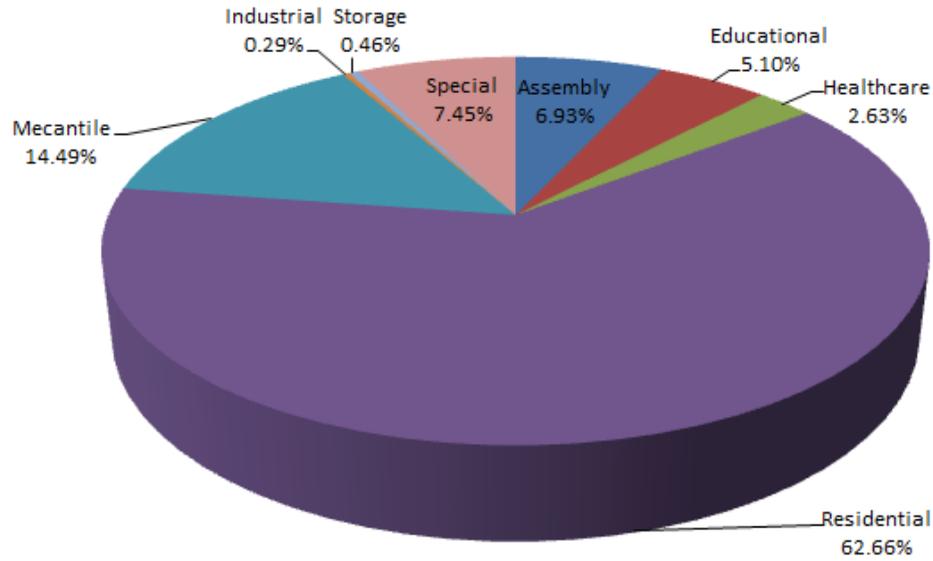
Incidents by Response District



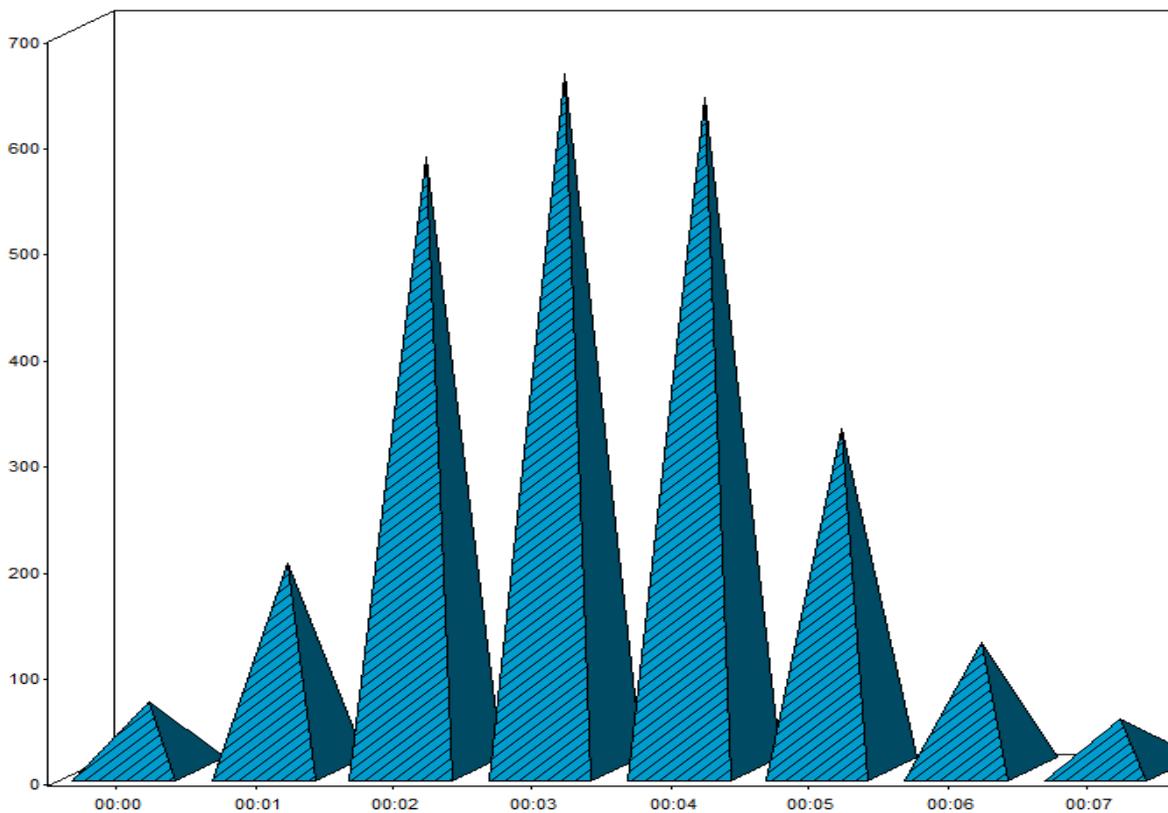
Incidents by Shift



Incidents by Property Type (%)



Call Response Times



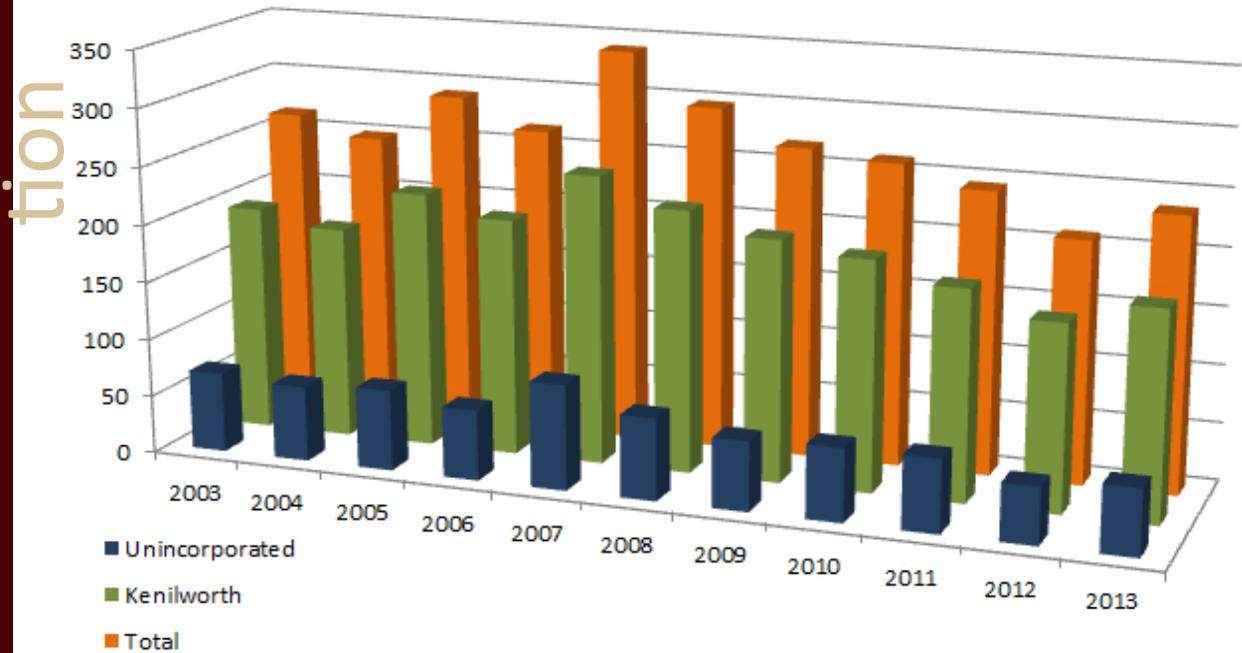
Did you know that 80% of "hot-calls" are responded to by the Fire Department in four (4) minutes or less and 90% are responded to in six (6) minutes or less?

Village of Kenilworth

For many years, the Village of Winnetka has provided fire and EMS services to the Village of Kenilworth and Unincorporated New Trier Township in Cook County.

The Village of Winnetka invoices the Village of Kenilworth twice during the calendar year for fire protection services and the amount is derived from a comprehensive formula that includes call volume, equalized assessed value (EAV), and population among other elements.

Unincorporated Cook County residents are billed directly on a monthly basis utilizing a formula similar to that of Kenilworth. The historical call volume for these two regions is outlined in the graph below.



The Village of Winnetka offers residents a free, safe, and easy way to dispose of unwanted medicine. The Fire Department accepts most types of prescription medications for disposal. Using this drop-off program will help keep our water clean and will help to mitigate pollution of our lakes, rivers and streams.



The Department accepts containers of needles, syringes and diabetic finger prick cartridges for proper disposal. We also offer sharps containers for the storage of these needles at home. You simply bring in an old container and exchange it for a new container.



Trained personnel are available to take blood pressure readings at the Winnetka Fire Department. A blood pressure reading provides an important and timely summary of an individual's cardiovascular health status. It may also aid identification of potential medical problems and lead to early treatment.

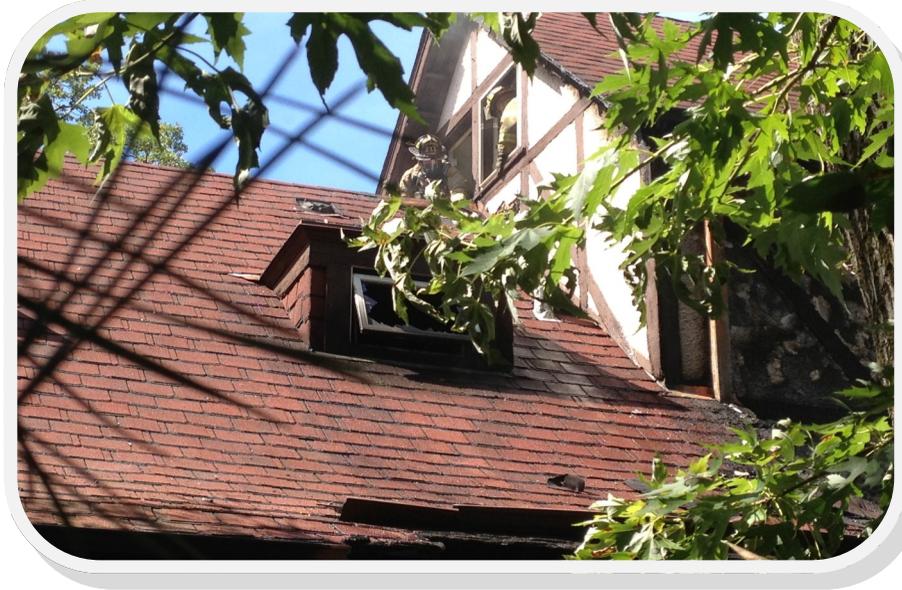


2013 Significant Events

On September 14th, 2013 at approximately 11:29AM, the Winnetka Fire Department received a call for a house fire in the 900 block of Private Road in Winnetka.

Upon arrival, firefighters immediately recognized the severity of the fire and called a box alarm, requesting aid from nearby communities.

Once the fire was extinguished, it was determined that a toaster in the kitchen had caused the blaze. Approximate loss is estimated at more than \$750,000.



Torrential rainfall and subsequent flooding between April 17th and 18th, 2013 resulted in the Winnetka Fire Department conducting approximately 40 flood assessments for Winnetka and residents and businesses.

As demonstrated in the picture below, much of the service area was swamped with rainwater, which resulted in heavy losses for some residents and business owners.



The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for conducting fire and life safety inspections within the boundaries of the Village.

Inspections are required for all new and existing commercial and multifamily residential structures. In addition to standard inspections, the Fire Prevention Bureau also conducts:

- Plan reviews
- Special event inspections
- Code review and interpretation
- Responses to citizen concerns

The Fire Prevention Bureau is staffed by two part-time Fire Inspectors with additional support provided by the Deputy Fire Chief and Administrative Lieutenant.



Year	Consultations	Inspections	Plan Reviews	Referrals	Preplans	Total
2006	49	968	9	8	213	1247
2007	43	971	13	4	280	1311
2008	50	660	16	8	183	917
2009	72	628	15	10	202	927
2010	69	863	23	15	98	1068
2011	73	551	25	17	39	705
2012	79	798	6	19	57	959
2013	124	790	32	26	36	1008
Average	70	779	17	13	139	1018

Training is an extremely important component in the Fire Department. Through on-going training, members stay ready to respond to any emergency or call for service.

In 2013, Department members acquired the following Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) certifications:

- Chief Alan Berkowsky: Chief Fire Officer
- Deputy Chief John Ripka: Public Fire and Life Safety Educator I
- Captain Tom Hutchison: Chief Fire Officer
- Lieutenant Dennis Legan: Instructor II and Fire Officer II
- FM Chris Kopecky: Fire Investigator I
- FM Anthony Latronica: Firefighter III
- FM Chris Tillson: Firefighter III and Fire Officer I
- FM Tim McManigal: Vehicle and Machinery Operations

Additionally, Department members may elect to participate in special trainings such as Hazmat or Dive Team. All of these opportunities promote the overall safety of the community.



One of the most beneficial resources for Fire Department training is the **Training Tower**, located at the Public Works Facility (1390 Willow Road).

The training tower includes a number of amenities that allow for the simulation of actual fires in both residential and commercial establishments.

The tower has an independent electric and water supply and is piped with the ability to have smoke pumped in to simulate the poor visibility one would experience under fire conditions

At least twice a year, neighboring departments visit our training tower for a coordinated night drill exercise as required by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

On June 7th, 2013, fire-medics attended the Children's Fair, held at the Village Green. During the Fair, Fire Department staff allowed children to utilize the Fire Pole Slide. The event was an excellent opportunity to interact with residents on a non-emergency basis.



Chief Berkowsky speaks to a group of school officials in a crowded Village Council Chamber during the School Safety Summit on March 15th, 2013.

The Winnetka Fire Department conducts CPR, First Aid, and AED courses for the community year-round. To schedule your course, contact the Fire Department at (847)501-6029.



Aerial Truck - Also known as a ladder truck, aerial ladder, or just plain truck. A hydraulically powered ladder or articulating platform, mounted on a vehicle that also carries several different length extension ladders, and possibly extrication gear, ventilation equipment, and lighting.

Backdraft - Term applied to the explosion caused by the sudden inward rush of oxygen when all of the superheated gases, (heated above the ignition temperature) in a room or structure, ignite at the same time. If the gasses are pressurized, in a relatively closed room, an explosion could be the result. While the likelihood of such an occurrence is low, a backdraft is often fatal to anyone caught in it.

Defensive Operations - This is a fire ground strategy based on firefighter safety and the protection of exposures. The goal is to simply confine the fire to the building/area of origin. No aggressive interior firefighting operations take place in the defensive mode. All fire streams are operated onto the fire from the outside. This strategy is employed when a fire has advanced to the point where interior attack operations are too dangerous.

Engine - This is an apparatus designed for fire attack. It is the most common vehicle in fire departments. This apparatus carries hose and usually has a 500 gallon water tank. It also has a fire pump. Modern fire pumps can pump over 1500 GPM (Gallons Per Minute). These vehicles can also have the ability to supply foam and usually carries 3-4 personnel.

Extrication - The systematic and safe freeing or removal of persons who are trapped or pinned inside a vehicle or piece of equipment. This is accomplished by highly trained firefighter/paramedics.

Flashover - Similar to a backdraft with the exception that the room is not closed or pressurized to the point of explosion. All of the contents of the room have given off flammable gases that have been heated to their ignition point and a fire suddenly envelopes the room. From the outside you will often see the exiting smoke appear to instantly ignite.

Forcible Entry - The act of gaining access to a structure or vehicle through means other than an open window or door. Frequently, firefighters must force open doors that are locked or blocked in order to enter a structure to search for victims & extinguish a fire. A wide variety of hand, power & hydraulic tools can be used for forcible entry.

Haz Mat - (also Hazmat, HazMat) This is short for "Hazardous Materials." With today's complex and high technology world, many departments have invested resources and money to responding to such emergencies. Most of us would be surprised, if not alarmed to learn the many types and dangers associated with chemicals and products in our communities. Winnetka shares a Haz Mat unit with the departments comprising MABAS Division 3 .

ISO - Insurance Service Office - This is an organization that evaluates fire department operations for the insurance companies. The ISO (PPC) rating is from 10 - 1. With "1" being the best. See: <http://www.iso.com/>

MABAS - Mutual Aid Box Alarm System - A conglomerate of fire service organizations that provide mutual aid response in the event of an emergency that exceeds the capabilities of the local fire department. MABAS organizations exist primarily in Illinois and Wisconsin, but also include members in Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri. The Winnetka Fire Department is part of MABAS Division 3, which includes:

- Deerfield-Bannockburn
- Des Plaines
- Evanston
- Glencoe
- Glenview
- Highland Park
- Highwood
- Lincolnwood
- Morton Grove
- Niles
- Northbrook
- Northfield
- North Maine
- Park Ridge
- Prospect Heights
- Skokie
- Wilmette
- Winnetka-Kenilworth

Mutual Aid - This is an agreement between jurisdictions for the mutual assistance in the event of major events. Even the largest departments may need help from time to time. There can be pre-established automatic mutual aid. A city may agree to always take the runs for another in some remote locations or when local resources are unavailable. Smaller departments depend upon automatic/mutual aid agreements.

NFPA - National Fire Protection Association - An organization established in 1896 having the purpose of helping to protect life and property from fire. The NFPA contains a number of different operational components including public education, code adoption, research, and training. Most fire-related building codes are derived from standards put forth by the NFPA. Additionally, the NFPA was responsible for developing the National Electric Code (NEC).

Offensive Operations - During offensive operations, fire suppression personnel actively fight a fire within a structure utilizing water or another type of extinguishing agent. While in offensive operations mode, firefighters must be continuously aware of their surroundings in order to evaluate safety conditions within the structure.

Pass Device (Personal Alert Safety System) - This is a device given to all firefighters to wear for locating firefighters in trouble. This device senses if a firefighter has remained motionless for a short period of time. A piercing alarm is sounded under any of the conditions for which it is designed to detect. They are usually attached to the SCBA.

RED Center - Regional Emergency Dispatch Center - A centralized dispatch center providing services to Deerfield-Bannockburn, Highwood, Lincolnshire-Riverwoods, Lincolnwood, Long Grove, Morton Grove, Niles, North Maine, Northbrook, Northfield, Prospect Heights, Wheeling, Wilmette, and Winnetka/Kenilworth. When a resident of one of these communities calls 911 within the community and requests fire or EMS services, they will experience a very brief hold while their call is directed from their local 911 office to RED Center. Winnetka's partnership with RED Center is a more efficient and effective means of handling fire or emergency medical calls.

SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) - This is the breathing apparatus that firefighters wear. A common mistake is to think that there is only oxygen in the cylinder; however, there is not. The cylinder the firefighter wears is filled with the same air everyone breathes. Imagine the amount of air in a box measuring four feet in every direction. That is about how much air each firefighter has. Each cylinder is rated for a specific amount of time, usually 30 - 60 minutes, but that is based upon little or no exertion.

Thermal Imaging Camera - This is a camera that can be used to seek out hidden fires or see through smoke. It uses thermal imaging technology to detect the heat given off by objects. It can detect a difference of 1/10th of a degree. Some cameras have the ability to transmit the image back to command where it can be viewed or even recorded. The camera can also tell you the temperature of the object in the cross hairs. Some versions are helmet mounted. This device is so sensitive that it could help find a victim who is completely under many layers of bed covers.

Ventilation - The process of removing heated gasses or smoke from a building. This process makes the building more tenable and helps to prevent such things as flashover or backdraft. This can be accomplished by several methods, from opening a window to cutting a hole in the roof. It can also be accomplished by forced ventilation using high powered fans to horizontally ventilate the structure.

2014 Calendar of Events

March 9:

Change your clock/change
your smoke detector battery

October 5-11:

Fire Prevention Week

October 11:

Fire/Police Open House

November 2:

Change your clock/change
your smoke detector battery



Life Safety Tips

- Store matches and lighters away from children.
- Always check electrical cords for cracking and fraying.
- Create a home escape plan for use in the event on an emergency.
- Every home should have working smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors.
- Do not hesitate to call "911"—if something feels like an emergency, treat it like an emergency!



Numbers to Remember:

Fire/Police Department Emergency— 911

Winnetka Police Department Non-Emergency-
(847)501-6034

Winnetka Fire Department Non-Emergency-
(847)501-6029

Village Hall- (847)501-6000

Village Public Works- (847)716-3568

New Trier Township- (847)446-8201

Poison Control Center- (800)222-1222
