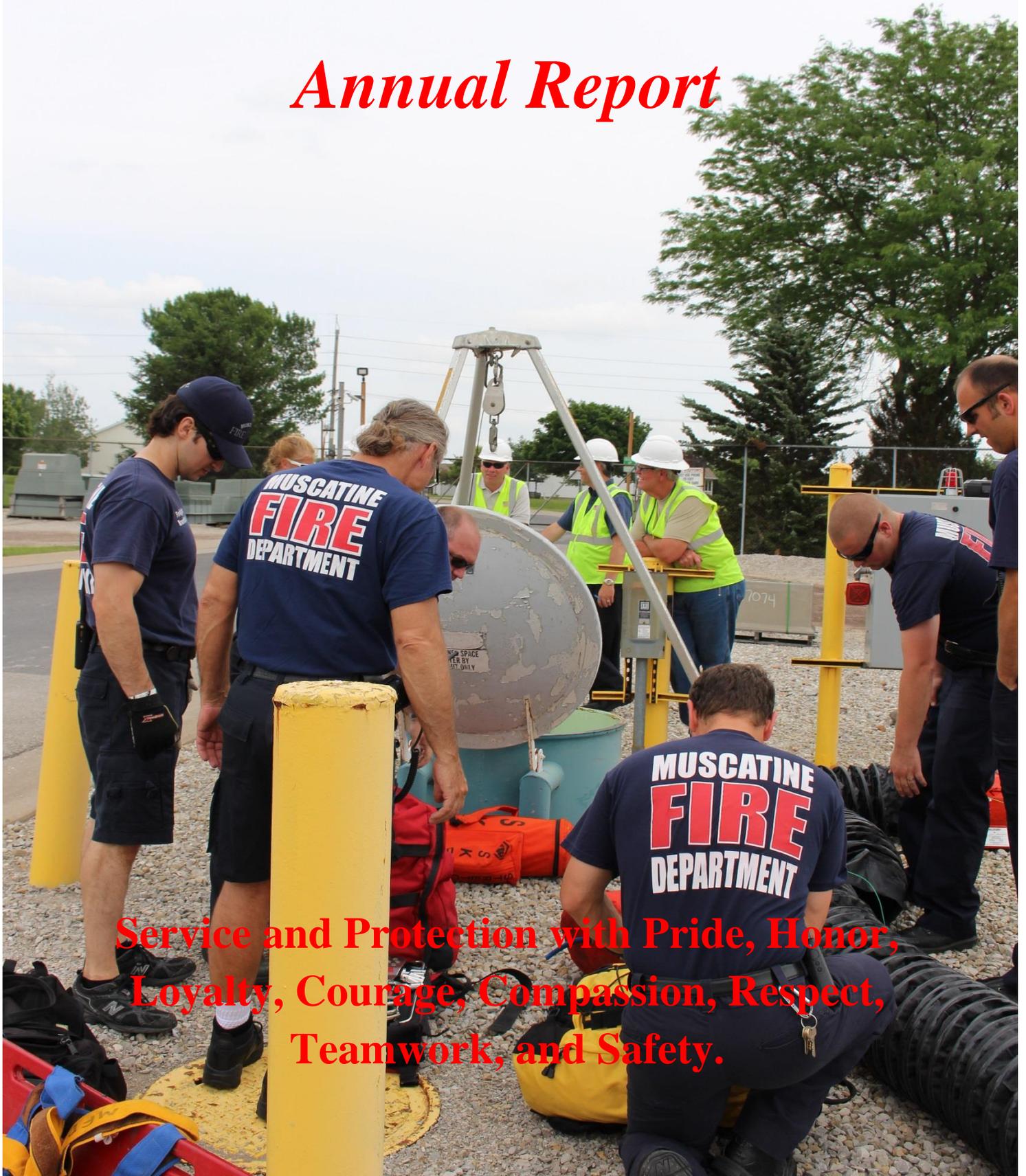


# *Muscatine Fire Department*

## *2014*

### *Annual Report*



**Service and Protection with Pride, Honor,  
Loyalty, Courage, Compassion, Respect,  
Teamwork, and Safety.**

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**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

February 3, 2015

Dear: Mayor and City Council Members  
City Administrator  
Fire Department Staff & Members  
And lastly, to the citizens and customers of the Muscatine Fire Department

It is my pleasure to present the Muscatine Fire Department's 2014 annual report and summary of activities. This past year was an extremely busy year with 4,433 calls for service, a record number for our department. As in previous years, the majority of our incidents we responded to are medical emergencies. The Muscatine Fire Department consists of 37 uniformed men and women who are dedicated to providing quality services and who have chosen a career path centered on helping people, in both emergency and non-emergency situations. These individuals provide fire prevention and education, fire suppression, emergency medical care, technical rescue, and water rescue, and hazardous materials emergency response 24/7. We continue to work with our neighbors through agreements and these partnerships allow us to provide services more efficiently and cost effective to the community we serve. I am proud of the work we do and thankful for the support we receive from our City Council, City Administrator, citizens, and visitors. We continue to be an exemplary organization that prides itself on being proactive, efficient, and exceptionally effective in our delivery of services.

While the contents of the annual report tend to focus on Fire Department's statistical data, projects and programs, it is the people we serve, and those who serve them, that are at the heart of our mission, values, and philosophy. To that end, continuing education and employee development serve as cornerstones for all our planning and preparation in order to keep our fire fighters safe and our community safer. In closing, thank you for the opportunity to lead this great department.

Respectfully Submitted:

Chief Jerry Ewers  
Muscatine Fire Department





Public Safety Building, 312 E. Fifth St.  
Muscatine, IA 52761  
(563) 263-9233  
Fax (563) 263-5534

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT

# Mission, Core Values & Philosophy

### MFD Mission Statement

It is our mission as members of the Muscatine Fire Department to safely provide quality emergency services to the community through the protection of life, property, and the environment from the effects of medical emergencies, fires and other hazards and to reduce these threats through fire prevention and public education.

### MFD Core Values

**Members:** We promote an atmosphere of trust and respect that encourages individual growth, participation, creativity and acknowledges the achievements of our members.

**Organization:** We support an organization built on a foundation of initiative, collaboration and commitment to efficiency, consistency and results, while attaining the goals of the organization.

**Customer Service:** We are dedicated to providing superior customer service.

**Strategic Management:** We plan for change and develop management strategies to meet the challenges of our future.

**Regional Cooperation:** We promote, encourage and participate in partnerships that provide all communities and organizations with the highest level of service and training.

### MFD Philosophy

Service and protection with Pride, Honor, Loyalty, Courage, Compassion, Respect, Teamwork, and Safety.

We Accept:

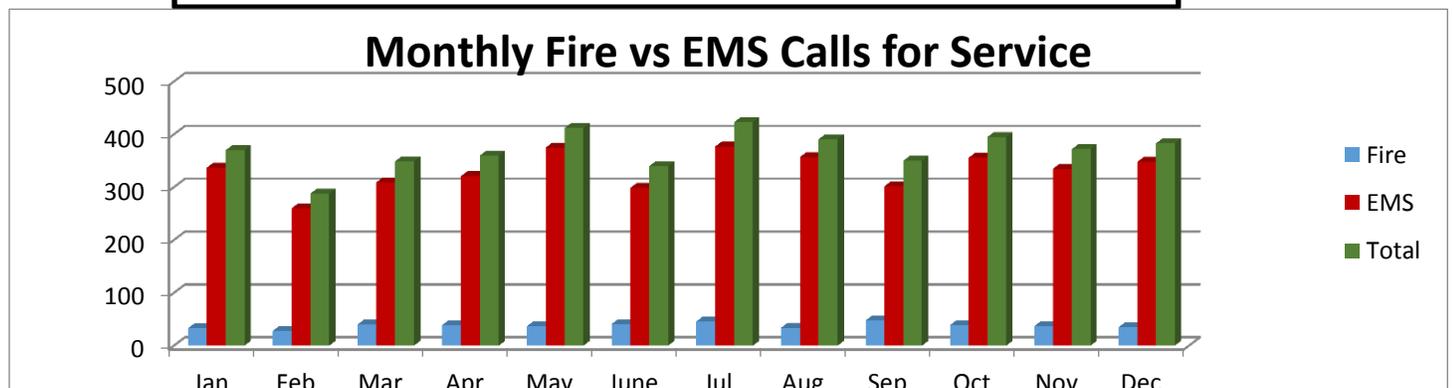
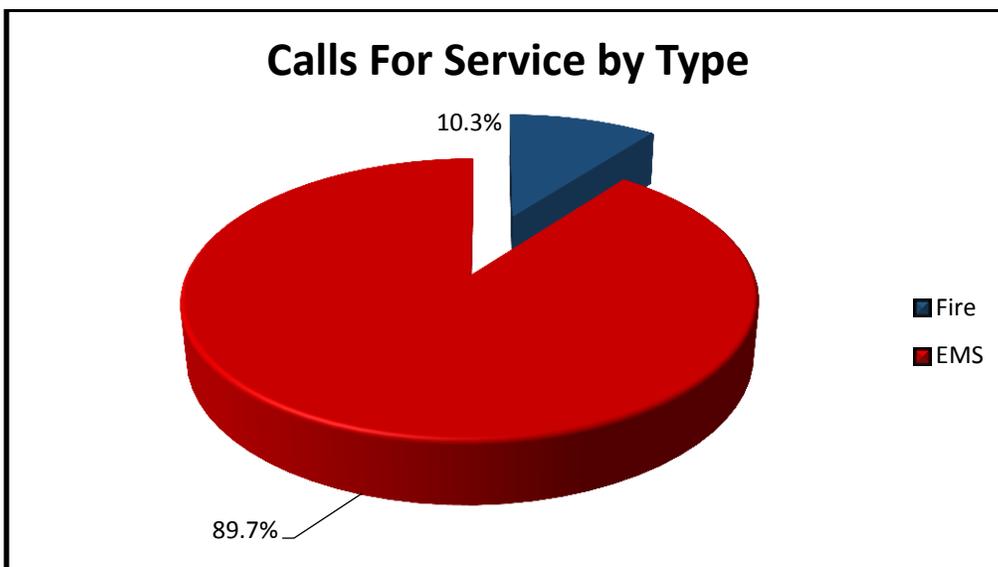
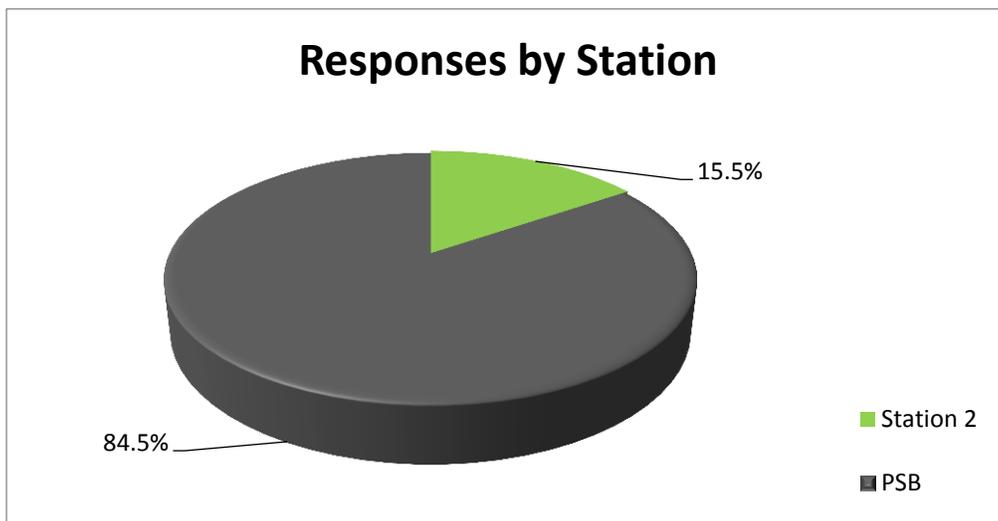
- Great personal risk to save another person's life
- Moderate personal risk to save another person's property
- No personal risk to save what is already lost

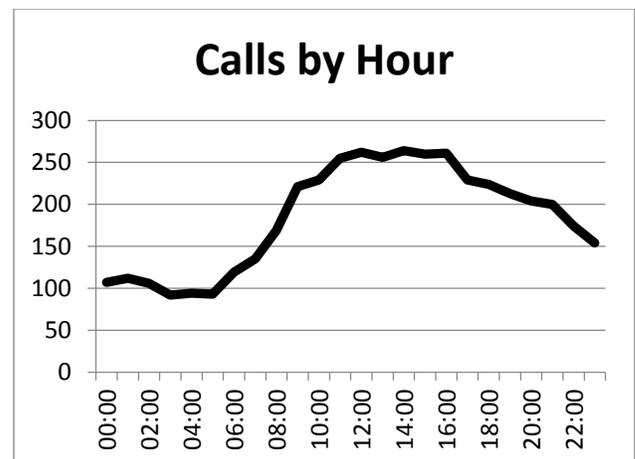
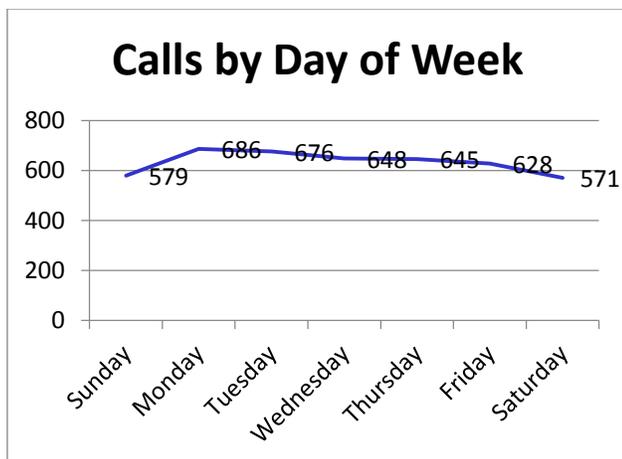
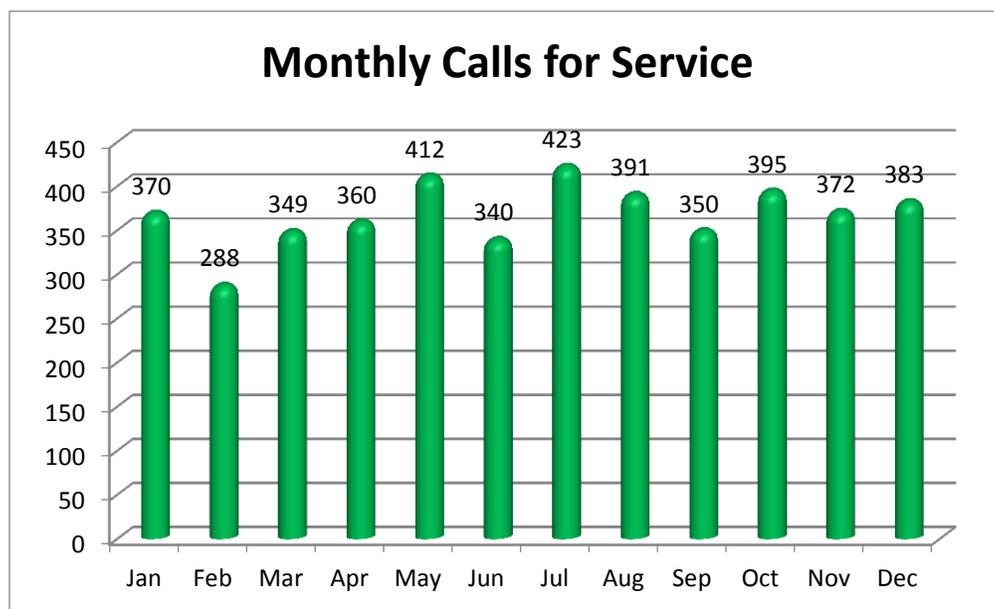
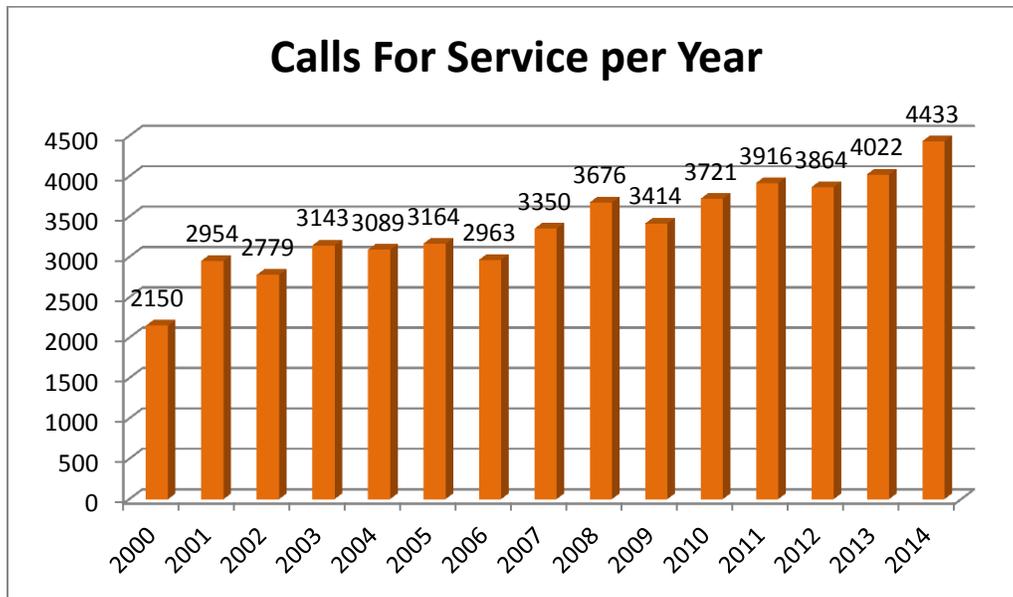
**"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain**



## Calls for Service Report

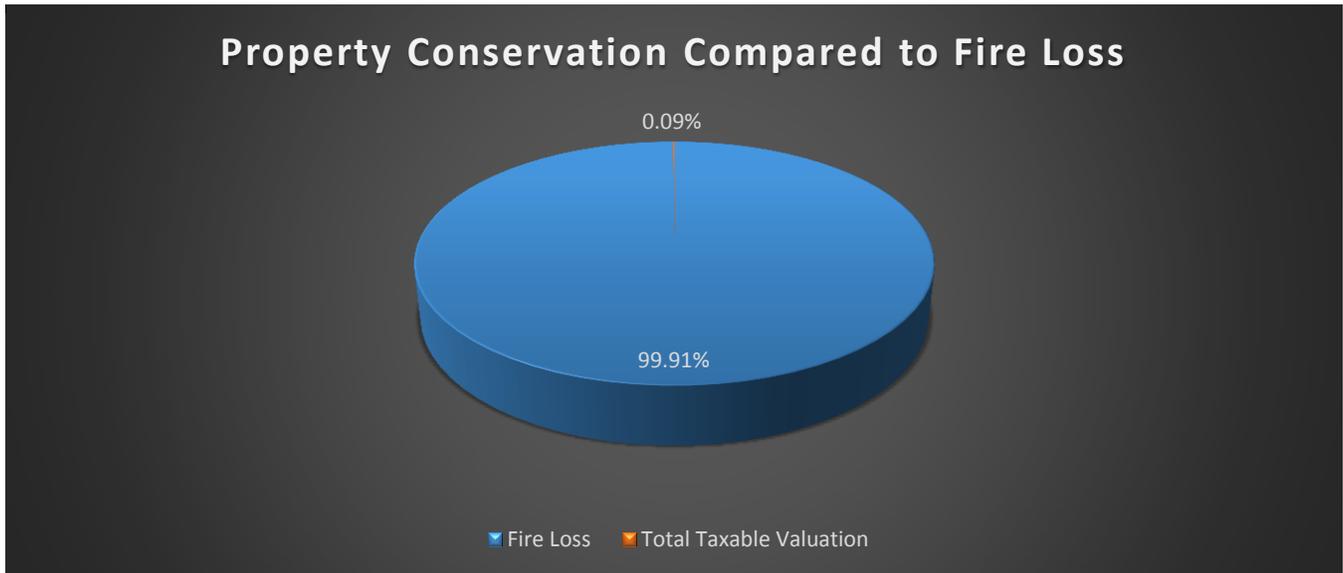
2014 was once again a record breaking year in terms of calls for service answered. During the past year, 4,433 calls for service were answered. As in years past, emergency medical service calls were the majority of the alarms answered. During the 2014 year, Muscatine Fire Department had 1,096 times, or roughly one fourth of the calls, taking place while we had multiple emergency calls taking place at the same time. The graphs below are a breakdown of various information regarding calls for service.



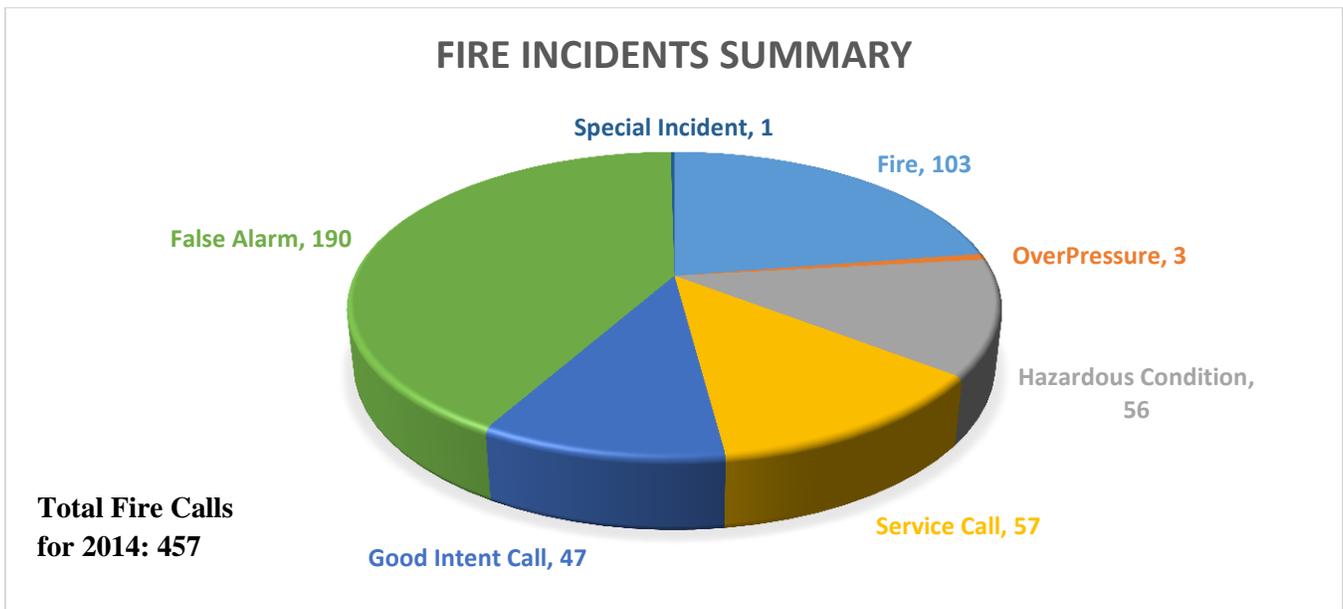


## Fire Response Report

During the year of 2014 Muscatine Fire Department responded to 457 calls for service that fall into the category of a fire related response. This was a 31.3% increase over 2014. Of the 103 total number of fires, 40 were considered to be significant working structure fires with an estimated property loss of \$741,580.



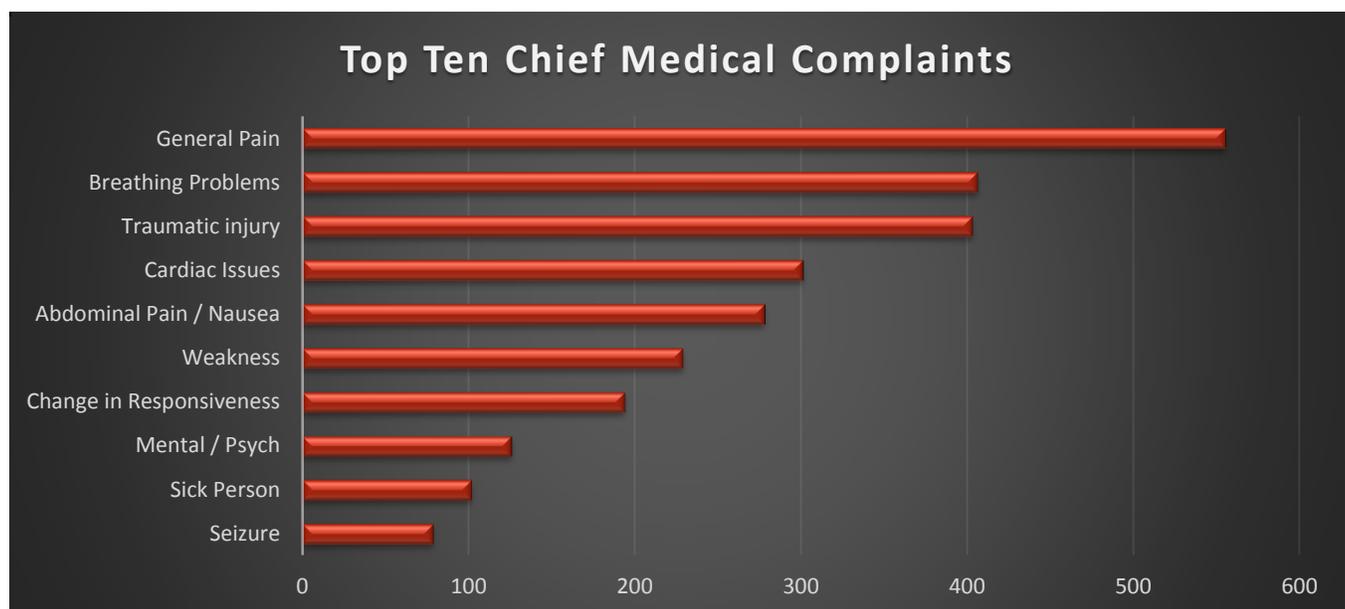
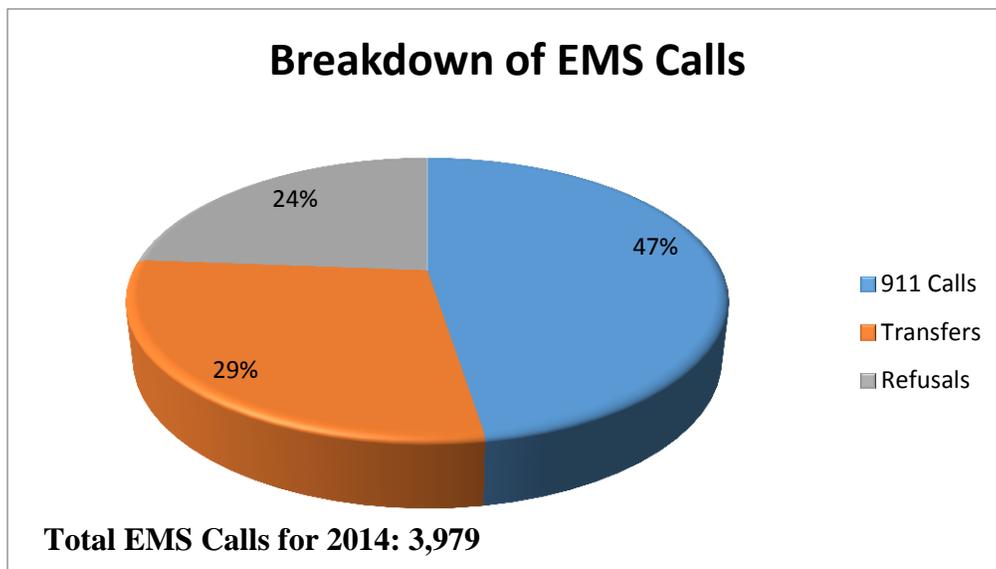
*Muscatine Fire Department is responsible for protecting \$794,221,063 of taxable valuation*



## EMS Report

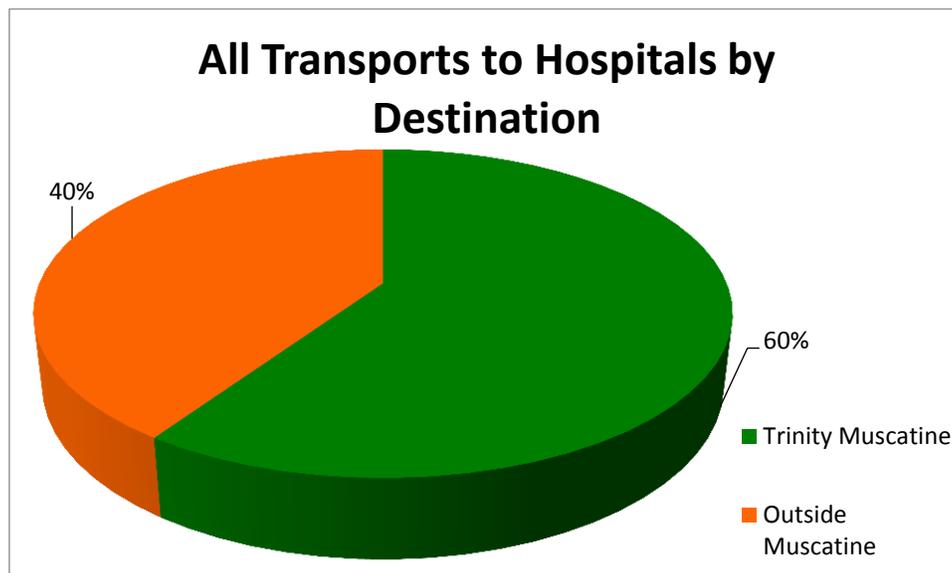
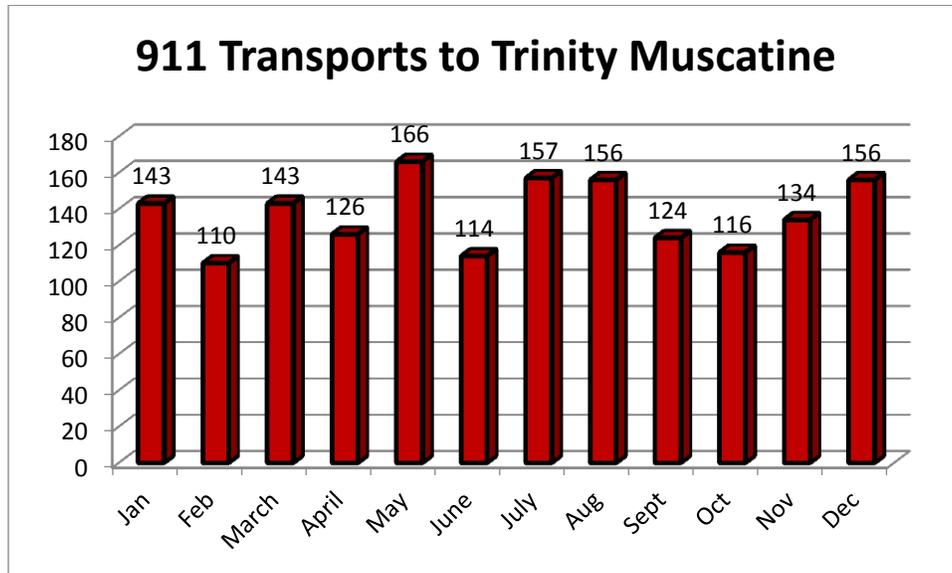
During 2014, Muscatine Fire Department responded to 3,976 calls for service involving emergency medical services related events. Muscatine Fire Department breaks emergency medical calls for service into three different areas, which are: 911 calls with transport, inter-facility transfers, and refusals.

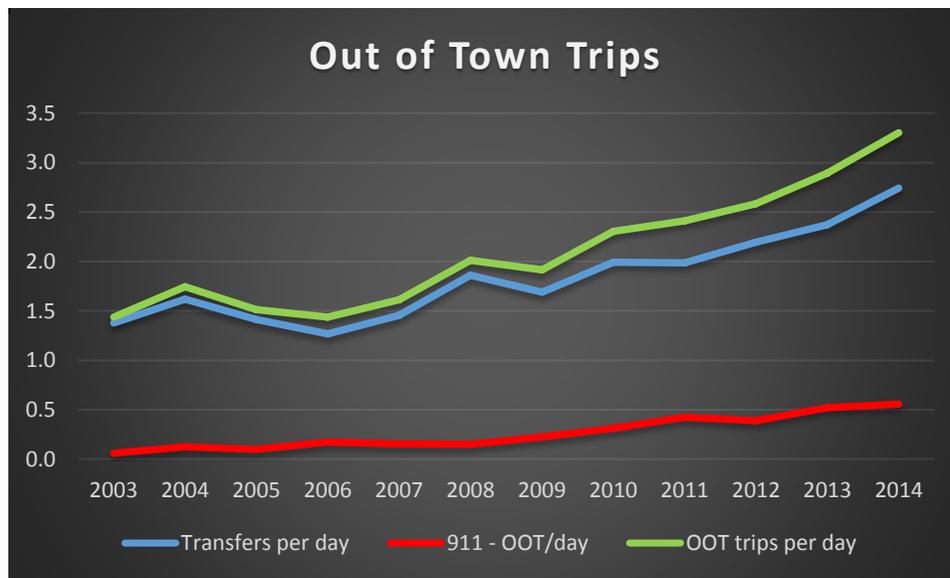
Emergency responses where there was a transport of the patient represented 1,887 calls for service. Of this number, 1,645 patients were transported to Trinity in Muscatine and 191 patients were transported to hospitals in other locations as a result of 911 calls. A response where no transport of the patient exist represented 945 calls for service. Transfers, including local and out of town transfers, represented 1,144 calls for service. Lastly, 138 calls relating to 911 responses are the result of motor vehicle collision, water & ice rescues, and other EMS type calls where no assistance was provided.



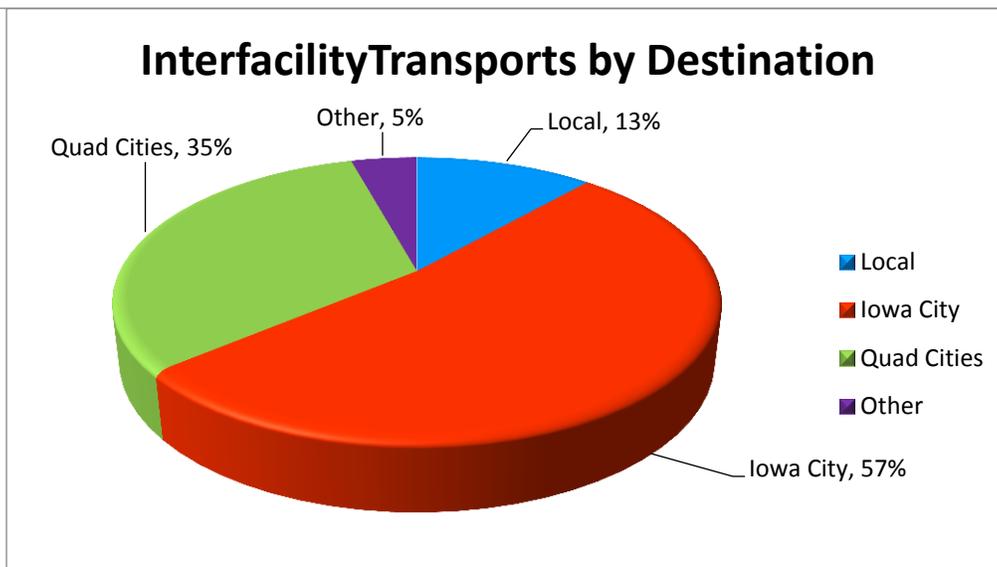
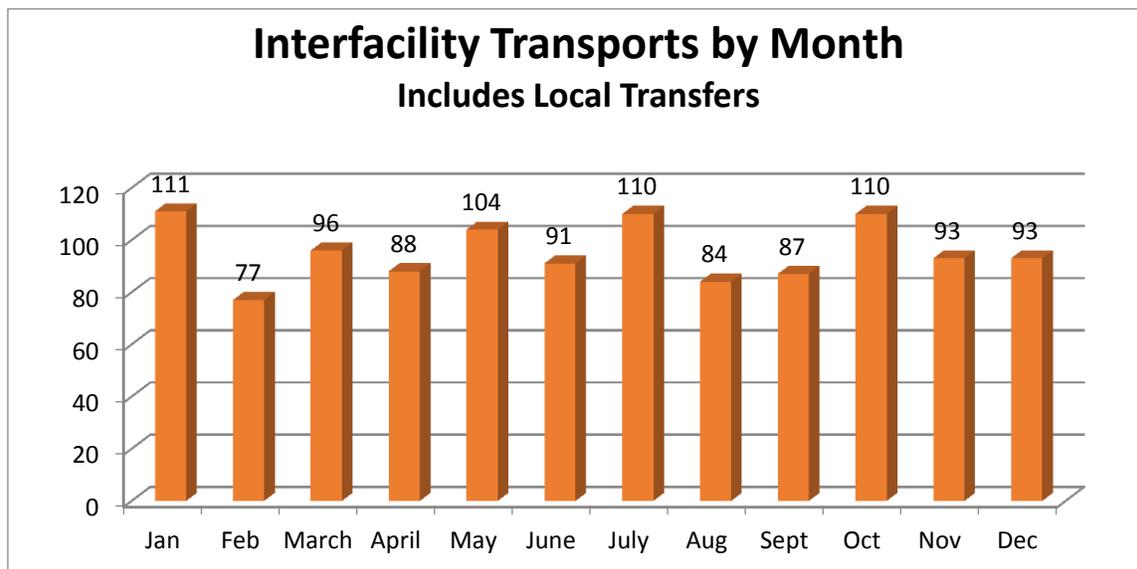
## EMS Transport Report

Calendar year 2014 was a busy year in terms of the number of calls for service that terminated in locations other than Trinity Hospital Muscatine. The number of out of town drop-offs includes not only transfers from Trinity Hospital Muscatine to other destinations, but also 911 calls for service in which patients are transported to hospitals in other cities. The next series of graphs represent EMS transports to various hospitals outside of Muscatine. Calendar year 2014 saw the most inter-facility transfers completed in one year in the history of the department.



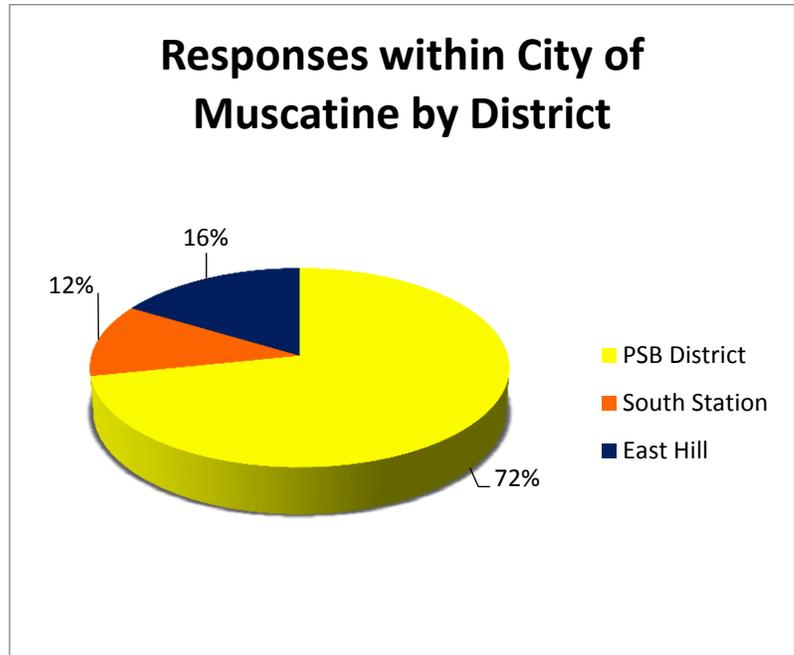


*Note: Out of town transports put an ambulance & 2-3 staff members out of town for 3-5 hours a transfer*



## Location of Calls Report

Depending on the service provided, Muscatine Fire Department has a very large response district. Our fire district represents 18.5 square miles and a population of 23,819 people within the city of Muscatine. Our EMS district represents 151.5 square miles with a population of 30,342 people. This includes the surrounding Townships around Muscatine. Along with this, we provide ALS medical tiers in Rock Island & Mercer Counties in Illinois. Additionally we have ALS tier agreements with several local ambulance services. Muscatine Fire Department also provides regional hazardous materials coverage for the counties of Muscatine, Louisa, Washington, Henry and Keokuk counties representing 2,455 square miles with a population of 106,684 people.

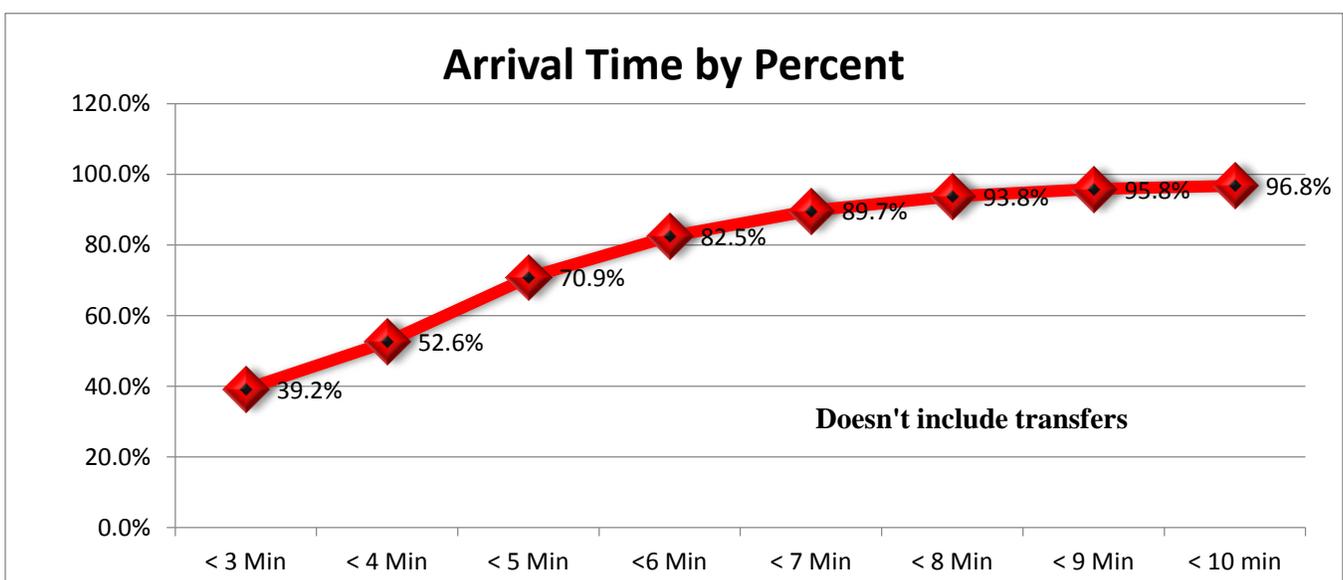
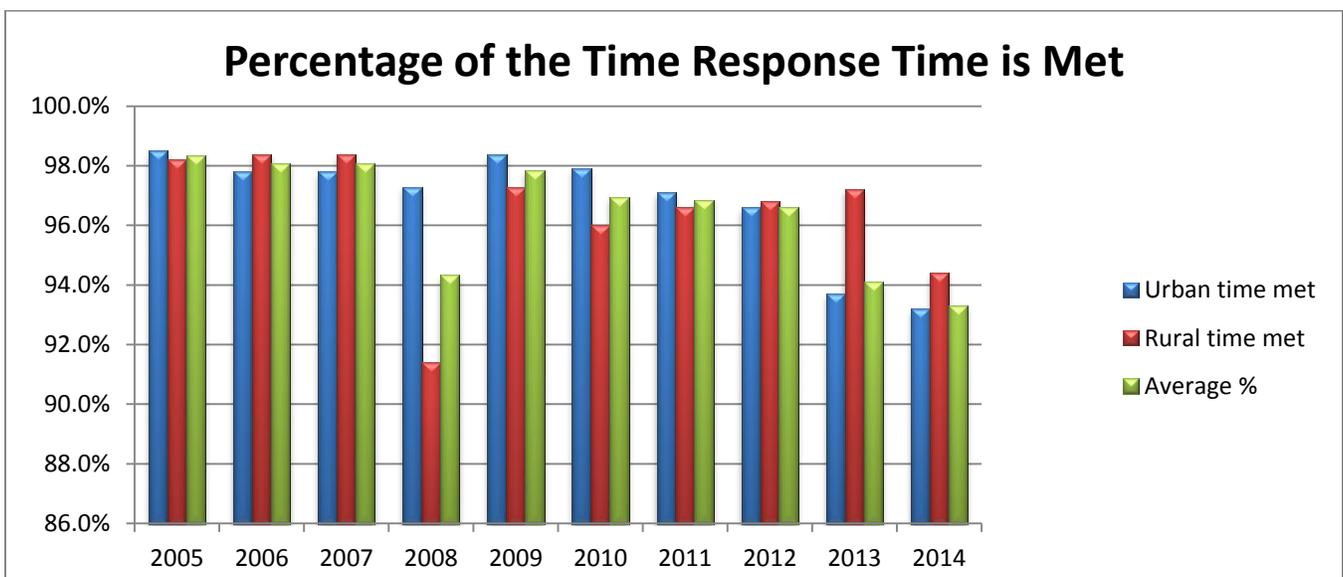


*PSB District includes Trinity Hospital and care centers*

Responses to Rural Area	Number of Responses
Fruitland Township	187
Sweetland Township West	47
Bloomington Township	32
Lake Township	31
Sweetland Township East	30
Fruitland Territory South/East of Muscatine	28
City of Fruitland	27
Wilton	25
Urban Response Area North of City	12
Rock Island County	11
Moscow Township	11
Fairport	8
Illinois City	7
Seventy Six Township	7
Out of District	5
University Hospitals & Clinics	2
Pike East Township	1

## Response Time Report

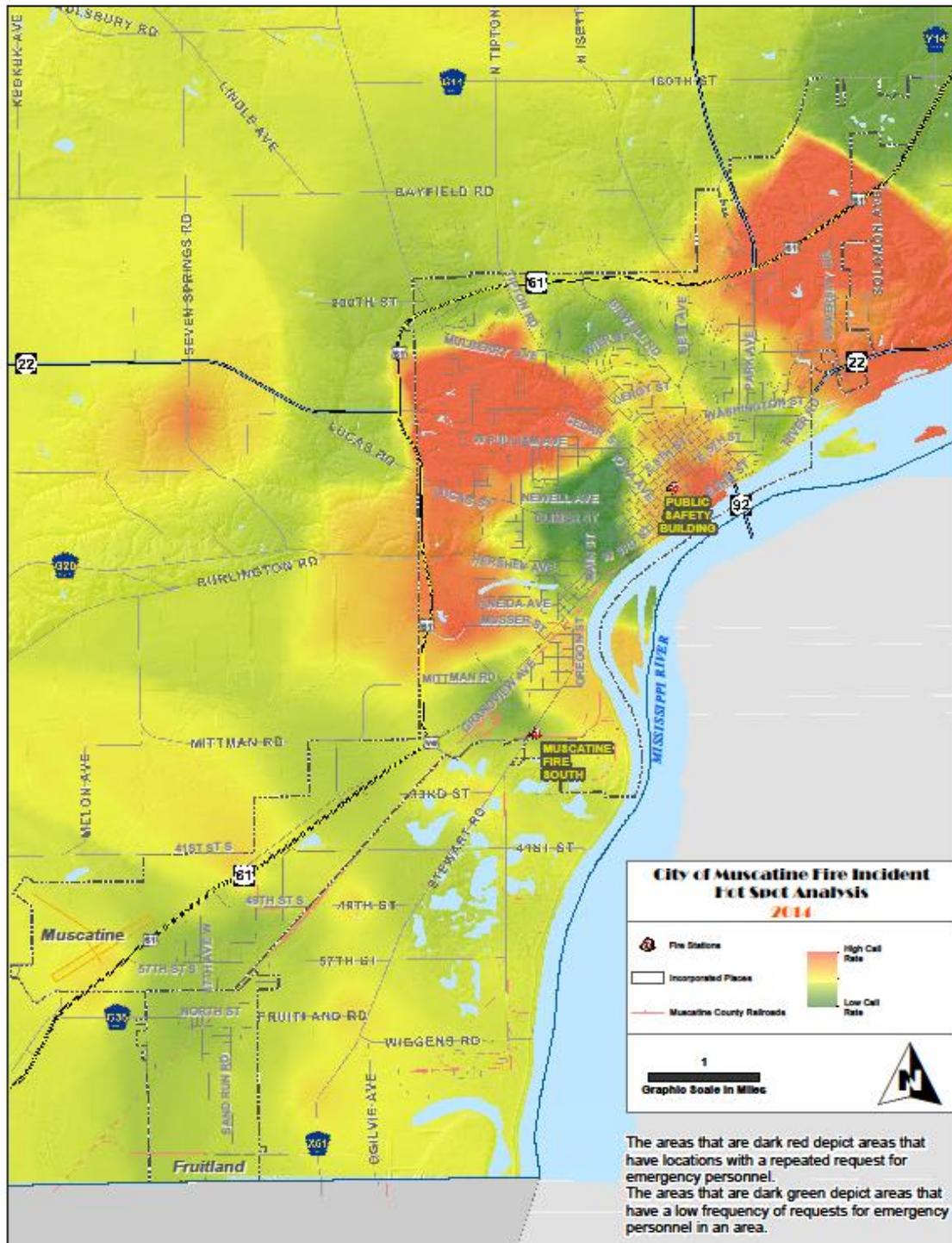
Muscatine Fire Department strives to provide a rapid response that arrives on scene in a safe and efficient manner. Depending on the nature of call and the location of the response, different response time goals are set. Our goal is to arrive at urban locations in less than 8:59 90% of the time. For calls outside the City limits our standard is to arrive in less than 14:59 minutes 90% of the time. This response time starts from the time of the 911 call, until the first unit arrives on scene. EMS transfers from Trinity Muscatine to other facilities have a response time goal of arriving at Trinity Muscatine within 10 minutes of the page 100% of the time for emergency transfers and arriving within 30 minutes of the page 100% of the time for non-emergency transfers.



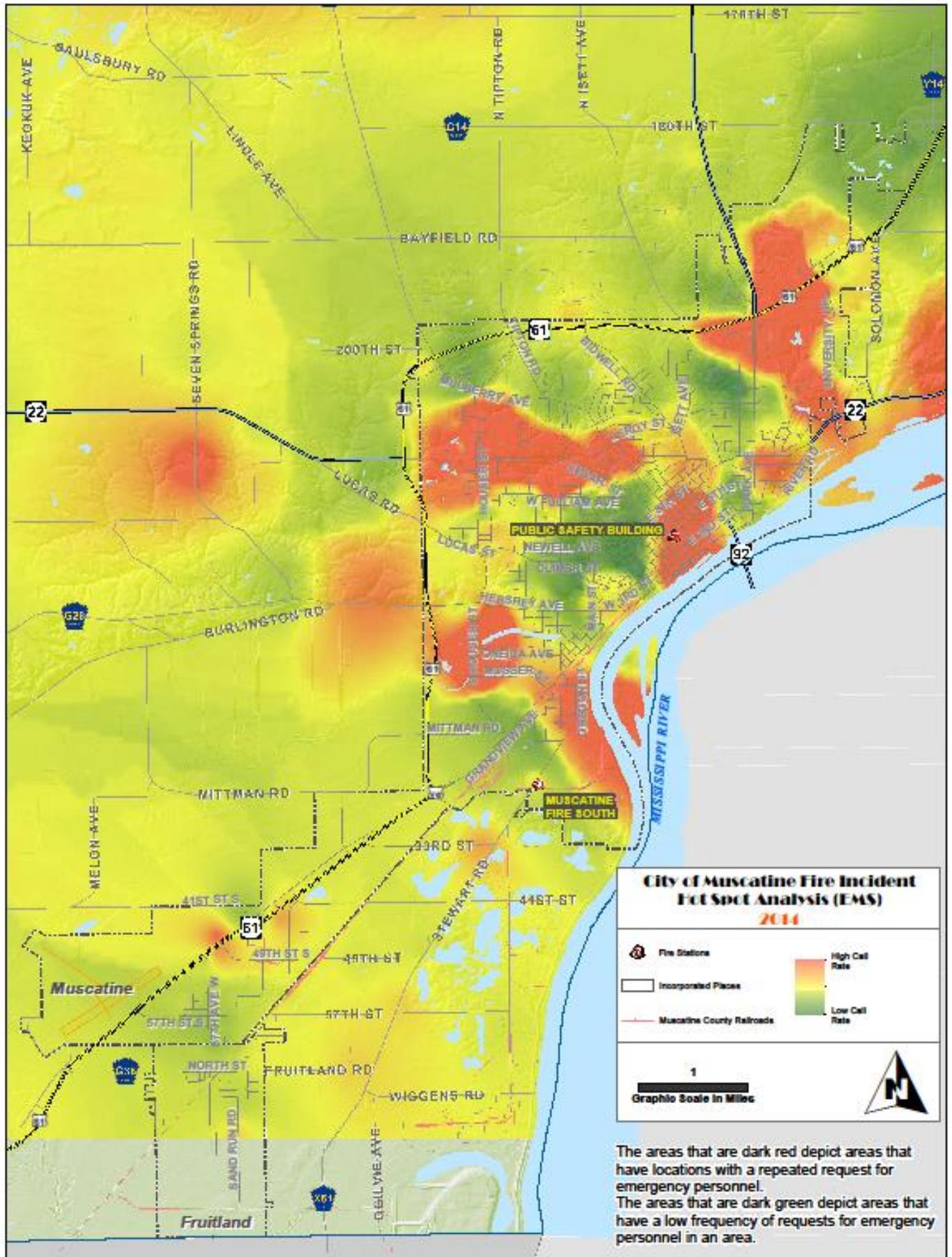
*Muscatine Fire Department's average city response is 6:07 for all emergency responses  
Our policy is to arrive on scene within 8:59, 90% of the time*

## Hot Spot Analysis Diagram

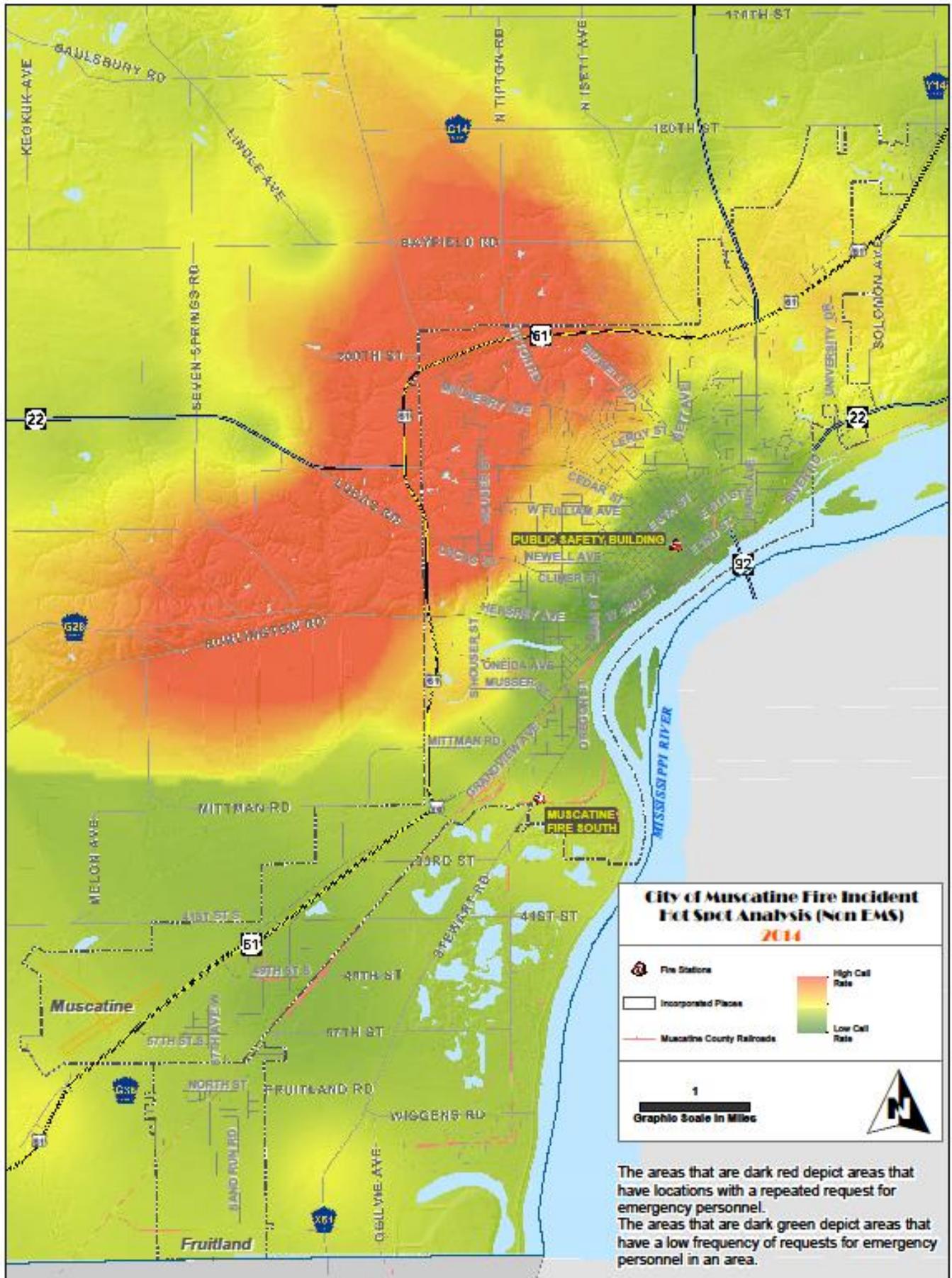
The following diagrams were produced with assistance from the Muscatine Area Geographical Information Consortium (MAGIC). MFD was able to provide the locations of all of our calls for service and MAGIC plotted them on this chart to indicate the busiest locations within our coverage area.



*Includes all responses*



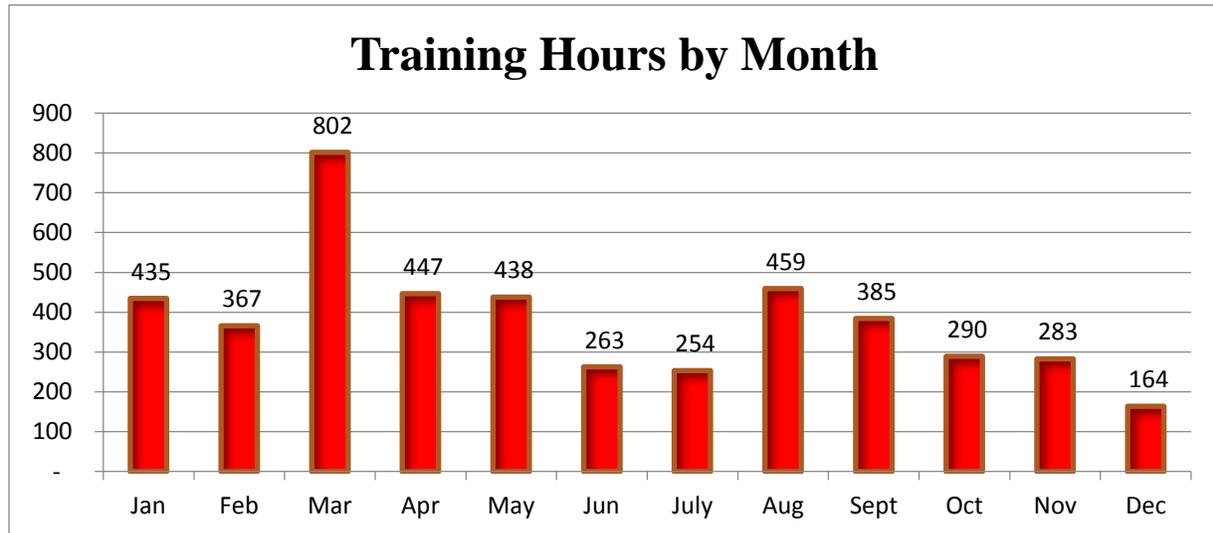
*Includes only EMS responses*



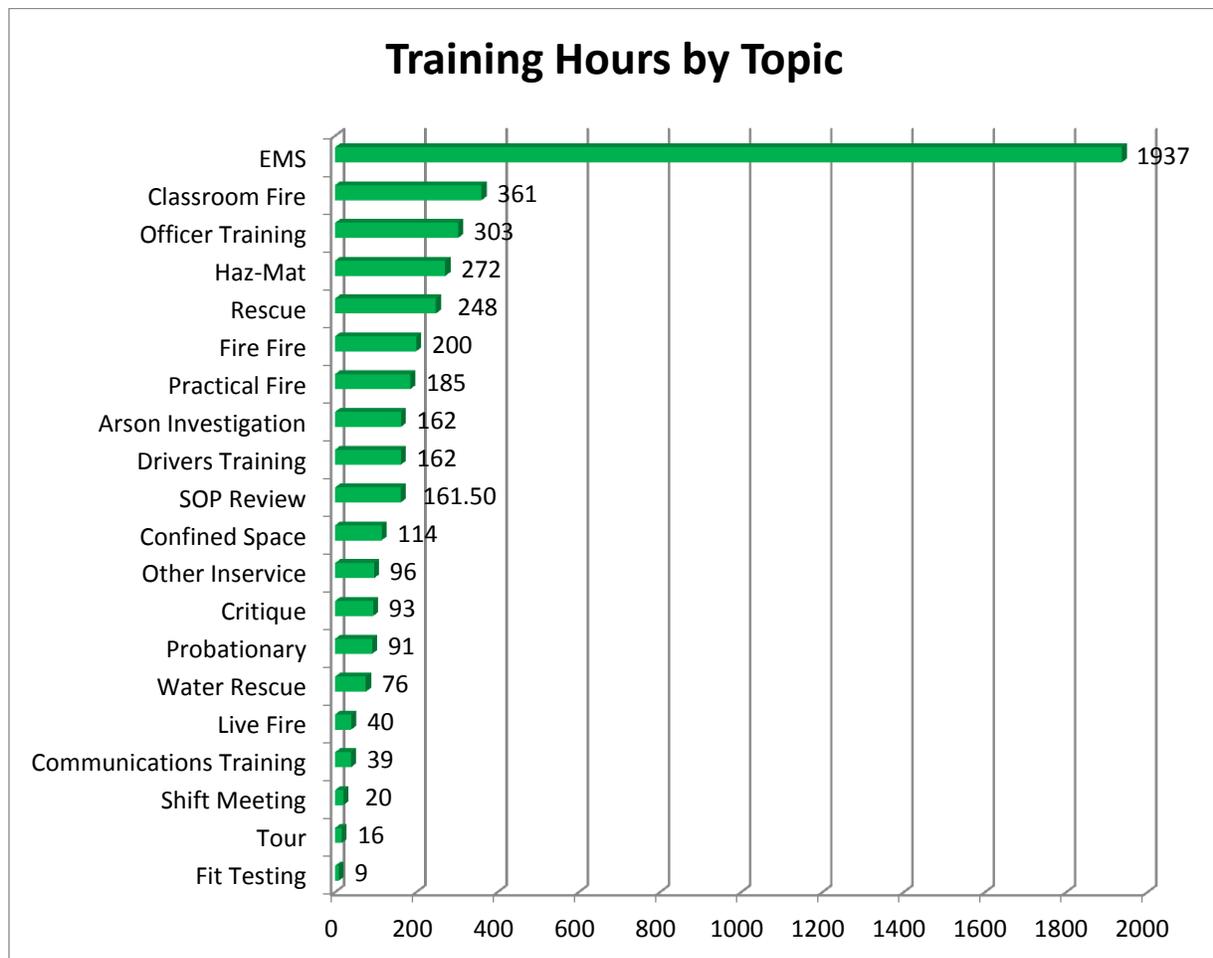
*Includes only Fire Related Responses*

## Training and Certification Report

In 2014 a grand total of 4,584.44 hours of training was completed. This was a 25.1% decrease in the total number of training hours from 2013. A total of 536 different training classes were held in 2014. During 2014, the average member received 124 hours of training. During the month of March, all three shifts completed their required EMS classes for the year creating the higher than normal hours.



*Note: March is designated for Department EMS recertification month*



## Training Grounds Update

During the calendar year of 2013, a comprehensive plan was developed to turn the armory grounds and building located next to Station 2 at 2122 Stewart Road into a training grounds and training center. During the initial years of this ten year plan, the proposal called for developing basic fire training props.

Over the last year, Battalion Chief Abbott worked with Lewis Brothers Industries to construct two fire training props. Also during this past year, the department was able to obtain a dumpster and convert this to a dumpster fire prop. During the last year we were also able to construct a prop that provides ignition of fire and maintains fire that is supplied by liquid propane to simulate vehicle fires.

The fourth year of the training grounds report called for the construction of a confined space and rope rescue prop. During this past year, the department was able to construct this prop several years ahead of schedule.

HNI was able to donate not only a former storage tank they had previously used, but also donated the labor and services needed to assemble, fabricate and erect this rope rescue prop.



Pictured to the left is the car fire prop being put to use. This prop supplies liquid propane (LP) to a burner that provides a fuel source to ignite and sustain fire for firefighters to train on how to extinguish car fires.

## Regional Water Rescue Training

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Muscatine Fire Department hosted a regional water rescue exercise. This training event simulated the collision of two boats on the Mississippi River near Brown's Island. The aftermath of the collision resulted in sixteen victims that were either floating in the river, victims on the bank, or victims that had drowned. As the victims were located, they were triaged based on the severity of their injuries. When the victims were located they were taken to the bank and placed in ambulances to be transported to Trinity Muscatine for further care. Victims that were found to be deceased were pronounced dead by the Medical Examiner's office. The victims that were reported to have drowned were located by divers. A total of 58 participants from nine agencies participated in the exercise.

This joint training exercise hosted by Muscatine Fire Department was conducted with the assistance of the following agencies:

Fruitland Fire Department  
 Muscatine County Dive Team  
 Muscatine County Medical Examiners  
 Muscatine Journal  
 Muscatine Search & Rescue  
 MUSCOM  
 Trinity Hospital  
 Wapello Fire Department



## Apparatus Condition Report

<b>Vehicle</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Ambulance 351	2000 Ford Medtec Ambulance with 2009 Chassis (Refurbished Once)	Good
Ambulance 352	2000 Ford Medtec Ambulance with 2008 Chassis (Refurbished Once)	Fair
Ambulance 353	2000 Ford Medtec Ambulance with 2010 Chassis (Refurbished Once)	Good
Ambulance 354	2014 Ford Medtec Ambulance with 2013 Chassis (Refurbished Once)	New
Ambulance 355	2012 Ford Medtec Ambulance	New
Engine 311	2006 Alexis Station 1 Front Line Engine	Good
Engine 312	2013 Pierce Station 2 Front Line Engine	New
Engine 313	1988 Smeal Engine – Station 1 Reserve Engine (Refurbished Once)	Poor
Engine 314	1993 Pierce Engine – Station 2 Reserve Engine (Refurbished Once)	Poor
Tender 316	1978 Chevrolet Water Tender	Poor
Aerial 310	1997 E-One Bronto Skylift Aerial	Fair
Haz-Mat 321	2005 Chevy Duramax C8500 w/ 2004 Mickey 16 Bay Trailer	Fair
Command 333	2008 Chevy Tahoe	Fair
Fire Marshal Car	2007 Ford Crown Vic	Fair
Utility 331	2000 Chevy Utility Truck	Fair
Mule 350	Side by Side Off-road Utility Vehicle	Fair
Air Trailer	Three Bank Pull Behind Air Trailer	Fair

## Assistant Chief's Report

This past year was yet another interesting year for the Department. As the call volume continues to increase it becomes more difficult to find the resources we need to address non-emergency needs. However, the easiest fire to fight is the one that never happens.

As Assistant Chief I also function as the Fire Marshal, with responsibilities for code enforcement and fire investigations in addition to the other duties. For many years the City had no designated fire marshal, so there has been a learning curve and multiple challenges for us to address. This past year our department made a concerted effort to step up our fire prevention efforts. You will notice comments by B/C Cannon in regards to fire inspections. B/C Abbott will mention some of the public education activities this year. These are two of the key components of prevention that lead to a safer community. Successful prevention in a department our size is impossible without the hard work and dedication of many shift fire fighters.

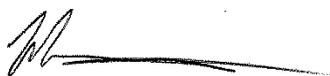
With regard to fire prevention efforts, the following items are highlights:

- More than 800 burn permits were issued
- A dozen site plan reviews and 20+ sprinkler and alarm system reviews were performed
- More than 80 site visits were performed to confirm construction was within Code requirements
- A comprehensive review of the City Code in regards to fire department operations
- The Department is moving toward updating our fire code
- Increased placement and use of key boxes for new and existing buildings
- An ongoing effort to educate regarding sprinkler systems in all type of occupancies
- A reorganization and upgrading of the fire investigation program
- Improved enforcement of City Code, including illegal burning and false alarms
- Development of a Facebook page and Twitter feed
- Use of the fire sprinkler trailer from the Quad City Area Fire Marshal's Association
- Ongoing training and certification efforts
- Worked with Building and Zoning to coordinate information and code interpretation

2015 will bring more challenges and opportunities. However, prevention of fire is the most cost effective and safe way to reduce the threat to life, property, and the environment.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding codes, prevention, or investigations.

Respectfully Submitted



Assistant Chief Mike Hartman



## Battalion Chief's Report: Green Shift

Safety is the number one priority at the Muscatine Fire Department. In order for all firefighters to return home after their shifts, quality training is paramount. One of Green Shift's priorities for the department is the overseeing of the training program. This includes not only fire training, but EMS, rescue and hazardous materials training. Record documentation is critical for MFD to maintain their certifications. These certification allow MFD personnel to function at the level they have been trained to.

Listed below are the training hours acquired by fire department personnel.

- Muscatine Fire Department logged 4,584.44 hours of training covering numerous topics all designed to meet our needs to perform safely at our jobs.
- This averages out to over 124 hours of fire and EMS related training per person annually.
- EMS training was accomplished throughout the winter months when the weather was uncooperative to train outside.

Other training projects

- The erection of a Confined Space/High Angle rescue prop at Station Two training center.
- Building of a vehicle fire prop used to simulate vehicle fires.

Muscatine Fire Department trains annually with different industries within the city of Muscatine to provide them with a Confined Space Rescue team which is an OSHA requirement. Listed below are some of the training performed with city businesses.

- A multi-shift training scenario held with Muscatine Power and Water at their Highway 61 bypass water tower.
- A Multi-jurisdictional water rescue training event held on the Mississippi River.
- Two confined space rescue training events held with Muscatine Power and Water

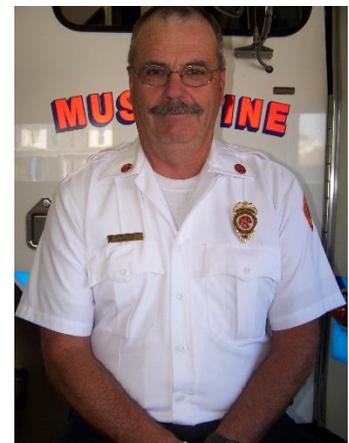
Public education is another area that Muscatine Fire Department uses in order to prevent accidents from occurring. Some of the public education programs we provide include:

- Adult slip/trip and fall program.
- Open House during National Fire Prevention Week
- First and Fifth Grade public education in fire safety
- Station Tours and Freddy the fire truck shows for Pre-school aged children
- Child safety seat installations.
- Smoke detector installations

Respectfully Submitted



Battalion Chief Brian Abbott



## Battalion Chief's Report: Blue Shift

2014 brought few changes to Blue Shift, however, it was a busier year. The most noticeable difference was the increase in run numbers and Out of Town transports from the medical side. The shift personnel did a great job at handling the increased call volume and worked hard to get their projects completed. Kudos to the guys for your efforts. Many events were attended throughout the year such as attending the annual open house; participated in EMS Saturday, Trinity's Health Fair and EMS Day on the Hill in Des Moines.

I have recognized Blue shift personnel's efforts in active cardiac events that resulted in three saved lives. One being a code blue save and two others that were active myocardial infarcts that resulted in positive outcomes directly related to the recognition and treatment from the attending paramedics. Good job!

Blue shift was instrumental in aligning the department's EMS continuing education training hours that involved realigning the training platform so that all EMS training hours were obtained within the first quarter of the year. This worked well, as most individuals were able to complete all of the classes that were assigned. Also, there was a significant increase in the quality of classes that were delivered by the in-house instructors. Other training opportunities included:

- 1 person acquired Driver/Operator certification for pumpers
- 1 person trained as a Driver/Operator for Mobile Water Supply & Aircraft Rescue Firefighter
- Shift personnel taught CPR to city employees & Muscom dispatchers
- 1 person acquired certification as an Ambulance Service Manager
- 1 person attended Hazmat IQ class
- 3 people attended Winter Fire School
- 5 people attended the IEMSA conference
- 1 person attended a Trauma conference
- 1 person attended the IEMSA Ambulance Billing conference

Blue shift also was involved in many functions and assignments within the department. Those functions are as follows:

- Put in to service seven new LifePack 15 cardiac monitors and five new Lucas II CPR machines
- Managed the SCBA maintenance program for the department
- Involved 2 firefighters in filling acting mechanic position
- Corrected all of the department's run stats
- Managed the Part-time EMT program
- Managed the EMS QCI program
- Maintained all fire apparatus
- Tested all fire hose in stock
- Tested all ground ladders

Respectfully Submitted




Battalion Chief Darrell Janssen

## **Battalion Chief's Report: Red Shift**

As usual, 2014 was a busy year for Red Shift. Red Shift saw several firefighter shift changes during the year including firefighters and a captain change. All Shift personnel accepted this change and as a shift we seem to be functioning together rather well.

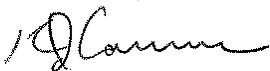
As in years past, Red Shift's primary shift duty is being tasked with commercial occupancy fire inspections. During the summer months of 2014, two firefighters were assigned to light duty due to on the job injuries. These two firefighters spent a great deal of time performing fire inspections. This helped out dramatically during 2014 in increasing the total amount of inspections and violations noted.

Red shift is also tasked with handling the department's Hazardous Materials and Confined Space Standby programs. Lieutenant Ronzheimer does a great job of administering these programs. Firefighter Edwards is in charge of keeping the fire departments website up to date and he does a good job of keeping the page looking professional. FF Tom Summit manages the EMS Cardiac Status testing and all the required documentation that goes along with this cutting edge service the Muscatine Fire Department provides.

The following were some of the highlights of 2014 for red shift:

- Completed 966.97 hours of shift training
- As a shift completed a confined space drill with MPW at their Generating Station.
- Held and worked Muscatine County EMS Day at Blains Farm & Fleet
- Red Shift assisted with Operation Prom at Muscatine High School
- Performed the multi-jurisdiction water rescue training
- Two people received awards for excellent patient care they provided
- One person completed instructor training in Swift Water and Cold Water Rescue
- One person completed their Associates of Applied Science Degree in Fire Science from Kirkwood Community College
- Assisted FF Suiter in completing in his probationary year with the department
- One person obtained their Critical Care Paramedic certification
- Two people attended Winter Fire School
- One person completed Fire Instructor certification
- One person attended the National Fire Academy

Respectfully Submitted



Battalion Chief Kevin Cannon



## Equipment Purchases



In August Muscatine Fire Department took delivery of six new Life Pack 15 cardiac monitor defibrillators and four new Lucas Auto-CPR devices for a total purchase price of \$217,000. This capital improvement item allowed for a new cardiac monitor defibrillator to be placed on each ambulance and update the existing Life Pak 15 and Lucas Device.

These cardiac monitor defibrillators allow paramedics to provide a host of advanced life support features including monitors a patient's heart, defibrillate a pulseless heart, measure carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide levels within the body, and other advanced life supports techniques. All of the cardiac monitor defibrillators have the capability of obtaining and submitting EKG's that specifically look to see if a patient is having a heart attack. After these EKG's are obtained, these new cardiac monitor defibrillators have the capability to wirelessly transmit the results to local hospitals where cardiologists and emergency room physicians are able to review the results, thus enhancing the care that is provide to the citizens of Muscatine. Complete training on these new products was provided by Physio-Control staff (Manufacture of Life-Pak & Lucas products) shortly after their arrival and both the Lucas Devices and the Life Pack 15's were placed in service for use in early September.

*(Pictured Above FF's Hoppe & Rudolph demonstration the use of the Life Pack 15 & Lucas Device)*

### Ambulance 354

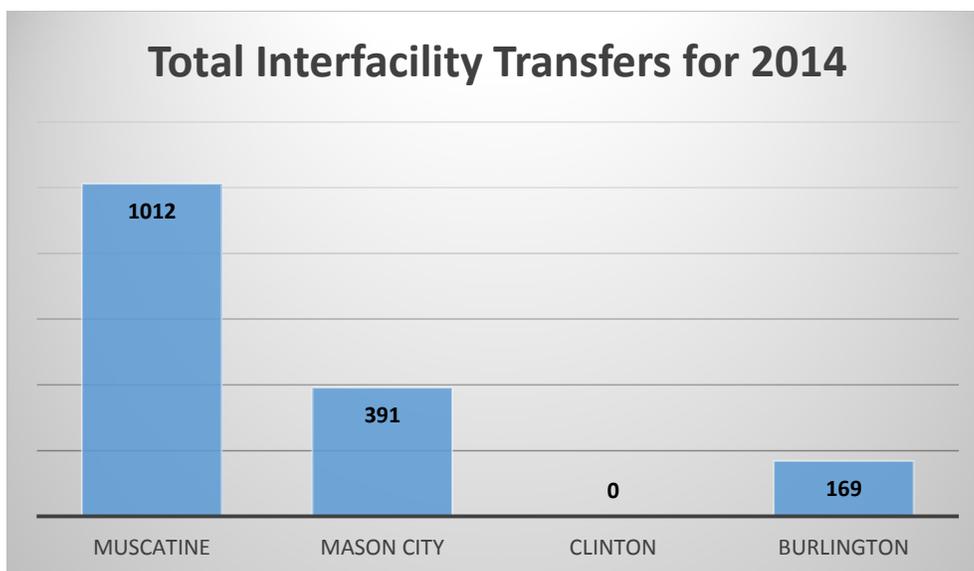
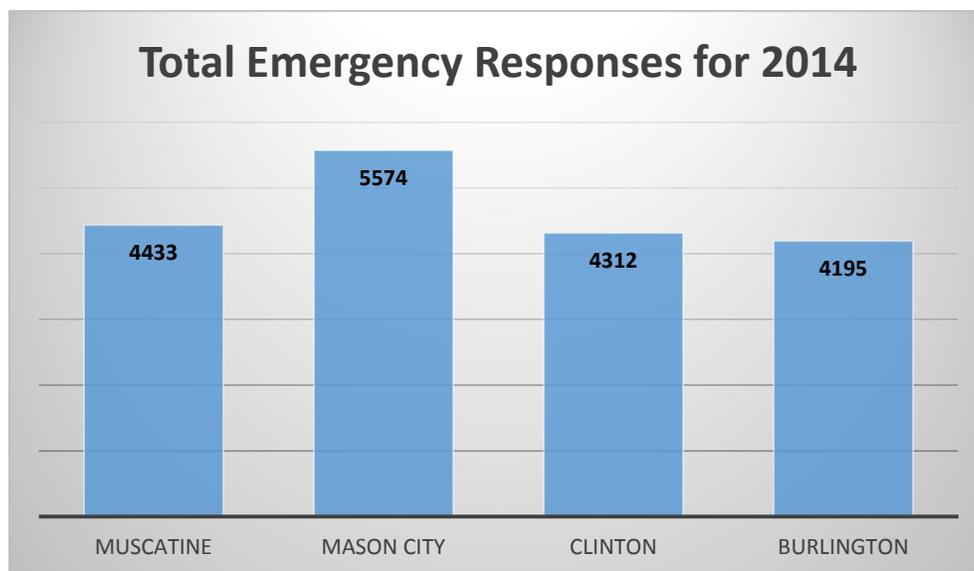
In late July, a newly refurbished MedTec ambulance was placed in service at Station 2. This refurbished ambulance replaced an older ambulance with over 175,000 miles. This new ambulance allowed for all five of MFD's ambulance to be the same in configuration making patient care a more efficient process.



## Survey of Comparable Fire Departments

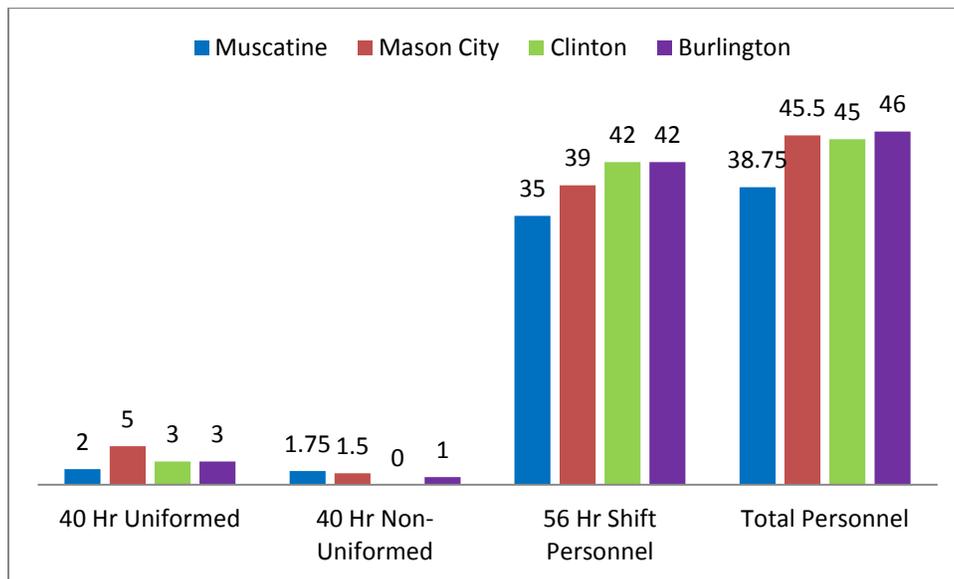
To put a department's performance in perspective, it can be helpful to compare other fire department's that share similar characteristics. In doing so, staff can identify benchmarks that can be used to assess our own performance. All the departments chosen for comparison possess similar characteristics to Muscatine in regards to population, service coverage area, and who operate a fire based EMS ambulance service. It should be noted that Mason City is the only comparable that performs long distance inter-facility transports from their own community hospital to another hospital outside their community like Muscatine performs.

### So, how does Muscatine compare?



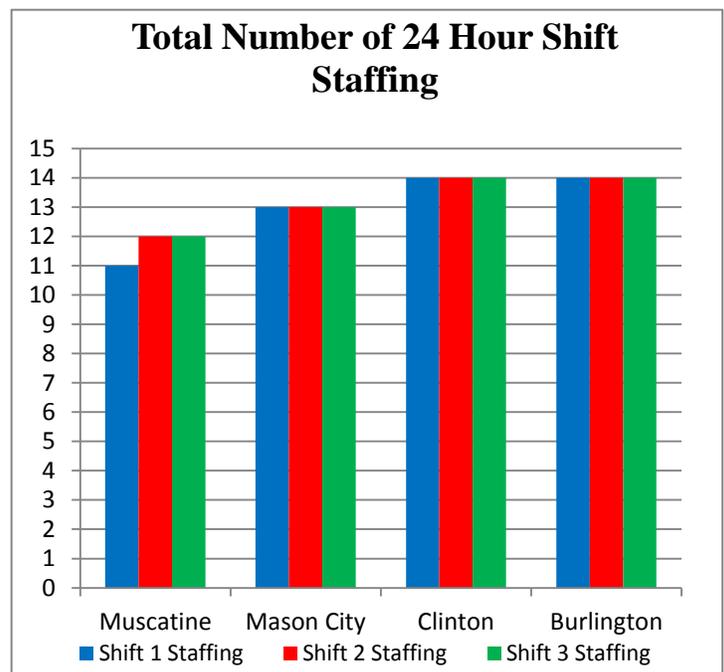
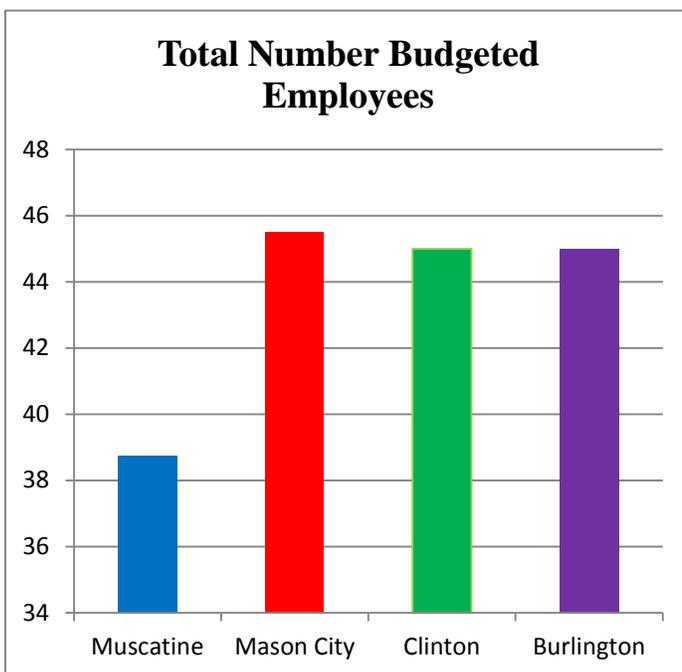
*Note: Muscatine performs more than Mason City because our hospital is a Level 4 hospital and Mason City is a Level 2 hospital. More patients are transported from Muscatine to a higher level of care since we have limited services, procedures, and specialties.*

### Total Number of Budgeted Employees Broken Down



Note: 40 Hr uniformed is Chief, AC, FM and/or TO. 40 Hr Non-Uniformed is secretary and/or billing.

The graph above shows that Muscatine has 38.75 total budgeted employees, whereas Clinton has 45, Mason City has 45.5, and Burlington has 46.



Note: Burlington is expected to lose the three grant funded firefighter positions in July of 2016, unless funding permits otherwise.

## Appointments



Colin Suiter  
Hire Date: January 8, 2014



Nate Paxton  
Hire Date: January 20, 2014

## Awards Page

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Muscatine Fire Department was requested at Allsteel Industries in reference to a man down, not breathing with no pulse. Upon arrival of the MFD ambulance, four Allsteel employees were performing CPR on the patient along with having an AED attached. The actions taken by these men had a direct impact in the positive outcome of the patient. Days later, the patient left the hospital with no physical or mental deficits noted.



Fairman.

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 during a regularly scheduled city council meeting, Muscatine Fire Department presented four Allsteel employees the departments Meritorious Civilian Award. Per department policy, the Meritorious Civilian Award is presented for actions termed as “Outstanding Performance”. In the course of action, a civilian(s) demonstrate(s) remarkable performance relating to the protection of life and/or property. This event marked the first time in the history of the department the award was presented. Recipients of the awards were Tom Peck, T.J. Riley, Dale Richter, and Bill

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 also during a regularly scheduled council meeting, Firefighter/Paramedics Tom Summit (left) and Josh Rudolph (center) are presented Certificates of Recognition by Mayor DeWayne Hopkins (right) for actions taken on a patient suffering from a heart attack. The actions were recognized as saving or changing someone’s life.



## 2014 Major Activities and Accomplishments

- Began implementation of a new stroke assessment scale (MEND) which has been recommended based on studies and information gathered through our participation in the Coverdell Stroke program.
- Organized and assisted in the annual 'Remembering Our Own' presentation at the Iowa EMS Association annual conference.
- Held the Annual County EMS Day at Farm and Fleet parking lot. This event is used as a public relations event to promote health and wellbeing throughout the community and is represented well by the other EMS agencies in the county. Activities include: a helicopter on display, engine and ambulance tours, bicycle helmet give-away, child ID cards, blood pressure screenings, and smokehouse from Davenport.
- Hosted the 5th Annual SE EMS Saturday Conference. This is attended by several EMS agencies within the county and serves as a partnering relationship with the other organizations.
- With the Muscatine Police Department and Muscatine High School once again held Operation Prom. That program focuses on educating high school students regarding the hazards of driving impaired during prom weekend and throughout the year.
- Worked with Unity Public Health in quickly providing a proper response and adjustment of protocols and equipment to deal with the potential of an Ebola case in Muscatine.
- Completed the purchase of new cardiac monitors and CPR devices. The entire department was trained on the devices and now each of the ambulances is stocked with identical equipment and has increased capabilities for cardiac patients.
- Two members of the management staff completed certification as Fire Inspector I through the International Code Council. This is a certification above and beyond the state fire marshal's office certification, which is held by 23 department members (62% of all members).
- Reviewed and updated City Code provisions relating to the fire department, including the inclusion of updating the fire code to the 2012 version of the International Fire Code.
- Through a grant, sent the fire marshal to an NFPA-sponsored residential fire sprinkler conference.
- Supported training for members to attend hazardous materials training in Anniston, AL and the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, funded through federal monies.
- Obtained training through the Center for Public Safety Excellence in the areas of fire accreditation and data analysis and presentation.
- Organized and held our 7th Annual Public Safety Building Open House.
- Two MFD members obtained certification as ice rescue trainers and one obtained certification as a swift water rescue trainer through Dive Rescue International.

## Looking Forward

After a very busy record year we anticipate another record year for 2015. We believe a few of the contributing factors for the increase in ambulance calls is due to a healthy economy, Affordable Care Act, an aging population, and a low unemployment rate for Muscatine. As we strive to meet the needs of our citizens and health care facilities we are constantly balancing the services and programs offered, while still being properly equipped and readily available for the emergency and non-emergency calls for service. We understand the cost associated with providing public safety to our community, which is why deployment methods and staffing are currently being reviewed in order to assure that our fire operations and ambulance operations are being delivered in an effective and cost-efficient manner to our citizens that we protect.

We're proud to report that our incidents of fire loss and fire related emergencies are below the national average, which are the direct results of our engine company inspection program and our aggressive public education program and community outreach events. We will continue to educate our citizens, and especially our children, on fire safety and will continue to prevent fires through our inspection program by eliminating hazards and preventing fires from occurring. This prevention effort also extends into our building and plan reviews for new construction and remodels, along with fire alarms and sprinkler systems, all of which is conducted by our Fire Marshal. All of these efforts keep our community a safe place in which to live and work.

In order to address the staffing concerns and the increasing number of calls for service council authorized us to apply for a SAFER grant through the Department of Homeland Security, which is a grant program that helps communities hire more front-line fire fighters in order to meet OSHA and NFPA requirements. This grant, if awarded, would pay 100% of the wages and benefits of four (4) fire fighters for two years at no cost to the city. If awarded, and accepted, the city would need to decide if they were able to keep one or some of the four fire fighters or if they would have to let them go after the grant period ends. In the meantime, the fire department would have two consecutive years of critical metrics in regards to the impact of additional fire fighters, effects on response times, and the impact on the reduction of the departments overtime budget to share in the decision making progress.

As with any professional fire department, or high-performance EMS System, having properly trained employees is always a must. Our goal is to have our fire fighters trained, equipped, and readily available when called upon for any type of call for service. We are an "All Hazards" provider, which means we are called to respond to and mitigate everything from fires to a hazardous material incident, medical emergencies, ambulance transports across the state, confined spaces, trench rescue, rope rescue, auto extrication, and water and ice rescue to name a few.

Our goals for the following year is to focus on fire and EMS training, host a county wide multi-jurisdictional training event, provide driver and pump certification and training, and to sponsor a leadership or management seminar through the National Fire Academy or Iowa Fire Service Training Bureau. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities in 2015 and we wish to thank you for your continued support.



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