

LAS CRUCES FIRE DEPARTMENT



# 2013-2014 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



JULY 1, 2013 to JUNE 30, 2014





## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

As the books close on another fiscal year, I am once again honored to present the Community Report for the Las Cruces Fire Department (LCFD). There is an old African proverb that states, "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." As I reflect on the last twelve months, this proverb captures the essence of the Las Cruces Fire Department because we went far this year, and it was done by working together.

Perhaps one of the best examples is the completion of Fire Station 7 on the West Mesa, and the adjacent training structure. This project was made successful by the efforts of the Airport, Facilities Management and Transportation Departments and our own personnel. Funding was achieved through bonding, federal grants and state funds. This project will provide long term benefits to our airport and industrial park; it was completed on time and within budget.

We also implemented a squad pilot program in cooperation with our local ambulance service provider, American Medical Response (AMR). This program uses a donated ambulance that is staffed by LCFD firefighters during the hours of peak demand for emergency services. This program provides our fire department with the capability to transport a critical patient in the event an AMR ambulance is delayed due to system overload. The squad unit is also used to handle lower priority calls that do not require a large fire engine and more firefighters in our effort to become more efficient and effective.

Although there are many new accomplishments highlighted in the following pages, there is one thing that has not changed: the commitment of our firefighters. The members of the Las Cruces Fire Department demonstrate a passion for serving this community that at times is truly amazing. We are excited about the year to come and remain focused on our efforts to improve the services we provide.

*If you have questions about your fire department, please contact me at 575-528-3473 or email to: [tbrown@las-cruces.org](mailto:tbrown@las-cruces.org).*

The Las Cruces Fire Department is committed to safely provide customer service, fire protection and education while maintaining the highest regard for our community and department.

### WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

Honesty

Continually Striving to Improve

Customer Service

High Performance

Openness and Teamwork

Respect for Diversity

Forward Thinking



## STRATEGIC PLAN AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### New Strategic Plan

The City's Strategic Plan that was adopted in 2010 was closed out in December of 2013. This made way for a new plan to be developed and adopted by City Council which will guide our department into the future. Although LCFD will play a role in a variety of the new goals identified by City Council, the primary focus for our department will be to support the goal to "improve fire protection, prevention, and emergency services for our community."

We have developed eight new objectives that will help guide us over the next few years. These objectives are directly related to service delivery and enhancement.

#### Some of our areas of focus include:

- Development of a Fire Department Master Plan
- Use of analytics to evaluate department processes and performance
- Evaluation of medical services to identify methods for improving service delivery
- Support regional initiatives to enhance emergency response capabilities



Police and fire participate in joint leadership training.

### Joint Leadership Training

The Las Cruces Police Department (LCPD) sponsored its second joint leadership training course called Leadership in Police Organizations. These joint training opportunities help our two departments work more closely together, resulting in better service delivery for the community. LCPD invited fire personnel again this year to join the class for the 120 hour course of study.

### Completion of Fire Station 7

After operating from a rented building for over a year, the City's seventh staffed fire station opened in January 2014. The crews stationed there are members of the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Team and are responsible for testing all of the department's fire hose. This station's crews are responsible for incidents that occur at the airport, the industrial complex and along I-10 on the West Mesa.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Station 5 crew members push Engine 5 into its new home, customary when a station gets a new apparatus.

### 2014 Spartan Gladiator Engine 5

A 2014 Spartan Gladiator replaced the reserve fire engine at Station 5 in February. The new Engine 5 is the first Spartan apparatus purchased by the Las Cruces Fire Department. A dedicated group of LCFD members spent several months evaluating ten different vendors with engines that met the specifications for our apparatus. After evaluating all the vendors, Spartan was selected as the best product for the best price. This purchase saved approximately \$80,000 compared to the same models previously purchased.

### Blue Card

Thirty-six members of our department completed their Blue Card Hazard Zone Management training this past fiscal year. As more company officers and their crews complete this training, the consistency and confidence of our first responders improves and we experience better overall safety and management of emergency scenes.



Fire Station 7, 1050 Crawford Blvd.

### Battalion Chief Certification Program

In January 2013, the Las Cruces Fire Department adopted a new policy which identifies a training program to address the competencies associated with all battalion chief positions. The training curriculum was implemented to better prepare our personnel for advancement into management level positions within the department. The program provides two tracks for the students including one for acting battalion chief and another for battalion chief certification. Eleven lieutenants have completed the classroom sessions and are now participating in "shadowing" chief officers to gain deeper insight into chief officer roles and responsibilities. This program directly supports our strategic goals including promoting higher education, providing hazard zone management training and succession planning.

### Fire Station Roofing Projects

The Las Cruces Fire Department partnered with the City's Facilities Management and Public Works Department to repair or replace the aging roofs on five of our fire stations. Fire Stations 2, 5 and 6 had roofs with severe problems including water leaks and structural damage. To keep conditions inside the station safe and healthy, all three of these stations were scheduled to have the roofs replaced. Stations 3 and 4 both received structural repair and a new roof coating that extended the serviceable life another 15 years. All together, the roof projects required a capital outlay of \$150K to complete. LCFD allocated approximately \$106K from the state apportioned Fire Fund toward this project.

# HIGHLIGHT COMPANY OFFICERS

LCFD provides service from seven strategically located fire stations across the City to provide the community with a timely response. While all of our stations respond to any calls for service, each station has its own personality and specialty. The company officers in our Operations Section and their crews are the heart of our operation.

## Fire Station 1



**Lt. Adrian Arias**  
**Firefighter/AEMT**  
**Training Officer**  
**14 Years of Service**  
If I wasn't a firefighter, I would be working for the private sector in a customer oriented career.



**Lt. Sean Heck**  
**Firefighter/Paramedic**  
**A-Shift**  
**11 Years of Service**  
If I wasn't a Firefighter, I would be a physician's assistant.



**Lt. John Lucero**  
**Firefighter/EMT**  
**A-Shift**  
**15 Years of Service**  
If I wasn't a firefighter, I would be the 5th member of Led Zeppelin.



**Lt. David Wright**  
**Firefighter/EMT**  
**B-Shift**  
**16 Years of Service**  
If I wasn't a firefighter I would be an airline pilot.



**Lt. Michael Martinez**  
**Firefighter/EMT**  
**B-Shift**  
**16 Years of Service**  
If I wasn't a firefighter, I would be a team roper.



**Lt. Jason Floyd**  
**Firefighter/AEMT**  
**C-Shift**  
**11 Years of Service**  
If I wasn't a firefighter, I would be an airline pilot.



**Lt. Gabriel Galaz**  
**Firefighter/AEMT**  
**C-Shift**  
**14 Years of Service**  
If I wasn't a firefighter, I would be an artist.

# If I wasn't a firefighter, I would be...

## Fire Station 2



**Lt. Michael Daniels**  
**Firefighter/Paramedic**  
**A-Shift**  
**8 Years of Service**  
If I wasn't a firefighter, I would be serving in the military.



**Lt. Tony Espiritu**  
**Firefighter/AEMT**  
**B-Shift**  
**14 Years of Service**  
If I wasn't a firefighter, I would be a musician.



**Lt. Shane Mouchette**  
**Firefighter/Paramedic**  
**C-Shift**  
**11 Years of Service**  
If I wasn't a firefighter, I would be retired.

## Fire Station 3



**Lt. Gordon Nelson**  
**Firefighter/EMT**  
**A-Shift**  
**12 Years of Service**  
If I wasn't a firefighter, I would be a professional motocross racer.



**Lt. Gage Lawhorn**  
**Firefighter/Paramedic**  
**B-Shift**  
**9 Years of Service**  
If I wasn't a firefighter, I would be a commercial pilot.



**Lt. Michael Hall**  
**Firefighter/AEMT**  
**C-Shift**  
**8 Years of Service**  
If I wasn't a firefighter, I would be Guardian of the Galaxy.

**Fire Station 4**



**Lt. Jeremiah Lay**  
**Firefighter/Paramedic**  
**A-Shift**  
**8 Years of Service**  
 If I wasn't a firefighter,  
 I would be a rancher.



**Lt. Antonio Lucero**  
**Firefighter/EMT**  
**A-Shift**  
**15 Years of Service**  
 If I wasn't a firefighter,  
 I would be a singer in  
 a rock & roll band.



**Lt. Kyle Boyd**  
**Firefighter/EMT**  
**B-Shift**  
**16 Years of Service**  
 If I wasn't a firefighter,  
 I would be a geologist.



**Lt. Justin Allen**  
**Firefighter/AEMT**  
**B-Shift**  
**11 Years of Service**  
 If I wasn't a firefighter,  
 I would be an iron worker.



**Lt. Ryan Busch**  
**Firefighter/Paramedic**  
**C-Shift**  
**11 Years of Service**  
 If I wasn't a firefighter,  
 I would be a chef.



**Lt. Anthony Brown**  
**Firefighter/AEMT**  
**C-Shift**  
**8 Years of Service**  
 If I wasn't a firefighter,  
 I would be an auto mechanic.

**Fire Station 5**



**Lt. Barry Rhodes**  
**Firefighter/AEMT**  
**A-Shift**  
**22 Years of Service**  
 If I wasn't a firefighter,  
 I would be a designer.



**Lt. Robert Boehms**  
**Firefighter/EMT**  
**B-Shift**  
**24 Years of Service**  
 If I wasn't a firefighter,  
 I would be an astronaut.



**Lt. Jason Hein**  
**Firefighter/EMT**  
**C-Shift**  
**16 Years of Service**  
 If I wasn't a firefighter,  
 I would be a Navy Seal.

**Fire Station 6**



**Lt. Davie Salas**  
**Firefighter/EMT**  
**A-Shift**  
**21 Years of Service**  
 If I wasn't a firefighter,  
 I would be a track & cross  
 country coach.



**Lt. Jose Leos**  
**Firefighter/AEMT**  
**B-Shift**  
**12 Years of Service**  
 If I wasn't a firefighter,  
 I would be a forest ranger.



**Lt. John Avila**  
**Firefighter/EMT**  
**C-Shift**  
**15 Years of Service**  
 If I wasn't a firefighter,  
 I would be in the  
 Marine Corps.

**Fire Station 7**



**Lt. Charles MacGregor**  
**Firefighter/AEMT**  
**A-Shift**  
**18 Years of Service**  
 If I wasn't a firefighter,  
 I would be a U.S. Army  
 Ranger.



**Lt. Michael Peters**  
**Firefighter/AEMT**  
**B-Shift**  
**16 Years of Service**  
 If I wasn't a Firefighter,  
 I would be a soldier.



**Lt. Jacob Trujillo**  
**Firefighter/AEMT**  
**C-Shift**  
**12 Years of Service**  
 If I wasn't a firefighter,  
 I would be an educator.

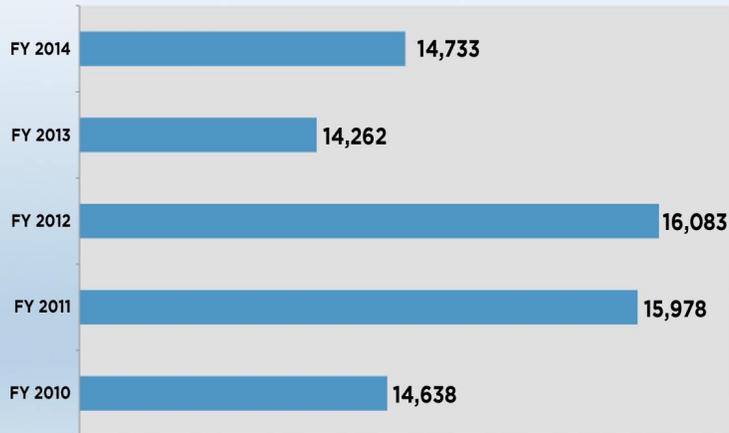


We are proud to introduce the company officers who serve you throughout the City.

# RESPONSE CHARTS



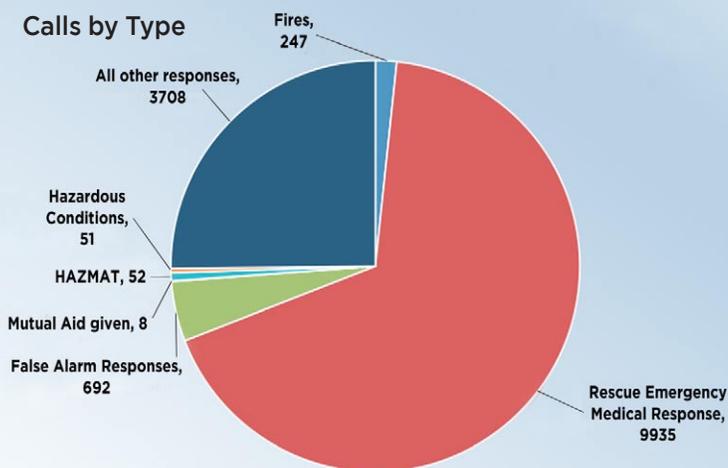
Call Volume



## CALL VOLUME

We experienced an increase of 3% in call volume during FY 14 over the previous year. This represents the trend of increasing calls, which we have experienced for many years. In FY 13 we changed our response model which created a 13% reduction over FY 12. LCFD continues to evaluate models to improve the level of service and our ability to send the right resources to the right calls. These numbers take into account only responses by the primary unit. There were many calls for service that required more than one unit.

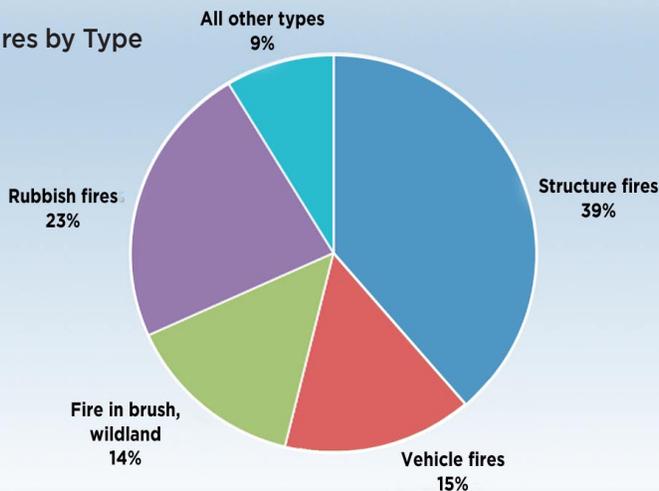
Calls by Type



## CALLS BY TYPE

Calls for emergency medical services (EMS) continue to make up the majority of our responses representing 67% of our overall call volume. We also responded to 247 fire calls during this time which made up 2% of our total call volume. The 3,708 calls for “All Other Responses” include incidents involving lockouts, smoke scares, animal rescues and other incident types that we do not classify under EMS or fire. We responded to 692 false alarms during the year which is a reduction of 9% from the false alarm calls in FY13. False alarms are made up of fire, medical and other types of alarms. For more on this see the Fire Prevention Section.

Fires by Type



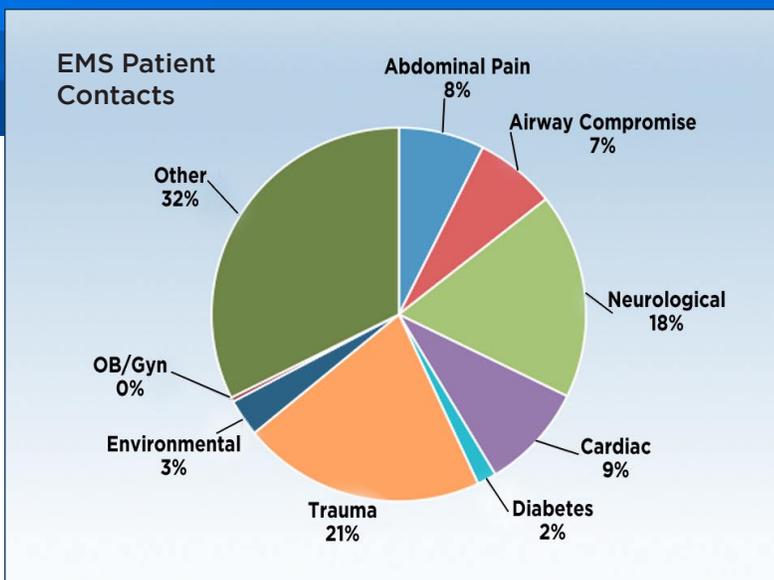
## FIRES BY TYPE

The Las Cruces Fire Department responded to 247 fires during the last fiscal year, 116 of which were structure fires. These are fires that occurred in single family homes, apartments, places of public assembly, schools and businesses. This equates to about two structure fires per week. We also responded to numerous fires involving commercial and non-commercial vehicles, brush fires, and rubbish (dumpster) fires. Regardless of the incident type, our focus for each incident is life safety, property conservation, and incident and customer stabilization.

# RESPONSE CHARTS

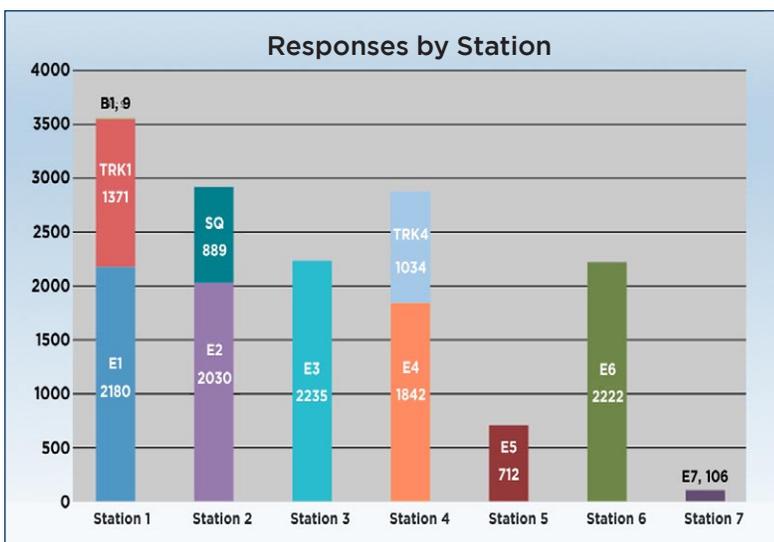
## EMS PATIENT CONTACTS

We responded to 9,935 EMS calls this past year. From those calls we registered 9,110 patient contacts which equates to providing care to 25 patients per day, every day of the year. Forty percent of our EMS patients were found to be experiencing either a traumatic, neurological or cardiac emergency.



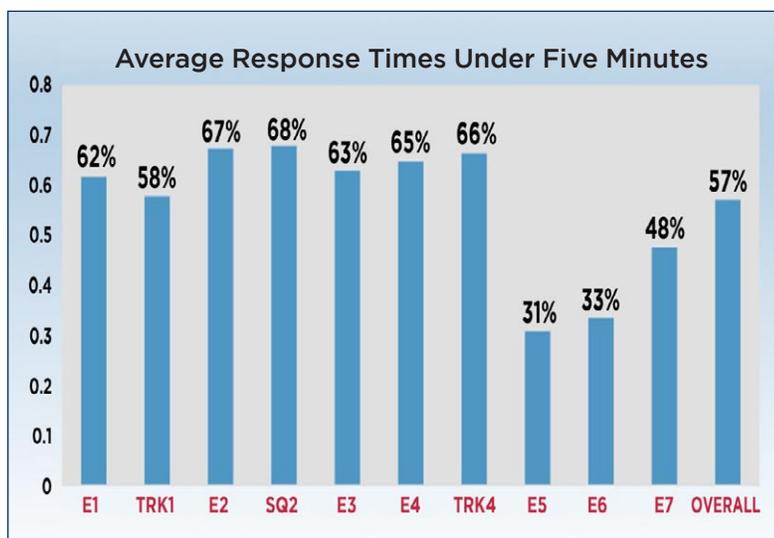
## RESPONSES BY STATION

There were a total of 15,987 emergency and non-emergency responses in FY14. Fire District 1 continues as the busiest district with Engine 1, Truck 1 and Battalion 1 answering 3,560 calls for service in FY14. Engine 3, while having the 4th busiest district, was the busiest single company. This is due in large part to the Squad Pilot Program in District 2, which was housed at Station 2 between October 2013 and June 2014.



## FIRE AND EMS RESPONSE TIMES

The time it takes for us to get to emergency incidents is an important factor in the delivery of our service. In any emergency, our goal is to get there safely and quickly. During FY14, the first arriving LCFD apparatus was on scene within five minutes 57% of the time for all calls requiring lights and sirens. This is a 3% improvement over last year. One of the reasons the Squad Pilot Program was tested in District 2 was to determine the effect on response times for the busiest company in the City. Engine 2 saw a 5% improvement, and all adjacent districts had improved response times. LCFD will implement a multiple district squad program in District Six to see how that model can provide greater efficiency and thus, a better level of service to our customers.



# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SECTION

## EMT TRAINING PROGRAM



Over the past several years, we have sponsored several advanced training programs in an effort to increase the level of care we provide to our citizens. These voluntary programs provide the opportunity to upgrade the employee's level of EMS licensure from EMT-Basic to EMT-Intermediate or EMT-Paramedic.

This year, we applied for a \$250,000 FEMA grant which, if awarded, will enable us to send 10 employees through the paramedic program and will bring the total number of paramedics on our staff to 29. The additional paramedics on the street will enable us to move forward in our mission of providing the best and highest level of pre-hospital care to our community by sending the most appropriate resources to each emergency medical call.

## PARAMEDIC ENGINE COMPANIES



In FY 2013, we incorporated a staffing modification that required an advanced life support (ALS) provider (EMT-Intermediate or EMT-Paramedic) on at least 90% of all EMS calls. Data analysis shows that the shift commanders were able to meet this goal 97% of the time. Our next step is to evaluate the need and requirements for designated paramedic engine companies. A designated paramedic engine company essentially requires that company to have a paramedic onboard at all times. We anticipate that this will better enable us to send the appropriate level of medical care to citizens at the initial dispatch which will further enhance service delivery.

## EARLY HEART ATTACK CARE AND COMMUNITY CPR

The Early Heart Attack Care<sup>®</sup> (EHAC<sup>®</sup>) initiative promotes early recognition when symptoms may be mild. For the 50% of people experiencing these symptoms, the heart attack can be prevented with early treatment, before any damage to the heart occurs. This year, the LCFD has amplified its participation and collaboration with Mountain View Regional Medical Center's EHAC<sup>®</sup> program. Our EMTs have benefitted from cardiac education provided by MVRMC staff and we have increased our participation in collaborative efforts to improve:

- Public knowledge about early cardiac warning signs and bystander CPR;
- Evaluate and improve pre-hospital cardiac care; and
- Participation in community healthcare forums to evaluate the outcomes of the patients we treat in the pre-hospital setting.

Supporting the EHAC<sup>®</sup> initiative, our EMTs are equipped to provide early advanced cardiac care including speedy notification of abnormal EKGs to both

hospitals so cardiac teams can prepare before you even arrive at the hospital and get you the care you need sooner. As we move forward, LCFD will continue our efforts in these areas and remain constant in our support for local bystander CPR initiatives like the state-sponsored Project Heart Start, which takes place in June each year.



LCFD's Squad 2 at Fire Station 2

## SQUAD PILOT PROGRAM



The department's Squad Pilot Program started in October at Fire Station 2 on Foster Road. The program's goals included:

- System-wide reduction in response times to emergency incidents.
- The ability to transport critical patients when an ambulance is delayed due to system overload.
- Applying a dynamic staffing model which better matches resources to demand through the use of peak staffing and smaller units for certain incident types.

Between October 2013 and June 30, 2014, Squad 2 responded to 1,072 calls for service. These Squad 2 responses triggered a 29% reduction in calls for service for Engine 2 compared to the previous year. During this time, Squad 2 transported nine patients to the hospital either because the ambulance system was in overload or because the patient was deemed to be critical and needed immediate transport.

During the pilot program we experienced a 47% reduction in the number of times crews from another station had to respond to calls in district 2. This resulted in an overall improvement of response times for all districts. System-wide, our response times improved by 23 seconds.

Beginning July 1st, 2014, the squad program will move to Station 6 to determine if the same positive results can be duplicated in other areas of the City.



# PREVENTION SECTION

The personnel working in the Fire Prevention Section remain committed to providing life safety to our community and our firefighters through plan review for new construction, fire inspections, public education outreach and fire investigation.



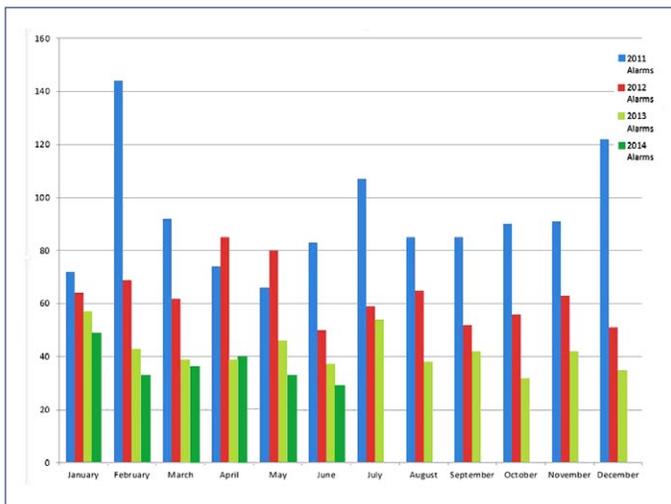
Prevention Staff from L to R: Fire Engineer M. Dubbin, Inspector W. Monsivaiz, Fire Marshal T. Sweetser, Lt. B. Chaires, Inspectors M. Danner and C. Mount.



Arson course graduates from L to R: Det. R. Molenda, Det. R. Sanchez, Det. F. Guerra, Det. S. Torres, Lt. K. Clements, BC T. Sweetser, Lt. B. Chaires, Inspectors W. Monsivaiz and M. Danner, Engineer M. Dubbin, Inspector C. Mount.

## Update on False Alarm Ordinance

Implemented in January 2013, the false alarm ordinance continues to drive down the total number of fire alarms we respond to, approximately 99% of which are false. The graph details a steady decline over the last year; the reduction in the number of false alarm responses has kept engines available to respond to emergency calls for service as well as reduced fuel costs. For more information, please visit our website at [www.las-cruces.org/fire](http://www.las-cruces.org/fire).



## Joint Fire and Police Investigation Training

Collaborating with law enforcement, the Las Cruces Fire Department and Las Cruces Police Department each sent six employees through a 40-hour Certified Fire Investigations course. The course work consisted of lecture and practical skills using the most advanced fire investigation techniques. Police and fire collaboration is beneficial when investigating the causes of structure, vehicle and other fires as well as prosecuting those responsible for arson.

## Public Education

Public education is provided by both the firefighters who work in the Fire Prevention Section as well as by the firefighters who staff our emergency response apparatus. Prevention remains the primary focus of our educational effort for both children and adults. We continue to provide classes to all ages on fire safety topics. This year the fire department was able to visit with approximately 5,700 children and adults.



Inspector W. Monsivaiz extinguishes an imaginary fire with the help of junior firefighters to assist.

# OPERATIONS AND TRAINING SECTION



Hazmat members work to contain a leak from an over the road tanker during the Challenge.



2013 Hazmat Challenge Team from L to R, back row: J. Montoya, R. Fresquez, J. Lay, front: M. Graham, J. Eckhart.

## 2013 Hazmat Challenge

In August, five members of the Las Cruces Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT) competed in the 17th Annual Los Alamos National Laboratories Hazmat Challenge taking first place in the technical category and third place overall among the 14 regional teams participating. There were many scenarios including a motor vehicle crash with hazardous materials involved, damming and diking spilled chemicals from an overturned tanker, a confined space rescue, a clandestine lab exercise, and a rail car leaking radiological substances. This event continues to be a fantastic training and networking opportunity for our HMRT members.

## Live Fire Training

Earlier this year, live fire training props were installed at the training facility located just west of Fire Station 7. The installation of the burn props allows us to conduct live fire training in a safe and controlled environment to ensure our firefighters practice and maintain the fire and rescue skills needed to operate safely and efficiently.

The live fire drills reinforce the essential tasks performed on a fire ground including the safe use of self-contained breathing apparatus, proper size-up of a burning structure, allocation of resources to provide for civilian and firefighter safety, proper application of water, and search and rescue techniques. These drills also stress the importance of proper personal protective equipment use, hazard recognition, and communication and team work needed to safely and effectively perform firefighting tasks.



ABOVE: Inaugural burn demonstration for the public in January.

RIGHT: Two firefighters enter the live burn building for training.



# SPECIALIZED RESPONSE TEAM (TRT, HMRT, ARFF)



## Firefighters Participate in National Training Exercise

Six members from the Las Cruces Fire Department serving as part of New Mexico Task Force 1 participated in a full scale urban search and rescue exercise at the Guardian Center in Perry, Georgia in March. New Mexico Task Force 1 is part of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). There are a total of 28 teams throughout the United States that can be deployed to assist during a variety of large incidents and disasters.

New Mexico Task Force 1 has deployed to several of our nation's worst incidents including Oklahoma City, Hurricane Katrina and the Pentagon in September 2001. LCFD currently sponsors nine firefighters as members of Task Force 1 and we anticipate adding six more in the near future. Las Cruces firefighters serving on the Task Force 1 Team bring advanced skills and experience back to our community where they serve as members of our Technical Rescue Team or Hazardous Materials Response Team.

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## Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF)

The ARFF team completed their annual certification burns as part of joint training with Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque in addition to sending two members to the annual ARFF Chiefs and Leadership School in Florida and two members to the NM Aviation Conference in Ruidoso.

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## Support for US Navy Flight Training

The City of Las Cruces welcomed the return of Navy Training Wing 4 from Corpus Christie, Texas, for flight training this past spring. The location of the permanent Fire Station 7 allowed LCFD to provide dedicated standbys to the Navy at a fraction of the cost of previous years, which was a key factor in the Navy's decision to return to Las Cruces.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION



*LCFD Honor Guard on Patriot Day 2013.*

## **Patriot Day**

The Las Cruces Fire Department participated in the 2013 Patriot Day Ceremony on September 11. Patriot Day is an annual observance to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. Many Americans refer to Patriot Day as 9/11.

## **Firefighters Memorial Day**

In association with the local Veterans Advisory Board and in conjunction with the annual observance of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland, Las Cruces Firefighters closed out the first weekend of October 2013 by honoring fire service personnel who died in the line of duty in 2012.

## **Girls Can! Career Conference**

Sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Las Cruces, Firefighter Brynn Quirico, Battalion Chief Kristen Andersen and crews from Stations 2 and 4 spent a Saturday morning in March with girls from area schools. The girls spent their time attending career workshops including ours which highlighted firefighting and emergency medical service tasks.

## **Joint Mobile Operation Center (MOC)**

LCFD joins LCPD's MOC when they set their operation up in various locations though out the City. This is a traveling neighborhood public safety community awareness program that makes police, fire and codes officers available to the community where questions can be asked, information can be obtained, or you can just stop by to visit and get to know your local public safety officers. The officers set up bike rodeos, Ident-a-Child opportunities, and distribute safety information.

LCFD continues to serve our community outside of our emergency response duties. We still provide the community with valuable resources including car seat checks and installation, our Youth Fire Setter Intervention Program and our Vecino Program. We can also check your blood pressure if you stop by any fire station between 8 am and 5 pm.



*Police and fire leadership at Patriot Day Ceremony*

## **LCPS Leadership**

The Las Cruces Public Schools' Young Leadership class visited us in December to discuss leadership in the fire service. The students also had the opportunity to tour the station and chat with the Engine 1, A Shift crew.



*BCs T. Sweetser and K. Andersen talk to LCPS high school students.*



*Engine 1 A Shift crews shared time with the young leaders.*

# PROMOTIONS AND RECOGNITION

The community continues to recognize our employees for their efforts on and off duty.



## PROMOTIONS

Firefighter and long-time member of Engine 6, B Shift and the Technical Rescue Team, Chris Mount joined the Prevention team in November 2013 when he was promoted to Inspector.

## RECOGNITION HIGHLIGHTS

### AMERICAN LEGION POST 10 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Inspector Chris Mount was recognized by the American Legion Post 10 in October for his devoted service to this community. His uncompromising work ethic is not only evident in his daily duties, but also in his devotion to ensuring our kids are safe in their vehicles as a car seat technician and as a member of the department's Honor Guard.



Lt. J. Floyd with his daughter, Eden, and Chief T. Brown at the Sons of the American Revolution recognition ceremony.



Battalion Chief B. Brinkerhoff, C Shift

### SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Nominated for their contribution to the department's Blue Card training program, the Sons of the American Revolution awarded Lt. J. Floyd and Battalion Chief B. Brinkerhoff as Firefighters of the Year in December.

### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Nominated for his efforts in fire and EMS training and projects, Lt. Leos received the Chamber of Commerce Firefighter of the Year award at the annual gathering in December.

### LAS CRUCES HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Fire Chief Brown was recognized as the Citizen of the Year by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in February for his volunteer work in the community and his efforts to improve public safety.



Lt. J. Leos received this year's Chamber of Commerce Firefighter of the Year

### MAYOR'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Our own Driver/Operator R. Schulmeister, his wife, Kim, and their children Kevin, Michael and Diane, were recognized by the mayor for their combined contributions to our community including working at the Munson Center, volunteering for the Jim Franklin Bike Giveaway and the Gospel Rescue Mission each year during the holidays, and their tireless involvement in their church, Boy Scouts, community health fairs and other events all year long.



D/O R. Schulmeister and his family receive the Mayor's Distinguished Service Award in August.

### LEPC MEMBER OF THE YEAR

D/O R. Schulmeister was nominated by his peers as Doña Ana County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Member of the Year for his tireless effort and time working for this volunteer organization.

The LEPC serves as the link between citizens, industry, and government in emergency planning and preparedness for the community. Members participate in exercises, training, seminars and other special projects in the community to build team efforts.

### GIRL SCOUTS WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

Battalion Chief K. Andersen was one of 12 recipients of the Women of Distinction award in September presented at the annual Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest luncheon. This annual event recognizes women of the community for their contributions and the impact they have on their community. They may accomplish this through their work or as a volunteer, but they are deemed female role models, leaders and good examples for young girls.

### 4TH ANNUAL FIREFIGHTER'S BALL

Each year, the fire chief recognizes employees for their achievements and contributions to our department in the preceding calendar year. In 2013, many employees reached service milestones with the City including:

**5 YEARS** – Fire Protection Engineer M. Dubbin, and FF J. Lee.

**15 YEARS** – BCW. Grooms, Lt. J. Lucero, FF D. Lyons, Lt. J. Avila, Lt. J. Hein, Lt. A. Lucero, Lt. M. Peters, Lt. D. Wright, D/O H. Caldwell, D/O R. Schulmeister, FF R. Gardner.

**20 YEARS** – DC S. Mims, BC J. Guerin, Lt. B. Chaires, Lt. B. Rhodes.

**25 YEARS** – DC R. Smith.



Deputy Chief R. Smith, 25 years of service.



*Dodo and James Horcasitas*

**Dolores “Dodo” Estrada retired in May 2014 after nearly 26 years of service with the City, 18 of which were with the fire department.**



*Deputy Chiefs S. Mims and R. Smith enjoy Dodo’s (center) retirement party.*



*Many friends and colleagues came to say farewell and experience Dodo’s red chile.*

# RETIREMENTS

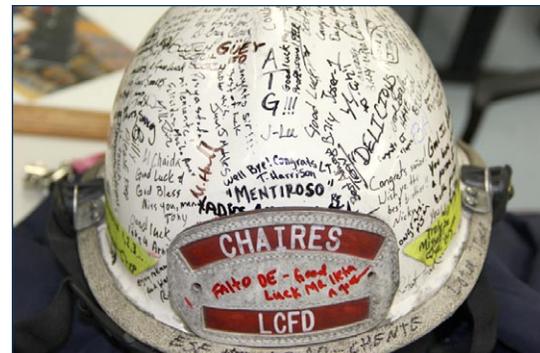
**Lt. William “Billy” Chaires retired from the Prevention Services Section after 21 years with the fire department.**



*Lt. B. Chaires, 21 years of service.*



*Lots of friends and family came to say best wishes.*



*Tradition dictates that all colleagues sign the retiree’s last helmet which is presented to the retiree.*

# PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

As we work on our current goals in support of the City's Strategic Plan, we are always looking ahead. The future looks very bright for the City of Las Cruces and the Las Cruces Fire Department. Some of the highlights for next year include:



- With design development complete on the East Mesa Public Safety Complex, we anticipate moving forward with construction at the start of 2015. The complex will house Fire Station 8 and signal a significant change in our operation by splitting the City into two fire battalions.
- Should the City be awarded the FEMA grant, we anticipate the graduation of 10 employees from our fourth paramedic program in collaboration with Dona Ana Community College. The training may begin as early as September 2014 and will take approximately 10 to 12 months to complete. We look forward to having nine paramedics per shift which will greatly enhance the emergency medical services we provide.

- With recent changes to the Insurance Services Office (ISO) grading criteria, we requested an ISO evaluation in December 2014. In 2013, our ISO grading improved from a four to a two. This outside and independent ranking placed LCFD in the top 1.5% of departments nationally. Due to efforts on our fire prevention front, we are confident we will show improvement over our last evaluation, perhaps even to the degree of moving to a Class 1 fire department.
- To better prepare for active shooter incidents, the fire and police departments have been collaborating for the last year to improve response times and survival rates for victims of these types of incidents. Working together is essential for better outcomes for these highly unpredictable and deadly events.
- With the completion of the fire training facility this year, we are now in a position to pursue partnerships with area fire departments and Doña Ana Community College to expand the use of our facility into a regional resource for fire training in southern New Mexico.
- Further research, development and implementation of alternate response vehicles in our effort to find more efficient and faster emergency response models to better meet the needs of our community.

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## HAVING SOME FUN

In January, fire and police once again went head to head in their annual charitable flag football game at Field of Dreams. This year, we had to hand over the trophy to the winning LCPD team after triple overtime.



*LCFD vs. LCPD in January - all proceeds from the game benefited El Caldito Soup Kitchen.*



*Softball running bases, FF G. Sanchez rounds the bases.*



*LCFD took first place in the City-sponsored softball tournament in August.*



For more  
information on the  
2013-14 Fire Department  
Report to the Community  
and other public safety  
programs, call the  
Las Cruces  
Fire Department  
at (575) 528-3473, or  
visit us on the web at  
[www.clcfd.com](http://www.clcfd.com)



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