The Conroe Fire Department is pleased to offer this Annual Report. It encompasses an overview of the responses and activities that took place throughout the year. The year 2013 was a year of growth for the City of Conroe. The economy was strong; developers were active planning and building; and the City annexed some additional land into its City Limits. This made for an active year for the Fire Department, responding to the additional requests for services. Emergency calls increased by approximately 10% from 6,551 to 7,192. New building plans reviewed by the Fire Marshal’s Office increased approximately 11% from 393 to 429. This growth trend was generally consistent across all services the Fire Department generally provided. Unfortunately, even with providing fire education to approximately 11,000 civilians over the entire year, the City did have one female die in a residential structure fire in 2013. This death reminds us all that fires are extremely dangerous and we must all be diligent in our efforts; either through continued fire education classes, adopting and enforcing fire safety codes, actively investigating every fire cause, striving to maintain and improve our response capabilities, our continually improving our efficiencies to provide the very best service we can, the Fire Department is dedicated to accomplish the City’s Mission Statement:

“Protect and Serve the Citizens of Conroe and exceed their expectations.”

Sincerely,
Ken Kreger
Fire Chief / Emergency Management Coordinator
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APPARATUS & FACILITIES
Fire Department Equipment

Ladder 1
1997 Pierce Arrow 100 foot aerial platform ladder with 2000 GPM pump and a 200 gallon water tank, a complement of ground ladders and technical rescue equipment, two 1000 GPM nozzles are pre-piped to the aerial platform.

E-1
2011 Pierce Quantum Pumper with a Cummins ISM 500 horsepower diesel engine and Allison Gen IV 4000 EVS 6 speed transmission and is equipped Oshkosh TAK-4 suspension, which allows for excellent maneuverability, improved stopping power, and safer handling. E-1 is equipped with 1500 GPM Waterous pump that is paired with a Husky 12 GPM foam system. The combination of the two enables E-1 to provide both Class A and B foam solutions to extinguish anything from common wood fires to gasoline and alcohol fires. E-1 carries 750 gallons of water, 20 gallons of Class A concentrate, and 100 gallons of Class B concentrate. E-1 is also equipped with a 10 foot telescoping Night Scan light tower.

E-2
2010 Pierce Quantum Pumper with a Cummins ISM 500 horsepower diesel engine and Allison Gen IV 4000 EVS 6 speed transmission and is equipped Oshkosh TAK-4 suspension, which allows for excellent maneuverability, improved stopping power, and safer handling. E-2 is equipped with 1500 GPM Waterous pump that is paired with a Husky 12 GPM foam system. The combination of the two enables E-2 to provide both Class A and B foam solutions to extinguish anything from common wood fires to gasoline and alcohol fires. E-2 carries 750 gallons of water, 20 gallons of Class A concentrate, and 100 gallons of Class B concentrate. E-2 is also equipped with a 10 foot telescoping Night Scan light tower.
2006 Pierce Quantum pumper, 1500 GPM Waterous pump with 750 gallon water tank, 30 gallon Class B foam tank with 1% AFFF foam, 20 gallon Class A foam tank with National Knockdown Class A foam, hydraulic ladder rack with a 24’ extension, 14’ roof and 10’ attic ladder, also 6’, 10’ and 8’ two – man pike pole.

E-3

2008 Pierce Quantum pumper. It has a 1500 GPM pump with a 750 gallon poly water tank. Engine 3 is also equipped with a Husky 12, Class A foam system fed by a 20 gallon Class A foam cell. Other features of E-3 include a raised roof, air conditioned four door cab. It also has a hydraulic ladder rack with a 24’ extension, 14’ roof, and 10’ attic ladder, as well as, 6’, 10’ and 8’ two –man pike pole.

E-4

2006 Pierce Quantum pumper, 1500 GPM Waterous pump with 750 gallon water tank, 30 gallon Class B foam tank with 1% AFFF foam, 20 gallon Class A foam tank with National Knockdown Class A foam, hydraulic ladder rack with a 24’ extension, 14’ roof and 10’ attic ladder, also 6’ and 10’ pike poles.

E-5

2013 Pierce Quantum Pumper with a Cummins ISM 500 horsepower diesel engine and Allison Gen IV 4000 EVS 6 speed transmission and is equipped Oshkosh TAK-4 suspension, which allows for excellent maneuverability, improved stopping power, and safer handling. E-5 is equipped with 1500 GPM Waterous pump that is paired with a Husky 12 GPM foam system. The combination of the two enables E-5 to provide both Class A and B foam solutions to extinguish anything from common wood fires to gasoline and alcohol fires. E-5 carries 750 gallons of water, 20 gallons of Class A concentrate, and 100 gallons of Class B concentrate. E-5 is also equipped with a 10 foot telescoping Night Scan light tower.
Fire Department Equipment

**E-6**

Reserve

2002 Pierce Dash that is equipped with a Series 60, 500 HP Detroit Diesel engine and an Allison 5 speed automatic transmission. Engine 6 is equipped with a 1500 GPM Waterous pump, Hercules C.A.F.S (Compressed Air Foam System) and a Foam Pro 2002 foam system. This unit can be used with either Class A or Class B foams to fight anything from wood and paper fires to gasoline and alcohol fires. E-6 has a 700 gallon water tank, a 30 gallon Class B tank, and a 20 gallon Class A tank.

**E-7**

Reserve

1993 Pierce Arrow, 1250 GPM pumper with a 750 gallon water tank, rescue body, hydraulic ladder racks, 4-door, and medical and rescue equipment.

**E-8**

Reserve

2007 Pierce Quantum. This truck is powered by a Big Block ISM 500 hp Cummins engine with an Allison 4000EVS transmission. This truck also has a 730 gallon water tank with a 20 gallon foam cell that has Class A foam. This is all powered by a 1500 GPM Waterous pump and built in Huskey foam system. The Harrison 8K generator on the truck powers the external scene lights and plugs.
Fire Department Equipment

Haz Mat 5
2005 Enforcer Pierce truck. This truck is capable of a 5 man hazmat technician level regional response crew and is powered by a 400 HP Cummins engine, and a 300 EVS Allison transmission. This truck is housed at Station 5. The truck has a top mount 9000 watt light tower. The vehicle is used for all types of hazmat situations and has self sufficient capabilities for handling mutual aid calls to other departments outside of the city limits. The cab has a work area that is designed to assist the hazmat teams resource officer in gathering information about certain chemicals or products. This is achieved by the onboard primary set of resource materials and laptop computers.

Hose 1
1948 Mack 500 GPM Pumper, retired from service in 1978. Now used for parades and pumper races.

Fire Safety House
Purchased in 2002, the Fire Safety House is a hands-on learning tool that gives children and their families the knowledge they need to create safer homes and communities. The safety house is used in fire prevention and taken to many schools. There is a kitchen equipped with working appliances and kitchen hazards for a learning tool. There is a smoke system that demonstrates the need to “stay low in smoke” and not breathe toxic fumes in a fire. There is also a low lying fireplace in the living room for teaching purposes of fire place safety.
Fire Department Equipment

Special Equipment Trailer
1998 Haulmark 2-ton utility trailer. The special equipment trailer was built by firefighters and carries specialized support equipment for below ground and technical rescues.

Booster 3
Custom built 2004 F550 extended cab truck. Booster 3 is equipped with the Triton V-10 gasoline engine and 4 wheel drive. Designed to fight grass fires with its 300 gallon water tank, Honda water pump and 20 gallon Class A foam tank and proportioning system. It also has a 9500 lb WARN winch.

Booster 1
2012 Ford F450 single cab with 300 gallon water tank and a 10 gallon class A foam cell. Booster 1 is equipped with a bumper mounted remote control nozzle. This vehicle is used for brush fires and the Wildland urban interface of our city.

Boat 2
2010 Achilles SU-14 equipped with trailer and 30 horsepower Mercury outboard motor. This boat is specifically designed to operate in swift water rescue situations, but can also function under normal lake operations.
Utility 2

Utility 2 is a 2007 Ford F-150 gasoline engine. This vehicle is housed at station 2 and is used to assist in deploying the swift water rescue boat as it is needed and it also serves as the reserve vehicle for BC1.

Utility 1

Utility 1 is a 2002 Ford F-250 diesel that is used to shuttle personnel and equipment to and from training classes as well as the move the Fire Safety Trailer to and from special events throughout the city.

Utility 3

Utility 3 is a 2013 Ford F-350 diesel that is used to pull the departments structural collapse/trench rescue trailer that is used in the city as well as a regional response vehicle. This unit can also be used to pull the Fire Safety House as needed.

Foam 2

Foam 2 is a 2004 Ford F-550 diesel it is designed to work in conjunction with a pumper to deploy a large quantity of foam over a large area such as a tanker or aircraft fire. The apparatus is equipment with (2) 5 inch intakes and (2) elevated master streams able to flow up to 1000 gpm. The truck carries (1) 265 gallon tote of Class B foam and an additional 30 five gallon pales of Class B foam.
Fire Station Logos
Fire Department Facilities

Station 1
300 Sgt. Ed Holcomb Blvd.

Station 2
425 N. Loop 336 E.

Station 3
424 E. Foster Dr.

Station 4
14901 Walter Woodson Dr.

Station 5
1601 N. FM 3083 W.

Fire Admin.
300 W. Davis
2013 Annual Report

AWARDS & HONORS
1 Year Ceremonies

A ceremony was held for Firefighter Caleb Hayre and Firefighter Chase Morgan on January 8, 2013, as they completed their first probationary year with the CFD.

Pictured to the Left: Lt. McDonald, Firefighter Hayre and his wife and Lt. Dubose.

Pictured to the Right: Firefighter Chase Morgan poses with Lt. Dubose, Lt. McDonald and E/O McNeill at his 1 Year Ceremony.

Fire Chief Kreger swearing in Firefighter Caleb Hayre and Firefighter Chase Morgan.
1 Year Ceremonies

A ceremony was held for Firefighter Michael Hill on February 28, 2013, as he completed his first probationary year with the CFD. Pictured to the left: Chief Sims and Firefighter Hill holding his certificate.

Pictured below: Lt. McDonald pins Firefighter Hill

On May 7, 2013, a ceremony was held for Miguel Acosta as he completed his first probationary year with the CFD. Pictured to the left: Lt. Ferrell pins Firefighter Acosta. Pictured below: Firefighter Miguel Acosta and his family.
 Council Recognition

On February 28, 2013 City Council honored Assistant Chief Paul D. Sims for 25 years of service with the City of Conroe Fire Department. Chief Sims began his career with the Conroe Fire Department February 22, 1988.

Pictured above: Assistant Chief Paul D. Sims and Mayor Webb Melder.

Employee of the Month

Sami Schiel was recognized as Employee of the Month for Exceptional Initiative and Service. She received the award at the Council Meeting on November 14, 2013. Sami started her career with the city in October 2000.

Pictured from L to R: Mayor ProTem Guy Martin, Sami Schiel, City Administrator Paul Virgadamo, and Fire Chief Ken Kreger.
Employee of the Year

Training Chief Greg Nesom was presented with Employee of the Year award and Conroe Lions Club check on May 8, 2013. Chief Nesom started his career with the City of Conroe Fire Department March 15, 1996. He currently works in Fire Administration as the Training Chief.

From L to R: City Administrator Paul Virgadamo, Training Chief Greg Nesom and Mayor Webb Melder.
Staff members and residents of Regency by the Forest Apartments brought a goodie basket to Fire Station 4 on September 11, 2013 to say thank you for the Firefighter’s service to the City of Conroe.

Firefighter’s featured in this picture from L to R: FF Skrehot, E/O King and E/O Garvey.
Conroe HEB staff members came out to Fire Station 1 September 11, 2013 to cook breakfast and clean the station to say “thank you” to the Conroe Fire Department for their service to the City of Conroe.
911 Thank You’s

Jeff Walker headed up the “Give Back” program on behalf of Pepsi Beverage Co. located in Conroe, TX on November 5, 2013. He and a team of ten fellow Pepsi employees came out to Fire Station 2 to clean the station and all apparatus to say thank you to the City of Conroe firefighters.

Pepsi employees pose with FF Clay Johnson, FF Josh Hamilton, and E/O Phillip Roy.
Quarter Century Club Recognitions

In November 2013, Assistant Fire Chief Paul D. Sims and Firefighter Bill Cariker were recognized at the Quarter Century Club luncheon for 25 years of service with the City of Conroe Fire Department.

Assistant Fire Chief Paul D. Sims and wife Jeanie Sims

From L to R: City Administrator Paul Virgadamo, Assistant Fire Chief Paul D. Sims and Fire Chief Ken Kreger

From L to R in both photos: City Administrator Paul Virgadamo, Firefighter Bill Cariker, Fire Chief Ken Kreger
2013 Annual Report

Emergency Management

03/13/2013
Emergency Management Coordinator

Fire Chief Ken Kreger is the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City of Conroe.

4 Phases of Emergency Management

Emergency management is a comprehensive system to respond to emergencies or disasters impacting our community. The mission of the City of Conroe Office of Emergency Management is to coordinate activities of the City departments responsible for continued operations during disasters, coordinate agreements for the use of resources, communicate with State and Federal agencies, and provide education and training to citizens and municipal employees.
Emergency Management Virtual Drill

On March 13, 2013 Fire Chief Ken Kreger and Sami Schiel attended an Emergency Management Virtual Drill with the focus on flood related preparation, response, recovery concerns and solutions at the Conroe DDC location. 10 local agencies participated.

The scenario included:

Initial response: flash flooding of local waterways, emergency response operations underway, utilities out in parts of the community, emergency workers fatigued.

Extended response: rain and flooding has subsided, debris removal, utility maintenance, and road repair operations underway, volunteers arrive en masse, media and public demanding information.

Recovery: response operations closing down, heavy construction and other recovery efforts underway, public and media concerns regarding individual and public assistance, community officials meet to discuss recovery and mitigation steps.

Pictured from L to R: TDEM Representatives Esther Corwin & James Kelly, Montgomery County Asst. Emergency Management Coordinator Nicky Kelly, Sami Schiel, Fire Chief Kreger and Tx. Dept. of Public Safety District Coordinator Ron Walker
Hurricane Preparedness

A Hurricane Season Reminder:

**Be Ready, Understand, Plan and Act.**

Hurricane Preparedness Week in Texas is the week of May 22 – 28.

It is always a good idea to be prepared before an emergency situation.

**Recommended checklist for home:**

- First aid kit and extra prescription medications, written prescriptions & other medical items. Important documents & records, photo ID's, proof of residence, information needed to process insurance claims. Cash, (line-power outages mean banks & ATM's may be unavailable)

- Coolers for food and ice storage, paper plates, plastic utensils, manual can opener, knife, tools, booster cables, fire extinguisher, duct tape, tarp & rope. Blankets, pillows, sleeping bags & extra clothing, toilet paper, cleanup supplies, personal hygiene products. Battery-operated radio & flashlight with extra batteries

- Phone numbers of family & friends along with road maps, travel plans, hotel reservations, list of places between your town & your destination you can stop if the highways are clogged.

- 3-day supply of non-perishable food, one gallon of bottled water per person per day

- Eyeglasses, sunglasses, hearing aids, special supplies needed for babies, older adults or pets and extra keys

- Automobile charger for mobile phone

**Recommended checklist for your car:**

- Automobile charger for mobile phone

- Store emergency supplies in the trunk of your car

- Include a battery-powered radio, flashlight, extra batteries, and water in plastic drink bottles, canned goods and manual can opener.

- First aid kit, emergency flares, blankets, extra clothing & rain gear in your car.
Fire Marshal’s Office
Fire Prevention

The median fire loss within the City of Conroe, over the last five years, was approximately $1.1 million dollars. Far too often, these fires injure or take the lives of one or more of our fellow citizens. To combat this destruction, the Conroe Fire Department has put into place a comprehensive fire prevention program that consists of the four basic activities of the Conroe Fire Department: public education, fire and building code enforcement, a rapid response to emergencies, and a thorough investigation of all fire causes.

The Fire Marshal’s Office (FMO) is the division of the Conroe Fire Department that manages public education, fire and building code enforcement, fire origin and cause investigations, and arson investigations. The Fire Chief assigns all personnel to the FMO, with five currently assigned to the Division.

Fire Marshal

Battalion Chief Mike Legoudes, Jr. is the Fire Marshal for the City of Conroe, and the public information officer for the Conroe Fire Department. Mike began his career with the Conroe Fire Department on July 9, 2001, serving as a Firefighter for six years. On June 1, 2007, Mike was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and was assigned to the FMO, where he spent three years as a Deputy Fire Marshal. Mike was promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief and assigned as Fire Marshal on June 3, 2010.

As Fire Marshal, Mike oversees all fire prevention activities including public information, relations, and education, fire and building code enforcement, fire origin and cause determination investigations, and arson case management. To help manage these responsibilities, Mike supervises four Lieutenant Deputy Fire Marshals assigned to the FMO and four Deputy Fire Marshals assigned to Operations.

Mike is a 1998 graduate of Sam Houston State University and holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice. Mike is also certified as an Intermediate Texas Peace Officer, Licensed Paramedic, Master Firefighter, Master Arson Investigator, Master Fire Inspector, Fire Service Instructor II, Fire Officer IV, Driver/Operator, and Incident Safety Officer. Mike is enrolled in the National Fire Academy’s four year Executive Fire Officer Program, completing the second year during 2013. He is also currently completing an Associate’s Degree in Fire Science at Lone Star College - Montgomery.

Deputy Fire Marshals

There are currently four Deputy Fire Marshals assigned full-time to the FMO. Responsibilities of these Deputies include fire and life safety inspections of existing businesses, new commercial construction plan review and inspections, public education program design and delivery, fire origin and cause determination investigations, arson investigation, and background investigation of prospective Conroe Firefighters.
**Lieutenant/Deputy Fire Marshal Neal Radford**

Lieutenant Neal Radford began his career with the Conroe Fire Department on March 3, 1998, serving as a Firefighter for approximately 10 years. He was promoted to Lieutenant on October 31, 2008 where he was assigned to Operations as an engine company officer for approximately 1 year. In September of 2009, Neal was assigned full-time to the FMO.

Neal is certified as a Texas Peace Officer, Emergency Medical Technician - Intermediate (EMT-I), Advanced Firefighter, Arson Investigator, Fire Inspector, Fire Service Instructor II, Aircraft Rescue Firefighter (ARFF), and Hazardous Materials Technician.

**Lieutenant/Deputy Fire Marshal Andy Nokes**

Lieutenant Andy Nokes began his career with the Conroe Fire Department on October 12, 1987, serving as a Firefighter for approximately 22 years. He was promoted to Lieutenant on June 3, 2010 and was immediately assigned full-time to the FMO.

Andy is a 1999 graduate of Houston Community College and holds an Associate’s Degree in Fire Science. Andy is also certified as a Texas Peace Officer, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Master Firefighter, Master Arson Investigator, Driver/Operator, Fire Inspector, Fire Service Instructor III, Master Aircraft Rescue Firefighter (ARFF), and Hazardous Materials Technician.

**Lieutenant/Deputy Fire Marshal Joe Craig**

Lieutenant Joe Craig began his career with the Conroe Fire Department on October 1, 1997, serving as a Firefighter for approximately 10 years. He was promoted to Lieutenant on November 12, 2007 where he was assigned to Operations as an engine company officer for approximately 2.5 years. In June of 2010, Joe was assigned full-time to the FMO.

Joe is a 2013 graduate of Lone Star College and holds an Associate’s Degree in Fire Science. Joe is also certified as a Texas Peace Officer, EMT-I, Master Firefighter, Master Arson Investigator, Master Fire Inspector, Fire Service Instructor II, Fire Officer IV, Master Aircraft Rescue Firefighter (ARFF), Driver/Operator, Hazardous Materials Incident Commander, Incident Safety Officer, Hazardous Materials Technician, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Certified Fire Investigator (CFI), and IAAI Certified Evidence Collection Technician.

**Lieutenant/Deputy Fire Marshal Blaine Pyles**

Lieutenant Blaine Pyles began his career with the Conroe Fire Department on May 17, 1999, serving as a Firefighter for approximately 13 years. He was promoted to Engine/Operator on December 10, 2011. Blaine was promoted to Lieutenant on August 17, 2012 and was immediately assigned to the FMO.

Fire and Life Safety Inspections

The City of Conroe Fire Marshal’s Office (FMO) inspects, and maintains records on, all known commercial occupancies within the city limits. There are currently approximately 2,916 known businesses, which are inspected as often as staffing levels permit. Currently each business is inspected at 18 - 24 month intervals. Some occupancies, such as schools, nursing /assisted living homes, hospitals, and day cares are inspected at least annually. In order to evenly distribute the inspection workload among Deputy Fire Marshals, the city is divided into four geographic inspection districts:

- **Inspection District 1:** West of Frazier, North of Davis  
  Lieutenant/Deputy Fire Marshal Joe Craig

- **Inspection District 2:** Frazier and East, North of Davis  
  Lieutenant/Deputy Fire Marshal Blaine Pyles

- **Inspection District 3:** Frazier and East, Davis and South  
  Lieutenant/Deputy Fire Marshal Neal Radford

- **Inspection District 4:** West of Frazier, Davis and South  
  Lieutenant/Deputy Fire Marshal Andy Nokes

Fire and Life Safety Inspections are now performed utilizing Firehouse Inspector for iPad. This application is a part of the Firehouse record management package, already in use by the CFD. The application provides the Deputy Fire Marshal the ability to see scheduled and completed inspections at a glance. It is also a mostly paperless system as most business owners receive inspection reports via e-mail.

New Commercial Construction Inspections

In addition to inspections of existing businesses, there are many inspections required during new construction projects. New commercial construction activity has increased over the last year and is projected to continue increasing. Inspections typically required include underground fire water mains, fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, kitchen hood fire suppression systems, clean agent extinguishing systems, aboveground and underground tanks and lines, and fire and life safety for Certificate of Occupancy. These inspections are scheduled by Deputy Fire Marshals within their inspection districts, throughout new construction projects.

All new construction projects begin with submittal of plans by developers. Working closely with the Building Official, all plans are reviewed prior to issuance of permits. Types of plans reviewed are site, building, and fire protection systems. Careful attention is paid, during the review process, to identify items needing attention prior to the beginning of construction. This is done in an effort to ensure city requirements are met as well as minimizing costs due to unforeseen problems for developers. Pre-development meetings are encouraged on larger or more difficult projects prior to submittal of plans. These meetings are scheduled, free of charge, through Public Works and are attended jointly by representatives from the FMO, Public Works, and Engineering.
### Fire and Life Safety Inspection Activities

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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing Home / Assisted Living</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurant</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Assembly</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of Occupancy</td>
<td>224</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sprinkler System</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Alarm System</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complaint Investigation/Consultation</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>Other Fire Protection System</td>
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### Top 10 Violations Found in 2013:

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<th>Violation</th>
<th>Number of Violations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Fire extinguishers not inspected and/or charged</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Exit signs not illuminated</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Emergency lighting inoperable</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. “No Smoking” signs not in place</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Wiring not in conduit and/or cover plate missing</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Sprinkler system due for annual inspection</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Fire alarm system due for annual inspection</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Inadequate number of fire extinguishers</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Extension cords in use as permanent wiring</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Address numbers not visible from street</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Kitchen hood extinguishing system due for</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fire Prevention Activities

Plans Reviewed 429
Fire Safety Inspections 1,021
Fire Code Violations 1,251
Fire Safety Programs 64
Number of Adults Attending Fire Safety Programs 1,524
Number of Children Attending Fire Safety Programs 9,232

Type and Number of Fires

Structure Fires Reported 77
Working Structure Fires Investigated 24
Vehicle Fires 35
Grass, Trash, and Woods Fires 102
Suspected Incendiary (Arson) Fires 10

Losses Due to Fire

Civilian Casualties 1
Civilian Injuries 3
Firefighter Casualties 0
Firefighter Injuries 0
Estimated Building/Content Loss $1,607,655
Estimated Auto Loss $387,600

Fire Cause Investigations

Each year the Conroe Fire Department responds to many structure fires within the city limits. The Fire Marshals Office (FMO) conducts thorough origin and cause investigations of each of these fires. There are a minimum of two Deputy Fire Marshals assigned investigative duties 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Deputy Fire Marshals are both certified Texas Peace Officers and Fire Investigators. This extra training is essential when determining the cause or motive for all fire occurring within Conroe.

Accurately determining the cause of a fire is essential. In the event of a fire that is started intentionally, prosecution of the responsible offender is critical to prevent additional fires. All crimes of arson are aggressively investigated by the FMO.
Criminal charges are filed, whenever possible, through the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office. When a juvenile is found to be the offender, charges are filed through the Montgomery County Attorney’s Office.

Identifying intentionally set fires, as well as understanding how accidental fires start, is paramount in any fire prevention effort. Proper investigation methods are the most effective way to identify fire prevention and public education needs, customizing programs to actual community fire experience. A better understanding of how and why fires occur promotes a safer environment for citizens as well as firefighters responding to these incidents.

### Fire Origin and Cause Investigation Training

Continuing education pertaining to fire investigations received increased emphasis during 2013. Following the lead of the Texas State Fire Marshal, the CFD has made it a priority that each investigator receive the training and education necessary to meet the requirements of NFPA 1033 - Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator. NFPA 1033 states that all fire investigators shall have and maintain, at a minimum, an up-to-date basic knowledge of the following topics beyond the high school level at a post-secondary education level:

1.) Fire science
2.) Fire chemistry
3.) Thermodynamics
4.) Thermometry
5.) Fire dynamics
6.) Explosion dynamics
7.) Computer fire modeling
8.) Fire investigation
9.) Fire analysis
10.) Fire investigation methodology
11.) Fire investigation technology
12.) Hazardous materials
13.) Failure analysis and analytical tools

The 2014 edition adds the following:

14.) Fire protection systems
15.) Evidence documentation, collection, and preservation
16.) Electricity and electrical systems

The field of fire investigation is continually evolving. The FMO is continuing to make every effort to stay abreast of the latest changes and technology.
Public Education

All requests for public education programs are coordinated through the FMO. After approval and scheduling, some programs are delivered by Operations personnel while other are delivered by FMO staff. Some are delivered as a joint effort by both divisions. Types of educational programs delivered are basic fire safety programs, public appearances (public relations), fire extinguisher classes, and fire station tours. Depending on the particular program, participants are taught how to escape a fire using the mobile fire safety house, are allowed to extinguish a fire using a fire extinguisher, and view fire apparatus, stations, and equipment.

October is Fire Prevention Month and is the busiest time of year for public education. A concentrated effort is made, during October, to visit each elementary school and day care within the city limits. The program delivered this year was based on the NFPA’s Kitchen Fire Safety theme. Delivery of this year’s program was a joint effort between the FMO and Operations.

64 Fire Safety Programs In 2013

33% Public Safety Programs
33% Fire Station Tours
34% Public Relations

Operations
Motor Vehicle Accidents

I 45 S. Tanker Fire
Brabner Way House Fire
Shift Duties

Each shift is assigned several areas of responsibilities. Although one shift will have final responsibility to ensure a project is done, the other two shifts will often help with the time-intensive assignments, such as in the case of our annual hose testing.

A Shift

Battalion Chief Joe Miller is the Shift Commander overseeing the entire suppression and response activities on “A” shift. Chief Miller was hired in October of ‘84 as a Firefighter and was promoted in November ‘88 to the rank of a Lieutenant. He was then promoted to the rank of a Battalion Chief in February ‘05. “A”-Shift is responsible for the acquisition, placement, and the maintenance of equipment carried on all the apparatus. Chief Miller strives to ensure that our firefighters have state-of-the-art equipment that will enable them to perform their jobs in a safe and efficient manner so that we have the best chance of helping the citizens and visitors of Conroe. Each apparatus carries over 100 individual pieces of equipment at a cost of approximately 100,000 dollars. “A” Shift also maintains the equipment so that it remains in constant state of readiness. The budget accounts for these functions are also managed at the shift level.
B Shift

Battalion Chief Michael Loggins is a Shift Commander overseeing the entire suppression and response activities on the “B” Shift. Chief Loggins was hired in December of ‘90 as a Firefighter and was promoted in December of ‘98 to the rank of Lieutenant. He was then promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief in October of ‘08. Chief Loggins also oversees the Haz Mat operations for the Fire Department. B-Shift is responsible for facility maintenance for all five fire stations, protective clothing, uniforms and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. The budget accounts for these functions are also managed at the shift level.

C Shift

Battalion Chief Michael Gosselin is a Shift Commander overseeing the entire suppression and response activities on the “C” Shift. Chief Gosselin was hired in October of ‘85 as a Firefighter and was promoted in January ‘91 to the rank of Lieutenant. He was then promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief in March of ‘99. His former duties included that of company officer on Engine 2 for eight years, President of IAFF Local 2731, Battalion Chief Training, and for a brief period served as the Assistant Fire Chief. He is a twenty-seven year professional firefighter in Conroe and has moved through the ranks to his present position. Currently his responsibilities include the supervision and support of five fire companies in daily operations and response to emergencies. Additional responsibilities of C-Shift include overseeing and scheduling of daily, annual and biannual apparatus maintenance, radio equipment maintenance, and the budget accounts for these functions are also managed at the shift level.
House fire on Rivershire Dr.
Apartment Fires

On January 1, 2013 the Conroe Fire Department responded to an apartment fire at Stone Ridge Apartments.

On July 13, 2013 the Conroe Fire Department responded to an apartment fire at Cimarron Park Apartments. There was one civilian casualty as a result of this fire.

On March 6, 2013 the Conroe Fire Department responded to a fire at the Hollow Creek Apartments.
Fire Chief for a Day

A “Fire Chief for the Day” package was donated to the Lion’s Club auction.

Internship through the EFTA

The Conroe Fire Department works with the EFTA, Education for Tomorrow Alliance each year. Our Intern this year was a Senior from Oak Ridge High School Caitlyn Merrick, who plans on pursing a career in firefighting.

Pictured Above:
Intern Merrick and Fire Marshal Legoudes

Pictured to the Right:
Fire Chief Ken Kreger and Intern Merrick at the Gun Range
2013 Incidents

Total Calls
Medical Calls  66%  4288
All Others        34%  2904
Total - 7,192
On September 21, 2013 Fire Department personnel participated in a fundraiser for the Special Olympics.

Conroe Special Olympics gathered at Armstrong Elementary School for the First Annual Fire Truck Pull. Conroe Fire Department won the pull and will carry the trophy this year. After the event the Special Olympics Team members presented firefighters with a medal and in turn each Special Olympic team member was presented a medal by firefighters.

Some students from Runyan and Milam Elementary schools will be warmer this winter after receiving a much-needed coat from the Conroe Firefighters, International Association of Firefighters, Local Chapter 2731. This is the first year Conroe firefighters have joined forces with Operation Warm to launch the program, Firefighters Coats for Kids. Pictured above from L to R:

Lt. Sandefer, FF Maddox, FF Semora, Lt. Neitzel and FF Allen
The Safety Committee for 2013 consisted of: Committee Chairperson Lt. Hudson Hudgins, CFD Safety Officer BC Greg Nesom, Safety Secretary Brittany Brasher, Human Resources Risk Manager Sandra Savage, and firefighters Kevin King, Bill Hart, E/O Tom Garvey, and Deputy Fire Marshal Lt. Blaine Pyles.

This Committee serves for two years and is appointed by Fire Chief Ken Kreger. The Committee is responsible to meet monthly and review all safety related issues to the department. They review all injuries, damaged property reports and any other safety related concerns. The Committee determines the facts and creates a complete report of conclusion covering the incident. It is then forwarded to the Fire Chief for review.

The appointed Committee consists of different members from the Fire Department. The Training Officer and Safety Secretary remain the same, as other members are rotated. The Fire Chief appoints one person from the Fire Marshal’s Office and three members from a shift. The Lieutenant chosen from the shift is given the responsibility of the Committee Chairperson, and two firefighters are also chosen. During meetings, it is important that the ranks do not matter, as the Safety Committee is a team.

The shift appointed for 2013 was C Shift.
Action Photos
Action Photos
Personnel
Fire Administration

Fire Chief / EMC
Ken Kreger

Asst. Fire Chief
Paul Sims

Battalion Chief / TRN
Greg Nesom

Office Manager
Sami Schiel

Adm. Asst.
Brittany Brasher

Adm. Asst.
Meloney Taylor

Asset Coordinator
Donnie Case
A Shift

Station 1
LT. - Matthew Perkins
LT. - John Turner
E/O - Gordon Mizrany
E/O - Jason Tucker
FF - Charles Bruner
FF - Matthew Compton
FF - Christopher George
FF - Andrew Heinson
FF - Michael Painter
FF - Jakob Robinson

Station 2
LT. - Joe Doffing
E/O - Phillip Roy
FF - Joshua Hamilton
FF - Clayton Johnson

Station 3
LT. - Thomas Chavis
E/O - John Dominy
FF - Daniel Foster
FF - Gregory Kasberg

Station 4
LT. - Farand Hardy
E/O - Allen Huelsebusch
FF - Richard Mayer
FF - Jeff Williams

Station 5
LT. - Gary Morrison
E/O - Jonathan Wyatt
FF - Jason Antilley

Battalion Chief Joe Miller
B Shift

Station 1
LT. - Matt Francis
LT. - Cory Neitzel
E/O - Scott Hippenstiel
E/O - Kevin Murphy
FF - Miguel Acosta
FF - Andrew Bay
FF - Donald Staton
FF - Peter Taylor

Station 2
LT. - Branden Ferrell
E/O - Cody Warden
FF - Paul Cote
FF - John Nobles

Station 3
LT. - John Riddle
E/O - Michael Barker
FF - Bobby Allen
FF - Phillip Johnson

Station 4
LT. - Christopher Brooks
E/O - Byron Neidigk
FF - Brian Pizzino
FF - David Thompson

Station 5
LT. - Sandra Brautigam
E/O - Clinton Brochtrup
FF - Bud Brooks
FF - Richard McNiece
C Shift

Battalion Chief Michael Gosselin

Station 1
LT. - Micah Dubose
LT. - Dustin McDonald
E/O - Tim McNeill
E/O - Kevin Smith
FF - Clarence Biggs
FF - Chase Morgan
FF - Casey Thompson
FF - Christopher Wisnowski
FF - Robert Woolery

Station 2
LT. - Darren Hess
E/O - Carey West
FF - Bill Cariker
FF - Michael Hill

Station 3
LT. - Lloyd Sandefer
E/O - Joseph Maddox
FF - Sean Semora
FF - Shaun Skrehot

Station 4
LT. - Hudson Hudgins
E/O - Tom Garvey
FF - Bill Hart
FF - Kevin King

Station 5
LT. - Steve Cottar
E/O - Marco Guillen
FF - Henry Huffman
FF - Caleb Hayre
Fire Marshal’s Office

Fire Marshal
Mike Legoudes

Deputy Fire Marshal
Joe Craig

Deputy Fire Marshal
Blaine Pyles

Deputy Fire Marshal
Andy Nokes

Deputy Fire Marshal
Neal Radford
### CFD Personnel by Hire Date

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## CFD Personnel by Hire Date

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# CFD Personnel by Hire Date

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Special Causes

Before and After pictures—Fire personnel shaved their heads to support the St. Baldrick’s foundation on March 13, 2013. This organization is for Cancer research for children.

Conroe Professional Firefighters Association 2731 held an Event Called “Fire up the Bands” to help raise funds for Muscular Dystrophy on 9/1/13. CPFA Local 2731 also sold Breast Cancer Awareness shirts, pictured below. The proceeds were donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Awareness Foundation.
Training
Chief Greg Nesom is the Battalion Chief responsible for the training division. He began his career with Conroe Fire Department in 1996 as a firefighter. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 2001 and then the rank of Battalion Chief in 2011. He has a Master Firefighter certificate and degrees in Fire Department Administration and Fire Protection and Safety. He is responsible for the coordination of training activities for the department, as well as, managing the budget account for training.

Training Chief

Conroe Fire Department personnel attended 8,858 Hours of training in 2013

Each firefighter is required to take multiple diverse training courses over the period of one year. Moreover, this year Training Chief Nesom wanted to highlight some of the major training courses that our personnel participated in.

- Confined Space Rescue
- Wildland Firefighter
- Structure Collapse Rescue
- Hazmat Tech
- Trench Rescue
- Swift Water Rescue
Certification Summary

The following certifications are issued through the Texas Commission on Fire Protection and can be obtained through a combination of years of service and educational requirements.

**Certifications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification</th>
<th>Master</th>
<th>Advanced</th>
<th>Intermediate</th>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>Total Personnel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Firefighter</strong></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arson Investigator</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inspector</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fire Officer</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wildland Firefighter</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Driver/Operator Pumper</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hazardous Materials Technician</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Physical Agility Testing
May 11, 2013

Tests #1 and #2 are separately timed events. Test #3 is made up of eight consecutive steps and timed for seven minutes. The timer will stop with the completion of the seventh step. Failure of any one test is considered failure of the entire exam.

Test #1
Don Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for five minutes.
This test is performed at rest

Test #2
Climb an aerial ladder 100 feet at a 70 degree angle within five minutes

Test #3
Step 1.) 1/2 mile run
Step 2.) Don SCBA excluding face piece. All following steps will be performed while wearing SCBA
Step 3.) Carry 50 foot section of 2 1/2 inch hose 180 feet
Step 4.) Drag 90 pound dummy 100 feet
Step 5.) Drive a 230 pound cross tie five feet with a sledge hammer
Step 6.) Advance a charged 2 1/2 inch hose 50 feet
Step 7.) Using a rope and pulley system, hoist one section of 2 1/2 inch hose from ground level up 70 feet. Timer will stop upon completion of this step
Step 8.) Lower the hose, which was raised in Step 7 back to ground level. This must be done in a controlled manner
Fire Training Activities

In January of 2013 Conroe Fire Department personnel participated in a Hazmat Tech Class with the Woodlands Fire Department and several other departments.
Fire Training Activities

March 2013 Conroe Fire Department personnel trained at RR Salvage practicing extrication.

Also in March 2013, Conroe Fire Department personnel traveled to New Braunfels, TX for the Swift Water Rescue Course.
Fire Training Activities

In April of 2013 firefighters took part in a Live Fire training course
Fire Training Activities

TEEX presented 36 Hour Trench Rescue Training in May 2013.

Train
Exercise
Educate