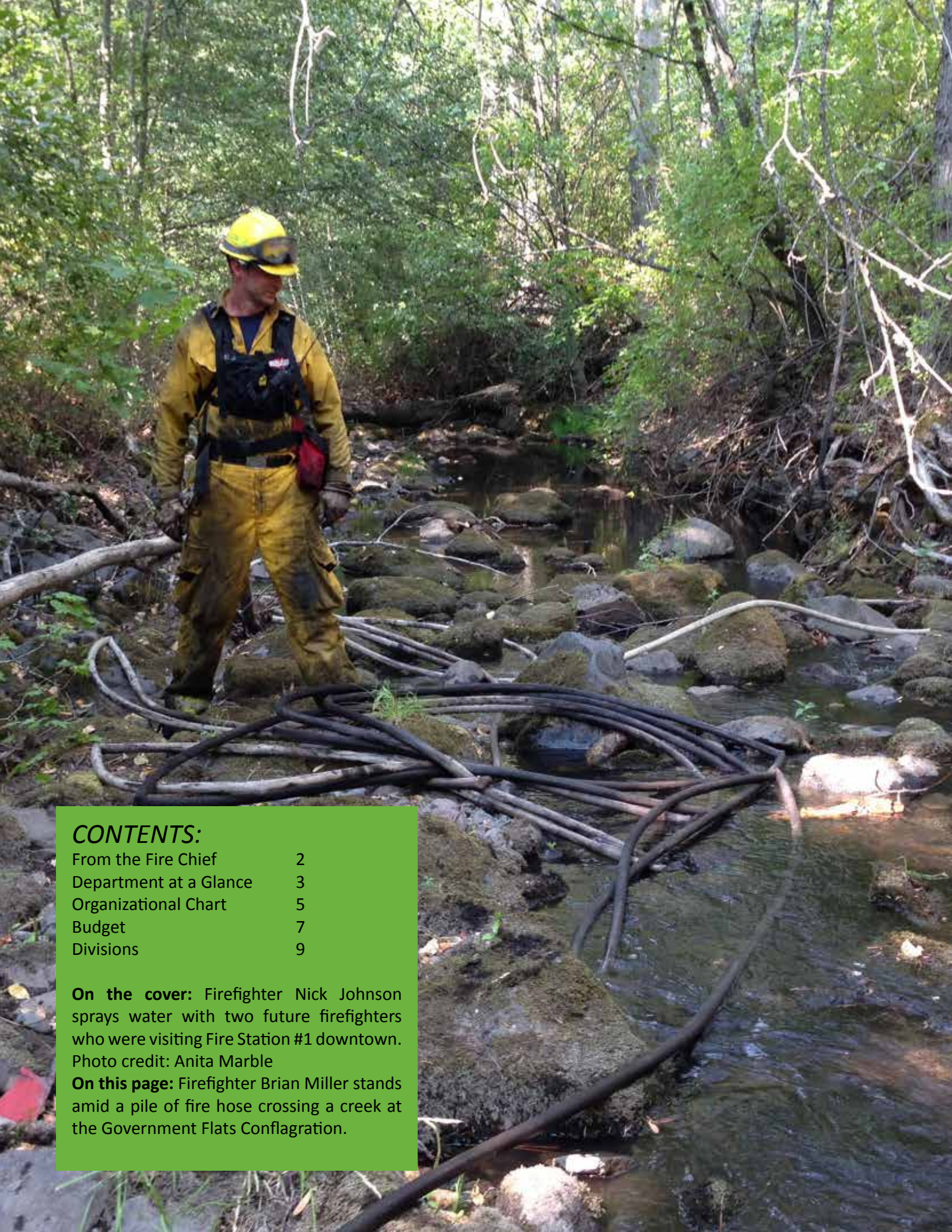




## 2013-2014 Annual Report







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**On the cover:** Firefighter Nick Johnson sprays water with two future firefighters who were visiting Fire Station #1 downtown. Photo credit: Anita Marble

**On this page:** Firefighter Brian Miller stands amid a pile of fire hose crossing a creek at the Government Flats Conflagration.



## ***From The Fire Chief***



When we begin each fiscal year, much of our attention is on the budget and our plans for effectively using those funds to serve the citizens of Hillsboro. I would rather talk about a concept that we try to live by here that helps our decision-making processes and drives our performance. It is called, "service before self." What does that mean to you?

To me, service before self means that we approach every emergency incident like it is the most important one of the day even though it may be the tenth call for that crew. It also means that we treat people like we want our family treated. It doesn't matter if the patient is 82-years old with dementia and has become combative. It doesn't matter if the patient is a teenager who is trying to act older and less afraid than he really is. Our goal is to provide compassionate and competent care that surpasses your expectation.

Our annual report will show you some images of our crews captured while they deliver that excellence and professionalism that I expect every firefighter, every engineer, and every officer to deliver each and every shift. You deserve that.

We continue our contract with Washington County Fire District 2 providing operational and supervisory oversight for our neighbors. This arrangement helps maintain a great working relationship and consistent training between the two agencies.

On another note, we have completed all of the organizational restructuring that we intend to make for a while. We have filled our Emergency Manager position with a very capable and experienced person. You will see her output and accomplishments reflected in next year's annual report.

I continue to believe that we have the best people who are properly trained to handle the equipment we provide them so they can deliver the best service to you, the citizens of Hillsboro. If you see any way in which we can improve, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Greg Nelson*

Greg Nelson

Fire Chief

## Department At A Glance

	FY 2012-2013	FY 2013-2014	% Change +/-
<b>OPERATIONS</b>			
Emergencies - all types	9,219	9,635	+4.5
Fire Calls Dispatched - all	276	274	-1.0
Fire Calls - structures	117	121	+3.4
Fire Losses - total	\$711,308	\$2,617,549	+267.9
Fire Losses - structures	\$194,514	\$2,489,109	+1,179.7 *
Medical Calls	4,597	5,111	+11.2
Patients Treated	4,076	4,163	+2.2
Motor Vehicle Crashes	533	629	+18.0
Aircraft Incidents	9	7	-22.2
Hazardous Materials Incidents	43	71	+65.1
Technical Rescues	18	13	-27.8
Mutual Aid Given	668	889	+33.1
Mutual Aid Received	1,187	759	-36.1
<b>FIRE PREVENTION</b>			
Inspections Performed	648	815	+25.8
Special Inspections	324	320	-1.2
Total Hours	1,498	1,531	+2.2
<b>TRAINING HOURS</b>			
Fire	5,756	8,354	+45.1
Medical	4,575	3,358	-26.6
Position Specific Development	673	750	+11.4
Special Operations	1,744	167	-90.4
HazMat	278	321	+15.5
<b>PUBLIC EDUCATION</b>			
Home Smoke Alarms Installed	17	36	+111.8
Engine/Truck Show & Tell	82	78	-4.9
Youth Misusing Fire Screening	7	9	+28.6
Fire Extinguisher Trainings	14	18	+28.6
Fire Station Tours	58	48	-17.2
Public Displays - All	19	33	+73.7
Presentations	42	38	-9.5
Event Staff Hours	1,084	1,440	+32.8
<b>CHAPLAINS' RESPONSES</b>			
Victim Assistance Incidents	148	116	-21.6
Staff/Personnel Assistance	97	63	-35.1

\* see page 11 for loss information

## Department At A Glance

### Facilities and Equipment

Staffed Fire Stations	5
Front-Line Fire Engines	5
Reserve Fire Engines	3
Front-Line Ladder Trucks	1
Reserve Ladder Trucks	1
Rescues	1
Rehab Units	1
Brush Rigs	2
Water Tenders	1
Technical Rescue Units	1

### Personnel - Budgeted

Firefighters	78
Chief Officers	6
Logistics	2
Support Staff	6
Training Staff	4
Prevention/Education	9
Total	105

### MISSION:

To respond to the needs of the community while demonstrating professionalism and excellence in every aspect of our fire service delivery system.

### #1 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Prevent the loss of life, bodily injury, and the loss of property from fire, accidents, medical emergencies and natural disasters through a comprehensive program of public education and awareness, engineering and enforcement.

### Replacement Apparatus in 2013-14



During the past fiscal year, we replaced one fire engine after it reached the end of its frontline lifespan. It was replaced with a very similar apparatus built by Spartan. It has

a 900-gallon water tank, a 1500-gallon-per-minute pump, a 500-horsepower diesel engine and an Allison transmission. It is housed at the Brookwood Fire Station located at 5045 SE Drake Street. The older fire engine is now in the reserve apparatus fleet to be used when the frontline apparatus are in the shops for maintenance.

Our aging water tender was replaced with a new 3,000-gallon tender. It was built by Crimson Fire on a Kenworth chassis and is powered by a 280-horsepower Cummins turbo diesel engine.

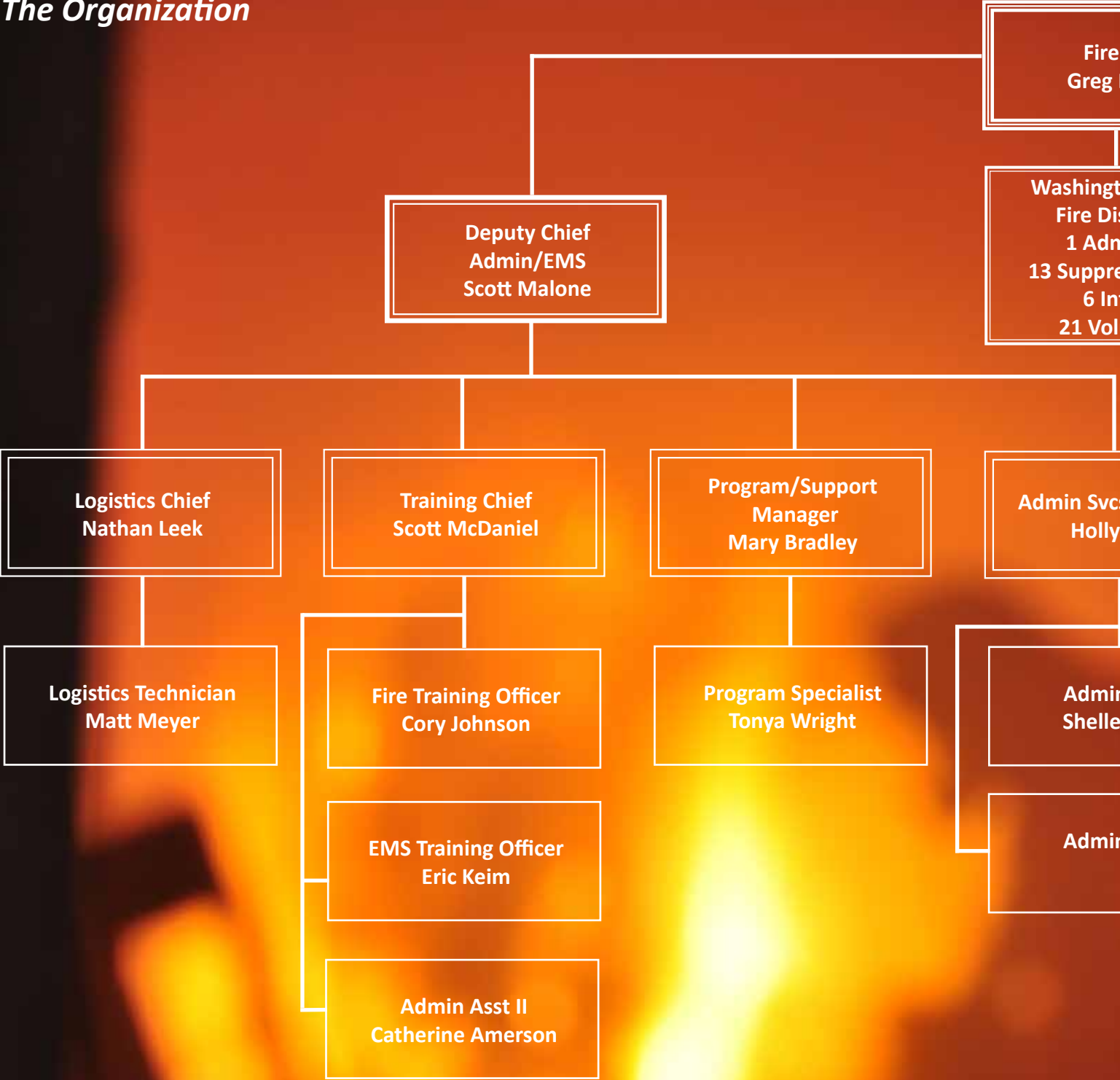


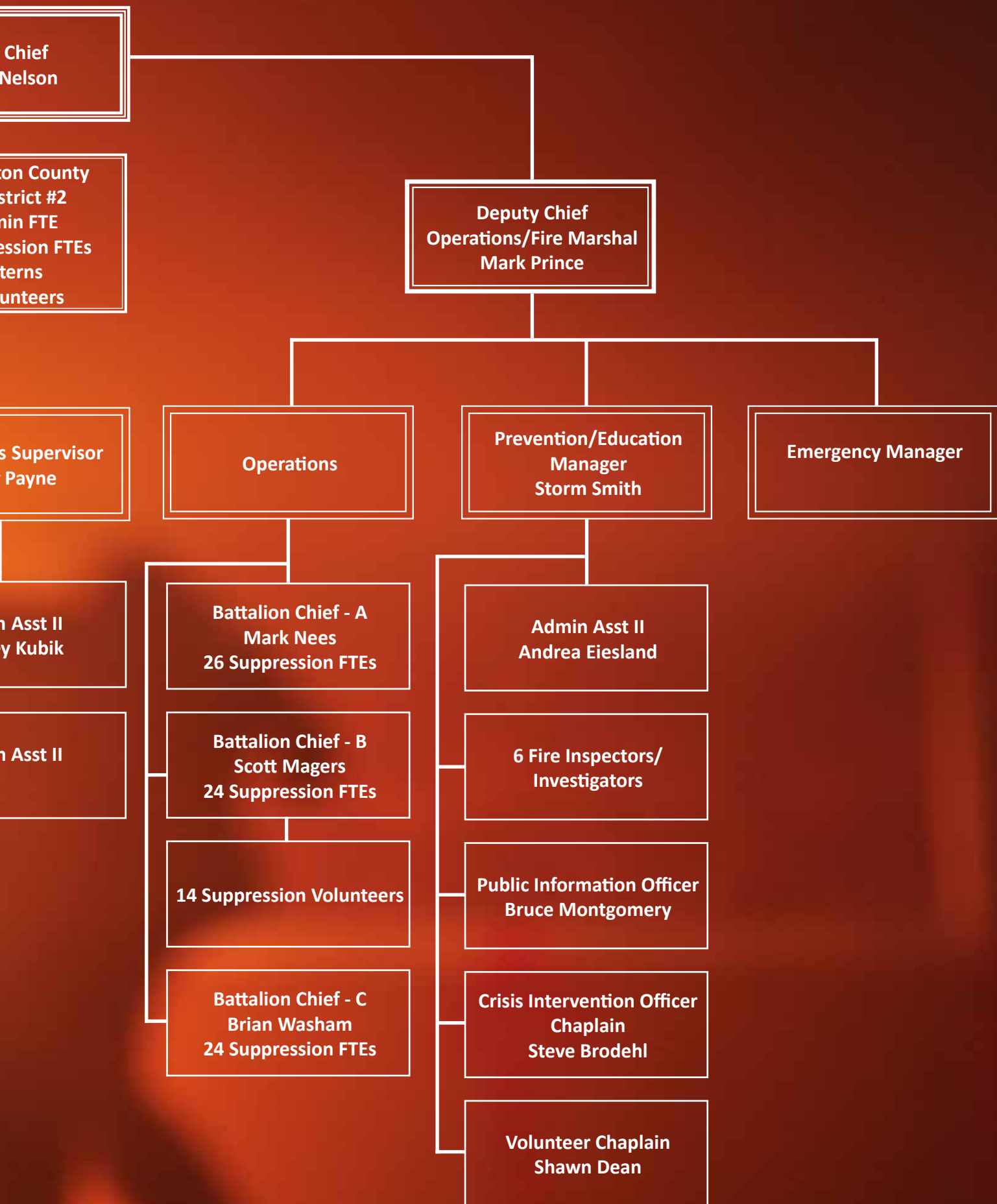
### New Roof

The Brookwood Fire Station, located at 5045 SE Drake Street, received a new roof after it was determined the old roofing material had degraded and was leaking.



The Organization







## ***Budget***

The bulk of our budget consists of personal services or payroll. Our firefighters are represented by Local 2210 of the International Association of Fire Fighters. In areas where we can, our leadership team is continually performing efficiency auditing as a normal stewardship of taxpayer funds.



A recruit candidate performs one of the required physical abilities tests. Each must complete a range of knowledge and skill assessments that allow Hillsboro Fire to select only the most capable candidates.



## Fire Department Budget Summary

Resources by Category	Adopted 2012-13	Adopted 2013-14	Change from 2012-13		Percent of Total
			Dollar Change	Percent Change	
General Fund Revenues	18,248,824	18,397,655	148,831	1%	100%
Charges for Services	18,000	18,000	-	0%	0%
Grants and Donations	72,949	17,808	(55,141)	-76%	0%
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	0%	0%
Insurance Premiums	-	-	-	0%	0%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 18,339,773</b>	<b>\$ 18,433,463</b>	<b>\$ 93,690</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Budget by Category

Personnel Services	14,056,662	14,511,550	454,888	3%	79%
Materials and Services	1,416,404	1,404,950	(11,454)	-1%	8%
Capital Outlay	49,978	-	(49,978)	-100%	0%
Special Payments	2,816,729	2,516,963	(299,766)	-11%	14%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 18,339,773</b>	<b>\$ 18,433,463</b>	<b>\$ 93,690</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Budget by Org

Fire Administration	3,583,484	3,407,246	(176,238)	-5%	18%
Fire Community Education	266,854	471,762	204,908	77%	3%
Fire Logistics	833,960	996,389	162,429	19%	5%
Fire Operations	11,118,148	11,483,382	365,234	3%	62%
Fire Station 3	-	-	-	0%	0%
Volunteer Station	28,378	23,542	(4,836)	-17%	0%
Fire Training	593,392	513,905	(79,487)	-13%	3%
Fire Special Operations	228,163	-	(228,163)	-100%	0%
Emergency Medical Services	72,580	248,631	176,051	243%	1%
Health & Wellness	83,165	35,165	(48,000)	-58%	0%
Fire Prevention Administration	227,105	11,555	(215,550)	-95%	0%
Fire Investigation	550	-	(550)	-100%	0%
Fire Code Enforcement	924,060	947,002	22,942	2%	5%
Emergency Management	379,934	294,884	(85,050)	-22%	2%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 18,339,773</b>	<b>\$ 18,433,463</b>	<b>\$ 93,690</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Budget by Fund

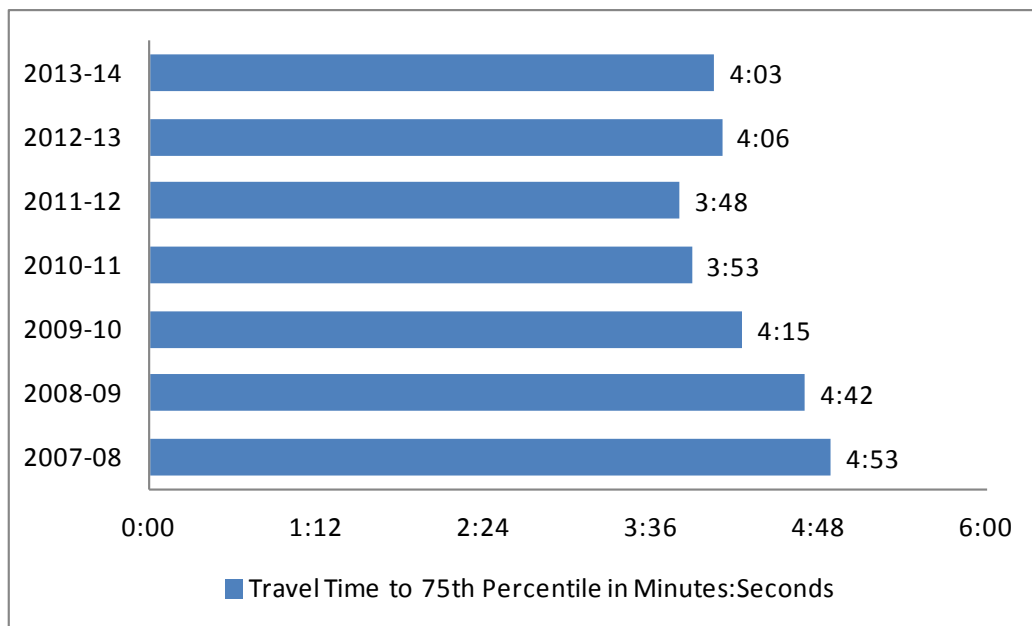
General Fund (100)	17,959,839	18,138,579	178,740	1%	98%
Support Services Fund (700)	379,934	294,884	(85,050)	-22%	2%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 18,339,773</b>	<b>\$ 18,433,463</b>	<b>\$ 93,690</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Divisions

### OPERATIONS

The Operations Division is our focus—responding to your emergencies. Each firefighter must know his or her tasks for a given type of incident. From helping to navigate to the destination, to selecting the correct tools for the job, each engine company operates as a team and relies on the members of that team to keep the unit safe and operating at peak efficiency.

One of our important measurements of efficiency is our response time to emergencies. There are a number of variables that influence the response times. The addition of a staffed fire station in 2010 reduced times, while widespread road construction in 2012, 2013, and 2014 slowed our responses. As those projects are completed, we anticipate our response times will return to the sub-four minute mark.









## Divisions

### PREVENTION/EDUCATION

The Prevention/Education Division's mission is to reduce the loss of life & property through enforcement, engineering, and education. Enforcement means inspecting businesses and public buildings to ensure all designed and installed safety features remain in place and functioning according to the fire code. Engineering means assisting the Building Department in ensuring adequate water supply and access to all protected property in the city, as well as investigating the cause of any fires to help us prevent them in the future. Education means an active outreach program of teaching all citizens about fire and life safety practices. We do that through public events, school visits, speaking engagements, social media, and news articles.



*Firefighter Joseph Gerber talks to preschool students about the tools on Truck 5 as Firefighter Sam Scott looks on.*

Our city continues to grow and that growth places demands on commercial building inspections. And while the frequency of fires is lower than a decade ago, we must maintain a rigorous fire investigation team to determine the cause and origin of fires as required by law. One significant fire that was quickly extinguished was the arson fire at the Hillsboro Budget Inn.

*In the photo, Investigator Charles Marble uses a gas detection device to look for vapors from any accelerants that may have been used in starting that fire.*



#### Top 10 Structure Fires by Loss

Address	Loss	Cause	Origin
25300 NW Evergreen Rd	\$1,050,000	Undetermined	Processing/mfg. area
785 NW Fieldcrest Way	\$400,000	Failure of equipment	Garage
432 SE Baseline	\$280,000	Intentional	Bedroom
658 SE 65th Pl	\$180,000	Undetermined	Garage
1799 NW 9th Ave	\$150,000	Undetermined	Open area, outside
1195 SE Alder St	\$90,000	Abandoned/discarded materials	Garage
2938 SE 38th Ct	\$59,000	Equipment unattended	Garage
6850 NE Campus Way	\$53,000	Equipment not operated properly	Shop area
3040 SE Maple St	\$43,000	Undetermined	Wall surface, exterior
2156 NW Thorncroft Dr	\$30,500	Accidentally turned on	Kitchen

## TRAINING



Our Training Division is responsible for ensuring that all firefighters and staff maintain their certifications. The average firefighter may possess more than a dozen certifications for skills that must be observed and assessed on an annual basis. In addition to those skills observations, our engine companies also drill on those low-frequency, high-risk incidents that have the greatest risk to both you and our firefighters. With the gradual decline in the frequency of fires in Hillsboro, we must now focus on fighting fire as a low frequency, high risk activity. As a result, the Division embarked on providing advanced fire behavior classes. The first was held in early 2014 and classes will continue on into 2015.

*Trainers used a multiple, expendable camera recording system at training house burns to capture fire behavior patterns that were produced from differing fire suppression tactics. Trainers hope to prove or dispel long-held beliefs about fighting fire and to place more science behind our instructional efforts.*



With our department's participation in the ARMUP program (see page 13), our firefighter/medics and our record keeping system must now meet the federal Health Information Privacy and Accountability Act. That meant additional training for all medical personnel and staff who may capture, record, and transmit any protected patient health information.

As the volume of information needed for training records increases, our effort to eliminate the paper part of that workload is nearly complete. We are nearly 100 percent digital now with the use of a third-party records management software service.



## ADMINISTRATION/EMS

We have focused our efforts on skill sets where we can save the most lives. Our data show that two thirds of our total volume of incidents are classified as medical. For that reason, we continue to refine our skills on the top causes of citizen deaths. Those include cardiac events and trauma. We have seen a dramatic increase in cardiac “saves” when citizens witness the onset of a cardiac event and step in to help. That’s why we are focused on improving the outcomes by helping the Hillsboro School District implement hands-only CPR instruction. The program involves training eleventh grade health students how to teach cardiopulmonary resuscitation to middle school students. Then, our firefighters facilitate the eleventh graders with their classes for all eighth grade students. The goal in the years ahead is to ensure that all graduating Hillsboro students know how to perform CPR.

*Hillsboro School District teacher Ramona Toth demonstrated extended hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) during the initial training for high school eleventh grade health students.*



This past year we joined the Washington County ARMUP program. ARMUP stands for Ambulance Resource Management and Utilization Program. This program allows us to staff our own ambulance to transport patients when resources are otherwise depleted. Normally, a private agency, Metro West Ambulance, handles all emergency transports through an ambulance service agreement with Washington County. The addition of our ambulance (we call it a medic unit) ensures that all city patients will get the fastest possible service when it counts.



*Our firefighters hone their emergency medicine skills through the use of a computer-operated, high-fidelity, training manikin that responds to a variety of external stimuli. That resource provides trainers with the ability to observe EMS skills while adjusting the manikin's symptoms in real time during the drill.*



*Firefighters at right are performing annual training in critical skills that must be performed correctly each time. In this case, they are rescuing a patient-manikin from a hazardous materials spill.*



## **VOLUNTEERS**

Our volunteer firefighters provide valuable depth in staffing for Hillsboro. These men and women volunteer their time during and after their normal work hours and have most of the same skills as our career crews. They provide additional staffing on extended duration incidents, cover empty fire stations when other crews are on extended incidents, provide public safety education at community events, and contribute to the Department's overall mission. We have 14 active volunteers who have provided 805 hours of donated time for 69 incidents and 37 events. This is separate from the 2,436 hours they spent training to maintain or improve their skill levels.





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