

# COPPERAS COVE FIRE DEPARTMENT



**2013 ANNUAL REPORT**



COPPERAS COVE FIRE DEPARTMENT

415 S. MAIN STREET

COPPERAS COVE, TEXAS 76522

( 254 ) 547-2514

[fire@copperascovetx.gov](mailto:fire@copperascovetx.gov)

*On the front cover: Firefighters participate in fire hose training conducted March 15, 2013.*

# Proudly Serving The Citizens Of Copperas Cove

## **Mission Statement**

The Mission of the Copperas Cove Fire Department is to protect and enhance the quality of life in the *City Built for Family Living* through a comprehensive program of services delivered by an excellent team directed towards providing education, prevention, and control in the areas of fire, rescue, medical emergencies, and disasters.

## **Values Statement**

The Copperas Cove Fire Department will continually strive to exceed our citizen's expectations working within a healthy, safe and innovative environment that enhances the professional and efficient delivery of emergency services. We will strive to be an organization providing community safety education and information, keen to anticipate, influence and embrace change.

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### **CORE VALUES**

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**Professionalism  
Respect  
Integrity  
Dedication  
Excellent Service**

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## ***A Message from the Fire Department***

It is with great pride and honor that the officers and members of the Copperas Cove Fire Department present this CY-2013 Annual Report. The data contained in this report serves as testament to the professionalism and dedication of our firefighters and staff.

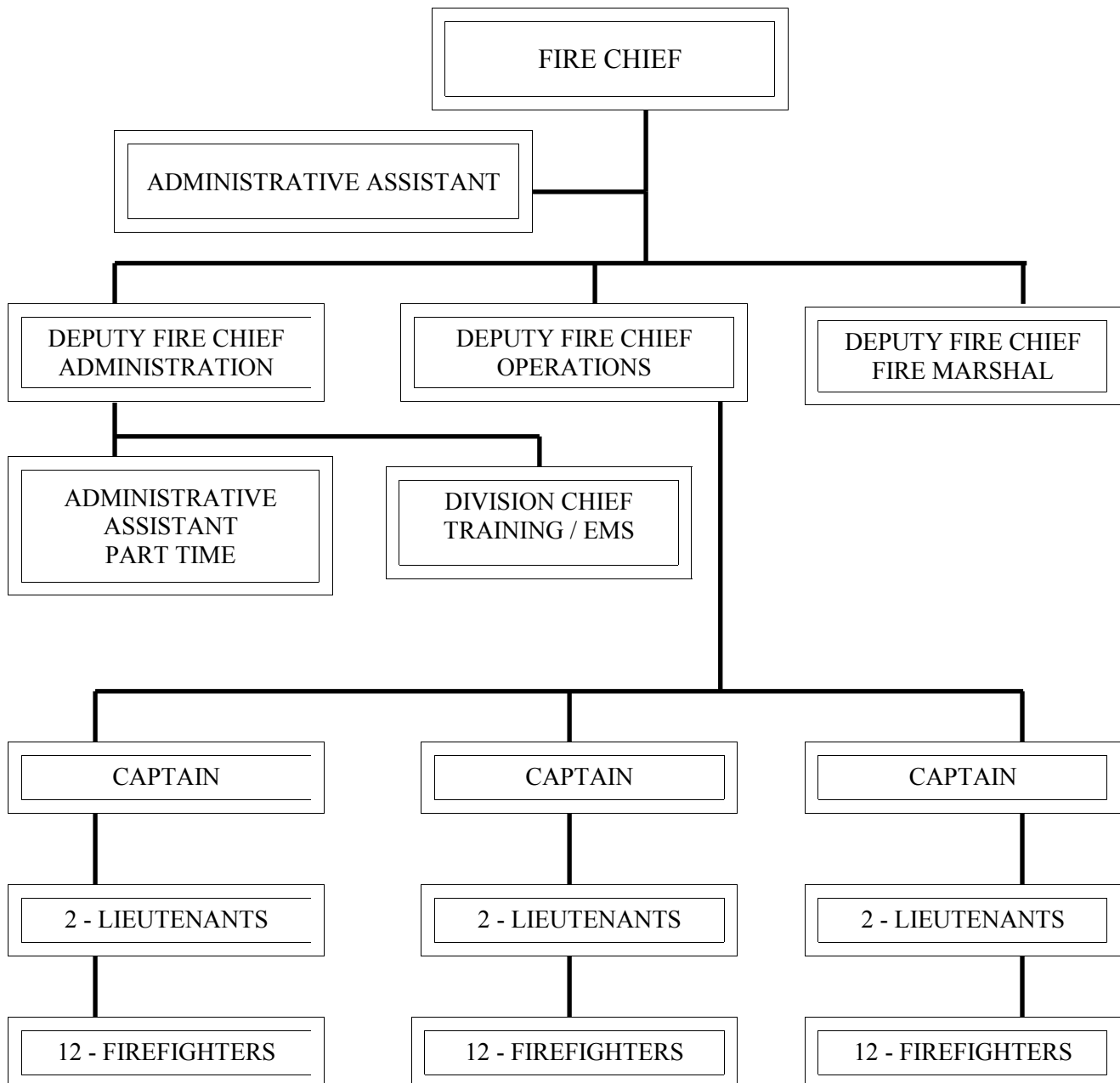
We are thankful for the tremendous support received from our citizens, City leaders, and the other departments we have worked alongside during the reporting period.

Our value to the community is measured directly by the services we provide. We pride ourselves on delivering the highest quality services to those who live, work, and visit our community.

Our promise is to always try our best and to never stop trying. Some choose to see problems with every opportunity but we choose to see opportunity in every problem.

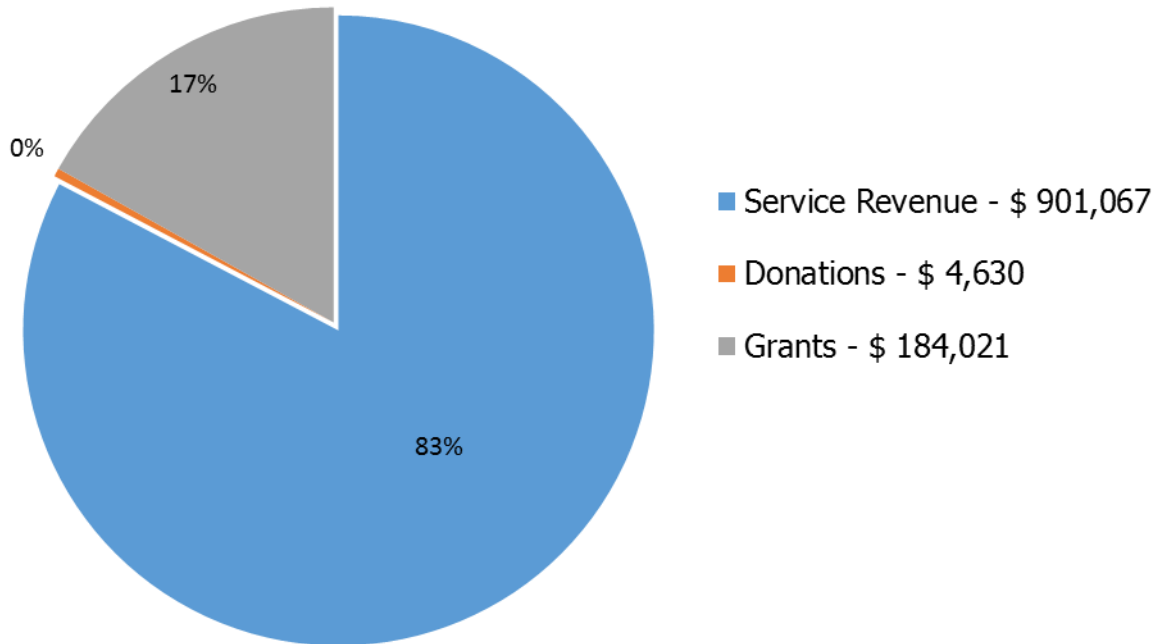
We invite everyone to visit the Copperas Cove Fire Department and meet the wonderful people who make it all happen.

# Copperas Cove Fire Department Organization Chart

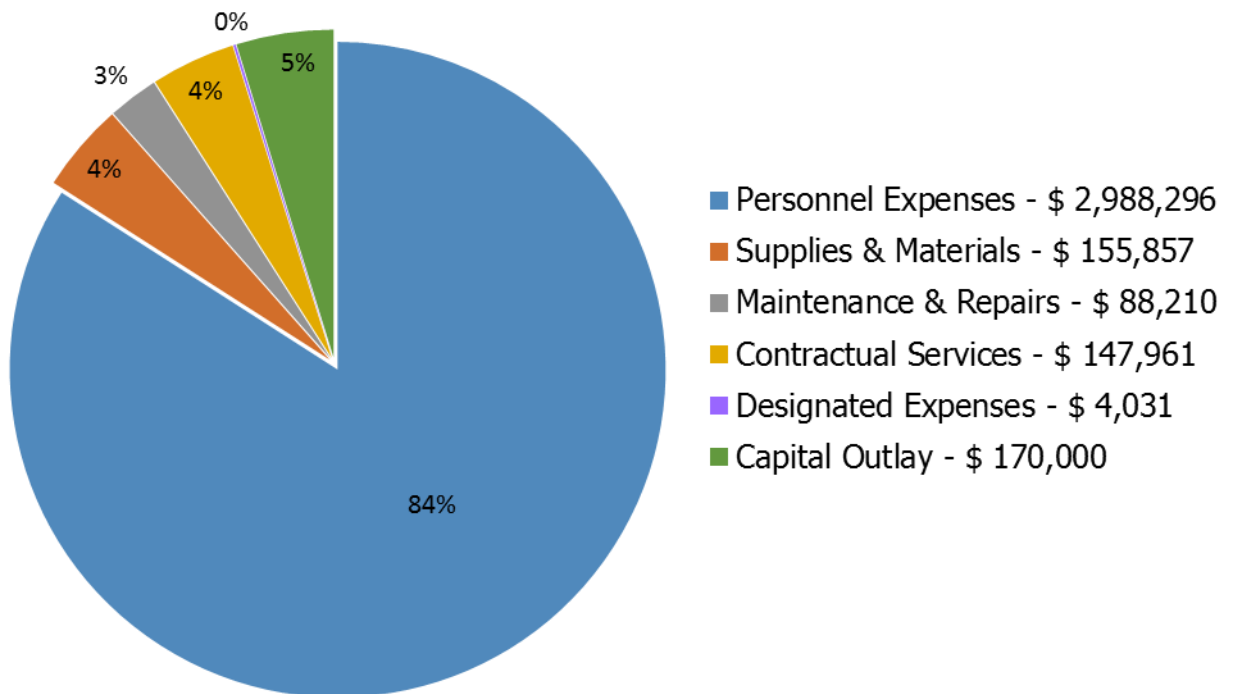


# REVENUE & EXPENSES

Revenues - \$ 1,089,718



Expenditures - \$3,743,431



## ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

*Gary Young, Deputy Fire Chief*



The Copperas Cove Fire Department Administration Division supports the department by providing administrative oversight to the entire fire department. The Administration Division is staffed with the Fire Chief, Administrative Assistant, Deputy Fire Chief of Administration/Emergency Management Coordinator, and a part-time Administrative Assistant.

The Administration Division provides strategic oversight to the department and supports the fire department staff as they provide the tactical resources necessary to fulfill the strategy. Additionally the Administration Division is responsible for the overall fiscal responsibility of the department and ensures that all financial matters are handled in an efficient and expeditious manner in accordance with City Policy and Local Government Code.

The Administration Division is also charged with the responsibility of ensuring regulatory compliance with the Texas Commission on Fire Protection and the Texas Department of State Health Services



**Texas Commission on Fire Protection**



## OPERATIONS DIVISION

*Michael Ramminger, Deputy Fire Chief*



The Operations Division of the Copperas Cove Fire Department is staffed by 47 members led by the Deputy Fire Chief of Operations. With the exception of the Deputy Chief and administrative assistant, all department members work 24 hour shifts in a rotating 24 on/48 off manner. Fire department staff operate out of three fire stations strategically located in the city.

The Operations Division is responsible for emergency responses inside the city limits of Copperas Cove as well as over 100 square miles outside of the city limits. Responses outside of Copperas Cove include Bell, Coryell, and Lampasas Counties as well as Fort Hood.

The Operations Division is tasked with fire suppression, rescue, hazardous materials and emergency medical services responses. Other responsibilities include daily maintenance of all apparatus and equipment; daily maintenance of the facilities; and assuring preparedness levels of all personnel. Firefighters train daily on all types of life and fire safety procedures and policies, training topics include map districts, firefighter risk prevention and safety and medical protocols, fire department policies and city policies.

The members of the Operations Division stand ready to respond 24 hours a day 365 days a year. The professional women and men who staff this division work very hard to keep the trust of the citizens by providing rapid responses, fast solutions to problems, and to treat each person with the dignity and respect that they deserve during what most consider to be one of the worst moments in their lives.

The fire department responded fire apparatus to 2,070 calls for service and responded ambulances to 3,455 calls for service. Top three fire responses were 1,490 Rescue & Emergency Medical Service which includes motor vehicle collisions, 127 Hazardous Conditions which include arcing power lines, gas leaks and chemical spills, and 145 Fires including in homes, businesses, vehicles and grass/brush.

# A-Shift Personnel



## Officers

Captain Scott Howard  
Lieutenant Walter Munsel

## Firefighters

Dwane Cummings  
Jay Foster  
Matthew Harper  
Kristopher Hurst  
Bradley Kammer  
Shelli Miller  
Matthew Musick  
Hunter Smith

*NOT PICTURED*  
Charles Johnson  
Monte Priest  
George Romfh

# B-Shift Personnel



## Officers

Captain Eric Watson  
Lieutenant James Bednar

*Not Pictured*  
Lieutenant Alan Mainville

## Firefighters

Trevor Barclay  
Cody Bible  
Michael Brazill  
Jeremy Lydon  
Tanja Martin  
Tyler Paulus  
Jared Satterfield  
Jamie Stayton  
Matthew Thomas  
Brandi Wolfe

*Not Pictured*  
Mark DiGiacomo



# C-Shift Personnel



## Officers

Captain Carla Polidoro  
Lieutenant Steve Clendenen  
Lieutenant Robert Hicks

## Firefighters

Carol Ballesteros  
Heather Frink  
Dylan Karl  
Carlos Mariduena  
Mike McGuire  
Cody Scaff  
Marcus Waechter  
Ethan Westbrook

*Not Pictured*  
Zachary Avants  
Colton Baker

# TRAINING DIVISION



The Training Division supports the training and education requirements of the fire department employees. Every uniformed member of your fire department holds, at a minimum:

- Basic Firefighter (Texas Commission on Fire Protection)
- Emergency Medical Technician (Texas Department of State Health Services)

The Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas Fire Commission offer various levels of advanced certification, as well as require many hours of continuing education to keep the levels of certification currently held.

## **Texas Commission on Fire Protection:**

Intermediate Firefighter (4yrs as a Firefighter and several advanced classes)

Advanced Firefighter (8yrs as a Firefighter and additional advanced classes)

Master Level Firefighter (12yrs as a Firefighter & 60 hrs of College with focus on Fire Service)

Fire Instructor

Fire Investigator

Fire Inspector

## **Texas Department of State Health Services:**

EMT- Intermediate

EMT- Paramedic (1 yr intensive training program)

EMS Instructor

The Training Division works very diligently to meet the needs of fire department employees and more. It also serves as the logistical and administrative hub for all Emergency Medical Services (EMS) operations. The Training Division works intently to ensure continued smooth operation and outstanding medical care for the citizens of Copperas Cove.

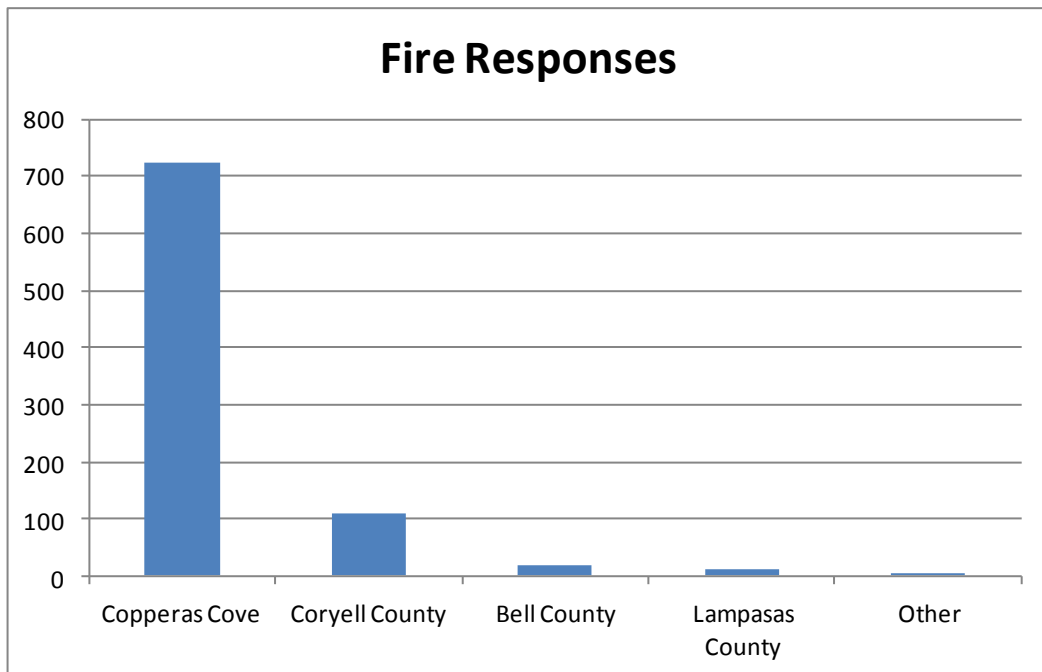
In 2013, the Training Division offered a Driver/Pump Operator certification class to our firefighters and officers.

With the certification obtained from this class, many of our members became eligible to increase the level of their Structural Firefighter certification to Intermediate and Advanced levels.

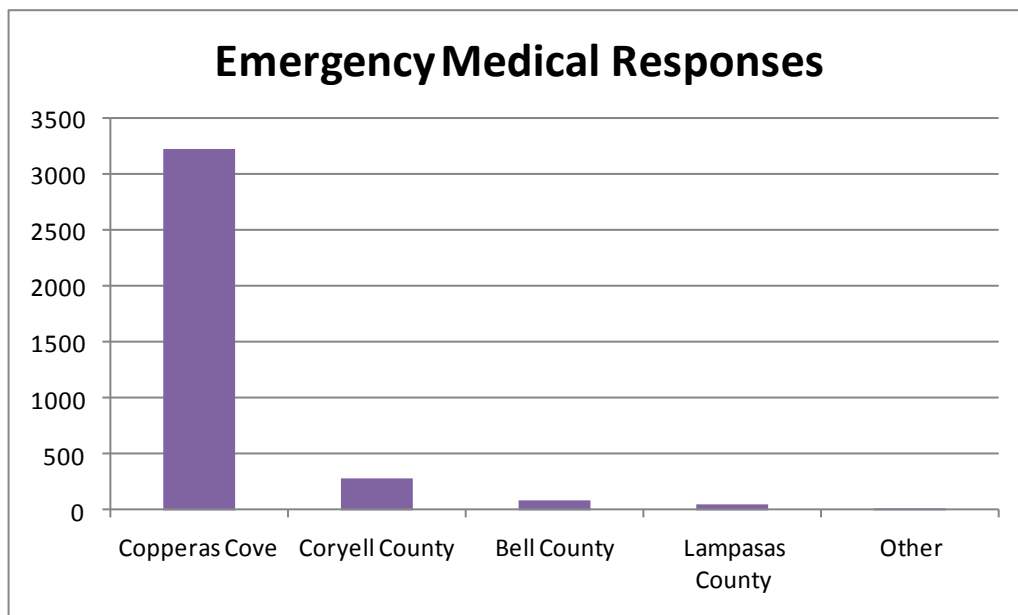
In 2013 two students graduated from the Central Texas College Paramedic Program. This very intensive one year program is a significant accomplishment and helps add to the response capability that the Copperas Cove Fire Department provides through our EMS Division. In June 2013 two staff members began paramedic school and in August of 2013 three more staff began paramedic school and we anticipate the graduation of Firefighters Charles Johnson, Cody Bible, Zachary Avants, Jay Foster, and Matthew Thomas in the summer of 2014.

The Training Division is looking forward to 2014 as we have two certification classes scheduled to help enhance the knowledge and ability of our firefighters and officers to perform for our citizens. The classes planned for 2014 are:

Fire Officer 2 and Fire Instructor 2



- 867 Total Responses
- Other includes Burnet County and other areas we do not have specific agreements with and requests for intrastate mutual aid during disasters like hurricanes and wildland fires



- 3633 Total Responses
- Other Includes Burnet County and other areas we do not have specific agreements with and requests for intrastate mutual aid during disasters like hurricanes and wildland fires

## FIRE PREVENTION

*Michael Fleming, Deputy Fire Chief / Fire Marshal*

The Division of Fire Prevention receives its authority from the adopted 2009 International Fire Code and from City Ordinances, and is responsible for three (3) main support areas of the fire department.

- Fire Code Development and Enforcement
- Fire Investigations (Origin and Cause)
- Public Education and Community Safety



**Fire Code and Development** - Fire Inspectors work closely with the City Building Official to ensure that all buildings meet the requirements of the 2009 International Fire and Building Code, and the City Code of Ordinances. This includes:

- Plans review for new construction and alterations/remodeling
- Inspections of all new buildings
- Routine inspections of existing buildings
- Plans review and inspection of fire protection systems
- Enforcement of applicable codes
- Development and communications of fire codes.



**Fire Investigations** – Fire Investigators are charged by city charter to investigate the cause of all fires within the city limits of Copperas Cove. If the fire is determined to be intentional (arson) the investigator(s) will closely work with the police department to identify the perpetrator(s) and to pursue criminal charges.

**Public Education and Public Safety** – The Division of Fire Prevention (with the assistance of the entire Fire Department) is responsible for spreading the message about fire and life safety throughout the City of Copperas Cove. The division develops and implements programs that teach children and adults about fire and life safety, and emergency prevention. This is accomplished through public appearances, demonstrations, and station tours. Fire Prevention Week is the pinnacle of public education with assemblies in every elementary school. Department personnel also participate in health and safety fairs, career days, witnessed fire drills, and fire extinguisher training for the public.

The Fire Prevention Division can be reached by calling 254-547-2514. You may also visit the Fire Station 1 at 415 South Main Street. Hours of operation are 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

**Sparky the Firedog** – Sparky is the official Copperas Cove Fire Department mascot making several appearances at many different community events. Sparky is known nation wide and when children see him they relate him to fire safety. Sparky is a registered trademark of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).



<b>Fire Prevention Statistics</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Total Inspections	430	160	359
Violations Found	276	120	896
Corrections	137	81	854

<b>Station Tours &amp; Public Presentations</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Adults	712	1373	2185
Children	2317	4527	5069



**SPARKY THE FIRE DOG REMINDS YOU THAT FIRE  
PREVENTION WEEK 2014 WILL BE OBSERVED  
OCTOBER 5-11**



# Office of Emergency Management

The City of Copperas Cove's Office of Emergency Management is charged with maintaining the City's Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan. Included in these duties are maintenance of the plan documents, security of the plan, and training on and dissemination of the plan. The City currently has an Advanced Level Plan. This plan was updated in 2011 in accordance with State requirements and approved by the Texas Department of Emergency Management.

The goal of Emergency Management is to provide preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery to our community in the event of disaster. Emergency Management staff conducted a local discussion-based exercise and participated in a regional disaster exercise to test and evaluate various aspects of meeting that goal. The department also participated in regional events through our mutual aid agreements. These included assisting with the wildfires in north Texas and in our surrounding communities.

Additionally, during the year, preparedness information provided by FEMA's *Ready Campaign* and by Texas' *Ready or Not* program was provided to the public on a daily basis using various means of distribution. This information is provided to the public on the City's government access television channel, the City's Facebook page and website, and is available in printed materials that can be picked up at the Copperas Cove Fire Department located at 415 South Main Street.

We will continue to deliver preparedness information and training for the community and staff. To find out what you can do to be prepared or about trainings that might be available to you, visit any of the sources listed above.



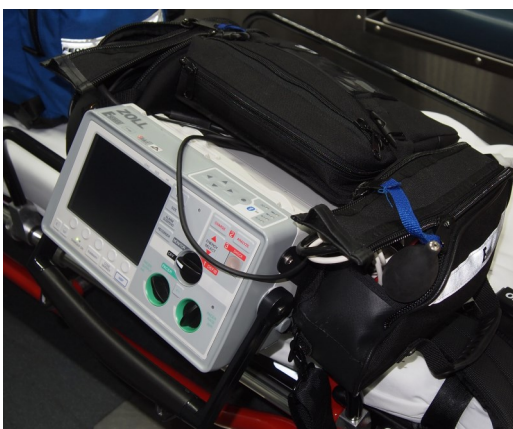
# CAPITAL PROJECTS



In 2013, the Copperas Cove Fire Department had two ambulances rechassis'd. This process involved removing the ambulance boxes from their chassis' and mounting them onto new 2013 Dodge Ram 3500 chassis', replacing Ford brand chassis' that were six and ten years old. This project reduces the overall cost by refurbishing the box portion which typically has a life that is double or in some cases the life of a chassis. The cost savings is approximately 30 to 40% compared to the cost of purchasing a new ambulance.



Pictured left is one of the two new MAMW-SDMXX Mobile M7300 radios purchased for the newly rechassis'd ambulances. The life span of a radio and a vehicle are approximately the same as such generally a new radio is included in the purchase of any new vehicle.



Pictured left is a new E-Series Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator received in September of 2013. Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator devices are carried on all ambulances. This model also has automated external defibrillator capability, oxygen saturation monitoring and highly advanced cardiac diagnostic capability with 12 lead EKG monitoring. This unit aids Paramedics in discovering cardiac related emergencies which are known to most people as a "Heart Attack".

# CAPITAL PROJECTS



Pictured left is one of the two Model 59-T EZGlide stair chairs purchased by the Fire Department in August of 2013. These chairs provide EMS personnel the ability to safely and more easily move patients who are able to safely sit but not able to walk down the stairs.



Pictured here is one of four Powerflexx ambulance cots (stretcher) purchased by the department in 2013. These cots have a battery powered hydraulic lifting system which provides EMS personnel the ability to lower the cot close to the patient so that the distance from floor or bed to the cot is minimal, then the cot can be lifted with the touch of a button. These cots provide an improved ergonomic condition for EMS personnel and reduces the risk of a back injury from lifting and moving patients in awkward environments.



Pictured left is one of six MedVaults purchased in 2013. Five of these narcotics vaults are mounted in ambulances and one is located at the Central Fire Station. These vaults provide very high security for narcotic medications that are utilized in EMS operations. Each employee has a private access code that they can use to open the vault and each time the vault is opened an electronic record is created which provides improved security for the system



# CAPITAL PROJECTS



In 2013, the Copperas Cove Fire Department purchased three wireless network devices. One device was installed in each of the fire stations. The wireless network device is used to wirelessly access the narcotics vaults on the ambulances so that access codes and tracking logs can be viewed rapidly without having to take computer to each ambulance and plug it in. In 2014 the Fire Department hopes to buy Master Key retention devices for the majority of the apparatus that will also interface with the wireless network.



Pictured above is new MSA Firehawk Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) purchased in 2013 to be installed on the new Ladder Truck that is expected to be delivered in the Fall of 2014.



To the left is pictured a Rapid Intervention Breathing Air system. The system is designed to provide vital breathing air to a lost or trapped firefighter should a situation like that occur. A total of four systems were purchased



# Community Service



## **Citizens Fire Academy**

The Citizens Fire Academy is a public education class offered annually to the public. Each year the class accommodates 15 students as they learn about the services the Copperas Cove Fire Department provides. The goal of the course is to increase fire and life safety awareness, as well as to promote a positive image of the department to the community.

The Academy is an eight week program consisting of classroom and hands-on participation with rescue tools, hose lines, and fire extinguishers. Participants ride-out with firefighters to experience first hand the responsibilities and capabilities of their firefighters in a real world setting. The highlight of the academy is a Saturday "play day" where attendees experience actual firefighting of a car fire while wearing full protective equipment. They also use rescue tools to cut doors and roofs off of cars and perform a search for victims in a smoke-filled environment with a thermal-imaging camera.

## **Mentoring Industrious Minds and Educating Students (M.I.M.E.S.)**

Each year the Copperas Cove Fire Department sponsors the M.I.M.E.S. camp which selects 7th grade students from Copperas Cove Junior High School and S.C. Lee Junior High School for a week long glimpse into the fire service.

The students spend five full days at the fire station interacting with firefighters and learning how math and science skills apply in the working world. They are also mentored in leadership roles by serving as a "Company Officer" of the day. Firefighters reinforce character and conduct standards such as honor, integrity, honesty, and professionalism. The students also learn about basic first aid and CPR; city government and how it applies to the structure of the fire service; fire science; math; and many other subjects.

The week ends with the history and traditions of the fire service. Students wear full protective clothing and breathing apparatus to search a smoke filled room, fight a car fire, and extinguish a liquid hydrocarbon fire. It is a very educational and exciting week for both the students and the firefighters that participate!



# Stations



**Station 1**  
**415 S. Main Street**

Battalion 1	Command Vehicle
Engine 1	Pumper Truck
Engine 11	Pumper Truck (Reserve)
Brush 1	Brush Truck
Ladder 1	Ladder Truck
Medic 1	Ambulance
Medic 11	Ambulance (Reserve)



**Station 2**  
**1208 West Avenue B**

Engine 2	Pumper Truck
Brush 2	Brush Truck
Medic 2	Ambulance
Medic 22	Ambulance (Reserve)



**Station 3**  
**1050 W. Hwy 190**

Engine 3	Pumper Truck
Brush 3	Brush Truck
Medic 3	Ambulance

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