



COBB COUNTY
FIRE &
EMERGENCY
SERVICES



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

2013 Annual Report

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2013 Annual Report

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the men and women of Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services (CCFES), I wish to thank you for viewing our annual report. CCFES is a team of over 655 sworn firefighters and 38 civilian employees. Our Department is accredited through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and certified by the State of Georgia. We strive to provide superior fire, rescue, and emergency services to the citizens and visitors of Cobb County in a proficient, professional, and compassionate manner and we want to continuously promote life safety within the county by practicing prevention, planning, education, and training.

We place tremendous value on the relationships our Fire personnel build in the communities they serve. The success of the Department is due to both the strong commitment of our employees and the support they receive from the entire community. We believe the hard work and professionalism of our firefighters, inspectors, investigators, educators, and civilian staff members contribute to the safe environment enjoyed by those who live, work, and visit our great county.

Please take a few minutes to learn more about CCFES at our website at www.cobbfire.org. You will find that our employees are dedicated, well-trained, and enthusiastic professionals who take pride in their work. They are ready to work with you to make your home, your workplace, and your community an even better place to live.

Sincerely,



Sam D. Heaton

2013 Annual Report

COBB COUNTY

Cobb County borders Atlanta to the North and West and is home to approximately 700,000 residents. We are home to Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Lockheed Martin, Six Flags Over Georgia, and Home Depot Corporate Headquarters. Cobb is the third largest county in the State of Georgia. You will find an excellent community of quiet subdivisions and apartment complexes located near excellent schools, shopping, and churches. Recreational facilities are splendid and Cobb County is in a good location for a retreat to the mountains or a drive to the beach.

COBB FIRE HISTORY

Cobb County fire protection had been divided into local fire districts and city departments prior to January 24, 1971. On this date, the Cobb County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to form a consolidated, all-paid, career county fire department. The department covers 305 square miles of the unincorporated areas of Cobb as well as three of the six incorporated cities within Cobb: Kennesaw, Acworth, and Powder Springs. The cities of Marietta, Smyrna, and Austell provide their own fire protection. CCFES has evolved into a 686 member, full-service agency. Cobb Fire personnel are trained to respond skillfully to fire, medical, and disaster emergencies. We provide a highly proficient, comprehensive level of service incorporating the following divisions: Response which includes Fire Suppression; Emergency Medical Services (EMS); Special Operations which includes Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, and Medical Operations; Preparedness which includes Training, Facility Maintenance, Vehicle Maintenance, and Public Fire & Life Safety Education; Fire Prevention which includes Plan Review, Inspections, and Sprinklers; and Administrative and Support Services which includes Fire Investigations, Records Management, and Finance. The department serves approximately 700,000 citizens and daily visitors of the community.

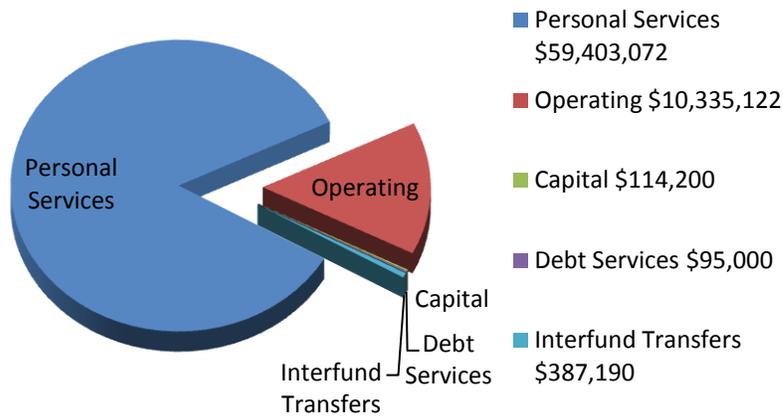
MISSION STATEMENT

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services (CCFES) exists to provide superior fire, rescue, and emergency services to the citizens and visitors of Cobb County in a proficient, professional, and compassionate manner. We continuously promote life safety within the county by practicing prevention, planning, education, and training.

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BUDGET

CCFES FY2013 adopted budget was **\$70,334,584**. The total allotted number of fire positions for 2013 was 693, of those, 655 were authorized sworn positions and 35 were civilian positions. The department purchased four F-150 Ford pick-ups for inspectors in the Fire Marshal's office, at the cost of \$18,250.00 each and one Ford Fusion hybrid vehicle for the Fire Chief at the cost of \$27,759.00.



The following Apparatus was purchased with SPLOST funds:

- 2013 Hackney Air/Lights Truck 27 - \$317,810.00, in service in January;
- 2013 Sutphen SPH100 Ladder Truck 4 - \$1,095,821.04, in service in February;
- 2013 Sutphen SPH100 Ladder Truck 22 - \$1,095,821.04, in service in February; and
- 2013 Custom Truck & Body Works Air Bottle Support vehicle for Station 30 - \$88,730.00, in service in April.



- Facilities: Removed outdated Polybutylene sprinkler piping in Fire Stations 15 and 25 and replaced with up-to-date sprinkler system. Total project cost: \$31,078.00 and replaced 37 apparatus bay doors at various fire stations. Total project cost \$174,104.00 both funded by SPLOST.

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GRANTS

1. \$20,000 GEMA GSAR for FY2013
2. \$20,000 GEMA GSAR for FY2012
3. \$20,000 GEMA for HazMat FY2012
4. \$17,242 from Cobb-Douglas Public Health for interoperable communications

Total: \$77,242.00

DONATIONS

1. \$6,772 from Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation for Boot Drive (used to purchase smoke alarms for at-risk citizens)
2. \$1,700 from the Large Animal Rescue Group (to train 4 firefighting personnel in equine and large animal rescues)
3. Donations from several local groups to support the cost of the 2nd Public Safety Education Block Party:

Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation	\$750
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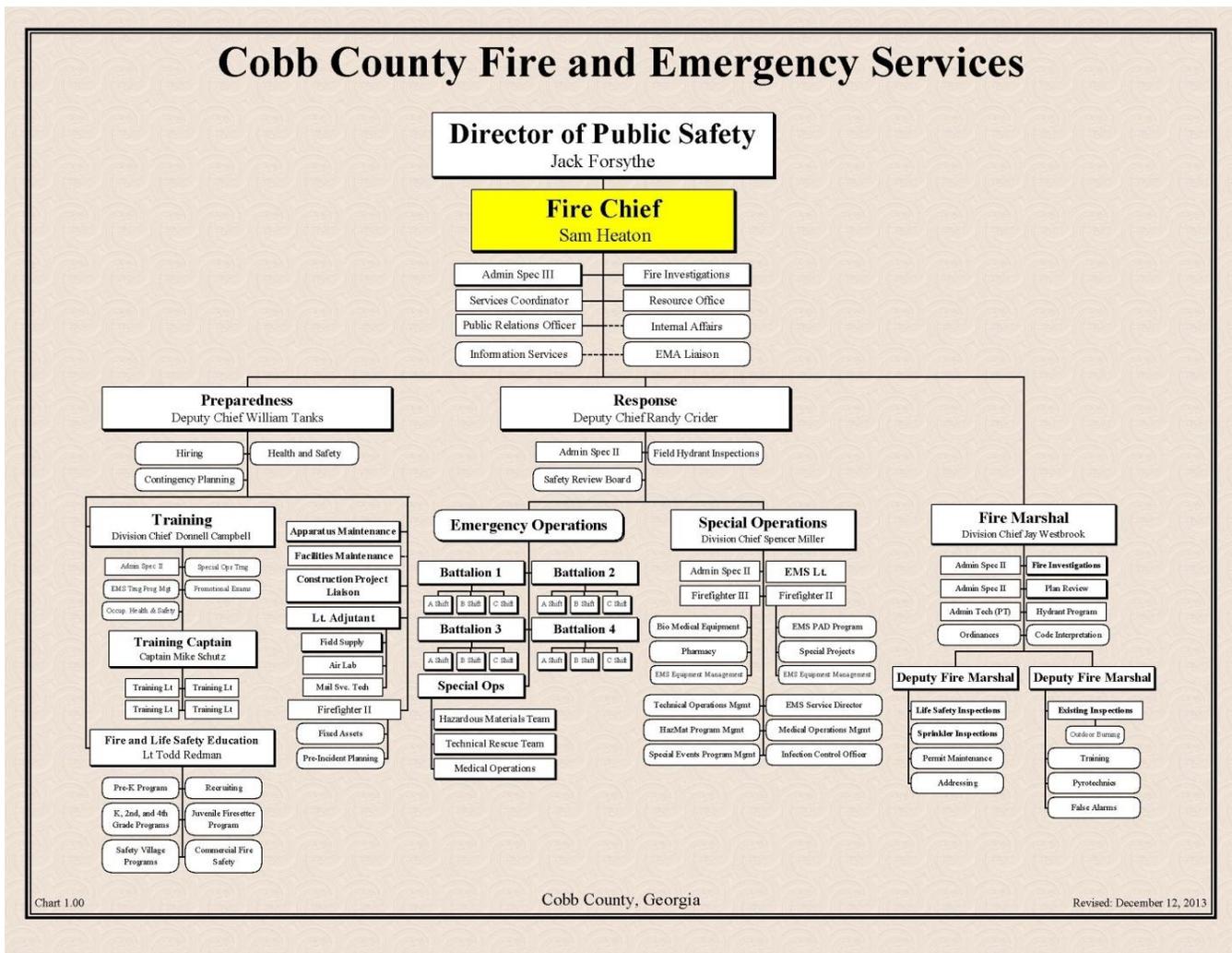
United Way of Greater Atlanta	\$200
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Zoe City Church	\$200
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4. \$3,000 from Marathon Petroleum (to finance equipment and supplies for Cobb Fire personnel to assist Marathon with training at the storage/distribution facility in South Cobb).
5. \$1,000 from the Georgia Pacific Corporation (to be used for supplies and printed materials for fire and life safety education programs and presentations)
6. \$7,200 from the Colonial Pipeline Corporation to sponsor two Cobb Fire personnel to attend the “Williams X-treme Industrial Fire and Hazard Training” in Beaumont, Texas
7. \$1,000 from the WalMart Foundation, Store #3116 on Canton Road for a cooking grill for Station #12
8. \$500 from the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation to support materials used for the first Public Safety Education Block Party
9. \$1,000 from Griffin Industries to support the Cobb County Fire Explorers Program

Total: \$23,322.00

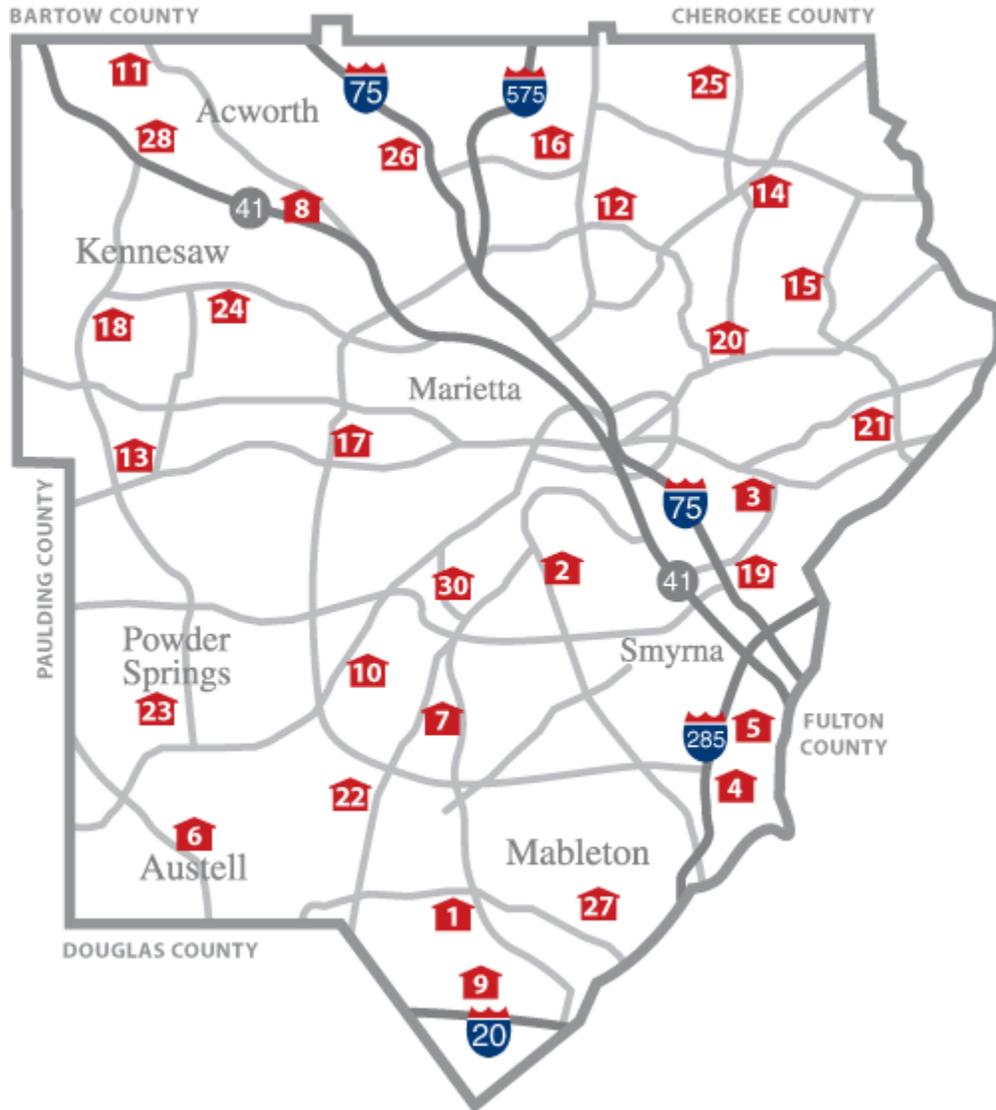
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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FIRE STATIONS

Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services has 29 fire stations strategically located throughout Cobb County and provides services to rural, urban, and heavily populated high-rise communities covering an area of 305 square miles. In 2013 we responded to over 50,000 calls.



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INCIDENTS AND RESPONSE TIMES

Response times are obviously important in Fire/EMS response. As response times increase, fires increase in size and intensity. In 2013, Cobb County Fire and Emergency was able to contain fires to the room and object of origin with the first-in engine 67.56% of the time, a 3.56% increase since last year.

With emergency medical calls, increased response times translate to increased death rates. This is due to the importance of the “Golden Hour” (the survival rate drops when patients with serious illness or injury do not receive adequate medical intervention).

While CCFES cannot control traffic volume and flow in their response, we have improved our over- all response times by decreasing our turnout times, which is the amount of time it takes a crew to get dressed in their personal protective gear and leave the station after the call is received.

On the next page are the response times for 2013 for all Fire and EMS calls. The times are broken into “average response times” and “90th percentile times”. This allows the department a more accurate evaluation of our performance measures.

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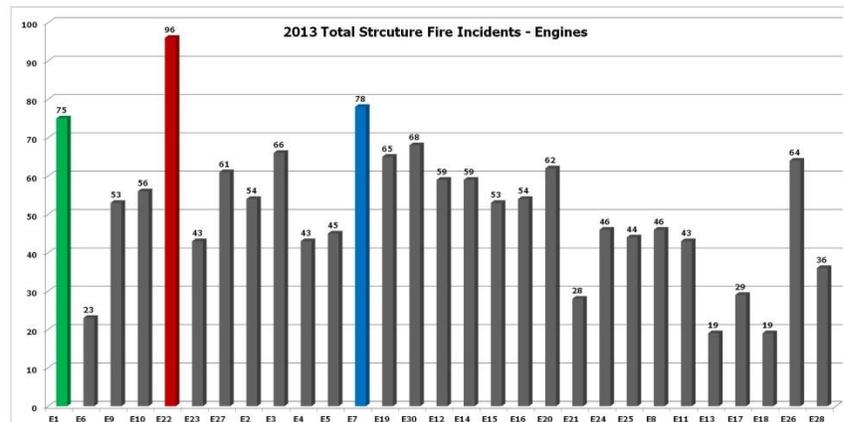
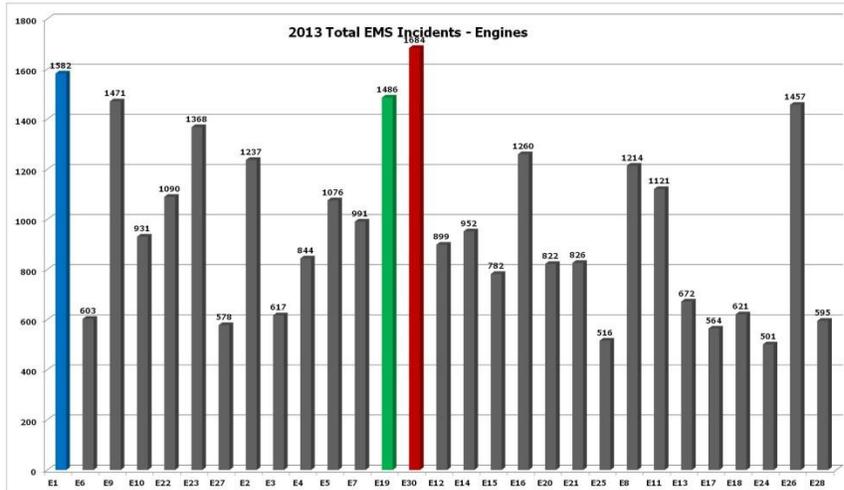
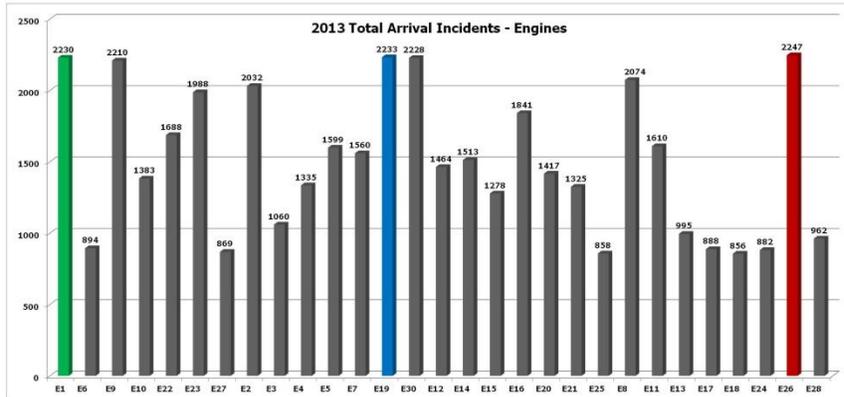
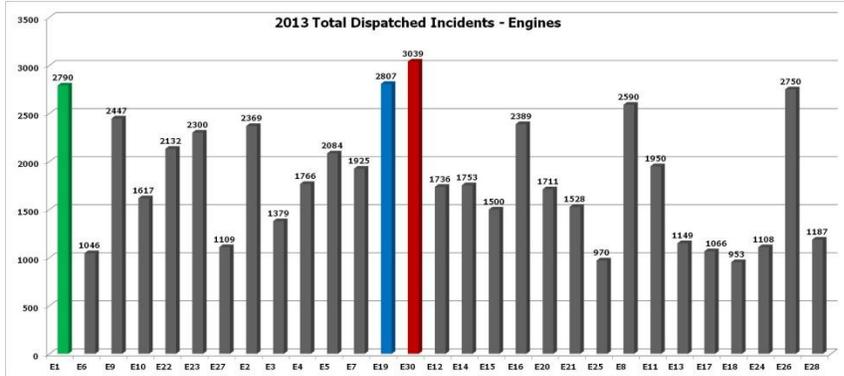
All Unit Responses - All Incidents - Emergency					
		2010	2011	2012	2013*
Call Processing (sec.)					
90th		00:03:24	00:03:08	00:03:06	00:03:02
Average		00:01:52	00:01:50	00:01:51	00:01:42
Turnout (sec.)					
90th		00:02:52	00:02:44	00:01:53	00:01:56
Average		00:01:31	00:01:15	00:01:03	00:01:06
Travel (sec.)					
90th		00:08:16	00:08:07	00:08:17	08:07:00
Average		00:04:59	00:05:07	00:05:19	05:14:30
90th		00:11:37	00:11:25	00:11:24	00:11:14
Average		00:08:23	00:08:13	00:08:14	00:07:59

* Data may change as a result of incomplete reports

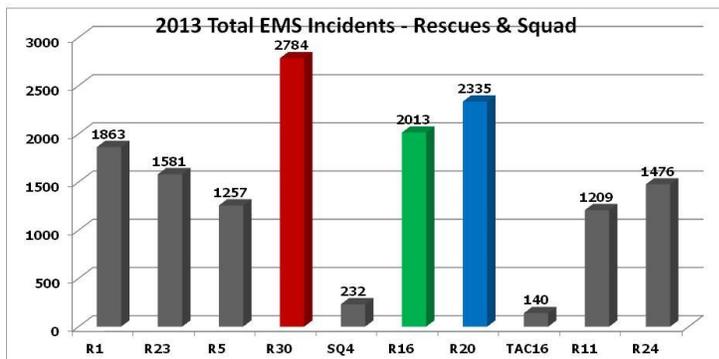
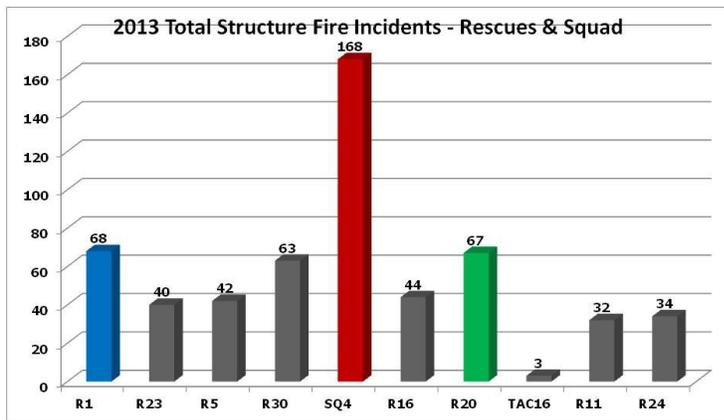
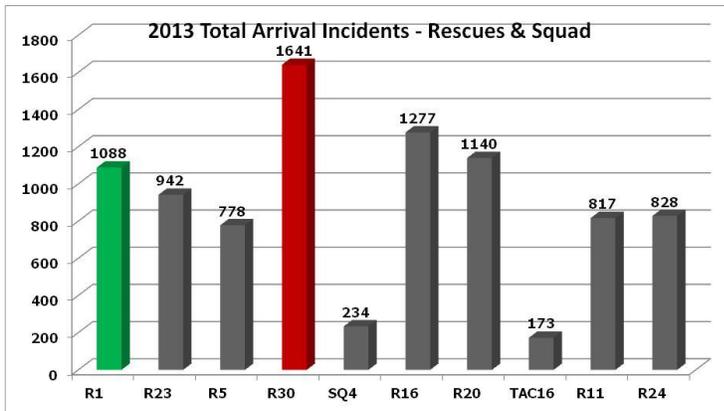
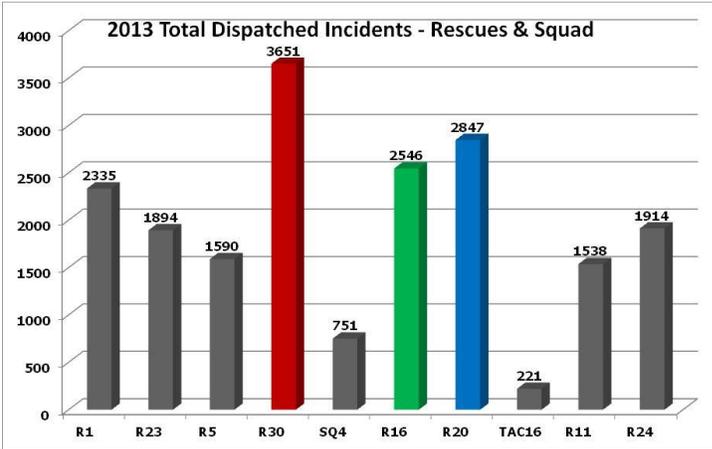
Fire Incidents - Emergency					
		2010	2011	2012	2013*
Call Processing (sec.)					
1st Unit 90th		00:02:42	00:02:47	00:02:39	00:01:59
Average		00:01:23	00:01:29	00:01:30	00:01:37
Turnout (sec.)					
1st Unit 90th		00:02:51	00:02:10	00:01:45	01:50:00
Average		00:01:30	00:01:25	00:00:59	01:09:00
Travel (sec.)					
1st Unit 90th		00:06:02	00:07:21	00:06:07	06:17:00
Average		00:03:39	00:04:33	00:04:18	04:21:00
Total (sec.)					
1st Unit 90th		00:12:37	00:12:55	00:12:46	00:09:09
Average		00:08:52	00:08:38	00:08:31	00:07:13

* Data may change as a result of incomplete reports

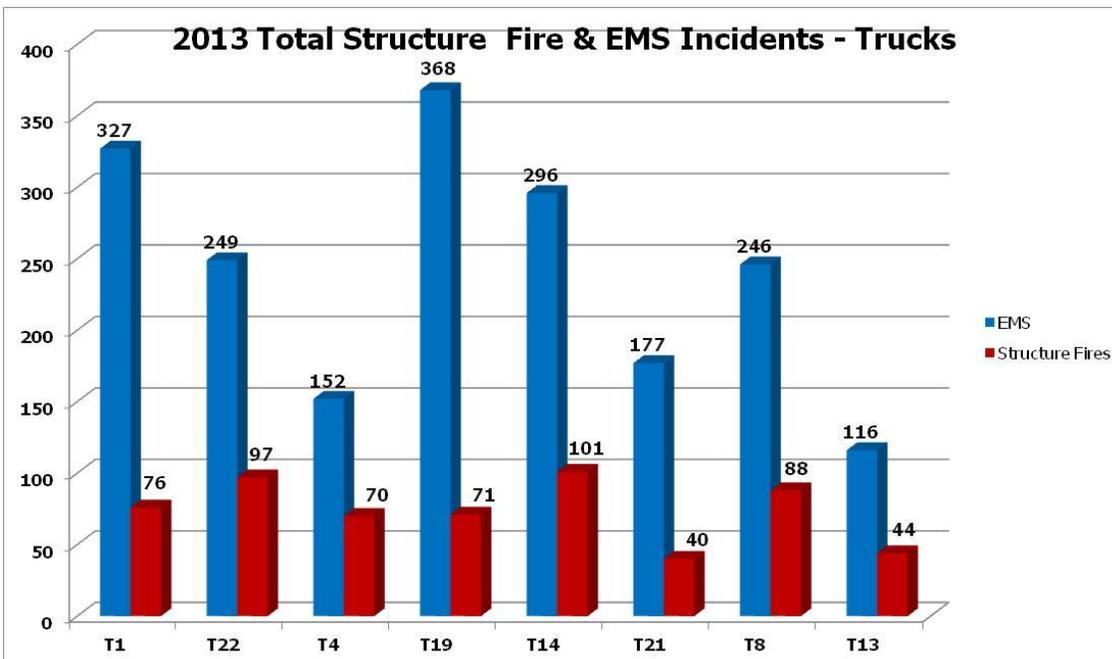
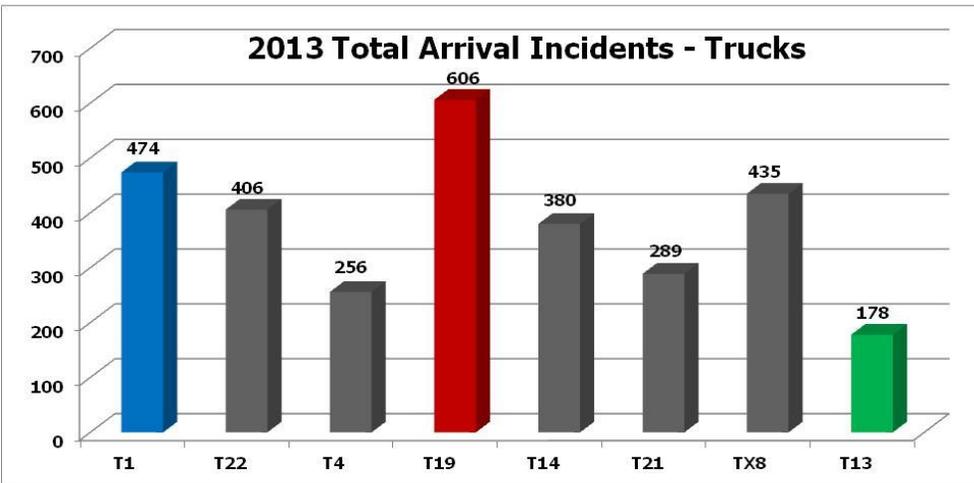
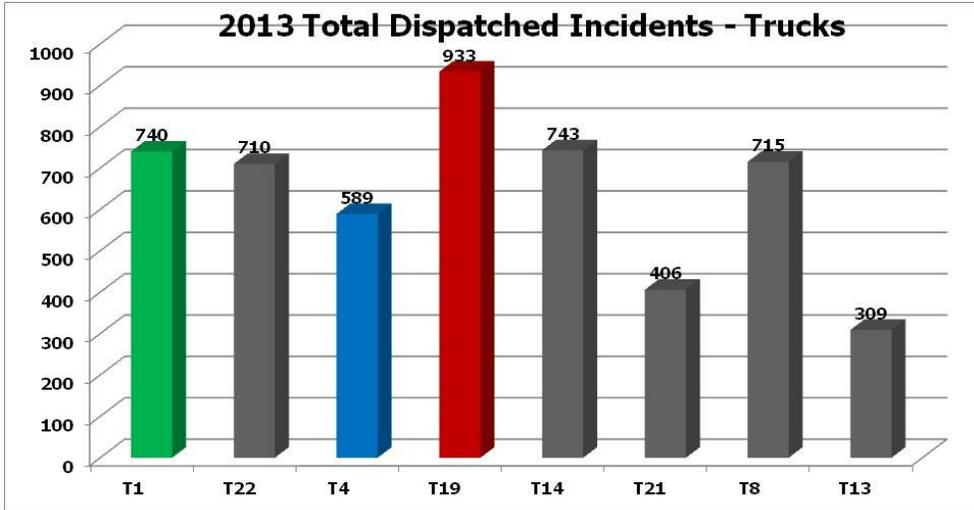
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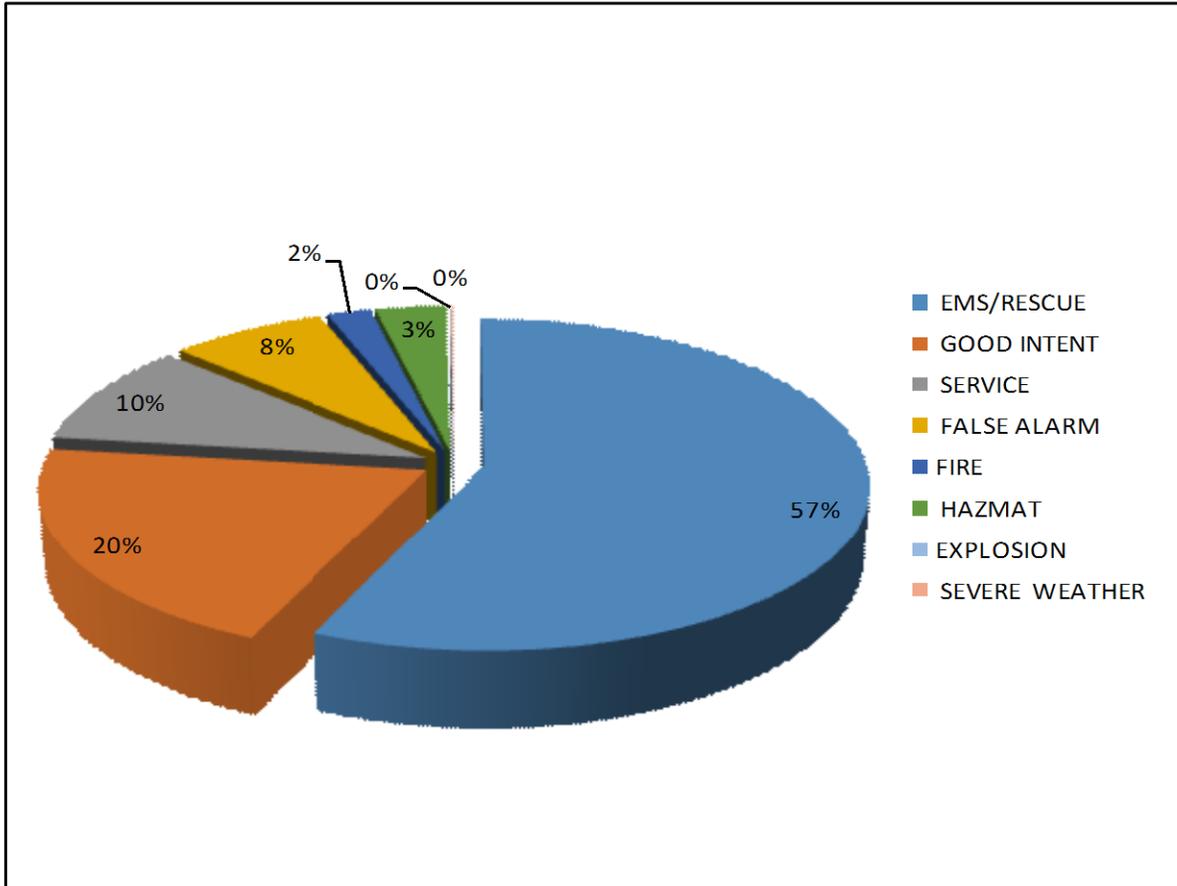


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RESPONSE TYPE AND TOTALS

# of Incidents	Incident Type
28360	EMS/RESCUE
10264	GOOD INTENT
4951	SERVICE
3756	FALSE ALARM
1041	FIRE
1675	HAZMAT
34	EXPLOSION
52	SEVERE WEATHER
50133*	

*This number reflects the number of completed call reports at the time of publishing. Multiple records remain incomplete due to certain factors such as ongoing investigations.

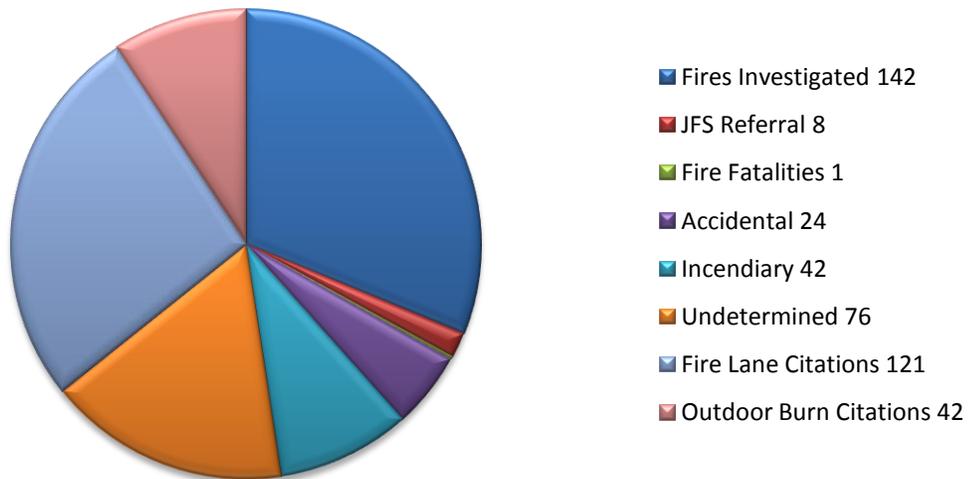


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FIRE INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Fire Investigations Unit consists of five sworn personnel who are dually sworn and certified in the State of Georgia as both Fire Investigators and Police Officers. These investigators handle fires of suspicious origin, initiate criminal charges when appropriate, execute search and arrest warrants, and prepare cases for criminal prosecution through the Courts. They are also responsible for enhancing access to public and commercial establishments by enforcing fire lanes within the mandated unincorporated areas of Cobb County. Additional duties also include the administration of the Juvenile Firesetter Program and illegal outdoor burning violations in the County.

2013 Fire Investigations



Fire Investigations	2011	2012	2013	% Change
Fires in Cobb	1475	1424	1045	-36%
Fires Investigated	178	176	142	-24%
Arrests	10	2	8	75%
Referall to Juvenile Fire Setters Program	18	22	8	-175%
Fire Fatalities	2	1	1	0%
Fires Ruled Accidental	47	30	24	-25%
Fire Ruled Incendiary	28	38	42	10%
Fire Ruled Undetermined	99	104	76	-37%
Fire Lane Citations	263	416	121	-244%
Outdoor Burning Citations	21	63	42	-50%

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FIRE MARSHAL’S OFFICE (FMO)

The FMO is tasked with enforcing "Rules and Regulations for the State Minimum Fire Safety Standards" as adopted by the State Fire Commissioner. The FMO is the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in these matters for all of unincorporated Cobb County and the cities of Acworth, Powder Springs, and Kennesaw. The major functions of the office include:

- Conducting fire & life safety inspections of existing buildings and structures;
- Reviewing plans and specifications for proposed buildings and structures; issue joint building permits with the Building Departments when plans are approved; and
- Issuing joint Certificates of Occupancy with the Building Departments of Cobb County, Acworth, Kennesaw, and Powder Springs when all appropriate inspections have been approved.

Cobb County is 1 of 54 counties in Georgia that is under the enforcement of the state-issued burning ban from May 1st through October 1st each year. The FMO oversees the daily monitoring of environmental conditions and enforcement of violations from inception through adjudication in the Courts for unincorporated Cobb County and the cities of Acworth, Kennesaw, and Powder Springs.

<i>New Construction Activities</i>	2012 Totals	2013 Totals	% Change
Consultation Meetings	360	342	-5%
Plan Reviews Completed (Fh + filenet/onestop/PLANREVU)	3817	4034	6%
Zoning Case Reviews (PZA)	169	247	46%
Permits Issued	1636	1683	3%
Sprinkler Division Inspections Completed	1772	1789	1%
New Construction Life Safety Inspections Completed	4230	4561	8%
TOTAL New Construction Inspections	6002	6350	6%
Total REQUESTED New Construction Inspections	5122	5557	8%
Permits Closed (Life Safety Releases Issued)	1533	1627	6%

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<i>Existing Building Activities</i>	2012 Totals	2013 Totals	% Change
Existing Building Initial Inspections (Non-Re-Inspection)	1559	1945	25%
Existing Building Re-Inspections	730	874	20%
Total Existing Building Inspections Completed	2289	2819	23%
Sprinkler Activation Inspections Completed	53	86	62%
Fire Code Complaints Closed	325	362	11%
Legal Warnings and Citations (Mainly Burn Related)	1517	1104	-27%
Fines and Fees Collected	\$466,391.83	\$455,737.62	-2%

TRAINING DIVISION

The Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services Training Division has the responsibility of preparing Fire Department personnel to execute the mission and vision of Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services. The Division is staffed with 11 dedicated professionals who serve the training needs of more than 650 sworn firefighters, officers, and chiefs. The Division is augmented with 1 videographer from TV23 and a part-time physical fitness coordinator.



Congratulations to the 31 members of Cobb Fire's Recruit Class #42, which graduated March 28, 2013.

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SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

EVENT MEDICAL COVERAGE

Medical coverage for events this year was provided by both the Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services Bike Team and some Engine Companies. These events included:

- February 9, 2013 – Marietta Mardi Gras 5K – CCFES Bike Team
- March 9, 2013 – Silver Comet ½ Marathon – CCFES Bike Team
- April 21, 2013 – North Atlanta Soccer Association 5K and 10K – CCFES Bike Team
- April 27, 2013 – Month of the Military Child Event – Cobb County Safety Village personnel
- May 3 – 12, 2013 – Shrine Circus – On-duty CCFES personnel
- May 18, 2013 – Pro Wake Board Tournament – Station 28 (A Shift)
- June 23, 2013 – PT Solutions Triathlon – Station 28 (B Shift)
- July 13, 2013 – Georgia Games Open Water Event – CCFES TRT and Station 28 (A Shift)
- July 19, 2013 – City of Acworth 4th of July Celebration (delayed) – Station 28 (A Shift)
- August 8, 2013 – Acworth Women’s Triathlon – Station 28 (B Shift)
- October 5, 2013 – Cobb County Make-A-Wish 5K – CCFES Bike Team
- October 6, 2013 – Up The Creek 6 Hour Mountain Bike Race – CCFES Bike Team
- October 26, 2013 – Silver Comet ½ Marathon – CCFES Bike Team
- October 31, 2013 – Cobb County Fall Festival – CCFES Headquarters personnel

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

- On May 22, 2013, at the Region III EMS Awards Banquet at the Gwinnett Medical Center Conference Hall, 129 members of Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services received CARES Awards from the American Heart Association. The CARES (Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival) Award is presented to crews who successfully resuscitate a cardiac arrest victim. The data from the calls is also analyzed on a national scale to perform studies on cardiac arrest survival rates and how to improve them.
- On May 22, 2013, Engine 9 (C Shift) assisted the Six Flags Over Georgia First Aid Department with their annual multi-casualty incident (MCI) drill at the Park.
- On December 19, 2013, the City of Acworth was named the first Heart Safe Community in the southeastern United States. The award was achieved by compiling information on the number of citizens trained in CPR, first responder response times to cardiac arrests, locations of automatic external defibrillators (AED), and initiation of CPR times. CCFES was an active participant in helping Acworth achieve this honor from the American Heart Association.

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- CCFES made the transition to the Zoll Cardiac Monitor for Advanced Life Support (ALS) operations. These monitors are lightweight and wireless internet capable. This allows CCFES paramedics to obtain a 12-lead EKG on a patient and transmit it to the receiving hospital. The monitors also can obtain a patient's blood pressure, oxygen saturation, carbon monoxide levels in the blood, and pulse rate. CCFES operates thirteen ALS units within the county.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM (HAZMAT)

- Each year Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services receives funding from Colonial Pipeline to send two members of the Department's Hazardous Materials Response Team to the Williams Fire and Hazard Control Xtreme Firefighting School in Beaumont, Texas. The class was held June 2 through June 6, 2013 and taught innovative firefighting techniques for fires at petroleum storage tank facilities. All expenses were paid by Colonial Pipeline in an effort to help improve the response capabilities to their Cobb County facility.
- In September 2013, members of the CCFES Hazmat Team on A and C Shift participated in a chemical weapons exercise with the 4th Civil Support Team (CST) out of Dobbins Air Reserve Base. This exercise was conducted at the YMCA in Kennesaw and involved entry into a contaminated area, taking and securing samples, and decontamination.

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- On November 19 and 20, 2013, members of the CCFES Hazmat Team attended training on Chlorine Emergency Response at the CSX Railroad REDI Center in Atlanta.
- Members of the Hazmat Team (A Shift) participated in the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) full scale hazardous materials exercise at Jim Miller Park on December 16, 2013. This exercise involved multiple agencies from different jurisdictions and tested the Team on detection, containment, and decontamination. The following two days involved a simulated evacuation exercise of sections of the Metro Atlanta Area. This was conducted at the Cobb Emergency Operations Center.
- On December 17 and 19, 2013, members of the CCFES Hazmat Team attended the Emergency Response Radiological Transportation training class held at the Cherokee County Fire Training Center.

MEDICAL OPERATIONS TEAM (MEDOPS)

- The Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services MedOps Team provides tactical medics for Cobb County Police SWAT, Cobb County Sheriff's SWAT, and the tactical team of the Marietta-Cobb-Smyrna (MCS) Drug Task Force. They also provide medical support to the Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services Department as well as the CCFES Hazmat Team and the Cobb Police Bomb Squad and Dive Team.
- The CCFES MedOps Team responded to:
 - 57 responses – 24 with Cobb County Police SWAT, 11 with Cobb County Sheriff's SWAT, 14 with the Tactical Team of the Marietta-Cobb-Smyrna (MCS) Drug Task Force, and 1 call with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). The team also ran five calls with CCFES and two calls with the Cobb Police Bomb Squad.
 - Their calls included 41 warrants served, nine barricaded subjects, two bomb calls, two searches, one meth lab, one hazmat call, and one water rescue call.
- From April 29 through May 2, 2013, two members of the CCFES Medical Operations Team attended the Specialized Tactics for Operational Rescue and Medicine (STORM) Tactical Medic Class in Sandy Springs, GA. The class focuses on training students to become proficient in the proper treatment modalities for casualties during the three phases of tactical combat casualty care: care under fire, tactical field care, and tactical evacuation care. The cost for the class was shared between Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services and Marietta-Cobb-Smyrna (MCS) Drug Task Force. The class was developed through cooperation between Georgia Regents University in Augusta and the National Tactical Officers Association (NTOA).

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TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM (TRT)

- All members of the Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services Technical rescue Team are also members of the Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) Task Force 7 Team. The GSAR Task Force 7 consists of members of the following fire departments; Clayton, Cobb, Dekalb, Fulton and Gwinnett counties and the City of Atlanta. During the year members of the team participated in GSAR advanced training in the following classes: Task Force Leader, Planning Officer and Technical Information Specialist, Heavy Rigging Specialist, Advanced Shoring, Safety Officer, and Technical Search Specialist.
- Cobb County Fire & Emergency Services also began their first Technical Rescue Academy this year. Staffed by instructors from the Technical Rescue Team, the Academy helped train new members to fill slots on the TRT that were opened by promotions or vacancies.
- The TRT also had one member trained as a Swiftwater Rescue Technician, three members received certification as Rope Rescue Technicians, six members received certification as Trench Rescue Technicians, and six members received certification as Confined Space Rescue Technicians.
- On April 17, 2013, members of the TRT and Engine 8 (A Shift) participated in an extrication demonstration for the Safe America Foundation. The event was filmed and will be used by both Safe America and local law enforcement when talking to teens about safe driving.
- From April 28 through May 1, 2013, members of the TRT, along with the departments of Gwinnett County, Sandy Springs, and Marietta participated in the annual swiftwater training exercise in Thunder River at Six Flags Over Georgia. This training helps to create realistic swiftwater conditions for the crews to train in. The crews rotate to several different stations learning self-rescue, rope bag throws, and team rescue techniques.



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- On August 18 and 19, 2013, members of the CCFES GSAR Team participated in a full scale exercise at the Guardian Center in Perry, GA. This facility is equipped with simulated collapsed buildings, a flood zone reenactment station, and an area to recreate a multi-car crash scene. The exercise involved an overnight deployment where the Team functioned just as they would in an actual incident. They slept in the tent city deployed by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and worked with other GSAR Task Forces from all over the state.



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- On October 17, 2013, Firefighter (FF) Anthony Helms, a member of the TRT A Shift, was recognized by the 300 Club of Atlanta at their annual Public Safety Banquet. FF Helms was conducting a swiftwater rescue class in another county when a flood event occurred. FF Helms led several rescues of citizens that were trapped in their homes by the rising waters. He received an award for his bravery and service during this event.



- From December 5 through 7, 2013, four members of the TRT attended a Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER) class in Gray, GA. This class taught the personnel technical lifting techniques, animal behavior, and special tactics/equipment to assist them in the rescue of live, large animals from entrapments and disaster areas. The funding for this class was donated by a nonprofit organization.

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PUBLIC FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

Class Instruction and Student Participation for 2013

Total Student Participation: 59,330

Total Classes Taught: 1,736

Kindergarten

491 Classes 8,013 Students

2nd Grade

521 Classes 9,822 Students

4th Grade

457 Classes 9,610 Students

Senior Safety

33 Classes 516 Students

Summer Camps

19 Classes 303 Students

Corporate Cobb

215 Classes 31,066 Students

Special Events

36 Events Attended

Smoke Alarms Distributed- 621

Smoke Alarms Installed- 179*

*This number includes the Lifetone Alert for the Hearing Impaired in cooperation with the City of Marietta Fire Department (39)

PUBLIC RELATIONS

PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR JACK FORSYTHE

In January, the Cobb County Board of Commissioners and County Manager announced the appointment of Jack Forsythe as the new Director of Public Safety. Mr. Forsythe will oversee Police, Fire & Emergency Services, 911 and Animal Control. He comes to Cobb with over 30 years of experience in public safety, at both the local and federal levels as well as the private sector.

Born in Washington D.C., Director Forsythe grew up in Prince George County, Maryland where he became a police officer, working his way up the ranks and retired as a Major after 27 years of service. During his career there, he was appointed Director of Public Safety Communications, responsible for integrating three separate public safety organizations into one stand-alone agency. This move resulted in a cost savings of several million dollars. From 2003 until 2011, Mr. Forsythe was responsible for public safety functions for NASA, serving his last three years there as Head of the Protective Services Organization. In that position, he was responsible for the public safety functions at 14 centers in the U.S. and was over 1,000 sworn officers and 100 federal agents. His career has also included time at FEMA and the FCC. Before moving here to Cobb, Director Forsythe was self- employed as a public safety consultant.

Mr. Forsythe holds a master's degree in Applied Behavioral Science from The Johns Hopkins University Executive Police Leadership Program in Baltimore, and a Bachelors Degree from the University of Maryland in Management Studies. He is also a graduate of the Senior Executives in State and Local Government from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He and his wife Susan have one son.



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ENGINE DONATION

Cobb Fire and Emergency Services have an ongoing partnership with the Georgia Chapter of the Terry Farrell Firefighters Fund. The Fund has identified a number of departments in the Northeast that suffered the loss of equipment during Hurricane Sandy. One of those departments is located in West Hamilton Beach, New York. This department sustained the loss of their fire engine, and currently does not have an operating truck to respond to calls for fire service delivery.

On February 6, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. Cobb County Fire and Emergency Services donated a surplused engine to the West Hamilton Beach Volunteer Fire Department for their use. The engine is a 1992 Pierce Arrow Red Pumper (Engine 34, Vehicle # 3406) with 177,292 miles.



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COBB FIRE FAMILY FUN DAY

The fifth Annual Family Fun Day was held on May 31, 2013, at Al Bishop Softball Complex. Fun, food, games, and fellowship are enjoyed by personnel and their families. A one-pitch softball tournament, ultimate Frisbee competition, kickball, bucket relays, dunk tank, and other activities were enjoyed by those in attendance.

2013 BOOT DRIVE RESULTS

Thank you again for the hard work on this year's "Give Burns The Boot" Drive! The \$67,765.56 collected during the boot drive goes to the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation, which supports the M. Still Burn Center in Augusta and the burn unit at Grady Memorial Hospital. Some of the proceeds are also designated for Camp Oo-U-La, the state's camp for burn-injured children.

METRO ATLANTA FIREFIGHTERS CONFERENCE

The fourth annual MAFFC was held over the weekend of May 17-19, and was a huge success! This year, over 700 firefighters from across the Nation were in attendance. Started as a grassroots effort by Cobb firefighters, the event has grown to national prominence, offering training at little or no cost to attendees. An Iron Firefighter contest was held in the Cumberland Mall parking lot as one of the events, promoting healthy competition among the entrants.

EAST COBB ROTARY CLUB HONORS MARK THURMOND

The East Cobb Rotary Club recently honored Firefighter Mark D. Thurmond (Station 14-B) by presenting him with their "Service Before Self" award.

Many in the Department don't know of Mark's many efforts in the area of child vehicle occupant safety. In 2009, Mark became a Child Protection System (CPS) instructor, and to date has certified over 80% of the Georgia State Patrol Troopers. He is the co-author of Georgia's "The Offender Program", currently being utilized in eleven Georgia and Florida counties. This program requires convicted DUI offenders to purchase a child safety seat to be given to a needy qualifying family. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is considering turning this initiative into a national program.



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FIREFIGHTER TRAINING IN AFRICA

7/26 - 8/11: Engineer Sean Gray, Lieutenant Kyle Smith & Engineer Ed Vance, 10/11 - 10/27: Engineer Ben Holley, Lieutenant Kyle Smith & Engineer Ed Vance conducted firefighting training for the 50 existing members of the Ekiti Fire Services, in Africa 40 new EMS workers and 120 new firefighters. The training included basic firefighting skills, first aid, vehicle extrication, auto fires and familiarization with new fire apparatus & equipment.



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CCFES IS PLEASE TO ANNOUNCE THE WILLIAM TANKS HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO DEPUTY CHIEF.



Deputy Chief Tanks now leads the Preparedness Division which is responsible for all functions supporting emergency responders. This includes any activity or function that enables firefighters to quickly and efficiently respond to emergencies such as training, fire apparatus and equipment, and fire stations. It also encompasses responsibility for fire prevention through public safety education including some of the programs delivered at the Safety Village.

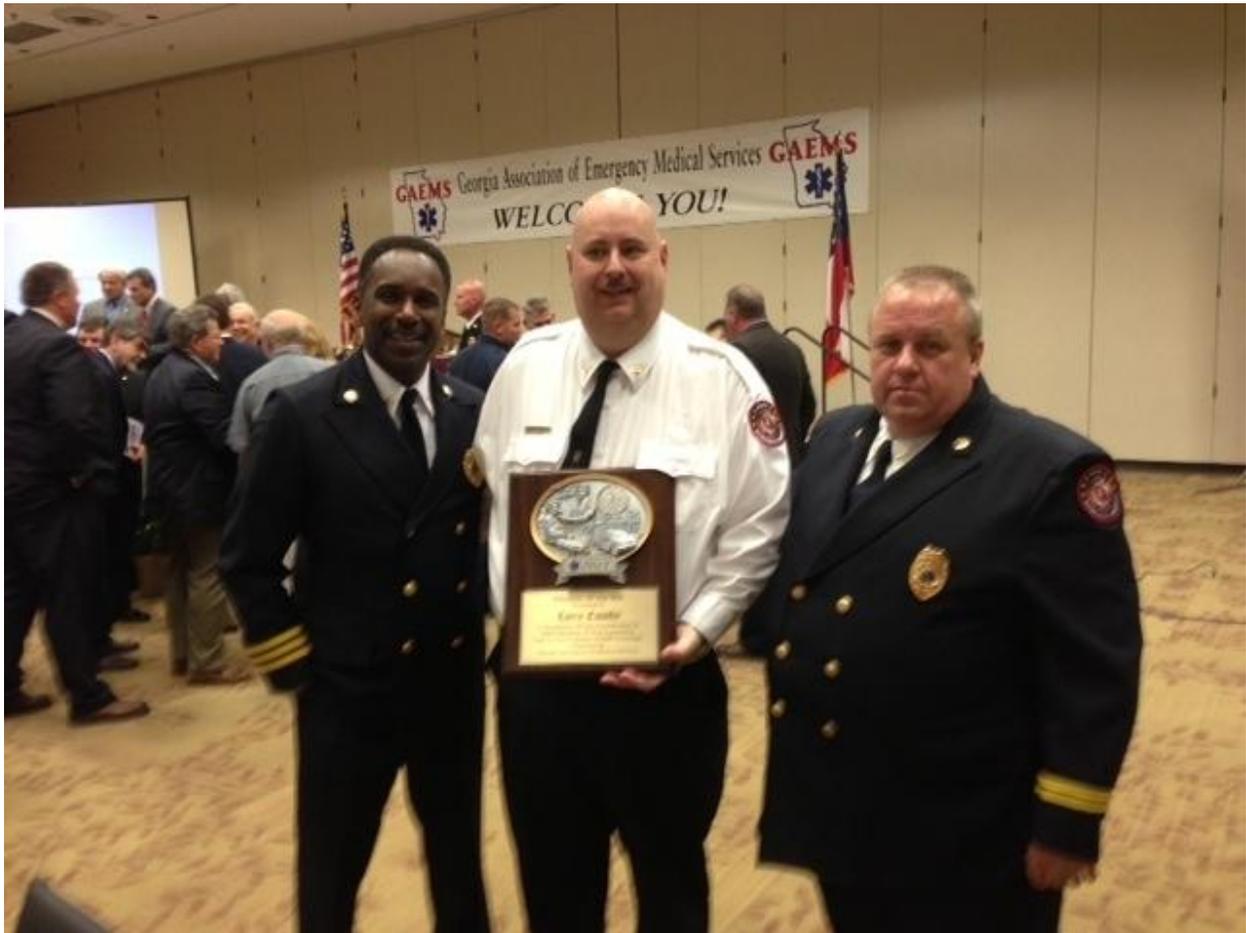
“It’s the best fire department in the world,” Tanks states, “and I feel extremely privileged to serve the Cobb firefighters through this leadership opportunity. It’s an honor.”

Deputy Chief Tanks began his career with Cobb in 1991 and has held every rank during his 22 years with the department. Most recently, he served as Training Division Chief where he was responsible for oversight of all training efforts for CCFES personnel. In addition, he is an active member of the Metro Atlanta Fire Chiefs Association, a founding member of the Metro Atlanta Training Chiefs Council, and recently served as Chairman de facto of the Metro Atlanta Fire Officer’s Association.

Deputy Chief Tanks holds a Bachelor’s degree in management from Morris Brown College and has also earned an Associate’s degree in Fire Science from Chattahoochee Technical College. He and his wife have three children in college. They are long time residents of South Cobb and currently reside in Mableton.

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GEORGIA EMS EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD



Larry Causby (center) received the Georgia EMS Educator of the Year award May 2, 2013. This award is presented annually to the EMS Educator in who has, “gone far above and beyond the call of duty, whether in the direct delivery of patient care or in programs offered to the community that enhance the standing of EMS and/or the education of the public”.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BLOCK PARTIES



Cobb County Department of Public Safety held two Education Block Parties this year. The first was held April 20 at the entrance of Parkview Apartments on Six Flags Drive and the second on October 12, 2013, at St. Philip United Methodist Church. They featured fun, food, and music for members of the community as well as participation from Cobb County Police and Fire Department, 911, Animal Control, Community Emergency Response Team, Austell Community Task Force and the Neighborhood Safety Commission.

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FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES STATION 11, A SHIFT WON THE TOP CREW AWARD FOR 2013.

Station 11, A Shift includes: Lieutenant Justin Green, Engineer Terry Kraker, Engineer Chandler Pullen, Firefighter Jake Rakestraw, Firefighter Kristen Maravolo, Firefighter Troy Swann and Firefighter Jim Crawford.



Readiness and response are all part of a firefighter's job, standing ready to protect the community they serve from a myriad of disasters including house and building fires and providing advanced level emergency medical support. However, the crew at Station 11 goes well beyond just standing ready to proactively engage the community around them to provide training and education. At the beginning of every year, the crew at Station 11 reviews the community calendar provided by the City of Acworth to coordinate efforts at local events and ensure the presence of Cobb County Fire at each one. They also study the community to identify and develop specialty training for certain populations such as a recent storm spotter's class they organized for a group of area seniors in a 55 plus community. They reach internally to their Cobb Fire community as well, coordinating drills and training exercises to ensure proficiency in various emergency skills. Finally, realizing that the community they serve includes Lake Acworth and Lake Alatoona, the entire crew decided to seek advanced technical training in the areas of rope rescue, swift water rescue and low angle rescue – once again taking a pro-active approach to serving the citizens in the area surrounding them.

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DIVISION CHIEF SPENCER MILLER COMPLETES EMS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Division Chief Spencer Miller completed the year-long 2013 Georgia EMS Directors Leadership course on November 7, 2013, in a ceremony in Statesboro, Georgia.

Four week-long modules were conducted at different locations across the state to include Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, GA; Macon, GA; Gainesville, GA; and again at Georgia Southern University. In addition to presentations by state level public and community health officials; students attended workshops and lectures led by a variety of subject matter experts as well as tours of the Medical Center of Central Georgia and the Northeast Georgia Health Systems campus. Online discussion groups and training between sessions supplemented classroom activities. Students who complete the course are eligible to participate in an alumni group which aims to provide continuing leadership development for EMS directors and management.



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IN MEMORY



FIREFIGHTER

RONALD NICHOLS

February 17, 2013



Retirees that passed in 2013

Engineer Ronnie Prince	April 15, 2013
Firefighter Gerald Sluder	April 22, 2013
Lieutenant Rodney Greene	June 8, 2013
Engineer Roy P. Jones	August 15, 2013