It is the mission of the Omaha Fire Department to protect the lives, property, and environment of our community through preparation, prevention, and protection in a competent and courteous manner. The members of our department hold themselves and each other to a high ethical standard, with INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM, and COMPASSION being at the core of every decision we make.
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Professional photography by FAE Dave Uhlig
The year 2013 was filled with many challenges and much change for the Omaha Fire Department. The following annual report will summarize the events of 2013 as well as share with you the direction and goals of your fire department moving forward. It is my hope that this report will provide some insight into the scope of services we deliver and the unwavering commitment to serve demonstrated by the men and women of this organization.

The members of the Omaha Fire Department constantly strive to provide the highest level of emergent and non-emergent service to the citizens of Omaha. We are making progress in identifying cost saving measures while being very careful to maintain the level of service the community expects. During the last quarter of 2013 we began to address some of our budget issues by reducing our Command Staff by 20% and reorganizing their work schedule to reduce overtime and provide more accessibility.

Additionally, we reduced the number of students we send to paramedic school and we entered into a five-year contract with Metropolitan Community College to provide all of our Emergency Medical Training. This partnership has reduced our personnel costs, provided more continuity and accountability from an educational perspective, and demonstrates our desire to make efficient use your tax dollars.

As a public safety organization we are mindful of the diverse needs of those that we serve and we are tailoring fire prevention and education programs that will produce positive outcomes for all members of the community. One example of this involves our cooperative effort with the First Responders Critical Support Foundation. Together we provide and install smoke detectors specially designed for members of our deaf and hard of hearing community. Additionally, we opened a Fire Prevention & Education satellite office in northeast Omaha that will provide smoke and carbon monoxide detectors as well as fire safety education to better serve those residents. We hope to expand on this as we research a location for a new fire station with a community center located in southeast Omaha.

Our organization is unique in terms of our scope of responsibility and areas of coverage. We are the only City department that provides emergency coverage, code enforcement, and public education services to citizens of three communities in two counties. Through the State of Nebraska’s Inter-local Cooperation Act, members of the Omaha Fire Department provide contracted fire protection service to residents of the Elkhorn Suburban Fire Protection District and Millard Fire Protection District which includes portions of Sarpy County. This gives our organization a total response area covering 192 square miles, serving a combined population of 486,000.

We are honored to be called public servants and we don’t take lightly the responsibility that comes with that title. The members of the Omaha Fire Department take great pride in providing the high level of service you expect from your fire department and we are constantly looking at ways to efficiently expand on those services.

Respectfully,

Fire Chief
Dear citizens of Omaha,

As the fire department’s mission statement declares, the dedicated men and women of the Omaha Fire Department work tirelessly each day to “protect the lives, property, and environment of our community through preparation, prevention, and protection in a competent and courteous manner.” I am pleased to present this 2013 Annual Report which provides an overview of these efforts.

I believe this Annual Report will give you a better understanding of all the duties of an Omaha firefighter. Not only does the fire department respond to emergency calls, but they work to prevent fire emergencies, educate the public, and keep our community as safe as possible.

In 2013, Omaha Fire Department personnel worked to educate our community on fire safety through the honorable work of the Public Education program. This year alone, over 15,000 children were educated by all-school assemblies, ensuring that the next generation knows how to protect themselves in the event of a fire in their home or school. In 2013, the Certified Fire Inspectors of the Omaha Fire Department conducted 15,022 inspection activities of public buildings, including daycares, restaurants, retail centers, and other businesses.

In addition to fire prevention activities, personnel responded to nearly 42,000 calls for service in 2013. I commend these personnel for their bravery in the face of danger and hope that all citizens can join me in thanking the men and women of the Omaha Fire Department for the services they provide to our community.

Sincerely,

Jean Stothert
Mayor, City of Omaha
The Omaha Fire Department is comprised of individuals filling roles in suppression who actively provide fire and EMS response, as well as individuals working in an administrative capacity to oversee fire suppression activities. The administrative aspect is divided into seven divisions, including the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division, the Fire Investigation Unit (FIU), the Fire Prevention Division (FPD) which also encompasses the Public Education program, the Information Services Division (ISD), the Safety and Wellness Division (SWD), the Technical Services Division (TSD), and the Fire Training Division. These divisions are each led by an Omaha Fire Department Battalion Chief who report to the members of Fire Management. Fire Management is currently comprised of a Fire Chief and three Assistant Fire Chiefs. Each Assistant Fire Chief is assigned a suppression shift (A, B or C), as well as several divisions to oversee.

The OFD service area is divided geographically into seven battalions. Each battalion has a Battalion Chief assigned to oversee all suppression personnel for each shift that is assigned to their battalion. An organizational chart is included in this Annual Report to detail our organizational structure in more detail.

The Omaha Fire Department currently operates out of 24 stations throughout Omaha. Each day there is a minimum of 176 suppression personnel on duty to adequately protect the citizens of Omaha.
Throughout a year it is expected that there will be fluctuation in the number of OFD personnel, as well as how many personnel fill each rank, due to retirements, promotions, and resignations. The statistics below represent the total number of OFD personnel and their ranks as of December 31, 2013.

### Sworn Omaha Fire Department Employees as of 12/31/13

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Chief</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interim Fire Chief</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Fire Chief</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acting Assistant Chief</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battalion Fire Chief</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Fire Marshal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drill Master</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Shift Supervisor</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Apparatus Engineer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firefighter</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probationary Firefighter</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
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</table>

### Civilian Omaha Fire Department Employees as of 12/31/13

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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary I</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account Clerk</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Omaha Fire Department is taking steps to be an Internationally Accredited Agency through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and we are currently listed as a Registered Agency with the CFAI. One critical element of this process is the evaluation of our service delivery as it relates to industry standards. The Omaha Fire Department uses our response time as a measurement tool to gauge our performance against established benchmarks and baselines.

A benchmark is defined as a standard from which something can be judged. It references future performance goals for the organization and is in line with industry best practices (CFAI). The Omaha Fire Department’s response time goals are consistent with standards published by the National Fire Protection Association.

A baseline is defined as a database from which something can be judged. It will be the current and historical performance of the department as compared to our benchmark goal for performance.

The Omaha Fire Department is using two time elements as part of our response time calculations. They include the turnout time and travel time. We recognize that most accredited agencies add the call processing time as an additional element, but due to software upgrades at our Public Safety Answering Point (911 call center) and to be consistent with our historical records we have omitted that element for this reporting year.

The Omaha Fire Department’s area of responsibility is broken down into 183 Fire Zones. This area covers 192 square miles and two counties. We have identified four zones within this area that represent a challenge for the organization in achieving our response time goal. They include areas of southeast, south central, midtown, and northeast Omaha. These areas are unique due to traffic patterns, street configuration, and location related to responding fire stations. We have been working to address these areas by identifying new station locations which are in line with the City of Omaha Public Facilities Master Plan and the completion of a multi-year Emergency Vehicle Preemption System. We are also evaluating automatic aid agreements to ensure that they support our response time goals and provide an equitable sharing of resources. We realize that any delay in responding to a call for service could possibly change the potential outcome. We will continue to monitor our service delivery and explore new technologies that will better assist in gathering data and problem identification. All of this is incorporated in our decision making process to ensure we provide the most efficient service possible.
The Omaha Fire Department’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division is responsible for ensuring that all OFD paramedics and EMTs are properly trained and certified to provide top-tier first response medical services to the community. The EMS Division is overseen by a Battalion Chief and staffed with three Paramedic Shift Supervisors, an EMS Supplies Manager, a QA Officer, and one civilian secretary.

Omaha Fire Department personnel responded to 30,118 medical calls in 2013, accounting for nearly 72% of all calls that OFD personnel were dispatched to. As of December 31, 2013, 15 medic units were in-service in Omaha, each staffed with two licensed and registered paramedics. Every sworn OFD employee is either a licensed paramedic or EMT (emergency medical technician), trained to provide either basic (BLS) or advanced (ALS) lifesaving techniques prior to hospital transport, if applicable. This means that each OFD apparatus, including all fire trucks and engines, is staffed with personnel who can provide medical support, resulting in a higher level of protection for all citizens of Omaha. If a fire truck or engine can respond more quickly to a medical call than a medic unit, the citizen will still receive medical treatment from that responding company until the nearest medic unit can arrive for hospital transport, if that service is necessary.

It is important that EMS equipment is maintained in proper working condition. In 2013, the EMS division renewed two maintenance agreements for equipment, including ambulance stretcher maintenance and Zoll Defibrillator Monitors. These maintenance agreements ensure that equipment is operating at peak performance and also extends the life of the equipment, resulting in cost-savings. While efforts are always made to extend the life of existing equipment, there continues to be a need for new equipment. Technological advancements and a growing population contribute to this need. EMS staff hope to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) in 2014 to purchase four new medic units to allow for continued service to the community.

Another cost-saving measure in 2013 was the release of an RFP in November to have all EMS education and training provided by an outside entity. This type of arrangement is expected to save thousands of dollars for the City of Omaha while maintaining a high level of training for new paramedics and for existing paramedics obtaining their continuing education credits. It is expected that the RFP will result in a winning bid by an outside entity and enable this program to begin in early 2014.

Finally, in 2014 EMS staff hope to implement an electronic patient care reporting (ePCR) system. This will allow for more efficient patient care reporting, enhanced documentation capabilities, increased quality assurance oversight, and improved ambulance collection revenue.
The Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) is an integral part of the Omaha Fire Department. It is the responsibility of the FIU to investigate all structure and vehicle fires to determine their origin and cause. The need for a complete and thorough investigation is vital regardless of the cause of the fire. FIU investigators are responsible for scene documentation, evidence collection, witness and suspect interviews, and court room testimony if needed. If the fire is determined to be incendiary in nature, a criminal investigation is conducted that could result in the arrest of a suspect. If the fire is determined to be accidental in nature, the investigation can aid in the establishment of fire and building codes and can help with the recall of unsafe appliances through the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

As of December 31, 2013, the FIU had a current staff of 1 Battalion Chief and six fire investigators, three of which hold the rank of Captain and three Firefighters/FAEs. All FIU investigators are certified law enforcement officers who obtained their certification through the Omaha Police Department Training Academy. In addition to the six FIU investigators, 22 OFD personnel are certified law enforcement officers who annually attend continuing education programs held by the Omaha Police Department as well as outside training agencies. This ensures that OFD personnel are effectively trained for any situation that may arise. Continuing education programs for the six FIU Investigators were intensive in 2013, and included a five-week field training and evaluation program with the Omaha Police Department's Uniform Patrol Bureau, in which their training and experience was enhanced by working with OPD field training officers in real-life situations encountered in police work.

This year held many exciting improvements in both technology and facilities for FIU personnel. Among the many OFD divisions that enjoy the support of the First Responders Critical Support Foundation, the FIU was graciously given donations through grant funding to purchase six individual body-worn video cameras. These cameras enhance security and protection for the investigators and also provide an additional documentation source for fire scenes. The First Responders Critical Support Foundation also generously donated a new laptop computer to FIU which, in conjunction with a new Digital Video Recording (DVR) system in the interview and interrogation room at the FIU facility, allows one investigator to conduct an interview while another investigator can monitor the live feed at their work station. This system improves security and protection for the investigator conducting the interview while increasing productivity and allowing for enhanced interview tactics. Other improvements included the assignment of an SUV to FIU personnel, benefiting the division by allowing larger vehicle space to conduct on-scene interviews and providing separate compartments within the vehicle to prevent cross contamination of collected evidence. Moving forward, FIU personnel have submitted an application to obtain the OFD's first accelerant-trained K-9. In the past, FIU personnel have had to utilize a K-9 operated by the State Fire Marshal's Office, however that K-9 was recently retired and is unavailable.

In 2013 the FIU conducted 370 investigations, 95 of which were classified as incendiary in nature (arson events). Of these 95 incendiary fires, 21 cases were cleared by arrest which results in a 22% clearance rate, seven percentage points above the national clearance rate of 15% as identified by the FBI Uniform Crime Reports. There were 20 civilian injuries and five fatalities as a result of fire incidents in 2013, and the FIU investigated 12 fires that were started by juveniles.
The Omaha Fire Department’s Fire Prevention Division (FPD) is responsible for conducting certified inspections while enforcing the applicable life safety codes and fire protection standards within the 193 square miles of territory in the Omaha area. In addition, the FPD oversees the Fire Management Zone program, in which suppression companies visit and familiarize themselves with occupancies within their particular response territory. The goal of the OFD Certified Fire Inspectors is to minimize the risk of life and property loss from fire by observing, enforcing, and eliminating hazardous conditions.

As of December 31, 2013, the FPD had a total sworn complement of nine inspectors, all of whom report to an Assistant Fire Marshal who helps coordinate and evaluate their activities. Five of these inspectors specialize in one of the following areas: tanks, schools, daycares, plan reviews, and State re-inspections. The remaining four inspectors are assigned to conduct inspections in one of the four quadrants of the city: southeast, southwest, northeast, and northwest. 2013 was another successful year in which there were 15,022 certified inspection activities performed by the certified inspectors of the FPD.

The Fire Management Zone (FMZ) program was also very successful in 2013, whereby suppression companies conducted over 7,000 familiarizations of occupancies within their response territories. When conducting familiarizations, companies observe and note the following information: addresses on the structure, fire department access, fire department connections, fire hydrant locations, status of the building (in use or vacant), construction type, exits and exit signage, conditions of stairways and doors, and emergency lighting. In addition, companies familiarize themselves with the building’s fire protection equipment including fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems, sprinkler systems, and kitchen hood systems. Suppression companies are also assigned assembly inspections throughout the year to check the maximum occupancy load for a structure as well as performing holiday inspections of retail occupancies during the month of December.

As 2014 approaches, the FPD will continue its mission of helping to protect lives and property through a progressive, well-managed approach to occupancy inspections. The FPD will be evaluating new computer software and hardware that will aid in the accountability and record keeping portion of the division’s duties while making it a more fluid process to interact with other city departments.
The Omaha Fire Department’s Public Education (Pub Ed) Program is responsible for spreading the message of fire safety to individuals of all ages within our community. This mission is critical, as oftentimes the public’s first impression of the OFD comes from a public education activity or presentation. The goal of the Pub Ed program is to take a proactive approach to raise awareness and educate the public on fire safety and how to protect their home, business, or family in the event of a fire or catastrophe. Pub Ed takes a community-prevention approach, enlisting the help of volunteer and community organizations to promote this message.

In 2013, the OFD was able to increase public education outreach to the citizens we serve by opening the Fontenelle Park Public Education Center. This center is located in the northeastern area of Omaha and serves the community by allowing daycares, schools, community groups, and other organizations the opportunity to visit and learn about the programs offered by OFD through fire safety presentations or fire safety trailer demonstrations.

An integral part of the Pub Ed program is the smoke and carbon monoxide detector outreach component. The Omaha Fire Department is committed to keeping our citizens safe, and through the generosity of the First Responders Critical Support Foundation, our personnel are able to install smoke/CO detectors in homes throughout Omaha free of charge. In the event that the home already has a working smoke detector, personnel will replace the battery for free instead. The First Responders Critical Support Foundation donates each smoke/CO detector installed by OFD personnel. With their support, the OFD was able to install 1,321 smoke/CO detectors and replace 578 batteries for the citizens of Omaha in 2013.

Other important Pub Ed activities and programs include:

**Fire Safety Presentations:**
Includes fire station tours, apparatus displays, and school visits. All presentations teach fire/EMS safety to participants. OFD personnel made 647 presentations in 2013.

**Public Relations Assignments:**
Attend meetings, media events, and special assignments designed to enhance the safety of Omaha’s citizens. OFD personnel attended 1,192 such activities in 2013.

**All-School Assemblies:**
1st through 6th graders are educated on fire safety and how to design a “Home Escape Plan” for their family. Over 15,000 children were educated by all-school assemblies in 2013.

**Fire Station Birthday Parties:**
Birthday parties for 20 children were auctioned off in 2013 to nonprofit organizations. The events feature station tours, a safety presentation, and an apparatus display.

**School Fire Drills:**
Every year, the OFD monitors fire drills at area schools to ensure the safety of students and staff in schools throughout Omaha. In 2013, 127 fire drills were conducted.

**Vacant Property Inspections:**
Vacant properties pose a risk to the citizens who live by them & the firefighters who respond to them in the event of a fire. OFD suppression companies inspected 2,499* vacant properties in 2013.

**Salute to Safety Expo:**
An annual event, this year the OFD provided a mock extrication exercise from a crashed vehicle. 21 firefighters and the Life Flight helicopter were utilized. Thousands of citizens attend each year.

*Some vacant properties were inspected more than once to ensure that all apparatus in that territory is familiar with each structure.*
The Omaha Fire Department places a high level of importance on educating the public about fire safety. One of the ways this is executed is by having an OFD Pub Ed employee assigned to the role of Public Information Officer (PIO). The PIO is the point of contact for all media relations pertaining to Fire Department activities. This individual is responsible for all press releases and press conferences and is also the spokesperson for the OFD at all second alarm or greater fire incidences. Any interviews or media contact with suppression personnel are coordinated through the PIO. Additionally, the PIO speaks to community groups and neighborhood associations on behalf of the FPD. The Omaha Fire Department PIO conducted 460 such activities in 2013, ensuring that the public is aware of fire safety issues.

Many citizens within Omaha wish to help OFD personnel spread the word about fire safety in our community. A group of such citizens volunteer their time by serving on the Volunteer Fire Corps. This group of individuals supplements the Pub Ed program by assisting at various events, including Juvenile Fire Setter Classes. These classes are taught by trained firefighters with the assistance of the Volunteer Fire Corps, OPD, and the University of Nebraska Med Center Burn Unit to educate Omaha youth who have played with or shown interest in matches and lighters or who have been caught or arrested for starting fires. There were 14 Juvenile Fire Setter classes taught by OFD personnel in 2013.

Pub Ed also offers a program for youth interested in the Fire Service. The OFD Fire Explorers Post #535 is comprised of 14-19 year olds who complete 24 hours of training at the Omaha Public Safety Training Center, allowing them to participate in non-emergency events. The Pub Ed division assists these youth in learning about the skills needed to become firefighters. The youth also volunteer at various Pub Ed events throughout the year, particularly during the summer months. This program is supported by the Boy Scouts of America and the Learning For Life Foundation. Six individuals participated in the program in 2013.

Moving forward into 2014, the Pub Ed division will continue to reinforce the message of fire safety and the value it provides to the community. Personnel look ahead with enthusiasm to expand the capabilities of the Fontenelle Park Education Center and what it can provide to the community. Pub Ed personnel will continue to strive to have a larger impact in Omaha by increasing OFD presence at community meetings and neighborhood association events so the message of fire safety can be relayed to as many Omaha citizens as possible.
The Omaha Fire Department’s Information Services Division (ISD) is responsible for providing technical support for the OFD’s many computer programs and hardware/software specific to the fire department. While the OFD receives computer and IT support from the Douglas Omaha Technology Commission (DOTComm), as do all City departments, there are programs maintained and overseen exclusively by the ISD. It is crucial that OFD data is properly maintained and tracked to remain compliant with fire service standards and State and National requirements. The ISD is staffed with sworn personnel filling the following roles: one Fire/EMS Information Specialist and two Information Systems/Research Specialists. This division is overseen by the Safety and Wellness Division Battalion Chief.

The ISD staff were busy throughout 2013, assisting many divisions with data management and project facilitation. A major project of the year included maintaining the connection between the department’s 63 Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) and the 911 dispatch center. MDTs are machines in each fire apparatus which provide the dispatched address and GPS information. These machines link with the 911 CAD system and OFD’s Fire Record Management System which tracks response times and incident information for each incident to which OFD personnel are dispatched. An upgrade to the 911 CAD system in the summer of 2013 kept the ISD staff occupied to ensure that these connections were properly maintained.

ISD staff spend hours each week running reports and pulling data as requested. This includes providing data to comply with both State and Federal requirements, such as sending NIFRS (fire data) and NEMSIS (EMS data) to the State. Additionally, ISD staff assist in grant proposals and applications, supplying numbers and data to support requests for grant-funded equipment and software for the department.
The OFD recognizes that firefighting is inherently dangerous and that it is vitally important to continuously evaluate safety concerns to prevent injuries or more serious consequences. The Safety and Wellness Division (SWD) works to ensure that each OFD employee goes home safe and healthy at the end of each day. This division is comprised of one Battalion Chief, two additional sworn fire personnel: a Fire Services Personnel Manager and an Accountability Specialist, and one civilian secretary.

Major responsibilities of the SWD are to ensure that safety procedures are being followed in all aspects of the job, to coordinate these safety efforts, to perform follow-up action on safety concerns, to ensure that State and Federal regulations are being met, and to implement policies that adhere to fire department standards, guides, codes, and regulations. Furthermore, the SWD coordinates all associated paperwork and reassignments for personnel injured on-duty or those with long-term illness or injury. Workplace safety is always a major focus area for the SWD, and in 2013 staff coordinated battalion-wide training on reducing workplace injuries, which was delivered by experts in the field that are connected with the OFD through the Community Partner Program.

The SWD developed and maintains the department’s Health and Wellness Program, ensuring that OFD personnel meet physical requirements for the job as well as maintain the immunizations and health standards necessary to safely provide fire and EMS services to the community. In 2013 the SWD hosted an International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) 40-hour peer fitness trainer course, resulting in 13 individuals gaining Peer Fitness Trainer (PFT) certification and finalizing the last key component of the OFD Health and Wellness Program goals and objectives. Peer fitness trainers assist in conducting the annual fitness testing for all OFD personnel, and the addition of these trainers ensures that fitness testing will be conducted in a consistent and cost-effective manner.

In 2013, 632 fitness tests and 197 retests were conducted and each OFD member received a consultation regarding their individual scores to assist with education, direction, and improvement goals. The ISD developed a new database to further track and evaluate the data gathered from these exams, improving efficiency and the ability to fully assess the fitness levels of the department. The SWD was excited to announce a 2013 Tier 1 score increase of 18.3% from the 2012 baseline; a Tier 1 score is the highest score any OFD member can receive.

In 2014, SWD personnel will continue to seek ways to reduce workplace injuries and improve safety through training, education, and policy improvements in 2014. Other goals for the upcoming year include continuous improvements to the Health and Wellness Program; seeking cost reductions for medical exams and ensuring consistency in performance metrics. Each goal and program implemented by the SWD is geared toward keeping the health and safety of OFD personnel in the forefront while seeking cost saving measures to provide these services at the lowest cost to the City.

Photo by FAE Brent Van Scy
The primary responsibility of the Omaha Fire Department’s Technical Services Division (TSD) is to keep all department vehicles, equipment, and buildings in working order by serving as the liaison with City of Omaha Fleet Management, Facilities Management, and other contracted vendors. TSD also works with Douglas County 911 Communications and DOTComm regarding communications equipment and services. As of December 31, 2013, TSD had a total complement of four sworn personnel; one Battalion Chief who oversees the division, one Logistics/Repair and Delivery Coordinator, one Fire Apparatus Coordinator Foam/Water Supply Specialist, and one Facilities and Turnout Gear Specialist.

In addition to repairs and equipment purchases, TSD is actively involved in station improvements and construction projects. These projects range from the installation of energy efficient thermostats, to replacement roofs, to adding female accommodations at selected stations. Funding for these projects comes from the Fire Department’s budget, allocated Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds, and insurance claims in the event of structural damage requiring repair.

Effective communication equipment is crucial for suppression personnel to accurately receive dispatch information and communicate on a fire-scene. Portable and mobile radios are of paramount importance in effective communication. TSD is responsible for maintaining, tracking, and repairing the Department’s 275 portable radios and close to 100 fire apparatus, investigator, and other vehicle mobile radios, in addition to the MOSCAD dispatch radios and other peripheral communication equipment located at each fire station.

As a cost saving measure, TSD personnel personally conduct approximately 90% of the department’s small engine repairs in-house. This saves the City countless dollars in repairs from outside vendors. Cost savings are also captured by TSD staff providing snow removal for each of the OFD fire stations. A notable cost-saving achievement in 2013 was the development of the OFD leather boot program. This City Council-approved program saves the City of Omaha $20 per pair of firefighter boots and will save even more in the long run due to the enhanced longevity of leather boots as opposed to rubber boots. In addition to in-house repairs and innovative programs, TSD personnel meticulously reviewed each outside vendor contract to ensure that pricing was appropriate, resulting in all TSD non-personnel line items coming in under-budget in 2013.

TSD, in conjunction with Facilities Management, facilitated the preconstruction process and delivery of two new pump tenders and one new rescue apparatus in 2013. As old equipment becomes no longer usable, safe, or efficient, new equipment must be phased in. All measures are made to rebuild parts and make all necessary repairs before the decision is made to replace an apparatus.

TSD staff anticipate that 2014 will be another busy year. Projects include composing specifications for two new aerial ladder trucks and a new air rescue truck. CIP projects forecasted for 2014 include the acquisition of four new medic units purchased with 2013 CIP monies. Staff will also be looking into land acquisitions for a new station 31 and station 53 and securing money for the construction of the new stations.
The Omaha Fire Department’s Training Division is responsible for ensuring that OFD personnel are trained to safely and effectively serve the citizens of Omaha. This training begins when personnel are probationary Fire Candidates, and refresher and supplementary training is provided throughout the duration of every OFD employee’s career. Through the facilities located at the Omaha Public Safety Training Center and at sites throughout the City of Omaha, the Training Division conducts reality-based training opportunities to all OFD personnel. Training Division staff continuously research and familiarize OFD personnel with advancements and upgrades in firefighting technology and innovations in fire service strategy and tactics. As of December 31, 2013, the Training Division was staffed with one Battalion Chief who oversees the division, one civilian secretary, and additional sworn personnel including: one Drill Master, one Special Operations Coordinator, one HazMat Training Specialist, two Fire Training Officers, and a OPSTC Facility Manager.

On February 4, 2013, the OFD welcomed 47 recruits who proceeded to go through the department’s 15-week Training Academy. Recruits who did not yet possess their FF1 State Certification obtained it during this training period and by the end of the Academy all recruits were State certified in HazMat Operations. Upon completion of the Training Academy, the recruits were transferred to their suppression assignment to continue their education, training, and skill development under the guidance and supervision of their assigned Field Training Officer and the other experience personnel who worked alongside them. Recruits also began obtaining their State FFII certifications during this time. The 31 recruits who were hired on July 23, 2012 completed their probationary period and were confirmed on November 17, 2013.

In addition to providing training for new recruits and ongoing training to all OFD personnel, the Training Division will evaluate major fire incidents and use them as a training tool for future incidents. One notable incident that resulted in such analysis was the Hillsborough Apartment fire in March of 2013 which resulted in a “Mayday” call. The Training Division conducted a Post Incident Analysis Report for this event, completed for the purpose of improving the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of OFD emergency operations.

In 2014, Training staff will continue providing top-tier fire training services to all members of the OFD while tirelessly researching innovations in fire service technology. Throughout the year, all OFD personnel will go through Continuous Professional Training (CPT) in topics such as Mayday, Rapid Interview Crew, HazMat Metering & Decontamination, and Incident Command. Staff are committed to adequately preparing each OFD firefighter to safely and effectively protect the citizens of Omaha.
The Special Operations Program, a program within the Fire Training Division, provides OFD personnel with training for emergency situations that require specialized skills. The Special Operations Program is overseen by the Training Division with several personnel assigned specifically for this program.

In 2013 the Special Operations Program moved forward with several training courses, large scale event security, and grant-funded equipment purchases. 2013 training highlights included confined space training at the North OPPD plant in January, the Texas Rope Rescue Course in April, attendance at the BNSF Railroad tank car school by two Special Operations personnel, attendance at the IAFC HazMat conference in Maryland by the Special Operations Coordinator, the First National Bank Tabletop and Full Scale exercises conducted throughout the fall, a BNSF HazMat refresher course for all personnel assigned to Special Operations, and 80-hour Hazardous Materials Technician Certification Training.

Throughout the year, the Special Operations Program continued to stay current with technology by the acquisition of new metering equipment. Rescue 33 and Engine 60 received four new MultiRAE gas meters with calibration and charging stations; two of these were generously provided to the OFD through a program with Tyson Foods while the other two were purchased with grant funding. Tyson foods also provided the Special Operations program with a single gas ammonia meter and 12 new level-A suits.

In addition to providing specialized training, Special Operations staff provide large scale event security throughout the Omaha metro area. In 2013 personnel partnered again with the 72nd CST out of Lincoln to assist with security and air quality monitoring for the College World Series in June and the US Senior Golf Open in July. These services were also provided for various other City, entertainment, and corporate events.

In 2014 the Special Operations Program will receive eight new Industrial Scientific gas meters to replace the Draeger XAM 2000 meters that currently reside on each Battalion Chief vehicle. Staff are looking forward to a Trench, Collapse, and Shoring course conducted by CMC Rescue in August, which will be funded through grant dollars and held in cooperation with the Papillion Fire Department. Lastly, a new Rescue truck will be put into service at station 33; this is a welcome addition to the Special Operations fleet.
Thank you for viewing the Omaha Fire Department’s 2013 Annual Report. We hope this provided a detailed overview of the services provided by the men and women of this department and highlighted notable achievements and activities performed in 2013. If you would like further information on our services, or to view a current phone list for each division, please visit our website at www.omaha-fire.org.

The OFD is grateful for every contribution we receive, and we would like to extend a special thank you to the First Responders Critical Support Foundation for their steadfast dedication in helping to maintain OFD programs that assist the citizens of this community. In particular, we would like to thank their hardworking Chairman of the Board, Mr. Jim Young, and their committed President/Executive Director Ray Somberg. For further information on this organization, visit www.firstrespondersomaha.com.

Special thanks are also given to Omaha Fire Apparatus Engineer David Uhlig for generously allowing the use of his professional photography throughout this Annual Report. Fire Apparatus Engineer Brent Van Scoy also provided images and is thanked for his efforts. All photos contained in this report are the property of these individuals and copying is prohibited.