

Portage Fire Department

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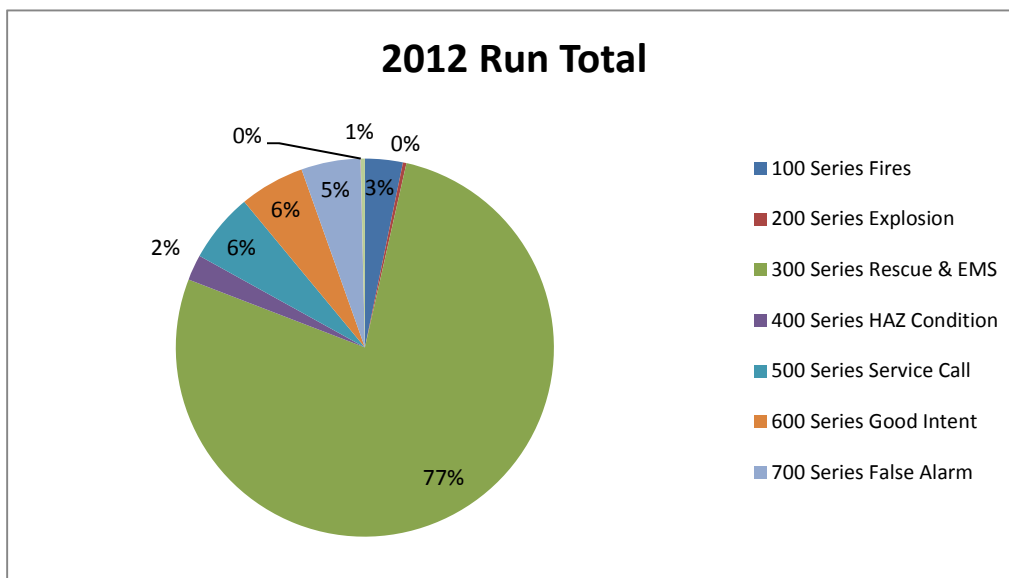
Mayor Snyder
CC: Council, Clerk treasurer
Reference: 2012 Fire Department Year End Report
February 19, 2013

Mayor

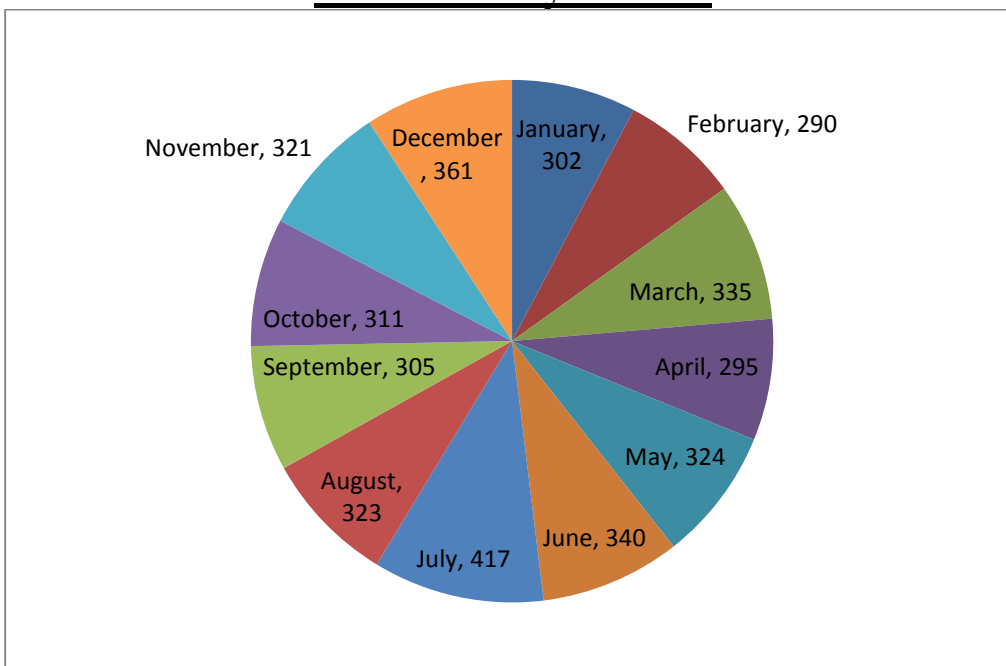
Thank you again for the opportunity to serve the community. The Fire department is focused in many areas: Fire and EMS services, Prevention and Inspection, Education internally and externally. Public safety is what the 61 uniformed and 2 civilian employees strive to accomplish through prevention and response.

Fire

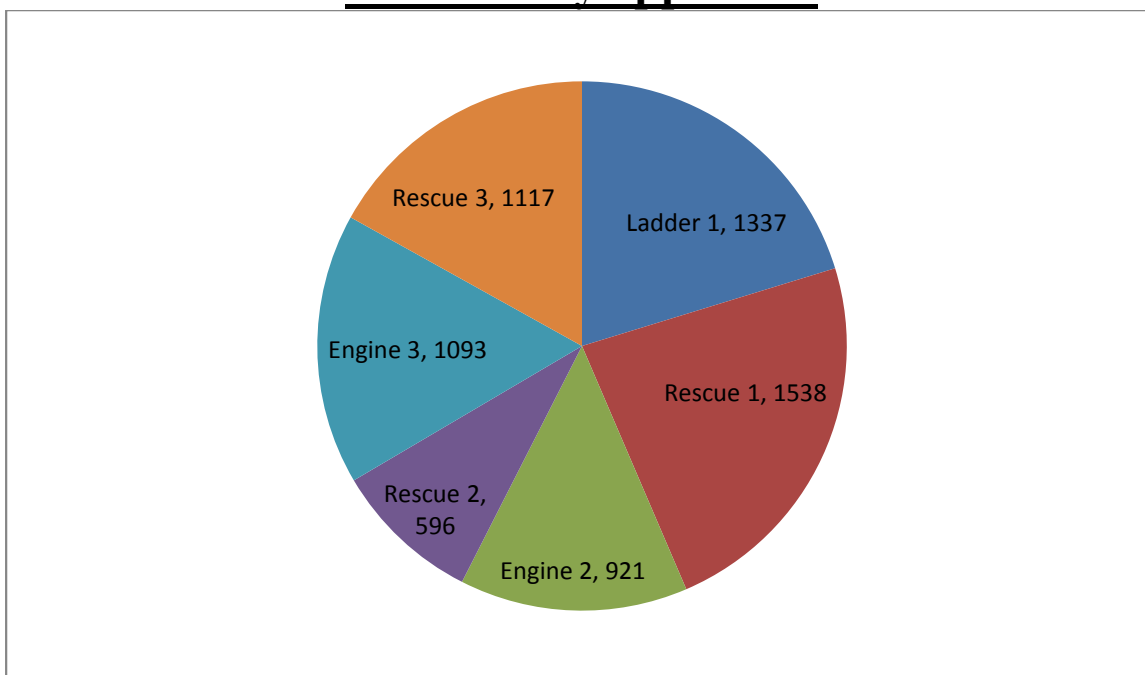
The Portage Fire Department had a total of 3924 runs for the year 2012. There were 127 fires, 12 explosion, 3034 engine responses to EMS calls, 86 hazardous conditions (No Fire) consisting of electrical issues, carbon monoxide, and fuel spills, 233 calls of service for smoke or odor removal, water leaks, lock outs and lift assists, 219 good intent calls where the call was unfound or we were cancelled before arrival to the scene, 198 false alarm & or false call, 2 severe weather & natural disaster, and 13 special type, which include citizen complaints. We had a total fire loss of \$3,598,350 in 2012. It is important to note that fire loss is estimated and may not reflect the true cost of repair or replacement of our customers' property. It is also important to note that nearly 2.8 million dollars of the total fire loss came from 2 fires at separate industrial facilities involving similar machinery.



Incidents by month



Incidents by apparatus



Vehicle and equipment maintenance was major in 2012. A great deal of repairs was performed in-house, providing a significant savings in labor costs from outside vendors. A greater emphasis was placed on preventative maintenance programs that will reduce long-term maintenance costs and equipment downtime. Tower 2 received major updates and repairs to the chassis. These repairs were made to extend the life of the vehicle and reduce overall maintenance cost of the vehicle.

The fire service is finding that cyanide is found in all fires and it stays in a firefighter system for extended periods of time. As it enters our system, it builds until firefighters reach a level that is fatal. We have therefore implemented policies and procedures and have updated our equipment for monitoring for cyanide at all structure fires.

We narrow banded all our radios and added a repeater site at Countryside Park. The narrow banding was a federal government requirement. The narrow band reduced our reach requiring the additional repeater site.

We purchased twelve sets of fire protective gear. We also purchased 2250 feet of attack and supply hose. We received a grant from U.S. Steel to purchase six new SWAT vest to replace out dated ones for our tactical medics. We continue to work closely with Central Dispatch who is now dispatching calls by available resources to help speed up and simplify responses.

EMS

Ambulance runs for 2012 were 3,270. Our transport rate was 74% to local emergency rooms. In reviewing the stats of our transports, Porter Portage ER received 33%, St. Mary's ER 35%, Porter Valparaiso ER 17%, and Porter Regional ER 15%. The citizens that utilized our service received Advanced Life Support level care on 59% of the runs.

The Portage Fire Department added several pieces of EMS equipment. First we added King vision Laryngoscope blades. The King Vision uses a video to allow actual visualization of the airway. NLMK of Indiana in the Port of Indiana provided us with Engle coolers to start our therapeutic hypothermia protocol. We also switched medical direction from Methodist Hospitals to Porter Regional Hospital.

Training

PFD personnel received 4947 man-hours of training in 2012. That translates to an average of over 80 hours of training per firefighter. These training hours included basic and advanced firefighter training, EMS education, engineer and driver's training and company officer and leadership training. Training hours in 2012 were down 13% from those in 2011. This is attributed to the loss of our Division Chief of Training when Jason Bush resigned in early 2012. After a several month lull in our training program, training began to increase again. The implementation of a Division Chief of Turn Operations on each shift will continue to increase and improve our training. These personnel will be responsible for overseeing training on their shifts and facilitating personnel career development.

Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Firefighter Training System District 1 held its first area wide career firefighter academy in 2012. This academy, paid for by the State of Indiana and included several veteran PFD instructors, provided over 1080 man-hours of training for 3 PFD rookie firefighters. This training would have cost us nearly \$3000 to perform in-house and nearly \$9000 to send the 3 out to another fire academy; both having been done in the past.

Greater emphasis was placed on trainings performed each firehouse in order to keep apparatus and personnel in their response areas. While this is not always possible, it does provide for decreased response times, decrease in fuel consumption and wear on vehicles and increased public safety.

CPR training in the community is a large part of the fire department goal and responsibility. We are an AHA community training center. Here is the breakdown of the classes taught in 2012.

• HCP Initial Course	24 classes and total of 157 students
• HCP Renewal Course	31 classes and a total of 158 students
• Heartsaver CPR/AED	41 classes and a total of 287 students
• Heartsaver CPR in Schools	54 classes and a total of 428 students
• Instructor	2 classes and a total of 11 students
• Instructor Update	5 classes and a total of 58 students
• Heartsaver 1 st Aid only	6 classes and a total of 84 students
• Heartsaver 1 st Aid /CPR (no infant)	17 classes and a total of 139 students
• Heartsaver Adult / Peds / Infant	17 classes and a total of 111 students

PFD has a total of 61 Instructors affiliated from Portage FD, Chesterton FD, Porter FD, PC EMA, Merrillville Schools, YMCA, Mittal, South Haven FD, PC Dispatch, Ritten House NH, Washington TWSHP FD, Northshore Healthcare, Portage PD, Ogden Dunes FD, Lake Station FD, several private businesses. Total CPR classes taught; 197 for a total of 1,422 students

Inspections and Prevention

Fire Inspection efforts were made to minimize fire risk by prioritizing buildings based on the use with the greatest potential for loss of life or injury. 172 inspections were made. Fire inspections were completed within the city for 9 hotels/motels, 76 apartment buildings, 9 Industrial/warehouse, 4 Hospital/Nursing Care, 3 Educational, 42 General Business, 11 Restaurants, 7 Factory, 6 Automotive.

The Fire Prevention theme for 2012 was “Have two ways out” The theme is chosen each year by The National Fire Protection Association. Prevention efforts were concentrated to fire prevention education in the schools. A fire prevention program was given at all elementary schools for grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. The program for each grade level, teaches the student what to do in case they are in a building that catches on fire. Starting with Kindergarten, the student is introduced to a fire fighter who shows them their protective firefighting gear. The fire fighter puts the gear on as he explains its purpose. 1st grade is taught fire safety basics: Stop drop and roll, 911, and to “go outside” if the building is on fire. 2nd grade is shown a cartoon video that shows one of the characters having a fire at their house. 3rd grade learns the importance of a home escape plan and is shown how to make one. 4th grade learns how to prevent fires and is given a home safety checklist. 5th grade is a review of all the past lessons and showing some of the statistics of not being prepared.

The fire department hosted its annual open house September 29th, 2012. The weather was nice and many children attended with their parents. The fire trucks and ambulances were available to get in. The dive team had demonstrations while swimming in a portable tank. Children could try on fire gear and spray a fire hose. Food and drink were served. We also invited the National Park fire Department to teach wild land fire safety.

Stations and Grounds

With the help of the street department the sinking drainage system at station one was repaired. The sinking culvert was making exiting the station in the apparatus almost impassable. Station two got tuck pointed solving weather issues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Th Fieffer', written in a cursive style.

Thomas Fieffer
Fire Chief