HENRY COUNTY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT 2013

"Our Family Protecting Your Family"

HENRY COUNTY GEORGIA
Mission Statement

The mission of the Henry County Fire Department is to provide safe, professional service through education, prevention, emergency services, and community relations.

Philosophy of Operations

Values

The Henry County Fire Department recognizes that its primary function is to provide for the safety and well-being of the citizens of Henry County. The most precious and valued resource of the Henry County Fire Department is its members. The Department values the contributions of these members and their families to the organization, the community, and the fire service profession.

Service

The Henry County Fire Department recognizes that the measurement of its actions is determined by the service its members deliver to the community. The department strives to provide the best fire protection and EMS service to our community. The department believes that the citizens of our community are safest when they receive preventive fire and life safety education programs. The department also believes that both our members and our citizens are safest when our personnel constantly improve their knowledge, skills, and professional abilities by actively participating in training and education programs.

Accountability

The Henry County Fire Department recognizes that fire service professionals are accountable in the government they represent, and to the communities and personnel that they serve. Accountability applies not only to the professional manner in which the department meets its primary goals, but also to the efficiency, effectiveness, and fiscal responsibility which guides all departmental actions.
The 2013 Henry County Fire Department Annual Report was prepared by Captain Sabrina Puckett, Public Information Officer.
I am honored once again to offer an introduction for the Henry County Fire Department’s Annual Report. The Henry County Fire Department serves a community of more than 200,000 residents, and we are fortunate to have one of the most professional, highly-trained and well-prepared fire departments in the country. The men and women of this department serve the community and its residents in ways that many may not realize, and those who serve have our profound respect and admiration. In the world of public safety, courage has no bounds, and in situations where most people will run away from danger, firefighters run toward it, and they do so without regard for their own personal safety, in order to save the lives of others. They put their lives on the line for us, and we are grateful for that.

The Fire Department takes on many responsibilities, with fire suppression at the top of the list, however, as illustrated in this report, Henry County’s Fire Department professionals also provide a number of additional services, including but not limited to, emergency medical services, life-saving smoke alarm installations, safety code enforcement, fire and safety education, HAZ-mat emergency response and various specialized rescue operations, all of which contribute to making Henry County one of the safest communities in which to live, work and visit.

On behalf of the men and women of the Henry County Fire Department, I am pleased to offer the 2013 Annual Report of the Henry County Fire Department. Throughout the following pages, you will find information and data which summarizes the general activities of the primary divisions of our department, as well as photos of the more notable events of 2013.

As you evaluate the data in the following pages you will notice that the Department’s emergency call volume remained fairly constant in 2013 in comparison to the previous year actually decreasing somewhat. While I would like to attribute this solely to an excellent prevention program, I must also admit that our weather related events were less numerous in 2013 than in previous years. Simply stated it was a warmer winter and a wetter summer and I believe these factors helped contribute to our decreased emergency call volume.

Henry County Fire Department stands dedicated to being the best community-focused fire and emergency medical service and to ensuring a safe and secure environment for all residents and visitors. In November of 2013, the voters of Henry County elected to pass a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). This presents a number of opportunities for HCFD as three new fire stations will be constructed over the next few years in underserved areas of Henry County as “county-wide” projects. SPLOST funds will be used to purchase fire apparatus for each of the new stations and to purchase one new ambulance and remount an existing ambulance. The District 1 SPLOST funds will be used with SPLOST funds from Locust Grove to build a public safety building that will house HCFD Station 2 and the Locust Grove Police Department.

Our constant commitment to fire prevention and community outreach, in conjunction with our training and incident activities, continues to reinforce our departmental vision of making Henry County one of the safest communities in which to work, live, and play.

Sincerely yours,

William D. Lacy
Fire Chief
April’s multi-alarm fire on Creek Cove Road in Ellenwood, was among significant fires during the course of the year. A large plume of smoke was visible for miles away due to the amount of fire at this incident. Forty-three personnel, eighteen apparatus, including two fire engines from DeKalb County Fire and Rescue, and just over five hours was involved in the containment and extinguishment of this fire, that originally began as a controlled burn.

First arriving units were faced with a large area of woods and two structures engulfed in fire and zero water supply in the area. The lay of the land, limited access to the burning structures, no fire hydrants in the area, and significant winds that afternoon, challenged the mitigation of this scene requiring unusual and infrequent tactics as the firefighters encountered several challenges.

Fortunately, other structures in the area were protected and undamaged and there were no injuries.
During the 2013 election period, the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum passed, re-imposing the funding of capital and transportation projects in the community. SPLOST is an optional one percent (1%) county sales tax used to fund capital outlay projects proposed by the county government and participating qualified municipal governments. Based on a revenue projection of $190 million, Henry County’s portion of 75 percent will yield $142.5 million for county projects. Fire protection and emergency services for the citizens of Henry County will benefit with the completion of the SPLOST IV Projects. The greatest direct impact will come with the construction of three additional fire stations in the Luella, Kelleytown and Mt. Carmel areas. Service coverage for the entire community will improve dramatically, as will the Insurance Service Office (ISO) Public Protection Class rating, for underserved areas.
The Henry County Fire Department’s operating budget runs on a fiscal year from July 1-June 30th each year. The Fiscal Year 2013 totaled $20,615,047.09. The HCFD FY2013 budget was 16.75% of the County’s overall budget. In the face of recent recession, although signs of recovery have been seen, the challenge of fiscal management has been daunting. The HCFD has been proactive in meeting this challenge. In 2014, the fire department will remain on the forefront of initiating both operational and fiscal efficiencies, with continuous efforts made to save Henry County dollars. To ensure the highest quality of service to the community and the most economical means of delivery, the fire department is constantly reviewing the latest technology and strategies for fire protection and life safety.
COMMAND STAFF

Fire Chief
Bill Lacy

Division Chief of Operations
Brad Johnson

Division Chief of Prevention
Joe Kelley

Division Chief of Training
Ike McConnell
Fire Stations

1. Located at 664 Industrial Boulevard, McDonough
   - Opened in 1987
   - 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 10 firefighters
   - Houses the Office of Battalion Chief as well as Engine 1, Ladder 1, Squad 1, Rescue 1, Rescue 14, and Hazardous Materials Resource Unit
   - Home of the Henry County Hazardous Materials Unit
   - Responds to 20.58% of the county’s emergency calls
   - Responded to a total of 4507 emergency scenes in 2013

2. Located at 35 Frances Ward Drive, Locust Grove
   - Opened in 1979
   - 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 4 firefighters
   - Houses Engine 2 and Rescue 2
   - Responds to 8.67% of the county’s emergency calls
   - Responded to a total of 1899 emergency scenes in 2013

   *To be Replaced with SPLOST IV Project—The District 1 SPLOST funds will be used with SPLOST funds from Locust Grove to build a public safety building that will house HCFD Station 2 and the Locust Grove Police Department and Locust Grove Court.

3. Located at 3030 Highway 42, Stockbridge
   - Opened in 1996
   - 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 5 firefighters
   - Houses the Engine 3 and Rescue 3 (as needed as a peak volume resource)
   - Responds to 6.92% of the county’s emergency calls
   - Responded to a total of 1516 emergency scenes in 2013

4. Located at 1092 Keys Ferry Road, McDonough
   - Opened in 2005
   - 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 2 firefighters
   - Houses Engine 4 and the 911 Mobile Communications Unit
   - Responds to 1.85% of the county’s emergency calls
   - Responded to a total of 406 emergency scenes in 2013

   *Replacement Station built with SPLOST II funds
**FIRE STATIONS**

- Located at 10 Elm Street, Hampton
  - Opened in 1993
  - 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 5 firefighters
  - Houses Engine 5, Rescue 5 and MED 5
  - Responds to 9.61% of the county’s emergency calls
  - Responded to a total of 2104 emergency scenes in 2013

- Located at 680 Fairview Road, Ellenwood
  - Opened in 1989
  - 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 5 firefighters
  - Houses Quint 6 and Rescue 6
  - Responds to 7.66% of the county’s emergency calls
  - Responded to a total of 1679 emergency scenes in 2013

- Located at 1800 Highway 155 North, McDonough
  - Opened in 2006
  - 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 4 firefighters
  - Houses Engine 7, Rescue 7, Brush Truck 7, Air &Light 7, and the Mobile Command Vehicle
  - Home of the Henry County Fire Department Mobile Command Unit
  - Responds to 7.16% of the county’s emergency calls
  - Responded to a total of 1568 emergency scenes in 2013

  *Replacement Station built with SPLOST II funds*

- Located at 1672 Flippen Road, Stockbridge
  - Opened in 1985
  - 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 4 firefighters
  - Houses Engine 8 and Rescue 8
  - Responds to 12.21% of the county’s emergency calls
  - Responded to a total of 2674 emergency scenes in 2013
Fire Stations

- Located at 122 Rock Quarry Rd., Stockbridge
  - Opened in 2012
  - 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 4 firefighters
  - Houses Office of Battalion Chief as well as Engine 9, Ladder 9 and Rescue 9
  - Responds to 10.58% of the county’s emergency calls
  - Responded to a total of 2317 emergency scenes in 2013

*Replacement Station built with SPLOST III funds

- Located at 1059 Upchurch Road, McDonough
  - Opened in 1995
  - 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 4 firefighters
  - Houses Engine 10 and Rescue 10
  - Responds to 5.62% of the county’s emergency calls
  - Responded to a total of 1231 emergency scenes in 2013

- Located at 792 Flat Rock Road, Stockbridge
  - Opened in 1999
  - 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 5 firefighters
  - Houses Engine 11, Squad 11, Trench 11, and Car 2
  - Responds to 3.40% of the county’s emergency calls
  - Responded to a total of 746 emergency scenes in 2013

*New Station built with SPLOST I funds

- Located at 1123 Old Jackson Road, Locust Grove
  - Opened in 2001
  - 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 3 firefighters
  - Houses Engine 12, Tanker 12, Car 1, Dive Truck 12 and 2 Rescue Boats
  - Responds to 2.21% of the county’s emergency calls
  - Responded to a total of 485 emergency scenes in 2013

*New Station built with SPLOST I funds
• Located at 2815 Highway 20 East, McDonough
• Opened in 2006
• 24-hour coverage with a minimum of 5 firefighters
• Houses Engine 13 and Rescue 13
• Responds to 3.41% of the county’s emergency calls
• Responded to a total of 747 emergency scenes in 2013

*New Station built with SPLOST II funds*

• Located at 110 South Zack Hinton Parkway, McDonough
• Opened in 2008
• Houses the Office of the Fire Chief, Office of the Division Chief of Operations, Office of the Division Chief of Prevention/Fire Marshal, and Administrative personnel
• Henry County Fire Department and Henry County Police Department share the Henry County Public Safety Complex

• Located at 121 Work Camp Road, McDonough
• Opened in the early 1970’s
• Services all Fire Department apparatus and vehicles

New Stations
• Station 14 - Luella Area To Open December 2015
• Station 15 - Kelleytown Area To Open August 2016
• Station 16 - Mt.Carmel Area To Open June 2017

Replacement Station
• Station 2 - Locust Grove
Fire Chief

The Fire Chief is responsible for the overall management of the Department. These responsibilities include the establishment of personnel standards and policies, work schedules, public relations, and the continuous review of operations and performance. Fiscal management of administrative processes, including the Operating and Capital Improvement Program budgets and personnel, also fall under the Chief’s duties. The Chief initiates specific projects impacting the operation of the department and the services that it provides to the community.

The Fire Administration Division maintains and controls the operations of the Fire Department. The Office of the Chief, Fire Department Receptionist, Accounts Administrator, as well as specified divisions and special operations, fall within Fire Administration. All administrative functions ultimately are conducted to support the Operations, Prevention and Training divisions of the department.
OPERATIONS

The Operations Division is supervised by the Chief of Operations and oversees daily suppression operations of the department, medical emergencies and ambulance transports, and all other special operations. This division contains field personnel working in fire stations and responding to the constant requests for assistance from the citizenry. All field personnel work a 24/48—hour schedule. They report to their assigned fire station by 7 a.m. and are in-service working for the citizens for 24 hours. The following morning at 7 a.m. their shift ends and they are relieved by the oncoming shift. After 48 hours off, they return for their next 24-hour shift.

TRAINING

The Training Division trains all personnel in all disciplines of the fire department functions. This division maintains training records and ensures appropriate personnel are recertified in all certifications obtained and that they are receiving the required number of training hours for their certification/level of expertise.

PREVENTION

This Prevention Division contains the Fire Marshal, personnel for building plan review, fire code inspectors, fire investigators, and fire and life safety educators. This division plays a role in the construction of new buildings ensuring that the structures are built to meet or exceed today’s life safety codes as well as inspecting existing structures to ensure occupants are remaining within the life safety code. This division also investigates fires for origin and cause of any fires that appear suspicious or criminal in nature and/or unlawfully set, or of which the immediate cause cannot be determined. Community fire and life safety education is scheduled and coordinated out of this division.

2013 DIVISION NUMBERS

OPERATIONS
242 Shift Personnel / Line Personnel
2 Administrative Officers
1 Administrative Assistant (Civilian)
3 EMS Billing Clerks (Civilian)

TRAINING
2 Fire / EMS Instructors
1 Paramedic Instructor
1 Administrative Assistant (Civilian)

PREVENTION
5 Inspector/Investigators
1 Plan Reviewer
1 PIO/Fire Safety Educator
1 Fire Safety Educator
1 Administrative Assistant (Civilian)
**Operations**

The Operations Division is overseen by Division Chief Brad Johnson, and includes all of the apparatus, firefighters and paramedics who respond to emergencies when citizens call “911.” Thirteen stations are staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, prepared to respond at a moment’s notice.

The HCFD Operations Section responds to emergency requests from the public for fires, medical calls, motor vehicle crashes, rescues from entrapment, hazardous materials incidents, and many other emergency situations. As first responders, our firefighters are also Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) who can begin administering treatment before an ambulance arrives on scene. The cross-training is an important component of how the HCFD Operations Division works together to provide the most efficient and effective medical care for the citizens of Henry County. 2013 statistics consist of 21,883 responses; 552 were fires 16,887 were Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses, 359 were hazardous condition responses; 453 were mutual aid responses, 842 were false responses and 2,790 consist of other types of responses.

**Fire Section**

The Fire Section serves unincorporated Henry County and cities of Stockbridge, Hampton, and Locust Grove, with 12 Engine Apparatus, 1 Quint Apparatus, 2 Ladders, and 2 Squads for fire fighting and rescue operations, supplemented with EMS ambulances.

Fire Section responds to all Fires, Rescues (extrications), And Special Operational commitments (Hazmat, Confined Space, Trench Rescue and Dive Rescues). Fire Section promotes and disseminates progressive equipment and tactics for Henry County’s growing needs in changes from rural to suburban housing.

Fire Section also supplements City of McDonough Fire Department with an on going automatic aid agreement.

The Fire Section in conjunction with EMS, have implemented and maintained 11 Advanced Life Support (ALS) First Responder Engine Apparatus to supplement the ever increasing call volume and demand for EMS thus providing the community with the highest level of first responder care available at this time.
Henry County Fire Department provides emergency medical service coverage for all of Henry County utilizing 11 ALS ambulances, 11 ALS fire apparatus, 2 Basic Life Support (BLS) fire apparatus, and a host of first responders. In addition, EMS Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI), the EMS Billing Department, and the Bike Team all function under the EMS Section.

Henry County Fire Department sends a medical response to all requests for medical care and other calls in which the need may arise such as hazardous materials and structure fires. All HCFD response personnel are required to have an Emergency Medical Technician Intermediate (EMT-I) certification at a minimum. HCFD is staffed with 114 members licensed as paramedics. The Billing Department assures fiscal responsibility to the citizens of Henry County by collecting revenue generated from the ambulance transports and ensuring compliance to the complex rules and regulations from federal agencies such as Medicare and Medicaid. The Billing Department continues its momentum carried over from 2012 with a slight increase in billing. The EMS Billing Department billed out $674,785.22 more than in 2012.
TRAINING DIVISION

TRAINING

The Training Division, under the direction of the Training Chief Ike McConnell, conducts and coordinates all department training activities including but not limited to recruit training, fire suppression, emergency medical, technical rescue, officer development and other training programs as necessary to meet established state and federal mandates each year. The division is responsible for ensuring that all department members meet the requirements as set forth by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Insurance Services Office (ISO), Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training, Georgia Department of Human Resources, and the internal requirements established by the Fire Department.

The Training Division is to provide the highest quality training, instruction, and educational support to our members. This is intended to prepare our department to serve our community in the most efficient and effective means possible, and to ensure the safety of our citizens and personnel.

The Training Division is responsible for the following:

- Processing applications for new employees.
- Testing, interviewing and hiring new employees.
- Conducting recruit school for new employees.
- Developing a continuing education plan for all personnel.
- Conducting Paramedic school.
- Providing “Academy Style” classes for continued education, to teach new skills, and to assist each employee with career development.
- Conducting promotional processes for competitive rank positions.

Simply, we are mandated to make sure our personnel are trained. Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Council and Georgia Department of EMS both require that we obtain a certain amount of training on an annual basis so that our personnel remain competent in their assigned certified positions. Above that minimum, it is a goal of the Henry County Fire Department to adhere to the training requirements set forth by the Insurance Service Office. In addition to Fire and EMS requirements there are several other competencies that require yearly training. Those include but are not limited to Basic Mandate Law Enforcement (LE), Hazardous Material, Tech Rescue, Dive Operations, and several others. These requirements are accomplished by:

- Providing a Continued Annual Training plan for yearly training.
- Encouraging individual and company training every shift.
- Hosting and delivering developmental classes for our personnel.
- Keeping abreast of all training requirements.
- Maintaining for reference, a Master Course File of classes instructed within the HCFD.
- Maintaining complete comprehensive training records.
- Delivering the most meaningful and realistic training possible while ensuring personal safety.
Division Chief of Training

This position is responsible for organizing, designing, implementing, and managing training and employee development programs for the Henry County Fire Department. This position may also serve as a Command or General Staff Officer when necessary on incident scenes. Listed are some of the major duties of this position: developing training goals and objectives in conjunction with Fire Department Senior Staff; organizes and develops training programs for Firefighters and EMTS; provides new recruits with an orientation program and is responsible for conducting and administering all training requirements and programs, including the operation of an assessment center for prospective recruits; assists the Division Chief of Operations by providing FF/EMTs and FF/Paramedics with training courses and by assisting them in preparing for certification and re-certification requirements; ensures all Fire/EMS personnel are properly certified by maintaining employee training/certification files, providing monthly reports, and performs related work as required.

Fire – EMS Training

Captain Russell coordinates and leads firefighter training classes, drills, and skills assessments in all disciplines and levels of training within the department. He coordinates and leads all training associated with new personnel through an in-house recruit school. He supervises personnel assigned to the various training activities. He occasionally performs operational duties on emergency scenes, technical rescue operations as well as elsewhere within the structure of operations, where needed. He ensures all members of the department are participating in training drills and competence evaluations. Exceptional performance in this position is imperative for the overall efficient and effective operations of the fire and emergency medical service.

Classes Hosted by the Fire Academy

National Fire Academy Leadership Training
Forcible Entry Simulator Train the Trainer
Forcible Entry Training via Simulator
Conducted Recruit School 13-01
Search & Rescue Class for GA Defense Force
Firefighter II Testing
Hosted Fall MATO Instructor Workshop
Hosted Annual “Live Release” Ammonia Drill
Physical Agility Testing

Emergency Medical Services

Amy McCullough is the spearhead of the Henry County Emergency Medical Services Training Program. She coordinates and provides instruction for the department’s in-house EMT and Paramedic programs, a multitude of various specific medical skills training, as well as required annual recertification classes. Amy has and continues to work assiduously to obtain program accreditation.

Classes Hosted by the EMS Academy

2012-2013 Paramedic Class
National Registry Refresher
ACLS Recertification
12 Lead ECG Interpretation Class
PALS Instructor Class
National Registry Skills Assessment
EMS Instructor Class
Facilities

The Training Division offices are located at 664 Industrial Blvd. This facility hosts the offices for the Training Captain and the Paramedic Instructor. We have three classrooms available at this facility as well as a library, conference room, and a personnel training file room. Also located at 664 Industrial Blvd is our training ground. This area is approximately 1 acre devoted to the “hands on” training of our personnel. On these grounds is a drill tower, class “A” burn building, confined space simulator, SCBA maze, and props for Liquid Petroleum (LP) training. The Paramedic / EMS Instructor’s office was previously located at Station 5 on Elm Street in Hampton until mid 2010. At that location we have a classroom, conference room and a supply area for EMS training. The Division continues to support the classroom at Station 5 as well as the classrooms located at Station 10 on Upchurch Rd and at Station 11 on Flat Rock Rd. The classrooms are located in the second floor of the facilities and are used throughout the year by our personnel for in-service classes as well as Academy classes.

Operational Summary

♦ 2013 was another dynamic year for the Henry County Fire Department Training Division.

♦ With the return of economic stability we were able to replace one training officer lost during the RIF of 2011. We now operate with two Training Officers (TO) on staff from a previous staff of three TO’s. This reduction in force continues to somewhat limit the presence of the Training Division department wide. While every attempt has been made to prevent the reduction in force, effecting the amount and quality of our training it has reduced the amount of training provided by the training division at the station level.

Recruit School

The hiring of ten new members, to fill existing vacancies, prompted the need for a recruit school.

HCFD Recruit School trained the new members in the skill of firefighting as well as the other disciplines they would encounter. The men and women were subjected to comprehensive testing and completed all necessary classes and satisfied all requirements completing 360 hours of firefighter training. The new firefighters will continue their training on their respective shifts.

Paramedic School

♦ In September, the 2013-2014 Paramedic Class began with thirty-three students enrolled. Class 2013-2014 graduated January 2014.

♦ Next class is scheduled to begin in March 2014.

♦ Completed our site visit for the accreditation process for Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Profession. Awaiting results. If accredited, our Emergency Medical Services Training Program will be only the tenth in the nation to receive accreditation.

♦ HCFD hosted a National Registry Skills Assessment.

In-Service Training

♦ We assisted line personnel as we could with in service training. These were done with several drop drills, and train the trainers for new equipment.

♦ Core Competency Training – In January the Core Competency task books were issued. These were completed by most personnel by the end of March. All of our personnel completed their required core competencies in 2013.
Continuing Education – All of our certified personnel obtained their yearly required Continuing Education Credits for 2013.

Other Accomplishments

◆ In January we issued the 2013 Operations / Training plan and course calendar.

◆ In 2013, we offered classes in an Academy format. The classes are divided into the Fire Academy and EMS Academy.

◆ The Training Division also worked with Georgia Firefighters Standards and Training Evaluations and Validations for Fire Service testing throughout the year.

As one can see we have a fairly substantial training operation. Over the past few years we have become more self sufficient and provide most of our developmental classes in house. We have found that having in-house training of personnel results in higher quality service providers and in higher employee retention rates. The Henry County Fire Department Training Division intends to provide the highest quality training, instruction, and educational support to our members in support of the goal that “Everyone Goes Home”.

-Chief Ike McConnell

Training Division 2014 Goals

2014 Annual Training Plan

Develop a 2014 training plan that will be used to satisfy continued annual training requirements for Fire and EMS certifications as well as Henry County requirements.

Hire New Personnel

Hire personnel to fill open positions.

EMS Academy

2014-2015 Paramedic Class

Obtain Program Accreditation

Technical Rescue Training Program

Continue the current Technical Rescue Training Provides regular updates for TRT personnel.

Training Ground Maintenance and Improvements.

Complete replacement of the Burn Building

Update Curriculums

Update current curriculum so that all resources are up to date and relevant.
The Fire Prevention Division is led by the Fire Marshal and Division Chief of Prevention, Joe Kelley. The Prevention Division is charged with enforcing "Rules and Regulations for the State Minimum Fire Safety Standards" as adopted by the State Fire Commissioner. The Prevention Division is the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) in these matters for all of unincorporated Henry County and the cities of Hampton, Stockbridge and Locust Grove.

### Administrative Assistant

This position assists in the planning and/or supervision of the administrative function of the division. It serves as the point of contact for this division, maintaining required paperwork and documentation, scheduling inspections, working with each city hall and the county tax office to ensure businesses obtain business licensure and fire inspections are conducted on new and existing structure.

The Fire Marshal's Office has six major responsibilities:

- Conduct fire & life safety inspections of existing buildings and structures.
- Review plans and specifications for proposed buildings and structures, issue joint building permits with the Henry County Building Department when plans are approved, and conduct fire & life safety inspections of such buildings and structures.
- Issue joint, permanent and temporary certificates of occupancy with the Henry County Building Department.
- Conduct cause and origin investigations of fires, and if criminal activity is determined, initiate a criminal investigation to include arrests.
- Provide code enforcement to ensure compliance with the county’s burn ordinance.
- Provide educational programs in schools and various venues throughout the county for the purpose of informing and protecting the public.

The Fire Prevention Division is divided into 3 sections, the New Construction Inspection Section, the Existing Inspection / Investigation Section and Fire Safety Education Section. The division is currently staffed with 2 Captains, 5 Lieutenants and an Administrative Assistant.

The New Construction Section offices relocated, returning their offices back to the Henry County Public Safety Annex. This past year we had 4 inspectors handling existing inspections. For the second consecutive year the division inspected all of the businesses in Henry County. We also handled all the high hazardous target inspections including:

- Schools (Public and Private)
- Churches
- Apartments
- Daycares
- Hotels
New Construction Inspections & Investigations

Captain Dale Hutchison currently supervises the New Construction Inspection Section, which is responsible for handling plan reviews and conducting inspections on new buildings. Hutchinson has been an employee of the department since September 1993. His section's primary responsibility is to ensure the life safety of all new buildings in the County. The inspection section is staffed with 1 Inspector, and 1 Plan Reviewer. This Section is actively involved with development efforts in the county. Personnel in the Inspection section regularly participate in due-diligence meetings, on-site consultations, pre-review meetings, and work hand-in-hand with other county development agencies such as the building department, tax commissioner, planning & zoning, and the county's water authority. All certified Fire Inspectors are members of the Georgia Fire Inspectors Association, and the International Building Code Council. This section reviewed 508 building and site plans and inspected 576 new buildings in 2013. In 2012, 396 building and site plans were reviewed and 486 new buildings were inspected.

Existing Inspections & Investigations

Captain Ron Reagan currently supervises the Inspection /Investigation Section, which is responsible for investigating the cause and origin of fires which may be suspicious in nature, high-dollar loss, or a fire where the cause cannot be determined and for inspecting all existing buildings. Fire scenes involving criminal activity are the responsibility of the Inspector/Investigator Section. Captain Reagan became employed with the department in February of 2002. The Investigation Section works closely with the law enforcement elements in the county, such as the County Police Department, Sheriff’s Department and the District Attorney’s Office (for both adult and juvenile courts). Investigators also work closely with insurance companies and their respective investigators, and when needed provide assistance to the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

The Existing Inspection/Investigation Unit is staffed with 4 Investigator/Inspectors. In addition, the Fire Marshal and 5 of his personnel are cross-trained, and certified as Fire Investigators. The Fire Marshal and both Captains are also certified police officers, which allows them to apply for search and arrest warrants. All the sections have certified investigators that are members of the Georgia Fire Investigators Association and the International Fire Investigators Association. The Fire Marshal and both Captains also are members of the Metro Arson Task Force (a function of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms).

Captain Reagan was instrumental in the creation of the County’s Juvenile Fire-setter Program. Once juvenile firesetters are identified, the investigator works in conjunction with Fire Safety Educators, juvenile court officials and mental health professionals, to provide counseling and treatment.

2013 INTENTIONALLY SET FIRES

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Community Education
The Henry County Fire Department prides itself on being accessible to the community. Fire Department personnel participate in a variety of community activities and perform numerous public relations details throughout the year. Highlights from 2013 include the following events:

- National Night Out
- Fairview National Night Out
- Henry Seniors Business Expo & Health Fair
- Hampton City Parade
- Home Depot Safety Days
- Locust Grove Days
- Hampton Bear Creek Festival
- Henry County Special Olympics
- Southern Belle Farms Hero Day
- McDonough Christmas Parade
- Locust Grove Christmas Parade
- Youth Leadership Henry
- Relay for Life
- T.C. Carter Safety Day
- Georgia Kayak Association – Foster Kids Day

Educating members of the community about fire prevention and the dangers of fire is an important initiative of the Henry County Fire Department. In 2013, the department reached over *34,127 citizens through its various fire and life safety education programs.

*this number does not include over twenty events that were unable to provide number of attendees.

Fire & Life Safety Priorities

- Reduce deaths from structure fires to zero and limit property damage from structure fires to the area of origin.
- Create an environment where the public is made aware of the fire problem and their role in fire prevention.

69 Community Outreach Events
50 Station Tours
61 School visits
51 Preschool visits
24 Career Days
18 Juvenile Firesetter Contacts
4 Adult Fire Safety Education Programs
2 Senior Fire Safety Events
5 Events attended by the fire safety house (a mobile classroom designed to aid in teaching children what to do in case of a fire in their home)
Over 17,800 educational materials were distributed
Other programs provided by this office include:

- Juvenile Firesetter Intervention
- Fire Safety Education Theater
- Fire Safety House
- Education through Clowning and Robotics
- Child Safety Seat Inspection/Installation
- Smoke Alarm Installation/Distribution

Community programs

- 69 Community Outreach Events
- 50 Station Tours
- 61 School visits
- 51 Preschool visits
- 24 Career Days
- 18 Juvenile Firesetter Contacts
- 4 Adult Fire Safety Education Programs
- 2 Senior Fire Safety Events
- 5 Events attended by the fire safety house (a mobile classroom designed to aid in teaching children what to do in case of a fire in their home)

Over 17,800 educational materials were distributed.
**Community Outreach**

**“Get Alarmed Henry” Smoke Alarm Program**

It is our goal to ensure that no one lays their head on their pillow another night without the protection of an early detection device, a smoke alarm. Two hundred fifty-four smoke alarms were provided and/or installed for citizens free of charge. Our smoke alarms are obtained through the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation and the citizens of Henry County. Below is just one example where smoke alarms made a difference between life and death during 2013.

“I heard the smoke alarm, went to see where it was coming from, went to get an extinguisher but the flames took over quickly!” Fortunately, everyone escaped without injury. "Smoke Alarms Do Save Lives! Henry County Fire Department is urging all citizens to check their smoke alarms each month.

Forty-eight child safety seat inspections and/or installations were conducted to ensure proper installation. In addition to the inspections, seven child safety seat classes were conducted for seventeen recipients of child safety seats provided through the 2013 Georgia Child Passenger Mini Grant Program. We made application and was awarded the 2014 Child Occupant Safety Grant for the third consecutive year. The program is through the Georgia Department of Health and funded by the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety.
Citizens’ Fire Academy

The Citizens Fire Academy is a ten-week program designed to educate and inform citizens about fire and emergency services. Participants gain a greater understanding of the inner workings of the Henry County Fire Department. A class is offered in the Spring and in the Fall of each year. Classes are held one night per week.

Nearly thirty citizens participated in the ten week program in during 2013. The goals of the Citizens’ Fire Academy are to:

- Provide residents a basic understanding of the tactics and strategies of firefighting and rescue operations.
- Provide a greater understanding of the services the Henry County Fire Department is able to provide to the community.
- Encourage academy participants to return to their families and neighborhoods and share their experiences. Thus providing more safety conscious and informed citizens.
- Provide an enjoyable, interactive atmosphere in which fire department members and citizens can share information and concerns.
*Figures may not add up exactly to total incident responses for the year. The total incident responses for 2013 were 21,883; However, there were 21,892 reports generated for scenes comprised of additional exposures and multiple patients.
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In the department’s history, the Henry County Fire Department saw a first ever decline in call volume in 2013, responding to nearly 600 alarms less than 2012 for a total call volume of 21,883 incidents. Although the exact cause for the decline is unknown, the call trend is currently on the rise for 2014 tracking to surpass the call volume of 2013 and possibly that of 2012 as well. With construction in the county on the rise, the population is expected to begin increasing again as well.

### Number of Calls By Incident Type for 2013

- **Rescue / Emergency Medical** 16,887
- **All Other Responses** 2,790
- **False Alarms** 842
- **Other Fires & Incidents** 371
- **Mutual Aid (Given)** 453
- **Other Structure Fires** 28
- **Hazmat Responses** 178
- **Other Hazardous Responses** 181
- **Residential Structure Fires** 153
2013 Top Ten Medical Complaints

- Abdominal Pain: 901
- Behavioral/Psychiatric Disorder: 591
- Chest Pain/Cardiac Disturbance: 1168
- General Malaise: 651
- Nausea & Vomiting: 587
- Pain: 2832
- Respiratory Distress: 1124
- Seizure: 597
- Traumatic Injury: 2205
- Weakness: 995

Breakdown of Fires By Type

- Schools & Colleges: 4
- Stores & Offices: 6
- Public Assembly: 6
- Other Structures: 3
- Other Vehicles: 3
- Storage in Structures: 9
- Apartments: 15
- Rubbish/Dumpsters: 46
- Highway Vehicles: 89
- Non-Structure/Non-Vehicle: 53
- Industry/Utility: 0
- Health Care / Penal: 0
- Brush/Grass/Wildland: 179
- Private Dwelling: 137
The Henry County Fire Explorer Program is a platform to provide young men and women the opportunity to learn and experience the fire service. This is accomplished through weekly training meetings in which participants learn about the many facets of the fire service. While attending these training meetings, post members participate in exercises and receive training much like a recruit firefighters receive while in "Rookie School". Most of the training is hands-on; however, there is some time spent in the classroom learning from presentations, videos and books. The goal of the members of Post 190 is to earn the privilege of a ride-along where they can experience the “Day in the Life of a Firefighter.”

**Accomplishments:**
- Membership entering 2013 was 21. Due to higher than average interest than in the past, we instituted an interview process for those desiring to become a member of Post 190.
- In the fall of 2013, 6 new members were added for the 2013-2014 program.
- All members (except newest) earned CPR certification.
- All members (except newest) met requirements and are ready to commence ride-alongs
- Gear inspections & SCBA mask fit tests were conducted for all post members.
- Post raised $150 from members to send to family of a Dekalb Fire Post member who died unexpectedly.

**Participated in:**
- February 2013 Winterfest, 16 participated, received 1 team award
- 2013 Trussville Alabama Competition, 11 participated, received 2 team awards
- 2013 Henry County Explorer Expo, 13 participated, received 3 individual & 5 team awards

**Upcoming in 2014:**
- 40th annual Winterfest (Feb 2014)
- Coweta Explorer Competition (March 2014)
- Trussville Alabama Explorer Competition (April 2014)
- Terry Farrell Memorial Stair Climb (September 2014)
- Henry County Explorer Expo (October 2014)
- 4 Members to assist with upcoming paramedic testing (February 2014)
- CPR Certification for new members & recertification for members with expiring cards
- Planning for a live burn exercise after completion of refurbish of the Burn Building
- Planning for additional advanced activities such as rappelling, extrication, etc.
- Continue searching for community and charity events to participate in
- Looking forward to opportunities to participate in and/or assist with various department training activities
- Plan for resuming member ride-alongs

**Notables:**
- One recent former member became A-EMT certified and now works for private service
- Added one civilian advisor
- Added one former member as advisor

**Henry County Explorer Competition & Expo**
- Increased in size for 5th straight year to 9 Posts and 100+ individual competitors
- Teams travelled from Texas, Alabama & Tennessee
- Added 6th “Mystery Event”
- Chief Rice hosted antique truck show for 2nd year
- 6 new members used to help organize and execute event
- Searching for new competitive events to replace or add to current line-up

In October 2014, Post 190 will host the Sixth Annual Henry Explorer Expo. We are planning for an increase in competitors and attendance again in 2014. We hope to have two to five additional posts to register this year, possibly increasing to over 150 individuals participating.
In 2013, The Henry County Fire Department retired four of the finest, seasoned firefighters our department has ever known. The retirement of Firefighter/EMT Johnny Wilson, Firefighter/EMT Kenneth Gordon, Firefighter/Paramedic James Nelms, and Firefighter/Paramedic Dale Farmer, will be felt for some time to come. The noble leadership and combined experience of over 95 years will be greatly missed by all those who worked along side these admirable firefighters.

“The contributions made by these gentleman to the community of Henry County are immeasurable. While we are happy that they can now enjoy the fruits of their labors, both our organization and our community will miss them dearly,”

- Chief Bill Lacy.
The Henry County Honor Guard honors fallen public safety professionals and military veterans. Training and services are provided on a voluntary basis by members of the Fire Department. The Honor Guard responds to many service requests for funerals, parades, and other various venues for flag presentations each year. The Honor Guard has also been selected in previous years to lead in the honors and flag presentation at the Georgia Public Safety Training Centers’ September 11th Memorial Ceremony.

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Henry County Fire Department Honor Guard to honor Fire Service members, both past and present, and the United States of America with the highest degree of professionalism, dedication, loyalty, and dignity possible.

Membership

Membership to the Honor Guard is open to any member of Henry County Fire Department. To be considered for membership personnel submit a letter of request to the Honor Guard Coordinator through their chain of command. The three most important characteristics looked for in a member of the Guard are: Participation, Dedication, and Dependability.

Details

Throughout the year, the Guard is available for several different types of events. Some are listed below:

- Flag Presentations:
  - Graduation Ceremonies, Parades, Football Games, and Public Events.
  - Funerals and Memorial Services:
    - Henry Fire Personnel (Current and Retired)
    - Public Safety Personnel
    - County and Local Dignitaries.
  - Weddings of HCFD Personnel
  - Retirement Ceremonies
  - Any other activity that requires the formality of a flag or guard presentation.

Currently we have 16 personnel that are on the Guard. In 2013, those personnel carried out funeral details, memorial services, and Colors Presentations throughout the community. Henry County Fire Department’s bugler, vocalist and honor guard member, Lt. Rodney Brooks, performed Taps for multiple funerals and sang the National Anthem at various events across the state.

An annual event that the honor guard participates in is the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. In 2013, five of our members served as part of the National Honor Guard and a sixth served as an Escort for the family of a Fallen Firefighter. At the conclusion of the Memorial weekend the Guard traveled to Arlington National Cemetery. There a wreath was laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in recognition and memory of the Veterans of Henry County.

Future

In 2014 the HCFD Honor Guard will strive to increase our membership as well as increase the participation of that membership.

In early 2014, we will begin making plans for a return trip to The National Memorial in Maryland. This will take place in October and we intend to have more personnel participate than in 2013.
Number of Runs: 31
Gallons of Fuel Consumed: 124
Cases of Gatorade: 51
Cases of Water: 52
Bags of Ice: 122
Pots of Coffee: 25
Packs of Hot Cocoa: 51
Packs of Crackers and Candy Bars: 434
Total Man Hours: 167.5

County Supplied
Gatorades: 51
Bottled Water: 52 Cases
Fuel for Squad: 124 gal.
New Shoreline Ejector
2 Batteries and Charger for Radios
Service and Repaired Vehicles

SQUAD 82 Supplied
Coffee: 25 pots
Crackers and Candy bars: 434
Cocoa: 51 packs

Donations Made to Squad 82
Misting fan
Donation from T-Shirt sale $120.00
Christmas Gifts $236.00

Out of Pocket Expenses By Squad 82
Bags of Ice: $222.70
Gal Jugs of Water: $38.15
Crackers and Candy: $250.75
Chillin Towels: $59.96
## OPERATIONAL DATA

### General

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<th>Battalions</th>
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### Positions

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### Staffed Functions

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<td>Aerial Apparatus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quint</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Response Data

**Incidents**

| Structure Fires | 181 |
| Other Fires and Incidents | 371 |
| Total Fires | 552 |
| Medical | 16,887 |
| False Alarms | 842 |
| Mutual Aid Given | 453 |
| Hazmat Responses | 178 |
| Other Hazardous Responses | 181 |
| All Other Responses | 2,790 |
| Total Emergency Responses | 21,883 |
| Total Reports Generated (exposures & multiple patients) | 21,891* |
| Total Unit Responses | 40,425 |
| Average Response Times for Fire Calls | 8:56 |
| Average Response Times for EMS Calls | 8:33 |
| Overall Avg. Response Time (all call types) | 8:38 |

**Technical Rescue Services**

| Hazardous Materials | 178 |
| Other Hazardous Responses | 181 |
| Total | 446 |

### Fires

| Total Residential | 153 |
| Total Structure Fires | 181 |
| Other | 279 |

### Calls By Station

| Station #01 | 4507 | 20.58% |
| Station #02 | 1809 | 8.67% |
| Station #03 | 1387 | 6.92% |
| Station #04 | 1417 | 9.61% |
| Station #05 | 2104 | 7.66% |
| Station #06 | 1679 | 7.16% |
| Station #07 | 1568 | 7.16% |
| Station #08 | 2674 | 12.21% |
| Station #09 | 2317 | 10.58% |
| Station #10 | 1231 | 5.62% |
| Station #11 | 746 | 3.40% |
| Station #12 | 485 | 2.21% |
| Station #13 | 747 | 3.41% |

### Engine Responses

| Engine #01 | 1980 |
| Engine #02 | 1325 |
| Engine #03 | 1241 |
| Engine #04 | 446 |
| Engine #05 | 736 |
| Engine #06 | 1190 |
| Engine #07 | 636 |
| Engine #08 | 1916 |
| Engine #09 | 1619 |
| Engine #10 | 682 |
| Engine #11 | 885 |
| Engine #12 | 573 |
| Engine #13 | 319 |

### Rescue Responses

| Rescue #01 | 2854 |
| Rescue #02 | 1704 |
| Rescue #03 | 1257 |
| Rescue #04 | 1732 |
| Rescue #05 | 1609 |
| Rescue #06 | 1899 |
| Rescue #07 | 1672 |
| Rescue #08 | 2459 |
| Rescue #09 | 2459 |
| Rescue #10 | 1605 |
| Rescue #12 | 1079 |
| Rescue #14 | 2363 |
| Med 5 | 1039 |

### Squad Responses

| Squad #01 | 438 |
| Squad #02 | 359 |

### Ladder Responses

| Ladder #01 | 167 |
| Ladder #03 | 181 |

### Special Vehicles

| Tanker #12 | 28 |
| Brush #7 | 57 |
| Dive Unit | 1 |
| Haz-Mat | 6 |
| Squad #82 | 34 |

### Vehicle

| 92 |

### Severe Weather

| 44 |

### Fatalities

| 03 |

### False Alarms

| Malicious | 55 |
| Malfunction | 311 |
| Unintentional | 475 |
| Other | 01 |

### Property Value

| Total Property Affected By Fire | $30,157,854.00 |
| Property Saved | $24,540,089.00 |
| Property Loss | $5,617,765.00 |

### Emergency Medical Services

| Responses | 16,887 |
| Patient Contacts | 17,009 |
| Patient Transports | 12,199 |
| EMS Bills Out | 12,291 |
| Amount Billed | $7,956,886.95 |
| Amount Collected | $4,237,414.87 |

### Inspections

| New Construction | 576 |
| Existing Construction | 5765 |
| Pre-Construction Meetings | 357 |
| Plan Reviews | 508 |

### Investigations

| Fire Investigations | 113 |
| Fire Investigations Closed | 78 |
| Fire Investigations Open | 35 |

### Life Safety Education

| Preschool Visits | 51 |
| School Visits | 61 |
| Station Tours | 50 |
| Career Days | 24 |
| Community Outreach Events | 69 |
| Total Pop. Receiving Fire & Life Safety Education | 34,127 + |

### Training

| Training Activities Completed | 61,322 |
Community Outreach

Child Safety Seat Installation/Inspections 48
Smoke Alarm Donated/Installed 254
Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation $20,727.60
10% Incentive Back to HCDF $2,072.76
Juvenile Firesetter Evaluated 13

Community Events
- National Night Out
- Fairview National Night Out
- Henry Seniors Business Expo & Health Fair
- Home Depot Safety Days
- Locust Grove Days
- Hampton Bear Creek Festival
- Henry County Special Olympics
- Southern Belle Farms Hero Day
- McDonough Christmas Parade
- Locust Grove Christmas Parade
- Hampton City Parade
- Relay for Life
- Georgia Kayak Association – Foster Kids Day

Child Safety Seat Program
- Child Safety Seats are inspected and/or installed for citizens requesting assistance.
- Child Safety Seats are provided to needy citizens. Funding made possible through a mini grant obtained through the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety and the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant.
- Child Passenger Safety Presentations (educational classes) are mandatory for all recipients of donated child safety seats.
- Child Safety Seat Technicians undergo a comprehensive National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA) Training Course and are required to update and recertify bi-annually.

Support Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation
- Henry County Fire Department supports the efforts of the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation each year.
- A boot drive is conducted each year. Ten percent of all monies collected is returned to the county for fire safety education purposes.
- Henry County Fire Department is a partner in Project R.E.A.C.H. (Recycling Every Aluminum Can Helps.) Project R.E.A.C.H is a year-round aluminum can recycling program in which Henry County serves as drop-site location for the collection of empty aluminum cans for recycling.

Senior Fire & Fall Safety Program
- Henry County Senior Citizens are taught a Fire & Fall Safety Prevention Program

“Get Alarmed Henry” Smoke Alarm Program
- Provides for the distribution and installation of smoke alarms by firefighters-free of charge.
- Provides batteries for smoke alarms in residential occupancies upon request

Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program
- Evaluates children with fire play behavior.
- Educates those children who have experimented and/or are involved in fire play, on the proper use of and dangers of fire.
When I am called to duty, God, wherever flames may rage,
Give me the strength to save some life whatever be its age.
Help me embrace a little child before it is too late,
or save an older person from the horror of that fate.
Enable me to be alert and hear the weakest shout,
and quickly and efficiently to put the fire out.
I want to fill my calling and to give the best in me,
to guard my every neighbor and protect his property.
And if according to my fate I am to lose my life this day,
Please bless with your protecting hand my family this I pray.