



# Annual Report

## 2011

Franklin Fire Department  
Franklin, Tennessee  
[www.franklintn.gov/fire](http://www.franklintn.gov/fire)



# Message from the Chief



Rocky Garzarek  
Fire Chief

Thank you for your interest in the Franklin Fire Department. This annual report describes the many accomplishments of our dedicated men and women throughout 2011. I wanted to briefly touch on just a few of these and highlight the “best of the best.”

The City of Franklin was recognized along with the City of Brentwood by the Tennessee City Management Association with an award for Excellence in Municipal Government for the Automatic Aid Agreement between our fire departments. In the agreement, both Franklin and Brentwood fire units are simultaneously dispatched on structure fires regardless of whose jurisdiction the incident falls within for designated areas in both cities.

We had a significant fire sprinkler save on October 22. A fire sprinkler system extinguished an apartment building fire that had been newly rebuilt and updated with fire sprinklers after being destroyed by fire that claimed the life of a 25-year old man just one year earlier. The incident took place at Heritage Place Apartments at 700 Westminster Drive.

2011 was noteworthy for excellence in emergency medical care. Franklin Firefighters helped to save the lives of four patients who were in cardiac arrest and prevented cardiac arrest in an additional four patients with early intervention medical treatment.

One patient was Sheila Fitzgerald, wife of Franklin Fire Lieutenant Bill Fitzgerald. Lieutenant Fitzgerald thanked those who responded to the scene of the motorcycle accident that left Sheila critically injured at our annual awards ceremony and Sheila presented 12 firefighters with a Meritorious Service Award for their actions.

Finally, in 2011 we marked the 10-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 with several events, including a Disaster Preparedness Fair that we hosted in cooperation with the Williamson County Emergency Management Agency that was attended by more than 300 people.

I am confident that as you read about these and other accomplishments it will be evident that we are a dedicated team of professionals who continually strives to provide the best service possible and keep Franklin safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rocky Garzarek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rocky Garzarek  
Fire Chief  
rockyg@franklintn.gov



# 2011 Quick Facts

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## CITY INFORMATION

- Land area protected—41.51 square miles
- Resident population protected—62,487 (2010 Census)
- Estimated value of property protected—\$10.1 billion (taxable property)
- Firefighters—144
- Administrative personnel—12
- Civilian personnel—3
- Firefighters per shift—48 (minimum staffing—36 per shift)

## FIRE OPERATIONS

- Total incident responses—5,672
- Medical and rescue responses—3,988 (70%)
- Average response time—4:47

## FIRE PREVENTION

- Number of inspections—869
- Certificates of occupancy issued—317
- Construction plan reviews—892
- Number of people who participated in public education events—15,998

## BUDGET

- 2011—2012 fiscal year budget including capital—\$12,469,716

## EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

- Stations—6
- Training center—1
- Administrative office complex—1 (located in City Hall)
- Engines—4
- Ladders—3
- Towers—3
- Rescue, light—2
- Rescue, medium—1
- Rescue, SCBA air truck—1
- Brush truck—1
- Boats—7
- Hazmat response vehicle—1
- Reserve engine—1
- Reserve rescue—1

*This annual report was compiled by Fire and Life Safety Educator Jamie Melton.*



# ***Mission, Vision and Values***

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## ***Mission***

The Franklin Fire Department dedicates our efforts to provide for the safety and welfare of the public and the preservation of life, health, property and the environment utilizing prompt service, continual training and teamwork.

## ***Vision***

Serve the community by maintaining a highly trained professional fire department with a commitment to excellence.

## ***Values***

Being members of a dedicated team of professionals, it is our responsibility to treat everyone with dignity and respect while providing the best service possible. Lives are more valuable than property. We value the faith and trust of the community and continually work to deserve that trust through our attitude, conduct, and accomplishments. We use technology to enhance our efficiency and effectiveness in the services we provide to our customers. We value the diversity of the people in our department and our community. We promote teamwork through a positive environment.





# Command Staff

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Rocky Garzarek  
Fire Chief



Mike Culberson  
Deputy Chief  
Operations



Todd Horton  
Assistant Chief  
Administration



Gentry Fox  
Battalion Chief  
A-Shift



Eddie House  
Battalion Chief  
B-Shift



Greg Baltimore  
Battalion Chief  
C-Shift



Andy King  
Fire Marshal



# Operations

## NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

### February 4, 2011—Brownland Farm barn fire

Fire destroyed a 25-stall horse barn at the Brownland Farm horse show facility on Hillsboro Road. No animals were in the barn at the time of the fire. Because there are no fire hydrants on the farm, three apparatus from the Williamson County Rescue Squad responded to shuttle water to the area. The building and contents, including four tractors, were a total loss estimated at \$175,000.



### February 17, 2011—McKay's Mill house fire

A family of four escaped unharmed from a fire in their McKay's Mill home on Towne Park Lane at around 2 a.m. The fire started in the laundry room and caused an estimated \$150,000 in damage.

### February 24, 2011—Sky Cleaners fire

A suspicious fire damaged the Sky Cleaners dry cleaning business in the Shoppes at Harpeth Village on Hillsboro Road. Firefighters responded to an automatic fire alarm at around 3 a.m. and were able to extinguish the fire quickly and limit damage.



### March 14, 2011—Sherwood Terrace house fire



A woman was asleep in her home on Sherwood Terrace when a neighbor pounded on her door to alert her that her house was on fire. The fire started in an upright freezer in the attached covered car port and caused an estimated \$16,000 in damage.

### April 4, 2011—Monticello house fire

An electrical surge sparked a house fire after a strong storm toppled a tree onto power lines leading to the Monticello Road home. Damage was estimated at \$50,000.

## Responsibilities

- Fire suppression
- Emergency medical services
- Hazardous materials response and mitigation
- Technical rescue operations
- Pre-incident planning
- Participation in community events





# Operations

## NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

### April 29 , 2011—Kohls ceiling collapse

The ceiling above the jewelry counter collapsed in the Kohls department store just before the store closed at 10 p.m. Fortunately there were no major injuries. The collapse was believed to have been caused by a construction defect.

### May 12, 2011—Mack Hatcher Memorial Parkway serious injury crash



A two-car head-on collision on Mack Hatcher Memorial Parkway near Lewisburg Pike left the driver of one vehicle critically injured and the other driver hospitalized. Following extrication, the more seriously injured patient was transported by LifeFlight to the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

### June 3, 2011—Falcon Creek house fire

An improperly discarded cigarette was the probable cause of a fire that started in the attached garage of a home on Falcon Creek Dr. One vehicle was burned in the fire. Damage was estimated at \$50,000.

### June 5, 2011—Hard Bargain house fire

Fire destroyed a home on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in the Hard Bargain neighborhood just before 5 a.m. The homeowner, who was the only occupant, was alerted to the fire by neighbors who banged on his door until he safely escaped. The house and contents, valued at \$130,000, were a total loss.



### June 20, 2011—Polk Place bottle bombs

Four teen boys created havoc with homemade bottle bombs they placed in and around homes throughout the Polk Place subdivision. One man sustained minor injuries when he picked up one of the devices that had been left on his porch and it exploded. The teens received a suspended sentence with 12-months of probation and community service and had to pay \$800 in restitution.

### July 13, 2011—Mutual aid house fire



Eight local fire departments from two counties, including the Franklin Fire Department, responded to fight a house fire in the Flat Creek-Bethesda area due to the summer heat and lack of water supply. Four occupants and the pet dog escaped safely. One person was transported to the hospital in non-critical condition for evaluation.

### August 5, 2011—Rescue

Station 3 firefighters rescued a construction worker who fell about eight feet into a 6' x 8' concrete enclosure at a construction site at Gateway Village.

# Operations

## October 2, 2011—Andover house fire



A young man left his home on Fletcher Ct. in the Andover subdivision to run an errand while a taper candle was still burning in his bedroom. When the candle melted down it tipped over, setting the curtains and other contents in the room on fire. Franklin Firefighters responded to the two-story home around 11:38 a.m. after a neighbor called 911 and reported seeing flames in the home's bonus room above the garage. The fire caused an estimated \$21,000 in damage.

## November 13, 2011—Two apartment fires on same day in same complex

A pair of apartment fires broke out in adjacent buildings of the Farms at Cool Springs apartment complex on Gillespie Drive less than four hours apart from each other. Both fires were caused by unattended cooking. The first blaze was extinguished by the apartment's automatic fire sprinkler system. The second fire was extinguished by the resident before the sprinkler system activated.



## December 16, 2011 - Indian Springs condominium fire

A propane torch being used to make plumbing repairs ignited a townhouse fire in the Indian Springs condominium complex, displacing two families and causing \$50,000 in damage.

## December 19, 2011 – Bluegrass Heights house fire

The homeowner escaped unharmed, but fire significantly damaged her home on Bluegrass Drive and killed two pet cats. Damage was estimated at \$150,000.



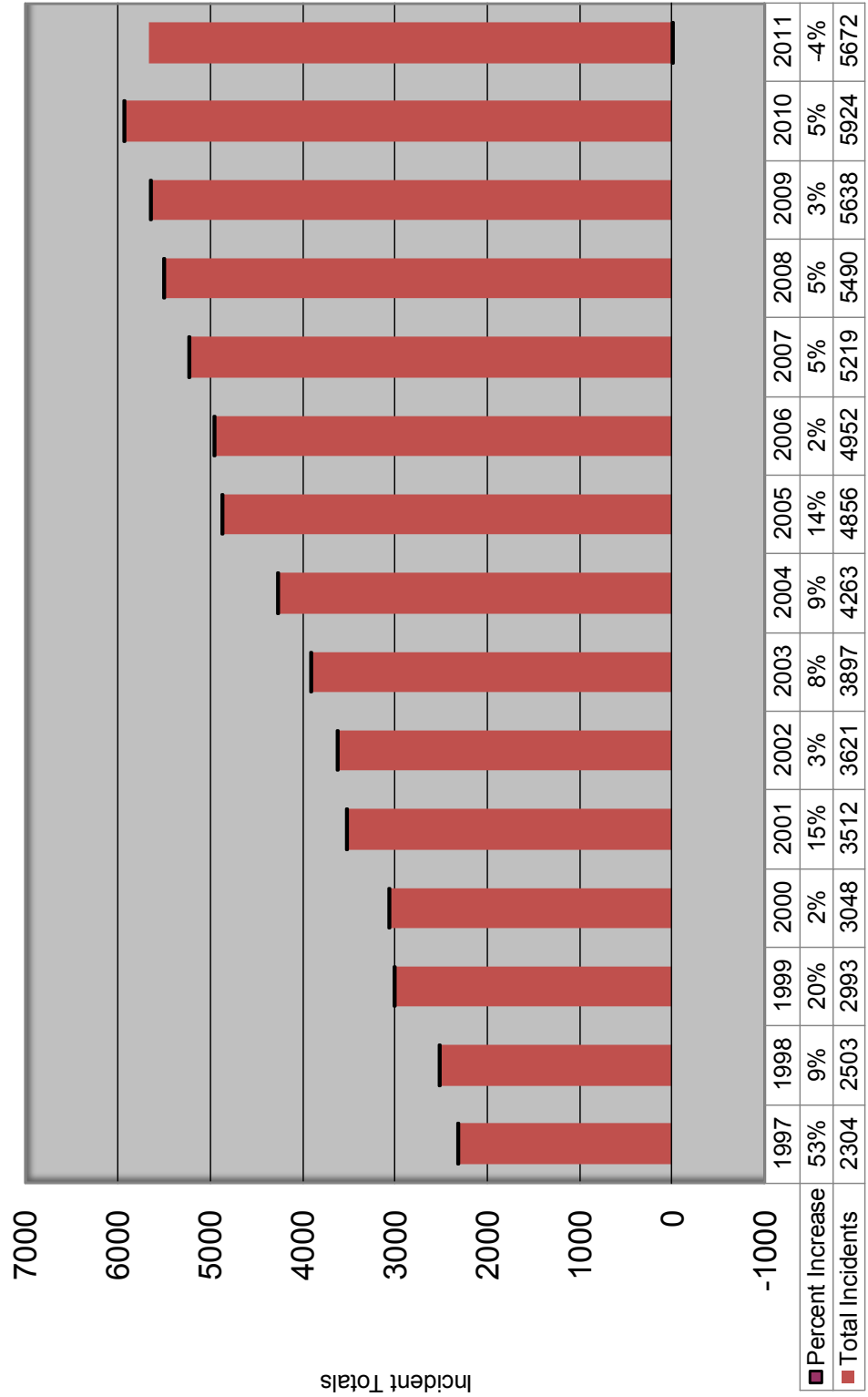
*Our cover photo: Franklin Firefighters fight a house fire on Bluegrass Drive on December 19, 2011.*





# Operations

NUMBER OF TOTAL CALLS ANSWERED BY YEAR 1997—2011



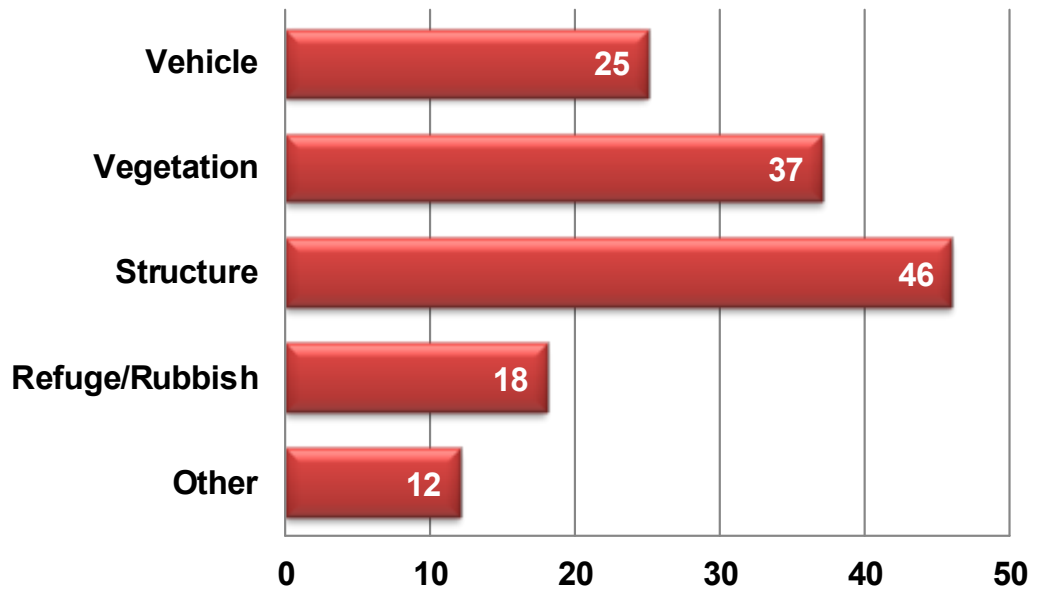


# Operations

## RESPONSES BY INCIDENT TYPE IN 2011



## NUMBER OF FIRE INCIDENT RESPONSES BY TYPE OF FIRE IN 2011

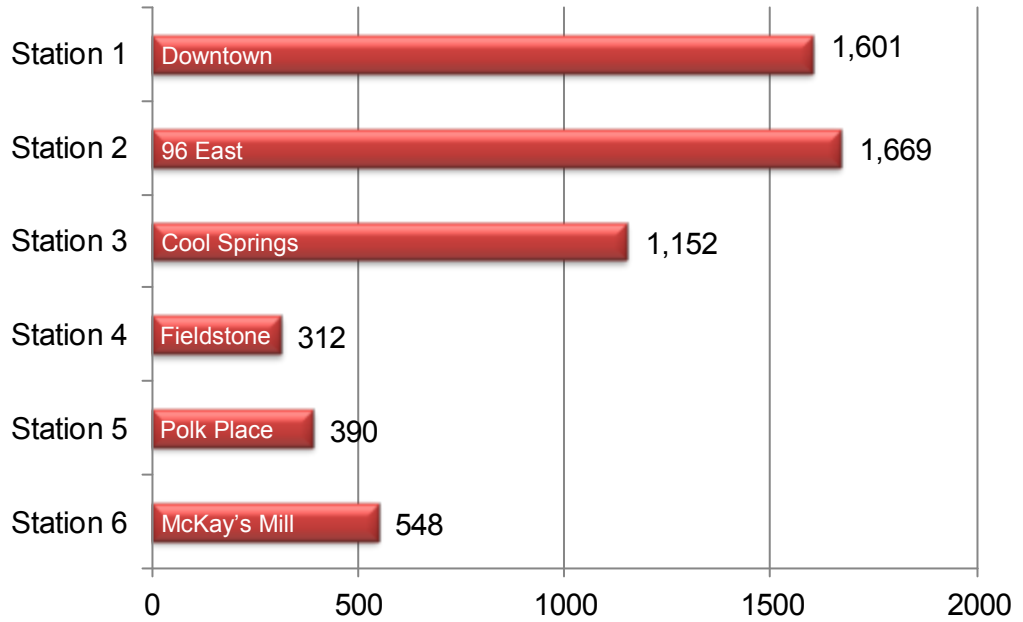




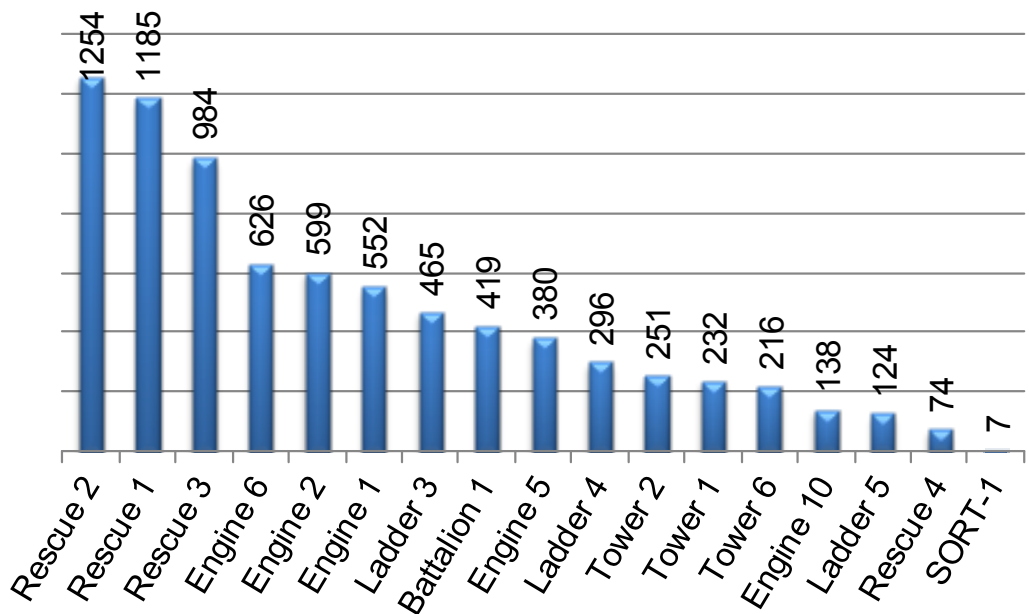


# Operations

NUMBER OF TIMES DISPATCHED BY STATION IN 2011

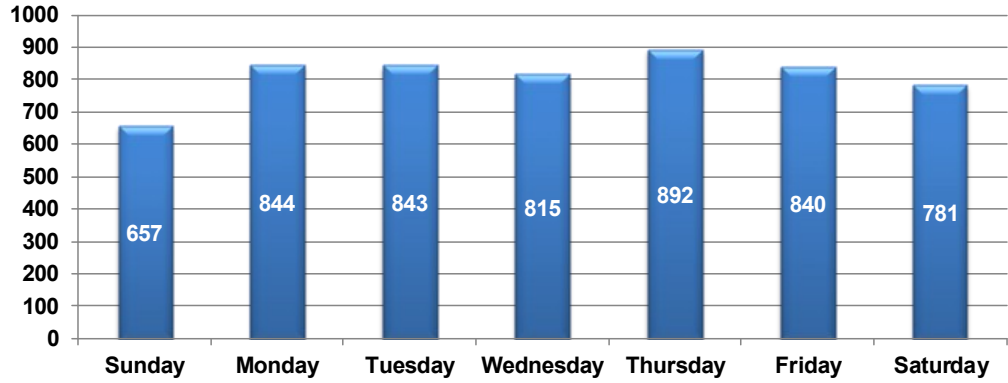


RESPONSES BY APPARATUS IN 2011

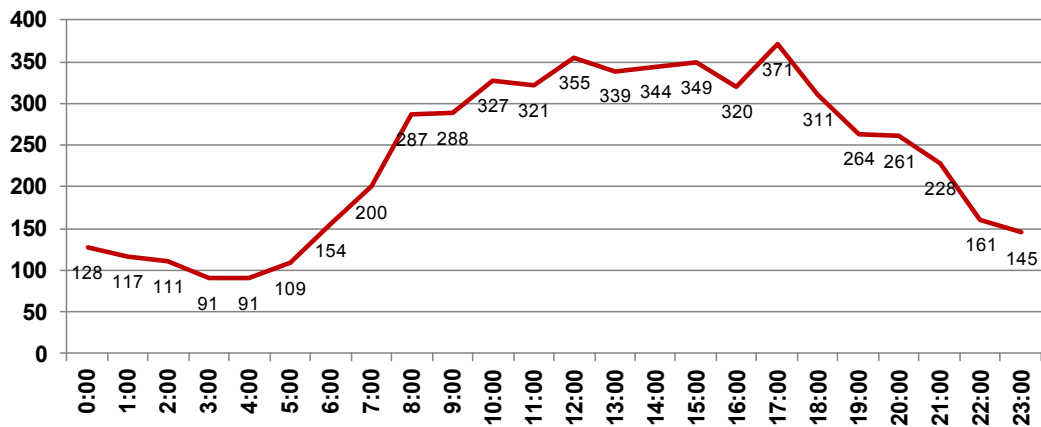


# Operations

## INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK IN 2011



## RESPONSES BY TIME OF DAY IN 2011



House fire in the Hard Bargain neighborhood on June 5, 2011.





# Operations

## TRAINING DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

### April 9, 2011—Large scale water drill at Percy Priest Lake

Members of our Swift Water Rescue Team participated in a large scale, multi-agency water rescue training exercise at Percy Priest Lake. The event was organized in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security by the Nashville Urban Area Security Initiative Training and Exercise Committee. Franklin Fire Captain Glenn Johnson chairs the committee and Captain Jeff Elliott is a member.

### April 28, 2011—Recruit class graduation

Recruit firefighters from five departments graduated from the Franklin Fire Department's 10-week recruit firefighting training program. The twelve graduates included eight firefighters from Franklin, and one firefighter each from the Almadillo, Brentwood, Fairview and Pleasant View Fire Departments.

### May—Training captain resignation

After 24 years with the Franklin Fire Department, Captain Jeff Elliott left in May to accept the position of Occupational Health and Safety Training Specialist with the City of Franklin's Risk Management Division.

### October 2011—Promotional Assessment Center

Completed Promotional Assessment Center for the positions of Assistant Chief, Captain and Lieutenant.

### Joint training

Conducted joint training with hazardous materials teams from District 5 Homeland Security agencies at the Franklin Fire Department Training Center.



*Captain Jeff Elliott*



**2011 Firefighter Recruits**—Firefighters are from Franklin unless otherwise noted.  
Back row: Bradley Folds (Almadillo), Gregory Tucker, Christopher Shadowens, Brian Vann (Pleasant View), Dustin Anderson, David Hickel, Jr., Wes Bryant.  
Front row: Jason Sykes (Brentwood), Adam Wynn (Fairview), Rory Richards, Jeff Swader, Aaron Sherwood.



# Operations

Also conducted joint training with the Brentwood Fire Department in accordance with our automatic aid agreement where Brentwood and Franklin units are simultaneously dispatched on structure fires in the designated area.

- In 2011 personnel received an average of 53 hours of in-service training per person, exceeding the state training requirements of 40 hours per person.
- 100 percent of eligible personnel completed or exceeded required state training and received the Firefighter Salary Supplement from the State of Tennessee.

## EMS HIGHLIGHTS

### Ambulance service study

In 2011 the City of Franklin commissioned a study to assess the feasibility of the Franklin Fire Department providing EMS transport. Presently Williamson Medical Center EMS provides ambulance service in Franklin. The results of the study will be available in 2012.



### In-house medical training

The department conducted numerous in-house medical classes to reduce spending and satisfy requirements for employees' medical licensure renewals, including Advanced Medical Life Support and Pre Hospital Trauma Life Support.

### New paramedics

Firefighters Kris Bull and Alex Enochs obtained their Paramedic licenses in 2011.

### City of Franklin CPR and AED training

A total of 45 City of Franklin employees from various departments were trained and certified in CPR and the use of an AED.



*EMS Officer Sarah Glenn on the scene of the Byrd Lane fire on July 13, 2011, assists with "firefighter rehab."*





# Administration

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### February 4, 2011—Federal grant



The department received a \$30,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security to purchase six Rad-57 pulse CO-oximeters, which non-invasively measure carbon monoxide levels in a person's blood. On average the department responds to about one CO incident per month.

### March 31 — May 19, 2011—5<sup>th</sup> Annual Citizens' Fire Academy

Twelve citizens participated in the fifth annual Citizens' Fire Academy. Coordinated by Captain Ben Marler, this eight-week program included both classroom and hands-on training and participants had the opportunity to ride along on fire calls and fire inspections.



### May 24, 2011—New tornado siren



A new siren was placed in service in east Cool Springs on Carothers Parkway near the Marriott. The addition of the siren, which cost around \$30,000 to purchase and install, brought the total number of outdoor warning sirens in the city to 16. The siren, which has a radius of a little more than a half mile, provides coverage to approximately 2,000 homes and 200 businesses. Previously the closest sirens for the area were located on either Mallory Lane or Liberty Pike in McKay's Mill.

### June 15, 2011—Excellence in Municipal Government Award

The Cities of Franklin and Brentwood were recognized by the Tennessee City Management Association with an award for Excellence in Municipal Government for the Automatic Aid Agreement between the two cities. In the agreement, both Franklin and Brentwood fire units are simultaneously dispatched on structure fires regardless of whose jurisdiction the incident falls within in designated areas of both cities.



## Responsibilities

- Leadership
- Long range planning
- Statistical analysis
- Financial management
- Capital project management
- Facility and equipment maintenance
- Payroll
- Resource allocation
- Inter-departmental coordination
- Emergency communications liaison
- Information technology coordination
- Customer service

# Administration

## June 15, 2011—SEAF C election



Chief Rocky Garzarek was elected Second Vice President of the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs (SEAF C). In this position he will transition to become the association’s First Vice President in 2012 and President in 2013. The SEAF C includes Tennessee and nine other states, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It is one of eight regional divisions of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, an organization established in 1873 that represents the leadership of over 1.2 million firefighters and emergency responders in the U.S. and Canada

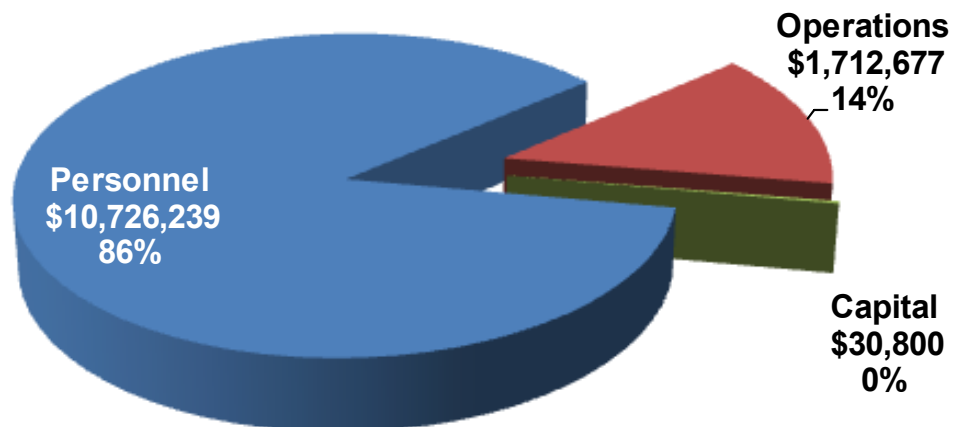
## September, 2011—Automatic Aid Agreement with Williamson County

Similar to the Automatic Aid Agreement with Brentwood, Franklin entered an agreement with Williamson County, where both Franklin and Williamson County Rescue Squad units are simultaneously dispatched on structure fires. This benefits the Goose Creek and Westhaven areas of Franklin and some county residents who live in Franklin’s Urban Growth Boundary.

## Chief’s Chat

Implemented in late 2010 and continued with success throughout 2011, this monthly forum provided direct communication between Chief Garzarek and personnel at all six fire stations utilizing the department’s video-conferencing technology.

## BUDGET YEAR 2011—2012 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS



2011 Citizens’ Fire Academy participants learn CPR.







# Fire Prevention

## STAFF NEWS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### New Fire Inspector

In October Jonathan Dye was promoted to the position of Fire Inspector to fill the vacancy left by Inspector Wayne Morris in 2010. Dye was previously a fire engineer at Station 4.



### Assistant Fire Marshal honored

Assistant Fire Marshal Geoff Woolard successfully completed the process earning him the professional designation of "Fire Marshal". The Commission on Professional Credentialing met on November 15 to officially confer the designation upon Woolard. He is one of only 15 individuals worldwide who currently hold this designation.

### Four automatic fire sprinkler saves:

- April 1, 2011—A kitchen fire in a Homestead Studio Suites extended stay hotel room activated the room's automatic fire sprinkler system, waking a man from sleep and allowing him to safely escape.
- September 6, 2011—A fire sprinkler system prevented a kitchen grease fire from causing extensive damage in the Taste of India restaurant as well as the strip mall it is located in.
- October 22, 2011—A fire sprinkler system extinguished an apartment building fire that had been newly rebuilt and updated with fire sprinklers after being destroyed by a fire in September 2010 that claimed the life of a 25-year old man. The incident took place at Heritage Place Apartments at 700 Westminster Drive, Building H.
- November 21, 2011—In an unusual incident, the air compressor that was part of the fire sprinkler system at Battle Ground Academy's middle school gymnasium overheated and caught fire, but a single fire sprinkler head still activated and extinguished it. Firefighters responded to the unoccupied building around 7 p.m. following notification by the fire alarm company.



## Responsibilities

- Inspection services
- Plan review
- Issuance of permits
- Fire and life safety code enforcement
- Fire cause investigations
- Public fire and life safety education
- Youth firesetting intervention
- Public information services
- Community relations events
- Fire hydrant management

# Fire Prevention

## PUBLIC EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

### January—Launch of Child Passenger Safety Program

In January the department began performing child car seat installations/inspections for the public. We have 10 personnel who completed the 32-hour class to become certified child passenger safety technicians in 2010. They installed 119 car seats in 2011.



### August 27, 2011—Disaster Preparedness Fair



The Franklin Fire Department hosted a Disaster

Preparedness Fair in cooperation with the Williamson County Emergency Management Agency and more than 300 people participated. The event took place at the Sodiam family center on Columbia Avenue and included indoor and outdoor activities. Ladder 5 sprayed bubbles for kids of all ages to play in and there was an emergency services “Touch-a-Truck” including a helicopter landing from Vanderbilt LifeFlight. This event served as a local kick-off event for National Preparedness Month which is observed in September.

### September 11, 2011—10-year anniversary of 9/11/2001

The Franklin Fire Department participated in several events throughout the month that commemorated the 10-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and honored first responders. These included the Hope Award Ceremony at Full Life Assembly of God honoring 2011 recipient Franklin Firefighter Eddie Proctor and other first responders. Additionally, several Franklin Firefighters participated in the 2nd Annual Nashville 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at the William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower in downtown Nashville. They joined a total of 343 firefighters who climbed 110 stories in remembrance of the 343 New York Firefighters who died at the Twin Towers. The proceeds from the event benefited the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, whose mission is to honor fallen fire heroes and assist their families and coworkers.



### December 10, 2011—Christmas Open House at Station 5



The public enjoyed taking pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus (a.k.a. Deputy Chief Mike Culberson and his wife Chouree) and Santa’s elf (Engineer Eddie Pratt). In addition to photo opportunities, the event included tours of the station, truck demonstrations, refreshments and holiday fire safety information.



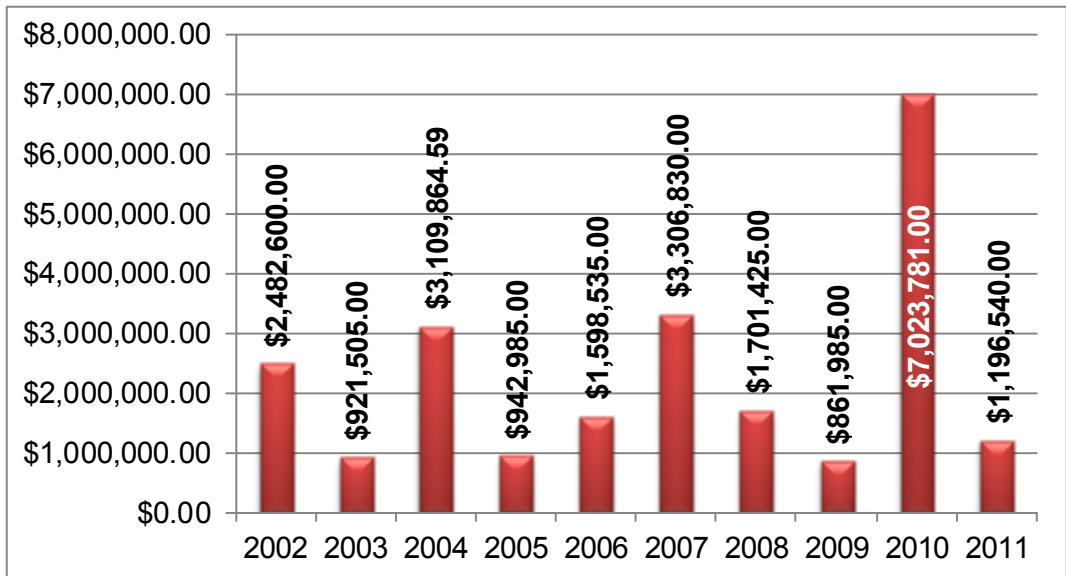


# Fire Prevention

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION EVENTS BY TYPE IN 2011

Event type	Sum of # of events	Sum of # of attendees
Alarm install/home safety check	28	28
Apparatus demonstration	74	8,602
Child passenger seat install	119	119
Exhibit/Presentation	16	1,253
Extinguisher training	4	39
Family Safety House	26	1,518
Fire truck ride	6	13
Fire/evacuation drill	14	3,123
Open House	1	200
Station tour	51	1,103
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>15,998</b>

## SUMMARY OF DOLLAR VALUE OF FIRE LOSS 2002—2011 (PROPERTY AND CONTENTS)



# Awards

The following awards for 2011 were presented at a ceremony on March 7, 2012:

## **Meritorious Service Award—September 29, 2011**

Battalion Chief Eddie House, Captains Joe Hill and Jonathan Jenkins, Lieutenant Tyler Crews, Engineers Anthony Sedlak and Jeff Standifer, Firefighter-Paramedics Alex Enochs, Chad Hollingsworth, Joe Posey, and Rory Richards and Firefighters Jonathan Gill and Keith McVoy were honored for helping to save the life of Lieutenant Bill Fitzgerald's wife Sheila, who was critically injured in a motorcycle wreck and had to be airlifted to Vanderbilt Medical Center.

## **Phoenix Awards—for saving the life of a patient in cardiac arrest:**

- **June 28, 2011**—Firefighter-Paramedic Terry Storey and Firefighter Dan McDow.
- **July 31, 2011**—Captain Anthony Pasley, Engineer Steve Gibson, Firefighter-Paramedic Rory Richards, Firefighters Will Farris and Brian Slanaker.
- **August 9, 2011**—Captain Scott Mainord, EMS Officer Sarah Glenn, Firefighter-Paramedics Alex Enochs and Rory Richards, Firefighters James Demastus and Kyle Garner.
- **October 7, 2011**—Lieutenant Jeff Moss, Engineer David Edge, and Firefighter-Paramedic Mark Hall.

## **Exemplary Service Award, Customer Service Excellence—July 30, 2011**

An Ohio family was involved in a vehicle accident on I-65 while on their way to Florida for vacation. There were no injuries but their vehicle was severely damaged and not able to be driven. The firefighters took the family and their luggage back to the station. They made them breakfast, helped them obtain a rental car, entertained the children and even went back to the scene of the accident to retrieve a bag after the family discovered it was missing. With the help of fire department personnel, less than two hours after the crash, the family was back on the road. Those honored were Battalion Chief Gentry Fox, Captain Greg Wild, Lieutenant Lloyd Baxter, Engineers Richard Hasley and Larry Woody, Firefighter-Paramedic James Miller, Firefighters Kris Bull, Daniel Donegan and Jason Morgan.



*Lt. Bill Fitzgerald and wife Sheila help present the Meritorious Service Award*





# Awards and Transitions

## **Exemplary Service Award, Emergency Medical Care Excellence— September 3, 2011**

Battalion Chief Eddie House, Captain Scott Mainord, Engineer Anthony Sedlak, and Firefighter-Paramedics Alex Enochs, Rory Richards, and Richey Schatz successfully treated a gunshot victim who required airway intervention.

## **Exemplary Service Award, Emergency Medical Care Excellence— September 12, 2011**

Captain Ben Marler, Engineer Tommy Nelms, Firefighters Andy Adams and Nate Davis recognized and treated a severe heart attack in an unstable patient and prevented cardiac arrest.



*Lt. Perry Phillips with his son and Chief Garzarek*

## **Exemplary Service Award, Emergency Medical Care Excellence—October 22, 2011**

Firefighter-Paramedic Brandy Demastus and Firefighter Greg Tucker successfully treated a patient who was unresponsive due to choking.

## **Community Service Award**

Lieutenant Perry Phillips was recognized for the more than 10 years of service he has devoted to the success of Camp Phoenix, a summer camp for children who have survived burn injuries.

## **Personnel of the Year Awards**

- Support Employee of the Year—Administrative Assistant Cyndi Wright
- Rookie of the Year—Firefighter Dustin Anderson
- Firefighter of the Year—Firefighter Richey Schatz
- Engineer of the Year—Anthony Sedlak
- Officer of the Year—Lieutenant Sean Smith



*2011 Firefighter of the Year Richey Schatz with Chief Garzarek*

## **2011 Promotion**

Jonathan Dye was promoted from Engineer at Station 4 to Fire Inspector in the Fire Prevention Division.

## **2011 Resignations**

- Captain Jeff Elliott resigned as Training Division Captain to accept the position of Occupational Health and Safety Training Specialist with the City of Franklin's Risk Management Division.
- Firefighter Jeff Walker left for a job in the private sector.



# Giving Back



Franklin Firefighters' 2nd Annual "Go Pink" campaign raised \$2,000 for the Williamson Medical Center Breast Health Center.



More than 1,000 Williamson County children in need benefitted from the Franklin Firefighters' 2011 Toy and Clothing Drive.

