# ANNUAL RESCUE DE LA RESCUE DE L



FRANKLIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

# Message from the Chief

Without question, the most significant incident of 2014 occurred during the early morning hours of Friday, August 15. Just after 3:30 a.m., a tanker truck traveling southbound on Interstate 65, carrying more than 9,000 gallons of gasoline, struck an overpass support beam of a Goosecreek Bypass – Peytonsville Road bridge. The resulting explosion claimed the life of the driver, engulfing the bridge, and the one that was adjacent to it, in flames. The damage ultimately led to the destruction of both overpass bridges.

The loss of the bridges meant the loss of a critical emergency response connection, which would have increased response time to more than 30 minutes to the area.

Several pages of this report detail our response to not only the initial incident, but to the creation of a temporary fire station inside the Williamson County Ag Expo Park, in order to provide emergency services in a timely manner to the southeastern area of Franklin. We will also share how the temporary fire station resulted in plans to establish the station more permanently on the grounds of the park.

We are proud of the contributions made by each and every one of our personnel to mitigate this tragedy. It affected us all in countless ways. We're also proud to be part of a team of numerous Middle Tennessee emergency response agencies that work together to provide the highest level of service to our communities. Multiple agencies and individuals from the City of Franklin, Williamson County, the State of Tennessee, and others came together to ensure the seamless delivery of emergency services.

Of course there were other incidents, milestones and accomplishments throughout 2014, which you can also learn about in this report.

Thank you for your interest in the Franklin Fire Department.

Sincerely,

\*

Rocky Garzarek Fire Chief

Rocky Garzarek

Fire Chief

Franklin Fire Department

City of Franklin, Tennessee

# 2014 Quick Facts

### **INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE (ISO) RATING**

2/9

### **CITY INFORMATION**

- Land area protected—41.67 square miles
- Resident population protected—66,370 (2013—2014 Special Census)
- Estimated value of property protected—\$10.63 billion (taxable property)

### FIRE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

- Firefighters—154
- Administrative personnel—13
- Civilian personnel—4
- Firefighters per shift—51 (minimum staffing is 40 per shift)
- Number of paramedics—33
- Total incident responses—6,697
- Medical and rescue responses—4,559 (68%)
- Average response time—5:06 minutes

### **BUDGET**

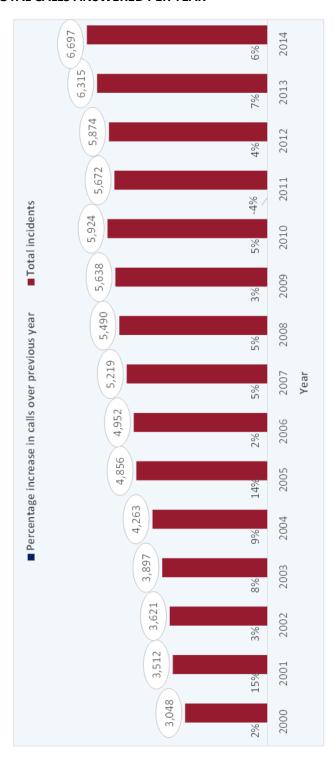
2014—2015 fiscal year budget, including capital — \$13,951,363

# 40 YEARS AGO

In 1974, the Franklin Fire Department had 13 paid firefighters, one chief, and one fire station.

# **TOTAL CALLS 2000—2014**

### **TOTAL CALLS ANSWERED PER YEAR**



SIX PERCENT INCREASE IN CALL VOLUME OVER 2013

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# Facilities & Apparatus



# **Command Staff**



Rocky Garzarek Fire Chief



Todd Horton
Deputy Chief,
Administration and
Emergency Management



Glenn Johnson Deputy Chief, Operations



Andy King Deputy Chief, Fire Prevention and Strategic Initiatives



Joe Polenzani Battalion Chief, A Shift



Eddie House Battalion Chief, B Shift

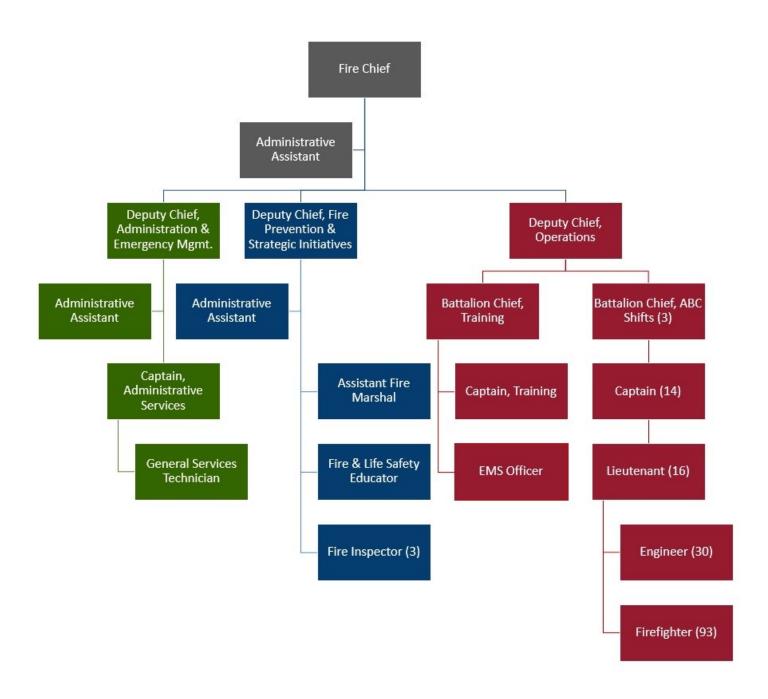


Greg Baltimore Battalion Chief, C Shift



Jimmy Jennings Battalion Chief, Training

# **Organizational Chart**



# I-65 Tanker Fire



On August 15, 2014 at 3:40 a.m., a single vehicle accident on I-65 resulted in a tragic fatality and the creation that afternoon of Franklin's seventh fire station.

Bobby Bobo, a 67-year old resident of Columbia, Tennessee, was the driver and only occupant in a tanker truck full of fuel. Traveling southbound on the interstate, Bobo unfortunately lost his life when his truck crashed into a bridge support at exit 61 (State Route 248).

The impact caused a catastrophic failure of the tank, releasing all 9,100 gallons of unleaded

gasoline that it contained. The fuel immediately ignited with explosive force.

Battalion Chief Eddie House and the B Shift crew did an excellent job responding to the incident. While the truck driver sadly did not survive, no other civilians or firefighters were injured.

Several B Shift employees had to stay over until their relief crews could arrive, which was no easy task. C Shift picked up right where B Shift left off, assisting in various duties to aid the medical examiner.

The crash explosion produced a flame spread that spanned the entire width of the overpass, forcing the overpass, and of course the interstate through the area, to be closed.

Because of the interstate closure, additional crews were required to stage at the TA Truck Stop on Peytonsville Road, in order to cover the south side of the city. Captain Ben Marler and his crew were there for several hours.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) was engaged in two major projects at the crash site, which included the widening of I-65, as well as the widening of State Route 248 from two to four lanes. The State Route 248 widening project included the construction of two new I-65 overpass bridges, at a total project cost of \$46 million. The first bridge to be built would accommodate the two new lanes of traffic. Once that bridge was completed and open, the existing bridge would be demolished and a new one would be constructed in its place.

# I-65 Tanker Fire









Construction on the first bridge was well underway and just eight weeks from completion when the crash occurred.

TDOT officials issued a stop work order on that bridge, as well as the closing of the existing bridge. After a thorough inspection, it was determined that both bridges were damaged beyond repair and impassable. They would both have to be replaced.

A new contract to implode both bridges on September 20, 2014, rebuild the first bridge, accelerate construction of the second bridge, repair damage to the roadway and detour traffic was more than \$50 million.

The existing bridge experienced 10,395 vehicles per day according to TDOT, and it was necessary to provide alternate routes for this traffic. Of greater concern was the fact that the bridge provided access for first responders to reach emergencies occurring at the Williamson County Ag Expo Park and other properties in the area, including the Ladd Park subdivision.

Response times for the Franklin Fire Department were already in excess of 11 minutes to this area when traffic on I-65 was at its lowest volume. The response time would be increased on average by an additional 20 minutes unless resources were dedicated to the immediate service area.

The solution was to establish a temporary station. The Williamson County Ag Expo Park on

# I-65 Tanker Fire

Long Lane graciously opened their doors to us on the day of the incident.

That afternoon they provided Franklin Firefighters with a staging area inside the green room of their main facility. Police officers were also able to utilize the facility as a remote outpost. The Williamson County Sheriff's Office provided a trailer at the Ag Expo Park for EMS workers to stay in.

Firefighters got to work immediately to clean, equip and transform the green room into a makeshift station.

The room was divided into three areas: a sleeping area, with beds separated by pipes and drapes, a living area with seating and a television, and an eating area equipped with a table, refrigerator and microwave. Ladder 5 was parked under a roof-covered area outside the green room.

Because there are no grocery stores or restaurants (with the exception of the TA Truck Stop) on the east side of the I-65 overpass that was destroyed, residents of the Ladd Park subdivision set up a mealtrain.com website to provide food for fire, police and EMS workers for three months.









# **Temporary Station 7**







Top photo—Williamson County Ag Expo Park.
Middle and bottom photos—A look inside the
furnished temporary Station 7 with Lt. Roddie
Petty (middle right photo, seated on the left) and
Firefighter James Fox.



Although a fire station had been planned for the rapidly growing area surrounding the Williamson County Ag Expo Park for some time, once the temporary station was established, the Franklin Fire Department and those close by did not want to see it leave.

Even though the bridge was reopened on November 23, 2014, the station remained in place. Plans to make the station more permanent got underway and continued through the end of 2014.

# **Operations Highlights**

### **NEW DEPUTY CHIEF OF OPERATIONS**

Glenn Johnson was promoted to Deputy Chief of Operations in August. Previously Battalion Chief of Training, Deputy Chief Johnson filled the position vacated when Deputy Chief Mike Culberson retired.

### **NEW A-SHIFT BATTALION CHIEF**

Joe Polenzani, formerly a captain on B Shift at Station 5, was promoted to Battalion Chief of A Shift in December. Battalion Chief Polenzani filled the vacancy left by Todd Horton, who was promoted to Deputy Chief of Administration and Emergency Management.

### **NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS**

In addition to the I-65 tanker fire on August 15, 2014, there were several other noteworthy incidents in 2014:

### February 11, 2014—Commercial building fire on Holiday Court

An electrical problem is believed to have started a fire that heavily damaged an insurance company's offices. The fire started in a second floor bathroom closet at A 2 Z Insurance, one of 10 businesses in a Holiday Court business condo building, causing about \$50,000. An adjacent unit also sustained minimal smoke and water damage.



Glenn Johnson Deputy Chief, Operations

### March 16, 2014—House fire on Ayrshire Circle

Station 2 was dispatched to a fire alarm activation just before 2:30 a.m. While en route the incident was re-dispatched as a structure fire after a resident called to advise there was smoke in the home. The fire, which originated in the gas fireplace chimney, was largely contained to the sunroom and the exterior of the residence. It caused \$51,0000 in damage.

Joe Polenzani

Battalion Chief,

# March 24, 2014—Person injured in propane bottle explosion on Mansfield Court

A person was seriously burned and their vehicle was destroyed when the campfire cooking stove that they were operating in the back of the vehicle exploded.

# **Operations Highlights**

April 2, 2014—Injury crash on Mack Hatcher Memorial Parkway with extrication and LifeFlight

A two-vehicle morning crash resulted in a young adult being extricated and LifeFlighted to Vanderbilt Medical Center. The other driver was transported to Williamson Medical Center.

### July 15, 2014 – Mutual aid hazardous response meth lab on Cool Springs Road in Williamson County

Eight people were arrested after officials uncovered an active meth lab at a home in Thompson's Station. A hazardous response team from the Franklin Fire Department was called to the scene to decontaminate





Injury crash on April 2, 2014.

emergency responders as well as the suspects before they were booked into the Williamson County Jail.

### July 7, 2014—Ashley Court Apartments fire, Magnolia Drive

Maintenance worker Bobby Beiriger was in his office when residents alerted him to smoke and flames coming from the second floor balcony of a building in the complex. He grabbed his master keys and an extinguisher. As he made his way through the apartment to extinguish the fire on the balcony, he awakened a sleeping occupant, who was able to safely escape. Beiriger depleted one extinguisher then returned to his office to retrieve two more, which he used on the fire before the fire department arrived. Franklin Firefighters found that the fire extended into the balcony overhang, and had to cut away part of the ceiling to reach the affected area.

### August 2, 2014 – Teen injured in fireworks explosion on Gallagher Drive

A teen playing with a firework inside the home was seriously injured when it exploded while they were holding it.

# Training Highlights

### **NEW BATTALION CHIEF OF TRAINING**

Jimmy Jennings, formerly a captain on C Shift at Station 1, was promoted to Battalion Chief of Training in December. Battalion Chief Jennings filled the vacancy left by Glenn Johnson, who was promoted to Deputy Chief of Operations. Battalion Chief Jennings joined Captain Jonathan Jenkins in the Training Division.

### **NEW FIREFIGHTERS**

While there was not a recruit class in 2014, there were three new hires who completed their firefighter training and certification at the Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy (TFACA). Firefighters Jerad Eisler, Matthew Eley and Alan Fulwood, all paramedics, joined the department in August.

### **FIREWORKS TRAINING**

In preparation for the July Fourth holiday, first responders from across Tennessee met

RANKLING FIRE DEPT

L to R: Firefighter-Paramedics Alan Fulwood, Matthew Eley, and Jerad Eisler

in Franklin for fireworks emergency-related demonstrations and training scenarios.



Jimmy Jennings Battalion Chief, Training

The training was a collaborative effort between the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office's Bomb and Arson unit. Local bomb investigators and technicians watched explosive demonstrations in which the fireworks failed to perform their intended function. The ATF detonated four different types of explosions: one powder shot with no casing; two common commercial Fourth of July fireworks, designed to fail; and a pyrotechnic mixture placed inside a vehicle. Attendees learned how to investigate such incidents.

# STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE STABILIZATION AND VICTIM RESCUE TRAINING

In September, 11 Franklin Firefighters participated in structural collapse stabilization and victim rescue training with the Nashville Fire Department. Franklin Firefighter Rob Thomas

14

# Training Highlights

served as one of the instructors.
The training site was the old
Goodlettsville Middle School,
which was scheduled to be
demolished. Using a real building
provided firefighters with
invaluable experience in breaching
concrete walls, floors and ceilings,
shoring damaged structures, and
gaining access to trapped victims.
Those who participated were
Captains Al Black, Tom Chaffin and
Michael Pardue, Lieutenants Sean



Smith and Matt Stout, Engineers Kyle Garner and Jon Krawcyk, Firefighter-Paramedics Ryan Naylor and Richie Schatz, and Firefighters Austin Cooper and Jason Morgan.

### **NEW EQUIPMENT AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

New training equipment and capabilities at the Training Center included the following: Moveable walls with several interconnecting panels that can be used to create interior rooms and hallways in many configurations for various training scenarios. BullEx Attack Digital Training System with two digital, waterproof panels that generate digital flames that can be



Fireworks emergency-related demonstrations and training scenarios took place at the Franklin quarry with classroom training at FFD Training Center.

"extinguished" with a hose or laser extinguisher. Two new rehab picnic tables and three new Rescue Randy manikins of varying weights were purchased, along with two cargo containers to provide storage space for construction materials, props and equipment.

Building upgrades included new exterior and interior lights for the burn building and tower, and other electrical upgrades.

# EMS Highlights





Franklin Firefighters complete their AEMT certifications. Top—Firefighter Jeremiah Rogers. Bottom—Engineers Eddie Proctor (left) and Paul Selz.

### **EBOLA**

The Ebola virus was a major concern in 2014, particularly in the fall, when four laboratory-confirmed cases of the virus were diagnosed in the United States. Because of this, new dispatch screening procedures and response guidelines were put into place to protect emergency responders.

### **AEMT TRANSITION**

To meet new requirements of the State of Tennessee Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services, Franklin Fire Department EMT-IVs upgraded their licenses to Advanced EMT (AEMT). The transition course was taught in-house while personnel were on duty. An additional licensure change was that of First Responder to the title of Emergency Medical Responder (EMR).

### LIEUTENANT MAX COOK HONORED

Lt. Max Cook received a \$250 award from the

Tennessee EMS Education Association for having the highest GPA throughout the course of his 12-month paramedic program at Columbia State Community College. Lt. Cook made the Dean's list all three semesters of the program.

### **EMS AWARDS**

### STORK AWARDS

Firefighters helped deliver babies on two occasions in 2014:

January 22, 2014—Capt. Thomas Chaffin, Engineer Richard Havrilla, Firefighter-Paramedics Kristopher Bull and Brandy Demastus, and Firefighter Rob Thomas.



EMS Officer Sarah Glenn (left) presents Lt. Max Cook with his award.

# EMS Highlights

### STORK AWARDS (CONTINUED)

June 27, 2014—Capt. David Kolak, Lt. Jerrol Coats, Engineer-Paramedic Michael Henderson, Engineer Billy Lampley, and Firefighter-Paramedics Andy Hackford and Quaid Ledingham.

### **PHOENIX AWARDS**

In 2014 firefighters helped save the life of five patients who were in cardiac arrest:

March 26, 2014—Battalion Chief Joe Polenzani, Lt. Charlene Forehand, Engineer Eddie Pratt, Firefighter-Paramedic Trenton Zorn, and Firefighter Daniel McDow.

November 7, 2014—Lt.-Paramedic Max Cook, Engineer Andrew Ivey, Firefighter-Paramedics J.D. Krista, Brayden and family visited Station 1 Fotopoulos and Wes Bryant, and Firefighter Jeremy Martin.

November 15, 2014—Capt. David Kolak, Lt. Jerrol Coats, Engineer-Paramedic Michael Henderson, Engineer Billy Lampley, Firefighter-Paramedic Andy Hackford, and Firefighter Jerry Thomas.

### Franklin Fire Department Delivers!



Krista Jameson went into active labor so fast in the early morning hours of January 22, 2014 at her Franklin home there was no time to make it to the

hospital. Franklin Firefighters and Williamson Medical Center EMS personnel arrived just in time to help deliver a healthy baby girl. Brayden Marie Jameson was born at 2:34 a.m., weighing in at 9 pounds, 6 ounces!

to thank the firefighters who helped them on January 30, 2014. To see a video of their visit, click the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=C6KNu NbXkU

November 17, 2014, 1:02 p.m.—Lt. Matthew Stout, Engineer Larry Woody, Firefighter-Paramedics Daniel Donegan and Matthew Eley, and Firefighters Doug Bowman and Austin Cooper.

November 17, 2014, 3:12 p.m.—Lieutenants Jeff Moss and Todd Stapleton, Engineer David Edge, Firefighter-Paramedics Seth Frost and Pete Jones, and Firefighter Dennis Nealy.

### **EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARD**

October 24, 2014—While on the scene of a medical emergency in a private residence administering care to an individual, another member of the household began choking. These firefighters immediately recognized the emergency and successfully treated the choking patient: Capt. Greg Wild, Engineer Richard Hasley and Firefighter-Paramedic Alex Enochs.

# **Administration Highlights**

### NEW DEPUTY CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In August Todd Horton was promoted to Deputy Chief of Administration and Emergency Management, a position that previously held the rank of assistant chief. Deputy Chief Horton was previously Battalion Chief of A-shift, although he had served in the role of Assistant Chief of Administration prior to being Battalion Chief.

### **STATION 8 GROUNDBREAKING**

On November 4, a groundbreaking ceremony took place for Franklin Fire Station 8 in the Westhaven community. Located at the corner of Front Street and Whitman Road, the new station will shorten response times to the western areas of Franklin and provide back-up to





Todd Horton
Deputy Chief,
Administration and
Emergency Management

downtown Station 1.

Designed by the Renaissance Group, the main level of the facility will be 11,369 square feet and the mezzanine area will provide an additional 1,443 square feet. The building will feature three apparatus bays, living quarters, a gathering space, a kitchen and eating area, underground utilities and landscaping.

The general construction bid was awarded to Franklin-based Southeast Contractors, LLC, at a cost of \$3.3 million. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved a total budget of \$3.8 million for the project. This cost includes construction as well as the purchase of furniture, control systems, appliances, housewares and other items to make the station a fully functional facility. The land for the building site was donated by Southern Land, the

# **Administration Highlights**

developer. The station is expected to be completed in early 2016.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND (FINAL) PHASE OF THE CITY'S NEW PAY PLAN

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen adopted a new classification and compensation plan in 2013. In Phase I (implemented in September 2013), the plan was established and all City team members were placed in their new pay grades. Phase II was implemented in 2014, and placed staff within their pay ranges based primarily upon time in their current position and some additional recognition for overall tenure with the City.

### **NEW TORNADO SIREN**

In August a new tornado siren was installed at the Clovercroft Elementary School. The \$23,380 siren brings the total number of tornado sirens in Franklin's outdoor warning system to 19.

### **TABLETOP EXERCISE**

A tabletop exercise designed to test the ability of Franklin and Brentwood to respond to a winter weather and water shortage scenario was organized by the Williamson County Emergency Management Agency. It took place on November 14, 2014 with participation from



Construction got underway on Franklin Fire Station 8 in the Westhaven community, with a groundbreaking ceremony on November 4, 2014.

### NEW DEPUTY CHIEF OF FIRE PREVENTION AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Andy King was promoted to Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention and Strategic Initiatives in August, a position that previously held the rank of assistant chief. Deputy Chief King was already serving in this capacity. He continues to be Franklin's Fire Marshal.

### **NEW FIRE INSPECTOR**

Curt Edelmann joined our Fire Prevention team as our third fire inspector in April. Curt has 30 years of experience with the Park Ridge, Illinois Fire Department, serving multiple roles as a firefighter/paramedic, lieutenant, and fire prevention bureau director. He has also served five years as a part-time fire inspector/investigation in Hoffman Estates, Illinois.

After retiring from the Park Ridge Fire Department in 2008, Curt was employed by Fire Safety Consultants, Inc. This organization, while based in the Chicago area, has been one of the City of Franklin's third-party life safety code plan review consultant for several years. While employed there, Curt reviewed most of the large building projects that have been built in Franklin for the past six years. Curt's work was always of the



Curt Edelmann Fire Inspector

best quality and we value his experience to help serve our City. He is an excellent addition to

our team and brings a diverse set of skills and knowledge to our department.

Andy King
Deputy Chief,
Fire Prevention and
Strategic Initiatives

### FIRE INSPECTOR JONATHAN DYE MILITARY DEPLOYMENT

In July we welcomed Fire Inspector Jonathan Dye home after a deployment of more than a year with the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves. As a Petty Officer 2nd Class, Jonathan commanded a crew of four on a 25-foot boat in Southeast Texas. In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Jonathan and his crew's primary mission was to provide port security for the U.S. Army during the loading and offloading operations of high value assets such as vehicles, aircraft and artillery. Other duties included tactical boat operations while escorting ships in and out of port. Jonathan worked with local and federal law enforcement agencies on several occasions to assist in drug interdiction and migrant

operations. Working with the US Customs he conducted offshore boardings of foreign flagged vessels of interest. Jonathan has served in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserves since July of 2007. Jonathan has worked for the City of Franklin since 2003. Prior to that he served our country as a Marine from 1998 - 2004. We are grateful for his service to our country!



Fire Inspector Jonathan Dye

### **SENTENCING OF ARSONISTS**

### West Meade Boulevard

Three Franklin residents convicted of arson for their roles in staging a vehicle theft and then setting that vehicle on fire in an insurance fraud scheme were sentenced in February.

Franklin Fire Investigator Josh Sanders worked closely with Franklin Police criminal investigations to determine that vehicle owner Carol Jefferson hired Xavier Esmond and Denzel Robertson to steal and burn her 2006 Mazda Miata. Jefferson's motive was to collect more than \$10,000 from an insurance policy.

All three individuals pleaded guilty to the crime, which occurred on July 21, 2013 at the Franklin Estates Mobile Home Park on West Meade Blvd. Esmond will serve a one-year sentence in the Williamson County Jail, Jefferson will serve five years on probation, and Robertson will serve two years on probation.

### **Eastover Court**

In September Luther Cleveland Still, Jr. was sentenced to 15 years in prison for intentionally



Intentionally-set fire at 402 Eastover Court on April 24, 2013.

setting a house on fire while he and three others were inside. Still, 41, pleaded guilty to aggravated arson in Williamson County Circuit Court. Still intentionally started the fire the night of April 24, 2013, during a domestic dispute at a residence at 402 Eastover Court in the Rogershire subdivision. Two children and a 19-year old were in the home at the time of the fire but escaped unharmed. Police arrived before the fire department and found Still

barricaded in the home. They forcibly removed him from the home but found no weapons. The fire significantly damaged the home, with the loss estimated at \$293,860. Still was arrested the next day, remaining in jail since.

### **SPRINKLER SAVES**

### June 18, 2014

Luther Cleveland Still, Jr.

An automatic fire sprinkler system extinguished a kitchen fire in a two-story, 12-unit apartment building, protecting the occupants and building from harm. The fire started on the stovetop of a first floor unit in the Liberty Oaks apartment complex at 400 Sycamore Dr. Heat from the burning pan activated a single fire sprinkler head above the pan. The flow of water from the sprinkler triggered a fire alarm, and the Franklin Fire Department was dispatched by the fire alarm monitoring company at around 4:45 p.m. The sprinkler extinguished the fire before the fire department arrived.

### August 26, 2014

A man was injured in the second of two suspicious fires that occurred in a multi-million dollar apartment complex under construction in Cool Springs. Fires started in two separate buildings that are part of the Crescent Cool Springs Apartments complex being built on Resource Parkway off of Carothers Parkway. The first fire was quickly extinguished and not reported. The Franklin Fire Department was dispatched to the second fire an hour later at 3:57 p.m. which was much more serious. It started in a separate building that was in the framing stage of construction. A quick-thinking fire sprinkler contractor helped to prevent loss by cutting



Crescent Cool Springs Apartments

water on to the fire sprinkler system, which activated and helped to extinguish the fire. Additionally other construction workers who were onsite used fire extinguishers on the blaze. One worker who suffered smoke inhalation was transported to the hospital for evaluation.

### **SMOKE ALARM SAVE**

### February 26, 2014

A smoke alarm installed by Lt. Bill Almon and his crew one week earlier alerted a family of three to a house fire at 210 Fairground Street. The family returned home together to a sounding smoke alarm and smoke in the residence. They searched for the source, but were unable to find it, and called 911. Firefighters determined an extension cord had shorted out and burned the carpet to the sub-floor. A sock had also burned and extended into a dresser containing blankets. Fortunately the fire was out when the fire department arrived. However, the incident helped the family to identify and correct some electrical deficiencies that were potential fire hazards.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION EVENTS**

In 2014 the Franklin Fire Department participated in 449 public education-related events with more than 22,000 participants. These included apparatus demonstrations, station tours, our 1st grade Family Safety House program with more than 1,000 participants, child passenger safety seat checks, CPR classes, as well as several new programs. Here is a look at the new programs that were implemented in 2014:



### **5TH GRADE FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM**

In the spring of 2014 the Franklin Fire Department implemented a new program designed to educate 5th grade students about the dangers of the unsupervised, experimental, or illegal use of fire. Called Fire Factor, the 45minute presentation features speakers, videos, and the interactive i>Clicker classroom response system. It is modeled after a successful program that was created by the Colorado Springs Fire Department.

The pilot program was presented to 337 students

Firefighter-Paramedic Josh Sanders (upper photo) and Michael Fletcher (lower photo) speak to 5th grade students.

at three schools during a health or physical education class.
Featured speakers included
Franklin Firefighter-Paramedic
Josh Sanders and Michael
Fletcher, Director of Safety and
Security for Williamson County
Schools. Michael shares his
experience as a former burn
patient.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), between 2005 and 2009, an average of 56,300 child-playing fires were reported to U.S. municipal fire departments. These fires caused annual averages of 110 civilian deaths, 880 civilian injuries, and \$286

Event Description	Number of Events	Number of Participants
Apparatus Demonstration	60	7,609
Child Passenger Safety Seat		
Check	141	371
Community Event	4	3,375
CPR	6	104
Exhibit (Fire Prevention Week, Love Your Smoke Alarm Day, Smoke Alarm Dis- count Day, Senior Health Fair and State of the City event	15	1,321
Extinguisher Training	5	126
Family Safety House	23	1,095
Fire/Evacuation Drill	23	6,405
Presentation	17	982
Smoke Alarm Install	94	94
Station Tour	61	951
TOTAL	449	22,433

million in property damage. Outside or unclassified fires accounted for 76% of the fires, where two out of five of the fires were started by a child between the ages of 10 and 12.

### FRANKLIN FIRE AND POLICE WOMEN'S SAFETY BOOT CAMP

The Franklin Fire and Police Departments teamed up to offer a new program designed especially for women during the summer of 2014. The "Women's Safety Boot Camp" took place on four different evenings during June at Franklin Fire Station 2.

Coordinated by Firefighter-Paramedic Wes Bryant, the free, educational program provided 30 women with emergency survival skills. Topics included home fire safety and fire extinguisher training, child and infant L-R Franklin
Police Officer
Rachel Gober,
FirefighterParamedic Wes
Bryant, and
Police Officer
Rose Steagall all
helped to make
the Inaugural
2014 Women's
Safety Boot
Camp a great
success!



### OLDER ADULT FIRE AND FALL PREVENTION PROGRAM

In 2014 a team from the Franklin Fire Department and GraceWorks Ministries won a scholarship to attend a training conference to learn how to reduce fire and fall injuries among older adults.

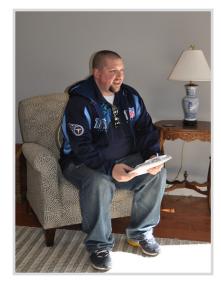
Sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Fire and Life Safety Educator Jamie Melton and GraceWorks Ministries Church and Community Relations Manager Brian Myers travelled to Las Vegas in June for the two-day session, to receive intensive instruction on how to implement the NFPA's *Remembering When™* program.

Designed to help older adults live safely at home for as long as possible, *Remembering When™* is centered around eight key fire prevention and eight key fall prevention messages. Developed by experts from national and local safety organizations as well as through focus group testing in high-fire-risk states, the program was designed to be implemented by a coalition comprising the local fire department, service clubs, social and religious

- According to NFPA, at age 65, older adults are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fires.
- At age 75, that risk increases to three times that of the general population—and to four times by age 85.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics show that falls are the leading cause of death from unintentional injury in the home.
- 30 percent of people age 65 and older are involved in falls each year—some are fatal, while others permanently disable victims, often causing loss of mobility or independence.



Engineer Dale Lott goes over the older adult fire and fall prevention checklist with a resident.



organizations, retirement communities, and others. Coalition members can decide how to best approach the local senior population: through group presentations, during home visits, and/or as part of a smoke alarm installation and fall intervention program.

Jamie applied for the scholarship because the number of fall-related calls that the Franklin Fire Department responds to each year for older adults has more than doubled since 2011. In fact, in 2014, more than 12 percent of all calls that the FFD responded to were fall-related (863), and 72 percent of the fall-related calls involved people who were 65 or older (624).

GraceWorks was selected as a partner because they are an established agency that has been making significant contributions to people in need in Williamson County since 1995. In 2013 GraceWorks served Williamson County families 29,369 times. They have several elderly clients who are homebound, and have volunteers who assist them with home visits and drives to medical appointments.

Jamie and Brian received training on how to conduct both group presentations and home visits. They also learned how to train others to conduct home visits.



Top photo—Brian Myers with GraceWorks discusses the key fire and fall prevention messages with a resident.
Bottom photo L-R: Firefighter Paramedic Michael Henry, and Firefighter Cory Swenson change smoke alarm batteries for an older adult.

# REMEMBERING WHEN Program Accomplishments

- Conducted 57 home visits in the Morningside community.
- Conducted four group presentations with 71 attendees.
  - Conducted four home visitor trainings with 15 attendees.

# **Transitions**

### **RETIREMENTS**

- Deputy Chief Mike Culberson
- Engineer Eddie Pratt

### **PROMOTIONS**

- Deputy Chief Todd Horton
- Deputy Chief Glenn Johnson
- Deputy Chief Andy King
- Battalion Chief Jimmy Jennings
- Battalion Chief Joe Polenzani
- Engineer Shawn Donovan

### **RESIGNATIONS**

- Firefighter Ryan Brinkman
- Firefighter Chris Daniels
- Administrative Assistant Jessica Peach



Mike Culberson
Deputy Chief, Operations
34 years of service



Eddie Pratt
Engineer
34 years of service
<a href="https://vimeo.com/114258014">https://vimeo.com/114258014</a>

# Retirement

### **DEPUTY CHIEF MIKE CULBERSON RETIREMENT PARTY**

After more than 50 years, the Culberson family firefighting tradition in Franklin came to an end. Franklin Fire Deputy Chief of Operations Mike Culberson, son of the late Franklin Fire Chief Jesse Wallace "J.W." Culberson, retired in February. He was honored at a retirement party on February, 13 at Franklin Fire Station 6.

Deputy Chief Culberson joined the department in 1979 and served for more than 34 years. He worked his way through the ranks, being promoted to engineer, lieutenant, captain, battalion chief, and finally, deputy chief in 2007.

Deputy Chief Culberson retired from Franklin but did not leave the fire service. He became the Assistant Chief for the City of LaVergne Fire Department.













# Giving Back













### **FULL SCALE MOCK DISTRACTED DRIVING DEMONSTRATION**

On April 9, the Franklin Fire Department participated in a full-scale, mock distracted-driving response for the entire Franklin High School student body. More than 1,700 students filled the stands to get a look at the simulated moments before, and after a crash caused by a texting teen behind the wheel. Franklin Police Officers, Franklin Firefighters, Williamson County Paramedics, and Vanderbilt's LifeFlight team participated in the presentation, which was coordinated by Franklin Police.

In the dramatization, a texting driver was unaware that the vehicle in front of her had come to a stop. As a result, she violently struck the stopped vehicle. A back-seat passenger who was wearing a seatbelt, sustained minor injuries. An unrestrained, front-seat passenger was ejected, and died.

# Giving Back

### **LUNCHEON FOR WWII VETERANS**

On December 6, 2014, Captain David Kolak and his crew hosted a special luncheon at Station 6 to honor local WWII veterans (right). The catered lunch was provided by the Franklin Firefighters Association, and a quilting club presented the veterans with handmade quilts. Chief Garzarek presented them with Franklin Fire Department caps.









### **FILL THE BOOT**

Franklin Firefighters raised \$33,000 for the MDA's "Fill the Boot" campaign in 2014 (left). This firefighter tradition benefits those affected by muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases.