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Donovan Peoples  
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# BROWNSBURG FIRE TERRITORY

## 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



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Fire Territory**  
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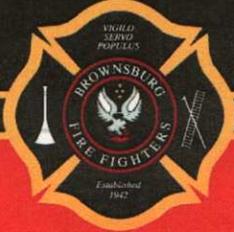


# Brownsburg Fire Territory

*Vigilantly Serving Our Community*

## 2013 Annual Report

With the start of 2013, the Brownsburg Fire Territory leadership redefined their mission statement as an organization that “provides the highest standard of vigilant service to all those who may seek our help.” In support of the new mission statement, principles and vision points were created.

<i>PRINCIPLES</i>		<i>VISION</i>
<p>We live our mission</p> <p>We approach our jobs with enthusiasm</p> <p>We encourage personal and professional growth</p> <p>We hold ourselves and others accountable for the performance of our jobs</p> <p>We foster reliance on each other</p> <p>We honor integrity, pride, tradition, and professionalism</p>	<p><i>BROWNSBURG FIRE TERRITORY'S REASON FOR BEING IS TO PROVIDE THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF VIGILANT SERVICE TO ALL OF THOSE WHO MAY SEEK OUR HELP.</i></p> <p><b>BFIT</b></p>	<p>We are dedicated to continuous improvement based on best practices</p> <p>We will strive to create trust, innovation, involvement, creativity, and accountability</p> <p>We will be respectful and responsive to the needs and priorities of all</p>

A major focus for the year was to improve our advanced cardiac life response capabilities with new equipment and training. Overall medical response capabilities were improved with a paralytic pharmacy protocol, which no other emergency medical service in Hendricks County provides.

In February, the territory held its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Service Recognition and Award Ceremony to honor the employees who provide superior service and commitment to the community.

With employee safety as our #1 priority, a work performance evaluation (WPE) was developed for firefighters. In addition to annual physicals, this evaluation provides an opportunity to ensure that all firefighters are physically capable of meeting the demands of the community and essential functions of their job.

In late summer, the territory received approval from the board of zoning appeals to allow for the improvement and expansion of our current grounds located on Northfield Drive behind the territory headquarters building. This expansion will allow the firefighters and paramedics to continuously increase their skills and abilities to better serve the community.



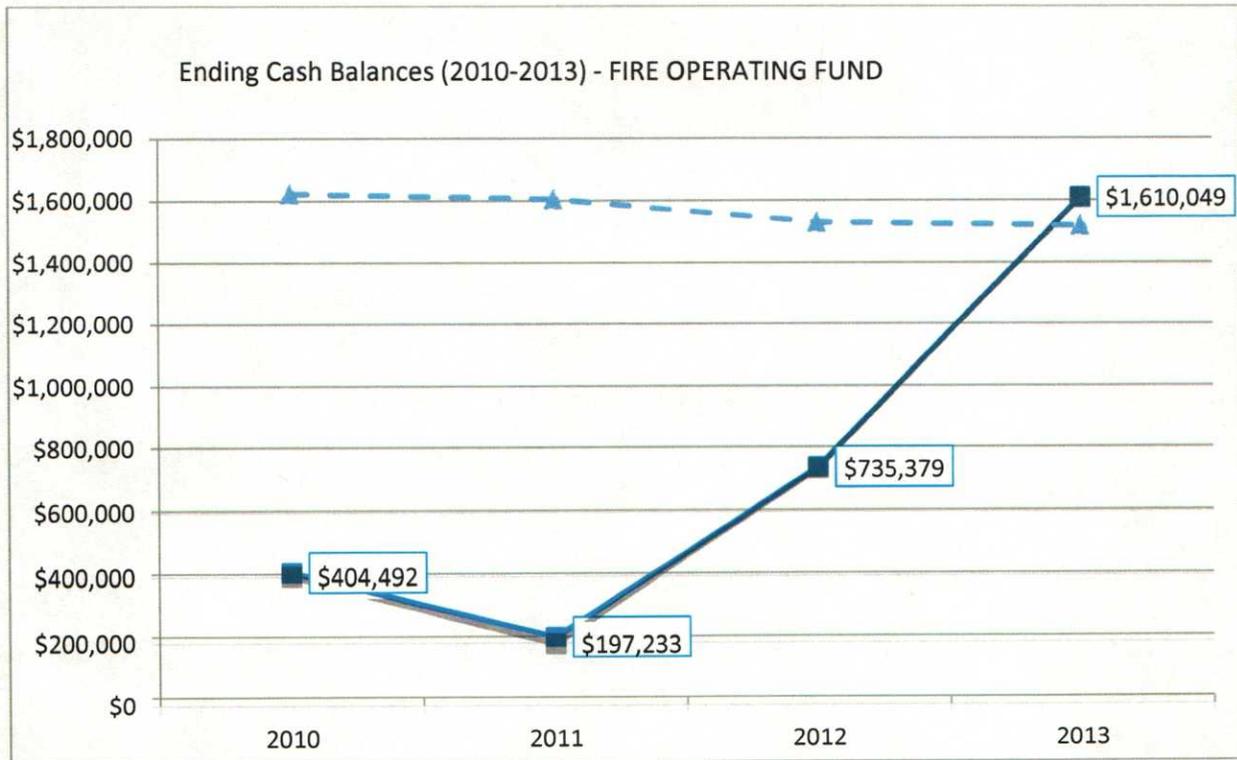
# Brownsburg Fire Territory

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A citizen response survey was conducted in 2013 and 94% of our citizens rated us good to excellent for Fire and EMS services. As our territory continues to see growth and development, we will plan for and provide the highest standard of vigilant service for all needs that are placed upon us.

## **Territory Finances:**

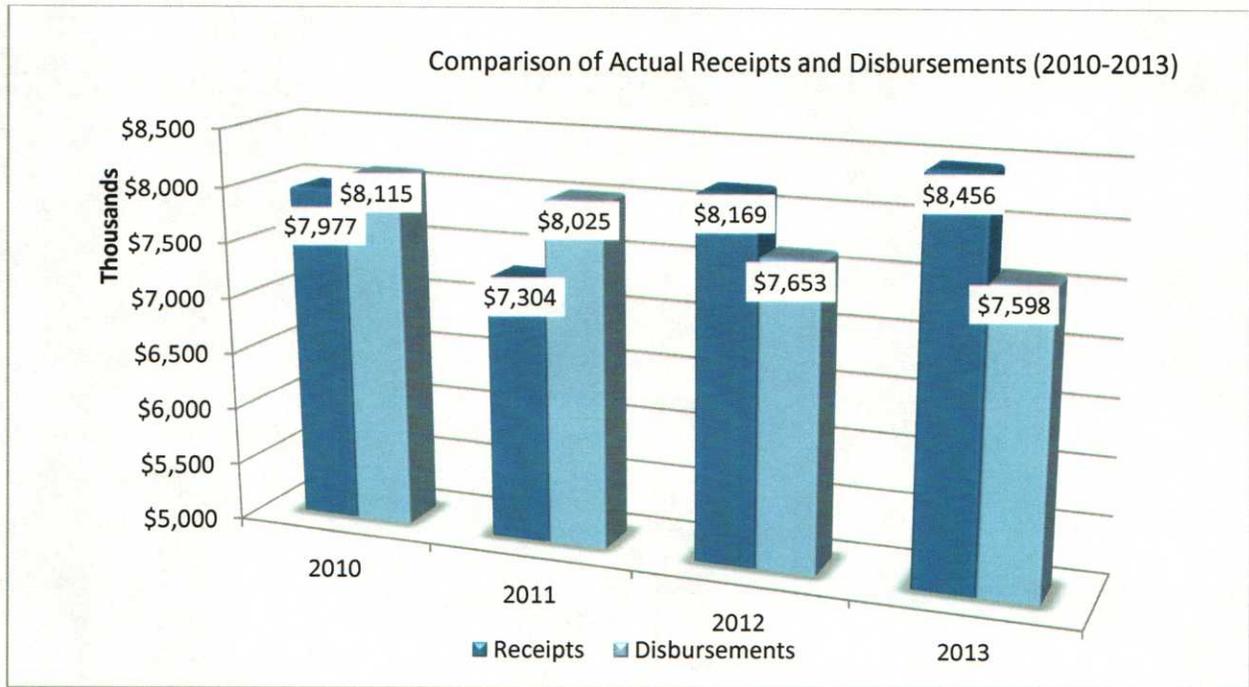
In 2013, our primary revenue sources come from property taxes (56%), Local Income Tax or CAGIT (28%) and Ambulance Fees (9%). In an effort to continually regain financial stability and maintain an excellent level of service to the community, we reviewed our ambulance collection practices in 2012 and made changes in this regard. Due to those changes, our ambulance collections have increased by approximately 17%. In past years, the territory was below the 20% minimum recommended cash reserve amount and with efforts over the past year, we were able to end 2013 above the recommended 20% level.





# Brownsburg Fire Territory

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## **Fire Prevention:**

One of our main efforts is to reduce the losses of life and property within our Brownsburg Fire Territory. We are a community that is diverse in population and building construction. Brownsburg is a community that is growing and public safety is a key factor of its success. It is important to look at all components of a community and complete a risk assessment. A plan should be developed to address these needs in such a way that we effectively reduce the risks identified.

The Brownsburg Fire Territory also supports economic growth and development through a process that safeguards our community. We verify that development and construction work meets the required minimum life safety standards through state statutes. Well planned and monitored growth is the key for a successful thriving Brownsburg. An important part of this success is making sure buildings and developments meet minimum life safety standards.



## **Scope of Protection for the Brownsburg Fire Territory**

**Population:** The Brownsburg Fire Territory protects approximately 42,000 people

*Population. (2010-2013). Retrieved from <https://www.stats.indiana.edu/topic/population.asp>.*

- Approximately 10,000 of these are children; 270 of these children have disabilities.
- Approximately 4,000 of these are over the age of 65.

*Population Estimates. (2010-2013). Retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/counties/totals/2013/CO-EST2013-01.html>.*

## **Total Assessed Value:**

- Over \$1.6 Billion Dollars

*Comprehensive Assessed Value Report. (2010-2012). Retrieved from*

*[http://www.in.gov/dlgf/files/Comprehensive\\_Assessed\\_Value\\_Report\\_Pay\\_2011\\_through\\_Pay\\_2013.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dlgf/files/Comprehensive_Assessed_Value_Report_Pay_2011_through_Pay_2013.pdf)*

## **Business:**

- The Brownsburg Fire Territory has over 1,100 businesses. During the year 2013, the Brownsburg Fire Territory visited over 95% of the buildings. Firefighting crews will continue to visit businesses in town to ensure they are familiar with the buildings and their operations in the event they respond there on an emergency.

## **High Risk Community Groups:**

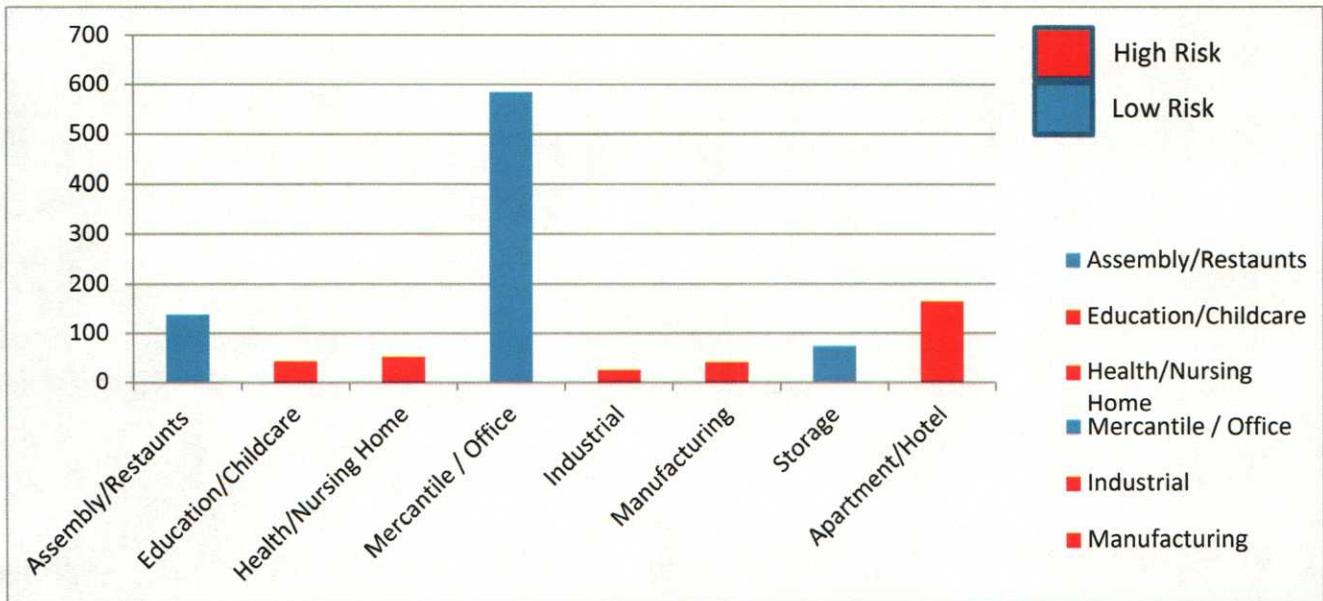
- Senior citizens
- Children
- Those with disabilities
- Multi-family residential homes
- Manufacturing and hazardous materials industries

The Brownsburg Fire Territory proudly protects and serves all of our community realizing that it an important mission. With the exception of Law Enforcement, there is no other local government agency that has such a great responsibility.



# Brownsburg Fire Territory

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During the 2013 year, the Fire Territory identified the following types of serious life safety hazards through inspections and firefighter facility familiarization visits:

1. Exit doors locked
2. Improper storage of black powder
3. Deficiencies in fire sprinkler systems
4. Deficiencies in fire alarm systems
5. Improper storage of extraordinary large quantities of flammable liquids
6. 57 smoke alarms not working in apartments
7. 7 fireplace chimney and flue failures in apartment buildings

Each hazard was addressed and corrected to protect the Brownsburg community from serious injury and provided a safer working environment for the firefighters.



# Brownsburg Fire Territory

*Vigilantly Serving Our Community*

The following are a list of daily activities the Fire Marshal is involved in to provide a safe community:

- Reviews, inspects and evaluates routine and detailed building plans, site plans, fire protection system plans, and buildings in terms of the Indiana Fire and Building code.
- Receives and responds to requests for information and technical assistance from architects, engineers, and developers on design criteria for various buildings and industrial processes.
- Identify the applicable code or standard for any fire protection related issue so that the proper document, edition and section are correctly referenced.
- Review acceptance testing documentation and with field observations so that systems and equipment are in a state of readiness, maintenance and service is documented, and all deficiencies are identified, communicated and documented in accordance with the Indiana Fire and Building code.
- Review and verify code compliance for storage, handling, and use of flammable and combustible liquids and use of hazardous materials or substances.
- Compares approved plans with an installed fire protection systems, given the approved plans and field observations, so that any changes or modifications to the system are identified, noted and communicated.

The Brownsburg Fire Territory assesses all elements of our community to determine how we can be effective in reducing these risks to life and fire loss. Through these types of procedures we have reduced the fire loss in our community.



## **Brownsburg Town Ordinance Changes in 2013**

In 2013 a couple key Town Ordinance changes were made to protect our community.

1. The Town's burning ordinance was updated so that you do not have to get a fire permit from the Fire Territory to have a cookout or recreational fire. In addition, it provides guidance as to how to burn safely. It also protects our community's clean air by prohibiting the burning of trash. (92.075)
2. Added to the Town Ordinance that insures that new development in Town will have hydrants and the adequate amount of water for firefighting. (92.049)

## **Updating Town Fire Hydrants in 2013**

The Brownsburg Fire Territory is served by 2 separate water utilities. The Town of Brownsburg Water Utility and Citizens Water from Indianapolis. Each of the water utilities has a different hose thread connection for the fire department on their hydrants. Every time we need to hook up the fire hose we have to pull out the hose adapter before we can connect our fire hose. This can present some issues when other fire departments such as Avon, Pittsboro, Pike Township or Wayne Township come to assist the Town of Brownsburg. If they do not have the right hydrant adapter these departments cannot hook up to the fire hydrant.

The Brownsburg Water Utility started a program to update all the fire hydrants with a new hose connection. The hydrants are being changed over to a Storz connection. Every fire department in the area has this type of connection. It will ensure firefighters can hook up faster during firefighting operations in Brownsburg. The Brownsburg Water Utility has helped us tremendously with these new Storz connections.

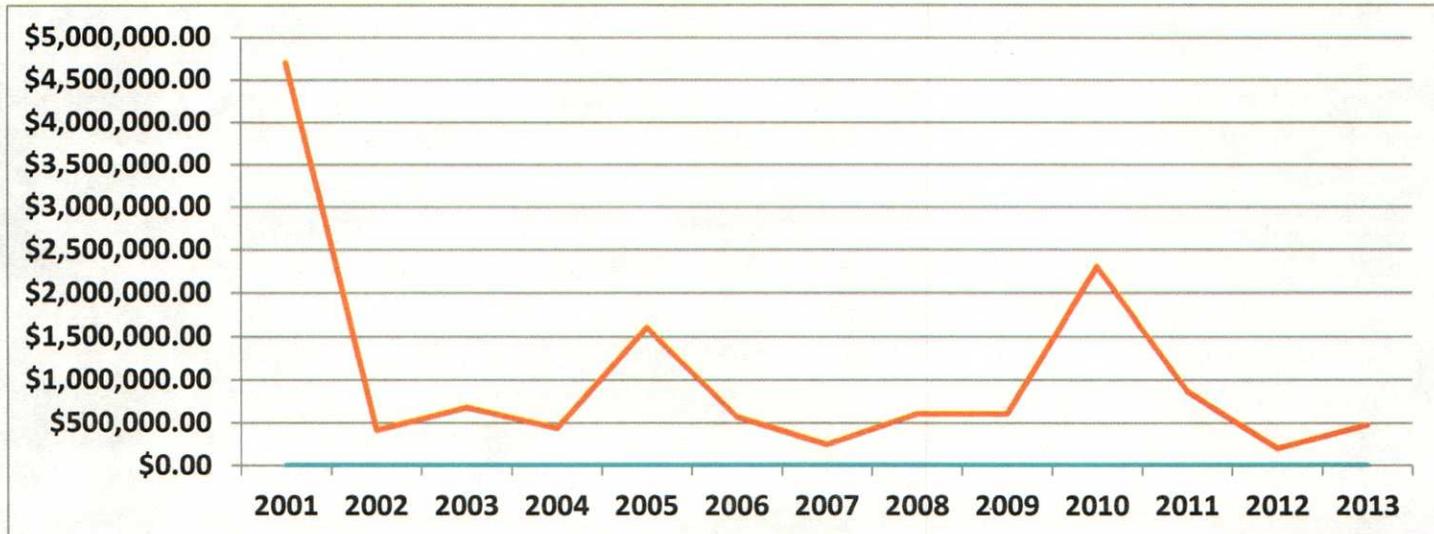


# Brownsburg Fire Territory

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## Fires in the Brownsburg Fire Territory in 2013

The numbers of fires and injuries are well below national averages for communities our size in 2013.



The below figures are the fire loss statistics over the last 13 years.

### Causes of building fires in 2013:

- Electrical power lines down that caused a back feed of energy; causing 4 house fires at one time.
- 2 fireplace chimney flue fires causing damage to these homes
- Arson: 1 house and 1 apartment storage room
- Electrical: Light ballast fault casing a house fire and an electrical fault in a HVAC unit at a nursing home

### Fire Injuries in 2013

In 2013 there were 3 significant injuries caused by fire. One of the serious injuries was caused by a person burning a brush pile using gasoline. Two young teens that had a stove fire during cooking were burned while trying to put the fires out.

Cooking fires still present a significant risk in the Brownsburg community. In the last 2 years we have had several young teens cooking after school that caused stove fires. We need to focus on education in this age group on preventing cooking fires and what to do in the event they have a stove fire.

We had no fire fatalities in 2013.



# Brownsburg Fire Territory

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## **Brownsburg Fire Territory has top ISO rating: ISO rating of 3**

Insurance Services Office (ISO) collects information on fire departments in communities throughout the United States. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes the relevant data using our Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). ISO then assigns a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program doesn't meet ISO's minimum criteria.

By securing lower fire insurance premiums for communities with better fire departments, the ISO program provides incentives and rewards for communities that choose to improve their firefighting services. **The payoff is a safer community because of a superior fire department.**

The Brownsburg Fire Territory is proud of this achievement and continues to find ways to improve our ISO rating. This rating helps business and home owners in reduced insurance premiums and demonstrates our effectiveness in reducing risk in our community.





# Brownsburg Fire Territory

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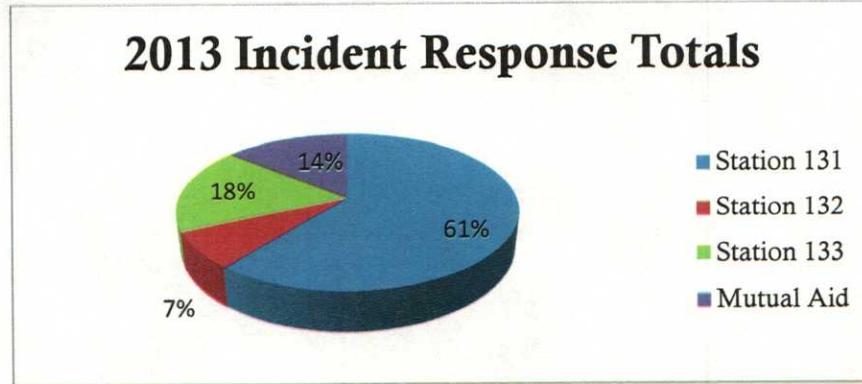
Our standard of care in protecting our community is driven by the State of Indiana and nationally recognized standards. Having these standards keeps our communities insurance rates down and protects the liability of the Town and the Brownsburg Fire Territory. Our current ISO rating is one of the best in the State. The Fire Territory has professional qualifications that are set by the National Fire Protection Association which provide the baseline of our risk reduction activities.

- NFPA 1021, Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications
- NFPA 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner
- NFPA 1037 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Marshal
- State of Indiana Qualifications for Fire Inspector I and II

It is our goal to support our community in avenues of protecting lives and property. Our fire statistics demonstrates that our programs and processes work. We continue to find ways to protect our community that provide for the highest level of service and quality.

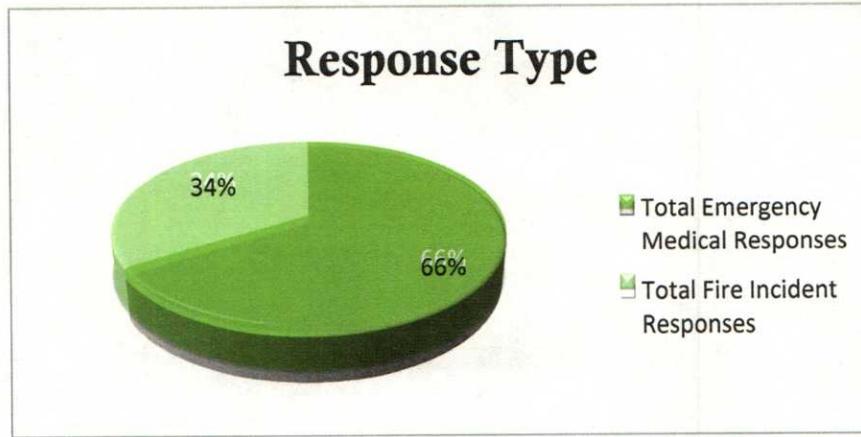


## 2013 Incident Response Totals:



\*Significant amount of run data lost due to server crash in November of 2013

<u>Apparatus</u>	<u>Number of Responses</u>
Station 131	2077
Station 132	257
Station 133	600
Mutual Aid	479
<b>Total</b>	<b>3413</b>



Total Emergency Medical Responses	2264
Total Fire Incident Responses	1149
<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>3413</b>



## **Public Education:**

### **Car Seat Program**

In 2013, Brownsburg Fire Territory became the only car seat fitting station in the county for IU-Riley's Automotive Safety Program. This means we are the only place the public can receive a car seat for free through the grant provided by Automotive Safety. The county did have a few other places that car seats could be inspected and people could receive education on how to install their car seat: Avon's AAA, Plainfield Fire, Hendricks Regional & IU-West (mostly do inspections for newborns). Brownsburg Fire has 9 certified Technicians to inspect car seats and educate the public on installation. During 2013, Brownsburg Fire inspected 159 car seats and distributed 54 car seats through the grant program. Cost of Brownsburg's car seat program is funded by the IU-Riley's Automotive Safety Program.

### **Fire Prevention Program**

We used Kasey, the fire dog from Koorsen, for 2 of the 8 Brownsburg Schools. Normally, we try to schedule 4 of the 8 schools, but due to conflicts with school scheduling and fall break now being 2 weeks; we were unable to get the other two schools scheduled. Koorsen provides this program for free. We are scheduled for 4 schools in October 2014. Schools will be notified before the end of the current school year. The other schools not participating in the Kasey Fire Dog program are offered fire prevention programs that involve fire safety talks by the Brownsburg Fire Territory personnel. Personnel visited several schools and spoke with classrooms and grade levels about fire safety.

### **Bike & Water Safety Programs**

We offer various other safety programs to the public over the course of the year. We taught Bike Safety, Water Safety, and First Aid several times this year to grade school children, high school students, after school programs, and church groups.

### **Station Tours & Apparatus Visits**

Brownsburg Fire offers station tours to the public at all three fire stations. Territory residents can request an apparatus to visit an event (such as birthday party, block party, festival). Crews will show the apparatus and answer any questions on fire, medical safety or fire service careers.

### **Emergency Medical Technician Courses**

In 2013 Brownsburg Fire Territory did not offer any EMT classes. We did have two people obtain their Primary Instructor certification to teach EMT classes (Battalion Chief Chad Anspach & Paramedic Zach Bowers).



## **CPR Program**

We offered approximately the same amount of classes as we have in 2012 and will continue to offer the same in 2014. We have a new software system so that will allow us to keep better track of the number of classes, participants, and instructor information. We assist these training sites under Brownsburg Fire:

Airport Fire, Mooresville Fire, Danville Fire, Washington Township/Avon Fire, Brownsburg Community School, Help At Home, PSTS, and Amazon.

## **PIO**

Brownsburg Fire Territory has a Facebook page and twitter account. BFT's webpage was not operational when the computer system went down and we are currently working to bring it up to date.

## **Community Reach**

### **Meeting Space**

We are still allowing not-for-profit groups to use the rooms as long as we are able to accommodate the space and people to unlock and lock the facility. There are a few groups using the room on a regular basis: Weight Watchers, Brownsburg Chamber of Commerce, IDHS Training Course, State Fire Marshal's Office, BLTRA, St. Malachy Boy Scouts, and Indiana EMS Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

William W. Brown

Fire Chief