

2012



# Brenham Fire Department

Since 1867

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101 North  
Chappell  
Hill  
Street



All Men are Created Equal,  
Then a Few become FIREMEN



**Chief Ricky Boeker**



**Asst. Chief Bentke**



**Chief Draehn**



**Chief Janner**



**Chief Pohl**



**2012 Brenham Fire Department Staff & Members**



**Fire Marshall/Deputy Chief  
Alan Finke**



**Secretary/Treasurer  
Goessler**



**Asst. Secretary/Treasurer  
Christensen**



**Chaplain Ruemke**

*Brenham Fire Department Annual Report 2012*

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## ***Services Provided***

- First responder fire suppression services within the city limits of Brenham and an unincorporated area roughly twice that size lying outside of the city limits.
- Automatic mutual aid assistance to the 6 adjacent rural Fire Departments on all structure fire calls.
- Mutual aid fire suppression services are provided county-wide upon request.
- First responder rescue services county-wide.
- Hazardous materials mitigation services county-wide.
- Smoke detector and carbon monoxide service checks.
- Pre-fire planning surveys of buildings within the City.
- Fire prevention & safety programs.
- Flood water removal services.
- Fire inspection services, Fire Code enforcement and construction plan reviews (Fire Marshal's Office).
- Juvenile fire setter intervention services (Fire Marshal's Office).
- Investigations of criminal activity related to fires & explosions; enforcement of state and local statutes on arson, criminal mischief, fireworks and other fire related violations (Fire Marshal's Office).
- The members of the Brenham Fire Department own and operate the Fireman's Training Center. This popular facility provides an important service to the community and is utilized year-round for social and business events.

## **Staffing**

The Brenham Fire Department operates under the direction of 25 year veteran Fire Chief Ricky Boeker. Boeker also serves as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City. [See Emergency Management Report below]

Brenham Fire Department staffing for 2012 numbered 15 full time employees and 38 volunteer members. Although BFD is chartered for 50 volunteers, this number has rarely been achieved. In recent years, volunteer membership has steadily declined despite constant efforts to provide incentives to help recruit and retain volunteer firefighters.

Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Alan E. Finke performs a combination of administrative and operations-related duties under the direction of the Fire Chief, as well as the duties of City Fire Marshal. These include fire code enforcement, construction plan reviews, public fire education, fire prevention inspections, and fire & arson investigations. The Fire Marshal's Office is a law enforcement agency as defined by Texas statutes and has three (3) state-licensed peace officers who are commissioned as arson investigators. These include the Fire Marshal, one shift Captain and one volunteer firefighter.

There are 12 full-time uniformed staff members who are assigned to shift duty at the fire station. One Captain and three Apparatus Operators are assigned to each of the three shifts. Shifts work a 48 hour on/96 hour off duty schedule. Shifts are fully staffed (4 on duty) approximately 65% of the time. The minimum staffing level is three (3) paid staff members on duty.

The number of on-duty paid staff members increased in 2010 when 3 additional Apparatus Operators were hired under the FEMA "Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response ("SAFER") grant program. The staffing level remained the same for 2012 and the city continues to receive grant funds under the 5 year SAFER schedule.

The Fire Department Administrative Assistant works normal business hours in the Fire Department administrative office and handles a variety of duties, under the direction of the Fire Chief.

Within the volunteer ranks, members are elected annually to various officer positions. These include the 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief, two District Chiefs, as well as Secretary-Treasurer, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Chaplain and Mascot.



## Captain Promotion & New Apparatus Operators

### Captain Brian Scheffer



Scheffer joined as a volunteer in May 1997 and promoted to the rank of Apparatus Operator in July 2000. In September of 2012 Brian was promoted to Captain. He also serves as the Department's Training Coordinator which he has held since January 2004. Scheffer was named Firefighter of the Year in 2001 & 2008. Scheffer was the Firefighter of the Year for Central Texas Fireman's & Fire Marshall in 2002 and first runner up for Firefighter of the Year for the State Fireman's & Fire Marshall's Association in 2003.

Scheffer currently holds a Master Firefighter thru State Fireman's & Fire Marshall's Association, Advance Firefighter, Fire Investigator, Fire Officer II, Instructor II, Hazmat Technician & Driver Operator certification thru the Texas Commission of Fire Protection. Scheffer is an American Heart Association CPR Instructor and is currently on the Certification board for the SFFMA. Scheffer has been a guest Instructor for Texas Fireman's Training School since 2004 and is an Adjunct Instructor for TEEX.

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### Apparatus Operator Justin McDonald



Justin Joined the Brenham Fire Department on August 27, 2012. He came to us from Washington County EMS where he continues to be an EMT and has been employed there for 3 years.

He has completed Swift-Water Tech, Hazmat Tech and Rope Rescue Tech Certifications.

He is married to his wife Ashley and they have a Son, Weston, and a daughter, Mackenzie.

### Apparatus Operator Jerred Eschete



Jerred joined the Brenham Fire Department on December 31, 2012. He is a graduate of Mercedes High School in 1998 and graduated from Rio Grande Regional Fire Academy in 1999. He moved to College Station and went to work for TEEX for 11 years where he was a Haz-Mat Instructor for 6 of those years. He holds Pro Board Certification in NFPA 472 Hazmat Technician, Hazmat incident Command, Transportation Specialist, NFPA 1081 Industrial Fire Brigade Interior and Exterior, NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor and NFPA 1081 Leadership.

He is married to his wife Amie and they have a daughter, Savannah, and a Son, Brady.

## **Funding**

- City General Fund budget appropriation for FY2012: \$1.4 million.
- County funding for BFD operations outside of the City: \$20,500.
- Grant Funding:
  - Texas Forest Service: \$92,930 (\$78,000 for booster truck; \$7,600 wildland gear; \$3,554 worker comp; \$3,776 training tuition reimbursement).
  - FEMA "SAFER" Grant: for 3 additional staff: \$75,042 (grant award in in 2009 was for \$325,140 to be paid on a decreasing term scale for 5 years).
  - State Fireman's & Fire Marshal's Assoc.: wildfire gear \$9,297.50.
  - LCRA Community Grant: \$25,000 for hazardous materials equipment & trailer.
- BFD fund-raisers (Fish Fry, Fiesta & Ladies Aux. Cheese Logs): membership funded \$4,030 for wildland gear and the Ladies Aux. donated \$2,500 for wildland gear.

### ***Texas Forest Service Rural Volunteer F.D. Assistance Program***

In 2012, BFD received grant funding in the amount of \$7,600 for a portion of new wildland/rescue clothing ensembles purchased for our membership. The newly purchased wildfire/rescue ensembles are NFPA certified for use during wildfire activities AND for use when performing rescue work. T.F.S. funding for wildfire protective gear was \$7,600. The Department also received \$4,950 towards the WorkersCompensation Coverage for the volunteer members.

### ***S.A.F.E.R. Grant Continues To Fund Additional Shift Personnel***

In 2009, Brenham was awarded a 5 year grant in the amount of \$325,140 from the "Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response" (S.A.F.E.R.) Grant Program of the Department of Homeland Security within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). These grant funds allowed for the addition of three (3) full-time employees to the Brenham Fire Department staff. These additional positions brought the normal duty crew at the fire station up from 3 per shift to 4.

### ***State Fireman & Fire Marshal's Association (SFFMA)***

SFFMA funded a portion of the wildland firefighting clothing ensembles purchased in 2012. The SFFMA grant totaled \$9,297.

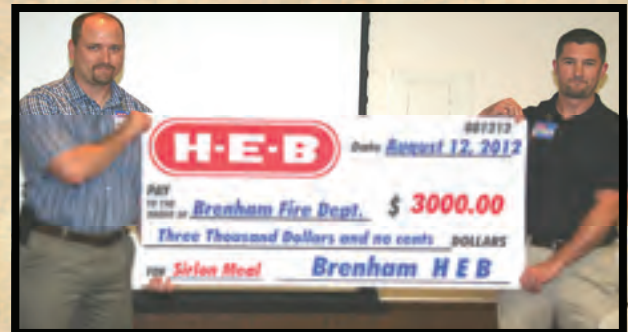
### ***Lower Colorado River Authority***

The LCRA funded a \$25,000 grant request made by the Brenham Fire Department for the purchase of hazardous materials mitigation equipment and trailer to use for the transportation of the equipment to emergency scenes.

# BFD Donations



The BFD received a \$25,000 grant from the LCRA. With this grant we will buy hazardous materials and a special operations trailer, which will be available for City & County Residents!



HEB donates \$3,000.00 towards the meal for Fireman's Fiesta



Donated Teddy Bears to the FD for Children



BFD Ladies Auxiliary donates \$2,500.00 for Wildland Gear



Sons of Hermann donates \$250.00 from Bingo profits

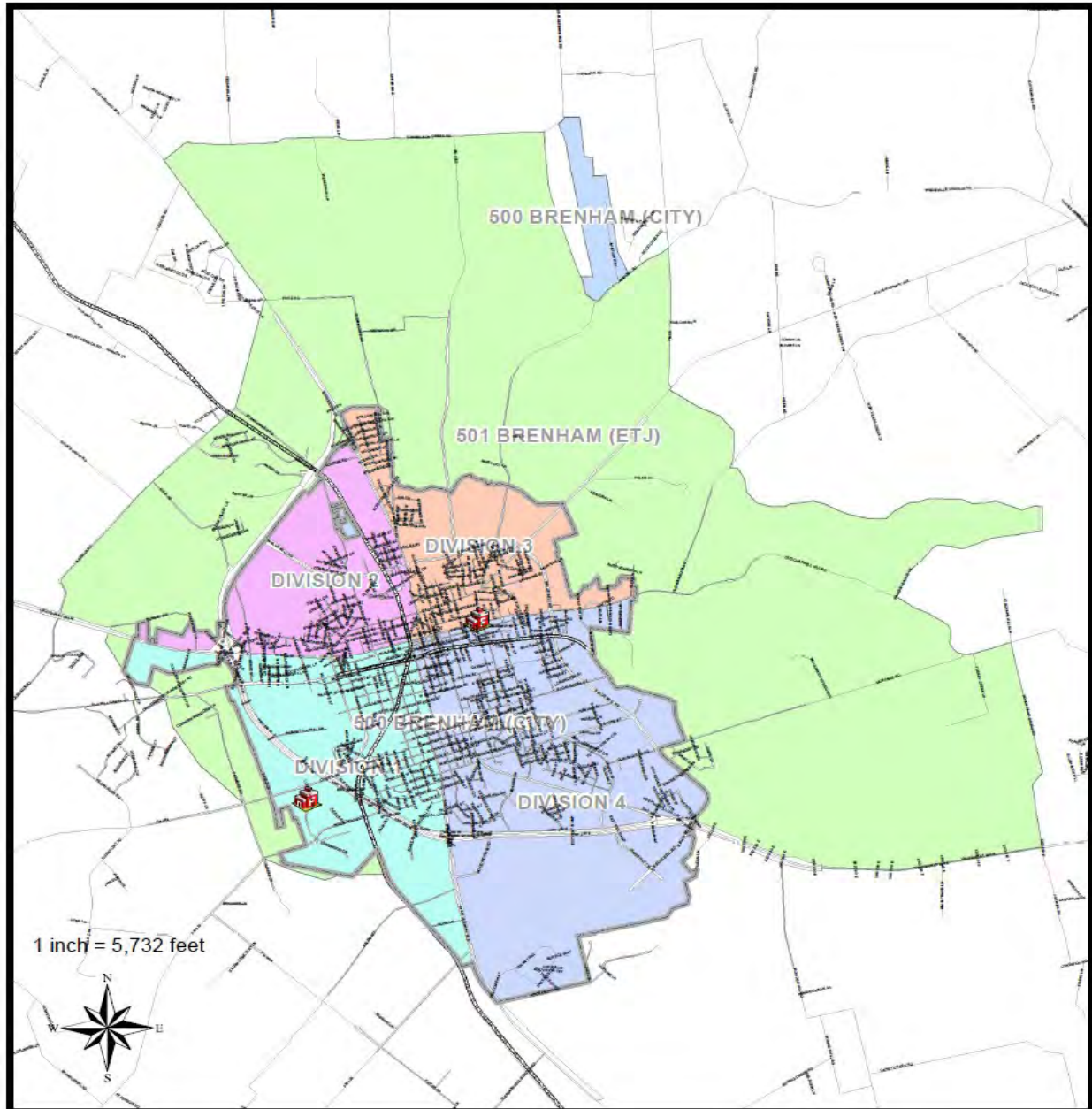
Friendship Quilt Guild donated a handmade quilt for our Annual Firemen's Fiesta Auction





## Area Served by the Brenham Fire Department

The Brenham Fire Department's **primary response area** covers **36.42** square miles, including 12.02 sq. mi. inside of the City limits and 24.4 sq. mi. of unincorporated Washington County. Divisions 1-4 are inside of the City limits. Division 5 and Division 6 are in unincorporated Washington County. Division 7 is outside of the County. **Brenham F.D. is the designated first responding fire department for Divisions 1 through 5.**



### Legend

■ DIVISION 1   
 ■ DIVISION 2   
 ■ DIVISION 3   
 ■ DIVISION 4   
 ■ ESN 501 (ETJ)   
 ■ ESN 500 (CITY)

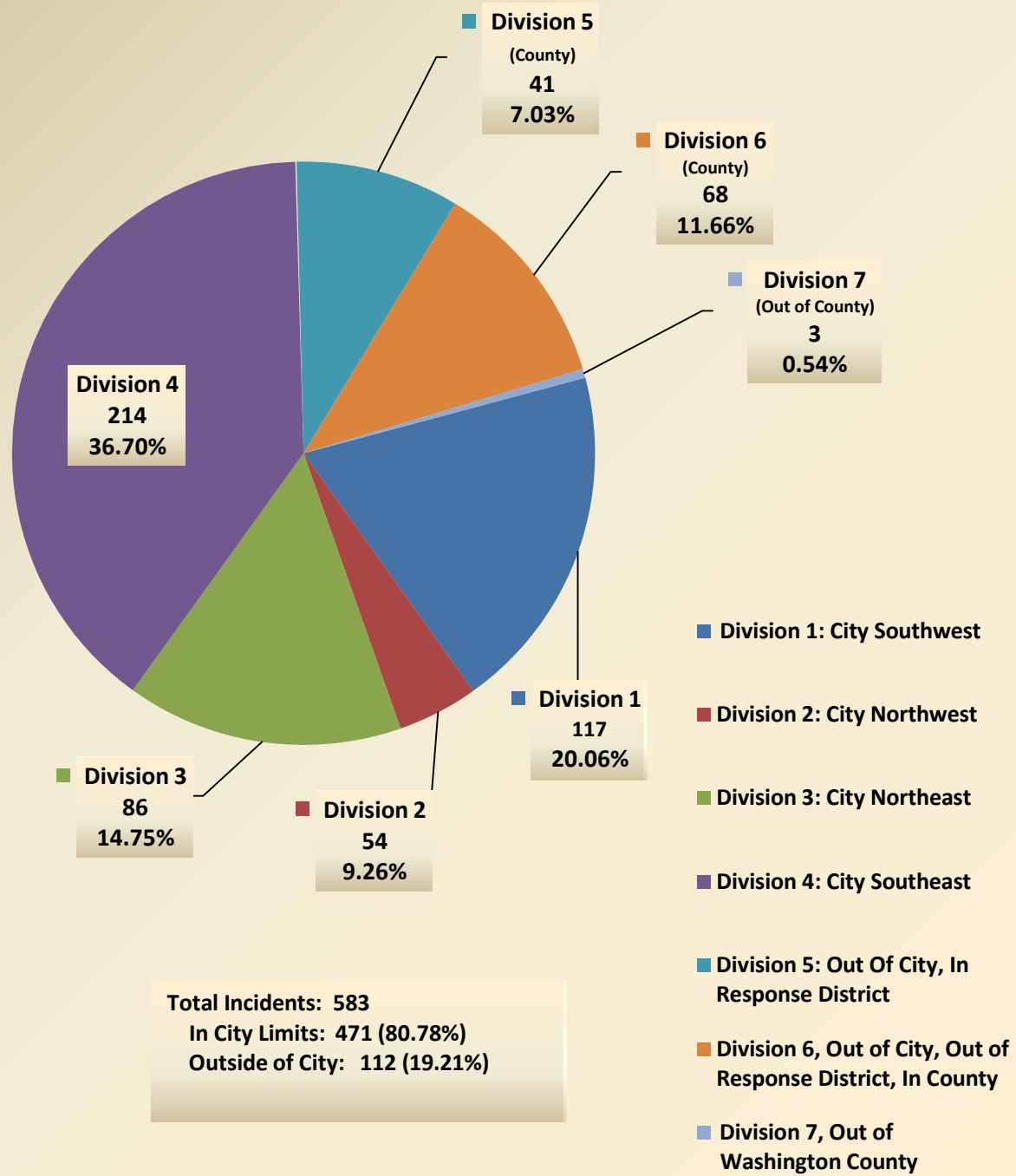
**Brenham**  
 Square Miles: 12.02  
 Acres: 7,688.068

**Brenham Fire Primary Coverage Washington Co.**  
 Square Miles: 24.4  
 Acres: 15,627.06

**Airport**  
 Square Miles 0.27  
 Acres: 173.08



## Brenham Fire Department 2012 583 Total Incidents By Response Division



## ***County Responses***

The Brenham Fire Department responded to **109** incidents in the unincorporated areas of Washington County during 2012, down from 119 incidents in 2011.

As in previous years, the amount of time spent on County calls averaged at least 2 hours per call, often more. This estimate includes time spent at the scene, travel time to and from the scene, plus time spent to fuel and restore trucks to service and complete reports. On the conservative side, it is estimated that the Brenham Fire Department spent approximately 218 hours on calls the County in 2012.

## ***Out-of-County Responses***

During 2012, Brenham FD responded to 3 requests for mutual aid outside of Washington County. The time spent on calls outside of Washington County was far less than in 2011 during that year's catastrophic wildfire season. The number of out-of-county calls in 2012 (primarily for vehicular rescues) is the historic norm.

# Construction Site Rescue



## Car Rescues



## ATV Rescue



### ***Responses by Incident Type for 2012***

Dispatched & cancelled en-route	106
Smoke removal	13
Water removal	10
Hazardous materials	34
Alarm system activation – legitimate	50
False alarms, malfunctions, honest mistakes	68
Smoke scares	50
Trash, grass, brush, dumpster fires	41
Building fires	44
Electrical Arcing	18
Vehicle fires	21
Rescue Calls	36
Vehicle Accident	23
Unauthorized burning	6
Miscellaneous	<u>63</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>583</b>

### ***Dollar Loss Totals (5-Year Comparison)***

Fire Loss	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
	<b>\$1,061,600</b>	<b>\$450,200</b>	<b>\$300,687</b>	<b>\$532,000</b>	<b>\$1,009,415</b>

*NOTE: Arriving at accurate fire loss value is difficult. When possible, loss figures obtained from insurance carriers (adjusters) are used, and these are considered the most accurate. At other times, loss figures are based on the knowledge and experience of fire investigators. All fire loss figures shown are approximate.*

### ***Fire Related Injuries and Fatalities***

There were no fire related deaths or civilian injuries reported during BFD responses during 2012. Three (3) Brenham firefighters reported minor injuries in separate incidents during the year.



Grass Fire



18-Wheeler accident



House Fire



Arson on MLK - Barn



Barn Fire



Trailer House Fire



Car Hauler



House Fire

2012

## ***Pre-incident Planning Program***

Pre-fire planning (“pre-planning”) is a pro-active information oriented activity in which on-duty members of the Fire Department visit commercial and industrial occupancies within the City for the purpose of gathering information regarding the nature of the property and identifying significant hazards at the site. This information is recorded for later use during fires or other emergencies at the location.

The pre-planning program also plays a very important role in helping to maintain the City of Brenham’s very good **Class 3** rating by Insurance Services Offices, Inc.. A low ISO classification has a positive effect on insurance rates for property located within the City limits.

During the ISO study commissioned by the Fire Department in 2005, the consulting fire protection engineer detailed the value of an active pre-fire planning program and indicated that a significant gain in points on the ISO Fire Suppression Rating Schedule could be achieved by such a program. In 2012, Brenham Fire Department personnel gathered and processed pre-plan information on 440 businesses and commercial buildings within the City of Brenham, up from 335 in 2011.

## ***Fire Prevention, Code Enforcement, Investigations***

The following is a summary of fire prevention, public fire education, code enforcement, and fire/arson investigation activity for the year 2012.

### **Public Fire Prevention Education Programs**

The combination of public fire education presentations by the Fire Marshal and other BFD staff members, fire station tours, Fair presentations, National Night Out visits, fire prevention programs in the schools, requests for training from businesses and industries and other such programs, resulted in approximately 6,000 public contacts in 2012.

### **Inspection & Enforcement Activities**

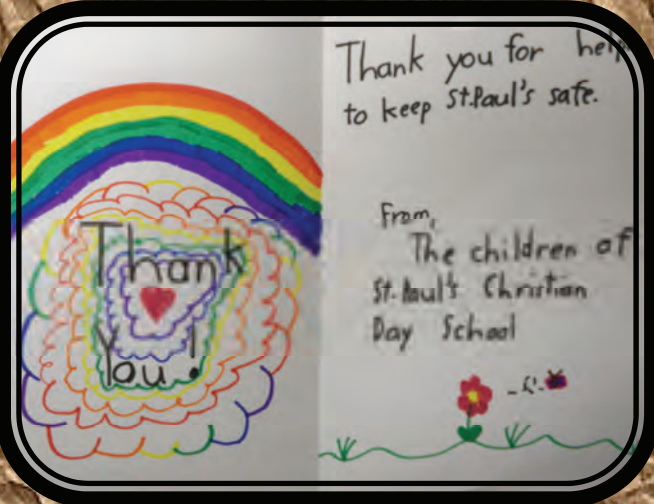
Fire prevention & construction inspections	190
Requests for code research or ruling	42
Construction plans reviewed	64

### **Arson Investigations**

Reported arson cases remained low in the City in 2012. The most notable episode of arson fires occurred in November. A fire was intentionally started in a vacant barn that was being used as a meeting place for truants. The fire is believed to be related to a series of arson fires in public restrooms at Fireman’s Park. The investigation by the Brenham Fire Marshal’s office resulted in the arrest of a juvenile who was referred to juvenile court for the felony offenses.

# FIRE Safety & Prevention

DSK





### ***Emergency Vehicle Technician Certification Program***

For the past 11 years, the Fire Department has invested in specialized training and certification of key personnel in the field of emergency vehicle service and repair. This on-going training initiative has yielded substantial cost savings when repairs are needed to our fleet of emergency vehicles. This program has saved the City many thousands of dollars in repair and maintenance costs by allowing our certified personnel to make most needed repairs in Brenham. Having to drive or tow fire apparatus to Houston for repair has proven to be extremely costly in the past, as well as involving extended down time, personnel costs for delivery and pick up, and the inherent risk of damage when towing large vehicles in traffic.

### ***Fire Sub-station Project Status***

In 2006, after considering the recommendations of staff and the findings of the 2005 ISO study, the City Council authorized a capital improvement project which included a fire sub-station, a new police station and an additional water tower. The police station and water tower projects both moved to completion. Funds for the proposed sub-station were diverted to the other projects.

In 2009 an architectural firm was selected and a project budget in the amount of \$2,020,818 was developed. Design work and construction plans were completed for a 7,820 sq. ft. facility and a site next door to the new police building were tentatively chosen as the location for the sub-station. In 2012, the location choice was again reviewed as the US 290 Loop project progressed. After assessing the ability to access multiple sectors of the City using the newly improved access roads and "Texas Turn-arounds", a search was begun for an alternate sub-station site. The most favorable location was determined to be in the area lying between S. Day St. and the Stringer St. overpass.

### ***ISO Public Protection Classification Maintained At "3"***

**In March of 2012, Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) performed a rating survey of Brenham for the first time in over ten years.** The survey assessed the Fire Department's ability to suppress structure fires. ISO uses their proprietary Fire Suppression Rating Schedule to establish a "Public Protection Classification" number on a scale from 1 to 10, with "1" being the best and "10" being the worst, indicating no fire protection at all. Lower ISO classification leads to reduced fire and homeowner's insurance premiums for the rated area. After analyzing the data acquired during the survey, **ISO maintained Brenham's PPC at "3".**

*(ISO continued)*

Numerous aspects of the City's fire suppression capability are reviewed during an ISO rating survey, including:

- Number and type of fire apparatus, age and pump capacity
- Equipment carried on fire apparatus such as hose, ladders and tools
- Dispersal of fire apparatus throughout the city (fire stations & travel distance)
- Fire department on-duty staffing and personnel response to structure fires
- Fire Department training programs and certification levels
- Fire and arson investigation capability
- Public fire education programs
- Adopted construction codes and ordinances
- Code enforcement and construction plan review programs
- Water production and distribution capability
- Fire hydrants, location, inspection and maintenance
- Fire alarm receiving and fire dispatching capabilities

Prior the 2012 survey, Brenham had not been officially surveyed by ISO in over ten years. A mock grading performed by the fire protection consultant during the ISO review project in 2005 indicated that without the addition of a fire sub-station on the City's southwest side, the next ISO survey possibly could result in a higher Public Protection Classification rating and subsequent increases in insurance premiums paid in the community.

The City of Brenham has implemented nearly all of the recommendations made in the 2005 study, with the exception of a **staffed sub-station** on the South side of town and the addition of another **full-time Fire Inspector position**.

Fortunately, the measures taken by the City were sufficient to hold the PPC at "3" during ISO's 2012 survey. But, it should be noted that the overall score on the rating schedule moved backward slightly toward the trigger point for a PPC of "4" rather than forward toward a better rating of "2".

In **May of 2012**, members of the Fire Dept. assisted a team of ISO inspectors who **surveyed 63 commercial buildings** in Brenham. These site specific surveys were done for the purpose of updating the ISO property database so that property owners would be given the maximum credit for having fire sprinkler systems and other fire protection features. After the survey, 11 commercial buildings were given extra credit for having fire sprinklers.

## ***Response Time and Travel Distance-Critical To Safety & Survival***

It is a major goal of the Brenham Fire Department to have fire engines and sufficient personnel on the scene and ready to commence rescue and fire attack operations within 4 to 9 minutes of being dispatched. This performance goal is consistent with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1710 and 1720 standards on staffing and deployment of fire suppression forces.

Response time is defined by NFPA as the time interval between completion of the dispatching process and the arrival of the first fire apparatus on scene, AND the arrival of sufficient personnel to begin rescue or fire attack operations (a minimum of 1 engine and 4 personnel arriving within 4 minutes).

The staffing level for a first alarm assignment to a 2,000 sq. ft. single-family dwelling structure fire is no less than 2 engines and 16 personnel, all arriving on the scene within 9 minutes, 90% of the time, with 1 engine and 4 personnel arriving within 4 minutes. In 2010 and 2011, the Fire Department was able to achieve 4-minute responses about 50% of the time, which is consistent with figures from the past several years. The response time averages for 2012 did not change significantly from previous years.

As in previous years, **in 2012 over 70% (70.3%) of in-city responses were to Divisions 1 and 4**, which lie in the southern portion of the City (see map on page 5 above). This area of sustained growth and development has long been the acknowledged target area for construction of a fire sub-station which would serve to reduce the travel distance required to reach the busiest fire response areas in town, thereby reducing the response time to those locations.

Under ISO guidelines, the maximum credit for fire apparatus dispersal (location of fire stations) in the community is achieved when travel distances are no more than 1.5 miles for engine companies and 2.5 miles for ladder companies. In Brenham's case, the 1.5 mile travel distance standard is exceeded for a substantial portion of Divisions 1 and 4.

It should be noted that as residential development such as houses, apartments and hotels continues to increase in the southern part of the city, the challenge of maintaining effective response times from the existing fire station will become more and more difficult. Long response time reduces our ability to perform rapid and effective rescues of trapped occupants and increases the likelihood of encountering well developed fires upon arrival.

Rapid intervention is the key to successful rescue and effective fire suppression; the key to rapid intervention is to have fire suppression resources dispersed throughout the community rather than housed in a single fire station. In Brenham's case, the need for a fire sub-station has been well documented since the 1970's.

## **2011 Training Report**

**Total Hours Spent In Training By BFD Members: 4,132**

### ***"100 Club" – Members Who Trained Over 100 Hours***

Ricky Boeker  
Alan Finke  
Lang Flisowski  
Tim Horak  
Andrew Jozwiak  
Aaron Markizer  
Jody Martinez  
Chris McCain  
Greg Nienstedt  
Michael Pohl  
Brian Scheffer  
Brett Schroeder  
Justin Schroeder  
Josh Sebastian  
Cody Wagner

### **Certification Advancements**

Brian Scheffer – Instructor III

Michael Pohl  
Vehicle Extrication Technician 1 & 2  
Wild Land Firefighter

Chris McCain  
Vehicle Extrication Technician 1 & 2  
Wild Land Firefighter  
TCFP Basic Firefighter

Tim Horak  
Wild Land Firefighter  
TCFP Basic Firefighter

Brett Schroeder  
TCFP Advance Firefighter  
Fire Officer 1 & 2

Chad Dismukes  
Fire Officer 1 & 2

Greg Nienstedt  
Fire Officer 1 & 2  
SFFMA Master Firefighter  
Wild Land Firefighter

Michael Draehn  
Wild Land Firefighter

Aaron Markizer  
SFFMA Firefighter 1 & 2  
TCFP Basic Firefighter  
SFFMA Driver Operator  
SFFMA Vehicle Extrication Tech 1 & 2

Justin Schroeder  
SFFMA Driver Operator

Justin McDonald  
SFFMA Driver Operator

Jody Martinez  
SFFMA Driver Operator

Ricky Boeker  
SFFMA Master Firefighter

### **Training Conferences Attended**

Texas Emergency Vehicle Technician Conference

Texas Fire & Arson Investigators Seminar

East Texas Arson Investigators Conference

Texas Juvenile Fire Setter Conference

State Fireman's & Fire Marshall's Association Training Conference

Texas Emergency Medical Services Conference

83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Texas Fireman's Training School

International Association of Fire Chiefs Conference

New World Texas Regional User Group Conference

# EVERYDAY IS A TRAINING DAY





## *Emergency Management Report*

The Emergency Management Division provides protection for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Brenham, particularly in times of disaster. This is accomplished through:

- Effective contingency planning.
- Coordination of local agencies
- Education of the public
- Provision of emergency information services
- Renovating of Emergency Operation Center
- Training of staff in disaster preparedness

The City's Emergency Management Division is responsible for coordinating all components of the emergency management system in the city. These include fire, police, public works, public utilities, volunteers and other groups contributing to the management of major emergencies or disasters. The EMC also works closely with county agencies and organizations, Emergency Medical Services, the Washington County Sheriff's Office and state agencies to coordinate emergency management services and to ensure the safety of all residents within the city and county.



Weather was once again on the forefront for Emergency Management in 2012. The City started out with a January tornado that got everyone's attention early one morning. The City has trees blown down, some buildings damaged, roofs blown off and power lines down. This all happened while everyone was going to work and taking kids to school.

The emergency management plan is always being looked at and updated to make sure it is the most current.



And while the Emergency Operations Center was called upon to be used for its primary function a couple of times this past year. Once was the Tornado and the other a thunderstorm that came through and took out some of the power to local citizens. A total of 59 events were held in the EOC, from emergency management meetings to city and fire department training classes. In addition, the Fire Department's conference room was used 19 times for general meetings.





**HEB helping Heroes Day! The HEB employees visit the Station once a year to show their appreciation by cooking breakfast for Staff & Members. They also participate in station activities!**



**Home Depot Customer Appreciation**



**Firefighters from Azerbaijan, Country of Georgia came to visit us while attending fire classes in College Station**



**Brenham Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class**

**Practicing Emergency Management Situations**