

# City of BRENHAM



## Fire Department

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101 North Chappell Hill Street, Brenham Texas 77833 979-337-3700

## **The Brenham Fire Department**

### **Mission Statement**

**“The members of the Brenham Fire Department proudly dedicate ourselves to providing the highest level of fire protection, fire prevention, and quality service possible to the customers we serve.”**

- Create an atmosphere of cooperation between volunteer and career firefighters creating a productive and professional relationship.
- Maintain highest level of firefighting technology available that the department and community can afford.
- Maintain a quality organization that the entire community would want to be involved in and would encourage volunteer participation.
- Maintain highest quality of service to the community.
- Encourage each member to make a total commitment to work together and respect each other regardless of status or rank.
- Maintain personnel, training, equipment, and facilities for quality customer service.
- Maintain positive image throughout fire department.
- Become an organization that shares goals, objectives, involvement, and ownership.
- Maintain continuous evaluation of the operation, purpose, resources, and future of the fire department.
- Maintain adequate facilities that provide a delivery system that meets community growth.
- Maintain quality training to meet modern techniques, methods, and tactics.
- Facilitate a safe working environment by providing all personnel with current equipment meeting guidelines.

# **Brenham Fire Department Annual Report 2013**

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# 1st Local History Day - May 2nd



**Above** The display of the Silsby was a huge hit which motivated lots of questions!

**Center:** Alton 4th grader showing his appreciation for this fun field trip!

**Below:** Giving the History of the collected artifacts in the glass cases!



**Above:** Showing the 4th grade classes the difference of then & now of Fire Trucks!

**Below:** Students view the Wall of Honor along with the Antique Invader & Samanthe Trucks!



## *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 (simultaneous dispatch) to the 6 adjacent rural fire departments on all structure fire calls.
- Outside of the automatic aid area, mutual aid fire suppression services are provided county-wide upon request.
- First responder rescue services county-wide for auto collision extrication, agricultural machinery extrication, confined space rescue and other entrapments or high-angle rescue or recovery.
- Hazardous materials mitigation services city and county-wide, including fuel & oil spills, chemical releases, gas leaks, oil & natural gas well discharges, pipeline and rail incidents.
- Smoke detector and carbon monoxide service checks upon request, within the city.
- Pre-fire planning surveys of buildings within the City.
- Fire prevention & safety programs in schools, businesses and industries.
- Water removal from businesses and residences in the City resulting from flooding, leaking pipes, sewer back-ups, etc.
- 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. BFD members provide staffing for operations, cleaning, and maintenance of the facility.

## *Staffing*

The Brenham Fire Department operates under the direction of 26 year veteran Fire Chief Ricky Boeker, who also serves as the Emergency Management Coordinator for the City. [See Emergency Management Report below]

Brenham Fire Department staffing for 2013 began at 15 full time employees and 34 volunteer members. With the creation of the position of Deputy Fire Marshal effective on 10/01/2013, the paid staff number rose to 16.

Although the Brenham Fire Department is chartered for 50 volunteer members, this number has rarely been reached. In recent years, volunteer membership has steadily declined despite constant efforts to provide incentives to help recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. There were 34 volunteer members on the roster during 2013.

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 performing 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.

Following creation of the position of Deputy Fire Marshal, Capt. Heath Mahlmann, a 20 year BFD veteran, was assigned to that position. Deputy Fire Marshal Mahlmann assists with fire inspections, fire & arson investigations, code enforcement and plan review, as well as numerous other duties of the Fire Marshal's Office.

There are 12 full-time uniformed staff members who are assigned to shift duty at the fire station. A Captain and 3 Apparatus Operators are assigned to each shift and shifts work a 48 hour on/96 hour off duty schedule. Shifts are fully staffed with 4 members on duty approximately 60% of the time. Minimum staffing level is 3 paid staff members.

The number of on-shift paid staff members was last 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 2013 and the city continued to receive grant funds under the 5-year SAFER schedule. Under the grant agreement, the City is required to keep the hired firefighters for a full 5 years, while the funding was set up on a 4-year decreasing scale. Payments will cease early in 2014. The SAFER-funded positions are now considered permanent.

The Fire Department Administrative Assistant, Carrie Derkowski, works 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.

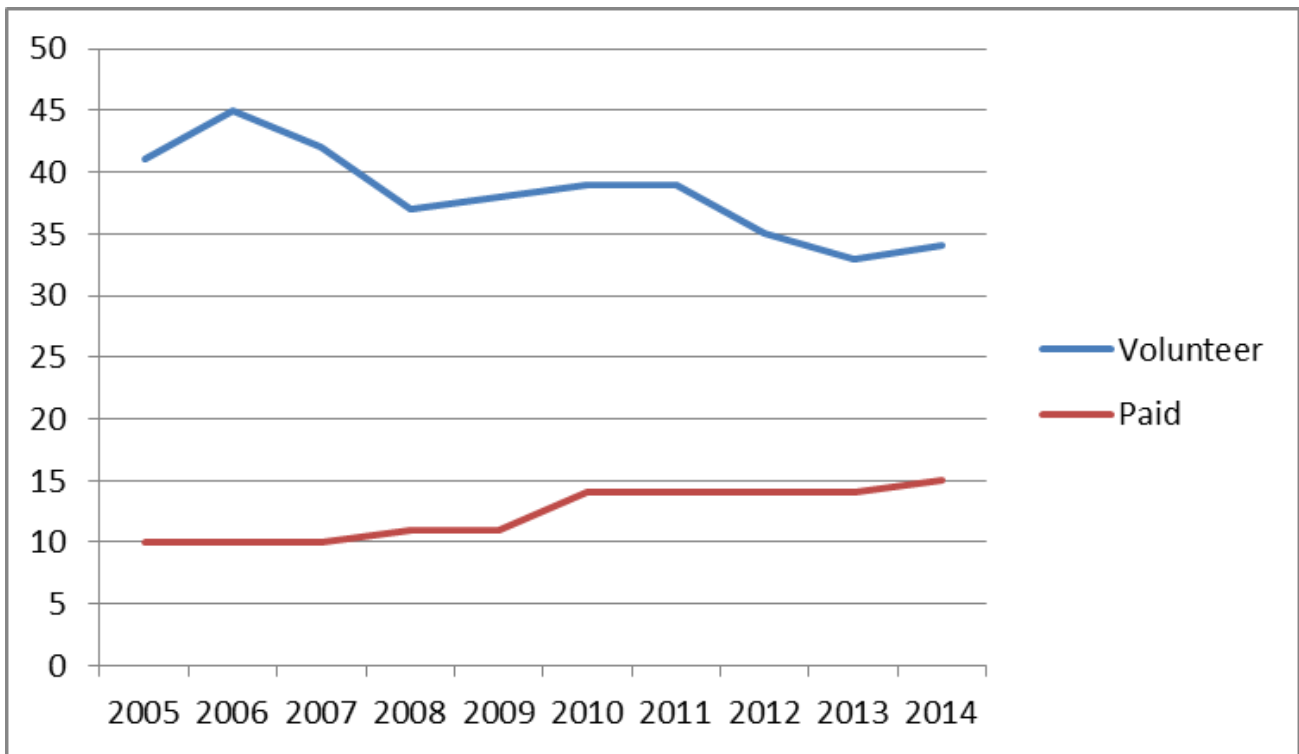
These include the 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief, two District Chiefs, as well as the Secretary-Treasurer, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Chaplain and Mascot. These elected positions are for 1-year terms.

### ***Volunteer Recruitment and Retention***

Recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters is a constant challenge. Over the past decade, the number of volunteer members of the Brenham Fire Department has steadily declined from 41 in 2005 to 34 in 2013 (see chart below). This is not unique to Brenham. The fire service all over the state and country are dealing with similar staffing issues. There are various theories as to why this is occurring. It has been said that “generational changes” are responsible. Many experts in the field of fire department staffing share the opinion that younger people today are less likely to embrace the necessary commitment of time and energy to the hazardous and time-consuming work required of a volunteer firefighter in today’s world. In Brenham’s case, we are also faced with continuing growth of the community, as evidenced by a steady increase in calls for service.

The average age of the **paid staff is 42.2 years** and average age of the **volunteer staff is 39.8 years**. The total years of service are **655 years of experience** with a **Department average of 13.1 years**.

The combination of generational **trends** in volunteerism, increased **growth** of the community, and an ever-increasing need for BFD resources outside of the city to provide fire suppression services to the **county**, all serve notice to the astute observer that more and more paid staffing will be required as we move forward. Staffing needs will only increase and so will the need to employ more full-time paid personnel within the Fire Department.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



**Above:** Participating in Maifest & Juneteenth parades

**Center:** Ladies Auxiliary running for Adam's Angels

**Below:** Sparky at the Finish Line waiting for the Adam's Angel Runners



**Above:** At Home Depot's Carnival

**Below:** Ladies Auxiliary Members running the 5K Run of Remembrance





**Funding Overview**

- City General Fund budget appropriation for FY2013: \$1.5 million
- County funding for BFD operations outside of the City: \$37,057
- Grant Funding:
  - Texas Forest Service: \$7,110
    - \$5,250 worker comp;
    - \$1,860 training tuition reimbursement.
  - FEMA “SAFER” Grant payment (3 additional staff): \$43,252  
The original grant award in 2009 was for \$325,140 payable over a 5-year decreasing term. SAFER funding will end in 2014. The positions are now considered permanent.
- BFD in-house fund raisers including the Fish Fry, Fiesta & Ladies Aux. Cheese Logs.

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

- BFD received \$5,250 towards the Workers Compensation for members.
- Training tuition reimbursements totaled \$1,860.

**S.A.F.E.R. Grant Funding To End In 2014**

The city received SAFER grant funds totaling \$43,252 in 2013. The SAFER grant was a 5-year grant awarded to the City in 2009 in the amount of \$325,140. The grant award was 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 enabled the city to add three (3) additional full-time Apparatus Operators 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. The SAFER grant funding will end in 2014. These SAFER-funded positions are now permanent.

**Haz-Mat Response Trailer Project Completed**

The department began a two year project in 2012 to purchase and equip a hazardous materials response trailer to be used county-wide. A grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority in the amount of \$25,000 was used to purchase an enclosed trailer to house the needed response equipment. During 2013, the BFD membership funded the build-out of the trailer, including equipment, fittings and supplies in the amount of \$15,995. The build-out work was done in-house by BFD members. Combined with the \$25,000 LCRA grant funds, the project total came to \$40,994. The response trailer was placed in service on 11/18/2013.

# BFD FUNDRAISERS

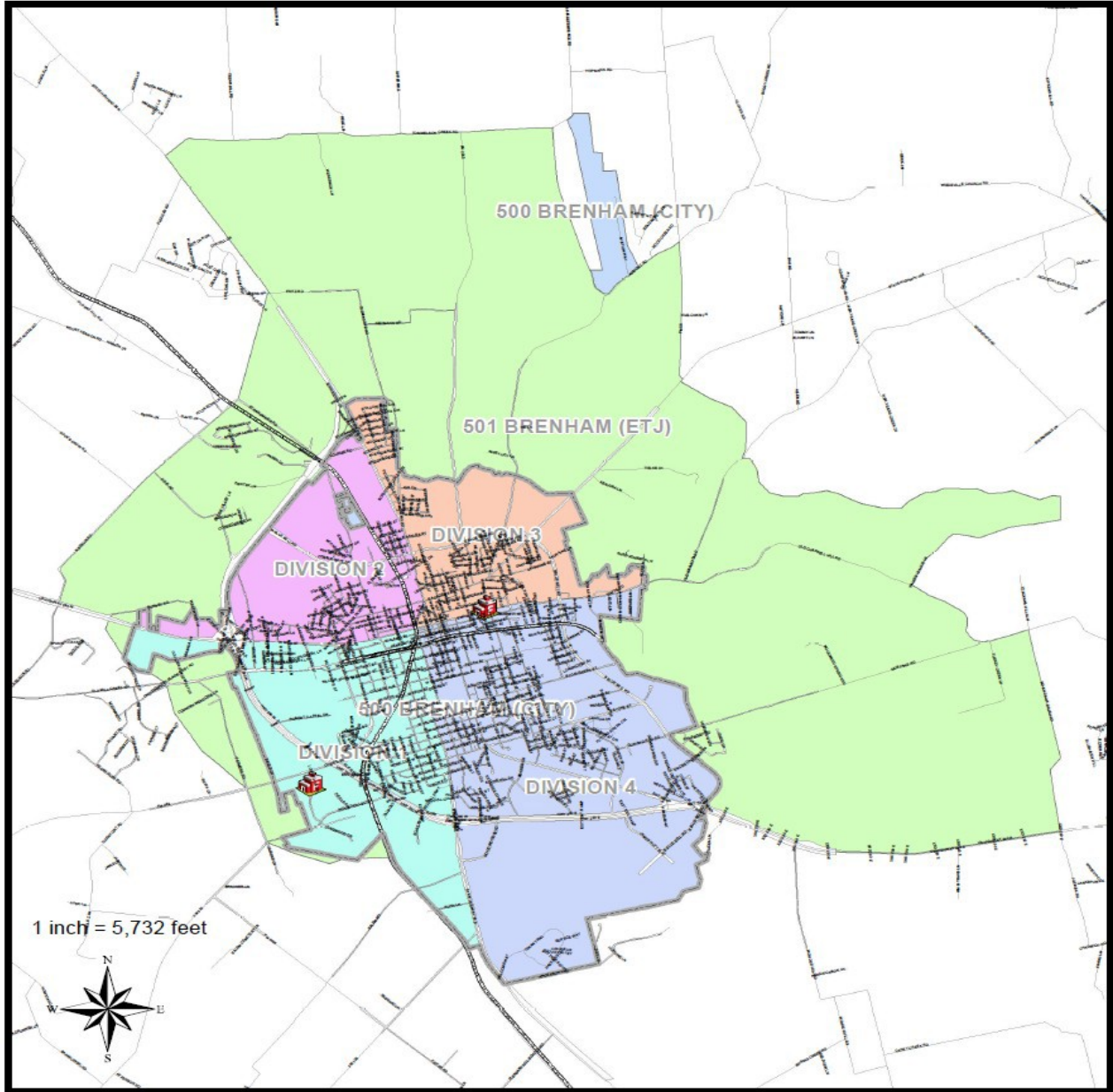


Every year we continue our Annual Fundraisers ; the Fish Fry, Fiesta & the Ladies Auxiliary cheese logs that are made just in time for Holiday events! With our Community support we are able to purchase additional equipment, tools & gear that have made a huge difference in our Department!

**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**

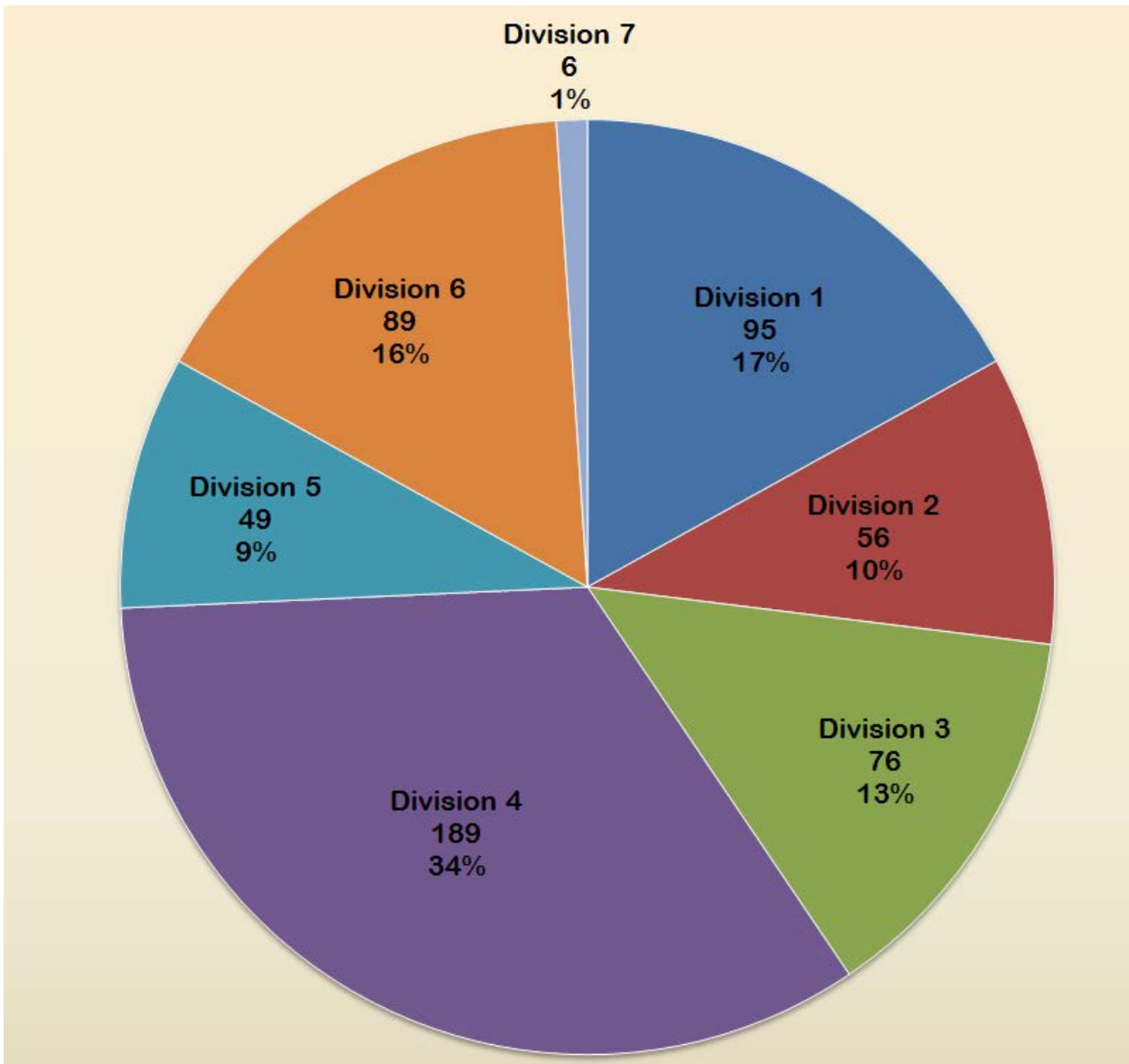
- DIVISION 1
- DIVISION 2
- DIVISION 3
- DIVISION 4
- ESN 501 (ETJ)
- ESN 500 (CITY)

**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 Incidents by Response Divisions



**Total Incidents: 560**  
**In City Limits: 416 (74%)**  
**Outside of City: 144 (26%)**

**Division 1: City Southwest**  
**Division 2: City Northwest**  
**Division 3: City Northeast**  
**Division 4: City Southeast**

**Division 5: Out of City, In Response District**  
**Division 6: Out of City, Out of Response District, In County**  
**Division 7: Out of Washington County**

# 2013 Incident Type Report

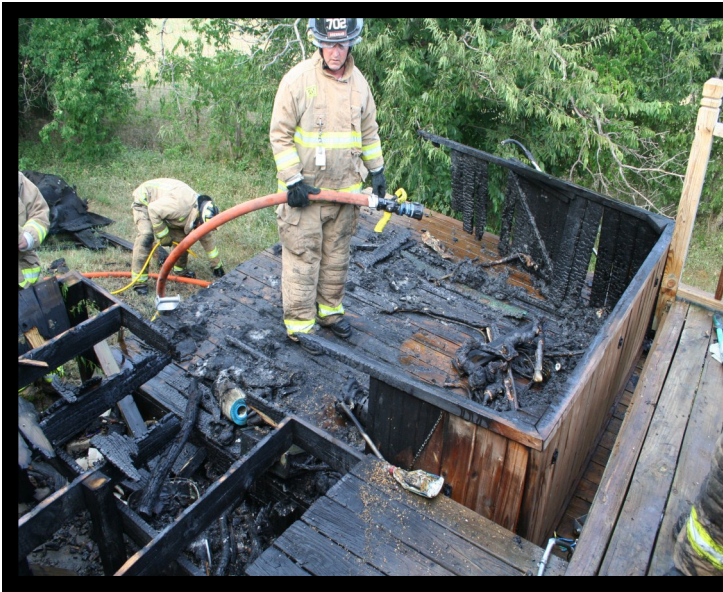
Type of Situation Found	Incident	Type of Situation Found	Incident
Motor vehicle acc with no	9	Mali, mischievous false cal	2
Authorized controlled burning	5	False alarm or false call,othe	18
Dispatched & canceled enroute	82	Steam, vapor, fog or dust thou	1
Good intent call, other	23	Smoke scare, odor of smoke	37
Unauthorized burning	5	Citizen complaint	1
Public service	12	Special type of incident, oth	4
Police matter	30	Lightning strike (no fire)	1
Assist police or oth gov agency	9	Medical assist,assist EMS crew	1
Public service assistance, oth	5	Rescue, EMS incident, other	3
Animal problem	1	Exces heat,sch burns w no ign	4
Animal problem, other	2	Overpressure rupture from air	2
Smoke or odor removal	9	Outside storage fire	3
Water or steam leak	3	Dumpster or oth outside trash	1
Water evacuation	1	Outside rubbish, trash ,waste	6
Lock-out	1	Outside rubbish fire, other	6
Service Call, other	2	Grass fire	30
Attempt to burn	1	Brush or brush-and-grass mix	2
Att. burning, illegal actio	6	Forest, woods or wildland fire	1
Vehicle acc, general cleanup	7	Nat vegetation fire, other	3
Aircraft standby	1	Camper or recreational vehicle	1
Arcing, shorted elect equip	8	Road freight transprt veh fire	2
Power line down	5	Passenger vehicle fire	3
Overheated motor	1	Mobile property (veh) fire,	1
Heat from short circuit wiring	2	Fire mobile home fixed resd	1
Electrical wiring/equipment pr	12	Trash or rubbish fire, contain	1
Carbon monoxide incident	3	Fuel burner/boiler malf conf.	1
Chemical spill or leak	1	Chimney or flue fire, confined	3
Oil or other combustible liq	2	Cooking fire,confined	3
Carbon monoxide detector act	1	Fires struct oth than in bldg	1
Alarm sys act, no fire Uninten	28	Building fire	20
Detector act, no fire -uni	2	Fire, other	3
Smoke detector activate, no fi	10	Gas leak natural gas or LPG	5
Sprinkler activate, no fire -	2	Gasoline or oth flammable liqu	10
Unintentional trans. of alarm	5	Hazardous condition, other	4
CO detector act due to malf	2	Rescue or EMS standby	1
Alarm system sounded malfun	42	Reml of vic(s) stalled elev	1
Smoke detector act. malf.	4	Extrication of vict from veh	10
Sprinkler action due to malf	2	Extrication, rescue, other	1
System malfunction, other	6	Motor vehicle acc with inj	8
Municipal alarm system, malic	1	Emergency med service, other	1
<b>Total Incidents 2013</b>		<b>560</b>	

# National Fire Protection Association Fire Experience Report

## Brenham Fire Department

### January thru December 2013

BREAKDOWN OF STRUCTURE FIRES AND OTHER FIRES AND INCIDENTS				
A. Fires In Structures By Fixed Property Use (Occupancy) (all in Section A are Incident Type 110-129)	Number Of Fires	Number of Civilian Fire Casualties		Estimated Property Damage
		Deaths	Injuries	
Private Dwellings	10	0	2	\$428,100.00
Apartments	2	0	0	\$80,002.00
Hotels and Motels	1	0	0	\$13,000.00
All Other Residential	0	0	0	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL RESIDENTIAL FIRES</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$521,102.00</b>
Public Assembly	2	0	0	\$1,510.00
Schools and Colleges	0	0	0	\$0.00
Health Care/Penal Institutions	1	0	0	\$2.00
Stores and Offices	1	0	0	\$3,335.00
Industry/Utility/Defense/Labs/Manufacturing	1	0	0	\$0.02
Storage in Structures	1	0	0	\$6,000.00
Other Structures	1	0	0	\$3,000.00
<b>TOTAL STRUCTURE FIRES</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$534,949.02</b>
Highway Vehicles	4	0	0	\$13,300.00
Other Vehicles	1	0	0	\$3,000.00
Non-Structure/Non-Vehicle	5	0	0	\$4.00
Brush/Grass/Wildland	6	0	0	\$0.00
Rubbish/Dumpsters	11	0	0	\$0.00
All Other Fires	3	0	0	\$8,001.00
<b>TOTAL FOR FIRES</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$561,004.04</b>
INTENTIONALLY SET FIRES IN STRUCTURES AND VEHICLES				
	Number Of Fires	Number of Civilian Fire Casualties		Estimated Property Damage
		Deaths	Injuries	
Structure Fires Intentionally Set	4	0	0	\$10,845.00
Vehicle Fires Intentionally Set	0	0	0	\$0.00
FIRE SERVICE EXPOSURES AND INJURIES				
Total Number of Infectious Disease Exposures:	0			
Total Number of Hazardous Condition Exposures:	0			
Total Number of Nonfatal Firefighter Injuries:	4			



### *County Responses*

The Brenham Fire Department responded to **138** incidents (25% of alarms) in the Divisions 5 & 6 unincorporated areas of Washington County during 2013. This figure was up from 109 incidents in 2012.

Of the 138 responses into the unincorporated area, 48 were for “automatic mutual aid” calls when Brenham is dispatched simultaneously with the department in that district.

As in previous years, the amount of time spent on County calls averaged approximately 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 restore the trucks to service and complete reports upon return to the Brenham fire station. On the conservative side, it is estimated that the Brenham Fire Department spent approximately 276 hours on calls in the County in 2013.

### *Out-of-County Responses*

In 2013, Brenham Fire Department personnel travelled outside of Washington County 6 times, for a wide variety of activities:

- *July 30<sup>th</sup>: Dyer Mill Fire #2 in Grimes County:* All other agencies stood down for the night and left our Brenham/Washington County Task Force as the only group on scene to manage and monitor the fire overnight. Incident Commander was Brenham District Chief Stephen Draehn assisted by App. Operator Brett Schroeder.
- *Agency Assistance to Texas Department of Public Safety:* During reconstruction of a fatality collision on New Wedhem Road, BFD responded with Ladder 1 which was used by DPS troopers and Texas Rangers to take overhead photographs of the collision area.
- *Arson Investigation - Wal-Mart:* Fire Marshal's Office sent personnel to an adjacent county to interview potential witnesses.
- *Old Oaks Apartments fire on Farewell St.:* Fire Marshal's Office transported evidence to State Arson Lab in Austin during the investigation.
- *Burleson County Deputy Adam Sowell funeral:* BFD sent Engine 2 to Central Baptist Church in Bryan to take part in the tribute procession to Deputy Sowell. We also sent a team of Brenham FD firefighters to staff the Somerville fire station in order to relieve the Somerville FD members during the funeral.
- *Grass fire mutual aid call to Chappell Hill:* Fire reported across the Brazos River. Brenham FD was cancelled enroute.





*Above: Brenham Fire Department was honored by being asked to use Ladder 1 to hold the American Flag at the Memorial Service that honored the Bryan Firefighters who gave the ultimate sacrifice!*

*Center: Brenham Fire Department Members that represented the Department at the Memorial Service.*



### ***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 2013, Brenham Fire Department personnel gathered and processed pre-plan information on 379 businesses and commercial buildings within the City of Brenham.

### ***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 more than 5,000 public contacts in 2013.

### ***Code Enforcement Activities – 2013***

Including inspections, code enforcement actions, plan reviews and code research requests totaled 274. With the addition of the Deputy Fire Marshal position in October of 2013, the number of inspections and code enforcement activities will increase. The Fire Marshal’s Office has implemented a program of identifying and categorizing all commercial buildings in the city, with a goal of completion within 2 years. Once all commercial buildings are catalogued and prioritized as to their level of fire or life safety hazard, a comprehensive inspection program will be developed.

### ***Arson Investigations***

Reported arson cases showed an increase in the City in 2013. An episode of arson fires occurred in November of 2012 and extended into 2013. 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 extended into 2013 and resulted in the arrest of a juvenile who was referred to juvenile court for the felony offense of arson of a building/habitation. BFMO investigators also worked an intentionally set fire in a restroom at the Wal-Mart store. Arrests have been made and the case is still under investigation.

# Fire Prevention to our Community Private & Public



The Children love the Firemen coming to their school!  
Learning Fire Safety, seeing Sparky & touring the Fire

### ***New Position – Deputy Fire Marshal***

As part of the FY2014 budget, the City Council authorized a new position within the Fire Marshal's Office. The position is that of Deputy Fire Marshal, and was filled by the transfer of Capt. Heath Mahlmann from the position of Shift Captain on "A" Shift to the Fire Marshal's Office. Mahlmann is a 21 year veteran of the Brenham Fire Department. He is a certified firefighter, fire inspector, plans examiner, arson investigator and is a licensed Texas peace officer. Capt. Mahlmann assists Fire Marshal Alan Finke with a variety of activities including code enforcement inspections, fire investigations, plan reviews, and public fire education programs. Mahlmann is also an active member of the Brazos Valley Child Abduction Response Team (BVCART).

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

For the past 12 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. Currently, Apparatus Operator Andrew Jozwiak is BFD's certified EVT technician.

### ***Fire Sub-station Project Status – 2005 to 2013***

After considering the recommendations of staff and the findings of the 2005 ISO study, in 2006 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 a possible location for the sub-station.

During 2012-2013, assessment of the factors determining a sub-station location continued. A key element emerged when the Stringer overpass became a reality. The prime consideration has been how to maximize access to multiple sectors of the City using the newly improved frontage roads along with the Stringer St. overpass and the "Texas Turn-a rounds". The most favorable location was determined to be in the area lying south of the US 290 loop and near the Stringer overpass.

# BFD SCHOOL TOURS



Kids love to see the inside of the Fire Trucks, the Jaws of Life machine & aim the fire hose



Hundreds of Children line-up to see the steps of putting on fire gear & enjoy watching a fire safety video in the EOC



The Children love to see where the Fireman cook , eat & rest. At the end of the tour, all kids are given a special FD helmet! Its always a tradition & a great souvenir to get the famous class picture in front of a Fire Truck!

### ***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, Inc. maintained the city's PPC at "3". The same level was maintained through 2013.

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 all but one of the recommendations made in the 2005 study, which is a **staffed sub-station** on the South side of town. 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”.

### ***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 NPFA 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 2011 and 2012, 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 2013 did not change significantly from previous years.

**In 2013, 189 of in-city calls were to Division 4**, which lies in the south-eastern part of the City and **95 call responses were made to Division 1**, this equates to **68% of the in-city calls** being in the southern quadrants of Brenham (see Division map page 11). 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.



Sparky's 60th Birthday Party  
*Given by:* 1st Baptist School





**2013 Training Report**

**Total Hours Spent In Training by BFD Members: 4,444**

***“100 Club” – Members Who Trained Over 100 Hours***

Ricky Boeker  
Heath Mahlmann  
Andrew Jozwiak  
Chad Dismukes  
Jerred Eschete  
Aaron Markizer  
Greg Nienstedt  
Brian Scheffer  
Brett Schroeder  
Justin Schroeder  
John Schulze  
Josh Sebastian

**Certification Advancements**

**SFFMA Vehicle Extrication Technician 1 & 2**

Gene Swonke

**SFFMA Firefighter 2**

Gene Swonke

**SFFMA Firefighter 1 & 2**

Stephen Draehn

**TCFP/SFFMA Wildland**

Ricky Boeker	Andrew Jozwiak
Josh Sebastian	Justin Schroeder
Chad Dismukes	Brett Schroeder
Jerred Eschete	Brian Scheffer

**TCFP Hazmat IC**

Jerred Eschete	Brian Scheffer
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**SFFMA Instructor 1**

Jerred Eschete

**SFFMA Wildland Firefighter**

Aaron Markizer

### ***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

84<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Fireman's Training School

International Association of Fire Chiefs Conference

New World Texas Regional User Group Conference

State Fire Marshal's Forums (4 per year)



## *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, Scott & White Hospital (right picture), 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 2013. The City had weather from one extreme to another with freezing temps to heat and thunderstorms and winds. The City had trees blown down and power lines down after a thunderstorm on Tom Green St., just one of the events that happened.

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. Several times was for the freezing weather conference calls and the other a thunderstorm that came through and took out some of the power to local citizens.

A total of **112 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 **20 times** for general meetings. This EOC/Training room has been a great asset to the department and is being used for what it was designed.

Emergency Management also hosts the Washington County Leadership Class every year to give them an idea of what it takes to manage an emergency event. They spend about half a day in the EOC and work thru the problems that arise and come away with a different view point of what happens behind the scenes.



# **Brenham Fire Department**

*Some Old Fashioned Ideas Never Go  
Out of Date!*

**Our citizens are the most important people they are our  
business.**

**Our citizens are not dependent on us.  
We are dependent on them.**

**Our citizens are not an interruption to our work.  
They are the purpose of our work.**

**Our citizens do us a favor when they call us.  
We are not doing them a favor by responding to their call or  
question.**

**We expect our Citizens to come to us with needs and it is our  
job to fill those needs.**

**Our Citizens pay our wages.  
Without the taxpaying citizen we would be out of business.**

**Our Citizens deserve the most courteous attention we can  
give.**

Each of us need to say to our citizens:  
**“THANK YOU FOR CALLING US TO HELP.  
It has been our pleasure.”**