

# COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

2012 Annual Report



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## *Mission Statement*

*The Columbia Heights Fire Department strives to maintain and improve the quality of life of all whom live, work, visit, or invest in the communities in which it responds. Our primary mission is to provide a full range of programs and services designed to protect the lives and property of the people we serve. These services include fire prevention and education, fire and maintenance code enforcement, fire suppression and investigation, emergency medical services, and initial response to natural and man-made catastrophes.*

## *Introduction*

The Columbia Heights Fire Department 2012 Annual Report is a reflection of the commitment to the community we serve. It is filled with statistics and information that identifies ways in which we continue to successfully meet our mission. Our successes are due to the dedication of all the members of the Fire Department and the support we receive from the Mayor, City Council Members, and City Administration and staff. We couldn't meet our mission without this dedication and support.

The fire department responded to a total of 2,591 calls for service this past year. Of this total, 752 were calls were fire related and of them 14 were structure fires. Fortunately, there were no deaths attributable to fire in the City of Columbia Heights this past year.

The fire department also provides emergency medical services at the Emergency Medical Technician Basic level. The greatest number of fire department responses is due to medical emergencies, of which the department responded to 1839 medical calls in 2012.

The department also responds to and provides a variety of services intended to meet the specific needs of our community. The fire department trains and responds to incidents involving hazardous materials, water rescue, ice rescue, confined space rescue and weapons of mass destruction. In addition, the department members conduct fire prevention education and participate in numerous citywide events such as National Night Out and the Jamboree. A joint event with the police department was held in April. Entitled "Arrest and Extinguish Hunger", the event was a fundraiser for the Southern Anoka County Assistance food shelf.

While emergency services response continues to be an essential service, the fire department expends considerable time and resources on inspection and enforcement services for the Minnesota Fire Code and the City's Property Maintenance Code.

As we move forward into the new year, the Columbia Heights Fire Department will continue to evaluate the services we provide to the community to determine quality and effectiveness. Firefighter education, training, and development will continue to remain a priority.

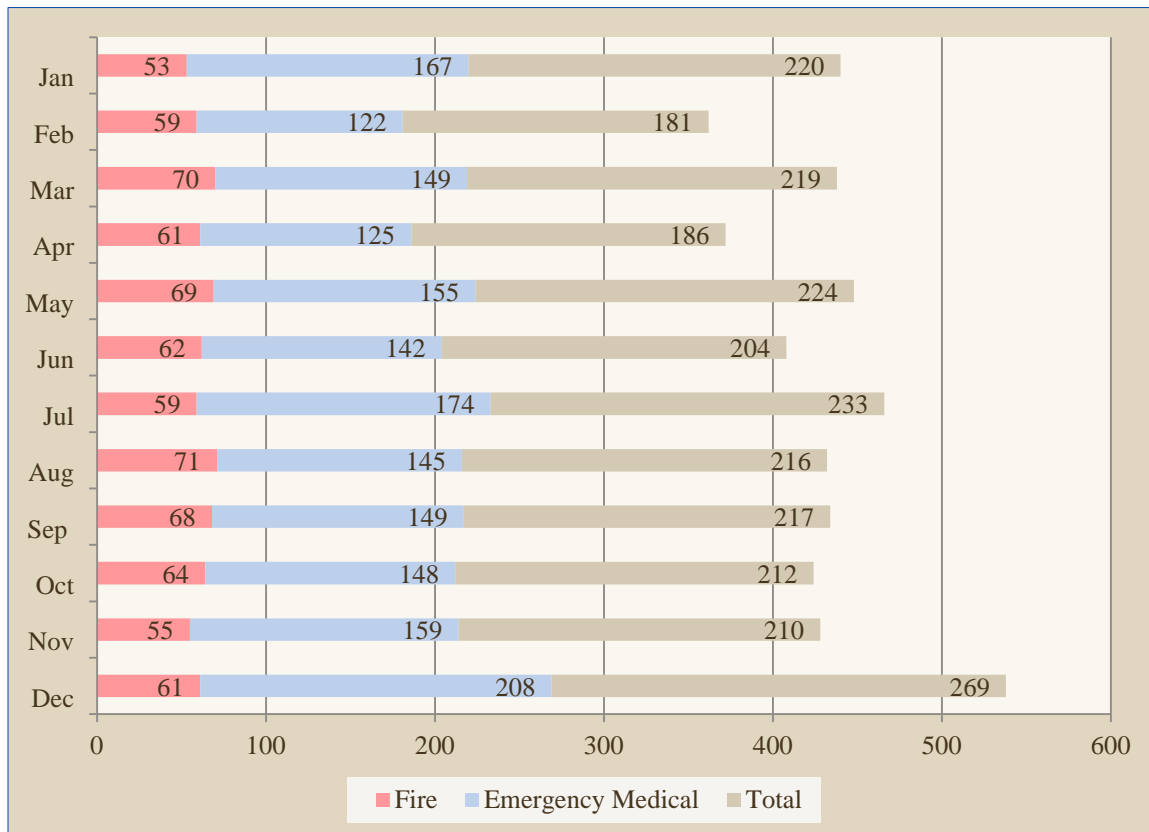
The Columbia Heights Fire Department, as always, is committed to preserving the life and property of our citizens and to serve the community with honor and loyalty.

## ***Incident Reports***

The Fire Department responded to 2,591 calls in 2012. The number of calls we respond to remains significantly high for a community of our size. We continue to see an increase in calls at night, calls relating to alcohol and drug use, assaults, and psychological problems. The number of calls for our elderly population remains high but has been slowly shrinking over the past few years. The average incident response time for the first arriving apparatus was approximately 4 minutes 43 seconds.

The Columbia Heights Fire Department uses the Minnesota Fire Incident Reporting System (MNFIRS) to report each emergency incident. MNFIRS is a member of the National Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Our incident response statistics are compiled with all other Fire Departments at the state and national level. These statistics are utilized to focus on current trends and problems and to predict future ones within the fire service.

### ***2012 Fire and Emergency Medical Calls by Month***



***2012 Total  
Fire Calls***

**752**

***2012 Total  
Medical Calls***

**1839**

***Total calls  
for 2012***

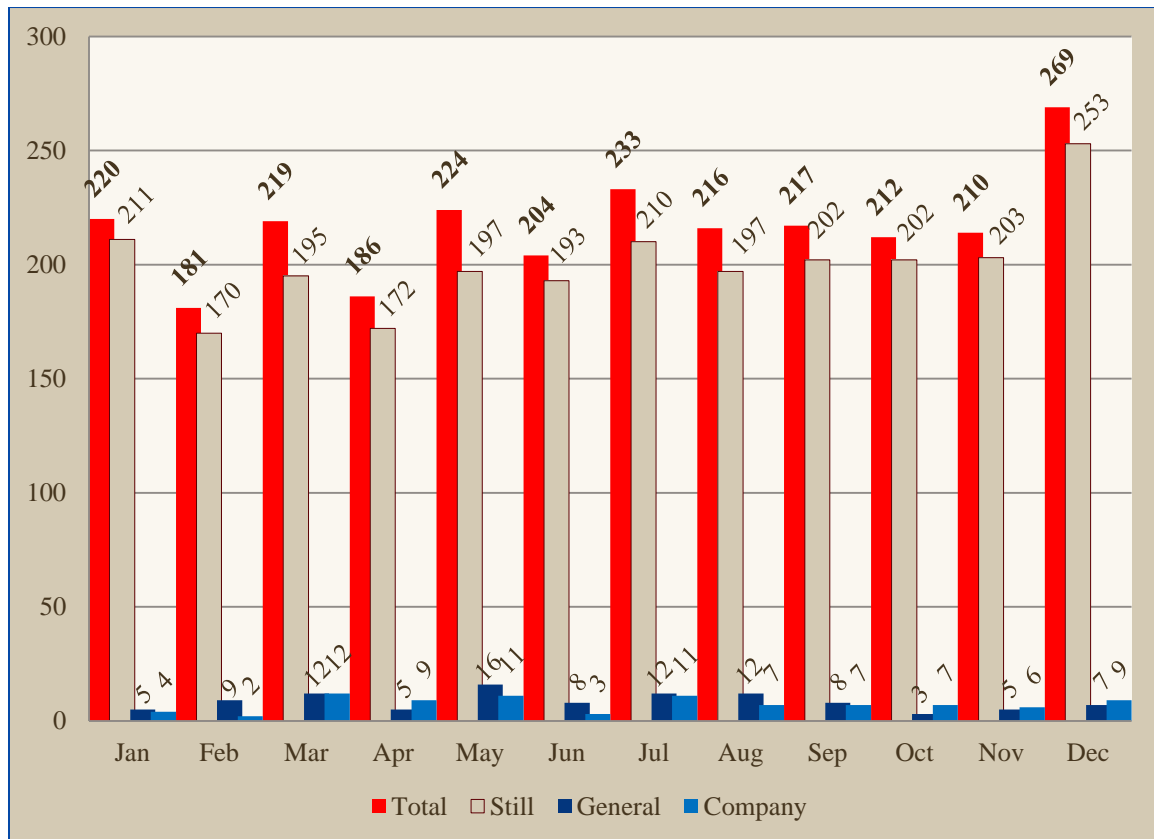
**2591**

## *2012 Type of Alarms by Month*

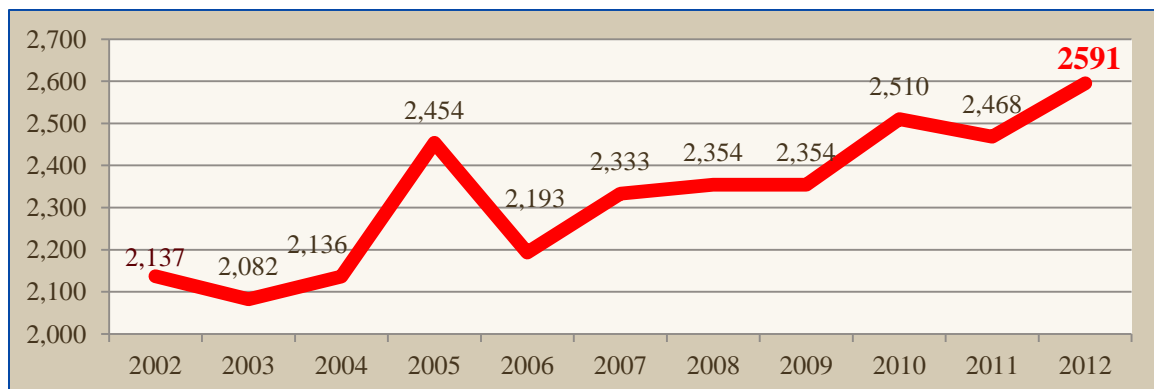
**Still Alarms** are handled by on-duty personnel without calling for additional help.

**Company Alarms** are handled by call-back of available off-duty paid personnel and approximately 1/2 of available volunteer membership.

**General Alarms** are used when the situation calls for the services of all available members.



## *Ten-Year Comparison of Total Incidents*



## *2012 Classification of Alarms*

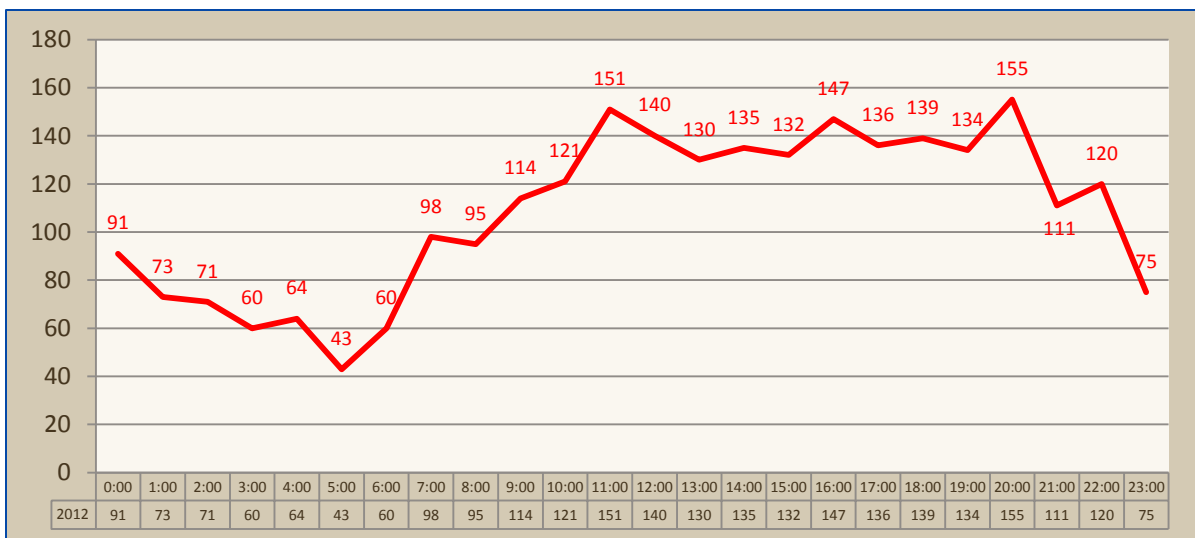
<b>Rescue/Medical Alarms</b>	<b>1843</b>	<b>Service Calls</b>	<b>252</b>
Medical Assist	241	Misc. Service Call	1
Assault	48	Person in distress	4
Breathing Problems	197	Lock-out	2
CVA/Stroke	28	Water evacuation	1
Diabetic	71	Water/Steam leak	5
Flu Symptoms	63	Smoke/odor removal	7
Fall/Fracture	218	Assist Police/Government Agency	33
Chest Pain/Heart	201	Police Matter	46
Choking	9	Public Service	26
DK/ETOH	33	Assist Invalid	92
Laceration/Bleeding	35	Unauthorized Burn	34
Overdose/Suicide Attempt	28	Standby/Cover Other Agency	1
Pregnancy/OB	16	<b>Good Intent Calls</b>	<b>265</b>
Cardiac Arrest	16	Good Intent, other	1
Seizure	68	Dispatched/Cancelled en route	134
Abdominal Pain	84	Wrong Location	3
Allergic Reaction	13	No Incident Found Upon Arrival	87
Back Pain	38	Authorized Controlled Burning	6
DOA	10	Smoke Scare/Steam/Fog	23
Behavioral/Psych	38	Hazmat Investigation/No Hazmat	10
Misc. EMS Call/General Illness	344	<b>False Alarm &amp; Calls</b>	<b>90</b>
MV Accident w/injuries	22	Malicious False Call, other	2
MV Pedestrian Accident	8	Bomb Scare	4
Removal from elevator	3	Sprinkler Activation, Malfunction	4
Extrication from machinery	1	Smoke Detector Malfunction	17
GunShot/Stabbing	6	Alarm System Malfunction	11
<b>Hazardous Condition/No Fire</b>	<b>84</b>	CO Detector Malfunction	12
Flammable liquid spill	5	Sprinkler Activation/No Fire	2
Gas leak	20	False Alarm, Other	2
CO Incident	24	Detector Activation/No Fire	1
Heat From Short Circuit Wiring	4	Alarm Activation/No Fire	20
Power Line Down	17	CO Activation/No Fire	15
Arcing/Shorted Equipment	9	<b>Fire</b>	<b>56</b>
Misc. Condition	5	Building Fire	15
		Cooking Fire, Confined	12
		Trash/Rubbish Fire	4
		Fire in Portable Building/Dumpster	6
		Vehicle Fire	8
		Grass/Brush Fire	9
		Fire, Other	2

## *Top Properties for Service*

Address	# of Calls for Service
1 Parkview Villa Apartments - 146 Units – 965 40th Ave	123
2 Comforts of Home Assisted Living – 3801 Hart Blvd	80
3 Crest View Royce Place Assisted Living – 1515 44th Ave	80
4 Crest View Lutheran Home – 4444 Reservoir Blvd	58
5 Crest View on 42 <sup>nd</sup> - 50 Units – 900 42nd Ave	54
6 Northeast Seniors Housing - 85 Units – 3850 Stinson Blvd	49
7 Crest View Boulevard Apartments - 77 Units – 4458 Reservoir Blvd	38
8 Steven Scott Management, Inc. - 75 Units – 3839 Hart Blvd	26
9 Crest View Columbia Village – 1675 44th Ave	23
10 Starlite Motel – 4720 Central Ave /Hilltop, MN 55421	23
11 Haji Azam Rentals - 11 Units – 4927 University Ave	20
12 Single Family Home – 600 Block of 47th Ave	19
13 Anoka County Community Action Program - 22 Units – 3932 Central Ave	17
14 Steven Scott Management, Inc. - 35 Units – 2200 39th Ave	16
15 Bryant Apartment Rentals - 17 Units – 3806 Stinson Blvd	13

## *Calls by Time of Day*

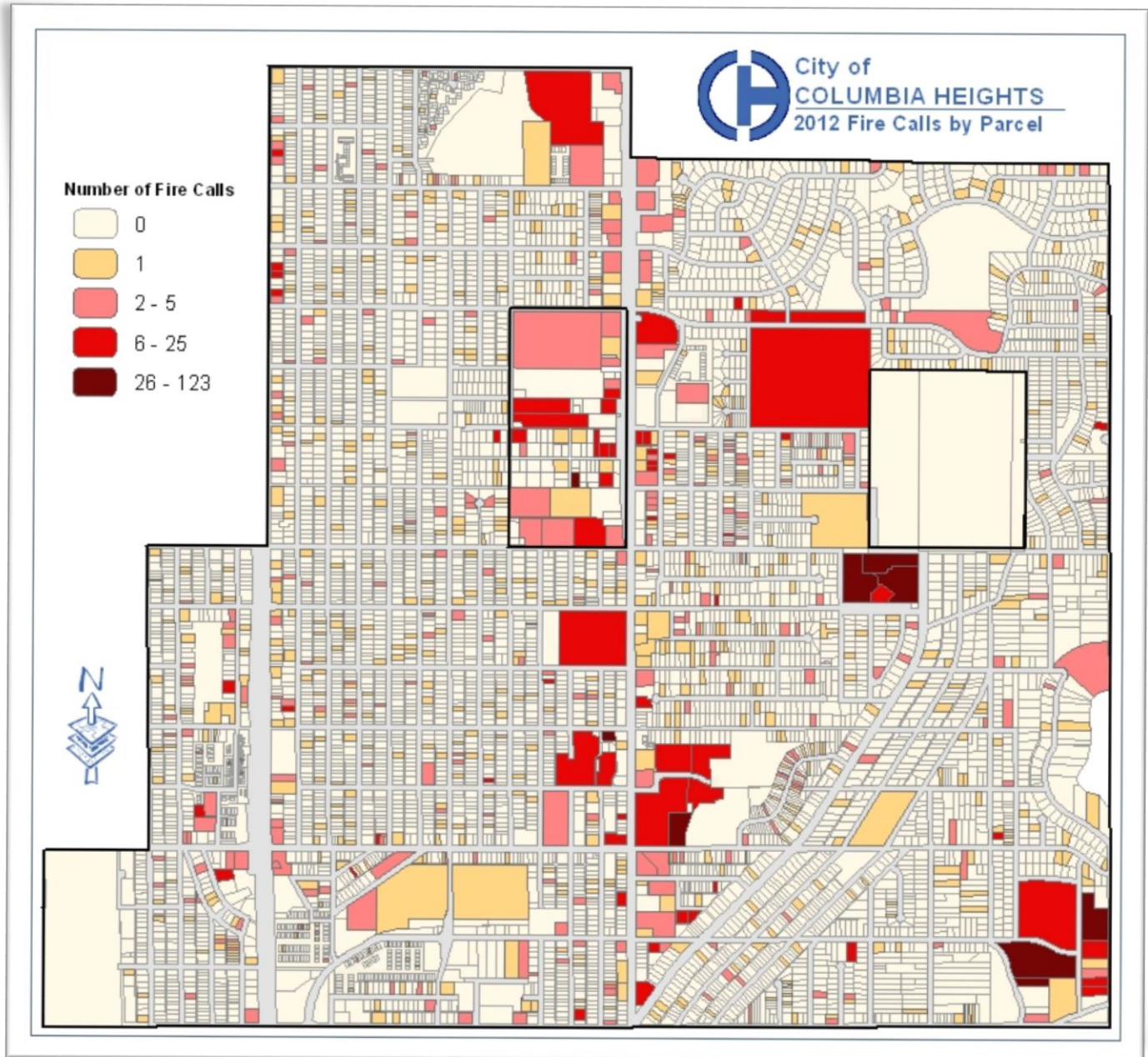
Below is a breakdown of the 2012 call volume by time of day the call was dispatched. The fire department is active 24 hours a day with calls, in fact the hours between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am account for over one quarter (25.32%) of all calls in a 24-hour period.





## *Map of Incidents*

Below is a map that plots the location and number of incidents in the City for the past year.



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## ***Mutual Aid Report***

Mutual aid is an agreement between fire departments to assist each other when called for emergencies by responding with available staffing and apparatus. The Columbia Heights Fire Department works closely with surrounding departments and has an “automatic” mutual aid agreement with the cities of Fridley and St. Anthony to be dispatched simultaneously for fires during the weekday hours when staffing is at its lowest.

### ***2012 Mutual Aid Received – (7 Times)***

(A=Dispatched as Auto Aid, M=Mutual Aid requested)

Date	Call #	Address	Type of Assistance	Type	Department
2/4/12	12-295	4500 Reservoir Blvd	Chemical Spill	M	Brooklyn Center/Fridley/St. Anthony/Minneapolis
2/29/12	12-396	3850 Jackson	Garage Fire	A	Fridley/St. Anthony
5/31/12	12-1025	4945 Central Ave	Vehicle Fire	M	Fridley
8/16/13	12-1565	5131 University	Apt Fire	M	Fridley
9/19/12	12-1814	4233 - 6 <sup>th</sup> St	Electrical Short	A	Fridley/St. Anthony
11/3/12	12-2134	960 - 43 ½ Ave	Building Fire	M	Fridley/St. Anthony
11/3/12	12-2134	1302 Circle Terrace Blvd	Medical	M	Fridley







### ***2012 Mutual Aid Given – (12 Times)***

(A=Dispatched as Auto Aid, M=Mutual Aid requested O=Other Aid)

Date	Call #	Address	Type of Assistance	Type	Department
1/4/12	12-19	5601 Matterhorn	House Fire	A	Fridley
3/2/12	12-417	3728 Foss	Apartment Fire	A	St. Anthony
3/9/12	12-480	6490 Riverview	Building Fire	A	Fridley
3/19/12	12-540	1129 Onondaga	Trailer House Fire	A	Fridley
4/1/12	12-629	555 Danube	House Fire	M	Fridley
4/22/12	12-757	3612 Harding	House Fire	M	St. Anthony
6/26/12	12-1203	Brooklyn Center FD	Station Standby	M	Brooklyn Center
7/27/12	12-1444	1742 – 37 <sup>th</sup> Ave	Brush Fire	O	Minneapolis
8/28/12	12-1663	610 Osborne	Apartment Fire	A	Fridley
9/1/12	12-1687	116 – 75 <sup>th</sup> Ave	House Fire	M	Brooklyn Center
9/11/12	12-1745	2920 – 33 <sup>rd</sup> Ave	House Fire	M	St. Anthony
10/2/12	12-1912	Fridley	Cancelled En Route	A	Fridley

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## *Fire Loss Report*

### *2012 Structure Fire Incidents with Property Loss*

Date	Call #	Address	Occupancy Type	Cause of Fire	Prop Loss
2/29/12	12-396	3850 Jackson St	Single Family	Overheated Snow blower	2,000
3/1/12	12-403	700 – 39 <sup>th</sup> Ave	Commercial	Unintentional	1,000
3/18/12	12-534	4915 Jefferson St	Single Family	Christmas Lights	2,000
5/3/12	12-821	230 – 40 <sup>th</sup> Ave	Single Family	Undetermined	65,000
5/12/12	12-878	1301 Circle Terrace	Rental	Undetermined	1,000
5/26/12	12-989	1211/13 Cheery Ln	Rental	Lightning	8,000
6/25/12	12-1196	4229 Central Ave/8	Rental	Electric Stove	200
7/7/12	12-1305	5050 Mulcare Dr	Single Family	Undetermined	10,000
8/17/12	12-1575	4683 Monroe St/Hilltop	Single Family	Undetermined	2,000
8/26/12	12-1640	1141/43 Cherry Ln	Rental	Electric Stove	80,000
8/28/12	12-1658	4616 6 <sup>th</sup> St	Single Family	Cigarettes	12,000
11/3/12	12-2134	960 – 43½ Ave	Single Family	Undetermined	40,000
11/3/12	12-2134	960 – 43½ Ave	Single Family	Radiant Heat other fire	20,000
11/10/12	12-2182	4707 University/102	Rental	Grease Fire	10,000
<b>Total 2012 Structure Fire Property Loss</b> (14 incidents) - estimated figures					<b>\$253,200</b>



## *2012 Vehicle Fire Property Loss Summary*

**Total 2012 Vehicle Fire Property Loss**  
(6 incidents) - estimated figures

**\$17,900**

## *Casualty Report*

### *2012 Fire Service Casualties*

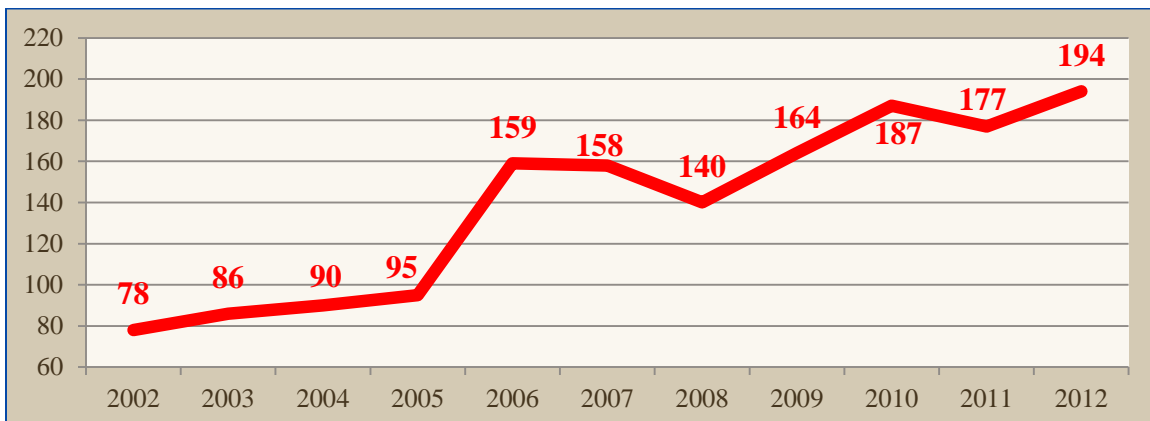
Date	Call #	Name	Injury	Cause
2/13/12	12-0289	Paid-On-Call Firefighter	Fluid Exposure	Cardiac Arrest Patient
5/14/12	Training	Paid-On-Call Firefighter	Hand	Training Exercise
8/16/12	12-1565	Fulltime Firefighter	Shoulder	Fridley House Fire Overhaul Duties
9/11/12	12-1745	Paid-On-Call Firefighter	Overheated	St. Anthony House Fire

### *2012 Civilian Casualties*

Date	Call #	Name	Injury	Cause
2/18/12	12-0311	Adult Female	Smoke Inhalation	Electric Stove Fire
5/12/12	12-0878	Adult Male	Burned feet	Undetermined

## *Hilltop Report*

The Columbia Heights Fire Department has an agreement to provide full fire suppression, emergency medical services, and fire inspection services for the City of Hilltop. A three-year Joint Agreement and Contract was signed in 2012, which covers the years 2013-2015. A 10-Year comparison of the number of calls to the City of Hilltop is reflected in the chart below.



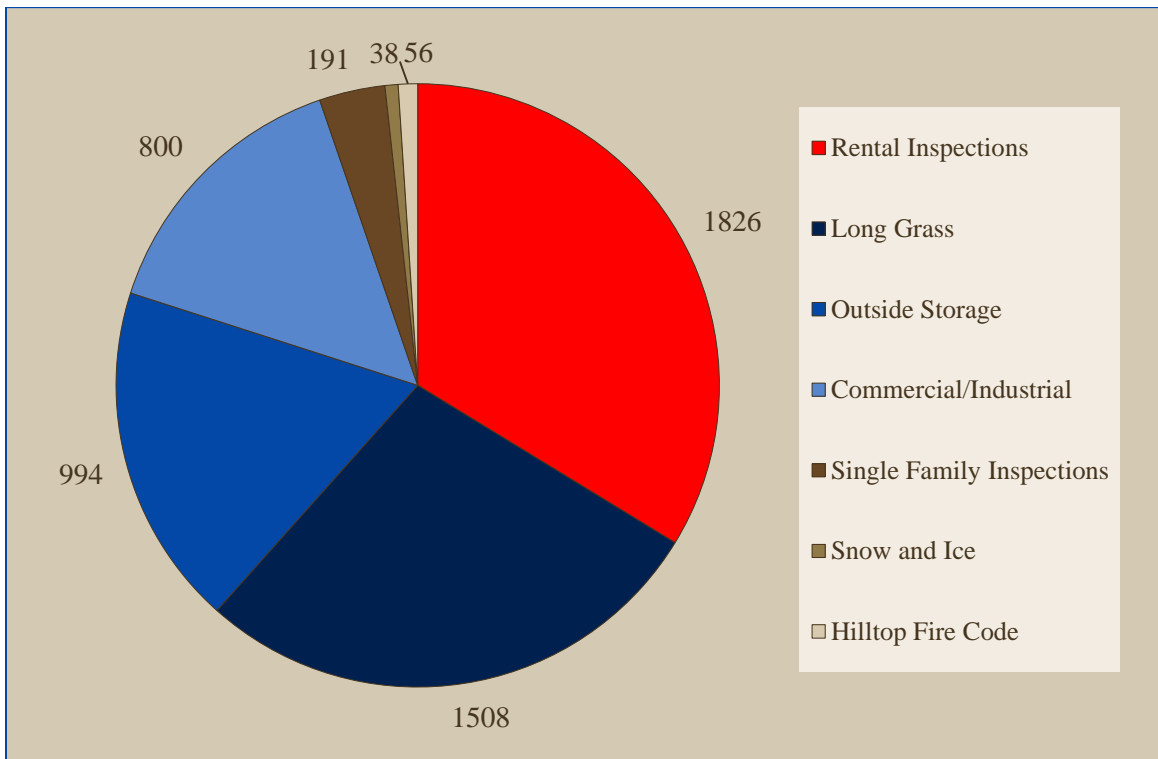
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## *Inspection Report*

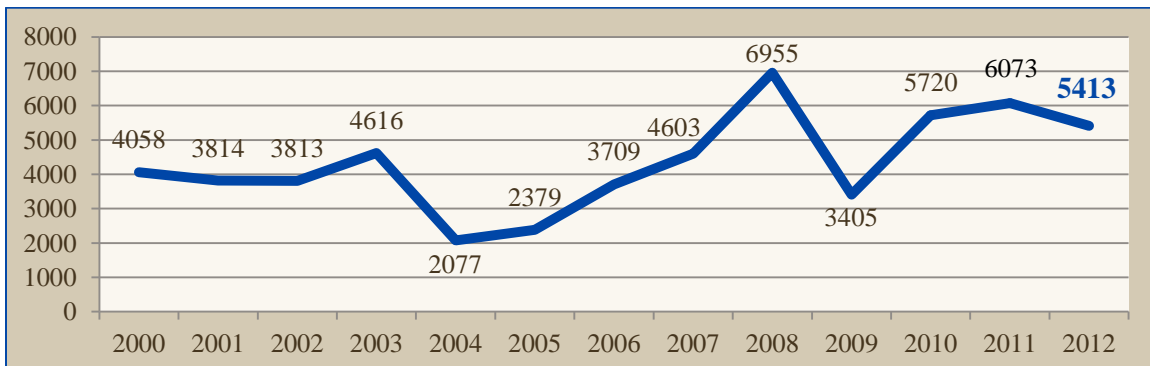
The Fire Department Inspection Program is supervised by the Assistant Fire Chief and involves the six full time firefighters as inspectors. All inspectors are cross trained for both fire and property maintenance inspections, allowing for flexibility in scheduling.

The fire department conducted a total of **5,413** inspection and license activities during 2012 and staff entered 6,572 inspection-related data entries. This report summarizes inspections which are broken into categories including commercial/industrial inspections, rental property inspections, single-family home inspections, and other actions performed by the inspection office.

### *2012 Number/Type Inspection Summary*

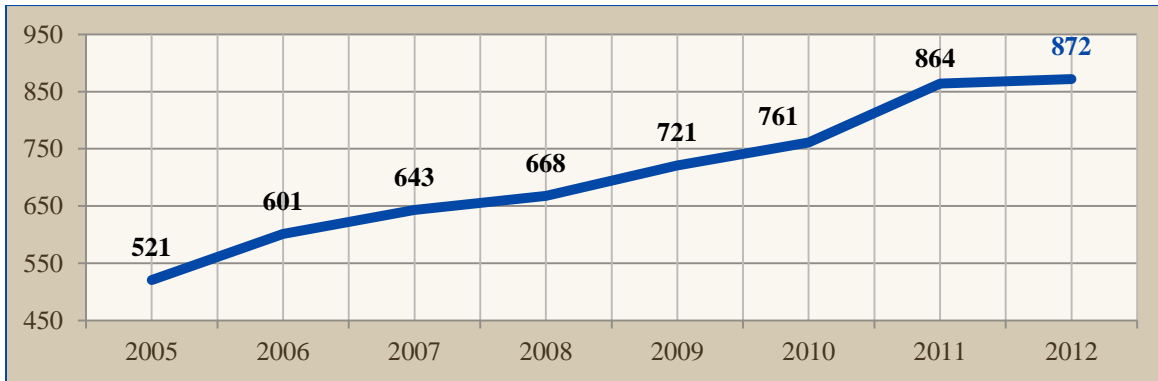


### *Total Inspections by the Year*

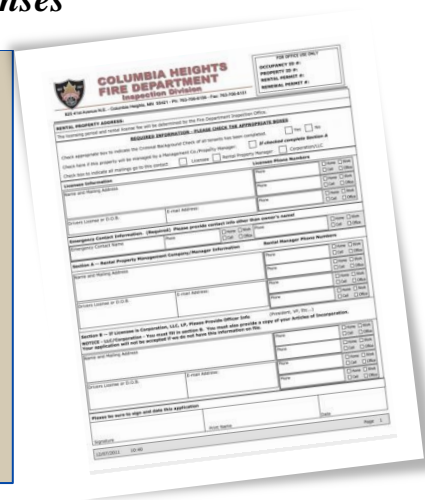
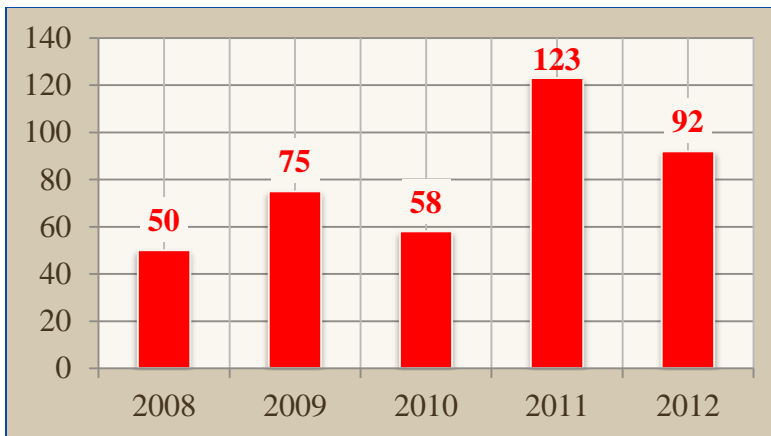


The amount of rental properties continues to increase as many of the foreclosed properties are being purchased as investment properties. In 2012, there were 92 new rental licenses. Interiors of rental properties are on a cycle to be inspected every two years and exteriors and common areas are inspected on an annual basis. Complaint inspections are inspected in a timely manner.

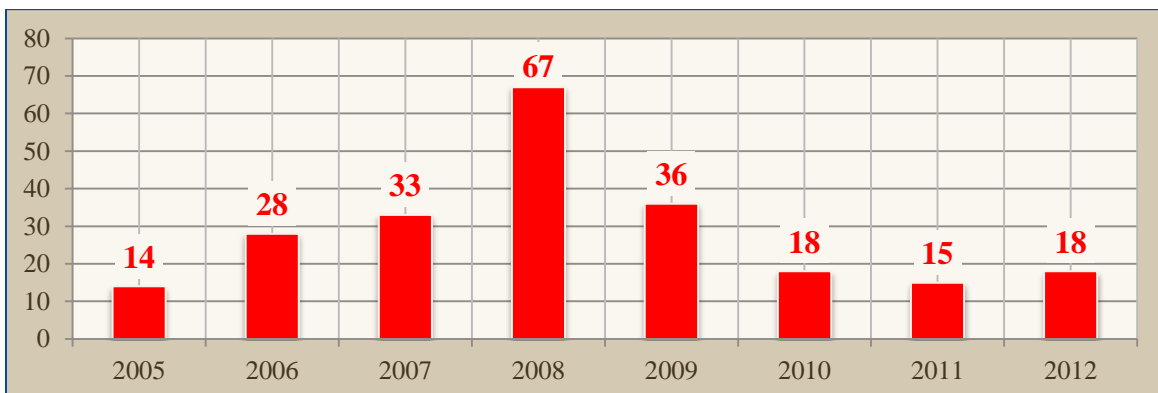
*Number of Rental Licenses*



*Number of New Rental Licenses*



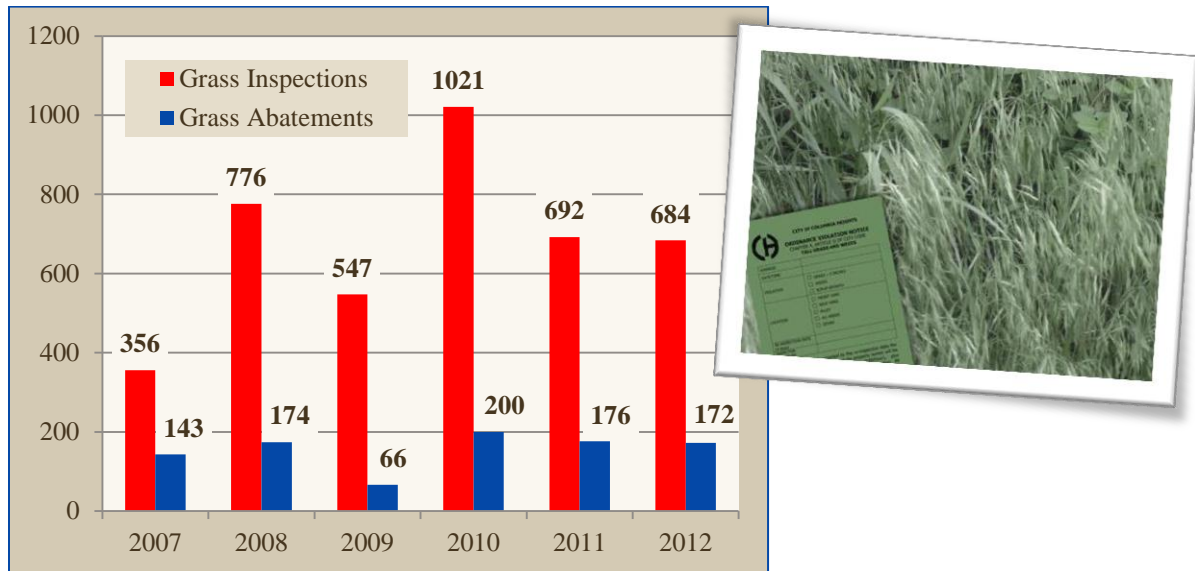
*Number of Rental License Revocations*





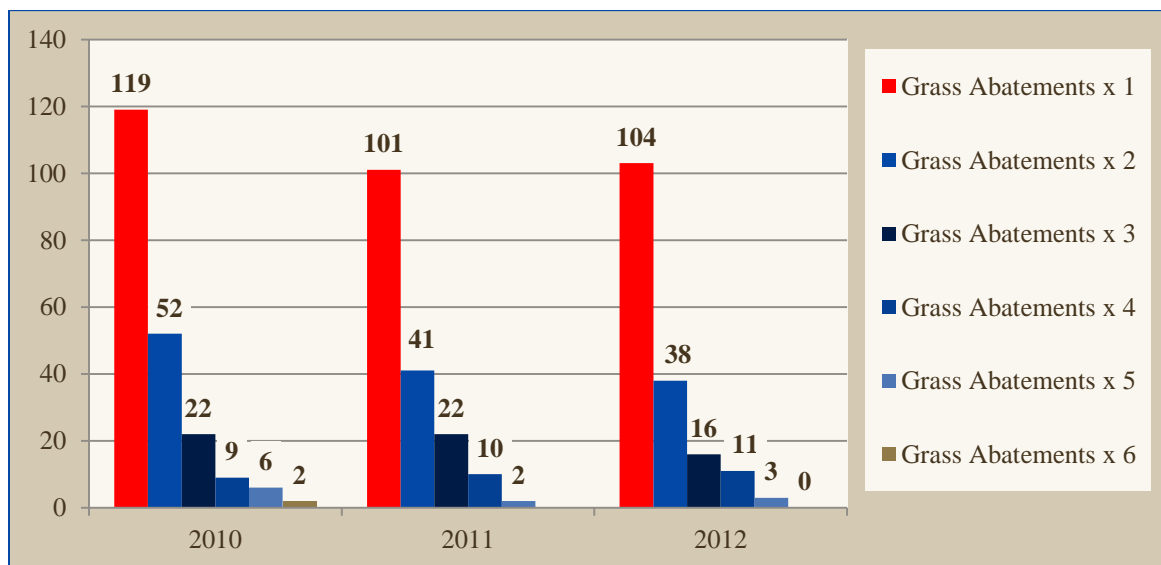
The Fire Department enforces the City Codes that do not allow the growth of long grass, weeds, and scrub growth over nine inches tall on any property. If a violation is found, a notice is placed on the property, a follow up inspection is performed, and any outstanding violations are abated. The graph below shows the total number of grass inspections and the total number of times a contractor was assigned to abate a long grass violation for the particular year listed.

***Number of Grass Inspections and Total Abatements***



The graph below breaks down the total number of grass abatements into the number of times a contractor was assigned to abate a long grass violation at the same property multiple times for the particular year listed. For example, in 2012 there were three properties that a contractor had to cut the grass five times at.

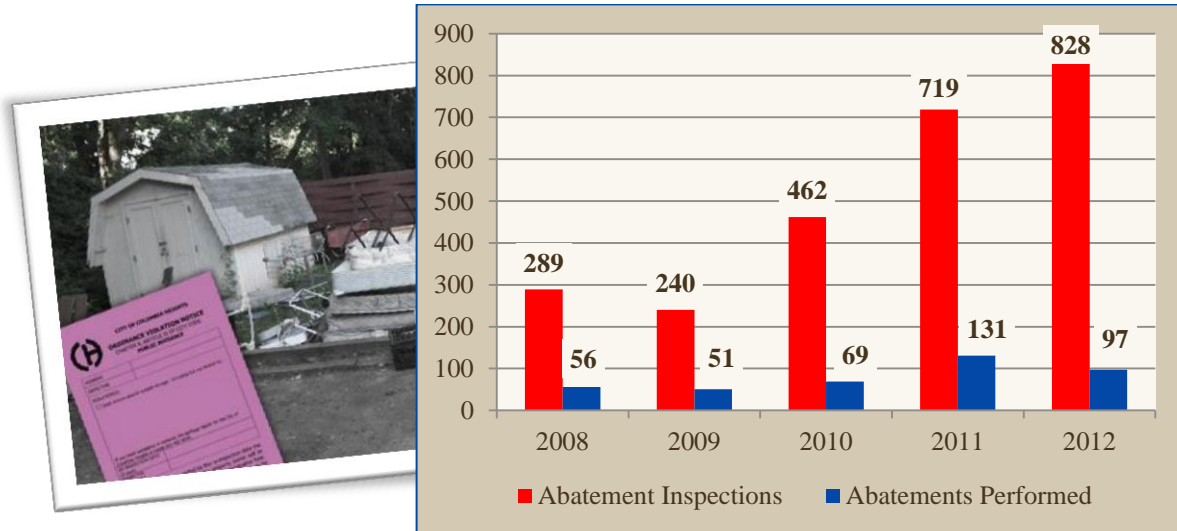
***Number of single and multiple abatement breakdown***



The fire department also enforces the portions of City Code that does not allow for the accumulation of unacceptable exterior storage on any property and for the accumulation of ice and snow on all sidewalks, walkways, stairs, driveways, parking spaces, and similar areas of any property.

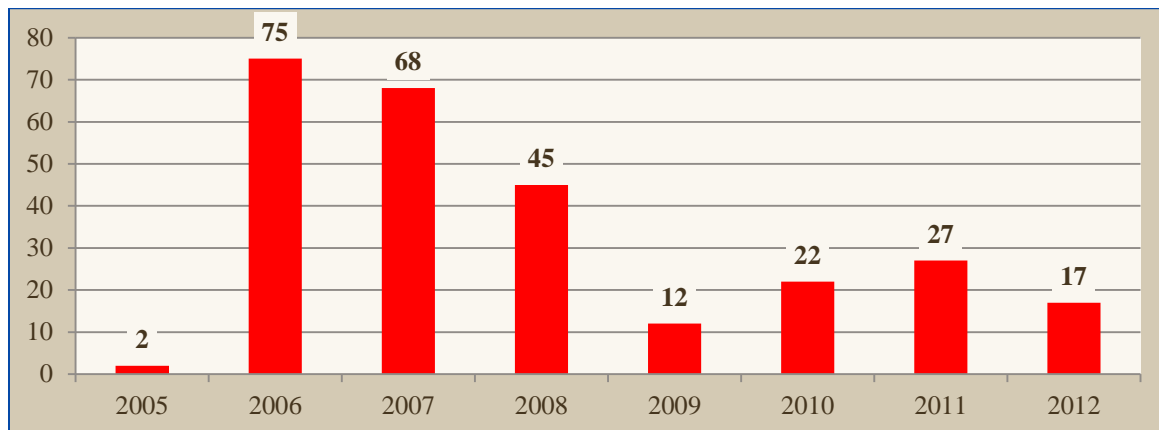
If a violation is found, a notice is placed on the property, a follow up inspection is performed, and any outstanding violations are corrected by a contractor. These corrections are called “Immediate Abatements”. The graph below shows the total number of times a contractor was assigned to abate an outside storage or snow and ice accumulation violation for the particular year listed.

### *Immediate Abatements*



Since 2005 abatements have been used as a successful enforcement tool to correct outstanding public nuisance violations. Abatements have been used to clean up garbage houses, correct outstanding Property Maintenance Code violations on properties with such things as painting, siding, broken doors, windows, and unsecured vacant properties and the like.

### *Council Approved Abatements*



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## ***Public Education and Fire Prevention***

This past year, numerous requests for firefighters to speak to outside organizations were arranged. In 2012 the Columbia Heights Fire Department had 47 fire prevention contacts which allowed them to speak to approximately 2,523 people about fire prevention.



### ***National Night Out***

The department took an active role in the National Night Out and hosted our annual Open House to reach as many citizens as possible with our fire prevention message.

### ***Fire Prevention Month Open House***

The Open House in September had beautiful weather and had a crowd of approximately 400 people in attendance. The Open House continues to focus on education activities that engage people with fire prevention messages.

### ***Blood Pressure Checks***

The Fire department provides blood pressures free of charge to the public seven days a week. Once a month on a Friday morning, the fire department performs blood pressure checks for the seniors at Murzyn Hall and in 2012 the fire department took 182 blood pressures with this program.

### ***Citizen's Academy***

This year the fire department participated in the City's first Citizen's Academy. Several City departments team brought approximately 15 attendees behind the scenes and into the operations of their department. Through lectures, demonstrations and hands-on learning, the residents discovered the "real" world of firefighting and how we go about carrying out our mission.

### ***Spring Fundraiser***

Fighting Crime, Fighting Fires, Fighting for Youth, the Police and Fire spring open house fundraiser was held in April. The crowd was great and everyone enjoyed the festivities to raise money for the Athletic Boosters.

### ***CPR Training***

The fire department also provided first aid and/or CPR training to City employees, the Police Reserves and taught first aid to the Summer Recreation Program Attendants.



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### ***AED Training***

A donation by the Wargo family enabled the fire department to purchase three automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for victims of sudden cardiac arrest. Firefighters installed the public AEDs in the Library, City Hall, and Public Works and provided five training sessions for approximately 20 employees in their use. Access to AED's is important because they can restore a normal heart rhythm and strengthen the chain of survival of sudden cardiac arrest victims.



### ***Teacher Appreciation Picnic***

The fire department assisted the School District with a picnic to appreciate the teachers of the district. Chief Gorman and Assistant Chief Larkin, along with several firefighters prepared and served the picnic fare to the teachers to say thanks for all they do in educating and guiding our youth.

In addition to these activities, the firefighters conducted station tours for preschool groups, scouting troops, and for the occasional walk-in group.

### ***Explorer Division Program***

In 2012, the Explorer Division consisted of 12 explorers and seven advisors, who take the time to train the participants. The cadet/Explorer division prepares its own Annual Report, a copy of which can be obtained from the Fire Department office.



### ***Anoka County Peer Support***

Anoka County has a peer-support group available to all public safety workers. Public Safety workers are involved in many tragic events. These events can affect us in many different ways. There is a need for these individuals to talk to someone who has been through these types of events and to help them with feelings. The group is made up of firefighters, police officers, members of the sheriff's department, and dispatchers. These dedicated professionals attend many meetings and training sessions during the year to prepare for peer support events. The Columbia



Heights Fire Department has one member who is part of this team. In 2012, he was involved in six (6) peer support activities.

### ***Training Program***

The Fire Department members train regularly to ensure they are prepared to safely handle the variety of incidents to which the fire department responds and to meet OSHA, NFPA, FEMA, HSEM and state certification and licensure standards. The number of standards and training hour requirements continue to rise to meet the growing needs of our area. Fire departments no longer train just for their own communities, but train for the needs of our metropolitan area. During 2012, our members spent over 2,573 hours in training sessions. Regular training is provided on three Monday evenings each month. One of the Mondays is designated to EMS training to maintain our emergency medical technician certifications. Members also have numerous opportunities to attend schooling, special outside classes, and seminars around the metro area.



### ***Station Duty Program***



The station duty program provides our paid-on-call firefighters the opportunity to work shifts alongside our full time firefighters. This gives the paid-on-call firefighter a much better understanding of how the station functions on a daily basis. This program is not only a learning tool but allows firefighters to gain valuable experience dealing with emergencies, which benefits the firefighter, the fire department, and our customers as well.

Paid-on-Call firefighters also fill open shifts when Full Time firefighters are out sick or on vacation, to meet minimum staffing. The program continues to be a very beneficial educational program and we hope to continue it in the future.

### ***Honor Guard***

The fire department honor guard, equipped with class A uniforms and equipment purchased with a donation from the Wargo family, participated in many events this past year including; the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, the VFW's Flag Burning Ceremony, the Jamboree parade, Funeral of Firefighter Scott Allard from Fridley, and the Minnesota Fallen Firefighter Memorial Dedication at the State Capitol.





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## *Apparatus/Equipment - Fire Department Fleet*



### **FIRE CHIEF**

2012 Chevy Tahoe – Cost \$38,597

### **ASST. FIRE CHIEF**

2001 Ford Expedition – Cost \$44,270



### **BOAT 1**

1999 Zodiac Rescue Boat – Cost \$2,650

1999 Spartan Trailer – Cost \$1,000

1999 Mercury 15 hp Motor – Cost \$1,649

### **FIRE INVESTIGATION TRAILER**

1998 Haulmark 5' x 8'

Re-purposed from the CHPD.



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## **AERIAL 15**

2004 General Safety Quint – 109 foot RK Ladder  
Cost \$591,988



## **ENGINE 1**

1995 General Safety Type I Engine  
Cost \$239,810

## **ENGINE 4**

1985 General Safety Type I Engine – Cost \$122,049  
Refurbished 2004 – Cost \$54,303





### **RESCUE 1**

1990 Road Rescue Heavy Rescue/Mobile Air

Cost \$97,613

Refurbished 2004 – Cost \$36,388

### **RESCUE 2**

2002 Braun Type III Ambulance

Cost \$70,591



### **RESCUE 3**

2012 Chevy Suburban Light Rescue/Utility

Cost \$48,413



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## ***2012 Staffing Changes***

### ***Paid-On-Call Division, Leave Of Absence***

Andrew S. Hall	January 1, 2012 to May 12, 2012
Andrew S. Hall	September 1, 2012 to May 12, 2013
Guislain K. Muvundamina	January 16, 2012 to May 9, 2012
Guislain K. Muvundamina	August 20, 2012 to December 15, 2012

### ***Paid-On-Call Division, Appointments***

Nicholas T. Linder	February 1, 2012
Jeffrey N. Rosener	February 1, 2012
Daniel M. Seiberlich	February 1, 2012

### ***Resignations***

Cody A. Cavett	Served from August 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012
Ben E. Uden	Served from June 1, 2007 to November 1, 2012





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## ***Roster of Members***

### ***Columbia Heights Fire Department***

December 31, 2012

#### ***Full Time Division***

	Position	Serving Since
Gary C. Gorman	Fire Chief	6/2/81
John K. Larkin	Assistant Fire Chief	11/13/90
Stephen F. Kolosky	Captain/EMT/FAO	11/3/78
Matthew D. Field	Captain/EMT/FAO	8/20/80
Daniel L. O'Brien	Captain/EMT/FAO	10/1/95
Richard J. Hinrichs	FF/EMT/FAO	7/2/86
Thomas A. Mattson	FF/EMT/FAO	1/1/99
Anthony G. Cuzzupe	FF/EMT/FAO	7/1/03
Kelly M. Schmidt	Fire Secretary	12/28/09
Joel T. Ostmo	Fire Clerk	11/13/84

#### ***Paid-on-Call Division***

Shannon E. Abbott	FF/EMT/FAO	8/1/09
Emily L. Cramble	FF/EMT	5/1/11
Jesse D. Dittbenner	FF/EMT/FAO	7/24/09
Thomas K. Flermo	FF/EMT/FAO	7/1/05
Jacob W. Gillespie	FF/EMT	5/1/11
Andrew S. Hall	FF/EMT*	3/1/04
Kyle A. Hall	FF/EMT	8/1/09
Donald W. Kostohryz	FF/EMT/FAO/P	2/1/06
Nicholas T. Linder	FF/EMT	2/1/12
Cory L. Mattson	FF/EMT/FAO	9/1/09
Robert A. Miller	FF/EMT/FAO	1/1/09
Guislain K. Muvundamina	FF/EMT*	11/1/07
Troy D. Neurauder	FF/EMT/FAO	10/1/02
Robert J. Niznik	FF/EMT/FAO	1/1/99
Brian J. Polski	FF/EMT	5/1/10
Jeffrey N. Rosener	FF/EMT	2/1/12
Daniel M. Seiberlich	FF/EMT/P	2/1/12
William T. Shutte	FF/EMT	3/1/10
David S. Sims	FF/EMT/FAO	10/1/02
Alexander M. St. Martin	FF/EMT	8/1/11
Jeffrey T. St. Martin	FF/EMT	8/1/11
Tou Vang	FF/EMT/P	9/1/09

FF - Firefighter

EMT - Emergency Medical Technician

FAO - Fire Apparatus Operator

P - Paramedic

\* - Leave of Absence