

FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT



2011



Bell Dedication, September 11, 2011



CHIEF'S MESSAGE 2011

For some, 2011 was a time to slow down and maintain. For us in the Fire Department, the days were marked by a steady, fast pace. While growth within the City may have slowed slightly, call volumes remained the same and the expectations our citizens place on us did not change. This year also gave us the opportunity to focus on initiatives and objectives that had been set aside as the City and the Department went through a significant growth period. Some of the highlights from 2011 are:

- *Development of a 5 year Strategic Plan*- This plan included a revision in our Mission Statement, our Vision Statement, as well as adopting our department's guiding principles which will move our department to better efficiencies, effectiveness and overall teamwork. The goal of the entire department is to truly become a premier department not only within the State of Idaho, but throughout the Northwest. This strategic plan will no doubt help us maintain direction to achieve that goal.

- *Department Leadership Academy*- Historically the fire service has focused its training on fire ground operations, EMS responses, safe driving, and other day to day operational priorities. This is understandable, as our citizens expect a well trained fire department when their emergency arises. We are also recognizing as an industry that the key to long term organizational success is the education and mentoring of our future leaders. This was the intent of our 4-day Leadership Academy, which focused on a total of 26 different topics taught by a variety of internal and external instructors that included Brad Larrondo from Boise State Football as our keynote speaker. Post-class evaluations demonstrated this is an area of education that our Firefighters desire and we plan on this being a focus well into our future. We are confident that through a combination of education and mentoring, our future leaders will continue to meet the high expectations our community places upon us.

- *Division Chief Program*- Towards the end of 2011 our Elected Officials, the Fire Department Administration, and members of Local 4627 took a bold step when it comes to thinking "outside the box". Long has our Department and City recognized the need for 24 hour shift Command and Control coverage to mitigate issues of safety, fire ground accountability, shift supervision, and firefighter performance evaluation and mentoring. Traditionally within the fire service this position is known as a Battalion Chief. The Department and the City have also recognized the need for administrative support for the many functions our community expects from the Fire Department. Through the identification of best practice, and after performing a needs assessment, the department is moving forward with a Division Chief model that combines shift coverage with job specific administrative functions. We feel this program, if successful, will identify efficiencies not realized through a traditional model and could possibly become an industry standard that others may follow. There are certain unknowns with this new model, and there may be bumps along the way, but at its core this program demonstrates the willingness of individuals to work as a team. It also demonstrates the Fire Department believes in what makes our City function so well- that we are not afraid to identify and pursue a different way of doing things to continually achieve greatness.

- *2011 also marked the 10 year anniversary of 9/11.* I would be remiss not to highlight our remembrance of colleagues lost on that day. September 11th, 2001 was a day in American history that the fire service will never forget. 343 firefighters and paramedics lost their lives while heroically performing their duties. It is the job of every firefighter and fire department to ensure their names and sacrifices are never forgotten. To achieve this, our department held a remembrance and dedication ceremony on September 11th. Held in conjunction with the Meridian Police Department, we took time to reflect on the sacrifices and the strengths that resulted when terrorism tried to cripple our country and our way of life. The theme of the morning was resolve and determination to not allow anything or anyone to negatively affect what we enjoy as a community. Symbolic of our country's resolve, we also dedicated a 100 year old bell that once hung in the City to alert firefighters of a call. This bell had been lost over the years, and was on its way to be melted down as scrap. The dedication of our firefighters to find it, restore it, and then proudly hang it in front of Station 1 ensures its place in our history.

As we move into 2012, we hope that you will continue to follow our department and interact with us in a way that meets your needs. Public involvement and input helps to strengthen our department and the services we provide to you.

Sincerely,

Chief Mark Niemeyer

2012 ROSTER OF MEMBERS

MAYOR TAMMY DE WEERD

FIRE CHIEF MARK NIEMEYER

DEPUTY CHIEF OF OPERATIONS
CHRIS AMENN

DEPUTY CHIEF OF PREVENTION
PERRY PALMER

DIVISION CHIEF LOGISTICS
ROD SHAUL

FIRE INSPECTOR
KENNY BOWERS

DIVISION CHIEF QA/RISK MGMT
BLAKE CAMPBELL

PUBLIC EDUCATION OFFICER
PAM ORR

DIVISION CHIEF
COMMUNICATIONS
TYLER ROUNTREE

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY II
JUDY GERHART

DIVISION CHIEF
HEALTH & SAFETY
KEN WELBORN

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY I
HANNAH CURTIS

DEPARTMENT LIAISON
COUNCILMAN KEITH BIRD

CAPTAINS

Bill Allen
Joe Bongiorno
Nick Corral
Archie Frost
Mike Gould
Tim Kelley

Scotty Kiesig
Marty McSherry
Jeff Murray
John Overton
Jason Rae
Erik Smith

Lance Smith
Coit Souza
Chris Verkerk
Justin Winkler
Lance Witt
Mike Zumwalt

ENGINEERS

Chad Coltrin
J.D. Hendrick
Darby Hill
Adam Johnston
Brandon Medica

Howard Miller
Mike Myers
Trevor Palmer
Brian Peterson
Luke Smillie

Greg Wardein
Scott Warren
Glenn Wilson
Drew Young
Brian Zimmerman

FIREFIGHTERS

Dylan Anderson
Tyler Bryner
Tony Chance
Brock Clapp
Dan Cole
Brandon Erickson
Kristian Forbey

Bryan Fredrickson
Grant Hamilton
Steve Hayes
Garrett Hirsch
Bill Johnson
Jerin Jones

Russell Koharchick
Katie Mallaburn
Zach Mason
James Moriarty
Derek Nelson
Randy Platt
Granville Stark

PART-TIME ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS

Ryan Badger
Jeff Boudreau
Verlyn Brower*
**Department Chaplain*

Jeff Harris
Nik Jones
Ben Mendez
Scott Morgan
Tag Robison

Erin Rogers
Bill Schuler
Jason Waites
Jerry Zimmerman



The year 2011 certainly saw some big changes in the Prevention Division only to be followed by more changes for 2012.

Long time Fire Marshal, Joe Silva, retired in May of 2011 after having served the City of Meridian since 1999. Joe saw record building and growth for the city that we will likely not see again. The safety that the citizens will be able to enjoy while shopping, doing business, or comfortably resting in their homes is a result of Joe's tireless effort and commitment to building and fire and life safety code compliance.

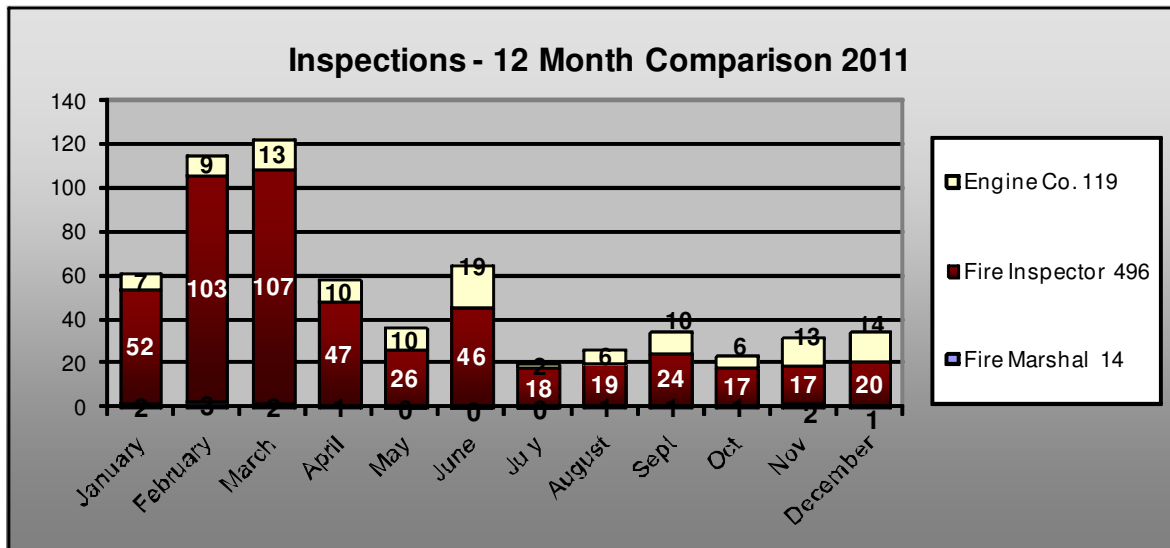
Starting in June of 2011, I took over the duties of Fire Marshal. The remainder of 2011 was comprised of learning the duties, working with other departments and city agencies and trying to fill a very big pair of shoes.

One of the changes coming for 2012 is a restructuring of the fire and life safety inspection program. The engine companies will continue to conduct fire and life safety inspections of buildings as they have in the past, but starting in January the emphasis will change slightly. They will now be concentrating on the smaller businesses and commercial occupancies. This will allow the companies to stay more readily available for responses and will require less time to conduct the inspections. This will allow more time for Department training and other operational projects.

The new approach to fire inspections will keep us within our goals for providing a fire safe environment for our citizens to live, work and play while also maintaining a ready and immediate response to calls for service.

The Fire Marshal and Fire Inspector will be focusing on occupancies such as: assemblies, restaurants, establishments that serve alcohol, motels, hotels, schools, hospitals and nursing homes. These types of occupancies pose a significant life threat, and will be scheduled to be inspected on an annual basis. The prevention division will also take the lead on the big box stores and large complex facilities that require a more complex and comprehensive inspection.

In addition to fire and life safety inspections, the prevention division takes a very proactive role in construction plan reviews and traffic safety. The involvement of the fire department during the concept stage of proposed projects allows the design team to have a better understanding of the



(Continued on page 5)

The Fire Prevention Division Investigated 13 Fires and Screened 25 Juvenile Fire Setters in 2011

MFD requirements for development. Using the International Fire Code as adopted by the City of Meridian, simplifies the process for teams working on projects for national companies wanting to open operations in the City.

The Fire Prevention Division is also responsible for investigating all significant fires that occur within the boundaries of

the department. We investigate fires in order to determine origin and cause, to establish if the fire is accidental or intentional. The investigation may enable the department to prevent a similar occurrence through directed prevention/public education efforts, based on our conclusion.

Deputy Chief Perry Palmer

2011 Major Incident Property Values Loss

Incident Type	Count	Total Loss
Building Fires Residential	30	\$863,340
Building Fires Commercial	4	\$319,750
Vehicle Fires	21	\$94,660
All Other Fires	91	\$19,050

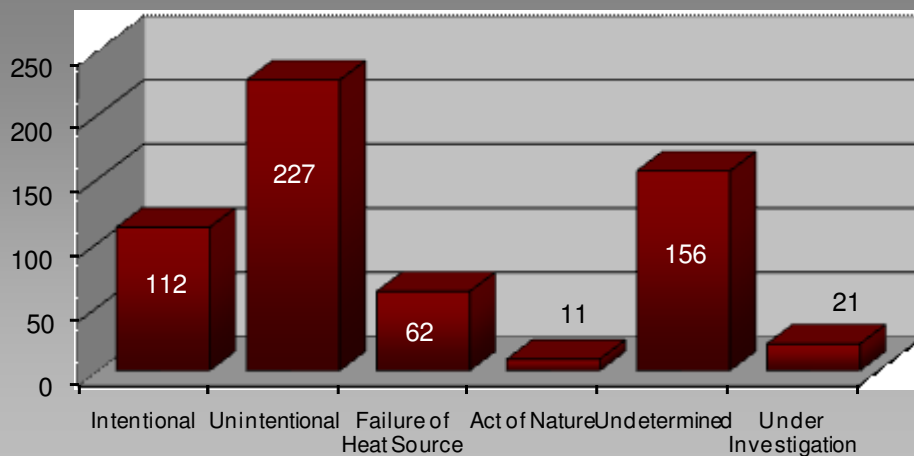
Inspections

- Fire & Life Safety 491
- Knox Box Verifications 85
- Daycare 30
- Fire Protection System 23

Permits/Licenses that required Fire Department Approval

- Citizens Use Permits 19
- Temporary Use Permits 86
- Fireworks 22
- Beer/Wine/Liquor 126

Cause of Ignition 2007 through 2011 - 5 Year Compilation



The Meridian Fire Department is committed to the safety and education of the community it serves. The Department best prepares our citizens through our Public Education programs. It is our belief that most fires and accidents can be prevented. Our goal is to provide every citizen within our city and rural community the highest level of safety awareness training available. Through, "Dedication, Loyalty, and Tradition" we do everything within our power to prevent emergencies before they start. Sometimes emergencies happen, so providing training to minimize the risk of an emergency is an important element in our education programs as well.

"So often, communities and the media only recognize the men and women of the fire service when they respond to fires and other emergencies. One of the greatest accomplishments of America's fire service goes mostly unnoticed by the citizens of this nation. That accomplishment is those fires that are prevented. A fire that never starts can never harm or take lives of Americans, or firefighters." –
R. David Paulison, Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Public Education is a vital part of how we best serve the community.

If one word can sum up a program it is commitment. Each year our staff educates our public in new and exciting ways. Through tours, demonstrations, mock scenarios, and even quiet conversations our personnel are getting the fire/life safety message to the citizens of Meridian. Public education is viewed as an ongoing process that occurs informally as we interact with the community in day-to-day situations, and formally through scheduled appearances and presentations. Fire/life safety programs provide up-to-date messages in fire and injury prevention through direct training programs, including presentations and demonstrations using various forms of visual and static displays. We are protecting our community, through excellence in service! We look back into 2011 with great pride, and we start 2012 excited to provide the City of Meridian's residents and visitors with a safe community to live, work, and play in.

Fire Prevention Week 2011

The shining star, and most recognizable program is National Fire Prevention Week. In Meridian, we take this annual event to a higher level. With the size of our school district and day care system we schedule events for the entire month of October. In 2011 our firefighters and public educator reached out to all of our elementary schools and the majority of our day care centers with the message "Protect Your Family From Fire" We made both classroom and school assembly visits. This year we were able to get our message up on three electronic billboards in the Treasure Valley. We also held our first ever poster contest in the elementary schools. Students in grades K-5th entered their posters and the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each grade were honored at an awards ceremony in city hall. One classroom received a pizza party as well. We found this to be an effective



way to get our message into the homes. The schools were really supportive of this and it was such a success we will be repeating this again.

Child Passenger Safety Seats

The Meridian Fire Department continued to be a leader in the community in their commitment to Child Passenger Seat Safety. Motor vehicle crashes remain the number one cause of injury and death for our nation's children and MFD staff are on the front lines preventing such tragedies. We hosted a car seat check each month at city fire stations and maintained Child Passenger Safety certification to conduct the checks. With a partnership with Treasure Valley Safe Kids we were able to provide 27 families with a child passenger seat at a highly reduced rate. We also serve as a year-round resource for educating families who have questions regarding child passenger safety. In addition to our monthly events, we schedule checks in our stations for those parents expecting newborns before the next scheduled monthly event.



Friendly Firefighters

We spent many hours visiting area schools and daycare centers with our Friendly Firefighter program. During these visits firefighters show the younger students their gear to educate children that firefighters in their gear are not scary but are community helpers. During the presentation children are introduced to a firefighter in uniform and slowly they watch as piece by piece the firefighter



dresses in their protective gear to be ready to fight a fire and to help people. Students also learn what to do when they hear their smoke detectors, that smoke detectors are tools that

need batteries and maintenance, emergency escape plans, safe meeting places, how to call for an emergency, not to play with matches and lighters and finally, they get a tour of the fire engine to see all the tools and equipment firefighters use to help people. During the year our crews visited all Meridian elementary schools and most daycare and preschool programs. Station Tour visitors also receive our Friendly Firefighter program along with a tour of the station. This year we streamlined the process to request a visit or tour by placing a fill able request form on our internet web site.

Sprinky Our Clown

Our Education through Clowning and Puppetry program provided skits to area schools and public assemblies during the year. In the spring we focused on camping and general outdoor safety and during the fall our



In 2012 we will continue to make it our goal to educate the general public about fire prevention and safety. We want the fire awareness and safety message to permeate our community and become second nature for all of us.

focus was on the National Fire Protection Association’s annual Fire Prevention theme “Protect Your Family From Fire”. With the use of puppets, clowns, props and lots of interactive music and dialog these fire and life safety programs designed for children and adults alike are both entertaining and educational. Characters talk, dance and sing out fire safety messages such as: Crawl Low in Smoke; Home Escapes and

Safety; Match and Lighter Safety; Stop, Drop & Roll; Cooking Safety; and Outdoor safety. Yearly themes are developed to keep the novelty of this program alive for participants. We delivered the skits at Smokey Bear’s birthday party and at Fire Prevention Day at the Meridian Speedway, where Treasure Valley daycare centers were invited to attend a day of educational fun. Likewise, Sprinky also made debuts at many other functions throughout our great City!

Older Adults

Meridian Seniors are important in our educational efforts. We seek to ensure that our seniors have access to essential services and resources that will assist them in meeting their individual needs and enhance their safety and quality of life. Throughout the year we provided speakers to present information designed for our older residents. These specialized programs provided awareness and information about fire and injury prevention in and around the home. Additionally, we provided smoke alarms, batteries, and minor maintenance for smoke alarms to our senior residents by request free of charge. We performed monthly blood-pressure screenings at the Meridian Senior Center and in our fire stations on a walk-in basis. Our crews participated in Senior Health and Fitness Day and the Senior Summit at Meadow Lake Village.

Public Safety Day

Public safety Day 2011 was our second joint open house held in conjunction with the Meridian Police Department. We invited community partners; Wal-Mart, Lowe’s Hero’s, the Meridian

Public Safety Academy Alumni, Safe Kids Treasure Valley and Ada County Emergency Services to join us in this educational day. The open house was held at Fire Station One and we counted 547 people during this four hour event.

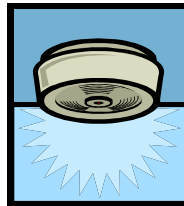


Participants received education on smoke alarms, drugs in their community, emergency reporting, child passenger seat safety, emergency management and preparedness, the Public Safety

Academy, and crime & fire prevention topics. They were also able to watch demonstrations from both departments with the fire department showing how we do vehicle extrications, fight fire, high angle rope operations, and ladder truck operations. Participants received free hotdogs for lunch and could get face painting and removable fire safety tattoos. We also had many fun game booths for the children along with our friend Sparky the Fire Dog.

Smoke Alarms

Firefighting crews responded to many calls of assistance for smoke alarms not working properly, smoke alarms needing batteries changed, and homes needing smoke alarms. Our senior housing areas and many mobile home parks were offered battery change outs and free alarms this year. Crews installed 33 new smoke alarms in Meridian homes in 2011. The Meridian Fire Department received a FEMA grant in the amount of \$111,444 to enhance their smoke alarm program. Grant monies will allow the fire department to purchase smoke alarms for homes located in Meridian that are currently without protection or have limited protection. The grant has a provision to purchase some smoke alarms for the hearing impaired as well. The department



will be using a group of trained volunteers to install the smoke alarms in homes and to provide training in their care and in general fire safety subjects.

Meridian Public Safety Academy

In partnership with Meridian Police Department we held Public Safety Academy # 9 for our citizens who desired a closer working knowledge of the inner workings of Meridian's Public Safety Agencies. Participants met for 14 sessions totaling over 56 hours of classroom and hands-on activities. We hold our Public Safety Academy in the spring of each year and encourage students to participate in all of the hands on activities of both the police and fire departments.

Meridian Fire Safety Center

Our Meridian Fire Safety Center is used throughout the year to teach students how to develop a fire escape plan, how to practice that plan, and the importance of having a safe meeting place and never going back inside a burning building. The students also learn about the dangers of smoke, the sound of and how to maintain a smoke detector, to go low in smoke, how to call 911, and the danger and spread of fire using our burn-out room. Many classes came through the Center this year. Although the primary classes taught at the facility is centered on the facilities props and ability to provide potential fire situations to class participants, the facility is also used to teach other life



saving/educational classes. The center is also the primary tool that is used in our Juvenile Firesetter program. The facility is equipped with a burn-out room allowing students to witness the destruction and spread of fire.

PUBLIC EDUCATION FAST FACTS

• Fire Safety Classes	164
• Fire Station Tours	127
• Car Seats Inspected	172
• Juvenile Firesetters Screened	25
• Safety/Informational Events	79
• Ride Alongs	28

Total Incidents

City	3,936
Rural	324
Mutual Aid	571
Total	4,831

Response Times

City Average	4:42
Rural Average	6:27
Combined Average	4:51

All Incidents by Property Type—2011

Assembly	175
Educational	131
Healthcare	541
Residential	2534
Mercantile, Business	225
Industrial	28
Storage	18
Outside or Special Property	812
Other Property	367

Type of Incidents 2011

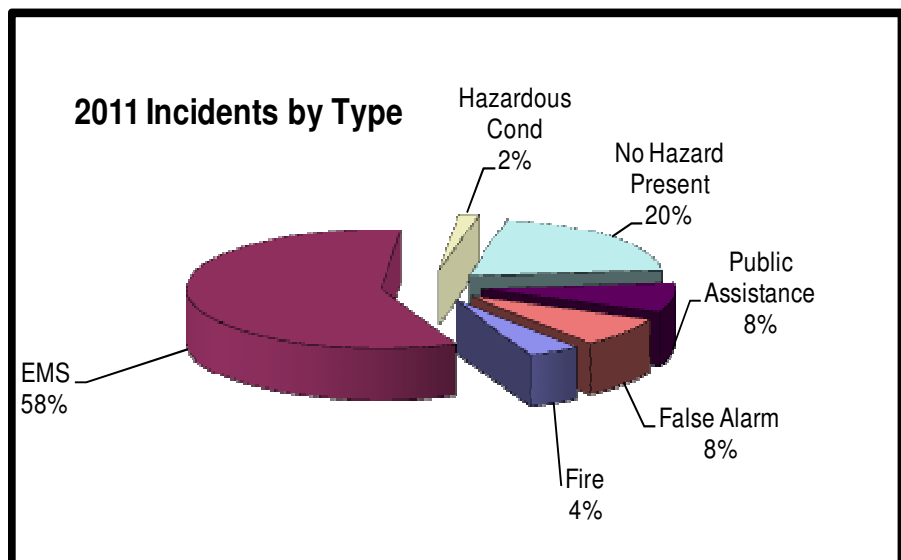
Fire	207
Emergency/Medical	2,797
False Alarm	387
Hazardous Cond.	81
No Hazard Present	971
Public Service/Assist	388

The definition of a fire department, along with the job responsibility of its members, is constantly changing. We pride ourselves on being the “go to” agency when our citizens are not sure where to turn. We are humbled by the fact that when our citizens do not know who to call to handle a perceived emergency, they default to calling the fire department. Our members value the responsibility this places on them, and respect the high degree of confidence the community has in them. We know that maintaining a constant state of readiness to respond to and mitigate hazards as they occur, along with helping our citizens identify and understand risk is the community’s core expectation of our department. Our members take great pride in ensuring this capability through:

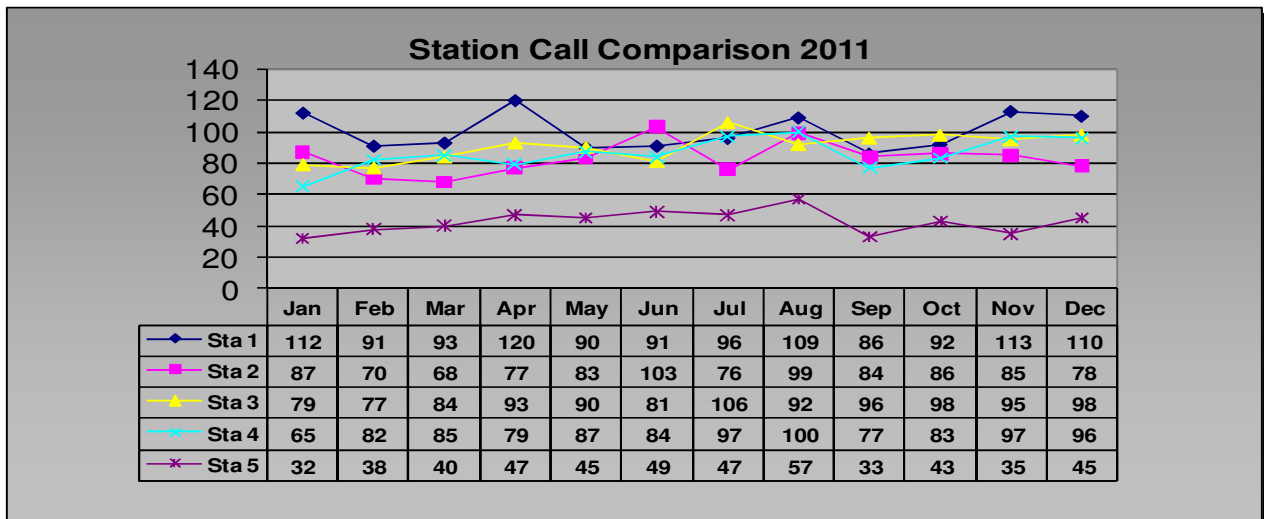
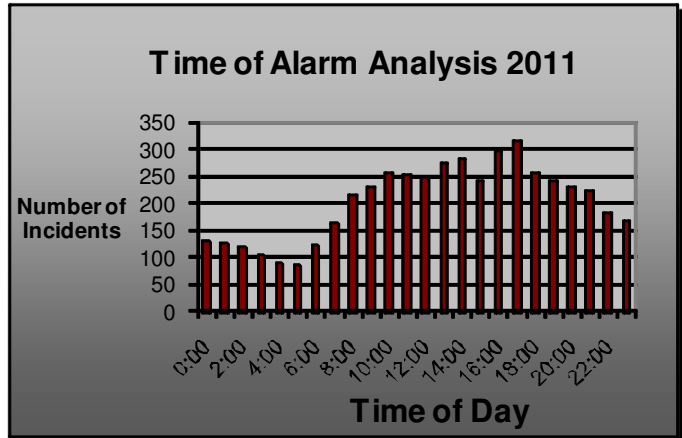
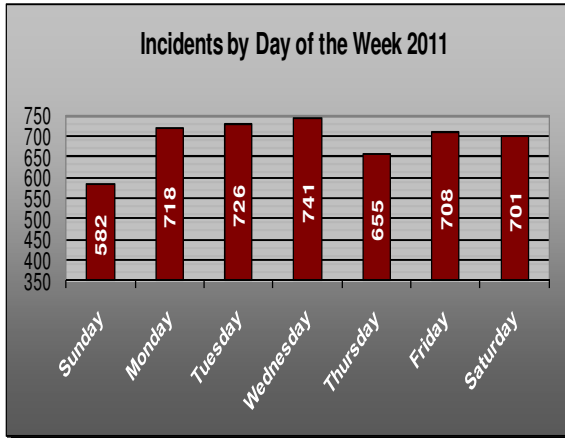
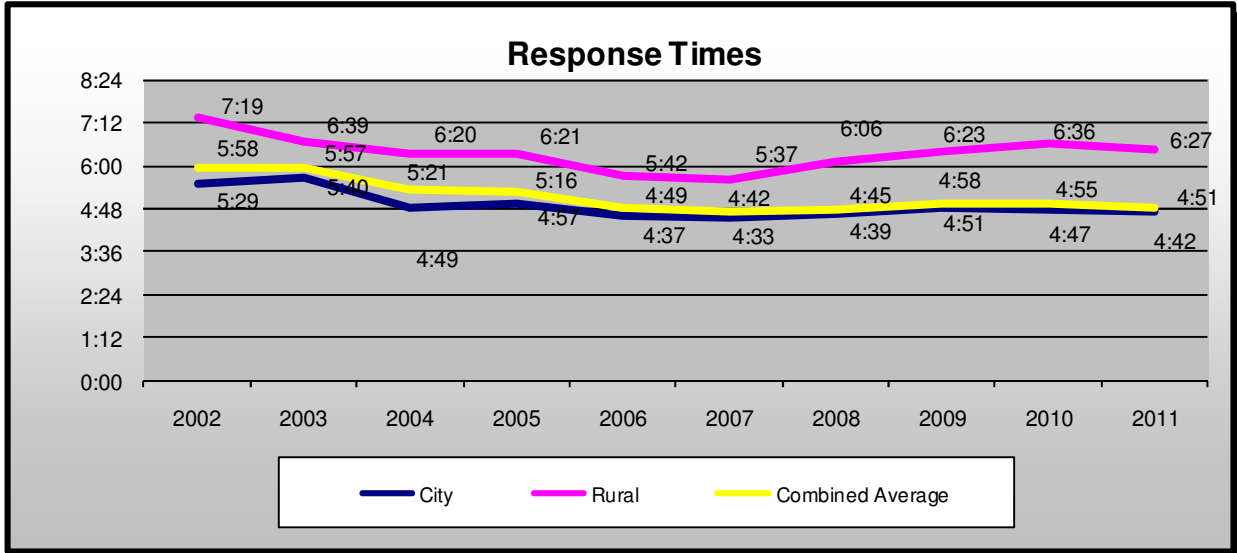
- Maintenance of apparatus and equipment, with a relentless pursuit of excellence and an eye for detail.
- Ongoing training to maintain and hone their skills and abilities needed to serve.
- Education, to further knowledge, and stay at the forefront of emergency services delivery.
- Research, to assess the needs of the community as well as to predict trends and changes that may determine future enhancements required to maintain the desired service level.

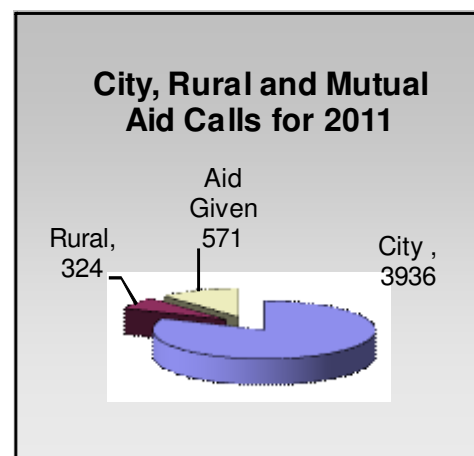
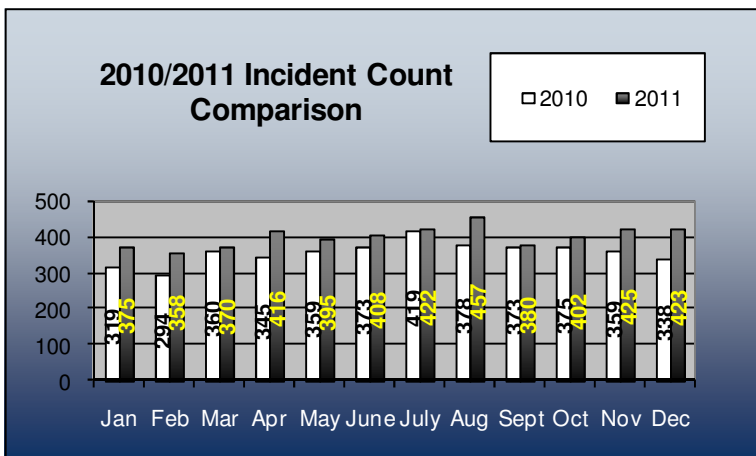
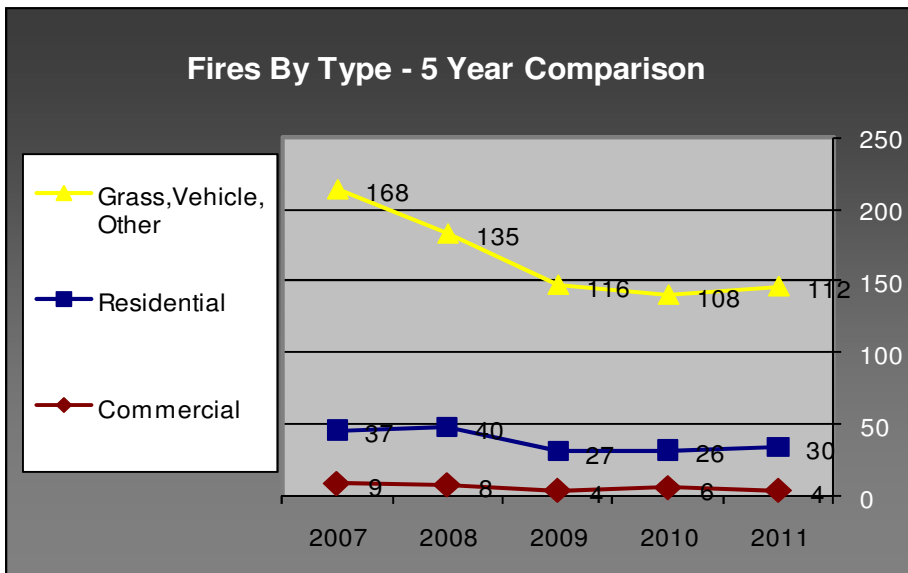
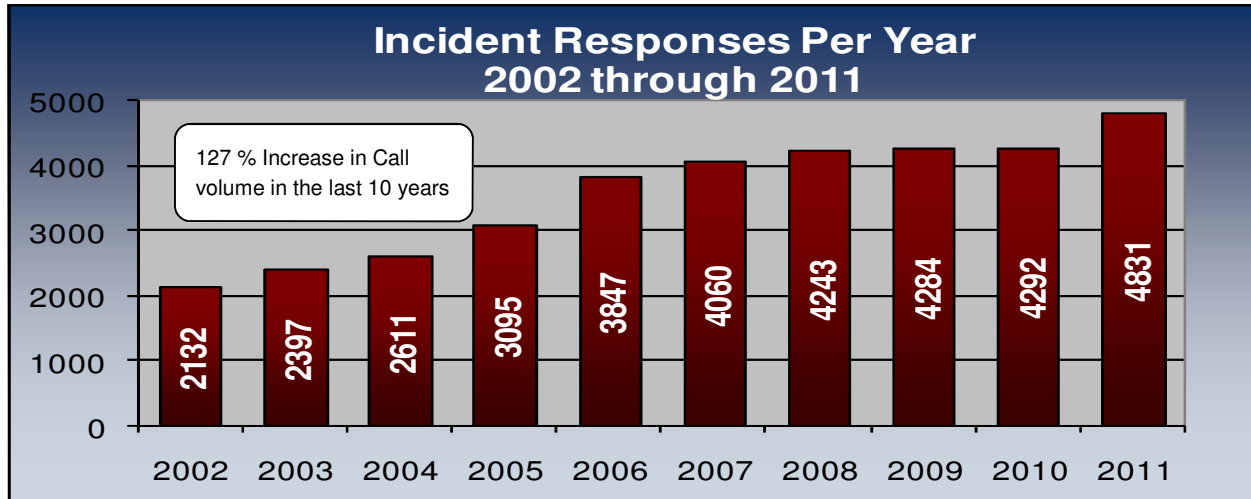
We thank you for placing your trust in us. We will maintain our endeavor towards excellence to provide our citizens, visitors, families, and friends with a department capable of responding to and adapting to all hazards that is proactive in developing a safe, healthy community.

Deputy Chief Chris Amenn



4,831 Incident Responses for 2011





Meridian Firefighters Pipes and Drums

Our own Pipes and Drums group continued to provide rich tradition, honor and brotherhood in 2011. The band maintains a solid group of 10 members consisting of bagpipers, snare drummers, a bass drummer and a tenor drummer. In early 2011, we once again partnered with the Boise Highlanders for our annual piping school to train future members for the band, a partnership that works well for both organizations. In February, our band performed at the Meridian State of the City, Light My Fire, the Optimist Casino night, and the 3rd annual Chili Cook-off. All events were very successful, especially the Chili Cook-off which is the band's fundraiser providing for instrument, uniform, travel and instruction costs. March brought another round of "Pub Crawls" to celebrate St. Paddy's Day where the band was featured by WOW Country 104.3 throughout the day. It was a great way for the band to support Meridian businesses and support band fund raising. In September, six members of the band represented Meridian on a national level and traveled to Colorado Springs, Co for the International Association



of Firefighters Fallen Firefighter Memorial Weekend. This event was a culmination of 3 years of hard work, weekly practices and ongoing fundraising. The band joined approximately 150 other bagpipers and drummers from all over the US and Canada to create a "Massed" band for the event. A truly amazing experience for all that attended. Members even played for International dignitaries such as Mick Farrell, President of the United Firefighters of Australia. Throughout the year members of the band also performed at various funerals and Line of Duty Deaths throughout the Northwest with support from IAFF Local #4627, Meridian Firefighter's Association and The City of Meridian. Without this support the band would not have been able to perform at the various events. We wrapped up the year with performing for a small crowd at the dedication of Julius M Kleiner Park. In all, a great year for our members to bring Tradition, Honor, and Brotherhood to the department and Meridian. We look forward to another great year in 2012!



Current Members:

- Chris Verkerk; Pipe Major
- Lance Witt; Bagpiper
- Tony Chance; Bagpiper
- Brock Clapp; Bagpiper
- Tyler Rountree; Bagpiper
- Derek Nelson; Bagpiper
- Greg Wardein; Drum Sergeant
- Dylan Anderson; Snare Drummer
- Erik Smith; Bass Drummer
- Zach Mason; Tenor Drummer

Awards Presented in 2011

Firefighter of the Year 2010

Brock Clapp

Fire Officer of the Year 2010

Ken Welborn

Non-Suppression Employee of the Year 2010

Hannah Curtis

Meritorious Service Award 2010

Scotty Kiesig

Chief's Award of Excellence 2010

Judy Gerhart

Steve Hayes

Brandon Erickson

Joe Bongiorno

Chris Amenn

Kenny Bowers



Promotions for 2011

Brian Peterson—Engineer

Trevor Palmer—Engineer

Erik Smith—Captain

Archie Frost—Captain

Rod Shaul—Division Chief of Logistics

Perry Palmer—Deputy Chief of Prevention

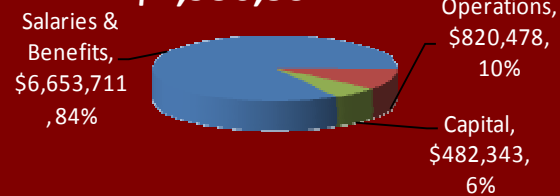
Chris Amenn—Deputy Chief of Operations

Blake Campbell—Division Chief of QA/Risk Management

Tyler Rountree—Division Chief of Communications

Ken Welborn—Division Chief of Health & Safety

Fire Department FY 2011 Total Budget \$7,956,532



Donations

Citizen Donations \$ 60

Light My Fire \$8,800

Wal-Mart \$3,000

Grants

License Plate Grant, Idaho Fire Chief's Association \$900

Fire Prevention and Safety Grant, FEMA, \$111,444 to develop a smoke detector program. Funds to be spent in 2012.



9-11 Ceremony & Bell Dedication, September 11, 2011



STATIONS—FACILITIES

2011



Station 1

540 E. Franklin Road, Meridian, ID 83642
884-5695



Station 2

2401 N. Ten Mile Road, Meridian, ID 83646
855-9558



Station 3

3545 N. Locust Grove, Meridian, ID 83646
846-9360



Station 4

2515 S. Eagle Road, Meridian, ID 83642
898-5507



Station 5

6001 N. Linder Road,
Meridian, ID 83646
898-5511



Fire Safety Center
1901 E. Leighfield Drive
Meridian, ID 83646
884-0597



Training Tower
Located at Station 1

The MFD Mission

To protect and enhance our community through professionalism and compassion.

MFD Vision Statement

A premier organization recognized for providing a safe community through professionalism, innovative actions, and community involvement.

MFD Guiding Principles

Compassionate – We will provide friendly and compassionate service to each other and the public we serve.

Professionalism – We will dedicate ourselves to be an educated workforce striving to meet the community's and our employees' changing needs.

Honesty – We will conduct ourselves in an honest manner and be transparent in our interactions.

Ownership – Ownership of our department will be expressed through tradition, loyalty, and dedication.

Trust – We will earn and maintain trust through integrity, our actions, and holding to commitments.

Meridian Fire Department

33 E. BROADWAY, SUITE 210 , MERIDIAN, ID 83642

Phone 208-888-1234

Fax 208-895-0390

www.meridianscity.org