

2013



CAL FIRE

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection serves and safeguards the people and protects the property and resources of California.

Chief Steven Shaw

Yucaipa Fire and Paramedic Department

Semi-Annual Report

January 1 through June 30, 2013

Fire Chief Personal note:

With one of the driest winters on record, California's 2013 fire season has resulted in a very active season. In May, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted the year's last snow survey, which showed the snowpack at only 17 percent of normal. The lack of winter rains has resulted in dry conditions across the state including the foothills surrounding Yucaipa. This has led to a number of unseasonably large wildfires early in the year and a continued trend of above normal fire activity.

Wildland fires are a threat in any fire season. This year we have experienced several fires in and around Yucaipa including the Wildwood fire near Canyon Drive and Wildwood Canyon Road. This early morning fire burned just over twenty five acres and was caused by a bird arching power lines.

The Crafton fire which started behind the Yucaipa Regional Park burned six acres and had the potential to burn several hundred acres. Quick action by our firefighters and a significant resource commitment kept this fire in check.

Most recently the fast moving Mill fire which started alongside Hwy 38 quickly spread onto the Crafton Hills and then moved south east into the City. This fire caused the evacuation order of hundreds of residents including several road closures. Quick and decisive actions taken by CAL FIRE/Yucaipa Fire and Paramedic Department, the San Bernardino County Sheriff Department/Yucaipa PD and City Management quickly mitigated the fire. Once the smoke cleared and as we assessed the damages we determined that there were no significant injuries or deaths and although there were a few homes that sustained damage none were major. This fire was determined to be human caused and thankfully a suspect was arrested.

Mitigating wildfires takes an enormous amount of effort and resources. To this end, CAL FIRE/Yucaipa Fire and Paramedic Department's objective is to quickly and aggressively attack all unwanted fires in that area where we have primary direct protection responsibility and to continue aggressive suppression operations until the fire is under control.

The prognosis for the rest of the fire season is not good. The dryness of the fuels available for Wildland fire consumption is at record lows. This fact coupled with hot temperatures and strong winds set the scenario for future conflagrations.

What this means for the fire and paramedic department; we will continue to get the fire prevention and disaster preparation word out in order to educate our citizens. We will accomplish this in conjunction with the Police Department and the city disaster preparedness personnel through the various media outlets both locally and regionally. We will take every opportunity to educate our citizens so they will have the tools they need in order to deal the threat of Wildland fire including the "Ready – Set – Go" program and the "one less spark one less wildfire" awareness campaign.

What this means for our citizens; citizens can increase their survivability by preparing well in advance of a wildfire. Citizens must adhere to guidelines and laws that create a defensible space around their homes. In addition they must prepare their families to leave early and evacuate well ahead of the Wildland fire.

This fire season is far from finished; I am committed and will continue work collectively within our partnerships and within our citizenry to significantly reduce the risk of the Wildland fire threat in our community.

Accomplishments:

The fire and paramedic department continues to meet or exceed national standard regarding response time for service delivery, averaging a five minute response time anywhere in the city including Oak Glen. Delivering fire and paramedic services quickly and efficiently ultimately saves lives and property.

Yucaipa Fire and Paramedic Department has been very fortunate to maintain our existing fire and paramedic service levels all the while experiencing a continued economic downturn. During this time the fire and paramedic department has continued under budget.

Goals:

Insurance Services Office; In an effort meant to reduce our citizen's fire protection insurance costs, with the assistance from the Insurance Services Office (ISO), this year we will be conducting an analysis of the Yucaipa Fire and Paramedic Department for public fire protection capabilities.

The fire department PPC is currently assigned a five (5) rating. Due to the improvements to the fire department emergency communications along with other improvements, the fire department may be eligible for a better PPC. Our goal is to have this completed by early December.

Grant update:

The City of Yucaipa Fire Department has been invited to submit a full grant application through the Federal Emergency Management Agency - Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program - to construct seismic retrofit components in the engine bay of Fire Station 2. Invitations are extended to communities and projects that have exhibited a long term commitment to mitigate risks associated with local and regional hazards. Award of this grant will provide a level of disaster resilience to this critical facility and offer long-term financial and social benefits to the community.

Paramedic Program:

Our paramedics continue to assist the Crafton Hills College paramedic program in order to prepare new paramedics for the future. In 2013 the department took on two EMT-Paramedic interns from Crafton Hills, in addition we took on three Emergency Medical Technician's as part of our ride out program with Crafton Hills College.

We will continue working with Crafton Hills College, with a goal of offering joint classes, training more Emergency Medical Technician and Paramedic students, participating in lectures.

Fire Department Training:

The department career staff spent over two thousand and forty two hours in formal and informal training sessions both field and in clinical settings.

Reserve firefighter staff spent over one thousand hours on responses and completed over five hundred hours of training both field and in clinical settings.

Emergency calls, trends:

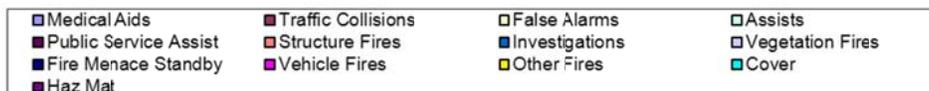
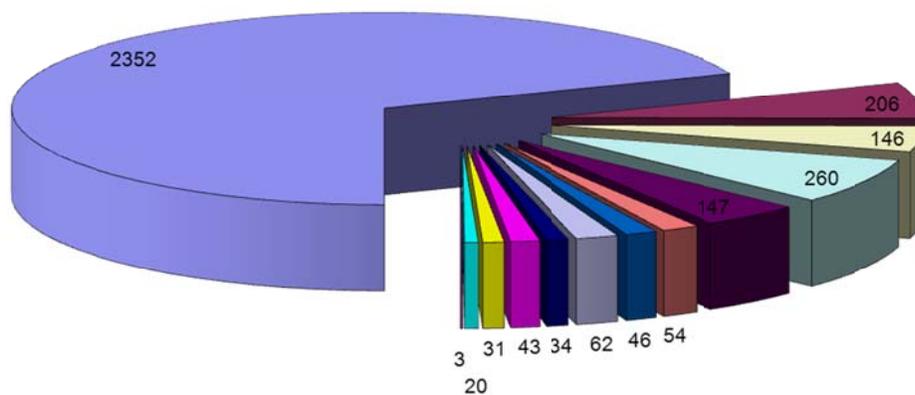
For the period of January through the end of June 2013, there were a total of 3404 responses for an average of 18.7 responses per day in the City.

For the period of January through the end of June 2012, there were a total of 3197 responses for an average of 17.5 responses per day in the City.

In total, calls for service are slightly up from this time last year.

Total Responses by Call Type:

Total responses City wide by call type



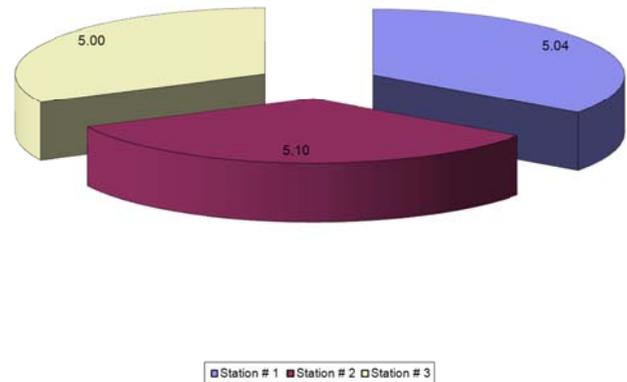
Response time:

Currently response times average 5.05 minutes to all corners of the City. This is slightly higher from the last report when the average response times were 4.41 and still well within industry standards.

The highest response times are calls for service into the furthest East portion of the City at Wildwood Canyon and Oak Glen Rd.

Average Response Time by Fire Station:

2013 Average Response Times



Fire Prevention activities/programs:

Fire station personnel inspected hundreds of businesses in order to bring them in to fire safety compliance. Fire station personnel inspected hundreds of properties in Oak Glen and surrounding areas for defensible space compliance. Fire Station personnel conducted numerous school programs and station tours.

