



Clark County
FIRE & RESCUE

MONTHLY REPORT

From: Chief Dennis Mason

To: Mayors, Council Members and Commissioners

Date: *Year-end/December, 2013*

GENERAL INFORMATION

Fire District Awarded SAFER Grant

FEMA notified the District that it was awarded a \$620,000 SAFER Grant to hire 4 firefighters. The grant will cover all salaries and benefits for the firefighters for the next 2 years.

Similar to the COPS Grants for law enforcement, SAFER Grants are designed to provide communities with needed firefighters and allow hiring sooner than would be possible under normal financial constraints. It is hoped that the District will be able to continue the firefighter's employment after the grant expires. The grant has no requirements to continue employment following its expiration.

New Battle Ground Engine Delivered

The new KME fire engine was delivered to the City and is currently in the process of having finishing touches completed and equipment installed such as radios, mobile data computers, head-sets, etc.



The new engine will be presented and on display at Battle Ground's March 3rd City Council Meeting and will officially go in service on March 4th. Cost of the new engine, not including most of the equipment, was just over \$500,000.

OPERATIONS

New Fire/Rescue Boat Delivered

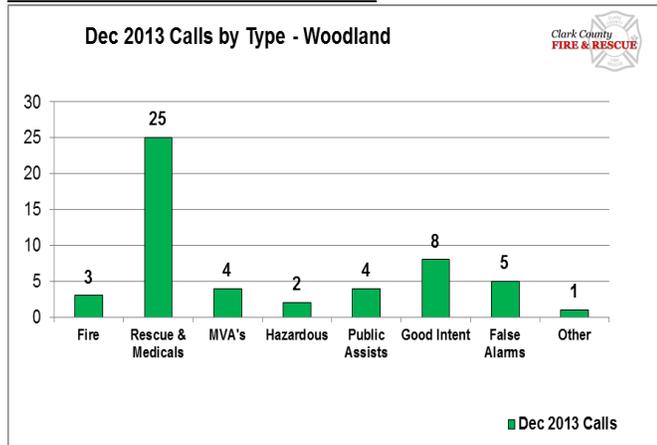
The District took delivery of its new 30' Fire/Rescue boat in December.



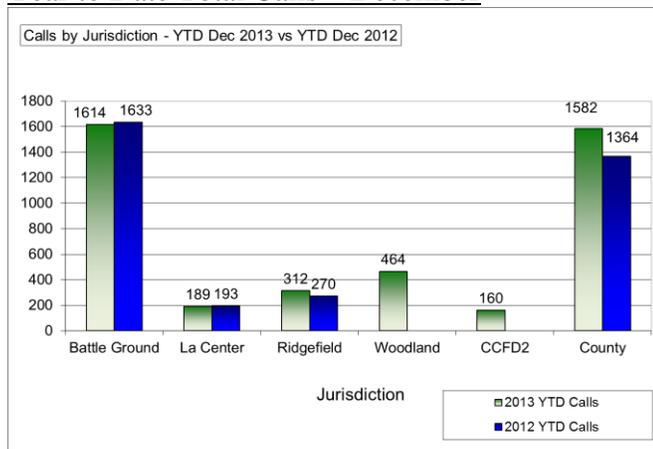
The new vessel will be housed in the district's new boathouse at the Ridgefield Marina. A dedication and christening ceremony is scheduled for March 14th. The name of the new vessel is the **Mary Firstenburg** in honor of the Firstenburg family's contributions to the Ridgefield area and the first bank location in Clark County.

The vessel was funded through FEMA's Port Security Grant Program and is one of three vessels awarded to CCF&R, Vancouver Fire and the Port of Astoria.

December Calls – Woodland



Year to Date Total Calls – December



New Radios and MDCs Installed

The new portable 800 MHz radios and the Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) have now been installed in all apparatus. The \$488,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) through FEMA allowed the District to replace all of its aging portable radios and mobile computers. A total of 72 radios and 22 MDCs were purchased.

TRAINING

Nothing to Report

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Ambulance Service at Risk

After extending the current ambulance contract with AMR through the end of 2014 to allow the completion of the RFP process next year, an additional extension is currently being considered following a preliminary report by J. Fitch and Associates, the consulting firm hired by the City of Vancouver.

Just as predicted, preliminary financial analysis of Vancouver's decision to split from EMS District 2 shows that the remaining areas of District 2 that include the Cities of Ridgefield, Battle Ground, La Center and Woodland will have a very difficult time financially supporting ambulance services for their areas. When Vancouver broke from EMS District 2 it took approximately 74% of the ambulance transports with it. Representatives of EMS District 2 are working with the 3 fire agencies to review all options including negotiating a long-term extension of the current ambulance contract.

We will be setting up a workshop with each of the affected cities and fire commissioners to discuss all options and how best to proceed.

911 COMMUNICATIONS

Nothing to report.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

The District conducted two station tours and four engine tours during December.

REGION IV HOMELAND SECURITY COUNCIL

Nothing new to report