



Burlington Fire Department Monthly Report July 2013

Training

In July we had 53.5 hours of training. We had Iowa State Trooper Jason Marlow in on each shift to cover safe driving. He covered Iowa's laws that pertain to emergency driving as well as safe driving habits. He also covered traffic accident scene management.

Each shift also held a class covering the various types of nozzles we use on the fire ground. They reviewed our "everyday" use handline nozzles all the way up to the aerial mounted nozzles we use at the "big one". Each shift assigned members as instructors.

Capt. Whitaker held a class on 1st Shift called "Calling the Mayday". It is a firefighter survival class that not only teaches when a firefighter should call for help but teaches practical skills on self-rescue. Firefighters spent time both in the classroom and practicing skills using various props built by shift members.

Fire Prevention

There were 19 inspections/re-inspections completed in July. We installed 11 smoke detectors as well. We had one house fire in July where the presence of working smoke detectors made a significant difference in the possible outcome of the fire. By providing early warning to the residents, including one who was sleeping, we were able to respond quickly and limit damage to the home. We also had one fire where the presence of working smoke detectors may have limited the damage and spared the life a family pet.

Operations

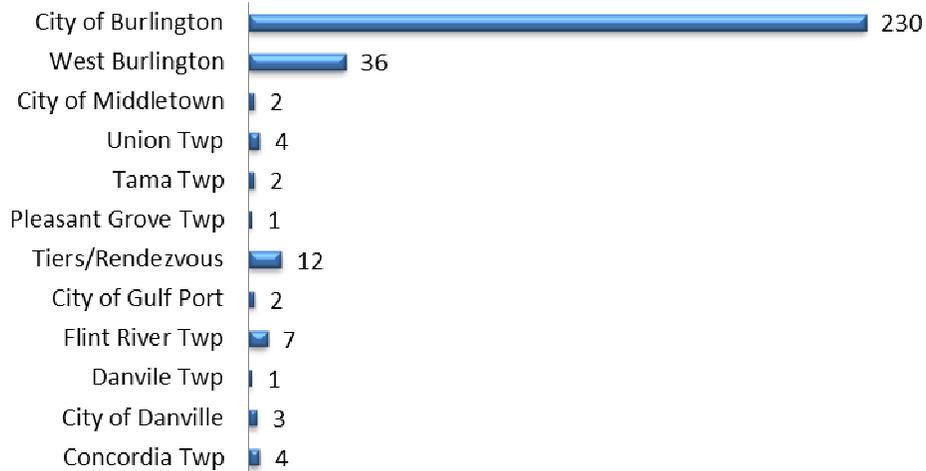
Hose testing was completed for 2013 in July. Hose testing is an annual process that we complete in-house. All in-service hose must be tested each year. It consists of laying out 300' sections of hose and charging them to specified test pressures. Once charged, each section is checked for damage. If repair is possible we also do that in-house. We tested 14,198 feet (2.69 miles) of fire hose.

We took delivery of a new ambulance on July 30th. While we have not had time to truly evaluate it, the ambulance appears to be of a much higher quality than previous deliveries. The “working” part (box) of the ambulance is pretty much the same layout and size that we have used for years, which is great for continuity and familiarity of equipment location. The chassis, however, is a departure from anything we have purchased in the last 20 years. It is a 4-wheel drive Ford F450 versus a heavy-duty commercial chassis. We are currently on a 3-year replacement cycle. With a 5 ambulance inventory we will be keeping each ambulance about 15 years. We are trying to sell a 1999 ambulance with 213,000 miles.

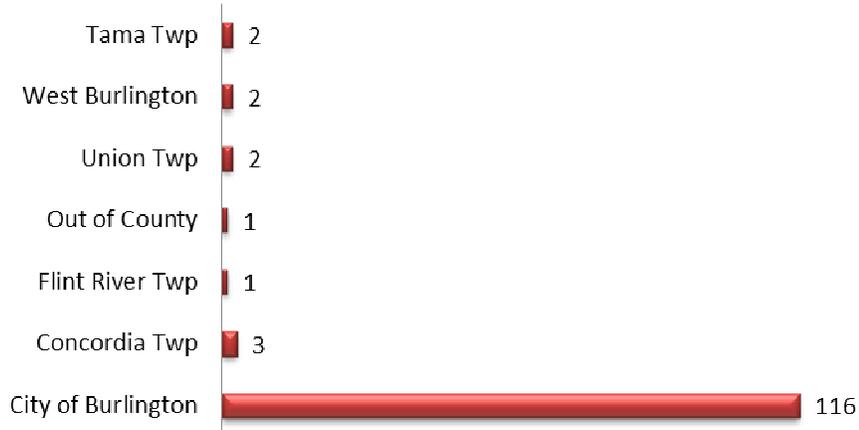
July marked the end of our riverfront clean-up for 2013. We added another 126 hours to the total hours dedicated to cleaning up the sidewalks and parking lots along the river.

<u>Incident Type</u>	<u>July 2013</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
Building Fire	5	30
Vehicle Fire	2	10
Brush Fire	1	12
EMS	59	424
Illegal Burning	8	40
Other	50	298
Ambulance	304	2037

Ambulance Calls by response area



Fire responses by area



Other Activities

- July 6th and 7th crews participated in the Pink Heals events
- July 22nd BC Morris and I attended the Des Moines County Firefighters Association Meeting

Sincerely,

Matt Trexel

Fire Chief