



Sierra Madre Fire
Department
2013 Annual Report



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Message from the Fire Chief

Chief's Message

Let me begin by thanking the men and women of the Sierra Madre Fire Department for their dedication and professionalism throughout 2013. Service to our community has been the central value of the Sierra Madre Fire Department since our founding in 1921. Our members all demonstrate professionalism, integrity and commitment to protecting the citizens of Sierra Madre.

Our combination department, with both career members and volunteer members, is made up of a diverse and talented group of individuals. Through excellent training, strong camaraderie, and dedication to serving our neighbors, the men and women of the Sierra Madre Fire Department stand ready in preparedness to meet the needs of our neighbors. As part of a larger emergency response community, we serve alongside the neighboring communities and the fire service throughout the state of California through the mutual aid system.

As Fire Chief, I would encourage our residents to drop by the fire station and take the time to meet the men and women of our Fire Department. Many of these numbers are "neighbors helping neighbors". In addition, I would encourage everyone in Sierra Madre to find out ways to be part of our program to help make Sierra Madre a safer community. We offer public education programs, and we encourage the efforts of the CERT program. Also for those who are able, and we are always looking for new persons to train for the service on our department.

The members of the Sierra Madre Fire Department are proud of our traditions and those of the fire service. We take pride in the delivery of fire prevention, fire control, emergency medical care and public education services with an unconditional commitment to those we serve.

Stephen F. Heydorff

Fire Chief



Mission Statement

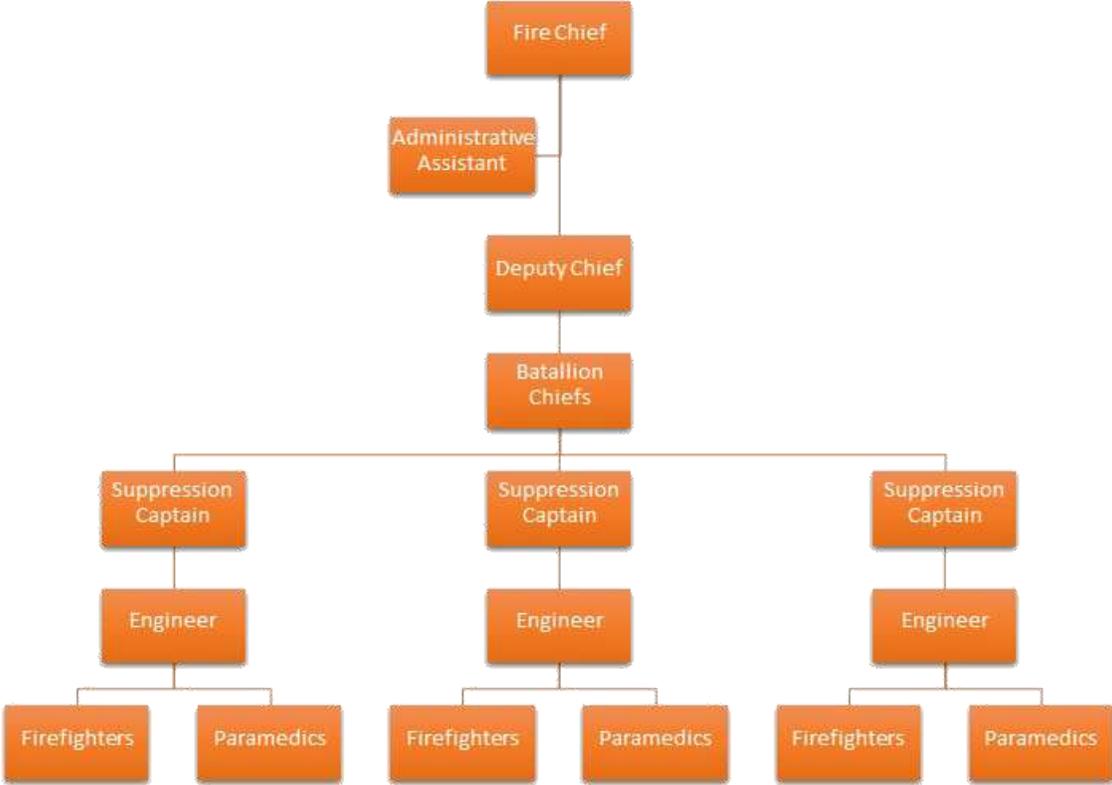
“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

The mission of the Sierra Madre Fire Department is to provide superior community service through the delivery of fire prevention, fire control, and emergency medical and public education services.

We will support our mission with an absolute commitment to community service, customer support, cost effective operation, training, and education.

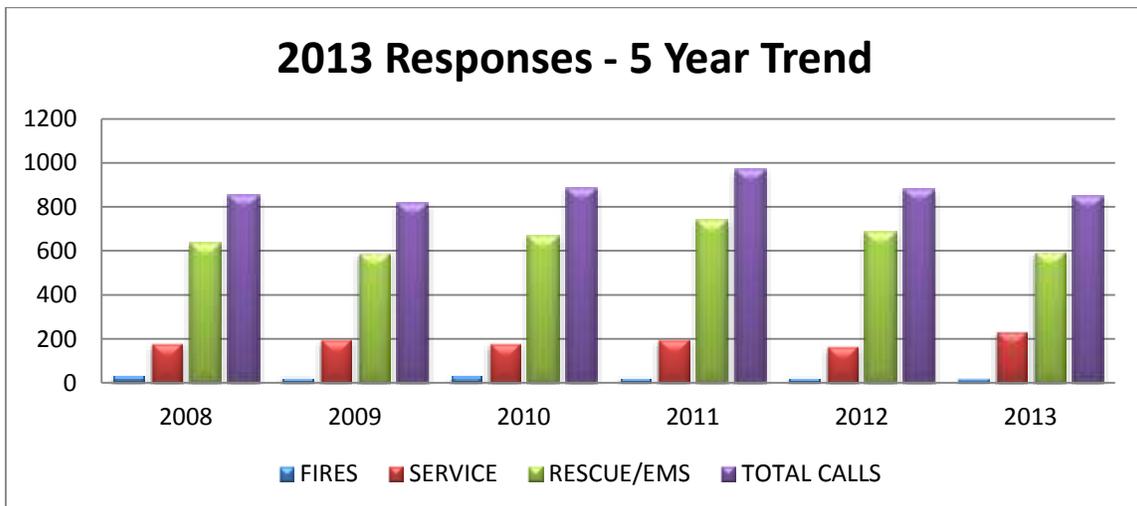


Organizational Chart



Statistical Summary

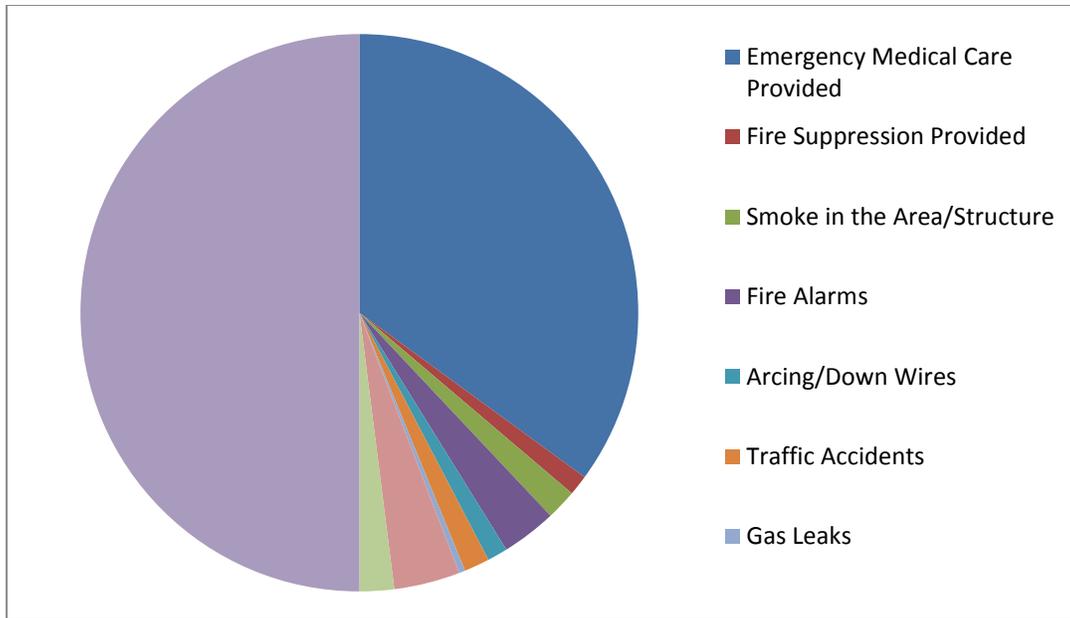
Population:	11,016
Area:	3.06 sq. miles
Assessed Property Valuation:	\$1.64 Billion
Fire Personnel - Full Time	4
Fire Personnel - Part Time	6
Fire Personnel - Volunteer	34
Paramedic Personnel - Part Time	25
Fire/EMS Budget 2012-2013:	\$1,635,263
Emergency Responses 2013:	849
Fires in 2013:	20
Fire Loss:	\$13,012
Fire Loss per Capita:	\$1.20
Fire Budget per Capita:	\$148.44
Average Response Time Fire:	5:04
Average Response Time EMS:	4:04



Responses by Action Taken

<u>Response</u>	<u>Incident Total</u>	<u>%</u>
Emergency Medical Care Provided	595	70%
Fire Suppression Provided	20	2%
Smoke in the Area/Structure	30	4%
Fire Alarms	54	6%
Arcing/Down Wires	20	2%
Traffic Accidents	25	3%
Gas Leaks	6	1%
Other	65	8%
Rescue Other	34	4%
Total	849	100%





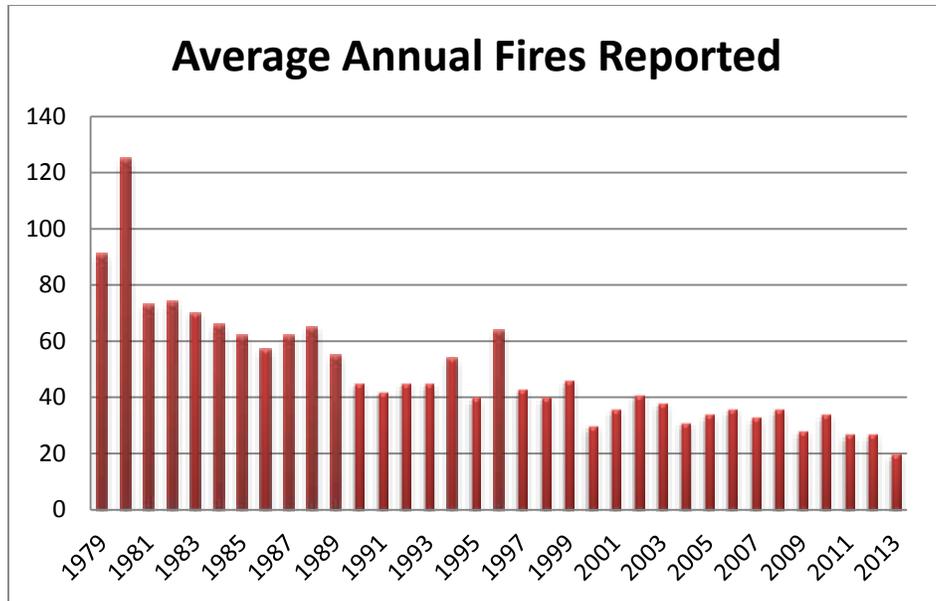
Fire Prevention

The safest and most cost effective method in minimizing losses from fire is to prevent them from occurring in the first place. That is the role of the Fire Prevention Bureau staffed by Fire Marshal Richard Snyder. The Bureau takes a proactive approach to fire safety by reviewing building construction plans, fire sprinkler and fire alarm installations, as well as pre-fire and disaster planning. Through fire and life safety inspections of commercial, public and multi-residential properties, hazardous brush mitigation in the wild land interface, and fire safety education programs, the Bureau strives to prevent the development of conditions that could lead to large fire losses.

Due to the relatively small size of Sierra Madre and the low number of fire incidents, it is difficult to derive meaningful conclusions on the effectiveness of our fire prevention efforts based on a single year's statistics. For instance, fire loss per capita for 2013 was \$1.20. The per capita loss in 2008 was \$20.69 per capita with two fires making up the majority of the loss.

Statistical results are more indicative for a small population when trended over a multi-year period. One way to measure the success of fire prevention is to trend the number of yearly fires over multiple years.





Fire Prevention Activities

<u>Activity</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Total Inspections	1728	1739	1983
Violation Notices	146	137	320
Fire Sprinkler Inspections	35	30	62
Fire Permits	27	17	27
Public Education	9	17	27
Plan Checks	108	153	167
Movie Details	17	10	16
Fire Drills	3	1	0



Emergency Medical Services

In 2013 the Sierra Madre Fire Department Emergency Medical Services Division – Paramedic Program responded to 595 calls for service, accounting for 70% of the total calls for service for the department. Currently, the Sierra Madre Fire Department has in its employee 44 fire suppression personnel, and 25 Paramedics; of those fire suppression personnel, all 44 are trained Emergency Medical Technicians. In addition to the EMT’s, the department employees 25 State of California licensed Paramedics, and they are all accredited with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. All Sierra Madre Fire Department personnel, both EMT and Paramedic, must maintain current accreditation and licensure throughout their tenure with the Sierra Madre Fire Department. Training to maintain this accreditation and licensure requires each individual to attend a minimum of 48 hours of continuing education in emergency medicine every two years.

In June 2013, the Sierra Madre Fire Department Paramedic Program completed its sixth annual Paramedic Program review - audit with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. The Sierra Madre Fire Department Paramedic Program completed, and passed the audit with 100% compliance in all review areas, and with no additional follow-up required from the Department of Health Services.

The Sierra Madre Fire Department Paramedic Program maintains the “full scope of practice” authorized by the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Our department meets all of the State of California requirements for Paramedic Service; as well as, provides all of the Los Angeles County Scope of Practice; to include “non-required” equipment and skills. These additional items are as follows: CPAP (continuous positive air pressure) device and training. This device can be crucial in the emergency treatment of certain airway related problems, such as asthma, or cardiac problems related to congestive heart failure. The Sierra Madre Paramedics also carry and train in the use of I/O (intraosseous infusion systems). These devices are used to assist with the critical infusion of fluids and drugs when using an intravenous catheter is not possible. The I/O system is extremely effective and fast in obtaining vascular access during infant and pediatric resuscitation.

In addition to the CPAP and I/O devices, the Sierra Madre Fire Department Paramedics also carry on board a defibrillator capable of providing transcutaneous pacing and wave-form capnography reading. The transcutaneous pacing allows a paramedic to attach external “pace-maker” pads to a patient in the event of certain heart related problems necessary for the use of a cardiac pacemaker. The wave-form capnography device allows the paramedics to monitor a patient's CO2 expiration during major resuscitation while the patient is intubated (tube placed



into the trachea of a patient to facilitate breathing and protect the airway). This device allows the paramedics to maintain a protected airway throughout the resuscitation attempt; as well as, monitor patients CO2 levels simultaneously.

Training

A fire department cannot maintain a “state of readiness” without all of the members of the fire department being equipped to handle any potential call for service. The best way for a fire department to make sure all of its members are ready for any specific call for service is through constant and routine training. All of the members of the Sierra Madre Fire Department are required to attend regular training sessions in a variety of subjects related to the fire service. Each member of the Fire Department is also encouraged to maintain a healthy mind and body through routine physical exercise. The Sierra Madre Fire Department places a very high priority on training. When not fighting fires or providing medical aid; each member of this department spends a majority of his or her time training during their tour of duty.

In 2010, the members of the Sierra Madre Fire Department who participated in fire suppression and emergency medical services; participated in a total of 5,090 hours of training. A further breakdown of this statistic shows the fire department as a group averaged 425 hours of training per month; and 6.2 hours of training per month, per individual. Fire suppression personnel (excluding single-role paramedics) averaged 120 hours of training each for the year, and averaged 9.6 hours per month of individual training. In 2013 the Sierra Madre Fire Department personnel participated in “in-house” department training; as well as, training provided by the Rio Hondo Fire Academy, and Northtree Fire International. Some of the major fire department trainings that were conducted in 2013 were: RIC (Rapid Intervention Crew) tactics and training (24-hour class). This class provided required knowledge and training to our personnel to assist and provide immediate rescue in the case of a downed firefighter during a fire and or rescue incident.

Other significant courses were RS1 (Rescue Systems 1) this is a 40-hour class. This course is required of every member of the Sierra Madre Fire Department, and is mandatory training for any firefighter who responds to a request for service by the State of California Office of Emergency Services. This course concentrates on low-angle rope systems, rappelling, the use of heavy timber for shoring buildings in the event of collapse, and the training to remove and lift heavy objects, such as cement slabs and walls in the event of earthquake, or other significant major events. The Sierra Madre Fire Department also participated in “live-fire” training utilizing the Northtree Fire International live fire trainer. This training trailer provides our personnel with invaluable experience fighting live fire in a controlled environment. This live fire training



unit is also environmentally friendly in that it utilizes clean burning propane fuel to provide for the live fire.

The Fire Department develops and adheres to a detailed training calendar that is updated annually. The training calendar is a guideline for each individual member of the Sierra Madre Fire Department to follow in order to maintain minimum training hours and standards. Each individual member of the fire department must try to obtain the NPFPA (National Fire Protection Agency) recommended annual training hours of 240 hours, and may not drop below 120 hours of annual individual training. Each member of the Sierra Madre Fire Department is responsible to attend a monthly fire suppression drill; as well as, a monthly emergency medical training class. Daily training exercises take place at the engine company level 365 days per year.



Accomplishments

- Enhanced the Sierra Madre Fire Training to attract and train additional volunteer firefighter recruits.
- Retained volunteer firefighters with the continued membership in the Volunteer Length of Service Award.
- Restructured the Fire Department to improve services and response times to the community.
- Updated preplans for the schools, churches, commercial zones, and the City's interface zone.
- Continued cooperation with and supported the Sierra Madre Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program.
- Created a department newsletter to bolster inter-department communication and morale.
- Inspected 253 commercial buildings to ensure compliance with local Fire Codes.



2013 Year in Review

On behalf of the Sierra Madre Fire Department, it has been my pleasure to present to you the 2013 Annual Report. This report includes the Department's activities and accomplishments for the year. As shown throughout this report, the Department continues to strive to stand ready in preparedness to meet the needs of our community. Our volunteers and administrative staff all come together to ensure the highest level of safety and care to our citizens and visitors alike.

Department members participated in a total of 5,090 hours of training. The Fire Prevention Bureau conducted 2,365 inspections. I am pleased to announce that our Emergency Medical Services division has completed its sixth Paramedic Program audit review, and has successfully passed with 100% compliance in all review areas. Due to their dedicated efforts of working alongside other city departments, the City of Sierra Madre is among one of the safest in the San Gabriel Valley.

In 2013, our staff welcomed a new part-time Administrative Assistant. An inter-department biweekly newsletter was developed for the benefit of current and former members of staff. The newsletter provides the department with information on recent call activity, upcoming training and events, and the history of the department.

The Sierra Madre Firefighters Volunteer Association continues to play an active role in the community through the sponsoring of several different community events throughout the year; such as the Annual Pancake Breakfast and the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Other Department sponsored events included our Annual Fireman's Dance and our Christmas Stocking Give-away; as well, the Sierra Madre firefighters participated in fund raising events for good causes. In October, many of our staff participated in Breast Cancer Awareness Month, through the sale and wearing of pink department t-shirts, in an effort to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer research.

Our continued appreciation of the support of Sierra Madre residents, City Council and management staff cannot be overstated. Once again, I'd like to thank the men and women of the Sierra Madre Fire Department for their dedication and hard work in 2010.

Stephen F. Heydorff

Fire Chief

