



Sierra Madre Fire  
Department  
2014 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 2014. 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.

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

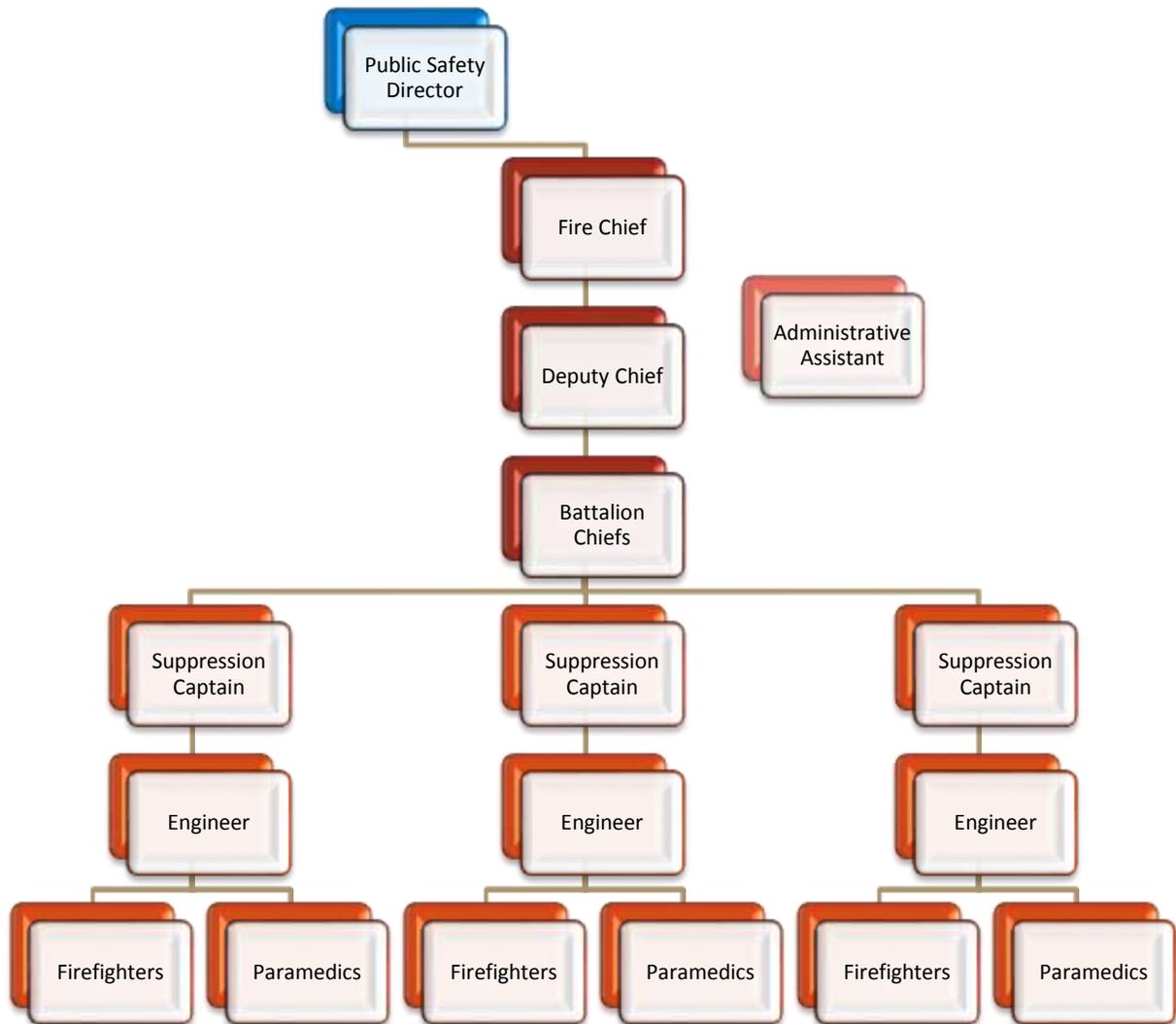
“Neighbors Helping Neighbors”

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.



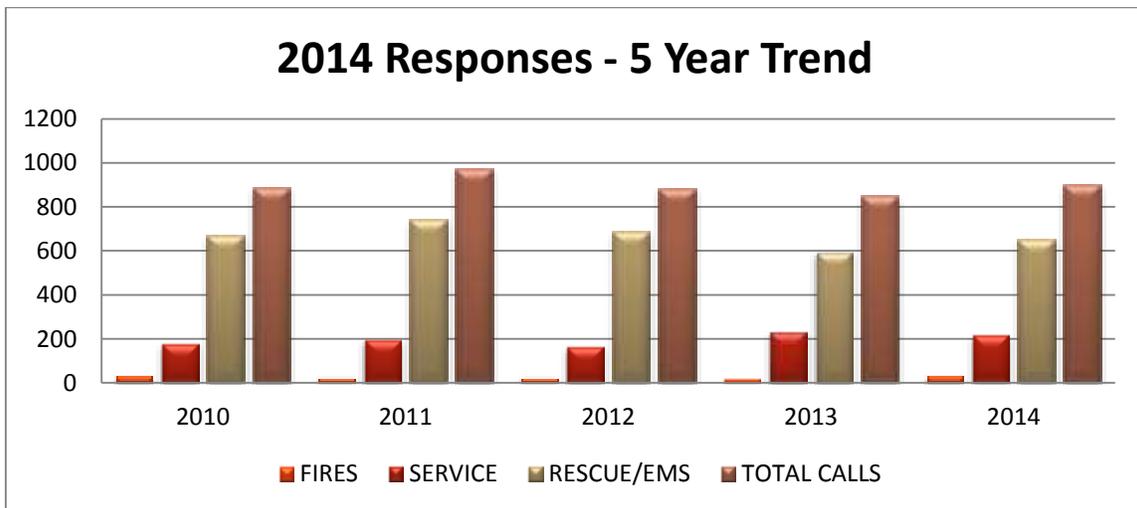
# Organizational Chart





# Statistical Summary

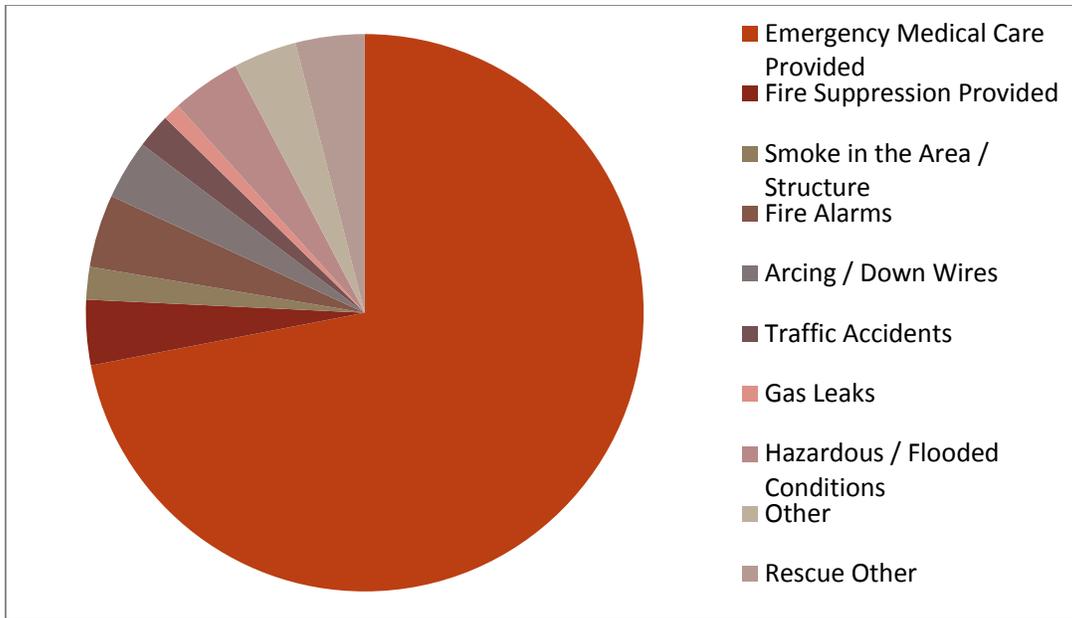
Population:	11,056
Area:	3.06 sq. miles
Assessed Property Valuation:	\$1.58 billion
Fire Personnel - Full Time	4
Fire Personnel - Part Time	6
Fire Personnel - Volunteer	27
Paramedic Personnel - Part Time	21
Fire/EMS Budget 2013-2014:	\$1,657,760.00
Emergency Responses 2014:	899
Fires in 2014:	34
Fire Loss:	\$145,017.00
Fire Loss per Capita:	\$13.12
Fire Budget per Capita:	\$149.94
Average Response Time Fire:	4:44
Average Response Time EMS:	4:44



# Responses by Action Taken

<u>Response</u>	<u>Incident Total</u>	<u>%</u>
Emergency Medical Care Provided	647	72%
Fire Suppression Provided	34	4%
Smoke in the Area / Structure	17	2%
Fire Alarms	38	4%
Arcing / Down Wires	31	3%
Traffic Accidents	18	2%
Gas Leaks	9	1%
Hazardous / Flooded Condition	36	4%
Other	33	4%
Rescue Other	36	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>100%</b>





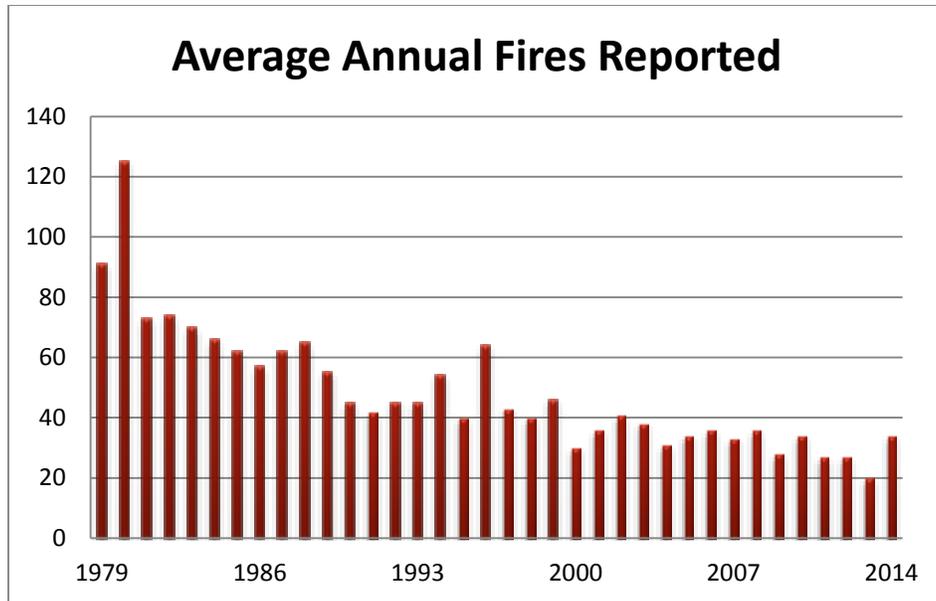
## Fire Prevention

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 Captain 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 2014 was \$13.12. The fire loss per capita in 2013 was \$1.20, while in 2008 fire loss per capita was \$20.69 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

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>
Total Inspections	1739	1983	1757
Violation Notices	137	320	126
Fire Sprinkler Inspections	30	62	40
Fire Permits	17	27	17
Public Education	17	27	17
Plan Checks	153	167	226
Movie Details	10	16	0
Fire Drills	1	0	3



# Emergency Medical Services

In 2014 the Sierra Madre Fire Department Emergency Medical Services Division / Paramedic Program responded to 647 calls for service, accounting for 72% of the total calls for service for the department. Currently, the Sierra Madre Fire Department has on its roster 36 fire suppression personnel, and 21 Paramedics; of those fire suppression personnel, all 36 are trained Emergency Medical Technicians. In addition to the EMT's, the department employees 21 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 2014, the Sierra Madre Fire Department Paramedic Program completed its seventh 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 2014, the members of the Sierra Madre Fire Department participated in a total of 6,286 hours of training. A further breakdown of this statistic shows the fire department as a group averaged 524 hours of training per month; and 9 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 10 hours per month of individual training. In 2014, Sierra Madre Fire Department personnel participated in FRO (First Responder Operations) training, an 8 hour class designed for personnel who respond to the release or potential release of hazardous materials. The course describes the potential types of hazardous materials and wastes that may be encountered, how hazardous properties are communicated, and initial response steps.

Other significant training included the completion of the SMART Classroom, a utility initiated by the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs’ Association, which is designed to standardize training information and exercises in Los Angeles County. The SMART Classroom is funded by a grant accepted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors from the 2012 Homeland Security Grant Program. The Fire Department also had an opportunity for training prior to the scheduled demolition of 5 homes located on West Montecito. Over the course of 5 days, the Fire Department practiced forcible entry, ventilation, and hose tactics.

In the early months of 2015, the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs’ Association will be opening a training site in Monrovia as part of their Regional Training Group (RTG). The Sierra Madre Fire Department will have the opportunity to participate in live training exercises that includes ladder drills, hose lays, and a mask confidence course.



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.
- Updated preplans for the schools, churches, commercial zones, and the City's interface zone.
- Completed and issued the revised Sierra Madre Fire Department Fire Policy Manual.
- Completed installation of the SMART Classroom training utility, purchased with a grant through the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs' Association.
- Continued cooperation with and supported the Sierra Madre Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program.
- Installed a 2,000 gallon Porta Tank on the Water Tender using funds donated by the Berger Foundation to the Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters' Association in the mid 1990's.
- Hosted several Educational Fairs on Fire and Emergency Preparedness.
- Renewed over 550 members to the Paramedic Subscription Program.
- Completed Phos-Check around Chantry Flat, Rose Bowl, and La Verne.



## 2014 Year in Review

On behalf of the Sierra Madre Fire Department, it has been my pleasure to present to you the 2014 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 6,286 hours of training. The Fire Prevention Bureau conducted 1,757 inspections. I am pleased to announce that our Emergency Medical Services division has completed its seventh Paramedic Program audit review, and has successfully passed with 100% compliance in all review areas. Response times for both the Engine and RA have decreased to less than 5 minutes on average.

In 2014, the City of Sierra Madre experienced a reorganization of several departments including the Fire Department. The position of a Public Safety Director was created, to be filled by the current Police Chief. The Public Safety Director oversees the Police and Fire Department, with the Fire Chief responding directly to the Director.

The Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters' Association continues to play an active role in the community through the sponsoring of 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 2014.

Stephen F. Heydorff

Fire Chief

