

**Kernersville  
Fire Rescue**

**2012**

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**Annual Report**



# ***Message from the Fire Chief***

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As the Chief of the Kernersville Fire Rescue Department, it is my privilege to submit the department's Annual Report for 2012. The brief overview of facts, figures and descriptions found in the following pages represent literally thousands of hours of work put forth by the department's personnel toward our goal of providing the citizens of Kernersville with a safe community in which to live, work, and play.

The economy continued to present challenges for the community in 2012. Even with a tightened budget, the department has been able to maintain its staffing. Our personnel are regarded as our greatest asset and our most effective "tool". Their professionalism and compassion coupled with continued support from our citizenry has allowed us to maintain the levels of service that our community deserves and has come to expect.

Fortunately, in July of 2012 we were afforded the opportunity to replace an aging apparatus in our fleet, a 1990 Grumman Aerial Platform, with a safer, more reliable, and more versatile aerial platform. Our apparatus replacement committee has performed countless hours of research that provided the insight for the new Aerial purchase specifications that were completed in December of 2012. This welcomed replacement should be on site and in service by the end of 2013 and should meet the growing needs of this community for years to come.

We were also able to purchase a parcel of land located at 1815 Teague Lane that will be the future site of Fire Station 44. This is a long term need that will be realized as the southern part of our community builds out.

I am saddened to say that we faced two significant losses in 2012. The first was the death of Sue Dorothy Morris on March 6. She was Kernersville's first fatality due to fire in seven years. A fire in her apartment resulted in the death of her and Sarge, her canine companion. The second was the loss of a great chief, brother, and friend, Fire Rescue Chief Walt Summerville. Chief Summerville died on November 7 of an apparent heart attack.

As 2013 begins, this department stays steadfastly committed to our mission of providing quality service and reducing harm to the Town's residents and guests. We are sincerely appreciative for the continuing support shown by the Mayor, Board of Aldermen, Town Manager and citizens of this great community. Stay safe.

Respectfully Submitted -- Terry L. Crouse, Fire Rescue Chief



## ***In Memoriam***

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On November 7, 2012, Fire Rescue Chief Walt Summerville died of an apparent heart attack. Walt had been in the fire service since 1979. He began his fire career as a part-time firefighter with the Boone Fire Department; serving for 6 years before being hired by the Kernersville Fire Department in January 1987. Over the next 21 years, Walt progressed through the department's ranks, serving as a Captain, Battalion Chief and Assistant Chief before being named Kernersville's Fire Chief in February 2008.



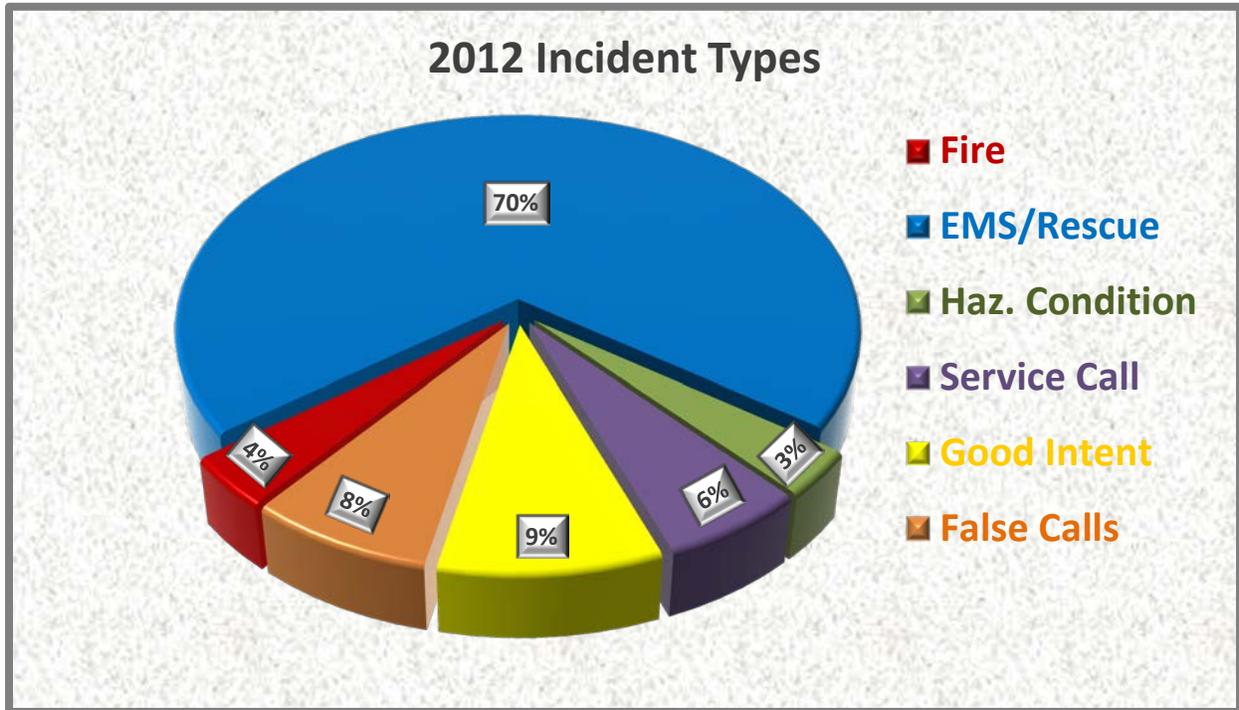
Chief Summerville was an alumnus of Appalachian State University, where he graduated with a degree in Sociology. Walt was also a graduate of Guilford Technical Community College where he earned a degree in Fire Protection Technology. Summerville earned the *Chief Fire Officer Designation*; an internationally recognized professional credential awarded by the Center for Public Safety Excellence and was a graduate of the *Executive Fire Officer Program* at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD.

Walt is survived by his wife, Cheryl, and two daughters, Jennifer and Emily.

For his service to the Kernersville Fire Department and to the Kernersville community, the 2012 Annual Report is dedicated to the honor and memory of Chief Walt Summerville.



# Incident Statistics

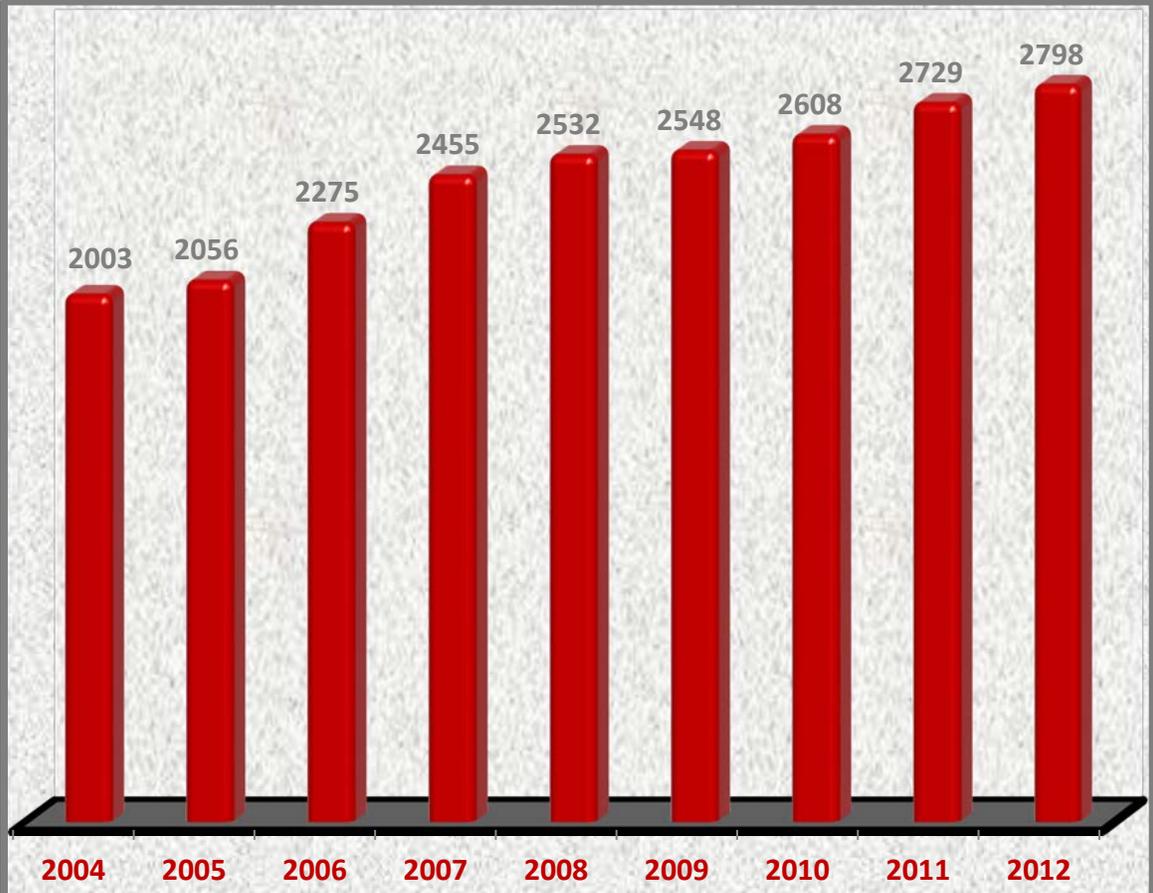


Structure Fires	47	Hazardous Conditions	96
Vehicle Fires	25	Service Calls	170
Grass/Brush Fires	24	Good Intent Calls	260
Trash/Rubbish Fires	12	False Calls	216

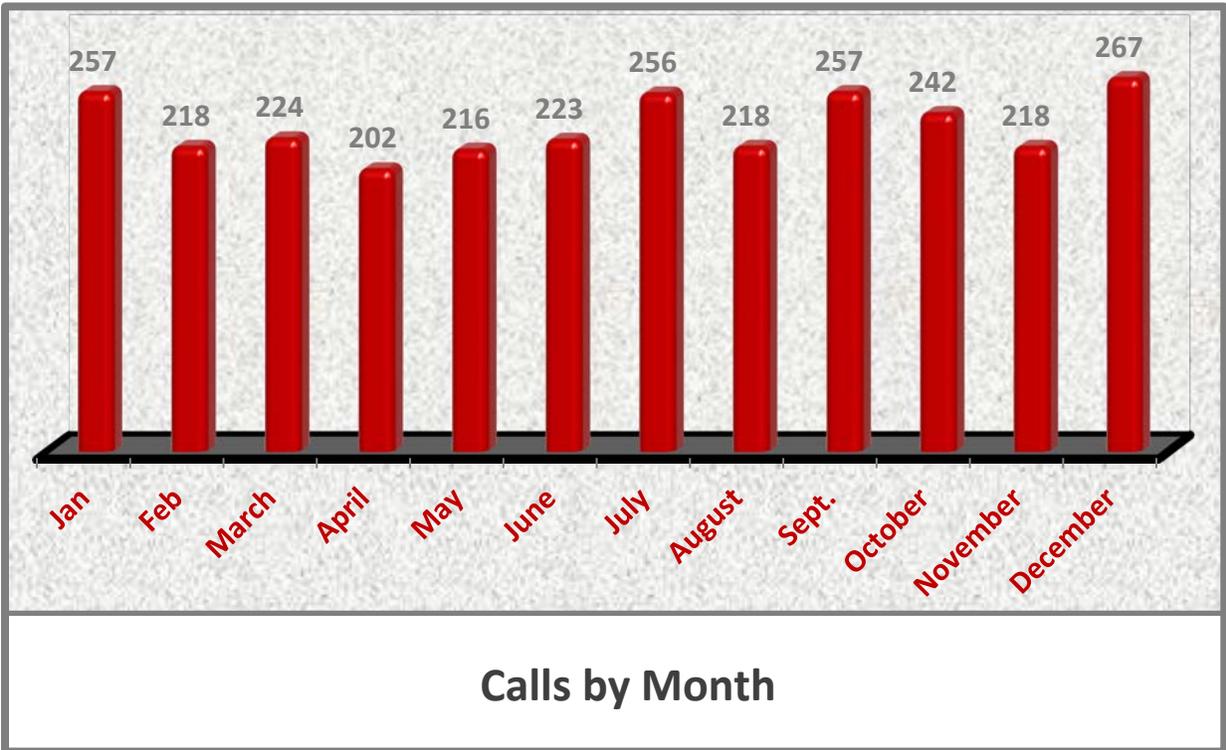
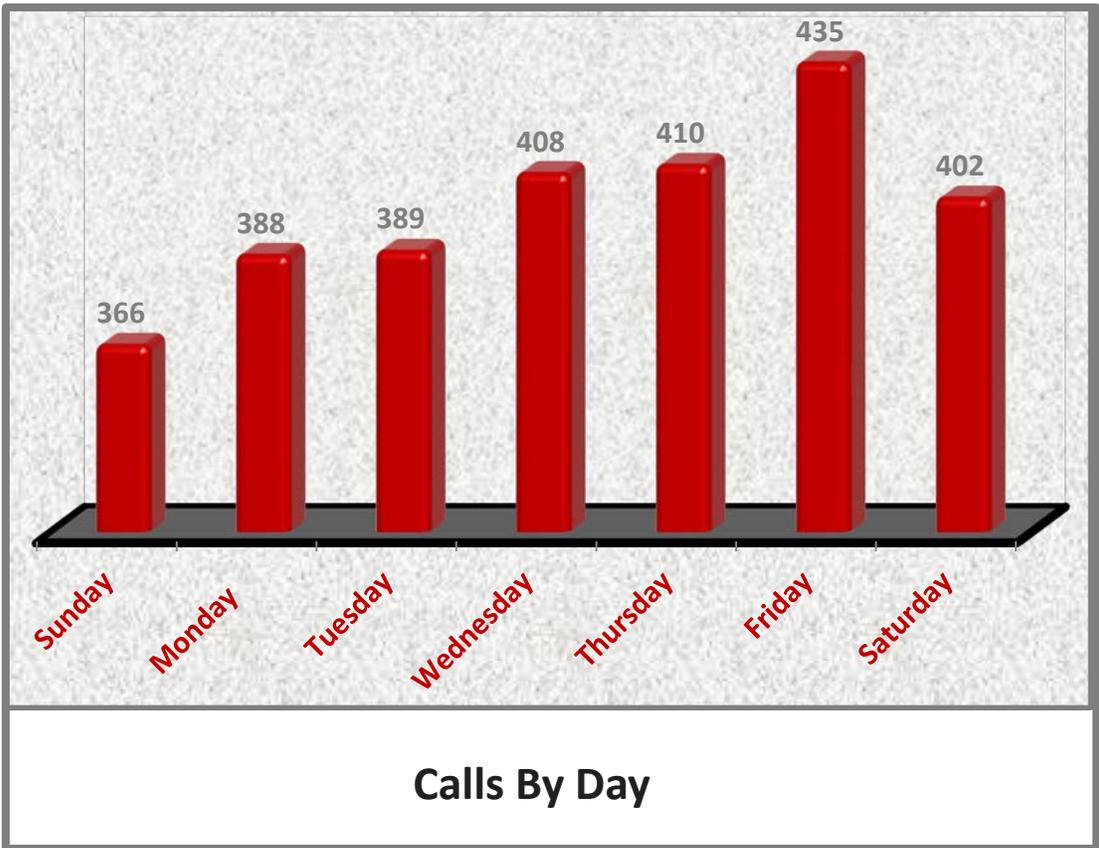
**TOTAL FIRE INCIDENTS      108      TOTAL NON-FIRE CALLS      742**

**TOTAL MEDICAL & RESCUE CALLS    1948**

**TOTAL INCIDENTS    2798**



**Annual Responses 2004 - 2012**



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## **Fire Prevention**

***In 2009 the budget included an additional staff position in the Fire Marshal's Office which allowed the town's fire inspection schedule to meet the requirements put forth by the State of North Carolina. Each year we see instances where current fire inspections have minimized the amount of damage caused by fire and 2012 was no different.***

On January 3, 2012 units responded to 8207 Barn Swallow Lane on a reported apartment fire which was reported as flames coming from the balcony area. Upon the arrival of firefighters, the fire was rapidly extinguished as the properly maintained and inspected sprinkler system had kept the fire from spreading to the wooden balcony itself. Damage was approximately \$2500 and only affected the single apartment.

On January 31, 2012 the wood shingle exterior on the second floor apartments at 150 Woodbine Street ignited due to an improperly discarded cigarette. Fire units arrived to find that a resident had used a fire extinguisher to control the fire, which had grown rapidly prior to extinguishment. Without the presence of the fire extinguisher which was required by the fire code, this building would have rapidly been consumed by fire. Damage was estimated at \$1500 and primarily cosmetic.

On March 1, 2012 a cooking fire was extinguished at the Lindsay Manor Apartments using a code required fire extinguisher. Damage was approximately \$3500 but was contained to the apartment of origin.

On June 5, 2012 a cooking fire was extinguished after causing \$500 in damage at the Pineview Apartments. The occupant used a newly installed fire extinguisher which was required by the fire code. The apartment management had requested to phase in the fire extinguishers but Assistant Fire Marshal Hennequin explained that was not allowed and management installed all fire extinguishers as required. The re-inspection to confirm placement occurred on June 4, 2012, the day before the fire.

On June 27, 2012 fire units were dispatched to an apartment fire with occupants trapped on the third floor of Lake Park Apartments. The callers advised there were smoke and flames visible from the wooden landing and stair area. While the fire department was responding, neighbors utilized code required fire extinguishers and extinguished the majority of the fire allowing occupants to escape unharmed. The Fire Marshal's Office investigation determined the fire to have been intentionally set by an ex-girlfriend of a third floor occupant. The case was closed by arrest after the ex-girlfriend admitted she started the fire.

On July 12, 2012 fire units were dispatched to a building fire at Mrs. Winner's Chicken at 250 East Mountain Street. Kernersville Police officers could see flames as they approached the business but they quickly died down as the first fire apparatus arrived. A deep fryer that was left on overnight by accident had ignited and was burning until the kitchen fire suppression system required by the fire code for all deep frying cooking operations activated, extinguishing the fire. Even with \$21,000 in damage from smoke and fire, the business was able to open for business two days after the incident. The business had received its fire inspection which included confirmation the kitchen fire suppression system was properly serviced and functional on June 28, 2012, just two weeks before the fire.

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## ***Major Fire Incidents***



### ***1251 Old Salem Road***

On February 18, 2012, a passerby reported smoke coming from the windows of a house at the corner of Old Salem Road and Teague Lane. Upon arrival, firefighters found heavy smoke and flames visible from the rear of the house. Due to the weatherproofing that had been done to the house, the smoke was contained until such time as the fire burned through the ceiling into the attic where the flames spread rapidly and allowing the smoke to be seen from outside the home. The fire caused approximately \$118,000 in damage and the house was subsequently demolished however many personal items were saved due to the efforts of firefighters. The cause of the fire was determined to be an improperly discarded cigarette into a kitchen trash can.



### ***1426 West Mountain Street***

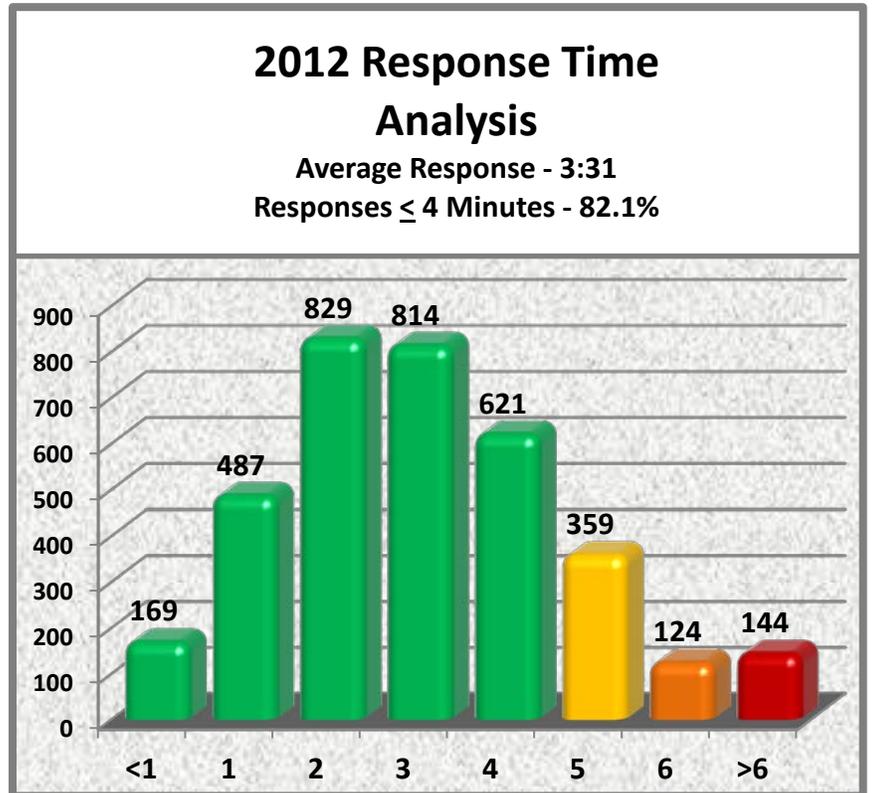
On July 27, 2012 a fire was reported at Omnisource by security officers on the scene. Firefighters arrived and found a fire in a pile of crushed cars waiting processing that was approximately 150 feet wide by 200 feet deep and over 20 feet high. The cars were piled up next to a new processing machine that cost approximately \$7,000,000 so efforts were made to protect the machinery. Units operated for 8 hours to extinguish the fire, shutting down West Mountain Street and requiring additional fuel to be brought to the scene to allow apparatus to continue to pump the significant amounts of water onto the fire. Total damage was \$150,000 and the cause of the fire was undetermined due to the amount of damage to the area of origin.

### ***4114 Abbott's Lake Circle***

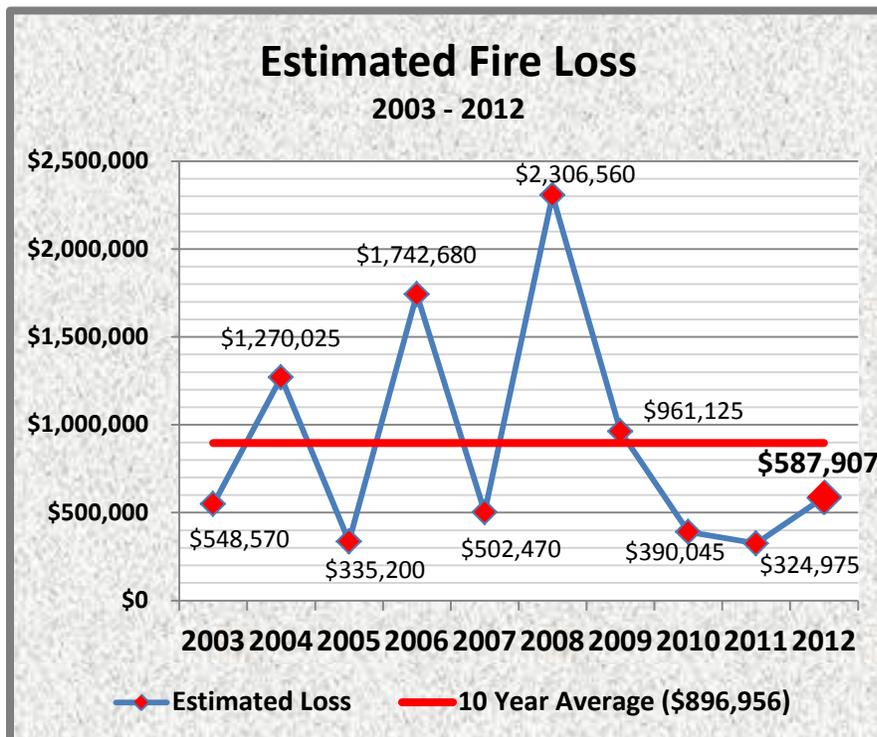
On March 6, 2012 units were dispatched on a smoke alarm activation at the Abbott's Creek Apartments. Units arrived on scene and after seeing smoke and heat damage to the blinds, forced entry to the apartment. Crews were met with thick black smoke and used the thermal imaging camera to quickly locate a victim, which was removed from the apartment. Although the crew had rapidly located the victim, she was pronounced dead at the scene due to her injuries. Her dog Sarge was also killed in the fire that caused an estimated \$85,000 in damages. The cause was determined to be an improperly discarded cigarette into a bedroom trash can.

# Response Time Analysis

The National Fire Protection Association's 1710 standard establishes guidelines for emergency service delivery by career fire departments. One of the standard's many recommendations is that when called for an emergency, the first apparatus should arrive at the scene within 4 minutes 90% of the time. In 2012, 82.1% of the 2798 calls were answered within the 4-minute range. The department's overall response average in 2012 was 3:31.



# Fire Loss



In 2012, the department responded to 108 fire incidents; 39 of those resulted in recorded property damage.

- \$41,083,027 worth of property was exposed to fire.
- \$40,495,120 of that property was saved.
- \$587,907 worth of property was lost to fire.
- 98.6% save rate

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## ***Community Service***

- 1,226 staff hours of public education/public relations related activities
- 214 child safety seats installed or inspected
- 10 smoke alarms installed and 11 detectors serviced
- 1,755 fire and life safety inspections conducted
- 114 plan reviews conducted
- 25 fire Investigations conducted
- 15 fire extinguisher training classes were conducted for local businesses. These classes taught nearly 350 people the proper technique for using extinguishers
- Department personnel conducted 15 CPR classes, educating 231 people in proper CPR technique
- Conducted 25 station tours for approximately 675 school-age children and their teachers
- Conducted Government Day education for the Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Kernersville and the Rotary Club's Youth Leadership Academy. Both of the programs teach citizens aspects of local government which include sessions about the fire department and its operation.



## ***Training***

Kernersville Fire Rescue personnel recorded a total of 19,208 hours of training in 2012.

- 15,175 hours of fire training
- 2,043 hours of medical training
- 1,061 hours of rescue training
- 929 hours of college level training

The Town of Kernersville has a tuition assistance program to allow employees to further their education. The program serves as a way for employees to improve their skills and job performance or to prepare them for promotional opportunities within the Town's service.

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# ***Promotions***

## **Chief**

- Terry Crouse

## **Deputy Chief**

- Ken Anderson

## **Battalion Chief**

- Scott Clinard
- Richard Coley

## **Captain**

- Todd Allen
- Johnny Ballard

## **Engineer**

- Matt Robinson
- Chuck Lawson

## **Firefighter II**

- Robert Anderson
- Jeremy Hulen
- Dustin King

## **New Hires**

- Brendan Donaldson
- Kyle Yarborough

# ***The Department at a Glance***

## **Employees**

- Suppression personnel – 63
- Fire Prevention personnel – 3
- Administrative personnel – 3

ISO Public Protection Rating – 4

Town website – [www.toknc.com](http://www.toknc.com)

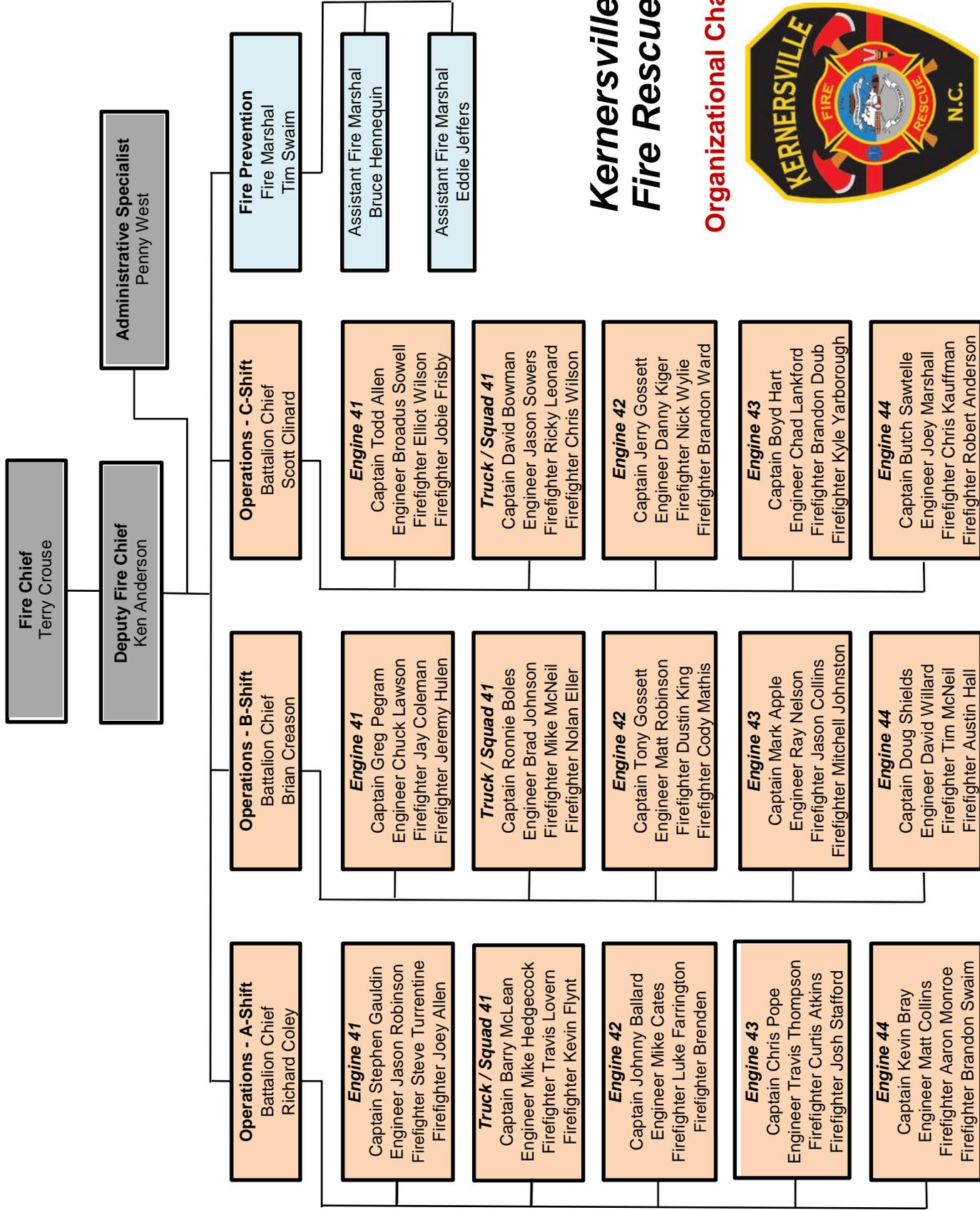
## **Resources**

- Stations – 4
  - Engines – 4
  - Ladder/Squad – 1
  - Reserve Engines – 2
  - Decontamination Unit - 1
- District Served – 17.6 square miles

Population Served – 23,411

FY12/13 Budget - \$6,250,644

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# Kernersville Fire Rescue

## Organizational Chart



## Station Locations

- **Station 41 (Headquarters)**  
316 West Bodenhamer Street
- **Station 42**  
1385 South Park Drive
- **Station 43**  
2050 West Mountain Street
- **Station 44**  
1528 Teague Lane

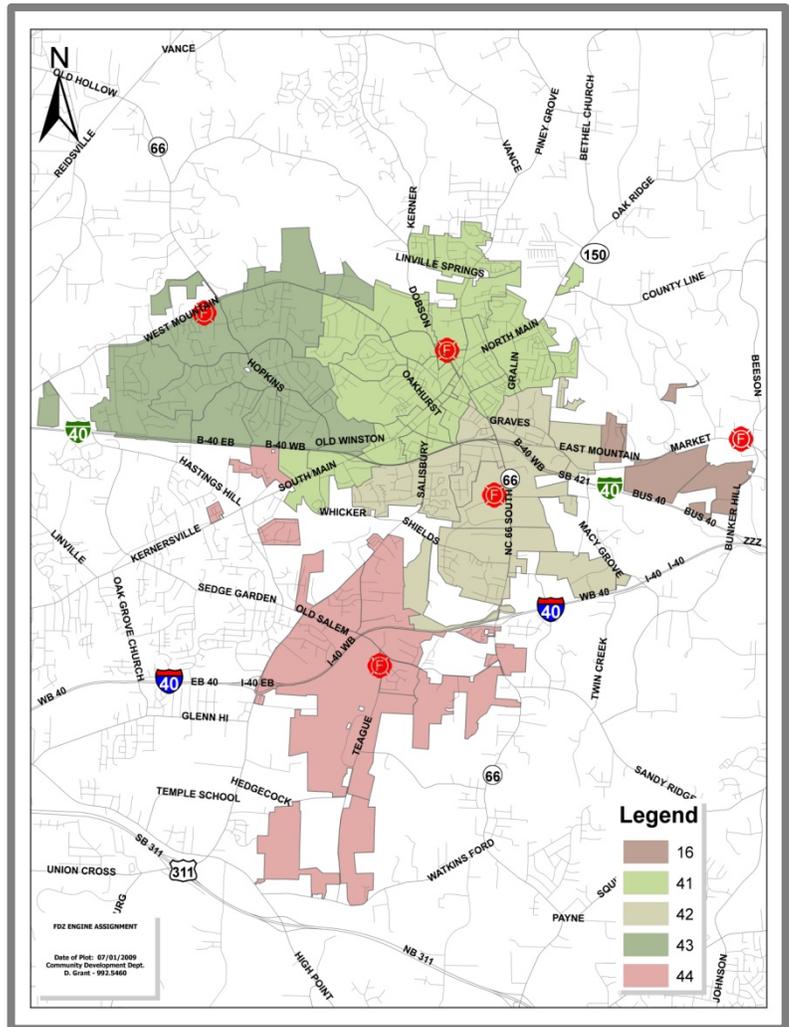
*Kernersville contracts with Colfax Fire Department to provide supplemental fire protection to the areas of the town that are in Guilford County.*

- **Colfax Station 16**  
9414 West Market Street

## Telephone

Administrative Office  
(336) 996-4885  
Fire Marshal's Office  
(336) 996-6791

*EMERGENCIES DIAL 911*



# KERNERSVILLE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT



## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE KERNERSVILLE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT IS TO  
PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICES AND PREVENT HARM TO THE  
COMMUNITY WE PROUDLY SERVE.

## OUR VALUES:

WE ARE COMMITTED TO EARNING AND MAINTAINING THE TRUST AND  
CONFIDENCE OF THE COMMUNITY.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE PROVISION OF A HIGHLY TRAINED AND  
PROFESSIONAL WORK FORCE.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROMOTING TEAMWORK AND UNITY IN OUR  
OBJECTIVE TO PREVENT HARM.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDE A WORK FORCE THAT SERVES WITH  
INTEGRITY, BRAVERY AND COMPASSION.

