



**Annual Report  
of the  
Quincy Fire  
Department**

**Fiscal Year  
2011-2012**

## **Introduction**

To All City Officials:

Fiscal Year 2011-2012 turned out to be a challenging one. The department continued to operate below the authorized sworn staffing level of 66 personnel. However, with this decreased staffing level, the department continued to serve the citizens of Quincy in a manner consistent with expectations. While it may take a little longer to get things done, the fact remains, the work is getting done.

This year also saw the department work with Director of Administrative Services Gary Sparks and Police Rob Copley to work out an agreement to terminate the lease for the classroom space that is utilized at the Quincy University North Campus for the Quincy Regional Training Facility. While as a former training officer, I hate to see such a fine facility turned back over to Quincy University, the fact remains that operations at the Quincy Regional Training Facility simply would not support the financial demands of the lease agreement. Work continues to identify a new classroom space as the City will be required to vacate the classroom space by December of 2012.

Perhaps the most noteworthy issue that came from this past year is affirmation that the departmental reorganization that was implemented in October of 2010 is working. In January of this year members of the Quincy Fire Department were able to rescue a small child from a working house fire. I am completely confident in saying that this rescue occurred because we were able to deliver a three man engine company to the scene. This allowed for rescue operations to occur immediately, and safely, something that was not always possible before the reorganization.

While there continue to be challenging times ahead, the Quincy Fire Department remains committed to delivering the best possible service to the residents of our fine City.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Joe Henning  
Fire Chief



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## Fire Department Response

The Quincy Fire Department responded to 218 more incidents this fiscal year than last. Perhaps the biggest reason for this increase in numbers is the response to the high wind event that took place on June 27th of 2011. The sheer number of wires down contributed to the large increase in the number of responses in the category of “Dangerous Conditions”. While department resources were taxed, personnel responded and there were no significant injuries as a result of these conditions.

### Response Totals

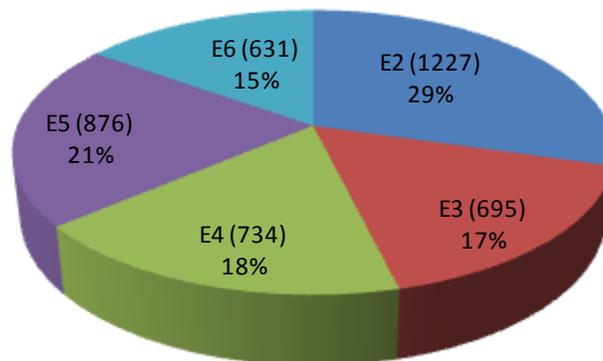
Situation Found	Last FY Year	This FY Year	% of Total Response
Structure Fires	73	75	2.10%
Vehicle Fires	24	24	0.60%
Other Fires	57	90	2.50%
EMS/Rescue	1,982	2,015	55.50%
Hazardous Materials	74	56	1.50%
Dangerous Conditions	157	362	10%
Miscellaneous	1,046	1,009	27.80%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,413</b>	<b>3,631</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Again this year, the distribution of responses between the five engine companies is essentially equal. With the exception of Engine Company #2, the calls for service fell within six percentage points from the least amount of responses to the most. This reaffirms the fact that all of the satellite stations are equally important in terms of location and service to the citizens of Quincy.

#### Engine Company Locations

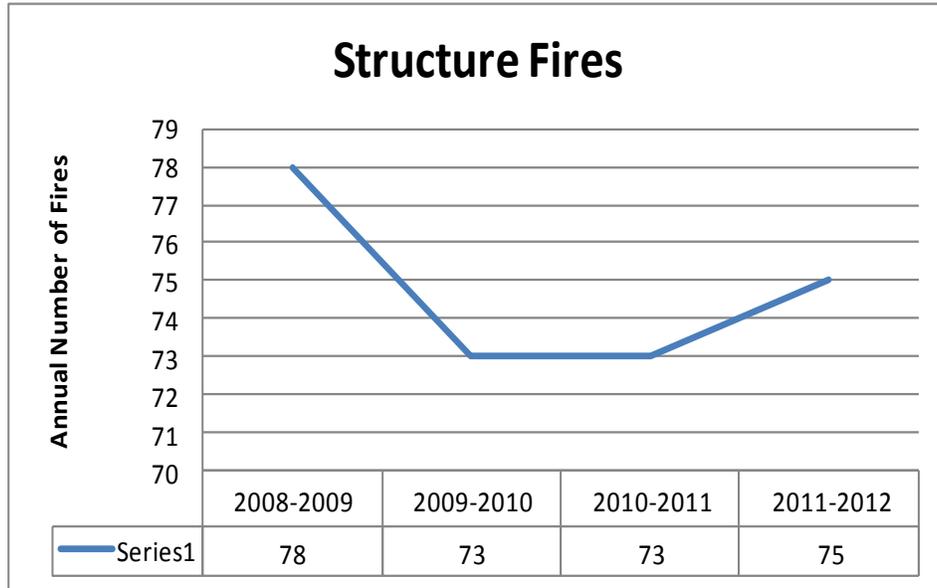
- E2—9th & Vermont
- E3—36th & Maine
- E4—11th & Locust
- E5—12th & Jackson
- E6—24th & Cedar

### Responses Per Engine Company

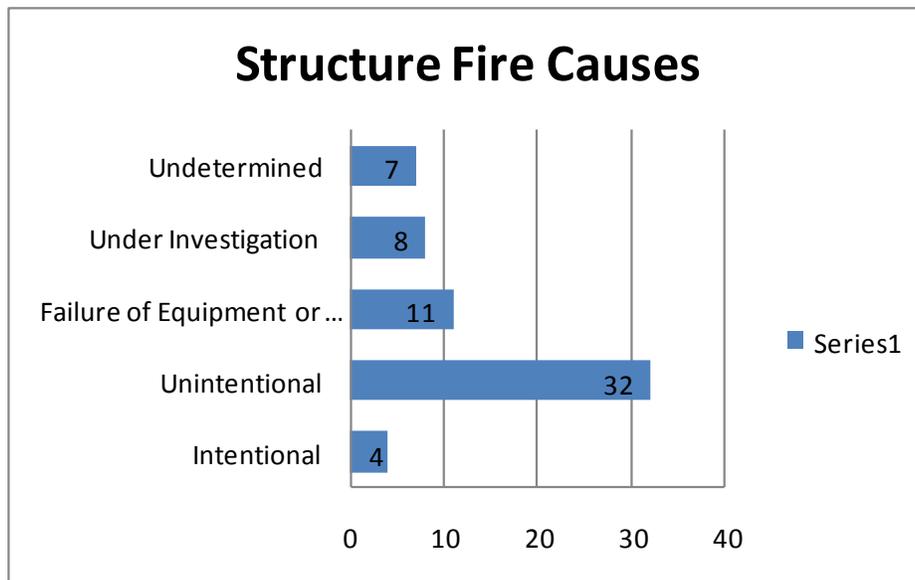


## Structure Fires

This past year saw a slight increase in the number of structure fires in the City. A structure fire is specifically defined as a fire that takes place inside of an occupancy. While the Quincy Fire Department responds to a wide variety of emergencies, these are the types that typically require the largest amount of resources in terms of firefighters and equipment.



The chart below helps to provide a picture of what the causes of these structure fires were. In most cases, the fires were accidental or unintentional in nature.



## **Emergency Medical Services**

Emergency Medical Calls continue to be our largest demand on time and resources. This year 55.5% of all responses were directly related to some type of EMS issue. This category includes responses to motor vehicle accidents, rescue calls, EMS dual responses and first responder calls.

The addition of the third ambulance in the City of Quincy has significantly reduced the number of first responder calls that the fire department responds to. A first responder call takes place when there is a need for an ambulance and one is not immediately available for response. In the past, the department would respond to as many as 20 of these each month. Now, it is not uncommon to go months without having to serve in the back-up capacity to the Adams County Ambulance Service.

The Dual Response Program continues to provide a much needed service to the citizens of Quincy. Last year the department worked with the Adams County EMS System to change the response protocol for fire response on medical emergencies. This change essentially moved any fire department response to that of a “charlie” level or greater. Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) “codes” each call for medical service and dispatches units accordingly. Last year the department required officers to track the type of medical call in an effort to see what the need was. The chart below shows what those responses were (Note: these are calendar year 2011 numbers).

### **Emergency Medical Dispatch Responses (Calendar Year 2011)**

Type of Response	# of Responses	% of Responses
Alpha	23	1.33
Bravo	42	2.43
Charlie	618	35.76
Delta	52.95	52.95
Echo	45	2.6
N/A	85	4.92

While units are to only be dispatched on “charlie” level calls or greater, one can see there are still some instances where the incident is downgraded upon arrival to a lesser status. The information used to dispatch units is provided through a question and answer process between the patient and the dispatcher and the dispatch level is determined by answers to these questions. While the process is not perfect, it does a good job in ensuring that QFD units are only dispatched to incidents which are considered to be life threatening in nature.

Lastly, QFD units continue to arrive on scene before, or at the same time, as Adams County Ambulance units over 86% of the time (April 2012 response average).



## Incident Related Casualties

The Quincy Fire Department continues to serve those in times of need. Fortunately, we have seen an almost across the board decrease in the number of casualties in terms of both civilian and firefighters. The one fire fatality experienced this year was related to an automobile accident that took place on North 36th street near K-Mart in December of 2011. The chart below details these figures.

### Fire Casualty Report

Injury Type	2010-2011	2011-2012
Civilian Fire Deaths	1	1
Civilian Fire Injuries	16 (6 minor, 6 moderate, 1 severe)	6 (5 minor, 1 life threatening)
Firefighter Injuries (incident related)	17 (15 minor, 2 moderate)	12 (10 minor, 1 moderate, 1 severe)

### Dollars Responded To, Saved and Lost

This section details how the dollars that are spent on fire protection and suppression translate into dollars saved or lost. The investment the department makes annually in personnel, training and equipment ensures that the department is prepared to respond to emergencies and limit losses of both life and property. This past fiscal year saw the department respond to property valued in excess of \$45,000,000. Due to the efforts of personnel and the investment of City dollars, 96.61% of this property was saved from the ravages of fire.

The dollars spent on fire suppression last year were leveraged in the following manner:

**For every dollar spent on fire suppression, over \$5 in property was saved**

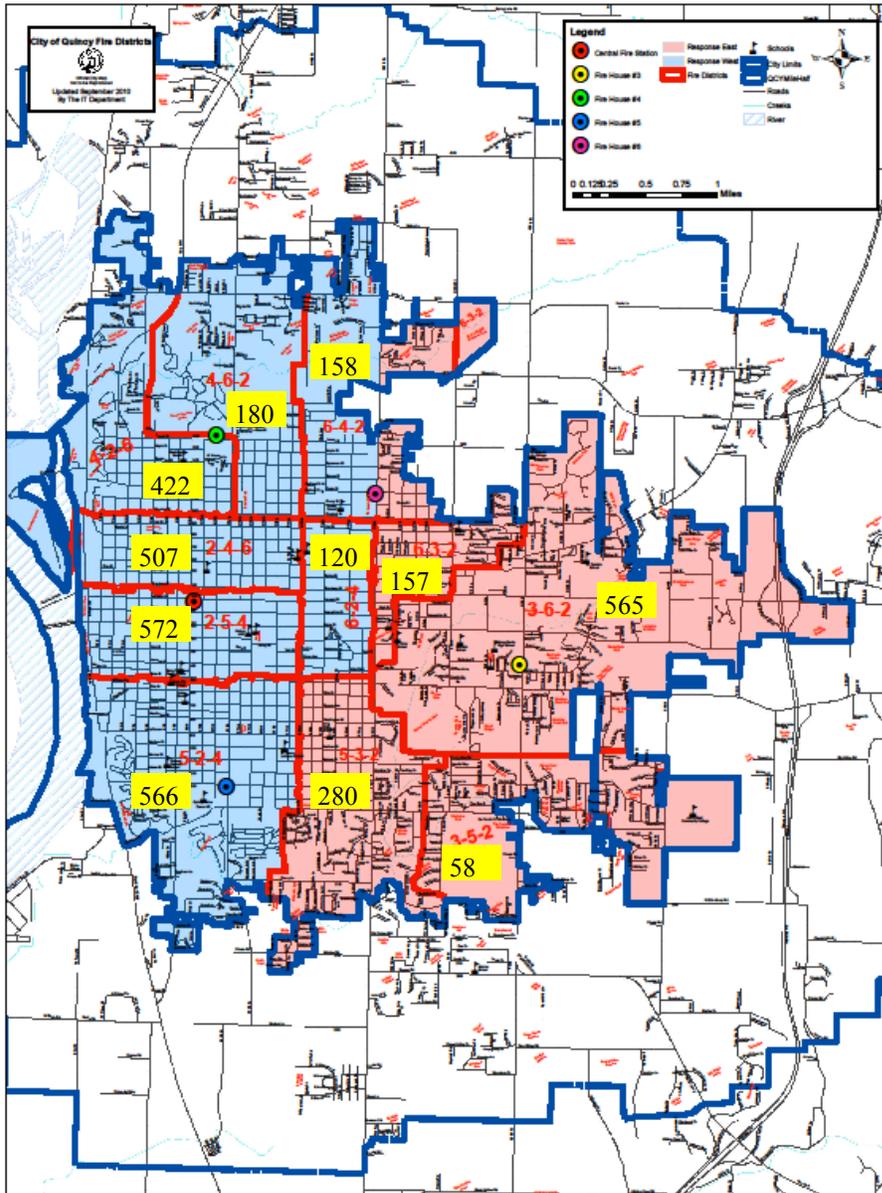
**For every dollar in property lost, over \$28 in property was saved**

### Fire Protection: Cost vs. Benefit

	2010-2011	2011-2012	Change
Value of Property Responded To	\$45,665,707	\$45,852,710	\$187,003
Property Lost	\$3,282,381	\$1,553,569	(\$1,728,812)
Property Saved	\$42,383,326	\$44,299,141	\$1,915,815



**Responses By District**



**Response Times by District**

District	Average
2-4-6	4:01
2-5-4	3:50
3-5-2	5:18
3-6-2	4:13
4-2-6	3:47
4-6-2	4:12
5-2-4	3:45
5-3-2	4:31
6-2-4	3:27
6-3-2	3:47
6-4-2	3:04

On this page are the response totals and average response times by district. The City of Quincy is divided into eleven response districts. These are separated by the red lines on the map and the district number is indicated in red lettering. The first digit of the district number indicates the primary engine company to respond. The succeeding two digits represent the additional companies that would respond on general alarm assignments. The numbers in the yellow boxes represent the total number of alarms responded to within each response district.

The response times by district are an average of all responses for the year in each particular response district. As the City sees additional housing built in outlying areas we are also starting to see these response times creep up.



# The Quincy Fire Department—Protecting Lives and Saving Property

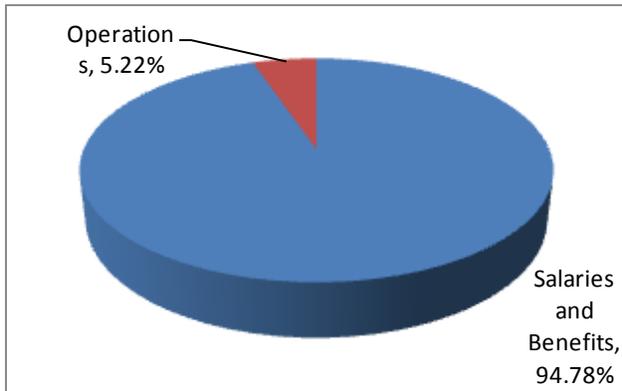
## 2011-2012 Budget

Last year the Quincy Fire Department ended up spending \$8,329,434 out of the approved 2011-2012 budget. This represented the use of 98.41% of the funds allocated for the year.

Some significant projects were undertaken this past year in an effort to make some long needed repairs to stations. Central Fire Station was tuck-pointed on the west, south and east sides, the tower on the station was repaired and made safe, the roof and soffit were replaced on Station #4. These repairs were much needed and are simply the start of an effort to correct some long standing deficiencies.

The department continued to staff at the level of 64 sworn personnel, two positions down from the authorized level of 66. This lower staffing level has lead to an increase in the number of overtime dollars spent. However, the department continues to provide the same level of service that has been expected and customary.

### 2011—2012 Labor Costs



*As the chart above indicates over 94% of our budget is dedicated to firefighter salary and benefits. All other departmental operational costs equal a little more than 5% of the total budget. This is an increase from last year in the percentage of dollars dedicated to firefighter salaries.*

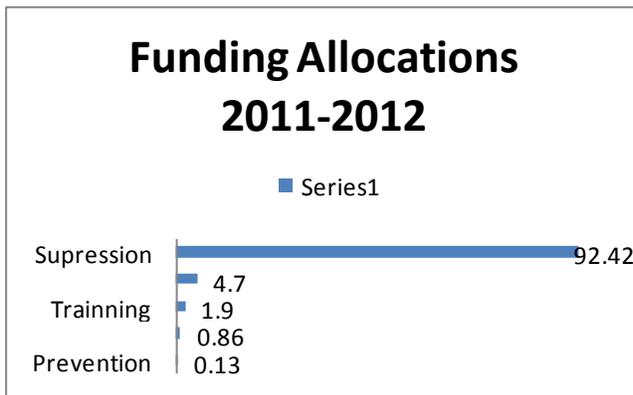
### Major Purchases 2011-2012

Roof—Station #4	\$49,800
Soffit Repair—Station #4	\$9,950
Central Tower Rehab	\$21,650
Central Tuck-Pointing	\$142,900

### Grant Allocations 2011-2012

SCBA Compressor	\$37,753
Lifepak 15	\$30,330
Vertical Prop @ QRTF	\$22,655

### Funding Allocations 2011-2012



# *The Quincy Fire Department—Protecting Lives and Saving Property*

## **Public Education**

Public education is the one of the key factors in ensuring that the public is safe from fire. However, it is one of the hardest areas to quantify the impact of dollars spent on outcomes. The Quincy Fire Department has operated Public Education on a part time basis since the late 1990's. With that said, the effort does appear to have some impact as fire deaths and fire injuries are relatively low. This message is delivered in many different ways but the flagship program is through the Risk Watch program in the schools.

Risk Watch is a complete public safety curriculum that is placed into the hands of teachers with the understanding that the lessons will be incorporated into the school day as is practical. Firefighters, police officers and other public safety officials supplement the efforts of the classroom teachers by making occasional visits to the classroom to reinforce the lessons that are already being taught. The Risk Watch program has struggled in the last couple of years with budget cuts both on the safety side, as well as in the schools. The Quincy Fire Department is working to renew the commitment to the program within the schools and hopes to see this effort come to fruition in the coming years.

Another key component of fire department outreach efforts is the child safety seat check program. The Quincy Fire Department hosted thirteen different car seat check events at Central Fire Station. Additionally, our child safety seat technicians assist at many other community seat check events throughout the year. This program continues to grow each year and provides a much needed service to new parents and grandparents in the Quincy Community.

Below is a breakdown of the number and types of events that the Quincy Fire Department participated in within the last year:

Event Type	Number of Events	Adult Participants	Youth Participants
Fire Extinguisher Demonstrations	13	356	0
Fire Safety Presentations	29	318	637
Fire Truck Visits	36	559	1802
Health/Safety Fairs	4	400	650
Station Tours	27	218	601
Miscellaneous Events	25	2781	5492
Totals	134	4632	9182



## Inspection and Code Enforcement

The Quincy Fire Department remains committed to the belief that the most efficient way to fight a fire is to prevent it from happening to begin with. The in-service inspection program continues to allow the department the ability to provide the essential business inspection program utilizing on-duty firefighters. The efforts are coordinated by Assistant Chief Pioch with follow-up provided by Deputy Chief Dreyer.

Activities	2010-2011	2011-2012
Number of Inspections	935	931
Number of Violations	481	408
Violations Corrected	415	378
Burn Permits Issued	26	27
Demolition sites Inspected	35	29
Liquor License Inspections	96	101
Live Entertainment License	49	49
Special Inspections		23

## Plan Review & Occupancy Inspection

A significant issue on the horizon is the matter of residential sprinkler systems. The State Fire Marshal is currently in the process of amending administrative rules to adopt the 2012 version of the life safety and building codes. This adoption will require the installation of sprinkler systems in all new construction, both commercial and residential. This effort is not yet complete as there is still much discussion taking place at the state level, however, it is certainly something that the department will continue to monitor.

Wes Beitzl, our support service volunteer, continues to work on behalf of the department in a variety of capacities. This year the majority of his efforts have been focused on assisting with creation of some new General Orders that deal with issues such as funeral protocol and fireground rehabilitation services. Mr. Beitzl continues to work with our Tier II program and “potentially dangerous” building identification program. Mr. Beitzl works as a private consultant in the safety field and brings many skill sets to the department. This year, he contributed 202 1/2 hours of work which is valued at \$14,468.75 in his private sector work. The Quincy Fire Department is thankful to Mr. Beitzl for all of his time and efforts on our behalf.

## Arson Investigation

In this past year the arson investigation team investigated 57 fires that were of a non-obvious origin. Our personnel continue to work with the Quincy Police Department to deal with these fires.

To the right is the data which elaborates on their findings.

Responses	2010-2011	2011-2012
Investigations	21	57
Arson	3	10
Incendiary	4	0
Accidental	7	22
Electrical	3	9
Juvenile	3	5
Undetermined	0	11



## A Report From The Training Division

### Some notable training:

- Fire Apparatus Engineer
- Identifying Meth Labs
- IS 300 & 400
- PEPP (Pediatric EMS Training)
- Personal Radiation/Nuclear Detection
- Roadway Extrication



### Annual Training Comparison

	2010-2011	2011-2012
Total hours trained	9,696.50	9,914.00
Average hours per FF per year	158.99	162.50
Average hours per FF per month	13.25	13.50



### Hours Trained Per Topic

Topic	Hours
Arson Investigator	512.00
Aircraft Rescue	1,188.00
Basic Fire Skills	2,431.00
Driver Training	378.00
Emergency Medical	1,763.50
FF II Academy	660.00
Hazardous Materials	1,071.00
Multi Company Drills	330.00
Technical Rescue	769.50
Water Rescue	333.50

### Educational Achievements

<i>Firefighter II Academy</i>	Zelton Crose Kevin Hickey	<i>Firefighter III</i>	Lee Carpenter Scott Haden Jerry Mast
<i>Fire Officer I</i>	Jim Bruce Brad Kendrick Scott Lucey Shawn Schneider Justin Twaddle	<i>Fire Service Vehicle Operator</i>	Tom Bentley
<i>Rope Operations</i>	Jamie Pieper Nate Pool	<i>Structural Collapse Operations</i>	Chris Patterson
<i>Haz-Mat Operations</i>	Lee Carpenter Scott Haden Jerry Mast	<i>Haz-Mat Technician A &amp; B</i>	Lee Carpenter Jerry Mast
<i>National Fire Academy—Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Operations</i>	Deon Baker Jim Bruce Brad Kendrick	<i>Vehicle &amp; Machinery Operations</i>	Deon Baker
	Chris Bichsel Zelton Crose Steve Pezzella	Mark Bigelow Jeff Grawe Bernie Vahlkamp	Don Briddle Chad Hummel Steve Wiewel

# *The Quincy Fire Department—Protecting Lives and Saving Property*

## **Awards and Achievements**



*2012 Leadership Award  
Lieutenant Jack Ray*



*2012 Quincy Exchange Club  
Firefighter of the Year  
Lieutenant Dennis Behl*



*2012 Firefighter of the Year  
Firefighter Jerry Smith*



*2012 Letter of Commendation  
Quincy Fire Department  
Firefighter Mark Bichsel*



*2012 Firefighter Medal of Honor  
Illinois Medal of Honor Committee  
2012 Medal of Valor  
Quincy Fire Department  
Lieutenant Eric Becks*



*2012 Firefighter Medal of Honor  
Illinois Medal of Honor Committee  
2012 Medal of Valor  
Quincy Fire Department  
Firefighter Justin Twaddle*

## **Employee of the Month Recipients**



*May 2011  
Firefighter  
Chris Patterson*



*June 2011  
Lieutenant  
Chris Bichsel*



*August 2011  
Lieutenant  
Dave White*



*September 2011  
Captain  
Bernie Vahlkamp*



*November 2011  
Firefighter  
Mark Bichsel*



*December 2011  
Firefighter  
Steve Wiewel*



*January 2012  
Firefighter  
Keith Reed*



*February 2012  
Lieutenant  
Bruce Oitker*



*February 2012  
Firefighter  
Justin Twaddle*



*April 2012  
Firefighter  
Dave Horman*

