

FIRE FIGHTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

April 2, 2014, 9:00 A.M.

1701 N. Congress Avenue, William B. Travis Building, Room 1-104, Austin, Texas

The Fire Fighter Advisory Committee will convene in open session to deliberate and possibly take formal action on any of the following agenda items:

1. Roll call – 9:00 a.m.
2. Adoption of the December 12, 2013 Fire Fighter Advisory Committee meeting minutes.
3. Report from the Curriculum and Testing Committee with discussion and possible action on recommendations regarding:
 - a. update on committee project for Head of Department
 - b. status of Texas Fire Chief Academy Fire Officer III & IV curricula review
4. Discussion and possible action on request from Danny Kistner regarding Life Safety Initiative number nine with regards to a statewide tracking program.
5. Discussion only regarding possible rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 421, Standards for Certification, including but not limited to, §421.1, Procedures for Meetings, §421.3, Minimum Standards Set by the Commission, §421.5, Definitions, §421.9, Designation of Fire Protection Duties, §421.11, Requirement to be Certified Within One Year, §421.13, Individual Certificate Holders, §421.15, Extension of Training Period, and §421.17, Requirement to Maintain Certification.
6. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 425, Fire Service Instructors, including but not limited to, §425.1, Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor Certification, §425.3, Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor I Certification, §425.5, Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor II Certification, §425.7, Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor III Certification, §425.9, Minimum Standards for Master Fire Service Instructor III Certification, and §425.11, International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal.
7. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 429, Minimum Standards for Fire Inspector Certification, including but not limited to, §429.201, Minimum Standards for Fire Inspector Personnel, §429.203, Minimum Standards for Basic Fire Inspector Certification, §429.205, Minimum Standards for Intermediate Fire Inspector Certification, §429.207, Minimum Standards for Advanced Fire Inspector Certification, §429.209, Minimum Standards for Master Fire Inspector Certification, and §429.211, International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal.
8. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 451, Fire Officer, including but not limited to, Subchapter C, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer III, §451.303, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer III Certification, Subchapter D, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer IV, and §451.403, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer IV Certification.
9. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 453, Hazardous Materials, including but not limited to, Subchapter B, Minimum Standards for Hazardous Materials Incident Commander, §453.203, Minimum Standards for Hazardous Materials Incident Commander.
10. Discussion of the 2013 data collected on fire fighter injuries, and possible action on developing recommendations to be submitted to the commission for approval and inclusion in the annual report to be sent to the State Fire Marshal's Office.
11. Discussion and possible action on future meeting dates, locations and agenda items.
12. Adjourn meeting.

1. Roll call--9:00 a.m.

- 2. Adoption of the December 12, 2013 Fire Fighter Advisory Committee meeting minutes.**

3. Report from the Curriculum and Testing Committee with discussion and possible action on recommendations regarding:

a. update on committee project for Head of Department

b. status of Texas Fire Chief Academy Fire Officer III & IV curricula review

4. **Discussion and possible action on request from Danny Kistner regarding Life Safety Initiative number nine with regards to a statewide tracking program.**

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Firefighter Life Safety Initiative Tools & Resources

The 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives

1. Define and advocate the need for a cultural change within the fire service relating to safety, incorporating leadership, management, supervision, accountability and personal responsibility.
2. Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service.
3. Focus greater attention on the integration of risk management with incident management at all levels, including strategic, tactical, and planning responsibilities.
4. All firefighters must be empowered to stop unsafe practices.
5. Develop and implement national standards for training, qualifications, and certification (including regular recertification) that are equally applicable to all firefighters based on the duties they are expected to perform.
6. Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform.
7. Create a national research agenda and data collection system that relates to the initiatives.
8. Utilize available technology wherever it can produce higher levels of health and safety.
9. Thoroughly investigate all firefighter fatalities, injuries, and near misses.
10. Grant programs should support the implementation of safe practices and/or mandate safe practices as an eligibility requirement.
11. National standards for emergency response policies and procedures should be developed and championed.
12. National protocols for response to violent incidents should be developed and championed.
13. Firefighters and their families must have access to counseling and psychological support.
14. Public education must receive more resources and be championed as a critical fire and life safety program.
15. Advocacy must be strengthened for the enforcement of codes and the installation of home fire sprinklers.
16. Safety must be a primary consideration in the design of apparatus and equipment.

Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Resources



Watch Media Resources:

- » [Overview & Explanation: View | Download](#)
- » [Initiative 1: Culture - View | Download](#)
- » [Initiatives 1 - 4 - View | Download](#)
- » [Initiatives 5 - 8 - View | Download](#)
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Related Resources:

- » [16 Initiatives in Español](#)
- » [Power Point Presentations: Part 1 | Part 2](#)
- » [Resolution: Home Fire Sprinklers \(Initiative 15\)](#)

In Print:

- » [16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Handout](#)
- » [16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives Poster](#)
- » [Everyone Goes Home® Bookmark](#)

For Your Computer:

- » [16 Initiatives Desktop Wallpaper](#)

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5. **Discussion only regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 421, Standards For Certification, including but not limited to, §421.1, Procedures for Meetings, §421.3, Minimum Standards Set by the Commission, §421.5, Definitions, §421.9, Designation of Fire Protection Duties, §421.11, Requirement to be Certified Within One Year, §421.13, Individual Certificate Holders, §421.15, Extension of Training Period, and §421.17, Requirement to Maintain Certification.**

CHAPTER 421

STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATION

§421.5 Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in the Standards Manual, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Admission to employment--An entry level full-time employee of a local government entity in one of the categories of fire protection personnel.
- (2) Appointment--The designation or assignment of a person to a discipline regulated by the commission. The types of appointments are:
 - (A) permanent appointment--the designation or assignment of certified fire protection personnel or certified part time fire protection employees to a particular discipline (See Texas Government Code, Chapter 419, §419.032); and
 - (B) probationary or temporary appointment--the designation or assignment of an individual to a particular discipline, except for head of a fire department, for which the individual has passed the commission's certification and has met the medical requirement of §423.1(c) of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Structure Fire Protection Personnel), if applicable, but has not yet been certified. (See Texas Government Code, Chapter, §419.032.)
- (3) Approved training--Any training used for a higher level of certification must be approved by the commission and assigned to either the A-List or the B-List. The training submission must be in a manner specified by the commission and contain all information requested by the commission. The commission will not grant credit twice for the same subject content or course. Inclusion on the A-List or B-List does not preclude the course approval process as stated elsewhere in the Standards Manual.
- (4) Assigned/work--A fire protection personnel or a part-time fire protection employee shall be considered "assigned/working" in a position, any time the individual is receiving compensation and performing the duties that are regulated by the commission and has been permanently appointed, as defined in this section, to the particular discipline.
- (5) Assistant fire chief--The officer occupying the first position subordinate to the head of a fire department.
- (6) Auxiliary fire fighter--A volunteer fire fighter.
- (7) Benefits--Benefits shall include, but are not limited to, inclusion in group insurance plans (such as health, life, and disability) or pension plans, stipends, free water usage, and reimbursed travel expenses (such as meals, mileage, and lodging).
- (8) Chief Training Officer--The individual, by whatever title he or she may be called, who coordinates the activities of a certified training facility.
- (9) Class hour--Defined as not less than 50 minutes of instruction, also defined as a contact hour; a standard for certification of fire protection personnel.
- (10) Code--The official legislation creating the commission.

- (11) College credits--Credits earned for studies satisfactorily completed at an institution of higher education accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and including National Fire Academy (NFA) open learning program colleges, or courses recommended for college credit by the American Council on Education (ACE) or delivered through the National Emergency Training Center (both EMI and NFA) programs. A course of study satisfactorily completed and identified on an official transcript from a college or in the ACE National Guide that is primarily related to Fire Service, Emergency Medicine, Emergency Management, or Public Administration is defined as applicable for Fire Science college credit, and is acceptable for higher levels of certification. A criminal justice course related to fire and or arson investigation that is satisfactorily completed and identified on an official transcript from a college or in the ACE National Guide may be used to qualify for Master Arson Investigator certification.
- (12) Commission--Texas Commission on Fire Protection.
- (13) Commission-recognized training--A curriculum or training program which carries written approval from the commission, or credit hours that appear on an official transcript from an accredited college or university, or any fire service training received from a nationally recognized source, i.e., the National Fire Academy.
- (14) Compensation--Compensation is to include wages, salaries, and "per call" payments (for attending drills, meetings or answering emergencies).
- (15) Expired--Any certification that has not been renewed on or before the end of the certification period.
- (16) Federal fire fighter--A person as defined in Texas Government Code, Chapter 419, §419.084(h).
- (17) Fire chief--The head of a fire department.
- (18) Fire department--A department of a local government that is staffed by one or more fire protection personnel or part-time fire protection employees.
- (19) Fire protection personnel--Any person who is a permanent full-time employee of a fire department or governmental entity and who is appointed duties in one of the following categories/disciplines: fire suppression, fire inspection, fire and arson investigation, marine fire fighting, aircraft rescue fire fighting, fire training, fire education, fire administration and others employed in related positions necessarily or customarily appertaining thereto.
- (20) Fire Code Inspection—Also called Fire Safety Inspection as referenced in Texas Government Code, Chapter 419, §419.909. An inspection performed for the purpose of determining and enforcing compliance with an adopted fire code.
- (21) Fire suppression duties--Engaging in the controlling or extinguishment of a fire of any type or performing activities which are required for and directly related to the control and extinguishment of fires or standing by on the employer's premises or apparatus or nearby in a state of readiness to perform these duties.
- (22) Full-time--An officer or employee is considered full-time if the employee works an average of 40 hours a week or averages 40 hours per week or more during a work cycle in a calendar year. For the purposes of this definition paid leave will be considered time worked.
- (23) Government entity--The local authority having jurisdiction as employer of full-time fire protection personnel in a state agency, incorporated city, village, town or county, education institution or political subdivision.

- (24) High school--A school accredited as a high school by the Texas Education Agency or equivalent accreditation agency from another jurisdiction.
- (25) Immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH)--An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects, or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.
- (26) Incipient stage fire--A fire which is in the initial or beginning stage and which can be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers, Class II standpipe or small hose systems without the need for protective clothing or breathing apparatus.
- (27) Instructor:
- (A) Lead Instructor--Oversees the presentation of an entire course and assures that course objectives are met in accordance with the applicable curriculum or course material. The lead instructor should have sufficient experience in presenting all units of the course so as to be capable of last-minute substitution for other instructors.
- (B) Instructor (also Unit Instructor for wildland courses)--Responsible for the successful presentation of one or more areas of instruction within a course, and should be experienced in the lesson content they are presenting.
- (C) Guest Instructor--An individual who may or may not hold Instructor certification but whose special knowledge, skill, and expertise in a particular subject area may enhance the effectiveness of the training in a course. Guest instructors shall teach under the endorsement of the lead instructor.
- (28) Interior structural fire fighting--The physical activity of fire suppression, rescue or both, inside of buildings or enclosed structures which are involved in a fire situation beyond the incipient stage. (See 29 CFR §1910.155.)
- (29) Municipality--Any incorporated city, village, or town of this state and any county or political subdivision or district in this state. Municipal pertains to a municipality as defined in this section.
- (30) National Fire Academy semester credit hours--The number of hours credited for attendance of National Fire Academy courses is determined as recommended in the most recent edition of the "National Guide to Educational Credit for Training Programs," American Council on Education (ACE).
- (31) National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)--An organization established to provide and advocate consensus codes and standards, research, training, and education for fire protection.
- (32) National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG)--An operational group designed to establish, implement, maintain, and communicate policy, standards, guidelines, and qualifications for wildland fire program management among participating agencies.
- (33) Non-self-serving affidavit--A sworn document executed by someone other than the individual seeking certification.
- (34) Participating volunteer fire fighter--An individual who voluntarily seeks certification and regulation by the commission under the Texas Government Code, Chapter 419, Subchapter D.
- (35) Participating volunteer fire service organization--A fire department that voluntarily seeks regulation by the commission under the Texas Government Code, Chapter 419, Subchapter D.

- (36) Part-time fire protection employee--An individual who is appointed as a part-time fire protection employee and who receives compensation, including benefits and reimbursement for expenses. A part-time fire protection employee is not full-time as defined in this section.
- (37) Personal alert safety system (PASS)--Devices that are certified as being compliant with NFPA 1982 and that automatically activates an alarm signal (which can also be manually activated) to alert and assist others in locating a fire fighter or emergency services person who is in danger.
- (38) Political subdivision--A political subdivision of the State of Texas that includes, but is not limited to the following:
- (A) city;
 - (B) county;
 - (C) school district;
 - (D) junior college district;
 - (E) levee improvement district;
 - (F) drainage district;
 - (G) irrigation district;
 - (H) water improvement district;
 - (I) water control and improvement district;
 - (J) water control and preservation district;
 - (K) freshwater supply district;
 - (L) navigation district;
 - (M) conservation and reclamation district;
 - (N) soil conservation district;
 - (O) communication district;
 - (P) public health district;
 - (Q) river authority;
 - (R) municipal utility district;
 - (S) transit authority;
 - (T) hospital district;
 - (U) emergency services district;
 - (V) rural fire prevention district; and
 - (W) any other governmental entity that:
 - (i) embraces a geographical area with a defined boundary;
 - (ii) exists for the purpose of discharging functions of the government; and
 - (iii) possesses authority for subordinate self-government through officers selected by it.
- (39) Reciprocity for IFSAC seals--Valid documentation of accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress used for commission certification may only be used for obtaining an initial certification.

- (40) Recognition of training--A document issued by the commission stating that an individual has completed the training requirements of a specific phase level of the Basic Fire Suppression Curriculum.
- (41) School--Any school, college, university, academy, or local training program which offers fire service training and included within its meaning the combination of course curriculum, instructors, and facilities.
- (42) Structural fire protection personnel--Any person who is a permanent full-time employee of a government entity who engages in fire fighting activities involving structures and may perform other emergency activities typically associated with fire fighting activities such as rescue, emergency medical response, confined space rescue, hazardous materials response, and wildland fire fighting.
- (43) Trainee--An individual who is participating in a commission approved training program.
- (44) Volunteer fire protection personnel--Any person who has met the requirements for membership in a volunteer fire service organization, who is assigned duties in one of the following categories: fire suppression, fire inspection, fire and arson investigation, marine fire fighting, aircraft rescue fire fighting, fire training, fire education, fire administration and others in related positions necessarily or customarily appertaining thereto.
- (45) Volunteer fire service organization--A volunteer fire department or organization not under mandatory regulation by the commission.
- (46) Years of experience--For purposes of higher levels of certification or fire service instructor certification:
- (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, years of experience is defined as full years of full-time, part-time or volunteer fire service while holding:
- (i) a commission certification as a full-time, or part-time employee of a government entity, a member in a volunteer fire service organization, and/or an employee of a regulated non-governmental fire department; or
 - (ii) a State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association advanced fire fighter certification and have successfully completed, as a minimum, the requirements for an Emergency Care Attendant (ECA) as specified by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), or its successor agency, or its equivalent; or
 - (iii) an equivalent certification as a full-time fire protection personnel of a governmental entity from another jurisdiction, including the military, or while a member in a volunteer fire service organization from another jurisdiction, and have, as a minimum, the requirements for an ECA as specified by the DSHS, or its successor agency, or its equivalent; or
 - (iv) for fire service instructor eligibility only, a State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association Level II Instructor Certification, received prior to June 1, 2008 or Instructor I received on or after June 1, 2008 or an equivalent instructor certification from the DSHS or the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. Documentation of at least three years of experience as a volunteer in the fire service shall be in the form of a non self-serving sworn affidavit.
- (B) For fire service personnel certified as required in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph on or before October 31, 1998, years of experience includes the time from the date of employment or membership to date of certification not to exceed one year.

6. Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 425, Fire Service Instructors, including but not limited to, §425.1, Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor Certification, §425.3, Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor I Certification, §425.5, Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor II Certification, §425.7, Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor III Certification, §425.9, Minimum Standards for Master Fire Service Instructor III Certification, and §425.11, International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal.

CHAPTER 425

FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTORS

§425.3 Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor I Certification.

In order to become certified as a Fire Service Instructor I an individual must:

- (1) have a minimum of three years of experience (as defined in **§421.5(47)** [~~§421.5(46)~~] of this title (relating to Definitions)) in fire protection in one or more or any combination of the following:
 - (A) a paid, volunteer, or regulated non-governmental fire department; or
 - (B) a department of a state agency, education institution or political subdivision providing fire protection training and related responsibilities; and
- (2) possess valid documentation as a Fire Instructor I, II or III from either:
 - (A) the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC); or
 - (B) the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2007 or later edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline and meeting the requirements as specified in §439.1(a)(2) of this title (relating to Requirements—General); or
- (3) have completed the appropriate curriculum for Fire Service Instructor I contained in Chapter 8 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual, or meet the equivalence as specified in §425.1(d) or (e) of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor Certification); and
- (4) successfully pass the applicable commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification).

§425.5 Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor II Certification.

In order to become certified as a Fire Service Instructor II, an individual must:

- (1) hold as a prerequisite a Fire Instructor I certification as defined in §425.3 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor I Certification); and
- (2) have a minimum of three years of experience (as defined in **§421.5(47)** [~~§421.5(46)~~] of this title (relating to Definitions)) in fire protection in one or more or any combination of the following:
 - (A) a paid, volunteer, or regulated non-governmental fire department; or
 - (B) a department of a state agency, education institution or political subdivision providing fire protection training and related responsibilities; and
- (3) possess valid documentation as a Fire Instructor [~~I~~] II or III from either:
 - (A) the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC); or
 - (B) the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2007 or later edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline and meeting the requirements as specified in §439.1(a)(2) of this title (relating to Requirements—General); or

- (4) have completed the appropriate curriculum for Fire Service Instructor II contained in Chapter 8 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual, or meet the equivalence as specified in §425.1(d) or (e) of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor Certification); and
- (5) successfully pass the applicable commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification).

§425.7 Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor III Certification.

In order to become certified as a Fire Service Instructor III an individual must:

- (1) hold as a prerequisite, a Fire Instructor II Certification as defined in §425.5 of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor II Certification); and
- (2) have a minimum of three years of experience (as defined in **§421.5(47)** [~~§421.5(46)~~] of this title (relating to Definitions)) in fire protection in one or more or any combination of the following:
 - (A) a paid, volunteer, or regulated non-governmental fire department; or
 - (B) a department of a state agency, education institution or political subdivision providing fire protection training and related responsibilities; and
- (3) possess valid documentation of accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) as a Fire Instructor III; or
- (4) have completed the appropriate curriculum for Fire Service Instructor III contained in Chapter 8 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual, or meet the equivalence as specified in §425.1(d) or (e) of this title (relating to Minimum Standards for Fire Service Instructor Certification); and
- (5) successfully pass the applicable commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification); and either
 - (A) hold as a prerequisite an advanced structural fire protection personnel certification, an advanced aircraft fire protection personnel certification, advanced marine fire protection personnel certification, advanced inspector certification, advanced fire investigator, or advanced arson investigator certification; or
 - (B) have 60 college hours from a regionally accredited educational institution; or
 - (C) hold an associate's degree from a regionally accredited educational institution.

§425.11 International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal.

- (a) Individuals who **hold commission**[~~held an equivalent~~] Instructor I certification prior to March 1, 2006 or individuals completing a commission approved Fire Service Instructor I training program and passing the applicable state examination [~~after the effective date of this chapter,~~] may be granted an IFSAC seal for Instructor I by making application to the commission and paying the applicable fee.
- (b) Individuals who **hold commission**[~~held an equivalent~~] Instructor II certification prior to March 1, 2006 or individuals holding an IFSAC Instructor I certification, completing a commission approved Fire Service Instructor II training program, and passing the applicable state examination [~~after the effective date of this chapter,~~] may be granted an IFSAC seal for Instructor II by making application to the commission and paying the applicable fee.

- (c) Individuals who **hold commission**~~held an equivalent~~ Instructor III certification prior to March 1, 2006 or individuals holding an IFSAC Instructor II certification, completing a commission approved Fire Service Instructor III training program, and passing the applicable state examination ~~[after the effective date of this chapter,]~~ may be granted an IFSAC seal for Instructor III by making application to the commission and paying the applicable fee.

7. **Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 429, Minimum Standards for Fire Inspector Certification, including but not limited to, §429.201, Minimum Standards for Fire Inspector Personnel, §429.203, Minimum Standards for Basic Fire Inspector Certification, §429.205, Minimum Standards for Intermediate Fire Inspector Certification, §429.207, Minimum Standards for Advanced Fire Inspector Certification, §429.209, Minimum Standards for Master Fire Inspector Certification, and §429.211, International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Seal.**

CHAPTER 429

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FIRE INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION

§429.203 Minimum Standards for Basic Fire Inspector Certification.

In order to be certified as a basic fire inspector, an individual must:

- (1) possess valid documentation as an Inspector I, Inspector II, and Plan Examiner I from either:
 - (A) the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress; or
 - (B) the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2009 or later edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline and meeting the requirements as specified in §439.1(a)(2) of this title (relating to Requirements—General); or
- (2) complete a commission approved Basic Fire Inspector program and successfully pass the commission examination(s) as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved basic fire inspection training program shall consist of one or any combination of the following:
 - (A) completion of the commission approved Basic Fire Inspector Curriculum, as specified in Chapter 4 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual; or
 - (B) successful completion of an out-of-state [~~NFA, and~~] or military training program which has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to meet the minimum requirements as listed in the commission approved Basic Fire Inspector Curriculum as specified in Chapter 4 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual; or
 - (C) successful completion of the following college courses:
 - (i) Fire Protection Systems, three semester hours;
 - (ii) Fire Prevention Codes and Inspections, three semester hours;
 - (ii) Building Construction in the Fire Service or Building Codes and Construction, three semester hours;
 - (iv) Hazardous Materials I, II, or III, three semester hours (total semester hours, 12); or[-]
 - (D) documentation of the receipt of Fire Inspector I, Fire Inspector II, and Plan Examiner I certificates issued by the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas that are deemed equivalent to a commission approved Basic Fire Inspector curriculum.**

8. **Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 451, Fire Officer, including but not limited to, Subchapter C, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer III, §451.303, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer III Certification, Subchapter D, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer IV, and §451.403, Minimum Standards for Fire Officer IV Certification.**

CHAPTER 451

FIRE OFFICER

SUBCHAPTER C

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FIRE OFFICER III

§451.303 Minimum Standards for Fire Officer III Certification.

- (a) In order to be certified as a Fire Officer III an individual must:
- (1) hold certification as Structural Fire Protection Personnel, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel, or Marine Fire Protection Personnel; and
 - (2) hold Fire Officer II certification through the commission; and
 - (3) hold, as a minimum, Fire Service Instructor II certification through the commission; and
 - (4) document completion of ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command System; and
 - (5) possess valid documentation as a Fire Officer III; from either:
 - (A) the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress; or
 - (B) the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2009 or later edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline and meeting the requirements as specified in §439.1(a)(2) of this title (relating to Requirements—General); or
 - (6) complete a commission approved Fire Officer III program and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved Fire Officer III program must consist of one of the following:
 - (A) completion of a commission approved Fire Officer III Curriculum as specified in Chapter 9 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual;
 - (B) completion of an out-of-state and/or military training program that has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to be equivalent to or exceed the commission approved Fire Officer III Curriculum; or
 - (C) successful completion of 15 college semester hours of upper level coursework from a four-year regionally accredited institution in any of the following subject areas:
 - (i) Administration/Management;
 - (ii) Budget/Finance;
 - (iii) Planning/Organization;
 - (iv) Leadership/Ethics;
 - (v) Risk Management;
 - (vi) Safety and Health; or

(vii) Community Risk Reduction.

[~~(7) Special temporary provision: Through February 2014, an individual is eligible to take the commission examination for Fire Officer III upon documentation to the commission that the individual has completed training that covers the requirements of NFPA 1021, Chapter 6. The documentation of completed training must be a certificate of completion from a nationally recognized training provider. During the one year period, the commission examination shall consist of a written exam. The examination requirements in §451.305(b) of this subchapter (relating to Examination Requirements) must still be met.~~]

(7)~~(8)~~ Special temporary provision: Through February 2015, an individual is eligible for Fire Officer III certification upon documentation of the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2009 edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline.

[~~(9) The application processing fee for the initial examination is waived for individuals in paragraphs (6) and (7) of this subsection who have completed the training requirement and submit the application for the commission examination for one year from the effective date of this rule. After this date, the application processing fee for examinations will be required.]~~

(b) Out-of-state or military training programs which are submitted to the commission for the purpose of determining equivalency will be considered equivalent if all competencies set forth in Chapter 9 (pertaining to Fire Officer) of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual are met.

CHAPTER 451

FIRE OFFICER

SUBCHAPTER D

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FIRE OFFICER IV

§451.403 Minimum Standards for Fire Officer IV Certification.

- (a) In order to be certified as a Fire Officer IV an individual must:
- (1) hold certification as Structural Fire Protection Personnel, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel, or Marine Fire Protection Personnel; and
 - (2) hold Fire Officer III certification through the commission; and
 - (3) document completion of ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command System; and
 - (4) possess valid documentation as a Fire Officer IV; from either:
 - (A) the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress; or
 - (B) the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2009 or later edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline and meeting the requirements as specified in §439.1(a)(2) of this title (relating to Requirements—General); or
 - (5) complete a commission approved Fire Officer IV program and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved Fire Officer IV program must consist of one of the following:
 - (A) completion of a commission approved Fire Officer IV Curriculum as specified in Chapter 9 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual;
 - (B) completion of an out-of-state and/or military training program that has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to be equivalent to or exceed the commission approved Fire Officer IV Curriculum; or
 - (C) successful attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution in any of the following:
 - (i) Fire Science/Administration/Management;
 - (ii) Emergency Management;
 - (iii) Public Administration;
 - (iv) Emergency Medicine;
 - (v) Business Management/Administration;
 - (vi) Political Science;
 - (vii) Human Resources Management;
 - (viii) Public Health;
 - (ix) Risk Management;

(x) Criminal Justice; or

(xi) a related management/administration/leadership degree.

[~~(6) Special temporary provision: Through February 2014, an individual is eligible to take the commission examination for Fire Officer IV upon documentation to the commission that the individual has completed training that covers the requirements of NFPA 1021, Chapter 7. The documentation of completed training must be a certificate of completion from a nationally recognized training provider. During the one year period, the commission examination shall consist of a written exam. The examination requirements in §451.405(b) of this subchapter (relating to Examination Requirements) must still be met.~~]

(6)~~(7)~~ Special temporary provision: Through February 2015, an individual is eligible for Fire Officer IV certification upon documentation of the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2009 edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline.

[~~(8) The application processing fee for the initial examination is waived for individuals in paragraphs (5) and (6) of this subsection who have completed the training requirement and submit the application for the commission examination for one year from the effective date of this rule. After this date, the application processing fee for examinations will be required.~~]

(b) Out-of-state or military training programs which are submitted to the commission for the purpose of determining equivalency will be considered equivalent if all competencies set forth in Chapter 9 (pertaining to Fire Officer) of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual are met.

9. **Discussion and possible action regarding proposed rule changes to title 37 TAC, Chapter 453, Hazardous Materials, including but not limited to, Subchapter B, Minimum Standards for Hazardous Materials Incident Commander, §453.203, Minimum Standards for Hazardous Materials Incident Commander.**

CHAPTER 453

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

SUBCHAPTER B

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT COMMANDER

§453.203 Minimum Standards for Hazardous Materials Incident Commander.

(a) In order to be certified as Hazardous Materials Incident Commander an individual must:

(1) hold certification as Structural Fire Protection Personnel, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Personnel, or Marine Fire Protection Personnel; and

(2) possess valid documentation as a Hazardous Materials Incident Commander from either:

(A) the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress; or

(B) the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2008 or later edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline and meeting the requirements as specified in §439.1(a)(2) of this title (relating to Requirements—General); or

(3) complete a commission approved Hazardous Materials Incident Commander program and successfully pass the commission examination as specified in Chapter 439 of this title (relating to Examinations for Certification). An approved Hazardous Materials Incident Commander program must consist of one of the following:

(A) completion of a commission approved Hazardous Materials Incident Commander curriculum as specified in Chapter 6 of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual; or

(B) completion of an out-of-state and/or military training program that has been submitted to the commission for evaluation and found to be equivalent to, or exceeds the commission approved Hazardous Materials Incident Commander curriculum.

~~[(4) Special temporary provision: Through February 2014, an individual is eligible to take the commission examination for Hazardous Materials Incident Commander upon documentation to the commission that the individual has completed training that covers the requirements of NFPA 472, Chapter 8. The documentation must be a certificate of completion from a nationally recognized training provider. During the one-year period, the commission examination shall consist of a written exam. The examination requirements in §453.205(b) of this subchapter (relating to Examination Requirements) must still be met.]~~

(4) ~~[(5)]~~ Special temporary provision: Through February 2015, an individual is eligible for Hazardous Materials Incident Commander certification upon documentation of the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications issued by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service using the 2008 edition of the NFPA standard applicable to this discipline.

~~[(6) The application processing fee for the initial examination is waived for individuals in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection who have completed the training requirement and submit the application for the commission examination for one year from the effective date of this rule. After this date, the application processing fee for examinations will be required.]~~

(b) Out-of-state or military training programs which are submitted to the commission for the purpose of determining equivalency will be considered equivalent if all competencies set forth in Chapter 6 (pertaining to Hazardous Materials Incident Commander) of the commission's Certification Curriculum Manual are met.

10. Discussion of the 2013 data collected on fire fighter injuries, and possible action on developing recommendations to be submitted to the commission for approval and inclusion in the annual report to be sent to the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Appendix

Texas Commission on Fire Protection

January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013



TEXAS COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION

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Executive Summary

This report includes the abstract, mission, and the reports, information and data collected, as well as user-community input and outreach activities.

The report includes fire fighter injuries reported to the Texas Commission on Fire Protection in 2013, with charts and graphs depicting the collected information. The report also compares with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) U.S. Firefighter Injuries - 2012.

Under Texas Government Code §419.048, the Texas Commission on Fire Protection is charged with developing and establishing criteria to receive and analyze injury information pertaining to Texas fire fighters. The commission reviews this information to develop recommendations to help reduce fire protection personnel injuries. The commission provides this information to the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) by September 1 of each year for inclusion in the SFMO's annual Firefighter Fatality Investigations Report. The commission has enacted rules about reporting injuries in the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Title 37, Chapter 435, and has established the criteria and policies for reporting and analyzing the information.

The commission finished building the data systems necessary to gather this information in March 2010. Development is ongoing as we receive feedback from stakeholders on the efficiency of the system. The entire reporting process is accomplished online through the commission's website. Every fire department regulated by the commission has been notified of the requirement to report. Several volunteer departments, which are not regulated by the commission, are also participating voluntarily.

This report concludes with recommendations from the commission.

Abstract

The Texas Commission on Fire Protection received 4,050 reported injuries in calendar year 2013. Of these, 838 occurred during fire suppression activities, representing 20.7 percent of the total reported injuries. This is nearly identical to the fire suppression injuries reported in 2012, in which 889 of 4,264 total injuries, or 20.9 percent, were in fire suppression.

A larger number of reported injuries occurred in emergency medical services (EMS) activities; 1,116 of the 4,050 total reported injuries, or 27.6 percent. This is also virtually the same as in 2012, in which 1,242 of 4,264 total injuries, or 29 percent, were in EMS. Although more *total* injuries occurred in EMS, fire suppression activities resulted in more serious injuries; while 16 percent of the injuries in EMS were serious injuries, 24.6 percent of the fire suppression injuries were serious. The commission defines a serious injury as one that results in missed work.

Leading injuries in fire suppression are strains and sprains, followed by burns and exposures. The leading injuries in EMS are also strains and sprains, followed by exposures to airborne, chemical and blood pathogens.

After EMS and fire suppression, the next highest number of the injuries reported in 2013 occurred in the performance of station duties, with 654, or 16 percent, of the total injuries. This is also nearly the same as in 2012, with 741, or 17 percent, of the total injuries occurring in station duties.

Skills training and wellness/fitness activities are the next highest tasks with injuries, with 418 (10.3 percent) and 408 (10.1 percent), respectively. The total number of injuries reported in these three non-emergency tasks - station duties, skills training, and wellness/fitness activities - represented just over a third (36.5 percent) of the total injuries.

In 2012, the commission separated EMS from rescue non-fire (which includes swift water, confined space, trench, extrication and other rescues) into its own category in order to better track EMS incidents and injuries. In August 2012 the commission also began collecting more information about the tasks that the individuals were performing when the injuries occurred. This report compares 2012 and 2013 injuries in several areas.

Mission

The commission shall gather and evaluate data on fire protection personnel injuries and develop recommendations for reducing injuries.

The commission 's educational and outreach programs provide information on the various educational resources available through TCFP's Ernest A. Emerson Fire Protection Resource Library; associated references linked to this subject; TCFP outreach programs such as the "Avoid Injury!" blog and newsletters; and the adoption of the "Courage to be Safe" program.

Building a Community of Safety

The goal of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection's injury reporting program is to help the fire service community identify common injuries and learn how to avoid risk and prevent injuries.

Why we are collecting injury data

Under Texas Government Code §419.048, the Texas Legislature charged the commission with gathering and evaluating data on injuries. The rules requiring regulated entities to report injuries to the commission are in Texas Administrative Code §435.23. The commission encourages volunteer entities to report injuries so that it can gain as accurate a picture as possible concerning injury trends in the Texas fire service. The injury reporting program began in March 2010.

What information does the commission collect?

- Minor, serious, critical and fatal injuries
- Activities where fire personnel are injured
- Types of injuries (burns, strain-sprains, wounds, etc.)
- Body parts being injured
- Tasks performed at the time of injury
- Missed time
- Work assignment after injury
- Malfunctions/failures of personal protective equipment (PPE), self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), personal alert safety systems (PASS devices) and standard operating procedures (SOPs)

How this will help the fire service

- Identify common injuries
- Identify trends in injuries
- Identify needed training
- Evaluate and find improvements in procedures
- Track lost time injuries (requested by user community)

Learn more and get help

The commission provides information on reported injuries to the fire service via its website, its "Avoid Injury!" blog, its Facebook page and in its year-end addendum to the State Fire Marshal's Office's annual report.

Reports, Information and Data Collection

This report contains data submitted by regulated and non-regulated entities. The data collected in 2013 was the third full year of reporting. The commission anticipates that it will take five full years of reporting to provide more substantive and accurate data for trending and analysis.

Of the approximately 708 commission-regulated entities, 501, or 70.86 percent, either submitted an injury report or a “no injury” report for months in which their personnel did not have any injuries. An additional 77 non-regulated departments are participating voluntarily in the program.

The commission continually reaches out to fire protection entities to communicate the need to report, the types of information needed, and how to respond to requests for additional information. Commission staff members attended and presented at the Texas Fire Chiefs Association’s regional meetings, local chiefs’ meetings, Southwest Fire Rescue, and State Firemen’s and Fire Marshals’ Association conferences to provide information about the injury reporting program. The commission stresses the need for participation and provides reminders to regulated entities of the statutory requirement to report.

The commission’s “Avoid Injury!” blog provides information on current statistics, as well as information about resources available through the Ernest A. Emerson Fire Protection Resource Library. Statistics are updated semi-monthly. Blog posts and Facebook updates provide the fire service with information on the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation’s “Courage to be Safe” program and its “16 Life Safety Initiatives,” and how the initiatives have impacted individual departments or the fire service as a whole.

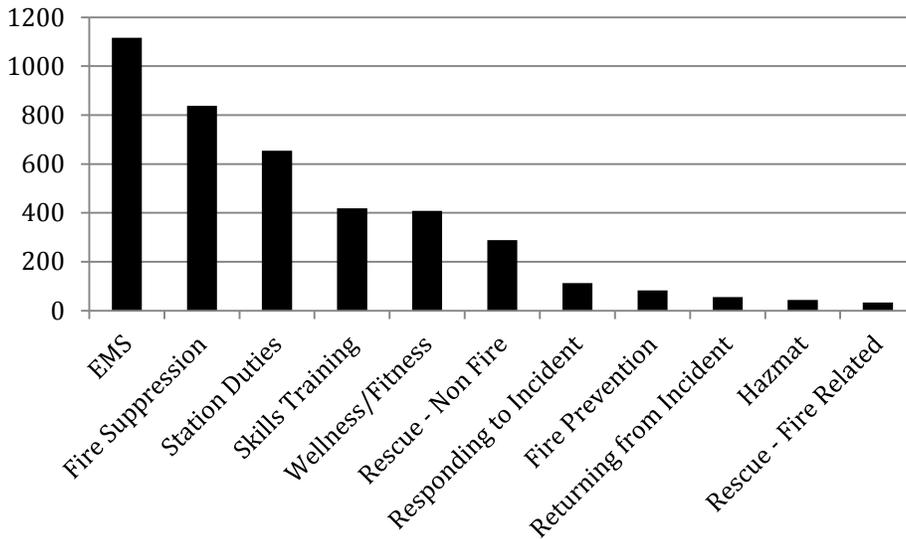
As in previous years, the commission continues to receive feedback from stakeholders on challenges they have experienced and changes they would like to see in the injury reporting program.

Fire Protection Personnel Injuries

Table 1: Injuries by Activity and Severity, 2013

Activity	Minor	Serious	Critical	Fatal	Total
EMS	934	179	3		1116
Fire Suppression	619	206	7	6	838
Station Duties	452	201	1		654
Skills Training	317	99	1	1	418
Wellness/Fitness	285	122		1	408
Rescue - Non Fire	243	46			289
Responding to Incident	70	42			112
Fire Prevention	66	17			83
Returning from Incident	37	18			55
Hazmat	44				44
Rescue - Fire Related	18	11	3	1	33
Total	3085	941	15	9	4050

Figure 1: Total Injuries by Activity, 2013



Emergency vs. Non-Emergency Injuries

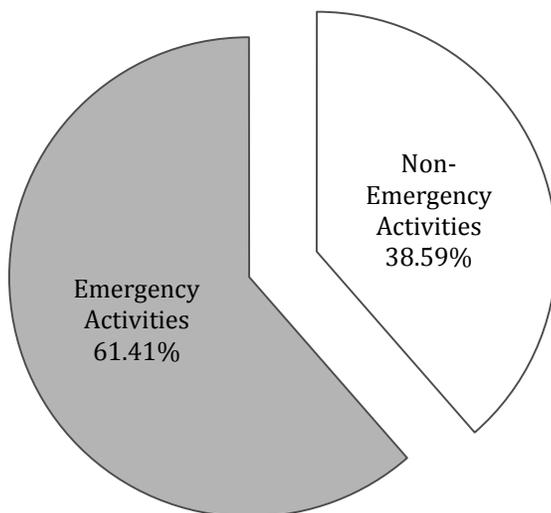
Table2: Injuries by Emergency Activity and Severity, 2013

Activity	Minor	Serious	Critical	Fatal	Total
EMS	934	179	3		1116
Fire Suppression	619	206	7	6	838
Hazmat	44				44
Rescue - Fire Related	18	11	3	1	33
Rescue - Non Fire	243	46			289
Responding/Returning	107	60			167
Total	1965	502	13	7	2487

Table3: Injuries by Non-Emergency Activity and Severity, 2013

Activity	Minor	Serious	Critical	Fatal	Total
Fire Prevention	66	17			83
Skills Training	317	99	1	1	418
Station Duties	452	201	1		654
Wellness/Fitness	285	122		1	408
Total	1120	439	2	2	1563

Figure 2: Percent of Total Injuries in Emergency and Non-Emergency Activities, 2013

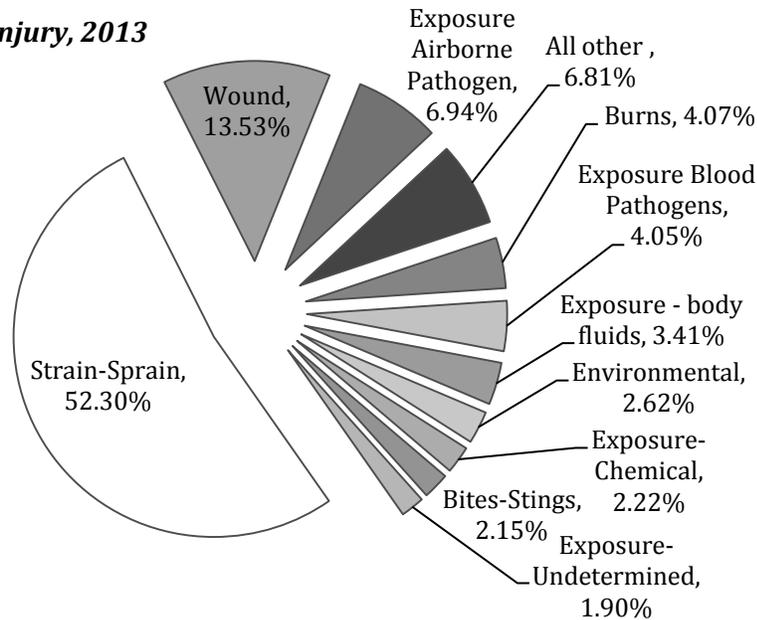


Injuries by Type

Table 4: Types of Injury, 2012-2013

Type of Injury	2012		2013	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Strain-Sprain	2140	50.19%	2118	52.30%
Wound	631	14.80%	548	13.53%
Exposure Airborne Pathogens	404	9.47%	281	6.94%
Burns	176	4.13%	165	4.07%
Exposure Blood Pathogens	160	3.75%	164	4.05%
Exposure - body fluids	124	2.91%	138	3.41%
Environmental	133	3.12%	106	2.62%
Exposure-Chemical	128	3.00%	90	2.22%
Bites-Stings	93	2.18%	87	2.15%
Exposure-Undetermined	23	0.54%	77	1.90%
Pain Medical Unspecified	49	1.15%	62	1.53%
Broken Bones	46	1.08%	59	1.46%
Chest Pains-Cardiac	40	0.94%	50	1.23%
Debris/Penetrating	51	1.20%	38	0.94%
Smoke-Gas Inhalation	22	0.52%	30	0.74%
Hearing Loss - Acute	18	0.42%	14	0.35%
Electrocution	11	0.26%	12	0.30%
Exposure-Chemical-CO	1	0.02%	6	0.15%
Hearing Loss - Chronic	7	0.16%	2	0.05%
Heart Attack	2	0.05%	2	0.05%
Broken Spine-Neck	4	0.09%	1	0.02%
Stroke	1	0.02%	0	0.00%
Total	4264	100.00%	4050	100.00%

Figure 3: Types of Injury, 2013



Task at Time of Injury

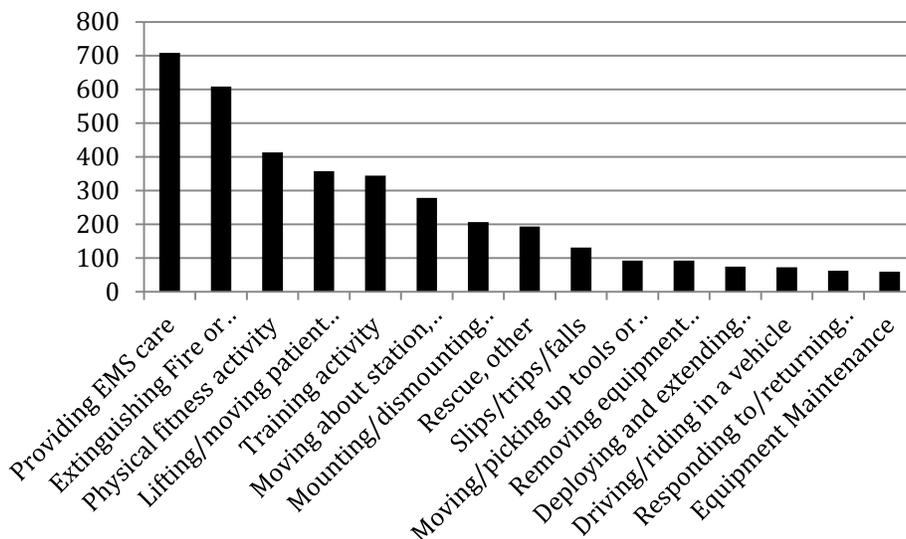
The commission began gathering task information in mid-2012.

Table 5: Top 15 Tasks at Time of Injury, 2013

Task	Count
Providing EMS care	708
Extinguishing Fire or Neutralizing Incident	608
Physical fitness activity	413
Lifting/moving patient (EMS)	357
Training activity	344
Moving about station, normal activity	278
Mounting/dismounting apparatus	206
Rescue, other	193
Slips/trips/falls	131
Moving/picking up tools or equipment	92
Removing equipment from/returning equipment to apparatus	92
Deploying and extending hoseline	74
Driving/riding in a vehicle	72
Responding to/returning from incident	62
Equipment Maintenance	59
All other*	361
Total	4050

* All Other, in Descending Order: Overhaul (54), Other: Description (38), Station Maintenance (37), Forcible Entry (36), Inspection Activity (30), Ascending/descending ladder (19), Moving about station, alarm sounding (17), Vehicle Maintenance (17), Ascending/descending stairs (16), Incident Investigation (14), Operating manual tool (14), Extrication (13), Non-Fire Incidents (9), Operating power tool (9), Raising/lowering ladder (7), Administrative Work (6), Manually moving item to gain access (5), Operating Fire Department Apparatus (4), Carrying/dragging a person (rescue) (3), Crawling in a confined or otherwise hazardous area (3), Operating nozzle (3), Rescue-Fire Related (3), Undetermined (2), Rescue - Non fire (1), Salvage (1)

Figure 4: Top 15 Tasks at Time of Injury, 2013

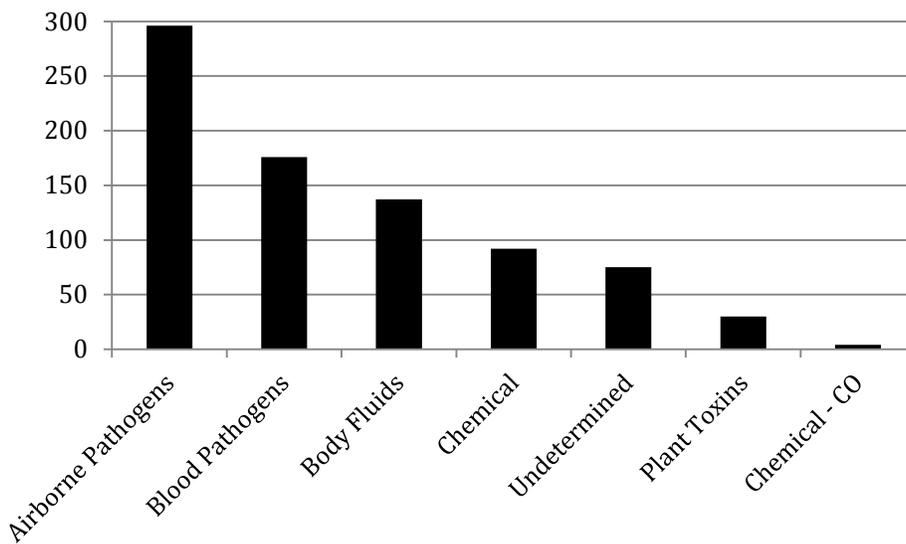


Exposures

Table 6: Exposure Agents, 2013

Exposure Agents	Count
Blood	159
Meningitis	129
Body fluids	96
TB	94
Chemicals/household/industrial	89
Unknown	51
Airborne, Other	37
Vomit	33
Poison Plants	30
Animals/Wildlife	29
MRSA	16
Explosive residue	8
Hep C	8
Scabies	8
Carbon Monoxide	5
Sickness, other	5
Asbestos	4
HIV	4
Lice	2
Mold	2
Staph	1
Total	810

Figure 5: Exposure Types, 2013



Injuries by Body Part

Table 7: Injuries by Body Part, 2012 and 2013

Body Part	2012	2013
Multiple body parts, whole body	760	594
Back, except spine	686	588
Knee	419	407
Hand and fingers	453	403
Shoulder	272	293
Ankle	213	207
Face	95	128
Leg, lower	105	108
Foot and toes	132	105
Eye	106	100
Head	96	94
Hip, lower back, or buttocks	35	91
Arm, lower, not including elbow or wrist	89	84
Wrist	71	79
Neck	101	71
Elbow	98	68
Chest	30	66
Multiple Parts	5	62
Multiple body parts, upper body	22	57
Ear	72	54
Other body parts injured	404*	391**
Total	4264	4050

* **Other body parts injured, 2012, in descending order:** Abdomen (61), Arm, upper, not including elbow or shoulder (50), Trachea and lungs (45), Leg, upper (43), Heart (39), Pelvis or groin (37), Mouth, included are lips, teeth, and interior (30), Upper extremities (24), Neck and Shoulders (20), Head, other (15), Abdominal area (9), Lower Extremities (8), Multiple body parts, lower body (6), Nose (5), Internal (4), Part of body, other (2), Throat (2), Internal, other (1), Spine (1), Stomach (1), Thorax (1)

****Other body parts injured, 2013, in descending order:** Arm, upper, not including elbow or shoulder (52), Trachea and lungs (51), Leg, upper (47), Pelvis or groin (37), Abdomen (32), Neck and Shoulders (25), Lower Extremities (24), Multiple body parts, lower body (20), Mouth, included are lips, teeth, and interior (18), Upper extremities (16), Heart (15), Nose (14), Abdominal area (7), Genito-urinary (6), Head, other (5), Spine (4), Throat (4), Undetermined (3), Unspecified (3), Multiple parts, whole body (2), Arms (1), Hand (1), Hand and finger (1), Internal (1), Leg (1), Multiple body parts, whole body (1), None (1)

Minor and Serious Injuries by Activity

EMS activities resulted in more minor injuries, but fire suppression and station duties resulted in a higher percentage of serious injuries.

Table 8: Minor Injury Activities, 2012 and 2013

Activity	2012		2013	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
EMS	1042	32.41%	934	30.28%
Fire Suppression	654	20.43%	619	20.06%
Station Duties	508	15.80%	452	14.65%
Skills Training	367	11.42%	317	10.28%
Wellness/Fitness	294	9.14%	285	9.24%
Rescue - Non Fire	147	4.57%	243	7.88%
Responding to Incident	90	2.80%	70	2.27%
Fire Prevention	45	1.40%	66	2.14%
Hazmat	24	0.75%	44	1.43%
Returning from Incident	30	0.93%	37	1.20%
Rescue - Fire Related	14	0.44%	18	0.58%
Grand Total	3215	100.00%	3085	100.00%

HazMat and Returning From Incident changed positions in 2012 and 2013; all others activities maintained their respective rankings.

Table 9: Serious Injury Activities, 2012 and 2013

Activity	2012		2013	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Fire Suppression	231	22.36%	206	21.89%
Station Duties	233	22.56%	201	21.36%
EMS	196	18.97%	179	19.02%
Wellness/Fitness	134	12.97%	122	12.96%
Skills Training	113	10.94%	99	10.52%
Rescue - Non Fire	34	3.29%	46	4.89%
Responding to Incident	43	4.16%	42	4.46%
Returning from Incident	24	2.32%	18	1.91%
Fire Prevention	18	1.74%	17	1.81%
Rescue - Fire Related	7	0.68%	11	1.17%
Grand Total	1033	100.00%	941	100.00%

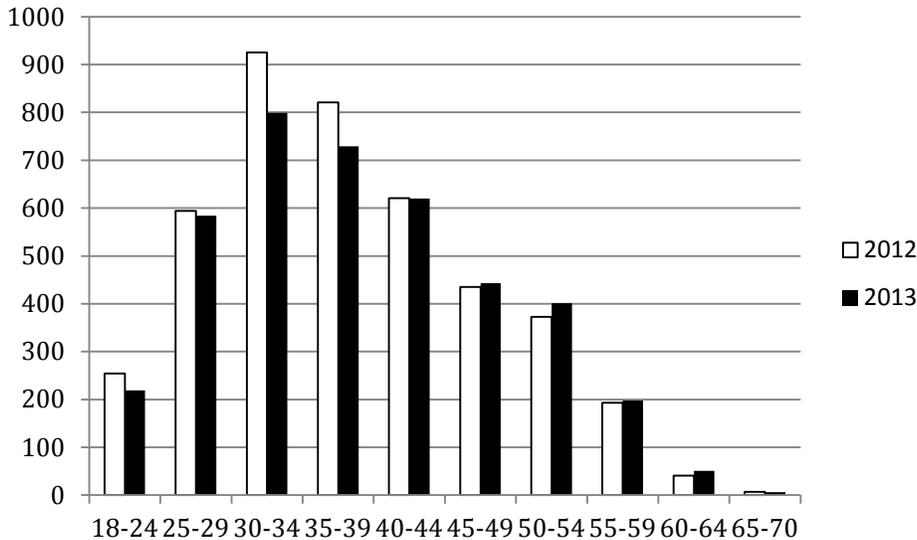
Fire Suppression and Station Duties changed positions in 2012 and 2013. Responding to Incident and Rescue - Non-Fire also changed positions. All other activities maintained their respective rankings.

Injuries by Age Group

Table 10: Injuries by Age Group, 2012 and 2013

Age group	2012		2013	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
18-24	254	5.96%	219	5.41%
25-29	594	13.93%	584	14.42%
30-34	925	21.69%	799	19.73%
35-39	821	19.25%	729	18.00%
40-44	621	14.56%	620	15.31%
45-49	435	10.20%	443	10.94%
50-54	373	8.75%	401	9.90%
55-59	193	4.53%	198	4.89%
60-64	41	0.96%	51	1.26%
65-70	7	0.16%	6	0.15%
Totals	4264	100.00%	4050	100.00%

Figure 6: Injury Count by Age Group, 2012 and 2013



Injuries by Employment Status

Table 11: Employment Status, 2012 and 2013

Employment Status	2012	2013
Full-time	4046	3893
Volunteer*	85	61
Trainee (i.e. fire dept)	40	44
Part-time	25	34
Student (i.e. college)	68	18
Total	4264	4050

* Volunteer injuries represent only those departments that voluntarily participate in the commission's injury reporting program.

Injury Activities Resulting in Lost Time

Note: 141 lost-time incidents are still open as of the date of this draft. Staff will continue to work with departments to update return-to-work dates on these incidents.

Table 12: Activities Resulting in Lost Time, 2013

Activity	Count	Average Days Missed	Total Days Missed
Fire Suppression	213	32.33	6078
Station Duties	202	40.21	7117
EMS	182	27.39	3835
Wellness/Fitness	122	35.53	3766
Skills Training	100	33.78	2804
Rescue - Non Fire	46	30.78	1231
Responding to Incident	42	40.44	1577
Returning from Incident	18	56.73	851
Fire Prevention	17	36.87	553
Rescue - Fire Related	14	75.55	831
Total	956	35.19	28643

Table 13: Activities Resulting in Lost Time, Between 1 and 30 Days

Activity	Count	Average Days Missed	Total Days Missed
Fire Suppression	130	10.02	1302
Station Duties	121	10.02	1212
EMS	106	11.37	1205
Wellness/Fitness	72	11.15	803
Skills Training	54	10.89	588
Rescue - Non Fire	28	11.18	313
Responding to Incident	26	12.08	314
Fire Prevention	10	11.50	115
Returning from Incident	6	15.67	94
Rescue - Fire Related	4	19.00	76
Total, Between 1 and 30 Days	557	10.81	6022

Injury Activities Resulting in Lost Time (continued)

Table 14: Activities Resulting in Lost Time, Between 31 and 90 Days

Activity	Count	Average Days Missed	Total Days Missed
Fire Suppression	42	57.93	2433
Station Duties	33	55.00	1815
EMS	27	53.70	1450
Skills Training	21	51.62	1084
Wellness/Fitness	18	59.28	1067
Rescue - Non Fire	10	61.10	611
Rescue - Fire Related	5	47.60	238
Responding to Incident	5	56.00	280
Returning from Incident	5	37.60	188
Fire Prevention	4	41.50	166
Total, Between 31 and 90 Days	170	54.89	9332

Table 15: Activities Resulting in Lost Time, 91+ Days

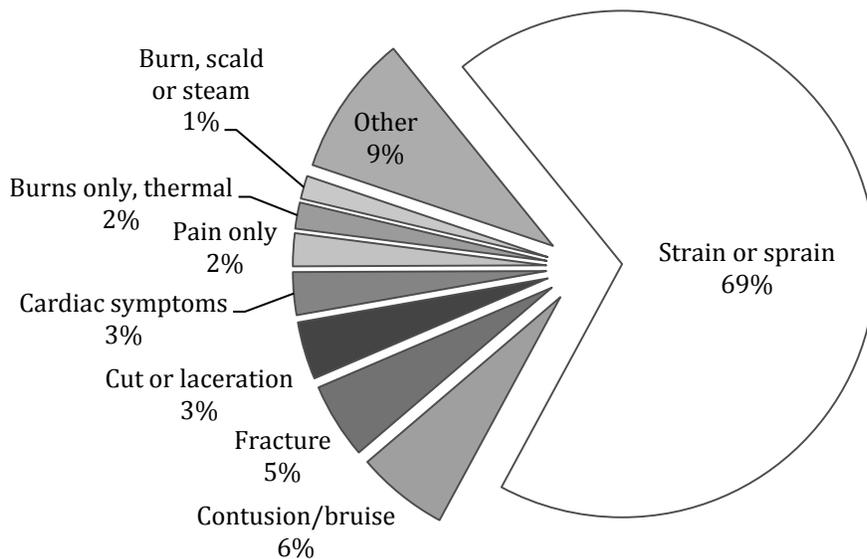
Activity	Count	Average Days Missed	Total Days Missed
Station Duties	24	174.17	4180
Fire Suppression	16	146.44	2343
Wellness/Fitness	16	118.50	1896
Responding to Incident	8	122.88	983
Skills Training	8	141.50	1132
EMS	7	168.57	1180
Returning from Incident	4	142.25	569
Rescue - Fire Related	2	258.50	517
Rescue - Non Fire	2	153.50	307
Fire Prevention	1	272.00	272
Total, 91+ Days Missed	88	152.03	13379

Types of Injuries with Lost Time

Table 16: Types of Injuries Resulting in Lost Time, 2013

Type of Injury	Count
Strain or sprain	657
Contusion/bruise, minor trauma	56
Fracture	46
Cut or laceration	35
Cardiac symptoms	26
Pain only	20
Burns only, thermal	16
Burn, scald or steam	14
Puncture wound/Stab wound: penetrating	13
Exhaustion/fatigue, including heat exhaustion	12
Allergic reaction, including anaphylactic shock	7
Crushing	5
Other	49
Total	956

Figure 7: Types of Injuries Resulting in Lost Time, 2013



Burn Injuries

Table 17: All Burns, 2013

All Burns - Types	Count
Thermal	92
Scald or steam	71
Electric	2
Total	165

Table 18: Burns With Lost Time by Type, 2013

Burns with Lost Time	Count	Average Days Missed	Total Days Missed
Thermal	17	55.88	782
Scald or steam	14	24.91	274
Electric	1	11.00	11
Total	32	41.04	1067

Table 19: Burns by Body Part, 2013

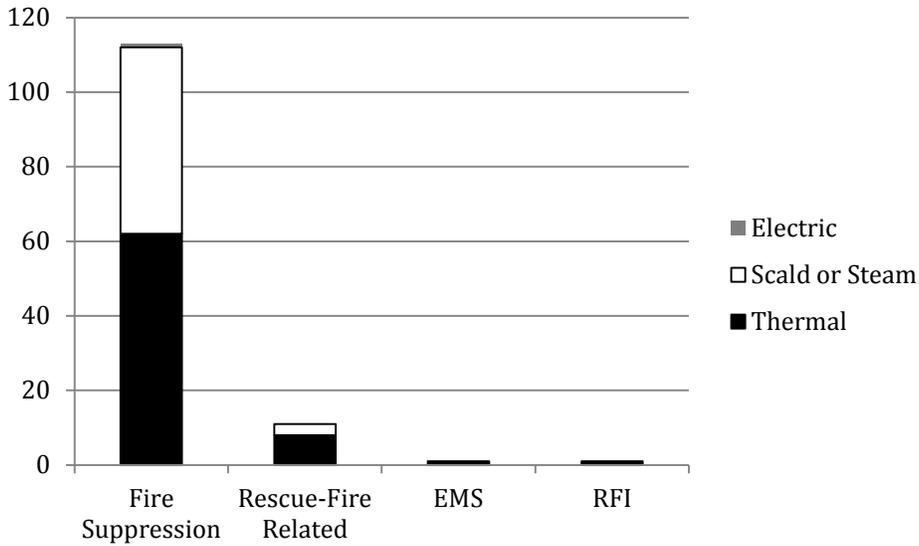
Body Part	Count
Hand and fingers	34
Ear	29
Face	14
Shoulder	13
Arm, lower, not including elbow or wrist	12
Multiple body parts, whole body	11
Wrist	10
Neck	9
Foot and toes	5
Head	5
Leg, lower	4
Leg, upper	3
Multiple body parts, upper body	3
Multiple Parts	3
Lower Extremities	2
Multiple parts, whole body	1
Arm, upper, not including elbow or shoulder	1
Chest	1
Elbow	1
Hand and finger	1
Knee	1
Neck and Shoulders	1
Throat	1
Total	165

Burn Injuries (continued)

Table 20: Burns by Emergency Activity, 2013

Type	Emergency Activities			
	Fire Suppression	Rescue-Fire Related	EMS	Returning From Incident
Thermal	62	8	1	1
Scald or Steam	50	3		
Electric	1			
Total	113	11	1	1

Figure 8: Burns by Emergency Activity, 2013

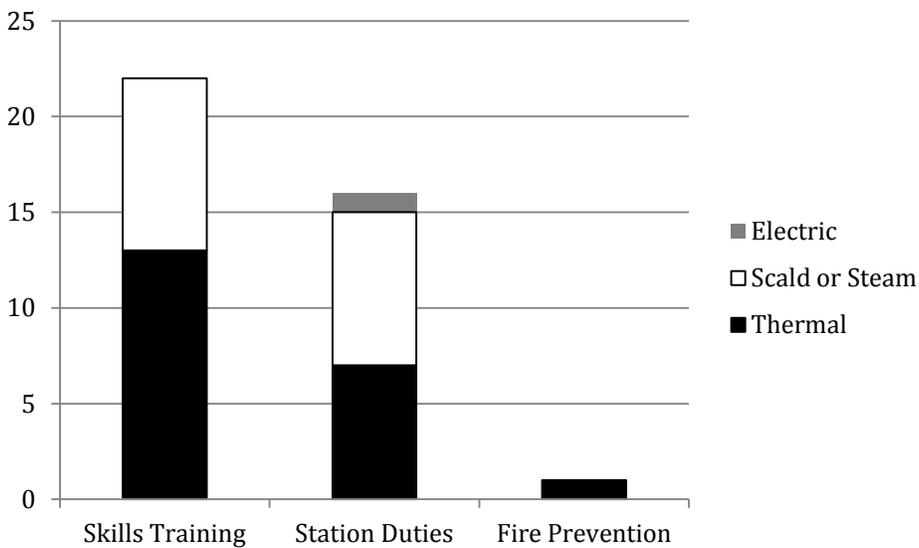


Burn Injuries (continued)

Table 21: Burns by Non-Emergency Activity, 2013

Type	Non-Emergency Activities		
	Skills Training	Station Duties	Fire Prevention
Thermal	13	7	1
Scald or Steam	9	8	
Electric		1	
Total	22	16	1

Figure 9: Burns by Non-Emergency Activity, 2013



SOP Issues

In 2013 there were 39 injuries attributed to failures of fire protection personnel to follow their departments' standard operating procedures (SOPs). All but a few were instances where the individuals were not wearing their provided PPE/SCBA gear in an environment or situation in which they should have been. Departments are reviewing their SOPs to make sure they are up to date, and are completing additional training to make sure these issues do not occur again.

In its compliance inspections, the Texas Commission on Fire Protection verifies that fire departments have required SOPs and that they cover the appropriate subject matter. The commission does not become involved in any internal disciplinary actions surrounding these issues, as this is not within the commission's scope of authority. However, the commission stands ready to partner with the fire service by providing assistance, expertise and educational resources to promote a safer community.

Table 22: Injuries Attributed to SOP Issues, 2013

Activity	Minor	Serious	Total
EMS	7	2	9
Fire Suppression	11	4	15
Rescue - Non Fire	2	2	4
Responding to Incident	1	2	3
Skills Training	3		3
Station Duties	1	3	4
Wellness/Fitness	1		1
Total	26	13	39

Fatalities

The commission's 2013 injury report includes nine fatalities. The fatalities listed in this report are only those reported to the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) by the entities it regulates. The commission has no statutory authority to require reporting by departments it does not regulate.

These fatalities are not the only fire service-related deaths that occurred in Texas during 2013, which was a tragic year for Texas fire protection personnel. The commission mourns the loss of each and every first responder.

More comprehensive information regarding Texas fire service Line of Duty Deaths is included in the State Fire Marshal's Annual Report.

Example Injury Narratives

The following narratives represent one minor and one serious injury for each of the “activity” categories (EMS, Fire Suppression, Station Duties, Skills Training, Wellness/Fitness, Rescue - Non Fire, Responding to Incident, Returning from Incident, Fire Prevention, Hazmat and Rescue - Fire Related), except for Hazmat, in which no serious injuries were reported.

EMS – Minor - (Contusion/Bruise)

Firefighter was providing patient care in the module of the rescue when the driver was forced to take an evasive maneuver to avoid a collision. The firefighter was thrown into a cabinet, hitting his head.

EMS – Serious (Strain/Sprain)

Firefighter was conducting patient removal from a confined area and was operating in an awkward position. The incident required lifting a patient and the firefighter was unable to use proper lifting techniques.

Fire Suppression – Minor (Environmental)

Firefighter suffered symptoms of dehydration after completing approximately 30-40 minutes of fire suppression at a residential structure fire. Firefighter was transported to the hospital for further evaluation. Firefighter was treated for moderate dehydration and released back to full duty.

Fire Suppression – Serious (Burns)

Firefighter was operating a hose line from the first floor interior into the second floor near the stairwell. The house was under construction and the stairs had already burned away. Portions of the second floor collapsed near the hose crew. At this time the firefighter knelt down due to the heat and realized that his legs were burning. The hose the crew was using suddenly burst, causing the loss of an effective fire stream. The crew backed out of the building. The ambulance crews provided on-site treatment and transported the firefighter to the hospital.

Station Duties – Minor (Wound)

Firefighter was preparing lunch and while cutting a sweet potato, cut left thumb.

Station Duties - Serious (Strain/Sprain)

Firefighter strained back while moving rolled hose.

Skills Training – Minor (Environmental)

Firefighter completed SCBA drill, stood up, experienced a syncopal episode secondary to possible over-exertion and fell from a standing position, striking his head on a lumber maze prop.

Skills Training – Serious (Strain/Sprain)

Firefighter was participating in a swift water rescue training class and dislocated his knee while training in a strong current. The firefighter's foot became stuck to the bottom of the pool which caused his leg to stay in one place as the current forced his body in an opposite direction.

Wellness/Fitness – Minor (Strain/Sprain)

During physical fitness sustained injury to left shoulder lifting weights.

Wellness/Fitness – Serious (Cardiac Symptoms)

Firefighter was participating in physical fitness training in the fire station. After his workout he began to feel chest pain that radiated to his jaw.

Fire Prevention – Minor – (Exposure)

The firefighter responded to an activated fire alarm call and was possibly exposed to drug manufacturing fumes. The firefighter did not have complaint or symptoms from exposure. The firefighter was denied entry

into the house by the resident and the possible exposure was from the front door for a short amount of time. The sheriff's office was notified of the incident.

Fire Prevention – Serious (Strain/Sprain)

Firefighter was conducting an origin and cause investigation in a freight truck vehicle cab. The firefighter was removing fire debris from the driver's side when the steering column collapsed and struck him. This caused him to fall out of the elevated cab and strike the pavement with the left side of his body.

HazMat – Minor (Exposure)

While at a HazMat incident, firefighter went to open a bottle of Petro-Green to start cleaning up the scene. When he pulled the lid off, his right eye was splashed with the Petro-Green. He flushed eye with water and went to emergency room, where they flushed his eye a second time with positive results.

Rescue – Fire Related – Minor (Smoke-Gas Inhalation)

The firefighter had responded to an apartment fire and participated in rescuing trapped occupants on the second floor. During the rescue the firefighter climbed a ground ladder to rescue an occupant found at a second floor window. In the process the firefighter was exposed/inhaled smoke and gases. The firefighter did not make entry and conducted the rescue from the ground ladder. Later during the day the firefighter began to experience irritation in his throat and sinuses.

Rescue – Fire Related – Serious (Burns)

Firefighter was attempting to reach a trapped occupant during structure fire operations. Firefighter suffered second-degree burns to bottom of chin. Firefighter was evaluated at hospital and returned to duty.

Rescue Non-Fire - Minor (Environmental)

After helping an automobile crash victim from their vehicle in a creek in an area of heavy vegetation, the firefighter came up with poison ivy two days later.

Rescue Non-Fire - Serious (Wound)

While at a motor vehicle collision, firefighter was aiding police department to direct traffic. A driver was directed to stop and turn the car off. The driver accelerated rapidly striking the firefighter and throwing his body onto the hood of the vehicle. The firefighter grabbed the hood but fell off the side of the car as the driver accelerated faster. The firefighter hit his head and multiple body parts as the vehicle sped away.

Responding to Incident – Minor (Strain/Sprain)

Fire truck was t-boned by a passenger car on the passenger side. Firefighter was sitting in the seat behind the driver. On impact he was jostled, injuring his right shoulder.

Responding to Incident – Serious (Strain/Sprain)

Firefighter was dismounting the engine at a fire scene and tripped on an unpainted curb.

Returning From Incident – Minor (Strain/Sprain)

Driver was exiting vehicle while at the station and missed the step causing him to fall to the floor.

Returning From Incident – Serious (Broken Bones)

Firefighter was putting his airpack back into bracket on engine. He was bracing himself on edge of door frame. Engine was on an incline. Door shut on his thumb and latched. Right thumb was broken above distal joint.

Comparison between the State of Texas (2013) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), U.S. Firefighter Injuries – 2012

For the purposes of comparison, the commission has mapped its categories to the NFPA categories as follows:

- “Fireground” includes the commission’s Fire Suppression and Rescue – Fire Related.
- “Non-Fire” includes Rescue Non-Fire, EMS and Hazmat.
- “Other On-Duty” includes Fire Prevention, Station Duties and Wellness/Fitness.

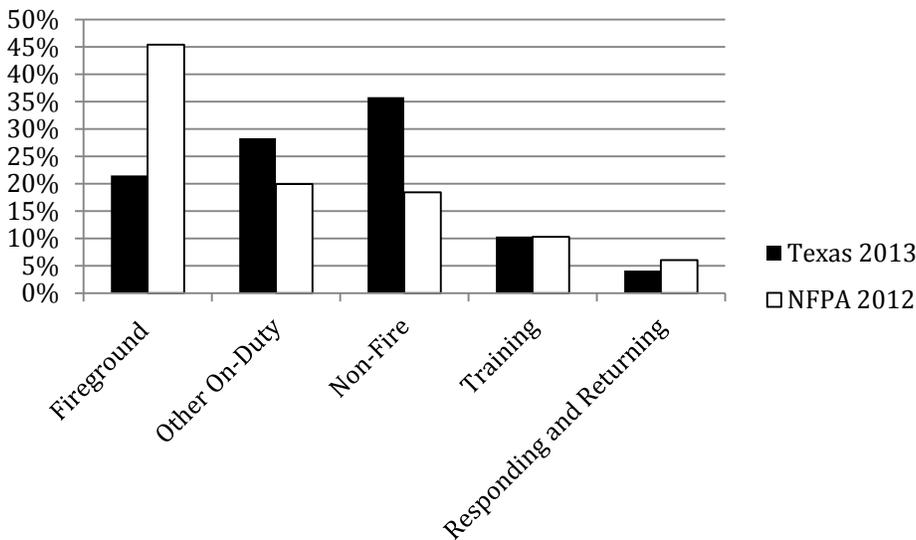
The NFPA’s “Responding and Returning” and “Training” categories appear to closely correspond to the commission’s categories. (The NFPA numbers include Texas statistics, although the reporting populations may not be the same.)

Table 23: Comparison of Texas 2013 and NFPA 2012

Category	Texas 2013		NFPA 2012*	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Responding and Returning	167	4.12%	4190	6.04%
Fireground	871	21.51%	31490	45.37%
Non-Fire	1449	35.78%	12760	18.39%
Other On-Duty	1145	28.27%	13820	19.91%
Training	418	10.32%	7140	10.29%
Total	4050	100%	69400	100.00%

* NFPA data is from [U.S. Firefighter Injuries – 2012](#), copyright© 2013, National Fire Protection Association, Quincy, MA.

Figure 10: Injuries by Activity – Comparison Texas 2013 and NFPA 2012



2013 Findings/Recommendations

The commission's injury reporting program received nearly identical numbers of injury reports in every category in 2013, with 4,050 reported injuries compared to 4,264 in 2012.

The Texas fire service has been proactive in adopting and promoting fireground safety, including the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation's "Courage to be Safe So Everyone Goes Home" program. All commission-certified firefighters are required to complete this training before Jan. 1, 2015. The commission continues to stress the importance of the program's 16 Life Safety Initiatives.

The commission notes that injuries incurred in 2013 during non-emergency activities remain at roughly one-third of all reported injuries. The commission recognizes that the firehouse is an active, busy workplace, but only rarely are the conditions at the station as emergent as those on the fireground. Although accidents can happen anytime and in unanticipated ways, personnel should take every opportunity to minimize the risks when there is time to prepare and plan.

Skills training should be as realistic as possible without creating undue hazards. Physical fitness activities should prepare personnel mentally and physically for the demands of the job, but should avoid situations that invite injury. Station maintenance is a necessary part of the job, but should ensure a safe environment for personnel, not create additional hazards. The commission would like to challenge fire chiefs, training officers, and all fire protection personnel to work to reduce these non-emergency injury numbers, and offers a few workplace safety reminders:

- Lifting/moving equipment. Use proper lifting techniques, and to get help with heavy objects.
- Slips, trips and falls. Keep the floor of the engine bay dry and free of obstacles.
- Physical fitness/wellness. Emphasize operational readiness over competition.
- Cuts/lacerations. Pay attention and be careful with all manual and power tools.

The commission has adopted several NFPA and other nationally recognized standards to help keep Texas firefighters safe. This list summarizes the relationships between some of the Texas laws and national standards; it is not intended to be all-inclusive:

Texas Government Code

[§419.040, Protective Clothing](#)

[§419.041, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus](#)

[§419.042, Personal Alert Safety Systems](#)

[§419.043, Applicable National Fire Protection Association Standard](#)

[§419.044, Incident Management System](#)

[§419.045, Personnel Accountability System](#)

[§419.046, Fire Protection Personnel Operating at Emergency Incidents](#)

[§419.047, Commission Enforcement](#)

2013 Findings/Recommendations (continued)

Texas Administrative Code

CHAPTER 425 FIRE SERVICE INSTRUCTORS

§443.9 National Fire Protection Association Standard

CHAPTER 435 FIRE FIGHTER SAFETY

§435.21 Fire Service Joint Labor Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative

§435.23 Fire Fighter Injuries

§435.25 Courage to be Safe So Everyone Goes Home Program

§435.27 Live Fire Training Structure Evolutions

CHAPTER 451 FIRE OFFICER

CHAPTER 457 INCIDENT SAFETY OFFICER CERTIFICATION

Other resources

See also the commission's web page, [NFPA Standards adopted by the commission.](#)

11. Discussion and possible action on future meeting dates, locations and agenda items.

12. Adjourn meeting.