

2014



Annual

Report



# Operations



For years, North Metro Fire has trained, evolved and expanded its services to meet the growing needs of the community. 2014 was a pivotal year for the Operations Division as it took an intentional look back and evaluated its protocols and resource allocation.

A data-driven analysis provided essential information on services, staffing and outcomes that helped shape the division's plans for the future. As a result of its analysis, the division was able to find more cost-efficient means of delivering services and allocating resources while keeping its focus on providing excellent customer service to residents.

## Improving Patient Outcomes

Last year, North Metro Fire responded to more than 9,800 emergency calls, an increase of 37 percent over the past decade. Over 6,600 of these responses were medical calls, a number that is expected to continue rising as the baby boomer generation ages and population increases in the area.

North Metro Fire has a designated team of firefighters and paramedics, known as the Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) team, which reviews each critical medical call and looks at ways to improve patient survival. Their primary focus is evaluating calls that have high mortality and morbidity rates, such as respiratory distress, heart attacks, strokes, cardiac arrests, pediatric emergencies and medical calls needing advanced airway management. Through the work of many firefighters of all ranks, the North Metro Fire QA/QI team has created the most robust QA/QI system in the Denver Metro area.

The team members analyze call reports, review medical interventions, follow up with hospitals on patient outcomes and examine trends from the data collected. Based on their findings, they make adjustments to protocols and provide more specialized training to ensure firefighters are utilizing the most optimal techniques and procedures to improve patient survival.

One recent initiative illustrates the positive outcomes resulting from the team's work. North Metro firefighters incorporated research from national studies and an internal assessment to enhance cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training and delivery of care on scene. As a result, last year's survival rate of residents in the District who went into cardiac arrest was more than 50 percent higher than the national average.

**37%**  
growth in total  
call volume over  
the past decade



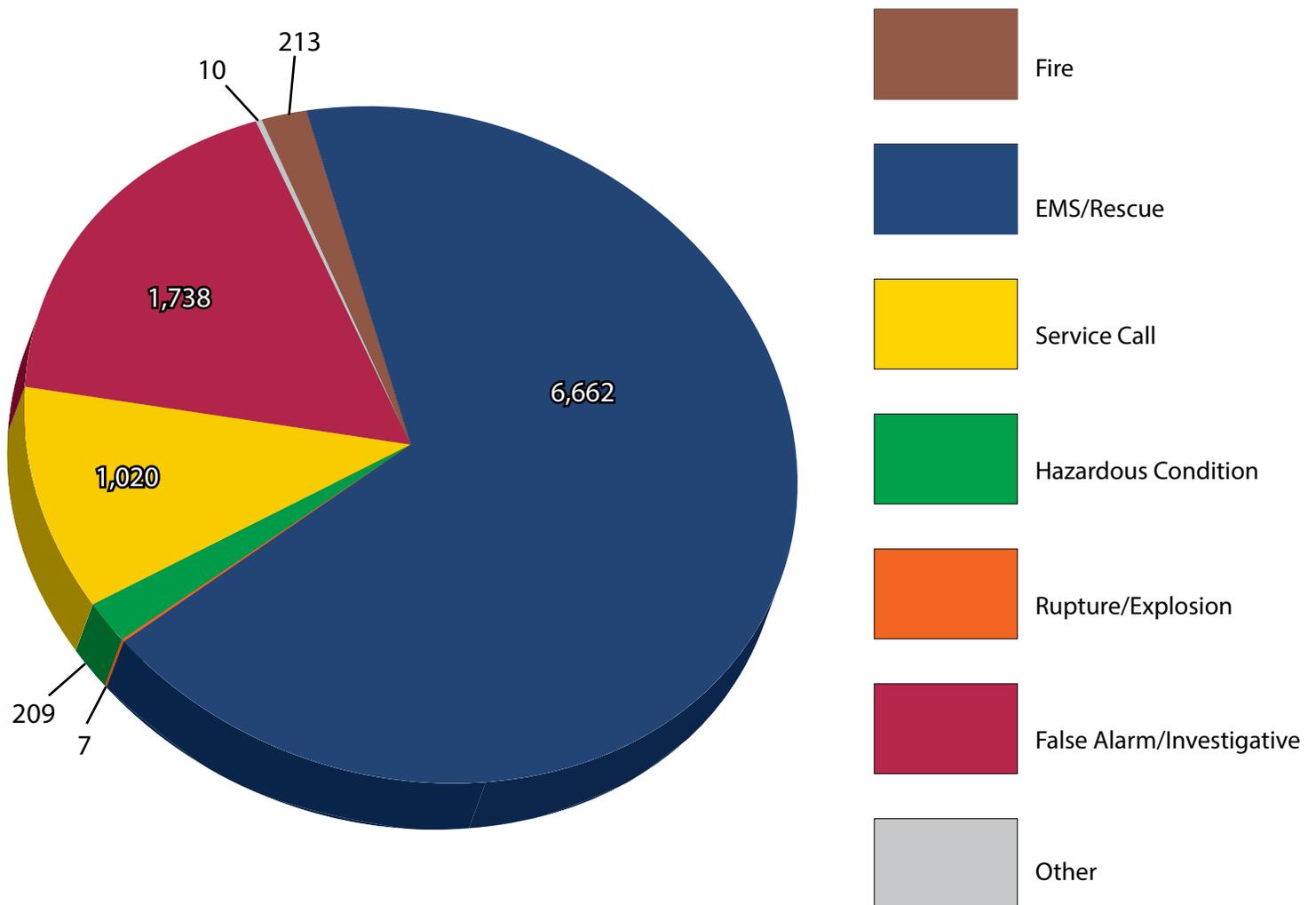
## Enhancing Multi-Agency Response

For larger incidents requiring extensive resources, working well with neighboring agencies is imperative. This starts with training together on drills and collaborating on strategies at a regional level.

In October, a large fire near the Weld County and Broomfield County line extensively damaged three buildings and destroyed over 30 classic cars. This major incident required the resources of numerous agencies. From a Broomfield utilities worker to a water tender truck from Mountain View Fire Rescue, the relationships North Metro Fire has built over the years allowed more than 50 firefighters and fire officers to work together with county agencies to extinguish a fire that required resources no single agency could supply.

This fire is just an example of the power of interagency cooperation. It's a primary example of how North Metro Fire leverages partnerships to gain efficiencies and control costs.

## 2014 Emergency Calls by Type



# Through the lens...



# Training



North Metro Fire places a strong emphasis on training its firefighters, preparing them for any emergency that may occur within the District. The Training Division monitors major training trends and ideas nationally, while assessing the evolving needs locally, to plan timely and relevant training drills for the District.

In recent years, active shooter incidents and the spread of infectious diseases have resulted in specialized training and preparation for North Metro firefighters. Additionally, the District partnered with several external fire and law enforcement agencies to enhance emergency operations on scene at large-scale incidents.

## High Rise Training

In 2014, North Metro Fire led a multi-agency training at a high-rise building in Broomfield's Interlocken area. Several neighboring fire departments, including Westminster Fire, Thornton Fire, Brighton Fire, Rocky Mountain Fire, Lafayette Fire and Adams County Fire, participated in the drills, supporting the North Area's focus to standardize operations and enhance emergency communication.

As part of the drill, crews were tasked with establishing command, climbing the stairs with hose lines to the tenth floor, locating the mock fire and performing a search for potential victims while their face masks were blacked out. As the commercial areas grow within the District, the Training Division will continue to train for high-rise incidents and enhance operational efficiencies on scene.





## Airport Training

In another training drill, North Metro Fire partnered with Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport personnel to work together on airport incident scenarios. North Metro Fire staffs a station at the airport, which houses both a fire engine and an aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF) vehicle. The airport also has its own ARFF vehicle. Together, crews used the ARFF vehicles and other fire apparatus to attack an aircraft fire as part of the training drill. Working with Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport and their staff has led to a great partnership resulting in enhanced safety and emergency response at the airport.

## Training in Action

Every year, North Metro Fire crews undergo ice rescue training, practicing different scenarios on an iced over lake in preparation for the winter season.

Last year, that training was put into action when crews were called one evening to an ice rescue in the Interlocken area. A citizen fell through the ice while trying to rescue a friend's dog that had gotten away and also fallen through the ice. Fortunately, both were rescued within minutes and pulled safely to shore without any injuries because of the efficient firefighter response, honed through annual training drills.



Ilse Hemmer stopped by to thank Firefighter Stephen Bostwick and the crew from Station 65 after they rescued her from the ice in 2014.



For the full story visit:  
<http://northmetrofire.org/icerescue2014/>

## 2014 Training Statistics:

**40,000+**  
hours of training logged  
by North Metro Fire  
personnel

**187**  
live burns conducted at  
the Training Center

**10+**  
Law enforcement and fire agencies  
trained at center, including  
Colorado National Guard

# Fire Prevention



The Fire Prevention Division had a busy 2014. With North Metro Fire responding to more than 200 fires last year, its fire investigators were active examining scenes and pinpointing the causes to some of the District's larger and more complex fires.

Additionally, the division's Engineering Services group had their busiest year since the economic downturn in 2008, working alongside builders and developers on plans and permits as the District continues to grow.

## Demonstrating the impact of residential sprinklers

With a focus on preventing loss of life and minimizing property damage during a fire, the Fire Prevention Division has been a longtime advocate of fire sprinklers in residential housing. In 2014, the division had an opportunity to demonstrate the significant impact sprinklers have on a fire that breaks out in a home.

The division partnered with the City and County of Broomfield and the National Fire Sprinkler Association on National Night Out to conduct a live burn, giving residents a side-by-side comparison of a room on fire that was equipped with sprinklers and one that wasn't.

Attendees of all ages were captivated by the flames that completely engulfed one room within five minutes, while the sprinkler-equipped room's fire was put out in under a minute, significantly minimizing any fire damage to the room.

**70%**  
The average reduction in property loss from a fire in a home with sprinklers

Source: National Fire Protection Association

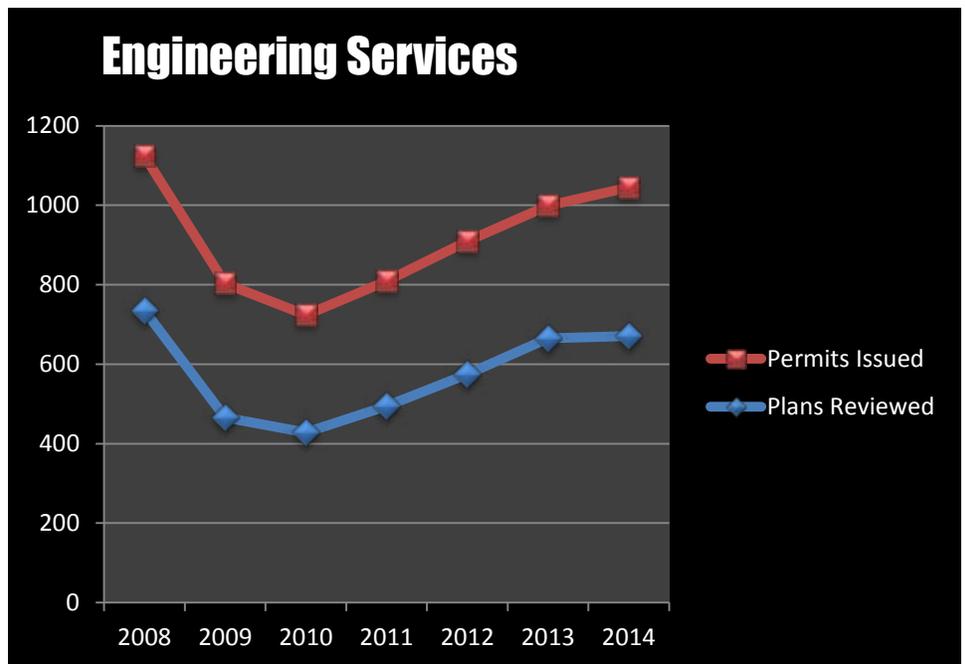


Following the demonstration, a local burn victim shared her tragic experience with the crowd, giving a personal account of the dangers surrounding a home fire.

The division also partnered with the new Walmart Neighborhood Market in Northglenn to host a similar demonstration and educational event during Fire Prevention Week in October.

### Partnering for a safer community

Fire and life safety education is a key component to the fire district's mission. Last year, North Metro Fire offered and oversaw over 400 fire and life safety education events, from station and engine tours to business and community programs, car seat safety checks and public demonstrations.



# Financial Report

NORTH METRO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
GENERAL FUND  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES  
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014  
UNAUDITED\*

Revenues:	
General property taxes	\$ 13,816,326
Specific ownership taxes	977,226
Delinquent interest and taxes	42,663
Investment earnings	18,002
Other revenues	<u>3,265,827</u>
Total revenues	<u>18,120,044</u>
Expenditures:	
Administration	5,456,119
Emergency services	10,095,777
Fire prevention	575,837
Training	603,721
Support services	640,409
Information technology	<u>338,428</u>
Total expenditures	<u>17,710,291</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	409,753
Other financing sources/uses:	
Transfers-internal activities	<u>(24,500)</u>
Total other financing sources/uses	<u>(24,500)</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and transfers out	385,253
Fund balance, beginning of year	<u>4,982,585</u>
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ 5,367,838</u>

\* A COMPLETE SET OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE DISTRICT'S WEBSITE  
JUNE 2015



North Metro Fire Rescue District is a special district governed by a Board of Directors comprised of elected officials. The 2014 Board includes (L to R) Tim Long, Board President John Abboud, Robert Nielsen, Dennis Day and Jenni Murphy.



North Metro Fire Rescue District  
101 Spader Way  
Broomfield, CO 80020  
(303) 452-9910  
[www.northmetrofire.org](http://www.northmetrofire.org)

 [facebook.com/northmetrofire](https://facebook.com/northmetrofire) •  [twitter.com/nmfirepio](https://twitter.com/nmfirepio)