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Mission Statement

The primary mission of the Joliet Fire Department is to provide a range of programs to protect the lives and property of the residents and visitors of the City of Joliet from the adverse effects of fires, sudden medical emergencies or dangerous conditions created by either man or nature.
Mayor Giarrante and Council Members,

2012 was a very exciting year for the Joliet Fire Department. In March we were able to move into our new Fire Station #3 located at 450 Laraway Road. It is a very sharp building, and we would like to thank our architect Bret Mitchell from Buchan and Associates along with our builder/construction manager Rich Berti for all of their assistance during the construction process. The Joliet Fire Department was awarded a grant from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) in the amount of $1.16 million dollars to construct the 9,600 square foot facility. The City of Joliet also received corporate donations in the amount of $100,000 each from Centerpoint Properties and Chicagoland Speedway toward the construction of the station. In the end, the City of Joliet’s share of the project was roughly $350,000. It is great to be able to move into a new building, but it is also sad to have to close a chapter of our Joliet Fire Department history. We moved into old Station #3 at 319 Grover in 1972, and were there for 40 years. The new station has been open for over a year now, and is working out very well.

In July of 2012, the Joliet Fire Department was informed that it was the recipient of a SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant from FEMA in the amount of $2.1 million dollars. During the difficult economic times that we experienced from 2008 on, as firefighters were retiring, we were not able to replace them. The grant came at the perfect time. We were at a point where we either needed to hire new firefighters, pay overtime to staff positions, or take equipment out of service. We were able to hire 8 new firefighters with the grant. We were also lucky in the fact that 6 of the 8 new hires were already paramedics and State of Illinois Certified Firefighter II’s so they could go right on shift, thus saving us over $250,000 in training expenses. The remaining 2 candidates attended the 9 week Firefighter II Academy in Aurora, and came on shift in late December.

The Joliet Fire Department had not purchased a new fire vehicle since 2000, again due to the economic difficulties affecting our community. Time was catching up to us as many of our fire engines and ambulances were hitting their replacement point. In 2012, the City of Joliet was able to budget to replace a new Battalion Chief SUV and two new E-One Engines to replace Engine 8 and Engine 9. The vehicles are scheduled to arrive in July of 2013 at which time the units they are replacing will be placed in reserve.

In November we turned on our new Digital Motorola Starcom radio system. The system replaced our aging 800 MHz system that had been in place since the mid 1990's. The new radio system has improved our coverage, while giving us an interoperability component that we did not have in the past.

After 5 years of difficult financial times, many economic indicators are starting to reflect positive news. I want to thank the Mayor and City Council for all of their support during this time, and look forward to better times in 2013.

Joe Formhals – Fire Chief
COMMAND STAFF

Joe Formhals – Fire Chief

Ray Randich – Deputy Chief

Brian Lucca / John Zagar – Operations Chief
Brian Plyer – Training Chief

Chuck Willard – EMS Coordinator
Secretaries

(L to R) Gail Dillon, Carol Ann Heinemann, Kyla Stewart, Lily Nunez,

Fire Department Chaplin’s

Father Chris Groh  Pastor Joel Labertew
Fire Departments across the country are rich in tradition. One of the longest traditions at the Joliet Fire Department is the signing of the “book”. The book has the name of every fire fighter signed on their first day of duty since 1905. The book remains in the Chief’s office and is one of the most treasured possessions of the department.

FF Parenti (r) signs in

FF Young (r) signs in
FF Malone (r) signs in

FF Bruton (r) signs in
The Joliet Fire Department has gone through several changes in 2012 from; retirements, new hires, a new radio system, opening of a new engine house and the relocation of Silver Cross Hospital. A struggling economy has slowed the expansion of both the City’s and Fire Departments growth in 2012. Thanks to perseverance from all involved we’re able to continue in our proud tradition of protecting the citizens from emergencies that come in all forms.

**Personnel**

Fire Chief Joseph Formhals and Deputy Chief Raymond Randich set long and short term goals for the department. They are supported by; Operations Chief – BC John Zagar, Training Chief – BC Brian Plyer and EMS Division – Lt. Chuck Willard. The city is divided into 2 distinct Battalions, separated East and West at Larkin Ave with Battalion 1 (east) and Battalion 2 (west) supervising those areas. Captains and Lieutenants supervise the Stations, Vehicles and Fire fighters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Battalion 1</th>
<th>Battalion 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Station 1 – 101 E Clinton St</td>
<td>Station 6 – 2049 Oneida St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station 3 – 450 Laraway Rd</td>
<td>Station 7 – 125 Houbolt Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station 4 – 868 Draper Ave</td>
<td>Station 8 – 2293 Essington Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station 5 – 661 Mason Ave</td>
<td>Station 9 – 2300 Michas Dr</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Station 10 – 1599 John D. Paige Dr</td>
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As of 1-16-2013 we have 209 Sworn Personnel. From the start of 2012 until the present we have had 8 people retire. We also hired 8 new firefighters in October 2012, keeping us a status quo with personnel. When not responding to emergencies, we’re doing; Building Inspections, Training, Re-Certifications, Maintaining Equipment and Facilities, Tours and Public Education,

Our personnel logged many volunteer hours and sponsored several local charity events. We volunteered to; Joliet Hospice with landscaping and holiday decorations. Shop with a Fireman raised over $7,500 for abused children to purchase Christmas gifts. Wish Upon a Star “softball in the snow”, Big Brothers/ Big Sisters Bowl-A-Thon Fundraiser, Easter Seal Telethon, Fill the boot for Muscular Dystrophy. Pink Heals Tour and Walk for Cancer raised $12,000, Guardian Angel Food Pantry, Ryder Cup fundraiser for Illinois Fire Safety Alliance Burn Camp, MDA Summer Camp, IFSA Burn Camp- Firefighter Day &
Engine Parade, Easter Seals Guns vs. Hoses Charity Picnic and Softball Tournament, First Aid Kits to local sports organizations and local Team sponsorships.

**Major Projects / Purchases in 2012:**

- Opened new Station 3 at 450 Laraway Rd. from old location on Grover to increase presence on our southern border and decrease run time
- A New Battalion Chief Car was delivered in November.
- 2 new E-One Engines ordered to replace Engine 8 and Engine 9
- New Radio System to replace an aging system and provide for the future communications
- Replaced the Vehicle Computers
- Station 9 underground work
- 30 new SCBA cylinders for replacement of end of service life cylinders
- The City and the Foreign Fire Tax Board combined to approve for purchase of a Brush Truck, 22 New Air-Packs and Exercise equipment
- Lockport recently received a Fire Boat for large Fires and Dive support events that we are in an agreement to use
- Completed the expansion of the Opticom system to provide an expedited route for our equipment and increased safety for the public

**Responses In 2012:**

The Department Units had 32,300 responses in 2012, over 22,000 were Medical related. We had 65 Structure fires and responded to other fire calls through-out the year as well. Car, brush, and trash fires are other fires that are handled by a single engine. Carbon monoxide, power lines down, auto accidents, wash downs, rescue calls, police assists and others make up the remaining calls for our equipment.

- Battalion 1 handled 46 of the fires
- Battalion 2 handled 19 of the fires

The city is broken into **East, Central, and West** districts. East is from the DesPlaines River to the far eastern border. Central is from the DesPlaines River up to and excluding Larkin Ave. And west is from, and including Larkin Ave to the far western borders. Fires by district were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A Shift</th>
<th>B Shift</th>
<th>C Shift</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Dist.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Dist.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Dist.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
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MAJOR FIRES 2012:

On Friday, April 06, 2012, the “B” Shift responded to 1802 Grove Rd to find a livestock storage facility fully involved in fire. We used MABAS Tankers to assist with the fire due to lack of hydrants. 1000 LPG tank on site was cooled down to keep from exploding. The fire caused 254 hogs to perish.

On Sunday, April 29, 2012, the “C” Shift responded to 625 Mills Rd to find a manufacturing plant with heavy smoke and fire showing thru the roof. A Box Alarm called with the addition of Tower 6 to assist East Joliet Fire Department

On Saturday, May 19, 2012, the “B Shift responded to 2190 NE Frontage to find a fully involved in fire structure. Mutual aid received from Plainfield Fire Department tenders

July had over 20 vegetation fires due to the severe drought this year

Mutual Aid:
The Joliet Fire Department also provided mutual aid to the Troy FD, East Joliet FPD, Homer FD, and the Plainfield FPD throughout the year. The Joliet Fire Department received mutual aid for our areas without fire hydrants.

Fire Loss in 2012 was listed at $4,651,222 and the Property Value saved is $15,870,397. That helps keep it in the tax revenue.
The information regarding 2012 is respectfully submitted. I would like to thank Capt Leggero for the data and Capt Wohrab and Lt Mattason for Charity information.
The year of 2012 turned out to be a productive year for the Training Division of the Joliet Fire Department. We engaged in areas of training from “Live Fire” training to drivers training.

**January** - Captain Ron Fox along with members of our JFD Dive team conducted hands on surface ice rescue for all of our first responders.

All personnel were given their annual S.C.B.A. mask fit tests, along with reviewing refilling empty bottles through our air compressor filling stations. This was our First quarter S.C.B.A. mandatory IDOL requirement.

Metra Train Rep. Tom Doneagan was brought in and spoke about responses and protocols for Metra train incidents.

**April** - All personnel were involved in the first night drill of the year. All personnel challenged our Drivers Obstacle course. This was done in the dark with limited lighting. It was a challenge for all that were involved.

**May** - Training consisted of The Doctors Speakers Group administering a classroom in service to our personnel covering Health and Wellness. IFSI also administered a Fire Service Vehicle Operators class, which was held at Station #10. Thanks to all who stepped up and sat through the class on their own time. All personnel that attended passed the course, and received their State of Illinois certificates.

**June** - With the start of summer quickly approaching, we dove right in to complete our first “Live Fire” training exercise of the year. The house was located at 1611 Rowell Ave. This was made possible through the kind donation from Laraway School District. Coordinated fire ground evolutions were the main focus of the drill, with the finale of the structure being burnt down. Our second quarter S.C.B.A. drills were also completed.

**July** - This was the time for City fire hydrants to be tested. This was coordinated by Battalion Chief Ron Schroeder. Pump operator first quarter training was also conducted. This was a hands-on drill competed at the company level. A skills quiz was also administered, and completed.

**August** - All personnel toughed out the hot weather by participating in vertical ventilation drills, which were held at several buildings that the city owned. This
would not have been possible if it wasn’t for the gracious assistance Neighborhood Assistance Manager Jeff Sterr, and his staff.

**September** - Our third quarterly S.C.B.A. drills were completed.

**October** - Our annual inspections of all personnel and equipment was completed by Chief Formhals and Chief Randich. Good job by all personnel on preparing their respective station houses. This month also brought the addition of eight new personnel to the Joliet Fire Department family. The new additions are FF’s Bruton, Ellenberger, Lincoln, Malone, O’Hara, Parenti, Schultz, and Young.

**November** - Reserved for our firefighter’s annual physicals. This is coordinated through the tireless effort of Lt. Charles Willard JFD’s EMS Coordinator. Thanks Lieutenant Willard for your time and effort. Some companies also were afforded the opportunity to participate in some “Live Fire” training mini-drills at a structure that was donated by a private citizen. The main focus was interior fire attack.

**December** - Our fourth and final quarterly S.C.B.A drill. We also assisted the Aurora Fire Department with their FFII Academy, by affording them the opportunity to use our training structure for “Live Fire” training with their recruit class. Two of JFD’s new recruits Bruton and Lincoln participated in the evolutions.

In 2012 these were the following State of Illinois certificates that members of the JFD achieved:

- FFIII- 10
- Fire Service Operators- 9
- Fire Apparatus Engineers- 9
- Basic Firefighters- 7
- Advanced Fire Technicians- 2
- Hazardous Material Technicians Level “A”- 3
- Hazardous Material Technician Level “B”- 3
- Hazardous material Incident Command- 1
- Fire Officer I- 4
- Vehicle Machinery Operations- 1
- Fire Department Safety Officer- 1
- Fire Department Health and safety Officer- 1
- Structural Collapse Operations- 2
- Water Operations- 1
Lieutenant Chuck Willard – EMS Coordinator

Mission Statement
"The Joliet Fire Department EMS Division’s mission is to provide rapid response to 9-1-1 medical emergencies with the highest level of training, including Advanced Life Support, to the sick and injured, with compassion and regard for safety. We also seek to enhance the quality of living in our community by promoting wellness and health education."

Joliet Fire Department Advanced Life Support ambulances responded to 17,503 911 calls for emergency service in 2012. Ambulance 5 has bragging rights in 2012 as “The Busiest Ambulance in the City” with 3358 total EMS runs. These totals do not include the thousands of fire calls that our fire medics also responded to.

The Joliet Fire Department operates with 9 front line Advanced Life Support ambulances and 9 ALS fire engines. This gives us the advantage of having an ALS ambulance and ALS engine at each of our 9 stations. We also have 9 reserve ALS ambulances that are used to support our many special events throughout the city annually.
EMS training for the members of the Joliet Fire Department consisted of daily refreshers, monthly training, Silver Cross EMS System CME requirements and guest lecturers. The daily training was set to the individual and engine company level and varied from Standing Medical Order refreshers to cardiac emergencies. Monthly training was done on a multi-company level and covered such topics as blood borne pathogens to advanced RSI intubations. In 2012, our paramedics re-certified in eACLS advanced cardiac life support.

As of this report, 200 out of 207 members are paramedic certified. Of the remaining seven, we have one EMT-B certified, four emergency first responders and two currently in EMT-B school.

Joliet Fire Department paramedics received numerous awards and recognition for life-saves and outstanding actions at the 2012 Silver Cross EMS awards banquet. Joliet Paramedics also received special recognition from Provena Saint Joseph Hospital for their outstanding work pre-hospital in Neuro stroke and cardiac STEMI patients. Our paramedics also mentored EMT-B and EMT-P ride-a-long students from Joliet Junior College, Silver Cross Hospital Paramedic School, Morris Hospital Paramedic School, and WILCO EMT-B School passing on their knowledge and real life, hands on experiences to the next generation of medics.

In addition to their regular duties, Joliet Fire Department paramedics served as the on-site medics for numerous local and national events including: Joliet Slammer professional Baseball team; NASCAR Sprint Cup, Truck and Nationwide Series, ARCA racing, the Richard Petty Driving School at Chicagoland Speedway, NHRA Grand Nationals and other events at the Route 66 Raceway, the Joliet Autobahn Country Club, Joliet Central, Joliet West and Plainfield South High School football games, PAC MMA mixed martial arts, Joliet Park District Taste of Joliet, plus numerous special events for the City of Joliet.

For special events in 2012, Joliet Fire Department Paramedics treated 381 patients and transported 32 to our local hospitals.

The Joliet Fire Department paramedic service proudly continues to serve the citizens of Joliet and the guests who visit our city.
Honor Guard

A/O P Dave Eichholzer-Commander

Mission Statement
The primary mission of the Joliet Fire Department Honor Guard is to honor and represent our Country, State, City, and Fire Department. We will also honor the fire fighters both currently serving the Joliet Fire Department as well as the retired fire fighters who have served the Joliet Fire Department so bravely in the past. When called upon, we will also assist our fellow fire fighters from other communities during times of need when tragedy and sadness occur.
The JFD Honor Guard welcomed three new members in 2013, AO/P Noah Klima, FF/P Matt Christensen, and FF/P Scott Sheets. This brings our current manning to 14 members. Other than these three new members, all of the honor guard personnel are members of the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois Honor Guard which is the largest state honor guard in the United States. The three new members will be inducted into the A.F.F.I. Honor Guard in February, 2013.

**Joliet Fire Department Honor Guard members:**

* A/O P Dave Eichholzer- Commander  
* AO/P Bryan Ogrizivich- Deputy Commander  
* AO/P Leon Trimmer- Sergeant at Arms  
* Captain Mike Bank  
* Captain Robert Smith  
* Lieutenant Eric Mattson  
* AO/P Bob Rosado  
* AO/P Craig Sayles  
* AO/P Dave Chizmark  
* AO/P Hiram Grigsby  
* AO/P Arron Hill  
* AO/P Noah Klima  
* FF/P Scott Sheets  
* FF/P Matt Christensen

**Training:**  
The JFD Honor Guard schedules 9 trainings throughout the year. Trainings consist of various scenarios in preparing for an unfortunate Line of Duty Death, providing funeral services to our active and retired fire fighters, and the numerous public events that we are requested to participate in throughout the year.
**Training topics covered:**  
* Flag etiquette and folding  
* Bell Ceremony  
* Funeral organization  
* Casket Management/ Silent Guard  
* Drill/ Ceremony/ Marching formations

**Events attended in 2012:**  
* February- Funeral services were organized and provided for retired JFD Captain William Keigher.

* April 1st- Easter Parade- downtown Joliet

* November 3rd- Army National Guard request in Joliet. Posted and Retrieved American Colors for a public change of command ceremony.

* November 7th- Visitation for Capt. Herbie Johnson- Chicago F.D.

* November 11th- Veterans Day ceremony- downtown Joliet

* November 20th- Visitation for Fire Fighter Walt Patmon- Chicago F.D.

* November 23rd- Christmas Parade- downtown Joliet

**Bag Pipes and Drums:**  
In an effort to enhance the tribute given to fallen active and retired members of the Joliet Fire Department, the JFD Honor Guard has partnered up with the Joliet Fire Fighters Pipes and Drums which was organized in November of 2011. The Pipes and Drums consist of both JFD Honor Guard members and regular JFD members who have expressed the desire to further honor their fallen comrades. All members are responsible for learning their desired instrument as well as the cost of their instruments and traditional band attire. The Pipes and Drums have performed at several charity functions and memorial events.
HAZMAT TEAM

Apparatus Operator Kevin Hargis – Team Leader

Mission Statement

The Joliet Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team’s Mission is to provide professional response to any Hazardous Material leak, spill, or condition that threatens the public and/or environment of the City of Joliet.

Personnel

In addition to the 48 hours of Hazmat training every member of the Fire Department has to have when they initially get hired, our members must receive an additional 106 hours of advanced Hazmat training to be on the Team. We had two members resign from the team in 2012, bringing our roster to 23 members who are ready to respond. We recruited three members for future team assignment, and sent them to the required initial training courses. The fee for this essential, baseline training is almost completely reimbursed from the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, resulting in very little cost to the City. By the end of 2012, all team members had the required training to be able to respond to incidents, both here in the City, and throughout the State, if needed.

Staff Assistance Visit (SAV)

The Joliet Fire Department Hazmat Team is a MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) recognized Level A response team. This means we are able to respond to and mitigate complex Hazmat incidents, not only in Joliet, but throughout the State of Illinois, if needed. Presently, there are only 42 such teams spread throughout the entire State of Illinois. We undergo a thorough team assessment each year, where our members’ skills and team equipment are evaluated. We passed our assessment, and kept our Level A response status.
2012 Joliet Fire Department Hazmat Team

Team Leadership
Team Leader       Kevin Hargis
Asst. Team Ldr.           Bob Rosado
2nd. Asst. Team Ldr.    Bryan Ogrizovich

Members
Laroy Aldridge  Matt Bozicevich  Ed Crombie
Matt Fleck       Ron Fox            Dave House
John Koch        Aaron Kozlowski    Neal Kruchten
Ryan Las         Jim Lukancic      Dan Miller
Fred Offermann   Jim Ruffino       Ron Schroeder
John Stachelski  Pat Strocchia    Mike Theobald
Matt Thom        Joe Vish

Training
In 2012, the department had nine team trainings, covering such topics as:
- Training on Science software used during Hazmat incidents
- Hazmat suit training
- Mock incident at a house acquired for training
- Cold weather operations utilizing special cold weather equipment
- Continued training on our radiation detection equipment
- Initial baseline Hazmat Technician training
- Patching/stopping chemical leaks in an industrial setting
In August, Team Leader Kevin Hargis went to the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, to attend the course: Hazardous Materials Operating Site Practices. Kevin attended the class on his own time off, and the fees for the class, lodging, and travel are all paid for by FEMA/DHS, so there was no cost to the City.

Throughout 2012, Assistant Team Leader Bob Rosado continued training with the Joliet Police and the ILEAS (Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System) team as a Hazmat Liaison/Specialist. Bob would be a resource for the Joliet Police Department and the ILEAS team when they encounter a Hazmat incident. Most all of the cost for this position is reimbursed by ILEAS, resulting in little cost to the City. This relationship will help us all work together in the event of an incident or terrorism event.

Incidents

There were several Hazmat incidents reported to the Fire Department in 2012:

- January – abandoned chemical barrel found behind a Joliet restaurant
- May – suspicious package on Jefferson St. (during NATO conference)
- July – unknown vapor cloud in a school basement in Joliet
- July – chemical barrel exploded at company in Joliet
- July – worked with FBI, DOE, and military at special events; several suspicious packages investigated/cleared
Specialized Rescue (CART)

Captain Mark Vershay – Team Leader

Mission Statement:

The Joliet Fire Department Specialized Rescue Team’s mission is to provide a professional response to high angle (high rise), below grade (trench), confined space and structural collapse incidents to the residents and visitors of the City of Joliet.

The year 2012 saw the Specialized Rescue Team continue to train for the usual rescue situations, such as vertical (rope rescue), confined space, below grade (trench), and building collapse. Each of our members received approximately 40 hours of regularly scheduled training throughout the year.

Joliet along with the Lockport Fire Dept. make up the Combined Agency Response Team known as the Green Team, and continues to be designated in the “Level A” category. Homer Fire Dept. had also been with the Green Team but due to the CART organization realigning manpower they are no longer with the Green Team. “Level A” means that we have the training needed and the resources available to currently respond at the Task Force Level to technical rescue emergencies within the State of Illinois.

As with all of the specialized teams our membership fluctuates through the years. We are very fortunate as most of our members belong to other specialized teams thus bringing their added experience. The Specialized Rescue Team is now staffed with 14 members with no additional members added this year. Lt. Mike Nurczyk resigned this year after having served 10 yrs. with the team as did AO Brad Lande. They will be greatly missed.

The 14 members are Battalion Chief Laroy Aldridge along with Capts. Mark Vershay, Ron Fox and John Stachelski; Lieutenants Pat Strocchia, Jim Blake, Eric Mattson, Vic Stachelski, Floyd Woods and Jim Ryan, Jr; Apparatus Operators Tim Chaplin, Matt Hornbuckle, Anthony Maffeo, and Jason Harris.

As with other teams our goal is to train all of our members to the highest level of expertise. The beginning level is Awareness, then the Operational level and the highest level being Technician. Technician level allows us to be prepared for just about any emergency with the highest amount of knowledge available needed to mitigate the incident.
The Green Team was able to go to 2 CART sponsored training sessions this year. The training is actually administered by Illinois Fire Service Institute instructors. Instructors met us at a house that the University of St. Francis acquired and has slated for demolition. We simulated an earthquake scenario with structurally unsound buildings. We built all types of shoring to support doors, windows, floors, and walls. CART also sponsored a Trench class held at Operating Engineers Local 150. The trench class involved a collapse with engulfed victims.

Through the Illinois Terrorism Task Force funding program the Team was able to send our newest members along with our veteran members to various classes offered through the Illinois Fire Service Institute, one of the most respected fire service teaching organizations within the United States. ITTF funding program provided the Specialized Rescue Team with approximately $10,000 of training in 2012 at a minimal cost to the Joliet Fire Department—Joliet only had to pay for transportation, meals and travel time. We hope to again take advantage of this money in 2013. This is the ninth year that this funding has been available to us and we really took advantage of it again this year.

We were able to send some of our team members to specialized training classes this year. Two of our members went to Frankfort Station 3 which has both a Confined Space and Structural Collapse Operations training area. This training site operates under the auspices of the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Team members also went to the Illinois Fire Service Institute at the University of Illinois.
Certified at the Structural Collapse Operations level through the ITTF was AO Anthony Maffeo and AO Jason Harris. This was a 40 hr. class held at Frankfort Station 3.

Certified at the Collapse Technician level was Lt. Eric Mattson along with AO Jason Harris. This was a 48 hr. class held at the Illinois Fire Service Institute at the University of Illinois.

Our annual CART (Combined Agency Response Team) evaluation took place in October and it involved a structural collapse scenario with numerous victims. The simulation took place at the afore mentioned house near the University of St. Francis. We were evaluated by various members of the CART organization and were able to identify our strong points as well as some weaknesses. The evaluation involved a written exam as well.

Fortunately the Green Team was not called to any incidents this year.

Because of the commitment and dedication to excellence by all past and present members, the Specialized Rescue Team is, and will continue to be, one of the leaders in the CART organization, as well as throughout the state.
THE DIVE RESCUE TEAM

Captain Ron Fox – Team Leader

Mission Statement:
The Joliet Fire Department Dive Team’s mission is to provide a professional response to water rescue and recovery incidents to the residents and visitors of the City of Joliet.
The Dive Rescue Team is a specialized unit within the Joliet Fire Department. It goes above and beyond regular firefighting duties, comprised of trained and motivated individuals. At present, the team consists of 12 members. Training is a mandatory monthly occurrence at various locations around the City Of Joliet.

Members
Certifications:

- Ron Fox       PSD Instructor, DR1 Instructor, Med-Diver and Swift water II Tech, Hazmat Tech B, Instructor I, Interspiro Mask Tech and High-Angle Rescue Team member.

- J. Stachelski PSD Instructor, DR1 Instructor, Med-Diver, Hazmat Tech B, High-Angle Rescue Team Member, Swift water II Tech And Interspiro Mask Tech.

- Laroy Aldridge PSD/DR1 Diver, Hazmat and High-Angle Rescue Team member Interspiro Mask Tech. Instructor II

- Pat Strocchia PSD/DR1 Diver, Med-Diver certificate, Hazmat Tech, High-Angle Rescue Team member, Team Fitness Officer.

- Vic Stachelski PSD/DR1 Diver, Med Diver certificate, Hazmat Tech B, High Angle Team member and Interspiro Mask Tech.

- Tony Giarrante PSD/DR1 Diver and Med Diver.

- Jim Batusich PSD/DR1 Diver

- Aaron Kozlowski PSD/DR1 Diver and Hazmat Tech B

- Craig Sayles PSD/DR1 Diver and Honor Guard

- Nick Nahas PSD/ DR1 Diver
- Fred Offerman  PSD/DR1 Diver , Hazmat Tech B, Hazmat Team Leader

- Joe Widlowski  PSD/DR1 Diver

**Training:**

In 2012, the team logged a minimum of 40 hours of training from January through December covering: ice diving, swift water rescue, current diving in the Des-Plaines River, surface rescue, search patterns, body recovery, lift bag operations, deep water diving and underwater communications.

Members of the Dive Team also trained the Fire Dept. in 1st responder water rescue. In cooperation with the Training Division, each company had hands on training with the tools and equipment necessary for a water rescue.

Captain Offerman and Apparatus Operator Sayles attended an Ice Rescue Class in Indiana. They were both certified in ice rescue and brought back valuable information that we will utilize in training and rescues.

**MAJOR INCIDENTS:**

In 2012 we had an increase in water related incidents. The Department and Team responded to over ten calls resulting in three rescues, one fatality, two evidence searches, and three auto recoveries.

**December 12 – Man Reported In Des-Plains River** - Initial Water Response, Central Still & on duty divers- Rescue & transport to ER.

**June 19- Man Reported in Lake** - Initial water response, Co 8 – Rescue and subsequent drowning

**June 23 – Car in pond** - Full water response, East Still – unoccupied car recovered from retention pond

**June 30 – Man Reported In Des-Plains River** - Initial Water Response, Central still & on duty divers- Rescue & transport to ER.

**July & August - Auto’s & Trailer’s recovered from boat ramp** - Two occasions Dive Team called out for Auto’s and trailers submerged while loading Boats.
SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUAD

Lieutenant Dan Koerner- Team Leader

MISSION STATEMENT
The JFD SOS Medics will continually provide the Joliet Police Department SOS and SWAT teams with highly trained and experienced Will Grundy Paramedics at both training and actual incidents.

The year 2012 was a great year with some new training provided by JPD and other departments. The goal of training this year was to make the scenarios different. All of the trainings were geared toward new leadership and all worked out well. Joliet team is working towards getting involved in the decision making at every training and scenario. We all need to think about our own actions and our next plan and communicate this to others. With this in mind, the basis of all training covers covert clearing, dynamic entry, firearms, and physical fitness and new equipment that will give Joliet the edge.

TRAINING:
Our first quarter training was dealing with covert and dynamic entry. This is always the time of year to familiarize ourselves with the robots and all equipment. During the first quarter is also when the Medics instruct the police on some technics on wound care and EMS until we get to them. The training locations were Joliet Police Station, abandoned buildings on EJ&E property on the East side, and other locations.

The second quarter started with our Physical Testing and qualifications. Joliet Police also brought in some outside training to save on funds. The company is the same one as last year and covered new ideas that we were lacking from last year.

The third quarter started with a new tool available to Joliet explosive breaching. Some members from JPD had been to training on this before and Will County was good enough to invite and share the experience with them.

The forth quarter started with the second physical test and then to the range for qualifications with less than lethal weapons. The final training for 2012 was combined with JFD Medics, JPD SWAT, IIEAS Region 3 SRT, and Cook County bomb squad. This was a refresher for all of the law enforcement teams and a huge eye opening experience for Joliet Fire.
The year finished out with three live incidents two in May and one in December. Most importantly there was no injuries by citizens or employees. Thanks to our founding members in both departments for the thought and continued training to continue this safety in our workplace.
Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Joliet Fire Department Fire Investigation Team to protect the lives and property of the citizens and visitors to the City of Joliet from preventable fire and arson by investigating and determining the cause and origin of all fires within our boundaries. We will be accountable to our citizens to provide highly trained, professional, and committed personnel.

The team is by far the most active special team on the Joliet Fire Department and is composed of 10 dedicated, officers, apparatus operators and firefighters who are required to attend 120 hours of instruction and pass subject matter examinations before operating alone in the field. They are:

- Captain Dave Hausmann and ATF Accelerant Detection K9 Tony (Team Leader)
- Captain John Koch
- Lieutenant John Miller
- Lieutenant Shawn Carroll
- Apparatus Operator Mike Stapp (Assistant Team Leader)
- Apparatus Operator Mike Adelmann
- Apparatus Operator Demmond Dorris
- Apparatus Operator James Rudnicki
- Firefighter Scott Gleim
- Firefighter James P. Ryan
Three members of our team are further trained to the level of Arson Investigator, which encompasses an additional 200 hours of education as well as firearms training and certification, arrest procedures, use of force and criminal law. Also, we have one accelerant detection K9 handler.

The team is active primarily due to the Illinois State Statute known as the Fire Investigation Act.

The following is the 2012 Annual Report for the Fire Investigation Team. It addresses all facets of the team for the time period of January 1st through December 31st, 2012.

The team was very active again this past year, with 88 incident responses within the City of Joliet. Additional responses through ATF and Mutual Aide were done by Captain Hausmann and the ATF Certified Canine “Tony”.

The team at large participated in 9 monthly training seasons throughout the year. The topics of training included National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 921, Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigation training; Courtroom preparation from Will County States Attorney’s office, report writing, sketching and photography, and peer review of all of our cases.

The monthly training we receive is essential due to the fluid and ever-changing nature of the fire investigation field. It also addresses the recertification requirements to be set forth by the Illinois State Fire Marshal’s Office. These requirements include 60-90 hours of training (in the form of in-house or training classes) over four years to recertify as a fire investigator. The team recertified 6 of the members to the new OSFM Standards for fire/arson investigators. The team also had one its members retire from the team.

The following is the synopsis for team responses for the year of 2012.

**Incidents**

- Total Fires Investigated: 88
- Fire Causes Determined:
- Total Hours Investigating Incidents – 601.75
- Total Property Loss estimated from fire: $2,546,900.00
AWARDS

**VFW:** The recipients of the award this year were FF/P Tim Barrowman and FF/P Mike Persha. In November of 2011, Company #7 responded to an apartment fire with heavy smoke and fire visible upon arrival. These two firefighters were instructed to ladder a balcony where residents were trapped. They calmed the fears of the residents, removed them to safety, and then proceeded to assist with fire extinguishment.

![VFW Awardees](image1.jpg)

**EXCHANGE CLUB:** This year's Exchange club winner was Captain Bob Wohlrab. Captain Wohlrab was chosen for his leadership qualities and his role model traits for new fire fighters. Captain Wohlrab was also cited for his continual fundraising efforts and works with the Shop-With –A-Firefighter program.

![Exchange Club Winner](image2.jpg)
In Memoriam

The following Brothers passed away in 2012:

Assistant Chief Maurice Colena

Captain William Keigher