



FIRE

The Westminster Fire Department mission is to protect the community from fire damage and loss; preserve and enhance the health of residents; promote, regulate and enforce a safe and sustainable living environment for residents and businesses; respond to and mitigate all identified hazards to minimize risk to the community; respond to calls from residents; and engage residents and business as partners for community safety.

OVERVIEW

- Operates from six fire stations located throughout the city to quickly respond to fires, emergency medical calls and other 911 calls for service.
- Operates and staffs five fire engines, two ladder trucks and specialty apparatus as needed.
- Operates five full-time ambulances, all staffed with at least one firefighter/paramedic and equipped to provide advanced life support.
- Supports special teams within the department and cooperative regional teams to respond to water rescue/recovery, hazardous materials incidents, technical/heavy rescue, wild land fires and other emergency response requiring highly specialized training.
- Prepares for and responds to large-scale emergencies in the city and region; City of Westminster emergency management is part of the Fire Department.
- Operates a full-service Fire Prevention Bureau including plan review, fire code enforcement, business inspections, fire investigations, juvenile fire setter intervention and fire and life safety public education.
- Supports community events and services such as fire station tours, child car seat safety checks, home safety inspections, youth and senior educational safety programs, citizen academies, and community events, and charity work/fundraising.

2015 Objectives:

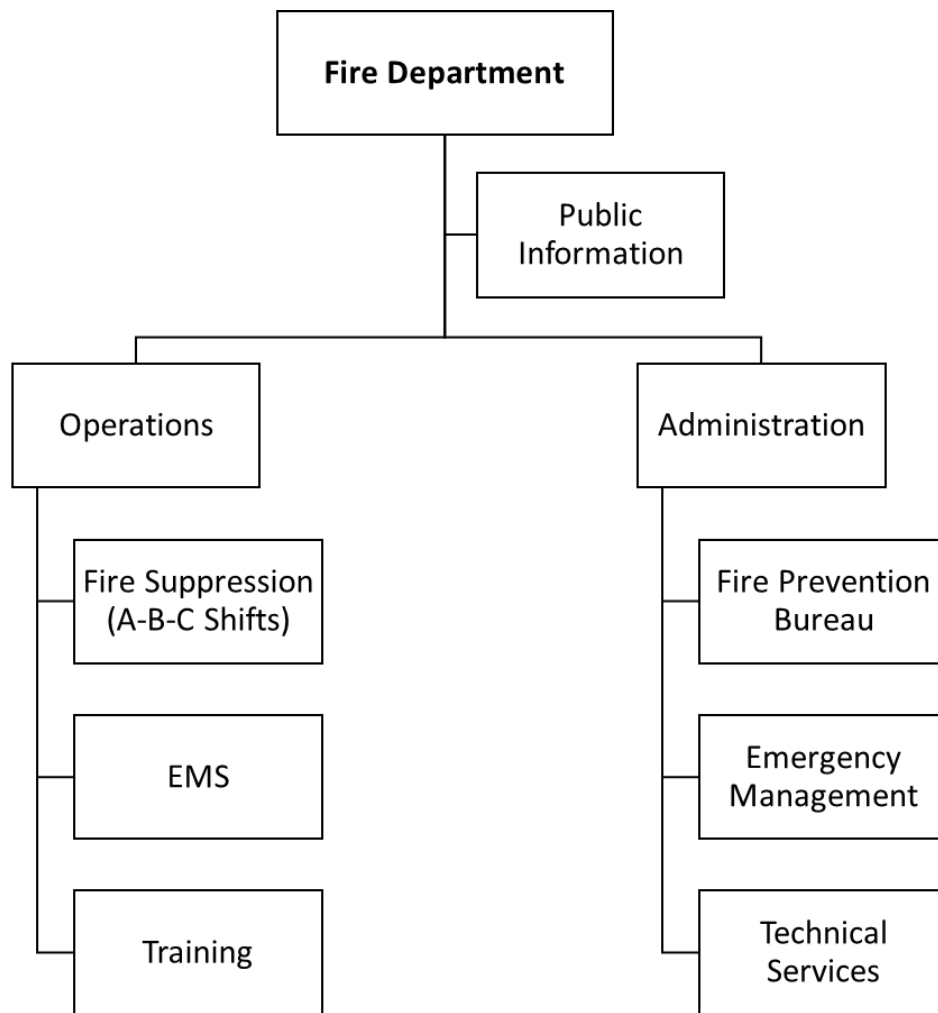
- Operate a fifth ambulance full time to provide better response and service to Westminster residents, effectively raising staffing levels from 30 to 32 personnel per shift through the use of over-time funding.
- Hire an estimated three new firefighters to fill vacancies primarily caused by retirements.
- Continue a pilot program utilizing three shift paramedics as EMS field coordinators as opposed to one 40-hour/week employee.
- Establish a plan of action to replace the Emergency Management Coordinator due to retirement.

2016 Objectives:

- Hire a civilian 1.0 FTE Fire Code Inspector to support the Fire Prevention Bureau with educational campaigns and preventative building inspections.
- Make a down payment on a replacement fire engine (pumper) to be rolled out in late 2016.
- Analyze ambulance revenue after the increased monitoring process in 2014-2015 and examine current and future budget impacts do to health care reform and city demographics impacting EMS demands and reducing ambulance revenues.

Total Adopted Budget by Category

	2013 Actual	2014 Adjusted	2014 Estimated	2015 Adopted	2016 Adopted
Personnel	\$10,765,548	\$10,856,656	\$10,895,608	\$11,168,123	\$11,241,730
Contractual	\$1,493,063	\$1,454,291	\$961,525	\$1,342,043	\$1,404,741
Commodities	\$158,878	\$198,921	\$187,753	\$203,739	\$203,739
Capital Outlay	\$129,060	\$153,980	\$153,980	\$126,400	\$129,035
TOTAL	\$12,546,549	\$12,663,848	\$12,198,866	\$12,840,305	\$12,979,245



Staffing (Full-Time Equivalent Employees)

	2013	2014	2015	2016
	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Operations	93.50	93.50	93.50	93.50
EMS	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00
Administration	5.80	5.80	5.80	6.80
TOTAL	135.30	135.30	135.30	136.30

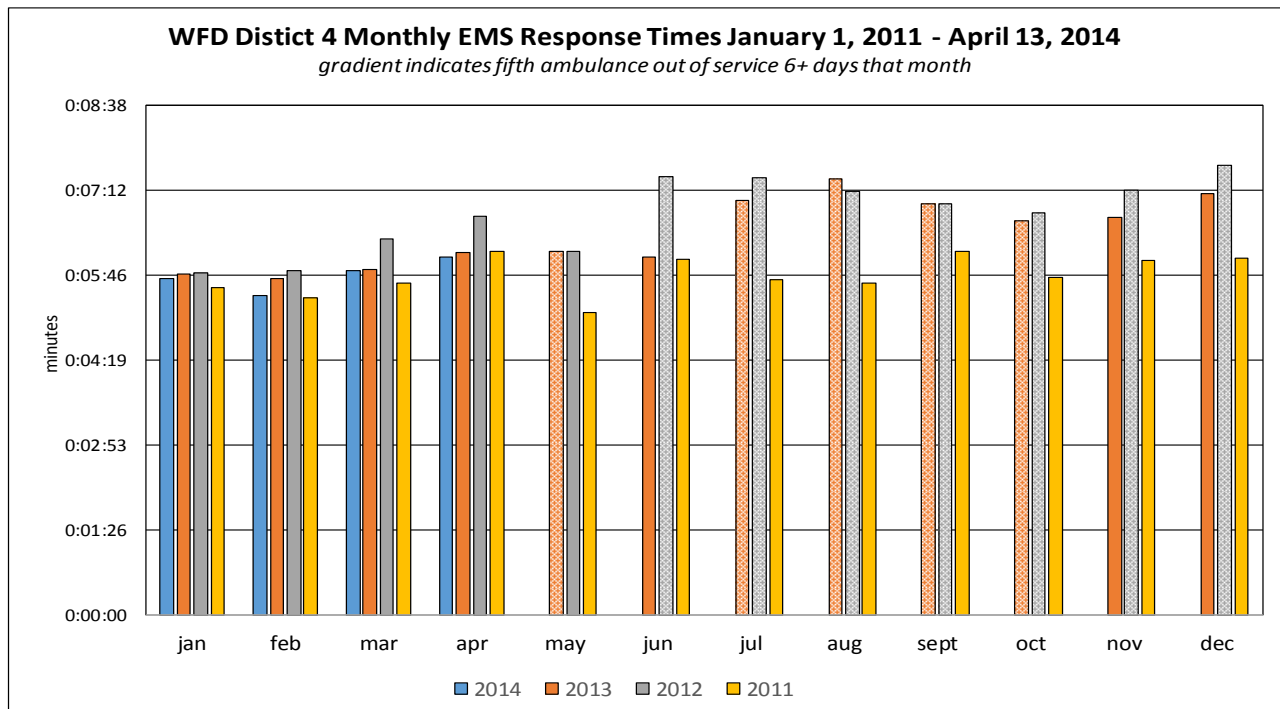
Quick Fact: In 2006 the Westminster Fire Department logged 11,029 public education contacts. Since the addition of the full-time public educator, the number of contacts has ranged from 14,000-20,000 a year. The current focus of fire and life safety public education is depth of knowledge programs that are not simply just handing out a coloring book, but engaging the public interactively to help retention of safety information and spur action like home emergency preparedness plans and awareness of fall hazards for the increasing number of residents “aging in place”.





2013/2014 Achievements:

- Implemented a residential sprinkler code which in the long term will reduce the extent of damage from fires on residential structures and may also prevent the possible loss of life for fires in the community.
- Purchased a replacement fire engine and ambulance for Station 4.
- Utilized grant funding to replace all radios.
- Implemented blood draws at fire stations for Police Department DUI suspects.
- Hired three new firefighters in 2013 and four new firefighters in 2014; all trained through a joint north-area fire academy.
- Completed the seventh and eighth Westminster Fire Department Citizen Academy.
- Sent members of special teams to areas severely affected by fires and floods without negative impact to local service and with expenses reimbursed through federal programs.
- With additional funds approved by City Council, began operating a fifth ambulance full time in January 2014.
- Rolled out a new Brush Truck to combat local field fires and support the Wildland Team.
- Replaced a Fire Prevention Bureau vehicle.
- Launched a pilot program utilizing three shift paramedics as EMS field coordinators as opposed to a single 40-hour/week employee.
- Implemented a new inspection program in January 2014 to tie all Fire Department data together in one system. This is also a step toward paperless inspection reports when new field tablets are rolled out in 2015.



Performance Measure Snapshot....

In the last few years, the Westminister Fire Department has made a concerted effort to staff a fifth ambulance when personnel and overtime funds allowed. Analysis shows that when the fifth ambulance is in service, the average EMS response time within the area primarily served by that ambulance decreased by nearly one minute compared to when only four ambulances were in service (district 4 is shown above). Additionally, EMS response time decreased citywide when five ambulances were in service. A budget adjustment was approved by Council so that the fifth ambulance will be in service full time all of 2014 and additional funds are proposed in 2015 for the fifth ambulance.



WESTMINSTER