New Mexico State University Fire Department

Annual Report

2012
Message from Assistant Vice President
Facilities & Services

Welcome! NMSU Facilities and Services is a professional service organization that supports New Mexico State University in its mission of instruction, research, public service and extension education by providing support and service to students, faculty, sponsors, and the community. The NMSU Las Cruces campus is much like a small city, and through the efforts of 300 staff, Facilities and Services is responsible for close to 300 buildings, the roadway and utilities infrastructure, the fire protection, and the environmental health and safety of close to 30,000 people. Our staff is here to support NMSU in the many activities necessary to carry out the academic mission of the institution.

The Fire Department joined organizationally with Facilities and Services in 2012, and the senior leadership team of Chief Carrillo, Captain Aerts, and Captain Tarkington bring a wealth of experience and many exciting new initiatives. We approach the management of the NMSU buildings as an investment in our physical assets, and in addition to having the capability to extinguishing a fire should one occur, the Fire Department is a big part of this effort through plan review, code interpretations, and building inspections. We look forward to 2013!

Our mission is to: **Efficiently provide a safe, well maintained and environmentally sustainable university community.**

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**NMSU Facts**

- NMSU is in the top tier of the U.S. News & World Report Best National University 2012 rankings. Criteria include quality of teaching, great career prospects, and graduation rates.

- U.S News & World Report’s list of Best National Universities for 2012 recognizes NMSU as one of the universities where students graduate with the least debt.

- NMSU (and its five campuses) has more than 29,700 students enrolled as of Sept. 7, 2012.

- According to the most recent NSF survey, in terms of RD expenditures, NMSU ranks 3rd among high Hispanic enrollment institutions, 25th in mathematical sciences, and 30th among all U.S. colleges and universities without a medical school.
Message from the Chief

In reflection, 2012 was an exciting and transitory time at New Mexico State University (NMSU). Chief Darrell Smith retired after 21 years of service to the NMSU community as well as Fire Captain Joe Mendoza who retired with over 15 years of service. These dedicated men laid the groundwork for the services we provide and the foundation we operate from.

The NMSU Fire Department is a proud organization, established in 1921, by a group of dedicated University firefighter volunteers. We are one of less than ten Universities who run student staffed Fire Departments in the country. Our primary firefighter force is made up of 14 students. These firefighters are full-time students at either Dona Ana Community College or NMSU main campus. They are trained to NFPA standards at the IFSAC Firefighter II level and are supported by three career Fire Captains and one Administrative Assistant.

One goal of 2013 is to set a visual presence within the NMSU community. Our customers need to know what services we provide and how to contact us. With great honor, I serve alongside both my staff and student firefighters to provide leadership and direction.

I look forward to leading the NMSU Fire Department to its future. As the newly appointed Fire Chief, I take pride in its tradition, the services we provide to our community, and the role we fill within the campus.

Mission Statement

“We provide exceptional service to our community.”

Values

Dedicated ● Friendly ● Efficient ● Service
Department Overview

New Mexico State University Fire Department is comprised of 37 employees: 5 career administrators, 18 part-time EMTs, and 14 firefighters who are also full-time students. The department is a full-service emergency response organization with the ability to provide a vast array of emergency responses. NMSU Fire Department employs:

- Two Class A pumpers
- One 75’ quint
- Heavy Rescue apparatus
- One utility vehicle
- Four all-terrain vehicles
- One support trailer.

We operate 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.

Funding

NMSU FD funding had a total budget of $524,769 in 2012, which included funding from NMSU general funds, NM State Fire funds, and the Department of Health EMS fund.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Funds</td>
<td>$76,537</td>
<td>Used to purchase firefighter equipment, fuel, vehicle maintenance, and personnel protective gear</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMS Funds</td>
<td>$8,465</td>
<td>EMS equipment</td>
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<td>NMSU</td>
<td>$439,767</td>
<td>Salaries, operating costs</td>
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In 2012, we received a grant from New Mexico Fire Protection Grant in the amount of $23,360 to purchase a compressed air filling station to supply our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus’ (SCBA’s).
2012 Response Statistics

The NMSU Fire Department responded to 1181 calls for service in 2012. Rescue and Emergency Medical Services calls are our largest category of responses and accounts for 54% of our overall call volume. The breakdown into major types is as follows:

54%
Rescue and Emergency Medical Services calls

For the past three years, our call volume has also increased as reflected in the graph above.

1181
Response calls in 2012

Five Year Call Volume Comparison

For the past three years, our call volume has also increased as reflected in the graph above.
NMSU EMT services are on standby for all the special events on campus which includes football, basketball, soccer, and volleyball games, concerts, rodeos, K5-10K runs on campus, and Senior Olympics. We provide service at the Emergency Medical Technician–Intermediate Level.

June is the recorded busiest month of the year for NMSU FD but don’t let that fool you because on average the busiest months of the year are when our students, staff, and faculty are in class (September through May). The Vans Warp Tour event in June skews the month.

Busiest month
June

Busiest day
Friday

Firefighters conducting daily equipment checks to ensure we are ready to go to service calls when called upon.
Additional 2012 Response Statistics

Our busiest demands are during daytime hours when the NMSU campus is booming with approximately 20,000 faculty, staff, visitors, students, and events.

This is how we spend our day
Student Firefighters Training

Firefighters with NMSU Fire Department are provided with a unique opportunity for training. New recruit firefighters are put through the New Mexico Firefighter I task book, which provides them with the knowledge and skill base to perform the basic essential job functions of a firefighter. Through our program, students obtain the nationally recognized IFSAC Firefighter I and II Certification. Other training and certification provided by the department includes Driver/Operator for Pumper and Aerial Apparatus, Technical Rescue, IFSAC Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operations, Company Officer, and Emergency Medical Services Continuing Education.

We hire new firefighters according to our needs each year; we hired five new firefighters in 2012. We are proud that most of our firefighters not only get degrees in their chosen field (i.e., Criminal Justice, Biology, Applied Sciences, Chemical Engineer, Foreign Languages, Business Administration, Chemistry, etc.) but also gained real work experience too. Not many college graduates can proclaim this after two or four years of college! NMSU Fire Department personnel participated in a total of 1,005.5 training hours in 2012.

Training Hours

- Company Officer: 161
- Driver/Operator: 233.5
- EMS Continuing Education: 92
- Firefighter: 45
- Hazardous Materials: 319
- Physical Fitness: 112.5
- Pre-Incident Planning: 11.5
- Public Education: 45
- Technical Rescue: 29

1,005.5 Training Hours
Supporting Our Neighbors

NMSU Fire Department ran Automatic Aid or Mutual Aid to several surrounding fire districts including the City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County. In 2012, we responded to our neighboring districts a total of 218 times, which accounts for 19% of our total call volume.

Number of Mutual Aid Calls to Neighboring Districts

We helped our neighbors 218 times in 2012
Event Participation

In 2012, we had many events that showcased our talented student firefighters and staff. Here are just two events we participated in:

The 2012 Vans Warped Tour, which is held on campus every June, is part of the 42-city touring music festival featuring more than 80 rock and alternative bands. NMSU has hosted it on the intermural fields for the past 10 years and it annually attracts over 10,000 people daily onto the NMSU campus during the event. On average, the Fire Department responds to 100 incidents per day.

Tortugas Pilgrimage for la Virgen de Guadalupe

happened on December 11, 2012, where an image of la Virgen is carried four miles to the top of Tortugas Mountain, also called "A" mountain due to the prominent "A" for the New Mexico State University Aggies that mars its face. To do this the pilgrimage travels through an undeveloped section of the NMSU campus, past the football stadium and then along dirt roads to the base of the mountain. Our firefighters support this community event each year by providing EMS coverage during the event.

Public Education

NMSU Fire Department conducted a total of 36 public education classes which includes CPR training, Fire Extinguisher Training, Fire Station tours, and Fire Prevention Presentations.

In 2012, we gave tours of our fire station to the community, schools and staff. We had countless hours of instruction on fire safety to faculty, staff, and students. On average since 1991, we have trained close to 200 staff and faculty per year on how to use a fire extinguisher.
2012 Firefighter of the Year

NMSU Fire Department has a tradition of recognizing an outstanding individual from the student firefighter staff as the Firefighter of the Year. Candidates are nominated by their supervisors and peers, and are evaluated on their leadership skills, initiative, mentoring, and their dedication and respect for others. The fire management team reviews the nominations and makes a selection. This year the competition was so close that two firefighters were selected. Firefighter (FF) William Guin and Lieutenant (Lt.) Eric Adair were both recognized as the 2012 NMSU Firefighter of the Year.

Retirements

We said goodbye to Chief Darrel Smith and Captain Joe Mendoza who faithfully served our community, staff, and students.

Our Legacy Moving Forward

Our trained student firefighters are highly recruited! Their training, experience, and knowledge make our firefighters an asset to any Fire Department in the nation. We can proudly say they are recruited to many different fire departments to pursue firefighting careers. In 2012, the following firefighters left NMSU for other fire departments:

- Eric Dela Torre – Albuquerque Fire Department
- Travis Harrison – Las Cruces Fire Department
- George Richards – Las Cruces Fire Department
- Sam Rivera – El Paso Fire Department
- Dominic Soucy – Las Cruces Fire Department
- Eric Valdez – Albuquerque Fire Department
- Zephr Valverde – Albuquerque Fire Department

Plans for the Coming Year

- Expand fire safety programs for the community.
- Increase our public awareness programs.
- Build on fire prevention services.
- Continue to lower our emergency response times.
- Increase staff levels during daytime hours.
- Streamline extinguisher inspection and rotation schedule.
- Review of Insurance Service Office rating schedule.
For more information on NMSU Fire Department and other community outreach and public education programs, please call:

NMSU Fire Department
575-646-2519

Or visit us on the website at:
www.fire.nsmu.edu