Early History

• 1784 – First organized fire protection: Hand in Hand Fire Company.

• Volunteers & “Ward Engines”.

• 1870 – 12+ volunteer companies, 1600 volunteers.

• 1881 – 17 volunteer companies, 1110 volunteers
Early Major Transitions

- 1882 – Mayor Wm. Ashmead Courtenay & City reorganize firefighting forces.
  - Career Department Formed 1/1/1882
  - 6 engines
  - 2 trucks
  - 101 men
  - 29 horses

- 1886 - Earthquake
Charleston Fire Department

- 15 stations
  - +2 in design
- Apparatus
  - 16 Engines, 4 Ladders
  - 4 BCs
  - 1 Haz Mat Truck – cross staffed
  - 1 Fireboat – cross staffed
- 4 members per engine and ladder
- 84 members on duty per shift (Ops)
Charleston Fire Department

4 Areas/Battalions

- Peninsula: 7 companies
- Daniel Island: 3 companies
- West Ashley: 5 companies
- James/Johns Islands: 5 companies
Charleston Fire Department

- **Headquarters**
  - Chief
  - 2 DCs
  - 3 ACs
  - 1 BC Accreditation
  - 1 BC Safety
  - 5 Admin Staff

- **Fire Marshal Division**
  - Fire Marshal
  - 3 DFM
  - 8 AFMS
  - 2 Admin Staff
Charleston Fire Department

- **Training**
  - Training Director
  - 3 Captains
  - 1 Medical Officer
  - 2 Engineers
  - 1 Admin

- **Logistics/Fleet**
  - 1 BC
  - 3 Mechanics
  - 2 Admin staff
Charleston Fire Department

**Special Ops**
- Haz Mat Team
- USAR Team
- Marine Team
- Honor Guard

**Additional**
- Fire Investigation Team (FIT)
- Fire Investigation Company (FIC)
Budget

• Department in 2007:
  • Budget: 14.9 million dollars
  • Total members: 260
  • Minimum daily staffing: 62

• Department in 2017:
  • Budget: 31.6 million dollars
  • Total members: 354
  • Minimum daily staffing: 84
## Incident Activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Calls</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>Percent Increase</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>7,233</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>11.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>8,506</td>
<td>1,273</td>
<td>17.60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>9,243</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>8.66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>14,010</td>
<td>4,767</td>
<td>51.57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>16,383</td>
<td>2,373</td>
<td>16.94%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>17,106</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>4.41%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>19,030</td>
<td>1,924</td>
<td>11.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>21,169</td>
<td>2,139</td>
<td>11.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>23,060</td>
<td>1,891</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>+ 1,758</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>+ 15.8%</strong></td>
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</table>
June 18, 2007 - Sofa Super Store Fire

- 1856 - Store staff observe fire on loading dock
- 1908 - Dispatch notified
- 1909 - Initial response:
  - 2 engines
  - 1 ladder
  - 1 BC
- 1910 - BC arrives
- 1911 - Engine arrives
- 1932 - First Mayday
- 1941 - Flashover

~ 30 minutes...
Fallout

- CFD pilloried for antiquated practices.
- Media “Washing Machine”
  - Local
  - Fire Service
- Independent reports called for sweeping changes.
  - Routley
  - NIOSH
Recommendations

• Develop a multi-year training plan for the CFD
  • Fireground Ops
  • Firefighter Safety and Survival
  • NIMS
  • Incident Management Procedures
  • Command and Control of Incidents
  • Strategy and Tactics
  • Company Officer Development
  • Chief Officer Development
  • Fire Department Safety Officer
Recommendations

- Adoption and Enforcement of Model Fire Codes
- Implement “aggressive and effective” fire inspection and enforcement programs
- Ensure fire inspectors and building plans examiners are professionally qualified
Process

• Conduct Needs Assessment

• Establish Performance Objectives
Priorities

- Operations
- Officer Development
- Automatic Aid
- Infrastructure
- Training
- Fire Prevention
Operations

• Accelerated emphasis on Safe Structural Firefighting SOP.

• Focused attention on safety.

• Introduction of Command from the Car.

• Bring down walls between CFD and surrounding departments.

• Introduce consistency across all three shifts.

• Standardize other FD operations.
Officer Development

3 Elements

• Training Curriculum

• Culture & Leadership Emphasis

• Career Development & Succession Planning
Automatic Aid

- Charleston Regional Automatic Aid Evolution
- Agreement between five agencies
Automatic Aid

- 2010-2011 - CFD, JIFD, SAFD, STJFD, FBFD strengthen “Resource Sharing”.
  - Still “Gentlemen’s Agreements”.


- 07/30/2012 – Formal Auto Aid Agreement Signed.
Automatic Aid

• Safe Structural Firefighting SOG became the cornerstone.
  • Linchpin.
  • Defines Risk Assessment
  • Response Packages
  • Unit Assignments

• Departments begin collaborating on other SOGs.
“Closest Companies” Rule*

All Incident Types
- Residential Structure Fire
- Commercial/Multi-Family/Assembly/Industrial
- Vehicle Collision
- Vehicle Fire
- Outside Fire
- Technical Rescue
- Marine Fire
- Haz Mat
“Quick Dispatch”

- 1 Truck Company
- 1 Rescue Company
- 4 Engine Companies
- 3 Battalion Chiefs
We’re Stronger Together

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Engines</th>
<th>Ladders</th>
<th>Rescues</th>
<th>BCs</th>
<th>Fire Boat</th>
<th>Tender</th>
<th>Haz Mat</th>
<th>Personnel</th>
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<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>330</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>843</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Scorecard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Faster response.  
• More staffing and resources available for incident management.  
• Common terminology.  
• Deeper resource pool to draw from for out of service periods.  
• SOPs promoting seamless operations. | • Bureaucracy of change process.  
• Achieving compatibility with widely varying funding sources.  
• “Balance” between agencies. |
Major Achievements

- Certified Firefighter II.
- BLS Program.
- Officer Development & Blue Card Command.
- Auto Aid Partnerships.
- Improved Training Division.
- Addition of the Fire Marshal Division.
- Improved special operations.
- Achieved CPSE Accredited status in August, 2015.
- Achieved ISO 1/1x in June, 2015.
Questions?