

BARBADOS FIRE SERVICE



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

STATISTICAL REPORT

Prepared by: Research and Planning Unit

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mission of the Barbados Fire Service is to protect the lives and property of the people of Barbados and those who visit our shores. This is achieved through various measures such as fire safety education, fire suppression, rescue operations and pre-hospital care that are conducted in an efficient manner to ensure that our internal and external customers are given the highest quality service.

During 2014, significant training was undertaken within the Department's ranks. Several courses were held internally via the Training and Development Unit, and through cross training with other organisations such as the Barbados Coast Guard, the Roving Response Team and the Emergency Ambulance Service. Officers attended overseas training in aerodrome fire fighting and breathing apparatus repair, thereby improving their professional qualifications and building organizational capacity. The department also accomplished a first by hosting an online, year- long course that engaged officers from Dominica, St. Lucia and Barbados. The training directly correlated with the vision of the department which is to be recognised locally, regionally and internationally as a highly professional fire and rescue service.

The training received, went directly into practice, as officers of the service worked tirelessly over the recorded period by responding to a total of 2875 incidents as compared to 2401 incidents for 2013. Out of those 2875 incidents in 2014, 2652 fires were documented, with grass fires recording the highest number of calls, totalling 1397 as compared to 1136 in 2013. In addition, private dwelling house fires also moved from 80 in 2013 to 100 in 2014; this of course was an extremely worrying development as the Fire Service endeavoured to curb this occurrence through continuous fire safety and fire prevention campaigns, within the communities of Barbados. Sugar cane fires and rubbish fires also increased dramatically with sugar canes totalling 133 as compared to 89 in 2013 and rubbish totalling 366 from 308 for the same period last year.

Officers were also kept busy with building inspections during the year 2014, by inspecting over six hundred public and private premises which included day nurseries, banking institutions, schools, gas stations and restaurants, thus ensuring that persons were complying with the fire safety regulations. A number of these buildings however had to undergo re-inspection since they failed to comply with either one or several of the regulations set out in the Health and Safety Act 2005 as it relates to fire safety.

This aspect of fire safety and fire prevention remained a priority for the members of the Department as it continued to strive for a firesafe Barbados, where, from the primary school child to the elderly person living alone could effectively practice fire safety and employ fire prevention techniques in their daily lives. The objective was to ensure that citizens have the adequate knowledge to react in a timely manner in the event of an emergency, by both raising the alarm and notifying the Fire Service, and being able to use an extinguisher in the initial stage of a fire or to quickly evacuate the premises.

To this end, personnel from the Fire Prevention Unit, Training Unit and other individuals throughout the Department have been conducting Fire Safety Lectures at public and private institutions, installing smoke detectors in the homes of elderly persons living alone and utilising every opportunity to inform the public about the different ways they can protect their homes and workplaces from fire.

STAFFING, SPECIAL PROJECTS and EVENTS

BEREAVEMENT

The Barbados Fire Service lost a number of persons to death during 2014;

- ❖ *Sub Officer Darcy Smith – 35 years (In-service)*
- ❖ *Divisional Officer Glanville Collins- 42 years, Retired*
- ❖ *Divisional Officer Randolph Cox – 37years, Retired*
- ❖ *Fire Officer Adrian Phillips – 26 years, Retired (Medical)*

PRE-RETIREMENT

Several persons with a wealth of experience and knowledge proceeded on pre-retirement leave in 2014;

- ❖ *Chief Fire Officer Mr. Wilfred Marshall – 40 years*
- ❖ *Station Officer Mr. Tyrone Trotman – 38 years*
- ❖ *Leading Fire Officer Mr. Philip Herbert – 36 years*
- ❖ *Leading Fire Officer Ms. Juanita Seale – 36 years*
- ❖ *Leading Fire Officer Mr. Charles Holligan– 34 years*
- ❖ *Accountant Mrs. Veronica Griffith – 42 years*

RETIREMENT

The following Persons retired:

- *Station Officer Mr. Neal Smithwick, after serving 33 years*
- *Leading Fire Officer Mr. Vermont Carrington, after serving 29 years and 3 months*
- *Fire Officer 134 Mr. Dave Phillips, after serving 18 years and 6 months*
- *Fire Officer Mr. Don Yearwood, after serving 14 years and 8 months; and*
- *Mrs. Joycelyn Brathwaite, after serving for 41 years and 4 months.*

CONSTRUCTION

Construction began at the Arch Hall Fire Station with the building of a new training facility that will house a library, a computer lab and dormitories for prospective recruits and other residential trainees.

PROJECTS

Information Communication and Technology

Completed Projects:

- ❖ ***Transition*** – *The ICT Unit made a transition from the Probyn Street location to Cheapside almost seamlessly, transferring computer systems and resetting the department's network.*
- ❖ ***Online Classes*** – *The department initiated a first by hosting online classes which saw fire officers from Dominica and St. Lucia join their Barbadian counterparts in participating in the Fire Officer III course.*
- ❖ ***IP Phone System*** – *The system was installed at the Fire Service Headquarters.*

Research and Planning Unit

Completed Projects:

- ❖ ***Hydrology and Meteorology Unit*** – *requested grass and cane fire statistics spanning over fourteen years to assist them with their research in connection to rainfall.*
- ❖ ***Walbrent College*** – *requested a report on all fires that occurred over ten years in a proposed building development area.*
- ❖ ***Nation Newspaper*** – *requested House fire locations for 2014 for mapping purposes to show which areas had a high frequency of incidents*
- ❖ ***GIS*** – *requested assistance in producing fire safety messages for the Holiday season.*

ESTABLISHMENT

Officers		Administrative Staff			Vacancy
Rank	Number of Posts	Vacancy	Post	No.	
Chief Fire Officer	1	1	Senior Executive Officer	1	-
Deputy Chief Fire Officer	1	-	Accountant	1	1
Divisional Officer	3	-	Executive Officer	1	-
Station Officer	7	3	Assistant Accountant	1	1
Sub Officer	16	16	Senior Clerk	1	-
Leading Fire Officer	32	16	Clerical Officer	4	2
Fire Officer	179	1	Clerk Typist	1	1
			Stenographer Typist	1	-
			Executive Secretary	1	-
			Maid	8	5
			General Worker	4	2
			Messenger	1	1
Total	239	37		25	13

Table 1

FIRE STATISTICS

Emergency Fire Activity

The Table below indicates the number of fires recorded by the department during 2014.

Total Fires for 2014

TYPE	AMOUNT
Commercial Building	18
Derelict House	8
Derelict Vehicle	2
Electrical	69
False Alarm (Good Intent)	275
False Alarm (Malicious)	105
Grass	1396
Motor Vehicle	58
Other Fire	10
Other Structural	19
Petroleum Products	1
Private Dwelling House	100
Ratoon	5
Rubbish	366
Sugar Cane	133
Trash	25
Tree	23
Utility Pole	38
TOTAL	2652

Table 2

The table below shows the fire totals as a comparison for the periods 2012 to 2014 by quarters.

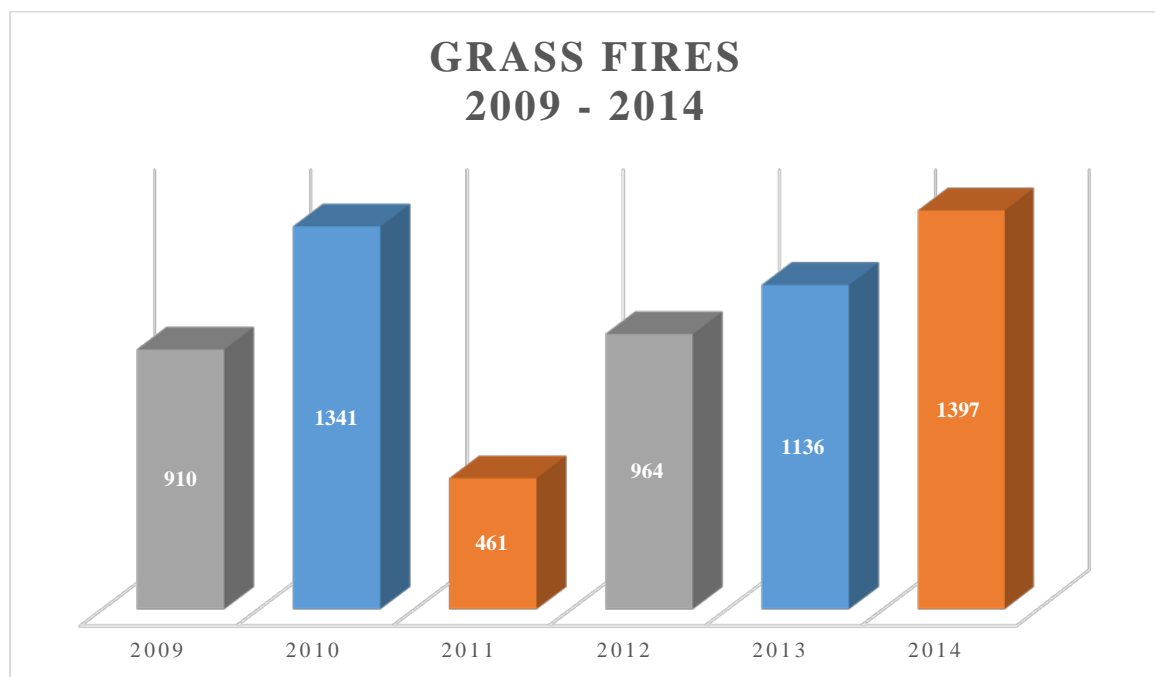
<i>Type</i>	JAN- MARCH			APR-AUG			SEP-DEC		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
<i>Bagasse</i>	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Commercial Building</i>	3	7	4	9	9	9	5	5	5
<i>Derelect Building</i>	0	0	3	0	1	5	0	5	0
<i>Derelect Vehicle</i>	0	0	1	1	5	1	0	0	0
<i>Electrical</i>	13	11	18	31	14	32	18	20	19
<i>False Alarm Good Intent</i>	67	79	78	109	77	126	94	72	71
<i>False Alarm Malicious</i>	31	46	27	42	22	61	36	33	17
<i>Grass</i>	315	786	403	481	287	966	168	63	28
<i>Motor Vehicle</i>	9	9	17	21	11	25	12	15	16
<i>Motor Vessel</i>	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	0
<i>Other Fire</i>	4	6	3	1	4	6	2	2	1
<i>Other Structural</i>	2	17	6	10	8	10	16	14	3
<i>Petroleum Product</i>	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<i>PDH</i>	22	19	34	33	35	31	30	26	35
<i>Ratoon</i>	0	5	1	4	1	1	2	0	3
<i>Rubbish</i>	87	142	105	119	105	205	95	62	56
<i>Sugar Canes</i>	42	58	34	32	31	99	1		
<i>Trash</i>	2	4	1	8	5	24	0	0	0
<i>Tree</i>	1	6	6	5	9	15	1	2	2
<i>Utility Pole</i>	3	1	2	2	7	34	2	2	2
TOTAL	604	1198	743	909	632	1651	482	324	258
FIRE TOTALS	2012	2013	2014						
	1995	2154	2652						

Table 3

GRASS FIRES

There was an upsurge in activity in this category, with 1136 grass fires being recorded in 2013, and 1396 in 2014 as compared to 461 in 2011 and 964 in 2012. This increase placed immense stress on the human and mechanical resources of the department. It has been found that the majority of these fires have been created through careless or deliberate behaviour. For example, persons may be burning rubbish which becomes out of control and subsequently finds its way into a grassy area or vacant lots that were cleared to rid them of vermin and other pests. These grass fires can often pose other problems for fire officers since some occur in residential areas which threaten lives and property.

The table below shows the amount of grass fires per year from 2009 to 2014.



Graph 1

SUGAR CANE FIRES

This category saw a sharp increase in the amount of fires recorded. The charts below show the cane fires that occurred during 2014 by month and by parish.

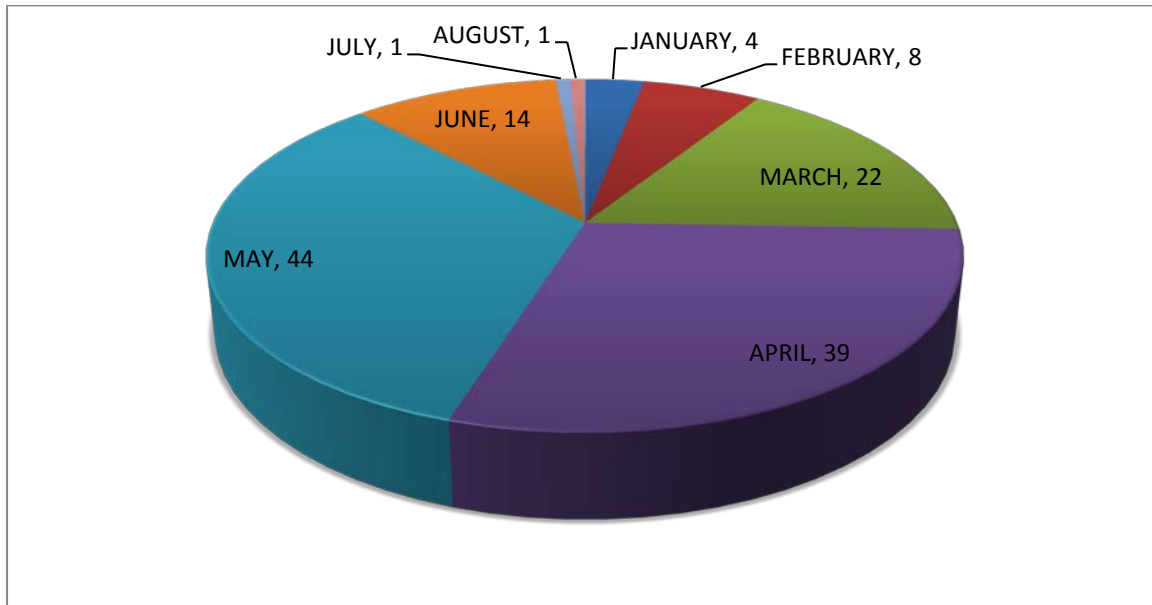
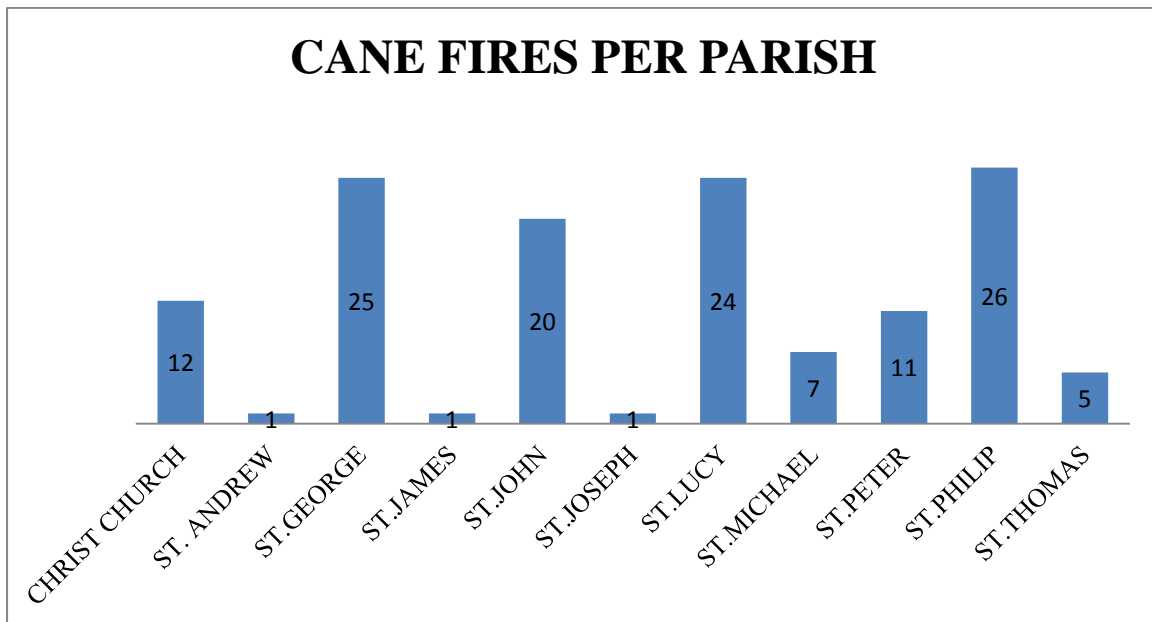


Chart 1



Graph 2

Private Dwelling House Statistics

Private dwelling house fires continued to be a major concern for the Fire Service as an increase was seen in this category for the recorded year. There were 100 private dwelling house fires as compared to 80 in 2013 and 86 in 2012. This increase was despite constant fire prevention programs aimed at reducing fires, especially within this category. One house fire can spread to other homes, particularly in densely populated areas, causing major displacement of persons and significant financial losses.

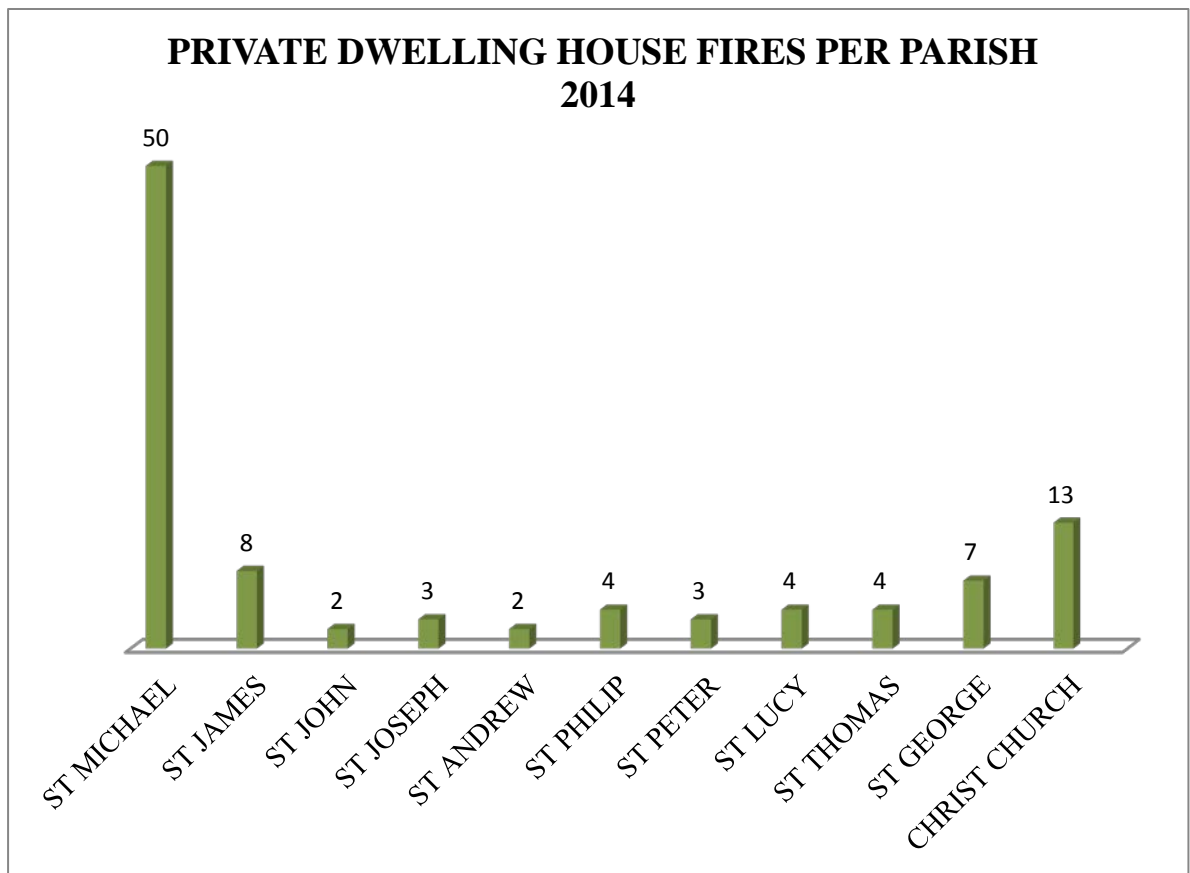
The 100 private dwelling house fires fell into several categories; these are - **No Damage**, **Slightly Damaged**, **Extensively Damaged** and **Completely Destroyed**. The category **No Damage** occurs when there is a call for a house fire or suspected house fire, but upon arrival, only a saucepan or an air condition unit may have burned but no damage was caused to the structure of the dwelling. Below is a chart showing how the house fires fit into the categories.

PRIVATE DWELLING HOUSE – NATURE OF DAMAGE



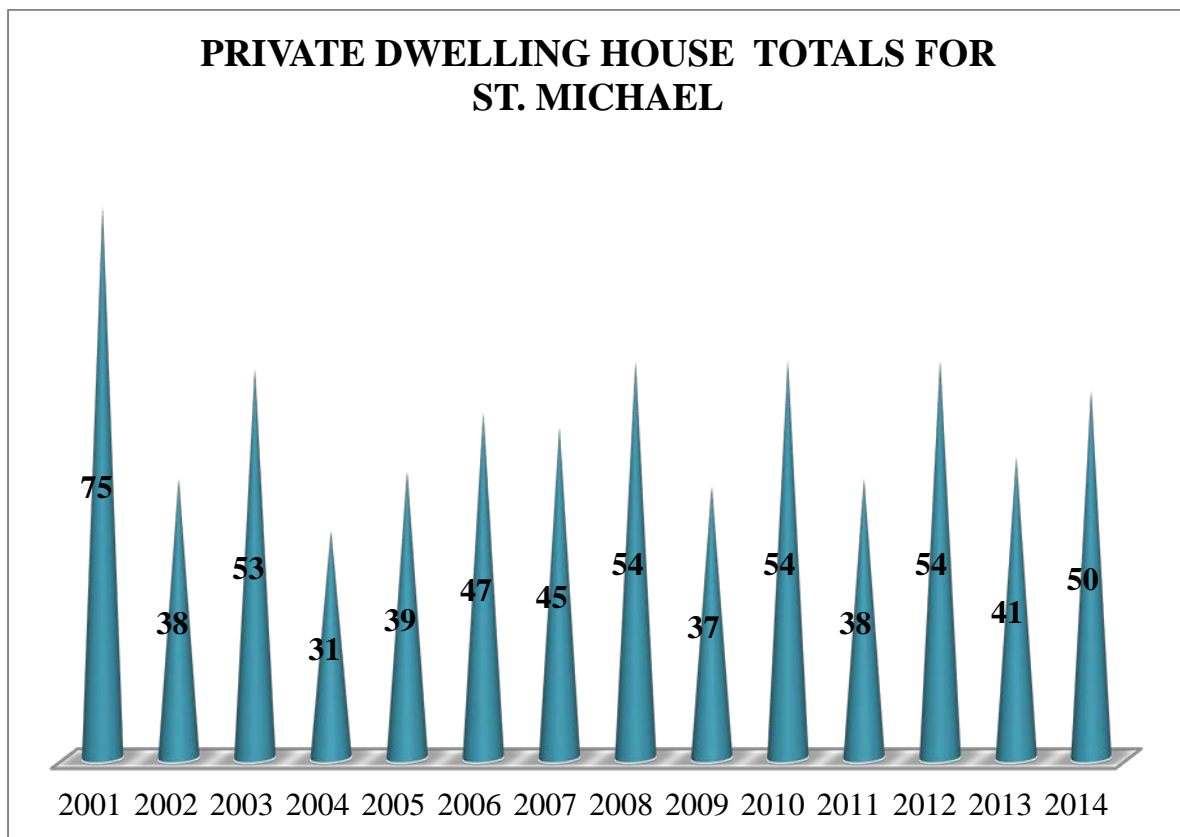
Table 4

The chart below indicates the amount of house fires that occurred in each parish for 2014.



Graph 3

The parish of St. Michael continued to record the highest amount of private dwelling house fires annually. This is of course a great concern to the department, as this parish is densely populated and the possibility of loss of life or injury to persons as well as multiple properties being destroyed or damaged can quickly become a reality. The chart below shows the house fire totals for St. Michael over a thirteen year period.



Graph 4

House Fire Totals

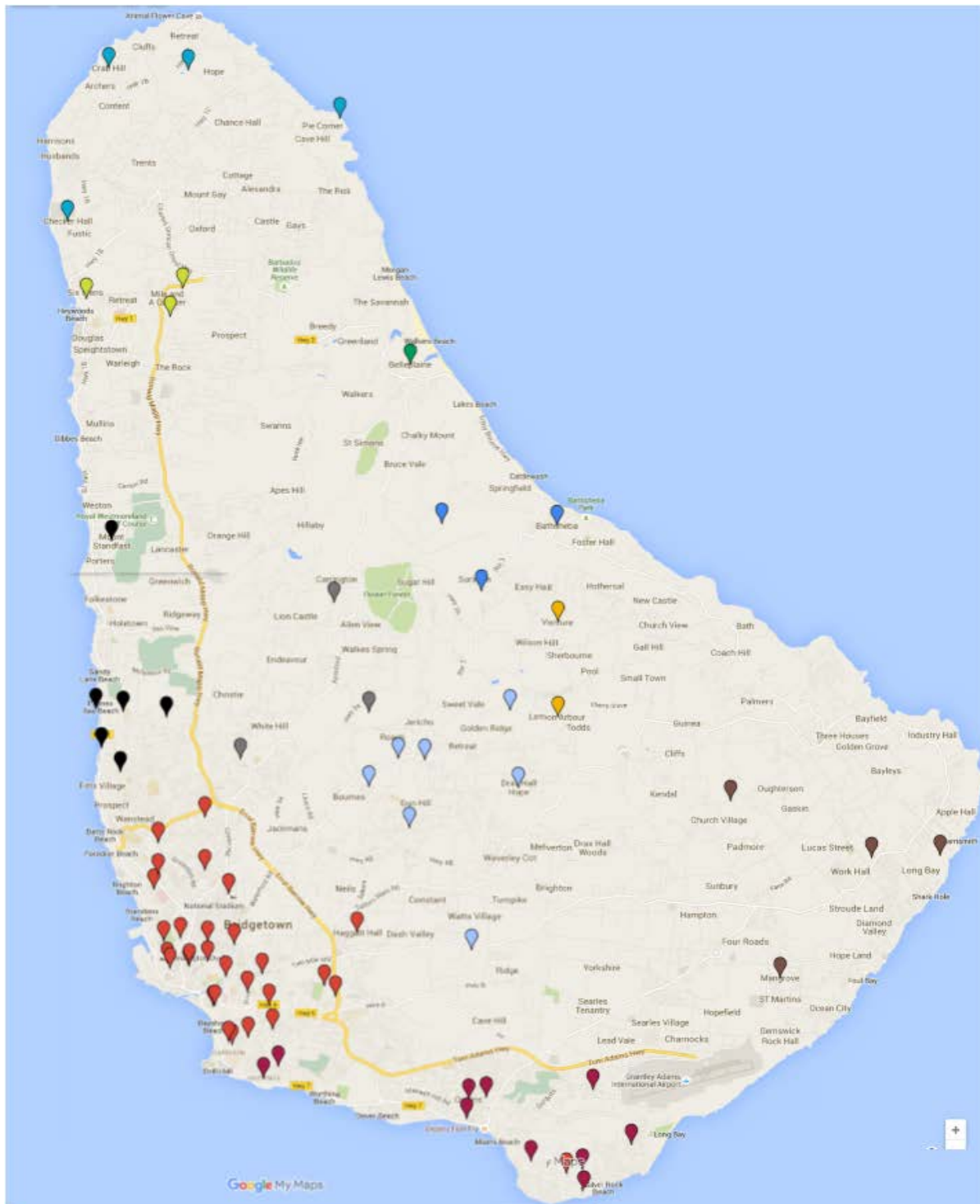
The table below indicates the number of house fires for a specified year and the table spans fourteen years.

2000 - 155
2001 - 105
2003 - 121
2004 - 51
2005 - 98
2006 - 109
2007 - 103
2008 - 115
2009 - 83
2010 - 134
2011 - 95
2012 - 86
2013 - 80
2014 - 100

Table 5

House Fire Locations

The map below indicates where house fires would have occurred across Barbados in 2014. A legend follows which shows the specific districts where these fires occurred.



☒ House Fire Locations

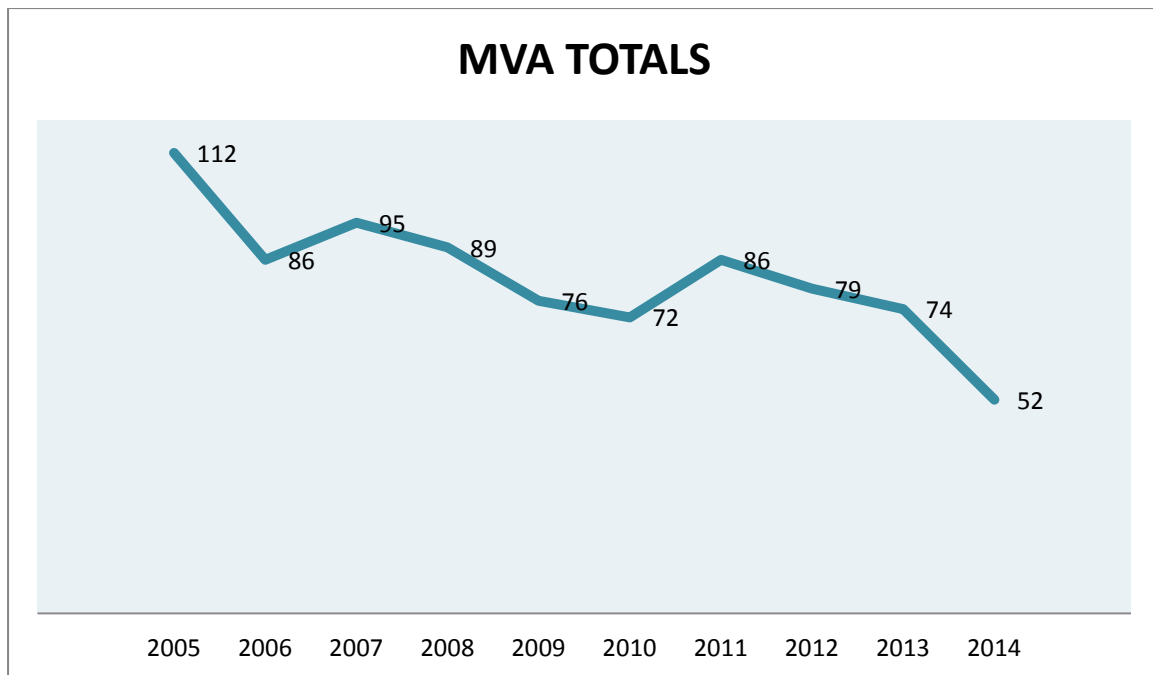
 Individual styles

 Venture	 Parkinson Field	 Chancery Lane
 Dalkeith Road	 Deanes Village	 Saint Christopher's Road
 Brittons Hill	 Black Rock	 Oistins
 Bush Hall	 King Street	 Water Street
 Bank Hall	 Bayville	 Cane Vale Road
 Eden Lodge	 regent hill	 Navy Gardens
 Goodland	 Oxley street	 Parish Land
 New Orleans	 Cypress Street	 Lower Carters Gap
 President Kennedy Drive	 Belleplaine	 Silver Sands
 Cave Hill	 Lemon Arbour	 Proutes
 Westbury Road	 West Terrace	 Welchman Hall
 Kensington New Road	 Paynes Bay	 Arthurs Seat
 Hinds Gap	 Hoytes Village	 Bathsheba
 Haggatt Hall	 Mount Standfast	 Parks Road
 Country Road	 Holders Hill	 Blackmans
 Government Hill	 Derricks	 Mount Brevitor
 Pine Road	 Crab Hill	 Port Ferdinand
 Grazettes	 Hope Bridge Road	 Ashbury
 Chelsea Road	 Little Bay	 Walkers Park East
 Upper Collymore Rock Road	 Mangrove	 Drax Hall Hope
 Chapman Street	 Bequest	 Old Post Office
 Ashdeane Village Road	 Dodds Land	 Flat Rock
	 Duncans	 Bairds Village
	 Hastings	 South District
		 Benn Hill

Map Legend

Red – St. Michael	Yellow – St. John	Brown – St. Philip	Pink – Christ Church
Black – St. James	Dark Green – St. Andrew	Light Green – St. Peter	Light Blue – St. George
Grey – St. Thomas	Dark Blue – St. Joseph	Aquamarine – St. Lucy	

Motor Vehicle Accidents - MVA



Graph 4

The chart above shows the amount of motor vehicle accidents that the Barbados Fire Service responded to, for the specified period. A sharp decline was observed in the number of calls for this particular category of incidents between 2013 and 2014. There were 74 reported accidents in 2013 as compared to 52 reported accidents in 2014, showing a decrease of 30.5%. This graph does not indicate all motor vehicle accidents that occurred since the department normally responds to these incidents only when persons are trapped or believed to be trapped.

Road Fatalities

The List table below shows the number of road fatalities recorded in Barbados over a ten year period. The fire service would have responded to a large number of these road fatalities to use our rescue equipment to extricate the victims of these accidents from the vehicles. Pedestrians struck by motor vehicles and motorcycle accidents would normally be excluded from the fire service's emergency special service (ESS) response.

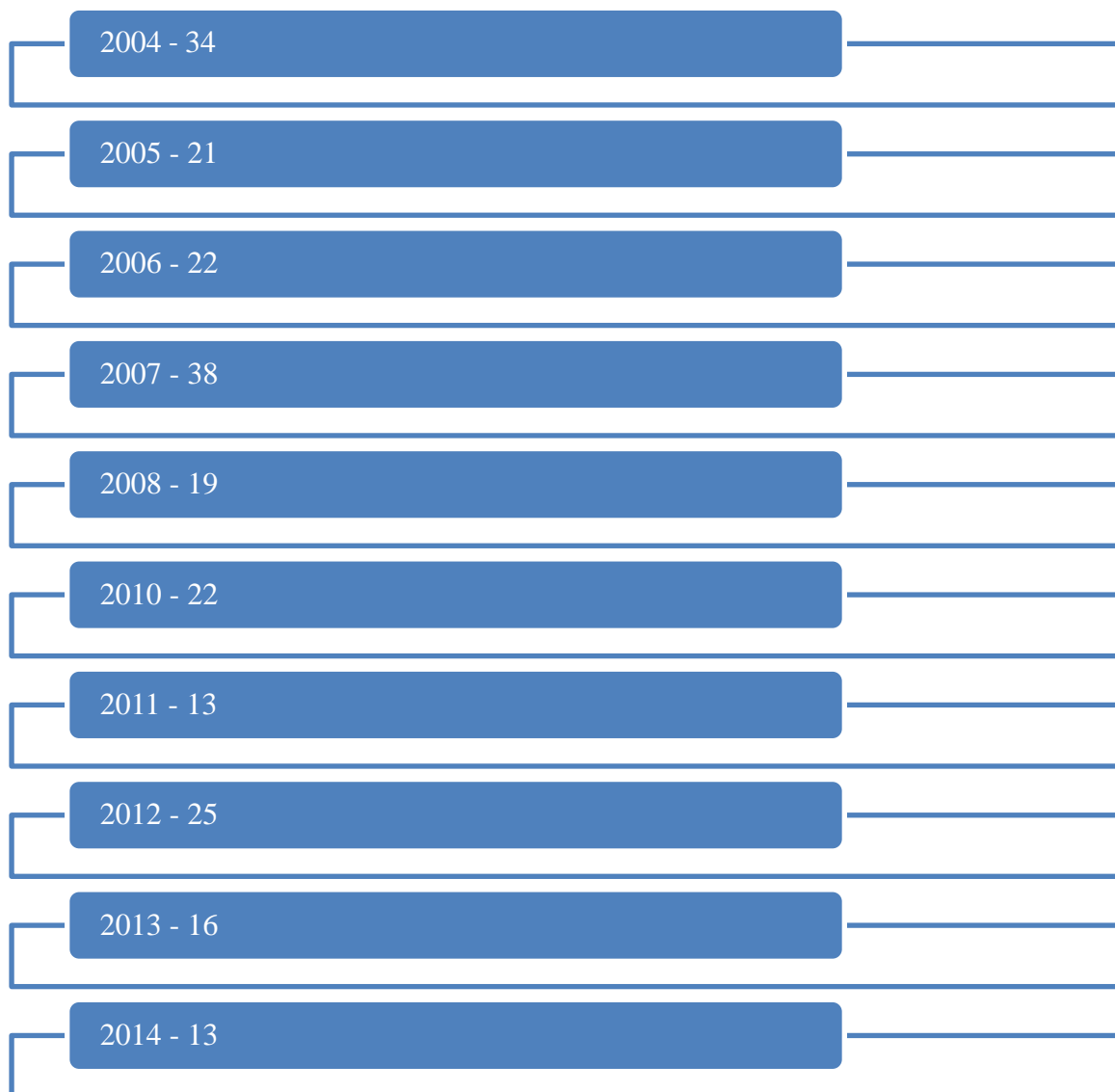


Table 6

Non-Emergency

Special Services

The table below indicates a number of non-emergency special services that the fire service would have responded to, during 2014.

Animal Rescue - 8	Controlled Burning - 4	Supplying Water - 10
Rescue - 7	Providing Elevation - 3	Other Special Service - 13
Gaining Access - 5	Flushing Area - 1	

Table 7

Training and Development

The Training and Development Unit continued to ensure that fire officers, members of other government departments and the general public remained well versed in firefighting techniques, emerging firefighting trends and best practices with respect to fire safety.

This is an enormous responsibility placed on the members of the Unit as the demand for training by both the public and private sectors increases. Persons are becoming more aware of their surroundings and wish to be more knowledgeable of fire safety techniques that could be beneficial in saving their lives or property.

The Unit conducted several in-house courses which included: Fire Service Instructor, Fire Service Inspector, Hazardous Material Awareness and High Rise Firefighting. Developmental courses were also conducted under the titles *Firefighter I and II* and *Fire Officer III*.

Several Officers completed training courses overseas with two officers travelling to Trinidad and Tobago to complete a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Technician course; two officers also participated in the Caribbean Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU) training in St. Croix U.S.V.I. which saw military, police and fire personnel come together to carry out simulations of real disasters that could occur and the best techniques that should be used in bringing relief to disadvantaged persons if an event should occur. Officers also attended training courses in Hazardous Material Awareness and Aerodrome Fire Fighting in the United States of America.

There was also inter-agency training which saw fire officers participating in courses hosted by the Coast Guard and National Conservation Commission. The Unit also trained several officers of the Royal Barbados Police Force, Barbados Defence Force and Ambulance Service in Hazardous Material Awareness and Base Firefighter.

The Unit was committed to ensuring that efficient training was carried out within the department and among the general public as it continued to improve and develop the professional lives of persons in an interactive and meaningful manner.

Training Activities

Completed Training:

Internal

Fire Service Instructor	Fire Service Inspector	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus	Hazardous Material Awareness	High Rise
Driving Training	Central Day Training			

Table 8

External

This training was carried out by members of the Unit for members of the public and other institutions.

Junior Fire Cadet Programme	Fire Control - Roving Response Team
Base Fire Officer - Barbados Defense Force	Fire Safety

Table 9

Inter-Agency

The members of the department completed joint training with other agencies during the year; the table below indicates the type of training conducted and the specific agency which carried out the training.

Ebola Sensitization – Ministry of Health	Chain Saw Operations – Roving Response Team	Learn to Swim – National Conservation Commission
Assessor Level IV – TVET Council	EMT Refresher – Emergency Ambulance Service	EMT – Barbados Community College
Water Safety – Barbados Coast Guard	Presentation Skills - Training Administration Division	

Table 10

Overseas Training

Several officers completed training overseas in many courses of study. The table below shows some of those courses undertaken by the officers of the department.

Hazardous Material Training - USA	Staff Command Course - RSS - GRENADA	IRP Fire and Safety - SCBA - TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
Aerodrome Fire Fighting - USA	Hazardous Material Training Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons POLAND	CDRU - ST.CROIX USVI

Table 11

Joint Training and Drills

The Barbados Fire Service participated in joint training exercises and drills with the Emergency Ambulance Service at UWI Cave Hill Campus, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the United States Embassy. Disaster preparedness exercises were carried out in conjunction with the Barbados Defence Force.

Fire Safety Lectures and Demonstrations

Private Businesses

Republic Bank	80
L & N Workshop	14
Quality Assurance	23
Seawell Air Services	11
Barbados Museum	24
Cage (Barbados) Inc	12
Ministry of Health	15
Limegrove Centre	15
RP Property Holdings	15
Warren Healthcare Company	12
Butterfly Beach Hotel	18
Apes Hill Club	83
Consolidated Finance	15
G4S Security	15
Solaris	4
Carlton	36
Preconco Ltd	16
Virgin Atlantic	16
Caribbean Label Craft	10
Challenor School of Creative Arts	12
TSL Barbados	7
Co-operators General Insurance	8
Massy Stores	20
National Assistance Board	10
RBC Financial Corporation/ Insurance	25
Barbados Employers' Confederation	16
Direct TV	7
Caribbean ARI	15
Barbados Hilton	57
Unicomer Ltd (Courts)	15
Infinity on the beach	15
Sandy Lane	52
Harrison's Cave	10
Lynch Insurance Brokers	10
Automotive Arts	15
Chickmont	20
TOTAL	748

Table 12

JUNIOR FIRE CADET PROGRAMME

In 2014, the Barbados Fire Service hosted the Junior Fire Cadet Programme. The camp commenced on July 13th with a church service at the St. Bartholomew Church and ran for five weeks at Harrison's College, since Arch Hall Fire Station is currently undergoing expansion. The Programme was once again sponsored by Sol Barbados and Roberts Manufacturing Co. Ltd. Twenty-eight children ranging in ages 12-15 years from secondary schools across Barbados, completed the Course. The fire cadets were exposed to a variety of fire fighting related topics such as hose and hydrant, ropes and knots and fire behaviour, along with non-firefighting topics such as water safety practices, drama, personal development, mathematics, proper sanitation procedures and effective communication.



Image 1

Fire Safety Inspections

The Barbados Fire Service has been conducting these inspections in accordance with the Health and Safety Act 2005, which encourages all private and public businesses to have their premises inspected to ensure that they are fire safe by having the requisite smoke detectors, firefighting equipment and the adequate number of exits. The first table below shows the number and types of businesses inspected that were subsequently given certificates of compliance, whereas the second table shows businesses that were not up to standard at the point of inspection and were thus given recommendations to be carried out before being re-inspected.

<i>BUSINESS CATEGORY</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>	<i>BUSINESS CATEGORY</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
APARTMENT	70	BANK	14
BEAUTY SALON	2	BUSINESS	103
BUSINESS-PETROLEUM	35	CHARITIES	1
CLINIC	2	DAY CARE CENTRE	133
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION	21	ENTERTAINMENT	33
FACTORY	1	FIRE STATION	1
GAS STATION	23	GOV.DEPT	2
GUEST HOUSE	20	HOSPITAL	1
HOTEL	66	LABORATORY	1
LPG	8	NON COMMERCIAL BANK	1
NURSERY	1	PRE-SCHOOL	2
PRIMARY+SECONDARY	1	PRIMARY	16
PRIVATE RESIDENCE	5	RESTAURANT	26
SECONDARY	4	SENIOR CITIZEN	50
SHOPPING MALL	1	STORE	1
SUPERMARKET	2	TELEPHONE CO.	1
TERMINAL	2	TERTIARY	2
TRAINING	14	WAREHOUSE	7
TOTAL			
673			

Table 13

Premises to be Re-inspected

BUSINESS CATEGORY	AMOUNT
<i>APARTMENT</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>BANK</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>BUSINESS</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>CHURCH</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>DAY CARE CENTRE</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>ENTERTAINMENT ESTABLISHMENT</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>GAS STATION</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>HOTEL</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>LABORATORY</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>POLYCLINIC</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>PRIVATE RESIDENCE</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>RESTAURANT</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>SECURITY FIRM</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>SENIOR CITIZENS HOME</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>STORE</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>TRAINING INSTITUTION</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>WAREHOUSE</i>	<i>1</i>
	<i>TOTAL - 80</i>

Table 14

Fire Service Week

The Barbados Fire Service celebrated its 59th year of existence with a Thanksgiving Service at the Calvary Moravian Church in Roebuck Street, St. Michael. The service carried a tone of mixed emotions because although it was a celebration of reaching another milestone, it was also the final service for Mr. Wilfred Marshall as Chief Fire Officer. Mr. Marshall served for 40 years with the department, attaining the rank of Chief Fire Officer in 2010.



Image 2



Image 3



The week continued with the Health Extravaganza at the Bridgetown Station on Monday September 29, 2014. This event allowed the officers the opportunity to be pampered via manicures, pedicures, facials and massages while receiving blood sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure checks. The event also gives private

companies such as Jenn's Health and Beauty Supplies, Safety Supply, Bryden Stokes and Cave Shepherd, the chance to showcase their products to fire officers and members of the public. There were also special presentations by the HIV /AIDS Commission and a Podiatrist.



Image 5

The following day saw officers participate in the Central Division Day Drill Display which included a roof rescue, vertical ladder lift, and a mechanical advantage drill where officers used a series of pulleys to move a broken down vehicle, by reducing the physical effort that would normally be exerted in carrying out such a task. The Fire fighters Challenge was also a feature of this event and members of the Barbados Coast Guard and Barbados Defence Force participated in a friendly inter-agency competition.

There was a membership day held by the Barbados Fire Service Association, in addition to a picnic and sports and fun day which were held at Silver Sands, Christ Church. There was also a social evening and games night; the week concluded with the family fun fair which gave persons the chance to view some of the equipment used by fire officers on the Water Tender and the Rescue Tender. Children were entertained with jumping tents, face painting and demonstrations of fire fighting and rescue equipment.



Image 6

Fire Prevention Unit

During 2014, the Fire Prevention Unit continued to establish itself as the driving force behind the dissemination of fire prevention and fire safety information to the general public of Barbados. Sometimes, they did this with limited resources, but the officers of this Unit never failed to do their best in ensuring that the needs of the public were met through their fire prevention programmes. During the year under review, the Unit carried out programmes such as: S.A.F.E. Programme, Smoke Detector Programme, Career Showcases, Evacuation Drills, Fighting Fire with Fire Protection (FFFP), Children's Home and Elderly Facilities, Operation Escape Bridgetown, Brownies and Cub Scouts. The Unit also used the department's website to post pertinent information on fire safety, fire prevention programmes and fire prevention links.

Unit Activities

The Chart below shows some of the activities the Unit carried out during 2014.

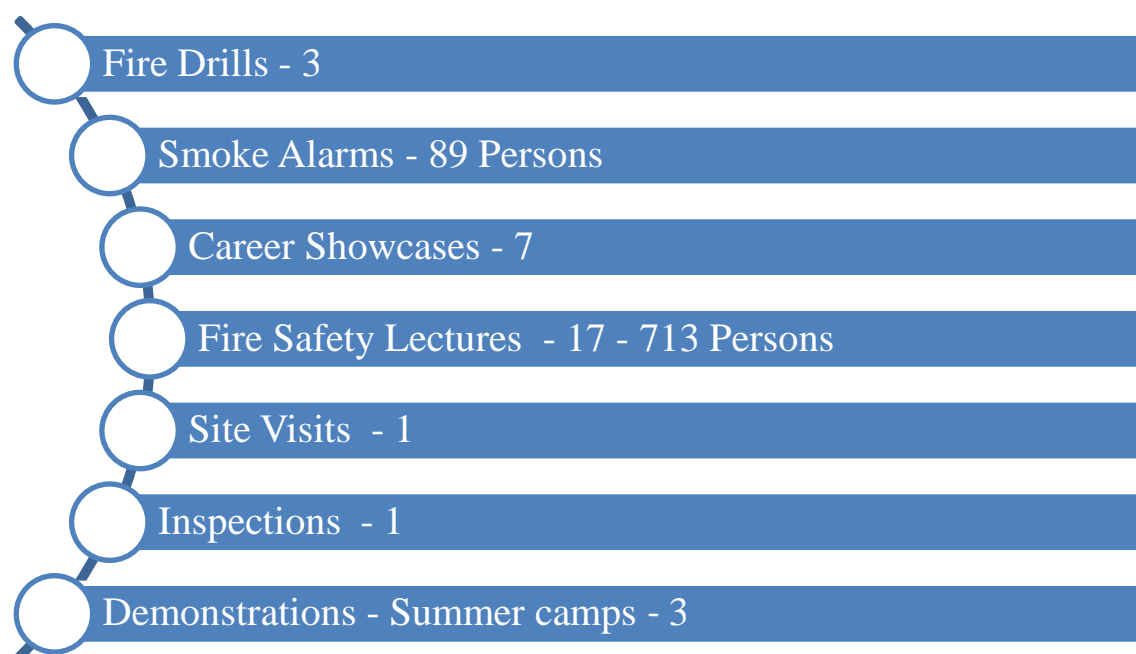


Table 15

Fire Prevention Week

Fire prevention week took place between October 5 and 11 under the theme “**Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives**”. The theme is testimony to the initiative the Unit took to ensure that many vulnerable persons were equipped with these life-saving devices. To this end, members of the Unit along with officers from the St. John and St. James Stations installed smoke alarms in the homes of persons within their respective station areas.

For the remainder of the week, the Unit focused on reaching as many persons as possible across the island, by hosting a number of Fire Awareness lectures at the Speightstown Community Centre, the Valley Resource Centre, and the Princess Margaret Secondary School. These events gave persons from surrounding communities, the opportunity to gain valuable fire safety knowledge while engaging members of the Unit with their questions about fire prevention.



Image 7

CONCLUSION

The year 2014 had its challenges but despite these obstacles, the members of the Barbados Fire Service continued to carry out their duties to the best of their ability, ensuring that the lives and property of the people of Barbados were protected to the highest standard. Going forward, the department will continue to train its people to ensure personal and professional growth takes place that will make officers proud to be a members of the organization, growth that will cause the public we serve to have confidence in our abilities, and a growth that will see the Barbados Fire Service move from strength to strength and continue to be a beacon of excellence within the communities we serve.