



# ***Park County Sheriff's Office***



## **2013 Annual Report**

**Scott A. Steward, Sheriff**

***"Service, Safety, Security"***



## A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF SCOTT A. STEWARD

To the citizens of Park County:

The year 2013 will be remembered as a year of incredible triumphs and unspeakable tragedy for members of the Park County Sheriff's Office. The year began with a triple homicide in Clark and ended with the rescue of a Wisconsin couple stranded for six days on the Beartooth Highway. In between there were thousands of calls for service, high-profile felony apprehensions, and multiple search and rescue calls including two small plane crashes. And throughout it all, the citizens of Park County can be proud of the professionalism and dedication of the officers and volunteers involved in each situation. Moreover, several high-profile rescues were made possible by the caring and concern demonstrated by residents who went out of their way to assist when needed.

In 2013, our deputies responded to nearly 12,000 calls for service which included nearly 2,500 motor vehicle inspections, 1,800 civil paper services, 1,200 traffic stops, 600 animal calls, 350 warrant service attempts, 300 felony and misdemeanor arrests and 150 motor vehicle crash investigations. All of this was accomplished despite the department being shorthanded for much of the year due to attrition.

Our detention staff also detained and cared for several high-profile prisoners including the homicide suspects from the Clark triple murder, a Cody resident who in 2012, murdered his wife during a domestic assault as well as a suspect convicted of kidnapping and sexually assaulting a juvenile female from Cody that same year. Despite personal feelings regarding their crimes, detention staff treated these individuals with professionalism and integrity, performing their sworn duties as they were trained.

I can't say enough about the personnel of the Sheriff's Office. Every situation involves teamwork: dispatchers take and dispatch the call, field personnel investigate and detention staff processes the suspects, if any. The year 2013 demonstrated their devotion to duty like no other year I can remember. Throughout the thousands of routine calls, high-profile rescues, and criminal investigations, our personnel willingly conducted themselves with utmost integrity. And we look forward to continuing this service into 2014."

Sincerely,



Scott A. Steward  
Sheriff, Park County, Wyoming

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER** - In 2013, the Park County Sheriff's Office enhanced its ability to disseminate information and improve communications with residents through the creation of a Public Information Officer position. The Public Information Officer serves as department spokesperson, media relations specialist and community outreach coordinator. It is the responsibility of this position to promote positive relations with the media and coordinate community involvement through proactive program implementation all while maintaining the goals and objectives of the department.

**FACEBOOK & TWITTER** – This year, the Park County Sheriff's Office expanded its ability to communicate directly with residents through the creation of an agency Facebook page and Twitter account. These social medium are used to inform and engage the residents of Park County on a variety of topics. Safety messages, emergency bulletins, and agency information are included, but also the accounts are used to distribute information on incidents reported to the sheriff's office that may be of interest to our residents. The intent is to proactively distribute information that is both informative and safety-oriented in content and when necessary, ask for assistance from residents in emergency situations.



**OPERATION BLUE ANGEL** - Also, as part of the expanded community outreach program, the Department implemented Operation Blue Angel, a program intended to provide emergency personnel access to a residence in the event of an emergency, the resident becomes incapacitated or is otherwise unable to open their door. Lock boxes, similar to those used by real estate agents, are installed by sheriff's deputies at the homes of eligible senior citizens, free of charge. A spare



key to the residence is secured inside the lock box and the access code is only be available to first responders and only used in an emergency. Participation in Operation Blue Angel is strictly voluntary, and limited to rural Park County residents age 55 or older who live alone; or residents who live alone or are frequently alone and have a medical condition that is potentially

incapacitating. Operation Blue Angel enables our seniors or those with serious medical conditions to feel safe and secure, allowing them to continue to live independently in their homes for as long as possible.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** – The Community Outreach Program insures that the Park County Sheriff’s Office is active in programs designed to serve the needs of county residents while promoting a positive image for department personnel. Examples of this effort in 2013 included the department’s participation in the annual 4th of July parade in Cody. The sheriff served as Grand Marshall of the Kiddy Parade and the Communications Staff entered a float in the two-day main event. A “Stranger Danger” educational program for local children was also



held whereby local children were taught what to do when approached by a stranger. The children were also fingerprinted for identification purposes. Also a “Stuff the Truck” program



was held which challenged county residents to fill a sheriff’s pickup truck with non-perishable food items to benefit local food banks. The truck was parked at local grocery stores on Cody and Powell for a day. Thanks to their efforts, department personnel, who all volunteered their time, delivered over a ton of food to local food banks in each city, benefiting those in need.

# PATROL DIVISION

During 2013 the patrol and investigative divisions experienced an unthinkable situation when on March 2nd residents of a Clark neighborhood found three gunshot victims in their home after noticing that their dogs were loose and a strange car speeding away from the residence. In the end, three members of the same family were senselessly murdered by two young men for nothing more than their fancy automobile. There are departments fifty times larger than the Park County Sheriff's Office that has never experienced a triple homicide case. However, the community was fortunate to have the concern of local residents and the cooperation of multiple agencies that ultimately resulted in the quick apprehension of the suspects and their successful prosecution. They are currently serving life sentences without the possibility of parole. And if anything good can possibly come from a horrible situation such as this, it is the realization that the residents of our county care for each other and are watching out for their neighbors.



But the patrol division also responded to nearly 12,000 calls for service during 2013. These



included over 2,500 motor vehicle inspections, 1,800 civil paper services, 1,200 traffic stops, 600 animal calls, 350 warrant service attempts, 300 felony and misdemeanor arrests and 150 motor vehicle crash investigations. All of this activity was accomplished despite the division being shorthanded for much of the year due to attrition. Included in the felony apprehensions were a fugitive from Florida who faked his own

death by sinking a houseboat and fleeing to Park County to evade capture and a fugitive from Cascade County, Montana who was wanted on four felony counts of incest with a family member. He was working at a local ranch and threatened suicide during his capture.

**PERSONNEL** - As previously mentioned, the patrol division was short-handed for a part of 2013 due to attrition. In order to address the issue, three deputies were re-assigned from the detention facility to patrol. Deputies Andrew (Andy) Varian, Jason Potter and Jedediah (Jed) Ehlers began their duties as patrol deputies in May of 2013. Deputies Varian and Potter were assigned to the Cody District while Deputy Ehlers was assigned to the Powell District. These assignments are the result of personnel rotations which resulted in no additional deputies hired and no additional costs to the county.



**TRAINING** - During 2013, the Park County Sheriff's Office contracted with TAC\*ONE Consultants of Denver, Colorado for a three-day course in officer survival techniques. The training titled; "Lone Wolf: Advanced Officer Survival" focused on the skills necessary to

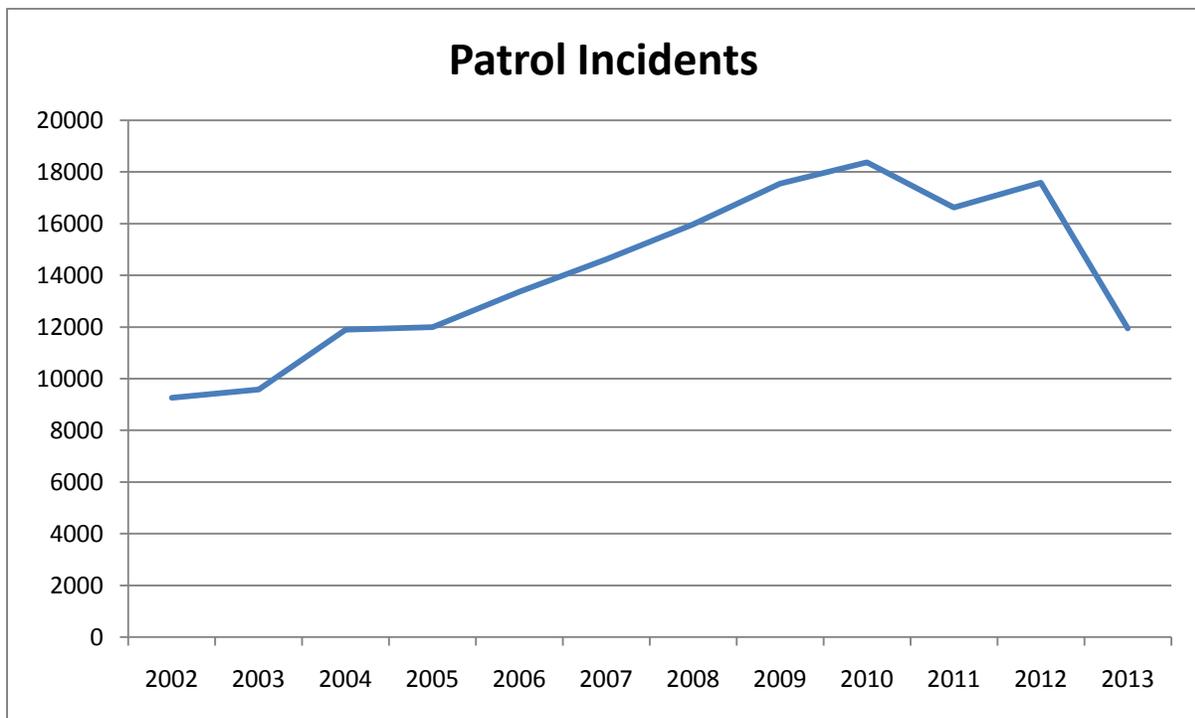


enhance officer safety and survival skills in situations where additional officers may not be available and the deputy is left up to his own devices to mitigate the threat and survive the confrontation. The training included sessions on combat firearms techniques which emphasized instinctive shooting while seeking cover. Deputies were required to demonstrate

proficiency with their sidearm in a variety of scenarios under stress and taught to read and react to the situation at hand. Many times the deputies were required to perform sessions of rigorous exercise before using their firearms. The purpose was to demonstrate that shooting in a survival

situation is rarely done under ideal circumstances. The training also included sessions in hand-to-hand physical confrontations where the deputy was taught various techniques for securing a combative suspect while emphasizing weapon retention. Each training scenario was designed to mirror potential real-life situations that the deputy could face at any moment during their normal course of duty. By bringing outside instructors here to our train our entire Patrol Division at one time, we promote team-building within our agency as well as the confidence that each deputy has the same training and philosophical approach to emergency situations.

**PATROL ACTIVITY** - Overall, the data indicates a 32 percent decline in patrol incidents from 2012. However, much of this decline can be attributed to a change in record keeping and several procedural changes. An analysis of deputies' time spent during his or her shift revealed that an average of 23 percent of the time is spent on administrative functions. These administrative functions involve time spent completing incident or case reports; follow up investigatory activity; or contacting residents to inform them of the progress on their incidents. Prior to 2013, this administrative time was recorded as separate incidents which skewed the data. Therefore, in order to reflect a more accurate picture of the actual incidents that deputies respond to on an



annual basis, this administrative time was filtered out of the activity. Moreover, the detention facility now tracks and monitors all routine prisoner transportations to and from detention for court appearances. Road deputies only transport prisoners to and from facilities outside of Park County. This simple change in policy accounts for a 67 percent reduction in the number of prisoner transports on paper.

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## **INCIDENTS**

Total Patrol Incidents	11,942
Calls for Service Incidents	6,039
Officer Initiated Incidents	5,903
Traffic Stops	1,194
Business/Building/Vehicle Checks	132
Field Interviews	3
Other Incidents	4,709

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## **CASE INVESTIGATIONS**

Total Case Investigations	1,317
Vehicle Accident Investigations	117
Criminal Investigations	295
Non-Criminal Investigations	898
Unclassified Investigations	7

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## **ARRESTS**

Total Arrests	324
Misdemeanor Arrests	223
Felony Arrests	101

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## **WARRANTS**

New Warrants Received	227
Circuit/District Court Warrants	417
Warrants Closed	361

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## VIN INSPECTIONS

Total VIN Inspections	2,510
VIN Inspection Fees Collected *	\$25,100.00

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## CIVIL SUMMONS

Total Service Attempts	1,816
Total Served	780
Total Attempts with No Service	1,036
Civil Service Fees Collected *	\$27,570.96

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## CITATIONS

Total Citations Issued	511
Misdemeanor Criminal Citations	86
Traffic Citations	399
Parking Citations	3
Unclassified	22

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\* Fees collected are returned to the county general fund

## PATROL INCIDENTS BY TYPE

INCIDENT TYPE		INCIDENT TYPE	
911 HANG UP CALL	70	MISCELLANEOUS ASSISTANCE	361
ABANDONED VEHICLE	58	MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH	144
ADMINISTRATIVE DUTY	172	NCIC WARRANT ENTRY	137
ALARM-INTRUSTION/HOLDUP	115	NOTIFY CITY DEPARTMENTS	56
AMBULANCE-DEPUTY ASSIGNED	13	NUISANCE COMPLAINT	8
ANIMAL-BITE	14	OPEN DOOR/WINDOW	5
ANIMAL-DECEASED	13	OTHER ACCIDENT	10
ANIMAL-LOST	241	OTHER LAW VIOLATIONS	38
ANIMAL-NOISY	13	PARKING PROBLEM	10
ANIMAL-OTHER	145	PATROL-EXTRA	507
ANIMAL-ON ROADWAY	229	PEDESTRIAN STOP	3
ANIMAL-STRAY	261	PERSON LOST	3
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	468	PHONE RELATED COMPLAINT	5

ASSAULT	19	PRISONER TRANSPORT	287
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE	20	PROBATION CHECK	2
AUTO BURGLARY	4	PROBATION VIOLATION	10
BAD CHECK COMPLAINT	2	PROPERTY DAMAGE	68
BARWALK	20	PROPERTY FOUND	60
BODY FOUND	24	PROPERTY LOST	60
BUILDING BURGLARY	20	PROTECTION ORDER	22
COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICES	1	PROWLER	5
CHILD WELFARE	24	REDDI REPORT	65
CITIZEN/BUSINESS CONTACT	87	ROAD HAZARD/BLOCKAGE	40
CIVIL ATTEMPTS	1,836	RUNAWAY JUVENILE	4
CIVIL DISPUTE	67	SEARCH AND RESCUE CALL	25
CIVIL STANDBY	31	SECURITY CHECK	127
CUSTODY DISPUTE	21	SEXUAL ASSAULT	9
DISTURBANCE	57	SEXUAL OFFENDER NOTIFICATION	16
DOMESTIC	65	SEXUAL OFFENDER RECORD	46
DRILL/EXERCISE	6	SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION	28
DRUGS RELATED	7	SEX OFFENDER REPORTING	67
EXTRA PATROL REQUEST	32	SPECIAL INCIDENT- Undefined	14
FIRE CALL-DEPUTY ASSIGNED	12	STOLEN VEHICLE	6
FIREWORKS COMPLAINT	5	SUICIDE ATTEMPT/THREATS	18
FLAGDOWN OF DEPUTY	16	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	110
FOLLOWUP INVESTIGATION	534	SEARCH WARRANT	3
FRAUD RELATED	48	THEFT	79
HARASSMENT	31	THREATS	31
HAZARD TO SAFETY	32	TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	74
HAZMAT CALL	1	TRAFFIC STOP	1,194
INCORRIGIBLE JUVENILE	13	TRAINING/ INSTRUCTION	25
INFORMATIONAL CASE	116	TRESPASS COMPLAINT	44
INTOXICATED SUBJECT	2	UNKNOWN CALL TYPE	8
KEGGER COMPLAINT	3	US FOREST SERVICE PATROL	109
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION	3	VIN INSPECTIONS	2,518
LITTERING	6	WARRANT SERVICE	363
MENTAL PROBLEM	1	WEAPONS OFFENSE	25
MESSAGE DELIVERY	3	WELFARE CHECK	112
		<b>TOTAL PATROL INCIDENTS</b>	<b>11,942</b>

**NOTE** – See ANNEX 1 for “Crime Counts by Offense Code”

# COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

In 2013, data would indicate that the Communications Division experienced a significant decrease in the total number of calls handled by 41.77 percent. However, as previously stated in the Patrol Division section, most of this decline on paper can be attributed to a change in record

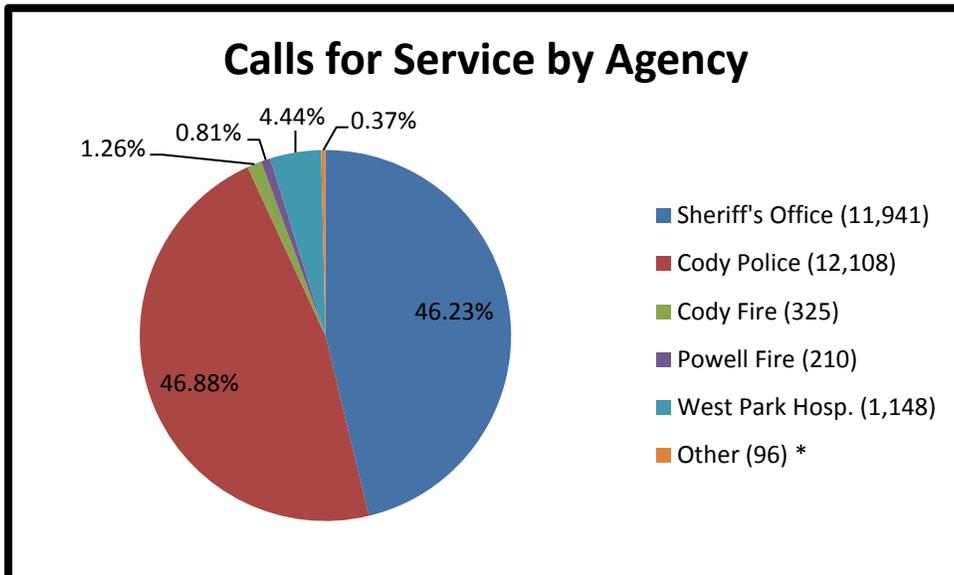
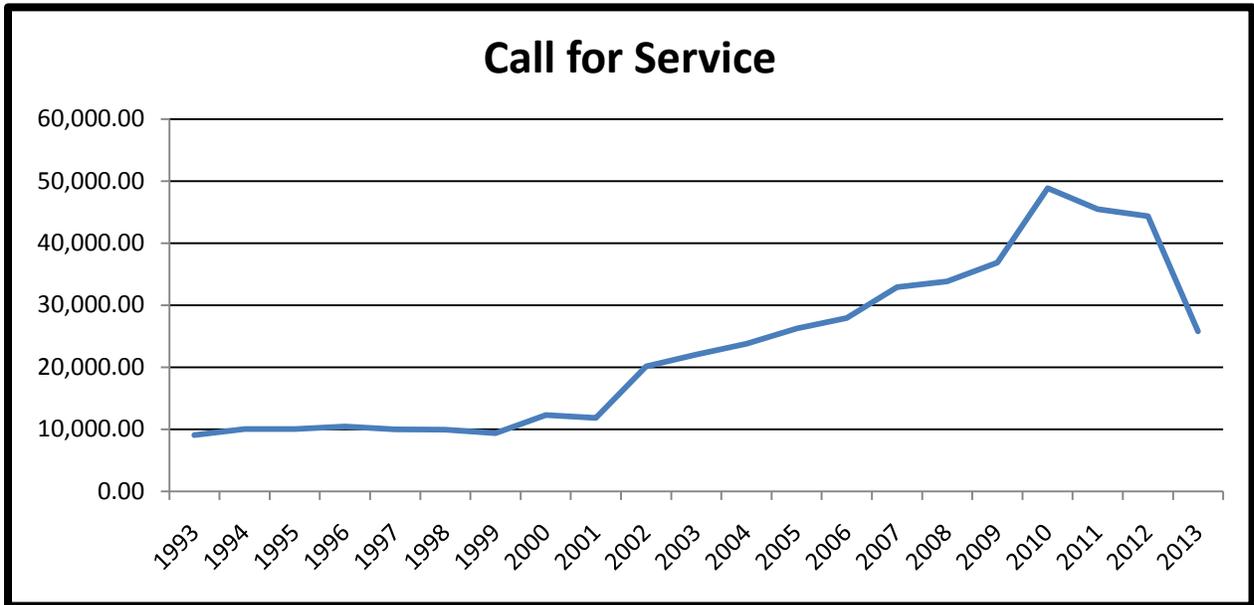


keeping and several procedural changes both on the part of the Sheriff's Office and the Cody Police Department. An analysis of deputies' time spent during his or her shift revealed that an average of 23 percent of the time is spent on administrative functions. The Cody Police officers also spend 39 percent of their time on administrative functions as well. These administrative functions involve time

spent completing incident or case reports; follow up investigatory activity; or contacting residents to inform them of the progress on their incidents. Prior to 2013, this administrative time was recorded as separate incidents which skewed the patrol data analysis. Therefore, in order to reflect a more accurate picture of the actual incidents that deputies/officers respond to on an annual basis, this administrative time was filtered out of the activity. However, this does not in any way significantly reduce the workload of the communications officers. They continue to monitor and log deputies'/officers' time in these administrative functions. But this time is no longer reflected in patrol statistics for efficiency in data analysis.

## COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION CALLS FOR SERVICE

Park County Sheriff's Office	11,941 (-32.09%)
Cody Police Department	12,108 (-51.55%)
Cody Fire Department	325 (+00.93%)
Clark Fire Department	37 (+08.82%)
Powell Fire Department	210 (-04.97%)
Meeteetse Fire Department	34 (+06.25%)
West Park Hospital Ambulance	1,148 (+00.43%)
Park County Search and Rescue	25 (+04.16%)
<b>Total Calls Handled in 2013</b>	<b>25,828 (-41.77%)</b>



\* Clark Fire / Meeteetse Fire / Search & Rescue

## Controlled Burn Permits

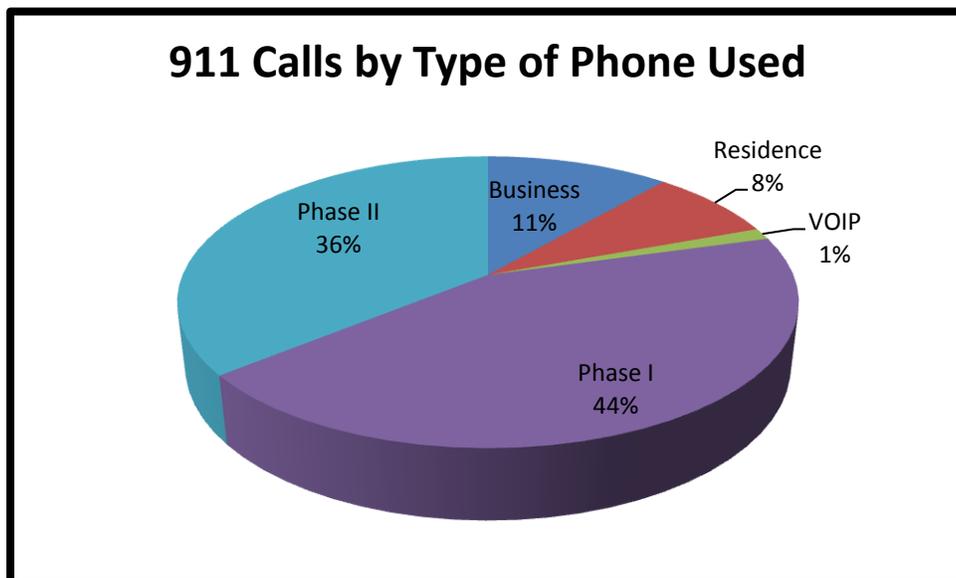
Total Permits Issued	3,939
Cody/Meeteetse Area	1,556
Powell/Garland/Ralston/Clark Area	2,374

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## Fire Calls Dispatched

Cody Fire Department	325
Clark Fire Department	37
Powell Fire Department	210
Meeteetse Fire Department	34
Total Fire Calls	606

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Phase I = Calls originating from a cellular telephone, unable to map location  
Phase II = Calls originating from a cellular telephone, able to map location  
Business = Call originating from a business landline, able to map location  
Residence = Call originating from a residential landline, able to map location  
VOIP = Voice Over Internet Protocol, internet-based phone service, able to map location

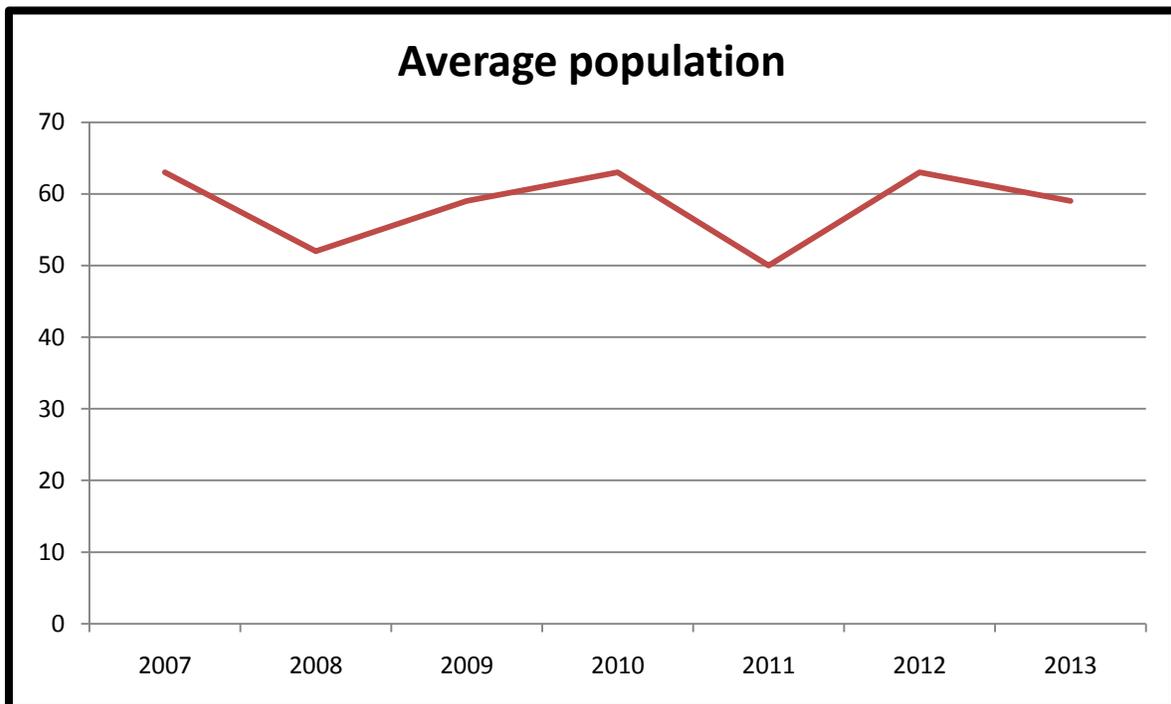
# DETENTION DIVISION

In 2013, the Park County Sheriff's Office Detention Division booked a total of 1,083 prisoners into the holding facility. This number represents a 6 percent decrease in total bookings from 2012. The average inmate population decreased from 63 in 2012 to 59 in 2013, a 6 percent decrease.

## TOTAL DETENTION BOOKINGS BY YEAR (Including the percent change from previous year)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Park County Sheriff Bookings	218 (+5%)	271 (+20%)	302 (+10%)	270 (-10%)	256 (-5%)
Cody Police Dept. Bookings	447 (-12%)	540 (+17%)	580 (+7%)	429 (-26%)	480 (+12%)
Powell Police Dept. Bookings	317 (+2%)	231 (-37%)	187 (-24%)	195 (+4%)	278 (+43%)
Wyoming Highway Patrol Bookings	30 (-19%)	25 (-20%)	51 (+51%)	52 (+2%)	47 (-10%)
Division of Criminal Invest. Bookings		23 (N/A)	4 (-475%)	14 (+250%)	9 (-36%)
Probation & Parole Bookings		4 (N/A)	5 (+20%)	4 (-20%)	8 (+100%)
New Bookings on New Charges	870 (-5%)	967 (+10%)	859 (-13%)	947 (+10%)	833 (-12%)
Total Bookings *	1,455 (+1%)	1,194 (-22%)	1,131 (-6%)	1,145 (+1%)	1,083 (-6%)

\* Includes "weekender" bookings, where someone comes to serve time on weekends only. Also includes 5 bookings by other agencies.



**USE OF FORCE** - The Park County Detention Center also tracks the use of force incidents



against inmates within our care and protection. These incidents are created whenever a detention deputy has to utilize force against a non-compliant inmate. This can be in the form of compliance holds such as a wrist-lock up to and including the use of non-lethal weapons such as a Taser or pepper spray. We continually strive to keep these incidents to a minimum by providing the best possible training to our deputies in

methods to mitigate situations prior to resorting to physical force. Pictured: Detention deputies participate in a use of force training exercise.

Assaults by inmates against officers and each other increased in 2013. As with use of force incidents, we continually strive to minimize inmate assaults through training. All inmates who assault officers or other inmates are prosecuted under Wyoming State Statute.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Use of Force Incidents *	10	6	12	13	13	21
Inmate Assaults	2	2	5	4	7	7

\* Force is used to gain compliance only

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** – The Park County detention staff also was an active participant in the department’s community outreach program. Examples included fingerprinting children for



“Stranger Danger” educational program during the annual 4th of July weekend and distributing candy to the children during Halloween. The detention staff also utilized inmate work crews to remove trash from county roads. These crews are voluntary on the part of the inmates and they must meet certain security protocol in order to participate.

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**REVENUE GENERATED BY THE PARK COUNTY DETENTION DIVISION \***

Jail Housing from the City of Cody	\$10,890.00
Fingerprint/Notary/Record fees	\$8,092.95
Split Sentencing	\$4,740.00
Inmate Phone system	\$26,819.08
Medical Reimbursement	\$18,720.73
Court Restitution	\$9,031.69
Total revenue generated in 2013:	\$78,294.45

\* All revenues are returned to the Park County General Fund

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# SEARCH AND RESCUE

In 2013, the Park County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Unit (SAR) participated in 25 calls for service including several high-profile rescues. On May 2nd, SAR responded to the South



Fork area to evacuate an ice climber from Powell who fell approximately 20 feet from an ice flow and spent the night with two broken ankles. That same month SAR evacuated a local rock climber on the North Fork who fell 10 feet and injured her back. Due to her injuries, SAR personnel had to evacuate her using a low angle rope system to safely get her to emergency medical crews.

SAR also safely evacuated two out-of-state hikers that had become lost on the North Fork and wandered for four days in the back country before being located. And the year ended with the rescue of a young couple from Wisconsin that drove over the Beartooth Highway only to become stranded for six days in heavy snow. Their rescue was made possible by the concern of a local rancher who took it upon himself to search the area on snowmobile. He located the missing couple and safely brought them down from the mountains.

SAR also responded to the crash of two small airplanes during 2013. On August 21st, deputies and SAR responded to a report from two elk hunters northwest of the abandoned mining town of Kirwin near Meeteetse who witnessed the crash of a small single engine aircraft in the Absaroka Mountains. In this instance the teenage pilot became disoriented and flew into a valley where her plane was incapable of climbing out. She crashed and flipped the plane on its top. Miraculously, the young female pilot walked away from the crash and was evacuated with the help of the two hunters. Then in October, two Alaska men also walked away from the crash of their single engine aircraft that went down just inside the East Gate of Yellowstone





National Park due to engine failure. SAR located the plane the next morning by triangulating on their emergency beacon. They too sustained very minor injuries.

The mission of the Park County Search and Rescue is to train for, and respond to emergencies which regular department personnel are not trained, equipped or otherwise prepared to handle. This mission is met by; 1) identifying hazardous areas, activities or situations and assisting in education of the public about these hazards and ways to avoid or minimize them, eliminating or minimizing the hazards if practical; 2) training all Search and Rescue team members in Basic SAR skills and training special teams for more technically demanding SAR emergencies; and 3) responding to calls for assistance in searching for lost or missing persons and rescuing persons in distress within the training and performance capabilities of the SAR personnel. SAR personnel are all volunteers.



# **ANNEX 1**