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Three firefighters were tapped for top honors at the Burleson Fire Department's annual awards banquet.

Lt. Duane Wines was named the 2013 Fire Officer of the Year. Firefighter Robert Clarkin earned Firefighter of the Year, and Engineer Robert Schoonover achieved the Fire Chief's Award.

Five firefighters – Deputy Chief of Training Brent Batla, Lt. Wines, Lt. Mike Jones, and firefighters Jeff Hart and Jake Hopps – were recognized for their deployment to West, Texas, following the explosion at West Fertilizer Company in April 2013 that killed more than a dozen people, including numerous first responders, and injured 200. The blast tore through a four-to-five-block radius, leveling roughly 80 homes and a middle school and trapping more than 100 residents of a nursing home in rubble.

Batla was recognized for earning the executive fire officer certification. Additional certification awards included Batla/Fire Officer 3, Fire Officer 4, master fire investigator and master inspector; Firefighter Bill Buchanan/wildland firefighting; Lt. Steve Burchette/fire inspector; Lt. Casey Davis/incident safety officer and advanced firefighter; Firefighter Dallas Fowler/wildland firefighting; Firefighter Hopps/incident safety officer; Firefighter Kevin Hunter/incident safety officer and fire officer II; Lt. Josh Jacobs/incident safety officer and wildland firefighting; Lt. Jones/incident safety officer and wildland firefighting; firefighter Jules Knight/intermediate firefighter and wildland firefighting; Lt. Jeremiah Lozier/incident safety officer; Firefighter Chuck Martinez/fire inspector, master firefighter, incident safety officer and wildland firefighting; Firefighter Matt Mobley/intermediate firefighter; Firefighter Matt Moseley/wildland firefighting and fire officer II; Firefighter Shelby Stone/advanced firefighter and wildland firefighting; and Firefighter Jon Wheat/intermediate firefighter, wildland firefighting, and hazardous material technician.

Deputy Chief of Operations Tom Foster was recognized for his 20 years of service to the department. Earning 15 year service awards were Fire Chief Gary Wisdom and Deputy Chief Batla. Ten year service awards went to firefighters Don Wooten, Schoonover, James Pribble and Scott Johns, and Lt. Justin Crites and Lt. Burchette.

The busiest shift in 2013 was Station 1, C shift, which includes Lt. Greg Mason, Engineer Robert Schoonover and firefighters Rob Moore and David Franks. That shift answered 1,238 out of 3,648 calls last year. Firefighter Pribble earned the distinction of having completed the most training hours, 1,104.