

2015

RFD

A REVIEW OF OUR STATISTICS
AND MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Annual Report

The mission of the Rockford Fire Department is to protect the lives and property of our community through fire, emergency medical, and life safety services.





2015

Rockford Fire Department

RFD

Annual Report

Administration Division

Major Accomplishments

- Received Assistance to Firefighter's Grants (AFG) for fire sprinkler systems in all of our fire stations. This work will be completed in early 2016.
- Completed VoIP Phone System upgrade with IT Department.
- Worked with IT to improve Automated Vehicle Locator signals by installing cellular and GPS signal boosters in various fire stations
- Developed new procedures with Human Resources to improve communications, track, and coordinate Worker's Compensation claims with our Third Party Administer.
- Revised and updated the Department's Strategic Plan for 2015-2020.
- Completed construction on the new Fire Station 3.
- Accreditation Annual Compliance Report was approved by the Center for Public Safety Excellence.
- Partnered with Rosecrance and Firefighter's Peer to Peer Network to improve firefighter well being.



Completion of new Station 3



- The new Station 3, located at 888 Marchesano Drive, was opened on May 23, 2015. This followed a ground breaking ceremony on June 24, 2014. Fire Station #3 is the first fire station constructed in the last 25 years in Rockford.
- This station houses Engine 3, Charlie 29, District Chief 1, and equipment for our Water Rescue Team.



Emergency Management

- In January 2015, there were several days where the wind chill factor was below zero. Conferences were held for the severe cold weather. A press release was issued warning people of the extreme cold weather and we provided a list of warming centers.
- On April 9, 2015, an EF-4 tornado hit the town of Fairdale, Illinois. It killed two people. The tornado was a half mile wide and it cut a clear path through the region. Rochelle, Illinois was also affected by this tornado. The Rockford Fire Department sent personnel to the area the night of the tornado to help with search and rescue. There were eleven tornados confirmed in Illinois that day. The City of Rockford EMA assisted Ogle County for three days with their Emergency Operations Center.
- On June 22nd, an EF-2 tornado hit in Sublette, Illinois, which is in Lee County. Once again, Rockford Fire responded on the night of the disaster and days to follow. Personnel from the City of Rockford EMA and Winnebago County EMA traveled there to work with damage assessment and their Emergency Operations Center.
- The City of Rockford hosted several IEMA training classes which included Logistic Section Chief and Forms Class. Also, personnel from the City of Rockford were involved in the pilot program for the Volunteer Reception Center class.
- Established a Northern Illinois All Hazards Public Information Officer group along with a plan.
- Attended the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee's annual tabletop exercise at the Midwest Emergency Preparedness Response Conference.
- Attended various meetings which included: MABAS, IEMA Region 2, Citizen Corps, LEPC, and ITTF. Also met with Federal Police Agencies regarding our Air Fest event held at Chicago Rockford International Airport.
- Established a GIS Task Force to develop modeling and documentation to provide real-time situational awareness during search and damage assessment

Special Teams: Dive Team

- 4 New Certified Divers
- 2 Ice Diver Instructors conducted a Certifying Ice Dive for 4 members
- 13 members completed Rope Operations Course
- 7 members completed Water Operations and Watercraft Technician Courses
- 2 members completed training at Indiana River Rescue School
- 2 members completed Med Diver training
- New Surface Ice Rescue equipment purchased
- Vehicle donated from Chrysler Corporation successfully placed in Sandy Hollow Quarry for training evolutions
- Dive platform successfully placed in Sandy Hollow Quarry for training evolutions
- Hosted multiple training events with other MABAS Division 8 departments



Special Teams: HAZMAT



- In 2015 The HazMat team participated in the LEPC meeting by demonstrating mass decontamination for Radiological hazards. The team brought the trailer and associated radiological equipment to showcase the procedures to a group of industry and responding professionals.
- The HazMat team participated in a joint training session with the Rockford Police Department Bomb Squad. During the training, the two teams showcased their individual capabilities and developed plans to coordinate their equipment in the event of incidents that require both specialties.
- Personnel were trained as CAMEO, Computer Aided Management of Emergency Operations, software instructors. Plans were made to design a localized class for the HazMat team in 2016.
- The HazMat Team received a donation of additional equipment from the City of Rockford Water Division. The Water Division donated a chlorine tank recovery vessel. This piece of equipment will assist the team with safe recovery of a leaking chlorine tank that may be located at one of many water wells in the City.
- The HazMat team participated in a group training with the Chicago/Rockford Regional Airport and UPS at the on-site aviation fuel storage tank farm. The training was completed over three days and provided overall familiarization of the tank farm.

Major Accomplishments

- Fall Recruit Class - 13 new recruits received 552 hours of training. Classes included Basic Fire-fighter, HAZMAT Operations, HAZMAT Technician A and B, Rope Operations, Vehicle Machinery Operations, and Fire Service Vehicle Operator.
- Hosted Rosecrance staff for live fire service experience.
- New training props were purchased through a grant. We received a BullEx Attack Digital Fire Training System, Fuel Spill Fire Training Prop.
- Received a Railroad tank car for training. This was made possible by GATX and Union Pacific Railroad.
- Technical Rescue Classes: Hazardous Materials Technician A and B classes, Rope Operations classes, Vehicle and Machinery Operations, Water operations, Watercraft Technician.
- Officer Development Classes: NFA Incident Safety Officer, All Hazards Logistics Section Chief, Public Information Officer class, ICS Forms Review Course.
- Hosted Rockford Police, Rock Valley College, Sauk Valley College, and other Fire Departments at our Training Academy
- Foreign Fire Tax supported a project that made improvements in the academy burn building. This included new walls with removable door panels and added 288 sq. /ft. of usable space was gained by cutting a new opening between the burn rooms and a former storage area.

Statistics

- Personnel Received 82 new OSFM Certifications
- Delivered 83,501 hours Training
- Delivered 49,349 hours Company Training
- Delivered 7,070 hours of Facilities Training
- Delivered 11,630 hours of EMS Training
- Delivered 3,216 hours of Officer Training
- Delivered 6,299 hours of HazMat Training
- Delivered 11,031 hours of Driver Training



Major Accomplishments

- Twelve students completed the OSF Saint Anthony Hospital Northern Region Emergency Medical Services (OSF NREMS) Paramedic Course (2014-2015)
- Nine students started the OSF NREMS Paramedic Course (2015-2016)
- Coordinated the Ambulance Specification Sub-Committee through the EMS Advisory Committee to develop new ambulance build specifications. These new specifications were implemented for the newest ambulance that was purchased in October. This new ambulance replaced Charlie 27.
- In August the Department became accredited through the Commission on the Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS). The onsite visit took place in June. The Department will be CAAS Accredited for three years.
- Held our annual EMS Survivor Event during EMS Week in May to recognize the survivors of significant EMS calls or cardiac arrest and the crews that assisted them.
- Provided free CCC-CPR (Continuous Chest Compression CPR) to two hundred and thirty people in the community. This represents almost a 20% increase in CCC-CPR training to the community from last year.
- Implemented the Target Solutions online training system on January 1, 2015.
- Participated in and supported both National and Local Pink Heals Tour on July 19, 2015.
- Earned the Silver Award from the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline Program for STEMI (ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction) identification and treatment.

**Rockford Fire Currently has a
46.2% Utstein Cardiac Arrest Survival Rate!**



Recruitment

Recruiting for the Rockford Fire Department is committed to identify and attract well qualified, diverse candidates to serve our community. During the past year our accomplishments have been:

- In an effort to build our workforce that will better reflect the diversity of the community, we have partnered with community leaders, organizations, churches, schools, and civic organizations to promote the opportunities within the Rockford Fire Department.
- Implement a new software called NEOGOV. The capabilities include applications, email notification, and tracking all candidates throughout each step of the candidate process.
- Posted and ran a nationally advertised recruitment campaign, resulting in 865 applications from 25 states.
- Ran orientation/ written test workshops at 3 different locations with over 400 applicants attending.
- Ran physical ability test practice sessions with over 300 applicants attending.
- Provided written test for over 600 applicants.
- Physical ability test to over 500 applicants.
- Provided Rockford Board of Fire and Police Commissioners with a virtually paperless candidate review on all candidates with information gathered on NEOGOV software.
- Provided for the final phase of testing, which includes: Psychological Examination, Board of Fire and Police Commissioner's Review, full background investigation, and medical examination.
- Final list of eligible candidates established, with 81 candidates successfully making the 2015 Rockford Firefighter Register of Eligible. Thirteen new recruits were hired and now are in the probationary period of their career.



A very special thank you goes out to the Rockford Fire Department Recruitment Committee, Capt. Tim O'Keefe, Capt. Joe Cascio, Capt. Will Pederson, Lt. Luis Duran, FF/PM Randy James, FF/PM Jon Larson, FF/PM Jose Montoya, FF/PM James Cantu, and FF/PM Shawn Connors



Fire Prevention Division

2015 Accomplishments

The Fire Prevention Division completed a total of 5,462 code safety and enforcement inspections, investigated 260 structure, vehicle, or other property fires, and conducted education fire and life safety education at events and facilities educating a total of over 34,000 adults and children! The locations included:

- All District 205 Public Schools
 - All private Schools
 - Day Care centers
 - Insurance Adjusters annual meeting
 - Rock Valley College Building Construction class
 - Neighborhood Community Meetings
 - Area Churches
 - Rockford Housing Authority
 - Health Fairs
 - Melt Fest
 - RPS High School Academies
 - Sophomore HS sight visits
 - OSF Safety Safari
 - Firefighter Battle/Red Cross Event
 - Swedish American Hospital Safety Fair
 - Pink Heals Tour
 - Involvement with all media outlets
 - National Night Out
 - Rock Valley College Senior Community classes
 - Rockford Area Restaurants owners
 - Fire Safety at many major businesses
 - Post 413 Explorer group
 - Red Ribbon Event
 - Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts
 - Station 3 opening and meetings
 - Alignment Rockford
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- Developed an educational plan to inform portions of our local homeless population about fire and life safety
 - Attended monthly meetings for Traffic Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, & Liquor License Commission
 - Investigated the fire located at 1917 11th St. that consumed a 250,000 square foot multi-story warehouse. This resulted in over 100 individual interviews, over 20 various agencies assisting, canvassing 7 states, with a result of 5 individuals arrested.
 - Hosted International Association of Arson investigators training
 - Participated in career readiness programs for various age groups
 - Completed Public Information Officer training
 - Completed the annual Fire Safety poster contest at the Red Ribbon event
 - Increased the size of the Rockford Fire Explorer Post 413 to 22 high school students
 - Worked with various outlets to promote the importance of fire safety and injury prevention
 - Implement a report review procedure for all Fire Investigators
 - Conduct Mock vehicles crashes at area High Schools (spring prom)
 - Fire Inspector Chad Moe received an Action Award for his involvement in the career readiness program
 - Fire Inspector Chad Moe published a children's book called Firefighters A-Z that is designed to provide an early career education and safety outreach to all Rockford Area students. This book was provided at no charge, due to generous donations, to all school libraries in Rockford.

2015 Accomplishments



- Re-certified Inspectors with the International Code Council
- Two Inspectors received certification as Fire Investigators with the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office
- Re-certified an Investigator as a State Certified Arson Investigator
- Attended a variety of training offered by:
 - International Association of Arson Investigators
 - Illinois Fire Safety Alliance
 - Knox Box
- Developed a development and training program for new fire investigators
- Conducted training for new recruits, Officers and Drivers on various topics at the Training Academy
- Participated in the abandoned buildings committee
- Conducted monitoring of 15 pyrotechnic shows
- Assisted with Recruiting efforts
- Attended Camp I Am Me for support of children who are burn survivors
- Completed various home safety surveys installing detectors and educating the public. This included a partnership with the American Red Cross.
- Placed three fire investigator vehicles into service
- Began the application and testing process for a new inspector



Fire Explorer Post #413

2015 Accomplishments

- Conducted Basic Telecommunication Training Classes for 3 new Telecommunicators. Each class consisted of 4 weeks of classroom instruction and 9 months of call handling and dispatching training on shift.
- Continued partnership with NINGA911, Northern Illinois Next Generation 911 Alliance, to prepare an RFP for a Next Generation System Integrator.
- Conducted and hosted the first Regional 911 Trainer Workshop
- Conducted four 911 Center Evacuation Drills, which required employees to set up emergency operations at back up positions located at the Winnebago County 911 Center.
- Participated in Rockford Police Department's Citizen Police Academy Program.
- Participated in numerous community and neighborhood events to promote 911 and educate citizens on using 911.
- Participated in a county wide tornado drill.
- Completed the acquisition process for 5 new radio consoles.
- Hosted the 11th annual Rockford Fire/911 3K run/walk; a family event and fundraiser that assists the Fire and Police Chaplain's Division, fire safety, and 911 public education.
- Two employees completed the first phase of the 911 Telecommunication training process.



11th annual 3K run kicks off from Fire Station #5

Statistics for 2015

Rockford Fire Dispatches	27,838
Suburban Fire Dispatches	3,564
Police Dispatches	167,305
911 Wireless Calls	117,970
911 Wireline Calls	19,975
Non-emergency Calls	106,246

2015 Retirees

In 2015, we were able to wish a happy retirement to many members of the Rockford Fire Department. These individuals are:

Division Chief Greg Castronovo (28 Years of Service)

District Chief Benny Ognibene (30 Years of Service)

District Chief Bud Turner (27 Years of Service)

Captain Joe Cascio (27 Years of Service)

Shop Coordinator Rick Tetrick (26 Years of Service)

Lieutenant Aleck Rinaldo (34 Years of Service)

Driver/Engineer Steven Shultz (27 Years of Service)

Telecommunicator Douglas Passmore (26 years)

Firefighter/Paramedic Michael McCallips (15 Years of Service)

Senior Clerk Joyce McLevige (41 Years of Service)





City of Rockford Fire Department 2015 Summary

Land Area

61.08 sq. miles

Jurisdictional Population

150,251

Fire Stations

11

Personnel

Fire Sworn

257

911 Staff

49

Administrative Personnel

9

Total

315

Budget

2013

\$ 46,875,427

2014

\$ 43,654,910

2015

\$ 44,209,080

Unit Response

Calls for Service

Fire	690
EMS & Search and Rescue	21,836
Hazardous Condition	582
Service/Good Intent Call	2,710
False Alarm & False Call	1,505
Other Type Incident	123
Total	27,446

Civilian Fire Casualties

Year	Deaths	Injuries
2015	2	8
2014	7	7
2013	4	13
2012	0	14
2011	0	13

Structure Fires

Year	Value	Loss	% Saved
2015	\$46,983,535	\$5,851,785	87.55%
2014	\$43,559,538	\$4,511,203	89.64%
2013	\$48,301,524	\$6,157,080	87.25%
2012	\$39,730,510	\$5,753,231	85.52%
2011	\$57,045,315	\$5,227,185	90.84%

Frontline Apparatus

ALS Engines	9	ALS Ambulances	7
ALS Quints	3	District Chiefs	2
ALS Ladders	1	Special Incident	3

2015 Apparatus Responses

Charlie 15	2,802	District 1	855	RE01	2,822	Quint 1	1,200
Charlie 16	3,845	District 2	940	RE02	3,561	Rescue 1	1,651
Charlie 26	3,636			RE03	2,066	Ladder 2	1,289
Charlie 27	3,838			RE04	1,997	Rescue 2	1,560
Charlie 28	3,281			RE06	2,035	Quint 5	2,483
Charlie 29	4,202	DIVE	22	RE07	1,779	Quint 9	2,349
Charlie 40	2,779	HAZMAT	15	RE08	1,955	Reserves	20
Reserves	1	TRT	5	RE10	2,681		
				RE11	2,950		

Total RFD unit responses: 58,630