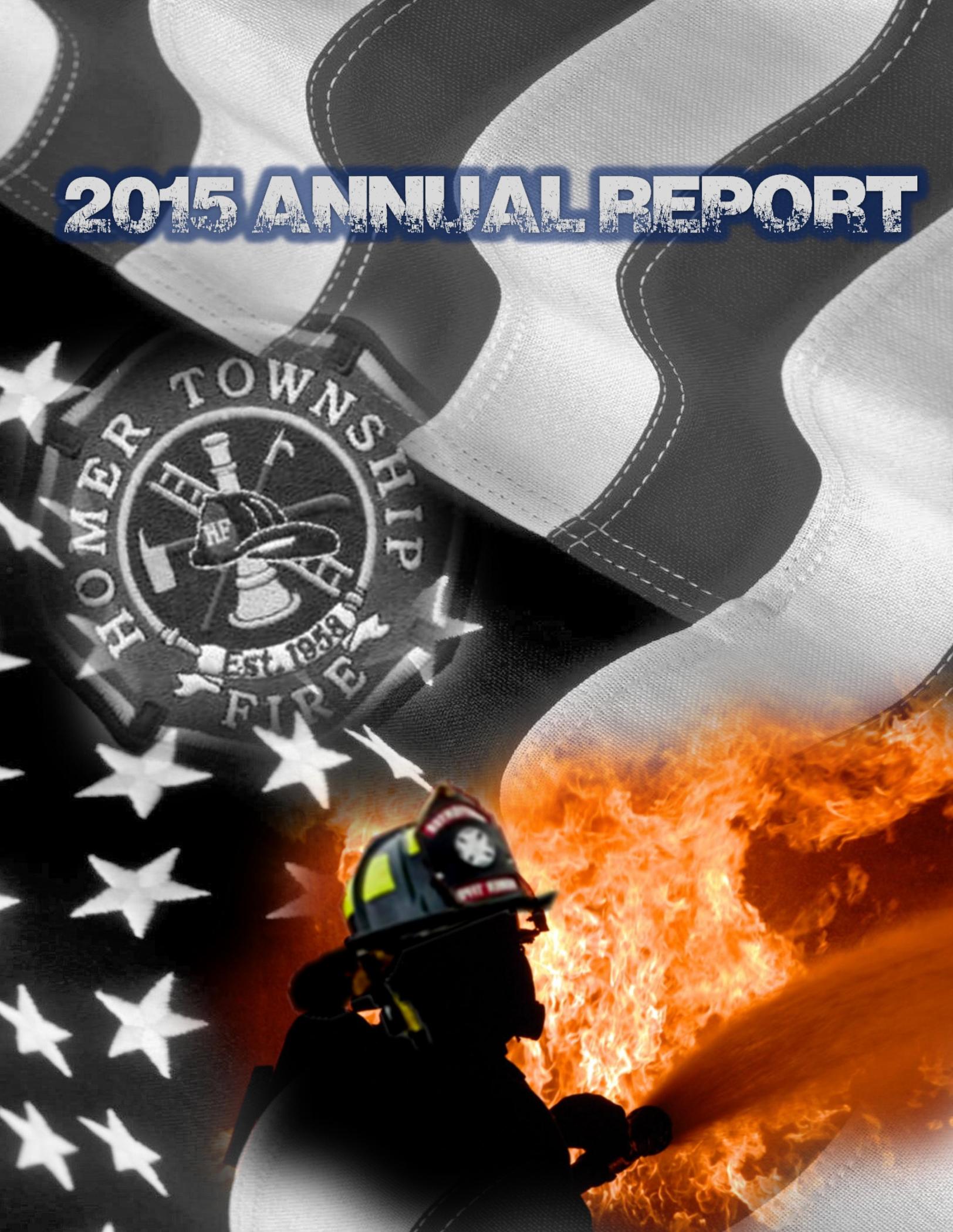


2015 ANNUAL REPORT





ORGANIZATION:

The Homer Township Fire Protection began operations on August 14, 1958 as a volunteer fire department and has grown through the years to a department staffed with 39 full time firefighter paramedics. There is 1 Fire Chief, 3 Battalion Chiefs (supervise each shift), 1 Human Resources/Finance Director, 1 Administrative Services Assistant, 1 Deputy Fire Marshal, 1 Part Time Fire Prevention Secretary. The District is managed by a three (3) member Board of Trustees who hires the Fire Chief to administer and manage the day to day operations of the District. The Board of Trustees also appoint a three (3) member Board of Fire Commissioners whose duty it is to conduct the hiring of new firefighter/paramedics as well as administer the promotional process of the full time firefighter/paramedic staff.

The Fire District responded to over 1,750 calls for service in 2015. Personnel respond to emergencies from three District owned Fire Stations:

Station 1- 16050 S Cedar Road- Lockport. This station serves as a Fire station and the Administrative Offices and Fire Prevention Offices of the District, as well as the Training and Vehicle Maintenance Facility. The Station houses - Tower Ladder 31, Ambulance 31, Tanker 31, Shift Commander, and Service Vehicle. The station is staffed with 4 firefighter-paramedics.

Station 2- 16315 South Bell Road- Homer Glen. This station houses Engine 32, Ambulance 32, Brush Truck 32, Reserve Engine, and Tactical Rescue Trailer. The Station also provides storage for EMS and Specialty Team equipment. The meeting room is often used by various community groups for meeting purposes. The station is staffed with 4 firefighter-paramedics.

Station 3- 16415 W. 151st Street- Lockport. This Station houses Engine 33 and Ambulance 33. As a smaller station this station does not have storage capacity and is staffed with 4 firefighter-paramedics.

All line personnel are crossed trained as Firefighter-Paramedics, as well as receiving specialized training in hazardous materials response, specialized rescue such as above and below grade rescue, high angle rescue and vehicle extrication. Paramedics are required to complete annual continuing education and must successfully re-certify as Paramedics every four years.

The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal regulates training and certification requirements for Firefighters and mandates annual training requirements in order to prove proficiency. This process also assures the residents that the members of the Homer Township Fire Protection District are competently trained professionals ready to respond to their call for help.

Our frontline Fire Engines (2) and Tower Ladder (1) are equipped with Advanced Life Support equipment to compliment our ambulances- this allows a fire engine or the tower ladder to provide immediate life saving care to a patient in the event the ambulance is committed to another call, or if the fire engine or tower ladder happen to be closer to the emergency.





Calls for Service and Response Times:

The District responded to over 1,750 calls for service in 2015 consistent with total calls in 2014. The District responds to emergencies within four (4) to six (6) minutes at least 90% of the time which is the nationally recognized standard.

Apparatus:

Fire vehicles and ambulances have a life expectancy that varies, and is based on a combination of age, usage, maintenance and environmental factors. Fire Departments generally use guidelines established by the National Fire Protection Association who provide “industry standards” to assist in decision making in regards to apparatus repair, maintenance, and replacement. Firefighter safety is the overall deciding factor when it comes to rendering a decision to retire fire apparatus or ambulances. In general, fire engines and ladder trucks should be used for 15 years of frontline service, 5 years in reserve service and retired from the department after 20 years. Ambulances in general are replaced every 7 years as these vehicles tend to be the most frequently utilized.





MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF:

On behalf of the firefighters and staff of the Homer Township Fire Protection District, I am proud to present our Year End Report for 2015. This report contains highlights of accomplishments in 2015 and provides you with the goals we have established for 2016.

It is an honor to serve the community as Fire Chief and I believe we have made significant improvements in all aspects of our operations since my taking the position as Fire Chief 4 years ago. I am also fortunate to have a dedicated and talented administrative staff, company officers, and firefighters who are committed to providing excellent service every day. Our District consistently finds innovative and creative ways to deliver high quality fire, rescue, specialty team and emergency medical response to the community.

2015 was another successful year for the Homer Township Fire Protection District. We have placed into service new state of the art Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) that will be worn by our firefighter-paramedics enabling them to perform their jobs safely and more efficiently. This purchase was made possible through an Assistance to Firefighters Federal Grant for \$262,619.00, allowing us to obtain this equipment without placing a burden on taxpayers or our annual operating budget. The Assistance to Firefighters Federal Grant Program required a narrative and supporting documentation which was evaluated by a national review committee for consideration.

Additionally, the Fire District applied for and was awarded smaller grants from Illinois American Water, Enbridge Pipeline Services, and Illinois Public Risk Fund which afforded funding for other essential fire and life safety equipment. This demonstrates our ability to find resourceful ways to fund and acquire crucial tools and equipment.

Furthermore, five of our members were selected as Education Scholarship winners by the Illinois Fire Chiefs Research and Education Foundation. These scholarships are awarded based on a written competition format and will allow these members to continue their advanced education. Seven members received education scholarships from the International Association of Fire Chiefs Foundation, which also uses a written competition format- on a national level.

Once again, for 2015 we are happy to report another year without any civilian fire injuries or deaths as a result of structure fires. This is a testament to our fire prevention and public education efforts.

We conducted our annual Strategic Planning session and identified essential goals and objectives for Training, Apparatus, Personnel, EMS, Fire Prevention and Facilities. The respective coordinators of those important divisions will address the strategic goals in their report contained within this document.

In 2016, the Fire District will introduce an Adopt-A-Firefighter program for K-2nd grade students to enhance our fire-life safety education programs in the schools. We will also work to introduce a Basic Aid Training (BAT) program to our Junior High students educating and training them in Basic First Aid. We are offering a Babysitter's program in spring and fall. We will continue to look for innovative ways to provide high quality Fire, Rescue, EMS, Public Education and Fire Prevention services to our community.





In 2016, we will apply for funds through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program in an effort to replace our aging and non-NFPA compliant 1995 Water Tender, and to purchase Ballistic Protective Gear for our members to use in Rescue Task Force situations. We will continue to seek out other private and public grants in an effort to creatively fund equipment and projects that will benefit our community and the district.

Our success this year was made possible through the collaborative efforts of a talented and energetic staff that are committed to this community and the Fire District. As Fire Chief, I am proud of our personnel and our accomplishments and look forward to another successful year in 2016.

Sincerely,

Bob Tutko

Bob Tutko

Fire Chief-Administrator

Homer Township Fire Protection District





FINANCE:

Finance / HR Director - Sue Huizer

The District operates on a calendar fiscal year. Our annual audit is performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and is on file with the Will County Clerk and the State of Illinois Comptroller's Office.

In 2015, the District focused on addressing depreciation by refurbishing our 2001 engine and purchasing a 2015 ambulance to replace the 2002. The 2009 ambulance was sent in for re-chassis and upon its return in February of 2016 the sale of 2002 ambulance will be completed. The District replaced its onboard vehicle computers through a 4 year lease purchase agreement. We purchased the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus through the 2014 AFG grants funds.

This year Grant applications were submitted for over \$415,000 (for apparatus and equipment); we were successful recipients of more than \$26,300 in grant funds (equipment and addressing safety issues). Of the fourteen educational scholarships submitted by our members eleven were awarded.

We continue our diligence in searching for areas where costs can be reduced. We refurbished our 2001 engine for \$70,000 versus leasing or purchasing a new one at \$395,000. We sent our 2009 ambulance for a re-chassis for \$74,500 in lieu of purchasing a new one at a cost of \$195,000. We switched to air cards for our vehicle communications.

In late July, Deputy Fire Marshal Joey Jeraminas retired after almost 10 years of service to the District and David Bricker joined our team in late August.

In May 2015, the board of Trustees bid farewell to long time Trustee Keith Hojek and welcomed new Trustee Ken Fijan. We thank Keith for his years of dedicated service and wish Ken well in his new position.



OPERATIONS:

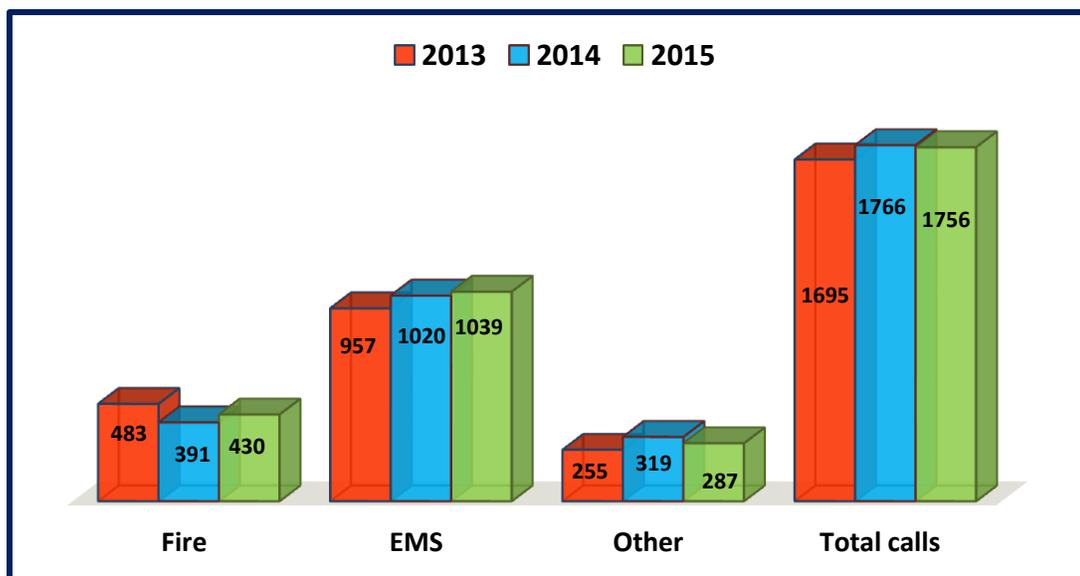
Battalion Chief - Sean McCormack

The Operations Division oversees Fire Suppression and Specialty Team Responses of the District.

- We answered 1,756 calls for service this year. Call volume for the district remained consistent with 2014 (1,766).
- Out of the 430 fire calls, 80 of those were “working fires”, 41 being structure fires.
- 3 incidents were escalated to the Box alarm level:
 - 3/30/15 Rt. 6 and I 355 2nd alarm brush fire box
 - 4/24/15 15522 159th St. 2nd alarm structure fire box
 - 4/24/15 15522 159th St. 1st alarm investigators box
- The district responded to 1,756 calls for service, however due to requiring additional equipment or manpower to the scene we had equipment move 3,708 times.

Below is the breakdown:

- Ambulance 31 864
- Tower 31 748
- Tender 31 62
- B/C and 3001 497
- Engine 32 640
- Ambulance 32 500
- Engine 33 329
- Specialty equip. 68



TRAINING DIVISION:

Captain - Kevin Uthe

The Training Division is dedicated to providing quality training programs that reflect the needs and changing responsibilities of the Homer Township Fire Protection District. Our training is focused on providing and maintaining the highest quality service to the residents and visitors of our Fire District.

The Training Division consists of three (3) members, who are responsible for providing essential support, delivering daily training to our shift personnel and filing required paperwork with state agencies.



This year the Training Division launched Target Solutions, a new electronic training documentation site. After lengthy research, including input from multiple fire departments throughout the country, we purchased a Wood Products building construction material prop, which has samples of current and past building materials. We also added some new hands on training props; mock hose beds, a stud space simulator and a full size gas tanker trailer donated by Citgo. Members attended 2 light and fight live fire trainings hosted by the MABAS 19 training officers group

Our members put in the hard work and dedication it takes to continue to deliver top level service to the citizens of our Fire District. Below is the list of higher education scholarships and State Fire Marshal certifications obtained this year.

2015 Higher Education Scholarship Recipients

Patrick Burke-Illinois Fire Chiefs and International Fire Chiefs
Michael Collins- Illinois Fire Chiefs and International Fire Chiefs
Frank Chojnacki-International Fire Chiefs
Thomas Eckert-Illinois Fire Chiefs and International Fire Chiefs
Brent Marquardt-Illinois Fire Chiefs
Edward McCormack-International Fire Chiefs
Kevin Uthe-Illinois Fire Chiefs and International Fire Chiefs
Chad Vlietstra- International Fire Chiefs

Illinois State Fire Marshal Certifications Obtained in 2015

Advanced Technician Firefighter

Matthew Hackett
Scott Mattison
Kevin Roe
Thomas Sandrzyk

Fire Officer I Provisional

Joseph Brown
Matthew Hackett

Hazardous Material Tech B

Michael Slaviero

Chief Fire Officer

Christopher Locacius

Fire Department Health & Safety Officer

Troy Essenburg

Ice Rescue Technician

Danielle Fary

Vehicle & Machinery Operations

Michael Collins
Matthew Hackett

Fire Investigator

Brent Marquardt

Fire Service Vehicle Operator

Randy Gagan
Scott Mattison

Hazardous Material Tech A

Bret Hedge

Water Operations

Patrick Burke

Fire Department Safety Officer

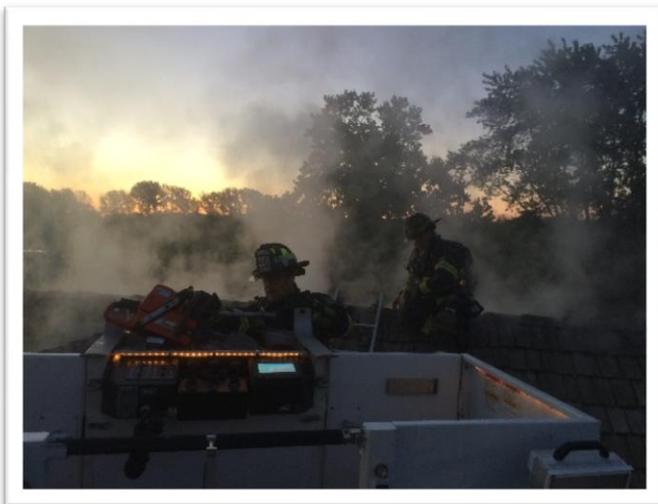
Troy Essenburg

Trench Operations

Erik Breese
Stephen Styx

Vehicle & Machinery Technician

Joseph Brown
Patrick Burke
Thomas Eckert
Kevin Uthe



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES:

EMS Coordinator - Tom Stoiber

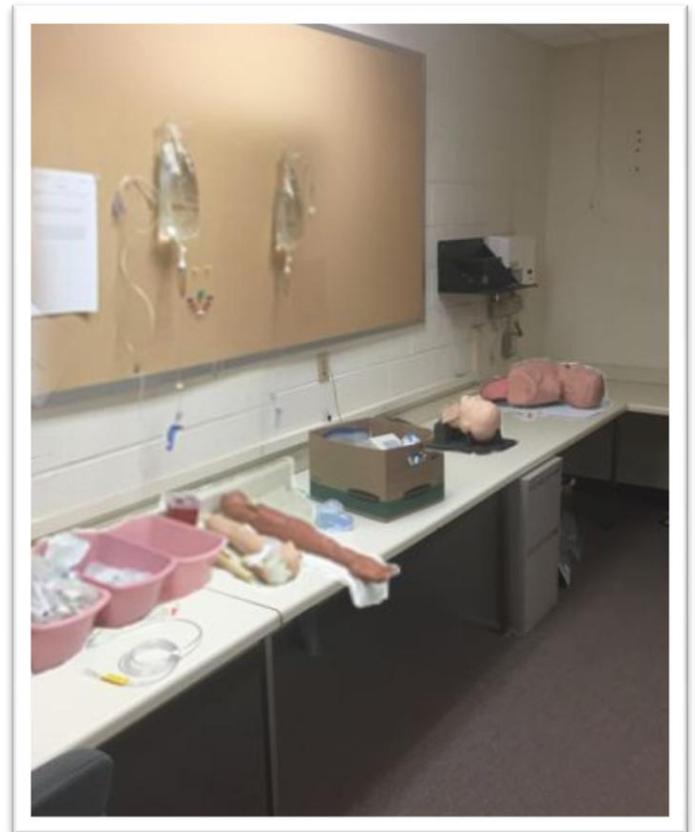
The Homer Township Fire Protection District operates 3 Advanced Life Support Ambulances and 3 Advanced Life Support Fire Apparatus; two Engines and one Ladder Truck. This year we added a Basic Life Support Battalion Chief Car and an EMS First Response Gator. All 8 of these apparatus are currently licensed through the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Silver Cross Emergency Medical Services System. We have 40 Illinois State Licensed Paramedics.

In 2015 we purchased:

- A 2015 Ford Advanced Life Support Ambulance to replace a 13 year old Ambulance
- One Zoll X-Series Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator to replace a 10 year old model
- One SSCOR Portable Suction Unit to replace a 15 year old model

We put the final touches on and fully implemented the High Quality CPR Program. In conjunction with this refined process of CPR, we put into operation the use of the Side Stream and Mainstream Capnography with our new Cardiac Monitor/ Defibrillator's. These changes have allowed our Paramedics to stay on the leading edge of patient care. The EMS System approved treatments that we are performing on our patients are quickly becoming the Gold Standard in cardiac arrest and respiratory patient management.

We began work on creating an EMS Training Lab at Station 2. This will allow paramedics to hone their skills in IV Therapy, Medication Administration, and Respiratory Care. Paramedics will also have the ability to use this lab to learn new treatments and procedures that are being approved on an annual basis and work through patient care scenarios as a team.



FIRE PREVENTION-LIFE/SAFETY EDUCATION:

Deputy Fire Marshal - Dave Bricker

In 2015, the Fire District personnel made several appearances at block parties providing education to nearly 230 adults and 150 children. We conducted fire safety and extinguisher training at two businesses to 55 employees.

During the month of October, the fire fighters scheduled visits throughout the District to spread the word about fire safety. The 2015 theme was, "Hear the Beep Where you Sleep, Every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm." Our members went into the classrooms to visit the Pre-K -4th grade students instructing them on fire safety items such as how to prevent fires, what to do if a fire occurs, exit plans, "Stay Low and Go" and "Stop, Drop, and Roll". The 1st and 2nd graders were provided hands on tours through the Public Education Safety Trailer to enhance their learning. Due to the conversion to the all-day Kindergarten program in School District 33C, all Kindergarten students within the District attend Schilling School; allowing us to reach more students this year. The crews also visited the Butterfly Garden and Sand Box Preschools, where they taught fire safety to 320 preschoolers. The fire safety message was delivered to 1200 students.



This year we conducted our first Smoke and Carbon Monoxide detector survey. We sent out 3,371 survey cards to the students at 5 schools in our District. We had a 52% overall rate of return which exceeds the average survey return rate of 10-15%. Based on our survey, we were able to obtain information on detectors in at least 1,100 homes.

Survey Results:

1. Detector(s) Not Working- 135 (7.7%)
112 of the 135 were repaired or replaced
2. No Smoke Detector(s) present - 1
3. No Carbon Monoxide Detector(s) -135 (7.7%)



We continue to meet with our seniors in the community and reinforce education about how to stay safe. At the Homer Township Seniors Association meeting in December, we provided seniors with winter safety tips and enjoyed socializing and answering their questions.

The District added a few new buildings to its annual inspection list. The Fire Prevention Division was able to review and inspect the new buildings along with the fire and life safety systems that were put in place. We work closely with the area Building Departments and other Fire Districts to ensure that the buildings are compliant with codes to keep the employees and customers safe. The Division now has approximately 335 spaces that require annual inspection. The inspections give the crews an opportunity to become familiar with the layout of buildings. Many of these meetings become a learning experience for the businesses, allowing District personnel to provide education about fire safety in a non-emergency setting.

Every building that is constructed has reviews completed for the site, building, fire alarm system and sprinkler system. If there are other special systems installed, those are also reviewed. Prior to the occupancy of these buildings, inspections are completed and we witness tests of all the systems. In the spirit of cooperation and goodwill with area Fire Districts, we assisted Lockport Fire in completing 5 plan reviews in their District.

The Fire Prevention Division followed up with 15 homeowners regarding carbon monoxide detector activations. We also continue to follow up with and maintain 172 KNOX boxes. We respond to trouble or fire activations for 106 fire alarm systems; and we continuously work with the owners to maintain these systems to prevent nuisance alarms.





FLEET MAINTENANCE DIVISION:

Battalion Chief - Troy Essenburg

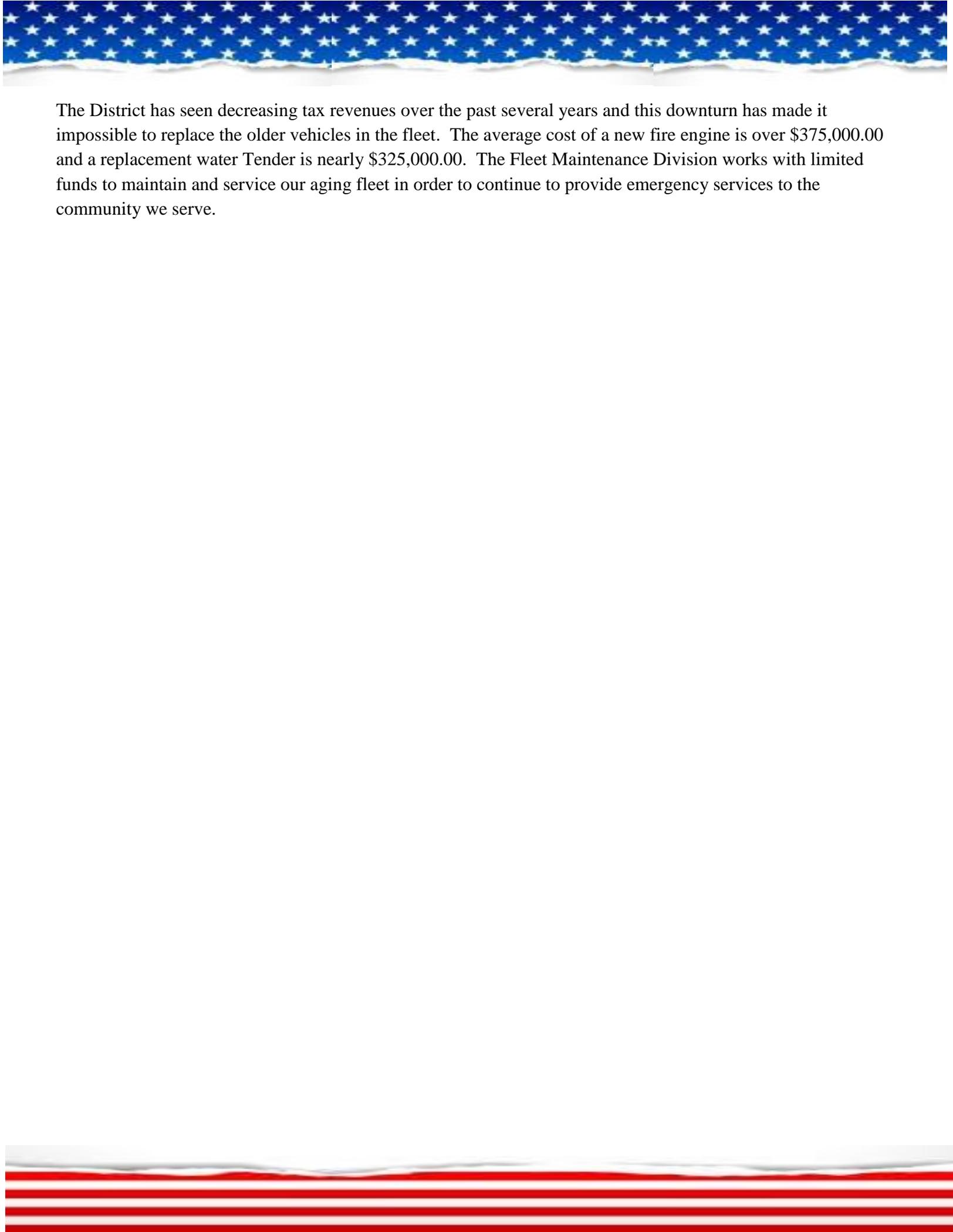
The Fleet Maintenance Division is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the Fire District's fleet of fire apparatus, ambulance, and support vehicles. Nationally accepted standards set forth by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), require all fire service apparatus and emergency response vehicles to be maintained by a certified Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT). The Homer Township Fire Protection District currently utilizes the services of EVT Fleet Maintenance and Fabrication, which is owned and operated by certified Master EVT Ben Brown. As a back-up service for fleet maintenance and repair, the Homer Township Fire Protection District has entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Frankfort Fire Protection District to share services of their full-time Emergency Vehicle Technician. These two partnerships have resulted in a cost savings to the Fire District due to hourly rates being lower than other competing vendors in the surrounding area. We have also carefully selected other area vendors to help provide maintenance with specialty vehicles and provide needed parts and supplies throughout the year. We have joined the Will County Maintenance group; made up of surrounding fire districts and their mechanics in hopes to share services, parts, and education in the near future.

Our top priority in 2015 was to address our aging and unpredictable Ambulance Fleet. After delaying projects on the Fire District's punch list, we were able to stretch our finances and purchase a new 2016 Ford F-450 Road Rescue Ambulance. We also chose to re-chassis our 2009 PL Custom Ambulance with a 2016 Ford F-450 chassis. Both these units will utilize the new liquid spring ride system that is more reliable and more durable than the current air bag ride system, lowering our costs and service needs in the winter months.

We made a decision to extend the life of our 2001 Pierce Fire Engine by sending it out for a partial re-fabrication. In this process we addressed several corrosion issues and applied new paint. We also replaced all the roll-up doors and added additional emergency lighting. Unfortunately we were not able to overhaul the motor or the water pump at that time, but we did extend the life of the frame and body. We addressed the reliability of the brush truck water pump and replaced it with a direct drive rather than a belt driven pump. We sent out the 2007 Tower Ladder for much needed maintenance and overhaul work. We will be addressing the corrosion as well as several mechanical and water pump issues.

Once again we applied for a Federal Grant to offset 90% of the total purchase price of a new water tender. We are urgently trying to address how to replace our 1995 GMC Top-kick S&S Tender due to its age and its persistent issues. Unfortunately we were again denied the funding and will attempt again in early 2016. The 1995 Tender is critical to our firefighting fleet, particularly in areas where there are no close hydrants or alternative water sources. The current 1995 Tender is leaking from several areas of the tank and pump. We have attempted several repairs which have failed within a few months. We are faced with the very real possibility of removing the unit from service if new funding cannot be raised.



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The District has seen decreasing tax revenues over the past several years and this downturn has made it impossible to replace the older vehicles in the fleet. The average cost of a new fire engine is over \$375,000.00 and a replacement water Tender is nearly \$325,000.00. The Fleet Maintenance Division works with limited funds to maintain and service our aging fleet in order to continue to provide emergency services to the community we serve.



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:

Battalion Chief - Chris Locacius

The Fire District operates three (3) District owned Fire Stations that require continuous maintenance and repairs. Each year due to limited funds, we are restricted to completing only those projects that are in immediate need of repair unless we are successful in receiving grant funding. Administrative staff meets on a regular basis to review facility projects and prioritize those which improve critical infrastructure at all three stations. We have developed a three (3) year Facility Improvement Plan which identifies key projects to be completed in the future as funds permit. Below is a summary of the projects that have been completed at each station in 2015.

Station 1- 16050 S Cedar Rd (built in 1958)

As the oldest facility owned by the fire district and originally built as a volunteer station, this facility is in constant need of repair and maintenance simply because of the age. The Administrative offices are actually housed in the original fire apparatus garage. In 2015, the following was completed: two 30 year old HVAC units were updated, both water wells were removed/capped, IT (information technology) equipment was removed from a closet and relocated it to a secured room, and the apparatus bay was painted. We also received grant funds which enabled us to install security cameras and new personal protective equipment lockers in the apparatus bay.

Station 2- 16315 South Bell Rd (built in 1995)

This is the second oldest facility which had not seen any major renovation work since it opened 20 years ago. This year we replaced one 20 year old HVAC unit, painted apparatus bay doors, replaced energy efficient exit/emergency lighting signs. Carpet was donated by Home Depot and was installed in the bunk room.

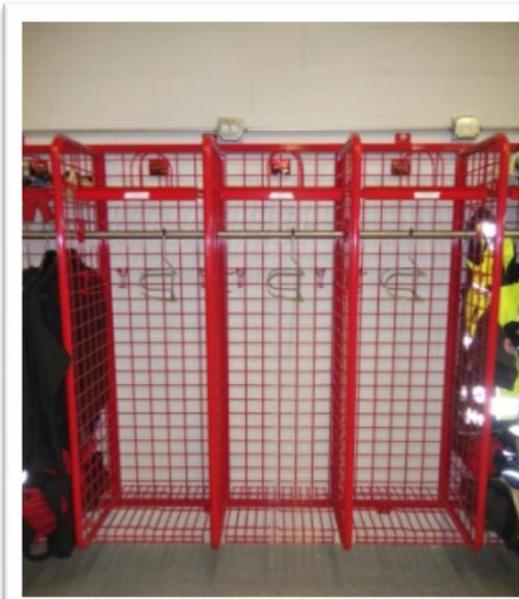
Station 3- 16415 W. 151 Street (built in 2001)

Station 3 was built with grant funding and is now 15 years old. This Station had not seen significant upgrades since opening in 2001. The leaking well storage tank was replaced, and drainage issues in rear of station were addressed. Grant funds allowed us to install a second clothes washing machine, a risk management strategy to address infectious control.

We implemented a laundry soap dispensing system at all three stations, which calculates the amount of detergent released significantly reducing our laundry detergent costs.



PPE Lockers



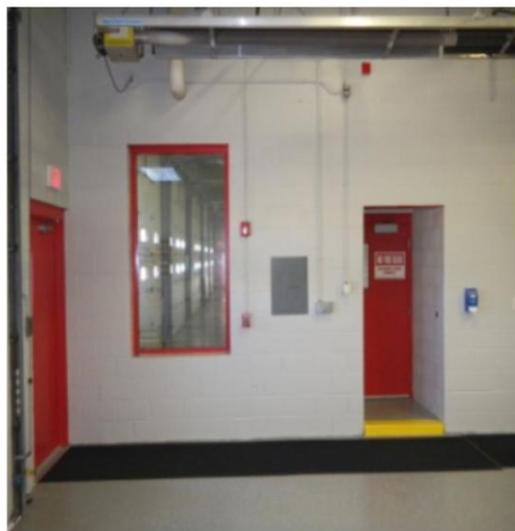
HVAC Units



Security Cameras



Apparatus Bay Painting



Apparatus Bay Painting



Laundry Soap Dispensing System



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION:

Captain - Brian Jamrok

The Information Technology Division provides the infrastructure to deliver services to both administrative personnel and emergency first responders in a timely and reliable fashion. The division keeps a continuous emphasis on reduction of costs and increase in reliability and flexibility of services to allow for maximum productivity and efficient flow of information.

In 2015, we replaced our mobile data computers in fire trucks and ambulances to achieve compatibility with new Computer Aided Dispatch Software purchased by Will County ETSB. These devices provide emergency information, mapping and unit status logging to field personnel via wireless data connections.



The division can be identified into two separate major areas of operation.

Communications (emergency field operations):

- Two-way radio support and maintenance (communication with the 911 dispatch center)
- Mobile Data Computers (computers installed in our fire trucks and ambulances which send real time information between the 911 dispatch center and the field personnel)
- Computer Aided Dispatch support (data link to the 911 dispatch center)
- Station alerting support. (Activation of audible and visual alarms in the fire stations to alert personnel of emergency incidents)
- Support for field record software (electronic medical record patient care reporting “EPCR”) and National Fire Incident Reporting Software “NFIRS”)

Information Technology (non-emergent systems)

- Customized email services
- Traditional telephone services in the fire stations
- Pre-plan software support
- Fire training software support
- Maintenance of District’s network
- Maintenance of Server hardware
- Desktop and software support
- Trouble ticketing system
- Application support and system update schedule

YOUR DEDICATED ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

FIRE CHIEF



Bob Tutko

HR/FINANCE DIRECTOR



Sue Huiner

DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL



Dave Bricker

ADMIN. SERVICES ASSISTANT



Hailey DeBruyn

BATTALION CHIEFS



Chris Locacius



Sean McCormack



Troy Essenburg

TRUSTEES



Lobes



Anderson



Fijan



Colabelli



Challans



Senne

COMMISSIONERS