

Winnetka Fire Department

2015 Annual Report



Mission Statement



“The mission of the Winnetka Fire Department is to provide the community with a quality life safety and property conservation program in a comprehensive and efficient manner implemented through fire prevention, public education, fire suppression and emergency medical services”.

Table of Contents

Chief's Message	3
Department Quick Statistics	4
Organizational Chart	5
Personnel and Administrative Assignments	6-7
Fire Department Personnel	8
Fire Station and Apparatus	9
2015 Budget Review	10
Five Year Department Incident Review	11
2015 Year in Review	12
Push Out Time Analysis	13
Fire Service Coverage	14
Auto/Mutual Aid Coverage	15
Special Teams Participation	16
Training	17
Walk-in Services	18
Fire Prevention Bureau	19-20
Community Engagement	21-22
Other Events	23-24
Glossary	25-26



Chief's Message

Thank you for taking the time to review the 2015 Annual Report of the Winnetka Fire Department. I will be completing my fifth year as Fire Chief for Winnetka with a total of 35 years in the fire service. As I look back over my time in Winnetka, I am always impressed by the service delivery by the members of this Department. They constantly strive to go above and beyond the typical service delivery to make sure we meet the expectations of our community. We are working on a doctrine to ensure that this customer service philosophy is carried on with the future generations of firefighter/paramedics.



2015 was a productive year for the Department. Some of the successes included:

- **The design and purchase of a new fire pumper engine to be delivered in March, 2016 The engine has a life expectancy of 20-25 years**
- **Established an inter-governmental agreement with the Village of Kenilworth to provide Fire Inspection Services for 2015-2016**
- **Negotiation of a four-year successor contract with the collective bargaining unit**
- **Purchased and installed a new power-load system for the ambulance to reduce exposure to back injuries and to provide a more comfortable transition for the patient in and out of the ambulance**
- **Became one of the first departments to implement an EMS Patient Reporting System with approved electronic upload to the Illinois Department of Public Health**
- **Developed new training evolutions that focused on company cohesiveness during fire suppression operations**
- **Hosted a very successful Fire Prevention Week Open House with record attendance**

Following our Apparatus Replacement Plan, we are anticipating delivery of the new fire engine in spring of 2016. We will be retiring our 1996 reserve engine. The reserve unit will be sold and our current front-line engine will become the reserve unit. We hope to have the new engine in service by May 1, 2016. For a sneak preview, please see the picture on the back of this report.

As always, thank you for your support. Stay well. Be safe.

Fire Chief Alan Berkowsky



2015 Fire Department Quick Statistics

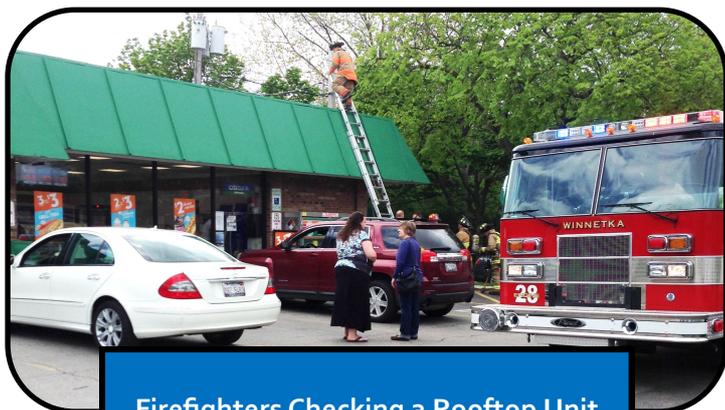


Department Information

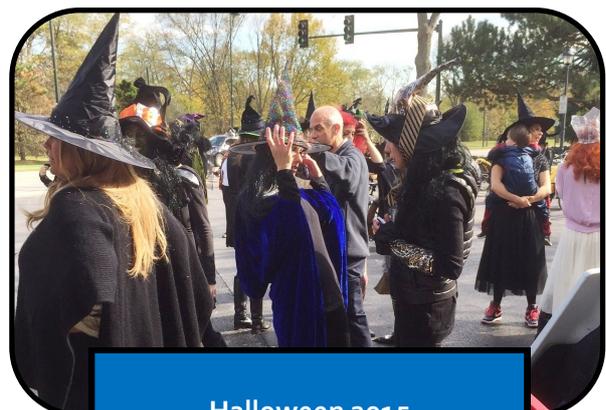
- Service Area: 4.5 Miles
- Population Served: 15,526
- Number of Households Served: 5,133
- Total Calls for Service: 2,150
- Total Fire Related Losses: \$ 44,070
- Sworn Members: 24
- Non Sworn Members: 2
- Part Time Members: 3
- Daily Staffing: 6
- ISO Rating: 3
- Training Hours: 6,316
- Combined Years of Fire Fighting Experience: 334
- Average Time from Dispatch to Scene: 3:48

Incident Response Information

- EMS Calls: 682
 - * Pediatrics (0-13) Treated: 5%
 - * Adults (14-64) Treated: 47%
 - * Seniors (65+) Treated: 48%
- Fire Calls: 1468
 - * Fires: 25
 - * Rescue Incidents: 21
 - * Good Intent Calls: 477
 - * Service Calls: 296
 - * Hazardous Conditions: 105
 - * Severe Weather Calls: 2
 - * False Alarm Calls: 541
 - * Other Calls: 1



Firefighters Checking a Rooftop Unit

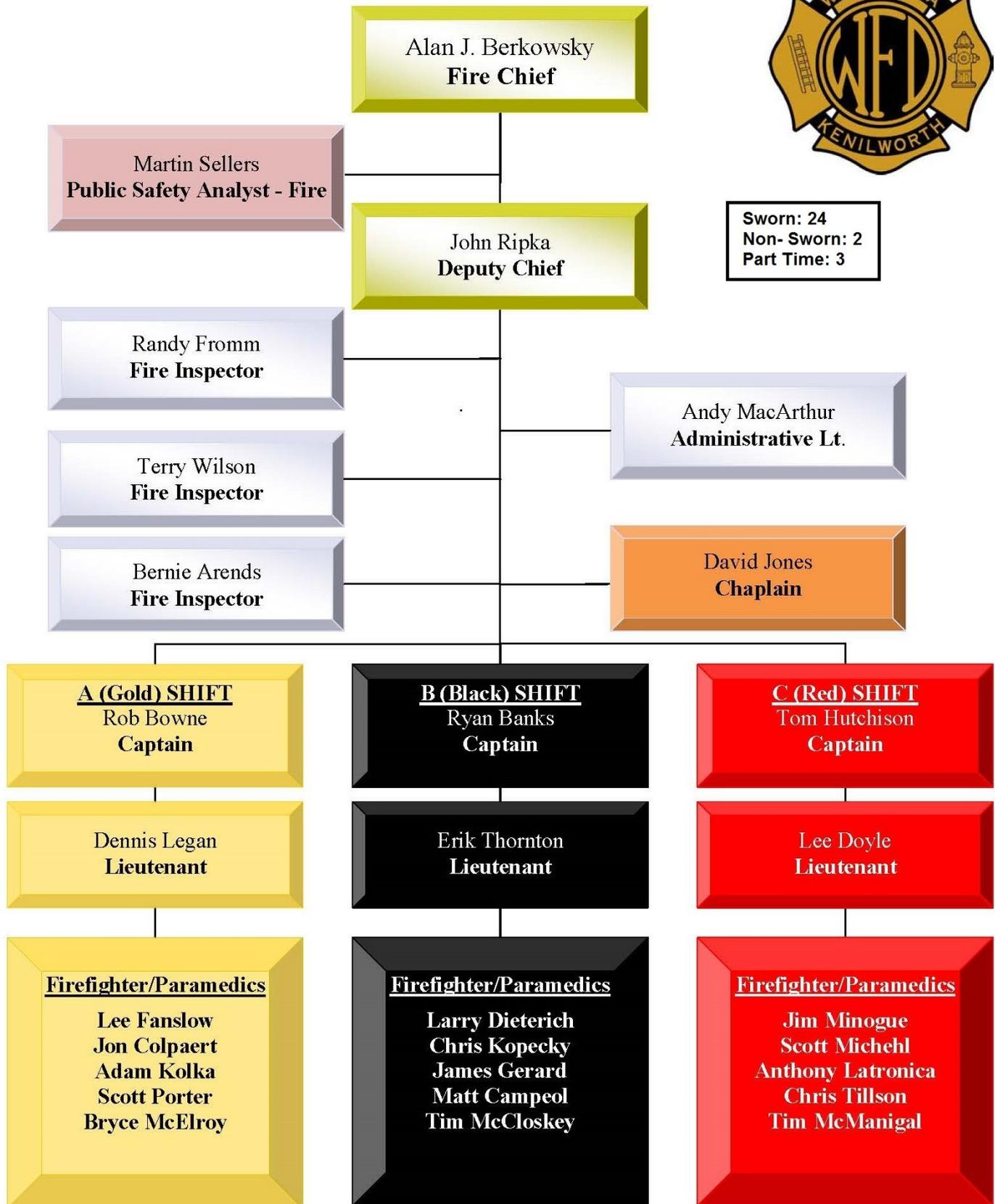


Halloween 2015

Winnetka Fire Department



Sworn: 24
Non- Sworn: 2
Part Time: 3



Personnel and Administrative Assignments

Winnetka fire suppression personnel work rotating twenty-four hour shifts. The typical personnel rotation schedule is one day on and two days off. In the event of a major emergency or community event, a shift member may be called back or held over to work an additional shift. Shift assignments are generally static for one year, after which, some staff members will rotate shifts. This process allows adequate division of the unique skills each staff member possesses.

Fire Department Administration Overtime Management

One of the tasks of the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief and Administrative Lieutenant is to cover shifts for various reasons including trainings, injuries, and other staff shortages. This allows for savings in personnel overtime.

Overtime Savings in 2015:

- **2,366.5 hours covered by Administrative Staff**
- **\$118,325 in overtime savings for the Village**



The Winnetka Fire Department is led by the Fire Chief who is appointed by the Village Manager. The Fire Chief is responsible for appointing the Deputy Fire Chief and hiring a civilian Public Safety Analyst. Both administrative positions support the Fire Chief and help to execute his vision for the Department.

Fire Department staffing consists of three, 24-hour rotating shifts. Each shift is led by a Captain who is assisted by a Lieutenant. Generally, shifts include a minimum of seven individuals, with six on duty each day, capable of providing fire suppression, emergency medical services and other rescue services.

An administrative Lieutenant position is responsible for providing administrative support during the business week and will provide 24 hour shift coverage due to illness, injuries, or off-site training.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is an administrative division of the Department that is responsible for ensuring compliance with all statutory fire prevention measures within the Village.

In addition to responsibilities in the field and around the station, our three captains and four Lieutenants are responsible for various programs that further the mission of the Department and help engage the public in the work that we do.

Personnel and Administrative Assignments



Chief Alan Berkowsky



Deputy Chief John Ripka



Captain Tom Hutchison

- Training Officer
- Training Tower
- Technical Rescue Team



Captain Rob Bowne

- Breathing Apparatus
- Water Rescue Team
- Medical Physicals
- Quartermaster System



Captain Ryan Banks

- EMS Officer
- EMS Computers
- EMS System Liaison



Lieutenant Dennis Legan

- Apparatus
- Small Tools
- Hazmat
- Fire Investigations



Lieutenant Lee Doyle

- Facilities/ Grounds
- ESDA Coordinator
- Communications
- Safety



Lieutenant Eric Thornton

- Water Supply/ Hydrant Testing
- Hoses and Appliances
- CPR Class Coordinator



Lieutenant Andy MacArthur

- Apparatus
- Small Tools
- Hazmat
- Public Education
- Fire Prevention

Fire Department Personnel



FM Matt Campeol



FM Jon Colpaert



FM Larry Dieterich



FM Jim Minogue



FM Anthony Latronica



FM Stephen Pearson



FM Chris Tillson



FM Jim Gerrard



FM Scott Michehl



FM Scott Porter



FM Chris Kopecky



FM Adam Kolka



FM Tim McManigal



FM Tim McCloskey



Public Safety Analyst Martin Sellers

*Not Pictured:
FM Lee Fanslow

Fire Station and Apparatus

The Winnetka Fire Department has a fleet consisting of six vehicles ready to respond to any situation. This fleet consists of Truck 28, Engine 28, Ambulance 28 and Battalion 28 as well as reserve apparatus to aid in the event of equipment maintenance. The reserve units also act to enhance the life of the fleet and will be staffed during severe weather or other incidents to support heavy call volumes.

Winnetka Fire Department Station # 28



Truck 28



Engine 28



Battalion 28 Incident Command



Department Vehicles

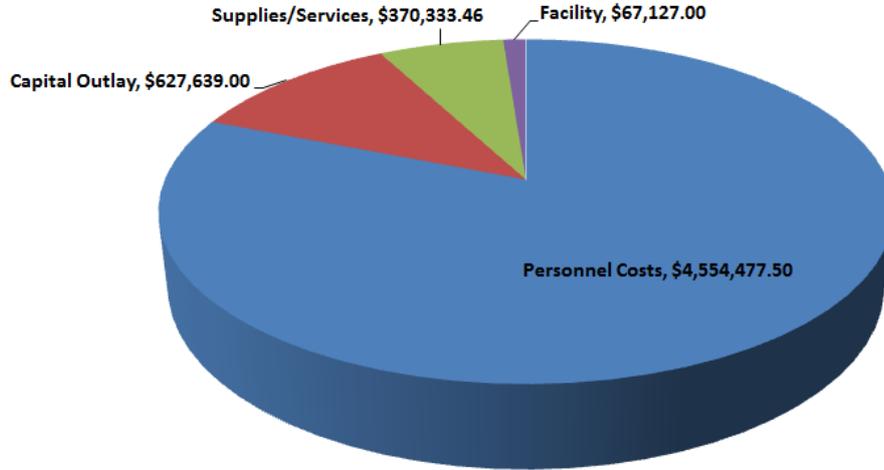
- Chief's Vehicle - 2013 Ford Taurus
- Deputy Chief's Vehicle - 2007 Ford Expedition
- Battalion 28 2012 Ford - Expedition
- Engine 28 - 2000 Pierce Saber
- Engine 28R - 1996 Pierce Saber
- Truck 28 - 2010 Smeal
- Ambulance 28 - 2012 International
- Ambulance 28R - 2007 Freightliner
- Utility Vehicle - 2007 Ford 250 Pick-up
- FPB - 2009 Ford Escape
- FPB - 2002 GMC Yukon

Ambulance 28

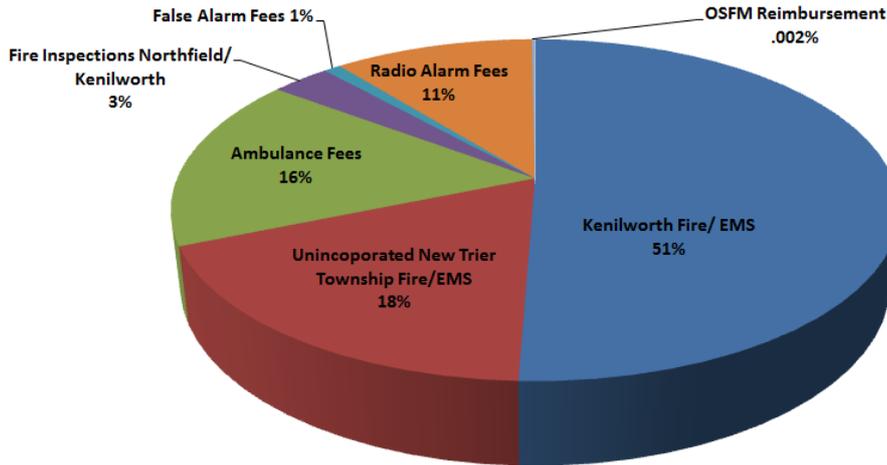


Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Review

FY 2015 Expenditures



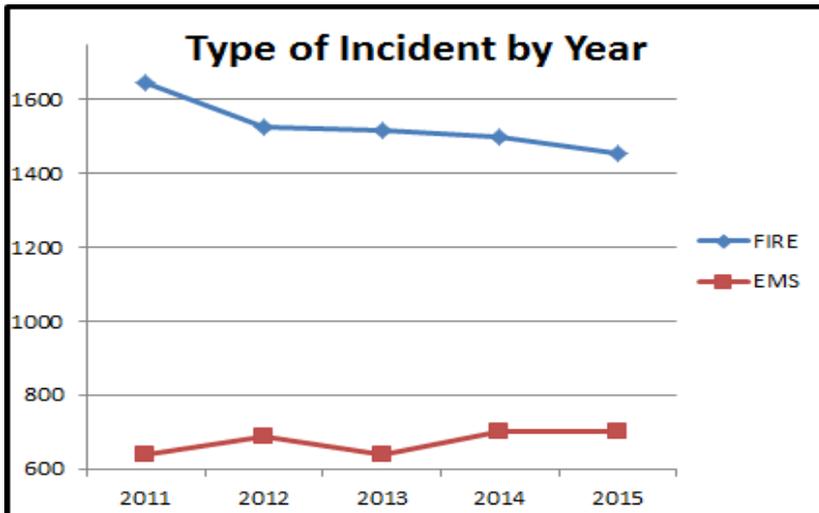
FY 2015 Revenues



FY 2015 Revenues	
Kenilworth Fire/EMS	\$472,364.00
Unincorporated New Trier Township Fire/EMS	\$169,420.00
Ambulance Fees	\$153,799.00
Radio Alarm Fees	\$99,000.00
Fire Inspections Northfield/Kenilworth	\$29,102.00
False Alarm Fees	\$8,400.00
OSFM Reimbursement	\$1,500.00
Total	\$933,585.00

Five Year Departmental Incident Review

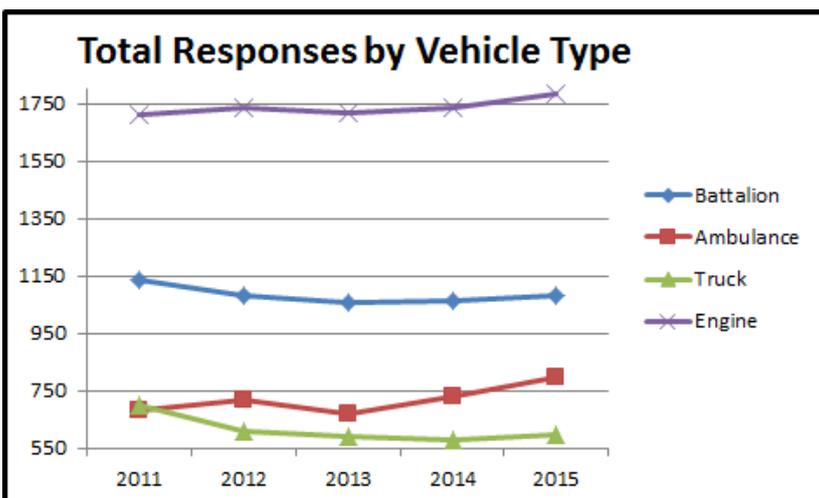
Type of Incident By Year					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
FIRE	1645	1524	1516	1497	1468
EMS	639	687	639	700	682
Total	2284	2211	2155	2197	2150



Calls Classified as Fire Response Can Include:

- Building Fire
- Cooking Fire
- Passenger Vehicle Fire
- Natural Vegetation Fire
- Gas Leak
- Carbon Monoxide Incident
- Power Line Down
- Lock Out/ Lock In
- Smoke Scare
- Alarm Activation
- Elevator Rescue
- Service Call
- Invalid Assist

Total Responses by Vehicle Type					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Battalion	1135	1080	1057	1064	1078
Ambulance	680	720	670	730	796
Truck	700	609	588	577	596
Engine	1710	1734	1718	1738	1782
Total	4225	4143	4033	4109	4252



Response Codes and Vehicle Dispatch

When a request for service is received, dispatch typically signals one of four different response codes. This will determine the number of vehicles that will respond.

Code 1: Medical/EMS

- Engine and Ambulance

Code 2: Service Call

- Engine or Truck

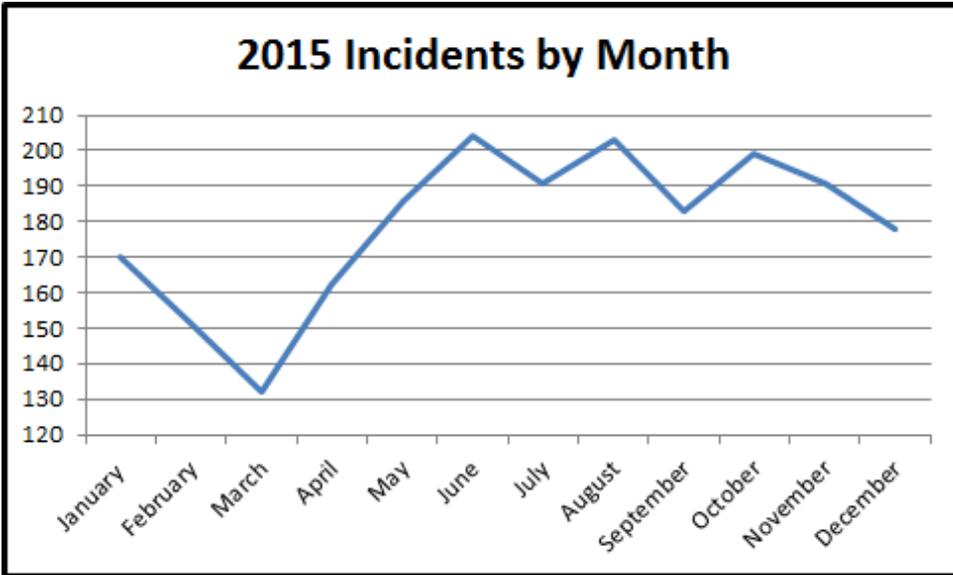
Code 3: Fire Alarm

- Battalion, Engine, Truck

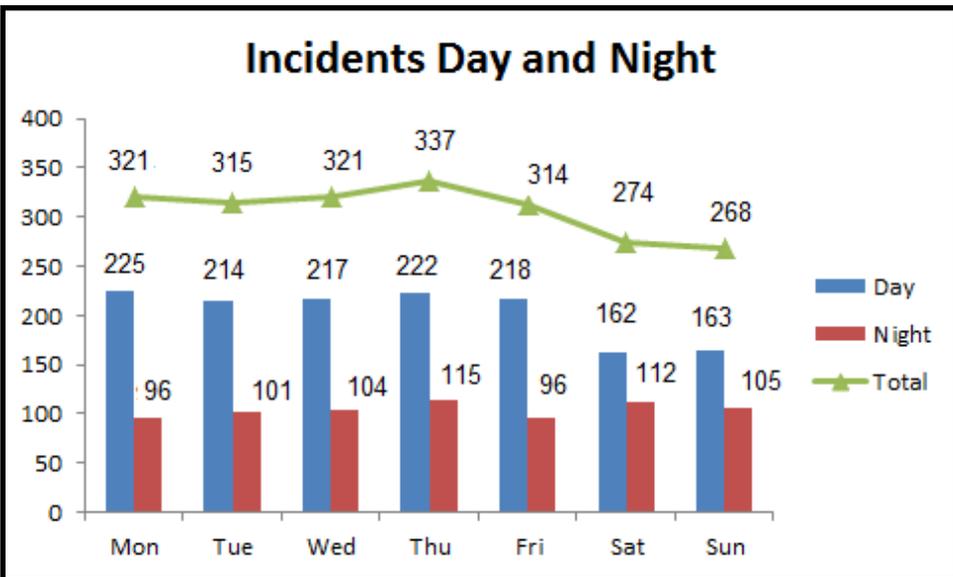
Code 4: Confirmed Fire (Mutual Aid)

- Battalion, 4 Engines, 3 Trucks, Ambulance, 5 Chief Officers

2015 Year in Review



The data from 2015 indicates that the amount of total monthly incidents dipped in the colder winter months (January through March) with a low point of 131 incidents in March. With increased summer activity in the warmer months (April through October), incidents rose and leveled out. Total EMS and Fire Suppression incidents reached a high point of just over 200 in June.



- Daytime hours are from 7 am to 9 pm and nighttime hours are from 9 pm to 7 am.

2015 Incidents By Shift	
A Shift	717
B Shift	711
C Shift	722
Total	2150



Pushout Time Analysis

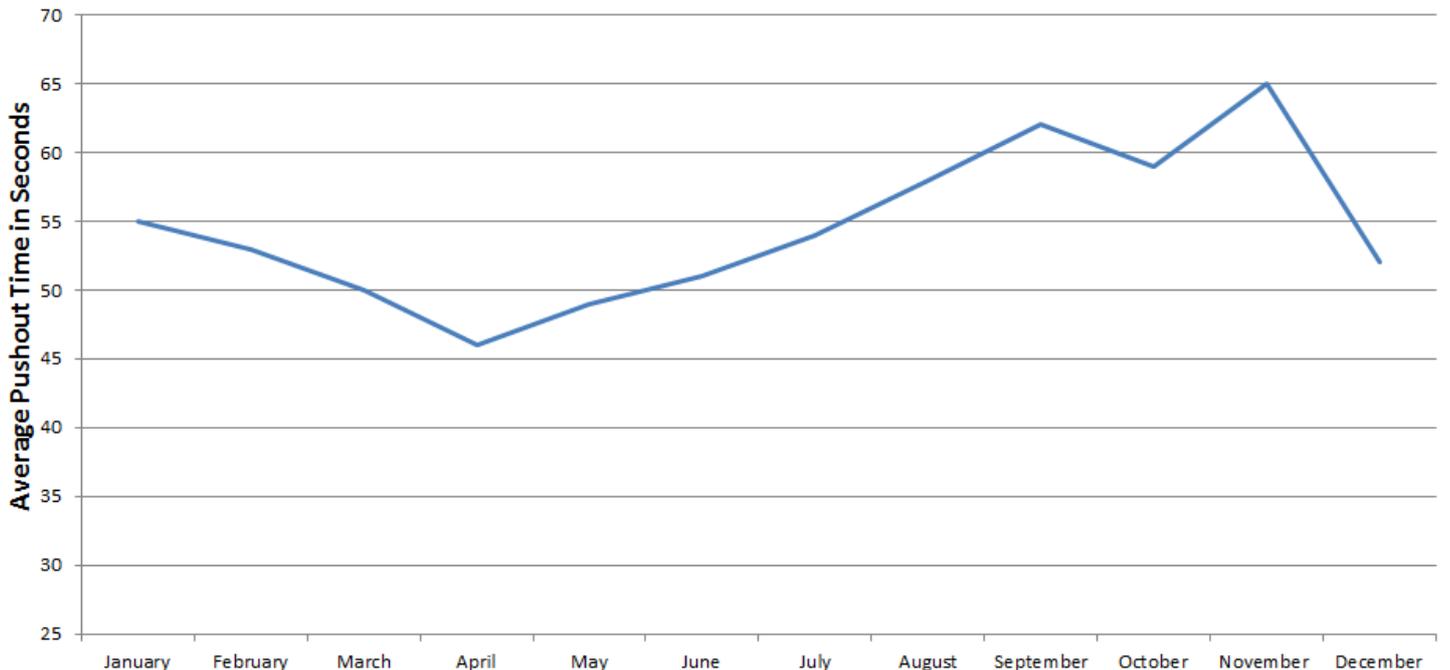
Pushout time refers to the amount of time between the Regional Emergency Dispatch (RED) Center's notice to the Fire Department of an incident and the time it takes for fire station personnel to deploy. In this time, fire personnel verify the location of the incident, don personal protective equipment (PPE), mount rigs and leave the station.

The Department evaluates pushout time on a monthly and yearly basis to ensure that times are kept under 60 seconds (incidents between 7:00am and 9:00 pm) and 90 seconds (incidents between 9:00pm and 7 am). The



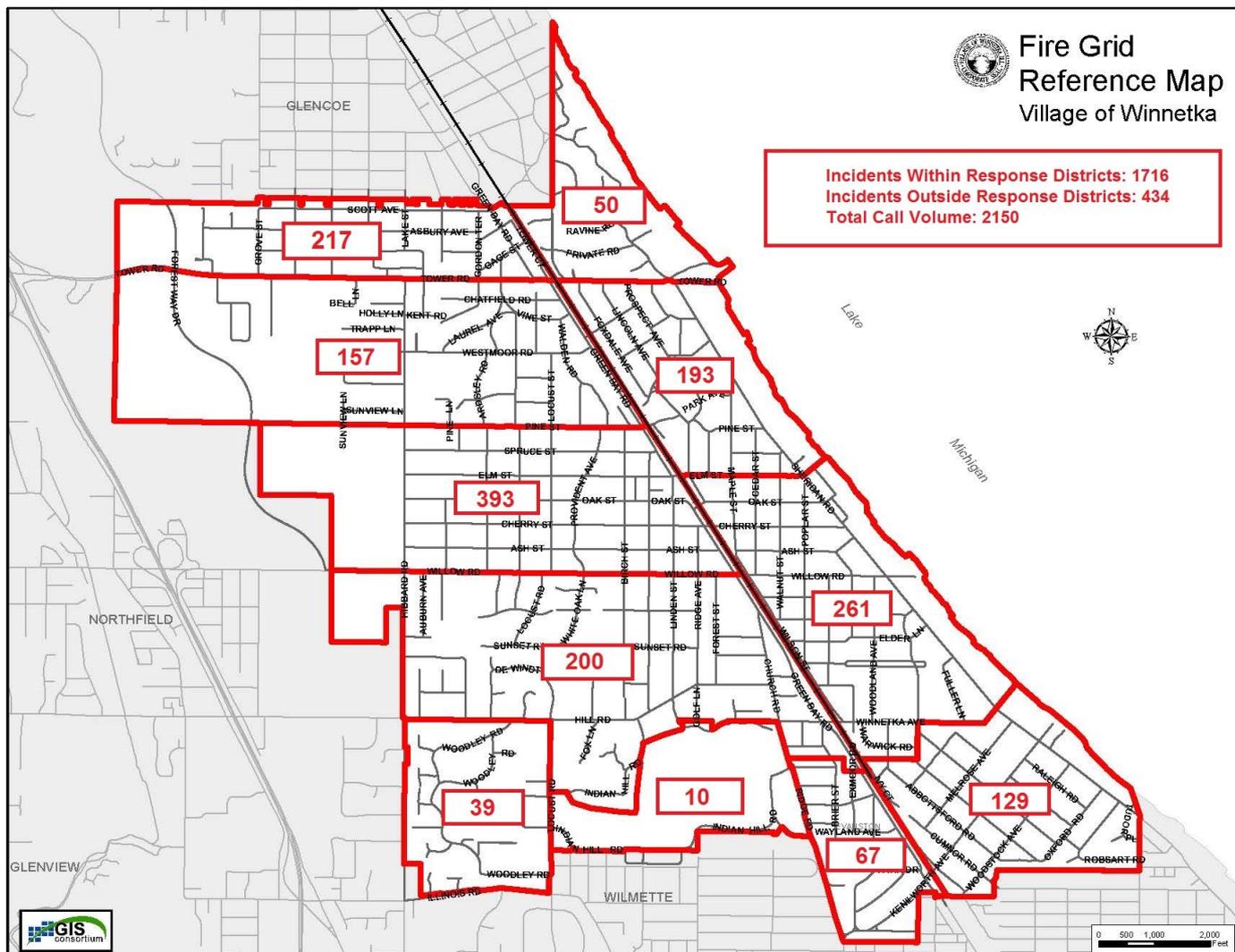
Fire Department's goal is to have, at minimum, personnel on scene within 4 - 6 minutes, 90% of the time. Keeping pushout times to a minimum allows the Winnetka Fire department to maintain that response time goal. The chart below shows the monthly average pushout times for the Fire Department in 2015.

2015 Pushout Time Analysis



Average Emergency Response Time: 3:48

Fire Service Coverage



Since the 1930's, the Village of Winnetka has provided fire and EMS services to the Village of Kenilworth. In addition, the Winnetka Fire Department also provides fire and EMS services to Unincorporated New Trier Township in Cook County.

The Fire Department has a total of 11 response districts within it's fire service coverage area. In 2015, 80 percent of incidents responded to were within the fire service coverage area. The remaining 20 percent were included in what is known as *Automatic and/or Mutual Aid*.



Auto/Mutual Aid Coverage

2015 Automatic/ Mutual Aid by Community		
	Given	Received
Northfield	177	39
Glencoe	161	43
Wilmette	76	65
Northbrook	14	10
Evanston	3	0
Highland Park	1	1
Glenview	0	1
Highwood	1	1
Lake Forest	1	0
Total	434	160

Mutual Aid is a reciprocal type of aid provided when a municipality has an agreement with a neighboring community to supply additional resources should they require them.

Mutual Aid is employed when the incident exceeds the resources of the affected community. *Automatic Aid* is a pre-established agreement where departments assist each other on a daily basis.



MABAS Division 3 Tactical Rescue Team Training at the Winnetka Water/Electric Plant

The Village of Winnetka is a member of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 3. Winnetka is one of eighteen Northshore Communities who respond as part of a mutual aid agreement. This area includes the north shore communities bounded by Highland Park on the north, Evanston and Skokie on the south, Des Plaines and Prospect Heights on the west, and Lake Michigan on the east.

Special Teams Participation

Department members may elect to participate in Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 3 special teams such as Hazmat, Technical Rescue, Fire Investigation or Water Rescue. All of these opportunities promote the overall safety of the community and create a regional sharing of specialized equipment and personnel for the eighteen MABAS Division 3 Departments. Special Team members for 2015 included:

Fire Investigators

Deputy Chief Ripka
Lieutenant Legan
FM Kopecky
FM McCloskey

Technical Rescue

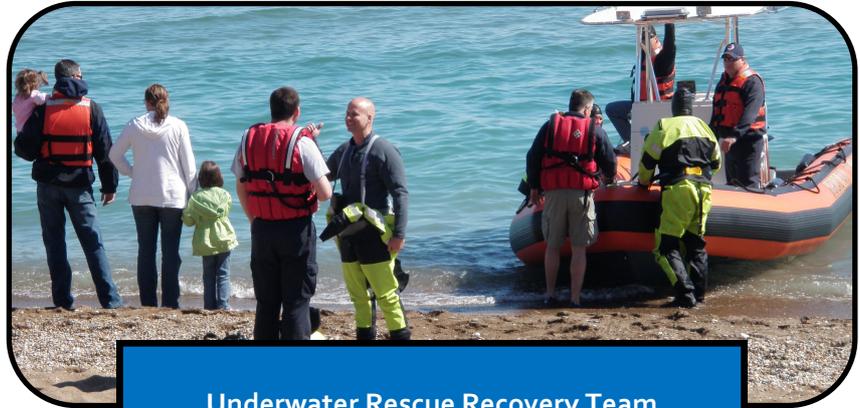
Captain Hutchison
FM Colpaert
FM Kopecky

Underwater Rescue Recovery

Captain Bowne

Hazmat

FM Tillson

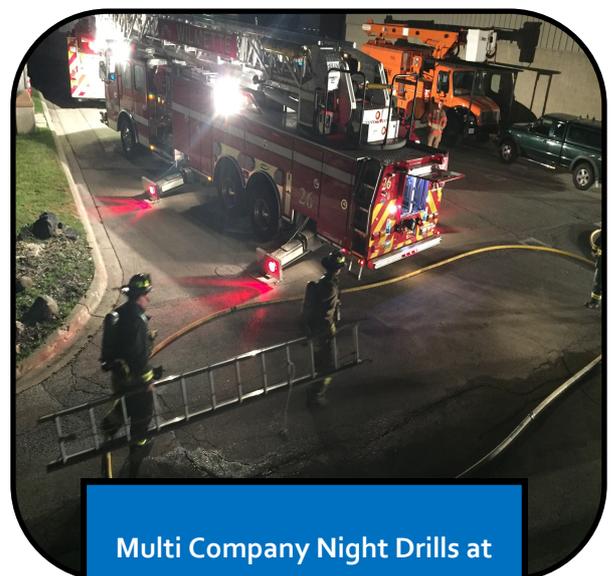


Underwater Rescue Recovery Team

One of the most beneficial resources for Fire Department training is the **Training Tower**, located at the Public Works Facility (1390 Willow Road). The training tower includes a number of amenities that allow for simulation of actual fires in both residential and commercial structures. The tower has an independent electric and water supply and is piped with the ability to have smoke pumped in to simulate the poor visibility one would experience under fire conditions. At least twice a year, neighboring departments train with Winnetka at our tower for a coordinate night drill exercise as required by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Insurance Service Office (ISO).



Multi Company
Live Fire Drills



Multi Company Night Drills at
the Training Tower

Training

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) develops statewide standards for training, testing and certifying firefighters at all levels. By participating in these certifications, the Village of Winnetka Fire Department joins a cohort of over 50,000 firefighters in the state of Illinois. In 2015, the Fire Department members earned the following OSFM certifications:

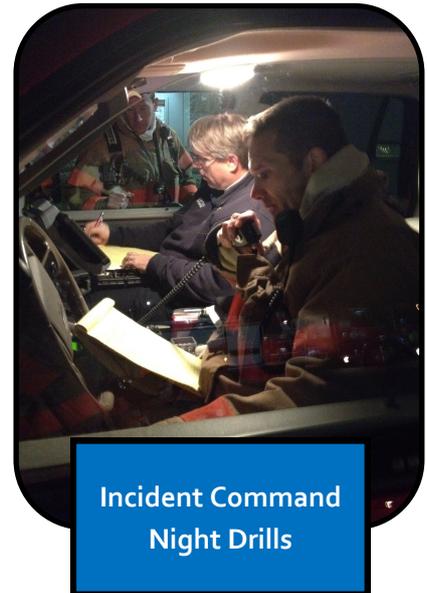
- **Deputy Chief Ripka: Fire Inspector II & Advanced Fire Prevention Officer**
- **Lieutenant MacArthur: Public Fire & Life Safety Educator I**
- **FM Latronica: Advanced Firefighter**
- **FM Campeol: Firefighter III**
- **FM McCloskey: Firefighter III**
- **FM McManigal: Fire Apparatus Engineer**

Fire department members received additional training which included:

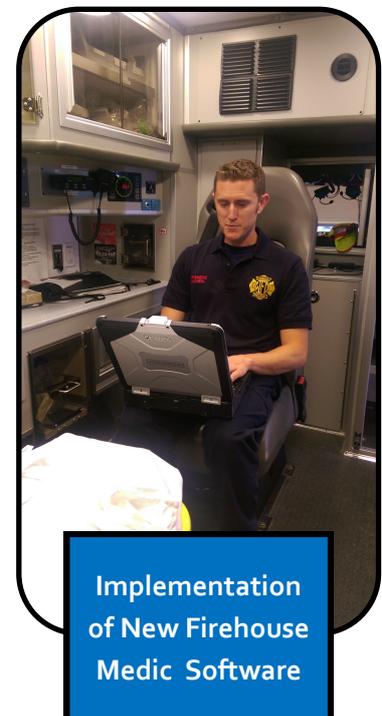
- **Deputy Chief Ripka: Rescue Task Force Instructor**
- **Deputy Chief Ripka: Command and Control Exercise**
- **Deputy Chief Ripka: Active Shooter/ Rescue Task Force**
- **Captain Hutchison: Rescue Task Force Instructor**
- **Captain Hutchison: Active Shooter/ Rescue Task Force Northfield**
- **Captain Hutchison: Kane County Disaster Exercise**
- **Captain Banks: Rescue Task Force Instructor**
- **FM Colpaert: Hands-on Company Officer**
- **FM Michehl: Hands-on Company Officer**

Fire/EMS training included:

- **Adult protective services programming**
- **Multi-company live fire night drills at the training tower**
- **Active Shooter/Rescue Task Force MABAS Division 3 drills at NIPSTA**
- **Pediatric Advanced Life Support Recertification**
- **Blue Card Incident Command online continuing education**
- **Implementation of new Firehouse Medic EMS Reporting System**



**Incident Command
Night Drills**



**Implementation
of New Firehouse
Medic Software**

Walk-in Services

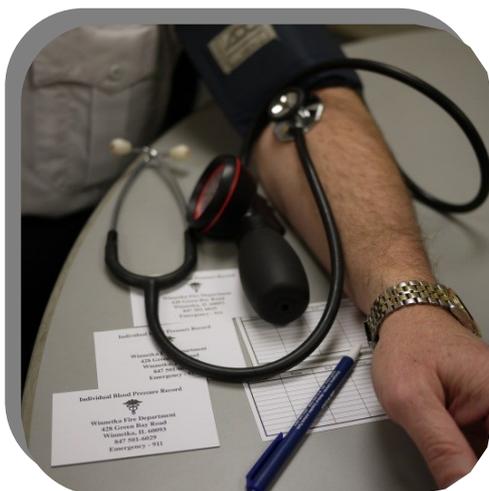
Hazardous Waste Disposal

The Village of Winnetka partners with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) to offer residents a free, safe and easy way to dispose of unwanted medicine and needles/sharps. The Fire Department accepts most types of prescription medications for disposal. Using this drop-off program helps keep local water clean and reduces pollution in lakes, rivers and streams. Additionally, the Fire Department accepts containers of needles, syringes and diabetic finger prick cartridges for proper disposal. The Fire Department can also supply replacement containers for residents.

This program is part of the broader Village of Winnetka effort to reduce waste for the community and its residents including collection programs at the Department of Public Works. Total collections for Winnetka in 2015 are listed below:

- CFL Bulbs: 2,490 bulbs
- Large Electronics: 149,661 lbs.
- Paper Shredding: 15,600 lbs.
- Medications: 421 lbs.
- Syringes: 270 lbs.

For more information on these and other programs, please visit the SWANCC website: www.swancc.org



Blood Pressure Screenings

Trained personnel are available to take blood pressure readings at the Fire Station. A blood pressure reading provides an important and timely summary of an individual's cardiovascular health status. It may also aid in the identification of potential medical problems and lead to early treatment.

Fire Prevention Bureau

The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for conducting fire and life safety inspections within the Village of Winnetka. Normal responsibilities include:

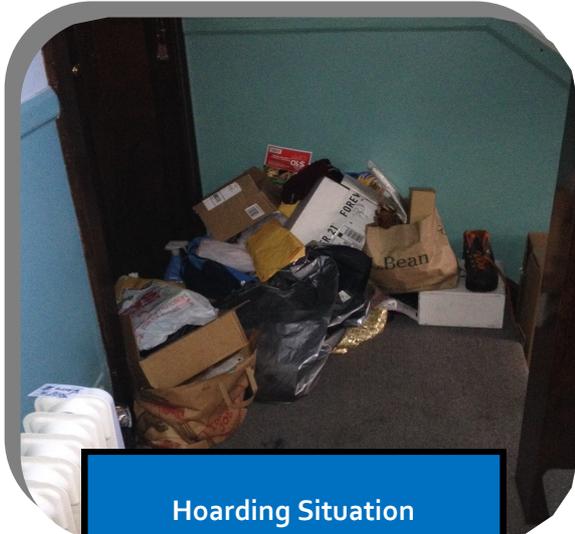
- Ensuring proper life safety conditions in the Village
- Eliminating conditions that can contribute to the start or spread of fire
- Determining adequacy and maintenance of fire protection systems
- Determining adequacy and maintenance of exits
- Preplanning fire fighting procedures
- Assuring compliance with fire protection and life safety codes, standards and regulations



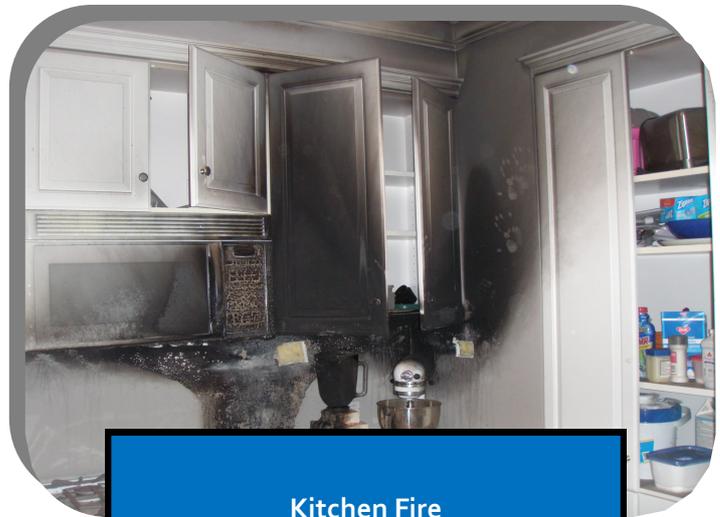
In 2014, the Village entered into an intergovernmental agreement to perform fire prevention duties for the Village of Northfield. In 2015, Winnetka also entered into a similar agreement with the Village of Kenilworth. The Fire Prevention Bureau is staffed by three part-time Fire Inspectors with additional support from both the Deputy Fire Chief and the Administrative Lieutenant. Inspections are required for all new and existing commercial and multi-family residential structures.

Winnetka Fire Prevention Activities- 10 Year Review						
Year	Consultations	Inspections	Plan Reviews	Referrals	Preplans	Total
2006	49	968	9	8	213	1247
2007	43	971	13	4	280	1311
2008	50	660	16	8	183	917
2009	72	628	15	10	202	927
2010	69	863	23	15	98	1068
2011	73	551	25	17	39	705
2012	79	798	6	19	57	959
2013	124	790	32	26	36	1008
*2014	155	679	102	16	41	993
**2015	166	1056	96	17	16	1351
* Includes Northfield Fire Prevention Activities						
**Includes Northfield and Kenilworth Fire Prevention Activities						

Fire Prevention Bureau



**Hoarding Situation
Discovered by Fire Prevention**



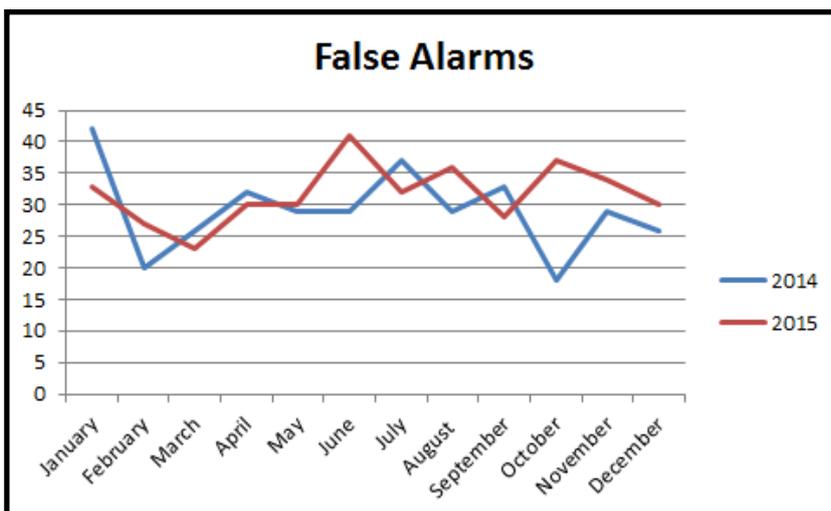
Kitchen Fire



**Fire Started By Christmas
Candle**

In addition to standard inspections, the Fire Prevention Bureau also conducts:

- Plan reviews
- Special event coordination
- Code review and interpretation
- Responses to citizen inquiries and concerns



The Fire Prevention Bureau works to implement and enforce the Village's Fire Prevention Code. The Fire Prevention Bureau and firefighting team work together to maintain a safe environment for village residents. Their efforts also help to keep false alarms to a minimum, ultimately saving resources for the Fire Department.

Community Engagement



9/11 Remembrance Flag Day



Demonstration During Screen Break (Kids Day Off From TV)



Elected Officials and Staff
at the Fourth Of July Parade



Children's Fair with the Fire
Department



Fire Department Open House

Community Engagement



FM Fanslow Talking to a Future Fire Fighter



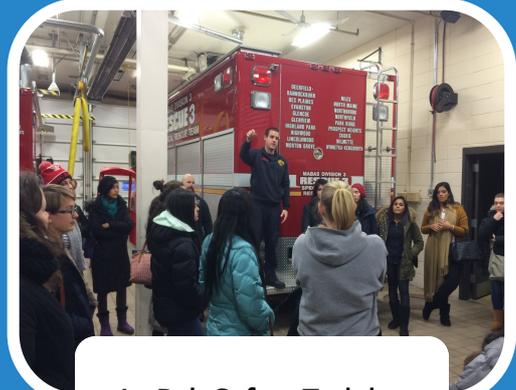
Super Heroes Day at Grand Foods



Fire Prevention Week at School



Fire Extinguisher and CPR Training with the Winnetka Park District



Au Pair Safety Training

Other Events

Dog Rescue

On February 10, 2015 emergency personnel responded to a report of a dog trapped on thin ice on Lake Michigan. The crew found the owner standing on the ice bluff with one dog on a leash and his other dog about 100 feet out on the surface of the lake. The dog would not follow commands to come back to shore from the owner. Firefighters, while in exposure suits and secured with a tag line, were able to access the dog and safely bring him to shore.



Flag Retirement Drop-off

In 2015, Boy Scout Troop 17 in coordination with the Winnetka Fire Department made available a Flag Retirement Drop Off Station. The station was open to anyone from the community who wished to dispose of an American Flag that was worn, ripped or discolored. Retiring flags was a great way for the community and Troop 17 to learn about patriotism and show respect for our Nation's symbol.



- Cotton Flags: 31
- Nylon Flags: 1,422
- Miscellaneous Flags and Trash: 97
- Repurposed Flags: 16

Total Flags Retired by Troop 17: 1,485

Other Events

The Stanley Cup

On Aug 9, 2015, the NHL Stanley Cup made an appearance at the Fire Department. The Chicago Blackhawks organization, following the Blackhawks Stanley Cup victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning, brought the Cup to the Public Safety Building. Village officials and department members from both the Winnetka Fire and Police Departments were invited to meet Chicago Blackhawks owner Rocky Wirtz and take pictures with the Cup.



Glossary

Aerial Truck is also known as a ladder truck, aerial ladder, or just plain truck. The aerial truck is a hydraulically powered ladder or articulating platform, mounted on a vehicle that also carries several different length extension ladders, and possibly extrication gear, ventilation equipment, and lighting.

Backdraft is the term applies to the explosion caused by the sudden inward rush of oxygen when all of the super-heated gases, (heated above the ignition temperature) in a room or structure, ignite at the same time. If the gasses are pressurized, in a relatively closed room, an explosion could be the result. While the likelihood of such an occurrence is low, a backdraft is often fatal to anyone caught in it.

Defensive Operations is a fire ground strategy based on firefighter safety and the protection of exposures. The goal is to simply confine the fire to the building/area of origin. No aggressive interior firefighting operations take place in the defensive mode. All fire streams are operated onto the fire from the outside. This strategy is employed when a fire has advanced to the point where interior attack operations are too dangerous.

Engine is an apparatus designed for fire attack. It is the most common vehicle in fire departments. This apparatus carries hose and usually has a 500 gallon water tank. It also has a fire pump. Modern fire pumps can pump over 1500 GPM (Gallons Per Minute). These vehicles can also have the ability to supply foam and usually carries 3-4 personnel.

Extrication is the systematic and safe freeing or removal of persons who are trapped or pinned inside a vehicle or piece of equipment. Extrication is accomplished by highly trained firefighter/paramedics.

Flashover is similar to a backdraft, with the exception that the room is not closed or pressurized to the point of explosion. All of the contents of the room have given off flammable gases that have been heated to their ignition point and a fire suddenly envelopes the room. From the outside you will often see the exiting smoke appear to instantly ignite.

Forcible Entry is the act of gaining access to a structure or vehicle through means other than an open window or door. Frequently, firefighters must force open doors that are locked or blocked in order to enter a structure to search for victims & extinguish a fire. A wide variety of hand, power & hydraulic tools can be used for forcible entry.

Haz Mat (also Hazmat, HazMat) is short for "Hazardous Materials." With today's complex and high technology world, many departments have invested resources and money to responding to such emergencies. Most of us would be surprised, if not alarmed to learn the many types and dangers associated with chemicals and products in our communities. Winnetka shares a Haz Mat unit with the departments comprising MABAS Division 3 .

ISO (Insurance Service Office) is an organization that evaluates fire department operations for the insurance companies. The ISO (PPC) rating is from 1-10. With "1" being the best. See: <http://www.iso.com/>

MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) is a conglomerate of fire service organizations that provide mutual aid response in the event of an emergency that exceeds the capabilities of the local fire department. MABAS organizations exist primarily in Illinois and Wisconsin, but also include members in Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri. The Winnetka Fire Department is part of MABAS Division 3, which includes:

- Deerfield-Bannockburn
- Des Plaines
- Evanston
- Glencoe
- Glenview
- Highland Park
- Highwood
- Lincolnwood
- Morton Grove

Glossary

- Northbrook
- Northfield
- North Maine
- Park Ridge
- Prospect Heights
- Skokie
- Wilmette
- Winnetka-Kenilworth

Mutual Aid is an agreement between jurisdictions for the mutual assistance in the event of major events. Even the largest departments may need help from time to time. There can be pre-established automatic aid or mutual aid. A city may agree to always take the runs for another in some remote locations or when local resources are unavailable. Smaller departments depend upon automatic/mutual aid agreements.

NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) is an organization established in 1896 having the purpose of helping to protect life and property from fire. The NFPA contains a number of different operational components including public education, code adoption, research, and training. Most fire-related building codes are derived from standards put forth by the NFPA. Additionally, the NFPA was responsible for developing the National Electric Code (NEC).

Offensive Operations occur when fire suppression personnel actively fight a fire within a structure utilizing water or another type of extinguishing agent. While in offensive operations mode, firefighters must be continuously aware of their surroundings in order to evaluate safety conditions within the structure.

Pass Device (Personal Alert Safety System) is a device given to all firefighters to wear for locating firefighters in trouble. This device senses if a firefighter has remained motionless for a short period of time. A piercing alarm is sounded under any of the conditions for which it is designed to detect. They are usually attached to the SCBA.

RED Center (Regional Emergency Dispatch Center) is a centralized dispatch center providing services to Deerfield-Bannockburn, Highwood, Lincolnshire-Riverwoods, Lincolnwood, Long Grove, Morton Grove, Niles, North Maine, Northbrook, Northfield, Prospect Heights, Wheeling, Wilmette, and Winnetka/Kenilworth. When a resident of one of these communities calls 911 within the community and requests fire or EMS services, they will experience a very brief hold while their call is directed from their local 911 office to RED Center. Winnetka's partnership with RED Center is a more efficient and effective means of handling fire or emergency medical calls.

SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) is the breathing apparatus that firefighters wear. A common mistake is to think that there is only oxygen in the cylinder; however, there is not. The cylinder the firefighter wears is filled with the same air everyone breathes. Imagine the amount of air in a box measuring four feet in every direction. That is about how much air each firefighter has. Each cylinder is rated for a specific amount of time, usually 30 - 60 minutes, but that is based upon little or no exertion.

Thermal Imaging Camera is a camera that can be used to seek out hidden fires or see through smoke. It uses thermal imaging technology to detect the heat given off by objects. It can detect a difference of 1/10th of a degree. Some cameras have the ability to transmit the image back to command where it can be viewed or even recorded. The camera can also tell you the temperature of the object in the cross hairs. Some versions are helmet mounted. This device is so sensitive that it could help find a victim who is completely under many layers of bed covers.

Ventilation is the process of removing heated gasses or smoke from a building. This process makes the building more tenable and helps to prevent such things as flashover or backdraft. This can be accomplished by several methods, from opening a window to cutting a hole in the roof. It can also be accomplished by forced ventilation using high powered fans to horizontally ventilate the structure.



2016 Fire Department Calendar of Events

- May 30: Memorial Day Parade
- July 4: Independence Day Parade and Fireworks
- October 9-15: Fire Prevention Week
- October 15: Fire/Police Open House
- November 1: Change your clock/ Change your smoke detector battery

Important Contact Information

- Fire/ Police Emergency: 911
- Fire Non-Emergency: (847) 501-6029
- Police Non-Emergency: (847) 501-6034
- Winnetka Village Hall: (847) 501-6000
- Winnetka Public Works: (847) 716-3568
- New Trier Township: (847) 446-8201
- Poison Control Center: (800) 222-1222

Life Safety Tips

- Have a smoke alarm outside every sleeping area, in every bedroom and on every level of your home.
 - Always check electrical cords for cracking and fraying.
 - Create and practice a home fire escape plan for family members to use in the event of an emergency.
 - Every home should have a working carbon monoxide detector.
 - Do not hesitate to call 911. If something feels like an emergency, treat it like an emergency!
 - When using candles in the home, keep them away from combustible materials and be sure to fully extinguish them before going to bed.
 - Never leave cooking operations unattended.
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