



HoseLine

SUMMER 2019

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Goals & Accomplishments...

Greetings. I'd like to take this opportunity to share what we have accomplished in 2018, and what our intentions and plans are for this year. Our goals have been hindered over the past few years and carrying into this year, as we are faced with 3 major challenges.



Chief Drew Smith

■ **Reduced Administration and Staff**— resulting in challenges and limits on administrative duties while fulfilling the operations of the fire department.

■ **Professional Development of Battalion Chiefs** — because of staff reductions, the tasks increased the workload on the fire chief, deputy chief and three battalion chiefs by roughly 20%. These additional duties caused elimination of some training functions, due to lack of time.

■ **Operational Challenges** — injuries and resignations challenge our schedule and also cause extraordinary overtime cost. In 2018 we spent 207.5 percent of the overtime budget. We also had major turnover, due to the fact that part-time members leave for full-time positions elsewhere. As a result of this, we made major accommodations to offset and reduce the impact in the department in order to maximize our workforce productivity.

In addition to these challenges, our command staff is responsible for the emergency response functions within the community. We do our very best to accommodate and respond to calls, while handling all of the day-to-day duties of the department.

Accomplishments in 2018:

- Completed the remount and refurbishing of our 2007 ambulance
- Formed and educated a committee on budget and specification for replacing our 18 year old Engine 39
- Replaced Battalion 9 vehicle
- Performed a needs analysis to meet aerial apparatus (aerial ladder truck) needs

(Continued on page 2)

2018 Incidents by Company*

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| • Ambulance 9 | 1,460 |
| • Engine 9 | 1,131 |
| • Engine 39 | 944 |
| • Battalion 9 | 410 |
| • Ambulance 39 | 191 |
| • Squad 9 | 146 |
| • Tower 9 | 127 |
| • Tanker 9 | 59 |
| • Ambulance 9R | 23 |
| • Crash Truck 39 | 3 |

* A "company" is the term for an emergency vehicle and its crew



Accomplishments in 2018 *(continued from page 1)*

- Voters approved a 4% increase referendum which will be used to staff Engine 9 with 3 members, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
- Provided leadership development for all Chiefs and Lieutenants
- Assigned each Management member full-time member responsibility for a support program
- Collaborated with the Mount Prospect and Wheeling Fire Departments to enhance joint responses

Major Projects that Impacted the PHFD in 2018:

- Achieved a CLASS 2 rating from the Insurance Services Office (ISO). This rating places the PHFPD in the top 6 percent of all fire departments in the state of Illinois.
- Passed an unannounced Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) inspection of all PHFPD facilities and records as it related to employee safety.
- Fought the largest fire in the history of the PHFPD at the River Trails condominiums.
- Board of Trustees voted to increase Ambulance Transportation fee rates. 100% of benefit to be covered by private insurance, Medicare and Medicaid and not out-of-pocket of residents.



PHFPD at River Trails condominiums fire



Prospect Heights Fire Department Engine 9

Our Goals for 2019:

- Complete the replacement of Engine 39
- Continue professional development of staff
- Implement full staffing of Engine 9, per budget
- Conduct 75th Anniversary recognition event in Fall 2019
- Replace inoperable rooftop heater/air conditioner and emergency generator transfer switch
- Develop a Strategic Plan with five-year Operational Goals
- Develop Performance Evaluation and Improvement Program
- Establish A Safety Committee

Mutual Aid for 2018

Mutual Aid is when one fire department has all of its personnel and vehicles committed to emergency calls, then the fire departments in neighboring communities provide assistance and backup. The number of 2018 incidents with mutual aid given and received:

- **MUTUAL AID GIVEN: 554**
- **MUTUAL AID RECEIVED: 157**

Even though it appears we gave more assistance than we received, our on-duty staffing is less than our neighbors, so we receive more assistance per call. In order to assemble an effective sized force, we would need twice the number of fire fighters that we have on duty on any given day, and to hire those people, we would have to double our property taxes. Mutual Aid provides the needed assistance — *without the added cost to the community!*

Multiple, Simultaneous Emergency Calls are Not Infrequent

The PHFD operates two fire stations, one on each side of the city. We are generally able to handle two calls, even three calls at once. But if the call is very serious, we may only be able to handle one call and use mutual aid for other calls.

Of the 2,390 incidents in 2018, 15 percent of the incidents (356 incidents – almost once a day) occurred when a prior incident was still in progress. 25 incidents resulted in the need for resources on 3 or more simultaneous incidents:

- Three incident overlap occurred 15 times
- Four incident overlap occurred six times
- Five incident overlap occurred three times
- Seven incident overlap occurred once

At least one of these overlaps occurred during the July 18, 2018 extra alarm structure fire at River Trails Condominiums.

During two periods of severe weather, we had many continuous periods of incidents resulting in several overlapping incidents. These are the times when Mutual aid is most needed.

Overall, of the 356 overlapping incidents:

- 173 were requests for the paramedics (49 percent)
- 111 were not medically-related
- 51 were reported fires or fire alarms requiring the response of all-on-duty personnel (14 percent)—some of which required mutual aid from other fire departments.
- 19 were working fires in another community that were not quickly extinguished and needed the PHFD to help. This reduced the on-duty strength in Prospect Heights for an extended period. In all of 2018, we responded to 35 working fires in other communities. In these cases, off-duty personnel are recalled to strengthen the on-duty staffing.
- 2 incidents were working fires in Prospect Heights. In these cases, off-duty personnel are recalled to rebuild the on-duty staffing and an engine company and ambulance from two other communities come stand-by in our firehouse until the incident is resolved.



Prospect Heights Fire Department Training Session

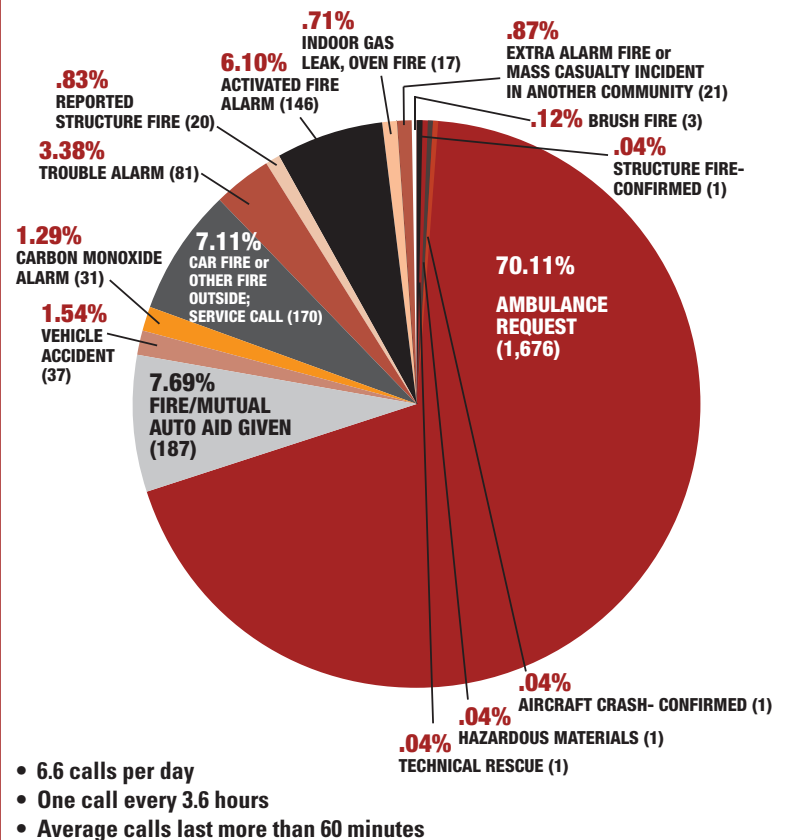
Training Summary

- 10,397 hours of training
 - 7,783 event participants
- Each firefighter averaged:
- 208 hours of training
 - 157 events

Five-year training average is 10,970 hours annually. Training hours have decreased by ten percent in the past two years. This can be attributed to no longer employing a full-time training officer as well as rising call volume.

INCIDENT TOTAL FOR 2018

TOTAL INCIDENT COUNT: 2,390



Reoccurring Programs:

Within the PHFPD there are 181 identified regular and complex programs. We continue to focus on the following significant ones:

- Use of RED center as our 9-1-1 Dispatch provider
- Continue our MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) Special Teams participation
- Continue with our NIPSTA (Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy) membership

Other programs include:

- Preparing members for promotions/succession management
- Recruiting and training entry-level firefighters
- Ongoing refreshing training for firefighters and officers
- Participation in the Northwest Community Emergency Medical Services System
- Maintenance of vehicles and equipment
- Replacement and maintenance of uniforms, protective equipment, and breathing air masks



Prospect Heights Fire District

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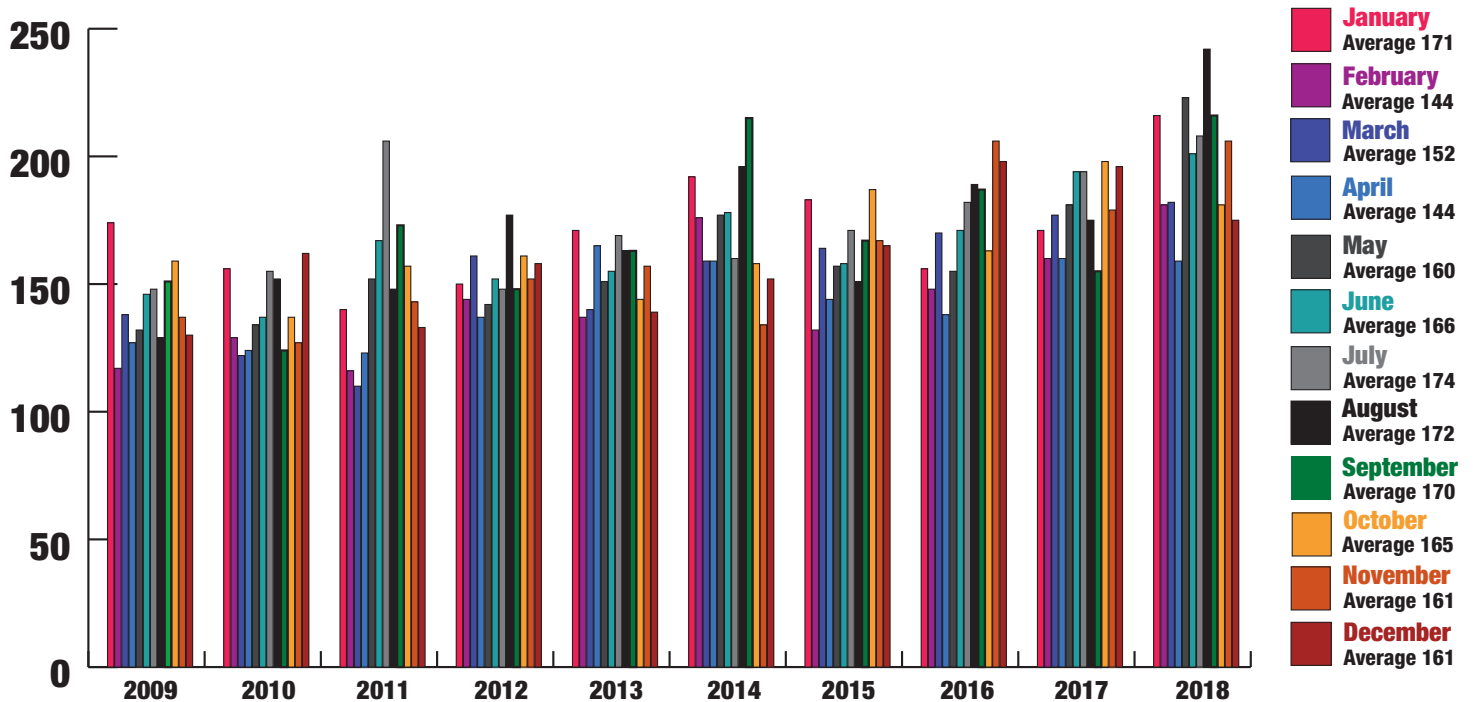
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TEN YEAR INCIDENT HISTORY AT PROSPECT HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT



Community Day



On June 1, the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District participated in the 2019 Community Day Event and Lions Club Pancake Breakfast. Despite a rainy start, the weather changed and the turnout by the community was good. All areas of the city were well represented, and the kids had a great time enjoying the day's festivities.



PROSPECT HEIGHTS FIRE DISTRICT Board of Trustees

- Jon C. Tammen
- Joe Vertone
- Shawn C. Clisham
- KC Ferguson
- James Rebecca