

PARK RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Chief's Message

Chief Jeff Sorensen

It is again my honor and privilege to present to you the Annual Report of the Park Ridge Fire Department. In this report, you will find the details of the Department's daily activity, including all aspects of planning, prevention and response.

In 2017, we welcomed three new members to this Department - Joe Ciske, Dominic Colella, and Brian Specht - and we are already proud of each of them and their accomplishments.

Congratulations and welcome to you all!

With the new personnel assigned to shift as of January 2018, we will now be able to enhance our ability to respond to the ever increasing demand for service, utilizing an additional response apparatus, Rescue 36. When fully staffed, there will now be five (5) vehicles available every day that are outfitted with Advanced Life Support equipment- Ambulance 35, Engine 35, Ambulance 36, Tower 36, and Rescue 36.

As in recent years, the Department continually analyzed the number of miscellaneous/service-type calls and repeat calls that we responded to and took steps to address each situation, when able. In some cases, a repair to a utility, fire alarm system, or other mechanical system needed to be completed. In other cases, a human factor needed to be addressed. Furthermore, in order to decrease some frequently recurring EMS calls, the Department continued to work closely with the City's Social Worker and the EMS system at Advocate Lutheran General in order to find better health care solutions for these residents. As a result, many of these situations were resolved, leaving our resources available for the next emergency response.

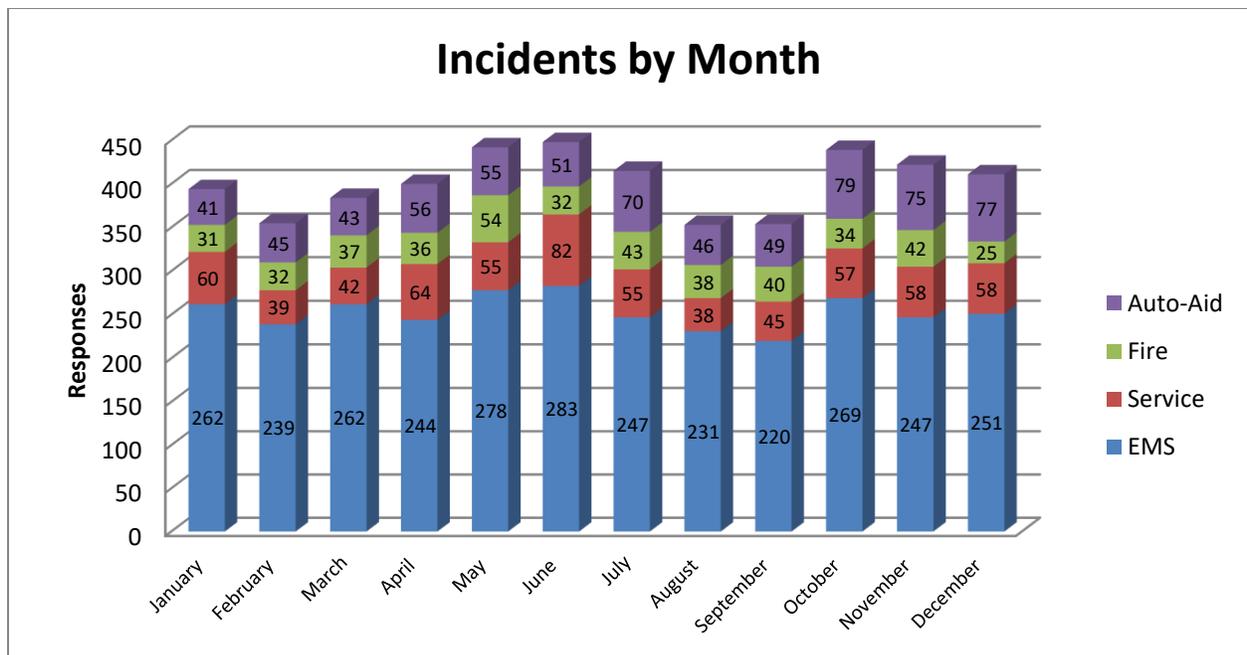
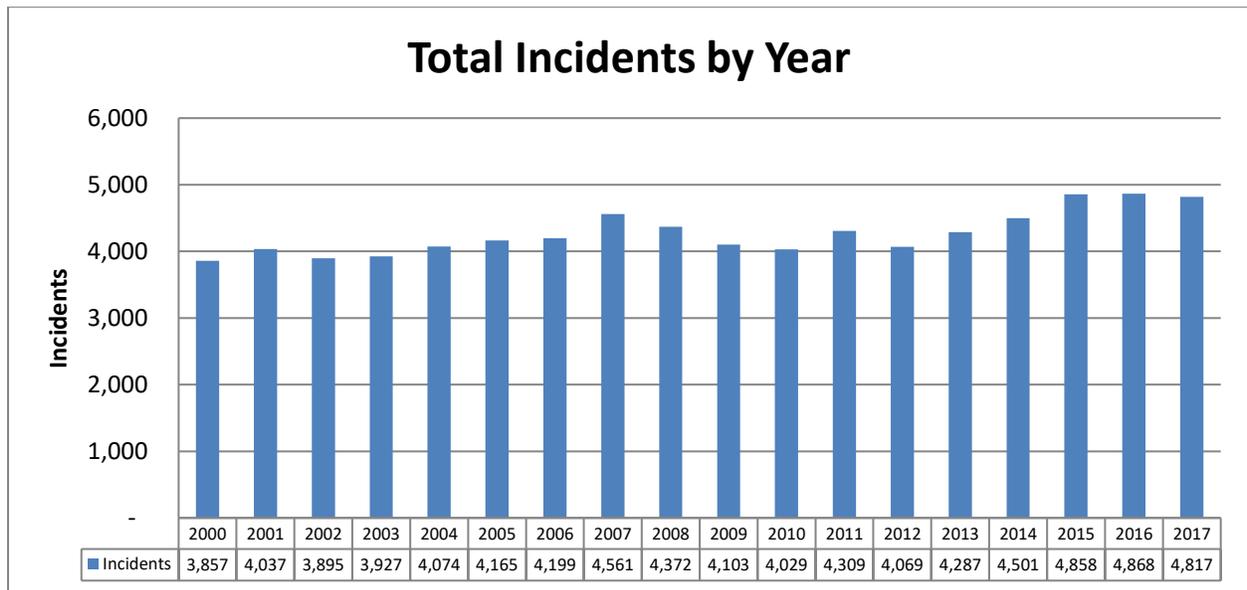
I thank you for reading this report and welcome any feedback you may have.

Jeff Sorensen
Fire Chief
City of Park Ridge
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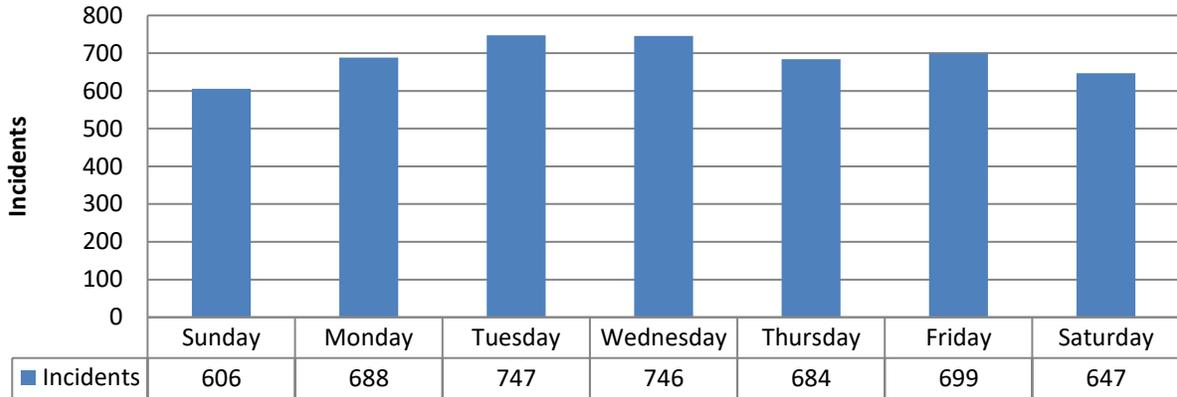


**2017 Responses
Battalion Chief Hanson**

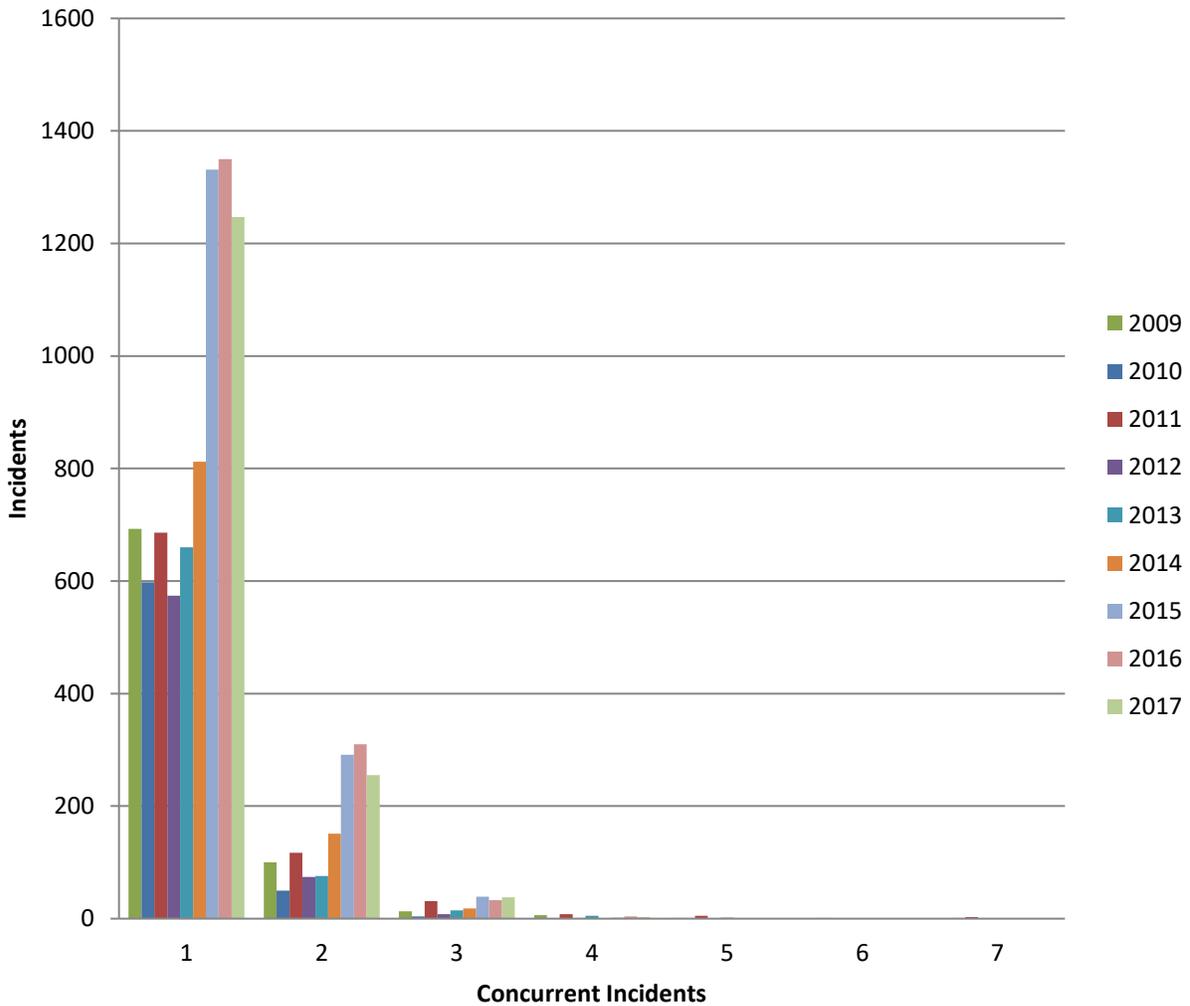
For the third year in a row, we have exceeded 4,800 incidents with a total of 4,817. Due to the increased call volume, our concurrent incidents continue to be an area we monitor regularly. However, the implementation of the new Rescue vehicle will enhance our ability to respond to multiple incidents. Below are graphs detailing different aspects of our 2017 incidents.



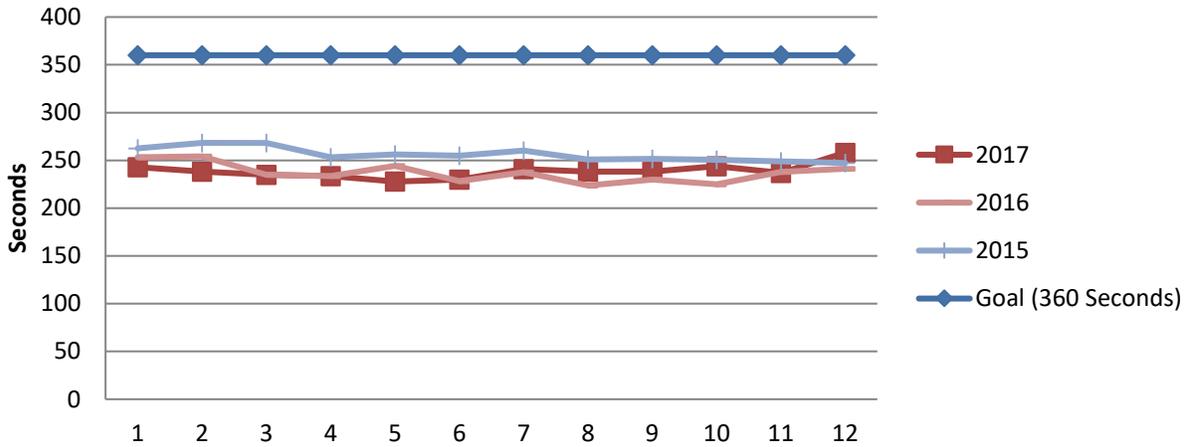
Incidents by Day of Week



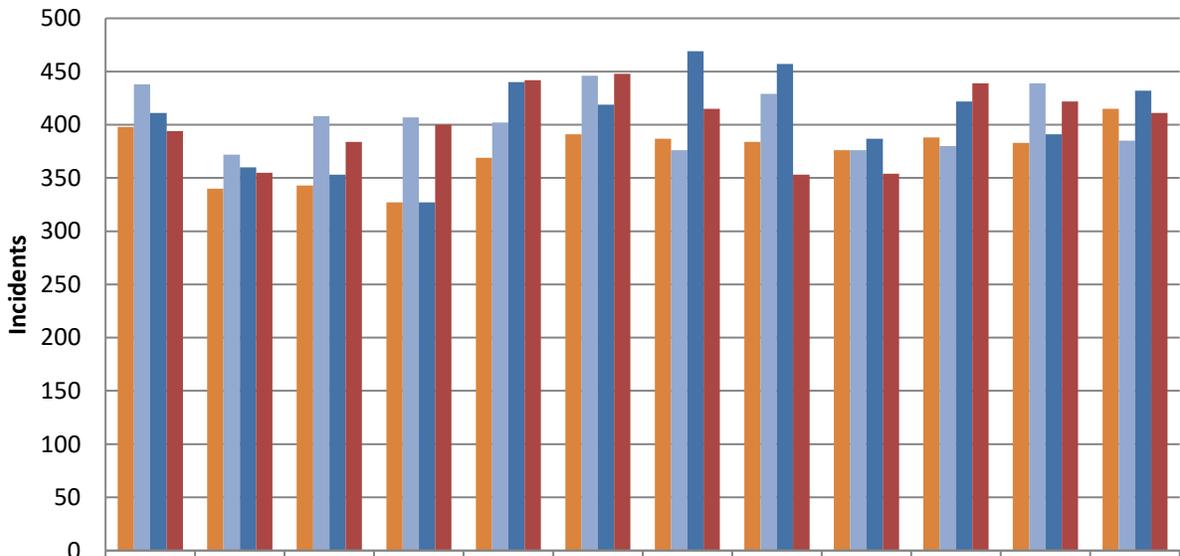
Concurrent Incidents



Average Call to Arrival Time (Fire and EMS Incidents)



Call Volume Comparison by Month by Year



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014	398	340	343	327	369	391	387	384	376	388	383	415
2015	438	372	408	407	402	446	376	429	376	380	439	385
2016	411	360	353	327	440	419	469	457	387	422	391	432
2017	394	355	384	400	442	448	415	353	354	439	422	411



Administration Report

Executive Officer Paul Lisowski

- Took receipt of a brand new fire engine in September. This engine was purchased with \$500,000 of Federal grant money from FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.
- Chief Sorensen and Executive Officer Lisowski and the Board of Fire and Police Commission interviewed and selected three new probationary firefighters –Joe Ciske, Dominic Colella and Brian Specht.
- Chief Sorensen and Executive Officer Lisowski worked with the RED Center Joint Chiefs (JCA) to interview and select the new Executive Director of RED Center.
- Executive Officer Lisowski and Captain Decker attended a full day presentation on changes and updates to the ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating system. Park Ridge will be due for a new ISO review in the near future and we are proactively working to improve our rating.
- Chief Sorensen and Executive Officer Lisowski met with chiefs from Des Plaines, Mt. Prospect, and Prospect Heights about a resource sharing opportunity for reserve fire apparatus.
- Chief Sorensen, Executive Officer Lisowski and multiple PRFD personnel organized a team at a local St. Baldrick's fund raiser at Harp and Fiddle raising money to help find cures for pediatric cancer.
- Chief Sorensen and Executive Officer Lisowski participated in a full scale active shooter drill at Fort Sheridan.
- Completed Incident Action Plans (IAP's) for all major events in the City, including the Taste of Park Ridge, the July 3rd Fireworks, and Hinkley Fest
- Executive Officer Lisowski and Battalion Chief Sankey were awarded Chief Fire Officer (CFO) designations from the State of Illinois.
- Captain Decker completed the twelve months of coursework required to attain the certification of Chief Fire Officer (CFO). This is the highest fire certification offered in the State of Illinois. He will be completing additional writing and project work with the hopes of being awarded the CFO designation later in 2018.
- Part-time summer helpers once again tested all fire hydrants across the City. This testing is not only beneficial for maintenance of the hydrants, but also is required for our ISO rating.
- Chief Sorensen and Executive Officer Lisowski attended quarterly meetings of the Park Ridge Citizens Corps Council.
- Chief Sorensen, Executive Officer Lisowski, and Fire Marshal Plach attended regular Emergency Preparedness Committee meetings at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital as well as Safety Committee meetings at Maine East and Maine South High Schools.
- Chief Sorensen and Executive Officer Lisowski attended regular District 64 Crisis Communications Committee meetings.
- Executive Officer Lisowski continued the public education program in the local grade schools. Restarting this program has been received very favorably by the students, parents and D64 staff. This year we were able to reach almost all of the Kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, and 8th grade students.



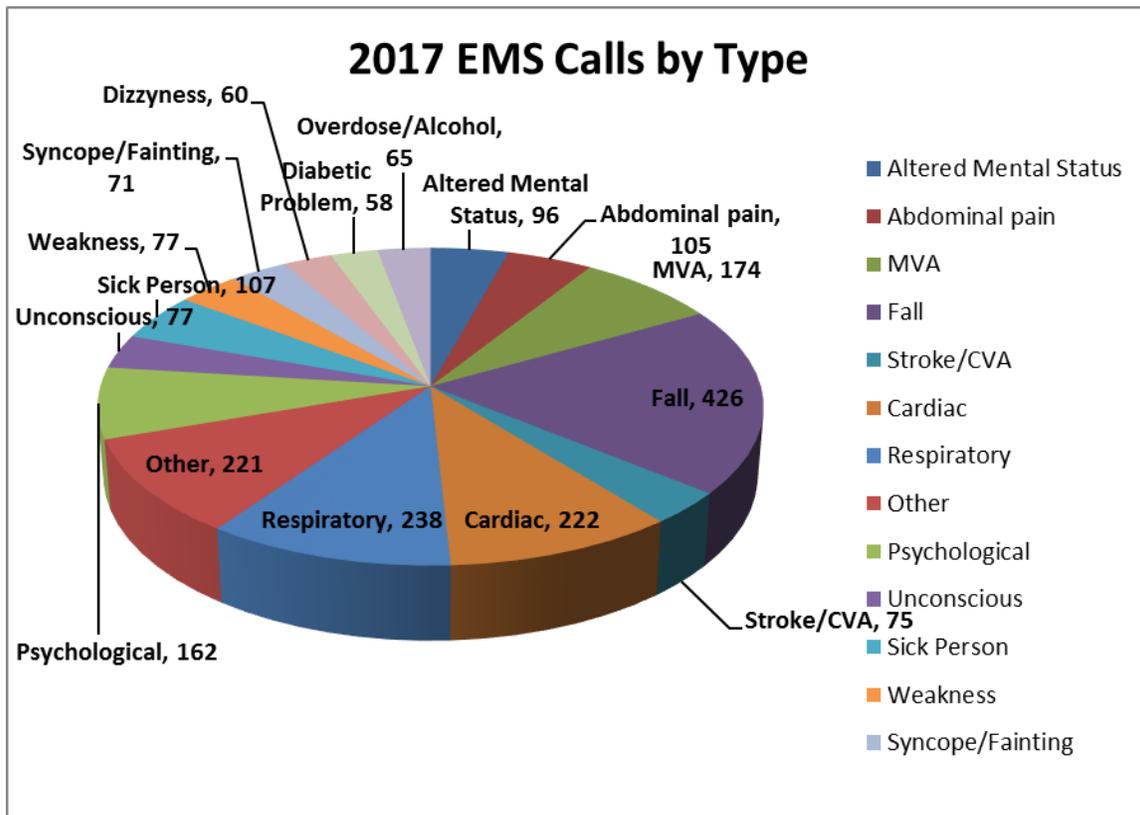
**Emergency Medical Services
Battalion Chief Norton**

Park Ridge Fire Department emergency medical personnel responded to 3,218 EMS incidents in 2017. These incidents included ambulance requests for cardiac and other medical problems, trauma, mutual aid and a myriad of other potentially life-threatening emergencies.

EMS incidents in 2017 represented 66.8% of the Park Ridge Fire Department’s total responses. Of these, Advanced Life Support (ALS) calls accounted for 56.0% of the EMS incidents, for a total of 1,802 incidents. An ALS call involves some type of advanced intervention; for example, an IV insertion, drug administration, endotracheal tube insertion, cardiac monitor application, or 12-lead EKG.

Highlights for 2017

- Took delivery and placed in service the third new ambulance from Foster Coach.
- Implemented a new electronic Patient Care Reporting platform.
- Precepted 3 students from the ALGH EMSS 2017 Paramedic class. All 3 successfully completed the course.
- Received recognition from ALGH EMSS with the “Call of the Quarter” for the fourth quarter of 2017. This was for outstanding service and treatment provided by Engine 35 and Ambulance 35 to a stroke victim.



*Graph only represents top 13 call types



Training ***Captain Decker***

Training the Fire Department's personnel is an active function of the Department. Training is scheduled daily, covering a variety of topics and utilizing various methods of instruction.

The general mission of the Training Division is to provide all Fire Department personnel opportunities to learn new skills and enhance existing skills through repetition and advanced drill design.



Some of the areas covered in our 2017 training program are listed below:

- Core Competencies
- Technical Competencies
- Driver/Operator Training
- Officer Training
- City Familiarization
- Emergency Medical Services
- Mandated Training



Fire Investigation Team
Lieutenant Ortlund



- The Park Ridge Fire Department's Fire Investigation Team consists of six (6) Fire Investigators, one of whom is also trained as an Arson Investigator. Regular training and field experience are required to maintain knowledge and skill and are also necessary to maintain certification through the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
- All members of the Park Ridge Fire Investigation Team are members of the MABAS Division 3 Fire Investigators Task Force. The Division 3 Task Force serves as a formal mutual aid model, allowing neighboring communities to assist each other for large-scale incidents and difficult cases.
- There were 35 reported fire incidents in Park Ridge in 2017. Sixty eight percent (68%) of the incidents were classified as *Accidental* causes, and thirty two percent (32%) of the incidents were classified as *Incendiary* (intentionally set).
- One-half (50%) of the 2017 fire incidents in Park Ridge occurred in residential structures. According to the National Fire Protection Association, fires in residential structures (one and two-family) account for the greatest number of fire fatalities (84%) compared to other occupancy types.
- Sixty-two percent (62%) of the 2017 *Accidental* fires in Park Ridge can be considered to be preventable (improper use, care/maintenance, storage and disposal).



**Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
Lieutenant Boeringa**

The Department currently maintains thirty-three (33) air packs, five (5) rapid intervention air packs and two (2) supplied air respirators. We have two individuals who have been trained in the past to repair and flow test each air pack and rapid intervention pack. The supplied respirators must be repaired and tested by a vendor, but otherwise are maintained in-house.

As the air packs age, we are finding that we are making more repairs to the air packs. Items such as shoulder pads wearing out, cylinder valves leaking, pressure relief valves leaking and other air leaks on the packs have been a more common occurrence.



In 2017, the Department was able to purchase a new breathing air compressor with the assistance of a grant. The new compressor replaced a compressor that was 23 years old. Certain parts for the old compressor were no longer available. The new breathing compressor is equipped with a CO (carbon monoxide) and dew point (moisture) monitor. When excessive moisture or CO is detected, the unit will automatically alarm and shut-off.

Currently the Park Ridge Fire Department uses Grade E air or better for filling SCBA and SCUBA cylinders. Grade E air is a term that specifies how much moisture is allowed to be in the breathing air of the cylinder. The regulator or cylinder can freeze up if too much moisture is in the breathing air.



Pre-Plans
Lieutenant Alvin Portell

Pre-plans have evolved into a very important aspect of the Park Ridge Fire Department’s work. They not only allow Fire Department members to enhance their knowledge of geographic locations within the City, but also familiarize themselves with larger buildings in the City in case of a call for assistance or an emergency.

During 2017, on-duty members completed thirty (30) pre-plans. However, all required information necessary to complete the pre-plan cannot always be obtained during a walk-through since our crews must be ready to respond to any emergency calls. Members of our Department have stepped in and followed-up on obtaining information that could not be acquired during initial walk-throughs. Members of the Department have also completed additional pre-plans at other key locations within the City during 2017. To date, there are approximately 140 separate buildings within the City where information has been obtained, entered, and activated in the Command Scope computer system. This vital information can then be viewed from the mobile computers within the Fire Department vehicles.

The evolution of computer tracking and documentation has allowed our Department to obtain possibly vital and life-saving pre-plan information about various locations from within our vehicles. This vital information includes:

- Key holder and emergency contact lists
- Building dimensions and total square footage
- Specific utility locations for emergency shut-off
- Fire alarm, fire suppression systems, and standpipe locations
- Types of building construction and roof composition
- Hazardous material storage on site
- Fire hydrant locations
- Exposures
- Occupant load and mobility
- Lightweight construction locations to monitor for early recognition of structural failure
- Pictures and diagrams of the structure and positions within the structure to assist with emergency operations.



Fire Prevention Bureau Lieutenant Kevin Plach

In 2017, Fire Prevention Bureau completed over 450 plan reviews and over 2,500 inspections. These inspections included annual fire inspections for all businesses, schools and City buildings; multiple inspections for construction projects; and investigation of complaints. Construction is going strong as is evidenced by the amount of permits issued this year. Some of the construction project highlights include:

- Completions of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital's parking garage expansion
- Completion of several townhome/rowhome developments
- Completion of several Park District projects
- Construction of over 35 single-family homes.

In the upcoming year, the Fire Prevention Bureau will continue to work closely with the City's Community Preservation and Development Department on the completion of the many construction projects around town as well as the implementation of new inspection/permitting software.

The Fire Prevention Bureau also staffed several community events in 2017, including three (3) fireworks shows, the Taste of Park Ridge, and our open house at Fire Station 35 during the City's Winterfest celebration. It is estimated that over 800 people visited the fire station during our three-hour open house. The Fire Prevention Bureau also continued to teach CPR to the public on a monthly basis, with over 500 people trained in 2017. In the beginning of the school year, we continued our annual fire extinguisher training for the 8th grade science classes. This has been a staple of the safety curriculum for many years and we are proud to continue this worthwhile program.

Fire Prevention has also been active in the training of residents, businesses, schools and fire personnel. The Fire Marshal has been working with schools in the community to review emergency plans and conduct drills to test these plans. We continue to be members of the Emergency Planning Committee at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital and the safety committees at both Maine East and Maine South. The Fire Prevention Bureau also conducted a review for Operations personnel on fire protection system. This included classroom instruction, as well as visits to various businesses and homes under construction to see the different types of fire suppression systems. These systems included sprinkler systems, fire pumps, clean agent systems and hood systems.



Technical Rescue Team (TRT)
FF/PM Malcomson

The Technical Rescue Team is comprised of eight (8) highly trained firefighters who perform rescues in special situations.

- High Angle Rescue: window washers, cell towers, scaffolding
- Confined Space Rescue: Sewers, chemical tanks
- Trench Rescue: Water main repairs, construction sites
- Collapse Rescue: Tornadoes, construction collapses
- Swiftwater Rescue Assistance to the Dive Team

We are fortunate to have added two new members to the team: FF/PM Jesse McFarlin and FF/PM Aaron Wilson.



Hazardous Materials Team FF/PM Cleary

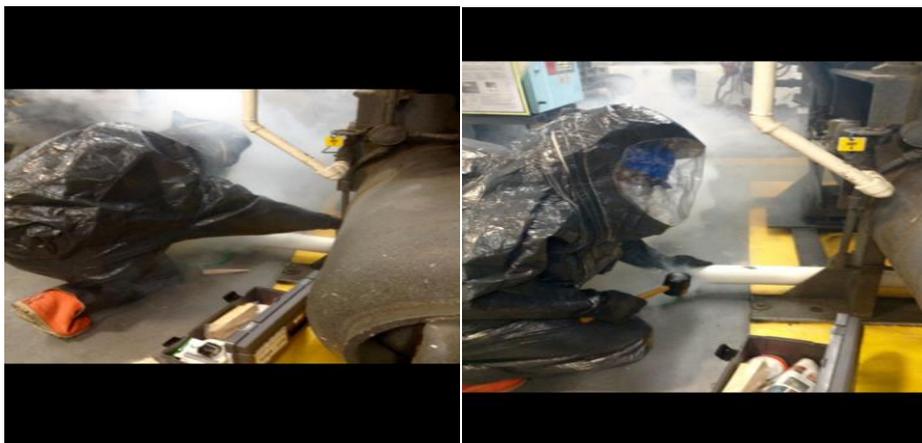
The Hazardous Materials Team is comprised of five (5) members who maintain certifications as Hazmat Technicians and Hazmat Incident Commanders. Each member is responsible to meet or exceed the annual minimum training hours to maintain "active" status with the MABAS Division 3 Team.

Each month, one department within Division 3 will host a drill related to chemical spills, meter reading/maintenance, decontamination, etc. Each quarter, members participate in a "response drill," a full-scale exercise dealing with hazard identification, mitigation and decontamination.

Being part of Division 3 enables Park Ridge to utilize MABAS Division 3 Hazardous Material apparatus as well. "DECON 3" is one of these shared resources and is utilized for mass decontamination as well as individual cleaning of patients and crews. "HAZMAT 3" is another shared resource that has a full complement of equipment that will assist Hazmat technicians with any incident. Both apparatus are housed at Station 35 once a year for one (1) month's time. Department members have an opportunity to become familiar with both apparatus and their functional components while they are assigned to Park Ridge.

2017 highlights:

- Team members responded to a High School in Morton Grove for an unknown chemical spill inside a chemistry lab. After the Hazmat team arrived on scene, the hazard was quickly identified and packaged. There were no reported injuries.
- Team members participated in a three-day full-scale exercise at Northwestern University dealing with hazard identification and mitigation.
- Department members received training on decontamination techniques.
- The Department hosted a Division 3 drill in September. The Hazmat team completed their bi-annual inventory of both Hazmat apparatus' at this time.
- FF/PM Aaron Blane successfully completed 96 hours of training making him the newest member of the team.



Dive Team **FF/PM Villari**

The goal of the Park Ridge Underwater Rescue and Recovery Team (URRT) is to provide the highest trained divers in response to all water related emergencies within Park Ridge's borders and our neighboring communities in MABAS Division 3. We have maintained this goal through the dedication of the team members and the consistent support from the City and the Department.

Training and Certifications

The team is comprised of six (6) members who maintain certifications as Public Safety Diver, Rescue Diver, Boat Operator, Ice Rescue Diver, and Swift Water Technician. It takes approximately two years, over one hundred training hours, and several specialized technical dives to reach this level of certification. All members meet or exceed the MABAS Division 3 training and certification requirements. In order for a diver to maintain their status as a diver for the Division, they must participate in several training dives throughout the year as well as pass a rigorous swim test annually.

Monthly, Division 3 schedules training sessions that focus on a specific dive related topic. During 2017, the Park Ridge Fire Department hosted an open water training dive held at Axe Head Lake, a local body of water within our Department's jurisdiction.

Aside from the monthly training as divers, the team plays a major role in all water safety and rescue training for the Park Ridge Fire Department as well as other Departments within the city. In 2017 team members held training sessions that included lessons on the use of personal flotation devices, dive support operations, diver tending, surface rescue and ice surface rescue.

The team was one of several that responded to Lincolnwood earlier this year to assist in the search and recovery of a Northwestern University student that fell into the water during a boating team practice session.

