

2018 Fire Department Annual Report

Past



Present

Park Ridge Fire Department

1893 – 2018: 125 Years of Service



Chief's Message **Chief Jeff Sorensen**

Residents of Park Ridge and Elected Officials,

I hereby submit the Annual Report of the Park Ridge Fire Department for the calendar year 2018.

This past year was historic for our Department, as we took steps to enhance our ability to respond to a growing demand for our services. Accordingly, our personnel responded to a record **5,187** calls in 2018! Ultimately, providing high quality service while being fiscally responsible is the goal of our Department.

As many are aware, in late 2017, we were able to add three new members to the Department in an effort to meet an increased service demand of approximately 15% over a 10-year view. Our new staffing strength allowed for us to enhance our ability to respond to the ever rising demand for service, utilizing an additional response apparatus, Rescue 36. We took delivery of this light weight, more fuel-efficient SUV in 2018 and the members of the Department worked to outfit the vehicle. The purpose of Rescue 36 is to handle first-out calls for EMS, along with an Ambulance response, in approximately 60 percent of our geographical coverage area. There are two members assigned to Rescue 36 when staffing allows. The addition of this vehicle means that, when fully staffed, there are now five (5) vehicles available every day that are outfitted with Advanced Life Support (ALS) equipment- Ambulance 35, Engine 35, Ambulance 36, Tower 36, and Rescue 36. In addition to this increase from four (4) to five (5) ALS vehicles, at certain times throughout the year we were able to staff a third Ambulance (Ambulance 37) which responded to multiple calls in 2018. All of this helped the Department manage a record number of calls in 2018, driven by health care facilities in town that comprise approximately 13% of our total call volume.

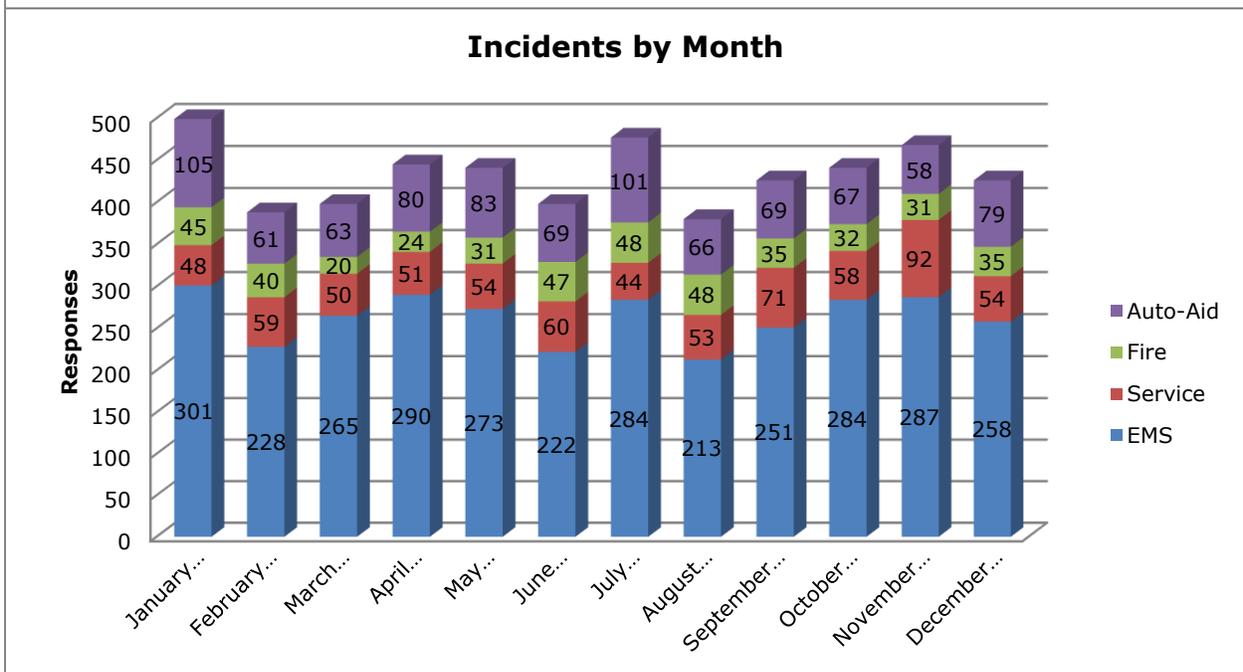
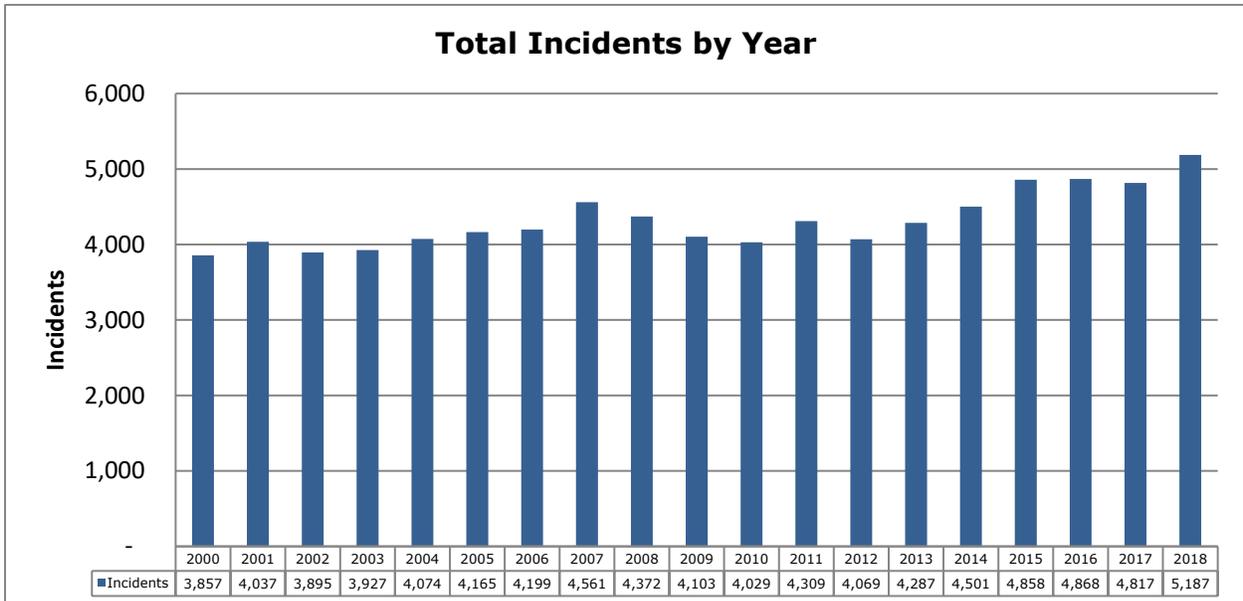
I hope that you enjoy reading our report, and please feel comfortable reaching out with any questions that you may have.

Jeff Sorensen
Fire Chief
City of Park Ridge
jsorensen@parkridgefd.org

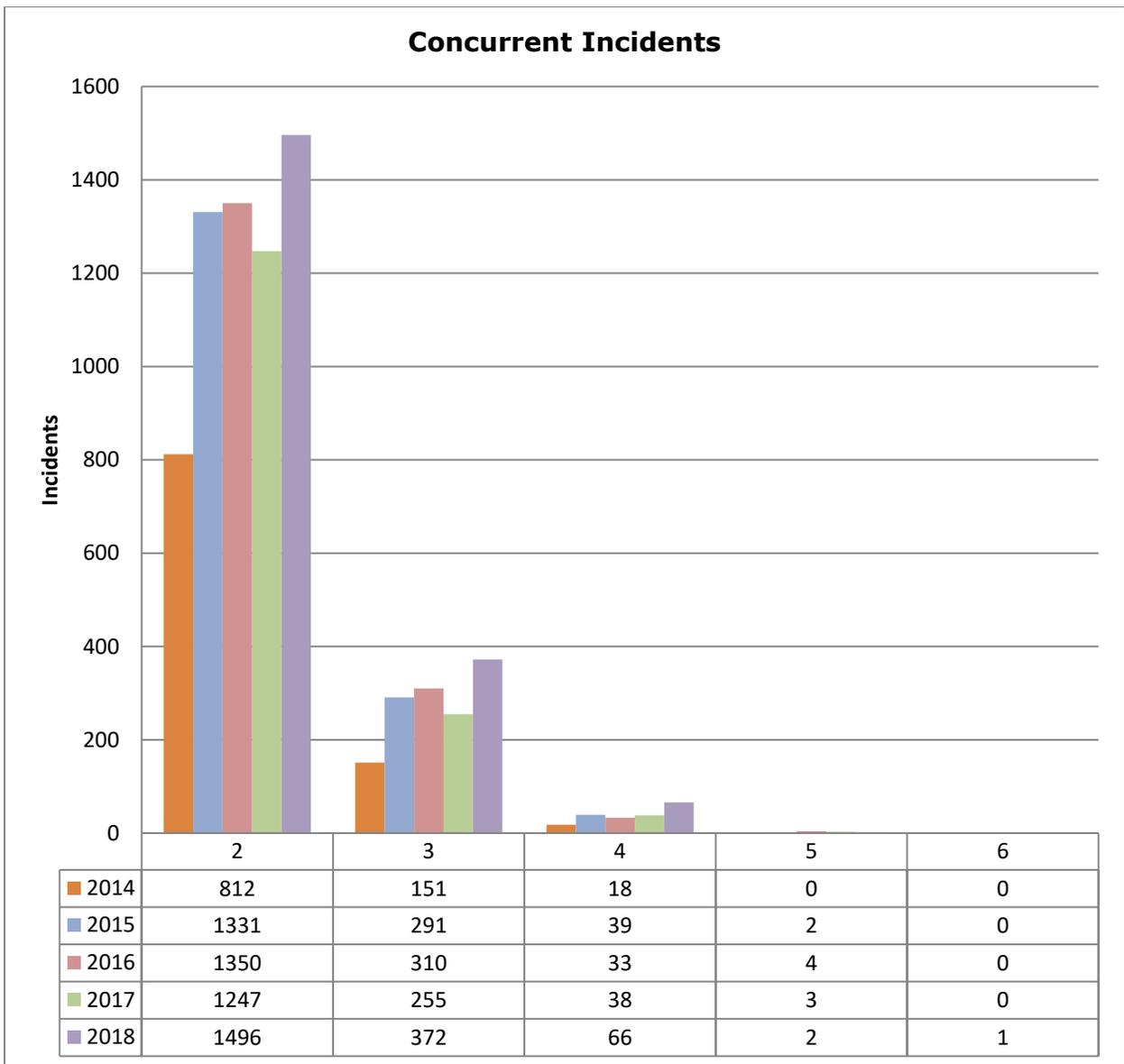
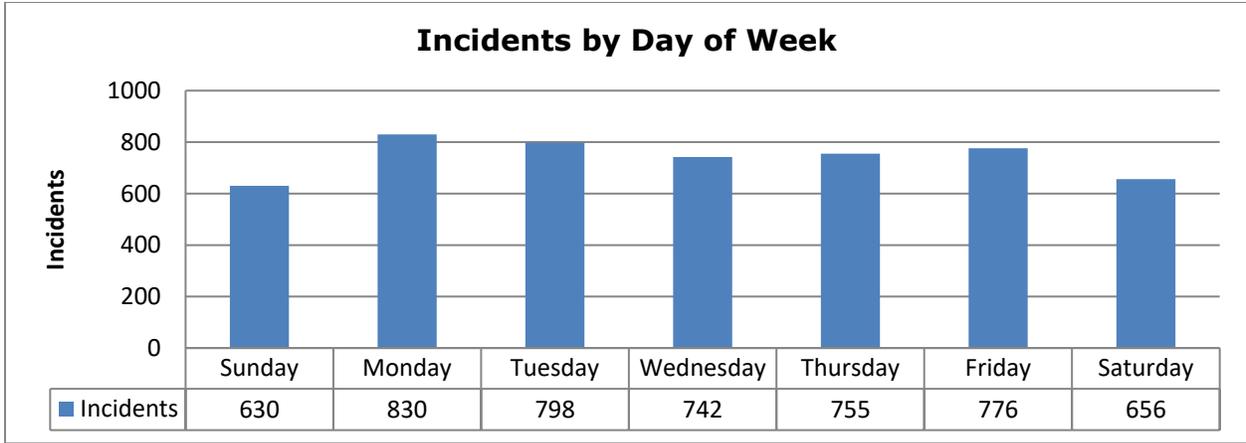


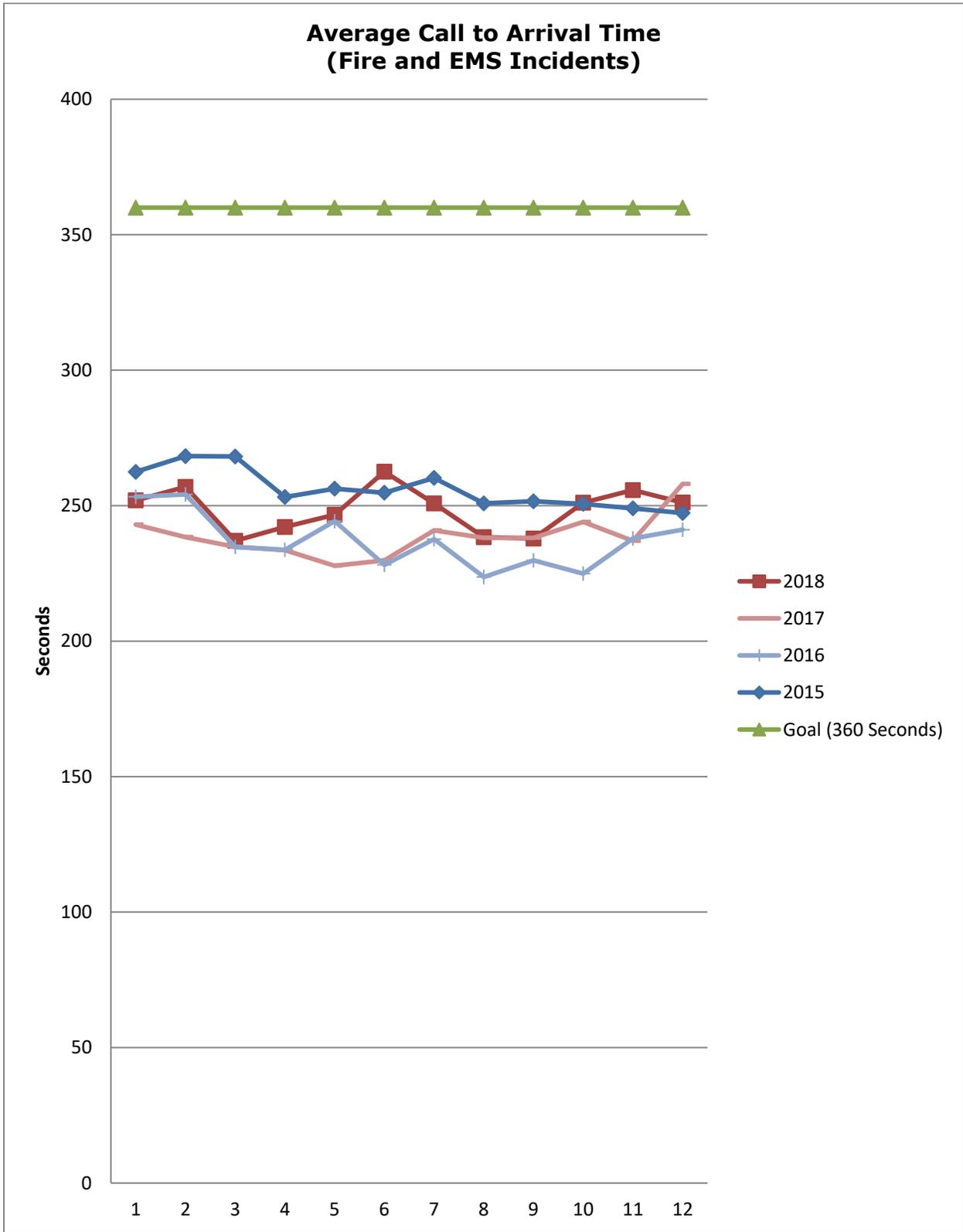
2018 Responses
Battalion Chief Hanson

For the first time in the history of the Park Ridge Fire Department, we responded to over 5,000 incidents in 2018, finishing the year with a total of 5,187. Due to this high number of incidents, we experienced a significant increase in concurrent calls. However, we were able to maintain our service levels to the community by utilizing the Rescue vehicle and the additional third ambulance when our staffing levels allowed for it. This kept our response times level even with the added call volume.



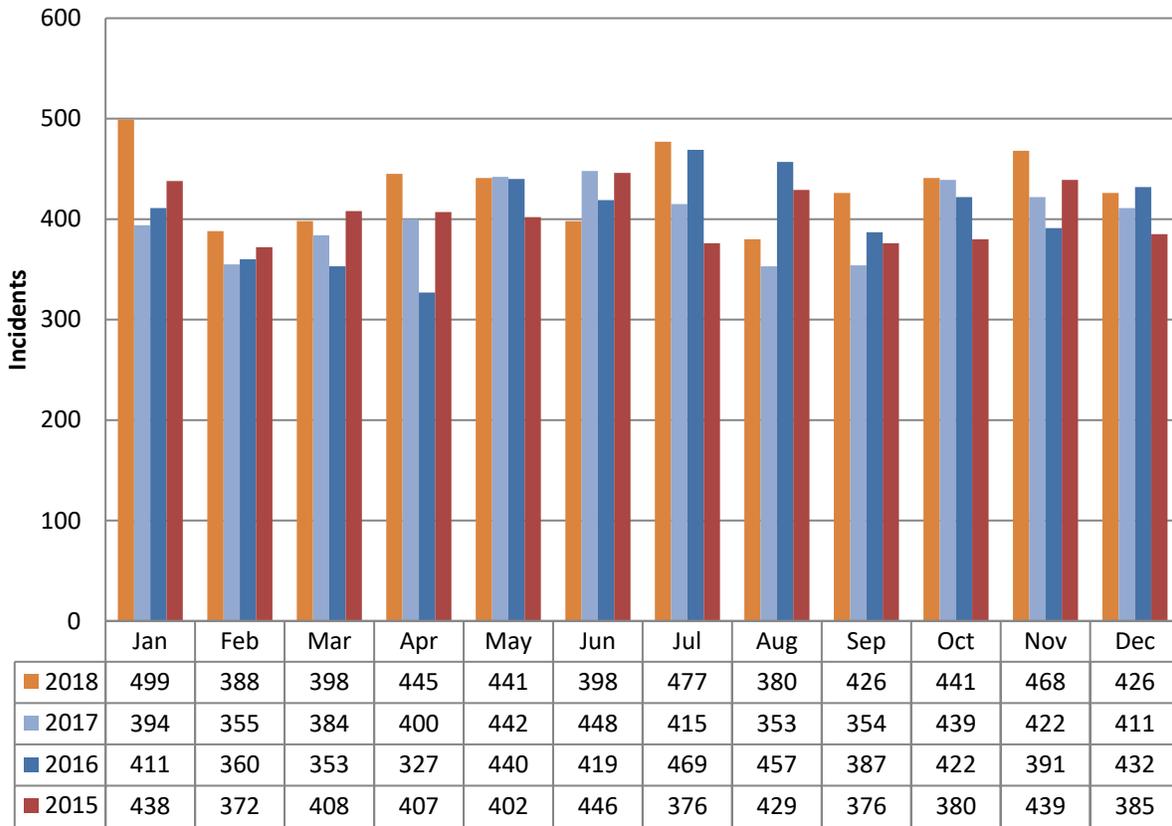
2018 Annual Report





2018 Annual Report

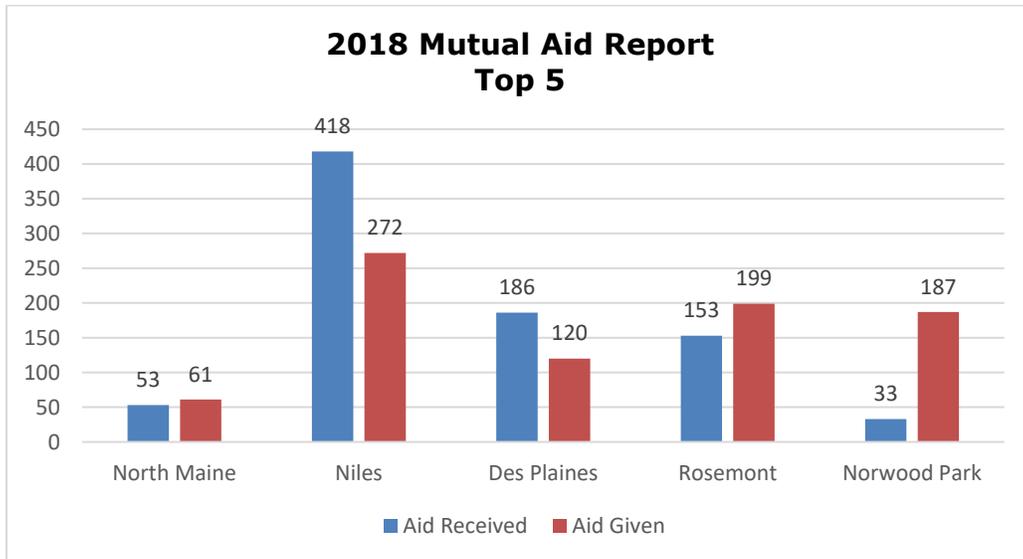
Call Volume Comparison by Month by Year



2018 Annual Report

The graph below shows the mutual aid received and given for Park Ridge during 2018 for our neighboring fire departments. Mutual aid relationships are essential to every fire department because they allow us to respond to all emergencies within a few minutes, even if our firefighters are all committed to other concurrent incidents. One of the benefits of our membership in RED Center as our fire dispatch facility is that requesting mutual aid from many of our neighbors occurs immediately and is based on the closest fire department vehicle to the location of the emergency. Since we share a radio frequency with most of our neighbors, RED Center can send them instantaneously when we need help, rather than having to call over to a separate dispatch facility to see if a neighboring department is available.

In total, we received mutual aid assistance 843 times and we gave mutual aid assistance 839 times in 2018. Even though there is a discrepancy between aid given and received with some individual departments, the overall totals are almost identical, which is usually indicative of a well run regional approach of emergency dispatch and response.



Administration Report

Executive Officer Paul Lisowski

- Executive Officer Lisowski submitted a successful grant application to FEMA in the amount of \$16,000. This money will purchase new CPR manikins used to train the public. We also will be able to purchase a full body simulator that our paramedics can use to improve their advanced life support skills.
- Chief Sorensen and Executive Officer Lisowski worked with Evanston and all other MABAS Division 3 Departments to receive a \$1.4 million dollar grant for the replacement of portable radios. Park Ridge is expected to receive over \$100,000 in federal funding to purchase new portable radios. Our radios were scheduled to be replaced in the near future, so this was a huge savings for the City.
- Chief Sorensen and Executive Officer Lisowski worked with the RED Center Joint Chiefs (JCA) and RED Center staff to begin the roll out of the new closest dispatch CAD system. Captain Derek Decker led the implementation for Park Ridge and his hard work throughout the process is integral to the success we have had with this new CAD.
- Captain Decker worked with Administration Staff and Shift Personnel to complete our Department's review by the Insurance Services Offices (ISO). This review occurs every few years and scores the Fire Department on many areas, including emergency response, water supply, and dispatch facilities. We maintained our "Class 3" classification, which puts us in the top 2% of fire departments in the country. Captain Decker worked relentlessly to ensure that we were given as much credit as possible in the scoring system for training and emergency response. We were also given bonus points for our newly revived public education program in the schools and with all other age groups in the City. We are working to improve in all the scoring areas with the hopes of moving up to a "Class 2" in the future.
- 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. FF/PM Nick Arzer took the lead in managing the team and recruiting volunteers.
- Completed Incident Action Plans (IAP's) for all major events in the City, including the Taste of Park Ridge and the July 3rd Fireworks. We worked with our neighboring fire departments on their IAP's as well to coordinate a regional plan for these high exposure incidents.
- Captain Derek Decker, the Department's Training Officer, was awarded Chief Fire Officer (CFO) designation from the State of Illinois.
- 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. We will look to improve upon this with flow testing beginning this



2018 Annual Report

summer in an effort to gain points towards 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. This program continues to be 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. He also worked at the Farmers Market, the Senior Center, and with the Library to continue our fire prevention outreach program.



Emergency Medical Services Battalion Chief Norton

Park Ridge Fire Department emergency medical personnel responded to 3,398 EMS incidents in 2018. This is a new all-time record number of EMS runs for our Department. These incidents included ambulance requests for cardiac and other medical problems, trauma, mutual aid, and a myriad of other potentially life-threatening emergencies. Ambulance personnel also responded to 1,789 fire and rescue calls in addition to the EMS incidents.

EMS incidents in 2018 represented 66% of the Park Ridge Fire Department's total responses. Of these, Advanced Life Support (ALS) calls accounted for 56.0% of the EMS incidents, a total of 1,903 incidents.

Of these ALS responses, some of the most critical are the STEMI cases. A STEMI is a full blown heart attack caused by the complete blockage of a coronary artery. STEMI stands for ST elevation myocardial infarction. "ST elevation" refers to a particular pattern on an EKG heart tracing and "myocardial infarction" is the medical term for a heart attack. On average, we respond to one STEMI run every other month.

Additionally, our record number of EMS runs were driven, in part, by the healthcare facilities in Park Ridge. These calls comprised 13% of our total call volume, and 18% of our EMS calls.

Highlights for 2018:

- Placed Ambulance 37, a third ambulance, in service when staffing allowed.
- Precepted 3 students from the ALGH EMSS 2018 Paramedic class. All 3 successfully completed the course.
- Purchased and placed in service new video laryngoscopes on all ALS vehicles.



Training ***Captain Decker***

Training the Fire Department's personnel is an active function of the Department. Training is scheduled daily, covering varying topics using 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 skill through repetition and advanced drill design.

There were many goals the Training Division was looking to accomplish in 2018 to enhance the training of our staff. New training props were acquired (forcible entry) and others were built (firefighter survival course). Additionally, opportunities for the integration of better technology were pursued and the result was the transition to a new training management program, Target Solutions. The new training platform will benefit the Department so the design of training, its scheduling and records management can be completed with greater ease providing more time to address other training needs.



Fire Investigation Team
Lieutenant Ortlund



- The Park Ridge Fire Department's Fire Investigation Team consists of eight Fire Investigators, one of whom is also certified as an Arson Investigator. Regular training and field experience are required to maintain knowledge and skill and are also necessary to maintain certifications 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 38 reported fire incidents in Park Ridge in 2018. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the incidents were classified as *Accidental* causes; ten percent (10%) of the incidents were classified as *Incendiary* (intentionally set), and thirty-two percent (32%) of fires were classified as *Undetermined*.
- Thirty-two percent (32%) of the 2018 fire incidents in Park Ridge occurred in residential structures.
- According to the National Fire Protection Association, fires in residential structures (one and two-family homes) account for the greatest number of fire fatalities (96%) compared to other occupancy types (NFPA, 2017).
- Forty-five percent (45%) of the 2018 *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's thirty-three SCBA, five RIT (rapid intervention team) packs, two supplied respirators and nearly sixty face pieces were flow tested for their required annual flow test. Units that did not pass were repaired in-house and retested until all units successfully passed. Once again, this was all completed in-house by our two SCBA repair technicians.
- Members of the Department were given an OSHA required fit test and OSHA required physical for their SCBA face piece along with a N95 mask for medical first responders. This was completed by the SCBA team technicians using new equipment purchased by the Foreign Fire Tax board. The new equipment cut the testing time down from 10 minutes on each mask to just two minutes for each mask.
- Occasionally a SCBA will be in need of repairs for either worn parts or an air pack leaking. During this past year we had only two air packs that were sent out for repairs. We had several other air packs and a couple of air cylinders that were repaired by our Departments SCBA repair technicians. The air packs are nearing the end of their service life and we try to maintain them to maximize their lifespan.
- Additionally, all the SCBA cylinders are required by OSHA to be hydrostatically tested every five years. This was the second time for each cylinder to be tested hydrostatically. The cylinders were sent out for the test and all cylinders passed the testing process. The SCBA air cylinders only have five more years of service life left, at which time they must be replaced.



Pre-Plans
Lieutenant Portell

Pre-Incident Planning is one of the many important objectives the Park Ridge Fire Department has set forth to ensure the residents and businesses of Park Ridge receive the best and most efficient service possible.

In addition to the benefits for our citizens and businesses, Pre-Incident Planning allows firefighters to enhance their geographical knowledge of the City and become more familiar with not only existing buildings, but also new and changing occupancies. When obtaining information from Pre-Incident Planning, emergency operations at these locations become expedited and more efficient.

At the conclusion of the 2018 calendar year, there are approximately 200 active pre-plans logged within Command Scope, the computer program that the Park Ridge Fire Department uses to monitor this information. This program, as well as its relevant information, is available in all Fire Department response vehicles and at both fire stations.

Fire crews are assigned specific locations within the City to conduct pre-plan walk throughs and gather the data unique to each site. Each crew completes an information packet for every address they visit which contains pertinent information the Fire Department will use when responding these locations.

This information includes:

- Contact information of building owners, occupants, and maintenance crews
- Building size, occupancy, and construction type, including lightweight construction locations to monitor for early recognition of structural failures
- Hazardous material information and storage locations
- Fire alarms, fire suppression systems and connection locations, and standpipe locations
- Shut-off locations for various utilities (gas, water, electric, etc.) used at the location
- Important locations within a structure containing areas of refuge for people needing rescue or assistance
- Pictures and diagrams of the structure and positions within the structure to assist with emergency operations
- Fire hydrant locations

Maine East High School
1601 W. Dempester Street
Park Ridge, IL 60069, CookFire Plan Date: 02-02-2018

Parcel #	0	Inspection District	3600
Emergency ID	0	Response District	3600
Fire Plan Date	02-02-2018	Station	3601 - Fire Box (3600)
Responsible Firefighter	Al Prater	Box Alarm #	3601 - Fire Box (3600)
Call Method	96-17-2516, Flood Alarm		

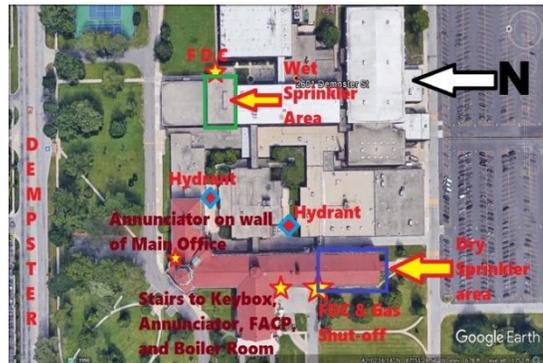
Caution / Warning

Real "Quick" View

Building Information

Fire Protection

Page 1



Fire Prevention Bureau Lieutenant Plach

2018 was another busy year for the Fire Prevention Bureau. We completed plan reviews and inspections on numerous construction projects including the expansion of Kiddie Academy, several projects at the Advocate Lutheran General campus, many single-family homes that are either new or remodeled and the completion of the new offices for BJB Partners. The Fire Prevention Bureau also partnered with local business owners, property managers and tenants to complete annual fire inspections on all commercial properties in town. We are also proud to say that this year saw the completion of the 1000th home with a fire sprinkler system. This is a great milestone for a community this size. Park Ridge should be commended for providing its citizens with this level of fire safety since 2001.

During this past year the Fire Prevention Bureau worked with the CP+D Department during the implementation of their new permitting/inspection software. This is being used on all construction projects to perform inspections. We are currently working with our Pre-plan software vendor to implement their inspection software to be used for annual fire inspections. Using this software will allow for relevant information from inspections to be imported directly to building pre-plans. Pre-plans are used by Fire Department personnel when responding to emergencies at buildings in town. This software is currently being modified to be compatible with tablets, iPads and smartphones in the field and is expected to be released in early 2019.

Fire Prevention has also been active in training of residents, businesses, schools, and Fire Department personnel. We continue to be members of the Emergency Planning Committee at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Maine East and Maine South.

2018 saw another successful Open House on the day after Thanksgiving, a strong CPR program offered to the community, visits to the schools, and staffing at several community events such as fireworks shows and the Taste of Park Ridge. This year marked the retirement of long-time inspector Rich Kufner. Rich spent a total of 42 years working for the Fire Department in various capacities and had a wonderful relationship with the business community. He will be missed. The part-time Fire Inspector's position is currently being filled by FF/PM Bill Smaha who is working in this role on his days off shift. Bill has been a welcome addition and I am confident he will have the same great working relationship and provide the same level of customer service as Rich.

In conclusion, the Fire Prevention Bureau looks forward to the challenges of 2019 and will continue to provide a high level of customer service to keep Park Ridge fire safe.



Technical Rescue Team (TRT)
FF/PM Malcomson

The Technical Rescue Team is comprised of eight highly trained firefighters who perform rescues in specific situations that call for specialized response.

- 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 pleased to announce that FF/PM Frank Villari was installed as a Squad Officer for the MABAS Division 3 TRT. In this role, he will be assigned to leading rescue squads at incidents within the Division.



Hazardous Materials Team FF/PM Cleary

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

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" which is 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. "Decon 3" is a truck that is shared resource that 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 vehicles stay at Station 35 once a year for four weeks during their annual rotation among the fire departments in our MABAS Division. Department members have an opportunity to become familiar with both vehicles and their functional components.

2018 highlights:

- PRFD crews responded to a local hospital for a propylene glycol spill of approximately 250 gallons. Several in-room patients required placement to other areas of the hospital as the incident was mitigated and cleaned up. No injuries resulted from the incident.
- Team members participated in a 3-day full-scale exercise at Northwestern University dealing with hazard identification and mitigation.
- Department members received annual training on mass and technical decontamination techniques.
- The department purchased one fully encapsulated suit for Squad 35 to replace an expired suit.

Lt. Matthew Jarka stepped down from the Hazardous Materials team. We thank Matt for his years of service as a Hazardous Materials Technician.



Dive/Underwater Rescue and Recovery Team FF/PM Villari

The goal of the Park Ridge Underwater Rescue and Recovery Team (URRT) is to provide the highest trained divers ready to respond 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 Fire Department.

Training and Certifications

The team is comprised of three members who maintain certifications as Public Safety Diver, Rescue Diver, Boat Operations, 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. All team divers 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 passing a rigorous swim test annually. The team is also comprised of three boat operators. These operators have previously been certified as rescue divers and now they fulfill the team support role in several specialized areas. The specialty areas include sonar technician, ROV technician, boat operations and shore support.

Monthly, Division 3 schedules training sessions that focus on a specific dive related topic. During 2018, the Park Ridge Fire Department hosted an open water training dive held at Axe Head Lake, a local body of water within Park Ridge's response area.

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 2018 team members held training sessions that included lessons on the use of personal floatation devices, dive support operations, diver tending, surface rescue and ice surface rescue.

Our team was one of several that responded to Highland Park to assist in the search of a female swimmer who was swept offshore during a group swim in Lake Michigan.

