



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Park Ridge Fire Department

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CHIEF'S MESSAGE

CHIEF JEFF SORENSEN

It is my honor as the Fire Chief to present the Annual Report of the Park Ridge Fire Department for 2019. The members of this Department are instrumental in compiling this document that is intended to provide the best update possible, highlighting the accomplishments of this first-class Department.

2019 was a historic year for the Department, as we continued the trend of increased demand for service, finishing with 5,367 calls. This remains a very labor-intensive occupation, and unfortunately the hazards of the profession took its toll this year with numerous injuries to our staff, the majority of which occurred on emergency calls. Lifting patients continues to be the number one cause of injury, as over 3,000 people were lifted, carried, removed or otherwise carried out of houses, buildings, cars and other locations in 2019 on emergency medical calls.

We continue to look for equipment, methods, and processes that can improve the health and safety of our firefighters. The PRFD is evaluating all of the factors that increase the exposures known to cause cancer. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, firefighters face a 9% increase in cancer diagnoses and a 14% increase in cancer-related deaths, compared to the cancer rates of the general population in the United States. Every aspect of the workplace is being scrutinized, including our protective gear, fire apparatus, and fire stations. I look forward to much progress in these areas, and I applaud the members of this Department for the difficult job they perform every day. I will personally always hope for, and be constantly concerned about, the safety of our entire Department.

I simply could not be prouder than I am to serve the Park Ridge Fire Department, and I welcome any feedback that you may have at the email address below.

Respectfully,

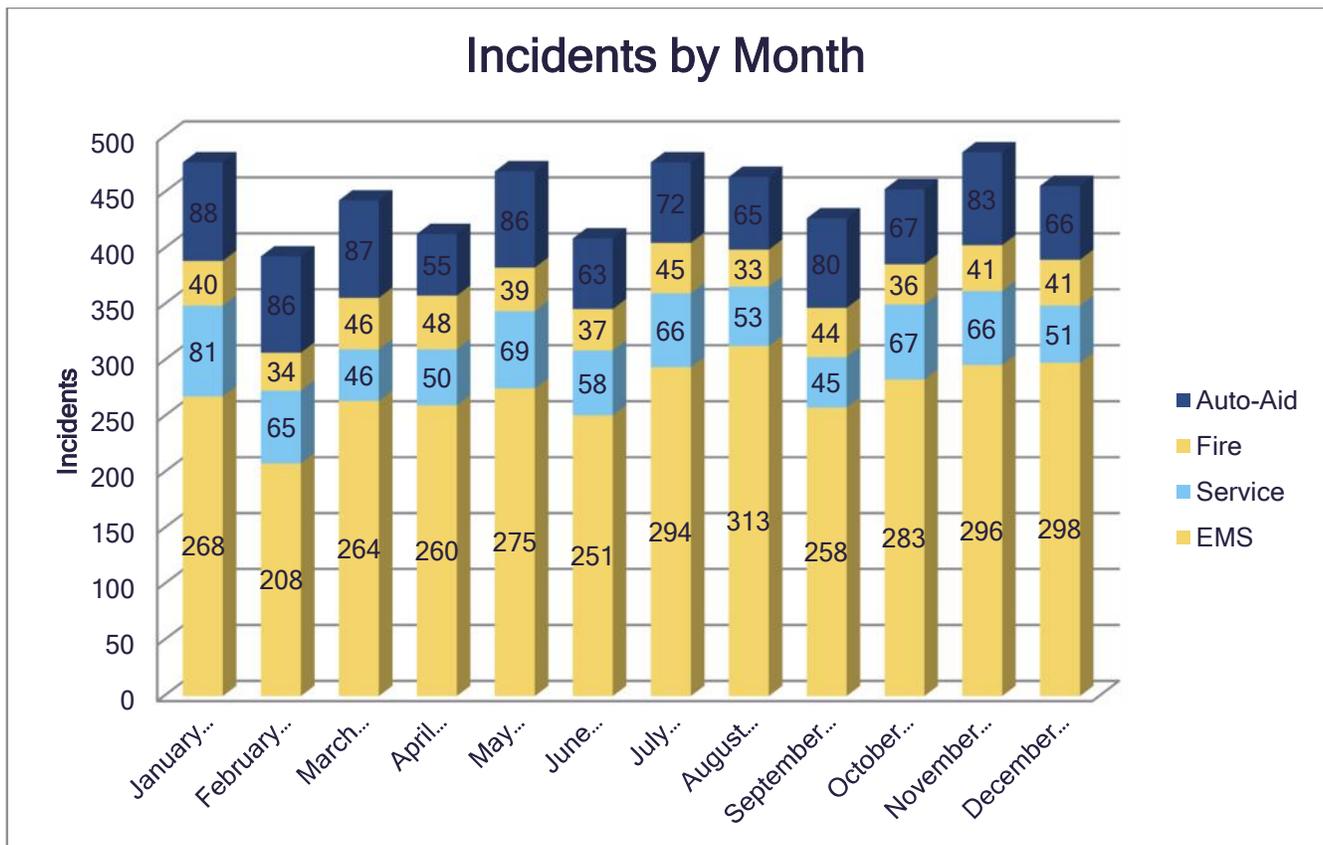
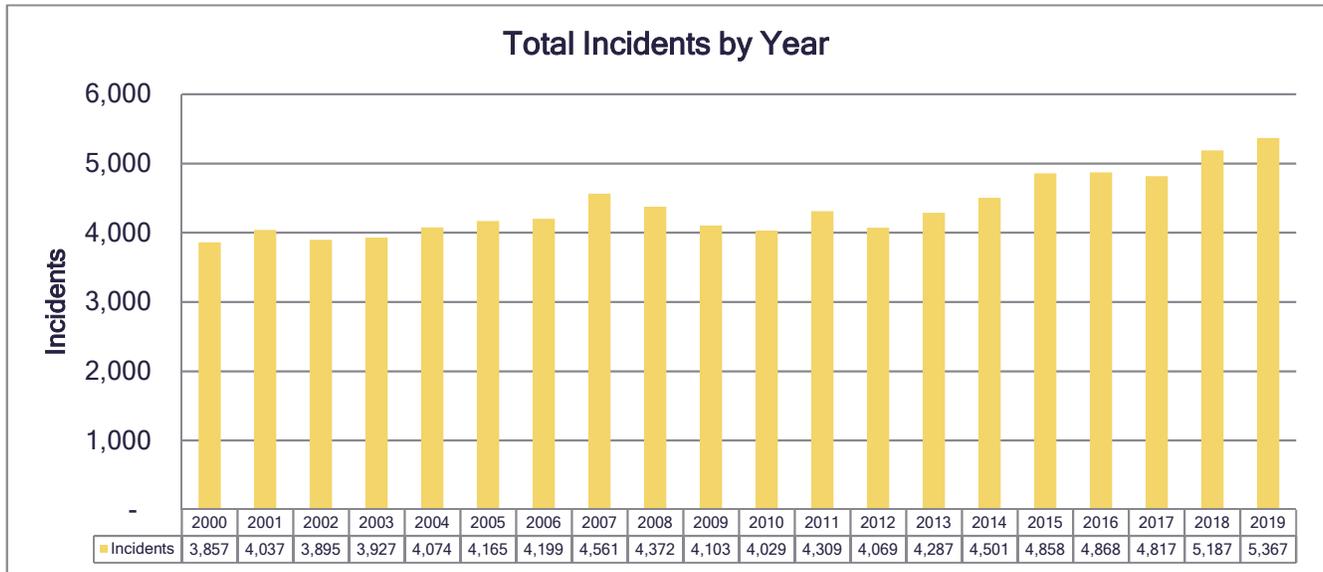
Jeff Sorensen
Fire Chief
City of Park Ridge
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2019 RESPONSES

BATTALION CHIEF JOHN HANSON

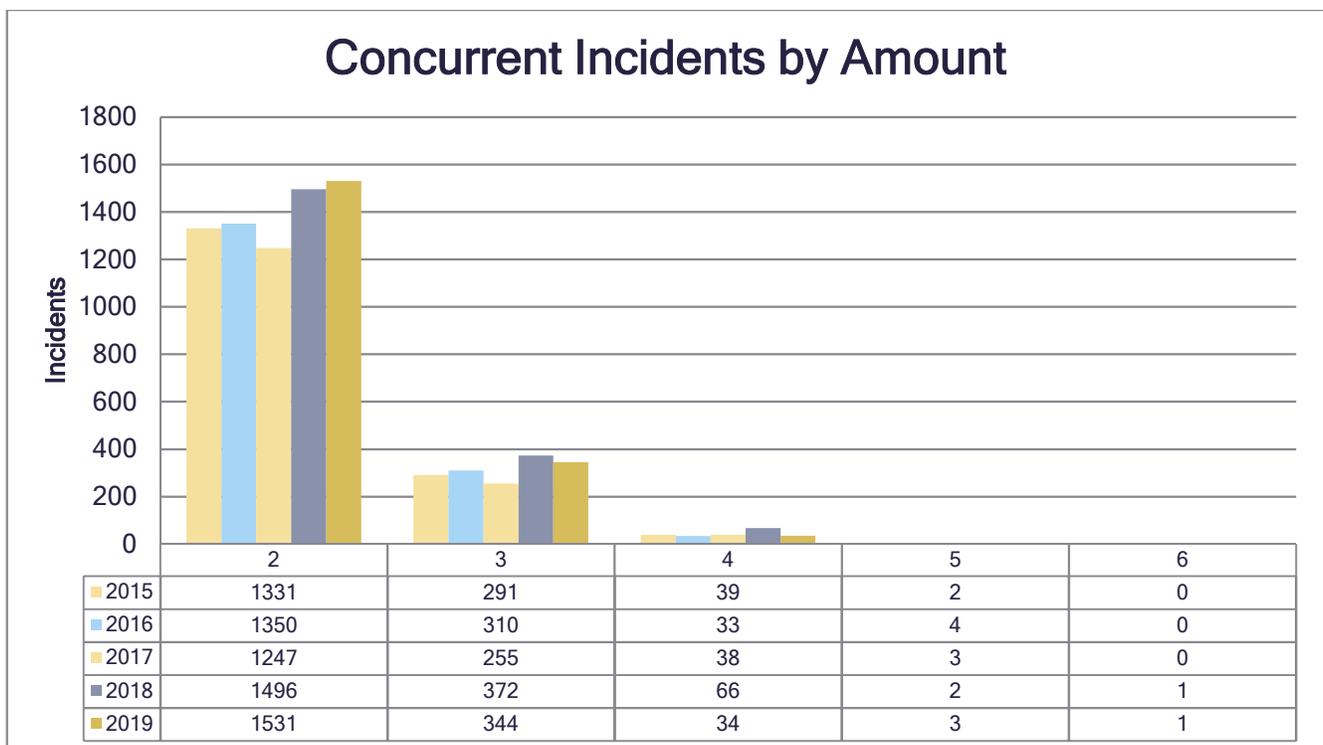
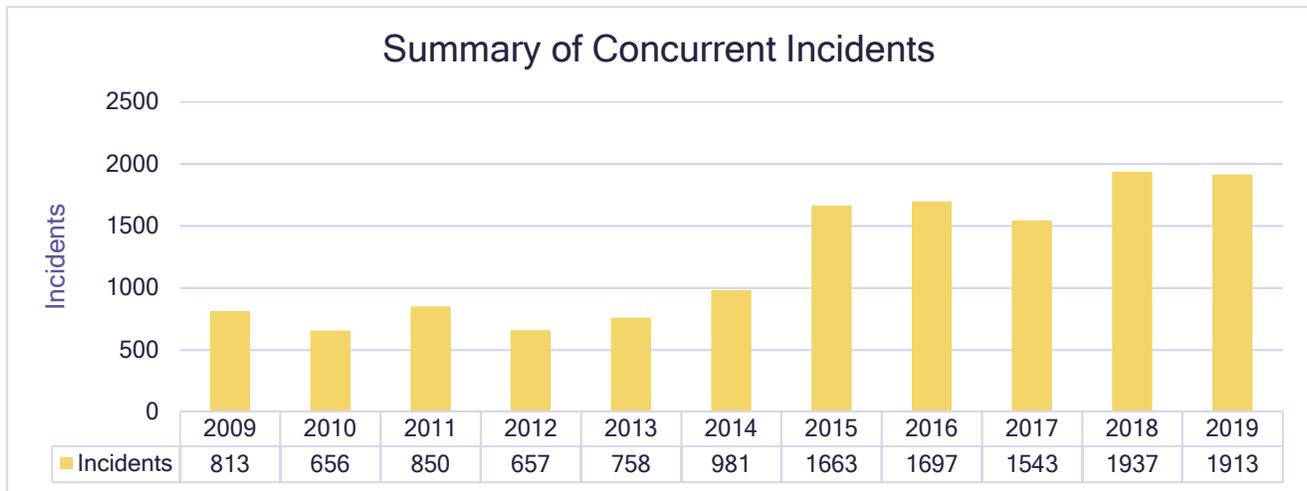
Total Incidents

This past year, our total incidents increased by 3.5% for a record setting 5,367 incidents in 2019. We saw increases in EMS, Service, and Fire incidents and a negligible reduction in automatic mutual aid to our neighbors.

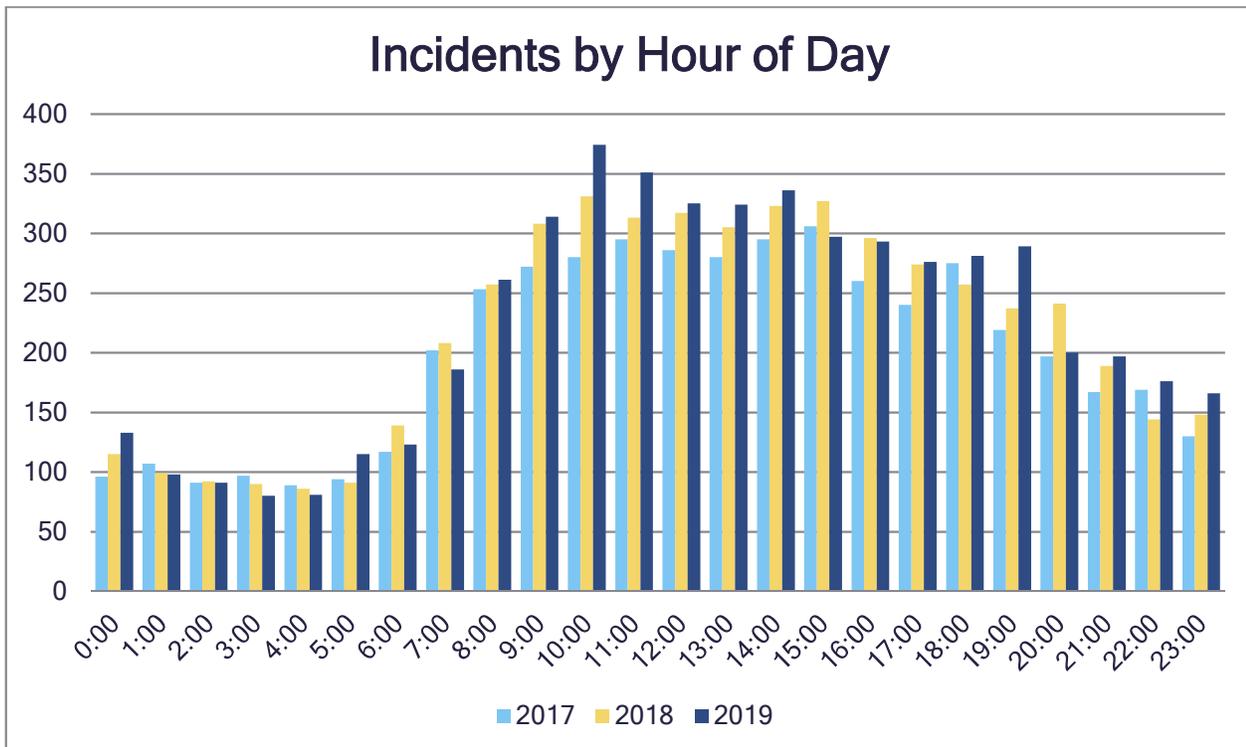
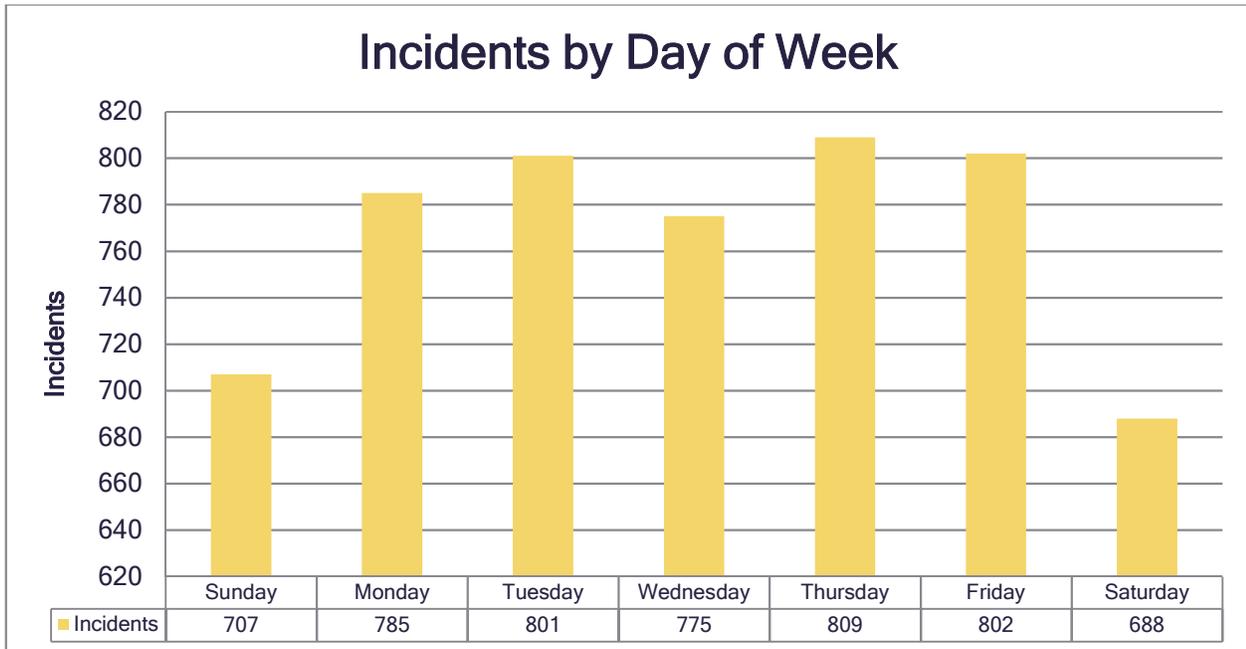


Concurrent Incidents

During 2019, 36% of our incidents occurred while at least one other incident was being handled. We refer to these as concurrent or simultaneous incidents. Concurrent or simultaneous incidents remained consistent with 2018 figures, with a slight increase in two and five concurrent incidents and a slight reduction in three and four concurrent incidents. When the number of concurrent incidents exceeds our ability to respond to incidents in the City, we must rely on surrounding communities to assist our citizens. In 2019, there were twelve incidents where there was no Park Ridge equipment available to respond and the entire call was handled by our neighbors. When staffing allows, we put our Rescue and third Ambulance in service which helps reduce response time and dependence on surrounding communities when multiple calls are occurring.

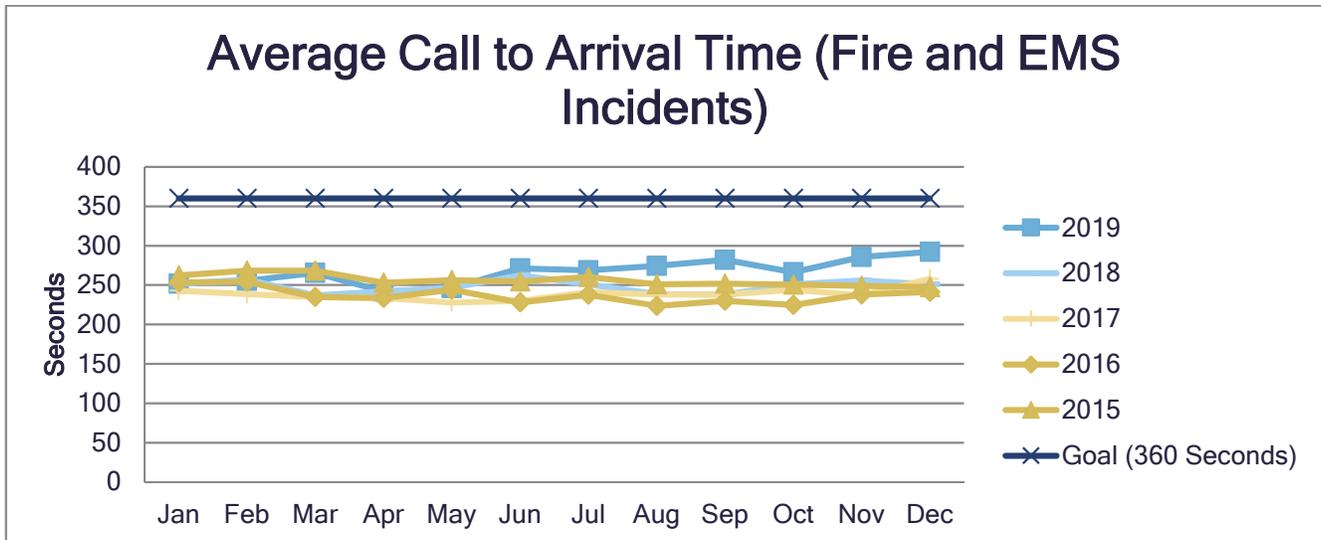


Incident Occurrences



Response Times

We measure our response time based on when the incident is received by dispatch to our arrival on the scene. In 2019, we again were well under the goal time of 360 seconds. We did see a slight increase this year, but that is to be expected with our increase in call volume. We hope to see improvement in this area in 2020.



ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICER PAUL LISOWSKI

- J Executive Officer Lisowski submitted a successful grant application to FEMA for the replacement of the Fire Department's extrication equipment. The City will be receiving \$43,091 from FEMA to assist in this purchase. This equipment was scheduled to be replaced in our capital budget in the next fiscal year, so this grant provides a significant reduction to our budget request for FY21.
- J Fire Department staff worked to replace the remaining portion of the Department's portable radios. Most of the radios and equipment for our frontline vehicles were replaced in the previous year with approximately \$100,000 in grant revenue from FEMA that was awarded to our MABAS Division. The complete replacement of our portable radio network will be concluded in FY21 when the firefighter personnel accountability hardware and software will be purchased and installed.
- J Chief Sorensen and Executive Officer Lisowski worked with the Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security on a five-year update of the City's chapter of the Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- J Chief Sorensen and Executive Officer Lisowski worked with representatives from the Police Department and the Cook County Department of Public Health to update our Emergency Regional Mass Dispensing Protocol.
- J Fire Department staff began work on updating the station alerting and speaker network in the fire stations as part of RED Center's upgrade of their dispatching technology.
- J Chief Sorensen, Executive Officer Lisowski and Battalion Chief Sankey were part of the City's negotiating team, along with other City staff, in contract negotiations with Local 2697 of the International Association of Fire Fighters.
- J Fire Department staff, led by Captain Decker, worked to fill four vacancies and hired four new firefighter/paramedics - Zach Geib, Jake Holwell, Scott Fieri, and M.J. Kempster.
- J Chief Sorensen, Executive Officer Lisowski and multiple PRFD personnel again participated in the annual St. Baldrick's fundraiser at Harp and Fiddle, raising money to help find cures for pediatric cancer. Team Captain FF/PM Nick Arzer managed the team and recruited volunteers.
- J Completed Incident Action Plans (IAP's) for all major events in the City, including the Taste of Park Ridge and the July 3rd Fireworks. Additionally, we worked with our

neighboring fire departments on their IAP's to coordinate a regional plan for their high exposure incidents.

- J 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. This year we added weekly flow testing to improve our future ISO score and accurately measure the hydrant pressure in different areas of the City.
- J Chief Sorensen and Executive Officer Lisowski attended multiple MABAS Division 3 meetings each month. Chief Sorensen continued his role as the Vice-President of our MABAS Division.
- J Chief Sorensen and Executive Officer Lisowski attended quarterly meetings of the Park Ridge Citizens Corps Council.
- J 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.
- J Chief Sorensen and Executive Officer Lisowski attended regular District 64 Crisis Communications Committee meetings.
- J Executive Officer Lisowski, Fire Marshal Kevin Plach, and Fire Inspector William Smaha 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 (EMS)

BATTALION CHIEF TIM NORTON

During 2019, the Park Ridge Fire Department emergency medical personnel responded to 3,268 EMS incidents within our City limits and provided EMS aid to our surrounding communities 230 times. This is again a new record number of EMS runs for the Park Ridge Fire Department. 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 2019 represented 65% of the Park Ridge Fire Department's total responses. Of these, Advanced Life Support (ALS) calls accounted for 53.0% of the EMS incidents, for a total of 1,854 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.

Highlights for 2019

-) Purchased a computerized simulation manikin with grant funding to aid in training paramedics how to successfully mitigate various Advanced Life Support (ALS) EMS calls.
-) Precepted three students from the ALGH EMSS 2019 Paramedic class. All three successfully completed the course.
-) Instituted new Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) from Advocate Lutheran General Emergency Medical Services System (ALGH EMSS).



TRAINING

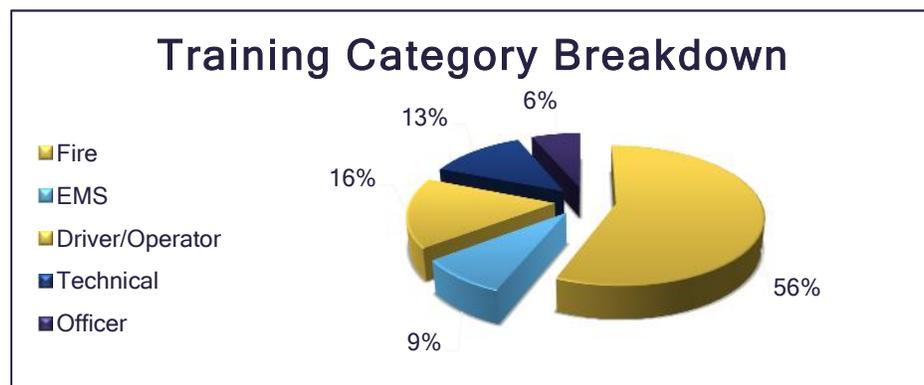
CAPTAIN DEREK DECKER

2019 Overview

Training the Fire Department's personnel is an active function of the Department. Training is scheduled daily covering varying topics using multiple 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. Training through 2019 focused on the following general disciplines: City Familiarization, Core Competencies, Driver/Operator, Emergency Medical Services, Officer Development, Safety and Technical Competencies.

Training in 2019 totaled 22,093 hours. The charts provide a breakdown of 2019's training by month and category.



Notable Accomplishments

Fire Academy Graduation

FF/PM Geib, FF/PM Holwell, FF/PM Fieri, FF/PM Kempster

New Certification

LT/PM Ascione (Hazmat Incident Commander), FF/PM Blane (Fire Officer 2)

FF/PM Cleary (Fire Investigator & Fire Officer 2), FF/PM Herling (Fire Officer 2)

FF/PM Kuester (Diver Certifications), FF/PM Malcomson (Fire Officer 2)

FF/PM Pavone (Fire Officer 2), FF/PM Perkins (Fire Investigator), FF/PM Piltaver (Fire Officer 2)

FF/PM Schneider (Fire Officer 2), FF/PM Sempoch (Fire Officer 1)

FF/PM Smaha (Advanced Fire Prevention Officer), FF/PM Villari (Fire Officer 2)

FF/PM Wilson (Rope Technician), LT/PM Wolff (Hazmat Incident Commander)



FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

LIEUTENANT JOHN ORTLUND

2019 Overview

The Park Ridge Fire Department's Fire Investigation Team consists of seven 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 required 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 33 reported fire incidents in Park Ridge in 2019. Seventy-Two percent (72%) of the incidents were classified as Accidental causes; Three percent (3%) of the incidents were classified as Incendiary (intentionally set), and Twenty-Five percent (25%) were classified as Undetermined.

Forty percent (40%) of the 2019 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 (Ahrens, 2013).

Fifty percent (50%) of the 2019 Accidental fires in Park Ridge can be considered preventable; (improper use, care/maintenance, storage, or disposal).



SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA)

FF/PM JOHN PILTAVER

A critical piece of equipment in the firefighting ensemble is the SCBA worn by firefighters while in hazardous atmospheres. The care and maintenance of SCBAs requires highly trained individuals and annual testing to keep them operational. Here are some highlights from 2019:

- J The Department's thirty-three SCBA, five RIT 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.
- J Members of the Department were given an OSHA required fit test and OSHA required physicals for their SCBA face pieces along with an N95 mask for medical first responders. This was completed by the SCBA team technicians using our Quantifit fit tester which was purchased by the Foreign Fire Tax board. The equipment cut the testing time down from ten minutes on each mask to just two minutes for each mask.
- J Occasionally an SCBA will need repairs for either worn parts or leaking air. During this past year we had only one air pack that was sent out for repairs. We had several other air packs and air cylinders that were repaired by our Department's SCBA repair technicians. Our SCBAs are now twelve years old and each year are requiring more repairs.
- J 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 are approaching their service life, at which time they must be replaced.
- J Long time SCBA administrator Lieutenant John Boeringa retired in 2019 and transferred his duties to Firefighter/ Paramedic John Piltaver who has been helping with maintenance and testing for over ten years.



PRE-PLANS

LIEUTENANT AL PORTELL

Each year Fire Department personnel are assigned specific locations within the City to conduct pre-plan data gathering. Each crew completes an information packet for every address they visit that contains pertinent information used during Fire Department activities and when responding to 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

The Pre-Incident Planning Program is coordinated with the Training Division. The scheduled inspections are conducted as monthly Company drills from June through November. Once the data from the collection worksheet is entered into Command Scope program, all department members review them as part of our monthly training program.

At the conclusion of the 2019 calendar year, there will be approximately 225 active pre-plans logged within Command Scope, the computer program that the Park Ridge Fire Department uses to monitor this information. This program and its relevant information are available in all fire response vehicles and at both fire stations.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

LIEUTENANT KEVIN PLACH

2019 was a year of transition for the Fire Prevention Bureau as we took on new duties and continued with inspections, plan reviews and public education. During the summer months, Fire Prevention worked with our summer hydrant crew and Captain Decker to conduct flow testing in select areas of the City. This information will help maintain our ISO rating as well as provide necessary flow information for firefighting operations. This information is also used to calculate the hydraulic demand for fire suppression systems in new and existing buildings. We also oversaw the installation of fire sprinklers in the basement and attic of City Hall and the upgrades to fire alarm notification devices in City Hall.

The Fire Prevention Bureau conducted over 350 plan reviews, 1,400 inspections and revamped the key box program for local businesses and residents. Additionally, Fire Prevention responded on numerous calls for service/alarm issues. This allows shift personnel to remain available for more emergent calls.

Fire Prevention has also been active in the training of residents, businesses, schools and fire personnel. We continue to be members of the Emergency Planning Committee at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Maine East and Maine South. The CPR and car seat programs were active for a good portion of the year. Once again, we collaborated with District 64 and St. Andrews Lutheran school to train 8th grade students on how to use a fire extinguisher. We trained approximately 550 students by conducting a classroom presentation, followed by a practical exercise. This exercise allowed students to extinguish a small fire with the knowledge they learned in the classroom portion. 2019 saw another successful Open House on the day after Thanksgiving, visits to the schools, and staffing at several community events such as fireworks shows and the Taste of Park Ridge.



(Obstructed sprinkler pipe)



(Pre-action controller)



(Clean agent Fire Suppression tanks)

TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

FF/PM DAVE MALCOMSON

The Technical Rescue Team (TRT) is comprised of six 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

On May 4, 2019, a silicone facility in Waukegan exploded. The MABAS Division 3 was requested to the scene to evaluate the collapse structure and to search for three missing victims. Park Ridge sent four technicians as part of the 25-person task force. Once on scene, the TRT joined with the MABAS Division 4 Hazardous Materials team and recon squads were deployed to identify hazards and locate victims.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

FF/PM CHRIS CLEARY

The Hazardous Materials Team is comprised of four 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. Team members must obtain a minimum of 80 training hours to keep their status on the Division roster.

Being part of Division 3 enables Park Ridge to utilize MABAS Division 3 Hazardous Material vehicles. The two shared Division vehicles are “Decon 3” and “HAZMAT 3”. “Decon 3” is used for mass decontamination as well as individual cleaning of patients and crews. “HAZMAT 3” has a full complement of equipment that will assist Hazmat technicians with any incident. Both vehicles rotate between all Division 3 departments throughout the year. Department members have an opportunity to become familiar with both vehicles and their functional components.

2019 highlights:

-) The PRFD responded to the gas station fire in July of 2019, which involved a hazardous material. A HAZMAT box alarm was activated, bringing HAZMAT personnel to our town from surrounding Division 3 departments. Additionally, HAZMAT 3 and DECON 3 responded to the scene.
-) Team members responded to three HAZMAT box alarms throughout Division 3.
-) Team members participated in a three-day full-scale exercise at Northwestern University dealing with hazard identification and mitigation.
-) Department members received annual training on mass and technical decontamination techniques as part of their Hazardous Material Operations certification.

-) The department purchased one fully encapsulated (LEVEL A) suit for Squad 35 to replace an expired suit.



DIVE TEAM

FF/PM FRANK VILLARI

The Dive team is comprised of four members who maintain certifications in multiple dive disciplines including Public Safety Diver, Rescue Diver, Boat Operator, Ice Rescue Diver, and Swift Water Technician. Our Dive team is at the ready to respond to any of the seventeen bodies of water within the City Limits as well as to our surrounding communities when requested. Additional facts about our team:

-) The team also responds to emergencies within eighteen surrounding north suburban communities as a part of their duties associated with being a MABAS Division 3 dive team.
-) All team members meet or exceed the MABAS Division 3 training and certification requirements.
-) All divers must participate in several training dives throughout the year to maintain their status within the Division.
-) The team play a major role in all water safety and rescue training for the Park Ridge Fire Department. This year's training focused on the proper use of personal floatation devices, swift water rescue and surface ice rescue.
-) Members of the dive team conducted several surface ice rescue training sessions this last winter. This was a joint training program with North Maine, Rosemont, and Niles to prepare all rescue personnel on the proper procedures on rescuing a person who has fallen through the ice.

