



PARK RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT

2016

2016 Annual Report

To All Residents of the City of Park Ridge and the Elected Officials,

It is my honor and privilege to present the 2016 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 2016, we engaged in a trial period to enhance our ability to respond to the rising demand for service, utilizing an additional response apparatus, Rescue 36. To prepare for the trial period, our Department members retrofitted a surplus command vehicle and outfitted it with the necessary emergency medical equipment and fire equipment to respond quickly to calls for service. Based on numerous examples wherein the Department responded to multiple concurrent calls, Rescue 36 proved to be a helpful response asset to our operations. Primarily, Rescue 36 is tasked with providing support to both of our two-paramedic ambulance crews, by covering approximately 60% of our City as an assist company. This means that for an emergency medical call, Rescue 36 is sent to the call along with an Ambulance, instead of an Engine or Tower Ladder.

The Department took steps in 2016 to reduce the number of miscellaneous/service-type calls that we respond to, including nuisance elevator and gas lamp calls. Additionally, in order to decrease some recurring EMS calls, the Department began working closely with the City's Social Worker to find other avenues to provide healthcare guidance to patients. Through our monthly Emergency plans meetings at Advocate Lutheran General, we were able to work to lessen service demands on their campus as well.

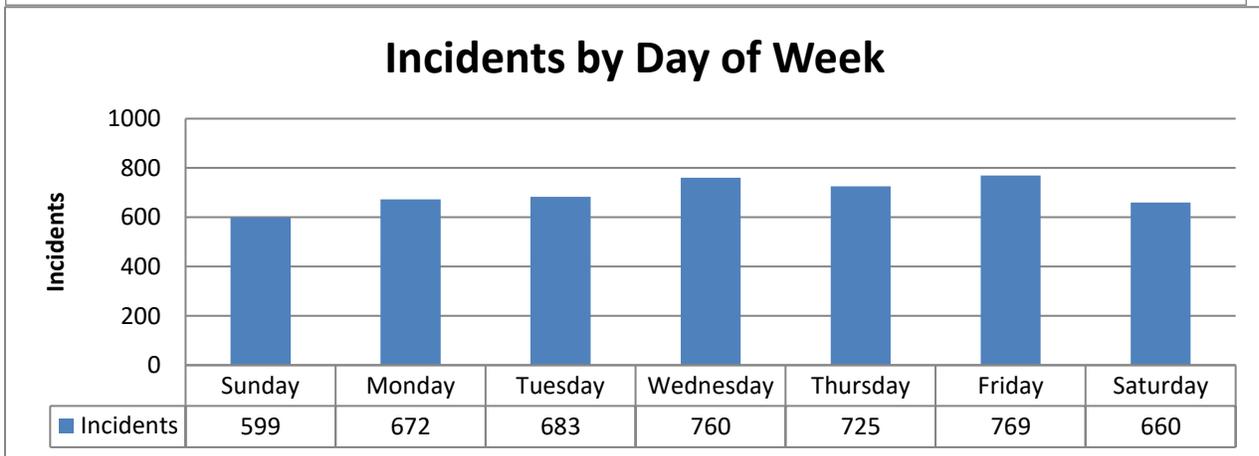
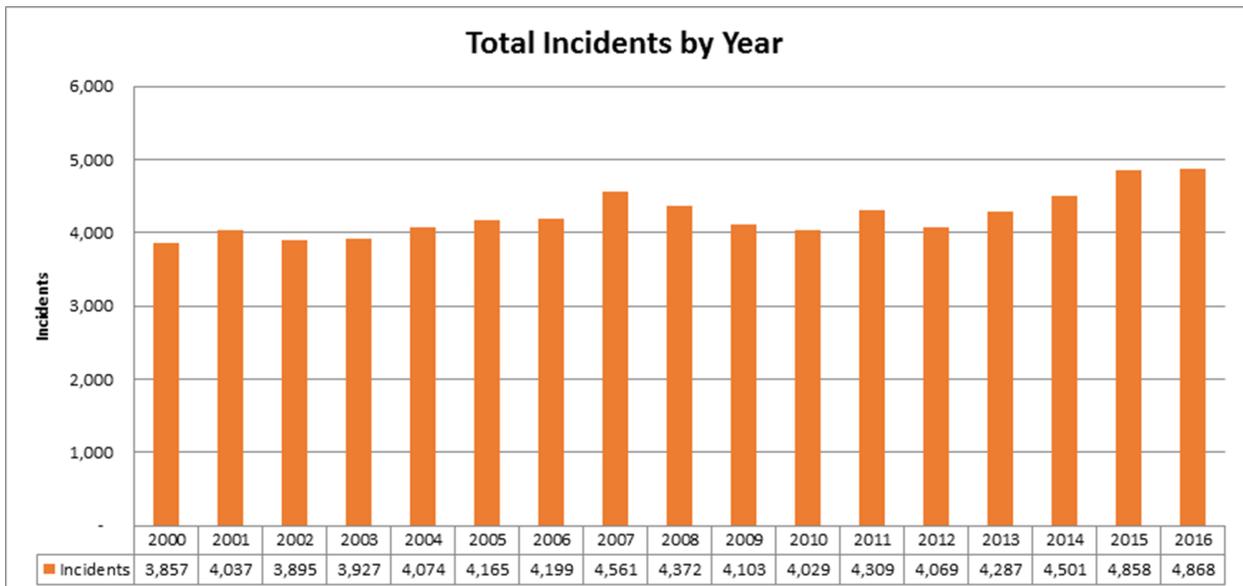
In 2017, we as a Department look to build upon our progress in the areas mentioned above, while continually training and otherwise preparing for tomorrow's emergency response.

Jeff Sorensen
Fire Chief

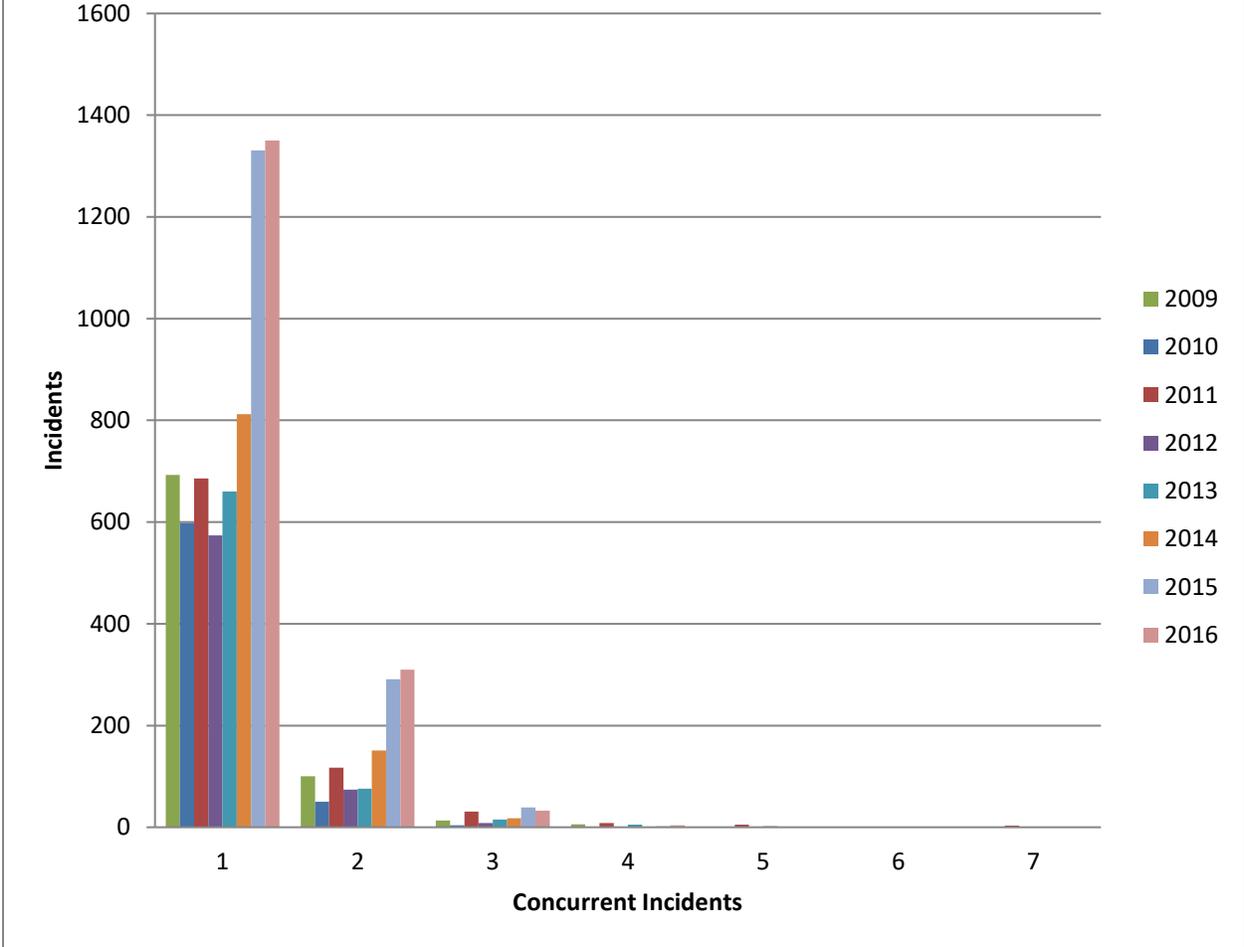


2016 Responses Battalion Chief Hanson

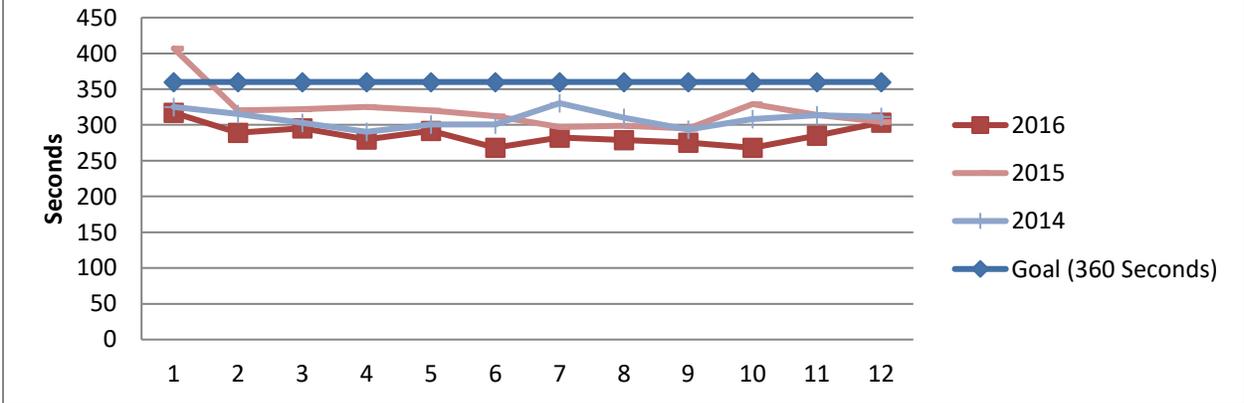
For the second year in a row, we have set a record for the number of incidents we responded to with a total of 4,868. This high total number of incidents caused our concurrent incident totals to rise once again. We pay close attention to these totals to ensure we can respond to simultaneous emergencies quickly enough and with enough personnel. While our concurrent incident totals went up, we were able to reduce our average response time slightly by having an additional quick response vehicle on the street for portions of the year. This vehicle, which we called Rescue 36, was run as a trial using a decommissioned van to see if the concept would work. We saw some reduction in response times that may be attributed to this additional vehicle on the street. Below are graphs showing different aspects of our 2016 incidents.



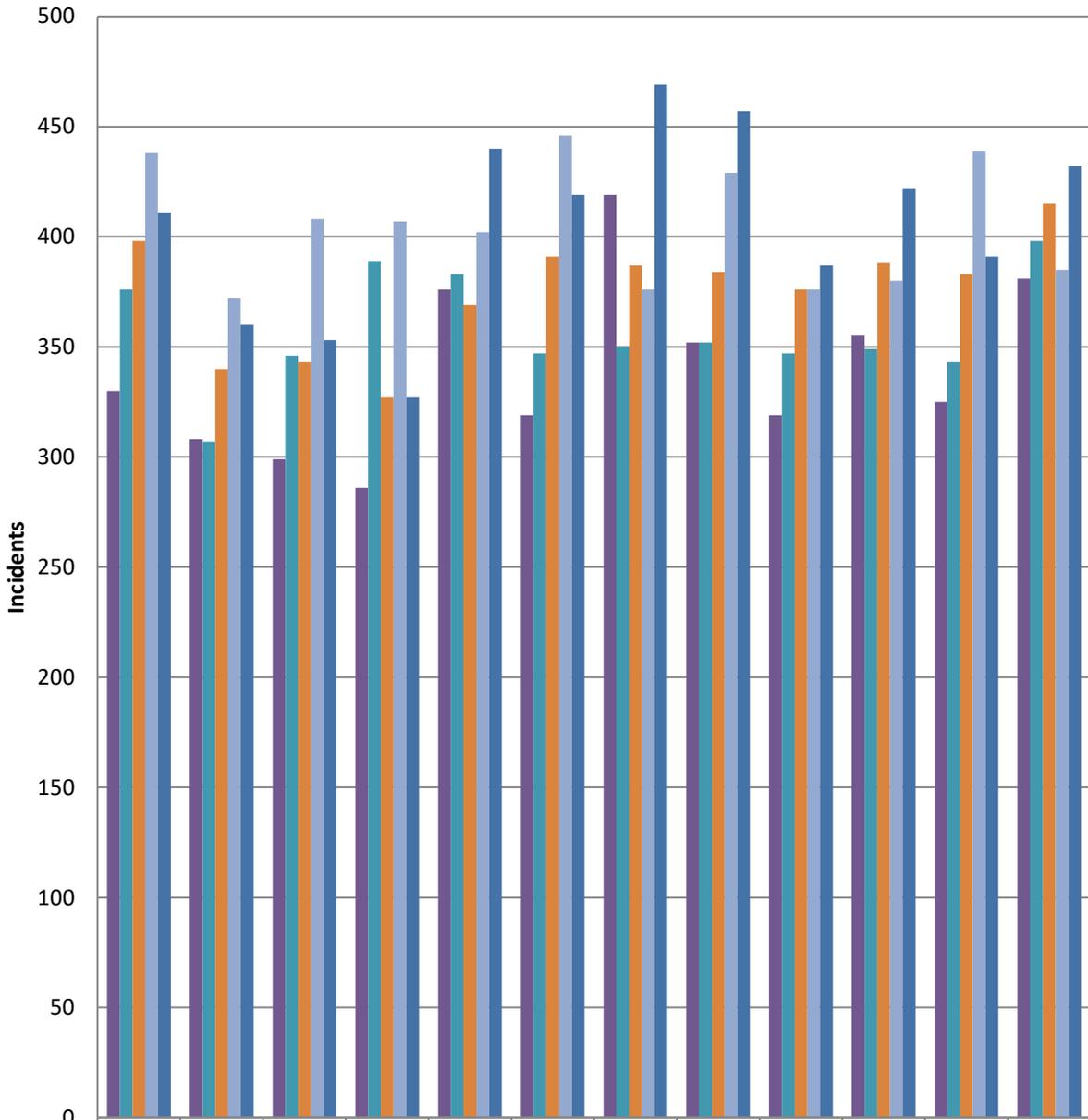
Concurrent Incidents



Average Call to Arrival Time



Call Volume Comparison by Month by Year



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2012	330	308	299	286	376	319	419	352	319	355	325	381
2013	376	307	346	389	383	347	350	352	347	349	343	398
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



Administration Report **Executive Officer Lisowski**

- Successfully awarded two grants from the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program in the amount of \$575,000 to purchase a new fire engine and a new breathing air compressor for Station 36
- Completed union negotiations with Firefighters Local #2697 which resulted in a four year contract being signed that expires on April 30, 2018
- Completed the testing process for the entry level position of firefighter/paramedic. We worked with neighboring departments to offer a joint test which drastically reduced the cost to the City.
- Completed the promotional testing process for the positions of Lieutenant/Paramedic and Battalion Chief
- Ordered the third and final new ambulance which will be delivered in FY18
- Completed mutual aid ambulance billing agreements with all of the City's neighboring suburban municipalities. These agreements will allow our residents to be billed at a lower residential rate when we have had to rely on an out of town ambulance to transport the resident to the hospital.
- Updated the rules and regulations for the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners
- 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
- In an effort to minimize excessive calls for service, Chief Sorensen worked with staff at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital to go over ambulance responses on the hospital campus. This resulted in a reduction of call volume for our crews. Additionally, Chief Sorensen and the Fire Prevention Bureau worked with building owners to repair faulty elevators and fire alarms that also was able to reduce our call volume to keep the crews ready for other emergencies in town.
- Executive Officer Lisowski and Battalion Chief Sankey 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. They will be completing additional writing and project work with the hopes of being awarded the CFO designation later in 2017.
- Executive Officer Lisowski worked with the chief of the Mt. Prospect Fire Department to audit their Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating process. This has been revamped since the last time that Park Ridge was rated, so we wanted to be prepared for when Park Ridge is rated again in the future.
- 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, Executive Officer Lisowski, and Fire Marshal Plach attended regular Emergency Preparedness Committee meetings at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital.
- 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.



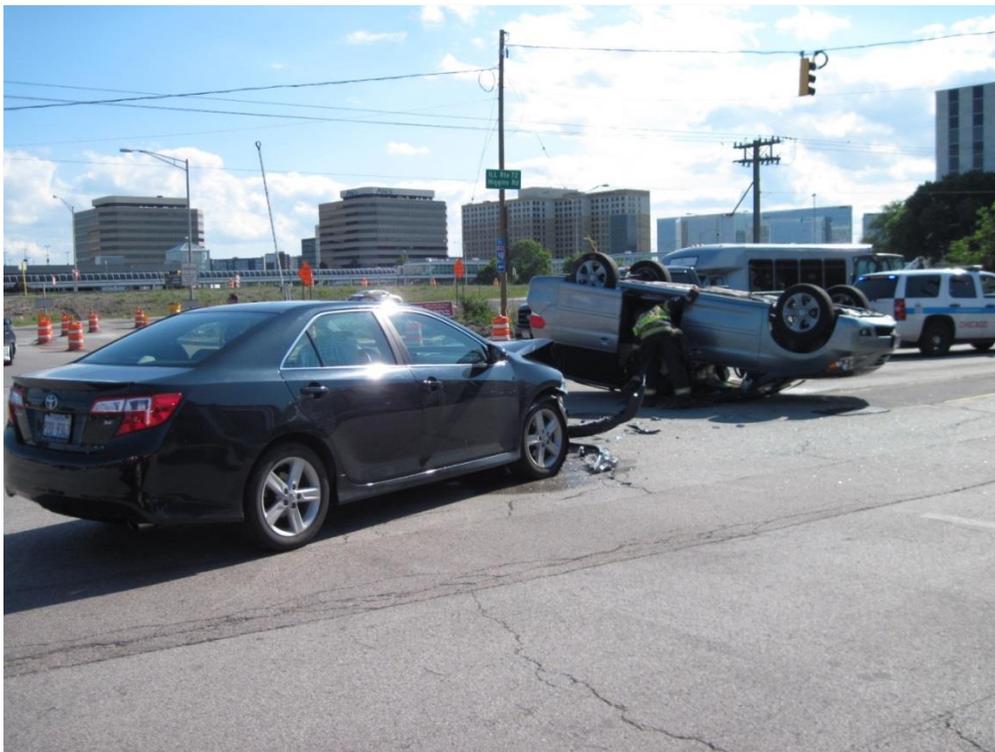
Emergency Medical Services Battalion Chief Norton

Park Ridge Fire Department emergency medical personnel responded to 3,208 EMS incidents in 2016. 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 1,660 fire and rescue calls in addition to the EMS incidents.

EMS incidents in 2016 represented 65.9% of the Park Ridge Fire Department's total responses. Of these, Advanced Life Support (ALS) calls accounted for 62.0% of the EMS incidents, for a total of 1,989 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 2016

- Created the specifications for, and obtained permission to order the third new ambulance from Horton Ambulance through Foster Coach.
- Successfully transitioned from our old ambulance billing service to our new billing service.
- Implemented a new electronic Patient Care Reporting platform.
- Precepted three students from the ALGH EMSS 2016 Paramedic class. All three successfully completed the course.



Motor Vehicle Accident on Higgins Rd.



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. Some of the various subjects covered in 2016's training program are listed below.

Core Competencies

- SCBA inspection procedures
- PPE and SCBA donning
- SCBA rescue procedures
- Forcible entry
- Tool and equipment maintenance
- Ground ladders
- Ventilation – pitched roof and flat roof operations
- Overhaul operations
- Hoseline advancement

Technical Competencies

- Ropes and knots
- Surface ice rescue operations
- Swift water rescue operations
- Elevator rescue operations
- Vehicle stabilization
- Vehicle extrication
- Confined space operations

EMS

- Advanced airway management
- CPR on a downed firefighter
- Incident reporting requirements

Driver/Operator Training

- Aerial operations
- Engineering
- Single and multi-line evolutions
- Fire flows
- Driver competency course

Officer Training

- Size-up and 1st-in communications
- 1st-in decision-making
- Incident command functions and priorities

City Familiarization

- Grid maps (streets and block numbers)
- Pre-incident planning site visits (6/month)
- Tactical walk-throughs

Other Mandated Training

- Hearing protection
- Blood borne pathogens
- Hostile work environment
- Right-to-know (workplace hazards)
- Lock-out Tag-out

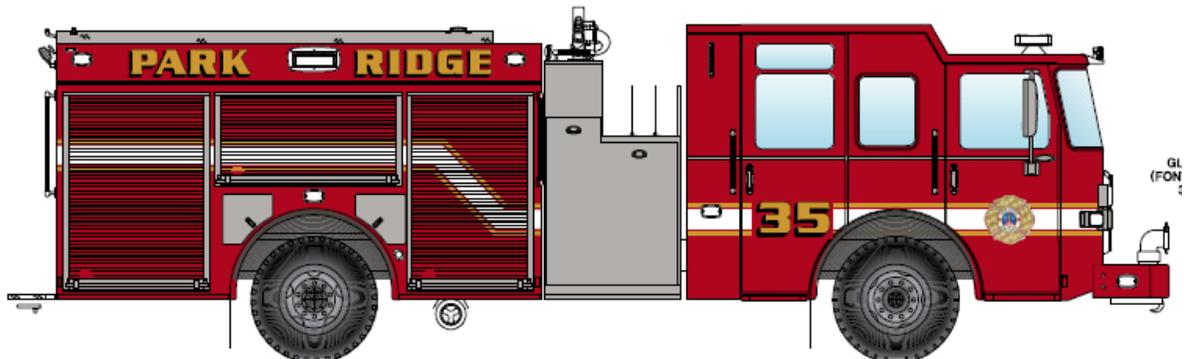


Apparatus & Equipment ***Lieutenant Bruchsaler***

There is no doubt that the Park Ridge Fire Departments most valuable asset is the highly trained and professional firefighters and officers that make up our ranks. However, in order for them to accomplish their job, it is vital that we maintain a reliable fleet of fire apparatus and equipment to meet our mission of delivering quality emergency services to the citizens of Park Ridge. To that end, we work on the vehicles and equipment every day with preventative and scheduled maintenance in an effort to maximize their useful life. Some of the highlights for this year were:

- Annual testing of all pumps and ladders
- Implementation of an electronic Knox security system
- Annual hose testing
- Develop specifications for a new engine for Station 35.

We are looking forward to the delivery of the new Engine 35 and other opportunities in 2017 as we continue to keep the City's fleet of fire apparatus and equipment in a constant state of readiness.



NEW ENGINE TO ARRIVE IN 2017



UL PUMP AND LADDER TESTING



Fire Investigation Team Lieutenant Ortlund



- The Park Ridge Fire Department's Fire Investigation Team consists of seven Fire Investigators, two of which are also trained as Arson Investigators. Regular training and field experience are required to maintain knowledge and skill and also 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 37 reported fire incidents in Park Ridge in 2016. Thirty- Nine percent (39%) of the incidents were classified as *Accidental* causes; Twelve percent (12%) of the incidents were classified as *Incendiary* (intentionally set); Forty-Seven percent (47%) of the incidents were classified as *Undetermined*; and Two percent (2%) were classified as *Natural*.
- One-third of the 2016 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).
- Seventy-five percent (75%) of the 2016 *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**

Currently the Park Ridge Fire Department has thirty-three Draeger Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), two MSA supplied air respirators (SAR's) and five Draeger Rapid Intervention air packs (RIT packs). This past year we had fourteen units that needed repairs. Repairs were completed by either sending the unit to Draeger or handled in-house by firefighters who have received training to be repair technicians. Repairs needed on the units included cracked back plates of the SCBA harness, broken regulators, air leaks from the SCBA, torn shoulder pad and a bad sounder. The cost of the repairs ranged widely, with the most expensive cost of approximately \$1,200 and the least expensive of no charge because the part was covered under warranty. Additionally, the two individuals that have been trained in SCBA maintenance have also been responsible for flow testing and fit testing within the Department.

Each year the SCBA, SAR's and RIT packs must be tested as required by the manufacturer and the Illinois Department of Labor for the proper flow and operation of each component of the SCBA. This includes the measurement of airflow at selected breathing rates and also the audible measurement of the low-pressure alarm. In addition to these tests, each individual within the Department must be fit tested to ensure they have a properly fitting face piece



Fire Prevention Bureau Lieutenant Plach

The 2016 year saw the Fire Prevention Bureau completing over 400 plan reviews and over 2800 inspections. These inspections included annual fire inspections for all businesses, schools and City buildings, multiple inspections for construction projects and investigation of complaints. One only needs to drive through town to see that building construction is going strong.

Some of the construction project highlights include:

- Completions of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital's new state of the art cardiac catheterization lab
- Completion of several multi-family residential buildings
- Completion of several townhome/rowhome developments
- Installation of a fire sprinkler system and fire alarm upgrades in Advocate Lutheran General's Administrative south building. This is a 10 story highrise that is now in compliance with NFPA 101 (Life Safety Code).
- Completion of Fitness Formula Club
- Completion of Prospect Park
- Construction of over 40 single family homes

The Fire Prevention Bureau also staffed several community events including fireworks shows, the Taste of Park Ridge and our open house at Station 35 during Winterfest. It is estimated that over 700 people visited the fire station during the three hour open house. The Fire Prevention Bureau also continued to teach CPR to the public on a monthly basis. These classes continue to be well attended. In the beginning of the school year, we continued our long running 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.

In the upcoming year the Fire Prevention Bureau will continue to work closely with CP&D on the completion of the many construction projects beginning around town. Additionally, we will continue to work with business owners, homeowners, and the community to promote fire safety through Education, Enforcement and Engineering.



Dive Team **FF/PM Villari**

- Comprised of five members who maintain certifications as Public Safety Divers, Rescue Divers, Boat Operators, Ice Rescue Divers, Sonar Technicians and Swift Water Technicians.
- The team responds to all water related emergencies at the seventeen bodies of water and during flood activity within Park Ridge.
- As a part of the duties associated with being a part of MABAS Division 3, the team also responds to emergencies within eighteen surrounding north suburban communities.
- 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 plays a major role in all water safety and rescue training for the Park Ridge Fire Department. This year's training sessions focused on the proper use of personal floatation devices, swift water rescue and surface ice rescue.
- In 2016 members of the dive team conducted several surface ice rescue training sessions spanning over two weeks. This was a joint training program with North Maine, and Niles to prepare all rescue personal on the proper procedures to rescue a person that has fallen through the ice.



Technical Rescue Team (TRT) **FF/PM Malcomson**

The Technical Rescue Team is comprised of highly trained firefighters who perform rescues in special situations. These incidents are low in frequency, but high in risk. Therefore, constant training is mandatory. These incidents include:

- 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 19, 2016, members of the Park Ridge Technical Rescue Team (TRT) responded with the MABAS Division 3 TRT to North Maine for an explosion with a partial building collapse. The team worked to stabilize the apartment building and conduct a thorough search of the structure.



Honor Guard FF/PM Piltaver



Purpose of the Honor Guard: To provide, as a line of duty death benefit, dignified, honorable services for fallen fire service members and their surviving family members through organization of, and participation in, funeral and memorial services.

Members of the Honor Guard are required to attend three trainings a year in order to maintain good standing in the unit. One of those trainings may include participation at the yearly convention which includes a full day of training as well as inducting new members into the AFFI Honor Guard.

This year, four members of the Park Ridge Honor Guard attended the 24th annual convention at Pheasant Run in St. Charles. Outside of training, the Honor Guard participated in the yearly Park Ridge 9/11 remembrance ceremony that was held at the memorial site at City Hall. This year's ceremony introduced the newly placed memorial bricks that funded the site that holds our World Trade Center beam acquired from the Port Authority of New York. The Honor Guard was also honored to participate in the funeral services of a retired firefighter of the Park Ridge Fire Department.

Current Park Ridge Honor Guard Members –

FF/PM Chris Cleary
FF/PM Dave Malcomson
FF/PM John Piltaver
FF/PM Tim Schneider
FF/PM Bill Smaha

