FIRE DEPARTMENT Annual Report 2015

Department 01-52

Under the direction of Fire Chief Tom Pour, effective August 1, 2015, the Belleville Fire Department achieved an ISO rating of 2, bringing us to the top 2% of the country. Our department is divided into two basic divisions; fire suppression and administration. The staff consists of 63 full-time firefighters including 3 Chief Officers, 4 Battalion Chiefs, along with a Firehouse Office Manager and a Database Administrator. In 2015, the Fire Department responded to 1,732 calls from the citizens of Belleville and surrounding areas for Mutual Aid. The fire incidents ranged from structure fires to rescue calls.

The Belleville Fire Department has expanded their continuing education training program under the supervision of Deputy Fire Chief Bud Jacobs. Our training programs help our firefighters to be prepared for the new challenges we face each and every day. All Fire Personnel must average 20 hours of training and testing per person per month. There are 48 subject areas to be covered and documented through the Office of the State Fire Marshall and the Illinois Department of Labor. Some examples of these subject areas are blood-borne pathogens, hazardous materials, drivers' training, vehicle extrication, fire suppression and rescue.

The Belleville Fire Department is currently forming specialty teams in Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, and Water Rescue.

- In Hazardous Materials, the Department has 20 members trained at Hazardous Materials technician A level, and 14 members trained above that, to the Technician B level. We currently have 6 members that are part of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) deployable Hazardous Materials Team, which may be called to assist in a large scale event such as a train derailment.

- The Department Technical Rescue Team consists of 16 members currently training in the following venues: Rope Operations and Technician, Trench Rescue Operations and Technician, Confined Space Operations and Technician, and Structural Collapse Operations and Technician. The goal of this team is to prepare for any specialty rescue assignment within our City, however these firefighters will also be part of a deployable response team that can be called in the event of a large scale Technical Rescue such as a response to a tornado.

- Belleville Fire Department also has 13 members that are trained in water operations, 4 of which are water technicians and 4 that will be attending a Technician level certification class at Indiana River Rescue in Spring 2016.

With the numbers of specialty trained firefighters in the department, we are assured to have some firefighters on duty each day that can get us started on specialty rescue, whereas, just a couple of years ago we would have to wait for an outside agency for assistance. With the advancement of the Code Red system, we can now get the other members of the team, if needed, to the scene in a short amount of time.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is under the direction of Assistant Fire Chief J.P. Penet. He is ultimately responsible for all fire inspections conducted by the firefighters. Assistant Chief Penet is also responsible for plan reviews of all commercial new construction and businesses renovating commercial construction in the City of Belleville. New businesses in Belleville may not open until they have been inspected by the Fire Department. The Belleville Fire Department inspected over 2,700 businesses last year, including re-inspections. The Fire Prevention Bureau enforces the 2006 International Fire Code and the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code for new construction and existing buildings. BFD also works closely with the Office of the State Fire Marshal of the State of Illinois for underground storage tank enforcement and other areas handled by the State Fire Marshal.

In 2015, the Belleville Fire Department implemented a new inspection database program that has not only improved our capabilities, but will assist in interaction of multiple departments within the city, including Economic Development and our City's Housing Department.

Our Fire Department conducts fire drills at every school and daycare in the city. More than 8,000 children are instructed as to how to respond in case of a fire in their school. The Fire Department also goes to grade school assemblies to talk to the children about fire prevention by using Pluggie the Robot Fire Plug. The department also has an E.S.C.A.P.E. trailer that is filled with smoke and children are taught how to exit safely.

The Belleville Fire Department also offers fire prevention and safety education to businesses, groups or any individual who requests these classes. Our offerings include fire extinguisher training (either gas or laser operated), fire safety including cooking safety, holiday fire safety and almost any other safety topic you may need. These safety offerings can be tailored to any age group from preschool to the elderly.

Tours of the engine houses are also scheduled on a regular basis where fire prevention is taught and children can become familiar with fire equipment, apparatus, and firefighters gear.

Our department has 8 personnel Nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. The BFD installed and conducted more than 148 car safety seat checks in 2015. The car safety seat checks are conducted free of charge at the fire stations. Car seat checks can be scheduled by contacting the Fire Administration.

Our Department's Fire Investigation Unit consists of 10 certified fire investigators and an accelerant K9, Chewy. The FIU is responsible for a cause and origin investigation of every fire. The investigators receive annual training in cause and origin, photography, report writing and interviewing techniques.

With the smoke detector program, detectors are given to and installed in the bedroom of all newborns that are born at either of the two hospitals in Belleville. Smoke detectors are also given to and installed to the senior citizens as well as low income families. BFD also changes the batteries for the elderly and the disabled.

The Belleville Fire Department has made great advancements in emergency preparedness over the last 2 years to the benefit of not only our citizens but also all of the communities around us. The surrounding communities have taken notice that we are available throughout the area in a moment's notice. The members of the Belleville Fire Department are committed to growing our knowledge and resources as the city grows. This allows us to provide unmatched fire and rescue services to those we protect.

Department goals <u>achieved</u> for FY 2015/16 were as follows:

1. To provide the best fire prevention and suppression service possible.
2. To bring our number of state certified fire inspectors from 2 to 25..... currently 28!
3. To form Specialty response teams in HazMat, Water Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, and Structural Collapse Rescue.
4. To expand the number of people that we educate in fire prevention
5. To continue our program of checking each residence we respond to, ensuring we do not leave any house without checking that they have working smoke detectors.

Department goals for FY 2016/17 are as follows:

1. Continue to provide the best fire prevention and suppression service possible.
2. To continue to expand the number of people that we educate in fire prevention.
3. Continue to expand our training program.
4. Department-wide rapid intervention training to help us save our own.
5. Joint training with sewer department in Confined Space Rescue.
6. Expand the coordinated efforts to work seamlessly with the Belleville Police Department.

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Belleville Fire Department
Annual Report 2015

Description of Fire Calls:	2012 Total Calls	2013 Total Calls	2014 Total Calls	2015 Total Calls
Structure Fires	58	51	50	53
Mobile property (Vehicle) Fires	25	33	38	32
Cooking Fires confined to appliance/Chimney flue fire	32	27	30	27
Natural & Cultivated Vegetation and Outside Rubbish or Equipment Fires	53	47	74	46
Sub-Total	168	158	192	158
Service Calls, Assist Police & Unauthorized Burns	517	570	576	592
Hazardous Conditions (i.e. Combustible/flammable spills & leaks, Chemical release, Electrical wiring/equipment problem, Severe weather)	167	135	203	194
False alarms, System or Detector Malfunctions, Sprinkler, Fire Alarms & Carbon Monoxide Detector activations	405	460	515	511
Good Intent Calls (odor of smoke) & Dispatched and Canceled en route	116	86	77	82
Bomb Scare	1	2	2	0
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat	3	6	7	10
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident, Extrication	58	47	61	80
Smoke or odor removal	81	110	95	105
Total Fire Calls	1,516	1,574	1,728	1,732
Public Service Calls (i.e. Fire Prevention, In-Service, Fire Drills, E.S.C.A.P.E. Programs)	165	146	228	182
Total Fire Calls & Public Service	1,681	1,720	1,956	1,914
Fire Inspections, Reinspections & Hood and Duct Inspections	3,026	2,685	2,763	2,754
Total Fire Calls, Public Service and Fire Inspections	4,707	4,405	4,719	4,668

Mutual Aid Given	25	22	15	15
Injuries to Firefighters	9	6	16	5
Deaths of Firefighters	0	0	0	0
Deaths of Civilians	0	0	0	2