

2015

ANNUAL REPORT



10 Main Street
Rapid City, SD 57701



CHIEF'S MESSAGE

To the Honorable Mayor, City Council and Residents of Rapid City:

On behalf of the men and women of the Rapid City Fire Department, please accept this annual report as a summary of the performance and many accomplishments of the organization for 2015. This report serves as an accurate account of our continued commitment to serving this community. There are many guiding principles that provide the direction for the organization but at the core of our service is our Mission Statement: PREPARE PREVENT PROTECT and our organization's values: Reliability, Service, Professionalism, Pride, Integrity and Loyalty.

Direction of the Fire Department: Preparing this report requires us to list the accomplishments made in the previous year, assess our current reality, and identify the community's expectations and needs. This assessment process and good planning are what we do to determine the direction for the organization.

At the center of our success is the desire of our personnel to continually strive to be the best, most advanced fire department possible. It is the hard work and dedication of these men and women that makes us great! We believe that by having the best Fire Department, our residents benefit by having a safe community to live, work and play in.

Noteworthy accomplishments for 2015:

- Annual review of the Department's strategic plan
- Comprehensive statistical analysis (data review)
- Ongoing implementation of the City's Comprehensive Plan
- Mobile Medic Program with John T. Vucurevich Grant
- Improvement of our public protection classification by the Insurance Services Office Inc.
- Met NFPA standards for firefighter training
- Development and funding for a long range large vehicle replacement plan
- Re-organization of essential duties of our command staff
- Addition of Deputy Fire Chief position
- Restoring the name: Rapid City Fire Department

What lies ahead for the Rapid City Fire Department: A concerted effort to meet the increase in demand for services. The year 2015 yielded over 17,000 calls for service for the Fire Department. Because of this





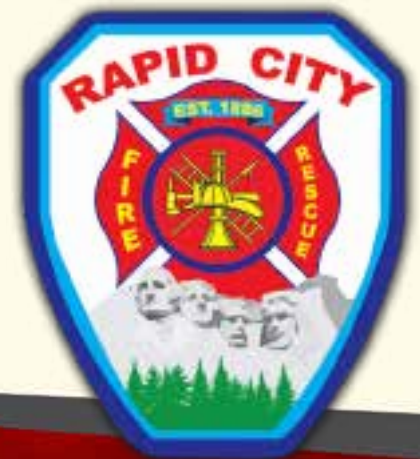
demand, the needs of the Department are significant. The Department has a fleet of nearly 70 vehicles requiring a comprehensive management plan to include ongoing maintenance, scheduled replacement and a steady funding source. Secondly, Fire Department facilities must keep up with current standards, be able to house firefighters and equipment in a state of constant readiness and be strategically located in a City that is constantly changing and growing. Lastly, as calls for service continue to trend upward at a record setting pace, staffing levels must increase at an equal rate with the demand being placed on the organization.

Our personnel are committed and dedicated to our Mission. We can only be as good as our people. Where the Fire Department shines the brightest is that single moment in time when a person calls 911 to request the Fire Department, a fire engine or ambulance arrives at the scene, a firefighter-medical meets face to face with that person and says "Hi, I'm with the Fire Department, I am here to help you!" During that moment, that person is met with that firefighter's compassion, humility and strong desire to help. It is this human interaction that puts the Rapid City Fire Department in a very unique and important position in our community. I am extremely proud to serve alongside each and every member of the Rapid City Fire Department while serving this community and answering that call.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Maltaverne".

Mike Maltaverne, Fire Chief





CONTENT

- 5 Mission | Vision | Values
- 6 Organizational Chart
- 7 Statistics
- 13 Medical Operations Division
- 14 Special Response Team
- 15 Fire Operations Division
- 17 Training Section
- 18 Technical Rescue Team
- 19 Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team
- 20 Water Rescue Team
- 21 Fire and Life Safety Division
- 26 Special Events
- 27 Honor Guard
- 28 Pipe & Drum Corps
- 29 Women's Auxiliary
- 30 Personnel
- 31 Promotions & Retirements



OUR MISSION

PREPARE PREVENT PROTECT

Prepare - Department members continually strive to maintain a heightened state of readiness in order to effectively provide service to our community. This is done through physical fitness, training, formal education, professional development, and job-specific training.

Prevent - We emphasize a proactive approach to all-risk reduction which results in fewer injuries, fatalities, and property damages to those we are sworn to protect.

Protect - When prevention efforts fail, preparation meets opportunity and our Department responds accordingly. We are tasked to provide this service by our community and do so willingly and professionally.

VISION STATEMENT

We are a proactive, progressive, innovative, and highly trained public service provider that facilitates a diverse, happy, and healthy workforce. Ever diligent in the delivery of public safety to our community, we will serve as a benchmark for all public service organizations throughout the nation. We strive to advance our profession; mindful of our history and tradition, yet are inspired by change. With a transformed organizational culture, our employees are empowered to make ethical, moral decisions and are community-minded in their endeavors. With a collaborative vision of our future we enrich our community, meet our challenges head-on as a team and take risks, encourage a balance between leadership and management, promote opportunities for our employees, and mitigate risk through proactive measures.

OUR CORE VALUES

Professionalism

Reliability

Service

Pride

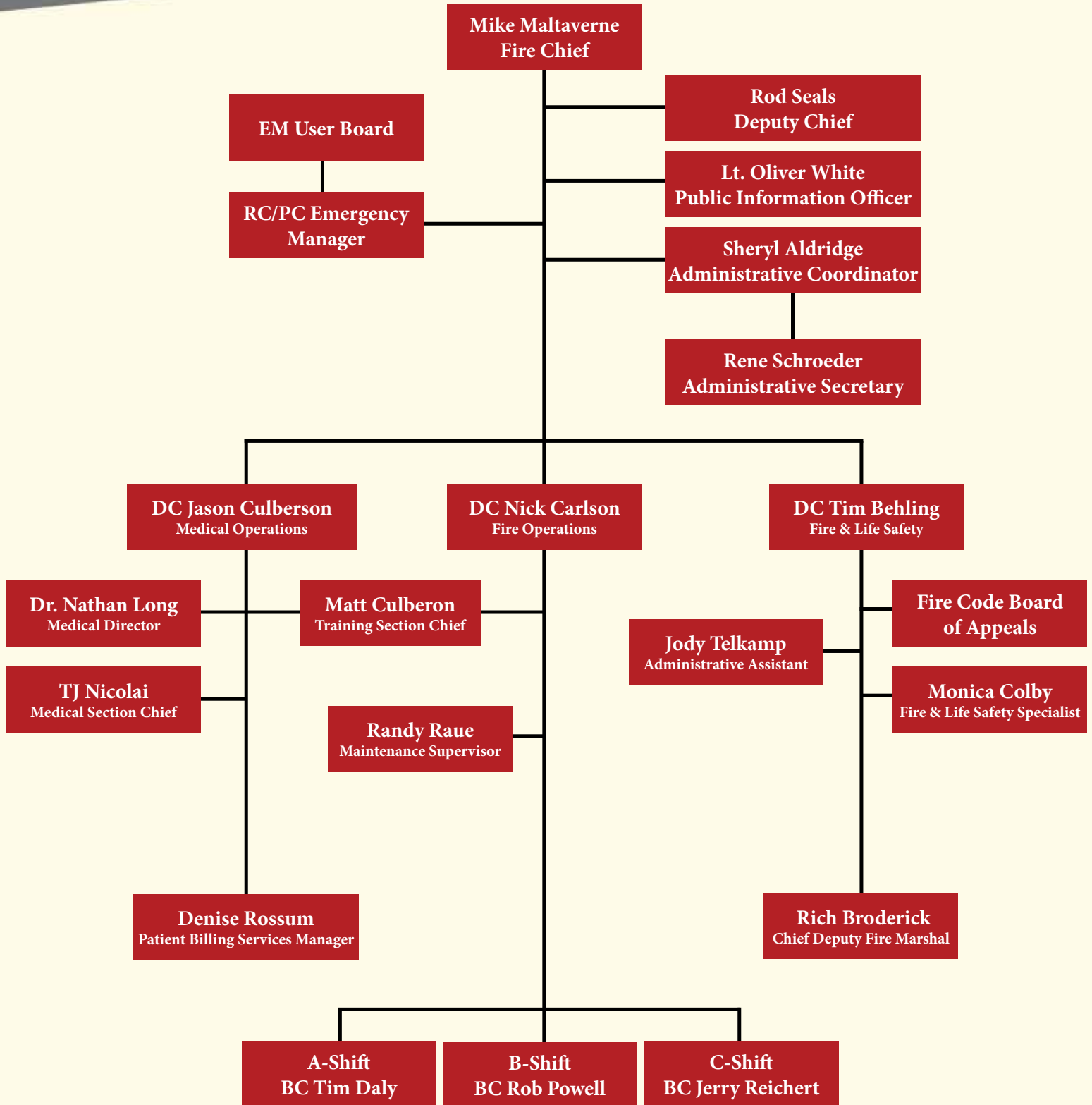
Integrity

Loyalty



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

AUTHORIZED MANPOWER LEVEL: 143





2015 Incidents by Group

In 2015, the Rapid City Fire Department responded to 17,012 emergency incidents. Each incident (each time 911 sends the fire department to an emergency) is categorized by one descriptive incident type using National Fire Incident Reporting System guidelines.

While many emergencies can be handled by two responders in one vehicle, often more people and more tools are needed. We responded to the 17,012 incidents with 24,720 units (vehicles and required staff). For example, we must send 15 people and needed tools to one building fire. We will cancel incoming units if the first crew to arrive finds that additional staff is not necessary.

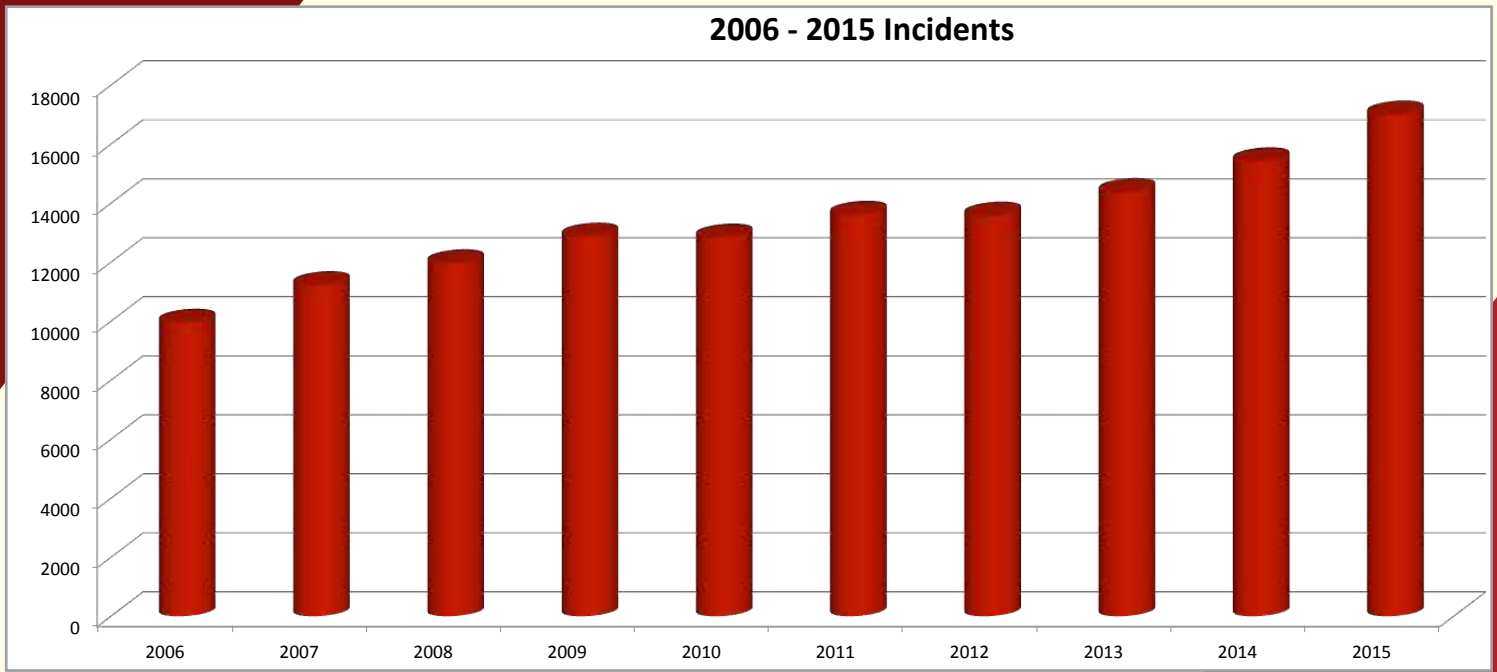
Rapid City Fire Department provides paramedic and transport ambulance services and is the primary responder to most of Pennington County. We responded to 17,579 patients in 2015. This graph does not report non-emergency activities such as station tours, safety classes, and business safety inspections.

Incident Type Group	Incidents	Percentage
Fire	314	1.85%
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat	6	0.04%
Emergency Medical Service Incident	12,118	71.23%
Rescue, Vehicle, Pedestrian	949	5.58%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	155	0.91%
Service Call	1,246	7.32%
Good Intent (Well-meaning 911 call)	891	5.24%
False Alarm & False Call	889	5.23%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	8	0.05%
Special Incident Type	33	0.19%
Mutual Aid Given	403	2.37%
Total	17,012	100.00%
Units Dispatched	24,720	
EMS Patients	17,579	

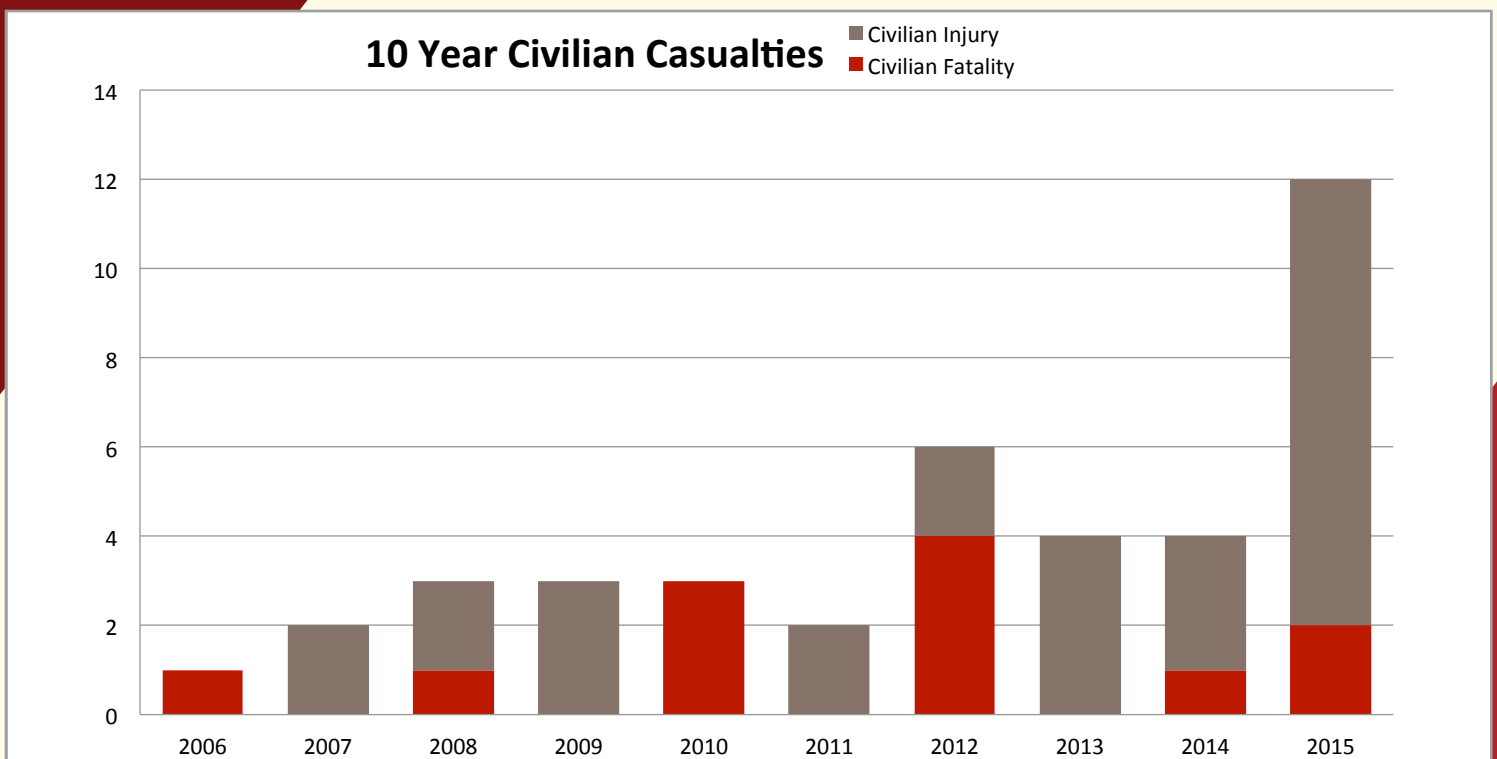


All Incidents 2006 - 2015

The average annual growth of emergency incidents over the past ten years is 7.6%.



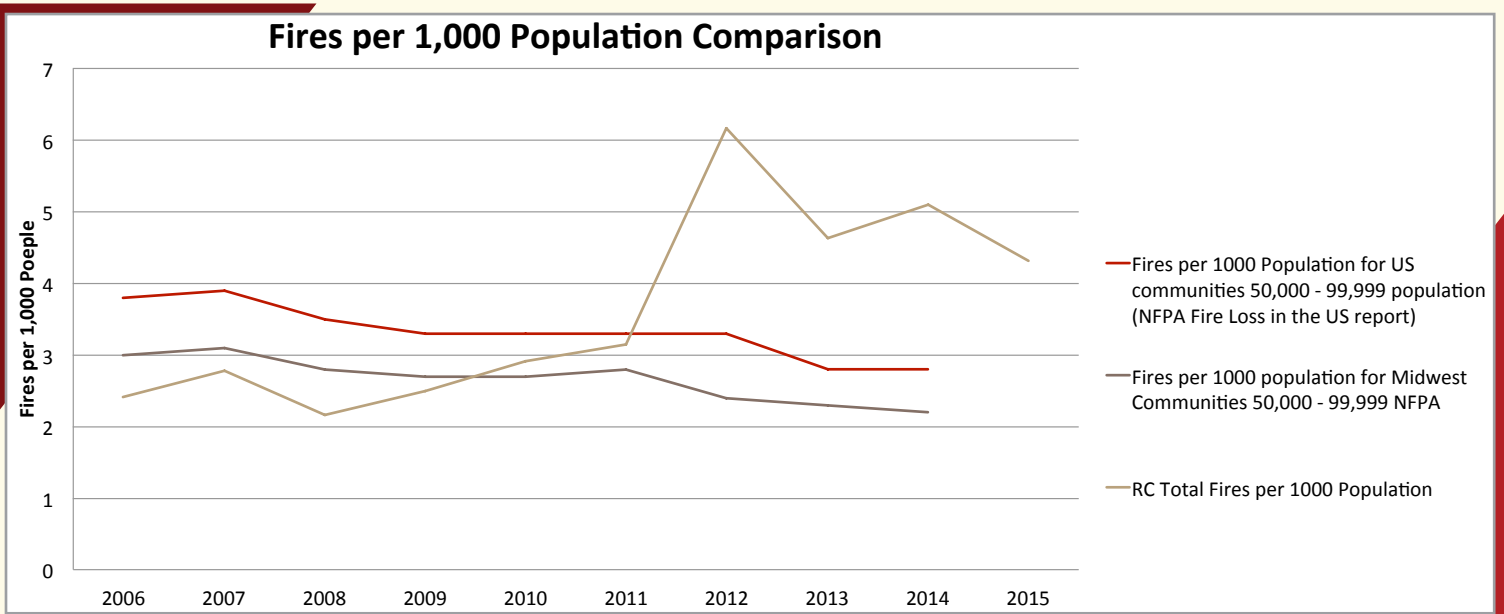
10 Year Civilian Casualties: Over the past 10 years, there has been an average of 1.2 fire-related fatalities and 2.8 fire-related injuries each year.





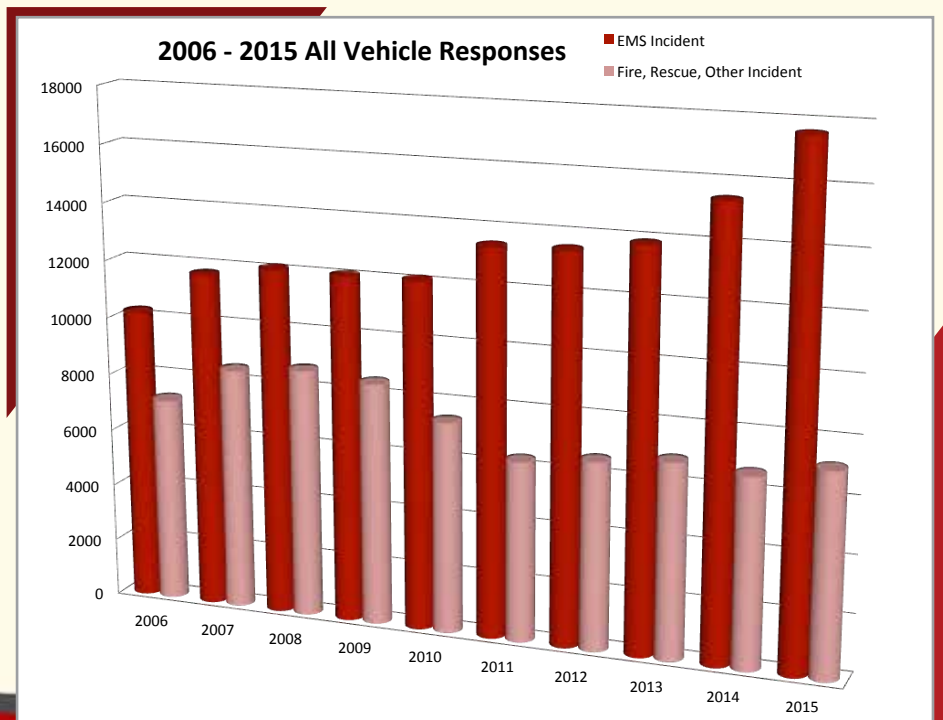
Fires per 1,000 Population for Communities 50,000 – 99,999 Population

This graph shows the fires in Rapid City per 1,000 people compared with other communities our size. The National Fire Protection Association provides annual reports on the number of fires per 1,000 population in communities with a population of 50,000 – 99,999 people and breaks down the report by region of the United States. In 2011, Rapid City had more fires per 1,000 population than communities our size in either the US or the Midwest and are now about twice the rate of either.



2006 – 2015 All Vehicle Response

Rapid City sent 205,620 vehicles and corresponding staff to 132,887 emergency incidents. This graph demonstrates the change in incident volume over the past ten years. It is broken down into two categories each year, medical-only incidents and all other incidents.

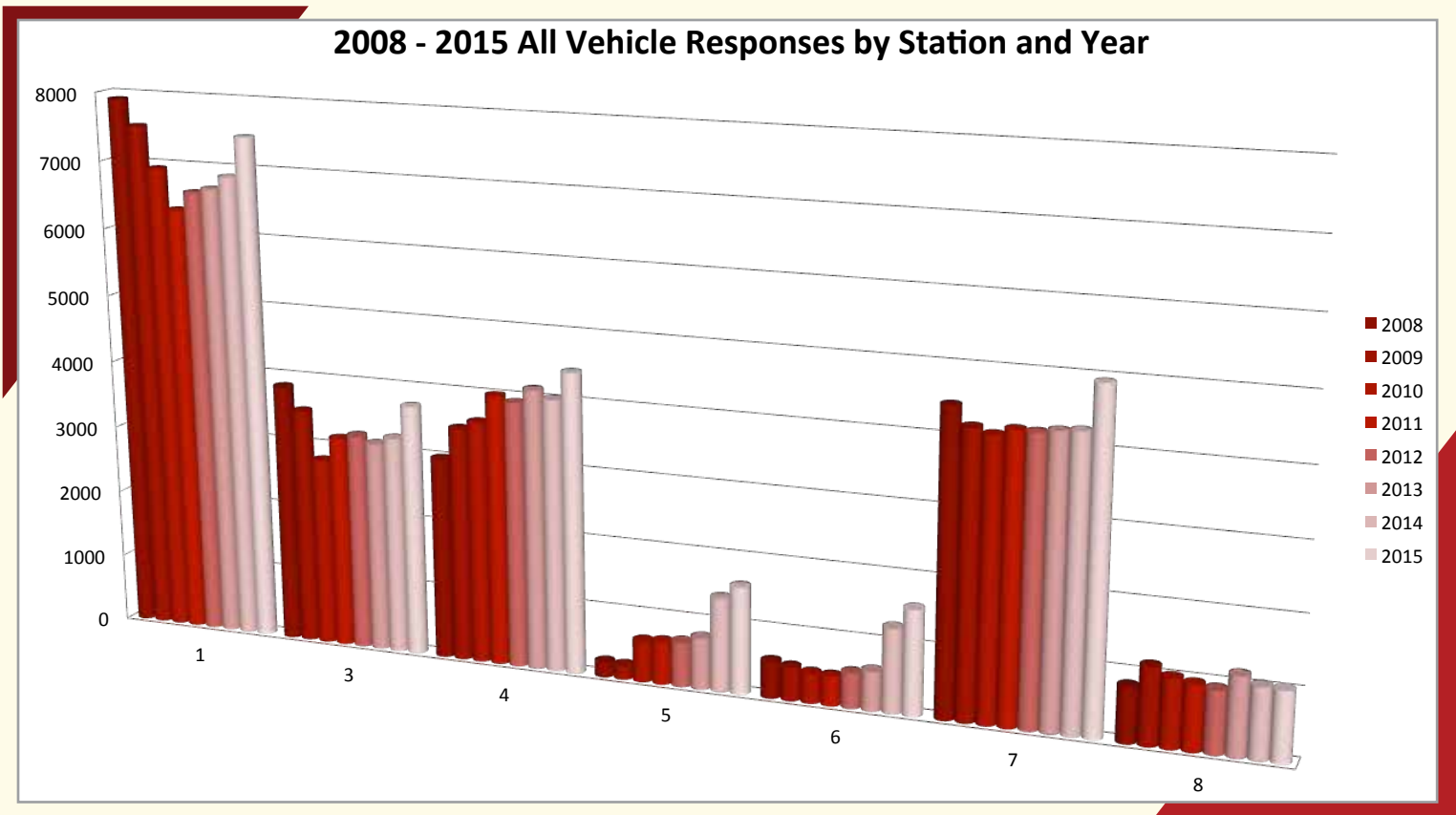




2008 – 2015 Vehicle Responses by Station and Year

In 2006 & 2007, we did not record each vehicle name and type responding to incidents, therefore, we cannot report what type of vehicle responded or from which station.

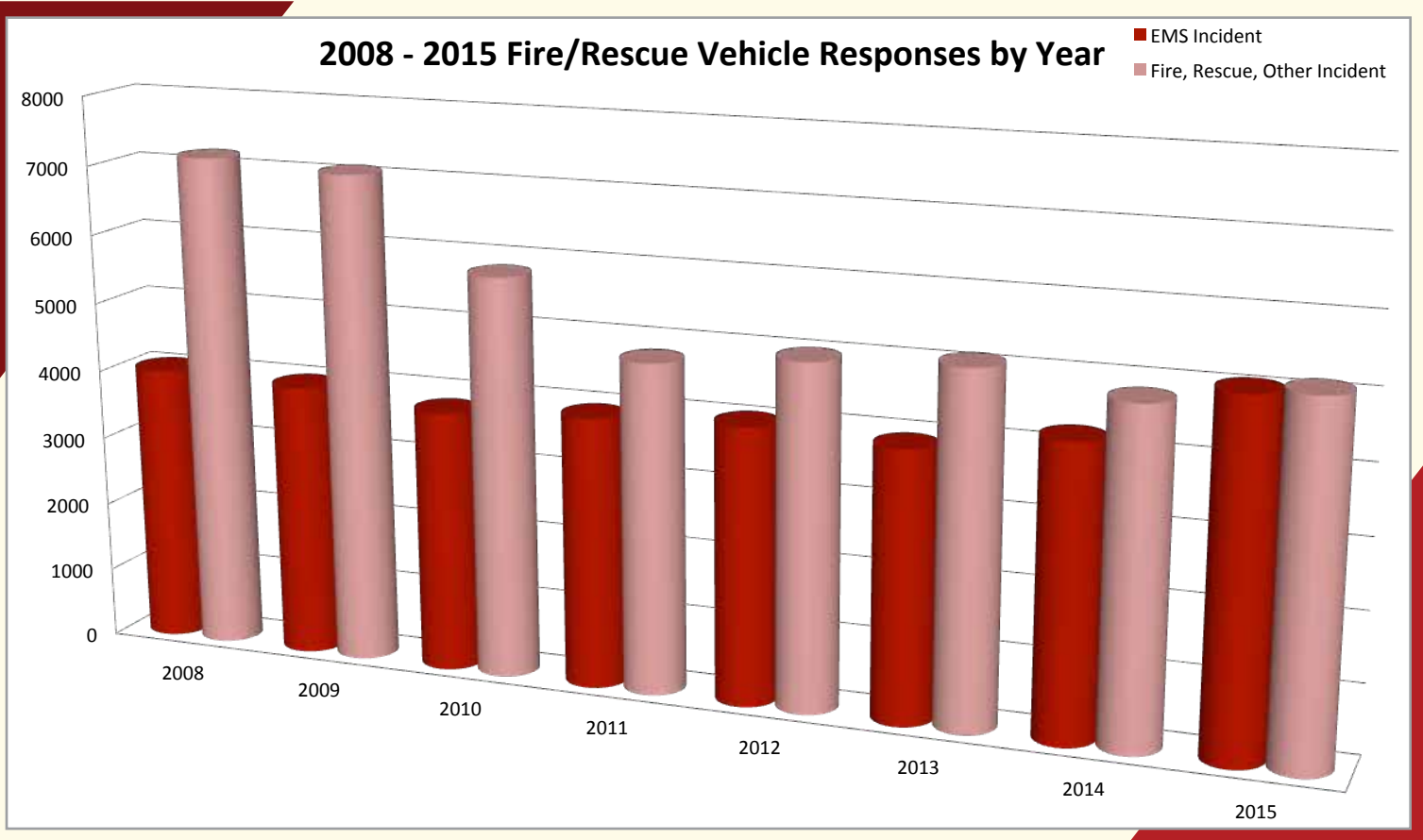
Each group of bars represents the number of vehicle responses from a fire station, from 2008 in the darkest bars to 2015 in the lightest bars. In 2014 the fire department put more vehicles into service and adjusted the way vehicles are deployed. This most affected stations 5 & 6. Station 8 is the airport fire station. Their responsibilities were not part of the 2014 changes.





2008 – 2015 Fire Vehicles Response by Year

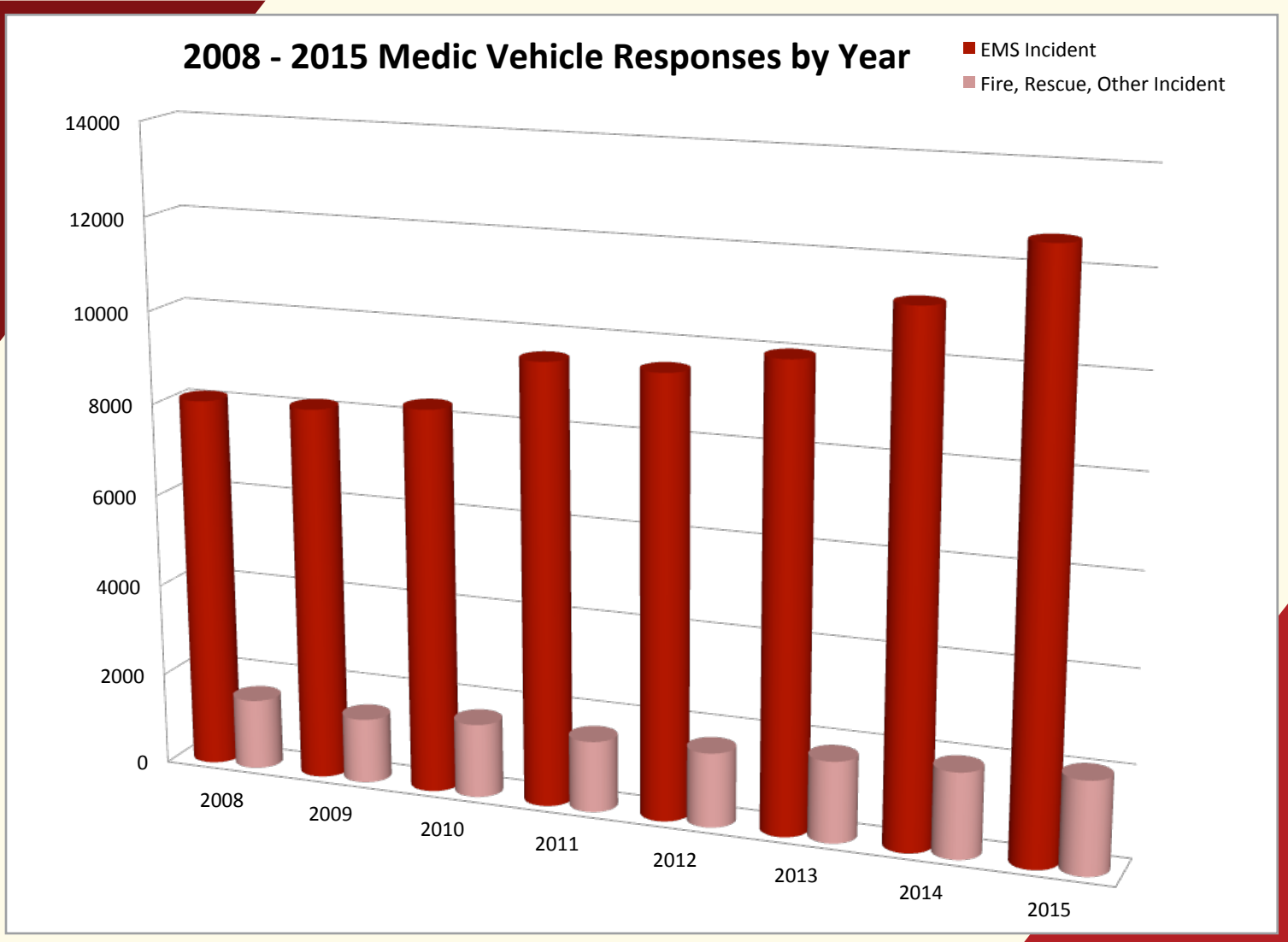
A fire, rescue, or specialty vehicle (such as hazardous material response) responds to almost all incidents in the city. Sometimes a fire engine is sent to a medical incident to provide enough trained people to perform the critical tasks as early as possible. This can be especially important when someone is having a heart attack or there are multiple patients. Like most full-time fire departments across the US, even if we did not provide the city's paramedic service, we would be sent to most of the medical incidents.





2008 – 2015 Medic Vehicles Responses by Year

A medic vehicle, or ambulance, is staffed with cross-trained firefighter paramedics. They mostly respond to medical-only emergencies but they also respond to other emergencies, such as car crashes and fires to care for and transport the injured. The demand for medical responses continues to increase each year and is, on average, 70% of the department's call volume.





Year-end report

Under the direction of Division Chief Jason Culberson, the Medical Operations Division maintains the responsibility for the provision and oversight of emergency and non-emergency advanced and basic life support ambulance services in the Rapid City and Pennington County service area. All EMS operations fall under the medical direction of Dr. Nathan Long.

The Rapid City Fire Department is the primary Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider for the City of Rapid City and Pennington County. The Department provides pre-hospital and/or out-of-hospital medical care, ambulance transportation services, and standby services throughout the area.

2015 was another record year in terms of response. In 2014 eleven of the twelve months were all-time record numbers for our service. In 2015 the record was broken in all twelve months. We finished the year with 14,520 individual patient care reports, 1,405 calls over last year. This constitutes a 10.7% increase in reports generated over 2014.



Technology:

We worked diligently this past year on enhancements and improvements to our service. We did this through technology improvements and personnel additions. Through a donor directed donation from the Black Hills Area Community Foundation the department added mobile gateways to every ambulance in our fleet. This allows for seamless information sharing with our vehicles, crews, and equipment throughout our response area.



Pre-Hospital Provider Advocacy:

The Department continues to work with the State of South Dakota on new and innovative ways to provide our service. With the increase in call volume the department needs to find effective ways to provide out of hospital medical care to our community. Many of the Departments members serve on advocacy boards and stakeholder committees pushing for meaningful changes at the state level so we can provide the optimal level of care to our community.



EMS Billing

Our operations and administrative staff are dedicated and a vital piece of our department. However, the EMS division would not be possible if it was not for the work of our EMS billing staff. They are a dedicated group of individuals that have allowed us to provide a cost effective and successful ambulance service for the past 12 years.



SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM



The Pennington County Special Response Team is a law enforcement team that is used in life threatening critical events that are beyond the capabilities of normal patrol resources. These events include High Risk Search Warrants, Hostage Negotiations, and Active Shooters. To resolve these types of incidents, the SRT uses professional and standardized training to deploy special weapons and tactics.

The team is made up of law enforcement officers from the Rapid City Police Department, Pennington County Sheriff's Office, and four Paramedics from the Rapid City Fire Department. The Paramedics from the Rapid City Fire Department are trained in Tactical Emergency Medical Support. This is specialized medical training to provide immediate lifesaving skills in scenes too dangerous for ambulance operations.

Once a month the team trains on special scenarios. Twice a year the team trains with the sniper team on sniper initiated scenarios. Over the last year our medical team also had the opportunity to facilitate classes with Dr. Peter Maningas in Pierre, SD. These classes worked with local East river teams as well as with the local and statewide U.S. Marshal's Office.



2015 Year End Report

- Under the direction of Assistant Chief Rod Seals, the Fire Operations Division is comprised of three Battalions (A, B & C) of 39 personnel each. These dedicated women and men work 56 hour weeks to assure 24/7/365 day response readiness.
- Each Battalion is led by a Battalion Chief. Tim Daly (A), Rob Powell (B) & Jerry Reichert (C).



- Maintenance Supervisor Randy Raue and Fire Mechanic Mike Holmberg keep our fleet of over sixty vehicles ready to respond to calls. With help from Lt. Tyler Wilcox, they are responsible for repair, maintenance and service of all Department ambulances, large & small fire apparatus, wildland apparatus, staff vehicles, and all other rolling stock. In addition to fire trucks, Randy, Mike & Tyler maintain and service all of the equipment that is utilized in our jobs.





FIRE OPERATIONS DIVISION



- Although the local wildland fire danger was lower in 2015, Rapid City Firefighters deployed to 41 large wildland fires across nine states. Rapid City Firefighters fought these large fires in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Montana and Idaho and spent 12,609 total man-hours deployed to these large fires. To assist in battling these large blazes, our firefighters performed tasks such as fireline medics, helicopter crewmembers, engine bosses, firefighters, command & general staff positions, hand crew members and heavy equipment bosses. The experience our members get while deployed to these large fires makes the Rapid City Fire Department a top-notch organization able to handle the toughest fires when they arrive at our back door. In addition to the gained knowledge

and experience, the expenses are reimbursed and directly fund apparatus and equipment that would normally have to be funded by general tax dollars.

- A Firefighter's day begins at 7:00 am and continues for a 24 hour period. They take care of their Fire Stations just like it is their home, including lawn maintenance, snow removal, painting, waxing the floors, light construction and cleaning them top to bottom.
- A firefighter's day is busy. They begin the day by checking their personal protective gear, equipment and trucks. Next, they engage in physical fitness training, followed by daily company training. The afternoons are spent performing equipment and station maintenance, conducting fire preplans, school visits, public education, fire inspections, drills, more training, station tours and much more. And remember, at any time, they may have to drop everything to respond to emergencies.





The Training Section's primary focus is firefighter education. 2015, like previous years, saw the on-going training of our current firefighters to meet or exceed minimum standards set forth by federal, state, and local regulations.

Early in the year, the Training Section oversaw a Fire Officer Academy. This academy, designed to follow NFPA Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II standards, prepared up-and-coming senior firefighters for the transition to fire officer within the Rapid City Fire Department. These senior firefighters were presented classes on management, interpersonal relationships, strategies and tactics, and many other topics pertinent to making that next career step.

The Academy culminated in a promotion exam including a written test, an interview, and a scenario based test. 24 candidates successfully completed all phases of the exam. They were ranked according to scores, and then placed on a list to await openings for Lieutenant (the first line supervisor within the department). This ranked list is good for 2 years. To date, 4 senior firefighters have promoted to Lieutenant from the 2015 list.

In late 2014, the Training Section was contacted by Western Dakota Technical Institute. The school was requesting our help with the Fire Science Program. The department agreed to assist by providing an interim Program Director as well as several adjunct instructors to the school for the spring semester. WDT hired a Program Director for the Fall semester; however, the RCFD continued to provide adjunct instructors for various classes.

With 2015 coming to a close, the Training Section was busy planning a Recruit Academy for newly hired employees as well as putting together a training schedule for current firefighters. The Training Section will continue to prepare our people with the education necessary to deliver the highest degree of service to the Rapid City community.





TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

Station 3, located in the west area of the City, provides fire protection, emergency services, and specialized rescue to the citizens of Rapid City. Specialized rescue is unique to Station 3. These services include structural collapse rescue, trench rescue, confined space rescue, high angle rescue, vehicle extrication, ice rescue and swift water rescue. A new addition to the rescue station this year is canine search.

Training is an integral and continuous part of every firefighter's day-to-day activities. All members are currently, or in the process, of obtaining certifications in all specialties. Some of the training that members attended or conducted are the following:



Firefighter Gibbons and Firefighter Jungck attended a FEMA Canine Search Specialist class in Tennessee on March 1st-7th. Captain Gunderson, Firefighter Trojanowski, Firefighter Potter, and Firefighter Povandra attended an Advanced Interior Shoring class in Texas on March 21st-28th. Cisco, our search canine, completed his certification on May 2nd. He is now certified as a live find air scenting canine. He is qualified as a NIMs Type I wilderness search and a NIMs Type III urban search canine. The rescue station hosted an advanced breaching and breaking class during the Sturgis motorcycle rally that included members from the South Dakota Task Force 1 Team. A trench rescue class was also conducted on September 14, 15, and 16. The skills obtained from the class were tested approximately a week later resulting in a successful rescue of a trench collapse near Hermosa.

The rescue team continues to be fortunate enough to obtain federal grant dollars that have been used to purchase equipment to compliment the specialties. The grant will be transitioning into more of a training grant that will be used to maintain the skills necessary provided by the South Dakota Task Force Team.



As of January 1, 2016, the rescue component of the RCFD was split into two entities. Light rescue will be at station 3 and heavy rescue will now be housed at station 7. 2016 should prove to be an exciting and challenging year with the addition of another rescue station. In the future, training in our rescue capabilities will continue to be a priority. Station 3 personnel will continue to be committed to training locally and with the other teams across the state. It is our goal to provide the best customer service to not only our city, but to our region and state as well.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM



Station 6 is located off Highway 16, at 1930 Promise Road. The station responds to Fire and EMS calls on the south and south-west areas of the city, as well as automatic aid to Rockerville and Whispering Pines fire departments in the county. Station 6 is also the home of the Rapid City/Pennington County Hazardous Materials Response Team.

The Hazardous Materials team responded to several requests for their services.

Most of the responses were for deceased hazardous body recoveries and for air monitoring following a structure fire.

The team also responded to requests for air monitoring with law enforcement investigations and carbon monoxide incidents. The largest call for the team was

to respond with the Heavy Rescue Team to Hermosa and monitor the air during a trench rescue of two people.

Team members were able to work with the Civil Support Team from Ellsworth in providing area coverage of monitoring for potential releases during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. This was an excellent chance for team members to meet the new personnel on the CST and for them to meet and talk with our team members.

Team members continue to attend training to better the team's capabilities. Technicians attended the new oil transport response class in Pueblo. This class helped to understand the way that the team should respond to crude oil transportation accidents, such as a train derailment.

The team continues to offer training to any department or group in western South Dakota who

requests it. Instructors were sent out to several area fire departments and other agencies to deliver Hazardous Materials classes. Belle Fourche Fire Department, the Forest Service office in Custer, and regional fire schools were some of the recipients of this training.

In 2015, Station 6 received a new roof; the

old one had been damaged by hail. Also in 2015, the station experienced a water line break that needed the driveway to be torn up for the pipe to be accessed. These projects did not change any of the response capabilities of the station crews.

In 2016, the station and team have a new change coming to them in the presence of a new Station Captain and Team Leader in Captain Tom Bielmaier. The station crews are looking forward to the course that Captain Bielmaier will set for them.





WATER RESCUE TEAM

The Rapid City/Pennington County Water Rescue Team exists to support the community in water accident management. Operational capabilities include underwater rescue, swiftwater rescue, victim and/or equipment recovery, investigation and evidence recovery, ice rescue, and ice diving. The team is comprised of members from the Rapid City Fire Department, the Rapid City Police Department, the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, and other agencies.

The Water Rescue Team responded to 25 calls for service in 2015. The team was requested by the Ogala Sioux Tribe Law Enforcement to assist in rescuing two adults, three children, and an infant from the top of a vehicle that was swept off the roadway and stranded in the middle of swift moving water. The team, with the assistance of Pennington County Search and Rescue and OST crews, was able to get the victims back to safety. The team was also called upon to assist a stranded swimmer stuck in a tree after being swept down the spillway at Dakota Point. Later in the summer a Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) Team out of Burleigh County, North Dakota and the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Sonar Boat assisted the team with a boating accident at Pactola Lake that resulted in the recovery of the victim and the boat.

The Water Rescue Team held a Light Salvage and Recovery Dive Class in June. Having this class advanced the level of service the team can provide to the community. This class taught the team members how to apply salvage technologies and concepts, use specialized lifting equipment to recover automobiles and boats, and practice a variety of lifting techniques with practical, hands-on exercises in open water.

2015 brought the retirement of Dustin Willett from the team. Dustin played an instrumental part in where the team has come from and where the team is headed. We would like to thank Dustin for the time and support he has given the team throughout his years of service.

The team management positions are as follows: Team Leader is Brian Povandra, Sub-Surface Manager is Jeff Andrews, and Surface Manager is Hunter Harlan.

The Rapid City / Pennington County Water Rescue Team continues to receive outstanding support from the contributing agencies and the community and we look forward to serving the community in 2016.

Rapid City/Pennington County Water Rescue Team Members:

Fire Department	Police Department	Sheriff's Department	Other Agencies
Brian Povandra	Jeremy Stauffacher	Shawn Stalder	Jason Dannenbring S&R
Hunter Harlan	Matt Owczarek	Tana Tallon	
Calen Maningas	Trevor Tollman	Jeff Andrews	
Eric O'Connor		Daniel Lewis	
Scott Jungck		Brandon Akley	
Robert Thompson			



Division Chief / Fire Marshal, Tim Behlings
Chief Deputy Fire Marshal, Rich Broderick
Fire and Life Safety Specialist, Monica Colby
Administrative Assistant, Jody Telkamp
Lieutenant, Tim Weaver
Lieutenant, Dan Janecek
Lieutenant, Brad Staton
Lieutenant, Brian Staton
Lieutenant (Ret.), Jack Tomac

Veteran Crew: Jarod Lewis, Brian Shearer, Lucas Goldammer, Cody English, Scott Ferrier

The Fire & Life Safety Division consists of three distinct disciplines under the direction of Division Chief Tim Behlings

Public Education and Community Risk Reduction Fire and Life Safety Specialist, Monica Colby oversees this area coordinating public education efforts, maintaining RCFD statistical data, analyzing our community risk factors and measures based upon local and national data threads. Additional fire fighters work part time to augment program development and delivery.

Fire Inspection and Investigation Chief Deputy Fire Marshal, Rich Broderick oversees the day to day division responsibilities, with the support of Lieutenants, Janecek, Staton and Staton which includes project plan reviews, suppression system plan reviews, construction inspections, fire protection inspections, existing building inspections, concerned citizen follow-up, special event review, and fire cause and origin investigations.

Wild Land Urban Interface / Survivable Space Initiative Lieutenant Tim Weaver oversees wild land fire risk reduction activities to include, Identifying fuel mitigation properties, coordinate with property owners and contractors, write and manage grants, coordinate with The Rapid City Parks Department for city funding, equipment, and projects. Manages the Veterans crew supported by a BLM Veterans work grant.

The Fire and Life Safety Division formally known as the "Prevention Division" has had a very productive and challenging year experiencing a number of positive changes. Most notably the Division staffing level improved to support the services provided. We are very proud to have our team expanded with the addition of Lt. Brian Staton and Administrative Assistant Jody Telkamp.

In keeping with the risk reduction responsibilities our Fire and Life Safety Specialist started a new and successful program with Black Hills Works to teach safety skills to their clients. We continued to offer fire safety skill training to life skills classes at our Middle and High Schools. Existing programs designed to teach fire safety at home and at work to business and community groups were also provided regularly.

This year Monica Colby and Chris Brubaker taught fire, pedestrian, or water safety to 7,500 students, grades Kindergarten – Fifth Grade (and Pre-School when attached to a school we were visiting), in 18 public and private elementary schools; that's 296 classrooms in 32 days. The Naja Shriners partnered with us in the Kindergarten, First, and Second grade classes to distribute take-home educational materials.



FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY DIVISION

Rapid City Fire Department's statistical data maintained with great accuracy by Monica Colby was recognized on a National Level. We submitted findings of a special study of our false alarm causes for peer review through the National Fire Research Foundation and presented our findings at the National Safe Home Summit held in Silicon Valley to discuss emerging technology and the needs of the fire service. We are confident of our accurate fire incident reporting again in 2015; great data provides a solid foundation for great decisions.

The Wildland Urban Interface Fire Mitigation efforts continue to be supported through Local, State, Bureau of Land Management, and Western States Fire Managers grant funding. This program has touched nearly all parts of the city where the threat of wildland fire is the greatest, helping to reduce the effects of wild fire when one occurs. The program successes often utilized as models for other communities, and have been featured on a number of national stages where Lt. Tim Weaver was asked to present our program.

The Fire and Life Safety Division has developed a reputation as problem solvers, and the "go to" agency for assistance with issues involving fire codes, fire sprinkler protection, inspection practices, electronic plan review implementation, ect. We are very proud to represent the Fire Department and show case our efforts. Examples include:

- Chief Deputy Fire Marshal Broderick's appointment by SD Governor Daugard to the State Fire Marshal advisory board, and active member of the state critical infrastructure threat assessment team.
- The creation of a statewide fire sprinkler coalition dedicated to the education of people regarding fire sprinkler protection.
- We were awarded the AFG FPS grant to purchase materials to help the installation of residential fire sprinkler protection within homes built by inmates at Springfield, SD for the Governor's house program.
- Developing certified inspectors and fire investigators through nationally recognized programs established by the International Code Council and International Association of Fire Investigators.

The Fire and Life Safety Division strives every day to make a difference and clearly supports the mission and values of the Rapid City Fire Department. The examples provided exemplify the passion, commitment, and value of partnerships continually created by Division staff members along our way.

Respectfully,

Timothy D. Behlings
Division Chief / Fire Marshal
Fire and Life Safety Division
Rapid City Fire Department



Plan Reviews and Inspections

The Fire and Life Safety reviewed 728 plans in 2015 (based on permits issued by the city), a combination of new construction and remodeling projects. The Division reviewed plans for fire alarm systems, automatic fire sprinkler systems, commercial cooking hoods, paint booths, passive fire protection, and fire department access. One building may have several different fire-related plans. Some projects require revisions that must be reviewed, all under the same one permit recorded above.

After reviewing the plans, Fire and Life Safety staff ensure that the work is done according to the design. Each permit results in an average of 1.7 inspections. A small remodel may have only one fire building final inspection while installing a sprinkler system includes not only checking if the system works after the final installation, but checking water connections and flow at multiple stages of construction and walking through the entire building several times to inspect pipes and sprinkler heads.

The Fire and Life Safety Division staff maintain certifications that include required hours of continuing education and experience.

In addition to the work required by the building community regarding codes and standards, the Fire and Life Safety Division works to mitigate and reduce instances of fires, unwanted alarm system activations, life safety system failures, and fire-related injury and death.

Permit Type/Plan Review	Permits	Valuation of Work	Fees Charged
Alarm Modify	43	\$434,833	\$5,100
Alarm New	36	\$453,046	\$9,241
Alarm New Retrofit	12	\$14,930	\$1,685
Blasting	4	\$0	\$0
Special Extinguishment	9	\$33,010	\$929
Sprinkler	1	\$14,900	\$586
Sprinkler modify	66	\$1,204,703	\$13,146
Sprinkler new	37	\$1,289,544	\$24,186
Sprinkler new retrofit	10	\$230,943	\$3,010
Tank Installation	1	\$270,943	\$107
Fireworks	3	\$0	\$0
Building	506	*	*
Total	728	\$3,946,852	\$57,990

Permit/Review Category Totals	Permits	Valuation of Work	Fees Charged
Alarms	91	\$1,030,859	\$16,026
Special Extinguishment	9	\$33,010	\$929
Sprinklers	114	\$2,739,281	\$40,928
Other	8	\$270,943	\$107
Building	506	*	*
Total	728	\$4,074,093	\$57,990

*Building permit fees and valuation are combined with other city agencies and are tracked by the city's building services.

Type of Inspection Categories	Inspections
Building Final	231
Alarm	241
Special Extinguishment	15
Sprinklers	600
Manufactured Home and Travel Trailer Parks	70
Other	77
Total	1,234



FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY DIVISION

Fire Cause and Origin Determination

The Fire and Life Safety Division investigated 51 fires to determine the cause and origin. These investigated fires totaled an estimated \$42,131,080 in property and content value and \$1,618,180 and two lives in fire loss.

Outreach and Human Behavior Mitigation

The Fire & Life Safety Division reached about 11,000 people logging over 4,700 staff hours in meeting rooms, fairs, and classrooms. Over 750 hours were spent scheduling, developing materials, visuals, and lesson plans; meetings and trainings; and other logistics directly related to education.

We presented in 24 schools, 7 business safety classes, 6 fire safety classes for people with disabilities, 1 live fire sprinkler demonstration, and several other events, fire drills, and trainings.

We worked with 4 children who were involved with fire. There were 7 fire incidents where children were documented as possibly involved in the start of the fire.

We were awarded a 2-year grant for residential sprinkler installations and presented at a national safe home summit recognizing our research in unwanted alarm system activation.

- 196 acres treated,
- \$23,005,900 property values mitigated
- \$211,937 grant and homeowner contribution, and
- \$56,072 in City grant funds.

US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Crew Fuel Mitigation Projects:

- A crew of four Veterans are managed by the Fire Department with support from the Parks Department.
- 69 acres of BLM crew fuel mitigation this year in large tracts of land adjacent to several subdivisions: Kingswood, Cedar Hills, Pineview, Canyon Lake, and St. Martin's Village.
- Total property value impacted (homes and lots), if there was a fire in the area is \$46,000,000.

The grant dollars and matching funds of these fire mitigation programs have an added benefit of providing employment to Veterans and contractors as well as funding the local purchase of supplies and local services such as equipment maintenance.





Managing in 2015:

- US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wildfire Community-Assistance Grant (Veteran's Program). This ongoing grant has so far provided \$391,500 grant funds, with matching funds of \$171,252, totaling \$562,752.
- Two concurrent (2014, 2015) Western States Fire Managers Homeowner cost-share grants of \$600,000, grant funds plus \$600,000, matching funds totaling \$1,200,000.
- Rapid City Wildland Urban Interface homeowner cost-share grant of \$56,072 grant funds.
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant for Springbrook Acres, \$60,000.
- Skyline Drive Wilderness Area fuel mitigation project treated 51 acres in 2015 and is funded by grant funds of \$220,000.

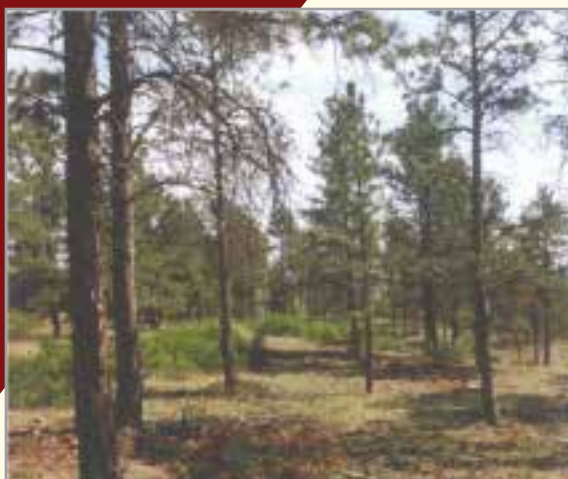
Grants awarded in 2015

- WSFM grant for Cowboy Hill of \$80,000, grant funds plus \$80,000, matching funds totaling \$160,000 for work through 2018.
- WSFM Homeowner cost-share grant, \$300,000 grant funds plus \$300,000 matching funds totaling \$600,000 for work through 2020.
- BLM Wildfire Community Assistance Grant for \$142,500 grant funds plus a match of \$63,600, totaling \$206,100.

Grants submitted and approved in 2015 to be received in 2016:

Western States Fire Managers grant for Springbrook Acres Phase II totaling \$176,000.

Currently Managing \$2,852,861 in grant-funded projects, protecting over \$69,000,000 in property value.





SPECIAL EVENTS

Many daily activities and good deeds of the Rapid City Fire Department's employees continue unreported, and these are just a sampling of the other unconventional ways we enjoy serving our community.

Every year our firefighters take three days to help gather donations for MDA from our generous community. This is our single largest fundraiser every year – the Muscular Dystrophy Association and International Association of Fire Fighters have a partnership that goes back to the 1950s. This year we were able to raise a whopping \$45,111.23 to study and treat the wide spectrum of muscle diseases under MDA's scope.

The fire department helped to gather 804 units of blood, working in a mock-competition with the Rapid City Police Department for the annual 'Guns and Hoses' blood drive. Each donor writes whether they would like their donation to be credited to the Fire Department or the Police Department – so it's basically a popularity contest, but the snacks (courtesy of many local vendors) are always good. After 4 days, the Fire Department secured another victory with 406 total credited donations (it was close).

Our ambulances were called upon once again to assist with the Freshman Impact program in Rapid City. Organized by an organization called "C.O.R.E." this program helps educate High School freshmen in Rapid City about the dangers of driving drunk or distracted, and walks them through all of the serious consequences of actions that they might consider harmless. This year the program reached 135 freshmen in Rapid City, which is about 10% of the total.

Station 7 on C-shift once again raised money by independently organizing a "No-Shave November" and setting up a GoFundMe website to gather donations for disadvantaged youth in Rapid City. Their generous action and community involvement brightened the Christmases for several kids, who got to enjoy brand-new Strider bicycles. While the crew has been scattered to fill personnel needs at other stations, they plan on coming together again for the fundraiser in 2016.

Our firefighters once again battled Rapid City police officers on the ice over the coveted golden broom. Our annual Broomball game occurs each December and raises money and awareness for Youth and Family Services (YFS). The Police Department won this year, defeating us 2 to 1.





2015 was a busy year for the Rapid City Fire Department Honor Guard. Unfortunately, there were many deaths in the fire service community this year, however, the very reason the Honor Guard exists is to honor those that have gone before us. One of those funerals was for Dave Ruhl who died in the line of duty battling a wildland fire in California. The Honor Guard had the opportunity to work with the national honor guard team for the Forest Service.

The honor guard also participated in 15 other events including parades, posting of colors at events, and several retirements. With the retirement of Lieutenant Damon Hartmann there was a changing of command in the honor guard. Sean Fischer was voted in as the Commander, Nate Deitschman continued as the Lieutenant Commander, and Neill Goodart was voted in as Sergeant in Arms. The other members of the Rapid City Fire Department Honor Guard consist of: Francis Bierman, Bill Day, Wade Hughes, Paul Johnson, Josh Lange, Ryan Marcks, Andrew Rasmussen, Nick Phillipe, Jack Tomac, Chris Ciocarlan and Scott Jungck. The Honor Guard said goodbye to Damon Hartmann and Dustin Willet; their dedication was very much appreciated.

The honor guard plans to continue their education and training by attending various honor guard symposiums throughout the country.



PIPE AND DRUM CORPS

Rapid City Professional Firefighters Pipe and Drum Corps

The Corps was formed in 2009 to honor fallen military, police, and firefighters. The Corps is a self-funded group and functions solely from donations and the money we receive from performances. The band started with five members but has grown to eight active members. During 2015 the Corps members volunteered 1200 hours between practice, travel, and performance.

2015 was a busy year for performances.

The Corps had the honor of performing at 3 line of duty death funerals this last year. We also played at the State Capital for the Fallen Firefighter Memorial, RCFD retirement ceremonies, promotion ceremony,

and we even topped the year off with a performance with the Black Hills Symphony Orchestra for the

New Year's Eve Concert. The Corps also believes in volunteering for other organizations in our community. One of the events we did this year was to assist with Feeding South Dakota and the Fill the Backpack program.

Looking forward to 2016 we will be adding 2 new members who will

be ready to perform, and new Class A uniforms for use at ceremonial events. We thank you for your continued support as we strive to maintain a professional level volunteer organization.





Starting with our biggest banquet yet and ending with a “sweet” holiday party, 2015 was a year to be remembered for the Rapid City Fire Department Women’s Auxiliary. This group of proud “fire wives” continued to show its dedication to Rapid City’s bravest, their families and our community.

Several changes at the leadership level kicked off the auxiliary’s year. Two of four officers are elected each January, and no person can serve more than two, 2-year terms in a row. We also had a member step down from the secretary’s post in order to tend to a sick family member, so we started the year by electing three new officers: Vice President Kassi Jolley, Secretary Shelly Broderick and Treasurer Jamie Jungck. President Julie Gibbons began her second year in that position.

The annual Rapid City Fire Department Banquet in February was chaired by Susie Marcks, who made it her mission to make the event free of charge for all who attended. Her efforts and those of a hard-working committee were successful. As a result, we had the highest banquet attendance to date. More than 150 people turned out to recognize new hires, recent retirees, those who earned promotions, and those who received special awards for going above and beyond the call of duty.



It was a wonderful night with new firefighters, veteran firefighters, retirees and significant others coming together to enjoy good food, fun stories and the department’s many accomplishments.

May means “Fill the Boot” for the RCFD, and that means it’s time for auxiliary members to count thousands and thousands of dollars that our firefighters collect for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. There

is a method to the madness of making sure every dime and dollar that’s donated gets added in and given to a great cause. Besides helping with counting, the auxiliary also made its traditional donation of \$250.

Donations were also made in 2015 to the Pennington County Relay for Life, an event that auxiliary members have taken part in for several years, as well as to an RCFD family dealing with cancer and the family of a local wildland firefighter who was lost in the line of duty while serving in California.

Our group has continued the “Firefighter of the Month” program, which treats a fire family chosen at random with a \$25 gift card to use at a local business. And we once again granted scholarships to two

firefighters’ children in 2015. Tiana Carlson and Ty Daly each received a \$250 scholarship to pursue their higher education goals.

We had a great crowd for our annual family picnic in June – such a great crowd, in fact, that we had to order more fried chicken that afternoon!

It’s always good to see old and new faces in an informal setting, and to do so at one of Rapid City’s beautiful public parks.

The year wrapped up with several auxiliary members volunteering again at the Youth and Family Services giftwrapping booth at the Rushmore Mall. December also included our 2nd annual Cookie Exchange. The event is quickly becoming a “favorite” for members, as it’s a delicious way to enjoy the holiday season with friends and fellow fire wives.

Here’s to 2016 being filled with many more wonderful memories!



PERSONNEL

2015 PERSONNEL

A Shift

Kris Anderson, FMJ-P
 Shane Barrows, FMI
 Michael Bartling, CT-P
 Dean Belisle, FMJ
 Aaron Bostel, FMJ-P
 Mitchel Carlson, FMI-P
 Lon Chau, FMJ
 Chris Ciocarlan, FMJ-P
 William Day, FMJ
 Nate Deitschman, LT-P
 Adam Dennis, FMR
 Levi Denton, FMJ
 Matthew Emrich, FMII-P
 Sean Fischer, FMJ-P
 Joe Gilles, CT
 Neill Goodart, FMJ-P
 Bryce Green, FMJ-P
 Dirk Gustin, FMJ
 Jeff Haberstroh, FMJ
 Hunter Harlan, FMJ
 Mitchell Hove, FMII
 Paul Johnson, LT
 Marshall Keefe, FMII
 Tyler King, FMJ
 Joshua Lange, LT
 Jerry Lueras, FMJ
 Calen Maningas, LT
 Monte Mertes, LT-P
 William Mitchell, FMJ-P
 Mathew Ornelas, FMJ
 Mathew Peters, FMI
 Tyler Powell, FMJ
 Ty Reber, LT
 Cody Rose, FMJ
 Sean Simonson, FMI
 Kevin Sosa, FMJ-P
 Tamara Stadel, FMJ
 Keith Trojanowski, FMJ-P
 Jason Zeigler, FMJ

B Shift

Dan Alfson, FMJ
 Shawn Barrows, CT
 Jeffrey Bauer, LT
 Thomas Bielmaier, CT
 Francis Bierman, FMJ-P
 Christopher Brubaker, FMJ-P
 Mikel Cronin, FMJ
 Christopher Drew, FMJ
 Jason Fields, FMII
 Chaz Fondren, FMJ-P
 Drew Haffner, FMI
 Eric Hansen, FMJ
 Kevin Hansen, FMJ
 Wade Hughes, LT
 Brett Johnson, FMJ-P
 Steven Keller, FMII-P
 Adam Kienast, FMI
 Christopher Klucas, FMJ-P
 Trapper Lappe, LT-P
 James L'Esperance, FMJ-P
 Brent Long, CT-P
 Dana Mellegard, FMI
 Brett Morton, FMJ-P
 John Niehaus, CT-P
 Scott O'Connor, FMJ
 Justin Perkins, FMJ
 Nick Phillippe, FMJ
 William Potter, LT
 Brian Povandra, LT-P
 Seth Purcella, FMJ
 Andrew Rasmussen, FMJ
 William Reishus, LT
 Ryan Ricke, FMJ-P
 Joyce Sauer, FMJ
 Sarah Stewart, FMI-P
 Anthony Tryon, FMJ
 Robert Weinert, FMJ-P
 Mike Wright, LT

C Shift

Dustin Armstrong, FMJ
 Gerry Baker, FMJ
 Guy Bennett, FMJ-P
 Matthew Boyce, FMR
 James Bussell, FMJ-P
 Jon Buxton, LT
 Tyler Clavel, FMR
 Ed Cromwell, FMJ
 Todd Duda, LT
 Robert Eddy, CT
 James Frybarger, FMJ
 Jeremy Gibbons, FMJ
 Kelly Gunderson, CT
 Damon Hartmann, LT
 Anthony Hudson, FMJ
 Alan Johnson, FMJ-P
 Scott Jungck, FMJ-P
 Mathew Kahler, FMJ
 Kurtis Klunder, FMJ-P
 Joshua Kusser, FMII
 Scott Lensegrav, FMJ
 Heath Lillie, FMII-P
 Nicholas Lindsley, FMJ
 Andy Lipp, LT
 Ryan Marcks, FMJ-P
 Jimmy Massey, CT
 Casey Morgan, FMJ-P
 Cory Nelson, FMI
 Eric O'Connor, FMJ
 John Potter, FMJ-P
 Mark Raderschadt, LT
 Alex Rasmussen, FMJ-P
 Jason Reitz, FMJ-P
 Robert Rendon, FMJ-P
 John Renz, FMJ
 Eric Shattuck, FMI
 Robert Thompson, FMJ-P
 Joe Tjaden, CT-P
 Tyler Wilcox, LT

D Shift

Administrative Uniformed Staff

Mike Maltaverne, Fire Chief
 Rodney Seals, Deputy Fire Chief
 Nick Carlson, Div Chief Fire Ops
 Jason Culberson, Div Chief EMS Ops
 Tim Behlings, Div Chief F&LS
 Matt Culberson, Training Sect Chief
 Tim Daly, BC A Shift
 Robert Powell, BC B Shift
 Jerry Reichert, BC C Shift
 TJ Nicolai, EMS Section Chief
 Dustin Willett, Emergency Mgr
 Rich Broderick, Deputy Chief FM
 Monica Colby, FLS Specialist
 Christopher Jolley, LMM-P
 Oliver White, LT PIO
 Tim Weaver, LT Inspector
 Dan Janecek, LT Inspector
 Brad Staton, LT Inspector
 Brian Staton, LT Inspector

Administrative Support Staff

Sheryl Aldridge, Admin Coordinator
 Jody Telkamp, Admin Assistant
 Rene Schroeder, Admin Secretary
 Denise Rossum, Pt Billing Mgr
 Sandy Dempsey, Med Coder II
 Jayme Lopez, Med Coder II
 Carol Siemonsma, Med Coder II
 Randy Raue, Maint Supervisor
 Mike Holmberg, Mechanic

Abbreviations

BC - Battalion Chief
 FLS - Fire and Life Safety
 FM - Fire Marshal
 FMR - Firefighter Medic Recruit
 FMR-P - Firefighter Medic Recruit Paramedic
 FMI - Firefighter Medic I

FMI-P - Firefighter Medic I Paramedic
 FMII - Firefighter Medic II
 FMII-P - Firefighter Medic II Paramedic
 FMJ - Firefighter Medic Journeyman
 FMJ-P - Firefighter Medic Journeyman Paramedic
 LMM-P - Lead Mobile Medic Paramedic

LT - Lieutenant
 LT-P - Lieutenant Paramedic
 CT - Captain
 CT-P - Captain Paramedic
 PIO - Public Information Officer

PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENTS



Deputy Fire Chief
Rod Seals



Division Chief Fire Operations
Nick Carlson



Captain
Rob Eddy



Captain-Paramedic
Brent Long



Lieutenant
Roger Wade Hughes



Lieutenant
Joshua Lange



Lieutenant
Calen Maningas



Lieutenant
Mark Raderschadt



PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENTS



Lieutenant-Paramedic
Trapper Lappe



Lieutenant-Paramedic
Brian Povandra



Lieutenant-Paramedic
Brian Staton



Firefighter Journeyman
Paramedic
Kris Anderson



Firefighter Journeyman
Paramedic
Guy Bennett



Firefighter Journeyman
Paramedic
John Potter



Firefighter Journeyman
Paramedic
Kevin Sosa



Firefighter Journeyman
Paramedic
Alex Rasmussen



Firefighter Journeyman
Medic
Tammy Stadel



Firefighter
Medic II-Paramedic
Matt Emrich



Firefighter
Medic II-Paramedic
Steven Keller

PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENTS



Firefighter
Medic II-Paramedic
Heath Lillie



Firefighter Medic II
Jason Fields



Firefighter Medic II
Mitchell Hove



Firefighter Medic II
Marshall Keefer



Firefighter Medic II
Joshua Kusser



Firefighter
Medic I-Paramedic
Sarah Stewart



Firefighter Medic I
Drew Haffner



Firefighter Medic I
Sean Simonson



Firefighter Medic I
Mathew Peters



Firefighter Medic I
Shane Barrows



Firefighter Medic I
Adam Kienast



PROMOTIONS AND RETIREMENTS



Firefighter Medic I
Dana Mellegard



Firefighter Medic I
Cory Nelson



Firefighter Medic I
Eric Shattuck



Medical Coder II
Jayme Lopez

2015 Retirements



Todd Duda
Hired 12/4/89,
Retired 6/30/15
He retired as a
Lieutenant
at Fire Station 8-Airport



Damon Hartmann
Hired 1/28/91,
Retired 4/24/15
He retired as a
Lieutenant
at Fire Station 1



John Niehaus
Hired 8/10/98,
Retired 9/30/15
He retired as a
Captain
at Fire Station 5



Mike Wright
Hired 11/26/90,
Retired 4/30/15
He retired as a
Lieutenant
at Fire Station 3



2015 New Hires



Jody Telkamp,
Fire Administrative
Assistant



Jarod Lewis,
BLM Veterans Crew



Brian Shearer,
BLM Veterans Crew



Lucas Goldammer,
BLM Veterans Crew



Cody English,
BLM Veterans Crew



Scott Ferrier,
BLM Veterans Crew



PREPARE • PREVENT
PROTECT

Rapid City Fire Department