

2016



ANNUAL REPORT

CHIEF'S MESSAGE

I respectfully submit this annual report as a comprehensive summary of the many accomplishments and activities of the Rapid City Fire Department for 2016. The Rapid City Fire Department is in constant pursuit of organizational excellence and this report is evidence of those efforts. Of the various services that are provided by the local government, the Fire Department is unique in that we provide a service that adds value to the community and the quality of life of our citizenry. This service in some respects is immeasurable. While data can provide for a statistical analysis of the organization's performance, how do you put a price on or measure the importance of having a safe community for your family? Fact is the majority of our customers never expected to call upon the Fire Department this year. But when they did, they were served by some of the most caring, compassionate and dedicated professionals in the business of public safety.

In 2016, we responded to 16,483 calls for service, either emergent or non-emergent. This number for the first time since 2011, was a reduction in calls for service in most major categories of reporting. We'd like to think this wasn't an accident and look to see this downward trend continue. The reduction could have been in part to initiatives such as residential safety inspections, deployment of a mobile medic program, or an increased emphasis on community wide risk reduction. Regardless, the Fire Department will continue to find ways to reduce injury, loss of life, loss of property or damage to the environment as we move forward in a proactive manner.

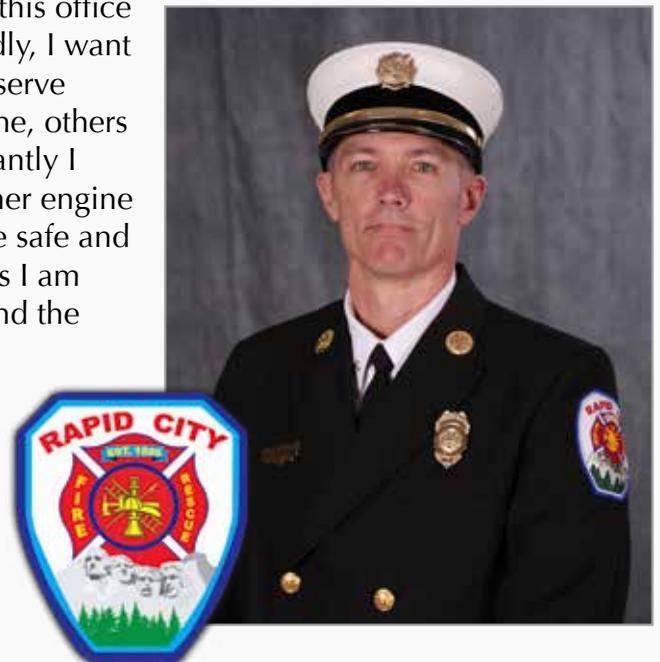
A few highlights for 2016 that should be important to our citizens as well as the Fire Department were the improved Insurance Services Office (ISO) Fire Protection Classification rating from a 3 to that of a 2. This improvement in our firefighting capabilities reduces insurance premiums for property owners in Rapid City. A rating of a 2, places the Rapid City Fire Department in the top 2% of nearly 50,000 fire departments across the country that go through an ISO assessment. As an indicator of our risk reduction efforts and firefighting capabilities, nearly 90% of all fires in the City were contained to the room or object of origin. In other words, fires in Rapid City were kept small by either automatic fire sprinkler systems, early detection through modern fire detection systems or suppressed by our highly capable firefighting operations. In 2016, we only saw two civilian injuries and NO FIRE FATALITIES. On a side note, we were able to keep our firefighters safe and did not see any major injuries to our personnel. This is due to our commitment to operational readiness, training, preparation, physical fitness and subscribing to a culture of firefighter safety.

In closing, it has been an honor and a privilege of mine to serve as Fire Chief for the Rapid City Fire Department since 2010. My retirement from the Rapid City Fire Department was effective December 30, 2016. I was blessed with overwhelming support from both the community and the organization. As my last act as Fire Chief, I want to thank those that have held this office for paving the way for myself and Chiefs to come. Secondly, I want to thank those individuals that I have had the privilege to serve alongside for the last 27 years. Some were mentors of mine, others were my best friends or extended family and most importantly I want to thank those that I served most closely with on either engine companies, medic units or as chief officers for keeping me safe and looking after me. Retirement will be bitter sweet for me as I am leaving one of the best Fire Department's in the country and the best group of co-workers anyone could ask for.

Sincerely,



Mike Maltaverne-Fire Chief
Rapid City Fire Department



CONTENT

- 4** Mission | Vision | Values
- 5** Organizational Chart
- 6** Statistics
- 12** Medical Operations Division
- 13** Special Response Team
- 14** Fire Operations Division
- 15** Training Section
- 16** Technical Rescue Team
- 17** Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team
- 18** Water Rescue Team
- 19** Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting
- 20** Fire and Life Safety Division
- 23** Special Events
- 24** Honor Guard
- 25** Pipe & Drum Corps
- 26** Women's Auxiliary
- 27** New Hires
- 29** Promotions & Retirements

MISSION - VISION - VALUES

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: 158

Mike Maltaverne
Fire Chief

EM User Board

**RC/PC Emergency
Manager**

Rod Seals
Deputy Chief

Lt. Jim Bussell
Public Information Officer

Sheryl Aldridge
Administrative Coordinator

Jody Telkamp
Administrative Assistant

Rene Schroeder
Administrative Secretary

DC Jason Culberson
Medical Operations

DC Nick Carlson
Fire Operations

DC Tim Behlings
Fire & Life Safety

Dr. Nathan Long
Medical Director

Mike Holmberg
Maintenance Supervisor

Matt Culberon
Training Section Chief

**Fire Code Board
of Appeals**

TJ Nicolai
Medical Section Chief

Chris Jolley
Lead Mobile Medic

Monica Colby
Fire & Life Safety Specialist

Denise Rossum
Patient Billing Services Manager

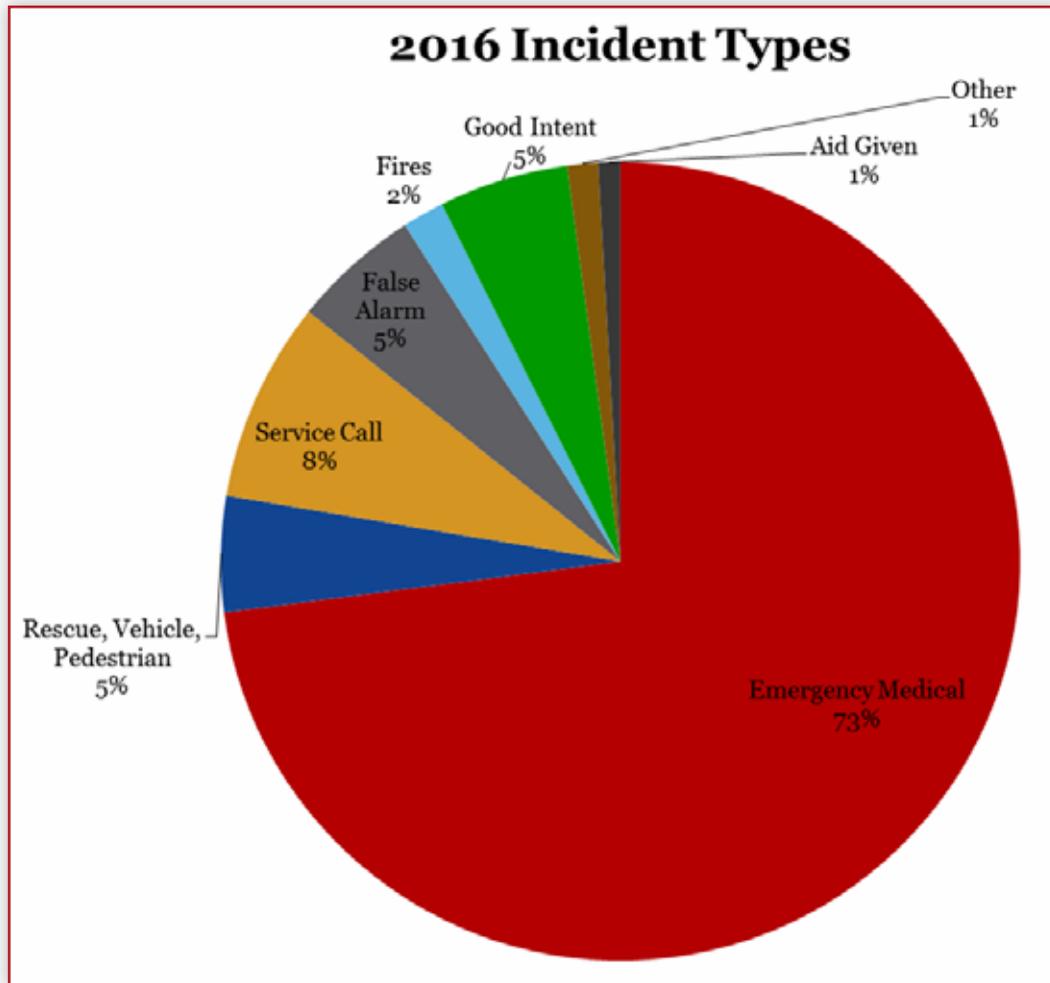
Tammy Stadel
Chief Deputy Fire Marshal

A-Shift
BC Tim Daly

B-Shift
BC Rob Powell

C-Shift
BC Jerry Reichert

STATISTICS



The majority of calls for service, 73%, are Emergency Medical incidents. These are everything from falls to breathing difficulty to paramedics standing by at a hockey game. Rescue, Vehicle, Pedestrian incidents (such as car crashes, near-drowning, and people trapped in elevators) as well as Fires may or may not include a medical response. When a person was injured in a car crash or fire, the incident will be in the Vehicle or Fire incident types, not in the Emergency Medical incident type. Service Calls include the security functions of the airport fire station and Mobile Medic-only responses. Mutual Aid Given are any type of incident that we responded to outside of our jurisdiction.

Incident Type Group	Incidents	Percentage
Fire	279	1.69%
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat	28	0.17%
Emergency Medical Service Incident	12,026	72.96%
Rescue, Vehicle, Pedestrian	771	4.68%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	162	0.98%
Service Call	1,338	8.12%
Good Intent (Well-meaning 911 call)	863	5.24%
False Alarm & False Call	854	5.18%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	9	0.05%
Special Incident Type	6	0.04%
Mutual Aid Given	147	0.89%
Total	16,483	100.00%

STATISTICS

Incident Type Group	2016
Fire	279
Building fires (111, 120-123)	48
Cooking fire, confined to container (113)	101
Other confined structure fires (114 - 118)	5
Vehicle fires (130-138)	27
Wildland fires (140-143, 170-173)	67
Other fires (112,150-164)	31
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, Overheat	28
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service Incident	12797
EMS (300 - 321)	12026
Rescue, Vehicle, and Others (322-381)	771
Hazardous condition (No Fire)	162
Service Call	1338
Government agency assist, airport (551.1 - 551.9)	945
Other Service Calls	393
Good Intent Call	863
Dispatched, cancelled en route (611)	642
Authorized burning (631, 631.1, 632)	40
Mistaken smoke/odor (650 -653)	64
Nothing found/wrong location (621-622)	51
Other good intent	66
False Alarm & False Call	854
False alarm & false call, other (700)	56
Malicious (710 - 721)	56
Malfunction (730 - 736)	170
Unintentional (740 - 746)	572
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	9
Special Incident Type	6
Aid Given	147
Total	16483

The Rapid City Fire Department responded to 16,483 calls for service in 2016. All Fire Department calls for service can be divided into ten major groups which can be further divided into subgroups.

In 2016 the Fire Department responded to 279 fires in Rapid City. There were 48 building fires where part of the structure itself was on fire, 101 cooking fires that did not spread past the pan or microwave, 5 fires that were confined to the chimney or similar structure, 27 vehicle fires, 67 wildland and grass fires, and 31 other outside and special fires such as fires in dumpsters.

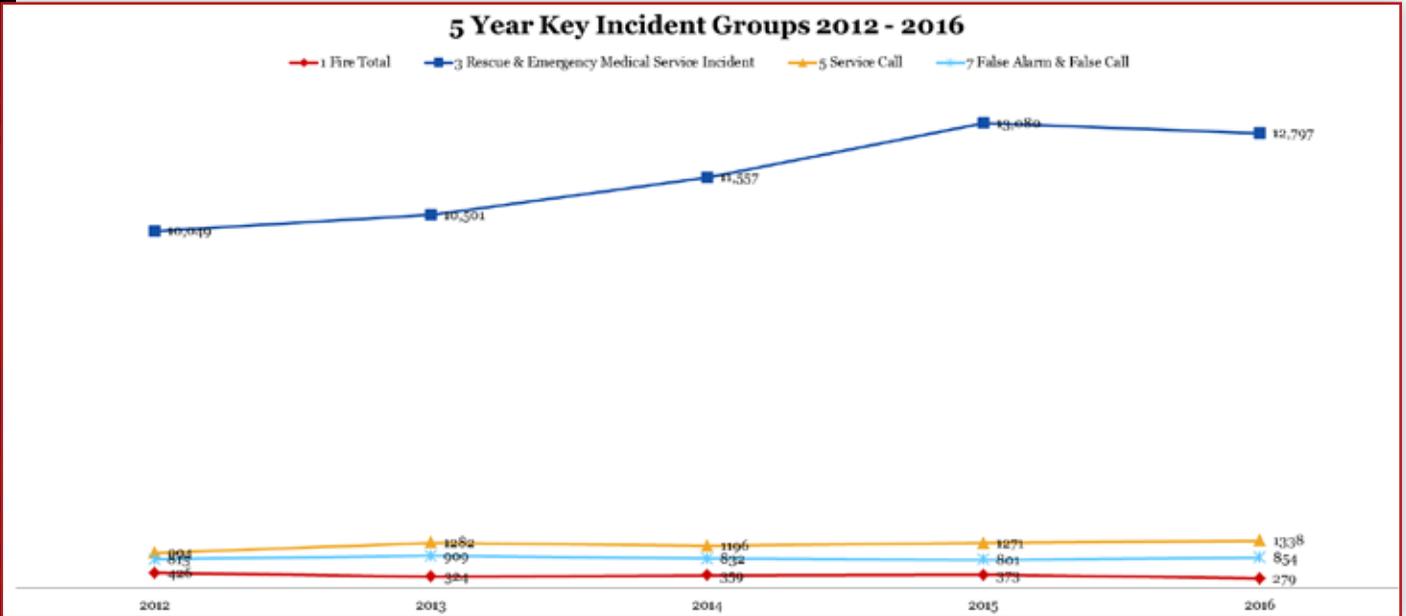
There were 12,026 Emergency Medical Service (EMS) incidents and 771 incidents that required rescue or involved a collision.

Our airport fire station responded to 945 incidents directly related to their dual-duties at the airport. A fire at the airport is reported in the Fire incident type group.

There were 642 incidents where dispatched units were cancelled before they arrived. This happens when we respond to a car crash and the first law enforcement officer on scene reports there are no injuries and no one is trapped.

False alarms, 854, continues to be a large portion of Fire Department responses though it has slightly declined over the past five years.

STATISTICS

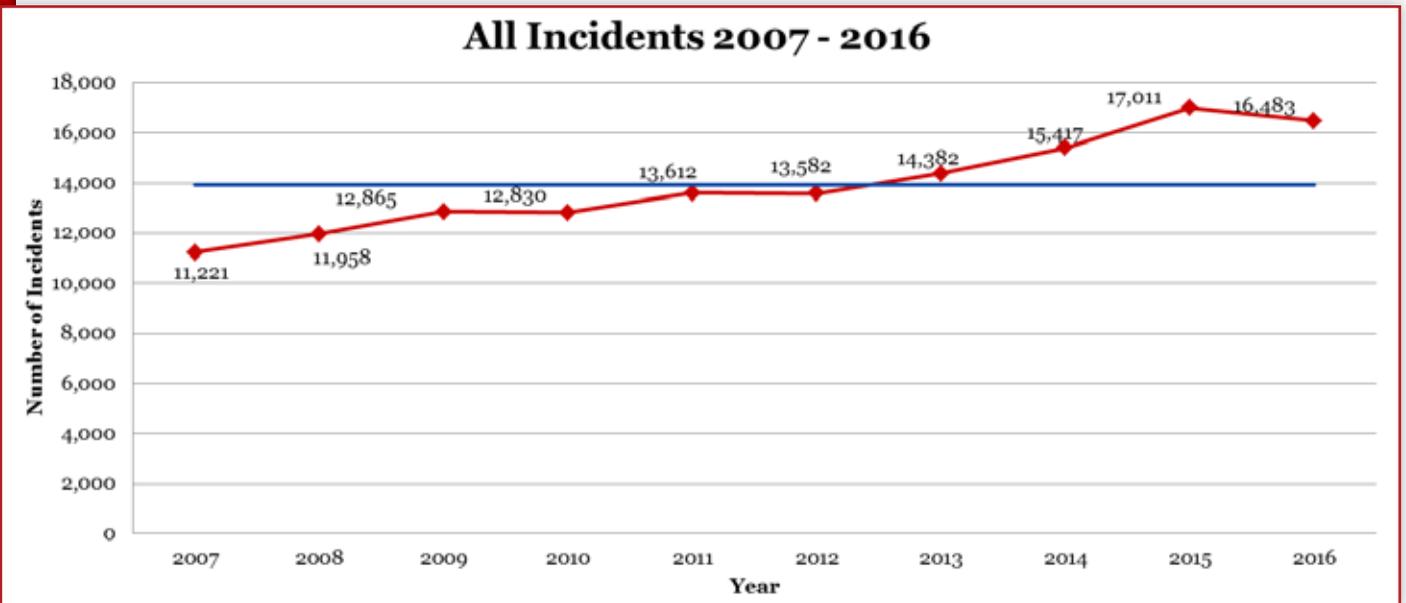


Above:

The five main incident type groups are Fires, Emergency Medical Services including Rescues, Service Calls including airport duties, and False Alarms. Graph above shows the five-year trend of these main categories. Overall, Medical and Service Call incidents are on the rise, False Alarms are remaining steady, and Fires are declining over the past five years.

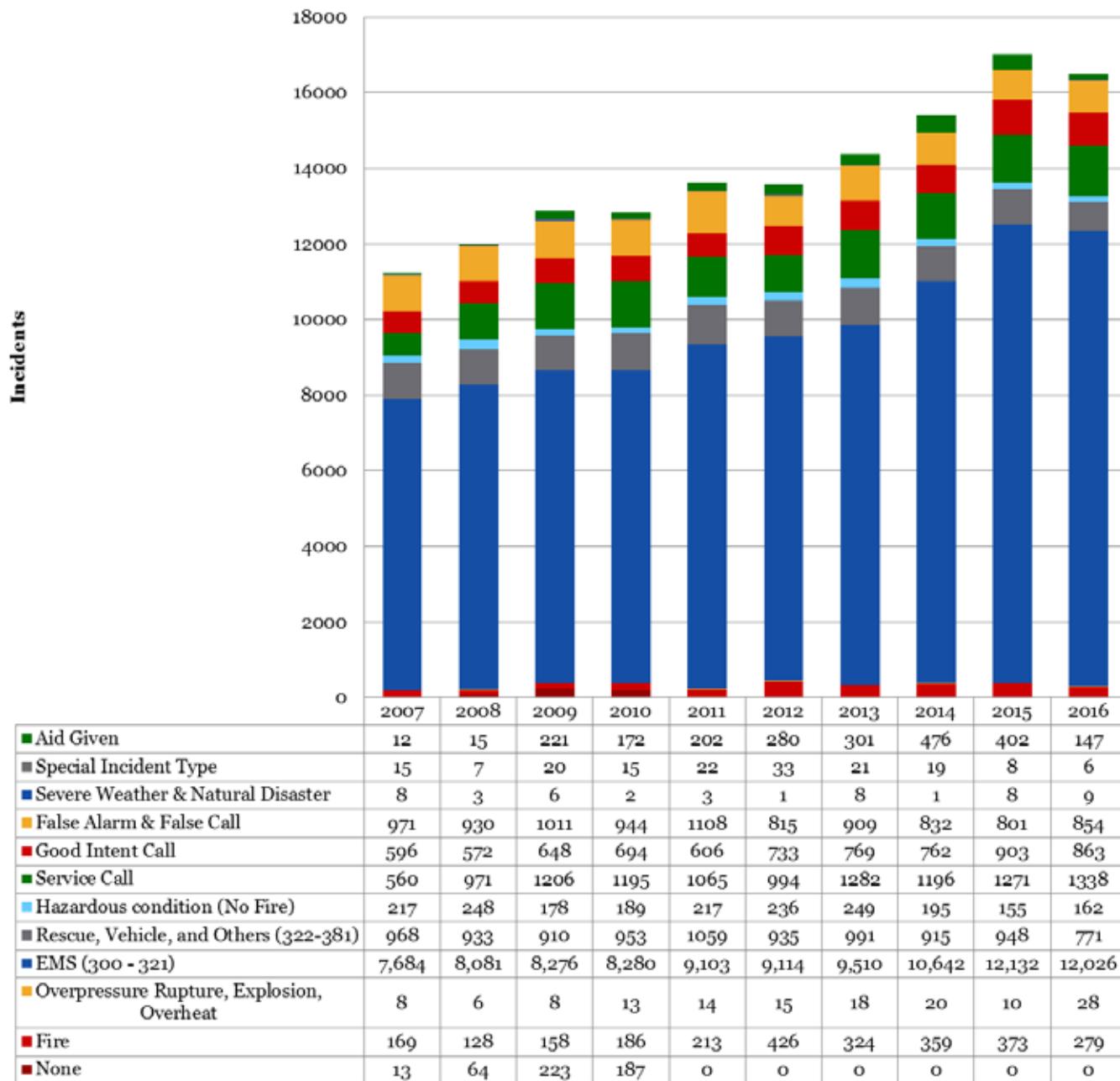
Below:

There were fewer incidents in 2016 (16,483) than the year before (17,011). A similar one-year plateau occurred from 2009—2010, and 2011—2012. The total number of calls for service, or incidents, continues to rise over the past ten years. The blue line indicates the average number of annual calls over the past ten years. The increasing call volume over the latest five years has been steeper than the first five years.



STATISTICS

All Incident Types 2007 - 2016



The majority of incidents are medical-related (blue portions of the bars in the chart above) and the increase of medical incidents accounts for the overall increase in call volume over the past ten years.

Fire incidents rose dramatically in 2012 (426) when we began reporting cooking fires as fires rather than false alarms and there were many wildland and grass fires (88) in 2012. In 2016 the total number of fires (279) dropped below that of 2012. The most significant difference appears to be fewer cooking fires (101) in 2016.

Aid Given to other fire departments fluctuates from year to year and decreased in 2016 (147) from 2015 (490).

The "None" incident types are those that did not have completed reports. We have had completed incident type reports for six years.

STATISTICS

A fair measurement of the Fire Department's success in protecting people from the devastating effects of fire are how few people are injured by fire and how small the fire is kept. The charts below show how small fires were kept in 2016 as well as how much of the structures were preserved.

Just over 89% of all of the building fires were confined to the room of origin or the object of origin, accounting for only about one third of the fire loss.

Property Use Group	Confined to object of origin	Confined to room of origin	Confined to floor of origin	Confined to building of origin	Beyond building of origin	Grand Total
Assembly including playground	6	1	1	1		9
Educational	5					5
Healthcare and Institution	15					15
Residential	78	19	4	2		104
Mercantile, business	9	1	1		1	11
Manufacturing, processing	3					3
Outbuilding/single structure		2		6	1	9
Utility, etc.	1					1
Grand Total	117	23	6	9	2	157
	74.52%	14.65%	3.82%	5.73%	1.27%	100.00%

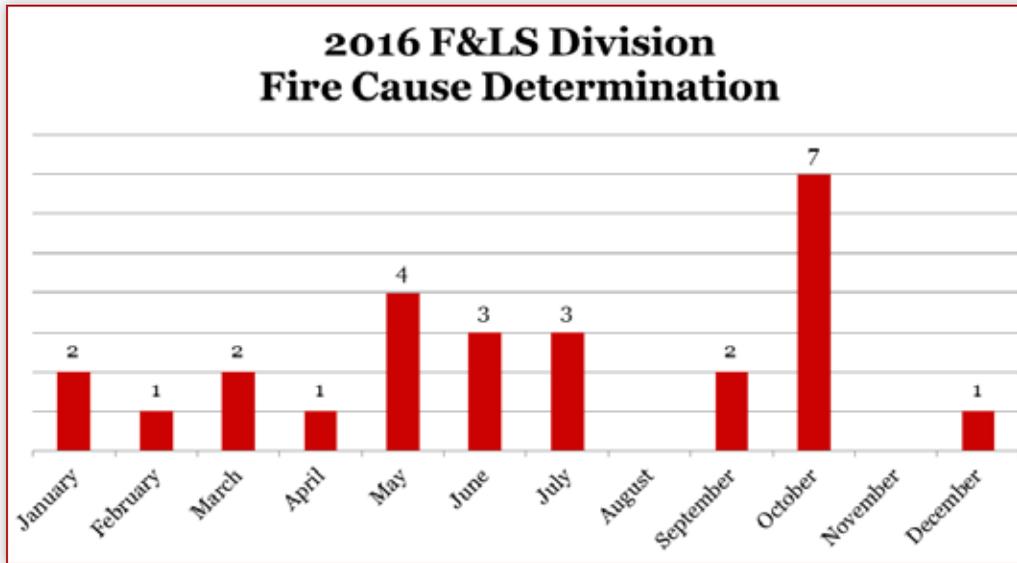
- Confined to object of origin—a fire that does not spread at all beyond the pan, trashcan, or similar container.
- Confined to room of origin—a fire that spreads beyond where it started but does not spread further than one room.
- Confined to floor of origin—a fire that does not spread beyond one level or attic of the structure.
- Confined to building of origin—a fire that occurs in a one-room structure such as a shed, that spreads to more than one floor, or into the walls of a structure.
- Beyond building of origin—fires that begin outside of a structure or spread from the structure to the surrounding grass or nearby objects.

Property Use Group	Confined to object of origin	Confined to room of origin	Confined to floor of origin	Confined to building of	Beyond building of origin	Grand Total
Civilian Injury		1			1	2
Civilian Death						0
Total \$ Loss	\$21,165	\$155,220	\$44,600	\$208,002	\$50,750	\$479,737
Pre Incident \$ Value	\$342,002,844	\$6,567,161	\$3,708,600	\$1,182,500	\$50,750	\$353,511,855
% of \$ Loss	4.41%	32.36%	9.30%	43.36%	10.58%	100.00%

Fire sprinklers begin controlling, and often suppressing, fires before fire fighters are able to respond. They begin protecting lives and property before most people in the building are able to respond. Of the 157 structure fires with a recorded fire spread, 28 buildings were protected by fire sprinklers. Most of the fires were too small to activate the sprinkler or were not in an area protected by the sprinklers. During seven fires in buildings with fire sprinklers, sprinklers activated and were effective.

Fire Spread	Fire Sprinklers Present		Total	No Fire Sprinklers	Unknown	(blank)	Grand Total
	Fire too small to activate system	System operated and was effective					
Beyond building of origin				2			2
Confined to building of origin				9			9
Confined to floor of origin	1	1	2	4			6
Confined to object of origin	19	3	22	9	3	83	117
Confined to room of origin	1	3	4	19			23
Grand Total	21	7	28	43	3	83	157

STATISTICS



Fire Cause	Incidents	Percentage
Cause undetermined after investigation	6	23.08%
Failure of equipment or heat source	2	7.69%
Intentional	3	11.54%
Unintentional	15	57.69%
Grand Total	26	100.00%

The Fire and Life Safety Division investigates fires where the cause is not obviously apparent, when arson is suspected, or other situations where more people or more time needs to be devoted to fire cause determination. Of the 26 fires investigated by the Division, just over half were determined to be unintentional. The fires investigated are generally spread evenly throughout the year though in 2016 there were many more fires in October (7) than in other months.

Most of what the Fire and Life Safety Division does is to prevent future fires or prevent injury and loss from future fires. We do this by ensuring buildings are designed and built to national and local safety standards. We investigate fires to learn how to prevent them from happening again. We work with people to convince them to change their behavior and environment. We work with families who have a child who has started a fire or who is at risk of starting a fire to try to stop the dangerous behaviors. We work with homeowners and property owners to prevent and reduce the spread of wildland fires in the city.

MEDICAL OPERATIONS DIVISION



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 parts of Pennington County. The Department provides pre-hospital and/or out-of-hospital medical care, ambulance transportation services, and standby services throughout the area.

Mobile Medic

The Department worked with the State of South Dakota in order to provide a new and innovative way to provide our service to the community. Traditionally, the Department responds in an ambulance (2 people) or an ambulance and a fire apparatus (5-6 people) to calls for service. The Mobile Medic is a single responder, responding to calls for service that don't require an ambulance. The Mobile Medic assesses the patient and in conjunction with a physician, helps that patient get to the right level of medical care at the right time.

The Department received approval from the South Dakota Board of Medicine to provide the Mobile Medic Program in June. The program's goal is to provide quality medical care to our

medically underserved patients, help patients navigate the complex healthcare system, and decrease healthcare costs through cost savings. The program was made possible by a two year grant from the John T. Vucurevich Foundation.

Paramedic Program

In 2016 we initiated our own Paramedic education program. Captain Chris Jolley, the program director, started with four Rapid City Fire Department employees. The program is an intensive 1200 hour program that is run over nine months and is designed to teach those that are EMT's how to be a Paramedic. At the end of 2016 the four were just completing the program and are awaiting their opportunity to test for the National Registry and become licensed in the State of South Dakota.

EMS Billing

Our entire operations and administrative staff are all dedicated and a vital piece of our department. However, the EMS Division would not be possible if it was not for the work of the 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 13 years. The revenue from this non-subsidized city enterprise fund covers all operational expenses.

SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM



The Pennington County Special Response Team (SRT) 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 comprised 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 and twice a year they train with the sniper team on sniper initiated scenarios.

FIRE OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Fire Operations piece of the Rapid City Fire Department is arguably the most visible group of men and women in the organization. Although supported by a professional training section, a proactive fire prevention division, and dedicated administrative staff, the emergency and non-emergency services provided by the Fire Operations Division are citizen centric and mission/ vision critical. This paradigm is changing every year and 2016 was no exception. Our suppression personnel are increasingly more efficient, not only in emergency response, but with training and prevention as well.

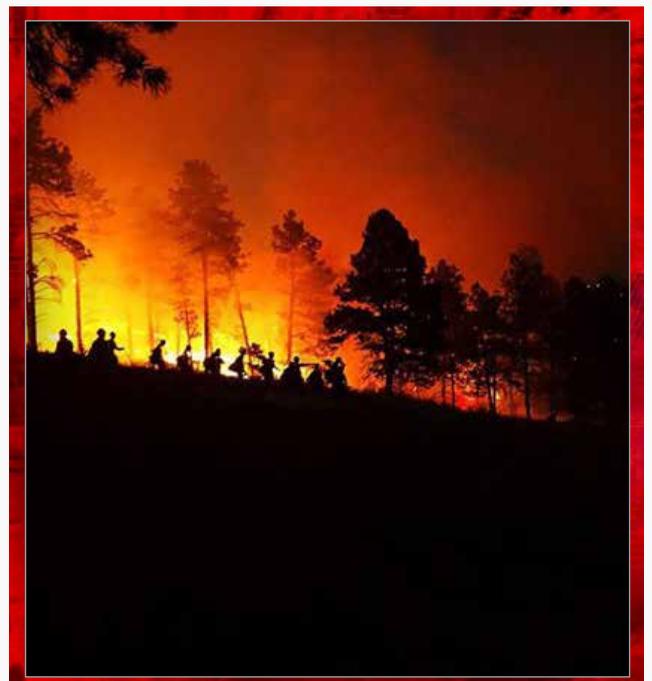
We responded to 16,483 incidents last year, a 4% decrease from 2015. These incidents required 24,112 apparatus responses for mitigation compared to 24,720 apparatus responses in 2015, resulting in a 2.46% decrease or 50.667 less apparatus responses per month. This is directly related to a reorganization of our deployment model and practices to coincide with national trends. Fire responses have decreased in 2016, the lowest since 2011, and in 2016, the Rapid City Fire Department moved forward with the largest prevention push in our history in the form of residential safety programs and “in the school” safety awareness efforts. Coupled with the Fire and Life Safety Division, our men and women on the streets are putting forth a tremendous effort to ensure their customers and neighbors are safe from the day to day tragedies that may occur.

When not responding to alarms, conducting home safety assessments, or performing main-

tenance activities our crews are training. In fact, each member strives for 240 hours a year in firefighting strategies/tactics which includes monthly drills, night drills, multi-company exercises and mutual-aid training with neighboring departments. In addition, each member strives for 28 hours of EMT Basic and 34 hours of EMT Paramedic training annually.

Our service delivery model continues to change; along with adjusting district lines to provide the quickest response to our customers. We have implemented a new squad unit into service in November 2016. It will be monitored closely to see how it fits into our department and we will continue to gather feedback from the officers and crew members assigned to this unit. We hope this unit will be a nice complement to our fleet and increase flexibility in our department’s response model.

It is simply amazing the work our members do each and every day. Our abilities range from fighting wildfires, in and out of the city, to providing help on a building collapse with a fellow city on the other side of the state. They effectively handled 16,483 calls quickly and professionally, and consistently produced great outcomes. I, Nick Carlson, am proud to serve as a Division Chief in this dynamic organization; and look forward to more progress changes in 2017.



TRAINING SECTION

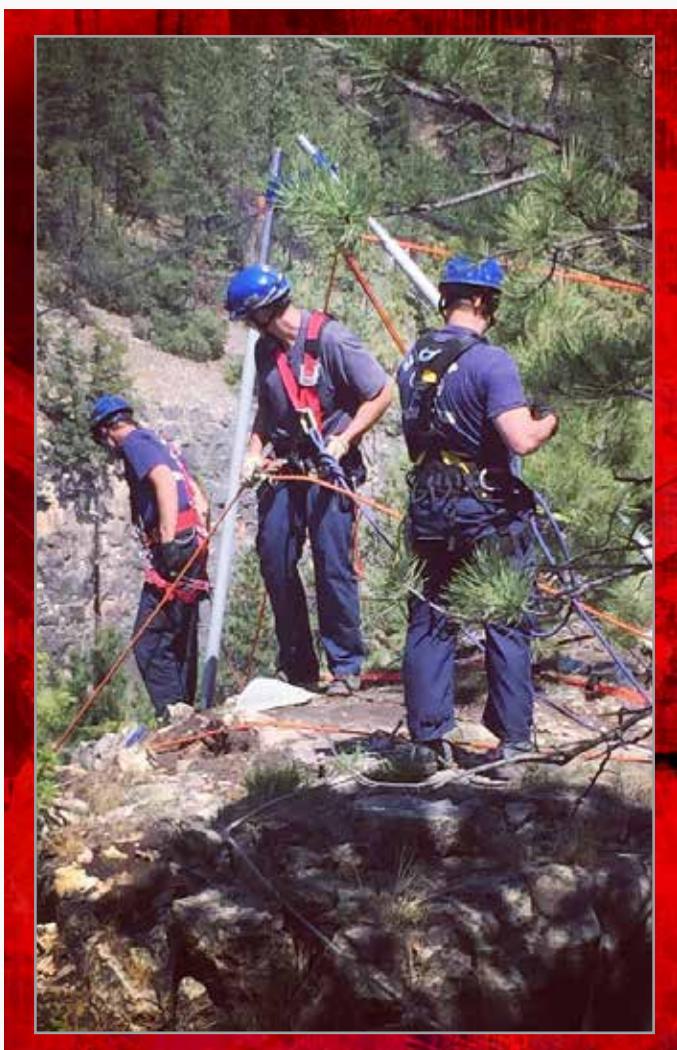
The Training Section works for the Fire Operations Division. Its primary focus is firefighter education. As in years past, 2016 saw the on-going training of our current firefighters to meet or exceed minimum standards of 240 hours per firefighter set forth by federal, state, and local regulations.

Early in the year, the department hired 7 new firefighters to fill existing vacancies. The Training Section oversaw a 10 week, 400+ hour academy, to train these new employees to a basic firefighter level. These employees would arrive every day, at 7 am, to begin a full day of classroom time or participating in hands-on drills, all designed to teach them the skills that they would need for a long career. These 7 graduated in late March, anxious to begin working on their respective shifts.



Knowing that we had additional vacancies to fill, we tested for a new hiring pool in May of 2016. From this pool, we hired an additional 12 people. Once again, the Training Section put together an academy for these new recruits. They began training early in October, culminating in a mid-December graduation.

Late in 2016, the Training Section again was preparing for yet another recruit academy set to begin in January 2017. Between on-going education and training for our newest people, the Training Section remained extremely busy. We continue to prepare our employees with the necessary training needed to deliver the highest degree of service to the Rapid City community.



TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

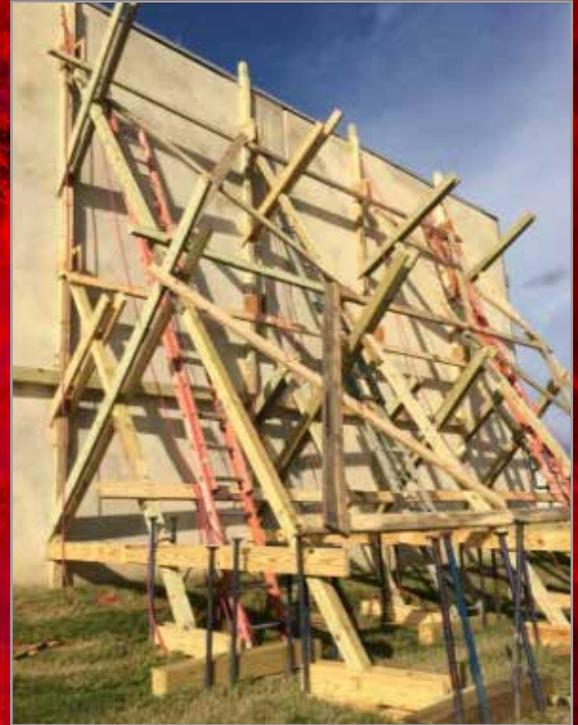
Station 7, located in the north area of the City, provides fire protection, emergency services, and specialized rescue to the citizens of Rapid City. Specialized heavy rescue is unique to Station 7. These services include structural collapse rescue, trench rescue, confined space rescue, high angle rescue, and vehicle extrication.

Training is an integral and continuous part of every firefighter's day-to-day activities. Select members at station 7 are currently, or in the process of, obtaining certifications in all specialties.

During 2016, some of the training that members attended or conducted includes: Lieutenant Mertes and Firefighter Potter attended an Advanced Exterior Shoring class from March 28-April 1 at the TEEC training center in College Station, Texas. Station 7 hosted a structural collapse technician class at the Western Dakota Tech training grounds, April 25-29. Firefighters Gibbons and Jungck, along with the department's canine, Cisco, attended a Canine Disaster workshop south of Indianapolis, Indiana on May 21-22. This class specialized in canine disaster and wide area searches. Station 7 along with station 3 hosted training during the Sturgis motorcycle rally that included members from South Dakota Task Force-1 team. In October, Captain Gunderson, Lieutenant Hughes, Firefighters Gibbons, Jungck, and Thompson attended a state task force drill in Aberdeen. The drill simulated a parking garage collapse with a patient trapped. Little did we know that those skills would be tested on December 2 with a deployment of task force members to Sioux Falls for a building collapse.

The rescue team continues to be fortunate enough to obtain federal grant dollars. The grant was initially used to purchase equipment for the rescue stations to be utilized by South Dakota Task Force-1, but now has transitioned into a grant that is primarily used for training. The training conducted is used to maintain the skills necessary for the South Dakota Task Force Team.

Training and education of our rescue and firefighting capabilities will continue to be a priority in 2017. Station 7 personnel are 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 of Highway 16 at 1930 Promise Road. Station 6 provides Fire and EMS response to the citizens in the South and Southwest portions of Rapid City. We also provide automatic aid for structure fires to the Rockerville and Whispering Pines Volunteer Fire Departments in Pennington County.

Station 6 is also home to the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team (HMERT). The team responds to calls for air monitoring, carbon monoxide detection activation and other unknown gas/odor concerns. We also respond to calls for chemical releases or spills and hazardous deceased body recoveries. Fuel spills and body recoveries are typically the biggest need for our resources. Any of these requests for service are usually generated from our law enforcement and/or industry community, but we do have a few that come from the public.

Team members engage in approximately 24 hours of continuing education team training, 16 hours of in-house education for standard operations personnel and we attempt 16 hours of combined training efforts with outside agencies. We are fortunate to have joint training opportunities with the US Army 82nd

Civil Support Team, Ellsworth AFB Hazardous Materials Team, and other hazardous materials agencies throughout the state.

In 2016, several members attended training in Pueblo, CO for response to incidents involving flammable liquids transported by rail. They also attended training for advanced emergency response to highway incidents involving cargo tanks, intermodal portable tanks, freight vans, design and construction, non-bulk packaging, and compressed gas cylinders.

The Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team welcomed new members who attended technician courses in Pueblo, CO and Anniston AL. These courses provided training on laws and regulations, chemical properties, National Incident Management System (NIMS), emergency response planning, Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) monitoring equipment, personal protective equipment, respiratory systems, decontamination, and modules relating to rail, freight, intermodal, and highway transportation systems.

The Hazardous Materials Response Team members are excited for 2017 and the opportunity to serve!

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 and the Pennington County Sheriff's Office.

The Water Rescue Team responded to 9 calls for service in 2016. The team assisted in the recovery of a drowning victim at Pactola Lake in July. The Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) Team out of Burleigh County, North Dakota was requested for assistance due to the great risk to divers operating at the depth the victim was found. The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Sonar Boat also assisted the team during the Pactola Lake incident.

The Water Rescue Team held a swiftwater refresher class in May. In addition to the team members this class involved additional members of the Rapid City Fire Department's Light Rescue Team from Station 3 and two members of Sioux Falls Fire Rescue to train together.

The Water Rescue Team was able to finish outfitting all our divers with dry suits this year. This serves two purposes, one to allow protection from the elements during dive operations, and secondly, this allowed us to standardize our equipment. The team was able to purchase light salvage and recovery equipment to complement the training the team received last year. This allows the team to recover automobiles and boats more safely and efficiently.

2016 brought the retirement of Trevor Tollman, Matt Owczarek and Robert Thompson from the team. With the retirement of these three individuals the team has lost some great experience and team members. The end of 2016 brought the addition of Eric Hansen onto the team.

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 2017.

Rapid City/Pennington County Water Rescue Team Members

Fire Department	Police Department	Sheriff's Office
Brian Povandra	Jeremy Stauffacher	Shawn Stalder
Hunter Harlan		Tana Tallon
Calen Maningas		Jeff Andrews
Eric O'Connor		Daniel Lewis
Scott Jungck		Brandon Akley
Eric Hansen		Jason Dannenbring S&R

AIRCRAFT RESCUE AND FIREFIGHTING REPORT



Fire Station 8 is the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) response unit located at Rapid City Regional Airport. In February of 2016, Lieutenant Jon Buxton became the newest member of the ARFF crew replacing Lieutenant Bill Reishus upon his retirement.

Training is an integral part of Station 8's day to day activities. In addition to the global training provided by the Department for all firefighters, the personnel at Station 8 train quarterly on the 12 subject areas certified by the FAA ranging from Airport Familiarization to Aircraft Evacuations. In January, Lieutenant Buxton attended the ARFF Live Fire Recertification course in San Bernadino, CA to become current and comply with FAA requirements. He also completed training in all of the additional airport specific duties ARFF personnel perform at the Rapid City Regional Airport.

Company inspections were conducted on all buildings and hangars on airport property. The inspections will aid in obtaining street signage for the roads and street numbers on all of the buildings. In striving to always look to the future,

we are working on upgrading our foam pump on the foam trailer and added wood 4x4's and T braces to the foam trailer to aid Fire Rescue in shoring and stabilizing a plane crash.

Station 8 provided a holding area and a site for a ceremony to honor WWII veteran Sgt. Fae Moore, who was killed in action in the Tarawa Atoll in November of 1943, and whose remains were recovered and returned home to Sheridan County in Nebraska. Another significant event occurred when a Jet Blue airplane hit turbulence over Nebraska and was diverted to an emergency landing at Rapid City Regional Airport. A total of 29 passengers and crew were transported to Rapid City Regional Hospital.

Station 8 personnel are proud to report once again that they passed the Federal Aviation Administration's annual certification inspection with no discrepancies, receiving a perfect score. This makes over 10 years of no violations or letters of correction. We look forward to 2017 and strive to make air travel in and out of Rapid City as safe as possible through training and dedication.



FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY DIVISION

Directed by Division Chief Tim Behlings, the Fire and Life Safety Division's primary mission is to focus on short and long-term community risk reduction. It is our goal to eliminate/reduce the occurrence of injury to the citizens, visitors, and emergency response personnel whenever possible.

Community risk is identified in many ways, all of which can impact a community physically and economically. Examples of such risks are fire, both wildland and structure, transportation, and the home and business environment which includes falls and human behavior. We understand that we may never eliminate all occurrences; however, we can and have impacted the frequency and severity of many incidents. Community risk reduction is accomplished through the use of Education, Engineering, and Enforcement. The education component is intended to influence and promote safe behavior; whereas the use of engineering and technology such as fire sprinkler protection and temperature limited cooking appliances intervene when human actions have failed. Fire sprinkler protection does not prevent a fire occurrence but can minimize the overall impact and reduce damage to property and the environment. Another engineering example is utilizing temperature limited stove top elements, which nearly eliminates unattended stove top cooking fires, again minimizing the potential injury and damage. Lastly is enforcement, much of which occurs simply through the application of the codes during a review process or inspection. Often when enforcement is necessary it is simply an opportunity to provide more education and significantly improve the outcome.

The Fire and Life Safety Division consists of three distinct areas or discipline:

Public Education and Community Risk Reduction

This program, under the supervision of Fire and Life Safety Specialist Monica Colby, establishes community risk reduction priorities, based upon local and national statistical data analysis. These efforts are the backbone of much of the decision making and planning occurring within the Rapid City Fire Department.

Monica's data analysis has allowed us to make code adjustments intended to reduce nuisance alarms, highlight the benefits of fire sprinkler protection, and develop innovative approaches to deliver effective age-, and subject-appropriate education. Public education was directly delivered to greater than 6000 individuals and 14 elementary schools in 2016. It must be noted that Lisa Saunders, a Fire Corps Volunteer, provided assistance to develop and deliver public education and Youth Firesetting Intervention programs. The Fire Corps was implemented to fill a staffing shortage impacting community contact. The programs developed and data analysis performed by Monica Colby are routinely recognized and referenced at a national level through organizations such



as NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), Public Education and Research special committees, and Vision 20/20 National Strategies for Fire Loss Prevention.

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY DIVISION

Wildland Urban Interface/Survivable Space Initiative - This program, under the supervision of Lt. Tim Weaver, continues to increase public participation and increase the footprint of wildland fuels mitigation throughout the city and surrounding areas. Mitigated properties reduce the effects of catastrophic wildland fire events, which threaten a large portion of Rapid City's residential properties. The program is regularly recognized and referenced both locally and nationally for its

successes and verifiable risk reduction impact. The success of this program rests on the tireless efforts of Lt. Weaver, and the many public-private partnerships developed and maintained. He is currently managing \$2,852,861 in grant-funded projects, protecting over \$75,000,000 in property value. One of the most notable public partnerships is the partnership with the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) which provides funding to support the Veterans Wildfire Mitigation Crew employed by the Fire Department.



63 completed Homeowner Cost-Share Projects

- 61 acres treated
- \$9,805,400 Property Values Mitigated
- \$121,069 grant and homeowner contribution
- \$31,418 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.
- 193 acres of BLM crew fuel mitigation this year in large tracts of land adjacent to the several subdivisions: Magic Canyon, Dark Canyon, Good Samaritan Village, Founders Park Area, and St. Martin's Village.
- Total property value impacted (homes and lots) if there was a fire in the area is \$78,000,000.
- 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.

Fire Inspection, Plan Review and Investigation - This area of responsibility continues to be the core of the Division. Lt. Janecek, Lt. Brad Staton, Lt. Brian Staton and (Ret) Lt. Jack Tomac conduct the building and fire protection plan reviews, construction inspections, and fire investigations. Through the application of proactive codes, attention to project detail, creative problem solving and customer service, we are assured that the community is receiving safe, high quality and cost effective projects.

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY DIVISION

Great emphasis is placed upon the use of fire sprinkler protection throughout our community. 2016 was no exception and we continue to see an increase in fire sprinkler use, most importantly within single family dwellings. The fire sprinkler protection program in Rapid City is far more proactive and has produced more fire sprinkler protected buildings than any other city in the State. The result of this program has experienced numerous (single) fire sprinkler activations which resulted in “0” injury and preserved millions of dollars in buildings and business productivity. Fire sprinklers in Rapid City were recognized in 2016 as a model program at the national Vision 20/20 “Model Performance in Fire Protection Symposium”.

Permit Category	Permit Type	Permits Issued	Valuation of Work	Fees Charged
Alteration	Fire Alarm	26	\$363,896	\$2,161
	Special Extinguishment	4	\$9,318	\$321
	Fire Sprinkler	23	\$243,285	\$3,010
New	Fire Alarm	21	\$285,592	\$5,736
	Flammable Liquid Tank	3	\$1,111,000	\$321
	Special Extinguishment	5	\$62,963	\$1,129
	Fire Sprinkler	35	\$2,693,095	\$26,941
Retrofit	Fire Alarm	7	\$63,150	\$1,134
	Special Extinguishment	1	\$3,700	\$107
	Fire Sprinkler	9	\$579,228	\$4,240
Blasting	Blasting	1		
Pyrotechnics	Pyrotechnics	2		
Building Permits	Building Permits	246		
Total	Total	383	\$5,415,227	\$45,100

Proactive Measures	Events	Description
Plan Reviews (ensure buildings are designed to safety standards)	383	permits
Building Inspections (ensure buildings are built to safety standards)	651	inspections
Fire Investigations (learn from the past to prevent future fires)	26	fires
Risk Reduction Education (change behavior)	327	classes
Wildland Fire Mitigation (prevent and mitigate fire)	254	acres treated
Youth Firesetting Interventions (prevent increased fire use)	3	youth

The Rapid City Fire Department’s Fire and Life Safety Division holds a reputation as innovative problem solvers, a partner, and the “go to” agency for assistance or guidance in all areas of community risk reduction. As previously noted our programs are referenced by agencies locally, regionally, and nationally.

We are very proud to represent the Rapid City Fire Department and the City of Rapid City as we showcase and share our programs.

Respectfully,

Timothy D. Behlings
 Division Chief - Fire Marshal
 Fire & Life Safety Division

SPECIAL EVENTS



In 2016, the Rapid City Fire Department continued to invest in the community in a number of different ways. The following special events are but a sampling of that community service.

For the third year in a row, a group of Rapid City Firefighters participated in “No Shave November” to help raise money for the Children’s Home Society of South Dakota and the Black Hills Children’s Home. While “No Shave November” is traditionally held to raise awareness for men’s health issues, our firefighters wanted to use it to help local kids. On November 1, Chief Nick Carlson, Captain Brent Long, and Firefighter Josh Kusser shaved their mustaches on live television to kick the event off with a goal of raising \$1,000. With the help of Adam King of KOTA TV, \$1,917 was raised. The funds were used to buy jump ropes, heart rate monitors, and fitness equipment to help keep the kids active.



On February 25, the Rapid City Fire Department responded to a tragic crash in which a 2-year-old child named Seth Brien was killed while playing on a roadway. With their neighborhood lacking a safe place for kids to play, friends and neighbors of the Brien family came together to build a playground in Seth’s memory. The entire department was affected by the tragedy. Led by the firefighters at Station 7 on A shift, the entire department went to work to help make the playground a reality. Through a number of donations, partnerships and an outpouring of support, the playground was designed, constructed and was officially

dedicated on September 17, 2016.

On December 15, Lieutenant Josh Lange and his A Shift crew from Fire Station 5 helped to brighten Christmas for students at Canyon Lake Elementary by delivering Christmas presents. Annually, community members and business owners Don and Linda Rydstrom purchase and donate over 400 gifts to Canyon Lake students and, this year, the Rapid City Fire Department along with the Rapid City Police Department, and South Dakota National Guard were asked to help Santa deliver the presents. This was a tremendous opportunity to help spread Christmas cheer and we are appreciative of Canyon Lake Elementary and Mr. and Mrs. Rydstrom for including us.

Through ticket pre-sales for the December 23 Rapid City Rush hockey game, the Rapid City Police Department and the Rapid City Fire Department raised \$1,000 to purchase gifts for local non-profit groups serving children. On December 20, Rush players Riley Weselowski, Ryan Walters, and Brayden Low joined members of the Police Department and Fire Department to deliver gifts to the Rapid City Club for Boys, Girls Inc. and Rural America Initiatives. Through this partnership and collaboration with Books-a-Million, Toys for Tots, Homeslice Media Group, and Duhamel Broadcasting, we were able to provide 105 blankets, 97 hats/mittens/scarves, 133 toys/movies/games, and 20 books to local children at Rural America Initiatives, the Club for Boys, and Girls Inc. This does not count the more than 20 gifts collected by the Salvation Army from under the Angel Tree that were donated by Rapid City Fire Department members.

HONOR GUARD

In 2016, the Honor Guard experienced a whirlwind of change. Commander Nate Deitschman retired from the Fire Department after 24 years of service. The Honor Guard participated in his, as well as several other, department retirement ceremonies that were unique and moving. Tyler Clavel, a department firefighter medic, was welcomed to our ranks. Firefighter Clavel spent three days in Sioux Falls with the Army National Guard training with members of the Arlington National Cemetery

Honor Guard. The Honor Guard also took part in a ceremony welcoming 19 new members to the Fire Department.

The Honor Guard is looking forward to a busy year in 2017, including a trip to Lewisville, TX for the Keeping Tradition Alive (KTA) Honor Guard Symposium for instruction and training on marching in local parades and events to represent the Fire Department. As always it is our privilege to serve and honor our community.



PIPE AND DRUM CORPS

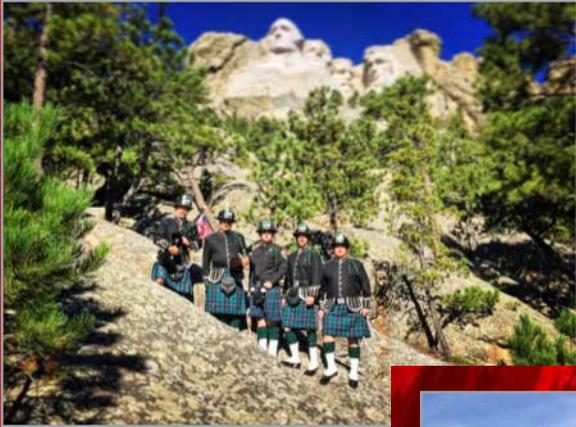
2016 marked the 7th year of the Rapid City Professional Firefighters Pipe and Drum Corps. The Corps was formed in 2009 to honor fallen military, police, and firefighters. The Corps is a self-funded group and functions solely from donations and the money we receive from performances.

Membership of the Corps is now at ten members; four pipers, two snares, two tenors, and two bass drums. The commitment of the Corps is stronger than ever with 2016 being one of our busiest years yet. The members of the Corps donated over 1400 hours between practice, travel, and performances.

This year we performed at funerals, retirement ceremonies, promotional ceremonies, and holiday events.

The Corps was also honored to play at Mount Rushmore's 75th anniversary celebration. We also performed in front of thousands, one of our biggest crowds to date, at the Dream Protectors Night at a Rapid City Rush Game.

We thank you for your continued support as we strive to maintain a professional level volunteer organization.



WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

It's hard to believe that 2016 has come and gone for the Rapid City Fire Department Women's Auxiliary. Sometimes it seems it was just a year or two ago that we held our first meeting – with dozens of “fire wives” who had no idea what an auxiliary organization might do. It's safe to say we have found our stride and put our best foot forward yet again this past year, under the leadership of President Julie Oberlander Gibbons, Vice President Kassi Jolley, Secretary Teresa Mellegard and Treasurer Jami Jungck.

One of our first tasks of the year involved organizing a dinner for the fire department's new recruits and their significant others. Several years ago, department personnel put together similar dinners for each new recruit class. The tradition had faded over time, but it was resurrected by the auxiliary in 2014 as a way to welcome the RCFD's newest members and invite their spouses to be part of our mission of supporting Rapid City firefighters, their families and our community. We actually put together two of these “new hire” dinners in 2016, one in February and another in October, because the department is growing so quickly.

Auxiliary members take the mission of supporting fire families and the community very seriously. In the first few months of 2016 that meant providing financial assistance – typically in the form of grocery or restaurant gift cards – to several families who faced tough times, including one couple that suffered serious injuries in a vehicle accident. Two of our auxiliary members took it upon themselves to start a Bible study geared toward fire wives, and about 10 women participate regularly in the bi-monthly meetings.

The auxiliary donated money in 2016 to Youth and Family Services so YFS Kids Fair tickets could be given for free to more than 30 local children, and we provided our standard \$250 donation to the RCFD's annual Fill the Boot campaign for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Fill the Boot is not only a

busy three-day drive for firefighters who collect the cash around town from locals and visitors alike, but also for firefighters' wives, who help MDA officials COUNT the money. When a department brings in roughly \$50,000 in dollars and cents each year, it makes for several hours of counting for the wives!

The RCFD's annual banquet took place on April 2, 2016, at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn with about 120 people in attendance. The auxiliary plays an integral role in organizing the evening, where the department recognizes years-of-service milestones, promotions, new hires, retirees, and employees who have acted in a manner that warrants a special award. The department even honored a fire wife in 2016 for helping to save the life of a man who had



collapsed at a local gym, and she received a much-deserved standing ovation.

The auxiliary rounded out the summer season with not one, but two family picnics. We had planned a potluck for late August, and

then ended up being selected to receive a free picnic at Storybook Island courtesy of The Mix (93.9 FM) Picnic in the Park promotion in early September. Both events drew between 40 and 50 people and were a lot of fun.

The auxiliary wrapped up 2016 with a handful of our members volunteering at the YFS gift-wrapping booth in the mall and several ladies taking part in our annual Membership Night Cookie Exchange in December. The exchange has proven to be a delicious way for fire wives to get to know each other better.

A busy 2016 leads us right into a busy 2017, but few people can handle crazy schedules and a little bit of chaos quite like a fire wife can. We look forward to doing it again this coming year.

~ Julie Oberlander Gibbons

2016 NEW HIRES



Zachary Hess
Firefighter Apprentice Medic Recruit



Scott Frey
Firefighter Apprentice Medic Recruit



Lance Enright
Firefighter Apprentice Medic Recruit



Dakota Gamber
Firefighter Apprentice Recruit Paramedic



Darrell Strong
Firefighter Apprentice Medic Recruit



Mark Falcon
Firefighter Apprentice Medic Recruit



Jamil Abourezk
Firefighter Apprentice Medic Recruit



Dustin Larsen
Firefighter Apprentice Medic Recruit



Cassandra Christy
Firefighter Apprentice Medic Recruit

2016 NEW HIRES



Rachel Sirignano
Firefighter Apprentice Medic Recruit



Kyle Steen
Firefighter Apprentice Medic Recruit



Lee Vidal
Firefighter Apprentice Medic Recruit



Benjamin McKee
Firefighter Apprentice Recruit Paramedic



Jesse Bean
Firefighter Apprentice Recruit Paramedic



Jacob Maggart
Firefighter Apprentice Medic Recruit



Tanner Urbaniak
Firefighter Apprentice Medic Recruit



Brian Shearer
Firefighter Apprentice Medic Recruit



Steven McCollar
Firefighter Apprentice Medic Recruit



Jenifer Truax
Fire Administrative Secretary

RETIREMENTS



William Reishus

Hired 6/5/95

Retired 4/30/16

He retired as a Lieutenant at Fire Station 8



Ty Reber

Hired 7/29/91

Retired 4/30/16

He retired as a Lieutenant at Fire Station 7



William Mitchell

Hired 6/6/94

Retired 3/31/16

He retired as a Journeyman Firefighter Paramedic at Station 1



Randall Raue

Hired 8/19/98

Retired 7/29/16

He retired as Fire Equipment Maintenance Supervisor



Rene Schroeder

Hired 12/20/04

Retired 11/25/16

She retired as Fire Administrative Secretary

RETIREMENTS

Jerry Reichert

Hired 5/7/90

Retired 11/25/16

He retired as Battalion Chief of C Shift



Robert Powell

Hired 4/18/88

Retired 11/30/16

He retired as Battalion Chief of B Shift



Jim Frybarger

Hired 11/6/95

Retired 10/31/16

He retired as a Journeyman Firefighter Medic at Station 5



Nate Deitschman

Hired 9/1/92

Retired 10/31/16

He retired as a Lieutenant at Station 6



Jim L'Esperance

Hired 6/8/92

Retired 12/29/16

He retired as a Journeyman Firefighter Paramedic at Station 6



Mike Maltaverne

Hired 9/6/90

Retired 12/30/16

He retired as Fire Chief



PROMOTIONS



Tyler Clavel
Firefighter Apprentice Medic I



Jim Bussell
Lieutenant, Public Information Officer



Mitchell Hove
Journeyman Firefighter Medic



Steven Keller
Journeyman Firefighter Paramedic



Tammy Stadel
Chief Deputy Fire Marshal



Gerald Baker
Lieutenant



Marshall Keefe
Journeyman Firefighter Medic



Mike Holmberg
Fire Equipment Maintenance Supervisor



Matthew Emrich
Journeyman Firefighter Paramedic

PREPARE · PREVENT
PROTECT

Rapid City Fire Department