Annual Report
NORMAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief, Mick Humer
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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the entire Normal Fire Department, it is my pleasure to present the 2015 Normal Fire Department Annual Report.

It has truly been a year for the record books. From an emergency response standpoint, Normal Fire Department had the busiest year in its history with 6,166 calls for service. Despite the increase in call volume, our fire loss numbers were just a fraction of any year in the past decade.

Aside from emergency response, our training hours also increased 8% over last year. The increase in training helps our personnel retain and practice a wide variety of skill sets and solidifies our commitment to providing excellent service to our community.

In addition to skills, our firefighters have made a commitment to increasing their overall wellness through a physician-monitored physical fitness program. This program is an ongoing partnership with the area hospitals and the firefighters with the ultimate goal of increasing wellness and reducing cardiac risks.

With 2015 in the books, 2016 shows no signs of slowing down.

One major project will be coming to life in the coming months. We have finalized a deal for the land swap with Illinois State University for the property at the corner of Main and Dale Streets which will be the new home of our Headquarters Fire Station. The station is set to open in the summer of 2017 and will serve the citizens of Normal for the next 50 years.

Our training calendar continues to be full of opportunities for our personnel to expand on their skills. We have a very talented group of firefighters and our training program would not be possible without them.

In closing, I would like to thank the dedicated members of the Normal Fire Department and their families. But none of what we hope to accomplish would be possible without the support of the Town Administration and the Town Council. We feel very fortunate to have an administration and Town Council that supports our mission to deliver a high quality of service to the citizens of the Town of Normal.

Sincerely,

Mick Humer
Fire Chief
Normal Fire Department
MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Normal Fire Department to ...

- protect the lives and property of the citizens and visitors of the Town of Normal during all emergencies and disasters;
- promote a safe community through public education, fire prevention, fire investigation, and code enforcement;
- maintain a high standard of training and education for our employees in order to maintain a high degree of operational capability;
- encourage our employees to serve as role models and participate in the community;
- utilize all available resources in an efficient and fiscally-responsible manner.

GOALS

- To mitigate hazards and emergencies by rapidly responding to all requests for service with professional skills.
- To provide public safety education and awareness and Fire Code compliance and enforcement.
- To provide employee development that enhances proficiency and professionalism.
IN MEMORY OF...

Firefighter Rob Aper
PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Retirements:

• Engineer Gary Knuth retired with 28 years of service on 10/31/2015.

Promotions:

• Firefighter Randy Gleason was promoted to Engineer on 11/06/2015.

New Hires:

• Firefighter-Paramedic Cody Carpenter was hired 06/01/2015.
• Firefighter-Paramedic Michael Stevenson was hired 07/07/2015.
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

In 2015, the Prevention Bureau seemed to level out after a couple years of change. The work load evened out and the two inspectors were able to manage and distribute the work load better. The use of the iPads for doing occupancy inspections had a great deal fewer bugs and also seemed to fit better into the monthly inspection routine. We continued to stay busy with construction activities as well as with plan reviews.

With the help of both Assistant Chiefs, we were able to get the new Uptown Hyatt Place Hotel commissioned and assisted the Building Department with getting the hotel their occupancy certificate. With construction, fire sprinkler, fire pump, elevator, fire alarm, area of rescue assistance, and other life safety items, the testing and commissioning of the Hyatt Place took quite a bit of the Prevention Bureau’s time this year. Other projects included the West Wing Apartments with the Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant on the first floor, additions to Eastview Christian Church, construction of the Red Robin and Chick-fil-A restaurants, and the completion of the addition to the Community Cancer Center, just to name a few.

We also spent a significant amount of time and work on reviewing and submitting changes for the adoption of the updated Prevention Code. We made changes to assist the Suppression Division by requiring standpipes in new buildings that are three or more stories, provided for a safety margin in new fire sprinkler plan calculations, along with requiring alarm monitoring of all fire sprinkler systems. We also included a requirement for fire service mains to be installed from the city main all the way to the interior of a new building by a single contractor. The Division reviewed the proposed 2015 NFPA 1 Fire Prevention Code for changes in text or amendments which were presented to the Town Building Board and were eventually adopted by the City Council.

This is the first full year of having only two inspectors so the number of inspections and reinspections will not directly correlate with the previous year. However, from this year forward, we should be able to once again be able to see more accurate trends in our inspection cycles.

In 2014, we completed 1,624 primary inspections, in 2015 we performed 1,024 primary or first time inspections which is 600 fewer primary inspections. In 2014, we performed 661 reinspections or follow-up inspections for violation correction. In 2015, we completed 670 reinspections, which is 9 more inspections than the previous year. This comes to a total of 2,285 combined inspections in 2014 and 1,694 combined inspections in 2015, or 591 fewer total inspections in 2015. The decline in total numbers is the result of this being the first full year of only inspecting occupancies on an annual schedule rather than the semi-annual inspection cycle that was taking place with three inspectors in the Division. However, it also shows a startling trend, while we performed a significant fewer amount of primary inspections, our number of reinspections actually increased. While conventional thought would be that both numbers should decline, that has not been the case. We are finding that since we are inspecting occupancies once a year, we find more violations and it takes the occupants longer to repair the violations which leads to additional reinspections.
While our inspections numbers declined this year due to the annual occupancy schedule now in full use, our construction and special activities remained strong. Our field construction inspections remained consistent. These tests include witnessing testing of sprinkler systems, underground fire sprinkler supply lines, hood system extinguishing systems, fire pumps and other life safety systems. While most of the construction related or “special activities” continue to be done by a single person, there are some activities that require a second person. We ended up tracking 278 Special Activities this year for a little over 500 man hours.

As stated above, we saw several projects reach occupancy while others remain under construction. The number of plans reviewed was nearly static between 2014 and 2015. We did 90 plan reviews in 2014 and 88 in 2015, showing only a two review change. The steady number of reviews is encouraging for the amount of construction being the same or even increasing for the upcoming year.

We look forward to the 2016 year in the Prevention Bureau. Our time will be spent balancing between inspections and construction related activities and working in some public education activities whenever possible. We understand that public education is still an important part of our work and will try to do as much of that as possible. We look forward to working with Administration as the construction of the new Headquarters Fire Station gets under way in the upcoming year.

We continue to be very proud of the work we do. As always we look forward to serving the Town and keeping all of its occupants safe from fire.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Rosecrans
Fire Prevention Supervisor
Normal Fire Department
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU ACTIVITY REPORT

2015 Inspections by Occupancy Class
1,694 Total Inspections

Month | Alarm Test | Underground Flush / Hydro | Sprinkler Hydro-test | Dry System | Hood System Test | Safety Inspection | Final Occupancy | Plan Review | Miscellaneous Testing/Education | Totals
| # Hrs | # Hrs | # Hrs | # Hrs | # Hrs | # Hrs | # Hrs | # Hrs | # Hrs | Hrs
Jan. | 4 8.0 | 1 2.0 | 1 2.0 | 5 6.0 | 4 3.0 | 8 22.0 | 3 9.5 | 28 52.5
Feb. | 1 2.0 | 1 0.5 | 1 1.0 | 3 4.0 | 2 2.0 | 9 24.0 | 3 4.0 | 19 36.5
Mar. | 1 2.0 | 1 2.0 | 1 1.0 | 3 4.0 | 2 2.0 | 7 19.5 | 7 7.5 | 22 40.0
Apr. | 2 3.0 | 3 4.0 | 3 4.0 | 3 4.0 | 1 1.0 | 7 21.3 | 2 2.0 | 25 46.8
May | 6 10.5 | 1 2.0 | 2 4.0 | 3 3.0 | 1 1.0 | 3 3.0 | 2 2.0 | 28 56.0
Jun. | 1 1.0 | 1 1.0 | 3 5.0 | 3 3.0 | 19 45.0 | 2 2.0 | 28 56.0
Jul. | 2 9.0 | 1 2.0 | 1 2.0 | 3 4.0 | 1 1.0 | 3 5.0 | 11 21.5 | 22 44.5
Aug. | 9 23.5 | 1 2.0 | 4 8.0 | 1 2.0 | 2 2.0 | 9 12.5 | 4 7.0 | 3 4.5 | 33 61.5
Sep. | 1 1.0 | 1 2.0 | 3 4.0 | 2 2.0 | 3 4.0 | 13 13.0 | 23 26.0
Oct. | 1 1.0 | 1 1.0 | 1 1.0 | 9 25.0 | 3 4.0 | 15 32.0
Nov. | 1 2.0 | 2 3.0 | 1 2.0 | 3 4.0 | 2 2.0 | 1 1.0 | 4 9.0 | 4 8.0 | 10 31.0
Dec. | 1 1.0 | 1 2.0 | 1 2.0 | 3 4.0 | 5 6.0 | 5 11.0 | 7 9.0 | 23 35.0
Totals | 29 63.0 | 13 20.5 | 11 22.0 | 0 0.0 | 8 10.0 | 30 39.0 | 37 42.5 | 89 218.8 | 81 89.0 | 278 504.8

*Miscellaneous Testing / Education includes: Occupant Load Checks, Classes given other than by Public Educator, such as Blood-bourn, Alarms, Ext Demos. Testing includes: Fire Pumps, Elevator, Flushes, Static / Residual Flows.
PUBLIC EDUCATION

Despite having no staff member dedicated specifically to public education, the calendar was full of activities all year.

The firefighters handled the majority of Fire Prevention Month activities during October. They visited most of the Unit 5 elementary schools within Normal, Epiphany Grade School, and Calvary Christian Academy and taught 1st-2nd grade children how to escape from a fire in their home using the Survive Alive House trailer. Our preschool program, “Pluggie the Fire Plug” and the 3-5th grade program “Hazard House Simulator” were still suspended this year until staffing allows. The total number of students that participated in the Survive Alive House was approximately 1,240.

Normal Fire Department continues to have a positive outreach to the businesses in our community and to our neighbors at Illinois State University. Fire prevention, extinguisher use, and realistic smoke-filled escape training for staff and students remains a high priority.

NFD maintained a strong partnership with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Child Care Resource and Referral Network to host two Car Seat Safety Check events per month at Normal Fire Department Station #3. In 2014, over 350 child passenger seats were inspected and checked by trained technicians. We are excited to report that Bloomington Fire Department has joined with NFD to host one of the two scheduled check events per month in 2016.

Normal Fire Department also continues to utilize major social networking sites, Facebook and Twitter, as a means of connecting our citizens to fire prevention messages and real-time incident information. The system also gives us the ability to instantly broadcast emergency information to mobile phones via text message alerts.

In conclusion, despite not having a dedicated staff member assigned to public education, it remains of the utmost importance to the Prevention Division. It is my sincere hope that in the coming years we will be able to staff a dedicated member to the Public Education Specialist position again so that we can expand our efforts to teach the citizens of Normal about the hazards facing them in their daily lives.

If we fail to give quality education, the fire service becomes a reactive agency, responding after the emergency has already taken place, rather than a proactive agency that works to eliminate the preventable fires and injuries that occur within our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Swaney
Fire Inspector / Public Information Officer
Normal Fire Department
PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITY REPORT

Breakdown of All Public Education Events

- Fire Safety Presentations: 18
- Fire Drill / Smoke Out: 26
- Child Passenger Safety Check: 21
- Fire Extinguisher Training: 11
- Fairs and Special Events: 5
- Greek Housing Presentations: 2
- Emergency/Disaster Planning: 2

Normal Fire Department | 1300 E. College Ave | Normal, IL | 61761
FIRE / EMS ACTIVITY REPORT

Total Number of Runs in 2015: 6,166

- Total Fire Runs: 1,050
- Total EMS Runs: 5,116

Average response time for Fire/EMS: 4:31

83% of all responses were EMS related. The average patient was age 50.

10 Year Fire/EMS Response History
6,166 Total Runs in 2015

Note: Prior to 2008, EMS runs assisted by an engine company were categorized as a Fire run also. In 2008, the criteria were changed and the data reflects dedicated Fire and EMS data independently. Many ambulance calls require the assistance of an engine company; however, we do not classify that as a Fire run, only EMS.
Runs by Call Type / Nature

EMS Calls by Nature

Runs by Station

Annual Fire Losses
TRAINING ACTIVITY REPORT

Normal Fire Department personnel trained for a total of 22,273 man-hours in 2015. That is an average of 29.46 hours per firefighter per month and an increase of 8% over 2014.

![2015 Training Hours by Category](chart.png)
FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

Fire Chief
Mick Humer

Assistant Chief
Training / Maintenance
Steven McLeese

Assistant Chief
Operations / EMS
Doug Barnett

Office Associate
Beth Murphy

Prevention Supervisor
Glenn Rosecrans

Fire Inspector / P.D.O.
Matt Swaney

First Shift
Battalion Chief
Ed Collins

Second Shift
Battalion Chief
Jim Vaughn

Third Shift
Battalion Chief
Jon Haugs

2015 Annual Report
Prepared by M Swaney | Public Information Officer
Normal Fire Department