

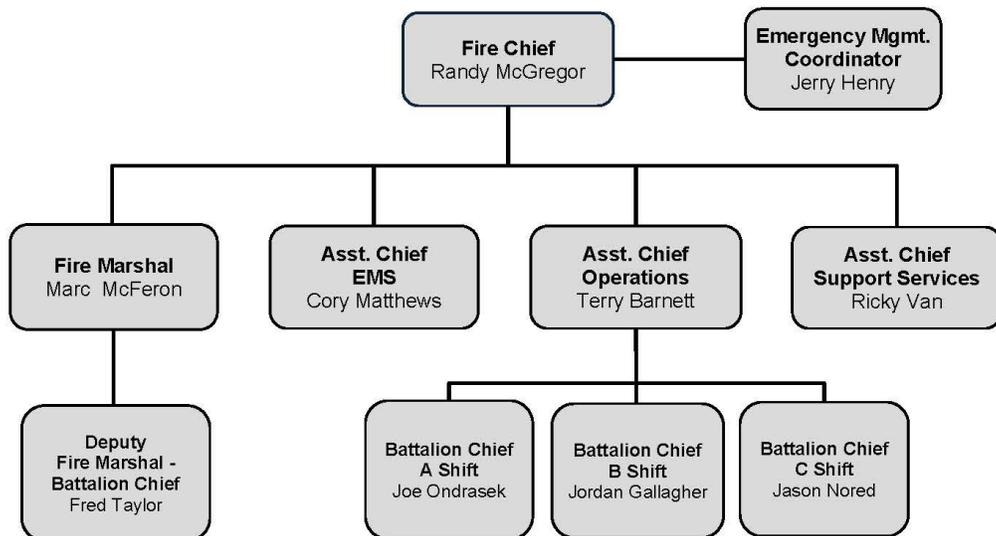


# BRYAN FIRE DEPARTMENT



# 2015 Annual Report

# City of Bryan Fire Department Command Staff





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## FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

During 2015, the Bryan Fire Department (BFD) had many accomplishments that enabled our organization to better serve the citizens of Bryan. Lifesaving efforts were greatly enhanced with the delivery of Auto-Pulse mechanical CPR devices. Manual compressions only provide 10%–20% of normal blood flow, but the Auto-Pulse moves more blood, more consistently than is possible with manual compressions. The device uses a Life-band that provides a more even pressure to the chest, leading to more consistent, high-quality compressions. Five were purchased and placed on the four frontline ambulances and EMS supervisor vehicle.

Through the efforts of several of our personnel and others in the City of Bryan, we were awarded a Homeland Security grant of \$21,610.55 for the purchase of a trailer mounted generator capable of powering the Mobile Command Post during extended operations.

BFD was accepted into the Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program (ASPP) that will provide additional funds to the City of Bryan for Medicare and uninsured patients who were transported by the Bryan Fire Department. In addition, BFD began the process of ensuring that our policies meet the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) standards in anticipation of beginning the accreditation process in Fiscal Year 2016.

As we continue working on our goal of having a minimum of four firefighters on each fire truck and a Chief's Aide, six additional firefighter positions were approved in October, which allowed us to raise minimum staffing levels to four firefighters on the ladder truck and two engine companies.

One of the greatest accomplishments of 2015 occurred on May 26 when Firefighter Ricky Mantey reported for light duty. After being burned severely in the Knights of Columbus Hall fire and enduring many major surgeries, Ricky fought his way back to work with the department. Ricky has taken on several major projects for the department as he continues his surgeries and therapies. We could not be more proud of him.

BFD experienced another record year for emergency responses in 2015. The Bryan Fire Department responded to 11,062 incidents, a record number of calls for emergency assistance. This equates to a 7.5 percent increase from 2014 (an average of over 30 emergency calls every day). Emergency medical calls accounted for more than 77 percent of all calls in 2015 (a 3.5 percent increase from 2014). As demand increases, the Bryan Fire Department will continue to provide the highest possible level of service to the citizens we serve and diligently work to reduce losses through proactive efforts in fire prevention, community education, and hazard mitigation.

Randy McGregor  
Fire Chief



# OPERATIONS

The Operations Division is responsible for all emergency responses and comprises the largest division in the Bryan Fire Department (BFD). In 2015, six additional firefighters were added bringing the total to 40 for each of the three shifts, which work a 24 hour on/48 hour off work schedule. Bryan Fire Department emergency crews responded to 11,062 incidents in 2015. This equates to a 7.5 percent increase from 2014, which is an average of over 30 emergency calls every day of the year.



trucks and an assigned aide for the on-duty Battalion Chief.



During 2015, several updates and initiatives were implemented in the Operations Division to improve firefighter safety, enhance emergency operations, and update existing resources. These updates/initiatives included:

- Additional Firefighters - Six additional firefighter positions were added. By adding these additional positions, minimum staffing was increased to four firefighters on Engine 1 and Engine 2. We continue working toward having four firefighters on all fire

- The process of upgrading all department 700 MHz radios began in 2015 by replacing the entire handheld radio fleet with new radios designed specifically for firefighters. All mobile radios (radios mounted in apparatus) are scheduled to be replaced over the next two years.
- New Fire Station 2 – All land necessary to construct the new Fire Station 2 was acquired and the City of Bryan entered into a contract with Brown, Reynolds, and Watford (BRW) architects for the design of the new station.
- New Upgraded Firefighting Gloves - All firefighter gloves were replaced with new Dragon-Fire structural gloves which provide better protection and dexterity.
- Water Rescue Capabilities – Several improvements were made to better



# OPERATIONS

prepare BFD for water rescue incidents. A new Zodiac inflatable rescue boat was purchased to replace a smaller boat. A new 2-cycle motor was purchased to replace an older, less powerful 4-cycle motor. New dry suits, helmets, boots, and personal flotation devices (PFD) were all replaced and upgraded.

purpose tripod system called the Arizona Vortex was purchased and added to the cache.



- Technical Rescue Capabilities – Much of the technical rescue equipment cache was replaced, including new rescue harnesses, rescue hardware, and ropes. A new multi-

- Implemented New High Rise Policy – Developed new Advanced Structural Tactical Initiative (ASTI) policy for use in high-rise and commercial building fires.
- Best Practices Program - The Texas Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA) has developed a best practices program to encourage Texas fire departments to seek continual improvement in the services provided to their local communities. There are twelve chapters that define best practices in the typical service areas provided by a fire department. The Bryan Fire Department enrolled in this program in 2015 with the goal of finishing the program and achieving recognition status within two years.
- New Thermal Imaging Cameras – All thermal imaging cameras were re-



# OPERATIONS



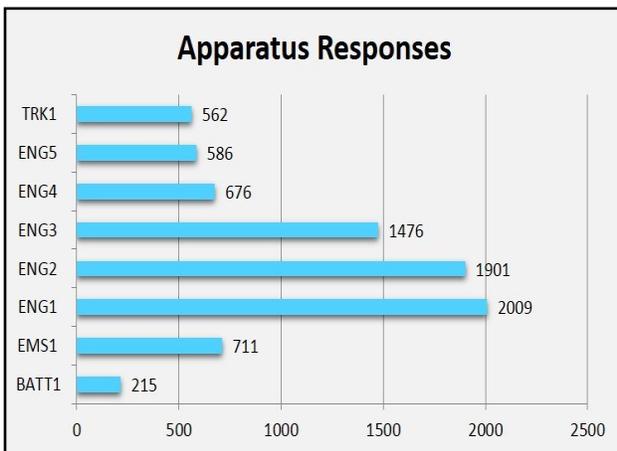
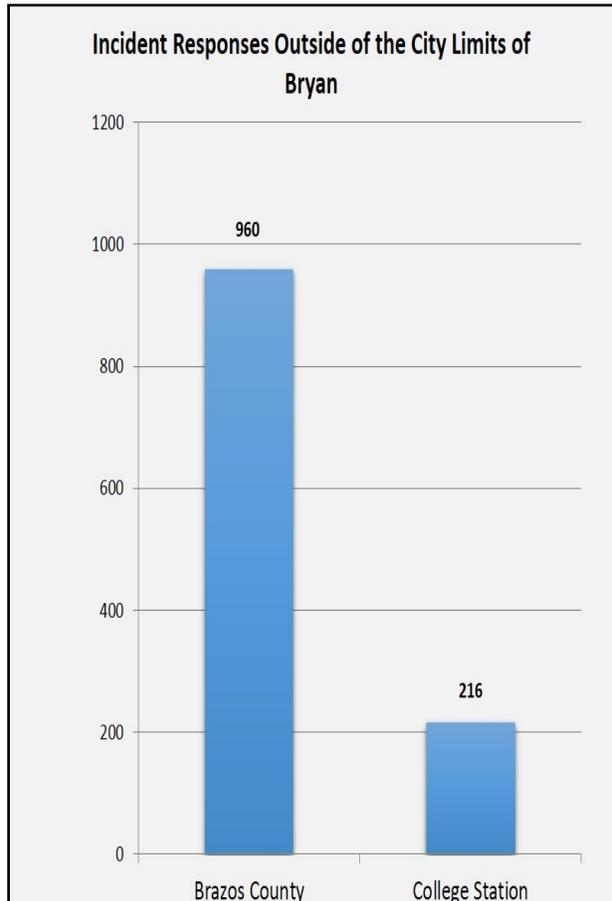
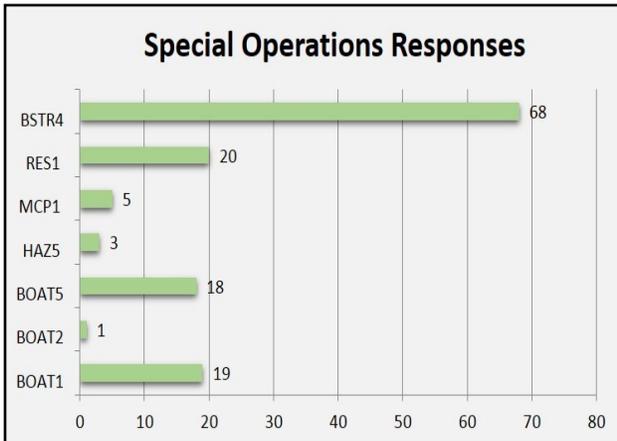
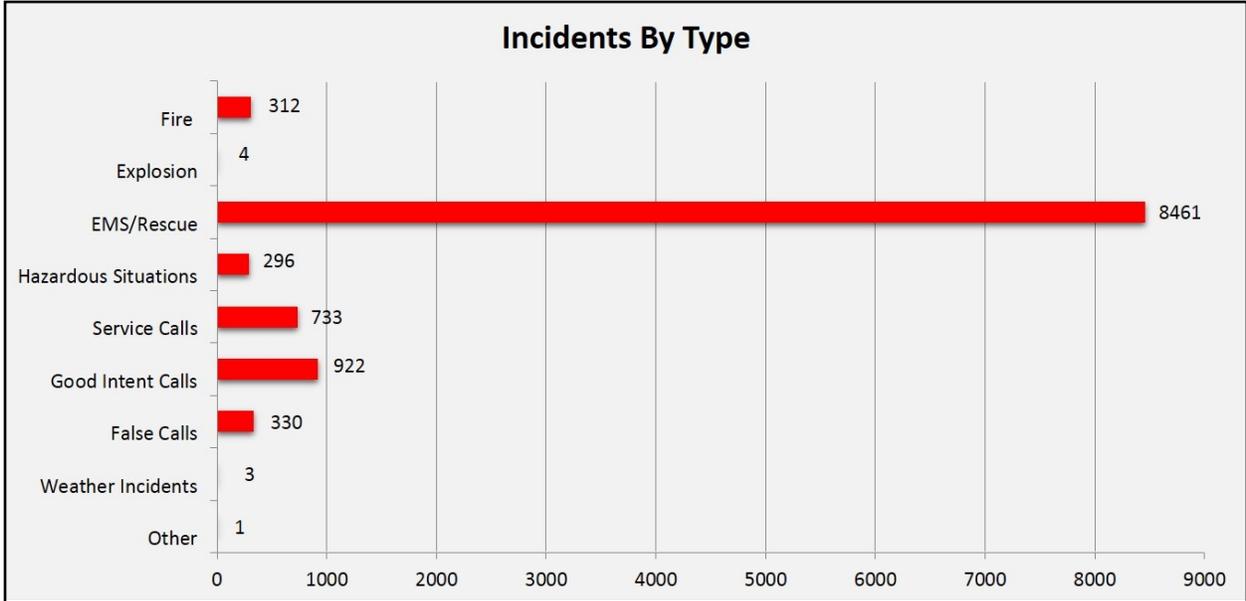
placed with new cameras with the latest technology available. These cameras improve visibility of objects in a dark environment by detecting the objects' infrared radiation and creating an image seen through the lens of the camera. These cameras help firefighters navigate through low visibility to find victims and detect heat and fire conditions.

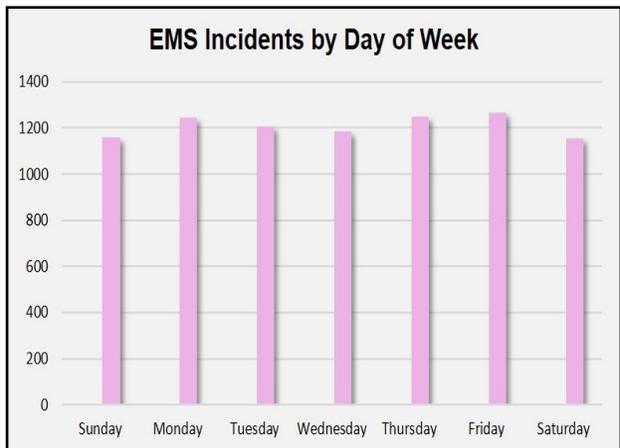
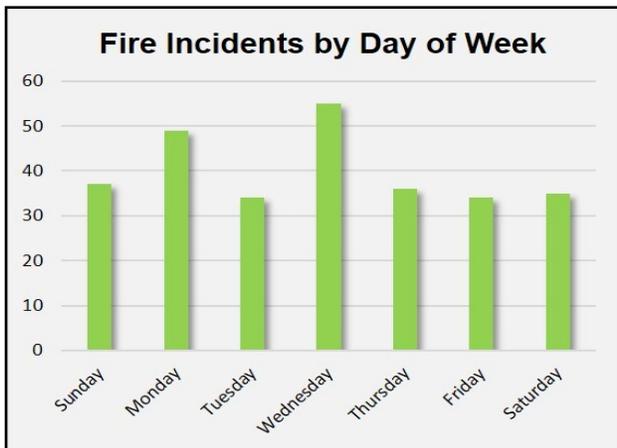
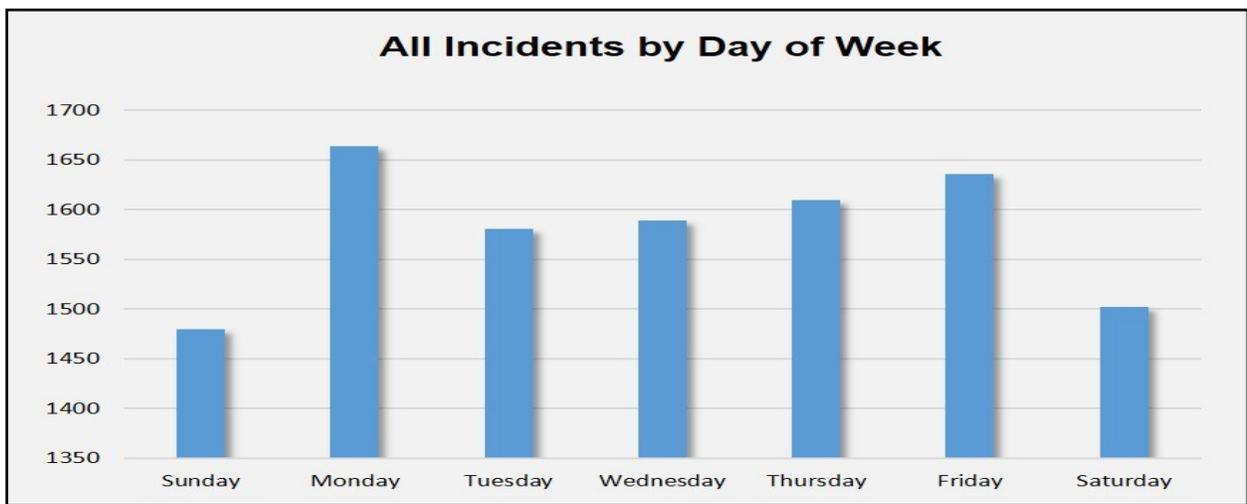
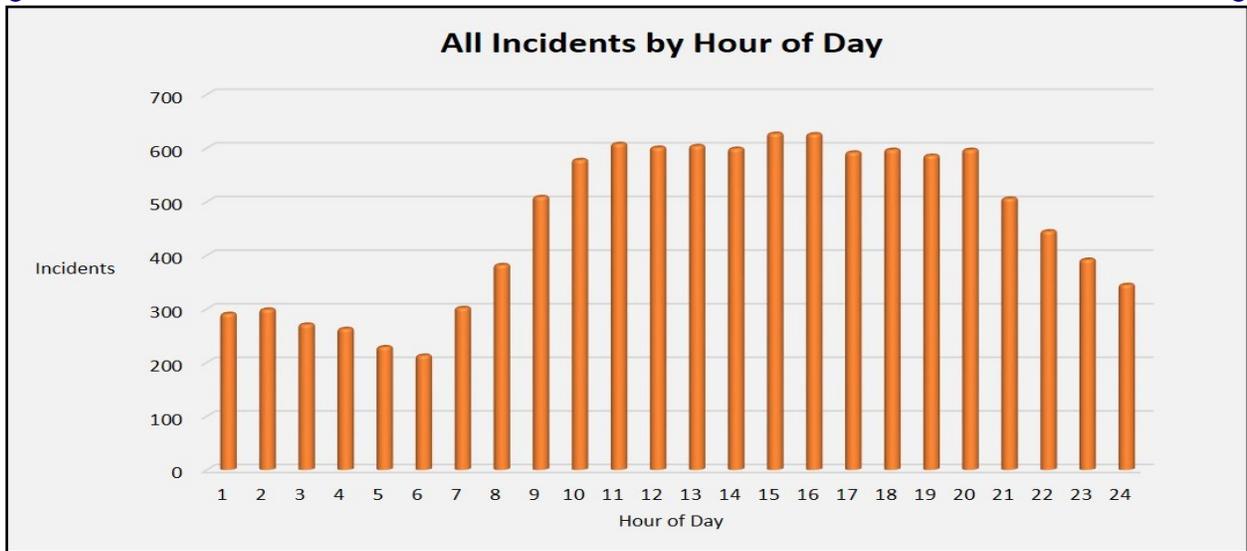
- New Physical Fitness Program for New Recruits – A new physical fitness plan was implemented for new recruits entering the department. During the rookie academy, classroom instruction is provided to help new employees understand and establish an effective fitness plan. Physical training is performed during the academy to ensure new recruits are ready to begin responding to emergency calls.



- Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) – The Bryan Fire Department responded to its first TIFMAS deployment in October. Lt. Mike Wodrich and FF Dan Williams responded in Booster 4 to the Hidden Pines fire in Bastrop and twenty-three surrounding counties for more than six days.





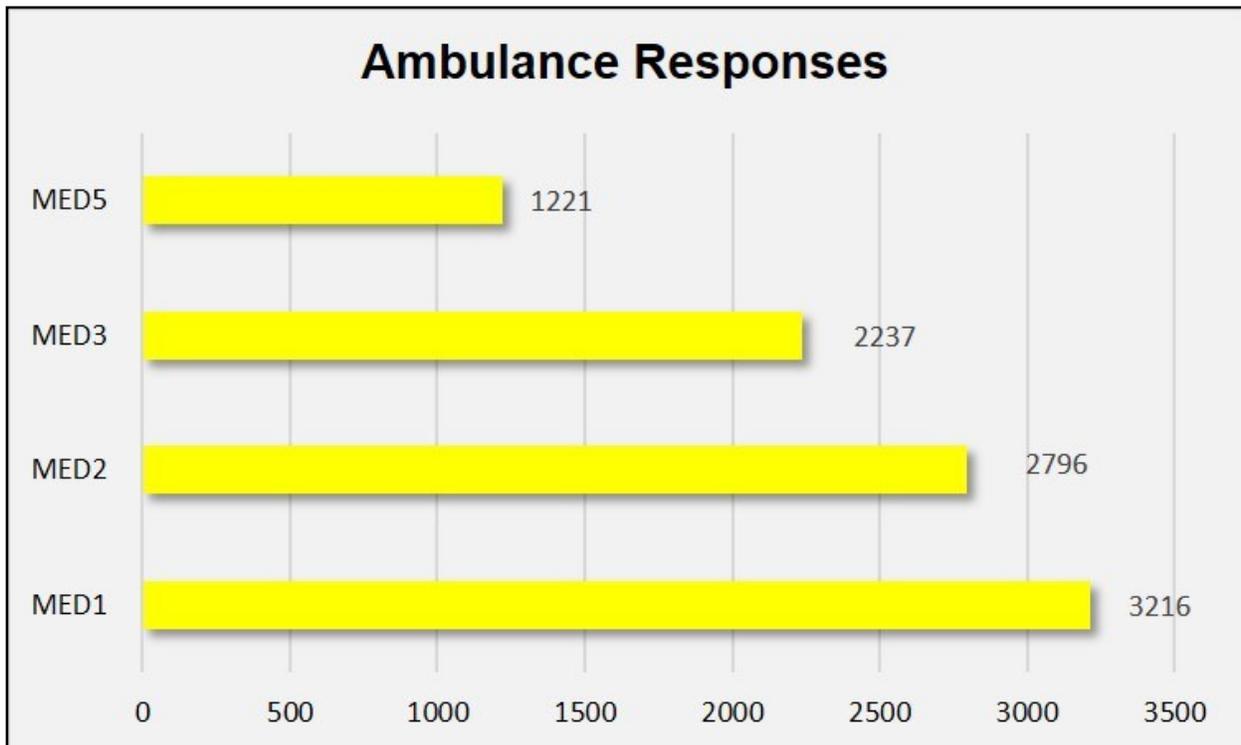




# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

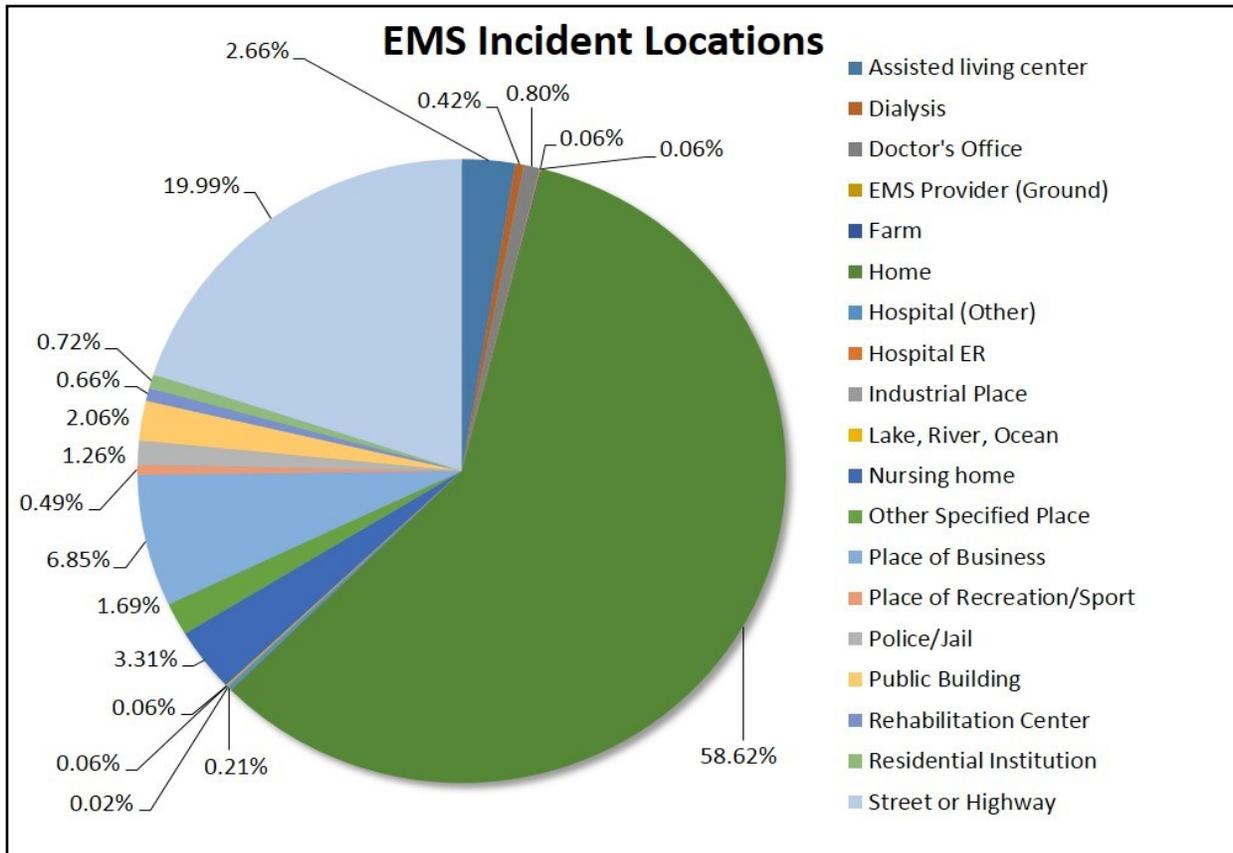
Emergency medical calls accounted for more than 77% of all calls for emergency service in 2015. A priority of the Bryan Fire Department is to provide the highest level of patient care possible. This requires our organization to remain diligent in the pursuit of improving processes, implementing new technology and therapies, and updating equipment and resources. In 2015, many accomplishments were made including:

- Auto-pulse mechanical Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) devices - Manual compressions only provide 10%–20% of normal blood flow, but the Auto-pulse moves more blood, more consistently than is possible with manual compressions, and because it is a mechanical device, it does not get tired. The device uses a Life-band that provides a more even pressure to the chest, leading to more consistent, high-quality compressions. This device also increases personnel safety during transport in the ambulance.
- Purchased an Auto-Vent 3000 in order to improve our capability to provide patient care.
- Completed the upgrade of cardiac monitors; all frontline vehicles have





# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



the Life Pack 15, which is the best model currently available.

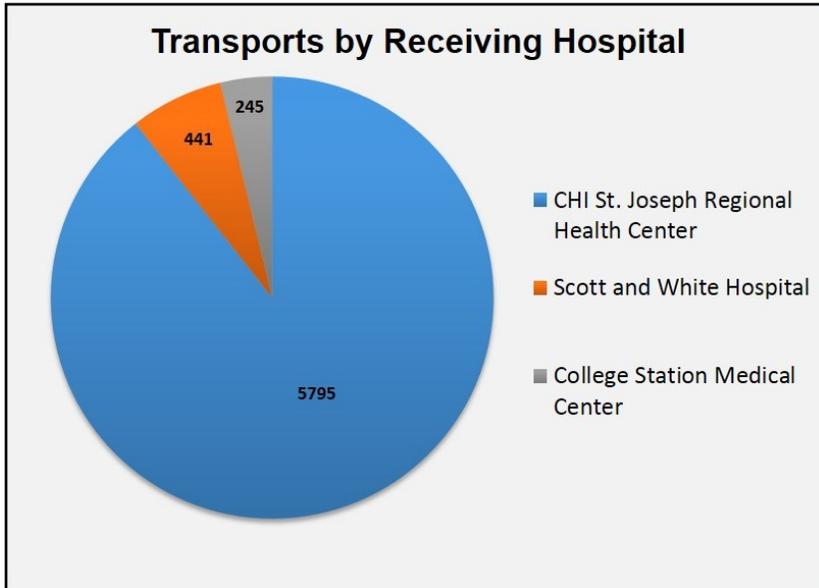
- Continue to conduct annual protocol testing to ensure personnel are proficient with treatment protocols.
- Continuing participation in the Ambulance Supplemental Payment Program (ASPP), which provides additional funds to the City of Bryan for Medicare and uninsured patients who were transported by the Bryan Fire Department. BFD will receive funds for 2015 in 2016.
- Continuing the process of ensuring that our policies meet the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) standards in anticipation of having our evaluation inspection in late 2016.
- Continuing to work with our medical director, Dr. Aaron Buzzard, to ensure that our protocols are current with national EMS standards as well as with CHI St. Joseph Regional Health Center treatment guidelines.



# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

- Dr. Buzzard continues to provide a retrospective quality improvement (QI) review of all major EMS calls to ensure our patients are receiving the best possible care.
- Worked with the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG)

one has a medical emergency and calls 911, the dispatcher gathers the pertinent information concerning the call and dispatches the appropriate emergency crew(s) and, in most cases, will stay on the line and provide pre-arrival instructions.



During 2015, emergency dispatchers received 8,765 medical calls. Currently there are 45 certified Emergency Medical Dispatchers. This includes the Associate Director, the Quality Assurance Manager and the Systems Analyst. There is one certified EMD-Q (Quality Assurance Manager) and the compliance rate for 2015 was 95%. The recommended compliance level is 90%.

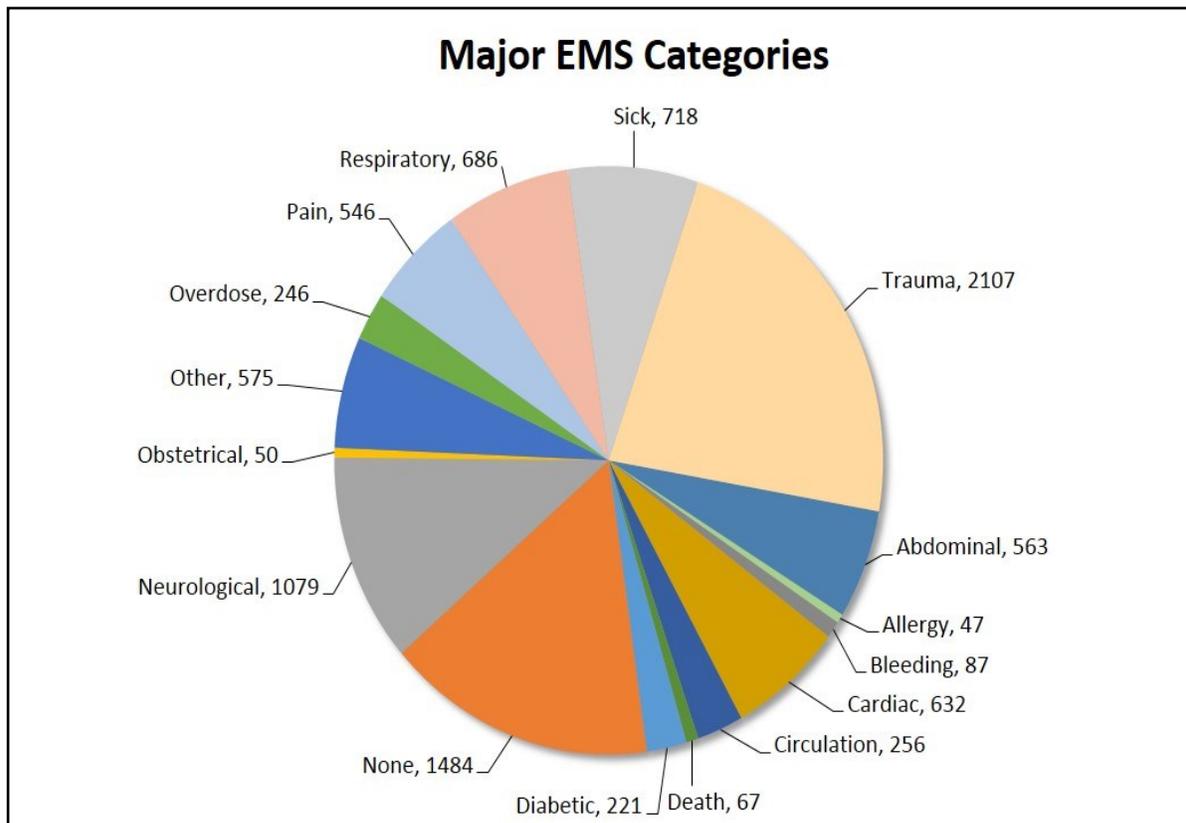
to develop a mass fatality plan for the BVCOG region. The full scale exercise was held on March 26, 2015.

Before the Bryan Fire Department arrives at an emergency medical call, the process of helping the patient begins with the Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) system utilized by the Brazos County Emergency Communications District (Dispatch Office). When some-





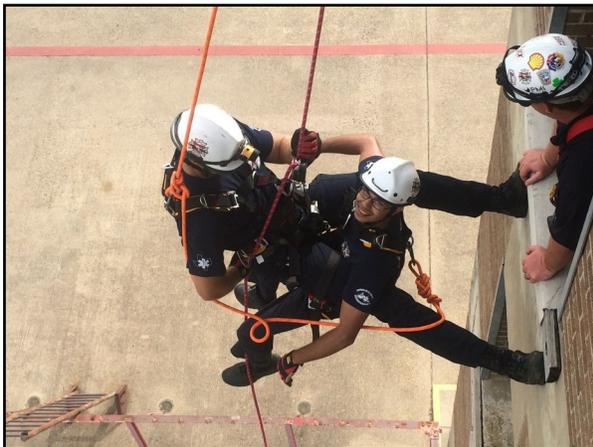
# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES





# SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services Division of the Bryan Fire Department provides services that maintain or support all other divisions, which include training, records management systems, Worker's Compensation, new employee processing, safety, apparatus specifications, and master scheduling.



BFD hired 20 new employees during 2015 with six new positions added and the remainder due to retirements. BFD had 17 personnel complete the Fire in the Field course and two of our wildland personnel received their Firefighter I designation. Many accomplishments were made by technical rescue personnel as well. BFD had five personnel receive their Structural Collapse Techni-



cian certificates, eight personnel became certified in trench rescue, five members received their Swift Water Rescue Technician certifications, and one member each in confined space



Photo courtesy of The Eagle



## SUPPORT SERVICES



A very significant change was made in training when BFD implemented a new on-line training program for use by all personnel, called Target Solutions. The training program features more than 250 hours of training for emergency responders. Courses cover structural firefighting, wildland fire, response to terrorism, emergency medical services, hazardous materials and others.

rescue and rope rescue received certifications.

In 2015, over 16,500 contact hours were documented for training in EMS, fire suppression, hazardous materials, and technical rescue. These hours include continuing education (CE) hours as well as additional and specialized training hours.

Listed below is a breakdown of these training hours:

- Fire Training 8,287 hours
- Wildland (Fire in the Field Course, G-131) 680 hours
- EMS Training 4,863 hours
- Hazardous Materials Training 295 hours
- Rescue 1,067 hours
- Fire Marshal's Office 84 hours





# FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) oversees many critical functions of the Fire Department including fire and arson investigations, fire inspections, site inspections, and public fire and safety education. The FMO also works with other city departments relating to dangerous structures, economic development, and code enforcement. In 2015, the FMO scheduled 75 public education events that included over 7,200 local citizens in attendance.



## Investigations

- Arson cases 20
- Arrests 5
- Cases closed 5
- Percent of cases closed 25
- Dispatch follow-ups 487

## Other activities

- Plans review 547
- Citations 38
- Citation fines \$13,657
- Permit fees \$7,250
- Knox Box installations 97
- Radio talks 34
- Special event reviews 48



A summary of FMO activities for 2015 includes:

## Inspections

- Site inspections 830
- Dangerous buildings 88
- Utility connects / disconnects 194
- Permits 87
- Dangerous building inspections 315





# FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

## Top 5 Fire Losses for 2015

DATE	TYPE	ADDRESS	LOSS	DESCRIPTION
04/20/2015	Parking Area	1111 Waco St.	\$659,000	Garbage Trucks
10/10/2015	Parking Area	1820 N. Harvey Mitchell Pkwy.	\$600,000	Garbage Trucks
09/19/2015	Multi-Family	505 Wayside Dr.	\$242,405	Apartment
02/25/2015	Parking Area	2890 N. Harvey Mitchell Pkwy.	\$205,000	Commercial Truck
06/01/2015	Residential	607 W. 28th St.	\$65,000	House

\*The Top 5 Fire Losses for 2015 accounted for 45% of the total loss associated with fire.



1111 Waco St.



1820 N. Harvey Mitchell Pkwy.



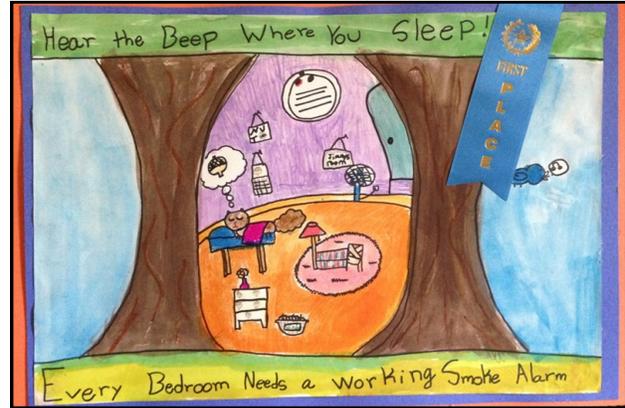
2890 N. Harvey Mitchell Pkwy.



607 W. 28th St.



# FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE



Local elementary schools participated in the National Fire Prevention Month Poster Contest that was held in October. The theme for 2015 was “hear the beep where you sleep”. The winners were recognized at a City Council meeting and the best overall poster winner received a party for their class.



The annual Lt. Eric Wallace Fire Gator Camp was incorporated into “Community Heroes Summer Camp” at the The Children’s Museum of the Brazos Valley that takes place every summer in July. We always have great participation from the department and children of the community.



# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Each year, a major focus of Emergency Management is to update the Brazos County Interjurisdictional Emergency Management Plan. This plan is developed and updated by the Emergency Management Coordinators of Brazos County, Texas A&M University and the cities of Bryan, College Station, Kurten, and Wixon Valley. The plan outlines an agreed upon approach to emergency operations and is applicable to the county and cities. It provides general guidance for emergency management activities and an overview of approved methods of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The plan describes emergency response organization and assigns responsibilities for various emergency tasks. The plan is intended to provide a framework for more specific annexes that describes in detail specific responsibilities and assignments.

Significant accomplishments in 2015 include:

- Applications for Grant Funding – Several grant applications were submitted in 2015, including the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant, the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant, and the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program. A Home-



land Security grant was awarded that helped upgrade the Mobile Command Post (MCP). This grant provided funding for new computers, a wireless router, and satellite service.

- Mobile Command Post Generator - Through the efforts of several departments in the City of Bryan, BFD was awarded a Homeland Security grant of \$21,610.55 for the purchase of a trailer mounted generator capable of powering the Mobile Command Post during extended operations.



# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Worked with the BVCOG on regional projects such as the Brazos Valley Hazard Mitigation Plan, Regional Threat Assessment, Interoperable Communications, and Homeland Security Committee.



- Incident Command Classes – Several regional National Incident Management System (NIMS) classes were taught educating first responders in Incident Command System (ICS) practices. These classes were taught in Brazos, Grimes, and Leon Counties.



- Attended and participated in the Texas Emergency Management Conference.
- Participated in coordination meetings with Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), the American Red Cross, the Texas State Medical Evacuation Plan, the Salvation Army, and the Bryan Independent School District.
- CERT Training – Assisted the Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG) with three Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes. Two of the classes was held in Brazos County and one in Leon County.
- Continually worked with Bryan Fire Marshal's Office building relationships with our TIER II facilities, commercial and residential areas in the City of Bryan.
- Big Event – Established the City of Bryan Mobile Command Post to assist in coordinating the Big Event activities.



# 2015 BRYAN FIRE DEPARTMENT



In February, we held dedication ceremonies at Station 5 in honor of Lt. Greg Pickard and at Station 1 in honor of Lt. Eric Wallace. These memorials were built by Operator Rhett Filburn.



On April 18, two BFD teams competed in the annual Brazos Valley Regional Advisory Council's Battle of the Brazos. The competition included a 5K run, relay trail run, and tug-of-war in the water. Our teams placed first and third!



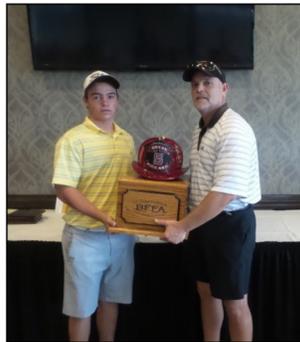
On April 24-25, members of BFD, CSFD, TTXF1, Utah TF1, the Military Task Force (6th CST and 6th CERFP) all participated in a triennial disaster evaluation. The disaster was based on a hurricane followed by a tornado. Victims were extricated, triaged, and flown out of the area.



# 2015 BRYAN FIRE DEPARTMENT



On May 26, we were able to welcome our brother, Ricky Mantey, Jr. back to BFD. We are so happy to be able to see him even more. His presence was greatly missed.



In June, the Bryan Firefighters Association Local 1204 held the 3rd Annual Lt. Greg Pickard Memorial Golf Tournament at the Phillips Event Center at Briarcrest. It was another successful event.



Lt. Eric Wallace's daughter, Paige Solis, graduated from Marlin High School in Marlin, Texas in June. A few of our members were there to witness her graduation and present her with a beautiful gift in memory of Lt. Wallace. She is presently attending Tarleton State University.



# 2015 BRYAN FIRE DEPARTMENT



Also in June, the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce held the 3rd Annual Chamber Softball Classic. A portion of the proceeds from the event went to the 100 Club of Houston. This year the score ended in a tie. The ceremonial first pitch was thrown out by Lt. Eric Wallace’s widow, Brandie Phillip, and his daughter, Paige Solis.



On September 11, our Fifth Annual Memorial Stair Climb took place at the Varisco Building. It was another great success that included many members of surrounding fire departments, police departments, and members of the community.



National Night Out Kick-Off Event took place on September 17 in conjunction with other public safety departments across the community. This event allows the community to come see what services each department provides and encourages them to create events in their own neighborhoods.



# 2015 BRYAN FIRE DEPARTMENT



In October, Lt. Allen Linton and Firefighter Daniel Goodenow attended the memorial service for Firefighter Larry Leggio and Firefighter John Mesh who died in the line of duty for the Kansas City Fire Department.



Also in October, members of our Honor Guard attended the Honor Guard Academy hosted by the Taylor Fire Department in conjunction with the Texas Line of Duty Death Task Force. They attended the academy with close to 20 other departments from across Texas.



# 2015 BRYAN FIRE DEPARTMENT



The Bryan Firefighters Association Local 1204 “filled the boot” for the Muscular Dystrophy Association on the weekend of October 16-18. We were able to break our previous record by collecting a total of \$32,308.



On October 30, BFD with the Bryan Police Department prepared and served hamburgers with all the toppings for city employees for our annual United Way fundraiser.



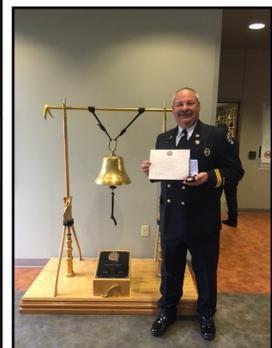
In November, the Bryan Firefighters Association Local 1204 was able to supply area school children with warm coats for the winter through the Operation Warm program. The children were incredibly thankful for their coats.



## AWARDS & RECOGNITION



In October, the Sons of the American Revolution with the Sul Russ Masonic Lodge recognized Apparatus Operator Wilson Caddel and Firefighter Nathan Gawlik for outstanding service to our community.



During the week of October 26-30, Battalion Chief Joe Ondrasek and Battalion Chief Jordan Gallagher attended the Texas Fire Chiefs Academy in Garland, Texas. Graduates of the Academy receive the Certified Fire Executive or CFE professional designation.



## AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Firefighter/Paramedic Daniel Goodenow was named Favorite Firefighter by the The Eagle's 2015 Readers' Choice Awards. Ricky Mantey, Jr., was runner-up.



Lt. Chris Searles graduated from the Police Academy in October 2015. The academy lasted four months. He subsequently received his Peace Officer license and has been a much needed addition to the Fire Marshal's Office.



# 2015 New Employees



**Tyler Vitek**  
Firefighter / EMT-P



**Joshua Meenach**  
Firefighter / EMT-P



**Landon Bissett**  
Firefighter / EMT-P



**Rayse Richardson**  
Firefighter / EMT-P



**Ethan Ballard**  
Firefighter / EMT



**Thomas Boroughs**  
Firefighter / EMT



**Justin Calandra**  
Firefighter / EMT



**Scott Faught**  
Firefighter / EMT



**Kevin Ferguson**  
Firefighter / EMT



**Mason Hyman**  
Firefighter / EMT



**Phillip McLain**  
Firefighter / EMT



**Cody Pinner**  
Firefighter / EMT-P



**Ricky Scott**  
Firefighter / EMT



**Glenn Stephens**  
Firefighter / EMT-P



**Michael Talbert**  
Firefighter / EMT



**Ty Taylor**  
Firefighter / EMT



**Murray Ulm**  
Firefighter / EMT



**Travis White**  
Firefighter / EMT



**Blake Wilfong**  
Firefighter / EMT



## 2015 Employee of the Year



Lt. Jonathan Strickland

## 2015 Retirees



**James A. Davis**  
Firefighter/  
Paramedic  
**30 Years of Service**



**Alfonso "Ponch" Gonzales**  
Firefighter/  
Paramedic  
**20 Years of Service**



**Dennis Gaas**  
Firefighter/  
Paramedic  
**26 Years of Service**

## 2015 Service Awards

**35 Years**  
Lt. Mark Jones

**30 Years**  
Lt. Jimmy Zaneck

**20 Years**  
Lt. Blake Barrentine  
FF Ponch Gonzales

**15 Years**  
Lt. Gerald Burnett  
Lt. Larry Jordy  
FF Gary Plagens  
Lt. Jimmie Rosier

**10 Years**  
Oper. Brett Carsey  
Wanda Clark

**5 Years**  
FF Bryce Campbell  
FF Daniel Goodenow  
FF Trevor LaRoche  
FF Jacob Sherrod

## 2015 Promotions

**Battalion Chief**  
Jason Nored

**Apparatus Operator**  
Heath Dozier  
Trevor LaRoche