



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**Independence, Missouri
Fire Department**

A Message From The Chief

The Annual Report is an important publication of the Independence Fire Department to demonstrate our ongoing efforts to serve the citizens of Independence. Throughout the report you will find a small amount of the statistical information we collect and examples of the hard work completed by the employees of the Fire Department. As you will see, we continue to break records in incident responses and unit responses. The Fire Department continues to work towards improving our service to the public.



Fire Chief Douglas Short

In my first year serving as the Fire Chief, we celebrated our 175th Anniversary as an organized Fire Department. The Department kicked off the anniversary year on February 6th, the official anniversary date. Throughout the year crews wore commemorative shirts as a part of their daily uniform. For our biggest celebration we hosted an honorary parade around the Independence Square featuring new and antique fire apparatus from Independence and other surrounding communities. Independence is well known for its history with the Sante Fe, California and Oregon trailheads. As the community was starting out in this time, recognition that fire protection was crucial for development, was the spark of our existence. I am proud to be a part of this community and especially proud of the hard work and dedication our employees put into service for the City of Independence.

If this report raises questions and you would like further details, or if you would like to see previous reports, please feel free to contact us at 816-325-7123 or email fireonline@indepmo.org.





2018 INCIDENT CATEGORIES

Fire Calls462

COMMERCIAL 23
 Public Assembly 3
 Schools and Colleges 1
 Health Care/Penal..... 1
 Stores and Offices 8
 Industry/Utility 1
 Storage in Structures..... 7
 Other Structures..... 2

RESIDENTIAL.....138
 Private Dwellings..... 102
 Apartments 29
 Hotels/Motels 2
 All Other Residential..... 5

OTHER FIRES & INCIDENTS 301
 Highway Vehicle 70
 Other Vehicles..... 12
 Non Structure/Non Vehicle..... 24
 Brush/Grass/Wildland..... 68
 Rubbish/Dumpsters..... 106
 All Other Fires 21

Medical 13,459
 Includes Medical, Vehicular With Injuries, Vehicular Unknown Injuries, Extrications and Medical Search and Rescue.

All Other Responses/ Service Calls 3,404
 Includes Explosive Devices, Carbon Monoxide, Explosion In Area, Gas Leak, Good Intent Calls, Lock Out, Odor Investigation In Area, Service Calls, Smoke In Area, Smoke/Odor Removal, Weather-Related Incidents and Miscellaneous.

Dispatched & Cancelled En Route 2,902

HazMat Responses 213

Other Hazardous Responses 152
 Power Lines Down, Electrical Wiring Problems, Shortage and Arcing.

False Alarms 189

Automatic Alarms..... 722

Mutual Aid Given 53

TOTAL: 21,556

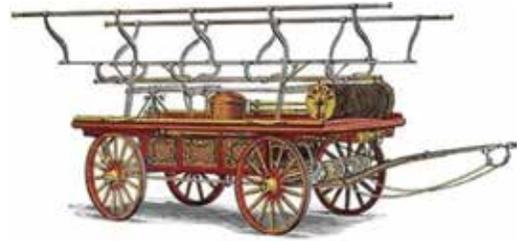
1843

In 1843, Richard Ridgeway Rees, James McGill, Anthony Cosgrave, Benjamin Franklin Wallace and 36 others petitioned the state legislature for incorporation as the "Independence Fire Company." The 12th General Assembly approved and the volunteer fire company became incorporated by state law on February 6, 1843.



1860

The all-volunteer fire department took delivery of its new fire engine, built in St. Louis, at a cost of \$3,000. It was brought to Independence by steamboat and could carry 24 men on the pump handles.



1853

By December 9, 1853, Independence had a fire engine. When the City ordinance was passed incorporating the "Independence Fire Company" into the body politic, it also gave them possession and control of the City fire engine, "The Independence 76," and the building which later became known as "The Engine House."



1894

On June 26, 1894, the city council passed Ordinance No. 843 creating the first paid fire department. Joe Peterson was hired as the first compensated Fire Warden, serving 1894 to 1895. He was paid \$40 per month.

Professional Development

Training and Education to be Ready for Today and the Future

- Trained seven new firefighters who were hired and assigned to fire operations.
- Assisted personnel in re-certification for 15 state certificates consisting of Fire Inspector, Instructor I, Instructor II, and Fire Investigator.



ABOVE: Recruits hired August 21, 2018, from left, Seth Johnston, John Largent, Tim Burke, Adam Kelsey and Tyler Smith.



LEFT: Recruits hired May 1, 2018, from left, Cody Rohrs and Steven Rew.

1896

Prince Compton was named IFD Fire Chief, serving 1896 to 1897.

1897

This photo is of the early paid Independence Fire Department. The horses are the first IFD team of Dan (left) and Joe (right). The fireman on the hosewagon seat is Lewis Warren. To his left is Ellis Wright, who worked for the Examiner newspaper. D.A. Kincade, who later became Chief and served the department for fifty years, is holding Dan's reins. Chief John Nesbitt is holding Joe. The firemen to the Chief's left are William Goodman, Charles Highfel and Chief Nesbitt's little brother. This photo was taken between November 16, 1897 and October 1, 1902.



1895

George Perry took over as IFD Fire Chief, serving 1895 to 1896.

1897

John Nesbitt succeeded Compton as IFD Fire Chief, serving 1897 to 1902.

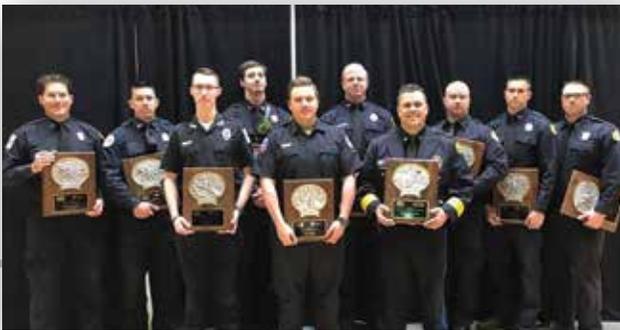
1900

The total expenses for IFD in 1900 came to \$1,805.91. The amount included \$1,380 for salaries, \$175.18 for supplies and \$136.88 for horse feed.

Emergency Operations

Preparing and Responding to All Hazards

- Seven new firefighters were hired to begin the process of training and development.
- One Captain was promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief.
- Six Fire Equipment Operators were promoted to the rank of Captain while nine Firefighters were promoted to the rank of Fire Equipment Operator.



1902 David Kincade becomes the IFD Fire Chief, serving 1902 to 1908.

1909 John Gabathuler becomes the seventh IFD Fire Chief, serving 1909 to 1910.

1910 A horse-drawn Anderson Supply Company combination chemical/hose wagon was purchased in 1910. This photo was likely taken in 1910, showing the No. 2 Hose Company in No. 2 Firehouse at Elm and Lexington.



1912 Robert Lyle takes over as IFD Fire Chief, serving 1912 to 1913.

1908 John Nesbitt acted as IFD Fire Chief again, serving 1908 to 1909.

1909 In 1909, the city expanded to include a second fire company. Located near the industrial area south of Elm Street, the Firehouse operated until 1918 when it was consolidated with the original Firehouse. The second company was re-opened in 1928.



1910 Charles Staub steps in as IFD Fire Chief, serving 1910 to 1912.

1913 David Kincade steps in as IFD Fire Chief a second time, serving 1913 to 1950.



Emergency Preparedness

Strengthening the Whole Community to Build Resiliency toward Disasters

- Continued to maintain and strengthen its volunteer program with volunteers in the EPD committing almost 3,000 total hours to the program.
- Managed the SEMA Emergency Management Performance Grant grant award, totaling \$112,665.78 thus reducing the City's financial obligation.
- Continued development of the Emergency Operations Center's response capability through the installation of additional communications equipment, information and visual display technology, and education/training for disaster response.
- Held two Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training classes. Within the last 10 years, over 1,050 citizens from the Independence area have taken this training, many of whom continued on to volunteer in the CERT Program.
- Participated in exercises and planning sessions, including Mass Care, Children and Youth in Disasters, Hazard Mitigation, Show-Me Partnership for Emergency Human Services and Volunteerism, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, Mid-America Regional Council subcommittees and the Great American Shake Out.
- Added position of Response Planner to the EPD team. This new position supports and strengthens Public Health response capabilities on a local and regional level in a variety of ways.



1918 The last two horses for IFD were "W.T." and "Maj". "W.T.", named for councilman W.T. Peters, was turned over to the street department. "Maj", named for councilman Herbert Majors, was sold to an unknown buyer at market in Kansas City.



1920 After World War I, many new firefighter positions were created to find jobs for returning servicemen. A second shift was added and firefighters began working a 10-hour day shift and a 14-hour night shift, rotating every two weeks. This new work schedule was implemented May 12, 1920.



1918

On July 1, 1918, horses were replaced at Firehouse No. 1 and the city fire department became motorized with two White Automobile Company fire trucks at a cost of \$4,200 each. The first alarm for the White was on July 2nd at 3:15pm. The Chief's log notes, "Alarm at 301 E. Walnut. A two room shed. Occupied by Bob Srader. Loss on shed and contents \$50.00 covered by insurance. Laid 200 feet of hose. Cause of fire children playing in shed. Alarm reported by Bell Telephone."



1928

The truck in this image is one of two 1928 pumpers which were not replaced until 1949. This picture was taken in front of Firehouse No. 2 at Elm and Lexington. The firemen from left to right are: Martin Carey, Tom Pollard (who later became Chief), Bill Paine and Kenneth Simmons.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency Operations Center Activations

Severe Weather	12
Exercises	4
Large Scale Events.....	3

Volunteer Hours..... 2,880

CERT/DART	1,440
Leadership.....	672
Command Staff	720

Community Exercises, Workshops and Presentations

Local Events.....	15
Regional, State, or Federal ...	14

Grants Received

EMPG	\$112,665.78
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Emergency Medical Services

Quality Medical Care to the Community

- Performed more than 5,340 hours of emergency medical training enhancing our EMTs and paramedics knowledge and skills.
- Provided Hands-Only CPR training to employees throughout the City's various departments including members of the Independence Police Department.
- Provided CPR recertification and Advanced Cardiac Life Support to all members of Fire Suppression and Paramedics.
- Held docudrama (mock car accident) at William Chrisman High School to bring awareness to students towards 'distracted driving'.



1944

In 1944, Local 781 of the International Association of Fire Fighters was formed by the men and women employed by the Independence Fire Department.



1950

Thomas Pollard is named the Fire Chief for IFD, serving 1950 to 1968.

1952

Firehouses No. 3 and No. 4 went into service at 6:00am on Tuesday July 15, 1952. The openings marked the fulfillment of the public works program authorized by voters in the special bond election in June 1951. The public works program included more than \$160,000 to pay for the buildings plus two new Seagrave pumper-ladder trucks.



1955

Firehouse No. 5 was placed into service in 1955.

1947

On May 6-8, 1947, President Harry Truman called a three-day conference to discuss a plan to reduce losses from fire in the United States. A driving force behind the conference was the fire-related tragedies that occurred the prior year at the Winecoff (Atlanta) and La Salle (Chicago) hotels and at an apartment building in New York City. These three fires killed a total of 217 people.



1950

The first two-way radio was placed into the car of the Fire Chief.



1953

On September 9, 1953, a proposal by Independence City Mayor Robert P. Weatherford, Jr. was approved to equip all fire trucks with two-way short radios at a cost of \$6,000.

Prevention

Comprehensive Services to Reduce Risk

- Partnered with the Heart of America Fire Chiefs for the adoption of the 2018 International Codes.
- Organized and participated in the Fire Department's 175th Anniversary Parade.
- Completed updating the Fire Prevention Division Procedural Manual.
- Won award from the Independence School district for Business Partner of the year for our support of the Public Service Academy with outstanding level of engagement.
- Worked in conjunction with Emergency Preparedness on the development of a senior adult outreach program to teach how to prepare for fire and other emergency situations.
- Inspectors received training certifications for Fire Inspector, Fire Instructor and Fire Investigator.



1959

A Buick was placed into service as the Fire Chief's car on August 6, 1959.



1968

Willard Swoffer takes over as IFD Fire Chief, serving 1968 to 1981. During his tenure, the first women and minorities were hired by the Department.



1981

Norman Birch was named Fire Chief from 1981 until his retirement on December 31, 1991. While he was Chief, Firehouse No. 6 was replaced and No. 9 and No. 10 were built.

1961

Firehouse No. 6 and Firehouse No. 7 were placed into service in 1961.

1962

On April 1, 1962, the work schedule of 24 hours on duty and 48 hours off duty went into effect, following a nationwide trend in fire service.



1970

In 1970, four new Seagrave engines and two Snorkel trucks were integrated into the fleet.



FIRE PREVENTION

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
COMMERCIAL INSPECTIONS	5,955	5,285	4,491	4,697	4,502
Occupation License Received	522	557	600	518	608
Occupation License Inspections & Re-Inspections	625	722	756	667	739
Company Inspections	2,917	2,300	1,673	2,279	1,933
Company Re-Inspections	1,449	1,302	1,122	836	896
Santa-Cali-Gon Inspections	442	404	340	397	326
OTHER ACTIVITIES	747	857	776	917	764
Citizen Requests & Special Inspections	275	345	322	298	277
Burning Permits	68	63	77	103	54
Underground Tanks Removed.....	0	1	3	2	3
Fire Investigations	*	*	*	*	61
Smoke Detectors Distributed	96	186	98	140	114
Environmental Research Projects	27	17	30	43	32
Juvenile Fire Setter Interventions	7	1	2	1	4
Fire Drills Conducted	3	10	10	9	13
Fireworks Inspections	271	234	234	321	206
PLAN REVIEW/CONSTRUCTION					
Plans/Zoning Projects Reviewed	339	304	397	265	320
Inspections - Reinspections.....	295	195	176	158	175
COMMUNITY EDUCATION					
Fire Safety Talks & Job Fairs.....	87	191	113	110	129
Audience	16,520	10,423	6,307	7,475	8,280
Website Visitors	29,293	28,723	22,596	27,293	24,413

* totals not available

1992

Larry Hodge succeeds Birch as the next Fire Chief, serving 1992 to 2005. While Chief, he re-introduced emergency medical training to IFD to include automatic external defibrillators.



2013

In 2013, IFD added Mobile Data Terminals in its vehicles to allow for better communication between units and the dispatcher without using the radio.



2017

Doug Short took over as IFD Fire Chief in 2017.

2001

The first Quint was added to the fleet on March 28, 2001.



2005

Sandra Schiess is hired as the first female Fire Chief, serving 2005 to 2014.



2014

John Greene is named IFD Fire Chief, serving 2014 to 2017.

Services

The Best Tools for the Job

- Took possession of three new pumpers, purchased in late 2017 to replace pumpers that were past their usable service period, and placed them in service in May, June and July.
- Replaced 52 sets of personal protective gear due to age and condition.
- Replaced worn and defective workout equipment and appliances at five stations due to age and condition.
- Provided preventive maintenance for all Fire Department vehicles.
- Purchased five staff vehicles to replace vehicles past their usable service period.
- Remodeled the administrative office area to make it more functional.

2018 DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TIMES

Average time in minutes from dispatch to arrival

- 2018 — 5.22
- 2017 — 5.15
- 2016 — 5.11

Percentage of structure fire calls responded to in under 6 minutes

- 2018 — 85.00%
- 2017 — 87.00%
- 2016 — 85.00%

Percentage of emergency EMS calls responded to in under 6 minutes

- 2018 — 74.00%
- 2017 — 77.00%
- 2016 — 80.00%

2018 INDIVIDUAL COMPANY RESPONSES

Pumper 1.....	2,908
Pumper 2.....	2,458
Pumper 3.....	3,183
Quint 4.....	2,473
Pumper 5.....	2,871
Pumper 6.....	2,058
Pumper 7.....	2,525
Pumper 8.....	577
Pumper 9.....	537
Pumper 10.....	1,726
HazMat 1.....	12
Rescue 1.....	2,329
Rescue 2.....	2,322
Rescue 8.....	0
Special Rescue.....	140
Truck 1.....	1,679
Truck 2.....	1,610



2018 TRAINING HOURS

Auto-Aid Training
4 hrs.

Company Training
10,904 hrs.

Driver Training
1,168 hrs.

HazMat Training
1,136 hrs.

Multi Company Drills
339 hrs.

New Driver Training
54 hrs.

Officer Training
1,880 hrs.

Recruit Training
422 hrs.

Single-Company Drills
252 hrs.

TOTAL TRAINING
16,159 hrs.

2018 RESPONSE BREAKDOWN

Fire Calls	462	2.14%
Medical Calls	13,459	62.43%
Service Calls	3,404	15.78%
Cancelled En Route	2,902	13.46%
False Alarms	189	1.00%
Automatic Alarms	722	3.35%
Other	418	1.93%

5 YEAR TREND



SMOKE ALARMS DISTRIBUTED

2018	114
2017	142
2016	98
2015	186
2014	96

STRUCTURE FIRE DOLLAR LOSS

2018	\$5,211,569
2017	\$5,362,304
2016	\$4,157,573
2015	\$4,457,185
2014	\$4,269,331

10 YEAR INCIDENT TREND





VISION STATEMENT

To consistently provide high quality services in the most efficient manner for our growing community and be recognized as a leader in providing quality Fire, EMS and Emergency Preparedness services.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Independence Fire Department will meet the challenges of present and future community needs through pro-active leadership, dedication to our core values, provision of quality All-Hazard emergency services and community risk-reduction strategies in an efficient and effective manner.

IMPORTANT FIRE DEPARTMENT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency 911
Fire Administration 325-7123
Emergency Preparedness 325-7133
Web Address www.indepmo.org/fire



INDEPENDENCE
★ MISSOURI ★

A GREAT AMERICAN STORY