2014 Annual Report

Independence, Missouri Fire Department
In 2014, the Independence Fire Department welcomed new Fire Chief John Greene. Promotions in Administration included a new Deputy Chief of Administration, Battalion Chief of Services, Battalion Chief of Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness Manager.

Early in 2014, the City of Independence was reviewed by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). This resulted in a history making accomplishment in the improvement of our ISO rating. At the beginning of this review the Fire Department ISO rating was a Class 4. After the review was completed, our rating improved to a Class 2, making this the best rating the Independence Fire Department has ever held. ISO classification rating system ranges from 1 – 10. Class 1 is the highest rating.

In response to the 2014 Ebola outbreak and in keeping with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, new personal protective equipment (PPE), training and protocols were implemented. This required the purchase of Ebola PPE kits which are now carried on all apparatus.

The items in this report are only highlights of the accomplishments and current performance of the department. If you would like more information about our department, please contact 816-325-7123.
Professional Development - Training and Education to be Ready for Today and the Future

2014 marked the beginning of some new initiatives for the Independence Fire Department’s Training/Professional Development Division.

- 120 personnel participated in training needs analysis testing to identify and focus on specific training areas.
- 129 personnel attended Fire Ground Operations classes incorporating new technologies and tactics in firefighting. This training provides firefighters with the latest that science and technology offers in fighting fire more safely for themselves and for the public they serve.
- 120 personnel received Trench Rescue Awareness training to increase our operational effectiveness when responding to emergencies involving trench collapse. This training enhances our ability to serve not only the community more effectively but also other departments within the City.
- 40 personnel received training focusing on State Certification for Instructor I, Instructor II, Inspector, Investigator, and Officer I certification.
- 88 personnel received Weather Spotter training, providing firefighters with greater knowledge in recognizing various hazardous weather configurations.
- 119 personnel attended safety and firefighter training sponsored by Missouri Gas Energy. Our partnership with MGE is critical in protecting our community in the event of a gas-related emergency.
- 45 personnel attended specialized hands-on firefighter training outside the department. We access a variety of training outside the department to expose our personnel to new ideas and other organizations in order to advance the professional development of our personnel.
- In 2014, we were successful in enhancing our training partnerships with Metropolitan Community College-Blue River Campus as well as neighboring agencies by increasing our shared-use agreements.
Emergency Preparedness

Emergency Operations/Mobile Command Center Activations
Severe Weather........................................... 9
IFD Events ................................................... 3
IPD Events ................................................... 2
Hazardous Materials ..................................... 1
Large Gatherings and Events ......................... 5
Exercises ................................................... 8

Volunteer Organizations Training*
Classes/Training Sessions ................................. 70
Participants Trained ........................................ 941
Exercises ................................................... 4
Exercise Participants ...................................... 185
Volunteer Exercise Hours ................................. 1,507
Volunteer Training Hours ............................... 13,241

Community Workshops and Presentations
Local Events .................................................... 7
Regional, State or Federal ................................ 2
Participants ................................................... 401

Grants Received
EMPG ....................................................... $146,575

*Includes CERT, DART, EOC Management Team, ECS

Emergency Preparedness - Building Community Resiliency to Man-Made or Natural Disasters

Collaborating on a Community, Regional, State and National Level to plan, prepare, mitigate, respond and recover from all risks that threaten the City of Independence.

- The Independence/Eastern Jackson County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Emergency Management Mobile Command Center were activated 28 times in 2014 for severe weather, residential fires, commercial fires, hazardous materials incidents and support to the Independence Police Department.
- The Emergency Preparedness Division coordinated with Jackson County Department of Emergency Preparedness to confirm 15 disaster shelter locations. Management training was provided for more than 45 volunteers to establish and manage disaster shelter sites throughout the Independence and Eastern Jackson County area. These facilities can shelter approximately 6,000 people displaced by disasters or emergencies, along with providing meals for more than 14,000 people. This is an effort known as Mass Care and has been an on-going, multi-year initiative in conjunction with key partners such as the American Red Cross, faith-based organizations and other partner organizations.
- A new Emergency Preparedness Manager was inducted on November 4th, 2014. The new manager has 26 years of emergency management experience at the national, state and local level.
- The Emergency Preparedness Division completed a total of 85 training sessions, drills and meetings during 2014. These sessions were conducted by volunteers and paid staff.
- The Emergency Preparedness Division provided presentations to 150 citizens through the public education program comprised of volunteer instructors, presenters and subject matter experts.

5-year Alarm Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fires &amp; Auto Alarms</th>
<th>Service Calls</th>
<th>Medical/Rescue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2,617</td>
<td>2,349</td>
<td>10,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,049</td>
<td>3,024</td>
<td>10,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,215</td>
<td>2,596</td>
<td>10,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1,017</td>
<td>2,696</td>
<td>10,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1,121</td>
<td>2,349</td>
<td>10,591</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

April 11, 19:45 PM - Alarm at 126 2nd St.
2-story brick, owned and occupied. 2 people in home. Alarm caused by a heat in the attic. Flames were visible from a window.

April 20, 09:45 AM - Alarm at 600 9th Ave.
2-story wooden structure. Alarm was caused by a broken water pipe. No one was injured.

April 22, 21:45 PM - Alarm at 800 1st St.
Sprinkle system activated. No fire was found. No one was injured.

May 6, 23:30 AM - Alarm at 700 10th St.
Sprinkle system activated. No fire was found. No one was injured.
A 40-hour Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course for 25 participants was sponsored by the City of Independence CERT. Within the last 10 years, over 920 citizens from the Independence area have taken this training, many of whom continue to volunteer in the CERT program.

Continued development of the Emergency Operations Center’s response capability through the installation of additional communications equipment, information/visual display technology and other technological improvements.

Emergency Medical Services - Quality Medical Care to the Community

Dedicated to providing quality emergency medical care by ensuring that all personnel are constantly trained in basic and advanced knowledge and skills, medical equipment meets or exceeds national standards for patient care and public education is provided in the form of CPR and special assistance programs.

• 5,500 hours of emergency medical training enhancing EMT and paramedic knowledge and skills.

• Provided “Hands-Only CPR” training to more than 500 citizens, giving them simple skills to safely and adequately perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation to someone with sudden cardiac arrest.

• Completed 75 referrals to the Citizen Assist Program (CAP), a United Way funded program, to provide targeted social services to citizens in need.

Emergency Operations - Preparing and Responding to All Hazards

151 uniformed personnel, divided into three 24-hour shifts, are trained, equipped and staged in 10 fire stations located throughout the City, available to respond and provide assistance to medical, fire, hazardous materials release or situations, citizens with concerns. Personnel conduct public education demonstrations, fire inspections, stand-by at public events.

2014 Incident Categories

Fire Calls.............................463
COMMERCIAL ............................22
Public Assembly ..........................4
Schools and Colleges .....................3
Health Care/Penal ........................2
Stores and Offices .......................3
Industry/Utility ..........................0
Storage Structures ......................9
Other Structures ........................1
RESIDENTIAL ..........................152
Private Dwellings .......................118
Apartments ..............................32
Hotels/Motels ............................1
All Other Residential ....................1
OTHER FIRES & INCIDENTS .................289
Highway Vehicle ........................53
Other Vehicles ............................30
Non Structure/Non Vehicle ...............25
Brush/Grass/Wildland ....................57
Rubbish/Dumpsters .......................85
All Other Fires ............................39
Medical .................................10,805
Includes Medical, Vehicular with Injuries, Vehicular Unknown Injuries, Extrications and Medical Search and Rescue

All Other Responses/Service Calls ............2,696
Includes Explosive Devices, Carbon Monoxide, Explosion in Area, Gas Leak, Good Intent Call, Lock Out, Odor Investigation in Area, Service Calls, Smoke In Area, Smoke/Odor Removal, Weather-Related Incidents and Miscellaneous.

Dispatched and Cancelled En Route ..........2,339
HazMat Responses ........................200
Other Hazardous Responses ...............147
Power Lines Down, Electrical Wiring Problems, Shortage and Arcing

False Alarms .............................191
Automatic Alarms .........................658
Mutual Aid Given ........................18

TOTAL: 17,517
• Firefighters were credited with 31 documented emergency medical life saves (medical and trauma).
• Responded to an average of 47.9 calls for service daily, for a total of 17,517 calls for service in 2014.
• Fire crews completed 42 pre-incident plans for entry into mobile data terminals (MDTs) providing instantaneous access to information on buildings and hazards before firefighters arrive at an emergency.

Facilities, Equipment and Vehicles - The Best Tools for the Job

Through research, acquisition and training, placed the most effective equipment, vehicles and working environment into the hands of firefighters in order to maximize safety and results.

• Five new staff vehicles were placed in service to retire or replace existing staff vehicles.

Prevention - Comprehensive Services to Reduce Risk

Dedicated to community risk reduction through planning and educating the public in life safety skills and fire prevention before accidents happen.

• Purchased a new Fire Prevention mascot (FirePup®) and inflatable fire safety house with funding received from Firehouse Subs.
• Four personnel received Fire Inspector Certification from the Missouri Division of Fire Safety.
• Two personnel attended training on Fireworks through the American Pyrotechnics Association.
• Reorganized the commercial inspection program in order to increase efficiency.
Preplans were entered into the records management system for use by fire operations on the Mobile Data Terminals (MDT’s).

Identified and coordinated purchase of replacement Public Education instructional materials and tools to address areas of high risk to life safety and property conservation that have been identified through review of incident reporting data.

Created a process for fire inspectors to pursue personal professional development through completion of continuing education credits that will also ensure state and national training recommendations are being met.

Completed evaluations to assess the retention of Fire Prevention Education in 50% of all formal pre-kindergarten education presentations.

### FIRE PREVENTION

#### COMMERCIAL INSPECTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Commercial Inspections</td>
<td>6,324</td>
<td>4,992</td>
<td>5,529</td>
<td>6,048</td>
<td>5,955</td>
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#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizen Requests &amp; Special Inspections</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>616</td>
<td>275</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burning Permits</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underground Tanks Removed</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blasting Permits</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoke Detectors Distributed</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Research Projects</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juvenile Fire Setter Interventions</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire Drills Conducted</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fireworks Inspections</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>271</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Other Activities</td>
<td>686</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>1,101</td>
<td>1,181</td>
<td>747</td>
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#### PLAN REVIEW/CONSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plans/Zoning Projects Reviewed</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>339</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inspections - Reinspections</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>295</td>
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#### COMMUNITY EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Safety Talks &amp; Job Fairs</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audience</td>
<td>19,996</td>
<td>29,723</td>
<td>23,365</td>
<td>28,354</td>
<td>16,520</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website Visitors</td>
<td>34,720</td>
<td>28,423</td>
<td>30,546</td>
<td>28,163</td>
<td>29,293</td>
</tr>
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### Smoke Alarms Distributed

- 2010: 144
- 2011: 85
- 2012: 187
- 2013: 96

### Structure Fire Dollar Loss

- 2010: $3,361,030
- 2011: $2,917,390
- 2012: $5,729,821
- 2013: $2,592,846
- 2014: $4,269,331
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.

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.

Important Fire Department Phone Numbers

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

2014 Firefighter of the Year

David Campbell