



# 2016 Annual Report



**Independence, Missouri  
FIRE DEPARTMENT**



# LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

It is my pleasure to present the 2016 annual report. In these pages you will find that we have implemented processes and procedures for maximum efficiency. It highlights training and education designed to protect the fire fighters and the community while saving the lives of both. We value our partnership with the Mayor, the Police Department, AMR and other city entities. Our mission continues to be meeting the challenge of fulfilling the needs of our growing community with a skillful, dedicated Department. I'd like to thank our community for their support of the Independence Fire Department. Please feel free to contact us for more highlights or information about our Department at 816-325-7123.



**Fire Station #1**  
950 N. Spring Street



**Fire Station #3**  
10219 E. Winner Road



3

1

4

5

2

**Fire Station #5**  
11301 E. 35th Street



**Fire Station #4**  
202 W. 23rd Street



**Fire Station #6**  
17707 E. Bundschu Road



**Fire Station #9**  
1411 N. M-7 Highway



**Fire Station #8**  
20300 E. Truman Road



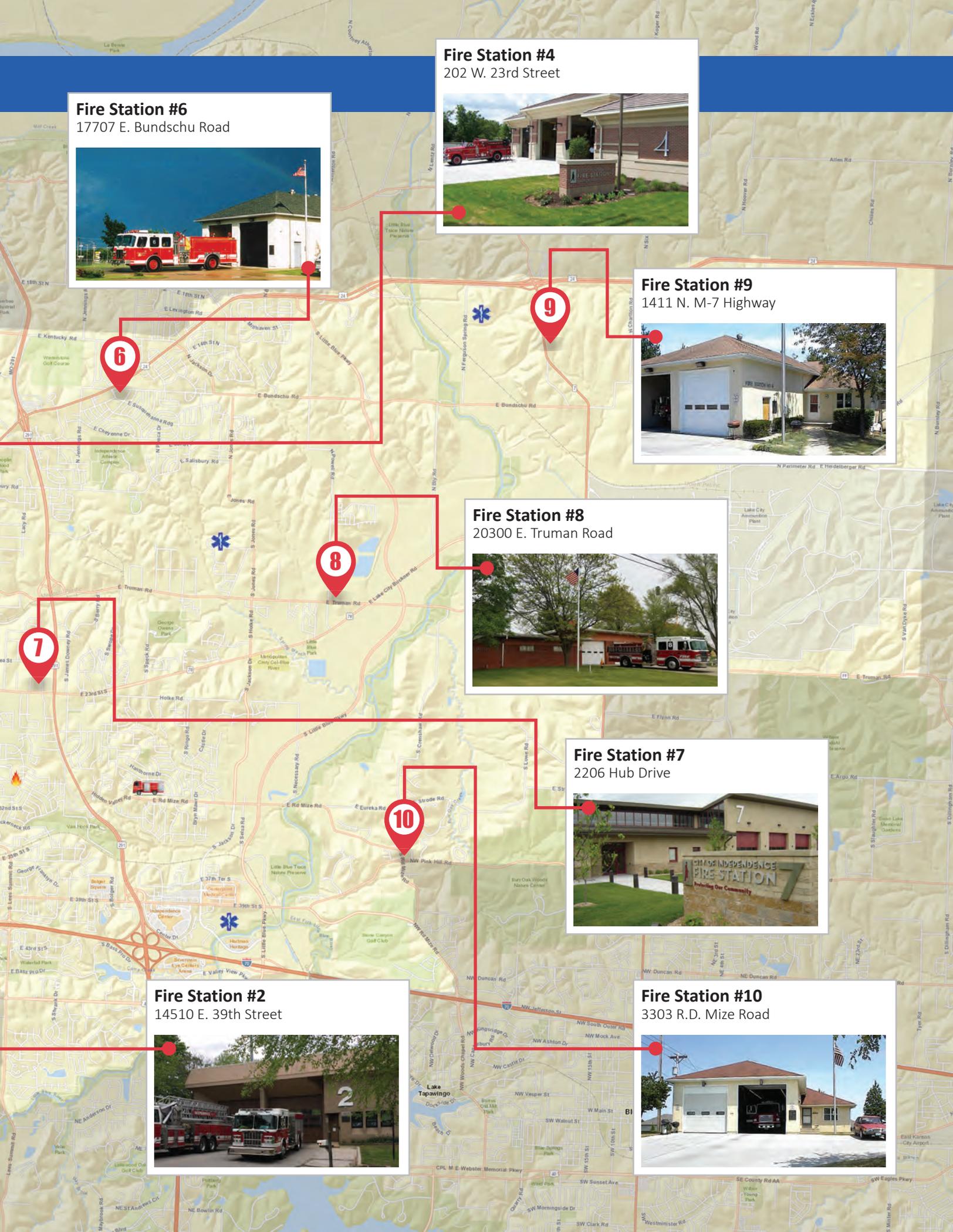
**Fire Station #7**  
2206 Hub Drive



**Fire Station #2**  
14510 E. 39th Street



**Fire Station #10**  
3303 R.D. Mize Road



# 2016 Incident Categories

**Fire Calls ..... 444**

**COMMERCIAL ..... 22**  
 Public Assembly .....7  
 Schools and Colleges .....5  
 Health Care/Penal .....0  
 Stores and Offices .....2  
 Industry/Utility .....0  
 Storage In Structures .....8  
 Other Structures .....0

**RESIDENTIAL ..... 123**  
 Private Dwellings .....97  
 Apartments .....22  
 Hotels/Motels .....1  
 All Other Residential .....3

**OTHER FIRES & INCIDENTS ..... 299**  
 Highway Vehicle .....59  
 Other Vehicles .....33  
 Non Structure/Non Vehicle .....19  
 Brush/Grass/Wildland .....64  
 Rubbish/Dumpsters .....99  
 All Other Fires .....25

**Medical ..... 12,640**  
 Includes Medical, Vehicular With Injuries, Vehicular Unknown Injuries, Extrications and Medical Search and Rescue.

**All Other Responses/ Service Calls ..... 3,225**  
 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 and Cancelled En Route.. 2,586**

**HazMat Responses .... 201**

**Other Hazardous Responses ..... 139**  
 Power Lines Down, Electrical Wiring Problems, Shortage and Arcing.

**False Alarms ..... 205**

**Automatic Alarms ..... 717**

**Mutual Aid Given ..... 10**

**TOTAL: 20,167**

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Training and Education to be Ready for Today and the Future

The Training/Professional Development Division consists of 1 Assistant Fire Chief and 1 half-time Administrative Specialist II responsible for the training, skills maintenance, and recertification of 10 Chief Officers, 42 Captains, 42 Fire Equipment Operators, 4 Fire Inspectors, and 65 firefighters. Our accomplishments for 2016 include 2,815 hours of specialized training.

- 183 personnel participated in Rapid Intervention Team training.
- 116 personnel attended training in Taking Action Against Cancer. This training for reducing the risk of cancer in the fire service is the beginning of the education procedure recommended by the Joint Labor Management.
- 5 new firefighters were hired, trained, and assigned to fire operations.
- 8 personnel were promoted, 1 to Battalion Chief, 4 to Captain, 3 to Fire Equipment Operator.
- 2 personnel received state-certified Instructor I certification. 17 state certificates were renewed for Inspector, Instructor I, Instructor III, and Investigator.
- 1 personnel received state-certified Investigator certification.
- 3 personnel completed training to the level of Fire Officer I.

- 7 personnel completed training to the level of National Incident Management System ICS-300

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS Strengthening the Whole Community to Build Resiliency toward Disasters

The City of Independence Emergency Preparedness Division (EPD) collaborates on a Community, Regional, State, and National Level to plan, prepare, mitigate, respond and recover from natural and manmade hazards that threaten the City.

- Mass Care is one of the most critical functions in emergency management. In 2016, EPD along with the Emergency Preparedness Office of Jackson County in collaboration with Parks and Recreation, Police Department, Public Information and other City units, conducted the largest mass care exercise in the history of Missouri and one of the largest mass care exercises in the nation. Over 800 people participated in the exercise conducted on August 24th, 2016.
- The Emergency Operations Center activated 22 times in 2016 for severe weather, residential and commercial fires, exercises, large events and gatherings throughout the community.
- The EPD completed over 100 training sessions, drills, and meetings, conducted by volunteer leadership and paid staff. The volunteers in the EPD



committed more than 21,322 hours to the program, benefiting the City both financially and societally. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) conducted 2 training courses attended by a total of 33 citizens.

- EPD applied for and received a Hazard Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$30,779.00 for a Voice Array Weather Warning Siren to replace an old siren from the 1950's.
- EPD 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.

- EPD provided presentations to Independence residents through public education and outreach programs. These presentations were delivered to civic organizations, government departments and agencies, neighborhood organizations, businesses and public events.

and procedures were put in place to implement reduction of these calls.

The Department expanded its process for training and orientation of new firefighters. This process enables them to be more fully prepared to function in the Operations Division.

New procedures for firefighter hiring were implemented which would reduce the number of processes needed throughout the year. This resulted in a significant reduction in staff hours required for hiring processes.

## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

### Preparing and Responding to All Hazards

In 2015 a joint Labor/Management Cancer Committee convened to research how the Independence Fire Department can do its part in addressing cancer in the fire service. The Committee's efforts in 2016 culminated in the establishment of a formal commitment supported by all members of the Department comprised of eleven specific steps all firefighters will take towards prevention of cancer among its members. In addition to specific actions that firefighters will take to increase their cancer prevention efforts on the fire ground and immediately after the fire, members are also encouraged to become tobacco free and participate in detailed annual health screens.

The joint Labor/Management Response Committee evaluated certain call types and other options which resulted in reducing the number of calls fire department resources respond to. The Committee's efforts did identify certain types of calls that the Fire Department could eliminate

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

### Quality Medical Care to the Community

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division is dedicated to providing quality medical care to the citizens of Independence. There are many aspects of EMS and the service provided by our EMTs and paramedics to accomplish this. Assisting



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

### Emergency Preparedness Activation of the Emergency Operations Centers

Severe Weather .....	12
Exercises .....	19
Large Gatherings and Events .....	5

### Volunteer Hours

Individual Planning/Training.....	4,774
CERT/DART .....	292
Leadership .....	1,191
Severe Weather/Storm Watch .....	252
Exercises/Events .....	2,564

### Community Exercises, Workshops and Presentations

Local Events .....	17
City Council.....	4
Regional, State, and Federal.....	35
Number of Participants .....	Over 1,700

### Grants Received

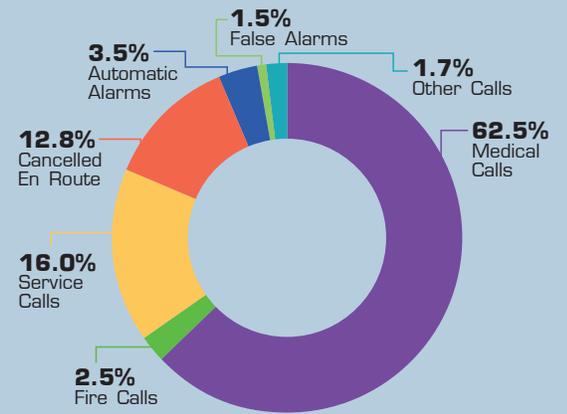
EMPG.....	\$264,545.54
<i>including \$46,000 in Volunteer In-Kind Match</i>	
Hazard Mitigation for New Siren.....	\$30,799.00

## SMOKE ALARMS DISTRIBUTED

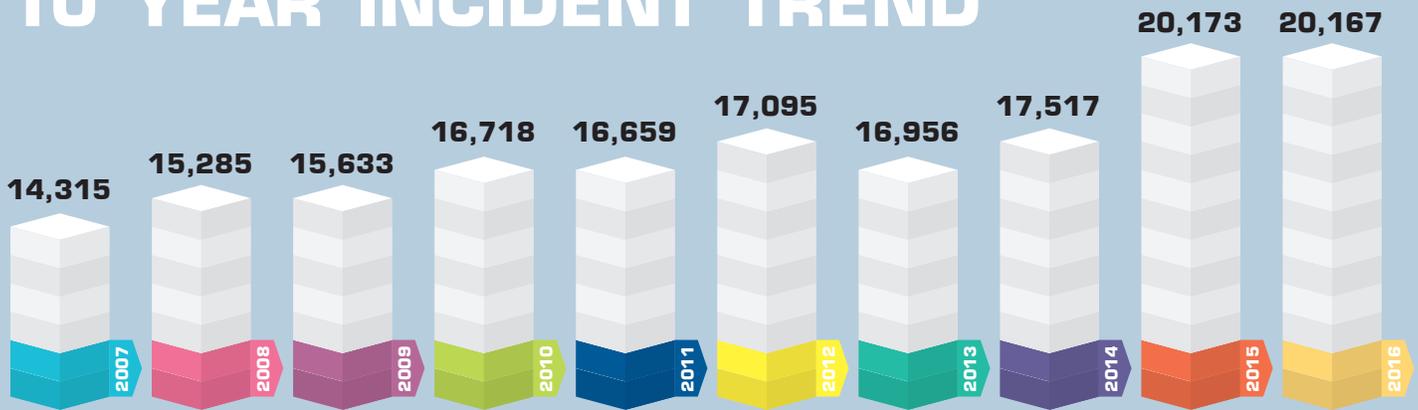


## STRUCTURE FIRE DOLLAR LOSS

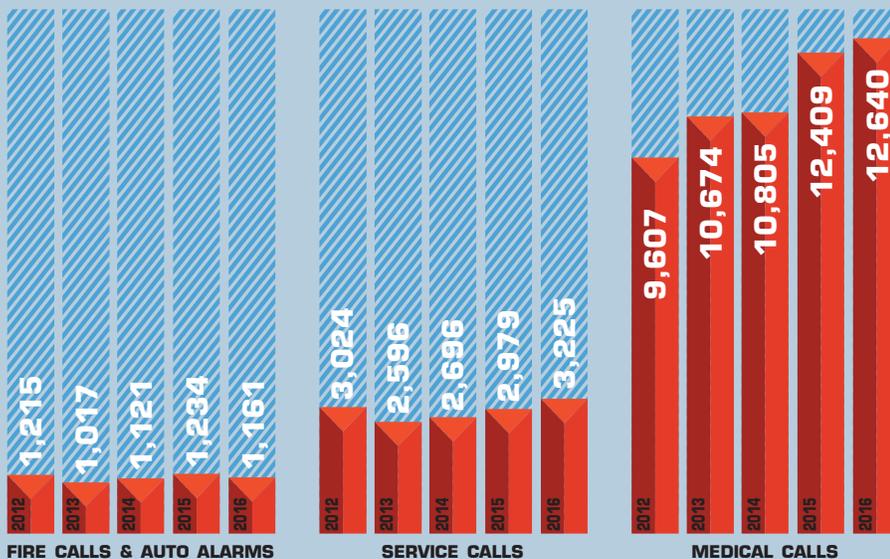
## 2016 RESPONSE BREAKDOWN



## 10 YEAR INCIDENT TREND



## 5 YEAR TREND



## 2016 TRAINING HOURS

- Auto-Aid Training **0.00 hrs.**
- Company Training **14,757.80 hrs.**
- Driver Training **1,175.98 hrs.**
- HazMat Training **311.50 hrs.**
- Multi-Company Drill **153.25 hrs.**
- New Driver Training **26.00 hrs.**
- Officer Training **875.00 hrs.**
- Recruit Training **1,609.75 hrs.**
- Single-Company Drill **8.00 hrs.**

citizens in a variety of medical needs, providing advanced levels of emergency medical care, purchasing state of the art medical equipment, basic and advanced medical training to keep knowledge and skills at the highest level and public education are just some of the many ways the EMS Division watches over this community.

- Over 200 referrals to the Citizen Assist Program (CAP) providing help to citizens in need.
- 21 documented emergency medical life saves.
- 5,297 hours of emergency medical training enhancing our EMTs and paramedics knowledge and skills.
- Provided Hands-Only CPR programs providing lifesaving information to nearly 200 citizens.
- Purchased 6 new Life-Pak 15 cardiac monitors. This gives 13 of our 14 frontline apparatus the capability to transmit critical patient information, such as a heart attack, to the hospital prior to transporting the patient by ambulance.

## PREVENTION

### *Comprehensive Services to Reduce Risk*

The Fire Prevention Division is committed to providing a safer community through educating the citizens about fire hazards and life safety procedures.

- Utilized City Works to track and expedite a paperless plan review process.
- 1 Inspector became certified as a fire Investigator. 1 Inspector continued education by attending home fire sprinkler class and fire sprinkler plan review class.
- Identified businesses that regularly have commercial inspection violations in order to implement an advance notification system of upcoming inspections.
- Viewed and evaluated several demonstrations by various mobile data terminal vendors in order to update our existing terminals.

## SERVICES

### *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.

- 19 new portable radios placed in service as the continuation of a radio replacement plan to replace portable and mobile radios.
- 6 new Lifepak 15 Biphasic Defibrillators purchased. Defibrillators have the capability to transmit life threatening cardiac information directly to hospitals.
- New chassis replacement on 2 pumpers.
- Purchased new Aerial Apparatus.
- Over 2,000 feet of fire hose replaced.
- Renovation/Remodel of Station 5.
- Purchased 20 new nozzles that were placed on all pumpers.
- Replaced 3 Thermal Imaging Cameras.
- Replaced 25 sets of Personal Protective Gear.



## 2016 DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TIMES

**Average time in minutes from dispatch to arrival**

- 2016 — 5.11
- 2015 — 5.05
- 2014 — 5.39

**Percentage of structure fire calls responded to in under 6 minutes**

- 2016 — 85.00%
- 2015 — 85.00%
- 2012 — 82.00%

**Percentage of emergency EMS calls responded to in under 6 minutes**

- 2016 — 80.00%
- 2015 — 81.00%
- 2012 — 81.00%

## 2016 INDIVIDUAL COMPANY RESPONSES

Pumper 1.....	3,512
Pumper 2.....	2,966
Pumper 3.....	3,146
Quint 4 .....	2,260
Pumper 5.....	2,871
Pumper 6.....	1,908
Quint 7 .....	2,456
Pumper 8.....	517
Pumper 9.....	217
Pumper 10.....	1,557
HazMat 1 .....	16
Rescue 1 .....	1,582
Rescue 2 .....	1,841
Special Rescue .....	22
Truck 1.....	881
Truck 2.....	973



# 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 .....	<a href="http://www.indepmo.org/fire">www.indepmo.org/fire</a>

# FIRE PREVENTION

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>COMMERCIAL INSPECTIONS</b> .....	<b>5,529</b>	<b>6,048</b>	<b>5,955</b>	<b>5,285</b>	<b>4,491</b>
Occupation License Received .....	667	647	522	557	600
Occupation License Inspections & Re-Inspections .....	807	803	625	722	756
Company Inspections .....	2,763	2,995	2,917	2,300	1,673
Company Re-Inspections .....	807	1,149	1,449	1,302	1,122
Santa-Cali-Gon Inspections .....	485	454	442	404	340
<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b> .....	<b>1,101</b>	<b>1,181</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>776</b>
Citizen Requests & Special Inspections.....	452	616	275	345	322
Burning Permits .....	93	82	68	63	77
Underground Tanks Removed.....	2	2	0	1	3
Blasting Permits .....	0	0	0	0	0
Smoke Detectors Distributed.....	274	187	96	186	98
Environmental Research Projects .....	17	31	27	17	30
Juvenile Fire Setter Interventions .....	6	12	7	1	2
Fire Drills Conducted .....	12	5	3	10	10
Fireworks Inspections .....	245	246	271	234	234
<b>PLAN REVIEW/CONSTRUCTION</b>					
Plans/Zoning Projects Reviewed .....	300	387	339	304	397
Inspections - Reinspections.....	256	210	295	195	176
<b>COMMUNITY EDUCATION</b>					
Fire Safety Talks & Job Fairs.....	191	280	87	191	113
Audience.....	23,365	28,354	16,520	10,423	6,307
Website Visitors .....	30,546	28,163	29,293	28,723	22,596

