



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

INDEPENDENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The Annual Report is an important publication of the 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. This year, we again had a record breaking year in incident responses. Over the last 10 years we have seen a 32 percentage increase in the number of calls we run. While it takes a toll on the department resources and personnel, we are working diligently to overcome those stressors as part of a strong Labor/Management relationship. Finally I would like to thank our partners in Public Safety: Independence Police Department, Independence Emergency Communications and American Medical Response. With them the citizens of Independence are provided some of the best services in safety and medical care. 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***.



Fire Chief Douglas Short

RETIREMENTS

In 2017 we lost over 133 years of experience through retirement. Of these the most prominent was the retirement of Chief John Greene. We wish them well and thank them for their service.





**Fire Chief
John Greene**
30 years



**Captain
Charles Ward**
33 years



**Captain
Joe Ginivan**
37 years



**Firefighter
Justin Selsor**
18 years



**Firefighter
Brian Latham**
15 years

2017 INCIDENT CATEGORIES

Fire Calls 490

COMMERCIAL..... 23
 Public Assembly 5
 Schools and Colleges 0
 Health Care/Penal 0
 Stores and Offices 8
 Industry/Utility 4
 Storage in Structures 6
 Other Structures 0

RESIDENTIAL 146
 Private Dwellings 102
 Apartments 39
 Hotels/Motels..... 0
 All Other Residential 5

OTHER FIRES & INCIDENTS..... 321
 Highway Vehicle..... 61
 Other Vehicles..... 21
 Non Structure/Non Vehicle 26
 Brush/Grass/Wildland..... 63
 Rubbish/Dumpsters..... 128
 All Other Fires 22

Medical 13,004
 Includes Medical, Vehicular With Injuries, Vehicular Unknown Injuries, Extrications and Medical Search and Rescue.

**All Other Responses/
Service Calls..... 3,473**
 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..... 2,602**

HazMat Responses..... 187

**Other Hazardous
Responses 202**
 Power Lines Down, Electrical Wiring Problems, Shortage and Arcing.

False Alarms..... 210

Automatic Alarms 741

Mutual Aid Given..... 19

TOTAL: 20,928



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Training and Education to be Ready for Today and the Future

The Training/Professional Development Division consists of one Assistant Fire Chief and one half-time Administrative Specialist II responsible for the training, skills maintenance, and recertification of ten Chief Officers, 42 Captains, 42 Fire Equipment Operators, 5 Fire Inspectors, and 70 firefighters. This training prepares firefighters to effectively perform their duties in a safe fashion. Our accomplishments for 2017 include:

- Ten new firefighters were hired, trained and assigned to fire operations.
- Eight personnel were promoted:
 - 4 Captains
 - 3 Fire Equipment Operators
- Two personnel received state-certified Instructor I certification, 17 state certificates were renewed for Inspector, Instructor I, Instructor II, and/or Investigator.



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Preparing and Responding to All Hazards

The Fire Department Operations Division responded to a record number of calls in 2017. This is a 4% increase in calls from 2016. The department also experienced a 10% increase in fire calls. The increase of fire responses raises the need for concerted efforts towards workplace safety precautions, and attention to our commitment towards cancer prevention. Every member of the Operations Division was issued two new Nomex protective hoods in 2017, following our program of ensuring that each member has two hoods ready at all times. In addition, continuing Department safety practices, each member of the Operations Division has undergone fit testing to ensure perfect seal of the facepiece of their breathing apparatus.

- Three Fire Captains were trained as out-of-position shift commanders to help reduce the staffing impact on each shift when the Shift Commander is absent.
- Ten recruit firefighters were hired and placed in service in 2017 to cover vacancies resulting from retirements.
- Four successful promotional processes were conducted throughout the year for the rank of Fire Equipment Operator.

2017 DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TIMES

Average time in minutes from dispatch to arrival

- 2017 — 5.15
- 2016 — 5.11
- 2015 — 5.05

Percentage of structure fire calls responded to in under 6 minutes

- 2017 — 87.00%
- 2016 — 85.00%
- 2015 — 85.00%

Percentage of emergency EMS calls responded to in under 6 minutes

- 2017 — 77.00%
- 2016 — 80.00%
- 2015 — 81.00%

2017 INDIVIDUAL COMPANY RESPONSES

Pumper 1	3,608
Pumper 2	3,035
Pumper 3	3,186
Quint 4	2,412
Pumper 5	2,985
Pumper 6	2,025
Quint 7	2,617
Pumper 8	550
Pumper 9	250
Pumper 10	1,607
HazMat 1	18
Rescue 1	1,861
Rescue 2	1,917
Rescue 8	1
Special Rescue	29
Truck 1	939
Truck 2	998



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency Preparedness Activation of the Emergency Operations Center

Severe Weather	11
Exercises	3
Large Gatherings and Events	5

Volunteer Hours

Individual Planning/Training	3,823
CERT/DART	378
Leadership	600
Severe Weather/Storm Watch	209
Exercises/Events	1,187

Community Exercises, Workshops and Presentations

Local Events	17
City Council	2
Regional, State, and Federal	12
Number of Participants	more than 52

Grants Received

EMPG	\$255,643.50
<i>including \$19,721.26 in Volunteer In-Kind Match</i>	

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Strengthening the Whole Community to Build Resiliency toward Disasters

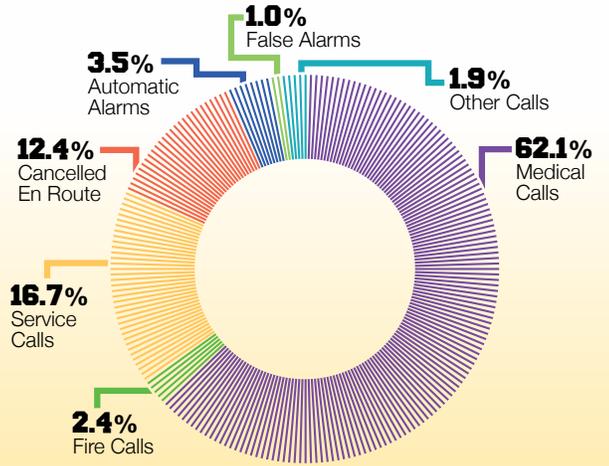
The City of Independence Emergency Preparedness Division (EPD) collaborates on a Community, Regional, State, and National Level to plan, prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover from natural and manmade hazards that threaten the City of Independence.

- The Emergency Operations Center activated 19 times for severe weather, residential and commercial fires, exercises, large events, and gatherings throughout the community.
 - Severe Weather (Weather Spotter teams)
 - Oak Grove Tornado assistance
 - Flooding (Identifying needs for generators in senior living apartments)
 - Debris Management (United 211 involved)
 - IPD assistance (mobilized first responder support for barricaded subject, search and rescue in wooded area)
 - Independence Day Celebration
 - SantaCaliGon Lost Child Patrol
 - Solar Eclipse
 - Carmel Hills Bomb Threat
 - Apartment/House fires to cooperate with American Red Cross for sheltering information
- EPD continued to maintain and strengthen its volunteer program in 2017. The EP Division completed more than 100 training sessions, drills, and meetings, conducted by volunteer leadership and paid staff. The volunteers in the EP Division committed 3,823 hours to the program, benefiting the City of Independence both financially and societally.
- Oversaw the installation of a new Voice Array Weather Warning Siren to replace an old siren from the 1950s on the Independence Square.
- EPD reduced the City's financial obligation by utilizing the State Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) award. This is half of all operating expenses for the department.
- The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) held three Basic Trainings, graduating 21 adults and 10 Teen CERT volunteers through the Boys and Girls Club in Independence.
- EPD participated in multiple county, state, national exercises and planning sessions, including but not limited to Mass Care, Children and Youth in Disasters, Hazard Mitigation, Show-Me Partnership for Emergency Human Services and Volunteerism, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster webinars, the Great American Shake-Out and emergency planning for the 2017 Solar Eclipse.
- EPD provided presentations to Independence residents through public education and outreach programs (comprised of volunteer and paid staff instructors, presenters, and subject matter experts). Networked with businesses and churches throughout the area at events such as Touch-A-Truck, National Guard Family day and International Day of the Child.



Leigha Medeiros, Three Trails Elementary 2nd Grader, won the contest to name our fire pup "TRUMAN".

2017 RESPONSE BREAKDOWN



2017 TRAINING HOURS

Auto Aid
176 HRS.

Single Company Drills
175.25 HRS.

Multi Company Drills
653.50 HRS.

HazMat Training
68 HRS.

Driver Training
1,366.24 HRS.

New Driver Training
85 HRS.

Company Training
13,105.01 HRS.

Recruit Training
18,803.95 HRS.

Officer Training
13,095.30 HRS.

STRUCTURE FIRE DOLLAR LOSS



2017	\$5,362,304
2016	\$4,157,573
2015	\$4,457,185
2014	\$4,269,331
2013	\$2,592,846

SMOKE ALARMS DISTRIBUTED

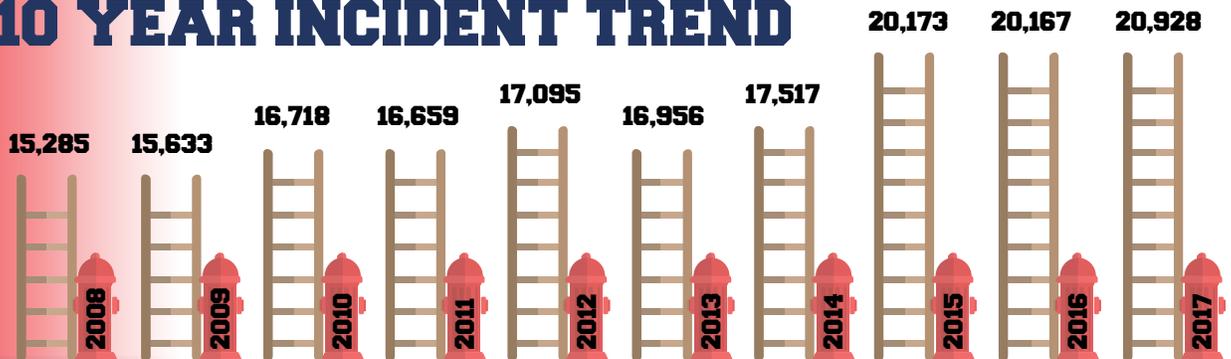


2017	142
2016	98
2015	186
2014	96
2013	187

5 YEAR TREND



10 YEAR INCIDENT TREND





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 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.

- Performed more than 5,323 hours of emergency medical training enhancing our EMTs and paramedic's knowledge and skills.
- Provided Hands-Only CPR training to employees throughout the City's various departments including members of the Independence Police Department.
- Purchased and placed into service two new LifePak 15 cardiac monitors. This most recent purchase reaches the division's goal of providing all 14 of our frontline apparatus the capability to transmit critical patient information, such as heart attack, to the hospital prior to the patient being transported by ambulance.
- Purchased 14 new Samson lifting straps allowing firefighters to provide a safer, easier way to lift and transfer injured and disabled patients.



PREVENTION

Comprehensive Services to Reduce Risk

The Fire Prevention Division provides valuable life safety services to the community through free smoke detector programs, educational programs and comprehensive business inspections.

- Partnered with Independence School District Academy in guiding students in their chosen career pathways in public safety.
- Instrumental in establishing the Kansas City Youth Firesetter Coalition. Two Fire Inspectors attended Youth Firesetter training.
- Served on committee responsible for building the City's new communications center.
- Involved Independence School District 2nd grade students in naming our Fire Pup mascot.
- Implemented call out procedures for fire investigations.
- Continued working with Community Development to identify and eradicate dangerous buildings.

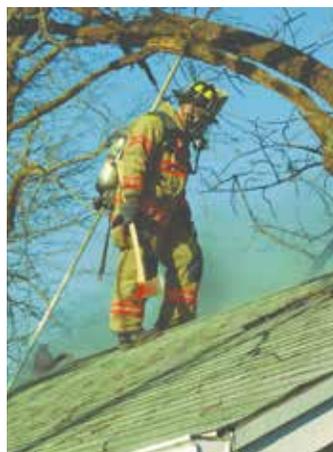


SERVICES

The Best Tools for the Job

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

- Placed in service 52 portable radios and ten mobile radios as the continuation of a radio replacement program.
- Purchased three new Pumper Trucks as part of replacement program.
- Replaced 63 sets of Personal Protective Gear.
- Purchased three combination rescue tools.
- Replaced several station appliances due to age and condition.

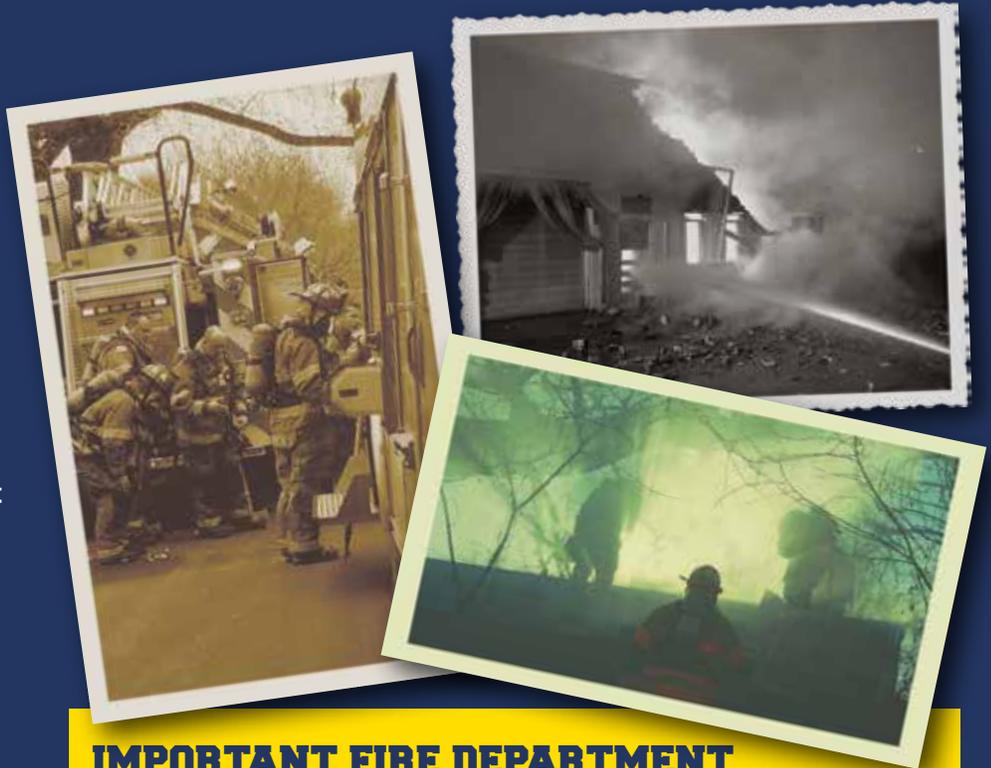


MISSION STATEMENT

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

FIRE PREVENTION

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
COMMERCIAL INSPECTIONS	6,048	5,955	5,285	4,491	4,697
Occupation License Received	647	522	557	600	518
Occupation License Inspections & Re-Inspections	803	625	722	756	667
Company Inspections	2,995	2,917	2,300	1,673	2,279
Company Re-Inspections	1,149	1,449	1,302	1,122	836
Santa-Cali-Gon Inspections	454	442	404	340	397
OTHER ACTIVITIES	1,181	747	857	776	915
Citizen Requests & Special Inspections	616	275	345	322	298
Burning Permits	82	68	63	77	103
Underground Tanks Removed	2	0	1	3	2
Blasting Permits	0	0	0	0	0
Smoke Detectors Distributed	187	96	186	98	140
Environmental Research Projects	31	27	17	30	43
Juvenile Fire Setter Interventions	12	7	1	2	1
Fire Drills Conducted	5	3	10	10	9
Fireworks Inspections	246	271	234	234	321
PLAN REVIEW/CONSTRUCTION					
Plans/Zoning Projects Reviewed	387	339	304	397	265
Inspections - Reinspections	210	295	195	176	158
COMMUNITY EDUCATION					
Fire Safety Talks & Job Fairs	280	87	191	113	110
Audience	28,354	16,520	10,423	6,307	7,475
Website Visitors	28,163	29,293	28,723	22,596	27,293