

Fremont Fire Department 2016 Annual Report



Photo Fremont Tribune

Structure Fire April 3, 2016

CITY OF
FREMONT
NEBRASKA PATHFINDERS

FREMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Todd Bernt, Fire Chief
415 East 16th Street
Fremont, NE 68025





Motorcycle Fire
23rd and Bell Street
September 27, 2016



Structure Fire April 2, 2016

Photos courtesy of the Fremont Tribune and Radar Photography

**FREMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT**

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Check us out on the City's web page at:

<http://www.fremontne.gov/fire>

Section 1



Photo Fremont Tribune

Department



Message from Chief Bernt

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

On behalf of the members of the Fremont Fire Department, I'm proud to present the 2016 Annual Report. This report is a testament to your fire department member's professionalism and dedication to our community.

In 2016, we responded to a total of 2,462 emergencies, 2,238 medical and 224 fire. This is the busiest year yet being the second straight year going over 2,400 runs in a year.

Our 2,238 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses account for approximately 91% of all our fire and EMS responses. We had a total of 2,454 patient contacts with the average patient age being 54 years old.

Of the 224 fire emergencies, 47 were extinguishable fires. Improper disposal of smoking materials, children playing with matches/lighters, electrical, and arson were the leading cause of fires. The fire losses for 2016 were \$905,882. Types of alarms responded to were structure fires, automatic fire alarms, smoke odor investigations, vehicle fires, hazardous materials, unauthorized burning, grass/brush, severe weather, cooking fires contained to the container, dumpster/trash, industrial, and others.

Documented training hours of the department was 3,425 hours. Topics include EMS training, high angle/rope rescue, confined space rescue, fire ground tactics, and pre-planning to name a few. This year, the fire marshal's training division instructed Hazardous Materials Operations and tested the fire department firefighters to that certification. Metropolitan Community College (MCC) continues to provide training in EMS for paramedic certifications.

The department received its new Rosenbauer Aerial Platform in October with a dedication on November 18, 2016.

The accomplishments of the Fremont Fire Department are only possible through the ongoing dedication of each firefighter commitment to our community. None of which would be possible without the support of the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, and the citizens of Fremont.

Sincerely,

Todd Bernt
Fire Chief

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Fremont Fire Department is to protect Life and Property by providing:

- * Fire and Safety Education
- * Fire Prevention
- * Prompt response to Fire, Medical and other related Emergencies

With professionally trained personnel in an efficient and cost effective manner.

COMMAND STAFF



Fire Chief Todd Bernt
Paramedic
24 years of service

A-SHIFT



Captain Jamie Meyer
Paramedic
23 years of service



Lieutenant Doug Backens
Intermediate
22 years of service



Troy Nott
Firefighter/EMT
12 years of service



Zachery Klein
Firefighter/Paramedic
10 years of service



Erik Peters
Firefighter/Paramedic
8 years of service



Levi Alley
Firefighter/Paramedic
6 years of service



Terry Luthy
Firefighter/EMT
4 years of service



Jesse Vincent
Firefighter/Paramedic
3 years of service

B-SHIFT



Captain Pat Tawney
Paramedic
24 years of service



Lieutenant Dana Leland
Paramedic
17 years of service



Alan Atkinson
Firefighter/Intermediate
25 years of service



Dave Wordekemper
Firefighter/Paramedic
21 years of service



Nick Morris
Firefighter/Paramedic
12 years of service



Wyatt Swartz
Firefighter/EMT
12 years of service



Rich Osterloh
Firefighter/EMT
10 years of service



Blake Wagner
Firefighter/Paramedic
< 1 year of service



Peter Kafonek
Firefighter/EMT
< 1 year of service

C-SHIFT



Captain Tom Christensen
Paramedic
21 years of service



Lieutenant Todd Coffey
Paramedic
24 years of service



Mike Schuler
Firefighter/EMT
10 years of service



Tyler Thomas
Firefighter/Paramedic
10 years of service



Brian Monaghan
Firefighter/Paramedic
6 years of service



Darek Schuller
Firefighter/EMT
4 years of service



Rick Schutt
Firefighter/Paramedic
4 years of service



Jack Kassebaum
Firefighter/EMT
2 years of service



Michael Bainbridge
Firefighter/EMT
< 1 year of service



FREMONT'S FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

Established in the late 1860's, the Fremont Fire Department was the third fire department in the state of Nebraska. Several fire companies made up the early Fire Department:



- Frontier Fire Company, November 1868
- Fremont Engine Company, February 1872
- Red Jacket Engine Company, December 1874
- J.C. Cleland Hose Company, 1883
- Mechanic Hose Company, May 1886
- G.W.E. Dorsey Hose Company, May 1886
- W.G. Mercer Hose Company, February 1890

These were all volunteer companies, which, in 1890, boasted a membership of 182. A Board of Directors for the Volunteer Fire Department was formed in 1891. The Board was made up of 16 members (two from each of the seven companies, plus a President and Vice President). This Board was the governing body of all the volunteer firefighters.



In 1888 the Fremont City Hall was built at the corner of 4th Street and Park Avenue. This building also contained the fire station. A bell tower was erected in this building to call citizens with teams of horses to pull the fire wagons and hose carts. When the bell sounded, the first person to get to the station and hook their team of horses to a piece of fire equipment got paid for their services. In 1900 the city was split into six wards, with one hose reel cart placed in each ward.

The City of Fremont purchased a Wilcox Hose and Chemical Truck in 1911. This was the first motor driven fire truck in the state of Nebraska. A man was hired for \$65.00 a month to run and take care of the truck. He became the first paid employee of the Fremont Fire Department. Additional motorized trucks were purchased in 1915, 1919, and 1922. The position of a paid Fire Chief was created in January 1929, and was held by Harry D. Struve until September 1932. Since 1929 Fremont has had eleven career Fire Chiefs, one (Carl Hansen) died in the line of duty in 1969.



The current fire station, at 415 East 16th Street, was built in 1968 for \$240,000.00. It houses three pumpers (two front line trucks and one reserve truck), one aerial, one water rescue/command center unit, EMS quick response pickup, and three ambulances/rescue squads. We also have two paramedic bicycles and a boat that we keep at this location.

Today's Fremont Fire Department consists of 27 career firefighters, who work three shifts of nine firefighters each. Shifts are 24 hours long, with 48 hours off. A reserve firefighter program was also implemented in 2006.



In July 1937, the seven volunteer fire companies were reduced to four. The volunteer fire department remained divided into companies until about 1990 when "companies" were dropped and all members began meeting together under the heading of Fremont Volunteer Fire Department.

The current fire station, at 415 East 16th Street, was built in 1968 for \$240,000.00. It houses three pumpers (two front line trucks and one reserve truck), one aerial, one water rescue/command center unit, EMS quick response pickup, and three ambulances/rescue squads. We also have two paramedic bicycles and a boat that we keep at this location.

Our department's fire protection area covers approximately eight square miles. Through our Mutual Aid agreements, our rescue squad and fire response does not stop at the city limits. It extends into the rural communities and surrounding areas, and our Advanced Life Support Service allows us to intercept critical patients when requested with area fire departments. It's interesting to note that it

was in the late 1960's and early 1970's, members of the department became the first Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's). The last thirty years have seen tremendous change in our rescue squad service. Defibrillators were introduced to the department in December 1989 and were a controversial acquisition at the time. The next year, members of this department saved their first life as a direct result of using a defibrillator. In 1993 the City approved the department's request to become an Advanced Life Support (ALS) service. In 1995 we obtained our paramedic license.



Presently, additional services the Fremont Fire Department provides is water rescue, ice rescue, trench rescue, high angle, confined space rescue, and hazardous materials response at the operations level. We're always looking at building on the foundation that was built by the early founders of the Fremont Fire Department.

We're proud of our history. It's reflected in a sense of tradition and "family" our firefighters have towards their job and one another. The most outstanding part of the fire service is the heart of each firefighter. The best equipment means nothing without the commitment and dedication of our firefighters. We are determined to provide our community with the best possible service, now and in the future.



This photograph of Fremont's City Hall was published in the Fremont Tribune for the City's 150th "Birthday". The three large open doors indicate the area of the building that housed the fire department. The building was located at 4th and Park Avenue.

Section 2



Photo Fremont Tribune

Structure Fire July 31, 2016

Emergency Response

Emergency Reponses

The department responded to 224 fire related calls and 2,238 emergency medical calls (EMS). April was the most active month with 27 fire calls. July was the most active month for working fires that required extinguishment with 6 structure fires, 2 vehicle fires, 2 dumpster fires, and 1 grass fire. There were 6 exposures that received damage on 4 separate fire incidents. An "exposure" is a fire resulting from another fire outside that building, structure, or vehicle, or a fire that extends to an outside property from a building, structure or vehicle.

The in-town average response time is 4 minutes 2 seconds. The out of town average response time is 7 minutes 51 seconds. Response time is measured from the time the call is received at the fire station, to the time department personnel arrive on the scene.



Photo Fremont Tribune

Structure Fire April 3, 2016

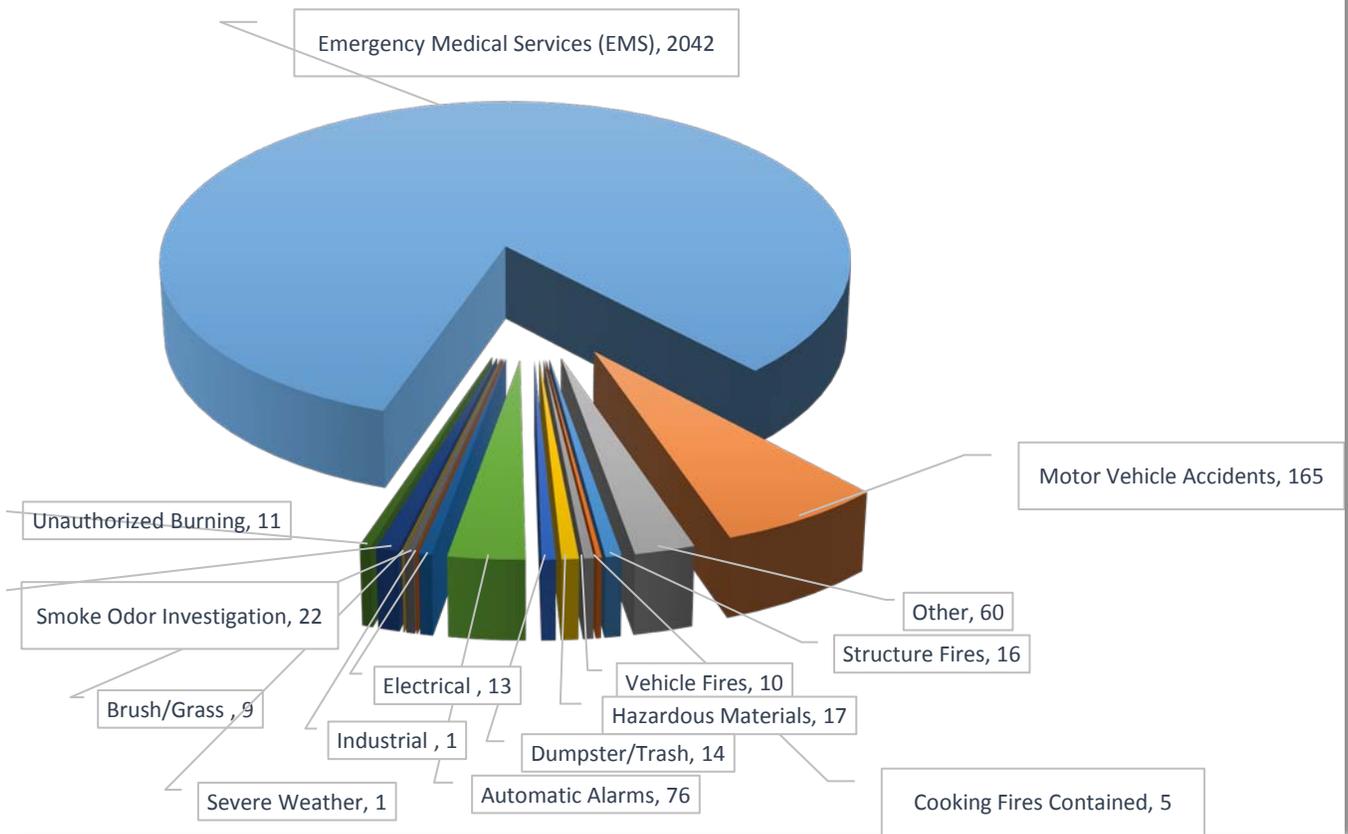
Total fire billing amount for calls collected in 2016 was \$29,730.98
The current fire billing rates are:
Engine \$500.00 per hour,
Aerial/Ladder Truck \$750.00 per hour,
Utility Truck \$200.00 per hour,
Command Vehicle \$100.00 per hour,
Heavy Rescue \$250.00 per hour,
and Mileage \$8.00 per mile per vehicle. Equipment Cost:
Jaws of Life \$250.00, Power Saw \$75.00,
Vehicle Stabilization Struts \$75.00,
Hydraulic Jacks/Chisels \$75.00,
Air Bags \$50.00, Cribbing

Blocks \$10.00, Hand Tools/Shovels \$10.00, Ventilation Fan \$50.00 and Damaged Equipment fair market value.

Structure Fire
December 27, 2016



Types of Alarms



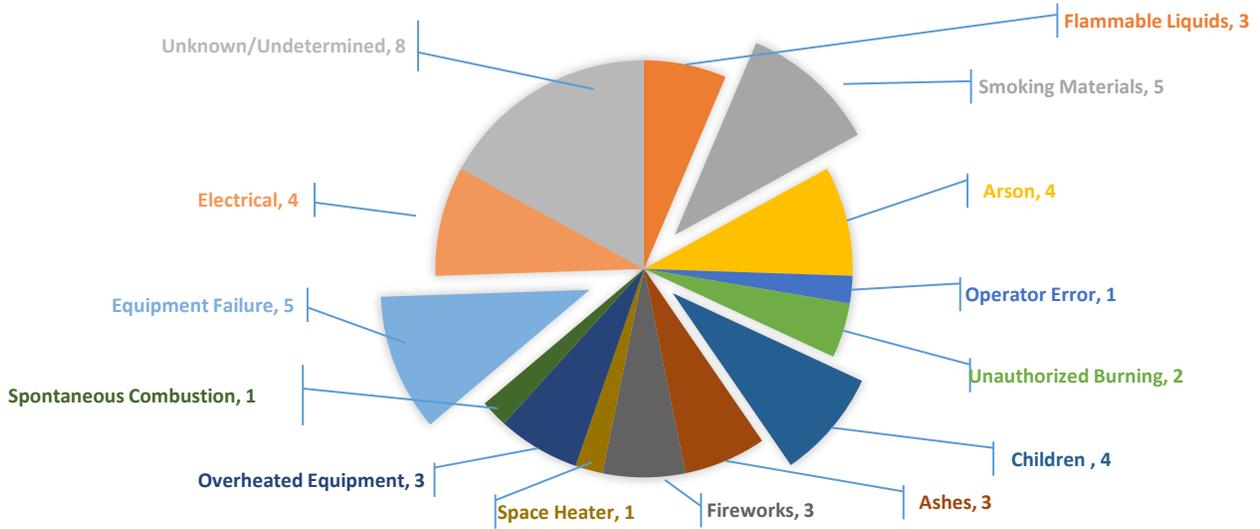
Structure Fire January 24, 2016



Structure Fire July 1, 2016

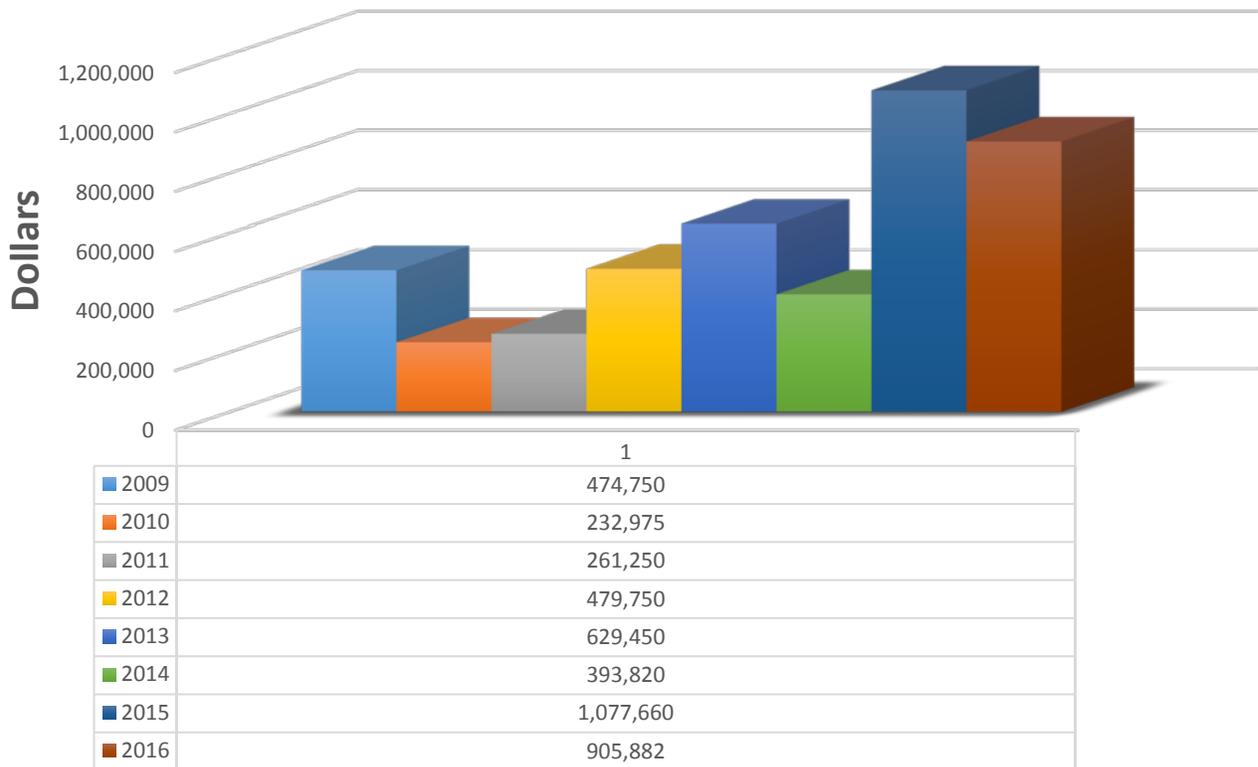
Photo's Fremont Tribune

CAUSES OF FIRES



(47 fires requiring extinguishment)

Fire Losses Per Year

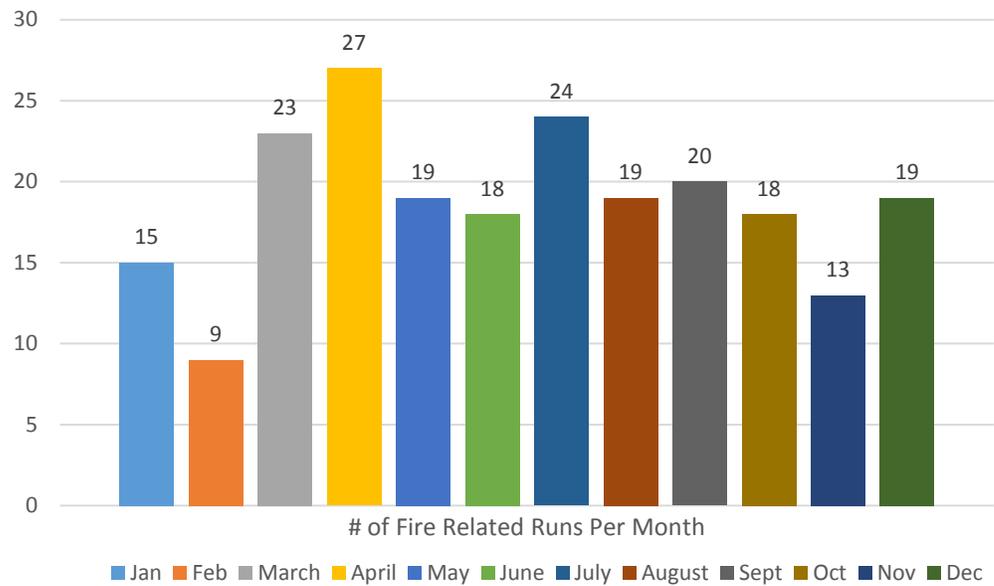




Structure Fire July 1, 2016

Photo Fremont Tribune

2016 Fire Runs Per Month



Total Fire Runs By Year

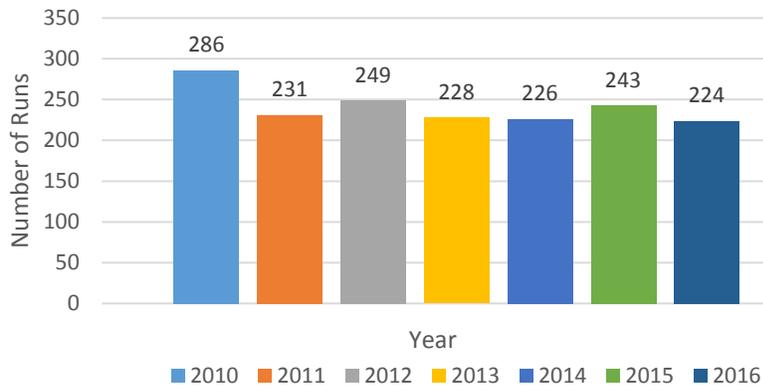
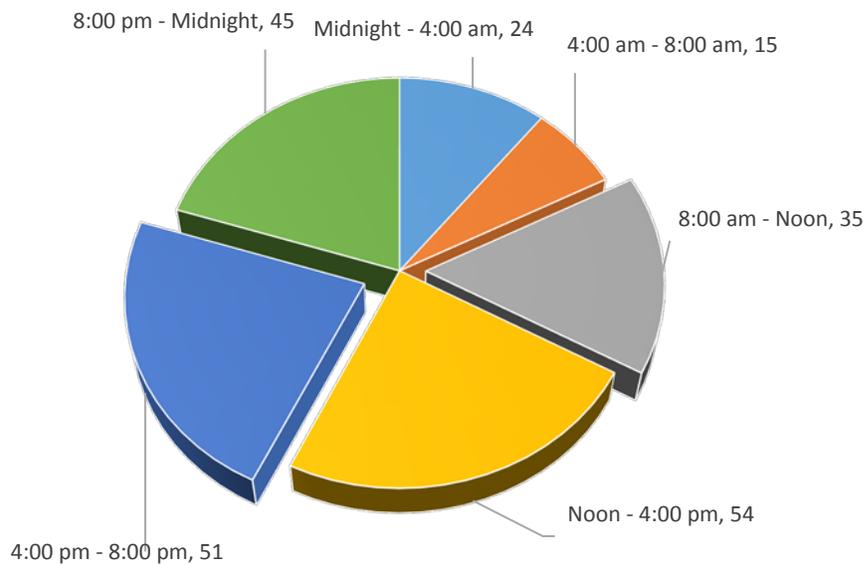


Photo Fremont Tribune



New Aerial Dedication November 18, 2016

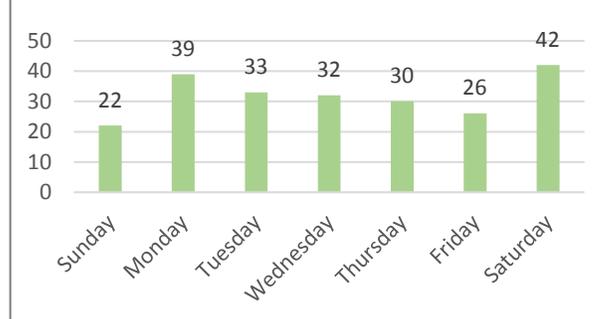
Fire Calls by Time of Day (224 Fire Related Calls)



Fire Runs By Shift

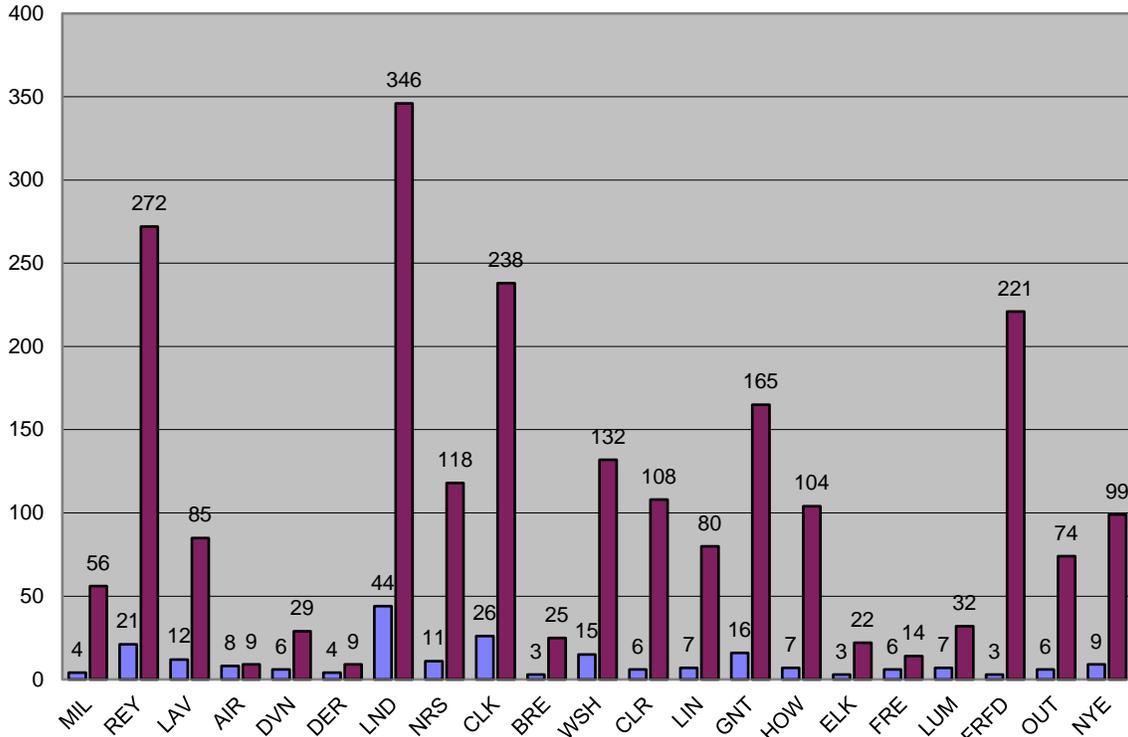


Fire Runs Per Day of the Week

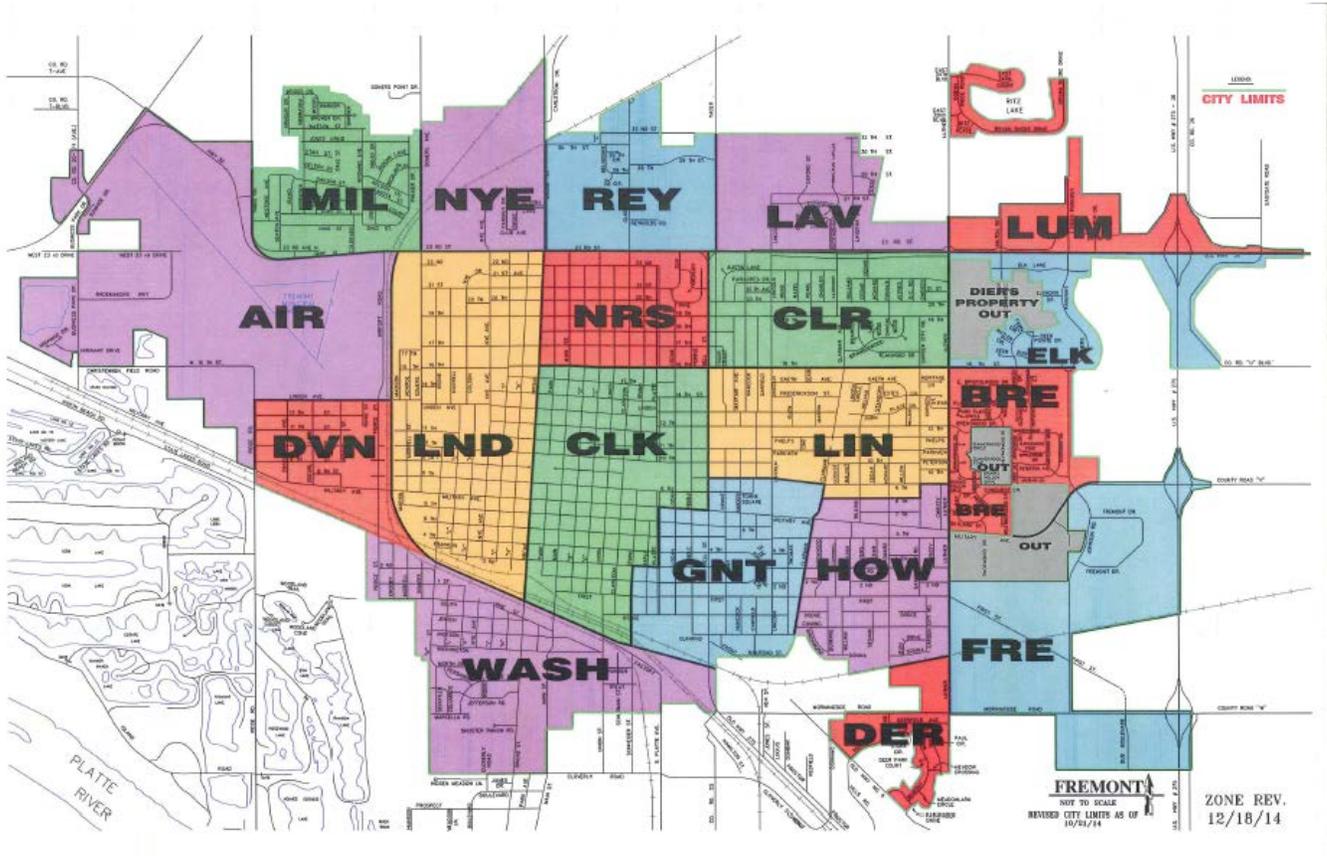


2016 FIRE/SQUAD RUNS BY SECTION OF CITY

■ Fire Runs ■ Squad Runs



FRFD-Fremont Rural Fire Department District
OUT-out of city limits and out of FRFD district



Section 3



Photo Fremont Tribune

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

EMS SERVICE

The Fremont Fire Department's rescue squads responded to 2,238 medical emergencies which included 165 motor vehicle accidents (MVA) and 39 intercepts with area community fire departments. Treated 2,454 patients in 2016. The average patient age was 54 years old. Of the 2,454 patients, 673 (27%) refused care and transport. December was the busiest month with 227 rescue squad calls.

Advanced Life Support (ALS) has been a service provided to the city by the fire department since 1995. It enables department paramedics to administer certain medications, as well as IV's and advanced airway techniques. Of the 2,454 patients treated in 2016, approximately 26% received Advanced Life Support (ALS) service.

The EMS service provided by the fire department generates revenue through user fees, which are determined by the level of service provided. The Department's current rates are: BLS (Basic Life Support) \$635.00; ALS1 (Advanced Life Support - Level 1) \$765.00; and ALS2 (Advanced Life Support - Level 2) \$935.00. A \$14.52 per mile one way fee is added to all transport runs. When transporting is not necessary, but first aid or medication assistance is given to a patient at the scene there is a \$230.00 fee. When personnel is requested to "intercept" with an ambulance from another community, a contract has been put in place to receive \$175.00 of what is collected by the transporting squad (the transporting agency bills the patient). The ambulance standby charges are \$35 per hour per personnel and \$20 per hour for equipment. For the year (January - December 2016) a total of \$549,532.31 in squad user fees were collected by the City.



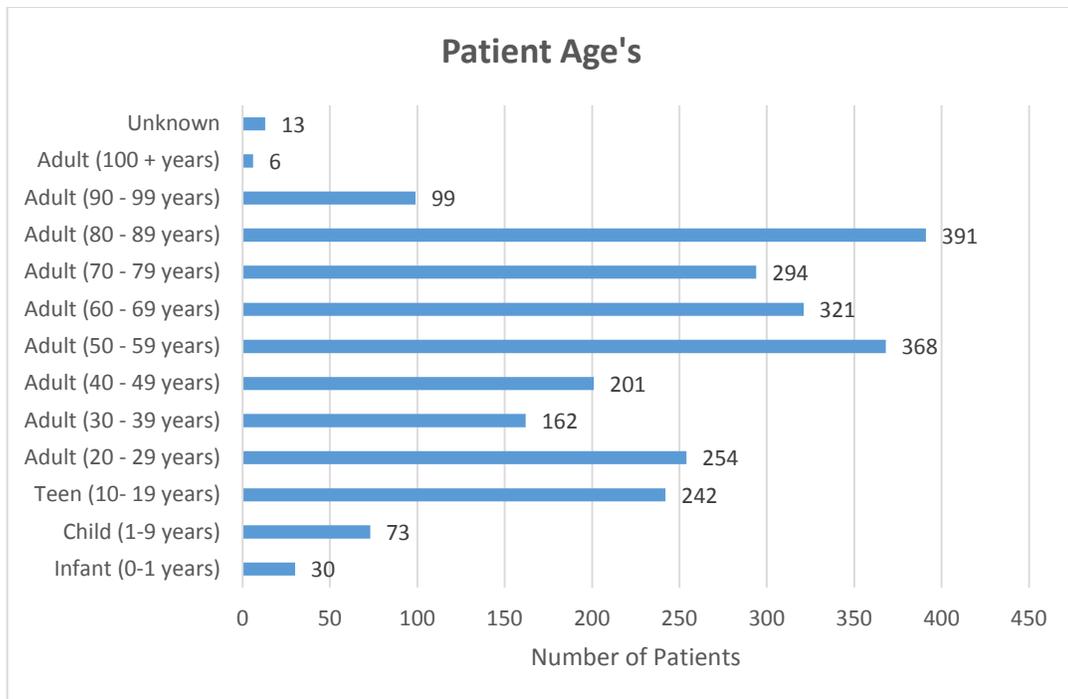
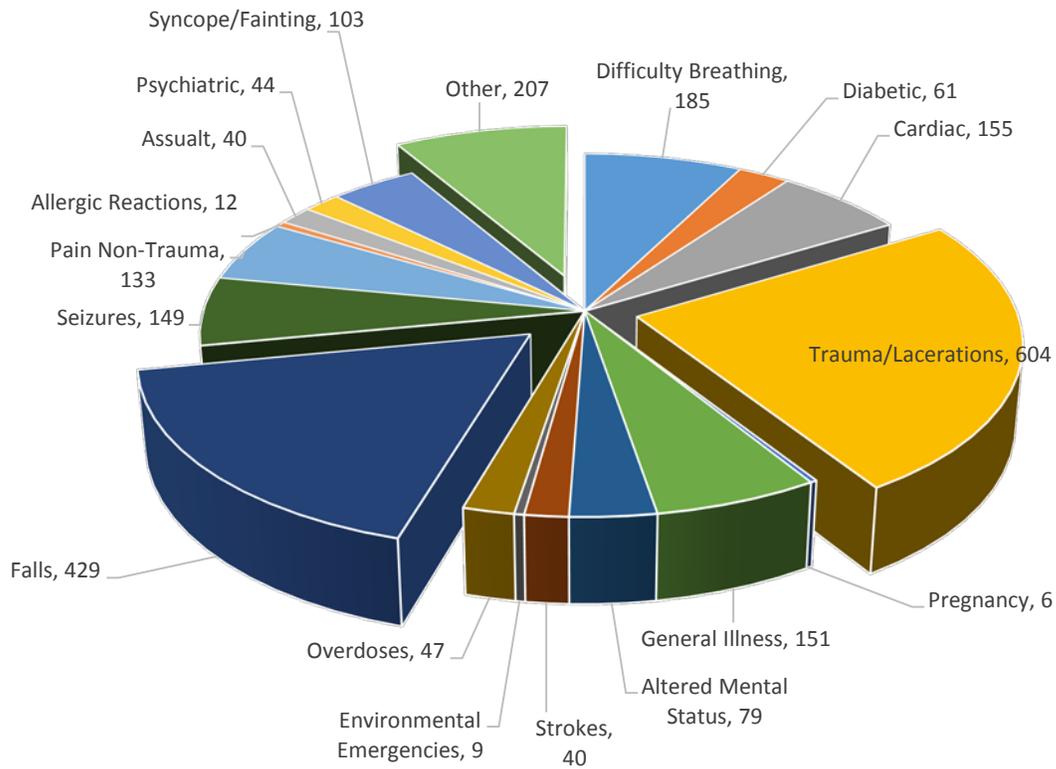
Photo Fremont Tribune

C-Shift

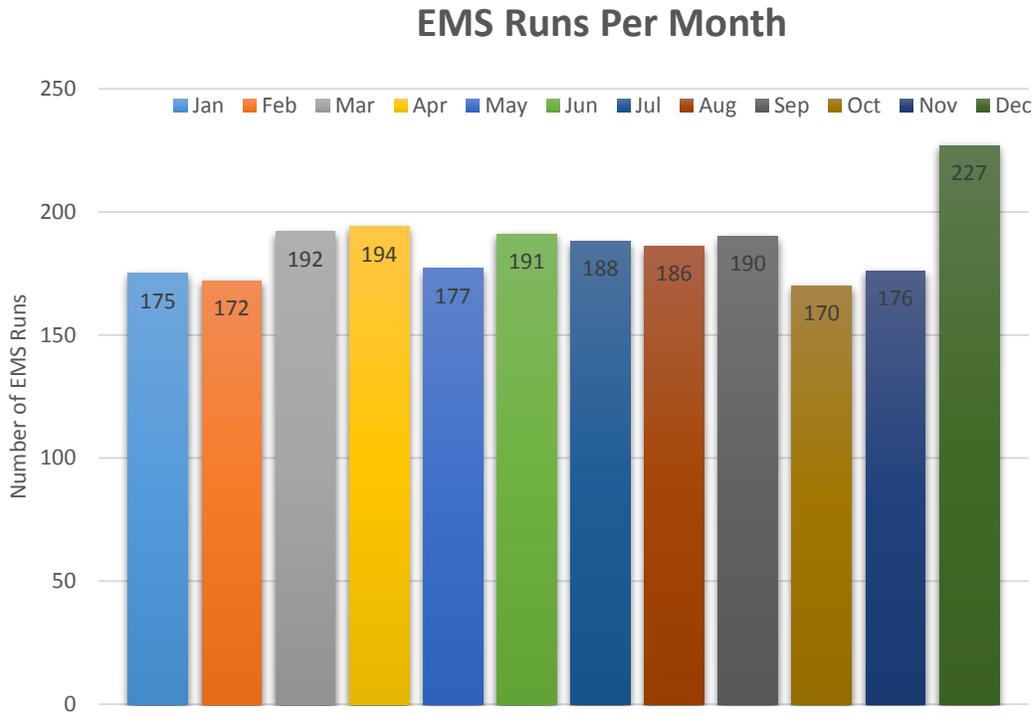
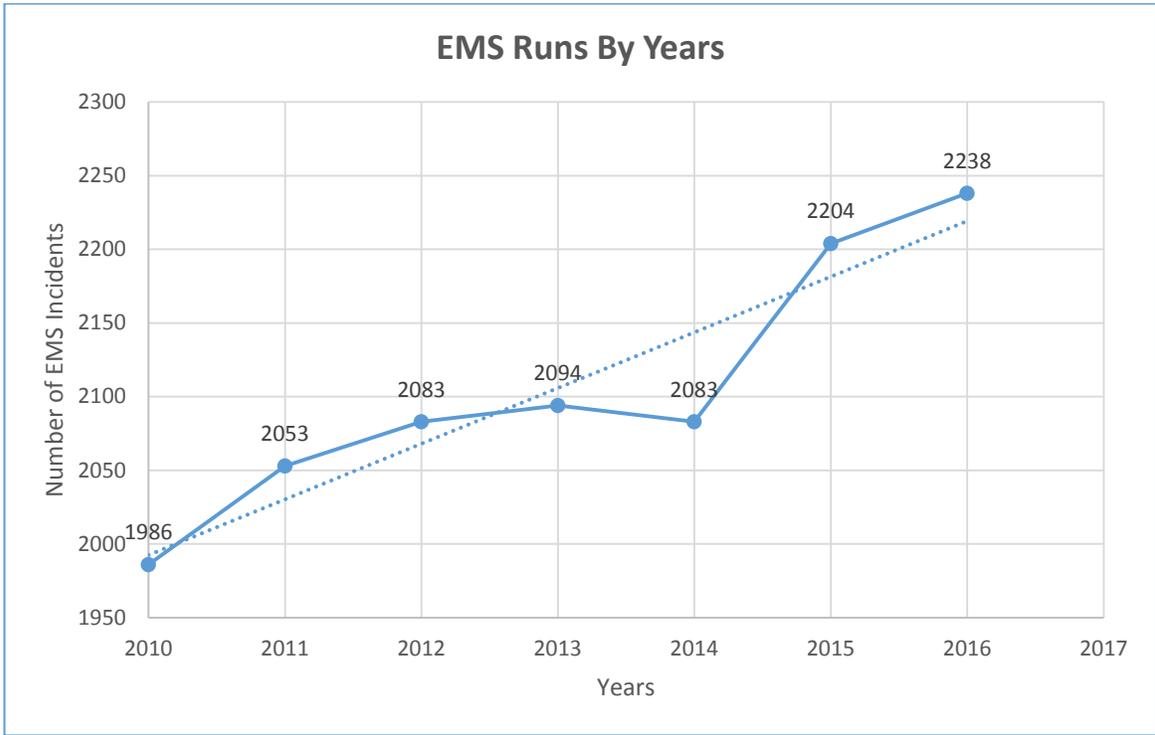
Left to Right: Firefighter/EMT Michael Bainbridge, Firefighter/EMT Mike Schuler, Firefighter/Paramedic Tyler Thomas, Firefighter/EMT Darek Schuller, and Firefighter/Paramedic Rick Schutt

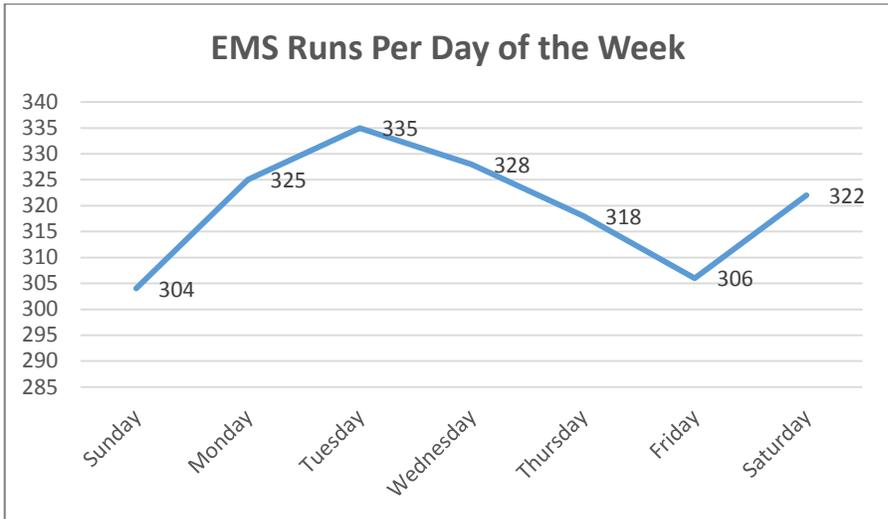
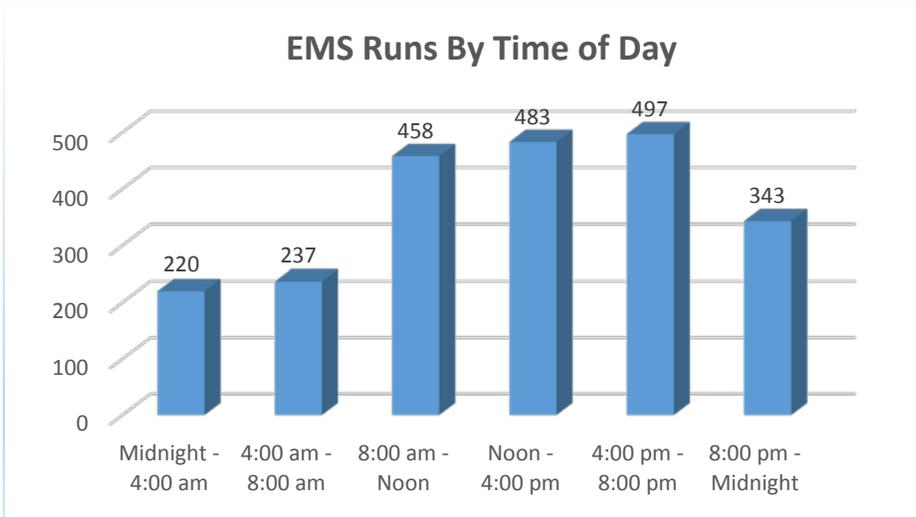
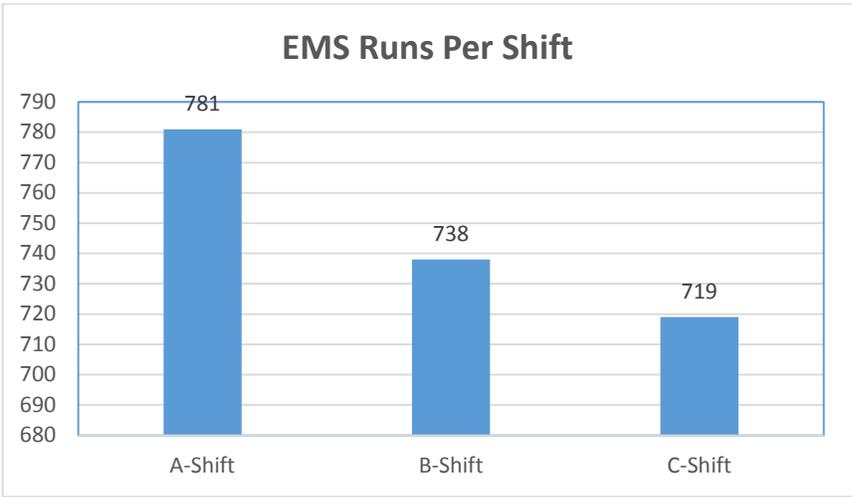
Medical Emergencies

2,454 Patient Contacts



Average Patient Age: 54 years old







A-Shift Aerial Training Downtown November 2016

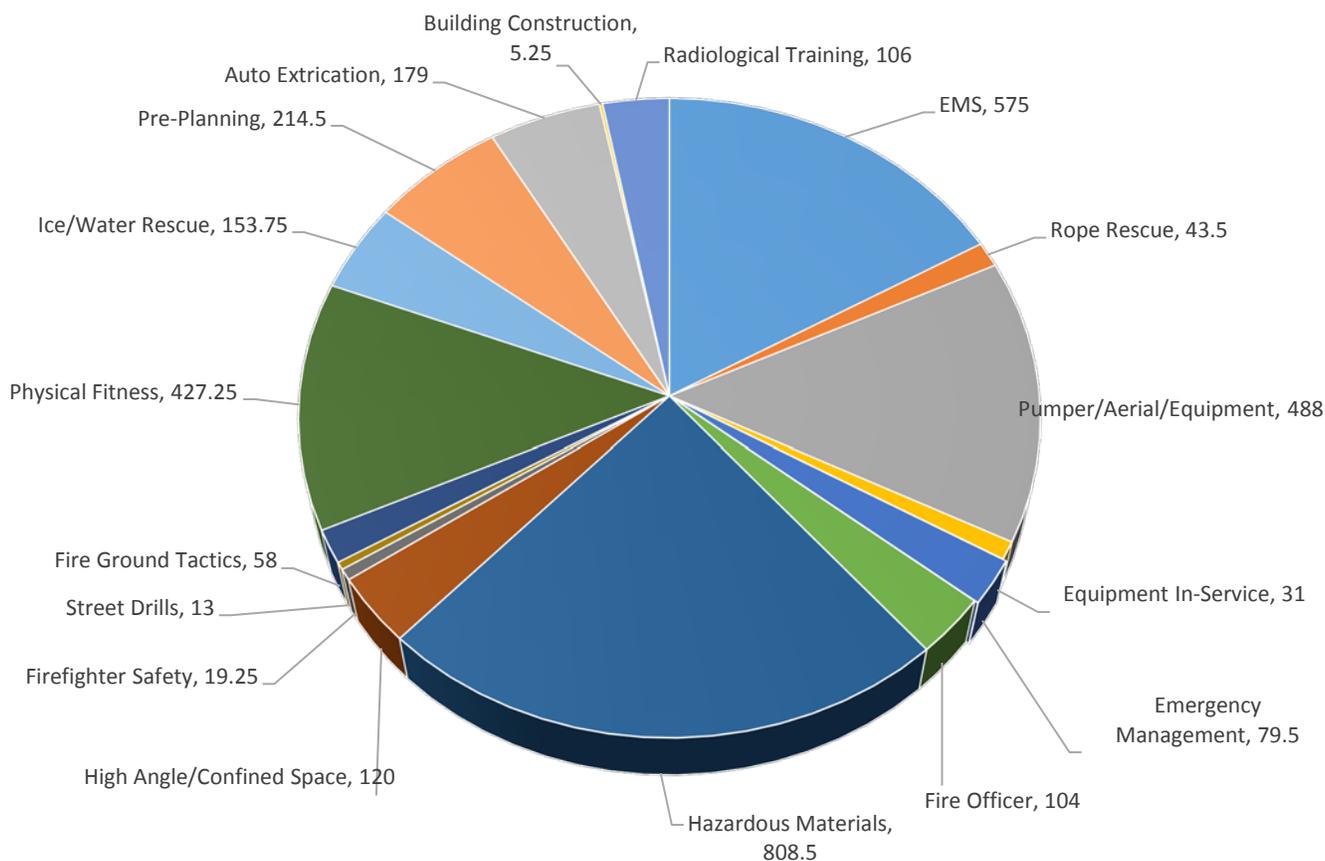
Section 4

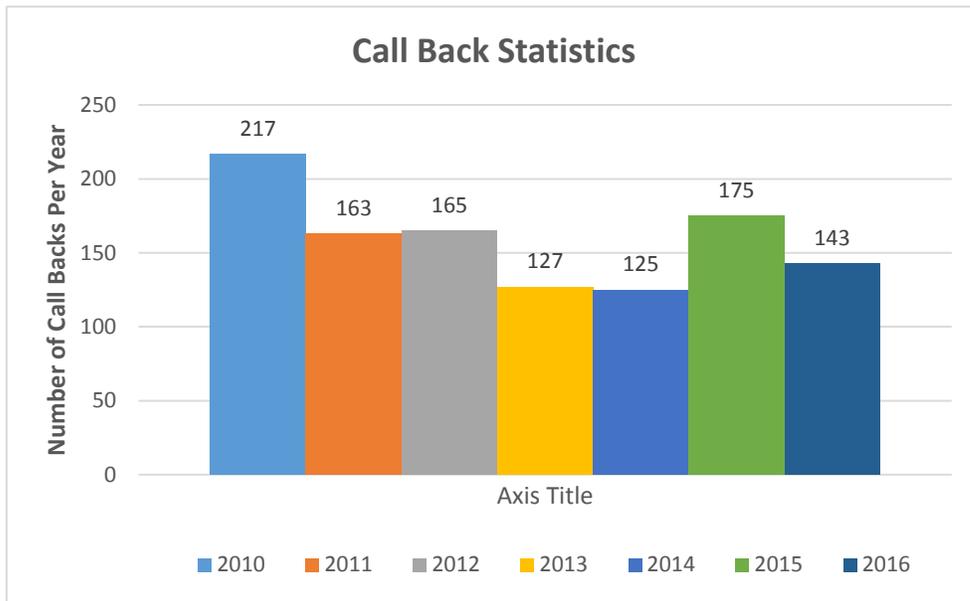
Department Training

Department Training

In 2016, department personnel received roughly 3,485.5 hours of training. The training involved various areas dealing with pumper/aerial operations, firefighter safety, street drills, auto extrication, building construction, radiological, fire hose practices, confined space/high angle rescue, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, rope rescue, fire ground tactics, water and ice rescue. In the course of the regularly scheduled training, the department occasionally has the opportunity to train in acquired structures. The training the department receives in these buildings is invaluable and the department thanks the citizens for thinking of them when the structures become available. The department utilizes buildings for Firefighter Survival, Self-Rescue, High Angle Rescue, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Confidence Course, Confined Space Entry and Rescue, Rapid Intervention Team Training, Rope Training, Ventilation Training and Fire Overhaul Training. The department conducts yearly training to maintain their EMT licenses with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians including Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advance Life Support (PALS).

Fire Department Training Hours
3,425.5 Total Hours

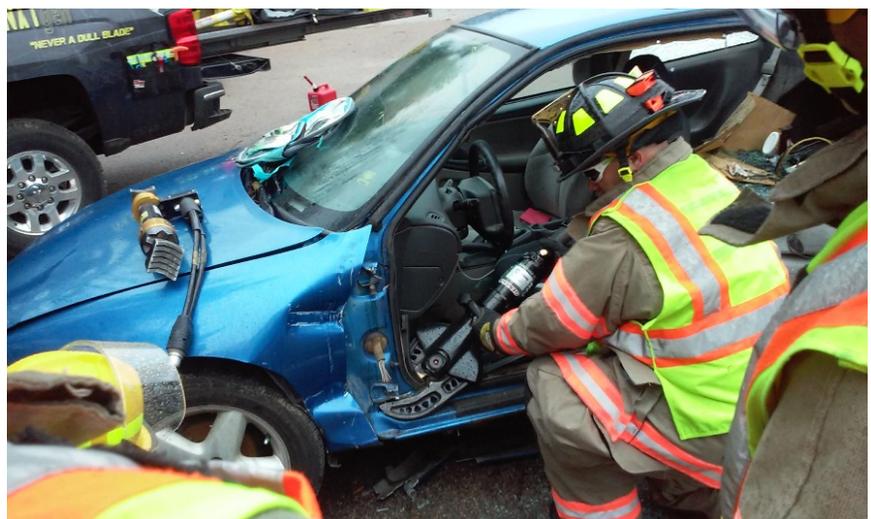




Calls backs are used when additional staffing is needed to staff the fire station due to multiple emergencies happening at the same time or to providing staffing at an EMS and/or fire emergency when needed. In 2016, there were 143 call backs, and 18 times when both shifts were called back.



Hazardous Materials Training with the Nebraska Fire Marshal Training Division



Auto Extrication Training

Several years ago the department adopted a physical fitness program for the career staff. As a result, Fremont is one of a growing number of departments nationwide who utilize a Performance Based Task Test as a part of their training and as a part of their hiring process. This test is designed around some of the more common fire and rescue evolutions the department encounters.

The Fremont Fire Department also maintains membership in various local emergency organizations, such as the Dodge County Firefighter's Association, the Tri-Mutual Aid Firefighters Association, Juvenile Arson Task Force, the Critical Incident Stress Management team (CISM), and the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Radiological Training with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency



New Aerial Training with Rosenbauer Representative



Section 5



Johnson Crossing 5th Grader Lilly Grummert is the 2016 5th Grade Fire Prevention Poster Contest Winner and is pictured with Fire Chief Todd Bernt (right) and Fire Prevention Coordinator Darek Schuller (left). She receives a first place ribbon and \$25 gift card to Walmart.

Public Relations Activities

Members of the Fremont Fire Department actively work to inform and educate the public by participating in community events, as well as initiating its own programs. A few of the more visible activities include presentations to service organizations, and fire drills and puppet shows at the elementary schools.

Fire Safety Puppet Show Grant School



Milliken Park Elementary School
1st Graders visiting the fire station



Department initiated events include activities during EMS Week in May and Fire Prevention Week in October. Examples include the fire prevention poster contest, blood pressure checks at various locations, Fire Department Open Houses, fire safety/education demonstrations and tours at the station.

Fire Department Open House October 9, 2016



Junior Fire Marshal Program



Fire Pup and Captain Jamie Meyer present Clarmar School with the Junior Fire Marshal Program Traveling Trophy. The Junior Fire Marshal Program is during fire prevention week. All Fremont kindergarten through fourth grade students are given a 'Home Safety Checklist' to take home. With the help of parents/guardians, together they go through their home looking for fire hazards and correcting the problem for a fire safe home. Both the student and parent/guardian sign, return the checklist back to school, and then are picked up by the fire department. The school with the highest return gets the traveling trophy for the year. Clarmar School had 90% of the checklist returned, other schools returns are Grant 61%, Linden 43%, Trinity 38%, Howard 31%, Milliken Park 30%, Bell Field 28%, Bergan Elementary 22%, and Washington 17%.

Wal-Mart Safety Awareness Day





Firefighter/Paramedic Erik Peters talking to high school freshman about CPR.

Photo Fremont Tribune



Firefighter/Paramedic Dave Wordekemper and Firefighter/Paramedic Brian Monaghan discuss the various type of medical emergencies the fire department responds to and shows the different types of medical equipment to the high school health science class.

Fremont Leadership Visiting the Fire Station



The fire department works with State Fire Marshal Office members, accompanying them on inspections of various local businesses. In 2016, department personnel logged roughly 214 hours working on pre-plans of local businesses. This allows personnel to be better prepared in the event of an emergency at that location.

The fire department also offers preliminary, confidential guidance to parents of children who may have an inordinate interest in fire, as well as a program for juvenile fire starters.

The department offers a presentation called "What to Expect When the Squad Arrives". This program is available to anyone, but is designed specifically toward senior citizens. Its goal is to try to minimize the anxieties a medical emergency can create by answering questions and showing procedures in a more relaxed environment. Personnel also offers tips on what to do, or what not to do, while waiting for the squad to arrive - whether you are alone or with someone. Fremont Firefighters conduct fire extinguisher education classes for employees of local businesses and welcomes the opportunity to speak to groups of any age or background at any time.

Every spring and fall, the fire department takes part in the National CHANGE YOUR CLOCK CHANGE YOUR BATTERY campaign. Through the campaign, department personnel are able to get 9 Volt batteries free of charge through Energizer. Through references from the Department of Social Services, and advertising, the department checks and changes smoke detector batteries for senior citizens and disabled individuals.



Fremont Professional Firefighters Association Local 1015 participated in Operation Warm which is a Firefighters coats for kids program. The mission of the program is to invest in the community by providing financial relief for struggling families, protecting at-risk children by promoting health, confidence, and future success while strengthening the American workforce and break the cycle of poverty. Local 1015 partnered with sponsors to purchase 42 brand-new USA made coats for a number of students attending Milliken Park Elementary School. The children were all sized ahead of the coat distribution assuring a proper fit for the winter. The Local 1015 plans on continuing the program in the upcoming years and are hoping to get sponsors to assist with the purchase of the coats if more than 30 coats are needed for the program. Children were invited to the fire station for a personal fitting and left with a new winter coat and a huge smile.

More than 15 members of the Fremont Professional Firefighters Association Local 1015 volunteered their time to raise over \$13,200 for muscular dystrophy during the annual 'Fill the Boot' campaign over the Labor Day weekend at the corner of 23rd and Bell Streets. Muscular

dystrophy, ALS and related diseases severely limit the strength and mobility of children and adults.

The Muscular Dystrophy Associations (MDA) spirited 'Fill the Boot' campaign is an honored tradition in which thousands of dedicated fire fighters in hometowns across America hit the streets or storefronts asking pedestrians, motorists, customers and other passers-by to make a donation to MDA.

The International Association of FireFighters (IAFF) partnered with the MDA in 1954 and has raised more than 558 million dollars to help kids and adults with muscle-debilitating diseases live the life they've always imagined and experience the world without any limits.

FAQs

What is a Key Lock Box and where can I obtain one?

A Key Lock Box System is a high security, rapid entry option containing appropriate keys, access cards or other small items necessary to allow the Fire Department to gain entry to a building or alarmed portion in the event of an emergency without property damage due to forcible entry. Key Lock Boxes are ideal for commercial and industrial businesses protected by automatic alarm system or automatic suppression system or such building that are secured in a manner that restricts access during an emergency; for multifamily residential buildings that have restricted access through locked doors and have a common corridor for access to the living units; public school buildings, nursing, adult day care, and long-term care and assisted living facilities, child day-care facilities, nursery and preschools and private schools, churches, and community centers. In Fremont, the fire chief designates the type of key lock box system to be implemented within the city so contact the Fire Department at 402- 727-2688 for more information.

Do you install or inspect child car seats?

No, we don't. However, members of the Dodge County Sheriff's Office are certified to install and inspect car seats. You may reach them at 402-727-2700 to make an appointment. They are located in the Dodge County Courthouse (435 N Park in Fremont). Three Rivers District Health Department also provides this service. They can be reached at 402-727-5396 and are located at 2400 North Lincoln Avenue in Fremont.

Why do firefighters cut holes in the roof and break windows of a building on fire?

This is called "VENTILATION". There are two basic reasons for ventilating a structure. The first is, removal of dangerous gases, heat, and dark smoke that accumulate in a burning building reducing visibility and greatly impeding rescue and firefighting efforts. Second, ventilation allows firefighters to relieve the structure of superheated gases and smoke which spread fire and contribute to dangerous situations like flashover and back draft explosions.

What should I do with HOT fireplace ash?

DO NOT remove hot ashes from the fireplace immediately. Wait up to 2-3 days and let the ashes cool completely in the fireplace until there are no remaining hot embers before removing them. Place cool ash in a metal container and store outside away from the home and all combustibles.

What is your response area?

Our fire response area is within the Fremont City limits. EMS (Emergency Medical Service) is provided east to the Washington County line, west approximately seven miles, north two miles, and south to the Platte River. Upon request from neighboring agencies, in accordance with mutual aid agreements, those lines can be crossed.

IN MEMORIUM



Firefighter/Paramedic Robby 'Rob' Taylor

Rob Taylor (46 years old) served 12 years on the Fremont Fire Department from January 18, 2004 to July 27, 2016. He lost his battle with cancer on July 27, 2016.

Rob married Keri Anderson on Sept. 6, 1998, in Evergreen, Colo. He started working with the Fremont Fire Department on Jan. 18, 2004.

Rob was a member of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), Nebraska Professional Fire Fighters Association (NPFFA), Vice-president of Fremont Fire Fighters Local 1015 and a member of Fremont Rural Fire Department.

Rob is survived by his wife, Keri of Fremont; son, Nathan Taylor at home; daughters, Sarah Taylor at home, and Allison Taylor of Colorado.

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