

# FREMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Structure Fire December 26, 2017

CITY OF  
**FREMONT**  
NEBRASKA PATHFINDERS

**FREMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

Todd Bernt, Fire Chief  
415 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fremont, NE 68025



John C. Fremont Days Parade, July 2017      Courtesy of Rader Photography



Structure Fire March 2017



Grass Fire March 2017

Fremont Tribune Photo

*Photos courtesy of the Fremont Tribune and Rader 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



Structure Fire December 26, 2017 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 2017 Annual Report. This report is a testament to your fire department member's professionalism and dedication to our community.

In 2017, we responded to a total of 2,742 emergencies, 2,527 medical and 215 fire. The fire department saw 11.3% increase in emergency calls from 2016.

Our 2,527 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses account for approximately 92% of all our fire and EMS responses. We had a total of 2,669 patient contacts with the average patient age being 58 years old.

Of the 215 fire emergencies, 30 were extinguishable fires. Improper disposal of smoking materials, electrical, space heaters, and equipment failure were the leading cause of fires. The fire losses for 2017 were \$1,059,750. 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 3,391.5 hours. Topics include EMS training, trench rescue, fire ground tactics, rope/confined space rescue, and pre-planning to name a few. In 2017, Metropolitan Community College (MCC) instructed the 40 hour Trench Rescue course and MCC continues to provide paramedic training and continuing education in EMS for all personnel.

The department received its new Holmatro Extrication Rescue Tools in May 2017.

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  
25 years of service

**A-SHIFT**



Captain Jamie Meyer  
Paramedic  
24 years of service



Lieutenant Doug Backens  
Intermediate  
23 years of service



Troy Nott  
Firefighter/EMT  
13 years of service



Zachery Klein  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
11 years of service



Erik Peters  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
9 years of service



Levi Alley  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
7 years of service



Terry Luthy  
Firefighter/EMT  
5 years of service



Jesse Vincent  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
4 years of service



Alex Iniguez  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
1 year of service

Pictures courtesy of Rader Photography

**B-SHIFT**



Captain Pat Tawney  
Paramedic  
25 years of service



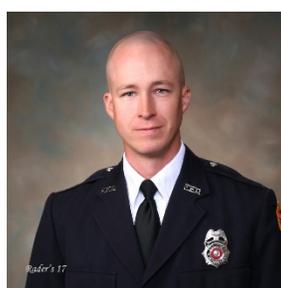
Lieutenant Dana Leland  
Paramedic  
18 years of service



Alan Atkinson  
Firefighter/Intermediate  
26 years of service



Dave Wordekemper  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
22 years of service



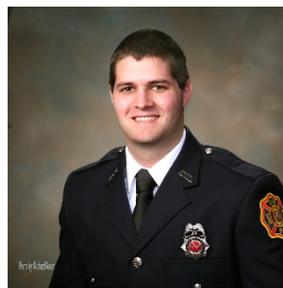
Nick Morris  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
13 years of service



Wyatt Swartz  
Firefighter/EMT  
13 years of service



Rich Osterloh  
Firefighter/EMT  
11 years of service



Blake Wagner  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
1 year of service



Peter Kafonek  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
1 year of service

Pictures courtesy of Rader Photography

## C-SHIFT



Captain Tom Christensen  
Paramedic  
22 years of service



Lieutenant Todd Coffey  
Paramedic  
25 years of service



Mike Schuler  
Firefighter/EMT  
11 years of service



Tyler Thomas  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
11 years of service



Brian Monaghan  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
7 years of service



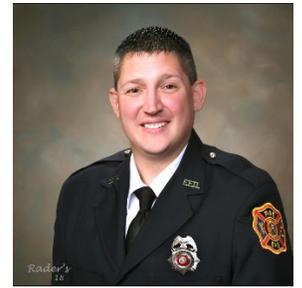
Darek Schuller  
Firefighter/EMT  
5 years of service



Rick Schutt  
Firefighter/Paramedic  
5 years of service



Jack Kassebaum  
Firefighter/EMT  
3 years of service



Jason Meyer  
Firefighter/EMT  
< 1 year of service

Pictures courtesy of Rader Photography



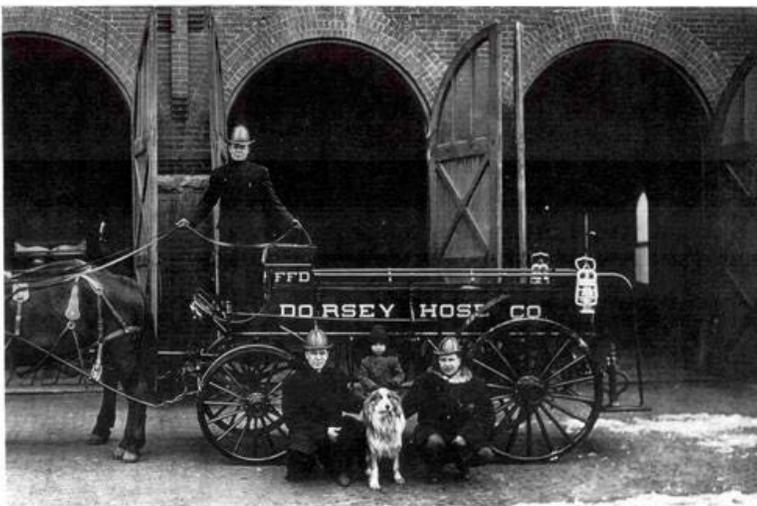
### FREMONT'S FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

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:



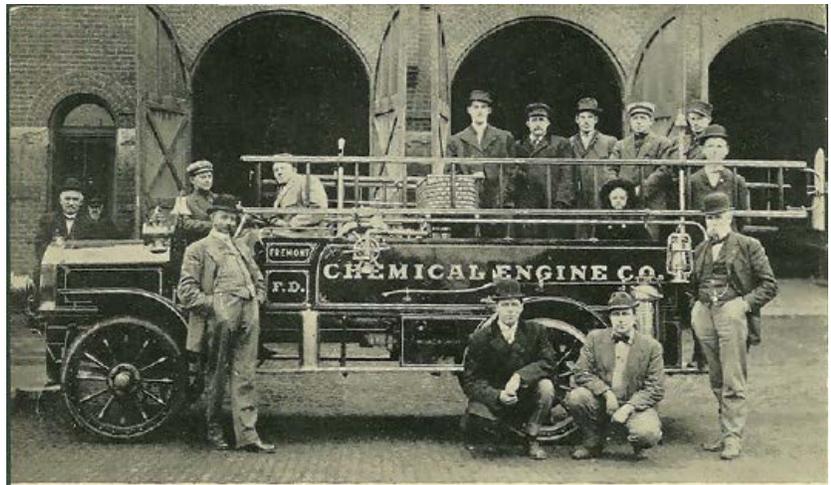
- Frontier Fire Company, November 1868
- Fremont Engine Company, February 1872
- Red Jacket Engine Company, December 1874
- J.C. Cleland Hose Company, 1883
- Mechanic Hose Company, May 1886
- G.W.E. Dorsey Hose Company, May 1886
- W.G. Mercer Hose Company, February 1890

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.



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/low 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 150<sup>th</sup> "Birthday". The three large open doors indicate the area of the building that housed the fire department. The building was located at 4<sup>th</sup> and Park Avenue.

# Section 2



Semi Tractor-Trailer Fire, December, 2017

## Emergency Response

# Emergency Responses

The department responded to 215 fire related calls and 2,527 emergency medical calls (EMS). June was the most active month with 33 fire calls. June was the most active month for working fires that required extinguishment with 6 structure fires, 1 mattress fire, 1 cooking fire confined to container, 1 trash/dumpster fire, and 2 grass fires. There were 2 exposures that received damage on 2 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. Total fire losses for the year were \$1,059,750.

There were no firefighter or civilian fatalities in 2017. However, there were two civilian injuries due to smoke inhalation. There were also four firefighters who were injured this year. Injuries were to the back, feet, and eyes.

The in-town average response time is 4 minutes 11 seconds. The out of town average response time is 8 minutes 30 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.



*Structure Fire June 2017*

Total fire billing amount for calls collected in 2017 was \$16,587.00 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.

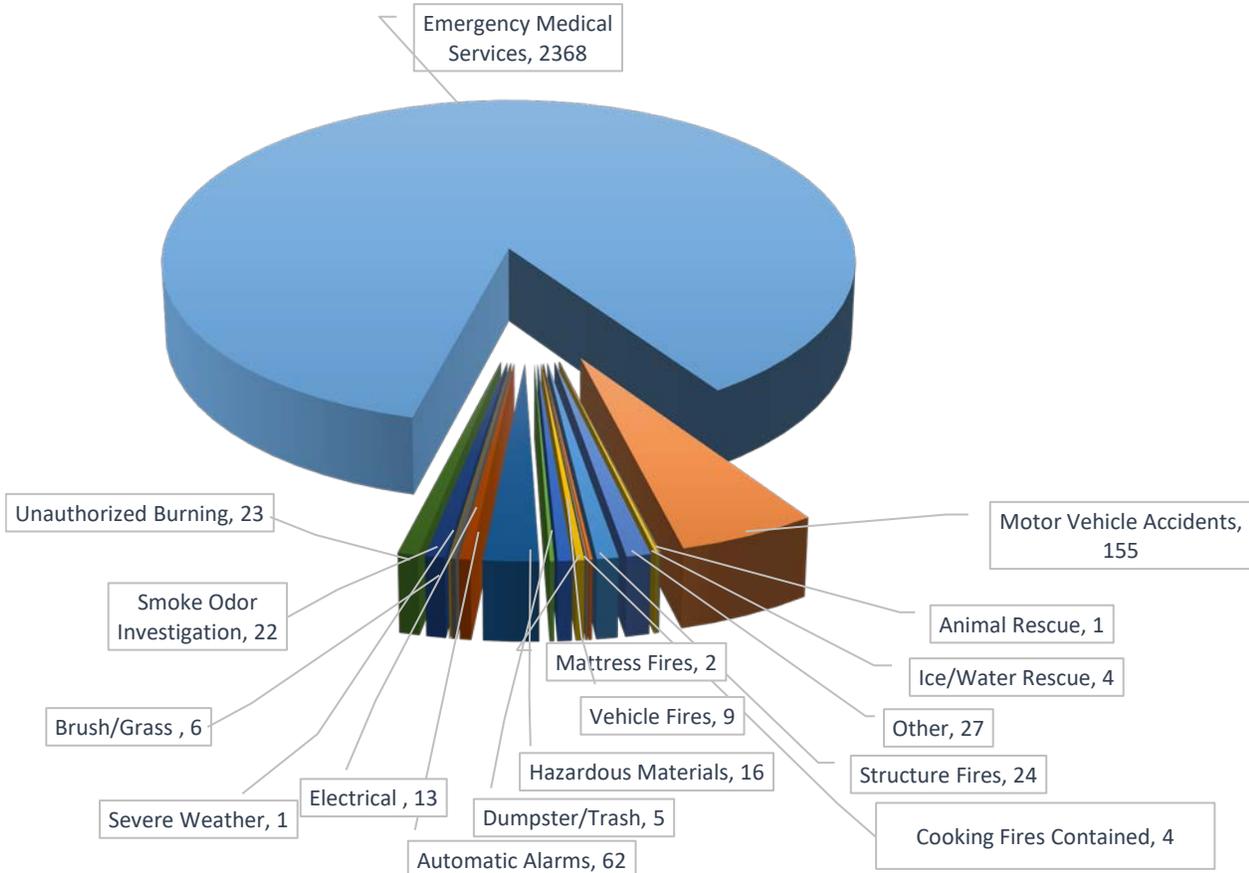
Kitchen Fire  
November 2017



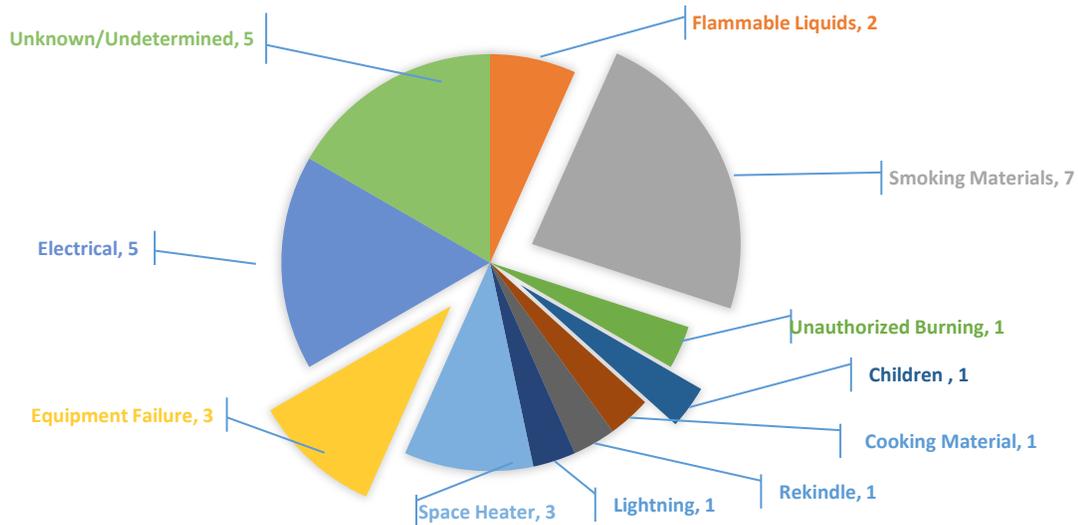


Scoular Grain Fire, March 2017

### 2017 Types of Alarms

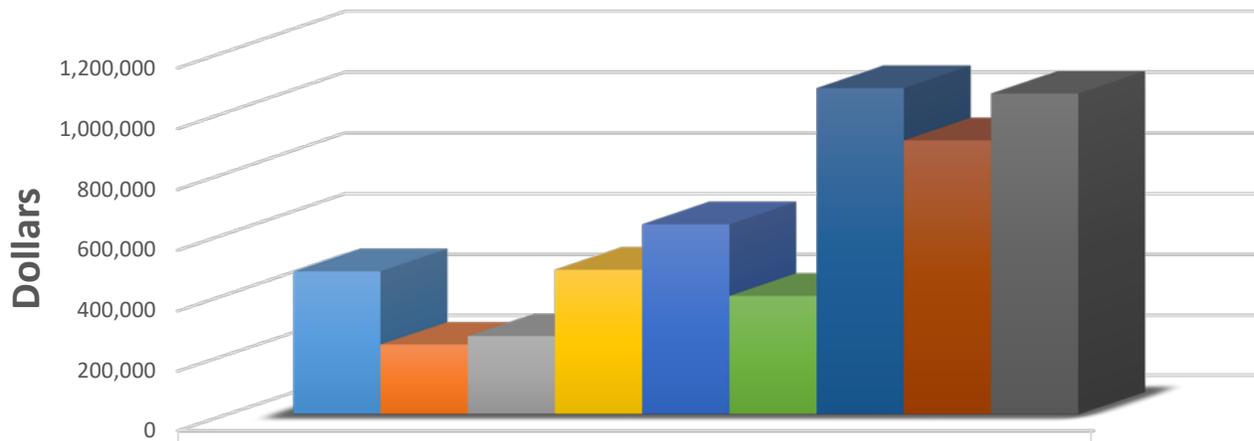


## CAUSES OF FIRES



(30 fires requiring extinguishment)

## Fire Losses



Year	Losses (Dollars)
2009	474,750
2010	232,975
2011	261,250
2012	479,750
2013	629,450
2014	393,820
2015	1,077,660
2016	905,882
2017	1,059,750

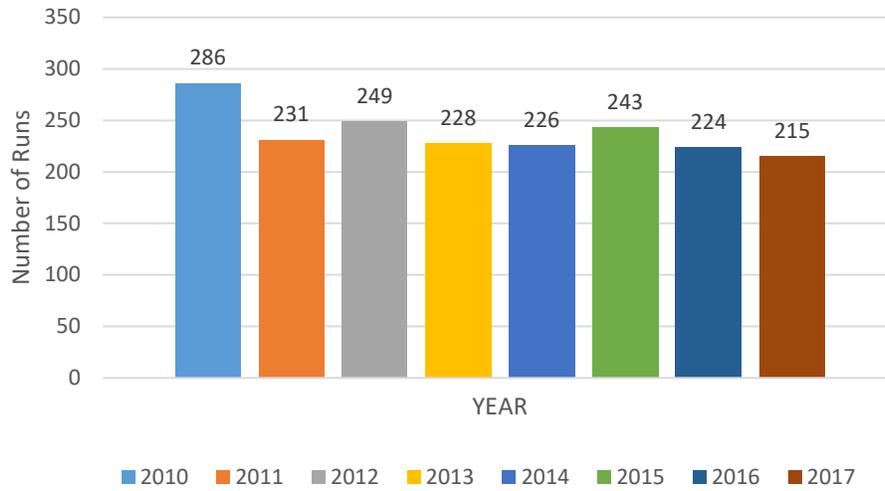


Fremont Tribune Photo's  
Mutual Aid for Fremont Rural Fire Department Structure  
Fire, June 2017. Provided mutual aid to Fremont Rural Fire  
Department five times for structure fires. Received mutual aid  
from Fremont Rural three times for structure fires.

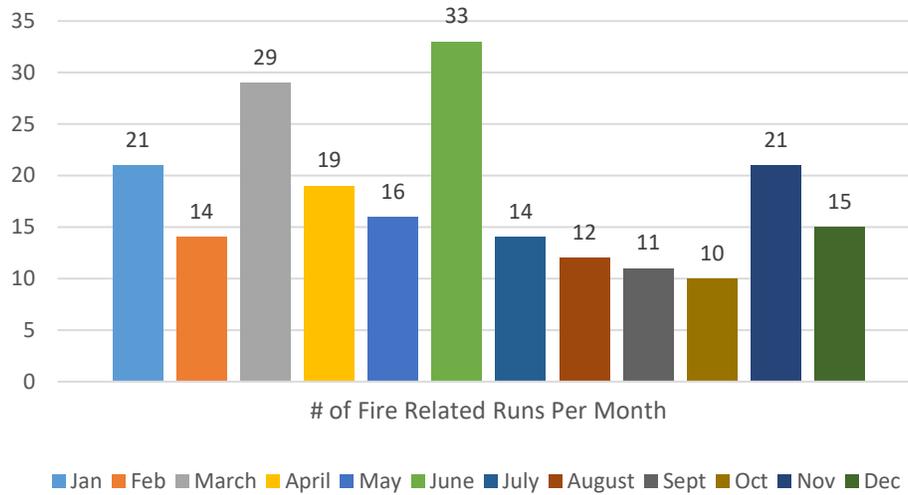
Animal Dog Ice Rescue at  
State Lakes  
February 2017



### Total Fire Runs By Year



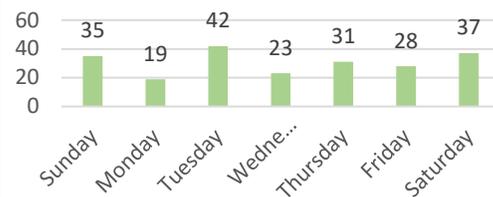
### 2017 Fire Runs Per Month

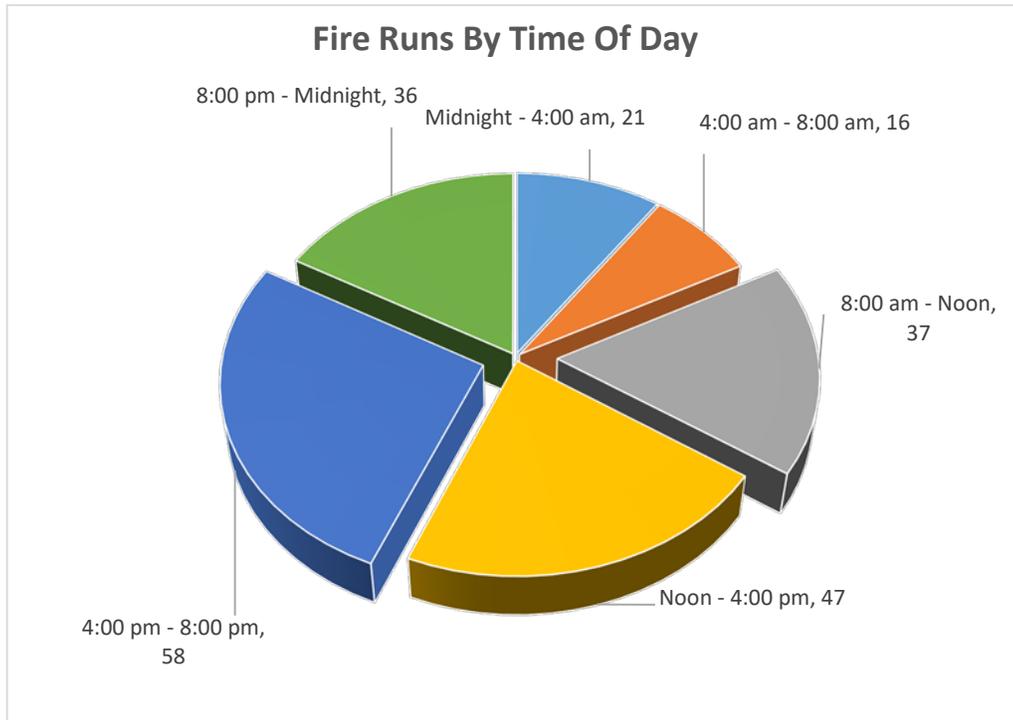


### Fire Runs Per Shift



### Fire Runs Per Day of the Week





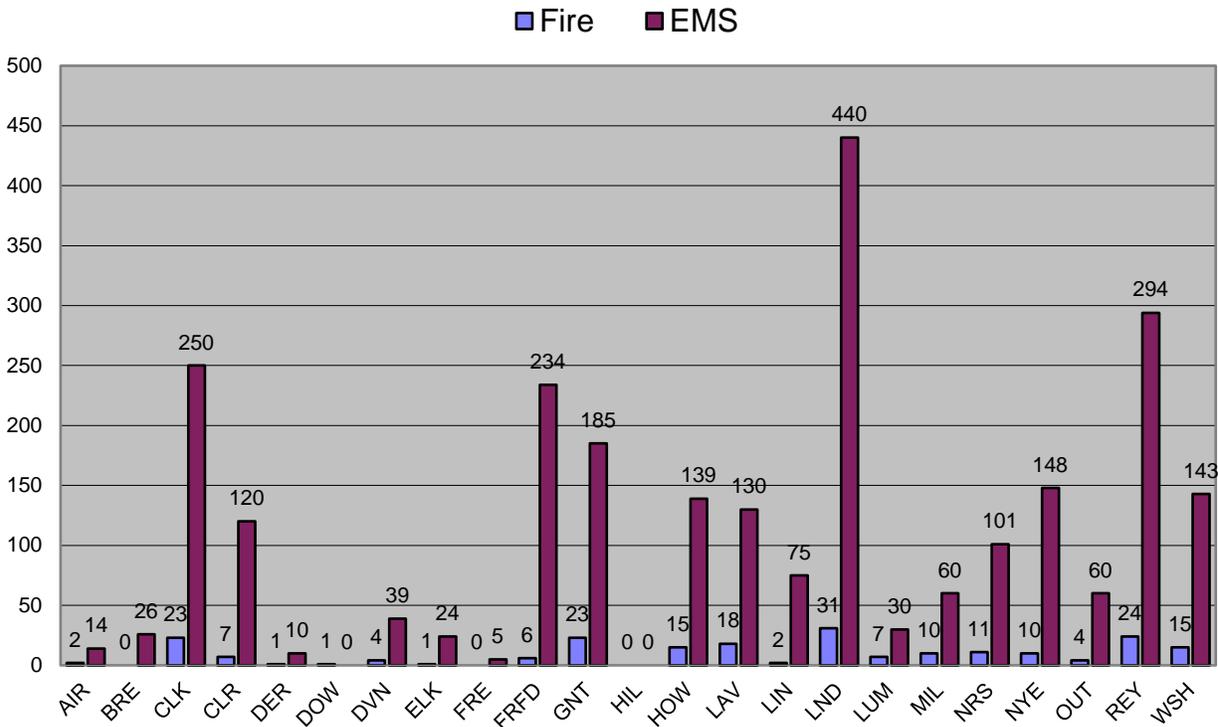
Semi Tractor-Trailer Fire  
December 2017

Grass Fire  
March 2017

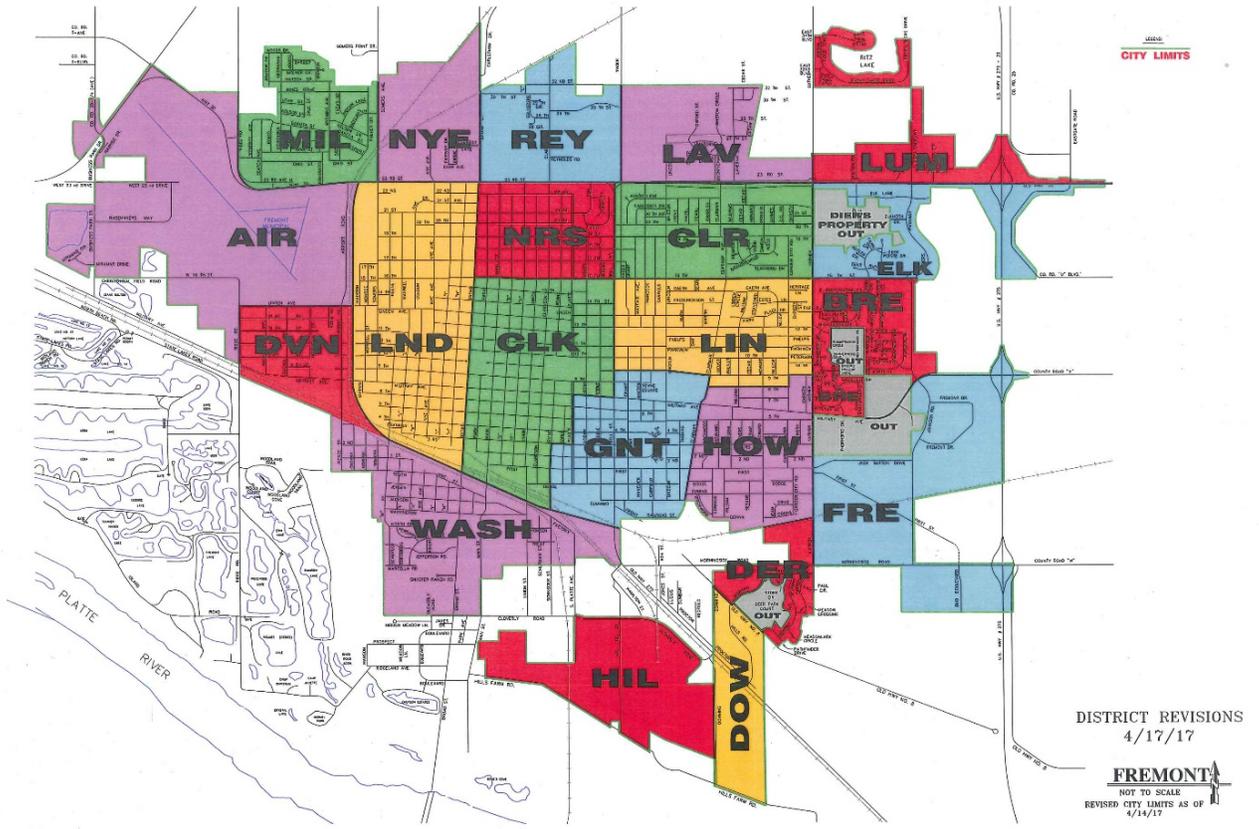


Fremont Tribune Photo

# 2017 Fire/EMS Emergencies By Section of City



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



# Section 3



Talking to Fremont High School Freshmen about EMS, March 2017

# Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

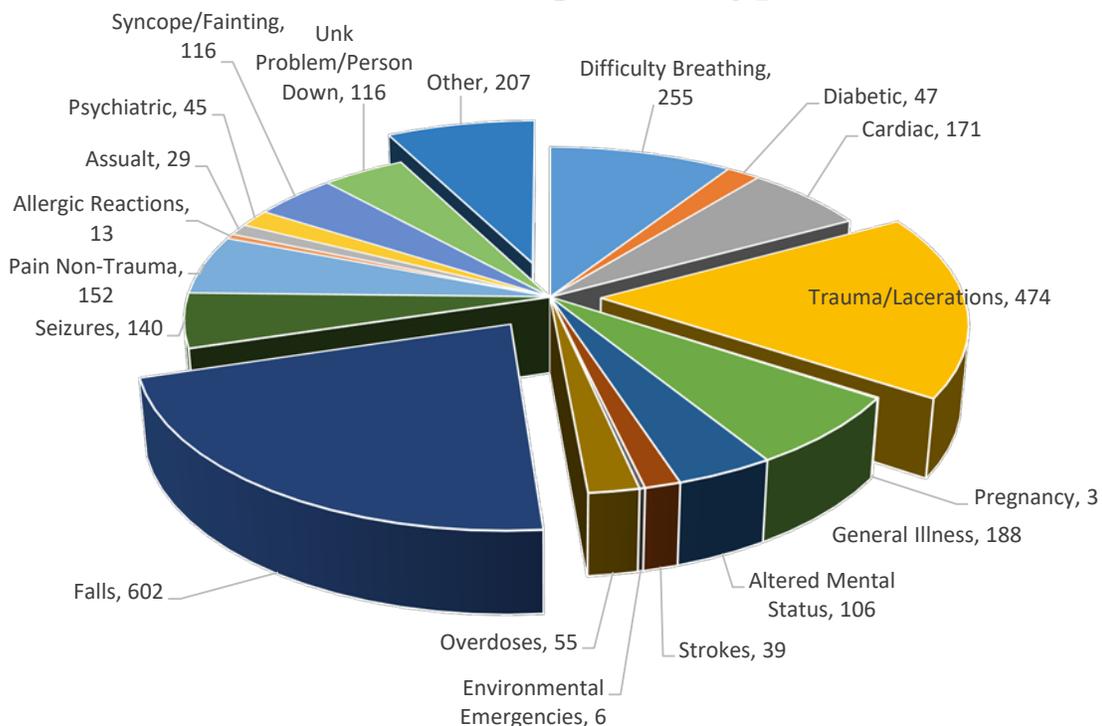
# EMS SERVICE

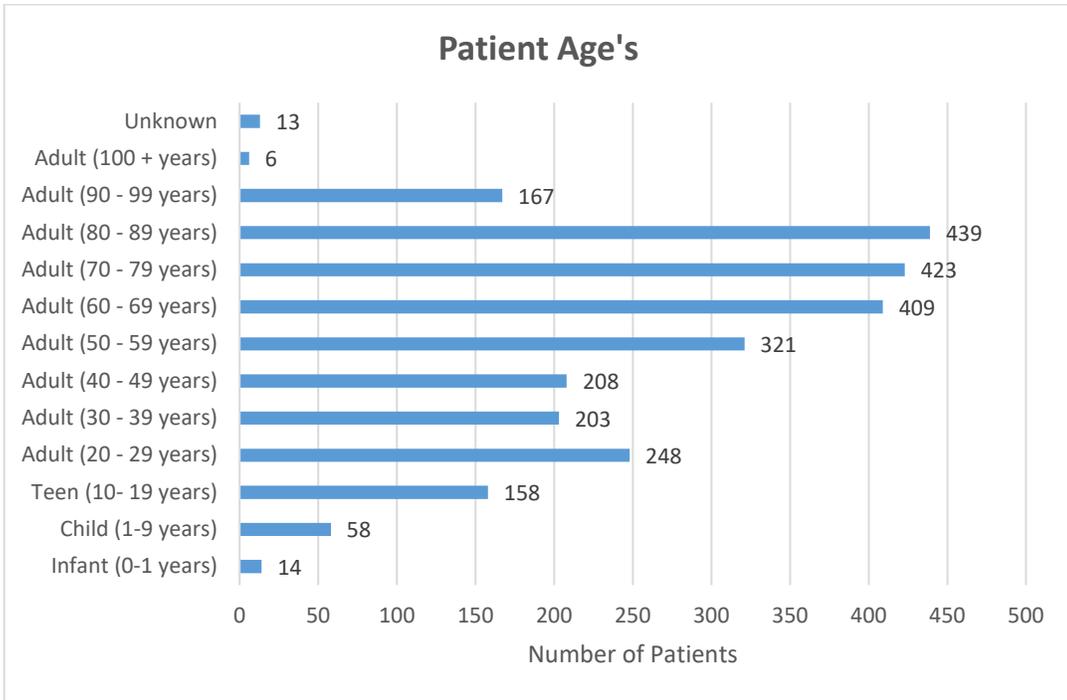
The Fremont Fire Department's rescue squads responded to 2,527 medical emergencies which included 155 motor vehicle accidents (MVA) and 30 Advance Life Support intercepts with area fire departments. Treated 2,669 patients, which is an 8.7% increase in patient contacts compared to 2016. The average patient age was 58 years old. Of the 2,669 patients, 735 (27.5%) refused care and transport. Responded to 99 incidents where there was no patient found or units cancelled enroute. March was the busiest month with 228 EMS 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 2,669 patient's contacts, approximately 26% received Advanced Life Support (ALS) service.

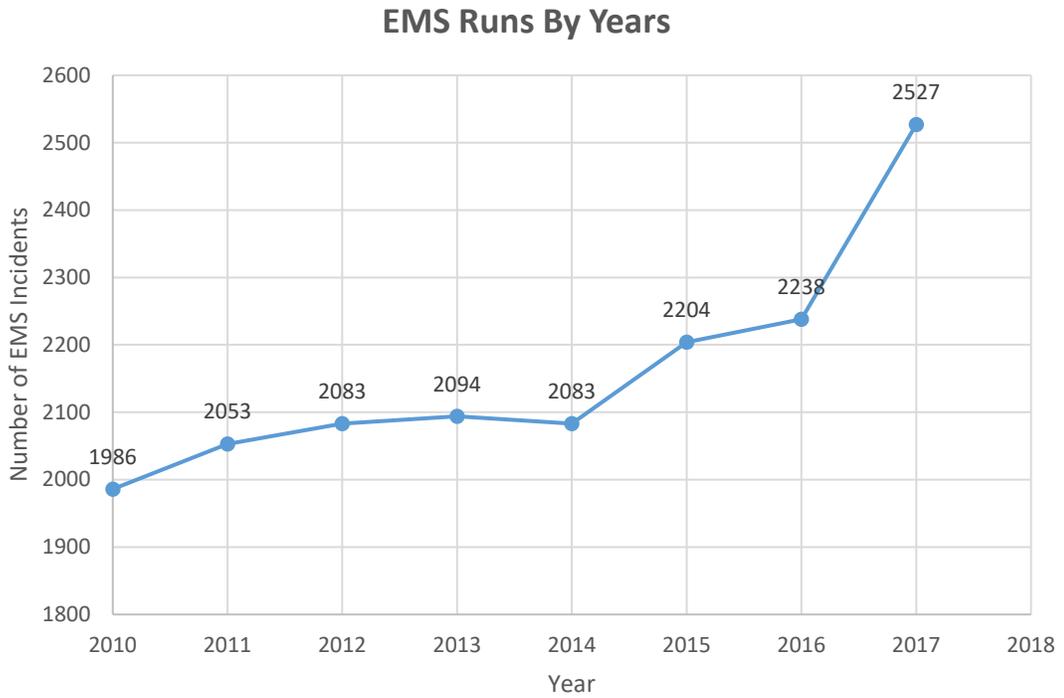
The EMS service provided by the fire department generates revenue through user fees, which are determined by the level of service provided. The Department's current rates are: BLS (Basic Life Support) \$671.00; ALS1 (Advanced Life Support - Level 1) \$805.00; and ALS2 (Advanced Life Support - Level 2) \$1,008.00. A \$15.26 per mile one way fee is added to all transport runs. When transporting is not necessary, but ALS assistance is given to a patient at the scene there is a \$242.00 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 \$40 per hour per personnel and \$20 per hour for equipment. For the year (January - December 2017) a total of \$623,826 in squad user fees were collected by the City.

## Medical Emergencies Types

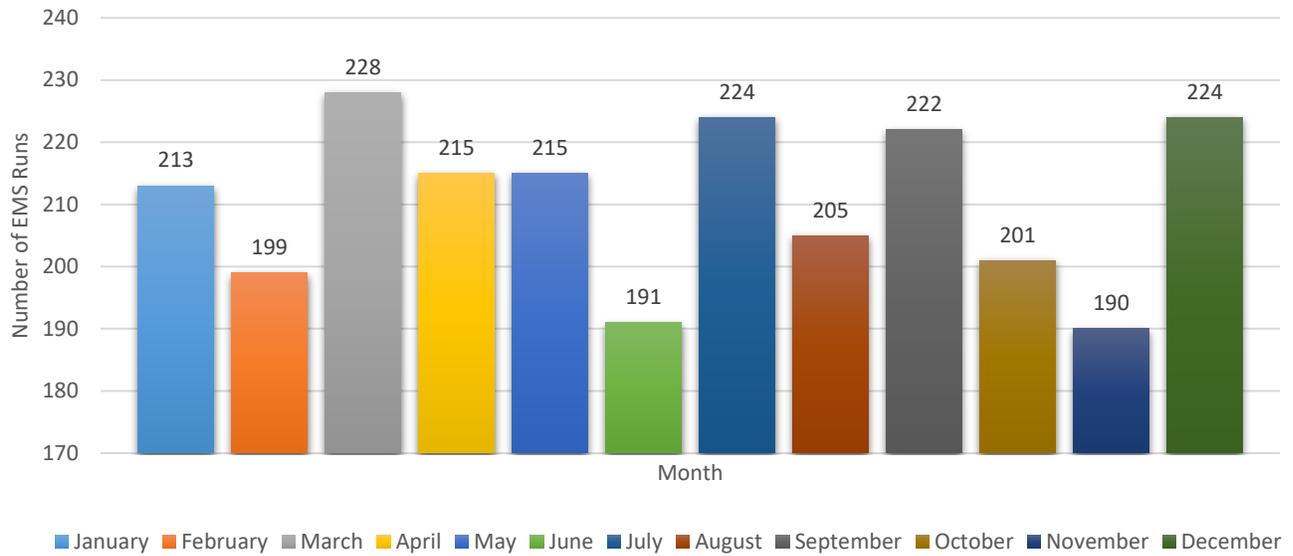




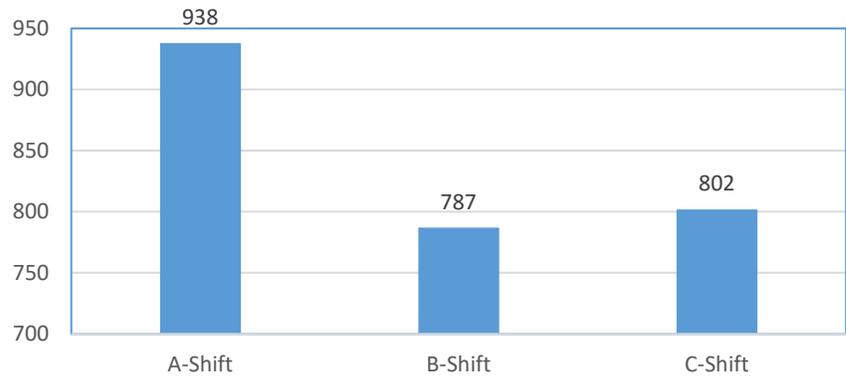
**Average Patient Age: 58 years old**



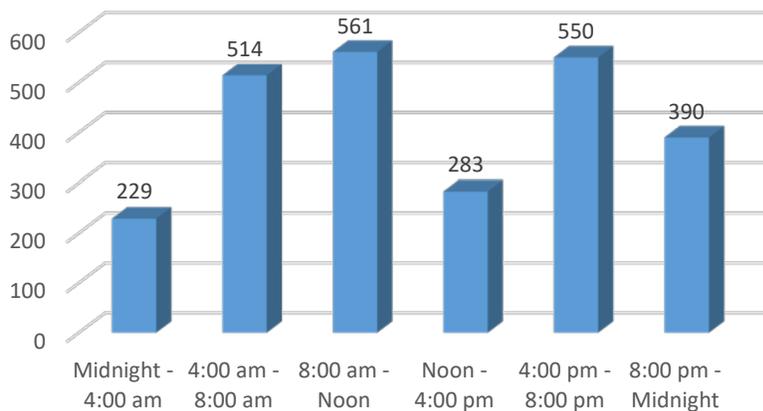
### EMS Runs Per Month



### EMS Runs Per Shift



### EMS Runs By Time of Day



# Section 4



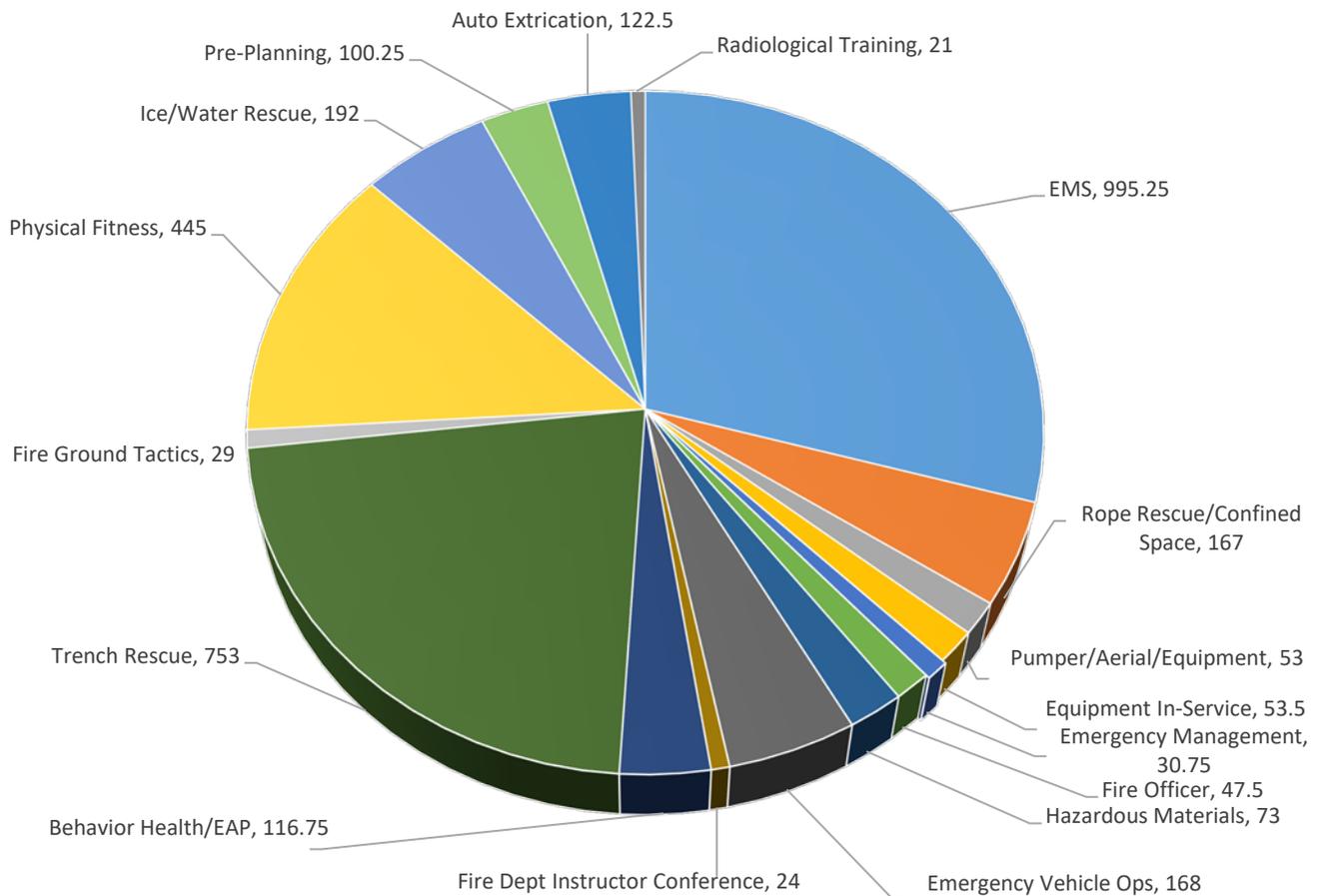
Trench Rescue Training August 2017

# Department Training

## Department Training

In 2017, department personnel received roughly 3,391.5 hours of training. The training involved various areas dealing with trench rescue, 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 State of Nebraska and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians including Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advance Life Support (PALS).

### Fire Department Training Hours 3,391.5 Total Hours





Water Rescue Training, June 2017



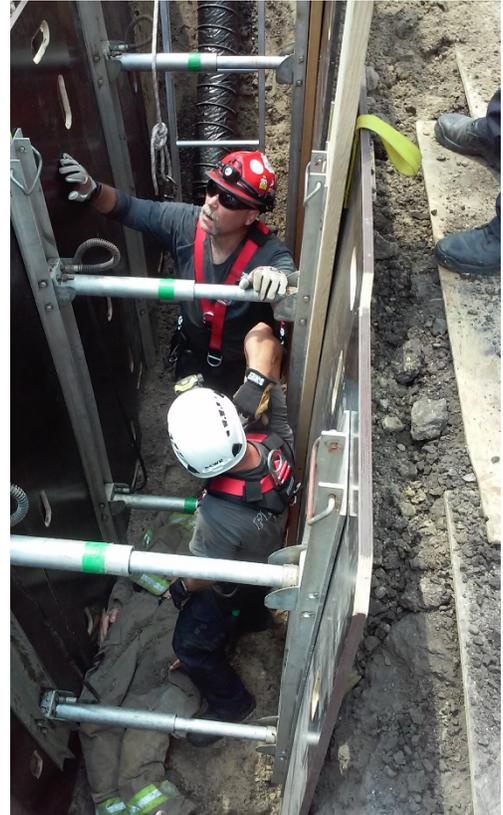
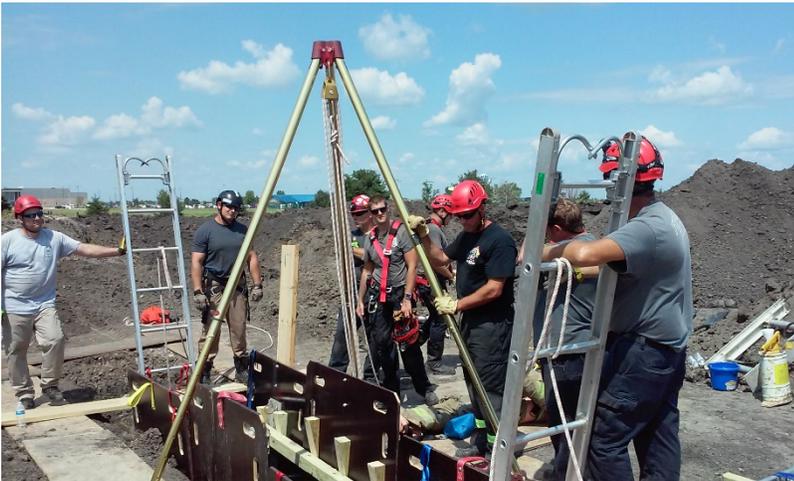
Auto Extrication Training  
May 2017

Ice Rescue Training  
February 2017

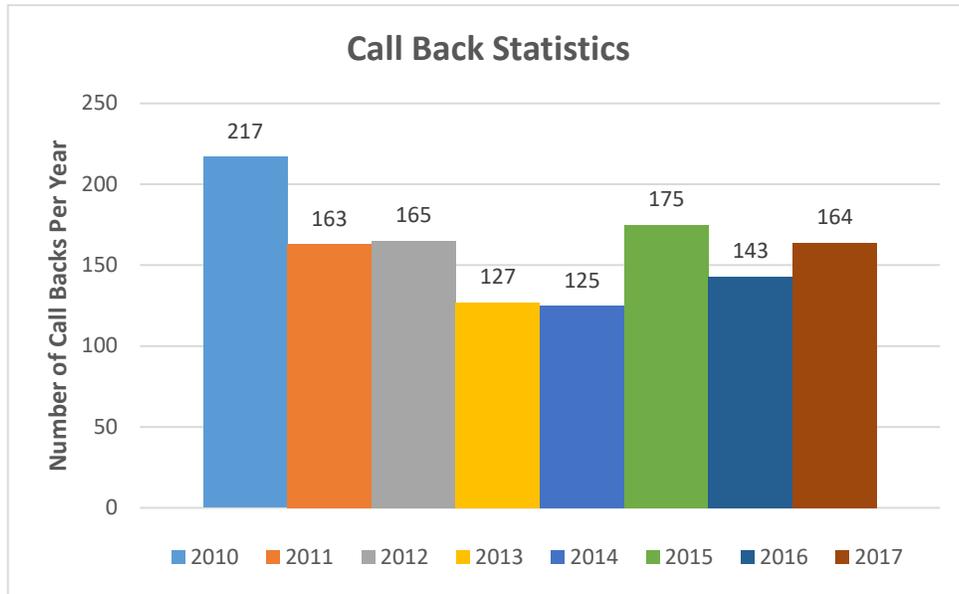


Several years ago the department adopted a physical fitness program for the career staff. As a result, Fremont is one of a growing number of departments nationwide who utilize a Performance Based Task Test as a part of their training and as a part of their hiring process. This test is designed around 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, the Critical Incident Stress Management team (CISM), and the Local Emergency Planning Committee.



Trench Rescue Training with  
Metro Community College  
July/ August 2017



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 provide staffing at an EMS and/or fire emergency when needed. In 2017, there were 164 call backs, and there were 15 times when both off-duty shifts were called back.

# Section 5



Clarmar School 4<sup>th</sup> Grader Ava Placek is the 2017, 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



National Night Out, August 2017



Fremont Youth Leadership Academy  
Fire Station Tour  
February 2017

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 Extinguisher Training  
Nye Services, November 2017

Fire Department Open House, October 8, 2017





## Junior Fire Marshal Program

The Junior Fire Marshal Program is for all Fremont kindergarten through fourth grade students. The 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 the checklists are picked up by the fire department. The school with the highest return gets the traveling 'Junior Fire Marshal Program' trophy for the year. The 2017 school with the highest returns was Clarmar School with 90%, other schools returns are Grant 61%, Linden 43%, Trinity 38%, Howard 31%, Milliken Park 30%, Bell Field 28%, Bergan Elementary 22%, and Washington 17%.

### Library's Summer Reading Kickoff Event May 2017





November 2017

Firefighters are discussing the various type of medical emergencies the fire department responds to and shows the different types of medical equipment to the high school freshmen physical education class.

### Fremont Leadership Visiting the Fire Station December 2017





Taco John's Restaurant donating  
Smoke/Carbon Monoxide detectors  
February 2017

The fire department works with State Fire Marshal Office members, accompanying them on inspections of various local businesses. In 2017, department personnel logged roughly 100 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 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 28 brand-new USA made coats for a number of students attending Grant 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.

More than 15 members of the Fremont Professional Firefighters Association Local 1015 volunteered their time to raise over \$8,400 for muscular dystrophy during the annual 'Fill the Boot' campaign over the Labor Day weekend at the corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.



North Nye Avenue



December 26, 2017 Structure Fires



Photo's Fremont Tribune

Proctor Street

## 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.

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