

Fremont Fire Department 2019 Annual Report



Structure Fire March 18, 2019

Courtesy Photo

FREMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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



Photo courtesy Nebraska National Guard

Governor Pete Ricketts and First Lady Susanne Shore present an award to Fire Chief, Todd Bernt, for the Fremont Fire Department's efforts performed during the March Floods of 2019. The award was presented at the Governor's Flood Heroes Ceremony December 17, 2019.



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 March 6, 2019

Department

Message from Chief Bernt



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.

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

On behalf of the members of the Fremont Fire Department, I'm proud to present the 2019 Annual Report. This report is a testament to your fire department member's professionalism and dedication to our community. In 2019, we responded to a total of 3,010 emergencies; 2,778 medical and 232 fire. The fire department saw an 11.6% increase in emergency calls from 2018.

The Floods of 2019 tested the fire department as with all first responders across the state. On March 14, while attempting to rescue individuals from a home along the Elkhorn River, in some of the worst conditions, two airboats capsized putting seven responders in deep, swift moving water. Three of these responders are Fremont Firefighters. The only rescue available was from the Nebraska National Guard Blackhawk helicopter. We were lucky for no loss of life.

Our 2,778 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses account for approximately 92% of all our fire and EMS responses. We had a total of 3,008 patient contacts with the average patient age being 58.66 years old. This is a 13% increase in patient contacts.

Of the 232 fire emergencies, 32 were extinguishable fires and 10 were fires out on our arrival but investigated. Equipment failure, cooking materials, and electrical were the leading causes of fires. Eleven fires had causes that were unknown/undetermined. The fire losses for 2019 totaled \$952,500.

Documented training hours for the department totaled 4,343 hours. Topics included EMS training, fire ground tactics, rope rescue, grain bin rescue, and pre-planning to name a few. The Department worked with the Nebraska State Fire Marshal Training Division to get personnel certified in the Firefighter II certification category. Metropolitan Community College (MCC) continued to provide continuing education in EMS and technical rescue for all personnel.

The accomplishments of the Fremont Fire Department are only possible through the ongoing dedication of each firefighter's 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

COMMAND STAFF



Fire Chief Todd Bernt
Paramedic
27 years of service

A-SHIFT



Captain Jamie Meyer
Paramedic
26 years of service



Lieutenant Brian Monaghan
Paramedic
9 years of service



Levi Alley
Firefighter/Paramedic
9 years of service



Terry Luthy
Firefighter/Paramedic
7 years of service



Jesse Vincent
Firefighter/Paramedic
6 years of service



Alex Iniguez
Firefighter/Paramedic
2 years of service



Jason Meyer
Firefighter/EMT
2 years of service



Tanner Bies
Firefighter/EMT
1 year of service



James Bazer
Firefighter/EMT
<1 year of service

Pictures courtesy of Rader Photography

B-SHIFT



Captain Pat Tawney
Paramedic
27 years of service



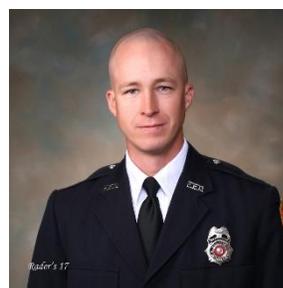
Lieutenant Zach Klein
Paramedic
13 years of service



Alan Atkinson
Firefighter/Intermediate
28 years of service



Dave Wordekemper
Firefighter/Paramedic
24 years of service



Nick Morris
Firefighter/Paramedic
15 years of service



Wyatt Swartz
Firefighter/EMT
15 years of service



Rich Osterloh
Firefighter/EMT
13 years of service



Blake Wagner
Firefighter/Paramedic
3 years of service



Jason Shreck
Firefighter/Paramedic
1 year of service

Pictures courtesy of Rader Photography

C-SHIFT



Captain Tom Christensen
Paramedic
24 years of service



Lieutenant Todd Coffey
Paramedic
27 years of service



Mike Schuler
Firefighter/EMT
13 years of service



Tyler Thomas
Firefighter/Paramedic
13 years of service



Darek Schuller
Firefighter/EMT
7 years of service



Rick Schutt
Firefighter/Paramedic
7 years of service



Peter Kafonek
Firefighter/Paramedic
3 years of service

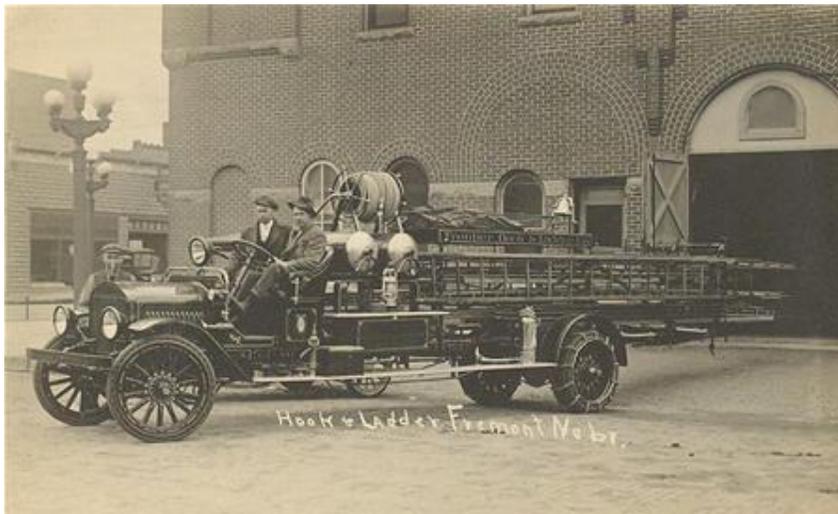


Christian McKenzie
Firefighter/EMT
1 year of service



Zach Toole
Firefighter/EMT
<1 year of service

Pictures courtesy of Rader Photography



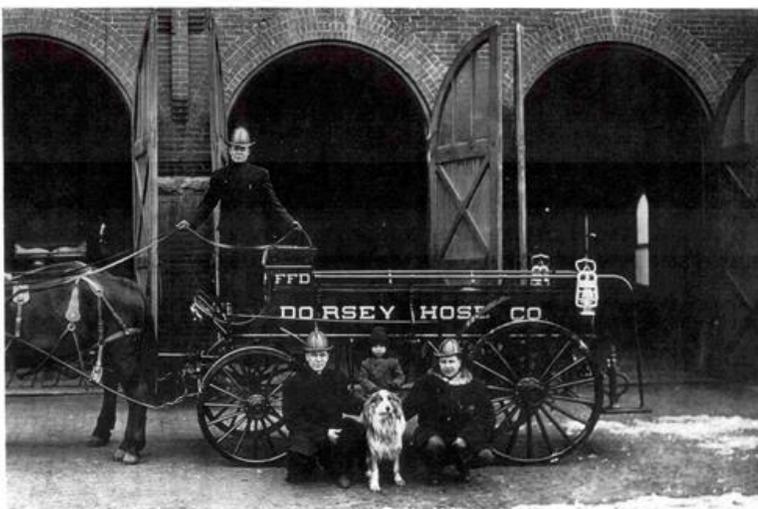
FREMONT'S FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

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:



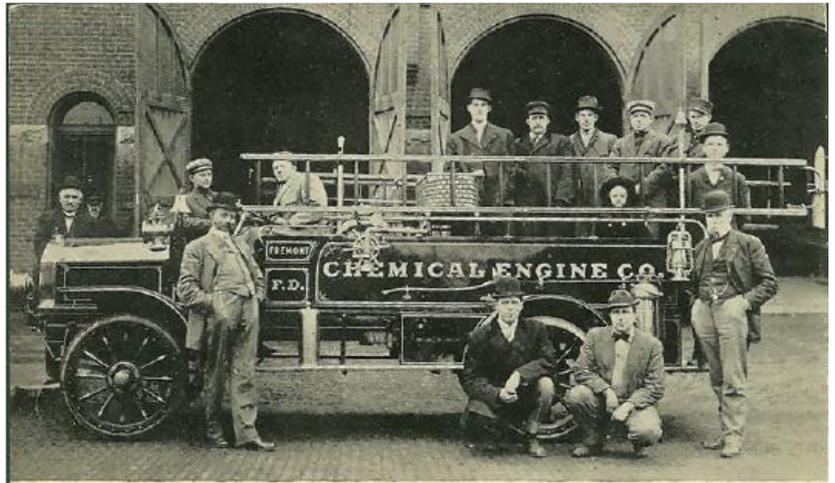
- Frontier Fire Company, November 1868
- Fremont Engine Company, February 1872
- Red Jacket Engine Company, December 1874
- J.C. Cleland Hose Company, 1883
- Mechanic Hose Company, May 1886
- G.W.E. Dorsey Hose Company, May 1886
- W.G. Mercer Hose Company, February 1890

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.



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.

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 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



Structure Fire September 10, 2019



Structure Fire December 12, 2019

Fire Response

Fire Reponses

The department responded to 232 fire related calls. August was the most active month with 27 fire calls. Total fire losses for the year totaled \$952,500.

There were no firefighter or civilian fire related fatalities in 2019. There were seven civilian injuries and one firefighter injury related to fire emergencies in 2019.

The in-town, EMS and fire emergencies, average response time is 4 minutes 22 seconds. The out of town, EMS and fire emergencies, average response time is 8 minutes 51 seconds. Response time is measured from the time the call is received at the fire station, to the time department personnel arrived on the scene.

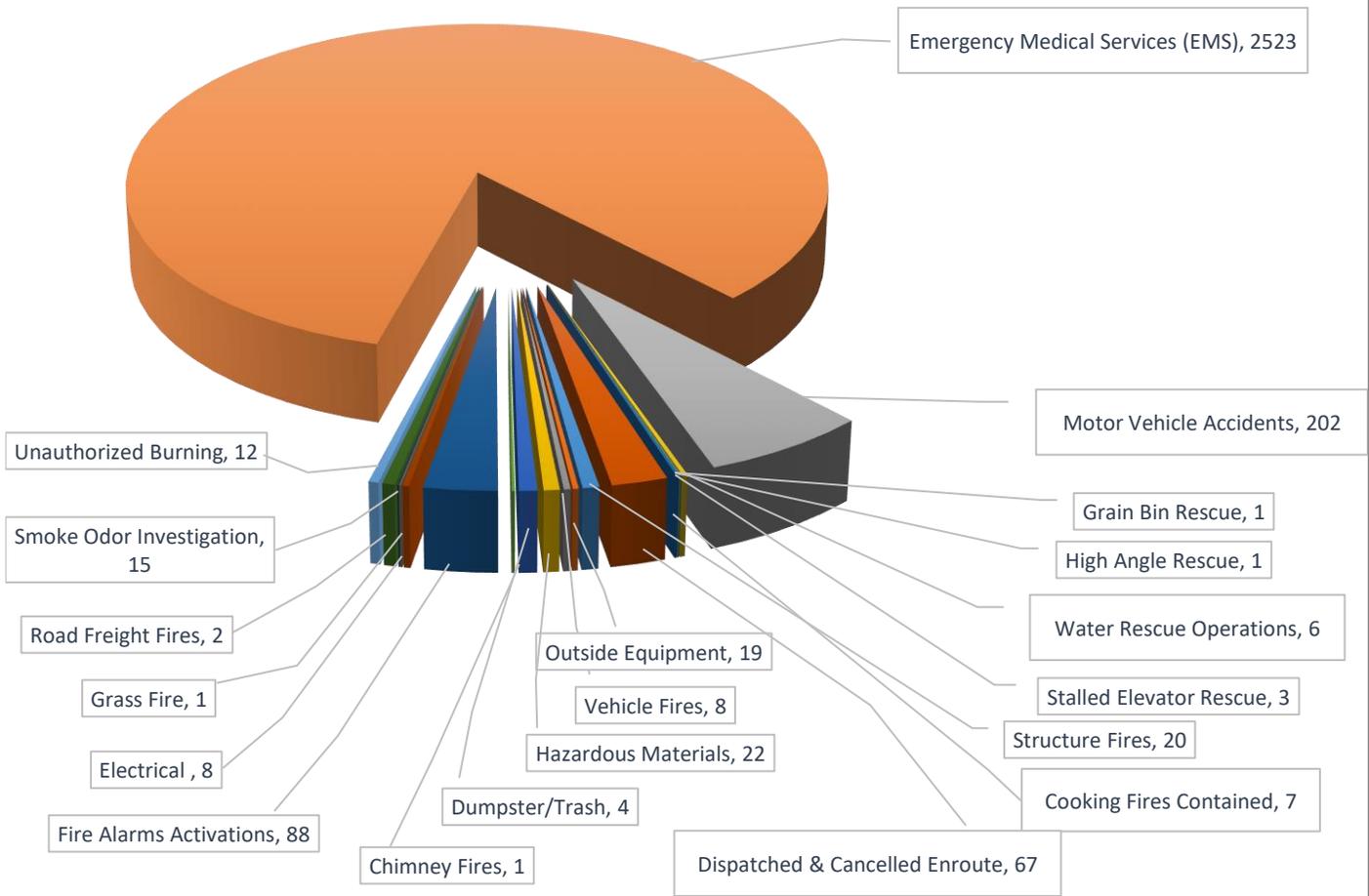
Total fire billing amount for calls collected in 2019 was \$17,496.40. The current fire billing rates are: Engine \$500.00 per hour, Aerial/Ladder Truck \$750.00 per hour, Utility Truck \$200.00 per hour, Command Vehicle \$100.00 per hour, Heavy Rescue \$250.00 per hour, and Mileage \$8.00 per mile per 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.



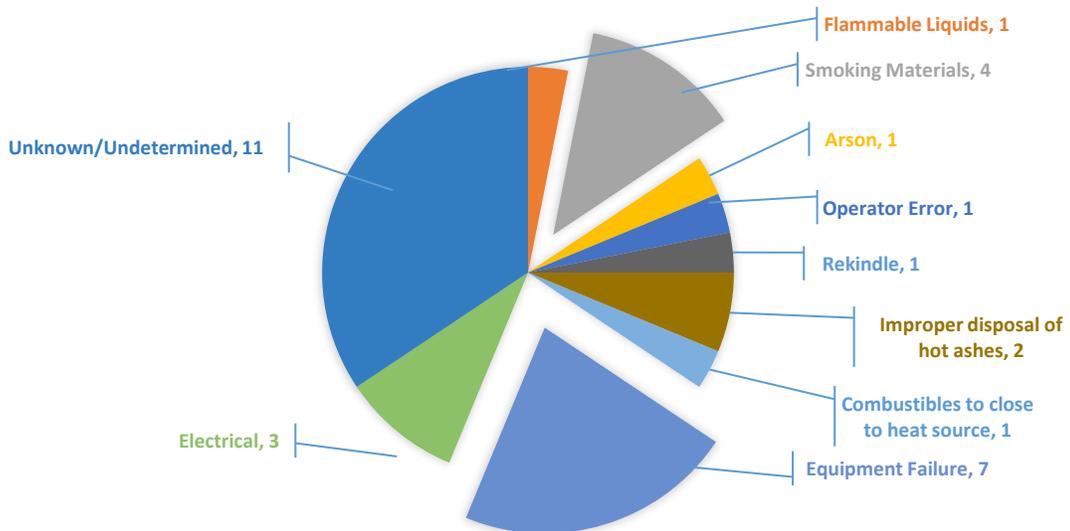
Structure Fire March 12, 2019



2019 Types of Alarms

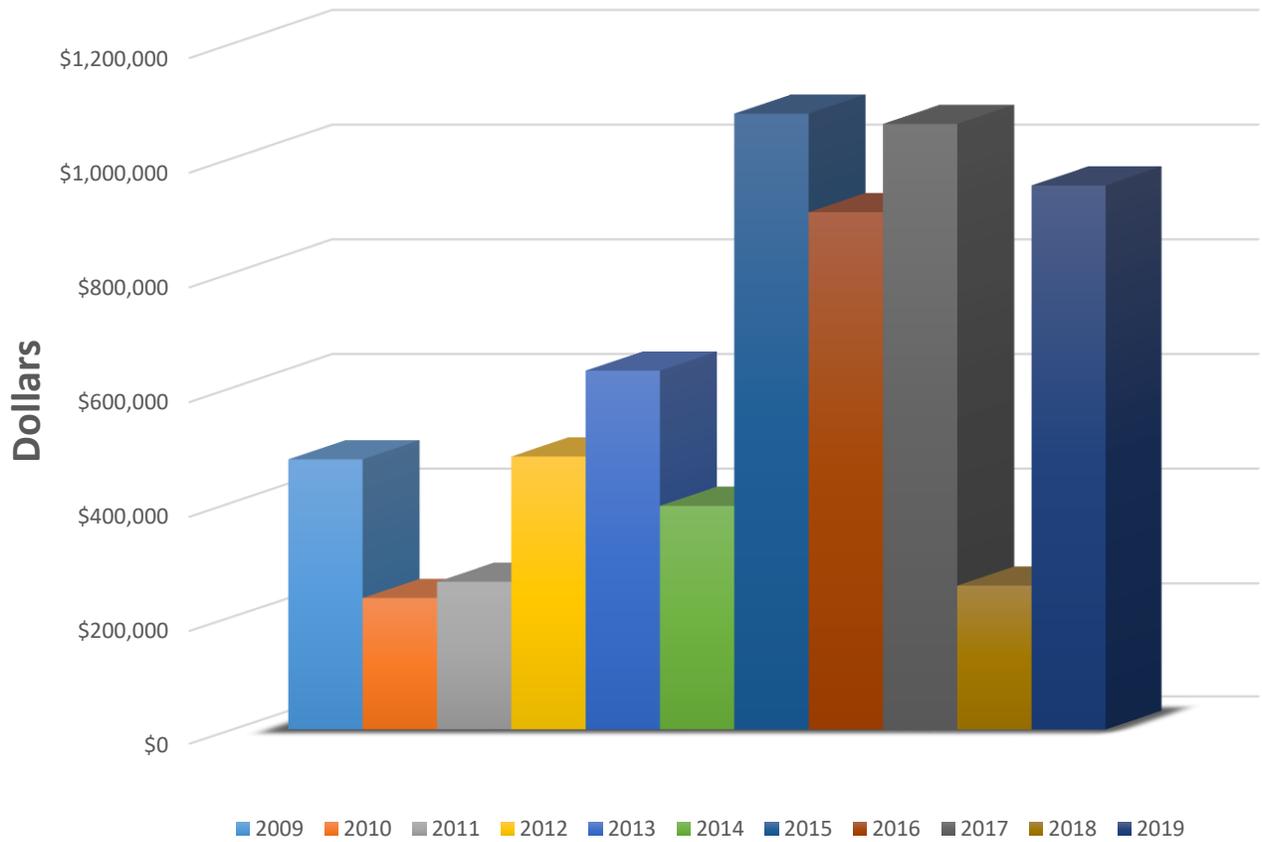


CAUSES OF FIRES

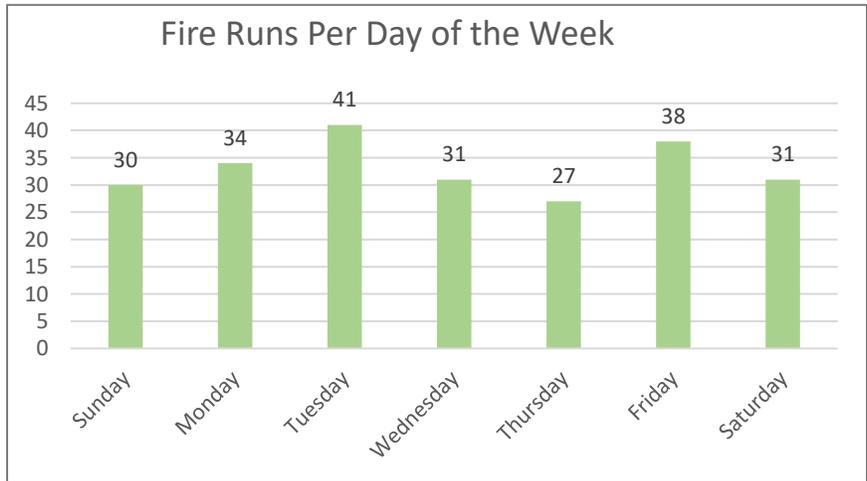
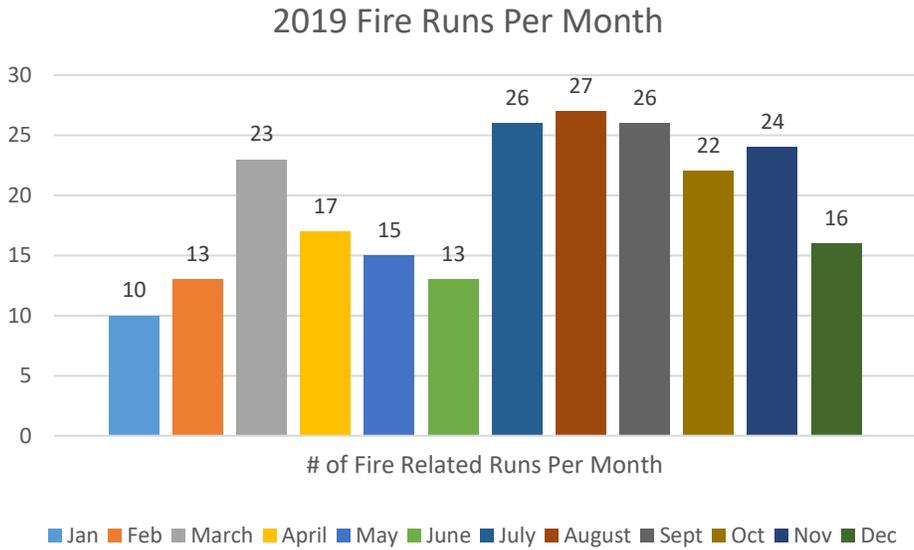
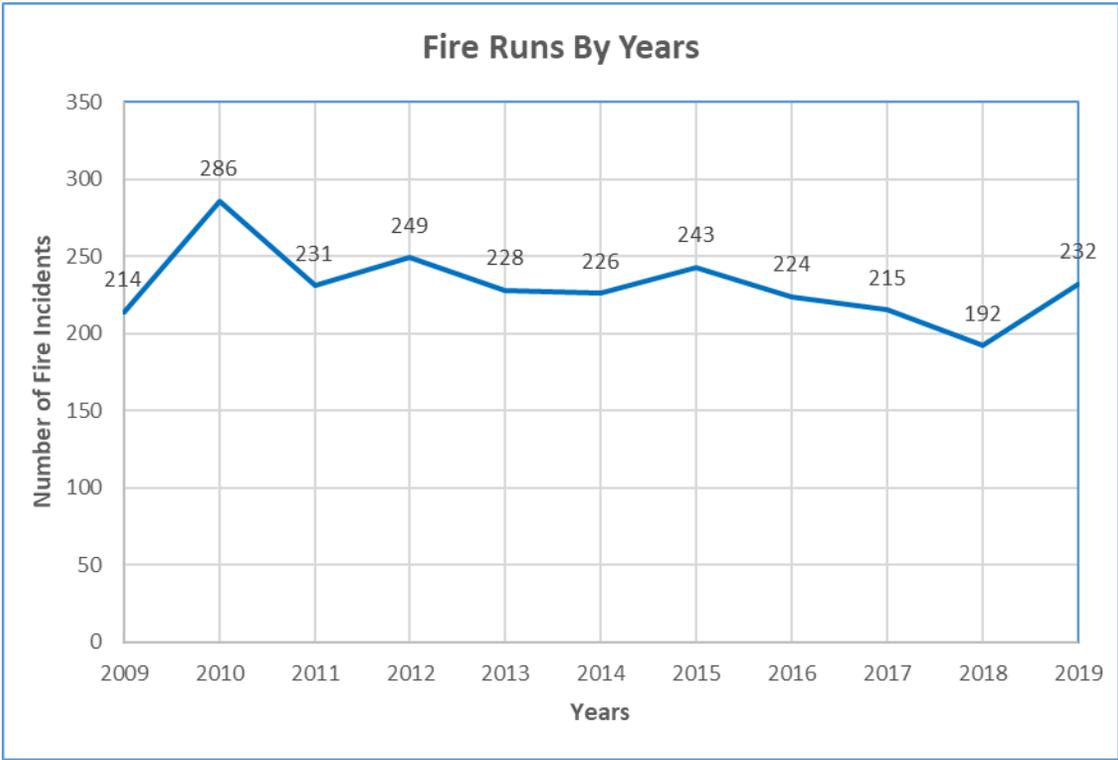


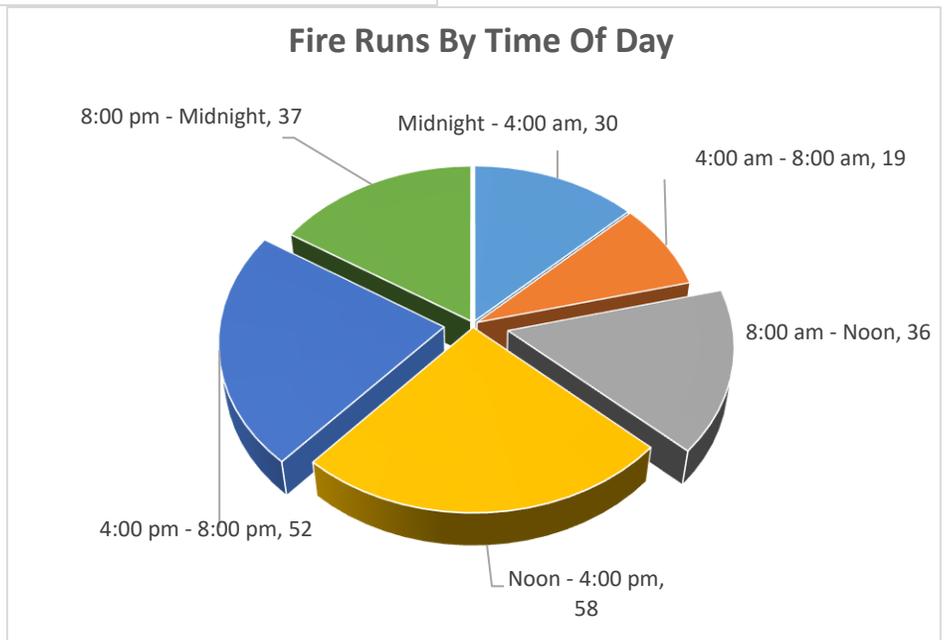
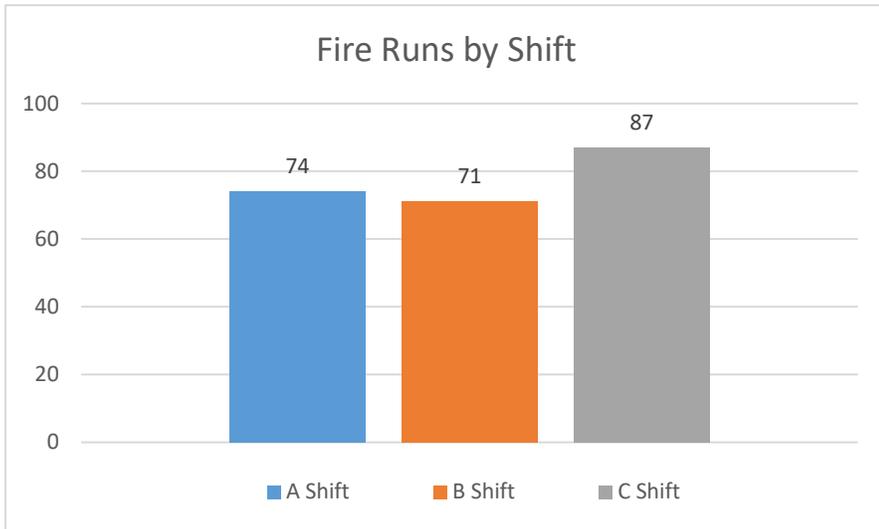
(32 fires requiring extinguishment)

Fire Losses By Year



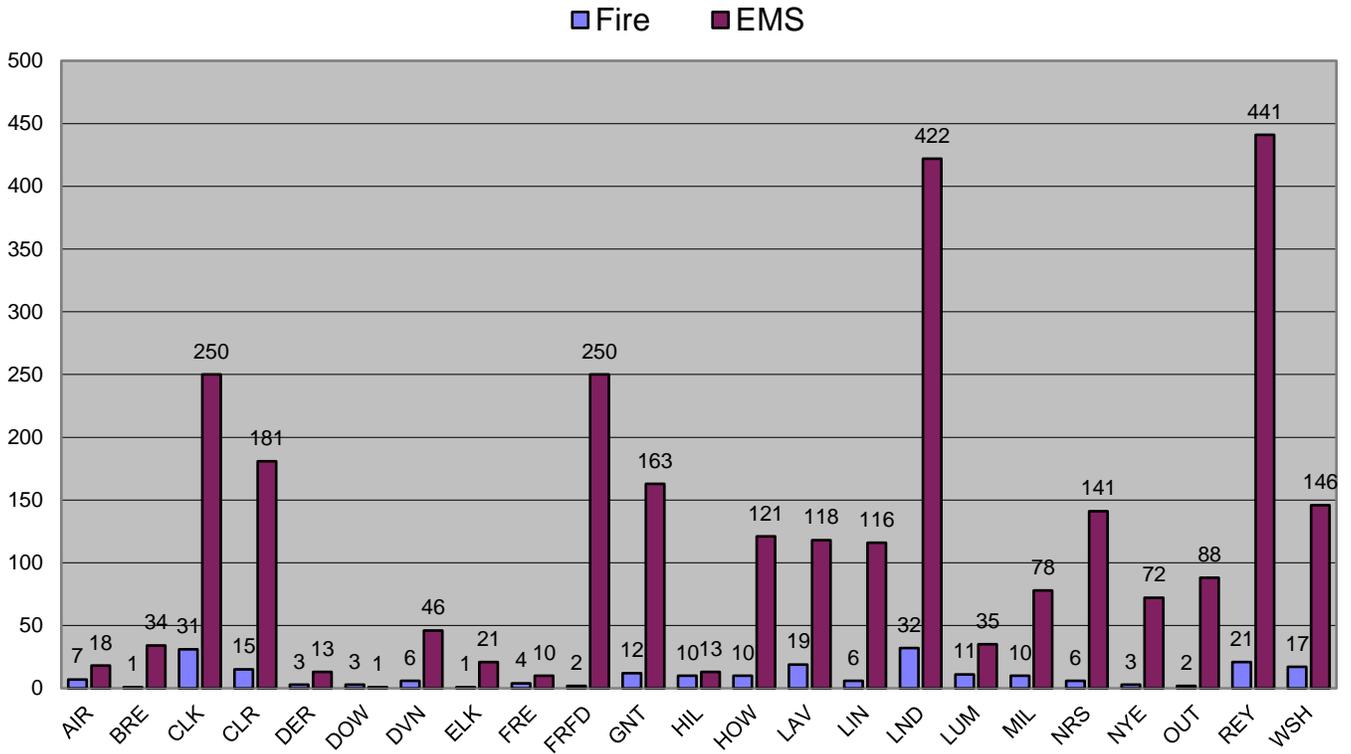
Structure Fire August 22, 2019



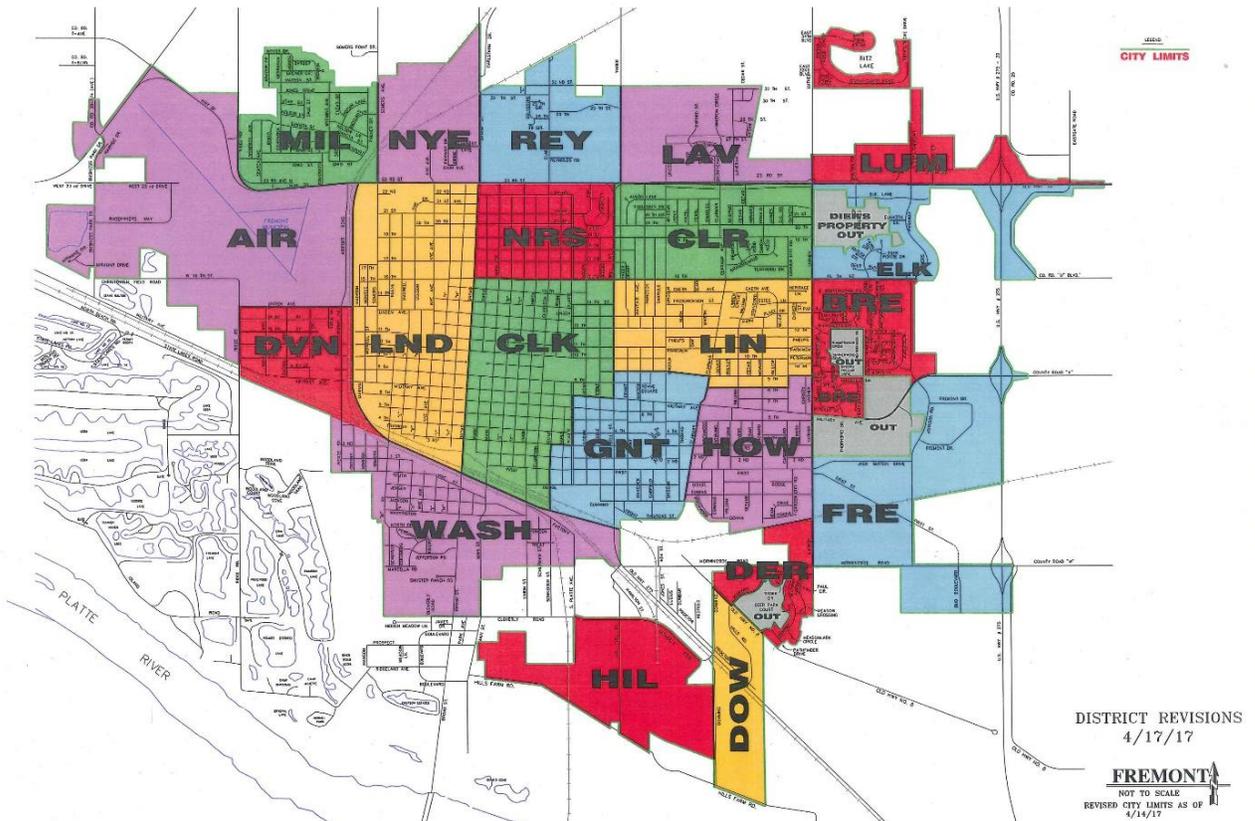


Structure Fire August 6, 2019

2019 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



'Magnificent Seven'

Courtesy Photo

Left to Right: Fremont Firefighter Rich Osterloh, Matthew Baker, Fremont Firefighter Richard Schutt, Wayne Kreifels, Fremont Firefighter Nick Morris, Logan Kahler, and Chris Lichtenberg

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

EMS SERVICE

The Fremont Fire Department's rescue squads responded to 2,778 medical emergencies which included 202 motor vehicle accidents (MVA) and 35 Advance Life Support (ALS) intercepts with area fire departments. The fire department had 3,008 patient contacts. Of the 3,008 patients, 756 were Advanced Life Support (ALS), 1,334 Basic Life Support (BLS) and 918 refused care/transport. The department responded to 42 incidents where the responding units were cancelled enroute. The average patient age was 58.66 years old. December was the busiest month with 277 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 3,008 patient's contacts, approximately 25% received Advanced Life Support (ALS) service.

In 2019, the fire department was challenged in the area of technical rescue. During the March Flooding, the fire department had six operational periods with over 150 individuals rescued from their homes in and around Fremont. In April, they responded to a High Angle Rescue that had one fatality and one rescued. In September, they responded to a grain bin rescue for a recovery.

There was one firefighter who was injured on an EMS related emergency in 2019.

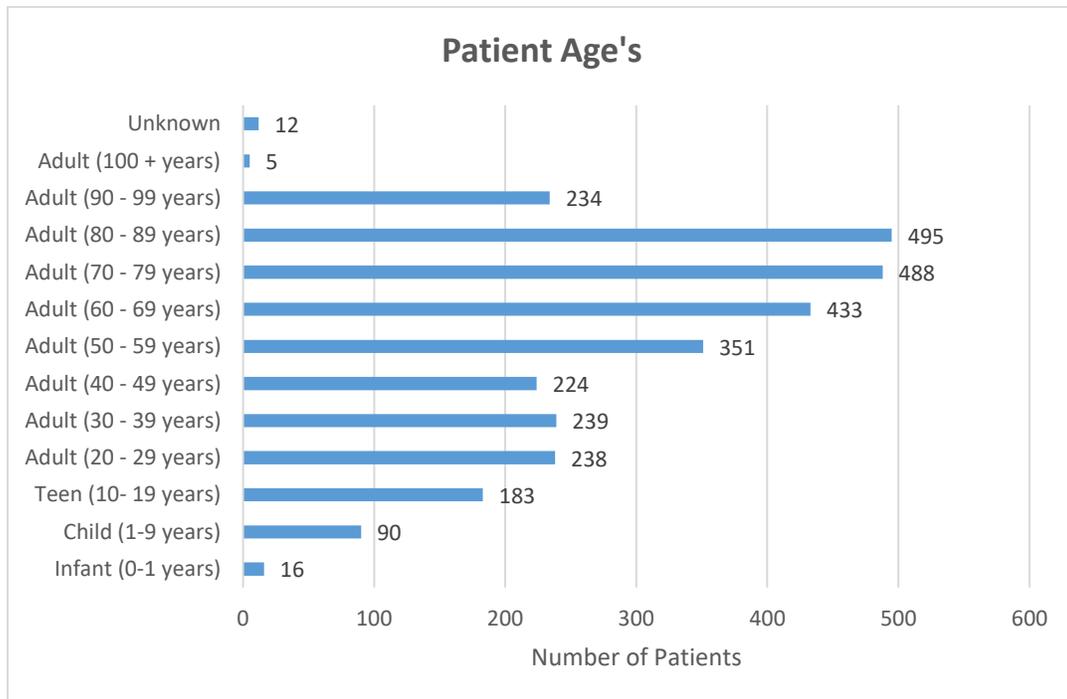
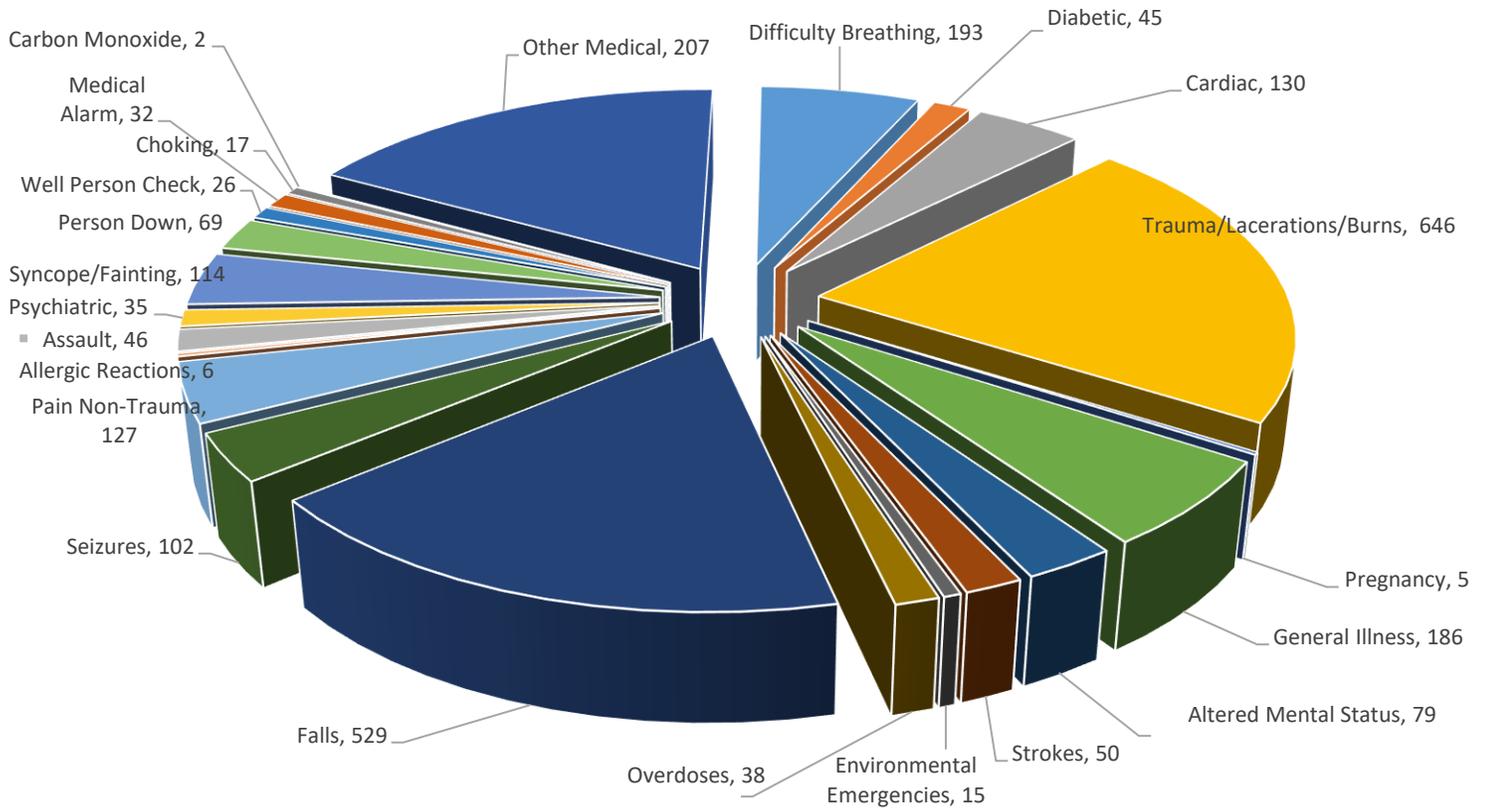


Grain Bin Rescue September 23, 2019

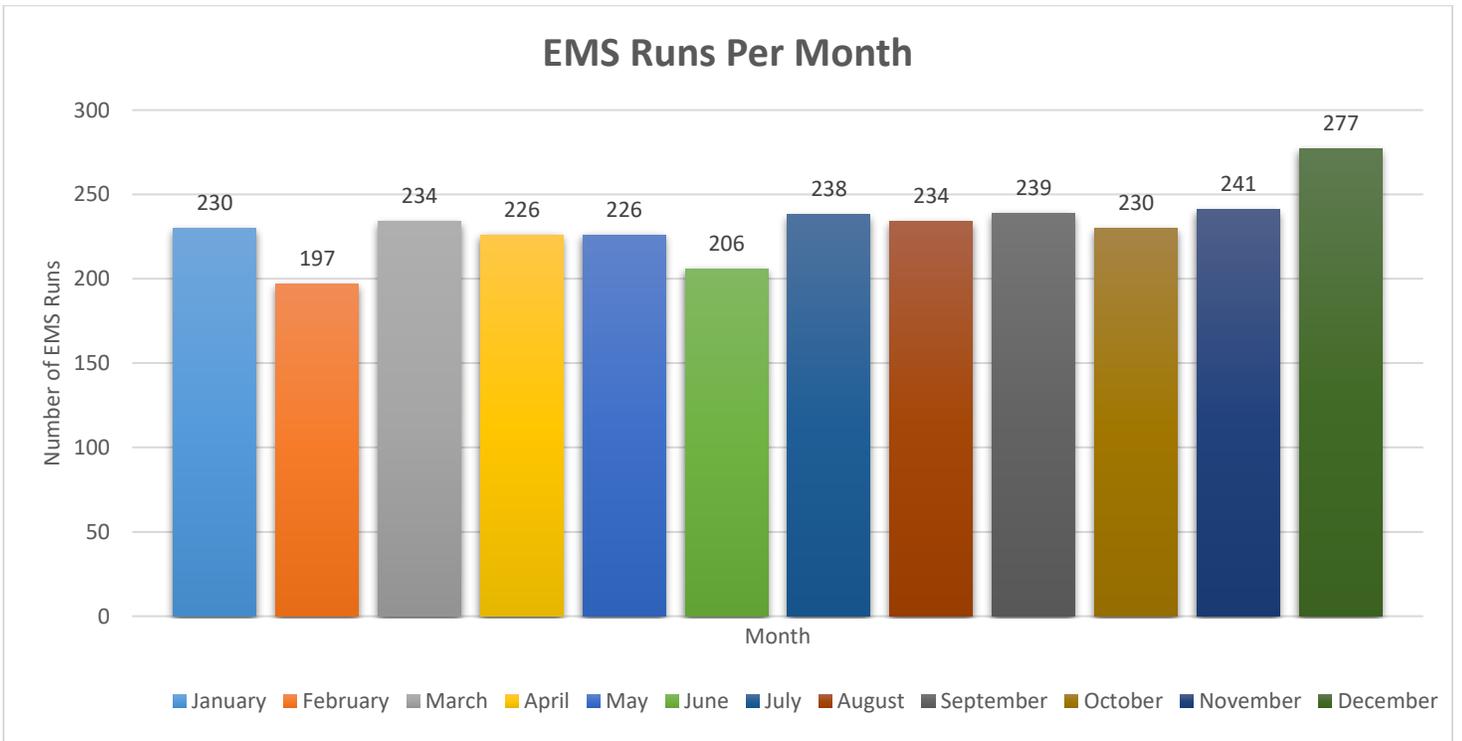
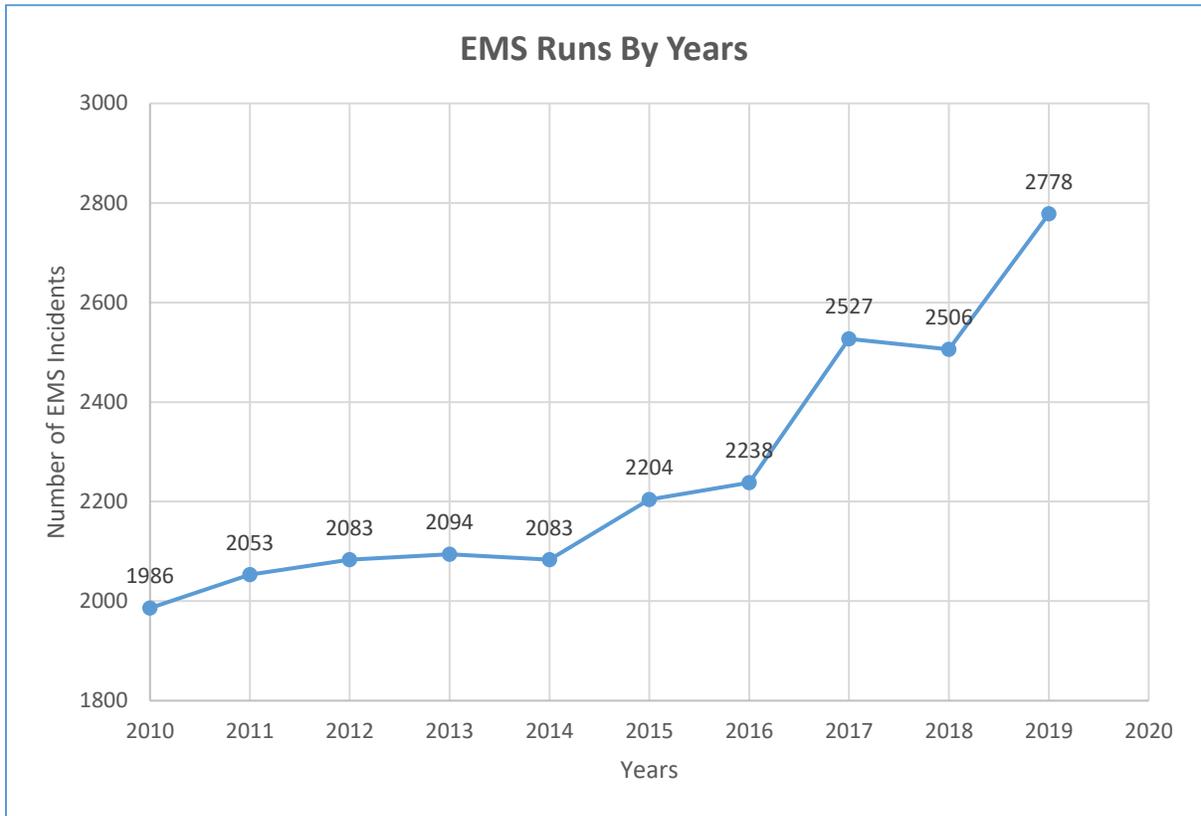


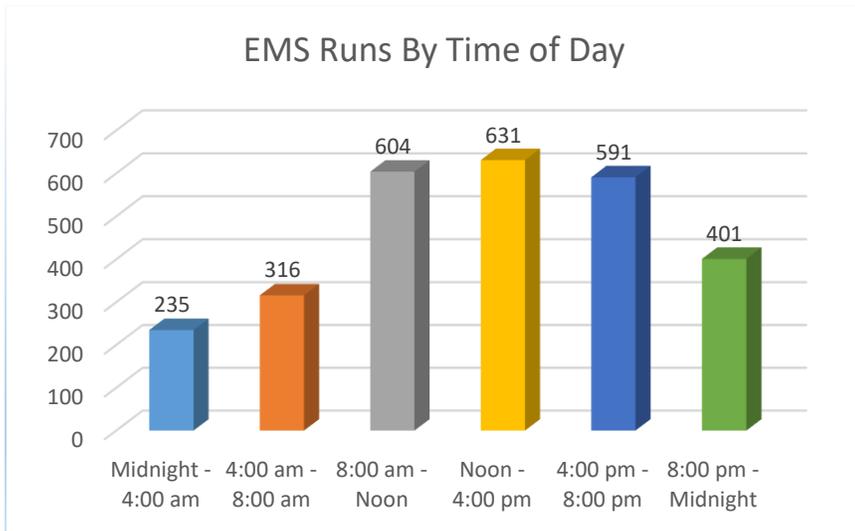
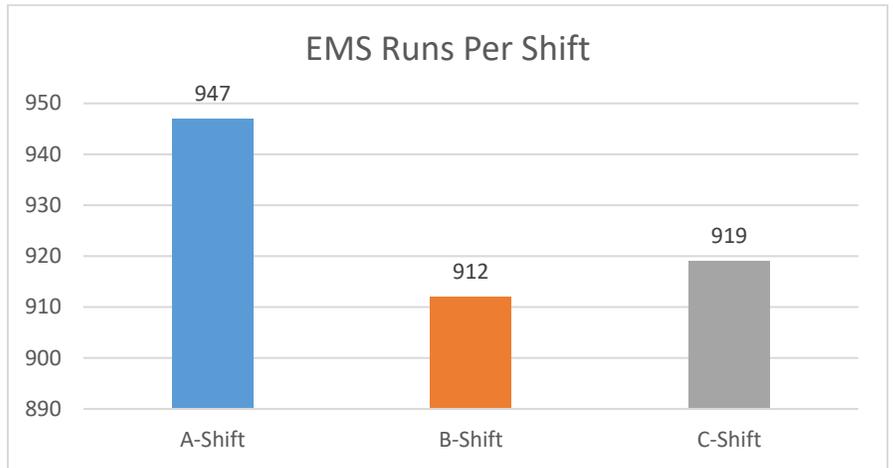
The EMS service provided by the fire department generates revenue through user fees, which are determined by the level of service provided. The Department's current rates are: BLS (Basic Life Support) \$671.00; ALS1 (Advanced Life Support - Level 1) \$805.00; and ALS2 (Advanced Life Support - Level 2) \$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 2019) a total of \$611,980.97 in squad user fees were collected by the City.

Medical Emergencies Types



Average Patient Age: 58.66 years old





Section 4



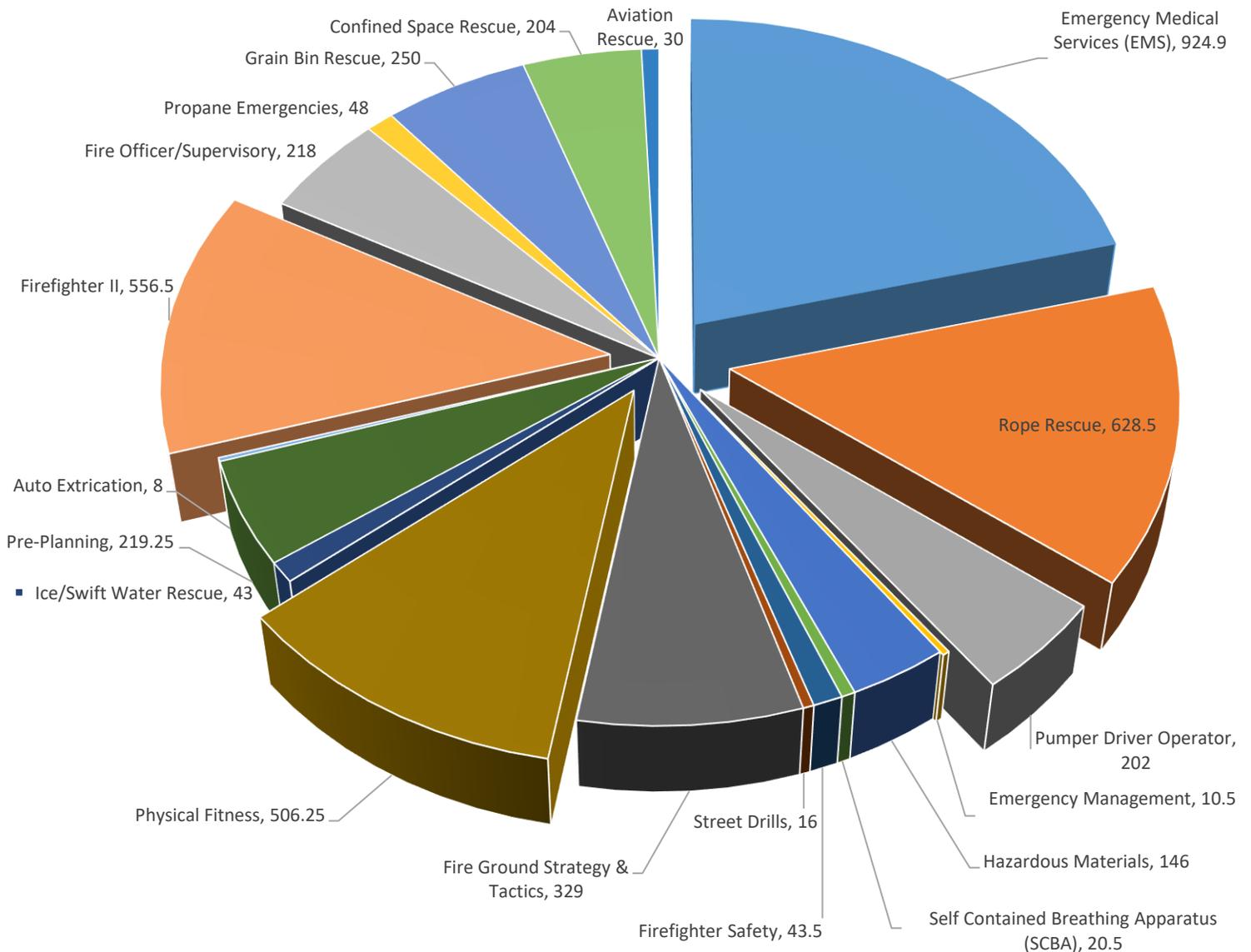
Propane Emergency Training July 2019

Department Training

Department Training

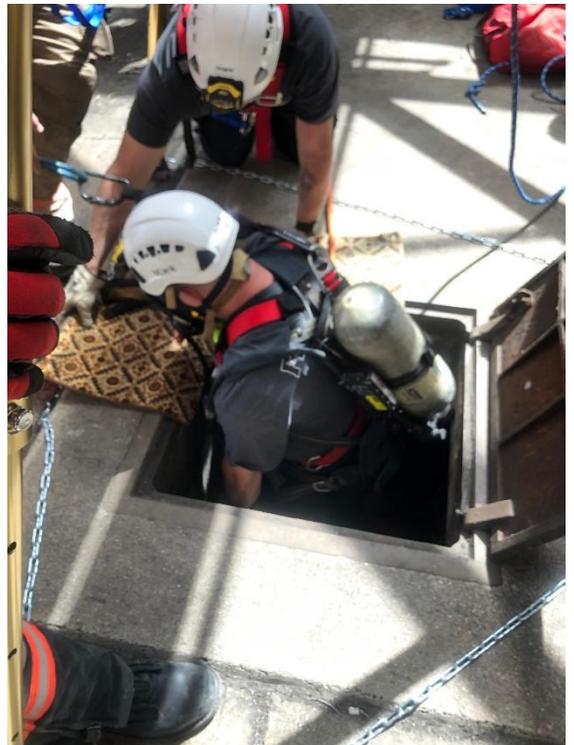
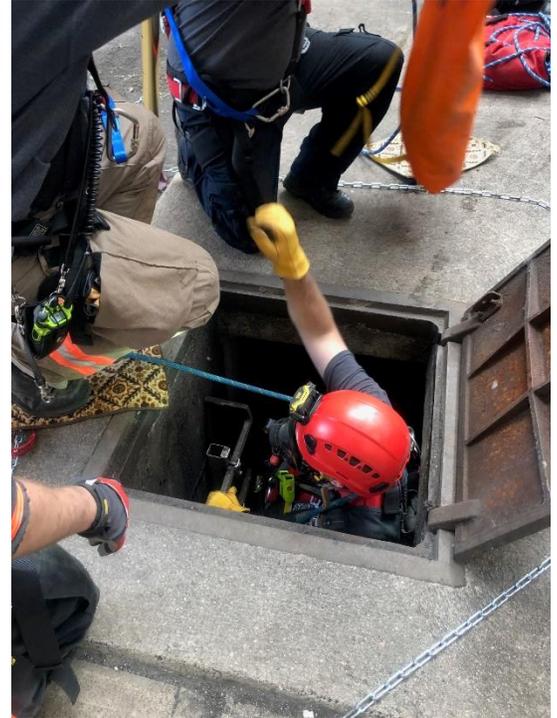
In 2019, department personnel received roughly 4,403.9 hours of training. The training involved various areas dealing with pumper/aerial driver operations, firefighter safety, street drills, auto extrication, building construction, confined space, high angle/low angle rope rescue, emergency medical services (EMS), hazardous materials response, fire ground strategy & tactics, and ice/swift water 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 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 4,403.90 Total Hours

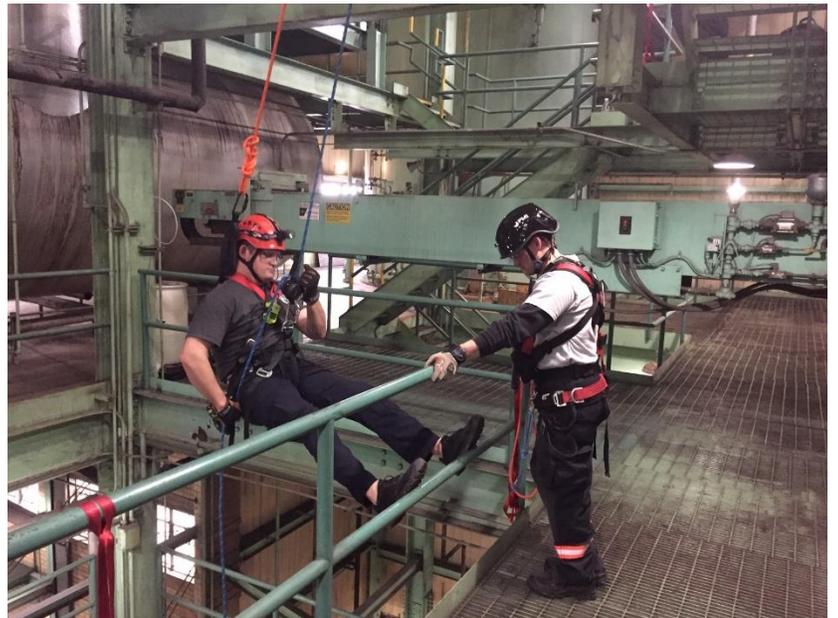
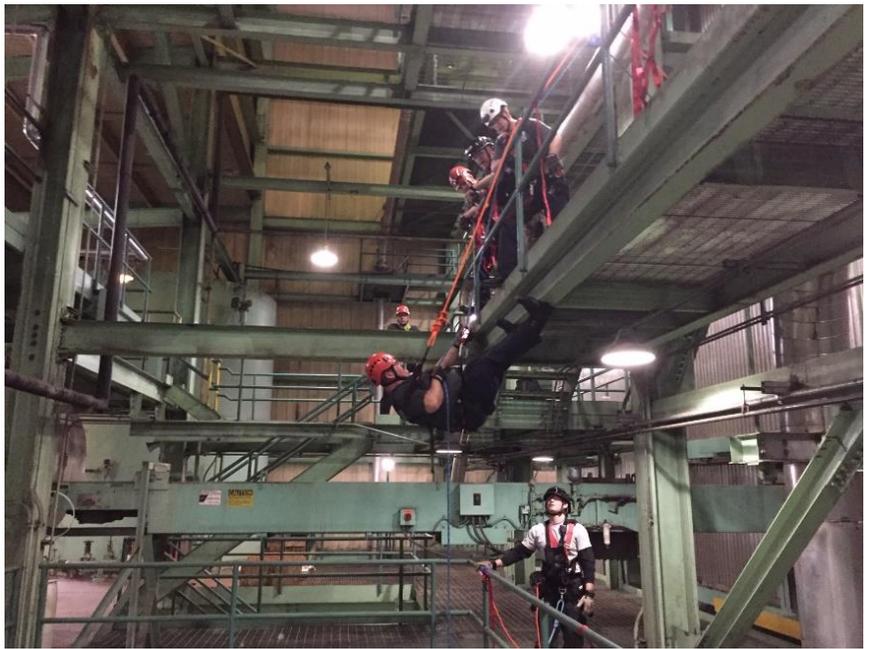


Confined Space Rescue Training

March 2019



High Angle Rope Rescue Training April 2019



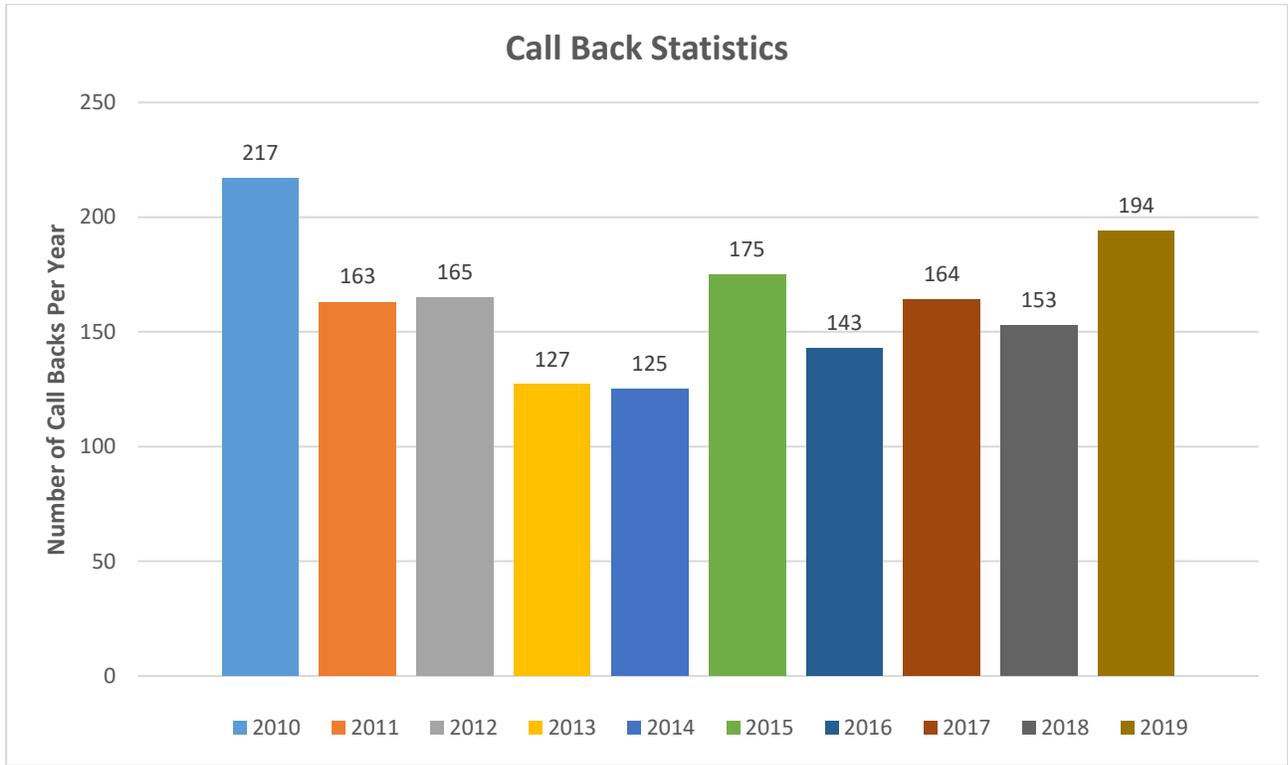
Propane Emergency Training

July 2019



Grain Bin Rescue Training September 2019





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 2019, there were 194 call backs, and there were 18 times when both off-duty shifts were called back.



Aerial Training Downtown, May 2019

Section 5

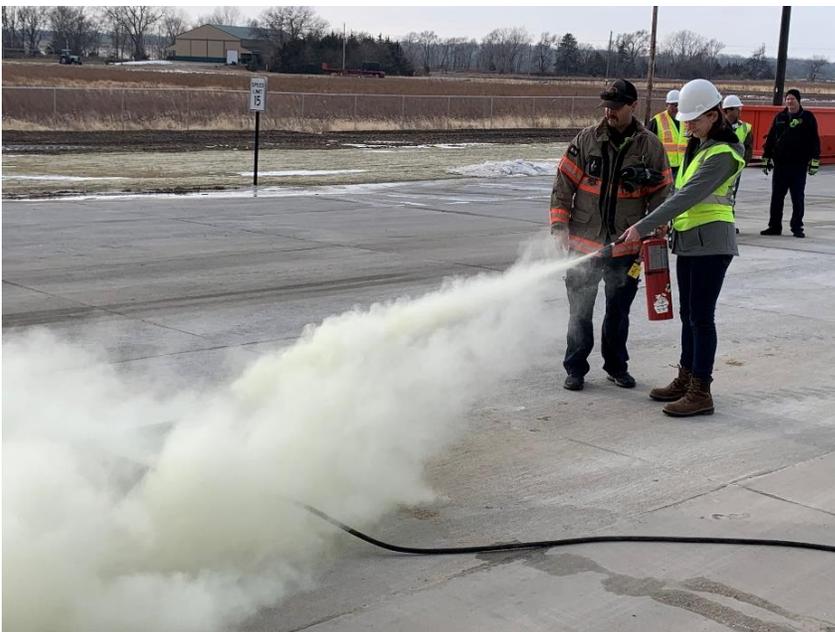
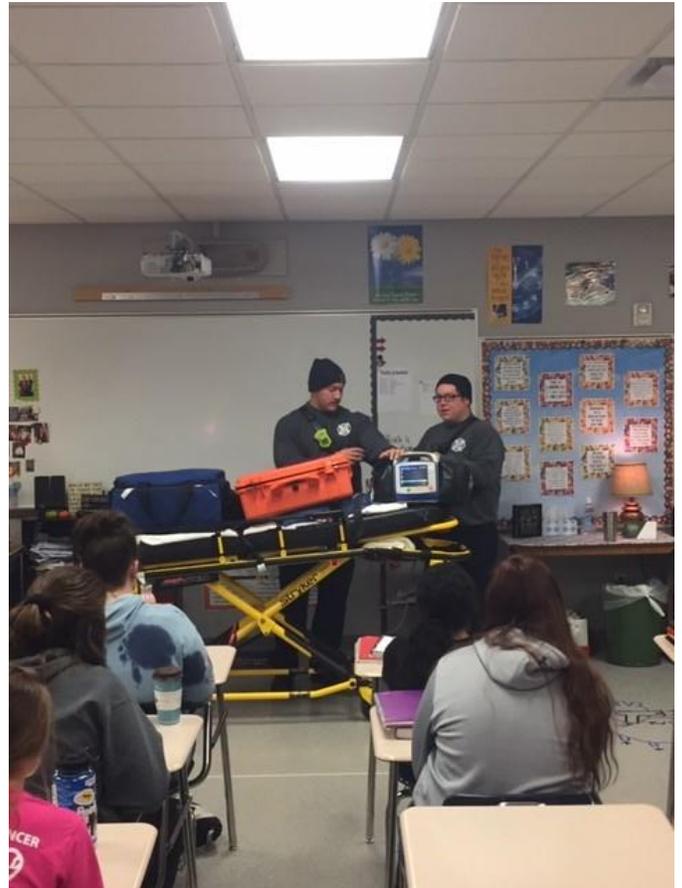


Firefighter/EMT Wyatt Swartz showing firefighting equipment and talking about fire safety with
Milliken Park 1st Graders
April 2019

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 activities include an annual open house, presentations to service organizations, fire drills and puppet shows at the elementary schools, Junior Fire Marshal program, 'Change Your Clock Change Your Battery' campaign, and fire extinguisher classes for area businesses.

Firefighter/Paramedic, Alex Iniguez, and Firefighter/EMT, Tanner Bies, show EMS equipment to the Fremont High School Health Science Class. February 2019



Fire Extinguisher Class with Lincoln Premium Poultry Staff, December 2019. Firefighter/Paramedic, Blake Wagner, with a Premium Poultry Employee.

Fire Department Open House, October 6, 2019.



Figure 1 Used by permission





Figure 3 used by permission

Figure 2 used by permission

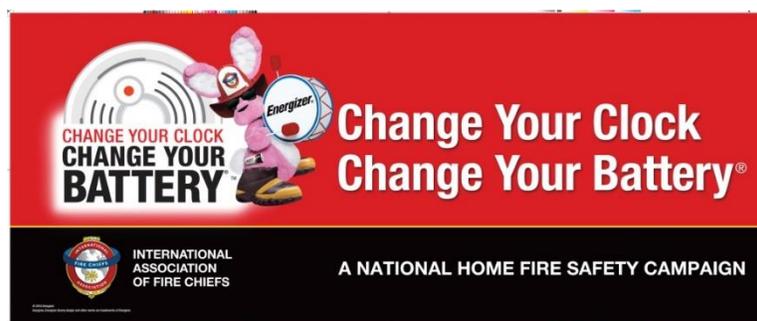
The Junior Fire Marshal Program is for all Fremont kindergarten through fourth grade students. The students are given a 'Home Safety Checklist' to take home. With the help of parents/guardians, together they go through their home looking for fire hazards and correcting the problem for a fire safe home. 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 percentage of 'Home Safety Checklist' returned, are awarded the traveling 'Junior Fire Marshal Program' trophy for the year. The 2019 school with the highest returns was Clarmar School with 83%, other schools returns are Grant 36%, Trinity 38%, Milliken Park 14%, Howard 26%, Bergan Elementary 28%, Linden 24%, Bell Field 13%, and Washington 4%.

The fire department works with State Fire Marshal Office members, accompanying them on inspections of various local businesses. In 2019, department personnel logged roughly 219 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 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 25 brand-new USA made coats for a number of students attending Linden Elementary School. The children were all sized ahead of the coat distribution assuring a proper fit for the winter.

More than 15 members of the Fremont Professional Firefighters Association Local 1015 volunteered their time to raise over \$7,000 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.

Among all Nebraska IAFF locals, Fremont IAFF members had the highest average per member with \$291 per member.

The Muscular Dystrophy Associations (MDA) spirited 'Fill the Boot' campaign is an honoured 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.

The International Association of FireFighters (IAFF) Historical Society entry for John C. Fremont's Days won 'Best Historical Entry'.

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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