



2017 FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

PRIDE | INTEGRITY | RESPECT

"This past year was exceptional across all divisions of the Fire Department – we are excited to continue building on our recent successes through 2018"

On behalf of the members of the Fairfield Fire Department, I am pleased to present the 2017 Annual Report. This past year was nothing short of a challenge, but at the same time, an incredibly rewarding year for the department. Many employees stood out above the rest and demonstrated truly exemplary performance. We saw some remarkable careers come to a close while other careers with very bright futures blossomed. We were fortunate enough to promote 18 department members and hire ten new employees.

This report highlights our greatest accomplishments and provides an overview of the impressive diversity in service that we provide to this community while reflecting on the exceptional men and women who are the faces of the Fairfield Fire Department.

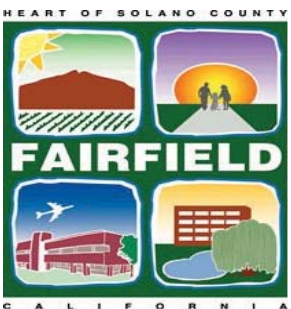
As Fire Chief, I am proud of the Fairfield Fire Department, its members, and our dedicated service both within the community and beyond city limits extending across the entire state of California.

RESPECTFULLY,



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

- FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR**
BATTALION CHIEF LARRY PALMER
- FIREFIIGHTER OF THE YEAR**
FIRE ENGINEER DONNY BIRO
- RESERVE FIREFIIGHTER OF THE YEAR**
RESERVE FIREFIIGHTER BILLY MOFFETT
- FIRE DISPATCHER OF THE YEAR**
WENDY REYNOSO
- CERT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**
GLENN MUNN
- EXPLORER OF THE YEAR**
NATHAN RASMUSSEN



HOW WE STACK UP

In 2017, we responded to a record high of 12,794 calls, averaging more than 35 per day. District 37/District 38 are home to the busiest fire station in Solano County, with its first arriving units responding to 4,631 calls. We expect company response from this station to once again fall within the top 100 busiest in the U.S. for Firehouse Magazine's annual run survey this summer.



FIRE FACTS

POPULATION:

Fairfield – 113,532
Solano County – 413,786

PROTECTS:

Fairfield – 40 sq mi
Solano County – 909 sq mi

STATIONS: 5

STAFFING:

18 Firefighters

STAFFING RATIO:

Averages 1 on-duty firefighter for every 6,307 residents

JURISDICTION:

Agriculture – 4%
Commercial – 30%
Residential – 66%

SHIFTS: 3

BUSIEST MONTH:

October – 1,188 In-Service calls

IN SERVICE:

(6) Engine Companies

CERT MEMBERS: 14

RESERVE FIREFIGHTERS: 10

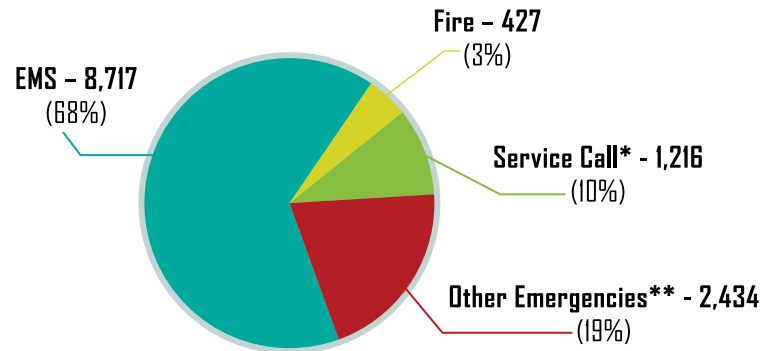
NEW HIRES – PREVENTION:

Fire Inspector I – Trent Herron
Fire Inspector I – Alicia Hulett

NEW HIRES – SUPPRESSION:

Firefighter/Paramedic – Greg Bounds
Firefighter/Paramedic – Andrew Fink
Firefighter/Paramedic – Blake Dombrowski
Firefighter/Paramedic – Ryan Hughes
Firefighter/Paramedic – Luke Cox
Firefighter/Paramedic – JT Hoyle
Firefighter/Paramedic – Chase Diaz
Firefighter/Paramedic – Elliott Blanton

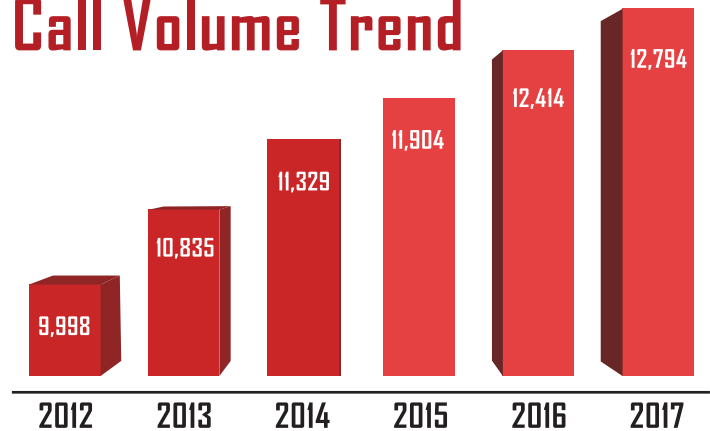
CALL VOLUME BY INCIDENT TYPE



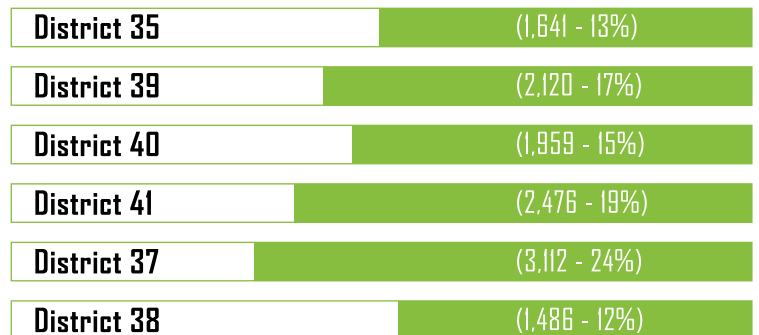
*Service calls include False Alarms and Public Service Calls

** Other Emergencies include Motor Vehicle Accidents, Hazardous Conditions, Calls Cancelled En Route and other Miscellaneous Calls

Call Volume Trend



9-1-1 CALLS BY DISTRICT



DEPARTMENT FRAMEWORK

VISION

With a commitment to exceptional customer service, our vision is to be a progressive fire department in pursuit of a safer community. We aspire to have a highly trained, well-equipped workforce that is prepared to respond to all current and future needs of those we serve.

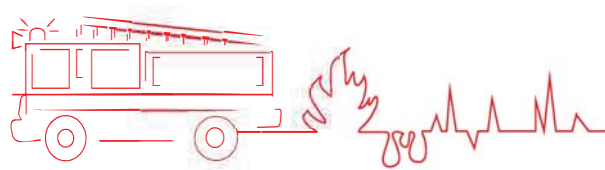
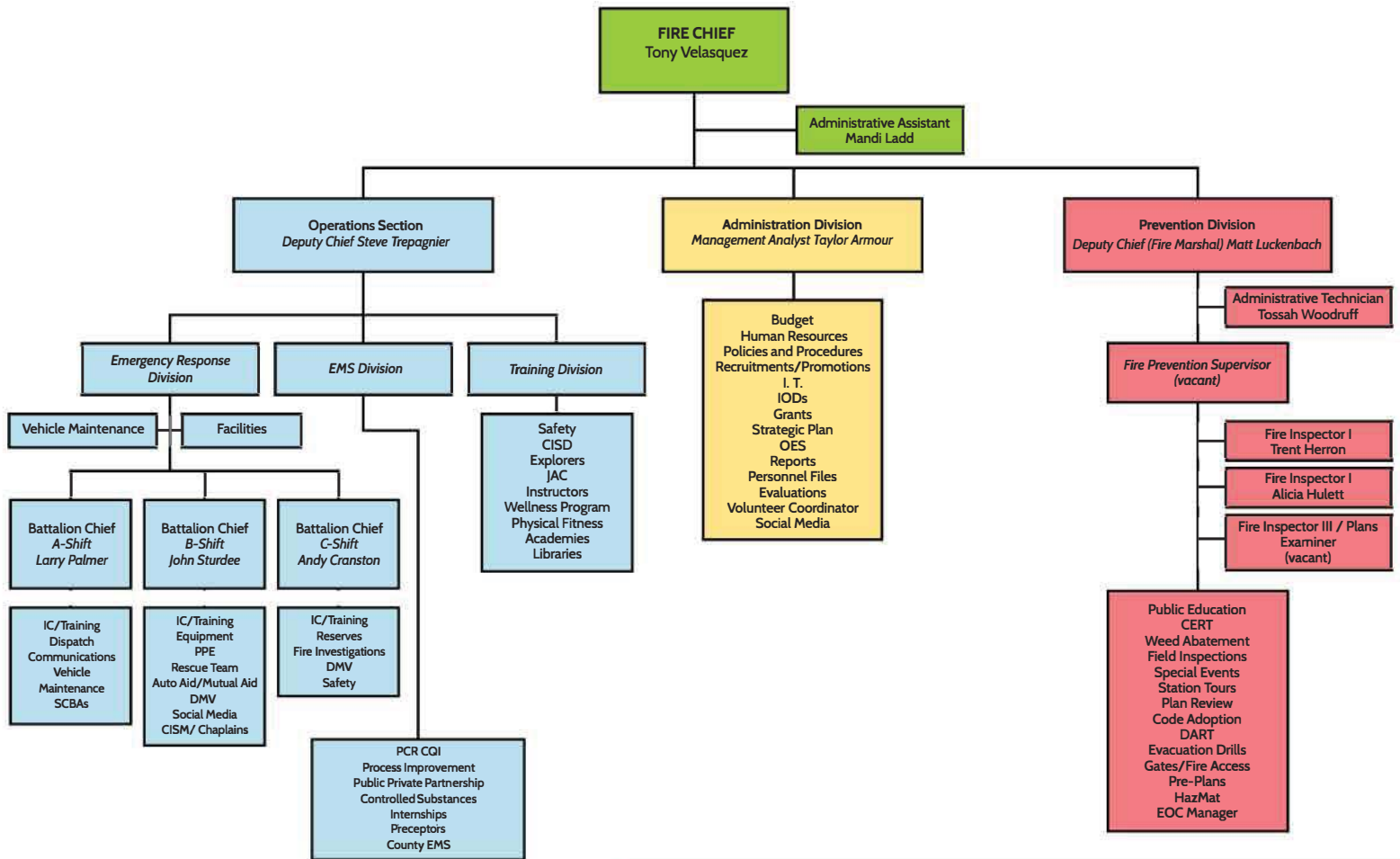
MISSION

The department's mission is to provide quality emergency services by highly trained and motivated professionals.



Fairfield Fire Department

Organization Chart & Responsibilities



EMS Response

On average we ran **24** medical calls per day in 2017

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

"Having the 6th company back in-service has been a huge win for the department"
- Fire Chief Tony Velasquez

In 2016, Fairfield Fire was awarded \$1.2M in funding for four full-time firefighters over a two-year period through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program, more commonly known in the fire service as "SAFER". The performance period for the grant began on February 3rd, 2017 and will run through February 3rd, 2019. The additional funding has enabled the department to operate two full-time engine companies out of Fire Station 37, which led to the establishment of District 38.

By increasing staffing, we have been able to increase crew coverage out of the busiest station in both the City and County, improve OSHA and response time compliance, and reduce the need for engines to respond out of district. In addition, re-opening a 6th company has enhanced the department's ability to conduct training while on-duty and provide greater coverage during special events and high-hazard days without expending overtime. With a 6th company, the on-duty crews have also had more time to devote to community engagement programs such as public education, tours, and demonstrations.



BEHIND THE SCENES

On October 3rd, 2017 the Fairfield Fire Department received Council approval to update our fee schedule and rebuild the Fire Prevention Division to include four full-time employees.

Fire inspections had not been performed on an annual or regular basis due to inadequate staffing post-recession since 2011, which compromised the safety of the public and Fire Department personnel. The department contracted out to conduct a cost of service study for the long-lost prevention activities. The purpose was to determine the appropriate staffing level required to complete all fire prevention activities as well as the corresponding fee schedule increases allowing for 100% cost recovery. The primary financial goal of the division is to become self-sustaining so that services within the community aren't threatened during times of economic hardship.

It takes time to rebuild a division from the ground up, but the department will ideally have all four positions staffed and providing services to the community by the end of 2018. We are proud to already have two new inspectors in the field interacting with the community as of year-end 2017.





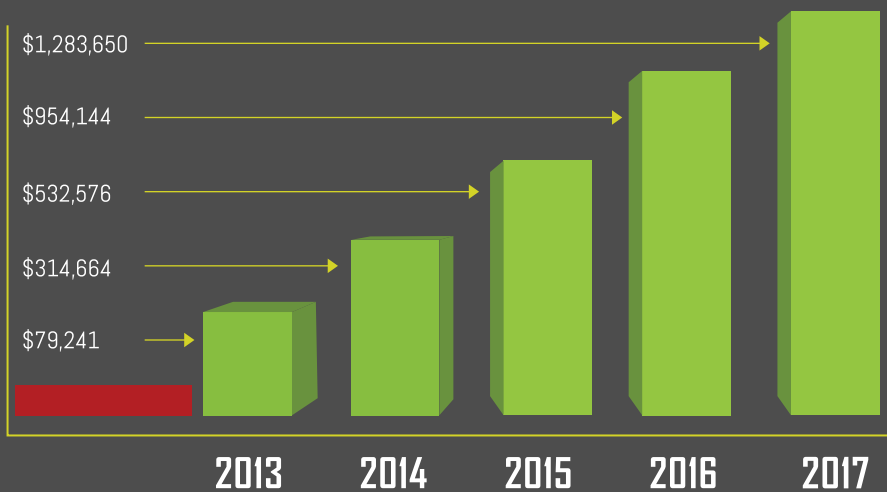
RECORD-BREAKING NEWS

The 2016 fire season set records of its own, but nothing compares to the devastation and cost that swept up and down the state all the way through the end of 2017. After a winter of torrential rainfall, fast burning fire fuel was abundant by the time we reached July.

Blazes across California scorched 710,708 acres. We proudly supported the state by deploying strike teams and single-role paramedics to 16 incidents, contributing nearly 7,500 hours of firefighter labor. Of labor hours spent outside Solano County, 41% were attributable to campaign fires occurring after October 1st. Historically, fire season is over by the end of October, but in 2017 we had strike teams in southern California right up to Christmas Eve.

By the end of FY 17/18, we expect to receive close to \$1.3M from the California Office of Emergency Services for costs incurred in 2017. Reimbursement for 2017 was 35% greater than the prior year and more than double what we saw in 2015.

CAMPAIGN FIRE PARTICIPATION ACROSS CA – IN DOLLARS



OVER 20 YEARS IN THE MAKING

After over 20 years at a 'temporary station' in the City's western-most District 35, Fairfield Fire was proud to move into the new Station 35 at the beginning of 2017. The new station, built by Discovery Homes, is located at 600 Lopes Road and serves the Cordelia and Green Valley neighborhoods. Considered "guardians of the corridor", the new station is strategically located to easily provide fire and rescue services along I-80 and I-680. The station is home to Engine 35 and Brush 35 but also houses the Solano County HazMat trailer.

Fire Station 35 had its grand opening ceremony and open house in June 2017. Hundreds of residents braved heat and wind as they shuttled in from Rodriguez High School to enjoy station tours, our obstacle course, Smokey and Sparky, goodie bags, and a photo booth. Following a brief grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony, guests were welcome to talk with firefighters and snap photos with their favorite rigs. The grand opening was a huge success and we plan to alternate between Stations 37 and 35 for future open houses.

HITTING CLOSE TO HOME

"I've spent my entire career in the fire service and had never been part of an incident quite like this one"
- Battalion Chief Larry Palmer

On October 8th, we woke to horror stories of the firestorm in Sonoma County. On October 9th, one of three major fires burning in the region, commonly known as the Atlas Fire, crossed over from Napa into Solano County. By October 11th, the City had fully staffed its Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Several neighborhoods in the City were one wind event away from uncontrollable wind-whipped flames and embers, not unlike those that obliterated parts of Santa Rosa a few days earlier. In addition to assembling a strike team to report to the incident from the Napa side of the ridge, we maintained firefighter upstaffing within city limits through the week. Thankfully the wind event anticipated never arrived.

The EOC activation was successful, which was no doubt the result of a coordinated effort across all departments. One month following the incident, employees convened for a debrief session to discuss what went well and where we could improve. All departments were thankful for the outpouring of community support during the incident as employees navigated chaos during what was for many, a first-time experience staffing an EOC.

The Atlas Fire represents over 22% of total anticipated reimbursement for 2017 at \$300K.



FIRE FACTS

- » 265 fire inspections performed
- » \$5.08M in estimated property and contents loss recorded
- » 29 personnel claims filed for injury on duty
- » 10,061 hours of training logged
- » 95 Red Cross-provided smoke detectors installed in Fairfield homes by on-duty firefighters
- » 543 grant-funded smoke/CO detectors given away at Fire Admin to Fairfield residents in need
- » 0 City-owned AED deployments were reported
- » 80 City employees trained on AEDs
- » 10 successful field saves
- » 12,794 calls for service received through dispatch
- » 28% represents the increase in call volume over five years
- » 26% of fires were wildland, a 16% decrease over 2016
- » 5.78 minutes is the average response time for all apparatus



TRAINING GROUND – PRACTICE MAKES PERMANENT

“One of our goals for the department is to eventually have a dedicated Training Officer who can give this vital division the attention it deserves”
– Deputy Chief Matt Luckenbach

Following the recession, training was one of the hardest hit areas of our budget. However, we know training is critical to firefighter safety and their ability to safely execute daily operations and as such, we have done everything within our power to reduce department vulnerability given limited financial resources.

Over the past year, the department has continued to support our US&R and Fire Investigations teams as well as many individual requests for conferences and trainings across all divisions of the organization. Fairfield Fire seeks every opportunity to reduce out of pocket costs by taking advantage of regional collaboration and grant funding that allows us to bring in outside instructors to teach larger groups.

In 2017, we logged 10,061 hours of training which represents a 49% increase in hours over 2016. Training will continue to be a priority in 2018 and the department is looking forward to the grand opening of its very own training tower later in the year.

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

In July of 2017, the Fairfield Fire Department was notified of a grant award through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. The regional award for the replacement and standardization of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) is hosted by the City of Vacaville Fire Department and was four years in the making. Although Vacaville and Fairfield Fire spearheaded the proposal and initiatives through the years, the regional award amounting to \$1.7M also covers five other Solano County departments, including Cordelia, Vacaville Fire Protection District, Montezuma, Rio Vista, and Suisun City.

Clean, breathable air is required to carry out our most basic missions—search/rescue and fire suppression. The new equipment, expected to arrive summer 2018, will replace SCBAs ranging in age from 17-20 years old that are in desperate need of replacement. Funding this project will immediately improve firefighter safety and confidence on the fire ground by eliminating risks posed by aging, unreliable equipment.

The overall project cost for Fairfield Fire is valued at nearly \$370K, but we will only be responsible for a department match of roughly \$35K.

- 93 9-1-1 calls in Fairfield required aid from other agencies, an 18% decrease over 2016
- 296 responses were to the aid of neighboring jurisdictions
- 36% of calls came from Districts 37 and 38
- 8,717 patients received care or assistance as the result of an EMS call for service
Station 37 units responded 6,374 times and were the primary on-scene 4,631 times
- 427 fires extinguished by the department
- 17,674 followers across all social media
- 520 calls for service were related to the City's homeless population, with 76% being medical in nature
- 710,708 acres burned in California
- 242 Public Safety Academy students received CPR training, 4.25 times the number taught in 2016
- \$563,918 in grant funding awarded



FINAL THOUGHTS

Despite increased call volume and economic challenges, Fairfield Fire has continued to deliver high quality service in this community. As a department, we have made significant strides in the past 12 months and vow to continue building on these achievements as we endeavor to maintain the highest standards of public service.

With forward-thinking and progressive leadership, the department is thoughtfully laying the groundwork for long-range planning and developing financial sustainability for generations to come. We are grateful to you, our citizens, for the constant support and encouragement we receive as we navigate changes in the fire service with limited resources. In turn, we pledge to never waiver in upholding our longstanding tradition of dedication and service.

2018 GOALS

1. Fire Training Tower at 1633 Union Avenue

- a. Conduct neighborhood outreach
- b. Demolition, site prep and construction
- c. Launch public information campaign
- d. Host ribbon cutting and 'Media Day'

2. New Apparatus

- a. Send apparatus committee for final inspection at manufacturer
- b. Take possession of (2) Type V brush units
- c. Take possession of (2) Type I fire engines
- d. Fully equip and in-service by summer 2018 in time for fire season
- e. Place existing vehicles beyond useful life out of service
- f. Improve front-line emergency response

3. Fully Staff Prevention Division

- a. New Inspectors to complete Fire Inspector I Series
- b. Recruit for Supervisor & Fire Inspector III/Plans Examiner
- c. Fire Inspector III/Plans Examiner to complete training if applicable
- d. Finish year fully staffed and prepared to operate at capacity

PROMOTIONS

- Deputy Fire Chief, Matt Luckenbach
- Battalion Chief, Andy Cranston
- Fire Captain, Nick Eisan
- Fire Captain, Jessica Fleshman
- Fire Captain, Tony Prado
- Fire Captain, James Velasco
- Fire Captain, Chris Fleshman
- Fire Captain, Kyle Smith
- Fire Captain, Don Yoo
- Fire Engineer, Donny Biro
- Fire Engineer, Ben Nielson
- Fire Engineer, Tony Tynes
- Fire Engineer, Lorin Adams
- Fire Engineer, Bryan Mihelich
- Fire Engineer, Robbie Engell
- Fire Engineer, Ashley Burruss
- Fire Engineer, Casey Morse
- Fire Engineer, Mike Rudolph

RETIREMENTS

- Deputy Fire Chief, Jorge Merodio
- Fire Captain, Bob Stoffel
- Fire Captain, Bill Limneos
- Fire Captain, Tony McCahon
- Fire Engineer, Rick Pauline
- Fire Engineer, Ted Collins
- Senior Fire Mechanic, Jim Higgins

