



BLOOMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
2017 ANNUAL REPORT



“Dedicated to Our Community, Our Profession and Each Other”

Since 1868

MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the Bloomington Fire Department is protecting life and property; minimizing the impacts of fire, medical emergencies, and other natural or man-made disasters without subjecting our personnel to unreasonable risk. Our mission is accomplished through public education, fire prevention, code enforcement, fire suppression, emergency medical services, hazardous materials mitigation and fire investigation. We are dedicated to completing our mission in a competent and professional manner."

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

I am honored to present the Bloomington Fire Department's 2017 Annual Report to Mayor Tari Renner, members of City Council, and the citizens of the City of Bloomington. Fire Departments around the country are faced with a variety of challenges, and Bloomington is no exception. I would like to thank all of the hard working men and women of the Bloomington Fire Department for helping to meet these challenges.

One of City Council's top five priorities is to reduce emergency response times. Staff has made significant changes in the deployment of department resources to more efficiently and effectively meet our community needs. These changes have had a significant impact on the improvement of response times over previous years.

The ability to make effective change is based on the capacity to track and research historical data to assess the community risk, and possessing the field experience necessary to predict future needs and make strategic decisions. The department has utilized the same records management software since 1999. The software, although robust in its day, lacked the ability to easily extract information to assist with the decision making process. Throughout the past year the department has been implementing a new record management system that will improve our ability to research and report data, meet the electronic patient care reporting requirements and improve our medical billing process. As we move forward we will continue to evaluate our community risk and make informed strategic decisions to improve the overall safety of our community.

This report highlights the work that is being done on a daily basis by our dedicated staff, both sworn and civilian, to best serve our community's needs. I think you will find this report informative, and truly show how active our department is planning, preparing and responding to emergencies for our community.

Lastly, on behalf of the entire fire department staff, I would like to thank you for your continual support and trust.

Respectfully,

Brian M. Mohr

Fire Chief



WHO WE ARE AS A CITY & AS A FIRE DEPARTMENT

Bloomington Fire Department is a Fire/EMS service that provides protection to the City of Bloomington, Illinois. The department is a full time department that operates out of 5 fire stations. The department runs in 3 shift platoons, with shifts working 24 hours and off 48 hours. From the 5 fire stations throughout the city, the Bloomington Fire Department operates 3 Engine Companies, 1 Truck Company, 2 Quints, 1 Battalion Chief, 4 ALS Ambulances, 1 EMS Supervisor, HazMat unit, and an ARFF unit. The Engines, Trucks, and Quints are manned with a Captain, Engineer, and Firefighter. Members of the department are trained to the FFII certification with many at the FFIII certification. Bloomington Fire Department provides the ambulance service for the City of Bloomington and operates 4 ALS ambulances. Each ambulance responds with two Paramedics, or a Paramedic and Intermediate provider. The department also has 1 EMS Supervisor, who is a Paramedic that operates in an ALS equipped non-transport SUV. Ambulance personnel are also firefighters and respond on fire calls with the fire apparatus. These members can be used for suppression or can be assigned EMS.

Bloomington Fire Department provides both fire and EMS mutual aid to fire departments throughout McLean County. The majority of mutual aid is providing EMS intercept services with several of the rural ambulances that are located outside of Bloomington. These intercepts allow a BLS ambulance to be upgraded to an ALS ambulance. The department also provides the Hazardous Materials Response Team for the City of Bloomington, McLean County and several surrounding counties. Bloomington Fire Department is a member of Illinois Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). The Bloomington Fire Department hazmat team is recognized as the MABAS Division 41 hazmat team, and is deployable throughout the state or country through the MABAS organization.

The City of Bloomington is approximately 27 square miles located in the central part of Illinois. Bloomington is the seat of the county government for McLean County. McLean County is the second largest county by area in the State of Illinois, being only smaller than Cook County. The population of McLean County in 2015 was 173,166. The City is classified as an Urban Community, this is based on the population, 78,500 residents, and being fully covered by a municipal hydrant system.

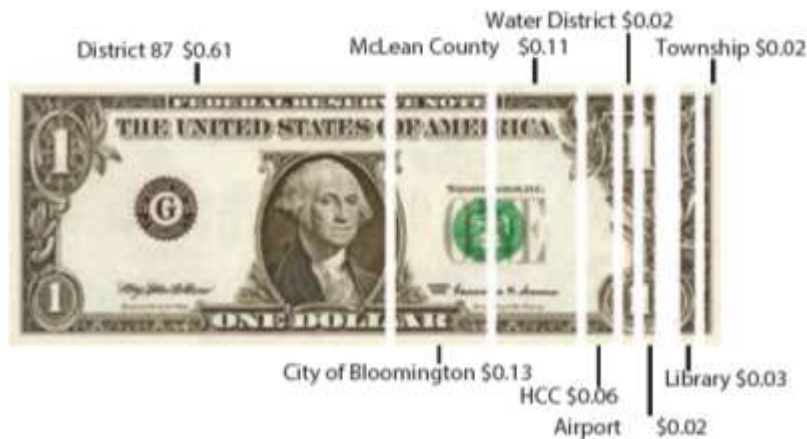
Bloomington is mainly a white collar community with a few industrial complexes located within the city. The city is truly known as a farming community, with almost all the land surrounding the city being used for farming. Bloomington is home of State Farm Insurance which has two large campus's that we protect along with Country Insurance and Country Financials home office's. Illinois Wesleyan University is also located in Bloomington. Bloomington is a twin city to Normal, Illinois which is home to Illinois State University. Two interstates, Interstate 55 and 74, and two major US highways are covered by the Bloomington Fire Department. Both Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern have rail lines that run through Bloomington. Amtrak does operate on the Union Pacific line. Union Pacific also has a small railyard located in the city. The Central Illinois Regional Airport is located in Bloomington. There are several commercial flights operated by Delta, American Airlines, and Allegiant Airlines in and out of the airport on a daily basis. There are also several private planes that use the airport on a regular basis. FedEx also operates aircraft out of the airport. As stated above Bloomington is the seat of county government. Both the county courthouse and the county jail are located in the downtown area of the city.

ANNUAL FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Budget History

2014	\$12,825,366.00
2015	\$13,202,299.00
2016	\$12,699,253.00
2017	\$14,288,258.00

For every \$1 in property tax....



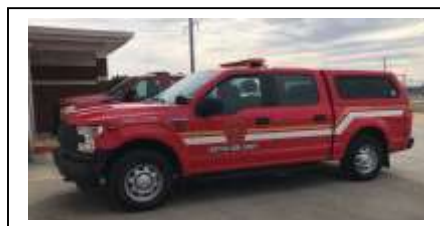
The City of Bloomington receives 13 cents for every dollar of property tax paid. Of this 13 cents, the Bloomington Fire Department receives 4 cents. When you look at a \$1000 tax bill, this would equate out to \$40. Approximately 30 percent of the property taxes collected by the City of Bloomington are allocated to the Fire Department Budget. The rest of the Fire Department Budget is made up of various local taxes and the revenue collected for ambulance services. With this funding, the citizens of Bloomington are provided the following services by the Bloomington Fire Department.

- 24 Hour emergency response provided out of 5 fire stations.
- Paramedic level Emergency Medical Care provided by 4 ambulances and 1 EMS Chase Vehicle.
- Fire response from 3 Engines, 2 Quints and 1 Truck company.
- Technician Level Hazardous Materials Response
- Special emergency operations such as Ice Rescue, Auto Extrication and Elevator rescue.
- Fire and Arson Investigation
- Public Education and Prevention

ANNUAL FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

2017 Budget Expenditure Highlights

- E-One Fire Engine to replace a 2000 Pierce Dash
- Ford F-150 Battalion Chiefs Vehicle to replace a 2007 Ford Expedition
- Replacement of a Cardiac Monitor
- Striker power EMS cots
- Outdoor Warning Siren replacement
- Cardiac Chest Compression Device (Lucas)
- Improvements to the station training rooms



Budgetary Projects for 2018

- Maintenance Coordinator Van will replace a 2006 Ford F-150
- The replacement of a fire truck
- Replacement of Cardiac Monitors
- The replacement of EMS-1.

PERSONNEL



Sworn Personnel

Fire Chief	1
Deputy Chiefs	2
Battalion Chiefs	3
Training Officer	1
Public Education Officer	1
Captains	18
Engineers	21
EMS Supervisors	3
Firefighters	59

Civilian Employees

Maintenance Coordinator	1
Office Manager	1
Support Staff IV	2
Data Analyst	1

Total Staffing
114



RETIREMENTS, PROMOTIONS & NEW EMPLOYEES

The following personnel were promoted or assigned to new positions on 2017.

Promoted to the rank of Captain



Scott Cheeseman
05/18/17



Cory Matheny
08/06/17



Mark Langellier
11/10/17



Gene Berkley
11/26/17

Assigned to the position of Training Officer



Captain Carl Reeb
05/15/17

Assigned to the position of Engineer



Jason Anglin
05/27/17



Mark Langellier
05/26/17



Tim Baer
11/10/17



Kevin Kutchma
11/26/17



EMS Supervisor
Paul Sudlow – 08/21/17



Management Analyst
Paul Alferink – 01/17/17



Fire Investigator
John Powell – 01/22/17

The Bloomington Fire Department would like to welcome 8 new employees that started their career with the Bloomington Fire department during 2017.



5/15/17 – Chris Moore **C-Shift**



11/13/17

A-Shift

- Daniel Norkiewicz
- Shayne Whitehorn
- Steve Somerfield

B-Shift

- Grant Smith
- Daniel Kray
- Thomas Conley

C-Shift

- Kyle Tieman

RETIREMENTS, PROMOTIONS & NEW EMPLOYEES

The Bloomington Fire Department would like to recognize the five individuals that retired in 2017. Thank you for your service to the citizens of Bloomington and we hope you enjoy your retirement.



Captain/Training Officer Doug Stretch
9/15/93 – 5/18/17 (23.67 yrs.)



Captain Ken Pouliot
8/3/87 – 8/3/17 (30 yrs.)



Engineer Matt Augsburger
9/3/91 – 8/28/17 (25.98 yrs.)



Captain John Jackson
11/2/87 – 11/7/17 (30.1 yrs.)



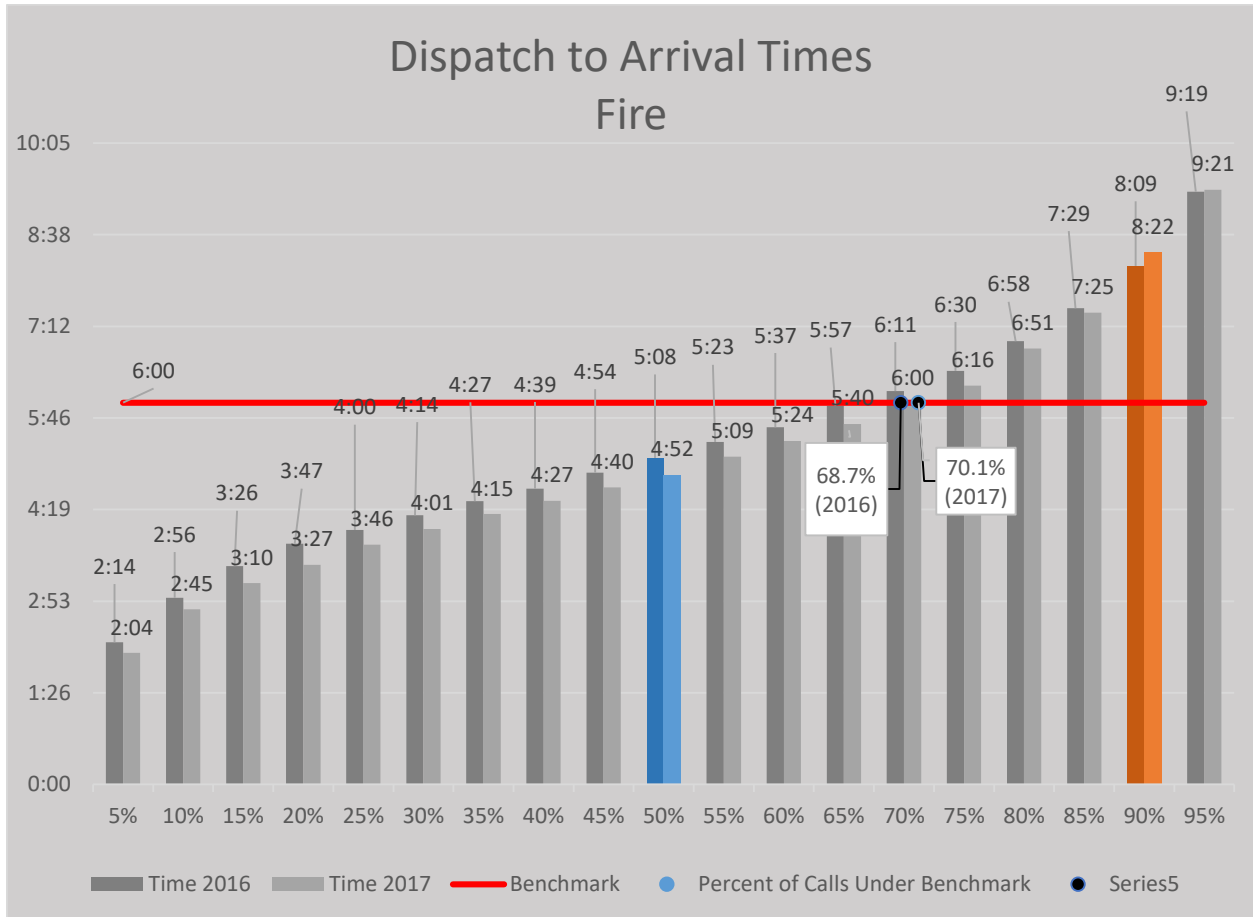
Captain David Brown
2/13/84 – 11/23/17 (33.77 yrs.)

OPERATIONS - FIRE

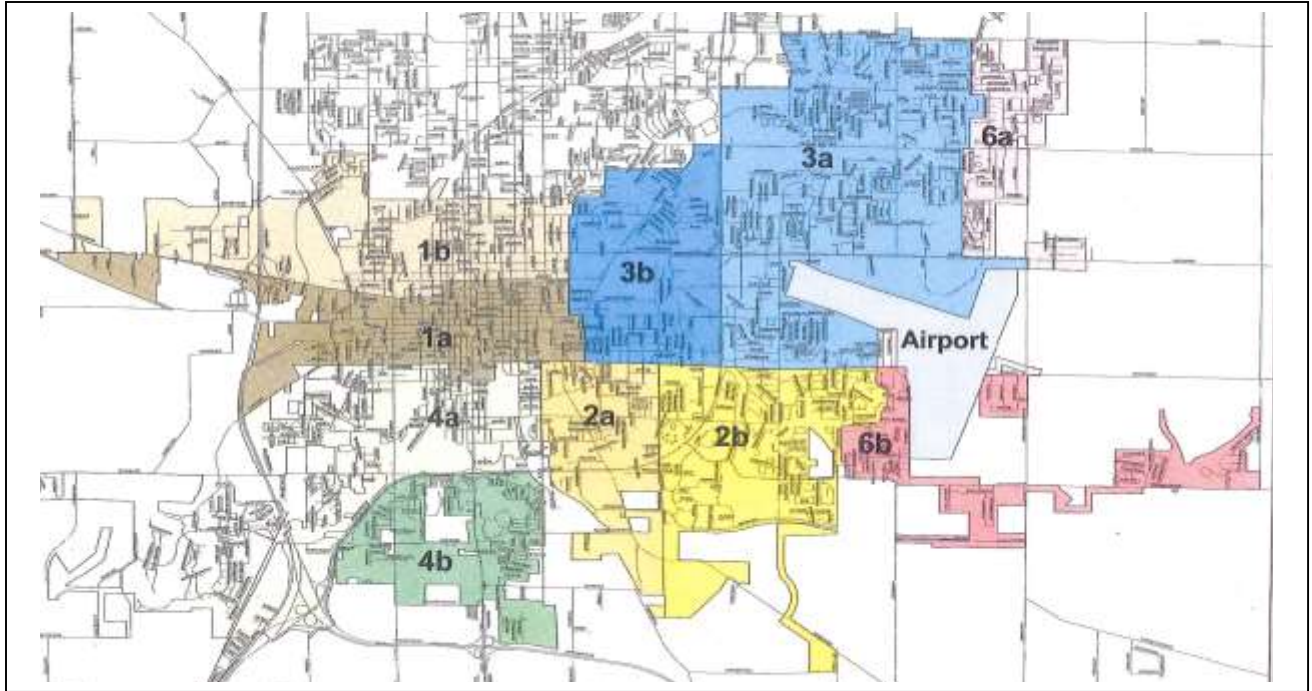
Year	Calls	Dollar Loss
2013	10,045	\$1,373,510.00
2014	10,465	\$1,725,620.00
2015	10,873	\$1,413,480.00
2016	10,818	\$2,686,300.00
2017	10,810	\$1,015,220.00



OPERATIONS - FIRE



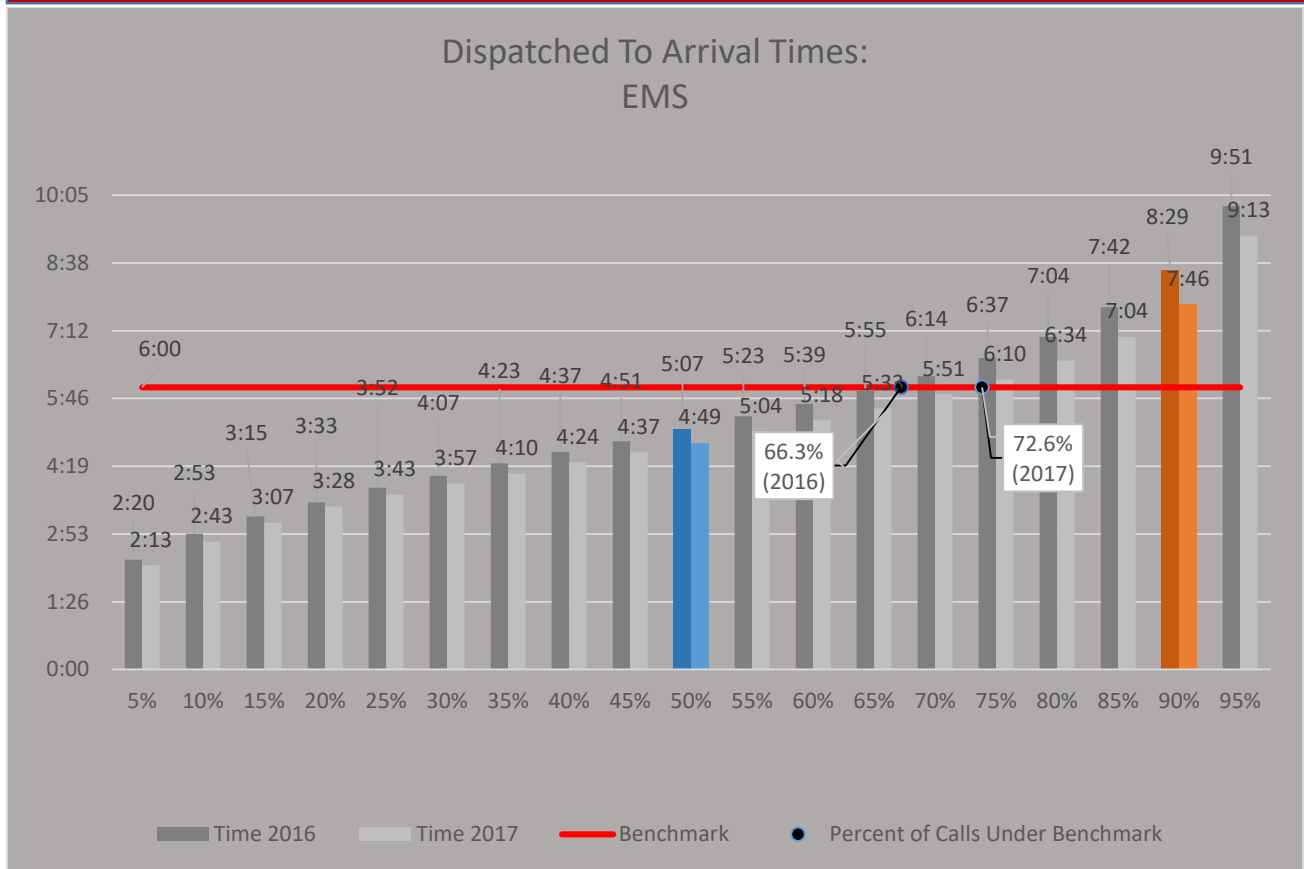
The Fire Department strives for continuous improvement in the delivery of public safety services. The report above is a histogram that shows performance measures based on a 6 minute response time. NFPA 1710 is a standard for response times by a professional full time fire department. The Department has been providing a response time report in the City Manager’s monthly report for the last couple of years. The goal is to achieve a 6 minute response time on 90 percent of emergency calls received. This is achieved by the distribution and concentration of department resources to address the current risks to our community. The 6 minute benchmark is represented by the horizontal line across the center of the graph. The graph illustrates that 90 percent of fire calls had a response time of less than 8 minutes and 22 seconds for calendar year 2017. Another way to express performance is that the 6 minute response time goal was achieved on 70.1 percent of fire calls in 2017. The most important factor to highlight is the improvement of these performance measures from 2016 to 2017.



2017 Runs by District

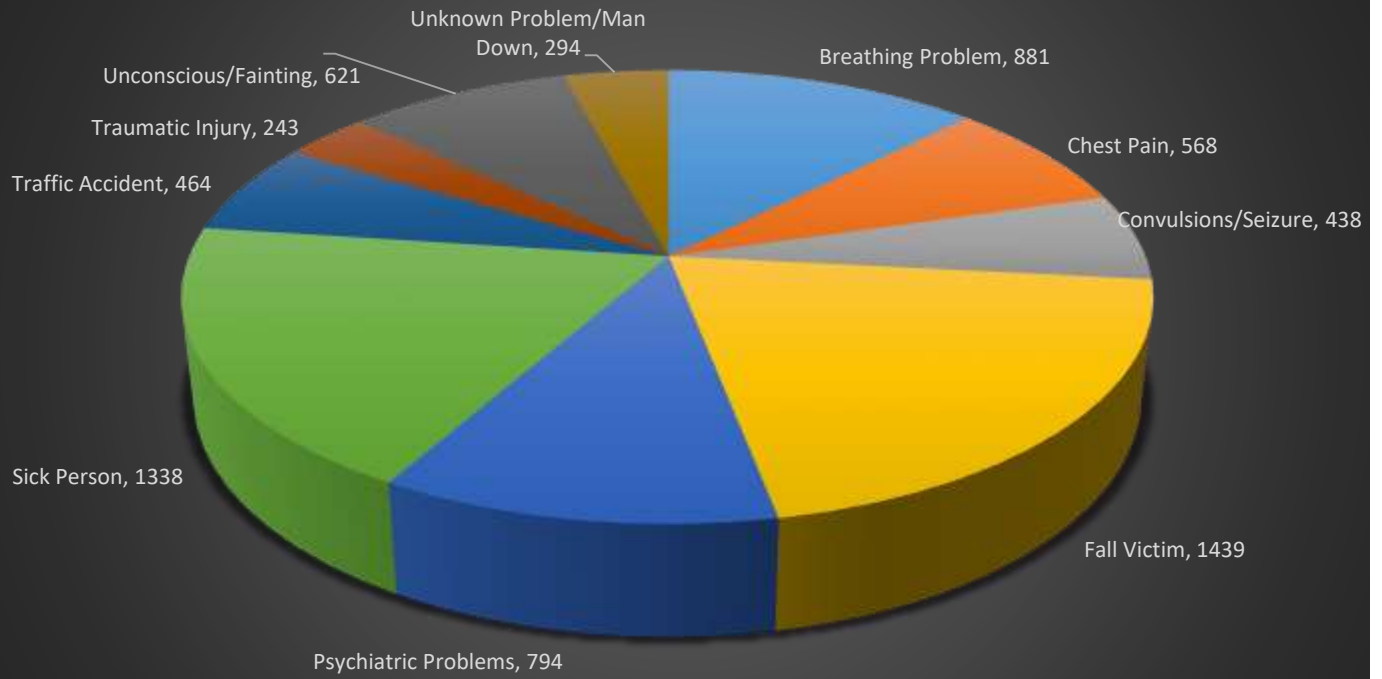
1A	3,082
1B	1,821
2A	458
2B	635
3A	1,596
3B	790
4A	1,065
4B	767
6A	167
6B	126

OPERATIONS - EMS



The Fire Department strives for continuous improvement in the delivery of public safety services. The report above is a histogram that shows performance measures based on a 6 minute response time. NFPA 1710 is a standard for response times by a professional full time fire department. The goal is to achieve a 6 minute response time on 90% of the emergency medical calls received. This is achieved by the distribution and concentration of Department resources to address the current risks to our community. The 6 minute benchmark is the horizontal line across the center of the graph. The graph illustrates that 90 percent of EMS calls had a response time of less than 7 minutes and 46 seconds for the calendar year of 2017, which was an improvement of 43 seconds from 2016. Another way to report performance would be to say the response time benchmark was met on 72.6 percent of EMS calls in 2017. The most important factor to highlight is the improvement of performance measures from the 2016 to 2017.

Top 10 EMS Calls- 9256



TRAINING

Throughout 2017, the Department engaged in many man hours of training, 23,689.99 to be exact. Generally speaking, training could be divided into 1 of 8 categories'; Administration, ARFF, Driver/Operator, EMS, Fire/Rescue, Hazmat, Officer training, and Safety. A typical month would see some type of training completed in each of these categories. Some of these opportunities are highlighted below.

In January the Department implemented a new web based software called Target Solutions for tracking the training hours of each firefighter. Target Solutions provides a platform to both deliver (web based training) and track all the various types of training the Department is involved in. This program has increased the accuracy of tracking who has received training and who still needs to complete training.



Illinois Wesleyan University (IWU) generously allowed our Department to train in an old dormitory located at 110 E. Chestnut. This structure provided the Department with many training opportunities that normally could not be easily replicated through the summer months. Due to the way the building was constructed, primarily out of brick and concrete, the Department was able to secure a burn permit from the

Illinois EPA allowing us to burn in the building.

In October and November the Department conducted live fire training in the building and opened the training up to other fire departments with the help of Illinois Fire Service Institute and the Normal Fire Department. Firefighters came from as far away as the LaSalle Peru and the Saint Louis Areas. Many all-volunteer departments from McLean and Woodford Counties also participated in this training.



The Department continues to send its members to various trainings outside the Department when there is merit to do so. The majority of outside training opportunities are still located within Illinois. However, some training opportunities take place outside the State. Several examples of training locations outside the state are The National Fire Academy located in Emmitsburg, MD for leadership classes, Dallas, TX for ARRF classes, Pueblo, CO for HAZMAT classes, and Las Vegas, NV the world EMS conference.



Perhaps the most notable highlight of the year was the retirement of Training Officer Captain Doug Stretch. Captain Stretch began his career with the Department in September of 1993. He was appointed to Engineer in May of 2003. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in October of 2013 and then accepted the training officer's position in March of 2015. It was during his career as an engineer that he really embraced our Department's involvement in HAZMAT. He is largely responsible for transforming a lukewarm hazmat program into a very note-worthy Hazmat program state wide. Captain Stretch did his best to lead by example. Shortly, before making Captain he enrolled in College to complete an associate's degree but ended up completing his master's degree in safety. Enjoy retirement Captain Stretch.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

In October of 2017, the Public Education office decided to make use of our presence on Facebook to start producing safety video messages that were posted to the Fire Department



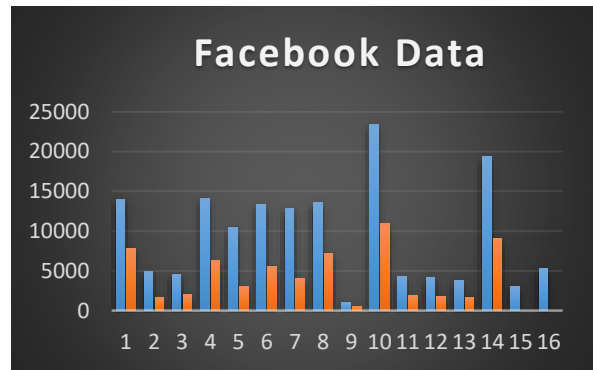
Facebook page. The timing was right as we entered fire prevention week and our messages all geared around the messages of fire safety. Fire Safety messages included; smoke alarms, escape plans, get out stay out, close your door, and more.

The graph below shows the effective reach of those safety messages and increased our audience to a level that we had not been able to



reach in years previous. The two sets of numbers record data provided by Facebook on the “reach of the post” and the “views” if the post was a video. The blue represents the reach and the orange represent the views of posts that were videos.

In total, 16 fire safety messages were posted in the months of October, November and December. The Bloomington Fire department reached 152,209 Facebook users through our safety messages. We had over 63,000 views in the videos that we produced. Social media has now become a new standard for reaching a larger audience to promote our safety message.



In a video post on calling 911 with the new iPhone update, 23,448 Facebook users saw the post and just short of 11,000 people viewed the video. The video was 1:47 seconds in length and was produced at no cost to the department. In less than two minutes, we reached an audience that would take over a year to reach in person using the conventional ways of presenting.

Due to the success of the posts on our Facebook page. The Bloomington Fire Department will continue to use social media to promote our safety messages. Our goal is to not limit ourselves in our message, but to also incorporate all angles of safety messages we can provide to the public via social media.

Ultimately, the goal of Bloomington Fire Department’s Public Education office is not to decrease our personal presence in the community. It is our hope that we increase the awareness of our community as to potential hazards and the courses offered by the Bloomington Fire Department that has the potential to save lives.

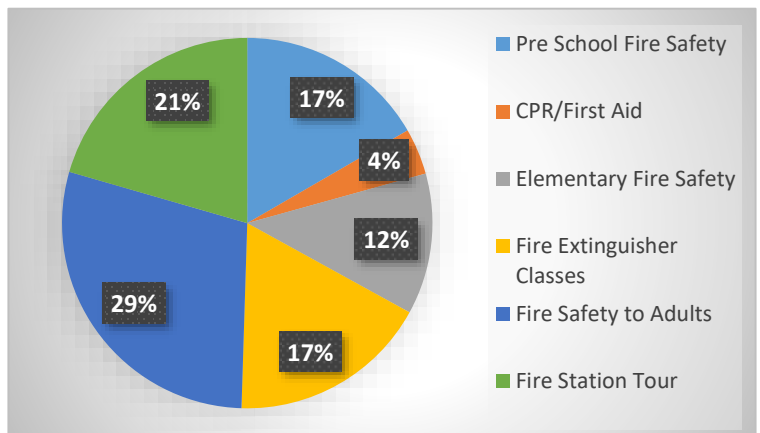
PUBLIC EDUCATION

Throughout the year, the Public Education Office is out in the community at schools, businesses, churches, and events to promote fire and life safety to the general public. It is our goal to reduce the amount of fatalities and injuries in our community through education. This is accomplished through the creation and implementation of comprehensive and effective life safety classes offered to the community.



The classes provided by the Bloomington Fire Department are listed below with the number of those who attend those presentations. This has been the standard of education in the past and will continue to be a resource to equip our community with education. However, it cannot be the only means of communication and shows how we have aimed at the community in a broader **since** through social media, but presenting the same message.

- Preschool fire safety presentations
– **537 kids**
- CPR/First Aid Classes
– **150 Adults**
- Elementary School Fire Safety
– **397 kids**
- Fire Extinguisher Safety Class
– **564 Adults**
- General Fire Safety Presentation
– **934 Adults**
- Fire Station Tour
– **662 Adults and kids**



The public education office is an essential component of the Bloomington Fire Department’s mission statement by being dedicated to our community. That dedication is invested into the creation, revision, and improvement of the education programs provided to our residents and those visiting. That commitment is seen through the quality of education provided to our community and the increasing amount of those requesting our classes.

In 2018, our goal to increase the number of classes provided to the community. Education is the most important defense in the area of fire and life safety. A new program proposed by the Public Education Office, is to start hosting CPR classes throughout the year.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

The Bloomington Fire Department Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Team was started in 2003 and provides service for the City of Bloomington and MABAS Division 41. Prior to the creation of the Bloomington HAZMAT Team, any significant hazmat incident that occurred within the city would have required the assistance of a team from Peoria, Decatur, or Champaign. MABAS Division 41 covers McLean county and parts of Ford and DeWitt counties. Being a MABAS supported team the Bloomington Fire Department has the potential for responding to incidents throughout the state to assist other MABAS Divisions in the event of a large incident. MABAS currently has 42 Hazardous Materials Teams throughout the State of Illinois.

The Hazardous Materials Team is trained to respond to anything from a railroad accident, to a small spill at one of the universities, to an unknown white powder at the hospital. Our personnel are trained to operate monitors that can identify unknown substances, to placing patches on a leaking tanks or burning off a leaking tank of LP gas. All members of the department are required to be trained to the Hazardous Materials Operations level. Eighty-six of our members are trained to the Technician A level, with 58 of these members trained to the Technician B level. We also have 56 members that have been certified as a Hazardous Materials Incident Commander.

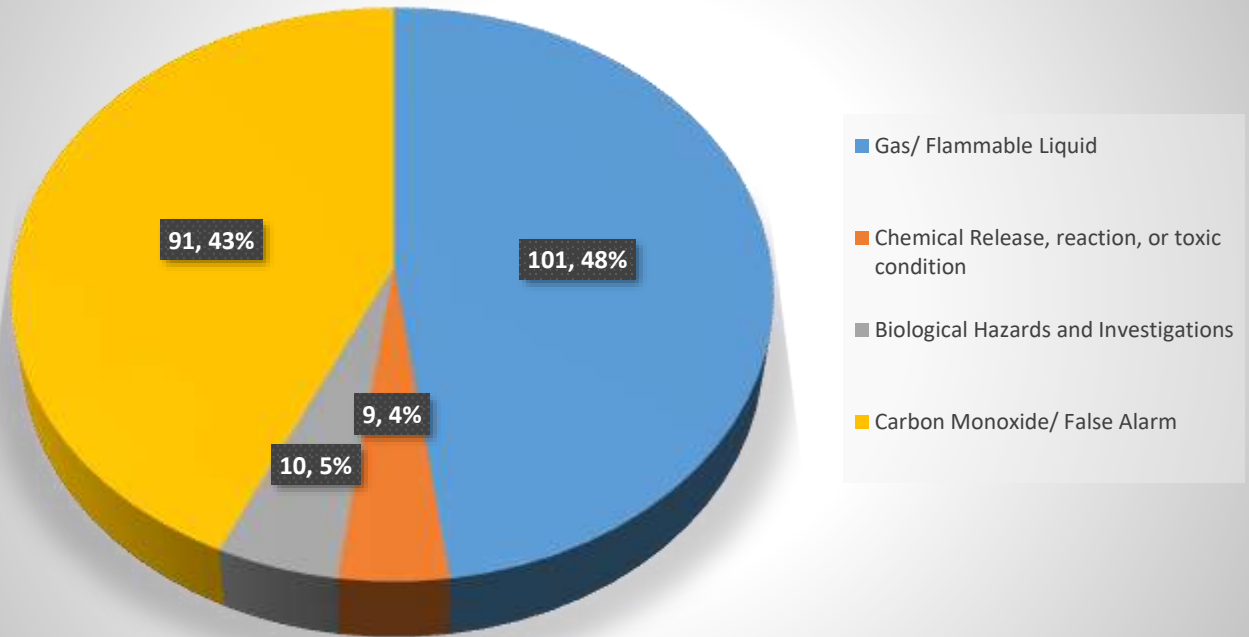
Hazardous Materials training is scheduled each month and in 2017 the department completed 2399 hours of hazardous materials training.

In 2017 the department responded to 211 hazardous materials incidents. Of those 211 incidents the Hazardous Materials Team responded to 9 incidents. Out of these 9 incidents 2 of these were to the Town of Normal and 1 was to the City of Pontiac.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM

2017 Hazardous Materials Responses



FIRE INVESTIGATION

The Bloomington Fire Department has a 6 person fire investigation team. There are two investigators assigned to the three duty shifts. The fire investigators are responsible for the determination of the cause and origin for structure fires, car fires, suspicious fires and fires with no identifiable cause or origin being found by the on scene company officers. In the event of a suspicious fire the fire investigators will work with Bloomington Police Department Detectives in determining if the fire is an arson. Three of the detectives have been through two of the three arson modules that are required to be a state certified arson investigator. In the event that the fire has been determined to be an arson the detectives will be responsible for making an arrest and would work with the fire investigators on presenting the case. In 2017, a total of **22** fires were investigated by the fire investigation team. The chart below outlines these investigations. The fire investigation team also works closely with the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office Canine Unit. The canine arson dog assisted the Bloomington Fire Department **3** times in 2017.

Training is a key component to becoming and maintaining a certification in fire investigator. The Bloomington Fire Department Investigators complete a rigorous initial training program to be certified through the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office. The program consists of 120 hours of training and once complete, they are awarded their Illinois Fire Investigator Certification. In order to maintain this certification, each investigator must complete continued education training consisting of 100 hours in designated training fields. This continued training allows them to be recertified as an investigator every three years. In 2017, the 6 fire investigators completed a total of 275 hours of training in categories such as forensic fire death determination, vehicle fires, electrical fire, natural gas systems, and juvenile fire setter intervention class.



Date	Address	Incident Type	Fire Cause	Fire Loss
2/8/2017	812 W. Washington St.	Structure Fire	Undetermined after Investigation	\$ 52,000.00
2/21/2017	1308 Linden St	Structure Fire	Intentional	\$ 800.00
3/8/2017	610 W. Chestnut	Structure Fire	Accidental	\$ 100.00
3/23/2017	1309 N. Morris	Structure Fire	Accidental	\$ 6,000.00
3/24/2017	504 W. Washington St.	Structure Fire	Accidental	\$ 70,000.00
4/24/2017	508 E. Chestnut	Structure Fire	Undetermined after Investigation	\$ 500.00
4/28/2017	911 W. Front St.	Structure Fire	Intentional	\$ 115,000.00
5/1/2017	802 E. Jefferson St.	Vehicle Fire	Intentional	\$ 3,000.00
5/7/2017	1203 Greenlawn	Structure Fire	Accidental	\$ 50,000.00

5/18/2017	5 Rainbow Cir. #10	Structure Fire	Accidental	\$ 1,400.00
6/16/2017	St. Joseph Hospital	Structure Fire	Accidental	\$ 100.00
6/16/2017	1003 S. East St.	Structure Fire	Accidental	\$ 27,000.00
6/29/2017	1001 W. Market St.	Structure Fire	Undetermined after Investigation	\$ 15,000.00
7/31/2017	710 W. Mulberry St.	Outside Fire	Intentional	\$ 25.00
8/10/2017	811 W. Grove St.	Structure Fire	Accidental	\$ 50,000.00
8/26/2017	306 Mecherle Dr.	Structure Fire	Intentional	\$ 65,000.00
9/19/2017	14 Brittany Ct.	Structure Fire	Intentional	\$ 20,000.00
9/30/2017	1350 13th St.	Structure Fire	Intentional	\$ 65,000.00
10/23/2017	301 W. Monroe St.	Structure Fire	Undetermined	\$ 17,500.00
11/26/2017	215 E. Hamilton	Structure Fire	Undetermined after Investigation	\$ 350,000.00
12/7/2017	1222 Dogwood Ln.	Structure Fire	Accidental	\$ 40,000.00
12/26/2017	11 Snow Ln.	Structure Fire	Accidental	\$ 1,500.00





Bloomington Fire Department

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<http://www.cityblm.org/government/departments/fire>

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