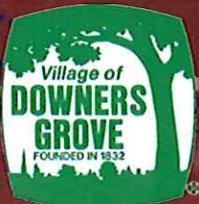




# 2018

## ANNUAL REPORT

### DOWNERS GROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT



ISO CLASS **1**

# *Contents*

## Downers Grove Fire Department

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*Special Thanks to Molly the Safety Dog (and her owner Dayna Hilton) for appearing on our cover.*

*Courage* ♦ *Pride* ♦ *Commitment* ♦ *Dedication* ♦ *Integrity*

# Message from the Chief



It is my pleasure to present the 2018 Downers Grove Fire Department Annual Report. The department prides itself on being prepared for the future and remains focused on delivering safe, effective and efficient service. Our mission is to provide the highest level of fire and emergency medical services to the community. The department maintains a prestigious ISO 1 classification which places it in the top 1% of fire departments in the United States. Our success is due to the dedication of all of our members and the support of our wonderful community.

In 2018, the Downers Grove Fire Department responded to more than 6,764 calls for service, an increase of 6.4% compared to 2017. Calls include fires, rescues, medical emergencies, hazardous material spills and general public service requests. We also respond to assist other fire departments within the area. In turn, these departments provide us assistance when we need them.

Some of our key accomplishments for 2018 worthy of special attention include:

- Entered into a joint response project with the Darien Woodridge Fire District that has reduced response times for medical emergencies as much as 2 minutes and 30 seconds to some parts of our Village.
- Worked in conjunction with the Foreign Fire Insurance Board to construct a training facility which provides realistic training for a wide range of situations in a challenging but safe environment. This facility will also be a resource for other Village departments. The purchase was accomplished utilizing zero tax dollars.
- Took delivery of a new pumper to replace an aging 18 year old unit.
- Welcomed seven new members to the Department to fill the void created by retirements.

The men and women of the Downers Grove Fire Department take great pride in serving the Village. Every member is committed to training, fire prevention and community involvement. It is my honor and privilege to serve as the Fire Chief and lead such a dedicated group each day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin [Last Name]".



# 2018 DGFD Highlights

- Implemented Joint Response Project with Darien Woodridge Fire District reducing response times to less than four minutes in previously challenging areas
  - Constructed a fire training facility in conjunction with the Foreign Fire Tax Board
  - Village of Downers Grove received designation through the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board as a Fire Safe Community
  - Hired seven new firefighter/paramedic candidates
  - FF/PMs Hoff, Sohn and Triplett awarded the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal Medal of Valor
  - FF/PMs Schraeder and Covelli awarded the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal Firefighter Excellence Award
- 
- Engine 103 and Tower 102 companies received an Honorable Mention for the 2018 Firehouse Magazine Valor Award
  - Assistant to the Chief Giesler awarded the inaugural Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal Fire Prevention and Life Safety Award
  - Assistant to the Chief Giesler received an Honorable Mention for the 2018 Firehouse Magazine Community Service Award
  - Div. Chief Hull attained designation as 1 of only 117 Fire Marshals through the Center on Public Safety Excellence
  - BC Werner named as the BC of Training
  - FF/PM Hoff received the MABAS Humanitarian Award for deployment to Hurricane Florence
  - FF/PM Dan Rietveld named as the EMS Training Coordinator
  - EMS Training Coordinator attained IDPH Lead Instructor status
  - Installed more than 300 smoke alarms for older adult residents



# 2018 DGFD Highlights *(continued)*

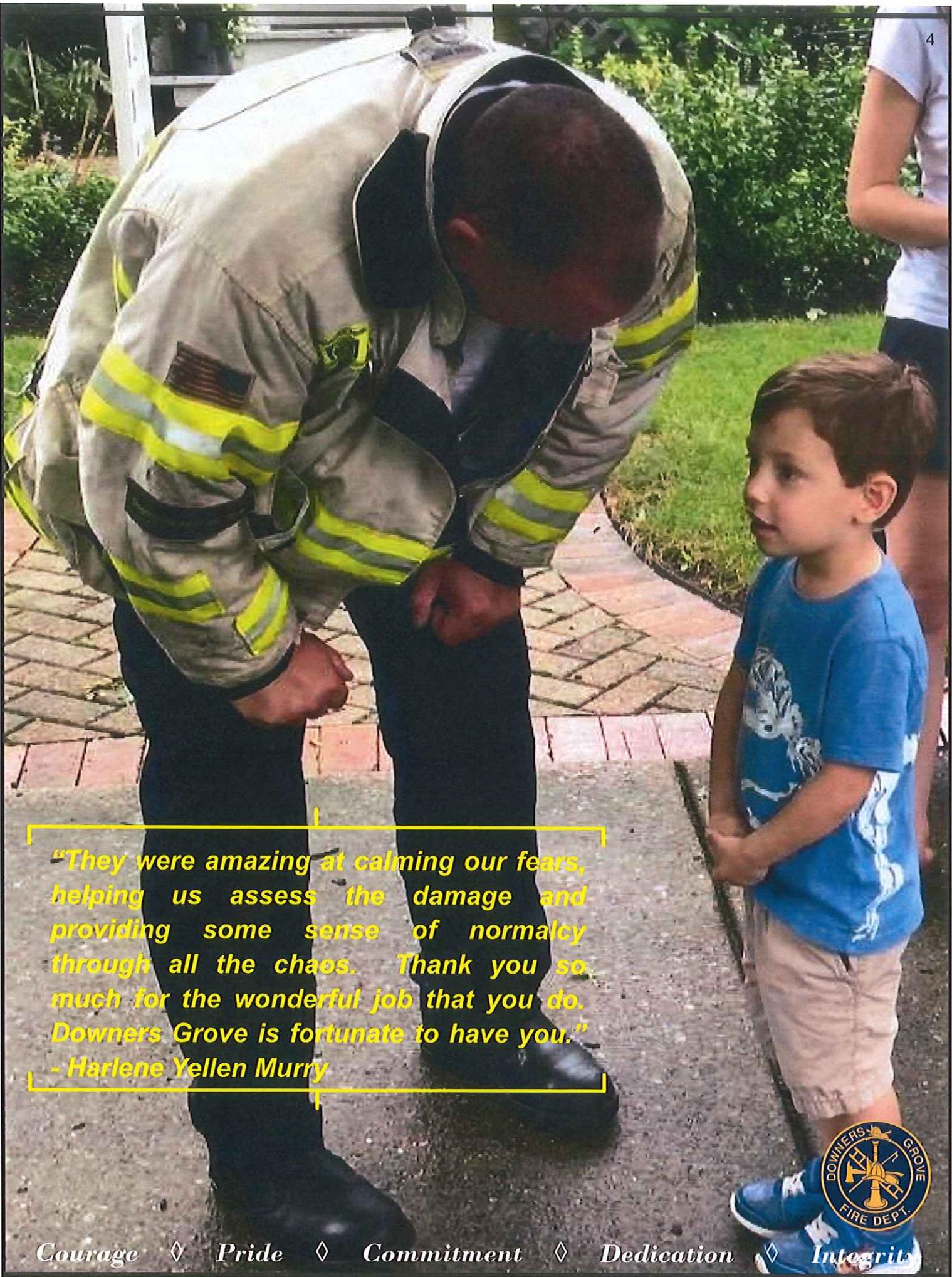
- Expanded the Fire Prevention, Public Education and Training 7G Programs
- Participated in Alisa Ann Ruch Burn Foundation Program
- Completed the NFPA 101 Life Safety upgrade
- Implemented private fire hydrant inspection and maintenance program
- Re-implemented the Kids Fire Muster
- Purchased new cardiac monitors
- Took delivery of 2018 Ferrara Pumper
- Col. Mortenson of USMC held officer professional development retreat
- Ret. Chief Ed Enright presented Duty, Pride and Tradition program to all department members
- Achieved American Heart Association Mission Lifeline Gold Status for cardiac related emergencies
- Participated in FOCUS Risk Management Program through Drexel University
- Implemented a new Department wide physical fitness program



- Took part in Vision 20/20 Community Risk Reduction Program
- Expanded the Public Information Officer program
- FF/PM Nick Gilbert named as the H.I.T. (Hazardous Materials Incident Team) Leader
- Four members completed Illinois Fire Service Institute Smoke Divers program
- Three members completed Illinois Fire Service Institute Company Officer School program



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*"They were amazing at calming our fears, helping us assess the damage and providing some sense of normalcy through all the chaos. Thank you so much for the wonderful job that you do. Downers Grove is fortunate to have you."  
- Harlene Yellen Murry*



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# Overview

## Description of Operations

The Downers Grove Fire Department was officially founded in 1898. Today, the Fire Department is a full service organization staffed by 83 fire service professionals. The Department provides fire suppression, emergency medical services and other fire related services to approximately 50,000 residents. The Department provides fire suppression, emergency medical services and other fire related services to approximately 50,000 residents. The daytime population swells to approximately 125,000 due to the wide variety of commercial, industrial and residential occupancies over an area of 14 square miles.

On-duty staffing is provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week by a total of 77 sworn members operating out of four fire stations located throughout the Village. The response area is divided into four "still" districts. Station 102 is located in the center of the response area and is the department headquarters station. A tower ladder truck staffed by a minimum of three members responds from this station along with the shift commander. Stations 101, 103, and 105 all are staffed with three member engine companies which are advanced life support (ALS) equipped. ALS ambulances, each staffed with two firefighter/ paramedics, are also located at Stations 102, 103 and 105.

*"You have the most wonderful group, they helped way above the call of duty"*

*- Kay Kummerer*



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# Overview

## Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) and Combined Area Response Team (C.A.R.T.)

The Fire Department is a member of MABAS Division 16, an associate member of MABAS Division 10 and also the Silver Combined Area Response Team (C.A.R.T.). The MABAS groups perform training and response services for firefighting, technical rescue, water rescue, fire investigations and hazardous material responses. MABAS Division 16 is represented by Bolingbrook, Downers Grove, Lisle-Woodridge, Naperville and Warrenville. Responses are identified on box alarm response cards and are activated by (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) MABAS Division 16.

MABAS is a mutual aid organization covering the State of Illinois as well as parts of Wisconsin and Indiana. MABAS is well defined and has been effectively functioning in suburban Chicago for many years. MABAS has proven to be both very



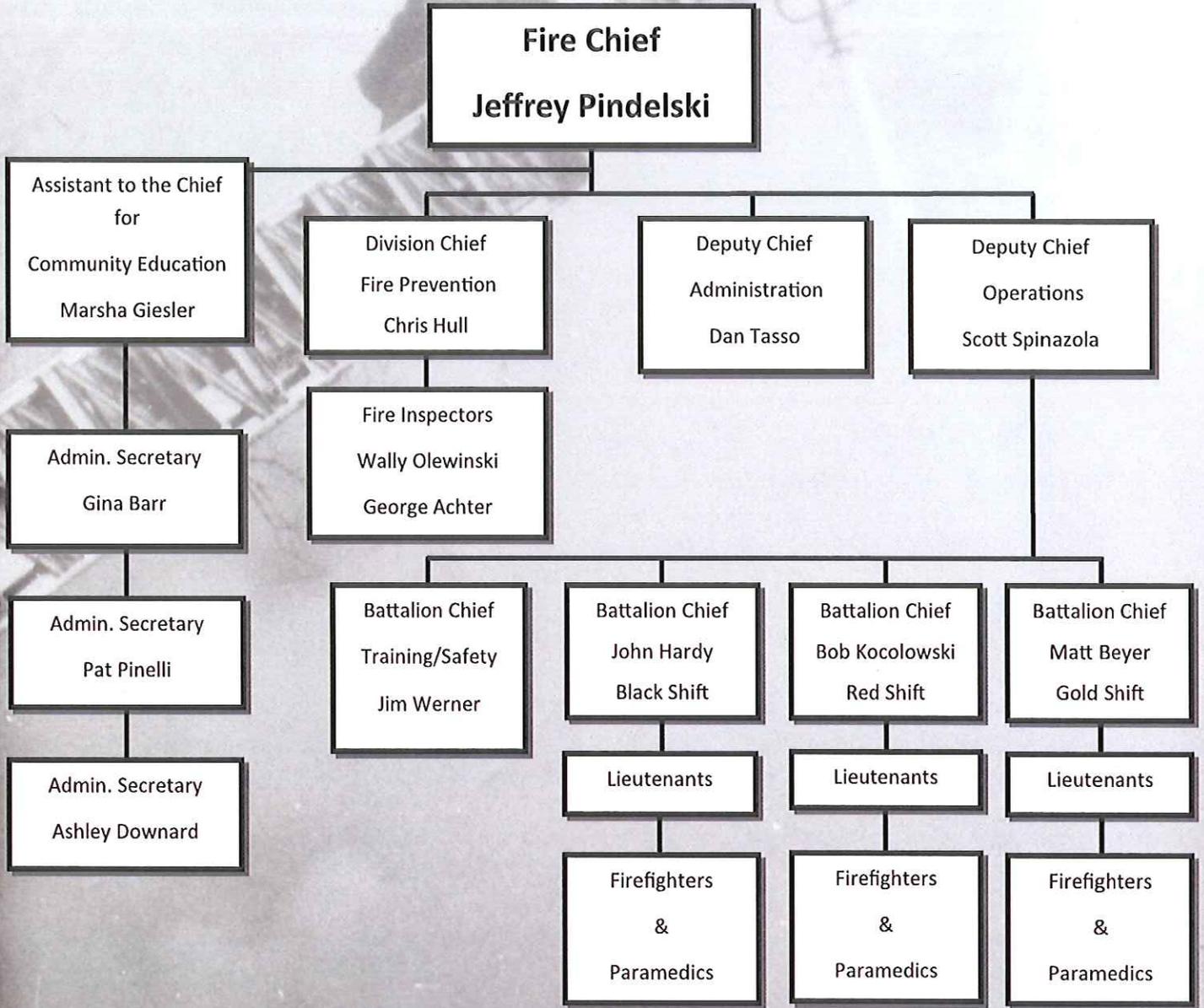
efficient and effective in managing the mutual aid requirements of hundreds of suburban departments, including Downers Grove. Many fire service leaders consider MABAS to be the national model for a mutual aid system. Each MABAS Division has a representative on the Executive Board that handles any changes in policies and procedures, resolves conflicts and oversees any expansion of the system.

C.A.R.T. is composed of departments in the south and southwest suburbs that train and respond to technical rescue incidents. These responses are divided into team responses with five to seven agencies representing a team. The Downers Grove Fire Department is part of the Silver team and responds with Lisle-Woodridge members for building collapses, above and below grade rescues and other specialized rescues. The responses are outlined on box alarm response cards and are requested by the MABAS division which is coordinated through Orland Central Dispatch.



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# Organizational Chart



December 03, 2018





***“The Downers Grove Fire Department is a great place to work. I can’t imagine working anywhere else.” - DC Scott Spinazola***



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# Fire District Map

Fire Station 101

2560 Wisconsin

Fire Station 102

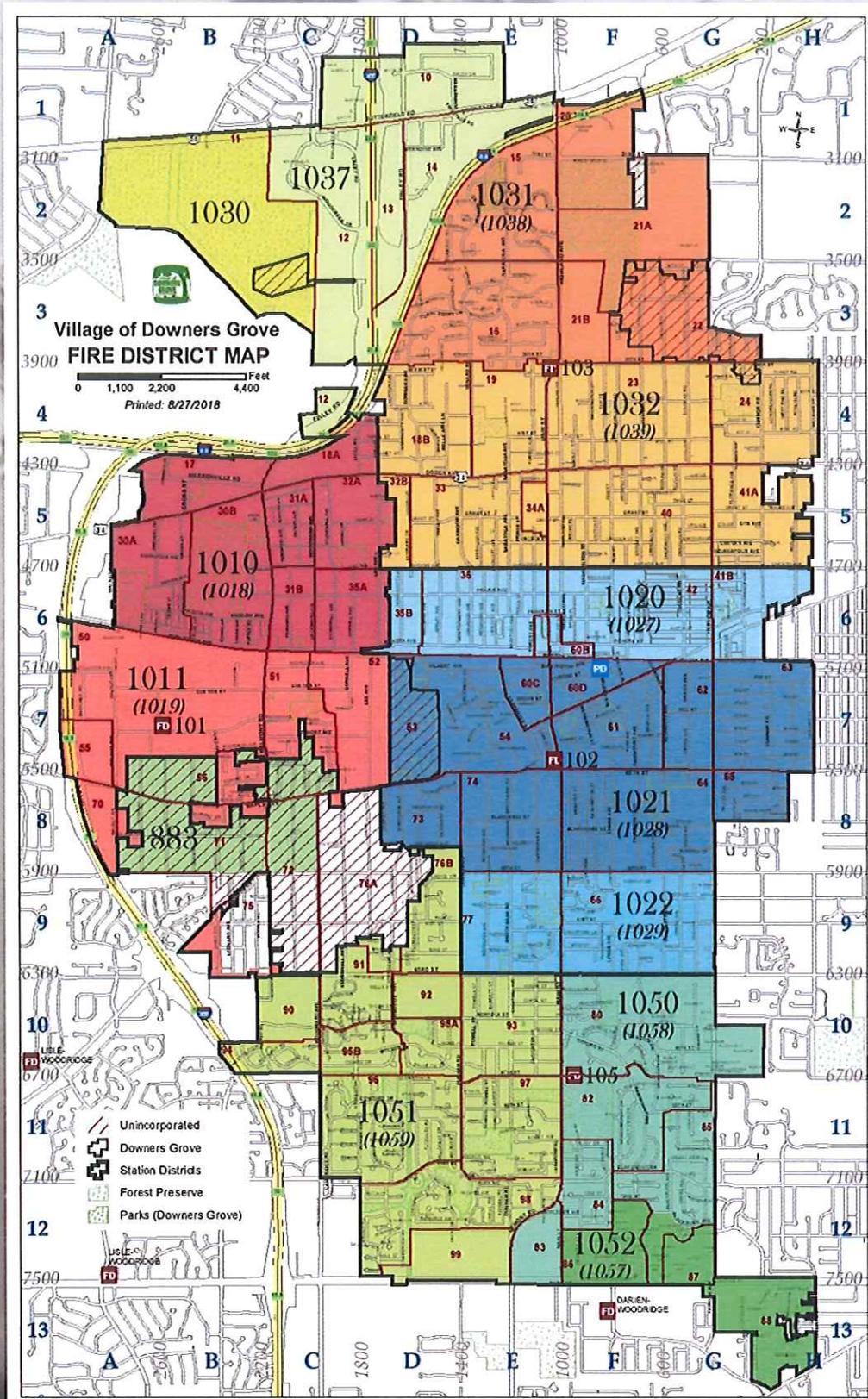
5420 Main

Fire Station 103

3900 Highland

Fire Station 105

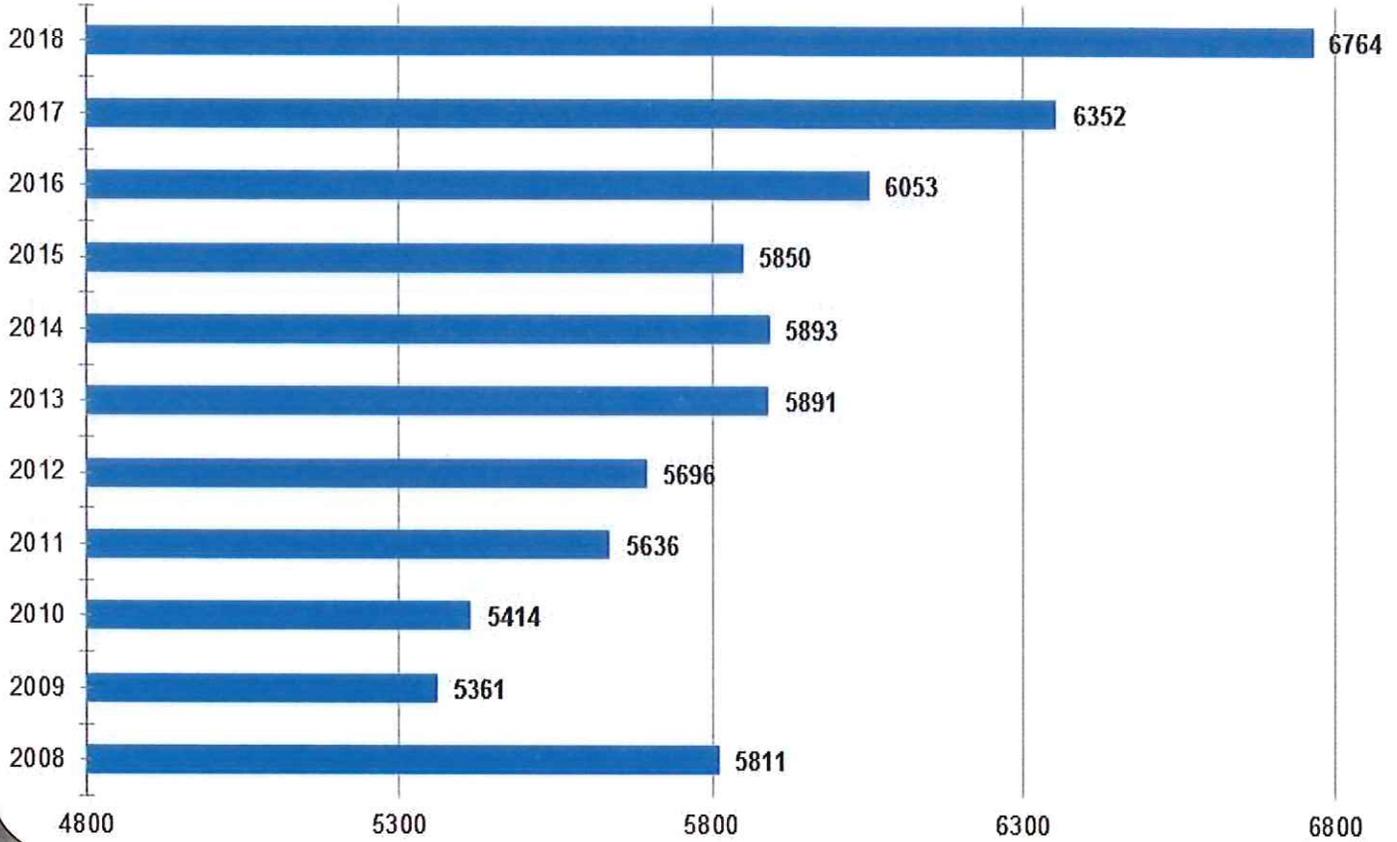
6701 Main



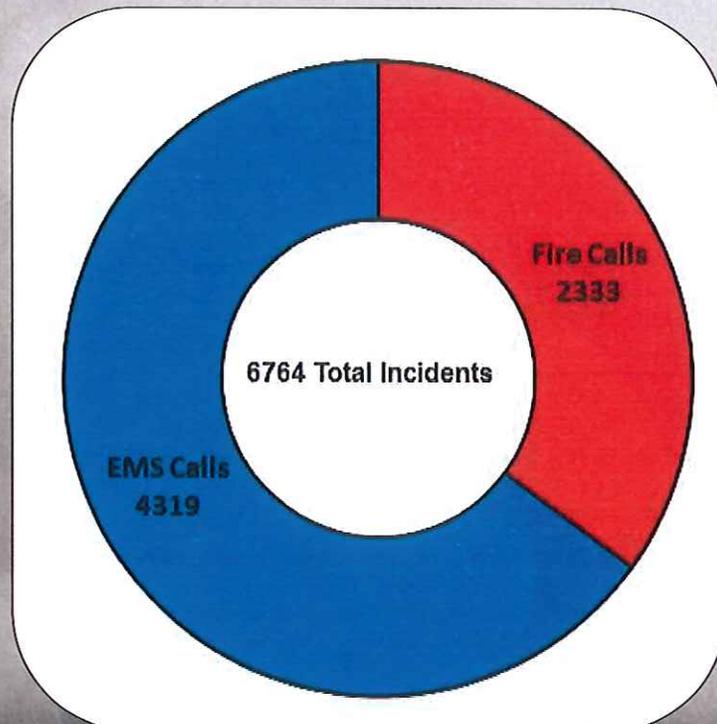
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# Call Volume by Year

### Call Volume

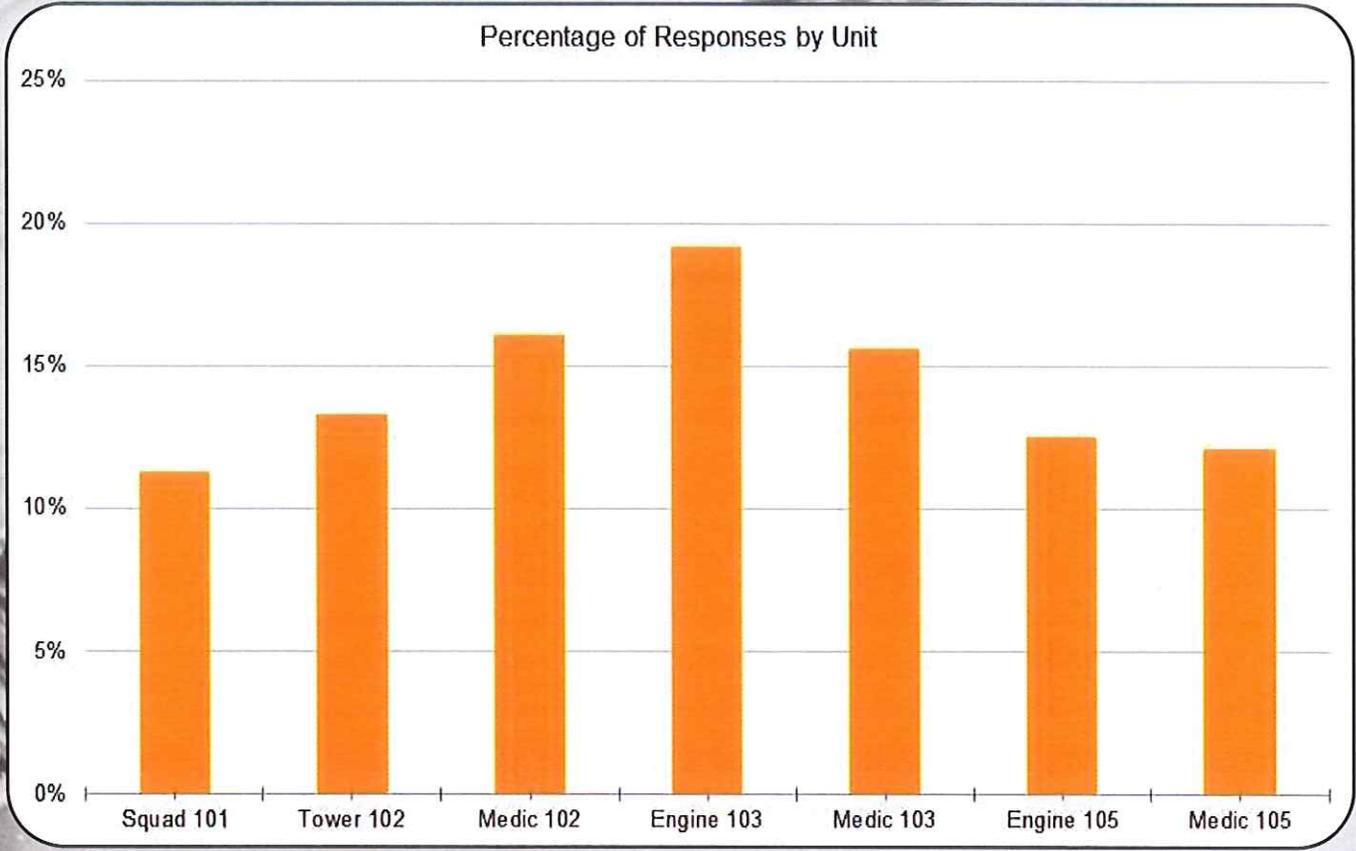


# Annual Statistics

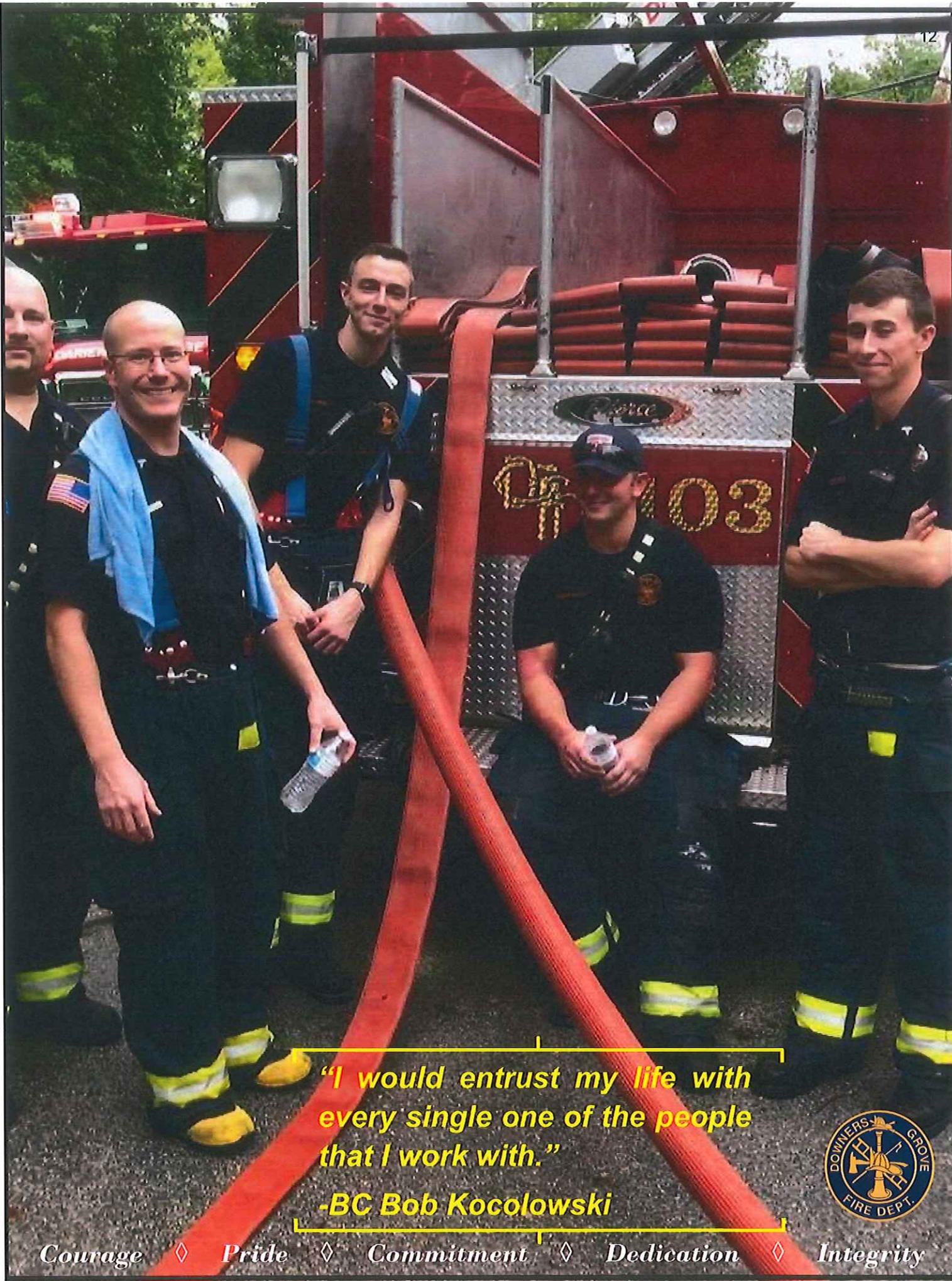


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# Responses by Unit



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*"I would entrust my life with every single one of the people that I work with."*

*-BC Bob Kocolowski*

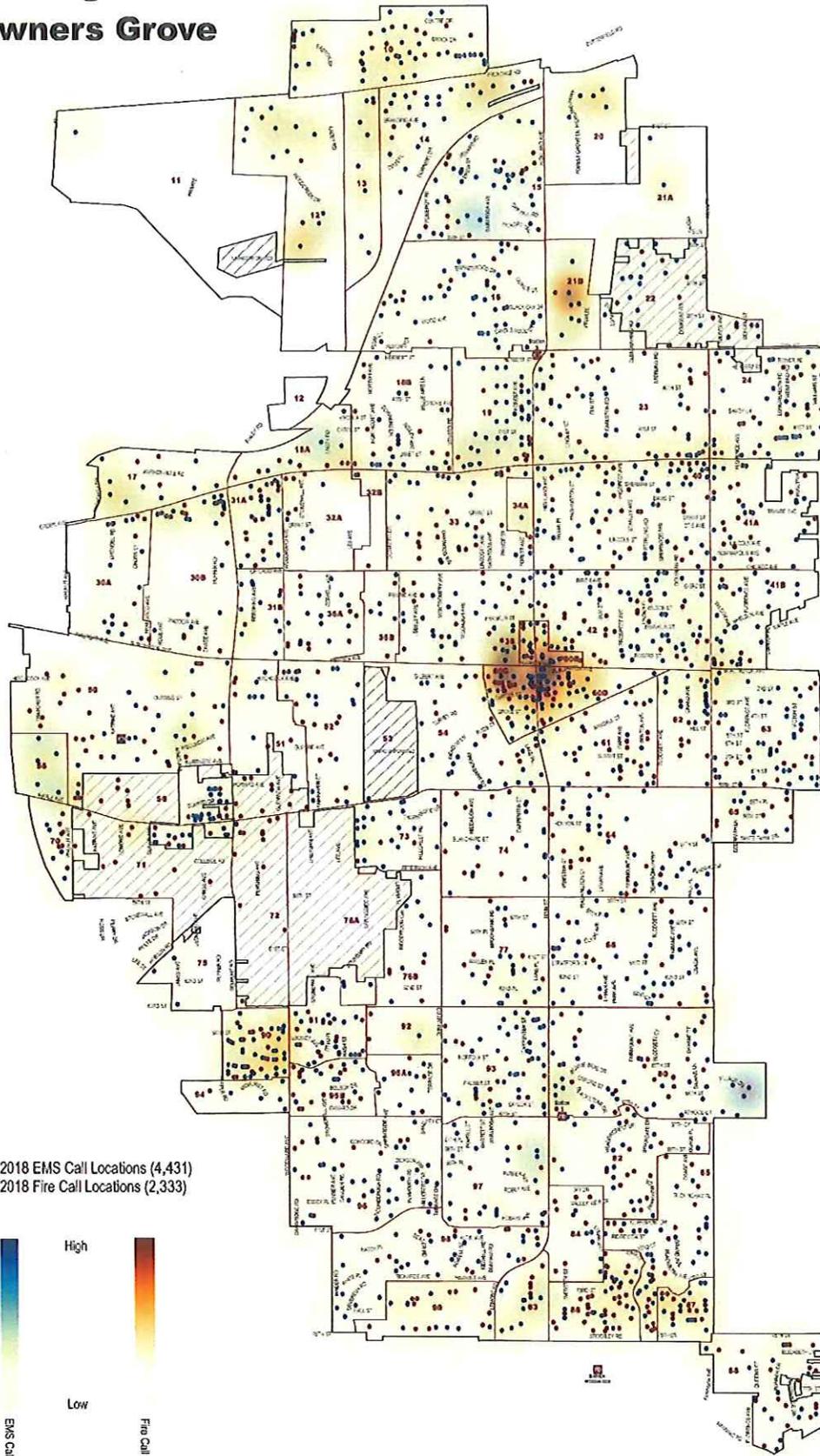


*Courage* ♦ *Pride* ♦ *Commitment* ♦ *Dedication* ♦ *Integrity*

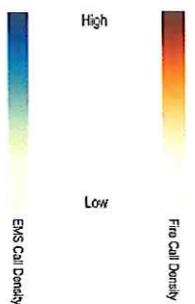
# Call Distribution—Fire and EMS

## Village of Downers Grove

## EMS and Fire Call Locations 2018



- 2018 EMS Call Locations (4,431)
- 2018 Fire Call Locations (2,333)



In 2018, there were 4,431 EMS Calls, and 2,333 Fire Calls. Some locations could not be mapped due to insufficient data or locations were outside Village boundaries.



# Response Time Analysis

The Downers Grove Fire Department provides the following response time goals:

## RESPONSE

## WITHIN

Emergency Medical Services responses 4-6 minutes

Single Engine (Still Alarm) responses 4-6 minutes

(activated fire alarms, vehicle fires, grass fires, alarm trouble signals, CO activations with no illness, and Full Still Responses)

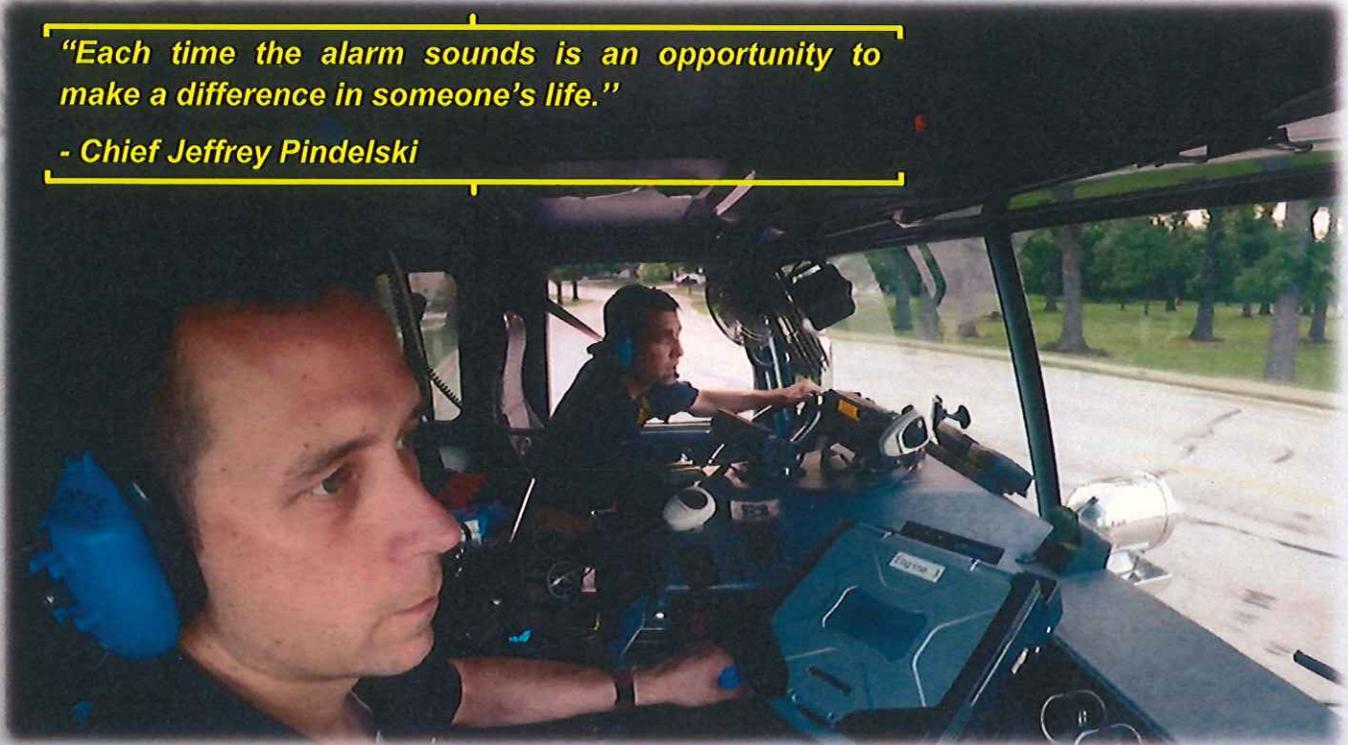
General Alarms - Reported Fires (first unit) 4 minutes

General Alarms - Reported Fires (entire response) 8 minutes

The overall average response time was 4 minutes and 33 seconds for all calls in 2018.

*"Each time the alarm sounds is an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life."*

*- Chief Jeffrey Pindelski*



## Reaction Time

The Village has established an objective of delivering timely service to the citizens of the community. Reaction time is the time it takes for personnel to put on necessary equipment, clothing, and go enroute to a call from the time of dispatch; sometimes this is referred to as turnout time.

Battalion Chiefs monitor these times on a daily basis.

In 2018, the overall average reaction time for all calls was 1 minute 33 seconds.



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*"I leave here everyday with a sense of purpose knowing that I have made a difference." - Lt. Mike Whalen*



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## *Support Staff*

The Support Staff for the Downers Grove Fire Department is comprised of three full-time administrative secretaries. All support staff members provide assistance to each department division on a daily basis. They pride themselves on strong customer service for both internal and external requests.



Gina Barr is responsible for tracking all department fire and EMS records, financial records, purchasing and accounts payable, ambulance billing, FOIA requests, and assistance with requests for fire and EMS reports.

Pat Pinelli is tasked with overseeing and preparing all documents and data related to payroll, personnel records, department schedules, and special projects for the fire chiefs.



Ashley Downard is the administrative secretary for the Fire Prevention Bureau. Her major responsibilities include monitoring wireless alarm activities, scheduling inspections, issuing permits, and managing all data and software related to the fire prevention bureau.

# *Emergency Medical Service (EMS)*

The EMS Division is comprised of 67 paramedics and two emergency medical technicians. The department operates three ALS ambulances, three engines, one truck, and one squad. Two ambulances are kept in reserve.

The medic units respond on medical calls as well as fire/rescue calls. On fire calls, the medic units provide additional personnel to the fire suppression companies. A fire engine/truck always responds with an ambulance on medical calls for several reasons. First, the fire department is committed to providing an emergency response within four to six minutes. To accomplish this, the closest department unit must respond to meet our response goals. Secondly, additional personnel are needed to perform certain treatments or procedures, to move patients down flights of stairs, carry equipment and to provide prompt, efficient treatment and transport to a medical facility.

Medical calls account for approximately 66% of all calls received by the department. BLS stands for Basic Life Support. These patients only require a basic level of medical treatment such as minor bleeding control or splinting of an injured limb. ALS stands for Advanced Life Support. These patients need a higher level of medical care, which are determined by the paramedics. ALS care requires a cardiac monitor to check a person's heart rhythm, supplemental oxygen, IV therapy and medications to treat specific medical conditions. Many of the same procedures performed in the emergency room are performed in the field by paramedics. The paramedics have standard operating procedures that they follow under the direction of the Good Samaritan Hospital system medical director.



*"We are fortunate in Downers Grove to have such a fine, caring group to help us in our time of need." - Dennis Keating*



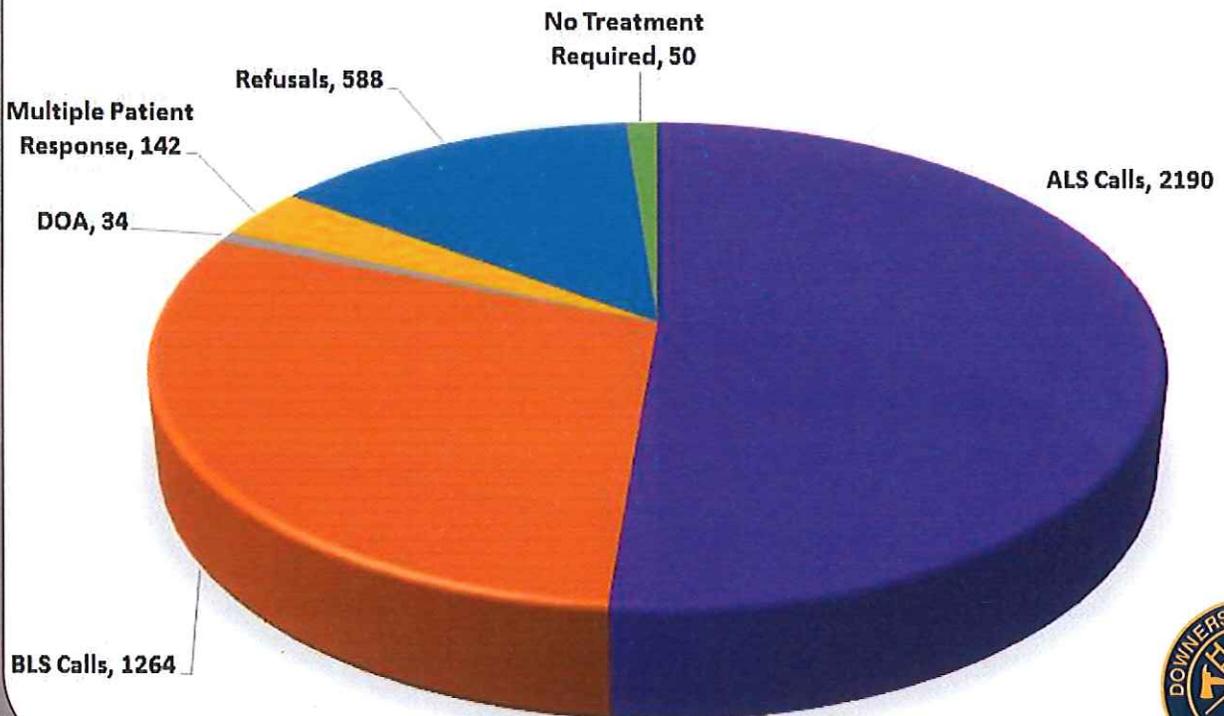
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# Emergency Medical Service (EMS)



*"As a resident of Downers Grove, I was impressed with the fine quality and knowledge of our paramedics. Thank you for developing a wonderful fire department in Downers Grove." -Rita Stasi*

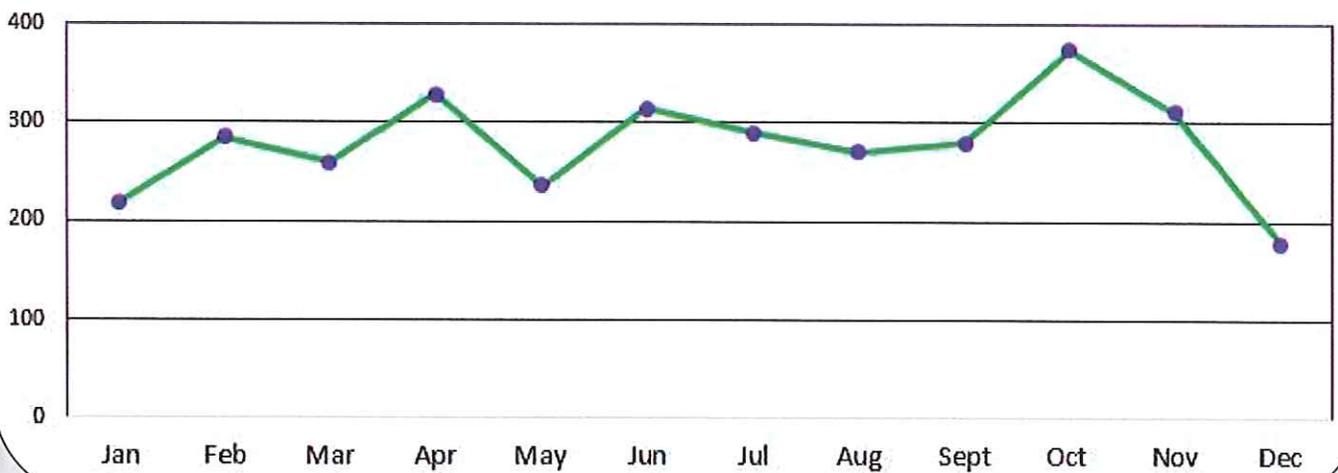
### EMS CALLS BY PATIENT TYPE



# Fire Prevention

The Downers Grove Fire Prevention Division is made up of a Division Chief, two Fire Inspectors, 12 part time inspectors, and one Administrative Secretary. The Division supports the department's continuing goal of ensuring that all buildings and structures in the Village are safe for their occupants, visitors, owners, and responding firefighters. These goals are achieved through the numerous ongoing division activities including conducting life safety inspections, plan review of new buildings for fire and life safety, reviewing new fire alarm and fire sprinkler plans, assisting schools and businesses throughout the year in evacuation and fire drills, assisting the community through the annual events such as Passport to Safety Day, Silent Parade, Night at the Firehouse, Village special events, and participation in continuing fire life safety education. The Fire Prevention program also provides support to Fire Suppression personnel with training, safety bulletins, and technical advice at the scene of a fire response. In 2018 the Fire Prevention Division completed a total of 4,427 activities. The majority of these were primary and follow up inspections of existing buildings, totaling 3,350 visits.

Fire & Life Safety Inspections by Month



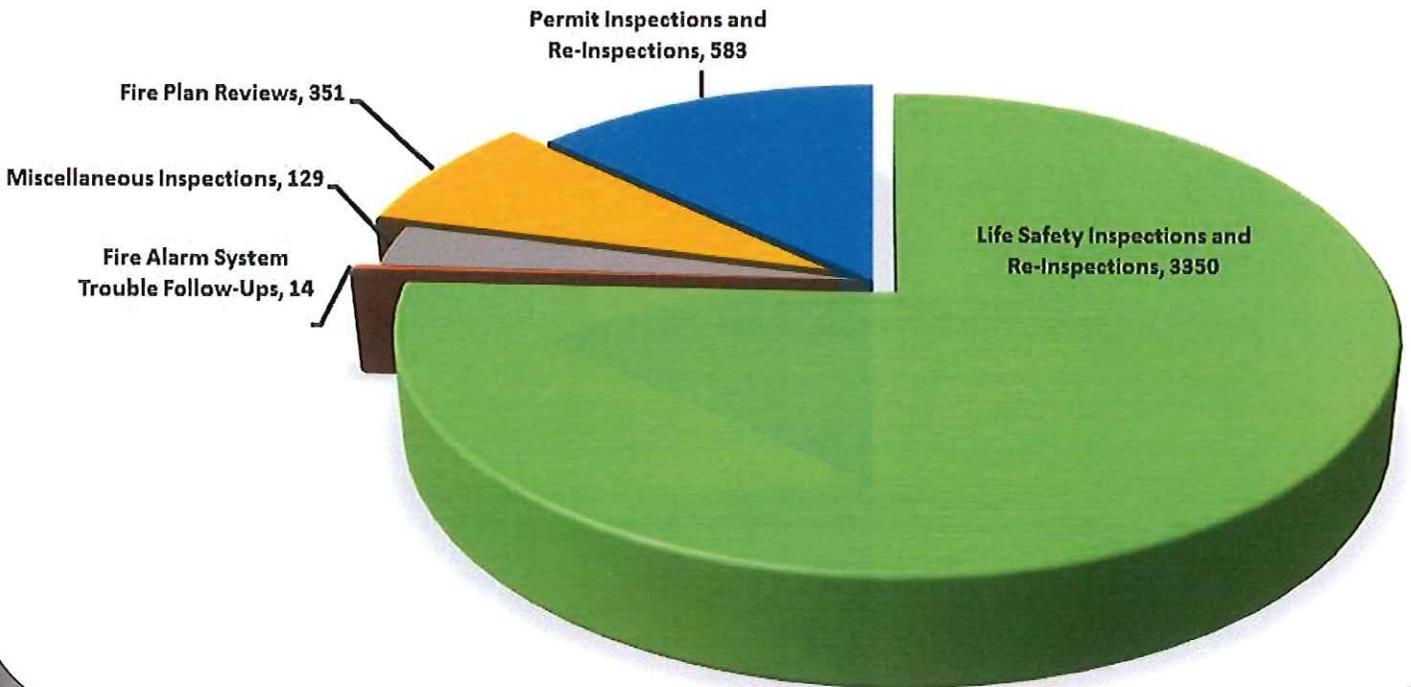
# Fire Prevention (continued)

The second major focus of the Division is new construction of commercial and multifamily residential buildings for which the Division completed a total of 351 plan reviews and 583 new construction inspections. Throughout the year there were 68 investigations of problem fire alarms, seeing these through until they were repaired. Lastly, there were 129 inspections and visits of a miscellaneous nature, such as



updating building keys and conducting training. These activities are depicted on the chart below.

**FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES**



# *Fire and Life Safety Education*

The goal of Fire and Life Safety Education is to educate the community, especially those identified as high risk, in methods of prevention, reaction, and preparedness for fire, injury, and other natural disasters. Any emergency the fire department responds to becomes an area of concern for which the department needs to prepare the community.

Each fire and injury prevented also contributes to the safety of department personnel. The Downers Grove Fire Department's Fire and Life Safety Education programs have been recognized nationally for outstanding innovation, community outreach, and risk reduction. Following are some of the initiatives and programs offered by the department:

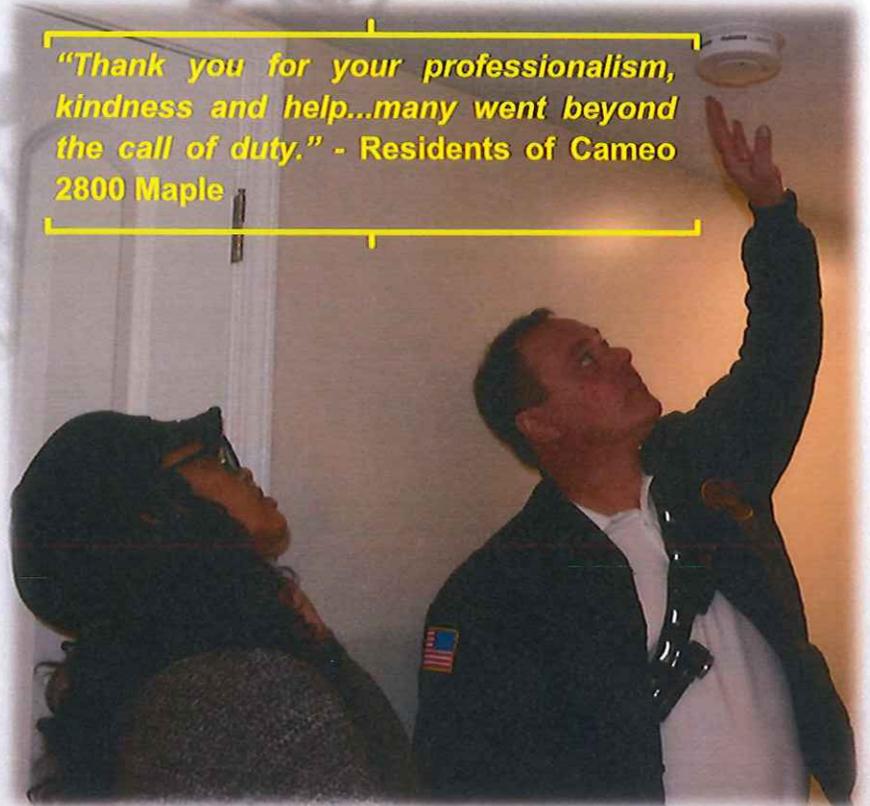
- Fire and Life Safety Education Programs for multi-age level programs in schools (includes Learn Not to Burn for all 3 and 4 year old preschools, Adopt-A-Firefighter First Grade Program, 3rd and 4th Grade Learn Not to Burn Program, and Eighth Grade Basic Aid Training Program)
- Older adult educational programs and safety consultations, planning assistance, training and evacuation drills for older adult facilities
- Youth Firesetter Intervention Program for Youth Firesetters and their families
- Community Educational Events: Night at the Firehouse, Passport to Safety Day, Silent Parade, Baby Basics for expectant parents, Babysitting Classes, Safety Town
- Community business and organization emergency training, special events and requests
- Internal department special events coordination
- Car Seat Safety Checks
- High rise and multi-family building evacuation planning, education, and drills



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# Fire and Life Safety Education (continued)

- Communication with and educational presentations for community groups and organizations about fire department procedures, safety, injury prevention and other outreach opportunities
- School emergency planning and fire drills in all schools to comply with Illinois statutes
- Public Information Officer to respond to incidents as liaison with media
- Victim assistance to families of fire during and after incident
- Educational station tours
- Answer community inquiries and assist in solving safety concerns
- Community Care Program for at risk EMS patients
- Smoke alarm installation for those at risk



**"Thank you for your professionalism, kindness and help...many went beyond the call of duty." - Residents of Cameo 2800 Maple**

### 3rd Grade Family Smoke Alarm Checks

Total Participant Households: **522**

Total Residential alarms identified as non-working and fixed: **66**

### Emergency and Evacuation Planning and Drills

Children: **15,814**      Adults: **13,946**

Total Participants: **29,760**

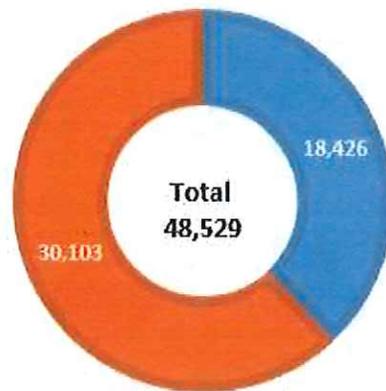
### School Program Contacts

Children: **10,266**      Adults: **450**

Total: **10,716**

### TOTAL COMMUNITY SAFETY OUTREACH CONTACTS

■ Adults ■ Children



### Community Block Party Visits

107

### Station Tours

42



# *Specialty Teams*

## *Cause and Origin*



Fire investigators are charged with responsibility for investigating and analyzing fire and explosion incidents to determine the origin, cause, responsibility, or prevention of such incidents.

Fire investigation and the accurate listing of causes is fundamental to the protection of lives and property from the threat of fire or explosion. Through the determination of origin, cause, and responsibility future fire incidents can be avoided, leading to better fire prevention codes, standards, training, and in cooperation with the Police Department in the prosecution of arson cases.

The DGFDF Fire Investigation Team is made up of seven Fire Investigators and five Arson Investigators. These investigators respond to incidents within Downers Grove, assist our neighbors with MABAS work with the DuPage Fire Investigation Task Force which is made up of 50 investigators from the Sheriff's Office Police and Fire Investigators, ATF, FBI, and the DuPage county State's Attorney's Office.

The Fire Investigation team also works with the Fire and Life Safety Education Division, Police Department, and the DuPage County Juvenile probation office in the Youth Firesetters Intervention Program. Each fire investigator must have the following minimum qualifications:

- 5 years on the Department
- IL Office of the State Fire Marshal certified FF III or Advanced Tactical Firefighter
- Haz-Mat Awareness
- 120 hours State Fire Marshal's Office Certification

In addition to the minimum qualifications of fire investigators, each arson investigator



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# *Specialty Teams*

## *Cause and Origin (continued)*

must also have the following:

- 5 years as a fire investigator
- 200 hour basic Police Training course
- 40 hours firearms course
- Youth Intervention Specialists also complete a 40 hour certification course

In addition to these requirements each investigator must also complete 100 hours of continuing education, including both classroom and practical exercises every four years for state re-certification. The Fire Investigation team responds to an average of 30 fires per year within Downers Grove and provides assistance throughout DuPage County.



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# *Specialty Teams*

## *Technical Rescue Team (TRT)*

The Downers Grove Fire Department responds to many different types of emergency incidents. Emergencies include high angle rescues, trench rescues, confined space rescues, and structural collapse rescues. This type of response requires specialized equipment along with special training to mitigate these emergencies. The technical rescue team is housed at Station 101 located at 2560 Wisconsin. Squad 101, Utility 101, and the Technical Rescue Trailer are the primary response units. These units carry specialized equipment to deal with various types of rescues. The Downers Grove Technical Rescue Team is one of five teams that make up the MABAS Division 16 Technical Rescue Team. Members of the Downers Grove Technical Rescue Team are also members of the Illinois Task Force 1 response team.

***"The Fire Department is very progressive and we have a community that is very supportive of us." - Lt. Mike Whalen***



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# Specialty Teams

## Dive



The Downers Grove Fire Department operates a Water Rescue Team. The Water Rescue Team responds to incidents that deal with open bodies of water, rivers and creeks, as well as flooding incidents. Members are certified and trained to perform rescues on the water's surface, on frozen bodies of water, and also under ice. The Downers Grove Water Rescue Team is part of the MABAS 16 Water Rescue Team. Members train and respond to incidents in Downers Grove as well as surrounding communities. The MABAS 16 Water Rescue Team also provides personnel and equipment to incidents within the Village.

Currently the team has 12 certified Divers, five certified Swift Water Technicians, and four certified Ice Divers. Water Rescue equipment is carried on Squad 101 and most Divers are assigned to this company.

## Hazardous Materials

The Hazardous Materials Team responds to incidents involving the uncontrolled release of chemicals within the Village. These releases can occur due to accidental spills, industrial accidents, traffic accidents, construction accidents, or intentional releases. Hazardous materials incidents are frequently complex and require great numbers of personnel, equipment and



information resources. Because of these complexities, the Hazmat Team works in cooperation with other departments within the Village, County and State of Illinois. The team maintains an outstanding working relationship with the Downers Grove Public Works and Police Department, DuPage County Department of Public Health, FBI, EPA, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. The Downers Grove Hazmat team is one of five teams that make up this MABAS Division 16 Hazmat Response Team.



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# Training

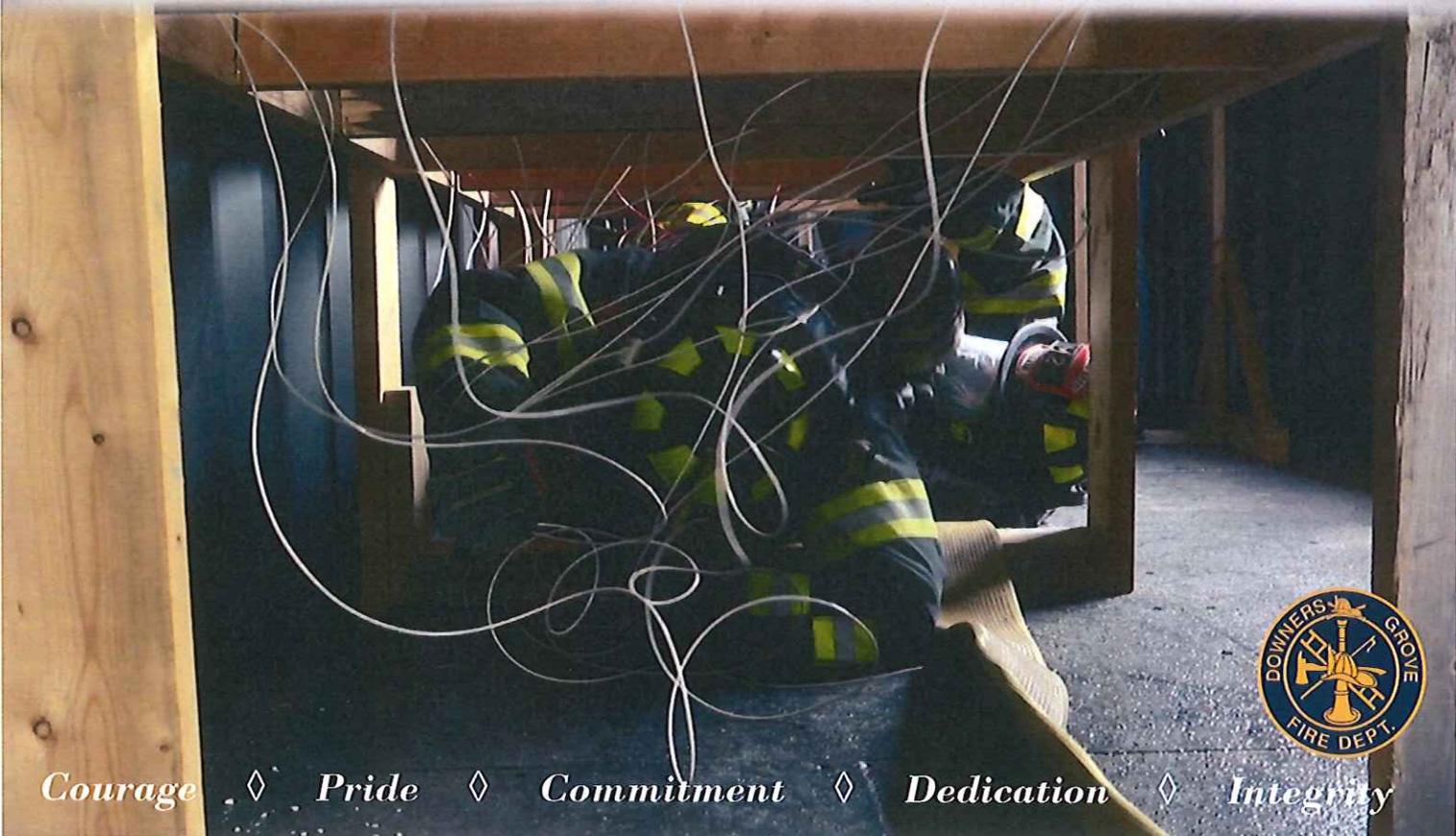
Training leads to success in carrying out the mission of the Fire Department. The Training Division conducts, supervises and coordinates the Fire Department training programs to ensure that the Department is prepared for any emergency.



The Training Division is led by a Battalion Chief who is responsible for the overall administration and management of the Fire Department Training Program.

This individual ensures compliance with applicable federal, state and local mandates while producing meaningful training sessions aimed at personal and professional development. The Battalion Chief of Training also responds to emergency scenes as needed to act as the Safety Officer as part of the Department's Incident Command System.

James Werner was assigned the role of Battalion Chief of Training in 2018 and has been working with a team of instructors to bring a new level of training to the Department.



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# Training *(continued)*

The Foreign Fire Insurance Board assisted the Training Division in 2018 by funding a new training facility which is located at Fire Station 101. This facility allows us to provide realistic training for a wide range of situations from fire attack, aerial and ground ladder operations, search and rescue, forcible entry, high angle and technical rescue, all in a challenging but safe environment. Each skill station incorporated into the facility is an essential firefighter skill or replicates a known situation in which a firefighter lost their life. This resource will be instrumental in preparing our members.

Several specialized events took place with training in addition to normal scheduled training and mandates in 2018.

The department sent 4 members to Smoke Diver training and 4 members to Company Officer School through grant funding provided by the Illinois Fire Service Institute.



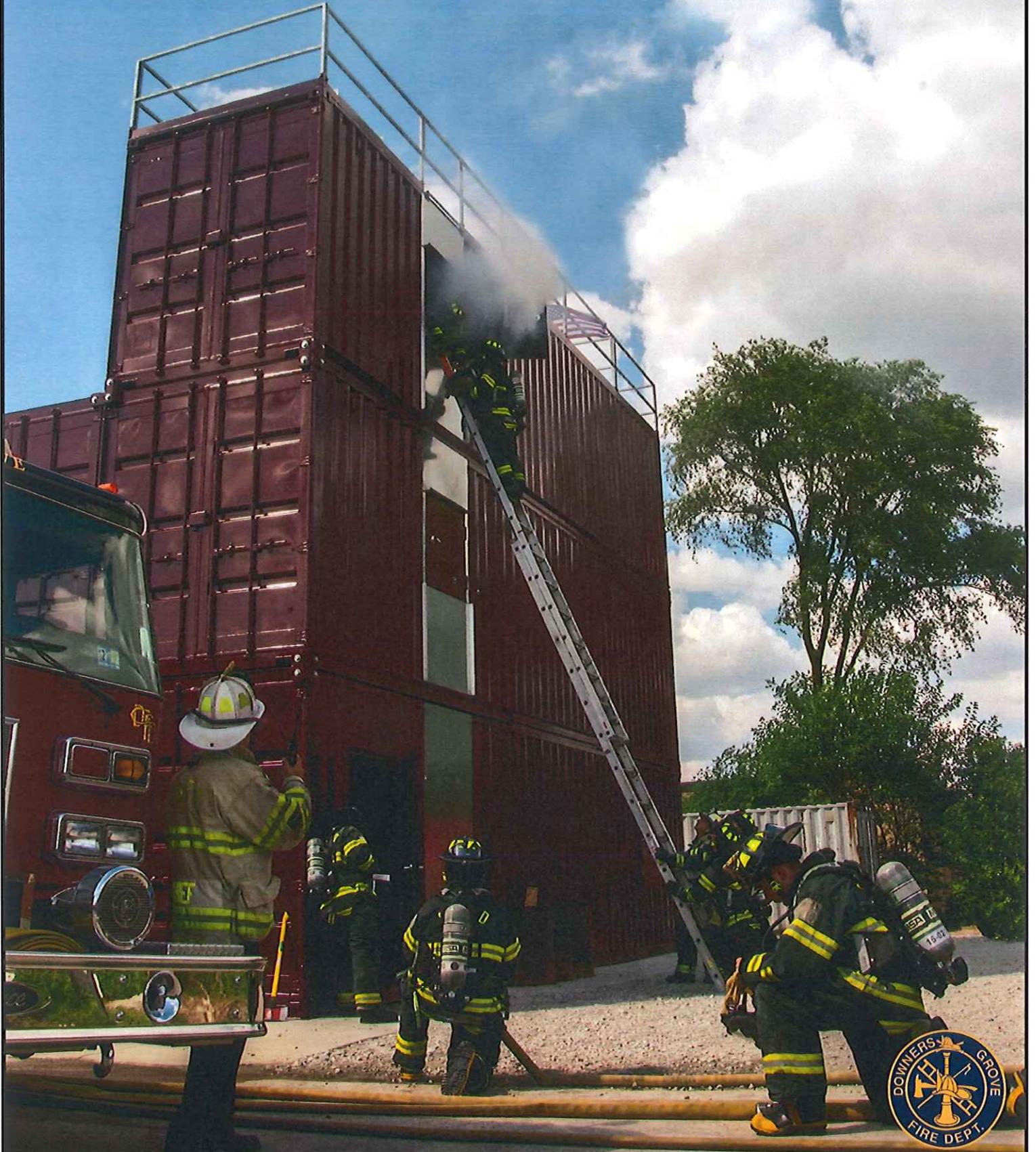
Retired Deputy District Chief Ed Enright of the Chicago Fire Department spoke on the importance of Duty, Pride and Tradition in training sessions for all department members. Retired United States Marine Corps Colonel Royal Mortenson shared leadership principles during our 2018 Officer's Retreat.

**2018 Total Training Activities - 28,258**  
**2018 Total Training Hours - 24,842**



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*"We hold our members to a higher standard."  
- Chief Jeffrey Pindelski*



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# Awards and Recognitions

## Chief's Award

Alan Kinney



One Department member in particular took ownership in the training tower from the proposal to its design and completion. Without his commitment and perseverance, the project may not have happened.

For this dedication, Firefighter / Paramedic and Foreign Fire Tax Board Member, Alan Kinney has been awarded the 2018 Downers Grove Fire Department Chief's Award.

## Terry Reiter Award for EMS Excellence

Daniel Rietveld



The Terry Reiter Award for EMS Excellence is dedicated to the memory of former Assistant Fire Chief Terry Reiter. Chief Reiter was responsible for implementation of the Paramedic program. The award recognizes dedication and committed excellence to the standards of Emergency Medical Services to the Village of Downers Grove.

Firefighter/Paramedic Daniel Rietveld began serving as the Fire Department Assistant EMS Coordinator over three years ago. In May 2018, Firefighter/Paramedic Rietveld became the Department EMS Coordinator. During this tenure, Firefighter/Paramedic Daniel Rietveld has been instrumental in directing EMS operations for the department as well as spending countless hours with budgeting for and research of new EMS equipment. He maintains the department medical supply inventory, maintains and repairs equipment as well as ensures IDPH compliance of the Department's EMS program. In this role, he has completed a project to change the purchase and distribution of oxygen that is carried on department vehicles. The new program increased efficiency and reduced costs dramatically. He has served as a lead paramedic preceptor sharing his knowledge with paramedic students as well as mentoring the newest members of the Department. Firefighter/Paramedic Rietveld has served in various essential EMS roles prior to becoming the departmental coordinator including leading the EMS committee and participating in the design of new ambulances for the department.

For his commitment to excellence in the field of Emergency Medical Services, Firefighter/Paramedic Daniel Rietveld was presented the 2018 Downers Grove Fire Department Terry Reiter Award.



## **Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal Medal of Valor and Firefighter Excellence Award**

The Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal presented Downers Grove Firefighter/Paramedics Quinn Triplett, Scott Sohn and Andrew Hoff with the Award of Valor at the 2018 State of Illinois Firefighting Medal of Honor Ceremony. In addition, Firefighter/Paramedics Michael Covelli and Kevin Schraeder were presented with the Firefighter Excellence Award for their efforts in the rescue.

On February 4, 2017, FF/PMs Quinn Triplett, Scott Sohn and Andrew Hoff, and members of Engine Company 103 encountered a single family home heavily engulfed in fire on the first floor with an occupant trapped in a second floor bedroom. Engine 103 and Medic 103 simultaneously started the fire attack and attempted an interior rescue but were driven back by the extreme fire conditions. After arrival of other Downers Grove Fire Department companies, Engine 103 again attempted an interior rescue in the face of personal injury and risk of life. The victim was quickly found and removed through a window. Downers Grove FF/PMs Triplett, Sohn and Hoff displayed outstanding courage and determination that enabled the victim to be located and removed from the structure. The victim was transported to Good Samaritan Hospital where she later succumbed to her injuries.

Engine Company 103 and Tower Ladder Company 102 also received an Honorable Mention Unit Citation for the *2018 FireHouse Magazine Valor Award* for this call.



(L to R) FF/PM Michael Covelli, FF/PM Quinn Triplett, BC John Hardy,  
FF/PM Scott Sohn, FF/PM Andrew Hoff, FF/PM Kevin Schraeder



# *Awards and Recognitions* (continued)

## **Downers Grove Fire Department Commendation Award**

The success of our operations and performance of duties on the street is easily recognized each day. There are many things that must take place behind the scenes that often go unnoticed to make that success a reality.

The Downers Grove Fire Prevention Division performs a function that is vital to the safety of the community as well as the members of the department.

The Fire Prevention Bureau has played a large factor in our designation as an "ISO Class 1" Fire Department. Some of the most recent accomplishments by our Bureau include;

In 2018, The Village of Downers Grove was formally recognized as a Fire Safe Community from the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board.

The Bureau assisted in having the Village adopt the 2015 International Fire Code which is more up to date and provides additional safety blankets for our members and the community.

The Bureau has consistently completed inspections in over 90% of all inspectable occupancies within the Village.

The Bureau has assisted in the installation of over 300 smoke alarms in the homes of elderly residents.

The Bureau has established a program with the Village Public Works Department to ensure that all private water mains and hydrants are inspected, tested and maintained on an annual basis.

They have launched a web based pre-plan program to outline the layouts of buildings within the community.

Completion of the NFPA 101 project was also realized in 2018, in an attempt to have all buildings previously exempt from requiring fire alarm systems to be identified and have an alarm system put into place.

The Fire Prevention Bureau works tirelessly to ensure that our community is safe and that our firefighters have the proper information to perform their jobs efficiently and safely. For these efforts, the Downers Grove Fire Prevention Bureau - Division Chief Chris Hull, Inspector Wally Olewinski, Inspector George Achter and Administrative Assistant Ashley Downard were presented the 2018 Downers Grove Fire Department Commendation award.



(L to R) DC Chris Hull, Admin. Secretary Ashley Downard, Inspector Walter Olewinski, Chief Jeffrey Pindelski

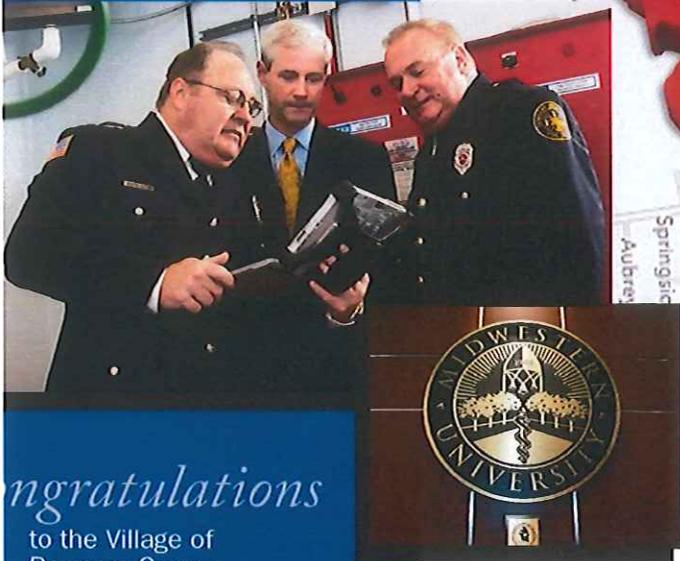
*Not pictured Inspector George Achter*



*Courage* ◇ *Pride* ◇ *Commitment* ◇ *Dedication* ◇ *Integrity*

# THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE

*Inspects to Protect*



It is essential that fire sprinkler systems are inspected, tested, and maintained (ITM) to keep them operating properly for the safety of their community. The Downers Grove Fire Department has implemented a proven program to ensure all fire sprinkler systems in their community meet the NFPA 25 standard.

*Congratulations*

to the Village of Downers Grove:

- Fire Chief  
Jeffery Pindelski
- Deputy Fire Chief, Operations  
Scott Spinazola
- Deputy Fire Chief, Administration  
Dan Tasso
- Public Information and Education  
Marsha Giesler
- Fire Marshal  
Chris Hull
- Mayor  
Martin T. Tully
- Commissioner Bob Barnett
- Commissioner Greg Hose
- Commissioner William Waldack
- Commissioner Bill White
- Commissioner Marge Earl
- Commissioner Nicole Walus
- Village Manager Dave Fieldman
- Community Development Director Stan Popovich



To achieve their goals and maintain proper ITM, Downers Grove worked closely with **The Compliance Engine Powered by Brycer**. The Compliance Engine is a simple, web-based service for Fire Prevention Bureaus to track and drive code compliance, reduce false alarm activity, and provide safer communities through third-party inspection reporting and maintenance.

NIFSAB recognizes the Village of Downers Grove's efforts in creating a Fire Safe Community.

NFPA 25 is the baseline for inspection, testing, and maintenance of water-based fire protection systems. Compliance helps maximize system integrity to avoid failure and to ensure fast, effective response in a fire emergency.

**For more information visit:**



[FireSprinklerTesting.org](http://FireSprinklerTesting.org)



[isomitigation.com](http://isomitigation.com)

# Awards and Recognitions *(continued)*

## **Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal Fire Prevention and Life Safety Award**

Assistant to the Chief Marsha Giesler was awarded the first ever Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal Fire Prevention and Life Safety Award in 2018. The purpose of this award is to recognize extraordinary efforts in furtherance of fire prevention and life safety performed in the State of Illinois.

Marsha was also recognized in 2018 as an *Honorable Mention for the Firehouse Magazine Community Service Award.*



Pictured: Asst. to the Chief Marsha Giesler and Illinois State Fire Marshal Matt Perez

## **American Heart Association "Mission: Lifeline" Gold Status**



Mission: Lifeline is a coordinated, proactive system of care that turns first responders, hospitals and other healthcare providers into a team that uses proven guidelines and best practices to treat patients suffering from acute coronary syndrome, including heart attacks. The goal: help save lives and improve patient outcomes from symptom onset all the way through cardiac rehabilitation.

In order to achieve Gold Status, the Downers Grove Fire Department was required to provide statistics for patients served that were suffering from heart attacks and strokes. The American Heart Association states that patients having a heart attack should have a 90-minute EMS to balloon time, which is the time period from when responders arrive to when the patient receives definitive treatment at the hospital. The team must meet that benchmark 75% of the time for 24 consecutive months to qualify and maintain Gold Status.

## **Fire Marshal Designation- Center of Public Safety Excellence**



In August of 2018, Division Chief Chris Hull received the Fire Marshal designation through the Commission on Professional Credentialing. Only 137 individuals have achieved this distinction worldwide. This designation recognizes excellence in seven measured components including experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement and technical competence. A comprehensive peer review model is utilized to evaluate candidates seeking this credential. Only by meeting all of the organization's stringent criteria will one qualify to receive this distinction. This achievement signifies Chief Hull's commitment to the fire service and safety of our members and community.

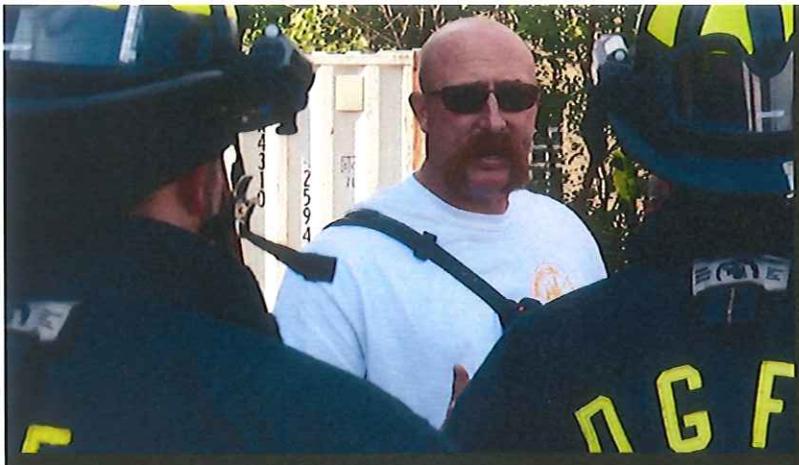


*Courage* ♦ *Pride* ♦ *Commitment* ♦ *Dedication* ♦ *Integrity*



*"Thank you to all of you for everything you do for us. You are the best."  
- Sandy Ziegler*





# Candidates Successfully Completing Probation



**Anthony  
Bacidore**  
4/1/2017



**Ethan  
Simmons**  
7/17/17



**James  
Jackson Jr.**  
7/17/17



**Marco  
Montaini**  
10/2/17



**David  
Laird**  
10/2/17



# 2018 Promotions



**James Werner**

Promoted to Battalion Chief of Training  
February 12, 2018



**Joseph Markowski**

Promoted to Lieutenant  
February 26, 2018



# 2018 Retirements



Dale Smith  
*26 years  
of Service*



Greg  
Winkelmann  
*25 years  
of Service*



Steve Carlsen  
*25 years  
of Service*



Michael Collins  
*25 years  
of Service*



Glen Mathias  
*25 years  
of Service*



Earl Moy  
*25 years  
of Service*

# 2018 Downers Grove Fire Department Roster 40



Chief of Department  
Jeffrey Pindelski  
*Serving Since 1993*



Deputy Chief  
Administration  
Daniel Tasso  
*Serving Since 2000*



Deputy Chief  
Operations  
Scott Spinazola  
*Serving Since 2016*



Assistant to the Chief for  
Community Education  
Marsha Giesler  
*Serving Since 1991*



Battalion Chief  
Black Shift  
John Hardy  
*Serving Since 1993*



Battalion Chief  
Gold Shift  
Matt Beyer  
*Serving Since 1990*



Battalion Chief  
Red Shift  
Bob Kocolowski  
*Serving Since 2002*



Battalion Chief  
Training  
Jim Werner  
*Serving Since 1992*

*Courage* ♦ *Pride* ♦ *Commitment* ♦ *Dedication* ♦ *Integrity*

# 2018 Downers Grove Fire Department Roster 41



Division Chief  
Fire Prevention  
Chris Hull  
*Serving Since 2016*



Fire Inspector  
Wally Olewinski  
*Serving Since 2007*



Fire Inspector  
George Achter, Jr.  
*Serving Since 2007*



Administrative Secretary  
Gina Barr  
*Serving Since 1993*



Administrative Secretary  
Pat Pinelli  
*Serving Since 1998*



Administrative Secretary  
Ashley Downard  
*Serving Since 2013*

# 2018 Downers Grove Fire Department Roster 42



Lieutenant  
Thomas Frank  
*Serving Since 1994*



Lieutenant  
Paul Johnson  
*Serving Since 1998*



Lieutenant  
Bradley Cummings  
*Serving Since 1998*



Lieutenant  
John Stoeber  
*Serving Since 1993*



Lieutenant  
Bret Mowery  
*Serving Since 1993*



Lieutenant  
Matthew Campbell  
*Serving Since 2005*



Lieutenant  
Michael Whalen  
*Serving Since 2005*



Lieutenant  
Michael McGivney  
*Serving Since 2002*



Lieutenant  
Jason Slager  
*Serving Since 2004*



Lieutenant  
Calvin Brainard  
*Serving Since 1996*



Lieutenant  
Robert Pekelder  
*Serving Since 2000*



Lieutenant  
Joseph Markowski  
*Serving Since 2003*

*Courage* ♦ *Pride* ♦ *Commitment* ♦ *Dedication* ♦ *Integrity*

# 2018 Downers Grove Fire Department Roster 43



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Robert Padgett  
Serving Since 1993



Firefighter  
John Christeson  
Serving Since 1993



Firefighter  
Michael Cipra  
Serving Since 1994



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Scott Magee  
Serving Since 1996



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Thomas Otake  
Serving Since 2001



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Sigmond Markowski III  
Serving Since 2002



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Daniel Hartley  
Serving Since 2003



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Andrew Hoff  
Serving Since 2003



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Brian Meister  
Serving Since 2003



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Quinn Triplett  
Serving Since 2004



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Daniel Lund  
Serving Since 2005



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Christopher Callard  
Serving Since 2006

Courage ♦ Pride ♦ Commitment ♦ Dedication ♦ Integrity

# 2018 Downers Grove Fire Department Roster 44



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Kevin O'Leary  
Serving Since 2007



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Michael Baldwin  
Serving Since 2007



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Gerald Bonsonto  
Serving Since 2008



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Matthew Hills  
Serving Since 2010



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Michael Covelli  
Serving Since 2010



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Daniel Rietveld  
Serving Since 2010



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Thomas Aagesen  
Serving Since 2010



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Ryan McKeveitt  
Serving Since 2010



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Matthew Liaromatis  
Serving Since 2011



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Scott Sohn  
Serving Since 2011



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Nicholas Gilbert  
Serving Since 2011



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Patrick Jagger  
Serving Since 2011

*Courage* ♦ *Pride* ♦ *Commitment* ♦ *Dedication* ♦ *Integrity*

# 2018 Downers Grove Fire Department Roster 45



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Justin Heumann  
*Serving Since 2012*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Alan Kinney  
*Serving Since 2012*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Robert Wooten  
*Serving Since 2012*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Scott Cavenaile  
*Serving Since 2012*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Kristofer Nowak  
*Serving Since 2013*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Edmundjon Calungcaguin  
*Serving Since 2013*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Robert Barc  
*Serving Since 2013*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Matthew Wohlrab  
*Serving Since 2013*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Shawn Lawless  
*Serving Since 2015*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Adam Hayward  
*Serving Since 2015*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Kevin Schrader  
*Serving Since 2015*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Wesley Kairis  
*Serving Since 2015*

*Courage* ♦ *Pride* ♦ *Commitment* ♦ *Dedication* ♦ *Integrity*

# 2018 Downers Grove Fire Department Roster 46



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Nathan Beck  
*Serving Since 2015*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Scott Kurczewski  
*Serving Since 2015*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Daniel Pingel  
*Serving Since 2016*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Kent Rexilius  
*Serving Since 2016*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Michael Berg  
*Serving Since 2016*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
William Carlson  
*Serving Since 2016*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Joseph Rehak  
*Serving Since 2016*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Anthony Bacidore  
*Serving Since 2017*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
James Jackson, Jr.  
*Serving Since 2017*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Ethan Simmons  
*Serving Since 2017*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
David Laird  
*Serving Since 2017*



Firefighter/Paramedic  
Marco Montaini  
*Serving Since 2017*

# 2018 Downers Grove Fire Department Roster 47

## New Candidates 2018



**Eric Vock** 7/30/2018

Eric comes to Downers Grove from the Freeport Fire Department. He has also been a member of the Woodstock and Kirkland Fire Districts. From 2006-2010, Eric served as a member of the United States Navy. Eric also has attained his Associates Degree from the College of DuPage. Eric is no stranger to the Downers Grove FD as his father, Andy proudly served for more than 20 years.



**Kevin Carpenter** 7/30/2018

Kevin has been involved in the fire service since 2011. He comes to DG from the Manhattan, IL Fire Department. Previously, he served as a FF/PM with the New Lenox Fire District as well as the Peotone Fire Department. Kevin is married and has two children. He is looking forward to coming to a larger department that offers more opportunities.



**Dylan Arnold** 7/30/2018

Dylan comes to DG from the Byron Fire Protection District where he has served since 2011. He graduated from Rock Valley College with a degree in Fire Science Technology. Prior to becoming a firefighter Dylan also spent time working as an Assembly Worker with Chrysler at the Belvidere plant as well as a stamping operator with Rockford Tool Craft.



# 2018 Downers Grove Fire Department Roster 48

## New Candidates 2018



**Benjamin Brown** 7/30/2018

Ben has been involved with the fire service since 2003 and comes to DG from a full time position with the City of Bloomington FD. He started with the Utica, IL FD working his way through the ranks to the position of Fire Chief which he has held since 2013. He has also worked with the Peru Ambulance Service. He holds a degree in Fire Science Technology from Joliet Junior College and looks forward to the increased opportunities and challenges that the DGFD will present to him.



**Bryan Rietveld** 7/30/2018

Bryan comes to DG from the Matteson, IL FD. He also served as a member of the Crete Township Fire District from 2013-2018. He received his Associate Degree in Applied Science from Prairie State College and serves as an instructor in the Fire Science program. Prior to working full time on the FD, Bryan spent time as a truck dispatcher and worked logistics with Ozinga Material and Logistics.



**Jason Driscoll** 7/30/2018

Jason comes to DG from the Minooka Fire Protection District and previously on the contract as a Firefighter Paramedic for the City of Wheaton. His previous experience as a lifeguard motivated him to want to become a firefighter/ paramedic. Jason attended Joliet Junior College where he received his Associate Degree in Emergency Medical Services.



# 2018 Downers Grove Fire Department Roster <sup>49</sup>

## New Candidates 2018



Michael Mast 7/30/2018

Michael brings experience to DG from the York Center Fire Protection District where he has served since 2016. Prior to that he worked for Paramedic Services of Illinois as a Firefighter/Paramedic at the West Chicago Fire Protection District. Michael has grown up around the fire service as his father proudly served as a member of the Lisle Woodridge Fire Protection District.



*Courage* ♦ *Pride* ♦ *Commitment* ♦ *Dedication* ♦ *Integrity*

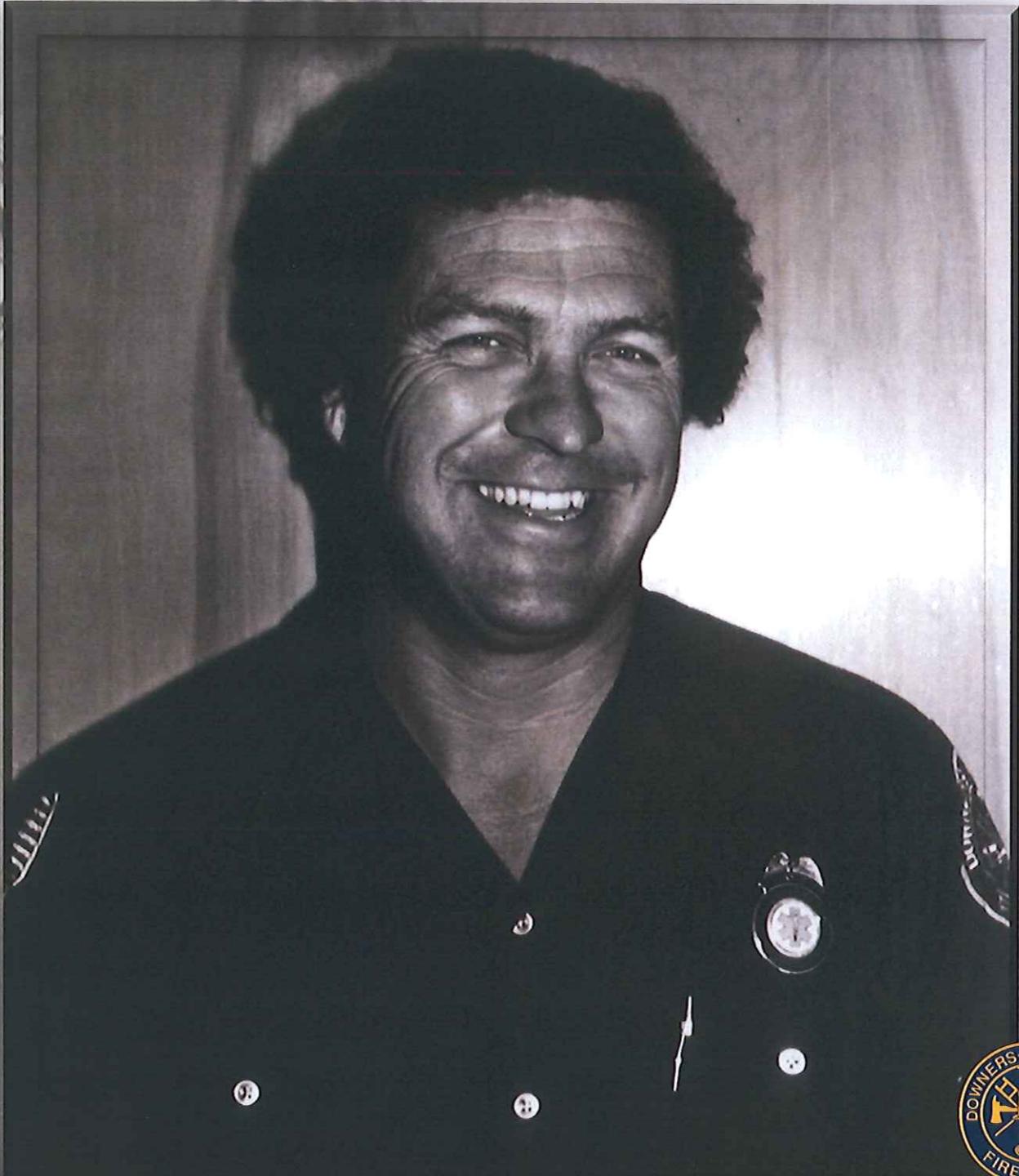
# *In Memorium*

Downers Grove Fire Department Firefighter/Paramedic

## **Kaye Kullum — Badge #144**

Kaye Kellum was one of the original Paramedics for the Downers Grove Fire Department. He proudly served the community from 1982 to October 23, 1994.

Kaye passed away at his home in Utah on July 12, 2018.



*Courage* ♦ *Pride* ♦ *Commitment* ♦ *Dedication* ♦ *Integrity*

# *In Memorium*

Downers Grove Fire Department Lieutenant

**Mike Quish — Badge #126**

Mike Quish proudly served the community from 1970 to 1986.  
Lieutenant Quish passed away on December 20, 2018.



*Courage* ♦ *Pride* ♦ *Commitment* ♦ *Dedication* ♦ *Integrity*

## OUR MISSION

To Protect  
To Prevent  
To Respond  
To Educate  
To Provide  
To Care



With pride and enthusiasm, we are a team of professionals dedicated to creating a safe environment for the residents, guests and employees of our community.

## OUR VISION

### **We Pursue Excellence In All We Do.**

*We continuously strive to improve our services, our human and community relations, the safety of our operations and our fiscal awareness.*

### **Citizens Are Our Focus.**

*We anticipate, understand and meet our citizens' needs and expectations.*

### **Dedicated Employees Are Our Most Important Asset.**

*We give our best and strive to create an environment that provides each of us the opportunity to reach our potential.*

### **We Are Good Stewards.**

*Through innovation, conservation, and cooperation we use our fiscal and human resources wisely.*

### **We Are Involved And Responsible.**

*We maintain our tradition of citizenship and service through actions that demonstrate our care for all those we come in contact with.*

### **Teamwork Is Our Way of Life.**

*We achieve mutual goals, through interaction with our citizens, businesses, co-workers and governmental agencies.*

### **Integrity Is Never Compromised.**

*Our actions and decisions reflect the highest ethical and professional standards.*