

***Western Springs Department of
Fire & Emergency Medical Services***



2015 Annual Report

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The Year in Review

The Honorable William Rodeghier, Village President
The Board of Trustees, Village of Western Springs
Patrick Higgins, Village Manager

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to present for your review the 2015 Annual Report for the Western Springs Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services. This report highlights the department's many achievements and significant events from the year past. We witnessed a number of "firsts" that I will briefly highlight.

Training is the main blood of any emergency services organization and ours is no different. 2015 truly highlighted the dedication our members have to training. We started off the year in January with our first Western Springs Firefighter Training Academy culminating in June with 18 graduates. This monumental effort was led by our Training Officer Patrick Gallagher and a proud moment of 2015 was his promotion from Training Officer to Division Chief of Training and Safety. Training at the incumbent level consisted of certifying 10 of our members to the Advanced Operations Firefighter level as well as 5 new Fire Apparatus Engineers and Ladder Truck Operators. On the Emergency Medical Services side, we saw 2 of our Paid-on-Call members licensed as Paramedics as well as 3 others as Emergency Medical Technicians.

We continued our Officer Development training program with the Clarendon Hills Fire Department and the Hinsdale Fire Department including an advanced vehicle rescue course. Due to retirements we had two openings at the Lieutenant level so we brought in the Illinois Fire Chiefs Promotional Assessment Center team to conduct a Lieutenant's Promotional test. This was the first time that our Department has used an assessment center to drive consistency and transparency in the promotion process. We promoted two Lieutenants off that list, Lt. Richard Zak and Lt. Ryan Gough.

Working with other communities is also one of our goals and to that end we coordinated our second annual emergency operations drill with three other communities – Clarendon Hills, Hinsdale and La Grange – that simulated a tornado strike and included the establishment of an Emergency Operations Center and the activation of a shelter.

Safer communities starts with safer buildings and I am proud to report that our Department was recognized by five major fire service and public safety organizations at the National Fire Protection Association annual conference for the decision to upgrade and adopt current model building, fire, and life safety codes which included residential sprinklers.

I am very proud and humbled to serve these firefighters as their Chief and look forward to a great 2016.

Sincerely,
Chief Patrick J. Kenny

Department Mission

The mission of the Western Springs Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services is "Neighbors protecting neighbors through the delivery of emergency and non-emergency services". Current programs include: Fire Suppression and Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, Public Education, Hazardous Materials Response, Cause and Origin Determination (fire investigation), Technical Rescue/Dive Rescue, and Emergency Management. The Department of Fire and EMS is also active in community events.

Purpose and Goals

- To provide exceptional customer service through cost effective programs dedicated to citizen safety and security.
- To respond to requests for the emergency services that we provide.
- To provide highly qualified, trained, and motivated personnel capable of handling any fire or EMS-related emergency.
- To maximize the training, development, and job satisfaction of the department's employees enabling us to attract, retain, and promote personnel dedicated to accomplishing the Department's mission and goals.
- To participate in community events to promote initiatives that further fire prevention and resident personal safety.
- To minimize the potential for destructive fires and accidental injury through fire prevention programs, public education, and sound code implementation and enforcement.
- To participate in the fire service community through mutual aid organizations like the Illinois Mutual Aid Box Alarm System and professional organizations like the National Fire Protection Association, the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs for the purpose of sharing resources and developing joint programs and practices to mitigate emergencies.
- To ensure that the citizens of the Village of Western Springs receive the greatest benefit for the dollars expended for fire and EMS services.



Department History

The Western Springs Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services was founded in 1894 with Elmore Patterson as its first Fire Marshall and 10 volunteer firefighters. The Department started with a rented barn and equipment that cost \$155.

In 1937 a national firefighting tournament was held at Chicago's Soldier Field and the Western Springs Fire Department defeated Colorado Springs to win the National Championship in the volunteer division.



Western Springs firefighters at the 1937 National Championship

In 1948 Western Springs became the first fire department in the area to provide emergency ambulance service with the acquisition of a new Cadillac ambulance acquired with funds raised through scrap drives. In 1972, the Department adopted the State Emergency Medical Technician program and began training personnel as EMT's. In 1979 the Western Springs paramedic program was created with support from the community and a group of volunteer members trained as paramedics. The paramedic program was the very first in the area and is now the standard of care throughout the United States. Today emergency medical services are provided by a staff of career firefighter/paramedics on duty around the clock augmented by on-call EMS personnel.

The Western Springs Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services began with volunteers and it continues today with a cost-efficient and highly effective combination of career firefighter/paramedics and local residents who serve as paid-on-call personnel. For more than 120 years when someone in Western Springs has had a fire or a medical emergency their neighbors have come to help them. It is one of the things that makes Western Springs such a special place.

Key Accomplishments for 2015

- Successful completion of the first State Certified Basic Operations Firefighter Training Academy held by our department in June 2015 with 18 graduates, 12 from Western Springs and 6 from the Village of LaGrange Park.
- Completed the Firefighter III certification program through the Office of the State Fire Marshal certifying 10 of our members and transitioned to the Advanced Operations Firefighter program.
- Continued our Officer Development training program with the Clarendon Hills Fire Department and the Hinsdale Fire Department including a high-level vehicle rescue course.
- Certified 12 new Paid on Call members at the Firefighter Basic level through the initial Western Springs Fire Academy.
- Conducted a Lieutenant's Promotional test and promoted 2 new Lieutenants off that list.
- Coordinated an emergency operations drill with 3 other communities simulating a tornado strike along with the establishment of an Emergency Operations Center and activation of a shelter.
- Continued to review and revise critical Standard Operating Procedures.
- Replaced and upgraded the Department's cardiac monitors.
- Trained and certified five new fire apparatus engineers and ladder truck operators.
- Implemented more effective use of information technology through the incorporation of building pre-plans established on the Surface tablet computers kept on the fire suppression vehicles.
- Recognized by five major fire service and public safety organizations at the National Fire Protection Association annual conference for the decision to upgrade and adopt current model building, fire, and life safety codes which included residential sprinklers.
- Established a standard process for plan review with Community Development including in-the-field inspections.
- Re-applied for and successfully received the Fire Truck (Engine) Revolving Loan through the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
- Certified two of our POC members as Paramedics and three as Emergency Medical Technicians.
- Implemented a mentoring program which matched the new recruits with veteran members who they can go to for answers and also be evaluated by on a regular basis.
- Completed an audit of the training division by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) in April 2015 receiving a very favorable evaluation. The audit noted no deficiencies. Note: This is the second audit of the training division within the past three years.
- Prepare Proposal for POC Pay Scale adjustment.



Chief Kenny and Deputy Chief Mayor with Firefighter / Paramedics Daniel Longtin and Stephanie Grimm at the Loyola EMS Awards Ceremony where they were recognized for their life-saving work at a motor vehicle accident.

Firefighters join Lt. Richard Jacobson after completing the annual Western Springs Tower Trot in May.



Area fire chiefs congratulate Lt. Howard Rue on his retirement from the Department.



Deputy Chief Mayor and Chief Kenny congratulate Training Officer Gallagher on his promotion to Division Chief.

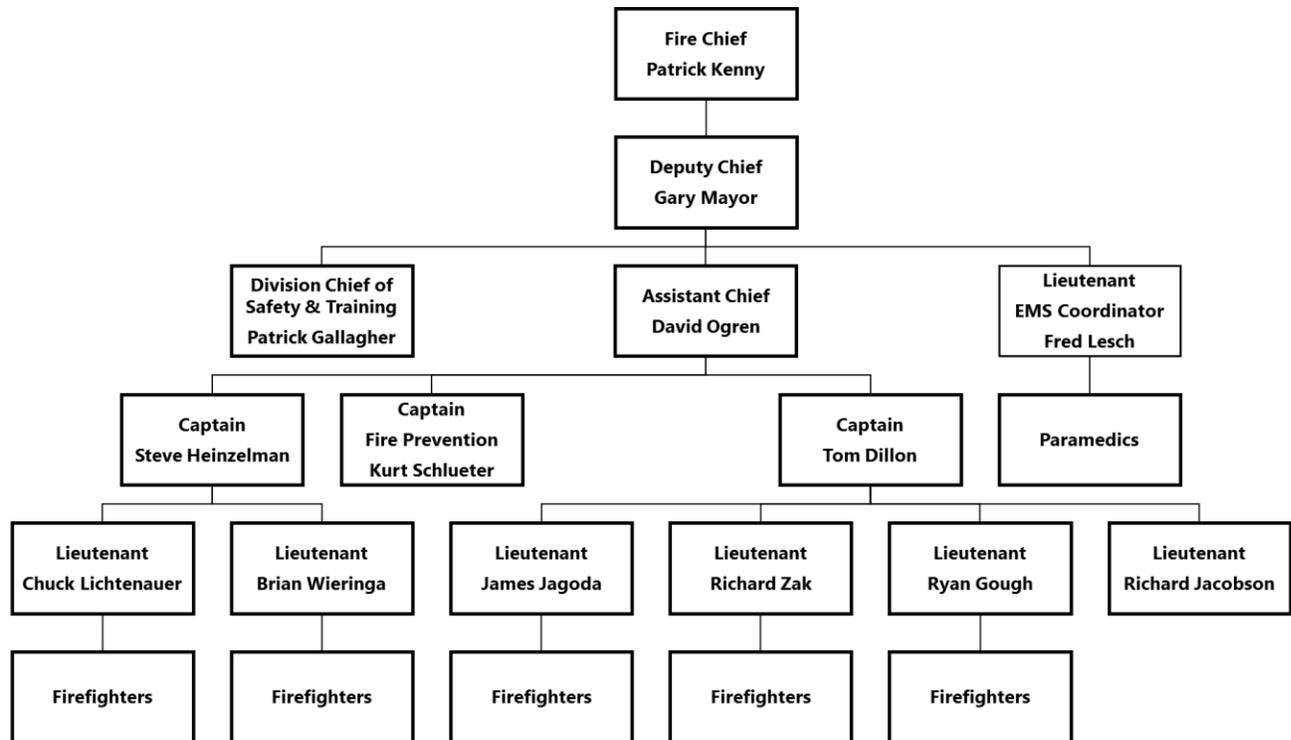
Richard Zak (L) and Ryan Gough (R) were promoted to Lieutenant in July. They're pictured with Lt. Richard Jacobson and Firefighters Paula Tomczyk and Mario Perez – all were members of the Department's 2005 training class.



Members prepare the Department's antique fire engine for the Western Springs Business Association Festival of Trees parade.

Department Organization

As of December 31, 2015 54 people staffed the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Included in this number are the Director, one Deputy Chief, one Assistant Chief, one full-time Paramedic/Code Enforcement Officer, and six contractual Firefighter/Paramedics – one of whom also serves as the EMS Coordinator. Line officers include three Captains and five Lieutenants. Other staff includes a full-time Training Officer as well a part-time Public Education Director, CPR Coordinator, and Chaplain.



Firefighters

Robert Cattin	Sean Murphy
Mark Crist	James Nachel
Michael Darcy	Timothy Newkirk
Ryan Dudek	Conor Ozog
Kevin Gay	Mario Perez
Jason Grant	Mia Scavuzzo
Richard Griffith	Chris Schneider
Karl Hammond	Daniel Smith
Lou Hansen	Steven Smith
John Hepokoski	Ken Tarter
Steven Holman	Paul Tegtmeier
Patrick Hynes	Ricardo Tijerina
Stefan Krkic	Paula Tomczyk
Chris Langstaff	William Tomczyk
Jason Larson	James Walsh
John Larson	

Firefighter/Paramedics

Lieutenant Fred Lesch
 Tim Conley
 Stephanie Grimm
 Kevin Hennessey
 Daniel Longtin
 Jeffrey Snapp

Communications/Photographer

James Regan

HAZMAT Advisor

John Lillquist

Fire Explorers

A.J. Circo	Jacob Metzger
Jacob Ellenby	Mia Norton
Luke Height	Connal Schmars
Grant Kim	Nick Soto
Vlad Malinovic	

Line Officers

Chief Patrick Kenny
 Deputy Chief Gary Mayor
 Asst. Chief David Ogren
 Div. Chief Patrick Gallagher
 Captain Tom Dillon
 Captain Steve Heinzelman
 Captain Kurt Schlueter
 Lt. Ryan Gough
 Lt. Richard Jacobson
 Lt. James Jagoda
 Lt. Chuck Lichtenauer
 Lt. Brian Wieringa
 Lt. Richard Zak

Chaplain

Rev. Christina Vosteen

Support

Lucas Knudson 9

Honor Guard

The *Honor Guard* consists of members from both the Western Springs and Hinsdale fire departments. An Honor Guard is a ceremonial unit made up of active-duty firefighters that renders honors at events including parades, funerals, and other events. The Honor Guard members perform drill maneuvers that reflect the professionalism, teamwork, and pride of the fire service. An Honor Guard member can be recognized by the red stripe on the side of the trousers and the red rope cord on the left shoulder of their uniform. The *Honor Guard* currently has eight members.

The *Honor Guard* has rendered honors at the wakes of fire service members from neighboring departments as well as services in other states. They have also participated in the Western Springs Memorial Day parade, presented the wreath at the annual memorial for fallen firefighter Willard Christoffer, presented colors at the Western Springs Fire Academy graduation, and participated in various events at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, MD in October, 2015.



Honor Guard members Stephanie Grimm, Mario Perez, Mia Scavuzzo, and Lou Hansen. (Not pictured Tim Conley)

Fire Suppression & Rescue Services

Fire suppression and rescue operations include response to and control of emergencies involving fire (structure, automobile, grass/brush, electrical wires, etc.), hazardous materials, vehicle rescue, sub-surface rescue, fire alarm activation/investigation, smoke/odor investigation/mitigation, natural gas emergencies, electrical distribution system emergencies, weather-related emergencies, carbon monoxide alarms/investigations, elevator rescue, home lock-out, vehicle accident wash down, and investigation of alarm system trouble signals.

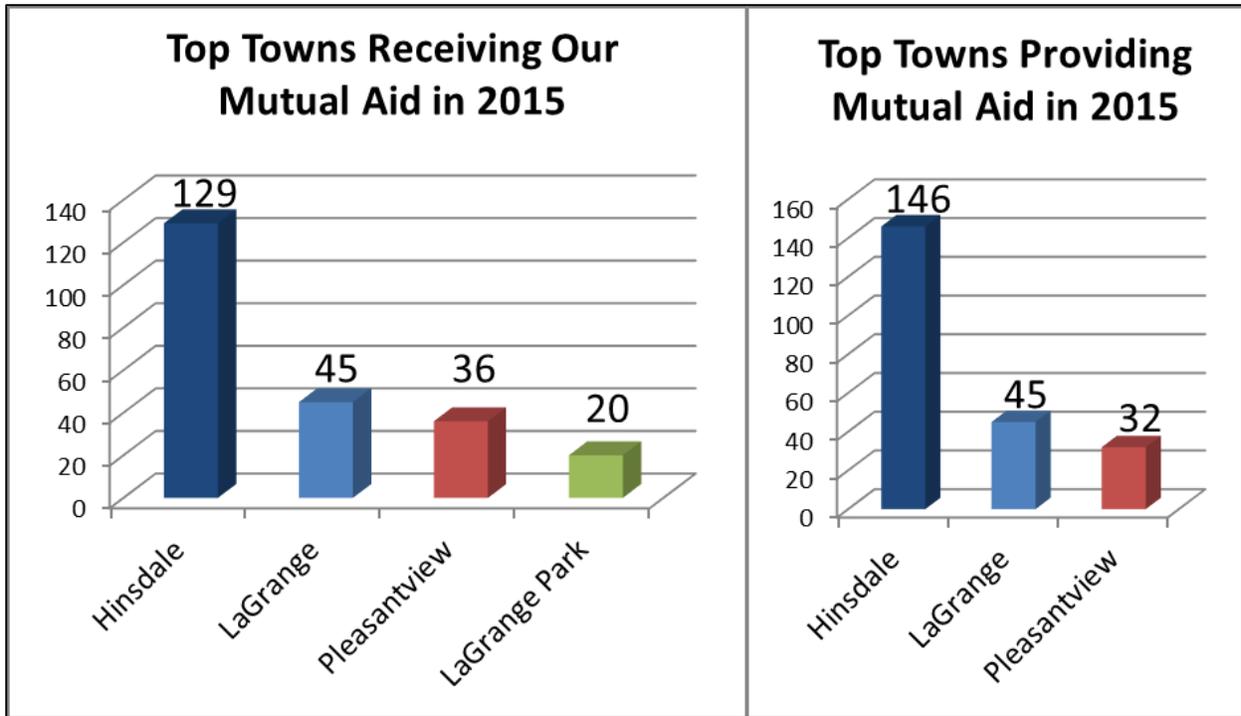
Fire suppression and rescue services response is broken down into three broad categories:

General Alarm: Includes any reported fire in or threatening a structure, a reported smoke condition/odor of smoke in a building, and any activated commercial/residential fire alarm.

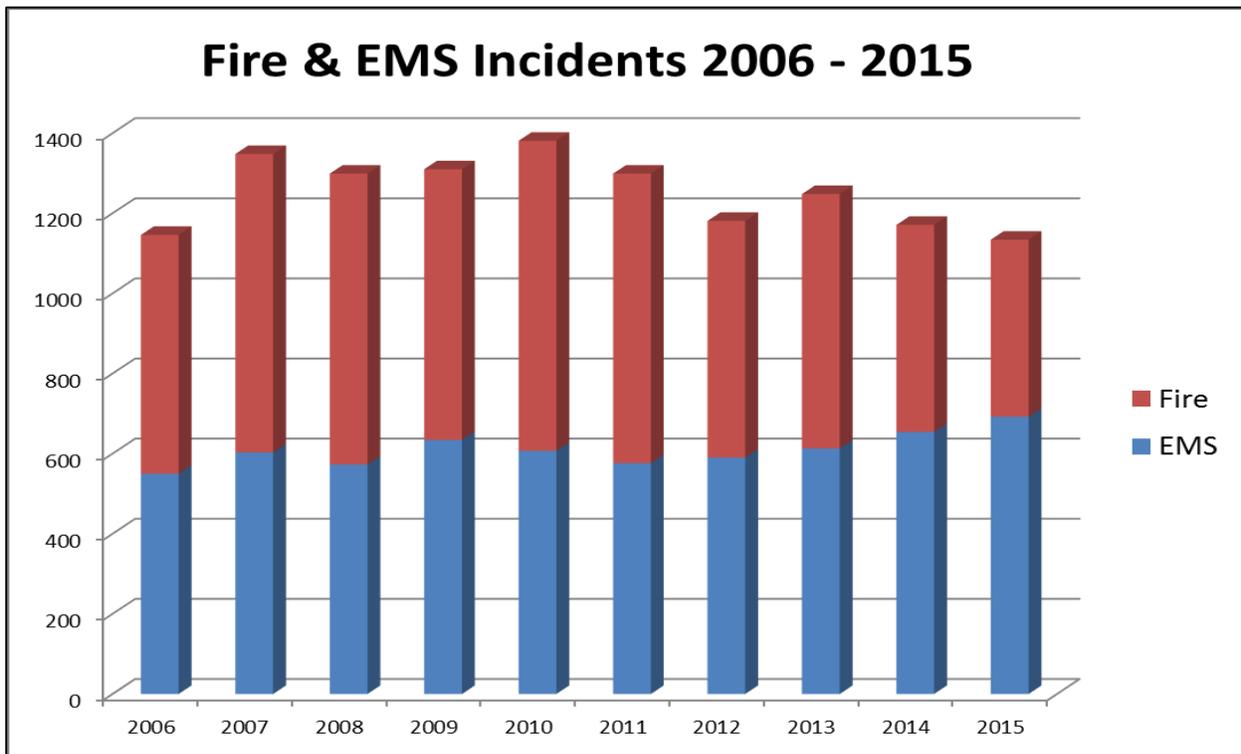
Still Alarm: Includes electrical wires burning/arcng/down, vehicle fires not threatening a structure, unknown/suspicious odor investigations, carbon monoxide detector investigations, natural gas leaks, elevator rescue, and other miscellaneous responses.

Mutual Aid: Includes automatic fire equipment response to neighboring communities and response to major incidents through M.A.B.A.S. (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System – the State of Illinois mutual aid organization). In 2015 the Department provided mutual aid to 13 different neighboring communities.

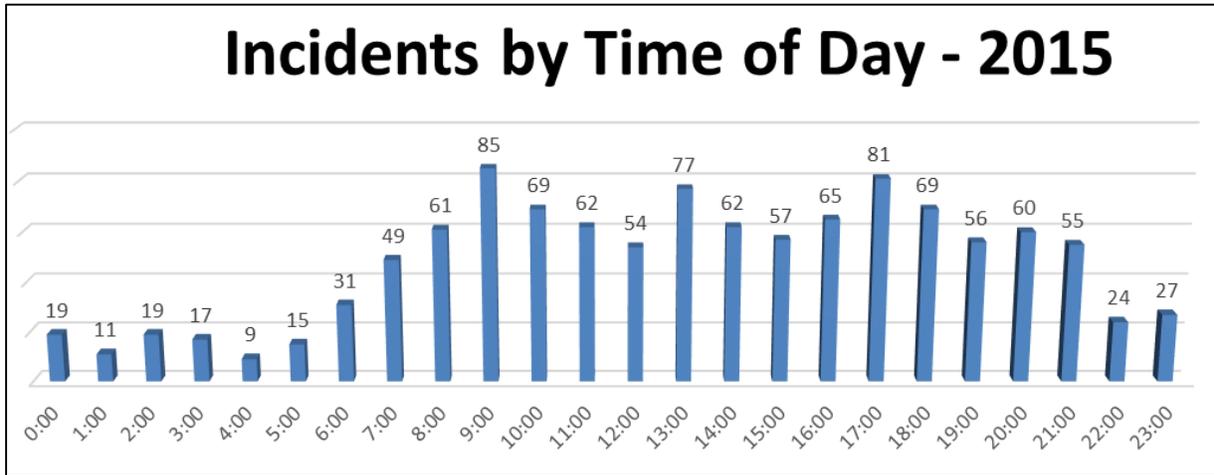




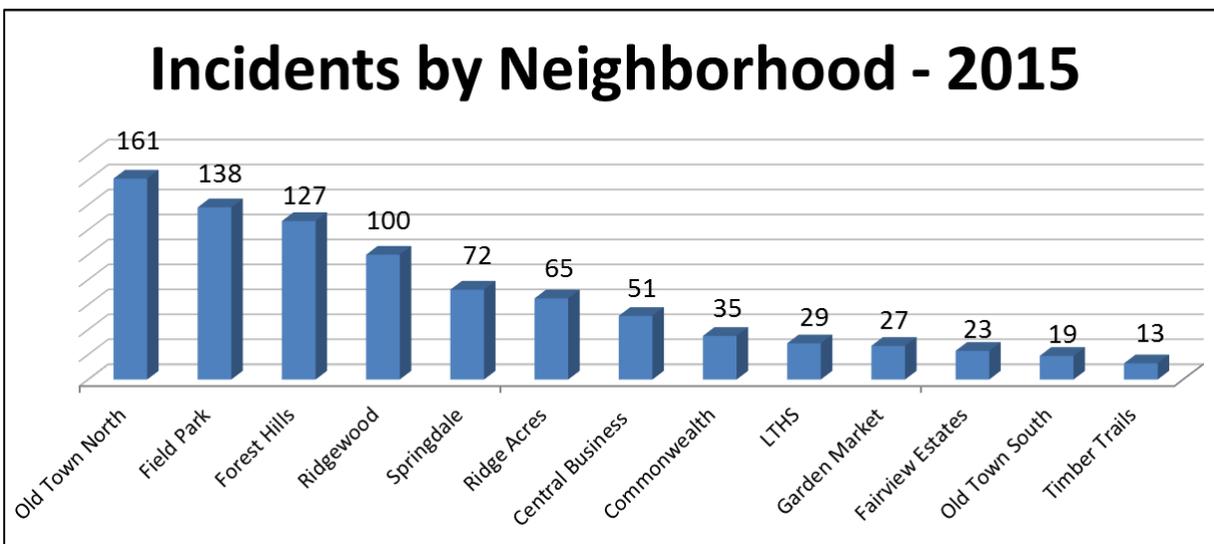
The Department responds to fire and medical emergencies across the village and surrounding towns. In 2015 the Department responded to 1,134 incidents and continued a trend where the majority of the incidents were to provide emergency medical services to village residents.



Incidents can happen in the village at any time – in 2015 the times of day when a call was most likely to occur were 9-10am and 5-6pm. Fire department members are ready to respond around the clock.



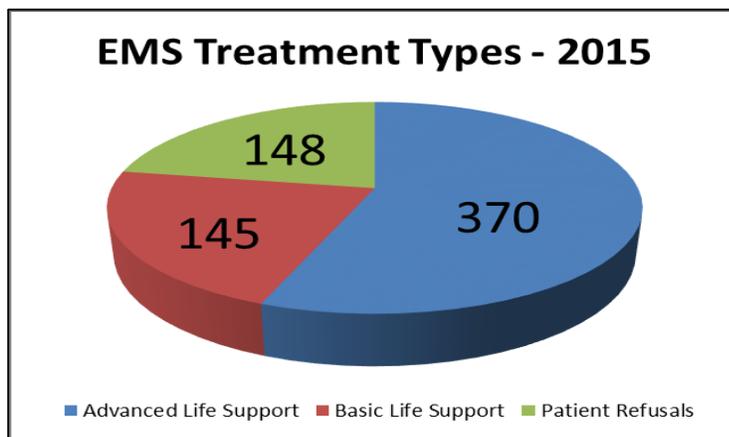
Emergencies happen across the village with the highest number of calls occurring in the areas of town with the most people. As the village continues to grow south of 47th Street the number of calls increases as well. Station #2 at 5501 Grand Avenue helps the department to better serve the village.



Emergency Medical Services

Emergency Medical Services operations include response to and treatment of medical emergency cases that involve trauma, including accidents (vehicle, home, sports), cardiac emergencies, strokes, respiratory emergencies, weather-related emergencies, other medical emergency cases (seizure, diabetes, etc.), and mutual aid requests.

Much like a hospital emergency room, the Western Springs Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services provides a team of emergency health care professionals to respond to emergency medical services calls. Unlike controlled medical occurrences where a patient sees a health care professional in a scheduled and controlled environment, emergency medical requests are often unpredictable, chaotic, and executed in challenging environments. A fire engine with additional personnel also responds to provide sufficient resources to handle any situation that may be encountered. The EMS Division operates under the direction of Lieutenant Fred Lesch.



ALS – Advanced Life Support – Invasive life-saving procedures such as cardiac monitoring, defibrillation, external cardiac pacing, advanced airway management, intravenous fluid replacement, and the administration of emergency drugs and medications.

BLS – Basic Life Support – Non-invasive emergency lifesaving care without the use of adjunctive equipment with the focus on airway, breathing, and circulation.

Patient Refusal – A patient can refuse treatment or transportation if they are alert and oriented and not a threat to themselves or others. They can be treated and not transported or completely refuse all treatment, assessment, and transportation after signing a legal release.

Emergency Management

The Department of Fire and EMS coordinates the activities that plan for the mitigation, response to, and recovery from any emergency that might affect the Village and its citizens. While typical planning prepares the village for natural disasters such as tornados there are also “man-made” disasters like railroad accidents, major fires, hazardous materials releases, “technology disasters” like communication infrastructure failures, acts of terrorism, and worldwide pandemic illnesses. The Director of Fire and Emergency Medical Services serves as the Director of Emergency Management. The Director, the Deputy Chief, and an appointed Planning Officer are regular members of the Village Emergency Management Team. In a major emergency affecting the Village, the Team – which includes members from all Village departments – is assembled in the Village’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to execute emergency management of Village operations during the crisis.

Disasters can impact a large area and over the last few years Cook County began to address the need for a formal large-scale hazard mitigation plan. This kind of plan is required to secure federal grant funding both for preventive measures and after a disaster. The Village Emergency Management Team worked with Cook County to formalize a plan that covers many hazard types:

- Floods
- Earthquakes
- Tornados
- Severe weather (heat, wind, hail, lightning)
- Severe Winter Weather (snow/ice)
- Drought
- Dam/Levee Failure
- Other Hazards (pandemics, nuclear power plants, evacuees from other counties moving into Cook County, power outages, hazardous material incidents, and shoreline erosion)

One of the more significant hazards we face is a complex weather event. There were several major tornado strikes in the area in 2015 and we have taken the lessons learned from those events to better improve our response should an event occur in the future. To better prepare for potential large-scale disasters the villages of Hinsdale, Clarendon Hills, LaGrange and Western Springs conducted a joint table-top training exercise in October that involved a tornado strike that affected the villages of Hinsdale and Western Springs.

The exercise involved training on the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) concept and exercising the various Villages Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) including all lines of communication and other support activities. The goal was to involve all agencies in the various villages as well as key support entities such as Hinsdale and LaGrange hospitals. The attendance was outstanding from all four villages with over 70 people in attendance which included elected officials, village managers, department heads, school officials, and hospital personnel.



A multi-village team tackles a problem during the Emergency Operations Center training.

2015 was a very active year for Western Springs Emergency Management as we also participated in several major projects including planning for Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) distributions, floods, and emergency infectious diseases.

Medical Reserve Corps

Western Springs Emergency Management – as a Division of the Department of Fire and EMS Services – established a federally-approved Emergency Management Volunteer Team and Medical Reserve Corps



(MRC) in 2009. Medical Reserve Corps is a national project led by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response. The MRC is comprised of volunteers from the village and neighboring communities who want to provide assistance in case of an emergency or disaster. The village currently has 53 MRC volunteers. MRC membership includes physicians, nurses, paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, dentists, communications specialists, logistics specialists, and child care

specialists. In order to provide the best possible services to our residents we are in the process of re-organizing the MRC into the West Suburban MRC. In collaboration with senior leadership from Hinsdale, LaGrange, and Clarendon Hills we have created a system that will provide MRC coverage to all four towns that maximizes the use of available resources and volunteers. The federal government has used our MRC as a model and asked that our staff assist other MRCs stand up or update their systems. We are also currently assisting the MRCs in the Rockford and Lemont areas.

Fire and EMS Training

The year brought new challenges as we conducted our first Firefighter Training Academy for twelve new candidates along with six candidates from the Village of LaGrange Park. The training academy provided an opportunity for many of our members to share their experience and expertise with the newest members of our Public Safety Team. Over the course of six months our firefighter candidates successfully completed all classroom and practical skills requirements as outlined by the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal to be certified as Basic Operations Firefighters. While the Fire Academy was one of many highlights during the year, training for the remainder of the department continued as a priority. Special recognition and appreciation goes to all of our veteran firefighters and officers who continue to share their knowledge and skills with our newer members. Quite often in-house training takes place on an impromptu basis and is done at any hour of the day. This dedication strengthens our skills proficiency and operational effectiveness.



Western Springs Fire Academy - Class of 2015



Forcible Entry Training

Working with our partners at the Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills Fire Departments, several of our members participated in an advanced vehicle extrication / heavy rescue training course. The training program included extrication skills involving different varieties of vehicles including a bus. As a result of this joint training, all three departments will be working on a combined equipment resource initiative.



Vehicle Extrication Training



Vehicle Machinery Technician Training

During the past year, probationary firefighters Ricardo Tijerina, Steven Holman, and Jason Larson completed training at the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)-Basic level which involves approximately 200 hours of training. Firefighter Ryan Dudek successfully completed licensure requirements as an EMT-Paramedic investing approximately 1,500 hours of training. Additionally, probationary firefighter Daniel Smith completed local EMS system credentialing with his EMT-Basic license. All five members are now certified within the Loyola University Medical Center/EMS System to serve our community.

Other important training initiatives and accomplishments during 2015 included:

- Continued Officer Development training for newly-promoted Lieutenants and our veteran Officers as well.
- Ten of our members completed certification requirements at the Firefighter III level through the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal.
- Conducted training exercises at acquired structures within the village to provide hands-on skills in a realistic environment.
- Implemented the use of training props for forcible entry and emergency egress to improve our training capabilities.
- Improved our efforts in the area of firefighter wellness-fitness receiving training from subject matter experts and by participating in local fitness events.
- Continued off-duty pursuit and completion of educational opportunities including Fire Officer training and other certification courses provided through the Office of the State Fire Marshal.
- Continued company level training initiatives with area Fire/Rescue agencies which focused on hands-on skills proficiencies.
- Continued work with fire simulation software to enhance our fireground decision-making and communication capabilities.



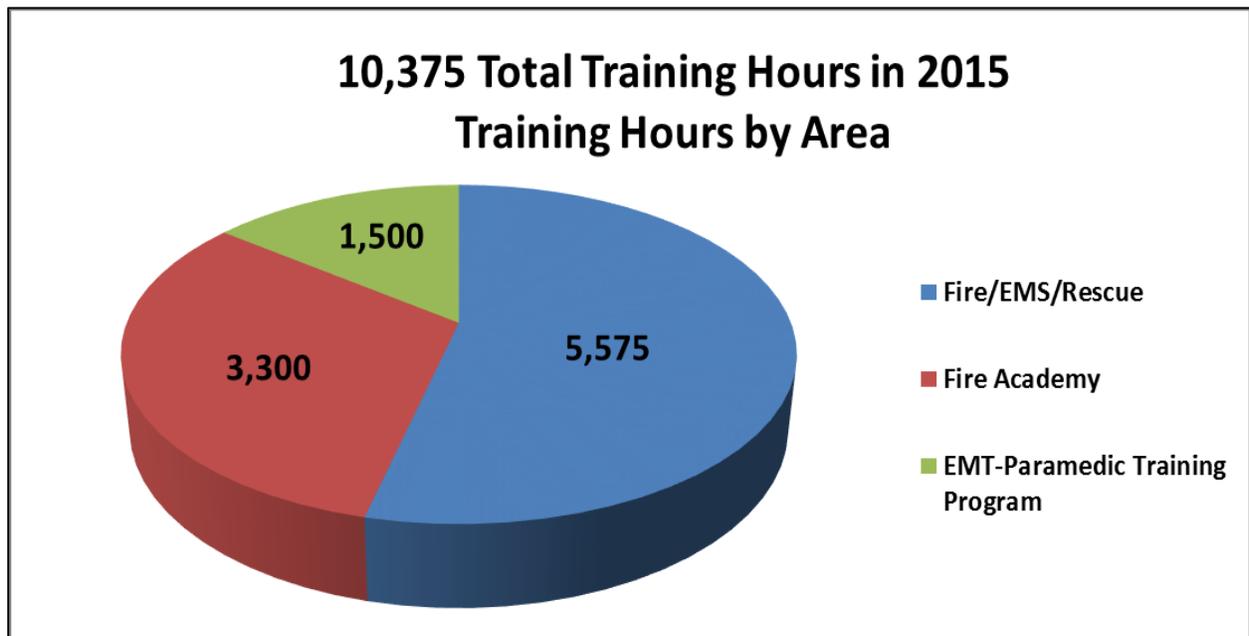
Lt. Brian Wieringa and Lt. Chuck Lichtenauer working with candidates on firefighter safety.

Building on our success from 2014, we continued our emphasis on conducting training sessions in a small group format. Through the generous donation of several local area home builders, our members were given multiple opportunities to work on actual residential structures. This provided an exceptionally realistic environment to practice our core fireground skills.



Captain Heinzelman (right) oversees roof ventilation training

We gratefully acknowledge the dedication of all of the members of our public safety team who participated in training sessions designed to better serve and protect our community. Based on the accomplishments of our Firefighters and Officers, there was much to be proud of in 2015. The newest members of our department continue to make an impact with their contributions to training and service. The coming year will require continued commitment and dedication – our members are up to the task.

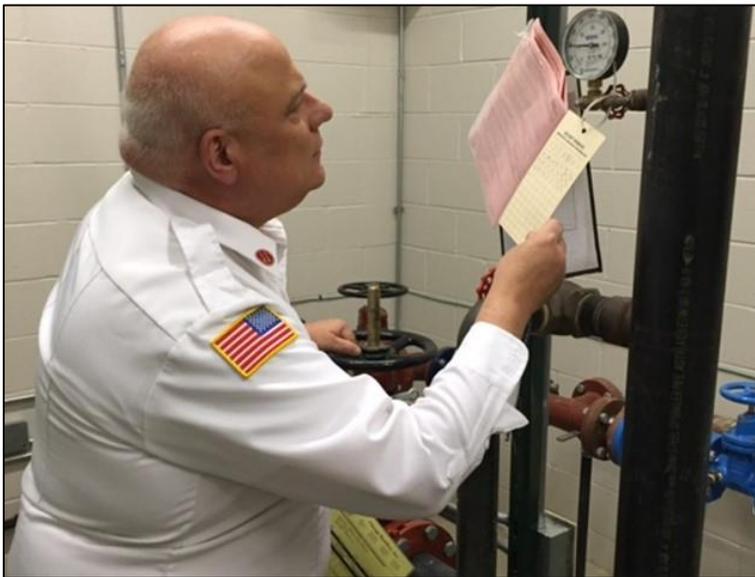


Fire Prevention

Fire prevention operations includes new commercial and institutional fire alarm systems plan review and approval, residential sprinkler system plan review and approval, fire and life safety compliance inspections, special event inspections, and response to complaints of fire code violations. The Fire Prevention Bureau operates under the direction of Captain Kurt Schlueter.

Fire prevention and life safety inspections were conducted as follows:

- All Western Springs schools including: pre-schools, grade schools, Lyons Township High School South Campus, and private schools within the Village twice per year.
- All public occupancies including the Western Springs Recreation Center, the Grand Avenue Community Center, the Village Club, the Western Springs Masonic Lodge, the Western Springs Service Club (Pool), the Theater of Western Springs, the Thomas Ford Library, and the Western Springs Historical Society Museum at the Water Tower.
- All mercantile occupancies once per year.
- Multi-Family occupancies once per year.
- Special events including Halloween events at the Western Springs Community Center, special events at the Thomas Ford Library, Gathering on the Green, and fire guard at LTHS dances.



Captain Kurt Schlueter conducts a fire safety inspection.

In 2015 the Department provided the following fire prevention services:

- 242 Inspections
- 179 Re-Inspections
- 1,102 Violations
- 454 Violations Corrected
- 35 residential sprinkler reviews

Public Education

Public Education activities are a key component of the Department of Fire and EMS. The first goal of the department is to prevent fires and injuries before they occur. Our many programs are designed to educate children and adults alike in methods to prevent accidental fire and personal injury. The public education programs also strive to educate citizens in methods to deal with actual emergencies before the arrival of professional help. The Public Education Division is led by Lieutenant Chuck Lichtenauer.

Public Education activities include comprehensive fire safety training for children in Western Springs' schools and pre-schools, the Fire Prevention Week Open House in October, fire extinguisher training for targeted groups, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training for citizens, Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training for citizens and first responders, safety visits and smoke detector checks for senior citizens, fire station tours for children and citizens, summer block parties, in station birthday party education sessions and participation in special events such as Gathering on the Green and the Memorial Day Parade.

Residential Knox Box Program

Our Knox Box program for seniors and others who require enhanced access capabilities continues to be highly successful. The program serves elderly residents living alone, wearers of electronic calling/medical alert devices, those with mobility issues, those recuperating from hospital stays, etc. A Knox Box is a small safe mounted near the door to a business or home that holds building keys for firefighters to quickly enter a building without having to force entry. The department now has ten residential Knox Boxes in service in the village.

Preschool and Grade School Fire Safety Education

- Delivered the comprehensive *Learn Not to Burn* pre-school program to five pre-schools:
 - 7 separate visits to each class at each school during Fire Prevention Week.
 - 355 children instructed on eight important fire safety lessons.
- Provided fire and life safety talks to 1,400 K-5 children in the village (13 separate presentations at 4 schools) during Fire Prevention Week.
- Delivered 5 separate fire safety talks to Cub Scout / Girl Scout / Boy Scout Troops.
- Visited 7 recreation department summer camps to discuss fire safety topics.

Station Tours

Conducted 25 formal tours for approximately 475 children and adults and also provided informal "walk-in" tours for many other village residents.

Fire Station Birthday Parties

Hosted 15 parties – 4 parties for charitable organizations and 11 for village residents.

Senior Citizens' Fire and Life Safety Education

- Active member of the Illinois Fire Marshal's "Remembering When" program for Senior Citizens. The program is committed to educating seniors on fall and fire prevention techniques and includes a component to provide smoke detectors to needy seniors.
- Installed smoke detectors and held fire safety discussions at the homes of 5 senior citizens.
- Installed 3 residential Knox Boxes to facilitate access to the home by Fire/EMS personnel in case of an emergency.

Fire Prevention Week – October 4-10, 2015

- Delivered this year's message *Hear the Beep where you Sleep*.
- Hosted an Open House at the Western Springs Fire Station on October 5, 2015 where more than 800 Village residents enjoyed touring the 8 outdoor and 12 indoor stations designed to spread the message of fire and life safety awareness.
- Demonstrated a live fire burn cell showing how residential sprinklers can save lives and property.



Firefighters demonstrate how fire spreads without sprinklers at the Fire Prevention Open House.

Families had fun learning fire safety tips at the Fire Prevention Open House.



Safety Village of Western Springs

Actively participated in the planning, administration, and operation of the sixth annual Safety Village of Western Springs now in its own dedicated space near the Recreation Center. This exciting summer program teaches 5 and 6-year old children more than fifty different facets of safety in a hands-on, fun, and educational way over a two-week period. More than 180 children participated in the program this year.



Lieutenant Chuck Lichtenauer greets children at the new Safety Village.

Neighborhood Block Parties

Displayed fire safety and emergency medical equipment at 26 neighborhood block parties.

Gathering on the Green

At Gathering on the Green the department supports the Western Springs Business Association and promotes fire prevention and safety to attendees.

Tower Topic Articles

Prepared 11 articles for Tower Topics:

- Western Springs Firefighters shave Moustaches to raise money for Men's Health
- Carbon Monoxide safety
- Fire Dept Members graduate from Paramedic program
- 2015 FF training Academy begins
- Fire Safety "Practice like you Play"
- Safety Village Grand Opening
- Residential Fire Alarm Systems
- WSFD welcomes new members
- Fire Dept. promotes 2 new LT's
- FD hosts open house for Fire Prevention week
- Holiday travel Fire Safety tips

Parades

The Western Springs Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services participates in many parades including the Western Springs Memorial Day Parade, the Hinsdale July 4th Parade, Hinsdale FD Silent parade, the LaGrange Pet Parade, and the LTHS Homecoming parade. Participation in these parades promotes the Department and fire safety. The department also delivered Santa Claus on a fire truck to the Tower Green for the Western Springs Business Association winter holiday event.



Fire Explorers Post 17

The Western Springs Fire Department Explorer Post is entering its eighth year. Currently there are 9 young adults in the program who participate in both fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) trainings held every 2nd & 4th Wednesday evenings along with one Saturday per month. They are taught at the level of a beginning firefighter as well as an EMS First Responder. The program is led by FF/EMT Mario Perez who is assisted by Post Advisors FF/PM Kevin Gay and Lucas Knudson. The Explorers support the department at events like Gathering on the Green and the annual pancake breakfast. They also provide additional staffing for severe weather alerts and the Fire Prevention Week Open House. Every year the Explorers attend a Cadet Fire School in Champaign and Galesburg, IL. These events include truck/engine operations, search and rescue, and vehicle extrication along with live fire training. They also attend other training programs throughout the year. The Post holds several fundraisers throughout the year to cover training costs.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training

CPR instructors held 30 classes to provide CPR training and certification to 375 people in 2015. The Department's CPR program director is FF/EMT Paula Tomczyk. The training consists of classroom lecture, demonstration videos, and hands-on practice. The citizen CPR training also includes the use of Automatic Electronic Defibrillators. All training is done by department personnel certified by the American Heart Association as CPR instructors. CPR/AED training and certification is also given to the following:

- Western Springs Police Department officers
- All Fire & EMS personnel
- Western Springs Park District and Recreation Department employees
- Western Springs village staff
- Community Family Services faculty
- Grand Avenue Pre-School staff
- District 101 teachers
- Theatre of Western Springs
- Western Springs residents



FF/EMT Paula Tomczyk leads the department's CPR training programs.



Service Quality Surveys

Western Springs Fire Department

740 Hillgrove Ave
Western Springs, IL 60558-0528

We responded for EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury

Were you satisfied with the the response of our personnel to your emergency?

*We are very grateful for the very quick response
to my emergency.*

Were your needs met in a caring and professional manner during this emergency situation?

*My needs were definitely met. I couldn't breathe
and needed oxygen, they recognized the need and
they acted accordingly.*

Do you have any additional comments regarding the service provided to you by the Western Springs Fire Department during your emergency?

*Everyone was very efficient and we were made
to feel at ease. The crew was very well organized.*

Thanks for your help in improving our Department.

Western Springs Fire Department

740 Hillgrove Ave
Western Springs, IL 60558-0528

We responded for EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury

Were you satisfied with the the response of our personnel to your emergency?

Yes, I was extremely satisfied
The paramedics were professional &
compassionate as well as being patient
with me in a very excitable state.
I was taken very quickly to the hospital

Were your needs met in a caring and professional manner during this emergency situation?

Yes the paramedics stabilized me &
afterwards took me to the hospital

Do you have any additional comments regarding the service provided to you by the
Western Springs Fire Department during your emergency?

The paramedics & paramedics did
everything they could possibly do. I was
very grateful for all the care they gave
me. Thank you for being there in
my time of need

Thanks for your help in improving our Department.

Department Apparatus

Engine 1711



2001 Spartan/Luverne Rescue Pumper

- 1,500 gpm (gallons-per-minute) fire pump and 750-gallon water tank
- 2 200-ft 1 ¾" pre-connected attack hose lines and 1,000 ft. of large diameter supply hose
- Hurst Tool (Jaws of Life) rescue equipment
- Seating capacity for six firefighters

During fire incidents this engine's primary role is to arrive first at the scene of a fire and initiate an immediate attack on the fire. This is normally done by the crew advancing a 1 ¾ "pre-connected" hoseline into the building and using the 750 gallons of tank water until the next arriving engine can establish a water supply from a nearby hydrant.

Engine 1711 is also configured as a rescue-pumper. In this mode it responds to vehicle accidents and other situations requiring specialized rescue equipment. This engine also supports Ambulance 1715 on all emergency medical incidents north of 47th Street and as a mutual aid (out-of-town) vehicle on extra alarm fires in neighboring communities and within the Illinois Mutual Aid Box Alarm System.

Engine 1711 is located at Headquarters Station.

Engine 1721



2005 Crimson Pumper

- 1,500 gpm (gallons-per-minute) fire pump and 750-gallon water tank
- 2 200-ft 1 ¾" pre-connected attack hose lines and 1,000 ft. of large diameter supply hose
- Seating capacity for six firefighters

During fire incidents this engine's primary role is to provide a continuous water supply from a hydrant to the attack engine and to then staff a back-up hose line in support of the initial crew. This engine also supports Ambulance 1715 on all emergency medical incidents south of 47th Street.

Engine 1721 is located at Station #2.

Engine 1722



1982 Pierce Arrow

- 1,500 gpm (gallons-per-minute) fire pump and 750-gallon water tank
- 2 200-ft 1 ¾" pre-connected attack lines
- 1,000 ft. of large diameter supply hose
- Seating capacity for six firefighters

Engine 1722 is used on confirmed structural fires for secondary water supply, utility control, and property salvage as well as Monday night training. This engine is scheduled for replacement in 2016.

Engine 1722 is located at Station #2.

Truck 1719



1993 Pierce 105' Aerial Ladder Truck

- 105-ft hydraulic aerial ladder and ground ladders
- Rescue, forcible entry, ventilation, salvage and overhaul tools
- 1,500 gpm (gallons-per-minute) fire pump and 300-gallon water tank
- Seating capacity for six firefighters

Truck 1719 normally responds second out on all in-town structural fire calls, carbon monoxide investigations, and residential lockouts. The ladder truck is the “workhorse” of the fire department. Truck 1719 carries tools and equipment necessary for forcible entry, ventilation of smoke, laddering of structures, and overhaul (checking for fire extension) of fire areas. The crew of 1719 supports the engine crews and is responsible for search and rescue. The aerial ladder portion is equipped with a high volume nozzle that can be used in elevated attacks for high volume water application.

Truck 1719 is located at Headquarters Station.

Ambulance 1715



2008 MedTec Ambulance

This ambulance company responds to calls for emergency medical services in town and in neighboring communities when requested. The unit is fully equipped to provide advanced life support treatment and transport to area hospitals. In addition, it is the first unit that responds to carbon monoxide calls to investigate whether residents need treatment.

- Advanced Life Support (ALS) equipped
- Staffed by two paramedics and an EMT/First Responder.

Ambulance 1715 is located at Headquarters Station.

Ambulance 1714



2002 Ford E450 MedTec Ambulance

This ambulance is a back-up unit available when Ambulance 1715 has already responded to an incident or is down for maintenance.

Ambulance 1714 is located at Headquarters Station.

Strategic Goals for 2016

- Examine and revise mutual aid response to improve overall response capabilities.
- Continue Standard Operating Procedure review and update.
- Apply for AFG grant for replacement of all our self-contained breathing apparatus.
- Certify 2 new Ladder Truck operators and Engineers.
- Recruit new members in the fall.
- Continue to examine and train on more effective use of IT (computers, notepads, etc.).
- Identify and implement succession planning at various levels in the department.
- Implement an Advanced Firefighter Survival training program for our members.
- Continue with the process of establishing LTACC as our consolidated dispatch center with the goal to be operational in 2016.
- Continue our Officer Development training program with the Clarendon Hills Fire Department and the Hinsdale Fire Department including a high level vehicle rescue course.
- Conduct First Responder EMS Training for the Probationary Firefighters.
- Conduct an Emergency Operations Drill in cooperation with our 3 neighboring communities centering on coordinated emergency response to schools.
- Conduct personnel evaluations on all POC members of the department.
- Develop specifications, go out to bid, and purchase replacement engine.

