

**NORTH**  
KANSAS CITY  
*Virtually Urban. Supremely Suburban.*



# Fire Department Annual Report 2016



Greetings,

On behalf of the professional men and women of the North Kansas City Fire Department, I present our 2016 Annual Report, a summary of our activities for the past year. As we compile the statistics from our last year of activities, the increases we are seeing in our call load are particularly notable.

With regard to fires and call load, this past year our fire department experienced only one major structural fire. Additionally, we typically see major flu seasons affect our call load, but this past year there was no major flu season. All of these “non-events” should have allowed the department to see a reduction in our call load, but that was not the case. As shown in this report, this past year was the largest increase in call load we have seen in several years. In 2016 we saw an increased call load of 11+%. This is a significant indicator.

This past year we continue to position ourselves to pursue International Accreditation. We continue to closely monitor and make improvements in our response times. This effort will continue into the coming year with the change in dispatching that we believe will improve the safety of all our public safety first responders.

Year over year, our community outreach continues to expand and 2016 was no exception. Last year we trained over 200 people in fire extinguisher practices. With this training comes fire safety messages and such as calling the fire department early. We anticipate this training will become more popular in the coming years and we look forward to providing it.

We have had a number of retirements and personnel changes this past year, resulting in a significant loss of institutional knowledge and experience. On a positive note, we are seeing highly qualified firefighters being hired, providing new ideas and opportunities for innovation.

And I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the support of all city departments and the guidance of the City Administrator, Mayor and Council. I hope this report will provide some insights into our commitment to our community. On behalf of the City of North Kansas City, we want to thank you; our neighbors, family, and friends, for supporting us last year and in the coming years. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Gary Fisher

Fire Chief EFO, CFO

#### [North Kansas City Fire Department Mission Statement](#)

To enhance our community's quality of life by providing life safety, property/environmental preservation, and emergency management, through professional prompt response, training and community education.

# 2016 ADMINISTRATION



Gary Fisher—Fire Chief



Roger Wagoner—Battalion Chief



Dave Hargis—Battalion Chief



Mike Jenkins—Battalion Chief



Dan Williams—Fire Marshall



Greg Hook—Chief Training Officer

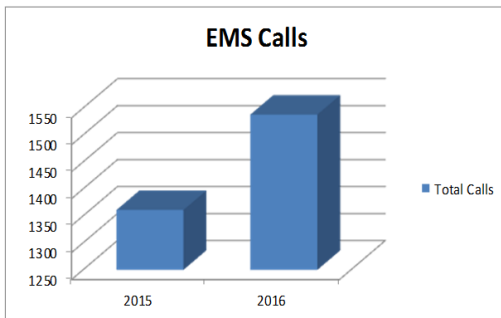


Lorraine Stringer—Administrative



# EMS

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is an important and significant aspect of the daily commitment of the North Kansas City Fire Department. We experienced a 13% increase in EMS calls from the previous year totaling 1,537 which accounts for 75% of all calls in 2016. North Kansas City Fire Department EMS program provides properly trained and equipped paramedic and EMT's to any emergency medical call in the city.



Times of Call

Time Period	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total	Percentage
0000 - 0300	25	15	11	20	16	14	29	130	8.46%
0300 - 0600	18	20	14	12	8	14	12	98	6.38%
0600 - 0900	18	14	19	21	24	28	22	146	9.50%
0900 - 1200	25	38	29	35	37	29	24	217	14.12%
1200 - 1500	25	37	33	47	55	65	32	294	19.13%
1500 - 1800	30	42	37	45	36	44	29	263	17.11%
1800 - 2100	30	26	27	34	25	45	30	217	14.12%
2100 - 2400	20	20	22	22	22	37	27	170	11.06%
Unknown	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>1537</b>	<b>100%</b>

# OPERATIONS

The Operations Division is comprised of fifty-one (51) personnel working three alternating 24-hour shifts out of two (2) stations. The Operations Division is also responsible for all emergency and non-emergency response activities including: Emergency Medical Service, Fire Suppression, HazMat, Public Assistance, & Technical Rescue

The coverage area is configured into three districts. Equipment is deployed to deliver initial fire attack and EMS services with a 7 minute overall response time. A standard first-alarm assignment for structure fires consists of two engine companies, a ladder truck company, two advanced life support (ALS) ambulances and a Battalion Chief, for a minimum of 15 people. A second-alarm would add a response by our mutual aid partners, Kansas City, Gladstone, and Riverside Missouri Fire Departments.

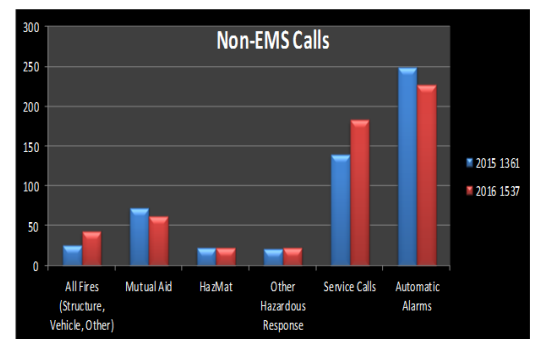
Daily emergency response staffing consists of a minimum fifteen (15) career fire personnel on a 24 hour shift assignment, operating five (5) pieces of first-line apparatus, and one (1) Battalion Chief command vehicle, operating from two (2) fire stations. All front line engines are staffed with a minimum of three (3) personnel, a Captain, Engineer, and Firefighter, one of which is certified as a paramedic allowing each engine to be Advanced Life Support (ALS) capable. The ladder is staffed with a minimum of four (4) personnel.

All trucks are equipped with the "jaws of life" and other extrication equipment and rescue personnel are trained in the rapid extrication of individuals trapped in vehicles. They also are trained in Rope Rescue and response to hazardous materials incidents. The department has ten (10) Hazardous Materials technicians.

All operations personnel are National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliant and follow the Incident Command System on all working incidents. As safety is a key element for the department, the first position created after the Incident Commander position is a Safety Officer.



	2015	2016	2016 Increase
EMS	1361	1537	13%
All Fires (Structure, Vehicle, Other)	26	43	65%
Mutual Aid	73	62	-15%
HazMat	22	22	0%
Other Hazardous Response	21	22	5%
Service Calls	139	183	32%
Automatic Alarms	250	228	-9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1892</b>	<b>2097</b>	<b>11%</b>



# TRAINING

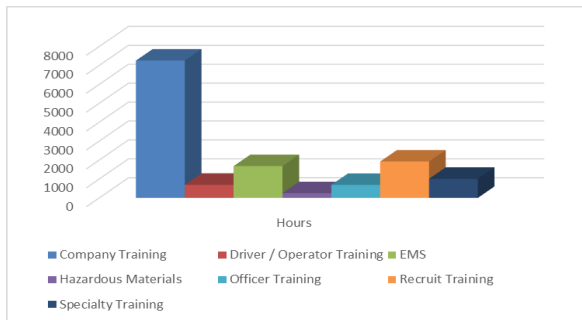
The Training Division of the Fire Department had an extremely successful year in terms of training. The year was filled with various training activities and special educational classes that personnel attended.



Over the course of the year, over 13,488 hours of training were documented. This training encompassed a multitude of training topics to include company drills, driver training, emergency medical training, hazardous materials training, officer and recruit training alike and specialty training sessions. Training sessions are scheduled to make sure personnel stay proficient with essential job skills. These skills included modern fire-fighting techniques, unique and challenging medical skills and hazardous materials mitigation techniques.

Personnel attended courses offered by local professionals to ensure that emergency medical skills are kept at the highest level. These classes included Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Prehospital Trauma Life Support and Advanced Medical Life Support.

The training division is highly involved in helping prepare personnel to take on new positions within the organization. During 2016, a company officer testing process and new hire testing process were held to promote personnel to the next level or to establish an eligibility list of eligible candidates to promote when positions become available over the course of the next two years. Prior to the promotional test, classes were delivered to help candidates prepare for the assessment process.



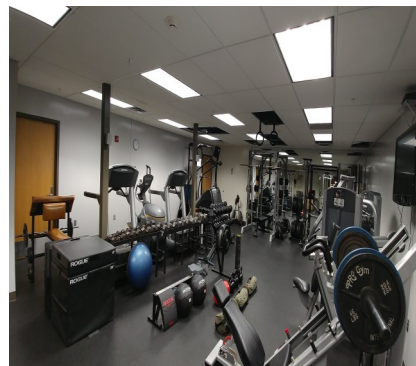
Training Category	Hours
Company Training	7254
Driver / Operator Training	691
Emergency Medical Services Training	1677
Hazardous Materials	252
Officer Training	686
Recruit Training	1920
Specialty Training	1008
TOTAL	13488

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS



**CPR Mannequin/ EMS Simulator**

Crew training on 'Pit Crew' CPR with this state of the art simulator. The life-like mannequin has multiple sensors throughout, connected to a computer, and provides real time feedback for rescuers to improve their skills.



**Weight room Equipment**

Maintaining firefighter health and wellness is an important part of our job function. Some of the new equipment includes free weights, treadmills, and a Stairmaster.



**Hose Roller**

Speeds up clean up process after fires/ training and helps prevent injury.

# NEW EMS LIEUTENANTS

We are excited about our new EMS lieutenant positions. They all have multiple responsibilities which include supplies, protocols, equipment, training, and QA-QI.

Having someone on each shift brings consistency to all three shifts and helps with continuous quality improvement towards our EMS program.

We are looking forward to the experience and the enthusiasm each one brings with them.



Joel Womack—A shift



Steve Winfrey—B shift



Mike Fisher—C Shift

## FIRE PREVENTION & EDUCATION

The Fire Prevention Bureau is staffed by experienced, full-time personnel. The Bureau is responsible for a wide range of activities that make a community a safer place in which to work, shop and live. These activities include fire safety inspections, commercial plan review, fire safety education, and fire investigations. The Bureau is charged with conducting fire and life safety inspections to protect our community and the lives of our citizens through Education, Engineering and Enforcement of the laws and regulations governing life safety.

**Fire Safety Inspections:** NKCFCF conducts fire safety inspections throughout the year. Pre-fire planning walkthroughs are also conducted by in-service fire companies. A strong effort is made to have every business in the city inspected annually by an NKCFCF inspector. The purpose of these inspections is to identify and correct hazardous conditions before they cause a fire or otherwise create a problem. These inspections are how we help to ensure the properties are maintained, exit doors are unlocked and operable, and safety issues are addressed.

**Commercial Plan Reviews:** Commercial Plan Reviews are performed on all construction projects in the city to ensure they meet the requirements of City codes(IFC 2012). NKCFCF reviews all site plans, commercial construction plans, commercial remodels, fire protection plans, and plans for the installation of storage tanks. The goal is to identify and correct problems while they can be easily and inexpensively corrected. Members of the NKCFCF Fire Prevention office will perform inspections on projects frequently during the construction phase.

**Fire Safety Education:** Fire safety Education is an important part of the overall duties assigned to the NKCFCF Fire Prevention Division. They develop and coordinate a variety of public education and training programs that are used in the community. Firefighters conduct station tours of their stations, as well as presenting educational programs to all ages.

The North Kansas City Fire Department currently offers free smoke alarms to anyone that needs them. These smoke alarms can be obtained by calling 816-274-6025 and scheduling an appointment for an installation. Some alarms are installed in North Kansas City residences free of charge.

Smoke Detectors Installed—54

Fire Inspections—851

Certificate of Occupancy Inspections—91

Plan Review—78

Company Safety Inspections—529

Public Education Events—27

Car Seat Installations—270

### Smoke Alarm Importance:

Having a smoke alarm is important, however, it is also imperative that you test the alarm twice a year. Between 2000-2010, 65% of fire fatalities occurred in houses without smoke alarms. Never disable a smoke detector simply because it has a low battery or because it is in fault. Always replace a Smoke alarm promptly or call the Fire Department for assistance.

### Installation and Upkeep:

Remember to change your detector battery when you change your clock twice a year unless it is a fully protected 10 year battery, then you test twice a year. A smoke alarm will typically last 5-7 years. When the sealed battery type of smoke alarm does not pass test it should be replaced immediately. Homeowners should install smoke alarms on every level of the home, including the basement and in every bedroom. The alarm can be placed on the ceiling or at a point on the wall as close to ceiling as possible, however, it is recommended that it be placed on ceiling. The alarm should be no less than 6 inches from corners.

**B**y communicating with the New York/New Jersey Port Authority, we were able to obtain two pieces of metal artifacts that were once bar joists that likely made up one of the floor supports.

The joists are mounted in a pillar of granite with a groove down the middle signifying the Twin Towers.

The bar joists being placed vertically resemble the flames that emanated from the Twin Towers.

The monument will be housed in the foyer of City Hall until the Civic Center is completed, at which time the monument will be moved to the Civic Center for permanent display.



*Presentation of Colors*

North Kansas City Fire & Police Color Guard

*Prayer*

Pastor Carla Hillyer

*Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem*

*Welcome*

Honorable Don Stielow, Mayor

*Comments by Committee Chairman*

Chief Gary Fisher

North Kansas City Fire Department

*Introduction of Guest Speaker*

*Closing Comments*

Chief Fisher

**Dedication  
of 911  
Monument**

*Members of Color Guard*

Ben Bailey  
Josh Lesiveld  
Patrick Elson  
Bryan Ball

*Members of Committee*

Chief Gary Fisher, Chairman, NKC Fire Dept.  
Judge Steven Fuller  
Councilman Bill Sanders, Ward 2  
Shelly Pinto, Artistic Creator of Design  
Beverly Sue Ryan

*Johnson Granite, North Kansas City*

Developed the granite base and mounting of artifacts

*Refreshments furnished by City of North Kansas City*

Crystal Doss, City Clerk



**Sunday, September 11, 2016  
at 2:00 pm**



# Retirements



Steve Wollard  
Captain—30 years



Kurt Breininger  
Captain—36 years



Todd Laabs  
Paramedic—21 years



Beverly Meyers  
Captain—29 years

# New Hires



Kolby Hedges FF/EMT 4/18/16



Daniel Klick FF/EMT 4/18/16



Sam Horacek FF/EMT 12/19/16



Rita Arnold FF/EMT 9/16/16



Ryan Volkert FF/EMT 4/18/16



Mike Redford—Fire Inspector 4/4/16



Tim Hightower FF/EMT 4/18/16



Alexander Brock FF/EMT 6/27/16



Chris Wiebeck FF/EMT 12/19/16