

# CITY OF NORTH KANSAS CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

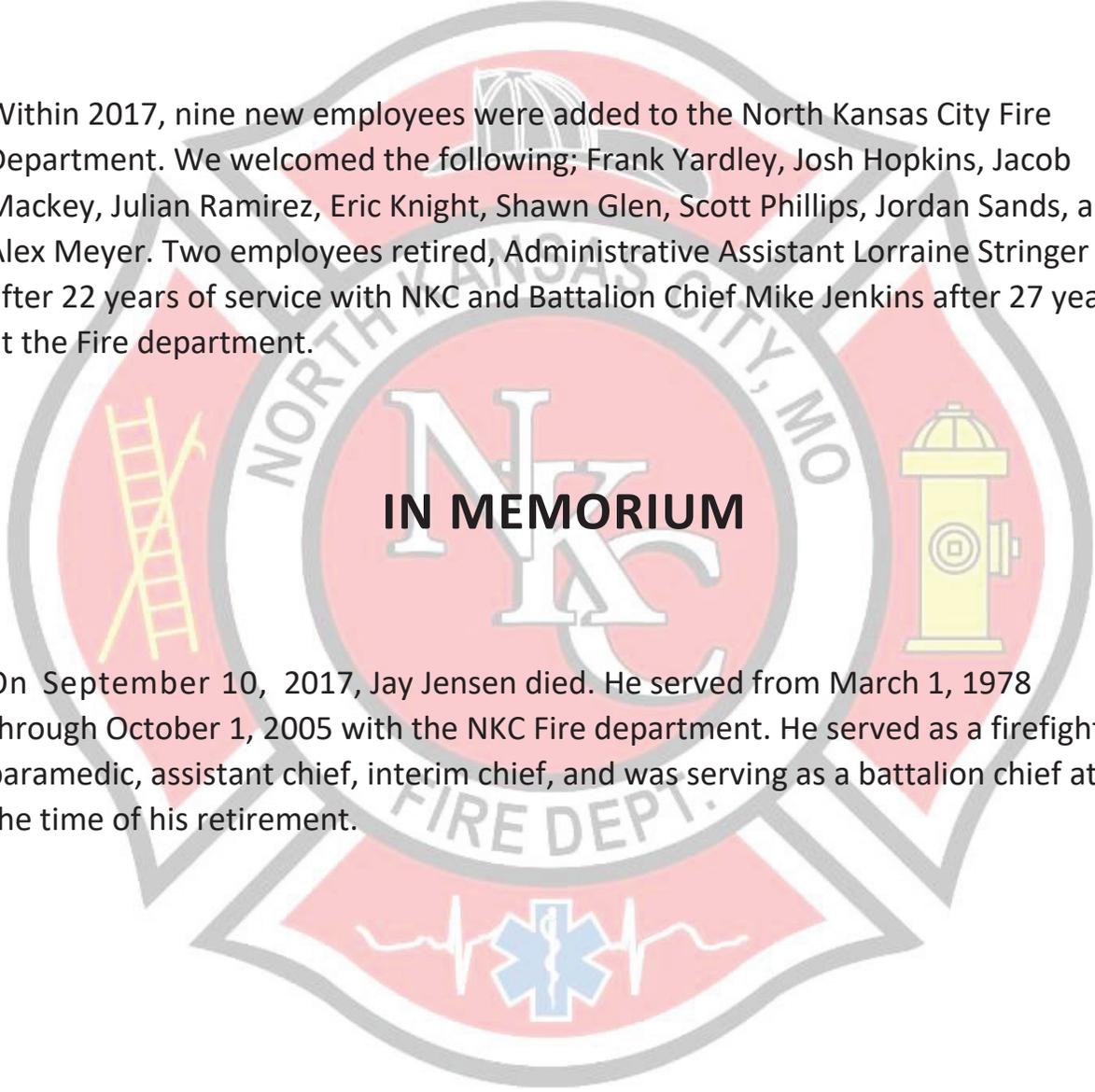
## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT





## NEW HIRES and RETIREES

Within 2017, nine new employees were added to the North Kansas City Fire Department. We welcomed the following; Frank Yardley, Josh Hopkins, Jacob Mackey, Julian Ramirez, Eric Knight, Shawn Glen, Scott Phillips, Jordan Sands, and Alex Meyer. Two employees retired, Administrative Assistant Lorraine Stringer after 22 years of service with NKC and Battalion Chief Mike Jenkins after 27 years at the Fire department.



### IN MEMORIUM

On September 10, 2017, Jay Jensen died. He served from March 1, 1978 through October 1, 2005 with the NKC Fire department. He served as a firefighter, paramedic, assistant chief, interim chief, and was serving as a battalion chief at the time of his retirement.

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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- The logo is a Maltese cross with a textured, metallic appearance. At the top, a banner reads "FIREFIGHTER/EMT". The center features a circular seal with a fire hydrant and crossed tools, surrounded by the text "NORTH KANSAS CITY, MO". The bottom of the cross has a banner that says "EST. 1912". Large letters "F" and "D" are on the left and right arms of the cross respectively.
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## 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.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I am incredibly proud of the employees of NKCFD and the long history that this agency has in providing fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to the residents and businesses of the community. On behalf of the sixty-three professional men and women of the North Kansas City Fire Department, I am very pleased to present the North Kansas City Fire Department's 2017 Annual Report. I think you will find this report interesting and informative.

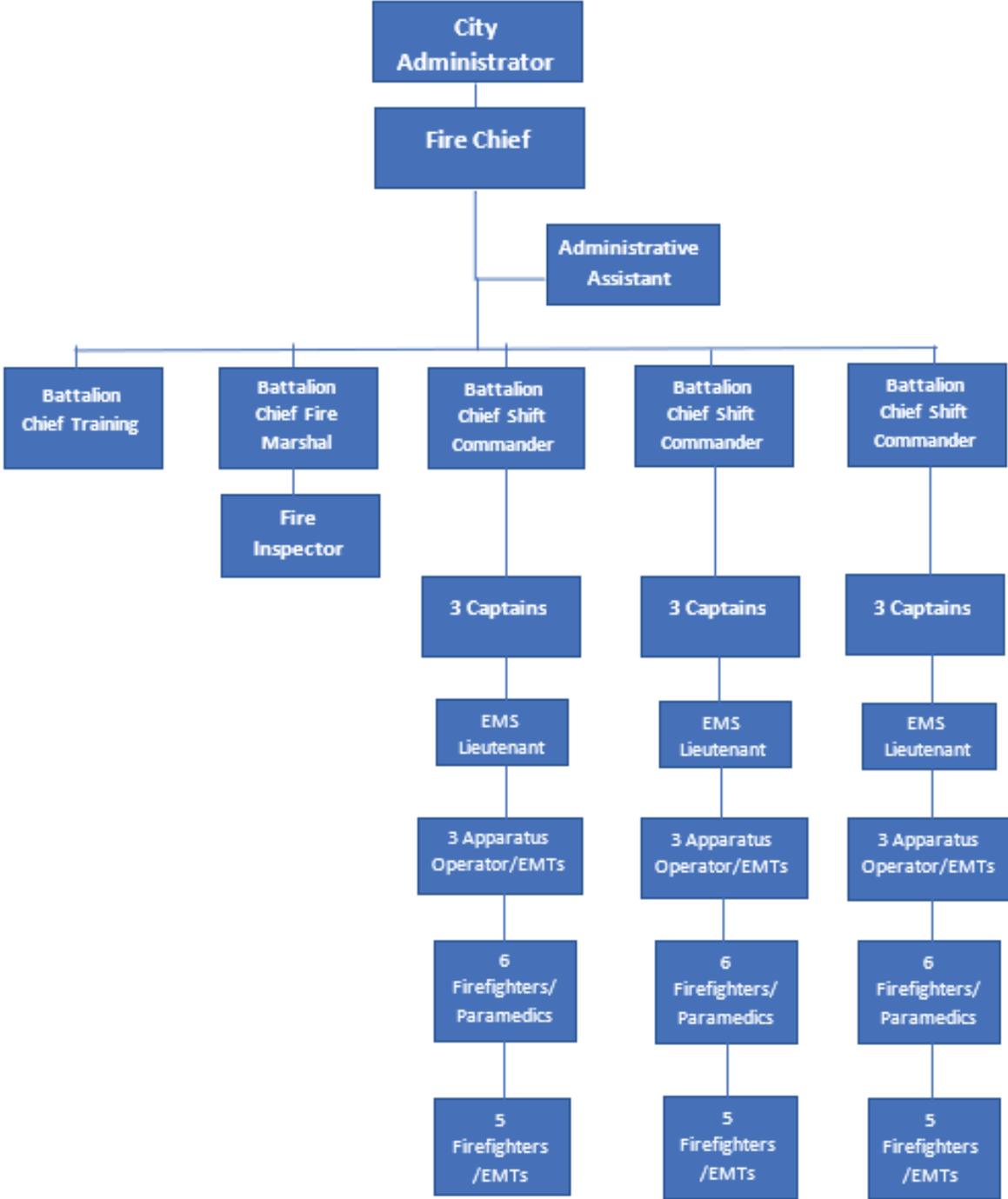
Due to the diligence and effort of our elected officials and city staff, we were able to place a one-half cent public safety sales tax on the ballot in April. Our residents and businesses gave overwhelming support to the proposed tax and ensured its passing. In meetings with citizens and the business community before the election, we were able to explain the benefits the additional revenue would provide. For the Fire Department, we were able to hire three new firefighters, bringing us back to the staffing level we had before the last economic recession.

Once again, we had several personnel changes this year with the loss of both line and executive staff, including the position of Fire Chief. Gary Fisher retired January 5, 2018, and I was honored to have been appointed Fire Chief. As the tenth Fire Chief of NKCFD I look forward to carrying on the tradition of service set by my predecessors.

Truly the department accomplished much in 2017 and is moving forward, focused on the future, maintaining our commitment to providing the highest level of safety and service to our residents and visitors. I cannot overstate my gratitude to the men and women of the North Kansas City Fire Department for their commitment, hard work, and outstanding efforts to make this department all that it is. I would be remiss if I did not convey my sincere thanks to the citizens, city council and city administrator for their continued support of our personnel and mission.



# FIRE DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE



# FIRE DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS

**Operations:** The Operations Division is responsible for all activities related to fire suppression, including vehicle and equipment acquisition and maintenance. This Division coordinates with the other Division such as Training and Prevention in the development of pre-planned buildings in the city and the recognition of target hazards.

**Training:** The Training Division is responsible for the development and delivery of didactic and hands-on training within the Fire Department. This Division also tracks and provides NIMS training city-wide and provides fire and CPR training city-wide. This Division is responsible for maintaining licensure with the various agencies, both state-wide and nationally.

**Facilities and Grounds:** The Facilities Division is responsible for maintaining the physical assets of the city with regard to the buildings and surrounding grounds, both inside and outside of the buildings. All building systems are maintained through this division.

**Emergency Medical Services:** The EMS Division comprises 90% of the Department's response workload and provides all aspects of emergency and non-emergency medical responses. This Division is responsible for assuring Quality/Assistance Improvement programs and works with the local EMS providers to provide the highest level of medical care available.

**Fire Prevention:** This Division is administered by the Fire Marshal and one inspector and provides all fire code review, fire inspections/investigations, and coordinates and schedules all public relations functions using the on-duty crews. This Division works closely with Community Development in assuring a collaborative approach to development and code compliance.

**Administration:** This Division is responsible for the administrative portions of the department including grant administration payroll, car seat installation, non-emergency ambulance scheduling, accounts payable and records management.

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# TRAINING

The Training Division of the Fire Department is centered around organized hands-on activities and classroom time focused on a multitude of topics. Over the course of 2017, roughly 14,929 hours of training were documented. This included company drills, fire apparatus operations, emergency medical services, hazardous materials, personnel from officer to recruit, and specialty training.

Training Category	2016 Hours	2017 Hours
Company	7254	10479
Driver/Operator	691	571
Emergency Medical Services	1677	1543
Hazardous Materials	252	253
Officer	686	297
Recruit	1920	31
Specialty	1008	1755
TOTAL	13488	14929



## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Cardiac arrest was a major focus for the North Kansas City Fire department in 2017. In an effort to improve the effectiveness of cardiac arrest survival in our community we made several advances this year in training and equipment. Training became the focus, consisting of both internal training and training provided to the public. Our internal training consisted of what is referred to as high performance CPR or “pit crew” style CPR. This consists of crew members each having one dedicated job, with one person doing compressions, one ventilating, another to medicate and other team members to assist. The crew members rotate every two- minutes allowing a fresh crew member to do compressions, thus maintaining effective compressions.

This year we implemented a “hands only” CPR program. Hands only CPR is an outreach program designed to teach as many people as possible the basics to save a life. In 2017 we were able to present this program to area businesses and many residents and visitors.

Current research tells us effective compressions are a key component of cardiac arrest survival. Performing manual chest compressions is both difficult and tiring, and in certain situations hard to do efficiently. NKCFFD acquired two Lucas Devices to supplement our resuscitation efforts. Carried on both of our ALS ambulances these devices deliver high-quality, guidelines-consistent compressions; in the field and while moving the patient, increasing the odds of survival. The Lucas device will give a quality chest compression while maneuvering the patient to the ambulance and during transport to the hospital.



# OPERATIONS

The Operations Division is comprised of fifty-one (51) personnel working three alternating 24 hours 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, Hazardous materials, Public Assistance, and Technical rescue.

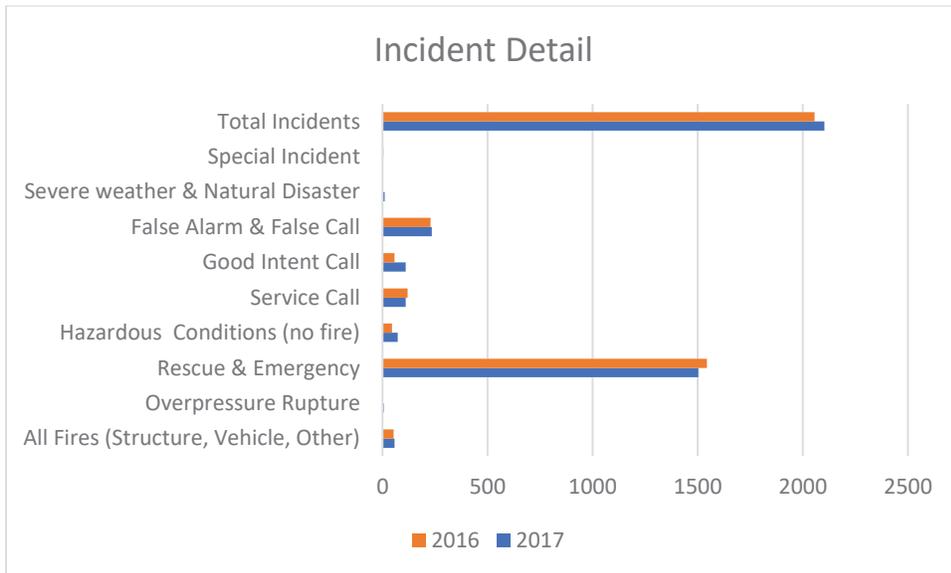


The coverage area is configured into three districts. Equipment is deployed to deliver initial fire attack and EMS services with a 5-minute average response time. A standard first-alarm assignment for structure fires consists of two engine companies, a ladder truck company, two advanced life support (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.

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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. 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.



Incident Type	2017	2016
All Fires (Structure, Vehicle, Other)	57	53
Overpressure Rupture	5	2
Rescue & Emergency	1502	1543
Hazardous Conditions (no fire)	73	45
Service Call	110	120
Good Intent Call	110	58
False Alarm & False Call	234	229
Severe weather & Natural Disaster	10	2
Special Incident	1	4
Total Incidents	2102	2056

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The department was able to purchase a new digital fire extinguisher training nozzle allowing the enhancement of quality service to the public. The nozzles are equipped with lasers, which interact with the ATTACK's self-generating digital flames. When in laser mode, the ATTACK's fire will only be knocked down if the trainee uses proper hose line technique. The weighted hose line has the same weight and feel of a fully charged line to allow trainees to practice hose line management.



Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) were purchased and placed in all fire department staff vehicles. The AEDs now provide the ability to render immediate cardiac care at any location from all department vehicles.

We received a Certificate of Waiver (COA) from the Federal Aviation Administration allowing us to utilize a drone in Class "D" airspaces. The drone will be utilized to support Fire Department missions such as fire ground, search and rescue, and disaster responses, and will benefit training and pre-fire safety planning activities. The drone will be available to support Police, public relations activities and public works operations. North Kansas City Fire department is the first fire department in the area to receive a COA.

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# 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.



Prevention & Education	2017	2016
Smoke Detectors Installed	35	54
Fire Inspections	974	851
Certificate of Occupancy Inspections	36	91
Plan Review	62	78
Company Safety Inspections	81	529
Public Education Events	42	27
Car Seat Installations	234	270

# FIRE PREVENTION & EDUCATION

The Bureau is charged with conducting fire and life safety inspections to protect the community and the lives of the citizens through Education, Engineering and Enhancement of the laws and regulations governing life safety.

**Fire Safety Inspections:** NKCFCFD 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 NKCFCFD 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). NKCFCFD 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 NKCFCFD 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 NKCFCFD 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 station, 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 free of charge to North Kansas City residents.

**Smoke Alarm Importance:** Having a smoke alarm is important, however, it is also imperative that you test your alarm twice a year. Between 2000 – 2010, 65% of fire fatalities occurred in houses without smoke alarms. Never disable a smoke detector. Always replace smoke alarm promptly if not functioning properly or call the NKC Fire Department for assistance.

**Installation and Maintenance:** Remember to change your smoke alarm battery when you change your clock twice a year unless it is fully protected by a 10-year battery. A smoke alarm will typically last 5-7 years and should be installed on every level of the home. The alarm can be placed on the ceiling or on the wall as close to the ceiling as possible.

**[www.nkc.org/department/fire](http://www.nkc.org/department/fire)**

**1815 Howell Street – North Kansas City, Missouri 64116**

**816.274.6025**