

CITY OF NORTH KANSAS CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT 2018 ANNUAL REPORT





1815 Howell Street, North Kansas City, Missouri



WELCOME

On behalf of the men and women of the North Kansas City Fire Department I am pleased to present the 2018 Annual Report, a summary of our activities for the past year.

Over the past 12 months, there has been change, progress, and challenges within the Department that serves your community. We have hired six new firefighters and promoted three chief officers and three company officers. We had two retirements and tragically lost one member to illness.

Safety is always a priority and NKCFFD provides its various services and programs to support a safe community for the residents, businesses, and visitors to the city.

On May 8, 2018 we responded to a fire at 1900 Swift which was a tragic structure fire loss to the community and businesses. Although it accounted for the largest fire loss in 20 years, we are proud that no lives were lost, or injuries occurred during this fire. Our heroic efforts were acknowledged by the Kansas City Chiefs on September 11, 2018 with several players visiting Station 1 and undergoing some hands-on training. Having the KC Chiefs was a terrific experience and one to be remembered.

As we look back, our priority was to continue providing the highest level of service to our community. In late 2018 we conducted a community based strategic plan. This allowed us to identify goals and strategies aimed at not only improving our current services but also for meeting future challenges.

Since 1924, the courageous men and women of the North Kansas City Fire Department have been working to provide emergency care to those who live, work and play in North Kansas City. Much has changed since the beginnings of our Fire Department, but one thing that hasn't changed is our commitment to serve others. Over the years, our citizens, businesses, and elected leaders have remained committed to making investments in providing top notch fire apparatus, aid units, protective equipment, facilities and training to ensure that our



commitment to serve can be carried out quickly and safely. Our community is safer today because of the cumulative dedication and foresight of those decisions both past and present.

Today, 61 firefighters wear a patch on their shoulder that reminds them of the faith and trust that has been bestowed upon each one of us. It's a symbol of our commitment to excellence that we take very seriously. We are proud to be your fire department and we stand ready to serve you at any time.



Our Mission:

The North Kansas City Fire Department is committed to be a professional organization, providing emergency services to our community through continuous preparation and public outreach.



ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND & HISTORY

The city of North Kansas City, Missouri began in November 1912 as the town of North Kansas City after developing from its original start in 1883. The NKCFD genesis dates to around 1919 when the Ordinance 117 was passed to purchase fire equipment for the Development Company. During this time, the North Kansas City Fire Department operated out of a single-bay fire barn at 1900 Swift. A new two-bay fire station was constructed south of the fire barn in 1930, and the single-bay fire barn was demolished. In 1948 the two-bay station was remodeled and expanded and given the address of 1828 Swift.

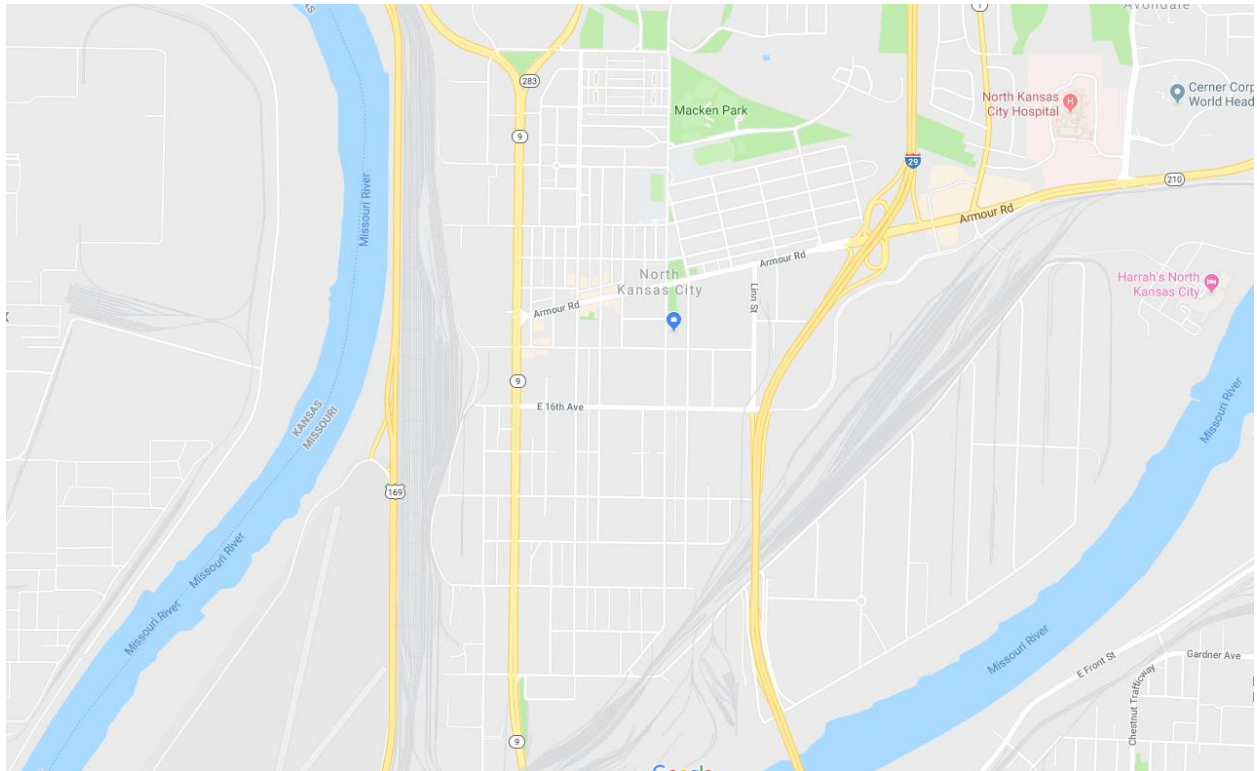
On September 2, 1942 the firefighters started working 24 hours on and 24 hours off with three men on each shift. To date, NKC firefighters work a 24-hour Berkley shift schedule rotating amongst three shifts of 19 individuals. North Kansas City covers an area of 4.63 square miles and has a resident population of approximately 4,200. Due to the number of industrial and manufacturing jobs within the city, the daytime population jumps to about 20,000. With the future development of condominiums and apartment buildings the resident population will increase significantly. The Fire Department staffs two pumpers, one ladder truck, and two ambulances out of two stations with a total of 57 individuals and four additional eight-hour staff.

North Kansas City began with a vision in 1883 constructed by Willard E. Winner. It all started with a rock road that became Swift Avenue. He constructed a bridge across the Missouri River and purchased land and laid out subdivisions in town lots. Willard Winner's dream was carried through by the North Kansas City Development company which was composed of three businesses; Armour Packing, Swift Packing, and the Burlington Railroad. The district became incorporated on November 4, 1912 as the town of North Kansas City and flourished with paved and lighted streets, homes, commercial businesses, a waterworks system and parks well before neighboring towns.



NORTH KANSAS CITY

Virtually Urban, Supremely Suburban



- **North Kansas City is located within Clay County**
- **Landmass is 4.5 square miles**
- **Bedroom population 4,505**
- **Number of companies 925**
- **Total housing units 2,807**

Today, North Kansas City is a thriving, progressive community that has become one of the hottest entertainment destinations in the region where brew houses and warehouses converge. NKC is the portal to the Northland and gateway to downtown.



NEW HIRES and RETIREES

Within 2018, six new employees were added to the North Kansas City Fire Department. We welcomed the following; Nathaniel Pike, Jake Long, Brooks Narvaez, Tyler Roy, Brian Haynes, and Ian McKay. Fire Chief Gary Fisher retired in January 2018 after serving five years with NKC and forty-three years in the fire service.

IN MEMORIAM

Mark Skeens, 45 breathed his first breath in Heaven on July 19, 2018. He passed from this life at KU Medical center with family at his side. His career as a firefighter and paramedic with the North Kansas City Fire Department began in 2005. He was promoted to Captain in 2015. In earlier years, Mark served as a volunteer firefighter for the Bethany Fire Department as well as served fulltime on the Trenton Fire Department and the Claycomo Fire Department. He was a member of IAFF Local 42.

OUR NUMBERS

The fire department budget for 2018 was just under \$6 million dollars.

Personnel	2018
Firefighters, Firemedic & Paramedic	41
Battalion Chiefs	3
Captains	9
Lieutenants	3
Administrative Staff	4



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Incident Type	2018	2017
Fire	52	57
EMS/Rescue	1466	1502
Hazardous Condition	51	73
Service Call	109	110
Good Intent	162	110
False Alarm	193	234

In 2018 members of the North Kansas City Fire Department responded and provided aid to 1,422 residents and visitors requiring Emergency Medical Services. These calls for help vary in nature from patients with the most basic general illness to patients in full cardiac arrest, and everywhere in between. We staff two Paramedic ambulances and are fully equipped with Advanced Life Support fire apparatus. All members

of the North Kansas City Fire Department are Emergency Medical Technicians or Paramedic level trained. When necessary patients were transported to one of the 9 area hospitals with three most common destinations North Kansas City Hospital (934) Kansas Medical Center (80) and Truman Medical Center (70).

In our support of Hands Only CPR and the early defibrillation, we have purchased Zoll AED's for all the staff cars for the North Kansas City Fire Department. In the event they come across someone needing CPR and early defibrillation they would be able to provide the care that was needed. We were also able to place AED's at City Hall and the Library.



The North Kansas City Fire Department members consistently attend continuing education training. Our Paramedic's participated in 8 hours of GEMS (Geriatric Education for Emergency Medical Services), 16 hours of PHTLS (Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support), 16 hours of ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) training, and we sent two Paramedic's to the MOKAN Resuscitation Academy. This training is helping insure that our personnel have the most current information available. In addition to this formalized training classes, Paramedics teach classes to each of their shifts.

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TRAINING

The Training Division of the North Kansas City Fire Department was very busy in 2018. The year was filled with various training activities and special educational classes that personnel attended.

Over the course of the year, over 18,623 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 firefighting 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 2018, a battalion chief's and a captain's assessment 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 assessment centers, classes were delivered to help candidates prepare for the assessment process.

Training Type	Hours 2018
Company Training	8600.95
Daily Activities	5405.5
Driver / Engineer Training	251.75
Emergency Management	2244
Equipment In-service Training	98.5
Facilities Training	232
New Driver/Operator Training	335.75
Non-ISO and Activities	241.55
Officer Training NFPA 1021	271.5
Pre-Fire Planning Inspections	11
Recruit Training	16



FIRE PREVENTION

In 2018 the Prevention Division did fire code inspections, including hood inspections twice in the businesses in North Kansas City. We also did extinguisher training for many of those same businesses helping them meet an insurance requirement. We also inspected all mobile food trucks and conduction education with them regarding future requirements. Certificate of Occupancy inspections were also performed for new businesses/buildings in conjunction with Community Development. We worked with the School District to provide sprinkler coverage in an existing building and meet life safety codes in the new/remodel of the High School.

The Prevention Division also investigated all fires within our jurisdiction. This included the fire at 1910 Swift which was one of the largest in recent history. The lessons learned from this fire with no sprinkler system and void spaces has driven discussions with property owners to make other buildings safer. We interacted with the Kansas City Arson Task Force to investigate this fire which included other local fire/police departments and the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms), a United States law enforcement agency.

Education was provided during fire prevention week with the North Kansas City Library. Educational tips are also provided through the City's website. Smoke detectors are provided and installed for homeowners here in North Kansas City. Numerous station tours and educational events are given to groups such as the boy/girl scouts.



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ANNUAL RECOGNITION CEREMONY

The Annual Recognition Ceremony is held the third Thursday of November. There were twelve different, distinguished awards honoring thirty uniformed professionals and eight new Fire Fighters were sworn in by the City Clerk. The ceremony is attended by the department and their families.





A SHIFT



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B SHIFT



C SHIFT



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www.nkc.org/departments/fire

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