



Effingham Fire Department Annual Report – 2019

Message from Fire Chief Bob Tutko:

On behalf of Mayor Schutzbach, City Administrator Steve Miller, Deputy Administrator Kelsey Lock and Commissioners Merv Gillenwater, Hank Stephens, Libby Moeller, and Larry Micenheimer I would like to present the Effingham Fire Department Annual Report for 2019.

The Effingham Fire Department consists of 15 Full-Time Firefighters, 15 Paid-On-Call Firefighters, a Fire Chief and Assistant Chief. The Department has one (1) Executive Secretary and the Part-Time Emergency Management Coordinator is assigned to the Fire Department.

The Effingham Fire Department provides Fire Suppression, Rescue, and Hazardous Materials response to the City and is also part of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 54, which provides those services to area departments as part of an approved Inter-Government Agreement. The Department operates 2 Fire Stations – Station 1, located at 505 West Fayette and Station 2, located at 500 West Jaycee Avenue. The Fire Department is recognized as an Insurance Services Organization (ISO) Class 2.

The Effingham Fire Department also provides Fire and Life Safety Inspections to all commercial, industrial and assembly properties within the City. While the Fire Department is not authorized to provide Fire and Life Safety Inspections to residential properties, the Fire Department does inspect the “common areas” of apartment buildings. Fire and Life Safety Inspections as well as Plan Reviews are under the Direction of Assistant Fire Chief Matt Kulesza. The City Utilizes the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 2015 Edition of the Fire and Life Safety Code as well as the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC) for reference of its Fire Protection and Building Codes.

In addition, the Fire Department also delivers Public Safety Education as part of an overall Community Risk Reduction Strategy (CRR) that features school safety visits, Fire Detector Installation program, Stop The Bleed Training, and participates in various community wide safety events. Firefighter Kenneth Hayes, who also possesses an Illinois Secondary Education Certificate, serves as the Fire Department Public Education Coordinator.

The following report is designed to provide an overview of Fire Department activities in 2019 and is not intended to be all-inclusive of our activity. Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information concerning your Fire Department.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the Community as your Fire Chief; it is an honor to be part of a truly wonderful community.

Sincerely,

Bob Tutko

Bob Tutko- Fire Chief



Fire Department Highlights:

2019 was a busy year for the Effingham Fire Department in terms of both call volume and overall operations. The Department saw the retirement of two members; Captain Jim Charters retired after 30 years of dedicated service to the community and 2nd Assistant Chief Jim Wolters retired as a paid-on call member of the department after 50 years of dedicated service to the community.



Captain Jim Charters



2nd Assistant Chief Jim Wolters

As part of an overall effective Community Risk Reduction Strategy (CRR) and improvement to the city's Insurance Services Organization (ISO) fire protection rating, the department must insure that fire suppression vehicles, equipment, and facilities meet current modern standards. To that end, the department was in need of replacing the aging fire station at 2401 South Banker Street. The Station was built in 1971 when there were no dedicated male/female facilities and fire apparatus was much smaller than it is today. Research for a replacement station had been ongoing for many years- then in 2018, city staff located an existing structure on South Jaycee Avenue that staff felt could be repurposed as a fire station. The project was given the go-ahead by the Mayor and City Council. The project was initiated in November 2018 and was completed in February 2020, saving over 1.4 million dollars to the taxpayers compared to the cost of design/build and land acquisition for a new fire station. This project demonstrates the creativity of city staff and elected officials in finding new and creative ways to address issues affecting the City.



Calls for Service in 2019 totaled 659, which was an increase over the previous year.

Call Response Summary is as follows:

Building Fires	Mobile Home Fires	Vehicle Fires	Brush Fires
18	3	21	7

Total Dollar Loss Estimate: \$2,801,160.00 – 18 Building Fires, 3 Mobile Home Fires, 21 Vehicle Fires, 6 Brush Fires, 7 Miscellaneous Type Fires.

In our continued effort to maintain and improve the Fire Department Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating, the department purchased 3,000 feet of Large Diameter Supply Hose that was deployed to our 2 frontline engines, tower – ladder and aerial ladder truck. The supply hose will increase our firefighting capability.

The department participated with the Effingham Police Department in a Community Safety Day event in August. The Fire Department will continue to support Public Education events to encourage our interaction with members of the community to enhance community safety.

The Fire Department is working together with the Effingham Police Department to develop a Rescue Task Force (RTF) program to respond appropriately to Active Shooter and Active Aggressor incidents. Chief Tutko and Police Sergeant Aaron Lange have completed Rescue Task Force Instructor Training. After proper training of Police officers and Firefighters, the program will be tested with an exercise prior to full implementation which is expected by August 2020.



Fire Prevention Summary- Assistant Chief Matt Kulesza:



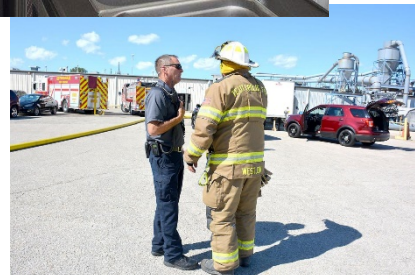
2019 was very busy for the Fire Prevention Bureau – 2019 was filled with many projects that involved new construction, remodeling of existing structures, fire and life safety inspections, and the required follow-up inspections needed to correct any uncovered violations of the fire and life safety code.

The Fire Prevention Bureau worked at a fast pace in order to accommodate the contractors and architects to ensure projects remained on schedule and the proper permits were obtained in a timely fashion. This was particularly important in 2019 due to the unusually wet spring that slowed many construction projects, but then the pace picked up considerably once the weather improved.

The Fire Prevention Bureau also made a number of changes in operations by adopting new technology enabling us to work smarter and improve overall operations- Some of these improvements were:

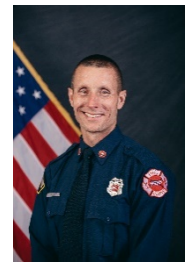
- Utilizing the Firehouse Inspector program –making inspections more efficient: This allowed iPads to be used to complete fire/life safety inspections which eliminated paper and decreased time spent completing inspections.
- Incorporating a new program- Flow MSP for Pre-Planning of buildings in the community: This created a response App for our firefighters that includes maps, hydrant mapping and similar information making the job safer for our firefighters.

2019 Project Highlights	Fire Prevention Year in review:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hobby Lobby • Sacred Heart Church Expansion • Abbott Ambulance’s New facility • RMC Cinemas Renovation • Heartland Towing’s New Facility • Effingham Storage Solution’s New facility • Golden Coral’s New Facility • Fire Station 2 Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Life /Safety Inspections – 811 • Fire Life /Safety Re-Inspections – 123 • Plan Reviews – 175 • Mobile Food Vendor Inspections – 66 • Occupancy Permits – 28 • Consulting – 57 • Legal Actions – 10 • Property Use Inspections – 1,347 • Property Use Violations -236 Violations; 143 Corrections



Public Education Summary- Firefighter Ken Hayes-Public Education Coordinator:

The Fire Department has adopted the Community Risk Reduction (CRR) model to provide fire safety education to the residents of the City. The Community Risk Reduction planning is a process that identifies and prioritizes local risks that affect the community combined with an integrated and strategic utilization of resources to reduce negative risks and their occurrences and impact on the community. The Fire Department incorporates nationally recognized “best practices” such as Vision 20/20 National Strategies for Fire Loss Prevention. Highlights of our Community Risk Reduction efforts for 2019 include:



- 31 Community -Wide Fire Safety Presentations by the Fire Department.
- 31 School Visits made by the Fire Department.
- 14 Fire Station Tours by various Community Groups.
- 1,526 Children Educated in Fire Safety by Fire Department members.
- The Department continued our Smoke Detector installation program and provided over 100 smoke detectors to residents who could not afford them.

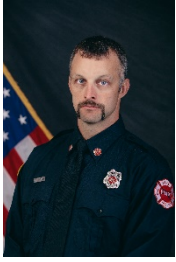
New in 2019 was the launch of our “Take A Break for Safety” program, where grade schoolers were asked to perform a home fire safety inspection and develop a family fire escape plan during their spring vacation. The Homewood grill was our private partner in this initiative and rewarded a class with a free ice cream cone for their efforts. 273 students returned their fire safety surveys as part of this initial safety program.



In 2020 the Department will unveil our new digital Fire Extinguisher Simulator that will assist the Department in offering fire extinguisher training to targeted areas of the community. The Department will also be partnering with the Police Department, Emergency Management and Tourism Department to promote Hotel Safety. The Major Hotels within the City are hosts to over 100,000 visitors to the City annually. We will also be unveiling an Apartment Safety Initiative in 2020 to compliment on on-going Community Risk Reduction programs.



Department Training Summary- Firefighter Matt Carpenter –Training Officer:



The Training Division is responsible for the Training and Education of the Fire Department Staff. Firefighter Matt Carpenter serves as the Department Training Officer. The Department participates in the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal training and certification program. Members are trained at various State Approved Training Centers including the Illinois Fire Service Institute located on the campus of the University of Illinois in Champaign. Firefighter Matt Carpenter is an adjunct Instructor for the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Training Highlights In 2019 Include:

Total Training Hours Completed by Staff – 3,628.81 hours

In –Service Training Utilizing Acquired Structures:

- **HSHS Medical Building**
- **Beck's Seed two Story Structure**

Training Courses Completed:

- National Incident Management- 300/400
- Illinois Fire Instructors Conference
- National Fire Instructors Conference
- Fireground Company Officer
- Illinois Fire Service Institute –Fire College
- Rapid Intervention Technician
- Advanced Officer
- Vehicle Machinery Technician
- Fire Attack Suppression Techniques
- Fire Investigation
- Arson Investigation
- Rescue Task Force Instructor

Certifications Obtained:

- Fire Instructor II
- Advanced Technician – Firefighter
- Health-Safety Officer
- Fire Investigator
- Arson Investigator



Administrative Review- Executive Secretary Jenn Alwardt:



In 2018 there were two (2) retirements in the Operations section of the Fire Department. Captain Jim Charters retired after serving 25 years with the Fire Department. Paid-On-Call 2nd Assistant Chief Jim Wolters retired after serving 50 years with the fire department.

The Fire Department also conducted promotional testing in order to maintain an active eligibility list for the position of Lieutenant and Captain. Maintaining an active eligibility list is a legal requirement and is coordinated with the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners.

As a result of the retirement of Captain Jim Charters, Lieutenant Jason Lee was promoted to Captain and Firefighter John Stroud was promoted to Lieutenant and left an opening on our fulltime roster. This opening was filled with Ben Siemer who was hired as a Full-Time Firefighter.



Captain Jason Lee & Lieutenant John Stroud



Firefighter Ben Siemer

As a result of Jim Wolters retirement, Paid –On-Call 2nd Lieutenant Howard Janis was promoted to the position of 2nd Assistant Chief. Firefighter Blake Poe was promoted to the position of 2nd Lieutenant.



2nd Assistant Chief Howard Janis



2nd Lieutenant Blake Poe

The administration team has participated in the training and implementation of new financial software as well as a new timekeeping and payroll software. In addition, Executive Secretary Jenn Alwardt attended an education conference focusing on the fire department reporting software. This training will be vital in preparing the department for the future. In addition, the Chief and the Executive Secretary have insured proper documentation for billing out of town recipients for fire department services as allowed by City Ordinances. This has translated to recovery of over \$60,000.00 in fees that help to off-set fire department operating costs.

The Administrative Team continues to review “best practices” and “nationally recognized” programs in an effort to ensure the Fire Department is operating at peak performance. The Administrative Team also continues to focus on retainment and recruitment of our Paid-On-Call staff.



Emergency Management Overview - Coordinator Kim Tegeler (Retired):



The Emergency Management Division is tasked with emergency planning throughout the city of Effingham as well as emergency mutual aid to our surrounding areas. EMA also sees to the maintaining of NIMS compliance through FEMA for city employees. 2019 brought with it some severe weather and many training opportunities for EMA Coordinator Kim Tegeler.



2019 Accomplishments:

Effingham City Outdoor Storm Sirens: Monthly tests are conducted throughout the summer months to ensure all sirens are functioning properly. This led to reports of non-covered areas in the city specifically the Homewood Subdivision area. Due to the inadequate coverage in this area, it was determined that an additional siren would be needed and has been scheduled to be installed during 2020. Storm sirens were implemented twice in 2019 due to funnel clouds spotted near or in Effingham City limits.



Healthcare Coalition: This organization meets quarterly and provides an opportunity for the healthcare providers in the city to meet, discuss emergency plans and work through new CMS rules together. They are required to involve emergency management to review emergency plans and evaluate drills at their facilities.

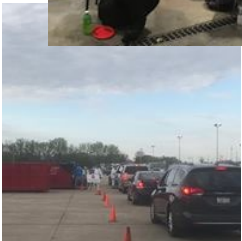


City of Effingham Hazardous Waste Recycle Day: Served 325

Take a Break for Safety Program: One major involvement our Public Education Division participated in during 2019 was the newly developed Take a Break for Safety program. Kim was instrumental in assisting with this program which taught area students home fire safety inspections and in-home emergency planning. As a result, 273 students participated in this safety program.



School Crisis Plan Reviews: Annually, EMA Tegeler meets with St. Anthony Grade School and St. Anthony High School to review their individual crisis plans providing valuable insight in the event of an emergency and also met with the city's other schools to review their plan as needed.



Interstate 70 Construction Planning: 2019 brought an extensive construction project to our responding area and required several informational and planning meetings to adequately plan for the safety of our citizens. EMA Tegeler was actively involved in this process. 2020 will bring with it phase 2 of this project, bringing it to completion.

Effingham Cultural Center and Museum Emergency Planning: In order to qualify for much needed grant assistance to help with operational costs, the Cultural Center and Museum is required to implement an emergency operation plan for their facility. Kim is actively working on this continued project that began in 2019 with a completed date to come in the next few months.

2019 Completed Training

• CPR	• Narcan	• Drug free workplace
• Fire Extinguisher Safety	• Sexual Harassment	• Bloodborne Pathogens
• UTV	• Pipeline	• PPE
• Live Line Demo (Host)	• Workplace violence	• Alcohol Free Workplace
• COOP Training	• IEMA New Documentation Training	• GATA Training
• IEMA Training Summit	• Participated in a MABAS Exercise	

Strategic Planning – 2020:

The Office of The Fire Chief conducts a Yearly Strategic Planning Session. Members of the Department attend the Yearly Strategic Planning Session in order to identify critical goals and objectives for the year. The “Big 5” from each category below have been identified as follows:

Training:

- Hands on Training
- Outside Training Classes
- Frequent Use of the Training Center
- Building Familiarization Classes
- Acquired Structure Training

Apparatus:

- Replace 2001 Engine
- Replace 2001 Tower Ladder
- Install Truck Cap On Utility 591
- Replace Haz Mat Trailer
- Storage Building at Training Center for trailers

Personnel:

- Active Paid-On-Call Recruitment
- Paid-On-Call Driver /Operators
- Increased Participation
- Health-Safety Program
- Additional Full time Staff

Equipment:

- Acquire Back-Up Gear for Firefighters
- Acquire E- Power Tools
- Acquire Blitz Fire Nozzles
- Acquire Personnel TIC devices
- Leather Boots for Firefighters

Stations:

- DOC Gear Racks
- Lockers for POC members
- Soap Dispensers for showers
- Heart Saver Speaker System
- HVAC Re-Balance, Station 1.

Services:

- Use of Extinguisher prop
- Smoke Detector Program

- Apartment Safety Program
- Website to promote safety
- Community Risk Reduction Program

Goals Identified during Strategic Planning:

- Improved Training opportunities
- Health-Safety Program Development
- Use of Community Risk Reduction in place of traditional public education.
- Facilities Improvements.



Single family house fire that resulted in significant damage.



A Fire in November destroyed a multi-unit home on 4th Street. An Arson arrest was made in relation to this fire.



A Crash On I-70 resulted in multiple fatalities and required extensive extrication.



Semi crash on I-57 required rescue of occupants trapped in the truck cab.