Village of Evergreen Park

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Evergreen Park Fire Department

Fire Chief
Ronald L. Kleinhaus

Deputy Chief
Charles Ramashauskas

Asst. Fire Chief
Corey Hojek

Division of Support Services
Corey Hojek

Division of Training and Public Education
Robert Murphy III

Division of Data & Communications
Thomas Mullally

Division of Emergency Medical Services
Edward Palenik

Department Photographer
Scott Stewart

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Chief’s Report

Dear Mayor Sexton and Board of Trustees:

On the behalf of the members of the Evergreen Park Fire Department, it is my honor to present our 2019 Annual Report.

We sincerely appreciate the commitments made by the Mayor and Board of Trustees to continue the replacement and upgrade of our department’s equipment and apparatus. These continued upgrades have a direct effect on our departments ability to maintain our ISO Class 2 rating.

Our Rosenbauer Snorkel was received and placed into service in March, In April we received and placed into service our Wheeled Coach ambulance as well as 3 new Zoll cardiac monitors.

We have completed the pre-construction meeting and specifications of a replacement E-One pumper which is expected to be completed in March of 2021. We anticipate delivery of the pumper ordered in 2018 this coming March.

Emergency Responses

The fire department responded to 783 fire incidents and 2333 EMS incidents for a total of 3116 calls for service.

Our total estimated fire loss for 2019 was $383,400.00.
This past year our members were recognized and received commendations from the South Cook County Emergency Medical Services System on 3 separate occasions for their efforts in successfully resuscitating patients who had suffered a cardiac arrest.

The resuscitation of a patient who has suffered a cardiac arrest under any circumstances is noteworthy. It is extremely gratifying to note that this past year, one of our successful resuscitations was a village resident stricken at a health club, and another was a village employee who was stricken at work.

Our annual report chronicles the events and activities of the past year. The outstanding services provided to the village on a daily basis are made possible by the dedication and commitment of our members. I am proud of our accomplishments and even prouder of our people as we work to make our village a safer place to live and work.

I would like to thank the Mayor and Board of Trustees for your continued support throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Kleinhaus
Fire Chief
Division of Training

Division Chief Robert Murphy

The Division of Training is responsible for the development and implementation of our departments training programs. All fire department training is conducted in accordance with the guidelines established by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Training is conducted on a daily basis to ensure our members maintain their required certifications and to keep up to date on emerging topics such as the changing technology of vehicles, from air bags to electric cars, crude oil and railroad awareness and new building construction methods to name a few.

Additionally, daily training is conducted on apparatus driving and operations as well as emergency medical policies and procedures.
Division of Public Education

Division Chief Robert Murphy
Captain Donald Huenecke
Lieutenant Edward Dunne

Our department's public education division continues to provide one of the most comprehensive fire prevention programs in the suburbs. I firmly believe these programs have a key role in reducing accidental fires in the village on an annual basis. Our programs are offered in a variety of formats including:

- 3rd Grade Learn Not to Burn Classes
- 4th Grade Risk Watch Classes
- Safety Trailer Classes
- School Fire Drills
- Fire Department Open House
- Community Health Fairs
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Infant Car Seat Checks
- Block Parties
- Fire Station Tours
- Seasonal Press Releases

In May we conducted our 12th annual Kid's Health Fair. This event, co-sponsored by Little Co. of Mary Hospital, brings together community organizations concerned with the health and well-being of our children and has become one of the most anticipated events we conduct.

In September we conducted our 6th Annual Senior Health Fair, this program brings in organizations concerned with the well-being our village senior citizens.

Keep the Wreath Red

Our annual “Keep the Wreath Red” program to prevent fires caused by holiday decorations was a success as no fires were experienced during the holiday season.

We were pleased to have Dave Eigenberg, from NBC TV's “Chicago Fire” visit our open house this year.
Fire Cause and Origin Investigations

Division Chief Robert Murphy
Captain Donald Huenecke
Investigator/Photographer Scott Stewart

Our departments cause and origin investigators are certified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Cause and origin investigations are conducted on all fires throughout the village, in the event of a suspicious fire, information, photographs and evidence is turned over to the detective division of the Evergreen Park Police for further investigation.

Our investigators are members of the MABAS Division #21 Cause and Origin Team. This team, made up of investigators from fire departments within our MABAS Division, can be called to assist with major fire investigations throughout our division.

This past year our investigators responded to 10 requests for assistance from area fire departments.
Division of Support Services

Division of Vehicle Maintenance

Assistant Chief Corey Hojek

The Division of Support Services is responsible for researching, purchasing and maintaining all fire department equipment, protective clothing and supplies.

The Division of Vehicle Maintenance is responsible for conducting preventative maintenance and repairs to all fire department apparatus and equipment.

Over this past year we have completed the design and specifications of our new pumper and conducted the pre-construction meeting at the factory.

Specifications for our members personal protective clothing have been updated with our vendor to meet the current NFPA standards. A 5-year replacement program has been instituted starting this year to replace 20 outdated sets of gear each year.
Division of Emergency Medical Services

Capt. Edward Palenik

Our paramedics are licensed by the state of Illinois and work under Standing Medical Orders developed by the South Cook County Emergency Medical Services System located at Ingalls Memorial Hospital.

Our department EMS Coordinator is a member of the South Cook County and Advocate Christ EMS Advisory Committees.

In addition to emergency responses our paramedics participate in the following activities throughout the year;

- Mandated continuing education
- Community Health Fairs
- CPR and first aid training for the community
- Senior Citizens weekly blood pressure screening
- Area hospital training and meetings
Division of Data and Communications

Division Chief Thomas Mullally
Engineer William Runowski

The data and communications division are responsible for maintaining all department radio and computer equipment as well as the equipment utilized in the village emergency operating centers.

Portable radios received through our MABAS divisions Assistance to Firefighters Grant have been received and placed into service.

We have budgeted for, and will be replacing the obsolete radios, amplifiers and speaker system throughout the station that receive the calls dispatched by our 911 center.
Emergency Management

As a result of our continued commitment to training, public education and preparedness the villages Storm Ready designation has been renewed for 3 years by the National Weather Service.

In conjunction with the Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, we updated the village annex to the to the Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The revised county-wide plan was submitted to, and approved by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and subsequently the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in November.

Participation in this planning process ensures that the village is eligible to apply for FEMA grant funds in the event of a disaster.
Fire Responses

In 2019, the fire department responded to the following fires;

14 residential structure fires with a combined loss of: $252,700.00

2 public assembly fires with a combined loss of: $25,000.00

1 storage structure fire with a loss of $10,000

9 motor vehicle fires with a combined loss of: $95,700.00

Total Fire Loss: $383,400
MABAS Responses

The Evergreen Park Fire Department is a member of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division #21.

We have Automatic Aid Agreements with the Village of Oak Lawn and Hometown Fire Protection District, in 2019 we responded to 32 structure fires as part of these Auto-Aid agreements

Through our MABAS agreement, we responded to 154 requests for mutual aid fire and emergency medical responses throughout our, as well as neighboring divisions in 2019.