The City of
Reading
Fire Department

2015 Annual Report

Prepared by Paul M. Gallo
Assistant Fire Chief
# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vision, Mission, and Values</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Testimonials</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Message from the Fire Chief</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accomplishments</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidents by Year</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident Summary by Major Category Type</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident Response Zone</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual Aid</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fires and Fire Losses by Major Property Use</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Loss Fires</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of Origin and Cause of Ignition</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civilian and Firefighter Injuries</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider Impression</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport Destination</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calls by Month</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Times</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlapping Incidents</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidents by Day of Week and by Time</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Prevention and Public Education</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Actions &amp; Awards</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vision

To reduce death, injury and property loss from fire and to reduce morbidity and mortality from sudden illness or injury.

Mission

The mission of the Reading Fire Department is to protect life, property, and the environment.

We will accomplish this with professional, knowledgeable, and dedicated personnel, using the allocated resources efficiently.

We pledge to deliver the highest quality of emergency medical services, fire suppression, public education and fire prevention to meet the needs of our community.

Values

Honor

Pride

Teamwork
Customer Testimonials

“I can never thank you enough. But this is a start. I always knew we had an outstanding department in Reading. But now I verify that! Thank you so much for your kindness and expertise.”

-Sanborn Ct. resident

“We are so grateful for everything you guys did. We will never forget your hard work!

-Church St. resident

“Like to thank the Reading Paramedics and EMS for their quick response and care they administered...We really appreciate the services and outstanding group of men and women your department provides to our community.”

-Arlington Ave. resident

“Just a short note to say “Thank You” so very much for taking care of me in my time of need. You all are the best and I appreciate your help.”

-Sanborn Ct. resident

Providing You Professional Service Since 1967
The following document outlines the response and accomplishments of the Reading Fire Department over the past year. As a department, we strive to provide the best possible service to the City of Reading and the Village of Arlington Heights. We work closely with the community, businesses and schools to make Reading and the Valley area a safe, comfortable place to live and work.

I would like to thank every member for their professionalism and dedication to the department. Our members continue to provide services above those typical of other departments, and are held in high regard among their peers. They are devoted and committed to providing the best care and service to our community. I would like to thank Assistant Chief Paul Gallo for compiling the data and providing the formatting for this report.

I wish to thank Mayor Bemmes, his administration, Reading City Council and the Village of Arlington Heights for their continued confidence and support of the department. This support is critical to our continual progression; making the Reading Fire Department one of the finest in the region.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd A. Owens
Fire Chief
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF  
Todd A. Owens, Fire Chief  
Paul M. Gallo, Assistant Fire Chief

SHIFT 1  
Lt. Eric Fischesser  
FF/P Mike Hardewig  
FF/P Kit Kretschmar  
FF/P Tyler Strole

CAREER STAFF  
SHIFT 2  
Lt. Thomas Grau  
FF/P Ed VonLehmden  
FF/P Dan Kunkel  
FF/P Brian Vaughn

SHIFT 3  
Lt. Ryan Androne  
FF/P Todd Burwinkel  
FF/P Paul Naehring  
FF/P Bruce Thompson

PART-TIME STAFF  
FF/P Ryan Grau  
FF/P Andy Dishon  
FF/E Dan Wattenhofer

FF/P Andy Burton  
FF/P Matt Korst  
FF/P Zach Booth

FF/P Patrick Benson  
FF/E Eric Halpin  
FF/E Caleb VonLehmden

PAID ON-CALL STAFF  
FF/E David Davis  
FF/E Robert Green  
P David Kimble  
P Christina Wattenhofer

P Natalie Patrick  
FF/E Rob Singer  
FF/E Russ Wernke

Structure fire on Thurnridge Dr.  
Structure fire on Thurnridge Dr.
Accomplishments

- Received re-approval from the Department of Public Safety as continuing education site.
- Purchased new ALS unit.
- Replaced EMS reporting computers with tablets.
- Chief Owens served as a federal fire grant reviewer in Baltimore, Maryland.
- Received $3,500 grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety (EMS) for EMS supplies and equipment.
- Chief Owens became president of the Ohio Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators.
- Received AHA 2015 Mission Lifeline: Silver EMS Recognition for emergency cardiac care.
- Hosted regional fire seminar presented by the International Society of Fire Service Instructors.
- Purchase of a new engine—delivery expected June of 2016.
- Replaced bay door at the Hilltop Station.
- Purchased new thermal imaging camera.
- Academy of Medicine site visit—received 5 year approval.
- Participated in the following Community Activities:
  - Reading Clean-Up Day
  - Safety Day in Arlington Heights
2015 Expenses

$1,419,696

$689,329

$58,962

$32,423

2015 Expenses Trendline

FD Expenses Trendline

Salaries
Benefits
Fire Ops
EMS Ops

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015
Incidents by Year

Call volume **decreased 0.2%** from 2014.

The average number of calls per day in 2015 was **5.8**. The busiest days in 2015 was 13 incidents which occurred on both June 6th and August 11th.

When 2015 is compared to 2011, total calls have increased 5%. When fire and EMS calls are calculated separately, fire calls decreased 6.2% and EMS calls increased 8.5%. The average number of calls for this 5 year period is 2058.

*Structure fire on Koehler Ave.*

*Car into a building on West Benson St.*
Incident Summary by Major Category Type

Our Fire Department takes great pride in being a progressive Advanced Life Support organization. Our paramedic unit, engine company, and ambulances all have Advanced Life Support capabilities. Our engine crew sometimes provides first response on EMS incidents to ensure rapid response and optimal care to our citizens.

The majority of our call volume is responding to emergency medical incidents. This accounts for 71% of our run volume. Reading Fire Department employs 14 full-time firefighter/paramedics, 9 part-time firefighter/EMTs, and approximately 7 paid-on-call firefighter/EMT’s.

Approximately 71 percent of all calls are medical.

Staged photo of a stoke patient. (Photo courtesy of Tim Jung.)

Structure fire on Reading Rd.
Incident Response Zone

NORTH of RR Tracks
Fire: 7.0%
EMS: 11.1%

EAST of RR Tracks
Fire: 18.7%
EMS: 37.3%

WEST of RR Tracks
Fire: 19.9%
EMS: 39.1%

Arlington Heights
Fire: 5.8%
EMS: 10.4%

Out of Town
Fire: 48.6%
EMS: 1.8%
1. 69% of the aid given is coded “dispatched and cancelled enroute.” This means a unit is dispatched, but is cancelled prior to arrival.

2. Reading receives aid on 98% of all fire recalls that occur in the city.

1. Reading receives mutual aid for EMS 57 times more than it gives EMS aid.

2. S84 (back-up squad) was able to make 84% of its responses in 2015. This was up from 80% in 2014.
### Fires and Fire Losses by Major Property Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Use</th>
<th>2014 # of Fires</th>
<th>2014 Estimated Loss</th>
<th>% of $ Loss</th>
<th>2015 # of Fires</th>
<th>2015 Estimated Loss</th>
<th>% of $ Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential (single/multi, mobile, apartment)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>93,100</td>
<td>65.1%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>301.745</td>
<td>99.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Residential (school, church, business, restaurant, storage)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles (auto, truck, bus, construction)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>49,850</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside (brush, grass, rubbish, outside fires with value)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>41</strong></td>
<td><strong>142,950</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>35</strong></td>
<td><strong>304,045</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fire Loss and Property Saved

- **Total Saved, $1,097,480**
- **Total Loss, $304,045**

### Large Loss Fires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Dollar Loss</th>
<th>Shift</th>
<th>Alarms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1099 Thurnridge Dr.</td>
<td>$123,820</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9440 Reading Rd.</td>
<td>$57,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1112 Church St.</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Koehler Ave.</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Structure Fires**

*Area of Origin and Cause of Ignition*

The highest percent of structure fires originated in functional areas (40%) followed by the exterior areas (30%).

For structure fires originating in functional areas, 100% were in a cooking area.

Unintentional fires was the greatest cause of ignition for structure fires at 50%.

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**Summary of Structure Fire Causes**

- **Unintentional**
- **Cause, Other**
- **Cause undetermined after investigation**
- **Cause under investigation**

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**Civilian and Firefighter Injuries**

- **Civilian Injuries**
- **FF Injuries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Civilian Injuries</th>
<th>Firefighter Injuries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2015 Provider Impression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abdominal</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allergic Reaction</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac Arrest</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOA</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional/Mental</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Illness</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injuries</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metabolic</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musculoskeletal</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuro</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Cause for Concern</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OB/Gyn</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Transport Destinations

- **Jewish**: 31%
- **Bethesda North**: 24%
- **Childrens**: 4%
- **UC**: 12%
- **Good Sam**: 3%
- **Christ**: 4%
- **Other**: 3%
- **No Transport**: 19%
- **Mission Lifeline Award presentation at city council.**
In 2015, the highest number of fire incidents occurred in January.

In 2015, the highest number of EMS incidents occurred in June (9.4%) followed by October (8.9%).
Response Times

The Reading Fire Department Response Standards specify the minimum criteria needed to effectively and efficiently deliver fire suppression and emergency medical services. The Response Standard is six minutes to all emergency alarms within the response area. 84% of the EMS responses, up 2% from 2014, were made within six minutes. 71% of the fire responses, up 3% from 2014, were made within six minutes.

Overlapping Incidents

Overlapping incidents are when multiple incidents occur at the same time. This happened 20% of the time during 2015, 2% higher than 2014.
Reading Fire Department is committed to providing the citizens of the City of Reading and the Village of Arlington Heights with a highly trained fire and EMS department. Members are sent for specialized training regularly throughout the region.

On a regular basis, our firefighters train with other valley fire departments to maintain familiarity with each other and increase on-scene performance and safety. In 2015, the department’s personnel logged a total of 3,973 hours of training, a decrease of 9.4 percent from the previous year.

Firefighters participate in company level and multi-company training evolutions and exercises. This emphasizes teamwork and coordination during emergency incidents requiring multi unit responses.

Numerous personnel attained various certifications from the State of Ohio:

- Fire Service Instructor: 1
- Fire Safety Inspector: 1
- Paramedic: 2
Prevention/Public Education

**Inspections**
- General Inspections: 148
- General Reinspections: 16
- Company Inspections: 92
- Company Reinspections: 117

**Public Education Contacts**
- Safety Talks/School Visits: 263
- CPR Classes: 124
- Station Tours: 1857

**Violations Found**
- Precautions Against Fire: 28%
- Fire Protection Systems: 10%
- Means of Egress: 15%
- Building Services: 20%
- No Violations Found: 3%
- Administration/Other: 24%
RETIREMENTS

Firefighter/Paramedic Terry Widmann retired on March 20, 2015 after 25 years of service. Terry served as a member of the Northern Hills Fire Department prior to coming to Reading. Over the years, Terry was involved with apparatus purchasing/maintenance and the maintenance of the self contained breathing apparatus. Terry received many letters of appreciation and commendations.

Firefighter/EMT Mike Herbert retired on April 30, 2015 after 20 years of service as a paid-on-call member.

Firefighter/EMT Tom Flynn retired on October 1, 2015 after 14 years of service as a paid-on-call member.

NEW HIRES

Paid on call member Brian Vaughn accepted a full-time position with the department. Ryan Grau, Caleb VonLehmden and Russ Wernke were hired as part-time personnel. Robert Green, Christina Wattenhofer, and David Kimble were hired as paid on-call members.

OTHER PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Part-time member Chris Hautman resigned from the department. Paid On-Call members resigning: Tyler Grau and Ron Sauder.

2015 Awards/Honors

FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Lt. Ryan Androne

CAREER FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

FF/P Ed VonLehmden

PART-TIME/PAID-ON-CALL FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

FF/P Andy Burton