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LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

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

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: The honor to serve the community. Earning and maintaining the respect of the community- to be held in high regard; integrity; virtue; completeness; wholeness; honesty and sincerity.

Pride: The satisfaction of being the best we can be; quality work and performance; customer satisfaction.

Teamwork: Working together toward common goals; sharing responsibility; looking out for each other; respect; trust and cooperation. Developing ourselves individually for the benefit of the team.
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
Todd A. Owens, Fire Chief
Paul M. Gallo, Assistant Fire Chief

CAREER STAFF
SHIFTS 1
Lt. Eric Fischesser
FF/P Mike Hardewig
FF/P Kit Kretschmar
FF/P Tyler Strole

SHIFTS 2
Lt. Thomas Grau
FF/P Ed VonLehmden
FF/P Dan Kunkel
FF/P Brian Vaughn

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

PART-TIME STAFF
FF/E Caleb VonLehmden
FF/E Robert Green

FF/P Andy Dishon
FF/P Patrick Benson

FF/P Dan Wattenhofer
FF/P Zach Booth

FF/E Eric Halpin

PAID ON-CALL STAFF
FF/E David Davis
FF/P David Kimble
FF/P Natalia Patrick
FF/E Rob Singer

Providing You Professional Service
Since 1967
Customer Testimonials

“My family cannot thank you enough for the quality care you gave my Dad. You were all so kind, confident and competent.” -Bisce Dr. resident

“I can never express how much we appreciate what you did for my family and saving our home. You are all truly a blessing.” -Breezy Vista resident

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

“We were very pleased with this year's presentation! Very engaging for our students. It is so important for the students to see the fireman dress up in all his gear and learn that they are not scary. Well done!” -School teacher

“The Reading Fire Dept. always does an amazing job of helping strengthen the quality of education our students are receiving here at the high school. We are so grateful that you guys are willing to partner with the schools.” -School teacher

"A thank you to the Reading Ohio Paramedics and Life Squad team that responded to our home yesterday. You are the best." -Bernard Ave. resident
Accomplishments

- Received $2,500 grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety (EMS) for EMS supplies and equipment.
- Provided confined space training for service department.
- Received AHA 2016 Mission Lifeline: Gold EMS Recognition for emergency cardiac care.
- Installed camera security system at the Hilltop Station.
- Received new engine from E-One in July.
- Received new Stryker stair chair.
- Participated in the following Community Activities:
  - Read to Children program at Reading Central School
  - Career Day at Reading Middle School
  - Reading Clean-Up Day
  - Christmas tree lighting
Incidents by Year

Call volume **decreased 3.4%** from 2015.

The average number of calls per day in 2016 was **5.6**. The busiest days in 2016 was 14 incidents which occurred on both January 11th and October 4th.

When 2016 is compared to 2012, total calls have decreased 1.4%. When fire and EMS calls are calculated separately, fire calls decreased 29% and EMS calls increased 7.8%. The average number of calls for this 5 year period is 2063.

*Structure fire on Breezy Vista.*  
*Dryer fire on Oldwick Dr.*
NFIRS 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 72% of our run volume. Reading Fire Department employs 14 full-time firefighter/paramedics, 9 part-time firefighter/EMTs, and approximately 3 paid-on-call firefighter/EMT’s.

Approximately 72 percent of all calls are medical.*

* Based on NFIRS incident type.

Auto accident on E. Columbia Ave.

Structure fire on Breezy Vista.
Incident Response Zone

**NORTH of RR Tracks**
- Fire: 5.3%
- EMS: 8.6%

**EAST of RR Tracks**
- Fire: 27.2%
- EMS: 39.7%

**Arlington Heights**
- Fire: 6.1%
- EMS: 12.5%

**WEST of RR Tracks**
- Fire: 25.8%
- EMS: 36.5%

**Out of Town**
- Fire: 35.3%
- EMS: 2.8%

Life saving awards presented to Susan Blackson, Bryan Young, and Jennifer Raleigh for their quick action to help resuscitate freshman basketball coach Jerry Overbeck at a basketball game on December 2.
1. 69% of the aid given is coded “dispatched and cancelled enroute.” This means a unit is dispatched, but is cancelled prior to arrival.

1. Reading receives mutual aid for EMS 40 times more than it gives EMS aid.

2. S283 (back-up squad) was able to make 72% of its responses in 2016. This was down from 84% in 2015.
Fires and Fire Losses by Major Property Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Use</th>
<th># of Fires</th>
<th>2015 Estimated $ Loss</th>
<th>% of $ Loss</th>
<th>2016 Estimated $ Loss</th>
<th>% of $ Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential (single/multi, mobile, apartment)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>301.745</td>
<td>99.2%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>82,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Residential (school, church, business, restaurant, storage)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles (auto, truck, bus, construction)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside (brush, grass, rubbish, outside fires with value)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>35</strong></td>
<td><strong>304,045</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>40</strong></td>
<td><strong>98,300</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fire Loss and Property Saved

Total Loss, $98,300

Total Saved, $3,442,480

Large Loss Fires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Dollar Loss</th>
<th>Shift</th>
<th>Alarms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>316 Breezy Vista</td>
<td>$65,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1182 Oldwick</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>315 Breezy Vista (Exposure)</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 W Voorhees</td>
<td>$4,000</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 (60%) followed by the structural areas (30%).

For structure fires originating in functional areas, 50% were in a cooking area.

Unintentional fires was the greatest cause of ignition for structure fires at 60%.
Dr. Bohanske left after serving four years as assistant medical director. Dr. Bohanske accepted an attending position with the Maine Medical Center Department of Emergency Medicine in Portland Maine.
In 2016, the highest number of fire incidents occurred in January.

In 2016, the highest number of EMS incidents occurred in March (9.4%) followed by April (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. **85%** of the EMS responses, up 1% from 2015, were made within six minutes. **73%** of the fire responses, up 2% from 2015, were made within six minutes.

Overlapping Incidents

Overlapping incidents are when multiple incidents occur at the same time. This happened **18%** of the time during 2016, 2% lower than 2015.
Training

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 2016, the department’s personnel logged a total of 3,822.5 hours of training, a decrease of 3.8 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 Officer I 2
- Fire Officer IV 1

### 2016 TRAINING SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Sessions Held</th>
<th>477</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member Attendance</td>
<td>1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>3822.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prevention/Public Education

Inspections

- General Inspections
- General Reinspections
- Company Inspections
- Company Reinspections
- Misc Inspections

Violations Found

- Precautions Against Fire: 15%
- Fire Protection Systems: 24%
- Means of Egress: 21%
- Building Services: 12%

Public Education Contacts

- Safety Talks/School Visits: 112
- CPR Classes: 244
- Station Tours: 533
**RETIREMENTS**

FF/E Russ Wernke retired after 15 years of service as paid-on-call and part-time member.

**NEW HIRES**

Trent Estes was hired as a paid on-call member.

**OTHER PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

Part-time member Ryan Grau and Matt Korst resigned from the department.

Paid On-Call members resigning: Trent Estes.

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**SERVICE AWARDS**

FF/P Mike Hardewig—30 years

FF/P Paul Naehring—15 years

Lt. Eric Fischesser—10 years

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**2016 Awards/Honors**

**FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR**

Assistant Chief Paul Gallo

**CAREER FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

FF/P Tyler Strole

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

FF/E Rob Singer