

Norfolk Fire Division Annual Report 2015/2016*

**The Norfolk Fire Division's Annual Report now is a fiscal year report, rather than calendar year. The data reported is from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.*



NORFOLK FIRE DIVISION

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NORFOLK FIRE DIVISION FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016

The Fire Division concluded another strong year of service to the citizens of Norfolk and the Rural Fire Protection District with no serious injury or death to any of our staff. Many accomplishments were achieved. Following is a list of some of the most notable activities.

Plans, specifications and contract approval for the purchase of a new 2,000 gallon rural tanker were completed by a ten member committee. The contract was awarded to DANKO Company in Snyder, NE and the truck is expected to be delivered and placed into service in February of 2017. The new tanker will replace a 20 year old unit that was traded in as part of the purchase contract.


During the past fiscal year, two staff members left the fire division. Firefighter/Paramedic Tony Anderson resigned to accept a position in South Dakota. Also, Firefighter/Paramedic Bobbi Risor transferred into the Permits Technician position, upon the retirement of Bev Vonderohe, who served the city 29 years. Firefighter/Paramedic Sam Funk was hired to replace Bobbi.

A ten member committee continues to work on the plans and specifications for the purchase of a new 100-foot mid-mount aerial platform device. This truck will replace a 1974 Snorkel that serves as a reserve aerial unit. Bid award for this truck's purchase is estimated to be September of 2017.

A complete replacement of the department's Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) supply and associated equipment was completed. This consisted of 45 new air packs, a new air compressor/filling station, portable cascade system and all supporting equipment.

A new ambulance, purchased from Osage Ambulance from Linn, Missouri was received and placed in service in February of 2016 and is housed at Station 1. This ambulance replaced a 20 year old unit that was sold at auction.

The Division looks forward to another successful year of service to the citizens of Norfolk and Rural Fire District. A special thanks to both the Norfolk Mayor & City Council and Norfolk Rural Fire Board for their support in allowing us to carry out the goals and objectives of the division by providing the resources we need to complete the job.



ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

This year proved to be another busy one responding to calls and handling day to day operations at Norfolk Fire and Rescue. Responses for the year were 2,066 rescue calls and 316 engine responses. Answering calls, maintaining equipment and finding time to train was difficult but together this organization rose to the challenge.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING AND EVENTS IN 2015/2016

As done in previous years, our Paramedics attended an annual refresher training session which lasted three days at Northeast Community College. All Paramedics received 24 hours of training, which is then added to an additional 48 hours of training received in house that is required to maintain National Registry Certification. We currently have 28 Nationally Registered Paramedics and 1 in training. We also have 3 personnel trained at the EMT-Basic level.



The Norfolk Fire Division serves as a hazardous materials regional response team for Northeast Nebraska. This year we hosted a 40 hour Hazmat Technician Refresher Course at our training facility which was conducted by the Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office Training Division. Six of our hazmat technicians attended this class in August. Five members of our team also completed a full 80 hour Hazmat Technician Course and will be tested in October 2016. In addition to classes and continuing education, we had an opportunity to help plan and participate in a drill that Plainview Fire and Rescue hosted in July. Additional responders from mutual aid towns participated in the drill that involved a pickup pulling a nurse tank with anhydrous ammonia colliding with a semi-tractor trailer hauling ethanol along Highway 20 in Plainview, NE. The Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office Training Division helped facilitate this drill which placed great emphasis on a coordinated multi-agency response.



Norfolk Fire and Rescue also has many technical rescue capabilities and those were put to the test over the course of the past year. In June each shift found themselves responding to a training trench rescue situation and working through the steps to free a victim based upon the scenario they were given.

In March, firefighters were tested on their search and rescue skills when an old apartment complex near the regional center was filled with simulated smoke and live victims were placed on each level of the building for the firefighters to find and bring to safety. In October we hosted, in conjunction with the Nebraska State Fire Marshall Office, a controlled house burn for training. We were able to have multiple live fire evolutions on the second floor, main level and even the basement. Again other departments including Beemer, Hoskins/Woodland Park, Hadar and Battle Creek participated.



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The Nebraska State Fire School in Grand Island saw another solid showing from members of the full time and reserve staff of Norfolk Fire Division. A total of 13 staff attended and received diversified training on hazardous materials, pump operations, vehicle extrication, attacking the fire scene, forcible entry, intro to firefighting, wildland fires, threat awareness and leadership/decision making.

The Norfolk Fire and Rescue Honor Guard assisted in many events including parades, public meetings and funerals.

Contributed by Tim Wragge

Management

Region 11 Emergency Management, comprised of Antelope, Madison and Pierce counties continued to be busy this year. There was a transition to a new director Trent Howard-Asst. Chief of Prevention. Faythe Petersen continues her role of emergency management as well by coordinating programs and keeping up with the difficult task of maintaining FEMA grants for 2015/2016. The grants continue to provide a portion of the training and equipment to maintain the Norfolk Fire



Division's Regional HazMat Team as well as funding for the emergency management program.

There were no major disasters within Region 11 in 2015/2016. There was, however, one local disaster declaration when Norfolk Public Schools suffered an internal water heater failure and leak, causing flooding of their mechanical room. This caused a high amperage electrical system to short out and start on fire causing a major disruption for the all-electric facility and an endan-

germent to its infrastructure prior to the new school year. Major repairs were completed as soon as possible to facilitate school starting.

Region 11 participated with multiple fire and EMS departments, hospitals and the state fire marshal's office in several tabletop and full scale exercises throughout the year. Two full scale hazardous materials drills were held within Region 11. The Plainview and Neligh drills utilized multiple resources, departments and included other emergency managers from Northeast Nebraska who had an active part helping with the exercise. Trent Howard joined Faith Regional Health Services Emergency Operations Center assisting with coordination of a partial functional drill transferring all of their patients to other facilities due to a major infrastructure failure.

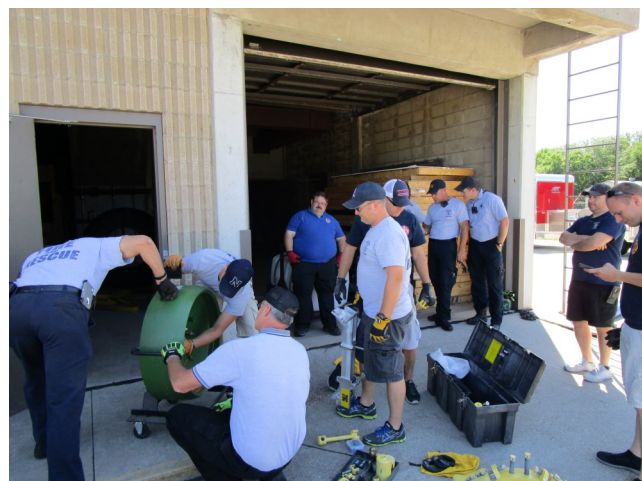


As part of the State of Nebraska Regional Hazardous Materials response team the Norfolk Fire Divisions Haz-Mat technicians were busy with requests for hazardous material responses and training. The Norfolk Regional Haz-Mat response team responds according to mutual aid agreements and follows guidelines set by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

The team responded to numerous vehicle rollover incidents involving hazardous materials requiring stabilization of the incident. Most of these events require two to four hours of on scene operation.



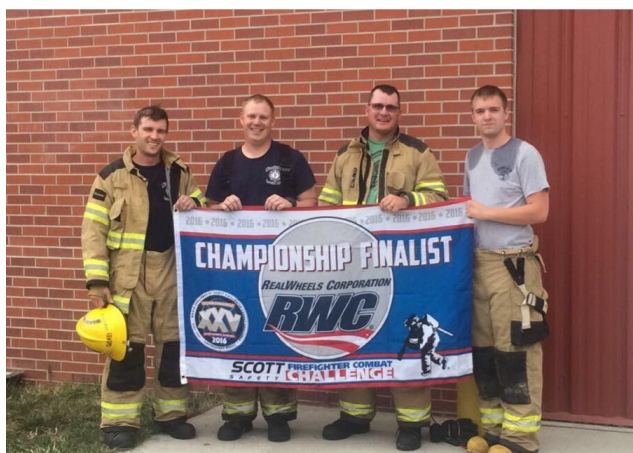
In August the State of Nebraska Fire Marshal's Training Division conducted a 40 hour Haz-Mat technician refresher course held at the Northeast Nebraska Public Safety Training Facility. The class was open to all hazardous materials technicians in the state. Topics covered included handling of chlorine leaks, monitoring and sampling of known and unknown substances, ethanol emergencies and a hands on drill in protective clothing, utilizing skills learned during the week. Ten hazmat technicians from Norfolk Fire attended.



COMBAT CHALLENGE

Norfolk Fire Fighter Combat Challenge Team (NFFCCT) fielded another team this year to compete in The Fire Fighter Combat Challenge, also known as the toughest two minutes in sports. The challenge is a task based optical course race that simulates fire ground activities where competitors start at the bottom of a five-story tower and carry a 42 pound high rise pack of hose to the top of the tower. A 42 pound roll of hose is hoisted to the top of the tower with a rope. The competitors then run down the tower hitting every step on the way down and continue on to drive a 165 pound I-beam five feet with a nine pound sledge hammer on a Keiser Force Machine. This is followed by traversing a 145 foot slalom course through cones and advancing a charged 1 ¾ in hose 75 feet to shoot at a target. A 175 pound rescue dummy is carried 106 foot to the finish line.

The entire challenge is completed while wearing full firefighting gear, including a Scott air pack. Several regional events are conducted each year culminating with a world championship with teams from all over the world competing. At the regional events, Norfolk fire fighters compete in the individual portion on day one and on day 2 in the relay category.



NFFCCT travelled to regionals events in Branson MO, Sioux Center IA, Grand Island NE, Lake of the Ozarks MO and the World Finals in Montgomery AL. The team traveled over 4000 miles this year. In addition to the NFFCCT competing at the Grand Island event, two additional Norfolk teams competed. All teams ran well and put up some of their best times at this event.

The teams train all year. Winters are spent in the gym gaining strength and speed. Summer training is at the training tower, on days off, running the course. The team spent well over 250 hours of off duty time training for these events. This training not only allows for better competitors, it provides for better fire fighters. Due to the competition, those who trained are confident that they are physically capable of handling any situation and are better able to serve the citizens of Norfolk.

Norfolk has competed in these competitions since 2007. The teams would like to thank Dr. G. Tom Surber, a firm believer in firefighter fitness, and Paul Davis Restoration for their continued support over the years.

NFFCCT Team

Lance Conroy
Ryan Goodman
Trevor O'Brien
Nathan Wortmann
Chad Wurdeman

Grand Island Relay Teams

Travis Reich	Adam Sobotka
Sam Funk	Chris Tillotson
Casey Caskey	Cody Stevens
Mitchell Kallhoff	Mathew Rohde

FIRE INSPECTIONS AND PREVENTION

By Terry Zwiebel

During Fiscal Year 2015-2016, business fire inspections were completed by the firefighter inspectors and the fire marshal. This year there were a total of 530 inspections conducted on customer owned premises with a wide variety of violations found and corrected. The Firefighter/Inspectors Dan Nelson, Travis Reich and Jerry Thompson, have continued great service to the community and have either achieved their Fire Inspector I certification or are working towards certification.

The Division responded to 82 fire calls, 23 of those were active fires in the structures upon our response. Of those structure fires, the fire was contained to the room of origin 17 times and to the structure of origin 22 times. The total amount of loss to the structure caused by these fires was \$750,650. The total contents lost in these buildings were \$204,090. The total amount of property and contents that were saved in these 22 structures was \$4,444,600.00. We continue to work towards preventing as many fires as possible.



We continue to educate the public about fire prevention via school visits, station tours, press releases and training classes for the general public and the workplaces of Norfolk. Visitors totaled 1546 during the year where they were provided fire prevention material. An Open House is held during Fire Prevention week in October and we encourage everyone to attend these events. There were multiple training classes and public booths at the Norfolk Area Home Builders and Garden Show and the Annual Night Out in Central Park. The Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office Fire Prevention Trailer was at the Annual Night Out and had approximately 150 kids and parents go through the trailer learning home escape drills. There were a total contact hours of over 200 man-hours spent, contacting over 6700 citizens.

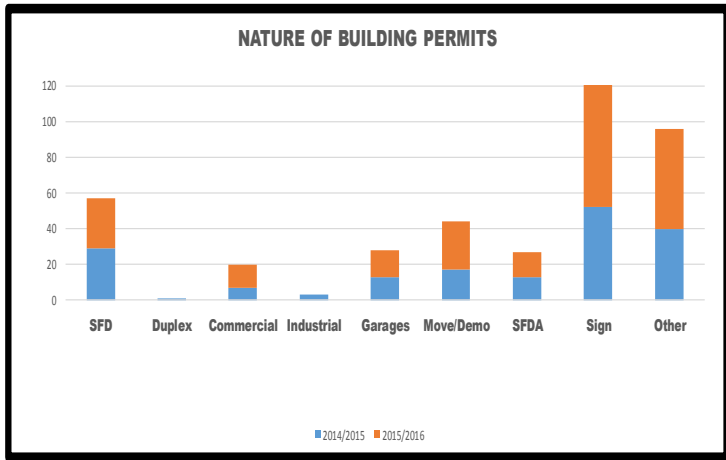
Fire prevention remains our main goal for the citizens of Norfolk and our activities are geared towards this goal. The fire division continues to deliver and/or replace out of date smoke alarms until citizens can replace failed, existing detector(s). We remind citizens that a smoke alarm's life span is 10 years. The dates are on the back or inside of the alarm showing the date of manufacture.

If you have any questions give us a call at (402) 844-2050.

PREVENTION BUREAU

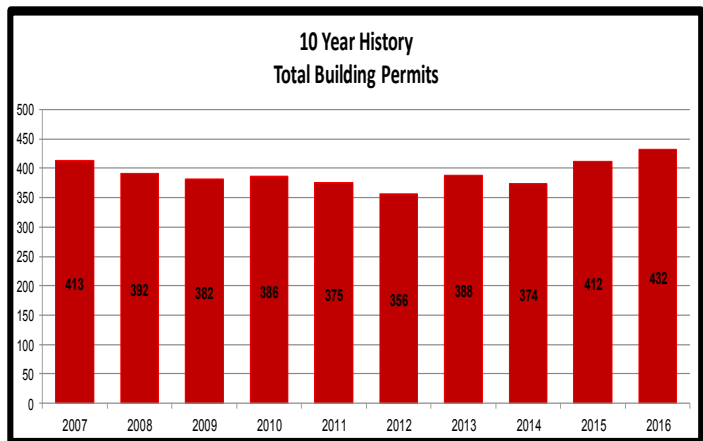
The City of Norfolk Prevention Bureau issued a total of 432 building permits for Fiscal Year 2015/2016; this compares with 411 for Fiscal Year 2014/2015. Permits for alterations and additions to one and two family dwellings continue to be a strong area. Fiscal Year 2015/2016 recorded 142 permits for alteration/addition to one and two family dwellings. The number of single family dwelling permits decreased from 43 in Fiscal Year 2014/2015 to 42 in Fiscal Year 2015/2016. There were no multi-family permits issued in Fiscal Year 2014-2015 or for 2015/2016.

The following reflects permits issued by type of structure for the two fiscal years (not including permits for alterations and additions).

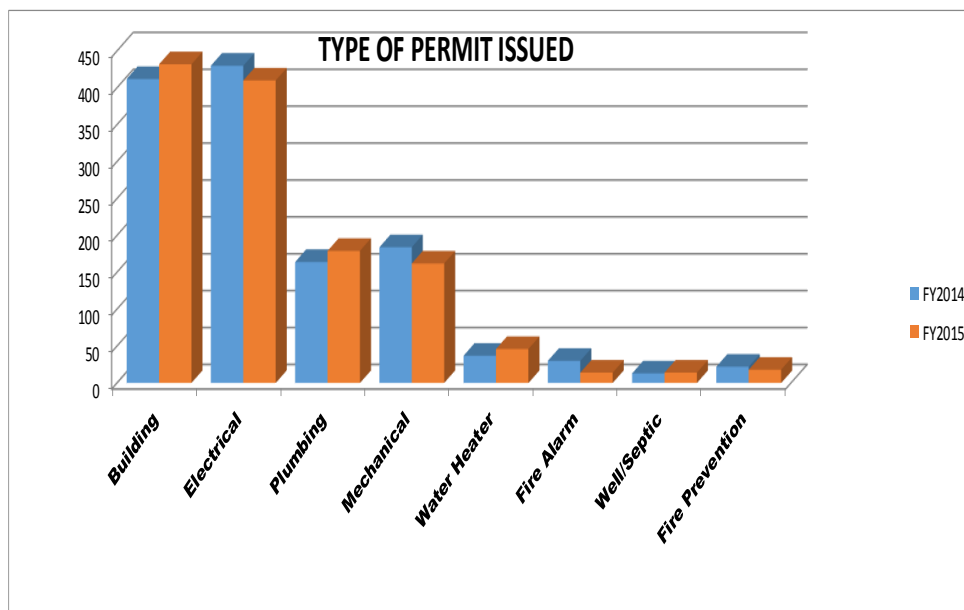


The valuation of building permits issued for FY 2015/2016 was \$24,923,322 compared to FY 2014/2015 with \$46,804,458. The Ten Year Permit Valuation graph shows FY 2007/2008 with the record high valuation of \$101,914,212 which reflected major projects by Faith Regional Health Services, Northeast College and Missionary Benedictine Sisters.

Projects for FY 2015-2016 include remodeling and buildings at Nucor, remodel and additions for Walmart, Anytime Fitness, Wendy’s, Taco Bell, EBM, Progressive Nutrition, Animal Shelter of Northeast Nebraska, Slumberland Furniture, Motoplex, Heritage of Bel-Air, Magnolias, Geary Investments, Window World, Roxi’s Elegant Bridal and Second Act. New construction projects include Love’s Travel Stop, Guaranteed Roofing, Volkman Plumbing & Heating, Norfolk Airport, Norfolk Motor Company/GM Auto Detailing Center, Norfolk Public Schools, D & M Underground, 81 Auto Glass, O’Reilly Auto Parts, M & S Mini-Storage, Langan Dental Health, Starwood Dental, Road Builders, Ganskow Construction and City of Norfolk Vehicle Storage Building.

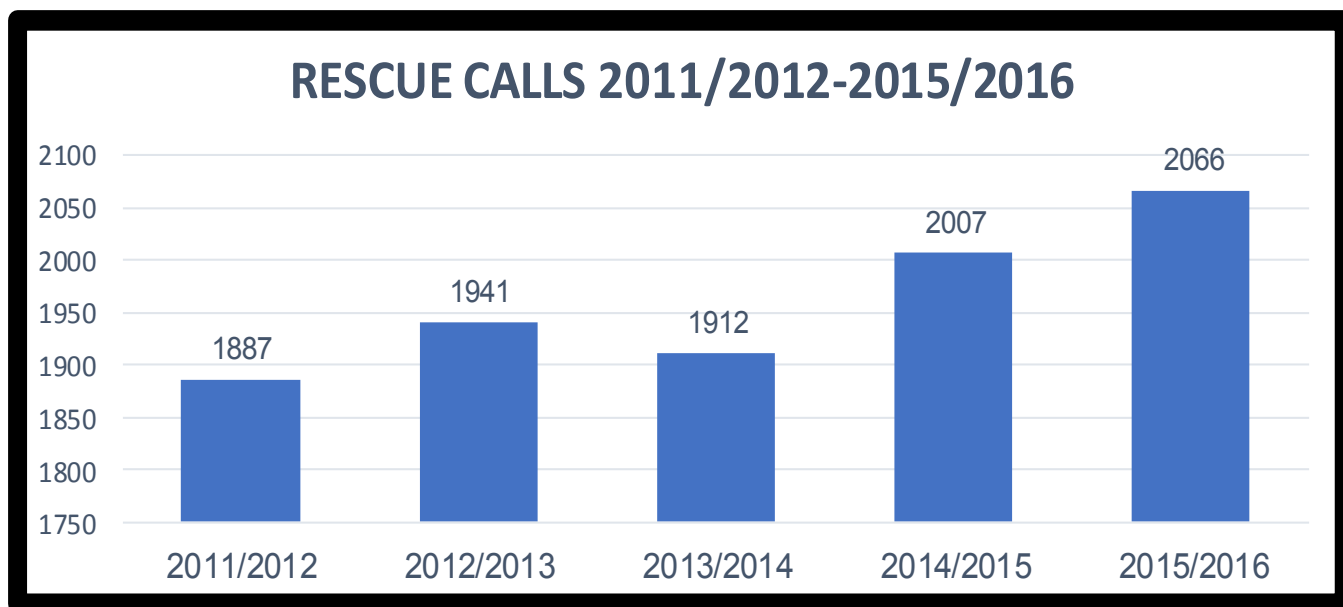
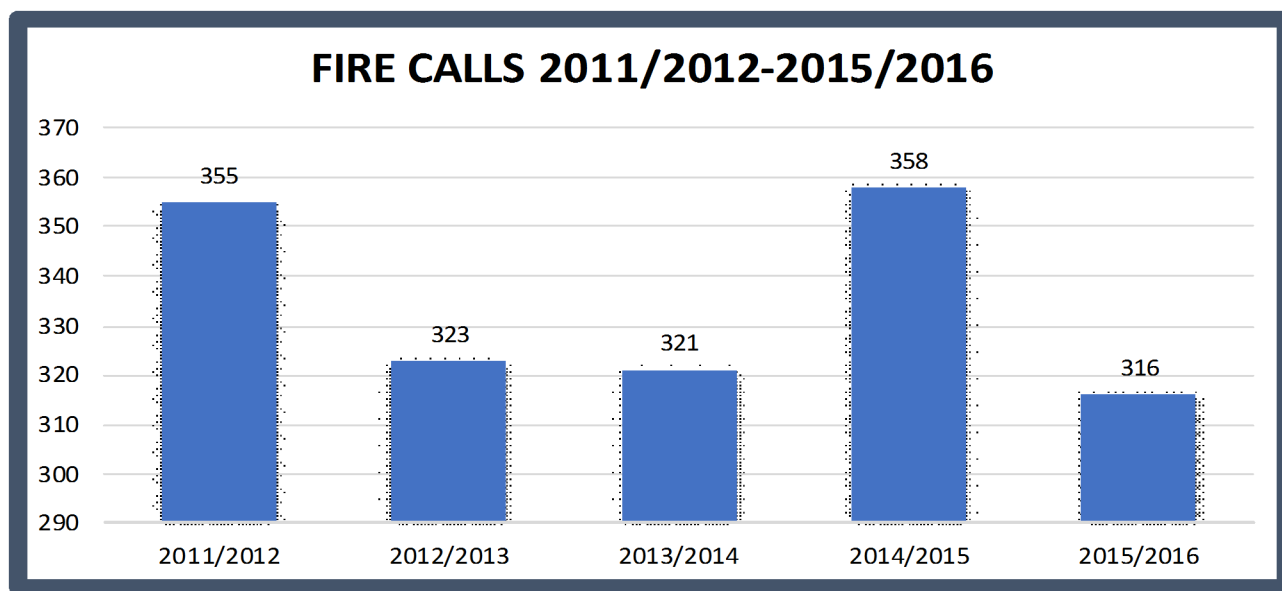


The Prevention Bureau covers a broad spectrum of duties which includes plan review, permit issuance, construction inspections (building, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, water heater, well & septic approvals, fire sprinkler, suppression and alarm), stormwater and property maintenance inspections. Stormwater management is an area of concern throughout the State; many questions are handled by the Prevention Bureau. Mosquito control, property maintenance concerns, and various health related issues are addressed by the Health Official. Training is on-going in all facets of the Prevention Bureau to obtain and maintain certifications in the various inspection fields.



The Prevention Bureau has expanded services in recent years to perform plan review and building inspections via Interlocal Agreements with various cities and villages in the Norfolk area. These services help upgrade construction practices in the surrounding area, and provide property maintenance and evaluation inspection services to these communities. Participating communities include Madison, Stanton, Wayne, Meadow Grove, Winside, Tilden, Battle Creek, Hadar, Pierce and Lindsay.

Inspection staff members aid various departments in the city as requested, and also issue permits for Street and Water Departments. A lot of coordination is facilitated by the Prevention Bureau office to issue permits for street breaks, curb grinds, water and sewer taps and abandonments/disconnections. We have also recently undertaken coordinating with the police department for roll off refuse box permits.

5 YEAR BREAKDOWN OF FIRE AND RESCUE CALLS

NORFOLK FIRE RESERVES

The Norfolk Fire Reserves continue to be an extremely important component of the functionality of the Operations Bureau. Their commitment to training and response is something of great value to the citizens of Norfolk. Their support aides in continuing to meet increasing demands for services while maintaining operational costs.

As stated in previous years our reserves are a very diverse group with many different skill sets that come together for a common purpose to help serve and protect the citizens of Norfolk when called upon. The current group includes an engineer, Paramedics, salespersons, a police officer, industrial workers, a health inspector, a machinist, electrical workers, farmers, a lawn service provider, service technicians, a utility lineman, a fire suppression technician and a county roads worker.

The reserves are currently staffed with 24 members with years of experience ranging from 1 year to over 25 years. This year a few reserve firefighters left the organization but we swore in 5 new fire reserves and are currently in the process of interviewing and testing for more. Along with our full time staff, the reserves provide necessary resources for handling calls within the city and rural fire protection district. Fires, back to back rescue calls or labor intensive technical rescues can result in callbacks to Reserves and full time staff responding to a scene or the fire station to help cover the next call.

This past year, 8 of our reserve firefighters attended the Nebraska State Fire School in Grand Island. We also had many members take part in the National Night Out event at Central Park. They worked with attendees to give them each a chance to participate in the popular water fights.

The reserves sent two teams to compete in the Firefighter Combat Challenge event at the State Fair in Grand Island over Labor Day weekend joining a crew from our full time staff. They competed hard and together they all represented this organization and the City of Norfolk very well.

Beginning this October we will be putting on an in house Firefighter 1 course to help work towards getting our reserves certified in both Firefighter 1 and Hazardous Materials Operations Level.

This group is determined, committed and educated. The Norfolk Fire Division is proud have each of them on board helping us serve the citizens of Norfolk.

Tim Wragge



	2015-2016 Actual	2016-2017 Estimated	2017-2018¹³ Estimated
Demand:			
City Population	24,210	24,210	24,220
Rural District Popula- tion	4,950	4,950	4,950
Total Geographical Ar- ea Served	111	111	111
City Area	11	11	11
Rural Area	100	100	100
Mutual Aid Area	1,345	1,345	1,345
Workload:			
Total # of Responses	2382	2,430	2,450
Emergency Medical Calls	2066	2080	2100
# of Patients Encoun- tered	2078	2,200	2,400
# of Trauma Patients	237	270	270
Fire Calls	316	350	350
Structure Fires	23	35	35
% Contained to Room of Origin	73%	60%	60%
% Contained to Struc- ture of Origin	95%	100%	100%
Hazardous Material Calls	7	20	20
# of Level 1 Call Backs	24	35	35
# of Level 2 Call Backs	129	130	130
# of Citizens Who Toured the Fire Sta- tion or attended clas- ses	1,546	1,600	1,600
Public Contacted	6,700	6,700	6,700
Valuation of Building Permits Issued	\$24,923,322	\$35,000,000	\$35,000,000
Building Permits Is- sued	423	450	450

	2015-2016 Actual	2016-2017 Estimated	2017-2018¹⁴ Estimated
# of Burning Permits Issued	266	250	300
Productivity:			
Total Training Hours	5929	6000	6000
Average Training Hours per Fire Fighter	219	220	220
Feet of Hose Maintained	25,250	25,250	25250
# of Pumps Tested & Maintained	6	6	6
# of Warning Sirens Tested & Maintained	10	10	10
# of Preemption Devices Maintained	80	80	80
# of SCBA Tested and Maintained	55	55	55
# of Emergency Vehicles Maintained	22	22	22
# of Defibrillators Maintained	8	8	8
Average cost per single family dwelling	\$225,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Average cost/sq foot	\$93	\$90	\$90
Effectiveness:			
% of Established Patient IV's	81%	90	85
% of Established Endotracheal Tubes	100%	85	85
Average Response Time per Call	4:30	4:30	4:30
# of Incidents with 1st Arriving Units within 5 minutes (in city)	1544	1820	1824
% of Total	81%	80%	80%
Valuation of Structures involved in Fire	\$4,444,600	\$10,000,000	\$15,000,000
Structural Dollar Amount Loss Due to Fire	\$750,650	\$700,000	\$750,000
Average Years of Service of Employees	13	14	14



PREVENTION BUREAU
BUILDING DEPARTMENT • PERMITS & CODES



NORFOLK
FIREFIGHTERS
T-SHIRTS

