

Fremont Fire Department 2018 Annual Report



Fremont Tribune Photo

Structure Fire January 6, 2018



FREMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Todd Bernt, Fire Chief
415 East 16th Street
Fremont, NE 68025



Improvement in the City of Fremont's Insurance Service Organization (ISO) rating went from a Class 4 to a Class 3. Insurance Companies use this rating to rate and price the cost insurance premiums for homeowners. Best rating is 1 and worse rating is 10. ISO Ratings are based upon public protection scores for Fire Department (50%), the City's water system (40%), and the Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) 911 Center (10%).

FREMONT FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I

DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

Letter from the Chief

Staff

Department History

SECTION II

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Types of Alarms & Fire Causes

Fire Loss & Fire Runs Per Year

Day of Week & Time of Day

Fire Runs Per Month & Fire Runs Per Shift

Fire/EMS Runs by Section of City

SECTION III

EMS SERVICES

Types of Medical Emergencies

Patient Age

EMS Runs Per Year & EMS Runs Per Month

Day of Week & Time of Day

EMS Runs Per Shift

SECTION IV

DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Call Back Statistics

SECTION V

PUBLIC RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

FAQ

Check us out on the City's web page at:

<http://www.fremontne.gov/fire>

Section 1



Structure Fire May 2018

Department



Message from Chief Bernt

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

On behalf of the members of the Fremont Fire Department, I'm proud to present the 2018 Annual Report. This report is a testament to your fire department member's professionalism and dedication to our community. In 2018, we responded to a total of 2,698 emergencies, 2,506 medical and 192 fire. The fire department saw 1.6% decrease in emergency calls from 2017.

Our 2,506 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses account for approximately 93% of all our fire and EMS responses. We had a total of 2,660 patient contacts with the average patient age being 58 years old.

Of the 192 fire emergencies, 19 were extinguishable fires. Equipment failure, arson, and cooking materials were the leading cause of fires. The fire losses for 2018 were \$254,600. Types of alarms responded to were structure fires, automatic fire alarms, smoke odor investigations, vehicle fires, hazardous materials, unauthorized burning, severe weather, cooking fires contained to the container, dumpster/trash, and others.

Documented training hours of the department was 2,576 hours. Topics include EMS training, fire ground tactics, rope rescue, and pre-planning to name a few. In 2018, Metropolitan Community College (MCC) continued to provide paramedic training and continuing education in EMS for all personnel.

The city saw an improvement in its ISO rating from a 4 to a 3. ISO Ratings are based upon public protection scores for Fire Department (50%), the City's water system (40%), and the Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) 911 Center (10%). Insurance companies use this rating to determine home owner's insurance premiums. Rating of 1 is best and 10 is the worse.

The accomplishments of the Fremont Fire Department are only possible through the ongoing dedication of each firefighter commitment to our community. None of which would be possible without the support of the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, and the citizens of Fremont.

Sincerely,

Todd Bernt
Fire Chief

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Fremont Fire Department is to protect Life and Property by providing:

- * Fire and Safety Education
- * Fire Prevention
- * Prompt response to Fire, Medical and other related Emergencies

With professionally trained personnel in an efficient and cost effective manner.

COMMAND STAFF



Fire Chief Todd Bernt
Paramedic
26 years of service

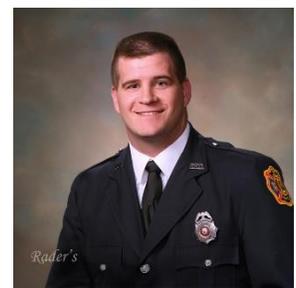
A-SHIFT



Captain Jamie Meyer
Paramedic
25 years of service



Lieutenant Doug Backens
Intermediate
25 years of service



Zachery Klein
Firefighter/Paramedic
12 years of service



Levi Alley
Firefighter/Paramedic
8 years of service



Terry Luthy
Firefighter/Paramedic
7 years of service



Jesse Vincent
Firefighter/Paramedic
5 years of service



Alex Iniguez
Firefighter/Paramedic
2 years of service



Jason Meyer
Firefighter/EMT
1 year of service



Tanner Bies
Firefighter/EMT
<1 year of service

Pictures courtesy of Rader Photography

B-SHIFT



Captain Pat Tawney
Paramedic
26 years of service



Lieutenant Dana Leland
Paramedic
19 years of service



Alan Atkinson
Firefighter/Intermediate
27 years of service



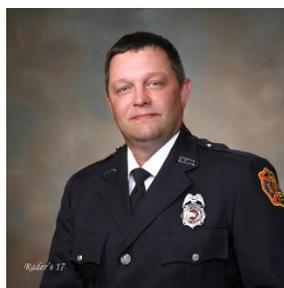
Dave Wordekemper
Firefighter/Paramedic
23 years of service



Nick Morris
Firefighter/Paramedic
15 years of service



Wyatt Swartz
Firefighter/EMT
14 years of service



Rich Osterloh
Firefighter/EMT
12 years of service



Blake Wagner
Firefighter/Paramedic
2 years of service



Jason Shreck
Firefighter/Paramedic
<1 year of service

Pictures courtesy of Rader Photography

C-SHIFT



Captain Tom Christensen
Paramedic
23 years of service



Lieutenant Todd Coffey
Paramedic
26 years of service



Mike Schuler
Firefighter/EMT
13 years of service



Tyler Thomas
Firefighter/Paramedic
13 years of service



Brian Monaghan
Firefighter/Paramedic
9 years of service



Darek Schuller
Firefighter/EMT
7 years of service



Rick Schutt
Firefighter/Paramedic
7 years of service

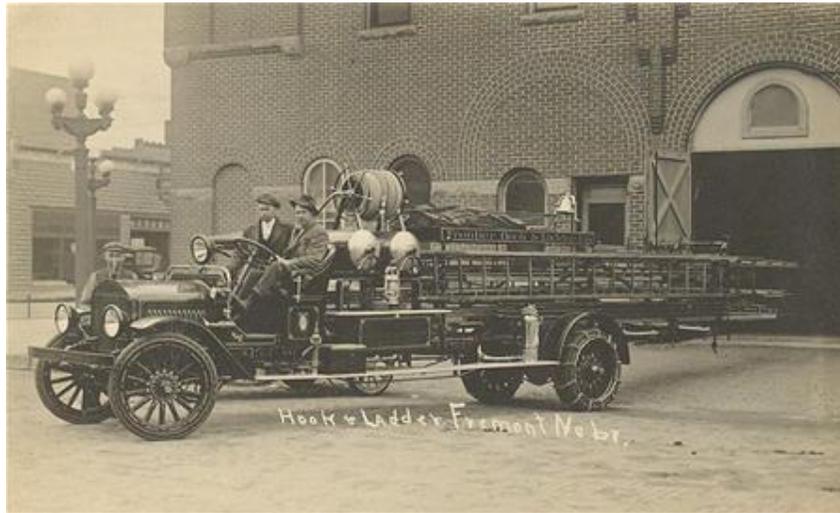


Peter Kafonek
Firefighter/Paramedic
2 years of service



Christian McKenzie
Firefighter/EMT
< 1 year of service

Pictures courtesy of Rader Photography



FREMONT'S FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

Established in the late 1860's, the Fremont Fire Department was the third fire department in the state of Nebraska. Several fire companies made up the early Fire Department:



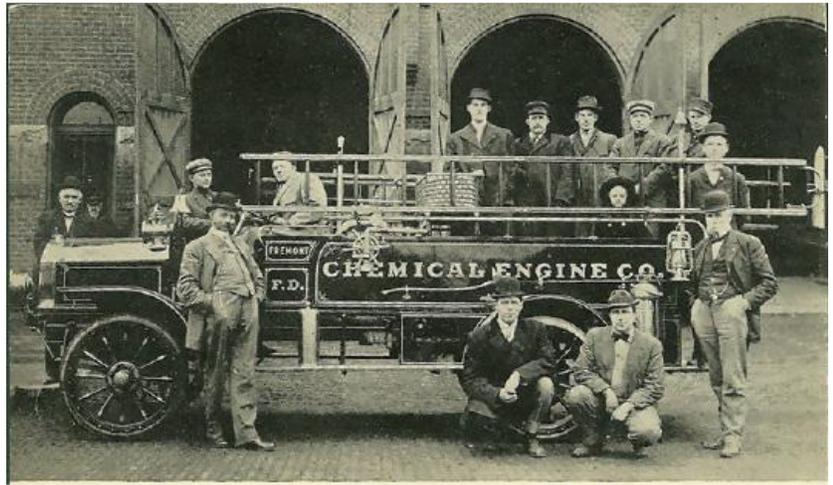
- Frontier Fire Company, November 1868
- Fremont Engine Company, February 1872
- Red Jacket Engine Company, December 1874
- J.C. Cleland Hose Company, 1883
- Mechanic Hose Company, May 1886
- G.W.E. Dorsey Hose Company, May 1886
- W.G. Mercer Hose Company, February 1890

These were all volunteer companies, which, in 1890, boasted a membership of 182. A Board of Directors for the Volunteer Fire Department was formed in 1891. The Board was made up of 16 members (two from each of the seven companies, plus a President and Vice President). This Board was the governing body of all the volunteer firefighters.



In 1888 the Fremont City Hall was built at the corner of 4th Street and Park Avenue. This building also contained the fire station. A bell tower was erected in this building to call citizens with teams of horses to pull the fire wagons and hose carts. When the bell sounded, the first person to get to the station and hook their team of horses to a piece of fire equipment got paid for their services. In 1900 the city was split into six wards, with one hose reel cart placed in each ward.

The City of Fremont purchased a Wilcox Hose and Chemical Truck in 1911. This was the first motor driven fire truck in the state of Nebraska. A man was hired for \$65.00 a month to run and take care of the truck. He became the first paid employee of the Fremont Fire Department. Additional motorized trucks were purchased in 1915, 1919, and 1922. The position of a paid Fire Chief was created in January 1929, and was held by Harry D. Struve until September 1932. Since 1929 Fremont has had eleven career Fire Chiefs, one (Carl Hansen) died in the line of duty in 1969.



The current fire station, at 415 East 16th Street, was built in 1968 for \$240,000.00. It houses three pumpers (two front line trucks and one reserve truck), one aerial, one water rescue/command center unit, EMS quick response pickup, and three ambulances/rescue squads. We also have two paramedic bicycles and a boat that we keep at this location.

Today's Fremont Fire Department consists of 27 career firefighters, who work three shifts of nine firefighters each. Shifts are 24 hours long, with 48 hours off.



Our department's fire protection area covers approximately eight square miles. Through our Mutual Aid agreements, our rescue squad and fire response does not stop at the city limits. It extends into the rural communities and surrounding areas, and our Advanced Life Support Service allows us to intercept critical patients when requested with area fire departments. It's interesting to note that it was in the late 1960's and early 1970's, members of the department became the first Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's). The last

thirty years have seen tremendous change in our rescue squad service. Defibrillators were introduced to the department in December 1989 and were a controversial acquisition at the time. The next year, members of this department saved their first life as a direct result of using a defibrillator. In 1993 the City approved the department's request to become an Advanced Life Support (ALS) service. In 1995, we obtained our paramedic license.



Presently, additional services the Fremont Fire Department provides is water rescue, ice rescue, trench rescue, high/low angle, confined space rescue, and hazardous materials response at the operations level. We're always looking at building on the foundation that was built by the early founders of the Fremont Fire Department.

We're proud of our history. It's reflected in a sense of tradition and "family" our firefighters have towards their job and one another. The most outstanding part of the fire service is the heart of each firefighter. The best equipment means nothing without the commitment and dedication of our firefighters. We are determined to provide our community with the best possible service, now and in the future.



This photograph of Fremont's City Hall was published in the Fremont Tribune for the City's 150th "Birthday". The three large open doors indicate the area of the building that housed the fire department. The building was located at 4th and Park Avenue.

Section 2



Bell Field Play Ground Fire July 2018

Emergency Response

Emergency Responses

The department responded to 192 fire related calls and 2,506 emergency medical calls (EMS). January was the most active month with 25 fire calls. Total fire losses for the year were \$254,600.

There were no firefighter or civilian fatalities in 2018. There were no civilian injuries. There were two firefighters who were injured this year. Injuries were to the back and knees.

The in-town average response time is 4 minutes 13 seconds. The out of town average response time is 8 minutes 05 seconds. Response time is measured from the time the call is received at the fire station, to the time department personnel arrive on the scene.



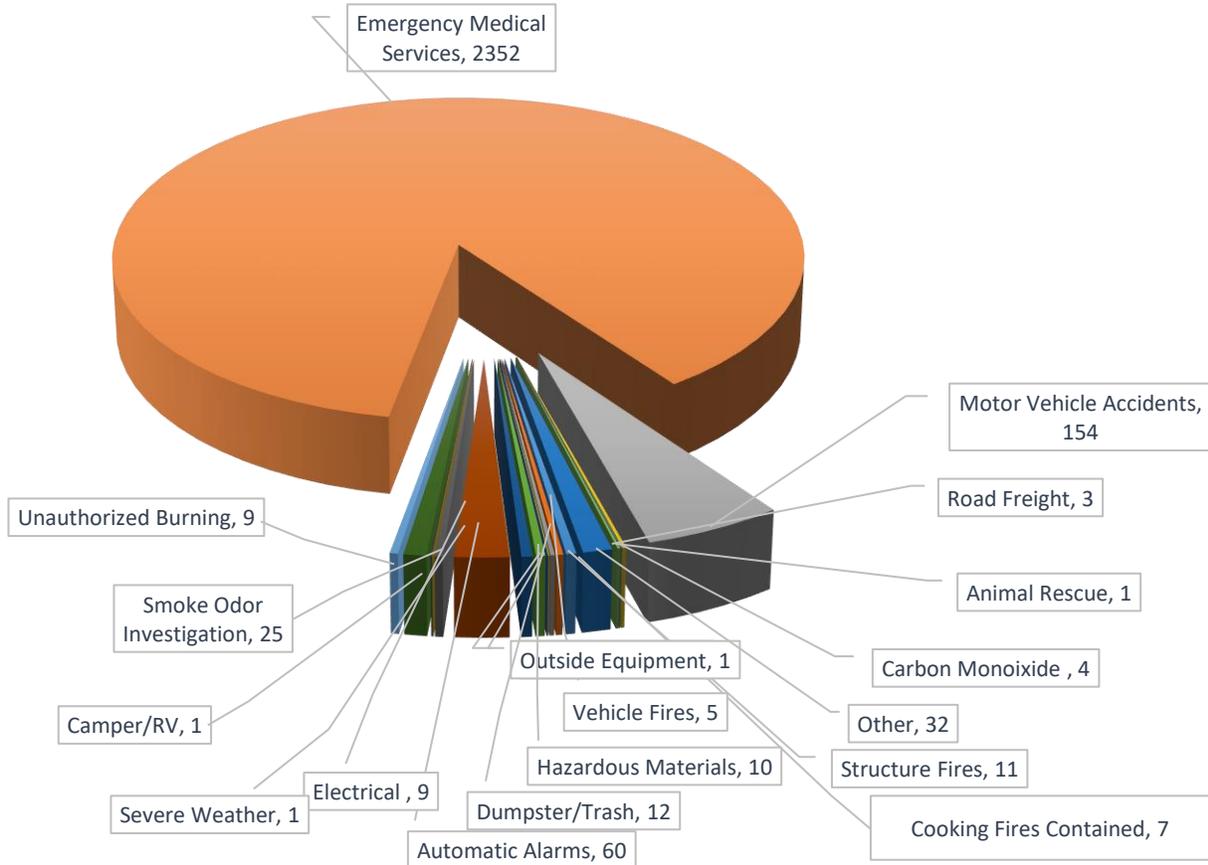
Total fire billing amount for calls collected in 2018 was \$18,503.90. The current fire billing rates are: Engine \$500.00 per hour, Aerial/Ladder Truck \$750.00 per hour, Utility Truck \$200.00 per hour, Command Vehicle \$100.00 per hour, Heavy Rescue \$250.00 per hour, and Mileage \$8.00 per mile per vehicle. Equipment Cost: Jaws of Life \$250.00, Power Saw \$75.00, Vehicle Stabilization Struts \$75.00, Hydraulic Jacks/Chisels \$75.00, Air Bags \$50.00, Cribbing Blocks \$10.00, Hand Tools/Shovels \$10.00, Ventilation Fan \$50.00 and Damaged Equipment fair market value.

Structure Fire May 26, 2018

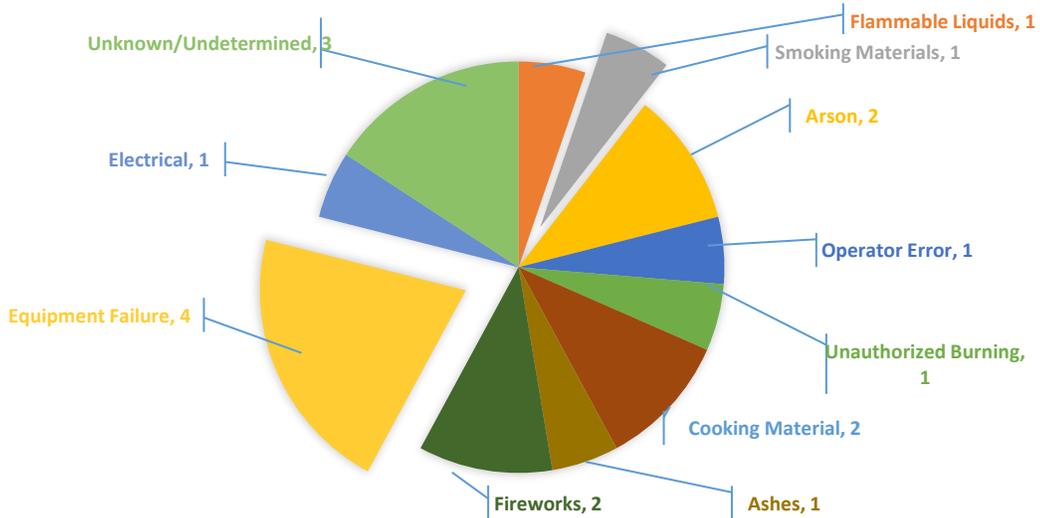


Structure Fire May 6, 2018

2018 Types of Alarms

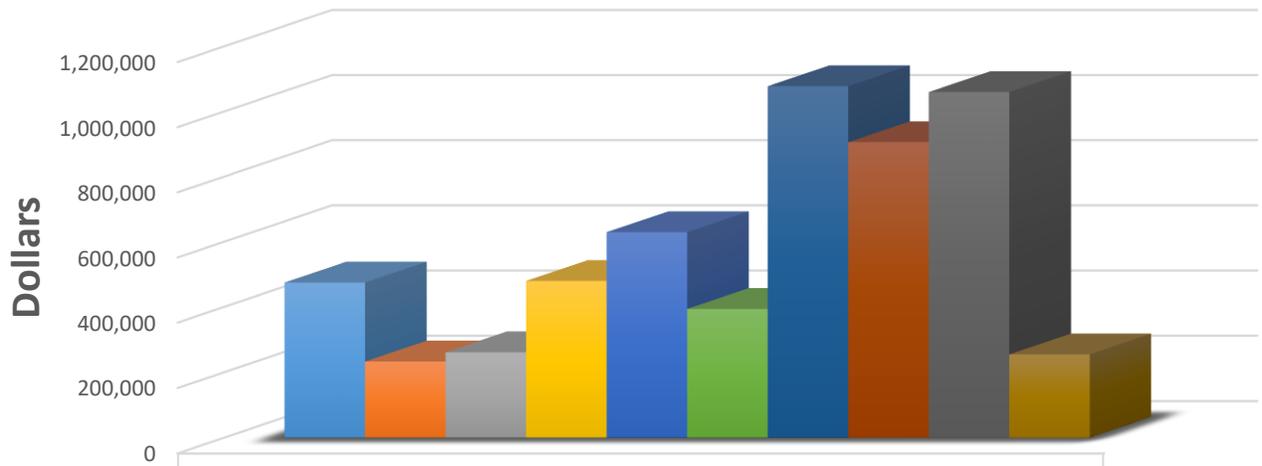


CAUSES OF FIRES



(19 fires requiring extinguishment)

Fire Losses



	1
■ 2009	474,750
■ 2010	232,975
■ 2011	261,250
■ 2012	479,750
■ 2013	629,450
■ 2014	393,820
■ 2015	1,077,660
■ 2016	905,882
■ 2017	1,059,750
■ 2018	254,600



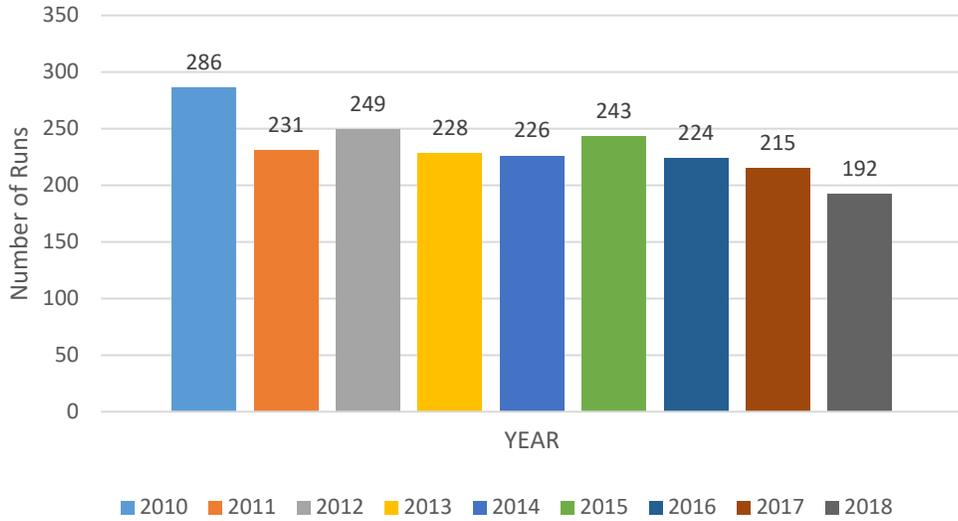
Structure Fire
January 6, 2018



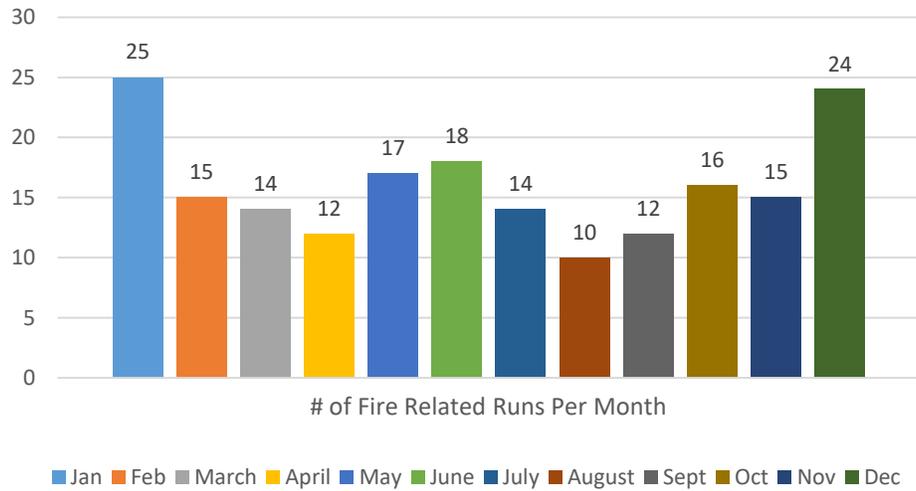
Fremont Tribune Photos



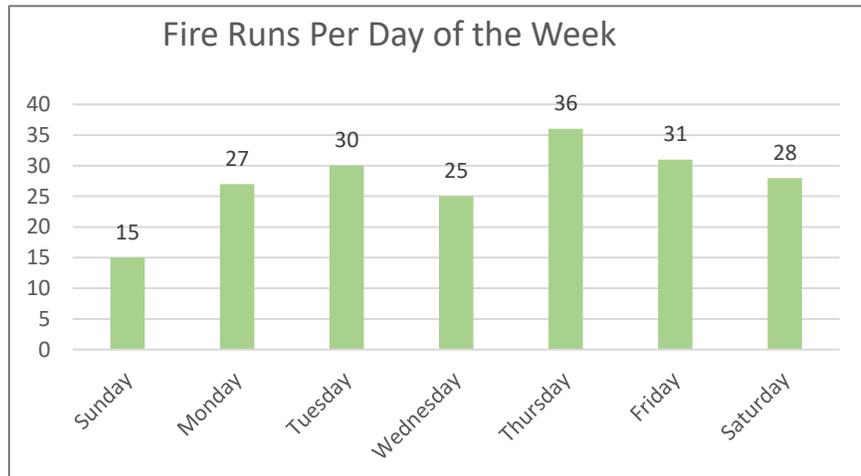
Total Fire Runs By Year

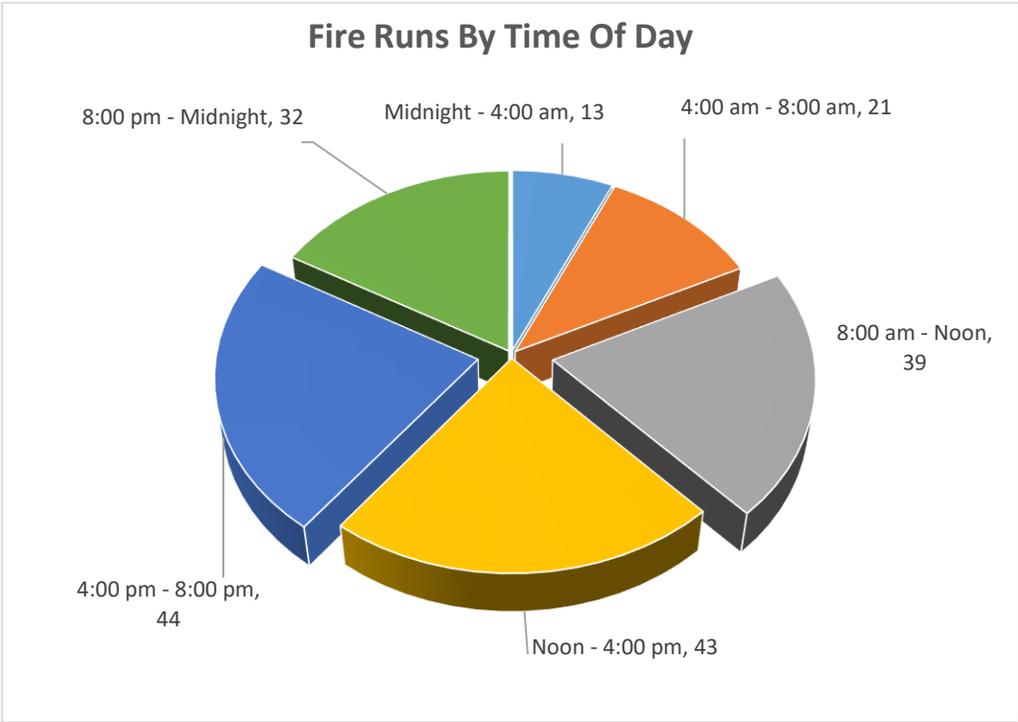
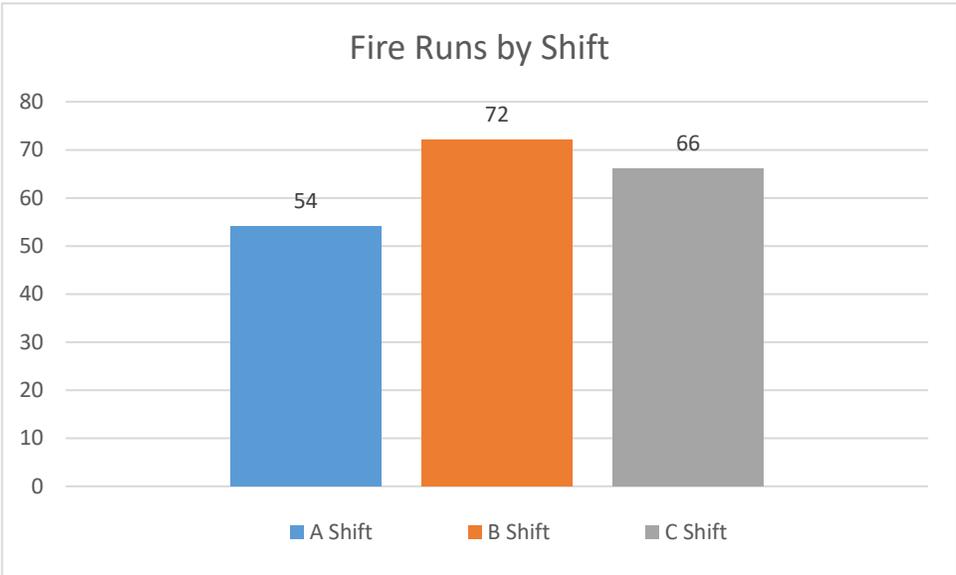


2018 Fire Runs Per Month

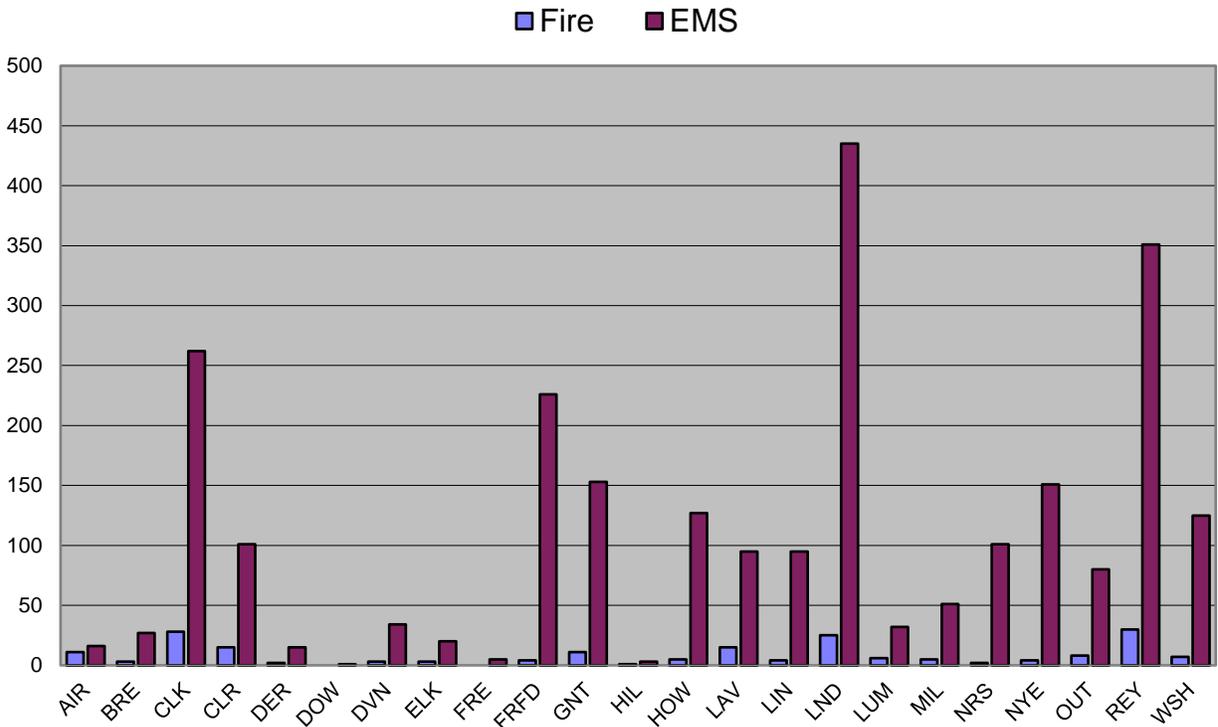


Fire Runs Per Day of the Week

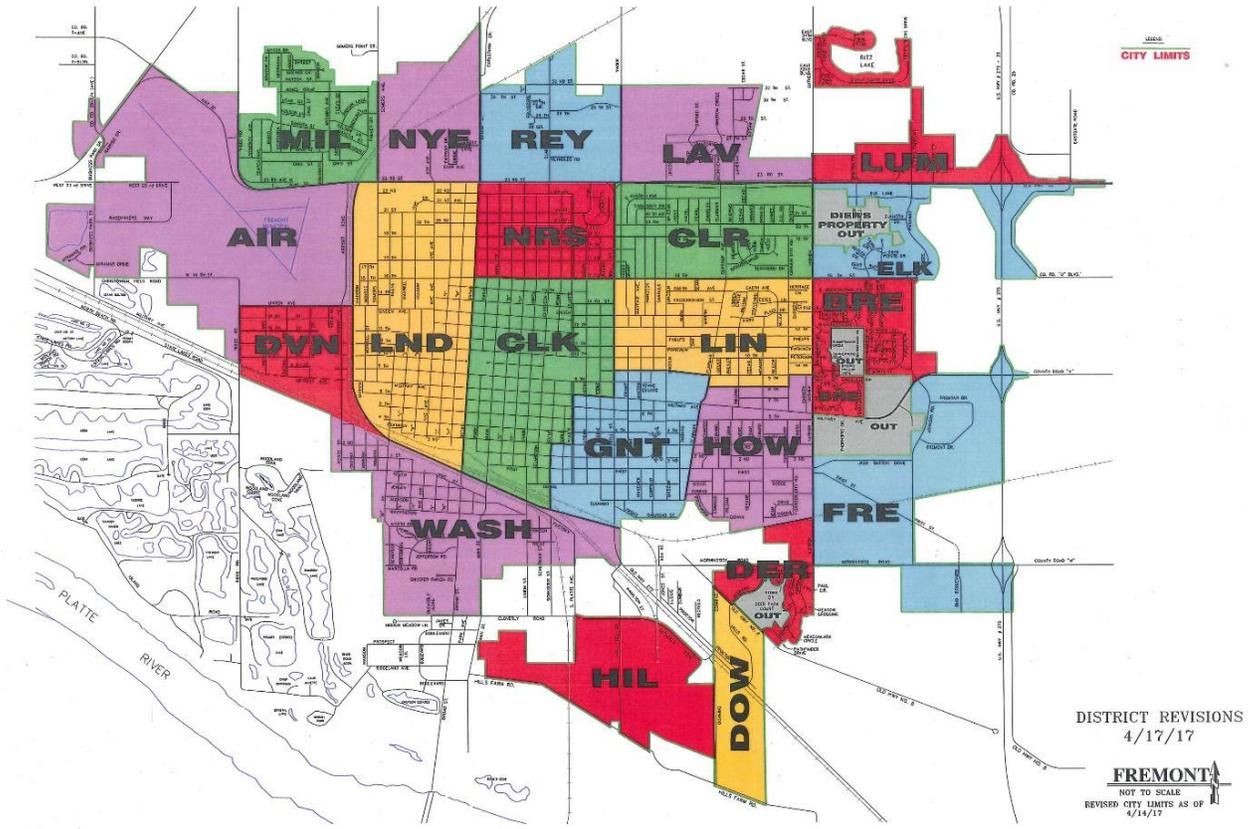




2018 Fire/EMS Emergencies By Section of City



FRFD-Fremont Rural Fire Department District
 OUT-out of city limits and out of Fremont Rural Fire Department District



Section 3



Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training, December 2018

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

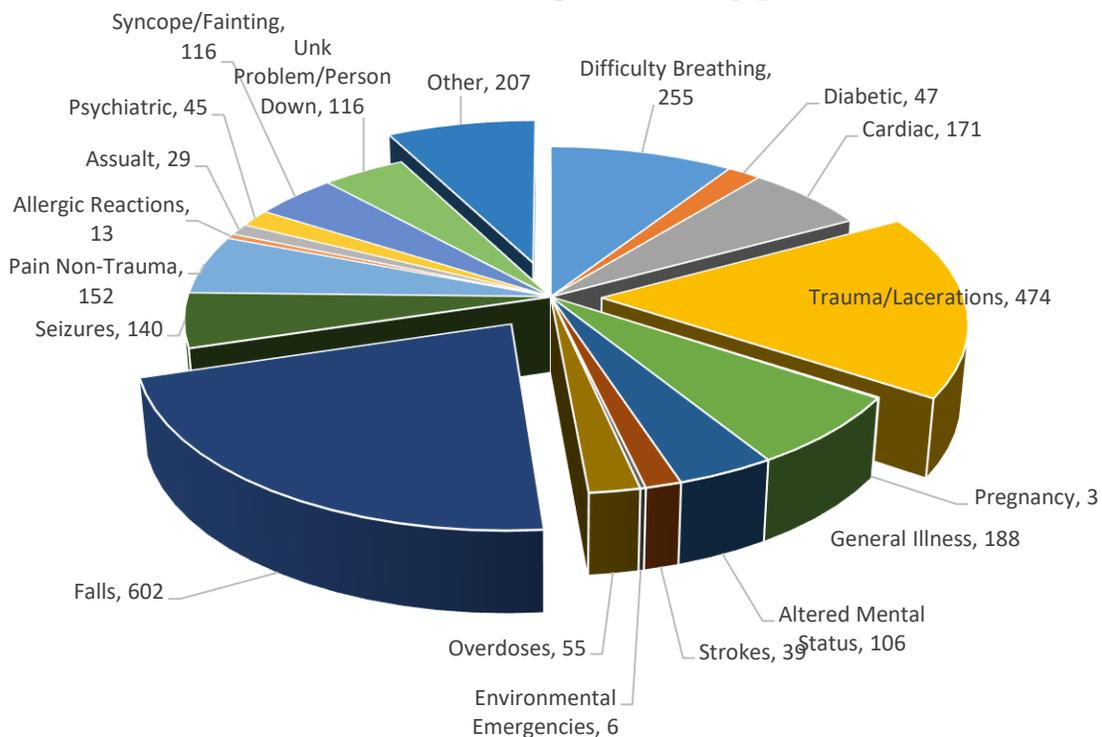
EMS SERVICE

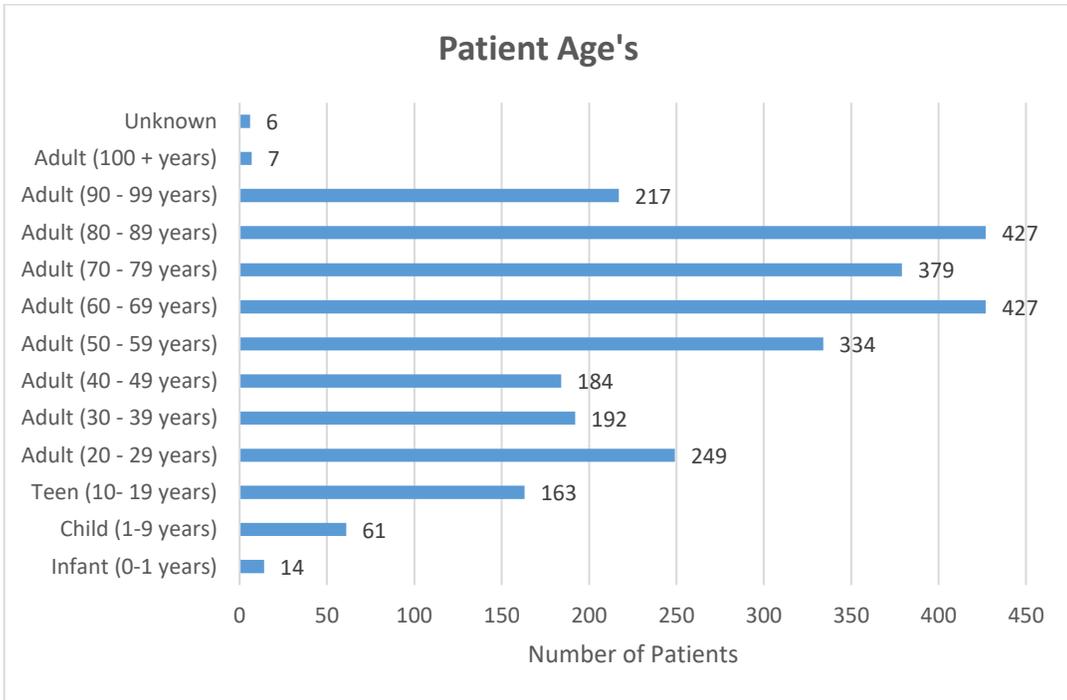
The Fremont Fire Department's rescue squads responded to 2,506 medical emergencies which included 154 motor vehicle accidents (MVA) and 42 Advance Life Support (ALS) intercepts with area fire departments. Treated 2,660 patients. Of the 2,660 patients, 575 were (ALS), 1246 (BLS) and 766 refused care/transport, and 73 other types. The average patient age was 58 years old. Responded to 81 incidents where there was no patient found or units cancelled enroute. May was the busiest month with 238 EMS calls.

Advanced Life Support (ALS) has been a service provided to the city by the fire department since 1995. It enables department paramedics to administer certain medications, as well as IV's and advanced airway techniques. Of the 2,660 patient's contacts, approximately 22% received Advanced Life Support (ALS) service.

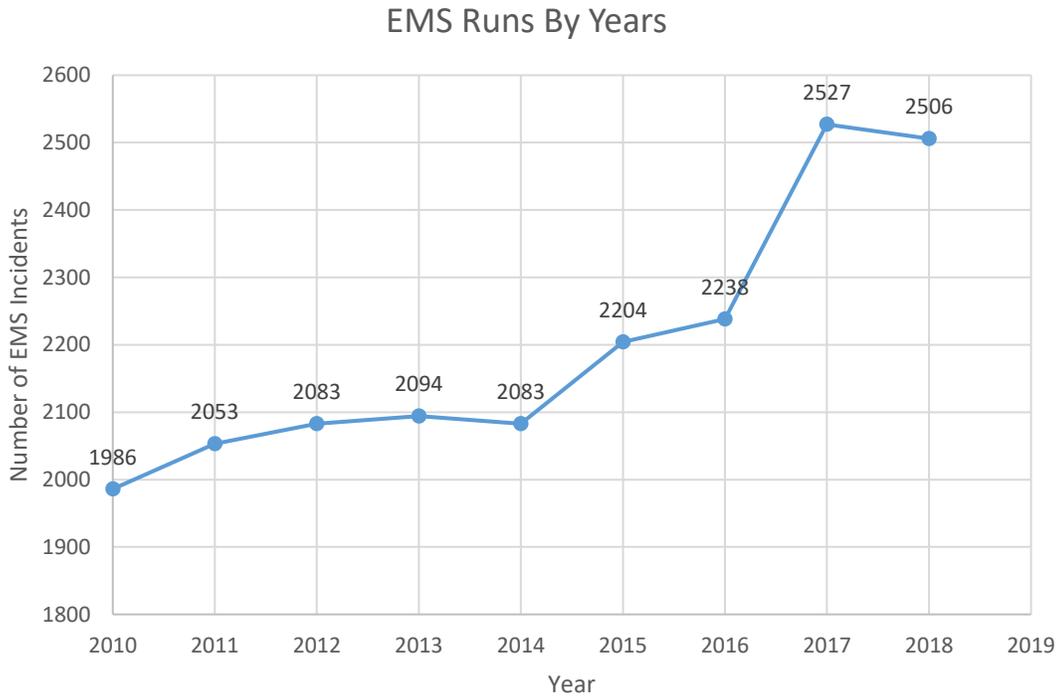
The EMS service provided by the fire department generates revenue through user fees, which are determined by the level of service provided. The Department's current rates are: BLS (Basic Life Support) \$671.00; ALS1 (Advanced Life Support - Level 1) \$805.00; and ALS2 (Advanced Life Support - Level 2) \$1,008.00. A \$15.26 per mile one way fee is added to all transport runs. When transporting is not necessary, but ALS assistance is given to a patient at the scene there is a \$242.00 fee. When personnel is requested to "intercept" with an ambulance from another community, a contract has been put in place to receive \$175.00 of what is collected by the transporting squad (the transporting agency bills the patient). The ambulance standby charges are \$40 per hour per personnel and \$20 per hour for equipment. For the year (January - December 2018) a total of \$560,395.32 in squad user fees were collected by the City.

Medical Emergencies Types

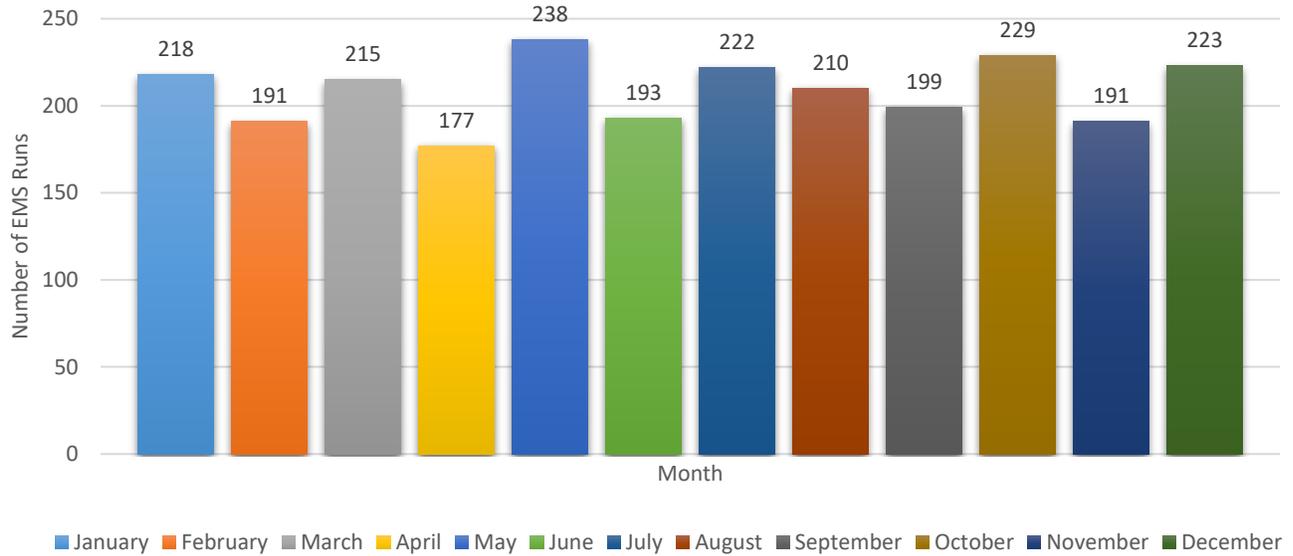




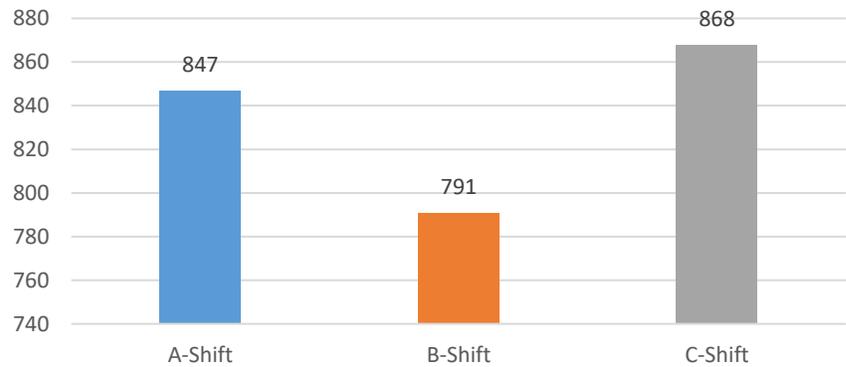
Average Patient Age: 58 years old



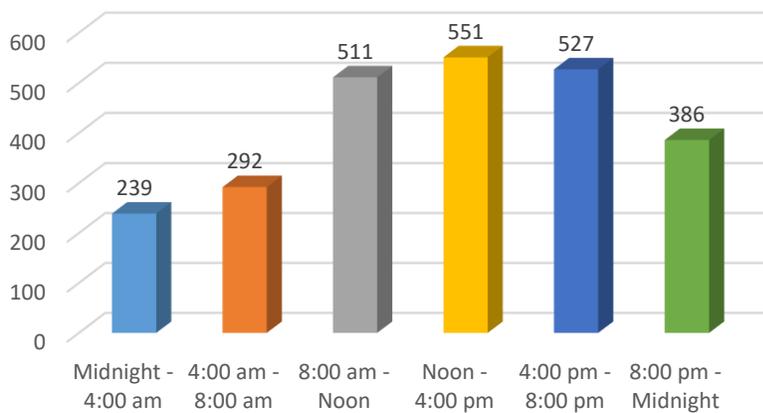
EMS Runs Per Month



EMS Runs Per Shift



EMS Runs By Time of Day



Section 4



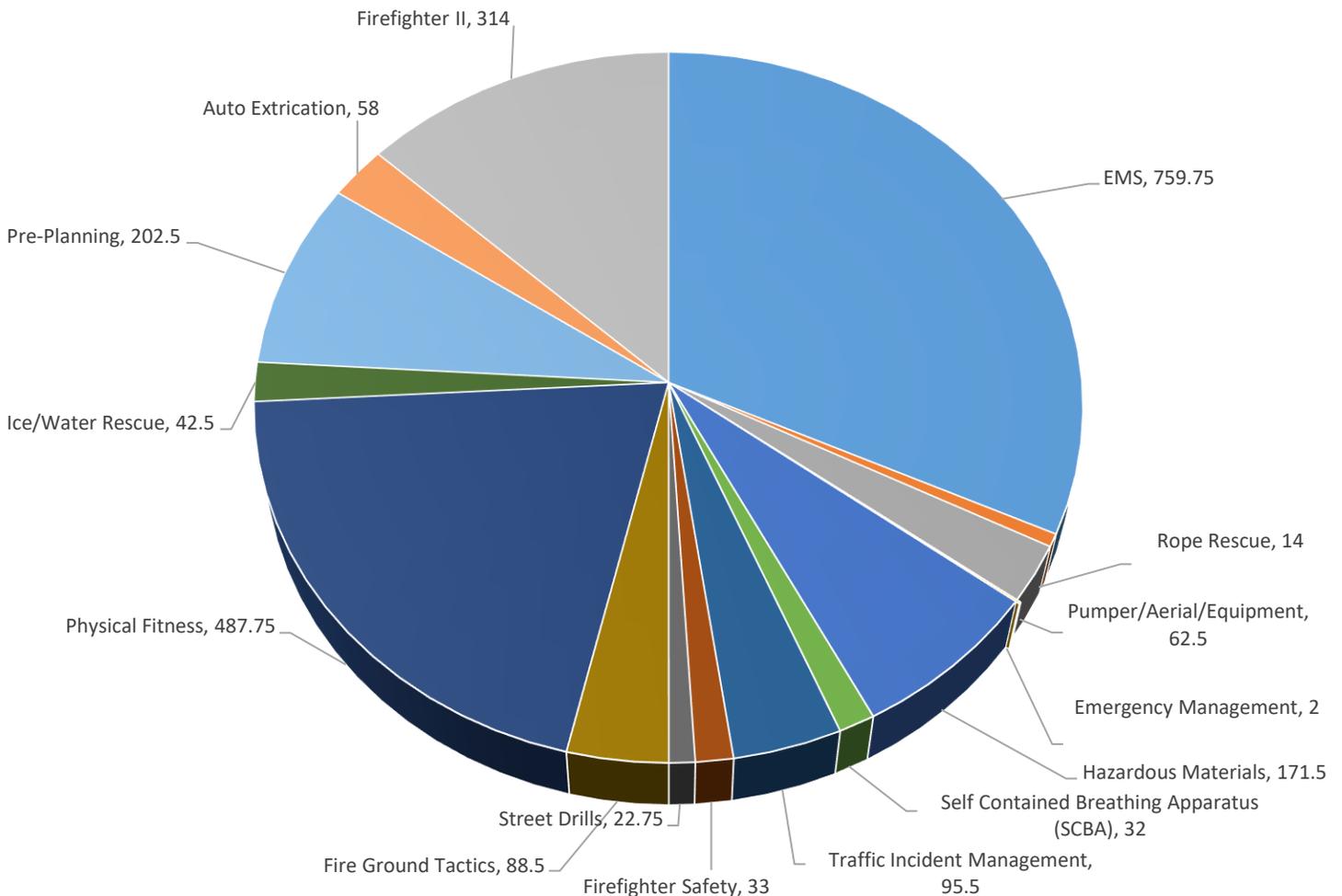
Ice Rescue Training February 2018

Department Training

Department Training

In 2018, department personnel received roughly 2576.25 hours of training. The training involved various areas dealing with pumper/aerial operations, firefighter safety, street drills, auto extrication, building construction, radiological, fire hose practices, confined space/high angle rescue, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, rope rescue, fire ground tactics, water and ice rescue. In the course of the regularly scheduled training, the department occasionally has the opportunity to train in acquired structures. The training the department receives in these buildings is invaluable and the department thanks the citizens for thinking of them when the structures become available. The department utilizes buildings for Firefighter Survival, Self-Rescue, High Angle Rescue, Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Confidence Course, Confined Space Entry and Rescue, Rapid Intervention Team Training, Rope Training, Ventilation Training and Fire Overhaul Training. The department conducts yearly training to maintain their EMT licenses with the State of Nebraska and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians including Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advance Life Support (PALS).

Fire Department Training Hours 2,576.25 Total Hours





Aerial Training May 2018

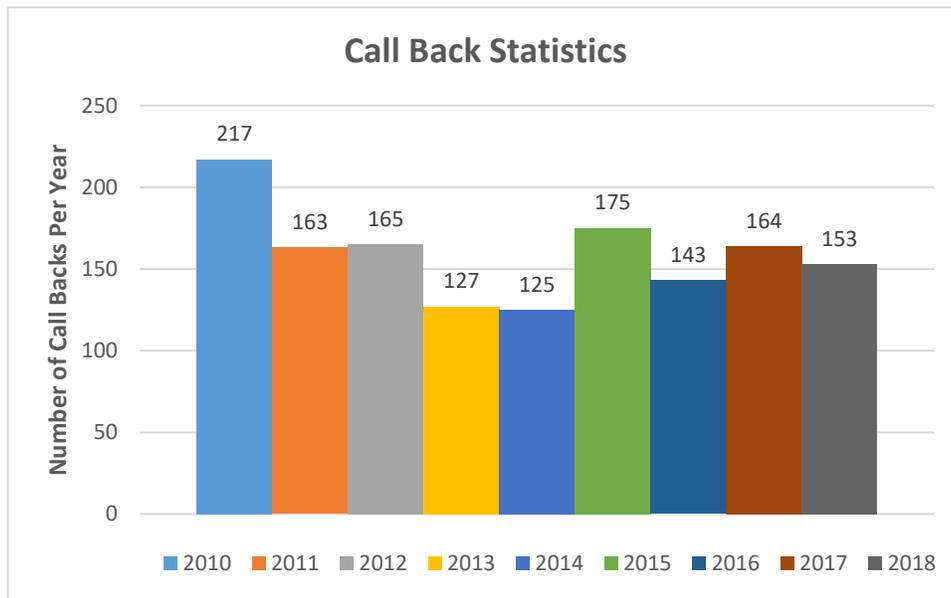


Burlington Northern Santa Fe
Railroad Representative
Hazardous Materials Training
June 2018



Several years ago the department adopted a physical fitness program for the career staff. As a result, Fremont is one of a growing number of departments nationwide who utilize a Performance Based Task Test as a part of their training and as a part of their hiring process. This test is designed around some of the more common fire and rescue evolutions the department encounters.

The Fremont Fire Department also maintains membership in various local emergency organizations, such as the Dodge County Firefighter's Association, the Tri-Mutual Aid Firefighters Association, the Critical Incident Stress Management team (CISM), and the Local Emergency Planning Committee.



Calls backs are used when additional staffing is needed to staff the fire station due to multiple emergencies happening at the same time or to provide staffing at an EMS and/or fire emergency when needed. In 2018, there were 153 call backs, and there were 7 times when both off-duty shifts were called back.

Section 5

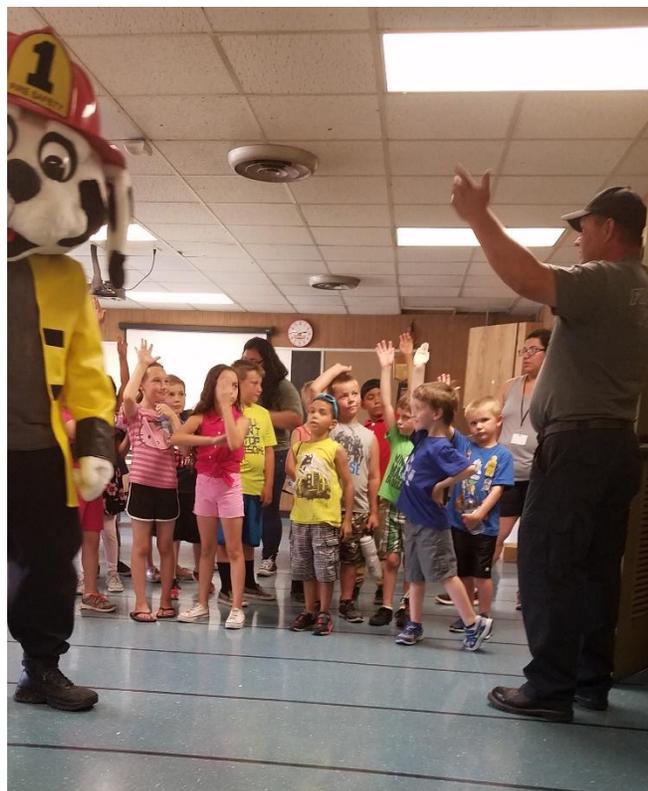


Firefighter's Alex Iniguez and Jason Meyer (in gear) showing firefighting gear and talking about fire safety with Salem Lutheran Pre-School
October 2018

Public Relations Activities

Members of the Fremont Fire Department actively work to inform and educate the public by participating in community events, as well as initiating its own programs. A few of the more visible activities include presentations to service organizations, and fire drills and puppet shows at the elementary schools.

Safety Day at Wal-Mart June 2018



Fremont Public School Summer Fun Program
Tour June 2018

Department initiated events include activities during EMS Week in May and Fire Prevention Week in October. Examples include the fire prevention poster contest, blood pressure checks at various locations, Fire Department Open Houses, fire safety/education demonstrations and tours at the station.

Fire Department Open House, October 7, 2018





Photos by Jaydn Bernt

Junior Fire Marshal Program

The Junior Fire Marshal Program is for all Fremont kindergarten through fourth grade students. The students are given a 'Home Safety Checklist' to take home. With the help of parents/guardians, together they go through their home looking for fire hazards and correcting the problem for a fire safe home. Both the student and parent/guardian sign, return the checklist back to school, and then the checklists are picked up by the fire department. The school with the highest percentage of 'Home Safety Checklist' returned, are awarded the traveling 'Junior Fire Marshal Program' trophy for the year. The 2018 school with the highest returns was Clarmar School with 82%, other schools returns are Grant 45%, Trinity 44%, Milliken Park 32%, Howard 29%, Bergan Elementary 27%, Linden 21%, Bell Field 17%, and Washington 14%.

Fremont Leadership Visiting the Fire Station December 2018



The fire department works with State Fire Marshal Office members, accompanying them on inspections of various local businesses. In 2018, department personnel logged roughly 202 hours working on pre-plans of local businesses. This allows personnel to be better prepared in the event of an emergency at that location.

The department offers a presentation called “What to Expect When the Squad Arrives”. This program is available to anyone, but is designed specifically toward senior citizens. Its goal is to try to minimize the anxieties a medical emergency can create by answering questions and showing procedures in a more relaxed environment. Personnel also offers tips on what to do, or what not to do, while waiting for the squad to arrive – whether you are alone or with someone. Fremont Firefighters conduct fire extinguisher education classes for employees of local businesses and welcomes the opportunity to speak to groups of any age or background at any time.

Every spring and fall, the fire department takes part in the National CHANGE YOUR CLOCK CHANGE YOUR BATTERY campaign. Through the campaign, department personnel are able to get 9 Volt batteries free of charge through Energizer. Through advertising, the department checks and changes smoke detector batteries for senior citizens and disabled individuals.



Fremont Professional Firefighters Association Local 1015 participated in Operation Warm which is a firefighters coats for kids program. The mission of the program is to invest in the community by providing financial relief for struggling families, protecting at-risk children by promoting health, confidence, and future success while strengthening the American workforce and break the cycle of poverty. Local 1015 partnered with sponsors to purchase 28 brand-new USA made coats for a number of students attending Grant Elementary School. The children were all sized ahead of the coat distribution assuring a proper fit for the winter.



More than 15 members of the Fremont Professional Firefighters Association Local 1015 volunteered their time to raise over \$8,400 for muscular dystrophy during the annual 'Fill the Boot' campaign over the Labor Day weekend at the corner of 23rd and Bell Streets. Muscular dystrophy, ALS and related diseases severely limit the strength and mobility of children and adults.

The Muscular Dystrophy Associations (MDA) spirited 'Fill the Boot' campaign is an honored tradition in which thousands of dedicated fire fighters in hometowns across America hit the streets or storefronts asking pedestrians, motorists, customers and other passers-by to make a donation to MDA.

The International Association of FireFighters (IAFF) partnered with the MDA in 1954 and has raised more than 558 million dollars to help kids and adults with muscle-debilitating diseases live the life they've always imagined and experience the world without any limits.

FAQs

What is a Key Lock Box and where can I obtain one?

A Key Lock Box System is a high security, rapid entry option containing appropriate keys, access cards or other small items necessary to allow the Fire Department to gain entry to a building or alarmed portion in the event of an emergency without property damage due to forcible entry. Key Lock Boxes are ideal for commercial and industrial businesses protected by automatic alarm system or automatic suppression system or such building that are secured in a manner that restricts access during an emergency; for multifamily residential buildings that have restricted access through locked doors and have a common corridor for access to the living units; public school buildings, nursing, adult day care, and long-term care and assisted living facilities, child day-care facilities, nursery and preschools and private schools, churches, and community centers. In Fremont, the fire chief designates the type of key lock box system to be implemented within the city so contact the Fire Department at 402- 727-2688 for more information.

Do you install or inspect child car seats?

No, we don't. However, members of the Dodge County Sheriff's Office are certified to install and inspect car seats. You may reach them at 402-727-2700 to make an appointment. They are located in the Dodge County Courthouse (435 N Park in Fremont). Three Rivers District Health Department also provides this service. They can be reached at 402-727-5396 and are located at 2400 North Lincoln Avenue in Fremont.

Why do firefighters cut holes in the roof and break windows of a building on fire?

This is called "VENTILATION". There are two basic reasons for ventilating a structure. The first is, removal of dangerous gases, heat, and dark smoke that accumulate in a burning building reducing visibility and greatly impeding rescue and firefighting efforts. Second, ventilation allows firefighters to relieve the structure of superheated gases and smoke which spread fire and contribute to dangerous situations like flashover and back draft explosions.

What should I do with HOT fireplace ash?

DO NOT remove hot ashes from the fireplace immediately. Wait up to 2-3 days and let the ashes cool completely in the fireplace until there are no remaining hot embers before removing them. Place cool ash in a metal container and store outside away from the home and all combustibles.

What is your response area?

Our fire response area is within the Fremont City limits. EMS (Emergency Medical Service) is provided east to the Washington County line, west approximately seven miles, north two miles, and south to the Platte River. Upon request from neighboring agencies, in accordance with mutual aid agreements, those lines can be crossed.

This Page Left Intentionally Blank