It is the mission of the Omaha Fire Department to protect lives, property, and the environment of our community through preparation, prevention, and protection in a competent and courteous manner.

INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM, COMPASSION.

Photo courtesy of Sleight Advertising
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Make a Wish event at Mutual of Omaha
I am honored to present the 2015 Omaha Fire Department Annual Report to Mayor Jean Stothert, distinguished members of City Council and the citizens of Omaha.

As leader of the Omaha Fire Department, one of my first priorities was to continue the efforts started in 2013 to efficiently manage our budget, improve the delivery of service to the public, and to provide the tools and technology essential for a major metropolitan fire department. One additional goal was to ensure the Omaha Fire Department is recognized nationally as a leader in the delivery of fire and emergency services. This year we continued to diligently evaluate all aspects of our service delivery in an effort to maximize our budgeted dollars while maintaining a high level of services. We are very happy to report that those efforts have paid off and we ended the year significantly under budget. This could not have been accomplished without the help of every individual on the department, and a cultural shift that focuses on how we spend the taxpayer’s money. Additionally, we worked very hard to secure grants that allowed us to nationally certify over 200 firefighters to the Firefighter II level, purchase a new medic unit, and hire a Community Safety Education Specialist (CSES). The arrival of the medic unit and the hire date for the CSES position will take place in early 2016. These ongoing efforts allowed us to improve on the level of service we provide to the community and effectively manage our budget.

I would like to briefly highlight some of the Department’s accomplishments in 2015, beginning with the continued response and professionalism demonstrated as we partnered with Nebraska Medicine to transport Ebola patients to the biocontainment unit. This response was recognized nationally and we soon became a model for other departments to follow. We also improved our technological capabilities by adding tablets on all 15 medic units to provide electronic patient care reports (ePCR) and discontinued our old paper-based system. This allowed us to be one of the first departments in the country to provide highly detailed medical information to the State of Nebraska that compiles with the National EMS Information System or NEMSIS. Again, this is just another area where the Omaha Fire Department has chosen to take the lead in the fire service. Lastly, we were able to successfully negotiate labor agreements with both Local 385 and the Fire Management group. These agreements provide security for our employees and flexibility for the Management team with regards to managing overtime costs without compromising safety.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all members both uniform and civilian, of the Omaha Fire Department and their commitment, dedication and sacrifice in carrying out their daily responsibilities. In addition, I appreciate the extra efforts put forth silently, without regard for recognition, from our partners in public safety: the First Responders Foundation, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Douglas County Communications Center, and Douglas County Emergency Management Agency. We truly appreciate your continued support. As we move into 2016, we will continue to work with City leaders to address the diverse public safety needs in our community. We will endeavor to meet those challenges with a positive mindset and an eagerness to serve our community.

Respectfully,
Fire Chief Bernie Kanger
MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JEAN STOTHERT

Dear citizens of Omaha,

2015 was an exceptional year for the Omaha Fire Department. I am very proud of the department’s commitment to public safety and accomplishments and I look forward to continued excellence in our fire, rescue and emergency medical services, fire prevention and education and community service.

The Omaha Fire Department is committed to its mission statement, “The dedicated men and women of the Omaha Fire Department work tirelessly each day to protect the lives, property, and environment of our community through preparation, prevention, and protection in a competent and courteous manner”.

OFD personnel responded to 48,172 calls for service in 2015; each handled with a high-level of training and professionalism.

I am pleased to present this 2015 Annual Report which provides an overview of these efforts. This report will give you a better understanding of all the duties of an Omaha firefighter.

Thank you to the men and women of the Omaha Fire Department and to the leadership of Chief Bernard Kanger. Throughout his 25-year career with the Omaha Fire Department and until his retirement, Chief Kanger led the Department with passion and integrity. He earned the trust and respect of our community and he set an example of excellence. Thank you Chief Kanger, for your service.

Sincerely,
Jean Stothert
Mayor, City of Omaha
The Omaha Fire Department is comprised of individuals filling roles in suppression who actively provide fire and EMS response, as well as individuals working in an administrative capacity to oversee fire suppression activities. The administrative aspect is divided into six divisions, including the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division, the Fire Investigation Unit (FIU), the Fire Prevention Division (FPD) which also encompasses the Public Education program, the Safety and Wellness Division (SWD) which also encompasses the Information Services Division (ISD), the Technical Services Division (TSD), and the Fire Training Division. These divisions are each led by an Omaha Fire Department Battalion Chief who reports to the members of Fire Management. Fire Management is currently comprised of a Fire Chief and four Assistant Fire Chiefs. Three of the Assistant Fire Chiefs are assigned a suppression shift (A, B or C), and a single division to oversee. An administrative Assistant Chief oversees the remaining three divisions.

The OFD service area is divided geographically into seven battalions. Each battalion has a Battalion Chief assigned to oversee all suppression personnel for each shift that is assigned to their battalion. An organizational chart is included in this Annual Report to further detail our organizational structure.

The Omaha Fire Department currently operates out of 24 stations throughout Omaha. Each day there is a minimum of 176 suppression personnel on duty to adequately protect the citizens of Omaha.
Throughout a year it is expected that there will be fluctuation in the number of OFD personnel, as well as how many personnel fill each rank, due to retirements, promotions, and resignations. The statistics below represent the total number of OFD personnel and their ranks as of December 31, 2015.

### Sworn Omaha Fire Department Employees as of 12/31/15

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<td>Fire Chief</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Fire Chief</td>
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<td>Assistant Fire Marshal</td>
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<td>EMS Shift Supervisor</td>
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<td>Fire Apparatus Engineer</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Probationary Firefighter</td>
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### Civilian Omaha Fire Department Employees as of 12/31/15

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
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<td>Special Projects Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Account Clerk</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
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</table>
The Omaha Fire Department is taking steps to be an Internationally Accredited Agency through the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and we are currently listed as a Registered Agency with the CFAI. One critical element of this process is the evaluation of our service delivery as it relates to industry standards. The Omaha Fire Department uses our response times as a tool to gauge our performance against established benchmarks and baselines.

A benchmark is defined as a standard from which something can be judged. It references future performance goals for the organization and is in line with industry best practices (CFAI). The Omaha Fire Department’s response time goals are consistent with standards published by the National Fire Protection Association.

A baseline is defined as a database from which something can be judged. It will be the current and historical performance of the department as compared to our benchmark goal for performance.

The Omaha Fire Department is using two time elements as part of our response time calculations. The response objectives include turnout time and travel time. We recognize that most accredited agencies add the call processing time as an additional element, but due to software upgrades at our Public Safety Answering Point (911 call center) and to be consistent with our historical records, we have omitted that element for this reporting year.

The Omaha Fire Department’s area of responsibility is broken down into 184 Fire Zones. This area covers 192 square miles and two counties. We have identified four zones within this area that represent a challenge for the organization in achieving our response time goal. They include areas of southeast, south central, midtown, and northeast Omaha. These areas are unique due to traffic patterns, street configuration, and location related to responding fire stations. We have been working to address these areas by identifying new station locations which are in line with the City of Omaha Public Facilities Master Plan and the completion of a multi-year Emergency Vehicle Preemption System. We are also evaluating automatic aid agreements to ensure that they support our response time goals and provide an equitable sharing of resources. We realize that any delay in responding to a call for service could possibly change the potential outcome. We will continue to monitor our service delivery and explore new technologies that will better assist in gathering data and problem identification. All of this is incorporated in our decision making process to ensure we provide the most efficient service possible.

![Turnout Objectives Met](image1)

![Response Objectives Met](image2)
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Omaha Fire Department’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division is responsible for ensuring that all OFD paramedics and EMTs are properly equipped and trained to provide high quality emergency medical services to the community. The EMS Division is overseen by a Battalion Chief and staffed with three Paramedic Shift Supervisors, an EMS Supplies Manager, a QA Officer, a Training Officer, and one civilian secretary. In addition, the EMS Division receives oversight from a civilian Medical Director who is assisted by three physicians, one for each shift.

Omaha Fire Department (OFD) personnel responded to 40,250 medical calls in 2015 and as of December 31, 2015, 15 medic units were in-service in Omaha, each staffed with two licensed paramedics. Every sworn OFD employee is either a licensed paramedic or EMT (emergency medical technician), trained to provide either basic (BLS) or advanced (ALS) lifesaving techniques prior to hospital transport. This means that each OFD apparatus, including all fire trucks and engines, is staffed with personnel who can provide medical support, resulting in a higher level of protection for all citizens of Omaha. If a fire truck or engine can respond more quickly to a medical call than a medic unit, the citizen will still receive medical treatment from that responding company until the nearest medic unit can arrive for hospital transport, if that service is necessary.

There were several exciting projects that the EMS Division undertook in 2015. An electronic patient care reporting (ePCR) system was implemented in February 2015. This new electronic patient care reporting system will make patient care reporting more efficient, faster, and easier for paramedics to document the care and treatment they provide and provide accuracy for the ambulance billing process. Another project that the EMS Division participated in 2015 was a combined Ebola drill with the U.S. Air Force, Biocontainment Unit at Nebraska Medicine and Midwest Medical Services. This was a week-long drill where the U.S. Air Force flew simulated patients from Wisconsin to Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue Nebraska. OFD Medics who have specialized training in transporting Ebola patients transferred the patients from Offutt Air Force Base to the Biocontainment Unit at Nebraska Medicine.

Eighteen X-Series defibrillators were placed in-service in February, 2015. These new defibrillators have state-of-the-art technology such as pacemaker capabilities, reading oxygen and carbon dioxide saturation in the blood, taking EKG’s and transmitting them to the hospital, taking a blood pressure, and of course, defibrillating a patient.

The OFD implemented CARES (Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival) in Omaha. CARES is a coordinated effort by EMS, 911 Dispatch, and all hospitals to increase survival of patients in Cardiac Arrest. CARES reports show that OFD has a 15% survival rate for cardiac arrest compared to the national average of only 8.7%.
The Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) investigates all structure and vehicle fires to determine origin and cause. The investigators are responsible for scene documentation, evidence collection, witness and suspect interviews, and courtroom testimony. If the fire is determined to be incendiary in nature, a criminal investigation is conducted and could potentially end in the arrest of a suspect. If the fire is determined to be accidental, the investigation can aid in the establishment of fire codes, building codes and help with the recall of unsafe appliances through the Consumer Product Safety commission.

The Omaha Fire Investigation Unit consists of one battalion chief and six fire investigators. There are an additional 15 active duty personnel in reserve investigator status. All 22 are certified law enforcement officers (LEO) who graduated from the Omaha Police Department training Academy.

Since 2013, all newly-sworn LEO personnel have completed the five-week Field Training and Evaluation Program with the Omaha Police Department – Uniform Patrol Bureau. This extends training and experience by allowing personnel to work with an OPD field training officer in real-life situations encountered in police work. They also completed a two-week introduction program with the Omaha Police Department Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB). This allows for investigators to work closely with the officers that make up the different units of CIB.

All law enforcement-certified employees receive further training, certification, and continuing education (CE) in the field of Fire Investigation from the National Fire Academy, International Association of Arson Investigators publications, and National Association of Fire Investigator publications. Each employee is required by the State of Nebraska to receive 20 CE hours annually.

Two officers of the Fire Investigation Unit and one reserve status investigator attended the National Fire Academy in 2015, attending courses in the field of Fire Investigation: Fire/Arson Origin-and-Cause Investigations and Interviewing-Interrogation Techniques and Courtroom Testimony.

The 22 certified law enforcement employees completed a combined total of 999 CE hours in the field of law enforcement, incident command, emergency medical technician, and fire-related training. The Fire Investigation Unit officers accounted for 353 of those CE hours.

In 2015, FIU obtained a valuable tool to assist investigators, the Bacharach’s Leakator 10. This is a portable, low maintenance combustible gas detector. The aim of this meter is to assist the investigator by sampling debris at the fire scene to ascertain if accelerant vapors are present. If the meter gives an indication of presence of combustible gasses, the investigator will obtain samples of the debris for laboratory analysis.

In 2015, the Omaha Fire Investigation Unit conducted 327 investigations, involving working structure fires, vehicle fires, and suspicious property damage involving fire. Eighty-six of the 327 cases were classified as incendiary fires (arson). Twenty-five cases were cleared by arrest, which equates to a 29% arson clearance rate. This is 13 percentage points above the national average for cities with a population comparable to Omaha. While conducting fire investigations, the Unit investigators made an additional five arrests for other offenses involving incident other than fire. That’s a total of 30 criminal arrests made by FIU personnel. Of the 327 incidents the FIU personnel responded to last year, six civilian fatalities were involved. There were no fire service personnel fatalities. FIU personnel investigated 20 fires started by juveniles.
The Omaha Fire Department’s Fire Prevention Division (FPD) is responsible for conducting certified inspections while enforcing the applicable life safety codes and fire protection standards within the 192 square miles of territory in the Omaha area. In addition, the FPD oversees the Fire Management Zone program, in which suppression companies visit and familiarize themselves with occupancies within their particular response territory. The goal of the OFD Certified Fire Inspectors is to minimize the risk of life and property loss from fire by observing, enforcing, and eliminating hazardous conditions.

As of December 31, 2015, the FPD had a total sworn complement of ten inspectors, all of whom report to an Assistant Fire Marshal who helps coordinate and evaluate their activities. Six of these inspectors specialize in one of the following areas: tanks, schools, daycares, residential, plan reviews, and state re-inspections. The remaining four inspectors are assigned to conduct inspections in one of the four quadrants of the city: southeast, southwest, northeast, and northwest. 2015 was another successful year in which there were 15,230 certified inspection activities performed by the certified inspectors of the FPD.

The Fire Management Zone (FMZ) program was also very successful in 2015, whereby suppression companies conducted over 5,500 familiarizations of occupancies within their response territories. When conducting familiarizations, companies observe and note the following information: addresses on the structure, fire department access, fire department connections, fire hydrant locations, status of the building (in use or vacant), construction type, exits and exit signage, conditions of stairways and doors, and emergency lighting. In addition, companies familiarize themselves with the building’s fire protection equipment including fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems, sprinkler systems, and kitchen hood systems. Suppression companies are also assigned assembly inspections throughout the year to check the maximum occupancy load for a structure as well as performing holiday inspections of retail occupancies during the month of December.

Accomplished in 2015 included the implementation of the Accela software which increases efficiency in accountability and record keeping, new iPhones and laptops for each inspector, the adoption of the 2012 International Fire Code from the 2003 version, and a new fee schedule for operational permits. As we look ahead to 2016, we will continue our practice of being a progressive, well-managed Division including a new approach to the Pre-Fire Planning process. This includes the use of new iPads by suppression companies, streamlining the process of pre-fire planning to advance the goal of increased public safety.
The Omaha Fire Department’s Public Education (Pub Ed) Program is responsible for spreading the message of fire safety to individuals of all ages within our community. This mission is critical, as oftentimes the public’s first impression of the OFD comes from a public education activity or presentation. The goal of the Pub Ed program is to take a proactive approach to raise awareness and educate the public on fire safety and how to protect their home, business, or family in the event of a fire or catastrophe. Pub Ed takes a community-prevention approach, enlisting the help of volunteer and community organizations to promote this message.

An integral part of the Pub Ed program is the smoke and carbon monoxide detector outreach component. The Omaha Fire Department is committed to keeping our citizens safe, and through the generosity of the First Responders Foundation, our personnel are able to install smoke/CO detectors in homes throughout Omaha free of charge. In the event that the home already has a working smoke detector, personnel will replace the battery for free instead. The First Responders Foundation donates each smoke/CO detector installed by OFD personnel. With their support, the OFD was able to install 1389 smoke/CO detectors and replace 71 batteries for the citizens of Omaha in 2015.

Other important Pub Ed activities and programs include:

**Fire Safety Presentations:**
Includes fire station tours, apparatus displays, and school visits. All presentations teach fire/EMS safety to participants. OFD personnel made 216 presentations in 2015.

**Public Relations Assignments:**
Attend meetings, media events, and special assignments designed to enhance the safety of Omaha’s citizens. OFD personnel attended 1,120 such activities in 2015.

**All-School Assemblies:**
1st through 6th graders are educated on fire safety and how to design a “Home Escape Plan” for their family. Over 4,000 children were educated by all-school assemblies in 2015.

**Fire Station Birthday Parties:**
Birthday parties for 20 children were auctioned off in 2015 to nonprofit organizations. The events feature station tours, a safety presentation, and an apparatus display.

**School Fire Drills:**
Every year, the OFD monitors fire drills at area schools to ensure the safety of students and staff in schools throughout Omaha. In 2015, 203 fire drills were conducted.

**Vacant Property Inspections:**
Vacant properties pose a risk to the citizens who live by them and the firefighters who respond to them in the event of a fire. OFD suppression companies inspected 1,425* vacant properties in 2015.

**Salute to Safety Expo:**
An annual event, the OFD provides fire safety information, statistics on arson, information on firefighter fitness, and recruiting information. Thousands of citizens attend each year.

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*Some vacant properties were inspected more than once to ensure that all apparatus in that territory is familiar with each structure.*
The Omaha Fire Department places a high level of importance on educating the public about fire safety. One of the ways this is executed is by having an OFD Pub Ed employee assigned to the role of Public Information Officer (PIO). The PIO is the point of contact for all media relations pertaining to Fire Department activities. This individual is responsible for all press releases and press conferences and is also the spokesperson for the OFD at all second alarm or greater fire incidences. Any interviews or media contact with suppression personnel are coordinated through the PIO. Additionally, the PIO speaks to community groups and neighborhood associations on behalf of the FPD. The Omaha Fire Department PIO conducted 965 such activities in 2015, ensuring that the public is aware of fire safety issues.

A federal grant allowed OFD to hire a part-time Youth Fire Stopper (YFS) Coordinator in 2015 and certified 9 OFD personnel as Youth Fire Stopper counselors. They conduct and assist in YFS intake sessions and educational classes. These classes are taught by the YFS counselors with the assistance of the Volunteer Fire Corps, OPD, and Nebraska Medicine Burn Unit to educate Omaha youth who have played with or shown interest in matches and lighters or who have been caught or arrested for starting fires. Youth Fire Stopper classes were attended by 128 students in 2015.

Pub Ed also offers a program for youth interested in the Fire Service. The OFD Fire Explorers Post #535 is comprised of 14-19 year olds who complete 24 hours of training at the Omaha Public Safety Training Center, allowing them to participate in non-emergency events. The Pub Ed division assists these youth in learning about the skills needed to become firefighters. The youth also volunteer at various Pub Ed events throughout the year, particularly during the summer months. This program is supported by the Boy Scouts of America and the Learning For Life Foundation. 12 individuals participated in the program in 2015.

We continue to install smoke/CO detectors to the public free of charge, and thanks to an Assistance to Firefighter Grant, we have now added smoke alarms for the deaf and hard of hearing to our inventory.

As we move forward into 2016, the Public education Division remains committed to the citizens we serve by providing fire safety education and demonstrating the value it provides to the community. Utilizing our Fire Safety Trailer to create a larger impact in our community will be a priority, as well as continuing our presence at community meetings and neighborhood associations, and incorporating our Explorers Program members into our public education activities. We will also look forward to having a grant funded, full-time, bi-lingual civilian Community Support Liaison to help further our commitment to serving the public.
Omaha Fire Department’s Information Services (IS) team is responsible for providing technical support for the fire department’s many computer programs and hardware/software. While the OFD receives computer and IT support from DOTComm, there are programs maintained and overseen exclusively by IS.

Information Services is staffed with sworn personnel filling the following roles: one Fire/EMS Information Specialist and two Information Systems/Research Specialists. This division is overseen by the Safety and Wellness Division Battalion Chief. In 2015, the IS staff attended education events, represented Omaha Fire at technology demonstrations, and assisted many divisions with data management and project facilitation.

A major project of the year was the implementation of a new Electronic Patient Care Reporting system (ePCR). The implementation of this system was necessary to meet new State and Federal patient care reporting guidelines. The guidelines were developed by the National EMS Information System and were named NEMSIS v3.0. Starting in September 2014, Omaha Fire worked in partnership with DOTComm and Zoll Medical to develop ePCR from a Beta product through General Acceptance, when it became available to the rest of the Fire/EMS community. The Omaha Fire IS Team worked closely with Zoll Software engineers through implementation challenges, DOTComm for server’s collection of data and reporting of data to area hospitals electronically, and hardware vendors to ensure the multiple pieces of equipment required on each squad worked seamlessly with a better than 99% up time. The software was upgraded 10 times during the 14-month implementation process. Each upgrade required a team of up to 6 people monitoring each upgrade. Additionally, OFD medics are capturing up to an additional 160 patient care data points versus 425 potential patient care data points in the previous version. The major benefits to this upgrade are the OFD compliance with State and Federal mandates, more efficient and time-saving data collection while at an incident, and seamless transfer of information for continuity of patient care and patient billing. Billing improvements have eliminated 90% of billing issues. The successful completion of this project is a tribute to the professionalism of the men and women of the OFD, who met the challenge of transitioning to a new patient care reporting system in a Beta environment in a 14-month period.

In the upcoming year, the next evolution for ePCR is to work with the local hospitals to transmit the patient care reports so they will directly insert into the patients’ hospital records using a process called HL7. This step will allow for closed-loop data collection, which will introduce the ability to use informatics to evaluate opportunities to improve patient care.

The OFD IS team strengthened our working relationship with the Douglas County GIS Division. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) implementation is improving OFD efficiency and services rendered to the citizens of Omaha using maps and business analytics. It contributes to better response time by evaluating how we respond to specific fire zones, pre-plan high value target hazard, determine best placement of resources such as engines and medic units, and determine best placement of new fire stations.
The Omaha Fire Department (OFD) recognizes that firefighting is inherently dangerous and that it is vitally important to continuously evaluate safety concerns to prevent injuries or more serious consequences. The Safety and Wellness Division (SWD) works to ensure that each OFD employee goes home safe and healthy at the end of each day. This division is comprised of one battalion chief, one fire services personnel manager, one accountability specialist, and one civilian secretary.

Major responsibilities of the SWD are to ensure that safety procedures are being followed in all aspects of the job, to coordinate these safety efforts, to perform follow-up action on safety concerns, to ensure that state and federal regulations are being met, and to implement policies that adhere to fire department standards, guides, codes, and regulations. Safety and Wellness coordinates all associated paperwork and reassignments for personnel injured on duty or those with long-term illness or injury.

In 2015, SWD assisted firefighters with several exposure incidents. Fires in the older structures in Omaha led to multiple large-scale asbestos exposure events. SWD coordinated the recording and tracking of personnel exposed in those events. Additionally, OFD had multiple bed bug exposures in 2015. SWD worked with Technical Services Division in resolving the problems and updating the procedures for contaminations and exposures.

Workplace safety is a major focus and SWD actively manages the OFD safety committee meetings and has been designated as the OFD representative on the City of Omaha Safety Committee. Furthermore, SWD managed the occupational health needs of over 637 firefighters for TB tests, hearing tests, N95 Fit testing, SCBA face piece fit testing, managing immunization records, flu shots, HazMat physicals and infectious disease exposures.

In 2016, SWD personnel will continue to seek ways to reduce workplace injuries and improve safety through training, education, and policy improvements in 2016. Other goals for the upcoming year include continuous improvement to the Health and Wellness Program; seeking more efficient medical exams and ensuring consistency in performance metrics. SWD also will continue to review the department’s Standard Operating Procedures to ensure current reflect smart practices and national standards of safety, health and wellness. Each goal and program implemented by the SWD is geared toward keeping the health and safety of OFD personnel in the forefront while seeking cost-saving measures to provide these services as efficiently as possible to the City.

Firefighters after completing the Trek up the Tower race
The primary responsibility of the Technical Services Division (TSD) is to keep all vehicles, equipment, and buildings in working order by serving as the department liaison with Fleet Management, Facilities Management, and contracted vendors. TSD also works with Douglas County 911 communications and DOTComm regarding communications equipment and telephone services. As of December 31, 2015, TSD had a total complement of four sworn personnel: one Battalion Chief who oversees the division, one Logistics/Repair and Delivery Coordinator, one Fire Apparatus Coordinator Foam/Water Supply Specialist, and one Facilities and Turnout Gear Specialist.

TSD is actively involved in station improvements and construction projects. TSD personnel conduct approximately 90% of the department’s small engine repairs in-house and routinely visit each fire station to provide preventative maintenance for all equipment and tools (PPV fans, chain saws, power units, snow blowers, and lawn equipment). Mechanically-minded light duty personnel are utilized for small engine repairs which helps avoid outsourcing costs, saving the City countless dollars in repairs from outside vendors.

Four new medic units (1, 3, 21, and 31) were placed into service in June 2015. These units were placed on a 19,500 pound chassis. The ambulances were built by Wheeled Coach of Florida and a final inspection at the plant was conducted by TSD personnel. One of the major complaints of the older medic units was how rough they rode. Most reports from the field regarding the ride quality of the new units have been good. A special thanks to Omaha Fire Department’s Quality Assurance Officer, for assisting in the design of these medic units.

The City also successfully applied for and received a grant from FEMA to purchase a new med unit which will be used as a bariatric unit. TSD submitted a request for proposal to purchase a demo unit from Braun Ambulances and received approval. A pre-construction trip was made by TSD personnel to Ohio and the new ambulance is scheduled to arrive at Med 52 in March of 2016.

In addition to purchasing new medic units, a decision was made in late 2015 to make a lease purchase and buy passenger vehicles for the Omaha Fire Department. The lease purchase included buying twelve Ford Fusions, five Chevy Tahoes, and one Ford F250.

TSD submitted a proposal within the 2016 CIP request to return to a 15-year replacement schedule for all apparatus engines. TSD discovered the current apparatus replacement plan of running engines 15 years frontline and 5 years reserve, with some engines scheduled for running 19 years frontline, had fallen behind in the last several years. With justification provided, the Mayor accepted the proposal. The newly approved plan will not only be safer for citizens and the firefighters on the apparatus, but will also reduce general fund expenditures for maintenance and repairs.

In addition to repairs and equipment purchases, Fire Station 52 was selected to receive a female accommodation remodel. The remodel will include the addition of individual bedrooms, the updating of officers’ bedrooms, a kitchen remodel, and the replacement of HVAC equipment with an estimated completion date of August 2016. Fire Management has selected Fire Station 34 for the next remodel beginning in 2017.

TSD personnel anticipate that 2016 will be another busy year. Projects include drafting specifications for four new medic units to be purchased with 2017 CIP monies and a female accommodation remodel for Station 52. The forecast for 2016 is to maintain and repair current equipment with a limited budget to purchase new equipment.
The mission of Omaha Fire and Rescue Training is to ensure that emergency service professionals are trained to effectively serve the City of Omaha. We accomplish our training mission by the following actions: OFD Fire Training prepares probationary fire candidates for assignment to suppression, enforces and ensures that they successfully complete the confirmation process, provides reality-based training opportunities to all OFD personnel, researches and acts as a proving ground for all proposed upgrades in firefighting technology and innovations in fire service strategy and tactics as reflected in the Standard Operating Procedures, and provides professional growth and employee development opportunities to the members of the OFD.

In 2015, Fire Training conducted the following training: disseminated through multi-company school education and reality-based training scenarios, numerous training techniques for the purpose of suppression personnel obtaining professional development and mastery of the latest innovations in the strategies of extrication, hose advancement, ventilation, and search and rescue techniques; each member of the OFD received fire and special operation continuing education and skill development training. This continuing education and professional skill development training included the following topics: Incident Command Refresher, Firefighter Basic Survival and Confidence Techniques, Firefighter Rapid Intervention, MAYDAY, Lost Firefighter, Trapped Firefighter, Personal Protective Equipment including SCBA, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Stabilization Techniques, Para-Tech, Cribbing Air Bags, Extrication, Spreaders, Cutter, Combo-Too, and Ice Rescue. The training Division certified 278 firefighters to IFSAC/Pro-Board NFPA 1001 FF II Certification Level, proctored the testing of chief officers to the Incident Safety Officer NFPA 1021 Standard.

In 2015, Training conducted the following events: completed Incident Action Plans for the College World Series, NCAA Men’s Regional Basketball Tournament, and the NCAA’s Women’s Volleyball Final Four. These IAPs provided by the Training Division were completed for the purpose of improving the safety, efficiency and effectiveness of fire department emergency operations. Training hosted the following courses: Traffic Incident Management Train the Trainer Course, Big Rig Rescue, nationally recognized training program University of Extrication, NIMS ICS All-Hazards operations Section Chief Course, OFD Training assisted the State Fire Marshal’s office with the implementation of Fire Office 1 Certification course, Training proctored and tested over 1300 applicants for the Firefighter Entrance Examination which included: written examination, CPAT, oral interviews, FAE promotional testing. OFD Training obtained several thousands of dollars in grant money for the following: upgraded the training tower, purchased Class B training props, increased members certification level to FF II, upgraded the OFD Mobile Command Post with computer, monitors, and internet capabilities.

In 2016, OFD Fire Training will conduct the following training for all OFD members: candidate Class 2016-1 will start early January with 25 candidates, Continuous Professional Training – Fire Operation (CPT-FO1). CPT-FO1 training will include Joint Active Shooter Training with the Omaha Police department, Continuous Professional Training – Fire Operation (CPT-FO2). CPT-FO2 will include Fire Attack, Water Supply Operations, Forcible Entry, Rood Ventilation, Ladder Skills, and Search Techniques.
The Special Operations Program, a program within the Fire Training Division, provides OFD personnel with training for emergency situations that require specialized skills. The Special Operations Program is overseen by the Training Division with several personnel assigned specifically for this program.

In 2015 the Special Operations Program moved forward with several training courses, large scale event security, and grant-funded equipment purchases. Training and event highlights include attendance at the Masters of Gas Detection course funded by the State Homeland Security Grant (SHSG), Pipeline Safety and Awareness workshop delivered by FBI and Paradigm Liaison Services, TRANSCAER’s Rail Safety and Chlorine Emergency Response Training in coordination with Union Pacific Railroad, and Security and Emergency Response Training Center (SERTC) courses in Pueblo, Colorado. During 2015 Special Operations personnel also participated in a full-scale IED/Hazmat exercise with Omaha Public Power District and numerous table top exercises with local entities such as Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo, Nebraska Medicine, and Union Pacific Railroad.

Throughout the year, the Special Operations Program continued to stay current with technology by the acquisition of new metering equipment. State Homeland Security Grant funds purchased fifteen new single-gas T40 Rattler carbon monoxide monitors for suppression apparatus. Furthermore, a new rescue boat was purchased with the assistance of Papio-Missouri River Natural Resource District.

In addition to providing specialized training, Special Operations staff provide large scale event security throughout the Omaha metro area. In 2015 personnel continued to partner with the 72nd Civil Support Team out of Lincoln to assist with security and air quality monitoring for three NCAA events: Division I Men’s College World Series, Division I Men’s Basketball, and Division I Women’s Volleyball. Special Operations staff also conducted security and air quality monitoring for numerous city, civic entertainment, and corporate events in addition to conducting numerous exercises and tours.

In 2016, Special Operations personnel will renew the focus on technical rescue training through the implementation of a task book system. Hazardous Material response capabilities will be sustained and enhanced through the training on and maintenance of equipment. Special event security will include the NCAA College World Series and US Olympic Swim Trials in June 2016.
Thank you for viewing the Omaha Fire Department’s 2015 Annual Report. We hope this provided a detailed overview of the services provided by the men and women of this department and highlighted notable achievements and activities performed in 2015. If you would like further information on our services, or to view a current phone list for each division, please visit our website at www.omaha-fire.org.

The OFD is grateful for every contribution we receive, and we would like to extend a special thank you to the First Responders Foundation for their steadfast dedication in helping to maintain OFD programs that assist the citizens of this community. In particular, we would like to thank their hardworking Chairman of the Board, Mr. Jim Young, and their committed President/Executive Director, Ray Somberg. For further information on this organization, visit www.firstrespondersomaha.com.

Special thanks are also given to Sleight Advertising for the professional photography used on the cover of this Report. Thanks are also owed to Omaha Fire Apparatus Engineer David Uhlig for generously allowing the use of his professional photography throughout this Annual Report. Additionally, Fire Apparatus Engineer Brent Van Scoy provided images and is thanked for his efforts. All photos contained in this report are the property of these individuals and copying is prohibited.

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