It is the mission of the Omaha Fire Department to protect the lives, property, and environment of our community through preparation, prevention, and protection in a competent and courteous manner. The members of our department hold themselves and each other to a high ethical standard, with Integrity, Professionalism, and Compassion being at the core of every decision we make.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

3  Message from the Fire Chief
4  Message from Mayor Jean Stothert
5  Services Overview
6  Organizational Chart
7  Personnel Statistics
8  Coverage Area
9  Response Time Performance
10 EMS Division
11 Fire Investigation Unit
12 Fire Prevention Division
13 Public Education Program
15 Information Services Division
16 Safety and Wellness Division
17 Technical Services Division
18 Fire Training Division
19 Special Operations Program
20 Acknowledgements and Additional Information

Professional photography by FAE Dave Uhlig
I am honored to present the 2014 Omaha Fire Department Annual Report to Mayor Jean Stothert, distinguished members of the City Council and the citizens of Omaha.

On March 10, 2014, I was appointed as the 31st Fire Chief of the City of Omaha. As leader of the Omaha Fire Department, one of my first priorities was to continue with 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.

This year we worked tirelessly to evaluate all aspects of our service delivery in an effort to maximize our budgeted dollars while maintaining a high level of services. We entered into a multi-year contract with Metropolitan Community College to provide for the department's Emergency Medical training and developed a training schedule that reduced travel and out of service time for on duty personnel. We reduced our administrative overtime budget, eliminated a training position, and postponed a management promotion. These efforts along with many others allowed the Omaha Fire Department to lower our non-personnel costs by $431,000 and overtime costs by $100,000. Our desire to operate efficiently and be a good fiscal partner to the City and our customers will continue to be my focus moving forward.

One of our most successful endeavors in 2014 was the ability of our grant writing team, with the direct support of Mayor Stothert and her staff, to identify needs within the department and secure the funds necessary to bring these projects to fruition. We were awarded over 1.6 million dollars to be used for much needed programs and equipment for the Omaha Fire Department. These included funds to purchase smoke and CO detectors, computer upgrades for inspectors, iPads for all Engines and Trucks to facilitate data collection and the FMZ program, repairs to the fire training tower, training 135 firefighters to the national Fire Fighter II level, the purchase of all new hydraulic rescue tools, new medic unit monitors, AEDs for the Park and Police Departments, ballistic gear for all OFD medic units for active shooter and tactical EMS deployment, and funding to hire a part-time Juvenile Fire Prevention Specialist. Collectively, these projects enhance our fire prevention, education, and operational capability and will go a long way in enhancing the level of service we provide.

One of the most significant events this department has been involved in occurred on Monday, January 20, 2014. Late that morning our department was called to a structural collapse at the International Nutrition manufacturing facility. The level of courage, professionalism, and compassion that was demonstrated during that event gives credit to the men and women of this department. The initial responding crews placed themselves at great risk and were rewarded with five confirmed rescues and potentially many others. Every individual that worked at that site, from our candidates to the Command Staff, earned the respect and admiration of the community and City leaders.

In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all members, both uniform and civilian, of the Omaha Fire Department for 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, and the Salvation Army. We truly appreciate your continued support. As we move into 2015, we will continue to work with the 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,

The Omaha Fire Department’s mission statement declares, “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”. I am pleased to present this 2014 Annual Report which provides an overview of these efforts.

I believe this Annual Report will give you a better understanding of all the duties of an Omaha firefighter. Not only does the fire department respond to emergency calls, firefighters work to prevent fire emergencies, educate the public and keep our community safe.

In 2014, Omaha Fire Department personnel educated our community on fire safety through the Public Education program. This year alone, over 4,500 children attended school assemblies, ensuring they know how to protect themselves in the event of a fire in their home or school.

In 2014, the Certified Fire Inspectors of the Omaha Fire Department conducted over 13,000 inspections of public buildings including daycares, restaurants, retail centers and other businesses.

In addition to fire prevention, OFD personnel responded to nearly 48,000 calls for service in 2014. I commend our personnel for their bravery and hope all citizens will join me to thank the men and women of the Omaha Fire Department for the services they provide to our community.

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 seven 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 Information Services Division (ISD), the Safety and Wellness Division (SWD), 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 three Assistant Fire Chiefs. Each Assistant Fire Chief is assigned a suppression shift (A, B or C), as well as several divisions to oversee.

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, 2014.

### Sworn Omaha Fire Department Employees as of 12/31/14

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Chief</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Fire Chief</td>
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<tr>
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<td>EMS Shift Supervisor</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Probationary Firefighter</td>
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<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
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### Civilian Omaha Fire Department Employees as of 12/31/14

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<th>Rank</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Special Projects Coordinator</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary II</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary I</td>
<td>2</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 time as a measurement 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. They include the 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.
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 shift physicians.

Omaha Fire Department personnel responded to 33,049 medical calls in 2014 and as of December 31, 2014, 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, if applicable. 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.

In 2014 there were several exciting new projects that enhanced the delivery of EMS care in Omaha. The first project was the successful ambulance billing request for proposal (RFP) that included funding for an electronic patient care reporting (ePCR) system. This state of the art equipment gave paramedics the ability to electronically chart patient medical records. This will allow for more efficient and timely reports to be obtained which will increase reimbursement opportunities.

The EMS Division worked in 2014 with the Safety and Wellness Division and Zoll Medical Corporation to become the first EMS agency in the United States to implement NEMSIS 3 medical reporting. NEMSIS 3 is a data dictionary that describes in detail 578 individual criteria for each patient. All EMS agencies in the State will be required to use NEMSIS 3 reporting effective January 1, 2015.

2014 saw the outbreak of Ebola Virus in West Africa. The OFD is among the top two EMS agencies in the United States to transport Ebola patients. In 2014 the Omaha Fire Department transported three confirmed Ebola patients and assisted six exposed patients who were asymptomatic. The OFD worked with the Bio-Containment Center at Nebraska Medicine to develop policies and procedures that were requested from other EMS agencies throughout the United States.

2015 will be an exciting year for EMS with the expected delivery of four new medic units in April.
The Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) is an integral part of the Omaha Fire Department. It is the responsibility of the FIU to investigate all structure and vehicle fires to determine their origin and cause. The need for a complete and thorough investigation is vital regardless of the cause of the fire. FIU investigators are responsible for scene documentation, evidence collection, witness and suspect interviews, and court room testimony if needed. If the fire is determined to be incendiary in nature, a criminal investigation is conducted that could result in the arrest of a suspect. If the fire is determined to be accidental in nature, the investigation can aid in the establishment of fire and building codes and can help with the recall of unsafe appliances through the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

As of December 31, 2014, the FIU had a current staff of one Battalion Chief and six Fire Investigators, three of which hold the rank of Captain and three Firefighters/FAEs. All FIU investigators are certified law enforcement officers who obtained their certification through the Omaha Police Department Training Academy. In addition to the six FIU investigators, 15 other OFD personnel are certified law enforcement officers who annually attend continuing education programs held by the Omaha Police Department as well as outside training agencies including the National Fire Academy. This ensures that OFD personnel are effectively trained for any situation that may arise. Each employee is required by the State of Nebraska to receive twenty Continuing Education hours annually. In 2014, the 22 certified law enforcement employees of the Omaha Fire Department completed a combined total of 1,023 Continuing Education hours, with 515 of those hours being completed by the six FIU officers.

Such training opportunities are extremely important, as fire investigation is an ever-changing field of expertise. A Fire Investigator must know and understand police tactics, fire science, criminal law, evidence collection and handling, scene documentation and fire cause determination in addition to preparing for and providing courtroom testimony. In 2014, three Fire Investigators were able to attend the National Fire Academy. They attended courses in the fields of Fire Investigation Origin and Cause, Interviewing/Interrogation and Courtroom Testimony, and Fire Dynamics and Modeling.

Beginning this year, newly sworn personnel will complete a five-week field training and evaluation program with the Omaha Police Department’s 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 complete a two-week introduction program with the OPD’s Criminal Investigation Bureau.

This year held exciting improvements to the FIU office as it underwent major construction. Two sleeping quarters and a new shower room were added. Additionally, the interview and interrogation room was relocated and an upgraded recording system was installed to improve the quality of the investigator’s taped interviews.

In 2014 the FIU conducted 383 investigations, 71 of which were classified as incendiary in nature (arson events). Of these 71 incendiary fires, 19 cases were cleared by arrest which equates to a 26.7% clearance rate, nearly ten percentage points above the national clearance rate of 16.8% as identified by the FBI Uniform Crime Reports. There were five civilian fatalities as a result of fire incidents in 2014, and the FIU investigated 17 fires that were 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, 2014, the FPD had a total sworn complement of nine inspectors, all of whom report to an Assistant Fire Marshal who helps coordinate and evaluate their activities. Five of these inspectors specialize in one of the following areas: tanks, schools, daycares, 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. 2014 was another successful year in which there were 13,043 certified inspection activities performed by the certified inspectors of the FPD.

The Fire Management Zone (FMZ) program was also very successful in 2014, whereby suppression companies conducted over 6,000 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.

As 2015 approaches, there are many exciting happenings taking place. In addition to continuing our mission of protecting lives and property through a progressive, well-managed approach to occupancy inspections, a new computer system called Accella will be put into place. Accella will increase our efficiency in terms of accountability and record-keeping, as well as interacting with other City departments. The FPD was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant which is helping to fund this system and other associated equipment.
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 687 smoke/CO detectors and replace 90 batteries for the citizens of Omaha in 2014.

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 326 presentations in 2014.

**Public Relations Assignments:**
Attend meetings, media events, and special assignments designed to enhance the safety of Omaha’s citizens. OFD personnel attended 710 such activities in 2014.

**All-School Assemblies:**
1st through 6th graders are educated on fire safety and how to design a “Home Escape Plan” for their family. Over 4,700 children were educated by all-school assemblies in 2014.

**Fire Station Birthday Parties:**
Birthday parties for 20 children were auctioned off in 2014 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 2014, 177 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 1,712* vacant properties in 2014.

**Salute to Safety Expo:**
An annual event, this year the OFD provided a mock extrication exercise from a crashed vehicle. 12 firefighters and the Life Flight helicopter were utilized. Thousands of citizens attend each year.

*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 575 such activities in 2014, ensuring that the public is aware of fire safety issues.

Many citizens within Omaha wish to help OFD personnel spread the word about fire safety in our community. A group of such citizens volunteer their time by serving on the Volunteer Fire Corps. This group of individuals supplements the Pub Ed program by assisting at various events, including Juvenile Fire Setter classes. These classes are taught by trained firefighters with the assistance of the Volunteer Fire Corps, OPD, and the University of Nebraska Med Center 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. Juvenile Fire Setter classes were attended by 39 students and 80 parents/siblings in 2014.

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. The OFD saw an increase in 2014 as 12 individuals participated in the program.

Moving forward into 2015, the Pub Ed Division remains committed to the citizens served by providing fire safety education and demonstrating the value it provides to the community. The Pub Ed Division also received an Assistance to Firefighters Grant which will allow for the purchase of 2,000 smoke/CO detectors with tamper-proof, 10-year batteries. It also allows for the funding of a part-time civilian Juvenile Fire Setter Coordinator. Training the on-duty Juvenile Fire Setter coordinators and utilizing the Fire Safety Trailer to create a large impact in the community will be a priority, as well as continuing our presence at community meetings and neighborhood associations.
The Omaha Fire Department’s Information Services Division (ISD) is responsible for providing technical support for the OFD’s many computer programs and hardware/software specific to the Fire Department. While the OFD receives computer and IT support from the Douglas Omaha Technology Commission (DOTComm), as do all City departments, there are programs maintained and overseen exclusively by the ISD. It is crucial that OFD data is properly maintained and tracked to remain compliant with fire service standards and State and National requirements. The ISD 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.

The ISD staff were busy throughout 2014, assisting many divisions with data management and project facilitation. A major project in 2014 included the upgrade of all OFD desktop computers, computer monitors, and laptops. Additionally, all OFD computer systems, including the department’s 63 Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs), were upgraded from Windows XP to Windows 7 due to Microsoft discontinuing support for XP systems. This was a successful collaboration between DOTComm and OFD which involved several months of planning and nearly two months for full implementation. Additional software upgrades were made to include Microsoft Business Intelligence, which will allow OFD personnel to more effectively collaborate, share, and create powerful data models. Examples of these data models include response metrics, IOD injury and illness reporting, and national reporting requirements.

In addition to supporting the OFD divisions with their IT and computer needs, ISD personnel routinely assist staff in grant proposals and applications, supplying numbers and data to support requests for grant-funded equipment and software for the department.

ISD staff spent much time in 2014 preparing for the anticipated 2015 rollout of Electronic Patient Care Reporting (ePCR). Staff collaborated throughout the year with the EMS Division, the vendor of the software (Zoll Corporation), and DOTComm to prepare for the rollout next year.

In addition to preparing for ePCR, ISD personnel anticipate that they will be busy in 2015 supporting Fire Prevention’s Accella fire inspection software, an iPad program for Special Ops and suppression Battalion Chiefs, and an iPad program to be used in fire prevention activities for suppression personnel. The ISD staff will also spend time in 2015 researching fire station alerting systems to replace the current, aging system.
The 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 shift. This division is comprised of one Battalion Chief, two additional sworn fire personnel: a Fire Services Personnel Manager and an 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. Furthermore, the SWD coordinates all associated paperwork and reassignments for personnel injured on-duty or those with long-term illness or injury. Workplace safety is always a major focus area for the SWD.

In 2014, the SWD was responsible for ensuring the safety of OFD personnel when transporting confirmed and suspected Ebola virus patients. The SWD coordinated with the EMS Division and the Nebraska Medicine Biocontainment Unit to ensure proper PPE was acquired, donned, doffed and disposed of properly. Additionally, SWD ensured that non-disposable equipment and transport vehicles were properly decontaminated according to smart practices as designed by Nebraska Medicine Biocontainment staff and the Centers for Disease Control. This decontamination process took approximately 12 hours per event. SWD also coordinated the tracking of personnel with Immanuel Hospital and the Douglas County Health Department for 21 days after the transport of a patient to ensure that OFD personnel had not contracted the Ebola virus during their interactions with these patients.

SWD personnel will continue to seek ways to reduce workplace injuries and improve safety through training, education, and policy improvements in 2015. Other goals for the upcoming year include continuous improvements to the Health and Wellness Program by seeking more efficient medical exams and ensuring consistency in performance metrics. SWD also will continue to review internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to ensure that current smart practices and national standards of safety, health and wellness are reflected. 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.
OMAHA FIRE DEPARTMENT | 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION

The primary responsibility of the Omaha Fire Department’s Technical Services Division (TSD) is to keep all department vehicles, equipment, and buildings in working order by serving as the liaison with City of Omaha Fleet Management, Facilities Management, and other contracted vendors. The TSD also works with Douglas County 911 Communications and DOTComm regarding communications equipment and services. As of December 31, 2014, 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.

In addition to repairs and equipment purchases, TSD is actively involved in station improvements and construction projects. These projects range from the installation of energy efficient thermostats, to replacement roofs, to adding female accommodations at selected stations. Funding for these projects comes from the Fire Department’s budget, allocated Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds, and insurance claims in the event of structural damage requiring repair.

Effective communication equipment is crucial for suppression personnel to accurately receive dispatch information and communicate on a fire scene. Portable and mobile radios are of paramount importance in effective communication. TSD is responsible for maintaining, tracking, and repairing the Department’s 275 portable radios and close to 100 fire apparatus, investigator, and other vehicle mobile radios, in addition to the MOSCAD dispatch radios and other peripheral communication equipment located at each fire station.

As a cost saving measure, TSD personnel personally conduct approximately 90% of the department’s small engine repairs in-house. This saves the City countless dollars in repairs from outside vendors. Cost savings are also captured by TSD staff providing snow removal for each of the OFD fire stations. A notable cost-saving achievement in 2014 was conducting preventative maintenance on OFD equipment including PPV fans, chain saws, power units, snow blowers, and lawn equipment. This preventative maintenance ensures that OFD equipment will last longer and reduce the need for costly replacements. TSD utilized mechanically-minded light duty personnel for small engine repair and avoided outsourcing costs.

Much of 2014 was spent in preparation for 2015 CIP purchases. Staff spent much time researching apparatus to determine the best options, and prepared the specifications for bid. In November the bids were released for two-100 foot ladder trucks and one light and air truck. These new apparatus offer many improvements including increased water flow capability and remote nozzle movement.

TSD staff anticipate that 2015 will be another busy year. Projects include purchasing new extrication rescue tools with awarded Assistance to Firefighters Grant funds, drafting specifications for four new engines to be purchased with CIP monies, and overseeing renovations to Fire Station 21 which includes female accommodation retrofitting and replacing HVAC equipment.
The Omaha Fire Department’s Training Division is responsible for ensuring that OFD personnel are trained to safely and effectively serve the citizens of Omaha. This training begins when personnel are probationary Fire Candidates, and refresher and supplementary training is provided throughout the duration of every OFD employee’s career. Through the facilities located at the Omaha Public Safety Training Center and at sites throughout the City of Omaha, the Training Division conducts reality-based training opportunities to all OFD personnel. Training Division staff continuously research and familiarize OFD personnel with advancements and upgrades in firefighting technology and innovations in fire service strategy and tactics. As of December 31, 2014, the Training Division was staffed with one Battalion Chief who oversees the division, one civilian secretary, and additional sworn personnel including: one Special Operations/HazMat Training Specialist, three Fire Training Officers, and an OPSTC Facility Manager.

One major responsibility of the Training Division is to effectively train all new department recruits. The most recent recruit class that was hired on February 4, 2013 completed their probationary period in 2014 and were confirmed on May 15, 2014. The Training Division assigned the curriculum and job performance skills to the Field Training Officers and recruits for the evaluation and confirmation process.

Ongoing training throughout the year is also provided by the Training Division. Training staff prepare monthly “company school” training plans that are conducted at the stations. Additionally, hands-on, reality-based training scenarios are scheduled at the Public Safety Training Center, called Continuous Professional Training (CPT). CPT is conducted throughout the entire year with multiple sessions on varying topics. It is the goal of the department that each Omaha firefighter go through each CPT session offered annually.

In addition to providing training for new recruits and ongoing training to all OFD personnel, the Training Division will evaluate major fire incidents and use them as a training tool for future incidents. One notable incident that resulted in such analysis was the International Nutrition building collapse in February of 2014. The Training Division conducted an After Action Report (AAR) for this incident for the purpose of improving the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of OFD emergency operations.

In 2015, the Training Division will continue to conduct CPT with training activities ranging from vehicle extrication to roof ventilation and search techniques. In addition, the Training Division will undergo a Firefighter II certification process. A large project in 2015 will be the preparation for a 2016 recruit class. The Training Division staff will be responsible for testing candidates throughout this process.
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 2014 the Special Operations Program moved forward with several training courses, large scale event security, and grant-funded equipment purchases. 2014 training highlights included attendance at the IED/Terrorism Trends course delivered by the FBI, conducting Swiftwater rescue and technician courses, delivering Rapid Intervention Training to the entire department, and participating in a joint full-scale exercise with the Papillion Fire Department, Union Pacific Railroad’s HazMat Team and the Omaha Police Department’s ERU on a staged derailment with hazardous materials release, a multiple motor vehicle and railcar collision with patient extrication, and a structural collapse with persons trapped.

Throughout the year, the Special Operations Program continued to stay current with technology by the acquisition of new metering equipment. Rescue 33 and Engine 60 received four new MultiRAE gas meters accompanied with calibration and charging stations. The suppression Battalion Chiefs, Rescue 33 and Engine 60 also received Industrial Scientific Mx4 gas meters and calibration stations.

In addition to providing specialized training, Special Operations staff provide large scale event security throughout the Omaha metro area. In 2014 personnel partnered again with the 72nd CST out of Lincoln to assist with security and air quality monitoring for the College World Series held in June. Special Operations staff also conducted security and air quality monitoring for numerous city and civic entertainment and corporate events in addition to conducting numerous exercises and tours.

In 2015 the Special Operations Program will participate in the “Masters of Gas Detection” course delivered by Chris Wrenn, a world-renowned expert in hazardous materials monitoring. Additionally, the Special Operations Program will conduct exercises at the North OPPD plant and the 120th and Fort MUD location. Special Operations staff will also participate in a multi-agency exercise sponsored by the Henry Doorly Zoo. Special event security in 2015 will include the NCAA Mens Division I basketball tournament in March, along with the annual NCAA College World Series in June.
Thank you for viewing the Omaha Fire Department’s 2014 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 2014. 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.