



FIRE DEPARTMENT



2015
Annual
REPORT
City of Galveston, Texas

Mission Statement

The Galveston Fire Department is committed to providing the highest level of public safety services for the community. We will protect lives and property through:



- Fire Prevention
- Public Education
- Firefighter Safety
- Fire & Rescue Operations
- Emergency Medical First Response
- Disaster Management



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Fire Chief's Message:

It is my honor to present the 2015 Galveston Fire Department Annual Report. The GFD is divided into four divisions, Fire Prevention, Emergency Operations, Special Operations and Fire Administration. There are a total of 119 personnel in the fire department. This report will provide you with an overview of the department. We will provide a snap shot of each division's responsibilities and their accomplishments. In addition, 2015 was our 130th year as a paid fire department. We were the first paid department in the State of Texas. We have included a brief history of our department as well as pictures of some of our trucks through the years.

During 2015, GFD responded to over 7,000 calls for service. These calls include fires, rescues, medical emergencies, hazardous material spills and general public service requests. We also respond when requested to assist other fire departments within Galveston County as well as across the State of Texas. In turn, these departments provide us assistance when we need them. As you will read in this comprehensive report, the men and women of the Galveston Fire Department take great pride each day to serve the citizens and visitors of Galveston Island. This is evident in the amount of training, fire prevention & community involvement that we have accomplished during 2015. It is my honor and privilege to serve as your Fire Chief and lead such a great group of men and woman each and every day.

HISTORY OF THE GALVESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



The City of Galveston was founded in 1839, and it was quickly realized that they would need fire protection. July 23, 1839, the City appointed a Chief Engineer and Asst. Engineer. They also authorized the organization of Engine Company #1. In 1840, the City appointed 5 fire wardens for the City's 5 segments to improve the fire department organization. The following year, 1841, Hook and Ladder Co 1 was formed followed by Isle City Co #2, Old Axe Co., Mechanics #6, Young Eagles, Phoenix #2, Star State Co. #3 and Protection Fire Company #8. In 1845 the City purchased one 30ft. ladder, two 20 ft. ladders and three hooks with poles for \$200.00. They also approved \$300.00 to purchase a Hook and Ladder truck that would be used by Hook & Ladder Company #1.

The 1860's brought about The Civil War and Galveston was the sight of several battles. One particular battle resulted in the destruction of Engine House #1 and the Fire Chief's residence located at 1700 Mechanic Street. Galveston was also unknowingly, entering a devastating 20 year period of fires. Many of the original buildings in Galveston's business district would be destroyed by fire during this period. In 1865, the original Tremont Hotel, built in 1839, on Tremont & Mechanic was destroyed by fire. From October 1869 to February 1870 the City experienced five major conflagrations in the downtown area between Tremont and 21st, from Strand to Market Street. A total of 18 buildings were destroyed in these fires. In 1872 19 fires occurred on the Island.

In response to the increase of major fires, in 1873, nine new fire apparatus' including 3 Steam Engines and Four Hand Pumpers along with 348 new firemen were authorized by the City. Again in 1877 another conflagration broke out that would eventually claim 26 buildings downtown. As a result of the 15 years of fires, in 1880, Local Underwriters raised insurance rates 10% because they felt fire protection and the water system were insufficient. In 1882, a fire resulting in a \$707,000.00 loss on Strand, caused rates to increase another 25%. In 1884, the City accepted a completed, salt-water protection system with 110 hydrants. They accepted this system even after the system failed to meet the requirement of pushing a stream of water 100ft in the air.

As fate would have it, in 1885 another smaller fire on the Strand occurred. The problem was that a fierce battle had developed between supporters of the current Volunteer fire department and those who felt it was time for a paid full time fire department. While this argument had been on-going for some 10 years at this point, this most recent fire, where it seemed everyone was giving orders but no one was fighting the fire, was the final straw. The residents of Galveston had witnessed almost every building in the business district be destroyed by fire and they demanded a fully paid department. So, on September 21, 1885, the City created the Galveston Fire Department. This was the first paid fire department in the State of Texas. The Council named William Oldenburg, the newly elected Volunteer Chief as the City's first paid Fire Chief.

Chief Oldenburg had the honor of serving as the 12th Volunteer fire Chief and the First paid Fire Chief. We have had 32 fire chiefs since 1839. The paid Chiefs have been:

William Oldenburg	1885-1891
Ernest Wegner	1891-1901
John Gernand	1901-1917
Frank Malloy	1917-1919
JJ. Ryan	1919-1923
RH Westerlage	1923-1929
Adolph Bockelman	1929-1941
Arthur Omara	1942-1947
William Henderson	1947-1957
Robert McLaren	1957-1958
William Henderson	1958-1967
Francis Abraham	1967-1969
Paul Stanforth	1969-1973
Hugh O'Donohoe Jr.	1973-1983
Paul Stanforth	1983-1988
William Wisko Jr	1988-1997
Danny Weber Sr.	1997-2002
Michael Varela Sr.	2003-2010
Jeff Smith	2010-2013
Mike Wisko	2013-Present



1946 American LaFrance "Pumper 108"



1964 IHC Seagrave "Pumper 301"

November 13, 1885 at 140am a fire started at the Foundry on 17th & Strand. The wind was gusting from the Northeast to over 40 mph, the new fire department was quickly put to the test. The fire raged across the island, burning 568 structures across 42 blocks before stopping at 17th & Ave O, costing approx. \$2 Million. As a result of this fire and the constant failure of the water system, in 1889 the City spent \$450,000.00 on 13 wells every 800 ft. along Winnie. This system included a 17,000 ft. water main piping, a pump house and a standpipe system to be used for fire protection.



1974 Ward LaFrance "Pumper 100"

HISTORY OF THE GALVESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



HISTORY OF THE GALVESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



The 20th century started off with the devastating 1900 storm resulting in over 6,000 deaths and almost total devastation of the entire island. The re-building and the construction of the new seawall became the focus of the residents. Another major Hurricane struck in August of 1915, however only 11 people perished as a result of the improvements implemented since

1900. All of this combined, resulted in a huge gap in the history of the department. Most of the records from this period were never found. A fire department annual printed in 1907 tells a limited amount of history but it is not very in depth. GFD did experience a great deal of growth during the 1900's. We have several photographs but very little documented history.



1979 American LaFrance
"Pumper 101"



1948 American LaFrance Ladder Truck
"Aerial 201"

List of Fire Stations

By the 1950's, there were 11 fire stations within the city limits, at that time, the city limits ended at 61st street.

Fire Station # 1 - 20 & Market

No Fire Station # 2 – Engine 2 was in Station 1

Fire Station # 3 – 29th & Market

Fire Station # 4 – 12th & Market

Fire Station # 5 – 1614 Ave K

Fire Station # 6 – 3710 Broadway

Fire Station # 7 – 3712 Ave P

Fire Station # 8 – 2602 Ave Q

Fire Station # 9 – Pier 22 (Fire Boat)

Fire Station # 10 – 5302 Ave U

Fire Station # 11 – 1102 56th Street

In the 1960's, several stations were closed, re-located and/or re-numbered. By 1968, there were only 6 fire stations while the city had grown to its current size.

Fire Station # 1 – relocated to 2514 Sealy in 1965

Fire Station # 2 – Opened at 428 Church in 1965

Fire Station # 3 – re-located to 5001 Ave Q ½ in 1968

Fire Station # 4 – re-located to the Airport in 1969

Fire Station # 5 – 1102 56th

Fire Station # 6 – 3710 Broadway

Fire Station # 7 – 3712 Ave P – Closed 1967

Fire Station # 8 – 2602 Ave Q – Closed 1968

In 1978 a new Fire Station 7 was built on 12 mile rd. as a result of large brush fire near Jamaica Beach in 1976. The same fire caused the creation of the JBVFD. Station 6 was closed in 1980. A new Station 4 was built in 1982 while a new Station 8 was opened in 1989 in Sea Isle. Fire Station 3 was closed in 1996. In 2008, Hurricane Ike destroyed two stations # 4 & 5. Both stations were re-built at their current locations. The new Station 5 was opened in June 2010 while the new Station 4 was opened in 2013.



1983 American LaFrance Snorkel
"Snorkel 203"



1974 SuperVac Rescue Truck "Unit 409"

HISTORY OF THE GALVESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



HISTORY OF THE GALVESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



1990 Frontline Inc.
"Rescue 1"

Our current department consists of 119 personnel working in four divisions including Fire Administration, Prevention, Operations & Special Operations. GFD is rated as an ISO 2 fire department. We operate six Engine Companies, two Ladder Trucks and two Battalion Chiefs from six fire stations.

Fire Station # 1 – 2514 Sealy

Fire Station # 2 – 428 Church

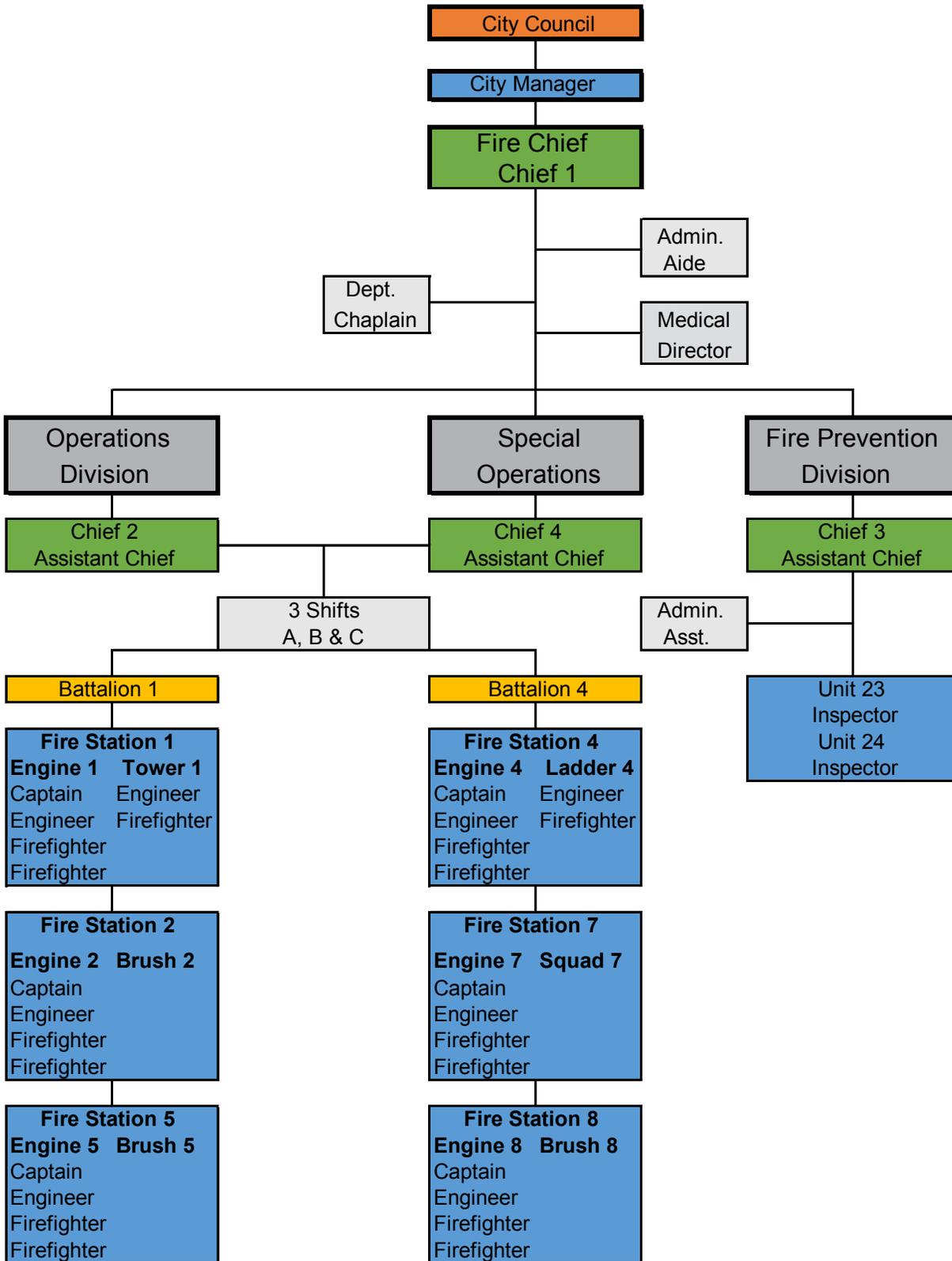
Fire Station # 4 – Airport

Fire Station # 5 – 5728 Ball

Fire Station # 7 – 3902 12mi. Rd

Fire Station # 8 – 21710 S Shelby Drive in Sea Isle

GFD ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



FIRE ADMINISTRATION



Fire Chief Mike Wisko



Assistant Chief
Charles Olsen



Assistant Chief
Gilbert Robinson



Assistant Chief
Richie Pearson



Administrative Asst.
Trish Anderson



Administrative Asst.
Nora Garcia

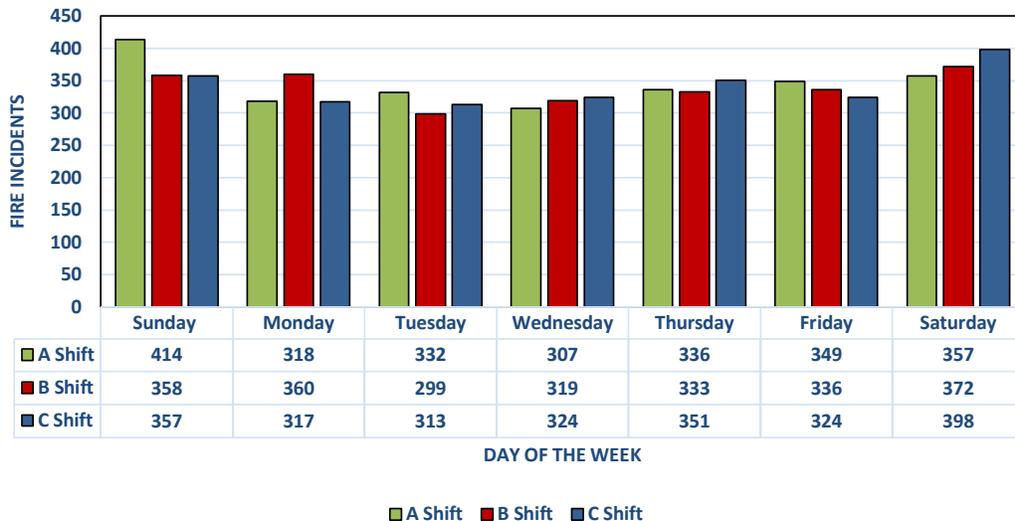


Chaplain Kelly Vaughan

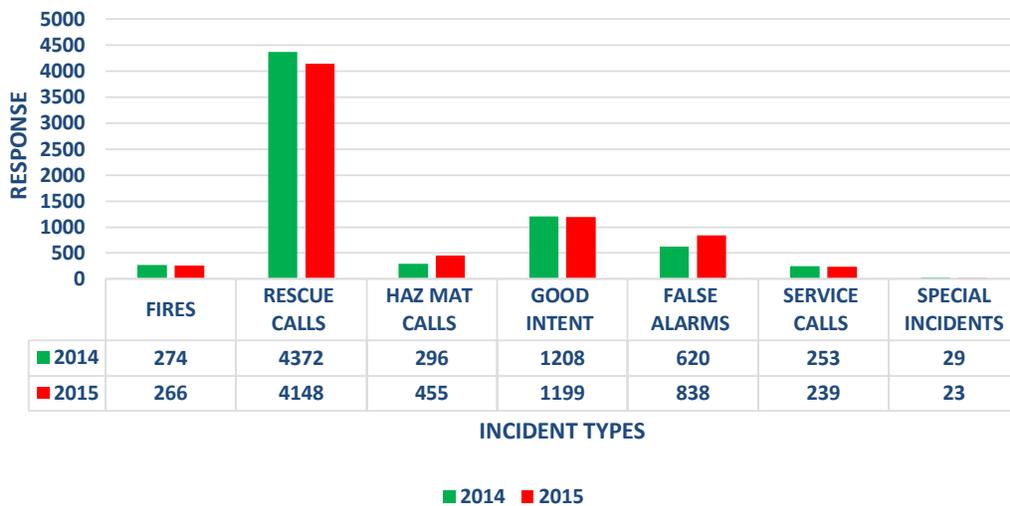


INCIDENT REPORTS

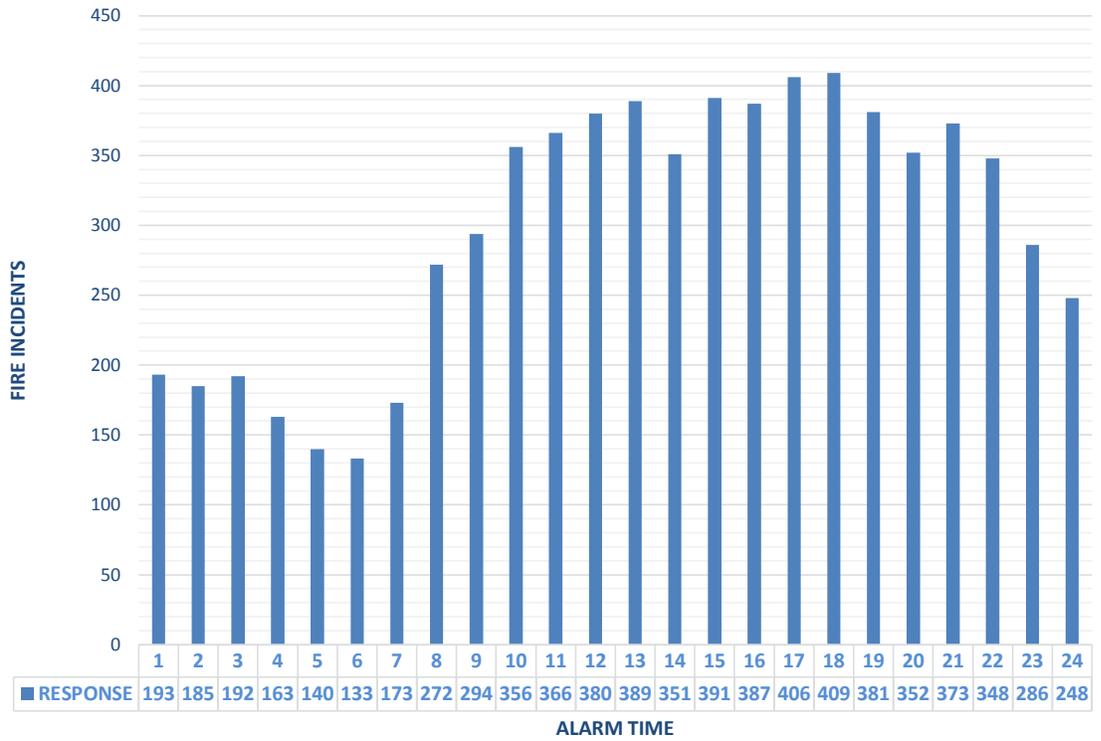
INCIDENTS BY DAY OF THE WEEK / SHIFT

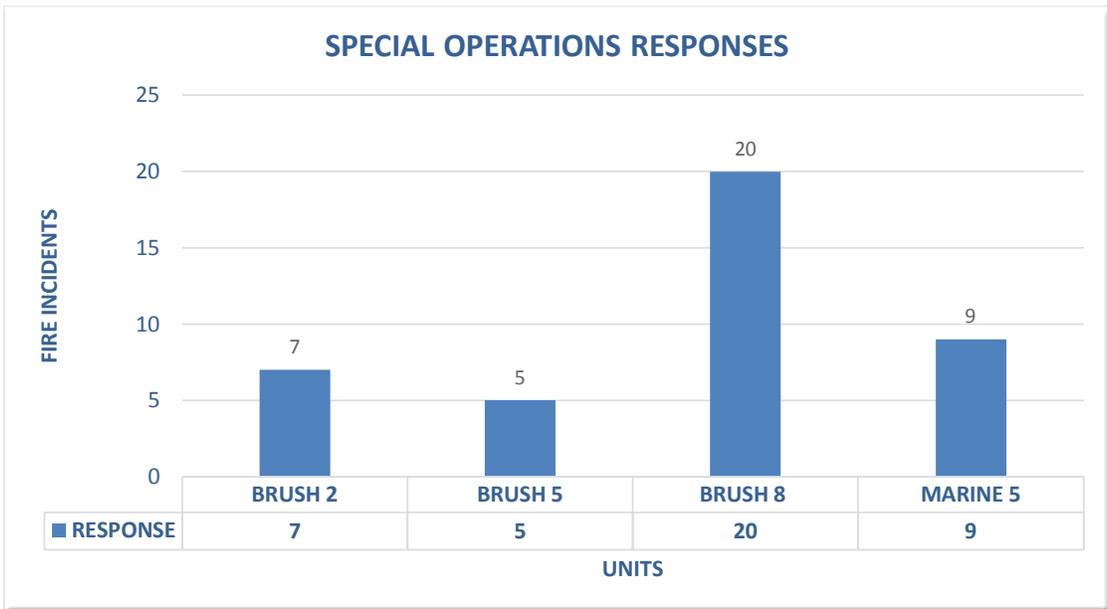
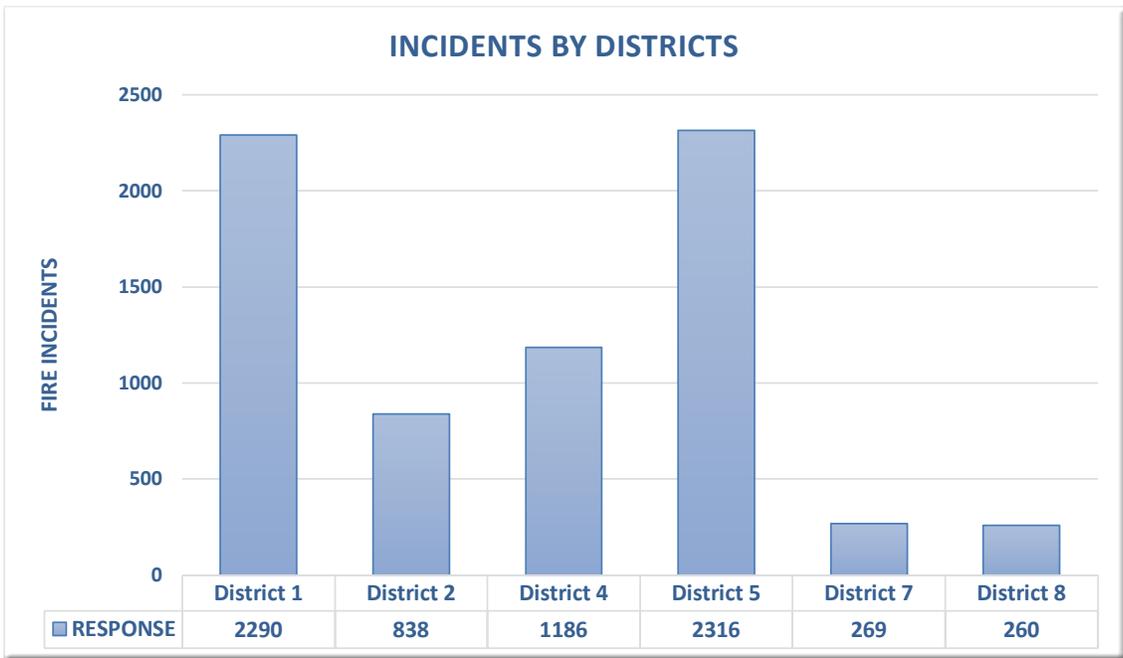


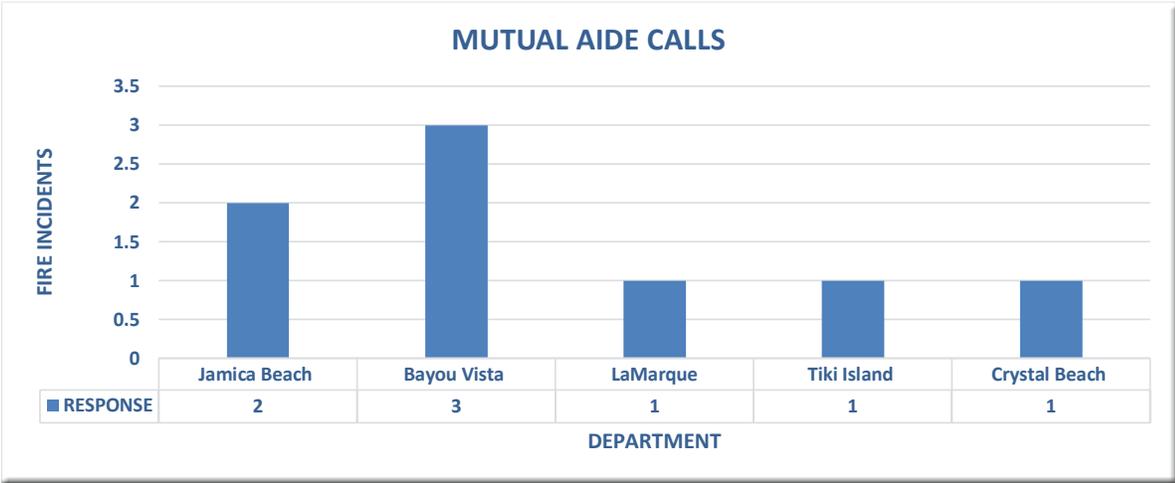
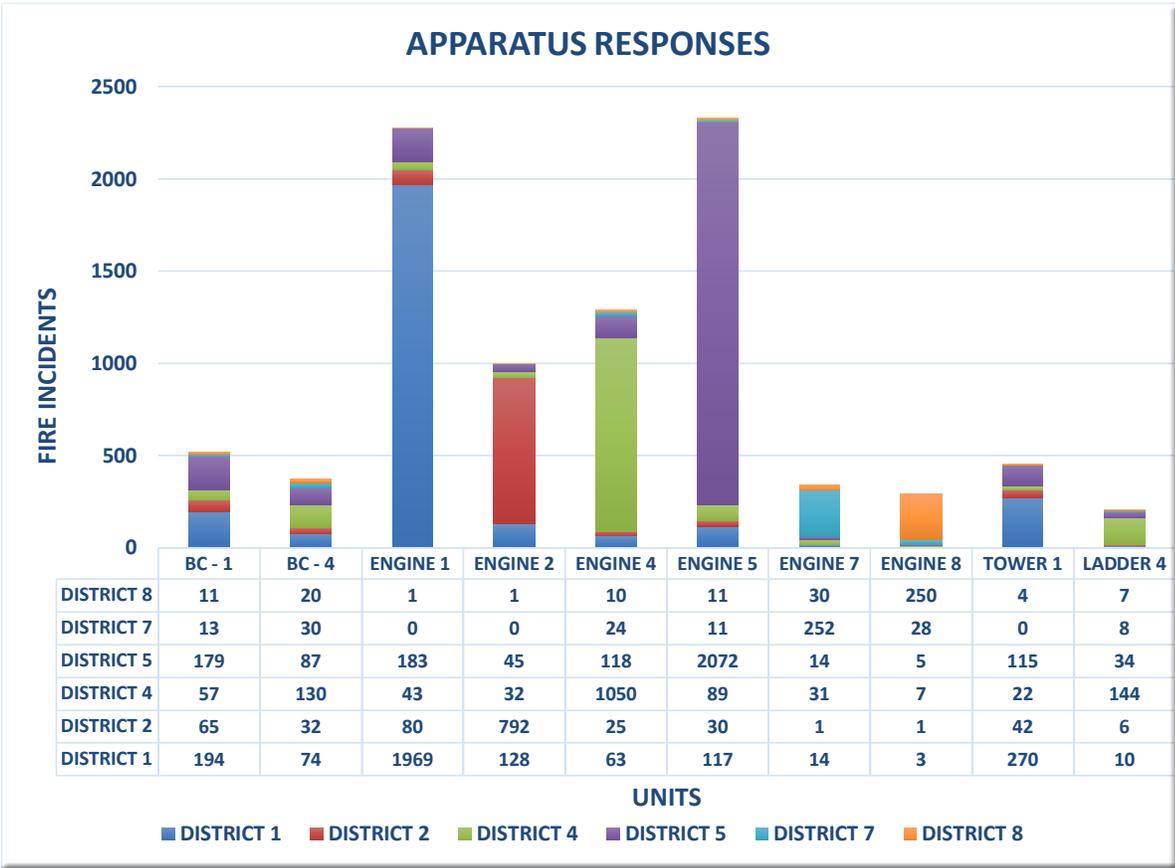
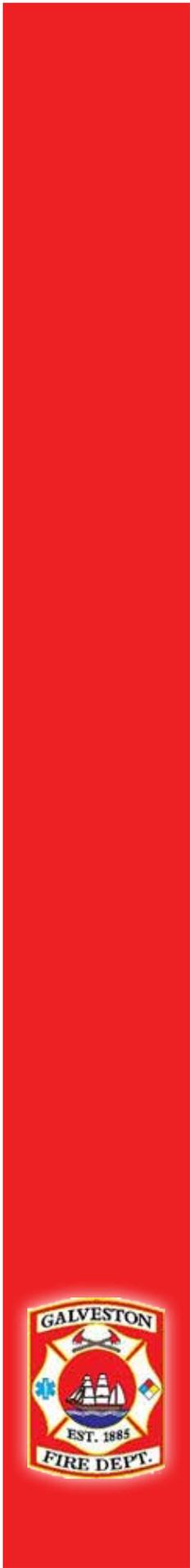
GALVESTON FIRE DEPARTMENT SUMMARY BY INCIDENTS



Alarm Time Analysis









OPERATIONS DIVISION



The Operations Division is the largest of our four Divisions with 112 personnel assigned. These personnel are responsible for all emergency responses. There are six Fire Stations across the Island and each is staffed 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Firefighters work a 24 hour shift followed by 48 hours off regardless of holidays or weekends. We operate six Engine Companies, two Ladder Companies and two Battalion Chiefs each day with a minimum staffing requirement of 30 Firefighters daily.



We staff our Engine Companies with four personnel including one Captain, one Driver and two Firefighters. Our Ladder Companies are staffed with two personnel and our Battalion Chiefs are single person units, as they serve as incident managers when at an incident

Battalion 1 is East of 61st Street

Station 1 (2514 Sealy)



Engine 1, Tower 1 and Battalion 1

Station 2 (428 Church)



Engine 2 and Brush 2

Station 5 (5728 Ball)



Engine 5, Brush 5, Squad 5 & Marine 5, our Rescue Boat

Battalion 4 is West of 61st Street

Station 4 (Scholes Airport)



Engine 4, Ladder 4 and Battalion 4

Station 8 (21710 S. Shelby Drive)



Engine 8 and Brush 8

Station 7 (3902 12 mile Rd)



Engine 7 and Squad 7

OPERATIONS DIVISION



OPERATIONS DIVISION



Over 90% of our responses are managed by a single Engine Company with a four person crew. For structure fires and technical rescues, multiple units are dispatched to ensure an adequate number of personnel on scene.



All told, the personnel assigned to Operations do a remarkable job day in and day out. They manage to train, maintain the fleet and facilities, conduct pre-fire plan inspections and answer emergency calls with the utmost professionalism and courtesy.



In 2015 we created a Special Operations Division under the Command of Assistant Chief Richie Pearson. This division is responsible for a variety of department functions including;

- All Training
- State Compliance
- Professional Development
- Equipment purchasing & Maintenance
- Fleet Services
- Recruitment
- Technical Rescue
- Hazardous Materials
- Marine Firefighting

GFD has not had a Training Chief since this position was eliminated in 2010. The addition of this one administrative position has allowed us to focus on more areas of responsibility and ensure that we are not only meeting the requirements for state compliance but we can now begin improving in these areas as well as others. Although this Division wasn't established until October 2015, we have already seen a vast improvement in these areas of responsibility.

2015 was a great year for training in the Galveston Fire Department. We had 42,095 total training hours for the 2015, exceeding 2014 training hours. This means that each of our 115 firefighters received over 300 hours of training throughout the year.

2014 Training

Battalion – 1A	6,315
Battalion – 1B	7,220
Battalion – 1C	6,112
Battalion – 4A	4,723
Battalion – 4B	3,360
Battalion – 4C	4,139

2015 Training

Battalion 1A –	8,678
Battalion 1B –	8,437
Battalion 1C –	8,743
Battalion 4A –	5,662
Battalion 4B –	4,691
Battalion 4C –	5,884

Some of the Continuing Education hours received in primary skills during 2015 were:

• Professional Development	3,259.33
• Officer Training	800
• Firefighting Techniques	14,445
• Emergency Medical Training	3,000
• Emergency Vehicle Driving	1,916
• Street Familiarization	7,000

SPECIAL OPERATIONS



SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS



During the year, we experienced several incidents that are classified as significant due to injuries, deaths and/or major damage. In the next few pages we will recap each of these incidents.

May 11, GFD responded to a House fire at 1619 Mechanic Street. Upon arrival smoke and fire were visible from a two story dwelling. Once crews made entry to search for any victims and extinguish the fire, they discovered one adult male unconscious on the floor. He was quickly removed and Firefighters assisted EMS with treatment and transport. Ultimately, the man passed away due to his injuries. This was the first Fire related fatality in Galveston since November 2013.

June 22, crews responded to a reported fire at the Meridian Retirement Facility located at 2228 Seawall. They arrived and found a kitchen fire in one apartment. There was one civilian with burn injuries and smoke inhalation as a result of this fire. She was treated by Firefighters and EMS and transported to UTMB.

June 27, we received a report of a Plane crash near Stewart Road @ Seven Mile Road. Crews arrived to find a small Cessna that had crash landed in a pasture near that intersection. The pilot reported losing engine power while flying a banner over the beach and he had to put the plane down in the field. The lone occupant suffered minor injuries.

July 27, GFD responded to a reported apartment fire at 4400 Ave P. Upon arrival, Firefighters observed smoke and fire from the balcony of the complex and several Galveston Police officers assisting seven occupants from one apartment immediately adjacent to the fire. The fire was quickly extinguished and all occupants reported only minor injuries.

August 2, GFD responded to the second structure fire of the night. This one occurred on the far west end at 4200

Kings Rail Drive. Crews arrived to find a large elevated three story home heavily involved in fire. Working with several GFD units and mutual aid crews from Jamaica Beach, the fire was contained to the one home and no injuries were reported.

September 13, we responded to a structure fire at 1111 31st Street. When crews arrived they found two houses on Fire. The stubborn fire eventually required a second alarm response and was eventually extinguished with one Firefighter injury reported.

December 2, Engine 5 was dispatched to investigate smoke in the area of the San Luis Hotel. While responding, GPD reported a Church on fire at 5127 Ave U. The full first alarm was assigned. Engine 5 arrived and reported heavy fire coming from the Westminster Presbyterian Church. The fire eventually required a Second Alarm response and was extinguished about 4am. There was extensive damage to the church however no injuries were reported. An interesting note is that GPD apprehended and obtained a confession of the man who set the fire, while the fire was still burning. He was arrested and charged with Arson.

December 28, We finished out the year with a major fire at the Bay Walk Apartments located at 7400 Jones Drive. Crews arrived to find heavy fire from a third floor apartment. Due to a strong north wind exceeding 30mph, the Battalion Chief quickly requested a second alarm. Ladder trucks were placed in-service and with a very quick and aggressive interior attack by the crew of Engine 4 B, the fire was contained to the south end of one building. There was smoke and water damage to several apartments surrounding the original fire apartment however, no injuries were reported.

Galveston County Mutual Aid

GFD and Jamaica Beach VFD have an automatic aid agreement which means that we assist each other on a regular basis. This agreement extends to the GMR team as well. It is a common occurrence to have both departments working together at incidents across the west end of the Island. GFD is also a member of the Galveston County Firefighter's Association. During 2015, GFD assisted several other County Departments with fire & rescue incidents.

April 4. Bayou Vista requested assistance for a House Fire. Engine 5, Tower 1 and Battalion 1 responded to assist. One home was damaged and no injuries were reported.

June 1. Tiki Island and GFD were dispatched to a car fire on I-45 near the Causeway. Upon arrival, Engine 5 determined the fire was in the County but remained on scene to extinguish the fire.

June 23. Bayou Vista requested assistance for a Cave in. Engine 1, Tower 1 and Battalion 1 responded. Crews worked for over 1 hour to free a worker who had been trapped in a 10ft deep hole when the earthen walls collapsed covering him up to his neck in dirt.

June 29. Tiki Island requested assistance at a Grass fire alongside of I-45. Engine 5 and Brush 5 assisted with the extinguishment.

August 20. during a severe thunderstorm that was affecting the coastal region of Galveston County, GFD was requested to assist Crystal Beach VFD with a Tank storage farm fire. Lightening associated with the storm struck a Crude Oil storage Tank resulting in a massive fire. Two Engines and a Battalion Chief responded to Crystal Beach and assisted with the extinguishment of this fire. No injuries were reported.

TIFMAS

GFD participates in the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS). This system was developed by the Texas Fire Chief's Association in 2007 and was first implemented in September 2008 when Hurricane Ike struck. Galveston requested assistance and received help from a variety of departments across the State. Since then it has been our goal to assist any other Texas community in need as a show of appreciation for the assistance we received in Ike. As a result of our participation, we have been granted two Brush Trucks funded by the Texas Forest Service. These trucks are available for our use here locally and are staffed with Galveston Firefighters when requested across the State of Texas. We have also been able to activate structural protection teams for all hazards using our apparatus and personnel. There is no expense to the City, as all costs incurred on a State activation are reimbursed by the State of Texas.

August 14, GFD was requested to activate one Brush Truck with crew for a wildfire near Ozona, Texas. Our crew responded and continued to operate in the Ozona area until August 22.

August 28, GFD was requested to activate one Brush Truck with crew for another wildfire near Ozona, Texas. Our crew responded and continued to operate in the Ozona area until September 5.

October 14, GFD was requested to activate a Brush truck with crew for a wildfire near Bastrop, Texas. An additional request for assistance was received on October 15 for another Brush truck and crew. Our crews responded and continued to operate until October 23. During this time frame, one of the crews was re-assigned to a fire near Huntsville, Texas.

MUTUAL AID RESPONSES



URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE



Urban Search and Rescue

GFD has two personnel who are members of Texas Task Force One. This is a FEMA Urban Search & Rescue Team based in College Station, Texas and is comprised of 210 Firefighters and Rescue professional from across Texas. All expenses are covered by the State and Federal Government.

May 24. Chief Mike Wisko was activated for the flooding in Wimberly, Texas.

October 30. Firefighter Steven Beall was activated due to wide spread flooding across Central Texas.

Dec. 26, Beall was again activated for the Tornadoes in Rowlett & Garland. The fact that GFD is recognized as an organization capable of providing assistance to other jurisdictions is one more example of the professionalism and dedication our personnel possess while carrying out their duties to our residents and visitors. The services we provide to the City of Galveston will never be compromised to assist others however, we stand ready and able to assist whenever possible. This is because of the support and leadership we receive from our City Leadership and our citizens.



The City of Galveston Emergency Management Coordinator is the leader of this team which is comprised of Galveston Fire Department, Galveston Island Beach Patrol, Galveston Police, Galveston County Sheriff's Office, Jamaica Beach Volunteer Fire Department. This group was created after Hurricane Ike to create

an organized response to water related emergencies on and around Galveston Island.

All Firefighters are qualified at the Basic Water Rescue level and several are at the Advanced level. The working relationship between all agencies involved has been the key to making this group successful.



March 1, 2015, Engine 8 "C" responded as part of GMR for a search and successful rescue of a Kayaker at San Luis Pass. The weather turned foggy after the Kayaker entered the water and he was forced to use his cell phone to call 911. Eventually, based on information the kayaker provided, Engine 8 was able to activate their siren from the exact point of enter used by the Kayaker.

March 15, 2015, Engine 5 "B" was part of a land and water based search and rescue of elderly man on seawall. The individual had been reported missing near the seawall. As crews were searching the area, Engine 5 found the

man walking and assisted in reuniting him with his family.

November 14, 2015 Engine 5 "C" responded to the area near the causeway for a sinking boat. Working with our partner agencies, they ultimately located and rescued three people including an elderly man from the sinking boat.

November 20, 2015, Engine 5 "A" responded to the area of the Causeway for a boater in distress just off Darcy Ln. As Marine 5 approached the sinking boat, the two occupants had evacuated the boat and were climbing up onto the pier of a private residence on Darcy Ln.

GALVESTON MARINE RESPONSE



SPECIAL EVENTS



GFD experienced another successful year at each of the major special events held on the Island. We use our standard special events staffing model and are constantly evaluating the crowd size and weather conditions so that adjustments can be made as needed. We work closely with our counterparts at GPD, GEMS and Emergency Management to ensure the safety of everyone involved in the event area as well as across the Island.

Mardi Gras

With the primary events occurring on two separate weekends and the entire Island being affected by an increase in population and traffic, it is difficult to attribute a specific number of incidents to the event however we have a noticeable increase in incidents across the Island that we must manage.

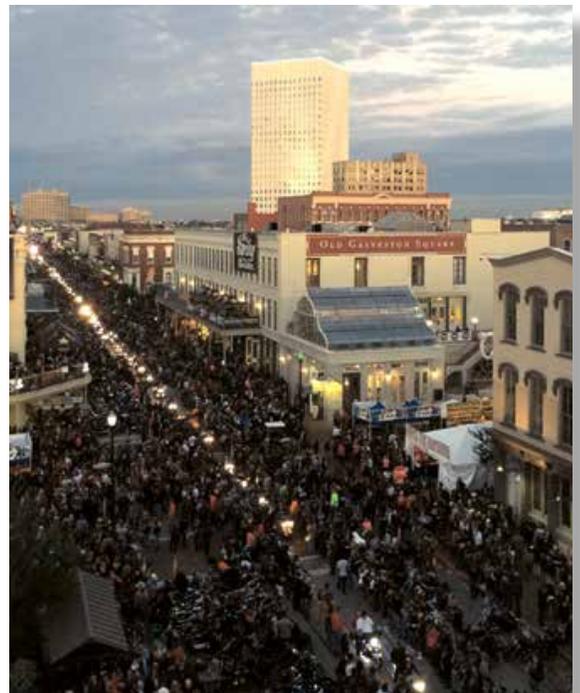
For these reasons, we create an additional Battalion or District in the downtown area during the Friday and Saturday of both Mardi Gras weekends. We staff this district with off duty personnel as not to take away from our daily staffing model. We typically have 4 to 5 two Firefighter teams, working inside the event area. Their primary responsibilities are to respond to incidents, determine the need for additional resources and assist those resources in gaining access to the area.

These firefighters are not equipped for firefighting but their knowledge and experience in what is needed and how that service delivery will be affected by the crowd and other constraints of the event.

Lone Star Rally

The Bike rally has quickly become the largest special event we see each year and again, GFD personnel manage it with dedication and professionalism. Over a 5 day period in November, we see our population swell to over 500,000 while our available resources remain at the level provided for 50,000. We use the same staffing model in the event area but we are challenged in that the event area encompasses two geographically different regions of the Island.

Downtown we establish the special event Battalion and we increase the number of two firefighter teams to compensate for the expanded area and increased number of attendees. In addition, we staff one Brush truck with two Firefighters. Their responsibilities include responding to and attempting to extinguish small fires within the event area, maintaining an open driving lane on the Strand large enough for a fire truck to navigate in the event of a major incident and medical assists. This is all accomplished with off duty personnel being assigned



Several more improvements were realized during 2015. All of the improvements serve to build upon those that were made in 2014. Each of the 2015 Goals is listed below with an explanation of the success we achieved in each area.

Adopted the 2012 International Fire Code

Our Prevention Division worked hard to adopt the new code and in July 2015. With the cooperation of the City Building Officials, the Legal Department and City Management, the 2012 International Fire Code was adopted by City Council.

Achieved an improved ISO PPC Rating

The Insurance Office Services (ISO) grades each City in the United States to determine their Public Protection Classification (PPC). Galveston has maintained a PPC Rating of 4 since 1991. Following two years of efforts by all GFD Personnel, we requested an evaluation by the ISO with the goal of achieving an improved PPC rating. On May 5, the ISO Field Representative arrived in Galveston. Members of each Division of the GFD along with representative from Public Works and Communications worked with the ISO Rep. to verify the improvements in all areas that are evaluated for the PPC rating. Following his visit, we were notified by the ISO that we had indeed achieved an improved PPC rating of 2. It is not very common for a City to excel more than 1 PPC however, as a result of the vast improvements we have been successful in accomplishing, homeowners and business owners in Galveston will realize a 10% savings in insurance premiums annually.

Initiated a Company Pre-Fire Plan / Inspection Program

During the late summer of the year, we implemented a Company Inspection & Pre-Fire Planning program. This program allow Firefighters certified as Fire Inspectors and assigned to each Fire Station, to conduct Fire Inspections in Commercial businesses. At the same time, the Firefighters are able to conduct a survey of the building to learn the layout and what hazards exist in each building. This information is entered into our Firehouse reporting system via the I-Pads assigned to each truck so that in the event of an emergency at the location, the responding Firefighters may reference the information. This provides them valuable knowledge that could enable them to identify the fire location and any hazardous materials that may be involved more quickly and with less risk.

Increased staffing for Fire Administration

In an effort to increase staffing at the management level to improve the overall department efficiency, we added an Assistant Chief for Special Operations. The duties assigned were taken from the Two Assistant Chiefs and Fire Chief and include managing the Department Training program, all Fleet maintenance, equipment maintenance and purchasing, State Training and Safety Compliance, Technical Rescue, Hazardous Material, Water Rescue and State wide Mutual Aid Training and Response.

In addition, the redistribution of responsibilities allows for a more focused management by all Officers at the Management level to ensure our overall efficiency in all areas.

Implemented Advanced Life Support Capabilities

Through our continued partnership with Galveston EMS, our Firefighters are now trained and equipped to deliver advanced life support treatment. GFD responds to over 4,000 priority medical calls annually and this program allows our Firefighters to use their training as EMT's, Intermediate EMT's and Paramedics to initiate advanced procedures such as IVs, Airway placement and drug administration when the patient condition warrants this level of treatment. We share a Medical Director with GEMS and all equipment used in interchangeable ad compatible with that used by GEMS. We began on December 1, and that same night, the crew of Ladder 1, and that same night, the crew of Ladder 4 & Engine 4 assisted in the resuscitation of a female patient. There have been several incidents with similar outcomes in the first few months of this program.

Increased the level of professional development for our personnel

With the addition of an Asst. Chief to manage Training, we have been successful in increasing all levels of training for our Firefighters. This includes basic skills, technical skills and Succession planning. We now have four officers who have graduated from the Texas Fire Chief's Academy and two more will begin the program in 2016. This allows for the development of the future leaders of this department as well as better managers in our current organization. The ultimate goal is to develop a well-managed, efficient and professional organization capable to handle all hazardous situation that could be faced in Galveston at any time.

IMPROVEMENTS





Awards Ceremony

On August 4, we held our annual ceremony at The 1894 Grand Opera House. The event allows family and friends of the firefighters to come together and celebrate the retirements, appointment of new Firefighters, promotions, acts of heroism, service to the department and exceptional service the community in various ways.

Retirements

34 Years of Service



Captain Steve Feldman

32 Years of Service



Driver Ramiro Sanchez

Promotion to Captain



Captain Luis Lopez



Captain Dan Guidry



Captain Travis Hill

AWARDS CEREMONY



NEW FIREFIGHTERS

New Firefighters



Firefighter Jonathan Burns



Firefighter John Gonzalez



Firefighter Sean Senegal



Firefighter Adam Migliore



Service Awards

Valor – Engine 4 B

Captain Bill Roy

Driver Ed Gearke

Firefighter Ryan Dunkerley

Firefighter John Carlson

Valor – Station 1 A

Battalion Chief Gary Staudt

Captain Travis Hill

Captain Richard Rico

Driver David Rojas

Firefighter Jonathan Cook

Firefighter Jimmy Wisner

Firefighter Sean Senegal



SERVICE AWARDS



Service to Community

Battalion Chief Chris Harrison

Captain Joe Lloreda

Captain Richard Rico

Captain Dan Guidry

Driver Kenny Moffett

Firefighter Jimmy Zaro

Driver Willie Syers

Firefighter Rudy Perales



Service to Department

Battalion Chief Tom Winn

Battalion Chief Gary Staudt

Captain Paul Chide

Captain Richie Pearson

Captain Daniel Martinez

Captain Mike Varela Jr

Captain Danny Weber Jr

Captain Travis Hill

Driver James Short

Driver Kevin Johnson

Driver Brad Magness

Driver R.K. Wistinghausen

Firefighter Roger Diaz Jr

Firefighter Andy Jefferies

Firefighter Jimmy Wisner



Color Guard



Firefighter Justin Hooter
Firefighter Dustin Burnett
Firefighter Chris Anderson
Firefighter Tim Bergeron
Firefighter Will Thompson
Firefighter Rogelio Diaz Jr
Captain Travis Hill
Captain Mike Varela Jr
Firefighter John Gonzalez
Firefighter David Cangelosi,
Firefighter Mark Mahady
Firefighter Robert Hooper
Driver Jason Lemoine



2016 GOALS

2016 Goals

Work toward achieving an improved ISO PPC rating of 1

Increase staffing for Fire Marshal's Office

Implement the use of the Mobile Computer aided Dispatch system

Evaluate and improve our Advanced Life Support capabilities

Improve our capabilities in Marine Firefighting & Water Rescue

Improve our Wildland Firefighting capabilities





**Galveston Fire Department
2517 Ball Street
Galveston, Texas 77550**