



CITY OF PULLMAN

Fire Department

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To: Mayor Glenn Johnson and City Council

From: Mike Heston, Fire Chief

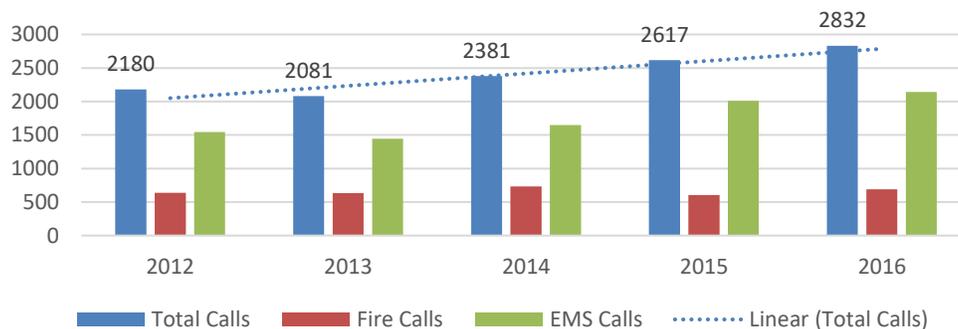
Date: June 6, 2017

Ref: 2016 Fire Department Annual Report

Overview

Call volume for the fire department increase by 8.2% in 2016. There were a few staffing changes due to retirements and turnover. Safety and the wellbeing of the firefighters were the major priority for the department. Medical physicals were made mandatory and were enhanced with the adoption of medical evaluations from the Firefighter Cancer Support Network for early cancer detection. The mandatory physical fitness program was improved with a peer fitness trainer. A 4-platoon staffing model was implemented on a trial basis and the department was successful in receiving a major FEMA grant in the amount of \$758,000 for the replacement of self-contained breathing apparatus and portable radios.

PFD Call Volume



Staffing

There were several staffing changes. The major changes were the retirements of Prevention Officer Richard Drago with 43 years of service, Lieutenant Rudy Fisher with 25 years of service and the vacancy of the training officer. Two of the positions were filled within the department. Three firefighters and paramedics were sent to the state fire academy in 2016 to replace vacancies. Temporary positions from the Reserve firefighters were hired off the current civil service list to help fill the gaps.

Another major shift change was the 18 month trial period of the 4 platoon system from a 3 platoon in September. The new shift structure was created to increase the flexibility and staffing of shift coverage, reduce the work hours for the firefighters and spread out the shifts for a better recovery. The other intent was to reduce overtime and sick leave. The results of this shift change are presented in appendix A.

Total Department Responses

The department responded to 2832 individual calls service which is up 8.2% from 2015. This amounted to 3909 total station responses where resources from both stations were needed to respond. Of the total station responses, station 1 responded 2165 times (55%) while station 2 responded 1744 times (45%). Concurrent or back-to-back calls occurred 33% of the time which continues to be highly impactful to our available resources. Responses by Day of Week and Time of Day are presented in appendix B.

Incident Type	Incident Count
Fire	92
Rupture/Explosion	3
EMS/Rescue	2,056
Hazardous Condition	58
Service Call	60
Good Intent	171
False Call	390
Severe Weather	1
Other	1
Totals	2,832

Emergency Medical Services

The department responded to 2142 individual medical responses in 2016 which involved 3052 station responses totaling 76% of the total call volume. This was an increase of 6.5% from 2015. Patient transports happened 70% of the time with 47% of the responses dispatched as Advanced Life Support.

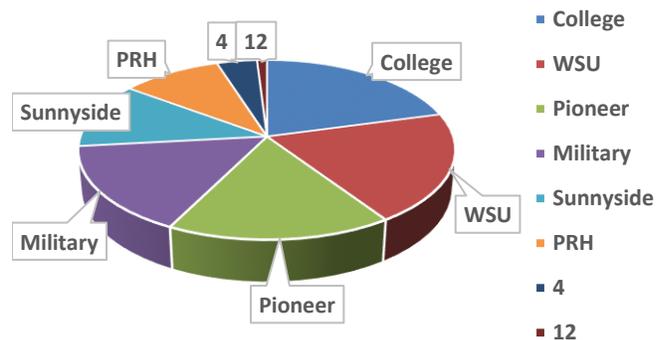
The most common medical calls transported by nature were: Sick Persons – 11.5%, Falls – 10.4%, Syncope/Unconscious -8.8%, Breathing Problems – 7.5%, Injured Persons – 6%, Chest Pain – 5.6% and Alcohol/Detox – 5.5%.

Medical response percentage breakdowns were:

- College Hill – 21%
- WSU Campus – 20%
- Pioneer Hill – 17%
- Military Hill – 16%
- Sunnyside Hill – 12%
- PRH Transfers (175) – 9%
- WCFD 4/Palouse – 4%
- WCFD 12 – 1%

The average response time (turnout and travel) for medical calls was 5:03

Medical Responses



Fire Suppression

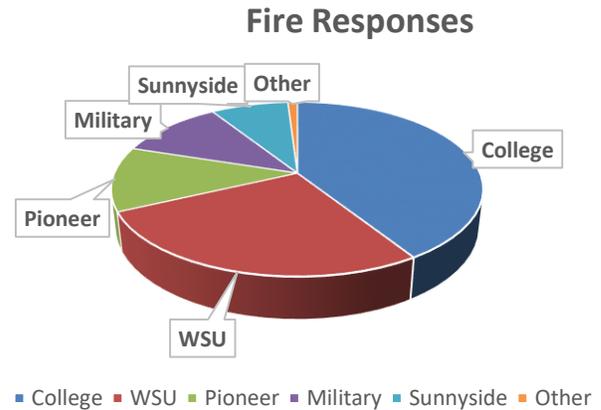
The department responded to 690 individual fire related responses in 2016, which included 857 station responses, totaling 24% of the total call volume. This was an increase of 14% from 2015. Of the 690 calls, 153 (22%) involved smoke and/or fire or hazardous conditions for an estimated fire loss of \$108,900. These included three structure fires in which one involved the successful rescue of an unconscious citizen.

There were 92 fires with actual flame and/or smoke involved. The most common fire responses were Cooking fires – 22%, Outside Trash/Rubbish fires – 17%, Brush/Grass/Bark fire – 15%, Trash/Rubbish in a container – 13% and Building/Other fires– 13 %.

There were 537 (78%) non-emergent fire situations (e.g., false fire alarms, system malfunctions, accidental/unintentional activations, malicious alarms or good intent/service calls). The most common cause of false alarms was smoke detector activations (51%). The most common types of Good Intent calls were gas odors and smoke investigations. Common Service Calls were unauthorized burning and water problems.

Fire response percentage breakdowns were:

- College Hill - 41%
- WSU Campus – 27%
- Pioneer Hill – 12%
- Military Hill – 11%
- Sunnyside Hill – 8%
- Other – 1%



The average response time (turnout and travel) for fire calls was 6:03.

Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention office doubled its staff with the promotional hiring of a Deputy Fire Marshal to help with the additional work load of the new construction of WSU. The prevention office reviewed 99 construction plans for the year. The city composed of 81 plans or 80% and WSU accounted for 19 plans or 20%. Permit fees for 2016 totaled over \$22,000, an increase of over \$14,000 from the previous year which is reflecting the updated inspection fee schedule.



The Fire department conducted 282 occupancy inspections in the city businesses with the most common findings of illegal use of extension cords, non-working exit signage and fire extinguishers out of inspection date.

Public Education

The department conducted 13 First Aid and/or CPR classes in 2016 improving the skill level and awareness of over 150 citizens and bringing in over \$3,000. The car seat fitting program, in conjunction with the police department, continues to evolve along with tours at the fire station, ride-alongs, fire extinguisher classes, fire alarm drills and safety talks at Washington State University residence halls, apartment complexes, academic buildings and Greek housing.



The department participated in numerous community activities including the National Emergency Medical Services Week, 4th of July, Lentil Festival, Fire Prevention Week at Walmart, Holiday tree lighting, Egg Hunt, Pullman Family Fair, Schweitzer Engineering Health Fair, Neill Public Library book reading and the Pullman High School football games. The demand for scheduled visits by fire trucks to local raffle winners at community fund raisers continues to rise due to the popularity.

New partnership opportunities were created with Gladish Community and Cultural Center and the WSU Visitor Center by utilizing their facilities for training and events in exchange for providing community service and public events at their location throughout the year. A new poster was created in conjunction with Pullman Police and Lifeflight to assist in a Text and Driving campaign.



Training

The Training division continues to find and develop innovative ways to deliver quality training through technology, local and regional partnerships as well as assistance from FEMA, Emergency Management Institute and the Spokane Falls Community College Pullman Campus. Professional and career development is on track for department members. Pullman hosted a regional National Fire Academy courses in leadership and administration. Five department officers have applied to complete the 2 year Managing Officer credential program through the National Fire Academy.



The department has increased the level of nationally certified firefighters and officers by over 30 percent in the last year. Certifications include Firefighter 1&2, Fire Officer 1, Fire Instructor 1, Incident Safety Officer, Fire Inspector 1 and Fire Investigations Technician. Ultimately, this will help the department achieve a higher desired rating from the WSRB at the next evaluation which lowers the insurance rating of the citizens and businesses.

The Training division is focused on accreditation-based training that complies with Washington State Rating Bureau (WSRB) and Washington Administrative Code (WAC) requirements.

In June, Reserve recruit class 2015-01 graduated after completing over 300 hours of training in EMT-Basic, Firefighter 1 and 2 and Hazardous Materials which started in October 2015. Currently an additional eight reserve recruit firefighters are completing EMT-Basic class that includes a WSU Police Officer, a Fish and Game Warden, 2 Whitman County District 12 firefighters, 1 Colfax firefighter and a Certified Nurse Assistant from Whitman Senior Living. The EMT class is regionally recognized for its excellent instruction and success rate and is entirely instructed by Pullman Fire Department members. Over 90% of the reserves that fully participate in the Pullman Fire Department program will go on to become full time firefighters and/ paramedics.



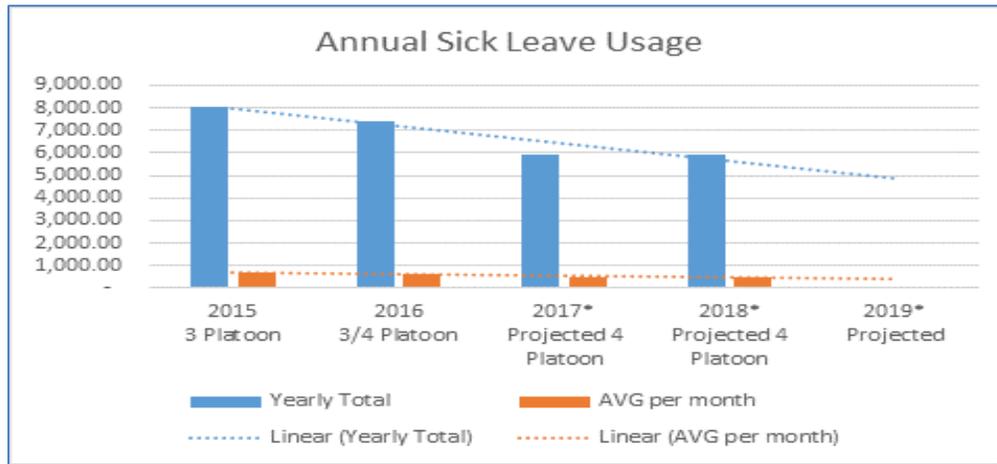
Other Department Highlights

A new pick-up and trailer was purchased for the technical rope rescue team. The team took the opportunity to train with the new equipment at a new WSU building under construction with the Clark Construction crew.



Appendix A

The Results of the Trial 4 Platoon Shift



Averages on Duty @ St. 2

	2015	2016	Change
September	2.87	3.54	0.68
October	3.06	3.44	0.37
November	2.90	3.47	0.57
December	2.85	3.30	0.45
January	3.16	3.39	0.23
February	3.02	3.32	0.30
March	2.87	3.34	0.47
April	2.98	3.32	0.33
May	2.85	3.34	0.48
Average To Date	2.95	3.38	0.43

Station 2 Staffing Increases

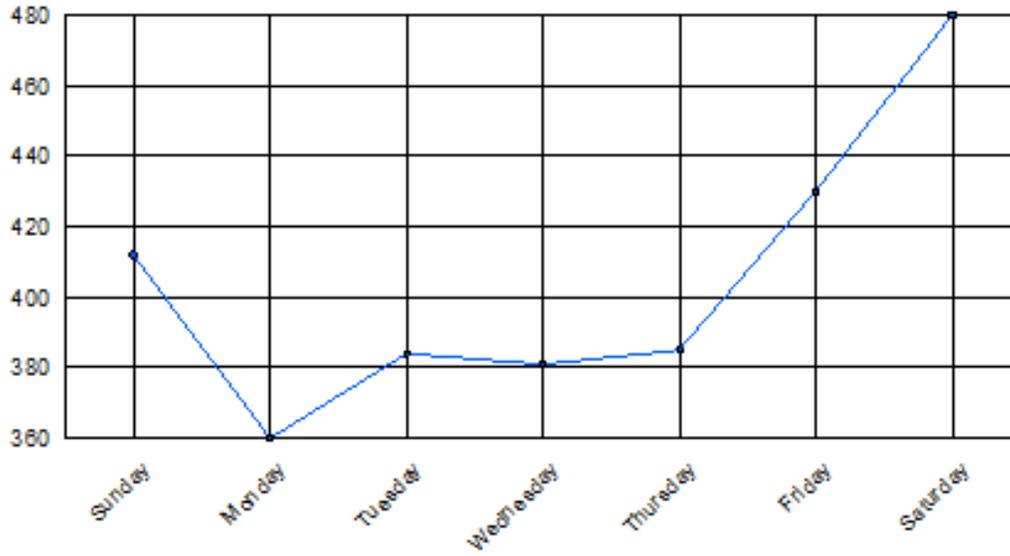
	3-platoon	4-platoon	% Increase w/ 4-platoon
Days at 2	75	0	0%
Days at 3	166	179	108%
Days at 4	28	88	314%
Days at 5	1	6	600%

Overtime Hours



Appendix B

2016 Responses by Day of Week



2016 Responses by Time of Day

