

Alsip Fire Department



Annual Report For 2016

First and foremost, I would like to thank Mayor Kitching and the board of Trustees for their support of the Alsip Fire Department. I believe that all of you share the same vision as I do as what type of service the fire department should provide and how to provide it with the resources we have. This annual report will be the last one that will be presented to the Mayor and any of the outgoing Trustees during this year's election. I would like to wish all of you well and to thank you for your confidence in me as your Fire Chief. I am very grateful for the opportunity to lead this great organization during this administration.

As the Fire Chief, I am charged with leading the Alsip Fire Department in providing; fire protection, EMS, Technical Rescue, Hazardous Materials, fire prevention, public education, fire investigation, water rescue, and everything else that comes our way to all of our residents, businesses, and travelers that come through our great village.

The Alsip Fire Department is made of up of very dedicated and highly trained personnel to provide the services listed above. We strive to have the most current and state-of-the-art equipment, and great training facilities to maintain our level of competency and proficiency.

We are constantly evaluating ways to improve our service and training by monitoring current trends in the fire service, looking at new equipment, and evaluating our responses. This process is ongoing throughout the year.

This report is a summation of the activities, incidents, and accomplishments that the Alsip Fire Department either responded to or participated in in 2016. This report also contains some objectives planned for 2017.

Summary of the year

2016 was another very good year for the fire department. We had a minimal amount of personnel who were off due to injury or medical illness. In 2016, we had 1 Lieutenant retire, had 2 firefighters take jobs at other fire departments, and hired 2 replacement firefighters and in the process of hiring the 3rd replacement firefighter during this writing.

The Alsip Fire Department applied for several grants in 2016. Three grants were applied to the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighter's grant program. One grant is to purchase an interactive fire simulation program that uses digital flame combustion technology. This type of program is training program that uses a controlled environment for fire and smoke conditions without the hazards of live fire training. It is also an alternative to live fire training which rare to obtain buildings for live fire training. One DHS grant was applied for to the replacement cardiac monitors in our 3 ambulances, 2 front line ALS (advanced life support) engines, and 3 devices will provide CPR in lieu of personnel (which is more efficient). Our current cardiac monitors are approaching 8 years old and at the end of their "useful life" This grant was applied as a regional grant with approximately 20 other fire departments. The third AFG grant is also a regional grant to purchase a Command Vehicle to be used at large scale or long duration incidents. At this time, we are waiting for news about these grants. The Alsip Fire Department also applied for a \$13,800 grant from Firehouse Subs to purchase a drone for operations in the fire, police, public works and water department. Unfortunately, we were denied for the grant, but will be applying again at its next interval.

In 2016, The Alsip Fire Department received 2 generous donations from Arkema Coatings; 1 for a Fire Extinguisher training prop. This prop is for instructing our fire extinguisher classes to Alsip businesses and the public.



The second donation was for firefighting equipment that Arkema had to purchase for a remodeling project at their facility. The equipment included several hundred feet of 5" hose used for water supply and 2 portable monitors with the capability of high volumes of water and foam application. These types of monitors can be used for rail car incidents and incidents at any of our storage tank farms. The donations were in excess of \$10,000. We are very grateful to Arkema with which the fire department has a very good working partnership with.

In 2016, the Alsip Fire Department also received the Life Safety Award for our public education programs. This is the second year in a row for the award which is extremely rare. This is a national award which we are very proud of and this is due to the dedication and commitment of our two Public Education Coordinators and our personnel who deliver these programs.

In 2016 we have made several improvements to the fire stations. The front overhead doors at station 2 were replaced. These doors were originally installed in 1998 and were nearing their end of life. During the replacing process, the rails, springs and all cables are replaced. The normal life span of these types of doors is typically 10- 12 years depending on use. The rear doors may open and close as many as 5000 -7000 times a year. The doors replaced also displayed signs of soot from vehicle exhaust which contains carcinogens. In 2006 a vehicle exhaust was installed to minimize any carcinogens from the vehicle exhausts systems. In FY 2016/ 2017, the replacement rear doors of the stations were budgeted, but had to be removed due to budgetary constraints. These doors will be budgeted in FY 2018.

In 2016, replacement windows were placed in the budget. With needed adjustments to the budget, the windows in the living areas of the stations were replaced. The windows in the storage areas of the stations will be budgeted in the FY 2018 budget. The windows are the original windows from when the fire stations were opened in 1974. Several windows were only secured by the locking latch. Replacement parts for the window cranks are obsolete. The original windows were not insulated and allowed the heat or A/C to escape thus causing more energy costs. In 2016, both exhaust hoods in the kitchens have been replaced as per the recommendation of our insurance carrier.

During 2017, the stations will be evaluated to determine what other projects are going to be needed in the future including washroom upgrades and remodeling of the kitchens.

In 2016, we continued to remain focused on our external customers (residents and businesses) and internal customers (Officers and Firefighters) by evaluating all current programs and making necessary adjustments when necessary.

Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention Bureau is led by two part-time Fire Prevention Officers in which each have specific duties. This is supplemented by 7 firefighters who perform the annual inspections while off-duty.

2016 is the 2nd year of annual inspections where the Fire Prevention Bureau is using a computer based reporting system using an I-Pad for annual inspections. Now the fire inspector can track the current inspection, search the past inspection, insure that the business' fire alarm system, sprinkler system, and any other protective systems are inspected on an annual basis. This was not possible in the past. Additionally, the village ordinance has changed regarding the monitoring of alarms to make it easy for the businesses to transition over when needed. The Alsip Fire Department has also implemented the reduction of monthly monitoring fee from \$80 to \$65 for alarm monitoring through the Keltron Radio Alarm system. This was to provide more competitive pricing for monitoring. During the annual inspections our inspectors have found many businesses who do not have a current business license and report it to the building department for resolution. The I-Pad also allows the inspector to take a picture of the violation. Upon completion of the inspection, the representative

signs on the I-Pad and the report is then e-mailed. Any pictures of violations are included in the e-mailed report.

At the end of 2016, the fire department enacted a compliance engine. This is a third party database that tracks all of the businesses, and multi-family buildings to make sure they are compliant in providing the annual testing documentation of all fire alarm systems, sprinkler systems, exhaust hood systems, and fire doors.

In 2016, three fire inspectors attended and became certified as Office of the State Marshal Fire Inspector II. This was a 40 hour class to enhance their knowledge and skills as inspectors. There were also 2 inspectors that attended the 1 day class of School Inspections. All schools are required to have annual inspections.

Summary of the Fire Prevention Bureau

The following report represents the activities of the Fire Prevention Bureau from January 1 thru December 31, 2016. Note: Annual inspections are still in progress.

Annual Inspections (Commercial and multi-family)- 1603

Re-inspections- 817

Plan reviews (new construction, remodeling, fire alarms, sprinkler systems)-855

Testing (sprinkler systems, fire alarms, water flow, pump tests)- 273

Court tickets/ complaint investigations- 171

Plans for 2017

1. Continue to add all pertinent data to the I-Pads for tracking and reference.
2. Revise the monitoring ordinance for better collections of past fees.
3. Add 1 part-time secretary (12-15 hrs per week)
4. Begin to scan all past reports and eliminate all paper reports.
5. Review and update current fire prevention ordinances.
6. Continue to provide additional training to all fire inspectors.

Public Education Programs

The Alsip Fire Department recognizes the importance of solid public education programs. These programs exist to help in the reduction of fires and to promote fire safety, instruct classes for CPR and instruct our businesses employees how to operate a fire extinguisher. The Public Education Bureau is an extension of the Fire Prevention Bureau. The Public Education Bureau is managed by two

coordinators. This is further assisted by several firefighters who assist in delivering the programs.

Some of the Public Education Programs include; the annual Open House, the annual Fire Prevention Week poster contest, where the overall grade winners receive a ride to school on the fire engine, the fire safety trailer to all 2nd and 4th grade students, the severe weather program for all 3rd and 5th grade students,, “Patches” our robot fire engine to all kindergarten and pre-school children, attending block parties, company picnics, CPR, first-aid, fire extinguisher training, car seat installations/ inspections, and the “adopt –a-hydrant” program.



In 2016, the Alsip Fire Department is in its 2nd year offering CPR to all businesses at a reduced cost (still covering our expenses). This is to promote how important it is for everyone to know CPR and maybe save a life. This program has increased its popularity over the past 2 years. We still offer a monthly CPR class for residents.

During the annual Open House in 2011, the Alsip Fire Department introduced its newest battery operated motorized fire apparatus (thanks from a donation of an Alsip resident and Firefighter in a neighboring community), This brings the fleet to 6. They have been a huge hit during our Open House, National Night Out and Holiday on Pulaski. These will continue to draw crowds of children. The open house in 2016 also included the 2nd year of a mini confidence course for kids to complete.



At the 2016 Open House a raffle was held for smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and for one family to have breakfast at the fire station.

The Public Education Bureau also participated in several Chamber of Commerce events, Alsip- Merrionette Park Library, Home Depot Safety Days, Holiday on Pulaski, and several church and company picnics.



The Public Education Bureau received 2 new static photo displays, one provided from a donation from the Iliana Chapter of the NFPA, and one from an on-line contest in which we beat out several larger communities. This was accomplished by our residents and social media.



The Alsip Fire Department maintains a Facebook page for social media which is constantly being updated.

In 2016, we had 4 of our public education personnel attend the Illinois Fire Institute's Life and Safety Educator program. This is a 40 hour course designed to instruct on how to successfully present public education programs and work within the different age groups and their learning abilities.

Summary of 2016's Public Education Events & Programs

Home Escape classroom presentation- >400 students
Home Escape Practical (safety trailer)- 560 students
Patches Program- 311 students
CPR- 269 students
Open House- >500 attendees
Poster contest participants- 803
Station tours >100 participants
Block Parties- 8
Fire extinguisher classes- 75 students
Car Seat checks/ Installations- 53
Company picnics- 6
Exit Drills- 190 participants

Plans for 2016

The Public Education Bureau is planning on the following for 2017;

1. The continuing promotion of CPR for the businesses and residents.
2. The completion of the “Babysitter’s Train-the-Trainer” certification program for 5 of our firefighters (scheduled for March 2017) and offerings to residents and the schools (April of 2017).
3. The addition of the Vision 20/20 program for community hazard reduction which includes voluntary home inspections (2 of our firefighters will be attending the trainer program in February).
4. Application for a FEMA grant to enhance our programs.
5. A senior citizen program.
6. Continuing to add additional props for enhancement of the programs.



2016 Incident Statistics

In 2016, the Alsip Fire Department responded to 3,216 incidents. It is a small increase from 2015 which is a rarity. The administration constantly monitors our responses and modifies them as needed to either increase our efficiency or reduce our liability. The majority of our incidents continue to be EMS related (65-70%) which is normal for the majority of fire departments that provide EMS.

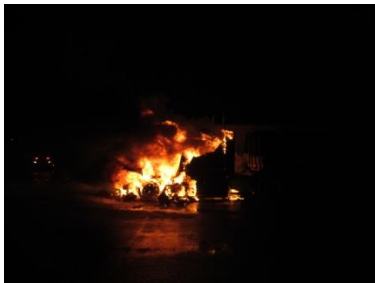
The number of incidents that we respond to still reflect that 8 out of every 10 calls for service are within the village. In 2016, the Alsip Fire Department provided assistance to other departments a total of 306 times. The summary of incidents are as follows;

Fires

Structure Fires- 10

Vehicle Fires- 20

Other (grass, rubbish, etc.)- 25



Emergency Medical Calls & Rescue (including vehicle accidents)- 2,059



Hazardous Condition Calls (including gas leaks, carbon monoxide alarms)- 124

Service calls & good intent calls (cancelled while enroute to responding towns for automatic and mutual-aid responses, citizen assists)- 238

False calls (fire alarms, smoke detector sounding)- 431

Other external customer services and specialty teams

The Alsip Fire Department belongs to the Mutual-Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS). This is the statewide mutual-aid plan for the fire service. It is a clearing house to provide resources for all-hazards including major fires, natural disasters and man-made events (terrorism). The Alsip Fire Department houses several pieces of specialized equipment for these types of incidents which include the Western Shelter Tent system and a light tower/ generator. These assets could be deployed at anytime that they are needed and anywhere in the state of Illinois or possibly adjacent states through mutual-aid.

We have 4 personnel that are members of the Southwest Hazardous Materials Response Team. They are our local hazardous materials response team. All of the team members are specially trained to mitigate hazardous materials. The fire department also houses the local response team's science and command van. This van contains all of the specialty monitoring equipment for a hazardous materials response as well as functioning as a command post for the team. The value of the monitoring equipments alone is over \$500,000. In 2016, The Alsip Fire Department, Alsip Police Dept, the Alsip Public Works Dept. and the

Southwest Hazardous Materials response team participated in a training event at Arkema Coatings.



We have 4 personnel who are part of the Combined Agency Response Team (C.A.R.T.). This is our local technical rescue team. All of the personnel on the team are specially trained to mitigate specialized rescue such as; Confined Space, High Angle, Trench, and Structural Collapse. Alsip houses one of the trailers for the team which consists of specialized tools and equipment to work within the disciplines listed.



The Alsip Fire Department have 4 personnel who are part of the area's Origin and Cause team (Fire investigations). These personnel respond to the surrounding fire departments to assist with fire cause and point of origin. All specialty team members are required to attend monthly training sessions to remain proficient in their skills and are required to be certified by the Office of the State Fire marshal.

Responses to incidents

In 2016, the administration continued to evaluate our responses that were modified over the past 2 years. The changes have been proven to be effective and efficient with some minor adjustments. The ladder truck was moved to Fire Station #2. On structure fire responses, our primary goal is firefighter safety. We strive to ensure we have enough personnel on the scene in all aspects from command and control to task level personnel. With the number of shift personnel and automatic-aid, we have between 25 And 27 people responding to structure fires in our town. If necessary, we can increase those numbers by using our box alarm system and for calling mutual-aid. This is a structured response. The Shift Commander position still proves to be a positive change.

Staffing levels

In 2016, we still experienced some injuries, both on-duty and off-duty, although very minimal compared to the past 2 years. There was also 1 retirement, and the addition of 2 personnel (due to 2 newer firefighters leaving). Even though we have newer, younger firefighters, there are still quite a few in their mid to late 40s and above which are more susceptible to injury and longer recovery times.

We continue to struggle occasionally when all three ambulances are out and that only leaves 2 personnel to cover the village until an ambulance is available. With the amount of personnel living out of town, the number of call-backs have been dramatically diminishing over the past several years. In 2015, the Firefighter's union and the village agreed to a minimum staff of 8 personnel on duty each day through the labor contract.

Plans for 2016

1. Continue to evaluate our responses within the Village of Alsip and with the towns that we provide automatic-aid and mutual-aid with.

Training

In 2016, the Alsip Fire Department was able to maintain the efficiency of the "Training Support Team". This team concept has proven to be an invaluable tool to accomplish all of the many needs within the realms of training. Some of the

features of the Training Support Team include; developing and maintaining training schedules, evaluating the training needs of the department, lesson plan development, obtaining off-site locations for training, training tower maintenance, developing and the construction of additional training props, maintaining the current props, arranging building walk thrus , pre-plans, and providing consistent delivery of the training program for the department. In 2016, the fire department was able to provide “live fire” training at an acquired structure thanks to School Dist. #126. These instances are extremely rare and maybe occur every few years.



The fire service is driven by training. The fire department is the “One call does all”, all hazards first responder. We must be the masters of all including fighting fires (both structural and non-structural), emergency medical services, hazardous materials, technical rescue (high angle, confined space, trench, structural collapse), vehicle rescue, specialized rescue such as ice and water, disaster management and planning plus anything else that no one wants. Firefighters must have great mechanical aptitude, and are able to make something work out of nothing (improvise) at a moment’s notice. All of the fire apparatus carries specialized equipment that every firefighter and officer must know how to use proficiently. We are required to complete annual training requirements by several agencies including NFPA (National Fire Protection Agency), Illinois Dept. of Labor (IDOL – OSHA equivalent), ISO (Insurance Services Organization), IDPH (Illinois Dept. of Public Health) and the OSFM (Office of the State Fire Marshal).

Breakdown of yearly requirements for ISO;

240 hours annually of firefighter specific training

16 hours for officer training (chiefs and company officers)

Minimum of 4 hours of driver refresher including practical skills

Pre-planning of all commercial buildings or walkthroughs/ visits
12 hours of multi-company drills
4 hours of Radiation Awareness

Illinois Dept. of labor requirements;

16 hours of respiratory protection training (SCBA)
Driver's training along with ISO (Initial 40 hours plus practical driving for each type of vehicle.
Blood borne pathogens review (6-8 hours)
Hazardous materials- 40 hrs. for Operations trained (IDOL & NFPA)
12 hour refresher training each year
Hazardous Materials Technician- 92 hours initially, 24 hours refresher annually (team drills)
Technical Rescue 8 hrs annual refresher- Team members initially +400 hours plus minimum of 24 hours refresher training annually (team drills)

Specials Hazards/ Training;

Lockout/ tagout (4 hours annually)
Vehicle Rescue- 12 -20 hours annually (Not a requirement, but must keep up with skills, knowledge of extrication plus new technology of vehicle construction)
Pump Operator Training- 24- 32 hours annually (not a requirement, but must keep up with skills/ knowledge)
Live fire training- varies for time
Policies, SOGs, administrative rules
Traffic Incident management
National Incident Management (NIMS)- required by federal government

Illinois Dept. of Public Health

All of the Firefighters, Lieutenants, and Chief officers are licensed paramedics. Each person is required to attend a minimum of 3 sessions of continuing education annually through South Cook County EMS System (Ingalls hospital, our resource hospital). Each session is approximately 6 hours. Additionally all paramedics are required to have a total of 100 hours of continuing education every four years.

In December of 2016, the EMS Coordinator reviewed the department training for EMS and found some holes in it just like we found in the fire training several years

earlier. The EMS Coordinator is now using the “team” concept just like the Training Support Team for the fire training. The team consists of the EMS Coordinator and one hand picked person from each shift with an EMS specialty background. In 2015 we began using the Sim-Man manikins for skills evaluation but did not get a program off the ground completely. The EMS training team is working on a total training program for EMS training.

Training is usually handled at the crew or shift level. However, there are certain times that for consistency or special training, specific and specially trained personnel are brought back to instruct for the department.



In 2016, there was a total of 11,078 hours of training. This equates to an average of 335 hours per Officer/ Firefighter. This is above the recommended average of training for firefighters.

In 2016, the fire department continued joint training with the Public Works Department and Water Department. This training includes fit testing for respiratory equipment, refresher training for Confined Space Entry and this year was a cross training to instruct 9 of our firefighters to operate certain heavy equipment that might be needed at an incident, but without putting the public works personnel in a situation where they are not trained for (such as hazardous materials).



In 2016, the fire department also engaged in training and joint response talks with the police dept. for certain types of responses with a heavy police presence that also involves fire and EMS.

Plans for 2017

Fire

1. Continued analysis of the training needs of the department.
2. Provide more scenario based training.
3. Skills evaluation
4. Development of Acting Officer training program (in progress)
5. Set-up tabletop incident with the CSX/ IHB railroad (in progress).
6. Set-up tabletop incident with BP and Valero for tank farm incidents (in progress).
7. Continued realistic training through the use of props and actual structures or buildings within the village.
8. Developing alternative ways for delivery training programs.
9. Continued encouragement of outside training.
10. Continuation of the pre-plan program.
11. Continued joint training with the police, public works and water dept.

EMS

1. Develop a multi-room area (lab) for EMS training and skills evaluation (this project is underway).
2. Offer specific specialty training classes such as advanced care practices.
3. Offer a multi-discipline mass casualty scenario (applied for grant- January 2017)

Future resources and operational practices

The administration of the Alsip Fire Department continues to evaluate the trends of the fire services and monitors technology. The advancement of technology continues to advance in the fire service. In 2016, the Alsip Fire Department streamline the process of calibrating our meters that are used for gas detection, carbon monoxide and oxygen levels. The fire department purchased an automatic calibration machine for the different types of meters that the fire department carries. Additionally, these calibration stations can also be used for the public works and water department's meters.

In 2016, the Alsip Fire Department also began to look into a drone (unmanned Aerial Aircraft- UAV) program. This is relatively new to the fire service. Originally, with the requirements set forth by the FAA, it was very difficult to get a program up and running. Recent events in regulations have changed, making it much easier to establish a program. We have recently applied for the grant through Firehouse Subs and were denied. The fire department is currently working with several businesses to provide funding to purchase a drone and move the program forward. The use of a drone would prove beneficial in fighting fires in our large buildings, hazardous material responses (railroad, tank farms, I-294) and any other fire incident minimizing exposure to our firefighters. The drone would provide a bird's eye view to determine the progress of the incident. The drone would also be made available to the police, public works and water departments for their uses. Several personnel would be trained and certified as operators and ground crew. Our goal is to have a program up and running by the summer of 2017.

End of the 2016 Annual Fire Department Report

Submitted by Fire Chief Thomas Styczynski