

Alsip Fire Department



**Annual Report
For
2018**

First and foremost, I would like to thank Mayor Ryan 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.

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 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, offer the most up-to-date training programs and practices, and great 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.

We also research alternative funding for the fire department 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 2018. This report also contains some objectives planned for 2019.

Summary of the year

2018 was a good year but a busy for the fire department. In 2017, we had 4 Firefighters retire and hired replacement firefighters to fill their spots. We also saw the promotion of 1 lieutenant. In 2018 the fire department responded to an increase of over 300 calls for service from 2017.

The Alsip Fire Department applied for several grants in 2018. One grant was applied to the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighter's grant program. This grant was a regional grant where we applied with our neighboring departments. This 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). This grant application was denied. The grant process is very tedious, and very competitive. The grants are available to all fire departments In the United States. However, the monitors were purchased through the village's budget process. The monitors were approaching 10 years of service with a recommended replacement of every 8 years based on our use. The second DHS grant was applied for to replace our 2008 ambulance that was re-chassised once.

In 2018, The Alsip Fire Department received a very generous donation from the Alsip Mini-Mill for 4- battery operated cut-off tools. These tools will be used for various rescue situations.



Toward's the end of 2018, Rolled Metal Products on Lombard Lane also donated replacement CPR devices to be used for all of our future classes.

In 2019, the Alsip Fire Department will be applying for FEMA grants and other grants as they come up.

In 2018 we had several improvements planned to the fire stations which included finishing replacing the original windows (1974), replacing the rear overhead doors to both stations and upgrades to the bathrooms. Due to budget constraints, all of the capital projects were placed on hold. With the help of the Firefighter's foreign fire board, the bathrooms at Station 2 were able to be remodeled. The tile was the original yellow small squared tile from 1974.

During 2019, the stations will be evaluated to determine what other projects are going to be needed in the future including, remodeling of the kitchens (last done in 1999), updating the large bathroom at Station 1, parking lots, some concrete and brick work and the completion of the windows and overhead doors. The small bathrooms at Station 1 will be remodeled in the spring of 2019.

In 2019, we will continue 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 11 firefighters who perform the annual inspections while off-duty.

2018 was a busy year for Fire Prevention Bureau. The inspectors currently utilize an I-Pad for annual inspections. This has proved to be an invaluable tool for inspections. The fire inspector can track the current inspection, search the past inspection, and insure that the business' fire alarm system, sprinkler system, and any other protective systems are inspected on an annual basis. During the annual inspections our inspectors have consistently find numerous businesses which 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 any violations. Upon completion of the inspection, the representative then signs on the I-Pad and

the report is then e-mailed. Any pictures of violations are included in the e-mailed report.

In the spring of 2018, the fire department had hired a part-time Fire Prevention secretary. This position was created due to the amount of clerical work that is needed to be performed for the efficiency of the bureau. Our new secretary (Danielle) has proven to be an asset with her organizational skills. She is also the bridge to gap the Fire Prevention Officers and the inspectors. In 2018, we began billing for annual fire inspections (from 2017) to recoup the costs of the inspections and billing for the Keltron system. Danielle has been kept very busy with setting up, tracking and maintaining the billing of both services along with her other duties of the bureau. She has also converted all of the past paper records into scanned copies and cataloged them for future use. This was a total of 4 completely filled file cabinets. This was a goal listed in the 2017 annual report.

Several years, 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, spray booths and fire doors.

At the end of 2018, the ordinance for the Keltron system was lifted to allow other companies to provide fire alarm monitoring with certain provisions. The village ordinance was changed to accommodate this change. This now allows businesses and other structures requiring a fire alarm system to have a choice in alarm monitoring. However, only the Village's Keltron system is the only system monitored by the fire department's dispatch center.

Summary of the Fire Prevention Bureau

The following report represents the activities of the Fire Prevention Bureau from January 1 thru December 31, 201. Note: Annual inspections are still in progress but were at 85% completion by December 31.

Annual Inspections (Commercial and multi-family)- 1717 (increase from 2017)

Re-inspections- 1006 (increase from 2017)

Plan reviews (new construction, remodeling, fire alarms, sprinkler systems)-1265

Testing (sprinkler systems, fire alarms, water flow, pump tests)- 318

Court tickets/ complaint investigations- 102

Plans for 2019

1. Continue to add all pertinent data to the I-Pads for tracking and reference.
2. Review and update current fire prevention ordinances.
3. Continue to provide additional training to all fire inspectors.
4. Review the effectiveness of the compliance engine.
5. Continuation of a strong relationship with the building department.
6. Enhance our billing and tracking capabilities.

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, babysitter certification program and the “adopt –a-hydrant” program.



In 2018, the Alsip Fire Department continues 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 several years. We still offer a monthly CPR class for residents (as seen on the village website).

During the annual Open House in 2018, the Alsip Fire Department had to fight inclement weather. Despite the weather and reduced advertising, we still saw over 350 participants. In 2018, we had volunteers from Chicago Christian High School's baseball team to help fill the needed spots.



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



In 2018, the Alsip Fire Department continued its “Safe Babysitter” class. This class is based on a national curriculum for providing a certification for children and young adults who want to become babysitters.

The Public Education Bureau also participated in several events, including Holiday on Pulaski, and several church and company picnics.

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

Summary of 2017’s Public Education Events & Programs

Home Escape classroom presentation- >500 students

Home Escape Practical (safety trailer)- >500 students

Patches Program- 200 students

CPR- 175 students

Open House- >300 attendees

Poster contest participants- 870

Station tours >150 participants

Block Parties- 6

Fire extinguisher classes- 200 students

Car Seat checks/ Installations- >50

Company picnics- 6

Hose training at Alsip Mini-mill (new for 2018) 75 workers

Plans for 2018

The Public Education Bureau is planning on the following for 2018;

1. The continuing promotion of CPR for the businesses and residents. We saw an increase of students in 2018
2. The continuation of the Vision 20/20 program for community hazard reduction which includes voluntary home inspections. This is becoming a nation-wide initiative.
3. Application for a FEMA grant to enhance our programs.
4. Home Safety visits at the Heritage I & II complexes.
5. Participate in the Office of the State Fire Marshal’s & Illinois Fire Safety Alliance’s “Be Alarmed Smoke Detector” installation program.
6. Continuing to add additional props for enhancement of the programs.

7. Conducting a Spring and Fall Safe Sitter babysitter's class.

2018 Incident Statistics

In 2018, the Alsip Fire Department responded to 3,645 incidents which was an increase of over 300 incidents compared to 2017. 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 9 out of every 10 calls for service are within the village. In 2018, the Alsip Fire Department provided assistance to other departments a total of 260 times. The summary of incidents are as follows;

Fires

Structure Fires- 14

Vehicle Fires- 22

Other (grass, rubbish, etc.)- 19



Emergency Medical Calls & Rescue (including vehicle accidents)- 2365



Hazardous Condition Calls (including gas leaks, carbon monoxide alarms)- 110

Service calls & good intent calls (cancelled while enroute to responding towns for automatic and mutual-aid responses, citizen assists)- 329

False calls (fire alarms, smoke detector sounding)- 464

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 a specialized generator and lighttower for these types of incidents. 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 2017.



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.

The Alsip Fire Department also has two members that are part of the Illinois USaR team (Urban Search and Rescue). Lt. Kraus was deployed in North Carolina after Hurricane Florence hit. He was one of 13 members from Team Illinois to respond. The team was deployed for two weeks. The first 8 days were spent on water rescues, well being checks and evacuations.

Responses to incidents

In 2018, the administration continued to evaluate our responses that were modified over the past several years. The changes have been proven to be effective and efficient with some minor adjustments. 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 that brings in resources based on our needs. This includes fires, technical rescue, hazardous materials, EMS, firefighting foam, water rescue, and water tenders.

Staffing levels

In 2018, we experienced fewer injuries, than in the past. We are bound by the collective bargaining agreement to provide 8 personnel on shift every day. Even though we have newer, younger firefighters, we still have quite a few firefighters 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 in which leaves only 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 all but

disappeared. Call-backs are primarily used when there is a structure fire in our town.

Plans for 2019

In the spring of 2019 we will have 1 lieutenant retiring plus 1 another lieutenant possibly retiring in the near future. We will fill these positions as needed. We will also continue to evaluate our responses within the Village of Alsip and with the towns that we provide automatic-aid and mutual-aid with. We continually review our staffing levels at each station to remain efficient in our responses and utilization of our manpower. We occasionally move vehicles around for efficiency testing.

Training

In 2018, the Alsip Fire Department had to re-evaluate and modify the efficiency of the “Training Support Team”. This was due to the retirements. This team concept has proven to be an invaluable tool to accomplish 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 training props, maintaining the current props, arranging building walk thrus , pre-plans, and providing consistent delivery of the training program for the department.

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 knowledge of 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, we built an “EMS” training lab in a storage loft at fire station 2. This lab consists of 3 rooms similar to a home and 1 office. This lab provide skills review in a scenario based setting using the lab. All of the props and training equipment is stored in the lab. The EMS Coordinator is uses 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.



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 2018, there was a total of 9945 hours of training. This equates to an average of 300 hours per Officer/ Firefighter. This is above the recommended average of training for firefighters.

In 2018, we also launched our “Lieutenant Training Program”. This training program has been planned for quite a few years but was never implemented because of timing. The program consists of placing the newly appointed lieutenant on days for a week (40 hours) for specific training. This training consists of orientation of all documentation that is required by a lieutenant. This includes; the daily log book, paybook, injury reports, scheduling, etc. The program also includes scenario based training of incidents which includes, structure fires, fire alarms as the Shift Commander, hazardous materials and technical rescue responses. Lt. Bodoni was the first lieutenant to be put through the program and in January of 2019, Lt. Freitag was also placed through the program. All of the lieutenants have to be certified as a Fire Officer I or Basic Company Officer through the Office of the State Fire Marshal . This certification is based on 200 hours of classroom training and at least one year as an acting officer. The Lieutenant Training Program is specific to our policies and operating guidelines. It has proven to be a valuable program.

Plans for 2018

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. This should be ready by the summer of 2019.
5. Continued realistic training through the use of props and actual structures or buildings within the village.
6. Developing alternative ways for delivery training programs.
7. Continued encouragement of outside training.
8. Continuation of the pre-plan program.
9. Continued joint training with the police, public works and water dept.

EMS

1. Offer specific specialty training classes such as advanced care practices.
2. Providing training on evaluating the skills of our paramedics.

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 2018, we continued replacing some of our gas powered ventilation equipment with battery operated ventilation program. This new equipment gives us the ability to use these high powered fans indoor or outdoor and does not produce carbon monoxide. In the winter of 2018/2019 we will also be replacing our gas powered extrication equipment with battery operated tools.

In 2018 we began exploring cancer prevention programs. This is due to the studies of the past 5 years with the increase of cancer in firefighters. Fire fighters have a 22% higher chance of acquiring cancer then the general public because of the exposure to carcinogenic materials. Firefighters are exposed to over 41 known cancer causing materials at an average fire. In the fall of 2018 we had a member of the Cancer Support Network provide a 3 hour class on cancer in the fire service.

In 2019, we will be developing new practices (based on studies) for cancer prevention. This will include;

1. Changing the administrative vehicles to pick-up trucks to keep the chiefs and Shift Commander's turnout clothing out of the passenger compartment.
2. Setting up best practices for field de-conning turnout clothing and SCBA on fire scenes and transporting back to the station without being in the passenger compartment of fire apparatus.
3. Requiring that all personnel shall shower immediately after returning from a fire.
4. Requiring that all turnout clothing is washed immediately after shift from a fire.
5. Provide decon wipes to be used for personnel on all fire apparatus and administrative vehicles.
6. The fire department already has purchased particulate hoods for each firefighter.

In 2019, we will also continue focusing on behavior health for the fire service. This is another growing trend because of the number of suicides nationwide by firefighters and police officers. During the past 2 years the fire dept. has had classes on this topic by professionals that focus on first responders.

End of the 2018 Annual Fire Department Report

Submitted by Fire Chief Thomas Styczynski